11 GRANT MARION SKALET
Son of Sever and Malla Skalet

Grace Skalet
C/O Heartland Country Village
634 Center St.
Black Earth, WI 53515

GRANT MARION SKALET was born on Mar 7, 1909 on the Skalet Farm, Vermont Township, Dane County, WI.

He married Grace Steensrud on May 14, 1932 at the Vermont Lutheran Church, rural Black Earth, WI.

He died on Mar 27, 1988 at Sauk-Prairie Hospital, Prairie Du Sac, WI. He is Buried in the Vermont Lutheran Church Cemetery, rural Black Earth, WI.

GRACE STEENSRUD was born on Nov 6, 1906 in Vermont Township, Dane County, WI.

Grant and Grace had 1 child:

1. Marguerite Elaine  - Born Nov 21, 1933 - Twp. of Cross Plains
GRANT went to Helland Grade School and graduated from Black Earth High School in 1927. He went a short time to the UW- Madison. Grant worked as a Bell-hop at a hotel in Madison, and then worked at the Standard Station in Black Earth. When he married Grace he was working for Ryan Schultz and Dahl Road Construction Company, and he couldn't get time off for their honeymoon, so they spent their wedding night in his tent on their construction site. Grant and Grace farmed near the town of Riley for a few years and their daughter Marguerite (Tee) was born there. In May of 1943 they bought a farm on Blue Mounds Trail in the Town of Vermont and farmed there until Grant retired. While they were living on the farm Grant worked part-time at Patrons' Mercantile Co-op filling gas and as a mechanic in the shop from 1968-1987. He also worked for the Dane County A.S.C. Committee, and was a member of the Vermont Rifle Club. Grant was clerk and treasurer for the Town of Vermont for 32 years, and a member of the Sons of Norway Vennelag No. 513, Mount Horeb. Their daughter Tee and her husband Don took over the farm when Grant and Grace moved to Black Earth. Grant passed away in 1988 of a heart attack. He had noticed chest pains the day before he died and he went to the doctor and they gave him some medicine. He died during the night. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30, from the Vermont Lutheran Church. Interment was in the church cemetery. Musicians at the funeral were Rosalie Richardson (niece), Sue Henderson (great-niece), Joel Skalet (great-nephew), and Eric Steensrud (nephew on Grace's side). Pastors T. N. Borgen and Ren Svaneoe, presided.

Grant enjoyed the sport of baseball, as did all of his brothers. He played for Black Earth Home Talent Team and the Riley team. In his later years, he played on the Vermont Dartball team. (Dartball is a sport played very similar to the rules of baseball, only you throw a dart underhanded at a 4'x4' board that is marked like a baseball diamond from 20 feet away.)

Grant was an avid hunter. He enjoyed hunting in the western parts of the country, in northern Wisconsin and at home. He made several trips with his brothers and friends, and on one occasion on a hunt to the Crazy Mountains in Montana, he shot a deer that was running down the mountainside. As the deer began to fall from the shot he ran right between two trees that were standing very close together. The deer was stuck there and not dead yet, so Grant pulled out his knife and stabbed it. His brothers Phil and Gil, and Dennis Norslien had also gotten deer that morning and each one had managed their kills in one shot. Gil was to have said "four shots and a stab, we'll have to cut that number down!"

Grant, Jorgen and Phil worked together each summer with the haying season. First they would bail and mow Jorgen's hay and then move to Grant's farm and Lastly Phil's. They worked very well together and were always concerned for each other.

Grant, with the help of relatives and neighbors, cleared away brush, stones and weeds on the north side of a hill on their farm. When the snow fell that winter, a rope tow was installed. It was powered by an old Massey-Harris tractor. This made it easy for the skiers to reach the top of the hill for the invigorating ride down. The activities on this hill could be likened to that of a kindergarten class. It was here that many relatives and neighbors took their first
step in ski boots. Many have had a chance to try out their equipment and techniques on this hill.

Grace also wrote a poem about her husband, Grant.

G. A Gentleman of the noblest kind
   A truer man you'll never find.
R. From reading he gets much pleasure.
   Books are among his richest treasure.
A. His Alertness of mind is also outstanding
   And brings to him much learning.
N. His niche in any neighborhood
   Is a pleasant place filled with much good.
T. He's a thinker with much talent
   And to avoid trouble, he oft remains silent.
S. He's a sweetheart to his wife and child
   Very considerate, just and mild.
K. His kindness to man and beast
   Wins him recognition from north, south, west, and east.
A. His attitudes toward life's challenges
   He controls, and very well manages.
L. Many lullabies has he sung
   From which he's derived much fun.
E. He's eager and earnest, filled with energy
   His moral and spiritual strength is extraordinary.
T. The Target is his most interesting hobby.
   Finally, as his wife, I'll say he's a perfect hubby.

What do I remember of the tales of Grant -- firstborn of Sever & Malla Skalet? by Marguerite Parrell.

He was truly a brilliant child and man. He made top grades in school, especially in math; but he also excelled in sports. His leadership qualities made him captain of his high school championship basketball team, a fine catcher on the baseball team, and their best long-distance runner on the Black Earth track team.

His keen mind sparked his interest in many varied fields. He was a fine hunter & trapper, probably stemming from his reading one of his favorite books, The Deerslayer by James Fennimore Cooper. He loved guns, and subscribed to "The American Rifleman" for years. He seldom missed a "shoot" at the Vermont Rifleman's Club cabin.

He had a real passion for photography. Seldom did a family or church event pass without Grant taking pictures. When video cameras became available, he was among the first to try its Technology. He would take the camera out & record the beauty of nature,
trees, animals, waving fields of corn or sorghum, fall colors, winter beauty, anything that
struck his fancy.

He was among the first in the Vermont valley, in the early '50's, to try out this
new-fangled invention called television. The house was usually filled with friends, family
and neighbors to view either the television shows or his latest batch of slides depicting his
and Grace's latest excursion to a Sons of Norway event or a church convention, or maybe just
a little trip to a place of interest—like to a grandchild's dance recital or a water-ski show in
Avoca.

Similarly, in 1950 he bought the first known reel to reel tape recorder so that
greetings from Vermont could be carried to Grace's elderly aunt on a car trip via Route 66 to
Los Angeles, CA. He would sometimes hide the recorder under a table and record
conversations that proved hilarious when played back to unsuspecting guests.

Although Grace and Grant's first home was a tent in a friendly farmer's yard, Grant
soon left employment as a truck driver for Ryan, Schultz and Dahl to run a farm himself. He
began farming in the Depression years when prices were so bad that he sold a calf for $5.00
so the couple could buy baby clothes and supplies for their one daughter they had. All field
work was done with horses. All milking was done by hand. He rented a farm near
Klevenville for six years. Then he came to Vermont to buy his own land. Always open to
the latest changes in farming, he modernized the farm with electricity, milking machines,
balers, elevators, and whatever he could do to improve the farm.

Grant was a herdsman extraordinaire who cared for his "girls" like pets. However,
when Grace got the opportunity to go to Norway for summer school, he sold his milk cows
and went to the "old country" with her. There he spent many hours researching archives for
information on the Steensrud and Skalet families. They found the home farm of each family,
and they found new respect for their roots.

Grant's low-key but intelligent leadership guided Vermont Church and the township
of Vermont over most of his adult years. He held many offices in these institutions, and his
influence is still felt to this day.

As a family man, Grant exuded love for his family: brothers, sisters, in-laws, nieces,
nephews, and the extended family of the neighborhood knew his love. His ski hill and picnic
spots on the farm provided happy memories for so many of us lucky enough to know him.

To quote Shakespeare: "His life was gentle; and the elements so mixed in him that
Nature might stand up and say to all the world, This was a man!"

GRACE was the youngest child and only girl born to Hannah (Bakken) and Gustave
Steensrud. With six older brothers, she grew up on a rugged farm in Vermont Township.
The boys teased her and spoiled her, but later in life, all looked to her on as the "rock" of the
family.
She attended Steensrud School, a small country school, for all eight years of her elementary education. None of her brothers had attended high school, so her parents did not feel it necessary to send her. Grace loved learning, and was so inspired by her teacher, Julia Julson, that she returned to Steensrud School for the entire year to help her with classes. Grace’s parents finally concluded that they could not hold her back. Her dad established the eldest son and his new wife in a house in Black Earth so Grace could live there while attending high school.

She gratefully attended Black Earth High School, joining the same class as both Grant and Thora. High school was a happy episode, but when graduation came, her friends planned on going to a teacher’s college. She wanted nothing more than to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. Again she met opposition from her parents. Her two youngest brothers stood up for her dream. They threatened to leave the farm if their folks would not let her go to college.

Again, Grace’s love of learning won out, and the family’s Model A Ford was soon making the long trip to Whitewater State Teachers College. After taking the one-year course, she was certified to teach school. Her true calling had finally begun.

As a young teacher she was in her element in the local country schools. She taught at Helland School, where she was “teacher” to several little Skalet children. She also taught at Danz and Steensrud Schools.

When she and Grant married in 1932, they spent much of their first year living in a tent on a farm-house lawn. Then they decided to go farming and rented a farm near Pine Bluff. It was here that Marguerite was born, in the chilly farm house during deer hunting season.

In 1941 they bought a farm in Vermont. Soon she was teaching all eight grades at Steensrud School. In a short time she was called into service in Black Earth Grade School where she became a truly inspiring eighth grade teacher.

After many years of night classes and summer schools, she finally earned her Bachelor’s degree from Whitewater in 1966, almost 40 years since she first attended. She then established the first special education class that Black Earth Grade School ever had.

This lady was truly a gifted teacher. She touched many, many lives. Even in this, her ninetieth year of life, she received thank-you notes from former students in their Christmas cards, expressing appreciation not only for the knowledge she generously imparted, but for the self-esteem she was able to inspire in so many of her large family of students. Grace was truly a lady who made a difference.
MARGUERITE SKALET PARRELL
Daughter of Grant and Grace Skalent

Don and Marguerite Parrell
4543 Blue Mounds Trail
Black Earth, WI 53515
Ph. 608-767-2427

MARGUERITE ELAINE SKALET was born on Nov 21, 1933 in her parents home, Cross Plains Township, Dane County, WI.

She married Donald Lee Parrell on Jul 2, 1955 at the Vermont Lutheran Church, rural Black Earth, WI.

DONALD LEE PARRELL was born on Nov 17, 1932 in his parents home, Town of Black Earth, Dane County, WI.

Marguerite and Don had 4 children:

1. David Ernest - Born Mar 11, 1956 - Madison, WI
2. Laura Lee - Born Sep 28, 1957 - Richland Center, WI
3. Cynthia Elaine - Born Apr 12, 1959 - Richland Center, WI - Died Oct 5, 1982 - Minneapolis, MN
4. Donna Marguerite - Born Jun 30, 1960 - Richland Center, WI

MARGUERITE attended grade school at Klevenville and Steensrud Schools. She graduated from high school in Black Earth in 1951. In 1970, she received a B.S. from Platteville and a M: Ed. in 1988 from there also, where she was awarded the Anoinette Durant Scholarship for "Outstanding Senior in English". Tee has spent a large portion of her life teaching the English language at Riverdale High School in Muscoda and at Black Earth and Mazomanie Schools for 19 1/2 years.

She has been employed at Ingleside Nursing Home in Mount Horeb as an Education Coordinator and a Registered Nurse for 5 1/2 years.

Tee and all of her family participated in water ski shows for 20 years. She has directed and produced about 40 one-act plays, and 15 dramas or musicals for Riverdale and Wisconsin Heights schools. Before a hip replacement in January '95, she enjoyed bowling, and downhill skiing. She is now able to do cross-country in winter and golf in good weather.
The following is a poem Tee's mother Grace wrote about her when she was young:

M. She has many friends from numerous walks of life
   Each affords strength to meet life's strife.
A. Anxious to do good in her is inborn,
   True friend to the lowly and forlorn.
R. She's learning about righteous living,
   And spiritual guidance to us she's giving.
G. She's gracious and thankful
   Trying hard not to be ever bold.
U. Understanding of life's tempestuous ways
   Is developing during these childhood days.
E. Eagerness in youth is always expected
   Without it many lessons would never be inspected.
I. Her Interest often is centered on a book
   And from her reverie, sometimes must be shook.
T. This is the Time to sow good seeds
   Which in years to come will bring forth good deeds.
E. She has entered life's great drama
   Yet to be unfolded is her panorama.

DON served in the U.S. Army during Korean conflict. He was stationed in Japan after his records were misplaced under a secretary's seat cushion, and the rest of outfit was shipped to Korea. After working with his family in the Black Earth Feed Mill, he moved to Avoca at the age of 23, bought the local train depot and Transformed it into the Avoca Feed Mill. He served on Avoca Village Board and Avoca Church Council for most of the 25 years he lived there. He also served as Avoca Fire Chief and on the rescue squad. He worked for Golden sun Feed Company, and then spent 13 happy years operating a beef farm. He is presently town chairman of the Town of Vermont, and he is on the Vermont Lutheran Church Council. He enjoys golf, bowling, reading, and doing field work on the farm. He played Count Peppi LaLuux of Paris in 54 productions of "The Song of Norway."

1111 DAVID ERNEST PARRELL
Son of Don and Marguerite Parrell

David and Carol Parrell
4744 Blue Mounds Trail
Black Earth, WI 53515 Ph. 608-767-3413

DAVID ERNEST PARRELL was born on Mar 11, 1956 in Madison, WI.

He married Carol Sue Coleman on Jul 25, 1981 in Soldiers Grove, WI.

CAROL SUE COLEMAN was born on Jul 14, 1959 in Madison, WI.
David and Carol have 2 children:

1. Angela Grace - Born Jan 23, 1985 - Richland Center, WI
2. Daniel David - Born Nov 10, 1989 - Madison, WI

DAVID attended school in Avoca, and graduated from Riverdale High School in 1974. After high school, he attended school in Fennimore for one year. David chose to work for a couple of years, and then attended college in Richland Center for 2 years. He also attended UW-Stevens Point and UW-Platteville, graduating from there with a bachelors degree in 1988. During the years he was getting his education, he did odd jobs, and helped farm on Grant’s place. David received police training, and is now employed for the City of Madison’s Police Department on the K-9 Special Operation Dane County Narcotics and Gangs Task Force. David enjoys hunting, and is an active member of the Vermont Rifle Club held at the cabin on the Skalet farm. David enjoys farming, and helps Carol when ever possible.

CAROL attended college at Richland Center, and graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a Bachelors degree in 1981. Carol is currently running the farm Grant and Grace had on Blue Mounds Trail.

ANGIE is 11 years old and in the 5th grade. She enjoys playing her saxophone, and playing with her kittens.

DANIEL is six and in Kindergarten. He especially loves playing with his Power Rangers.

1112 LAURA PARRELL WINCHIP
Daughter of Don and Marguerite Parrell

Wade and Laura Winchip
1500 Grapler Ct.
Bettendorf, IA 52722 Ph. 319-355-1687

LAURA LEE PARRELL was born on Sep 28, 1957 in Richland Center, WI.

She married Wade Alan Winchip on Aug 12, 1978 at the Vermont Lutheran Church, rural Black Earth, WI.

WADE ALAN WINCHIP was born on Aug 25, 1957 in Anamosa, IA.

Laura and Wade have 3 children:

1. Paul Isaac - Born Jan 18, 1982 - Marshfield, WI
   - Died Jan 18, 1982 - Marshfield, WI
2. Emily Joy - Born Dec 18, 1982 - Marshfield, WI
3. Grace Hannah - Born Sep 19, 1994 - Davenport, IA

LAURA attended grade school in Avoca, Wisconsin, and graduated from Riverdale high school in 1975. She graduated from UW-Platteville in 1979 and from Palmer Chiropractic College in 1991. Laura has run her own chiropractic practice for the past 4 years in Davenport, Iowa.

WADE is a native of Anamosa, Iowa. He also graduated from UW-Platteville in 1979 as a mechanical engineer. He has worked for ALCOA since 1987. Both Wade and Laura are very active with church in choirs, council, and youth groups.

EMILY is almost 13 and is a very busy 7th grader. She has been involved with swimming and sign language, plays piano and percussion, and devotes most of her free time to projects for her talented and gifted class. She also helps a lot with caring for her baby sister.

GRACE is a typical toddler and into everything. She loves to sing with us, walks, talks, and giggles.

1113 CYNTHIA PARRELL LINDER
Daughter of Don and Marguerite Parrell

CYNTHIA ELAINE PARRELL was born on Apr 12, 1959 in Richland Center, WI.

She married William (Bill) Joseph Linder on May 30, 1981 in Avoca, WI.

She died on Oct 5, 1982 in Minneapolis, MN at the age of 23.

WILLIAM JOSEPH LINDER was born on Jun 10, 1956 in Elkhorn, WI.

CYNTHIA took dancing lessons from the time she was five until she graduated from high school. She played piano and trombone and sang in choral groups. She completed high school in three years, went to UW-Richland and UW-Madison graduating as a civil engineer. As an undergraduate she assisted Bill Wolf in surveying and planning Saddle Ridge development. She bravely accepted amputation of her left leg and married Bill Linder in 1981. They lived in a Minneapolis suburb where she tutored math students before her death in Oct. 1982.

BILL is an electrical engineer. He worked for Honeywell when he first went to Minneapolis. Since Cindy’s death he has remarried and has a daughter, Theresa.
DONNA PARRELL VARNEY
Daughter of Don and Marguerite Parrell

Mike and Donna Varney
7531 Poplar Rd.
Lincoln, NE 68506

DONNA MARGUERITE PARRELL was born on Jun 30, 1960 in Richland Center, WI.

She married Michael George Varney on Apr 17, 1982 at the Vermont Lutheran Church, rural Black Earth, WI

MICHAEL GEORGE VARNEY was born on Dec 16, 1959.

Donna and Michael have 3 children:

1. Elizabeth Rebeka - Born Apr 17, 1983 - Madison, WI
2. Heidi Marguerite - Born Oct 7, 1984 - Madison, WI
3. Grant Michael - Born Apr 13, 1990 - Madison, WI

DONNA attended Avoca Elementary and graduated at Riverdale High School in 1978. She has spent the last 12 years raising their three children (and a few extras now and then). She is presently back in school attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

MIKE and Donna attended the same high school and UW- Madison together. He has worked in the insurance field since 1984 and is currently the Lincoln Branch Claims Manager for General Casualty.

BETH is in the 7th grade this year and is quite a performer on the trumpet and with singing. She already receives a paycheck through our church for baby-sitting and excels academically.

HEIDI is in the 5th grade and is also an excellent student. She enjoys playing the drums, taking dance lessons, and helping with her little brother.

GRANT is now in kindergarten and loves school.