

One Man's Family: He's A. Van Valkenburgh of Deer Creek



This is the complete Van Valkenburgh family. Pictured above, left to right. Back row, Elmo Van Valkenburgh, Henry A. Schuermann, J. B. Loveless, Granville Herndon, Marion Brown, Donald Heisler and Stanley, Jack Betz, F. E. Van Valkenburgh, John T. Van Valkenburgh, A. M. Van Valkenburgh, Norman P. Van Valkenburgh, Merlin Van Valkenburgh, Dr. Glenwood M. Van Valkenburgh, Reo Webster, Mrs. Reo Webster, Laura Dester, Ned Jaakobs, Jeanette Webster, William Van Valkenburgh, Delmar Rymph, Galen Mardis,

Orville Goodman, Roy Schuermann, Kenneth Schuermann. Second row, Mrs. Elmo Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. Henry A. Schuermann, Mrs. John T. Van Valkenburgh, Miss Betty Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. Granville Herndon, Mrs. Donald Heisler, Mrs. Marion Brown, Mrs. Jack Betz and Joanne, Mrs. F. E. Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. A. M. Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. Lizzie Buckles, Mrs. Anna Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. Norman P. Van Valkenburgh, Mrs. M. S. Ross, Mrs. Paul F. Van Valkenburgh and Kay, Mrs. Glenwood M. Van Valkenburgh,

Mrs. Ned Jaakobs, Mrs. Harry Thorpe and Lee, Mrs. Shelton Whitlow, Mrs. Orville Goodman, Mrs. Delmar Rymph, Mary Lou Rymph, Rollie Schuermann. Third row, Clarice Van Valkenburgh, Janice Van Valkenburgh, Marlys Brown, Larrie Brown, Leon Whitlow, Ronnie Brown, David Whitlow, Neil Schuermann, Donald Webster, Robert Van Valkenburgh, Meredith Van Valkenburgh and Michael Thorpe, Nancy Van Valkenburgh, Kent Van Valkenburgh, Carolyn Van Valkenburgh.

By ELMER W. FINK
DEER CREEK, June 21—A. M. Van Valkenburgh, prominent Grant county citizen for more than 50 years, has just had his finest hour.

From Maine to California, his 14 sons and daughters gathered together for the first time in their lives as a tribute to their father on his 75th birthday.

The occasion was marked with an elaborate dinner at the Methodist church here, replete with a big birthday cake, and attended by 65 relatives, including 14 of the 27 grandchildren.

Mrs. Osie Van Valkenburgh shared the weekend spotlight with her husband, for Sunday there was a breakfast at the home in observance of the couple's 28th wedding anniversary.

Birthday and wedding anniversary gifts, piling one climax upon another for the local couple, left nothing to be desired.

Most of those that gathered here

for the weekend from the four corners of the nation set aside pressing personal business so that they might attend. Five thousand mile trips were not uncommon and by Sunday night many of them were hurrying home.

Rev. R. R. Ellis, Methodist pastor, opened the brief program at the birthday dinner Saturday at the church with a short prayer and a few laudatory remarks.

The sons and daughters then spoke briefly. Friends of the family helped with the sumptuous repast topped off with the traditional cake and mountains of ice cream.

For Mr. Van Valkenburgh there was a boutonniere and for Mrs. Van Valkenburgh a corsage.

The wedding breakfast Sunday was for the immediate family, and a few friends such as Mr. and Mrs. Ed F. Fishny, who had been present when the couple was married 28 years before, and Miss Laura Dester of Oklahoma City.

Mr. Van Valkenburgh came to Grant county at the opening of the Cherokee Strip on Sept. 16, 1893. He staked a claim near Pond Creek.

He was married to Pinkie Herndon of near Pond Creek, who died in 1918.

He was married to Osie B. Loveless on June 8, 1919.

So numerous were the relatives that were here for the weekend festivities that ample facilities at the home and elsewhere in Deer Creek were overtaxed and required seven rooms of the Larkin hotel in Blackwell for sleeping accommodations.

The sons and daughters and their families that assembled for the occasion were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Schuermann and their sons, Claire and Kenneth, both army air corps veterans and Neil and Roy, and one daughter, Rollie, of Enid; Norman P. Van Valkenburgh, a contractor; Mrs. Van Valkenburgh and their

son, Robert and daughters, Carolyn and Nancy, of Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. M. S. Ross of Los Angeles, Calif.; Dr. and Mrs. Glenwood M. Van Valkenburgh of Georgetown, Del.

Mr. and Mrs. Reo Webster and son, Don, and daughter, Jeanette, of Deer Creek; Mr. and Mrs. Ned Jaakobs of New York City; Merlin Van Valkenburgh of Sacramento, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Paul P. Van Valkenburgh and son, Kent, and daughter, Kay, of Tulsa; Mr. and Mrs. John T. Van Valkenburgh of Hollywood, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Betz and daughter, Joanne, of Van Nuys, Calif.; Mrs. Harry Thorpe and children, Michael and Lee, of Auburn, Maine; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Heisler and son, Stanley, of The Dalles, Ore.; William Van Valkenburgh, a student at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and Meredith Van Valkenburgh of Deer Creek.

Others present included Mrs. Liz-

zie Buckles, sister of Mr. Van Valkenburgh, and her daughter, Mrs. Shelton Whitlow and Leon and David Whitlow, all of Houston, Tex. Mr. F. E. Van Valkenburgh, brother of Mr. Van Valkenburgh, and Mrs. Van Valkenburgh of Danville, Kans.

Mrs. Anna Van Valkenburgh, sister-in-law of Harper, Kans.; Mr. and Mrs. Granville Herndon, brother-in-law, and Mrs. Herndon of Wichita, Kans.; J. B. Loveless, father of Mrs. Van Valkenburgh, of Oklahoma City; Mr. and Mrs. Marion Brown and children, Larry, Fernie and Marlys.

Betty Van Valkenburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Rymph and Mary Lou and Galen Mardis, all of Harper, Kans.; Mr. and Mrs. Orville Goodman of Wichita, Kans.; Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Van Valkenburgh and Charlyce and Janice of Kansas City, Mo.; and Rev. R. R. Ellis of Deer Creek.

A number of friends were called during the afternoon.



These are members of the immediate Van Valkenburgh family who attended the reunion. Pictured above, left to right, are Mrs. Donald Heisler, Mrs. Harry Thorpe, Mrs. Jack Betz, Mrs. Ned Jaakobs, Mrs. Reo Webster, Mrs. Matt Ross, Mrs. Henry A. Schuermann, Mrs. A. M. Van Valkenburgh, A. M. Van Valkenburgh, Norman P. Van Valkenburgh, Dr. Glenwood M. Van Valkenburgh, Merlin Van Valkenburgh, Paul P. Van Valkenburgh, John T. Van Valkenburgh, William Van Valkenburgh, and Meredith Van Valkenburgh.