



On Third Street

Walter and Esther Cowan Record

I have heard it said that, "A story not told is lost forever".
Indeed, part of my passion to put these storied to paper is that
folks years from now may read this and say, "So that's what it
was like".

This is the ninth part in a series of books that tell the stories of
my family and it includes many genealogical records.

The series concludes with a memoir of youth and
some poetry and essays that help tell my story. Much
of this work is compiled with the help of family
relations both near and far who are as much a part of
producing this anthology as me.



Thank you for taking a look. – Larry Cowan

On Third Street

We lived just a block off the Mississippi River on the north edge of
Minneapolis at 5230 North 3rd Street. The house isn't there any more - -
Neither is the street. It is part of the interstate highway system and now
thousands of cars and trucks pass through that place each day busy with their
own concerns and schedules. But back then the street was unpaved and quiet
and a dirt alley ran across the back of the house behind the garage. The
neighbors visited with friendly concern and children played and ran about in
the yards. Bed sheets and towels on the clotheslines flapped in the breeze and
an occasional dog barked and chased after the children. In the back yard we
had a wild plum tree, a grape arbor, lots of irises, and a screen house. Purple
and white lilacs ran along both sides of the yard. The lilacs on the south side
were kept neatly trimmed and the lilacs on the north were left to grow tall. A
large box elder tree shaded the front yard in front of the porch.

Out in the back yard, the sidewalk ran out to the garage and just to the
right, in front of the garage, the grape arbor grew up on two round posts and

across an arch. Two well used wooden swings hung from the arch on heavy ropes. Mom made grape jelly if she could get to the ripe grapes before the birds would eat them. And next to the grape arbor was the wild plum tree. Mom made the finest plum jelly on Third Street. If you were looking for Mary Ann's dog Pal, he could usually be found sprawled out to rest in the shade under the plum tree. His doghouse was in the iris patch that ran along the lilac hedge.

It was the middle of July and the sun was warm in the still noon air and small white clouds drifted across the bright sky. In the back yard, the blue Morning Glories bloomed under the kitchen window and the grass was a little dry because it hadn't rained for a while. Mom was hanging out the clothes on the line and I played in the dirt along the corner of the sidewalk by the door to the back porch. I had a few little red rubber trucks and a farm tractor. With my fingers, I made little roads in the dirt. The year was 1944 and I had just turned four years old in May. With a child's imagination, I could go just about anywhere then.

I remember that, on those hot summer days, the windows would be open along the south side of the house and the curtains inside would blow gently in the breeze. I remember looking in from the sidewalk and I could see the lamp on the table just inside by the window. It had a wide red shade and a brass planter at the base. The white sheer curtain quietly brushed the lamp and songs on the radio like *Mockingbird Hill* or *I'm Looking over a Four-Leafed Clover* drifted out onto the yard. This was our house on Third Street and these were some of my favorite days.

A couple of photos taken during the early 1940's include one of me at the front corner of the house at about age 15 months enjoying the warm summer out-of-doors in my diapers. Another photo in the front corner of the house was taken in early May of 1942 on the occasion of Grandpa Jim's funeral and is of dad and his brothers and sisters: (l-r) Dad, Pearl, Wallace, Grandpa Jim's brother Stan, Margaret, Martin, Tip, Harriet, and Bud. Stan's daughter Maud is standing in the background to the left. Sister Mae was up at Granville and brother Lloyd was working at the shipyards at Bremerton, Washington and neither could make it back for the funeral. Both sent letters that are recorded further in this text. Grandpa Jim had suffered a stroke many years earlier and had been at the State Hospital in Rochester for the many years since.

Over the years many memorable family photographs were taken at that corner of the house. I begin the story.



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Dedication

**Dedicated with love
To Dad
Who is Peace-Loving and
Gentle
And to Mom
Who is "Stubborn as all git-
out!"**



Walter and Esther Cowan visiting dad Jim Cowan at the nursing home in Rochester, MN. Perhaps summer of 1941

And Thanks

For the stories of my parents, Walter and Esther Cowan, I want to thank mom for our many conversations over the recent years; for the stories that she has shared; and for allowing me to read through and review her letters and papers. Mom has always emphasized the importance of remembering the happy times and the joys of family togetherness - - and of letting the sad times go. Now it's important to say Thanks.

One of the things for which I feel particularly honored was for the opportunity in reviewing these papers to understand to some degree the grief that dad and mom felt on losing children Shirley, Betty and Wayne; and to have shared, for the first time, some of that grief. So with that, let us embrace their happy moments of life, remember the joys that mom and dad have shared with many, and leave the sadness behind.

With affection, Larry

“... And So We Walk Together”

Six Verses on Our Walk Through Life.

Dedicated to all with whom we walk.

Larry R. Cowan 1995

Begotten of a place I never have seen,
From long ago toils upon a road much forgotten,
You are my friend, my neighbor, and my lover.

Let us hold hands, hold tight, don't let go,
For when it's time to go, it was good holding hands.

Ah, youth, stretch thy sovereign hand,
Hold tight to the ring; hold it high!

Flex thy sinews and shout thy song,
Dance in the meadow and dance on the sea,
And embrace her glory with all thy might!

From the depths of sorrow and the abyss of grief,
Comes the dawn of knowing the breadth of great joy.
Joy! Oh Joy! Catch the ring! Hold my hand!

What is joy but an opposite measure of grief?
For sorrow and joy meet in the Presence of God.

A collage of families across this broad land;
Unique, diverse and remarkable;
From high desert sands and high mountain slopes,
To low windy coastlands and low fertile plains;
Let us hold hands, we're one in this place.

Until one approaches the face of death's battle,
Courage is a shallow thing.

At the deathbed of one loved, or when faced by one's own,
Courage is not to lay fault or say who is to blame,
Courage is to say I forgive, I have loved, hold my hand.

Brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers,
Let us bear one another's burdens; bless; celebrate and
delight.

Let us hold hands as we sojourn together.

Let us hold hands, hold tight, don't let go,
For when it's time to go, it was good holding hands.

Christenings

Walter Orvel Cowan, a child of William James Cowan and his wife Inga Cowan, was born September 16th, 1907 and baptized in Valley City on the 12th day of November, 1907 in the name of the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, which is herewith certified by O. J. Akre, Pastor." Sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sunde and Miss Anna Anderson Tit. 3, 5-7. Matt. 28, 19. Rom. 6, 4. 1 Pet. 3, 21.

Esther Marie Shaw, a child of Samuel Shaw and his wife Marie who was born on the 26th day of March, 1910 at Minneapolis, Minnesota received Christian Baptism on the 5th day of June in the year of our Lord 1910. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Pastor Vernon J. Bittner. Witnesses were Edward Kossart, Hulda Shaw, Mildred McIntosh, and Oscar Tarnstrom." [Holy Trinity is the former Concordia, Immanuel and St. Petri Lutheran Churches: Esther was baptized at Immanuel Church in northeast Minneapolis where Ed and Hilda Kossart were members.]

Shirley Diane Cowan, child of Walter Cowan and his wife Esther Cowan born December 27th, 1929 at Minneapolis, Minnesota was baptized in Minneapolis, Minnesota on the 26th day of May in the year of our Lord 1930 in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Witnesses were Mrs. E. J. Bowen, Wallace Cowan, Mrs. Herman Wisch and M. J. Cowan [[ip]. Pastor O. J. Akre. Her father, **Walter Orville Cowan**, born Sept 7, 1907 at Valley City, N. Dak. and now age 22, was christened also that day [apparently not knowing that he had been baptized as a child]." They were baptized at home.

Betty Diane Cowan, child of Walter Cowan and his wife Esther Cowan born at Minneapolis, Minn. on January 10, 1937 was baptized on the 10th day of June in the year of our Lord 1938 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Witnesses were the parents and Ida MacDonald. H. Rudolph Peterson, Pastor." Betty was baptized at the Minneapolis General Hospital and died of pneumonia four days later.

Wayne Owen Cowan, a son of Walter Cowan and his wife Esther born on the 24th day of August, 1934 Minneapolis, Minn. received Christian Baptism on the 4th day of September in the year of our Lord 1938. Sponsors were Mrs. Johanna Therfield and Robert Cowan [Bud]. Pastor O. J. Akre, Lutheran Pastor." Baptized also on that day were his brother **Walter Orville Cowan, Jr.**, born Jan. 24, 1931 and his sister **Mary Ann Cowan**, born Sept. 9, 1932. Baptized at home. I assume that grandma and Bud were sponsors for each of the children.

William Owen Cowan, born Dec. 30, 1938, and his brother **Lawrence Richard Cowan**, born May 11, 1940, were baptized at home on June 9, 1940 by their Dad's uncle, Pastor Ole J. Akre. Ole was then 70 years old and retired from the ministry and living at Highlandville, Iowa. Sponsors were Rev. and Mrs. (Mathilda) Akre and Mr. and Mr. Martin Cowan (Marty and Francis).

The Early Years

Walter Orville Cowan, Childhood, Boyhood, Youth

On The Farm

The beads of morning dew sparkled on the tall grasses across the distant plains and prairie larks swooped low singing of the dawn. The early sun blanketed the mown fields and, although it was early September, the days will still be warm. The Sheyenne River that wends down from the north was dry and the tall grasses to the east were still. The air was clear and there was not a cloud in the sky that morning. Jim was glad the threshing was nearly finished. As he



stood looking out onto the horizon he could see only the fields and distant grassy plains that following the curve of the Earth. His thoughts were on Inga. The year was 1907 and Inga was due to have another baby. He didn't yet know but this time they were to be twins.

North Dakota has been a State for the past 18 years and Jim had been raising horses and planting hay on their dusty place at Valley City for only a couple of seasons. When Jim and Inga got together back in 1890, they lived at Sheldon, 30 miles to the southeast, where his dad had a farm and raised horses. In the spring of 1898, they moved south of Sheldon about six miles to stake a homestead at Anselm. Anselm was a barren place next to the Sheyenne River that wound around from the west there and next to what would become known years later as the Sheyenne National Grasslands. Today, nobody lives in that town. In about 1904, they packed up from there and moved north to Valley City on the main road west from Fargo. It was a good place to sell horses. Now, in 1907, Jim and Inga had been together for the past 17 years and they had seven children at home and one living with Inga's sister Anne down in Iowa. Jim was 33 and Inga was 42 years old.

Looking Back to Family Roots

Dad's father's maternal family

Walter and Wallace's maternal Great-grandparents on their father's side were **Thomas Victor McMichael** and **Elizabeth McMillan** who came from Kirkconnel, Dumfriesshire, Scotland on their honeymoon in 1842. Thomas' entire family came to Ontario including his parents and his nine brothers and sisters (a sister had died back in 1827) and Elizabeth his bride and her family, too. I am told the McMichaels were politically opposed to the queen and, according to great-grandmother Margaret's brother Robert; the queen wanted their heads! In any case, the McMichaels settled on lot 2, concession 2 of Hullett Township between the towns of Seaforth and Clinton to farm and raise horses. The farm remains in the family today - - 150 years later. Thomas and Elizabeth's ten children all born at Seaforth are:

		<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>No. of children</u>
1. Elizabeth	Married Tom Grieve	1843	?	6 Children
2. Maragaret	Married William M Cowan on June 26, 1866	1845	1890	5 Children
3. Marian	Married John Turner	1847	1930	5 Children
4. Robert	Married Agnes Von Egmond	1849	1919	5 Children
5. Grace	Married Sam Dorrance	1850	?	2 Children
6. Jane	Married ?	1852	1923	? Children
7. Mary	Married John Daler	1855	?	9 Children
8. Thomas	Married Lucy Fisher	1859	1936	5 Children
9. Janet	Married John Snell	1861	1937	1 Children
10. James	Married Agnes (Scott) Brown - later separated	1863	1936	2 Children

*Margaret, listed above, would one day become Walter and Wallace's grandmother.

Dad's father's paternal family

Walter and Wallace's paternal great-grandparents on their father's side were **Robert Cowan** (born ca. 1800) of Scotland) and his wife **Eliza Gunston** (born ca. 1800) with roots possibly in England. Their Scotland home may have been Dumfriesshire since Cowan is a common surname in that area and the McMichaels and many others who settled at Hullett Township came from that area. Only a few Gunston folks lived in Dumfries County so her name should be easy to trace. Robert and Eliza were residents (likely living with their families) of Quebec City and were married there at St.



Andrew's Church in 1833. How many children they eventually had isn't known, but their son, **William M. (Bill) Cowan**, was born in Quebec in 1840 or 1841. William lists Quebec as his birthplace on his marriage record so this is likely the correct birthplace. William would become Walter and Wallace's grandfather.

Little is known about their grandfather William M. Cowan (1840-1918) except that he was born in Quebec in late 1840 shortly after his parents; Robert and Eliza arrived from the British Isles. William may have grown up on a farm in Hullett Township near Seaforth. It's known that he lived there as a youth. It is not known if he had siblings.

William, age 25, and Margaret, age 21, were married at the Canadian Presbyterian Church of Clinton, a town adjacent to Seaforth, on June the 26th of 1866 and farmed about four miles to the north of the farm where his bride grew up. Over the years, William and Margaret had five children and they are as follows.

Child	Born at	Married to	Born	Died	No. of children
William James	Seaforth, Ont.	Married Inga Akre	1874	1942	5 Children
Thomas	Seaforth, Ont.	Not married	1877[?]	ca 1913	No Children
Robert A.	Seaforth, Ont.	Married Anna Donovan	1879	1955	4 Children
Elizabeth Jane	Sheldon, ND	Married Ira Nead	1881	1922	4 Children
Stanley	Sheldon, ND	Married Mae __[?]	1885	1968	1 Child

Bill's son **William James** would one day become Walter and Wallace's father.



In the spring of 1880 when Jim was six years old, for reasons told in another story, Bill and Margaret loaded all their possessions and their horses on the train at Seaforth, traveled to the Dakota Territory and settled at Owego near a new town called Sheldon. Sheldon was started and named after the man who bought the land from the railroad that year. Bill opened a livery stable and was a horse trader and a veterinary of sorts. Their daughter Elizabeth was born in 1881 and their last child, Stanley, was then born in 1885 on their farm at Sheldon. Margaret was age 40 when Stanley was born.

Margaret died five years later in 1890 - - It is said that she died, "while Stanley was just a little one." She left five children: Jim, the oldest was 16; Tom was about 13 and suffered from epilepsy; Robert, 11; Lizzie, 9; and little Stanley,

who was 5. Margaret was 45 when she died - - The cause of death is unknown. That same year her son Jim, now sixteen years of age, married Inga Akre, age 25, a pioneer woman who recently lost both her husband and her toddler son.

Walter and Wallace's mother, Inger Johanesdatter Akre, was born Sept. 8, 1864 at Highlandville, Iowa and is the eldest child of John Johansen (1827-1904) of Tuft Farm, Os Parish in Strandvik, Norway and his wife Martha Margrete Olsdatter Servold (1839 - 1902) of Kvinnherad, Os Parish. After coming to America, as was the custom, John took on the name of the farm where he worked in Norway as his last name - - becoming John Akre. John and Martha were married at Highlandville and established their farm at Big Canoe. Inga was born when Martha was 24 years of age. The other children are 2) Martin, b. 1867; 3) Ole J., b. 1870; 4) John, b. 1872; 5) Anna and 6) Amelia (twins), b. 1875; 7) Jonas, b. 1877; 8) Belle J., b.1879; and 9) Christine, b. 1882. Inga was married some time during the period of late 1887 to early 1888 to a person whose name according to an old letter may have been Johan Martin ___ and, since he was Norwegian, may have been from Highlandville. Inga and her husband lived in North Dakota and they had one child whose name was Billy. According to the few lines in that single letter, the child died at about two years of age and her husband died about the same time. I have no further information on this.

Although there is no record of marriage found, it is assumed that sometime during the period of 1890 or earlier, Inga Akre became the wife of Jim Cowan of Sheldon, North Dakota. The year 1890 was just ten years into the opening of the railroad and substantial migrations from the east and landowner farming. Their first child, Mae Elizabeth was born July 15 of 1891. The date of Mae's birth places their union at sometime during the late summer of 1890 when Inga was 25 and Jim was 16 years of age. In 1907, seventeen years later Inga bore twins Walter and Wallace. After 50 years of being together and eleven children, Inga died at a hospital in



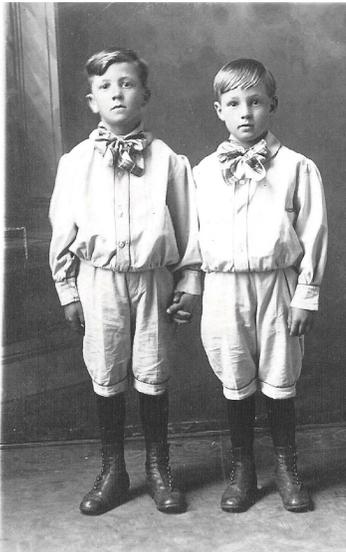
Minneapolis in early January of 1940 at 75 years of age and Jim died on May 4th of 1942 at age 68 at the State hospital at Rochester, Minnesota, two years and five months after Inga died. A more complete narrative about Jim and Inga is told in their story, "*Jim Cowan - Farmer*".

Their children are as follows.

Children of William James and Inga Cowan		<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>No. of children</u>
1. Mae Elizabeth	Married Paul Penfield (div.)	1891	1973	5 Children
2. William (Willie)	Not Married	1893	1913	No Children
3. Robert Oliver (Bud)	Married to Audrey ___?___	1895	1964	No Children
4. Lloyd Adrian	Married Louise Van Horn	1897	1980	5 Children
5. Melbourn (Tip)	Married Myrtle Peterson (div.)	1899	1955	3 Children
	Married Dolly Bouressa			3 Children
6. Margaret Jane	Married to	1900	1948	No Children
7. Harriet	Married Earnest Bowen	1902	1992	1 Child
8. Martin (Marty)	Married Frances Zahradka	1904	1961	4 Children
9. Walter [twin]	Married Esther Siems	1907	1977	7 Children
10. Wallace [twin]	Married Gladys Haiskary	1907	2003	5 Children
11. Pearl Agnes	Married Chet Clairmont	1909	1969	4 Children

The Twins are Born

On September the 16th of 1907, at the small hospital at Valley City, Inga gave birth to twins. They were given the names of Walter Orville and Wallace Owen. A few weeks after their birth, a penny photo-postcard came in the mail postmarked Oct. 11, 1907 from Inga's brother Martin J. and his wife Lena at Locust, Iowa. The card reads, "*Congratulations from Mr and Mrs M. J. A. Akre*" It is addressed Mr. W. J. Cowan, Valley City, N. Dak. The photograph on the card was of the Akre - Bidne Creamery at Highlandville.



Walter and Wallace Cowan - Photo taken for their eighth birthday on Sept 16, 1915 at Enderlin, ND

In early November Inga's brother, the Rev. Ole Akre and his wife Anna Louise came to visit from his new parish assignment at Velva, North Dakota likely for the purpose of baptizing the children. So on November 12th Walter and Wallace were baptized by Pastor Akre on the farm at Valley City. The infants' sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Ole Sunde and Miss Anna Anderson. Apparently there was no other family around at the time to serve as their sponsors.

The year was 1907 and Teddy Roosevelt was President of the United States.

Enderlin, North Dakota

In about 1908 when Walter and Wallace were still little, the family moved from Valley City about twenty-five miles southeast to the town of Enderlin. Enderlin was a good-sized town about four miles from Sheldon.

In the summer of 1909, when Walter and Wallace were almost two years old, Inga wrote a post card addressed to her husband W. J. Cowan at Enderlin and all it says was, "*June - July 1909 Times of Trouble.*" The postcard is leather and on its back is a depiction of the Enderlin School. Were there troubles that started them to think to leave the farm there? Mother tells me that she thinks they actually had two farms by then and that they were doing pretty well.

Walter and Wallace's brother Willie died of pneumonia in 1913 and their father Jim purchased a plot and he was buried in the Enderlin City Cemetery. By 1914 when Walter and Wallace finished first grade, their Aunt Lizzie and her family were farming at Granville and their Uncle Bob and his family were farming at Douglas, which is near Granville.

School and Growing Up

Walter and Wallace attended first grade at Enderlin Graded School for the school year 1913- 1914 and Walter's teacher was Miss Miller. The Superintendent was T. O. Sweetland. Walter, then six years old, didn't miss any days during the year except in February when he missed 16 days - most of the month. His good subjects were spelling, reading, arithmetic, nature study and manual training. He did poorly in writing, language, music and drawing. He was passed into the second grade.



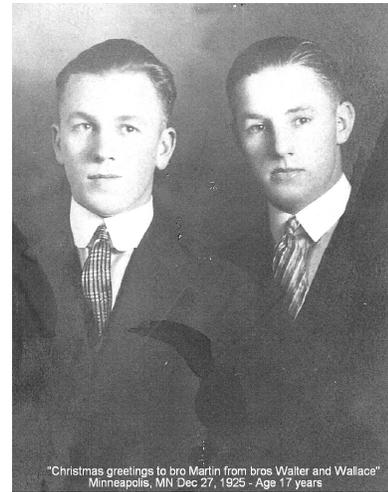
Walter attended school at Enderlin up through the seventh grade and quit at twelve years of age in 1920. I suppose he then spent his time working on the farm and at odd jobs during the winter. In the summer of 1923 at age 15, still at Enderlin, Walter ran away from the farm and hopped the freight trains. Mom says that

Walter was a sensitive boy and he ran away because of some of the abuse and teasing he got from the older brothers, particularly from his older brother Bud

who was assigned as disciplinarian for the younger children. Mother then tells dad's story about how the hobos would send him out from the boxcars to beg for food at the farms, as he was young and innocent looking and people would feel sorry for him. He would come back from the farm homes with food for everybody. He returned to Enderlin and later moved with the family to Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sometime after the summer of 1923, Jim and Inga left the farm at Enderlin and moved to the Minneapolis for while. There is a nice studio photograph of Walter and Wallace dressed up in suits; the year was 1924 and they were 17 years of age. In about 1924, when Walter and Wallace were seventeen, Jim and Inga moved back from Minneapolis to a smaller farm at Granville, near Jim's brother and sister. If the move to Granville occurred in the spring of 1924, Dad and Wallace would have been about 17 years old. One fall during that time, Walter took jobs following the harvesting machines along the Dakota border up to Canada. In 1924 dad's sister Mae was about 31, married and separated, had several children. The youngest sister, Pearl, was about 15 years old and was the only child living at home then. Sisters Harriet and, of course, Pearl were close in age to Walter and Wallace. There are a number of photographs that show the boys and the girls working at harvest time, of working and of some playing in the fields, and of the old farm machinery at Granville. Their brother, Martin was now age 19 and attending Luther College at Decorah.



"Christmas greetings to bro Martin from bros Walter and Wallace"
Minneapolis, MN Dec 27, 1925 - Age 17 years

Then in the winter of 1927, now age 20, Walter went back to Minneapolis and found work at various jobs including a time as a cook at a tiny "Band Box" cafe and as a waiter at the old Forum Cafeteria. In the Spring Walter got a job at the Nan Kin Chinese Restaurant in downtown Minneapolis and, through a blind date, met a 17-year-old girl named Esther Siems. . . . And a whirlwind of romance. Actually it was a double date and Esther was with the other guy. Esther and the other guy didn't hit it off but Esther and Walter liked each other and this was the beginning of a long, long story.

Fall 1927 - Jim Cowan
"Dad's threshing machines in the field" - Inga



Dad's machines in field

Esther Marie Shaw, Childhood, Girlhood, Teens

"Dear Mom,..."

To begin the story about mom, I've reprinted here a school report by her grandson, Jeffrey L. Cowan that is based on an interview with his Grandma for school. He wrote this I believe in 1987 while in 8th grade. So here is "Roots Report" by Jeff Cowan.

"GRANDMA" by Jeff Cowan

"On a cool, drizzly day in late March of 1910, a little girl was born and brought to the University Hospital in Minneapolis and left there. At the same time, a little girl was born to Emma and Herman Wisch at the University Hospital. When Emma's sister Johanna came to visit at the hospital she saw the little foundling girl and was allowed to take her home. She was adopted and became the daughter of Jim and Johanna Siems. She was called Esther Marie and she is my grandmother. When Esther was young, she liked to play hide and seek with her friends and she liked to go to the silent movies. Her favorite food as a child was ice cream. During the prohibition her mother owned several apartments in Minneapolis and a resort on Big Sandy Lake in the Brainerd area. Her mother loved to fish and would go fishing all day and would take Esther with. Esther would sneak books along to read and that would make her mother

mad. Esther went to Corcoran School in South Minneapolis and then later went to Roosevelt High School through the eleventh grade.

"When Esther was eighteen, she met and married Walter Cowan who was a farmer's son from North Dakota. Esther was a waitress for quite a while before her children and once the kids started growing up, she worked at Dayton's and retired when she was 62. The family was very close and at Christmas time they always had a Christmas tree and a nice Christmas dinner. They also had a nice big ham for Easter. There was always a large crowd of family and friends over to visit and many would come unexpectedly. Many times when there was homemade soup for dinner visitors would come and they would just add water to the soup to make it go around. There were many good times for the family but also many difficult times like during the depression. Esther and Walter had seven children. Wally is the oldest. The next was Shirley who at three was run over and killed by a boy learning to drive a car. The next was Mary Ann who now has eight children of her own - Her husband was a policeman and he died when the youngest was just a baby so Esther spent a lot of time helping with Mary Ann's family.

The next of Esther's children was Wayne who died at five years of Leukemia. And then Betty who at two years of age died of pneumonia. The next of grandma's kids is William (Bill) who is a pastor and a counselor for Lutheran Social Services. The youngest, Larry, is my dad!



"About the time that dad was in high school, grandma started working for Dayton's in the carpet department in Minneapolis. She worked there until she retired at age 62. These were probably the happiest years of her life, she says. Two years later after grandpa retired, grandpa died of a heart attack down in Arizona. I was three years old at the time. So grandma moved to a high-rise apartment for senior citizens back in Minneapolis. But she was lonely and it was kind of expensive so she married Herb Peterson who was the widowed husband of Evelyn Wisch, daughter of Emma and Herman Wisch, who was in the

hospital at the University on that cool drizzly March day in 1910."

I should make a few comments here about Jeff's story: The part about mom being left at the hospital is from what I knew at the time and it is incorrect. Mom actually was born on Saturday, March 26th, of 1910, the day before Easter, at the University of Minnesota Hospital. According to her birth certificate, she was born to John [no surname], age 24 and to Emily Soudell, age 21, her first child. John's occupation is listed as "laborer" and Emily's is a "Housewife". John was born in Norway in 1886 and Emily, maiden name Soudell was born in late 1889 or early 1890. So John was about 24 and Emily was 20 at the time she was born. The attending physician was Ed Baker. Mom's given name shown on the certificate is "Alice Smith." The birth announcement in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune of Wednesday, March 30, 1910 reads, "Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, University Hospital, Daughter."

Minneapolis in 1910

The population of Minneapolis in 1910 was 301,000. According to photos from the Minnesota History Museum, the streets of downtown Minneapolis buzzed with activity that spring of 1910. The three main ways to get around in the downtown were the electric trolley cars that moved up and down the avenues, the horse drawn mercantile wagons moving in what appears to be no particular order making their deliveries to the various businesses and shops on the streets, and the many, many pedestrians. Although the new "automobile" was widely heralded in the newspapers, there were as yet only a few which ventured into the downtown streets.

The main news of the day was the recent completion of the Panama Canal and people wondered in their editorial comments whether the benefit would be worth the very large expense to the American taxpayers. Teddy Roosevelt, who had just left office as President, announced his commitment to crack down on crime. The Rockefellers of New York were having another lavish event and plans were approved to construct a \$1 million house over on 10th Street. This "house" became the Leamington Hotel, which was a landmark of the downtown for many years.

Across the river from downtown and across the old Washington Avenue Bridge, two young girls, Emma Wisch and Emily Smith came to the maternity ward of the University Hospital to have their babies. Emily was admitted late in the month of March; Emma came in a few days later early in April; and the

wheels of Providence were turning.

Emily's daughter was born March 26th, just a few days before the daughter of Herman and Emma Wisch so we can surmise that she and Evelyn were in the hospital for a short time together. In those days, newborns and their mothers were kept in the hospital for about 10 day. Marie, who was Emma's sister, visited Emma and her new baby at the hospital. We do not know when arrangements were made for Marie to take the little baby Smith home, but it may have been a short time after she came home from the hospital. Mom told me that she was initially named Estelle and that her mother must have taken her home from the hospital for a while. Grandma Marie told mother years ago that her real mom didn't take very good care of her and that she left her diapers wet and she let her cry. So mom says that part of the reason that she didn't want to try to find her real mother was that she felt that her mom didn't care about her anyway.

Mom's Baptism

Mom was baptized about ten weeks later. The baptism record states: ***"Esther Marie Shaw, a child of Samuel Shaw and his wife Marie who was born on the 26th day of March, 1910 at Minneapolis, Minnesota received Christian Baptism on the 5th day of June in the year of our Lord 1910. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. [Formerly Concordia, Immanuel and St. Petri Lutheran Churches] Pastor Vernon J. Bittner. Witnesses were Edward Kossart, Hulda Shaw, Mildred McIntosh, and Oscar Tarnstrom."*** Date of certificate: October 28, 1965. Immanuel is the church in Northeast Minneapolis where Ed and Hilda Kossart were members years ago. Ed Kossart was the husband of Marie's cousin Hilda Omundson. Hilda and Marie were close cousins in their early years and remained so for many years after each were married. Hulda Shaw was Marie's husband Sam's sister.

Poring over Minneapolis and St. Paul City Directories

I have tried to locate Emily Soudel Smith who is mom's biological mother and these are the reports that I have found. I believe one of these persons listed below is her mother but that it may not be possible to locate the actual person. For example, the Minneapolis City Directory of 1910 and 1912 lists, "Mrs. Emily K. Smith, mach. opr. rms 712 S. 5th Street." This address is about where the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome now stands. Also in 1910 is a listing for Emily C. Smith who is the widow of John F. Smith. If her husband

John had died and then she delivered a baby, it is possible that she would have given the baby up for someone else to care for!

There are about a dozen John Smiths listed in the City Directory of that time whose work is shown as "laborer" but their addresses don't match. Also, conjecture or rumor has it that John and Emily lived in the Wells area of southern Minnesota or that they lived in St. Paul.

So, for reasons we do not know, her parents were unable or unwilling to raise her. Mom was not legally adopted and so the birth record is assumed correct and there should be no hidden records. It may be of some value to check marriage certificates or other records in Minneapolis - St. Paul or county records for the period of 1909 or for any real estate, tax or birth records of 1909-1920 for John and Emily Smith. The following City Directory entries are from Minneapolis unless otherwise noted and my guess is that one of these persons is her mother. The b or r in these records refers to boarder or residence.

1905 Mrs. Emily P. Smith died Nov. 1, 04, age 63 (No other entries for Emily Smith prior to 1910)

1910 Mrs. Emily K. Smith, mach opr b 712 S 5th (No previous entries for this person)

1910 (St Paul) Smith, Emily C. (wid John F) b 358 Yankee

1911 (St Paul) Smith, Emily C. (wid John F) 571 Ashland

1910 and 1911 - Smith, Emily E. stenogr G. Sommers & Co. b 109 W Central Av

1908 and 1910 - John W. Smith. janitor r 712 NE Main

1912 Mrs. Emily K. Smith, mach opr b 712 S 5th

1915 (St Paul) Mrs Emily C. Smith (wid John) b 1827 Laurel av

1920 Mrs. Emily K. Smith, forewn Munsingwear Corp. r 716 31st Av N This is very likely the same person as the 1912 entry.

1923 Mrs. Emily K. Smith, insptr Munsingwear, r 716 31st Av N

1926 Mrs. Emily K. Smith, forewn Munsingwear Corp. r 716 31st Av N

Emily Smith, waiter 2200 N 2nd St

Emily Smith, Mrs H 3954 3rd Av S

Emily Smith r 1169 N 5th

Emily G Smith, clk City Health Dept, r 3012 W 44th

Emily M Smith tchr Harrison School r 3417 Columbus Av

1929 Mrs. Emily K. Smith, forewn Munsingwear Corp. r 716 31st Av N

Emily C Smith, student r 802 SE 6th St

Emily G Smith, Jr. typist Division of Public Health r 3218 Girard Av S

Emily H Smith, Mrs H 3954 3rd Av S

- Emily J Smith clk r 3954 3rd Av S
 Emily M Smith tchr Harrison School r 5413 Dupont Av S
 John Smith janitor Young Quinlan h 3954 Tylor
- 1934** Mrs. Emily K. Smith, forewn Munsingwear Corp. r 716 31st Av N
 Mrs. Emily Smith r 3954 3rd Av S
 Emily M Smith, clk 3954 3rd Av S
 Emily M Smith tchr Harrison School r 5413 Dupont Av S
 Mrs. Emily Smith clk 827 Portland Av
 Emily M Smith nurse 2109 Blaisdell Av Apt
- 1939** Emily E Smith bkpr Spray Brite Co r 1817 3rd Av N
 Emily M Smith dental nrs h 3954 3rd Av S
 Emily M. Smith tchr Harrison School r 3520 1st Av S
 John S Smith (Emelia) 3351 Minnehaha Av S
- 1942** No entry for: Mrs. Emily K. Smith, forewn Munsingwear Corp. r 716 31st Av N
- 1946** Emily Smith emp Dayton's R Hopkins
 Emilie (Wid John S.) 3351 Minnehaha Av
 Emily M Smith tchr Harrison School 1826 LaSalle Av Apt 3

Notes: Emily C. Smith who is recorded during the period of 1910 through 1915 as the widow of John Smith is a strong possibility. If he was ill or had died in the time prior to mom's birth, then this could be a reason for their giving up the baby. Emily K Smith, who worked at Munsingwear for many years and has no John Smith listed at the same address is also a possibility. Her likely first entry was in 1910; the year that mother was born. Another possibility is John S. and Emilie Smith who are recorded as having lived at 3351 Minnehaha Av during the period of the late 1930's to the middle 1940's. John Smith died in 1945 or 1946, which may place him at an appropriate age to have had a child in 1910.

Legacy of an Adopted Child

Published in the St. Paul Pioneer Press Dear Abby 1989

Author Unknown

Once there were two women who never knew each other.
 One you do not remember, the other you call mother.
 Two different lives shaped to make you one.
 One became your guiding star; the other became your sun.
 The first gave you life, and the second taught you to live in it.

The first gave you a need for love, and the second was there to give it.
One gave you nationality; the other gave you a name.
One gave you the seed for talent; the other gave you an aim.
One gave you emotions; the other calmed your fears.
One saw your first sweet smile, the other dried your tears.
One gave you up - It was all she could do.
The other prayed for a child, and God lead her straight to you.
And now you ask me through your tears
The age-old question through the years
Hereditry or environment which are you a product of?
Neither, my darling neither, just two different kinds of love.

Mystery. . . During the late 1950's, Dad got a call from someone calling from St. Paul who said that a pastor of a church in southern Minnesota had recently died and had left a file in his desk that he had kept over many years about mom. The person asked dad if he knew anything of what this was about. At the time mom felt that if this had anything to do with her real mother, she wasn't interested in pursuing it. The pastor was from a church around Wells, MN and the file had many items covering mom's life. A question is, "Why was the pastor interested and keeping this file?" Was he her real father? Did the record have something to do with her real mother? Who was this person who called from St. Paul? An attorney? The pastor's son? Possibly mom's brother? Would a check on a list of pastors who died in that area during the late '50's help? Interesting.



Another Mystery. . . About 1986 or so, Hilda Kossart called mom and asked her if she would come to visit a lady in the nursing home who was blind and not doing well and whom mom didn't know. Hilda was quite insistent but mom didn't want to go to visit her. She suspected it had something to do with her mother. Possibly this person in the nursing home was her sister? or mother? This suspicion bears some reality because Hilda Kossart was the wife of mom's godfather at her baptism, Ed Kossart. Ed and Hilda would have known who her real parents were. Are there old papers or records somewhere which Ed and Hilda (both now deceased) have kept? Perhaps they may have something.

Mom remembers a name similar to Soudell in the Wells area and that

they were friends of Anne and Carl Christenson before they went to Mora. Was Soudell a family name of some persons in the Wells area - Possibly some cousins of Anne's? Anne's maiden name was Sansmark and several Sansmark names show as assisting at her funeral.

Grandma Johanna Marie Christenson Therfieldt (A5-d)

Now I'd like to write a bit about Mom's mother and her family. Based on the information on the back of a 1904 photograph discussed below and on information from their family tree (*See Genealogical Record - Christenson*), we know that Matt Christenson and Johanna Langer were married in Norway sometime during the middle 1870's and that they had four children while in Norway. Those children are Otto, b. ca. 1875; Carl Johan, b. 1878; Hilmer, b. 1880; and Johanna Marie. Johanna Marie was born in Norway on June 15th,



Note by Evelyn Peterson: Front l-r Grandma Johanna Christenson, Langer - born 1849 in Norway and died a few months after photo; Emma Augusta Langer Christenson (mother of Evelyn Misch Peterson); 2nd row l-r Otto Christenson (about 13 yo - died at 21 yo); Frankie (son of Aunt Matie and Uncle Hawkins); Uncle Hawkins was Grandpa Christenson's brother; 3rd row l-r Uncle Carl Christenson, Uncle Hilmer Christenson. Photo taken on mother's "Old home place" the year grandma died (Oct. 27, 1904).
Dora E. Smith, Chicago, Minnesota



About 1912 "Ma - Me - Dad"
Johanna Marie and Edward J. Seime and dtr. Esthe. Ed and Johanna were borders at 541 Penn Ave. Noi Ed worked as a brakeman in 1910 and by 1915 was for the M. & St. L. R.R.

1883 when her mother was 34 years of age. The family immigrated to the United States the next year in 1884, shortly after Johanna was born, and settled at Wells in southern Minnesota. It is likely that the entire family came along together to America at that time including all of Matt's brothers and sisters and their families and possibly Matt's mother, Helena, as well. Since we do not know Matt's father's name it is possible that he didn't travel with them or that he may have died previously in Norway. Grandmother Helena would have been 80 years old at the time of the trip to America.

After arriving at Wells, Matt and Johanna had two more children and they are Emma Augusta, b. 1886, and Hilda, b. ___? Matt and Johanna were members of the Medo Lutheran Church in the village of Medo (town of Mapleton) about ten miles to the north of Wells. Many of the

family were baptized, confirmed, and married there and eventually buried in the church cemetery. Johanna Langer Christenson died on October 27, 1904 at the age of 55 years and is buried at the Medo Lutheran Church cemetery. Her husband Matt is likely buried there as well.

Over the years Matt and Johanna's daughter Johanna (she was called Marie) grew up, came up to Minneapolis and, likely in 1909 or 1910, married Samuel S. Shaw (Sam). By 1910 Sam and Marie (now age 27) lived at flat 2, 708 South 6th Street in Minneapolis and Sam was working as a bartender. It was then that they took in a child born at the University Hospital on March 26th with the given name of Alice Smith to be raised as her own. About ten weeks later that child was baptized as Esther Marie Shaw. The marriage ended within about a year or so later and Marie married Edward J. Siems of 541 Penn Avenue North in Minneapolis. Ed worked as a brakeman and later as a conductor on the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad (the M. and St. L.).

A studio photograph taken apparently shortly after they were married shows Ed seated and wearing a suit and overcoat and white scarf holding little Esther on his knee and she is wearing a frilly white dress and a knitted light colored coat and cap. Marie is standing at their side wearing a dark dress and coat and a black broad brimmed hat. The photograph was possibly taken at Christmas time during the winter of 1910 - 11 when Esther was 9 months old.

Ed and Marie bought a house at 3520 Cedar Avenue South and this is where Esther lived as a child. It was a two-story house with a broad porch across the front with the front door entrance between the living room and dining room at each side. The kitchen was in the back on the left and Esther's bedroom was on the right. Ed and Marie had the upstairs with its two bedrooms and the bathroom. A coal pot-bellied stove in the dining room heated the house and the wood burning cooking stove in the kitchen. Mom says that her bedroom was nice because it was her private world to which she could retreat. Marie's sister Emma would often come over and the two children, Esther and Evelyn, played in the yard in the summer or ran around in the house in the winter. Over the years, they were like sisters.

Ed had two brothers, Arthur (Art) and Henry H. (Heinie - - pronounced like the haircut),



and a sister, Edna. His father's name was Henry C. Siems (also called Heine). During the period of sometime before 1910 to about 1916, Ed's father was co-proprietor along with Thomas J. McElroy of the "Siems and McElroy Saloon" at 16 Washington Avenue North on the block just north of Hennepin Avenue. Later Heine sold that bar and by 1917, just before the war, opened a new bar with his brother Carl - It was called, "The Siems Brother's Saloon" and it was located at 113 Washington Avenue South, about two blocks south of his old place and near the notorious "Persian Palms" club. Mom remembers going down to the saloon as a child with her mother on many occasions. That stretch of Washington Avenue up to the Milwaukee and Soo Line Railroad Passenger Depot was solid with saloons and was a hub of social activity before the war.

Heinie was a staunch German and when the war broke out, he supported the German effort while his two sons, Art and Heinie, Jr., went to war against the Germans in the U. S. Army. By 1920 all three brothers were back working for the railroad as conductors.

1910 Minneapolis City Directory

Minneapolis City Directory entries:

- **Arthur Siems** teamster b. 541 Penn Avenue N [son] 1915 still teamster
- **Carl Siems** r 3344 31st Avenue S [brother of Henry C.]
- **Edna Siems** b. 541 Penn Avenue N Worked as a stenographer [apparently a daughter]
- **Edward J. Siems** b. 541 Penn Avenue N [son] Worked as a brakeman in 1910 and by 1915 he was a conductor for the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad (M.& St. L.R.R.)
- **Henry C Siems** clerk b. 541 Penn Avenue N [father]
- **Henry H Siems** b. 541 Penn Avenue N [son] brakeman
- **Siems and McElroy Saloon** 16 Washington Avenue N, Henry C. Siems and Thomas J. McElroy, Proprietors.

In 1915, when mom was about five, Ed and Marie separated and then divorced. Marie got the house on Cedar Avenue and Esther and her ma continued to live there.

Marie had apparently kept in touch with Sam's whereabouts during that time. In 1915 he moved to 2309



1915 - 5 year olds Esther Seims (standing) and cousin Evelyn Wisch at Esther's mom's home at 520 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis

Nicollet Avenue and Sam was still tending bar at 22 North 5th Street in downtown Minneapolis. In 1917 he was living at flat #9, 11 East 17th Street and Sam was bartending now at 246 3rd Avenue South. Esther was then seven years old. Shortly before the War in Germany broke out, Sam moved to 321 East 15th Street and got a job as a packer for McClellan Paper Company. In 1923, when mom was about 13, she says she went to visit Sam where he lived on East 17th Street. He lived in a row house with a porch in the front and a porch in the back. Sam Shaw died in Minneapolis Feb. 19, 1940 at age 60, 17 years after their visit.

During the prohibition years of the twenties, Grandma Marie owned a resort at Big Sandy Lake in the Brainerd area. It was called Cottage Grove Resort on Indian Point. Several old photographs show some of the old cabins, the dock and the lakefront, the dogs and of catches of fish. Mom relates a story about how Grandma Marie loved to fish. Mom was a young girl of about



ten or twelve at the time, ca. 1920 - 1922, and didn't find fishing very appealing. In fact, she would sneak a book along to read. And when Grandma Marie would catch her reading she would get mad and say that she wasn't paying attention to her fishing. Parts of Esther's jobs there were seining for minnows, keeping the boats clean for customers and chasing after

them on the other side of the lake after a storm. Marie loved the resort.

Another story tells of how during the prohibition Marie would come down to the Cities to meet with Chicago liquor distributors at the old Nicollet Hotel in Minneapolis on Washington and Hennepin Avenues to set up the deals to get liquor delivered up to the resort area - this was, of course, important to tourism! This story was told to me by Tip's first wife, Myrtle Peterson - - How true this particular story is I cannot say.

Marie had a problem with drinking and had difficulty keeping up the house on Cedar Avenue and so, in 1923, moved out and rented the house to other families while Esther, then 13, stayed on and worked for board and room for whoever rented the house. Mom says, "I went with the house." She was then in eighth grade at Corcoran School.

Mom told Mary Ann that in the late 1920's the resort at Big Sandy was all paid for and so Marie took out a loan at the bank to build one more cabin. Soon afterward money became scarce and few people were vacationing. Marie missed a payment by one day and the bank took possession of the resort the next day and she lost it all. She had to put her personal possessions in storage and later couldn't afford to get it out and so lost those items as well. It included her family letters and photographs, mementos and personal items and her crystal and linens and such.

One of the items that mom remembers was in that trunk was a photograph that she believes was of her real mother. She told me of this photograph in the summer of 1997 and said she can see her in her mind and would remember her if she saw her today.

In 1927 Esther quit school at the end of the eleventh grade. She had been attending Roosevelt and then South High School in Minneapolis. Esther was living with a family in Minneapolis and working for them for room and board. The family moved to Decorah, Iowa and so mom went with them to Iowa. After a while, she came back to Minneapolis and found the apartment



*Esther Siems, Age 14
At her ma's resort on Big Sandy Lake
"It was a good summer for swimming"*

where her mom lived now empty. She moved around for a few days and finally located her mother. Marie was drinking and didn't want Esther with her. So she located her dad and moved in with him and then got a job in a small Chinese cafe in south Minneapolis. While working at this cafe, she went out on a double blind date and became acquainted with Walter Cowan who worked at the Nan Kin Chinese cafe downtown. He was the other girl's date but they hit it off and were married later that year.

During the 1930's, Marie often stayed with Esther and Walter and their family. Marie suffered from drinking bouts even since Esther was a teenager and was often difficult to live with. Esther had to maintain some control over her mother over the years over this, especially when she stayed at their home, and I suppose that may be where mom got some of her stubbornness.

As Grandma Marie got older, she lived with her daughter; Esther and Walter, on Third Street and then in her later years lived in an apartment at 626 7th Street South in Minneapolis. I remember going there on the streetcar on Saturday mornings to clean the apartment and to shop for her groceries and medicine.

Marie died at age 70 on January 27, 1954 at the old Swedish Hospital Annex in Minneapolis when I was thirteen. She is laid to rest at the Crystal Lake Cemetery just a few yards from the graves of dad's mom and dad, Jim and Inga Cowan. Thanks be to God.

A Letter From Sena

The following is a letter mom and dad received from Sena and Oscar Saulke when Grandma Marie died. Sena is Marie's cousin who lived in Wells, Minnesota for many years. She is a daughter of Nina Christenson Omundson and sister of Hilda Kossart whose husband was Esther's godfather.

Racine, Wis

Feb. 3, 1954

Dear Esther Family and Relatives, Thanks so much for calling me but was so sorry I could not come to Marie's funeral. It was too late anyway as the train leaves here at 3:55 P.M. gets in there at 9:45 P.M. so could not have made it and not having a car would be impossible. You certainly have our sympathy but am sure it was a blessing as she has been a worry and care for you for years. God rest her soul. After you called I sat and prayed for her and you in your time of sorrow but that is something we can't get away from.

Our cousins are going fast but when one gets into these yrs. one has to expect it I suppose but it is always a hard time for those who are left. I am enclosing \$2 will help on the telephone call at least for I know must have had all the burden. The reason we went to Bessie's funeral, my son Donald called me and said "Ma you should go to one" as I didn't go to Harvey's. So my husband thought as long as Don would be there we would ride back to Wells with them and visit with his mother as she is poorly and 83 years old. And I could visit with my loved ones. But that trip cost us \$100 with the time Oscar lost and we make it again in July when we have our vacation so one can't afford those trips too often these times. Was all right when he got overtime but hasn't had any this year. Last year when we were home we put in hot water tank and shower when we were home in my place and this year we plan on rebuilding the back porch or a good wind will blow it away. Have had a cold ever since we were gone. Our water pipes froze here while we were gone so it doesn't pay to go away in winter.

Well my Dears if ever you come this way be sure to look us up we are about 1 1/2 blocks from the A&P market and Uptown Library on Washington Ave S. This is sure a hard city to get around in. When I first came here would walk in the wrong direction when I got off the bus. Oscar got the biggest kick out of me doing that. But he has lived here 29 years and in the same shop. But it is getting hard for him as it is heavy work and piece work and on full time and on the feet all the time and he weighs 214 lbs. and the funny part we live in the same apt. he lived in 29 years ago. His old neighbor let him know it was vacant so that is how we got it and only three blocks from his work. Before he had to take the bus at 6 am every morning where we lived before. With Love and best wishes and sympathy.

Sena and Oscar

Marriage, Children and the growing years through 1937

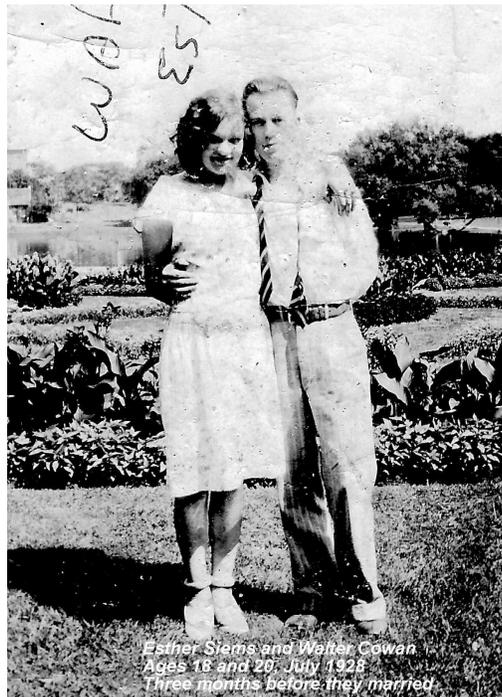
"THE WONDER-HOUR OF LIFE"

Jim and Inga moved back from Minneapolis to farm a place at Granville during the middle 1920's (*see the separate story about Jim and Inga*). By the spring of 1928, all of their children except Mae, Lloyd and Margaret were living in Minneapolis.

Those living in Minneapolis were Walter and his brothers Wallace, Bud, Tip, and Marty, and sisters Harriet and Pearl. And most of the kids were married: Wallace was married to Gladys; Bud to Audrey; Tip to Myrtle; and Harriet to Earnest (Whitey). Walter and his sister Pearl and his brother Marty weren't yet married. Marty married Frances Zahradka of Minneapolis about a year later on **September 10, 1929**, at Minneapolis and Pearl married Chester Clairmont on August 5, 1930 at Minneapolis. Brother Lloyd was living at Granville and married to Louise Van Horn and sister Mae was living at Little Fork and married to Paul Penfield. Mae, Lloyd, Tip and Harriet had been married for a number of years by then and had growing children. I'm not sure what Margaret was doing during those years - - she was probably working odd jobs on and off. Brother Willie had died several years earlier in 1913.

Walter worked at various jobs in Minneapolis and at the age of 20, got a job at the Nan Kin Chinese Restaurant in downtown Minneapolis. Meanwhile, Esther had recently moved in with her dad and was working at a Chinese cafe in south Minneapolis.

In the **spring of 1928**, Walter and a friend got fixed up with blind dates from the cafe in south Minneapolis. The other guy's date was a girl named Esther Siems. Well, Esther didn't care for her date but she and Walter hit it off and they continued to see each other. His name was Walter Cowan - - he was from the farm in North Dakota and this was the person with whom she would spend the next 49 years.



Esther turned eighteen in March of 1928 and that summer Walter and Esther spent the time getting to know one another and falling in love. Walter always liked to dress sharp and to wear a suit when they were out. They went to Loring Park on one Sunday and went to Minnehaha falls on another and several photographs record these times together. They were very happy.

Walter and Esther were married that fall on **October the 6th, 1928**.

Walter had just turned 21 and Esther was 18. From the look of the many photographs that were taken then, they were very happy and excited to be married. Mom's wedding book was from "The New Hartman's" of Minneapolis - The World's Largest Retail Furniture Dealer; and its cover reads:

"That life's sweetest offerings - to those who cherish the goodness and beauty of its being - may come to you and yours; that in the strength and sanctity of your union you may know the beginning of the achievement of your destinies - - such is our hope and wish in this wonder-hour of your life."

The wedding took place at sister Harriet's apartment, 629 - 3rd Ave., Apt 20, on Saturday, **August 6, 1928**, at 8:30 in the evening. The Reverend A. A. Smith officiated and cousin Evelyn Wisch and brother Martin L. Cowan were their witnesses. The weather was said to be fair that day. Attendants were Martin, Evelyn, and Mrs. J. M. Siems [Johanna Marie - mom's mother]. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wisch, Evelyn Wisch, Martin Cowan, Mrs. A. Roase [sp] [Hilda Roos, sister of Esther's mom and wife of Albert Roos of Mankato],



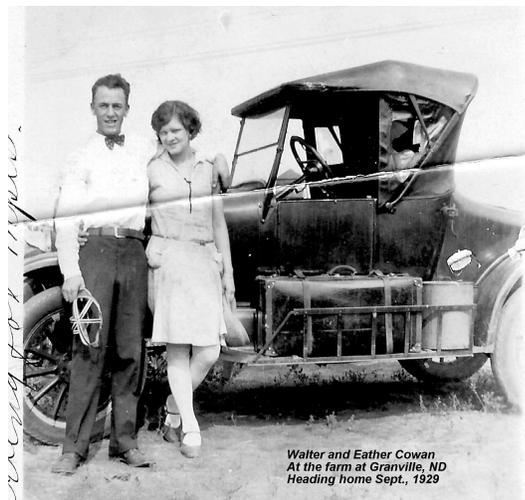
Mrs. Margerette Averill, Louise Averill, Mrs. Marie Reynolds, Mrs. R. Bolduc, Mr. Harry Emge, Mr Andrew Jackson, Mr. Walter Akrenkiel, Mr. Walter Nelson, Mr. Rudolph Schrobelle, Mrs. J. M. Siems, Mr. Bud Cowan, and Mrs. Audrey Cowan [Bud's wife]. Note that her dad, Ed Siems, wasn't there. To help celebrate the occasion, and since there wasn't an icebox at the apartment, they put ice in the bathtub to keep the home-brew beer cold.

Esther's trousseau was a blue dress, Margertte mothers [sic] (dad's grandmother, Margaret?) handkerchief she wore when she was married, black pumps trimmed in blue, tan stockings and pink underclothes. Wedding gifts included 2 bath towels, 2 silk spreads, 1 cotton spread, 1 tapestry, 1 linen dinner set, 1 bridge set, 1 breakfast set, 65 piece set of dishes, 1 jam glass, 1 mustard glass, a set of silver salt and pepper shakers, 1 blanket, 2 pair of pillow slips, 1 bedroom suite, 1 waterless cooker, and 1 aluminum set. For their honeymoon, they stayed home at their apartment - - Room 16 - - at 301 South 2nd Street (corner of 3rd Ave and 2nd St. a block from the old Milwaukee train depot).

Their list of things they owned included 5 lamps, a davenport table, a smoker, an end table, bookends, portable victrola, 3 fancy pillows, 65 piece dishes, aluminum ware, a magazine rack, and a 3 piece vulaur [sic.] set. "We are buying our parlor furniture on time. We sent back our bedroom set cause they acted so awful about storing a few pieces."

Their first dinner was on Sunday, the very next day after their wedding. Their first callers were Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Cowan, Mrs. Harriet Bowen, Miss Pearl Cowan, Dorothy Bowen (Harriet's daughter), Mr. Martin Cowan, and Miss Evelyn Wisch.

Of course, cooking good meals for the family and being a good hostess for relatives and friends when they came to dinner was an important part of a young bride's work. Mom tells some stories of her early cooking years about which there were many laughs. One story is about the first time mom served Roast Turkey. They had some relatives over and they all sat around the dining room table to eat. When the turkey was carved in the kitchen, mom



Walter and Esther Cowan
At the farm at Granville, ND
Heading home Sept., 1929

and her cousin Evelyn who was helping her found that the innards were still there - - it hadn't been cleaned. Well, since it was all cooked, they cleaned it out and served it anyway and didn't tell a soul. Mom told the story years later and they all had a big laugh. Mom remembers that embarrassing moment to this day. Another lesson in cooking for mom was when she made a beautiful layer cake for a holiday dinner. The cake was brought out and when she started to cut it - -"clank," the metal bottom tin was still between the layers! The cake had to be taken all apart and they had it anyway and had a big laugh. All in all, mom made many, many good meals over the years for family; and relations and friends liked to come to the Cowans because they knew they would get a good meal, fun and fellowship.

Here is a story about a trip up to Granville of which there are several photographs. Winter was over and it was now **late spring of 1929**. Walter and Esther, together with his brother Wallace and his wife Gladys, and his sisters Pearl and Harriet, spent some time at their dad's farm at Granville. While there, they took the old Ford out and went to pick chokecherries. Wallace was driving along the road and said, "Let's just go in here," so he turned off the road and crashed through the brush into the fields and woods.

The several photographs of their time together show the gallons of chokecherries they collected and how they had a good laugh and enjoyed themselves that afternoon. Esther was in her early pregnancy with Shirley and they were happy. Just about all of dad's brothers and sisters were up at the farm at Granville that spring and many pictures were taken.



Mom and dad had many happy times then - - and there are many more stories to tell and photographs that show about these times. Perhaps more stories of these times will be written some day.

Shortly after mom and dad were married they worked together along with sister Pearl and brother Wallace at a Chinese restaurant in downtown Minneapolis. Mom and Pearl waitressed while dad and Wallace worked in the

back and made deliveries. Mom says the cook was an excitable man and wanted his cooking just right. So if the meat delivery wasn't just right or the meat not to his liking, he would holler in Chinese at the deliveryman and chase him around the place with his hatchet! When dad and Wallace were sent out to do deliveries they had a habit of stopping off to get in a game of pool. And then Pearl would get hollered at, "Where are your brothers!?" When the Chinese manager would get mad he would holler and swear at people in Chinese. But when they hollered at mom, she would holler back at them in their gibberish and it would stop their being mad and they would laugh!

The First Years of Marriage

What began in 1928 was 49 years of marriage in which they experienced many happy and joyous times. They also endured many difficult, sad and even tragic times together. In 1977, after some 49 years of marriage, dad died at Mesa, Arizona as he and mom and daughter Mary Ann started out on what was to be a short vacation excursion into Mexico. *"That in the strength and sanctity of your union you may know the beginning of the achievement of your destinies."* I believe that by their experiences of great sorrow and joy, their destiny was to grow in love for each other, their children, their family and friends.

The Children:	Dates of Birth:
Shirley Diane	born December 27, 1929
Walter (Junior) Orville, Jr.	born January. 24, 1931
Mary Ann (Jacqueline)	born September 9, 1932
Wayne Owen	born August 24th, 1934
Betty Diane	born January 10th, 1937
William Owen	born December 30, 1938
Lawrence Richard	born May 11, 1940

Shirley was born just after Christmas on **December 27, 1929** at the General Hospital in Minneapolis - - Mom was then 19 and dad was 22 years old. Shirley's weight was 7 lb. 2 oz. and her hair was golden brown and her eyes were dark blue.

Tell me, my baby with eyes so blue,
What shall your Mother now wish for you?
Of all the sweet wishes that ever were known,
The best should be yours, my own.
Give me a shake of that tiny hand,

For you've just come back from the "slumberland."
Did the angel kiss you, my baby girl,
That your little face wears that smile of joy?

Mary Dow Brine (from Shirley's baby book)

Originally in *Mother and Baby, Lullaby Poems*, p 23

By Mary D. Brine, R. H. Russell, Publisher New York 1904

Shirley received the following gifts: From Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Bowen - a baby bunting and blanket; from Pearl Cowan - a sweater set and blanket; from Evelyn Bowen - a jacket; from Mr. and Mrs. Martin Cowan - a dress and skirt; from Evelyn Wisch - a toilet set and book, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wisch - a blanket; Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Cowan - 2 shirts and 2 stockings; from Mrs. M. Siems (Ma) - 3 kimonos and 4 undershirts; from Mr. and Mrs. R. Rose - a cap and stockings; from Mr. and Mrs. A. Roos - 2 dresses; from Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cowan - 2 blankets; and from Mr. and Mrs. Fossen - one dollar.

Mom and dad received letters and telegrams of congratulations from: Mr. and Mrs. A. Roos, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cowan, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Annette, Miss Ethel Christenson, and Mr. and Mrs. Reid Rose

Shirley's first toy was a rattle from Cousin Dorothy (Harriet Bowen's daughter). She first smiled on January 18th. Mom notes, "On Tuesday, **the first day of April, 1930**, in the presence of Pearl Cowan, Walter and me, Pearl was playing with her and she laughed." Mom further notes: "May 7th, you fell off the bed landing head first. I saw you falling but couldn't get there in time to catch you. At 4 months, Baby's first bump."

She first crept on **August 15th** and her first tooth was noticed on **August 28** - "You were eight months old and was pretty cross." She first stood alone on **August 29th** and took her first steps at ten months - - from the stove to her bed. Her first words were "Rock-a-by, by-by, da-da, Hello, dog, Tony, Mary, Maggy, and ma-ma."

Shirley's first outing was to a movie with mom and dad at the Astor Theater. "Shirley did not cry during all the movie." Her second outing was to Aunt Mae's after she was taken to be weighed at the Doctor's. Her third outing - - "We went over to Harriet's."

Shirley was christened at home 8:00 P.M. **May 26, 1930** by her father's uncle, the Rev. Ole Akre. Shirley's sponsors were Mrs. Herman Wisch, Mrs. E. J. Bowen, Mr. Wallace Cowan, and Mr. M. J. Cowan. She was baptized at 1809 14th Ave., Minneapolis. Other persons present were Mrs. Akre, Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Gladys Cowan, Miss Evelyn Wisch, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Cowan, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Cowan, "Dad and I," and "Pearl came as soon as she got through work." Of the first callers were Miss Evelyn Wisch and her beau Mr. Herbert Peterson. **Rev. O. J. Akre also christened Walter.** We had Shirley baptized over at Aunt Harriet's and gave a party.



Shirley Cowan

Rev. O. J. Akre is Walter's uncle and has christened most of Walter's brothers and sisters. Shirley received some nice gifts at the christening." Shirley's first shoes were little white oxfords given to her by Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Cowan to wear at her christening.

The following is to clarify the names of persons present at Shirley's baptism. The sponsors were Emma Wisch, sister of Grandma Marie; Mrs. E.J. Bowen is Harriet; Mr. Wallace Cowan is dad's twin brother; and Mr. M. J. Cowan is dad's brother Tip. Mrs. Akre is Ole's wife Mathilda; Mrs. Bowen is Harriet's mother-in-law; Gladys is Wallace's wife; Evelyn is daughter of Emma; Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Cowan are dad's uncle Bob and his wife Anna Cowan from Douglas, ND; and Martin and Pearl are dad's brother and sister.

The April 12, 1930 U.S. Census shows dad, age 22 and mom, age 20 and daughter Shirley, age 1 living at 3011 Hennipen Ave (That's right off Lake Street) . Dad's sister Pearl, age 20 is living with them. Dad is paying rent of \$45.00 per month which is quite a bit for that era. Dad's brother Wallace and his wife Gladys are living at the same address as well and no rent payment is listed.

36	3011	139	204	Cowan-Walter-O	Head	M	745	W	M	W	22	M	21	No	Yes
37				- Esther M	wife-H			V	F	W	20	M	18	No	Yes
38				- Shirley O	daughter			V	F	W	3/2	S		No	Yes
39				- Pearl A	sister			V	F	W	20	S		No	Yes
40	3011	140	205	Cowan-Wallace O	Head	M	745	W	M	W	22	M	20	No	Yes
41				- Gladys A	wife-H			V	F	W	18	M	17	No	Yes

Walter, Jr. was born about eight months later on **January 24, 1931**. He was born at 1:15 A.M at the General Hospital in Minneapolis. He weighed 7 lb. 4 oz. and his length was "awfully long." The physician was Dr. A. J. Meyer. His first callers were his aunt Harriet, Pearl and Chet Clairmont, and his grandma Marie. His first gifts were a dress from Aunt Emma and Eve, rompers from aunt Hilda, a blanket from Pearl and Chet, booties from Mrs. R. A. Fisher, and booties and a jacket from Mrs. Buckman. "His eyes are blue and hair is blond. Walter's first toy is Shirley's doll. He first smiled at 6 weeks old and crept at 7 months." He is called Junior as he grows up. Mom was 21 and dad was 24 years old and they were living at 500 Stevens Avenue when Walter was born.

Then 20 months later, on **September 9th of 1932**, Esther and Walter have another daughter and she is named Jacqueline. So by **Christmas of 1932**, the children were Shirley who was just turning three; Junior who was just about two; and baby Jacqueline who was just three months old. They were living at 224 Humboldt Avenue North; dad was working at the Standard station; and they were very happy and very busy.

The 1930's

The **spring of 1933** was the beginning of years of sadness and difficulty that continued into the early 1940's. During those years three of the children died; first Shirley, then Betty and then Wayne. Looking back, mom says that dad suffered unbearable heartache and, feeling her own pain, is sorry she wasn't able, nor did she try, to give him the comfort he needed. Mom says that she went through these events as in a daze and to this day has no memory of the services, of the burials, the luncheons or even who was there.



Troubles started in the summer of 1932. On the farm up at Granville, Grandpa Jim suffered a stroke while operating the tractor in the fields. Unable to control the tractor, it tipped over in a ditch and he was pinned underneath. Jim got out and he would later complain of gasoline running over him. Luckily, there was no fire. After his stroke, Jim was mentally never the same again and no longer able to work or care for himself; his speech was slurred

and he was combative and disoriented. His granddaughter Madelyn (daughter of Lloyd and Louise), age 11, remembers how he came to their house that warm summer day after his stroke wearing his winter coat, boots and mittens and his old brown cap. At first he was cared for at their farm. A while later, his son Martin borrowed a large new automobile and he and Bud and Walter drove up to Granville and brought him back to Minneapolis where he was placed in the hospital. About a year later, he was brought to Walter and Esther's to spend his last days because the doctors could do no more do for him - - but before that happened, little Shirley was hit by a car and killed.

On **June 10, 1933**, a photographer stopped at mom and dad's home and asked if he could take some photographs of the children. Mom thought it was a great idea and so she dressed them all up and he took some nice photographs of Shirley, Junior and little Jackie. A little while later that afternoon, Shirley was hit by a car as she ran excitedly into the street to tell her mom that she had found her little brother. He hadn't run far and mom was looking for him. Little Shirley died nine days later at the Minneapolis General Hospital on **June 19, 1933**. Little Shirley was 3 1/2 years old and Mom was almost 23. A lock of Shirley's blond hair is still kept.

The story of these events is told in some length in several news articles in the Minneapolis Tribune. A shorter article reads: "Little Girl, Hit by Auto Just After Photographer Took Her Picture, Succumbs to Injuries. Shirley Cowan, 3, Dies Short Time Before Pictures Are Delivered. Looking for Mother to Tell Her Lost Brother Was Found, When Struck."

The text of the story is as follows:

"A photographer knocked at the door of Shirley Cowan's home last week and suggested to Shirley's mother that he take pictures of Shirley, her little brother, Walter, 2 1/2, and the baby Jacqueline, 10 months old.

"Mrs. Cowan thought it was a good idea and dressed her babies up for the event.

"A little later, Walter wandered away and Shirley, 3 1/2, set out with her mother to find him. While her mother was looking in one direction, Shirley found him, toddled home with him and then set out to tell her mother that Walter was safely home.

"At Second and Irving Avenues North, an automobile swished by, hurling Shirley to the street unconscious.

"Shirley died Wednesday at General Hospital, shortly before the photographer knocked again at the door to deliver the pictures, among them a photograph of smiling little Shirley.

"Shirley was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cowan, 224 Humboldt Avenue North. Besides her parents and brother and sister, she is survived by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cowan and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Siems, all of Minneapolis.

"A 14 year old boy was the driver of the car which was owned by a neighbor."

Mom and dad received many letters from family and friends expressing their grief and sadness about little Shirley's sudden death and offering their love and support. I've respectfully reprinted several word-for-word here. The first letter is from aunt Hilda Roos dated **June 20, 1933** who was at mom and dad's wedding. Hilda is Grandma Marie's sister at Mankato and she is married to Albert Roos. They gave Shirley two little dresses at the time of her birth. Hilda didn't know at the time of writing to mom and dad that Shirley had died.

"Dear Esther and Walt.

Having had two letters from Emma telling me about Little Shirley I just thought I had to write a few lines. Not having heard since Saturday am wondering how she is the poor little child to think some thing like that should happen to her. Have been thinking so much of you all to wish I [lived] when I could to some thing and this awful heat. I Bet that has been hard on her. But we have to hope for the best that is all we can do. It will be 2 years next month since little LewAnn left us no end [page 2] it was weather like this so hot poor little thing how often I think of her she would have been three in August. I hope your mother is with you. As soon as she gets better I will send her some thing to play with I told Emma to write to me I know you don't have any time. Poor little thing her poor head and legs. I dont think kids like that should be allowed to drive cars. hre fun was driving if his folks here have anything they should be responsible for some of it or all. Herb said they ott to. last sunday I had company of Helmers family and Anne Carls wife she was down to Faribult, to her sister girls graduation and then she was to Waldorf and her sister Tillie out there she is looking good she was gon two weeks from home so she sure took a long vacation. but she said she could not stop in the cities this time. I went to Waldorf to Irene's graduation the last of May. there were 10 graduations this year When Ethel graduated there were only 3 And I saw the

twins they are Cute. but the smallest one had the measles. poor little thing. Well Herb and Louise had a cute little boy, Herbert Jr. he is 4 months old now. I bet your baby is getting cute now trying to [cusp] I bet. I had intended to go to the cities this week, but account of the heat, & Emma still cleaning house [page 3] I did not go. Hazel has not been very well either oh she has Rhumatism so bad but hope she is in better this heat out to her taken it - Emma said you had moved and that Walt wasn't working for the Standard any more. Hope he takes his new job. well we sure had a nice rain this evening and it cooled of some it has been awful for 5 days straight. If we hadn't gotten this rain everything would have burnt up. I hope you have your hart and hands ful. poor little girl. tell your mother to write well I must close hoping Shirley is better. Lots of love to you all. from Aunt Hilda and Albert. I guess Hazel and her family will soon be here. Buddie is getting so big. Write some time if you can. regards to Marie Aunt Hilda

The following letter dated **June 23, 1933** is from Dad's sister Mae at Granville.

My Dear Sister and Bro & all

Don't hardly know what to write to you to lessen your sorrow in the death of your sweet girl. but look to God for comfot who doeth all things well if tho we can't see it at the time of our great sorrow. but we all send you our heartfelt sympathy. We had hoped that she was getting better when we heard no word from you folks so was shocked yesterday when we got Earnest's letter. We are wiring flowers the least we can do for you folks I wish we could come but when we have no car but if it was possible would have liked to have attended funeral. Well must go to work May God comfot and sustain you in your sorrow as Shirley was so sweet but she is safe with the one who gave her to you to keep a short time With deepest love to you both and all

Sister Mae and all

The following letter was from Lee and Kate at Granville dated **June 25, 1933** - Lee is Walter's uncle - son of William and Dell.

Dear Esther & Walter

We certainly were shocked to hear about poor little Shirley. And know it must be just awfully hard for you poor kids. but we must try to feel that it was gods will and that she is better off She'll never know anything about all the suffering and hardship in this world. but it certainly seems awful to have to

part with them so soon. And she was right at the cute age too. I saw the picture and clipping out of the paper that Mae got and she certainly is darling. Just like a little doll. I wish we could have seen her. we were so sorry we couldn't get to the funeral. but none of us have a car. And not enough money to go on the train. How did the accident happen? And was the driver of the car to blame?

It sure is nice so many of the relatives were there. It helps so much at a time like that to have them with you. would like to have you write and tell us all about the accident when you feel able.

*Well my dear's guess I will close for now.
With love and our deepest sympathy*

Kate and Lee

The following letters are from Louise and Lloyd Cowan - Walter's older brother and his wife at Granville. The letter is dated **June 26, 1933.**

Dear Esther and Walter

We certainly were more than grieved to learn of the terrible accident and I know she was a very sweet child. am sorry we could not go up there. would have went if we could have found anybody going down there. we felt terrible to think we didn't even get to send some flowers but I had to wait until Lloyd came home before I could send any, and there it was [page 2] too late. did she ever gain consciousness at all before she passed away. was your mother with you Esther? or were you all alone at the time? Say, kids. I would like to get one of those pictures of Shirley you had taken the day she got hurt. It sure was a funny thing you just getting their picture taken that day. It most always seems like things like that happen when a person don't have any pictures. [page 3] Is your mother down there Walter or is she still at Tips? Say, Walter if you are not working, you folks better take a drive up for a while, cant you? I would love to have you all come.

We have sure been having some terrible hot weather but is some better today. Rained last nite, also nite before but it was the first rain we had for a month so everything was pretty much burnt up. But may come out alright now. How's all of Wallace's and Harriet's & Pearl's & Martin's. [page 4] don't



1936 Walter and Esther, Wayne, Mary Ann and Wally

ever hear from any of them. had a letter from Bud. How is Dad: is he still in the hospital?

Please write kids as soon as you feel able to. Heaps of love - Louise.

The following is from brother Lloyd, enclosed with letter above.

Dear Brother Walter and family Was sure grieved to learn of your loss and terrible accident. Surely must have been trying days for you all Shirley being so small. Seems like its harder to see small ones victims of accidents than when they're older. Was so sorry we didn't get to send flowers was only a couple of hours too late to wire some when Mae did. Her order was on the way when I got home. Am on the road and away from home all but weekends - Shirley must have been a real sweet little [page 2] girl according to the pictures we see from the papers. Do you know whether the accident was due to carelessness or was it unavoidable. Well Dear folks Louise is writing a few lines also so I'll finish herewith love to you all.



Your Bro Lloyd

What are you doing Walter? I suppose work is not very plentiful down there. not many more than here.

Among those who attended the funeral were Shirley's grandpa Ed Siems and her great grandparents Henry and ___ Siems. And so Shirley Diane Cowan was buried at Crystal Lake Cemetery in the children's section in the **summer of 1933** and was the first of many of the family to be buried there over the years.

Later in 1933, Grandpa Jim was brought from the hospital to Walter's home to be cared for and to spend his last days. Jim now



needed complete personal care and was often combative and difficult to manage. The children were afraid of him. Grandpa Jim had visitors all the time while living at Walter's, particularly Harriet, Bud and Pearl who lived in the cities and who helped with his care.

A couple of nice photographs taken the summer of 1934 show toddlers Junior and Mary Ann wrestling and playing in the front yard on Humboldt Avenue. Later that summer, Junior, age 3 1/2, became seriously ill with Nephritis and was taken to General Hospital. Because mom was too busy going to the hospital for him, Bud and Harriet had to come and move in to take care of grandpa. The other brothers and sisters in the family came over to help as well and they were trying to find a permanent place for grandpa to be placed. Thank God little Junior got better and it was now time for him to come home from the hospital. Mom didn't want to worry about caring for little Junior and have grandpa there, too, so Grandpa had to be moved. The nearest



Walter Cowan and daughter Betty Diane.
Photo taken in the spring of 1938. Betty
died of pneumonia a short while later on
June 14th.

bed they could find was at the Rochester State Hospital and so he was taken

there about the time that Junior came home. Grandpa was to remain at the Rochester hospital for eight years before he died.



Walter and Wayne
Summer of 1937

A photograph taken in the **summer of 1934** shows dad and mom with dad's mom, Inga and Pearl and Chet at the back of Walter and Esther's home on Humboldt Avenue. Inga was sixty-nine years of age in 1934 and she, too, often stayed at Esther's and Walter's.

That summer, Walter and Esther moved to Minnehaha Avenue in south Minneapolis. This was close to where dad worked as a station attendant at the Standard oil station on Hiawatha Avenue across from the old Veteran's Memorial Hospital. Wayne was born on **August 24 of that year, 1934**. At the time of Wayne's birth, mom was a homemaker and caring for the children. Mom was 24 and dad was 27.

In the **summer of 1936**, the family was now living at 816 41st Avenue North near the new Camden Center in Minneapolis. Dad left the oil station work and got a job as a waiter at the Jolly Miller Restaurant and Bar in the Nicollet Hotel In downtown Minneapolis. Dad was happy with that work and really looked sharp in his black waiter's uniform. A couple of photographs show dad in his uniform with little Wayne, just under three years old. In one, dad is holding Wayne on his arm and sitting on a porch in a big rocking chair.

The other photograph shows dad and Wayne standing together next to a shiny black car. Dad has on foot up on the running board and his elbow propped on the window ledge and is holding Wayne's hand. He looks very proud and they are both happy. A couple of studio photographs of that year show Wayne, at about age three riding on a pony. In the first, he is with his big brother Junior. Junior is wearing the cowboy outfit and is holding onto Wayne so he doesn't fall off. In the second photograph, Wayne is sitting alone on the pony and wearing the cowboy hat and scarf. I think Wayne's hoping he doesn't fall off!

On **January 10, 1937** at 1:43 P.M., Betty Diane Cowan was born. She weighed 7 Lb. 9 oz. and was in good health. Dad was 29 and mom was 26 years of age. Time moved along and the four children grew. The summer and winter of 1937 passes and now it is again summer - - 1938.



Time moved much too quickly that summer for little Betty. Betty was **seventeen months old** and got the measles. The

doctor said to watch her and be sure to give her a lot of fluids. Betty got worse and mom and dad took her to the emergency room at General hospital and she was admitted with pneumonia. She was being treated normally when the nurse thought that the child was becoming gravely ill. Betty's condition continued to worsen and so she was baptized **June 10, 1938** at the hospital. The baptism certificate states that she was "baptized by Pastor H. Rudolph Peterson. Witnesses were

the parents and Ida MacDonald, her nurse. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Mark 16:16." Four days later, on **June 14, 1938** Betty died of pneumonia and was buried at Crystal Lake Cemetery close to her sister Shirley. Penicillin had not yet been discovered.

Grandma Inga was staying with her daughter, Mae in Granville during the summer of 1938 and wrote a letter to mom and dad on **June 2, 1938**, 8 days before Betty was baptized. The letter reads:

Granville, N.D. June 2 - 38 [1938]

Dear Walter Ester

Well we arrived at Granville Sunday eving sure surprised Mae [fore onse Floy] got a car so we have plenty of rides even up town Mae her hur work it school house goes it a come home it 2 so dit Floyd Ferde Flos at home they just come home left work from their chools - how are the children has the youngest got the measles yet? hope they are not sick the 2 oldest be up this weake I hope - yesterday [Medelin] and Doris [corvin coled Medlin Just came back from Douglas N.D. She sure is tal and slim doris chinke the picture of Kate hur mother - Florense just told me they was going to a showers fore a nue married cuple acras the streat this afternoon - told me I was to go also - we are going over to my sister some Sunday before Floyd goes away with the car it soon diner time Mae be home then she will mail all my leter & then see how will anser first we are a houseful here 6 at the table 3 times a day - Mae got a nice please here hedges - fence- around house a nice please - Floyd Ferde is playing chicken it son diner time so I beter hurey hoping to here how the children are - is nice and soney today but the north west wind is chiley hoping to here from you soon

your loving mother



*Walter Cowan and daughter
Betty Diane b. Jan. 10, 1937*

A few days after the above letter was sent, Inga and Mae heard about baby Diane. The following letter was received from Inga. The letter is not dated, but it was received **middle June of 1938**. Inga is staying at Mae's in Granville. (You may remember that Inga herself had lost two children. The first was little Billie who died back in 1887 and the other was Willie who died in 1913.)

Dearist Walter and Esther

got your dear letter this after non onley one trean a day so have to wate tel to moro so our dear babe Girl left us fore a heovtle home where she is safe from this sinful warl I sure wish I ben that is to late to mention now - I was to Dr Stone lest Satroday was told to stay in beed 3 wekes but I am of my feet laying on the deven-port got good care Flas [Flos?] is a splendid nurse I seen all the time wha way the Swed went it should quit long before I did - well enough said Hed a fue lines from Haret lest weake so sead she dint now when they could come hed to have somthing for the car fixed we head rain all day cleared to ward evnig Kate was with us all efter non Louise went home this a.m. Walter and Ester try and see that God das whet is best for us all Dear sis is safe in hur hevnety home watng fore us hope we dont deseponit hure you must bleave God das whet is the best fare us all well super is redey so will close with Love to all your Loving mother.

Also, this letter is from dad's sister Mae at Granville. It is dated **June 15, 1938**.

My dear Bro and Sister

Just a line to you folks to extend our deepest sympathy to you in your great hour of sorrow. Words seem useless nearly at a time like this but yet are a comfort as we know then that people sympathize with us. Our hearts are filled with sorrow for you but only God can give you the comfort that will help you. He does all things well even if we cant see it thru our sorrow and tears. Mother takes it auful here but thinks she shouldn't come so don't know what to do but hope all things for the best When is the funeral to be. Much love and sympathy from us all and please write are enclosing a dollar to help pay on funeral or anything you need. got your telegram yesterday morning at 8 o'clock and the first one Sat. at 8.30 in morning. May God bless you all and comfort you

Lovingly

Sister Mae

Three months after Betty died, Pastor Ole Akre came up from Highlandville to baptize Walter Jr., age 7; Jacqueline, age 5; and Wayne, age 4. The children were baptized at home on **September 4, 1938** by Pastor O. J. Akre (Uncle Ole), Lutheran Pastor. Sponsors for Wayne were Mrs. Johanna Therfield and Robert Cowan (Walter's brother Bud). Wayne was just past his fourth birthday and would soon be diagnosed with Leukemia. Jacqueline's name was changed this date on her baptism to Mary Ann. I am told that Pastor Akre's wife Mathilda objected that the name Jacqueline was not a Christian name and so from that day on her name was Mary Ann!

Walter Cowan and his Mother - Early 1930's



Life Together

1938 - 1940

In the middle of September, grandma Inga, then age 73, went from Mae's to visit her sister Hattie and her family at Mercer, North Dakota. On **September 16 of 1938**, Inga wrote to Walter and told about all that is going on in North Dakota. There is to be a double wedding of Hattie's daughters, Ruth and Martha on **October 26, 1938**

Sep 16 -38

Dear Walter Ester and all -

Gat here O.K. but ofel tired din't get here til nerley 1.a.m. he was afraid to hurt the car of his wife was tired then I was She was laying around all the next day. they had a days drive home to the South western part of N. Dak - It cloudy and cold this a.m. everything is dead around her none croses here again only some corn not fare from the lake - Martha Ovre was home from Bismark yesterday the 15- drove beck lest eving she his some country werk Thersa - hed onley hed a card from Mae thet we should drive up but they heve none car is goe thet far onley a roun about the farm and Mae hes non car Floyd is a way teaching Mae dint say if Flornse was beck from Fargo yet Ferde Penfild dint get to chool this year dint make eney more this sumer so Mae got 2 hure



hendes - I dont now when I

[page 2] If I get up to Mae She hasent asked me yet it cold lokkes like an erle winter hope not how is Pearl what did the Dr say Pleas - lest Sunday we vesited Ruth Father & mother in lone a mr mrs anderson hed chicken Super they are quit old peopel onley heve a Son and a Daughter - here will be a duble weding this fal the girls will be marred at home my brother will come here to

mare them - Ruth is cleng house this a.m. so I beter get thru and move - Here is a bank at Mercer but I send it beck so you can cashe it et the please where we awak cashed it and send the mone beck to mercer my sister might get a chense to goe to minet soon then I goe along to Dr Stone I got hedake all the time well let me here from yous Sun love to all from all You Loving Mother - [Inga]

That trip to Mercer was Inga's last long trip. From Mercer grandma Inga went to visit her son Tip and then traveled back to Minneapolis to stay with mom and dad. Mom's mother, Marie, however was also staying on at the house and they would sometimes become jealous of one another. Such a time - - It must have been hard for everyone. Inga was a farmwoman and Marie was not.

Meanwhile, Wayne was taken to the University of Minnesota Clinic for further tests and the diagnosis was confirmed. The doctors said there was nothing that could be done and so mom and dad took him to Mayo Clinic. They said the same thing and that he should be taken home to be cared for. Mom and dad had to decide that the most important thing then was to take care of Wayne and their family (mom was also pregnant again) and so Inga had to be moved. Inga first was taken to Pearl's home for a while (complaining to Esther that she was being abandoned) and then placed in a nursing home. On **December 30 of 1938**, little Billy was born. A baby announcement photograph shows Billy in his crib wrapped in a bunting and squinting out at the world with a newborn smile.

Wayne died of Leukemia on **October 13 of 1939** at five years and two months of age. Little Billy was ten months old and just about walking. Dad was 31 and Mom was 29 and now two months pregnant with Larry.



Shirley, Betty and Wayne are now buried in the children's section at Crystal Lake Cemetery where are so many of the family. Their graves are about ten yards apart forming an inverted letter "V." On visiting their graves, I like to think of that letter to mean our victory in Christ and that we shall one day all be raised as scripture says; incorruptible, and in the presence of God.

Shirley: row 395 section A13 grave 10. Betty: row 392 section A13 grave 3.
Wayne: row 392 section A13 grave 18

Grandma Inga was in the nursing home for several months and died on **January 14, 1940** at the age of 75, just four months after Wayne died. So mom and dad had lost two daughters whom they cherished; a son of whom dad was so proud; and now, so soon, dad's mother. It is, of course, impossible for me to know or express the anguish that was felt during that period.

The following letter was received from Florence and Pete at Granville, N. D. upon the death of Inga, Florence's grandmother. Florence is Mae's oldest child.

Dear Everybody -

Pete and I extend to all of you folks our sincerest sympathy in your recent bereavement. We had expected it for some time, but when it did come - it was a shock to us. of course we all agree, that since poor grandma cannot ever get well, she is much better off. And may her soul rest in peace, as I am sure that it is with God. We didn't get word until late Tuesday afternoon, and then didn't know when the funeral was. I sure would have liked to have gone. I heard through several people in town that Lloyd went, but I haven't seen any of them. Did he come and who else? Did Harriet come? Have you heard from Mother? We haven't heard for about ten days from her. I sure feel sorry for her - way out there and just going. Of course she didn't know Grandma was so poorly when she went. Did you get in touch with Bud? Won't you write and tell me about it? And, Walter, I would like very much to have a dish or something to remember Grandma by. I haven't a thing. [page 2] How do you like our winter weather? Sure has been cold, but we haven't minded at all, as our house is warm. Wish you could see our home. It's not modern or fancy, but we had lots of fun fixing it up. Mr. Graham lives with us, but he has gone to Indiana for two or three months to visit his sister. I guess mom likes it quite well in California. She felt the earthquake shock. I really don't know how long she intends to stay. Must close for now and won't you write to us sometime?

Hope you are all well.

With love, Florence and Pete

Glyndon, N. Dak.

The April 17, 1940 US Census shows Walter and Esther renting an apartment at 1718 Emerson Ave. North for \$25.00 / month. Walter is working as a hotel waiter and makes about \$150.00 per month which is quite a bit more

than others listed in his neighborhood. Grandma Therfield, age 56, is living with them and the children listed are Walter, Jr.; 9, Mary Ann;7, and William O.; 1. An elderly couple, John and Sophia Ostboe are living at that address as well and they pay rent of \$12.50.

58	178	2500	10	Robert	son	M	WT	32	7/4	1908	Minnesota	same place
59				Walter	Head	M	WT	32	7/4	1908	No Dakota	same place
60				Esther	wife	F	WT	30	7/4	1912	Minnesota	same place
61				Walter Jr	son	M	WT	7	8	1933	Minnesota	same place
62				Mary Ann	daughter	F	WT	7	8	1933	Minnesota	same place
63				William O	son	M	WT	1	8	1939	Minnesota	same place
64	178	2500	12	John	Head	M	WT	73	7/4	1905	Norway	same place
65				Sophia	wife	F	WT	73	7/4	1908	Norway	same place

The following letter of **March 22, 1940** is not signed and is from Glydon, N. Dak. It was sent two months after Grandma Inga died and I expect that it is from Mae who has returned from California and is staying at her daughter Florence's home at Glyndon. The "wray one" she writes of must be Billy.

Dear Sis, Bro, & all

I must send you a few lines to day I don't feel very good and have such an awful cold. will send a couple of bucks now and send a couple or more next week. How is wray one. O.K. I hope. Will write more when I feel better. Lots of Love

On Sunday **May 11 of 1940** at 9:10 PM, Lawrence Richard was born by normal delivery at the Swedish Hospital. Weight is 8 lb., 11 oz. and length is 20 inches. The cord is on, eyes and skin are OK and health is good. Upon discharge from the hospital, he is drinking 3 - 4 oz. The family doctor was Marby Duryea, office at 1011 West Broadway Avenue in north Minneapolis. A few days later the following letter dated Thursday, **May 15, 1940** is received from Hilda Kossart to Esther Cowan on the occasion of the birth of Lawrence Richard. The family is still living on James Avenue off Dowling and will soon move to Third Street. Ed and Hilda Kossart are Mom's godparents and were sponsors at mother's baptism back in 1910. Hilda Kossart is Grandma Marie's cousin.



Dear Esther.

Well we got home OK at eleven O'clock I was all tired out I lost my voice entirely before I got home I couldn't even whisper. I felt it leaving me in the hospital That was the first time for two years I just get horse cant talk and get all tired out trying to talk I was [Wan doing if you mind] all [page 2] tired out tru it was very warm out side but this last day e it sure has been cool and rainy. I hope baby boy is O.K. What are you going to call him I suppose if it had been a girl you would have had one ready for him You can be glad none of yours are old enough to go to War. I am afraid we will be in for it for long Hagele[?] is worrying herself sick for fear Bud will have to go. and I guess All the mothers that have some old anough to go feels the same way. Marie said some thing about you might move and if you do please let me know and send a card I suppuise its hard to find some thing these times unless you pay a small fortune It sure is awful the way they have boosed the rent here because taxes are raising so. I sure hope everything is O,K, & take care of yourself I am sending a little something for baby. could not get a [sit] they dont carry them in these stores here in the [faul] they will have them again get him a little white silk cap and booties to go with it. hope it fits him he is a big baby. Oh little [bittie] sure is the cutist baby so good just a little ever. love to all. Aunt Hilda

A Home of Our Own

About a month after Larry was born, Billy and Larry were baptized at home on **June 9, 1940** by dad's uncle, Pastor Ole J. Akre. Ole was then 70 years old and retired. Sponsors were the Rev. and Mrs. (Mathilda) Akre and Mr. and Mr. Martin Cowan (Marty and Francis).

The 1940 Minneapolis City Directory shows Walter and Esther living in an apartment at 1718 Emerson Ave. North (about two blocks south of Broadway) and Walter was working as a waiter at the Jolly Miler at the Nicollet Hotel. Their apartment was about a mile from where Walter's brother Marty lived and from where his cousin Dudley lived in the north side. Later in the year, before winter came; Walter and Esther moved from their apartment to their own home at 5230 3rd Street North for which the took out a mortgage for \$1,800. It's a two-story home with reddish-brown tar shingle siding and it has a garage in the back with gray tarpaper siding. It has a nice kitchen with a sink and an icebox, a living room, dining room, small bedroom and an airy porch on the first floor and two bedrooms, a bathroom and a small outdoor porch upstairs. The bedroom at the top of the stairs is actually the hall and it has five doors. The heat is by gravity coal furnace. A dirt street runs across the front and a dirt

alley runs across the back. Mom and dad finally have a home of their own in which to raise the children - Junior, Mary Ann, Billy and Larry. On Armistice Day, November 11th the city saw the worst snowstorm of the century and many people were stranded and many people died. We were snowbound.

Grandpa

From 1934 Grandpa Jim continued to be cared for at the State hospital for about eight years and was visited regularly on weekends, I am told, particularly by Marty and Francis, Walter and Esther, Bud, Pearl and Chet, and Harriet; all of whom lived in Minneapolis. The kids would pack picnic baskets and, on many Sundays, make a holiday of the trip to Rochester. I am told that the trips to Rochester back in



the 1930's were quite the excursions. On one trip the radiator went out and they had to stop at every farm along the way for water. They visited with a lot of people because of that and had quite a laugh about their adventure that day.

Grandpa Jim died at 66 years at the Rochester State Hospital when the flowers of spring began to bloom in 1942. Mom and dad were in charge of those funeral arrangements as well and Jim was buried next to Inga at the Crystal lake Cemetery. A photo was taken at the house on Third Street as the family gathered for give their last respects to their father. They were all there except Lloyd and Mae who couldn't make it. Grandpa was preceded in death by son Willie in 1913.



Photo taken in the summer of 1942 when the family gathered to celebrate the life of their father Jim Cowan.. William James Cowan died at the nursing home in Rochester, MM on May 5, 1942.

l-r: Walter, Pearl, Wallace, Uncle Stan (Jim's bro), Margaret, Martin, Tip, Harriet, Bud, Not there are Lloyd. and Mae. Mae sent a letter saying that she wouldn't be able to be there. The other brother is Willie who died in 1913. Maud Munson is by the doorway

The following is a letter from sister Mae to dad just after Grandpa died.

Tues. noon, [no date but likely May 6] - - Jim died **May 5, 1942**

Dear Walter and Esther

Read your wire over the telephone this morning Walter and Thanks very much for letting me know. You've always been so very good to send wires to me. Well, Dad is better off. Someone write to me details. Don't know if Harriet or Lloyd are coming but I didn't think I'd come now as there isn't anything I could do so am sending 3.00 to put on flowers or anything else that is necessary and let me know cost of everything. We are fine here hoping all you folks are. am in a hurry so must close again thanking you brother for sending wire and much love to all, Sister Mae

A Gregarious Humble Gentleman

Dad was a sensitive and caring person, as all of us kids know. He was always friendly, welcoming and helpful to all, even to people he didn't know. He liked meeting strangers and enjoyed visiting and getting to know them. He was talkative and outgoing and loved a joke. But dad was also quiet about

himself and his feelings. Mom has told me that for as much as she felt the losses over the years, she says that dad felt the hurts and anguish of these deaths and of losing the children even worse than she did.

Unexpectedly, these were years that became a time for bonding together. Unquestionably, mom and dad had many, many relatives and friends who, thanks to God, offered their support with cards and letters, a few dollars and their prayers and by their presence during these times. People came over a lot and anytime and were always welcomed. Mom and Dad always liked to have company and friends close by, to share meals and to gather together, and that was a blessing.



Esther Cowan and her mom Marie Therfield and Marie's sis-in-law Annie Christensen at Mora, MN

On the Road

One of the things that mom and dad liked to do was to take car trips to the country and to visit relatives. They often visited mom's Aunt Annie and Uncle Carl Christenson on the farm Mora. The road to Mora in those days was just a winding two-lane roadway and the trip took many hours and I remember the crowded bumpy rides. They would bring a picnic lunch and pack up the car with everything including the baby's crib (that was before my time). Carl and Anne always were glad when mom and dad came up to the farm because dad would always help Uncle Carl with the farming. Annie would make sugar cookies and the strongest coffee you can imagine. Evenings were often spent around the kitchen table playing the card game of "Wist".

Mom told me this story in the summer of 1995 - It's a little long but it tells something about farm life of years ago. Carl and Anne didn't have a car and also because of the cows could seldom get away. In the **summer of 1935**, however, dad and mom took them on a trip to visit Anne's brother _____ Sandsmark and his wife on their farm up at Warroad. Mom tells me that they were very glad to have gone but this was just about the most desolate place she ever saw in her life. The roads going up there were terrible and as they got closer it turned into a single lane through the brush and then, as they

approached the south edge of the Rainy Lake area, the road meandered through swamp land. When they got to the road to the farm, they had to drive along the muddy ruts and try not to slip into the creek. Then, as they approached the farm, they had to cross the creek on some rickety boards. Anne's brother and his wife were very happy to see them and fed them well and, I gather, they talked about a lot of things. They had fresh churned butter and all the raspberries one could hope to eat. The mosquitoes were so bad, however, that the cows had to be taken out to feed only at night when the air was cooler. And, of course only an oil lamp lit the kitchen where they played cards at night; they had no icebox (because there was no ice) to keep foods fresh and no running water; and the outhouse was out among the mosquitoes. Mom remembers their farm as a hot, dark and damp place but they were glad to have gotten up there with Anne and Carl to visit and Anne and Carl were very grateful.



Among other people they visited were Uncle Hilmer Christenson and aunt Elsie at Waldorf, Minnesota and aunt Hilda and Uncle Albert Roos at Mankato. Hilmer is Grandma Marie's brother and Hilda is her sister.

Mom's cousin Evelyn and Herb Peterson lived in south Minneapolis and mom and dad and Evelyn and Herb would get together for most holidays. Mom and Evelyn, although cousins, were like sisters to one another. Evelyn's mom and dad Emma and Herman Wisch also lived in town and they visited often.

The Jolly Miller

Dad began his work at the Jolly Miller, a rather exclusive restaurant and bar at the Nicollet Hotel during the **summer of 1936**. Because dad always liked to meet people and visit with them, he enjoyed his work as a waiter. He also enjoyed wearing the black waiter's uniform and his shiny black shoes. He once won a trophy in a contest for running down Hennepin Avenue with a tray of water glasses and spilling the least and getting to the finish line first. The Jolly Miller had its own baseball team and dad and his uncle Stan and many friends played on the team.

While working at the Jolly Miller, dad submitted several photos for the

May, 1941 issue of Staff News, Nicollet Hotel's monthly magazine, in which they highlighted baby pictures of their staff and families. #93 was dad and Wallace sitting side by side in a wicker perambulator wearing knit bonnets. They look too little to walk so they must have been about 5 -6 months or so. They're just looking around. #94 is son William in a dressing gown at about 4 - 5 months. #95 Is Wally and Shirley standing and holding hands facing each other. Shirley is has a big smile. #96 is mom about a year old wearing a furry bonnet and coat and a big smile. The **July, 1941** issue of Staff News, has a photo on the front of the 15 "Jolly Miller" waiters and dad is shown seated on the end front right. Main items of news include the Minneapolis Millers baseball and the Minneapolis Aquatennial.

Part of the following story is about something that I remember from childhood and the rest is from what mom has told me. During the early forties, when dad was about 38 or so, I can remember hearing his footsteps on the road as he would be coming home late at night. They didn't have a car then and I guess dad would be coming from the streetcar's end of the line at 52nd and Bryant. It was late at night, probably about 2 AM, and dad would be coming home from a late night working at the Jolly Miller. I didn't know those things then - I was about five or six. I do remember two things, though; the sound of his fast clip as he came up the road, and I also remember lying in bed in the night hearing mom and dad arguing. I didn't want to move. Mom was saying that dad was drunk and dad insisting that he was not. Mom told me later that the waiters would often have a party themselves after the Jolly Miller closed - eating the extra gourmet foods and finishing off the bottles. He was also spending time at Buzz Arlett's Pool Hall where Marty worked. Well, Mom says that she finally told dad that either he stops drinking or she would leave. I know only a little of the story but Mom says that he was frightened that it was more than a threat and that she would leave. Dad did stop drinking and things changed. Later mom said she thinks that the grief and loneliness he was feeling from the losses of earlier years had a lot to do with the troubles dad was going through then.

About the time of the end of WW II, dad landed a different job doing truck



delivery for the Railway Express Agency. Dad had to find work in some type of defense industry or government work or face the possibility of being drafted into the army. With four children at home, that was not a good prospect. Dad really enjoyed work at the express and worked there for many years and had many friends.

Easter of 1943

I was just three or perhaps four years old when for Easter mom got Billy and I sailor outfits to wear (America was in the middle of World War II then). I remember it was warm that Easter and we had a lot of fun in our sailor clothes. To this day I remember a particular clear glass rabbit that Billy and I each got from mom's aunt Emma. You could open the bottom and it was filled with small many colored jelly beans.

Christmas on Third Street

I remember one Christmas particularly well. It was about 1947 and I must have been about six or seven at most. It was Christmas Eve and the Christmas tree was up in the living room in front of the large window and Bill and I were up in our room sleeping. It was the front bedroom with the window to the front yard and to the unpaved street. Well, I remember waking up hearing jingling bells outside in the front and we got up and sneaked part way down the stairs to where we could look around the banister to see out to the porch and the living room. As we were sitting there on the stairs looking through the railings, the front door burst open and in came Santa Claus with his bells and sack! We turned and flew up the stairs and slid under the bed to hide. We hoped that Santa didn't see us and he thought we were sleeping! In the morning when we got up, I remember a set of tinker toys was lying out and a red wagon in front of the tree. I played with those tinker toys a lot - - I could make trucks and Ferris wheels and windmills and draw bridges and cranes and everything I could imagine. In another year, I remember getting an Erector Set with an electric motor. That was even better and I could make so many things with it. One of the things that I made was a colorful candy merry-go-round made with cardboard and frosting made from soap and coloring and candy canes and gum drops and licorice and it would go round and round.

Hope Church

We were members of Hope Lutheran Church on 52nd and Emerson and

I remember we all went to church pretty regularly. In 1946 I was six years old and attended first grade class of Sunday School, Mrs. Day was my teacher and I received a record of attendance from October 6 through Christmas. At Christmas time I got a little glow-in-the-dark picture of Jesus holding a little lamb and written below is, "The Lord is my shepherd." I still have that glow-in-the-dark picture and keep it on the desk.



In the late 40's, Bill and I were in Cub Scouts and about 1950 joined Boy Scout Troop 145 at Hope Lutheran Church. Mom was also teaching Sunday School and made extensive use of flannel boards to tell the bible stories. Dad and mom became involved in a group of Scout parents there who got together regularly and went on

outings and, I guess, must have had a good time together. They called themselves the "Aidents Club", and were very active. Even today, some fifty years later, those remaining still get together once a year for a dinner out and to keep in touch.

So Mom continued to teach Sunday School and Dad was an usher, Bill became the church custodian and I sang in the church Choir. Bill and I were pretty involved in the Luther League. In **July of 1954**, Bill was named, along with Gail Nyberg, the two youth of the year and they were sponsored by Hope Church to attend Christian Leadership School at Gustavus Adolphus College that summer.

It became a routine for Dad, Bill and I to go over to church on Saturdays to sweep the floors and set up the tables and chairs for Sunday School and for church. Carl A. Zimmerman was the pastor and he confirmed each of us. It was because of Pastor Zimmerman that Bill eventually went on to become a pastor, himself. I have an old church bulletin which records that on August



6) Families that worship together stay together....You believe in the ministry of the church, do you not? You would be willing to do all you could to help, wouldn't you? We need from \$50,000 to \$65,000 a year!

1, 1954 the opening hymn was *Tell Me The Old Story* and Pastor Zimmerman's sermon was, "A Pastor's Confession," based on Proverbs 28:13 - *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain Mercy.* The next Sunday seminarian Herb Chilstrom preached and on August 15, Pastor Zimmerman spoke on, "A Pastor's Faith." I remember that last sermon that Pastor Zimmerman preached before he left Hope Church - he choked up and cried and could hardly continue.

Pastor Roger Carlson came up from Iowa the next month and was installed shortly thereafter as pastor. Pastor Zimmerman notes on August 1, "*Pastor and Mrs. Roger E Carlson visited the parsonage on Friday evening and will move in Thursday, Sept. 16. They are an outstanding Christian family and are eager to begin work here. It will be a blessed experience for you, in serving Christ with them.*"



Mom sitting in the living room on third street. She says she's had a busy day. Notice the Hi-Fi on the left and the coffee cup and protocol on the table on the right. The photo was taken in about 1957. Mom is still using that table in her apartment at Concordia Arms in 2005.

After Pastor Carlson came to Hope, dad and mom would often spend Sunday afternoons on home visitations, knocking on doors, greeting people in their homes and inviting them to church. Dad always enjoyed these visits with folks. Those were certainly good days.

The next summer, on **July 17 - 23, 1955** Bill and I attended the "Minneapolis North Side Augustana Lutheran Youth Fellowship Camp," at Luther Point Bible Camp on Wood Lake in Wisconsin. Pastor Carlson conducted the morning Bible Hour and his topics were based on "Day by Day With Christ." The young seminarian Herb Chilstrom was Youth Director at Hope back then and he was at the camp as well helping along with the programming and such. Some of us kids tackled him down and dragged him out onto the dock of the lake and he let us swing him back and forth by his hands and feet and we tossed him into the drink - - clothes and all! I have pictures of this prank as proof of our deed. It's interesting to note that this young seminarian who we threw in the lake that summer day eventually became Bishop of the six million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! God Bless him!

Backing up a number of years - It was Pastor Ole Akre, Dad's uncle (Inga's brother), who baptized all of us except Betty. He and his wife Mathilda

would come up from Iowa and we were each baptized at home. I don't remember Pastor Ole but I remember Mathilda. She was such a generous and kind lady and always helping. Mathilda often stayed on at our home after Ole died. Mom was working at the time and when she would come home, she would find dinner all set and the house spick-n-span.

Minneapolis Civil Defense Police Reserve

From **1951** Dad was active in the Minneapolis police reserve. As a Police Reserve Officer, their job was to help out to direct traffic during parades and such or if there was a large fire somewhere. One story I remember is of one afternoon when Bill and I were about 15 or so and we took the bus to downtown Minneapolis. We were probably going to a movie. The bus traveled along Lyndale Avenue from north Minneapolis and, when we got to about where Broadway Avenue crosses, we saw smoke billowing up from the downtown area. So when the bus got downtown, instead of going to the movie, we got off at the old Greyhound bus depot to look at the fire. It was the old Butler warehouse on First Avenue that covered an entire city block. I remember the streets were so full of smoke you couldn't see the fire trucks. We heard a crash on the other side of the building so we went around to the other side and saw where the wall had collapsed onto a hook-and-ladder truck in the street. The ladder was extended but it was all crumpled up and the truck was covered with bricks and debris. We stayed there until about suppertime to watch the excitement and took the bus back home. Dad had been called in to help control traffic in the area and, as I remember, didn't get home until late that evening.

On **June 7th, 1961** Dad received a Distinguished Service Award. Kenneth Peterson, the mayor of the city, signed the citation. The award reads:

"In recognition of distinguished service in behalf of the betterment of community life in the city of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Civil Defense Police Reserve, 10 Years Service."

And a little gambling

There are a couple of stories about mom and dad's gambling that I have to tell. The first story takes place in about **1955** shortly after we got a Motorola television set. At about one o'clock on Sunday afternoons a program called "NATCO" came on the air and it was sort of like a bingo game where winners could call in and win prizes. Natco was an acronym for the name of National Tea Co. grocery chain at the time and you could get the cards to play from the

store. Well, mom would get all the cards she could and lay them all out on the table and insist that everyone play. She would play six or eight cards at a time herself. Dad thought it was silly but mom made him play.

One afternoon, Ronnie and Mary Ann were over and they had to play as well. There were NATCO cards all over the dining room table. Dad grumbled along with the game while the person on the TV called out the numbers. To dad's surprise, he got four across and only needed one more number to win. So Ronnie dialed all but the last digit of the phone number. When the announcer called out dad's number he got so excited that he got a NATCO. Ronnie dialed the last digit and the phone connected at the station. Dad was so excited he could hardly talk straight on the phone. They confirmed the card and announced that he had won a new Necci sewing machine. What an afternoon that was! Mom used that sewing machine for many years after that and dad was teased for a long time for his reluctance to play NATCO!



Walter Cowan
On Third Street
Winter of 1957
(Notice the fencing lying
against the garage from the
front of the house . It was
removed for the new sidewalk
and was never put back up.)
That's Wally's Buick.

The other story is this: One day during the winter of 1956 - 1957 while going around on his Railway Express truck route, dad stopped and bought a one-dollar Irish Sweepstakes ticket which he did each year. In late March of 1957 he received a letter in the mail postmarked Dublin, Ireland. Dad was so excited and told everyone around that he won! The letter, dated **25 March, 1957** stated:

Irish Hospital Sweepstakes on the Grand National 1957.

Dear Sir or Madam, We are pleased to inform you that counterfoil of ticket LCA 30071 has drawn Ace of Trumps in the above mentioned sweepstakes. Subject to the conditions printed on ticket, if this horse is 1st, 2nd, or 3rd the prize will be 50,000 Pounds, 20,000 Pounds, and 10,000 Pounds respectively. If the horse is unplaced the prize will be 461.10.8 Pounds. Our detailed instructions regarding the payment of prize money will be mailed about 21 days after the date herein, and we shall be glad if these are awaited

before communicating.

With all good wishes, Yours faithfully, p.p. Hospitals' Trust (1940) Limited.

Well, the horse didn't place but dad got a check about a month later for the 461 Pounds. When he cashed it, it was worth almost \$1,200!

And The Years Roll By

Over the years on Third Street, we celebrated many happy times and events with family and the many relatives and friends who visited and often stayed - - relatives from out of town - - people from church and the Aidents Club from Boy Scouts.

At Christmas time, of course, the house was full of people and lots of laughter, Aunts and Uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews and children. They never had much money; but they did have good food to go around and lots of presents for all, and laughter.

In the summer time, the backyard screen house saw many quiet evenings out in the cool air or boisterous fun in the afternoon. There were always piles of dirty dishes and pots and pans to wash from feeding so many. Often on Sundays, we'd put up lots of tables in the yard and everyone would come. When anyone came from out of town, of course they'd always come visit Walt and Esther who were sure to see that there was a big gathering to greet them and to visit and eat. They often had lawn picnics with soup and potluck - - nothing special. The following is a recipe that was often used when company came.

Mom's Recipe Card: Vegetable Soup

"This is the vegetable soup that we would have when company would come



over or for Sundays.

To a large pot of water add the following ingredients: Beef bone, barley, rice and salt and pepper. When cooked add carrots, Parsnips, rutabaga, turnips, cabbage, potatoes, celery and onion, all chopped up to suit. Just before serving, add Bisquick dumplings and cover for about 15 minutes."

I remember that on Saturdays dad would set up shop in the garage cutting everyone's hair in the neighborhood and relatives, too. I remember the clippers were not particularly sharp and pulled hair a lot. I remember dad under the car trying to get it fixed and telling me to get this and get that and sometimes saying things he shouldn't (to the car). I remember the story of mom always telling us to be sure to lock the basement door so nobody would fall down the steps. Well, one day mom was working down there doing the laundry or something and every time someone came by the door they would lock it. Because we kept leaving the house, mom had to crawl out through the basement window three times that day. Well, we locked the door like we were supposed to.

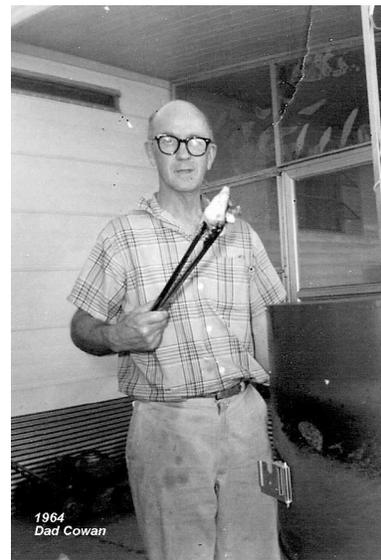
Working at the Store

In the late forties and early fifties mom worked at Magnuson's Grocery Store on the corner of 52nd and Lyndale. Once at the store when the basement trap door was open, mom didn't see it and fell and hurt her shoulder. It took quite a while for it to get better. Mom had a cancer removed from her back at about that time as well.

One of the fun things that mom did was selling Stanley Products at Stanley Parties; she enjoyed meeting people and selling. Once when she had a meeting, only one person came. So mom and the person who came worked out a plan for another meeting at her house and the place was packed and everyone bought stuff.

In the middle fifties mom got a job at Dayton's in downtown Minneapolis and worked in the carpet department on the sixth floor. On **June 29, 1965**, mom received a certificate from Dayton's, which reads,

"This certifies that Esther Cowan has

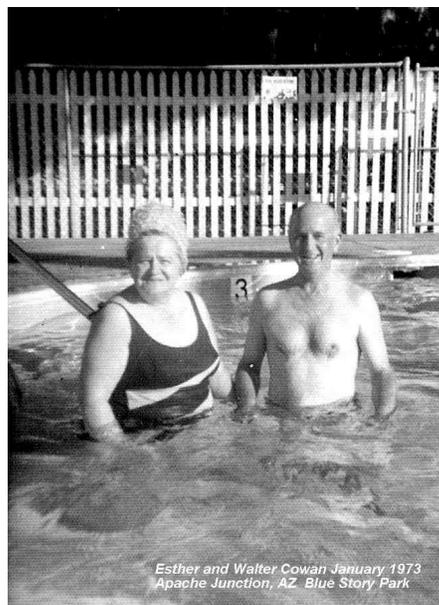


successfully completed Dayton's Home Furnishings Training program in the basic principles of interior design. This qualifies him to offer counseling assistance and superior customer service." [Interesting gender selection on the certificate].

Mom really knew her carpets and worked there until dad retired from the Express. Some of the sales people at Dayton's became good friends and got together from time to time and they kept in touch for many years.

The Four Seasons

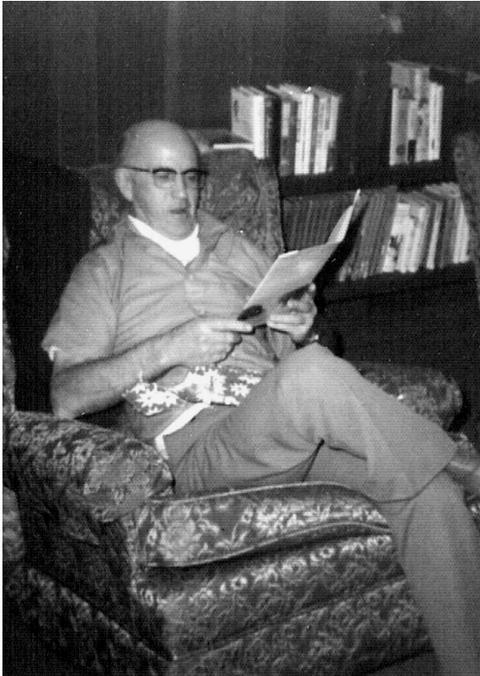
We lived on Third Street for twenty-three years from 1940, shortly after I was born, to 1963 when dad and mom moved to a large mobile home in Blaine. Our address on Third Street was 5230 North 3rd Street in Minneapolis (Do you remember the phone number? It was Cherry 5853). Dad's brother, Marty and Francis and the family lived across the street at 5237. In **May of 1963**, the State of Minnesota purchased the house for \$10,000 for right of way access to build a freeway. The screen house was salvaged for \$25.00 and moved to Mary Ann and Ronny's home in Blaine.



Dad and mom lived at the mobile home park on Highway 65 in Blaine for the next eight years to **1971** when dad retired from the Railway Express. Dad was then 65. Mom was 62 and also quit Dayton's at that time. At retirement, they sold the trailer and took the job working together as managers of the Four Seasons Mobile Home Park in Blaine. They moved into the resident's apartment at the office.

Mesa, Arizona

Later, in about **1973**, they purchased a 24' travel trailer and moved to Mesa, Arizona for the winters. They had an apartment for summers in Brooklyn Park. Over the next four years, dad and mom lived in Arizona for the winters, traveled a lot to Texas, Florida, California, visiting relatives and friends, and came home to Minnesota for the summers. I've attached below some letters from Arizona dating from during the winter of 1974 - 1975.



Letters from Arizona
January 8th, 1974

Well Christmas is over We had a nice Christmas. We had dinner at the rec. hall and New Years we went over at the couple that visited us from Kentucky last year. We were over there for supper and then we went over to chrch and came back and played pinochle. We went on a desert tour this morning and went up to visit a hermit and visited an antique place. Larry would have been in his glory. We had a couple over for supper last nite and then went to play cards. It has been raining for a couple of days and it looks like the sun is going to stay out today. I have been having the cookies you sent for company. They are good and the housecoat is real nice. I needed one and Walter's green sweater was wearing out so he needed that too. Thank you they were real nice.

How was your holidays? and what is new? How is work going Larry - are you going to teach again? What is Jennifer doing? Jennifer's picture is real nice. It looks just like her. We have to line up to get gas but aside from that it is not too bad. Course some stations tried to put gimmicks on to sell gas to make money.

Write when you can. Love Mom and Dad

Feb. 25, 1974

8615 E. Apache Trail

Mesa, Ariz. 85207 T36

Dear Larry and Nancy,

It sure is warm today. I wish I had a pair of shorts. The wind has been blowing quite a bit but otherwise real nice. We visited some fellows -and their wives - down here Dad used to work with in Mpls. They had a good visit. One lives down here and the other two were just visiting. We went over yesterday and visited a couple we knew from

Kentucky and they showed us the films they took in Canada last summer - and a craft arts place in Arkansas which I think both you and Nancy would like. It just opened up so it is quite new. They make violins, weave baskets, etc. We are going over to Johnson's this afternoon. At church yesterday they had a children's choir sing. 100% chance of rain (about the flood) it sure was good. Does Jennifer like Sunday School? We should wash but it is more fun to go visiting so we will do that tomorrow. Time goes fast so it won't be long before we are home. Love Mom and Dad

Fall of 1973

Hi, Thank you for the gift and the nice party we really enjoyed it. We are having a nice time and the weather is perfect. nice and warm. We go swimming nearly every day and

Dad and I went to the flea market and he bought me a bike so now I'm trying to ride that. I went around a small section of the park once yesterday and twice today. I was pretty winded but I'll get going. We went to church yesterday and a hymn sing here at the park in the evening. Dad is polishing his car and cleaning it. It sure needs it after the long trip here. I have been busy polishing the paneling in the trailer trying to clean it up too. We visited the Johnson's - Joyce's folks - and they gave us a big bag of raisins they had picked so Dad and I spent one whole day picking and cleaning them and then had to dry them. It was quite a job but they are good. Well it is about time to go swimming. Say Hi to Jennifer.

Love Mom and Dad

8516 Apache Trail, Stephens Trailer Ranch, Mesa, Ariz., 85207 trailer space T36

Hi! How is everybody? We had a good trip down here and the weather is real nice and warm. Dad is laying out on the lawn chair visiting. He raked the weeds out of the yard this morning and I have been busy polishing the walls and washed the floor. They have a one mile hike here every morning but I haven't got up that early yet to make it (8:00 am) they start. I might see if I can rent a three wheel bike They have those at 9:30 go around. Dad bought himself a new pool stick yesterday but he hasn't been over to the pool table to use it yet. We went over to the rec. hall and played pinochle last nite. There were quite a few there playing. What have you folks been doing? And how is Jennifer? Sure would be nice if you could come down here this winter. We are in a different park this year it is a larger park and more doing. But it doesn't have the trees like the other park did. I hope I can go swimming this afternoon You can't go in the pool alone so when Dad gets rested up maybe he will go over with me. Say Hi to your family for us. Lots of Love, Mom and Dad.

8516 E Apache Trail, Stephens Trailer Ranch, Mesa, Ariz., 85207 trailer space T368615 -

no date

p.2

... We are both feeling OK now but we sure had a bout with the flue. I cleaned out the trailer today and this afternoon we took our chairs and coffee cups and went across the road to celebrate a birthday. We sat outside and had a party. We do this quite a bit it gives us a chance to get together and something to do. We went over to the recreation hall and celebrated a anniversary yesterday and then a couple came over and we went out for supper and went over to their house to watch television, Boston Symphony and Robert Merrill. and Dick somebody sing. It was good but I enjoyed Chanhassen better when they sang Fiddler on the Roof then the way they sang it. Of course we went to church first so we had a full day. Dad is over playing pool. We hope this finds you well.

Love Mom and Dad

On 38th Avenue

Dad died on **February 12, 1977**, just before Valentines Day, at Mesa, Arizona as he and mom and Mary Ann were leaving the park for a trip into Mexico. Although dad had these episodes with his heart before, this time was very sudden and he died almost immediately with mom and Mary Ann at his side. It was so fortunate that Mary Ann was down there visiting dad and mom at the time. Dad had played a full round of golf - - nine holes - - just the day before, so he had been feeling pretty good.

It was Sunday - - Nancy and I were in the kitchen in our home in Stillwater. Jennifer was almost 7 and Jeff was 2 1/2. I remember Wally calling me and saying that he received a call from some funeral home in Mesa about shipping a body to Minneapolis. We didn't know but we suspected Dad had just died and this was the first that we heard - - we were stunned. I remember going to the bedroom - - I laid down and cried. We waited. A few hours later Wally got a call from mom and Mary Ann and it was confirmed about dad.

The funeral was held a few days later when the body could be shipped back to Minneapolis. Wally and I helped mom with arrangements and we took dad's favorite gray-green leisure suit to the mortuary and picked out the casket. At the funeral service, Bill gave the homily from I Corinthians 15 where it says, "Death is swallowed up in victory." Dad loved roses and he bought them for mom whenever he could and so a bouquet of long stemmed roses was placed by the casket. Dad was buried at Crystal Lake Cemetery where so many of the family are, including Shirley, Wayne and Betty. His grave is under a spreading Red Maple near the grave of Mary Ann's husband Ronnie.

After the funeral, mom moved in with Mary Ann and the kids for several months and later moved into a senior's high rise apartment on Central Avenue.

I have to add a little story here about mom because this is where it fits in and it says something about mom's stubbornness. Mom was living at Mary Ann's and one day took the bus out to the Hospital in Fridley to visit Aunt Anne. Aunt Anne was Stan Cowan's wife and she was about 96 years of age then and was in the nursing home annex to the hospital. When it was time to return home to Mary Ann's, she went to the bus stop and waited for the bus. The bus came, slowed down, and then went right on by leaving her standing there. In the dedication at the beginning of this whole account, I quoted mom's often told remark about herself saying, "I'm stubborn as all git out." Well, here she did it again. She was really mad and wouldn't take the next bus or any

other bus that day. Instead, she walked the several miles home to Mary Ann's and when she got there complained that her legs really hurt. Mary Ann said something about cutting off her nose to spite her face and they all had a big laugh - - although mom was still steaming! It wasn't to much later when mom learned how to drive again.

Mom hadn't driven a car since the late 1930's when she tipped the car over in a ditch. Now at age 67 she took driver training lessons, got a license and bought a car. Now mom could get around wherever she wanted. I remember she took many trips with Mary Ann and at least once drove out to Denver to visit Mary Ann's girls there.

Over the years, Mom and Dad were very close to Mom's cousin Evelyn and her husband Herb. And

now, since Evelyn was gone and Dad had died too, Herb and mom would get together for cards, go out to shows or to do a few things together. Herb was lonely in the house and it was quiet at mom's apartment, too; so they decided to spent their years together and got married. Mom and Herb were married



at his house on 38th Avenue South (in February of 1984?) I remember it was a blowing snowy day. They had a small cake and Bill and another pastor associate did the honors to marry them. As I remember, all of the immediate family and kids were there for the ceremony.

Mom was again able to have a lot of company and have dinner for the family and entertain. Mom and Herb had many backyard barbecues, canasta games, and opening presents at Christmas time. This was a time of renewed family joy.

Mom and Herb were members at Holy Trinity Church and Herb worked as a custodian there. He walked to the church to work even on cold winter days. Mom belongs to a group of seniors at the church who call themselves the birthday club. They get together at church or at someone's house and exchange sandwiches, visit and party, and perhaps have a little wine.

I remember mom had a big birthday party for Herb on his ninetieth birthday and it was probably his best birthday party ever. Many of Herb's relatives and our family came and he had many gifts and a lot of pictures were taken. It was summer and we had barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs, hot dishes and potato salad and cake. Herb



wasn't used to such attention and went to his room and watched a baseball game. I remember mom had to holler at him to come back out to be with his guests. I think Herb really enjoyed the attention he had at that party. Herb displayed the pictures that were taken at the party for a long time afterward.

I remember the night we took mom and Herb to Jeff's football game in his sophomore year at Concordia Academy. The game was in the evening under the lights out at Mayer, Minnesota. This was the first football game that Herb had been to for many, many years and he really enjoyed it. Since it wasn't too far from Cokato, Bill and Beverly came to the game, too. We stopped for coffee and pie afterward - - Jeff had a hot roast beef sandwich - - and we got mom and Herb home well after midnight.

Herb went to several others of Jeff's football games and basketball games and he was always by far the oldest person in the bleachers. I think he really enjoyed the courtesies and attention he got at those games.

Letters from Family

Note: The following is a collection of all of the old letters to mom and dad and several of these have been printed above in the text. They are printed here as a group.

Hilda Roos

This letter is from Hilda Roos to Walter and Esther after Shirley was hit by car. Hilda is grandma Marie's sister at Mankato.

Mankato [MN]

June 20. -1933

Dear Esther and Walt Having had two letters from Emma telling me about Little Shirley I just thought I had to write a few lines. Not having heard since Saturday am wondering how she is the poor little child to think some thing like that should happen to her. Have been thinking so much of you all to wish I [lived] when I could to some thing and this awful heat. I Bet that has been hard on her. But we have to hope for the best that is all we can do. It will be 2 years next month since little LewAnn left us no end [page 2] it was weather like this so hot poor little thing how often I think of her she would have been three in August. I hope your mother is with you. As soon as she gets better I will send her some thing to play with I told Emma to write to me I know you dont have any time. Poor little thing her poor head and legs. I dont think kids like that should be allowed to drive cars. hre fun was driving if his folks here have anything they should be responsible forsome of it or all. Herb said they ott to. last sunday I had company of Helmers family and Anne Carls wife she was down to Faribult, to her sister girls graduation and then she was to Waldorf and her sister Tillie out there she is looking good she was gon two weeks from home so she sure took a long vacation. but she said she could not stop in the cities this time. I went to Waldorf to Irene's graduation the last of May. there were 10 graduations this year When Ethel graduated there were only 3 And I saw the twins they are Cute. but the smallest one had the measles. poor little thing: Well Herb and Louise had a cute little boy, Herbert Jr. he is 4 months old now. I bet your baby is getting cute now trying to [cusp] I bet. I had intended to go to the cities this week, but account of the heat, & Emma still cleaning house [page 3] I did not go. Hazel has not been very well either oh she has Rhumatism so bad but hope she is in better this heat out to her taken it - Emma said you had moved and that Walt wasn't working for the Standard any more. Hope he takes his new job. well we sure had a nice rain this evening and it cooled of some it has been awful for 5 days straight. If we hadn't gotten this rain everything would have burnt up. I hope you have your hart and hands ful. poor little girl. tell your mother to write well I must close hoping Shirley is better. Lots of love to you all.

from Aunt Hilda and Albert. I guess Hazel and her family will soon be here. Buddie is getting so big. Write some time if you can. regards to Marie

Aunt Hilda

Sister Mae

Letter to Walter and Esther Cowan on the occasion of Shirley's death at the age of three. She was hit by an automobile as she ran into the street near their home at 224 Humboldt Ave North, Minneapolis.

Granville, N.D.

June 23, 1933

My Dear Sister and Bro & all

Don't hardly know what to write to you to lessen your sorrow in the death of your sweet girl. but look to God for comfort who doeth all things well if tho we can't see it at the time of our great sorrow. but we all send you our heartfelt sympathy. We had hoped that she was getting better when we heard no word from you folks so was shocked yesterday when we got Earnest's letter. We are wiring flowers the least we can do for you folks I wish we could come but when we have no car but if it was possible would have liked to have attended funeral. Well must go to work May God comfort and sustain you in your sorrow as Shirley was so sweet but she is safe with the one who gave her to you to keep a short time With deepest love to you both and all

Sister Mae and all

Uncle Lee and Kate Cowan

To Walter and Esther Cowan of Minneapolis on the death of Shirley from Lee and Kate at Granville. Lee was Walter's great uncle - son of William and Dell.

Granville N.Dak.

June 25.1933

Dear Esther & Walter

We certainly were shocked to hear about poor little Shirley. And know it must be just awfully hard for you poor kids. but we must try to feel that it was gods will and that she is better off She'll never know anything about all the suffering and hardship in this world. but it certainly seems awful to have to part with them so soon. And she was right at the cute age too. I saw the picture and clipping out of the paper that Mae got and she certainly is darling. Just like a little doll. I wish we could have seen her. we were so sorry we couldn't get to the funeral. but none of us have a car. And not enough money to go on the train. How did the accident happen? And was the driver of the car to blame?

It sure is nice so many of the relatives were there. It helps so much at a time like that to have them with you. would like to have you write and tell us all about the accident when you feel able.

Well my dear's guess I will close for now. With love and our deepest sympathy

Kate and Lee

Brother Lloyd and Louise

letters from Louise and Lloyd Cowan when they were still living in Granville to Esther and Walter Cowan on Shirley's death. Lloyd is an older brother to Walter.

Granville, N. Dak.

June 26 - 1933

Dear Esther and Walter

We certainly were more than grieved to learn of the terrible accident and I know she was a very sweet child. am sorry we could not go up there. would have went if we could have found anybody going down there. we felt terrible to think we didn't even get to send some flowers but I had to wait until Lloyd came home before I could send any, and there it was [page 2] too late. did she ever gain consciousness at all before she passed away. was your mother with you Esther? or were you all alone at the time? Say, kids. I would like to get one of those pictures of Shirley you had taken the day she got hurt. It sure was a funny thing you just getting their picture taken that day. It most always seems like things like that happen when a person don't have any pictures. [page 3] Is your mother down there Walter or is she still at Tips? Say, Walter if you are not working, you folks better take a drive up for a while, cant you? I would love to have you all come.

We have sure been having some terrible hot weather but is some better today. Rained last nite, also nite before but it was the first rain we had for a month so everything was pretty much burnt up. But may come out alright now. How's all of Wallace's and Harriet's & Pearl's & Martin's. [page 4] don't ever hear from any of them. had a letter from Bud. How is Dad: is he still in the hospital?

Please write kids as soon as you feel able to.

Heaps of love Louise

The following is from Lloyd, enclosed with letter above:

Dear Brother Walter and family Was sure grieved to learn of your loss and terrible accident. Surely must have been trying days for you all Shirley being so small. Seems like its harder to see small ones victims of accidents than when they're older. Was so sorry we didn't get to send flowers was only a couple of hours too late to wire some when Mae did. Her order was on the way when I got home. Am on the road and away from home all but weekends - Shirley must have been a real sweet little [page 2] girl according to the pictures we see from the papers. Do you know whether the accident was due to carelessness or was it unavoidable. Well Dear folks Louise is writing a few lines also so I'll finish herewith love to you all.

Your Bro Lloyd

What are you doing Walter? I suppose work is not very plentiful down there. not many more than here.

Mother Inga 1

This letter is from Ingar Akre Cowan to Walter and Esther Cowan on arriving at Granville, N.D. for a visit with her daughter Mae and her family - This letter is fifty years after another letter of 1888 to Inger from her cousin, Emma Barritt, shown in the separate story of Jim and Inga.

Granville, N.D. June 2 - 38[1938]

Dear Walter Ester

Well we arrived at Granville Sunday eving sure surprised Mae [fore onse Floy] got a car so we have plenty of rides even up town Mae her hur work it school house goes it a come home it 2 so dit Floyd Ferde Flos at home they just come home left work from their chools - how are the children has the youngest got the measles yet? hope they are not sick the 2 oldest be up this weake I hope - yesterday [Medelin] and Doris [corvin coled Medlin Just came back from Douglas N.D. She sure is tal and slim doris chinke the picture of Kate hur mother - Florense just told me they was going to a showers fore a nue married cuple acras the streat this afternoon - told me I was to go also - we are going over to my sister some Sunday before Floyd goes away with the car it soon diner time Mae be home then she will mail all my leter & then see how will anser first we are a houseful here 6 at the table 3 times a day - Mae got a nice please here hedges - fence- around house a nice please - Floyd Ferde is playing chicken it son diner time so I beter hurey hoping to here how the children are -

*is nice and soney today but the north west wind is chiley hoping to here from
yous soon*

your loving mother

Mother Inga 2

Sep 16 -38

Dear Walter Ester and all -

*Gat here O.K. but ofel tired din't get here til nerley 1.a.m. he was afraid
to hurt the car of his wife was tired then I was She was laying around all the
next day. they had a days drive home to the South western part of N. Dak - It
cloudy and cold this a.m. everything is dead around her none cropes here again
only some corn not fare from the lake - Martha Ovre was home from Bismark
yesterday the 15- drove beck lest eving she his some country werk Thersa - hed
onley hed a card from Mae thet we should drive up but they heve none car is
goe thet far onley a roun about the farm and Mae hes non car Floyd is a way
teaching Mae dint say if Flornse was beck from Fargo yet Ferde Penfild dint get
to chool this year dint make eney more this sumer so Mae got 2 hure hendes - I
dont now when I (page 2) If I get up to Mae She hasent asked me yet it cold
lokkes like an erle winter hope not how is Pearl what did the Dr say Pleas - lest
Sunday we vesited Ruth Father & mother in lone a mr mrs anderson hed
chicken Super they are quit old peopel onley heve a Son and a Daughter - here
will be a duble weding this fal the girls will be marred at home my brother will
come here to mare them - Ruth is cleng house this a.m. so I beter get thru and
move - Here is a bank at Merser but I send it beck so you can cashe it et the
please where we awak cashed it and send the mone beck to merser my sister
might get a chense to goe to minet soon then I goe along to Dr Stone I got
hedake all the time well let me here from yous Sun love to all from all*

You Loving Mother - [Ingar Cowan]

Mother Inga 3

Letter from Walter's mother, Ingar, shortly after the death of Walter and Esther's little daughter, Diane, who died of pneumonia on June 10th, 1938. The letter is undated.

Dearist Walter and Esther

got your dear letter this after non onley one trean a day so have to wate

tel to moro so our dear babe Girl left us fore a heovtle home where she is safe from this sin-ful war! I sure wish I ben that is to late to mention now - I was to Dr Stone lest Satroday was told to stay in beed 3 wekes but I am of my feet laying on the deven-port got good care Flas [Flos?] is a splendid nurse I seen all the time wha way the Swed went it should quit long before I did - well enough said Hed a fue lines from Haret lest weake so sead she dint now when they could come hed to have somthing for the car fixed we head rain all day cleared to ward evnig Kate was with us all efter non Louise went home this a.m. Walter and Ester try and see that God das whet is best for us all Dear sis is safe in hur hevnety home watng fore us hope we dont desepon t hure you must belave God das whet is the best fare us all well super is redey so will close with Love to all your Loving mother.

Sis Mae

To Walter and Esther Cowan on the death of Betty from dad's sister Mae.

Granville, N.D.

June 15, 1938

My dear Bro and Sister

Just a line to you folks to extend our deepest sympathy to you in your great hour of sorrow. Words seem useless nearly at a time like this but yet are a comfort as we know then that people sympathize with us. Our hearts are filled with sorrow for you but only God can give you the comfort that will help you. He does all things well even if we cant see it thru our sorrow and tears. Mother takes it auful here but thinks she shouldn't come so don't know what to do but hope all things for the best When is the funeral to be Much love and sympathy from us all and please write are enclosing a dollar to help pay on funeral or anything you need. got your telegram yesterday morning at 8 o'clock and the first one Sat. at 8.30 in morning. May God bless you all and comfort you

Lovingly

Sister Mae

Cousin Florence and Pete Graham

Letter from Florence and Pete Graham to Walter and Eather Cowan upon the expected death of Florence's grandma, Ingar Akre Cowan. Inga(r) Yousdattre(sp) Akre Cowan was born in 1865 as the oldest child of John Akre,

b.1827 - d.1904 and Martha Margrete Saervald, b.1839 d.1904. Persons referred to in the letter are Mae Cowan Penfield who is Florence's mother and Grandma Ingar. At this time, Esther was five months pregnant with a child who will be named Lawrence Richard Cowan.

Grandville, N. DAK.

Jan 22,1940

Dear Everybody -

Pete and I extend to all of you folks our sincerest sympathy in your recent bereavement. We had expected it for some time, but when it did come - it was a shock to us. of course we all agree, that since poor grandma cannot ever get well, she is much better off. And may her soul rest in peace, as I am sure that it is with God. We didn't get word until late Tuesday afternoon, and then didn't know when the funeral was. I sure would have liked to have gone. I heard through several people in town that Lloyd went, but I haven't seen any of them. Did he come and who else? Did Harriet come? Have you heard from Mother? We haven't heard for about ten days from her. I sure feel sorry for her - way out there and just going. Of course she didn't know Grandma was so poorly when she went. Did you get in touch with Bud? Won't you write and tell me about it? And, Walter, I would like very much to have a dish or something to remember Grandma by. I haven't a thing. [page 2] How do you like our winter weather? Sure has been cold, but we haven't minded at all, as our house is warm. Wish you could see our home. It's not modern or fancy, but we had lots of fun fixing it up.

Mr. Graham lives with us, but he has gone to Indiana for two or three months to visit his sister. I guess mom likes it quite well in California. She felt the earthquake shock. I really don't know how long she intends to stay. Must close for now and won't you write to us sometime?

Hope you are all well. With love, Florence and Pete

Sis Mae

The following letter is not signed but most likely from Sister Mae shortly after arriving her daughter's place at Glyndon from California. To Esther and Walter Cowan in Minneapolis shortly before the birth of Esther and Walter's seventh child, Lawrence (born 5-11-1940).

Glyndon [N.D.]

Mar 22, 1940

Dear Sis, Bro, & all

I must send you a few lines to day I don't feel very good and have such an awful cold. will send a couple of bucks now and send a couple or more next week. How is wray one. O.K. I hope. Will write more when I feel better.

Lots of Love

Ed and Hilda Kossart

This letter is from Hilda to Esther Cowan on the occasion of the birth of Lawrence Richard Cowan. Ed is Mom's Godfather. At the time of this letter the family is still living on James Avenue and will soon move to third street.

Thursday May 15th - 1940

Ed and Hilda Kossart

Dear Esther.

Well we got home OK at eleven O'clock I was all tired out I lost my voice intirely before I got home I couldn't even wisper. I felt it leaving me in the hospital That was the first time for two years I just get horse cant talk and get all tired out trying to talk I was [Wan doing if you mind] all [page 2] tired out tru it was very warm out side but this last day e it sure has been cool and rainey. I hope baby boy is O.K. What are you going to call him I suppose if it had been a girl you would have had one ready for him You can be glad none of yours are old enough to go to War. I am afraid we will be in for it for long Hagele[?] is worrying herself sick for fear Bud will have to go. and I guess All the mothers that have some old enough to go feels the same way. Marie said some thing about you might move and if you do please let me know and send a card I suppose its hard to find some thing these times unless you pay a small fortune It sure is awful the way they have boosed the rent here because taxes are raising so. I sure hope everything is O,K, & take care of yourself I am sending a little something for baby. could not get a [sit] they dont carry them in these stores here in the [faul] they will have them again get him a little white silk cap and booties to go with it. hope it fits him he is a big baby. Oh little [bittie] sure is the cutist baby so good just a little ever. love to all. Aunt Hilda

Mother's Godfather Ed Kossart

letter from Edward Kossart to Esther Cowan on the death of Walter

dated late February 1977. Ed is son of Ed (mom's godfather) and Hilda Kossart.

Dear Esther

Just received a letter from mother and Rosomond and sorry to hear about Walter. Esther, I know there isn't much one can say at such a time to help the hurt and loss. I still feel the hurt and miss Emma not being here, altho the children are great.

They tell me time will heal but I don't think one will ever forget. The good, kind, and fun times will stay with you. It is lucky to have family near at this time.

Our prayers and best wishes are extended to you, may you find some peace that I been lucky to locate. Keep a good hold on your faith and I am sure everything wil come around for you and yours. The Lord Bless You

Edward Kosart

I am enclosing my Christmas letter

Aunt Kate Van Horn

This letter is from Kate (Van Horn) Cowan who is wife of Lee Cowan.

Thursday, 1977

Dear Esther and Family,

We were so shocked and sorry to hear about Walter. It was an awful blow, wasn't it? I always thought so much of him. I really loved him. he always reminded me of Lee. so thoughtful and nice to everybody. I sure know how to sympathize with you as life can be very lonely when you lose someone that's so near and dear to you. Will you go back to Arizona to spend the rest of the winter or what do you plan to do? Madilyn called last nite (no, Tuesday nite) and she said your son and family was with you when he died. I'm so glad you wasn't alone. That would be very hard on you. Seems Harriet is always at Lloyd and Louises when she got all her bad news. and she's had plenty of it. I feel so sorry for her, also for Wallace and Lloyd. That family has sure had lots of deaths in the past few years, haven't they? Well, Esther it's hard for me to write and its hard to read it.

Doris and Randy send their deepest sympathy. I couldn't find out where to send flowers so am sending a little money You can use some anyway for something.

Bro Wallace

This letter from dad's twin brother, Wallace

Feb 15, 1977

Dear Harriet and everyone,

I am so sorry that I am unable to go to Walter's funeral, I have been ill with the flu. I am planning to go to California March 7th, hope I feel better by then. I do not have Esther's address in Mpls. My thoughts are with all of you. I have always felt very close to Walter and Esther.

Hope I can see you all next summer. I told Jim to take care of my share - May God give you strength. Love "Wally"

Carol and Jim McKay from Omaha, Nebraska

February, undated.

The news of Uncle Walter struck us with much sadness. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I am so glad we have so many fond memories of the Cowan family gatherings. Wh hope you stay well and that our next trip to Mpls we will see you and your family. Our love and Prayers. Carol and Jim

I only had Larry's address.

Nephew Floyd and Hildegard Penfield

Palm Sunday, 1981

Dear Esther,

Because He lives - -

May you enjoy the wonderful things

This holy Easter season brings!

For Christ arose and lives to bless

Each heart with joy and happiness!

With our Love, Floyd and Hildegard

cont. Sun p.m.

Will drop a line now. Think of you so often but guess you know how it goes.

All is fine. We've been well and busy all this "beautiful" winter weather we've been having. Hardly seems possible Easter is next Sunday. We've been

down to Granville in March - stayed overnight with Marcia and kids. She is - Oh - so busy fixing up the house and changing things and uilding in cupboards etc. Kim is in Calif. at an Air Base Training until May and then he'll be there, too, stationed in Minot. Marcia is a real worker and can do about anything - never complains either.

Mom is about the same. Keeps at her usual hard work and says the time goes by so fast. Floyd has been over there cleaning up her yard last week. Then he has been doing quite a bit of substitute teaching, too. So he keeps out of mischief.

We are enjoying our new church now, and have that about full at both services. Another 26 families joined today.

School will be out May 29 - then I'll have 41 1/2 years of teaching in and I'm thru and I'm really looking forward to it. Greet your family and have a happy Easter.

Love, Floyd and Hi

Son Bill and Bev

April 12, 1981, From Bill and Bev at Grand Island, Nebraska.

Dear Mom,

Hope you have a happy Easter! It's such a beautiful time of year here - all the Tulips in bloom and flowering shrubs, bushes and leaves have budded out - even our little apple tree. I planted a few things in the garden and hope to finish up this weekend with all but the tomatoes. This week will be the last of my 12 week special ed. internship. I'll miss seeing the students, but will be glad to have the extra time again to work on my case study for my night class and to start studying for exams.

Bill's been very busy, too. He'll be in Lincoln the next weekend after Easter to attend the Synod convention and early in May he'll be going to Cincinnati, Ohio with the executive director from Omaha. They're going to a conference there. He's supply pastor for a church 25 miles away so he's been preaching most Sundays. He'll have service there on Maundy Thursday and on Easter.

The kids are starting to look forward to summer vacation. Britt's class put on their program "Nebraska Special" last week and they'll be going to Lincoln for a day next week to learn about the Capital. Brian will be playing with the grade school orchestra for the concert April 28th. They've been

practicing for three months now. On the 25th, I'll be taking him to Kearny for the Young Author's Conference. He received an invitation as a result of his prize winning short story.

Patches had a litter of 3 kittens on Friday but all of them died. I guess she was just too young yet. Britt was disappointed but she handled it pretty well.

All's well here - hope you are too! Love Bev

Nephew Forrie and Alice Penfield

Tues., Apr. 21, 1981

Dear Esther,

Thank you so much for the lovely Easter card and greetings. Was so nice to hear from you. And thank you so much for inviting us to come a see you. We will surely try to do just that as we have always loved you so much. We are to go back to N. Dak. in July as it will be our 65th Alumni for Granville Hi School.

We have planned a trip to Texas in March to see Ferde and Amy at New Branfels. Freinds of ours from here in McAllen and Jerry Weeks (a boy who used to stay with us when we lived in Minot) he lives at Brownwood. But we both got sick with a upper respiratory infection and had to cancel our trip were all packed and ready to go too. Forrie is still not feeling well went in to have chest x-ray and TB test . We should get report back thurs to see if they can find out what it is.

Had 80° here Fri. and then down to freezing past couple of nites. No wonder people are sick. What did you do for Easter, Esther? Jerry was with us. We all went to sun rise service at church. loved Easter breakfast there and then dinner and supper here. Had a nice day if Forrie had been feeling better

How is everyone there? Please greet all for us. Must quit for now and get busy. Why don't you come and see us? Love Forrie and Alyce

Cousin Roz Nelson

This letter from Mom's cousin Rosamond Nelson

January, 2001

Roz and her husband and Mom and dad stayed in touch over the years and the letter that follows is based on a relationship spanning 90 years.

*Rosamond is the daughter of **Hilda** nee **Omundson Kossart** (b. March 27, 1881 d. July 25, 1982) and **Edward H. Kossart** of northeast Minneapolis.*

Rosamond's mother Hilda was first cousin to Esther Cowan's adoptive mother **Johanna Marie Christenson** (b June 15th, 1883 d Jan. 27, 1954) and her husband Sam Shaw. That makes Roz and Esther second cousins. Roz' parents, Hilda and Ed were godparents to Esther at her baptism in the summer of 1910. Esther was baptized at the church in northeast Minneapolis where Hilda and Ed attended. Roz Kossart married Erling W. Nelson of South Minneapolis. If my memory serves me correctly, Erling was a school principal in St. Louis Park. Here's the letter:

Dear Esther,

Thank you for your Christmas greeting, and the lovely picture. You always were a good looking girl.

I'm sorry I don't have a picture of me alone, only in a group family picture. They, my son and daughter-in-law are planning a celebration of my 90th birthday at the Radisson Hotel on the 18th. Pictures will be taken there, I'm sure.

I'm beginning to feel my 90 years. I have macular degeneration, so am legally blind and osteoporosis so I don't walk or stand as straight as I should – not like my mom, (Hilda) who at 101 was better. My dad (Ed) was stooped so I guess I inherited his

I still live alone in my home, but of course not able to drive. I have a dear younger friend who drives my car and does all the shopping and takes me wherever I need to go.

My son who lives in Alexandria has moved permanently to their lake home which is next door to my cottage and re only 60 miles from Mpls. They check on me.

I have such good neighbors, who shovel my walks and cuts the grass. Our neighborhood has stayed the same, and as old ones pass away, wonderful families have moved in.

My three brothers (Helmuth, Ed and Robert) are gone and I lost my younger son (Robert, b. 1937) whom I miss very much. He died of colon cancer – Tough to loose a child. He lived in L.A. I was with him for the two months before he died.

Happy to hear you are o.k.

Love, Rosamond

P.S. I found this picture taken last summer in the kitchen of my son's home.

Genealogical Records

The Genealogical Record of the Family of Walter and Esther Cowan

Note: Code number "1" at the front of each name refers to William James Cowan, first child of William M. and Margaret (nee McMichael) Cowan; The next character, code letter "T", refers to Walter Orville Cowan, the ninth child of William James and Inga (nee Akre) Cowan; thus "1T".

1I-1 Shirley Diane Cowan

Born December 27th, 1929 at the Minneapolis General Hospital. Mom was then 19 and dad was 22 years old.

On May 26, 1930, Shirley was christened at 1809 14th Avenue in Minneapolis at 8:00 o'clock in the evening. Her father's uncle, the Rev. Ole J. Akre, baptized her and her sponsors were Mrs. Herman Wisch, Mrs. E. J. Bowen, Mr. Wallace Cowan, and Mr. M. J. Cowan. Other persons present were Mrs. Akre, Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Gladys Cowan, Miss Evelyn Wisch, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Cowan, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Cowan, "Dad and I," and "Pearl came as soon as she got through work." Of the first callers were Miss Evelyn Wisch and her beau Mr. Herbert Peterson. Mom wrote in the Christening book, "Rev. O. J. Akre also Christened Walter. We had Shirley baptized over at Aunt Harriet's and gave a party. Rev. O. J. Akre is Walter's Uncle and has christened most of Walter's brothers and sisters. Shirley received some nice gifts at the christening."

Age three and one half. Shirley is struck by a car on the street on June 10 and dies June 19, 1933. A lock of Shirley's blond hair is still kept - March 13, 1933. Mom is almost 23 years old. See text for story.

1I-2 Walter Orville Cowan, Jr.

Born January 24, 1931, 1:15 am. Eyes are blue and hair is blond. Walter's first toy is Shirley's doll. He first smiled at 6 weeks old and crept at 7 months. Walter was nicknamed Junior up through his teens and later called Wally during his army years and early married years. As the children got older he was called Walt. Walter was baptized Sept 4, 1938 together with his brother Wayne and his sister Mary Ann.

At age 17 Wally joined the Army and was stationed at for Bliss at El

Paso, Texas and later at Tacoma, Washington. In 1952 he was sent to Korea to serve as a driver in the war. On one trip to the front lines his truck was hit by a mortar - - Wally jumped free before it hit and received minor shrapnel wounds. Wally received the Purple Heart medal.

While in the army, Wally married Shirley Marie Maseline b. ___ of North Minneapolis and they have three children. Shirley is the daughter of Otto and ___ Maseline. Through Dudley Cowan (see 3C) Wally began work at the Northern Ordinance in Columbia Heights and worked there for more than 30 years. Wally started out as a machinist and later got into the office as a cataloguer. The name of the company was changed to FMC Corporation when it stopped producing military ordinance. Wally and Shirley lived in a home in the suburb of Brooklyn Park for many years and that's where the children grew up. After the children were grown, Wally and Shirley moved to a townhouse in Brooklyn Park. In 1986 when Wally was 55 he retired from the FMC Corp. and they bought a mobile home in Fort Meyer, Florida. Wally worked at Fort Meyer as a Home Realtor and enjoyed golfing and the many friendships that ensued during his golfing years. Wally and Shirley later moved to Sarasota where he continued in real estate sales and his golfing. They again had many friends at Sarasota.

In the spring of 2002 Wally was diagnosed with lung cancer. He was treated at Sarasota for about a year and then they moved back to Minneapolis at the end of April 2003 to be close to family. On Sunday, June 1st Wally collapsed and was taken to the University Hospital. Four days later on June 5th, 2003 Wally died at the age of 72 and 4 months at about two in the afternoon with Shirley at his side and his family around him.

1I-2a Robert Theodore Cowan b. March. 27, 1953 d. Sept. 19, 1982. Married to Peggy Hult and later divorced. Two children. At age 29, Robert was killed in a construction accident in Texas.

1I-2a-1 Dawn Elaine Cowan b. Dec. 26, 1975. Dawn lives with her boyfriend, is working and going to school. Address: 7621 Knox Av S. #213, Richfield, MN 55423.

1I-2A-1a Cody Mark Cowan b. Sept. 23, 1994 First great-great-grandchild of Esther Cowan. Grandma Esther and Mary Ann attended his first birthday party at Dawn's apartment.

1I-2a-2 Reed Walter Cowan b. May 4, 1977 Married on ____ to Brandy ____.

1I-2b **Lee Paul Cowan** b. Feb. 2, 1955. Married to Vicki Lynn Holman and they have three children, Shelly, Lee, Jr., and Ray. They divorced and on June 8th of 1991, Lee married Kathy Lynn Skalbeck of Sacred Heart, Minnesota. Lee and Kathy live in Ramsey, MN.

1I-2b-1 **Shelly Cowan** b. Sept. 30, 1977

1I-2b-2 **Lee Paul Cowan Jr.** b. Nov. 19, 1980

1I-2b-3 **David Hesley** b. Feb. 12, 1980 David is the son of Kathy by previous marriage.

1I-2b-4 **Ray Robert Cowan** b. March 1, 1984

1I-2b-5 **Holly Marie Cowan** b. Dec. 12, 1993

1I-2c **Wayne Clayton Cowan** b. Nov 4, 1957. Married in Brooklyn Park, Minn. June 27, 1981 to LuAnn Ida Dupont, b. Dec. 29, 1960. Wayne and LuAnn live in Plymouth, Minn. Wayne and LuAnn both work at Prudential Insurance Co. Wayne works in computer software systems maintenance.

1I-2c-1 **Angela Nicole Cowan** b. July 13, 1983

1I-2c-2 **Ashley Renae Cowan** b. July 22, 1985

1I-3 Mary Ann Cowan Jordan

b. September 9th, 1932 at Minneapolis. Baptized Sept. 4, 1938. Mary Ann married Milton Wells in 1951 and they have one daughter Shirley. Mary Ann and Milton divorced. Mary Ann later met Ronald Paul Jordan while they were both working at Our Own Hardware Stores central offices and in 1955 they were married at Hope Lutheran Church. Mary Ann and Ronny have seven children. Ron was born on November 17, 1929. Mary Ann and Ronny bought a new house in Blaine and Ronny became a police officer for the City of Blaine. On November 20, 1968, Ronny died of a sudden heart attack. He was 39 and little Stacie was just 15 months old at the time that her dad died. Ronald is buried near Mary Ann's dad at Crystal Lake Cemetery in north Minneapolis. Mary Ann has worked for Target Stores for a number of years and is retired.

1I-3a **Shirley Ann Jordan** b. May 14, 1952. Married to Tom Linn b. Dec. 2, 1951. Roseville, Minn.

1I-3a-1 **Andrew Linn** b. Dec. 10, 1977

1I-3a-2 **Ann Marie Linn** b. Oct. 17, 1979

1I-3b **Susan Marie Jordan** b. Jan 20, 1956. Blaine, Minn.

1I-3c **Sharon Diane Jordan** b. April 13, 1957. Sharon lives in Denver, Colo. and works for the post office

1I-3d **Sandra Kay Jordan** b. June 7, 1959 Married June 8, 1985 to Peter

(Pete) Gunderson, b. May 26, 1962. Peter is a carpenter and Sandra does day care for children. Circle Pines, Minn.

1I-3d-1 Keegan Peter Gunderson b. Feb. 3, 1991 bap. March 31, 1998

1I-3d-2 Tryn Rose Gunderson b. April 6, 1998 bap. May 10, 1998

1I-3e Sally Lynn Jordan b. Nov. 27, 1960. Married to Kevin Farrington on October 12, 1991. Sally and Kevin lived at Jackson, in southern Minnesota where they ran a golf course for Kevin's father. Sally and Kevin later divorced.

1I-3e-1 Kyle Michael Farrington b. Aug. 31, 1992

1I-3e-2 Colin Michael Farrington b. Jan. 16, 1995

1I-3f Steven Ronald Jordan b. May 25, 1962 Steven lives with Lisa ____ and their children in a mobile home on the shore of Knife Lake in Mora, Minn.

1I-3f-1 Sarah Ann Jordan b. June 14, 1989

1I-3f-2 Sherri Emma Jordan b. July 24, 1992

1I-3f-3 Paul Steven Jordan b. March 24, 1994

1I-3g Scott Timothy Jordan b. Nov. 30, 1963. Blaine, Minn.

1I-3h Stacie Renae Jordan b. August 11, 1967. Married to Joe Mutzberg in July, 1991 Coon Rapids, Minn.

1I-4 Wayne Owen Cowan

b. August 24th, 1934 d. Oct. 13, 1939. Wayne was baptized at home on September 4th, 1938 by Pastor O. J. Akre (Uncle Ole), Lutheran Pastor. Sponsors were Mrs. Johanna Therfield and Robert Cowan (Walter's brother Bud) At the time of Wayne's birth, Walter worked as an oil station attendant and Esther was a housewife. Esther was 24 and Walter was 27. They lived at 3347 (5344?) Snelling Avenue South in Minneapolis. On October 13th, 1939 at five years and two months, Wayne died of Leukemia. See text for story.

1I-5 Betty Diane Cowan

b. January 10, 1937, 1:43 P.M. 7 Lb. 9 oz. Good health. At age seventeen months, little Betty contracted the measles and, as she got worse, was taken to Minneapolis General Hospital. Betty was baptized at the hospital on June 10th, 1938 by H. Rudolph Peterson, Pastor. Witnesses were the parents and Ida MacDonald. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16. d. June 14, 1938. Her condition continued to worsen, and she died four days after Baptism of Pneumonia. See text for story.

11-6 William (Bill) Owen Cowan

b. Dec. 30, 1938 at Minneapolis. Baptized June 9, 1940 together with his brother Larry. Bill was confirmed in June of 1953 at Hope Lutheran Church. Bill grew up in north Minneapolis where he attended Jenny Lind public elementary school and Patrick Henry high school. We were members of Hope Lutheran Church on 52nd and Emerson and I remember we all went to church pretty regularly. Mom taught Sunday School and Dad was an usher, Bill became the church custodian and Larry sang in the church Choir. As Bill grew up he was active in the church youth program and Luther League. It became a routine for Dad, Bill and Larry to go over to church on Saturdays to sweep the floors and set up the tables and chairs for Sunday School and for church each Saturday afternoon. Carl A. Zimmerman was the pastor and he confirmed Bill. It was because of Pastor Zimmerman that Bill eventually went on to become a pastor, himself. Bill attended The Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis for one year and then attended Augsburg College, also in Minneapolis. After graduation, he enrolled at Lutheran School of Theology at Rock Island, Illinois and graduated May 19, 1967. Pastor Carl Zimmerman assisted with his ordination recited the ordination prayer.

While at Rock Island, Bill met Beverly Ruth Coakley who was then attending Augustana College there. Beverly was majoring in secondary education and French. Bill and Beverly were married on Saturday, August 20th, 1966 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Maywood, Illinois. Beverly Ruth Coakley, b. Sept. 29, 1946, is the daughter of Rollins and June Decker Coakley of Maywood, Illinois. Beverly was born at Norfolk, Virginia and at six months the family moved to Maywood, Illinois where she grew up.

Bill was pastor at Proctor in the Duluth area and then at Ortonville down by Pipestone. Being involved in many counseling situations, Bill took an internship at the Menninger Clinic in Kansas. Bill then worked for the Lutheran Social Services at Grand Island, Nebraska until the program there closed. He struggled through finding a new position for a time and landed a position with the LSS at Hutchinson, Minnesota. They bought a house in Cokato and have lived there since. Bill also worked as a private counselor and now works as manager of psychological medical audits for United Health Care Systems, a large group medical insurance provider. He now works full time in that capacity and enjoying the independence of having the kids through college.

In his capacity as Lutheran Pastor, Bill has officiated at several family

marriages and funerals.

1I-6a **Brian William Cowan** b Nov. 15, 1969 at Duluth. Graduated 1982 from Reed College, Portland. Oregon in history. Brian has a 5-year Ph.D. scholarship to Princeton University and intends to teach history at college level.

Brian married Karen Monique Chaussabel of Ardeche, France at Portland, Oregon on June 21, 1993. Reception was held at Brian's parent's home on Sept. 4th, 1993. Later the marriage ceremony was conducted at Karen's home in Ardeche, France.

Update 2003 – Brian has a PhD in history and is on the teaching faculty of Yale University. Brian and Karen have since divorced.

1I-6b **Britt Rachelle Cowan** b. Jan. 22, 1971. Britt graduated 1993 from Reed College, Portland, Oregon in psychology. Britt married to Ari Galen on May __, 1996 at the Como Park Conservatory in St. Paul, Minnesota. Address is 915 SW 95th Portland OR 97225

1I-6b-1 **Noah Bennett Galen** b. Sept. 26, 1999

1I-6b-2 **Gabriel William Galen** b. Aug, 16, 2002

1I-6b-3 **Anaiah Ruth Galen** b. Jan 2, 2007

1I-7 **Lawrence Richard Cowan**

b. May 11, 1940 at Minneapolis, MN. Baptized June 9, 1940 by Rev. Ole Akre and confirmed June 1954 at Hope Lutheran Church. Larry graduated from Patrick Henry High School in 1958 with mediocre grades and then attended Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis for one year in 58-59. Larry then attended the University of Minnesota on and off for several years struggling through English and composition classes while working part time.

Larry became a registered Respiratory therapist and worked as a supervisor and instructor at St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center in St. Paul for 11 years and then worked for United hospitals in New Richmond, Wisconsin and later at St. Paul for six years. In 1985 he began work as insurance and mutual fund sales representative for Lutheran Brotherhood. After ten years at Lutheran Brotherhood, he began, in November of 1994, as an independent insurance agent.

Larry has served four years as chairperson on the school board of Gethsemane Lutheran School, has served on the council of the church in various capacities over the years, and has taught Sunday School for over twenty-five years including one year teaching deaf children at Bread of Life Church in Minneapolis. He was scoutmaster for four years of Troop #197 of Maplewood,

Minnesota. He has enjoyed bicycle touring and some tennis when he was younger and camping and canoeing. His hobbies include biographical writing, reading historical novels, woodworking and home remodeling.

Larry married Nancy Ellen Dornfeld of North St. Paul, b. Dec 16, 1943 on April 19th, 1968 at White Bear Lake, MN. They drove to San Antonio, Texas in Larry's red Opal sports car for their honeymoon.

Nancy's parents are Dean Richard Dornfeld and Marguerite Nordsted of St. Paul, Minnesota. Dean's parents are Robert Charles Dornfeld and Ida Lena Knorr of German descent. I have researched Nancy's origins and find that they go back to Prussia in the 1700's where they and their neighbors were called "Old original unchanged Lutherans". Their history goes perhaps back to Salzburg in the 1600's and their Lutheran heritage possibly goes back to Martin Luther. Marguerite's parents are Fred and Violet Nordsted of Swedish and Norwegian descent and I've not been able to find anything further.

Nancy graduated as a Registered Nurse from the Ancker Hospital School of Nursing in St. Paul in 1963 and worked at the old Ancker Hospital and then at the new St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center where she became the head nurse in the Surgery intensive care unit. After that she joined St. Johns Hospital in St. Paul where she has worked as a post-anesthesia recovery room nurse for close to thirty years. She has been the accompanist for the church sanctuary choir and fill-in organist at church for many years and she is in the bell choir. Larry and Nancy live in Oakdale, Minnesota and have two grown children whom they adore.

11-7a Jennifer Lynn Cowan b. May 4, 1970 at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul, MN. Baptized July 19th, 1970 at Trinity Lutheran Church adjacent to the University of Minnesota west bank campus by the Rev. Sheldon Torgerson. Jennifer and her mother have the same baptism birthday. Jennifer attended Gethsemane Lutheran School through the eighth grade and then attended Concordia Academy through senior high. She attended Concordia College, St. Paul and then at the University of Minnesota. Jennifer worked at SAP foods, then at Kinko's, then at Lintex, where she took a full time job. Jennifer and her boyfriend of several years, Mark Reckner live in a duplex just off the university campus. She is finishing her degree at the U in art history and hopes to work at an art or history museum. They have been together since 1991 and Mark is a graduate in humanities and art history. Mark enjoys archeology and went on an archeological dig in Italy during the summer of 1995 of a ninth century church and again in 1996. In the summer of 1997 both Mark and Jennifer went

on a dig near Sterling, Scotland. Jennifer and Mark were married on March 20th, 1997.

1I-7b Jeffrey Lawrence Cowan b. Oct. 1, 1974 at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul, MN. Jeffrey was baptized at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Maplewood on December 1st, 1974. Jeff attended Gethsemane Lutheran School through the eighth grade and then attended Concordia Academy through senior high. In June of 1992, Jeff become an Eagle Scout. At Christmas of 1993, Jeff became engaged to be married to LeAnn Karin Gerenz of Roseville, Minnesota. Jeff and LeAnn were married at Gethsemane Lutheran Church on December 10, 1994 and honeymooned at Disney World in Florida. Jeff worked as a computer-engineering technician for Zeos and when Micron Technologies bought them out early 1996, he was offered a position as a programming engineer in their plant in Boise, Idaho. LeAnn graduated in Chemistry at the University of Minnesota in June of 1996. Today, Jeff and LeAnn, Noah and Hannah live in Boise and have built a home there. Jeff and LeAnn later divorced.

1I-7b-1 Noah Jeffrey Cowan b. April 11, 1995 at 02:11:00, Tuesday of Holy Week at Midway Hospital, in St. Paul, Minnesota. 9 lb., 5 oz with black straight hair, dark complexion, and dark eyes - - a healthy boy. Noah was baptized on Sunday, August 26th, 1995 in the presence of his parents, grandparents, all of his aunts and uncles and their spouses and his cousins at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Maplewood, Minnesota. Noah celebrated his first birthday at the commons room of married student housing where they lived at the time and all of Noah's grandparents, his great-grandmothers, all of his aunts and uncles and their spouses and his cousins attended.

1I-7b-2 Hannah Marie Cowan, b. May 8, 1997, the day of Ascension, the fifth week of Easter at St. Lukes Hospital, Boise, Idaho. Weighing 8 lb., 1 oz and 19 3/4 inches tall with black curly hair, dark complexion, and dark eyes. A healthy girl. Hannah was baptized at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Maplewood, MN on Sept 21, 1997. Sponsors were Jeff's friend since pre-school, James Ackley and his wife Jill.

Thus ends for now the list of the family
and descendents of Walter and Esther Cowan.

The descendents are seven children, 15 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, 4 great-

great grandchildren (soon to be five in December, 2008). So that's a total of 48 and one more now on the way as of 9/15/08 when this comment was added.

To make additions: Include full name and family relationship, address, date of birth, baptism, marriage place date and name of spouse, work, children, date and place of death, where lived, biographical inf. Include genealogy code. (example: 3B-4d-2a)
Email to Larry at lncowan@gmail.com or to whoever may be the future administrator of these files.

Samples of information: Name and family relationship, address, date of birth, baptism, marriage place date and name of spouse, work, children, date and place of death, where lived, biographical inf. Include genealogy code. (example: 3B-4d-2a) To expand or correct any information, or to add new family members, please copy page(s) and send copy to Larry. Thanks

Great-Grandchildren and Great-Great-Grandchildren of Walter and Esther Cowan

Updated December 5, 2008

Birth Name

Birth Date

Twenty-Three Great-Grandchildren

Children of Robert Cowan		
Great-Granddaughter	Dawn Elaine Cowan	b. Dec. 26, 1975
Great-Grandson	Reed Walter Cowan	b. May 4, 1977
Children of Lee Paul Cowan		
Great-Granddaughter	Shelly Cowan	b. Sept. 30, 1977
Great-Grandson	Lee Paul Cowan Jr.	b. Nov. 19, 1980
Great-Grandson	Ray Robert Cowan	b. March 1, 1984
Great-Granddaughter	Holly Marie Cowan	b. Dec. 12, 1993
Children of Wayne Clayton Cowan		
Great-Granddaughter	Angela Nicole Cowan	b. July 13, 1983
Great-Granddaughter	Ashley Renae Cowan	b. July 22, 1985
Children of Shirley Jordan Linn		
Great-Grandson	Andrew Linn	b. Dec. 10, 1977
Great-Granddaughter	Anne Marie Linn	b. Oct. 17, 1979
Children of Sandra Kay Jordan Gunderson		
Great-Grandson	Keegan Peter Gunderson	b. Feb. 3, 1991
	bapt. March 31, 1991 (Easter Sunday)	
Great-Granddaughter	Tryn Rose Gunderson,	b. April 6, 1998
	bapt. May 10, 1998 (Mother's day)	
Children of Sally Lynn Jordan Farrington		
Great-Grandson	Kyle Michael Farrington	b. Aug. 31, 1992
Great-Grandson	Colin Michael Farrington	b. Jan. 16, 1995
Children of Steven Ronald Jordan		
Great-Granddaughter	Sarah Ann Jordan	b. June 14, 1989
Great-Granddaughter	Sherri Emma Jordan	b. July 24, 1992
Great-Grandson	Paul Steven Jordan	b. March 24, 1994
Children of Jeffrey Lawrence Cowan		
Great-Grandson	Noah Jeffrey Cowan	b. April 11, 1995
	Bapt. Sunday, August 26th, 1995	
Great-Granddaughter	Hannah Marie Cowan,	b. May 8, 1997 (Day of
	Bapt. Sept 21, 1997	Ascension)
Children of Britt Rachele Cowan Galen		
Great-Grandson	Noah Bennett Galen	b. Sept. 26, 1999
Great-Grandson	Gabriel William Galen	b. Aug. 16, 2002
Great-Granddaughter	Anaiah Ruth Galen	b. Jan 2, 2007

Great-Great-Grandchildren

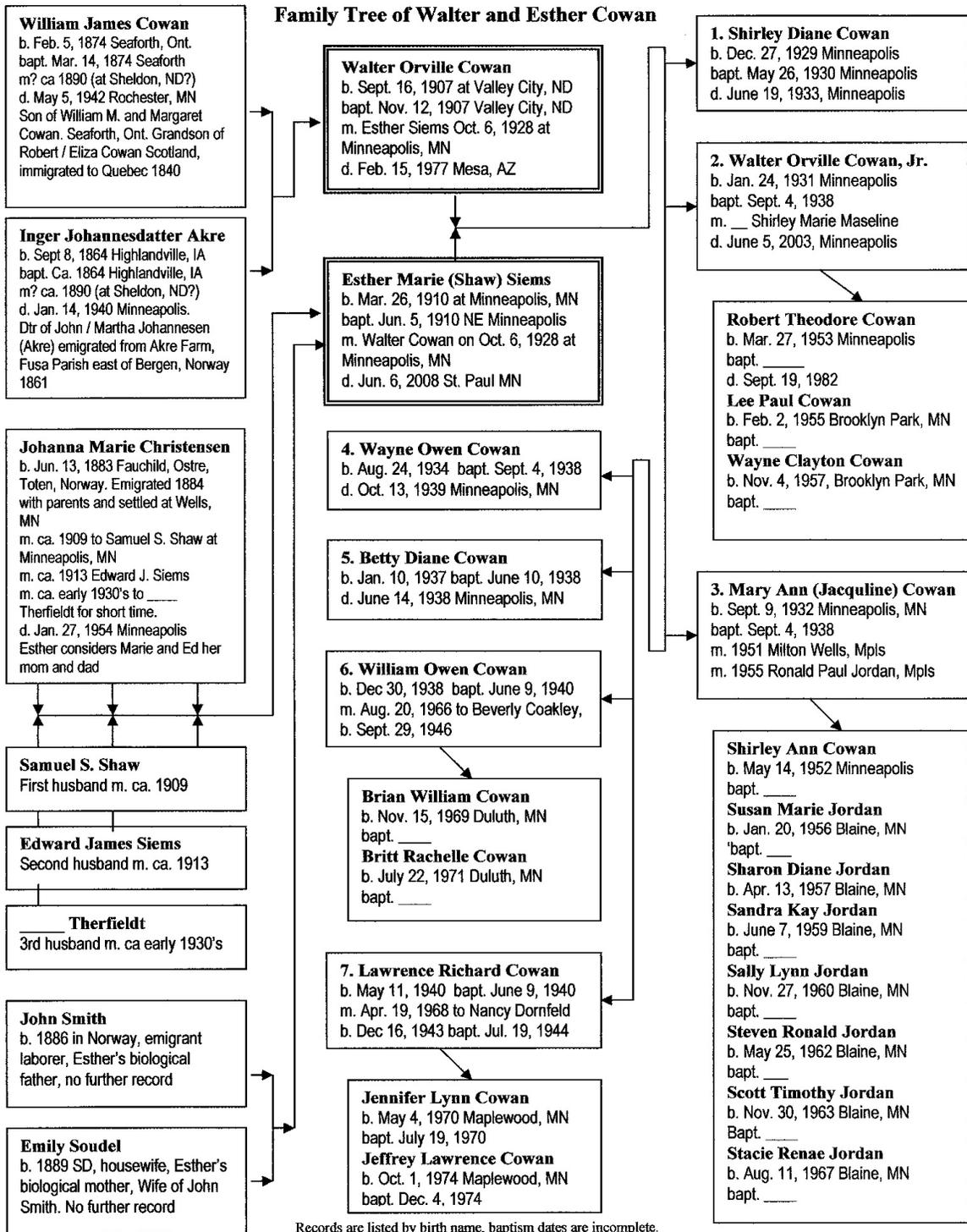
Son of Dawn Elaine Cowan.		
Great-Great-Grandson	Cody Mark Cowan	b. Sept. 23, 1994
Son of Nate and Anne Marie Hegerman – Anne Marie is dtr of Shirley Linn above.		
Great-Great-Grandson	Lucas Hegerman	b. Dec. 10, 2006
Daughter of Pete and Shelly Lynn Clifford – Shelly is dtr of Lee Paul Cowan above.		
Great-Great-Granddaughter	Madison Marie Clifford	b. March 25, 2008
Son of Andrew and Nancy Linn. Andrew is son of Shirley Linn above		
Great-Great-Grandson	Brandon Thomas Linn	b. Aug. 30, 2008 12:32 am

**Son of Nate and Anne Marie Hegerman – Anne Marie is dtr of Shirley Linn above.
Great-Great- Grandchild Matthew Thomas Hegerman**

b. Dec. 5, 2008 07:57 am

Note: Baptism dates of listed children are incomplete.

Family Tree of Walter and Esther Cowan



Records are listed by birth name, baptism dates are incomplete.

Mom's Mother's Genealogical Record

This is the Genealogical record of the family of mom's mother Marie Therfield. The genealogical record of Dad's family is more complete and is recorded in another file.

1 Helena Andreas was born in 1804 and died 101 years later in 1905. Helena's husband's given name is unknown. His father's name was likely Christen _____. Their home in Norway was Fauchild Ostre, Toten. They had seven Children and they are coded **1A** through **1G** below. The family except Bertha emigrated from Norway to America in July of 1881 and settled at Wells in Faribault County of southern Minnesota. The family were members of the Medo Lutheran Church at Mapleton in Medo Township and many of the family were baptized, confirmed, married there and many eventually buried in the church cemetery.

1A Anton Christenson

b. Oct. 30, 1836 d. Feb. 18, 1929. married Olea Helgeson. Mapleton, MN

1A-1 Christina Christenson b.____. married Charles Freeman. Austin, Minnesota.

1A-1a _____ Freeman b. ____ daughter

1A-2 Hannah Christenson b. ____ married Thomas Mickelson. Elbow Lake, MN.

iA-2a Efflyn Mickelson b.____ Married ____Tyberg.

iA-2b Orlie Mickelson b.____

iA-2c Maynard Mickelson b.____.

1A-3 Olaf Christenson b. ____ m. Carrie ____ New Richmond, Wisconsin.

1B Bertha Christenson

Bertha stayed in Norway.

1C Carl Christenson

No information

1D Hawkin Christenson

Hawkin's wife's name was Hattie ____.

1D-1 Frankie Christenson b. ____ d. ____

1E Mathias Christenson

b. 1845? d. ____ . Married Johanna Langer. Mapleton, MN

1E-1 Otto Christenson b. about 1876. died at age 21. Mapleton.

1E-2 Carl Johan Christenson b. May 2, 1878 in Norway. d. April 12, 1954 married Anne H. Sandsmark. Carl and Anna farmed at Mora, Minnesota for many years. He died at age 75 at Mora and was buried from the Lutheran church there.

1E-2a Chester Christenson b. ____ d. ____ Married to Ellen ____ Mora, MN

- 1E-2a-1 Helen Christenson b. ____ Married to ? Children? Mora, MN
- 1E-2a-2 Walter Christenson b. ____.
- 1E-2a-3 Wallace Christenson b. ____.
- 1E-2b Maynard Jean Christenson b. ____ d. ____ Married to May ____ 4 or 5 Children.
- 1E-2c Irving Christenson b. ____ d. ____ Married to? Children ? Mora, MN
- 1E-3 Hilmer Christenson** b. June 15, 1880 in Norway d. Feb. 11, 1965. married Elsie
____ Waldorf
- 1E-3a Ethel Christenson b. ____ Married Clifford E. Anderson. Mpls.
Obituary March 2007, Anderson, Ethel M. age 94, of St. Louis Park. Survived by daughter, Luine (John) Runquist; son, Pastor Alan (Suellen Carlson) Anderson; grandchildren, Jay and Eric (Elizabeth) Runquist, Luke and Jenna Anderson; sister, Irene (Keith) Phelps; nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by husband, Clifford; and son, Neil. Former Past (Worthy) Matron of the Acacia Chapter O.E.S. #272 - St. Louis Park. Member of St. Louis Park Women's Club and the Zuhrah Shrine Auxiliary. Funeral Service Thursday 11:00 AM at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 5025 Knox Ave South, Mpls. Visitation Wednesday 5-8 PM at Gearty-Delmore Park Chapel, 3960 Wooddale Ave. South and at church one hour prior to service. Private interment Lakewood Cemetery. Memorials preferred to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (Radio Ministry), Acacia Chapter O.E.S. #272 - St. Louis Park, and the American Heart Assoc. Gearty-Delmore 952-926-1615 I'm writing for my mother Esther Cowan and offer condolences to the family. When we were kids we would go down to Elsie's and we would wear night caps and We would go down to Hjelder's store in Waldorf would all get candy.
- 1E-3a-1 Neal Anderson b. ____ Minneapolis
- 1E-3a-2 Luine (John) Anderson b. ____ Married to Luine (John) Runquist. Lives at ____.
- 1E-3a-2a Jay Runquist
- 1E-3a-2b Eric (Elizabeth) Runquist married to Elizabeth ____
- 1E-3a-3 Alan Anderson, Rev. b. ____ Married to Suellen Carlson. Lives at ____.
- 1E-3a-3a Luke Anderson
- 1E-3a-3b Jenna Anderson
- 1E-3b Irene Christenson b. ____ Married Kieth Phelps. Lives at ____.
- 1E-3b-1 Carol Irene Phelps b. August 19, 1947
- 1E-3b-2 Joel Phelps b. ____ Married Ruth ____.
- 1E-3b-3 Kenzie Phelps b. ____.
- 1E-3c Herbert Christenson b. ____ d. ____ Married to ____ Children ?
- 1E-4 Johanna Marie Christenson** b June 15th, 1883 d Jan. 27, 1954. married Sam Shaw and later Ed Siems and then __Therfield.
- 1E-4a Esther Marie Shaw born March 26, 1910 to John and Emily (Soudel) Smith and given the name Alice Smith. By agreement, the child was taken home to be raised by Johanna. She was Baptized in the name of Esther Marie Shaw. Esther married Walter Cowan. Minneapolis.
- 1E-4a-1 Shirley Diane Cowan b. Dec. 27, 1929 d. Jun 19, 1933.
- 1E-4a-2 Walter (Junior) Orville Cowan, Jr. b. Jan. 24, 1931 d. Jun. 5, 2003
- 1E-4a-3 Mary Ann (Jacqueline) Cowan b. Sept. 9, 1932.
- 1E-4a-4 Wayne Owen Cowan b. Aug. 24, 1934 d. Oct. 13, 1939.
- 1E-4a-5 Betty Diane Cowan b. Jan. 10, 1937 d. Jun 14, 1938.

1E-4a-6 William Owen Cowan b. Dec. 30, 1938.

1E-4a-7 Lawrence Richard Cowan b. May 11, 1940.

1E-5 Emma Augusta Christenson b. Feb. 14, 1886 d. Nov. 18, 1960. Born at Medo, Blue Earth County. Married Hermann Wilhelm Wisch. St. Paul, Minnesota.

1E-5a Evelyn Margrete Wisch b. April 10, 1910 d. Nov. 2, 1975. Married Herbert Peterson of Hackensack, Minnesota. Minneapolis. Evelyn and Herbert, together with Evelyn's parents Emma and Herman are interred at Roselawn Cemetery in St. Paul. Minnesota.

1E-6 Hilda Christenson b. 1875. d. ____ married Albert Roos, b. 1870 Mankato, MN.

1E-6a Hazel Roos b. 1896 d. ____ Married Reed Aldon Rose. West Lynn, Mass.

1E-6a-1 Reed Alden Rose, Jr. b. April 2, 1918

1E-6a-2 Lewis Rose b. ____

1E-6b Herbert Roos b. 1898 d. ____ married Louise ____

1E-6b-1 Lew Ann Roos b. August 20, 1930 d. July 10, 1931.

1E-6b-2 ____ Roos b. ____ Twin daughter born about 1931.

1E-6b-3 ____ Roos b. ____ Twin daughter born about 1931.

1E-6b-4 Herbert Roos, Jr. b. March __, 1933.

1F Otto Christenson

b. 1848. d. 1932 at 84 years of age. married Emma ____ Belgrade, MN

1F-1 Blanche Christenson b. ____ d. ____ married John Nehring northeast Minneapolis.

1F-1a Jesse Nehring b. ____ Jesse was a physician.

1F-1b Lorraine Nehring b. ____.

1F-2 Maud Christenson (twin) b. ____ d. ____ married Roy Martin Los Angeles.

1F-3 Myrtle Christenson (twin) b. ____ d. ____ Married to ____ Schafer and they lived at ____ In her later years, she lived together with her sister Ida in Los Angeles.

1F-4 Belle Christenson b. ____ d. ____ married ____ Kersten Minneapolis, Hankinson, N.D.

1F-4a ____ Kersten b. ____

1F-4b ____ Kersten b. ____

1F-4c ____ Kersten b. ____

1F-5 Mildred Christenson b. ____ d. ____ Married to ____ Henderson and they lived at Los Angeles.

1F-6 Ida Christenson Dahl Wane b. Nov. 1, 1896 d. Dec. 20, 1977. Lived at Buffalo, MN. Los Angeles

1F-7 Harry Christenson b. ____ d. ____ married Bessie Miller. Rochester Minneapolis.

1F-7a ____ Christenson b. ____

1F-7b ____ Christenson b. ____

1F-7c ____ Christenson b. ____

1F-8 John O. Christenson b. ____ d. ____ Farmington, MN

1G Nina Christenson

Born September 29, 1850. died June 18, 1938. born at Fauchild Ostre, Toten, Norway married

John Omundson in Wells, Minnesota.

1G-1 Hilda Omundson born March 27, 1881 and died July 25, 1982 Married Edward H. Kossart northeast Minneapolis.

1G-1a Helmuth Kossart b. Oct 25, 1907 d. July 23, 1977. Married to Harriet Leavett El Sobronte, California.

1G-1a-1 _____ Kossart b. _____

1G-1a-2 _____ Kossart b. _____

1G-1a-3 _____ Kossart b. _____

1G-1b Ed Kossart Jr. (Ed) b. Sept. 9, 1909. married Emma Nesby Northridge, CA

1G-1b-1 Edward Kossart b. _____

1G-1b-2 Beverly Kossart b. _____ Married _____ Rietz

1G-1c Rosamund K. Kossart b. Feb. 12, 1911. married Erling W. Nelson. Minneapolis

1G-1c-1 Erling W. Kossart, Jr. b. March 3, 1932

1G-1c-2 Robert Kossart March 26, 1937

1G-1d Robert Kossart (Bob) b. Dec. 12, 1912. Hollywood, CA

1G-2 Oscar Omundson b. March 4, 1884 d. 1918 married Mildred Mackintosh. Minneapolis.

1g-2a John Omundson b. _____ John lives in Duluth.

1g-2b Vern Omundson b. _____ Vern died in an auto accident.

1G-3 Casper Omundson b. 1886 d. 1963. married Florence Kelly. Red Wing, Minnesota.

1G-3a Alvin Omundson b. _____ d. _____

1G-3b Winfield Omundson b. _____ d. _____

1G-3c Durward Omundson b. _____ d. _____

1G-4 Alta Omundson b. 1888 d. 1971 married Joseph Keuchenmeister later married Delbert Cummings. Twelve children

1G-4a _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4b _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4c _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4d _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4e _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4f _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4g _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4h _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4i _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4j _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4k _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-4l _____ Cummings b. _____

1G-5 Genna Omundson died in infancy at Wells, MN.

1G-6 Sena Omundson b. 1893 d. 1976. Married Allen Cummings married Oscar Saulke Racine, Wisconsin Wells, Minnesota

1G-6a Donald Cummings b. _____

1G-6b Gale Cummings b. _____

THE WONDER-HOUR OF LIFE

Today mom lives in her apartment in the high-rise on East Franklin Avenue and, although she has a few aches, continues to be busy and sharp as ever. Her friends there have made a particular point of saying to me how they too adore her and how lucky we are to have such a wonderful person for a mother.

Mom and Dad were blessed to be together for forty-nine years and we reflect upon what it was that devoted them to one another over those many years. What was the cement that bonded them during the hard times and good?

From the wedding book, we read: "That life's sweetest offerings - to those who cherish the goodness and beauty of its being - may come to you and yours; that in the strength and sanctity of your union you may know the beginning of the achievement of your destinies - such is our hope and wish in this wonder - hour of your life."

Yes, I think that in the hard times and in the good, they found in life the meaning of loving and learned joy. It's been a difficult journey; and yet, with many joyous times to remember. I have to think that it must be somewhat like the Israelites journey through the desert.

And finally, indeed, life has been a "Wonder-Hour;" and I'm sure that together they'll each find their destiny - - The Promised Land.

Some Birthdays!

- 1D-1 Kenneth Lloyd Cowan b. Oct 1, 1920 Married Amelia
1D-2 Madelyn Mae Cowan b. Ap. 11, 1922 . Married to James Dodd Oct 18, 1946
1D-3 Lois Elaine Cowan b. Aug. 12, 1923 Married Michael Alesko.
1D-4 Eileen Faith Cowan b. Feb. 14, 1925 Married John Walsh b. Ap. 3, 1945
1D-5 William George Cowan (Bill) b. Aug 27, 1929 Married Jane Terrell.
1E-4 Carol Ann Cowan b. Aug 23, 1935. Married Jim McKay. Omaha, NE. Jim died in 1995.
1E-5 Dean Melbourn Cowan b. May 4, 1938. Married Marie Flemming. Minneapolis.
1E-6 James (Jim) George Cowan, b. Dec. 5, 1939. Married to Kay Strand. Eden Prairie, MN.
1H-1 Beverly Jean Cowan b. Oct. 30, 1930 Married to Jim Miller,
1H-2 Mary Lou Cowan b. Oct. 9, 1934. Married Lawrence Richard (Larry) Cronin. Coon Rapids,
1H-3 Jerome ____ Cowan (Jerry), b. March 5, 1937.
1H-4 Martin Cowan (Rusty) b. Sept. 5, 1944.
1I-2 Walter Orville Cowan, Jr. b. Jan. 24, 1931. Bap. Sept. 4, 1938. Married to Shirley Marie Maseline
1I-2a-1 Dawn Elaine Cowan, b. Dec. 26, 1975 Minneapolis
1I-2a-1a Cody Mark Cowan B. Sept. 23, 1994
1I-2a-2 Reed Walter Cowan, b. May 4, 1977 Minneapolis
1I-2b Lee Paul Cowan b. Feb. 2, 1955 married Kathy Lynn Skalbeck, b. Sept 30, 1959
1I-2b-1 Shelly Cowan b. Sept. 30, 1977
1I-2b-2 Lee Paul Cowan Jr., b. Nov. 19, 1979
1I-2b-3 David Heissler b. Feb 12, 1980.
1I-2b-4 Ray Robert Cowan b. March 1, 1984
1I-2b-5 Holly Marie Cowan b. Dec. 12, 1993.
1I-2c Wayne Clayton Cowan, b. Nov 4, 1957, Married to LuAnn Ida Dupont b. Dec. 29, 1960. They were married on June 27th of 1981 in Brooklyn Park, MN.
1I-2c-1 Angela Nicole Cowan, b. July 13, 1983
1I-2c-2 Ashley Renae Cowan, b. July 22, 1985

1I-3 Mary Ann Cowan b. September 9th, 1932. Bap. Sept. 4, 1938
 1I-3a Shirley Ann Jordan b. May 14, 1952. Married to Thomas Linn b.
 Dec. 2nd, 1952. Roseville, MN
 1I-3a-1 Andrew Thomas Linn, b. Dec. 10, 1977
 1I-3a-2 Ann Marie Linn, b. Oct. 17, 1979
 1I-3b Susan Marie Jordan, b. Jan 20, 1956. Blaine, MN
 1I-3c Sharon Diane Jordan, b. April 13, 1957. Denver, Colorado.
 1I-3d Sandra Kay Jordan Gunderson, b. June 7, 1959. Married to Peter
 (Pete) Edmund Gunderson. Circle Pines, MN.
 1I-3d-1 Keegan Peter Gunderson, b. Feb. 3, 1991 bap. March 31,
 1991 (Easter Sunday)
 1I-3d-2 Tryn Rose Gunderson, b. April 6, 1998 bap. May 10, 1998
 (Mother's day)
 1I-3e Sally Lynn Jordan, b. Nov. 27, 1961 Married to Kevin Farrington.
 Jordan, MN. Divorced
 1I-3e-1 Kyle Michael Farrington, b. Aug. 31, 1992
 1I-3e-2 Collin Michael Farrington, b. Jan. 16, 1995
 1I-3f Steven Ronald Jordan, b. March 25, 1962. Mora, MN
 1I-3f-1 Sarah Ann Jordan b. June 14, 1989
 1I-3f-2 Sherri Emma Jordan b. July 24, 1992
 1I-3f-3 Paul Steven Jordan, b. March 24, 1994
 1I-3g Scott Timothy Jordan, b. Nov. 30, 1963, Blaine. MN
 1I-3h Stacy Rene Jordan, b. Aug. 11, 1967. Married to Joe Mutzberg.
 Coon Rapids, MN
 1I-6 William (Bill) Owen Cowan b. Dec. 30, 1938 Baptized June 9, 1940
 Married to Beverly Ruth Coakley b. Sept. 26, 1946
 1I-6a Brian William Cowan, b. Nov. 15, 1969 Married to Karen. Now
 divorced
 1I-6b Britt Rachelle Cowan, b. July 22, 1971 Married to Ari Galen
 1I-6b-1 Noah Bennett Galen b. Sep. 26, 1999
 1I-6b-2 Gabriel William Galen b. Aug. 16, 2002
 1I-7 Lawrence Richard Cowan b. May 11, 1940. Baptized June 9, 1940
 Married April 19, 1968 to Nancy Ellen Dornfeld b. Dec 16, 1943 baptized July
 19th, 1944.
 1I-7a Jennifer Lynn Cowan b. May 4, 1970 Baptized on July 19, 1970
 1I-7b Jeffrey Lawrence Cowan b. Oct. 1, 1974. Baptized Dec. 1, 1974.
 Married on Dec 10, 1994 to LeAnn Karin Gerenz b. Jan. 16, 1974, of Roseville,
 MN. Boise, Idaho, Golden Valley, Minnesota. Now divorced

1I-7b-1 Noah Jeffrey Cowan, b. April 11, 1995 Baptized August 26th, 1995

1I-7b-2 Hannah Marie Cowan b. May 8, 1997 Boise, Idaho Bapt. Sept 21, 1997

1J-1 Darlene Cowan b. Sept 20, 1934 d. Ap 3, 1997

1J-4a Lynne Marie Cowan b. Jan 31, 1957 Married to Jeff Voss - now divorced. Dearborn Heights, MI

1J-4a Dianna Marie Voss b. Jan 11, 1983

1J-4a Jeffrey Allen Voss b. Oct 1, 1984

1J-5 Gary John William Cowan, b. May 16, 1947.

1K-1 Edward Ronald Clairmont, b. Ap. 2, 1932 Married to Darlene Samuelson. San Diego, CA

1K-2 LeRoy Adlor Clairmont b. Sept. 27, 1933. Married Louise Gertler 1993. Los Angeles. Now divorced

1K-3 Lois Pearl Clairmont b. Dec. 22, 1937. Married Robert James Rowbottom on Feb. 2, 1957.

1K-4 Marlys June Clairmont. b. March 15, 1942. Marlys married to John Williams on Sept 4, 1971.

3D-6 William D. Cowan. b. March 29, 1941. Married to Teresa McDonald.

3D-8 Dennis Lloyd Cowan. b. May 31, 1944. Married to Katheryn Dunn, Salem, OR

3D-10 Perry Joseph Cowan. b. Aug. 15, 1949. Married to Donna Marshall. McMinnville, OR

4B-1 Charled Robert Nead b. Dec. 5, 1918 at Deering, ND. Lived at Butler, MO.

4B-2 Lloyd Eldo Nead b. July 10, 1920 Married in 1943? to Elizabeth Jane Kipper.

4B-3 Paul Edgar Nead b. Sept. 4, 1921 Married Nellie Marie Hupman of Independence on Sept. 4, 1946. Paul and Marie live at 1827 Osage Street, Independence, MO 64055.

4D-2c Mary Kay Zimmerman b. Oct 2, 1953. Married Eugene Anderson. Darwin, MN 55324. (612) 275 3697. Interested in info on family.

7A Doris Cowan Randleman b. June 4, 1922. Married Randolph (Randy) Randleman, b. 1925, on June 28, 1954. Toledo, OR.

1G-1b Ed Kossart Jr. (Ed) b. Sept. 9, 1909. married Emma Nesby Northridge, CA

1G-1c Rosamund K. Kossart b. Feb. 12, 1911. married Erling W. Nelson. Minneapolis

1G-1d

Robert Kossart (Bob) b. Dec. 12, 1912. Hollywood, CA

An Entry for Friday, March 26 2010 – A Birthday

Today is Friday, March 26, 2010. The weather is sunny, dry and cool; kind of a quiet day. We've had quite a bit of snow this winter but none so far in March. It may be some sort of a record that there hasn't been any snow in March. On top of that, we've had some really mild weather earlier in the month and now the big piles of snow are all gone. They say it will warm up again in a few days. The most important thing about today is that it's mom's birthday. She died about 21 months ago but today is her birthday and she would have been exactly 100 years of age today. Happy birthday, mom.

Mom lies next to dad at the cemetery in north Minneapolis and I know that they are celebrating this time together with the four kids who are with them, their family and the saints of heaven. I wonder if Jesus stopped in to say hello and happy birthday. What a time they must be having; feasting on chicken, Jell-O, birthday cake and ice cream; and lots of talking. And of course the flowers. Mom loved roses and dad loved to bring them home for her. I think mom loved roses simply because it was dad who got them for her.

Well, the three remaining children are having a party here on earth, too. Bill, Mary Ann and I came to the cemetery to visit and lay some flowers on her grave. We laid a rose for dad and for Mary Ann's husband Ronnie, too. We then stopped by and laid a rose for Grandma Marie and for Grandpa Jim and Grandma Inga. Next we went to Emily's Family Restaurant for lunch on 44th and Penn Avenue where we used to go with the family after visiting graves years ago. Then we went back and stopped at the graves of sisters Shirley and Betty and brother Wayne and laid roses there too. Today is a good day.

"And So We Sojourn Together"

And so as the sun goes down on another day, and we've walked along the road a while; I leave you these parting words.

May you and I be good stewards of our time together and share with those in need. Along the way, let us nurture the love of good friends and of family, and the fellowship we have together. For although the road will close around some unknown bend, we know that what we have and who we are will not go away, but will be brought together at a day yet to come, in union at the feet of our Master and Lord. This is our treasure and this is our joy.

Larry Cowan

1992

