

Mary Braska

Mary L. (Pierce) Braska, 44, of DeWitt, born April 11, 1951 went to be with the Lord March 21, 1996 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.



Mary Braska

God looked around His garden and found an empty space, He looked down upon earth and saw your tired face, He put His arm around you and lifted you to rest, God's garden must be beautiful for He only takes the best. He knew that you were weary and He knew you were in pain, He knew that you would never be well on earth again. He saw the road was getting rough and the hills were too hard to climb so He closed your

weary eyelids and whispered, Peace be thine.

Her life here on earth was one that was filled with her passion of watching her children grow and excel. She especially enjoyed watching her sons playing football and cruising in her '57 Chevy. Mary will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

Mary leaves behind her loving husband Joe; eight children, Sheila, Lisa, Joe, John, Jeff, James, Justin and Jeremy; her mother Beatrice Pierce of Laingsburg; sisters Shirley (Roger) Sickles of Perry, Joanne (George) Abel of Washington; brothers Howard (Sandy) Pierce and Richard Pierce, both of Laingsburg and one grandson Andrew.

She was preceded in death by her father, Clarence Pierce, and one sister Marjorie Pierce.

The family wishes to express their grateful thanks to all those who gave their prayers and actions through this trying time.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in East Lansing with interment following in Rose Cemetery in Bath. Rev. Lawrence R. Delaney officiated.

Memorials may be made to the Braska Children Trust Fund c/o The Gorsline-Runciman Co., DeWitt Chapel or the American Cancer Society.

BRETZ, REV. LAVERN A.

Lansing



Age 91, died February 18, 1998. Rev. Bretz was born in South Bend, IN on July 23, 1906. He lived in Mississippi before moving to Lansing and living

in DeWitt and Bath when he was a Pastor at churches in these areas. He began his ministry in Bath, in July 1934 in a church that had been closed and the property assumed by the Michigan Baptist Convention. In 1936, he went to Valley Farms where work was begun with five people and he was ordained in 1939. In 1943 he went to DeWitt to the DeWitt Community Church where he was Pastor for fourteen years. In 1957 he returned to Valley Farms Baptist Church where the present edifice was built. On May 26, 1974, Rev. Bretz retired from active ministry and continued to supply Pastorates around the State. At the present time he is Pastor Emeritus at the Valley Farms Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by a son, James R. Bretz. Surviving are his wife, Marguerite G.; 3 sons, Charles J. (Joanne) of CO, Donald E. (Estonia) of Dimondale and Calvin W. (Janet) Bretz of Lansing; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; half-sister, Mattie Laurell of MS; and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 21, 11 a.m. at Valley Farms Baptist Church, 1141 E. State Road, Lansing, with the Rev. Jon Lambert, Pastor, officiating. Interment will follow in Gunnisonville Cemetery. Friends may call at the Gorsline-Runciman Co. Lansing Chapel, 900 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing beginning Thursday 7 p.m. where the family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. and Friday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Those desiring may make contributions to Valley Farms Baptist Church in memory of Rev. Bretz.



This day
I will marry
my friend;
the one I laugh with,
live for,
dream with, Love

*Desiring God's will for their lives
and believing that includes each other*

Rebecca Elizabeth Nose

and

Alex Wendall Brewer

together with their parents

invite you to share their joy

as they are united in the Lord Jesus Christ

on Saturday, the fifteenth of August

nineteen hundred and ninety-eight

at two o'clock in the afternoon

Fitzgerald Park

Grand Ledge, Michigan

(Map Enclosed)

*I am my beloved's
and my beloved is mine . . .
Song of Solomon 6:3*

TWO MEN DROWN IN ACCIDENT FRIDAY

Driver Falls Asleep At Wheel

Henry Baby and George Brink Of Dewitt Victims Of Pathetic Mishap

Residents of St. Johns were extremely agitated Friday morning when news of one of the most pathetic accidents to happen in this county was reported to the local authorities. About four o'clock a Ford touring car driven by George E. Brink of Dewitt went into the dredge ditch three miles north of the city, just a short distance from Livingston's corners.

Two members of the party were drowned in about three feet of water. The two boys in the car escaped uninjured. The car was raised from the ditch and brought to this city by the Owl garage wrecker. The damage to the car was not serious. The windshield was destroyed and the fender and running board and rear wheel on the left side of the car were broken.

George E. Brink, Henry C. Raby, John Brink, 12 years, and Porter Palmer, 11 years, left Dewitt at two o'clock Tuesday morning on a berrying and fishing trip. They arrived at St. Helena, 3rd lake, where they remained Wednesday and Thursday. The party left for the return trip home Thursday afternoon between three and four o'clock.

On the trip home, according to the story told by Porter Palmer, they ran off the road near Forest Hill, striking a telephone pole. The fender was broken loose from the running board of the car and the camping outfit was thrown from the car by the impact. This accident was due to Mr. Brink falling asleep at the wheel.

After getting things straightened up the party again proceeded on their way and the trip was uneventful until the car came to the scene of the fatal accident. The two boys were asleep in the rear seat of the car. The Palmer youth states that he felt the jolting of the car and roused up a little and thought they were passing over some rough road. He was awakened only when the car struck the water. He immediately tore away part of the back curtain on the car and crawled out, then he assisted the Brink boy out of the car.

The two boys got hold of Mr. Raby's head and tried to pull him out of the water, but failed to raise the man's head from the water only to the eyes. When this attempt at rescue proved useless the boys removed a floor board from the car and attempted to get Mr. Brink out. They were unable however, to even move the body an inch.

The youths ran up to the road and attempted to hail a passing truck, but the driver never heard them or failed to stop to assist. Hearing a dog bark

the boys sought a house that must be nearby. They found the home of Frank Kus, who works for Mr. Livingston, and got him out to help them. When Mr. Kus arrived at the scene two more cars had come to the scene of the accident. One of the cars stopped to help while the other came to this city and called Dr. Silsby. The driver of this car took the boys to the O. B. Davis home where they were



GEORGE E. BRINK

given dry clothing and food. Gail Davis then took the boys to their homes near Dewitt.

Frank Kus called Mr. Livingston and in a short time Nightwatch Alward, Sheriff Barnes and Dr. Silsby were on the scene. W. R. Osgood & Sons were called by the doctor to take charge of the bodies. Investigation showed that the car had traveled at a slow rate of speed diagonally across the road from the west to the east side, through the willows and down the embankment where it turned over into the dredge ditch. It was also very evident that all members of the ill-fated car were sound asleep when the car left the road.

George E. Brink was 50 years old and was born on the farm where he resided at the time of his untimely death. He leaves the widow and one son, John, who was in the accident. The farm home is located one mile north and one-half mile west and one-quarter mile north of Dewitt.

Henry C. Raby was 50 years of age and was born near Okemos. He is survived by a wife and two sons.



HENRY C. RABY

Chester and Harlan, age 16 and 17. The farm home is one mile north and one mile west of Dewitt.

nTwThis

Both were prominent in church work in Dewitt and will be greatly missed in this activity.

Porter Palmer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Palmer who reside on route four near St. Johns, and is a cousin of John Brink.

A double funeral was held for the two neighbors who met their death together, from the Baptist church at 10:30 Sunday morning. Rev. Ellenger, pastor of the German church and Rev. Wahl, retired minister residing in Dewitt, were the officiating pastors. Interment was made in the Dewitt cemetery. W. R. Osgood & Son of St. Johns had charge of the funeral.

cream cashmere and silk, trimmed in chiffon, and carried pink and cream roses. Miss Kinney was attired in white cashmere, trimmed in lace. Miss Pearce was dressed in cream colored cashmere, trimmed in chiffon. The brides, maids carried pink and white carnations. The groom and his attendants were dressed in the conventional black, the groom wearing yellow roses, the attendants wearing red roses.

After the congratulations had been received, the bridal party and friends were escorted to the two spacious dining rooms, where an elaborate supper, from tastily decorated tables, was served by eight young ladies, the Misses Webb, Pike, Kinney, Brinkerhoof, Martzke, Whitaker, Blizzard and Randell, who were each presented with a dainty card tied with white ribbon, upon which was written the bill of fare, also day and date, to be kept as souvenirs. At the ends of the tables presided Mrs. S. Norris, Mrs. M. Diles, Mrs. E. Dills and Mrs. D. Rockwell, who poured the coffee for the girls to serve. The bill of fare consisted of coffee biscuits, meats, pickles, cabbage salads, olives, ice cream, water melon, lemon cheese and angel-food cake, oranges bananas, fruit and bride's cakes. Piano music was furnished by the Misses Lucille Scott, Edna Randell and Mae Clavey. Violin music was furnished by Victor Clavey. Mr. and Mrs. Brink left for the state of New York and Niagara Falls, with the best wishes of their many friends. They were the recipients of many elegant and useful presents, the following of which is a list.

From father to bride—Check of \$500, 1 set of solid silver teaspoons, one enameled bedstead. From mother to bride—Check of \$150, one large room and all furnishings complete with black walnut set, carpet, lace curtains, one decorated chamber set, lace counter panes and shams, one pair of hemstitched sheets and pillow cases, celluloid comb and whisk broom, silver thimble, one set of dining room chairs, one jardiner stand, one feather bed and pillows, one dozen ice cream cups, and to the groom, one china mustache cup and saucer. From brother to bride—Check of \$10, one china clock. From Mark Brazer and Josie Pearce—One fancy back rocker, one set of silver table spoons. One half dozen, each, silver dessert and tea spoons. Mr. George Brink—Silver berry spoon. Mr. and Mrs. Rubin Brink—Silver and china fruit dish—Mr. and Mrs. V. H. Pearce. Mr. and Mrs. Dey Van Hutt, Mr. and Mrs. Chas A. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Major Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. A. Whittaker—Gold lined silver fruit dish. E. M. Webb and family, Mrs. Julia Scott and A. H. Alexander—Decorated Glass tea set. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Blizzard, Mr. and Mrs. H. VanDyke, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Rockwell and Mr. and Mrs. Loron Dunlap—Gold lined silver fruit basket. Otto Martzke Albert Martzke, Theo. Martzke, Martha, Anna and Mary Martzke—One set of silver knives and forks. Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Norris, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Norris and Frank and Grace Norris—One oak book case and secretary combined. Mr. and Mrs. E. Loether, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Laneton, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Laneton, Mr. and Mrs. Emory Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Pike, Mr. and Mrs. Millard Pike, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Dills, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roherer, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Morris, Mr. and Mrs. A. Dawson Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hill, Mrs. Hannah Blizzard, Mr. A. A. Wilbar, Mr. Loren Hill, Mr. Louis Yantz, Misses Fannie and Minnie Norris—Silver butter dish. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott—Silver celery dish. Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Scott and Mrs. Lucille Scott—Silver salad fork. Mr. and Mrs. H. Brazer—Silver berry spoon. Will Brinkerhoof. Silver and glass pickle castor—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Henning and Miss Emma Henning—One set of silver knives and forks to the groom. From Mary Brink, (deceased), \$1. E. D. Way and family—\$1. Herbert Reid—\$2. Theodore Nellar and family China cake dish. Grace Heath—Parlor lamp.

Mrs. Theodore Stienhardt—Large framed painting. Luther Sibley and Robert Elwanger—Chenille table cloth. Mr. and Mrs. David Huffman—Decorated glass celery dish. Albert Yantz—“Our wedding bells,” (book.) Rev. T. W. Illman—“Bridal bells,” (book.) Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Knapp—Fancy handkerchief. Belle Ashworth—Celluloid handkerchief and glove boxes. Mr. and Mrs. W. Emery and Earl Emery—Decorated china jardiner. Mr. and Mrs. Dr. R. Simmons, Ray and Loy Simmons—Two sets of individual salt and pepper shakers. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Blizzard—One set of silver nut picks and cracker. Geo. Roherer—Silver sugar shell. Frank Huffman—Silver butter knife and gold lined sugar shell. Mrs. Eliza Brinkerhoof, and Bert Brinkerhoof—One set of china fruit plates. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Durham—China fruit basket. Mrs. C. Bedell, Silver butter knife and sugar shell. Mr. and Mrs. Chaney and May and Lulu Olaney—Decorated china cake plate. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. VanDyke—Glass cheese dish. Ered Oberry, China cream and sugar set. Mr. and Mrs. G. Yantz—One linen table cloth. Mr. and Mrs. S. Tucker—One linen table cloth. Mr. and Mrs. J. Tout—China pin tray. Mrs. Jane Northway—Patent swing rocker. Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Kinney and Hattie and Bertha Kinney—Decorated jardiner. Mr. and Mrs. S. Castle. One full china tea set—From groom to bride. Decorated white enameled paper holder. Mr. and Mrs. K. VanFleet. Fleece lined bed blankets—Mrs. Carrie Simmons. One pair of woolen blankets. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dills. Two fancy towels—Letah and Leah Wilcox. One linen table cloth. Mr. and Mrs. August Wott. China fruit dish—Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Hyde and Effie. Hand embroidered center piece—Genevieve Brinkerhoof. China cream and sugar set and cake plate—Mr. and Mrs. Louis Reed. One dozen napkins—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Simmons. Silver gold lined sugar shell and butter knife—Mr. A. H. Helse. Glass berry set—Mrs. Anges Brund. One pair of glass trays—Lottie and Nina Blizzard. China cheese dish—Mrs. E. B. Lott. Six china fruit plates—Mr. and Mrs. L. Huott. Large rug—Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Woodruff. One pair glass rose bowls—Mrs. M. and Cesper Smith. Six glass fruit plates—Geo. Vandyke and Nellie Smalley Nickle crumb tray and scraper—Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Dills. Countepane—Andrew Neller. Decorated china cake plate—Mr. and Mrs. E. Lott. One dozen china fruit plates—Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Dills, and Gerry and Helen Dills. Silver sugar shell—Mr. and Mrs. L. Barton. Decorated glass spoon holder—Jay VanDyke. Leather covered easy chair—From bride to groom.

The guests from abroad were, Rev. T. W. Illman, Bay City; Mr. and Mrs. John Carpenter, of Barry county; Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Simmons and family and Mrs. J. Northway of Bancroft; Mrs. S. Castle, Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. E. Bidell, the Misses Ottie Bedell, Effie Hyde, Edna and Beatrice Blizzard of Lansing.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

AN OCTOBER WEDDING.

Just Before the Snow Flies a Happy DeWitt Pair Were United.

One of the largest and most charming weddings in this vicinity took place Wednesday, October 19, 1898, in the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Varney Pearce, of Olive, where nearly three hundred friends assembled to witness the marriage of their eldest daughter, Altie, to Fenton P. Brink, one of Olive's most estimable young men. They have both resided in Olive since childhood, consequently have many warm friends.

The home was beautifully decorated through out with plants and flowers, the parlors being decorated in dahlias and cosmos blossoms. The guests were received by Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Simone. At six p. m., while the beautiful strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march was being played by Miss Lucille Scott, of DeWitt, the bridal party marched into the north parlor, and stood beneath an immense floral horse-shoe, made of white dahlias, where Rev. T. W. Illman, pastor of Universalist church in Bay City, performed a very beautiful and impressive ceremony. The bride and groom were attended by Varney Pearce, a brother of the bride, Miss Hattie Kinney, Mark Drazer and Miss Josephine Pearce, sister of the bride. The bride was prettily attired in

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yantz—China berry set. Mrs. E. Bidell and J. M. and Ottie Bidell—Fancy handkerchief. Mrs. H. R. Wilcox—Decorated glass water set. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scott—Silver berry set.

Former DeWitt school teacher seeks correspondence with her students

Rachel Brink, a former DeWitt Public Schools teacher, would like to hear

from any of her former students.

Her address is: Rachel

C. Allwardt, 401 W. Oakbrook Dr. Apt. 117, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103.

Have a service or specialty? Place an ad in our Service Directory.
Call, today for rates, 1-800-543-9929.



You Are Invited
to a Baby Shower
On July 29
Time 2:30 P.M.

Given for
Lois Brinkhoff
Place - Helen Spayde



Mrs. Mattie Staus

Ge Witt
Mich.

R.F.D.

BROWN, DONALD "WAYNE"**Vestaburg****Formerly of DeWitt**

Wayne was called home by his Heavenly Father on Thursday, September 5, 1996, to share in the reward of his Lord Jesus Christ. He was a light to all who knew him and a mighty beacon in the service of his God. Wayne was born in Petoskey on January 15, 1934, the youngest son of Thomas and Marmie Brown. He was raised in Antrim (Mancelona) and graduated from Bath High School in 1952. Wayne served in the U.S. Navy and raised his family in DeWitt. After 34 years of service at Fisher Body, he retired to Vestaburg. Wayne was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Donald Wayne, Jr. He is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Irene; four daughters, Diane (Ray) Kirkpatrick, Wendy (Brian) Svok, Lori (Harry) Babcock and Jeanette (Shawn) Colburn; one son, Jeffery (Julie) Brown; two brothers, Arvid (Marie) and Bruce (Nada) Brown; and many nieces and nephews. Wayne was "Papa" to 13 loving grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. Funeral services will be held **Monday, September 9, 12 noon, at the Gorsline-Runciman Co DeWitt Chapel, 111 S. Franklin St., DeWitt.** Interment will follow in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens with military graveside services being provided by the Edwin J. Leyanna V.F.W. Post #671, DeWitt. Friends may call at the Chapel beginning Saturday, 6 p.m., where the family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. and on Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Contributions may be made to Jesus Christ Ministries of Vestaburg, c/o Gorsline-Runciman Co. DeWitt Chapel, in memory of Mr. Brown.

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*Our Life
Our Beginning*

*In celebration of our marriage
Keli Wraye Buqbee
and
Butch Mance Ward
together with our parents
request the honour of your presence
at our wedding
on Saturday, the eighth of August
nineteen hundred and eighty-seven
at four o'clock in the afternoon
Baptist Church
416 East Bridge Street
Portland, Michigan*

*Reception
at six o'clock
American Legion Hall
Portland, Michigan*

BUNN, ROBERT F.**DeWitt**

Born November 14, 1938, in Detroit; died August 4, 1997, at the age of 58. Mr. Bunn served in the U.S. Navy for 6 years and retired from the Michigan State Police

in 1990 after 25 years of service as a Detective Sergeant. He currently was an investigator for the Clinton County Prosecutors Office and a lifetime member of the Michigan Ropers Association. Surviving are his wife of 36 years, Janet; 3 daughters, Judy (Tim) Hyde of St. Johns, Colleen (Roger) Tate of Manitou Beach, and Jill (Dan Boak) Bunn of DeWitt; 2 sons, Jeffrey David (Linne) Bunn of Lowell and Bob Bunn, Jr. of DeWitt; 3 grandchildren, Whitney Bunn and Garrett and Megan Hyde. The Funeral Mass will be held **Thursday, August 7, 11 a.m. at the Catholic Community of St. Jude, 801 N. Bridge, DeWitt.** Concelebrated by the Rev. Bernard Reilly, Pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Jude, the Rev. David Weise and the Rev. David Brock. The Rite of Committal will be held in DeWitt Cemetery, DeWitt. Friends may call at the Gorsline-Runciman Co. DeWitt, 111 S. Franklin, DeWitt beginning Tuesday, 7 p.m., where the family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. at the Church and Thursday, 1 hour prior to the Funeral Mass. A Vigil Service will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Those desiring may make contributions to the Michigan High School Rodeo Association Scholarship Fund, of which Mr. Bunn was one of the founders, c/o Gorsline-Runciman Co. DeWitt Chapel in his memory.