MARK MERIN AND MARGARET FRIEDMAN MERIN
RG-50.228.0008 (Rec. 1991 Ft. Wayne)

Mark Merin was born in 1912 in Hanover, Germany. In 1932 he opened a big food market with his brother in north Germany. After the Nazi rise, he went to the Netherlands and worked there and in Germany for 2 more years. He tried to get to Copenhagen but couldn't and so he stayed in Holland. There was much difficulty in obtaining a passport but he was able to stay there for a time. He met and married Margaret in Amsterdam in 1937. They married in 1939 and at that time he was making a good living. Margaret was born in Rotterdam and then moved to Amsterdam in 1930; she had a brother and 2 sisters. Mark and Margaret had a son in 1942; they tried to get to Switzerland but it was very difficult with a baby.

In 1942 they got a letter from the Gestapo telling them to go to Poland. They got a nursemaid to take the baby and they went to north Holland pretending to be Christian. They moved back a forth, at times living in whorehouses. One time they were picked up for transport and housed with 2000 others in an old theater, but they escaped. Then came several years when they hid in many different places and paid the people to hide them. They stayed with one lovely family for 3 months in October-December 1944, but when they told the family that they were Jewish, they were made to leave immediately

They kept visiting their son, Harry but then he was picked up (he was 21/2) and sent to Westerbork, Bergen Belsen and Theresienstadt and he spent the rest of the war there. He reported to eating flies. Eventually they got their son back.

The family moved to the US in 1950. Mark's brother in law lived in St Louis and his sister lived in New York. Margaret had family in Detroit. They moved to Fort Wayne in 1954 and Mark was in manufacturing.