CHAPTER – 1B

Memories Of James A. "Gus" & Josephine "Laux" Michaels



This is a picture of Josephine "Laux" Michaels when she was just a few months old along with her older brother Charles Laux in 1911. This appears to be a studio picture.



Picture above is Gus Michaels at the age of 4 months. Gus was born on Sept. 9, 1902.

James Augustine "Gus" Michaels was the first Child born to Louis and Mary Frances "Matthews" Michaels on September 9, 1902. He was very small at the time of his birth and story has it that he only weighed about 2 lb. or so when he was born. Gus was educated in a one room school house not far from the home where he grew up. After the 6th grade, Gus went to Montgomery High School and after graduation in 1921, he helped on the farm till he decided to strike out on his own. In the Fall after graduation from Montgomery High School Gus borrowed \$300 from Aunt Mag "Matthews" and went to telegraph school in Cincinnati Ohio. Following his schooling, he went to work for Western Union. He then quit there and went to work for the B & O Railroad and the depot building that Grandpa worked in was located in Montgomery. He earned one dollar a day.

In 1928, Grandpa took a leave of absence from the railroad and went to work for Remington Rand in Lincoln, Nebraska. Remington Rand was a company that repairs adding machines and typewriters. Since he was a repairman, he traveled a lot. Back then, most of the roads were just dirt and gravel. He often made trips to Omaha and Hastings. In 1929, Grandpa bought his first car which was a Whippet. In 1930, he met Josephine Laux at a dance and they dated for several years. Gus got laid off in Lincoln, Nebraska late in 1930 and moved to Oshkosh Wisconsin.

After some time of commuting back and forth, Gus and Josephine were married on August 21, 1934 and immediately after the wedding, Gus and Josephine moved to Oshkosh, where they established their home. Their first born child James Joseph was born on July 3, 1935. The second child was born on October 19, 1939 and the third child was born on December 12 of 1941. All three children thus far were born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Gus's Mother died in 1938 and his father had remarried in 1940. In October of 1942, Gus and Josephine decided they would move back to Indiana so they could be closer to his family. Gus had heard the B & O Railroad was hiring and would try to get work there. We don't believe that Gus had a job with the Railroad until after they settled in Indiana.

According to Mary Jo the oldest daughter, when Gus and Josephine first moved back, they lived with Gus's Father and Step-Mother Louis and Rose "Matthews" Michaels. Not sure how long they lived there but it may have been till Gus got a job with the B & O Railroad. Gus then moved his family to a small farm on County Road 650 East just north of Montgomery and rented about 120 acres. When Gus got the job with the railroad, he worked as a telegraph operator. He worked third shift or wherever they needed him. Some jobs he traveled away from home and for a while he lived in Cincinnati, Ohio thru the week and came home on weekends. Gus also worked for the B & O in cities at Brownstown, Indiana and Lawrenceville, Illinois. During that time. Josephine had to keep the home place going.

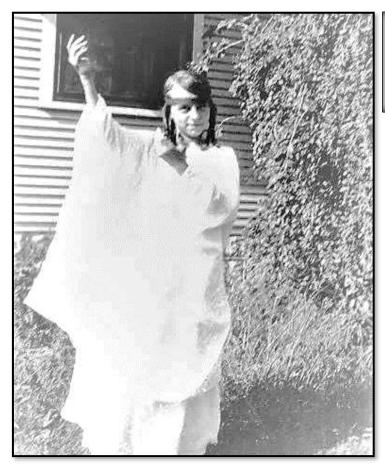
On March 2, 1947 Gus and Josephine had their fourth child, a little girl named Elizabeth Ann. For most of Elizabeth's early life, she was very small child and only weighed 30 lbs. when she started school. When Elizabeth was about 2-3 years old, Gus was the Dispatcher for the B & O at the Montgomery Depot and Liz would go into work with her Dad at the Montgomery Railroad Depot. In 1950, Josephine took a job at the Crane Naval Base as a clerk and this worked out well that Elizabeth could be with her Dad at his workplace. Elizabeth remembers going to work

with her Dad and she really enjoyed it. Not sure when Liz started going to work there and if she went all the time. Josephine worked for 20 years at Crane and retired in 1971, after 20 years of service. It was during this time with Josephine working that Gus and Josephine was able to save enough money to build a home on highway 50 east of Montgomery.

Not sure all the Depots that Gus Michaels worked but we do know he worked as a Dispatcher at Montgomery, Washington and was working at the Vincennes Depot when he retired in 1972. When Gus Retired from the B & O Railroad it did not take him long to find another job to keep him busy. He went to work in the office at a local coal mine that had set up operations on his old farm that he had rented. Gus worked there about 10 years and when they moved the operations to other parts of the county, he retired again at 80 years of age in 1982. He then spent the next 18 years of his life devoted to taking care of his garden and in the later years taking care of his ailing wife Josephine as her health failed. Josephine passed away on December 13, 1996. Gus continued to work in his garden but one could tell that the love of his life was gone home to the Lord and he missed her so. Gus remained in good health and lived alone in his home in Montgomery for just over four years after Josephine passed away.

On January 10 of 2001, Gus drove to Washington for some groceries and on the way home pulled into the path of a pickup truck. At the beginning, it did not appear that Gus had a lot of injuries but as time went on, injuries to a 98 year old person took its toll and on Thursday January 25, 2001 James Augustine "Gus" Michaels passed away at 4:20AM in the Daviess County Hospital surrounded by his Children. On Friday Jan. 26, viewing took place at the Ed Lee Funeral Home in Washington and on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 27 at 1 pm. Gus's Funeral took place at St. Peter's Church and He was laid to rest in St. Peter's Cemetery next to his wife Josephine who spent 62 years of marriage together.

This ended an amazing life on earth for an amazing individual, but his legacy lives on with his children and grandchildren. Any person who came in contact with Gus, their lives was enriched by him. There is a memorial in the back of St. Peters Church honoring Gus for his 40 years of work in the St. Vincent DePaul Society. There are two glass doors in the north and south entrances of the church honoring Gus and Josephine Michaels for their years of service to the Church and to the community. This was given in honor of their parents by their two daughters Mary Jo Gaetano and Liz Kavanaugh. There is a saying that you cannot take it with you but what you leave behind will tell a lot about the individual. That is has!



Pictured Left Josephine "Laux" Michaels taken in 1934 at the age of 23 years of age. She told her children she was in a program and was in costume when the picture was taken.



This is a picture of Josephine 'Laux' Michaels when she made her First Communion in 1916. It is assumed she made it at St. Patrick's Church in Lincoln Nebraska.



Shown here Gus and his Sister Mary taken on her First Communion Day around 1909-10 time frame. Mary Died in 1911 from Scarlet Fever. Gus was the oldest in the family and Mary was next to him in age. Gus and Mary were children of Louis and Mary Frances "Matthews" Michaels. Gus lived to be 98 and 4 months when he passed away in Jan. of 2001.





These four pictures of James & Josephine "Laux" Michaels and their oldest son Jim in his first years from when he was a couple months old to 3 years old. It is believed all these pictures were taken in their apartment when they lived in Oshkosh Wisconsin.





Pictured Right is James "Gus" Michaels holding his new born son Jim Michaels in 1935. Young Jim looks like he could have been just a month or two old at the time of the picture.

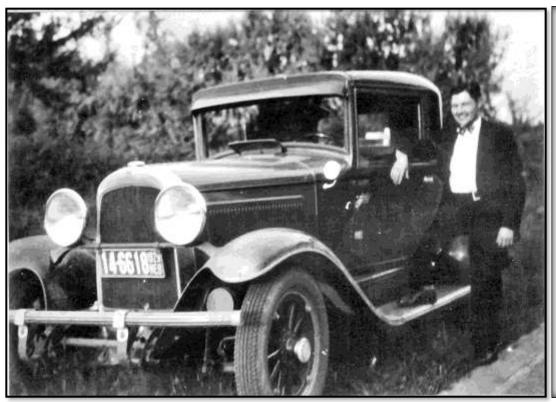


Shown Right is Gus Michaels as he is showing his oldest son Jim some moves in boxing. Young Jim would have been about 5 years old at the time as the picture would have been taken around 1940. As mild mannered and kind as Gus was it was surprising that he would put on boxing gloves.



Pictured Left is Gus Michaels holding daughter Mary Jo, Josephine with son Jim in front of her. The picture was taken sometime in early 1940s when Gus and Jo live in Oshkosh Wisconsin. This is not a good quality picture but it is good enough to include in this Family History.





Gus Michaels with his new Car: This is a picture of Gus Michaels with his new car, a 1929 Whippet. It was a greenish color and had a rumble seat and Gus always said that was why Grandma married him. In 1930 Gus moved from Lincoln Nebraska where he was a repairman Remington Cooperation. This picture taken in 1929 was showing off his new car and he was very proud of it.

Josephine and three of the children: Pictured here is Tom and Mary Jo Standing by Mom-Josephine and Jim with the dog. This picture was taken around 1945 when the family was at their Grandparents Louis and Frances Michaels North of Montgomery. Liz was not born till 1947 and Gus was probably taking the picture.



Right: Family Picture of Gus/Josephine Michaels. Tom is sitting in the lap of his brother Jim, Liz sitting on the little table with her Mom Josephine sitting behind her and back on right is Mary Jo. The picture was taken around 1948-49 timeframe and not sure where the picture was Family members taken. believe it may have been taken in Nebraska when the Michaels Family may have been visiting the relatives there.





James "Gus" & Josephine Family. "Laux" Michaels Here is a picture of the Family in 1947 when Elizabeth was just a few months old. Gus is holding Elizabeth, then Jim and their mother Josephine. In front is Tom and Mary Jo. It is possible this picture was taken when Gus and Jo lived just Montgomery of north Country Road 650 East straight north of Montgomery. It is possible this picture was taken when Elizabeth was baptized.



Picture of Gus and Josephine's Family in 1941: Shown here is Josephine holding baby Tom, then Jim and Gus holding Mary Jo.

Right: Family picture of Gus & Josephine "Laux" Michaels Family some-time around 1952. Pictured here is front Tom, Liz and in back is Jim, Josephine and Gus. Not sure why Mary Jo was not in this picture, she says she may have been taking the picture.





Picture of Gus Michaels with two of the children. On the Ford Tractor is son Tom age about 10-12 and his little sister Elizabeth Ann age 6. The picture was taken out on their farm North of Montgomery off County Road 650 East.



Gus and Josephine Michaels Family: Pictured here is (L-R) Tom, Frances (In back), in front her Jim husband Michaels, Josephine, Elizabeth, Gus and Mary Jo in front. This picture was taken sometime around 1956 and it was taken in the new home east of Montgomery. Jim and Frances were married at the time of this picture.

Jim Michaels Ready for Army **Physical:** This is a picture as the family was waiting on the bus for son Jim to leave for his physical for the Army. Shown here is (L-R) Jim holding Michaels his sister Elizabeth and beside them is his Josephine parents and Gus Michaels. Picture was taken in 1953.



Gus-Josephine Michaels Family. Shown Right are three of the four children of Gus and Josephine Michaels. Pictured here is (L-R) Mary Jo, Elizabeth Ann, Josephine, Gus and son Jim. Not sure why Tom was not in the picture. Picture was taken in 1960's.





Picture of Josephine & Gus Michaels with their oldest Grand Child Kathy Michaels the daughter of their oldest son Jim and Francis Michels. The picture was taken on the front porch of their home on hwy 50 east of Montgomery. The picture was taken sometime in the fall of 1956 not long after Gus & Jo moved to their new home.

Shown here in front of Jim and Frances Michaels House in Indianapolis. They lived there for several years. This is one of the visits when Mom & Dad came to visit along with his sister Elizabeth. Picture was taken in the early 1960's.





Josephine **Michaels** with the **Children:** three of Shown here is 3 of the children Josephine Gus and Michaels as they pose in front of their house along Hwy 50 just east of Montgomery. Pictured here is (L-R)Elizabeth, Mary Jo, Josephine and Tom Michaels. This picture would have been taken around 1958. Gus and Jo built the house and moved from the north side of Montgomery from CR. 650 East to the home east of Montgomery.



Visiting Jim/Fran Michaels at their home in Indianapolis. Shown here is L-R, Tom Michaels, Gus Michaels, Gene & Mary Jo Gaetano, Josephine Michaels. This picture was probably around 1964.



Picture of Gus & Josephine and It is possible this picture was taken in the 1960's, may have been for a Church Directory.



Picture Right of Gus & Josephine, It is possible this picture was taken in the 1970's.





These pictures were taken sometime in the late 70's or early 80's. Not sure what was the occasion. It was not for a church directory that we knew of but may have been close to their 45th Wedding Anniversary.





This Picture of Gus & Josephine was taken on Aug. 17, 1996 in St. Peter's Church at their Grandson's Wedding. It was the wedding of Grandson Jim Kavanaugh's first wedding. It was probably the last dress up picture taken of Josephine as she passed away on Dec. 13th of 1996.



This picture of Gus & Josephine was taken for St. Peter's Church Directory in 1992.



This Picture of Gus & Josephine was taken on Aug. 6, 1994 in St. Peter's Church at their Grandson's Wedding. It was the wedding of Louie III & Kris Kavanaugh.





These are pictures we believe were taken in the early 90's of Gus and Josephine. Not sure if this was just a setting done in a studio or for a church directory. Grandpa was not much for having his picture taken but grandma may have convinced him to do so. Good Pictures.





These were such great pictures just had to share them in this History Book. Of Gus and Josephine.



Pictured are Gus & Josephine sitting on the sofa in the living room of their house in Montgomery. The picture was taken in the early 1990's.

Picture right shows Gus & Josephine working on the garden vegetables, probably stemming green beans as Mom gave Dad a hand and he also helped her can the beans or whatever needed done. They were working on the patio behind their house along highway 50 in Montgomery. Picture was taken in the early 1990's.





This is a picture of Gus & Josephine dancing at their Grandson's wedding in 1996 at the Ruritan Community Building in Montgomery. This picture was taken in August of 1996.

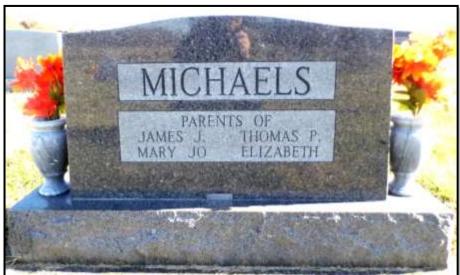


Picture of Gus Michaels Garden: This is a picture of Gus as he is bent over pulling weeds in his garden at the back of his house just east of Montgomery along highway 50. Each year Gus would put out an amazing garden and work till tirelessly to keep it in tip top shape. He would have one of the finest gardens in the county. This picture was taken in July of 2000 when Gus was just a month or so from his 98 birthday. I think his daughter Liz slipped up on him to take this picture.



Pictured here are Gus & Josephine Michaels on their patio on a beautiful Spring day in 1987. When this picture was taken, Gus was 85 years old and Josephine was 76.





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In Loving Memory of

JOSEPHINE E. MICHAELS

October 23, 1910

December 13, 1996 PRAYER

May the angels lead you into Paradise, may the Martyrs receive you at your coming, and take you to Jerusalem, the holy city. May the choirs of the Angels receive you, and may you with the once poor Lazarus, have rest everlasting. Amen.

(Roman Ritual)

May the Souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. Funeral Cards for James "Gus" & Josephine Michaels Tombstone for James "Gus" & Josephine "Laux" Michaels: Gus was born on Sep. 9, 1902 and died on Jan. 25, 2001. Josephine was born on Oct. 23, 1910 and Died on Dec. 13, 1996. As you can see on the back side of this tombstone the children names appear here. Gus and Jo are buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Montgomery Indiana near the plaza on the north section near Gus's brothers.

In Loving Memory of JAMES A. MICHAELS

September 9, 1902

January 25, 2001

FUNERAL MASS 1:00PM, January 27, 2001 St. Peters Church Fr. Joseph Erbacher-Celebrant

> INTERMENT St. Peters Cemetery Montgomery, IN

O gentlest heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls, have mercy on the soul of thy departed servant. Be not severe in Thy judgement but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames, and do Thou O Merciful Savior, send Thy Angels to conduct Thy departed servant to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen

Merciful Jesus grant eternal rest. Ed L. Lee Mortuary Washington, IN



This is a picture just after the release of the balloons at the cemetery service for Gus Michaels on Jan. 27, 2001.



Picture here is the Bagpiper as he plays Amazing Grace after the release of the Balloons at the Cemetery Service.



Shown here is just prior to the release of the balloons at the Cemetery Service as family members prepare to release the balloons. The building Is no longer there (on right) as a Plaza now stands in its place. Gus and Josephine's grave is just to the right in this picture where the tent is located.



James Michaels

JAMES MICHAELS

Dec. 13, 1996.

MONT-GOMERY -Michaels was a retired teleg-James rapher for B&O Railroad and "Gus" a St. Peter's Church member. Michaels, 98, He had lived most of his life died at 4:07 in the community and was eduthis morning cated in Montgomery schools. at the Daviess Also, he was a Knights of Columbus member and was one of the local St. Vincent

> Surviving are: two sons, Thomas P., Loogootee and James J., Sun City, Ariz.; two daughters, Elizabeth Kavanaugh, Montgomery and Mary Lo Geatano, Glenview, Ill.; 19 grandchildren; 37 greatgrandchildren and two brothers, Matthew, Washington and Omer, Ft. Wayne.

DePaul Society founders.

He was also preceded in death by a great-grandchild.

Memorials, if so desired, may be made to the St. Vincent DePaul Society or Right to Life. (Jan. 25, 2001)

Community Hospital. He died due to complications and injuries suffered in an automobile accident on Jan. 10.

The funeral will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at St. Peter's Church with Fr. Joseph Erbacher officiating. Interment will be in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Friends may call from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the Ed Lee Mortuary. A Vigil prayer service will be at 5 p.m. Friday.

He was born on Sept. 9. 1902, in Daviess County, to Lewis and Frances (Matthews) Michaels. They preceded him in death. He married Josephine E. Laux on Aug. 21, 1934 and she preceded him in death on

Obituary for James "Gus" Michaels

JOSEPHINE MICHAELS

A mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Peters Church for the funeral of Josephine E. Michaels. Fr. Lowell Will was the Celebrant. Interment was in St. Peters Cemetery. The pallbearers were her grandsons: Kevin, Keith, Tom, Mark and Rick Michaels, Jim Louie, Brian and John Kavanaugh and Jim Geatano. Ed Lee Mortuary was in charge of arrangements.

Notice in Newspaper after Funeral for Josephine Michaels on Monday Dec. 16, 1996

Obituary for Josephine Michaels Dec. 13, 1996

JOSEPHINE MICHAELS

Thought agreed the

MONTGOMERY-Josephine Eleanor Michaels, 86, died at her residence at 3:05 a.m. Friday. She had been ill for the last year.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Peters Church. Interment will be at St. Peters Cemetery. Fr. Lowell Will will officiate.

A Rosary will be prayed at 7 p.m. Sunday. The Daughters of Isabella will have a memorial service at 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Friends may call at the Ed Lee Mortuary from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday and after 8 a.m. until funeral hour on Monday.

She was born Oct. 23, 1910 to Joseph A. and Maude (Young) Laux in Lincoln, Neb. She married James A. (Gus) Michaels on Aug. 21, 1934 and he survives.

Michaels was a retired accounting clerk working at NSWC, Crane. She was a St. Peters Catholic Church, Montgomery, member. Also, she was in St. Peters Altar Society, Legion of Mary, St. Vincent DePaul Society and Daughters of Isabella. She came to Daviess County in 1942 and had been a community member for 54 years. She was educated at Lincoln, Neb. schools.

Surviving are her children, James J. Michaels, Sun City, Ariz.; Mary Jo Gaetano, Glenview, Ill.; Thomas P. Michaels, Loogootee and Elizabeth Kavanaugh, Montgomery; 19 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; sisters, Mary Benes, Lincoln, Neb.; Rosa Fenton, Denver, Col. and \$r. Athanasia Laux, St. Catherine, Ken.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, two sisters and a great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to the Daviess County Right to Life Association.

(Dec. 13, 1996)

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Shown here is the Death Certificate for Josephine Michaels who died on Friday Dec. 13, 1996 at 3:05AM. She had been failing health for some time and her memory was failing as well. She took bad the Sunday before her death and grew worse all that week. Emma Syscock came to help Gus with her. She knew everyone up until the end. Tom stayed that night with Dad until the end at 3:05.