

COX, Leslie O. and Violet L.

Submitted by Janice Cox Sothman

COX - Leslie Oliver Cox was the youngest of five children born to Oliver and Florence (Ogburn) Cox on August 7, 1913. Leslie's father owned a meat market in Toulon and Florence, known as an outstanding cook, tended to the family and boarders at times. Leslie's large family home was located at the SW corner of N. Franklin and W. Commercial. He was tall and long legged which allowed him the honor of riding the big wheeled bicycle in Old Settler's Parades. The big wheeled bicycle can be seen today in the attic of the Toulon Historical Society home. Leslie graduated from Toulon High School and at age 21 he and a friend set out for California in an old Model A or T... Go West Young Man! Twenty miles out of town they had their first flat tire which was probably not the last on that long trip. After 6 months in California he moved back to Toulon. In 1941 Les, as most people called him, joined the Army and was stationed as a guard at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

On Christmas night in 1942 at a USO Dance in Kansas City he met Violet Vernon whom he married, April 17, 1943. Leslie was transferred to Rio, Brazil where he censored mail for the Army. After WWII, Leslie and Violet made their home in Kansas City, Missouri, where their two children were born, Janice Sue, born October 7, 1946, and Ronald Dean, born June 13, 1948. Shortly after Ronald was born Leslie and Violet moved their family to Toulon where they resided for the remainder of their lives.

Violet Lorraine Vernon was born October 26, 1915, to Roy and Vica Vernon in Eldon, Missouri. Her father was a railroad mechanic and family moved multiple times through Missouri and Kansas when she was a child. Violet said that all they owned fit in one trunk because they never knew when they would be transferred to another railroad town. Violet loved her church and was very proud she had been a Baptist since she was 3 weeks old when her parent first took her to their Baptist church. Her devotion to her faith and church continued after her move to Toulon at the First Baptist Church where she also taught Sunday School at times. Violet really enjoyed helping out at church in anyway she could be of service. She rarely missed a Sunday church service and loved her church family.

Many of Les and Vi's friendships were life long friends or relatives of Les' and lived in the Toulon/Stark County area. The annual summer baseball team picnic sometimes at Lake Calhoun continued on long after the team had disbanded. It was an event many local team member's families looked forward to every summer. Life long friend, Bruce Fell, wife Fern and children Terri and Gary, were frequent vacation traveling companions on summer trips to Wisconsin resorts. Saturday nights of friendship, cards, and laughter were enjoyed with the Fell's throughout the years.

Leslie worked for Rashid's Grocery, Kraft cheese factory in Toulon, Caterpillar and Hyster, from which he retired. He enjoyed collecting coins, stamps and loved to garden. There was always a

huge garden planted behind the barn of the E Greenwood Street home where they lived and raised their family. There was always plenty of produce to share with neighbors and friends. Violet worked for the Stark County New, U.S. Soil and Water Conversation and Toulon Township. Quilting, cross stitch embroidery, and genealogy were her passion. She was a member of the Stark County Genealogy Society at its inception.

Leslie and Violet were members of the First Baptist Church of Toulon and Toulon American Legion, VFW and Auxiliary. They are the grandparents of Anna Traenkeschuh born February 17, 1975, in Peoria, to their daughter, Janice. Leslie died September 8, 1993 and Violet on October 18, 2006. Janice now resides in Menomonee Falls, WI and Ron in Kansas City, MO. Both have fond memories of a happy childhood growing up in Toulon.

Pictures: Leslie & Violet in 1943

