

GERMAN UNION CEMETERY
THREE-GENERATION GENEALOGY

Created By: Ronald R. Prinzing

UPDATED: June 3, 2014

Surname: **HARKINS**

Given Name: **WILLIAM**

Known as: **(BILL)**

Middle Name If Any: **HENRY**

Gender: **MALE**

Date of Birth: **AUGUST 13, 1920**

Place of Birth: **RICE COUNTY – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**

Date of Death: **DECEMBER 26, 2008**

Place Of Death: **ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL – 1216 2ND STREET SW IN OLMSTED COUNTY – ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA**

Place of Burial: **GERMAN UNION CEMETERY – FOREST TOWNSHIP – RICE COUNTY – MINNESOTA**
Plot Number: **9b**

Father: **EDGAR M. HARKINS**

Date of Birth: **NOVEMBER 6, 1875**

Place of Birth:

Date of Death: **MARCH 15, 1931**

Place of Death: **RICE COUNTY - MINNESOTA**

Place of Burial: **MAPLE LAWN CEMETERY – RICE COUNTY – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**
Section: **A-J3**

Mother: **MARY E. FREDETTE**

Interred Name: **HARKINS**

Birth Date: **JANUARY 26, 1881**

Place of Birth:

Date of Death: **MAY 15, 1954**

Place of Death: **RICE COUNTY – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**

Place of Burial: **CALVARY CEMETERY – RICE COUNTY – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**
Section: **C S**

Marital Status: **MARRIED**

Date: **OCTOBER 17, 1946** at **IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA**

Marriage: **BETTY LOU FEE** born: **SEPTEMBER 27, 1923** in **La Crosse, Wisconsin**

Children:

1. **WILLIAM SHERMAN HARKINS** born: **SEPTEMBER 2, 1947** in **RICE COUNTY - MINNESOTA**
2. **SHERMAYNE LOUISE HARKINS** born: **MAY 8, 1950** in **RICE COUNTY - MINNESOTA**
3. **MARY ELIZABETH HARKINS** born: **JULY 3, 1959** in **RICE COUNTY - MINNESOTA**

HARKINS, WILLIAM (BILL) HENRY

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OBITUARY

Last Name: HARKINS

First Name: WILLIAM

Middle Name or Initial: HENRY

News Paper: FARIBAULT DAILY NEWS – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA

Date: DECEMBER 28, 2008

William "Bill" Harkins, age 88 of Faribault, died Friday, December 26, 2008 at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, following an extended illness. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Patrick Church in Shieldsville. Military honors will be provided by the Rice County Central Veterans Association. Interment will be at the German-Union Cemetery in Millersburg at a later date. Memorial visitation will be held at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home in Faribault on Friday from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday for one hour prior to the services at the church. William Henry Harkins, the son of Edgar and Mary (Fredette) Harkins, was born on August 13, 1920 in Faribault. He attended Immaculate Conception Elementary and Bethlehem Academy High School. Bill served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII from 1942 to 1945. He served in Egypt, England, North Africa, and Sicily with the 82nd Airborne/316 Troop Carrier Group. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the French Jubilee of Liberty Medal. He married Betty Lou Fee on October 17, 1946 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Faribault. Bill operated a delivery route for the Coca Cola Co. from 1939-1941 and 1945-1949, Marigold Dairy from 1936-1939 and Voegel's Dairy from 1934-1936. He has been with his family's business, Roberds Lake Resort, from 1949 to the present. During the winter months he worked for Marshall Wells (1949-55), Ford Motor Co. (1955-59), Simpsons (1959-63), Healy Construction (1963-65), Nelson Super Value (1965-70), and Kletschka Electric (1970-72). He also served on the Wells Township Board. Bill was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 43, Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 1562, WWII Last Mans Club, Faribault Aerie 1460, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and Knight of Columbus Council 889. He was a dedicated member of the Faribault Lions Club and served as District Governor in 1995-96. He received the Melvin Jones Award and the Progressive Melvin Jones Award. He also served as Trustee with the Minnesota Hearing Foundation and traveled to Mexico three times to deliver donated glasses to those in need. He enjoyed traveling and was able to travel to 49 states. He is survived by his wife, Betty; three children, William S. (Kathy) Harkins of Wichita Falls, TX, Shermayne (Bob) Cross of Faribault, and Mary Harkins (Barry Venn) of Cannon Falls, MN; eight grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; three great great grandchildren; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Warren, Samuel, and John Harkins; and two sisters, Orley Kath and Rose Harkins. Memorials may be designated to the Lions Hearing Foundation or St. Patrick Church Bell Tower Fund in Bill's memory.

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BIOGRAPHY

Last Name: HARKINS

First Name: WILLIAM HENRY and BETTY LOU Nee: FEE

News Paper: FARIBAULT DAILY NEWS – FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA

BOOK - RICE COUNTY FAMILIES. PUB. 1981 William and Betty Harkins. William Henry Harkins was born August 13, 1920, in Faribault to Edgar W. and Mary (Fredette) Harkins. They were of French, Irish and English ancestry. Edgar worked as a wood-finisher. Other children in their family were Warren, Samuel, John, Orley and Rose Ada. Edgar died in 1931; Mary died in 1954. William attended I.C. and Faribault High School. He was a salesman for Coca Cola Co. when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1942. After training in the states he was sent to Egypt and assigned to the British 8th Army. They moved on the desert and he joined the Americans at Tunis, participated in the invasions of Sicily and Italy, and served also in France, Holland and Germany. He had spent 30 months overseas and toured 33 countries before his discharge after the war, in 1945. He returned to Faribault and his former job. In 1946 "Bill" was married to Betty Lou Fee, daughter of the Sherman Fee's. The next year they moved to Roberds Lake to join Mr. Fee in the operation of the resort. During these post-war years there were many fisherman but few owned their own boat. There were 50 boats at the resort and the fishermen would take a number and wait their turn to rent a boat. When Mr. Fee retired in 1955, Bill became the resort manager. The following years brought many changes in the resort operation. The harkins family built a new home in 1962. In 1969, 9.8 acres of land was developed into the Mill Stone Mobile Home Court with 31 spaces. The natural gas which became available from Northern States at this time was a first for the area. It was due to the efforts of Bill and the homeowners around the lake. 1971 saw the closing of the "old bathhouse" because of the prohibitive costs and the popularity of the new swimming pool in town. Upon the death of Mrs. Fee in 1974, Bill and Betty Harkins became sole owners of the resort. Several cottages were sold to be moved and a new shower house and laundry was built to accommodate the influx of campers. Eventually 25 campsites were developed with water, sewer and electricity hookups. Bill has been active in many ways as a citizen of Wells Township. He served as Constable and is Chairman of the town board; was an active member of the Roberds Lake School Board during the time that an addition with indoor plumbing was built (this was a very active school district and the last to close in 1971); was active in the Roberds Lake Club which has worked to maintain the quality of water and fishing in the lake, working in 1976 to place an aerator in the lake to increase the supply of oxygen; is treasurer of the Rural Fire Association and Secretary-Treasurer of the Rice County Township Officers Association. Three children were born to Bill and Betty. William Sherman, born September 2, 1947, graduated from the Duluth branch of the University of Minnesota in 1969 with a degree in Biology. He spent summers working at the resort and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969. He graduated from Ft. Benning Officers Candidate School as a Second Lieutenant, was married to Kathryn Green at Bureleson, TX, in 1974, promoted to First Lieutenant and to Captain during his assignments to Mannheim and Stuttgart, Germany. The family returned to the U.S. in 1978 and Capt. Harkins became Associate Professor of Military Science at Poly Tech University at Russellville, AR. Shermayne Louise was born May 8, 1950, attended Stout State at Menomonie, WI, after having spent summers helping at the resort, including her work as a Life Guard. She was married to Bob A. Cross in 1969 and they lived in Mound View, MN, until returning to Roberds Lake community in 1974. Their children are Robert John, born December 1, 1971, Scott Michael, born

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December 28, 1972, and Timothy William, born May 4, 1976. Mary Elizabeth, the youngest Harkins child, was born July 3, 1959. A neighbor, Al Voegel, gave Mary her first pony, "Comet," in 1968 and 4 years later she started her own business, the "Bucking 'C' Stable." She has since invested in a farm east of Cannon Falls and will be graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1981 with a degree in micro-biology which she intends to pursue into graduate school. Betty Lou (Fee) Harkins was born September 27, 1923. She spent her early childhood in LaCrosse and Lincoln, NE. When the family moved to Roberds Lake she attended Faribault High School, graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Home Economics. She taught for one year before her marriage to "Bill." In 1965 she returned to teaching for one year at Faribault Vocation-Technical School until accepting a position as dietician at the Faribault State Hospital, working there off and on until 1977. She had been active in the Roberds Lake School Board and the Catholic Consolidated School Board in Faribault.

HARKINS, WILLIAM HENRY AND BETTY LOU. NEE: FEE

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CERTIFICATE OF CREMATION

NAME William H. Harkins

DATE OF DEATH December 26, 2008

CITY Faribault, Minnesota

PLACE OF DEATH Rochester, Minnesota

DATE OF CREMATION December 29, 2008

Dignity Cremation Service

Parker Kohl Funeral Home
Faribault, Minnesota

Cremation I.D. Number: 399

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HARKINS, BETTY LOU. NEE: FEE

HARKINS, WILLIAM HENRY (BILL) – HUSBAND and WIFE