

Grainger Family



The Grainger name has had a significant impact on the recent history of the Frankenmuth community. For more than 75 years, the Graingers have been associated with publishing the Frankenmuth News, recording events of the community on a weekly basis, and continuing the chronological history of Frankenmuth.

In 1931, Clinton Grainger, son of A.J. and Lena nee Rotter Grainger, came to Frankenmuth to work for William Gallagher, son of the founder of the Frankenmuth News. Clint's duties included setting type on the linotype and operating the press to print the newspaper.

It was reported that Clinton's grandfather, Arnold Grainger, worked in Frankenmuth in the early 1900's but never lived here. Arnold was a weaver by trade and worked for Ben Felgner and Bill Abraham installing weaving equipment at the Frankenmuth Woolen Mill.

Clinton was born in 1910 in Tuscola and grew up in Vassar, Michigan. He attended school through the ninth grade and then went to work to help support his family.

In 1929 Clinton worked on the construction of the M15 Highway in Richville; and then went to work for the Vassar Pioneer Times newspaper.

Clinton's father, A.J. Grainger, was an electrician in Vassar and died at the young age of 37 from complications following a tonsillectomy.

During the day Clinton worked at the Frankenmuth News for \$20.00 a week.

He worked nights at the S&E Machine Tool Company on Junction Road making parts for aircraft engines during WWII for 40 cents an hour.

After working at the newspaper for 15 years, Clinton purchased the business along with Edmund Arnold, who was then editor. Clinton passed away in the year 2000.

In 1949, Clinton's brother, L.D. Grainger came from Flint to work for the paper as a linotype operator, a position he held for 22 years, retiring in 1971.

L.D. "Boad" Grainger married Lydia Gutgesell and had three sons: Jerry, Duane and Keith. Duane lives in Frankenmuth with wife Susan and operates Frankenmuth Upholstery. Keith lives out of state and works in the automotive field. L.D. "Boad" and son Jerry have both passed away.

Clinton was a charter member and the first treasurer of the Frankenmuth Conservation Club. He, also, was a member of the Frankenmuth Rotary Club for 22 years.

Clinton married Helen Barnett in 1934. The couple had two sons, David and Steven. David retired as a professor at Oakland Community College and lives in Frankenmuth with wife Annabelle. Steven lives in Frankenmuth and is owner/publisher of the Frankenmuth News along with wife Bonnie. Clinton and Helen have four grandchildren: Kris, Chandra, Jill and Jeff Grainger.



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