

Ambrose and Evelyn Budzynski understood the value of education and always supported learning in every way throughout their married life of 55 years. In the small village of Hatley, they had been active church and community leaders; Ambrose as the village Treasurer for over 40 years and Evelyn as a grade school teacher since she graduated from the Normal School, now UWSP, at the age of 20.

Evelyn's passion has always been teaching. She tells the story that as a young girl she took rocks and wrapped them in rags, pretending they were her students and lined them up in rows to form her first classroom. Her real teaching career began in 1945 with a one room, 1-8 grade school called Rosenberry, located near Bevent, WI. She boarded with a local family and had to take care of the wood stove which heated the classroom, along with teaching responsibilities. One of her former students tells us that Mrs. Budzynski did not pass her out of first grade for 2 years until the young girl decided to speak English instead of Polish. This all took a lot of courage to accomplish, with the simple background of growing up on a farm in rural Rosholt.

After a number of years teaching in the one room schools, Evelyn began teaching elementary grades in the D.C. Everest district while going to summer school and taking night classes to get her Bachelor's degree and almost her Master degree. She taught until retirement and even substituted after that for a few years. She had such great pride in teaching. She taught many of her former student's children and even their children. She was a very strict teacher but, very much loved by her students.

Ambrose grew up in Hatley and after several years in the Army during World War II, started a Standard Oil distributorship which brought gas to families, farmers and businesses in the Hatley area, rather than working in the family Hardware store. After about 25 years he sold the business and became a manager of the hardware department for the new Kmart store in Wausau. He always loved carpentry and was proud to share this knowledge with his customers .

Ambrose and Evelyn had 3 daughters which they raised with the same strict standards they lived by- to always do your best, learn as much as you can, and never give up. They gave them piano, dance, swimming, and ski lessons. They encouraged accomplishments in all they did, whether it be school, lessons, 4-H, or extracurricular activities. They had many family traditions, celebrations, and reunions with their children, grandchildren and extended families. Family was a number one priority to them.

Both Ambrose and Evelyn were involved in all the important decisions in the growth of Hatley, whether building of the new Catholic Elementary School, the sewer and water system, the Library or the new D.C. Everest Elementary Grade school. They gave the hearts and souls to the community receiving the Birnamwood-Hatley Community Leaders award in 1987.

In their valuable free time they relaxed working in their huge garden of vegetables, fruit trees, berry bushes and incredible flowers. They also loved to travel to Europe and throughout the US often with Polka Bands dancing the evenings away, another one of their passions. One of their last most memorable trips was to Hawaii with their daughter and family where they were extremely touched with the emotional visit to Pearl Harbor.

They spent their winters in Arizona during retirement years and made many friends enjoying playing cards, traveling, dining out, and taking walks. Their summers were spent in Wisconsin. Ambrose passed away on Easter, April 15, 2001 at 87 and Evelyn on January 21, 2013 at 92. They had a full and accomplished life.