

Ingwer and Pat Hansen

Submitted by Jane Hansen Kauzlarich

The charismatic chapel at the Hartley cemetery has great significance for my family. My father was Ingwer L. Hansen, Sr. He attended the funeral of his mother, Augusta, at the Pleasant View Cemetery Chapel in the winter of 1920. Ing was only seven years old at the time...his baby brother, Kermit "Pete," was nine months old. Their sister, LuVerne, was eleven. I can only imagine the sadness and confusion of the three children at the loss of their young mother. Every time I go to Pleasant View, I place my hands on the chapel, and I think of my ancestors. I am proud to be a fourth generation Hansen from Hartley. My grandparents, Peter and Welhelmina are buried at the Hansen plot just south of the Chapel along with my grandparents, Ernest and Augusta. My parents, Ing and Patricia Elanor "Pat" and my brother, Ingwer L. "Orv" Hansen, Jr., rest there as well. Eventually, my ashes and those of my husband, Ron, will be placed on the Hansen plot.

Ing was born in a little house a few blocks west of downtown Hartley. Later he enjoyed life on the Hansen farm between May City and Melvin. He often told me tales of the pony and pet goat they had. He was employed at the Post Office in Hartley when he met my mother, Patricia Greenlee, from St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. My mother told me she was immediately smitten.

My parents made their home in Hartley their entire lives, not quite reaching their fiftieth wedding anniversary before my mother passed away at age 71. They were devoted to Hartley and committed to serving in numerous capacities of community service. Ing served as Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for 32 years. His office was located in the Legion Hall. .

After retiring from 42 years of sorting and delivering mail, he ran for the Iowa Legislature and served ten years as a leader in the Iowa House of Representatives. He then pursued a degree at Worthington Community College. His desire was to achieve a four-year degree and go to Law school.

However, my mother's health became his greatest concern; so after graduating with highest honors from Worthington, he devoted his time to caring for Pat. My mother belonged to many organizations in Hartley. No doubt her greatest accomplishment was her involvement in T.T.T., an altruistic organization that began in Iowa and spread throughout the United States. Mother served in all state and national offices. We were enormously proud to attend the ceremony in which she was named National President.

My parents were compassionate people who taught their three children that service to others is of the highest importance. The values they exemplified are the greatest treasure to me, my sister, Mary Ann Gregory, as they were to our brother Orv. It all began with a small boy who suffered great loss, found the love of his life...and devoted his adulthood to "The Town with the Heart."

Jane Hansen Kauzlarich

Added note from Betty Taylor—

Pat and I occasionally walked along the railroad tracks for both exercise and the opportunity to enjoy the native plants. She could identify all the wild flowers and birds in the area. The Hansen's had a large bird house on their lawn. It resembled an apartment house and was constructed especially for purple martins. Much to Pat's chagrin, the birds were not interested. Martins circled the house occasionally, but never took up residence—until they settled in, during the final summer of Pat's life.

We went to see her after she was diagnosed with renal cancer. She told me she intended to give her condition all the fight she could, but she had never known anyone who had lived forever. They were valued neighbors.