

GRANDMA SAUTER

by Jim Sauter

When we lived across the pond and even after we moved to our house next to the ball diamond, I spent a lot of time at the Sauter farm. This was during the day, often when Grandma Sauter was home alone. Everyone else was either in school, at work or married. I remember watching her work and even helping her a little at times. I helped her make butter with a hand-turned butter churn. Looked kind of like a blender but much bigger. I remember her sending me down to her friend Mrs. Shauer (Johnny Shauer's mother) with some butter several times. Mrs. Shauer lived a few houses up the street from the old English Lutheran Church.

Another thing I liked watching her do is make Egg Noodles. She would make a big pile of dough on the kitchen table and then use a rolling pin to flatten it until it was thin. She would then take a big knife and cut the dough into strips. By the time she was done the tabletop was covered with a big pile of noodles. It was a big job but it didn't seem to take her long. She was an excellent cook.

Grandma did a lot of knitting and I think she was very good at it. We would talk while she knitted. She was a very patient with me; I was always asking her questions and she didn't seem to mind.

They raised huge black turkeys that must have been at least 2-3 feet tall. I remember once when we had Thanksgiving dinner there. I had a new bike and rode it up there. There were about 5-6 of these turkeys in the middle of the yard. The men were standing out on the porch so I thought it would be fun to show off and ride right through the turkeys, which I did. The only problem was the turkeys didn't think it was funny and started chasing me, gobbling like crazy. I had to hightail it out of there on my bike and the men thought it was hilarious. I was teased about that for several years.

The farm was very nice. Everything was painted white. The house was big, with two floors. Grandma had a big vegetable garden behind the house with a path down the middle of it. What I remember most are the beautiful flowers she had at the beginning of the garden, and lots of them. I'm sure all the kids did a lot of hoeing while they were growing up.

It was a working farm. There was a big barn with a corral and several other buildings. A tall windmill was next to the barn. About a mile or so north of the farm was a pasture. I think Grandpa Sauter owned it at one time. Mae told me she didn't like delivering milk all over town in the middle of winter so I know they had cows they milked.

Grandma was an active member of the Ladies Aid of the Tuttle Lutheran Church. She would bake many items for all the events that were held there. She often worked in the church kitchen when meals were served.

Grandma was a kind person and also a very strong one. She had to be with 10 kids growing up and Grandpa Sauter busy with his many business interests. The kids all turned out very well and she was the major reason why.