

Aschenbreners of the Wisconsin Northwoods

George and Marietta Aschenbrenner
of Northern Wisconsin ... A Family Story



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2017 Update



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*For George B. and Marietta,
the protagonists of this story*



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Preface

In retirement, my grandmother Marietta put together a number of family scrapbooks. They were my original inspiration for compiling the stories on the family of George and Marietta Aschenbrener. I use the Christian names of George and Marietta in this book for the sake of clarity. Marietta was always known as Grandma A. in my family. George was called Papa George, but some of the cousins knew him as Pappy George. George and Marietta now have many descendants for whom they would be great-grandparents and even 2x and 3x great-grandparents.

Over many years, my cousins Jodi Hansen and Susanne Marciniak have sent me copies of photos, documents and other pieces of information that they had collected. In addition to Jodi and Susanne, I am also indebted to cousins Jim Aschenbrener, Thomas Aschenbrener, David Aschenbrener, Sister Mary Jude Gibfried, Sister JoAnn Ashburn, Jim Gibfried, and Joan Yacovone, as well as my Uncle Dick Aschenbrener and my Aunts Harriet Whitney, Lorraine Aschenbrener, and Elaine Aschenbrener. All helped immensely by supplying me with anecdotes, documents, old family photos and other information. Last, but certainly not least, my dad, Robert, provided a number of photos and answered hundreds of questions I directed to him in an effort to ferret out an accurate accounting of life in the household of George and Marietta. My sincere thanks go to all who helped in any way with this effort. Finally, I apologize if I have forgotten anyone and for any missing or inaccurate information. As I have noted in other histories, not every story is told and no story can do complete justice to the facts.

This genealogical effort is more than a listing of names and dates of birth, marriage and death. The stories that follow shed some light on the family's strengths and character. However, the Aschenbrener family portrait is far from complete. What were the Aschenbreners of the Northwoods of Wisconsin really like? Their blood flows in our veins. Maybe we can see our own reflection in the snapshot of one or another of our forebears.

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS



George and Marietta Aschenbrenner of Northern Wisconsin *Early Twentieth-Century Entrepreneurs*

George Bernard Aschenbrenner and Marietta Estelle Gilman were married on June 17, 1903 in Medford, Wisconsin. It was noted in the newspaper announcement of their wedding that the bride “has been a very able assistant in the Star-News office . . . and the groom is a successful general merchant.” How well those words “successful merchant” and “able assistant” would epitomize their life together. From their wedding day until they retired some forty years later, George and Marietta worked together in the family businesses.



OFFICE OF
**Ellingson
Lumber Co.**
MANUFACTURERS
AND
WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
Lumber.
1903

Population about 150. Stetsonville has
the following list of businessmen.

G. B. Aschenbrenner	Gen. Store
Ellingson Lbr. Co.	Lbr. & Gen. Store
Mehrsted & Priebe	Gen. Store
F. A. Beintker	Dealer in Agriculture Implements
Olson Bros.	Blacksmith
Joe Rindt	Blacksmith
Henry Amacher	Cheese Factory
Chas. Wachtel	Saloon
Joe Liberty	Saloon & Hotel
Geo. Aschenbrenner	Saloon & Hotel
Joe Leytle	Saloon
Brecke & Sons	Saw Mill in country
Pfaff Bros.	Saw Mill in country
Joe Deitzler	Saw Mill in country
Irving Newton	Saw Mill in country
Albert LaBerge	Saw Mill in country

*This completes the list of Businessmen that get their
mail here, there are also about 200 farmers and laborers
who are patrons of this office.*

An ad found in “100 Year Anniversary 1874-1974: Stetsonville, Little Black, Deer Creek.

George and Marietta operated businesses in Stetsonville, Eau Claire, Park Falls, Fifield and Lac du Flambeau. Stories about the businesses come from newspaper and obituary columns, their son Fred’s taped family history, their son Robert’s memories, and snippets of information gleaned from the three publications, *100 Year Anniversary 1874-1974: Stetsonville, Little Black, Deer Creek*; *100 Years on the Flambeau: Park Falls, Lake and Eisenstein*; and Elva Lessard’s *Fifield: 1876-1976*. Over the years, the Aschenbrenners were frequently operating more than one business at a time. Their business activity is all the more amazing because they raised eleven children along the way: nine boys and two girls. The births of the children are noted here because they help to establish where the Aschenbrenner family lived and when they lived there.

In 1903, when George and Marietta set up housekeeping in Stetsonville, the town had a population of “about 150,” according to an advertisement in the newspaper of the time. The ad further stated that the population was perhaps double that number, if farmers and laborers in the area were included. George B. Aschenbrenner had a general store and his dad had a saloon and hotel. There were three other saloons in the town, five saw mills, a cheese factory, two blacksmiths, as well as another hotel and two more general stores. At this time Marietta Aschenbrenner was operating the Cash Store, while her husband, George, managed a furniture store upstairs. A short time later, Marietta opened a small grocery store in a part of the Crystal Opera House (*100 Year Anniversary*).



Postcard showing Stetsonville, WI in 1909

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A year after their marriage, the eldest son Harris made his appearance. The following announcement appeared in the local newspaper and was discovered, pasted into one of Marietta's scrapbooks: "Last Monday night a young gentleman stopped at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G.B. Aschenbrenner and engaged board, lodging and clothes for the next 21 years. We will take a cigar on that, George." The following year, a daughter, Bernice joined the family.

In 1905, George and Marietta were ready for adventures which would take them beyond the confines of their childhood home. They were twenty-five years old and had two young children. George had managed the Cash Store in Stetsonville for three years. In 1905, he bought a store in Eau Claire and moved his young family there (*100 Year Anniversary*, 15). George and Marietta stayed in Eau Claire long enough to add another child to the family. Aloysius was born in that city on January 31, 1907.

By 1908, the family had moved to Park Falls, sixty-five miles north of Stetsonville. Eldred (Al), the fourth child of George and Marietta was born in Park Falls on November 22, 1908. George had two brothers who were already living in this town. Older brother, Edward moved to Park Falls in 1902 and was appointed Head Cashier of the newly formed Park Falls State Bank in 1903. Younger brother, Lawrence arrived in 1905 and became Assistant Cashier. (Both brothers came to hold prominent positions with the bank and were involved in a number of other business and civic activities in Park Falls.) Although little information has been found on their years in Park Falls, we know that George and Marietta lived there for about 10 years and operated a general store and meat market in the town. There is a note on page 216 of the publication *100 Years on the Flambeau* stating that a man by the name of Hugo Bass came to Park Falls and "was hired by George Aschenbrenner to work as a butcher in the Aschenbrenner store." Besides Eldred, four other children were born in Park Falls during these years: Mike, Fred, George and Edmund.

George started doing business in Fifield, five miles south of Park Falls, while the family was still living and working in Park Falls. In 1912, George purchased the Dirimple building on South Central Avenue in Fifield. This building had been recently remodeled by its previous owner, following the fire in 1893. George set up and operated "The Quality Store" at this site until 1920. For a time he operated the store with a man named Semereau (Lessard, 34). It might well have been his brother-in-law, as his sister Anna had married a man named Ed Semereau.



George and Marietta in their office above the store in Fifield, WI

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS



The family stayed in Park Falls until about 1918. Fred remembered the family's move from Park Falls to Fifield. They made the trip by train, traveling about four and a half miles to Fifield on the C Line. "When we arrived there, also in the winter time, I was put on a large sled with pieces of luggage and taken to our new home."



In 1920, George bought the Tappy Erdman building and moved his store up along the north side, remodeling all into one big store (Lessard). At this time, the family was living in a large apartment over the family's warehouse behind the Erdman building, while a new home was being built. Robert and Harriet's earliest memories go back to their home above the warehouse. Soon, George had moved his family, which included ten children at the time, into a large two-story home, built a few blocks away, on a lot the size of half a city block. At the back of the lot was a barn where they kept horses.



In the early part of the twentieth century, one could find a good variety of items in a small-town store. An apt description of the interior of the general store comes from Fifield: "Stores of early days as is said, had an aroma all their own, a mingling of many odors from barrels of pickles, sauerkraut, vinegar, salt pork, crackers and more. It depended on the arrangement of ingredients. Cookies those days came in large wooden boxes and later large square cardboard ones with hinged, glass covers, candy in large wooden pails; spices and sugar sold in bulk, sugar later in cloth bags; cheese, prunes, peas and beans

Undated photos of the Aschenbrenner Store in Fifield, WI. Probably taken in the late 1920s

also in bulk; lard or suet (lard substitute) out of large wooden pails; slab bacon and smoked sausages hung overhead; eggs came in large crates and were sold by the dozen in paper bags;

ASCHENBRENER'S OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS



Marietta and George B. Aschenbrener. Date of photo unknown.

butter was cut from a large slab and yeast, sold in multiples of 3-cents worth from a pound block; tea came loose, later in boxes and huge bags of coffee sat waiting to be specially ground. There was a limited supply of vegetables and fruits due to lack of refrigeration facilities and the fact that home canning was done on a large scale. Meat was kept in large wooden ice boxes with doors of various sizes and was weighed, as was everything else, on large, cumbersome table or hanging scales. Ice that kept meats, etc., cold was put up in winter from rivers or lakes into huge ice houses and completely insulated with sawdust. It was carried piece by piece into the iceboxes with ice tongs after washing. Staples of clothing; wool socks, heavy underwear, plain shoes, etc. were stacked or hung around a dry goods area and often over grocery area for lack of space, all creating that great hodgepodge that typified the small early country store. Everyone seemed to have a store account and bills were usually paid once a

month with the customer receiving a large striped bag of mixed candy in return – children anxiously awaiting that exciting day. The bonanza of country store “odors” and bags of candy have long since disappeared (Lessard, 34).”

An invoice listing items purchased at the Aschenbrener store in Fifield by the Town Board in 1914 gives an idea of the variety of things to be found in the store. There were mattresses and springs, selling for about \$2 apiece. Kettles, faucets, tin dishes, teaspoons, burlap, and rubber boots were sold, as well as ham, carrots, cabbage and parsnips (Lessard, 43).

Years later, George’s son Fred would comment that “there were enough of us children that dad had to hire very little outside help. The help he hired was usually an extra butcher, or an extra warehouse man, or a cook and housekeeper for the house. As each of us went to college, we were given one day’s vacation from the store that we used to travel from northern Wisconsin to Dubuque, Iowa or to Milwaukee, depending upon where [we] went to school. We then went to school, had a 2-week break at Christmas, at which time we were allowed to go home, returning after New Year’s and then stayed in school until June. At that time we had one day travel time from Dubuque back to the Northwoods, in order to go to work behind the counter again.”

STATEMENT	
Return this Statement for Correction in Case of Error	
June 27 1914	
To G. B. Aschenbrener Dr.	
Terms:	No. St.
	#1
1914	
May 1	1 pair Rubber Boots 4.50
10	1 pair Sponges 1.00
	1 doz. Beggies 2.10
	1 doz. Carrots 2.50
	1 crate Cabbage 4.10
	1 bag Parsnips .96
	3 Kettles 1.28
	3 lbs. 1.15
	2 doz. Potatoes 2.10
12	8 Springs 16.00
	8 Mattresses 15.60
	Burlap 1.70
	1 doz. 1.90
	1 doz. 1.10
13	2 doz. Rubber Boots 6.00
	1 " Seal 1.15
	6 Tin dishes 3.00
	6 2 qt. 6.00
	5 Gal. Oil Can 6.00
	5 Gal. Oil 6.00
14	2 doz. Spikes 9.00
	3 Shimmers 3.00
	1 Cullender 1.15
	10 Butter 3.00
	Ham 7.95
	Faucet 1.10
	Parsnips 1.05
	67.50

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS



Lac du Flambeau, WI. Photos taken sometime in the 1930s or 40s. The Aschenbrener home was located at the edge of the lake, far left corner in the top photo. The Aschenbrener grocery mart was located on the street above, across from the lake.

Fifield's first post office opened its doors in 1877. In 1920, George Aschenbrener was appointed postmaster, a position he held until 1935 (Lessard). The post office occupied various buildings in the town, including the Aschenbrener store for a time. While George was officially postmaster, it was Marietta who actually carried out the duties and responsibilities as postmistress. As with their

other businesses, it was a family affair. Daughter Harriet served as postal clerk for a time. Robert's first job was also associated with the post office. At fifteen years old, he was made the mail carrier, handling the mail between the train and the post office. His job was to meet two trains daily in the winter, one going north and the other going south, and four trains in the summer. During the winter months, the mail was pulled to the post office in a sled; in the summer, Robert used a wagon

to carry the mail. He had the job for about a year, until a new postmaster took office and, with his earnings, he bought a bicycle.

Marietta was not one to miss an opportunity to earn a few extra dollars. In 1972, Richard wrote that when the electric lights were brought to Fifield, his mom "had the job of turning on the two streetlights each evening and turning them off in the morning."

Working in the family store did have its light-hearted moments. As Fred recalled, "We were always instructed to take the groceries out to the car for the customer. One of my brothers said, 'I have your groceries, where is your car?' The customer said, 'Well, I parked it outside.' Again, the brother was pretty young and he said, 'Well, it would have been a neat bit of parking had you brought it in'" Fred told another story: "My father had a walk-in refrigerator, and the



The Aschenbrener boys delivered to the various resorts around Lac du Flambeau.

door would not always stay closed tightly. So he said to us “whenever you go by and this door isn’t locked, switch the handle, so it will stay cool”. So, bearing that in mind, one day one of the younger brothers walked by, saw the handle unlatched, latched it, and went on his way. About an hour later, someone had to get into this refrigerator, and there is my father, half frozen. He came out and said, “Who locked that door?” My brother admitted to it. [Dad] said, ‘You’re fired!’ He said ‘You can’t fire me, Dad. I live here.’”

George built the Lac du Flambeau store in about 1930. This was on the Chippewa Indian Reservation and George had secured a 99-year lease for the property. It remained open all year. The three month summer tourist business at this location generated more income than the Fifield store in a year. Summer at the lake was a busy time for the whole family. Robert reported that, as a teenager, he would get up at 4 A.M. to go to the resorts to take orders for the day. He would return to the store, fill the orders and deliver the goods. Back at the store after a short rest, he would work until 8 or 9 o’clock at night. After that, the whole family would go to one of the family taverns in the area, not getting home until very late. They didn’t get much sleep in the summer.

This area in northern Wisconsin was popular as a summer resort. As Fred later recalled about his time at the lake, “we met every type of person imaginable. We learned how to be a diplomat in handling each and every one of them.” Native Ojibwe shopped at the Aschenbrenner store, as did the wealthy families with summer homes in the area. These families came from Chicago, Milwaukee and other places in the Midwest.

Some visitors were more notorious than others. Everyone who lived in the Midwest during the 20s and 30s seems to have a personal story to tell about the Chicago gangsters. The Aschenbrenners had their story. These outlaws came into being during the Prohibition Era. Al Capone (who ruled the rough side of Chicago) had a summer resort in the vicinity of Lac du Flambeau. Capone and his buddies shopped at the Aschenbrenner store. Fred reportedly sold a fishing license to Al Capone. Robert recalled that when he and his brothers made deliveries to the Capone residence, they were invited to stay for the parties. “Al was never there, but his cohorts were friendly.” Robert further noted that, “Up in this neck of the woods, these mobsters of the 1930s generally managed to be law-abiding citizens.”

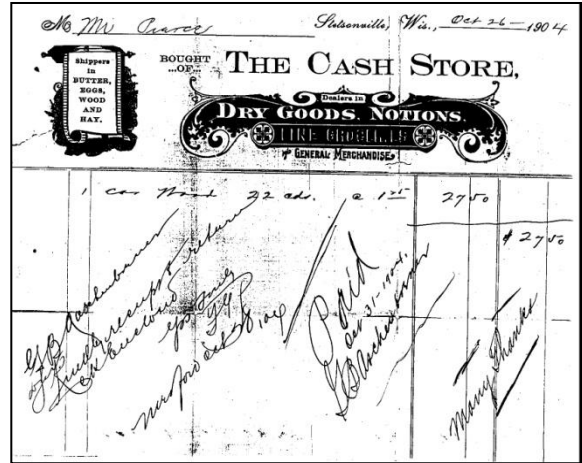
The gangsters did not escape the attention of the FBI, however. Dillinger and Baby Face Nelson were other well-known gangsters who came through Lac du Flambeau in the late 20s and early 30s. In 1934, Indiana-born John Dillinger was living in Chicago and considered “public enemy number one.” Robert remembered that the FBI used the Aschenbrenner building in Fifield to store machine guns and other arms as part of an operation to capture Dillinger and his gang.

In 1935 or 1936, George bought a mink and fox farm. This was a 40-acre enterprise, located on a side road about 2 miles outside of Lac du Flambeau. On the ranch was a three-story home. The top floor was actually a tower, with 360-degree views from which the activities of the animals, housed in pens, could be observed. For a time, George Jr. and Lorraine lived at this house and managed the farm.

ASCHENBRENER'S OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

At some time in the late 30s or early 40s, George bought a roadhouse, which he operated for several years. It was named Club 47 and was located on the highway between Lac du Flambeau and Woodruff. The bar was often tended by George or son Mike. Robert recalled that after the war, the furniture he and Ann had in their first home in Columbia, Missouri came from the lounge located in this roadhouse.

By the late 40s or early 50s, George and Marietta had sold their homes and businesses in Wisconsin and moved to Tucson, Arizona, where the year-round climate was more agreeable for both. George died on January 25, 1953 of a heart attack,



A receipt for goods signed by George B. Aschenbrener in 1904

soon after he and Marietta celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. After George's death, Marietta moved to Encino, California with her youngest son Richard. She stayed with him until he was unable to care for her. She spent the last few years of her life in a nursing home in Park Falls, Wisconsin. Marietta lived to be 100 years old, dying on March 17, 1981.

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS



The Family of George and Marietta Aschenbrener

Husband: George B. Aschenbrener	
	Birth: June 19, 1881 in Stetsonville, Taylor Co. Wisconsin Death: January 25, 1953 in Tucson, Pima Co. Arizona Marriage: June 17, 1903 in Stetsonville, Taylor Co. Wisconsin Father: George Aschenbrenner Mother: Monika (Bradle) Bredl
Wife: Marietta Estelle Gilman	
	Birth: November 23, 1880 in Stetsonville, Taylor Co. Wisconsin Death: March 17, 1981 in Park Falls, Price Co. Wisconsin Father: Joseph (Anglemene) Gilman Mother: Barbara Ann Fox
Children:	
1 M	Name: Harris George (Aschenbrener) Ashburn Birth: March 28, 1904 in Little Black, Taylor Co. Wisconsin Death: December 09, 1980 in Granada Hills, Los Angeles Co. California Spouse: Virginia Evelyn Browning
2 F	Name: Bernice Lucille Aschenbrener Birth: September 30, 1905 in Stetsonville, Taylor Co. Wisconsin Death: May 23, 1989 in Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan Marriage: September 25, 1929 in Fifield, Wisconsin Spouse: Clarence Martin (Bud) Gibfried
3 M	Name: Aloysius Joseph (Loy) Aschenbrener Birth: January 24, 1907 in Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co. Wisconsin Death: September 17, 1998 in Pasadena, Los Angeles, California Marriage: April 24, 1937 in Villa Park, Illinois Spouse: Elaine Geidel
4 M	Name: Eldred Lawrence (Al) Aschenbrener Birth: November 22, 1908 in Park Falls, Price Co. Wisconsin Death: December 15, 1996 in Thousand Oaks, Ventura Co. California Spouse: Betty Lee Bliss
5 M	Name: Harold Edward (Mike) Aschenbrener Birth: November 24, 1910 in Park Falls, Price Co. Wisconsin Death: June 18, 1996 in Woodruff, Oneida Co. Wisconsin Spouse: Irma (Bud) Nelson
6 M	Name: Frederic Willard (Fred) Aschenbrener Birth: March 12, 1913 in Park Falls, Price Co. Wisconsin Death: January 06, 1977 in Dubuque, Dubuque Co. Iowa Marriage: July 16, 1938 in Dubuque, Dubuque Co., Iowa Spouse: Annamae Weber
7 M	Name: George Bernard Ashenbrener Jr. Birth: May 19, 1915 in Park Falls, Price Co. Wisconsin Death: February 21, 1995 in Phoenix, Maricopa Co. Arizona Spouse: Lorraine A Elliott

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8
M Name: Edmund Earl Aschenbrener
 Birth: September 08, 1916 in Park Falls, Price Co. Wisconsin
 Death: May 23, 1936 in Fifield, Price Co. Wisconsin

9
F Name: Harriet Louise Aschenbrener
 Birth: March 27, 1919 in Fifield, Price County, Wisconsin
 Death: January 16, 2012 in Newport Beach, Orange, California
Marriage: 1944 in Los Angeles, CA, USA
Spouse: Richard Bolster Whitney

10
M Name: Robert Wayne (Ash) Aschenbrener
 Birth: November 22, 1920 in Fifield, Price County, Wisconsin
 Death: July 02, 2009 in Cameron Park, El Dorado County, California
Marriage: August 20, 1945 in Clark AFB, Philippines
Spouse: Ann (Laura Ann) Middleton

11
M Name: Richard Francis (Dick) Aschenbrener
 Birth: June 28, 1923 in Fifield, Price Co. WI
 Death: May 19, 2002 in Park Falls, Price Co. Wisconsin

Raising a Large Family in the Wisconsin Northwoods

*A compilation of stories from George and Marietta's children,
along with photos collected from Marietta's scrapbooks and from her descendants*

George B. Aschenbrenner and Marietta Gilman were married on June 17, 1903, just after the turn of the twentieth century in the little town of Stetsonville in northern Wisconsin. Their first child was born nine months later. They would go on to have a family of eleven children, nine boys and two girls. A family group sheet, found on the preceding pages, gives the names of the children, along with their dates of birth, marriage, and death. The family was raised in the Wisconsin Northwoods. It would only be after they retired that George and Marietta moved to the southwestern United States.

The early twentieth century was a different era in America. When George and Marietta married, people traveled by horse, rail, boat and foot. Children were born at home and families were quarantined when there was an infectious illness. Houses were lit by kerosene lanterns. Entertainment was homespun. Marietta lived to celebrate her one-hundredth birthday. During her lifetime, she saw the invention of automobiles, airplanes, and television. Electricity and telephones were introduced into homes throughout the country. America fought in five wars: the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The United States also put a man on the moon.

There is a German saying, “Die Arbeit macht das Leben süß”, or “work makes life sweet.”



*Top row (L to R) Harold (Mike), Eldred (Al), Aloysius (Loy), Bernice, Harris, George Jr. (in Harris' lap), Fred;
Bottom Row (L to R): Edmund, Robert, Richard, and Harriet. Photo taken c. 1924.*

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

George and Marietta Aschenbrenner worked hard and were true entrepreneurs in the Wisconsin Northwoods. They also had a deep faith in God and a strong commitment to providing a good home for their large family. In this they succeeded admirably. Many years after the Aschenbrenner family had left Fifield, Rena Lake, a local historian, reported, “It seems that there was never a time in all the years I can recall when [Marietta] wasn’t working as well as raising her family of eleven children. She stood behind the cage at the post office window sorting and handing out mail for several years, always cheerful and very much a lady. Then she would go home to spend hours with laundry, ironing, cooking and housework. Yet she somehow found the time to teach her children all the finer things in life.”

After she retired, Marietta put together a number of scrapbooks. She was proud of her family. Framed portraits of her eleven children were hung high on the wall of the living room at the home in Lac du Flambeau. When Marietta moved to Encino, California, the portraits came, too, and found a place above the windows of the sun porch. Marietta liked to tell stories about her children and she kept a dish of family photos on her coffee table. I think she would be very pleased to know that many of the photos and stories have been collected, to be passed down to future generations. I can picture her now, chuckling at the idea, her eyes twinkling just a bit.



*A photo of the older Aschenbrenner children, taken c. 1916:
(Back row, L to R) Loy, Al, Bernice, George Jr. (baby), Harris.
Standing in front: Mike (dark hat) and Fred (light colored hat)*

Managing a household of eleven children was not an easy task. From the earliest days of their marriage, George and Marietta worked together in the family businesses. The first child arrived a year after they were married and they kept on coming, every year or two, for the next twenty years. Robert remembered that Marietta always had a girl, generally someone from one of the nearby farms, to cook and to help take care of the young children at home. Generally, these girls lived with the family. There was a maid’s room in both the house in Fifield and the house in Lac du Flambeau. Young children are often hungry. A pot of oatmeal was kept going on the stove: the equivalent of today’s fast food!

The older children started school in Park Falls while the younger ones began their education at the school in Fifield. This was a two-story brick building which housed the elementary school on the lower floor and the high school on the upper. The high school was small. According to Robert, the entire student body, freshmen through seniors, numbered no more than forty. Fred remembered his school days: “I started school when I was 5 years old, but it didn’t last long, because I happened to reach over and cut the hair of the child ahead of me.

ASCHENBRENERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

[I] got caught by the teacher, who sent me home and told me I could come back when I was 6 years old. I did come back when I was 6 and got along very well.” All of the Aschenbrenner children but Robert graduated from Fifield High School. Robert graduated from Minocqua High School. Like his older brothers, he enjoyed playing basketball. He later recalled that people used to say that there was always an Aschenbrenner on the team at Fifield. Unfortunately, when it came time for him to play, Fifield High School decided to disband the team. At this point, Robert and Richard chose to live in the family home in Lac du Flambeau and attend Minocqua High School, which had a championship team. Robert got to play ball, although it meant that he and Richard had to drive 15 miles to school each day, a tough drive in the winter. Richard decided to return to Fifield, where he graduated in 1940.

George and Marietta were determined to send all of their children to college, and this they accomplished. Not all graduated, but all had some college education. This was a noteworthy achievement, especially for that time and place, and with so many children. Harris received his undergraduate degree from Marquette University and a Masters degree from the University of Chicago. Bernice attended St. Mary’s College in Milwaukee. Loy graduated from Marquette University. He obtained a law degree from the University of Wisconsin. Fred and Mike graduated from Loras College (originally named Columbia College) in Dubuque, Iowa. Loy, Al, George Jr., Edmund and Robert also spent time at Loras. The obituary for George, Sr. that ran in the Dubuque newspaper in 1953 makes note of the fact that “Mr. Aschenbrenner visited Dubuque many times, having had seven sons attend Loras College from 1925-1943.” Robert graduated from the University of Missouri following his military service during World War II. Harriet graduated from Clarke College, also in Dubuque. Richard attended Quincy College in Illinois.

Washing was done on one day of the week only. It was the custom to dress young children, both boys and girls, in white dresses. These clothes needed to be boiled on the stove to get them clean. Then they were hung out to dry. In the winter they would freeze on the clothesline. According to Robert, by the time they were living in Fifield, Marietta had a wringer washing machine and a mangle to iron the clothes. In a letter he wrote in 1972, Richard noted “a time when mom had 53 shirts to wash and iron for father and the boys, after a day of work in the post office.”



Edmund, born in 1916. Photo c 1920

As the children grew, they were expected to help out at home and in the family businesses. While there was plenty of work to be done, there was also time for fun. A small river ran through Fifield and a popular swimming hole was located under the two bridges (one for cars, the other



Winter play: Fanny (the horse) with the Aschenbrenner children

for trains) which crossed the river. In the summertime, this is where all the children could be found. In the evenings, it stayed light until past 9:00 P.M. The Aschenbrenner children joined other children at a street corner to play games like hide and seek, ducky on the rock and can-can. In those days, the streets were a relatively safe place for the children to be.

Winter and summer, play often involved the family's pets. The Aschenbrenners had a beloved collie named Ranger. They also had three horses that were kept in a barn behind the house in Fifield: Fanny, Little Bit and Beauty.

Winters were long and it would get dark about 3:30 P.M. There was a lot of snow and all of the children had snowshoes. Robert remembers having a pair of large, wooden skis. There were no high hills, so the children would build small ski jumps to entertain themselves or they would ski cross country through neighboring farms. Sometimes they had their horses pull them on their skis. Fred noted that "kids during a heavy snowstorm would climb up on one-story buildings and jump off into the snowdrifts, without being harmed in any way because the snowdrifts were in the neighborhood of 15-20 feet high." Ice skating was another popular winter activity for children in northern Wisconsin.

In high school, the Aschenbrenner boys played basketball. Fred, George and Mike, in particular, excelled in the sport. Sometimes the boys had to make a considerable effort in order to play the game. One story Fred told: "As I became older and was able to reach the pedals of my dad's car and truck, I became a driver. We were not taught how to drive. We just learned on our own hook. . . We liked to play basketball, but before we could go to practice, or have anything to do with it, we had to make sure that my father was taken to Lac du Flambeau in the morning before school. This necessitated our getting up around 5:30 or 6:00 to drive [Dad to work], come back to school, and after school drive back to Lac du Flambeau to get him, bringing him back to Fifield, and then we could go to basketball practice. But it was usually 10:00 before we returned home and we went to bed."

Harris was sixteen and Mike was ten when the house in Fifield was under construction. Both must have spent a lot of time on the lot while the house was being built. Building held a fascination for them. Harris later built a log cabin with a stone fireplace on the lot behind the big house. According to Loy's daughters, Joan and Mary, the log cabin still stands, although it has since been moved to another location. Mike, too, enjoyed building things. It was he who built a little cart for their pony, Fanny.

Hunting was another favorite pastime. Robert liked to hunt with an older brother, Edmund. This brother would hide his rifle on the way to school, to be retrieved after school when they would

go hunting. In Lac du Flambeau, Robert enjoyed hunting with his Indian friends. The Chippewa were allowed to hunt any time of year; whereas, the white residents were allowed to hunt only in season. For this reason, when Robert was along, they always had one less gun than number of boys in the group. They hunted deer, but more often, partridge and rabbit.

Religious practice was an integral part of their family life. George and Marietta followed the religion of their ancestors. The Germans from Markt Eisenstein, Bohemia and the French Canadians were devout Roman Catholics. Everyone went to Mass every Sunday and sometimes during the week. People fasted from midnight on, in order to receive Holy Communion at Mass the next morning. These were the days when the Mass was in Latin, Holy Days were observed, and meat was not eaten on Fridays. People went to confession, often on a monthly basis. During the Lenten season, the family would gather together to pray the daily rosary. The Aschenbrenner children attended catechism classes and the boys served as altar boys. When it came time for college, they went to Catholic colleges. A deep spirituality and a commitment to the Roman Catholic faith was instilled in each of the children and remained with them throughout their lives.



(L to R) Robert with his sister Harriet c. 1922

In early twentieth-century small towns, people recreated as a community. They got together for masquerades, organization dress balls, lecture courses, circuses, home talent plays and even operas. By 1912, Fifield had a Brass Band. An octagonal bandstand was erected in 1914 and served the community until sometime in the 1930s. During the 1920s and 1930s, dances were the rage. People had cars by this time and there were dances at one hall or another every night. Local orchestras provided the music. Elva Lessard, a local Fifield historian, observed that, “In very early times people often danced until 5 o’clock in the morning, went home and to work or church. Wedding dances often lasted 3 days and nights.”

Families attended events together. If there was a dance on a Friday or Saturday night, parents and younger children were there, in addition to the teenagers. When the Aschenbrenner teens went to parties, their mom and dad were very likely to be there too. Robert remembered the family picnics by one of the nearby lakes with Uncles Edward and Lawrence Aschenbrenner and their families, who lived in Park Falls.

Music and dance were popular in the Aschenbrenner household, as well as in the community at large. Mike played sax, trombone and drums. Loy, George, Al, and Edmund played the sax.

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Robert played the tenor sax and clarinet. Fred played the clarinet. Mike was particularly good at organizing small bands (3, 4, or 5 piece combos) to play in the nearby roadhouses and nightclubs. During the high school and college years, these combos frequently included George, Edmund and Robert. Loy also played in a small Saturday night band.

Aschenbrenner family travel was generally limited to trips to visit extended family: brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins. Marietta and George rarely traveled together. One stayed home to mind the stores, while the other was accompanied by one or two of the children. Robert recalled the train trip with his mother to North Dakota to attend Aunt Martha's funeral. Robert also remembered a trip to Fond du Lac to attend one of the Fox family weddings (Marietta's cousins). In later years, George and Marietta were able to take a more extended break from their businesses. Vacations were usually during the winter months, when business was light, and again they were not always taken together. At the end of a stressful summer season, George would take a couple of months to relax in a warmer climate. George's sisters, Louisa and Anna were living in Pomona, California. George traveled out to California to visit them. He also made trips to Florida and Texas, one of the boys always traveling with him. Marietta usually stayed in Wisconsin and managed the two stores and the household. From time to time, she took the train and traveled out to visit George. Robert said that one year she arrived in California for a surprise visit at 2:00 in the morning!

From all accounts, summers at Lac du Flambeau were a special time in a special place. George and Marietta, along with their children, worked long hours accommodating the vacationers from the south. After work, it was time to relax and recreate with family and friends. The Aschenbrenners were frequently invited to steak fries, canoe rides, and other fun activities at the home of one or another of the summer residents. Or they met at one of the nightclubs in the area. Taverns, roadhouses and nightclubs were an integral part of the culture and social life of the Wisconsin Northwoods. In the 1930s and 40s, the Grunerwald Roadhouse, Rudy's, Muskie Jack, the Homestead and the Tower Nightclub were popular with the Aschenbrenner family and friends.

Fred noted that "these experiences [in Lac du Flambeau] were so great, that even after we finished college, for many years, all of us went back there during the summer months just to work in the store."

Mike returned permanently to Lac du Flambeau after graduating from college. There, he carried on the Aschenbrenner legacy of work and play at the lake until his death in 1996. There had been a continuous Aschenbrenner presence at Lac du Flambeau for almost 75 years.



Mike and Robert in the cart being pulled by Fanny. Mike made the cart.

Nine Sons and Two Daughters: Their Stories

Generation 1

1. **GEORGE B.¹ ASCHENBRENER** was born on June 19, 1881 in Stetsonville, Taylor County, Wisconsin¹. He died on January 25, 1953 in Tucson, Pima County, Arizona². He married Marietta Estelle Gilman, daughter of Joseph (Anglemene) GILMAN and Barbara Ann FOX, on June 17, 1903 in Stetsonville, Taylor County, Wisconsin³. She was born on November 23, 1880 in Stetsonville, Taylor County, Wisconsin⁴. She died on March 17, 1981 in Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin⁵⁻⁶.

George B. ASCHENBRENER and Marietta Estelle GILMAN had the following children:

- i. **HARRIS GEORGE (ASCHENBRENER)² ASHBURN** was born on March 28, 1904 in Little Black, Taylor County, Wisconsin^{5,7}. He died on December 09, 1980 in Granada Hills, Los Angeles County, California^{5,8}. He married VIRGINIA EVELYN BROWNING. She was born on May 24, 1917 in San Francisco, San Francisco County, California⁹. She died on March 10, 2001 in Granada Hills, Los Angeles County, California¹⁰.

Notes for Harris George (Aschenbrener) ASHBURN:

Harris was the oldest of eleven children. He was born in Little Black, a small community just outside of Stetsonville the year following his parents' wedding. His childhood was spent in Stetsonville, Eau Claire, Park Falls and Fifield. In his youth he helped in the family businesses. Harris also enjoyed building things as a hobby. Perhaps his biggest project was a log cabin with a stone fireplace he built on the lot behind the big house in Fifield. This structure is still standing at the turn of the 21st century, although it has been moved to another location in Fifield.

Following high school, Harris enrolled in Marquette University. Like his brothers, he was deeply religious. In his taped memoir, brother Fred recalled that he had learned from a roommate of Harris, that Harris set the example of praying the holy rosary every night before he went to bed. And it wasn't long before all of the occupants in that area at Marquette were praying the rosary along with him before they went to bed at night. In later years, long after Masses had begun to be said in English (the local vernacular), Harris attended daily Mass at a nearby parish, where these Masses continued to be celebrated in Latin.

Harris received his undergraduate degree from Marquette in 1926 and a masters degree from the University of Chicago. The story goes that Harris was headed for medical school. However, a different career was in his future. Harris went to California to check out medical schools. There, a friend introduced him to the movie production business. A job taken to "support himself in the interim" ended up providing him with a dance career, a life mate, and fantastic opportunities to see the world. Fox Studio required its production men to study dancing. Harris was so successful at the art that he doubled for Jimmy Stewart in dance scenes in one movie and appeared with Joan Crawford in another. A short time later he was dancing in floor shows. Harris (who had shortened his last name to Ashburn) and his first dance partner went on tour, dancing throughout the United States and around the world. They had engagements in Mexico City, London, Paris, Shanghai, Singapore, Manila, Bombay and Cairo. It was in Shanghai, that Harris met Virginia, a young girl who was to be his future dance partner and later, his wife, although he didn't know it at the time. Virginia's father was in the portrait business and after

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traveling around the world, had settled in Shanghai where he bought a business. Virginia was studying at a convent school in Shanghai. A couple of years later and back in the United States, Harris and Virginia met again in New York. She had come to the United States to go to college, but chose to become a dancer instead. The two formed the Ashburn Team. It was the era of ballroom dancing and Big Bands. The couple, exquisite ballroom dancers, performed on stages across the United States. By 1940, Harris had also appeared in some forty-two motion pictures. Eventually, the couple settled in North Hollywood, where they raised their family of two children: Joann and Mark. After the dance career, Harris worked as an actor's agent in the movie industry.

Upon retirement, Harris opened a religious goods store near the San Fernando Mission in Los Angeles County. He also enjoyed spending time in the kitchen preparing gourmet dishes. On one occasion, he served the family a whole roast piglet with an apple in its mouth.

(Sources of information: Family notes of Susan Aschenbrener McNelley from conversations with Robert Aschenbrener; Letter from Joann, received in 1998; Re. dance career: Milwaukee Journal Newspaper article, dated April 24, 1940; Fred's taped family history, as transcribed by Jodi Hansen)

- ii. BERNICE LUCILLE ASCHENBRENER was born on September 30, 1905 in Stetsonville, Taylor County, Wisconsin¹¹⁻¹³. She died on May 23, 1989 in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan¹⁴⁻¹⁵. She married Clarence Martin (Bud) Gibfried on September 25, 1929 in Fifield, Price County, Wisconsin¹⁶⁻¹⁷. He was born on August 24, 1903 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois¹⁸. He died on October 03, 1985 in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan¹⁹⁻²⁰.

Notes for Bernice Lucille ASCHENBRENER:

While Bernice was growing up, her mother almost always employed a young woman to help with cooking, housekeeping, and childcare. Still, as the oldest daughter in a large family, Bernice had plenty of responsibility for the care of her younger siblings, eight of whom were boys. From a fairly young age, Bernice was the one in charge at home while her mother was at work. One of brother Robert's earliest memories is of running down the street in front of the family home, with Bernice in close pursuit. Yet there was plenty of time to be a child herself, to frolic in the Flambeau river in the summer, and to enjoy the snow in winter. Bernice loved to wear hats; family photos attest to this. Her daughter Susanne remarked that, during her life, Bernice amassed a collection of a couple of hundred hats. Grown to womanhood in the 1920s, she enjoyed the dances at the local roadhouses, so popular in that era, but always had parents or brothers for chaperones. Prior to her marriage, Bernice also worked in the family's Lac du Flambeau store as her dad's "able assistant."

The first wedding in a family is cause for great excitement. In 1929, Bernice married Clarence Gibfried of Chicago. The marriage, celebrated with a Nuptial High Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Fifield, was a family affair. Robert and Harriet served as flower children, Richard as the ring bearer. Brothers Fred and Harold were ushers, while Aunt Durana Shookman was the matron of honor. The wedding reception which followed was held at nearby Mason Lake. The

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announcement in the newspaper noted that "the scene was one of joy within, while mother nature gave a sunburst of various colors without, which a northern autumn can perfectly give, mingled with music of rustling leaves and the ripple of waters." The newliweds left the reception in a new car, the gift of the bride's parents, for an extended motor trip.

Bernice and Clarence moved to Chicago in the fall of 1929. It was only a few months after the famous Valentine's Day Massacre, in which seven members of the George "Bugs" Moran North Siders gang were gunned down in a garage on North Clark Street. In fact, Clarence's route to work took him past the infamous warehouse. The city was still reeling from the murders and awash in rumors about who had committed this bold crime.

Bernice and Clarence, ages 20 and 26 respectively, are listed as clerks in a grocery store in the U.S. Census of 1930 for Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin. It is likely that they were working in the Aschenbrener general store in Lac du Flambeau at the time of the census.

The couple spent the first ten years of their married life in Chicago. Clarence went to work with Sexton Food Services and stayed with the company until retirement, some thirty years later. Eventually, his territory covered three states. The job did require that Clarence be on the road a lot. One of the benefits of the job was that each year, he received a new red company car to drive. While Clarence traveled, Bernice managed the home and raised the children. Six children were born to Bud and Bernice: Robert, Carolyn (Honey), Mary Louise (Sr. Mary Jude), Susanne, James, and Judith.

The first three of Bernice and Clarence's children were born in Chicago. Sometime before 1941, the family re-located to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Clarence and Bernice had three more children in Grand Rapids and remained there for the rest of their lives. They were always close enough to Wisconsin to make trips back to the Aschenbrener family homes in Fifield and Lac du Flambeau. The oldest Gibfried children were fortunate to grow up knowing their aunts and uncles.

Sources: Newspaper wedding announcement from Marietta's scrapbook, conversations with Robert Aschenbrener, Susanne Marciniak and other family members.

- iii. ALOYSIUS JOSEPH (LOY) ASCHENBRENER was born on January 24, 1907 in Eau Claire, Eau Claire Co. Wisconsin²¹⁻²². He died on September 17, 1998 in Pasadena, Los Angeles Co. California^{5, 23-24}. He married Elaine Geidel, daughter of Paul Samuel GEIDEL and Christine Frances ALPERS, on April 24, 1937 in Villa Park, DuPage Co. Illinois²⁵⁻²⁶. She was born on February 06, 1912 in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois²⁷. She died on October 24, 2014 in Pasadena, Los Angeles Co. California.

Notes for Aloysius Joseph (Loy) ASCHENBRENER:

His brother Fred recalled that Loy "always wanted to be a lawyer, and he had his little desk during his childhood years with which he made believe he was a lawyer, and he did in fact become a lawyer. He attended Loras College in Dubuque from

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1925-1928, then went to the University of Wisconsin, and in 1929 went to Marquette University where he attended law school and did graduate in 1932." (Source: Taped family history made by Fred and transcribed by Jodi Hansen in April, 2006)

Loy and Elaine's relationship began as a summer romance in Lac du Flambeau. Elaine's family had a summer resort there. As did his siblings, Loy worked in his father's store at the lake. For recreation, he played the sax in a small Saturday night dance band. After a break during the college years in which Loy obtained his law degree, he and Elaine met again in Flambeau in 1935. They married in 1936 and moved to Stevens Point, WI where Loy worked as an attorney in private practice. Joan and Carol, the couple's first two children, were born in Stevens Point. Loy also served as District Attorney of Portage County.

On November 5, 1940, Loy had the honor of being elected to serve as a Presidential Elector from the State of Wisconsin. As a member of the Electoral College, he went to Washington D.C. for the nomination of Roosevelt for his fourth term as president. A letter from Michael Francis Doyle, Chairman of the Presidential Electors Committee in Washington, D.C. to Mr. A. J. Aschenbrenner, dated January 10, 1941, reads in part:

"We desire to call your attention to the fact that invitation was sent to you for the meeting and dinner of the Presidential Electors of the United States at the Hotel Mayflower on Sunday evening, January 19, at 7 o'clock, in connection with the Inauguration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, as President, and Henry A. Wallace, as Vice-President. This promises to be an outstanding event and the presence of every Elector is desired. On January 20, the following day, the Electors will have special seats on the Inaugural stand to witness the Inaugural Ceremonies including the address of the President."

"On Monday afternoon, January 20, at 4:45 o'clock P.M., the President and Mrs. Roosevelt will receive the Electors in the White House with the Governors of the States. Subsequently they will be the guests at ten at the White House. The wives of the Electors will be invited to this tea. The reception, however, is exclusively for the Electors. This unusual mark of distinction by the President of the United States should be accepted by every Presidential Elector and it is requested that you advise if you can be present at the dinner, Inaugural proceedings and the House reception. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per plate."

During World War II, the family moved to southern California and Loy worked at McDonald Douglas. The family spent about five years there, living in San Gabriel and in Alhambra. Mary was born while they were living in the San Gabriel Valley. After the war, Loy and Elaine moved back to Wisconsin and settled in Kohler, where Loy had a law office and served as Village Attorney. The family spent about 10 years in Kohler, a village of some 2,200 residents, located in Eastern Wisconsin, one hour north of Milwaukee and not far from Lake Michigan. Nancy, their youngest child was born here. This was a company town, established in 1912 as a planned "garden" community by the son of the founder of Kohler Company. The town offered villagers excellent schools, medical care, recreation and cultural

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programs, all financially supported by the company. Daughter Joan remembers Kohler as an ideal place to grow up. However, the last two years there were also the years of the second big Kohler strike, which began in 1954, lasted some ten years and made national history. A brief description of the strike comes from *The Nation-America's Longest Running Weekly Magazine*, in an article called: "Bathtub Stockpile: The Kohler Strike." As noted in the article, "The highly publicized Kohler strike entered its third year on April 5, 1956 still very much alive after two tumultuous years of legal battles, bargaining maneuvers and violence. The Kohler strike brings together two great adversaries: a powerful and militant union and one of the oldest and largest plumbing-ware manufacturers in the country." As Village Attorney, Loy must certainly have found himself caught up in the struggles between the two factions. Joan notes that he wrote an ordinance restricting the use of sound trucks in the village. She also remembers crossing the picket lines to obtain medical care at the company clinic. In 1956, the family moved to Pasadena, CA and Loy went to work in the legal department of Los Angeles County until he retired.

Most of the family vacations were spent at Lac du Flambeau, where both Loy and Elaine had family. In the later years of their lives, Loy and Elaine traveled extensively. Loy also enjoyed working in the garden of his home in Pasadena.

(Sources of information: Elaine, in a letter dated March 7, 2006; Daughter Joan, in an E-mail received April 2006; Brother Fred's taped family history; U.S. Census of 1940 for Stevens Point, WI; a copy of Loy's appointment as a Presidential Elector, and a copy of the letter from the chairman of the Presidential Electors Committee)

- iv. ELDRED LAWRENCE (AL) ASCHENBRENER was born on November 22, 1908 in Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin²⁸⁻³⁰. He died on December 15, 1996 in Thousand Oaks, Ventura County, California^{5, 31-32}. He married BETTY LEE BLISS. She was born on April 15, 1917 in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri^{5, 33-34}. She died on July 30, 1992 in Palm Desert, Riverside County, California^{5, 33, 35}.

Notes for Eldred Lawrence (Al) ASCHENBRENER:

Al was about 10 years old when the family moved to Fifield. With both older brothers and younger ones, he had plenty of playmates, growing up in this small town. And plenty of sharing to do. It is to be noted that Al shared a birthday with his brother Robert, although there was 12 years' difference in age. When Al was seventeen and Robert five, they received a horse as a shared birthday gift. Al liked to tease his little brother that the hindquarters of the horse was the younger one's half of the gift.

Around Fifield, it was said that there was always at least one Aschenbrener on the Fifield High School basketball team. Al was on the team during his high school years. He also joined his brothers in playing a musical instrument. The Aschenbrener boys were partial to reed instruments and Al, along with several other brothers, played the saxophone. In later years, he brought a ukulele back from Hawaii and the brothers had fun with this instrument as well.

During the thirties, the land of golden opportunity, as California was called, was beckoning the Aschenbrener boys. Aunt Louise (Aschenbrener) Amberson was already living in Pomona. George and Marietta Aschenbrener, with one or another

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of their children along, had spent winter months there, enjoying the escape from the cold of northern Wisconsin. Brother Harris was working in Hollywood and Al decided to join him. It was there that he teamed up with Betty Bliss and Eddie Lewis, forming a tap-dancing trio known as "Bliss, Lewis and Ash...Sophisticates of Rhythm". The group performed on stages across the United States. Eventually Al and Betty married and settled in Studio City. They were a jovial couple with ready smiles and laughter. The easy southern California lifestyle appealed to them so much that they remained there for the rest of their lives.

Al attended Loras College in Dubuque, IA and Valley College in Van Nuys, CA.

In 1941, Al went to work for Lockheed Aircraft Corporation in Burbank, California. During the war years, he was employed as a quality assurance inspector on both commercial and military projects. Following the war, Al worked at Lockheed in various capacities for many years. Between 1958 and 1961, he worked with the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Van Nuys. When he retired from the company, Al established himself as a realtor and invested in local residential real estate. Along the way, he and Betty had two boys: Richard and David. In their retirement years they moved to Palm Desert, CA.

(Sources of information: David Aschenbrener, son, and Robert Aschenbrener, brother; Al's resume, in the possession of Robert Aschenbrener)

- v. HAROLD EDWARD (MIKE) ASCHENBRENER was born on November 24, 1910 in Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin³⁶⁻³⁷. He died on June 18, 1996 in Woodruff, Oneida County, Wisconsin³⁸⁻³⁹. He married IRMA (BUD) NELSON. She was born on December 15, 1901 in Wisconsin. She died on October 31, 1989 in Oneida County, Wisconsin.

Notes for Harold Edward (Mike) ASCHENBRENER:

Mike and Bud (as Harold and Irma were always known) owned and operated several businesses in Lac du Flambeau. They began their marriage with the purchase of lakefront property on Crawling Stone Lake, just outside of Lac du Flambeau. The property included a large log cabin, which Mike remodeled and winterized. When he was finished, it featured a huge stone fireplace, a knotty pine interior and two bedrooms with a sleeping loft overhead. Gradually, he converted the property into a summer resort, building his guest cabins himself, one by one. He also constructed a huge boathouse on the water with an apartment overhead. Mike and Bud operated the resort for twenty-five years. The resort's clientele were families who returned year after year. [Even as a child, Mike liked to build things. An early project was a cart which was pulled by Fanny, the family's horse.]

Mike attended Columbia College (later named Loras College) in Dubuque, Iowa and Loyola University in Chicago. After college, Mike followed in his father's footsteps, purchasing and running a grocery store in Lac du Flambeau near the family's old one. On Sundays in the summer, Mike would offer customers a sample of roast piglet or smoked fish along with coffee and cookies (an early version of promotional food items cooked on the spot). As a young man he managed the Tower Bar and Restaurant, which he later purchased. When it burned to the ground some years later, Mike built a new one at almost the same location, but overlooking

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a nearby lake. He also operated a laundromat for a time and various other enterprises.

From his early days, Mike loved to play music. Over the years, he amassed a large collection of musical instruments, which included a range of saxophones from soprano to base, trumpets, trombones, clarinets, drums, a piano and organ. One of the saxophones, an E-flat alto was once owned by the bandleader Rudy Valley. Mike also owned a clarinet that Benny Goodman had once played. Mike organized quartets and quintets to play at the Tower and other local resort bars and nightclubs. He himself played with the groups, as time permitted. In the early years it was a family affair; the bands often included brothers, George, Edmund and Robert.

Mike liked basketball as well. He was an accomplished high school basketball player. Later, he played with the Ojibwe on the reservation and still later, refereed games all around the area. Mike coached an all-Indian basketball team during the 50's, and his was the first team in the country to consistently score over 100 points a game.

Mike was active in town affairs. He served two terms on the town board in the early 50s, followed by two terms as the town assessor. Also in the 1950s, as a member of the town council, he helped to design and build the Indian bowl on the property next to his parents' home on the lake. Here, in the summer, the Ojibwe perform native dances to the delight of visitors to the reservation. On July 10, 1983, at the Annual Pow Wow in Lac du Flambeau, Mike was adopted into the Tribe. Mike saved a note written by "Blood Brother, Big George" which read, "Dear Mike: When all else fails, pray. Even though you were raised a white boy, you are now living amongst the Redmen." An Indian Prayer was attached. At his death, Mike donated a large collection of Ojibwe beadwork, newspaper clippings, photos and other items to the George W. Brown Jr. Museum in Lac du Flambeau. This museum, celebrating Ojibwe culture, is built on the lake at the site where the Aschenbrener house had once stood. Unfortunately, the house, built by Mike's father George, burned to the ground. The date of the fire is unknown.

Mike and Irma adopted and raised one child: Charles Harold. Mike is buried in the Aschenbrener burial plot in the Forest Home Cemetery in Fifield, along with his wife Bud.

(Sources of information: Robert Aschenbrener, Mike's obituary notice (publication and date not given); Article "Mike Aschenbrener: One Busy Life", published in A Collection of Northwoods Nostalgia from the pages of the Lakeland Times by Joyce Laabs, Vol. 1, undated, sent by Susanne Marciniak; Information received from Mary Aschenbrener, George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum)

- vi. FREDERIC WILLARD (FRED) ASCHENBRENER was born on March 12, 1913 in Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin⁴⁰⁻⁴¹. He died on January 06, 1977 in Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa⁴²⁻⁴³. He married Annamae Weber on July 16, 1938 in Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵. She was born on August 19, 1917 in Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa⁴⁴. She died on October 21, 1999 in Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona⁴⁶.

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Notes for Frederic Willard (Fred) ASCHENBRENER:

Basketball was a popular sport with the Aschenbrener boys. In high school, Fred played on the basketball team, lettering all four years and becoming team captain in his senior year. His senior year award letter, four bars and a star (removed from his athletic sweater) are in the possession of son Jim. Fred also learned to play the saxophone, clarinet and ukelele in his youth.

In a tape recording memories of his youth, Fred recalled that in 1927, Lindberg flew the Atlantic in a solo flight of the Spirit of St. Louis. Shortly after, Fred flew in a "sister ship", taking off and returning to the airfield in Minocqua. This kindled a love of flying that stayed with him throughout his life. (Tape in the possession of, and transcribed by, daughter Jodi.)

Fred's future was shaped when he followed older brothers to Columbia College (later re-named Loras) in Dubuque, Iowa. He graduated from Columbia in 1937. While there, Fred met and fell in love with Annamae Weber. According to son Jim, his mother often told the story of how Fred wooed her by playing the ukelele. They married and established their home in Dubuque. Fred joined her father and brother in the paper distributorship business. In 1951, the family formed their own wholesale paper distributorship, the Weber Paper Company. Annamae was a co-owner and CEO of the Weber Paper Company. Eventually, Fred became the president of the company. Along the way, the couple had three children: James, Thomas and Joan (Jodi).

Fred was an easy-going and gregarious fellow with a great sense of humor and strong spiritual convictions. He had attended daily Mass since his days at Loras and was actively involved with the Serra Club (dedicated to fostering religious vocations to the priesthood and religious life) and the Knights of Columbus. Fred was at one time the president of the Dubuque Lions Club. Other fraternal and civic organizations in which he was active included the Dubuque Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Elks Club, and the Dubuque Shooting Society (330 Club). Fred was also very proud of being a Loras graduate and remained a life-long supporter of this academic institution. There is an endowed scholarship established at the college in Fred and Annamae's name.

Fred taught Annamae how to play golf but she soon left him "in the dust as her game progressed to a championship level." Annamae was an avid, award-winning golfer. She was city and club champion many times over the decades. At the age of 50, she gained the title of Iowa State Senior Champion. At 70, she achieved her hole-in-one.

Fred enjoyed taking his family back to his childhood home. When the children were growing up, and before George and Marietta retired to Arizona, a number of summer vacations were spent in Lac du Flambeau. The family stayed in the Aschenbrener house overlooking the lake or in one of the cabins at Mike's resort.

(Sources of information: James, Tom and Jodi (the children), in correspondence dated April 2006; Information on the Weber Paper Co. provided by Jim in December, 1997. Interest in golf documented in newspaper clippings from the

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scrapbook of Marietta Gilman Aschenbrener.)

- vii. GEORGE BERNARD ASHENBRENER JR. was born on May 19, 1915 in Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin⁴⁷⁻⁴⁸. He died on February 21, 1995 in Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona^{5, 47, 49}. He married LORRAINE A ELLIOTT. She was born on January 16, 1923 in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota⁵⁰⁻⁵¹. She died on May 04, 2006.

Notes for George Bernard ASHENBRENER Jr.:

Born in Park Falls, George Jr. was just a few years old when the family moved to Fifield. Like most of his brothers, George played basketball in high school. It was a basketball injury incurred during a high school game that led to a series of events which shaped the course of his life. Following graduation from Fifield High School, George moved to Dubuque, Iowa to attend Columbia (Loras) College. However, he was still having a lot of pain from the sports injury. The family took him to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where they casted his hip and leg. George was sent home to Fifield, where he spent six months in bed with the cast. Recovery was slow; in fact, the hip never healed properly.

Music and dance were popular forms of entertainment in the Wisconsin Northwoods. In his youth, George learned to play the sax and the clarinet. He was one of the regulars in the small bands his brother Mike organized to play in the region's taverns and nightclubs.

George did not return to college following his hip surgery. When he got well enough, George helped his dad manage the mink and fox farm just outside of Lac du Flambeau. It was during these years that he met and married Lorraine. They began their life together in Park Falls, where their two oldest children were born. Unfortunately, George developed tuberculosis while working at the farm. It was decided that he should move to Tucson, Arizona, where the warm, dry climate was known to be beneficial in recovery. For a time, Lorraine stayed in Wisconsin with the children. However, George must have liked Tucson because Lorraine and the children eventually joined him there, arriving sometime before 1945. They made their home in the southwest and their family grew to 10 children: Mike, Virginia, Janice (Terry), Marguerite, Richard, Gary, Mary June, Robert, Lorraine Joan, and Barbara Lynn.

In Arizona, George Jr. worked as an x-ray technician and, later, as a sales rep for Bayer and other pharmaceutical companies.

In 2006, David Aschenbrener (George's nephew) wrote, " I had a friend at work whose husband worked in sales for Dupont and competed with George Jr. at Bayer for accounts in Arizona. He (George Jr.) was the best salesman he had ever seen and was the favorite of all the doctors they called on. My friend's husband lost account after account to George Jr. He was thrilled when George retired because his sales at Dupont went up substantially because there was no more having to compete with George, Jr."

(Source: Information supplied by wife Lorraine, brother Robert, and nephew David Aschenbrener)

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- viii. EDMUND EARL ASCHENBRENER was born on September 08, 1916 in Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin⁵². He died on May 23, 1936 in Fifield, Price County, Wisconsin⁵³.

Notes for Edmund Earl ASCHENBRENER:

Edmund grew up in Fifield, having moved there with his family when he was but a couple of years old. His brother, Robert, considered him to be the best hunter in the family. During his high school years, Edmund would take his rifle and hunt for partridge at the end of the school day. In the 1930s, Edmund's dad purchased a mink and fox farm, naming it the Edmund Fox Farm, in honor of Edmund who loved to be outdoors.

Music was a part of the family's life. In his teens, Edmund played the sax, joining his brothers in small quartets and quintets to play at local bars and nightclubs.

In 1936 at the age of 19, Edmund died of cerebral meningitis. He had been attending Columbia College in Dubuque (later re-named Loras College) up to the time of his illness. Edmund was hospitalized in Dubuque, but when it was determined that recovery was not possible he was sent home from the hospital. Edmund was transported by ambulance to Fifield, accompanied by a nurse. The last few days of his life were spent in the downstairs bedroom of the family home. His family was at his bedside when he died, after a two week illness. It was a loss keenly felt by his siblings, as well as his parents. Bernice had also accompanied Edmund home from the hospital, and according to her daughter Susanne, it so traumatized her that Bernice never drove again. Many years after Edmund's death, Marietta would recall the last moments of this son's life and begin to cry. Edmund was buried in the Forest Home Cemetery in Fifield in the Aschenbrener family plot.

(Sources of information: memories relayed by Marietta in the later years of her life; information received from Edmund's brother Robert and niece Susanne Marciniak; and a newspaper obituary notice, found in Marietta's scrapbook.)

- ix. HARRIET LOUISE ASCHENBRENER was born on March 27, 1919 in Fifield, Price County, Wisconsin⁵⁴. She died on January 16, 2012 in Newport Beach, Orange County, California. She married Richard Bolster Whitney in 1944 in Los Angeles County, California⁵⁵. He was born on December 31, 1912 in Pennsylvania⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸. He died on April 04, 1997 in Newport Beach, Orange County, California⁵⁹⁻⁶¹.

Notes for Harriet Louise ASCHENBRENER:

Harriet was born in Fifield, shortly after her family moved there from Park Falls. She was the second daughter and the ninth child in this large family. Like all children in those days, Harriet was born at home. The Aschenbrenners were living in an apartment over the store warehouse just off the main street, while George was building the two-story family home a few blocks away. Harriet grew up in Fifield, but also spent a lot of time in Lac du Flambeau. By the time she was ten, her parents were operating businesses in both locations. As did her siblings, Harriet had responsibilities at home and in the family stores. At one point, Harriet worked as a postal clerk in the Aschenbrener store in Fifield. Upon graduation from Fifield High School, Harriet headed to Dubuque, Iowa for college. Many of her brothers had attended Loras College in that city. Harriet graduated from Clarke College, a

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Catholic liberal arts college for women, located on a hilltop overlooking Dubuque.

After graduating from college, Harriet followed her brothers to California. She was working as a social worker there, when she met and married Richard Whitney. Over the years, Dick worked for Floure Corp and Bectel as a cost engineer on various construction projects. His job assignments took him from coast to coast. The family lived in a number of places, including California, Mississippi, Arizona, Iowa and Washington, D.C. They also spent a couple of years in Montréal, Canada. Whereas Harriet grew up in a household dominated by boys, the pendulum swung the other way in her own family. She and Richard were blessed with five girls, as well as three boys: Mary, John, Thomas, James, Joann, Judith, Jane, and Sarah. Harriet devoted her life to her home, to her husband, and to the business of raising their eight children. Susanne Marciniak noted her Aunt Harriet's steadfastness and deep faith in God, calling her an inspiration.

In retirement, Harriet and Dick settled in Newport Beach, California. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in Desert Hot Springs in June of 1994, with children and grandchildren in attendance. Harriet never returned to live in northern Wisconsin, but over the years, she managed to get back to her childhood home for vacations and, in later life, to help brother Dick in the care of their mom.

Harriet died at the age of 92 at home in Newport Beach. She was buried in the Forest Home Cemetery in Fifield, Wisconsin, next to her husband, parents, and several brothers. She was the last to die of the eleven children of George and Marietta. In addition to her eight children, Harriet is survived by thirteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

(Sources: Information in above paragraphs supplied by Harriet Whitney, daughter Mary, brother Robert, and niece Susanne Marciniak)

- x. ROBERT WAYNE (ASH) ASCHEBRENER was born on November 22, 1920 in Fifield, Price County, Wisconsin⁶². He died on July 02, 2009 in Cameron Park, El Dorado County, California⁶³. He married Ann (Laura Ann) Middleton, daughter of Oscar Ray MIDDLETON and Sibyl Mary HOOVER, on August 20, 1945 in Clark Air Base, Philippines⁶⁴⁻⁶⁵. She was born on January 05, 1920 in Gibson City, Ford County, Illinois⁶⁶. She died on May 15, 1998 in Folsom, Sacramento County, California⁶⁷.

Notes for Robert Wayne (Ash) ASCHEBRENER:

The tenth of eleven children, Robert spent his growing-up years in both Fifield and Lac du Flambeau. Like his brothers, he enjoyed basketball in high school. Robert transferred to Minocqua High School for his senior year because Fifield had disbanded its basketball program and Minocqua had a champion team. Robert followed in his brothers' footsteps in his love for music, as well. During his teens, he played the saxophone and clarinet in quartets and quintets organized by brother Mike. Following graduation from Minocqua High School, Robert began his studies at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

The Second World War interrupted his college years. Robert enlisted in the Army Air Forces on January 12, 1942, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of

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1941. Ash, as he was known in the service, earned his wings at Moore Field in Mission, Texas. In the fall of 1942, after only 40 hours in fighters, he was ordered to the South Pacific. His first base was in Australia. Then he moved up to Port Moresby, New Guinea. For the next eighteen months, he flew P-40 Kittyhawks and P-47 Thunderbolts in the New Guinea campaign. Combat missions were undertaken to escort bombers and transport aircraft, to intercept or attack enemy missions and to strafe enemy installations. During that time, and while Aschenbrenner was flying a P-40, he destroyed three Japanese zeros in aerial combat. His plane was named the Naughty Marietta after a popular song. Coincidentally, Marietta was also his mother's name.

After flying 272 combat missions, totaling 600 combat hours, with the 8th Fighter Squadron, known as the Blacksheep Squadron, of the 49th Fighter Group, Captain Aschenbrenner returned to the United States for a furlough in the summer of 1944. At the end of his leave, he again went to Pinellas, Florida to instruct new pilots on the P-51 Mustangs. In November of 1944, after three months as an instructor, Aschenbrenner managed a reassignment to the 49th Fighter Group in the South Pacific, which had, by then, moved from New Guinea to Tacloban on the Philippine island of Leyte.

Manila had become the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the war in the Pacific. Aschenbrenner's outfit had shifted to P-38 Lightnings for the fierce fighting. After only ten hours flying time in a P-38, and in the Battle for Leyte, he added four Zeros to his credit in one day. On Christmas day of 1944, Robert was shot down by the Japanese over Clark Field in the Philippines. He survived the plane crash and, aided by Filipinos sympathetic to the American cause, he made it safely back to American forces.

Shortly after his return to the 49th Fighter Group on January 23, 1945, Captain Robert Aschenbrenner was given command of the 7th Fighter Squadron. A few months later, he was transferred to a fighter command position with the Combat Replacement Training Center in Nadzab, New Guinea. (It was there that he met his future wife, Ann Middleton, an American Red Cross staff assistant from Illinois.) In late spring, Aschenbrenner moved up to Clark Field in the Philippines, with the newly trained pilots under his command. World War II ended in the Pacific Theater in August, 1945. On August 20, 1945, Ash and Ann were married at Fort Stotsenburg, Clark Field in the Philippines. They honeymooned on Lingayen Beach, northwest of Clark Field, and in Baguio, a beautiful resort city which lay in ruins in the north of Luzon Island. Ann was born and raised in Gibson City, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Journalism in 1942. In September of 1944, Ann went to Washington D.C. to join the American Red Cross Overseas Operation. She was sent to the South Pacific later that fall.

Before leaving the service, Robert had flown a total of 345 combat missions, amounting to 850 combat hours (a record number of combat hours). He was credited with downing 10 Japanese fighter planes, making him a Double Ace, and was promoted to Major. In recognition for service and heroism, he received a total of 21 decorations. For action over Leyte, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award (ranking under the Medal of Honor). Other

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medals were the Distinguished Flying Cross with five oak leaf clusters; the Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters and the Purple Heart for injuries received in aerial combat. The 49th Fighter Group also received three Presidential Unit Citations for service during the Papuan campaign. (Source: Robert's World War II record can be found in the following books: *Protect & Avenge: The 49th Fighter Group in World War II* by S. W. Ferguson & William K. Pascalis, 1996; *Hunters in the Sky: Fighter Aces of WWII*, by James R. Whelan, 1991; *Aces Against Japan: The American Aces Speak*, Volume I by Eric Hammel, 1992; and *49th Fighter Group: Aces of the Pacific* by Willilam N. Hess, 2013.)

Returning to the United States in September, Major Robert W. Aschenbrener was mustered out of the service. Robert and Ann moved to Columbia, Missouri so that Robert could finish his college studies at the University of Missouri. After he obtained his degree in journalism, they moved to Ottawa, Ohio, where Robert and Ann purchased and ran a small weekly newspaper. In 1950, they moved to Harlingen, at the southern tip of Texas. Robert enjoyed country life and switched from journalism into citrus and cotton farming. In 1962, a hard freeze destroyed many of the citrus trees and the boll weevil took its toll on the cotton crop. Robert moved his family to the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles County, California and returned to journalism. Along the way, Robert and Ann had eight children: Susan, Nancy, Mike, Chris, Kay, Matt, Heidi, and Steve. In 1978, the couple retired to Cameron Park, east of Sacramento in central California. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary there in 1995, with all of their children present.

Robert died on July 2, 2009, at the age of 88, after a six-week illness. Up to that point he was independent, living alone in his own home, and still driving. A private Memorial Mass, with military funeral honors, was celebrated on August 15 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, his parish church in Folsom, California. Both Robert and Ann were cremated and their ashes spread at Folsom Lake, near the Aschenbrener home in Cameron Park. (Source: Family notes of Susan Aschenbrener McNelley, daughter)

- xi. RICHARD FRANCIS (DICK) ASCHENBRENER was born on June 28, 1923 in Fifield, Price County, Wisconsin⁶⁸. He died on May 19, 2002 in Park Falls, Price County, Wisconsin⁶⁹.

Notes for Richard Francis (Dick) ASCHENBRENER:

Richard was the youngest child in this large family. He grew up in Fifield and in Lac du Flambeau. During World War II, he had a brief stint in the Coast Guard, receiving an honorable discharge. (His name is on the Lac du Flambeau Memorial to Veterans of WWII.)

Roman Catholicism was a strong influence in the lives of all of the Aschenbreners. At some point as a young man, Richard entered the Franciscan Order of Friars in Quincy, Illinois, where he also attended Quincy College. Although he stayed there only a short time, he remained deeply religious throughout his life.

When his parents retired to Tucson, Arizona in the late 1940s, Richard went with them. After his father's death in 1953, he moved with his mom to the San Fernando Valley, in Los Angeles County, California. They purchased a home together in

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Encino. In 1972, Richard decided to return to Park Falls. By this time his mother was bed-ridden. Richard rented a Winnebago to take her back to Wisconsin. Around 1975, he purchased a home in Park Falls, in a heavily wooded area at the edge of town. There he lived for the rest of his life. Richard was devoted to his mom, caring for her until her death in 1981 at the age of 100. He never married.

Richard received training as an X-Ray technician in Tucson. After moving to California, he worked at Valley Medical Center in Van Nuys. Upon returning to Wisconsin, he served as X-ray Supervisor at Flambeau Medical Center (re-named Flambeau Hospital) in Park Falls for twenty years before retiring.

In the summer of 2001, a picture of Richard and his beloved little terrier, Koko, made the Park Falls Herald. Koko had followed Richard out to the mailbox and was attacked by a doe who was probably protecting a fawn hidden nearby. Richard is quoted as saying that bears came through his property from time to time. He reported that he never had a problem with bears. "They just sniff around for awhile and then leave." However, he wasn't sure that he could feel safe around deer.

(Source: Family records of Susan Aschenbrener McNelley, newspaper article, Fred's taped family history, conversations with Robert)

Sources

- 1 Baptismal record lists date of birth. (Baptized December 17, 1881 at St. John the Baptist Church in Marshfield, WI). Date of birth also listed on death certificate.
- 2 Death Certificate, State of Arizona.
- 3 Marriage Record, Register No 56962 Taylor County WI. Lists parents of groom and bride: George Aschenbrenner, Monica Braedle, Joseph Gilman and Barbara Fox . Witnesses included Martha Gilman and Anna Aschenbrenner.
- 4 Baptismal record lists date of birth. Baptized on April 10, 1881 at St. John the Baptist Church, Marshfield, WI.
- 5 Social Security Death Index.
- 6 Obituary notice from the Lakeland Times, March 26, 1981.
- 7 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Sister Jo Ann Ashburn, OP, daughter of Harris, in January, 1998.
- 8 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Sr. JoAnn Ashburn, O.P., daughter of Harris, in January, 1998.
- 9 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Sr. JoAnn Ashburn, O.P., daughter of Virginia, in January, 1998.
- 10 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information received from Sr. JoAnn Ashburn at the time of her mother's death.
- 11 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information received from Robert Gibfried, Bernice's son, in August, 1997. Bernice's parents identified as George Bernard Aschenbrenner and Marietta Estelle Gilman.
- 12 Birth Record, Taylor County Courthouse, Wisconsin.
- 13 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrenner. Information received in September, 2011.
- 14 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information on death and burial received from Robert Gibfried, Bernice's son, in August, 1997.
- 15 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrenner. Information received in September, 2011.
- 16 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information on marriage received from Robert Gibfried in August, 1997.

Sources (con't)

- 17 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 18 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information received from Robert Gibfried, Clarence's son, in August, 1997. Parents identified as John Francis Gibfried and Caroline Backofen.
- 19 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information on death and burial received from Robert Gibfried, Clarence's son, in August, 1997.
- 20 Death Record, Michigan Death Index, 1971-1996, Accessed from Ancestry.com on March 2, 2016.
- 21 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Joan A Yacavone, daughter of Loy, in December, 1997.
- 22 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 23 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 24 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Loy is buried in the family burial plot in the Forest Home Cemetery in Fifield, WI. Information provided by Loy's daughter, Joan.
- 25 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Date provided by Joan A. Yacavone, daughter of Loy and Elaine.
- 26 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 27 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Joan A. Yacavone, daughter of Elaine, in December, 1997.
- 28 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Baptism record received from St. Anthony Church, Park Falls, WI. Born there on November 22, 1908. Baptised on December 13, 1908. Godparents listed as Lawrence and Nellie Aschenbrener.
- 29 Social Security Death Index, Listed under Eldred L Aschenbrener.
- 30 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 31 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Information provided by David Aschenbrener, Al's son, in 1997.
- 32 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 33 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Information provided by David Aschenbrener, son of Betty, in December, 1997.
- 34 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 35 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 36 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Information on the birth, life and death of Mike found in an obit notice received at the time of his death from his brother, Richard. (Source of obit unknown) Information corroborated by another brother, Robert. An undated newspaper notice of the birth was found in one of Marietta's scrapbooks.

Sources (con't)

- 37 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 38 Obituary Notice, in possession of Susan Aschenbrener McNelley. No date; no pub. States that Mike died at Howard Young MedicalCenter, Woodruff. Burial of cremains Forest Home Cemetery, Fifield.
- 39 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 40 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Newspaper notice of the birth of a son on March 12, 1913 at Park Falls found in one of Marietta's scrapbooks. (Name of newspaper not noted.) Birthdate confirmed by James Aschenbrener, son, in December 1997.
- 41 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 42 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Information provided by James Aschenbrener, son, in December, 1997.
- 43 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 44 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by James (Jim) Aschenbrener, son, in December, 1997.
- 45 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 46 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 47 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Lorraine, George's wife, in November, 1997.
- 48 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 49 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 50 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information received from Lorraine in November, 1997.
- 51 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 52 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information on birth, life and death of Edmund found in an undated newspaper article in the Ashland Daily, following Edmund's death on May 23, 1936. Newspaper article found in one of his mother's scrapbooks.
- 53 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Obituary notice (no pub. no date) in the scrapbook of Marietta Aschenbrener, Edmund's mother.
- 54 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Baptism record, St. Francis Church, Fifield, WI. Born on March 27, 1919. Baptised on April 6, 1919. Given name: Harriet Louise Monica Aschenbrener.
- 55 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Harriet in September, 1997.
- 56 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Harriet Aschenbrener, wife of Richard.

Sources (con't)

- 57 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 58 Social Security Death Index.
- 59 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information received from Harriet, wife of Richard, in 1997.
- 60 Miscellaneous Document, Source: Paul Hefti, genealogical research investigator with Brandenburger & Davis, an international probate research firm. Research was conducted as part of the process of identifying heirs in the Margaret Addy Estate, Margaret being a granddaughter of George & Monica Aschenbrener. Information received in September, 2011.
- 61 Social Security Death Index.
- 62 Birth certificate of Robert Wayne Aschenbrener.
- 63 Death Certificate, Dad died at daughter Heidi's home after a 6 week illness. Death certificate gives her home address as place of death. Cause of death, as listed on death certificate: cardio respiratory arrest, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, coronary artery disease.
- 64 Family Notes, of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Robert and Ann Aschenbrener.
- 65 Obituary notice of Ann Middleton Aschenbrener, Gibson City Courier, June 17, 1998. Notes that during World War II, Ann was stationed with the American Red Cross in the Philippine Islands. There she met and married Major Robert W. Aschenbrener in 1945.
- 66 Birth Record, Name on birth certificate is Laura Ann Middleton. She was known as Ann. Certificate in the possession of Susan A. McNelley.
- 67 Death certificate of Ann M Aschenbrener. Certificate incorrectly states death as occurring on May 14. Amendment attached to death certificate gives correct date of May 15.
- 68 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley, Information provided by Robert Aschenbrener, Richard's brother.
- 69 Family Notes of Susan (Aschenbrener) McNelley. Information provided by Robert Aschenbrener, brother, at the time of Richard's death.

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS



ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

**And Then There Were Five --
The Older Aschenbrenner Children c 1915**



L to R (Youngest to Oldest) Mike, Al, Loy, Bernice, and Harris

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

The Aschenbrenner Children at Play



Photos clockwise, beginning with top left: Eldred (Al) taking the lead on skis, with younger brothers in tow (The boys are shown at the back of the Fifield home.); Fred, lettered in basketball; Fifield High School Basketball Team in 1924 with Loy, top row, far left and Eldred, top row, far right; Edmund riding Fanny, with Ranger alongside.

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Summer Fun



*Bernice at Flambeau River in Fifield with brothers Mike (standing);
Seated, L to R: Fred, Al, and George Jr.*



At the lake: Bernice with younger sister Harriet (in hats), L to R are brothers Edmund, behind Robert who is holding Richard's hand, George Jr. (in the center with dark hair and trunks), and Al (right of George); Others in the photo are unidentified.

ASCHENBRENER OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Aschenbrener Snapshots



Photos clockwise from top left: Bernice; George Jr. on the saxophone (with Robert at his side); Loy in jodhpurs; Richard; Robert (WWII Ace); and Edmund. The photo of Edmund was taken in his first year of college at Columbia College (later named Loras College) in Dubuque, Iowa. Edmund died at the end of the school year, on May 23, 1936, of cerebral meningitis.

Aschenbrenner Couples



*Couples from
the top left:
Fred and
Annamae;
Harris and
Virginia;
Robert and
Ann; Elaine
and Loy*



ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Aschenbrener Couples



(Clockwise from top L: Fred & Annamae, George Jr. & Lorraine, Robert & Ann, Dick & Harriet)

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

The Wedding of Bernice Aschenbrenner and Clarence Gibfried in 1929
(Bernice was the first of the children to marry.)



*The wedding party included Robert and Harriet as flower folks,
Richard as ring bearer and Fred (far right).*

*The car was a wedding gift from
the parents of the bride.*



Automobiles in the Aschenbrenner Family



George and Marietta rarely drove their cars...The boys were the family drivers.



Clockwise from top left: Fred with the family's Chevrolet (c. 1935); Marietta's Pontiac (1935); Robert on the dashboard and Mike at the wheel of the Aschenbrenner delivery wagon (a Ford, c.1936) at Lac du Flambeau; Harriet at the door and Robert inside the family's Studebaker (c 1923).



**A Couple of the Brothers Danced Professionally in the 1930s and 1940s
(The Big Band Era)**



The Ashburns at Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago. Harris Aschenbrener and dancing partner, Virginia Browning. Pic. 1938.

The Ashburns on Tour -- Harris and Virginia Browning

Harris, oldest son of George and Marietta, changed his name to Ashburn and was a veteran of two round-the-world dance tours, one in 1937 and a second in 1939. Stops included Mexico City, London, Paris, Shanghai, Singapore, Manila, Bombay, Cairo, and Italy, as well as venues across the United States. He met Virginia Browning when he was dancing in Shanghai, China. She became his dance partner in 1938 and later married him.

Harris also appeared in a number of Hollywood movies. He doubled for Jimmy Stewart in dance scenes in the motion picture Dance Team and appeared with Joan Crawford in another film.

Eldred (Al) teamed up with Betty Bliss and Ed Lewis to form a tap-dancing trio during the era of the Big Band, when dancing was the rage. Later Betty became Al's wife. In 1932, the trio appeared in Boston with Eddie Duchin, a popular pianist and band leader in the 30s and 40s.



Left dancer Eldred Aschenbrener of team Bliss (center), Lewis & Ash. Far left, band leader Eddie Duchin. Pic. Boston, 1932.

Fifield, Wisconsin



A Place Called Home: Fifield, Wisconsin

George and Marietta lived and worked in Fifield for close to thirty years. They opened their first business in the town in 1912. Their large home in Fifield was built in the early twenties and was not sold until sometime in the forties.

Fifield, in Price County, is located some 70 miles south of Lake Superior. Like other towns in northern Wisconsin, it developed at the confluence of the interests of the timber industry, the railroads, new immigrants, Wisconsin developers and national security concerns. French missionaries and fur traders were the first Europeans to explore the northern woodlands of present-day Wisconsin. In 1674, this territory was claimed by France. In 1763, northern Wisconsin was part of the territory ceded by the French to the British following the French and Indian Wars. At the close of the American Revolution, Wisconsin became part of the United States. In 1848, it became the 30th state of the Union.

The state of Wisconsin was interested in developing its thickly-wooded northern territory. There was a growing market for pine lumber. Starting in the 1850s and continuing through the 1880s, northern Wisconsin saw the arrival of many German and French-Canadian immigrants, followed by the Swedes, Danes and Norwegians. They came, attracted by the timber industry. Fifield was surveyed and platted by engineers of the Wisconsin Central Railroad in 1876. It was one of a number of towns that developed along the railroad line. Some logging operations were already in the area at that time, but the railroad greatly facilitated the establishment of loggers and settlers in the area (Lessard).

Wisconsin's plans to develop its northern territory coincided with plans of the U.S. government. After the Civil War, the United States was not on the best of terms with Great Britain. Unionists felt the British had been too friendly with the Confederacy. The U.S. War Department believed it necessary to address the possibility of hostile action from our neighbors to the north. Toward that end, our government decided it would be wise to extend the railway system in the Midwest north to Canada. This was done for reasons of national security, in the event that it would ever be necessary to move troops quickly to secure the Canadian border. To facilitate construction of the line, the government granted the Wisconsin Central Railroad a million acres of fine timberland to extend the railway from southern Wisconsin to the shores of Lake Superior. The project was completed in 1877 (Lydon).

Industry and commerce in the early days of Fifield were based primarily on addressing the needs of the loggers. A post office was established in the town in 1877. Fifield had its first hotel in 1879. In 1891, the Fifield Manufacturing Company opened the first saw mill in the area. It consisted of a steam sawmill, a dam for log storage and a planing mill. A railroad spur serviced the mill which employed one hundred men. A year later, in 1892, Fifield had a population of 1600, which turned out to be its peak population. (In contrast, the population of Fifield in the year 2000 was 989.) In the boom days of early Fifield, the area boasted some 20 logging camps. Tradition has it that there were 27 or 28 saloons occupying the four blocks along main street in the town's heyday, prior to the 1893 fire which destroyed much of the business district (Lessard).

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Settlers assumed that the timber supply was inexhaustible. How wrong they were! Most of the pine, the most prevalent wood, was gone within twenty-five years. By the turn of the twentieth century, people had decided that the future of Fifield and other towns in the area rested in agriculture. However, with a few exceptions, farming did not prove to be a successful endeavor. The quality of the land and the short growing season conspired against the farmer (Lessard).

The pretty countryside is fairly flat and thickly wooded, with a multitude of lakes. From the earliest days of Fifield, the recreational possibilities of the area were recognized and marketed. Feely's Pike Lake Resort was built at Pike Lake in 1887. Guests came by train to Fifield and from there were liveried to the resort. Rates in the early days at Feely's resort were \$9 per week, \$2 per day. A guide cost \$2 per day; boat rental was 25 cents (Lessard).

Two-thirds of the Fifield township is now a part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. The Ojibwa tribe gave this land the name of "Chequamegon," meaning "place of the shallow water." Ojibwa tribe members once fished for smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleye and trout, all to be found in abundant supply. The vast forest land, numerous crystal-clear lakes, the meandering streams and rivers still attract visitors to the area. People from all over the state and from neighboring states come to vacation in this area. Recreational opportunities include hunting, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, horseback riding and water sports. Fifield's official town website calls it a gateway community to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, a "vacation and retirement paradise" ("Town of Fifield, WI").

A worthwhile place to visit is the Old Town Hall Museum built in 1894, after the fire of 1893 destroyed the original structure. This building, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, served as the site for city government from 1894 to 1967. Government offices were located on the main floor. Town meetings, as well as a variety of social events were held in the hall upstairs. Today, the Price County Historical Society maintains a museum at the site. Its exhibits feature artifacts from the logging days of Price County, as well as a collection of memorabilia from families who once lived in the area (Lessard). A number of articles from the Aschenbrener household have found their way to the museum, including Marietta's First Communion veil and a professional photo of her on that special day. A brightly-colored patchwork quilt, on display from time to time, includes the embroidered names of all eleven children in the Aschenbrener family, along with the names of other Fifield residents.

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Postcards of Lac du Flambeau from the 1940s



The Aschenbrener home is seen at the edge of the lake on the far left of the above photo.



On the back of the bottom postcard is the note that "x" marks the location of the Aschenbrener home on the lake.

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS



A Place called Home: Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin

The town of Lac du Flambeau is a part of the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation, located in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. George Aschenbrenner recognized the business potential of Lac du Flambeau in the 1920s and before long he was operating a store there. In the early 1930s, he built a large family home on the lake. Over the years, he operated other businesses in the vicinity as well. The home and businesses were sold in the late 40s or early 50s, when George and Marietta retired to Arizona. Son Mike stayed in the area. In his lifetime, Mike operated a number of businesses in Lac du Flambeau, including a grocery store, a resort and a night club, remaining active in town affairs until his death in 1996.

Lac du Flambeau is located at the crossroads of the Montreal River-Wisconsin River route and the route to the Mississippi River via the Big Bear, Flambeau and Chippewa Rivers. Over thousands of years, different tribes hunted, fished and lived in this area. According to native tradition, the ancient Ojibwe came from the Big Salt Water in the East. It was foretold that their migration would end when they came to a place where they found food growing on the water. When they came to these lakes in northern Wisconsin, they found wild rice growing on the water. They also found an abundance of fish and used flaming torches to spear the fish at night. The Ojibwe called this place Waswagoning, meaning "A place where they spear fish by torch light" (Lac du Flambeau Chamber).

Scientists have found signs suggesting that this area of northern Wisconsin was first inhabited as far back as 9,000 years ago by Native American hunting parties following the withdrawals of the Valdres glacier. The sacred Strawberry Island, located at Lac du Flambeau, is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is the site of the last battle between the Sioux and the Ojibwe, fought in 1745. Archeologists have also discovered artifacts on the island dating back to 200 BCE. This territory has been a permanent settlement for the Chippewa, now known as the Ojibwe, since 1745, when a man by the name of Keeshekemin (Sharpened Stone) settled his tribe here. While the Ojibwe lived part of the year at the wild-rice fields, they also traveled by canoes to other areas. The tribe fished on Lake Superior and hunted on the prairies further south (Lac du Flambeau Chamber).

The French were the first Europeans to explore the area. The French explorers called the place Lac du Flambeau, a translation of the Ojibwe name for the Lake of the Flaming Torches. Many years before it became a reservation, it was the site of the fur trade. The North West Company established a post on Flambeau Lake in 1792 (Lac du Flambeau Chamber).

On September 30, 1854, the Lac du Flambeau Reservation was established by U.S. treaty with the Ojibwe Nation. The reservation included 260 lakes, 64 miles of rivers and streams, and over 41,000 acres of forested upland. In 1885, the U.S. government, realizing the valuable timber resources on the land, decided to establish a logging operation on the reservation. Many Ojibwe were encouraged to change their lifestyle and settled permanently in the area to work for the loggers. A sawmill operated day and night from 1894 to 1912 and the mill became the largest operation in the area and the largest lumber yard in the state. The mill company developed a company town, providing inhabitants with a general store, boarding houses, residences, a pool-

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

hall, barns and even a jail. The U.S. government established a school for the natives. Missionaries established a presence on the reservation. The first Catholic Church was built in 1894, followed by a Presbyterian Church in 1898 (Lac du Flambeau Chamber).

The Flambeau township was created in 1900 and the first town election was held in 1901 at the boarding house owned by the mill. The results of the election: all elected officials were company employees. Today, governance is shared by the Tribal Council and the Town Board (Lac du Flambeau Chamber).

In 1896, shortly after the mills opened, Mr. Herrick, one of the owners, asked Ben Gauthier, Sr. to build a boarding house for the mill's buyers and salesmen. Mr. Gauthier began by building a four-room house. Each year for the next sixteen years he built an addition. Visitors to the reservation spread the word about the excellent fishing in this area. Soon people were coming to the area for recreational purposes. In 1924, several resorts and summer homes were built. This is considered to be the beginning of the tourist industry at Lac du Flambeau. By 1945, the area featured over 100 resorts and 1000 summer homes (Lac du Flambeau Chamber).

Initially, all of the land on the Reservation belonged to the Ojibwe Nation. Land was leased to outsiders. (George Aschenbrenner's store and home were built on leased land.) However, a law established sometime in the 1930s gave individual Ojibwe families ownership of their land. Some of the Native Americans needed to sell their property to survive the depression years. Parcels of land were purchased by non-natives. The year 2006 saw two thirds of the land under tribal ownership or control and one third of the land owned by people who were not Ojibwe. As one Native American working at the Ojibwe museum noted, this is a "checkerboard" reservation.

The George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum and Cultural Center stands at the edge of Long Lake, across the road from the casino, built on the site where the Aschenbrenner house once stood. (Unfortunately, the family home burned to the ground some years ago.) The museum offers a glimpse of Ojibwe culture through a variety of multi-media presentations. A large collection of native artifacts, as well as old photos and newspaper articles are housed here. At his death, Mike Aschenbrenner, bequeathed a large collection to the museum which included Indian beadwork, photos and newspaper articles.

The House on the Lake



This photo was taken in 1964, many years after the home had been sold by George and Marietta Aschenbrener. The home burned to the ground some time after 1964. This is the only photo of the place discovered to date.

George and Marietta built two homes in their lifetime. One was in Fifield. The other was built sometime in the early 1930s at Lac du Flambeau on the Ojibwe (Chippewa) Indian Reservation. It was this latter home that came to be associated with the George Aschenbrener family and commanded such awe from the grandchildren. When I asked cousins for memories of their grandparents, Fred's three children (Jim, Thomas and Jodi) and Bernice's daughter, Susanne Marciniak, sent detailed descriptions of the house at Lac du Flambeau, as well as glowing accounts of their vacations at the lake. As Jim Aschenbrener noted, "This house has to be a story in itself."

Harriet and Robert were still in high school and Richard in elementary school when the house was built and they were the only Aschenbrener children to live in the house year round. Even then, these children divided their time between the two family homes. The other children were grown and pretty much out on their own at that point. However, most if not all spent at least a few summers at the home in Lac du Flambeau. They were there to help their parents with the store and other businesses. They also enjoyed the socializing and the recreation that this resort area afforded.

Susanne described the anticipation experienced by the grandchildren as they traveled to Lac du Flambeau. Summer trips to the lake “began with waking up in the pre-dawn hours, sleepily getting dressed and then finding our spot in the rear of the auto. In the early years, when my older siblings were in their teens, the smaller three were given their laps, or the floor, or even the rear window ledge, to nap on. [. . .] In the later years, when we younger three were the only backseat travelers, we managed to trade window and center seat, with some reluctance. Then we were off into the darkness, the streets and highways silent, the towns and villages dark for the most part.” She described the excitement felt when the village of Lac du Flambeau came into view: “the fragrant towering pines, the sparkling lake waters, the uniqueness of the village [. . .] and in the center was the Aschenbrenner home, unique in itself, sitting on the edge of the lake. Our grandparent’s home was like none I had ever seen, nor have seen since.”

The Aschenbrenner house was a large, 2-story white clapboard structure with a multi-gabled roofline and a large enclosed porch jutting off the main structure and facing the lake. Designed and built by George, it stood on a slight hill overlooking Long Lake. The property on both sides of the house sloped down to the water’s edge. On the right of the Aschenbrenner house, as one faced the lake, was a natural basin, a sandy beach in the shape of a bowl. In the 1950s, the Indian Bowl, or amphitheater, was constructed on this property. Mike Aschenbrenner, as a member of the Lac du Flambeau Town Council, helped in the design and building of this structure. The native Ojibwe used this beach to bring their canoes ashore for their pow-wows. War dances and other ceremonies held by the Indians during the summer proved to be big hits with the tourists. One could listen to the drums and watch the dances from the windows of the Lac du Flambeau home. Jim wrote, “What a sight it was to see the torchlight parade of canoes that came across the Long Lake bay at night to begin the pow-wows. The property on the other side of the Aschenbrenner house also sloped down to the lake’s edge. On this side of the house was a small boat dock. The native Ojibwe would tether their canoes here when they came to do business in the village.

The side of the house faced an empty lot and beyond that, the small commercial district of the village (and the Aschenbrenner store). Thomas wrote that “arrival at Grandma A’s house on the gravel driveway always brought the vivid smell of a spicy weed that grew there. Small and yellow flowers, the growth was extensive and the fragrance was distinct and wherever I go even today and smell the same weed, it brings back memories of the house.”

Entering the front door, one stepped into a rather large entrance hall. The stairway leading to the second floor was on the immediate right. Also on the right was the master bedroom and a bathroom. This little corner was George and Marietta’s “sanctuary”, one that the grandchildren and probably the children rarely entered. The children’s bedrooms and bathroom were upstairs.

To the left of the entrance hall was the room that everyone most remembers. It was a large square room on the main floor, with multiple windows on three sides which served as the family gathering place for music and recreation. Over the years, the family had amassed a good assortment of musical instruments, which included a small pump organ (melodeon), a player piano, and a variety of brass instruments. Each of the boys played an instrument or two. There was also a juke box. A large and beautiful pool table was in the center of the room. This room was open in the summer, but closed in the winter to conserve heat.

Passing through the entrance hall and located at the back of the house was the living room, with windows that overlooked Long Lake bay. Jim noted, "I spent much time looking at the fishing boats out in that bay wishing I was in one of them. This was a rather narrow room and opposite the windows was a couch. Over the couch were the eleven pictures of all the Aschenbrenner siblings. [I] don't know why but I looked at those pictures a lot." The wood furniture in this room and elsewhere was German-style oak: heavy, ornate, and dark. Interestingly, the home did not have a fireplace in any of the rooms. Fireplaces were not effective in heating homes and so this home, like others built in this time period, was built without one. There was a furnace in the basement which heated the home.

Also at the back of the home and facing the lake was the dining room. Thomas described the views from the dining room windows overlooking the lake as "nothing short of spectacular: blue water, green of spruce, pine and fir and the sun that bent its color on the water". Long and narrow, the room was filled with a long dining table, a dozen chairs and various china cabinets that housed a variety of china and silver. The grandchildren were fascinated with the cuckoo clock in the room.

On the other side of the dining room and also facing the lake was a "sleeping porch." This room also had large screened windows to take advantage of the views. A couple of iron beds, as well as tables, chairs and bookcases lined the walls. Thomas writes, "This room was captivating and although I wanted to sleep in it, I never got to do so." Susanne also remembered this room, with its huge windows overlooking the pines and the lake, as "the most fascinating room."

The kitchen, also off of the dining room, was small. Thomas noted that he couldn't imagine "how so much cooking got done. [This] little square space, that smelled intensely of pepper and bacon all the time, was probably only about 12' X 12' at best, and with doorways on three different walls." One door led to an outside entrance through a small back hall. A maid's bedroom was at the side of the kitchen through another door. For a number of years, a woman by the name of Margie occupied the room, helping Marietta out in the store as well as the house and serving as her "chauffeur" as well.

On the second floor, immediately off the stairway was an "upstairs" sitting room, again with large windows overlooking the lake. Marietta was upset that the windows in this room were too high: one had to stand up to see the view of the lake. This sitting room was furnished with a couch, desks and a bookcase filled with books. Clustered around this living room were three bedrooms and a bath. Fred's children particularly enjoyed picking out a bedroom at the Aschenbrenner house on their summer visits. Tom writes, "One of the bedrooms, the smallest and next to the bathroom at the back of the house had a wonderful round window in it and was decorated with white and greens with a white iron bed. I suspect that it was designed for the girls in the family, as the other rooms were much darker." This was Jodi's room when she visited. "MY room was clear on top of the house, with a porthole window. I could look out, over the pow-wow ring, and my-oh-my what I could see below! Drums were beating, people were dressed up in amazing deerskin, moccasins, feathers, head-dresses, and even the children had bells on their feet as they all danced around to the beat of the drums. I will never forget the scene, and I really wanted to be there, too, dancing with the children. I can still hear it, too."

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

This home, like most northern homes of the period, was built with a full basement. There was also an enclosed space under the sleeping porch which served to house one of the boats. The home had an attached garage as well.

Those grandchildren fortunate to spend a summer at Lac du Flambeau have wonderful memories of their visits. Thomas observed: "Much of my time in Wisconsin, I got to spend alone in the wooded areas near the house, at Mike's cottages, or on one of the fabulous beaches that are everywhere". Jim remembered the fishing on Crawling Stone Lake and Long Lake, recalling "one early evening when I caught a large walleye and very large crappie casting with a lure from shore. Poppy George insisted that we take the walleye to the Lac du Flambeau Visitor Center to have it weighed." Jim also talked about the pow-wows. "I don't know who actually ran the pow-wows. I think Uncle Mike had a lot to do with them. The Chamber of Commerce was probably involved. I know that Dad worked a pow-wow on at least one occasion in the concession stand. When doing so, I was with him and recall an Indian whom Dad recognized and began a conversation with him in the Chippewa language. Dad's greeting caught the Indian by surprise and it took him a moment to respond. Then they engaged in a brief conversation. It all impressed the heck out of me."

Susanne described other aspects of a summer vacation at the lake: "How enchanting it all was. I remember jumping into the trees one afternoon with my brother, because horses were running through the village. I remember being out at Uncle Mike's house waiting for Mother and Dad to pick up the three of us, Judy, Jim and me, when we decided we could easily walk back to the Aschenbrenner house, and being scolded and scolded by everyone for doing it. I remember going to church with Grandma A. and she telling me that God was everywhere and when I was skeptical, she produced a picture someone had taken of the tree outside this little Catholic Church that showed a distinct outline of the head of Jesus."

Sadly, the Aschenbrenner home was destroyed some time ago by a big fire. Only one photo of the Aschenbrenner home has been discovered. The place lives in the memories of those family members who were fortunate to have spent some time there. Perhaps this brief tribute to the home will spark the imagination of other Aschenbrenner descendants as well.

More Photos and Documents

Baptism Records for George Aschenbrenner & Marietta Gilman Aschenbrenner

<p style="text-align: center;">Baptismal Certificate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saint John the Baptist Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin</p> <p>I HEREBY CERTIFY that <u>Maria Etta Gilman</u></p> <p>Child of <u>Joseph Gilman</u> and <u>Barbara Fuchs</u></p> <p>Born <u>Nov. 23, 1880</u> at <u>Medford, WI</u></p> <p>was baptized <u>Apr. 10, 1881</u> in this Church according to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">By Rev. <u>Antonius Theodorus Schuttelhofer</u></p> <p>Sponsors <u>Edwardus Gilman</u> <u>Adelina Seuvercal</u></p> <p>as appears in Baptismal Register Vol. <u>I - p. 37</u></p> <p>Notations on reverse side.</p> <p>Dated <u>Sept. 12, 1977</u> <u>Joe Martinson</u> Rev. _____</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Baptismal Certificate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saint John the Baptist Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin</p> <p>I HEREBY CERTIFY that <u>Georgius Ashenbrenner</u></p> <p>Child of <u>Georgius Ashenbrenner</u> and <u>Monica Bredel</u></p> <p>Born <u>June 19, 1881</u> at <u>Medford, WI</u></p> <p>was baptized <u>Dec. 17, 1881</u> in this Church according to the Rite of the Roman Catholic Church.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">By Rev. <u>Schaller</u></p> <p>Sponsors <u>Joseph Augustin</u> <u>Theresia Muhlbaun</u></p> <p>as appears in Baptismal Register Vol. <u>I p. 46</u></p> <p>Notations on reverse side.</p> <p>Dated <u>Sept. 13, 1977</u> <u>Joe Martinson</u> Rev. _____</p>

George and Marietta were born at home in Stetsonville, about 5 miles from Medford, Wisconsin. There was no Roman Catholic Church in Stetsonville until 1885.

The Marriage of George and Marietta Aschenbrenner



*Above: Marietta as a young woman;
George as a young man*

June 17-1903

Married.

The marriage of Miss Etta Gilman of this city and George B. Aschenbrenner of Stetsouville last Wednesday at the latter place was a most happy event. The wedding ceremony was held at the Catholic church at 9 o'clock in the morning, conducted by Rev. Boersner of Dorchester. The bridal couple were attended by the Misses Martha Gilman, Mary Werner, Anna Aschenbrenner and the Messrs. Bert Erickson, Henry Bauer and Alexander Fredricks. The bride's gown was made of white silk, and the bridesmaid's gowns of pink silk. Mass was sung by a chorus of Medford ladies. A large number of relatives and intimate friends were present.

In the afternoon a reception and wedding supper were given in Mr. Aschenbrenner's hall. Over a hundred guests were present. In the evening the party was escorted by the M. W. A. drill team to the Crystal Opera Hall, and after a very well executed drill by the team, dancing occupied the attention of the guests till a late hour.

The bride is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Gilman of this city. She has resided here a number of years, and for several years has been a very able assistant in the Star-News office. She is one of Medford's most popular young ladies. Mr. Aschenbrenner is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Aschenbrenner of Stetsouville. The groom is a successful general merchant of that place, and only the best of words are heard for him. The couple begin married life with the good will and best wishes of a large number of people in the county. They have already begun house-keeping at Stetsouville.

They were the recipients of many beautiful gifts.

Two aunts of Miss Gilman came from the south part of the State: Mrs. Wm. McFarland of Eden, and Mrs. Furman of Eldorado. Mrs. Hunter of Stevens Point was present also.

Marriage Record for George and Marietta Aschenbrenner

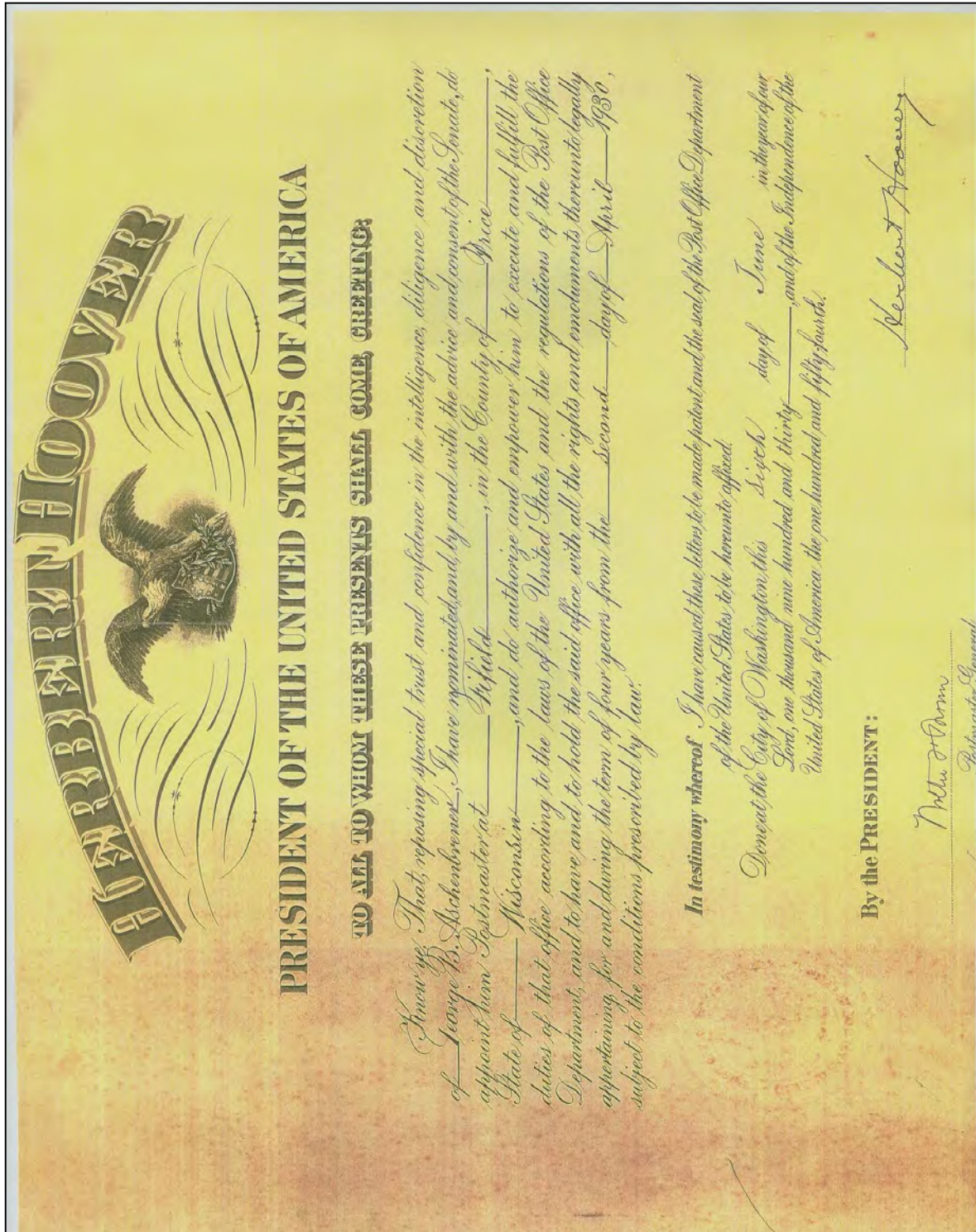
Registration of Marriages.

No. *56* 962

1. Full name of husband.....	<i>Geo B Aschenbrenner</i>
2. Name of the father of husband.....	<i>Geo. Aschenbrenner</i>
3. Name of the mother of husband before marriage.....	<i>Monica Broadt</i>
4. Occupation of husband.....	<i>Merchant</i>
5. Residence of husband.....	<i>Stetsonville Wis.</i>
6. Birthplace of husband.....	<i>Stetsonville Wis.</i>
7. Full name of wife previous to marriage.....	<i>Mariette Estelle Gilman</i>
8. Name of the father of wife.....	<i>Joseph Gilman</i>
9. Name of the mother of wife before marriage.....	<i>Barbara Foy</i>
10. Birthplace of wife.....	<i>Stetsonville</i>
11. Time when the marriage was contracted.....	<i>License 324 June 11/1903 June 17 - 1903</i>
12. The place, town or township, and county, where the marriage was contracted.....	<i>Stetsonville Taylor Co.</i>
13. The color of the parties.....	<i>white</i>
14. By what ceremony contracted.....	<i>Roman Catholic</i>
15. Names of subscribing witnesses.....	<i>Henry Bauer Mary Werner Alec Fredericks Martha Gilman Albert Erickson Anna Aschenbrenner</i>
16. Name of person pronouncing marriage.....	<i>August O Bissner</i>
17. Residence of person last named.....	<i>Rectory St. Louis Catholic Congregation Dorchester Clark Co. Wis.</i>
18. Date of certificate or affidavit of marriage.....	<i>June 17 - 1903</i>
19. Date of registration.....	<i>June 29 - 1903</i>
20. Any additional circumstances.....	

"UNCERTIFIED COPY"

Appointment of George B. Aschenbrenner as Postmaster of Fifield on April 2, 1930



In 1920, George Aschenbrenner was appointed postmaster, a position he held until 1935. It was Marietta, however, who carried out the duties and responsibilities as postmistress.

6-Lakeland Times-June 26, 1952

Aschenbrenners Mark Golden Wedding Event

Mr. and Mrs. George B. Aschenbrenner of Lac du Flambeau, Wis., observed their golden wedding anniversary on Tuesday, June 17, repeating at a nuptial mass in St. Anthony's Catholic church the vows they said 50 years ago at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary church in Medford, Wis. The Reverend Lawrence Henninger, pastor, officiated at the anniversary mass. Mass servers were three grandsons, Charles, James and Michael, and a grandnephew, Jimmy.

Music was provided by the church choir under the direction of Mrs. Roy Hrabik. The soloist was Mrs. Dean Hrabik. The entire family of sons, daughters, and grandchildren, 32 in all, received Holy Communion. Mrs. Aschenbrenner wore a Navy blue suit with white accessories and a corsage of yellow roses.

Hold Open House

Following the mass the family, Father Lawrence, his brother Father Cornelius of Waco, Texas, and a few close friends, about 50 in all, enjoyed a breakfast at Guthrie's Fireside. From 2 until 5 p.m. an open house was held at the Aschenbrenner home. Two daughters, Mrs. C. M. Gibfried and Mrs. Richard Whitney, and two daughters-in-law, Mrs. A. J. Aschenbrenner and Mrs. Fred Aschenbrenner, presided over the tea table. The center decoration was a beautiful white and gold wedding cake in the form of two large wedding bells encircled by live white gladioluses and orange blossoms. The cake was baked and decorated by Mrs. A. J. Aschenbrenner. Small cakes, punch, mints and salted nuts were served. In the receiving line were Mrs. Grace Aschenbrenner, a niece, and Mrs. Mike Aschenbrenner, both of Lac du Flambeau. A guest book was extended by Miss Mary Gibfried, a granddaughter. The Aschenbrenners received many lovely gifts and flowers, among which was a basket of 50 roses, each tied with a gold ribbon from the Eau Claire Knights of Columbus, of which organization Mr. Aschenbrenner is a charter member.

At 6:30 p.m., a dinner for 75 guests was held at Dillman's Sand Lake resort. Mrs. Aschenbrenner and each of her daughters and daughters-in-law were presented with a lovely corsage by Mr. and Mrs. Dillman. Mrs. Aschenbrenner wore a powder blue lace dinner gown with pink accessories and a corsage of pink carnations. The huge "U" shaped table was beautifully decorated with spring flowers and at each place was a souvenir Golden

wedding announcement. Father Lawrence gave the invocation and Father Cornelius the benediction. Harris Aschenbrenner, the eldest son acted as master of ceremonies for an after dinner program. First was an amusing family history award-giving by Aloysius Aschenbrenner. This was followed by a program given by some of the talented grandchildren, an acrobatic dance by Susan Gibfried, a piano selection by Tommy Aschenbrenner, a clarinet duet by Joan and Carol Aschenbrenner, a tap dance by Mary Aschenbrenner and a song, "I Love You Truly," sung by all of the grandchildren. After this was the presentation of gifts from the family, a crystal and gold rosary for Mrs. Aschenbrenner and a gold rosary for Mr. Aschenbrenner from the grandchildren and for each a lovely gold watch from their own children. Harris then asked that mother and dad lead all in an anniversary waltz.

Out-of-town guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Harris Aschenbrenner, Jo Ann and Mark, from Hollywood, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Gibfried, Carolyn, Mary, Susan, Judy and Jimmy, from Grand Rapids, Mich.; Attorney A. J. and Mrs. Aschenbrenner, Joan, Carol, Mary and Nancy, from Kohler, Wis.; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Aschenbrenner, James, Tommy and Jody, from Dubuque, Iowa; George Aschenbrenner, Jr., his son, Michael, and Richard F. Aschenbrenner from Tucson, Arizona; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Aschenbrenner from Harlingen, Texas; Mrs. Richard Whitney from Whittier, Calif.; and E. L. Aschenbrenner from Studio City, Calif.; all children and grandchildren of the Aschenbrenners.

Other out-of-town guests were Mrs. E. H. Rhumer and daughter, Gladys, from Stevens Point, Wis.; Mrs. Meda Olson, Stetsonville, Wis.; Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Aschenbrenner, Mrs. E. J. Aschenbrenner and daughter, Edna, from Park Falls, Wis.; the Reverend Father Weber from Fifield, Wis.; the Reverend Father Anthony Braun, Ashland, Wis.; the Reverend Father Cornelius Henninger, Waco, Texas.

George and Marietta Celebrate their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary June 17, 1952



George and Marietta were married on June 17, 1903. They celebrated their 50th anniversary one year early, in the summer of 1952. George died on January 25, 1953.

Celebrating George & Marietta's 50th Wedding Anniversary



*Marietta with
Bernice (L) and
Harriet(R)*

*George seated with
George Jr. (L) &
Loy (R)*

*Standing from left:
Robert, Al, Fred,
Harris, Mike and
Dick*



ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Certificate of Death for George B. Aschenbrenner

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

"VERIFICATION BOX" (HOLD BETWEEN THUMB AND FOREFINGER, OR BREATHE ON IT. COLOR WILL CHANGE TO BLUE AND THEN RETURN.)

STATE OF ARIZONA

ARIZONA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE FILE NO. **478**
138
REGISTRAR'S NO. **138**

BIRTH NO.		1. PLACE OF DEATH		B. LENGTH OF STAY		2. USUAL RESIDENCE											
A. COUNTY Pima		B. IN THIS TOWN 5 yrs. same		A. STATE Arizona		B. COUNTY Pima											
C. CITY OR TOWN Tucson		<input type="checkbox"/> IN CITY LIMITS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS		C. CITY OR TOWN Tucson		<input type="checkbox"/> IN CITY LIMITS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS											
D. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION 1134 East Lester				D. STREET ADDRESS (IF RURAL, GIVE LOCATION) 1134 East Lester													
3. NAME OF DECEASED			A. (FIRST) GEORGE			B. (MIDDLE) B.			C. (LAST) ASCHENBRENER			4. SEX Male			5. COLOR OR RACE White		
6. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (SPECIFY) married			7. DATE OF BIRTH MONTH 6 DAY 19 YEAR 1980			8. AGE (IN YEARS) LAST BIRTHDAY) 72			9. IF UNDER 1 YEAR: MONTHS 7 DAYS 6			10. IF UNDER 24 HRS. HOURS 6			11. USUAL OCCUPATION (GIVE KIND OF WORK DURING MOST OF LIFE, EVEN IF RETIRED). Retired-Grocery Busi.		
12. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Retired			13. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) Wisconsin			14. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.			15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES (YES, NO, OR UNKNOWN) (IF YES, WAR OR DATES OF SERVICE) NO			16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 395 28 8054			17. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) Bavaria		
18. FATHER'S NAME GEORGE ASCHENBRENER						19. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) Bavaria						20. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Monica Bradle					
16. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE Marion Aschenbrenner												17. DATE OF DEATH MONTH JANUARY DAY 25 YEAR 1953					
18. CAUSE OF DEATH ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE (A), (B), (C). 1. VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION 2. MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION 3. CORONARY THROMBOSIS 4. HYPERTENSION 5. Atherosclerosis												19. INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH minutes 1 week year					
19A. DATE OF OPERATION				19B. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION								20. AUTOPSY? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
21A. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE (SPECIFY)				21B. PLACE OF INJURY (E. G., IN OR ABOUT HOME, FARM, FACTORY, STREET, OFFICE BLDG., ETC.)				21C. (CITY OR TOWN) (COUNTY) (STATE)									
21D. TIME (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) (HOUR) OF INJURY				21E. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				21F. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?									
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I ATTENDED THE DECEASED FROM 12 Jan 1953 TO 25 Jan 1953 . THAT I LAST SAW THE DECEASED ALIVE ON 24 Jan 1953 AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED AT 8:30 AM M. FROM THE CAUSES AND ON THE DATE STATED ABOVE.																	
23A. SIGNATURE O. J. Farmer				23B. ADDRESS Tucson, Arizona				23C. DATE SIGNED 1/26/53									
24A. BURIAL <input type="checkbox"/> CREMATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REMOVAL <input type="checkbox"/>				24B. DATE 1/28/53				24C. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Evergreen Cemetery				24D. LOCATION (CITY, TOWN, OR COUNTY) (STATE) Fifield, Wisconsin					
25A. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. 1-27-53				25B. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Richard S. Porter				25C. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE REILLY FUNERAL HOME				25D. ADDRESS Tucson, Ariz.					
								26. EMBALMER'S SIGNATURE Chas. A. Reilly				27. CERT. NO. #216					

MAR 02 2004
Richard S. Porter
RICHARD S. PORTER
ASSISTANT STATE REGISTRAR

This is a true certification of the facts on file with the OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS, ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, PHOENIX, ARIZONA issued under the authority of A.R.S. 36-341, and by direction of:

This copy not valid unless prepared on a form displaying the State Seal and impressed with the raised seal of the issuing agency.

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS DOCUMENT

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Certificate of Death for Marietta Gilman Aschenbrenner

FORM No. VS-12 100M-REV. 1-78		STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES		STATE FILING DATE	
ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH				STATE DEATH NO. Mar 20 01005858	
LOCAL FILE NUMBER					
DECEDENT NAME		SEX		DATE OF DEATH	
1. Marietta E. ASCHENBRENER		2. <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female		3. March 17 1981	
4. White		5. 100		6. November 23, 1980	
7a. Park Falls		7b. Park Manor		7c. Price	
8. Wisconsin		9. U.S.A.		10. 555-21-6658	
11. Owner-operator		12. Retail grocery		13. Wisc. Price	
14a. Park Falls		14b. 250 Lawrence Ave.		15. Joseph Gilman	
16. Richard Aschenbrenner		17. Barbara Faux		18a. Rte 1 Box 318 A Park Falls, Wisconsin 54552	
19a. Forest Home Cemetery		19b. Pifield, Wisconsin		20. 222 Sherry Ave, Park Falls, Wis. 54552	
21a. 03 18 81		21b. 3:50 p.m.		22. T. B. Frederick M.D. Flambeau Med. Center Park Falls, WISC. 54552	
23. Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease		24. 3-19-81		25. Bronchopneumonia	
26. Accident		27. Yes		28. Yes	

Obituary for Marietta Estelle Gilman Aschenbrenner

Marietta Aschenbrenner

Mrs. Marietta Aschenbrenner, age 100, of Park Falls, who was postmistress at Fifield from 1923 to 1936, who operated grocery stores in Lac du Flambeau, Fifield, Park Falls and Stetsonville during her lifetime, and

who was at one time a newspaper employee of the English edition of the Medford Star, died on Tuesday, Mar. 17, at Park Manor Nursing Home after a lingering illness.

Visitation was at the Novitzke Funeral Home in

Park Falls on Thursday, Mar. 19, with a Knights of Columbus prayer service that evening, and also recitation of the parish rosary, both at the funeral home.

Funeral services were held on Friday, Mar. 20, at 10 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church at Fifield, with Father Anthony Ley officiating. Burial was at Forest Home Cemetery at Fifield.

Mrs. Aschenbrenner was born on Nov. 23, 1880, at Stetsonville. Her maiden name was Marietta Gilman. Her early life and schooling were at Medford. She was married June 19, 1901, at Stetsonville to George Aschenbrenner.

Mrs. Aschenbrenner came to Fifield in 1915.

She is survived by two daughters—Mrs. Clarence (Bernice) Gibfried of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Mrs. Richard (Harriet) Whitney of Newport Beach, Calif.; and six sons—Mike of Lac du Flambeau, Aloy of Pasadena, Calif., Eldred of Studio City, Calif., George Jr. of Phoenix, Ariz., Robert of Cameron Park, Calif., and Richard of Park Falls.

She was preceded in death by her husband—George in 1953; and three sons—Edmond in 1936, Frederick in 1977, and Harris in 1980.



Marietta was born on November 23, 1880 and died on March 17, 1981.

This photo is not the same as the one printed with the obituary. The photo shown here was taken on Marietta's 100th birthday (November 23, 1980). She is pictured with her daughter Harriet. Son Richard and daughter-in-law, Annamae, were also there to help celebrate her birthday.

Harris Aschenbrenner becomes Harris Ashburn

JOURNAL

Milwaukee, Wis.

Wednesday, April 24, 1940

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The Journal Company

Marquette 'Grad' Danced Around the World to Fame

Plans to Become Doctor Faded as Harris Ashburn Became a Film Executive

HARRIS ASCHENBRENER left Milwaukee 14 years ago, headed for a career in medicine. He got back this week, his first visit since he was graduated from Marquette university in 1926—but you'd never know the old Harris.

He's Harris Ashburn now—member of "The Ashburns" dance team appearing nightly at a downtown hotel. He's the veteran of two round the world trips, 42 moving pictures and has forgotten his career as a doctor for the gayer life of a ball-room dancer. That's as far as he can get from medicine and even a little further from his early ambitions.

He might have stepped into his

her's shoes in his home town, Park Falls, Wis., running a chain of grocery stores in Park Falls, Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, Fifield and Lac du Flambeau. He might have become an officer in the army, for he won an appointment to West Point in 1922, but at the last minute Mama Aschenbrenner decided young Harris wasn't going to have any truck with wars and guns and marching. She was sorry, because Senator Lenroot had been so nice about helping, but Harris was going to Marquette and some day he'd be Dr. Aschenbrenner.

Won a Master's Degree

Harris felt the same way about it, even after graduation, and he enrolled at the University of Chicago and won a master's degree. With two degrees in his pocket, he was ready to start working for his third, an M. D. It was a tossup between an eastern and a western college. A friend in San Francisco decided the toss, and Harris set out for Stanford university with the friend's promise, "I'll see that you meet all the right people to get you a practice in San Francisco."

So Harris spent weeks meeting all the right people' and then as-

other friend, Reggie Morris, then head of the scenario department for William Fox, had offered Harris a job in his department and the young man grabbed it.

After six months he was given a contract to work in the production end of the business, a job that literally led him by the ear to a dance career. The studio insisted that all its production men had to study dancing, and Harris, who had never dreamed he'd earn a living by hoofing, suddenly found terpsichore was the word for bread and butter.

Created Indian Dances

He learned dancing so well that he doubled for Jimmy Stewart in dance scenes of the picture "Dance Team" and appeared with Joan Crawford in another film. Between pictures of this type he took bit parts in many others, including "Plastered in Paris," "Joy Street" and "Roadhouse," but his big achievement came with "Diplomaniacs," in which he created the Indian dances.

"It was easy," Harris says. "All I did was recall the steps the Indians used to use at ceremonies at Lac du Flambeau. But it was new to Hollywood, and the dances made me look pretty good."

After he had been with the William Fox studios for four years, Fox died and the new owners swept out the old staff and replaced it with men of their own choice. Harris was out of work, but briefly, for Hollywood's Biltmore hotel knew his reputation as a dancer and asked him to find a girl and appear with her as a dance team in a floor show. The young lady he picked was Yvonne Davis and the couple danced together so well that they decided to try a tour.

Mexico City was their first stop, then Kansas City, Chicago, Ill., and the Astor hotel in New York City, where their success attracted offers from European agents. Contracts were signed, and in 1933 Harris and Yvonne sailed for dates at the Savoy in London, an appearance in Paris, and another at London's Winter Garden before returning to the United States and Chicago—a stop just long enough for the team to pack their bags again and leave for the Orient.

They appeared in Shanghai, Singapore, Manila, Bombay, Cairo, then traveled up to Italy and England for

further appearances, but it was in Shanghai that Harris started a chain of events so unusual they seem almost fictional.

Dancing at the Cathay hotel, Harris was called over to a table one night to meet a man named J. T. Browning, who was in the picture business in China and who remembered that Ashburn's name had appeared in some of the titles of pictures he had sold. Browning introduced the dancer to his young daughter, Virginia, who was studying at a convent school in Shanghai.

That incident was forgotten in 1939, when Yvonne left the dance team to go into a New York show, and Harris was seeking a new partner. He watched the girls in the chorus at the Radio City Music Hall and picked out one who looked "right" for his partner. She was Virginia Browning, the little girl of Shanghai!

Back to the Orient

She had come to the United States to go to college, but, like Harris, had changed her mind and became a dancer instead, starting her career on the west coast and gradually working to New York, where Ashburn saw her. She remembered the Shanghai meeting and "The Ashburns" team was formed.


They worked several weeks in New York, then moved west to the Biltmore bowl in Hollywood and made two movie shorts before returning to the midwest and Harris' homecoming in Milwaukee.

The future? "Well, we're talking business now with an agent who wants us to appear in Shanghai. No, that little fracas between China and Japan doesn't bother us—I was there before and didn't get hurt—but if the money is stabilized, we'll be on our way so Virginia can have a homecoming, too!"

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Aloysius Aschenbrenner serves as Presidential Elector from Wisconsin in 1940

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF STATE--SS.


To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

I, FRED R. ZIMMERMAN, Secretary of State,
of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that

A. J. ASCHENBRENER

was on the FIFTH day of NOVEMBER, A. D. 1940
duly elected a ~~delegate~~ PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR
of the State of Wisconsin ~~to the~~ AND MEMBER OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE
~~National Convention~~ to be held in the year 1940, as appears from the official canvass
of the votes given at an election held for that purpose on the day and year first above
written and that HE was duly elected as such ~~delegate~~ ^{elector} in accordance with the laws of
the State of Wisconsin.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my
hand and affixed my official seal, at the Capitol,
in the City of Madison, this 1st day of
December A. D. 1940.


Fred R. Zimmerman
Secretary of State.

Loy was part of the Electoral College that elected Franklin D. Roosevelt president of the United States in 1940. He was invited to Washington, D.C. to attend the Inauguration and other festivities.

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

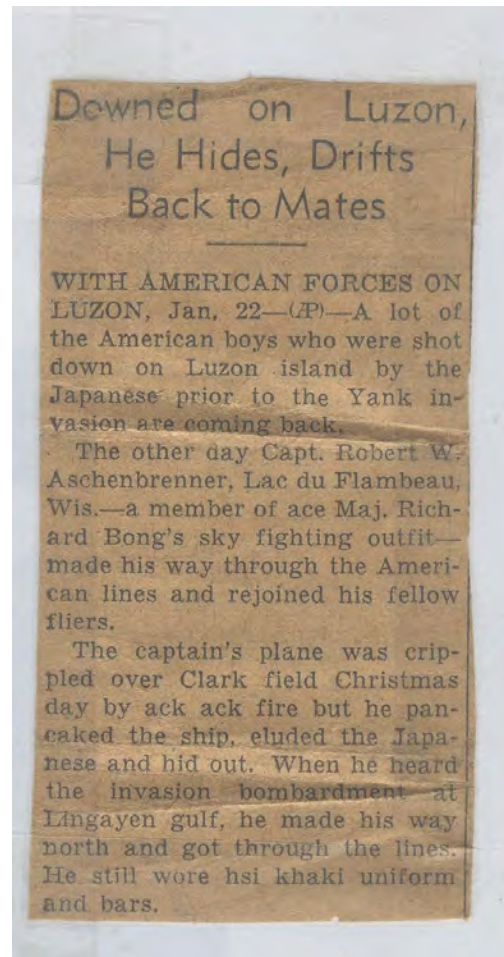
**The Aschenbrenner Mink and Fox Farm
Lac du Flambeau, WI
1930s**



*The farm was named the Edmund Fox Farm in honor of Edmund, who loved the outdoors.
Upper left photo: Betty, Al's wife, is holding fox pups.*

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

World War II: Robert Aschenbrenner Downed in the South Pacific
December 25, 1944



ASCHENBRENER OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS

Aschenbrener Burial Plot at Forest Home Cemetery in Fifield



George and Marietta are buried in the Aschenbrener plot at Forest Home Cemetery in Fifield, along with a number of their children (Edmund, Mike, Richard, Harriet, and Loy) and their spouses. The upright, dark marble slab in the lower center of the top photo is engraved with “Aschenbrener.” (Photos by SAM, 2005)

ASCHENBRENNERS OF THE WISCONSIN NORTHWOODS



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