

**Grandparents Herman Julius and
Maria Anna Friedericke (Pesch) Westfahl
Compiled March 3, 2026 Ted H. Schaar**

The article on pages 2, 4, and 7 was written by my cousin June K. Westfahl Erdmann, daughter of Dorothy and Ruben (last-born son of Herman and Maria), published in *The Marion Advertiser* (Marion, Wisconsin) on Thursday, November 10, 2011, and sent to me by my sister, Charmayne Fraedrich.

I scanned it with an inexpensive but amazing Canon MG5220 three-in-one and retouched it slightly using Photoshop Elements.

After each of the sections, I've included blowups of photographs, additional captions and images, and pictures of two vehicles like those mentioned that were once owned by our grandfather, Herman Julius Westfahl, a man I barely remember, though he is the source of my middle name.

By the time I was old enough to form memories, he spent most of his day on the couch in his Tigerton, Wisconsin, home enduring the ravages of leukemia.

I was five when he died.

My only memory of him speaking was when we visited not long before his death, and my brother and I were playing loudly in the kitchen when he yelled at our mother (Marie Bertha Emily Westfahl Schaar): "Mary, can't you keep those children quiet!" Mary was her nickname.

Grandfather Westfahl was 74 when he died; I've now outlived him.

Herman J. Westfahl & Son Livestock Dealers

By June K. Westfahl Erdmann

My great-grandfather Herman J.G. Westfahl came from Germany and settled in the Township of Grant, Shawano County. When he passed away at age 54, my grandfather, Herman J. Westfahl and his brothers took over the family farm. Also known as "H.J.", Herman started a livestock business on the home farm and became known for being a very good businessman. He supplied many of the local farmers with milk cows and teams of work horses. He hired men and boys to work on the family homestead.

One such young man was Roy Kriesel, born 1925, who worked for Herman as a teenager. Mr. Kriesel told me that, because money was scarce during those times, many small local farmers couldn't afford a bull on their dairy farms. Herman delivered a young, small bull weighing approximately 800-900 pounds to farms. The farmer kept the bull until it was at maximum weight, about 1500 to 1600 pounds. Herman then had the bull picked up and shipped to market. Another small, young bull was left for the farmer to use for breeding his dairy cows. This borrowing out "was done free and with a gentleman's agreement" and was one of Herman's larger businesses. Herman also purchased cattle from local farmers and, accompanied by his younger brother Charlie, hauled them to the stockyards in Chicago, Illinois, and Green Bay and Bonduel, Wisconsin. On the family homestead, they remodeled the machine shed/granary by cutting out a larger door to accommodate the livestock truck. Herman sold cows and heifers to the Adolph Laatsch family farm in the 1920s. As the livestock business grew, Herman had his younger brother Charlie haul down and disabled horses to Fromm Brothers in Hamburg, Wisconsin, 20 miles from Wausau. Fromm Brothers was the 12,000 acre "Silver Fox Ranch". In later years, son, Ruben and son-in-law Ruben Schreiber also hauled cattle to Fromm Brothers. Ruben Schreiber's eldest daughter, Annie rode along in the livestock truck.

Herman and his wife Marie decided to move and purchased a new home near Tigerton on November 12, 1931. They purchased a beautiful Victorian home located on Lynn Street, south of the Tigerton Union Cemetery, that was previously owned by Earl Speaker. Matthew Schuh, who previously lived on the Donald Wolff property built this home and later sold it to Earl Speaker. This home was so large, that the wood



Victorian home by Tigerton Union Cemetery.

furnace held 4 foot split wood logs. Herman Westfahl continued the livestock business from this farm. Herman, Marie and their children, Marie (Mary), Violet, Lillian, Ruben and Ruby moved to Tigerton when my father Ruben was 11 years old. Also living with Herman Sr. and Marie was their son Andrew, his wife Gladys and their two young children Kenny and Susan. Herman and Marie's eldest son, Herman Jr. (Sonny), and his wife Elsie took over the family farm in the Township of Grant, Shawano County. In the move, one of their beautiful teams of sorrel work horses, Kate and Nell, was moved from the homestead to the new Westfahl farm in Tigerton to complete the field work.

My grandfather Herman made his

visits to the farmers during the early morning or early evening when the farmers were milking. Noted for being very well dressed, Herman always wore dress pants, a white dress shirt, a hat and dark sunglasses. One of the vehicles Herman drove was a 1937 Plymouth Coupe. One of the farmers he visited was Charles Kauffman who, in 1930, purchased a farm on Highway 45 North at N4902 Hwy. 45, Tigerton. At the Kauffman home Herman and Mr. and Mrs. Kauffman always spoke Low German. Cows and calves were purchased and or sold to the Kauffman family for their dairy business. Herman also sold the Kauffman family several teams of work horses. The first team purchased was a bay and sorrel team, then a team of blacks was purchased, a strawberry roan was added





Ruben and Dorothy Westfahl with team of work horses.

and finally another pair of black work horses that Herman purchased in Iowa. Herman and son Ruben, who started helping his dad at an early age, traveled to Nebraska and Iowa to purchase these top teams.

In 1935, Herman sold a team of work horses to Gus Muck who lived in the Township of Morris on Clark Road where Simpson Creek passed through. This property had a log home that later was maintained by the Earl Holm family. Herman sold a pair of work horses for farming the 80 acre farm to Gus for \$26. With this \$26, Herman bought Ruben, age 15, his first new bicycle from Lendved Hardware Store in Clintonville, Wisconsin.

Herman also sold cattle and horses to Max Hille of Tigerton. The Hille's purchased an excellent team of bay work horses, named Barney and Junie that the family used in farming. Herman bought livestock from the local farmers which Ruben then picked up and paid for with a check. Martin Hille, son of Max, rode along with Ruben helping him load calves into the Westfahl 1928 or 1929 3 speed - Ford pickup truck. This Ford had a roxal differential/rear end which gave more power going up



Herman J. Westfahl and son livestock truck.



Ruben and Dorothy Westfahl with team of work horses. Sister Charmayne Fraedrich, Brother Bob, and I believe the older boy pictured is Kenny Westfahl, son of Gladys and Sam (Herman and Maria's second-born son), and the younger boy is Jim Sengstock (Ruby [youngest child of Herman and Maria] and Vilas' firstborn), but we're just guessing about Jim. If it is Jim, he looks five or so years old which would date the photo to the late 1940s or early 1950s.



the hills.

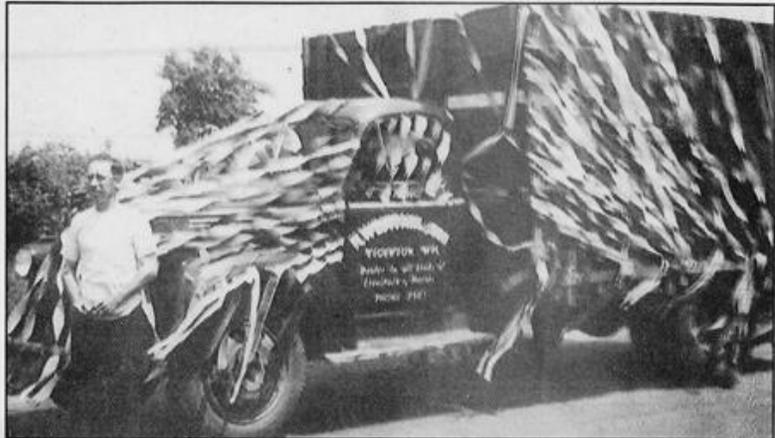
Ruben and Martin were the Tigerton version of Huckleberry Finn. They nailed fence posts together and made a raft which they launched into the South Branch of the Embarrass River. Near the southeast end of the Westfahl property, this spot in the river was approximately 10 feet deep.

Herman hired Herman Kielblock who lived in a home bordering the Westfahl property, 408 US Highway 45 (Barney Jelinski home), to build a slaughter house barn on the property and to be the main butcher for Westfahl Livestock. At the main barn on the Westfahl farm a big wheel winch was used to pull the cattle up and complete the butchering process. Cows, pigs and calves were butchered in the evening by taking internal organs and head and legs off. The hides were left on the carcass to keep the meat clean. The carcasses were then loaded on the train in Tigerton and hauled to the "big cities of Milwaukee and Chicago" for market. Martin Hille's dad Max made Martin a knife so he could work at the Westfahl Livestock/Butchering.

One of the livestock trucks that my grandfather owned was a 1942 two ton Chevrolet. This truck was purchased in 1947 during war time from the Shawano Brewing Company for \$1000. It had 100,000 miles on the odometer when purchased and when traded in the truck odometer read 200,000 miles. Estimated gas mileage was about 14 miles per gallon. It took my dad Ruben only one hour to travel from Tigerton to the Green Bay Stockyards. He also hauled to the Bonduel stockyards. The livestock trucks were always in the local parades. Ruben, his wife Dorothy and other Westfahl siblings decorated the trucks with crepe paper advertising the business.

Herman Westfahl had his livestock business operating on a minimum of five farms in Western Shawano County; the Westfahl homestead in the Township of Grant, son Ruben and wife Dorothy's farm in the Township of Morris; the Hauser farm where daughter Marie, and her husband Alfred and their son Forry worked the land in the Township of Fairbanks; and the Schultz farm that bordered Herman's Victorian home and farm near Tigerton in the Township of Fairbanks. While the Schultz farm was owned by Herman and Marie, it was the residence of daughter, Violet, her husband Ruben and their children Annie, Wayne and Darlene. At this last farm the barn was full of dairy cows with four stalls for work horses.

In February, 1948, the farm of Walter and Violet Loken in the Township of Morris, Shawano County, was purchased by the Westfahl family to operate as a dairy farm and to maintain the cattle, calves and horses needed for the livestock business. Ruben and his wife Dorothy operated this farm which is still owned by my husband Jerry Erdmann and me. Herman also rented a farm located at N4517 Hwy 45 (now



Herman J. Westfahl and Son livestock truck at local parade.

the Pat Hauser farm) where Herman and Marie's daughter Mary and her husband Alfred farmed.

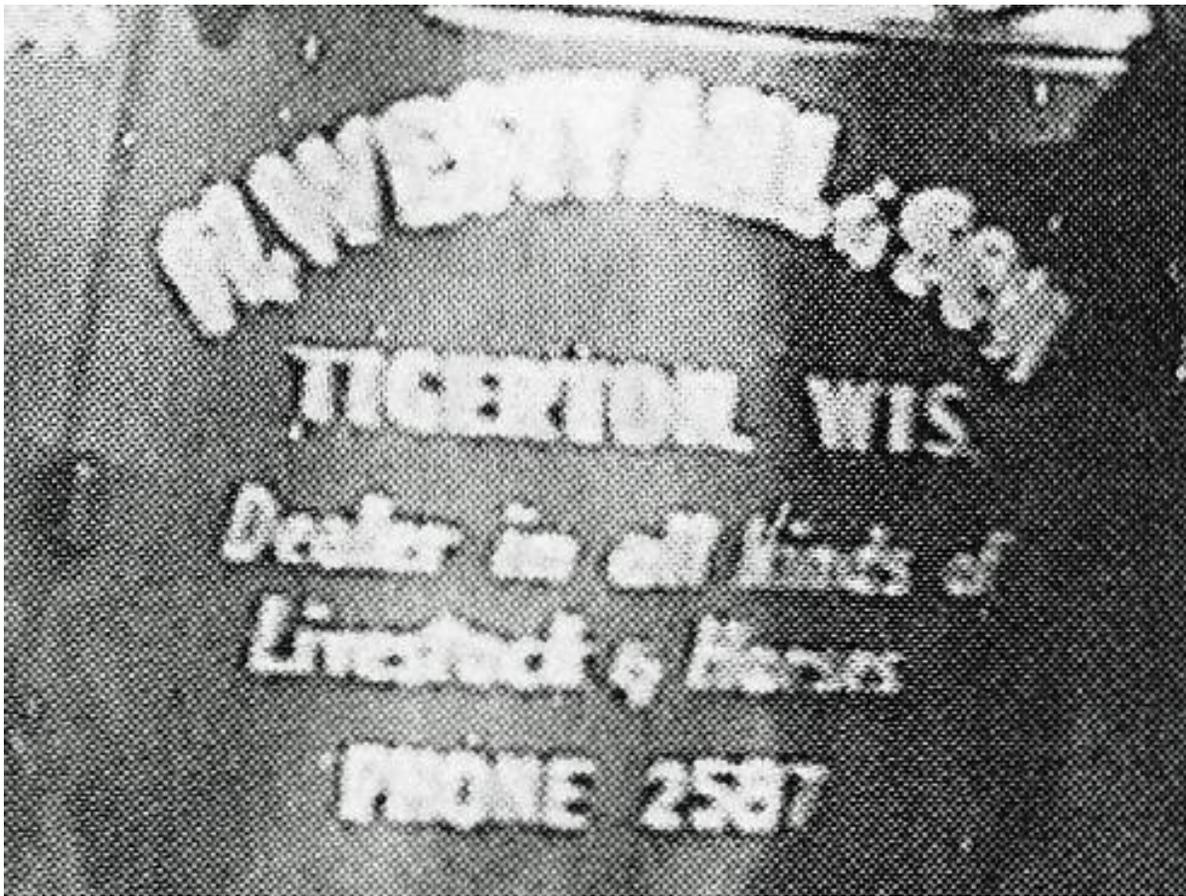
In addition to his farming businesses, Herman also employed local men as logging crews that cleared the land in the Caroline and Tigerton areas. These

logs were then sold to the local saw mills in Tigerton.

Looking back, my grandfather Herman "H. J." was an active businessman in agriculture, butchering and logging the Tigerton and Caroline areas.



Herman J. Westfahl with logging crew.





Sister Charmayne, Brother Bob, and I believe the man on the left above is our father, Alfred (Al) August Schaar; Charmayne thinks the man on the right is Max Hille, a long-time friend of our dad. (Hille's first name was pronounced "mucks," as said by Germans, not the English "max.")

As the photos below from the 1930s show, Alfred August spent time as a truck driver for the Tigerton Lumber Company and was well acquainted with the woods. License plates are for 1934 and 1935.

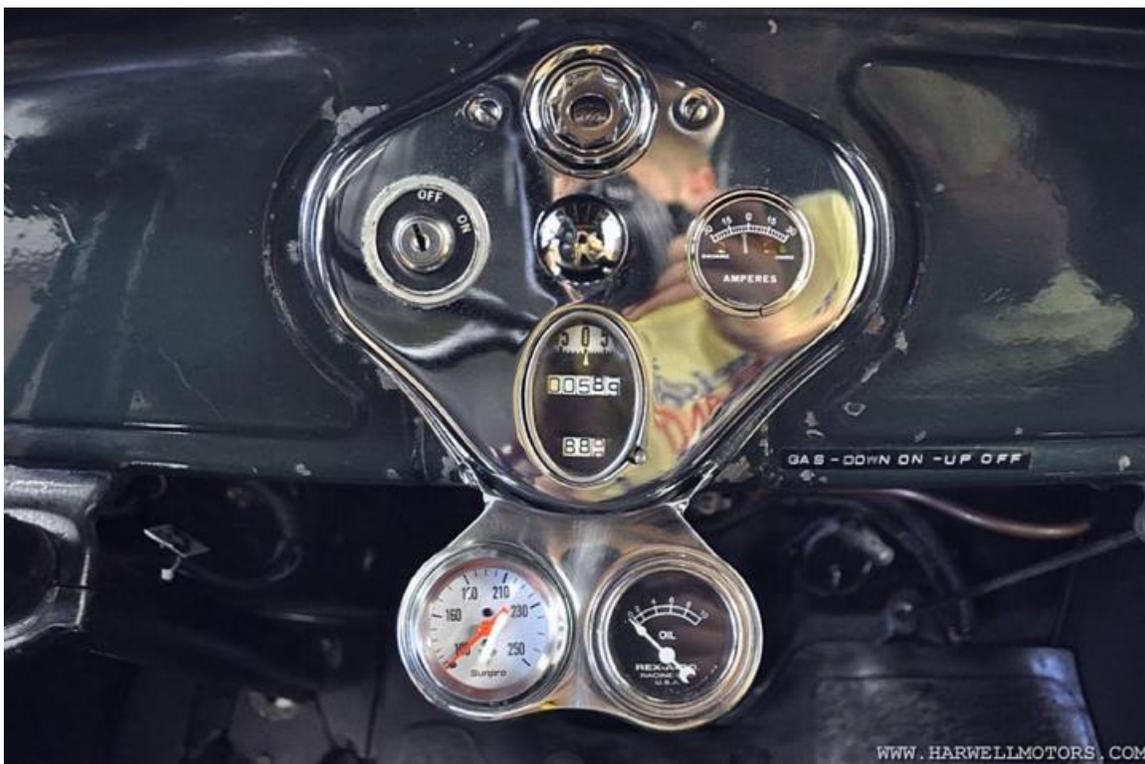


Herman Julius Westfahl Vehicles

June's story mentions two trucks and a car our grandfather owned: a 1942 two-ton Chevrolet (pictured in the article), a 1928 or '29 Ford pickup, and a 1937 Plymouth Coupe. Although I don't know what colors his Ford and Plymouth were, the images below show what similar vehicles looked like, inside and out, at least when new or restored. Both are fairly jaunty—especially the one-bench-seat business coupe—and major technological leaps from the buggies, saddled horses, sleighs, and wagons my mother fondly recalled getting around on or in as Herman and Maria's first-born.

1929 Ford Pickup (images courtesy of Classic Car Liquidators)





1937 Plymouth Business Coupe (images courtesy of Mecum Auctions)
<http://mecum.com>





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