

Mabel and Chester Reinmuth Family



Mabel Edith Martin about age 14 soon after moving to Dalton.

Mabel Edith Martin was the eldest child of Herman and Mary Martin. She was born September 12, 1895 in Bancroft, Nebraska. No doubt she was kept busy helping her mother and the family during their move to Dalton in March 1908 and settling into their new life. We don't know how much schooling Mabel had or what she did before her marriage at age 17. She did meet Chester Reinmuth who was a traveling salesman, and their courtship developed through letters they wrote to one another. It seems Mabel's mother, Mary, had misgivings about her daughter's romance, considering Mabel's rather young age.

Chester Dewitt Reinmuth was born in 1889, probably in Iowa. He must have had a talent for saying the right things in his letters, because he convinced Mabel and her mother that he and Mabel should marry. They did so in Dalton on September 23, 1912. Mabel and "Chet," moved to Iowa, where they lived most of their lives in the small town of Macksberg southwest of Des Moines. Mabel did not travel to Dalton often because of the distance and the expense, but she did carry on regular letter correspondence with her mother. Mabel was present for her parents 40th wedding anniversary and for her mother's funeral. Mabel's siblings visited her and Chet occasionally.



Mabel Reinmuth about age 32 in 1927.

We don't know what Chet did for work, and he might have had difficulty maintaining steady employment, particularly during the tough times of the Depression. He was an outdoors man who liked to hunt and fish and they had an extensive garden on their land. Chet also trapped beaver and other animals and earned money by selling their pelts. For quite a few years, their house had no electricity nor running water. They had an outdoor pump to get water from a well. It is unlikely that Mabel worked during the years of raising her children, but later she did work in the local public school cafeteria.

Mabel and Chet had four children. Their first child Marylea Julia died at only nine months of age. They then had two sons, Eldy and Arley, and a daughter Phyllis, all of whom have since passed away. Arley, known as Ivan, married Margery Noe and they had two sons Steven and Lawrence (Larry) and a daughter Margaret (Molly). Phyllis Reinmuth married Lloyd Love and they had a daughter Linda and sons, Daniel and David.

Mabel died at the age of 62, on September 24 (a day following her 45th wedding anniversary) in 1957 in Dexter, Iowa. Chet and Mabel had been very close and he missed her terribly until his death on August 5, 1966. Both are buried in Moon cemetery in Madison County, Iowa.



Chester "Chet" and Mabel Reinmuth, 1956