

Dear Life ...



Leslie Mutziger
*The journey starts
in 1917*

From Europe to the Dust-Bowl....

In 2017 Leslie Mutziger will celebrate 100 years of life! His **zest** for life always has been exceptional and this book gathers together some info about those years. Dad is someone so MUCH MORE than the result of the environment in which he grew up that this short story about his life needs to include some information about the genealogy – his family of pioneers – those that dared to go forth in search of a better life. I believe that Dad always continued in that quest to explore and push towards knowledge as a means of moving in the direction of a better life.

The families of many of the pioneers in the Midwest can be traced back to Europe around the 1850's. The Napoleonic wars created turmoil throughout Europe in the early 1800's – and there was much struggle as Europe was shifting away from smaller Kingdoms to ever-larger Monarchies. There are three region of interests for this story:



- **Alsace Lorraine** – a small Kingdom sandwiched between France & Germany
- **Ireland** – from which the Sullivan family originated
- **Prussia** - for centuries the Kings & Chancellors of Prussia expanded through northern Europe with a well-organized and effective army. After World War II Prussia ceased to exist; the new maps declared this land as Germany, Poland and other countries resulting from World War II.

It was in 1874, in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War that France ceded Alsace to Prussia. Alsace Lorraine was a rich farming region that was a part of the French territory. This annexation pushed many farmers in Alsace Lorraine to migrate.

At this same time, the French had already sent research-expeditions to the new land - America. Therefore, the French encouraged the farmers (pioneers) from Alsaceburg to go to the new land in the hope that France would establish dominance.

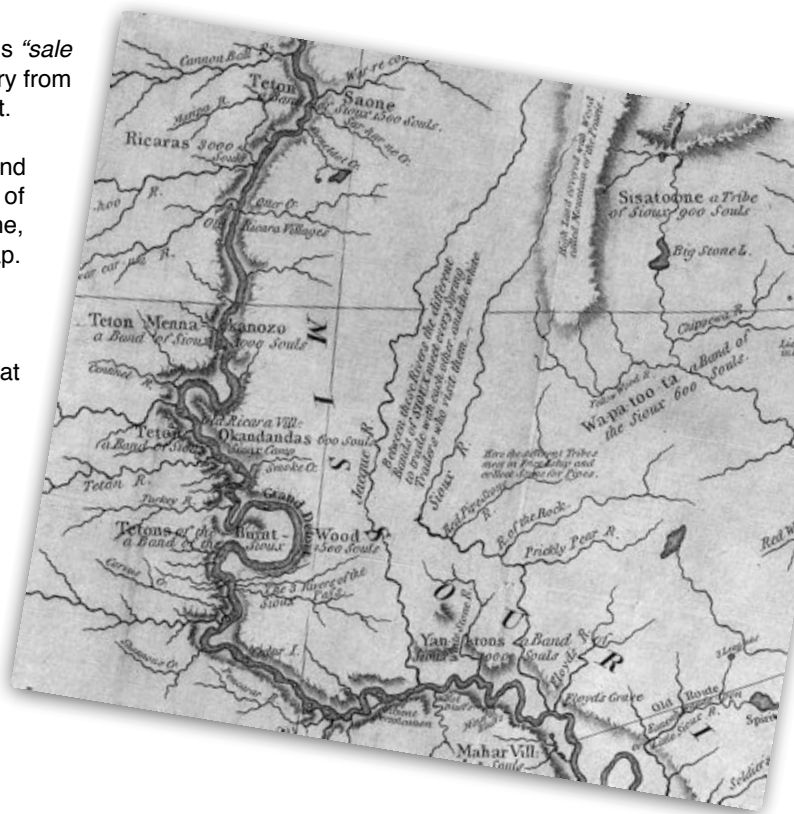
The French were the first to explore much of the Dakota region – this is still evident through many names such as Pierre – the capital. Already in 1738, the French explorer, Pierre Gaultier de la Vérendrye lead the first known Euro-American expedition into this region.

In 1803, the “*Vente de la Louisiane*” was made by France. In this “*sale of Louisiana*”, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million and the Dakota Territory was a part of that.

The Lewis & Clark expedition around 1804 mapped the region and the government encouraged settlers to move west. This portion of their map shows the region around Mitchell & Ethan. At that time, the **James River** had the French name of “*Jacque R*” on the map.

Therefore, the bold, the brave and the fit from Europe – those that felt they would find a better life in America -- migrated.

- The **Mutziger family**, from Alsace, originally moved to Wisconsin and it was around 1900 that they moved further west to the region around Ethan.
- The **Sullivan family** came from Limerick, Ireland and were settled in the Minnesota area. Mary (Dad's Mother) comes from this clan.
- The **Wermers family**, from Prussia, also left Europe around 1860 (the height of the Franco-Prussian war). The family-tree shows that Anthony Wermers, Ludwig Weber and others (on Mom's side) were born in Prussia.





- **Nicholas Mutziger (1829 – 1905) migrated from Alsace, he married Catherine (1850 – 1928)** and one of their sons was Frank (1869 - 1951); they settled near Ethan
- Frank married Mary Sullivan (1876 - 1933) - Mary's parents had immigrated from Limerick, Ireland. Frank & Mary had nine children and Dad (Leslie) was one of the younger children in this family. Most everyone in these large pioneering families were farmers.
- **In 1890 Anton Wermers (Prussia) married Sophia Geraths** in South Dakota and they farmed near Ethan
- Della *Mutziger* Wermers (Dad's older sister; 1905 - 2004) married Anton's son - Casper Frederick Wermers
- Leslie Mutziger (Dad; 1917) married Rita Weber *Wermers*, a grand-daughter of Anton Wermers.

On the last pages there is more information about Dad's family-tree, with pictures.

The Wermers family-tree is in the separate booklet. Today there are over 330 people on this family-line/list; each can trace their genealogy to Anton Wermers & Sophia Geraths and their 14 children (*family-trees as large as this one -- grow daily!*).

Genealogy is interesting for many reasons – especially because scientific research now shows that much of our character and interests stems from the gene-pool that come through our ancestors. Therefore, let us now take a look at the life of these early pioneers when the Louisiana Purchase (1809), then the Dakota territory -- finally became South Dakota in 1889!

The average number of children in each of these pioneer-families was between 8 and 12. In the context of pioneers, working the land, this was "normal". Although, surely by any standards this was difficult to be in the middle of **no-where** with so very little; no infrastructure (not even trees & wood), no hospitals, no support-system and a very remote government.

Then things became even much worse -- **the great dust-bowl-era, when the life on the prairie was reduced to dust!** During the drought of the 1930s, without natural anchors to keep the soil in place, it dried, turned to dust, and blew away with the prevailing winds. At times, the clouds blackened the sky, reaching all the way to East Coast cities such as New York City and Washington, D.C.

I feel that it is impossible for us to imagine being on a farm, with a dozen children that need food – and yet to watch everything around you shrivel and die.

The destitution - the suffering - the fear!

Perhaps the best that we can do is marvel at the strength of the human spirit to survive.

In an effort to grasp at how this touched everyone, we need to remember that both Mom & Dad were in their early teens, living on farmsteads, each with around a dozen people that needed food and water to survive. The horror of all that they witnessed during those years surely left indelible marks on the genes that were passed on to further generations.

In 1942 Dad had the opportunity to join the military. Even with a war raging in Europe, the military looked more attractive than the destitute land around him.

The picture of Dad on this book cover seems to emanate with zest; "*Dear life, I am ready*". IF we give consideration to Dad's teenage years - previous to this pictures - then this pic seems to captures his relief/happiness knowing that he could now move towards something (**anything**) different - **life!**



Love is the foundation!

In 1945 Dad returned to Ethan from his military engagement and, as was typical, married his sweetheart, Rita Weber. On 7 May 1946 they had a double-wedding with Mom's sister Lucille & Evert Muth – and Mom & Dad settled on a farm west of Ethan.



The military provided veterans with the opportunity for schooling and Dad studied to become a veterinarian. However, the difficulties of trying to pursue the studies along with scratching out a meager existence on a rented farm were too much and finally Dad had to abandon his dream of becoming a veterinarian.



However, Dad did NOT abandon his dream of raising his children so that they would have more and better opportunities than he had.

Most likely, he did not know at the time, that he was providing us with the most essential of ingredients from the first days of our lives -

Love!



Love throughout the years!

Both Mom and Dad always splurged the most luxurious love possible upon all of their children – and, of course, this has been the most fundamental building block of our lives.

We moved to a different farm on the East side of Ethan (near the James River) around 1953.



Obviously, Dad now has his hands full:

- Judy; 7 October 1947
- James; 15 April 1949
- Susan; 20 May 1950
- Lois; 21 August 1954

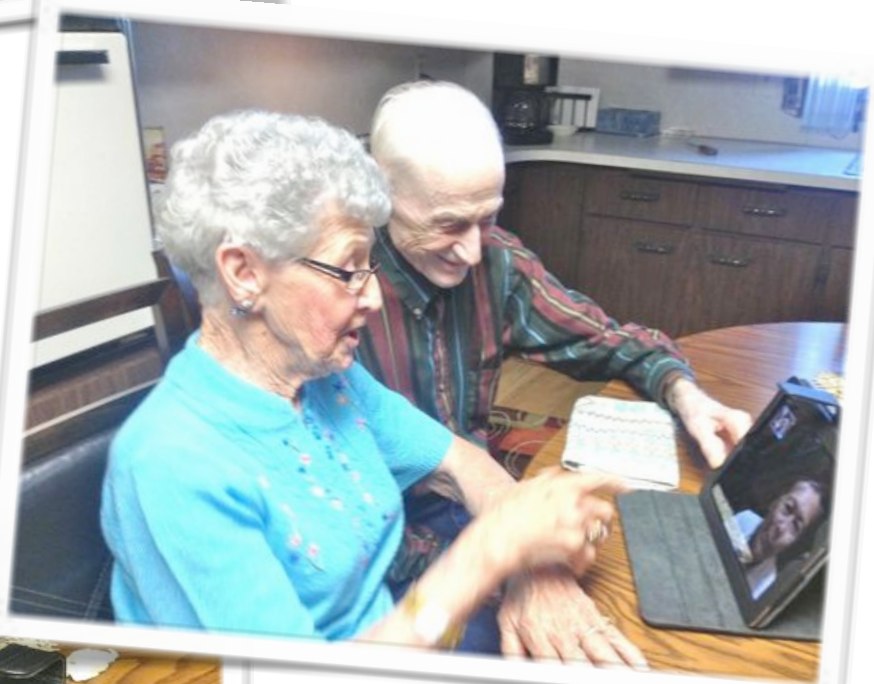


On 7 October 2013 I received a FaceTime/ video call from Mom & Dad.

The screen opened with both Mom & Dad singing at the top of their lungs:

*Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday Dear Judy...
Happy Birthday to you!*

**It was so very touching (so full of Love).
Dad, 96 years old, singing Happy
Birthday to me using their iPad!**



Yes, Dad is always very aware that he is talking to his daughter Judy - in Thailand (although he might not know that she is located on the exact opposite side of the world)!



The School on the Prairie...

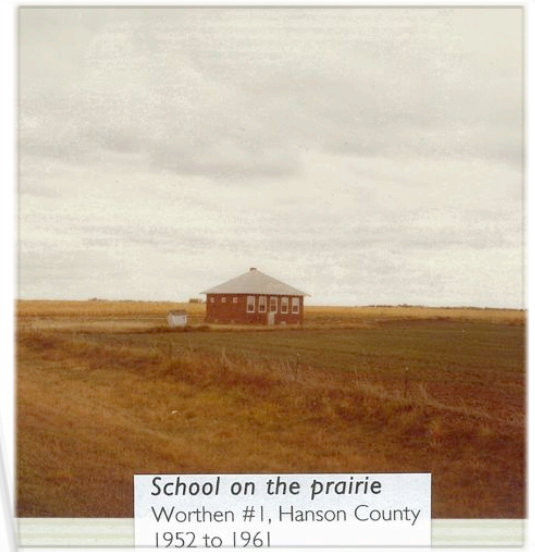
Dad always worked to have the BEST for his children!

He wanted his children to participate in "the American Dream", and he knew that the next essential component was a good school teacher. Dad was surely the most active member of the school-board through all the years of our primary education.

Worthen number 1; the one room schoolhouse in the middle of the prairie was not an easy place for any teacher. The forlorn situation, the dangerous blizzards, isolation, sick children, frozen cistern pump -- difficulties beyond that which most people can conceive today!

Additionally, the salary of the teacher was one of the lowest in all of America – again, we can only try to imagine all the effort that Dad put into assuring that his children DID HAVE THE VERY BEST TEACHER!!!

Mrs Vera Moe, agreed to teach eight primary classes at this desolate, one-room-schoolhouse for many years -- until we finished our elementary years, from 1st to 8th grade.



This picture taken around 1960 shows the 22 students (8 grades) that Mrs Vera Moe taught in the one room school house that year.

The many qualities such as discipline, self-esteem, harmony, compassion can not be measured, however, most can agree they are fundamental – Dad never ceased in

his efforts to assure that his children received that which he believed were important.

NO fame; NO recognition; NO assurance of success – he just gave of himself to try to ensure that his children would have a positive education.

The first day of a new school year was always special. This was a moment to celebrate for both Mom & Dad, they had succeeded -- their child was starting the journey towards an education.

Our education was also a means for them to measure their strides forward - nothing in life was more important.

Here I am ready for my very first day of school in 1953.

Our schoolhouse was two miles down the road, often we walked – and later years had bicycles. During the winter months, transportation was coordinated among a few families.



Education was top-priority

Another first day of a new school year to celebrate. This was in 1957 when Sue started school; James & Judy are also glad to return to a new year in school.

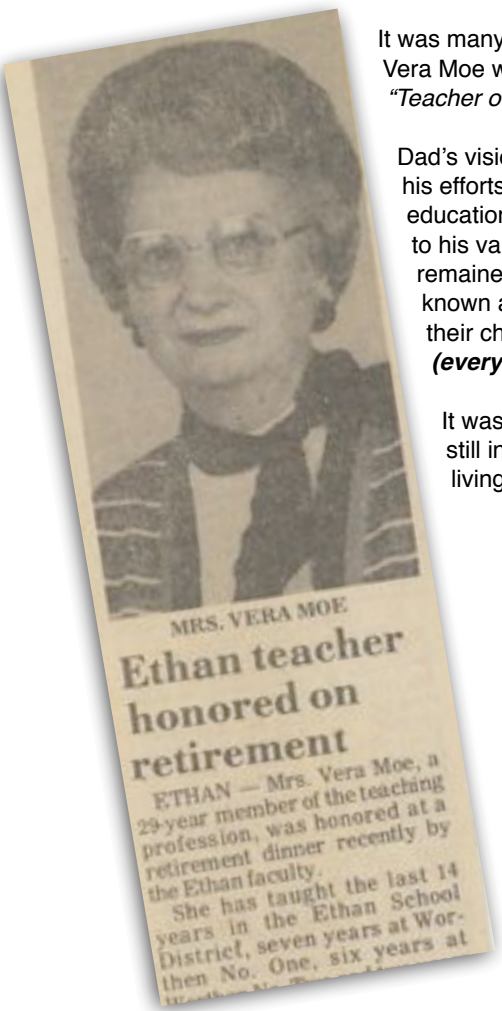
Dad did not need certificates and awards to confirm that Mrs Vera Moe was equipping us with what we needed, he just simply knew that she was providing us with a steady dose of all that we needed – we were so fortunate to receive such inspiration.



It was many years later that Mrs Vera Moe was honoured as the “Teacher of the Year”.

Dad’s vision and beliefs – and his efforts to make our education vital are a tribute to his values – and yet he remained a humble man. I have never known anyone else to work so hard to ensure that their children would have the best education possible **(everything relative)**.

It was so difficult, it required much stamina in those years – especially when most people were still in the midst of a struggle to survive – education was not essential (for most often not enough to eat.



Mrs Moe with Dad in 1997.

Mrs Vera Moe remained a family friend until her death in 2012.



Sue’s daughter, Cheltzie-Sue, grew up in a very different environment – Minneapolis.

When she graduated from high school (2003), Dad was equally glad to celebrate with her.



From the farm - to Mitchell,

and...

Life on the farm was never easy, however, those years did not give the pioneers/farmers in South Dakota much choice. Without question, without hesitation, Dad always did his best and our life on the farm was similar to that lived by most people in that region. It seemed that Dad just simple had something different in his genes



Kitchen Table with Dad
1968



1966

Mom started work at the Holiday Inn in Mitchell 1971 and therefore, in 1978 they were ready to leave the farm and move to their current home in Mitchell.

This move put Mom closer to the Holiday Inn and also provided Dad with a couple of acres to raise a few sheep and geese; he also did maintenance work at the Holiday Inn. These activities made life more enjoyable for both Mom and Dad.



Rita & Les Mutziger
516 West Spruce
Mitchell, South Dakota
USA 57301

The doors to their comfortable and inviting home were always open for everyone. One of their favourite pastimes was to play cards – and Dad continued to play a good game of cards until recently.

Alsace Lorraine!

When they were finally freed from the burden of the farm, it was wonderful that Mom & Dad could start to travel -- and even more magnificent -- to observe how much they enjoyed it.

Their first major trip was to visit me in Switzerland in 1976. One of the first places that we visited was Alsace Lorraine -- and the village of Mutzig. It was **Nicholas Mutziger (1829 -- 1905), Dad's Grandfather** that originated from Mutzig and migrated from Alsace Lorraine to America around 1860 (*about 100 years before our visit!*)

Therefore, it was wonderful that the Mutziger's could return to discover Mutzig!

Mom & Dad just seemed to feel perfectly comfortable in Europe -- I always felt that Dad would have been real happy living in the region around Alsace. At the time, I was living in Montricher, Switzerland, about 250 miles from Alsace and Dad's curiosity about everything was a delight.



Dad is obviously comfortable here in the forest near my home, the foothills of the Jura Mountains.

It seems that Dad has a lot of the **"Emerald Isle" of Ireland** in his genes. Mary Sullivan's parents (Dad's Grandparents) came from Ireland.

In truth, I believe that this is where his spirit was most at peace.

Mom & Dad also enjoyed my home in Montricher, Switzerland.

The Irish author, George Bernard Shaw said, *"I showed my appreciation of my native land in the usual Irish way: by getting out of it as soon as I possibly could!"*

Oddly enough, I might also say the same, and I think that Dad had that rebellion in him too.

I always wished that we could have spent more time together in Europe.

Fortunately, Mom & Dad did come to Europe a few times.



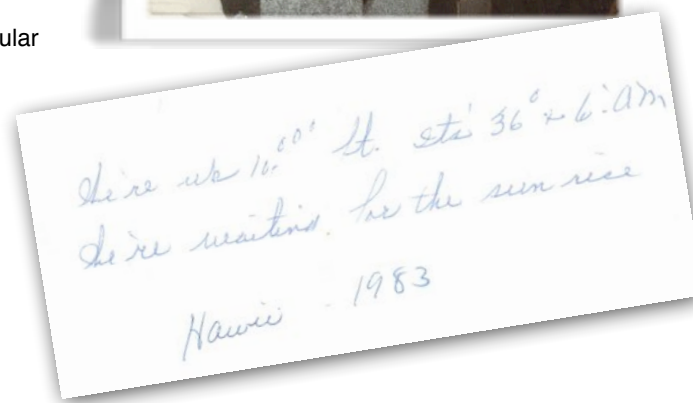
Honey-Moon in Hawaii!



In 1983 Mom & Dad went to Hawaii and that visit with the ocean was something that enlivened Dad immensely – as if all the years of his life, he had been waiting to soak up the ocean!



In those years before the Internet, I kept in regular contact with Mom & Dad through letters. Today it is nice to have a record of our feelings – and Dad's postcard & letter about his trip is a wonderful way to share the fun with everyone.



Honey-Moon in Hawaii!



No back seat in Uncle Miki's
car. He's sitting on beach
chairs

1983. Hawaii



Yes we had a nice trip to "Hawaii"
the weather was very good every day.
The trees and flowers were "fantastic"
mostly "Oriental" as are many of
the people. We visited three islands
and could see two others from "Maui"
where we spent most of our vacation.
Honolulu seems too crowded and the
big Hawaii has too much "Loua". I
saw pictures on T.V. tonight. The volcano is



On the road in Europe...

As mentioned, Dad seemed really at home in Europe.

Here Mom & Dad are in front of San Marcos Palace in Venice, Italy.

True to form – Mom kept precise notes about our travel-agenda (*gas mileage*).

Mom & Dad's first trip, we travelled 3,735 kilometers in my 1974 Toyota, Corolla.

And, we obviously had great fun doing it!



9/18/76 Gas Mileage	9/29/76 Miles	Divonne
72 465 - Crassy	72 603	
73 040 - Singaléem	72 989 mutzig	
73 600	73 600 Divonne	
73 635 Divonne	73 894 Alsa	
73 894 Samathia	73 894 Samathia	
74 284 - Venice	74 284	
74 734 - before Rome	74 871 Rome	
75 214 Pisa	75 685 - South France	
75 583 - Monaco	76 200 Divonne	
76 115 Annecy		

Mom's gas mileage chart:
Divonne/Geneva; Venice;
Rome; Monaco; Mutzig/Alsace
3,735 miles in the Toyota, Corolla

Music in the Piazza San Marco, Venice, Italy.

The pics tell the story – it was an absolute joy to share so many good times with Mom & Dad.



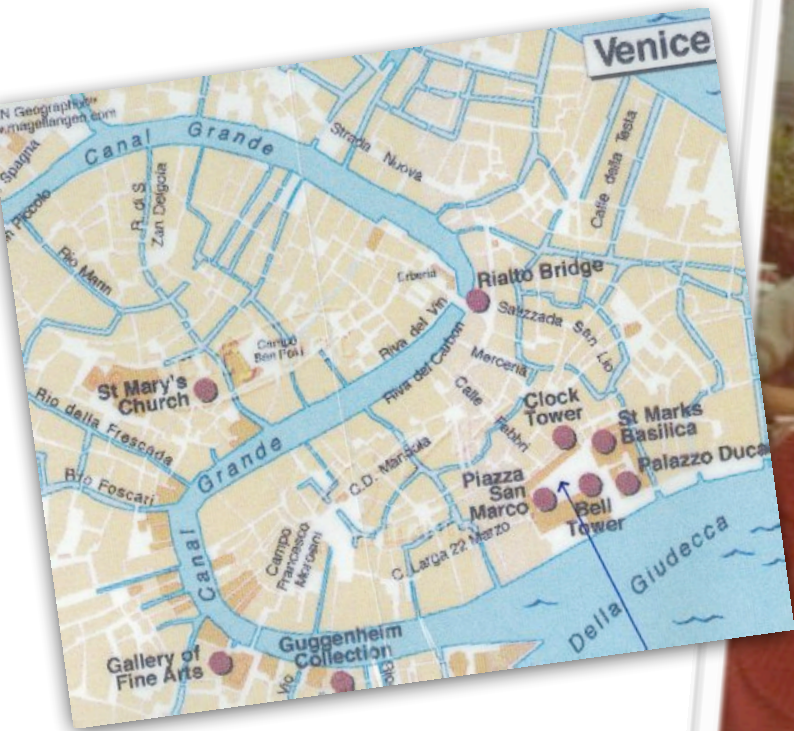
On the road in

Europe...

Venice, the city on the canals, was more than "unique" for Mom & Dad.

We spent many hours strolling along the canals and watching the boats from the bridges.

Having lunch with a view on the Ponte di Rialto.



And then some time to watch the gondolas/boats.



On the road in Europe...

In 1989 & 1994 Mom and Dad returned to Europe. On these trips we toured Germany and Switzerland.

Here they are in front of the famous Matterhorn in Zermatt, Switzerland.

The wines which come from around the Lake of Geneva are famous. Dad & Norb are "checking out the grapes and vineyards."



And on the road to Davos in 1994. The cell-phone was new technology at that time and obviously amazing to call from Andermatt (high in the Alps) to Ethan, South Dakota.



Shopping at the street-market in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Appreciation for Nature

Dad always taught us to care for the environment. IF he would have been able to chose where he wanted to live, I believe he would have chosen a climate where he could have enjoyed the outside environment 12 months of the year (the winters in South Dakota are NOT for Nature-Lovers).

This pic just simply shows how happy Dad was each time that he was surrounded by beautiful nature.

This was taken on the lake in Davos, Switzerland.

Dad has always expressed a profound respect for trees – nurturing them carefully. Here he is with one of his favourite trees beside his home.



There were no trees in South Dakota when the pioneers arrived! The earth was covered with high grass; the Indians and buffalo lived in harmony with this nature – as well as the extreme weather.

The Europeans / pioneers arrived and started cultivating the earth for crops. However, extensive deep plowing of the virgin topsoil of the Great Plains displaced the natural deep-rooted grasses that normally kept the soil in place and trapped moisture even during periods of drought and high winds – the results were the dust-storms during the 1930s.

Around 1940, the government implemented programmes to plant “shelter-belts”/trees to help establish better living conditions – along with the introduction of better farming methods for this arid region.



Dad's letters always had mention of the weather and farming.



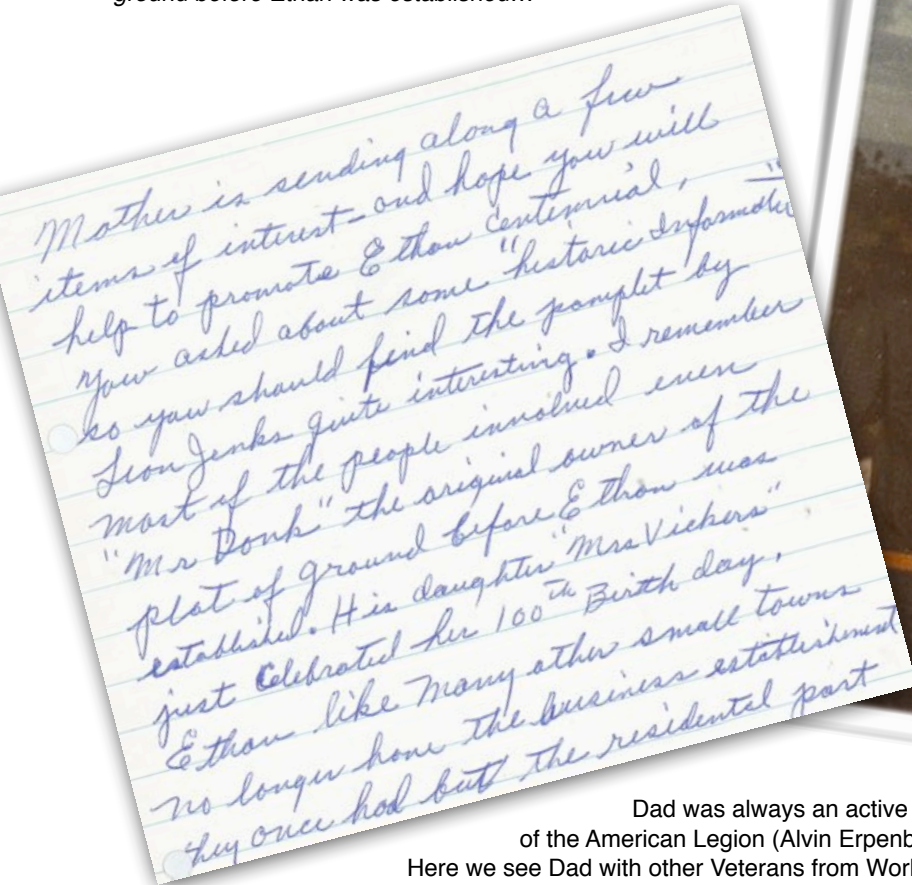
Thursday Aug 26th
Dear Judy
The summer is going fast but we hope it will last another month or so as some of the crop needs it. You see the month of May was quite wet & cool so much planting was delayed. We got a very nice rain on Mon. Evening after a rather dry spell and the corn is looking better than expected. Sure wish the price would improve but I'm not

Dad's discipline, especially relating to care of property was un-ceasing; even with advancing-years, he still found pleasure in maintenance and painting.

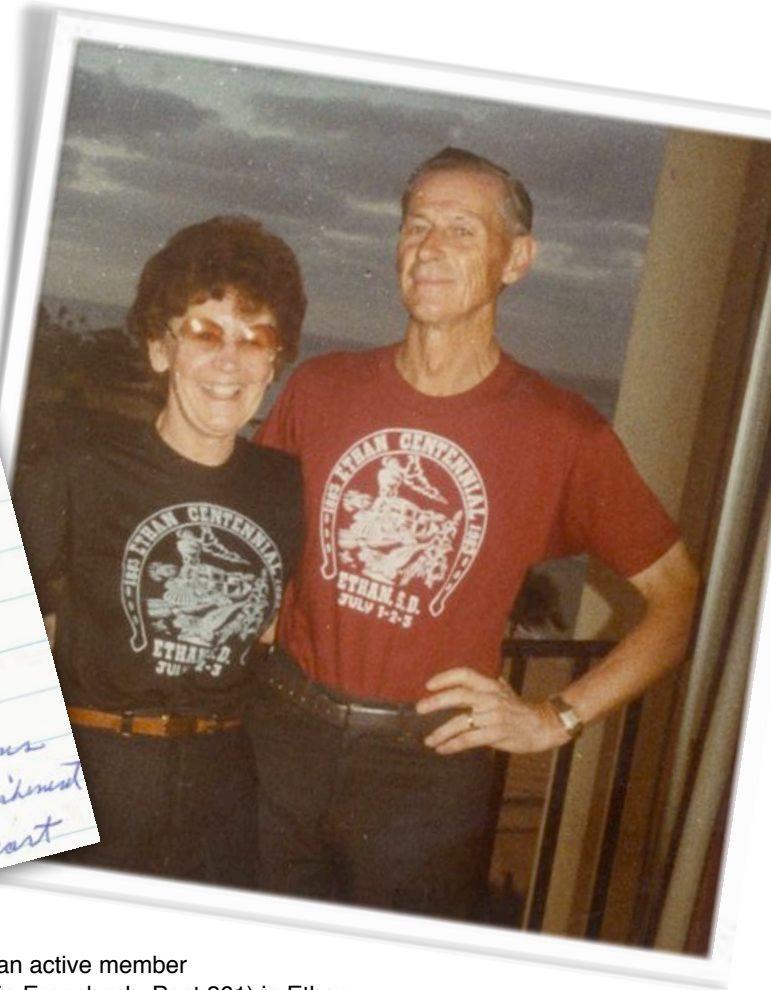
Supporting Community & Country

Dad always believed in the strength of a community of aware-citizens. As was obvious, he gave all that he had to assure that we had a good school-teacher and he was always present to show his support for Ethan (although since 1978 Mom & Dad lived in Mitchell).

In 1983 Ethan celebrated 100 years and Dad even reminisced in one of his letters to me; "I remember most of the people involved, even Mr Donk, the original owner of the plot of ground before Ethan was established..."



Mother is sending along a few items of interest - and hope you will help to promote Ethan Centennial, you asked about some "historic information" so you should find the pamphlet by Leon Jenks quite interesting. I remember most of the people involved even "Mr Donk" the original owner of the plot of ground before Ethan was established. His daughter "Mrs Vickers" just celebrated her 100th Birth day. Ethan like many other small towns no longer have the business establishments they once had but the residential part



Dad was always an active member of the American Legion (Alvin Erpenbach, Post 261) in Ethan. Here we see Dad with other Veterans from World War II – all from Ethan, South Dakota. In 2013 Dad was awarded a medal in recognition of his membership for 67 years.

At that time Dad was also the oldest surviving Veteran in the Ethan Unit from World War II. This pic was taken at the Veteran's Day in Ethan, celebrated in June of every year.



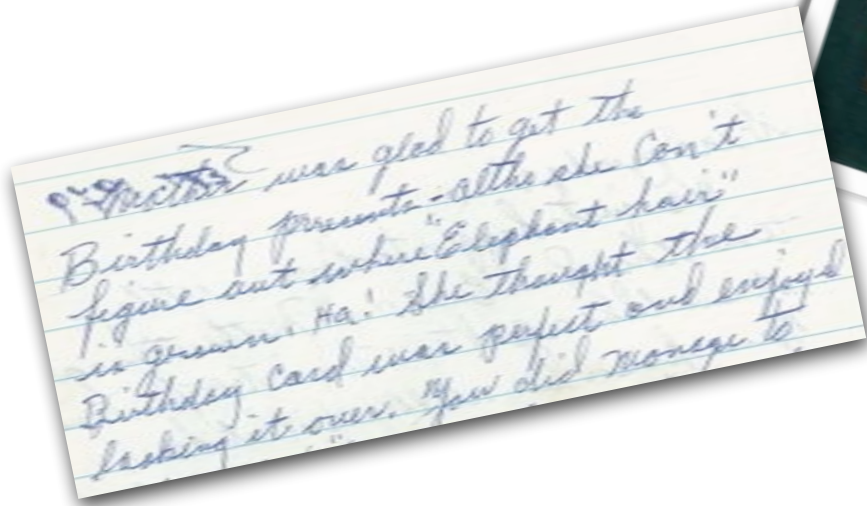
Busy with his family

Along with all the activities, the family continued to grow and thrive! Here everyone is wearing their new "jingle-bell"/ *Apple Fields* hats on Christmas-Eve, 1994.

Traveling around the world, Mom & Dad were opening their minds and discovering other cultures, animals, etc.



From this letter – we can understand that Dad is trying to help Mom figure out "**where elephant hair is grown**"?



Sue is helping Dad with the painting in 2007.



As the family grew -- suddenly (*sort of*) Mom & Dad could celebrate four generations! The pictures on the cover of this book show four generations through both James and Lois's families. The complete family tree can be found on the next two pages.

Judy chose to live most of her life in Switzerland. Since 2006, I (Judy) live in Thailand and have had the good fortune to let the "*Sullivan-genes*" come through – I have recently published two books about travel in Thailand. More information about my work at:

www.indochinapeninsula.org

(I write using the pen-name: Sheba Suphannahong).

I have written this book about Dad, with support from Mom, Lois, James & Sue.



Dad and sister, Sylvia, in 2008.



Genealogy

Mutziger – Sullivan & Wermers - Weber

Nicholas Mutziger
Born: Alsace Lorraine 1829
Died: Ethan 1905

Catherine *Sullivan* Mutziger
Born: Limerick, Ireland 1850
Died: Ethan 1928

Patrick Sullivan
Born: Limerick, Ireland 1831
Died: Minnesota 1895

Elizabeth *Hilger* Sullivan
Born: Luxemburg 1844
Died: Minnesota, 1910

Anton (Anthony) Wermers
Born: Prussia 1860
Died: Ethan 1938

Sophia Geraths (Gerhards)
Born: Wisconsin 1871
Died: Ethan 1949

Ludwig Weber
Born: Prussia 1825
Died: 1906 Dimock

Katherin *Motzer* Weber
Born: Prussia 1828
Died: Dimock 1903



Sigmund Weber
Born: Perry, Wisconsin 1873
Died: Parkston 1947

Mary *Schoenfelder* Weber
Born: Deluth Minnesota 1875
Died: Dimock 1918

Josephine *Wermers* Weber
Born: Ethan 1909
Died: Ethan 1973

Joseph Weber
Born: Ethan 1896
Died: Dimock, 1961

Frank Mutziger
Born: Wisconsin 1869
Died: Ethan 1951

Mary *Sullivan* Mutziger
Born: Wisconsin 1876
Died: Ethan 1933



Children: Frank & Mary Mutziger *Sullivan*
Irene Margaret Mutziger Puetz (1900 - 1972)
Della Mutziger Wermers (1905 - 2004)
Bud V Mutziger (1906 - 2001)
Lawrence Mutziger (1909 - 1981)
Leo Mutziger (1909 - 1989)
Alice Mutziger Wingen (1912 - 2008)
Francis B. Mutziger (1914 - 2000)
Leslie Daniel Mutziger (1917 –
Sylvia Mutziger (Gepphart) (1919 -

Children: Sigmund & Josephine *Wermers* Weber
Celestine (Sally) *Weber* Pollreisz
Lucille *Weber* Muth
Rita *Weber* Mutziger
Leonard Weber
Helen *Weber* Pollreisz
Stella *Weber* Puetz
Alvin Weber
Jerome Weber
Virgil Weber
Marlys *Weber* Miiller
William (Bill) Weber



Genealogy

Leslie Mutziger & Rita Weber Wermers



Marriage of Mom & Dad on
7 May 1946

Mom & Dad with:
* Children
* Grand-children
* Great Grand-children
In 2002



1. Judy Mutziger; 7 October 1947
No children
Swiss citizen / living in Thailand

2. James Leslie Mutziger, 15 April 1949 / Karen Marie *Schurz* Mutziger, 5 September 1950
Married 16 December 1978 – living in Salem, South Dakota

2. Terry Lynn Mutziger, 7 December 1971 / Jill *Harper* Mutziger, 3 November 1970
Married, 21 August 1998 - living in Elkton, South Dakota

3. Ainsley Harper, 24 April 1993
3. Madisyn Mutziger, 19 April 1999
3. Sydney Mutziger, 15 September 2001,
3. Lauryn Mutziger, 6 January 2010

2. Tami Marie Mutziger Bies, 22 February 1973 / Kurt Allen Bies, 5 January 1971,
Married, 27 September 1997 - living in Salem, South Dakota

3. Zachary James Bies, 5 July 1994,
3. Nicole Bies, 15 January 1999,
3. Emily Bies, 18 February 2002

2. Thomas James Mutziger, 13 May 1979 / Robyn *Kampshof* Mutziger, 18 August 1981
Married, 23 June 2007 - living in Canova, South Dakota

3. Nolan Thomas Mutziger, 21 September 2008
3. Jace James Mutziger, 24 December 2012

3. Susan Mutziger, 20 May 1950
Living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

2. Cheltzie-Sue Mutziger-Hentz, 11 December 1985

4. Lois Mutziger Thuringer, 21 August 1954 / Ron Thuringer, 25 August 1954
Married, 16 March 1974 – living in Madison, South Dakota

2. Jason Thuringer, 24 August 1974 / Nancy *Corcoran* Thuringer, 26 May 1973
Married, 21 December 1996 – living in New Bern, North Carolina

3. Zachary Thuringer, born 19 July 2002

2. Rebecca Thuringer Burger, 23 June 1977 / Ryan Burger, born 24 June 1979
Married, 25 June 2010 – living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

3. Bronx Burger, born 10 September 2011

2. Robert Thuringer, born 13 June 1986 / Kirsten *Mersbergan*, born 29 July 1988,
to be married, 31 May 2014 – living in Madison, South Dakota

Leslie Mutziger will celebrate 97 years of *life* on 8 April 2014

Another view on this is -- for 35,429 days *Dad has contributed light to the world!*
His actions were always for a decent and good life for his family, his community and his county.



Each year the family gathers around Dad to celebrate his birthday – one way of letting him know that he is beloved and respected.

Dad's birthday in 1997
(80 Years)

Dad's birthday in 2008
(91 years)

Dad's birthday in 2009
(92 years)



We hope that these pages about our precious Dad will provide the reader with inspiration -- and that this will keep memories about his life alive.

Judy, James, Sue, Lois & Mom

www.lesliemutziger.org

On this website the following can be downloaded:

- Copy of this book in PDF format
- Genealogy charts / Mutziger & Weber
Printed in October 2013

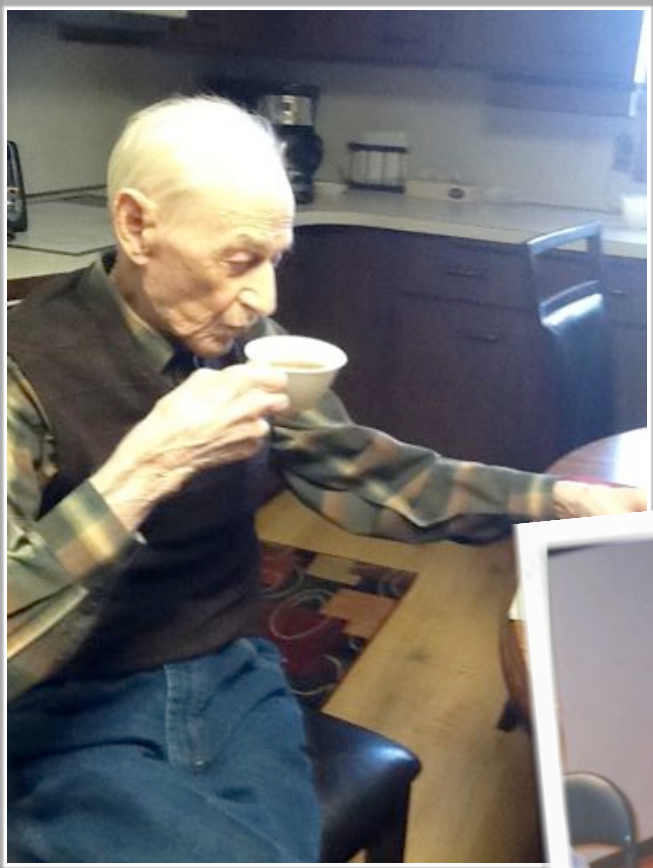


Leslie Mutziger

Born: 8 April 1917
Died: 26 June 2014

Dad lived 35,508 days of Light and Love!

In 2006 Dad fell and then had a hip replacement surgery. A few months later, Mom and doctors confirmed that Dad's memory was deteriorating and he was diagnosed with dementia (perhaps resulting from the anesthesia during the hip operation). Since that time his short-term memory was declining, however, Mom was able to take good care of Dad at home during the eight years from the onset of the disease until his death.



Mom & Dad's home was a busy hub of visitors – family and friends from around the world. In October 2013 Dad could still enjoy a “Bud” with friends from South Carolina.



Dad with sister, Sylvia in October 2013.

At the time of this picture, these were the only two siblings still living in Dad's family.

Leslie Mutziger

Mom kept Dad quite busy during the last years of his Dad's life – he was such a beloved person that he often became the center of attention.



Mom & Dad participated in their *grandson's wedding on 31 May 2014.

Mom & Dad look gorgeous - ready for the wedding. Obviously still a shining light 26 days before he moved into **God's Garden**.

*Rob Thuringer married Kirsten Mersbergan.

Dad has 7 Grandchildren – and
11 Great-Grandchildren.



On 8 April 2014 Dad celebrated 97 years!

One of the many gifts that he enjoyed opening was this hat from Thailand. Dad felt that this would be perfect for his walks.

In January 2013 Lois visited Thailand and in June 2013 - with a little help from Mom, Dad could still write this:

A Note For You

Hi Fredy:

I wish Carol would come along with
Dad when she comes to visit you.
Thanks for the nice cap you sent for
Christmas. I am feeling fine because mom
takes good care of me. Love Dad
The weather has been nice. Not a bit of snow
& think you will hear about Jim
grad soon born on the side of street the
day before Christmas. His name is Grace
Just like to talk about it. Love - Dad.

Leslie Mutziger

Born: 8 April 1917
Died: 26 June 2014

Dad lived 35,508 days of Light and Love.

On 21 June, Dad took a tumble, however, it did not seem too serious – it was Father’s Day weekend and Mom made plans to take him to the Doctor Monday morning - on that Monday, Dad was taken directly to the hospital. The X-rays and other diagnostic methods that were needed to treat Dad were too much for Dad’s fragile health and he quickly went into an unconscious state.

The very-professional staff at the Avera Queen of Peace Hospital provided all assistance possible; their caring-end-of-life services helped to make Dad’s transition as comfortable as possible – the medical team, infrastructure and kindness were very much appreciated by the family.

This pic with Mom, Sue & Lois was taken on Father’s day 22 June – after the tumble – before seeing the Doctor.

Keeping Dad active was always a priority in the family, however, it was difficult for Mom because her strength was also diminishing. Therefore, a professional care-giver, Jo, was engaged to take Dad for walks a couple times every week.

Dad and Jo were still walking in June 2014.



Dad was taken to the hospital, very aware that his hip hurt and the medical staff worked to resolve the dilemma.

However, it was as if Dad’s fragile health just collapsed upon his arrival at the

hospital. A series of small events led to

difficult choices. The only way to keep Dad out of pain and peaceful

was with morphine – there were not many alternative options.



Therefore, Dad’s last days were peaceful and he slipped away to God’s Garden on 26 June 2014.

Leslie Mutziger

Born: 8 April 1917
Died: 26 June 2014

God's Garden

God looked around His garden,
And he found an empty place.
He then looked down upon this earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you,
And lifted you to rest;
God's garden must be beautiful,
He takes only the best.
He knew that you were suffering.
He knew that you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
So He closed your weary eyelids,
And whispered "Peace be thine."
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone;
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

Dad lived 35,508 days of Light and Love ...



*... And God has called our
wonderful Father home to
His Garden!*

*Rita, Judy, James & Lois
26 June 2014.
This is an addendum to the
book about Dad's life
written in October 2013.
www.lesliemutziger.org*

