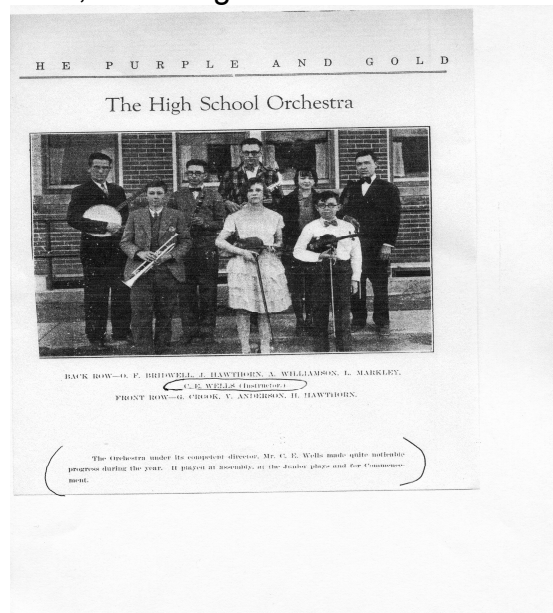


LYNDA WELLS KREUTZER, North High Class of 1959



Since I was raised by my paternal grandparents, I will start with their move to Denver from Ft. Morgan, Colorado. In the 1920s, my grandfather was the Ft. Morgan High School orchestra teacher. A prominent senior student in his music class in 1920 was Glen Miller. Yes, the famous Glen Miller. Glen missed his graduation exercise because my grandfather had gotten him a job to play at The Hotel Utah in Salt Lake that summer. He needed to leave before his commencement.

My grandfather continued as the instructor at the high school, as well as had his own orchestras, while raising his family in Ft. Morgan. He then retired from the music business in about May of 1941. He then moved the family to Denver to take on barbering. Although my grandfather no longer had an orchestra, he and my father continued to play and record music; reason being my father surpassed my grandfather with his talent in music.

Their first home in Denver was near North High School. This was the house they lived in when I was born. He had two daughters, (my aunts), still in high school when they arrived from Ft. Morgan, and they both attended North High. This house was near Speer and Federal. In 1948 we moved to 32nd and Grove, and I attended Edison Grade School. The summer of 1952 we then moved to 4453 Raleigh Street. Needless to say this was home for me all through junior high at Skinner and high school at North. I'm truly grateful for ending up at North High for those years of my life, and leaving me with many fond and cherished memories.

My grandfather's name was Charles Elmer Wells. Glen Miller's recording of "Elmer's Tune" was dedicated to my grandfather. My father's name was Clyde E. Wells. He was beyond talented, but unfortunately, was affected with alcoholism. This is the reason I was raised by my grandparents. My mother had left him and me when I was just a baby. My dad played every instrument made. But, his favorite was the saxophone. And of course he played the piano, constantly, as he wrote music and sang also.

5—FORT MORGAN, COLO. TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1988

Looking back

10 Years Ago

Contractor Earl Franks of Fort Morgan submitted the low bid for site preparation work for the new campus of Morgan Community College just east of Fort Morgan. Frank's bid of \$19,915.50 was low among four bidders with the other three from outside Morgan County.

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Mr. and Mrs. Terry Prather have returned to their home in Bakersfield, Calif. after spending a few days with his his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Prather. While they were here, there was a family gathering at the Ralph Prather home. Those present included Mr. and Mrs. Mike Prather, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Haas and their four children and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Mann and their two children.

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Elks ladies met for bridge Friday afternoon at the Elks Home. Honors for the afternoon of play were awarded to Mrs. Pauline Cook, Mrs. Russell Katzenbarger and Mrs. Neil Hamlin. Mrs. Loyal Baker won the bingo.

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stenback entertained members of their bridge club Saturday evening at their home. The hosts served dinner to their guests preceded by a social hour. Bridge honors for the evening were awarded to Glenn Morgan, Mrs. Bill Work and Harry Achziger.

25 Years Ago

Mary L. Schroeder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norris Schroeder, was one of a select group of 145 CSU students honored by CSU President William B. Morgan. Recognition was given at the annual "four-point" dinner for students who maintained a straight "A" average during at least one quarter of the 1962-63 school year.

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Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Mekelburg announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Carol Joyce, to Arthur B. Scheierman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Scheierman of Sutton, Neb. A November wedding is planned.

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Births: A daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Leroy A. Dahm of Madison, N.J. on Oct. 29.

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Mrs. Ernest Patterson was hostess to a luncheon at the Fort Morgan Country Club for

members of her bridge club and added guests, Mrs. H. K. Schug Sr., Mrs. H. L. Boehm and Mrs. Clem Loyd. Honors were received by Mrs. Schug and Mrs. Boehm.

40 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Lebsock entertained a group of friends for a Halloween hayride and wiener roast at Dead Horse Creek. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Linker, Mr. and Mrs. George Wambolt, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kechter, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dill, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Urbach Jr., Keith Fountain and Bill Kain.

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Bob Fisher celebrated his birthday anniversary with a combination birthday and Halloween party. The guests attended the movie and returned to the Fisher home for refreshments. Present were Billy and Donnie Kammerer, John Mar Samples, Billy Jolliffe, Lang Cooper, Donald Mitchell, Nancy Houghan, Anne Graves, Barbara Sailsbery, Diana Dempewolf, Caroline Skinner, Cheryl Frame, Joyce Amman, Arron Holzworth.

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On Sunday, Oct. 31 in Eben Ezer Chapel in Brush Miss Georgia Lee Doty became the bride of Carl E. Hultquist. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. George Doty of Fort Morgan and Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hultquist of Laird. The couple will be at home in Fort Morgan following a honeymoon in Colorado and Nevada.

50 Years Ago

LONDON (AP) — Lady Astor, American-born member of parliament, declared today there was "no truth" in a statement by eleven Soviet Russian airmen that Col. Charles A. Lindbergh had criticized the Soviet air force at a dinner at her home. She said the London communist newspaper, The Daily Worker, was responsible for the report, and that "it is a complete lie."

The Wells Quartet of Fort Morgan, sister and brother ensemble who swung their way through a medley of "Black Maria," "Says My Heart" and "Tip-I-Tin" on "Colorado's Hour" Oct. 1 won the highest number of listener votes. As a result of the victory, the Wells Quartet will appear in the semi-final. Members of the quartet are: Nola, 12; Maxine, 16; Melvin, 18; Clyde, 20.



2A- FORT MORGAN, COLO. TIMES, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 1979

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

People in this area who watch Channel 6 may have seen the half-hour "Colorado Weekly" program a week ago last Friday at 9 p.m. which featured a 20-minute segment on the life of a former Fort Morgan resident, Elmer Wells. Those who remember this 86-year-old barber and former music teacher may have been surprised to learn he still works six days a week in his barber shop located in the park area of Denver University. Elmer has been barbering for 66 years and lives in the back of his shop!

But of more interest is the fact that Elmer Wells was a musician and a danceband leader and had an all-girl orchestra which played dances in and around Fort Morgan dating back to World War I days. When Elmer wasn't teaching at the original Fort Morgan High School located at 300 Lake St., he was the second-chair barber in Clem Loyd's barber shop in the 300 block of Main Street where the Loom & Leather store stands. The barber shop was long and narrow (about 10' x 90') and the back end was occupied in later years by Frieda's Beauty Shop owned by Frieda Murphy.

Probably the most famous pupil Elmer Wells ever had was a young, tall, dark-haired boy with an athletic build who loved to play the trombone and was awarded the title of "Best Left End in Colorado" circa 1920 when he and Nori Carlson, who played quarterback on the

Morgan team, beat Sterling 27 to 7 to win the Northern Colorado Football Conference. But athletics were not this young man's forte, and he was constantly after Elmer to teach him to play the trombone. Elmer did, declaring this lad "could play anything he could whistle" and had "perfect pitch, which is why his band sounded so good." This young man left Fort Morgan in May of 1921, missing his own graduation ceremonies in the basement of the Methodist Church because he couldn't wait to play trombone and arrange music for the big bands.

His name was Glenn Miller, and Elmer Wells was the one who encouraged Glenn to follow a career in music and was an

important factor in getting him started by showing him the way and providing that extra push so important when a young man is trying to figure out what path to take for the rest of his life.

One night, when Glenn was practicing the trombone outside on the sidewalk, the police put him in jail, and Glenn called Elmer Wells to come down and bail him out. Wells made the police promise not to put anything down on Glenn's record and paid the \$10 fine. Glenn was not one to forget those who helped him out, and when his orchestra became the nation's number one danceband, Glenn named a million-seller after his old friend. It was called "Elmer's Tune."

Sincerely,
Tom Yates

