

IRENE RIEDMANN VAN MOORLEGHEM FAMILY

Irene J Riedmann Van Moorleghem

Every time I write my last name I think of my Dad, he could not understand (for a few years) why I gave up such an easy last name for one like Van Moorleghem. But I did. I have had it for 60 years.

I was born January 20, 1922, the first child to be born in the front bedroom at 504 Martha. My parents are Alfred Adam and Frances Anna Vacek Riedmann. I had 3 sisters and 4 brothers. They were in this order. Madeline (Madge) Me, Frances (Frannie), George, Alfred (Al), Lawrence (Lory), Ruth and Louis (Lou). Three died. Lory in 1951, Ruth 1992 and Madge 1994.

I went to Train School for one year, transferred to St Patrick's Grade School and South High School. Mom cooked on a Cole Oil three burner stove, baked with a huge black coal stove. When I was three, I drank Cole Oil, it burned my throat. The home remedy the Doctor prescribed to heal it was eating a lot of butter. Butter was very expensive at the time but Mom managed to pay for it somehow.

We used oleo (margarine) in place of butter. Oleo looked like lard, it was softened enough to work with, we sprinkled a deep yellow powder over it to give it color, mixed it in with a wooden spoon and Wah-lah it looked like butter, but sure did not taste as good.

I grew up in the Depression Years, with Dad starting Willow Springs Bottling Company in 1929, money was scarce. That is when I learned about canning, making jelly, jam, mending and darning socks. Summer afternoons I would sit out doors, under a maple tree with a bushel basket of socks to be mended. I was the best darning of socks in the family. So I did excel in one area – it was definitely not the cooking and baking area. I did help Mom a little with it but I would rather clean house or take care of the little ones. When I got married, I had to learn to cook and bake. It was not that Mom didn't try to get me interested I just resisted her efforts. In other words, I was stubborn. When I married Clem, I turned to a cookbook for instructions on boiling a soft-boiled egg. How about that!!! But I could really do a good darning job on the heel of a cotton sock.

I was the only girl in the family to use the word damn or hell within dad's hearing range, not knowing Dad was listening. He would get up from his chair, not say a word, take me by the arm and downstairs into the coal bin I went. The scary part was dad would close the door. (I thought it was locked.) The walls were black from coal dust, plus there were spiders. I would be in there about 10 minutes, which seemed like hours to a ten or eleven year old. That cured me.

I enjoyed polkas, country and Hawaiian music. I still do. Every Sunday night Madge and I were regulars at Sokol Hall on 13 and Martha Street. In the summers we went to Sokol Park. Mom loved polkas too so it was easy to persuade Dad to drive all three of us there.

Mom would listen to the Polkas, visit with her family, dad would have a beer while Madge and I danced. Dad would grumble before we left home but he always took us. My polka days stopped when I started to date Clem.

At age 17 I went to work at F.W. Woolworth's in South Omaha. It was called the "five and dime store" I went to school in the morning and at noon went to work. I took sales courses so this job earned school credits. I started as a counter girl, advanced to an Assistant Manager and window trimmer. This is where I met Clem Van Moorlehem. He was a stock boy, receiving freight, putting it away and filling orders for the counters. He was an Assistant Manager when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

The first time I dated him, he picked me up at home, wearing pink gabardine slacks, green tweed jacket, a brimmed hat on his head, tipped at an angle, and smoking a cigarette. My conservative parents were not impressed. To make matters worse I couldn't remember his last name. Course I asked him for it (in front of my parents). Then made sure we left for the movie fast. The next day mom and dad let me know how unheard of it was to date a boy when I did not know his last name. Our dating days were movies, big band stage shows, bowling and listening to big bands and Frank Sinatra on my crank up portable record player. It was lavender and only played 78's.

Clem enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the beginning of World War II, November 3, 1942 He was a Gunner and Flight Engineer on the B-24 bombers. After nine months of training he was shipped to Texas for Gunnery School. Clem never received a furlough so he asked me to come to Texas for a visit. I arrived on a Monday, we were married the following Saturday July 10, 1943 in Harlingen Texas. Mom sent my sister Fran to be my Maid of Honor. Clem's best friend and Army Buddy, Wayne Ross was our Best Man. Our guests were the men from Clem's Barracks and their wives. There were no wedding portrait taken. When he was transferred to a new base I came home to wait until he arrived at his destination. I then joined him.

Clem was discharged November 5 1945 in Springfield, Missouri. We built four homes during our 57 years of marriage. Dad Van Moorlehem was a carpenter and built the first three, with Clem working every evening and weekends to save costs. Our first home was in Benson, 3955 North 54 Street. The second was 3118 South 43 Street, we lived in the home at 4559 Frederick Street for 35 years, it is now the home of our youngest son Scott, Helen and four children.

My present home at 6413 South 102 Street was built by son Denny, he also drew the plans for it. Yes, Clem and I told him what we wanted and he did the rest. He suggested many of the good features it has. I call it "Denny's House. It was a family effort with Wayne and Scott installing the intercom system, telephones and central vac. We wives plus "kids" helped with whatever else had to be done. My family is terrific.

We bought a shell of a cabin at Hanson Lakes in 1965. With the help of Denny, his high school friends, and brother Lou, it was fixed up to become a " neat" place to spend our summer weekends. Lou, Chip, Beth. Gayle, Joyce and Lisa were with us every Sunday. We celebrated several of my dad's birthday's there on May 30. The entire Riedmann family came, Aunt Mary always furnished sauer kraut and dumpling's, to go with Teser's or Mollner's wieners with Masek's or Ferd's Rye Bread.

Clem and I have six children:

Dennis (Denny) married Sally Vasil (deceased) - two children. Wendy married to Greg McCown they have 3 children - Rachel, Greyson, Olivia and Richard (Rick). Denny later married Sharon (Sherry) Carroll. She brought three children into the family: Tim married Trish Carnazzo - 1 child, Breanna; Shane married Traci Howard - 2 children Alex, Alyssa; and Tina Carroll. Denny is Vice President of Regency Homes. Sherry is a volunteer for Hospice.

Wayne married Mary Clavin - three children - Sean, Kristin and Matthew (Matt). Wayne is Manager of United Electric Supply called The Light Palace. Mary is an Administrative Assistant at St. Robert Bellarmine School

William (Bill) married Jane Papendick – four children - Joshua (Josh), John, Johanna (Jo Jo) and Luke. They live in Hortonville, Wisconsin. Bill has his own business, Design Office Interiors.

Susan married Vincent (Vince) Marullo – two children Christopher (Chris) and Elizabeth (Betsy). Their home is in West Islip, New York on Long Island. Sue teaches Kindergarten at Manetuc School. Vince is in Construction.

Sandra (Sandy) married James (Jim) Stein—three daughters Erin, Erica, and Andrea (Andi). They live in Lindenhurst, Illinois. Sandy is a Library Aid at Millburn School. Jim is Production Manager for Clarin.

Scott married Helen Pleuler—four children CJ, Sarah, Paul and David. Scott works for United Electric Supply as outside Salesman and is in Manager of the City Sales Dept. Helen is a home school teacher

We have 21 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, 3 step great grandchildren. Clem died on March 18, 2001. He was 78 years old.

In Memory of Clement Julius Van Moorleghem

"Clem" was born on September 6, 1922 in Underwood, Iowa. His family owned a farm at the time and moved to Omaha when he was 9 months old. He was the youngest of five children. His parents were Rene and Laura Van Moorleghem from Ingooihem, Belgium. His brothers and sisters were Hazel Van Moorleghem Miller, George, Ambrose, and Jerome. He attended St. Mary's and Corrigan Grade Schools and South High School. His father was a carpenter and Clem helped him build three homes after work for himself, Irene and their children.

While growing up during the Great Depression he was paperboy for the Omaha Bee News and a caddy at Happy Hollow Country Club. He gave everything he earned to his Mom to help pay the bills. She would give him a potato that admitted him to the movies on Saturday plus he received a nickel for an ice cream cone, It was the highlight of his week.

He worked at F.W. Woolworth Co. in South Omaha during his senior year at high school for credits to graduate, going to school in the morning and working in the afternoon. He

started as a stock boy (stocking storeroom shelves plus receiving freight). In 1941 he was made an assistant manager.

He met his wife, Irene Riedmann, while working at F. W. Woolworth. She was an assistant manager and window trimmer at the time. They became engaged before he left to serve during World War II. They were married July 10th, 1943 in Harlingen, Texas. Clem was in gunnery school at that time, and asked Irene to come down and visit during his first furlough. Irene did not know until she arrived that he had already talked to a priest to arrange the wedding. They called both their moms to tell them of their decision to marry. Clem's best friend Wayne Ross was the best man and Irene's sister Fran was the maid of honor. He had to be back on base the next night, so there was no honeymoon.

During World War II he enlisted in the Army Air Corps on November 3, 1941. He served three years. He was a gunner, flight engineer and mechanic on the B-24 Bomber, also known as the "Flying Boxcar". He belonged to the American Legion South Omaha Post #331 for 57 years.

After the war he went to work at Miller Pontiac in the parts department, then as manager for Marlin Associates, which later became United Electric Supply Corp. United Electric is a retail and wholesale company that specializes in light fixtures and electrical supplies. With the support of the owners, Clem built the company up from a small business originally at 46th and Dodge to today's operation, which has the largest showroom in the midwest and the largest electrical supplier to the homebuilding industry in Omaha. Over time he invested in the company to become an equal shareholder with the other owners. He worked there 45 years, up until the time of his death.

He enjoyed fishing and was a natural at golf. He loved music, especially Frank Sinatra and big band great Glenn Miller. When the family hears Frank Sinatra they automatically think of their dad. He answered to the names of "Babe" as a youth, Van in business, Clem to his wife and dad to his children.

Clem and Irene were blessed with a large beautiful family. Their children are Dennis (Denny), Wayne, William (Bill), Susan (Sue), Sandra (Sandy) and Scott. As of 2002, they had 18 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren and 2 step great-grandchildren.

Clem passed away on March 18th, 2001. He was buried in Calvary Mausoleum after a Mass at St. John Vianney Church.

Denny Van Moorleghem

I was born on November 19, 1946 here in Omaha. After 55 years being around the Riedmann clan I could tell some pretty "interesting" stories but I promised my Mom that I would behave myself and write only about the good stuff – not the great stuff.

My earliest memories are about being at Grandpa Riedmann's house on Martha Street, trying to peek around the Christmas sheet. I remember watching someone behead a chicken for dinner (from the backyard chicken coop). I can remember being scolded for trying to climb the backyard apricot trees for a free snack and for sneaking back up those

same trees only to be stung by swarms of wasps who also laid claim to those huge fruits. I gave up after that because I not only fell out of the tree but got a spanking for disobeying. I think the current sport of rock climbing originated in that back yard of the Martha Street house while we all tried to scale the 50' high vertical clay cliff next to the garage. And I can't forget those great kolache, that you could smell as you rounded that corner near "The Hollow" (which then was kind of an area dump as I remember it) – now it is part of the beautiful Omaha Botanical Gardens. This is the same area where Uncle Lou must have blown off ten thousand of Silver Salutes and M-80s. Those were the good old days.

In later years I graduated from UNO with a Degree in Construction Engineering and then got a job as a trim carpenter with Pacesetter Homes (thanks to Uncle Lou). Over the years I was lucky enough to be able to work my way up to being Vice-President of the Company and we are now one of the largest builders of Semi-custom homes and Custom Villas in Omaha. In 1998 I was able to be the President of MOBA (the Omaha Homebuilders Association) and was the Nebraska National Rep. to the National Association of Homebuilders for two years. That was fun.

Before all that happened though I was married to Sally Vassel and had two great kids. Wendy, who lives in Lincoln and has a successful career as the Director of the Lincoln Friendship Home and is a great mother to three greater kids, is married to one of Lincoln's top Realtors Greg McCown. Rick who is now traveling around the world to 23 cities, has covered Australia, China, Africa, and all of South America and will be returning in September after being gone a full year on his great adventure. We are looking forward to having Rick home again.

About 16 years ago I married a great gal (she says that she is a woman but we all know better), Sherry, who I love and who is my best friend. We now have a total of 5 kids and 6 grandkids. Tim (one of the kids not the grandkids) works for ACI, a computer software company, and is married to Trish. Shane just graduated from College and is on his way to a career in MIS (Shane and Tracey just had grand kid number 6 today – congratulations and Hurray!!) The baby of the brood is Tina who is a junior at UNO studying to be a teacher – It looks like Tom, her boyfriend may soon be part of the family – Welcome Tom!

Well that's enough about me. I am blessed to be part of such a great family who have supported me and encouraged me over the years. I Thank God for that Gift. – Denny

Wendy and Greg McCown

Daughter of Denny Van Moorlegem

Wendy and Greg McCown live in an historic home near the state capital in Lincoln. They bought the house when they got married 8 years ago and still are working on restoring it to its original grandeur. Our three children, Rachel age 6 going on 16, Greyson age 4 and Olivia age 19 months prevent prolonged projects.

Wendy loves to spend hours in the garden, not really growing much, just playing in the mud and thinking about what it will look like someday. She is the Development Director at Friendship Home, Lincoln's only shelter for battered women and their children and is

responsible for telling the community about the shelter as well as raising the money to keep it open. The work is incredibly rewarding and yet she only works 30 hours a week so is able to be home with the kids every afternoon.

Greg is a realtor for Home Real Estate. It keeps him very busy and still allows freedom to travel, putz around the before mentioned old house and work at tending our family vineyard. This year Greg produced our very first wine, made from grapes which we toiled over. It is a labor of love and often we just like to say that we have a vineyard. Greg and Wendy like to travel. This year they just returned from a fabulous trek to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador.

Rachel will be entering first grade this fall and is very grown up for her age. She loves dancing, swimming, tents and being the oldest. She has the charm and grace of a true leader and will make a great mommy... she's getting lots of practice in now. She is beautiful, smart and a lot of fun to be around.

Greyson is our mechanically minded family member. He must take after his father and his Van grandfather. He is forever taking things apart and studying them to see how they work. He loves school, dinosaurs, hot cars (hot wheels) and Barney. He is sensitive, inquisitive and as sweet as can be.

Then there's Olivia. She is the strongest personality of the McCown kids. She has big brown eyes and she's not afraid to use them. She has the cute pout down pat and knows how to keep out of trouble by saying the right thing at the exact right moment. She loves being the baby and is milking it for all she can. She is very smart, happy and brings so much joy to our lives.

Wayne and Mary Van Moorleghem

Wayne Van Moorleghem was born Feb. 13, 1948. He is the second child of Irene and Clem. He attended St. Thomas More Grade School and Ryan High School. He graduated from University of Nebraska at Omaha. He enjoys golfing and hunting. He has worked for many years at United Electric. He is now managing the store since his dad retired in 2000.

In 1975, Wayne married Mary Clavin. They were married at St. Thomas More Church. Mary attended St. Thomas More School and Mercy High School. She also graduated from University Nebraska at Omaha. She worked at Northwestern Bell Telephone until they had their first child. She stayed at home with the children until the youngest started school. The past 12 years she has worked as an administrative assistant at St. Robert School.

Sean was born in 1978. He attended St. Robert Grade School and Creighton Prep. He played golf and ran cross country while attending Prep. He graduated from University of Nebraska Lincoln in 2000 with a degree in Management Information Systems. He has been working for Deloitte and Touche as a computer consultant. He enjoys playing golf

and ultimate Frisbee. He recently got a new puppy and is busy training her for the upcoming hunting season.

Kristin was born in 1980. She attended St. Robert Grade School and Skutt Catholic High School. She played basketball, volleyball and ran track while attending Skutt. She graduated this past May from Hastings College with a degree in Human Resources and Health Promotion Management. While at college, she played basketball for the college and got to travel to Italy to play over there. Next year she will start on her Masters Program at Hastings.

Matt was born in 1985. He also attended St. Robert Grade School and Creighton Prep. He is going to be a senior this fall. He has been on the golf team and the cross country team during high school. He works at United Electric during the summers and part time during the school year.

Bill Van Moorleghem & Family

We moved to Wisconsin 1981 and now live on 5 acres in Hortonville, WI, near Appleton. Joshua is 22 and works with me in my Business, Design Office Interiors, Inc.

John is 19 and is working for a heating & cooling contractor. Johanna is sweet 16. She works part time at Media Play. Luke is 13 and loves baseball. Sorry we couldn't make it to the reunion this time. Hope everybody has a great time.

Sue (Van Moorleghem) Marullo and Family

This is the story of Sue (Van Moorleghem) Marullo and her family. I am the eldest daughter of Irene and Clem, and their fourth child. I was born and raised in Omaha. I graduated from Ryan High School, and attended the University of Nebraska/Lincoln for two years. Unsure of my future direction, I then worked for a year and saved my pennies and took off for a backpack tour of Europe for 3 months. And just as the song goes, "How are you gonna keep 'em down on the farm, now that they've seen Pane?" I chose to move to wonderful, magnificent New York City. I lived in Greenwich Village for 5 years and loved every exciting second. I eventually graduated with a degree in Art History from New York University. I also fell in love and married Vince Marullo. We moved and currently live on Long Island. We love it here, where we are 10 minutes from the ocean, 3 minutes from the bay, and only one hour by train from New York City. We owned a 30 foot sailboat for many years, and we now have an Aquasport that we use to ferry us back and forth to Fire Island and the beautiful ocean beach there.

When I was about 42 years old I finally decided what I wanted to be when I grew up. While working full time as an elementary school paraprofessional (or teacher's aide), I went back to school and earned a Masters degree in education. I am just finishing my second year of teaching. My first was spent teaching fifth grade, this year I taught Kindergarten. I loved them both. I am extremely fortunate to have found a career that I love and that I am pretty good at, if I do say so myself.

Vince has his own company and works in construction. We have two fantastic teenage children, Christopher, 17, and Betsy, 14. Chris is a swimmer, loves baseball, and works in the summer as a lifeguard. Betsy was a cheerleader in Middle School and loves her music. They are both blessings to us.

We are always very happy to welcome any family visitors. So, come on out - the door is open!

Sandy (Van Moorleghem) Stein Family

Hi, I am Sandy Van Moorleghem Stein, fifth child and second daughter of Irene & Clem Van Moorleghem. I was born March 23, 1957, which now makes me 45 years old (wow!). When I was small, there was always a big thrill with the Riedmann get togethers... parties, birthdays, holiday celebrations and weddings.

I especially remember the Christmas Eve's at Grandpa & Grandma Mary's house. As I entered and placed my coat in the first bedroom, I would always be sure to look at the many pictures on the wall. Where was the picture of my family? How many other people did I recognize? Getting our first gift at Grandpa's was so special. On the way home, Dad or Mom would always see Santa's sleigh between houses. What excitement!

Another strong Riedmann memory was all the fun times at our cabin on Hansen's Lake with Uncle Lou and the cousins. Every weekend we would load up and head out to the cabin. My sister Sue, Beth, Gayle, Joyce, Lisa, and myself would be constantly in the water. You would see seven heads with life vests bobbing up and down begging for boats to give us "Waves". As our parents worked, we would swim, play in the sand, and eat all of my Mom's great cookies.

I have been married to my husband, Jim for 21 years. Jim, originally from St. Louis, moved to Omaha in his last year of junior high. We met at the famous "Chicago Bar" on Dodge St. (no longer standing). We married in 1981. Jim and I have lived in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Oakland and Franklin, New Jersey; Mundelein and Lindenhurst, Illinois. We have been in Lindenhurst for thirteen years now. Jim is project manager for Clarin, Inc., a manufacturer who makes folding chairs and stadium seating arrangements. I babysat in my home for nine years and I am currently employed as a Library Aide for Millburn School in Wadsworth, Illinois.

We have three children:

Erin – born in 1984 (17 years old) is a senior in high school. She plays alto saxophone and piano. She is president of Students Against Destructive Decisions and Secretary of National Honor Society. Erin works at Banana Republic, where she is a training buddy, and a member of the stock, replenishment, and markdown teams. She has been dating her boyfriend, Mike, for over two and a half years.

Erica – born in 1988 (13 years old) is an eighth grader. She plays the oboe and piano. Erica, an avid reader, is a big fan of Harry Potter. She serves on the Teen Advisory Board for the local public libraries. Erica loves spending time listening to the radio and watching movies.

Andrea – born in 1990 (12 years old) is a seventh grader. She plays the trumpet and of course, is always on the phone. She is a member of jazz band and loves playing computer games. "Andi" is the most like me; she shares all of my interests and emotions.

I am sorry that I could not attend the reunion. I will be thinking of all of you!

Scott & Helen Van Moorlehem

Helen and I are both the babies from a family of six children. We met in fifth grade, and were sweethearts on and off until we got married in 1986. I have worked at United Electric Supply for approx. 22 years. Helen works at home, homeschooling Paul and taking care of David. Until last year she also homeschooled CJ and Sarah who now goes to Bellevue Christian Academy.

We now have four children, CJ-11, Sarah-10, Paul-7, and David-4. CJ is in 6th grade and likes to play Game Cube, basketball, and football. Sarah is in 5th grade and also likes basketball, and to do any kind of craft, and she loves to spend time with her friends. Paul loves to play with his super heroes, and to play with his brothers and sister and his neighbor friend Patrick. David enjoys trains, action figures, and whatever his brothers and/or sister are doing.

As a family we love to go camping. We also like hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park. The kids and I also enjoy fishing. Helen is an avid garage saler, and bargain hunter, even when we don't need a thing!

Being the baby of six, I didn't spend as much time with the extended Riedmann family as my older brothers and sisters did. I do not even remember Grandma and I don't remember anything from Grandpa except how he looked. I do remember spending some time with Grandma Mary and also that I received "Ants in the Pants" and a penny collection book from them for Christmas.

I also remember Uncle Lou and kids coming to my folks' cabin on 4th of July's before they bought their cabin. Lisa, Joyce, Dale Elsasser and I had a lot of fun swimming ALL day, Dale and I got in trouble once for throwing watermelon rinds in the water. Uncle Lou would light and hold a Smoke Bomb in his hand pretending it was a Cherry Bomb. We would all yell for him to throw it until it finally started to smoke and he started to laugh.