

# Memories of our Dad

By Anne Perne Gregor and Nanette Perne Holloway

Anton W. Perne was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1906 to Anton Perne and Antonia Pogacnik Perne who came to America via Ellis Island. From Indiana, his family moved to Kansas then to Illinois. In 1919 they moved to Livingston where he resided with his mother, step-father, sister Ann, and brother Louis. In 1922 his sister, Mollie Prezel Rami was born.

He attended school in Livingston. In 1922, due to illness in the family, he was forced to withdraw from high school and go to work. He re-entered in 1924 where he worked in the coal mine when the mine operated and attended school on days that the mine was idle. He graduated in 1927 serving as president of his senior class. In the summer of 1927, when the miners were on strike, he enrolled in the Citizens' Military Training Corps Program at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. In a competitive examination held there, he was awarded a four-year scholarship. That fall he entered Lombard College in Galesburg, Illinois and transferred to Knox College in the fall of 1930 when Lombard closed. He received his Degree (Cum Laude) from Knox in June of 1931. At Knox, he participated in cross-county, track, and was a member of the debate team. He was the first graduate of Livingston High School to receive a degree from a four-year college. He continued graduate work at the University of Illinois. He received a Master of Arts Degree in 1939 and a Master's in Education in 1952.

In 1932, he began teaching and coaching in the Livingston Elementary School. He was made Assistant Superintendent in 1935 and elevated to the position of the Superintendent of the grade system in 1938. In 1944, he was appointed Principal of the High School. Because of difficulty in obtaining men for coaching duties due to World War II, he continued as coach of the high school team. In seven years, his team won 144 games while losing 57. The team reached the Sectional Tournament at Collinsville and East St. Louis on three occasions. Livingston holds the state record for being the only team in the state to reach the Sectional two years in succession coming from a District tournament. In 1952, upon consolidation of the Livingston School District, he became Superintendent. In 1959, he left the high school to accept the position of Assistant State Superintendent of Schools in Springfield. He ended his educational career in Edwardsville where he served as an assistant in the Madison County Superintendent's Office in Edwardsville, IL.

He was very interested in Civic Affairs. He served as Madison County Director of March of Dimes; Director of the Madison County Tuberculosis Association; Livingston Village Treasurer for 11 years; President of the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department from 1943 to 1954; Member of the Livingston Lion's Club; Chairman of the drive that raised funds to open the first successful Cooperative Mine in the State; and was also an Income Tax Consultant for 15 years.

In the field of Education, he was a member of the Representative Assembly of the I.E.A.; President of the Elementary Principals Association; Madison County Administrative Association; Madison County Coaches Association; Life Member NEA; H. S. Principal's Association; American School Administrator's Association. He was also a member of the following honorary organizations--Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, Sigma Tau Delta, Pi Kappa Delta and Pi Gamma Mu.

On a personal note, following his graduation from Knox, he was married to a wonderful woman, Valera Brockley. She, too, was a great educator as well as a wonderful mother. We, their daughters, were very fortunate to have such outstanding parents. Both of us have retired from long teaching careers and both are still working in the education field. The City of Livingston was very good to our family. We are fortunate to have started our lives there, attended its schools and associated with its many wonderful residents.



Anton and Valerie Perne with daughters Anne Perne Gregor and Nanette Perne Holloway



## The Paul Martinelli Family

This photo of Paul and Anna (Prevedel) Martinelli was taken in 1914 at the Bridge Tavern in Williamson which was built by Paul Martinelli. Augusta, his daughter and son Paul are atop the wagon. Standing alongside the wagon is Herman Prevedel. The oldest daughter Emma was not present when this photo was taken. Paul Martinelli was the beer distributor who delivered beer to the Livingston area.

Paul Martinelli lost his life in the coal mine in 1919. His family moved to Livingston at that time.

## The Paul and Emma Philippi Family

Paul Philippe was born in France December 2, 1902 The son of Louis and Marie (Laurent) Philippe and came to Livingston in November 1912. Emma Martinelli was born in Williamson on May 15, 1908, the daughter of Paul and Anna (Prevedel) Martinelli. They were married September 6, 1924 in Edwardsville.

Paul worked in area mines and retired from Dow Chemical. He was an Olive Township Assessor for many years, a school board member, a Livingston policeman and played in various municipal bands. He belonged to the Pigeon club. He trained and raced homing pigeons and won many trophies. In his early years he was a boxer and he was called "The Pride of Livingston". He was an avid gardener.

Emma was a devoted wife and mother. She enjoyed belonging to the Progressive Miners of America Auxiliary.

They were the parents of four children, Elaine Libbra (deceased), Dorothy Tsupros, Annette (Sister Paulita) and Richard. They had 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Paul died July 16, 1992 and Emma died January 14, 1995.



Left to right: Dorothy (Philippi) Tsupros, Elaine (Philippi) Libbra (deceased), Sister Paulita (Annette) and Richard Philippi. Seated: Emma and Paul Philippi.



Back row from left: Louis Philippe, Sr., Louis, Jr., and Fernand  
Front row: Paul Laurent (Uncle), Raymond and Paul Philippi.

## The Louis and Marie Philippe Family



Louis and Marie (Laurent) Philippe were born and married in France. In early 1912, Louis came to the United States and settled in Livingston. He started working in the Livingston Coal Mine. He saved money and sent for his family who had remained in France. In November 1912, his wife Marie and their children came to Livingston. Their children were: Virginia, Louis, Fernand, Paul, Raymond and Leon. Their son Leon was born in Livingston. They were a musical family. Louis taught all his sons to play musical instruments. They played in various municipal bands. Their son Louis went on to be a band teacher in Gillespie, Benld and last in Livingston.

## The Richard and Carolyn Philippe Family



Richard and Carolyn Philippi

Richard Leon Philippe was born in 1939 to Emma and Paul Philippe. He is a lifelong resident of Livingston. He graduated from Livingston High School in 1957. He was employed as a supervisor at Laclede Steel Company in Alton, Illinois until 1991 when he retired after thirty-four years. Rich also played drums for twenty years with the Bill Berutti Combo, a local area band. He has been employed for the last fourteen years at the Agency for Community Transit in Granite City, Illinois.

Richard and Carolyn (Bertetto) were married in Wilsonville, Illinois in 1961. Carolyn graduated from Gillespie High School in 1958 and St. Johns School of Nursing in 1961. They are the parents of three children:

Rick and wife Tammy live in rural Livingston. He has a stepson Zachary who is fifteen. Rick graduated from Ranken Technical College and has been employed as an electrician at Boeing since 1983.

Lynette and husband Ken Zirges live in Staunton and have a son, Tyler, who is seventeen and a daughter, Marissa who is eleven. Lynette graduated from Saint Louis University with honors and is currently working on completing her Masters. Lynette has been employed at the Conoco-Phillips Wood River Refinery for the past 21 years. Lynette and husband Kenny also own their own landscaping business in Staunton since 1993.

Denise and husband Dan Mateyka live in Edwardsville and have a daughter, Taylor who is five. Denise was employed with the Madison County Government for twenty-one years. Denise opened her own business, Express Fitness for Women, in Troy, Illinois in the fall of 2002.



Top left to right: Bessie, Marion, James.  
2nd row: Mary and Thomas  
Bottom: Helen, Irene, Virginia. (Patricia not yet born)

## The Thomas and Mary Tsupros Family

Thomas Tsupros was born in Greece on December 2, 1888. He came to the United States and settled in St. Louis. While there he met and married Mary Gierak. Mary Gierak was born in Poland on October 8, 1897. After their marriage they moved to Livingston in 1921 and he opened Tom's Barbershop. He also served as Police Magistrate. He loved to hunt and fish.

Mary was a housewife and a very good seamstress. In later years she worked as a garment factory worker in Staunton. She also worked in housekeeping at Community Memorial Hospital in Staunton.

They had 7 children: Bessie (Howard) deceased, James Tsupros, Marion Tsupros, Irene (Scott), Virginia (Smith), Helen (Young) deceased and Patricia (Wilson). They had 18 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Tom died October 5, 1975 and Mary died May 24, 1991.

## The Marion and Dorothy Tsupros Family

Marion Tsupros and Dorothy Philippe, lifelong residents of Livingston, were married in a double wedding ceremony along with Dorothy's sister, Elaine Philippe and Mack Libbra on May 31, 1947.

Marion was born in 1925, the son of Thomas and Mary Tsupros. Dorothy was born in 1928, the daughter of Paul and Emma Philippe, all of Livingston.

Marion is a WWII Veteran having done a tour of duty in Europe as a paratrooper. After service he returned home and finished high school, graduating with the class of 1946. He served for many years on the school board and was active in many other organizations. He spent most of his work years in construction as a building superintendent.

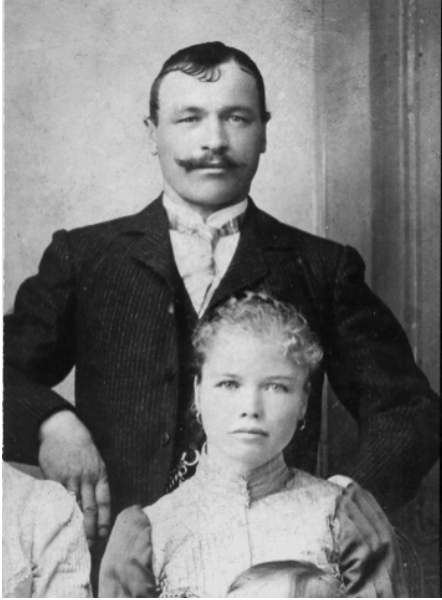
Dorothy graduated from LHS in 1946. She worked for the County Clerk and at Ruzevich's Bakery and Bononi's store in Livingston. She was active in PTO and in Cub Scouts as a den mother.

They are the parents of 3 children. Gerald of rural Edwardsville, Leonard of Canonsburg, PA. and Nancy of East Alton. They have 3 grandchildren, Shaina Tsupros of Washington D.C. and Andrea and Rachel Tsupros of Canonsburg, PA.



Pictured from left: Gerry, Len, Marion, Dorothy and Nancy

## Frank Pelko Family



Frank and Mary Kolenz Pelko

Frank Pelko was born in 1873 and Mary Kolenz in 1880 in Jublino, Yugoslavia. The couple wed in Yugoslavia and their first and second child, Frank and Joseph were born there in 1901 (died in 1910) and August 1, 1903 (died May 11, 1984) respectively. They immigrated to the United States in 1905. Marie (born December 8, 1907, died July 3, 1999), Agnes (born January 8, 1909, died March 27, 1979), Bethel (born December 4, 1910, died March 2, 2003), Frank (born July 16, 1912, died February 15, 1999), Tillie (born March 14, 1914, died January 25, 2002), and Annie (born 1918, died 1927) were born in Arkansas. Their house was destroyed by fire in 1914. Frank moved his family to Livingston where he worked as a laborer in the coal mine until his retirement in 1947. Mary died of TB at the young age of 43 in 1923. Mary had one brother in Nokomis, IL, Leo Kolenz, a coal miner, and one brother, a twin, that remained in Yugoslavia. Frank remained in Livingston until his death in 1951. Marie, Bethel, and Tillie made their residence in Livingston. Bethel and Tillie remained in Livingston until their death.



The family photograph at left was made from individual pictures inserted into one family picture. The two oldest children, Frank and Joseph, appear to be the youngest in the picture. Mary is between Frank and Joseph. Behind Mary is Frank. Next is Bethel, Agnes, Marie, Tillie, Frank and Annie

## The Silvio Dalla Riva Family

Silvio Dalla Riva was born on May 6, 1888 and Constantina Pozzer on August 14, 1891, both in Staro, Italy. The couple wed in Italy and their first and second child, Joseph and Rosa were born there in 1911 and on March 24, 1913 respectively. Silvio, the son of Francesco and Catterina Trattenero Dalla Riva, is the second oldest child of nine boys and one girl. His brothers Eugenio, Enacio, Domenico, Fortunato, and Giacomo immigrated to the United States. They were coalminers in Livingston, except for Giacomo who settled in New Jersey. Luis settled in Argentina and Pietro, Luigia and Pacifico (twin brother of Domenico) remained in Italy. Enacio and Domenico chose to return to Italy. Silvio worked in the country of France as a coal miner in order to receive enough income to immigrate to the United States in 1913. He traveled around the U.S. to gain employment and income to provide for his family's immigration to the U. S. He was employed by the Canadian National Lines in Canada where he was responsible for laying the railroad tracks. In April 1914, his wife, and children Joseph and Rosa immigrated to the United States.



Back from left: Valentino Segnfredo (friend), Constantina (Pozzer), Silvio, Joseph (9), Clara (2), Teresa "Gina" (6) and Rose (8).

They settled in Arkansas where Silvio was employed by the railroad. In 1915 they moved to Flat River, MO where Silvio worked in the Lead Mine. In 1916, they moved to St. Louis, Mo where Silvio gained employment as a construction worker laying sewer lines. In 1917, while visiting with friends in Livingston, he was employed by the Livingston Coal Mine. He lived in Livingston until his death in 1953. Constantina lived in Seattle, Washington until her death in 1977. Gina, the third child was born in Arkansas on March 20, 1915 (died in 1994). Clara was born on December 9, 1917 (died on February 4, 1962) and Silvio was born October 31, 1921 (died in 1945) in Livingston, IL. Joseph lives in Livingston and Rosa McAskill in San Francisco, CA, the only two living siblings. Joseph married Tillie Pelko on August 16, 1934. She passed away on January 25, 2002. They had three children, Frank, Dolores, and Joan. Joseph was employed on a vegetable truck farm in North St. Louis in 1927, as a painter in New Jersey in 1928, a railroad worker in 1929, a miner in Livingston in 1931, and from 1953 until his retirement in 1973 as a laborer on construction. Joseph, at the age of 93, is the oldest gentleman in Livingston.

## Fritz & Lily Meyers

In 1944 Fritz & Lily Meyers came to Livingston from Wanda, Il. They purchased the home where Camp's Publishing Company stood on the corner of Livingston Ave. and Oak St. They are the parents of 6 children: John, Violet, Roseann, Juanita, Betty and Edward.

Fritz was a union carpenter by trade, and Lily was a homemaker. Fritz worked on many projects including the Chain of Rocks Bridge, building of Route 66 when it passed thru Livingston, and the SIU-Edwardsville Campus. In 1964, Fritz was working on the newly constructed Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville when he was critically injured in a cave-in. Fritz was forced to retire due to his disability. Fritz loved to sit and tell stories of his childhood days and of the construction projects. His Father was a Federal Marshall and chased Jesse James throughout the boot hills of Missouri. Fritz showed off the handcuffs that were once used on Jesse. Fritz was proud to be born on February 29, 1904. He passed away in 1992 at the age of 22 (88 in "real" years, 22 leap-year birthdays).

Lily (Sadich) Meyers was a member of the Lincoln Circle where she served as chaplain for over 25 years. She was also a very active member of the Livingston Grade School PTA. Lily volunteered to sew costumes for the Livingston Grade School carnivals. The costumes were made of crepe paper and ranged from flowers to animals. Each class had its own skit and had to have costumes made. She would sometimes charge 25 cents or a dollar for the costume. Lily loved to cook, sew and crochet. She cared for her elderly neighbors, Tony Kopachek and Fanny (Tetta) Karns. Lily passed away in 1997.

The oldest son John attended Livingston schools. John was unable to play ball but attended every game as the team manager and helped with the towels and water. After high school, John went to work for a survey crew and worked on the newly constructed Route 66. He later attended a trade school to become a self-employed upholsterer. For many years, John worked from the basement of their home. He later moved his business to the old Bononi Grocery Store on Main Street. Later he moved his business to Williamson and then to Staunton. John worked at this trade for more than 40 years and is now retired and lives in Staunton.

While in high school, Violet worked for Fud Hebenstreit's Café which was later Sandrin's and then Kendon's. She is now self-employed and works along side her husband quilting in Bourbon, Mo.



Roseann is now living in Williamson. She is an active member of the Sacred Heart Church Altar and Rosary Society in Livingston. Roseann is noted as a volunteer and caters when called upon by the residents around Livingston.

Juanita was active in school as a cheerleader. She started to work at Kendon's as a cook when she was 14 years old for \$.90 per hour. She managed to save \$.25 per week for Ed and Betty to buy stamps that were collected towards the purchase of savings bond.

Betty was also active in school. She was a scorekeeper for track and basketball. At age 13, she began working at Kendon's Café as a dishwasher and later a cook. Juanita and Betty are presently the owners of a little café in Staunton known as "Sisters".

The youngest son Ed (Edward) was a stand-out ball player in high school and played on the Livingston 3-M League. Ed worked for many years at R.P. Lumber until his death in 1998.

In the 1950's and 1960's, every month a peddler came by Greyhound Bus from St Louis to stay with the Meyers' family. Victoria Joseph carried two leather trunks filled with ladies clothing and fancy items that were purchased at Stix, Baer & Fuller or Famous Barr. These items were then pedaled door-to-door to the residents of Livingston by Victoria with the Meyers children pulling their wagon.

The family bought their first television in 1955. Their telephone number was NEptune 7-3283. They shared the phone lines with many of the neighbors. Their neighbors included Clifford France who was in charge of the City Water Dept., the Louis Wray family, Frank (Kize) Wray who owned a grocery store, the Roger Spudich family where there were children all the same ages as our family, the Kenneth Heim family, the Crisbelle Prosser family, the Levi Bowles family, the Jerry Deininger family, and the Joe Covi family. The Covis had the best purple grapes in town.



## The Pete and Adella Pacchetti Family

Originally from Italy, Peter and Adella (Franceschelli) Pacchetti moved to Livingston from DeCamp in 1914. They relocated because conditions in the Livingston Coal Mine were better than that in the De-Camp mine. Pete's brother, Ben, settled in the Wilsonville area. Pete was a coal miner and later rented a tavern in the building now known as Townsend's. He spent his later years gardening, weaving baskets and hunting mushrooms. Pete and Adella also enjoyed playing pinochle with neighbors in the evening.

Seven children were born to the couple: Amelia, Amelia Rose, Armond, Ladino, Attulio, Sesto and Mary. Three children died in infancy (Amelia, Ladino, Sesto). Attulio was a gifted musician, playing saxophone and accordion in the area. He died tragically from a brain aneurysm at the age of 20 years. The remaining three children married and raised their children in Livingston. Amelia Rose and Delbert Highlander had three children: Norman, James, and Brenda (Rutherford). Mary and Steve Augustine had four children: Richard, Steven, Jean (Sowers), and James. Amelia, Delbert, Mary and Steve are all deceased.

Armond married Elsie Pernichele from Staunton. In 1937 they bought the building and tavern that was being rented by Pete. They lived on the second floor and ran Armond's Tavern until July 5, 1951. Armond was also a trained barber and carpenter. As a young man, he worked at Tom's Barber Shop, which was located in the building between Townsend's and Gasperoni's. He was a life member and past president of the Carpenter's Union – Local 1535. Elsie helped in the tavern business and was also a seamstress. In 1968 they sold the building and built a home on Heinz Road, about two miles from town. They lived there until their deaths. Armond passed away in February 1993. Elsie passed away in April 2004. They had three children: Carole (Zediker) of Naperville; Arthur of Staunton; and Linda (Baima) of Gillespie, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. None of the younger generation live in Livingston at this time, although the children plan to keep Armond and Elsie's property in the family.