

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative _____ Senator Loorbally

John Edward Resided at Melbourne, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 19 Dec 1930 Marshalltown, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place _____

Barbara Jean Herbert 1951

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He received the National Hog Farmer Outstanding Service Award; served on the Governor's Veterinarian Examination Board; served on the national foreign disease committee

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; American Legion; Iowa Bureau

C. Profession Farmer; pork producer

4. Church membership Church of Christ

5. Sessions served 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th General Assemblies 1985-1986;

6. Public Offices 1987-1988; 1989-1990; 1991-1992

A. Local _____

B. State Past president of Iowa Pork Producers; member of USDA Advisory Committee; past chairman of Iowa Farm Development Authority

C. National Member of the National Pork Producers Council

7. Death _____

8. Children Cynthia (Mrs. Schultz); Sharon (Mrs. Green); Joanne (Mrs. Dittmer); Patricia; Stacey

9. Names of parents Howard and Edna Mae (Franklin) Loorbally

10. Education Graduate of the Melbourne High School,
Melbourne, Iowa in 1949

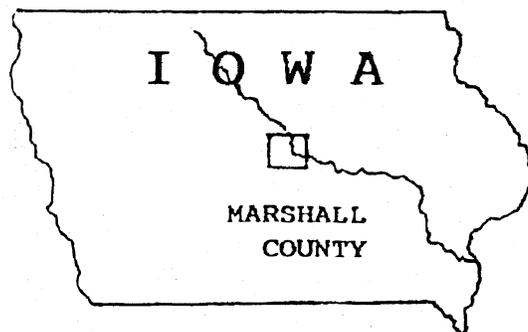
11. Degrees Attended Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

12. Other applicable information Republican

Military service - Korean War

The Continuing History of Marshall County Iowa

1997



A Project of the Marshall County
Sesquicentennial Commission
In Observance of
the Sesquicentennial
of the
State of Iowa

and it's an attribute I hope will remain in our little community forever.

The Somers were well liked, always ready to volunteer when it was needed, hard working people, honest, friends of everyone, and a very musical family. As you walk through the Green Mountain Cemetery you will see many tombstones engraved with the Somers name.

by Wayne and Norma Somers

Sommerlot, F. Merl and Margaret Eliza (Harper)



F. Merl and Margaret Sommerlot.

F. Merl Sommerlot was born in Audubon County on October 3, 1899, son of William A. and Nora Elsberry Sommerlot. In 1900 when Merl was one year old, his family moved to Marshall County, settling on a farm north of Albion. He had one brother, R. Arthur, and two sisters, Bessie and Gladys. William died on May 26, 1954, and Nora on June 2, 1949.

On August 28, 1920, Merl married Margaret Eliza Harper, daughter of Robert and Jessie Woodward Harper of Marietta. Margaret had four brothers: Bill, Harold, Ed and Kenneth, and three sisters, Clara, Marion and Helen.

Merl and Margaret farmed three miles north of Albion all their married life. They had seven sons: Keith, Max, Robert, Richard, Wilfred, Dale and Leon. All seven had military service with Max being killed in World War II on December 19, 1944. Keith died in Wayne, MI in 1966. Robert, Richard and Leon still reside in Marshall County as of 1996.

Merl was widely known in Marshall County as a volunteer director of music, both choral and instrumental. He served many years as the choir director of the Bethel Grove Christian Church.

Margaret always had a big garden, preserving many jars and tin cans of vegetables, fruits, and meats. She raised both laying hens and fryers for home use.

Merl died on May 22, 1973, and Mar-

garet on October 7, 1993.

by Richard and Ramona Sommerlot

Sommerlot, Richard and Ramona Marie (Reed)



Ramona and Richard Sommerlot.

Richard Merle Sommerlot was born on November 19, 1926, in rural Albion, IA, son of F. Merl and Margaret Sommerlot. He had six brothers: Keith, Max, Robert, Wilfred, Dale and Leon. After serving in the Merchant Marines during World War II, he married Ramona Marie Reed on June 8, 1949.

Ramona was born on September 11, 1926, to Wayne and Hazel Reed of Green Mountain, IA. She had a sister, Wanda, now Mrs. Harold Severidt and a brother, Richard. After graduating from Iowa State Teacher's College in 1948 she taught music and business at Whitten High School, Whitten, IA.

Richard and Ramona moved to a farm in Marshall County, south of Union, IA in 1950. They had a diversified operation of grain and livestock for the next twenty-four years. After a tornado hit their barn in 1974, they became mostly grain farmers.

Ramona raised a big garden, freezing and canning vegetables and fruits of all kinds. One year they tapped the maple trees in their grove and made syrup. Laundry soap was made from the lard leftover from butchering hogs. Richard drove a livestock truck for a period of time.

Needing to earn money for their growing family, Ramona gave piano lessons in their home for thirty-six years. For several years, she taught forty lessons a week.

This made for tight scheduling for family and other activities.

Bethel Grove Christian Church, rural Liscomb, was always an important part of their lives. Over the years, Dick served as deacon, elder, trustee and church secretary. Both Dick and Ramona were Sunday School teachers, with Dick, as of 1996, still teaching an adult class. They were also Youth sponsors for many years with an active youth group. Ramona served as director of children's music, C.W.F. secretary and Sunday School pianist. She is still serving as church pianist.

Richard and Ramona had four children: Dianna, now Mrs. Ron Nelson; Stephen, now married to Evelyn Baron; David now married to Teresa Alleman; and Roger, now married to Geri Glenn. All four children graduated from Iowa State University.

Dianna and Ron served three years in the Peace Corps in Ecuador, adopting a son, Aaron. He was Richard and Ramona's first grandchild. While Ron was earning his doctorate at Stanford University, they had two daughters, Adria and Karina. Ron is now a professor at ISU and Diana is a preschool teacher.

Stephen is the Sr. Pastor at Riverside Community Church in Lansing, MI. He and Evelyn are the parents of Mark, Andrew, Stephen and Laura.

David is the superintendent of the Cargill Soybean Plant in Des Moines. He and Teri are the parents of Katherine, Olivia and Carly.

Roger, who earned his M.S. at UNI, is the Physical Education Director and head football coach at Pocahontas, IA. He and Geri have five children: Spencer, Nicholas, Kendall, Luke and Rachel.

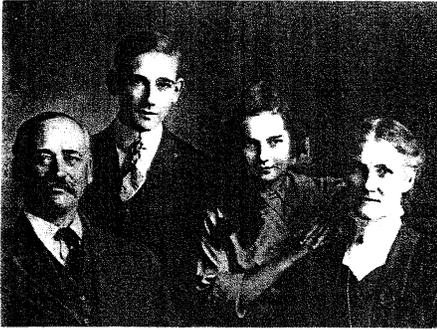
Richard and Ramona continue to have many hobbies and interests, such as square and round dancing, refinishing furniture, bird watching all over the U.S., doing crossword puzzles and enjoying the activities of their grandchildren. They retired from farming in November of 1996.

by Ramona R. Sommerlot

Soorholtz, John Edward and Barbara Jean (Herbert)

Jon Klassen Soorholtz (original spelling) was born October 12, 1826 in Flachsmeier Village, Bunde, Ost-Friesland. He came to America in 1856 with no money and no knowledge of the English language. He moved to Illinois and married Trintje Smit (Catherine) at Freeport, IL in 1858. In 1868, Soorholtz moved to Melbourne, IA and built a "little house on the prairie." John Joseph (J.J.) was born in the shanty in 1870. By 1880, Jon and the neighbors started a

real farm house, which was completed and occupied in 1884. It was destroyed by fire in 1896 and then completely replaced. Jon purchased a town house in 1891 where Edna Soorholtz now lives at 15 2nd Avenue in Melbourne, IA.



J.J., Howard, Margaret and Sadie Soorholtz.

The Logan township farm bought by Jon Klassen qualified as a Century Farm in 1976. Jon and Catherine had three children: Klaus, Kate and John Jr. Catherine died in 1902 and Jon in 1911. J.J. continued to farm and also ran a general store in Melbourne until 1902. He married Sadie Frances Nason in 1898. Sadie had a teachers degree and before marriage was the first female school superintendent of the

Melbourne School. Sadie and J.J. had John Howard Soorholtz (Howard) on August 4, 1901. Margaret Frances followed in 1906. J.J. built an office building in Melbourne in 1903, after the town fire and managed this building. Sadie and J.J. lived in the town house until 1910 when J.J. sold his building and moved the family back to the farm.

Howard started ISU in 1921, but with the depression, moved back home to farm in partnership with his father. He purchased a Hampshire sow and started the family hog business. In 1929, Howard married Edna Mae Franklin of Collins, IA. The couple had one son, John Edward Soorholtz on December 19, 1930. Sadie died in 1930. By the age of ten, John was involved raising purebred Hampshires and at age 14, had a world record production litter of ten pigs. John graduated from Melbourne School and went into the army, serving in the Korean Conflict. John married Barbara Jean Herbert in 1951. John has received the National Hog Farmer Outstanding Service Award, served on the governor's veterinarian examination board, served on the national foreign disease committee, was President of the National and Iowa Pork Producers Councils

and acted as chairman of the Iowa Family Farm Authority. He served as co-chair of the Iowa Republican Farm Policy Council and was Senator in Marshall County's district for over nine years.

Barbara worked as an LPN at the Marshall County Care Facility and has been active in the Marshall County Republican Party. Barbara and John had five daughters, all of which graduated from the West Marshall schools and from Iowa State University. The eldest daughter, Cynthia Schulte is the current manager of the Marshalltown Younkers store after many years in retail clothing enterprises. Sharon Greer is an attorney in Marshalltown for the firm of Cartwright, Druker and Ryden. Joanna Dittmer is in Eldridge, IA and handles an employee assistant program for a large utility. Patricia is a podiatrist in Indiana and the youngest, Stacey works for a major insurance company in Colorado.

by the John Soorholtz family

Southard, Boyd Leslie and Grace Marie (Packer)

Boyd Southard was born December 12, 1910 to Thomas Jones and Marion Wertenberger Southard when they lived on the Henry Merrill farm southwest of Green Mountain. He attended a rural one room school and graduated from Marshalltown High School.

In 1932 Boyd married Grace Marie Packer and began their married life farming on a farm north of Marshalltown. Six years later, they moved to a larger farm west of Liscomb. After five years, they bought a farm north of State Center where they moved in March of 1948.

They purchased the Massey-Harris Implement business in Albion in 1951 and with the help of their two sons, ran this business until 1960 when they bought the Reliable Implement Store at 108 North Center St. in Marshalltown. This purchase from Jim Douglas and Matt Endsley included the John Deere dealership. The new owners named the business the Southard Implement Company.

The Southard Implement Company moved to 3006 South Center St. in 1963 into a new 60 by 120 foot retail and service building. Since then there have been three additions to the original building, making a total space of 26,200 square feet.

Boyd and Grace's two sons grew with the business. Richard Boyd, born September 29, 1932 married Shirley Probst January 20, 1952. They have four daughters, Teresa, Deborah, and twins Denise and Diane. Larry Roger Southard, born November 26, 1935, married Marlys Jean Dowden June 25, 1954. They have two



John E. Soorholtz and family: Cindy, Barb and John; (front) Sharon, Stacey, Patty and Joni, in 1977.