



History & Memories of Court 2063

Festina, Iowa

By Norbert Hackman

On May 2nd, 1949 the first meeting was held. State Representative Leo Conrad was present. At the meeting they set up some rules and had election of officers. They are on the back of the programs. Then the 4th meeting they had decided to have a corn husking bee at Herb Einck's farm which is where Dale Ott lives now. Herb was not well and decided to quit farming. In the winter, he had a sale so the C.O.F. had a lunch stand and they cleared \$12.49.

In 1949 the officers of Chief Ranger was Norb Buchheit for many years then Irvin Wenthold and others held the office in later years. Then around 1979, Irvin passed away and we didn't have any meetings until November 26th, 1984. I was appointed Chief Ranger and have been ever since until 2023 and then Ken Ehler was appointed. From 1979 until 1984, Lawrence Buchheit, Bob Lensing & Kyran Lutkenhaus were sending in reports as needed to keep us active court for the home office. The Vice Chief Ranger was Hugo Schrandt and then there were a lot of different people in the 60's & 70's – there was a different person almost every year.

Recording Secretary was a little different, Hugo Thuente had the job until 1958, then Carl Bushman in 1959; Kyran Lutkenhaus in 1960, and Bob Lensing in 1962. Financial Secretary Jerome Lensing was first and others that had the office was Adolf Bullerman, Joe Ettledorf, Herb Einck, and Lawrence Buchheit and now his son Ron Buchheit. Treasurer Lawrence Buchheit had this job for a long time and then different people until 1970 when Ron Buchheit was elected and held the job until Myron Hackman was elected.

Trustee, Counselor's and Sentinels were just positions with name on paper and they didn't really do any specific job. The Counselors would hold up the cross flag to salute at the close of the meeting.

Speakers was a job that changed almost every year. This job was to set up social events, arrange for food and drink and a place to have these events. Some names are Joe Bochman, Othmar Hackman, William Mssman, Hugo Schrandt, Neil Huinker, Ted Lechtenberg, Norb Einck, Lawrence Buchheit, Frank Hageman Jr., Mike Einck and Norbert Hackman and others. Then the title was changed to program director. Youth director is something that really started in the 1960s. Before that, the youth director had their own meeting and we were never there. Some of the past youth directors were Irvin Wenthold, Kyran Lutkenhaus, Norb Einck, Norbert Hackman, Mike Einck and now Alan Wenthold.

We had a lot of members that never missed a meeting and only quit when they passed on or moved away.

In 1951, the NEI district voted to pray Rosary during lent on the radio KDEC station from Decorah, Iowa. Forester members from the Courts in NE Iowa led the Rosary live on the radio. Some of the leader's from Festina Court were Irvin Wenthold, Norb Einck, Ron Buchheit, Kyran Lutkenhaus, Norbert Hackman and Lawrence Buchheit along with 2 or 3 other members would answer. Then in 1995, we switched to Cresco radio station and they did not do live praying. Every Court made a recording and they kept them from year to year.

Festina recording was made during the day. Norbert Einck and Norbert Hackman would drove there and go into a room with recorders. Rosaria Einck led the rosary and Norb Einck, Norbert and Elnore Hackman answered it. On our way home, we stopped at Decorah and had pizza at Mabes Pizza and it was a nice day. Festina Rosary society also made a tape and paid their expense of playing it on the radio. Germaine Holthaus was the leader.

In the 50's and 60's our Court had summer picnics, (not every year) but when we did it was for the whole family. One year we had a

picnic at the Inwood park with Ft. Atkinson Court but most of the time we had it by Festina School started in 1955 and up. Also in 1951 we had a lot of young members and started a basketball team. Ambrose Buchheit and Kenny Huinker were players and managers. We had games at the St. Lucas gym, played at Fort Atkinson gym and the Ossian hall. Most games were at St. Lucas and we even had C.O.F. basketball uniforms.

Then during the Korean war, we had farewell party for the members who went to war and then returned home.

In 1953 for a fundraiser, we had a live donkey ball game in Festina. We invited Fort Atkinson court to play against us and of course we won. It was a fun time. You had to bat with a scoop shovel, get on a donkey and head for the first base. Then the fielder had to ride his donkey to the ball, get off, pick it up and ride the donkey to the runner. He could then throw the ball but the player had to catch it or ride the donkey to where the ball went. Get off and pick it up and ride back to the runner to get them out.

In 1954 we had an initiation in Festina and candidates from around Courts came here and I was one at that time. Then in 1960 or 1961 our members that went to Calmar church started their own Court known as St. Al's 2156 so our Court was much smaller after that.

By 1960 or so we had enough youth members to start to have Christmas parties for them. Norb Hackman and Ron Buchheit were Santa during those years.

In the early years, we foresters would receive communion in the body always on the first Sunday of Advent and have a high mass said for our deceased members and we wore our badges.

In 1967, Mrs. Joe Bockman was ill with cancer for a long time and needed a lot of blood from the Rochester blood bank and we

had about 12 members return blood to the bank. We had to drive to Rochester, MN to do this so we pooled cars so that we could go there.

In 1977 we had extra money in our treasurer's account so we bought new bats and balls for our school children in Festina.

In 1987 we had our 1st matching fund breakfast for church steeple repair on Festina church and had 9 since that time for total of 10 fundraisers. One of them was for Jim & Jane Wenthold on their house fire in 1998 and also Norb Lechtenberg in 1989. Father Graf and Norb Hackman delivered the checks to their homes.

In 1989 we hosted a district meeting and we did again in 1999 on October 24th.

In 1991 Iowa State Court trustee Ray Dockendorf of New Hampton passed away and left his position open for someone else. I knew Ray well and planned to try for it in 1992 convention when his time would have expired because of his age as he would have been over 70 years old. I called Rick Haage and told him I'd be interested if the Iowa State Court had to appoint one. The Iowa State Court did and I was sworn in December of 1991. The Iowa State Court convention was in 1992 and I was elected to the office until 2008. The C.O.F. only has conventions every 4 years and were held in Waterloo, Dubuque and Cedar Rapids.

In the 90s the State Court had a very active court visitation program to try and keep some inactive courts going. Some courts still failed so in 1998, the high court and State Court asking different courts that were close together to merge. Clermont Court #2076 was asked to join us and they said they would and in 1999 it became final. I think they would be 50 years old that year also and we have some of their members here today. Members were Ken & Doris Wagner, Lloyd Meier and Gerald Fossbinder from Clermont court now merged with us Festina court #2063. In 2008 Festina had 158

members and that year Festina hosted a Legion of honor celebration with about 45 legion of honor present. Good time for all.

Matching fund history – 1987 the first one we had and started out \$500 that you had to match \$1000. Our parish had 9 and were about to have extra one. The hardship after 1998 the matching fund was \$1000 and needed to make \$2000 profit. Starting in 2009 matching funds could be \$1500 with extra \$500 for and extra \$1000 profit raised.

We had one every year since. Also hardship for Norbert Lectenbergh. I don't remember the year but Father Graf was our priest. He and I brought the check to their home. With Jim Wenthold Father Graf and Norbert Hackman brought the check to their home when they lived in Ossian before new home was built. The amount of money we got from 1987 to 1998 Festina church was a lot. Then 1998 to 2008 10 year at \$1000 per year came to \$10,000. Then 2008 to 2021 include come to \$19,500 for a total of \$41,000. Then in 2022, 2023 and 2024 add another \$4,500. This matching fund program really helped our parish a lot and we all worked together and another sign of what the C.O.F does for people.

Some highlights to remember – Iowa State Court C.O.F had golf tournaments, bowling, summer softball between state tournaments. I played in one in Gilbertsville Iowa in about 2002 and Iowa beat Ohio State but I don't remember the score. I made an unbelievable catch in left field to save the game for the 3rd out. The story and picture of me made it to the National COF magazine. What a big day! Also C.O.F had basketball shootout for kids and Festina had ours in Calmar school gym. We had trophies and pizza party after the kids all had their turn on a Sunday afternoon. Alan Wenthold and Steve & Mike Einck did the contest almost every year we played it.

In the 1960s Festina had Christmas party and a Santa Claus when we had a lot of youth members. We would play a few games and after Santa Claus we had lunch on a Sunday afternoon. Elnore Hackman, Rosaria Einck, Rita Wenthold, Bev Lutkenhaus and Doris Lensing did the arranging most of the time. Elnore Hackman did a lot of behind the scenes work for Foresters while I was an officer and president. Elnore put together photo albums with lots of pictures and news in our church bulletin, and hand out trophies for basketball shoot out winners.

In the 1950s the foresters had badges with 2 sides, black was for funerals and red was for meetings and church services. Around 1975 we started to wear baldric's – that's a black or red banner over your left shoulder and clip together by your right hip about 4 inches wide. Ft. Atkinson, St. Lucas, Calmar and Festina bought 10 together and shared them to wear at funerals. I checked with Ft Atkinson Court and Elmer Schmitt has them at his house. They were quite expensive at \$35 each back in 1949 when we started the court had 2 members elected call sentinels. They were seated by the door and when member came late, they didn't let them in. The Sentinels ask Chief Ranger if he could let them in and tell Chief Ranger who they were if they didn't know the password or a special handshake called the C.O.F grip.

When we started our court in 1949 we were assigned to the NE Iowa district and they had a meeting every fall. The NE Iowa district had about 12 C.O.F courts back then and we would take turns to host the meeting. I don't remember the dates that Festina court hosted the meetings but I'm sure we did it 4 or 5 times to date (2023 year). They were quite a lot of fun visiting with other courts. We always had members meetings first with the officers and we always had only one from each court. Then we had a 30 minute for social and then a big meal – such as ham or swiss steak dinner. When the Foresters had State and district meeting there was always a time set

aside for social gathering and refreshments. In the early years, just men were Foresters members but at these events, the wives could come along if they wanted to and they would play cards in another room during the C.O.F meeting and then come together for social and dinner to make it a fun Sunday afternoon. Not a lot of Festina members would come to them but Elnore and I would go every year. They were always held in the fall – usually October. When I was a State Trustee, our Iowa State Court meeting was just before Christmas. Mostly in Cedar Rapids, Waterloo & Dubuque and we would change off between the towns. They were overnight meeting and a lot of things to decide. We'd start with a mass at around 5 pm and finish on Sunday morning and leave for home around 11:30 am.

Let's go back to 1991 when I got on the Iowa State Court before that Festina Court never had a member on the State court. And we in Festina never had a member to the national convention which was always held every 4 years. The more active courts would pick enough delegates to go National conventions like Dubuque, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, New Hampton etc. Starting in 1992 when I got on the State court, I was asked to go to the national convention as a delegate. Since then I have gone to the national conventions every 4th year till 2012 when I was no longer on the state board. National conventions I attended was in 1992 in Grand Rapids, MI, 1996 in Boston MA, 2000 in Milwaukee WI and 2004 in Louisville KY, 2008 at home office in Chicago IL, 2012 in Minneapolis MN, 2016 in Green Bay WI and 2020 I didn't go. National convention was a big deal and we always had a nice side trip in the afternoon – in Green Bay we had dinner on a boat; in Chicago a city tour bus and each bus took a different route to avoid traffic jams. In Boston Elnore was living yet and we took a trip on our own to Cape Cod Island by boat to where the Kennedys live and the church where he had his funeral mass. Also the history about the MTA and where is started. MTA was the first underground mass transportation in the United States the big

cities to move people from one place to another in a hurry. That was very interesting to see how they could build it when the city was already there. Going underground and then above ground where necessary. Cheers was a popular TV show at the time and was being made and filmed in Boston so when we got there we went into the bar to see where and how it was made. And when we flew home the airplane was overbooked and we got pushed to first class – really nice! I have never flown in first class section. We had menus to order hot food and free drinks – and nice wide seats. What a way to go.

On the state conventions since 1992 I was appointed Chairman of the resolutions committee until 2004. 4 conventions I served as chairman. The State of Iowa directors would appoint 5 other people to serve with me and decided how to word them on the resolutions. Some were quite long and try to decide and not lose its meaning. Then I would present them to the whole convention body and they would vote on them. That usually took about an hour and was a pretty tough job on some resolutions and keeping people in order but I enjoyed it. Going back to some activities, I played in golf tournament every summer since 1992 and I had a lot of different partners as the tournaments were always 2 person best shot. Most of the time it was another state director I worked with. One year in the Dubuque golf course, high chief Ranger David Huber from Chicago came to Iowa to play and didn't have a partner and I volunteered to play with him and we won a little money. The scores are put in classes and about 3 people in each class so if you had 6 or 7 classes and 3 winners in each class you have quite a few winners and a nice way to do it. David Huber really enjoyed playing with me and since then when we meet he has to talk about it again. We always played at different courses – Waterloo, Manchester, Dubuque etc. Kyran Lutkenhaus and Art Huinker were partners and

played in Dubuque that year also. They had a much better score than David and I did. I think they were 1st place in their class.

Also bowling I used to play every winter the team I was on was other directors from Iowa State Court. It was just a fun game because our team didn't bowl at any other time. My score was usually about 120 and we never won any money but it was fun anyway.

Iowa State Court had a Christmas party after our meeting on a Saturday afternoon, the wives would go shopping awhile and then we would have supper and mass around 5 pm and exchange gifts after supper. And we would open our gifts one person at a time and tell who it was from. I would bring my guitar and song books along to sing until midnight and drive home Sunday morning. I don't know if they still do that. I was on the Iowa State Court board from 1992 until 2008 and we had one every year at Christmas since then.

In sports golf, my son Michael Hackman and some of his school friends from St. Lucas and Ft. Atkinson courts played also. It was a good time for all and nice to see his friends were also forester members from St. Lucas and Fort Atkinson courts. Also in bowling they played together also – Michael was the only one from Festina court – which is something Festina will have to work on.

Through the years we had merit awards that when certain member did something special in the communities. Legion of Honor was given to member when they did special things like serve on school boards, parish counsel, lectors and pass out communion, visit the sick. I was the first member to receive this award from the Festina court in about 1997. Since then I have recommended others like Alan Wenthold, Mike Einck, Kyran Lutkenhaus, Ron Buchheit – they were all approved by the high court and received a plaque and pin. Bob Lensing passed away before he got his award and we were only allowed 1 person per year to receive the award. The Northeast

Iowa district would occasionally have a Legion of Honor dinner and recognition. It was held on a Sunday afternoon in some central town in Iowa and social time and recognizing new members with free dinner. Our court #206 will have to nominate someone to receive this high honor. It is a nice honor to have and be remembrance for you while you were a member of the C.O.F.

Other things that happen through the years were Norb Buchheit served on the NE Iowa District Court for some years while he was Festina Chief Ranger. And after that, Herb Einck and Lawrence Buchheit and Ken Schneberger and others that I don't remember that served on the District Court. From the Calmar Court, Lawrence Elsbernd, Steve Lensing and Jim Huber also served at different times as only 1 from their court at a time can serve on the District Court. In St. Lucas Court Arnold Luzum served as the president of the district court for many years. And DeVere Manderfield and others served from their court. I don't remember Fort Atkinson had a lot of members that were very active. Phil Huber and Tony Elsbernd family had many others serve on all kinds of committees.

Leo Elsbernd was a State Court trustee from Ft. Atkinson Court many years before me and the priest from Ft. Atkinson was the district spiritual director for a long time. I don't remember the years and they were very good court. They even had a dance one winter at the legion hall in Ft. Atkinson. The Festina Court was invited to attend and a lot of them went to the dance. Paul Hackman and I attended and we were both teenagers. And from Calmar Court Jim Huber served as the State of Iowa treasurer for a long time. Maybe started in 1990 and until 2008 when Jim and I were both over 70 years old. That was a high court rule of law from when it started at least 150 years ago. Back then people didn't live as long as they do today.

This is my recollection of memories of all the things that have happened in the past 75 years.

Chief Ranger

Norbert Hackman

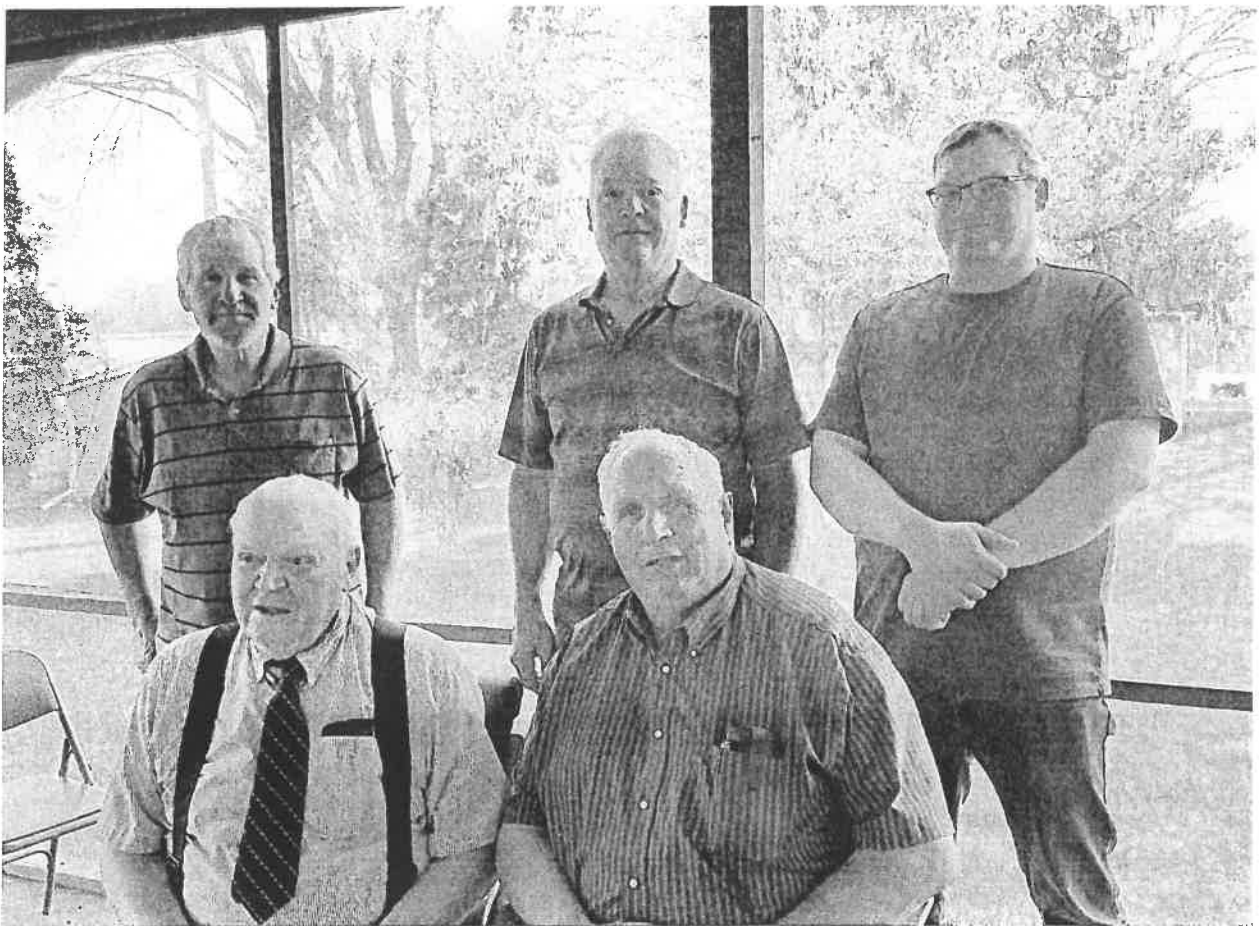
This history Norb Hackman wrote in winter of 2025. Then in the spring, Dennis Luzum and Norb Hackman were members of COF for 75 years. We don't know Dennis's exact month but Norb joined in May of 1950 -- This is a very special and high award for the COF. We had Father Huber, our Festina priest at the time hand out the award at a mass on May 10th, 2025 to make it special. After mass we took picture of family's and other COF members as we each had our own there at mass. After that, Norb Hackman had his family and few friends to his house for pizza and ice cream along with fellowship for a couple hours. Good time for all. I am also adding a list of our present officers for 2025.

Officer List

Chief Ranger	Ken Ehler
Vice Chief Ranger	Michael Hackman
Secretary	Norb Hackman
Treasurer	Myron Hackman
Youth Director	Jordan Hackman

Trustee's – Ken Ehler, Michael Hackman and Myron Hackman

Our plans for the future is to remain strong and be available for Parish and community work in Festina, Iowa. Also plan to increase our membership with younger people for the future years. We want to continue to be eligible for matching fund programs which is very helpful program for our parish and the history of our Court #2063.



Front Row --- Norb Hackman, Secretary; Ken Ehler, Chief Ranger

Back Row – Myron Hackman, Treasurer; Michael Hackman, Vice Chief Ranger and Jordan Hackman, Youth Director

May 10, 2025

CHIEF RANGERS FROM 1949 – 2024

In order of service ----

Norb Buchheit

Ervin Wenthold

Greg Lutkenhaus

Luke Kuennen

Ervin Wenthold

Herb Einck

Nobert Hackman

Leo Luzum

Hugo Schrandt

Ervin Wentholdt

Norbert Einck

Ervin Wentholdt

Norbert Hackman

Ken Ehler

CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS

ST. MARY COURT NO. 2063

CHARTER MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 01, 1949

1. Hugo C. Thuente
2. Quentin J. Hageman
3. Norbert C. Buchheit
4. Gregory Lutkenhaus
5. Rudolph Lutkenhaus
6. Anton J. Lutkenhaus
7. Jerome W. Lensing
8. Lawrence Buchheit
9. Joseph H. Dumer
10. William Massmann
11. Hugo B. Schrandt
12. Mark D. Buchheit
13. Herbert J. Einck
14. Albert A. Bushman
15. Othmar G. Hackman
16. Theodore Lechtenberg
17. Joseph P. Etteldorf
18. LaVern Bushman
19. Cornell J. Schrandt
20. Lawrence J. Elsbernd
21. Paul J. Elsbernd
22. Jerome T. Einck
23. William G. Schrandt
24. Sabinus A. Buchheit
25. Ervin B. Wenthold
26. Kenneth Schneberger

50th Anniversary



Festina Court 2063 Catholic Order of Foresters

The Catholic Order of Foresters, Festina Court 2063, are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year! You are cordially invited to attend a mass of thanksgiving on Sunday, July 18, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Seven Dolors Church in Festina, followed by a reception at the Train Station in Calmar with dinner at 11:30 a.m.

Chief Ranger, Norbert Hackman

R.S.V.P. by July 12th @ (319) 534-7796

Festina Court 2063

Catholic Order of Foresters

Festina, Iowa



50th Anniversary
1949 - 1999

Court 2063 Officers *1949*

Chief Ranger-----*Norbert Buchheit*
Vice Chief Ranger-----*Hugo Schrandt*
Recording Secretary-----*Hugo Thuent*
Financial Secretary-----*Jerome Lensing*
Treasurer-----*Lawrence Buchheit*
Trustees-----*Herb Einck*
Albert Bushman
Othmar Hackman
Conductors-----*Lawrence Elsbernd*
Sabinus Buchheit
Sentinels-----*Ervin Wenthold*
Paul Hackman
Speaker-----*Ken Schneberger*
Spiritual Advisor-----*Fr. Nobsch*

Program

Master of Ceremonies-----*Norbert Hackman*
Invocation-----*Fr. Hawes*
History-----*Norbert Hackman*
State Court Greetings-----*Cletus Schmitt*
State Chief Ranger
High Court Greetings-----*Gilbert Clemens*
High Court Trustee
Awards-----*Gilbert Clemens*
Closing Prayer-----*Fr. Hawes*

Court 2063 Officers *1999*

Chief Ranger-----*Norbert Hackman*
Vice Chief Ranger-----*Norbert Einck*
Recording Secretary-----*Robert Lensing*
Financial Secretary-----*Ronald Buchheit*
Treasurer-----*Kyran Lutkenhaus*
Trustees-----*Rosaria Einck*
Beverly Lutkenhaus
LaVerne Bushman
Youth Director-----*Alan Wenthold*
Spiritual Directors-----*Fr. Richard Kuhn*
Fr. Cletus Hawes



1984

Receiving 50 Year Pin

Norbert Buchheit



1988

Receiving 50 Year Pin

Lawrence Buchheit

Receiving Pin but not Present

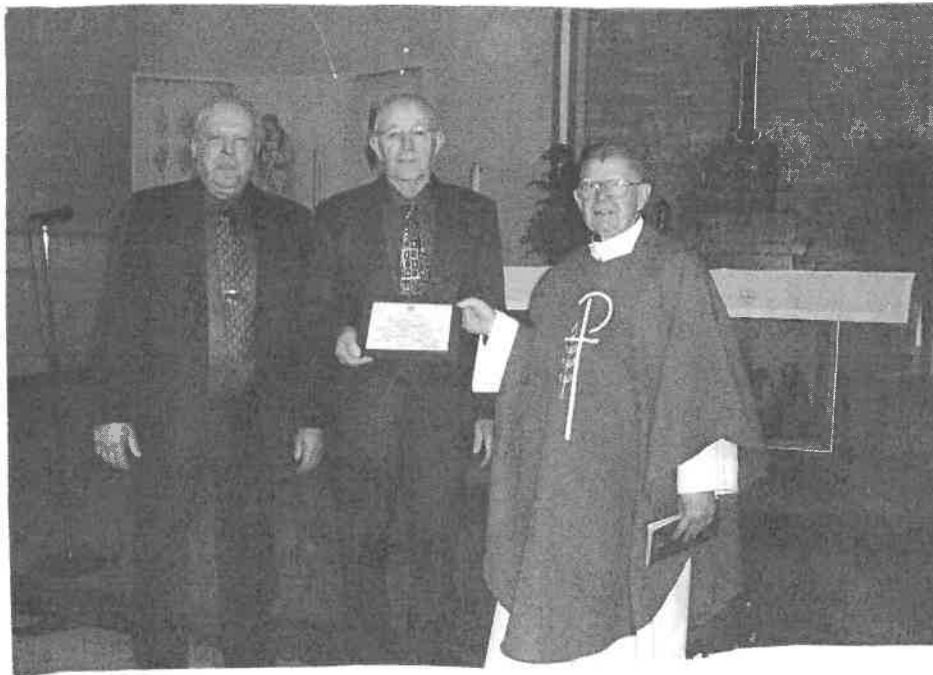
Paul Elpert
Jerome Lensing



Kenny Schneberger

50 Year Pin

1998



Kyran Lutkenhaus
Legion of Honor Award
2006

Pictured on left to right –
Norbert Hackman
Kyran Lutkenhaus
Msgr. Cletus Hawes



1994

Receiving Merit of Honor Award

Norbert Hackman



Receiving Merit of Honor Award

Allen Wenthold



Matching Fund Soup Supper

Nov. 17, 2006

Pictured on left to right –

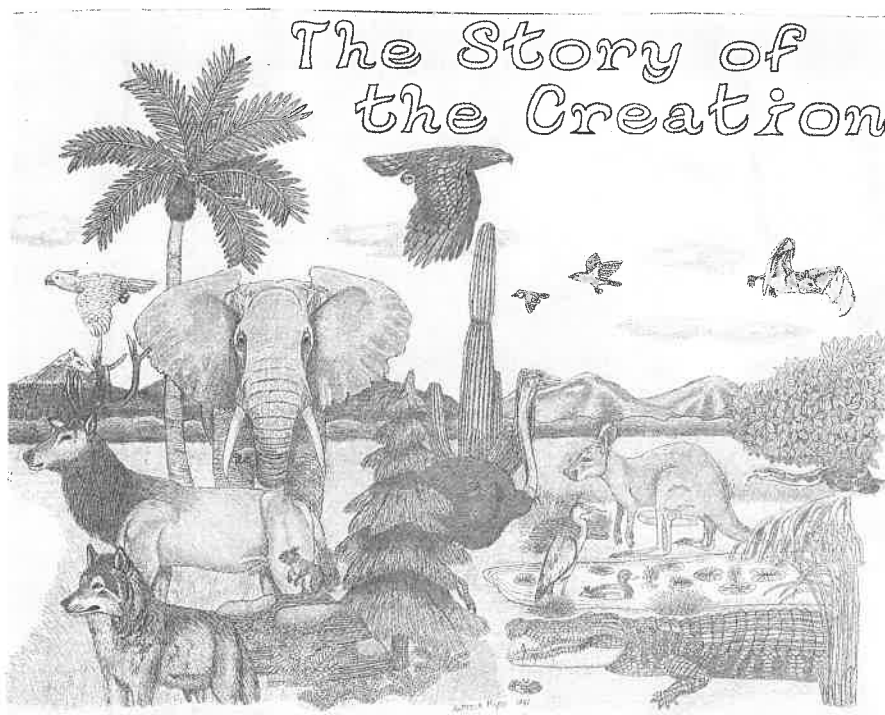
Front row – Bernice Buchheit, Arlene Huinker & Irma Thuente

Second row – Steve Einck, Norb Hackman, Ken Ehler and Ron Buchheit



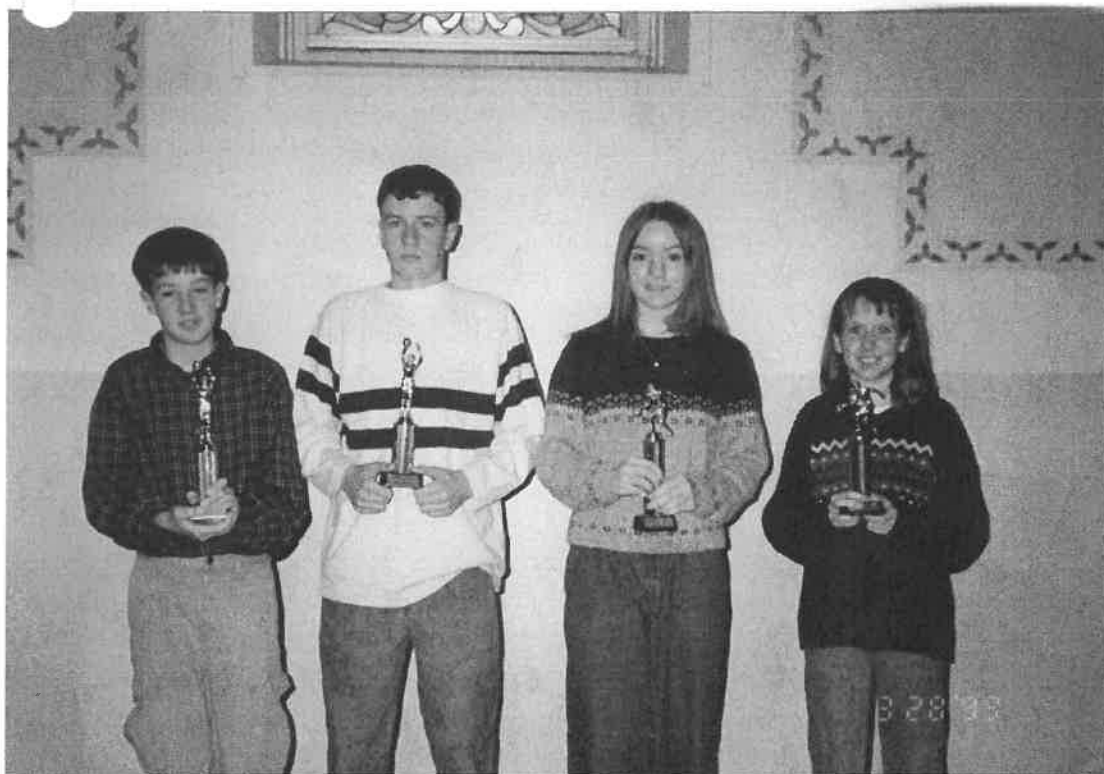
Patrick Kipp was presented a prize for his drawing from Chief Ranger Norbert Einck of St. Mary's Catholic Order of Foresters of Festina.

Patrick Kipp
winning the Poster
contest in the Senior
division in the National
contest. The Theme,
"My Favorite Bible
Story."



**First
Place**

Patrick Kipp, 17, Fort Atkinson, Iowa, St. Mary Ct. 2063.
"A remarkable rendering. Beautifully executed. Finely
detailed. Excellent use of value, texture, and rhythm to
create a panorama that breathes with life."



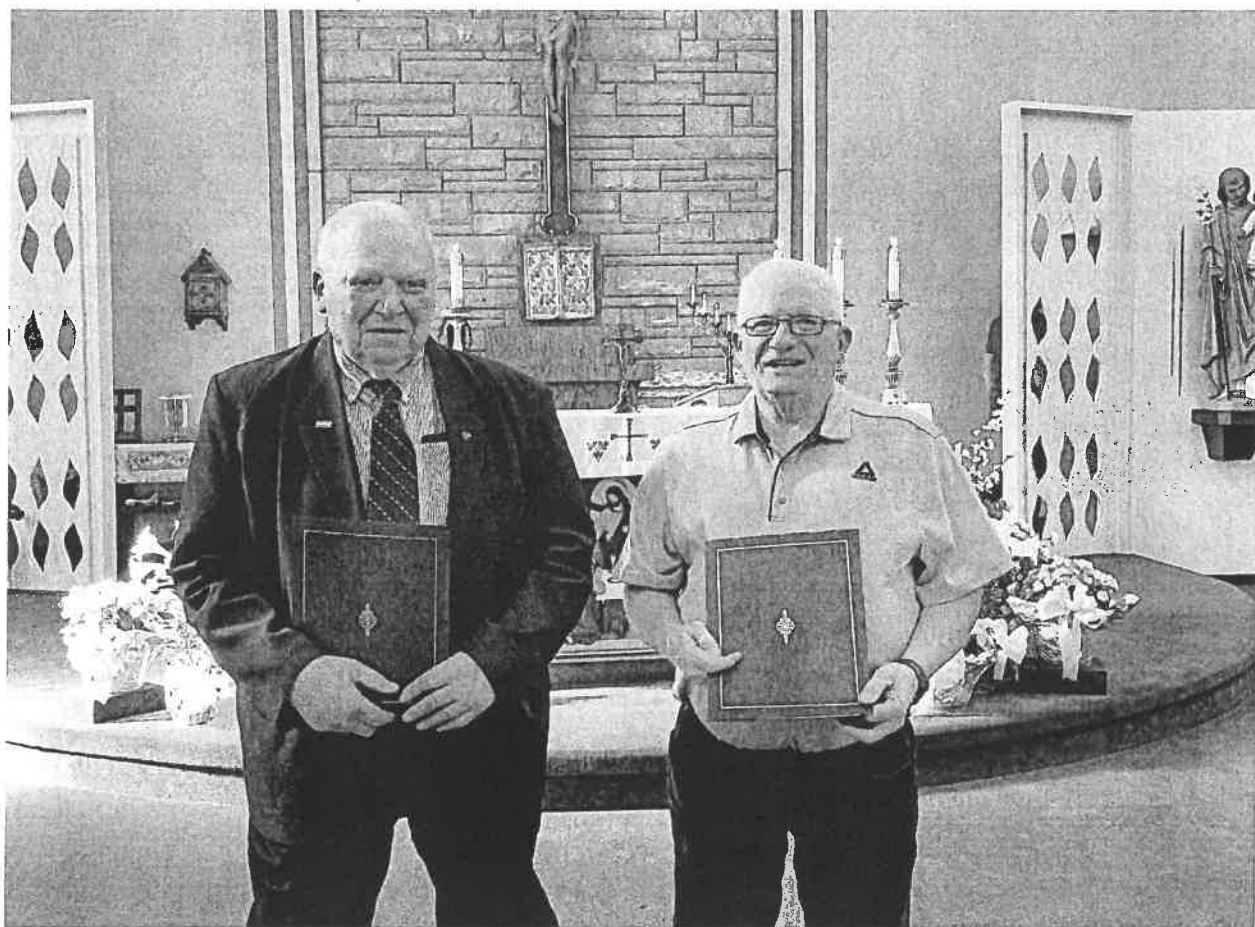
1999

Shoot out winners

Wade Einck - 3rd place
 Darren Einck - 3rd
 Lindsey Buchheit - 1st
 Bre Anne Einck - 2nd



The Shoot out winners
 are joined by Youth
 Director, Alan Wenthol
 and Chief Ranger, Norb
 Hackman

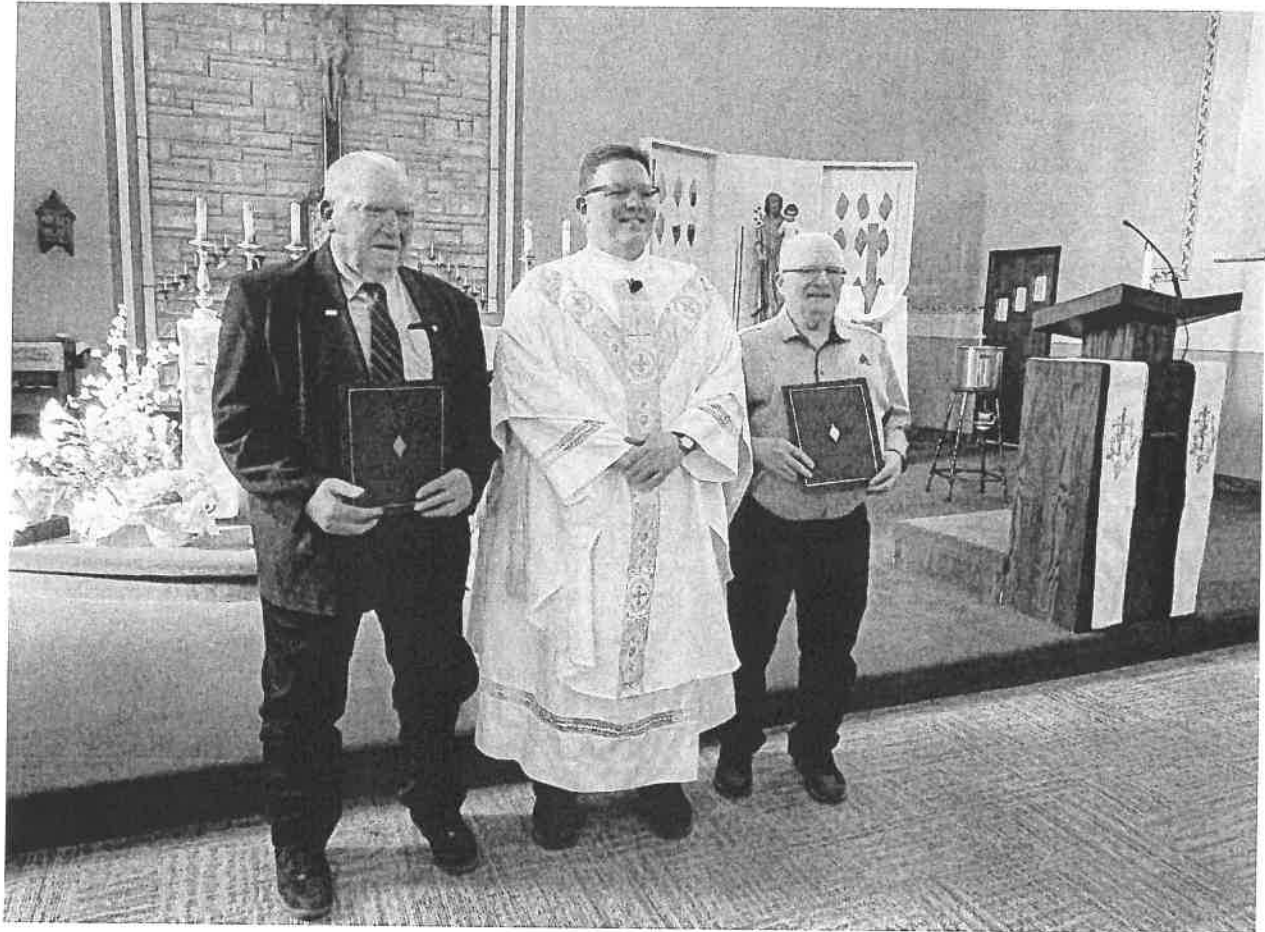


Norb Hackman

Dennis Luzum

75 year recipients COF Member

May 10, 2025



Norb Hackman

Father Huber

Dennis Luzum

May 10, 2025