

Ernest and Hilma Blaich Tree Dedication May 18, 2008

Given by Jeannette Radig



Ernest was born in 1909 and died January 19, 2004 at 94 years of age. Hilma Hendrickson Blaich was born in 1911 and now resides at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center. She is 97.

They were married September 28, 1939, the only couple to be married in the Heart River Lutheran Church southwest of Mandan. They have one son Keith, who is here today. A niece LaDonna Blaich is a guest today as well.

It was during Ernie's ten years at Sweetheart Bakery that he became interested in electricity, going to BJC for a trades course. He then worked at the State Penitentiary for 17 years and became a master electrician. He wired the big new pipe organ at Trinity Lutheran Church and he always peeled the potatoes for the Sons of Norway Lutefisk Dinner.

Hilma too grew up near the Heart River, graduating from Mandan High. She took the train in to town for school. She was a horse woman from early on bringing in the cows, etc. If you were ever in their home, you'd remember all the horse pictures in the living room. She loved turkeys and finding the eggs. Hilma worked for Penney's for a time, and for a longer time she worked for Lucas'. She was the bridal lady. Since she had no daughters, she loved to help the young women pick out their bridal dress. She worked in Minneapolis as a nanny - it was quite a change to go to the "Big City".

Hilma and Ernest loved to dance, and it was common for them to be seen on the dance floor at Sons of Norway functions. Ernie had a horrible motorcycle accident and spent 6 months in the hospital and almost lost his leg. He also liked to roller-skate with his granddaughters.

Hilma enjoyed her many collections and especially her white bird collection. Radig's had an anniversary party for them at their house with their favorites - pizza, dominos, and a cake with a white bird on top..

The Blaich's enjoyed traveling and made trips to Hawaii, Norway and spent much time in Arizona when Keith lived there. Hilma sang in the Messiah for 50 years and was part of the Trinity Church Choir during that time as well.

The Nancy Hendrickson homestead shack, now located at the Heritage Center in Bismarck was donated by the Blaichs. Nancy Hendrickson was the aunt of Ernest.

Although Ernest has left us and Hilma was unable to be here today, they are in our thoughts today as the Sons of Norway dedicated a tree in the S/N Park in their honor.