

The Serge Williams Story

Serge Lemuel Williams. 1909-2005.

By Serge L. Williams

Dundee Senior of the Month

I was born August 16, 1909 near Leispic, Ohio, which is southwest of Toledo. I came from a family of 6, my Mom, Dad, myself and 3 brothers. We moved to Dundee, Michigan when I was 7. There were no large moving vans and we moved by D.T.&I. train. My dad had a box car put on a siding track, he and the neighbors loaded all our farm tools and livestock in the box car and the train took it to the depot in Dundee at the end of Railroad Street. Dad and his dog rode along in the box car.

Mom and I and my 3 brothers came by passenger train the next day. It was an all-day ride. The National Hotel bus, which was a Model-T with a wood body driven by Vern Miller, took us to our home. There is a picture of the bus on page 4 in the Pictorial History of Dundee. We moved to a farm 11/2 miles west of town on M-50. The new neighbors helped us move into our new home. I have lived in Dundee for the past 80 years.

We had no electricity, no telephone, no bathroom and no paved roads. We cooked on a wood burning stove, my mother was a true pioneer dealing with all this and looking after 4 young boys. We all survived the trying times, even the winter of 1918 when we all had the flu. A lot of people died that winter with the flu.

On October 6, 1934 I married Ada Mae Stebbins at her home on Van Nest Street in Dundee. She was the daughter of Lida Stebbins who taught school in Dundee for many years. Our son Dale was born November 2, 1940. Donna, our daughter was born November 2, 1943 and both are living in Dundee. I have 4 grandchildren, Scott, Stacey, Todd and Marla.

On December 18, 1968 Ada Mae passed away at home from a heart condition, she was 57. We had 34 years of wonderful life together. In 1970 I married Clara Quick at the Presbyterian Church in Dundee. We had 22 good years together. She died on April 4, 1992.

I enjoy reading, watching gulf, bowling, ice skating, one day trips and going out to dinner on Saturday nights. I have been a member of the Dundee Senior Center for over 3 years. Ruth Bordt took me over to the Center as her guest, I joined then and also joined the Fun Band. I enjoy volunteering my time with the Fun Band. It is such a pleasure to entertain people in nursing homes and other Senior Centers, to watch their faces light up and hear them clap and dance and say "please come back," is a real enjoyment

He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.