

Ruth Winter as Iva Claassen

Good afternoon-

My name is Iva Claassen—that's double a, double s. So many people spell it wrong. We're not to be confused with the Clausens who spelled their name different.

My husband Seibert was the barber in your fair town for almost 50 years. He probably cut your grandfather's hair and your little brother most likely had his first hair cut at Seibert's barber shop.

Seibert was born April 28, 1893 and started barbering before World War I. He sublet his shop while he served his country for the duration of the war. When the war was over, or nearly over, he came back to Buffalo Center.

We didn't have a family of our own, but raised Seibert's 2 nephews.

After serving our country, he was an active member of the local Veteran's organization. He was always helping with some project or serving on some committee. I remember he was commander of the color guard at David Price's funeral. You remember David Price, don't you? He served in the Civil War and is buried right over there.

We even took a trip to San Antonio, Texas one time for the national Veteran's convention.

The barber shop was a pretty lively place on Saturday nights – all the men coming in for a shave and a haircut before Sunday church. Some even stayed to take a shower. Remember that night the shop stayed open until 10:00? It was July 3 and all the farmers came in after work to get cleaned up for the big 4th of July doings.

Seibert even died in his barber shop at the age of 69. It sat on the east side of Main Street but it isn't there anymore. Andy Winter and the boys, Denny and Darrell, tore it down and used the lumber for the roof of their garage.

Besides being the best barber in town, Seibert had other talents. He was a pretty good artist and liked to paint landscapes and nature scenes. We often took weekend trips to north eastern Iowa and southern Minnesota just to look at the scenery. Then Seibert would paint a scene from memory.

Why, I remember this trip—oh, that was a long time ago.