

# SMALL CLOUD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS . . .

## SMALL CLOUD CHRONICLES

"With God all things are possible." Mark 10:27

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### A CHALLENGING SUMMER

Summer was a challenging time for Margie Seely and her family this year. Having sold their home in Ione, California, the Seelys looked for one to rent. Unfortunately, they were unable to find a suitable place. As their need became more and more pressing, it was suggested that when school let out for the summer they move into the school until they could find permanent housing. The Seelys accepted the offer, and so Small Cloud became the Seely residence.

Then in June Mrs. Seely's father, Henry Holmstroem, who helped out at the school for several years, was told that his prostate cancer had metastasized. He had battled it for more than fourteen years, and there was nothing more that could be done for him at Kaiser. This was very sad news indeed, as Henry was grandfather not only to the Seely children, but to the Petrovich children as well—a total of eight Small Cloud students. Upon receiving this news, Henry seemed to lose his will to live. His family took turns helping his wife, Evelyn, care for him. Seeing their husband/father bedridden and obviously dying, the family wanted to do something for him and made the decision (with Henry's consent) to take him to Mexico. There the Issel Clinic/Hospital uses natural treatments to help people with cancer.

Evelyn, married to Henry for almost fifty-four years, accompanied him to Mexico. There the doctors found that he had pneumonia, which they immediately took steps to treat. Their efforts were unsuccessful, however, and Henry passed away peacefully on August 5. His funeral took place in Amador County on August 15.

After attending a church conference in Georgia the end of August, the Seelys returned to Small Cloud. It was time to start making plans for the new school year. However, some surprising news brought about a change that we will share with you in the next newsletter.

Are you looking for a gift for a little person in your life? Take a look at the website [forsmallhands.com](http://forsmallhands.com). There you can find all sorts of wonderful, practical items for children of all ages. Encourage your young child (or friend) to cook, bake, clean, garden, play music, etc. And, if you order before December 31 and designate Small Cloud as your school's credit recipient, 10% of your merchandise total becomes a donation to us. Check it out!\*



### HOMEMADE CHILDREN

by Naomi Rhode

As I write this recipe there is bread "raising" on my hearth and children "raising" in my home. Neither "progeny" is finished, but the ingredients have been carefully selected, measured and blended. The good recipe book promises: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is grown he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Having experience in following that recipe book, I trust the author!

1. Measure into a home parents who love, followed by a few children (use own discretion on number—we prefer 3).

2. Add, stirring constantly, yeast (we recommend faith in God). Stir in wisdom (as much as possible from God's Word, previous training and lots of common sense), truth (very important for consistent results), patience (ample portions needed throughout), kindness (large volumes), gentleness (soften before adding), discipline (with fairness, measured in a clean container), love (full measure, pressed down, shaken together and overflowing the cup), and laughter (knead in as much as possible and let permeate throughout the whole batch).

3. All ingredients should be measured using a container of prayer (no substitutions, please). For excellent eating and preserving quality, keep dough as soft and pliable as possible, but not sticky—just so you, with God's help, can handle it.

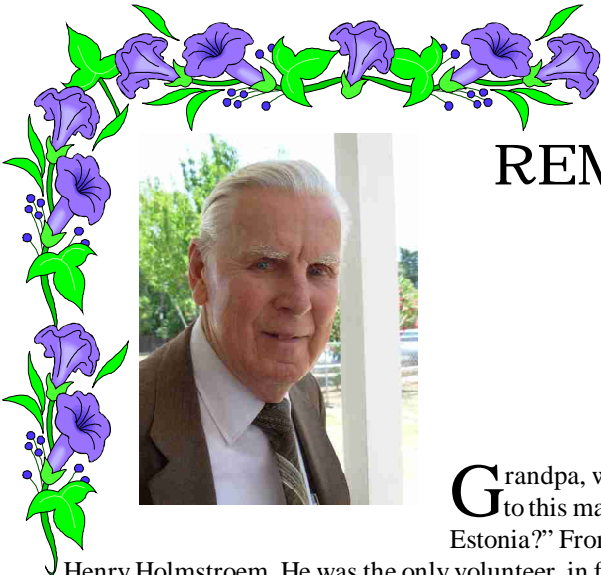
4. Mix until smooth and elastic (about 18 years). Place in a greased bowl (symbolic of life's struggles) and cover with a damp cloth (we learn through failures as well as victories). Let rise in warm place (the temperature for "raising" is very important) until double in size (about four to eight years after high school).

5. Dough will be ready to be divided and made into all shapes of beautiful young men and women for use as the Staff of Life in other people's lives. Guaranteed—wonderful results!

(excerpted from *Chicken Soup for the Soul Cookbook*)

Editor's note: This article was given to us by Ernestine Schendel. Thank you for sharing, Ernestine!





# REMEMBERING GRANDPA

**Henry Holmstroem**

**April 22, 1929 - August 5, 2011**

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” - Revelation 14:13

**G**randpa, would you help me with this, please.” “Grandpa, why is my answer to this math problem wrong?” “Grandpa, how is Germany different from Estonia?” From the beginning, Small Cloud has enjoyed the help of Grandpa

Henry Holmstroem. He was the only volunteer, in fact, to have come from the tiny European country of Estonia—and, so far, the only grandpa to work with his own grandchildren at Small Cloud.

Henry was born in Rapla, Estonia, to August and Marie Oja Holmström (the spelling was changed when Henry came to the U.S.). Henry grew up enjoying the birch tree forests, snow, and other beauties of his homeland, looking forward to when his minister father came back from missionary visits to other places in Estonia, or even Latvia or Finland.

Soon after World War II broke out in Europe, the Russians entered Estonia. On August 22, 1941, Henry’s father was killed by Russian soldiers because he refused to bear arms. Germans soon invaded the country, only to be driven back out by the Russians in 1944. Henry and his family (mother, sister, aunt, and uncle) left Estonia hours before the Russian re-invasion and went to Germany, riding on the back of a Nazi convoy truck.

In Germany Henry worked as a farmer’s helper, then, after the war ended in 1945, as a truck driver, dispatcher, and driver-mechanic during the five years he and his family lived in a displaced persons camp.

In 1950 Henry immigrated to the U.S., where he milked cows on a farm in Iowa, then worked at a Quaker Oats factory and a restaurant until he saved up money to begin college. Because of miserable allergies, he moved to California in 1956 and, while continuing college, worked in southern California and also learned to fly an airplane.

In 1957 he moved to northern California and married Evelyn Post. We lived in several places in the Bay Area while becoming parents of five children (Anne Marie, Margie, Linda, John, and Richard) from 1967 to 1978. To support his family, Henry worked for twenty-five years at Caterpillar Tractor Co. in San Leandro and for seventeen years in Sunnyvale, at Westinghouse, which later merged with Northrop Grumman. He and I also owned and managed two apartment complexes before settling in a large home in the hills of Hayward. His hobbies included travel, gardening, and photography.

A very active man, Henry exercised every morning (even up until a few weeks before his death), played ping-pong during work breaks, and engaged in a variety of activities with his children.

Henry became a grandpa in 1994 and was delighted when his daughter Margie and her long-time friend Sandy Schendel opened Small Cloud Christian School in Grandpa Schendel’s barn in 1996. Since then, all nine of Grandpa Holmstroem’s California grandchildren have attended this school (his remaining three grandchildren are being educated in Cedar Christian School in Cedartown, Georgia).

He finally earned his college degree, from the University of Phoenix, in 1983. And in 2003 he was ordained a lay minister in his church after having led the San Francisco Bay Area church for many years.

After Henry and I moved to Fiddletown in 2006, it became our almost-weekly treat to help out at Small Cloud. Grandpa was in demand for many things: correcting papers, listening to children read, and reviewing history and science with students. It was a privilege to hear him give a videotaped presentation about his childhood in Estonia and how he escaped from the Russians, lived in Germany for several years, then built a new life in America.

The older we become, the more we can affirm how short life really is. Grandpa Henry is gone—but not forgotten. We look forward to seeing him again when Jesus comes! - by Evelyn Holmstroem

*P.S. The family asked that, instead of flowers, donations be given to Small Cloud. These amounted to \$1,680. Donations were also made to Cedar Christian School. You are welcome to enjoy the slide show put together by Margie and Linda on YouTube (by entering Henry Holmstroem or Celebrating Dad 2 by mamamargie1). You may also request the eulogy that was read at Henry’s funeral.*

Small Cloud Christian School is a nonprofit organization dedicated to leading children of every race, color, nationality, ethnicity, gender, and creed to the knowledge of the living God.