

LeRoy Benke was born May 13, 1911 and was the first child of Minnie and Henry Beneke. He had one sister Adeline. LeRoy was educated in rural schools and graduated from Palmer High School. He loved the land and tried to keep it in top condition by following a rotation of corn, oats, hay, and pasture. He was awarded honors for his Soil Conservation efforts. To utilize his pasture and hay ground, he developed and bred a herd of Registered Herefords. He showed cattle at many sales and sold breeding stock. His hobby was fishing.

Ruth Saylor was married to LeRoy Beneke in 1940. She was the daughter of Ada B. Crummer and William J. Saylor. Her brothers were Dawson L. and Stanley J. Stanley J. and his wife are living on the William J. Saylor farm now.

After attending Pocahontas High School and Iowa State Teacher's College at Cedar Falls, she became a teacher at Lincoln No. 9 and Lincoln No. 8. Also, she taught Sunday School at the Methodist Church in Pocahontas and was also pianist.

Three children were born to LeRoy and Rita Beneke — Janet Lea (1941), Ruth (1946) and Kenneth (1950). Janet, now Mrs. Gordon Felker, has three sons, Scott, Kevin, and Barry Jay.

ROLAND BENEKE FAMILY

Roland, a native of Pocahontas County, landed a 4 year tour of duty in the Navy where he was sent world wide only to land back just 2 miles from his home and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beneke. He met me, La Vonne, through mutual friends in 1967. We both attended ICCC in Ft. Dodge. We were



Roland Beneke Family

married in November 1971 just after Roland got out of the Navy. We moved to our acreage when Roland began working in Pocahontas. After 2 years, we began Roland's Plumbing and Heating business. We decided to specialize in farm plumbing to serve the people Roland grew up with in Palmer.

I am working as an RN in Ft. Dodge at Trinity Regional Hospital in the hemodialysis unit. The work is fascinating and very rewarding. I also play the organ at church which puts 12 years of piano lessons to good use. Being a native of Pomeroy, our location lets me go home to visit frequently.

Our home is complete with 2 girls. Sara is now 7 and Evelyn (Evie) is 4. Sara is very much a lady but Evie is very much Daddy's helper. They enjoy their grandparents in Palmer and Pomeroy. A cat named Shadow is the constant playmate of the girls.

Roland has a hobby stemming from his high school days — drag racing at the Humboldt County Dragway. Our car has given us a lot of headaches, but the fun outweighs the problems. The car is appropriately named "Plumber's Nightmare".

E.N. BENDIXEN

E.N. (Erasmus Nelson) Bendixen, eldest son of Peter and Albertina Bendixen, was born in Woodstock, Illinois, on December 1, 1864. When five years old, he came to Goldfield, Iowa, in a covered wagon with his parents and later, they settled in Garfield Township. August 8, 1888 he married Elizabeth S. Christensen, daughter of Ole and Christina Christensen. She had been born at Manson, Iowa, on December 19, 1871, and came to Garfield Township at the age of 12 when her parents moved to a farm west of Gilmore City, Iowa. After their marriage, Erasmus and Elizabeth moved to the farm three miles south of Rolfe on which they lived the rest of their lives.

They became the parents of four daughters and four sons: 1) Effie — married Axle Hiesel, 2) Guy remained single, 3) Ida — died in infancy, 4) Emmet married Laura McGuffin and had a son Forrest, and a daughter Jean, 5) Mabel — married John Witt and had four daughters, Blanche, Marguerite, Irene, Edna, and a son, Roger, 6) Myrtle — married John G. Ricklefs. Their family consisted of twins, Berniece and Bernard, Islea, Virgil, and Merlin, 7) Lee — married Imogene Knisley and fathered Lynn, Laura, and Lee, 8) Roy died in infancy.



E.N. and Elizabeth Bendixen

E.N. Bendixen's father, Peter (born 1837) came to America from Denmark in 1861. He found employment as a farm hand and clerk in a grocery store until the fall of 1863 when he returned to Denmark and married Alberina Svendsen. In the spring of 1864, he, his wife, his sister, and his parents, Nels and Martha (M. Buck), returned to America and settled in McHenry County, Illinois. Nels had been the owner and captain of a merchant vessel which he sold when he emigrated to America. The family came to Iowa in 1869, first locating in Des Moines Township, and later in Lake Township. The nearest market then was Fort Dodge. Later came Manson, Humboldt, Algona, Rolfe, and finally Gilmore City. The visits of the grasshoppers made it necessary for the family to live on cornmeal for two years and to keep the horses the same period without grain.

Nels died on his farm in 1881 at the age of 81, Martha in 1898 at 87. Both were devout members of the Lutheran Church and are buried at Rolfe. Peter died in 1902, Albertina in 1915, and both are buried in Rolfe. Erasmus died in 1934, Elizabeth in 1941, and both are buried at Rolfe.

GEORGE BENTZ FAMILY

My father, George Bentz, was born in Eldora, Iowa in 1872. My mother was born in Germany in 1886, coming to this country when she was 15 years old. My parents were married on September 5, 1907 in the house I now live in in Fonda. This house belonged to my grandmother, Minnie Hamilton. My folks made their wedding trip to Europe spending 4 months visiting mostly in Germany with my mother's people. When they returned they lived in Centerville, South Dakota. Later they moved to a homestead in Tripp County, South Dakota.

My older sister, Florence, was born on July 27, 1908 on the farm where the Don Tegals now live. My brother-in-law, Charles Baker, was also born there. (This we did not know until years later.) Since my folks homestead was 20 miles from a town and no doctor, my mother came back to Fonda and I was born on August 11, 1912 in my Grandmother's house. Dick Baker, my nephew, was also born in this house.

Alberta, my younger sister, was born almost 4 years later on February 29, 1916 on our homestead



Pauline West

in South Dakota in our sod house.

We lived in our sod house until moving to Colome, South Dakota in 1926. My grandmother passed away that year and left her home to my folks. They moved back to Fonda in 1932. My folks took a baby girl to raise who was born in Davenport, Iowa on August 3, 1936. Her name was Jacqueline. At the time of my mother's death the adoption for Jacqueline was not completed and so in 1945 I legally adopted her as my daughter.

After I graduated from nurses training and received my RN I worked in California, returning to Fonda where I worked with our 3 medical doctors that were here at the time. They were Dr. Blair Sr., Dr. Blair Jr., and Dr. Patterson. We did many home deliveries of babies in those years. Later I went to Buena Vista College and the University of Minnesota. I worked as Public Health Nurse in Pocahontas County for sixteen years. I resigned to take a trip to Europe, going especially to see my mother's people. While there I visited 11 countries.

When I returned I was married to Frankie West on October 11, 1964. We lived in Indianapolis, Indiana. My husband passed away and I came back to Fonda. I was again offered the position as Public Health Nurse. Thinking I would work for a year or so I accepted but worked for 11 more years. I retired in 1978. This made a total of 27 years as Public Health Nurse in Pocahontas County. Submitted by Pauline Bentz West R.N.