

A war story and, love story

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Janice (Stidd), Barbara (Krodel), Mary (Bolte), Doris (Holtzman) and Charlene (Hicks).

All girls with farm work to do, although Herb's philosophy, according to Elfrieda, "We've got the girls, the boys will come."

Herb taught Carol to drive the tractor but he figured out pretty fast the female child labor was temporary, so he taught Elfrieda to drive it, knowing she'd be staying put.

Life was good for the Hedingers. In addition to the farm, a coal mine on their land also produced and eventually they decided to build a new brick house on the property.

One by one the girls married and grandchildren arrived.

Herbert Hedinger passed away on September 30, 1995.

Elfrieda decided the time had come to move to town. The couple owned a lot on Michigan Street and she contacted the same man who built their house on the farm, Louis Schipp. She asked him to exactly duplicate the first home they built together. "If I don't know how something is I'll just go out there and look," he told them. Because the lot was configured differently he had to flip flop the design, but took a ruler and measured everything to get it exact.

Herb had taken up woodworking again as a hobby, creating many treasures for the family. He crafted the spindles separating the dining room and living room, so Elfrieda wanted to take them along. "If I can't take Dad," she explains, "I can take those." The house

is a tribute to the Hedinger's almost 50 years together as man and wife.

Elfrieda is still as spry as a Springer Spaniel. She quilts for St. Ferdinand Parish on a weekly basis and is active with her family. When daughter Doris says, "Mom will be 97 in April," she

laughs and says, "Don't make me older than I am."

But truthfully, she'd really like to figure out who that last girl is in the photo, so if you have a guess or recognize one of your family members, give the paper (or Elfrieda) a call.

Nuptial Knot tied in Ferdinand

Mehling-Hedinger

At the 8 o'clock mass Thursday morning, Miss Elfrieda Mehling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mehling, was united in holy wedlock to Herbert Hedinger, son of Mrs. Catherine Hedinger of Jasper, in St. Ferdinand Church. Rev. David Duesing, OSB, tied the nuptial knot.

Bridesmaids were: Miss Virginia Hedinger, niece of the groom, and Miss Leona Mehling, sister of the bride.

Oscar Mehling, brother of the bride and Roman Becher [yes, the same Roman Becher Herb visited a work away who later married Leona Mehling], friend of the groom, acted as groomsmen.

The bride wore a gown of white satin, fitted bodice and net over satin skirt. Her full-length marquisette veil was held in place by a tiara of rhinestones and pearls. She carried a shower bouquet of white lilies and wore a pearl necklace, gift of the groom, and a broach which her mother wore at her wedding thirty years ago.

The bridesmaids were identically attired in blue net over satin with pink accessories and each carried a bouquet of pink carnations.

The groom and his attendants wore suits of oxford grey.

Following the ceremony, breakfast was served at the home of Mrs. Robert Meiring, sister of the bride, at Jasper, after which the wedding party visited another of the bride's sisters, Sr. M Beata, OSB at the convent.

A double celebration and an all-day reception was held at the home of the bride's parents who were on the same day celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary.

Prior to her marriage, the bride was employed at the Wood Products Co., at Jasper.

The groom was discharged from the army December 5th after serving 3 years, 2 1/2 years in the South Pacific. He is now employed at Jasper Seating Company.

A free wedding dance was given in their honor in the W.O.W. hall at Ferdinand in the evening.

They will reside in Jasper.

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November 11

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