

Irma and James Chermie met at a dance at Lee Dance Hall in Cut Off, Louisiana and married 6 months later. Irma and Jim were both 17.

Jim was an oyster fisherman for over 60 years. He began working on the oyster boat with his Dad when he was 9 years old. After Jim's retirement from oystering, he worked as a security guard at Port Fourchon until he was 80 years old. Irma did the books for the oyster business and ran the household while Jim worked on the boat.

Jim and Irma had three children and also raised their niece, Cecile, from 4 months old, after her father passed away. "That's what families did back then. They took care of their own," Cecile said. "I don't remember ever having much money but we always had good food on the table."

Jim and Irma still live at home, and although they are not as active as they used to be, they still do their best to see family on Sundays.