

## HAROLD (HARRY) HOEFS FAMILY HISTORY

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My dad's name is really Harold but he had always gone by the name of Harry. He found out his "Harold" name when he enrolled for Social Security in the 1930's. He was born Dec. 12th, 1895 on a Town of Hartland farm on County F. in Shawano County. His wife, Irene Pitt, was born Feb. 21st, 1892 in Town of Hartland, Shawano County on what was Albert Pitt's farm. Dad worked in logging camps when he was 16 years old. Then he had the opportunity to learn the art of making cheese under Gust Drage located on the corner of N. Broadway and Cty. F. He was then hired to make cheese at a Farmer's Factory south of Bonduel, now known for many years as the Alf. Klosterman factory. In 1921 Felix Pauly contacted Dad and offered him the job of managing the Pauly & Pauly Cheese Co. in Zachow. Dad accepted the offer and Mom, Dad, and Maynard who was a very young lad, moved in the Rob. Bohm house on Grove St. Maynard was born at the Bonduel cheese factory on June 6th, 1917. Lorraine was born in the house in Zachow at approximately *morning* on January 7th, 1925. Dr. Terlinden was the General Practitioner, GP from Bonduel, Wi.

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS: We had kerosene lamps, a gas mantle lamp for light until either 1931 or 1932. Ben Hoeffs and his son Raymond from Bonduel, wired the house for electric lights. Herman Radtke came over on Sunday afternoons to listen to the Packer games as we were one of the few to have a radio. We had a small barn which had housed a cow and some chickens, but Mom and Dad discontinued raising animals. I vaguely remember some rabbits

being in the barn, but think that they were Maynard's pets.

We played in the barn loft for much of our young years. Then Dad remodeled the barn into a garage. There were license plates nailed on the wall in the garage for every year Dad had a car. The only means of transportation he had in his pre-married life was a pair of "shimmels" 2 white horses and a buggy with a top. I presume Dad lived at the farm and the horses were kept there. I remember a green, 4 door Buick with yellow wooden spokes. Woe to anyone sitting on the driver's side in the back seat with the window open. Dad chewed Standard tobacco and he could really spit.

Our house had a living room, dining room, bedroom, kitchen and two open porches downstairs. We had 4 rooms upstairs. We had screens put in on the porches and later the porches were enclosed with windows. The downstairs were heated by a wood heater in the dining room and a wood range in the kitchen. We had a wood box by the kitchen stove. We would grab our clothes and run downstairs and dress by the kitchen stove because it was warm there. No one went into the living room (parlor) unless it was used for some very important visitors. The door was shut to the living room to save heat. Warm water was in a little reservoir, which was part of the kitchen range, when there was wood burning in the kitchen range. If the kitchen stove was cold, no fire, we had to heat water on a kerosene stove on the back porch, usually in the summer. We had a sink and cistern pump in the kitchen. We always filled the reservoir from the hand pump by the sink where we washed our hands, hair, etc. The water came from a cistern in the basement. That's why there was a pump by the sink. The cistern was an uncovered concrete water storage for rain water which was collected by eave troughs that led to the cistern. I can't remember that it was empty. The waste water from the sink ran outside by means of a drainpipe which was buried



underground and the water came out near the vegetable garden to the south. There was a similar sink and pump upstairs. Grandma and Grandpa Pitt lived upstairs for a number of years, Maynard and Bernice lived upstairs when they were first married. Mort and I lived there also when we were first married. When Maynard and I were kids, the only heat upstairs came a register in the floor, which was centered over the kitchen range so the heat would rise to the upstairs. We always had plenty of wool quilts to keep us warm when we slept, but the beds were very cold when we first climbed in. We always dressed by the kitchen stove when it was so cold. There were indoor porcelain potties with covers used when we were sick or if we had an emergency. They were emptied into an outhouse next to the garage. Everyone had an outhouse, there were no bathrooms in Zachow at that time. Toilet paper was Montgomery Ward, Sears, and one other sales catalog. Black and white paper was better than colored and was used until toilet paper came on the market. It was always a quick visit as it was hot in summer and bitterly cold in winter.

We had a wooden ice box on the back porch. We would get a block of ice in the summer from Elmer Zernicke's ice house. He had a pond and stored ice blocks in sawdust in a building for all the people in the area. Pauly's got big blocks of ice for the cheese warehouse also. Dad drilled a hole in the porch floor and attached a drain pipe so that as the snow melted, it would run out instead of into a pan, which many times had overflowed and there would be a big mop-up job. We had a large garden to the east of our house and a smaller one on the north side of the house. They raised potayoes, tomatoes, carrots, peas, cabbage, melons and cukes. The little garden had flowers and husk

tomatoes. I hated them as they tasted like castor oil to me. There was another garden on the south side of the house that had permanent plants, such as rhubarb, currants and a pear tree. We kids always ate raw rhubarb early in spring by dipping it in sugar. To the west side we had 3 huge box elder trees and also to the south there was another tree that held a swing. There were 3 or 4 box elders on the east side along with what was called the woodshed that stored our wood for the winter. Of course, a lot of the vegetables had to be canned and that made for a hot oven, a hot kitchen and lots of work. We had a 4 burner kerosene stove on the back porch which Mom used all summer to make our hot meals. It kept the house cool except for Fridays when bread, sweet rolls, cake and maybe a piecrust for a lemon pie, was baked without fail. I remember 4th of Julys because that was the time for cold watermelon which had been cooled at the cheesehouse in the cold storage part of the plant. REMEMBER that 1929 began the recession and there were not many treats. Martha Kraning, our neighbor across the road, was a dressmaker in Zachow and made all my mother's and my dresses. We did not have jeans and tennis shoes. She sewed until the late 1930's. We went barefoot all summer to save on shoes. Our clothes were altered as we grew. LaFollette Grove school was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Zachow to the east. We walked from first grade thru 8th grade, fall, winter and spring. We always tried to walk together. Some of the boys were fortunate to have bikes and we considered them very lucky. Dads had to work and moms at that time did



not drive. The only time we got rides in winter was because Albert Radtke had a garage and could take time to take his kids and others to school. In winter we would have long underwear and long cotton stockings. Of course, the leggings that we had to wear were leggings that buttoned. What a chore to button and unbutton when there was a lot of snow and cold weather. Try unbuttoning when it is cold and you have icy fingers. Sometimes we would go into a culvert for a little while as we walked to school, to get out of the cold wind. My first snowsuit was purchased as a Xmas present when I was in 7th grade. What a gift!

My brother, Maynard, went to "German school" which was the school run by Zion Lutheran Church on County F., northwest of Zachow. Believe he went till the 6th grade and then transferred to LaFollette Grove school. In the winter when Zernicke's Pond was frozen over, the kids would take their sleds and skates over there. They had a big hill that was used by the kids who had lots of "guts" to slide down that hill. At least that was what the girls thought. That was our winter fun. We played a game of cards that was called "ROOK". In summer we would go to the creek by the sawmill and play in the water. Folks would go swimming at Shawano Lake. Those were special times. We invented a lot of games, made paper dolls, played with our paper dolls. We also played ball, when the boys would let us play with them.

We had a hand pump for drinking water near our house, but it was brackish and had a terrible taste. Across the road, Ed. Kraning had a pump by their house which had good water. We would take the water pail(porcelain) 4 to 5 gal. size, and get fresh water for the day. It

was placed on the cupboard in the kitchen along with the water dipper (from which every one drank) and no one seemed to get sick. We had to be quarantined when Maynard and I both had measles. My brother and his friends were shooting off fire crackers, etc. I was about 8 years old and had seen them take a burned out fire cracker in their mouth and make it glow. So I (copycat) did the same thing with a fire cracker I picked up off the ground and got a big fat lip when it exploded. There were many tears and severe scoldings from both parents. Clothes were washed by a washing machine, although white clothes were first boiled on a stove in the basement and two metal tubs were filled with rinse water. The last rinse tub had a small amount of bluing added to make the clothes white. Ladies would check other washes on the line to see who had the whitest clothes. Clothes lines were always placed so the sun could shine on the clothes. The clothes always smelled so good when they were brought in with a clothes basket. Then the wash water had to be carried out of the basement. Usually Dad and Maynard did that. We had a storage bin for potatoes and carrots in the basement. There was no heat in the basement except the one day when wash water was heated. The carrots were stored in sand in a crock. Dad made a rack so we could store 4 or 5 different kinds of fall apples, which he purchased by the bushel. The prices were reasonable so we ate apples all winter. Never had an orange or banana until I was old enough to remember.



I went to Shawano High School. Ursula Radtke and I stayed in a home on Weed St. during the week and Herman Radtke would come and pick us up on Friday. Dad would take us on Monday morning. Bonduel only had Freshman and Sophomore grades. I did not like the kids in Bonduel and was very happy that Mom and Dad let me stay those four years in Shawano. In 1944 or 1945, Dad had a coal furnace installed in the basement and piped to all the rooms in the house. When they had done a little remodeling in the house a few years back, the wood burner was replaced by a glass(isin) coal heater in the living room. The walls separating the living room and dining room had been removed and a different stairway for upstairs was moved to the south end of the dining room. You filled the coal heater with coal chunks from the top and removed the ashes from the bottom. It was so pretty to sit there and watch the fire glow thru the isin glass windows. Never heard where the heater went. Telephones were on party lines. You could ring on your line, 1 long 1 short or any combinations of rings without going to the operator. It also meant you could listen in when the phone rang when it was not your ring or number. I think one ring with your finger on a button on the side of the phone got the operator and you gave her the number to call. The wooden box of the phone hung on the wall and the receiver and the mouthpiece was black. Indoor plumbing came to our house in about 1954, I believe; tub, toilet and sink. Don't know where the waste water was drained to, did my Dad have a septic tank put in? My Dad was a hunter and a fisherman. We always had venison and fish, lots of fish! Mom and Dad helped Uncle Aug. Westerfeld and Aunt Alma

butcher and in return we had fresh meat and smoked meat. Uncle Aug. had a smoke house on the farm and smoked his own bacon and hams. Very good! When they butchered geese, Aunt Alma always made blood soup from the blood drained from the geese. It turned my stomach. They also made blood sausage with raisins. I remember them making some sort of liver sausage, using the intestines of the pigs or cows. They had a machine where you placed one end of the intestine on a metal pipe and then pushed the ground up meat thru an opening into the intestine. They would tie off the intestine at a certain spot so all the sausage was uniform. They also made head cheese. The intestines had been washed before they were stuffed.

Grown ups always celebrated their birthdays with a big party. Cards in the evening, drinks mostly for the men, and then a big lunch at mid-nite. Not much in sodas for the women and children, perhaps lemon-ade in the summer. Men played Skat and Sheepshead during the week, also poker certain nites. Ladies had their Ladies Aid, quilting parties and wallpapering. I can't remember a man helping with wall-papering. The walls upstairs had calcimine on them and created a big problem. Before wall paper could be put on the wall, the walls had to be washed with a vinegar solution because the wall paper paste would not stick to the calcimine. After the ladies were done, there would be a big evening meal and the men were invited to the meal. Meals at our house were breakfast-6:30 AM, noon(dinner) 12:00 and supper right after 5:00 PM. Storm windows were necessary in winter and screens in summer. I remember one summer in the 1930's when we took our mattresses outside and slept under the trees. It was so hot. We had a victrola and played the records until we had a radio. I listened to Jack Armstrong and other stories for kids. Mom died of cancer on Jan. 14th, 1955 at a hospital in Green Bay. Dad died of a heart attack at our home on Finnegan Lake, Gillett, WI on May 16th, 1988.