

Bill was born in Medford in 1907. He attended school there. At age 17, he went to Pennsylvania to work on a highway for Ferdinand Grahl. He did that for two years, then came home and worked for Hurd Millworks. At age 21, he met and married Marie Schmidt. After three years, they rented Harper Lake Resort. At that time no roads were plowed by the township, so no business until the sun took away the snow. One whole month of February we took in 10¢ for a box of snuff. No one starved as there was plenty of wild meat, rabbits and fish. Then Silbernagels moved to a tavern in Marshfield called The Cotton Club. Then the chance arose to operate the Golf Course in Medford, which lasted three years. Then Bill went to Gary Indiana to work in steel mills for the war effort. The family moved down too, as soon as living quarters were found. Marie then worked in a steel mill too, and was time keeper in a machine shop that employed 104 machinists. After the war they moved to Chicago, and Bill was machine shop foreman for Youngstown company. Marie was Inspector in the leather department for Wilson Sporting Goods company. She met many professional people there, such as Babe Dietrickson, Yogi Berra, Joe Louis, and many others too numerous to mention.

Bill always liked the great outdoors, and ordered brochures from Canada. Bought 80 acres of land near Kenora. Moved to Canada in 1952. Bill worked as machine shop foreman for Little Long Lac Gold Mine, also McCloed Cockshutt mine. Then Ontario Hydro wanted him to be their foreman at Caribou Falls, Ontario. Next move was to Otter Rapids, Ontario. They bought a house in Hurkett, Ontario, and Bill operated his own shop as a gunsmith. Marie taught schools as substitute teacher in four different schools. She also worked as clerk for the Moose Lodge in Hurkett. After Marie's father died, they moved back to Rib Lake and bought the Schmidt brick house at Harper lake. Then they bought the Ned Orthman house on north Front Street, where they now reside. At this writing, March 5, 1990, Bill is 82 and Marie is 80.