

Wenzel Family



There were thirteen brothers and sisters in the family of Gustav Wenzel (3-20-1901 to 7-7-1969). Gustav was born in James Township, Saginaw County, on the homestead farm of his parents, Gustav and Augusta Wenzel. On December 25, 1922 he married a young woman from Frankenmuth, Sophia nee Herzog Boesenecker (5-9-1896 to 9-12-1956). Sophia was previously married to Adolph Boesenecker who was killed in France in 1919 while serving in World War I. They had one son, Adolph Boesenecker Jr., born in 1919. Gustav and Sophia Wenzel had four children: Melvin (10-10-23); Doris (8-30-25); Edward (6-20-27); and Charles (7-23-29). Sophia died September 12, 1956.

Mel Wenzel attended Bethlehem Lutheran School and graduated from Arthur Hill High School. After graduating from General Motors Institute in 1948 with a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering degree, he was promoted through various plant departments in Detroit, Saginaw, Bay City, and St. Louis, Missouri. Mel retired in 1984 as General Superintendent of Manufacturing after 42½ years with General Motors.

Mel served in the United States Air Force from August 1943 to November 1945, receiving a Second Lieutenant's Commission as an Aerial Navigator on the B-17 Flying Fortress. On November 2, 1946, Mel married a Frankenmuth girl, Arline Galsterer, daughter of Fred and Charlotte nee Rupprecht Galsterer. The Wenzel name was brought to Frankenmuth when they bought a home here in 1948. They had four children: Anne, Jeanne, Catherine and Linda – all of whom attended St. Lorenz Lutheran School and Frankenmuth High School.

Anne Catherine Wenzel, born April 15, 1952, attended Michigan State University and received a bachelor degree in criminal justice. She married Kim Koehler October 11, 1974 and they had twins, Joshua and Jaimi, on May 17, 1979.

Jeanne Arline Wenzel, born September 30, 1953, attended Northwood Institute for two years, then Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. Jeanne married Paul Ebert July 16, 1977 and they had three children: Charlotte (November 1, 1981); Meredith (April 4, 1986); and Marie (May 28, 1989).

Catherine Charlotte Wenzel, born November 8, 1956, attended Michigan State University and graduated with degrees in bio-chemistry and German. She received her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Freiburg, Germany. She married Andreas Scholz March 17, 1979. They had four children: Melissa (August 22, 1984); Miriam (February 6, 1988); Christian (June 11, 1990); and Anika (February 11, 1992).

Linda Lorine Wenzel, born April 26, 1960, attended one year at Central Michigan University. Linda married Mark Polinko July 6, 1985. They had two children: Stefany (October 1, 1982) and Lindsey (April 8, 1988).

Community service was a major part of Mel Wenzel's life. Mel was active in numerous business organizations such as United Way, Junior Achievement, Germania, Saginaw Manufacturer's Assoc., GM Plant City Committee, on the Board of St. Lukes Hospital, Parks and Recreation Commission, Heritage Park Commission, Frankenmuth Tax Abatement Commission and Frankenmuth City Planning Commission. Mel served on the Frankenmuth School District Board of Education for 17 years, the last four years as President. He served in various positions at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. Mel has been a member of the American Legion Post #150 in Frankenmuth, served on the City Council from '65 to '68, and was inducted to the "Hall of Fame" of the Frankenmuth Softball Association in 1988. His outstanding record of service earned him the Herbert L. Keinath "Distinguished Service Award" in 1985.



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