



Clarence and Edel Gast

By Neoma Laken

Clarence Richard Gast was born March 26, 1904 the son of August Jr. and Bertha Knitter Gast in Marshall County, Minnesota. Clarence married Edel Konstanse Dyrud, born January 7, 1911 on November 18, 1937 at the parsonage in Newfolds, Minnesota. Pastor G. P. Ronholm officiated. Roy Gast was bestman and Beatrice Dyrud was bridesmaid. The following Children were born to this union.

Lance Gast, born November 15, 1943

Estelle Gast, born June 17, 1948

Clarence attended Fairview school at Ellerth and then worked on the Olsen and Holen farm near Argyle, Minnesota. Edel also worked on this farm after graduating from high school. Clarence often took Edel home for weekend visits as the Gast and Dyrud homes were within two miles of each other. This was the beginning of a lifelong relationship. Edel began nurses training in the fall of 1930 and Clarence continued employment at the Olsen and Holen Farm. He drove to Grand Forks to visit Edel

when she had time off. Edel graduated in 1933 with Clarence in attendance and began employment at the Warren Hospital in 1934. It was in the Warren Hospital that Clarence sat with his great-uncle August Schwinke. August had just returned from Canada where he had been prospecting for gold. August was very ill and was penniless. In January 1936 Edel was diagnosed with tuberculosis and entered a sanatorium. She was discharged in December, 1936.

Clarence and Edel were married in 1937. Clarence was employed by the meat market in Stephen, Minnesota. IN 1938 Clarence bought the meat market in Arglye from his uncle William Gast. Edel helped in the market. For a short time, the couple lived with Hilmer and Bertha Gast Bergner, Clarence's uncle and aunt. Later they move to an apartment in Arglye. In September 1945, Clarence and Edel purchased the Bergner house and lived there until Edel sold it in 1990. Edel experienced many episodes of ill health during her life. Clarence retired in 1970 after 32 years in the meat market business. The market was torn down to make room for a mall.

Clarence suffered a stroke in January 1973. The problem was at the base of his brain an considered inoperable. In 1974 he had three compressed fractured bertebrae and was fitted with a steel back brace. His respiratory problems, bronchial asthma and

emphysema worsened. Clarence died June 27, 1976 and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Argyle Minnesota.

Edel was diagnosed with cancer in 1989 had surgery and recovered. On April 8, 1990 Edel suffered a heart attach, entered the hospital and was discharged a week later. Edel realized that she had to sell her home which she did on July 30, 1990 and moved into an apartment in Warren, Minnesota.