

**Beverly Kathryne Bell**, daughter of Robert Lee (1910-1997) and Iona Mabel (Gillespie) (1911-1996) Bell, was born 15 March 1936, Barry County, Michigan. Beverly's family moved to the Okemos area in the 1940's and she graduated from

*1954 Okemos Tomahawk*



**BEVERLY K. BELL**

"Bev"

*Quiet and sweet without conceit.*

Band 1, 2, 4

F.H.A. 3, Reporter 2, Treasurer 4

Bible Club 3, 4

Library 4

Okemos High School in 1954. While in school Beverly was active in 4-H and was an excellent pianist.

Lansing State Journal, March 30, 1939

The following members of the Pocahontas 4-H Sewing club exhibited at the achievement day at Mason last week: fourth year: Rhoda Kelly, wool dress; Ann Rich, complete costume; Marilyn Bennett, Jean Avery—the summer costume third year, Beverly Bell, Maxine Scheffer—summer wardrobe; second year Joan Galbavi, Charlene Peacock, aprons—first year, Betty Simineaux, Margaret Ann Black.; first year, Mary Beth Burke, Marianne Bosworth, Diane McDonald, Cynthia Drew, dirndl skirts—first year. The county honor roll included Ann Rich and Jean Avery.

Lansing State Journal, February 26, 1950

## **Brahms Musicale Set at Okemos**

"Brahms the Third Great B" is the topic for Okemos Junior Matinee Musicale Tuesday at 4 p. m. in the Community church parlors. Beverly Bell will discuss this composer.

Piano solos are to be presented by Marilyn Hammond, Janet Henderson and Jo Anna Bredahl. Mrs. Park Hammond and Mrs. K. E. Henderson are hostesses.

Lansing State Journal, April 30, 1950

## **39 Pupils to Present Recital in East Lansing**

Mrs. Allen L. Snider will present 39 piano pupils in recital Monday at 7 p. m. in the women's parlor of Peoples church, Lansing.

Taking part will be Hope Reavely, Verna Fisher, Jean Avery, Carol Avery, Donald Keck, Ronald Hansen, Barbara Bell, Beverly Bell, Suzanne Burkett, Bill Burkett, Charlyn Levernier, Robert Levernier, Carl Pierce, Phillip

VanderVelde, Virginia Richard, Jimmy Hill, Laurel Snider, Mary Ann Tinker, Carolyn Owens, Linda Knapp, Willa Knapp, Suzanne Hunter, Sue Layne Hodge, Carol Hodge, Sandy Pesterfield, Carolyn Kiebler, Wallace Holloway, Mary Dreps, Laura Lee Rathbone, Jim Kreider, John Kreider, Arthur Brauner, Allan Houghton, Bill DeLind, Henry Visger, Mary Ann Visger, Leona Backus, Leon Bachus and Shirley Miller.

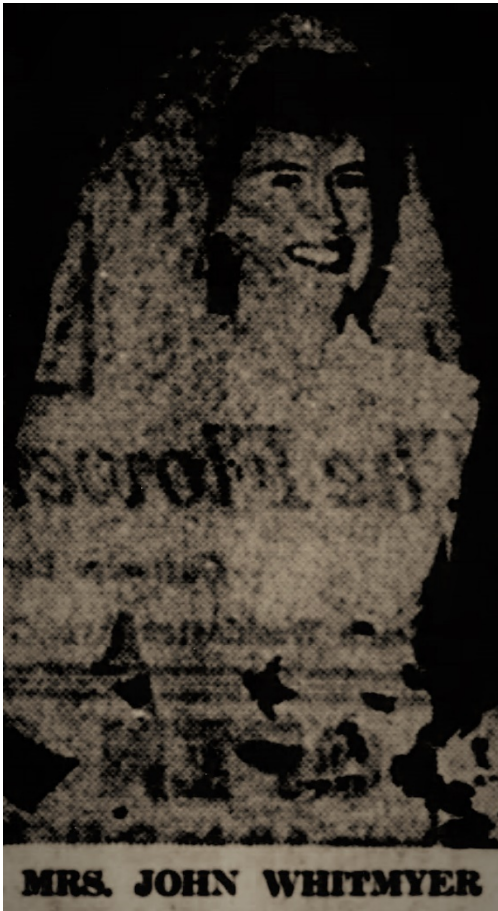
In November 1955 Beverly married John Irvin "Jack" Whitmyer. Jack was a 1951 graduate of Okemos.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Sunday 6 November 1955

## **BEVERLY BELL, JOHN WHITMYER ARE MARRIED IN OKEMOS RITES**

White gladioli and chrysanthemums banked the altar of Okemos Community church recently for the candlelight wedding of Miss Beverly Kathryn Bell and John Irvin (Jack) Whitmyer.

Lansing State Journal, November 6, 1955



The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bell, R. 1, and her husband is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Whitmyer of Okemos.

Rosepoint lace and tulle over satin fashioned Beverly's wedding gown. A tiara of seed pearls and rhinestones held her fingertip veil and she carried white carnations and a white Bible.

Miss Barbara Bell was her sister's maid of honor in blue lace over taffeta. She carried a cascading bouquet of shaded pink carnations. Wearing identical gowns of pink were the bridesmaids - Miss Viola Willits and Miss Charlene Peacock.

Don Whitmyer of Goose Bay, Labrador, was best man for his brother. Dale Grettenberger and Bruce Ritchey were groomsmen, and ushers were Robert and Duane Bell, brothers of the bride; Wayne Kneetges (*Knechtges*), brother-in-law of the bridegroom, and Kim Williams.

A reception followed in the church parlors.

The newlyweds will make their home in Okemos.

Special wedding guests were Ms. William Gillespie of Hastings and Mrs. Lottie Bell of Nashville, grandmothers of the bride, and Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Wilkins of Mason and Mrs. Bessie Whitmyer of Perry, grandparents of the bridegroom.



In 1965 Beverly became employed by the United States Postal Service and was appointed Postmaster in 1979 of the Haslett Post Office.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 29 March 1979

## **SHE'S NEW POSTMASTER**

Beverly K. Whitmyer is the new Haslett postmaster, said John P. Duran, regional postmaster general for the 13-state central region. Mrs. Whitmyer began her postal career as a substitute clerk in the East Lansing Post Office in 1965. She was

superintendent of window services at the East Lansing office prior to her promotion to postmaster. She resides in Okemos and is the mother of 3 sons.

Beverly and Jack would celebrate 44 years and 3 sons together. In 1989 the Whitmyers lost beloved son Jeffrey Dee. Jeffrey was a 1982 OHS graduate.

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Lansing State Journal, December 31, 1992

## **The mall haul**

Before stores in the **Meridian Mall** have even opened their doors for business, about 150 walkers will have completed at least one mile-long lap around the mall each day.

Starting at 7 a.m., walkers like Beverly Whitmyer of Haslett start their rounds.

Whitmyer, a retired postal worker, belongs to a health club, but opts to walk five laps around the mall instead.

"Going to a health club takes too much effort," she said.

Beverly died 5 October 2000, Arizona. She was interred with son Jeffrey in Wilcox Cemetery, Nashville, Barry County.

**WHITMYER, BEVERLY K.**

**Sun City West, AZ  
Formerly of Haslett and Okemos**

Died October 5, 2000 at the age of 64. Born March 15, 1936, in rural Nashville, MI, to Lee and Iona Gillespie Bell, who predeceased her. Beverly had a lengthy involvement with breast cancer. Beverly began school in a one-room school in rural Nashville, moved to the completed Okemos Public Schools; she attended Michigan State University. She worked at several clerical positions, moving to the U.S. Postal Service, beginning as a postal clerk, moving to management, and serving as Post Master at Haslett, MI. She retired to Sun City West for reasons of health. Beverly was a member of the Lady of the Lords Church in Sun City, where a memorial service was conducted. Survivors include sons, John R. (Darla) Whitmyer, Joseph P. Whitmyer (his special friend, Joseph Bell); granddaughters, Jody, Jamie and Jessie Whitmyer; brothers, Duane (Kay) Bell, Robert (Fay) Bell; sisters, Barbara (George) Owens and Janice (Daniel) Wolverton; special friend, Stanley Lingeman. A son, Jeffrey D. predeceased her in 1989. A memorial service will be conducted at **First United Methodist Church of Mason, MI at 1:30 p.m., Monday, October 16, 2000**, with Rev. Timothy Tuthill, Associate Pastor, officiating. The family will receive visitors at the church beginning at 1 p.m. the same day. Cremation has taken place. Memorials may be made to the Breast Cancer Awareness Society in her name.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Friday 13  
October 2000*

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