



PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2017

Spring

The Bertrands of Medicine Lake

Victor O. Bertrand 1900-1979
Businessman, Outdoorsman, Medicine Lake Enthusiast

This is the second in a series of three articles about The Bertrand Family-- early settlers of Medicine Lake. You will meet three generations of Bertrand's who each built homes on the west side of Medicine Lake and worked in a family business--H. Bertrand Manufacturing Company. The story starts with Henry L. Founder (see PHS Winter2017newsletter), continues with his son Victor and grandson Henry Richard. This segment highlights the growth of the family business and the second of Henry L.'s sons, Victor O. Bertrand.

Victor (Vic) Olaf Bertrand, was born June 29, 1900 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Victor's age was an easy one to figure out. "Just know the year, and that is how old I am," he would say. He was a tall lanky boy, prone to chest colds, would wear long underwear year round, to ward off the lung ailments that plagued him. Vic attended West High School and played baseball on community and high school teams with his brothers. He was an expert skater, cutting figure eights on Medicine Lake. He worked side by side with his brothers and sisters at the factory, learning every part of the business from production and bottling on the factory floor, to writing invoices and keeping the ledger in the office. He called on customers with his father, and would deliver premiums over the years bearing the H. Bertrand manufacturing logo. Things like, retractable tape measures, rain bonnets, address books, thermometers, and calendars. A few still exist and are treasured artifacts of the family business.

To be born at the beginning of a new century gave Victor a front row seat to the changes brought by industrialization, growth of Minneapolis, and the settling of Medicine Lake. He was able to embrace the changes that arrived full speed, trading out horses for automobiles, modernizing production at the factory and holding on to hopes of marrying and starting a family. The hard times of the 1920s weighed upon these big dreams, he waited to marry until 1927 after meeting "little Marie," only child of Jacob and Cecelia (Thomas) Kort from northeast Minneapolis. Marie Elizabeth, born in 1902, had already seen many changes herself for her age. Born in Superior, Wisconsin, Marie moved to Minneapolis as a young girl, attended school and made friends. She worked at the Butler Building taking over a shipping and receiving job while young men were fighting in World War I overseas. She was able to save for a fur coat, banking five cents at a time, when she walked instead of rode the streetcar to work. She married for the first time in 1920 to Joseph Power, a war veteran, meeting him while volunteering at the Red Cross. They made their home in Hopkins, Joseph drove a truck, and she worked at Powers Department store. Sadly Joseph died of Ambulatory Tuberculosis in 1921, sending her back home with her parents.

Vic met Marie in the summer of 1922 through friends. He wrote to her and invited her on outings with the Bertrand family and eventually proposed. He provided a brand new bungalow at 2355 West Medicine Lake Drive for his new wife, just down

from where the Bertrand clan lived. The house's cozy features made it home for more than 50 years. Vic claimed a spot in front of the picture window, and would say from his swivel rocker, "I have the best view of the Lake right here."



Marie

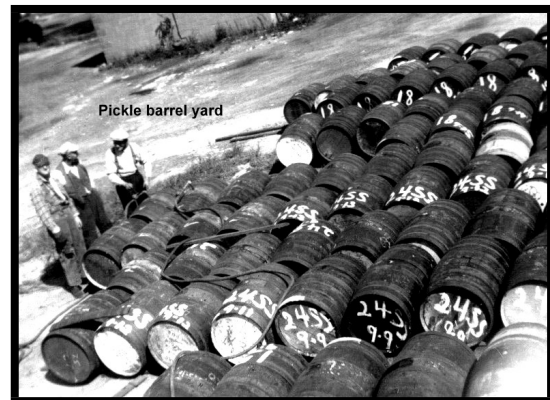


Marie & Victor 1924

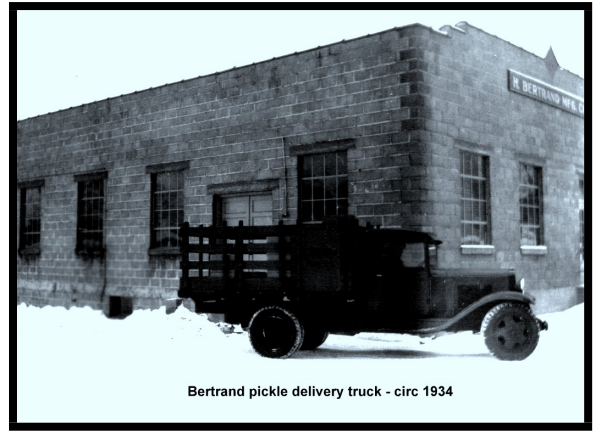
Vic and Marie welcomed their first child, Virginia Mae in May of 1928 and then my father, Henry Richard (Dick) in 1936. Robert came in 1937 and died just a year later of pulmonary pneumonia during the terrible dust bowl years. Grandpa called him "Tiny" and saw to it that he had a proper burial in Baby Land at Sunset Memorial Park, paying \$100 cash for a cedar casket, a hired car, and flowers. Roger Edwin came in 1944.

Their home on Medicine Lake was the center for family activities. Swimming, boating and fishing, picnics on the shore in summer. Hunting and trapping in the fall. Hockey, figure skating, ice fishing in winter. The front yard saw lots of living through the years as a family gathering sport for fish fries and corn roasts with Grandma's special potato salad. Grandpa tended a vegetable garden in back next to Grandma's flower garden. From the breakfast nook in the kitchen, Grandpa could see the lake and Grandma had a view of her garden.

In 1932 Victor oversaw the building of a modern 8000 square foot facility at North 4th Street after the original factory at 137 10th Street North was seriously damaged by fire. After 39 years in the business, Henry L invested in its future, spent nearly \$35,000 to build the new facility where bottles were washed, filled and handled almost entirely by machinery. Except for the pickle packing; that was done by hand, machines just couldn't do what the human hand could do better-- pack pickles not too tight, not too spare, but just right. During the height of the busy weeks of summer, family, friends and neighbors were called in to help. The factory could turn out 10,000 bottles each day of the product line--vinegar, pickles, extracts, bluing, and ammonia, and essentially doubled the capacity.



The factory had its own trackage to ship products more efficiently, to markets west extending all the way to the Pacific coast. There was a large elevator that accessed the yard where barrels of pickles were fermented outdoors. Pickles became the main product that further expanded the business, so was now unofficially known as "The Pickle Factory." Henry L gave over the business to "the boys" and drew up an agreement that the family shared ownership of H. Bertrand Manufacturing to ensure the longevity of the Bertrand name, the value estimated at \$50,000. Three of his sons remained active in the business; Victor, Rob and William. Henry George or Ike, as he was called, died in 1935.



Bertrand pickle delivery truck - circ 1934

As time went on, Victor led H Bertrand Manufacturing as its President after the death of his brother's Rob and Bill, inviting his oldest son Henry Richard (Dick) to work there too, first driving the delivery truck and later, as production manager. The Pickle Factory continued strong until the 1960s when direct competition from hometown food companies like Gedney, International Multifoods, and Peavey started taking over smaller markets through acquisition. Bertrand's pickles were a family standard, relished by babies and grandfathers alike, a source of pride and livelihood for three generations.



Three Generations
Henry Richard (Dick) Bertrand,
his father Victor Bertrand, and
Henry L. Bertrand, the founder of
H Bertrand Manufacturing circa 1940

Debra Bertrand Palmquist -May, 2017

Debra Bertrand Palmquist is a native of Plymouth, Minnesota-- a place that inspires her stories of family. Growing up on the shores of Medicine Lake at a time when community meant coming together for carnivals, doll buggy parades and beauty pageants--at the West Medicine Lake Community Club--a center for baseball, movies, corn roasts and rummage sales. Her family saw it grow from a rural township to a sprawling suburb in five generations. She still lives in Plymouth, with her husband Phil. Victor Bertrand is her grandfather.

Am I my own Grandpa?

"I'm My Own Grandpa" is a novelty song written by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe, performed by Lonzo and Oscar in 1947, about a man who, through an unlikely (but legal) combination of marriages, becomes stepfather to his own stepmother — that is, tacitly dropping the "step-" modifiers, he becomes his own grandfather.

Family Relationship Chart

For a true "relationship" to exist, there must be an ancestor who is common to both individuals. In the chart below, the Common Ancestor is Box 1 on the horizontal scale as well as Box 1 on the vertical scale.

Let us suppose that you have a grandson of that common ancestor, as seen in Box 3 of the horizontal scale, and you want to know that grandson's relationship to a great-granddaughter, who would be seen in Box 4 on the vertical scale.

If you follow Box 4 (Vertical Scale) down to where it meets the vertical pathway to Box 3 on the horizontal scale, then where those paths cross, it tells you the relationship -- they are first cousins once removed.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Common Ancestor	Son or Daughter	Grandson or Daughter	Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Great Grandson or Daughter	3rd Great Grandson or Daughter	4th Great Grandson or Daughter	5th Great Grandson or Daughter	6th Great Grandson or Daughter	7th Great Grandson or Daughter
2	Son or Daughter	Siblings (Brother or Sister)	Nephew or Niece	Grand Nephew or Niece	Great Grand Nephew or Niece	2nd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	3rd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	4th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	5th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	6th Great Grand Nephew or Niece
3	Grandson or Daughter	Nephew or Niece	First Cousin	First Cousin Once Removed	First Cousin Twice Removed	First Cousin Three Times Removed	First Cousin Four Times Removed	First Cousin Five Times Removed	First Cousin Six Times Removed	First Cousin Seven Times Removed
4	Great Grandson or Daughter	Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin	Second Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed	Second Cousin Six Times Removed
5	2nd Great Grandson or Daughter	Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin	Third Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed
6	3rd Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Three Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Four Times Removed
7	4th Great Grandson or Daughter	3rd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin Three Times Removed

8	5th Great Grandson or Daughter	4th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Five Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin	Sixth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin Twice Removed
9	6th Great Grandson or Daughter	5th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Six Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed	Third Cousin Four Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Three Times Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed	Sixth Cousin Once Removed	Seventh Cousin	Seventh Cousin Once Removed
10	7th Great Grandson or Daughter	6th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Seven Times Removed	Second Cousin Six Times Removed	Third Cousin Five Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Four Times Removed	Fifth Cousin Three Times Removed	Sixth Cousin Twice Removed	Seventh Cousin Once Removed	Eighth Cousin

Here's the on-line link to the chart: [Relationship chart](#)

Website

The Plymouth Historical Society website is:

www.plymouthmnhistoricalociety.com

Check us out!

Note: All past newsletters dating back to 1986 are available on-line in PDF format for viewing or printing.



Meetings

The Museum is also open the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 PM during the Spring, Summer and Fall.

The monthly business meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Plymouth Historical Society Building, located at 3605 Fernbrook Lane North, Plymouth, MN.

Open by special appointment in January, February & March.

Donations

Donated by: Birchview School

- \$100

Donated by: Visitors at OFC

- \$101.67

Donated by: Plymouth Lions Club

- \$2500

Current Officers

The following are the present officers:

President	Dennis Jacobson	763-972-0988
Vice President	Kay Bertrand	763-249-0138
Secretary	Betty Jacobson	763-972-0988
Treasurer	Gary Schiebe	763-473-4889



Mailing and Membership List

If you are not a member and want to sign up or if you have any questions, please call:
Kay Bertrand, 763-249-0138.

The 2017 annual dues are:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Individual Lifetime	\$100.00
Family Lifetime	\$150.00

If you would like the newsletter delivered via E-mail please notify Kay Bertrand or send an e-mail to:
info@plymouthmnhistoricalsociety.com

If you do, it is a plus for both of us. When you receive via e-mail it will be in color. When sent by mail it is in black and white and costs PHS about \$2.00 per copy to print and mail