

## Rudolph LORENZ - Emma HELLENBERG



Rudolph was born in Borowko near Pudewitz<sup>1</sup>, Posen on 28 Feb 1875 of Gottfried and Julianna Polzin Lorenz.<sup>2</sup> He came to the US in 1885 as 10 y/o with his mother, Julianna, and 3 younger brothers, Karl, Robert and Emil to join their father, Pauline, and Gus. He attended school in Detroit. From 1893-95 he attended Concordia Seminary and Teachers College (Lutheran) in Addison, IL and obtained his teacher's certificate. In 1897 he married **Emma Hellenberg** in Detroit.<sup>3</sup> Emma was born on 7 Aug 1878, the daughter of



Gustav Hellenberg and Caroline Eichbauer. He was called to teach elementary school, 1898-01, in Klein, Harris Co. TX (10 miles north of Houston). Two children were born there:

Alma Marie	24 Nov 1898	married Edmund Knuth
Esther	1901	never married, died 30 Jan 1930

In 1901 he was called to teach at St. John's Lutheran School in Decatur, IL. Seven children were born in Decatur:

Walter Theodore	21 Jul 1902	married Florence Rick
Ruth Emily	12 Jul 1906	married Ora Huntley
Karl	1908	died in 1908
Beata Emma	17 Apr 1910	married Tom Keck
Martin Henry	16 Jul 1911	married Lucille Roarick
Ernest Wilhelm	20 Jul 1912	married Lenore Hendrian
Victor Walter	9 Dec 1914	married Ella Kaepfen



Rudolph directed the Lutheran Church choir and later become principal of St. John's School. He played



piano, violin, organ, and gave music lessons for 50 cents each to supplement his income. He was naturalized on 19 Jun 1915.<sup>4</sup> The family lived at 1256 Leafland Ave.

In 1926 Rudolph was accused of having an affair with one of the teachers and forced to resign by the parish council. According to Martin's wife, Lucille, he was never reconciled with St. John's authorities and never attended a Lutheran Church after his



resignation except for his second wedding in Centralia, IL.

From 1927-35 he served as an Illinois state parole officer.<sup>5</sup> He was charged with holding political rallies without a permit but the case was thrown out of



court. In 1929 he was driving back to Decatur from visiting Emma's mother in Detroit. He swerved to avoid another car and rolled his open touring car into a ditch with Emma and others aboard.<sup>6</sup> Emma's arm was crushed in the accident and she was hospitalized in Kankakee where her arm was amputated. She managed the household very efficiently with just her left arm for several years. She died in a diabetic coma at age 54 on July 11, 1932<sup>7</sup> and was buried in the Lutheran cemetery in Decatur. Rudolph married **Emma NALEFSKI** 3 Feb 1934 in the Lutheran Church in Centralia.<sup>8</sup> From 1935-39 he ran a garbage collection business with 4 trucks financed by his second wife, who died in Dec. 1937. Rudolph ran for the office of

<sup>1</sup> Pobiedziska in modern Poland

<sup>2</sup> Birth record, Pudewitz record office

<sup>3</sup> Marriage certificate

<sup>4</sup> Certificate of Naturalization

<sup>5</sup> Newspaper article

<sup>6</sup> Newspaper article

<sup>7</sup> Death certificate

<sup>8</sup> Marriage certificate



Justice of Peace as a Republican and was elected in 1939. He opened an office at 149 E. Main St.<sup>9</sup> Judge Lorenz was re-elected three times and served till 1955. He also served on the Decatur Public Library board from 1919-34.

In his final years he had a neighbor, Rose, as his housekeeper. Rudolph loved to smoke cigars, play chess and was a passionate pinochle player.

During card games he was fond of cheating, which his partners, usually family, were aware of but tolerated. He was very fond of his grandchildren

and took part in their birthdays or church related celebrations. He died of cancer of the jawbone at 80 years on 12 Jan. 1956.<sup>10</sup> His funeral took place in St. John's and he was buried in the Lutheran cemetery in Decatur. He left an estate of \$34,233 to 4 sons, Walter, Martin, Ernie, and Vic, and 2 daughters, Ruth and Bea.<sup>11</sup>



1952 Bill & John Keck with grandpa Rudolph

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(to be continued)*

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<sup>9</sup> Newspaper article

<sup>10</sup> Death certificate and obituary

<sup>11</sup> Newspaper article