



A.T. Zoch Family, Standing L.-R.: Freddie, Rudy, Elmer, Henry, & Marvin Zoch. Seated L-R: Eugene Zoch, Irene Zoch Weaver, Alvin T. Zoch, Ernestine Mertink Zoch, Hattie Zoch Lovaaesen, & Evelyn Zoch Lehmann.

Alvin Theodore & Ernestine Elizabeth Mertink Zoch

Alvin T Zoch was born June 8, 1897 in Lee County, Texas several hundred yards north of the Fayette County line. His father, Karl E Zoch was born in Lee County six miles south of Giddings on December 10, 1874 and died on November 19, 1958. Alvin's mother, Anna Hanusch Zoch was born in Gleina, Sazony, Germany on January 14, 1878 and immigrated to Texas with her parents at age four. She married Karl Zoch on July 31, 1896 and died February 8, 1952. Both are buried at Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery in Warda. Karl's parents, Mathes and Maria Schneider Zoch, were born in Germany and came to Texas in 1868, or 1869. Anna Hanusch's parents were Andreas and Maria Noack Hanusch who came to America around 1882.

When Alvin Zoch started school in 1905 under teacher G M Schleier at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Warda, he could only speak Wendish. He walked to school four miles one way. In the winter he left before daylight and came home by dark. There were no bridges across the creeks. On April 9, 1911 he was confirmed in Holy Cross Lutheran Church by Pastor G. Buschacher.

Alvin Zoch was the oldest of sixteen children. Three of the children died in infancy. All remaining thirteen children of Karl and Anna Zoch attended Holy Cross Lutheran School in Warda where they learned to speak, read, and write German and English. Their children and birthdates are Alvin Zoch (6/8/1897 to 2/14/1980), Minnie Zoch Buscha Zwernemann (4/22/1898 to 1/1/1987), Ella Zoch Schulz (8/18/1899 to 7/19/1984), Martin Zoch (11/30/1901 to 3/7/1902), Ottilie Zoch Schulze (11/9/1902 to 8/4/1991), Alma Zoch Walther (11/9/1904), Walter Zoch (11/20/1906 to 6/21/1988), Anton Zoch (2/17/1908 to 8/12/1908), Arthur Zoch (4/22/1909), Carl Zoch (4/8/1911), Rosalie Zoch Woelfel (5/31/1913 to 2/23/1992), Gertrude Zoch Shelton (8/15/1914), Ann Zoch Weber (11/25/1915), Josie Zoch (12/1/1919 to 12/23/1923), Gus Zoch (1/12/1922), Paul Zoch (1/19/1924). Alvin Zoch was called to serve in the U S Army when he was 21 years old. On Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, he rode to Giddings in a horse-drawn buggy. As he arrived in Giddings, he heard a lot of noise with church bells ringing and people shouting. Alvin was told World War I was over. However, he still had to ride the train to San Antonio where he was discharged that very same day. The call was cancelled before he reached the army base.

Alvin worked on his parent's farm until he met Ernestine Mertink and married her on February 10, 1920. She was born November 19, 1897 in Serbin, Texas and attended St. Peter's Lutheran Church and School where she was confirmed on April 9, 1911 by Pastor M W Potts. She was the daughter of August Mertink (6/2/1866 to 12/28/1946) and Maria Mitschke Mertink (2/8/1872 to 6/16/1905). They were married in 1896. August and Maria Mertink's children were a set of twins (Anna Mathilda 12/7/1896 to 12/11/1896, Mathilda Ann 12/7/1896 to 12/8/1896), Anna M Mertink (2/2/1899 to 11/20/1900), Ernestine Mertink Zoch (11/19/1897 to 11/18/1983), Gustave Mertink (9/17/1901 to 1/3/1987), Rosie Malke (8/21/1904 to 7/6/1981). The twins and Anna, as well as both the parents are buried at Saint Paul's Lutheran Cemetery in Serbin. After Maria Mertink died, August married Selma Schulze on March 7, 1906 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Serbin with Rev. H T Killian officiating. Selma died 3/12/1938. August and Selma Mertink's children are Clara Mertink Abney (2/27/1907 to 6/16/1984), Alfred Mathes Mertink (9/3/1909 to 5/26/1986), Bertha Mertink McKeehan (6/5/1916) and Elia Mertink Markert (5/29/1924).

Alvin Zoch's marriage to Ernestine Mertink took place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin. It was a small wedding with only a few neighbors and relatives present.

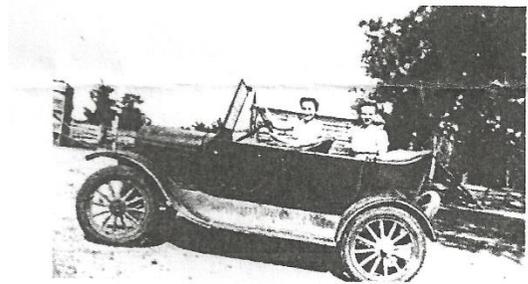
After a few days they moved to his father's place about one mile from where he was born and lived and started a new household. The first night when they moved, some young people gathered together some big plow sweeps and big cow bells and gave them a shivaree.

When this newly married couple started out their life together, it was a rather big change and experience for Ernestine. She grew up and lived in an all-white neighborhood. Now she moved into a black neighborhood. The nearest neighbor was black and lived about one-fourth mile away from the house. His name was John Stykes who had a large family of children. Most of them went through high school and college. Four of them were school teachers. They were a good Baptist Christian family. Alvin remembers seeing John Stykes sitting on his porch on Sunday afternoons reading his Bible. The other

nearest neighbors were also black Baptist Christians. The nearest white neighbors live about one mile from the house.

When Alvin and Ernestine started their lives and household together, they only had two horses, one buggy, two cows and calves, two pigs, a few chickens, a few walking farm implements, two beds, one table which was six feet long that his father had made for him, one wood cooking stove, some kitchen utensils, and two chairs. When Ernestine grew up, she did not do any planting or handling of horses. She had milked cows, hoed and gathered crops and had done all kinds of housework which included caring for her younger brothers and sisters.

When they began their life together, they made their living the best they could by adding a couple more cows, chickens, turkeys, pigs and finally began selling some cream and eggs. Once a week Ernestine hauled them to the Warda store about six miles one way in the buggy and brought home groceries. Every Sunday when they could cross the three creeks, they attended the Warda church six miles away.

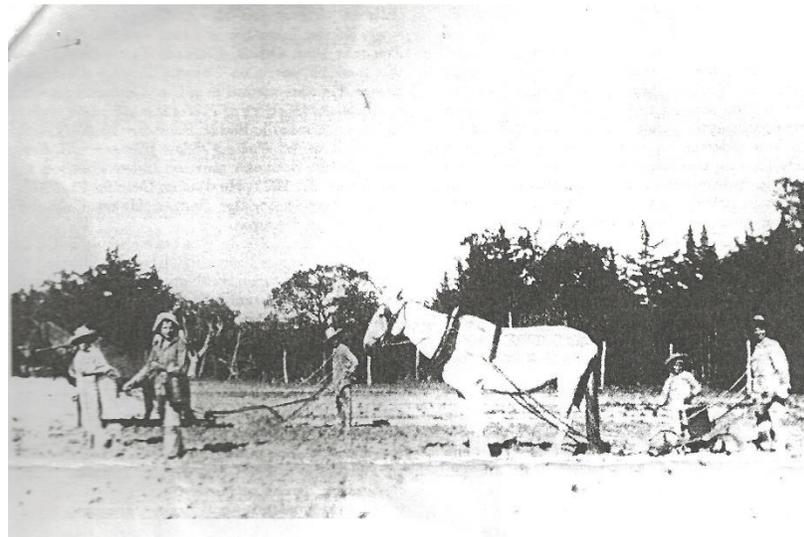


Women In Auto L-R: Hattie Zoch Lovaasen & Irene Zoch Weaver

Soon an exciting event took place. On August 15, 1922 they became parents when their first son, Henry Milton was born. The other children born on this homestead were Hattie (8/27/1923), Irene (4/20/1925), Evelyn (7/31/1927) and Marvin (3/24/1929). The buggy became too small. In the fall of 1928, Alvin got hold of a 1925 used Model T Ford touring car which was the family car until 1940.

In 1930 Henry and Hattie started school at Green Creek Church with Richard Hartfield as the teacher. They walked to school about three miles one way.

At the end of 1930, the family moved to Kasper's farm about 2.5 miles east of Warda and farmed. The crops were cotton, corn, and sugar cane from which molasses was made. They raided bountiful gardens. Sweet potatoes and watermelons were plentiful. Born here were the four youngest sons: Elmer, Rudy, Freddie and Eugene. The children walked to Warda to attend Holy Cross Lutheran School. August Lange was the teacher and Paul C Eifert was the pastor.



Planting Peanuts - 1943 Elmer, Evelyn, M. Raymond, Rudy, Irene, Children of M/M A.T. Zoch.

In 1942 the family moved to Herman Lorenz's farm and rented it. This 453 acre farm was bought a few years later. Peanuts became the number one crop.

On Sunday, February 10, 1980 Alvin and Ernestine Zoch celebrated their 60th wedding

anniversary in La Grange with family, relatives and friends by sharing their friendship, joys and blessings. On the following Tuesday they had the privilege to walk down the aisle and stand at the altar of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin where they had taken their marriage vows 60 years earlier. Two days later, Valentine's Day, February 14, 1980 Alvin Zoch died of a heart attack. Ernestine Zoch died on November 18, 1983. Both were God-fearing persons, had daily family devotions in German, and were faithful and active in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church at Warda. They are buried in the church's cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin T Zoch were the parents of nine children: Henry M Zoch (8/15/1922) and spouse Emily Bauer Zoch (5/23/1915); Hattie Zoch Lovaasen (8/27/1923) and spouse Vern Lovaasen (2/25/1924); Irene Zoch Weaver (4/25/1925) and spouse Richard Weaver (5/28/1926); Evelyn Zoch Lehmann (7/31/1927) and spouse Ernest Lehmann (11/14/1919); Marvin R Zoch (3/24/1929) and spouse Joyce Herzog Zoch ((3/14/1935); Elmer L Zoch (2/17/1932) and spouse Eva Schmidt Zoch (12/24/1941); Rudy Zoch (11/23/1934) and spouse Genie Terrebonne Zoch (3/7/1936); Freddie Zoch (8/3/1937); Eugene Zoch (7/22/1940) and spouse Barbara Peterman Zoch (1/7/1947).

The three sons and three sons-in-law and two grandsons, who served their country in the U S Army during World War II and after were Henry Zoch, Vern Lovaasen, Richard Weaver, Ernest Lehmann, Marvin Zoch, Elmer Zoch, Vern Lovaasen Jr. and Richard Weaver Jr.

There are numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The children of Henry Zoch and Ruby Keener Zoch (6/31/1931 to 2/26/1929) are: Linda Zoch Schwartz (7/13/1949) and spouse Bill Schwartz (7/16/1949) and their children Bill Schwartz Jr. (4/28/1969), Sarah Schwartz (4/28/1980) and Elizabeth Schwartz (5/4/1983); Brenda Zoch Weemes (6/10/1954) and her son Larry Weemes (9/12/1976); Henry M Zoch, Jr. (4/11/1956) and spouse Deborah Zoch (4/30/1954) and their children Clint Zoch (4/20/1975), Brian Zoch (7/8/1977), Christina Zoch (5/30/1980) and Henry M Zoch III (10/18/1982).

The children of Hattie Zoch Lovaasen and Vern Lovaasen are: Vern Lovaasen Jr. (1/26/1953; Debbie Lovaasen Barrow (6/10/1958) and spouse Chris Barrow (5/25/1960).

The children of Irene Zoch Weaver and Richard Weaver are: Pauline Weaver Gulakowski (4/10/1948) and spouse John Gulakowski (8/10/1947) and their children Jillian Gulakowski (3/27/1976); Jonna Gulakowski (3/30/1978) and John R Gulakowski (11/23/1979); Ruth Weaver Sechrist (6/9/1949) and spouse Dale Sechrist (6/25/1951) and their children Shane Sechrist (7/2/1975), Shannon Sechrist (9/29/1977), Shawna Sechrist (6/27/1982) and Shantel Sechrist (9/15/1984); Richard Weaver Jr. (9/6/1950) and spouse Joyce Patterson Weaver (7/7/1953); Warden Weaver (2/27/1952) and children Jeremiah Weaver (2/27/1980) and Anthony Weaver (4/23/1982); Daniel E Weaver (9/29/1953) and spouse Ariette Hampton Lien Weaver (8/26/1946) and their children Robert Lien (2/14/1970), Patrick Lien (1/22/1975), Daniel Lien (3/10/1979), Shannon Weaver (7/19/1981), Daniel E Weaver Jr. (11/1/1986).

The children of Evelyn Zoch Lehmann and Ernest Lehmann are: Judy Lehmann Boettcher (9/2/1951) and spouse Franklin Boettcher (4/2/1950) and their children Brian Boettcher (5/15/1974), Tamara Boettcher (6/2/1977) and Melissa Boettcher (12/23/1982); Mark Lehmann (11/19/1959) and spouse Sharon

Satorius Lehmann (5/3/1959) and their children Daniel Lehmann (1/14/1982 to 1/21/1982), Erich Lehmann (4/12/1983), Christopher Lehmann (3/15/1985) and Bonnie Lehmann (3/21/1988).

The daughter of Elmer Zoch and Eva Schmidt Zoch is Jennifer Zoch (9/18/1983).

The children of Rudy Zoch and Gennie Terrebonne Zoch are: Stephen Zoch (10/5/1967); Leah Zoch Shearer (2/24/1970) and spouse Lance Shearer (2/5/1971); Julie Zoch (7/25/1974).

The children of Eugene Zoch and Lillian Zoch are: Angela Zoch (8/27/1963) and her daughter Leighanne Zoch (9/11/1982); Patty Zoch (8/7/1965) and her son Darrell Eugene Creel (12/26/1986).

The children of Eugene Zoch and Barbara Peterman Zoch are: Kim Zoch (2/18/1971) and her son, Joseph Zoch (11/25/1990); Amy Zoch (3/22/1975).

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Written by Mrs. Irene Zoch Weaver and Dr. Rudy Zoch