

## Memories of Elsie Ruhland Haas

Simon John Ruhland            b. 5-28-1893    d. 6-29-1964  
Christina Anna Schwartz      b. 8-17-1891    d. 3-29-1982  
   m. 10-6-1915

Children of Simon and Christina:

Margaret & Katherine (twins-7months died at birth)

(Death: Vol. 10-P.201 & P.202) born premature, 7 mo.

May 16, 1916 and lived only 2 hours.

Sylvester Joseph	b. 4-23-1918	d. 11-26-1993	m. 11-28-1946
Carolyn Agnes	b. 3-3-1920	d. 11-23-1969	m. 2-7-1948
Harold Joseph	b. 6-20-1921	d. 6-23-1980	m. 6-9-1943
Lucille Ann	b. 2-23-1923	d. 8-24-2006	m. 8-13-1949
Francis Andrew	b. 10-26-1926	d. 4-8-2002	m. 4-30-1952
LaVerne Richard	b. 8-28-1928	d. 3-16-1990	m. 8-3-1950
Bernice Christina	b. 7-15-1930	d. 7-15-2000	m. 11-1-1954
Elsie Doris	b. 9-18-1934	d.	m. 11-10-1956

Elsie's Baptism sponsors:

Father's cousin - Walter Lomasney

Father's sister - Rose Ruhland Bauer

Elsie's Confirmation sponsor: Mrs. August (Adella) Hetzel (Joan's Mother)

I was born in the Township of Troy in Sauk County, WI on the family farm as were the rest of my brothers and sisters. At the age of two it was noticed that I had a lazy eye. My parents took me to a Sauk City eye doctor. After getting glasses it eventually corrected.

For entertainment we would listen to radio programs and visited relatives and neighbors. On Sunday we went to Melke's general store at Leland. Friends of my brothers used to come to our farm to play ball in the field. We went fishing at Bear Valley with dad. Once while digging worms I stuck my foot with the fork. Mom wrapped my foot in grape leaves.

We had a large garden and orchard. Mom canned hundreds of quarts of vegetables and meat. The family picked berries for mom to can. Our potatoes and fruit were stored in the cellar. When we butchered pigs and beef, Uncle Joe Schwartz came to help make bologna. Mom fried down pork and placed it in large crocks. The crocks were covered with lard for safety and taken to the basement, where we also stored large crocks of sauerkraut. We had a large wood stove in the kitchen where mother did all the cooking and baked bread, pies and donuts. There was a wood furnace which heated the rest of the house. At threshing time, mom served big dinners for the large crew of men from the neighborhood. We made root beer and bottled it. In the winter we made ice cream. We raised baby chicks in the spring and gathered eggs from the laying hens. Our clothes were washed with a wringer washer machine and hung outside on the line even in the cold winter. Later we would bring the clothes into the house to finish drying. After we were finished with our chores outside, we had to clean up by the outside pump next to the house.

We used a crank telephone. In those day we had what was called a party line. With a party line many of your neighbors were members of that line. All members of the party line were able to listen into phone calls, which weren't theirs. Many women found this a very useful way to find out, what was going on in the neighborhood.

Every Sunday we went to mass at St. Luke's. After mass we stopped to visit my grandparents in Plain. The Watkins and McNess salesmen made their routine stops at the farm. Our neighbor Reuben Ederer played Santa at Christmas. Our large tree was set up in the parlor. We children received clothes, fruit and candy. Since the bus route needed a quota for pick up, I had to go to the public school for first grade.

Sylvester was drafted to the Army. Carolyn and Lucille went to work in Madison. My brother, Harold, took over the farm in Troy Township after his marriage to Cecilia Brickl. Dad bought the farm west of Plain next to St. Ann's Hill in the Franklin Township. We had many friends in the Village of Plain.

In the 1950's (I was a sophomore) students at St. Luke High School formed a girls Choral Group (35 or 40 members) under the direction of Father Mark Mueller, Pastor of St. Patrick Church at Loreto, WI. We practiced at Palace Hall sometimes and sang religious and popular songs at various celebrations in the area. We all wore formal gowns and sang on stage or in parades standing on hay wagons. We traveled by bus to sing in Watertown one time and Father Mueller bought everyone a gardenia corsage! On March 17th we sang Irish songs at Loreto.

About 1952 dad sold the farm, west of Plain next to St. Ann's Hill, to Harry Luther. I attended St. Luke's Catholic School and graduated from high school in 1952. While in high school I went dancing with friends at the Palace Hall in Plain, Spring Green, Rainbow Gardens and Riverview at Sauk City, Loganville, Slims at Loreto, and Devils Lake. I baby sat for the Bladl family, which were our neighbors in town.

In June 1955, the Sauk County preliminary for the Alice in Dairyland contest was held in Plain, WI. The Plain Legion Auxiliary (mom was a member) selected me to participate. I was one of five girls chosen to go on to Portage. Although I was not interested, my parents convinced me to go. I don't think any of the five girls were picked to continue in the contest.

After my parents built a new home on Cherry St. in Plain, we had a farm auction and dad started working for John Schmid Construction. In September of 1955, while dad was working for John Schmid the scaffold fell causing a serious skull fracture injury to dad. He then had surgery for blood clots. He spent time at the hospital in Richland Center and later in Madison for rehabilitation. Eventually he had to go to the Health Care Center. Dad died in 1964.

I was an attendant for many of my brothers and sisters weddings. When my brother, Francis, married Rita Haas on April 30, 1952, I served as an attendant. I was paired with Rita's brother Clete. Shortly after that we started dating.

After graduation in 1952, Joan Hetzel (daughter of my confirmation sponsor, Mrs. August (Adella) Hetzel) and I went to Madison for jobs. I found a job at a lawyer's office as a secretary. Joan left for college in September. Shortly after my eighteen birthday, I came home in October and went to work at the Badger Ordinance as a secretary. In November of 1953, my girlfriend Phyllis Kraemer and I flew to Washington D.C. to visit Doris and Vernon Bindl. Vernon was in the service. We took many tours around D.C. and Virginia. When Phyllis married in July of 1955 at St. Luke's, I was honored to be an attendant for her wedding. Clete enlisted in the service, May of 1954, for two years. The Badger Ordinance laid me off in 1958. After being laid off I did typing for Margaret (a friend from Badger) and Norm Rasmussen (President of the Wisconsin Holstein Association) at their farm on Highway B west of Plain, WI. While I was laid off I also helped mom care for dad when he came home from the hospital.

On Saturday, November 10, 1956, Clete and I were married at St. Luke's in Plain, WI by Father Haines at 9:30 am. LaVerne Ruhland gave me away. Donelda Bindl (Friend) served as matron of honor and Louis Haas as best man. The attendants were Francis and Rita (Haas) Ruhland, and Ralph and Maxine Haas. The ushers were LaVerne Ruhland and Ken Haas. We had coffee at moms after the ceremony. A dinner was served at Kraemer's Hall in Plain for the attendants and our family members. We had our reception at the Palace Hall in Plain for 350 to 400 guests. Joe Vodak played the organ at the reception. We didn't have a dance, but our family and friends gathered at moms. Clete and I stayed at the Spring Green Motel. The next day, we visited dad at the Rehabilitation Center on East Washington Ave. in Madison, WI. For our honeymoon we drove south to St. Louis, MO.

We rented an apartment on Cherry Street and Clete worked for Kraemer Bros. We bought our home in Plain in 1962, where I still live on Main Street. After we purchased our home, my Tripoley girlfriends and their husbands surprised us with a housewarming party.

When the Plain Public Library opened in 1964, I was hired as Library Director. Linda Paulus and I took an A50 course in Baraboo that was required for the job. When the Kraemer Library was built in 2002, I became the Library Director until my retirement in 2004, after 40 years of service to the Plain Community.

For many years, when mom was elderly I went to her house twice a week to help clean and help with her personal care, so that she could remain in her own home. Sometimes I would bring her meals that I had prepared at home. At times Clete and I would have her at our house for breakfast and we would reminisce about the old days.

We had many happy family gatherings at my sister Lucille and her husband Bud Reiner's farm (Reiner Rd. near Madison). Enjoyed family gatherings at home until mom had a stroke in 1981. Later mom had to go to the Greenway Manor in Spring Green. We celebrated her 90th birthday at the Park and she died in March of 1982.

Clete took many trips elk hunting in Colorado and he enjoyed trap shooting. He would go up north deer hunting with his brother, Ralph, and also with Vernon Bindl near Black River Falls, WI and on Vernon's farm. Vernon and Clete would ice fish on White Mound. For thirteen years, every June, Clete and I went fishing with Ralph's family in Canada. Later we would rent a cottage at Hayward for the next three or four years.

Clete bowled on the Dick Umhoefer Team for many years. Umhoefer held the annual party for the bowling team each summer at their home up north in Minocqua, WI. We went golfing on holidays with six or eight couples at various Country Clubs in Wisconsin with dinner following. We took a flight to Las Vegas with couples from Plain and Spring Green along with Mr. D from his restaurant at Spring Green.

In the 70's, we went to Biloxi, Mississippi to golf with friends. Clete and I played the card game six handed Euchre with two neighbor couples and I played the card game Tripoley with my girlfriends for many years. I always celebrated birthdays with Luella (Bauer) (LaVerne's wife) Haas and Gerri (Bauer) (Wife of William) Bergman along with others. Luella and Gerri were sisters. On my 50th they rented a limousine and we drove around Plain.

Many friends came to our house for breakfast after partying downtown. Especially at the 3-day celebrations! At the Fireman's Dance, Linda (Brecht) Paulus and I made and served six or eight breakfast casseroles at the Fire Station for everyone!

Clete and I celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary November 1981 with our wedding attendants along with a few of our friends and family at Arthur's in Spring Green.

For many years, I golfed once a week on the ladies league at Westbrook Hills Golf Course in Plain.

Over Easter of 1983, I was confined at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison for shortness of breath. I was diagnosed for addiction, anxiety, depression and over weight. With the support of Clete, family, and special friends, I am proud to say that I have not had an alcoholic drink for 32 years.

In the fall of 1983, Clete and I visited our friends, Phyllis and Jim, in Minnesota and drove on to see the sites in the Black Hills and Yellowstone. Many times, we visited Phyllis and Jim in Minnesota and drove up the North Shore of Lake Superior from Duluth. We also attended the weddings of their son Mark and daughter Kris.

When my friend Joan and her husband, Pedro (originally from Chile) from Arlington Virginia visited her parents in Plain at Christmas, we always invited them to accompany us along with Vernon and Doris to go out for dinner. Many times it was at the Spring Green Restaurant across the Wisconsin River. Joan and Pedro have both died. Their funeral services were held at St. Luke with burial in the cemetery.

In 1987 I had cataract surgery and either in 1972 or 1973 I had a hysterectomy.

During the 80's and 90's we celebrated New Years Eve with Steve and Arlene Meise, Paul and Barb Johnson and Pete & Cathy Lins by playing cards and games with a lunch at each others houses.

In March of 1993, Clete and I, along with Steve & Arlene Meise, drove to St. Paul, MN to visit Lucy Lins, a distant cousin and classmate of mine. While there we toured the Mall of America.

For many years, I played 6-hand Euchre with my women friends at our houses on Friday afternoon or evenings.

Clete was diagnosed with lung cancer in July of 1993. He received two chemo treatments and died August 23, 1993 at the UW Hospital in Madison. The funeral took place at St. Luke's at 4:30 pm on August 26<sup>th</sup> with Father James Kuhn with the burial in the St. Luke's Cemetery where military rites were conducted by the American Legion Post # 398. The Plain Firemen Group were in attendance. A luncheon was served at St. Luke's after the service and burial.

Godchildren of Cletus and Elsie Haas

- Richard Ernest Burmeister - March 25, 1956
- Carol Jean Tollefson Gray - August 6, 1956
- Ronald Francis Ruhland - July 2, 1958
- Reginald Lee Haas - December 27, 1959
- Jayne Ann Schmid Behringer - July 24, 1961
- Theresa Ann Haas - June 18, 1962
- Christine Marie Haas - January 3, 1984

A group of people from the Plain area had been planning a trip to Europe with the highlight of the trip Waldmünchen, Bavaria, Germany (land of my ancestors) for the fall of 1994. This was something that Clete and I had wanted to do together, but since he had died, I really didn't want to go alone. Some of the group talked me into it and I don't regret it. It was great!

Some of the other trips I have made:

- Flight to Elco and Las Vegas, NV in 1998.
- Two trips to Boston with my sister-in-law, Luella Haas, to visit Theresa Haas, my niece and godchild. We went to Foxwoods Casino at Connecticut and drove up the coast to Maine and spent time on Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod.
- Three bus trips to Branson.
- One bus trip to Nashville.
- One bus trip to Mackinac Islands.
- Other small bus trips to casinos: Minnesota, Black River Falls in Wisconsin, Dubuque in Iowa.
- Drove with friends to Green Bay and Door County.
- Made several trips to the Fireside Dinner Theater in Fort Atkinson, WI.

In November of 2011, I tripped in the St. Luke's church basement at the Friday night fish fry and broke my right wrist. I spent two months at Meadows Assisted Living in Spring Green, WI. A wonderful place-great care!

I attended the Oak Ridge Boys Christmas Show with friends at Lake Delton for many years, saw a Neil Diamond Concert at the Kohl Center and went to Chicago to see "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" with Donnie Osmond playing Joseph. Every October we go to the October Fest at the Dorf Haus in Roxbury, WI, where they served a special German Buffet Dinner while we listened to the German Band.

Presently I read the daily newspaper and like to complete their puzzles. I go to the library to check out good reading books. I still like to play card games and bingo with friends and I especially love to socialize with my dear friends.

I follow Wisconsin sports on television: Badger basketball, Badger and Packer football and Brewers baseball. Love to watch Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, Turner Classic Movies, EWTN station for the Mass from Rome and the Basilica in Washington D.C., and PBS programs. Keep my appointment at Changez Beauty Salon each Friday and attend Mass at St. Luke's either Saturday night at 4:30 or Sunday morning at 10:00.

Historical Events:

- VE Day on May 8, 1945 bringing an end to WWII.
- Assassination of John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963 and funeral broadcast on television along with that of his brother, Robert Kennedy, on June 5, 1968.
- Moon landing on July 20, 1969.
- Destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Favorite Authors: Danielle Steel, Nicholas Sparks and Mitch Albom.

Favorite Music: Neil Diamond, Andrea Bocelli (Blind Tenor), Daniel O'Donnell, Boston Pops and Andre Rieu (Austria) on PBS Television.

Favorite Movies: Ben Hur, Ten Commandments, Casablanca, Doctor Zhivago, Gone with the Wind, Fiddler on the Roof, Wizard of Oz and the Christmas Story.

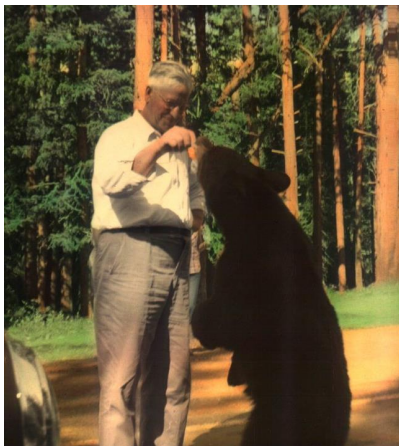


**Ruhland Family**

Left to right

Back row: Lucille, LaVerne, Sylvester, Carolyn, Harold, Francis

Front row: Bernice, Christina (Schwartz) & Simon Ruhland, Elsie



Father: Simon Ruhland



Mother: Christina (Schwartz)  
Ruhland



Clete's Parents: Esther (Ruhland) &  
Ludwig Haas



**Cletus & Elsie (Ruhland) Haas Wedding**

Left to right

Rita (Haas) Ruhland, Louis Haas (Best Man), Cletus Haas, Elsie Ruhland Haas, Francis Ruhland, Donelda Bindl (Maid of Honor), Ralph Haas, Maxine Haas



**Haas Family**

Left to right

Back Row: Louis, Kenneth

Middle Row: Cletus, Ralph, Rita (Haas) Ruhland, Richard, LaVerne

Front Row: Loraine (Haas) Burmeister, Ludwig and Esther (Ruhland) Haas, Lucille