

## George and Pearl Fancher

I met with Bob Fancher to learn about his parents, George and Pearl Fancher.

They lived in Arlington and had a family of six children: June, Norma Jean, Francis, Max, Malcolm and Bob. They are representative of many of the families at that time. It was not unusual to have several children during that time period and the main focus was on raising the children and making enough to survive. The family was the most important thing and, in many cases, the mother would stay home with the children and the father would find work doing something for money.

George would build fences during the warmer months and work as a butcher during the colder months. During a few summers, he worked at the dehydration plant in Rushville where they made feed out of alfalfa. When he worked for Roy Kennedy, they would butcher hogs for customers. Sometimes the customer would not want some of the meat such as liver and other items, so George was able to bring it home for his family.

Pearl stayed home with the children and maintained the household. She put out a big garden in the spring and raised chickens. Weldon Beckner converted a school bus into a grocery store on wheels and would travel from house to house selling groceries. Pearl would trade eggs and young chickens for groceries. Bob said he always looked forward to seeing Weldon come to their house because his mom would buy some baloney. At that time, baloney was quite a treat.

After the children were old enough to take care of themselves, both George and Pearl started working at the Original Tractor Cab Company in Arlington. The factory was a very important part of their lives in that it provided employment for both of them and was close to home. They worked there until they retired.

George did work for Joe Kramer on the Willkie farm after he retired from the Cab Factory. He worked as a farm employee until he suffered a stroke.

Bob has many fond memories of his mom and dad and of his siblings. He especially enjoyed playing tricks on his mom. One night, he and some of his friends went to Cincinnati. While he was there he bought a newspaper. The next morning, he switched the Cincinnati newspaper with the Indianapolis Star that

had been delivered on their front porch. When his mom got the morning paper, she was having trouble understanding why it was so messed up and didn't make any sense. When Bob heard her talking to herself, he went up to her and looked at the paper. He told her that no wonder you're having trouble, this is the Cincinnati paper. She could not understand how the Cincinnati paper got on her front porch. Finally, Bob told her he had switched the papers. She told him "I should just whip you".

Another trick he played was when he came home from serving in the Army in Germany. He purposely told his mom that he would be home a week later than the actual date. His brother picked him up at the airport and brought him home without telling their mom. When Bob arrived at the house, his mom was busy cleaning and getting everything ready for Bob's arrival next week. When Bob came into the house and his mom saw him, she said "You're not suppose to be here until next week. What are you doing here now? I ought to just whip you." But instead she gave him a big hug. Bob said his mom would threaten to whip him, but she never did.

George and Pearl were similar to many of the other families that lived and worked within the community. But to their family and friends they were special people. I am sure they had their good times and their bad times, but in the end, they are remembered by who they were and how they lived their lives. Their children now have children and grandchildren that continue to influence the communities in which they now live. This was truly a great place to raise a family.

Information submitted by Bob Fancher

Story submitted by Larry Martin

Go to the page named Memory Lane Photo Gallery to see a picture of George & Pearl and their family.