

ALWAYS HAPPY

Biography of Marvin C. Kruse

By Thomas Kruse

Thanks also go to my sisters, Linda and Nancy. Plus, we remember brother Rich.

Introduction

Most footnotes in this biography refer to the Gallery photos posted on ancestry.com. You may need a free account to access them. Other footnotes refer to websites with some going to <https://www.flickr.com/> where I have posted family photos.

Other references are [hyperlinked](#) to the family website: <https://adair.family/> and others.

I hope you will appreciate his life and history. Yes, he was **always happy!**

Early Years

My father, Marvin Charles Henry Kruse, was born in Riverview Village, Cook County, Illinois on March 7, 1922¹. In 1925 the village's remaining residents asked Des Plaines to annex it becoming a city.

Marvin was born to Rudolph KRUSE (1893-1977) and Mathilda Tillie RATEIKE (1890-1967) and was the third of five children. Rudolph's paternal grandparents were born in Germany, arriving in 1854; his maternal grandparents were also born in Germany, arriving in 1850. His father was born in Elk Grove Township, and his mother was born in Maine Township. Rudolph was able to speak both high-German and low-German. Tillie's parents were both born in Prussia, like their parents.

Their first-born was Wilbur (1917-1996) whose sister Alma died at age 1 month in January 1919. Marvin (1922-2018) was born next, followed by Lois (1927-2020) and Rudolph, Jr. (1929-2012).

Rudolph, Sr. was known by family as "Pops" and was the first-born of nine children. Tillie was one of 15 children; the last two died at ages 3 and 1, with another, Max, dying in 1918 at age 22. Max and his wife both died on December 18, 1918.

Marvin had many remaining aunts and uncles after losing 3, probably due to the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 before he was born.



Marvin was born at the home of his grandparents, William & Sophie Kruse; they owned Kruse's Tavern originally known as Behren's Saloon before being sold. The Kruse's ran the small sandwich shop with homemade ice cream and candies. With the repeal of prohibition in 1933 the business became Kruse's Tavern.²

¹ <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/0c6160aa-32be-4a94-8c14-8f8c331af220>

² <https://www.mtphist.org/kruses-tavern/>

Marvin was baptized on April 2, 1922 and sponsored by Charles Kritsch, Henry Kruse, and Bertha Mollenhauer³. Charles married Tillie's sister Ida; Henry was brother of Pops; Bertha was another sister of Tillie.

Like other boys, Marvin delivered newspapers. He had kept his keen interest in them; we all remember his love for reading. He would pick up any newspaper, new or old, and enjoy it.



Marvin also had an early interest in trains. In December of 1987, he was interviewed by the *Melrose Park Herald* at the Proviso Township Senior Citizen Club. Here is the article:

"Gifts were scarce during the Great Depression. At Christmas Eve we would go to church, where we got an apple and an orange. It was traditional, and it was such a treat. We also got 25-cent grab bag gifts at school. When I was in 5th grade, I got a gun and holster set in the grab bag, but I had to give it up because I played with it before Christmas and we couldn't do that at home.

"My biggest wish was to get a train set for Christmas - either one that wound up or had a steam engine. I never got a train set, though. The closest I came was when I was 5, when I got a set of blocks. The 'engine' was painted black, and the 'caboose' was painted red. I had to move it around with both hands. That was my substitute. I didn't get a real train set until I got married, and in 1951 my children got an American Flyer and we set up underneath the tree."

The baptism certificate for Pops states his name as Rudolph Conrad Heinrich Kruse and is printed in German. Other certificates in German are his confirmation record and marriage papers. Marvin did not speak German, but he had 2 middle names like his father. The April 12, 1936 [bulletin](#) from Immanuel Lutheran Church lists Marvin Kruse as a confirmand; this bulletin is printed in German and English.

³ <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/f3814061-5224-4f51-ad96-1382ce2b02a0>

Marvin completed elementary school on June 12, 1936⁴. He completed high school on June 6, 1940 graduating from Maine Township High School⁵.

On September 16, 1940, the Selective Service Training and Service Act (the nation's first peacetime draft law) was signed. Age was originally set to 21-35; later it was expanded to 18-64. Individuals were responsible for their own registration. Over 45 million men were registered for World War II.

On July 1, 1941, he registered for the U. S. Draft and was working at the First National Bank of Chicago.

Then on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Marvin was anxious to enlist and seemed pleased. He said:

“I was afraid the war would be over before I got in.”

⁴ <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/08eb8a85-4882-4acc-9201-00cae67560d5>
<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/76a9570e-f360-4465-a0e9-739bb7b63192>

⁵ <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/8b3ee500-6ce6-4a7f-925e-dff4f0ad6d0a>

US Army

After Pearl Harbor was attacked, Marvin was anxious to join the war. The Navy rejected him because he wore glasses. The Army accepted him by telling him "Don't worry (about nearsightedness) ...we will put you at frontline so you can see...".

Marvin enlisted in the Army of the United States on September 28, 1942. Those papers state his height at 64 inches and weight of 138. His education was "1 year of college." His brother Wilbur, who was married, enlisted on October, 1, 1942; His height was 68 inches, and weight was 173.

On his Individual Income Tax Return for calendar year 1942, Marvin reports his occupation as U.S. Soldier with gross income for salary, wages, and compensation of \$942.53, and income subject to tax of \$539.53, and Tax of \$0⁶.

His [Soldiers' Data Book](#) had diary entries which he kept through September 13, 1943. November 6, 1942 - There is a shorthand notation probably saying "*It was cold today.*" Initially he went to **Camp Grant**, Rockford, Illinois. He was assigned to **Camp Livingston** Louisiana with 110th Infantry, 28th Division on October 3, 1942. He was transferred to 103rd Medical Battalion on November 19, 1942, then on to **Gordon Johnston Camp** at Carabelle, Florida for amphibious training on January 23, 1943. The final U.S. location was **Camp Pickett**, Virginia starting on June 2, 1943. During this process he was asked why was he training to be a Medic. Apparently, he ran fast, wore glasses, was small, and showed some intelligence. You may listen to his experiences when [interviewed](#) by WFSU in 2007 in their [Florida War Diaries, WWII Remembered](#). Photo of entire group at 7:20. If you watch the entire 1-hour video, you realize importance of intensive training.

He also did an interview for the Library of Congress. A TV producer in London used his testimony for the show *Liberation: D-Day to Berlin*. Periodically this series repeats on the Smithsonian Channel. He has [two lines in the third part](#).

There was another [interview](#) conducted by the American Legion Post, Franklin Park. This one was at his home.

⁶ <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/a50846f7-bb21-4be9-876c-3576c3b8f423>

Marvin was assigned to Company A, 103rd Medical Battalion and deployed to Europe in October 1943. His battalion was in Swindon, England in 1944. He spent some time in Wales corresponding with a girl near Swansea, Wales in May-June 1944. Millie Jones last letter was dated June 5, 1944. At D-Day he left from Portsmouth, England to the beaches in Normandy, France landing on June 10, 1944. He spent the first 3-5 days near a cliff recovering from his sprained ankle incurred when jumping from the bigger ship to the landing craft onto a coil of rope.

Many [photos](#) were taken by the battalion members and traded among them. He was in:
France – Normandy, Campigny , Elbeuf , La Roche-Guyon, Versailles, Paris, Charleville-Mezieres, La Franchville , Flize, Verdun, Alsace, Toul, Saint-Die-des-Vosges, Ribeauville, Colmar, Saint-Germain, Reims, Rouen, Le Havre
Luxembourg- Breidfeld, Pin, Leon, Wiltz, Ettelbruck, Beford, Mersch
Belgium – Liege, Bastogne, Arlon, Brussels,
Holland –
Germany –Limberg, Ruppach, Aachen, Roetgen, Zweifall, Vossenack, Hurtgen Forest, Bonn, Heidelberg, Oggersheim, Kaiserslautern, Remagen

Reviewing these photos you can see Marvin among his peers – all doing their jobs. Dad looked happy and content.

He primarily spoke about the Battle of the Bulge. This was the last German attack aimed at reaching Antwerp to block Allied supplies. It started on December 16, 1944.⁷ The 103rd Medical Battalion continued to carry out its normal function of supporting the 28th Infantry Division by evacuating, treating and disposing of the casualties suffered by the Division. He crossed the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge at Remagen. Battle for this bridge started on March 7, 1945 (his 23rd birthday).

The U. S. Office of War Information was created during WWII producing 267 newsreels called the “United News”. Some newsreels relating to the Battle of the Bulge are copied [here](#).

In July 1945 he returned to Boston from Le Havre on the ship **USAT James T. Parker**⁸ and was honorably discharged October 2, 1945.

⁷ Marvin used the numbers 1216 as his PIN. Also, his “handle” was BULGEMAN that he used as a security word.

⁸ <https://www.navsource.net/archives/09/22/22046.htm>

Medals:

Medals

He received the Bronze Star medal which is awarded for heroism in combat zone or meritorious service in a war zone. The "V" was noted for his heroic efforts on November 9-10, 1944 at Vossenack during the Hürtgen Forest battles. The Oak Leaf Cluster was for meritorious achievement in ground combat against the enemy during WWII, probably September 9, 1944.

French Croix De Guerre with Palm was awarded March 27, 1945 as a member of the 109th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division which participated from January 28 to February 2, 1945 in the operations of the siege of Colmar in close collaboration with the French armored formations sparing the city the consequences of a street fight.



1-De Gaulle standing at the foot of the monument in white cap (in Paris)



2-Generals in the parade - Gen. Cota (our Div.), Gen Tassigny (French Army) Gen. De Gaulle (in Colmar)

Besides France, awards were given by Belgium and Luxembourg.

Membership cards:

Collection of membership cards

These include Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Society of the 28th Division, A.E.F., 103rd Medical Battalion and Regiment Association, 110th Infantry Division, Heritage Association c/o 28th DISCOM (Divisional Support Command), Association Rhin Et Danube (Veterans of the French First Army), Combat Infantrymen's Association, American Order of the French Croix De Guerre (roughly equivalent to the Bronze or Silver Star), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), The American Legion, Camp Gordon Johnston Association.

Mail:

Receiving mail was one of the more important things to keep up morale. I am sure that receiving mail made him smile. Marvin also sent mail. The servicemen had access to a mail system named V-Mail that microfiched letters for air transport. He sent several to his family in [1944-1945](#).

On January 3, 1944 he was in somewhere France writing about voltage and money in different countries.

On October 26, 1944 he complimented his sister Lois about her typewritten airmail letter. He was listening to Germans playing American orchestra on the radio. He also requests pocket combs.

On December 6, 1944 he writes about receiving the Christmas package in excellent shape; morale was 100%. He saw some movie stars including Marlene Dietrich. Another V-Mail was written on December 23, 1944 mentioning *"Things flared up over here as you probably saw in the newspapers."* I have no doubt this is the Battle of the Bulge. He also received package with socks and fruit cake.

On January 1, 1945 Marvin was somewhere in Belgium hoping to be home that year. They are *"not busy and that means a lot."* He had church service in a school building. Temperature is always freezing.

On January 12, 1945 he wrote about receiving letters from Lois dated Nov. 17 and Dec. 25. He also received Christmas cards from Mr. Markworth and Mr. Ninnemann. Cigarettes are scarce. *"Civilians want to pay \$1.00 a pack and up."*

On January 18, 1945 he wrote about going to a French night club the last 3 or 4 nights. France still has many poor people who come with pails, buckets, pans to get their leftovers. They are still fighting the Germans.

Marvin was honorably discharged from the National Guard of The State of Illinois, at Camp Grant, Illinois on October 2, 1945. Some paperwork reports separation from Tank Co (M), 132d Inf Regt on October 11, 1945.

Marvin spoke often about his experiences in the Army and visited the reunions in Florida and Pennsylvania. He had the honor of speaking with Bob Dole at one reunion.



He also visited Europe at least nine times. The family went with him on the D-Day 50th Anniversary bus tour⁹ in 1994. He really loved speaking about the war sharing stories not only with family but others on the bus.

⁹ VIDEO <https://adair.family/blog/kruse-seegers/50th-anniversary-of-d-day.html>
PHOTOS <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjYwAuDr>

Illinois National Guard

Marvin joined the National Guard on October 12, 1947 and was separated on October 11, 1950 in Maywood, Illinois. At this time, he was married with two dependents. While in the National Guard, Marvin was company clerk assigned to Tank Co (M), 132d Inf Regt as Sergeant. He trained at Camp Ellis, Illinois before it was closed in December 1945. Then he was transferred to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. His eyes were Blue, hair Brown, Height 5 ft 4 in., Weight 163.

US Navy

Missing the military, Marvin joined the Navy as Active Reserve in December 1948; he was assigned to Glenview Naval Air Station close to home. After going to Inactive Reserve because he was working, he was recalled to **active duty** during the Korean War in 1950. Without shore duty he opted for a large ship at a big base and was assigned to the USS Palau (CVE-122) at Norfolk, Virginia. This ship went along the east coast as far south as Cuba. On February 20, 1952, Marvin was honorably discharged from the United States Navy with active duty starting May 14, 1951.

Marriage and Family

Margaret Adair was born on June 1, 1921 in Redding, Iowa. Her parents are Earl Adair and Mary Bailey Adair and was their first-born.

Marvin met Margaret Adair at a square dance. They both went with other dates, but caught each other's eyes.

They married on August 31, 1946 at the First Methodist Church, Maywood, Illinois, ten days after their Marriage License was issued¹⁰. Her sister Dorothy was her attendant, and Marvin's brother Wilbur was best man. This must have been Marvin's happiest day!



Margaret was living in Maywood but spent much time visiting her family in Iowa. She stayed at the home of her uncle and aunt, Dewey and Margaret Adair. Dewey was the younger brother of her father Earl Adair, and he always kept a welcome for "that fellow".

Margaret was the maid of honor for her friend Leonta Beck of Redding. Leonta was a private secretary for the Pinkerton's Detective Agency in Chicago, Illinois. The groom George Newton, also of Redding, was a combat medic attached to an anti-tank unit. George and Leonta married on October 2, 1945. It is interesting to find another combat medic like Marvin with a connection to Margaret.

On January 26, 1947, Marvin and Margaret signed a real estate sales contract for purchase of house at [2051 Emerson Avenue, Leyden Township, Melrose Park, Illinois](#). This was perfect since Marvin worked at International Harvester, just a short distance away. The house cost \$7,500 with mortgage payments of \$40.91 each month with interest rate of 4% per annum. After down payment of \$750.00, the balance was to be paid from the proceeds of a G.I. loan financed thru Central National Bank in Chicago with \$150.00 being the approximate amount necessary to finance G. I. Loan. Marvin and Margaret accepted the building in Leyden Gardens on April 8, 1947.

¹⁰ <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/0f15c0be-bacc-4c34-82af-04ad7fca3123>

<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/47691281/person/6824509243/media/d27ead4c-e4a1-4083-8762-fe3e5e2ebdba>

Their first-born son, Thomas Earl, was born August 23, 1947 on one of the hottest days of the year. Daughter Linda Diane was born February 7, 1949 on one of the coldest days of the year. Son Richard John was born October 7, 1953. Daughter Nancy Joanne was born November 3, 1956.

All his life Marvin knew to save money, and he taught all his children the idea of saving. When his brother Rudy wanted to open a business in Des Plaines, Marvin was supportive with funds. The business was *Kruse's Appliances*, Sales-Service of Television, Washers, Dryers, Vacuum Cleaners. In fact, Marvin claims to have hired his father at that shop.

Date.....195.....

To.....

In Account With

KRUSE'S APPLIANCES

SALES - SERVICE

1121 PRAIRIE AVENUE

DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS

Television

Vanderbilt 4-5895

Washers - Dryers - Vacuum Cleaners

Saving money, Marvin was known as frugal. He would proudly state that every dollar saved would be realized with 25¢ for each child.

He would constantly be saying that after you received a paycheck, ALWAYS pay yourself first.

I remember in the attic of our home there was a shoebox full of U.S. Savings Bonds. Obviously, he purchased them over time. Upon maturity each was worth several hundred dollars. He was always keen to balance his legacy evenly.

Marvin's ethics was displayed at work. At International Harvester he was a computer operator. Part of this job was to print the payroll checks. Co-workers would try to bribe him to print their check on a pre-printed form that included the check number. They wanted the numbers on their check to create the best poker hand. Marvin wanted nothing to do with that.

Marvin never gambled on anything, which is instilled in his code of ethics. He told his son Tom that the Chicago White Sox would lose the 1959 World Series to the Los Angeles Dodgers, but would not place a single bet. He would be terribly disappointed in sports now with gambling too obvious.

Marvin was generous at Christmas time. Based on his Christmas wish for a train set, the children all knew what Christmas would be like. We had a 4' x 8' model HO layout set in the attic. We ALL loved going upstairs to play trains.

It was most enjoyable growing up with Dad and Mom. Marvin would occasionally sing out: *"Never put bananas in the refrigerator- oh no, no, no!"* and *"Now I'm cooking with gas!"* It was always a happy home.

Another thing that Marvin always encouraged was to not waste. Eat all your food. Use minimum amount of toilet paper. He usually purchased items by cost, thus saving money.

Showing interest in his family, Marvin took his to the Rateike Reunions, always held on the second Saturday in August. This reunion was 1967.



He also took the family to baseball games. I remember one at Wrigley Field to see the Chicago Cubs play a double-header. I guess he loved the 2-for-1 prices. At that game I had an autograph book. Marvin encouraged me to get signatures from the players between games; I still have that book. But his favorite team was the Chicago White Sox. He attended many games with the family at Comiskey Park. His love of trains was apparent as he enjoyed riding the "L" train many times.

His favorite entertainment was watching the **"The Rockettes"**. While in New York for the 1964 World's Fair he took the entire family to see them at Radio City Music Hall. He has seen them perform when they appeared in Rosemont Theatre, near his home. In the assisted living facility, he always had the DVD playing their Christmas Spectacular in his room with a large smile on his face.

Other activities of Marvin included latest technology that included video cameras and color TV. His first movie camera was a Kodak. In the 1960's at Knott's Berry Farm the first movie was taken while on-board the steam train. He held the camera out of the window and loved the moving scenery. Since this was new, he didn't realize the camera was held sideways. Despite watching the movie with our heads tilted, we did love it. It took some practice to conserve the film, and he always condensed much action. Here is one family video.¹¹ It includes all family members including Pops & Tillie taken at farm of John Bloese and sister Lois.

Because of his business at *Kruse's Appliance*, he was able to acquire one of the first color televisions, a model made by Zenith. Marvin invited the entire neighborhood for a special showing of a TV show broadcast in color, probably 1954.

Marvin also loved music. His interest in *Big Band* music was apparently inspired by his time growing up and in the Army. His brother Rudy sent him many CDs with music from Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Les Brown, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Gene Krupa, and more.

There was a Hi-Fi stereo set in the living room where Marvin would play many vinyl record with music from Al Hirt, Pete Fountain and others.

A local Chicago Dixieland Show Band was *Banjo Buddies*. They performed many times in local city parks, and Marvin would never miss the opportunity to see them. The family hired this group for his 90th birthday party. See photos and videos [here](#).

On several occasions Marvin and sometimes Margaret would visit their son Tom in California. Tom remembers many times that he and his dad would visit Las Vegas. He loved the entertainment, probably remembering his stories in WWII. We saw Louis Prima, Don Rickles, Liza Minelli, Spice on Ice, Casino de Paris, and Folies Bergere 75. One time Marvin took the train from Chicago to Reno. He probably saw the Golden Spike in Utah on this trip. Tom drove from San Diego driving north on US-395 to meet him. In Reno we saw Dick Jensen, a musical performer.

¹¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrHKIDtiJWs>

Trains

Marvin did work and retire from International Harvester. Here is his [retirement speech](#). Note that he also worked at the Illinois Railroad Museum as a volunteer. Loving streetcars, he qualified to be the conductor of one taking visitors on trips.



He travelled extensively, sometimes for the added pleasure of seeing trains and streetcars. While visiting Tom at the World's Fair in Osaka, Marvin and Margaret took time to see some Japanese trains. Here is the [photo album](#) with added photos that Tom took in Taiwan.

There was another advantage with living on Emerson Avenue besides the obvious closeness to work. At the end of the street there was a railroad track. Trains would support all the businesses south of Armitage Avenue. Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad is the largest switch carrier in the United States. This siding track ran steam engine switchers when we lived there. All of us enjoyed seeing these engines at the end of the block.

Of course, Marvin had to take family members on steam excursion trains run by the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad. I remember a trip from Chicago to Galesburg, Illinois. These special trains also included photo runs. Passengers would depart, train would back up, and then steam forward producing amazing steam for photographers to capture. I wrote a story for school about one trip in 1960.

On a Grand Trunk Railway trip, Marvin got permission for us to ride in the cab on an excursion to Michigan. It was very exciting for my father to share this experience with me.

During a cleaning of Marvin's house, my brother took all the train stuff and sold some of it. David Sadowski publishes a blog about trains called *The Trolley Dodger*. Rich sold some photos to David's brother, who published a few photos in the [issue for September 2017](#). Here are 2 of those photos.



3 Andrews Raiders Memorial in the Chattanooga Military Cemetery



4 I am the photographer of the Queen Mary photo May 24, 1974

Summer Vacations

Besides showing extreme interest in steam engines and streetcars, Marvin loved to travel with his family. He and Margaret have visited 48 states, probably missing Alaska and North Dakota.

In 1948 they took their one-year-old, me, to visit Margaret's family in Maine.

Typically, they travelled during the final weeks of August finishing their trip just before Labor Day. I do remember spending my birthdays in different locations.

Many summers were spent at Margaret's parents' home in Redding, Iowa. One summer Marvin and Margaret left the children there while they took the Ford Econoline to Mexico. In 1967, Marvin and Margaret took the whole family and a friend to Acapulco in that Econoline. I remember Monterrey, San Luis Potosi, Mexico City, Cuernavaca, Taxco, Acapulco, and Laredo.



5 Family drinking beer at brewery

Marvin was known to visit breweries, especially for the free beer.

Besides taking photos Marvin would pose for a few. Here is one at Pioneer Village in Nebraska. Note the love of trains on his shirt.



Marvin was always taking the family to World Fairs/HemisFairs/Expos/Railfairs. I remember those in New York in 1964, San Antonio in 1968, Montreal in 1967, Osaka, Japan in 1970, and Sacramento in 1981 and/or 1991.

Besides these world expositions, Marvin concentrated on seeing trains. I remember one time Marvin took his father Pops, and family to the [Tweetsie Railroad](#) to see their train and can-can dancers at the [Tweetsie Palace](#). Pops even received a kiss on his head that we all enjoyed seeing.



During our automobile vacations, Marvin would ALWAYS look for the price per gallon of gasoline. He had quite a hobby noting the cost, and this carried throughout his life. One time we were in Wyoming, I believe, when there was a Gas War. The filling stations were selling gasoline for 19¢ per gallon!

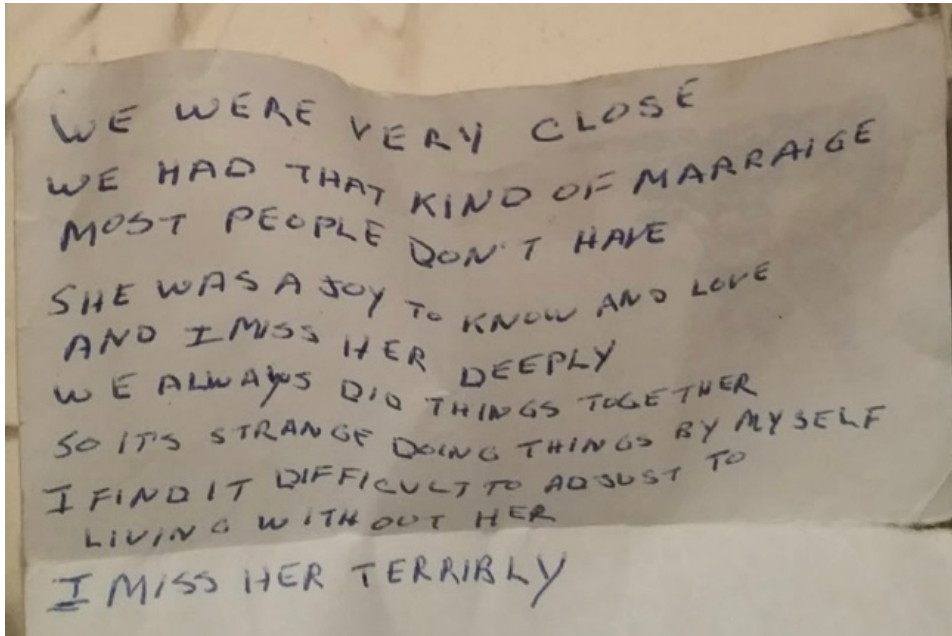
Driving the Ford Econoline, Marvin always took advantage of the truck discount at Hudson fueling stations yielding a small savings.

Driving in Mexico, Marvin always purchased insurance from Sanborn's. They had terrific maps and warned us about fuel stations that watered down their gasoline. I think we were hit only once. He couldn't get mad but took it in stride with minimal complaint.

He traveled around Europe getting there at least 9 times. On one trip in October 2000, he took his brother-in-law and nephews. Marvin also saw Expo 2000 in Hanover, Germany. They visited family of John's wife who was born in Germany. See [video here](#). They saw several World War II sites and memorials. Marvin had intense interest in history. I hadn't realized there were many, many plaques honoring members of the 28th Division.

Nearing the End

Marvin Kruse was never afraid to die. Sadly, his wife Margaret went too soon. She died on May 23, 2002 due to multiple injuries as a consequence of a truck striking the passenger side of the automobile. Marvin was driving. After a year of guilt and grieving he realized it was an accident. He continued on - waiting for the moment to return to Margaret. Marvin kept this writing on the bathroom mirror in his home.



Marvin died a natural death on July 26, 2018 in Huntley, Illinois at his assisted living facility. His age was 96 years.

Reviewing many photographs of Marvin, we all note similarities among them. Marvin ALWAYS had a smile. He was **happy** his entire life.

My personal notes about my father.

I noted on the paperwork of the house on Emerson Street, there was a reference to “redlining”. This illegal practice denied services, such as loans and housing, to residents of specific neighborhoods based on race or ethnicity. This practice was outlawed by the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Started in 1934, the FHA redlining staff concluded that no loan could be economically sound if the property was located in a neighborhood that was or could become populated by Black people as property values might decline. The restrictive covenants had become increasingly common in the 1920s.

The complete paperwork for this Emerson Street house can be found here

<https://adair.family/blog/kruse-seegers/paperwork-for-building-2051-emerson-history-of-house.html>.

In grade school I remember missing Dad. At one time he was working 3 jobs. He said if you worked the midnight shift sleep just before going to work and not after.

In the 1960's I remember Dad visiting in the South with me and pointing out the “Whites Only” sign near a public restroom. I think he wanted to show me an uglier life than we had in suburban Chicago area. This was an eye-opening experience for me to see first hand how groups are suppressed. Dad always respected everyone. Experiencing the war, he knew the necessity of teamwork; he never showed signs of racism. We are all here for each other.

I remember my Dad saying this following Johnson's landslide victory in 1964, and his subsequent escalation of the war, a common joke in the anti-war movement referenced the campaign rhetoric. The joke went something like: *"They said if I voted for Goldwater, my son would go to Vietnam. Well, I voted for Johnson, and my son still went to Vietnam!"*. This highlighted the irony that the outcome the anti-Goldwater campaign warned against still came to pass under the president they elected.

My father was always a Republican and had several membership cards to Republican National Committee. You may see them (and other cards) here: <https://adair.family/blog/kruse-seegers/membership-cards-marvin-margaret.html>

He always took the family to see Presidential Candidates speech locally. I remember seeing Richard Nixon at the shopping center in Hillside, Illinois.

The entire family knew that Marvin and Margaret succeeded in raising 4 children.

Thomas is living in Tucson, Arizona.

Linda is living in Westcliffe, Colorado.

Richard died shortly before Marvin on June 19, 2018 of Mantle Cell Lymphoma; his age was 64 years.

Nancy is living in Huntley, Illinois.