

## 907 W. 5th Street

Historic name: Rudolph and Mary Binzell House. A building permit was taken out in May of 1926 by R. P. Binzel to erect a home in the 700 block (now 900 block) of West Fifth Street. The Tudor Revival home would be of frame construction, 26x38x24 feet at an estimated cost \$7,500. In 1920, Rudolph Binzel organized the Oconomowoc Canning Company, the Medford company in 1923, in partnership with E. P. Umhoeffer, the Marshfield Canning Company in 1924 and in 1929, the Stratford company. Since 1924, Marshfield, however, had been his home. He was president of the firm, until his death in 1947. He was also a member of Marshfield Lodge, No. 665, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Old Guard Society of National Cannerymen.



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### **BUILDING PERMITS FOR FINE NEW HOMES AND IMPROVEMENTS**

Emil Umhoefer and R. P. Binzel are arranging to erect homes, for themselves and families. The Binzel home, in the 700 block, West Fifth street, will be of frame construction 26x38x24", costing about \$7,000, and Mr. Umhoefer will build of brick veneer, 26x49x24, estimated cost \$7,500. Both will be of attractive designs and modern in every respect. Each will also have a garage put up. Contractor Frank Felhofer will have charge of building the Umhoefer home, and James Wegner has the contract for the Binzel home.

Fred Dankemyer will have a \$3,000 frame residence, 26x36x20, and a garage built. Others who will do some building are Art Bruckhart, North Peach street, a 16x7-foot porch, \$250 and William Bey, a frame structure, 20x24, \$500.

*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 26 May 1926, pg. 1)*

*Note: Binzel House is located at 907 West Fifth, but this account is reporting the two partners in the Marshfield Canning Company building homes on West Fifth Street.*

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### **DEATH GLAMS R. P. BINZEL, 69**

**President of Local Canning Company to be Buried Wednesday**

**WAS NATIVE OF STATE**

Rudolph P. Binzel. 69, of 907 W. Fifth street, president of the Marshfield Canning Company since its organization in 1924, died of a cerebral hemorrhage Sunday morning at 8:10 o'clock at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he was taken Friday night. He previously had been hospitalized from May 25 to June 7 because of a stroke.

The body is lying in state at the Rembs Funeral Home, where a combined general rosary service and a service by the Knights of Columbus and Holy Name Societies of Sacred Heart and St. John's parishes will be conducted Tuesday evening at 7:30 o'clock followed by another combined rosary service at 8 o'clock, conducted by the Christian Mothers Society of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church and Catholic Daughters of America. Mrs. Binzel being a member of both societies.

A Solemn Requiem High Mass will be read Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock at Sacred Heart Church, and interment will take place in the Catholic cemetery at Hillside.

Mr. Binzel was born at Waupun Sept. 11, 1874, and was married to Mary A. Branick in 1901 at Beaver Dam, his home until 1920. He operated a brewery business at Beaver Dam until 1920 when he organized the Oconomowoc canning business. In 1923 he organized the Medford company, in 1924 the Marshfield company, and in 1929 the Stratford company. Since 1924, Marshfield had been his home.

He was a member of Marshfield Lodge, No. 665, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and the Old Guard Society of National Cannerymen. The Elks Club will hold its memorial service at the funeral home Tuesday evening at 9 o'clock.

Surviving besides Mrs. Binzel are a son, Rudolph F. Binzel, and a daughter, Miss Mary Helen Binzel, both of Marshfield; two grandchildren; three brothers, Ed of Bowling Green, Ky., Dr. Philip of Milwaukee, and Alvin of Birmingham, Ala.; and two sisters, Alma L. of Beaver Dam and Cora of Ithaca, N. Y.

Preceding him in death were a son, Theobald, at the age of 14, and a sister, Tillie.  
*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 17 July 1944, pg. 1)*

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## **DEATH CLAIMS E. P. UMHOEFFER**

### **Marshfield Man Stricken By Coronary Thrombosis Early Today**

Emil P. Umhoefer, 64, prominent in Marshfield business circles since 1924, died at his home, 716 S. Oak street, shortly after 9 a. m. today as a result of coronary thrombosis.

He had not been ill and had risen as usual this morning and was conversing with his wife when he was stricken. He had only recently returned from a visit with his son, Richard, at Plain, and had been the guest of honor at a birthday party at the home of another son, Ivo, last night.

Funeral services have not been completed, but the Requiem High Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 9 a. m. Friday and burial will take place in Hillside cemetery.

### **Three Rosary Services**

The body will lie in state at the Rembs Funeral Home from Wednesday noon until the time of the services. The Christian Mothers, Missionary Society and the Women's Order of Foresters will hold a rosary service at the funeral home at 3 p. m. Thursday, the Knights of Columbus and Foresters at 7:30 p. m., and the Holy Name Society and general rosary service will be held at 8 p. m. Thursday.

An Elks lodge of sorrow will be held at the funeral home at 8 p. m. Wednesday. Mr. Umhoefer, son of Paul and Theresa Umhoefer, was born at Cherokee, Marathon County, on May 16, 1883, and was educated in the public and parochial schools of Colby and business college at Wausau.

He was married to Miss Marie Antoinette Misslich at Keyesville, Richmond County, on June 14, 1910. by the late Rev. Henry Lachnit, later a resident of Marshfield.

### **Here Since 1924**

After his marriage Mr. Umhoefer engaged in the lumber business at Colby with an uncle, Joseph Weix, and when they sold their business to the O and N Lumber Co. he became superintendent of yards for that firm.

In 1924 he came to Marshfield and with the late R. P. Binzel, established the Marshfield Canning Company, serving as its secretary and treasurer until his retirement In 1944. Since retiring he continued to serve as a director of the Citizens' National Bank here.

He had been an alderman and president of the City Council at Colby and held the same offices at Marshfield, being an alderman here in 1931-32-33. He was a member of the Marshfield Water and Light Commission at the time of his death.

Mr. Umhoefer belonged to the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society, the Catholic Order of Foresters, and the Elks.

He is survived by his wife and two sons, Ivo, Marshfield. and Richard, Plain, and by four grandchildren, a brother, A. X. Umhoefer of Colby, and two sisters. Mrs. Ed Bartik. Plainfield, and Mrs. Alan Hackworthy, Madison. One sister, Della, preceded him in death.

*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 20 May 1947, pgs. 1 and 11)*

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### **Mrs. R. P. Binzel Dies on Sunday**

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#### **Requiem High Mass to Be Read on Tuesday**

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Mrs. R. P. Binzel, 74, 907 W. W. Fifth street, died at her home yesterday morning. Death was attributed to a stroke. Mrs. Binzel had been in ill health for about a year, and had suffered previous strokes.

A Solemn Requiem High Mass will be held at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church at 9 a. m. Tuesday, with the Rev. Walter Dillenburg as celebrant. The Rev. Edmund Cramer, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, will be deacon, and the Rev. Frederick Forester, Stratford, will serve as sub deacon. Burial will be made in Hillside cemetery.

The body is in repose at the Rembs Funeral Home, where the Rosary Society held a rosary service last night. The combined rosary service of the Catholic Daughters of America and the Women's Catholic Order of Foresters will be held today at 7 p. m.; general rosary at 7:30 p. m. and the Knights of Columbus at 8:15 p. m. today.

Mrs. Mary Binzel, the former Mary Branick, was born on Jan. 20, 1875, at Neosha, where she also received her education. In 1901 she was married to Rudolph P. Binzel at Beaver Dam. and they lived there until 1924. when they moved to Marshfield. Mr. Binzel, who was president of the Marshfield Canning Co., died July 16. 1944.

Surviving are a son, Rudolph, a daughter, Mary Helen, both of Marshfield; a sister, Mrs. J. F. Vareck, Beaver Dam, and two grandchildren. Also preceding her in death were a son, Theobald, and a sister, Mrs. X. F. Weis.

*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 19 December 1949, pg. 14)*

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### **Long career in canning concluded**

By Barb Marshall of the News-Herald

A 58-year-old tradition ended last week when the stock of the Marshfield Canning Co. was sold to Canopy Systems Inc.

The canning company has been in the hands of the Binzel family of Marshfield since 1935. And for most of those years, operations have been headed by Rudy Binzel, who lives with his wife Mary at 1015 W. Sixth St.

R.P. Binzel, Rudy's father, moved his family to Marshfield from Beaver Dam in 1920 and operated the factory in 1925, although then it was part of the Oconomowoc Canning Co.

At first, the company only canned peas, which were grown locally. By 1935 operations were expanded to include green beans and the Binzels were contracting with farmers from better irrigated areas: In 1939 the pea canning operation was stopped to expand on green beans.

When Binzel graduated from Marquette University in 1932, he worked in canning companies in Sun Prairie and De Forest, both owned by the Oconomowoc firm. Rudy's father purchased the stock for the Marshfield company in 1935 and Binzel joined him. His first job here was contracting with farmers for land.

Rudy assumed presidency of the company after his father died in 1944. Until two years ago, he was responsible for selling canned products to wholesale warehouses and distributors.

Most years the Binzels relied on local help to harvest the beans, but in years when manpower was short, they sent representatives to bring up seasonal help in trucks from the South.

Their workers included migrants from Barbados and Mexico, and in 1945, German prisoners of war. The U.S. Army camped near the warehouse to supervise the prisoners. Meanwhile, the Binzels had agreed with the government that they would feed them.

"At the time, some of the farmers weren't happy with the way we were taking care of the prisoners," Binzel said. "We had no control over that."

In 1954, the company hired 42 blacks from Arkansas. Some businessmen in the community weren't used to blacks, Binzel said, and that summer there were signs prohibiting blacks from entering some buildings.

"That bothered me considerably," he said. "They had as much of a right to walk around as anybody else."

With the shift to mobile viners in late 1950, the number of summer employees decreased, Binzel said. Mobile viners allowed the operators to cut the vines and bring them into the company to be picked.

Another change affecting manpower was the purchase of bean harvesters in the late 60s. Until then, the Binzels hired large families to pick the beans, which were loaded at pick-up stations.

Binzel said his company was the first in the state to use a new cooking system which cut down on the number of injuries caused by stacking large metal crates of beans. They bought the new cooking equipment in the early 60s.

The company remained a family operation after Binzel resigned and became chairman of the board. His son, Robert, became president and for a time, both of his son-in-laws were employed here. Dennis Michalski is still the general manager of the company, but his other son-in-law, Frank Drasler, left in 1978.

The canning company was a family operation for so long because they emphasized quality, Binzel said.

"When we packed peas, we tried to pack the best peas we could," Binzel said. "We did the same with beans we strived for quality."

What does he think about the company finally changing hands?

"I've satisfied about it so far," he said. "It got to the point where we had to do something. I hope everything goes well for them."

*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 8 May 1982, pg. 3)*

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## **Canning company ex-president dies**

Rudolph F. "Rudy" Binzel, 73, of 1015 W. Sixth St. died at 5:45 p.m. Thursday at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he had been admitted Sept. 18.

A concelebrated Memorial Mass of the Resurrection will be at noon Saturday, Oct. 15 at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. The Rev. Francis A. Wavra, pastor of OLP, will be principal celebrant. William A. Allen will be soloist and Ronald H. Adler, organist. Private committal services will be at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

There will be no public visitations. The Binzel family will greet relatives and friends in the vestibule of the church from 11:30 a.m. until service time the day of services. The Rembs/Kundinger Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be given in his name to the Rev. Walter J. Dillenburg Memorial Fund of OLP or the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin in Wisconsin for research for the prevention of kidney disease.

Mr. Binzel was born July 14, 1910 in Beaver Dam, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph P. (Mary Branick) Binzel. He attended grade schools in Beaver Dam. His high school education was at Wayland Academy at Beaver Dam, St. Thomas Academy at St. Paul, Minn., and St. John's Military Academy, Delafield. He attended and graduated from Marquette University, Milwaukee, in 1933.

He and Mary A. Cunningham were married Sept. 28, 1935 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Burlington.

Mr. Binzel came to Marshfield with his family in 1920 from Beaver Dam. After he graduated from Marquette he began employment for canning companies in Sun Prairie and DeForest. His father purchased the stock for the Marshfield Canning Co. in 1935 and he then joined his father. He became president of the company after his father's death in 1944.

The company remained a family operation after he resigned and became chairman of the board. Mr. Binzel's son, Robert, became president and Dennis Michalski, a son-in-law, vice president.

The Marshfield Canning Co. was sold in May, 1982 to Canopy Systems Inc., ending a 58-year-old tradition that Mr. Binzel's father began in 1925.

He was a former Board member of Viterbo College of La Crosse, former co-organizer, member and past president of the Marshfield Serra Club, a former Knight of Columbus and the Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, a former member of the Marshfield Elks Lodge and a former member of the Wisconsin Food Processors Association. He also was a member of OLP and the Holy Name Society.



*Rudolph F. Binzel*

Surviving are his wife; three children, Robert Binzel of Marshfield, Mrs. Dennis (Mary Jean) Michalski of Marshfield and Mrs. Frank (Carol) Drasler of Onalaska; six grandchildren and a sister, Sister Mary (Mary Helen) Immaculata, Convent of Visitation, St. Paul, Minn.

He is predeceased by one brother and his parents.  
(from *Marshfield News-Herald*, 8 October 1983, pg. 2)

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## German POWs Helped Harvest Crops

By Becky Haffa, News-Herald Intern

As young American soldiers were sent off to fight in World War II some 50 years ago, communities across the United States lost most of its working population and were faced with filling in the gaps. Marshfield was no exception.

"The U.S. was so short of men. The men were all in the service," remembered Mary Binzel, 84, whose late husband, Rudolph Binzel, was president of the Marshfield Canning Co.

"(The Canning Co.) was so busy. The Army had so many demands to supply food for these men that they were running three shifts at the canning factory," Binzel, 1015 W. Sixth St, said.

"There were many times they didn't even get home to sleep. Everyone of our children worked there ... they would come in at the oddest hours of the night to eat," she said. "In those days, (canning goods) would go out faster than you could get your hands on them."

To help them out the U.S. Army and Fort McCoy agreed to supply the about 50 German prisoners of war to work in the fields.

"Other canning factories did the same," she said. According to Mike Kessler from Fort McCoy Public Affairs office, 900 German and 2,700 Japanese prisoners were encamped at Fort McCoy during World War II.

*"There were many times they didn't even get home to sleep. Everyone of our children worked there ... they would come in at the oddest hours of the night to eat. In those days, (canning goods) would go out faster than you could get your hands on them."*

—Mary Binzel

"I would say if you look at all the prisoners of war, the prisoners of war (from Fort McCoy) probably were the best treated of the group, Kessler said.

German prisoners were allowed to send mail home through the Red Cross. They had access to a library, celebrated with Christmas parties, concerts and even competed at their own 1945 German Olympics at camp.

When prisoners were sent off to work in fields of canning factories such as Marshfield's, Fort McCoy paid them 80 cents per hour, Kessler said. They were required to place one-third

of their earnings into a savings account.

Binzel said the Germans were hard workers, and she could not remember them trying to escape. "They were very well behaved," she said.

"But they were not very well received by the public because they were Germans. After all, it was World War II" Binzel said.

The language barrier increased the community's distance.

"It was hard to establish any kind of communication when they neither understood nor could speak English," she added.

Under Fort McCoy's watchful eye, the soldiers tended the fields in the day, worked in the factory on rare occasions and slept in tents behind the factory at night. The Binzels had arranged with the government to feed them.

In a 1982 interview, Rudolph Binzel told the News-Herald, "At that time, some of the farmers weren't happy with the way we were taking care of the prisoners. We had no control over that."

After the war, the German soldiers were sent home with their savings, about \$550 in U.S. currency, along with a binder of stories and pictures from terminal camp life.

Although the German POWs only helped the company in the summer of 1945, the firm recruited Barbadians later that year and then African Americans in 1954 to help work in the fields.

"(The Barbadians) were not well received, either," Binzel said, explaining store keepers put signs in their windows saying the workers were not welcome in their businesses.

"Marshfield merchants were not friendly to them," she added.

Her husband had expressed to the News-Herald his dislike for the similar way businesses treated the African American workers.

"That bothered me considerably," Rudolph Binzel had said. "They had as much of a right to walk around as anybody else."

With the help of the community, German POWs and the Barbadians, the Binzels managed to supply canned goods throughout the war.

"Those were wonderful times. The country was completely united — none of this drug business or this crime business or any of the rest of them," Binzel said. "It was every man together. The country now is a mess every man for himself." .

*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 26 August 1994, pg. 3)*

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## **70-year Canning Company is Sold**

A local bean canning company may end a 70-year run here when it closes its doors, possibly for good today.

Marshfield Foods, formerly Marshfield Canning Co., will cease its operations, located at 1616 S. Central Ave., at the end of the day today, the News-Herald has learned.

In a letter to Mayor Richard Daniels, Patrick Imhoff, Marshfield Foods' president and general manager, said the plant closure will precede the sale of the plant's assets to Lakeside Foods, Inc., headquartered in Manitowoc.

That sale is expected to take place Monday.

None of Marshfield Foods' 24 full-time workers would be offered jobs by Lakeside Foods if the sale goes through, the letter states. The local canner also employs about 125 part-time workers during the canning season, which kicks off in July. The plant contracts with approximately 20 Wisconsin bean growers.

However, an apparent deal to re-sell the local plant is in the works. If successful, it could save the canning company and the jobs of its workers.

The letter states that Lakeside is negotiating to re-sell Marshfield' Foods and its assets to another buyer.

"And, if such a sale occurs, there-may be re-employment opportunities with the buyer of those assets," Imhoff wrote.

Imhoff and Reedsburg Food Corp. officials declined further comment.

Marshfield Canning Co. was founded in 1925 by Rudolph P. Binzel and Emil P. Umhoefer as a pea canning company. Seven years later, the plant added bean processing operations.

In 1969, the plant stopped canning peas and boosted its bean production.

Since 1982, Marshfield Foods has been part of the Reedsburg Food Corp., which is made up of the local company and its larger sister company, Reedsburg Foods. That company also has operations in Sauk City.

Marshfield Canning Co. was renamed Marshfield Foods in 1990 when Reedsburg Food Corp. diversified into frozen foods.

While most of its production is seasonal, Marshfield Foods operates year round, labeling and shipping beans for more than 200 store brands. Its biggest customer is Green Giant.

*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 12 April 1995, pgs. 1 and 2)*

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## Commercial Development Eyed

### Nikolai purchases canning plant site

A local developer has secured what he says is a prime commercial site at a former food canning operation on the city's south side.

Don Nikolai of Don Nikolai Construction said he purchased the site of the now-closed Marshfield Foods at 1616 S. Central Ave. The deal officially closed this past Tuesday.

The approximate 6.5-acre site has been vacant since the spring of 1995, when Marshfield Foods closed its doors. The assets of that operation which labeled and shipped beans for numerous store brands - were sold to a Manitowoc-based food corporation.

Nikolai said he'll develop the site likely for a commercial use, but declined to comment on any specific plans.

"I think it's a prime site," he said. "We feel it's going to have real good commercial potential."

Nikolai said approximately 50-60 percent of the buildings at the site will be demolished in July.

Before Marshfield Foods closed last year, the site had operated for 70 years as a food processor. The operation originated when Marshfield Canning Co. was founded in 1925 by Rudolph P.



Binzel and Emil P. Umhoefer as a pea canning company.

Bean processing started there in 1932.  
(from *Marshfield News-Herald*, 8 June 1996, pg. 7)

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**Old Cannery Coming Down** - Salvage worker Rick Curtin yanks down wiring at the former Marshfield Foods site on S. Central Avenue Thursday afternoon while his boss, Gary Paschel, works in the background. Developer Don Nikolai purchased the site earlier this summer. He hasn't announced specific plans. The bean processing operation, which began as Marshfield Canning Co. in 1925, was bought 1995 by a Manitowoc-based processor.

(News-Herald Photo by Dan Young)  
(from *Marshfield News-Herald*, 16 August 1996, p. 1)

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## **August Keller**

Services for August W. (Augie) Keller, 86, a Marshfield resident, who died at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday at the Marshfield Living Center, will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church.

The Rev. Francis A. Wavra will officiate. Mrs. Helen Brinkmann will be organist, and Frank Binder will be soloist. Burial will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Roy Spearbaker, Ivo and Dan Umhoefer, Cyril Schlagenhaft, George T. Schneider and Sylvester P. (Shorty) Adler.

Visitation will be at Rembs/Kundinger Chapel at 6 tonight and until service time Friday. An Elks Lodge of Sorrow will be at 6:45 tonight followed by a Knights of Columbus rosary service at 7:30 and a parish prayer service at 7:45, all at the funeral chapel.



*August Keller*

He was born Feb. 8, 1904, in Marion to the late Otto and Alice (Noack) Keller. He attended Marion Elementary School and was a 1922 graduate of Marion High School. He received his bachelor of education degree at Oshkosh State Teacher's College, now the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He later received his master of arts degree in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

He married Margaret H. Buhr Oct. 22, 1938, in Tigerton. He and his wife had resided on W. Fifth Street in Marshfield. She died June 4, 1980.

After his education, he came to Marshfield. He taught mathematics and algebra at Purdy Junior High School for 44 years. He had also served as an assistant coach at Purdy. He retired in 1969. He had been a resident at the Living Center since May 11, 1988.

He was a member of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, the Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus John Eisen Council 1799, United Commercial Travelers and Marshfield Elks Lodge No. 665 and had been a past exalted ruler of the lodge. He was a former member of the Marshfield Teachers Association and its past president and a former member of the Marshfield Retired Teachers Association and the Wood County Park Commission. He was also a former member of the Wood County Board of Supervisors, the County Board's Comprehensive Services Board, a former supervisor chairman of the U.W. Commission, a former Norwood Hospital subcommittee member and a former member of the Executive Committee and Committee on Aging.

He is survived by one son, Robert W. of Shorewood, Minn.; one daughter, Mrs. Terry

(Margaret) Dennis of Plainview, Minn.; one sister, Mrs. Gordon (Margaret) Richardson of Clintonville; and' eight grandchildren.

He was also predeceased by one daughter, Katherine Ann, who died Nov. 18, 1951, three brothers and three sisters.

Memorials may be given in his name to Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church or the Marshfield Medical Research Foundation Inc.

*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 25 October 1990, pg. 10)*

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### **Mary Binzel**

Mary A. Binzel, 87, of 1015 W. Sixth St. died at 3:25 a.m. Jan. 27, 1997, at Marshfield Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. She had been a resident of the center since Jan. 18, 1996.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. The Rev. James J. Logan, pastor, will officiate. Helen Brinkmann, organist, along with Frank Binder, soloist, will provide the music. Burial will be in Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 10:30 a.m. until service time Saturday in the vestibule of the church. Rembs/Kundinger Chapel is in charge of the arrangements. There will be no public visitation at the funeral chapel.



*Mary Binzel*

She was born Dec. 26, 1909, in Burlington, to Arthur J. and Lucy (Gleeson) Cunningham. She was married to Rudolph J. "Rudy" Binzel on Sept. 28, 1935, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Burlington.

Mrs. Binzel graduated from St. Mary's Parochial and High School in Burlington. She also attended Milwaukee Downer College and graduated in 1932 from Marquette University in Milwaukee with a bachelor's degree in business education. She taught at Milwaukee Girls Trade School for three years. In 1935, she and her husband moved to Marshfield where Rudy joined his father in the Marshfield Canning Co. Rudy became president of the company after the death of his father in 1944. The Marshfield Canning Co. was sold in May 1982 after 58 years in business.

Mrs. Binzel was elected to a 13-member policy board of Catholic Social Service, Diocese of La Crosse in 1975. She was active in the formative years of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church and of Columbus High School, where she taught consumer economics for five years.

Mary was a charter member of Forte Nightly Music Club in Marshfield. She gave piano and organ lessons to many Marshfield children in her home.

She was a member of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church; the Parish Council of Catholic Women; a former Diocesan Policy Board member of Catholic Social Service for the Diocese of La Crosse; the Marshfield Women's Club and the Friday Night Dance Club.

She is survived by her son, Robert Binzel of Marshfield; two daughters, Mary Jean (Dennis) Michalski of Marshfield and Carol (Frank) Drasler of Onalaska; grandchildren, Christopher Michalski at UW-Madison, Patrick Michalski of Marshfield, Tim Drasler of Chicago, Lisa Drasler of Milwaukee, Laura (Dean) Eide of Osseo and Katherine Paetzold of Onalaska; great-grandchildren Sarah and Lucas Eide and Zachary Paetzold; three sisters, Ann Cunningham of Overland Park, Kan., Colleen (Robert, D.C.) Hintz of Burlington and Patricia (Ronald) Hollensteiner of Wauwatosa.

Predeceasing her were her husband on Oct. 6, 1983, her parents and one sister, Catherine Cunningham.

Memorials may be given in her name to the Our Lady of Peace Educational Fund.  
*(from Marshfield News-Herald, 28 January 1997, pg. 6)*

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For additional information on this home check:

Property Records of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin:  
<http://assessordata.org/reports/6984193670487.pdf>

Wisconsin Historical Society's Architecture and Inventory:  
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55559>