*DESTINATION LODI*

*A HISTORICAL JOURNEY*

*THE VANDEMARK FAMILY*

*Larry Scott once again stopped by with some articles he found and thought I would be interested. Once again, he was right. One article was about the largest natural glacier bolder in Ohio on Vandemark land. Once again, a road is named after a significant family in Lodi.*

*The large boulder is located on the old Verne Vandemark farm that was located a mile and a half northwest of Lodi (corner of Vandemark and Kennard Road). Glaciers deposited it during the Ice Age. It once measured 14 feet long and 10 feet wide but how much is under ground is not known. Estimated weight was 195 tons. You can see it during the winter months.*

*Don and Susan (nee Potts) Vandemark returned home after many years. I stopped over to talk with them and was welcomed into their home. I was shown some wonderful pictures of Lodi drawn by art teacher Tom Morris and many Lodi items Sue and her mom Alice had collected. I also grabbed a picture of Sue, the last Miss Lodi 1960 riding in a parade. Another visit produced more pictures, Lodi items and Lodi history. FYI, Alice was the first women to run for Village council.*

*Don was born and raised in Lodi and was a graduate of the first Cloverleaf class. He was a barber by trade (like his father). Don’s last 30 years of work was a radio announcer.*

*In 2002, he returned to Lodi for a reunion. This is where Sue enters the picture…again.*

*Don and Sue knew each other from kindergarten to graduation, married others and went their own way. Both widowed, Don returning for a reunion, mutual friends, Don and Sue meet again and a 2003 wedding follows. I am a sucker for a love story.*

*Don’s father was Neil, known as Skeet, was a barber at the Taylor Inn then moved to the Leatherman Bldg. with Mr. Chapman. He also owned the Standard Home and Auto where the Samaritan is now located.*

*Don’s Grandfather Charles was a stonemason who cut stone for our train arches. It is understood that there is a stone with his name on it near the large arch.*

*Don’s Great-grand father was Benjamin Vandemark Jr. born in 1846 and died in 1919. He was the son of Benjamin Sr. who died in Lodi in 1862. According to the 1897 Atlas and Directory of Medina County, Benjamin Jr. (B.J.) of Harrisville Township is pleasantly located on his farm a short distance north of Lodi village. The people of his township where he was elected to the office of trustee in the spring of 1892 again in 1896 well and favorably know him. He discharged the duties of the office with honor to himself and credit to his township and in the spring of 1897, he was elected to a second term.*

*Don grew up at the corner of Janice and Redfield, but many of the Vandemark family lived on Vandemark Road. I believe there in one farm left on North Redfield (once Vandemark Rd).*

*Thanks Don and Sue. Welcome home!*