

Last of the "Creek Rats" Remember Old Times



(Mrs. R. J. Hering)

ROYAL, NEBR. — The original Royal Creek Rats baseball team of the early '90s, and their winning streak for seven years, has been told and retold throughout the years. The story is not only a saga in Antelope county but in all of northeast Nebraska as well.

There are a number of teams who were self-styled Creek Rats, but the one and only team deserving of the title was the one composed of three sets of brothers, the Forsbergs, Fred, Carl and George, living three miles east of Royal; the Couch brothers, Sam, John and Charlie, three miles northeast of Royal (near the present trout-rearing ponds), and the Petersons, Linn, Elmer and Gus, living southeast of Royal on the old Bob Thompson farm.

Of this group of players, only two remain, and this story was obtained in a recent interview with Fred Forsberg, Winnetoon, and a frequent Royal visitor, and an interview by proxy with Sam Couch, who is an arthritis victim, but who posed (in bed) for the photographer, and who was happy to reminisce of the days gone by.

Mr. Couch said, "I was born in a covered wagon, the first baby in Verdigris township, July 14, 1882. It was twenty miles from the present town of Royal, then called Savage. A team of oxen pulled the wagon.

Mr. Couch recalled an incident when he and Carl Forsberg were called by telegram to Wausa where Fred Forsberg was to pitch a game. He said, "We took the shafts out of the buggy and put in a tongue, and each of us furnished a horse, and we drove to Wausa, 50 miles, and it took all night. We rested about two hours and then played the game.

"Money was one thing we were short of most of the time," Couch continued, "George and I each put up 50 cents to make a dollar bet that we would win. We won. If we had lost, George and I and the girls would have gone hungry." Mr. Couch told about a game at Neligh when the Rats played a professional team. He said, "I was a star for one day! When the score was 2-0 in the last inning they had two men on base, and the batter hit the ball between right and left field. It went way back to the fence. Forsberg yelled, 'Sam!' and I took after it and caught it with one hand. Allie Clark and Landus Storm of Royal picked me up and carried me to the grandstand, and I was the star player of the day!"

Mr. Couch stated that he moved away from Royal in 1914. "I had farmed 120 acres of corn



and 60 acres of small grain with horses." He married Miss Mary Ingram of Royal, a sister of the late Judge Ingram. His wife died a number of years ago. He was employed on the railroad for 39 years and is now retired. He has three sons and two daughters living in or near Chadron.

Fred Forsberg, the pitching ace of the Creek Rats, now lives in Winnetoon where he moved from Brunswick after leaving the farm near Royal in 1939 following the death of his wife, who was Miss Anna Browning, Ewing, and a sister of Alex Browning, Orchard. He has two daughters, Mrs. Dale Mitties, and Mrs. William Webster, who live in the vicinity.

Asked what positions the Rats played, Forsberg said, "I was pitcher; John Couch, first base; Charlie Couch, short stop; Sam Couch, center field; George Forsberg, second base; Linn Peterson, left field; Carl Forsberg, right field; Gus Peterson, catcher; and Elmer Peterson, third base.

"Among the teams defeated by the Rats," said Forsberg, "were the Bonesteel Professionals, the Sioux City Independents, Omaha Colored Giants, Norfolk All-Stars and the Kansas City Sluggers."

Asked about the time he was backed up to play with the Omaha (colored) Giants, he said: "The Rats played the Giants at Royal and won the game. The following day, the Giants were to play Creighton. The pitcher became ill, so the Giants asked me to play. They took me to the hotel and blacked me up, and put an old black, dirty smelly suit on me, and I pitched for them and won the game. And no one knew the difference. They called me 'Sam' during the game."

Then what about that "grudge" game between Brunswick and Plainview, he was asked? "That day just my brother George and I played with the Brunswick team. George was one of the best second basemen outside a major league. When the score was 6-4, George made a leap into the air and caught the ball, giving Brunswick the victory. There were big bets on that game, and it was said that Dr. Conwell of Neligh went home with a satchell full of money. I didn't see it, so I can't say how much it was."

Mr. Forsberg lives alone and keeps active. He raises flowers as a hobby, and his beautiful blooms attract a great deal of attention.

He drives a 1930 Model A that takes him on fishing trips to the Niobrara, the Verdigris and the Elkhorn.

Mr. Forsberg is a cousin of Andrew Sjut, Royal. He visits in Royal frequently, and his fans of days gone by always fall to reminiscing.

Clearwater News

Mr. Charles Curtright
HUTER 5-3290

Youngster Injured Elbow While Playing Games

Edward, the three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moser, suffered a cracked bone in the elbow Tuesday while playing. He was taken to Antelope Memorial hospital in Neligh for x-rays.

A two-car accident occurred here Monday about six p.m. when cars driven by H. M. Wintz and Ralph Switzer collided near the flag pole in the north end of main street. Both cars received considerable damage, but neither driver was injured.

Jim Workman underwent surgery Tuesday in the Clarkson hospital in Omaha, where he was Sunday to meet morning at the Tilden Community hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lander and three of their four children spent several days last week with Mrs. Lander's mother, Mrs. Edith Nolze, and other relatives. The Landers left Monday for their home in Spokane, Wash.

Mrs. Jack Corder and daughter, Lisa, are visiting at the Roy Stevens home. Mrs. Corder is the former Jeannine Prater. Their home is in Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Hoffman and family left Saturday night for a vacation trip to Yellowstone.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Luben, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Brandt and Mrs. Don Luben went to O'Neill Sunday to meet Sgt. Don Luben who was returning from Camp Ripley, Minn., after a two-week training with the National Guard.

Celia News

Mrs. Merrill Anderson

Aunt, 86, Dies At Creighton

The Sicheneder family attended the funeral of Mrs. Sicheneder's aunt, Mrs. Mercedes Hubbard, 85, which was held Thursday at Creighton.

Dinner guests Sunday at the John Sicheneder home were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sicheneder, Mrs. Lorraine Zahradnick and daughters and James Sicheneder, Atkinson; Melvin Zahradnick, Stuart; Mr. and Mrs. James Nickols and sons, Stockton, Calif. The Nickols family is spending a few days at the Sicheneder home. Terry Morsett, West Point, is also a visitor there.

Beverly Meyer spent August 13 with Norma Jean Walker. Dorothy Scott was a supper guest Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Beck.

Sunday afternoon visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Colfack were Mr. Colfack's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Colfack, Atkinson, and his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Donelson, Spencer, Ia. James Fullerton and his mother, Mrs. Bertha Fullerton, Atkinson, were visitors at the Leonard Chaffin home Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Beck and family visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Heiser Thursday.

The Celia 4-H club had their annual picnic Sunday at the park in Atkinson. Most of the members and their parents were present. A business meeting was also conducted.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Smith, Page, visited at the Leonard Chaffin home Saturday afternoon. Rollin and Verdon, who has been spending the week at the Chaffin home, returned home with their parents.

Sharon Skandon, Gordon, was an overnight guest Saturday of Frances Chaffin. Miss Chaffin and Miss Skandon were roommates two years ago while attending college at Miltonvale, Kan.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton McKathnie, Darrel and Kay, accompanied by Mary Katherine and Patricia Kilmurry, attended the fair at Chambers Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. McKathnie and family were dinner guests Saturday at the home of her sister, Mrs. Gerald Risor and family, north of O'Neill.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Frickel, Lincoln, spent on Tuesday until Thursday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Connie Frickel. Donald left by train from Lincoln Friday for basic army training at Ft. Ord, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Connie Frickel and Kurt accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pacha to Lincoln Sunday where they were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Frickel. Ronnie recently underwent throat surgery at Lincoln. Mr. and Mrs. Frickel also visited their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Donald Frickel, while in Lincoln.

Mrs. Victor Frickel left Sunday afternoon to attend Bible camp at Central City. She plans to return home about mid-week.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton McKathnie and family attended the Siebert-Rothchild wedding Saturday evening at St. John's Lutheran church in Atkinson.

Sherman Blow of the Plantation

Manor, Elgin, is spending a few days at the Mark Hendricks home.

Mr. and Mrs. David Rahn called Monday at the Robert Hendricks home.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hendricks visited Mrs. Hendricks' cousin, Mrs. Tabor Kelly and her husband Sunday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Kelly's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McDowell, Atkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. John Ernst and daughter, Linda, Manhattan, Kan., came Thursday evening for a visit at the home of John's sister, Mrs. Robert Hendricks and family. They expect to leave for home Monday. Mrs. Ernst's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bench, and Rosemary Barrett, Turner, Ore., arrived at the Hendricks home Sunday evening. They have been visiting a daughter in Norfolk.

Mrs. Bertha Koski, Duluth, Minn., was an overnight guest Friday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Sicheneder. Mrs. Koski is a sister of Mrs. Stanley Johnson, Atkinson.

A picnic supper in honor of those having birthdays in August was had at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dobias August 13. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. John Sicheneder and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Dobias and Jerry, Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Dobias and family and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Clements and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Stewart entertained Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Carlson at supper Tuesday evening. Mrs. Carlson is an aunt of Leslie.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Stewart and boys and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Blair and family visited at the Don Stewart home Friday evening. Mrs. Don Stewart returned home Friday with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Carlson, Moline, Ill., after visiting the past few days. She accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Albert Leavelle Monday to the Carlson home and for a visit with Mrs. Sarah Newmans.

Ricky Wheeler, Niobrara, came Thursday to visit Dwight Stewart until Sunday.

Mike Howard stayed a few days last week at the Leslie Stewart home.

Guy Barnes was a Monday supper guest at the Leman Huber home. Mr. and Mrs. Huber spent Sunday evening at Pat Osborns. Mr. and Mrs. Buss Greene were supper guests there.

Mr. and Mrs. George Thayer spent Sunday at the Jim Svatos home. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Selles and sons, Pierre, S. D., spent the weekend at the Ray Mulhair and Jake Erlenbush homes. Mrs. Selles is a sister of Mrs. Erlenbush.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hoffman and Mrs. Gladys Spencer took Arden Spencer Sunday morning to Omaha where he will board a plane to Los Angeles, Calif., where he is employed as a glass estimator. He has been visiting here this past week while his brother, Calvin, a family were here from Texarqana, Tex. They returned to their home Thursday after spending two weeks here with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Sharon and three grandchildren came Sunday to visit Mrs. Craig for a few days. They are from Hanlontown, Ia.

Pat Stevens, Gregory, S. D., came Friday for a visit at the Joe Halva home. He returned home Saturday.

Larry, Junior, Danny and Terry Jo, children of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Havranek, Spencer, spent Saturday and Sunday with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Halva.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ducker and Garth spent the last week with Mr. and Mrs. Keith Kounovsky and baby son, Brandon, O., born August 6 at the O'Neill hospital.

Larry Hatt, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Rollin Hatt, recently broke his arm when he fell off the garage at his home.

The Assumption BVM Altar society held a special meeting at the church basement August 16 to make plans for the bazaar to be held September 10 in the park just east of the hospital. Dinner will be served from 12:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. There will be entertainment such as cake walks, fish pond, country store, rides, darts, duck hunting, etc.

The First Methodist Women's society met at the home of Mrs. Fred King August 18 at 8 p.m. There were four visitors present. The meeting was conducted by Mrs. Glen Stewart. Mrs. Everett Rutledge acted as secretary. Plans were made to finish the

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kitchen at the parsonage as soon as the men are able to leave their farm work. Mrs. Robert Conklin led the devotions. Mrs. C. A. Moody was co-hostess.

The YWGO club met at the home of Mrs. Earl Pritchett August 14 at 8 p.m. Plans were made for the fair booth at Spencer August 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Courtney Jr., and family spent the preceding week camping at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Elsassers, Jeannette, Sioux Falls, S. D., spent the weekend here and were supper guests at the Leman Huber home.

Mrs. Willa Schollmeyer recently finished her schooling at Wayne and will be at home here a week before going to Norfolk where she will teach junior high English. Bruce Schollmeyer will attend college there and Barty will enter the seventh grade.

Mrs. George Courtney Sr., and Wayne Blair are staying at Hartington with Mr. Courtney until school starts September 5.

Mrs. Gladys Gallop and her granddaughter, Linda Crooks, returned home Saturday from California where they have spent two months visiting Mr. and Mrs. Dan Soulek and family. Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Gallop and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Baker and family. Mrs. Gladys Gallop spent the weekend at the Ted Crooks home before returning to her home in east Lynch.

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until Thursday. They were roommates of Mrs. Johnson this past year at Geneva. Miss Merryman teaches second grade there and Miss Rippe teaches fifth.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown, Brenda, and their granddaughter, Lisa Jo Lewis, Randolph, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mulhair and Loren and Mr. and Mrs. Don Johnson were dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Moffett in honor of the birthdays of Frank Mulhair and Mr. Wallace Moffett.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Blue and family arrived at the home of Mrs. Julia Hasenpflug August 13 for a week's visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Barnes were supper guests of Mrs. Marion McColey, Verdell, Sunday.

On Thursday night in honor of Mrs. Gordon Blue a Hasenpflug reunion was held near Niobrara. A fish dinner was served. Those present were Fred Hasenpflug, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hasenpflug and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hasenpflug, all from Creighton, Mr. and Mrs. Audrey Compton and Mrs. Julia Hasenpflug.

Janice Crawford arrived home Friday after spending a week at the St. Joseph hospital in Sioux City where she received physical therapy on her neck and foot. Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Crawford and Steve and Janice and Mrs. Fred Coleman, Spencer visited Sunday at the Roger Breyfogle home in Sioux City. Nellie Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. John Larson of Laurel were also guests there.

Mr. and Mrs. Lumir Cizek and family and Mrs. Bertha Rossmeyer drove to Norfolk and Grand Island Thursday and Friday to visit relatives.

(Last week news)

Arden Spencer, Los Angeles, California, arrived in Omaha Saturday and returned home with Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Spencer who drove to Omaha after him. He is employed by the Downy Glass Company, Los Angeles. A picnic was held at the Lloyd Spencer home Sunday. Those attending were Mrs. Gladys Spencer and Arden, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Spencer and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Weeder and Paula, Mr. and Mrs. William Stauffer, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Davy and family, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Davy, Sidney and Roger Woolf, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spencer and family and the Veldon Lee family. The afternoon was spent boating and skiing on the Missouri River.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Rutledge and Mike left Friday morning for Sioux City on business. They drove on to Oakland and spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Barnes and Bob. They returned home Monday morning.

Janice Crawford left for Sioux City Sunday where she will undergo physical therapy on her right foot which was injured in an automobile accident several weeks ago. The cast has been removed and she is now able to walk on her foot.

Mrs. Jack Keller and John, Washington, D. C., arrived here last Monday for a visit at the Guy Keller home. They all attended the Doris Hrbek wedding in O'Neill Saturday.

Mrs. E. C. Thompson Jr. and sons, Shreveport, La., came Monday morning for a three-day visit at the Art Retzlaff home. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Retzlaff, Chambers, were dinner guests there also.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Courtney entertained the following at steak fry Saturday evening: Mr. and Mrs. George Courtney Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Richard Courtney, all of Lincoln, and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Frahm, O'Neill.

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Former Lynch Man is Missionary in Africa



A former Lynch man, Daniel Dale Edwards and his family, are living in Africa where they serve as missionaries at a station that has two missionary houses, two guest houses, a church, school, dispensary, isolation rooms and many fruit trees.

It is located in N. Nigeria, West Africa.

This is the second field term the Edwards family has spent in Africa, the first one being at Dadiya, where living conditions were not as luxurious as the present station.

When Daniel and his wife, Myrtle, first went to Africa in 1953 they were responsible for 15,000 Africans and at that time were warmly greeted by a large crowd of Moslem Tribes Africans who presented them with chickens, bananas and other gifts of food.

Their house was made of mud and had a grass roof. Snakes, lizards, bats and mosquitos were frequent visitors in the house. They had no refrigerator and were unable to keep meat although there was plenty of game available.

The rainy season there brought many hardships to the couple as they had to cross two rivers to obtain groceries and mail from Kuntungo, 25 miles from Dadiya. They had no transportation for two years and had to depend on someone else to transport their supplies, or else walk the 25 miles for groceries. As the rainy season lasts in Africa for three-four months, they were many times without staples. One month in particular they were unable to get food and flour and had to live on rice and African food.

There were no Christians to assist them in their religious teaching. The natives worshiped trees, snakes, stones and idols so Daniel and Myrtle had to start from the beginning. They took care of 100 or more patients a day at the dispensary, most of them for treatment of tropical ulcers. Myrtle taught school in the afternoon and at one time had 50 girls enrolled in school.

On March 17, 1955, their daughter, Rachel Grace, was born in Jos Mission hospital. Their little white baby caused a great deal of excitement among the Africans as she was the first one they had ever seen. The new baby brought

for mechanical engineering. It wasn't until the fall of 1948 that he decided to study for the ministry. He was born near Spencer, June 29, 1927, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Edwards, and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Edwards, also of Spencer. At the age of four he moved with his parents to a farm one mile north of Lynch and later they resided on a farm south of Lynch. In 1934 they moved into Lynch, where they lived until the family moved to Omaha in 1942.

Daniel completed his high school education at Omaha and he received training in arc and gas welding and lathe work. He spent two years in the armed service, part of which was in Seoul, Korea. Following his discharge he enrolled at Omaha university college where he studied engineering until his decision to enter the ministry.

After graduation from Grace Bible Institute in 1951 he was married to Myrtle Wieting, Cleveland, Ohio, who was also a graduate of Grace Bible Institute. His wife was well trained in the missionary field, along with Daniel, and the couple have dedicated their lives to the teaching of christianity.