TANNER, ERNEST AND NORINE BACK, Ernest R. Tanner, son of John Evert Tanner and Maud Williams Tanner, was born in Wartburg, TX, County of Morgan. Ernest served in the Air Force in World War II.

Ernest and Norine Tanner

Ernest came to Russell Co. in 1946. He and his brother, John W. Tanner, bought a restaurant owned by Willie Miller, formerly owned by Porter Coe and Mary Coe.

Tanners' Cafe, as it was named, served meals to workers at Wolf Creek Dam and was a meeting place for the younger generation.

Ernest was married to Norine Back on Dec 27, 1950. Norine was the daughter of William Claude Back and Jessie Buster Back, born in Rock House, KY. Norine taught school some 22 years, and also helped him in the restaurant.

Tanners' was the agent for Shortway Bus Lines for many years.

Tanners' was known for its country ham dinners, good food, and fellowship with a touch of nostalgia. It has been a fixture on the square in Jamestown since Apr 16, 1946. When construction work was started on the Wolf Creek Dam the incoming workers needed a place to eat. After work on the dam was completed Tanners' was "the place" for local people to gather. It is impossible to estimate the couples who started their relationships over a coke in Tanners'. Ernest says, "The years have gone by fast." Time flies when you are having fun, right Ernest? "A man has to make a living somehow". Ernest answers smiling, "My wife says I can't do anything else."

Now 50 years later Tanners' Cafe still stands.

TARTER, OTTIS AND JOSIE REXroat, Otts E. Tarter (b. Aug 2, 1903; d. Jun 29, 1943) was born in the Horseshoe Bottom area of Russell Co. He is the eldest son of Ethard Tarter (b. 1876; d. 1948) and Maude Holder Tarter (b. 1882; d. 1970). Otts had one brother, Rev. Roscoe Tarter, who was an ordained Methodist minister for over 50 years. He had three sisters, Zillah, Payne and Dorothy.

Josie Rexroat (b. Oct 21, 1903) was born in the French Valley community of Russell Co. She was the youngest daughter of John William Rexroat (b. 1866; d. 1949) and Fannie Grider Rexroat (b. 1870; d. 1946). She had two brothers, Hershel and Buford; four sisters, Gertie, Carrie, Fetsa and Beulah.

Ottis and Josie were married Aug 1, 1921 in Tersonville, IN. They were the parents of four children. They are, in order of birth: (1) Helen, who is married to Joe A. Medaris. They have two sons, Roger Dean and Wayne Allen Medaris. (2) Fred Shelby (d. 1990) was married to Rose Jones. They have one daughter Donna Rose Seaborn and two sons, Samuel J.