

## An Interview with Molly and Larry Hill By Dawn Russell

Molly Ebert Hill was born in the Town of Walworth. She was one of ten children. Her mother, Norma Grimes Ebert, was a homemaker and her father, John Ebert, was a farmer, saw mill operator, and thrasher. Molly remembers as a child picking strawberries every day they were in season - hulling them by hand and saving the big ones to eat and the little ones for her mother to make jam. They would have them for lunch and supper. To this day she won't eat strawberries anymore.

She went to Lincoln District School #10 until the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, then attended Walworth High School until she graduated. While at Walworth School, Molly was a cheerleader and Bernard Hill (her brother-in-law-to-be, unbeknown to her at that time) was also a cheerleader. Molly had many friends at school including Ruthie VanHaneghem (Reybrouck), Florence VanBortel (Collier), Phyllis Dayton (Brown), Joyce Goebert (VanHaneghem), Beryl Whitmire (Morrison), and Marge Miller (Hyman), to name a few.



Molly remembers Friday night basketball games at the school. After cheerleading at the games, Molly and Ruthie would run as fast as they could to the Walworth fire hall for the dances. She remembers Charlie Pembroke playing the music and she and Ruthie would dance for hours.

**(1948 Walworth Cheerleaders: Front row, left to right – Joyce Goebert, Ruth VanHaneghem, Molly Ebert, and Margaret Perkins. Back row – Beryl Whitmire, Katie Luke, Bernard Hill, Shirley Smith, and Marilyn Lynn.)**

Larry Hill was born on County Line Road in West Walworth. He was one of seven children. His mother, Bertha, was a homemaker and his father, Forrest, worked for area farmers and was a great fiddler. Larry attended West Walworth District School #3 through grade 8.

At age sixteen he was employed at the car shops in East Rochester. He continued on and was employed at Kodak for 36 years. Later in life Larry worked for the Ontario Highway Department, under the supervision of Al Blythe. While there he formulated the mapping plans and installed air and water lines for the highway department's new building to store the town trucks. Larry's last employment was with the Walworth Highway Department, under the supervision of Dan Keyes. Larry worked until age 81. He also remembers doing mechanical work through his careers.

After his father passed away, Larry's mom would ask him to sit next to her for a few hours and play the fiddle; this is a very special memory of his. Larry received his musical talent from his father. Larry had a band called "Larry and the Music Makers." He played the banjo, bass and cordovox. The band was together for over 40 years, performing at the golf club, Walworth alumni school banquets, Walworth street dances, and other places. Larry remembers the band going to Ray Bavis' barber shop after closing time to "jam." He learned to be a square dance caller by listening to his father call the moves.



**(Left photo: 1960's - "Larry and the Music Makers Band." Left to right – John Duffy, Eddie Merrill, Larry Hill, Glenn Hyman, and Owen Bassage.) (Right photo: Molly and Larry at a recent WHS meeting)**

Molly and Larry met at a basketball game in 1948 when Molly was a cheerleader at the Walworth High School. They would go to the dances at the Walworth Fire Department. One year later, in 1949, they were married in Lincoln Baptist

Church. They have two children - their son who lives in California and their daughter who passed away seven years ago. They are blessed with five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Molly and Larry live on Albright Road in Walworth in the house Larry built 57 years ago. They have been married 66 years. In their golden years, Molly enjoys cooking and baking, while Larry enjoys playing the keyboard. They attend the Lincoln Baptist Church where they were married and are active members of the Walworth Historical Society. Molly and Larry Hill are persons whom we can be proud to say are part of the Walworth community.