

The life of Donald Moenck

I was born on a farm $\frac{3}{4}$ miles west of Duncombe to the parents of Rudy and Zelda Moenck. There were 5 boys in our family: Bob, as many of you know, the oldest and I was next. Then came Harold, who was followed by Richard, and last came Jon. I went to the school in Duncombe for 12 years. Back then they didn't have school busses so we walked, or in the winter, Dad took us to school in a wagon or on a bobsled. Sometimes we walked the railroad tracks. With 4 brothers I'm sure we gave our parents fits at times. Dad told all of us boys if we didn't smoke till we were 18 he would give us a gold watch. All five of us got our watch and none of us ever smoked. I couldn't say I didn't try a few but I never cared for them. In High School we started out with the biggest class ever with 17, we only graduated 9 in 1942. Only two of them have passed away.

I played basketball for 4 years and jumped center all 4 years. I worked for a farmer east of town getting fields ready to plant. Mother call out to Mrs. Houskens, the family I was working for, and said I was incomplete in English and I did not learn a Shakespeare speech. I had to give it if I wanted my diploma signed. I went home and started to study well into the night and passed the test the next day at school.

I worked for a couple farmers the first year out of High school. Then Dorothy and I got married after going together for 3 years. That fall I went to work for Cargill and started out unloading beans and wound up firing the boiler. The next spring I went to work for Clarence Emerson (Orion Emerson's Dad) on a large beef and hog farm. On the farm I was feeding 650 hogs and 450 heads

of cattle. For 6 weeks one spring I did have on a pair of shoes, I wore rubber boots to be exact. I was the last one trying to move feed bunks out of the ice and mud. I went home, cleaned up and went right to bed. In 1946 I started working for Hougee Christian. I worked with him for 1 year until my uncle came up and said he had a farm I could rent. I didn't have much money, but after talking with Dad he said we could handle it. I started out with a F14 Farmer for 13 years and also I did part time carpentry work. I went up to the lumberyard to get some materials and the manager said the yard was closing, but he had bought it, and asked me if I would be interested in buying it. He would run the yard and I could do carpentry work. I stayed in the lumberyard business from 1959-1989. It worked out well for me. All the jobs I did, we got to sell the lumber. While in Vincent Dorothy got to be a postmaster for 23 years. Paul Green was there when she was hired and also saw her leave. In the meantime we had 3 children Carol, Sue, and Gary. Carol and her first husband Cliff had 3 children together. Cliff did a lot of woodworking and worked on model tractors. Carol is now living in Fort Dodge and just married my barber of 40 years (Jim Eich). Sue works in Minneapolis and has 3 daughters. Gary is a schoolteacher along with his wife Linda. They have 3 boys, and a daughter. Their boys were all good track and cross country runners. Heath, their youngest son, is at Iowa City in the track and cross-country program.

5 years ago we moved to FrienshipHaven. It was by far the best move we have ever made. As I was a carpenter, I've built a lot of flower carts, popcorn

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carts, flower potting tables, and a lot of chairs here. I also do anything else they ask me to do.

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We did a lot of traveling through the years. We spent over 50 years in Minnesota fishing, went to Canada 7 times, we've been to Mexico, Alaska, and Europe, England, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, Hawaii, and have hit all 48 inland states. I joined Golden K and have enjoyed it very much.