17 **DOROTHY MAE SKALET RASMUSSEN**
Daughter of Sever and Malla Skalet

Dick and Dorothy Mae Rasmussen
308 Prospect St.
Lake Mills, WI 53551 Ph. 414-648-2933

DOROTHY MAE SKALET was born on Feb 24, 1921 on the Skalet Farm, Vermont Township, Dane County, WI.

She married Lyle Norman Underwood on Aug 18, 1945 at the Vermont Lutheran Church, rural Black Earth, WI.

LYLE NORMAN UNDERWOOD was born on Aug 16, 1919 in Racine, WI.

He died on May 19, 1990 in Fort Atkinson Hospital, Fort Atkinson, WI. He is buried in the Vermont Lutheran Church Cemetery, rural Black Earth, WI.

Dorothy Mae and Lyle have 5 adopted children:

1. Richard Troy - Born Sep 9, 1954 - Turlock, CA
2. Jeffrey Lee - Born Jan 4, 1956 - Stockton, CA
3. Mary Jo - Born Jun 19, 1957 - Kenett, MO
4. Kenneth Wayne - Born May 4, 1959 - Modesto, CA
   - Died Nov 9, 1979 -
5. Gerald Keith - Born Aug 21, 1961 - Springfield, MO

Dorothy Mae married Richard Michael Rasmussen on Aug 31, 1991 in Lake Mills, WI.

RICHARD MICHAEL RASMUSSEN was born on Jun 20, 1923 in Thorp, WI.

DOROTHY MAE graduated from Black Earth High School in 1939 and was hired in June by Dr. Angus Turk to work as his Dental Assistant. She was employed by him for 5 years (lacking one month) when she made application at Hercules Powder Co., Badger Ordinance Works as a General Office Clerk in the "sign-up" line of the Employment Office.

After Dorothy Mae and Lyle were married in 1945, they moved to Chicago, Illinois where Lyle began working for the Civil Aeronautics Administration as an Air Traffic Controller at Midway Airport. Throughout her married life, until Lyle retired in 1975, they moved where ever Lyle's job took them. Their homes included Chicago, Illinois; Madison, Wisconsin; Indianapolis, Indiana; and Kansas City, Missouri. Dorothy Mae worked mainly as a secretary for various corporations as they moved around the Country. In January of 1962 Lyle and Dorothy Mae acquired a family of five children to care for--which was more than a full-time job. They moved from their comfortable ranch home in Kansas City to a 30 acre farm with a large pond. While there, Lyle had large gardens so they always had their own vegetables. Also while living in Waterloo, Wisconsin, they had three huge vegetable gardens, enough so that they could sell at the Farmer's Market on the Capitol Square in Madison. That was an interesting experience for them. They also raised chickens and pheasants.

Dorothy Mae remarried in 1991 to Richard Rasmussen. His wife, June (Halsten) passed away in July of 1950. She was a second cousin to the Skalet Family. Dick and June had been long-time friends of Lyle and Dorothy Mae, in fact Dorothy Mae played the organ at their wedding in June of 1947. Over the years the two couples had attended baseball games together in Chicago and Milwaukee, golfed together and even danced at the Aragon Ballroom when they came to Chicago for a visit.

Dorothy Mae has spent many years as organists in various churches and continued her gift of music at her church in Lake Mills, but has now retired, so only plays once and a while. Her volunteer jobs are less now, with only Meals-On-Wheels and waitressing at the Trinity Retirement Center now and then. This gives her and Dick more time to golf in the summer, which they hope they can continue for years to come. Also, Dorothy Mae still takes her walk in the early a.m. with her friends.

Dorothy Mae also has some childhood memories that she shared for this book. I will write these as if she were telling them herself:

I remember when Thora was dating Welborne. She had such pretty dresses and always looked so cute. I could hardly wait until I "grew up" and could dress like that.

Thora was so kind to me as she would help me have clothes to wear. I remember in particular a beige-brown coat and red hat I wore when I would take piano lessons. I was so proud to wear them. I will be ever grateful for all she did for me. (which includes piano lessons.)

There was a time when Thora, Phyllis and I all had those slacks that had such a generously full pant-leg in them. One day I was carrying two pails of water from the barn, and I had to go up a slight incline before getting to the house, at which point I tripped on those "balloon pants" and fell, losing both pails of water. What a mess.

After the Dionne Quintuplets were born, Phyllis and I collected and pasted in large black books (which we had acquired from the "Farmer's Store" I believe) any pictures and/or articles we could get. It was fun just to look through those books. We had our favorite "quints' too".

We always looked forward to the 4th of July when we could go to my Godfather and Godmother's - Torge and Clara Goderstad's. Nels (Torge and Clara's son) would put on his own "fireworks" display for all of us to enjoy. We would enjoy ice-cream, which was a royal treat. Torge and Clara always enjoyed making others happy.

When Charlotte Goderstead would come and stay at the farm, we would have a ball sleighing and playing in the snow. Once we had a sleet storm over snow and the ground was covered with this slippery surface. We took pieces of linoleum and slid down the gradual hill behind our barn. I can remember how we laughed so hard. Those little pleasures brought us so much joy! We were lucky to live within close proximity to our special cousins and could enjoy a Sunday afternoon of fun!

How I envied Jorgen for his beautiful black, wavy hair. It seems I was always having a "bad hair day" -- just ask Phoodee. She wrote in my autograph album "Wish you'd get a permanent so you wouldn't have to fuss with your hair so much."

Some of my fondest memories are at the Little House when Thora, Phyllis, Nitzy and myself lived together. We have many special memories.

The following is a poem Grace Skalet wrote about Dorothy Mae:

D. She's a delightful companion this wonderful lass,
Always doing something which to others brings happiness.
O. Obedience is a trait which is helpful indeed,
To her is second-nature--she'll always heed
R. Righteousness to her is most precious of all
She treats everybody squarely, both great and small.
O. is for Orderliness, which is part of her everyday life.
Some happy groom will have a wonderful wife.
T. Is for tears and I'll endeavor to explain
That joy comes hand in hand with a great deal of pain
H. She's as honest as the day is long,
Which always brings happiness and a heart full of song.
Y. Her yearning for happiness for herself and others
Makes her a true friend to her sisters and brothers.

M. Mother Instinct in her is easily detected
Youngsters with her are always well protected.
A. Her attitude towards life is simple and true
Takes things as they are--she's seldom blue.
E. Notice the distance between these eyes so blue,
That explains why she understands both me and you.

S. On Sunday she sings in our church choir
Just for love -- not for hire.
K. She kindles our hearts with a sympathetic glow,
When she appears-gone is all our woe.
A. She has an aptitude for so many things
She cooks and bakes and plays and sings.
L. Her "lover" I dare to say
Must be just as perfect as Dorothy Mae.
E. Everybody loves her so
Very unwelcome anyone who causes her woe.
T. is for "teeth"--well you know the rest
She helps you and others get the best.

LYLE had been in Air Traffic Control while in the U.S. Air Corp (July 1941 to May 1945). After he married Dorothy Mae, he began working for the Civil Aeronautics Administration as an Air Traffic Controller at Midway Airport. After 33 1/4 years in the business with numerous moves around the country, Lyle retired from Federal Aviation Administration. Once retired, Lyle kept busy again gardening, but was very active in the American Legion and 40 et 8, serving as Commander and Chef de gar. He was always very dedicated to his country and to his fellow man. He was always interested in history and loved fishing, golf and playing cards.

DICK was also involved in aviation while in service (1941-1945) as an airplane mechanic. After his discharge from the U.S. Air Corp. he worked as an airplane mechanic in Milwaukee. Dick attended Marquette University in the accounting field. He worked for the Heil Company for 36 years and was their Tax Accountant. Dick's hobbies include making tapes of the good music put out by the Big Bands back in the 40's as well as being a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, of which he is presently President of his Chapter at Watertown, WI.

171 **RICHARD TROY UNDERWOOD**

Adopted son of Lyle Underwood and Dorothy Mae Rasmussen

RICHARD TROY UNDERWOOD was born on Sep 9, 1954 in Turlock, CA

172 **JEFFREY LEE UNDERWOOD**

Adopted son of Lyle Underwood and Dorothy Mae Rasmussen

JEFFREY LEE UNDERWOOD was born on Jan 4, 1956 in Stockton, CA

173 **MARY JO UNDERWOOD KOHL**

Adopted daughter of Lyle Underwood and Dorothy Mae Rasmussen

Dennis and Mary Jo Kohl
W11747 Buss Rd.
Waterloo, WI 53594 Ph. 414-623-3984

MARY JO UNDERWOOD was born on Jun 19, 1957 in Kennett, MO.

She married Dennis James Kohl on Jun 3, 1978 in Reeseville, WI.

DENNIS JAMES KOHL was born on Jul 13, 1956 in Beaver Dam, WI.

Mary and Dennis have 3 children:

1. Benjamin James - Born Nov 18, 1980 - Watertown, WI
2. Stephen Glenn - Born Jun 5, 1984 - Watertown, WI
3. Bethany Sue - Born Sep 18, 1986 - Watertown, WI

MARY went to grade school in Cary, Illinois and graduated from high school at Waterloo, Wisconsin in 1975. She has worked at Columbus Hospital for five years as a Registered Nurse. Their family has registered quarter horses which they ride in parades and show at horse shows. Mary is also active in their local 4-H Club as a leader. There, she assists kids in their projects and attends different functions with them. Confirmation classes at Faith Lutheran Church also have her help as a teacher/assistant. Mary thoroughly enjoys raising her family.

DENNIS has been employed by Alto Dairy as a service representative for 6 years. He is also a leader in the 4-H Club. He enjoys helping his sons raise their angus beef cattle.

BENJAMIN is 15 years old. He is very active in 4-H and enjoys caring for and showing his lambs and registered angus cattle at fairs. He owns angus cows and is involved in the management and care of the cattle. He is a freshman at Columbus High School. He is also currently taking karate classes.

STEPHEN is 11 years old and he plays center for Columbus' 5th grade football team. He is also active in 4-H showing his pigs. He owns the angus cows and shares the work with his brother Ben.

BETHANY is 9 years old and enjoys dance class and playing the piano. She loves animals and cares for her cat, Fluffy, and puppy, Jazzy. She is in the 3rd grade at Columbus Elementary and is also taking karate lessons.

174 **KENNETH WAYNE UNDERWOOD**

Adopted son of Lyle Underwood and Dorothy Mae Rasmussen

KENNETH WAYNE UNDERWOOD was born on May 4, 1959 in Modesto, CA.

He married Jeana Schollmeyer on Jan 28, 1978 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waterloo, WI.

He died on Nov 9, 1979 in a car accident. He is buried in Waterloo, WI.

JEANA SCHOLLMEYER was born on Jul 6, 1959.

Kenneth and Jeana have 1 child:

1. Peter James - Born Jun 14, 1978 - Ft. Atkinson, WI

175 **GERALD KEITH UNDERWOOD**

Adopted son of Lyle Underwood and Dorothy Mae Rasmussen

Jerry Underwood
6802 Park Edge Dr
Madison, WI 53719 Ph. 608-277-1063

GERALD KEITH UNDERWOOD was born on Aug 21, 1961 in Springfield, MO.

JERRY attended grades K-5 at Cary, Illinois and 6-8 at Waterloo, Wisconsin. He graduated from St. John's Military Academy in 1979. He has also studied at Carthage College and UW-Whitewater. Jerry has been a golf instructor for 11 years having played golf since the age of 9 and also while at the Academy. Jerry played little league baseball when he was young, and has now been enjoying playing wheelchair basketball for 15 years.