

Aubrey (Al) Lopp and Minnie Bakke

First the basic information on these two individuals. When Aubrey Allen Lopp was born on January 5, 1905, in Sedalia, Missouri, his father, Daniel, was 37 and his mother, Eva, was 30. He married Minnie B Bakke on December 2, 1927. He died on March 30, 1994, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, at the age of 89, and was buried in Highwood, Illinois.

When Minnie Bakke was born on June 10, 1902, in Marsh Grove, Minnesota, her father, Peder, was 44, and her mother, Agneta, was 43. She died on December 7, 1987, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, at the age of 85, and was buried in Highwood, Illinois.

Minnie grew up on the Peder Bakke farm about five miles west of Newfolden. I remember Minnie telling me that she was in the old log house on the farm when a tornado hit the house and partially destroyed it. She was not injured. After the tornado, Peder and Agnetta built a new house which is still standing on the family farm. As a young girl Minnie did many of the farm chores including milking the cows. She told me that she was kicked by one of the cows, injured and that is why she could never have any children. The photo on the right shows Minnie with a milk pail.



As a young woman, Minnie left her family farm near Newfolden, Minnesota and traveled to California to visit her older sister Amanda. Minnie met and married Aubrey Allen Lopp on December 4, 1927 in San Diego, CA. Their wedding picture is on the left.

According to the 1930 census, Minnie lived with her sister Amanda. Both were married at the time. Al was in the Navy and probably at sea.

Check out the story on Arthur and Amanda (Bakke) Lewis in this website.



Al and Minnie visited the Newfolden area in 1956 when this photo was taken. I remember their dog very well and she was spoiled. Her name was Bonnie and she traveled with them. They also had a cat, Ligie but I don't remember much about the cat. Here is a photo of the pets.



Al and Minnie were living in Waite Park, MN in 1978 when I visited them and treated them to dinner on their 51st wedding

anniversary. They celebrated their 60th anniversary in 1987. I have a newspaper clipping from that time which read:

“60th anniversary for Lopps

Aubrey and Minnie (Bakke) Lopp, 1600 60 St, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Friday with Friends. The couple was married Dec. 4, 1927 at a beach cottage in San Diego, Calif. They have lived in Kenosha for five years. He was with the U.S.Navy for 36 years before retiring. Being honest with each other and showing lots of affection have been the key to a happy marriage for the Lopps, they said.”



Al spent 36 years in the US Navy and the photo shows him with some Navy buddies. Al is standing on the right. Al saw action in the Pacific during World War II. I've found several ship rosters listing him as a sailor. For instance, he was on the USS Mayrant, a destroyer from December 1941 through March 1945. He also was a basic training instructor at the Great Lakes Training Center near Chicago. One of the young men from Newfolden reported that he was a really tough instructor. After retiring from the Navy, Al held several jobs or professions. Al and Minnie had a pheasant ranch near Detroit Lakes, MN until the widening of US highway took part of their ranch. Al worked with the Boys Club of Detroit Lakes, worked as a part time Becker county deputy. Their last adventure before retiring was owning and operating a small resort in Hackensack, MN. While they were living in Nisswa, MN, I drove my father to visit them for a couple days. One thing I'll always remember was that after we had breakfast, Al gave Min as he called her, a kiss and thanked her for breakfast. I guess that proved what was written in their anniversary write-up, affection make sfor a happy marriage. Al and Minnie first retired in Waite Park, MN and then to Kenosha, WI. Minnie died as a result of injuries suffered when she fell in the bathtub. I visited Al shortly thereafter and he told me that Minnie did not recognize him in the hospital until he came in wearing his Navy uniform. Al was a volunteer exercise instructor until he died. I remember him complaining about men years younger who couldn't keep up with his routine. I remember both very fondly. As I was growing up, I heard my family complain that Minnie married a sailor, as if it was a terrible thing to do. After getting to know them, I could never understand that comment.



They are both buried under the tombstone in the Fort Sheridan cemetery, Chicago, IL. Minnie's inscription is on the back of the stone. Minnie died on 7 December, 1987 and Al on 30 March 1994.