Eugene Dare "Buck" Wilkins

By Colton Wilkins

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Eugene Dare Wilkins was born on July 16, 1913 in Bluffton, IN. He had five brothers and one sister. His parents were Samuel and Margaret (Barrington) Wilkins of Bluffton. At the age of 12, Eugene's father Samuel died during an operation on his appendix. The family took it hard, but felt that they could handle the burden that would be required to stay together. The kids took up odd jobs such as yard work, shoe shining, paper routes, or whatever else that was a source of income that would pay the bills. For them, times where tough, but they still had each other. The boys became very handy, and in their free time they would take parts out of junkyards and build bicycles. They eventually put a whole Ford Model T together from old parts from a junkyard. This started Eugene's career as a mechanic.

He married Minnie Behling in 1937, and they moved to Berne. They had two kids, Rick and Thomas.

According to Thomas Wilkins, the oldest son of Eugene, he was one of the best mechanics, because there was nothing he couldn't fix. He worked at a Chevy, Buick, and Pontiac Dealer in Berne for quite a few years. He also had a milk route and was responsible for the outgoing mail on the train that ran by Berne. The train didn't actually stop in Berne, so the mail would get hung on a hook, and when the train went by it would pick it up. He worked at General Electric for 30 or more years as a final inspector and electrician. He passed away on May 14, 1984, from cancer at Lutheran Memorial Hospital.

Eugene Wilkins, Obituary, findagrave.com, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=101340340>

Wilkins, Tom. Personal Interview. 13 Oct. 2013.