

## Gladys Cape Runge meeting Francis Runge

I didn't meet the Runge family until after the boys (Martin and Howard) worked on the Runge farm located 7 miles west of Sidney NE. I was working at Mud Springs for the Davis' (relatives of the Scherer family) in 1939 and 1940 and while there I saw the Runge's cattle going by one afternoon being moved from the North Platte Valley back to the home place. The cattle were put in the folks corral in the north pasture overnight.

I went to work at Deer Ridge Chalets in the Rocky Mountain National Park near Estes Park, CO. in the spring of 1940. When I got home in the fall that year I rode to Sidney with Dad. We went by the Runge farm and saw Martin and Howard. They were working in the beet field topping beets. I think most of the Runge boys; Clifford, Lester, Walter, Ralph, Vernon, George, Glen and Francis were in the field too but don't remember any special one. (The Runge girls are Bonita and Doris)

My folks had some of the Runges for Thanksgiving that year and I remember getting the house cleaned and helping with dinner. Sometime later, I'm not sure when, we were at the Runges for a dinner. Anyway it was nice weather for riding horses I know because I rode with Francis. That's when Howard and Clifford were both riding a bicycle out in the pasture and wrecked. Clifford got a bump on his head. Runges must have had a phone because Dr. Grimm came and said Clifford had a concussion. Guess that sorta ended all the fun outside and we all left.

Only time I went with Francis was with Martin and Howard roller skating at Sidney. World War II had started and gas rationing was in effect. Francis and I started dating when I taught school at Kinkaid, in Morrill County, northeast of Dalton in 1942. He proposed in November and we were married May 1, 1943 at the old Cheyenne County Courthouse in Sidney by Judge Barlow. Bob and Genevieve Hinrichs were our attendants and the Judge's secretary, Marjorie Ells, was a witness. None of our families attended the ceremony. Following the ceremony we stopped by a store and bought an alarm clock so Frances could get to work on time then went to the photographer to get a wedding picture taken. (You didn't have to have an appointment those days.) We didn't have a reception just went to Francis' folks for supper. Nothing special. He was 26 years old and the first son to get married. He started something though because in next couple years most of the rest took the step. We didn't have a honeymoon. I was teaching yet and Francis was working at his folks as all the older boys were in the armed service now. Four of them were stationed at Ft. Robinson with Martin. Francis did not pass the physical (classified 4-F) or he would have been in service too. We spent a weekend visiting the Runge boys and Martin when they were stationed at Ft. Robinson, NE.

Our first home, a vacant farm house, was a nice place a few miles east and north of Huntsman then we moved to Sidney in the Fall of 1943.

It was Grandma DeVona Mauer's brown eyes that got the family acquainted because Francis' dad, Bismark, saw Charles and his brown eyes and asked then if we were related because Grandma's cousin Mary Allington married Josephine Runge's brother Ed Sager and they knew Grandma DeVona Mauer that way.

by Gladys Cape Runge  
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