

4-9-2013

DEAR MARION

THANK YOU FOR THE COPIES I RECEIVED THEM. 4-5-2013. WHAT A SURPRISE TO SEE YOUR NAME ON THE PACKAGE.

I'VE HAD A GREAT LIFE A FEW PROBLEMS THE GOOD LORD HAS REALLY LOOKED OVER ME.

I GRADUATED IN 1942. WENT TO ALASKA WORK ON ALCAN HIGHWAY MADE 60 MILES OF ROAD LEARNED HOW TO RUN BULLDOZER AND ROAD GRADER.

WAS DRAFTED IN ARMY MARCH 20-1943, TOOK BASIC TRAINING IN LITTLE ROCK, AR. CAME HOME ON FURLOUGH, GOT MARRIED TO MY SWEETHEART CLASSMATE AUG-5-1943. WENT BACK TO CAMP.

SHIPPED OUT FORT HENRY, TO AFRICA-THEN NAPLES. MY DAD TAUGHT ME HOW TO RUN A ROCK CRUSHER TWO SUMMER, IN NAPLES REPLACEMENT DEPOT I WAS TO GO TO 10<sup>TH</sup> BN. INFANTRY BUT HE S CO. 235<sup>TH</sup> ENGR (C) BN SAW WHAT I COULD DO SO THAT REALLY SAVED MY LIFE.

IN CAMP - AT ~~AR~~<sup>AR</sup>. I SAW PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT. SHOOK HAND WITH GENERAL GOOD PASTER & MY CO. COMMANDER ALLEN CLARK a BRIGADIER GENERAL, ALSO THE POST COMMANDER. A MAJOR GENERAL AT. SGT JOE C. SPECKER.

METAL OF HONOR DEDICATION IN WASHINGTON 1988. THAT WAS FIRST TIME I FOUND THE COMPANY HAD REUNIONS.

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I WAS IN BOMBING-RAIDS SOMEWHERE IN  
OCEAN OR SEA AFTER GOING THRU. ROCK OF  
GIBRALTAR. AT AFRICA., WHEN THEY BOMBED  
CASSINO, STRAFING RAIDS NEAR ROMA, IN NORTHERN  
ITALY, CITY OF PORRETTA - LARGE SHELLS FROM  
RAILROAD GUNS IN BOLZANO AREA, ALSO <sup>MORTAR</sup> ~~MORTAR~~  
SHELLS. BUT THE GOOD LORD WAS  
LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

THESE ARTICLES YOU CAN KEEP OR DO  
WHATEVER.

THANKS FOR BOOKLET.

Edward D Schramm



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Ed Schramm, of Early, Iowa, watches a middle school basketball game on Tuesday. He carefully records stats at most every game he attends. Journal photo by Tim Gallagher

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FROM PAGE A1

in the U.S. Army.

33 years: Volunteer duty with Early Fire Department.

33 years: Employment at Payless Cashways, a lumberyard in this Sac County town.

29 years ago: Heart attack.

28 years ago: At his doctor's request, Schramm begins walking. One man's quiet, heart-healthy brigade.

30,200 miles: The distance he walked from 1982 to 2010, much of it chasing one white ball about two golf courses — Lake Creek Country Club near Storm Lake and Spring Lake Golf Course at Lake View, Iowa.

One year ago, his walking days became numbered. The cartilage in one knee about gone, Schramm declined surgery. He now leans on a gnarled wooden cane. It supports the program on which he jots the final score for these seventh-graders: Visitors 36, Raptors 18.

The cane accompanies Schramm north 15 miles as he steps up to the top bleacher at Siebens Fieldhouse at Buena Vista University. Buena Vista's basketball team duels Gustavus Adolphus, the first of dozens of nights Schramm will spend in a gym this season.

98-96 final. The pen stays busy with such big numbers. The bigger one belongs to the visitor.

THIS WAS IN THE SIOUX CITY PAPER. FRONT PAGE - NOV-17- MY BIRTHDAY IS NOV-1923 - SO IT REALLY MY GREAT DAY

# Schramm: Golf helped him walk 30,200 miles

## Life-saver makes his day, 80 years later

EARLY, Iowa — It's sunny and clear this Tuesday in Northwest Iowa, the 15th day of November. Ed Schramm, anxious and content, readies for a basketball quadruple-header. I sit with Schramm at midcourt, row one, as the Ridge View Raptors' seventh-graders battle Woodbury Central at 4 o'clock.

Schramm scribbles the score at each quarter break, weaving comments about bank shots and World War II around one another, often in the same fast-break sentence.

"I enjoy watching the kids play ball, whether they're seventh-graders or college kids," Schramm says.

The 1942 Early High School grad, a cager in his prep days, traded sneakers for work boots after high school. A draft notice reached his mailbox in Alaska in 1943 as he



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crushed rock for the Alaska Highway.

Schramm jots the first-quarter score in the upper-left corner of his program: 5-4, in favor of the visitors.

It's a no-no to start sentences with digits. I will anyway, as Schramm crunches a lifetime of numbers for me.

515 days: Schramm's tour of duty in World War II in a combat area, mostly Italy. Came home with nary a scratch. Operated a rock crusher and road grader. Saw Pope Pius XII.

33-plus months: Service

SCHRAMM, PAGE A7

88. Another sizable d Schramm celebrates it day. Wouldn't have seen age 8 were it not for Pa line (Thorpe) Sorenson.

Sorenson, 96, and a resident of North Lake Manor in Storm Lake, figures it was 1931. She traveled with her parents from Storm Lake to Doon, Iowa as they hauled gravel. She watched the children of workers each day.

"The kids were swimming in a pit near Doon, one that had a dropoff," she says. "Eddie went in and we couldn't see him. I swam to him as he came up. I was able to drag him to shore."

By chance, the two reconnected in 2003. His first comment: "You saved my life."

Sorenson recalls seeing a relative of Schramm last week at the nursing home. She asks if Eddie has a birthday. Everyone does.

"I figured it might be May, or some other time," Sorenson says. "When my relative told me Eddie was born on Nov. 18, 1923, I wrote it on an old thank-you card here on my stool of clutter."

The note prompts her to mail a birthday greeting. Ed Schramm looks up from the scoring ledger at the top of his page. As his life's stories go, his greatest catastrophe has a buzzer-beating finish.

"She saved my life 80 years ago," he says. "Got a birthday card from her today."

**Edward D. and Alma Lee Schramm**

Edward Schramm was born in 1923, the son of Barnhard A. and Bertha Scothorn Schramm. He married Alma Lee Covey on August 5, 1943. She was born in 1925, the daughter of John O. and Roma I. Robson Covey. Both Edward and Alma Lee graduated from Early High School.

In 1942, Edward worked on the ALCAN Highway in Alaska. He then entered the military, serving in Africa, Italy, and in Manila in the Philippines with the 235th Combat Engineers as a construction machine operator. He traveled from Naples, Italy, to Bremer Pass in Switzerland; was at Cassino, Rome, Florence, Milan, and several other cities. He saw Pope Pius XII in Rome, and was in the Leaning Tower of Pisa. While in Italy, he saw Lloyd Platt and Basil Stark also of Early. Edward was awarded five Battle Stars, five ribbons, the Good Conduct Medal, Europe-Africa-Middle East Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and Rifle Marksman medal. His company also was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and the Fifth Army Unit Commendation. While in Manila, he located and visited Tom Engler and Frank Lashier, classmates from Early. He was discharged December 29, 1945, coming home without a scratch.

Alma Lee went to school in Omaha, earning a certificate in telegraph and Morse Code and worked for the railroad before going to California as a clerk typist for the US Department of Agriculture.

Edward and Alma Lee have four children. Steven E. was born in 1946 and is married to Carole Olson Schramm. They have three children: John, Scott, and Belinda. Steven served three years in the army in Germany. They now live in Fremont, Nebraska.

Jack B. was born in 1950. He married Deborah Sandage and they make their home in Sioux City. He is a Vietnam veteran. They have two sons: Taylor, who was an Army Ranger for three years, and Seth, who served in

the Navy for three years. Merilee was born in 1952. She married Robert Dick and lives in Marshalltown. They have one son, Ryan. Colin C. lives in Kansas City, Missouri. He was in the Peace Corps for two years in Botswana, Africa.

Edward and Alma Lee were members of the Early United Methodist Church. Alma Lee had served as president of the Legion Auxiliary and was a homemaker. She passed away in 1994 after 51 years of marriage. They had spent several winters in Arizona prior to this time and had built a new home in Early in 1977-78.

At an Army reunion in 1988 in Washington, Edward had the honor to shake hands with Brigadier General Allen Clark, his company commander while serving in Italy. This was a great honor.

Edward and Alma Lee were able to travel out east to see the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, Niagara Falls, and several points of interest in Washington, D.C.

Edward has eight great-grandchildren and one step great-grandchild.

Edward has held the position of commander of the local American Legion post and was a member of the Early Fire Department for 33 years. He worked for Payless Cashways, Inc. for 33 years, the last 10 years as manager of the Early Payless store, retiring in 1983. He currently resides in his home in Early.

**Gary and Nancy Schramm**

Gary William Schramm was born in 1954 at the Buena Vista County Hospital in Storm Lake. He is the son of Jerome and Ramona (Gard) Schramm. Gary attended Sacred Heart Catholic School in Early through the eighth-grade and then attended St. Mary's High School