

1930-2008

Walter
and
Katie
VanRaden



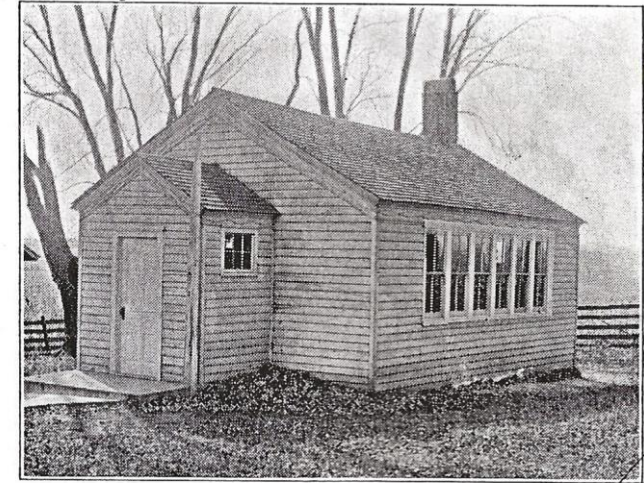
1931
Walter at 15
months
Forreston, IL



1933
Rosemary
and **Katie**
Ellis
Winslow, IL



Katie (center) and her class-mates, and their 1-room school in Winslow, IL, ~1937



District No. 13—Kennedy School—8. ✓

DIRECTORS

1. Mr. Royce Fahr.....Winslow
2. Mr. George Welt.....Winslow
3. Mr. Ben Lutz.....Winslow

TEACHER

1. Miss Neva Ritzman.....Winslow ✓

Walter with dog



Walter early photos

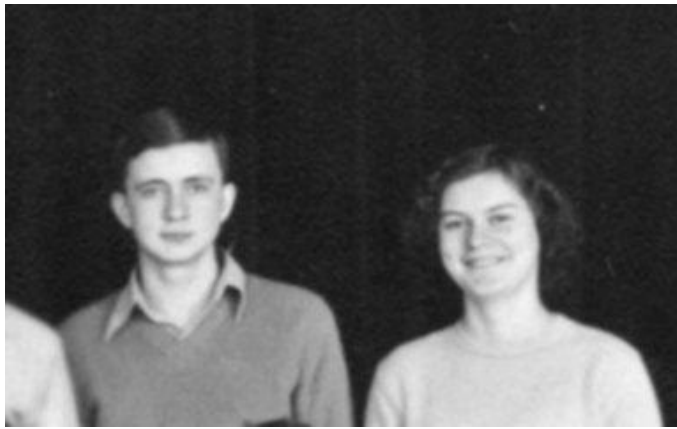


1944

1942
Katie gives 4-H
talk about
feeding lambs

Winslow Rivals Four-H Club Holds Meeting

Winslow, Ill., July 8.—The regular meeting of the Winslow Rivals 4-H club was held Monday at the home of Roger Miller. Very few responded to the roll call. Money making matters were discussed and was decided that each member share expenses when they come up. Kathleen Ellis gave a talk on feeding lambs.



Walter and **Katie**
star in 1946
Forreton High
school play

(1945
photo
of **Katie**)



Walter wins top FFA student in Forreston, Katie competes in district Music contests

1948

Walter Van Raden Is Given Memorial Award At Forreston Ceremony

Forreston, Ill., June 5.—Walter Van Raden was awarded the Ensign Carroll F. Coffman memorial award at Forreston Community high school commencement exercises last week. The award is presented annually to the outstanding F.F.A. boy in Forreston high school by Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Coffman in memory of their son, Carroll, who was a charter member of the Forreston F.F.A., and also the chapter's first president. Ensign Coffman lost his life Oct. 30, 1944, while in the service of his country. Walter is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Van Raden. The award was \$10 and a gold medal.

day, receive at the tending Naper ents

Rob ferend local attend ernoon Rev. clal r of ser

The Service William noon. of the gave busine refres

Peoria this week, and the one which is drawn will receive a trip to Washington, D.C.

Friday evening the following contestants were chosen to compete April 3 in the state district music contest at Sterling: Piano, Kenneth Drak and Donna Hiteman; soprano, Marcella Zaundahl and Iris Stukenberg; mezzo-soprano, Kathleen Ellis and Jean Nevenhoven; contralto, Marilyn Davis and Dorothy Terry; baritone, Gordon Grande. The Friday evening contest was judged by Grover Strohl of Love's Park.

The Circle of King's Daughters will meet Wednesday afternoon, March 17, at 2:15 at the home of

our tricks, handles well today. opening lead, is excellent: lead a heart, indicated that no losers in may reserve the hope of he play de-

clarer's prob- r says "South over his pros- his ten tricks. hearts and his old have six r more, so he as separately

trick is won ace of hearts led toward est plays low. ay the king up with the urther. West up with the lead another n dummy and led toward

Forreston High School Musicians And Vocalists To Compete At Sterling

Forreston, Ill., April 1.—Forreston high school vocalists and musicians who will participate in the district music contest at Sterling Saturday, April 3, include the following:

Vocal soloists—Dorothy Terry and Jean Nevenhoven, girl's medium voice; Dorothy Terry, girl's low voice; Gordon Grande, boy's medium voice. Boys' quartet, Dale Schell, Vernon Lewis, Lewis DeGraff, and Marvin Kaney; and accompanist Donna Hiteman. Mixed vocal ensemble, Jean Blair, Barbara Garman, Eleanor Ihm, Donna Hiteman, Gordon Grande, Marvin Kaney, Vernon Lewis, and Dale Schell, and accompanist Marlon Faist.

Piano soloists—Kenneth Drake and Donna Hiteman. Harp soloist, Betty Vietmeier. Cornet soloist, Kathleen Ellis; and accompanist, Eleanor Ihm. Cornet trio, Kathleen Ellis, Barbara Garman, Donna Hiteman; accompanist, Doris Vietmeier.

Band Contest April 10

exposition.

Candidate Note Into

Litchfield, I candidate for nation for co district inject political camp In a news Peter Mack, J to give 100 dren" a two-d seeing trip to "If I am no to office."

APPLE DAY

Salem, Ore. birthday trad lem's late ma was observed year. Mayor 1899, giving town a red a daughter. Mr has carried 10 death in 1946

Forreston
High
senior
photos
1948



Katie photos



1949 Rosemary and Katie



Siblings:
Leroy, Rosemary,
Harold, **Katie**,
and Robert Ellis





Wedding, Dec 17, 1950

1951
Walter graduates
top of class
Engine Mechanics
School
Shepherd Air Force
base, Texas



1952
Tampa, FL



1952
Birth of first
child - Mark



ported back to Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., after spending a 12-day furlough here.

Walter Van Raden, son of Martin Van Raden, Forreston, has been promoted to staff sergeant at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla. He lives with his family at 6612 MacDill Ave., Tampa, Fla.

Pvt. Allen McLees, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy McLees of Hanover, spent



1954 Air Force promotion

Bud photo



1956

Walter wins plowing contest

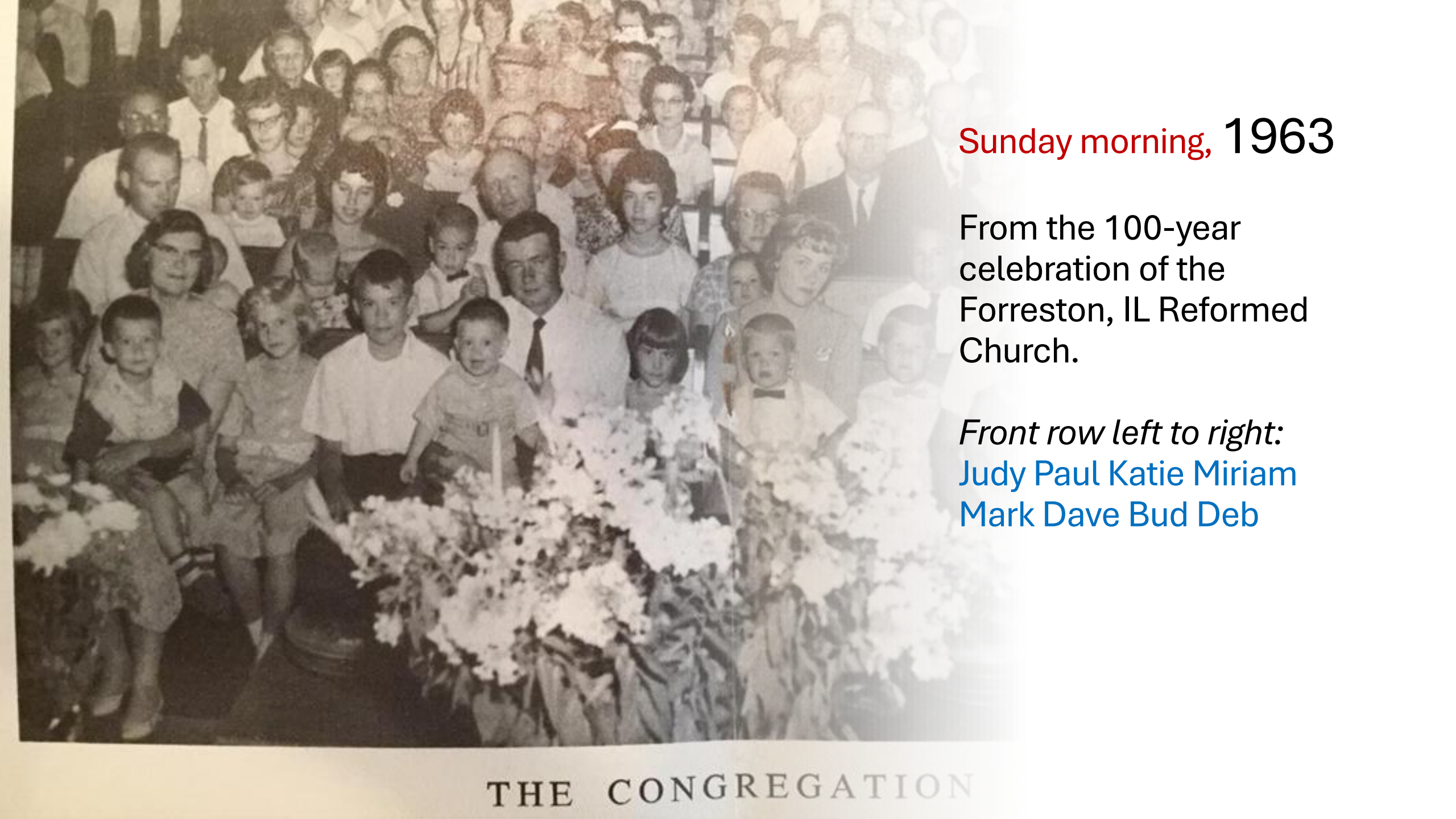


List Winners of Ogle County Plowing Contest

OREGON — (Special) — Walter Van Raden, Forreston, won first place yesterday in the Ogle County Plowing Contest which was held on the Royce Daws farm. Second-place winner was Donald Ludwig, also of Forreston.

Runner-up winners, in order of their placement, were John Rummel, German Valley; Carl Holm, Oregon, and Jim Kaney, Baileyville.

Van Raden will represent the Northwest Council area at the State Plowing Contest Thursday at Pinkneyville. The area includes Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Jo Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside Counties.



Sunday morning, 1963

From the 100-year
celebration of the
Forreston, IL Reformed
Church.

Front row left to right:
Judy Paul Katie Miriam
Mark Dave Bud Deb

THE CONGREGATION

~1985
Bud's welding,
with son Dave,
Forreston, IL



1985
Katie's
Bachelor of
Arts,
Rockford
College



1994



Katie
VanRaden
with Miriam,
Mark, and
Angel,
and with Paul
in 2000





Katie VanRaden
photos with Miriam and Paul's family in DC

Walter M. VanRaden

Walter M. "Bud" VanRaden, 65, of rural Forreton died Thursday, April 25, 1996, at the William C. Middleton Memorial Veterans Administration Hospital in Madison, Wis.

Son of Martin and Ruth Ratmeyer VanRaden, he was born April 28, 1930, in Freeport. He and Kathleen J. Ellis of Forreton were married Dec. 17, 1950.

In 1948 he graduated from Forreton High School and continued his education at Hope College.

He enlisted in the Air Force. After serving four years he returned to farm in rural Forreton. In 1973 he opened Bud's Welding Shop in Forreton.

He was most recently a member of North Grove Evangelical Church. Throughout the years he participated in various community religious activities, and for most of his adult life was a Sunday school teacher and worship leader.

Surviving family members include five children, Mark (Lisa Levie) VanRaden of McLean, Va., Miriam (Bob) McKenna of San Diego, Calif., Debra (Lee) Heeren of Lanark, Judith (Harold) Winship of Galesburg and Paul (Cheryl) VanRaden of Odenton, Md.; and eight grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were one son, David VanRaden, in 1992; his father in 1979; and mother, also in 1992.

1996 Walter obituary



Kathleen (Katie) J. VanRaden, 78, formerly of Rockford died Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at the Freeport Rehabilitation Center.

Daughter of Clarence and Alta Mae (Zipsie) Ellis, she was born May 11, 1930 in Winslow, IL. She and her family moved near Forreston to farm when she was around 16 years of age, and she graduated from Forreston High School in 1948. Katie continued her education at North Central College, Naperville, and later in life at Highland Community College in Freeport. She completed her bachelor's degree at Rockford College in 1985.

Katie married Walter M. (Bud) VanRaden on December 17, 1950. After living in Tampa, FL for four years while Bud was in the Air Force, they returned to farm and raise a family together in rural Forreston.

Katie was an active member in several churches over the years including the Forreston Reformed Church, Prairie Dell Church in rural Shannon, Centennial United Methodist Church, and lastly at Christ the Carpenter in Rockford. She organized Tuesday evening Vespers programs for many years while living at the Luther Center in Rockford. She enjoyed singing / music, traveling on Elder Hostel trips, and writing poetry over the years. She also kept informed of current issues and events and frequently let her voice be heard in letters to the editor in local newspapers.

Surviving family members include one sister, Rosemary Ellis of Peoria, five children Mark (Lise Levie) VanRaden of McLean, VA, Miriam (Bob) McKenna of San Diego, CA, Deborah (John) Noordhoff of Lanark, IL, Judith (Harold) Winship of Galesburg, IL, and Paul (Cheryl) VanRaden of Odenton, MD, ten grandchildren, four great grandchildren and many other precious family members.

Preceding her in death were one son, David VanRaden in 1992, Bud in 1996, her father in 1979, her mother in 1965, and three brothers – Harold, LeRoy, and Robert Ellis.

Katie's wishes were to have her body donated to Northern Illinois University for research, therefore the memorial service will not be held until Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 2:00 pm at Collins & Stone Funeral Home in Rockford. A second memorial service will be held next year at the White Oak Cemetery in Forreston when her remains are buried. A memorial has been established in her name for research.

2008 Katie obituary



Children, spouses, and grandchildren at Katie's memorial service
2008



To: Mom

From: Your Children

We loved you Mom. We know you always loved us.
You gave us life. You shared your life with us.

You sang God's praise. You taught us peaceful ways.
We are amazed! From us you get all A's.

You soothed our cries, when others didn't care.
You gave advice, and taught us how to share.

When we were down, you were the first to call.
We thank you Mom, for thinking of us all.

And you should know, you said nice words worth sharing.
To everyone, to people everywhere.

And as we live, we'll give your words to others.
We love you Mom. We really miss you Mother.

And others here, are also glad they knew her.
She helped us all, to find a happy future.

In honor of Katie J. VanRaden
May 11, 1930 - October 22, 2008

Earlier generations of ancestors

- For Walter VanRaden's parents and ancestors, see:
 - https://www.paulvanraden.com/Martin_Ruth_VanRaden.pdf
- For Katie VanRaden's parents and ancestors, see:
 - https://www.paulvanraden.com/Clarence_Alta_Ellis.pdf