

TUSCANIA

Benz, Eric Carl 1899 WI – 1975 WI



ERIC G. BENZ

Born May 7, 1899. Entered the service at Chippewa Falls, Wis., in April, 1917, as a private in Co. A, 4th Wis. Inf. Trained at Camp Douglas, Wis., and Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas. Transferred to the 107th Supply Train, 32nd Div. Sailed in January on the Tuscania, which was sunk by a German submarine. In action. With Army of Occupation in Germany.

Eric Carl Benz – “Honor Roll, Chippewa County, Wisconsin” p 31 -

<https://box2.nmtvault.com/ResCarta->

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<https://box2.nmtvault.com/ResCarta->

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C 22-283-602

BENZ, ERICK CARL
BENZ, ERIC C.
Pvt 1cl Cas Det 2nd Tr Bn 161st DK 799 921
419 Woodward Ave Chippewa Falls A 2 577 839
Wisc
Sn 250 972 Died T 211 389
Born 5/7/98 R
Enl 7/15/17 Dis 5/29/19 Cl 2 215 294
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202
INDEX CARD
GPO 2-13009

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1Q-2S1G-Z?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPCF-RC13&action=view>

Eric Benz

Eric C. Benz, 75, of 210 West Lexington Ave., died early this morning at his home.

Mr. Benz was born on May 7, 1899, in Chippewa Falls and had been a resident of Eau Claire for many years. He worked for the Wisconsin Telephone Company for 42 years. He was a World War I veteran and was a member of the VFW and Masonic Lodge 112.

Survivors include one daughter, Cheryl, Eau Claire; two sisters, Mrs. Joe Jerale, Sheboygan Falls, and Mrs. Ted Willardson, New Hampton, Ia.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Smith Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Roy B. Schmeichel officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill Cemetery in Chippewa Falls.

Friends may call at Smith's from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday until services.

Benz services

Time of the funeral for Eric C. Benz, 75, of 210 W. Lexington Ave., was incorrectly listed in Saturday's Leader-Telegram.

The correct time is 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Obituary of Eric Carl Benz – "Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Saturday 15 Mar 1975 p 5
and correction on Monday, 17 Mar 1975 p 5

IMPORTANT: Read the instruction sheet before completing this form.

PFC US ARMY/WW I Form Approved OMB No. 76-R0668

1. NAME DECEASED USED DURING SERVICE (Last, first, middle) BENZ, Erick C.		15. TYPE OF HEADSTONE OR MARKER REQUESTED (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER	
2. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 390-01-2460	3. PENSION NO. OR VA CLAIM NO. XC: 22 283 602	16. APPLICANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS (No. and street, city, State, and ZIP CODE) Cheryl Benz 210 West Lexington Blvd. Eau Claire, WI 54701	
4. LAST PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY (See item 27 on reverse) BRANCH OF SERVICE: U. S. Army SERVICE NO.: 250972 DATE ENTERED (Month, day, year): April 7, 1917 DATE RELEASED (Month, day, year): May 29, 1919		17. PHONE NO. (Include area code) XXXXXX	18. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED daughter
5. CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH APPLY <input type="checkbox"/> DECEASED DIED ON ACTIVE DUTY <input type="checkbox"/> IN RESERVE STATUS AT TIME OF DEATH <input type="checkbox"/> IN RETIRED MILITARY STATUS AT TIME OF DEATH		I request that a Government headstone or marker be furnished for the unmarked grave or unmarked memorial plot of the deceased. I accept responsibility for proper placement of the headstone or marker at no expense to the Government. I certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith.	
6. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM DESIRED (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATIN CROSS (Christian) <input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID (Hebrew) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify in item 28 on reverse) <input type="checkbox"/> NONE		19. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT X Cheryl B Benz	
7. NAME OF DECEASED EXACTLY AS IT IS TO APPEAR ON HEADSTONE OR MARKER Eric Benz	8. STATE Wisconsin	20. DATE 3/19/75	21. CONSIGNEE'S NAME AND ADDRESS (No. and street, city, State, and ZIP CODE) Mr. Harry L. Mattison 417 N. State Street Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
9. HIGHEST RANK, AND BRANCH OF SERVICE WHERE IT WAS HELD PFC U. S. Army		22. PHONE NO. (Include area code) (715) 723-5396	
10. WARS DURING WHICH DECEASED SERVED World War One		I have agreed to take the headstone or marker to the cemetery.	
11. WAS THE DECEASED AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Unknown APR 10 1975		23. SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE X Harry L Mattison	
12. YEAR OF BIRTH May 7, 1899	13. YEAR OF DEATH March 15, 1975	24. DATE 3/29/75	
14. PLACE OF BURIAL (Name of cemetery, city, and State) Forest Hill Cemetery-Chippewa Falls, WI		25. SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF CEMETERY X Harry L Mattison	
25. DATE 3/29/75			

VA FORM 40-1330 JAN 1974 APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4440807:2375?tid=&pid=&queryId=5fdf2793-3555-4af2-bf0b-b65042b5cf80&_phsrc=cPx7713&_phstart=successSource

Life:

Erick Benz nearly had the thumb of his right hand severed Friday evening when a pump weighing about 25 pounds fell from a shelf and struck the member. He is at the hospital.

Eric's WWII draft registration notes he has a stiff LEFT thumb – "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Sunday 11 Jun 1916 p 3

Wisconsin Men Saved From the Torpedoed Transport "Tuscania"

BRISBIN, C. F., Spooner.
 BRODIE, R. W., Portage.
 BECK, L., Mellen.
 BOEHMKE, E. C., Waukesha.
 BENZ, E., Hudson.
 BARNES, JOHN L., Milwaukee.
 BEJMA, JOSEPH L., Milwaukee.
 BUDZISIEWSKI, JOHN, Milwaukee.
 BURPEE, HARRY H., Milwaukee.
 BIZUNOWICZ, JOSEPH, Milwaukee.

"Manitowoc (WI) Pilot" Thursday 14 Feb 1918 p 3

HIGH SCHOOL ROLL OF HONOR.

The following former students of the local high school are represented on the high school service flag:

Ackley, Duncan
 Ackley, James
 Agnew, Wendell
 Anderson, Dan
 Barrett, Albert
 Barker, Basil
 Benz, Erik
 Broedlow, Rudolph
 Bruce, Geo.
 Conners, Nelson
 Conners, Robert
 Caesar, Charles
 Coleman, Alfred
 Cameron, Norman
 Cummings, Frank
 Cheney, Earl

List continues – "Chippewa Herald Telegram" Tuesday 26 Mar 1918 p 1

**READ THE LONG LIST OF LE-
GION MEMBERS AND LEND
A HELPING HAND.**

If you don't think the American Legion in Chippewa Falls is a strong, healthy organization and in need of lots of furniture for its club rooms, glance at the list of members below and then look over your storeroom and see what you can spare. Nearly every home has some article of furniture that can be given to a good cause and it will be appreciated by the boys. Here's the list:

Duncan R. Ackley, C. L. Ainsworth, Louis Altman, Frank Aulman, Leslie J. Bell, Bert Bassette, Eric C. Benz, Arthur B. Berg, Fred A. Bigler (post commander), Louis J. Bigler, Arthur Bjork, Osear Bjork, Chris Blumhardt, Roy Brecke, Geo. Bruce, Edmund P. Brisson, E. J. Carroll, Everett Clyde, Elmer J. Charland, Harry Cheney, Dr. D. R. Chisholm, Edmund L. Gomerford, Geo. D. Curtis, H. E. Curtis, El. J. Donovan, Wm.

H. Dunn, Alfred J. Flackey, James S. Flackey, E. A. Firth, Malcolm Guldán, Wern Hanglik, A. N. Hebert, Wm. W. Hebert, Fred D. Hoenig, Ed. Holtz, J. T. Hard, John Hoppe, Frank Halvorsen, Geo. N. Johnson, Alfred Josi, Rosecoe E. Kirby, Hiran A. Lashway, Leo Lemay, D. G. MacLachlan, E. B. Mahle, E. M. McDowell, Phil McQuillan, Forest Marshall, Wm. G. Meuli, Bart Meuli, P. J. Murphy, John M. Moe, John R. Myrman, Wm. J. Nicolai, C. F. E. Nelson, E. J. O'Neil, Floyd S. Piotrowski, Geo. E. Popple, Ray S. Potter, Albert N. Popple, E. N. Payson, Alvin O. Rasmus, Anton Reiter, A. A. Revord, Fred Sherman, Wm. Sosinsky, Daniel L. Strahan, Joseph Strahan, Richard Thornton, Rev. Paul Turner, N. J. Touissant, Fred Vaudreuil, Chas. Upin, Anton Wenzel, C. W. Wilkowski, D. E. Yates.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Monday 21 Mar 1921 p 3

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Benz of Blair, Wis., are spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Siemers.

Eric visits sister Helen Benz Siemers – "Sheboygan (WI) Press" Saturday 28 Sep 1929 p 4

Mrs. Oscar Fredrickson.
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Benz of Eau Claire were overnight guests at the John Helleckson home Tuesday. d Thomas Nelson and Sever Sponeck it of La Crosse called at the Helleckson home Wednesday.

John Andrew Hellekson, visited by Eric Benz, was a fellow Tuscania survivor - "La Crosse (WI) Tribune" Friday 10 Nov 1933 p 14

Last Man's Club Will Be Formed by Survivors of Chippewa War Units

Reunion of World War Veterans Will Be Held Here Sunday Afternoon.

Survivors of Chippewa Falls' three military units, Headquarters Company, Band and Company A of the Fourth Wisconsin Infantry, who left here on August 11, 1917, for the World war and later became part of the famous Thirty-Second Division, are to hold a reunion in the American Legion club rooms Sunday afternoon, when a Last Man's Club will be organized. Announcement of the meeting to start at two o'clock, was made today and it is proposed to make the reunion an annual affair after effecting a permanent organization and electing officers.

It is expected the reunion will be attended by a large number of veterans for the plans call for a real old-fashioned get-together session. Members of these three organizations enlisted not only from Chippewa Falls but from all parts of the surrounding country and when they meet Sunday, the "boys" will have a great opportunity to compare notes of what they have been doing since the war ended in 1918 as well as talk over the many experiences and hardships they went through together in those never-to-be-forgotten battlefields of France.

Officers of the three Chippewa units when they left for the front included Major E. A. Firth, Capt. John Schneller, Captain P. J. Pangborn, Captain Robert L. Wiley, First Lieut. Harley Lea Vasseur and Bandmaster Louis Altman.

The roster of the three organizations included the following also:

Elmer F. Charland, Charles Rousseau, Jr., George Able, Fred A. Booth,

(Continued On Page Ten)

LAST MAN'S CLUB WILL BE FORMED

(Continued From Page One)

Hilton A. Doege, Everett Hale, George Kelean, Carl H. Schwahn, Harlie C. Wilson, Hans G. Horn, Duncan R. Ackley, George Borgenheimer, Victor J. Charland, Hans F. Christenson, F. A. Duxbury, Floyd A. Hughes, Harold M. Jenkins, Kenilm LaFrancia, Claire Metzenbauer, Ernest Morency, Frank Peloquin, Henry Schmidtmeyer, Chas. H. Taylor, Lyle Digman.

Walter English, Edward Paul, Ezra Holtz, Francis Loughrea, Geo. Stengle, Adam Stengle, Harry Wilson, Edw. Adams, Charles Allard, Frank F. Aulman, Flay Allemang, Olaf Anderson, Nathan E. Bankes, Erick Benz, Oscar Bjork, Leo Blair, Christian Blumhardt, Fred Blumhardt, George Bohn, Edw. M. Brady, Erwin Books, Edwin Bushland, Samuel H. Brown, Ray Calkins, Clifford B. Calkins.

List continues - "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Thursday 28 Fri 1935 p 1 & p 10

cept highway.
Walter Brothers, Inc., to Eric O. Benz and Esther Benz, warranty deed, \$1.00. Lot 9, Blk 6, Mount Tom Addition (re-arrangement) to City of Eau Claire.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Sunday 8 Dec 1935 p 3

vine Sunday.
 Mrs. John Hellekson and daughter Sarah, and Peter Strand were week-end guests at the Eric Benz home in Eau Claire. Mr. and Mrs. Anton Bergerson of Upper French Creek spent the week-end in La Crosse with their daughter Esther, who is ill.
 Also, infant daughter of Mr. and

Fellow Tuscania survivor John Andrew Hellekson – “La Crosse (WI) Tribune” Tuesday 12 May 1936 p 9

Teachers college.
 Miss Esther Runnestrand has returned to her duties as teacher of the first grade in the Washington school, La Crosse. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Benz, Eau Claire, accompanied by Mrs. Matthea Leque, Hegg, and Peter Strand, are spending a few days in Milwaukee and Sheboygan. Mrs. Bergine Hoff has returned to the home of her son,

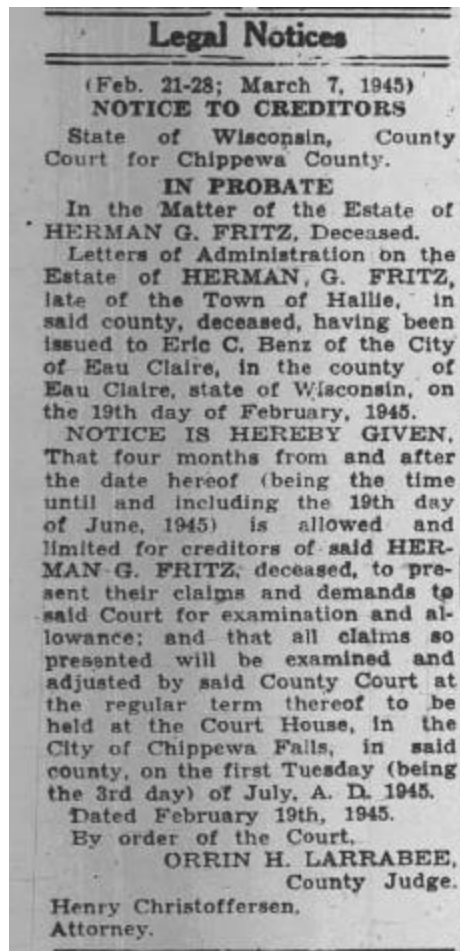
“La Crosse (WI) Tribune” Tuesday 14 Sep 1937 p 4

Names and serial numbers of Eau Claire county men who registered for selecting service on Feb. 16 are published on this and succeeding page. Middle names and addresses were omitted except when names were identical. The names were prepared in alphabetical order by county draft boards to make it easy for a registrant to pick his name out of the list.

A registrant can quickly determine his order number by referring to the list of numbers also published in this issue. In that list the serial numbers are arranged in sequence and the order number printed opposite.

T	801	Raymond Benrud
T	447	Joel Benyas
T	842	Eric Benz
T	1751	George Berg
T	1331	Donald Berg
T	606	Francis Berg

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Thursday 19 Mar 1942 p 6



Administrator of father's estate – "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI)
 Wednesday 21 Feb 1945 p 7

Add. to the City of Eau Claire.
 Eric C. Benz and wife to Henry
 L. Shepler and Victoria Hysen,
 WD, \$1, Lot 9, Block 6, Mount
 Tom Add. (re-arrangement) to
 the City of Eau Claire.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Saturday 30 May 1953 p 4

Phone Foreman Named

The Wisconsin Telephone Tuesday announced that Eric C. Benz has been appointed supervising foreman of construction in the Eau Claire area. He previously had served in a similar capacity in the Superior area. In addition to Eau Claire, Benz also will supervise company construction activities at Chippewa Falls, Menomonie, and River Falls. He succeeds Narve C. Hotvedt, who plans to retire soon.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Wednesday 12 Aug 1953 p 15

Service Awards Made

Diamond service emblems for 30 years of service were awarded today to Eric C. Benz, supervising foreman, and Clarence A. Bolles, testman, by the Wisconsin Telephone Co. Presentation of the awards was made by E. K. Cheney, district plant manager here, and R. A. Fallon, division construction superintendent of Appleton.

"Eau Claire (WI) Daily Telegram" Friday 6 Feb 1954 p 4

Cable Splicer Gets 30-Year Service Pin

Harvey H. Kohls, 739 Ferry St., was honored today by the Wisconsin Telephone Company upon completion of 30 years of service. He is a cable splicer in the company's plant department here.

Kohls received a diamond service emblem from E. C. Benz, supervising foreman — construction.

Kohls began his telephone work in the construction department at Milwaukee in 1925. He was transferred to the Eau Claire district in 1935 and received his present assignment five years later.

He is a member of the Vacationland Council of the Telephone Pioneers of America, an organization of men and women who have devoted 21 or more years to public service in the telephone industry.

“Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Saturday 16 Jul 1955 p 13

'Keystone 8' Whitehall's Phone Number

WHITEHALL, Wis. (Special)—An informal luncheon for telephone officials and a few local guests was given here Tuesday by the Community Telephone Co. of Wisconsin.

All here for the "unveiling" of the new automatic dial system, which went into effect at 2 p.m., the luncheon guests included B. H. Piepmeyer, president of the company, and C. H. Cadby, district manager, both from Black River Falls; Leo R. Ellis of Arcadia, district manager for this area;

☆☆☆

F. E. Sauer, manager, F. A. Maguire and Eric C. Benz, all of the Wisconsin company, Eau Claire, which is part of the Bell System; and R. H. Kurtz of Wisconsin Rapids, representing the Automatic Electric Sales Corp., which furnished the equipment for the new system.

Local guests were Mayor Clarence Kaas; J. E. Garaghan, president of the Whitehall Improvement Assn.; Rollie Frey, president of the Lions club; and the press.

Conversion of the Whitehall exchange from manual to automatic dial operation went off on schedule, with Mayor Kaas turning the switch that put the new system into operation.

☆☆☆

"La Crosse (WI) Tribune" Friday 27 Jan 1956 p 10

TUSCANIA SURVIVORS HERE ELECT OFFICERS FOR 1959

Survivors of the sinking of the Tuscania held their annual banquet at the Fireside in La Crosse recently.

At 6 p.m. Feb. 5, 1918, the troop ship Tuscania was hit by a torpedo from the German submarine U-77. There was a loss of about 200 men, including some members of the 32nd Division, Wisconsin's National Guard unit. The British transport was carrying 2,397 officers and men bound for the battlefront in France when it was hit off the coast of Ireland.

The ship sank by 9:30 p.m. The men boarded life boats as the ship went down and were soon picked up by a British destroyer.

The Tuscania survivors here elected Erick Benz, president, Nat Carhart, vice-president, and Ray March, secretary-treasurer for 1959.

At the meeting the group decided to hold its annual picnic June 21 at Lake Delton, near Baraboo.

Honorary member Clarence Brown of Galesville presided over the meeting.

The group originally formed Feb. 5, 1948. Tuscania survivors are scattered all over the country and the local group hopes to combine with other area groups to form a larger organization.

Eric Benz elected National Tuscania Survivors Association president – "La Crosse (WI) Tribune" Thursday 12 Feb 1959 p 13

Two Get Awards for Long Service

Eric C. Benz, supervising foreman in charge of construction, and Clarence A. Bolles, testdesk man in the plant here, today received diamond emblems in recognition of 35 years of service with the Wisconsin Telephone Co.

Benz began work with the company in the Eau Claire area, and Bolles worked here and in Chippewa Falls and Superior, returning to Eau Claire in 1941.

"Eau Claire (WI) Daily Telegram" Monday 16 Feb 1959 p 3

Survivors of Tuscania Meet

Twenty - three of the 40 members of the Wisconsin Tuscania Survivors club met at the Hotel Edwards for a 6:30 p.m. reunion dinner Saturday.

The club is composed of survivors of the torpedoing of the British liner Tuscania off the coast of Ireland in World War I. They meet annually on the Saturday in February nearest to Feb. 5, anniversary of the sinking.

E. C. Benz of Eau Claire is president of the club. Other Eau Claire members include Clarence Jaquish, L. B. Rist, and Sigurd Simonson.

Others attending the dinner here were from LaCrosse, Galesville, Chippewa Falls, Washburn, Portage and King. This is the third time the club has met in Eau Claire.

President of National Tuscania Survivors Association - "Eau Claire (WI) Daily Telegram"
Monday 8 Feb 1960 p 3

Survivors of Tuscania Meet

Twenty - three of the 40 members of the Wisconsin Tuscania Survivors club met at the Hotel Edwards for a 6:30 p.m. reunion dinner Saturday.

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"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Tuesday 9 Feb 1960 p 9

Tuscania Survivors Club To Hold Meeting

The 43rd annual Tuscania Survivors Assn. convention will be at Chippewa Falls Feb. 4. Registration will be at the American Legion clubrooms at 3 p.m. with a banquet at Van's Supper Club at 5 p.m.

The Tuscania club is composed of survivors of the sinking of the British troop ship Tuscania by a German submarine four miles off the coast of Ireland on Feb. 5, 1918. The boat carried 2,397, with 210 lost. Nearly all the troops were from Wisconsin and Michigan.

Present officers are Erick Benz, Eau Claire, president; Nathan Carhart, Galesville, vice president and Ray C. Marsh, La Crosse, secretary-treasurer.

"La Crosse (WI) Tribune" Sunday 29 Jan 1961 p 9

TIME CAPSULE

WW1 Artifacts

The troopship
Tuscania, Oscar
Bjork-featured
artifacts and
Veteran's Day

NANCY SCHUH

Chippewa Area History Center

Many young men from Chippewa County served their country proudly during WW1.

We have been fortunate to have a few artifacts that originally belonged to one of these men, Oscar Bjork, that have been donated to the Historical Society.

On January 24, 1918, Oscar sailed out of New Jersey on board the Tuscania, a luxury liner that had been refitted as a troopship. It carried approximately 384 crew members and 2,013 army personnel, including many soldiers from the Chippewa Falls area. On the bitterly cold evening of February 5th, it was torpedoed by a German submarine and sank only a few miles off the coast of Northern Ireland. About 210 of the crew and troops were lost.

The wreck of the Tuscania lies between Scotland's Islay Island and Northern Ireland's Rathlin Island under 330 feet of water. Many of the soldiers on board were saved and cared for

by local people.

Fortunately, Oscar survived this ordeal and we are grateful to have been given his Tuscania Survivors Certificate and his Roster of the Wisconsin Tuscania Survivors Club along with his uniform. In the Roster he is listed as Vice President of the Club.

The following is an article that ran in the Chippewa Herald six days after the Tuscania was torpedoed:

Chippewa Herald

Feb. 11, 1918

All But One From Chippewa Accounted For

All those from Chippewa County who were on board the Tuscania

have now been officially accounted for except the following whom it is still

believed are safe:

Clair Metzenbauer, Route

1
Earl Weisenberger, Jim Falls

Fred Duxbury

The relatives of the above had received no word from Washington up to the time of going to press. A dispatch was received this morning from Washington that stated that all Chippewa area men except Metzenbauer had been accounted for.

List of the Saved: Peter Pangborn, Everett Hale, Raymond Wilmarth, Henry Schmidtmeier, Francis Loughrea, Edwin Bushland,



CONTRIBUTED, CHIPPEWA AREA HISTORY CENTER

Oscar Bjork. Born April 14, 1886. Entered the service in Chippewa Falls, Wis., April 6, 1917, as a private in Co. A, 4th Wis. Inf. Trained at Camp Douglas, Wis., and Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas. Transferred to the 1 Truck Co., 107th Motor Supply Train, 32nd Div. Sailed in January 1918. With Army of Occupation in Germany. Returned to the U.S. and was mustered out May 29, 1919.

Signard Simonson, George Shaw, Barney McMahon, Edward Paul, Charles Pre- gent, William Sweeney, Rudolph Stone, Erick Benz, Richard Thornton, Nathan McIntyre, William Gereau, Ernest Morency, Oscar Bjork, Leo Corneiller, Walter English, Guy Wiseman, Ingwald Hanson, Clarence Mitchell, George Borgenheimer, Mike Cosgrove, Louis Hartman, Edmund Yell, Hans Christenson, Forrest Tapper, George Stengel, William Olson and

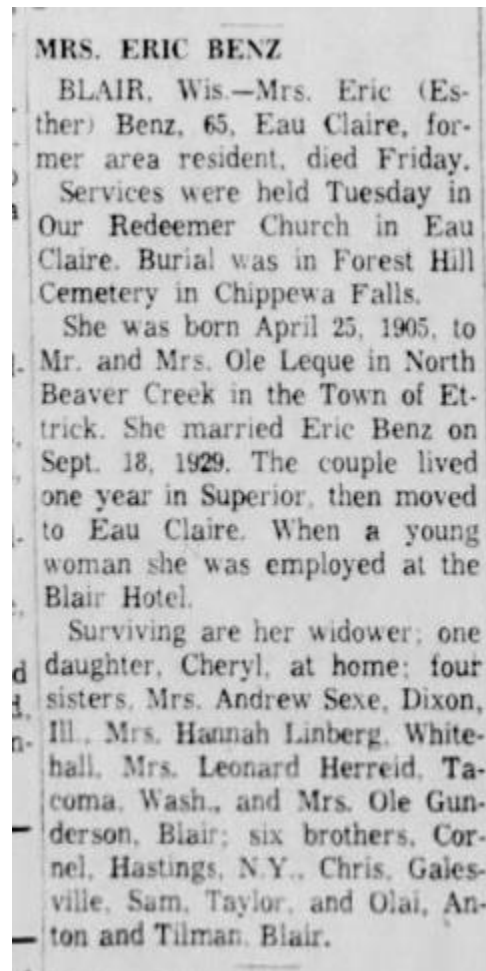
Hilton Doege.

Sadly, according to the WW1 Honor Roll Book for Chippewa County the following three young men from Chippewa County drowned that day:

Claire Metzenbauer, Earl Weisenberger and Art Harvey.

Veteran's Day 2018 marks the 100-year anniversary of the end of WW1. The Armistice with Germany went in effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Wife:



Obituary of Esther M. Leque Benz – “La Crosse (WI) Tribune” Wednesday 6 Sep 1961 p 22

Esther M Benz

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Death Records, 1959-2004

Name	Esther M Benz
Death Date	1 Sep 1961
Death County	Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/785632:61483?tid=32464229&pid=20381034140&queryId=5fa568c6-fbdf-4ed7-ab88-2c434713e257&_phsrc=cPx7677&_phstart=successSource

Ester Marinde Legue

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1801-1928

Name	Ester Marinde Legue
Gender	Female
Race	White
Birth Date	25 Apr 1905
Birth Place	Ettrick, Trempealeau, Wisconsin
Father	Ole Legue
Mother	Mathie Engelen
FHL Film Number	1305596

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/986220:2544>

MRS. MATTIA LEQUE

ALMA CENTER, Wis. (Special)—Mrs. Mattia Leque, 83, died Tuesday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Andrew Sekse, in Alma Center.

Mrs. Leque, the former Mattia Hanson, was born in Sondreland, Norway, Aug. 22, 1868, and came to America as a child. She lived in French Creek and Beaver Creek and married Ole A. Leque in 1889. He died in October, 1935. For the past year and a half Mrs. Leque had been living with members of her family. She was known throughout the area for her fine needlework.

She is survived by four sons, Christian, Galesville, and Sanford, Anton and Tilman, all of Blair; four daughters, Mrs. Andrew (Tillie) Sekse, Alma Center, Mrs. Eric (Esther) Benz, Superior, Mrs. Leonard (Ella) Herried, Tacoma, Wash., and Mrs. Ole (Louise) Gunderson, Blair, two stepsons, Olai, Blair, and Cornel, Long Island, N.Y.; one stepdaughter, Mrs. Hannah Linberg, Blair; one brother, Magnus, Minnesota; and 41 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren. Three children preceded her in death.

Funeral services will be held Sunday in the North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church at 2 p.m., the Rev. L. W. Halverson officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Obituary of mother-in-law Mattia Hanson Leque – “La Crosse (WI) Tribune” Friday 11 Jan 1952 p 3

Ole Leque Funeral Services Held Sunday

Ettrick, Wis.—(Special)—Funeral services were held Sunday at the North Beaver Creek Lutheran church for Ole Leque, 82, who died Wednesday, following a third stroke of paralysis, at his home in North Beaver Creek.

He was born in Ulvik parish, Hardanger, Norway, Aug. 26, 1853, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ola Leque. In 1871 he came to America, and had spent the remainder of his life in Trempealeau county. October 26, 1875, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Haldorson. Five children were born to this union, two of whom preceded their father in death. His first wife died in 1888. In 1889 Mr. Leque married Mathea Hanson, eleven children being born to the couple, two of whom have passed away. He is survived by his wife; a sister, Mrs. Anna Elleson of Box Elder, Mont.; seven sons, Olaf, Cornell, Christian, Arthur, Sanford, Anton and Tilman, all of North Beaver Creek; five daughters, Mrs. Christ (Hannah) Lindberg, Mrs. Andrew Sexe, Mrs. Ole Gunderson, North Beaver Creek, Mrs. Erick Benz, Eau Claire, and Mrs. Leonard (Ella) Herreid of Palmer, Alaska. Thirty-two grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren also survive.

Obituary of father-in-law Ole Leque – “La Crosse (WI) Tribune” Monday 28 Oct 1935 p 2

Leques Mark Silver Wedding Anniversary At Whitehall Fete

WHITEHALL, Wis.—(Special) —Silver dollars and other gifts were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Hans Christian Leque by 150 relatives and friends who helped them to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary Oct. 31.

Mr. Leque and Clara Stone were married at Winona Nov. 5, 1923, attended by her brother, Albert Stone and Leque's sister Esther, now Mrs. Erick Benz, Eau Claire. Because of illness she could not be present Sunday so Mrs. Gunderson substituted as attendant.

Their son Victor, residing at Bakersfield, Cal., visited them in August but could not be present Sunday. They have one granddaughter.

daughter.

Coming from a distance were Mrs. Mollie Severson, Mrs. Lydia Raichle, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Loft, Billy and Betty, Mr. and Mrs. Cornell Leque, Mrs. Harold Oksnee, Carl and Patsy, Mr. and Mrs. Helmer Anderson and Clarice, Galesville; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rogness and John, Stillwater, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Stone and Arlan, La Crosse; Mr. and Mrs. LaVerne Rogness, Marshfield; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Busse and family, Melrose; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Elifson and Jerry, Strum; Mrs. Bertha Wentland, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Olson and Bobby, Ianesboro, Minn.

25th wedding anniversary of Esther Leque Benz's brother Hans Christian Leque & Clara Stone – she too ill to attend – "La Crosse (WI) Tribune" Tuesday 2 Nov 1948 p 8

Children:



Cheryl Benz – Eau Claire (WI) High School 1955 yearbook -
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/303243949:1265>



BROWNIES SERVE TEA—Monday was Homemaking Day of the Girl Scout week, October 26 to November 1, and the Brownie Troop of Our Redeemer church observed the occasion with a tea party at the church. Shown in the picture are (left to right) standing, Joan Hahn, Myrna Russell, Marion Hagan, Janice Mathews, Carol Sly, June Langworthy, Cheryl Benz, Judy Ecke, Judy Catlin, Judy Meltz, Marlene Marxman and Roberta Rudy; sitting, Janet Holtz, Sharon Flugel, Carol McNair, Karen Kalfsbeck, Catherine Reidel, Darlene Steinmetz, Arlene Anderson, Beverly Stavnau and Gayle Elaine Slifer. Mrs. Henry Pederson is leader of this group.



Daughter Cheryl Benz, 7th from left, standing – “Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram”
 Wednesday 29 Oct 1947 p 5

The following seventy-four girls were taught how to swim, and received their YMCA and Red Cross certificates:

June — Judith Belden, Barbara Flodin, Carolyn Gabrielson, Nancy Kay Ashley, Sharon Abrahamson, Jayne Ahlstrom, Judith Christeson, Mary Engebretson, Sally Fomberg, Jocelyn Gilbertson, Lois Halvorson, Sandra Polinske, Gloria Remmele, Beverly Stavnaw, Mercedes Thompson, Margaret Glenz.

July — Mauria Haehlen, Sally Rasmussen, Winifred Gilbertson, Prudence Larson, Lynn Nelson, Eleanor Vefald, Jean Anderson, Jane Close, Elsie Kolka, Joan Brown, Mary Austin, Karen Craney, Judy Tipton, Dorothy Sorlie, Barbara Sletner, Katherine Riedel, Kay Bernicke, Alice Waller, Marian Hagen, Jane Flackoy, Janie Fjelstad, Sharon Jacobson, Patricia Lange, Helen Birkemeier, Carole Bliss, Mary Mierow, Patricia Finn, Suzanne Foster, Joan Yates, Barbara Aberg, Joan Stein.

August — Alice Solberg, Judith Franck, Marie Watts, Lana Kruger, Nancy Anderson, Diane Anderson, Dell Ann Bowen, Cheryl Benz, Marlene Felton, Judith

“Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Wednesday 5 Sep 1951 p 5

LARCENY — Cheryl Benz, 210 W. Lexington Blvd., reported to police Friday at 5:25 p.m. that her hand tooled leather purse was stolen while she was at the Milwaukee Beauty School, 303½ S. Barstow St. It contained \$1.25 and miscellaneous papers, she said.

“Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Sunday 28 Dec 1958 p 2


At 6:20 a. m. today police were called to Clairemont Ave., and Keith St. They said Cheryl Benz, 26, of 210 W. Lexington Blvd., started a left turn onto Keith. Her auto struck the safety island causing an estimated \$130 damage.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Saturday 21 May 1966 p 3

Burglary

HOME of Cheryl Benz, 210 W. Tyler Ave. She told police she was moving from the home and discovered someone had entered through a window by removing a screen. Taken were three rings with a total value of \$538. Reported Saturday 6:34 p.m.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Monday 15 Nov 1976 p 23

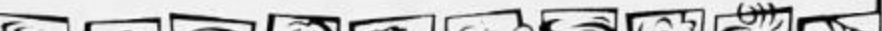


Memorial High School
Class of 1958 • 40th Year Reunion
June 20, 1998


Classmates Unable To Find:

Janet (Brownell) Cotton	Carolyn (Angell) Meider
Fred Rusch	Richard Duerst
Robert Jump	Juris Lamberts
Sandra (Cleveland) Mercer	Jack Hoard
Steven Nelson	Gary DeBusman
Terry Moore	Terrill Kopp
Karen (Christopherson)	Marian (Turner) Anderson
Finnigan	Dorothy (Allen) Curtis
Robert Washburn	Cheryl Benz
Ranita (Perry) Jensen	George E. Brown
Susan (Hulbert) Mitchler	Gary Buetow
Gloria (Hays) Valaska	Jon Schweitzer
Susan (Johnson) Barquist	Mary (Jackson) Carter
Mike Coffman	Jacqueline (Hicks) Overturf
Dianne (Mattson) Smith	Joan Gosney
Jerome Steinke	

Please Call Jean Brettingen 715-834-4402



"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Sunday 3 May 1998 p 30



Memorial High School - Class of 1984
Presenting the 1984 Inductees
for the 10th Anniversary of
the 1974-1984 P.E. Country Club

Dorothy (Allen) Curtis	Donald Dohms	Terry Moore
Elroy Anderson	Jon Froseth	Sally (Oliver) Adams
Carolyn (Angell) Meider	Joan Gosney	Ranita (Perry) Jensen
Cheryl Benz	Jackie (Hicke) Overturf	Ronald Robertson
Gary Buetow	Susan (Hulburt) Mitchler	Jon Schweitzer
Karen (Christopherson) Finnigan	Mary (Jackson) Carter	Alvin Smith
Charles Davey	Doris (Kenyon) Dresel	Grace (Trimble) Kintner
Gary DeBusman	Terry Kopp	Marina (Turner) Anderson
Sherry DeMars	Gerald Miller	Barbara (Woodford) Orlikoski

Please call (715) 834-4402 or (715) 835-3904 with any information.

“Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Sunday 11 May 2003 p 3

Cheryl Alvina Benz

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	Cheryl Alvina Benz
Marriage Date	25 Oct 1975
Marriage County	Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Alfred Edward Knuth

Marriage of Cheryl Alvina Benz to Alfred Edward Knuth in Eau Claire Co. WI on 25 Oct 1975

- https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/92319842:61484?tid=&pid=&queryId=b717b928-dae5-4d30-8017-97bfcdce0025&_phsrc=cPx7695&_phstart=successSource

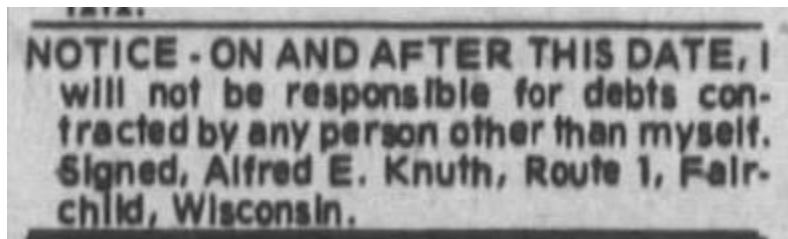
Alfred E Knuth

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Index, 1973-1997

Name	Alfred E Knuth
Estimated Birth Year	1908
Age	67
Gender	M (Male)
County of Residence	Eau Claire
Spouse	Benz
Spouse's Estimated Birth Year	1940
Spouse's Age	35
Spouse's Gender	F (Female)
Spouse's County of Residence	Eau Claire
Marriage Date	25 Oct 1975
Marriage County	Eau Claire
Certificate Number	028307
Microfilm Roll Number	35

Alfred Knuth was age 67, Cheryl Alvina Benz was 35 -

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/904876:8744?tid=&pid=&queryId=94a91120-e17e-44a6-9f00-1686ebbd16d8&_phsrc=cPx7702&_phstart=successSource



Married Cheryl Benz on 25 Oct 1975 – this type of “not responsible for debts” ad is usually placed due to marital discord – “Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Thursday 20 Nov 1975 p

Alfred Knuth

FAIRCHILD — Alfred E. Knuth, 86, of the Fairchild Health Care Center, passed away Tuesday, July 12, 1994, at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire.

Alfred was born March 14, 1908, in Augusta, to Edward and Augusta (Bauch) Knuth. He married Marion Clark in 1929. He later married Esther Olson June 20, 1940, in Fairchild. After Esther's death on April 15, 1971, he married Mildred Bischoff May 8, 1981, in Neillsville. Al lived most of his life in the Fairchild area where he owned and operated Knuth Wrecker Service.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred of Fall Creek; two sons, Donald and Henry (Kathy), both of Augusta; three daughters, Dorothy (William) Johnson of Augusta, Beverly (Thomas) Gorkowski of Fairchild and Patricia Moschkau of Eau Claire; three brothers, Roy, Arthur and Eddie Knuth, all of Fairchild; five sisters, Elvina Arndt, Bertha Moore, Alyce Roth, all of Eau Claire, Doris Zillmer of Fall Creek and Amanda Semanko of Augusta; two stepsons, Byron (Liz) Grassnickel of Rock Falls, Ill., and Larry (Patty) Grassnickel of Germantown; 21 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; step grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 16, 1994, at United Methodist Church in Fairchild with burial in Fairchild Cemetery.

Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Anderson Funeral Home in Augusta and an hour before services at the church.

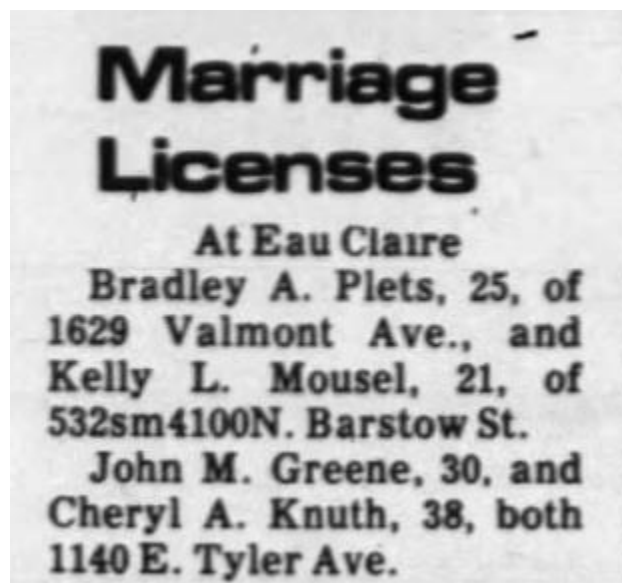
Obituary of Alfred Edward Knuth mentions his 3 other wives other than Cheryl Benz - <https://www.newspapers.com/image/361302973/?article=a85b8f71-0556-464b-b462-e4eec97fd709&focus=0.05519218,0.28222623,0.21492228,0.5159302&xid=3355>

Cheryl Alvina Knuth

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	Cheryl Alvina Knuth
Maiden Name	Benz
Gender	Female
Marriage Date	30 Mar 1979
Marriage County	Eau Claire, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	John Myron Greene

Marriage of Cheryl Alvina Benz Knuth to John Myron Greene in Eau Claire Co. WI on 30 Mar 1979 - <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/90674053:61484>



“Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Wednesday 28 Mar 1979 p 5

Father:

HERMAN BENZ IS CALLED BY DEATH

**Passes Away at Eau Claire on
Monday After Two Years'
Illness.**

Herman Carl Benz, 61, of this city, passed away at Luther hospital in Eau Claire Monday noon following an illness extending over a period of two years.

Mr. Benz came to Chippewa Falls from his birthplace, Wiesbaden, Germany, when he was 14 years old. For a number of years, during part of the time the late Mose Sarrasin, conducted the Ottawa house and for several years afterward when Lou Kearney and others had the hotel, Mr. Benz was employed there. Ten years ago he started farming at Albertville and retired when his health failed him. His home had been on the South side for several years.

He is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Clara Schiebe, three daughters by a former marriage, Mrs. Adolph Siemers, Miss Margaret Benz, both of Sheboygan Falls, Wis., Mrs. Ted Willadsen of New Hampton, Iowa, and one son, E. C. Benz of Eau Claire.

Funeral services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Hogsath Funeral Home with interment in Forest Hill cemetery. Rev. B. H. Schrien will officiate.

Obituary of Herma Carl Benz – "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Tuesday 3 Jan 1933 p 10

The fire department was called to the South side Sunday night at 8 o'clock to extinguish a blaze in the roof of Herman Benz's house. The flames were extinguished and at 2 o'clock Monday morning the department responded to an alarm for the same fire. The roof was badly burned but some of the furniture was saved.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Tuesday 9 Jan 1900 p 3

Mother:

	✓ No. <u>14</u> 02726
1. Full name of husband.....	Herman Karl Benz
2. Name of the father of husband.....	August Benz (deceased)
3. Name of the mother of husband before marriage.....	Bertha nee Benz (")
4. Occupation of husband.....	laborer
5. Residence of husband.....	Chippewa Falls Wis.
6. Birthplace of husband.....	Sandilin Pommernia Germany
7. Full name of wife previous to marriage.....	Alvine Henriette Ernestine Fritz
8. Name of the father of wife.....	Ferdinand Fritz (deceased)
9. Name of the mother of wife before marriage.....	Emilie nee Maritz
10. Birthplace of wife.....	Selberg D. Pommernia Germany
11. Time when the marriage was contracted.....	July 4 th 1893
12. The place, town or township, and county, where the marriage was contracted.....	Chippewa Falls Wis.
13. The color of the parties.....	white
14. By what ceremony contracted.....	according to rites of Ev. Luth church
15. Names of subscribing witnesses.....	Mrs. Wisfeldt Hilde Dulherke
16. Name of person pronouncing marriage.....	H. C. J. Otte Ev. Luth Pastor
17. Residence of person last named.....	Chippewa Falls Wis.
18. Date of certificate or affidavit of marriage.....	July 5 th 1893
19. Date of registration.....	July 5 th 1893.

WI marriage record – 4 Jul 1893 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI -
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1702635:61484>

Alwine Fritz

Migration • United States Germans to America Index, 1850-1897

Name	Alwine Fritz
Sex	Female
Age	17
Occupation	Farmer
Event Type	Immigration
Event Date	23 May 1890
Event Place	Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland, United States
Birthplace	Germany
Ship Name	Munchen
Birth Year (Estimated)	1873
Departure Port	Bremen
Literacy	Unknown
Last Place of Residence	Mi
Destination Place	Baltimore
Transit or Travel Compartment	Staying in the USA [Transit]; Steerage [Travel]
Affiliate Manifest ID	00016293
Affiliate ARC Identifier	1746067

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/GDDB-VJY>

Stepmother:

Cadott Funeral Set for Mrs. Clara Benz

CADOTT — Mrs. Clara Benz, 74, died at St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls, Friday morning, following a long illness.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Methodist Church here. The Rev. Richard Alger will officiate. Burial will be in Elk Mound.

Friends may call at the Leiser Funeral Home after 3 p.m. today.

Mrs. Benz is survived by a number of nieces and nephews.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Saturday 24 Jan 1959 p 3

IRON CREEK

Nov. 24—Fred Fisher and Chris. Rank left for the woods, Tuesday.

Gust. and Clara Scheibe of Elk Mound were Sunday guests of Henry Hohlbine.

"Dunn County News" (Menomonie WI) Friday 27 Nov 1903 p 8

Clara Adeline Scheibe

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	Clara Adeline Scheibe
Marriage Date	4 Mar 1917
Marriage County	Dunn, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Herman C Benz

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/91146789:61484?tid=&pid=&queryId=3ed2bd3a-af2f-4bbc-ac99-f7a3bf796e68&_phsrc=cPx7709&_phstart=successSource

Marriage Licenses.—County Clerk Frank Pieper has issued marriage licenses to the following: Arnold Otto to Martha Sievert, both of the town of Menomonie; Herman C. Benz, Chippewa Falls, to Clara Adeline Scheibe, town of Elk Mound; Joseph C. Frasl to Pearl E. Mason, both of Colfax.

Marriage license – “Dunn County News” (Menomonie WI) Thursday 8 Mar 1917 p 5

Clara Adeline Benz

in the U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Name	Clara Adeline Benz [Clara Adeline Scheibe]
Gender	Female
Race	White
Birth Date	4 Mar 1884
Birth Place	Elk Mound Du, Wisconsin
Father	Frank Scheibe
Mother	Martha Ausman
SSN	392240859
Notes	Sep 1944: Name listed as CLARA ADELINE BENZ

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/9124086:60901>

Benz Funeral Change
 CADOTT — Funeral services for Mrs. Clara Benz, 74, will be held at the Leiser Funeral Home here at 1:30 p.m. today and not at the Methodist Church as previously reported.

“Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Sunday 25 Jan 1959 p 3

Siblings:

MRS. ADOLPH C. SIEMERS

Mrs. Adolph C. Siemers, 65, of 324 Fond du Lac Ave., Sheboygan Falls, died Saturday at St. Nicholas Hospital following a short illness.

The former Helen Benz, she was born at Chippewa Falls May 30, 1897, the daughter of Herman and Alvina Benz, and was married at Chippewa Falls on Feb. 15, 1920, to Adolph Siemers. In February, 1924, they moved to Sheboygan Falls.

Mrs. Siemers was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sheboygan Falls and a charter member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the church.

Surviving are her husband; a son, Dwayne, at home; a daughter, Mrs. James (Nyla) Martin, Sheboygan; two sisters, Mrs. Joseph Jerale, Sheboygan Falls, and Mrs. Ted Willadsen, New Hampton, Iowa; a brother, Eric Benz, Eau Claire, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church with the Rev. Edward W. Albertine, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Sheboygan Falls Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Dean Funeral Home until 10:30 a.m. Tuesday and at the church from noon until the hour of services.

A memorial in her name has been established for St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church building fund.

Obituary of [sister Helen Benz Siemers \(1897-1963\)](#) – "Sheboygan (WI) Press" Monday 4 Mar 1963 p 12

The friends of Adolph Siemers, son of Mrs. H. Siemers of this city, were agreeably surprised the past week to learn that he had joined the ranks of the married men. His bride was Miss Helen Benz of Chippewa Falls. They were married in that city February 15 and spent their honeymoon at the home of the his mother here. The happy pair returned to Chippewa Falls last Thursday, where they will reside, and where he has been employed for some time.

Marriage on 15 Feb 1920 of Helen Benz & Adolph Carl Siemers – “Marshfield (WI) News & Wisconsin Hub” Thursday 26 Feb 1920 p 7

Margaret Bertha Jerale

Margaret B. "Maggie" Jerale, 88, of 312 Adams St. Sheboygan Falls, passed away Saturday, August 12, 1995 at Heritage Health Care Center in Sheboygan, where she had been a resident for the past year and a half.

Maggie was born on September 13, 1906 in Chippewa Falls, the daughter of the late Herman and Alvina Fritz Benz. She graduated from Chippewa Falls High School in 1924. After coming to Sheboygan Falls, she worked as a clerk and accountant at Fessler's Grocery Store for over 25 years.

On June 3, 1947, she married Joseph J. Jerale in Sheboygan Falls.

She was an avid sports fan, enjoying many hours listening to football and baseball games. The sport dearest to her was bowling. She was awarded many trophies in state, county and city championships.

She is survived by her husband, Joseph, Sheboygan Falls; many nieces and nephews, great- nieces and nephews, and great-great- nieces and nephews. She is also survived by other relatives and a host of friends. Maggie was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters and one brother.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, August 16, 1995 at the Huehns Funeral Home in Sheboygan Falls. Burial will be at Sheboygan Falls Cemetery.

Friends may greet the family on Tuesday, August 15, 1995 from 4-7 p.m. and on Wednesday, until the time of services.

Obituary of **sister Margaret Benz Jerale (1906-1995)** – “Sheboygan (WI) Press” Monday 14 Aug 1995 p 2

“Joseph J. Jerale, 1026 S. Eighth street, and Margaret B. Benz, 324 Fond du Lac avenue, Sheboygan Falls; Loyal D. Plekenpol, Cascade, and Bernice Stern, route 1,

Marriage license of Margaret B. Benz & Joseph J. Jerale – “Sheboygan (WI) Press” Tuesday 27 May 1947 p 21

NEW HAMPTON — Marie Willadsen, 81, of New Hampton, died Thursday, March 7, at her home of a heart attack; survivors include a son, Roger of Coca Beach, Fla.; a daughter, Cheryl Hanson of Clear Lake; 11 grandchildren; and a sister, Margaret Jerale of Sheboygan Falls, Wis.; she was preceded in death by her husband, Ted in 1978; a son, Lorne in 1982; a brother, Eric Benz; and a sister, Helena Siemers; services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hampton, with burial in New Hampton Cemetery; friends may call after 3 p.m. today at Conway Funeral Home, New Hampton, and an hour before services at the church Saturday.

Obituary of **sister Marie A. Benz Willadsen (1909-1991)** – “Waterloo (IA) Courier” Friday 8 Mar 1991 p 7



Marriage of Marie Benz to J. Theodore Willadsen on 29 Jun 1929 in Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan WI – “Sheboygan (WI) Press” Saturday 29 Jun 1929 p 11

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Eric Carl Benz

Name variations: Erick Carl Benz (on Tuscania passenger list & WI Veterans Museum records) – rarely Erich

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. A - private

Serial number: 250,972

Entered service from: Hudson, St. Croix WI

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: Erick Benz

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: father Herman Benz, RR 1, Hudson WI

Returned from war on: "Virginian" May 1918

Sailed on return ship as: Erick C. Benz

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: Herman Benz, Hudson WI (PFC, Co. A, 107th Supply Train)

World War I draft registration (1917): did not register as already enlisted Apr 1917 as private in Co. A, 4th WI Infantry

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: in 1955 WI Survivors list - 142 E. Lexington, Eau Claire WI

World War II draft registration (1942): as Eric Carl Benz – b. 7 May 1899 Chippewa Falls WI; res: 615 Davis Ave., Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI. NOK Mrs. Esther M. Benz, no address provided. Employed by Wisconsin Telephone Co., Dewey St., Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI. “stiff left thumb” – Height: 6’2” – 221 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index: as Erick Carl Benz & Eric C. Benz

Enlisted 15 Jul 1917

Discharged 29 May 1919

Address: 419 Woodward Ave., Chippewa Falls WI

Rank/unit: private 1st class, Casual Detachment 2nd Tr Bn, 161st Depot Brigade

Birth & death:

Born: 7 May 1899 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Died: 15 Mar 1975 Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI (at his home: 210 W. Lexington Ave., Eau Claire)

Find A Grave record: 168682238 - presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Cemetery: Forest Hill

Tombstone: veteran flat: PFC US Army WWI

Father: Herman Carl/Karl Benz, 1871 Wiesbaden, Germany or Gadelin, Pommerania (Pommern), Germany (now Poland) – 2 Jan 1933 Eau Claire Co. WI.

Son of August Benz & Bertha Benz (maiden & married surname the same). Both were deceased at the time of Herman's marriage to Alvine/Alvina Fritz.

Obituary: "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Tuesday 3 Jan 1933 p 10 – Herman Carl Benz, age 61, of Chippewa Falls WI, died 2 Jan 1933 at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire WI after an illness of 2 years. Born in Wiesbaden, Germany; came to Chippewa Falls when age 14. Employed at Ottawa House hotel. Ten years ago began farming at Albertville but retired due to failing health. Lived on the south side of Eau Claire for several years. Survived by wife Clara Schiebe [i.e. his 2nd wife], 3 daughters from a previous marriage: Mrs. Adolph Siemers of Sheboygan Falls [this is Helen], Miss Margaret Benz of Sheboygan Falls [who will marry Joseph Jerale] & Mrs. Ted Willadsen of New Hampton IA [this is Marie] and one son, E.C. Benz of Eau Claire WI.

Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Find A Grave: 168682198

Mother: Alvine/Alvina Henriette Ernestine Fritz Benz, 1874 Selberg B, Germany [now Nowy Zeliborz, Poland] – 1918.

Daughter of Ferdinand Fritz (deceased by the time of her marriage to Herman Benz) & Emilie Maritz.

Alwine Fritz, age 17, emigrated 23 May 1890, traveling in steerage from Bremen, Germany, to Baltimore MD aboard the "München." Her occupation: farmer, destination NE.

Her tombstone is clearly shared with that of Herman Benz – and it is clearly marked with a death year of 1918 – but her husband Herman remarried, on 4 Mar 1917 in Dunn Co. WI, to Clara Adeline Scheibe.

Buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Find A Grave: 168682218

Parents' marriage record: Herman Karl Benz, b. Gandilin [sic], Pommerania, Germany [Gadelin is now called Kedrzyno, and is in the part of Pomerania that is now Poland] married 4 Jul 1893 in Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI to Alwine Henriette Ernestine Fritz, b. Selberg B, Pommerania, Germany [Selberg B is now called Nowy Zeliborz and is in the part of Pomerania that is now Poland]. Herman was the son of August & Bertha Benz, both deceased. Alwine was the daughter of Ferdinand Fritz & Emilie Maritz, both deceased.

Eric's stepmother: Clara Adeline Scheibe Benz, 4 Mar 1884 Elk Mound, Dunn WI – 23 Jan 1959 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Surname sometimes misspelled as Schiebe.

Daughter of Johann Franz ("Frank") Scheibe (1827-1901, F: 90004261) & Martha Elizabeth Ausman (1842-1917, F: 90004335). Clara was 1 of 14 children.

Obituary: "Eau Claire Leader-Telegram" 24 Jan 1959 p 3 – d. at age 74 in Chippewa Falls WI on 23 Jan 1959. Burial in Elk Mount WI. Survived by nieces & nephews.

Buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Elk Mound, Dunn WI. Listed as Herman's wife in the 1920 census, conducted 22 Jun 1920.

Find A Grave: 126283156

Stepmother's marriage: 4 Mar 1917 in Dunn Co. WI. Note that Herman's 1st wife died in 1918.

Spouse: Esther Marinda Leque Benz, 25 Apr 1905 Ettrick, Trempealeau WI – 1 Sep 1961 Eau Claire Co. WI.

Daughter of Ole Olsen Leque (1853-1935, F: 140232927) & Mathia (Mattie) Hansdatter/Hanson (1868-1952, F: 82967640). Her father had 2 other wives.

Obituary: "La Crosse (WI) Tribune" 6 Sep 1961 p 22 – d. age 65 in Eau Claire WI, former resident of Blair WI. Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ole Leque. Born 25 Apr 1905 North Beaver Creek, Ettrick township. Married Eric Benz 18 Sep 1929. They lived for 1 year in Superior WI, then moved to Eau Claire WI. As a young woman was employed at the Blair Hotel. Survived by her husband Eric & daughter Cheryl Benz (at home), plus 4 sisters & 6 brothers. Buried in Forest Home Cemetery, Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 168682249

Marriage: 18 Sep 1929.

Children:

- Cheryl Alvina Benz Knuth Greene, circa 1941 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI . – Married Alfred Edward Knuth on 25 Oct 1975 in Eau Claire Co. WI. Alfred was age 67 & Cheryl was age 35. Three other wives are mentioned in his obituary. Alfred Edward Knuth was born 14 Mar 1908 in Augusta, Eau Claire WI & died 12 Jul 1994 in Eau Claire Co. WI. F: 239678539. – On 30 Mar 1979 in Eau Claire Co. WI, Cheryl Alvina Knuth married John Myron Greene, born 1 Mar 1949. He had married Janet Faye Coble on 24 Nov 1973 in Eau Claire Co. WI. John was the son of Myron M. Greene (1919-2007) & wife Marjorie. When Myron died 4 Jan 2007, one of his 2 surviving sons was John of Green Bay WI, married to Cheryl. - Address was being sought for 1998 and 2003 reunions of Eau Claire (WI) High School. Listed as a member of the Class of 1958. – Records in Jan 2024 indicate Cheryl Greene lives in Green Bay, Brown WI.

Siblings:

- Helen Benz Siemers, 30 May 1897 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 2 Mar 1963 Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan WI. Wife of Adolph Carl Siemers (1897-1979, F: 193256358) whom she married 15 Feb 1920 in Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI. – Buried in Sheboygan Falls Cemetery, Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan WI. F 142940511
- Margaret B. ("Maggie") Benz Jerale, 13 Sep 1906 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 12 Aug 1995 Sheboygan, Sheboygan WI. Married Joseph J. Jerale at Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan WI on 3 Jun 1947. (Joseph son of Frank & Anna Jerale). Obituary: "Sheboygan Press" 14 Aug 1995, p. 2 – d. age 88, resident of 312 Adams St., Sheboygan Falls. Died at Heritage Health Center where she had lived past 1 ½ years. Daughter of Herman Benz & Alvina (Fritz) Benz. Graduate Chippewa Falls High School 1924. Clerk & accountant at Fessler's Grocery Store for over 25 years in Sheboygan Falls. Bowling champion. Preceded in death by parents, 2 sisters & brother. Burial in Sheboygan Falls Cemetery, Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan WI.

- Marie A. Benz Willadsen, 1909 WI – 7 Mar 1991 New Hampton, Chickasaw IA. Wife of J.Theodore (“Ted”) Willadsen (1906-12 Nov 1978 Waterloo IA, F: 52100428). Obituary: “Waterloo (IA) Courier” 8 Mar 1991 p 7 – Marie Willadsen, age 81, d. at her New Hampton home of a heart attack. She was preceded in death by her husband Ted (1978), son Lorne (1982), brother Eric Benz & sister Helena Siemers. Buried in New Hampton Cemetery, New Hampton, Chickasaw IA. F: 52100443.

Notes:

Wartime:

Post-war:

Obituary:

Social Security Number: 390-01-2460

Censuses:

1895 WI state census – Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Herman Benc [sic], 35 Germany, laborer

Alvina, 31 Germany

Helena, 8 WI

Erick, 6 WI

1900 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Herman Benc, 28 Germany, Jul 1871, parents b. Germany, emigrated 1890, in US for 10 years, papers filed, laborer, saw mill

Alwena/Alvena A., 26 Germany, May 1874, parents b. Germany, emigrated 1889, in US for 11 years, no citizenship status noted, gave birth to 2 children, 2 are living

Helena C., 3 WI, May 1897

Eric G., 1 WI, May 1899

1900 Elk Mound, Dunn WI – Eric’s future stepmother

Johann F. Schiebr/Schiebe, 73 Germany, Feb 1827, parents b. Germany, farmer

Martha E., 60 Germany, Jan 1839, Jan 1839, gave birth to 14 children, 13 are living

Two children are listed:

One is Clara M. Schiebe, 16 WI, Mar 1884, at school

1910 Chippewa Co. WI – conducted 18 Apr 1910

Herman Benz, 39 Germany, parents b. Germany, in 1st marriage, emigrated 1890, naturalized, status: papers filed, married 17 years, porter at hotel

Alvena, 35 Germany, parents b. Germany, in 1st marriage, emigrated 1890, naturalized,
gave birth to 4 children, 4 are living

Helena, 13 WI

Erick, 11 WI

Margaret 4 WI

Mary, 8 months WI

1920 Wheaton, Chippewa WI

Herman C. Benz, 49 Germany, parents b. Germany, married, emigrated 1891, naturalized
1905, farmer, stock farm

Erick, 20 WI, parents b. Germany, helper at home

Margarett, 12 WI, parents b. Germany

Marie, 10 WI, parents b. Germany

Wife Clara, 34 WI, parents b. Germany [listed after his children]

1930 Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI – 440 ½ Platte St.

Erich C. Benz, 29 WI, parents b. Germany, age 29 at 1st marriage, foreman, telephone
company, WWI veteran

Esther M., 24 WI, age 24 at 1st marriage, parents b. Norway

1940 Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI – 615 Davis – in 1935 in same house

Found at: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/77564561:2442>

Price (as indexed but can be read as Eric) Benz, 40 WI, shop [?] foreman, Wisconsin
Telephone

Ethen (as indexed – Esther), 33 WI

1950 Eau Claire, Eau Claire WI – 615 Davis Ave.

Erick C. Benz, 49 WI, supervisory foreman, telephone company

Esther M., 44 WI

Cheryl, 9 WI