

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Schmarjez, Clarence J. Senator

Represented Louisa and Muscatine Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 30 Jul 1911 Muscatine, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

David S. DeCamp 15 June 1933

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Member of American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Engineers, Iron Engineering Society

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Eastern Star; Elks; Skirmish; Kiwanis

C. Profession Founder of Schmarjez Tool Company in 1942 (to make tools for the pearl button industry); founder of Bondas Button Company with his father

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 62<sup>nd</sup>, 63<sup>rd</sup> General Assemblies 1967, 1969-1970

6. Public Offices

A. Local Member of Muscatine County Republican Central Committee; county chairman for Ron's Regain 1976 presidential campaign

B. State

C. National Elected to the elected college for Richard Ripon; a computer of the results of research in hydraulics for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

7. Death 1 Sept 1995 Muscatine, Iowa; body donated to University of Iowa Hospitals, Iowa City, Iowa

8. Children David S. (Mace Wood); David P.; Ronald R.

9. Names of parents Clarence H. and Emma (Silberhorn) Schmarjez

10. Education Educated in the Muscatine, Iowa public schools

11. Degrees B.S. from University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, M.S. and  
PhD in Mechanical Engineering also from University of Iowa

12. Other applicable information Republican

- In the 1950's and 1960's he exported clean shells to Japan
- His wife Doris preceded him in death
- He was a research engineer at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio  
1935-1936, Results Engineer with Appalachian Electric Power Company in  
Cabin Creek, West Virginia 1936-1937, Tool Engineer at Carnegie-Mellon  
Steel Company 1937-1942 at Duquesne, Pennsylvania
- He founded Schmarje Tool Company in 1942 in Muscatine, Iowa after moving there in 1942.
- He was founder and president of Ronda Button Company 1945-1967.
- He was president of Shell Export Company at Muscatine in 1967



# ase

which was played at a hearing Tuesday before a national TV audience, will not be heard by the jurors and two alternates. "If the jurors hiccup they're going to miss it," said Loyola University law professor Laurie Brown. "I thought the screenwriter would have sequestered the jury that the judge said 'nigger' 41 times on the tapes, the defense was out-

# o Serbs

Last of 500 NATO missions before dawn today, said Capt. Trevor Murray, chief of operations at NATO's northern headquarters in Naples. The Western diplomat in Sarajevo said the pause was intended to give the Serbs an opportunity to submit to the demands of the international community and to show that NATO was not taking sides in the war.

## BRIEFS

### omb mother bars proposal

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A red-haired young mother who lost her two young sons in the Oklahoma City bombing, then underwent an operation so she could have more children, got a marriage proposal on TV from

## OBITUARIES

### Clarence Schmarje

Clarence F. Schmarje, 84, died early today, Friday, Sept. 1, 1995, at Community Care of America in Muscatine following an extended illness.

His body has been donated to science and taken to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City by the Riley Funeral Home.

A memorial service will be held at a later date to be announced.

### Minerva Fuller

ALEDO, Ill. — Minerva "Peggy" Fuller, 69, of 1672 75th St., Muscatine, died Wednesday, Aug. 30, 1995, at her home.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Reiser-Trimble Funeral Home. Burial will be at the Leech Cemetery, Eliza, Ill.

Visitation is from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home where a memorial has been established.

Survivors include her husband, Gerald; her children, Mrs. Steve (Peggy) Larson, and Eric "Rick" Fuller, both of New Boston, Ill.; sisters, Martha Spence of Matherville, Ill., and Betty Still of Jacksonville, Ill.; and brothers, Morris "Gene" Mosley of Joy, Ill., and Marion Mosley of Buda, Ill.

### Victor Carrillo

Funeral services for Victor Aquarie Jose Juan Garcia Carrillo, 23, will be in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

He was killed in an automobile accident on Aug. 26, 1995, in Muscatine County.

Visitation will be at the Escobedo Y Zerimar Funeral Home:

## SERVICES

Kelley-LaVlea, Samuel — Eulogy, 2 p.m. Saturday, 9, VanderVeer Park, Davenport.  
Maylone, Kenneth — Graveside services, 4 p.m. Sunday, Klein Cemetery.

NOTE: The Muscatine Journal publishes, free of charge, notice of any death in the community we serve. There are limitations on the amount of information included. However, for obituaries created in a fashion dictated by the family, there is a fee. A fee for information desired can be included in paid obituaries.

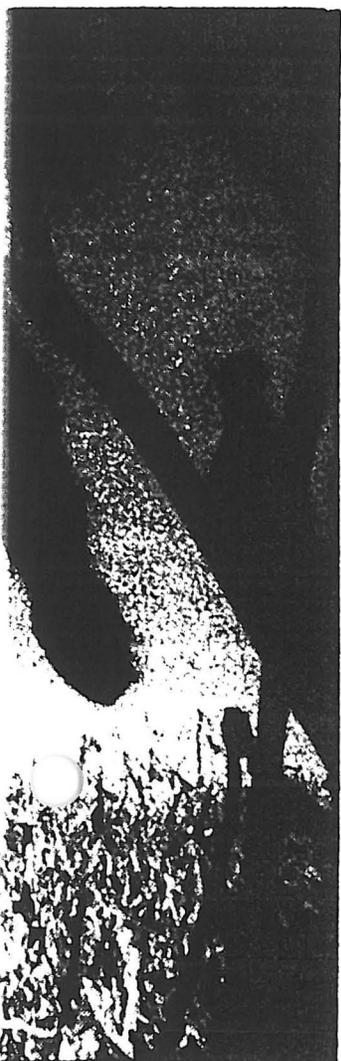
Mr. and Mrs. Jose Garcia Matamoros, Mexico; one daughter, Jennifer, six sisters, Adriana, Maribel, Celia, Aracely and Almalilia; one son, Otoniel, and his grandfather, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Garcia Matamoros, Mexico.

### Kenneth Maylone

Graveside services for Kenneth Dwayne Maylone of Council Bluffs will be held at the Leech Cemetery in Moscow Township, 4 p.m. Sunday. The Rev. Parrott of the New Hope Methodist Church will officiate.

Mr. Maylone died Wednesday, Aug. 30, 1995, in Council Bluffs. He was born in Muscatine, March 22, 1936, the son of Dwayne and John Maylone Sr. He moved to Council Bluffs in the early 1950s. He married Mrs. Parrott on Oct. 9, 1954, in Council Bluffs.

# Tall land



... as they harvest a  
... ville. AP Laserphoto

Growers Association.  
said the impact will be  
d down Main Street in  
all towns.  
have producers go out,  
businesses are going to go  
aid.  
uation is not as dire in  
ts of Iowa, Branstad was  
e areas escaped a killing  
hil crops in some areas  
ring maturity and not af-  
ch by the freeze.  
didn't, obviously, treat  
y the same," Benson  
lot of the crop was either  
ity or close enough that  
it be major."

## Clarence Schmarje

MUSCATINE — Clarence F. Schmarje died Sept. 1, 1995, at Community Care of America at Muscatine.



Schmarje Temple.

Mr. Schmarje was born July 30, 1911. He was a life resident of Muscatine. He graduated from Muscatine High School and the University of Iowa with a bachelor of science, a master of science and a doctorate in mechanical engineering.

He married Doris DeCamp on June 15, 1933.

Clarence was active in local and state Masonic orders. He was Past Master of Iowa Lodge No. 2, Past High Priest of Washington Chapter, RAM; Past Illustrious Master of Webb Council, R&SM; and Past Commander of DeMolay Commandery, KT.

He was a member of Charles Hunt Priory, KYCH and Past Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Iowa. He was a 32nd degree member of Davenport Consistory, Past Patron of Electa Chapter, Order of Easter Star, and a member of Kaaba Temple.

Clarence and Doris were tireless workers in Republican politics on a local, state, and national level. He was twice elected state representative for Muscatine and Louisa counties. He served many years on the Muscatine County Republican Central Committee, and was a frequent delegate to state conventions. He was elected to the electoral college for Richard Nixon, and was county chairman for Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign in 1976.

## SERVICES

Beatty, Ernest — Graveside 10 a.m. Saturday, Greenwood Cemetery directed by the Geo. M. Wittich-Lewis Funeral Home

Dobbins, Johnny — Friday 2 p.m. Geo. M. Wittich-Lewis Funeral Home; visitation, 6 to 8 p.m. today.

Frees, Robert — Friday, 1:30 p.m. Ralph J. Wittich Funeral Home; visitation, 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. today.

Grebing, Rosa — Friday, 10:30 a.m. Ralph J. Wittich Funeral Home; visitation, 2 to 4 p.m. today.

Purviance, Anna "Ann" — Friday, 10:30 a.m. Wheeler Funeral Home, Rock Island, Ill. visitation, 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. today.

Pierce, Mary — Friday, 10 a.m. Zwingli UCC, Monticell Wis.; visitation, 5 to 8 p.m. today, Voegell-Newcom Funeral Home, Monticello.

Schmarje, Clarence — Memorial service, 1 p.m. Oct. 1, Masonic Temple, Walnut Street entrance.

Wright, David "Jackie" — Saturday, 11:30 a.m. Lange Funeral Home, Centerville; visitation, today and Friday.

• NOTE: The Muscatine Journal publishes, free of charge, notice of any death in the area we serve. There are limits on the amount of information included. However, for obituaries created in a fashion dictated by the family, there is a fee. Any information desired can be included in paid obituaries.

## David Wright

CENTERVILLE — David "Jackie" Wright, 54, died Tuesday, Sept. 26, 1995, at the St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital. Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Lange Fun

da, as they harvest a  
TV . AP Laserphoto

rn Growers Association.  
r said the impact will be  
and down Main Street in  
small towns.

he have producers go out,  
businesses are going to go  
said.

situation is not as dire in  
parts of Iowa, Branstad was  
some areas escaped a killing  
while crops in some areas  
reaching maturity and not af-  
fected by the freeze.

didn't, obviously, treat  
body the same," Benson  
A lot of the crop was either  
mildly or close enough that  
didn't be major."

## ban

agreement by administra-  
tional and fraternity repre-  
sents stipulates that chap-  
good standing can continue  
size activities as long as  
not served or consumed,  
if discovered at a chap-  
ise, its activities will be  
arily suspended and the  
will be subject to de-rec-  
proceedings by the uni-

said parties outside fra-  
houses are not included in  
atorium.

Quality 90 DAYS SAME AS CASH W.A.C.

The advertisement features a silhouette of a person in a suit and tie, with a starburst graphic containing the text '90 DAYS SAME AS CASH W.A.C.' and the word 'Quality' to the left.

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

and Past Commander of DeMolay  
Commandery, KT.

He was a member of Charles  
Hunt Priory, KYCH and Past  
Grand Warder of the Grand Com-  
mandery Knights Templar of  
Iowa. He was a 32nd degree  
member of Davenport Consistory,  
Past Patron of Electa Chapter,  
Order of Easter Star, and a mem-  
ber of Kaaba Temple.

Clarence and Doris were tire-  
less workers in Republican poli-  
tics on a local, state, and national  
level. He was twice elected state  
representative for Muscatine and  
Louisa counties. He served many  
years on the Muscatine County  
Republican Central Committee,  
and was a frequent delegate to  
state conventions. He was elected  
to the electoral college for Rich-  
ard Nixon, and was county chair-  
man for Ronald Reagan's presi-  
dential campaign in 1976.

As a legislator he introduced  
the bill making the Geode the  
"State Rock of Iowa." Clarence  
was one of the group, which in-  
cluded David Stanley, who pushed  
legislation enabling Muscatine to  
get the new bridge across the  
Mississippi River.

As a businessman, Clarence  
founded Schmarje Tool Company  
in 1942, initially to make tools for  
the pearl button industry. Along  
with his father, Clats, he founded  
Ronda Button Co. During the  
1950s and the 1960s he exported  
clam shells to Japan.

Clarence is survived by two sis-  
ters, Irene Evans and Hilda  
Brown, both of Davenport, and  
one brother, Albert of Muscatine.  
There are three surviving chil-  
dren, Diane Wood of Lubbock,  
Texas, David of Lompoc, Calif.,  
and Ronald of Muscatine. Six  
grandchildren also survive.

He was preceded in death by  
his parents, one brother, Harry,  
and his wife, Doris.

The family suggests memorials  
be given to Musser Public Li-  
brary or Wesley United Methodist  
Church.

**Thomas Lutes**

entrance.

Wright, David "Jackie"  
Saturday, 11:30 a.m. La  
Funeral Home, Centerville;  
tation, today and Friday.

• NOTE: The Muscatine J  
nal publishes, free of cha  
notice of any death in the  
we serve. There are limits  
the amount of information  
cluded. However, for obitu  
created in a fashion dictate  
the family, there is a fee. Ar  
formation desired can be in  
ed in paid obituaries.

## David Wright

CENTERVILLE —

"Jackie" Wright, 54, died  
day, Sept. 26, 1995, at the  
Joseph's Mercy Hospital.

Services will be at 11:30  
Saturday at the Lange F  
Home. Burial will be at the  
land Cemetery in Mystic.

Friends may call at  
today and Friday at the  
home, where a memorial  
has been established.

Survivors include his wi-  
former Janice Rice; dau-  
Diane Wright and Tonya B  
both of Fort Benning, Ga.;  
Lawrence Rice of Indian  
Ind.; his mother, Ethel  
of Mystic; and sisters,  
Peniston and Margaret Be  
both of Muscatine.

## DEEDS

Douglas C. Roette to Trinidad G  
do and Clara A. Sorola De Alvi  
joint tenants, part lot 9 in block 10  
of Muscatine. \$40,500.

Wayne G. and Wanda J. McCu  
J. Tim and Lynne M. Charles, as  
ants, lot 93 of Mark Twain Me  
Subdivision. No purchase price in

Lawrence E. and Betty A. Mc  
William G., and Ruthann Baumga  
joint tenants, lot 6 of Bridgeman's  
sion in section 25-77-2W in city c  
tine. \$45,000.

Margaret M. Honeyman to

# THE STORY OF IOWA

## THE PROGRESS OF AN AMERICAN STATE

FAMILY AND PERSONAL HISTORY

---

VOLUME IV

---

LEWIS HISTORICAL PUBLISHING CO., INC.  
NEW YORK

farmed until his death in 1838. His wife survived him until 1844.

William T. Myers acquired his education in public schools in Indiana. He early began to serve an apprenticeship in the tanner's trade, but, because of a dislike for the work, he soon left that employment and began working with different farmers in Indiana. He left that state in 1852, and came to Appanoose County, where he entered a claim of one hundred sixty acres in Center Township (now known as Walnut Township). Mr. Myers was intensely interested in agriculture stock raising, and was outstandingly progressive for his time. He was one of the first men in the county to own pure-bred cattle, dealing in Shorthorn stock. He also raised sheep. He was interested in fruit culture, owning three fine orchards, and also raised bees. Gradually he built up his land holdings until he owned one thousand, one hundred and fifty acres of fine property. He was actively engaged in farming operations until he relinquished this work in 1905, and moved to Centerville.

One of the earliest settlers in Walnut Township, Mr. Myers helped substantially to build up this region of Iowa. He assisted in building the first schoolhouse in the township, and was a charter member of the Walnut City Christian Church. His major achievement was, however, in agriculture. He found it necessary to devise many of his own methods, such as would be suitable to farm production under the pioneer conditions which surrounded his work. He ground his first wheat in a coffee mill, and was equally resourceful in all his work. Mr. Myers was a Republican and a trustee of the township. Widely known throughout the community, he accomplished much in the introduction of profitable farming methods in this region.

William T. Myers married, first, Elizabeth Osborne, who died in December, 1894, on a train while traveling to California for her health. She was the daughter of William Osborne, a preacher, mechanic, and farmer, who came from Illinois to Appanoose County in early times. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Myers: 1. Mary Alice, who married William Gillespie, and became the mother of Carl M. Gillespie, who lives on the original homestead. At the time of writing, Carl M. Gillespie, Jr., great-grandson of W. T. Myers, is studying agronomy at Iowa State College at Ames. 2. Mannie, who, after the death of her sister, married, as his second wife, D. F. Cate. 3. Rosia, who married, as his first wife, D. F. Cate. All the children of William T. and Elizabeth (Osborne) Myers are now deceased.

W. T. Myers married second, Mrs. Eliza (Mathey) Sherrard, of Walnut Township, who died in January, 1922.

The death of William T. Myers, in August, 1922, was an occasion of deep sorrow throughout this region of the Middle West where he was widely known for his achievements in farming and orchard cultivation. He will long be affectionately remembered.

**EARL O. BERGE**, since 1947, superintendent of schools at Seymour, was born May 21, 1917, at Bode. Mr. Berge is the son of Thomas H. and Mollie Malena (Enockson) Berge, both of whom were born in Stavanger, Norway, and came to the United States as children with their parents. Thomas H. Berge bought land in Humboldt County, where he farmed for many years. He retired in 1940, and lived in Bode until his death, which occurred October 15,

1947, at the age of seventy-three. Mrs. Mollie Malena (Enockson) Berge is a resident of Bode. Thomas H. and Mollie Malena (Enockson) Berge were the parents of five children. In addition to Earl O., the subject of this sketch, they are: 1. Bernt C., an attorney at Garner. 2. Ernest, who was a school superintendent for twelve years and now operates a farm at Bode. 3. Thelma, who married S. O. Tonderum of West Bend. 4. Harold, who is a farmer, also at Bode.

Earl O. Berge attended the public schools of Bode and graduated from the Bode High School in 1934. He then became a student at Luther College in Decorah and, in 1938, was graduated from this institution with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Mr. Berge has since taken postgraduate work at Drake University during a number of summer terms, in 1940 and 1946, 1947 and 1948, and on August 21, 1948, he received the degree of Master of Science from Drake University.

Upon graduation from Luther College in 1938, Mr. Berge was appointed athletic coach and principal at Frederika, and he later was promoted to superintendent, receiving his contract at the age of twenty-two, when he was probably the youngest superintendent in Iowa. He served as coach as well as superintendent of schools in Frederika until 1942. On June 6, 1942, he joined the United States Army for service in World War II. He became a special agent in the Counter-Intelligence Corps and served until November 11, 1945. After receiving his discharge, Mr. Berge returned to Frederika to resume his duties as superintendent and coach, and served in this dual capacity until the summer of 1947. In the fall of 1947 he came to Seymour as superintendent of schools and has continued to fill that post up to the present time.

Mr. Berge is a member of the National Education Association and Iowa State Education Association, and serves on the County Council in the latter organization. He is well known in Iowa educational circles, and has achieved some little note in other states as well as the designer of a cumulative record to be used in all grades of school and for adult education as well. This cumulative record, which is published by the Klipto Publishing Company, of Mason City, has been very enthusiastically received in many states. In late 1949, he designed a new type enrollment card for grades and high school and also a new type voucher jacket for school accounting and administration. Mr. Berge is a member of the local post of the American Legion, and the Lutheran Church. Photography and fishing are his two hobbies.

On June 15, 1941, Earl O. Berge married Irene Heller, the daughter of August and Margaret (Wolter) Heller, both of whom were born in Germany and came to the United States as children. August Heller farmed in Kossuth County until his untimely death on August 25, 1919, at the age of thirty-three, when he was struck by lightning. Mrs. Margaret (Wolter) Heller resides at Whittemore. Earl O. and Irene (Heller) Berge have four children: 1. Sandra Kae, born January 23, 1943. 2. Jerrie Sue, born March 21, 1945. 3. Bruce Thomas, born September 15, 1947. 4. Jeanne Elaine, born July 14, 1949.

**CLARENCE F. SCHMARJE**—Guiding the enterprises for some years identified with the family name, Clarence F. Schmarje takes his place among the younger industrial leaders of Iowa, as president of both the Ronda Button Company and the Schmarje Tool and Engineering Company of Muscatine. With

an exceptional background in the industrial field, and unusually thorough educational preparation, Mr. Schmarje is well qualified to continue in the development of the business launched by his father, and to which he himself has already contributed so much. He has done work of lasting value in his field, much of it of a pioneering nature. The place he has won, both in industry and in the life of his community, has held for him the respect of his colleagues and his fellow townsmen.

Mr. Schmarje is a native of Muscatine, and was born on July 30, 1911. He is a son of Claus and Emma (Silberhorn) Schmarje, and of his father, pioneer in the button-making industry in Iowa, a separate sketch accompanies this. After completion of his secondary education, Clarence F. Schmarje entered the State University of Iowa, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 1932. After receipt of this degree, he undertook postgraduate studies and research in mechanical engineering, his three years of graduate work leading to the degrees of Master of Science in mechanical engineering in 1934, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1935. During this period of study, he majored in mechanical engineering, with research in combustion and heat transfer; and his minor studies were in physics and mathematics. Mr. Schmarje was also granted a research assistantship in mechanical engineering at the State University of Iowa, a half-time job in assisting in conducting tests on boilers. He was also a computer of the results of research in hydraulics for the United States Department of Agriculture, and draftsman, devoting a part of his time to the drafting of plans for the Department of Grounds and Buildings, State University of Iowa. Mr. Schmarje was thus a busy man during his college days; but he found time to become identified with fraternal activities, joining Tau Beta Pi, honorary engineering fraternity, and Sigma Xi, honorary scientific fraternity.

His experience immediately after completing his studies at the state university, which Mr. Schmarje accounts as his junior professional engineering work, was at Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, nationally known research organization with which he was identified during 1935-1936. There he undertook research in combustion problems, including chemical plant combustion and domestic stoker problems. He next associated himself with the Appalachian Electric Power Company at Cabin Creek, West Virginia, 1936-1937, where he gained experience in large power-plant testing. Here his responsibility was supervision of the testing department to insure the maximum efficient operation of equipment.

From 1937 to 1942, Clarence F. Schmarje was associated with the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Company at Duquesne, Pennsylvania. Here he undertook work with the steam power plant, miscellaneous testing work in combustion and heating, and studies leading to greater efficiency in the utilization of soaking pit furnaces. During this period also, Mr. Schmarje made his acquaintance with the teaching field. He taught night school courses at Carnegie Institute of Technology, in advance power plant design and internal combustion engine design. These courses were taught during the years 1939-1940 and 1940-1941.

Also while at Pittsburgh, Mr. Schmarje made studies which were to be invaluable to him later in guiding, and bringing about improvements in, his own industrial enterprises. He made a particular study of carbide tools, and developed some for use in the

button industry. In the columns of the Muscatine "Journal" the importance of this development is outlined:

One of the first uses for these new tools was for boring 'under-cut' holes in the backs of pearl buttons for the insertion of metal shanks. Ordinary high-speed tools were not adequate for this job because they dulled quickly, did not cut an accurate hole, and caused an excessive amount of breakage of buttons. To solve this problem, a special tungsten carbide tool was designed.

Mr. and Mrs. Schmarje, who were then living in Pittsburgh, began making these carbide tools. Using an inexpensive grinder with a diamond wheel, they finish-ground purchased tools and sold them to Muscatine button factories. Eventually they made complete tools with their crude equipment set up in their spare bedroom.

In 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Schmarje moved to Iowa and made their home in Muscatine, where Clarence F. Schmarje took up and advanced the enterprises which his father had launched. Tool manufacturing was continued for a time in a basement shop, carbide tools for the button industry being developed. The cumulative effect of the experimental activities carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Schmarje was the development of a revolutionary form tool for turning the pattern on the face of pearl buttons. A higher yield of first-class buttons is thus produced than was possible under old-style procedures. They thus brought with them to Muscatine the capacity to shape an industry from what had been their constructive hobby. The development fitted in admirably with the increased production demands of a country at war. The new Muscatine factory, which emerged under the designation of the Schmarje Tool and Engineering Company, was prepared to do its part as sub-contractor builder of tools for the Firth-Sterling Steel Company. During the war period, production was confined to standard war tools. In May, 1943, a downtown shop location was secured where all equipment could be placed under one roof. New machinery was bought as it became available on the "tight" wartime and postwar market. On V-J Day, the Schmarje Tool Shop had in process special tools designed for the Hughes Tool Company. These tools were used in high-production machines turning out parts for fuses for a new secret weapon for combat use on the Pacific Theater islands. After the termination of the conflict, the firm retooled for the production of button-making tools. In addition, it produces strategic parts for the manufacture of fountain pens, farm machinery, washing machines, and other products. As pointed out in an article reviewing the company's achievements in the Muscatine "Journal": "Virtually the stock in trade of this progressive Muscatine firm is a metal of extreme hardness known as tungsten carbide and described as 'the hardest metal made by man.'" Indicative of its extent of useage of valuable materials is the fact that each year, the Schmarje Tool and Engineering Company uses ten thousand dollars worth of diamond dust in its processing preparations. Such firms as the W. A. Sheaffer Pen Company, Voss Manufacturing Company, Maytag, International Harvester, and John Deere are regular customers of Schmarje. The firm is a pioneer in the use of new industrial equipment in the Midwest. One of these machines, a particularly complex form grinder, is the only one of its kind between Chicago and Denver. In leading the way in production in its field, the Schmarje Tool and Engineering Company has taken an indispensable place in the industrial picture in the state of Iowa.

Mr. Schmarje also continues, of course, in the management of the Ronda Button Company, outgrowth of Claus Schmarje's industrial activities, of



Clarence F. Schmarje

which concern the son is now president. His uncle, John Schmarje, is vice president; while Mrs. Clarence F. Schmarje, who was of invaluable assistance to her husband in the development of much of their equipment, holds the office of secretary-treasurer in this firm. Claus Schmarje is plant superintendent. The name of the firm is derived from the first letters of the names of the sons of the founders, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence F. Schmarje's two sons, Ronald and David. The Ronda Button Company, of course, utilizes the products of the Schmarje Tool and Engineering Company. Until the introduction of the new machines, there had been little change in the method of cutting blanks throughout four decades of the industry's history. The button-cutting trade had thus not kept pace with technological advance in other fields. Mr. Schmarje's equipment has done much to regain this lost ground. The Ronda Button Company does not make the finished buttons, it is merely a cutting plant, but it performs this indispensable first step in button production in a more efficient and economical way than any other plant had been able to achieve before. The firm has a production capacity of between fifteen hundred and two thousand tons of "shells," for the production of buttons, annually, and ordinarily employs up to eighty-five persons, in two shifts. The thirty vertical-type cutting machines with which Ronda Button Company is equipped multiply the production capacity of each operator several times over that attained under old-time methods.

Mr. Schmarje is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Society of Tool Engineers. He belongs also to the Iowa Engineering Society, and to Tau Beta Pi and Sigma Xi fraternities. He has contributed to the literature of his profession with the authorship of an article entitled "Radiation in Boiler Furnaces."

Mr. Schmarje is not only a figure of increasing prominence in the industrial life of Iowa; he is also prominent in community affairs, and in the activities of fraternal groups. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Muscatine; and of the lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. In the York Rite, of the Masonic Order he is a member of Knights Templar, and he is numbered among the members of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. In his religious faith, Mr. Schmarje is a Methodist.

Clarence F. Schmarje is married to the former Doris I. DeCamp. Her highly important work and comradely assistance were, as has been indicated, in the highest degree helpful in developing the technological improvements upon which the growth of the present companies has depended. Mr. and Mrs. Schmarje are the parents of three children: David, Ronald, and Diane.

**CLAUS SCHMARJE**—The story of Claus Schmarje, button manufacturer of Muscatine, exemplifies certain features of the American way of life. Starting as a boy to learn the art of turning shells into buttons, in the old-fashioned manner, Mr. Schmarje, through his knowledge, experience, inventive genius, and enterprise, sought and found better methods of cutting hard materials, eventually progressing to the making of better tools for this and other purposes. The Schmarje Tool and Engineering Company, today owned by his son, Clarence F. Schmarje, is an impressive factor in the manufacture of precision tools in peace and war. Along personal lines, Mr. Schmarje is a fine example of the foreign-born citizen of our

country who made good in the New World through hard work and initiative.

Claus Schmarje was born in the vicinity of Hamburg, Germany, on February 28, 1888. He attended the schools of his native city, but migrated to the United States at the age of fifteen. Arriving here in 1903, he came to settle in Muscatine, and was first employed by the Kaiser Box Company in that city. After a year he went with the Automatic Button Company, also of Muscatine, and learned how to cut shells into blanks for buttons.

In 1916, Claus Schmarje entered business in his own name, under modest conditions. He established in that year a small button cutting plant in his backyard barn. Originally, the installation consisted of three small button-cutting lathes, which were operated by Mr. Schmarje and two employees. He bought a few clam shells at a time, and cut these into button blanks which were sold to the larger button factories for finishing. The modest profits thus made, Mr. Schmarje plowed back into the business, investing in more machines and more clam shells, until there were fourteen machines in the backyard shop, and clam shells were bought in carload lots direct from the clam diggers. Eventually another and a larger shop was bought from another button blank manufacturer, and both operated under the same management.

Mr. Schmarje prospered and continued to enlarge his operations through the years. In 1935, with O. A. Hammer, he organized the Muscatine Pearl Button Works. In 1938, he sold his button blank business to a brother, John Schmarje, after the plant had been moved and consolidated in a new building with seventy-five machines. The Muscatine Pearl Button Works, beginning as a small pearl button and novelty finishing plant, was meantime being carried on, with the assistance of Mr. Hammer, and Mr. J. C. Bishop, whose responsibilities were connected with the financing and sales requirements of the business. It was at this finishing plant that the need was realized for the new type of cutting tool, a problem ingeniously solved by his son, Clarence.

In addition to directing many of the activities of the firm, Mr. Schmarje became secretary, a position he has continued to hold. He is also the plant superintendent of the Ronda Button Company, which firm name is coined from the first letters of the names of the sons of the founders, who, incidentally are the grandsons of Claus Schmarje. This firm, representing the continuing extension and growth of the father's ideas by the son, with the new advancements of another generation of experience, gives employment to eighty-five persons in two shifts. Thirty vertical-type cutting machines are used at the Ronda Button Company, and on these, production per operator is said to be several times greater than on the older-type cutting machines. The improved button-cutting tools used here are manufactured by the Schmarje Tool and Engineering Company, of Muscatine, another corporate outgrowth of the family's interests and talents, of which Clarence F. Schmarje is president. The work of the Schmarje Tool and Engineering Company is the manufacture of precision tools of the grinding and cutting variety, utilizing a tungsten carbide reputed to be the "hardest metal made by man."

A member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Mr. Schmarje is affiliated with the York Rite bodies, including the Knights Templar, and the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

Claus Schmarje married Emma Silberhorn, of Muscatine, and they are the parents of the following chil-



You searched for **Clarence F. Schmarje** in Iowa

## 1930 United States Federal Census

Name:	<b>Clarence F Schmarje</b>	
Home in 1930:	<b>Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa</b> <a href="#">View Map</a>	
Age:	<b>18</b>	
Estimated birth year:	<b>abt 1912</b>	
Relation to Head of House:	<b>Son</b>	
Father's Name:	<b>Claus H</b>	
Mother's Name:	<b>Emma</b>	
Race:	<b>White</b>	
Occupation:		
Education:		
Military service:	<a href="#">View image</a>	
Rent/home value:		
Age at first marriage:		
Parents' birthplace:		
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Claus H Schmarje	42
	Emma Schmarje	41
	Clarence F Schmarje	18
	Hilda M Schmarje	17
	Albert Schmarje	14
	Harry Schmarje	4
		4/12

**Source Citation:** Year: 1930; Census Place: Muscatine, Muscatine, Iowa; Roll: 670; Page: 11B; Enumeration District: 18; Image: 1162.0.

### Source Information:



Ancestry.com. 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002.

Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626. 2,667 rolls.

### Description:

Containing records for approximately 123 million Americans, the 1930 United States Federal Census is the largest census released to date and is the most recent census available for public access. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including: birthplaces, occupations, immigration, citizenship, and military service. The names of those listed in the census are linked to actual images of the 1930 Census. [Learn more...](#)

Contact Us: 1-800-ANCESTRY [Ancestry.com Blog](#) [Affiliates](#) [Advertising](#)

© 1997-2010 Ancestry.com [Corporate Information](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#) [Terms and Conditions](#)

Ancestry.com