

Third Generation at Berghorst & Son Assumes Presidency

In 1899 Henry Berghorst and three brothers left Galdalin, The Netherlands for a new home and opportunities in the United States. They would never again see their parents or siblings left behind. After processing emigration procedures at Ellis Island in New York harbor they eventually made their way to the community of Hills in Northeast, Minnesota. Henry met and married Anna Van Maanen February 28, 1905. The union produced seven boys and three girls. One of the boys was named Evert but everyone called him "Ed".

Ed eventually migrated 35 miles south to the community of Hull, Iowa where he was a laborer for various farmers in the area. While attending church he met Dena Eppinga. They

were married July 18, 1934 and gave birth to four daughters, the youngest named Arlene.

In the mid-1950s Ed transported livestock at night and moved buildings during the day. Before long he was moving structures fulltime and the Berghorst Company was born. His formal education was only through the fourth grade. He had no mentor so he learned the business on the job. The work was hard using hand jacks, wood beams and trucks that were too small for the loads being transported.

After his wife tragically died in 1960 at the early age of 46 from cancer, Ed married her best friend Hattie Leusink who had never



David Vant Hul

previously been married. A short time later daughter Arlene and a young Orville Vant Hul from Rock Valley met at a Hull community roller skating outing. Even though both were classmates at Western Christian High School they had never met. Both must have been excellent skaters as the meeting led to marriage in 1964: Orville was 18 years old and Arlene was 17. The same year Orville went to work for his father-in-law Ed at Berghorst Company.



The Original Fold-Up Boom 1972 Chevy Truck

By GENE BRYMER, Staff Executive/Editor

Transformer Move January 2007
Des Moines, Iowa
Gross Weight 650,000 lbs
23 Axles, 150 Tires



In 1966 Orville and Arlene, with their new son David, had plans to move to Minneapolis where Orville envisioned a career in the computer industry. Ed, not wanting to see his "baby" daughter and new grandson move away from Hull offered Orville an opportunity to buy an interest in the company. Up to this point the company had never been incorporated. With the addition of Orville as a part owner the company was incorporated and the name changed to Berghorst & Son. Orville and Arlene had a second son, Darren, born in 1967 but his interest was in music where he has earned a Masters Degree. He had no interest in the structural moving business.

No one dreamed a mere five years later Ed would die suddenly of a heart attack in 1971 leaving 25 year old Orville, with only seven years experience in the industry, as head of the company. With Ed's death two employees, Dennis Van Maanen and Henry Leusink bought interest in the company. The youthful appearance of the three young owners required exceptional persuasion to prospective customers even to allow them....

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Grandpa Ed Berghorst
from hauling livestock to moving buildings