

My personal history of Huntington Township began the month Ray and I were married fifty years ago. The ladies of the community threw me a bridal shower. The only ones who knew me were Ray's mom and her sister Lois Rollin.

I remember being overwhelmed by the generosity and thoughtfulness of the gifts. These women didn't know me, but they'd heard we were getting married and by that time that I was hired to teach fourth grade at the Huntington school. These are the gifts I particularly remember: the orange plastic pitcher and juice cups from Mrs. Dria. She knew I would be a dairy farmer's wife needing a half gallon pitcher to bring milk home from the barn; a Grange cookbook from Kelly Griggs, a little girl who adored Ray; a fancy silver tray, I'd never owned anything so elegant; a hand crocheted afghan; a lady's pretty hankie from Gladys Laborie; the gifts went on and on. I saved the beautiful wrapping paper and used it to line the drawers of cupboards and dressers. Of course the ribbons and bows became my rehearsal bridal bouquet.

We were married at the Sullivan Congregational Church that Ray had faithfully attended with me as we dated. Next week Ray said, " Now we'll go to my church." I

hadn't realized that he had such strong roots here, but we went and the United Church of Huntington is still part of our history.

We came back from our honeymoon to help at the Lorain County Fair Grange Cafeteria, peeling and eyeing potatoes.

A week later I began teaching at Huntington school with many of the children's moms being the very ones who gave the bridal shower for me. That began wonderful fifty year- long friendships with McGintys, McMahons, Rollin families, Fetzers, Charltons, Simonsons, Finkels.

*Sara Anna (Walter)
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