

EM3 Edwin M. Marheine

Location - East-N: R31, C1





EDWIN M. MARHEINE operated Heiss Bakery on S. Main Street in Oshkosh for 45 years.

Oshkosh bids farewell to its own dough boy

Edwin Marheine ran bakery for 45 years

By ANN GOLDTHWAITE-KRIZ
OF THE NORTHWESTERN

When Edwin M. Marheine died on July 19, an era in Oshkosh history also passed on.

Marheine owned and operated Heiss Bakery for about 45 years. The bakery stood at the corner of Eighth Avenue and South Main Street; Krohn's Paper now occupies the corner.

Marheine bought the business in 1922, and it flourished as bread production changed from a strictly hands-on operation to one that machines could do quickly and efficiently.

His daughter, Donna Biederman of Oshkosh, said she has wonderful childhood memories of her father's bakery.

"We got to sample all the

goodies," she said. "We'd watch the bread being mixed in the huge mixers and then see the guy pushing the big pans in the oven." She said she even worked there when she was out of high school.

The bakery had its beginnings in 1874 when Marheine's maternal grandparents, Paul and Mary Ann Gunz, built at 46 Kansas St. That is what South Main Street was called in those days.

In 1922 Edwin Marheine bought and began to operate the bakery. He abandoned the ice cream portion of the business and threw his efforts into the bakery end. He put his emphasis into wholesale activity for the bakery, and the retail business became secondary.

His son, James, also became associated with the business, making the bakery

a fourth-generation business. James now lives in Florida.

The centennial article said the business had 21 delivery routes in 1953 that covered a 75-mile radius. Four trucks made deliveries directly to customers.

The article said the firm was turning out 5,200,000 pounds of bread a year. Cakes, rolls and other items amounted to about 780,000 pounds a year.

The Heiss Bakery is also mentioned in the book, "Oshkosh, One Hundred Years a City," which was published in 1953.

Biederman said her father closed the bakery doors forever when he retired in April 1967. But the memories and perhaps even the smell of fresh-baked bread still waft across the cornerstone of the building at the corner of Eighth and South Main.

Edwin M. Marheine

Edwin M. Marheine, 94, Oshkosh, died Friday afternoon at Bethel Home.

He was born Nov. 12, 1896, in Oshkosh, the son of Anthony and Ida Gunz Marheine.

Edwin married Ruth Sailer in 1924. She passed away Feb. 9, 1977.

He attended Oshkosh High School and Oshkosh Normal School, and was active in the U.S. Naval Air Force during World War I. Edwin was a life-long resident of Oshkosh, where he owned and operated Heiss Bakery for more than 40 years until his retirement.

He was active in many city affairs, including the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce; the state Bakers Association; Knights of Columbus, where he was a past grand knight; Lions Club, where he was a past president; the American Legion, where he was a charter member; the Last Mans Club; the Oshkosh Elks Club; and the

Oshkosh National Bank board, where he was a former member.

Edwin is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Stuart (Joyce) Strey of Algoma, and Mrs. Carl (Donna) Biederman of Oshkosh; a son, James of Florida; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and two half sisters, Mrs. E.C. (Sally) Uner of Mound, Mo., and Mrs. William (Marjorie) O'Neill of Colorado Springs, Colo.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, July 26, at St. Mary Catholic Church, Oshkosh, at which he was a member. The Rev. Larry Seidel will officiate.

Burial will be in Lake View Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to Bethel Foundation and St. Mary Catholic Church.

There will be no visitation.

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