

Osgood man to celebrate 100th b

Alga A. Bruey, of Osgood, will celebrate his 100th birthday on January 4. Alga is the youngest of nine children of the late John and Mathilda Bruey. He was born on a farm just west of Osgood and has lived near there all his life. He has been a member of the St. Nicholas Parish in Osgood all 100 years and is the parish's senior member. Alga served as church treasurer for a number of years.

He attended elementary school at Osgood and Sidney. During the sixth grade he suffered a serious injury to his foot that resulted in his being hospitalized at St. Elizabeth's in Dayton for six months and forced him to use crutches for the next six years. He earned high school credits attending Versailles High School, Minster High School and Holy Angels High School in Sidney. As a high school student he drove

the school bus and picked up several other students on the way to Minster. He graduated from Holy Angels High School in 1925. Alga was the only child in his family to earn a high school diploma.

Immediately after his high school graduation he began his long-time career at the Osgood State Bank. He started as a bookkeeper, became a teller, then cashier, and, eventually, became the president and a member of the board of directors. Alga remembers several robberies that took place at the bank. The Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression were other challenges he had to face during his years at the bank. He retired as an employee of the bank in 1973 and served as a member of the bank's board of directors until 1993.

In the late 1920's Alga's banking career was interrupted for a time while he recovered from a back injury. He was

attempting to start his Model T Ford with a hand crank when it "kicked" causing the injury. He spent three years and seven months in a full body cast that rested on a specially designed frame. The cast was removed in 1933 and after a period of rehabilitation he was able to return to work. Alga had learned to play the saxophone and clarinet while confined by the cast, so he played saxophone with the Tom Burns Band for several years after he got back on his feet. The band played at Edgewater Park, Minster Eagles, and Russell's Point.

Alga married Bernadine Poepelman October 18, 1941, and purchased a home north of Osgood on property that included an apple orchard. As a hobby, they raised several varieties of apples. Alga and Bernie also made cider and apple butter from the apple crops. In 1954, they built a new

home on the Bruey family farm west of Osgood.

After his retirement from the bank, Alga started a part-time job selling shoes door-to-door. He was able to develop a group of loyal customers over a period of years and he enjoyed his visits with them. At the age of 89 he won a refrigerator in a sales contest.

Alga and Bernie celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in 2001. They are the parents of five children, 15 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. The children are: Barbara (Roger) Kremer of Coldwater, Beverly (Dennis) Balster of Vandalia, Beatrice (Delbert) Balster of Huber Heights, Paul (Margie) Bruey of Osgood, and Bridget (John) Anthony of Cincinnati.

The children will host an Open House honoring Alga's 100th birthday on Sunday, January 4, 2004, at Romer's Banquet Facility Party Room in St.

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