Mother and child
Celebrating mom on Mother’s Day

BY KATHY TANDBERG

Mother, mom, mamma, mamma, mamma, mamma — what do you call your mother?

She’s the one who loves unconditionally and places the needs of her children above her own. The one who shelters and guides them, provides understanding and an abundance of patience and gentleness — most times anyway.

She’s the first one to teach her little ones about the world, reading them to bed. She’s the one who grabs do-it-yourself projects that sometimes lead to aoogle.com searches. She’s the one who taught them how to stand on their own two feet.

Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 12, children young and old will take time to celebrate their mother. Some will send flowers or flowers, some will make a call phone, some will visit Mom in person. Others will honor her memory in thought.

Chagrin up quickly, seemingly overnight. Mothers grow older, their hair turns silver, and the roles begin to reverse; slowly at first, then quickly.

Suddenly children become the nurturers and those who are able begin to return the favor, the long building debt of gratitude, to the one called mother.

Children of three Knife River Care Center residents are among the many who try to make every day seem like Mother’s Day for their mothers who reside at the center full time.

VIOLA WEISZ

“She’s a very loving, giving and wonderful mother,” Janice Benz, Hazen, said of her 84-year-old mother, Viola. Viola and her husband, Leonard, raised their children on a farm near Hazen. In addition to Janice, the children are Larry, Linda (Miller), Sharon (Deichert), Pam (Heier) and Kevin.

“On the farm, we milked cows to-

EDNA BOEHSANS

HAFNER

Sitting with her arm around his mother in a KRCC family room, Duane Boehsans, Hazen, couldn’t say enough kind words about his mother, Edna Boehsans Hafner.

“She’s the greatest mom ever. She had the responsibility of raising me on her own for many years. I was 3 when my father (Andrew Boehsans) died,” Duane shared.

Edna, 84, said Duane, her only child, was born during one of those hard winters of heavy snowfall in February 1944. When her time was close she had to leave their Golden Valley area farm house, which they shared with her sister. Duane was born in the old Boehsans hospital.

Then Andrew wanted us home but we couldn’t drive, so he hired Fred Helms to fly us out in his airplane,” Edna recalled.

Viola is a young widow of 28 when Andrew died in a terrible accident. It was just the two of them, Edna and Duane, until 1958 when she married Calvin Hafner, a Boehsans area farmer.

Edna did everything with Duane, to give him a fulfilling childhood. Duane said there are many favorite memories, such as sledding together.

“We did a lot of things together. One special time for us was Easter time.”

Edna said it was wonderful having a son. But there were also times it was a worry, like when he was drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War. Fortunately, Duane could speak German so he was stationed in Germany with a missile unit.

“I know I put my Mom through about 6 when I was trying potatoes,” Karen said. Ida and her husband, Herb, raised their four children on a farm south of Beulah. In addition to Karen there are Marlin, Jim and Sharon (Tesky).

Ida said her children were all well-behaved and listened.

“All we needed to say

Left, Viola Weisz enjoys a Sunday afternoon visit to the Knife River Care Center in Beulah with her daughter, Janice Benz. Right, Leonard and Viola Weisz pose in the early 1950s for this keepsake photo with their six children. Front, from left, are Viola, holding Kevin, Linda (Miller), Pam (Heier) and Leonard; back, Janice (Benz), Sharon (Deichert) and Larry.

Mom and I usually got up early and would go out and pick wild, purple crocuses, “Duane shared.

worry because I traveled a lot over there,” he said. Edna said she did indeed worry until the day Duane finally came home again.

“I counted the days till he could come home. It was the 7th of November. I’ll never forget it,” she said.

IDA RUEB

Ida Rube’s daughter, Karen Knoell, Hazen, said her mother was much more than a mother.

“For me she was very much of a companion. There still isn’t anything I can’t tell her,” Karen shared about her relationship with her 86-year-old mother.

In addition to that special closeness, Karen said they gardened and also cooked together.

“Mother taught me to cook when I was old enough to be pushed up to the cupboard and the stove,” Ida said.

Mother, mom, momma, mamma, mummy, momma — whatever you call your mother, be sure to remember this Sunday.

Left, Edna Boehsans Hafner enjoys frequent visits at the Knife River Care Center in Beulah with her doting son, Duane Boehsans. Right, Edna Boehsans Hafner and young Duane, 3, enjoyed some mother and son time in 1952.

Left, Ida Rube enjoys sharing supper two or three times a week with her daughter, Karen Knoell. Right, Ida Rube gathered for a family photo with her children, front, from left, Karen Knoell and Sharon; back, Jim, Marlin and Ida.