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"Feelin' Fine," Says Charles H. Brethold As He Celebrates His Eightieth Birthday

By RAY C. PEARSON

CHARLES H. Brethold leaped out of bed on Monday morning at 6 o'clock. "Feeling fine" he remarked to Mrs. Brethold, "Let's step out and celebrate today." The business of celebrating, however, already had been arranged by Mrs. Brethold and the other Bretholds for it was the eightieth birthday of the "young" fellow who leaps out of bed at 6 in the morning.

Shortly thereafter the clan Brethold began to gather and soon twenty relatives, most of them from Chicago, had arrived. Enough automobiles were commandeered and then began a trip to Lake Marie, near Antioch. There the day was spent in a quiet celebration because of the intense heat. A dinner for twenty-one was served at the hotel.

One of Oldest Residents

Charles Brethold is one of the oldest residents of Wilmette. He likes to talk about the time, something over forty years ago, when he came to the village which then offered a picture of big ditches and wooden sidewalks and habitation that required no expert work by a statistician. Wilmette then was what the Indians had left.

Just why Mr. Brethold should have chosen Wilmette for his permanent home is not hard to understand when the circumstances are explained. To go back to the beginning, he was born in Germany. He was brought to America when he was two years old, his parents settling in Cincinnati. He had thirteen brothers and sisters and Charles was the baby of the family. The youngest Brethold remained in the Ohio city until he was 19 years old then moved to Chicago to start the business of earning a livelihood. First he worked on the Board of Trade. After that he engaged in the wholesale meat business.

The circumstances previously referred to had to do with Mr. Brethold's

health and as a result of a physician's advice he quit the meat business and Chicago to get out into the quiet of the open country. Wilmette offered all the quiet and open country desired which accounts for the fact that a little more than forty years ago he settled in this north shore village.

Builds More Than 500 Homes

When he came to Wilmette he foresaw the future, a future of constructiveness which meant the building of a fine suburb. And with that vision he launched into the real estate and building operations. Today he is able to count more than 500 homes that he has built in Wilmette. He can be found at his real estate office, at 545 Main street, any day and he still watches closely the building work of his foreman, Charlie Knobel, who incidentally, has been with him for thirty-eight years. The Brethold residence is at 1102 Central avenue, but he'll tell you that in forty years he has lived in almost every section of Wilmette.

Mr. Brethold says he feels fine and looking at him one would not suspect he had knocked off four score years of life. His health is fine and he is husky, weighing about 185 pounds. Regular living has done it, he explains. He works every day and does not overlook play. A game of pinochle now and then with his old friends is his idea of play.

In late years the Bretholds have been going to California or Florida or Texas for a couple of months in the winter.

Drives His Own Automobile

Charles drives his own car with all the skill of a young fellow. Once a week he drives all the way to the south side where he inspects the erection of an apartment building in which he is interested. He is a member of the Old Settlers, the Rotary club and Chamber of Commerce.

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