

Recollections of the Filipeks

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Introduction

As follows are recollections of Anton Filipek, Jan and Franceska Filipek, James and Katherine Filipek, John and Rose Filipek, Mary Barrett, James and Grace Filipek, JK and Theodore Sokolik by various family members. Information on Grace Vanderkloot Filipek is in these Filipek Recollections.

Contributors to these recollections were made by: Grace Filipek and her daughter Jeanne and grandson Dave; Rose Filipek, her daughter Rose Mary, and her granddaughter Terry; Virginia, Theodore Sokolik's daughter; Vladimir, grandson of Rose Kandl; and Cindy, great-granddaughter of Jan. There are also additional recollections of James and Katherine Filipek in Theodore Sokolik's Story *My Life as I Lived it* and also recollections from Rose Filipek that can be read separately within *The Filipek Story*.

For ease of use, the above [Table of Contents](#) includes active links along with a simplified genealogy chart to assist in selecting items of interest. Merely touch the line or page number to move to a section of interest.

In order to help preserve our family history and to make that history more widely available, [Our Filipek Family Web Pages](#) was created in the early years of the 21st century.

While quite successful in its goals, it became clear with the passage of time, that a web site with many hundreds of pages was not easy to print or to electronically download. Thus in the later part of the first decade of the 21st century, I began to compile various categories of information such as Filipek Family Addresses, Filipek Family Census Records, Filipek Genealogy Source Records, and the Filipek Stories into pdf documents.

Such pdf files will make it easier to download files for preservation on our many computers and they will also allow much easier printing of pages and for studied analysis as desired. As part of this effort, a [Filipek and Nemeč PDF Downloads](#) web page was created. From this page, all currently available pdf's from [Our Filipek Family Web Pages](#) and [Our Nemeč Family Web Pages](#) can be accessed.

You are encouraged to download the various Filipek and Nemeč pdf files, not only for your own study but to also help preserve for future generations hard to obtain data and information about our common Filipek, Nemeč and Jordan origins and history. Files are updated every once in a while, and checking about once a year is a reasonable frequency. Version dates are shown at the beginning of the [Table of Contents](#).

File Information

Master File Name: Recollections_Filipek

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Creation Date: about 2002

Modified: 10/10, 2007, 12/6/2012, 1/14/2017, 10/11/17

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What's New

Going forward it is intended to briefly describe what major items were added since the last version of this document.

1. 10/11/17: Various format updates.
2. 1/14/2017: Small update to Recollections of Grace Filipek.
3. 12/6/2012: Primarily formatting changes and fixes of a few typo's along with some reorganization.

Recollections File Connections

As follows are other files that connect with *Recollections of the Filipeks*. All are available at [Filipek and Nemec PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *The Filipek Story*
File: Stories_Filipek.pdf
Summary: *The Filipek Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Filipek and our Nemec family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.
2. *Recollections of the Filipeks*
File: Recollections_Filipek.pdf
Summary: *Recollections of the Filipeks* provides a collection of short anecdotes and memories of our Filipek family.

Recollections of Antonín Filípek

Research and recollection excerpts from Vladimir via Cindy, Cindy and Dave:

1. Antonín Filípek born on March 25th 1815 son of the previous farmer Vojtech Filípek form Kolence, No. 16. Died 1900. He married Katerina Ceckova, born April 5th 18??, daughter of Tomas Cecka from Zablati, No. 13 and Katerina, born Blazhova from (? Dymiri), No. 6.
2. From this year leads Antonín Filípek the farm of his father, Vojtech Filípek. At the balance of the farms and after withdrawal of drudgery and pay-ins was the purchase price of the farm and the document established for 15 golden crowns and 15 farthings. [I think this is a description of the transfer of the farm from Vojtech to Antonin. Cindy, may be able to clarify]
3. Antonín was an active churchgoer.
4. Antonín Filípek was a painter. There are a number of his watercolors in Czechoslovakia and the USA.
5. Anton died aged 85 years in the church at Novesedly at the mass saying, 1900. With Antonín Filípek died out the family Filípek in the farm No. 16 in Kolence. However, the descendants continue through the daughter-Kandl family. Antonín Filípek's greatest longing was to preserve the farm for the family. He was unhappy about bringing it to another family.
6. Vladimir's research showed that Farm No. 16 had been in the Filípek name since about 1547. Rosalie Filípek, youngest daughter of Antonin, married Jacob Kandl and the ownership of the farm passed to them as Vaclav (James) who would have been the expected heir, being the youngest, lived in Chicago. The Kandl's still own the farm. And all the Kandl's are related to the Filipeks because Rosalie was a Filipek. [Dave].
7. Cindy related that Vladimir has furnished part of Anton's original home with his the original furniture and his paintings.
8. Antonin Filípek is written with two ´ marks as Antonín Filípek [Dave].

Recollections of James (Vaclav) Filipek

Research and recollection excerpts from Vladimir via Cindy:

1. Vaclav Filipek born September 10, 1863 [in Kolence No. 16, Bohemia].
2. Studied at the agronomic school.
3. As the youngest son he should take the farm, however he was gone to the U.S.A. The farm went to the next youngest, his sister Rosalie Kandl.

Recollections from Grace Filipek, Jeanne and Virginia:

1. Grace Filipek (nee Vanderkloot) recalled that she used to go to the Filipek store before she married her husband Jim. She said James was a butcher and ran the shop. Grace was born in 1894 and lived a few blocks away from the grocery store. Most likely this was in the 1900s or early 1910s. Grace would have been between 10 and 20 years old.
2. Jeanne recalls that she was told that her Grandfather James fell off a ladder at the grocery store and that this somehow led to his death. However his death certificate states that he died of angina pectoris so while its possible he did fall off a ladder, it's not clear if it connects with his death from a heart attack.
3. Virginia related to us that her Great Uncle James liked to hang out at the tavern. Her father, Theodore, had to run down on a number of occasions to the tavern to tell his Uncle James it was time to come home.
4. James Filipek liked to drink beer and given his size, he most likely enjoyed his wife's cooking.
5. It is believed that he enjoyed gardening.
6. Terry has Vaclav Filipek's 1884 *Agronomics Journal* which he used at the agronomic school in Bohemia. It contains the results of his experiments. It is written in Czech with exquisite handwriting.
7. Terry is in possession of numerous pictures, postcards and letters. Many of these are posted on the Filipek web pages. Some of the letters are translated to English.

Recollections of Katherine Filipek (nee Nemeč)

Recollections from Grace Filipek, Jeanne, and Rose Mary:

1. Katerina Nemeč was born on October 20, 1862 at No. 44, Mazelov, Bohemia. Her parents were Martin Nemeč and Katerina Zelezny. This information was identified through a birth record obtained by Terry.
2. Jeanne recalls her Grandma Katherine telling her that the town she was born in was about 20 miles from the Austrian border. We've since found out that the town was Mazelov, which is about 25-30 miles northwesterly from the Austrian border at Ceske Velenice. Jeanne also recalled that her grandmother went to cooking school in Vienna, Austria. Bohemia at the time was part of the Austrian Empire. Vienna is about another 75 miles southeasterly from Ceske Velenice. There are rail lines running from Ceske Budejovice a few miles from Mazelov to Ceske Velenice and onto Vienna. So it is possible she could have taken the train and learned cooking in Vienna. Dave also has a vague recollection of Rose Filipek, wife of John Filipek, in 1978 telling him that Katherine and James had some education the equivalent of college and that Katherine was in cooking school.
3. Jeanne remembers that her Grandma Katherine was an excellent cook and Jeanne in later years could still recall the taste and smell of her delicious caraway rye bread, strudel, peach dumplings and Bohemian plum dumplings. Sounds delicious! She also recalls her own mother, Grace who married Katherine's son James commenting on how great a cook Katherine was when Jim and Grace were first married.
4. Jeanne recalls that her Grandma Katherine had a chicken coup in her backyard in Riverside and would kill her own chickens for Sunday dinners and collect her own eggs. Jeanne said Grandma Katherine was raised on a farm and was comfortable and familiar with farm animals and things like having a chicken coup and killing and dressing the chicken. Eventually the town made her get rid of it. She also recalled that her grandmother had a huge vegetable garden. Terry's mom also recalls that Katherine always had a big garden in Riverside and lots of flowers.
5. Jeanne recalls they used to call Grandma Katherine, *Baba*, which she translates to *Grandma* in Czech.
6. Jeanne recalled that her Grandmother Katherine was very religious and attended mass every day, including cleaning at the rectory when she was in her 80s. One day when I mentioned that James was in the *Catholic Order of Foresters*, a fraternal organization, she recalled the picture of Katherine with the gavel and said she that in that picture she is shown as president of the *Catholic Order of Foresters*. In addition, Katherine may have been involved in several Catholic social groups.

7. Jeanne recalls that during her Grandmother Katherine's voyage back to Bohemia, probably the one in 1929, Katherine tripped and fell during the voyage and hurt her hip. She never fully recovered and always used a cane afterwards. Jeanne didn't go on this voyage but Rose Mary, her grand daughter did. Rose Mary, although very young, recalls that they also went other places such as the Vatican. Jeanne thinks Grandma Katherine may have made more than one trip back and Rose Mary says that she always seemed to be going back. So it's possible she made many trips back in the 1930s to visit friends and relatives, perhaps there were even some well before then.
8. Jeanne also recalled that her Grandmother Katherine still retained a heavy accent after all those years and she did find it hard to understand her at times. She does recall her father, Jim conversing with his mom in Czech.
9. Jeanne had a small blue and white Bavarian salt and pepper shaker that was her Grandma Katherine's. In August 2000, she gave them to Dave for future preservation.
10. She also had one of her Grandmother's water pitchers but it broke years ago. She also thinks she might have a ring of her Grandma Katherine's.
11. Rose Mary recalled that there was a Bohemian tradition or at least a Filipek tradition of giving a string of pearls when you were married. She remembered this when she saw Mary Barrett's engagement photo and also recalled she herself received a string of pearls for her engagement. Jeanne may have received a 16-inch pair of cultured pearls also.
12. Jeanne recalls that her Grandmother Katherine raised the two Sokoliks, John and Theodore when their mother died. The boys were probably about 11 and 14 when they joined the Filipeks in Chicago.
13. Rose Mary also recalled that Grandma Katherine was "always taking someone in" especially those in need. Perhaps it started with the Sokoliks. Later it was Larry Barrett after the death of his wife and her grand daughter Mary who she began raising at the age of 53. Later there were others in need.
14. There is a large granite tombstone at the Filipek gravesite in Resurrection Cemetery. Inscribed is the name Vaclav along with his birth and death dates. However there is no inscription for Katherine. Someday as we firm up the dates, these should be added.

Recollections of Lawrence and Mary Barrett

Mary Barrett

Mary Filipek was born on December 10, 1889 in Chicago. Although other sources indicate a year of 1889, Dave found her date of birth on her baptismal record, which most likely is correct.

Recollections from Jeanne:

1. Jeanne thought that Mary had died of TB. The death certificate does indicate it was due to childbirth complications, but there is a picture and a postcard of Mary where she refers to an illness.

Recollections of The Sokoliks

Anna Sokolik (nee Filipek)

Research and recollection excerpts from Vladimir via Cindy:

1. Anna Filipek Sokolik born January 17, 1853.
2. Married Jan Sokolik (from Novosedly) in 1873; later found to be Frantisek (Frank) Sokolik
3. This couple sold their farm at Kolence No. 9 to older sister Mary Palecek and traveled to the U.S.A.

Research via Dave and Terry

1. Children:
 1. Frantisek Sokolik born 30 Dec 1873 - disappeared with father after mother died
 2. Jan Sokolik born 4 Feb 1876 - visited Kolence in 1930
 3. Theodore Sokolik born 10 Jan 1879 in Bohemia, not USA.

Died 1887 in St. Paul, Minnesota

John (JK) Sokolik

Recollections from Rose Mary and Jeanne:

1. John (Jan) Sokolik was born February 4, 1876 at Farm No. 16 in Kolence. This information was established through a copy of John's Passport provided by Virginia.
2. Rose Mary recalls that JK Sokolik was the wealthiest of them all and he was the one who got her father (John Filipek) the job at the clothiers. When her father John retired from that business, JK continued to make money. Rose Mary recalls that his lake cottage and property was in Twin Lakes Wisconsin outside of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and that the family did a lot of socializing there in the summers. She recalled that she and her husband spent their honeymoon there. Jeanne recalls going there with Marge on several occasions for family outings when she was young.
3. Jeanne felt that JK was intimidating and liked to tell others what to do. He was a very successful businessman and maybe some of his work style carried over to family affairs. His wife, Kate, Jeanne recalls was very nice and used to buy dolls and nice presents for her and Marge. JK and Kate had two children Frank and Florence. Jeanne says they have both died and there are no children to contact.
4. Virginia has John's original passport.
5. Dave has one of Kate's rings which he received from Jeanne.
6. Mary F. a granddaughter of Theodore has a trunk full of JK and Katherine's papers, letters, and memorabilia.

Theodore Sokolik

Recollections from Rose Mary, Grace, Jeanne, and Dave:

1. Theodore Sokolik was born January 10, 1879 at Farm No. 16 in Kolence, Bohemia. This information was established through Theodore's own story, Minnesota Census Records, and his Ship Arrival Record.
2. Rose Mary said that when she was a young woman that Theodore would give them train tickets that he had collected from passengers. Guess he just didn't punch them. On one of their free trips, she and Marge met the men they were to marry. Dave recalls hearing that Theodore also provided tickets for his Grandma Grace. Grandma Grace used these on the Zephyr to travel to Minnesota to visit her daughter Marge. Dave also recalls that his grandmother was still using these tickets in the 1970s and some of the tickets in her stash were 20 years old. She was afraid they wouldn't pass muster and on one of her last trips as the conductor questioned her on why the tickets were so old.
3. Jeanne recalled that Theodore lived next door or in back of John Filipek in Riverside.
4. Jeanne thinks that Theodore first wife might have died of influenza, though not the 1918 strain as she died in 1915. He then married Louise, who Jeanne believes she was a cousin of his first wife.
5. Virginia has Theodore's original 1955 Story, *My Life as I Lived It* which has been reproduced in the Story section.

Recollections of John and Rose Filipek

John Filipek

Recollections from Rose Mary, and Terry:

1. John Filipek was born on December 13, 1882 in Chicago. This date and place were established through a baptismal record found by Dave.

Rose Filipek (wife of John)

Recollections from Rose Mary, Terry, and Jeanne:

1. Rose Skoblik was born 26 February 26, 1900 at No. 29 Lomnice, Bohemia. This birth information was established through a birth record found by Terry.
2. Jeanne recalled she was a great cook. She recalled bringing her Ed over to eat at John and Rose's house in Riverside when they were dating. That was the day he ate eleven ears of corn from her garden along with lots of other things from the garden. He wasn't used to such good cooking and quantity.
3. Jeanne also remembered Rose regularly made trips back to Czechoslovakia.

Recollections of James A. Filipek

The following are recollections of Grandpa Jim from Jeanne, Jim's daughter, and Dave, Marianne, Claudia, and Trina, Grandpa Jim's grandchildren. There are also some recollections from Harry Schodrof, a nephew of Jim's through his wife Grace.

These notes were assembled and written by Dave, therefore I have referred to James as Grandpa Jim and his wife as Grandma Grace. I have also referred to Jeanne as my Mom and her sister Marge as Aunt Marge. The notes are in rough chronological order.

1. James A. Filipek said he was born on August 15, 1892 in Chicago. We always thought this was the correct date and it was verified through his Baptismal Record.
2. Mom recalled that Grandpa Jim would tell the family he could see Pike's Peak from his backyard when they lived in Colorado. We've since confirmed he lived in Pueblo and also in two towns about 10 miles north called Pinon and Dawkins. James was in Colorado from about 1895-1899 with his parents, his brother John, his sister Mary and his cousin Theodore Sokolik. John Sokolik stayed in Chicago.
3. Mom recalled that Grandpa Jim attended Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago. He was on the baseball team and also took chemistry.
4. Grandpa Jim met Grandma Grace at the tennis courts. We don't know where, but McGuane Park at 30th at Halsted near their old neighborhood is a good possibility. I recall that Grandpa Jim introduced my Dad to tennis when he was dating Mom. They used to play at Foster Park clay courts at 83rd and Loomis. Dad recalled that Grandpa Jim, then around 50 and a relatively short man of 5 foot 2, would get all fired up on the serve, jumping into the air and delivery the serve with much spin. When I was a kid, we had a couple of old racquets strung with catgut, which were from Grandpa Jim. These were my first racquets and my first introduction to a life long sport. Michael now plays as a fourth generation tennis player.
5. It is not known when Grandpa Jim and Grandma Grace started dating. They were witnesses at Theodore Sokolik's wedding in August 1917 and from dating old photographs, it appears they may have been going together from as early as 1912 or 1914. It is also likely they knew each other as little kids living in the same neighborhood, going to the same school, and stopping by the Filipek grocery store.
6. Grandpa Jim enlisted for World War I on May 25, 1918. He was in the 3rd Division and his training was at Fort Benning, Georgia. His records say he was a Corporal in Company C, 4th Infantry during World War I, so I'm not sure whether 3rd Division is correct or a misunderstanding. Mom recalls he got flat feet from the marching. While at Fort Benning, he and his buddies used to sneak watermelons from a nearby patch for refreshments while out

training. Harry Schodrof recalls Jim telling him that during target practice at Fort Benning, he spied a jackrabbit. Jim recalled kneeling down and shooting the rabbit dead. His instructor sergeant told him he was quite impressed. Harry also recalls Jim telling him about Armistice Day in France (November 11, 1918). Jim told him the soldiers were marched to the front line, firing rifles right up to the appointed minute of the previously planned cease-fire. At 11:00 a.m. they were ordered to "sit down". I believe Mom said Grandpa Jim was a cook when he went overseas with his army group. She also said he drank a bottle of ketchup when he returned to the United States after World War I since he missed it so much. While in the Army he became friendly with Robert Boehm, a doctor. Afterward they maintained their friendship and Dr. Boehm eventually delivered Mom and also Aunt Marge. Grandpa Jim returned to the United States on August 28, 1919.

7. Because he was in WWI, Jim was able to buy a life insurance policy at a lower rate. Just after he returned he took out a \$2500 policy on October 1, 1919. The premium was \$39.78 a year. Jim was 27 at the time and stated that Grace Vanderkloot Filipek was his wife. This is pretty curious since they were not married until the following year. On August 1, 1924, he bought an additional \$7500 policy made possible by the June 7, 1924 World War Veterans Act. The premium was \$137.33. He took a loan against both policies on February 26, 1931 presumably because of the effects of the depression and the need to pay the mortgage on his house. These loans must have been paid back later as both policies were paid in full upon his death and were actually paying dividends.
8. Grandpa Jim and Grandma Grace were married at the Emmanuel Baptist Church at 2320 S. Michigan on April 15, 1920. A Baptist Church always seemed a little unusual. He was raised as a Catholic but practiced less as the years went by. My mom recalled that no one from the Filipek side or the Vanderkloot side went to the wedding except J. K. Sokolik and his wife Katherine. This seemed very odd. One possible interpretation is that the Filipeks thought he should marry a Czech and the Vanderkloots thought she should marry a Hollander. My mom also recalled that JK was a Baptist and was trying to convert James and thus helped arrange the marriage at the Baptist church. My mom also said that later when James found out that you had to be immersed to be a Baptist he lost interest. How sad though that no one except JK and his wife went to the wedding. There sure must have been some tensions among both families and their kids before and after the wedding. Ultimately, though it must have worked its way out as James and Grace continued to visit and stay with their respective families after the marriage.
9. Grandpa Jim attended John Marshall at night for law school and Mom recalls that in the beginning he made quite a bit of money.
10. Mom recalled that Grandpa Jim got a very good job as a lawyer for a trucking company in the mid-1920s that allowed them to buy the

house in Riverside. He took the Burlington commuter from Riverside to the Loop.

11. In 1926, Grandpa and Grandma Filipek moved to Riverside, perhaps to join his mother and brother John. Mom recalls that their house cost \$10,000, which was a lot of money back then. They bought it fully furnished from a Robert Jordan. This must have been an omen. When they left in 1939, the Filipeks also left the furniture, perhaps it was too expensive to move.
12. When Grandpa Jim lived in Riverside in the late 30s, he used to catch rabbits in the backyard for dinner. He would raise a box on a stick and then run a rope to the stick. With bait under the box to attract the rabbit, he would hide and pull the string at the appropriate moment. Grandma Grace would then make hasenpfeffer, a highly seasoned stew of marinated rabbit meat. Hasenpfeffer translates from the German as rabbit pepper or in English as peppered rabbit.
13. Grandpa Jim made his own root beer. He would store it under the stove. He used root beer extract, carbonated water, and a capping machine. Sometimes the bottles would explode during the night!
14. While in Riverside Grandpa Jim had a Peerless automobile. It had a running board which mom used to stand on. She recalls the police took them into the station for something. She also remembers it was hard for her dad to keep gas in it, probably because of the great Depression in the 1930s.
15. Grandpa always wanted a son but he had two girls. Marge was the oldest so she had to fulfill that role. Grandpa would buy season tickets to the Bears and Margie had to go along.
16. Mom recalled that for Christmas one year that Margie got a set of skis. Grandpa Jim then demonstrated them by skiing down the slope in town to the river. She has distinct recollection of him in a black overcoat and fedora skiing down the hill with great enthusiasm.
17. Mom recalls that when he first moved to Riverside, Grandpa Jim was a lawyer for a big auto garage in Riverside and did very well there. Unfortunately, when the depression came, the auto garage came on hard times and Grandpa lost his job with them.
18. Mom also recalls that while in Riverside, Grandpa Jim was a lawyer who helped companies, probably banks or trust bank, re-negotiate the mortgages with the people who couldn't pay. Unfortunately, Grandpa lost his own Riverside house in March 1939 as he didn't have enough money to pay the mortgage for two years. I also think the mortgage they had might have been one of the balloon mortgage whereby you paid interest for a short interval, for example, five years and then were expected to roll the mortgage over for five more years. Unfortunately if you were behind on payments or lost your job or your income was lower, all common during the Depression, the bank might not roll your mortgage over.

19. Mom said Grandpa Jim sold Maytag washing machines during the depression to supplement his income as a lawyer.
20. When they lost the house in Riverside in March 1939, Grandpa Jim, Grandma Grace and Marge and Jeanne moved to a six-flat owned by Claire and Coby Vanderkloot at 7304 South Emerald. Mom transferred after her first semester of freshman year. Marge was a senior at Riverside High and commuted on the streetcar to Riverside so she could complete her senior year in the class of 1939. Sometimes she stayed with her Uncle John and Aunt Rose. Mom says Marge was very upset about the move. Who wouldn't be during your senior year? Mom on the other hand said she didn't mind. She recalled when she was younger they used to ship her and Marge off for a few weeks during the summer to 7047 Ada to spend time in the old two flat with Alette. She always liked it there and moving nearby was interesting for her. There were new relatives, more people around because of the city, and there was a cute boy nearby. Mom could even recall what Grandma Grace was making the day they moved in; it was a big pot of snart (pea soup with ham bone). She loved snart but Margie hated it!
21. In remembering the times Mom spent on Ada Street as a girl, she recalled that it was across the street from the Altgeld School, which had a big yard where kids played baseball. Behind the batter was a large brick wall where the pitched rubber ball would bounce back. Mom used to watch and hang out there on those visits to Alette. She recalled that Dad told her years later that he used to play there as a kid. Maybe they saw each other, years before they met! I remember playing there too as a boy when we went over to visit Grandpa and Grandma Filipek.
22. Grandpa started his law office on LaSalle Street in the Chicago Loop about this time. He gradually worked up his practice and eventually took on Charley Kropik and taught him the law business. James' mother, Katherine, his brother John, and cousins Theodore and JK Sokolik and their families continued to live in Riverside, so it must have been a difficult and sad decision to have to leave.
23. Mom recalled that Grandpa Jim would sometimes bring home a yard of Canadian Bacon from the Rose Packing Company. Rose Packing was one of Grandpa's larger accounts, continuing for many years. Probably the bacon was a gift from the meat packer to their favorite lawyer. The stockyards were located at about 45th Street on the South Side and were a big business in Chicago at the time.
24. Grandpa Jim always had a special hobby going which he pursued intensely. In Riverside, he built a miniature golf course in the front, back and side yards. Mom recalls that when they lived at 82nd and May, he had two big aquariums in the back bedroom where he raised guppies and devilfish. He had lighting, siphons, and also goldfish of some kind. During World War II, he built model planes from balsa wood. When I was a boy, we had the leftover balsa wood and x-acto knives in the basement.

25. Grandpa Jim was an avid photographer throughout his life. At times, he turned the bathroom into a darkroom. It was the only bathroom in the house and no one could get in. I remember seeing pictures he made with a box pinhole camera. Somehow he was able to develop the images on some kind of construction paper and we still have a few of these.
26. Grandpa Jim and Grandma Grace were intense pinochle players during the game's popularity in the late 40s and early 50s.
27. Grandpa Jim was also an avid gardener and converted most of the entire backyard at 7047 Ada Street into vegetables and flowers. He was always complaining about the shade and would regularly talk about cutting down big branches on the huge trees. He made several large wooden boxes built with glass tops to start the tomatoes early. Inside he had electric heaters installed. It always seemed that he would start the tomatoes in February!
28. The basement at Ada Street was always quite interesting to me as a boy. In the front was a bright room with windows to see the street. There were jars of formaldehyde containing frogs and skulls. In the back of the basement was Grandpa Vanderkloot's trunk that held his things on the trip over from Holland. It was wooden and painted black and had a curved arch on top.
29. Grandpa Jim would build large structures at the card table by his smoking stand. Sometimes when we went over on Sunday afternoons, he would be building structures from playing cards or gluing together toothpicks to make giant buildings.
30. Grandpa Jim had a trick to make the to make the tomatoes taste better. He would cut them into slices and then sprinkle on sugar.
31. Grandpa Jim enjoyed beer, especially Prior beer, a Bohemian beer which he would put in a pilsner glass.
32. Grandpa smoked Lucky Strike cigarettes and really quite a lot of them. He used a smoking stand and also a cigarette holder into which a cylindrical filter was inserted.
33. Grandpa loved fishing and would regularly go camping and fishing in Northern Minnesota and Canada, usually with his friend Sam Seltzer, a former Chicago sheriff and also with his brother John. We believe the location in Minnesota was Ely, Minnesota. He had Filipek cousins in Minnesota so perhaps they all got together there. Upon his return, the refrigerator contained numerous silvery fish about a foot long. One time, the boat motor (which he owned) fell into deep water. Grandpa immediately put fishing poles in to mark the spot and then dove in to try to recover it.
34. A fond memory I have of Grandpa is watching him feed the squirrels on the back porch steps at Ada Street. The squirrels would run up the steps to take a walnut out of his hands. They would then return to the yard, dig a hole and bury the nut. The backyard was full of squirrel

holes. I can't imagine how they thought they could find all that they buried.

35. Grandpa didn't care for the alley cats which tried to get in his vegetable garden. To scare them away he would sit on the back porch with a sling shot and shoot marbles at the cats hanging around his garbage containers.
36. The garbage containers at Ada Street were quite unique. As was common in Chicago, most neighborhoods had alleys where the garbage was picked up. Usually garbage cans were left in the alley and each day you brought the garbage back there. At their place on Ada Street, though, there were two permanent rectangular concrete garbage containers. There was an iron metal swing on top to dump the garbage in. Probably there was a swing opening on the alley side. The garbage men must have shoveled it out. Of course the cats were generally around the garbage area, eating up the parts that dropped when it was shoveled out or trying to get in from the top. So there was always lots of action for Grandpa Jim.
37. Usually we went to Ada Street for Sunday dinner. Lots of times my Dad would talk with Grandpa Jim and I would hang around listening. Grandpa would talk about the things he was doing. One time the street had just been paved with asphalt. I recall Grandpa telling my Dad that he had given the men \$20 to pave his driveway. The driveway wasn't long, maybe 20 feet from the street to his garage door. The garage was down the street from their house. Why I remember this I don't really know. I think I thought it unusual that one didn't call up and arrange for the work to be done, that you could just walk over to a work crew and ask them on the spot to do a job. I suppose that the men had leftover asphalt in the truck and were willing to make a little extra money. I think I was also impressed that it was important to Grandpa to have his driveway looking nice.
38. Grandpa Jim was an avid White Sox fan. Probably because when he was a boy, they lived within about a mile of the White Sox Comiskey Park. When we visited, he would be sitting in front of a small black and white TV watching his beloved White Sox. Claudia remembers sitting on his lap while they watched the game. He waited forty years for the pennant of 1959 always cursing those "damn" Yankee teams of the 1950s that won every year. Finally he had his day when the Sox finally won the pennant. Those were the days of Louis Aparicio, the famous base stealer and Nellie Fox at shortstop.
39. Grandpa swore by Purple Martin gasoline for his Cadillac. He always had Cadillac. I think they were all second hand, but they always had the latest gadgets in the 50s compared to other cars. The one I remember was black. At the purple Martin he would obtain coupons which were redeemable for items. I recall he got a metal head hammer with a rubber handle. I now have this hammer and use it as my preferred hammer. He also obtained an electric drill. I had this one in my collection but I burned it out drilling holes in a concrete floor and it got thrown out.

40. Grandpa, would at times, get mixed up while driving. Ohrn O'Dette recalled an occasion on LaSalle near Grandpa's office. Grandpa got mixed up and drove the wrong way on a one-way street. The horns were blowing and he was yelling back, especially with one of his favorite phrases for these kinds of occasions, "You low life!" When they got to the other end of the street he said to Ohrn, "I showed them, didn't I!"
41. Grandpa Jim didn't like going to church. He stopped when he was young. He would come to church, though, for various special occasions with the grandchildren. At my grade school graduation, he interrupted everyone by talking loudly in church about his tomatoes. At Marianne's first communion, he wanted to know if he could smoke in the church.
42. Marianne remembers when Rich St. Denis, a close family friend of our parents came over to wire ear-phones to Grandpa Jim's TV so that Grandpa could listen to the ballgame as loud as he wanted and Grandma wouldn't yell at him to turn it down. Rich was very good at electronics and could make these kinds of items in the 50s well before they became common on sets. Grandpa also had an early remote control to change channels on the TV set, which was a pioneering feature for the era. Instead of today's infrared beam, there was a tuning fork inside that mechanically activated when you pushed the button on the control. The TV had a receiver to pick up the sound wave and flipped the channel by one.
43. In the mid-1950s, transistor radios were just coming out I recall mom and her sister decided to get him one for his birthday so he could listen in the backyard. The price was \$75, which was a lot more than the one mom got me for \$30 in 1960 and a lot more than the \$15 they went for a few years later. Along the same lines I recall hearing that Grandpa Jim got one of the new ballpoint pens for \$25 in the 1940s.
44. One thing that Marianne remembers that Grandpa did, and why none of us ever learned how to do it I'll never know, was the way he could fold the dollar bill into a W (the "Wilson" dollar.) That always fascinated me. He showed you (Dave) how to spin a big button in the middle of a long piece of thread. I think Mom wouldn't let us do that in the house, but I think Grandpa let us do it over at their place.
45. Claudia wonders where the box of pictures from Grandpa Jim and Grace is? She also wonders where are Grandpa's movies of his yard? We will have to look. I also think Harry Schodrof may have some pictures that he took of the Filipeks so we'll have to ask him someday.
46. Dave has Grandpa Jim's original Army Enlistment and Honorable Discharge papers. These papers have been transcribed and put on the Filipek web pages.

47. Dave also has Grandpa Jim's WWI army helmet. It is iron, army green, and has a corporal stripe on it. It is relatively flat in shape, almost like an upside down large flat metal soup bowl.
48. Dave inherited Grandpa's old Burrough's calculator from the law office. It's a great collector's item with about 100 keys to enter the data and a small display area for results. The outside is black metal and the inside is gears and levers. based on its serial number I had it dated to 1918.
49. Dave inherited Grandpa Jim's old leather briefcase. It was made of sturdy light brown leather. I used it in college but somehow it has disappeared.
50. Grandpa Jim bought Martin Gas for his Cadillac so he could collect the coupons. He traded for a metal-headed hammer with rubber handle, which I still use regularly. He also traded for an electric drill. I burned out the motor in the 1970s drilling holes in concrete and it was thrown out. I believe Michael has this now.
51. When Dave was young, Grandpa Jim bought him a number of very nice presents. In 1950 he got me a Lionel Train set which I still have. It has an engine, coal car, flat car, orange boxcar and caboose. I think the whole train with transformer cost \$20, which had to be a lot of money in those days. I loved it and played with it for years. Michael played with it also.
52. Grandpa Jim also gave me a working steam engine. You put water in the boiler, fuel in the bin and lit a match. After a while the water boiled and the engine wheel turned. Now I wonder sometimes whether these were toys he wanted as a kid or whether there was nostalgia for his days in Colorado and his parents building the railroads.

Recollection of Grace Filipek (nee Vanderkloot)

Grace Vanderkloot was born on August 7, 1894 in Chicago. She married James A. Filipek on April 15, 1920 and had two children. Marjorie and Jeanne.

The following are recollections of Grandma Grace from Grace, Grace's daughter Jeanne, and Dave, Marianne, Claudia, and Trina, Grandma Grace's grandchildren. There are also some recollections from Harry Schodrof, Grace's nephew.

These notes were assembled and written by Dave, therefore I have referred to James as Grandpa Jim and his wife as Grandma Grace. I have also referred to Jeanne as my Mom and her sister Marge as Aunt Marge. The notes are in rough chronological order.

1. Grace Vanderkloot said she was born on August 7, 1894 in Chicago. We always thought this was the correct date and it was verified through her Delayed Birth Record and the 1900 Census.
2. Grandma Grace would talk about when she was a girl how they had wooden sidewalks around their house in Chicago when she was growing up. She said all the roads were dirt, except Halsted Street, which was paved.
3. Grandma Grace said she and Aletta did not go to high school. They instead went to Stenographer School. She learned Exlectic Shorthand for 6 months. She recalled two schools about 3 blocks apart. One was Healey School at 35th and Wallace and other was spelled something like Capes School also on Wallace.
4. Grandma Grace also said she went to business school and was first in her class. It is not clear if this school was in addition to Stenographer's School.
5. Grace and Aletta were bad at mathematics
6. Grandma Grace said she originally worked in the Vanderkloot Ironwork's Office as a stenographer; she made \$10/week and she gave all her money to her mother.
7. Grandma Grace said when they lived in the old neighborhoods on Emerald and Lowe, they used to burn coal for heat. Her father would get people from the Foundry to come over to set-up a pulley to pull the coal up to the second floor.
8. Grandma Grace said they used to warm bricks and then wrap them up in a towel to warm the bed sheets.
9. Jeanne also recalls hearing from her mom that there was no central heat in the old houses and at night they would heat up bricks downstairs by a wooden stove and then take the bricks and put them under their blankets to keep them warm at night.
10. Grandma Grace was a secretary before she was married. She recalled that she started out across the street from their home at the Vanderkloot Foundry.

11. Grandma Grace loved books. When they were dating, Grandpa Jim bought her most of the Dickens and Shakespeare. She read them all. I remember these books being on the bookshelf at the Ada Street house. Unfortunately, the books were falling apart and were discarded when Grandma Grace moved from Ada Street in the mid-60s.
12. Grandpa Jim also bought Grandma Grace a Remington portable typewriter. Grace had been an executive secretary before they were married and the tradition of the times was that most women stopped working when they were married. The typewriter let Grace type things at home for personal and maybe later to help Grandpa in his business. All us kids had fun with it when we went over to Grandma's house. I still have the typewriter in the closet but it doesn't work so well anymore. It has a date of manufacture of August 14, 1925. In a way its look and use is similar to having a laptop today versus a full size computer. It was smaller and lighter than a conventional typewriter making it easy to stow away and get out to use. I am sure there was a cost premium to buy it to get this reduced size feature.
13. When Jeanne was born, there was a terrible snow storm in Chicago. Grandpa Jim drove Grace to German Evangelical Deacon Hospital, but Grace was in such pain she kept grabbing Jim's neck while he was trying to drive in snow storm. Things were pretty rough for Grandma Grace as she had to stay two weeks before going home.
14. Harry Schodrof, Jeanne's cousin remembered the night that mom was born. He said he and Marge, Jeanne's sister, were playing in the first floor of the flat on Ada Street; that Grandpa Jim and Grandma Grace lived upstairs and Aunt Allette lived on the first floor. Since it was so close to Christmas and Grandma Grace had to go the hospital, they have given him and Aunt Marge one of their Christmas toys to keep them occupied. Harry was four and Marge was three.
15. When they were young, Grandma put Mom and Colleen Rooney in the bathtub together along with an eggbeater to play with.
16. When Jeanne was about seven she got pink eye. She had been swimming in the Berwyn Park District pool. Grandma Grace took her to the doctor for treatment. The doctor told Grace to put flax seed in mom's eyes and that should clear it up. Evidently, he didn't go into specific detail about exactly how to do this as Grandma Grace went to the store, bought flax seed and attempted to put the seeds in mom's eyes! Mom fussed of course and wouldn't let her mother do this as it hurt. When Grandma called the doctor back, he said what she needed to do was make a tea using the flax seeds and bathe mom's eyes with it to cure the pink eye. Oh! those home remedies!! From Claudia December 2003
17. Grandma and her two sisters, Alette and Marie ruled the collective family and were known as "The Big Three."

18. In their home at 7047 S. Ada Street, Alette lived on the top floor and Grandpa and Grandma lived on the first. There was no intercom so they banged on the exposed pipe (probably a heating pipe) going from the first floor to the second. A sharp rapping, usually done with a wooden spoon, meant come to the front stairwell so they could talk. The front stairwell had a very distinctive odor that came to me as I wrote this last sentence. There was a large porch in the back on the second floor. Occasionally, I would go up there but it was scary looking down.
19. When I was little, Grandma would fill the dishpan up with snow and transfer it to the kitchen sink so I could play without going outside.
20. Grandma was a great storyteller. She told stories of Klaas and Betcha, two immigrants from Holland to America. They would encounter strange birds on shipboard, such as an albatross or a whiff-in-puff. In the stories they always forgot at least one item which was usually the can opener. Endless discussion would then ensue on how to get the cans open. A favorite was to use hammer and nails to make a circle around the edges. We often wonder if this story was a melding of the Vanderkloots voyages to America and whether they really did forget the can opener. Although we know, Klass Vanderkloot stayed in Cocksdrorp and we haven't identified anyone named Betcha.
21. Grandma Grace made delicious cinnamon rolls. Marianne and Claudia say that Grandma Grace let them sometimes eat them in bed when they slept over at her house. She also made spicalasies, which are very thin cookies with chopped almonds. I think spicalasies translates from Dutch as little spice cookie. We have the recipe and occasionally someone in the family makes a batch. The recipes for the cinnamon rolls and the spicalasies on the web site.
22. Grandma Grace made hasenpfeffer, a highly seasoned stew of marinated rabbit meat and also roast duck. Her daughter Jeanne said she stuffed the duck with apples.
23. Grandma Grace had a set of wooden salad bowls given her by Thora, Marge's husband's mother. Dave now had these.
24. Grandma Grace had a set of small copper colored aluminum drinking glasses and also a set of colorful aluminum drinking glasses. Dave now had these., but do not use.
25. When I was going through Grandma Grace's old paperwork I found that a number of the papers were connected not by a paperclip or staples but by a straight pin that she wove in then out of the papers. I don't know if the pin method was common for the times, but it was the first time I saw it used. In doing her typing she made copies, but in her day, before Xerox machines, she made carbon copies. To save paper these were done on the front or back of paper left over from different places she or Jim worked.
26. Mom said that Grandma Grace belonged to Self Help, a Mutual Life Assurance Society Zelt along with Alette. She called it "Zelt Help",

Dutch for "Self Help." Representatives would come to your home every month or so and you paid a small amount. In Grandma Grace's personal records I found that the policy was started on December 1, 1894 just 4 months after she was born. The face amount was for \$250. It appears it was a term insurance policy that first her parents and then Grace paid on until her death. In the old days people did not obtain insurance from their place of work and the likely way was through mutual or fraternal organizations provided insurance. More frequent death of young children occurred so parents bought insurance to cover burial expenses. In 1965 there was a letter inquiring about a policy for the estate of Grandma Grace's brother Matt. Grace responded that it was burial insurance. Thus it appears Adrianus and Martha purchased Burial Insurance on all their children back in the 1880s and 90s. When she died in 1979, Grace still had her \$250 burial insurance policy that she and her parents paid into for 84 years. Grandma Grace also had a 20-year pay life policy that was fully paid on November 7, 1962.

As follows are some remembrances my sister, Marianne, has of Grandma Grace.

1. Grandma had numerous favorite phrases. Among them were: She liked to say things in threes, like:
2. "Good morning, good, morning, good morning!"
3. "Good night, good night, good night."
4. "Oh, dear, oh, dear, oh, dear."
5. "I ate too much, I ate too much, I ate too much!"
6. At night she would say: "A terrible weariness has just come over me, so I'm going to bed."
7. "Oh, dear, bread and beer, if I wasn't so foolish I wouldn't be here"?
8. "Well I declare" (I didn't know what "declare" meant when I was little, but I always thought of chocolate eclairs when she said that.)
9. I also remember that the way she said the time was to say "half past six or quarter past six" as opposed to the more current six-thirty or six-fifteen
10. Do you remember those little wooden men at her house that you could stack? You could attach them at the shoulders. I remember that the green one was named Bill Ding, but it wasn't until I was an adult that I caught the pun!
11. Do you remember how they wrapped their garbage in newspaper and tied it with a string and those cement trash containers in the alley?
12. How about playing store with the canned goods?
13. Do you remember that she kept the vanilla ice cream in that metal container in the freezer, not in the cardboard box?
14. Do you remember that they didn't have a pencil sharpener and we had to sharpen the pencils for the writing game with a paring knife?

15. Marianne has Grandma Grace's carved wooden little old man with the blue top hat and who is playing the violin.

As follows are some remembrances my sister, Claudia, has of Grandma Grace.

1. Grandpa Jim called Grandma and her two sisters, Alette and Marie, "The Big Three." He called Marie, who was "number three", "Marie the Snake". Someone told me (I think it might have been Nancy or Betsy), that the three of them used to go in the kitchen to hold "conferences" and wouldn't let anyone in. Grandpa Jim went in one time anyway and caught the three of them drinking whiskey.
2. Grandma Grace often took a shot of whiskey before retiring at night to help her sleep (do you remember, Mom and Dad used to buy her a bottle of whiskey for Christmas every year). She also liked pickled herring and Mom would often give her a jar for Christmas
3. Grandma used to "make" pennies for Trina when she was a little girl. She would take a section of the daily paper and fold it in halves or quarters on her lap and tell Trina to close her eyes and hit the paper with a wooden spoon. When Trina opened up the paper there would be pennies in there (Grandma was so clever). I can still remember Trina saying, "Make money, Make money!"
4. I also remember Grandma giving Trina rides on her leg to a nursery rhyme. She would cross one leg over the other and Trina would sit on Grandma's foot and hold on to her hands and Grandma would bounce her up and down to "Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross . . . ". I wonder if she did this with all of us.
5. When we would stay overnight at Grandma and Grandpa's house on Ada Street, Grandma would often make either silver dollar pancakes or one very large one (don't remember if this had a name) for breakfast depending upon how old we were and how much we could eat. She also made the "Egg-in-the-Hole" breakfast where you tear out a circle in the middle of the bread, put it in the frying pan and then crack an egg in it so the yolk ended up in the hole in the bread. (I still like these.) She would also make "Huppies" which was like an egg sandwich but cut into small pieces -- I think to get us to eat it when we were little. She also made giant thin egg pancakes.
6. I also remember making fudge with Grandma Grace. She used to test the water to see if it was hot enough by taking a small piece of chocolate, balling it up in her fingers and throwing it in the water. She'd always say it was ready but I never could figure out what she expected the chocolate to do. Marianne's made fudge so she might know why Grandma did this. I don't.
7. I remember the little wooden men, but we also used to play with the tinker toys. I liked those best.
8. Grandma took me downtown at Christmas time to go to Marshall Fields to see Santa Claus and have lunch in the Walnut Room. As I recall, it took us four buses to get there (could this be right?). I also

remember her taking me to the Ice Capades in the winter and the Lincoln Park Zoo in the summer. How many times we did this, I have no idea.

9. Claudia also believes Grandma Grace worked as a secretary at A. T. Kearny in the 1950s.
10. That's all that comes to mind for now. I remember most of the things that you and Marianne mentioned especially the smell in the stairway on Ada Street. I don't remember the ice cream in the metal container, though.

Here are some remembrances my sister, Trina, has of Grandma Grace.

1. The only other story that I can remember is how she used to "make pennies". Sometimes when my friend Pam Jones would come over we would ask Grandma to make pennies for us. She would take a thick section of the newspaper and a hammer or sometimes I think she used the heel of her shoe and would start pounding on the newspaper that was laid on a table or the floor. She would hammer all over it for a couple of minutes. Then Pam and I would tell her to check and see if there were any pennies in the newspaper yet, and she would open it up and we would look through the pages and there wouldn't be any because she hadn't hammered enough. So she would fold up the newspaper again and start hammering for a couple more minutes and soon we would hear the sound of the hammer hitting something metal. We would then open up the newspaper page by page and every few pages find a penny or two. To this day I'm still not sure how she did it or when she slipped those pennies in.

Furniture

When Grandma Grace left her apartment in May 1969 to move in with her daughter, Jeanne, she had get rid of her old furniture. Mom was ready to throw it out. Dad told me to quickly get a trailer and store it somewhere, promptly! I had just graduated from college and was in the process finding my first apartment with Bill McCollam and Ralph Oesterle. and we had no furniture so this was perfect timing.

I was able to save the old oak kitchen table and chairs, the solid maple dressing table, end table, and combination chest and fold down desk, a large veneer dresser and the very comfortable roll-away beds. I think I also recovered Grandpa Jim's smoking stand, but more for nostalgia since no one smoked. These items were used in my first apartment with the guys in Chicago. When I moved to New Jersey in 1970 I had all of it shipped except the smoker stand and roll away beds.

We've kept it all throughout the years. We used the kitchen table as our kitchen table for years until we got a new one. In the 1980s, I removed the ugly antique I had put on the wood pieces. I also removed the ugly gray linoleum top that was on the kitchen table. I sanded all to bare wood and then put on a couple of coats of tung oil to bring out the natural color. All the pieces look great! On the bottom of the oak kitchen table is a date of March 13, 1939.

Today the old oak kitchen table is in our room off the kitchen overlooking our property and is a great place to have a cup of coffee and read or to organize projects. My wife still uses the two oak chairs, one at her kitchen desk and the other at her sewing machine. They creak and groan but are comfy, easy to move, and beautiful to look at.

The maple dressing table now is a plant table in our foyer and has a beautiful look in the sunlight from the overhead skylight. The combination maple desk and drawers and the end table are doing duty in our guest room. Unfortunately, I threw out the pigeon hole dividers that were in the desk, why I did I don't recall, but possibly because it was too hard to get the antique off the cubbyholes as not much space.

The veneer dresser is in the basement. Mom believes Grandma Grace bought all the pieces second hand when they moved to Chicago from Riverside but it's possible the oak table was new since it was only made in 1939 about the time they moved.