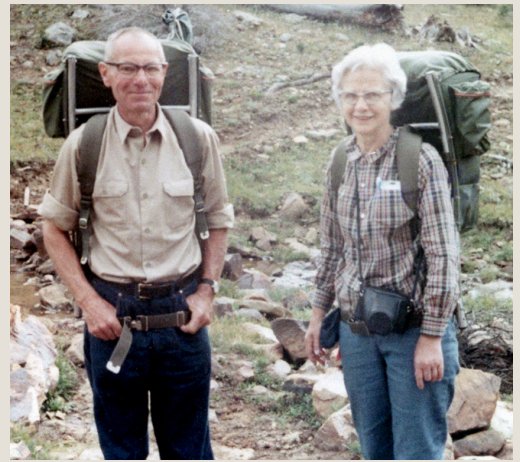


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JOHN & MARGE YOUNG

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JOHN AND MARGE YOUNG

John E. Young 1907-1998

Marjorie Klersey Young 1908-1999

If an outsider were to ask for a family name in our community that stands for commitment, loyalty and dependability – the Young family name would undoubtedly be mentioned. Marge and John Young stood for everything today’s family strives to achieve. Anyone who knew these two understood their steady pace in setting a standard of good, solid living.

John was born in Waterloo on March 8, 1907, the eldest of four children born to John A. and Gertrude Lukehart Young. As in most old German families, John’s parents instilled a strong sense of responsibility in their eldest son. John was hardworking, intelligent, dependable and had a deep sense of duty. As a child, he helped his father in the family coal and ice business. John cared for the horses used for deliveries, making sure they were fed, watered, shod and living in clean stalls. John was a high achiever in many areas and was his class salutatorian.

*Marge and John Young stood
for everything today’s family
strives to achieve.*

After high school, John went on to Iowa State University to study engineering and used his excellent skills in marksmanship to secure a spot on the rifle team. John received straight A’s during his two years at Iowa State, but the depression and family circumstances brought him back to be a part of the ice, coal and eventual lumber business of his family.

After working in the family businesses for six years, John decided to spend the weekend with some friends in Cedar Rapids. It was on that trip that he was set up on a date with their pretty, young neighbor – Marjorie Klersey.

Marge was born on May 8, 1908, the youngest of three daughters, born to Charles and Sophia Klersey. She grew up in Cedar Rapids where her father was a conductor for the Rock Island Railroad. Marge’s parents were also of German descent and her mother spoke no English until her daughters entered the public school system and taught her to speak fluently.

Marge graduated from Cedar Rapids Washington High School in 1926 where she enjoyed playing the clarinet in an all-women’s orchestra that at one time was conducted by John Phillip Sousa. She went on to complete a secretarial degree from the Cedar Rapids School of Business and worked for approximately 8 years as a legal secretary. She met John Young in September 1934 and they immediately fell in love.

Three months after they began dating John and Marge were married in the living room of Marge's parent's home. Their first home was a new rental house on Third Street in Waterloo where they began their married life together.

After their marriage and a brief trip to Chicago, John promised Marge a longer honeymoon in the spring. Later in the year, they spent two months traveling throughout the western United States, taking in several National Parks including Sequoia, Yosemite, Glacier, Yellowstone and the Black Hills. This adventure was the first of many exciting travels the couple shared on their journey through life together.

On June 26, 1936, John and Marge welcomed their first child, a daughter named Marilyn, into the world. Three years later they had a son, Jack, and finally their youngest child, Barbara, on June 13, 1946.

As time went on and the years passed, the children grew up and had marriages of their own, adding grandchildren to the family. Marilyn and Barbara each had two children, while Jack had three with his wife. Even more time passed and great-grandchildren came along, five in total from Marilyn, Barbara and Jack.

Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.