

# **Dempsey Family History**

**As of**

**March 1, 2011**

March 1, 2011  
Omaha, NE, USA

Bill had just died a few weeks earlier on October 17, 2010. It was a cold, grey November morning and I was at Mom's house generally visiting, reminiscing about Bill and going through her Last Will and Testament with her. With Bill's passing, she wanted me to go through her Will and see what I thought, whether it needed to be changed or updated. In the process, I was going through her steel box of important papers (this steel box has been in the family as long as I can remember). One of the documents I came across in the box was curious to me. It was a document I had never seen before, or at least could not remember ever seeing. It was titled DEMPSEY FAMILY HISTORY.

This four-page document seemingly chronicles the history of the Dempsey clan of Ireland from the dawn of time and it runs through June, 1921 when a certain Thomas Dempsey died. This Thomas Dempsey was my Great Grandfather.

As I mentioned, this was a curious document to me as I honestly did not know very much at all about the Dempsey family history, other than a few vague stories about my Dad's family losing the family farm near Newcastle, NE during the Great Depression and moving to Omaha. Of course, I knew my living Aunts, Uncles and cousins on my Dad's side, but otherwise did not know much at all of my Dad's family history. In fact, given that our family grew up in North Omaha, and that my Dad's brothers, sisters, and their families lived in South Omaha, we were admittedly not really very close knit either, seeing one another only occasionally on holidays, funerals, perhaps at a summer picnic and the like.

As I read through the yellowed four-page document, I grew more and more curious about the Dempsey family history. I had a fairly good understanding of Mom's family history, the Herchenbach family history, as we had always had a family history book laying around the house that had been put together several years ago by one of my Mom's cousins. Plus, it just somehow seemed like we saw more of my Mom's family over the years or were generally a little bit closer to them as a family (which is not to say that I can readily name all my cousins on my Mom's side of the family by any means).

The first several pages of the family history rapidly list about 30 or so generations of Dempsey men, dating back to approximately the week after the fateful Garden of Eden events took place. Pages 3 and 4 of the family history start to get a little more current and therefore relevant and interesting. Ultimately the history arrives at Thomas, my Great Grandfather where my curiosity kicked in. You see, I never met my Grandfather, Michael Dempsey as he had died before I was born. I have only vague memories of my Grandmother Catherine as she died when I was six years old.

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My Dad, Emmett, was the second of eight children born to Michael and Catherine Dempsey, born on March 1, 1920. I was his youngest child, born when he was 37 years old and deep into the work and worry of raising a family of six children on a blue-collar, steel worker's income. I understand he and his family were quite poor, lost the farm and soon after moved to Omaha. He had an eighth grade education and worked on the farm prior to moving to Omaha.

We didn't "hang out" much together to be honest, probably for a lot of reasons, mainly because at that time adults generally kept with adults, kids played with kids, and that was that. That said, we did do many things together, not the least of which was live under the same roof for the better part of 26 years. I suppose we did most all of the things that other families at that time did. We went to church together and he helped me with my paper route on Sunday mornings. I remember distinctly my Dad taking me to the Broken Rail (and a few other favorite watering holes) with him when I was a young boy. I can remember the air conditioned smell of beer, cigarettes and whiskey as we sat together at the bar. I would have a 7-Up or some other pop and generally a Hershey bar (plain). He proudly called me "The Boss" and generally bragged me up to his pals, many of which worked with him at Paxton and Vierling Steel, not far away in Carter Lake, Iowa.

My Dad was a somewhat quiet man. He didn't talk just to hear himself talk or regale crowds with wild stories or jokes (as near as I know anyway). Rather, he was a quiet, hard-working man that was devoted to his family. He had a peculiar attribute of crying readily. He would all of a sudden cry over some sad news or family event. He would cry for maybe two or three seconds and then he would be fine. In addition to many wonderful attributes, however, he did suffer from a common yet painful illness---Emmet was an alcoholic.

All men it seemed as I was growing up smoked and drank as did my Dad. Dad worked in a very hard and tiring job at Paxton and Vierling Steel. In the tin metal 'shop' building where he worked, it was beastly hot in the Summer and bone-chilling cold in the Winter. He was paid only for the hours he worked, so he had to show up, lunch box in hand, day after day, which he did religiously for over 40 years. I remember picking him up from work often (as we only had one car in the family) and he would be dog tired, greasy and dirty as heck walking out of the shop. In order to pay the bills and raise his family, he had to show up at work every day.

After work, he would stop off at one of the local bars on 16<sup>th</sup> Street such as the Broken Rail, Penny's or one of the others nearby, or at one of the bars on 24<sup>th</sup> Street closer to our house. This was a generally accepted thing to do at that time I think as he would have a few drinks in the cool air-conditioned and friendly bar with friends and co-workers before going home to dinner. Generally after dinner he would have a brief nap and then sometimes even run back down to the bar for another beer or two, always to

be home before 9:00. In any event, and to make one man's long struggle with alcoholism short, it seems this all caught up with him to the point where, one day in 1975, I came home to learn that he was in the hospital.

At the age of 55, Emmet finally was forced to deal with his drinking. It seems that Jack "The Barber" from across the street had come to take him to the hospital. Jack was himself a recovering alcoholic as I understand, and he helped my Dad through this hard time to get help. As I recall, Dad was in the hospital for several weeks. Happily, when he came home, he was a healthier and changed man.

Yes, the good news is that, to the best of my knowledge, he never had another drink in his life, which must have taken a tremendous amount of courage and strength for a man who had grown accustomed to drinking, often to excess, his entire life; for a man who grew up in an era when all men smoked and drank regularly.

Dad moved on to the next phase of his life. He went back to work at the shop at PVS, earning a living to pay the bills, put dinner on the table and to help put me through college among other things. He religiously attended AA meetings helping others at the meetings. He soon retired from PVS and stayed home. The years and the miles had taken a toll on his health. A life-long smoker, it seems the hard work, and hard lifestyle had caught up with him and he could no longer withstand the strains of working in the shop at PVS.

In retirement, I remember getting to know him a little closer. I remember him being more at ease with himself. He would go to All-Star Wrestling matches at The Civic Auditorium, Tuesday night Devotions at Blessed Sacrament with my Mom and he would sit on a chair in front of the garage and talk with the neighbors in the sunshine. In the Summer he would pick up a nice tan and enjoy knocking around the yard and having coffee with friends at the Minne Lusa Restaurant up on 30<sup>th</sup> Street. After 8 years of sobriety and a few years of retirement, my Dad died at the age of 63 on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1983.

Now, I did not set out to write a biography of my Dad's life, and that is clearly not what this document is all about. Even if I had wanted to, I wouldn't be qualified to do so as I was just really getting to know him well as an adult when he died. A man's life cannot be told in a few short paragraphs, so please do not misconstrue my efforts to provide a few comments here. But since I wanted to share the found DEMPSEY FAMILY HISTORY document with my siblings, nieces and nephews, I thought it may be of interest to put down for historical purposes a few thoughts, facts and memories of him. After all, this is a DEMPSEY family history and Emmet has been gone for 28 years now. I am sure that most all of his grandchildren never had the pleasure of meeting him, and if they did, have only vague memories of him at best. I thought it might be of historical interest for his grandchildren and their children to know just a bit of information about him.

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Perhaps my brothers and sisters can shed their own light and stories on the man with you. Sadly, some may remember my Dad most for his bout with alcoholism. I prefer to remember him also for his strength and courage in remaining sober for eight years and for all his hard work over the course of his life lugging a lunch bucket to and from PVS day after day after day. I prefer to remember him as much for his calmer life in retirement as for his struggles in his forties and fifties. Someday, if someone was so inclined, I am confident a proper and compelling story could be written about a poor Irishman from Newcastle, Nebraska that had his fair share of troubles but somehow survived and ultimately succeeded based on hard work and love of family.

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Upon coming across the family history document that day in November, I planned to simply take copies of it for each of Emmet and Iona's grandchildren and give it to them as a Christmas present from Mom. In discussing my idea with her she thought it to be a good idea and suggested I contact my Aunt Sylvia, Jimmy Dempsey's widow, as Mom believed she also had additional information on the family history. What an excellent idea that was! I talked with Sylvia and her daughter Susan (my first cousin for those keeping track), and Susan provided me with the bulk of the information included here, including the pictures of the family, many of which were taken on the farm near Newcastle and at the family home at 2328 Oak Street.

Susan's family history document goes far deeper into the history of Thomas and Catherine Dempsey's family of eight children: Raymond John, Emmet, Madeline, Jeanette, Phyllis (Tootsie), Vincent Michael (Benny), Patrick (Paddy) and James Eugene (Jimmy). It is a very interesting read as are the pictures of the family, some as far back as from the 1920's. Thank you, Susan and Sylvia, for sharing this information with all of us.

Admittedly, this document is somewhat cobbled together, however, I hope that it will provide a bit of interesting information on our mutual heritage in the Dempsey family that otherwise may have been lost to the ages. It is in this context and spirit that I provide it to you. I apologize in advance if there are any misspellings or slights in any way. Oh, and about that Christmas present: I clearly got sidetracked and didn't get this done for Christmas. So, my next best thought was to sit down today, on what would have been my Dad's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday and jot this note to you. If you are so inclined, raise a toast with your family for Emmet, Bill, and all of our departed family members, and for our current and future family members as well.

I hope you enjoy this family history information and the pictures Susan has provided. All the best to you and your families for years to come,

Jerry  
March 1, 2011

## Emmet and Iona Dempsey Family History

Emmet and Iona Herchenbach met on a blind date in 1941 and subsequently married on September 8, 1942 in Humphrey, NE. They had six wonderful children and, as of today, there are 19 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and countless lives touched as a result of this blind date.

William Joseph "Bill"	Born July 19, 1943
Robert Michael "Bob"	Born July 8, 1944
Jeanne Marie "Jeanne"	Born June 29, 1945
Judith Anne "Judy"	Born June 22, 1946
John Alan "John"	Born March 4, 1951
Jerry Joseph "Jerry"	Born March 18, 1957

Bill married Beverly Grasso and they had three children: Patrick (Pat), Paige and Alison (Ali)

Pat married Michelle Simon and they had four children: Simon, Will, Luke and Jack

Bob married Linda Miles and they had two children: Barbara and Jeff

Barbara married John Doran and they had three children: Jack, twins Riley Genene, and Robert

Jeff married Lisa Palmesano and they had two children: Caleb and Rachel

Jeanne married John Sullivan and they had four children: Mathew (Matt), twins Annie and Amy and Emily

Annie married Greg Nickell and they had three children: Alicia, Kaitlin and Elizabeth

Amy married Nick Tharp and they had two children: Nathan and Emma

Emily married Chris Byler

Judy married Doug aka "Douglas" Bahle and they had four children: Angela (Angie), John, and Mark

Angie married Dave Lampe and they had four children: Emmet, Gus, Agnes and Martha

John married Chelsea Werner and they have two children: Peter (Pete) and Theodore (Ted)

Mark married Jamie Rave and they have one child: Mary

John married Ruth Bodnar and they had two children: Susanne and Thomas (Tom);

John subsequently married Cindy Suess and they had two children: Lindsey and Jennifer (Jenna)

Susanne married Rod Cook and they have two children: James and Naomi

Lindsey married Chris Berndt and they have one child: Sydney Jade

Jenna married Bryan Long and they are expecting their first child, Olivia Jo in April 2011

Jerry married Jeanne Marie Ahern and they have three children: Kathryn Marie (Katie), Margaret Anne (Margie), and Maureen Lynne (Reenie)

Iona Mary Herchenbach was the first born of Pete and Angela Herchenbach. She was born on the family farm just outside of Humphrey, NE on November 5, 1921. Iona's siblings included:

Mark	Married Katherine Magsman and had 4 children
Romana	Married Wilfred Hemmer and had 9 children
Louis	Married Janice Melcher and had 4 children
Eugene	Married Delores Fraundorfer and had 7 children
Elda Mae	Married Lee Hemmer and had 6 children
Jerry	Married Darlene Kruse and had 4 children
Mary	Married Ivan Van Dyke and had 5 children

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## The Serenity Prayer

When my Dad died, I received his Alcoholics Anonymous medallion that he carried with him at all times in his pocket. It is well worn and he almost wore its words off as he must have held and squeezed it anxiously throughout his recovery. On it is opening verse of The Serenity Prayer:

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
as it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
if I surrender to His Will;  
That I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with Him  
Forever in the next.  
Amen.

The next four pages are the document that I originally came upon in my Mom's steel banker's box back in November that led to this project.

## DEMPSEY FAMILY HISTORY

Clanmaliere--This territory lay principally on both sides of the river Barrow in King's and Queen's counties. It contained parts of the present baronies of Geashill and Philipstown in King's county; with part of Portneinch, in Queen's county; and part of Offaley in the county Kildare, including Monastervan and the adjoining districts; and, according of Sir Charles Coote in his survey, the O'Dempseys had a part of the barony of Ballyrovan in King's county.

### Family Tree

Diomusach, who is #97 on the "Connor" Faley pedigree; was the ancestor of O'Diomasaighe; anglicised Dempsey.

97 Diomusach (Irish, proud, haughty, arrogant): son of Congall: a quo O'Diomasaighe.

98 Fiann Da Congall: His son; had an elder brother named AEneas, who was ancestor of O'Connor Faley.

99 Cineth (by some called Tumaltach): hisson: had a brother Mugron, who was the ancestor of Hollahan, of "Clann Colgan."

100 Donal: his son: had a brother named Riaghan, who was the ancestor of Dunne and a quo O'Regan. This Donal had another brother named Hugh, who was the ancestor of the O'Dempsey, lords of Clanmaliere.

101 Hugh O'Dempsey: son of Donal; was the first of the family that assumed this surname.

102 Conor: his son

102 Maoluradh ("aradh"-Irish, apparel, good condition) = his son; a quo Clan Maolnraidh, anglicised "Clanmaliere".

104 Corcran: his son

105 Diomusack: his son

106 Hugh O'Dempsey: his son

107 Corcran (2): his son

108 Florence: his son; was the first "Lord of Clanmaliere."

109 Cubnroa: his son

110 Dermot: his son

111 Hugh: his son

112 Coilen: his son

110 Hugh: his son

111 Coilen: his son; died without issue; had a brother named Fionn.

112 Maolseachlainn: son of said Fionn

113 Fionn (2): his son

114 Dermod: his son

115 Maolnordha: his son

116 Cahir; his son

117 Hugh, of Loghine, Ballybrittas: his son-died 1563

118 Dermod Ruadh: his son; had two brothers. 1. Owen, 2. Terence: both of whom died without issue.

119 Sir Terence: son of Dermod Ruadh, knighted on May 22, 1599, at Kiltenan or Kiltana, Co. Limerick, by Robert Devereaux, Earl of Essex, Lord lieutenant of Ireland. Terence was created a viscount in 1631.

120 Uaithne (Oweny, Toney, or Anthony) of Clonegauny, in the King's County; his son died (before his father) in 1638. This Uaithne had four brothers. 1. Hugh 2. Right Rev. Edmond, Roman Catholic Bishop of Leighlin; 3. Rev. Feagh, Roman Catholic vicar-general of Kildare; 4. James.

121 Lewis, son of Uaithne; the second "Lord Viscount of Ulanmaliere", and baron of Phillipstown. This Lewis took an active part in the "Rebellion" of 1641, for which he was outlawed and attainted; he died in testate, and administration of his effects was granted in May 1683. He had two brothers. 1. Sir Christopher, who when very young, was knighted by Lord Falkland, Lord lieutenant of Ireland, in July 1624; This Sir Christopher died without issue. 2. James O'Dempsey, of Bishop's Court, in the Co. Kildare, who was a colonel in the Army of King James the Second.

122 Maximilian O'Dempsey; son of Lewis; was made Lord lieutenant of Queen's County by King James the Second, and sat in the Parliament held by him on May 7, 1689. This Maximilian died without issue, in 1714; his estates were by Act of attainder of William 3rd., confiscated in 1691, for his adherence to the House of Stuart; he had a younger brother named Terence, who after confiscation of the family estates in 1691, left Ireland in his boyhood, and settled in Ches-hire, England, where at an advanced age he died in 1769.

123 Thomas Dempsey, of Northchurch, son of Terence; died at Laurel house, Foxtell Park, Liverpool, England, in 1816.

124 James Dempsey, of Liverpool; son of Thomas; died in 1847.

- 113 Fionn: his son
- 114 Melachlin: his son
- 115 Dermot (2): his son
- 116 Fionn (2): his son
- 117 Melachlin (2): his son
- 118 Fionn (3): his son
- 119 Dermot (3): his son
- 120 Maolnorra: his son; lord of Clanmalier
- 121 Cahir (or Cahyr) of Ballybrittas, in the Queen's Co.: his son
- 122 Hugh: his son
- 123 Dermot (4): his son
- 124 Terence (or Tirlock) O'Dempsey: his son; died without issue AD 1578.

The motto of this family was, "Let us be examined by our conduct."

Dempsey (2)

Hugh, a younger brother of Doan, who is No. 100 on the foregoing "Dempsey" (1) pedigree was ancestor of O'Dempsey, Lords of Clanmalier.

100 Hugh: son of Cineth; chief of his family.

101 Connor: his son

102 Maolughra: his son

103 Corcran: his son

104 Diomasach: his son

106 Flann: his son; in his time the family assumed the surname O'Dempsey.

107 Hugh (2): his son

108 Congroga: his son (died 1162)

109 Dermot O'Dempsey: his son; built the Cistercian Abbey of Monastorvan in 1179. His seat was Duramaise, Queen's Co. Died 1193.

Crest same as other family, (1), Supporters. Two knights chained together by left and right leg all ppr.

Motto; Let us not destroy what we made lawful by God.

Additional information;

Present day; Gen. Sir Miles Christopher Dempsey "RCB" (1944) "RBE" (1943) CB (1943)

DSP (1940) MC p.s.c.--edu. Srewwsbury and R. C. Born 1896 - son of late A. F. Dempsey of Haylake Co. Chester.

Officers serving in Spain:

Don Danilo Dempsey, 1653  
Capt. Don Carlos, 1663  
Colonel Don Diego Dempsey  
Prince Conde Dempsey 1660  
Captain Murtagh Dempsey, 1663

Thomas Dempsey, born in Ireland in . Came to New York about 1860. Was made Captain, in the (1862) Irish Legion, known as Corcorans Irish Legion of New York State Volunteers. They were organized in New York to serve three years. It was mustered into service No. 17, 1862 and mustered out July 15, 1865, in accordance with orders of the War Department. He came to Dixon County Nebraska to visit his Uncle Pat Dempsey about 1880. He met and married Mary Kilkullen. They moved to a farm near Newcastle, Nebraska, where ten children were born, Margaret Ann (Leise), Michael, Thomas, Theresa (Cranery)? Martha (Schroeder), Sarah (Lorge), Bernadine (Sargent), Helen (Sackerson), John, Monica (Crampton). He died at the age of 81 in June, 1921.

Thomas Dempsey was baptized the 28 of November one thousand eight hundred and forty two 1842, and his sponsor was Michail S. Kotturme Newin, he was about 83 when he died.

## **Dempsey Family History** **By Susan Dempsey**

### **Oldest & First Generation**

**Great Grandparents (My Father Jim's Grandparents)** – these are great-grandparents to Susan's generation:

Thomas P. Dempsey married Mary Kilcullen

Their children: Thomas, Michael, Jack, Theresa, Helen Bonnie, Monica, Sadie, Maggie & Martha

### **Second Generation**

**Grandparents (My Father Jim's Parents)** – these are Grandparents to Susan's generation:

Father: Michael Patrick Dempsey – Born 3/17/1885 – Died 12/24/1947 at 62 yrs.

Mother: Catherine Teresa Hodgins – Born 1/16/1893 – Died 2/19/1963 at 70 yrs.

They were married 5/3/1915.

Both are buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Omaha, NE. The cemetery record shows the name Catherine Ann, but Sylvia's papers show Teresa as her middle name.

Catherine Teresa Hodgins parents were:

Thomas Hodgins – Born ? - Died 12/30/1921 in Willis, NE

Bridget Casey Hodgins – Born in 1856 – Died 2/13/1918 at 62 years in Willis, NE

Catherine Teresa Hodgins - was baptized – 1/28/1894 by Rev. B Fitzpatrick at St. Patrick's Church in Jackson, Nebraska – sponsors were Daniel & Margaret Hartnett

Catherine had 3 brothers:

1. Andrew J. Hodgins – Born 1883 and Died 12/12/1945 Buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
2. William Hodgins – born 5/12/1896 in Jackson, NE - never married
3. Daniel B Hodgins- born 12/27/1891 in Jackson, NE  
Married Irene Smith on 11/8/1927  
They had 3 daughters – Betty, Rose & Donna  
They had 10 sons – Patrick, James, Paul, William, Douglas, Emmet, Steve, Ronald, Robert (died at age 11 in a fire) & Jerry

Catherine had 2 sisters:

1. Mary Hodgins- Born 5/15/1879 in Canada  
She married Albert Chase in 1911 and he died in 1940  
Their children were Mary Margaret Chase (married name Manly), Thomas & William
2. Marguerite Hodgins – married Jack Donnelly

Michael & Catherine Dempsey moved from the farm in Newcastle, Nebraska in 1941 and their first home was at 2012 “N” St. in Omaha, Nebraska.

They purchased the house at 2328 Oak St. and that is where they lived when Mike died in 1947. Catherine lived there and took in boarders in the bedrooms and in the basement until she died in 1963. Jim & Sylvia moved into the house in 1963. Jim & Sylvia and their 4 kids lived in the house. Jim Sr. passed away in 1982 while living at the house. The house was sold in 1983 and Sylvia and her kids moved to 7418 Nina St. Omaha, NE.

My father, Jim, told the story that the family moved when he was in school and his parents told him which stop to take to get off the street car when he came home to 2328 Oak St. from school on moving day.

My father also told us that when he lived on the farm, he walked at least a mile to school in waist deep snow uphill both ways. We spent a great deal of time trying to figure out just how that was possible, but most importantly we believed his story, with no questions asked.

### Third, Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Generations

**Michael & Catherine had 8 children: Raymond John, Emmet, Madeline, Jeanette, Phyllis (Tootsie), Vincent Michael (Benny), Patrick (Paddy) and James Eugene**

Raymond John - Born - 7/10/1917 at Centerville, South Dakota  
Died - 1/15/1964 at age 47 in South Sioux City, Nebraska  
Married Elizabeth Dumsch in Ponca, Nebraska on 2/13/1938  
They did not have any children.  
Elizabeth re-married Pete Blaker and they lived in  
South Sioux City, Nebraska & he has since died.  
Elizabeth is still alive and last lived in South Sioux City, NE.

Emmet – Born 3/1/1920 in Newcastle, NE – Died 5/25/1983 at age 63 in Omaha, NE  
Burial at Forrest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha, NE  
Married Iona Herckenbach on 9/8/1942 in Humphrey, NE  
Their children: Bill, Bob, Jean, Judy, John and Jerry

Madeline – Born 9/20/1921 in Newcastle, NE & Died 2/18/2003 in Portland, Oregon  
Married Maynard Harding on 11/24/1942 in Omaha, NE at  
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on 24<sup>th</sup> & Bancroft St.  
Their Children:  
Jim – Born 10/19/1943 in New Rockford, North Dakota  
His children:  
Jeff – Born 2/6/1965 in Portland, OR  
Jodie – Born 6/5/1966 in Portland, OR  
Bob – Born 9/13/1945 in Omaha, NE

His children:

Greg – Born 9/5/1965 in Portland, OR

Sharon – Born 6/30/1968 in Portland, OR

Tom – Born 4/12/1947 in Omaha, NE – Died ????

His children all born in Portland, OR:

Mark- Born 4/5/1698

Bradley – Born 12/1/1972

Pat & Mike – twins born 1/25/1950 in Omaha, NE

Mike's children all born in Portland, OR:

Melissa – Born 12/11/1973

Cameron – Born 9/16/1975

Pat's children all born in Portland, OR:

Troy – Born 8/21/1975

Megan - Born 11/18/1981

Lindsey – Born 4/3/1983

The Harding family left Omaha, Nebraska about 6/1/1953 and moved to Portland, Oregon. They lived in the state of Oregon until they both died.

Jeanette – Born 1/4/1924 in Newcastle, NE – Died 3/3/1990 in Omaha, NE

Married - Emerson Dappen, Jr. May 29, 1948

Emerson - Born 8/31/924 & Died 5/30/1993 in Omaha, NE

Jeanette & Emerson are buried at St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Omaha, NE.

Their Children all born in Omaha, NE:

John Raymond – Born 6/25/1949

Married Patty Riha on 10/7/1975 – she was born on 9/13/1949

Their Children:

Kristyn – Born 12/24/1974 - She was married & **has 2 kids** and is now divorced

John, Jr. – Born 7/15/1985

William Joseph – Born 11/7/1951- He Married Jilla Jewell & they divorced. He

Has been married to Carol who has 2 kids from a previous marriage, a daughter, Shannon and a son, Tyler. They live in Arkansas.

Michael – Born 3/11/1958

Sharon Kay – Born 10/10/1959

Married Joe Klusaw on 7/27/1996 at St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Omaha, NE

Their Children:

Christopher – Born 8/31/1985

Daniel – Born May, 1988

Linda Susan – Born 9/11/1963

Married Rick Ostrander on 7/27/1996

Their Children:

**Sarah** – Born 8/7/1997

**Nicole Sue** – Born 2/7/2000

**Zach** – Born ?

Linda and her family live in her parent's house at 6724 Sunshine Drive.

Phyllis (Tootsie) – Born 9/20/1925 in Newcastle, NE– Died 12/8/1975 in California

Married Harry Charles Ross

Harry Ross - Born 1/21/1922 & he is still alive. He remarried Alyce Ross (not sure of her previous married name), she was born 1/21/1922, they married 7/16/1978 and she has died.

Their Children:

**Lorraine Ann** – born in Omaha, NE

**Charles** – born in Omaha, NE

**Kathy** – born in Eureka, CA

**Mary** – born in Eureka, CA - Died in 1962 from a brain tumor-about age 2

**Eugene** – born in Eureka, CA

Vincent Michael (Benny) – Born 1/1/1927 in Newcastle

Died 10/14/1976 in Omaha, NE

Buried in Calvary Cemetery in Omaha, NE in

The Holy Family Section – Row 7 Lot 18 Sp1

Married Kathleen Wells in Missouri

They had 1 daughter - Michelle – Born 11/15/1956 in Omaha, NE

She has a son named Vincent Michael who was born around late 1970's.

She married and has another child.

Patrick (Paddy) – Born 12/31/1927 in Newcastle, NE

Died 4/8/1958 in Omaha, NE

Married Lorraine Duranski – who was born in 1931 & Died 3/16/1994 at age 65 in Sun City, AZ. She was re-married to man named Mike of McDougall, but was not married at her death. She is buried near

Paddy's grave at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Omaha, NE

Location – P, Blk 37, Lot 23, Div N

Lorraine's grave - Station P, Blk 37, Lot 26, Grave #1.

The children of Paddy & Loraine:

**Mary Ann** – Born 1948 and lived 2 days – buried at Holy Sepulchre

**Linda** – Born 1951 – Her married name is Weaver and she lives in Mesa, AZ. She has 2 children- Carrie & Ryan Weaver

**David** – Born 1954 – his wife is Kathy and they live in Atlanta, GA – no children

James Eugene – Born 2/4/1929 in Newcastle, NE

Died 7/24/1982 in Omaha, NE

Buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Omaha, NE

Married Sylvia Dempsey on 11/8/1947 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Omaha, NE. Their 4 children were born in Omaha, NE.

Their Children:

**Michael Patrick**- Born 6/10/1948

Married Diane Czaplewski on 8/9/74 and they divorced

Their children all born in Omaha, NE:

Diane had 2 children who are Mike's step-children:

Kevin – Born 7/17/1970

Kimberly – Born 3/7/1974

Mike & Diane's Children:

**Melissa Marie** – Born 9/14/1977

**Michael James** – Born 7/11/1980

He married Heather on 5/10/2008 and their son,

**Tyler Norman was born on 2/10/2009 in Council Bluffs, IA.**

**James Eugene, Jr.** – Born 1/19/1952 – Died 7/2/2007 in Omaha, NE

Never married and no children

He is buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Omaha, NE

**Susan** – Born 11/1/1955

Not married and no children

**Debra Ann**- Born 1/29/1961

Married Robert Christian on 5/4/1985 at Immaculate  
Conception Church in Omaha, NE.

Their children all born in Omaha, NE:

**Jessica Marie** – Born 3/3/1988

**Jennifer Ann** – Born 2/19/1993

## Dempsey & Hodgins Family Pictures

About 1912 – Catherine (Hodgins) Dempsey is the 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left and about 19 years old.



About 1915

Left: Dan Hodgins (Catherine's brother), Monica (Dempsey) Hartman (sister of Mike Dempsey), Mike Dempsey, Catherine (Hodgins) Dempsey and Marguerite Donnelly (Catherine's sister).



1917 – June in Centerville, South Dakota  
Mike Dempsey

Later in 1921 - Madeline (Dempsey) Harding, born 9/20/21 with her mother Catherine (Hodgins) Dempsey at the farm in Newcastle, Nebraska.



1922 - Mike & Catherine (Hodgins) Dempsey on the farm in Newcastle, Nebraska. Catherine is holding Madeline, about 1 year old, Raymond is the oldest at 5 and Emmet is 2 years old.



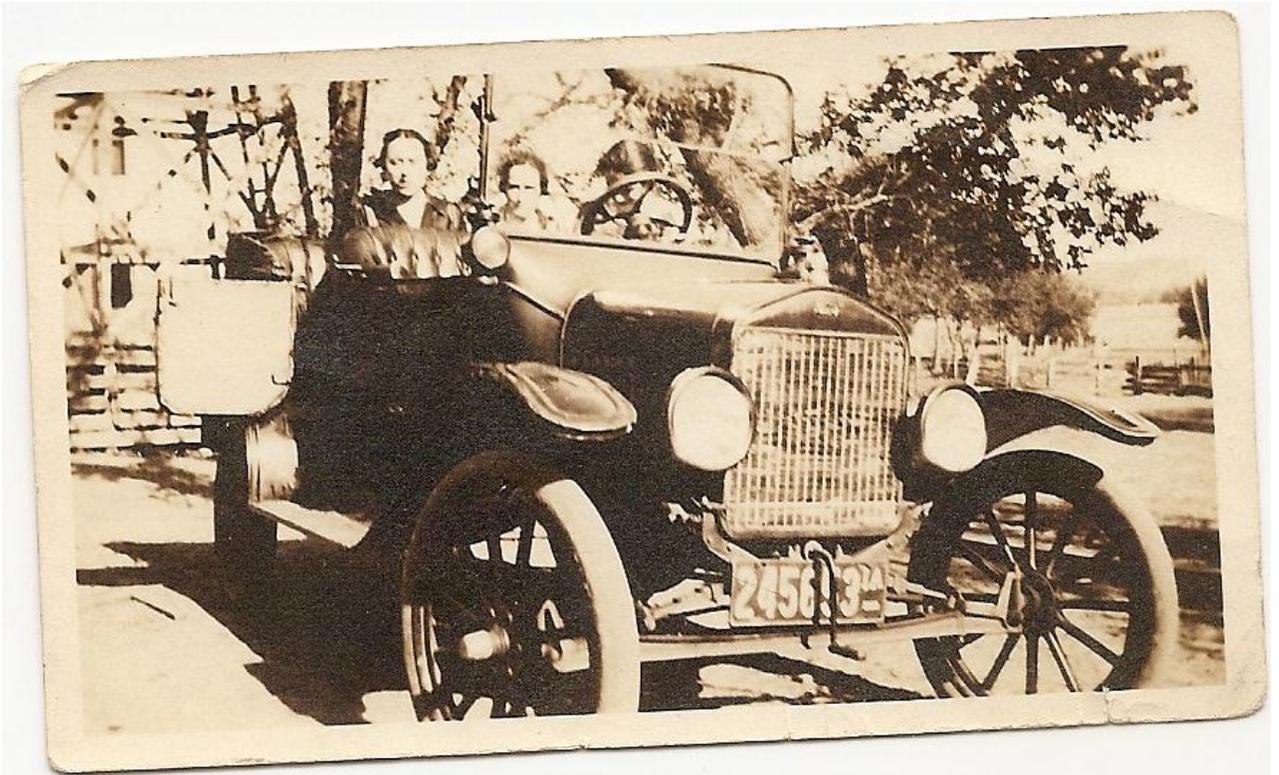
Mike Dempsey's brothers Jack on the left and Tommy on the right. They look to be in their mid 30's to 40. Which would put the year at about 1920 to 1925.



This picture only has Jack Dempsey written on the back. Sylvia thinks he is on the right. He looks younger than in the previous photo above.



This picture only has Mary Chase written on the back. The car appears to be a Model T. So I put the photo in the mid 1920 to late 1920's. I recall my Dad, Jim, telling us that he remembered when his uncle had a car that he drove to the farm. When the uncle took them for a ride, my Dad rode in the back seat and got very car sick. Maybe this is his uncle's car. You can see the ladies sitting in the back seat with the door open. The background looks like farm terrain.



1927 - Just another day on the farm in Newcastle, NE.  
Raymond (10), Emmet (7), Jeanette (3) and Tootsie (2)

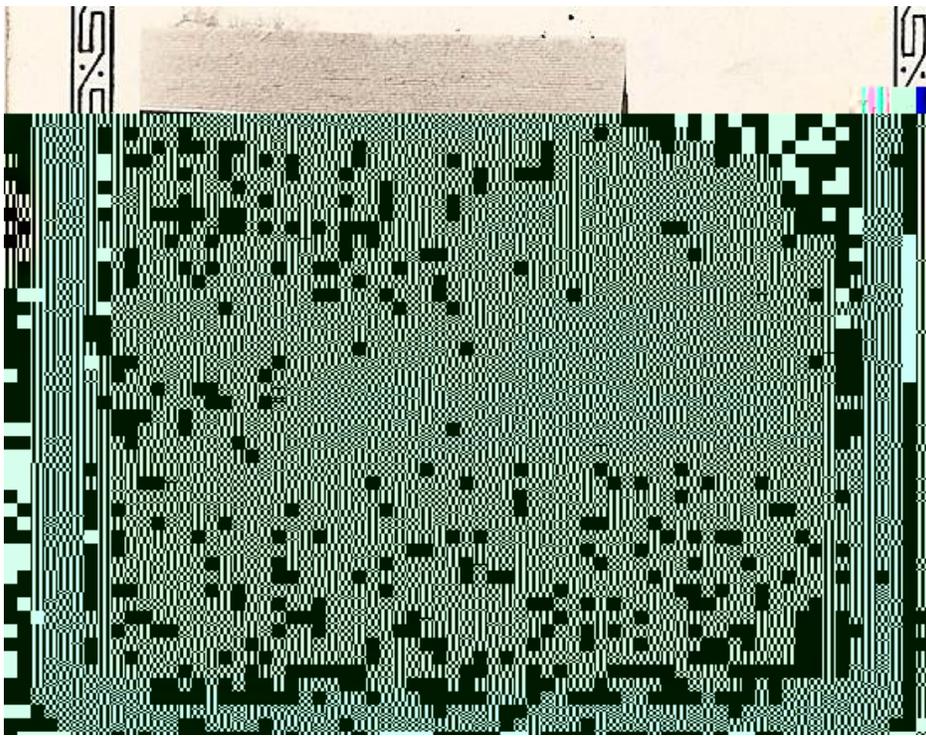


Here is a bit of information about Benny, Paddy and Jimmy.  
Benny and Paddy were born in the same year. Benny on 1/1/1927 and Paddy on 12/31/1927. That would get them on a reality TV show today, but it was probably more common back in the good old days. My Dad, Jimmy, was born just over 13 months later on 2/4/1929. That is 3 babies over 26 months. I recall Irene Chase, who was Catherine's sister-in-law, saying she went to live with Mike & Catherine when my Dad was born to help take care of the 3 babies. The 3 boys are referred to as "the little boys" or "the 3 little boys" on the back of these old pictures. It strikes me as a lovely and charming way to refer to them. They were also called the "Katzenjammer Kids" after a cartoon that featured neatly dressed innocent faced children, who concealed their ability to engage in mischief. I am sure the name fit the boys.

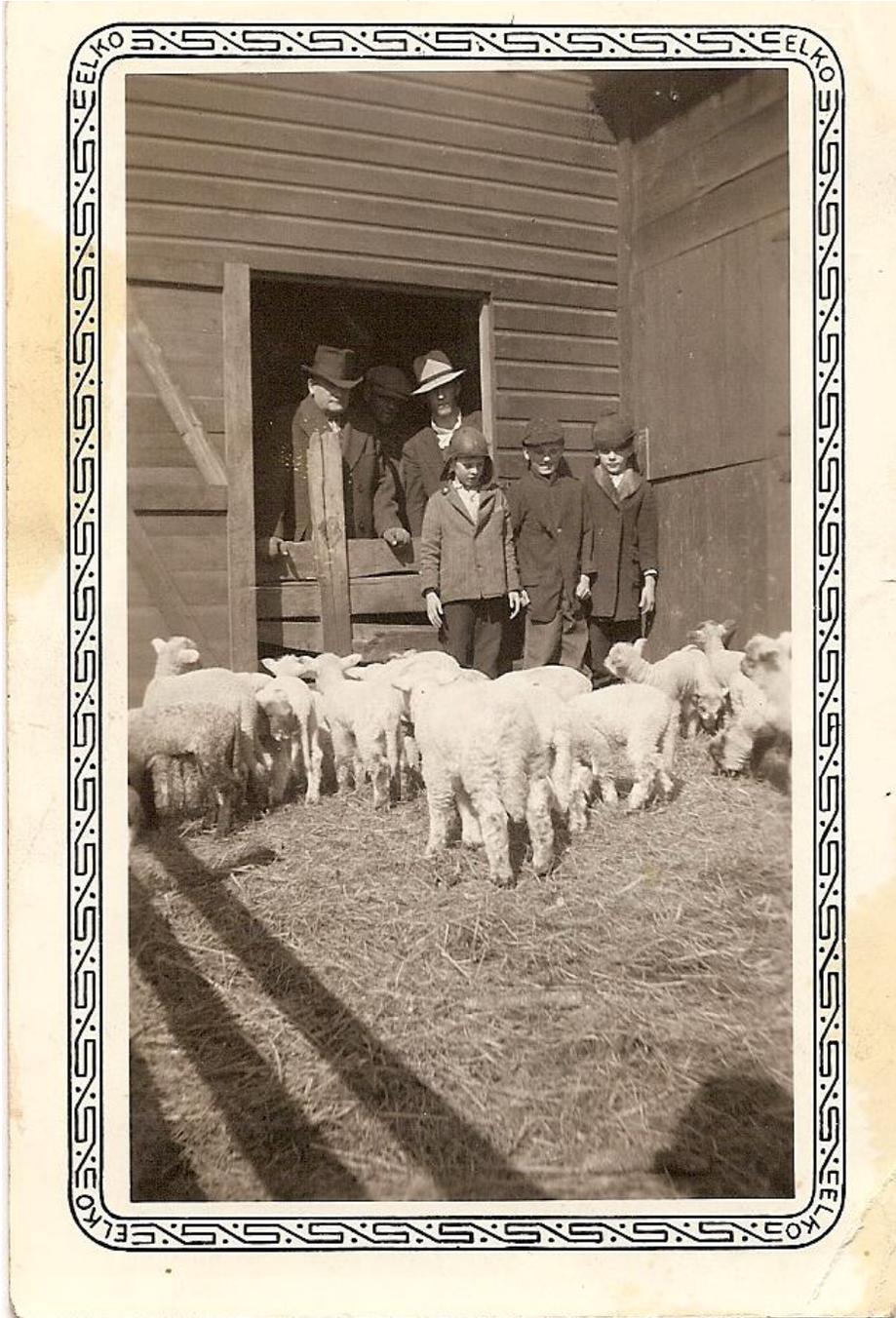
1937 – “The little boys at Newcastle Church for their First Communion”  
Jimmy (8), Paddy (9) and Benny (10)



1939 - Catherine (Hodgins) Dempsey at age 46 sitting on a woodpile by the barn.



1941 – Mike & Catherine Dempsey left the farm in Newcastle, Nebraska  
They moved to a house at 2012 “N” St. in Omaha, Nebraska.  
This picture was taken in March, 1941 on the farm and so it  
stands to reason they left the farm shortly thereafter. My father, Jim,  
loved the farm and always said he wanted to live on a farm again.  
Adults in the barn are L to R – Tommy Dempsey (Mike’s brother, so  
Uncle to Jimmy and the boys), Mike Dempsey (56) and his son  
Emmet (21). The boys L to R – Jimmy 12, Paddy 13, & Benny 14.



1941 – Phyllis (Tootsie) at age 16 on the porch at the home on 2012 “N” St.  
in Omaha, Nebraska.



1941 – Paddy, 13 and Jimmy, 12 on the porch at 2012 “N” St. Omaha, NE.



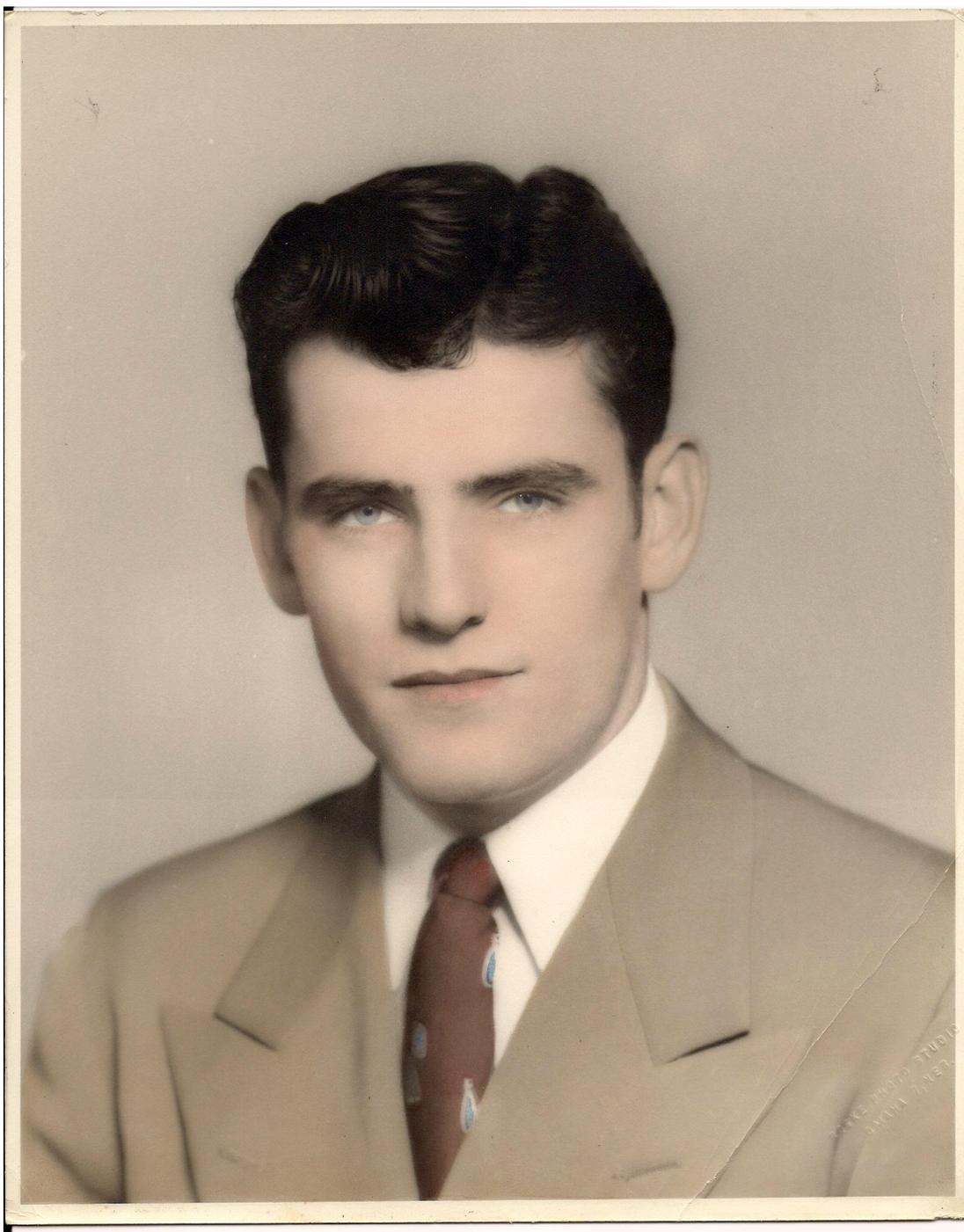
1942 – All of the Dempsey Boys at 2012 “N” St. Omaha, NE.  
Back L to R – Emmet (22), Raymond (25)  
Front L to R – Benny (15), Jimmy (13) and Paddy (14).



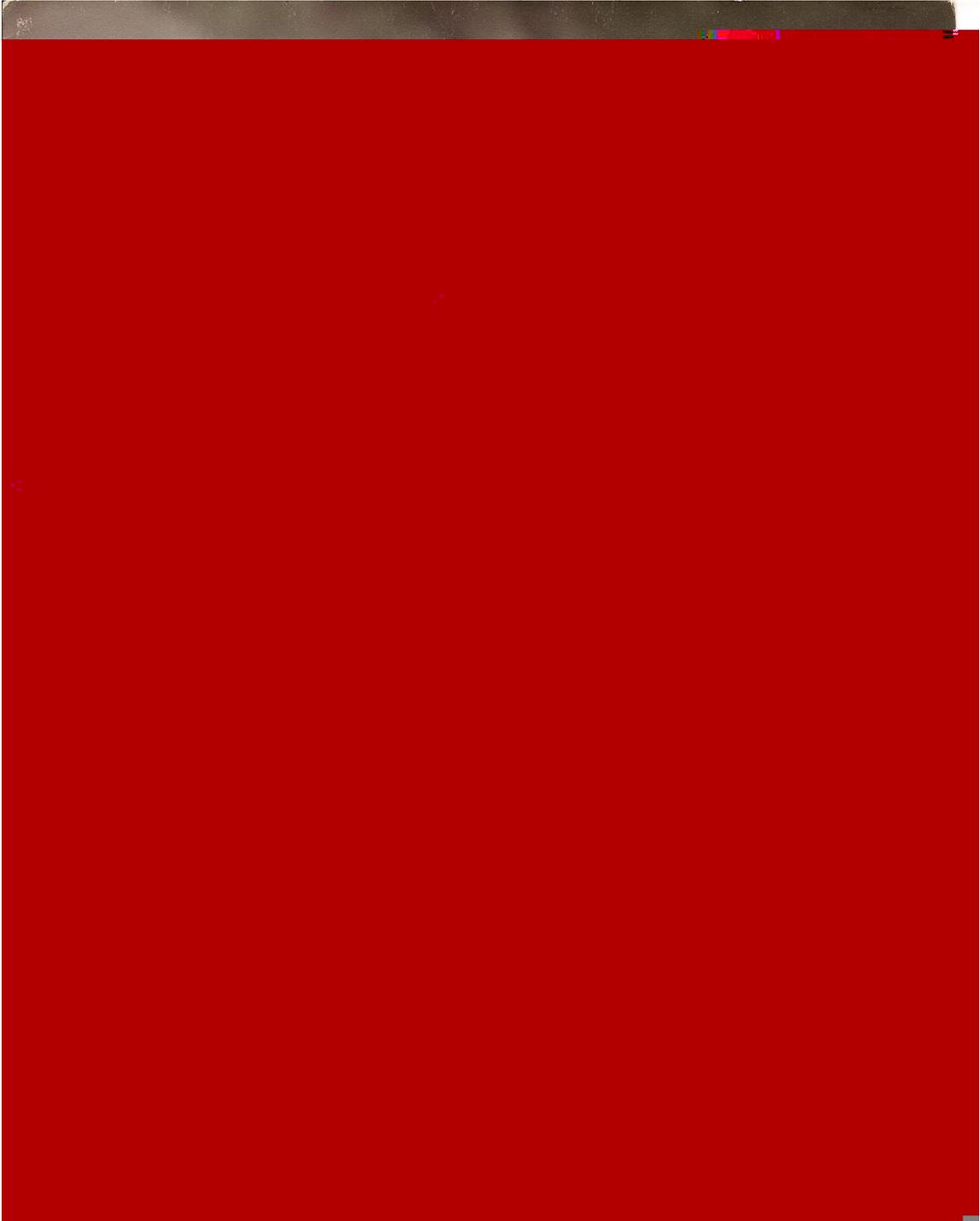
Mike & Catherine Dempsey on the porch steps of 2328 Oak St. Omaha, NE.



Vincent (Benny) Dempsey – no year given



Emmet Dempsey – no year given



1942 – Emmet and Iona Herckenbach Wedding on September 8, 1942 in  
Humphrey, Nebraska



Dempsey Family photo taken at Emmet & Iona's Wedding

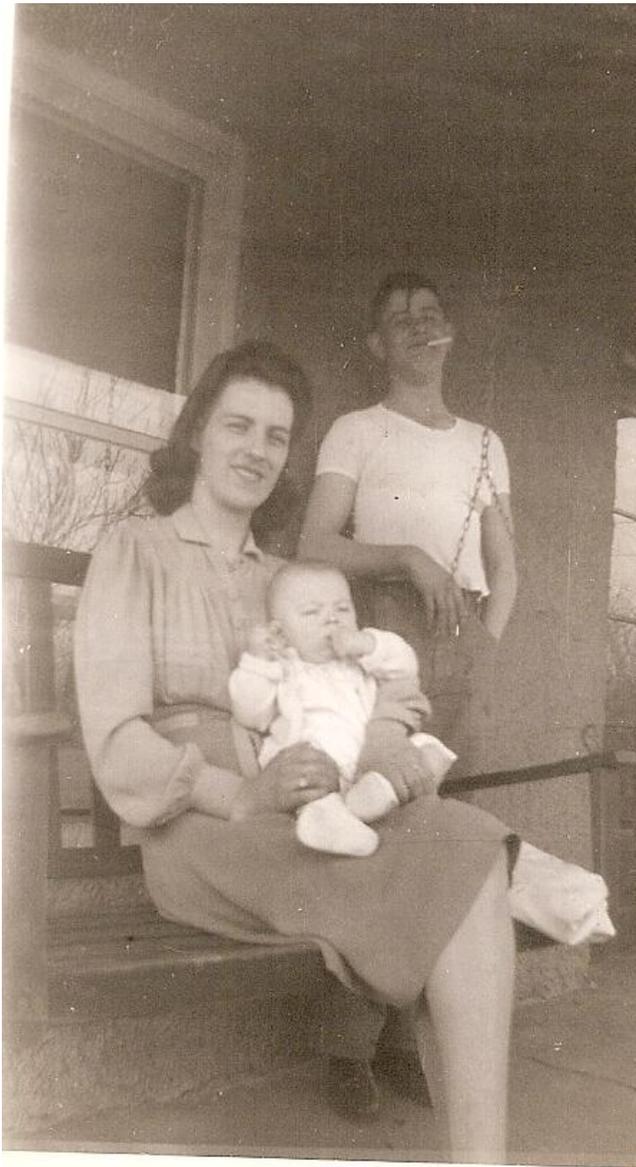
L to R – Paddy, Benny, Madeline, Iona's mother Angela, Catherine (Emmet's mother), Emmet, Jimmy, Iona, Jeanette, Elizabeth (married to Raymond), Raymond, Phyllis (Tootsie) and Iona's father Peter.



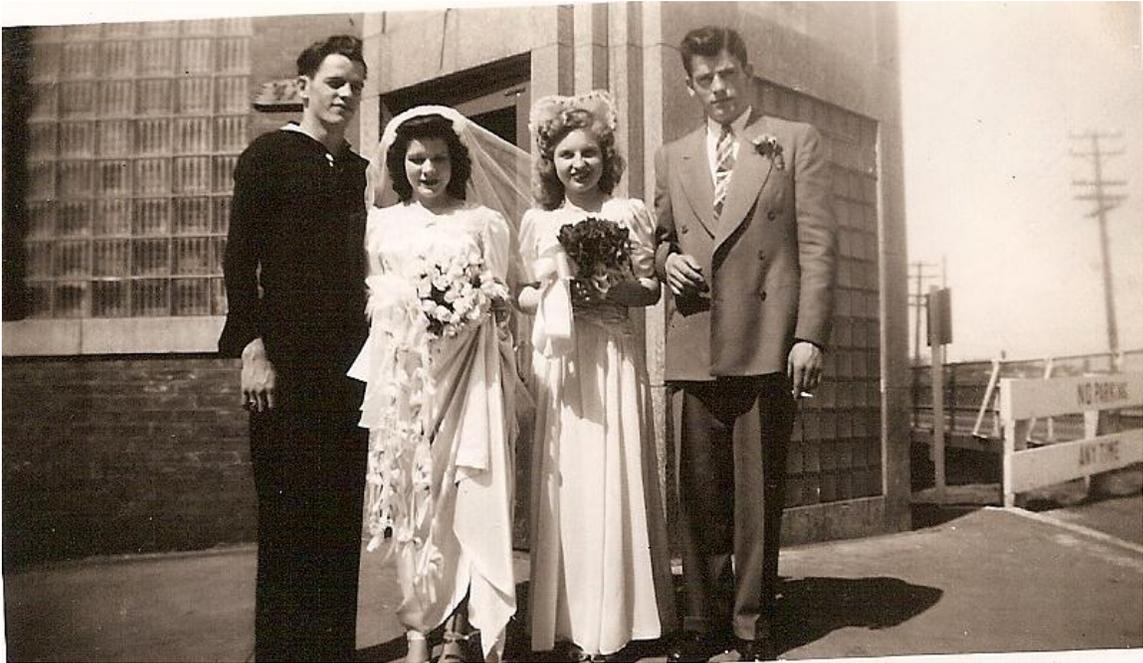
1942 – Maynard and Madeline (Dempsey) Harding Wedding  
November 23, 1942 – They were married at Immaculate Conception  
Catholic Church in Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska, 24<sup>th</sup> & Bancroft St.  
Attendants are Bill Chase (cousin) & Jeanette Dempsey (sister).



1943 – Madeline (Dempsey) Harding with her son Jimmy, 7 months and her brother, Jimmy (14) on the porch at 2328 Oak St.



1946 or 1947 – Paddy and Lorraine (Duranski) Wedding  
Attendants – Lorraine's sister and Benny Dempsey



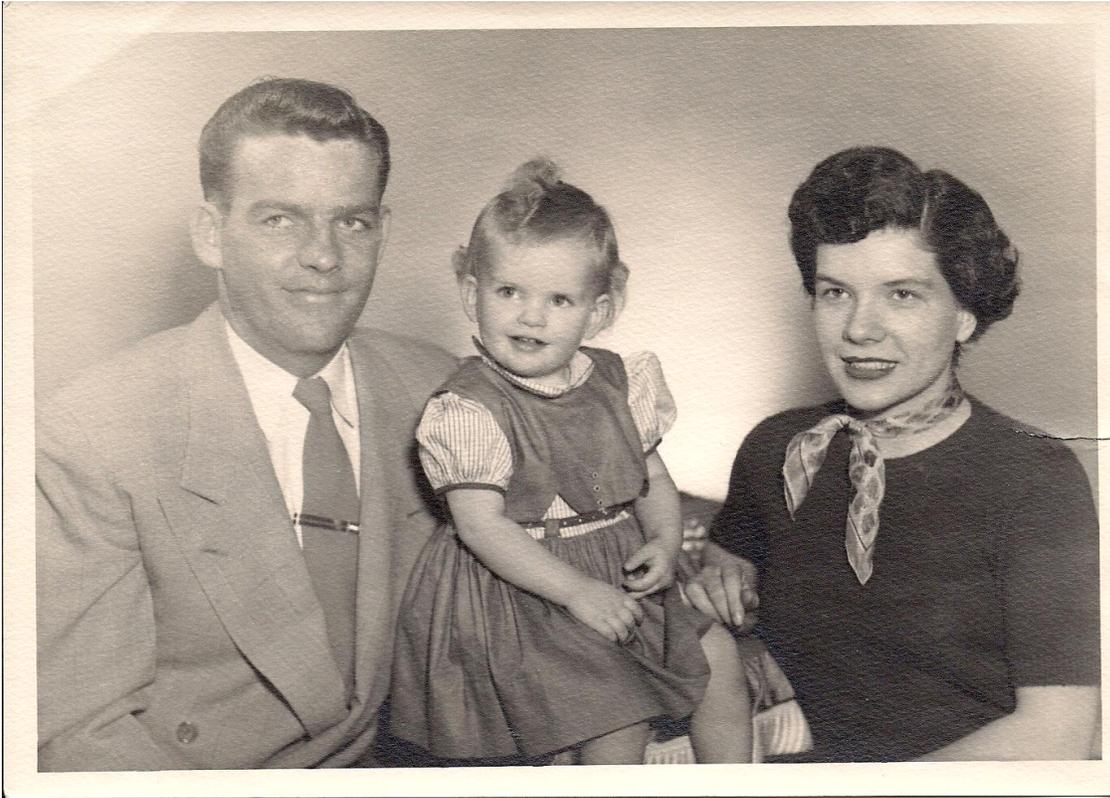
1947 – Jim and Sylvia (Ziccardi) Dempsey Wedding  
November 8, 1947 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in  
Omaha, Nebraska



1947 – Jimmy Dempsey with nephew, Bill and niece, Jean Dempsey,  
son and daughter of Emmet & Iona.



1953 – Paddy & Lorraine with daughter Linda.



1953 - Family at Raymond & Elizabeth Dempsey's farm in Ponca, Nebraska  
Back L to R – Jimmy, Raymond, unknown man, Paddy  
Front L to R – Elizabeth (married to Raymond), Sylvia  
(married to Jimmy), Mother Catherine,  
Lorraine (married to Paddy), and their daughter  
Linda.



1954 – The Hodgins family siblings - left to right – Danny Hodgins, Catherine (Hodgins) Dempsey, Marguerite (Hodgins) Donnelly & Willie Hodgins. They are at Raymond & Elizabeth’s farm in Ponca, Nebraska.



Not sure of the date. Mary (Hodgins) Chase is on the left and her brother, Andy Hodgins is in the middle, but no name for the lady on the right. Maybe Iona can help out.



1961 – Hodgins Siblings - Left to Right: Dan Hodgins, Catherine (Hodgins) Dempsey and Willie Hodgins. Willie had a birthmark over his left eye.



Early 1950's – The 3 Hodgins sisters in the dining room at 2328 Oak St.  
Left to right - Mary Chase, Marguerite Donnelly and Catherine Dempsey.  
When my family moved in to the house the mirror was still hanging on the wall.



Late 1950's to 1960 – The 3 Hodgins sisters: Catherine Dempsey, Marguerite Donnelly and Mary Chase. This is how I last recall Grandma Dempsey looking to me when I was a child and when she passed away in 1963.



1962 – Dempsey Siblings at a Family Picnic in Omaha, Nebraska in July.  
Their mother, Catherine passed away the next year in 1963.  
Back L to R – Jimmy, Mom Catherine, Emmet, Raymond  
Front L to R – Phyllis (Tootsie), Jeanette and Madeline



1980 – Picture taken at Jeanette (Dempsey) Dappen's house.  
L to R – Madeline, Jimmy, Emmet and Jeanette.



1983 – Picture taken in July at 2328 Oak St. Omaha, NE.

This was the last family photo taken at the family home.

Madeline and Jeanette were the only living siblings left of the 8 children of Mike and Catherine Dempsey.

Sylvia moved out at the end of July, 1983.

A Dempsey family lived in the home for about 42 years.

L to R - Sharon Dappen (Jeanette's daughter), Madeline (Dempsey) Harding, Sylvia Dempsey, Emerson & Jeanette (Dempsey) Dappen and their daughter, Linda.



Three generations of Dempsey's lived in the home and 2 of the children of the 4<sup>th</sup> generation, (Melissa & Michael Dempsey), were born when we moved. It was a great house to grow up and live in. It had a front porch swing. The house also had two short flights of stairs in the house. You

could run through the house in a circle by climbing one set of stairs from the living room to a landing, and then skipping down the stairs to end in the kitchen. Kids loved to play on the stairs and adults always sat on them when visiting. The stairs provided hours of fun and a place to sit and chat for four generations of Dempsey's. The same goes for the front porch swing.

Dempsey Family History Dec 2010.doc  
By Susan Dempsey