



CHAPTER VI

20TH CENTURY COUSINS

Delly's and Betty's children had been born over a twenty two year span (1888-1910); the grandchildren's births occurred over fifty years (1910-1960). While the parents grew up toward the end of westward expansion and cherished the ideals of taming new land, their children experienced the sobering decades of the Depression and the "Dust Bowl" years on the plains. Environmentally it was significant. Both generations were industrious and committed to personal advancement. The older of Delly's and Betty's children dreamed of owning land and wresting from the soil a good life for themselves and their offspring. The younger siblings of the family accepted that limited land opportunities in Oklahoma meant little chance to prosper from agriculture. As a consequence they found public jobs. As they saw their dreams diminish, they sought another way to "get ahead."

Where education was seen as an unnecessary extravagance by the Ikards at the turn of the century, it assumed a more valued position as the years passed. While Don had some college preparatory schooling, and Fred went to high school in Cyril, the others made do with few years of schooling. But they began to perceive that opportunities were passing them by because of lack of education.

Land in the area belonged to Indians who were not allowed to sell it. Farmers were forced to lease Indian property in order to grow crops. The once fertile grassland deteriorated with plowing and row cropping. The ceaseless wind tended to blow away the soil as it dried out. Infrequent rains came with storms that dumped quantities of water in haste, quickly running off leaving the subsoil dry. The upper soil packed, lacking the humus that rain washed away.

Severe weather was the usual. Violent rains washed away newly planted row crops. Sometimes a farmer had to plant several times to get a "stand." Then with a

beautiful wheat crop blowing in the wind, ready for harvest, an ugly hail storm could come roaring in, laying flat the fragile stems and spoiling the valued grains in mud.

Though Don and Jim kept the same farms, leasing by the year, other Ikard men moved from one lease to another, either because the Indian owner found someone to pay more for the lease, or he found better land or a cheaper lease. The unstability of constantly changing leasees spelled disaster for the precious soil. Farmers were inclined to get what they could out of a farm for the current year instead of practicing soil conservation.

Land that was virgin tall prairie grassland when Delly arrived in 1906 was so abused over the next decades that it was rapidly becoming the "Great American Desert" by the thirties when a ten-year drought descended. The abused earth, marked by gullies, was blowing away in choking dust storms. Tumbleweed dominated growth in fields and pastures. Pastures were soon overgrazed, so the farmer moved his stock along the section lines to get the grass there. When it was gone, there was nothing to do but sell most of the stock. It was a sad day when the prized cattle were taken to market or the slaughter house.

It was even sadder when all but one saddle horse had to be sold. The most mournful day of my young life was the day a man came with a trailer to take away my horse, Pete. I cried as the truck and trailer drove away disappearing in a swirl of dust. My dad, George, could no longer afford to pasture a nonessential animal.

Times were really hard. Banks loaned all they could to hard pressed farmers. Then the farm family prayed for a good harvest so they could payoff the loan. Sometimes they could not. My dad used a good portion of his refinery salary to keep the farm going.

Though the oldest grandchildren, my cousins, belonged to the Future Farmers of America,(FFA) and regularly raised good breeds of hogs and cattle, they knew they were not going to become farmers. The answer to their plans for a career lay in getting educated. My cousins and I just knew that a good future demanded a college education.

Back in Tennessee, the children of Elijah Harrison Ikard and his second wife Marticia Duncan had early on seen that there was land near Alto for just one of the children (it was William Guinn). The other children must find another way to make a living. So two of the younger sons went to Vanderbilt in Nashville. The next generation of this family also embraced the idea of advanced schooling.

In Oklahoma, the grandchildren of Delly and Betty, began to prepare to earn an education. Certainly our parents could not afford tuition, books and fees and dormitory living. It was fortunate for us that colleges were on poor times also and made all kinds of accommodation to ambitious youth. The admittance office found

some campus job for every student in need. One was expected to find other jobs for him/herself. Boys became volunteer firemen for a place to sleep. They did landscape work on campus. Girls worked in the library and laboratories. They waited tables in the college dining halls and in hotels and restaurants. We clerked at dime stores and went home on weekends to hoe cotton in summer and to pick it in the fall. With a half dozen low paying jobs, a person was able to keep afloat and to carry a full academic load. We didn't feel sorry for ourselves. Indeed, we felt privileged. We were the first generation of our family to be college educated.

Growing up in Cyril, it had been great to be an Ikard. No one misspelled or mispronounced your name. If you stepped into the hallway at school, more than likely you saw a cousin there. When you made the basketball team, several cousins were on the team. If you sang in the glee club or took part in a cantata or play, cousins were also participating. On FFA trips to acquire livestock or to judge for stock shows, the Ikards were there. All worshiped regularly and were active in church life.

The grandchildren are introduced in this chapter in the order of the births of their Ikard parent, that is, the ten children of Delly and Betty who grew to maturity, married and produced children. They include in this order, Joseph Mark, Maggie Lee, Don Carlos, James Franklin, George Washington, William Henry, Martin Luther, Jess Edward, Fredrick Oklahoma and Mary Tennessee.

Geneva Irene was the first child of Joseph Mark and Frances Lavell Carothers, born on the 9th of April, 1917 near Cyril. She was a sweet and gentle child. Her father died when she was little more than a year old. Lavell moved to be nearer her people. Irene attended schools in Fletcher.

She married Ernest Arrowood on May 5, 1940. They lived near Fletcher, Oklahoma, where Ernest worked for local farmers. They had three sons and a daughter: Erma Lee, born 1941; Eddie Charles, Kenneth Dale and Jerry Don. Jerry died of polio when he was twelve years old. Another son died mysteriously. When he did not return from fishing, a search found him with his head in the water. Foul play was suspected but nothing came of it.

Irene became a practical nurse and did private nursing in the Fletcher-Lawton area to support the family.

Late in life she became ill and was herself a patient in the Cyril Nursing Home, where she died.

Mildred Lee is the second daughter of Joseph Mark Ikard and Lavell. She was born near Cyril on July 11, 1918 less than a month after the death of her father.

In the summer of 1937, when the Tennessee cousins came to Oklahoma for a visit, Irene and Mildred were teens and were able to join in on the parties, swims and

watermelon feasts of that memorable time. Milly was a slender girl with dark hair and commanding eyes. She could have been a model.

She graduated from the Henderson Business College in Lawton, Oklahoma. For a time, she worked for the Veterans Administration.

Her next job was considered glamorous by her cousins. She went to California where she met the wife of Sig Ruffian, a man of diverse talents and interests. Ruffian was a Hollywood character actor but also an artist, photographer and biologist. In addition, he was a German Baron, who could have reclaimed his family castle after WWII but chose not to return to Germany. Ruffian did research for the University of Southern California.

Milly describes herself as a "Girl Friday" for Ruffian, living with the Ruffians in their Brentwood estate. She read cues for his movie roles, and most enjoyed *Ninotchka* that featured Greta Garbo. Milly became skilled in photographic arts by processing and printing film. She often went with the Rumans to photograph flora and fauna in the mountains and desert of Southern California. Her work in the laboratory included research on black widow spiders and fruit flies. She was not allowed near Ruman's research on syphilis. Milly met the next door neighbor, the young Jimmy Stewart, who has in recent years sent her a note of remembrance of their friendship in the 40s.

During WWII, Milly worked at Douglas Aircraft as a legal secretary, first at the El Segundo plant and later Santa Monica. At the end of the war she transferred to RAND, a secret research and development corporation, in Santa Monica, California, where she was secretary to the president until her marriage.

On St. Patrick's Day of 1948, she married John Raymond O'Day, whom she describes as a "handsome Irishman who looked more Latin than Irish." They worked together in their business, the O'Day Furniture Company, having stores in California and Tucson, Arizona.

Their daughter Mary Jane was born December 30, 1953. Being an O'Day, she also chose for her wedding day St. Patrick's Day of 1979. Mary Jane lives in Tucson near Milly with her teen age son Kevin. Mary Jane was for a time a teacher but now works for a partially government-funded and privately endowed center dealing with youth and family problems.

Raymond O'Day's failing health led to the decision to sell the store in 1968. At that time, Milly went to work for the Tucson School District as office manager and secretary to an elementary school principal. It was satisfying work that lasted 16 years.

Like many of her cousins, Milly keeps busy in retirement. At 78, she climbs and picks fruit from her neighbor's tree. She does crafts like embossing stationary and

pressing wildflowers, but, in particular, she likes to quilt. She finds that she can do minor repairs around the house, and yardwork is appealing. Grandson Kevin's little league baseball makes a fan of Milly. She enjoys semi-classic music and crossover country tunes. Her reading tends toward biographies and fiction.

Delly's and Betty's first grandchild was Marvin Hamilton, the son of Maggie Lee Ikard and her husband Eugene Hamilton. He was born on a farm near Cyril on January 18, 1910. By 1913, the family moved to a farm east of Cement that the Hamiltons bought. Neither Marvin nor his father were keen on farming. The soil was sandy and never produced very well, and to be fair the market for their harvests was poor.

Marvin attended elementary school at nearby Fairview and went to Chickasha for high school. The Hamiltons were ambitious for their son and sent him to Oklahoma State University at Stillwater, Oklahoma. He chose an engineering course because he was proficient in mathematics. His mother, ever frugal, took pride in doing his laundry. Each week a box arrived in Fairwell filled with soiled clothes and was shortly returned to Stillwater spic and span.

The picture of the Ikard family made at the Hamiltons' home in 1925 shows Marvin to be a tall youth of 15 years with a shy countenance. He was plagued with asthma. Instead of finishing his degree at OSU, he moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico, hoping to diminish the effects of asthma. Apparently the move did help. Marvin almost never came back to Oklahoma after this.

Later he moved to California, where on May 25, 1941, he married Laura Jeanette Woodland of Minneapolis, Minnesota. They had three daughters: Barbara Jean, born January 18, 1943, in Palo Alto, California, and Bernice Joyce also born in Palo Alto on February 19, 1945. Nancy Louise was born in San Francisco on February 1, 1947.

There is a story that petroleum engineers for the Anderson Pritchard Oil Refinery in Cyril used a formula derived by Marvin to improve the efficiency of some processes of refining crude oil.

During a visit to his daughter Bernice in Honolulu, Hawai, early in 1974, he had a stroke and died at the age of 63.

Maggie's second child was Velma Ada Hamilton. The name Ada was probably chosen as an honor to Aunt Ada Ikard, the wife of Lanson Odell's brother Jesse. Ada was bright, witty, attractive and hospitable, and Maggie hoped her daughter would be like her. Velma was born on January 3, 1914, at the farm east of Cement on the day after the arduous move from Cyril.

She was an active mischievous child, somewhat like Maggie's brothers with the same propensity for teasing and making fun out of any situation. Fairview School

suited her, but she had no desire for post high school education. She learned domestic arts from her proficient mother.

The community was a friendly place with cultural events at Fairview School, and many convivial gatherings for young people. Velma enjoyed all social activities, particularly the "singings" on Sunday evenings. It was at one of these events that she met James (Jim) Ralph Boswell. He was a nice looking young man and outgoing enough to attract Velma. A long courtship followed culminating in marriage on December 22, 1933.

Jim was an industrious, jovial and a favorite with the Hamiltons and the Ikards. During the Depression, making a living was difficult for all working people, but Jim and Velma gave it their best. They lived in Chickasha where Jim worked for a cheese plant. Their first child, Ralph, was born at the Hamilton farm on November 9, 1934. Jerry Lee was born on July 11, 1938 in Chickasha. Their daughter Marilyn Jean was born on July 17, 1949 also in Chickasha. Velma was a thrifty and particular housewife, much like her mother, making the most of her resources.

When the Hamiltons lost their farm, Jim and Velma bought it and raised hogs there. In 1961 Jim was transferred by the cheese plant to Missouri, where he and Velma lived until 1969. On their return to Chickasha Velma was not her usual self. She had a nervous breakdown. Treatment for the condition was not successful. Sadly, in September 1971, she took her own life. She is buried at the Ninnekah Cemetery.

Viola Mae Hamilton was the third of Maggie's and Gene's children, born on September 13, 1919 on the Hamilton farm. She had dark auburn hair and the biggest brown eyes. Viola had her mother's gentle ways and a flair for making something beautiful and useful out of anything at hand. She thoughtfully approached every task and worked with great precision. As little more than a toddler she turned out perfect mud pies. She was masterful with folk art. As a teen she was a youthful encyclopedia of American folklore, telling her friends the "signs" for changing weather, visitations, etc. Where she ever picked up all these prophecies is a mystery to older people. She was knowledgeable of singing and party games as well as ballads and folktales.

When Jesse Ikard Jr. lived with the Hamiltons, Viola was his jolly playmate and firm protector as they joined other children on the way to school. Viola was a good student at Fairview. She graduated from high school in 1937 and decided that a course in cosmetology was the quickest ticket to a paying job. She worked in beauty shops in the corning years.

Before World War II began, she met J.D. Golden who was serving in the Army. They were married on July 14, 1941. In 1943, J.D. was sent to Italy and later to

France. While he was away their first child, Janelle Donna, was born on November 15, 1943.

After the war Viola and J.D. moved to Lawton and owned a neighborhood store. They also bought a home on "I" Avenue. Four more daughters were born to them after they moved to Lawton. Nita Jean was born on April 14, 1947; Vickie June, March 24, 1953; Debra Lynn March 20, 1957 and Tammy Gail February 7, 1962. Vi was really proud of her family.

But in October, 1966, the Golden marriage failed. A divorce followed in September of 1968. She worked as a seamstress after this time.

In 1988 she was diagnosed with a cancer and consented to chemotherapy. It was debilitating and not made easier by a physician whose English was rarely understandable. She decided to stop treatment and was amazed that she experienced a long period of remission. Vi was able to attend the Ikard Cousin Reunion in Monteagle, Tennessee, in July of 1989. She moved into a retirement home for senior citizens and had many congenial neighbors.

Her cancer did return and she died January 21, 1993, and was buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Lawton Oklahoma.

Carl Elwood was the oldest child and the only son of Don Ikard and Rilla Robinson. He was born on April Fools Day, 1918, and sometimes wondered if the vicissitudes of his life may have come from the bad timing of his arrival.

There was not a lazy bone in his body, and his persistence was legendary. His boyhood went along well enough. He rode his pony to Caddo Pride and then to West View School. When schools in the area consolidated, he attended the school in Cyril.

Carl was in the class of '37, a small group that called themselves "the dirty dozen." I had a public speaking class with Carl. Everyday we were required to make a one-minute speech. Carl had a bit of a stutter. Numerous times Carl gave the title of his speech and before he made a good start, the stuttering took over. He began again, and again and again. It took guts to keep trying to finish a speech in front of classmates, some of whom were sympathetic but others amused. I admired Carl for his courage.

Carl attended Cameron Junior College, an agricultural school in Lawton, Oklahoma. He got jobs wherever he could, and did particularly well in Crop Judging, making several trips and scoring high. He graduated in two years and was able to get an appointment with the National Youth Administration (NYA) that allowed him to attend Southwestern College in Weatherford. From there he moved onto the more prestigious Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College in Stillwater.

Yet he was hard pressed for money. He took a Civil Service exam for Postal Service, passed and was called up for a job in May of 1941. My guess is that Carl felt that with a good paying job he could save some money and return to A&M to get his degree later.

That was not to be. World War II began in December of that very year. In February of 1942, he volunteered for the United States Navy. He served at the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst, New Jersey, then spent 27 months aboard ship in the Caribbean. His next duty was in Hutchinson, Kansas.

There he met and courted Charlene Gray. They married March 19, 1945, and took a one-week honeymoon in Denver, Colorado. Later he attended a pre-flight school in Wooster, Ohio. In August of 1945 the war ended. Carl and Charlene returned to Hutchinson where he found work with the Santa Fe Railroad. Their son Billy Wayne was born November 6, 1946. Carl was very happy with Charlene and really didn't know what had hit him when she asked for a divorce. He blamed it on her parents. By March of 1947 they had divorced. Carl had very little time to get to know his infant son. Charlene's parents adopted Billy Wayne and changed his name to Gray.

Carl enjoyed his work with the railroad. Within a year and a half, he met and married Eva Alberta Southworth. Life was good for them until Carl's father Don had a stroke, and Carl felt obligated to help his parents. The young couple moved to Cyril and began farming Don's land. It did not go well. And more seriously, Eva had polio and almost died. Farming turned out to be too demanding for a woman recovering from a serious illness.

Using the G.I. benefits, Carl returned to Oklahoma A&M and graduated in the spring of 1952. His first professional work was as a soil scientist at Glasco, Montana. Eva was well enough to run a restaurant for a time, but a slipped disk cut that short. In much pain, she felt the need of a warmer climate. A transfer to Mexican Springs, New Mexico, made her more comfortable. But in this remote place, culture shock set in.

Returning to Oklahoma, the first good news was that Eva was pregnant. She had miscarried more than once, but this time she delivered a tiny child. Evelyn Louise was born May 7, 1956, weighing only 2 pounds 5 ounces, but she was perfect. Yet misfortune dogged the young couple. Eva may have suffered postpartum depression, an illness of a woman after childbirth caused by hormonal changes and a variety of psychological and environmental factors. The stress was severe, and Eva thought that Carl was the villain.

That marriage ended in divorce also. Eva kept the child. A somewhat depressed Carl moved from job to job, trying to find himself. Eventually he returned to the Postal Service, carrying mail as a walking postman in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Carl's social life then revolved around square dancing. He belonged to several groups and spent many evenings dancing. He became quite interested in genealogy and began researching Ikard and Robertson history in the middle 60s.

At the first Ikard family reunion in Cyril, while Fred and Mae were still living, Carl had done enough work to have informally published a history of the Ikards. He generously distributed copies of that booklet at that event.

On vacations, Carl frequently traveled to places where the Ikards had lived. He went to Catawba County, North Carolina, where Peter Eiger lived. He visited sites of Revolutionary battles. He went to Warren County, Kentucky, where Anthony Ikard and the Harrisons pioneered. He located documents and actually walked on the farm land they had held. Later he sought out the farm land in Missouri where Anthony and Elizabeth and her parents, the Harrisons, lived and where Elijah Harrison Ikard was born.

In Franklin County, Tennessee, he researched court records and called on a number of Ikards still living in the vicinity. Once he went to Washington D.C. to do research in the Library of Congress. With his own modest resources, he hired professional genealogists to fill in information that he had not been able to locate.

All the while he acquired a trunk full of documents and notes. He had enough questions to pursue to last him a lifetime. He appeared well at the first "cousin" reunion in 1987, though he spoke with regret that he had no family to introduce because he had lost two children in bad divorce settlements.

Carl may have ignored health problems as men are prone to do. He was ill for some time and did not inform members in the family. He died on December 12, 1987, and was buried on December 14, in the cemetery in Cement on a bitter day of severe ice and snow.

Reba Rilla was the second of Don's and Rilla's children. She was born on the family farm south of Cyril on December 5, 1923. As a child she was shy with a sweet countenance like her mother. She started school at Caddo Pride riding both ways on a horse with her brother Carl.

Progress came in the early 30s with the closing of one-room schools and a consolidated school in the small town of Cyril. A school bus began transporting children to school. Frank Moser drove that bus. One day he was startled when the children began screaming that someone had fallen out the back door of the bus. It was Reba! She had been straddling the bench that ran the length of the bus and sitting in the back when the rear door of the bus flew open. Her response was fear.

Fear that the bus would leave her there in the country by herself. Frank did stop and recover his passenger. But the kids kidded her.

Reba remembers one teacher from the middle school years. Gladys Corn Hass taught her to knit. Mrs. Hass taught cursive writing and art and is well remembered by many of her former students.

She was only 14 years old when she met Donald Weedn. They courted for four years. It was a traditional courtship with the big event of the week a date for the movie in Fletcher. They were married by the Reverend Carl Fowler of the local Baptist Church on June 28, 1941.

For a few months, the young couple lived with the Weedns. Then they moved across the Washita River to the Brent Clay place where Don farmed. Their first child Sharon was born at the Weedn Hospital in Duncan, Oklahoma, on September 6, 1943. Succeeding children were also born at the Weedn Hospital where Don's cousin Alton was the primary doctor. Donita was born on November 3, 1945; son Larry, May 21, 1948. On December 1, 1960, a second son, John David was born. He was a charmer who was indulged by his mother and two sisters.

The children of Reba and Don were industrious like their parents. Reba taught Sharon and Donita to do all household tasks including cooking for a group of farm hands. Larry, like many farm boys, began driving a tractor for a full day's work when he was only 9 years old. Reba was concerned for Larry. Such a young boy, and such a long working day!

The family moved a couple of times and by 1971 were prosperous enough to buy 160 acres west of Cyril and build a three-bedroom brick house. Don leased Indian land and did very well. Yet like so many farmers, who took a cue from the government that agriculture could be an instrument of foreign policy, Don expanded too rapidly and found himself with a cash flow problem.

Sadly, he lost the farm. Even worse he lost his health. Don fought cancer with remarkable vigor, yet he died on August 20, 1991. He and Reba had been married 50 years.

Reba worked in several businesses, both in Cyril, and Anadarko. After the farm was sold she moved to Cyril where she spends several evenings a week with a retired woman. Every day she goes to the senior citizen center for lunch and to play Pitch or some other game. Some of the group find the game too good to abandon and continue the game at someone's house on into the late afternoon.

Reba is close to her children and grandchildren, and finds her senior years satisfying.

Wanda Joan is the youngest child of Don and Rilla, born on the family farm west of Cyril on January 16, 1934. She attended school in Cyril and, like a generation of musical children in this little town, studied voice and piano with Mildred Bates. She graduated from high school in 1952 and found a job as secretary to commissary officers at Fort Sill near Lawton.

Here she met Bill Warfield, and a strong relationship grew. When Bill was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia, Joan was able to get a transfer there also. The two returned to Fort Sill for a military wedding on June 1, 1955. Bill who was with ROTC, was discharged in May of 1956. The young couple moved to Bettsville Ohio. They lived there until 1958 when they moved to the family farm in Jerusalem, Ohio.

They had four children. Deborah Ann was born April 15, 1956; William Richner, January 23, 1958; Cecilia Ann, January 20, 1960 and Daniel Durigg, September 8, 1963. Deborah Ann died of cancer in adolescence.

Bill and Joan kept cattle on the farm. Bill has sold agricultural limestone throughout his career.

For years Joan was on the Board of Trustees of the Hutton Memorial Library in Bonneville, Ohio. She has since worked for that library as librarian assistant.

The Warfields are serious golfers, going to Florida each winter to pursue that interest. Joan likes crafts, particularly cross stitching, and also paints. Her taste in reading is eclectic. Throughout her life Joan has been a registered Republican and votes regularly.

Her activities in the local Methodist church are very important to her. For many years she has been church treasurer. She also plays the organ and is choir director. Her soprano voice now is more comfortable singing in a lower register.

She and Bill often travel to see their children. Joan thinks that she may retire within a few years.

Jim and Helen had seven children, the largest group of Delly's and Betty's grandchildren. Anna Letitia Ikard was born September 11, 1916, probably at the Ikard home east of Cyril. By the time she started to school her parents had a farm south and west of Cyril. Indian Hill was a one-room school north of the farm. Several of the students were Indian children who lived nearby. To continue her schooling in seventh and eighth grade, she had to go to the school in Fletcher which was four or five miles south in Comanche County. No doubt she was pleased to have her own pony. Imagine a hitching post for the ponies of the privileged students!

To continue her education, she moved to Cyril High School which in 1930 had buses for student transportation. It was a small school and students were encouraged

to take part in extra curricula activities. Letitia was glad to do that. Being musical, she sang in the chorus and played ukelele in the school orchestra. Basketball season was the big excitement in Cyril. A tall, well built girl was welcomed on the girl's high school basketball team. Letitia made the varsity in her freshman year and played on that team throughout the four years of high school.

Letitia was blond with her dad's blue eyes and an engaging personality. People were attracted to her outgoing, fun-loving ways. I wanted to be like her. She joined groups of students in the kind of social activities that a small town provides.

After she finished high school, she remained at home helping her brother Asa with his livestock that he entered in FFA shows. She also assisted her parents with the many jobs on a farm.

On Christmas Eve of 1936, she married Lofton Whatley. Their children, Darlene and Ronald Whatley gave Betty Gillaim Ikard her first great-grandchildren. A very nice picture records that proud bit of family continuity. Darlene married Andy Stabile and has no children. Ronald, married to Pamela Sherwood, has two children, Joel and Jill, both of whom have college degrees.

The Whatleys lived in Duncan, Oklahoma. Letitia worked for Montgomery Ward as manager of the catalog department. She was, until recently, active in the Duncan Business and Professional Women's Club, serving as president three times and worked for the district as Chairman. She also served the State Federation BPW as chairman of membership, as well as National Federation page. Work with BPW was most satisfying to Letitia.

She was a member of Duncan First Christian Church from 1950 until last year. During that time she taught Sunday school and was active in youth activities of that church.

In 1994, Letitia moved to Ridgecrest, California, to be near her sister Dorothy Ikard Tirk. In the Ikard Cousin Reunions, "Tish" is the grand old girl among the cousins.

She has a good figure and the same blond hair and ebullient personality of her youth.

Someone caught her on videotape dancing to juke box music at the '89 reunion at Jim Oliver's Smokehouse. Tish had no idea that anyone was nearby.

She is the leader of the Jim and Helen clan and as such promotes the biennial reunion of those seven lively siblings.

Tish enjoys her new location. She joined the Methodist Church in Ridgecrest and takes part in a number of community activities. She says, "I have enjoyed life to the fullest, and am very thankful and feel the Lord has been very good to me and mine."

Iva Marie is the second child and second daughter of Jim and Helen. Feeling that her father wanted a son, she was motivated to do substantial heavy chores around the farm. Iva was a "can-do" child from the word go, tackling and mastering difficult jobs with regularity. In a group of mostly blond children, she had a head of dark curls, something like her Grandma Betty.

Like Tish, she attended Indian Hill School then in middle grades rode a horse to Fletcher to school. Her mother had attended Fletcher schools and thought them to be excellent. When Cyril initiated school bus service and the bus passed right by the Ikard house, Jim transferred his daughters to Cyril, but Helen was not pleased.

There Iva sang in the quartet and glee club. She also played basketball, being equally good as a guard or forward. The girls team's win/loss record was good during the years she played. For some reason her graduating class, the class of '36, was unusually small. Like Carl, she was one of the group of twelve who called themselves "the dirty dozen."

She attended Oklahoma College for Women for two years before transferring to Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater. There she received a Bachelor of Science in Education. She returned to Stillwater for graduate work that certified her as a vocational home economics teacher.

On February 18, 1945, Iva married Charles Higgenbotham. He was a soldier at Fort Sill who shortly was assigned overseas. On his return they lived in Cyril. Their daughter Helen Marie was born August 27, 1947. The Higgenbothams were divorced in 1957.

Iva married Charles H. Brown on August 1, 1959. Their son Don Allen was born November 30, 1960.

Iva proved her versatility in the 38 years of her career in education. Besides teaching home economics, she taught the core history and language arts in Cyril. In Fletcher, she taught fifth grade, and in the Cottonwood School, served as principal. Her longest service was to the schools in Granfield where she and Charles Brown lived until he died. She now lives in retirement in Granfield.

Iva has enjoyed crafts of various media but perhaps stitchery most of all. She is keenly into reading, sharing books with her sisters and neighbors. Though her taste is broad, she prefers fiction.

In Granfield, her church, the Christian Church dwindled, so she now worships at the local Methodist Church.

Asa James Ikard is the only son of Jim and Helen Ikard, with two older sisters and four younger sisters. No one ever called him "spoiled," as he would never have tolerated being indulged. Asa was a big boned boy who grew rapidly, matching the

physique of Delly's and Betty's big sons. He has a congenial manner, seeming to take a breath before answering to serious or foolish conversation. His eyes widen and his deep voice comes through with a thoughtful response.

There were always many chores on the Ikard farm, and early on Asa assumed his share of the work. Caring for livestock was a never-ending job. Jim was the only son of Delly who took time to hunt and fish. It served him well. "Work hard, play hard" is not a bad philosophy. Successful hunting required good hound dogs, and Jim kept several. Occasionally Asa was allowed to accompany the hunters. He has vivid memories of sitting around the campfire listening to tall tales and hearing the eerie night sounds of free-roaming animals, perhaps coyotes howling in the distance.

Asa's fond memories of homelife include the aroma of homemade bread and the bustle of Helen cooking three squares a day for her large family. Even the only son in the family could help in dressing fryers for Sunday dinners. He was also involved in the production of food from a generous garden, that included canning and storage of root crops. Asa remembers that Helen could always take time to hear about her children's school activities, and there were many. All the children were musical and at school and church took part in chorus, choir and band. They were also well coordinated, competitive and sports minded. Helen's children were encouraged in these positive activities.

School for Asa began at Indian Hills, but soon he was in the Cyril schools. There were several extracurricula activities to interest Asa. He was particularly enthused with the Future Farmers of America. Jim, Helen and his sisters took an interest in the raising of his high quality livestock. Asa did rather well, winning a number of ribbons, and of course, these animals brought prime prices when sold. FFA boys slept in the barns near their animals at the Fat Stock Shows. This was great fun, being away from home and in the company of fellows with common interests.

Perhaps the most memorable activity of high school in Cyril for Asa was playing basketball. Asa was highly motivated. Basketball season was in the dead of winter. There was a bus to take students home after school but no transportation for basketball players. School dismissed at 4:00. The girls basketball team practiced from 4:00 to 5:00 when the boys began their practice. At 6:00 boys practice ended. It was dark, the players were hungry and it was cold outside. The "town" boys had only a few minutes to food and comfort, but "country" boys had to walk home. For Asa it was about 3 miles. He made that sacrifice to play on a very good team- so good that in 1938 the team won the State Championship for its division. This event is Cyril's claim to fame.

Cameron Junior College in Lawton, Oklahoma, was, in the late 30s, the best opportunity for higher education for local youth. It has since become a part of the Oklahoma University system and has university status. Asa attended, working all the

while, and graduated with an Associate Degree in 1942.

Asa went along with his roommate on a date and met his future wife, Jo Ann Brandon. It was a serious romance from the beginning. They were married when Jo Ann finished high school and Asa graduated from Cameron on July 14, 1942.

In the early days of WWII Asa was accepted into the Air Force Cadets, training to be a navigator. A serious leg injury from his college days disqualified him on the final physical exam. He was transferred to Myrtle Beach, S.C. But further complications from his leg eventually led to an honorable discharge.

Asa and Jo Ann moved to Oklahoma City where Asa was employed by Douglas Aircraft and for eight years worked for Mideke Supply. He left this firm to open his own welding and industrial supply house, Service Supply, Inc. He operated this business for 27 years. In 1982 he began a new business, the first Haagen-Daz Ice Cream Shop in Oklahoma. He sold it in 1990 to retire.

Jo Ann and Asa have three children, Jim and twins Sherry and Jerry. Jim has three sons, Benjamin 8, Samuel 6, and Gabriel 4. Sherry has two children, Kimberly 22, recently married and James 20 a sophomore at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. All the family lives nearby and visit often.

The Asa Ikard family enjoys outdoor activities. For twenty years, they have had a cabin at Lake Eufaula where boating, fishing and swimming are enjoyed by three generations of the family.

Having a number of common interests, including sports, Asa's business ventures, and their children and grandchildren, both Asa and Joan take pride in a marriage of 53 years.

Some health problems have plagued Asa in recent years, a heart attack and bypass surgery in 1985 and pneumonia with serious lung damage in 1990. In his usual "move on with it" attitude, Asa attends pulmonary therapy at Baptist Hospital five mornings a week.

Betty Lou Wanna Ikard is the third of the Ikard six daughters. She was born on February 26, 1924, in Cyril. Like her brother and sisters she attended Indian Hill School, though she soon was transferred to Cyril.

Betty was likely named for her grandmother Betty Ikard. They had several things in common including naturally curly hair and a sunny disposition. Betty seemed never to get angry nor be involved in cranky situations.

She thoroughly enjoyed school, perhaps basketball most of all. Betty played with vigor and never eased up on the opponent. The Cyril girl's team had a long series of winning seasons taking the conference more than once. Betty contributed to those wins. She made friends easily and enjoyed the trips to other schools in the

conference. Betty is proud of the school jacket she earned during these years. She had roles in plays sponsored by the school, always having the energy to take part and manage the after-school transportation problem. As a senior she was elected Band Queen, a tribute to her musicianship and cordial nature.

Her graduating class was unusually large for Cyril, thirty students. Remember that Iva 's class was the "dirty dozen." Like Asa, she attended Cameron Junior College in Lawton, taking a business course. She worked for Civil Service for many years.

On July 6, 1942, she married Loyd "Bud" Mc Quire. They live in Cyril. Their children Glen Joe born September 5, 1947, and Jane Louise, December 30, 1952, live nearby. Joe has three daughters, Dayne, Erin and Adrian. Louise has two children, Michael and Stacey. The family gathers often for dinners at the Mc Quires. The annual reunions of the Jim Ikard children also do some celebrating at that house.

Betty has contracted multiple sclerosis forcing her early retirement in 1980. Bud retired in 1984.

Bernice was the fourth of Helen 's and Jim 's daughters, born on the farm near Cyril on January 16, 1927. She was and is the sunny-disposition girl and was eager for all wholesome experiences. She is an avid reader. Loving school, she was highly successful, becoming salutatorian in both 8th and 12th grades. Like her siblings, she played basketball, sang in the chorus and played an instrument in the band and orchestra.

She began dating in high school, and as a junior met Army Private Esmuel W. Deeds from nearby Sterling, Oklahoma. A big romance ensued. When Es asked for Bernice's hand, Jim gave permission for the wedding but required that she stay in high school until graduation. She kept her word even though Es was transferred and later ordered overseas before she could join him. The war years must have been difficult for the young couple. Bernice worked for the War Department at Fort Sill and Washington, D.C., in his absence.

When Es returned, the two decided to use the GI bill to go to college at Cameron. Both received associate degrees in only three semesters. Then they transferred to Oklahoma A&M in Stillwater. Es graduated in January of 1950, but a new baby, Edyth Louise, interrupted Bernice's education. She lacked 12 hours of student teaching. Es went to work while the new mother finished her degree.

Bernice has always been glad that she completed requirements for a degree, because she has taught 25 years, 17 of them in Miami, Florida. Over the years, three more daughters were born, Denese Ann, Kathy Lynn and Angela Raye. After the girls were grown, Bernice enrolled at Florida International University, Miami, where

she received the first Masters degree in home economics bestowed by that university. She was selected Florida Teacher of the Year in 1980.

All four daughters have graduated from college. Es served in the Army for 30 years as a Medical Technologist seeing service in India, Korea, Viet Nam and Germany. Bernice traveled with him in 13 countries during his service. Es retired in 1977; Bernice, in 1981.

In 1994 the Deeds celebrated 50 years of marriage. Their children and grandchildren, as well as her sisters Iva and Joyce joined them in making a golden occasion of that day.

Both Es and Bernice are active in the First Christian Church of Gainesville. Es is a deacon and Bernice is an elder. For two years she was chairman of the board of the church. They visit the sick and shut-ins and are beginning a ministry to provide respite care for a family whose member has Parkinson disease.

Es has had a recurring heart valve problem but continues an active life with his family and in his community. Theirs has been an extraordinary relationship.

Dorothy Nadine Ikard, the sixth of Jim's and Helen's children, was born on the family farm on December 11, 1932. By the time she started to school, Indian Hill was long closed, so that all twelve years of her public schooling was in Cyril. She graduated late in the spring of 1950 and married Roy Ellis Crook on July 16 of that year.

The Crooks had three children: Kevin Roy, born August 23, 1952; Melissa Ann, September 3, 1954 and James Jason, March 31, 1957. The family moved to Bay town, Texas, in 1952 where they lived until 1966 when they moved to California. They bought a flower shop in Ridgecrest. Son Kevin was a paramedic in Campbell, California, when he was killed in a traffic accident. Daughter Melissa holds a masters degree in family counseling. The Crooks divorced in 1974.

Dorothy met Dallas Eugene Tirk, a technical advisor to foreign governments for the Northrop Corporation, in Las Vegas, Nevada. They were married on February 19, 1977. Dallas' work took them to many interesting places around the world, beginning in 1979 with a year in Switzerland, followed by two years in Kenya, East Africa and another in Portugal. Dorothy was intrigued with the cultures and lifestyles of other people. In Kenya the Tirks had to grow and process all their food. The years on the farm south of Cyril were an excellent preparation for this task. All in all, the Tirks spent time in 32 countries, each one a challenge.

Back in the United States, Dorothy prepared for theological training and ordination in her church, The Garden Spiritual Church. She regularly performs weddings and funerals and does counseling.

The Tirks' flower shop flourishes. Dorothy is challenged by changing styles and colors in flower designs. The shop keeps her busy. Dorothy's daughter and her husband kept the flower shop going while Dallas and Dorothy were traveling.

Another continuing interest for Dorothy and Dallas is activities in the Eastern Star. Her skills in flower design were critical in the job she had as co-chair of decorations for the Grand Chapter of Eastern Star for the State of California. With the enormity of the convention center, all displays began at eight feet.

In November of 1994, Dorothy and Dallas were installed as worthy matron and worthy patron of Desert Holly #547, Ridgecrest. Dorothy is also president of Mahnetu Chapter of the Golden Slippers, a club for wives and widows of Master Masons. She is president of worthy Matrons of the Orangebelt, the largest association in California.

Both Dorothy and Dallas have had some health problems in recent years. Since 1992 Dallas has been recovering from a heart attack. In November of 1994, Dorothy experienced a frightening time of being totally blind for a couple of weeks. A neurologist rather than an ophthalmologist diagnosed the condition as a vascular one. She had surgery and happily now has vision.

The Tirks correspond with friends they made during their travels. Dorothy appreciates the varied experiences of her life, welcomes challenges and looks forward to the next decade.

The youngest child of Jim and Helen is Joyce Evelyn born June 5, 1935. Like her siblings she thrived on school and related activities. She is, perhaps, the most musical of a musical family. Her scholastic record is admirable, and she graduated as valedictorian from Cyril High School. How proud her family was!

At Oklahoma College for Women (now Oklahoma University of Sciences and Art) in Chickasha, she majored in music education, minored in history, and took a Bachelors Degree in music education with a diploma in voice. During her college years she studied voice, pipe organ, and piano. She performed in band, and sang in various vocal ensembles.

Later Joyce worked as a professional musician, performing in musical theater and opera. She also sang religious music. She was a director of music and music teacher in public schools and churches.

Then her career turned toward business, where she worked in finance and banking. Eventually she created her own business with insurance agencies in 12 offices across the State of Texas. Joyce is now a business consultant.

Joyce has also delved into motivational work, doing inspirational speaking and training in churches and corporations. In 1979, after theological training, she was ordained as a non-denominational minister.

She married Thomas C. Kahle in 1955. They had three children: Thomas Clyde born October 5, 1961; Brianna Joyce, July 10, 1965 and Jay Ikard, May 10, 1968. Joyce and Thomas divorced in August of 1989.

At the Ikard Cousin Reunions Joyce takes turns with her cousin Jesse in providing sing-a-long music for a loquacious group of cousins who seem never to get enough music.

Mildred Maxine is the oldest child and only daughter of George and Alta Ikard. She was born on August 7, 1920, on an Indian lease just north of the Ikard homestead near Cyril. Her aunt Mae was ten years old at the time and found numerous excuses to call on Alta and play with the new baby. Long lasting affection developed between the two. Both turned out to be outrageous "tomboys," to passionately love music, horses and their brothers.

George and Alta lived north of Fletcher in 1926 when Mildred started to school, walking the two miles. George took a job at the Anderson-Pritchard oil refinery in Cyril in 1929 and the family moved to Cyril. There were a number of Ikard cousins in the Cyril school. Mildred was caught up in the great enthusiasm for basketball in Cyril. When 10 years old, she persuaded Alta to make a red and white uniform for her like the grade school team wore. Then she suited up and began to pester the basketball coach to let her play. She was a big kid, not too well coordinated, but eventually the coach gave her a chance. She played from that day on through high school. Cousins Betty and Iva played on the same team.

After graduating from high school, she married Floyd Russell, but that marriage lasted less than a year. She got serious about being a student and attended Cameron College in Lawton and then Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha. When WWII broke out in December of 1941, she felt compelled to contribute to the war effort.

Completing a Radio and Electronics School in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, she qualified for a job with the U.S. Army Signal Corps. The winter of 1942 was spent inside tanks trying to reduce the static in radios. Later she built test equipment for the US Air Force before joining the U.S. Navy.

Boot Camp was at Hunter College in New York City. Duty began for her with Naval Air Transport Service at the Naval Air Station in Oakland, California. She had already acquired skills for work in the squadron. There she met Fred Bourgeois, whom she married on January 19, 1946. After being honorably discharged, she

attended the University of California in Berkley while Fred finished his service in the Navy.

Fred had worked for Eastern Airlines (EAL) before going into the Navy. He chose to return to that firm, and the young couple moved to Houston, Texas, after Fred's discharge. Their first child Margaret Claire was born there on October 17, 1946. A promotion transferred the Bourgeois to Nashville, Tennessee, where Mildred completed work on her Bachelor of Science, and Master of Art Degree in education at George Peabody College. Their son, Charles Fredrick, was born February 15, 1952. Mildred taught in the public schools of Davidson County for two years.

Another promotion for Fred brought the family to live in Charlotte, North Carolina. The move was propitious. Fred's work in communications became more important as Charlotte became a communications center for EAL, and Mildred found advancement with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The Bourgeois family lived in Barringer Woods, a small neighborhood of congenial people, a truly remarkable place to bring up children. As the children were growing up, the family joined friends in boating, skiing, camping and hiking.

Daughter Margaret is a mathematics teacher. She married Frank Denora and they have two children, Gina and John. Son Charles flies for Arrow Airlines.

In 1972, in a period of unexplained restlessness, Mildred began work toward a doctorate. She had been director of the Learning Academy for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and an associate professor of education for Lenoir Rhyne College, a Lutheran Liberal Arts College in Hickory, North Carolina. She continued teaching while attending classes at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Research was satisfying, and the energy for the dual role of teacher/student erased her restlessness. Her dissertation *Experiential Citizen Education for Early Adolescents: A Model* was successfully defended, and in May of 1978 she received and Ed. D. from UNC-G.

The last years of Mildred's career were spent as director of Citizen Education for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The focus of that curriculum was legal education.

Mildred and Fred chose vacations that kept them outdoors, in the mountains and on the water for the years the children were growing up. Later they began foreign travel, visiting Europe, Israel, Central and South America, China, Australia and New Zealand.

Both the Bourgeois are serious gardeners. In the 1990s Mildred wrote her life story *What's Next?: The Memoirs of a Twentieth Century Woman*. Since then she has been writing a history of the Ikard family. She has done some research since

1966, but the core of research that supports the chronicle comes from the work of other cousins.

George Witten Ikard was the second child of George and Alta Ikard born on the Witten farm on January 28, 1923. The 1925 picture of the Ikards show him a blond curly-headed child with an expansive smile that charmed more than a few of the family. Horses and dogs were pets for him, and he rode gently while still a toddler, and like a spirited Comanche as a youth.

He started to school in Fletcher in 1929, walking a mile and a half. He and his sister made the walk with a number of neighbor children. Sometimes a fight broke out where the weapon was a sunflower stalk. Both survived. Late that year the George Ikards moved to Cyril.

Some years the George Ikards lived in Cyril; other years they leased Indian land and lived on a farm. To the delight of George Sr., his sturdy son was eager to learn everything about farming and raising livestock. He used farm machinery, drove horses and mules and was driving the farm truck at 8 years and the tractor at 10. By the time he was a teen, he worked with a wagon bringing sheaves to the combine during the wheat harvest. Since he could do the work of a man, George Sr. insisted that his son be paid the standard rate for a day's work.

George Jr. belonged to the Future Farmers of America. Raising high quality livestock was promoted in the 30s and 40s. One year George's Hampshire hog won Grand Prize at the Fat Stock Show in Oklahoma City. He received a generous price for that hog and enjoyed the local publicity for his achievement.

Sports were important in Cyril. There was a short track season in the spring. George was a distance runner. He also played on the varsity basketball team that won the State Championship of its division in 1938. That year George was a sophomore. Never mind that the Depression still held sway, George and his friends knew how to have a good time, riding horses, swimming in "Dead Man's Hole," partying and going to the movies.

He graduated from Cyril High School in 1940 and attended Southwestern Institute of Technology in Weatherford, Oklahoma, for two years. He had determined that he wanted to be a petroleum engineer. The place to pursue that was at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, Oklahoma. Highly enthusiastic about his courses there, he came home with great reports of his study of geology. He was active in the Shamrock Club and was a member of LKOT, the Loyal Knights of Old Trusty, a club that promoted engineering on campus and accepted only leaders for members. His cousin Wallace was a member of St. Pat's Council, an advisory body of the Engineer Club leaders, and recommended George. He was on the staff of the Sooner Shamrock a magazine of the college of engineering.

World War II had been going on for two years before George graduated from O.U. He was unable to get an appointment with the U.S. Navy and instead went into the Army. With only the briefest training at Camp Walters, west of Fort Worth Texas, he was sent to the West Coast for duty in the Pacific. In January of 1945, his group shipped out for the Philippines. Three days out, the water evaporator on the ship went out, forcing the ship to return to San Francisco. A week later he left on another ship bound for New Guinea crossing the Pacific alone. There were some monumental typhoons in the area that season, but George's group escaped that hazard. A number of the fellows with whom George trained, but did not cross the Pacific with, were engaged in fierce fighting with Japanese on Leyte and took heavy losses. Yet by the time George's ship joined a convoy to Manila, priorities had changed. The need now was for military police. Thus George, at 21, found himself in the role of policing a recently liberated city. Raiding brothels and street patrolling was his duty until August of 1946.

Like his dad he had a love for the land, and while he was collecting himself after the war, he farmed one year at the Old Hollarn Place south of Cyril. In 1948, he was ready to get on with his career as a petroleum engineer. He worked for Core Laboratories out of Dallas Texas. The job was to go to remote locations to drill a "core" from the earth that could be analyzed for the potential of reaching new oil. It was a great life for single fellows traveling around seeing the kind of country that conservationists would appreciate.

In the spring of 1948, he was in Escalante, Utah, a mountain village 80 miles from the nearest railroad. In this isolated place he was pleased to find a most attractive and spirited girl to date. Jean Barney was the oldest daughter of Wayne and lone Barney. Wayne was the postmaster in Escalante. The Bameys liked George, and when he asked for Jean, a wedding date was set. They were married in Cyril in June of 1949.

What had been ideal working conditions for a single man were not so good for a couple. In a short time, they lived in Laramie, Wyoming, Medicine Bow, Wyoming, Lamesa, Texas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. By August of 1950, George and Jean had had enough of that. He left Core Laboratories and took a job as guard in Fort Sill, near Lawton. Their daughter Carol was born June 13, 1950.

September of 1951, George and Jean moved to Provo, Utah, near Salt Lake City. George did construction work for a time, then established his own excavation business. Daughters Cindy and Terri were born in Provo during the seven years they lived there. After this, an engineering job with U.S. Gypsum took the family to Richfield, Utah.

Better work with the Hercules Corporation lured the Ikards back to Provo. George commuted to the plant in Salt Lake City. Hercules creates diverse products,

many for the Department of Defense including projects such as the Minuteman and Polaris.

In 1967 George accepted a transfer to Hercules's plant in Radford, Virginia. The plant produces powder for ammunition. A college town, Radford had a dearth of housing, so the Ikards located in Roanoke, Virginia with George commuting again. The entire family was surprised at how well they adjusted to life east of the Mississippi.

1976 brought another transfer to Birmingham, Alabama. The daughters were educated and on their own by now so the move was painless. Jean found that she could grow lovely flowers any place in the South.

Another transfer returned the Ikards to Roanoke where they still live. George, as a senior engineer with the firm, wrote proposals for funding projects. He retired in 1988.

He had some health problems, four heart attacks and two heart bypass surgeries. Loss of memory really put a scare into him. It turned out to be a benign brain tumor that responded to surgery. Now he enjoys a warm family life with two of the daughters and their children nearby.

The youngest of George's and Alta's children is Gerald Kenneth Ikard. He was born on the old Witten Farm north of Fletcher on February 29, 1928, a "leap year" baby who celebrates a birthday only once in four years. His older brother and sister thought that was a dreadful handicap and cried over his misfortune.

Gerald was a most active child who rushed headlong into new experiences. He was teased a good bit at the Cyril Hotel by elderly guests attracted to his spunk and quickly developed a swift comeback. He would cock his head and challenge any adult who was teasing him.

On the farm he was eager to take his part in the numerous chores, though he lost some of that enthusiasm as he reached adolescence. His father George never tired of his company, and a strong bond developed between the two. Gerald used mechanized equipment on the farm at an early age and valued the riding horses. Taking the livestock to pasture or herding them along section lines during the worst of drought was a coveted job among the George Ikard children. Even better was riding a horse to town for recreation. Gerald rode like a possessed demon, all at break-neck speed.

School was not a problem, but Gerald was not overly enthused with it. Childhood passed all too soon for him and then he was a teen, a very large teen with big heavy bones, looking like a man at 13. In fact, when he was 14, a Marine recruiter in Oklahoma City almost signed up him and Jesse for immediate service. Gerald was really put out when his parents refused to sign a waiver to let him be sworn in.

The early war years were difficult for him. Appearing so mature, he was embarrassed and angry when someone questioned his not being in the service. Once he broke bones in his fist defending his honor. It did not help that his father was serving in Alaska, brother George in the Philipines, Jesse in the Mediterranean and sister Mildred with the Navy in Oakland California. He finally had his way when he was accepted by the Merchant Marines. He sailed from San Francisco and called on ports in the Orient. His service was later recognized and he has veteran status.

Cyril was entertainment dry. At an early age Gerald joined Uncle Fred Ikard and his brothers in going to Medicine Park Inn on Saturday nights for dancing. He met Dorothy Jean "Dot" Schiefer partying, and a lively courtship followed. They were married April 21, 1950 in Lawton.

In January of 1951 identical twin sons were born sooner than expected to Dot and Gerald, They had the enormous bone structure of Ikard men. Gerald Michael and Darrel Kenneth they were named. Being premature, the twins had digestive problems and before doctors could fine-tune the formulas, the boys were critically ill. Gerald Michael survived, Darrel Kenneth did not. How sad for the young couple.

Gerald got into an apprentice program for pipefitting. He showed real talent for the work, and found his career. He joined the union and has been a member for 50 years. With good eyes and a steady hand he became adept at welding alloys. Nuclear plants were being constructed allover the country in the 50s, and Gerald was never without a job. He worked at Oak Ridge in Tennessee, at the Savannah River Project in South Carolina (from which the hydrogen bomb came), at the Hanford Works in Washington State and The National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho. All were contributing sites for the Atomic Energy Commission. Later he worked on the terminal of the Alaska Pipeline in Valdez, and later on the Prudhoe Bay end of the line. He also worked in numerous other well known places. The work was satisfying, but often Dot and Mike could not be with him.

Gerald was not a casual union member but attended meetings regularly, expressing his opinion and soon found himself in leadership positions. He was elected to the Negotiating Committee of his local three different times and was gratified with securing vacation pay, health care and additional death benefits. His was a strong union without a taint of corruption, and as a retiree, Gerald enjoys the full benefits of his labor.

His civic life has revolved around the Masons, that Gerald calls the "greatest and oldest fraternal organization in the world." He was elected Worshipful Master in 1964 and served in this position in 1984-85-88, and has been elected in 1995. His organization, the Grove City Ladge #33 of Blackfoot, Idaho, will celebrate its centennial in 1996.

Gerald is not a workoholic but he never has idle hands. For years he has practiced silversmithing and used his leisure away from home to create southwestern style sterling silver-with-gems jewelry. His shop is in his "Okie shack." But his compelling passion is in restoring classic automobiles. He has his own warehouse for this, and finds there are not enough hours in the day of a retiree to do all the restoration he has in mind.

He and Dottie find that much of their social life revolves around the activities of the "Old Car" clubs they belong to.

Gerald does take time from his "hobby" to join in all the Ikard reunions.

William Edwin is the only son of William Henry Ikard and Clara Barton. He is especially treasured because his parents felt that he was late in arriving. Henry and Clara were married on December 24, 1925 and Edwin made his appearance on March 10, 1937. He was a healthy, good natured child who accepted adoration without being spoiled. He grew up in Lawton, Oklahoma, where he attended Mc Kinley Elementary School and graduated from Lawton High School. He attended Cameron University and Oklahoma State University in Stillwater as a business major. Later he attended Southwestern Assemblies of God College in Waxahachie, Texas where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1961. He worked in a grocery store and as a teacher and school bus driver before graduation.

Edwin has his mother's broad and generous smile. He is one to appreciate a good joke and seems never happier than when exchanging a good story with friends and family. The cousins appreciate his contributions to the biennial Cousin reunions. He and Jesse work well together as hosts.

Henry and Clara were staunch members of the Assembly of God. Edwin happily grew up within the doctrines of that church. When he considered a vocation, he delighted his parents by choosing to go into the ministry of his church. Edwin took ROTC at Cameron and regrets not pursuing that further as he would have liked to be a military chaplain.

Edwin's early pastorates were in Temple, Oklahoma and the west Texas town of Byers, Quanah and Kileen. Other duties in the church include Sectional Youth director for the 20-30 age group, Sectional Commiteeman for the 30-40s and, and leadership in Kid and Youth Camps. He was active in the Ministerial Alliances in towns where he held pastorates.

On August 19, 1961 he married Deborah Danelle Plaskett. Their children Todd Blake Ikard and Tammy Beth were both born in Lawton in the mid 60s. The children grew up in Quanah, Texas, where Edwin was pastor of the Assemblies of God Church, embracing the life style of West Texas.

Son Todd is a banker and has invested in land, as most Ikards would like to do.

Daughter Tammy married a minister and from her life with her parents brings skills and understandings to her new role in life.

Edwin's work in the church changed from church pastorates to administration in the early 90s. With Henry and Clara gone, their rental properties have been managed by Edwin and Debbie. They have built a new home on Henry's old home place in Lawton.

Car racing and football are continuing interests for Edwin. He is enthusiastic about cars and pickups, and quite naturally, he collects old license plates.

Edwin is Republican and votes regularly.

Like a number of Ikards, he is musical. He played clarinet in the high school band. Now he plays piano and guitar. Rhythm and blues and jazz music that feature instruments are his choice in listening. B.B. King and Chet Atkins are his favorite performers.

Being one of the younger cousins, Edwin is not retired. He and Debbie have a satisfying life in Lawton and enjoy thier children when they come to visit.

Wallace Luther Ikard is the oldest child of Martin Luther Ikard and Myrtle Grace Witten. He was born in Cement, Oklahoma on May 4, 1923. Luther was a rural mail carrier. The family lived on a hill something like the Kechis, north of Cyril. Wally attended Cement schools. For a time the family lived in Lawton but returned to Cement, where Wally graduated in 1940. In September of that year, he enrolled in a pre-engineering course at Cameron College in Lawton, moving on to Oklahoma University in Norman after two semesters.

The outbreak of WWII put his education on a fast track. The US Navy had need of well-trained engineers and Wally was the beneficiary of that thrust. He graduated with a degree in electrical engineering in October of 1943. There was a crucial need for new technology such as RADAR and other electronic equipment. For a time, he worked for R.C.A. in the field of military electronics, but the U.S. Navy needed electronic engineers. In July, 1944, he attended indoctrination school followed by electronic courses at Princeton and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

As an ensign at M.I. T., Wally met Connie Fuglestad. They "fell for each other" right away. Never mind that he come from the Southwest and she from New Hampshire- they found much in common, including classical music. Dates included going to hear the Boston Symphony and riding a tandem bike on Boston's cobblestone streets. Both Wallace and Connie loved attending a nice old church near the Charles River. For a time, while Wally had duty on Eniwetok Island in the Pacific, they were separated.

The war over, Wallace returned, and the two were married on March 23, 1946. The young couple went to live in Norman, Oklahoma, where Wally worked toward and received a Masters in electrical engineering. All the while Connie was a full-time student as well as a secretary for the Electrical Engineering Department at Oklahoma University.

Wally went to work for National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (predecessor of NASA) in Newport News, Virginia, developing instruments. The work was exciting, and the first of his inventions was patented there. Living in the area had its pluses for a couple inclined to enjoy history. Williamsburg, Jamestown and other places prominent in Revolutionary and Civil War history attracted the Ikards again and again.

Their three children were born in Virginia: James Wallace on November 6, 1947; Shirley Mae, September 12, 1950 and Barbara Grace, October 2, 1953.

Within a few years Wally was looking for broader opportunities. Carter Oil Company, an affiliate of Standard Oil of New Jersey, was developing electronic systems for recording and processing seismic data for the exploration of oil and gas. It was the challenge Wally was seeking. It did not hurt that the job was in Tulsa. The young family took up boating, fishing, water-skiing and camping at the nearby lakes.

But Wally was lured back to Virginia to work in NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. in 1959, the early days before the first American rode a Mercury capsule into orbit. The family enjoyed the cultural offerings of Washington and entertaining relatives from both families. There was an urgency about this work that Wally responded to. After two years the family returned to Tulsa, but not for long, as Carter Oil moved its research lab and personnel to Houston, Texas.

Despite the climate the Ikards warmed up to Houston. After all it did have a first-rate symphony orchestra, professional sports, and in nearby Galveston, access to salt water. The family had a bay-house that encouraged boating, fishing and entertaining.

Wally's last working years were with Exxon. Ten years ago he retired from Exxon Production Research Company, and immediately found that his chosen activities kept him as busy as while working. He and Connie have done a good bit of traveling.

Their two daughters and four grandchildren live nearby. Son Jim lives in Connecticut, and they see him once or twice a year. Wally's advice to working cousins is not to fight retirement, but to enjoy it.

Barbara June Ikard is the only daughter of Luther and Myrtle, born on July 14, 1926, while her parents lived in Cement. Luther had just acquired his first car and was carrying mail in style. Up to this time, he made his route with a horse and buggy, and when necessary Myrtle substituted for him. With two small children she was then inclined to stay home, never learning to drive a car.

Barbara was a lively, inquisitive child who seemed always to create her own fun. She was somewhat harder to keep immaculate than her brother, because she was getting into something all the time. The cousins loved to play with Barbara because of her initiative and easy going behavior. She was fortunate to inherit her mother Myrtle's good looks and Luther's expansive good humor.

In 1933 Luther took a transfer to Lawton, a good-sized town with better schools than Cement, a junior college, and a number of organized sports. Luther was a participant as well as spectator. While a little girl, Barbara cheered for her dad as he played baseball and softball. Those Sunday games were played in the heat of summer, with lemonade the preferred drink, and an obligatory bath on arriving at home, before going to Sunday evening services.

The Ikards were ambitious for their children and provided them with music lessons and frequent trips to the library. It was a household brimming with affection between parents and children. Church played a large part in their lives. Barbara was particularly pleased when the extended family gathered, and she could play with a host of cousins. Happily these events occurred often.

Barbara was a good student but felt no obligation to compete with her scholarly brother. She took to reading like a duck to water and has been an avid reader all her life.

Whether attending Cement or Lawton schools, she managed to have numerous friends.

The first real sadness came to the Ikards in 1942 when Luther was diagnosed with leukemia. He and Myrtle were determined to fight for his life. He took leave from his job and went to St. Petersburg, Florida, for treatment. Barbara had met Charles Constant the previous year, and it was love from the beginning. Nevertheless, as a high school junior, she went with her family to Florida. She graduated late in the spring of 1944 and married Charles on July 19 of that year.

WWII was wearing on. Charles was serving in the U.S. Navy, and Barbara went with Charles when he was stationed in the United States. As a war bride she accepted the poor housing and inadequate transportation of the time, ever a resourceful and cheerful mate. Charles was at sea on the USS Miami when their daughter Beverly Ann was born on November 23, 1945. Son Charles Richard was born after the war, in 1947.

Charles's family, the Constants, are long-time residents of Comanche County and had a good farm. Charles was his parents' only child, so that farm came to him. He and Barbara have operated the farm since 1945 as equals, with Barbara having her own tractor. She milked cows, hauled hay, worked the cattle and did whatever needed to be done. She says she loved almost every moment of this challenging

work. From her appearance one would never guess that this personable, small boned, smartly dressed woman was intimately acquainted with the fields and barn.

All the while she kept an immaculate house that met the standards of her meticulous mother. She enjoyed her children and attended all their school and community activities. Barbara continues to be involved with two granddaughters, Cherie and Christy Stahl, the children of Beverly, who grew up nearby. Cherie is manager of a dress shop in Wichita Falls, Texas, and Christy has been active in local theater groups and is majoring in vocal music at Cameron University. Another granddaughter, Barbara Joann, the child of her son Richard lives in California. She dotes on all three girls. Barbara has a low pitched voice and a deep chuckle that announce her warmhearted perspective of the world.

Charlie and Barbara are retired with some health problems but continue to enjoy life and their family.

Frank Lee Ikard is Luther's and Myrtle's youngest child. He was born on March 8, 1931, in Cement, Oklahoma. He may have been named for Delly's musical brother, Uncle Frank, of Alto, Tennessee. By the time he started to school, the family lived in Lawton where Frank attended Washington Elementary School. With other family moves, he attended school in Cement and Cyril, graduating from high school in Lawton in 1948.

Like many of his cousins, Frank was a student at Cameron College for one year. Then he joined the US Navy and went to boot camp at Great Lakes. Earlier he had worked for a photography studio at Fort Sill, so the Navy chose to use his well developed skills as a naval aerial photographer. His first duty was at the Naval Air Station at Key West, Florida. Later he served in Trinidad in the British West Indies. It was satisfying work. On October 6, 1954, he was honorably discharged and returned to Cameron for another year of schooling.

All his working life Frank has been a photographer. For a time he worked for Carter Oil. Then for 28 years he worked for Standard of Indiana, now known as AMOCO.

In June of 1958 at Durant, Oklahoma he married Iris Ann Maxey. They have lived for years in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where they are active in square dancing. They both serve as deacons in the Community Christian Church of Tulsa, and sing in the choir. Frank is a baritone. He considers himself politically a moderate, keeps himself informed and votes regularly. His taste in reading runs to history and archeology. Frank is a ham radio operator. Unlike many Ikard men, he is no baseball fan but enjoys target shooting on a rifle range. He retired in 1993 and has found that the hours and days of retirement can be gratifying.

Jesse Edward Jr. was the first child of Jesse Ikard and Gussie Anna Barton. He was born on September 12, 1924 in Grady County. A second child, Joseph William, was born on April 3, 1926, but lived only a few hours. Gussie died at 19 of complications of childbirth.

The young father Jesse was stunned by his losses. He took his 2-year-old son and went to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where his parents, Betty and Delly were living. Jesse worked in the building boom, while Betty and Mae cared for the toddler Jesse in the neighborhood store that Delly ran.

Misfortune struck again. In the fall of 1926, an unnamed hurricane wiped out the flimsily built town of Fort Lauderdale. Neighbors flocked to Delly's house that was sturdier than others. But in the end, it too was badly damaged. Betty held little Jesse while men pushed their shoulders against the east wall of the house to keep it from collapsing. It held fast.

In financial ruin, the Ikards, except for Mae who had married Bud Hicks, left Florida and returned to Oklahoma. Jesse found work with Oklahoma Natural Gas, as a pumper. He and his son lived in a small house near his sister, Maggie Hamilton, and her husband Gene. The kind and gentle Maggie cared for young Jesse while his father worked and cooked for both of them. Jesse Jr. was a tow-headed child with one blue eye and one brown and a charmer that Maggie's children welcomed.

In 1928 Jesse courted and married Ruth Walker. They chose to live in a nice small house within two miles of the Hamiltons. Young Jesse remembers the happy times in that house. Many nights Jesse Sr.'s musical friends would gather there, and a jam session would go on late into the night. Jesse played the guitar, his friends played banjo, mandolin, fiddle and string bass. These were magic times for the child Jesse. His head was ingesting the "beautiful" chord changes of the music he heard and would be reproducing in his adult life. His father's voice possessed a quality that remains with Jesse 'til today.

Jesse and Ruth had two children, Eva Beth, in 1929, and Reginald in 1931.

Sometimes the house was overflowing and Jesse Jr. stayed with Maggie.

He began school at Fairview, walking with his cousin Viola. Then when his dad began a trucking career, the family moved and Jesse Jr. attended schools in Ninnekah, then in Chickasha. Even in the depths of the Depression, Jesse provided well for his family. But tragedy was still stalking Jesse Sr. He died as a result of a traffic accident in April of 1934.

The Ikards, all of whom wanted the child Jesse, decided that the childless Henry and Clara should have custody of him. Jesse attended schools in Lawton. Later he lived with his Uncle Luther and Aunt Myrtle in Lawton before living with the Dale Bartons and Paul and Ella Milliners in the Fairwell area. All the time Jesse was a

pleasant child, but there were times when orienting into a new household brought minor conflicts with the children of those families.

As a teen he chose to go live with his Uncle George and Aunt Alta. He easily fit in with that family. He attended schools in Cyril where he and Gerald were involved in many school activities. Jesse loved baseball (like all Ikard men), basketball and wrestling. Being musical, he took part in chorus and other musical activities and plays. It was a satisfying time. He stayed with the George Ikards until he joined the U.S. Navy.

After an abbreviated boot camp in San Diego, California, he attended an electronics school at Texas A&M, then an amphibious school in Little Creek, Virginia. His first duty was in North Africa, where he was assigned to a very small boat, an LCC, landing craft control about the size of a PT boat. It was a floating radio shack. The situation in North Africa was fluid to say the least. Sometimes Jesse was on land; at other times, on the Mediterranean. At one time he found himself moving from one duty to another, crossing a portion of the Sahara Desert. His LCC provided communications for three invasions of Italy, including Salerno. Jesse's LCC also provided support for the massive invasion of Southern France, with much passing from France and Italy to North Africa.

When the war ended in Europe, Jesse returned by transport to New York, then on to Coronado, California. He promptly joined the Fifth Fleet in mid-Pacific, serving on the USS Randolph, an aircraft carrier. The focus was now on the war with Japan.

Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki unexpectedly brought about the end of WWII. The USS Randolph returned to Pearl Harbor, later seeing duty in the North China Sea.

As a civilian, Jesse used the substantial social skills he had learned as a move-about child to become a salesman. He sold books, radio advertising, hardware and paint.

Back in Lawton, Oklahoma, he worked his way from cashier to manager of a Humpty Dumpty grocery store. He married Leona Hare in 1952. It lasted only a short time, and there were no children.

Jesse got into selling cars and found he was a natural and soon progressed to sales manager for a Pontiac firm. It was almost a lifelong occupation, as he worked in several cities successfully managing sales departments. He was working in the salesroom in Shawnee when a tornado roared through, destroying the building and killing two. Jesse was pinned in the wreckage for a time. His injuries from that event continue to haunt him.

In 1956, he met Gayle Vancil, a perky redhead. He knew that this girl was for him. They were married in St. Louis. Their daughters Yolanda and Beth were born there, Yodie on October 23, 1957, Beth on February 1, 1959. Cindy was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas, on January 26, 1962. The girls grew up in Shawnee where the family still lives.

Jesse has been active in civic clubs including the Kiwanis and Sertoma. He is a 27-year member of the Shawnee Elks Lodge. Jesse enjoyed golf until a back injury put a stop to that. Always an avid fisherman, he continues with the sport. He has an RV that takes him and Gayle with friends to vacations and family gatherings. His choice in reading is non-fiction, animal books, and books about political issues. He considers himself a political moderate.

Music has been a vital part of Jesse's life. The rhythms and harmonies he heard as a child remained with him. He bought himself his first guitar and taught himself to play the progressions of chords that had long been in his head. When he did his second stint in the Navy, he practiced, practiced. He picked the brains of a talented shipmate and began to make the music that had always been a part of him. Later Jesse learned to read music and to play the piano and organ. He had his own band and for years has been a professional musician, as well as salesman. Gayle was his business manager. Jesse and Joyce Ikard Kahle provide the seamless music for Ikard Cousin Reunions.

Jesse is a favorite among the Ikard cousins. He says that he was fortunate to have many families. His tact and sociability move him to the center of a group. He is naturally the master of ceremonies at cousin reunions. Most of all Jesse will be remembered for his grace. When his mother-in-law died, leaving her husband Emory with alzheimer's disease, it was Jesse who chose early retirement to care for Emory. It was a seven-day-a-week job that lasted for about four years. Jesse's immediate family spelled him when they could, appreciating the superb care Emory Vancil was enjoying.

Gayle and Jesse make no bones about indulging their children and grandchildren and are rewarded with great affection. It is a hospitable and happy household graced with music and good fellowship.

Eva Beth Ikard was the first child of Jesse Ikard and Ruth Walker. Her early childhood was marred by the untimely death of her father when she was only 4 years old, and three years later that of her younger brother Reginald.

Her mother, Ruth, was a most attractive and resourceful person who, as a very young widow, found employment and opportunities for advancement with the Chickasha Hotel. There she met Joe Vickers, a U.S. Postal clerk who processed

mail on a special car of trains. A serious romance developed, and soon Ruth and Joe were married. Their home was in Houston, Texas.

If Ruth was devoted to Joe (and she was), her daughter Eva Beth was enchanted with this kind, gentle and handsome man. Immediately she wanted to be a Vickers. The rather tedious process of adoption was begun. Ruth was scarcely pleased that she was as carefully screened as Joe before the state of Texas recognized the solidity of this family.

Eva Beth was in high school and delighted with her new name. It felt so right!

After graduation from San Jacinto High School in 1948, Eva Beth attended the Herman Hospital School of Nursing in Houston where she received her RN in 1952.

Three years later she received a BS in Nursing from the University of Houston.

For some time she worked in the cardipulmonary laboratory of Jeff Davis City/County Hospital.

On April 21, 1962, she married Wayne Ranson Shinn. School nursing in the Houston public schools seemed to fit well with the family schedule. The Shinns had two daughters. Cynthia Lynn was born February 20, 1963. Laura Ann was born October 8, 1964.

Sadly, Joe Vickers died October 15, 1973.

Since September of 1967, Eva Beth and Ruth have lived in the country near Teague, Texas. Both savor the peacefulness of rural living. Eva Beth particularly enjoys yard work, while Ruth concentrates on gardening. A well-loved dachshund named Buster rounds out their domestic scene. Daughters Cynthia Reynolds and Laura Brown are teachers and live nearby.

Lanny Frances is the daughter of Fred and Leona Ikard, born September 13, 1936, in the middle of the Dust Bowl years in Oklahoma. She was much adored by two elderly grandmothers: Pearl "Granny" Salyer and Betty Ikard. Though never spoiled, Lanny was considered one of the cutest kids in town. She was the mascot for my graduating class of '38.

In Fred's and Leona's household this child was in constant touch with many kinds of music, and being talented, she thrived. Besides band and choral music instruction at school, she had regular music lessons. She played in the band, played piano duets with her dad and sang in a trio with her mom and Joyce Ikard from middle school through high school. With all the singing and dancing, Lanny was an exemplary student, graduating as valedictorian for her class.

Attending Oklahoma A & M in Stillwater, Lanny helped finance her education playing piano for the Student Union Entertainment Bureau.

Lanny married Karl Yatovitz, a soldier at Fort Sill from Baltimore. Their child, Monti Michelle, was born February 5, 1958. Cultural differences kept this marriage from flourishing.

For a time Lanny lived with her mother in Alabama where Monti basked in the unqualified devotion of Leona, her "Nana."

While in Alabama, Lanny dated Tom Little and married him in June of 1959. Two sons were born to them: Charles Fredrick on August 8, 1960 and Robert Scott December 3, 1962. Both boys were big, good looking and pleasant natured. Tom left the Air Force and took a position with the Weather Bureau in El Paso, Texas. That location with a strong Tex/Mex flavor was something of a culture shock to Lanny, but she learned to love the desert.

During these years of child bearing, establishing households and moving, Lanny was doing substitute teaching and attending classes in college to get her degree. Fun loving Tom Little had an alcohol problem that put his marriage to Lanny in jeopardy. It ended.

Lanny continued to work toward her degree at the university. She car-pooled with Earl Plowman. A warm, steadfast relationship developed. Earl and his family embraced Lanny's children so that when marriage followed, the children legally took Plowman for their family name.

Earl, a bright, mechanically gifted and resourceful man, shared his leisure with the children. The years with Earl were especially happy ones for Lanny. She got her degree, found a good teaching job and enjoyed a rich family life.

It was not to last. Earl developed a debilitating illness with epileptic seizures and paralysis. Diagnosis revealed a slow growing brain tumor that grew fast after surgery. With the best of medical attention at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Earl died.

As a widow with three preteen children, Lanny needed, among other things, more income. Her skills as a musician got her a job as church organist at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church where she was a member. Engagements for weddings and funerals followed, so as a boundless-energy, high achieving educator/musician Lanny supported her family.

In time she met Cliff Desautels, an Army warrant officer, who as a widower was raising a daughter alone with some difficulty. With single parenthood in common, a friendship developed into courtship. Marriage did not ease Cliff's problems with his daughter. The strains spilled over into his relationship with Lanny and her almost grown children. The parting was amicable.

Lanny is now a high school counselor and an organist and choir director for two churches. For fun she sings in the El Paso Chapter of Sweet Adelines and a quartet called Sunshine Express.

Her daughter Monti Larsen has an MBA and is accountant for the Broward County Schools in Fort Lauderdale (where Delly tried for success). Monti's daughter, Tiahna Larsen, is accomplished on the keyboard and an honor student in accelerated classes.

Son Charley Plowman is an accountant and executive with Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company. He and his wife Cindy have a daughter, Aimee Nichole.

Scotty manages two restaurants, one in Wichita Falls and one in Dallas. He and Melissa have a son Arrin and a daughter Amanda.

Lanny enjoys a busy and satisfying lifestyle in maturity. Her self-reliant, industrious children are some thing like their mother.

Fred Odell, son of Fred and Vonna Deane Ikard was born January 2, 1962 in Cyril. He is the youngest of Delly's and Betty's 29 grandchildren, and was born 52 years after their first, Marvin Hamilton, who was born July 18, 1910.

His dad, Fred, in his 50s, was pleased beyond expression to have a son. Of course, Freddy was named for the patriarch, Lanson Odell. His sister Lanny was for Lanson and he for Odell.

Freddy was an attractive child with a lively disposition that was constant until he was required to go inside. Then his displeasure was apparent. He loved growing things and all manner of critters. Vonna and Fred did nothing to discourage his total immersion in the world of nature.

He became a great favorite of his Uncle Jim Ikard when at an early age he handled a rod and reel with adroitness and instinctively followed the etiquette of fishing from the bank or in a boat. What a pair, Jim more than 80 and Freddy less than 10!

Freddy won the hearts of surviving aunts and uncles and his cousins, who were a full generation older than he. His charm lay in outgoing ways, unfailing good humor and affectionate manners.

In adolescence he began to grow at an astounding rate. His dad loved to cook the immense meals that Freddy required. In restaurants he regularly ordered two steak dinners. He attained a height of 6'8', even taller than his very tall father.

Quite naturally, the high school basketball coach recruited Freddy. What an asset he was to an average-size team! His indulgent relatives eagerly followed his team throughout the season, whooping it up for their young giant.

Freddy enjoyed the game, yet he was not interested in a basketball scholarship. The degree of competition necessary to make it in the college game was just not Freddy's motivation.

While still in high school, Freddy found summer work much to his liking. A flood control pond was to be constructed north of the Kechi Hills, but test digs were necessary before flooding the area. North Texas State sent an academic crew of fifteen archaeologists and assistants. They hired three locals; Freddy one of them. The excavation went to a depth of 15 feet. Among the finds were the skeletons of a woman and child who had been killed and left behind. The pierced bones were evidence of their fate. It was determined that people of the Wichita, Caddo and Delaware tribes had camped in the area 3000 years before. With his interest in science Freddy was pleased with his contribution.

In 1980 he entered Oklahoma University in Norman. First he majored in meteorology, then changed to journalism and mass communication. He graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts in communications.

Since leaving college he has worked for the Department of Human Services for the state of Oklahoma, doing counseling, interviews and providing services. He likes his position and expects a good future lies in this work.

In August of 1989, he married Pam Granger. They were divorced in 1992.

In February of 1993 he married Linda Pitner from Texas. They have a ranch home on the southwest side of Cyril. -

Loretta Mae was the first child of Elvin S. "Bud" Hicks and Mary Tennessee "Mae" Ikard, born on April 17, 1929 in Ocala, Florida. Like her parents, she had to have a nickname. She has always been called "Pat," and I doubt that all the cousins know what her real name is.

Pat attained height in a hurry, taking after both sides of her family. She had blond hair, big brown eyes and the signature Ikard eyebrows. As a little girl, she had a passion for very small flowers, and numerous miniature flower arrangements adorned the Hicks house. Creating beauty became a lifelong activity. She loved her beautiful younger sister Paulene Fay. Mae was an extraordinary seamstress, and her daughters wore the most exquisitely fashioned clothes. Pat was devastated when Paulene died of spinal meningitis in 1937. Another sister, Bonita Kay was born in 1938 and received the same devotion that Paulene had.

Mae and Bud embraced the outdoor lifestyle of central Florida, fishing and swimming in the nearby lakes and springs and on the beaches of the Atlantic and Gulf.

Their children fit easily into the pattern.

Summers found the family back in Oklahoma. Though Mae deplored the wind and drought of her native state, she was ever drawn to her big and colorful family. Pat loved every minute of these annual visits. In Ocala, the Hicks lived in town and had no relatives. In the wide open spaces of Oklahoma, the cousins lived on farms and dealt with a host of animals everyday. She explored storm cellars and joined cousins in sleeping outside for the cooling breezes. Fun among the Ikards included trips to Medicine Park and the Wichita Mountains.

Pat experienced dust storms and the hustle and odor of the refinery in Cyril. The Kiowa and Comanche Indians of Oklahoma were quite different from the Seminoles of her home state. Cyril seems never to change, and that comforts Pat. Mae was adored as an attractive story teller not equaled anywhere. Despite the dry heat and dust, these visits were highlights in Pat's growing up.

Pat found it easy to be an excellent student, but when she met Marvin Stephens on his return from WWII, scholarly pursuits took a back seat to romance. Marvin had been in the Army since before Pearl Harbor, had served two years in Europe and knew that settling down with Pat was what he wanted. They were married on October 17, 1948, and her one year at Florida State University ended without regret.

Marvin worked as the agent for Standard Oil and later for Chevron as the wholesale oil distributor. Eventually he established his own business, Stephens Oil Company, a wholesale distributor of oil, tires and accessories. Like the Hicks, Marvin was a superb hunter and fisherman. Mae and Bud were delighted with their son-in-law.

The Stephens had four sons, Tom, Dick, Harry and Larry. It was as if Pat and Marvin knew that they would be blessed with the traditional threesome of sons, and then they got a bonus in Larry. Thomas Sidney was born February 6, 1950; Richard Elven, October 24, 1951; Harry Alan, June 8, 1955 and Larry Dean, September 27, 1958. Pat thrived on motherhood. She was a good sport and was quick to go fishing and to explore the boondocks of Marian County with her boys and Marvin.

As the only members of the family in Florida, the Hicks and Stephens were frequent hosts to visiting Ikards from Oklahoma. Guests knew that they would be treated to fishing adventures where the ever gracious Florida host never caught a fish until the guest had reeled his first catch in.

Marvin died on November 10, 1978. Pat had returned to college, this time the University of Florida, when all her sons were in school. She studied art and has done a number of oil paintings that reveal her love of flowers and the springs and lakes nearby.

Her degree was in education. She taught fifth grade for 24 years and retired at the end of the 93-94 school year.

Pat never misses an Ikard reunion and often brings her children and grandchildren. She is a warm-hearted woman, statuesque, with a voice that sounds as if something wonderful is going to happen.

Bonita Kay "Bonnie" is the youngest child of Mae and Bud Hicks. She was born March 27, 1938, in Ocala. Her sister gave her the name from a favorite song, "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean." Bonnie was a well-loved child, and though quite feminine, she became an enthusiastic participant in fishing and other outdoor activities.

Like her older sister Pat, Bonnie looked forward to the summer visits with aunties, uncles and more than two dozen cousins in Oklahoma. Though she was a bit squeamish about those storm cellars (moisture on the floor felt so nasty!), she was a good sport about the adventures on farms. The family gatherings always featured rousing good music. Uncle Fred played the piano and had a repertoire of popular music as well as standard folk and patriotic tunes. The cousins teased their pretty little cousin by saying "y'all" to her. The traveling to Oklahoma was scarcely comfortable but it was exciting. Perhaps it instilled in Bonnie a lifelong taste for travel.

In high school in Ocala, Bonnie met the love of her life. He was big, good looking Richard Cole Carpenter. Richard was a star basketball and football player, and Bonnie was the envy of numerous girls, as Richard and Bonnie went steady. This tall and attractive couple cut a wide swath in their high school. Mae created a dream of a ball gown for Bonnie to wear to the senior prom with, of course, Richard as her escort.

They were married on August 17, 1956, when Bonnie was only 18 years old.

From the beginning Richard worked in farm equipment sales for John Deere and continues in that position. His knowledge of his product and his jovial manner brings repeat customers. Bonnie has worked 26 years for Radiology Associates of Ocala as office manager. The firm has seen substantial growth during that time.

Their daughter Susanne Dee was born January 29, 1958. She has two children, Randolph and Jessica Rushing. Son Craig, born January 31, 1960, has one child, Blake Cole Carpenter. Richard and Craig are avid hunters, specializing in bow hunting with record breaking results. The two also raise quail big time, incubating 3600 eggs at a time and having 4 or 5 settings a year. They sell to hunting preserves in the area, and also provide some dressed quail. The sounds from their pens are exciting to a bird lover.

While their children were still at home, the Carpenters took numerous trips around the U.S. Richard won sales contests with John Deere that provided trips to Japan and Hong Kong for him and Bonnie. She has also gone to Europe and

Hawaii with her sister Pat. Summers Richard and Bonnie go to North Carolina for trout fishing. In winter they head for Colorado for snow skiing.

Richard is a cordial person who makes people feel that he is truly interested in getting to know them better. The greatest thing he does for guests is to take them fishing. Richard is a master fisherman, and a morning on the lake with him is unforgettable.

Bonnie and Pat come to all the reunions.