

A Family History in Three Voices
Highlights of the
Diaries of Emma Bierman Busch 1918 - 1983

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And when you're gone
Who remembers your name?
Who keeps the flame?
Who tells your story?

Lin-Manuel Miranda
"Hamilton"

Foreword

The epigraph on the cover was selected for several reasons. First, I watched the “Hamilton” musical on Disney+ more times than I should admit. Second, it reminds me of my genealogy efforts. With each bit of information I gather, I’m working to tell the story of where we came from. Third, it speaks to what has happened as I compiled this document with input from Mom.

When I wrote a blog about the Chokio Bus Rescue several years ago (www.juliesorenson.com), I had the thrill of knowing that I had helped pull back the story from the brink of oblivion. When no one remembers, everyone forgets.

Several times during this project, I felt that thrill again. Mom would correct my understanding, or she would be prompted by the entries to remember something that otherwise we would not have discussed. Either way, interesting details were captured for posterity.

Three generations – three voices – tell this story: Grandma Emma; Emma’s daughter, Donna; and Donna’s daughter, Julie. Mom said, “Put on there (in this book) that these are strictly my opinions.”

The collection of Grandma Emma’s diaries spans from 1918 into 1983. Some years are missing and not all diaries are complete. They were matter-of-fact, brief, and repetitive. I noted only two entries in which she expressed an emotion.

Rarely did I use a diary entry in its entirety, nor did I use ellipses to show missing text, for the sake of readability. When Emma or Donna used “Dad” to refer to their spouses, I changed it to “Ger” and “Larry” respectively. All uses of the word “Dad” refer to the speaker’s father.

When Duane left for the service, he took Emma’s five-year diary with him and used it for about a month before returning it to her. His entries are in the Appendix.

I chose to compile entries that sparked questions or offered insights. My apologies if any entries I selected are sensitive. My intent is not to harm anyone.

Mom gave me the diaries to store. I am happy to share them with anyone who is interested.

All the best!

Julie Stillwell Sorenson

September 2020

The Families

Emma's father: "Henry" Johann Heinrich Christian Bierman, born March 2, 1865, died Dec. 8, 1935.

Emma's mother: "Lottie" Wilhelmina Louise Charlotte Boekelheide Bierman, born May 11, 1870, died Oct. 20, 1963.

They farmed near Mansfield, South Dakota, south of Aberdeen.

Children of Henry and Lottie Bierman:

1. Chris, born Nov. 20, 1892, married Feb. 10, 1921, to Eva Hopper.

Donna:

Chris was in World War I. Grandpa gave a quarter-section of land to each of his boys. Chris was the first to get his land. He had it before World War I, because Mother and Walter lived on the farm and took care of the animals while he was in the war. When he was back, he brought his nurse, Eva. They were married. They never had kids.

Chris and Eva were workaholics. Any time Eva and Chris were coming to a celebration they would never get there until 4 or 5 p.m. They had lots of sheep and chores and never got away. They were never on time. They would be two or three hours late.

Chris and Eva moved to Aberdeen. When she died, there was a whole refrigerator full of drugs and home remedies. Eva died of an overdose. Chris died after Mom and Dad. He was the oldest and he lived the longest of the children in his family. Jay was pallbearer at the funeral. They are both buried in the Aberdeen cemetery. Eva talked constantly. Chris was shy. Chris and his brothers Arthur and Eddie were all kind of quiet. They didn't say a lot.

2. Kate, born Jan. 30, 1894, married June 6, 1917, to Otto Stager.

Donna:

Kate and Otto lived in Aberdeen when I was in high school. He was a bus driver for Greyhound. Aberdeen to Jamestown. I'm not sure if it was Greyhound. Otto was a know-it-all braggart. Alcoholic.

Kate was thrifty. She did a lot of sewing. When we went to her house she would open a can of peas, which would serve anywhere from three to 20. When we went to her house, she would open a can of peas, which would serve anywhere from three to 20. And it was always peas.

Opal was their only child. She really spoiled Opal. Opal was friendly to me, but she was kind of spoiled. Otto inherited their farm lock, stock, and barrel. They didn't have to worry about money like Mom and Dad.

Otto, as an older person, became mean. He would hit Kate with his cane.

I don't know how many years Kate took in Grandma. Kate was kind. She hosted my wedding shower. When Otto was off on trips Mom and Dad visited Kate a lot. They lived on Sixth Avenue in Aberdeen.

3. Minnie, born Sept. 23, 1895, married June 12, 1919, to Ed Schnittger.

Donna:

Minnie was a sweetheart; very kind and thoughtful. She did a lot of sewing. When Mom was first married Minnie and Kate would buy fabric and make dresses for her.

Minnie and Ed had one daughter, Marvelyn. Just one grandson, too! Ed inherited the farm from his family, so he was pretty-well off. Ed was an alcoholic like Otto. Ed and Otto used to get into a lot of fights, so at holidays the other men would break up their fights.

Ed was also very selfish. He would buy butter for himself and not let Minnie eat it.

When Minnie and Ed left their farm, I got her dining room table that David now has. They had bought it in Minneapolis after they married.

I don't know what Minnie died of. It was a very painful death. Something in her leg. One quirk she had that I've inherited: She'd walk down the street with her purse and just drop it. I drop stuff very easily. I'm always picking stuff up off the floor.

They lived in Aberdeen when she died. The last few years they would go to Mesa, Arizona, to spend the winter. They didn't have a lot to spend so they got a one-room apartment.

Minnie was an excellent baker. Her buns or whatever she made were "to die for." We would go and visit in their big old house. She would open up a quart jar of canned meat and a quart of peaches. And we always had fresh buns. She cooked on an old-fashioned cook stove until they moved to town.

4. Emma, born April 3, 1898, married Sept. 26, 1922, to Gerhart Busch.

Donna:

The first house we lived in was in Chelsea. It was a shack. The second was west of Aberdeen. I was three years old when we moved there. My first memory was of Hulda and Heinie helping us move. I rode in their car. We had a horse, but no way to get it to Aberdeen, so Duane, at age 10, rode it all the way to our new farm.

I rode farm machinery when I was young. Dad tied me in. There was a lever I needed to push whenever Dad signaled to me.

Heinie and Hulda came a lot to visit. Once we all went to town and when we came back the door had blown open and there was dust everywhere. Heinie grabbed a broom. He said, "I like this because I can see where I've been!"

Then we moved to the farm east of Aberdeen, in the middle of my sixth grade. The fourth was a home in Aberdeen. I think it was 1510 Grant Street, across from the Northern State Teachers' College.

After that I went to eighth grade at Simmons Junior High.

5. Walter, born Nov. 24, 1900, married Nov. 25, 1922, to Louise Stager.

Donna:

Ma and Walter never got along. He married a Stager woman, a cousin of Otto's. Mother couldn't stand her. They (Emma and Louise) weren't together much.

Of their four children, Geraldine was the oldest. She died just last year. Then Donald, then Doris, then Gene. Gene died when I was in high school, in the service. He died off the San Diego coast.

After moving to Aberdeen, Walter managed a laundromat. I don't think he owned it. Louise worked at Pred's Ladies Ready-to-Wear. Louise was sarcastic and had a rough character. Stagers had an "I'm better than you" attitude. We never visited Walter and Louise when we were growing up. We didn't often see the boys (Donna's uncles). The girls (Donna's aunts) stuck together a lot. The whole family was together only at Christmas.

6. Ed, born Feb. 2, 1903, married Nov. 1, 1929, to Alma Louise Haselhorst.

Donna:

Ed was very quiet. Didn't say much. When Mom was younger it was her job to take care of her younger brothers Ed and Arthur, and Lewis when he was tiny.

Ed and his next-younger brother Arthur married two Haselhorst sisters. Ed married Alma and Arthur married Lena.

Alma was very quiet. They had one daughter, Berdene.

Eddie inherited the home place of his parents, Henry and Lottie Bierman. They lived there until they moved to Aberdeen. We had a lot of Christmas celebrations in that house, being it had big rooms for everyone.

7. Lewis, born May 6, 1905, married April 19, 1930, to Mildred Klinger.

Donna:

Lewis was a chiropractor. He ended up President of a Chiropractic College. When younger, he was a teacher in Rhame, North Dakota. When I was in the third grade Heinie and Hulda bought a new car and picked up Dad and Mom and I, and we visited Lewis in Rhame. It was my first big trip. Mildred was a teacher. They both were teachers when they married. She grew up in Aberdeen.

Lewis was quiet. He was a renegade when he was little. They had three boys: Milton, Gilbert, and Kenny.

When Lewis came home, he would go into one of the rooms that had a chiropractor's couch. He would give all the guys a treatment. He'd take one at a time into that room. No one ever explained to us children what they were doing. We'd watch the men go in one at a time and then come out.

Julie:

Lewis F. Bierman was president of the Lincoln Chiropractic College, Indianapolis.

Donna:

Mildred was a lot of fun. She liked a good time. She was a smoker and she tried to hide it. She would go into the bathroom, have a cigarette, and we could all smell it.

Before they died, Lisa and I went to Indianapolis to visit them. As she aged, she got curvature of the spine.

When their boys were about three or four, Lewis wanted to build a motor home. Dad helped him build it. That was when we had toy tractors. Dad would bank dirt up against the house for insulation so Milt, Gilbert, and I would make roads with our tractors. And I still have the tractor.

When they were in Chicago, she had a job in a factory.

8. Arthur, born Nov. 9, 1906, married June 1, 1931, to Lena Haselhorst.

Donna:

This is the other pair of "brothers marry sisters." Arthur was quiet. He had one son, Ralph, born when I was in high school. Ralph married his first wife and had kids, then married Pat and had twins. Ralph still lives on the farm.

Arthur died young. He had hip surgery before he died. Lena was quiet, kind, considerate. She didn't visit the farm very much.

I have a pair of pillowcases that Lena embroidered. Pat Bierman gave them to me.

9. Hulda, born July 1, 1909, married June 1, 1928, to Henry "Heinie" Hoegermeier.

Donna:

Hulda and Heinie had no children. Heinie was given the family farm. Heinie was a very jovial person.

Julie:

I remember visiting Heinie's farm as a child. He seemed like such a pleasant guy. We were all sitting in the kitchen around the table, on which was placed a pie that had a sliver missing. He looked at me and said in his lazy drawl, "Ahr YOO the mowse that ayte that peece of pie?"

Donna:

Hulda was talkative. My favorite aunt. We spent a lot of time together, especially summer vacations. Hulda and I did a lot of laughing. When Marvelyn and Opal and I were little they had a duck pond. Marvelyn convinced me to take a drink out of the pond. She got a lickin' and I got castor oil.

One of the times I remember, we were in the basement. Hulda used to sell eggs, and she put them in the basement to clean them. She had a cardboard on the floor to catch spills and was using a damp cloth to clean up any eggs with dirt on them. One egg fell out of her hand, landed unharmed on the cardboard, rolled off the cardboard and then cracked on the floor. Both of us just sat there. We giggled and giggled.

I had a lot of fun summers with them. She was like a second mother to me. She did lots of sewing. She sewed all her own clothes.

Another quirky thing: Once, Heinie was very sick.

Julie:

The diaries said at different times Heinie had a tonsillectomy and an appendectomy.

Donna:

When he got home from the hospital, she took care of him. She washed his hair and went to put the "goop" on his hair that was a hairstyling product. She accidentally grabbed a can of sewing machine oil and put that on his head.

They visited us a lot. They came to Jamestown and helped us move. When we lived in Aberdeen, they would visit us, and she would fix Mother's hair.

Hulda died when David was three weeks old, of breast cancer. He married again to Leia Moser, a lady who had once dated Lawrence Welk.

Julie:

I remember hearing the story that Leia would sneak out of her bedroom at night to go to dances and/or dates with Lawrence Welk. Leia's parents put the kibosh on it, saying, "He's a musician. He'll never amount to much!"

Donna:

Both Hulda and Leia are buried next to Heinie in Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, rural Mansfield.

Hulda promised I would get her diamond engagement and wedding rings. After she died, he kept them in a safe deposit box. He died and then I contacted Ralph and asked if he could he get them, as he was the executor. Then Leia said she had spent \$100 to have them appraised, so I could have them for \$100. Larry was upset that I had spent the \$100, but I didn't care. I wanted the rings.

At one point, before Heinie died, there was a tall Victrola in their attic. Larry wanted to buy it and Heinie said yes. But then Leia said no.

Julie:

I wonder if my brothers and sister remember visiting Heinie's home. There was a cast-iron bulldog doorstop and a toy in an upstairs bedroom. It looked like a cow. You turned it upside down, and when you placed it right side up, it made a "MOOO" sound.

Donna:

Hulda was the one who kept the brothers and sisters together. She planned the holidays. She didn't always do the entertaining. Alma and Eddie would host a lot of Christmases.

Julie:

When Emma marries Gerhart, we add his family.

Gerhart's father: William Henry Busch, born Sept. 30, 1870, died Aug. 25, 1952.

Gerhart's mother: Louise E. W. Resewehr Busch, born July 30, 1875, died Sept. 28, 1956.

The four children of William and Louise Busch:

1. Gertrude, born March 16, 1897, married Dec. 6, 1916, to Jack Boekelheide.

Donna:

She was very persnickety. She always intimidated us because she acted better than the rest of us. But she was kind. If she invited us to dinner (midday), she'd have it at 4 p.m. Once when we arrived on a visit, she was still making Jell-O for dinner. Always pokey and late. She liked a good laugh.

Jack was a sweetie. Kind of a joker like Heinie. He would tell stories about things that happened to him and then laugh about it. One of the stories was about when he was out hunting, he thought he saw a bunch of geese on a pond and he wanted to sneak up on them. So, he crawled on his hands and knees a quarter of a mile and when he got there, they were all gone.

Julie:

Mom smiles with a faraway look in her eyes. I ask, "Are you hearing his laugh right now?" She replies, "No, but I can see his face."

Donna:

When I was between my junior and senior years in high school, he did some farming himself on the farm near Chelsea. He owned elevators and was semi-retired in Aberdeen. It was about 40 miles to his farm. He came once and asked if I could go help while he harvested grain. So, he would pick me up early in the morning. I would take my lunch, and we would drive out to the farm. Then I would sit in the grain truck while he was in the combine, and wait for him to wave to me. Then I would drive the grain truck under the spout so he could unload the grain.

One time when it got full, in the middle of the afternoon, he didn't want to quit, so he sent me into Aberdeen. I went along in a big grain truck all the way to the elevator. I had to drive into the elevator all by myself. After I unloaded, I drove down out of the elevator to Chelsea, and he had another load ready. I don't know how long it was, several fields. I don't know how many days this was.

One day we got back and heard on the radio it was V-J Day. We got to our house and no one was home. Jack dropped me off. He went home, and Gertie wasn't home either, so he called me and said, "Get cleaned up, and I'll pick you up, and we'll go downtown." So, we went downtown and celebrated in the streets with everyone else.

Emma:

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 1945: Japs surrendered today. We heard it over radio at about 6 o'clock in eve. Celebrate in eve, had parade, etc. Donna along with Jack.

Donna:

Then another time on the way home we drove over some railroad tracks. He lost control of the pickup and we went in the ditch. We weren't hurt. The last day we worked we went half a day. When he dropped me off, he gave me a check for \$100. I was so excited, I don't know if I thanked him. It was the most money I ever had. It could have been the summer between my sophomore and junior years.

They had a big, beautiful house in Chelsea, and we lived in a dump outside Aberdeen. I would spend a lot of time in the bathroom at their house because it was fancy, and it smelled good.

Uncle Jack had a pool table in the basement at Chelsea when they lived there. I used to watch Duane and Dad play pool.

When they moved to Aberdeen, they bought two houses across the street from each other and moved Grandma Louise into one of them.

Grandpa William was still living at the time, almost bedridden. Gertie took care of him. Then when they sold the elevator in Chelsea and bought one in Ellendale, they all four moved to Ellendale, North Dakota. All four are buried there.

2. Gerhart, born Sept. 12, 1900, married Sept. 26, 1922, to Emma Bierman.
3. Ernest "Ernie" Busch, born July 30, 1905, married Hilda Anderson in 1940. He later married Viola "Vi" Park Aug. 11, 1950.

Donna:

Ernie. I can't help but get a smile on my face. Ernie was a black sheep. Did bootlegging, sold vacuum cleaners door-to-door. He lived in Aberdeen. He used to come visit Dad at night so Dad would give him money. He was just a poor manager and lazy. Then a few years later he moved down to southern South Dakota and married a lady (first wife) whose last name was Rose. She was a widow, quite wealthy, and that marriage ended when he got caught selling her farm machinery and not giving her the money.

From there he moved to Idaho. Maybe Washington state first. He married Vi and lived on her reservation with her until he died. He was always laughing and had this silly smirk on his face. Never seemed sorry for what he did. Never ended up in jail but probably should have.

Betty and Duane and Larry and I went out to Blackfoot, Idaho, before he died of cancer.

In my generation you visited cousins and uncles. Now you're lucky if you visit your brother.

4. William "Bill" was born Sept. 3, 1916. He married La Verne Wells. He later married Marie Gebhardt July 3, 1961.

Donna:

Bill and La Verne lived in Aberdeen. I don't know what he did in Aberdeen, but she worked in a beauty shop. Then they moved to Andover, South Dakota, and he ran the elevator there. From there to other elevators in other towns, but we never visited them, had no idea. They divorced. There were three kids: Diane, Gary, Gayle. After that he worked in southern South Dakota, but he didn't stay too long.

He moved to Monango, North Dakota, and married Marie. She was a teacher in Monango. When he lived there, he developed cancer and died. Bill was kind of lazy, and if he ran out of money, he would come in the middle of the night so Dad would give him money.

We were with the Bierman side more than the Busch.

Julie:

Marie died on her 95th birthday, Jan. 30, 2015, in Monango.

The Diaries

Julie:

The first diary book is unusual. It was apparently possessed by Emma's eldest brother Chris in 1918 but was only partially used. The year on the cover has been altered to read "1919." The daily notations throughout the year suggest the author did heavy farm work and not much household work. Yet one entry refers to sewing. She did, however, write her name inside the book, spelled Emma Biermann.

My conclusion is that Chris used the diary for part of 1918 until he left to serve in World War I in France. Emma continued using the diary to write in notations for 1919.

Donna:

Mom and her younger brother Walter lived on and managed Chris's farm in his absence.

1918

Emma:

Monday, Sept. 2, 1918: Chris going across to France.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 1918: Lewis was confirmed.

Monday, Nov. 11, 1918: Pa goes to Aberdeen, celebrate end of war.

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 1918: Ed got the flu.

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1918: Arthur got the flu.

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1918: Lewis got the flu.

Thursday, Dec. 26, 1918: Hulda got the flu.

Julie:

Did the family get the Spanish Flu or some other type of flu?

Donna:

I don't remember hearing that anyone in the family ever had the Spanish Flu.

1919

Julie:

Some of the blank pages at the beginning have recipes and other notations as follows.

Emma:

Drug Store. Don't let soap spoil your hair. Use plain emulsified coconut oil. This is pure and entirely greaseless. Moisten hair with water and rub in. Take out every particle of dirt and dandruff.

Griddle Cakes. Egg, 1. Milk, 1 cup. Flour, 1 cup. Baking Powder, 1 teaspoon. Salt ¼ teaspoon. Beat the egg, add the milk, and add sifted dry ingredients.

Monday, Jan. 13, 1919: Melted out lard. Hauled ice, 3 loads.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 1919: Had pictures taken.

Sunday, Jan. 19, 1919: Had party in eve. Took Ford out for first time.

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 1919: Got two letters from Chris with handkerchief.

Thursday, Feb. 6, 1919: Chris arrived in USA.

Donna:

Chris was injured in World War I. He fell in love with his nurse, Mary Evangeline "Eva" Hopper, from Ireland. They married. She was a registered nurse.

Emma:

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1919: Hulda took music lesson.

Friday, June 6, 1919: Sent for clarinet reeds.

Julie:

Not sure if this was Chris's entry from 1918 or Emma's entry for 1919.

What kind of music or instruments were played by family members?

Donna:

I don't know who played instruments in the family, but I am certain my mother did not play the clarinet.

1920

Emma:

Monday, Jan. 12, 1920: Pa left for Rochester, Minnesota.

Julie:

Was Henry Bierman ill? I presume they were in Rochester to get medical attention at Mayo Clinic. I find it intriguing that four of five generations were treated at Mayo Clinic:

1. Henry Bierman

2. His daughter, Emma, for a bad back.
3. His granddaughter, Donna, for eye/neurological concern.
4. No great-grandchildren known to have been patients there.
5. His great-great granddaughter Hannah Sorenson Koppenhaver, for migraine in her senior year.

Perhaps there have been other family members at Mayo that I do not recall.

Donna:

I don't know about him being sick in 1920, but he did die of stomach cancer in 1935.

Emma:

Received letters from Pa and Lewis Jan. 19, 23 and 26.

Friday, Jan. 30, 1920: Pa came home.

Saturday, April 3, 1920: Home band concert in Mansfield.

Saturday, Dec. 18, 1920: Lewis came home on train from Aberdeen from St. Paul.

Julie:

Lewis attended Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn.

Many of the entries refer to "went to Northville." What was there?

Donna:

Northville was a small town that had a grocery store and a few other businesses.

1921

Emma:

Monday, June 6, 1921: Fire at Min & Ed's.

Julie:

Was this a major fire? What happened?

Donna:

My grandmother Lottie brought two pairs of gold earrings from Germany. Later she gave each of her four daughters, Kate, Minnie, Emma and Hulda a single earring, breaking up the two pairs. I remember hearing that Minnie's earring "burned up in the fire." This fire from 1921 may be when that happened. I still have the earring that was given to Mom.

Emma:

Thursday, Oct. 20, 1921: Pa & Ma to Aberdeen to see queen.

Julie:

What was THAT all about? Mom has no recollection of this. I researched online and can find no reference to a royal visit from either the United Kingdom or Germany. I presumed that they were going to see a news reel in the theatre.

I did, however, see that the silent movie "The Queen of Sheba" was released in December of 1921. However, I don't think they were doing pre-release screenings in Aberdeen!

Emma:

Sunday, Oct. 23, 1921: All to Busches for dinner.

Julie:

This is the first found reference to future in-laws. I swear Mrs. Haselhorst has died three times, now.

Donna:

(Laughs.) There were a LOT of Haselhorsts!

Emma:

Friday, Dec. 2, 1921: I put feathers in ticking for feather bed.

Julie:

I was surprised there were still feather beds this late in time.

Donna:

(Nodding vigorously before Julie finished the above sentence.) I had a feather bed when I was young. Mom would shake it every night, so it was nice and fluffy.

1922

Julie:

The year she got married.

Emma:

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1922: Had meeting in church in afternoon and Society in eve.

Julie:

What was "Society?"

Donna:

I don't know. I think it was an organization within the church.

Julie:

So far, diary entries show lots of socializing and working together among older siblings who had married and had farms of their own.

Emma:

Saturday, March 18, 1922: Mailed letters to Germany and Nettie.

Julie:

This could be Nettie Anna Charlotte Siebrasse (married Mr. Duncan), born Sept. 3, 1902. First cousin. Emma's father Henry and Nettie's mother Charlotte are brother and sister.

Donna:

I thought Nettie was one generation older.

Emma:

Sunday, May 28, 1922: Busches here for dinner.

Thursday, June 8, 1922: We four to circus in Aberdeen.

Julie:

Was this a double date? Usually listed sibling's names. "We four" is unusual.

Donna:

I have no idea.

Emma:

Monday, Sept. 25, 1922: Gerhart came in evening.

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 1922: Min, Ed, Ger and I to City (Aberdeen), was married, back to Min's in eve.

Julie:

I found this entry to be seriously understated!

Donna:

I didn't know they were married on a Tuesday, but I know they were married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Aberdeen.

Emma:

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1922: Started 8 o'clock from there to Minneapolis. Drove all day, stayed in Appleton.

Thursday, Sept. 28, 1922: Started out again, little windy, arrived in Minneapolis about six o'clock.

Friday, Sept. 29, 1922: All night in West H--el (unclear). Went to the Blackery Co. building in afternoon. Towards eve, 4 o'clock went over to St. Paul, saw Lewis.

Julie:

I searched online for a Blackery Co. building in the Twin Cities but was unsuccessful.

Emma:

Sunday, Oct. 1, 1922: We went to St. Paul from Cathedral, then to capital, then to Minnehaha Falls. Started for home on the train at 10 in the evening.

Monday, Oct. 2, 1922: Arrived in Aberdeen 6:30, folks come after us we. We stayed home all night.

Julie:

What happened to the vehicle they drove to the Cities? Did Lewis have it?

Donna:

I never heard about it.

Emma:

Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1922: I washed first at home. After dinner we went to his home.

Julie:

In the following days, entries indicated more household chores at the farm. Not clear where she means when she says "home."

Emma:

Sunday, Oct. 8, 1922: Gerhart came for dinner.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 1922: We moved here. Ger helped (unclear) move.

Sunday, Oct. 15, 1922: We stayed home during day. In eve to Busches. Had bunch over here in eve.

Monday, Oct. 16, 1922: Folks Min & Ed & we to city to get furniture.

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1922: They brought furniture from Aberdeen in afternoon.

Thursday, Oct. 26, 1922: We bought sewing machine, jars, etc.

Monday, Oct. 30, 1922: Put in the phone.

Julie:

Duane will be born the following July, so likely Emma is "in a family way" by now.

Emma:

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1922: Gerhart made kitchen table.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1922: Mr. & Mrs. Busch here. Wall-papered kitchen.

1923

Julie:

First entry of 1923 is Sunday, March 25.

Emma:

Tuesday, April 3, 1923: Had party here in eve. All here except Gertie and Jack and Busch folks. Eva's sisters here too.

Donna:

April 3 was Mom's birthday.

Emma:

Wednesday, May 2, 1923: Made beer. In afternoon go fishing. Caught 72 fish.

Sunday, May 20, 1923: Had picnic at lake. Ger fell in lake.

Julie:

Entries of daily life nature. Chores completed, Gerhart's tasks, family visiting and going to visit family. No mention of pregnancy.

Emma:

Wednesday, July 11, 1923: Duane was born at 8 in the morning.

Donna:

Mom was very sick when Duane was born. She had "milk leg" and Eva (brother Chris's wife) took care of her. She (Emma) always said Eva saved her life.

Julie:

According to Wikipedia, "Phlegmasia alba dolens (also colloquially known as milk leg or white leg) is part of a spectrum of diseases related to deep vein thrombosis. Historically, it was commonly seen during pregnancy and in mothers who have just given birth. In cases of pregnancy, it is most often seen during the third trimester, resulting from a compression of the left common iliac vein against the pelvic rim by the enlarged uterus."

But for a few entries, the diary is blank for the rest of the year.

1924

Emma:

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1924: 31 below zero. Duane has whooping cough.

Friday, Jan. 4, 1924: Duane quite sick. Started cutting teeth. Had little fever.

Saturday, Jan. 5, 1924: Duane little better. Very weak.

Monday, Jan. 7, 1924: Duane has rose rash towards evening. Thought it was measles.

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1924: His rash all gone, feels better.

Friday, Jan. 11, 1924: Duane six months old.

Friday, April 25, 1924: Raleigh Man here all night.

Donna:

I remember the Rawleigh Man but didn't know about accommodations. I suppose it was a blizzard.

Julie:

From July through the rest of the year no notations were made. First half of the year were usual entries of family gatherings, fishing, picnics, church, card parties in addition to usual listing of work completed.

There is a large gap of diaries from 1925 through 1934. This gap includes the year of Donna's birth, 1930. For 1935 Grandma Emma began a five-year diary which was well-completed all five years.

1935

Emma:

Friday, Jan. 4, 1935: Had our Community Club meeting in eve.

Sunday, Jan. 13, 1935: Ger worked on desk.

Julie:

Could this be the desk that Gerhart fashioned for Donna?

Donna:

I remember the desk Dad made. The large radio sat on it, with the car battery (which powered it) sitting underneath. I remember sitting at that desk with my knees brushing up against the battery, so it accidentally got battery acid on my long stockings that my mother made me wear. The acid ate holes in the knees of my long stockings.

Julie:

Mom explained that the child's desk which she used as a child and that her children all used, was built by her grandfather, William Busch for his daughter Gertie Busch Boekelheide's children, Leona and Loren "Bud" Boekelheide. Bud was 10 years older than his cousin Donna, so the Boekelheide's gave the desk to Donna to use. She kept it in the family. It is currently held by Hannah Sorenson Koppenhaver, William Busch's great-great granddaughter, and will be used by her son, Roland Thomas Koppenhaver, the maker's great-great-great grandson.

Emma:

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1935: Gerhart worked on the writing desk all day.

Monday, Jan. 21, 1935: Got KABN on radio for first time.

Donna:

That's why he built the desk – to hold the radio.

Julie:

I found evidence online that the KABN station began in the 1930s. By 1942 its name changed to KABR.

Emma:

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 1935: Got on relief again.

Julie:

Interesting. Entry for same day in 1936 says "Got first relief check."

Donna:

She probably meant first check of the year. It provided for food during the Depression.

Emma:

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 1935: Pa very sick. Got Eva.

Julie:

Eva was Emma's sister-in-law, a nurse. "Pa," Henry Bierman, will die Dec. 8, 1935.

Emma:

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 1935: Pa sitting up getting better.

Wednesday, April 10, 1935: We had 4-H Club meeting here in evening.

Julie:

First mention of 4-H.

Donna:

Duane was in 4-H, but I wasn't a member. The meetings were sometimes held at our home.

Emma:

Saturday, April 13, 1935: In eve to Smith party. Donna and Duane home alone.

Julie:

Donna was four and a half, Duane nearly 12.

Emma:

Wednesday, July 3, 1935: I baked buns.

Julie:

Oh, to enjoy Grandma Emma's fresh buns again!

Emma:

Friday, July 12, 1935: Duane cultivates corn. Gerhart, I, and Donna to city in afternoon.

Julie:

Duane turned 12 the day before.

Emma:

Sunday, July 14, 1935: I was sick. Had stiff neck. Got dog.

Donna:

We had a dog named Rover. Before I went to school, I was always barefoot. Just like now (she said, indicating her bare feet). I remember having to walk in the pasture to bring the cows in for milking. I had Rover with me. He was a collie.

Julie:

She added that if there was another dog around, it would have been Rex, the dog owned by F.W. "Fred" Hatterscheidt, a local wealthy man who boarded his horse with Gerhart and Emma. The dog was with the Buschs while Hatterscheidt went on safari.

The Hatterscheidts gave Donna a beautiful porcelain doll which she kept carefully until at age 88 she could not get it repaired, and she had to dispose of it.

Emma:

Friday, July 19, 1935: My neck got worse. Went to Doc, he said I had Rye Neck.

Julie:

Additional mentions of sore neck were made on July 15, 16 and 18. According to Wikipedia, "Wry Neck (Torticollis) is a tilted and twisted neck that can be congenital or result from muscle injury, swollen lymph nodes, ear infection or other causes."

Emma:

Saturday, July 27, 1935: Papa is sick again.

Sunday, Aug. 4, 1935: Was to Madisons in eve to show at Fairgrounds with them. "The Drunkard."

Julie:

Interesting to see they had some artistic events to attend.

Donna:

The Madisons were family friends. Duane was friends with one or more of the Madison boys.

Emma:

Tuesday, Oct. 1, 1935: Min & Eva took Pa to doctor to have x-ray taken.

Julie:

Many entries follow referring to visiting Henry, who is "quite sick."

Emma:

Sunday, Oct. 13, 1935: In afternoon we all went to Chris's to see Pa. He's getting worse.

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1935: I sewed on Donna's overcoat made from Duane's.

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 1935: I had permanent wave to town in afternoon.

Julie:

Hulda had been in the hospital with pneumonia.

Emma:

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1935: Henry went along with us to see Hulda in hospital. Father passed away at 7 o'clock in evening.

Julie:

Interesting that in all previous references, he was "Pa" or "Papa." In stating his death, he is "Father."

Emma:

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1935: Had Father's funeral. Gerhart and I to see Hulda in eve and brought her some of the flowers.

Donna:

I remember going to the funeral. The casket was in their home, on a stand. I couldn't see. There were grandkids my age, so I remember they put a stool near the casket so we could climb up. I could see him in the casket.

In some of these homes they had what they called "the teacher's quarters." It was a room with a small sort of kitchen. After Grandpa died, they moved Grandma into it and rented out the rest of the house. Later she moved in with her daughter Kate.

When Grandma was in the teacher's quarters, I can still see it. You walked in the porch and through a door straight into her room. The bed was on the left and the dresser on the right. Then you went through another door. She had a chiropractor's couch in the sitting room and a small kitchen table.

On her table would be a newspaper filled with chamomile buds. She would dry them and make tea. And they were German newspapers!

Minnie and Hulda would sew Grandma's dresses. They came to see her quite a bit. Maybe they brought her food.

I remember when Mom and Dad built a house in Morris she came to visit. She was always worried about where her purse was. While she was there, she saw Dad cleaning the windows and she thought it was a strange man peeking into the house.

Emma:

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1935: Very cold and storming. Went to Christmas program at the church in evening. Put car in garage while in church. Duane had piece in program.

Julie:

This is something the next generation also experienced – being in the Christmas program and saying your "piece."

Donna:

Wasn't that funny! We didn't call it a "recitation." It was a "piece."

1936

Emma:

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1936: We went to Arthur & Lena's for dinner. All the folks there.

Friday, Jan. 3, 1936: Lewis & Mildred here for dinner and the rest of the day.

Sunday, Jan. 5, 1936: To church and Hattie's in forenoon, got our envelopes.

Julie:

Some churches gave each family or confirmed member a box of envelopes, one for each Sunday. Members would bring their contributions in these envelopes. I remember receiving a box, as well as seeing Mom and Dad's box and Grandpa and Grandma's.

Emma:

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 1936: Mr. Fick over here to make out lease. Ger worked in barn all day. I sewed, etc.

Julie:

Which farm location is this?

Donna:

The farm three miles west of Aberdeen.

Emma:

Monday, Jan. 13, 1936: In eve Ger to church meeting. We joined Graeber church.

Donna:

They had moved to town and joined the Aberdeen church.

Emma:

Monday, March 2, 1936: Gerhart went to Rotary Club lunch.

Julie:

Was Grandpa a member?

Donna:

Not that I know of.

Emma:

Tuesday, March 3, 1936: Ger to town. He was judge for election.

Donna:

Dad got involved in county work and they asked him to do a lot of little jobs. That's how he ended up burying the grasshopper poison.

Emma:

Sunday, May 3, 1936: Kate & Otto & Opal here all day. We went to show B. Rogers in afternoon, also to ball game.

Tuesday, May 19, 1936: Ger, Otto & Rowden left for Savannah, Missouri.

Julie:

What was that about?

Donna:

Dad had cancer on his lip. He went to a cancer center in Savannah, Missouri. He used to smoke a pipe and that's how he got cancer on his lip.

Emma:

Friday, May 22, 1936: Ger come home in forenoon.

Sunday, May 24, 1936: Ger moved toilet.

Donna:

We didn't have a toilet. We had an outhouse. Dad moved the outhouse when it got full.

Emma:

Friday, June 5, 1936: Hulda and Henry, Minnie and Ma here.

Wednesday, June 10, 1936: Min & Ed come in evening.

Thursday, June 11, 1936: Donna & I to schoolhouse to Adult Education school.

Sunday, June 28, 1936: Ger started for Missouri at 10:30 o'clock with the bus.

Tuesday, June 30, 1936: Painted Donna's table.

Julie:

This was the desk made by Donna's Grandpa (William Busch)?

Donna:

It was every color at different times! It was white, red, dark green, you name it. If that little desk could talk! The funny part is inside Mom put a piece of linoleum in the bottom of the drawer, and it's still in there! Someday Roland will sit at that little table and scribble.

Julie:

Roland is son of Nate and Hannah Sorenson Koppenhaver (Julie's daughter), who currently have the desk. Roland is Donna's great-grandson.

Emma:

Thursday, July 9, 1936: Ger come home at night 11 o'clock from Savannah, Missouri.

Saturday, July 18, 1936: Jack & Gertie stopped in eve.

Thursday, July 30, 1936: Kate & Otto left for Wisconsin.

Monday, Aug. 3, 1936: Ger to town in forenoon to sign up for P.W.A. relief.

Julie:

Perhaps this was W.P.A.?

Donna:

He also drove gravel truck for the county.

Emma:

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1936: Ger worked in Aberdeen on W.P.A. Shoveled dirt. Working on a road.

Friday, Aug. 28, 1936: President Roosevelt came to Aberdeen. We all went to see him drive through street. Ernie here all night.

Donna:

I don't remember Roosevelt visiting.

Emma:

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1936: School starts. Miss Bergh teaches Donna's first year.

Donna:

Helen. Ah, Helen J. Bergh with an H. Typical old maid. Very stern, excellent teacher, dedicated to her school, never married. Died when she was almost 100. Last couple of years of her life she volunteered at the Aberdeen Museum.

Julie:

I remember meeting Miss Bergh and receiving two older schoolbooks. I devoured them.

Emma:

Thursday, Sept. 10, 1936: WPA workers strike for higher wages. Ger don't work. He comes back home.

Friday, Sept. 11, 1936: Ger to work again on road.

Julie:

Hmm. Strike not successful?

Emma:

Sunday, Sept. 20, 1936: To Graber's church then went to Alma & Ed's from there.

Thursday, Sept. 24, 1936: Ger started working as a farm reporter.

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1936: Ger to work measuring land out west.

Thursday, Oct. 1, 1936: Ger worked at Chandler & Lieson.

Friday, Oct. 16, 1936: Had first PTA meeting. Ger elected Chairman.

Donna:

He was a leader, definitely.

Emma:

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1936: Ger to town to vote. I did not go. Wendts, Fulkers & Lowes here in eve to hear election returns.

Donna:

Shirley Lowe and I started first grade together. The Fulkers lived next door to us.

Emma:

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1936: Ger started working relief, road work again.

1937

Emma:

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1937: I sewed carpet rags and a jumper dress for Donna for school.

Julie:

I remember seeing Grandma Emma sew rags into long strips and crochet them into oval rugs.

Emma:

Sunday, April 18, 1937: We to church, brought Hattie & Peg along. Went back to Aberdeen. 4 o'clock Duane spoke over radio KABR. Kate & Otto here also.

Thursday, May 13, 1937: Ger and I to town to get seed barley. Got soil conservation check, paid debts.

Julie:

How did that program work?

Donna:

The ag programs changed by the whims of Congress. Every year someone got some hare-brained ideas to change the program. That was still happening when I was doing bookkeeping.

Emma:

Wednesday, May 19, 1937: We started selling milk to Beatric Creamery.

Monday, May 24, 1937: Ger plowed conservation acres.

Sunday, June 13, 1937: Ger Donna & I to show. Shirley Temple dimple.

Saturday, July 10, 1937: Ger & Adam bind oats. Duane hauled hog. Had storm and rain in eve.

Julie:

Who was Adam?

Donna:

Could have been a neighbor or unemployed man from town, possibly passing through. They were like day labor, now. Once we had a guy named Tex, and he bought me sheet music of a western theme.

When Grandpa Bierman died, Mom got three cows and some money. Eddie had to fork up the cows. Mom took the money and bought me a piano. Not the one we had when you were growing up.

Emma:

Thursday, Aug. 12, 1937: We drove over the overhead in morning for first time taking milk.

Julie:

Was this a new overpass?

Donna:

This was an overpass they built over all the train tracks that ran along the west side of Aberdeen to serve the stockyards. We lived three miles from the overpass.

Emma:

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 1937: Donna to school and to Normal Student teachers, brot her home in eve.

Julie:

Did you have a live-in student teacher?

Donna:

There were four schools on four sides of Aberdeen. Brookside was on the west. Riverside was on the south, Parkway was on the east, and there was one on the north. They were all connected to the teacher's college and the college furnished the schools with practice teachers. They were kinda special schools. We got into a lot of stuff that others didn't get.

Emma:

Saturday, Oct. 9, 1937: We all to Aberdeen to Gypsie parade. Duane and Donna in it.

Julie:

What was a Gypsy parade?

Donna:

Northern Teacher's College had an annual parade. The children got to participate, riding on the floats. One year us girls had to learn to dance the maypole dance. We wore pastel spring dresses.

Emma:

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1937: I along to town. Went to Viola's trial.

Julie:

Hmm?

Donna:

I don't know.

Emma:

Monday, Dec. 13, 1937: Got Donna's doll.

Donna:

Homeliest thing I ever saw. Big long legs on it.

1938

Emma:

Thursday, March 3, 1938: Ger hauled gravel (township work) all day.

Wednesday, March 23, 1938: Kids got vaccinated for smallpox and diphtheria.

Tuesday, May 31, 1938: We all to Normal Auditorium. Duane graduated from eighth grade.

Julie:

Did he graduate from 12th?

Donna:

No. He attended about one year of high school and didn't like it, so he quit.

Emma:

Friday, June 3, 1938: Ger plowed for cane.

Julie:

What was this crop?

Donna:

Cane was like corn. You fed it to animals like corn or grain.

Emma:

Friday, July 29, 1938: Ger out measuring land.

Julie:

Many prior entries about Ger measuring land, other people measuring their land. What was that all about?

Donna:

It had to do with the agricultural programs.

Emma:

Monday, Oct. 10, 1938: Ger to jury.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1938: Duane got new horn.

Julie:

What instrument?

Donna:

Duane never had an instrument. Maybe it was a horn for his car. His car was an old Dodge pickup.

1939

Emma:

Saturday, Jan. 28, 1939: Duane took music lesson.

Donna:

I don't know what kind of music lesson he took. I have no idea. Duane was about as unmusical as you could get.

Emma:

Sunday, Feb. 5, 1939: We all to church in eve, Walther League, Parent night, played star checkers.

Julie:

What was Walther League?

Donna:

It was a young people's group at the church.

Emma:

Friday, April 28, 1939: Donna broke out with measles.

Donna:

I was a sick girl. My mother had to put blankets over the windows because the light hurt my eyes.

Emma:

Thursday, May 4, 1939: Duane come down with measles.

Sunday, May 14, 1939: We to Mins celebrate Ma & Mr. Schnittger's birthday. Bill's went along, took car to Chelsea.

Julie:

"Ma," Lottie Bierman, was 69, born May 11, 1870.

Mr. August Schnittger was 74 years old, born May 10, 1865. He is younger brother to Anne Schnittger Boekelheide, Lottie's mother, so August was Lottie's uncle. August's son, Ed, married Lottie's daughter, Minnie, although they were first cousins.

August Schnittger married a notable woman named Sophia Luise Charlotte Duvenreick. Her father, Conrad Duvenreick had two successive wives, bearing him six and seven children, respectively. Of the 13 children, only three survived to adulthood. Most died in their first year.

Sophia, the eldest survivor, came to the Mansfield area. She died May 4, 1933, at the age of 72. Another surviving sister was Caroline Wilhelmine Charlotte Duvenreick, who married Oskar C. Bittner and lived in the Mansfield area. She died February 1958 and is buried at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mansfield.

The fate of the third surviving daughter is unknown.

Emma:

Tuesday, May 23, 1939: Ger grass hopped in morning.

Donna:

Okay, that must have been when we had all the grasshoppers. I don't know if he ran the machine and went from neighbor to neighbor. The county put a lot of faith in my Dad.

Emma:

Thursday, June 1, 1939: Carpenters here in afternoon to jack up the house.

Donna:

I didn't know that.

Emma:

Monday, June 5, 1939: Ger spread poison towards Mansfield.

Donna:

I don't know what he did or how it worked. I have no idea.

Emma:

Friday, Aug. 18, 1939: Grandpa Runge died.

Donna:

I met Grandma Runge when I was 18. I didn't know Grandpa Runge. That would have been my Grandma Louise's step-dad. They were actually my great-grandparents.

Julie:

John Peter Runge died Aug. 12, 1939, in Clarence, Iowa. He was the second husband of the widowed Louise Elizabeth Ditz. Her first husband was Frederick Reseweher. (Pronounced "RES ah veer." "Runge" is pronounced "Rung," like a bell.)

Emma:

Friday, Sept. 22, 1939: Ger out with vet again.

Julie:

This notation was repeated for several days.

Donna:

I don't know. He may have had a job helping the veterinarian. It's new to me.

Emma:

Friday, Nov. 17, 1939: Hulda, Henry, Ma and us went to Rhame, N.D. to see Lewis. Got there at 4:30 p.m. Very nice day.

Sunday, Nov. 19, 1939: We took dinner along and went to burning coal mine 95 miles from Rhame. We roasted wieners there, too.

Donna:

That was the trip I told you about. Well, it was just that they picked us up and we went to Rhame. Nothing more. One quirk: I wanted to write but I didn't bring any note paper, so I used a wrapper that we had around some meat, and that became my tablet. I suppose it was like sausage or something, so it wasn't bloody. I must have been in about the third grade. I remember going to the burning coal mine the next day. But I don't remember anything about the mine.

Julie:

Entries for 1939 end here.

1940

Emma:

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1940: Ger & Duane to see fight in eve.

Sunday, June 16, 1940: In eve drove to Wylie Park for Donna to swim.

Monday, June 30, 1940: Ger measured east of town. Mr. Gibbs died. Ger found him by his tractor.

Julie:

The last sentence was underlined by Emma. She rarely underlines in her diaries.

Emma:

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 1940: We to town. Donna got permanent wave at Betty's, first one she has.

Saturday, Sept. 7, 1940: Ger & Duane stack hay.

Julie:

Did Duane get paid for his work on the farm? Did Donna?

Donna:

No.

Emma:

Friday, Oct. 18, 1940: Ernie and Hilda come towards eve, here for supper. They are married.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 1940: Ger, Donna and I to town. We bought Donna's piano. Kate and Otto here. Otto brought it out.

1941

Emma:

Tuesday, March 4, 1941: Election Day. Ger went. He is one of the judges. In eve we all went to Bath to an electrification meeting. To Wards after that.

Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941: Kate and Otto, Ma, Ed and Alma, Art and Lena here, windy and dusty around noon but better towards eve. Wendts and Fulkers here in eve.

Julie:

Added on top: "War declared against United States."

Emma:

Monday, Dec. 8, 1941: United States in war.

1942

Emma:

Monday, March 16, 1942: Duane started welding school.

Wednesday, April 1, 1942: Duane at tractor school.

Wednesday, June 10, 1942: Hulda and Heinie stopped here and got single bed for Duane at Mansfield.

Friday, June 12, 1942: Duane works for Koester, Mansfield, been there one week.

Saturday, June 27, 1942: Duane come home.

Tuesday, June 30, 1942: Duane had to register.

Saturday, July 4, 1942: We all to Madison, took Ger's folks along. Stayed there all night. We drove to Hilda's farm.

Monday, July 20, 1942: Donna and I took Duane to train.

Tuesday, July 21, 1942: Duane left for Oregon 8 o'clock in morning from Trail City.

Friday, Oct. 30, 1942: Duane come home from Oregon in eve.

1943

Julie:

Many blanks. Is this the year you moved to the farm east of Aberdeen?

Donna:

Yes.

Emma:

Saturday, Feb. 28, 1943: Duane comes back from Chris's.

Monday, June 21, 1943: Mr. and Mrs. Shaw with kids here in evening to visit us.

Julie:

First reference noted to Shaw family. Betty Shaw will marry Duane Busch.

Emma:

Thursday, Dec. 2, 1943: Duane works at Loomis Garage when not at Railroad.

Thursday, Dec. 23, 1943: Had Christmas program Parkway School. Miss Ristau teacher.

Donna:

She was my teacher at Parkway School starting in the middle of the sixth grade. She ended up marrying my first teacher, Helen Bergh's brother, Gordon.

1944

Emma:

Thursday, Jan. 13, 1944: Duane had life insured.

Julie:

Was this likely Aid Association for Lutherans, now Thrivent?

Donna:

Probably.

Emma:

Monday, Jan. 20, 1944: Ger to Rotary lunch and committee meeting.

Julie:

If he was on a committee, he likely was a member.

Donna:

I'm assuming, and it's only a guess, but I'm guessing that he was invited to Rotary because of his county work.

Emma:

Saturday, April 1, 1944: Kate moved in Sixth Ave. Ger helped them.

Donna:

Kate and Otto bought this house on Sixth Avenue. They moved there from an apartment. It was very convenient when the relatives came to town. (Chuckles.)

Emma:

Sunday, April 2, 1944: Donna got confirmed today.

Donna:

We lived east of Aberdeen. It was a warm, sunny day and Mother and Dad hosted their brothers and sisters. Lewis and Mildred were there from Indiana and she was pregnant with Kenny. Opal, Marvelyn and I had our picture taken on a little red wagon like our parents took the same picture when we were babies. It was Palm Sunday.

Emma:

Monday, April 24, 1944: Ger starts work in the Co-op.

Donna:

Okay. Dad didn't like farming, so this job at the Co-Op station was waiting on customers, filling up their gas tanks and so forth.

Emma:

Tuesday, May 2, 1944: I was judge at election all day. Ger in Co-Op.

Tuesday, May 16, 1944: We bought house in Aberdeen on Grant Street. Paid down \$100 to carpenter.

Donna:

Before leaving the farm east of town, Dad had an auction sale and sold all our farm equipment. I remember my mother sold Duane's and my child's wooden rocker and we got 50 cents for it. We then moved to the Grant Street house which was across the street from Northern State Teacher's College.

It was a two-story and Dad did a lot of updates to it. He took out a wall between the dining room and living room and because it needed structure, he put a section of railroad track (yes, an iron track!) in the ceiling where the two rooms connected. I've often wondered, when the house was demolished many years later, what the people thought of finding railroad track in the ceiling!

This house had, I think, three bedrooms and a bath upstairs. The main floor was the living room, dining room, kitchen and one bedroom. It had an open stairway to the second floor. When Dad bought the house, the basement was a dirt floor. Mother sent me to the basement one day and I stepped on a rat. Soon after, Dad put a cement floor in the basement.

Emma:

Monday, June 5, 1944: Invasion took place in Europe.

Saturday, June 17, 1944: Had big tornado at Bath. Shaws and us went down in eve to see it.

Donna:

I remember seeing this tornado in the distance east of Aberdeen when mother and I were downtown shopping. My piano teacher's home was demolished. He and his wife survived by standing in an attached entryway. The tornado took the house but not the entryway. Lots of damage and deaths.

Emma:

Wednesday, Aug. 23, 1944: Donna and I worked at house in town. Washed kitchen.

Monday, Aug. 28, 1944: Donna and I to town. I got permanent from La Verne's shop where she worked.

Donna:

La Verne was wife of Gerhart's brother, Bill. I drove the car. Apparently, we hadn't moved into the town house, yet.

Emma:

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1944: Donna to high school first day. She took Duane's car.

Donna:

I went to Simmons Junior High in the ninth grade. Our neighbor's sister from western South Dakota lived next door and we walked to school and back. Her name was Mary Lee.

Emma:

Friday, Nov. 10, 1944: Jack and Gertie put in the kitchen cupboards. Had housewarming party on us in eve.

Julie:

All dates after Nov. 18, 1944, are blank.

1945

Julie:

Jan. 1 through 15 is by Emma.

Jan. 16 through Feb. 8 is blank.

Feb. 9 through 28 is by Duane as he entered the Army. See the transcript in the Appendix.

Feb. 29 through May 28 is blank.

May 29 Emma's writing resumes.

Emma:

Tuesday, May 29, 1945: Donna's last day of school.

Tuesday, June 5, 1945: Donna took swim lesson and took care of Pam Ness all day. Got card from Duane. Arkansas.

Donna:

Pam and her parents lived in an upstairs apartment around the corner from our house. They spent a lot of time at the country club gambling and drinking. I took care of Pam so much and she was at our house many days and nights. She and my Dad got along marvelously. He played with her a lot. She was probably five or six years old. One of her games was to hide my Dad's socks in the refrigerator. Many times, when

the parents came home from the country club he would give me a handful of change for babysitting. And I would go home and wake up my folks and count my money sitting on their bed. I usually walked home alone whatever time of the night it was. I was paid pretty well.

Emma:

Tuesday, June 26, 1945: Duane sent telegram. Come home from Camp Robinson, Arkansas, 10:30 in eve.

Tuesday, July 3, 1945: East bunch had party on Duane in eve.

Monday, July 9, 1945: Duane left for Camp Adair, Oregon, in evening. We had supper in cafe before he left.

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 1945: Duane left for overseas this morning.

Tuesday, Aug. 7, 1945: Got letter from Duane. He is in San Francisco, California now.

Thursday, Aug. 9, 1945: We think war is nearly over.

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 1945: Japs surrendered today. We heard it over radio at about 6 o'clock in eve. Celebrate in eve. Had parade, etc. Donna along with Jack.

Wednesday, Aug. 29, 1945: We get first letter from Duane wrote from somewhere at sea. Hadn't heard for four weeks.

Thursday, Sept. 13, 1945: Donna had birthday party, 14 girls.

Donna:

Don't remember that, either. I didn't think I had that many friends.

Emma:

Friday, Sept. 14, 1945: We got letter from Duane that he is in the Philippines. Luzon.

Sunday, Sept. 23, 1945: Betty here all day.

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 1945: Betty hears from Duane.

Thursday, Oct. 11, 1945: Donna went to choir practice with car.

Donna:

Oh, yeah. At St. Paul's. Every Sunday the choir sang "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise" as people were walking out. It really became one of my favorite hymns.

Julie:

Mom told me as a child that she wanted this hymn sung at her funeral. Thereafter, I would choke up every time we sang it in church. From The Lutheran Hymnal, page 47, Copyright 1941.

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.
Once more we bless Thee, ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our Balm in sorrow and our Stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

Julie:

It's really hard to type with sentimental tears in your eyes.

Emma:

Thursday, Oct. 18, 1945: We got four letters from Duane. He sent four hankies and money. Yens, etc., Japanese money.

Sunday, Nov. 25, 1945: Mr. Steger's house burned down with him in it in evening.

Donna:

That would have been Kate's father-in-law, Otto's father.

Emma:

Thursday, Dec. 6, 1945: Got letter from Duane. Japan. He is sergeant now.

1946

Emma:

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 1946: Got letter from Duane yesterday. He's in Osaka now in the Red Cross work.

Donna:

He showed movies. He ran the rec center. That was one of his jobs.

Emma:

Sunday, April 7, 1946: Hulda and Heinie and Ma here already at 8:30. Hulda gave me a Toni permanent wave. Kate and Otto also here.

Monday, April 8, 1946: Got letter from Duane with his picture on silk. Ger is in Savannah, Missouri.

Monday, April 15, 1946: Ger come home from Missouri in eve, 10:30 on bus.

Donna:

That must have been when he had a checkup on the cancer on his lip.

Emma:

Monday, May 13, 1946: Got letter from Duane. He changed jobs and is in Kobe again.

Wednesday, June 5, 1946: Two Normal students ironed in Duane's room. We got \$20 a month.

Donna:

They were summer school students at the college.

Emma:

Tuesday, June 25, 1946: Donna paints on garage.

Donna:

I painted the house, but I don't remember painting the garage. The house was a two-story and Dad built a scaffolding with a railing so I wouldn't fall. I was scared to death up there. When it come to painting the peak of the house on the west side, I refused.

Emma:

Wednesday, July 3, 1946: The girls in Duane's room went home tonight.

Sunday, Aug. 4, 1946: Donna and the girls upstairs went to church.

Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1946: We got letter from Kobe, Japan, from Duane that he was leaving there for home Sept. 15.

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 1946: Duane called up from Washington that he had landed there from Japan.

Monday, Oct. 28, 1946: Duane come home on train in afternoon from Japan. Landed in Tacoma, Washington.

Sunday, Nov. 10, 1946: Went to Berghs for Betty's shower.

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1946: I to Kohes, she has a shower for Betty.

Sunday, Nov. 17, 1946: Duane and Betty were married at 4 o'clock. Had a supper at Ranch Cafe and to Shaws in evening.

Donna:

I was the bridesmaid. John Shaw was the best man. Duane sent Japanese silk for Betty's wedding dress.

Emma:

Monday, Nov. 18, 1946: Duane & Betty left for Washington in afternoon.

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1946: We went to Betty and Duane's. They showed pictures of the wedding on moving picture.

1947

Emma:

Saturday, June 14, 1947: We started out for trip to Iowa early in morning. Got there in evening. Leo Resewehr.

Donna:

I was 18. I think so. I spent a lot of time with Darlene Resewehr. We became close friends. We corresponded for many years and she and her husband visited us at our lake home many years later.

Emma:

Sunday, June 15, 1947: Martha and Fred, Dorothy and family were all over to Leo's. Had picnic lunch.

Monday, June 16, 1947: We went to Fred and Martha's in morning. They went along with us and we went to Charlie's. Also took Hans along.

Donna:

Charlie and Hans were on the Busch side of the family, not the Resewehr side.

Emma:

Friday, June 20, 1947: We went to Louie Busch's for dinner and to Gustie Portewig for supper. At Gustie's all night.

Donna:

Gustie. She was a favorite of my Dad's. Good sense of humor, always joking. A fun lady.

Emma:

Saturday, June 21, 1947: We at Hank Portwig's. We all went to Davenport, Iowa, saw a Little Bit of Heaven.

Donna:

A Little Bit of Heaven was a gift shop. Mother bought a creamer and pitcher as a remembrance of the trip.

1948

Emma:

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1948: I went back to work at Normal from 10 to 1 o'clock.

Donna:

Dad was starting to establish his bottle gas business in Jamestown, so Mother got a job in the "Wolves Den." It was a social commons area for students. It's where they all hung out. She did kitchen work like cutting pies and so forth. This was the only time my mother ever worked out of the house, other than the farm.

Emma:

Saturday, Oct. 9, 1948: We moved from Aberdeen to Jamestown. Mike helped move. Donna went back with him. Duane and Betty also helped us.

Donna:

Mother and I, with my babysitting and salary from my bookkeeping job at a feed and seed store, paid all our bills in Aberdeen so that Dad had money to build the bottle gas plant. The summer before that I had a job working for Langenfeld Creamery and that never came up in her notes. I wrote out the checks for cream and helped the butter-maker wrap butter for sale. It was just a summer job, but I enjoyed it. That should have been in there the year before.

Emma:

Thursday, Oct. 14, 1948: Donna sold our green Plymouth car in Aberdeen.

Donna:

Dad left our fairly new green Plymouth with me in Aberdeen with a for sale sign in the window, and I sold the car. He needed every penny he could get to get the gas business.

Emma:

Saturday, Oct. 30, 1948: We live in Jamestown now. We went to Betty and Duane's today.

Donna:

Later Betty and Duane lived in the basement of our first house on 10th Street, a small two-bedroom house. Basically, a four-bedroom house, and we had a breakfast nook. It was a tiny kitchen.

1949

Emma:

Monday, Jan. 31, 1949: Mr. Berg from Aberdeen called in eve. Wants Donna to come back.

Donna:

He was my boss at the feed and seed store. I didn't remember that.

Emma:

Friday, April 15, 1949: Betty and Ginny come along with Ger to stay until Sunday.

Julie:

First found mention of Virginia, born 1947.

Emma:

Monday, June 20, 1949: We had convention at church. We had two ministers all night and for breakfast.

Donna:

In that little house? Where did they stay?

End of 1949.

1958

Julie:

Only a few notations and a bit of narrative about a road trip in March 1958.

Emma:

Thursday, March 13, 1958: Got our car door torn off in front of Bay Hotel on Lindon Ave. Stopped to see Charlie Haselhorst.

Friday, March 14, 1958: Saw Charlie. Had a nice visit with him.

1961

Emma:

Friday, Feb. 10, 1961: Scott had tonsils and adenoids taken out.

Saturday, Feb. 11, 1961: Went to Donna's, New Ulm. Came home 13th.

Donna:

Yeah, that's when Larry worked at Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota.

Emma:

Saturday, March 25, 1961: Donna and Larry come about 4 o'clock in afternoon. First time Julie ever was here, 3 ½ months old.

Tuesday, April 4, 1961: Ger and I went to Park Rapids, met Donna and Larry there. Made a bid on Motel located on edge of Park Rapids.

Saturday, April 22, 1961: Larry and Ger went to Glenwood. Look at resorts, etc.

Sunday, April 23, 1961: Stopped at Glenwood and looked at a house near lake that was for sale.

Sunday, April 30, 1961: Ger and I went to Glenwood after church. Met Cofield and bought the lake shore house at Minnewaska Lake and three lots. Paid \$7,750.

Donna:

The old Minnewaska lake house.

Emma:

Monday, May 8, 1961: We cleaned the house we bought at the lake. Scrubbed floors. Duane put in the floor hanging furnace and Larry scrubbed with electric machine. All of us brought furniture, dishes, bedding, etc. Duane took his house trailer, left it there.

Donna:

Yes, this was the angle-iron and plywood fishing house. The "Head-Knocker." My Dad helped Duane build it and it had an iron frame and the door was kinda short, and every time the men went through it, they knocked their head.

Emma:

Monday, May 29, 1961: Got call from Iowa, Martha. Joe Ditz died last night at 2 o'clock. Funeral is going to be May 31.

Thursday, June 8, 1961: Ger making plans to sell plant. A man was there all day figuring out thing with him.

Sunday, June 11, 1961: Virginia examined for confirmation.

Monday, June 12, 1961: Bob Ingersoll still in hospital.

Donna:

Bob and his wife, Andy, rented a basement apartment in Mom and Dad's house he built on Third Avenue in Jamestown. They became close friends, were very musical. She played the piano. He played the violin. They spent many hours every evening playing.

Emma:

Sunday, June 18, 1961: Virginia was confirmed. Art Highlands, Donna and Larry and Shaws and Mrs. Keller and us all to Duane's for dinner. Had picnic.

Donna:

Art Highland was a friend of Duane's from church in Aberdeen. Betty and Duane and Arthur and his wife were very close friends.

Emma:

Wednesday, June 21, 1961: Got letter from the attorney from Iowa of Joe Ditz will.

Donna:

Leona Boekelheide Van Matre's husband was a lawyer and he instigated a plan for contesting Joe Ditz's will. He wanted Dad and others to contribute \$1,000 each to fight Joe Ditz's will. My Dad said NO. But Bill and Ernie, Dad's brothers, participated. Van Matre's plan never came to fruition. And Bill and Ernie were each out \$1,000. My Dad was not greedy.

Emma:

(Undated) July 1961: Donna and Larry sold their house in New Ulm, Minn.

Donna:

My dad called Larry the evening before we were going to go to Bemidji for Larry's job offer at the college in Bemidji. Dad told Larry he'd bought the hardware in Chokio and

wanted us to move to Chokio and work at the hardware store. He convinced Larry that our family should all be living together. I objected. I told Larry that it was not a good idea. But my Dad won out. We never went to Bemidji, but to Chokio instead.

Emma:

Tuesday, July 18, 1961: We sold the bottle gas plant today.

Friday, Aug. 11, 1961: Duane took Betty to the hospital for surgery.

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 1961: Betty has operation 9:30 a.m. Shaws here.

Monday, Aug. 21, 1961: I had treatment, X-Ray at Dr. Paul's for neck and back.

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 1961: Betty comes home from hospital, feels good.

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1961: Jay had measles. First, he had mumps. Then Scott got them. Julie so far has not had either one.

Donna:

That was in New Ulm.

1962

Emma:

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1962: John Glenn took the orbital flight around the world in a space capsule. It was all on TV and was interesting. It was 17,500 mile an hour flight around the globe.

Thursday, March 1, 1962: Ger and I went to Minneapolis to a Coast-to-Coast meeting.

Donna:

I don't know why they would have gone there. Oh, I know. They were looking at the hardware store and thinking of turning it into a Coast-to-Coast store.

Emma:

Thursday, March 8, 1962: Come home again from Glenwood. Stopped there to look at Gamble store. Was there at hotel at night.

Tuesday, March 20, 1962: Ger went to Glenwood, met Larry there to look at the Gamble store again. Duane and Betty to Billings, Montana, for Bottle Gas convention.

Thursday, March 29, 1962: Ger and I to Chokio, Minnesota, to look at the hardware store. Ginny to Fargo for FHA meeting.

Tuesday, April 10, 1962: Ger called Paul Dorweiler, Chokio, Minnesota. Let him know we decided to buy the hardware in Chokio.

Saturday, April 14, 1962: Donna and Larry come. Ger got them from Paynesville, Minnesota. Their car broke down. Put in new motor.

Tuesday, April 17, 1962: Ger and Larry went to Chokio, look over the hardware store there.

Monday, April 23, 1962: Donna and Larry left. Ger and Duane took them and stayed in Chokio.

Sunday, May 20, 1962: Duane sold his house. Also piano.

Thursday, Sept. 13, 1962: Ger and I at Chokio. I and Julie fell downstairs at Donna's. Come home same day. Hurt my back. Julie not hurt.

Julie:

I always felt bad to realize that Grandma probably got hurt worse because she was trying to protect me during the fall.

Emma:

Sunday, Sept. 23, 1962: We celebrate our 40th anniversary in church basement.

Donna:

In Jamestown.

Emma:

Saturday, Sept. 29, 1962: Donna and Larry moved into Chris Baumgartner's house in Chokio.

Donna:

There was an old, dilapidated house on Main Street, and I was very unhappy. I was pregnant with David and wanted to be a part of the hardware store. This house on Main Street was damp and cold and ugly. And I complained. Somehow, and I don't know the particulars, the Baumgartners agreed to exchange houses. So, on the same day we moved into their house on the corner and they moved into ours. I remember one of the funny things was that we moved a jug of bleach two or three times between houses. It was the Baumgartner's bleach. I was glad to get out of that house, and why they wanted to move in there, I'll never know.

Emma:

Monday, Nov. 19, 1962: Started putting in the ditch for water and sewer on our lot at Morris. Dug the basement.

Donna:

Oh, yeah. That was the house Mom and Dad built in Morris. I don't know where Dad stayed while they were building the house. I have no idea. Betty and Duane lived in an apartment over the hardware store.

Emma:

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 1962: Carpenters finish laying the blocks in basement at Morris house.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1962: Hulda went to St. Luke's Hospital for operation but no hope for her cancer.

1963

Emma:

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1963: David Wayne was born. Was two weeks old before I saw him.

Donna:

Mother was still in Jamestown.

Emma:

Thursday, Jan. 31, 1963: Hulda passed away 5:30 a.m. Buried Feb. 4, 1963.

Donna:

David was only two weeks old when Hulda died. We left him with the principal's wife. I don't know where we left the others. Maybe they took all the kids. I can't imagine we saddled her with all of you and a two-week old baby.

Emma:

Tuesday, July 2, 1963: Ger and I went to Mrs. Heller's funeral.

Donna:

Betty's grandmother. That would have been in Aberdeen.

Emma:

Saturday, Aug. 3, 1963: Bought our Singer sewing machine, \$100.

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 1963: Gerhart went to Jamestown to finish selling apartment house there, \$22,500.

Saturday, Sept. 14, 1963: Quints were born in Aberdeen to Fishers. They lived in ElRoy Harrington house on the farm.

Monday, Sept. 16, 1963: Kate and Otto come to get Mother. She's been here for three weeks. First time here in Morris.

Donna:

I remember I went to town with you and David, and you were afraid of her. I didn't remember that she was there three weeks. They were in the new house in Morris already.

Emma:

Saturday, Sept. 21, 1963: Our hardware was robbed. Broke in last night.

Donna:

No details, but I remember it was broken into.

Emma:

Saturday, Oct. 5, 1963: Libby's boy got shot in duck hunt boat at Herman.

Friday, Oct. 18, 1963: Gerhart took me to Aberdeen. Minnie called, said Mother was sick. Stayed at Kate's.

Saturday, Oct. 19, 1963: Mother in a coma all day.

Sunday, Oct. 20, 1963: Mother passed away last night at 12:10.

Friday, Nov. 22, 1963: President Kennedy was shot in Dallas, Texas, at 1 o'clock. He was dead. Mrs. Kennedy was with him in a car.

Donna:

Scott was home from school. Wait, would he have been in school? He wasn't in school yet. He was watching television. I was making pajamas for all you kids. And he came running into the kitchen hollering the President is dead. Watched TV pretty much for three days.

Emma:

Sunday, Nov. 24, 1963: Ger and I went to Chokio Junior Class play. Ginny was in it.

1964

Emma:

Sunday, Jan. 5, 1964: We to church at Johnson. Virginia played organ all through for the first time, done good.

Monday, March 23, 1964: Bought house in Chokio, Minn., \$16,400.

Donna:

It was next door to us.

Emma:

Thursday, June 11, 1964: Larry in hospital. Took him in at 7.

Tuesday, June 16, 1964: Larry and Donna and family at Fish Lake, Roland's cabin.

Julie:

I remember seeing a chipmunk at their cabin and playing a "Cooties" game.

Emma:

Undated, between Aug. 1-17, 1964: Sold lake house to Johnson, traded for building in Chokio.

Sunday, Sept. 6, 1964: Betty and Duane are in New Ulm to see Virginia. She goes to school there. Their first time to see her.

1965

Emma:

Friday, Feb. 19, 1965: Donna went to hospital at 4:30 p.m. on 18th, had a little girl at 1 o'clock at night. 9 pounds and 4 ounces.

Monday, Feb. 22, 1965: Donna comes home from hospital with Lisa Marlene in a.m.

Wednesday, March 17, 1965: Worst blizzard we've had. Larry couldn't come home from Morris. Schools all closed. I couldn't see the meat locker (across the street and half a block away) from here.

Sunday, March 21, 1965: Lisa was baptized in Johnson church and I was there to church.

Tuesday, April 13, 1965: Heinie got married again.

May (undated), 1965: Julie, Lisa and Jay have the chickenpox. Scott over them.

Thursday, May 6, 1965: Hurt my leg. Guess pulling weeds.

Sunday, June 20, 1965: Had family picnic at Melgaard Park.

Friday, June 25, 1965: I still limp some days. My leg is better. Larry hired a man fry cook at Country Club.

Sunday, June 27, 1965: Chris and Eva leaving for Europe on July 1.

Monday, Aug. 9, 1965: Sold lake lot.

Thursday, Aug. 12, 1965: Went to Dr. Toensing for my knee. It got worse. He took X-rays.

Friday, Aug. 13, 1965: Went back to doctor. He gave me treatment, seemed to help same day.

Thursday, Aug. 19, 1965: Ger, Ginny and I made trip to Idaho to see Ernie. Got to Ernie's Saturday, Aug. 21, stayed in motel at Blackfoot and left again Monday. Got home again Sept. 2.

Thursday, Sept. 9, 1965: Scott and I took treatment at Dr. Toensing for my legs and back. Scott also for his back.

Thursday, Oct. 28, 1965: Betty took Duane to Fargo to get a checkup at the Hospital. Betty came home, Duane stay in hospital. Don't know anything yet.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 1965: Jay and Scott here all night. Bea and Mrs. Stillwell at Donna's.

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 1965: We got our first social security check. \$2626.50.

Saturday, Nov. 6, 1965: Ginny come home from New Ulm, stayed until 9th. Come with her own car.

1966

Emma:

Friday, March 4, 1966: Worst blizzard we had all winter. Schools all closed. I had an appointment with Dr. Toensing and couldn't go.

Saturday, March 5, 1966: Big blizzard again. No cars travel, had real big blizzard in South Dakota and North Dakota. Some people froze to death.

Monday, March 7, 1966: Duane and Betty moved into the new house across from the hardware store. Carpet was put down in the morning.

Donna:

That's when Dad remodeled the old implement building.

Emma:

Sunday, July 10, 1966: Ger and I start for Rochester, Minnesota, but come back. Could not get in. So we went back on July 15th. Went through clinic, then hospital. Had operation on spine 28th of July.

1967

Emma:

Monday, Jan. 16, 1967: Fair in morning but turned cold in a few hours. Kids all went to school. Real bad blizzard. Could not travel. School buses had hard time. Some stalled and one went into ditch. Bus got home here around 5 p.m. Kids all were fed at

school, then stayed all night at homes. Donna's and Duane's both had some of the children at their place all night.

Julie:

See my website, www.juliesorenson.com for the blog on the Chokio Bus Rescue.

Emma:

Monday, Jan. 23, 1967: Duane got sick towards eve. Called doctor to come, then took him to Morris Hospital. Had heart attack. Virginia home from New Ulm.

Thursday, March 16, 1967: Ginny comes home from New Ulm.

Saturday, April 8, 1967: Bought little farm one mile east of Chokio from Ed Heuer.

Sunday, May 28, 1967: Mrs. Fischer died in hospital. Had a heart attack.

Tuesday, June 6, 1967: Ginny come home from New Ulm.

Sunday, June 18, 1967: We all to Aberdeen Bierman Reunion picnic. Big crowd, 150, held at Wylie Park. Jay, Scott, and Julie sang, and Jay and Scott had a skit. Lewis and Mildred, Gilbert and family and Kenny there, too. Fred Bierman family entertain next year.

Julie:

I remember singing with Jay and Scott "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways," page 416 in The Lutheran Hymnal, copyright 1941.

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways, To keep His statutes still!

Oh, that the Lord would grant me grace, To know and do his will.

Order my footsteps by Thy Word, And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in Thy commands – Tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands, Offend against my God.

Emma:

Tuesday, June 27, 1967: Wisconsin trip.

Sunday, Sept. 24, 1967: We and Duane's and Donna's families went to Ike's.

Julie:

Ike's Chicken Shack in rural Browns Valley, Minnesota.

Emma:

Sunday, Oct. 15, 1967: Gerhart left for Rochester to get an appointment for checkup at the clinic.

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 1967: Donna and I, David, Lisa went to Montevideo. Donna had green stamps.

Donna:

Green Stamps. What do we say? Green Stamps were given with purchases of merchandise at grocery stores. When you got a book full you could trade it in for other merchandise. There was a redemption center in Montevideo. I wonder if we didn't go there for Lisa's braces. But no, we wouldn't be living in Ivanhoe yet.

Emma:

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1967: Ger got home from Rochester in eve. 7 p.m. The tests he had all checked out good.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1967: Donna took Larry to Hospital 11:30 at night. Nerves again.

Sunday, Dec. 24, 1967: Ginny come home. They all here for dinner except Larry and Donna, as Larry went to hospital, but all the children here.

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1967: Larry come home from hospital. They went to Lisbon in afternoon.

1968

Emma:

Friday, Feb. 16, 1968: We start out for Arizona.

Saturday, Feb. 28, 1968: Bought some beach towels for the grandkids.

Julie:

Was this where we got that hilarious "Miss America" beach towel?

Emma:

Saturday, March 9, 1968: Got home at 4:30 p.m.

Monday, March 25, 1968: Ger and I to Minneapolis to see the Our Own Hardware man.

Wednesday, March 27, 1968: Larry and Donna talking of going to Oregon.

Wednesday, April 17, 1968: Donna busy packing up for moving to Oregon. Later decided not to go.

Thursday, May 2, 1968: Donna and Larry, Julie, David, and Lisa left for Oregon to look it over there.

Monday, May 13, 1968: Donna and Larry come back from Oregon at 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 18, 1968: Took David to hospital. Has sore throat. It bad. Doc don't know what it is.

Wednesday, June 5, 1968: Robert Kennedy was shot.

Wednesday, June 19, 1968: Picnic and carnival in town.

Monday, July 1, 1968: Duane went to hospital in Willmar. Larry took him.

Julie:

Willmar State Hospital, for alcoholism treatment.

Emma:

Saturday, July 6, 1968: Ger and I to Willmar to see Duane. He was real good.

Thursday, July 11, 1968: We all to Willmar for Duane's birthday.

Julie:

I recall being asked to go to grocery store to buy a birthday card for Duane. I found one that featured a moose pushing a drink cart. It said, "Here is a card to bring you some cheer. What would you like... bourbon or beer?" I thought it was funny and bought it. Mom made me go exchange the card.

In the past I have laughed with my siblings as we recalled the trip to Willmar. We were eating fresh cherries and throwing the pits out the windows at the cars behind us.

Emma:

Friday, July 19, 1968: Duane come home from Willmar. Goes back Sunday. Roland Stillwell come to start on Donna's house.

Friday, July 26, 1968: Roland laying blocks for Donna and Larry's farm house. Also, Barry digging new well there.

Thursday, Aug. 1, 1968: Donna and Larry moved to farm.

Julie:

At first, we lived in a very old home on the property that was later removed.

Emma:

Sunday, Aug. 4, 1968: Duane come home from Willmar. Ginny and Dennis come from St. Cloud, too.

Saturday, Aug. 10, 1968: Jay fell from tree and broke his foot at the farm.

Julie:

Much, much later in life Jay discovered that his back had been broken, too.

Emma:

Friday, Sept. 13, 1968: Got foundation done for new house.

Saturday, Sept. 14, 1968: Ginny's wedding.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 1968: Donna and Larry to our church. Kids went to Sunday School.

Sunday, Oct. 20, 1968: Went to church, then to Ellendale to see Bill, but he had passed away 10 minutes to noon. We got there at 2 o'clock.

Donna:

That was Bill Busch, Gerhart's younger brother. He died of cancer. He was married to Marie.

Emma:

Saturday, Nov. 9, 1968: Donna and Larry move into their new house.

Sunday, Nov. 10, 1968: Went to church then moved bed, dresser, deep freeze, dryer, stove, table, etc. Duane, Dennis, Larry helped.

Saturday, Nov. 23, 1968: We moved everything today, our clothes and all out of garage too. Sleep here tonight first time.

Friday, Nov. 29, 1968: Larry and Donna had auction sale at farm.

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1968: Went to first card party at Adolfsons. Hornings, Jensions and us there.

Sunday, Dec. 15, 1968: We to band concert in afternoon. Jay and Scott both play.

Donna:

Jay played trombone and Scott played trumpet.

1969

Emma:

Tuesday, March 11, 1969: I sewed shorts and blouse for Lisa.

Saturday, March 22, 1969: Duane and Betty going to St. Cloud to see Ginny and baby (Jonathon).

Thursday, March 27, 1969: Lisa here. Donna works for Head Start at school.

Tuesday, April 1, 1969: Got the cedar chest from Hardware. Gave it to Donna. She got it with pickup.

Donna:

That must have been hers. I got mine when I graduated from high school.

Emma:

Wednesday, April 2, 1969: Eisenhower's funeral come over TV.

Sunday, May 11, 1969: To church, Larry and Donna and family and us went out for dinner, Trailways Cafe.

Julie:

This was in Morris, on north side, at intersection of two highways. Owned or managed by Ken Beseman, friend of Dad's.

Emma:

Saturday, June 7, 1969: Donna and family to Williston, N.D., to see Lester and Kay.

Thursday, June 19, 1969: Community Picnic, show, parade, etc. Kids were in horse races.

Friday, July 4, 1969: Dennis and Ginny home from Minneapolis.

Sunday, July 20, 1969: In p.m. we watch astronauts on TV.

Friday, Aug. 15, 1969: We to 4-H horse show in eve. Jay and Scott both in it.

Sunday, Aug. 17, 1969: We to car destruction derby at Fair in p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 27, 1969: United Real Estate here. We gave them the Hardware to sell.

Thursday, Oct. 23, 1969: Larry flew to Canada from Fargo.

Thursday, Oct. 30, 1969: Ger and I took a drive towards Iowa but come back in eve as it rained all day and snow and ice reported.

Friday, Oct. 31, 1969: Halloween. Had 94 ring our doorbell.

Thursday, Nov. 6, 1969: Ger paints spring wagon. Real nice summer day.

Donna:

That was Grandpa Henry Bierman's surrey. Or was it one that Eddie Bierman had? It was in the yard of the farm outside Chokio.

Julie:

I remember being told it had been used as a hearse.

Emma:

Saturday, Nov. 8, 1969: Ginny and Dennis and Jon flew here from Minneapolis in a.m.

Friday, Nov. 14, 1969: Julie, David, and Lisa here all night. Larry and Donna to Alexandria. Larry had a speak on Food Service.

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1969: I have Lisa here in p.m. Donna works at Coast-to-Coast store in Morris.

Donna:

I think Lisa was in kindergarten.

Emma:

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1969: Jay and Lisa here in p.m. Jay has backache. Scott, Julie, and David come after school. Here for supper. Donna works at Coast-to-Coast.

Sunday, Dec. 21, 1969: Larry and Scott to Lisbon last night. Mabel fell and is in hospital.

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1969: Christmas program in evening. All Donna's kids in program. Donna and Larry sang in choir. In eve all to Duane's. Ginny and Dennis there too.

1970

Emma:

Friday, Jan. 9, 1970: Duane's went to Minneapolis to move Ginny and Dennis here. Dennis getting ready to leave for Florida.

Saturday, Jan. 17, 1970: Dennis left for Florida with his car.

Sunday, Jan. 18, 1970: Got new colt at farm.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 1970: Virginia stay with Kunkels.

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 1970: Jonathon getting teeth.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1970: Virginia came home from Minneapolis again.

Saturday, Feb. 21, 1970: Duane and Betty left for Florida and Ginny. Jonathon started to walk last night.

Tuesday, March 3, 1970: Duane called tonight from near St. Louis, Missouri, on their way home from Florida. Ginny and Jon stayed there.

Tuesday, March 10, 1970: Ger had surgery at Graceville. Dr. Carter done work on three spots; two on back of ear and one above his eye.

Wednesday, April 8, 1970: Lisa here. Donna works at Review on Wednesdays. Four hours.

Donna:

I helped put the paper together and get it ready to mail. Didn't do that too long.

Emma:

Friday, April 10, 1970: Larry bought new car and truck. Also sold his big horse trailer. Traded their van and Falcon in.

Thursday, April 16, 1970: Larry took Donna to hospital in a.m. She has chest pain.

Friday, April 17, 1970: Donna come back from hospital. Everything OK.

Friday, May 1, 1970: Ger and I left for North Dakota, stay at Gertie's. Went on to Jamestown. I shopped, took my ring to Olson to get diamond put in. They sent it away.

Thursday, May 28, 1970: Lisa here. Donna's last day at Coast-to-Coast, Morris. She's going to work at our hardware here.

Friday, June 19, 1970: Virginia and Dennis and Jon came home from Florida.

Thursday, June 25, 1970: Gamble men and Dean come at 4:30 p.m. Fix up an agreement to buy hardware.

Thursday, July 23, 1970: Lisa home, fell, cut her knee, had to have three stitches put in.

Donna:

She was riding her bicycle and fell. We lived on the farm outside Chokio then.

Julie:

I remember that a few weeks later I had a few friends over and we were running away from Lisa. Lisa then ran into the barbecue grill that Dad had crafted and split open the wound again.

Emma:

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 1970: Donna took David to doctor. He fell and got a big bump on the forehead.

Monday, Aug. 17, 1970: Larry and Donna and Roland's to Floyd Fuhrmans. Dog bit Lisa. They took her to doctor in Graceville. He put seven stitches in her face.

Donna:

It was lightning. And Lisa loved dogs, you know, and the dog bit her. Right in the smile line of her face.

Emma:

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1970: Jay got hurt in evening. Horse fell on his foot. Larry took him to the doctor Wednesday.

Sunday, Aug. 23, 1970: To church in a.m., stay there at Pat's, then to dinner at Del Monico's Cafe. Then to car races in p.m. to demolition derby.

Julie:

This is the third or fourth year they attended, so far. Must have been demo derby fans!

Emma:

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 1970: This is last day in hardware for selling.

Thursday, Aug. 27, 1970: Donna, Nancy Eger and Dean take inventory at closed hardware store.

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1970: Ger, Dean and I to Morris to finish the deal with hardware. Got it all settled.

Thursday, Sept. 3, 1970: Larry and Donna to Willmar to doctor's to see about Donna's goiter. They will try to treat it. Has to take pills.

Donna:

That's when I had to lay under a machine, and it went back and forth over this part of my neck. But, anyway, what it did was kill something. I don't know what they did to it.

Emma:

Sunday, Sept. 27, 1970: Had mission feast at church. Showed slides from Vietnam.

Julie:

How interesting that an ultra-conservative Lutheran church would show slides from Vietnam in 1970!

Emma:

Friday, Oct. 2, 1970: Donna went to Minneapolis. Larry there already. She went with car alone to meet him.

Monday, Oct. 19, 1970: Complete selling house there. \$16,000.

Monday, Nov. 16, 1970: Donna to work at Coast-to-Coast store.

Monday, Dec. 7, 1970: Ger and Larry look at farms.

Donna:

Oof! (Sigh.) That beautiful house we had to move out of into a dump.

Emma:

Monday, Dec. 21, 1970: Went to band concert. Jay plays trombone.

Monday, Dec. 28, 1970: Ger and Larry to visit with Hartsuicker in evening.

Julie:

Clarence Hartsuicker was the former owner of the farm on which we lived for a time.

Emma:

Thursday, Dec. 31, 1970: Donna not working at Coast-to-Coast Hardware. Her last day was yesterday.

1971

Emma:

Saturday, Jan. 16, 1971: Ger and Larry went to see Lonergan about selling that 80 acres.

Friday, Jan. 22, 1971: Larry was chosen Boss of the Year.

Sunday, Jan. 24, 1971: Kids go roller skating at Donnelly.

Julie:

I remember we skated in the old community hall. It had benches along the walls. The youngest of us would wheel ourselves around the perimeter, pushing on the benches or the knees of whomever was sitting there.

Emma:

Friday, Jan. 29, 1971: Duane's left for Florida to bring Ginny's Pontiac down there.

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1971: We start on trip to Texas.

Julie:

They returned Saturday, March 6.

Emma:

Monday, May 10, 1971: Kids all picked rocks there after school.

Thursday, May 26, 1971: Donna and Larry moved to farm north of Morris.

Monday, June 7, 1971: Donna took Lisa to hospital in Graceville to have her fixed up for getting her tonsils removed tomorrow.

Friday, June 11, 1971: Duane took Betty to Minneapolis to catch plane for Florida. Ginny goes to hospital this a.m. Ginny and Dennis have baby girl, 5 ½ pounds. (Heather.)

Julie:

I remember that sometimes when I was with Grandma and there was a baby around, when the baby cried, she would say "Another country heard from!"

Emma:

Sunday, June 13, 1971: Ger and I drove to lake, Duane's cabin. Donna and kids there too, swimming.

Thursday, July 22, 1971: Dennis and Ginny come back from Kimball. Truck come and picked up their furniture to take to California.

Tuesday, July 27, 1971: Duane's and Ginny's all to Aberdeen. Dennis and Ginny leave for San Diego, California, from there.

Friday, Aug. 13, 1971: Irma at Donna's so Duane's and us went there. Had picnic in their yard in eve.

Donna:

Irma was the parochial school teacher at Our Savior's in Jamestown. We went to the same church. They had school through the 8th grade. I can't remember if we had two teachers or just one. But after I got married, she boarded with my folks. We just became very close friends. I kinda remember this trip because the boys were in 4-H and I think she was there to see some of their horses, I don't recall for sure.

Emma:

Friday, Aug. 20, 1971: We to Morris to see horse show. Jay and Scott rode horses and took part in quite a few things.

Sunday, Aug. 22, 1971: Betty was in Aberdeen. Ina drank some Wink and is in the hospital.

Wednesday, Aug. 25, 1971: Larry and Donna and family went to Minneapolis to Fair with horse. Scott won champion in Morris.

Thursday, Aug. 26, 1971: Donna and family got back from Minneapolis from Fair. Scott got blue ribbon for his horse in Minneapolis.

Sunday, Aug. 29, 1971: Larry got hay fever, is home.

Sunday, Sept. 12, 1971: Ina Shaw still in hospital, not very good yet. Jay and Scott tried water skiing for the first time. Duane pulled them in his boat.

Wednesday, Sept. 15, 1971: Duane and Betty to Aberdeen, took Ina home from hospital. Betty stays there.

Monday, Oct. 11, 1971: Milo worked on plumbing at Donna's.

Donna:

Milo Johnson worked for Gerhart at the hardware store. He was also a postman, but he worked for Dad. Mostly for Duane in the plumbing.

Emma:

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 1971: Donna works at Coast-to-Coast hardware.

Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1971: Donna's family all start for Williston, N.D. in a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1971: Duane to Minneapolis with Roiland and Nypen to see about swimming pool.

Monday, Dec. 27, 1971: Ger works on Lisa's little white table.

Julie:

This is the table Donna used, that her grandfather William Busch made.

Emma:

Thursday, Dec. 30, 1971: Ger, Jay and Scott drove our tractors to Donnelly to overhaul.

1972

Emma:

Friday, Jan. 7, 1972: Ina in hospital. Broke her knee and shoulder.

Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1972: Donna paints boys' room upstairs.

Donna:

It was bright, bright pink. And it was an east bedroom, and when the sun came up in the morning, it was awful. I don't remember what color we painted it.

Julie:

I recall Jay saying in his usual deadpan style, that when he woke up in the morning and saw all that pink in the morning light, he thought he had woken up in hell.

Emma:

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1972: Ger to Morris to meet with Collins and Art Anderson, sold 80 acres land.

Monday, Feb. 14, 1972: Donna works at Co-op at Donnelly. Does bookwork.

Donna:

It was nerve-wracking to begin with, because the Boss's wife had run away with the bookkeeper and everything was a total mess. They had to have a CPA come in and audit the books. The former bookkeeper had not made a bank deposit for weeks. But I wouldn't touch the money. I insisted that the boss deposit all the money; cash, checks, everything. Well, what the bookkeeper didn't steal. Every day when I went to the bank I would be quizzed as to if the boss had found his wife yet. I had to keep my mouth shut. It was not my point to give out any information. The authorities found her and the bookkeeper in Georgia after several weeks.

Emma:

Monday, March 20, 1972: Ina pretty good again. Had her arm broke, also her knee. They operated on that.

Thursday, March 23, 1972: Ger fell last two steps in garage, broke his hip. We called ambulance. They took him to hospital.

Saturday, April 1, 1972: Dr. Rossberg called in a.m. Ger had bad chest pain. Didn't know for sure if it was a heart attack.

Sunday, April 16, 1972: Dr. Rossberg called Donna, Ger had another heart attack at 3 o'clock at night, so we all went.

Donna:

Dad had a heart attack right in front of the doctor in the hospital. But he recovered.

Emma:

Wednesday, May 3, 1972: Duane and I to hospital to get Ger. He's pretty good.

Wednesday, May 10, 1972: Donna to Fargo, took Jay, Scott, and Julie to doc for their warts.

Friday, May 12, 1972: Larry stopped here, coming from Richard Schuster's. Lisa Schuster died.

Julie:

I remember the family story of Dad, knowing of Lisa Schuster's leukemia, took a colt to the sale barn. Our Lisa was there, dressed in a cowgirl outfit. The auctioneer explained about what the Schuster family was going through, and not only did the minor proceeds from the sale of the colt go to the Schusters, but many in the sale barn offered money, and a sizeable collection was gathered.

Donna:

Lisa led a colt around the sale ring.

Emma:

Sunday, May 21, 1972: Scott was confirmed.

Wednesday, May 24, 1972: Ger and I to Morris Clinic for Ger's checkup. He's good in every way. Doc told him he can step on his leg lightly. We bought a riding lawnmower.

Friday, June 2, 1972: Ger drove to farm alone for first time since he's been home from hospital.

Tuesday, June 6, 1972: Donna and family went to Brainerd to camp for few days.

Julie:

I remember a family story about the family camping at Brainerd, and Dad provided first aid to a woman who was pinned between a low barrier and a car. Was it this week?

Donna:

We had just driven up to Paul Bunyan something or other and Larry saw it and he went over to help before the paramedics got there. He asked someone standing there gawking to go and get a blanket to cover her up. I sat in the car with the kids until the paramedics came and said Larry could leave.

Emma:

Saturday, July 1, 1972: Donna's all went to see Jay at camp. Hackensack.

Donna:

Jay worked for a girls' camp, taking care of horses. It was a tough experience because there were a lot of bats flying around his bedroom and the fella he worked with was older and took Jay partying when he shouldn't have been.

Julie:

I remember that Jay said while learning to cook he thinned chili with milk.

Emma:

Monday, July 3, 1972: Ger to farm.

Julie:

I remember being responsible for making noon meals this summer. Grandpa would always bring sandwiches and cookies from Grandma to share. Once I misread the recipe for potato soup and put in four times the needed pepper. Grandpa insisted on eating it, but the boys thought it might make good fox bait.

Emma:

Tuesday, July 18, 1972: Larry to Minneapolis to see a doctor, for hay fever.

Donna:

Oh, that's when he got all those, what do you call it? He was being tested for allergies. He was allergic to everything but three things, but I don't remember what those three things were.

Emma:

Tuesday, July 25, 1972: Ginny and Dennis on their way here with plane but tied up in New Mexico as clouds too low to go on.

Wednesday, July 26, 1972: Ginny and Dennis come home with rented plane from California. Jon age three, Heather, one year.

Friday, July 28, 1972: Larry went to hospital yesterday.

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 1972: Larry come home from hospital. Duane and Dennis flew to Wisconsin to see about a job for Dennis.

Saturday, Aug. 5, 1972: Donna's all went to Hackensack to see Jay.

Thursday, Aug. 10, 1972: Ginny and Dennis come home again from Minneapolis. Were looking for a job.

Monday, Aug. 14, 1972: Ginny and Dennis left for San Diego again.

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1972: Scott hurt his kneecap yesterday so couldn't swath. He was on crutches.

Sunday, Aug. 27, 1972: We to see Donna's house in town.

Julie:

This would have been 11 Westwood Acres in a division on the northwest side of Morris.

Emma:

Sunday, Sept. 3, 1972: Ger also talked to Autry about buying the farm.

Thursday, Sept. 7, 1972: Ger and I to Morris to see Collins and sell farm to Andersons and Hendricks. We all there to sign.

Friday, Sept. 8, 1972: Donna's are moving in eve, just the heavy things.

Saturday, Sept. 30, 1972: We celebrate our 50th anniversary today. All sisters and bro, some nephews and nieces.

Julie:

Not their actual anniversary. It was Sept. 26.

Emma:

Saturday, Oct. 7, 1972: Ger and I to Fargo to get a short pipe for Duane and looked at campers.

Sunday, Oct. 15, 1972: We to church. Rev. Birkholz's father preached as our pastor Birkholz got married.

Thursday, Oct. 19, 1972: I put pictures in album.

Monday, Oct. 23, 1972: Ger took Larry to Fargo. He stays there at hospital.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 1972: I to Horning's card party, played whist, I got head prize. Duane's to Jamestown.

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 1972: Donna and Larry went to Fargo. Larry had checkup. It's OK, but he has pain yet.

Thursday, Nov. 9, 1972: Ger left for Washington at 1:30 in eve by train.

1973

Emma:

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1973: Pres. Nixon talks on TV that the war is ended.

Sunday, Jan. 28, 1973: Started trip to Arizona.

Monday, Jan. 29, 1973: Went to Carlyle near Des Moines, Iowa, to look at 5-wheeler trailer. We went through the factory where they built them.

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1973: We go to Min & Ed's, show them the mobile home we bought. We moved in evening.

Thursday, Feb. 15, 1973: In eve had celebration at the Hall for all couples married 50 years or more. They had a program. Kitchen Band, etc.

Saturday, Feb. 17, 1973: Carl and Mary and us went to the airport, watched the big planes come in and fly out. Jumbo jet 747.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 1973: In p.m. we went to South Dakota picnic at Pioneer Park, met J. Lambert there. Min & Ed there too. Real hot day. Got suntan on forehead.

Sunday, March 4, 1973: Went to North Dakota picnic today. Met Ralph Hecktner's, from across the street in Jamestown.

Monday, March 12, 1973: Donna and Larry got here 11 a.m.

Julie:

They left after three days.

Emma:

Tuesday, April 10, 1973: Got home at 7 o'clock, good roads all the way home.

Friday, April 20, 1973: Ger to Morris, got films we took in Arizona.

Sunday, May 6, 1973: Larry is in Lisbon, paints house there.

Thursday, May 17, 1973: At 4:30 we drove to farm and Hoffman lake. Donna, Jay, Scott, David Lisa there.

Julie:

It was Elk Lake near Hoffman, Minnesota.

Emma:

Sunday, May 20, 1973: We to church, Donna and all kids there but Larry home, has poison ivy.

Friday, May 25, 1973: Donna is in hospital, has poison ivy. They all have it except Jay and Scott.

Donna:

Yeah, I was really bad-off. After I was home from the hospital, Nixon was being investigated and I spent a lot of time ... I couldn't do much at home... so I watched the proceedings.

Emma:

Sunday, May 27, 1973: Donna and Larry, Scott, Julie, David, and Lisa stop here in eve. They had been to Aberdeen to see Heinie.

Julie:

I wonder if this is when Heinie asked "Are you the mouse that ate that piece of pie?"

Emma:

Saturday, June 2, 1973: We went to Elk Lake, Hoffman. Larry and Donna, Jay, David, Julie, and Lisa there too. Built a dock, just got it done when a storm hit. Trees blowed down on our car. Broke windshield glass, also glass on driver's side. Took off car handle. It rained real hard and very hard wind. We eight of us were all in in trailer house. Duane and Betty came too, after it was over with in their mobile home and boat.

Julie:

Scott was with Betty and Duane. In the middle of the storm I said I would have to write a story called "Eight People and a Pail of Minnows."

Donna:

The trailer rocked. It was a good thing there was a tree behind us, or we would have went over. One man was presumably lost, and the boys got the boat and went looking for them and they found him (the missing man). He had found shelter and was OK.

Emma:

Sunday, June 3, 1973: Donna and Larry went to Minneapolis to a Coast-to-Coast meeting in a.m.

Wednesday, June 6, 1973: David here helping Ger with building dock from wood we had here for lake.

Saturday, June 9, 1973: Ger paints swing.

Julie:

This swing was special to us grandchildren. It was a sort of glider, with two high-backed seats facing each other, and a wood platform below, between the two.

Donna:

And that we moved out to our house, I think, or did we have it before? I don't know.

Emma:

Monday, June 25, 1973: Scott takes driving lesson in Morris.

Monday, July 9, 1973: Donna and Larry come home from Montana, were to Lonnie's funeral.

Donna:

Well, Lonnie was killed in an accident. He was the son of Roland and Margaret. Roland is Larry's brother. It was determined that he turned over because he was avoiding a child in the middle of the road, playing with fireworks.

Orrin was in Lisbon with his plane, so Larry and Orrin emptied the plane of his musical equipment and installed a wooden chair of Grandma's in the copilot seat. Larry flew with Orrin out to Kalispell, Montana. Had a couple of extremely frightening drops of the plane in air pockets but made it safely to Kalispell. Orrin had been in Lisbon putting on some sort of show the day before. That's why all his equipment was in Lisbon.

The decision was made that Bea and I would drive our car out to the funeral, and we picked up Les and Kay, so four of us went to the funeral. We took Lisa out to stay with Gail Fuhrman and the rest of the kids stayed with Mom and Dad in Chokio, or Betty and Duane. Larry then drove home with us after the funeral.

Emma:

Sunday, July 29, 1973: Jay come home from Clinton in rain.

Donna:

Jay worked part time for an Arabian farm, breaking horses.

Emma:

Saturday, Aug. 4, 1973: Scott here, works for Duane.

Sunday, Aug. 5, 1973: At night at 2 o'clock, Ginny and Dennis come. Was a surprise.

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 1973: Larry and Donna bought green house on 8th St. in Morris.
Sold their new house at Westwood Acres.

Donna:

Ugly.

Julie:

It was a two-story at 308 West 8th St., Morris, Minnesota.

Emma:

Monday, Aug. 20, 1973: Donna and Larry, Julie, David, and Lisa left for Duluth for vacation.

Donna:

I do remember we went shopping in an old building that was converted. It was like a warehouse converted to boutiques. We watched ships go in and out.

Emma:

Sunday, Aug. 26, 1973: Donna, Julie, Scott, Lisa to Minneapolis to Fair.

Monday, Sept. 10, 1973: Bob Eger died.

Donna:

Bob was a nasty bachelor who lived across the street from our old house in Chokio. He worked at the hardware for Dad part time.

Emma:

Sunday, Oct. 7, 1973: We to church, on way home had car accident with a pickup truck. Got our fender broke.

Friday, Oct. 19, 1973: Duane got hit with a pipe, knocked out two teeth, bruised his lip, was all swollen up.

Julie:

Duane was a plumber, not a frequenter of dark alleys in high-crime neighborhoods.

Emma:

Thursday, Nov. 1, 1973: Betty goes to meeting in Morris. Donna starts work at Savings and Loan in Morris.

Donna:

Oh, yeah. I had quit at the Donnelly Co-Op. I didn't work there very long, and I don't know why.

Emma:

Monday, Nov. 5, 1973: Ger bought the locker building to make into apartments.

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 1973: Ger and I to Morris to Donna's to get meat that Jay got for us at the locker plant, Hancock. Brought also Duane's meat.

Friday, Dec. 7, 1973: Donna and Larry left for Florida in p.m. for Minneapolis, leave on plane in morning.

Donna:

We took a bus to Minneapolis, overnight in a motel, and flew to Florida the next morning for a Food Service convention. Walked through the convention and then made reservations for a plane to Belize. We ended up at an older hotel in Belize City. A couple on the plane had a Land Rover so they brought us into Belize City to the hotel. Had lobster dinner with them.

Next day walked around Belize City, and made arrangements to take a taxi to the Guatemalan border and back. Hotel packed us a lunch, and on the way back from the Guatemalan border we stopped at what was called the Central Farms. Larry's friend, Mr. Fehr, wanted to open a meat packing plant in Belize. Larry talked with the officials from Belize and went back into Belize City. On the way out of town, we stopped at a small schoolhouse and visited with the teacher. The teacher invited us to speak with the children and the children sang a Christmas song for us. Very primitive. No windows. One big, long desk and no books.

The next day we went by the open market, made arrangements, and flew to Ambergris Caye (pronounced "key"). Shared the plane ride with a doctor, his wife and two children. The airport was nothing but an old shack in the middle of nowhere. Transportation to the main part of the caye was a pickup truck, where we sat in the back with the doctor and his family. The first night on the island we were again served lobster. Had a nice hotel room. The bartender there was from England and had lots of stories.

We hired a fisherman to take us fishing. Larry caught a big white fish called a grouper and several others. The waves were so high, and the boat so small, that when a wave came and we were in the bottom of the wave, we couldn't see anything but water. Had a safe fishing trip and enjoyed it. We gave the fish to the chef at our hotel and he cooked them.

Next day we flew back to the mainland, caught a plane to Florida, almost missed our flight home. The plane flew to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and it was blizzarding. When we left Belize, I was wearing some new red sandals. Flew to Minneapolis in the same blizzard. And the first thing I did after landing was to find my winter coat and better shoes. It had been 80 degrees when we left Belize. Caught a bus home the next day to Morris. Was quite an experience. I had never been to a country that was so primitive with bananas hanging from the front porch and no windows in the houses.

The Leroy Fehrs were not with us on the trip at all. They went later. Leroy wanted to move down there and operate a meat packing plant and wanted us to move there with them.

Emma:

Saturday, Dec. 15, 1973: Donna and Larry come home from Florida in evening by bus. Julie and Lisa here all day. Jay come and got them in eve.

1974

Emma:

Friday, Jan. 11, 1974: I sew quilt blocks together and start tying it.

Sunday, March 31, 1974: Carl and Bea brought Mrs. Stillwell to the hospital in Morris yesterday.

Wednesday, April 3, 1974: Ger sent C. Hartsuicker \$7,000 payment on farm. Mabel in the Villa.

Sunday, April 7, 1974: We to church. At 1 o'clock we, Duane's and Donna's, David and Lisa went to Ivanhoe with Duane's coach.

Monday, April 8, 1974: Larry fell in kitchen at the U. Hurt his back, is in hospital.

Saturday, April 13, 1974: David is here pulling nails. Stepped on a nail.

Friday, April 19, 1974: Donna and Larry to Ivanhoe to buy hardware there and look for a house.

Friday, April 26, 1974: Ger and I to Ivanhoe to look for a lot.

Friday, May 10, 1974: Mrs. Stillwell passed away last night at 1 o'clock.

Friday, May 31, 1974: Went to Jay's graduation in eve. They had a reception in trailer house for him.

Wednesday, June 5, 1974: Donna and Larry had a sale, rained hard.

Friday, June 14, 1974: Donna and Larry moved today to Ivanhoe.

Wednesday, June 19, 1974: Donna called from Ivanhoe, for the first time they got their telephone in there. They're going to Minneapolis today for hardware business. Bea there with the kids.

Friday, June 28, 1974: We have Jay, Scott, Duane, Betty over for Jay's birthday for supper.

Donna:

Jay was working for Leroy Fehr in the meat market.

Emma:

Thursday, Aug. 8, 1974: Nixon resigns in eve.

Saturday, Aug. 10, 1974: Ger and I drove to Ivanhoe. Donna and Larry had just moved their mobile home to another lot. They had the Polish celebration there.

Thursday, Sept. 12, 1974: Ger and I drove to Ivanhoe to celebrate birthdays.

Julie:

What was the record on how many birthdays Grandpa and Mom spent together? Grandpa's was Sept. 12 and Mom's is Sept. 13.

Donna:

We never missed a birthday together until many years later, and I don't remember the first one we missed. It's very possible we never missed one.

Emma:

Thursday, Sept. 19, 1974: Donna and Larry are having open house in hardware today.

Julie:

Bea was there, too, manning the refreshment table.

Emma:

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 1974: Ger and I drove to see Floyd Fuhrman's to see if Gail could fix our van cushions.

Sunday, Sept. 29, 1974: We went to church at Lake Benton with them at 9 o'clock, start for home again at 2 p.m. Donna gave us a mum plant that they got from the grand opening.

Donna:

We went to Lake Benton for church but after five or six times they kept asking us if we were new to the area. We decided to go to the church in Tyler, Minnesota. Julie was confirmed there.

Julie:

It was a two-church pastorate, one in town and one in the country.

Emma:

Saturday, Nov. 9, 1974: Nice day. (In different handwriting: "Donna and big hungry family came for supper." Returning to regular handwriting) Donna wrote that, we enjoyed every minute.

Julie:

This appear to be the first time someone other than Emma wrote in her diaries, not counting Chris or Duane, who used the diaries for a time for themselves. It is also the first noted occasion on which Emma expressed her feelings about anything.

Emma:

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 1974: To doctor, I have high blood pressure.

1975

Emma:

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1975: Watched TV from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Orange Bowl Parade, California.

Julie:

Grandma seems fond of the annual parade, as she has mentioned it each year for about five years.

Emma:

Sunday, Jan. 12, 1975: Duane and Betty over for dinner but they didn't stay. Duane real busy cleaning snow from people's driveways.

Monday, Feb. 3, 1975: I go to hospital at 10 a.m. to get ready for tumor operation on my glands.

Julie:

Grandma had been mentioning swollen neck glands for months.

Emma:

Sunday, March 2, 1975: We to church. Duane and Betty to Aberdeen to help Dale. His pipes broke under his house.

Julie:

Dale Shaw was Betty's brother.

Emma:

Sunday, March 16, 1975: We to church in a.m., then from there to Ivanhoe. Had dinner at school. Julie helps serve there. Kids put it on.

Julie:

It was a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser put on by the Future Homemakers of America.

Emma:

Monday, March 23, 1975: No church at Johnson. Jay on his way to Fergus Falls, stopped here and stayed all night. Jay works there.

Tuesday, April 1, 1975: Betty and I drove to Aberdeen to get Snoopy from Shaws.

Donna:

Snoopy was Betty and Duane's dog.

Emma:

Sunday, June 8, 1975: We to church in a.m. then to Ivanhoe to see Donna and all. Lisa came home with us to stay for a while.

Monday, June 9, 1975: Lisa here, not too happy, though. Got homesick again.

Tuesday, June 10, 1975: We took Lisa back home. She couldn't take it.

Wednesday, June 11, 1975: Julie came, got a ride with Tom Torgerson. He had been with Scott.

Saturday, June 14, 1975: Donna and Larry and all come in eve to go to Fuhrmans and pick Julie up.

Sunday, June 22, 1975: We to church in a.m. We start out on a trip to Michigan.

Thursday, June 26, 1975: Duane bought a trailer house to move to lake.

Friday, July 4, 1975: We went to Ivanhoe. We had picnic with Donna's at lake there. Jay is in Williston with Les. Julie is in Lisbon with Bea.

Sunday, July 6, 1975: Betty took us to see the pool at school. Duane works there.

Wednesday, July 9, 1975: We had an earthquake or something. It shook the house.

Julie:

Wikipedia says "the 1975 Morris earthquake occurred in western Minnesota on July 9 at 14:54:15 UTC, or 9:54 a.m. The strongest instrumentally recorded rupture in the history of the state, it registered at magnitude 4.6 M_n and had a maximum Mercalli intensity of VI (Strong)."

I remember this event. We were at an optometrist appointment in Canby, Minnesota. I thought it sounded like someone had slammed the front door of the business. Later we learned of the earthquake.

Emma:

Monday, Aug. 18, 1975: Donna called and said we could come get the stove and refrigerator, so we brought it home. Duane come and helped us set it in. Also took our set to the apartment house.

Julie:

Is this when we moved from the trailer to the house in Ivanhoe?

Emma:

Monday, Aug. 25, 1975: We to Dentist. He fit my new teeth that were in wax to see if they will fit. They did seem to fit okay.

Julie:

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 1975: Emma leaves two and three-quarters pages blank in her 19-cent spiral notebook. Up till now, every page and the inside covers were used.

Emma:

Sunday, Nov. 16, 1975: We to church, then was invited to Duane and Betty's for dinner. We went riding after dinner.

Julie:

This entry was included because it is so very typical of Emma's entries. They loved to go for a drive.

Emma:

Saturday, Nov. 22, 1975: Nice sunny day but cool. Donna called in eve. Larry is in the hospital. Has a stomach ulcer, is getting better, has been in hospital for two weeks.

Donna:

Two weeks? I don't remember that.

Emma:

Monday, Nov. 24, 1975: We to Willmar for eye check up again. Ger's didn't grow much. Mine are ready for operation but will wait till April.

Donna:

That had to be their cataracts.

Emma:

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1975: Jay and Scott took Larry to Morris hospital.

Donna:

Yup. That was when they took him up to Morris, and Dr. Eide put him in a hospital in Morris. It was also a blizzard day. A nasty day.

Emma:

Sunday, Dec. 21, 1975: Duane's and us drove to Ivanhoe in a.m. Was at Donna's for dinner and to Christmas program at their church. David and Lisa are in program. Larry is in Morris hospital.

Donna:

I didn't remember that he was in the hospital that long.

Emma:

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1975: We to Duane and Betty's for supper. Donna's family all there. Larry come home from hospital.

Donna:

He was in there longer than I thought.

Emma:

Thursday, Dec. 25, 1975: Christmas. All the family here for dinner. Donna and Larry here all night, rest stayed at Betty's. Donna's family left early evening.

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1975: We called Donna last night. Larry is real good, went to work again.

1976

Emma:

Friday, Jan. 2, 1976: Blizzard, Donna and family come in a.m. They had been in Morris, stay all night here and at Betty's.

Julie:

This was likely the time that Mom and Dad and us kids celebrated New Year's Eve with the LeRoy Fehr family of Benson. We stayed at the Four Seasons Motel in Morris. Liberal consumption by minors.

Emma:

Monday, Jan. 12, 1976: We called Donna. Julie little better, she is in the hospital.

Julie:

The diagnosis was mononucleosis, but I feel a large part of it was undiagnosed depression.

Emma:

Thursday, Jan. 22, 1976: We called Donna tonight. They are all fine. Julie is going back to school Monday.

Friday, Jan. 23, 1976: Duane called from Virginia's house in a.m. They are all going to Disneyland today. Dennis and Ginny both got time out from work.

Sunday, Feb. 1, 1976: We went to church with Donna and family. Jay not home, he is in Waseca. Scott is in Morris at Tom's. We come home again in evening. Nice day. Betty called from Kansas, they all on their way home.

Monday, Feb. 16, 1976: We are getting ready to make trip to Oklahoma.

Julie:

They went to visit Bob and Andy Ingersoll, former tenants, and good friends. Returned Monday, March 8, 1976.

Emma:

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1976: Donna's numbers: 1-507-694-1778 house. 1-507-694-1666 store.

Julie:

The store number ended in 666? Is it any wonder? LOL

Emma:

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1976: Got to Ivanhoe at noon. Donna not home. She took Julie to Willmar to doctor. She had a sore finger.

Julie:

I remember the persistent rash with peeling and itching on my hands. As an adult this was identified as a stress-induced skin condition that came and went with extreme anxiety.

Emma:

Saturday, Feb. 28, 1976: We took the coach, went to South Padre Island. Blackwelders and Art Asmus and us.

Donna:

That must have been the year they went to Arizona.

Emma:

Sunday, Feb. 29, 1976: Then we went to Old Mexico, bought flowerpots and pineapple.

Julie:

I remember these spheroid-shaped planters with three legs, brightly colored. I think there were three in the extended family: Emma's, Donna's, and Betty's.

Donna:

Yes.

Emma:

Saturday, March 20, 1976: Larry, Donna, Julie, David, and Lisa here.

Sunday, March 21, 1976: Donna and all left in a.m., went to Brainerd area to look around.

Julie:

I remember a trip to the Brainerd area to look at a resort.

Emma:

Tuesday, March 23, 1976: I called up Birkholz for the hymn book for Julie.

Julie:

I remember receiving the hymnal at my confirmation. I treasure it still.

Emma:

Tuesday, April 13, 1976: Joanie (McNally, editor of the Chokio Review) come over and took a picture of our daffodils to put in the paper.

Wednesday, April 14, 1976: Larry stops here at noon. He come from Brainerd. He looked at resort and hardware store in Crosby, Minnesota.

Wednesday, April 21, 1976: We drove to Crosby to meet Donna and Larry there at Coast-to-Coast hardware.

Donna:

God, I don't remember that! I have no recollection of that whatsoever.

Emma:

Thursday, April 22, 1976: We stay in motel all night. Drove around and looked, got home in evening.

Saturday, May 1, 1976: Duane and Betty and us drove to Ivanhoe for Julie's confirmation. Irma and Hahnke's from New Ulm, also.

Sunday, May 2, 1976: Bea also there.

Monday, May 3, 1976: We to Morris, got Scott two light brown suitcases for his graduation May 28.

Thursday, May 13, 1976: Donna called Tuesday evening, they bought a house in Ivanhoe, sold their trailer house some time ago.

Friday, May 28, 1976: We drove to Ivanhoe by way of Morris. Scott graduates from high school.

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 1976: Larry called Betty and told her he had to take Donna to Rochester. She'd been having a headache all the time. Think there is something wrong with her eye. Later Donna called from Rochester to Betty, her and Larry are coming home tomorrow a.m. They didn't find anything wrong, except that she needed different lenses. Then, just about 6 p.m., Virginia and family drove in at Duane's from California.

Donna:

God, we were a busy family.

Emma:

Saturday, Aug. 7, 1976: Donna called at noon. They have sale Sunday.

Julie:

Mom and Dad had an auction to sell all the stuff left behind by the former owners of the home.

Donna:

The prior owner's son took her to a nursing home in Minneapolis. We found his baptismal certificate and a bunch of personal stuff and we gave it to a relative to pass on. I don't know if you remember, when they moved her out, they just threw everything in piles on the floor. The kitchen stuff was all in the dining room. Kettles, condiments, clothes; it was just a heap of everything he didn't want. He just threw it in the dining room. It was like Christmas going through all his stuff. Antiques, what have you. Up in the attic we found a box of wood planes that matched the wood trim in the house. The attic was full of another pile.

Emma:

Sunday, Aug. 8, 1976: Saturday evening Duane, Betty, Ginny, Dennis, Jon, and Heather all went to Ivanhoe.

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1976: Got letter from Scott, Jackson, Minnesota.

Sunday, Oct. 10, 1976: We to church, when we got home Scott and girlfriend here to visit us. They were here for dinner.

Julie:

The girlfriend was Roxanne Schubert.

Emma:

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1976: We drove to Ivanhoe, stayed for supper so we could see the kids after school. Lisa worked at the hospital. Got home 20 after 8.

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1976: Election Day. Pres. Ford and Jimmy Carter running. Ger working on garden fence. We listen to election returns. Carter wins so is our new president.

Thursday, Nov. 25, 1976: Thanksgiving. Rained a little. We to Duane and Betty's for dinner. Donna and family all there too, plus the two boys' girlfriends.

Julie:

Likely Gail Gades and Roxanne Schubert.

Emma:

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1976: I had eye operation at 9 a.m. Went good.

1977

Emma:

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1977: 18 above, snowed again last night. The clinic burned to the ground at 4:30 p.m. Hydrants were frozen here so had to call Morris fire truck to come.

Sunday, Jan. 23, 1977: Jay and Gail come in p.m. for a little while.

Wednesday, March 2, 1977: Donna and Larry and Scott to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Scott is having surgery on his knee tomorrow.

Wednesday, March 16, 1977: Jay is out of school now.

Sunday, March 20, 1977: Donna, Larry, Julie, David, and Lisa come about 5 o'clock, stay all night.

Monday, March 21, 1977: Donna and family left for Morris to see about a Culligan Man. Donna and Larry and kids stop here again on way home. They are moving back

to Morris. Larry got job there. (Last two sentences ruled out.) Changed their minds, though.

Saturday, April 2, 1977: Jay found a job. Scott called from Morris, him and Roxie are meeting us at church, then come to visit us.

Monday, April 11, 1977: Drove to Ivanhoe, Donna there alone with kids. Larry in Morris, works for Culligan. Jay was home. He has a cyst on his tailbone. He had it lanced last Thursday, but today doctor said he could go to work at Winthrop. He has a job there.

Wednesday, April 20, 1977: Donna and Larry not going to move to Morris.

Julie:

That was Dad's birthday.

Emma:

Sunday, May 1, 1977: We to Donna's, David was confirmed. Miss Paap was there, too. Duane's, Jay and Gail and Scott and Roxie there too.

Saturday, May 7, 1977: Jay come at 6 in evening. Stays here all night. Found a trailer house in Winthrop that he can buy.

Sunday, May 29, 1977: Duane won 86 dollars on a horse race in Aberdeen.

Monday, June 20, 1977: Donna called, they all were at Jay's trailer house, had picnic there at Winthrop. Julie works at hospital.

Wednesday, Aug. 17, 1977: We went to Morris to get sheets for Gail's shower. Duane took us all out riding with the coach. Ger, Betty, Jon, Heather, and Steve went up in plane with Dennis. Duane, Ginny, and I sat in the coach and visit. Ger got sick, his heart is acting up.

Thursday, Aug. 18, 1977: We took Ger to hospital, called ambulance at 20 to 12.

Friday, Aug. 19, 1977: Duane and I went to hospital. Ger pretty good. So far couldn't find anything wrong, but they are going to check some more today.

Saturday, Aug. 20, 1977: Betty, Ginny and Heather and I went to Gail's shower at their church. We all stayed at lake in Betty and Duane's trailer house. We had picnic all our family, all Donna's family also.

Donna:

I don't remember that.

Emma:

Thursday, Sept. 8, 1977: Ger went to Benson for supplies for Duane. On way home a big truck run into the back side of the car and smashed it.

Saturday, Sept. 10, 1977: Duane and Betty went to St. Cloud. They got AA meeting.

Saturday, Sept. 17, 1977: Nice day. Duane and Betty and us went to Jay and Gail's wedding with Duane's coach. Wedding was at 5 o'clock, reception after serve potato salad, buns and cake, olives, pickles also. Went to dance at Correl.

Friday, Oct. 14, 1977: Got letter from Donna. Larry is in hospital.

Sunday, Oct. 16, 1977: We went to church then drove to Ivanhoe. Had dinner at cafe, got there at 1 p.m. Scott and Roxie were there.

Thursday, Nov. 10, 1977: Duane quit smoking some time first part of November.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 1977: Donna called. David got hurt with a boy's snowmobile. Broke bones in his foot, also got his foot cut up.

Donna:

His friend carried him on his back from the accident site to our front porch and put him on the floor in the living room. Went immediately to the hospital. Dr. Mulder checked him over. I was in the exam room, but I got sick. I had to go sit in the hallway. He was hospitalized overnight, and the doctor just sewed him up that night, but he was in the hospital at least for a day, I think.

Emma:

Sunday, Nov. 13, 1977: Duane and Betty and us went to church in Morris, then to Ivanhoe to see David. He was real cheerful and getting along good so far. The doctor was being very careful to guard against infection.

Friday, Nov. 18, 1977: Ger works on van. He starts to rearrange the van.

Donna:

Yeah, did she write that the next day Duane made him put it all back? (Chuckling.)

Emma:

Monday, Nov. 21, 1977: Ger works on van. Took out all the sink, stove, fridge, etc., rearranging it.

Sunday, Nov. 27, 1977: Duane and Betty got home from Chula Vista at about 3:30 p.m. They here for supper.

Friday, Dec. 23, 1977: We left for Ivanhoe at 1 o'clock, went to Christmas program with Donna's family.

Saturday, Dec. 24, 1977: Bea is at Donna's too. Play cards, etc. Scott and Roxie come at night. Scott had to work late.

Sunday, Dec. 25, 1977: Didn't go to church. Had big turkey dinner at Donna's. Jay didn't come.

1978

Emma:

Monday, Jan. 9, 1978: Donna, Larry, Scott left with their mobile home for Oregon, etc. Julie, David, Lisa home alone.

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1978: Duane and Betty left with their coach at 2:30 p.m. for California.

Thursday, Jan. 12, 1978: Donna calls in evening from Reno, Nevada. They were in a snowstorm, had to buy tires for their motor home.

Saturday, Jan. 14, 1978: Hubert Humphrey died last night.

Monday, Jan. 16, 1978: Donna called last night at 10 p.m. They are at Portland, Oregon. Are going to start out for Washington (Roland) tomorrow.

Saturday, Jan. 21, 1978: Duane called from Chula Vista, California, at noon. Ger talked to Jon, too.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1978: Duane called, they are in Lodi, California. Donna called last night, they are in Kalispell, Montana, on way home.

Friday, Jan. 27, 1978: Donna called at noon, they got home at 5:30 a.m., drove all night to get home. Got Lisa from hospital, she had flu.

Thursday, Feb. 2, 1978: Duane and Betty got home from California about noon.

Monday, Feb. 6, 1978: Scott come over to visit with us, stay all night. Had real nice visit.

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1978: Ginny called Duane's last night, she got new job. Works for a realtor. Quit her job in the beauty shop.

Sunday, Feb. 19, 1978: We to church. Donna and Larry, David and Lisa and us all at Duane and Betty's for turkey dinner. Julie had to work at hospital. Lisa's birthday today.

Friday, Feb. 24, 1978: Duane and Betty went to Aberdeen. Danny Shaw's wedding is Saturday, Feb. 25. They left 4 p.m. but went as far as the 81 highway and had to turn back, come home again. Patrol was there.

Saturday, Feb. 25, 1978: Duane and Betty went to Aberdeen with the panel truck. Four-wheel drive.

Monday, Feb. 27, 1978: We start out on our trip to California. Had dinner at Donna's.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 1978: We start out for home again. Sleep too cold in fifth-wheeler. Got home at 5 p.m.

Donna:

And mother didn't want to go, so they came home.

Emma:

Tuesday, March 14, 1978: I called Donna in eve. Larry called her, said he had a job. He is salesman for trailers and mobile homes, but Scott can't get a job till April 1st. Jay will move to farm March 16th. Julie works at hospital. Lisa is studying catechism, will be confirmed before they move to Oregon.

Thursday, March 23, 1978: Drove to Graceville to get Julie. Her and Lisa come on the bus. Lisa went to Fuhrman's. Both for the weekend.

Friday, March 24, 1978: We to church at 9 a.m., Julie too. Julie and I went shopping at new store here in town. She bought a new pair of shoes and a blouse.

Sunday, March 26, 1978: Easter. We to church. Donna and David come from home. All to church at Morris. Betty and Duane and all here for dinner, Lisa, too. Jay and Gail here for dinner, they left early.

Tuesday, April 4, 1978: Larry come home from Oregon yesterday. He had been there since Feb. 27.

Wednesday, April 5, 1978: Donna and Larry are not moving to Oregon now. Only good thing there is the weather. Scott stayed there. He got a carpenter's job at Grant's Pass, Oregon.

Friday, April 7, 1978: Donna and Larry stopped here in afternoon. They come from Alexandria. They looked at a resort to buy at a lake.

Monday, April 12, 1978: Duane and Betty got home from Oklahoma.

Tuesday, April 25, 1978: We went to Morris, bought a grave lot at the Summit Graveyard. \$280.

Julie:

Grandpa and Grandma were actually buried in the cemetery east of Aberdeen.

Emma:

Friday, April 28, 1978: Betty is in Minneapolis for bowling.

Saturday, May 6, 1978: Dr. Busch put Duane's Snoopy to sleep.

Sunday, May 7, 1978: Lisa was confirmed in the Tyler church at 9 a.m. We all at Donna's for dinner.

Sunday, May 14, 1978: Donna called from Ivanhoe. They think they will move to Wahpeton. Larry may get a food service job there.

Donna:

On a particular day I was distraught, because Larry wasn't looking very hard for a job and our money was slowly being used up. We left in the motor home for Morris and Larry talked to somebody in Morris and found the food service position was open in Wahpeton. When Larry was on the phone with somebody in Morris, I sat in the back of the motor home and cried and prayed that Larry would find a job. That must have been when we went up to Wahpeton, then.

Emma:

Tuesday, May 23, 1978: Got letter from Donna telling Larry got the job at Wahpeton.

Thursday, June 1, 1978: Donna and Larry stopped here after dinner. They come from Wahpeton, N.D., looked for a house. Will be moving there. His job starts on July 1st.

Sunday, June 18, 1978: We to church, then from there we drove to Ivanhoe, got there for dinner, fish fry, went down to see Jay's place. Also, his chickens and calves. He has six calves now. They live in a trailer house on a farm.

Monday, July 3, 1978: Duane and Betty went to Ivanhoe to help Donna and Larry move with pickup and two-wheel trailer. Come by here at 4 p.m. with a load.

Friday, July 28, 1978: We drove to Wahpeton to see Donna, took raspberries and a head of cabbage. They are getting along OK. Julie works at the nursing home.

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1978: Duane went to Fargo. He took Donna's lawn swing along to Wahpeton, N.D.

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 1978: Donna, Julie and Lisa come with their camper and trailer to get David and his snowmobile and pick chickens that Jay and Gail raised for them. Also stopped at Madison to see doctor for Lisa's teeth, then go on to Jay's. Plan to stay there all night.

Sunday, Aug. 27, 1978: We went to Duane's lake house. Donna, Larry, Lisa, David, Jay, Gail there, too. We had potluck dinner and leftover supper, fish and chicken.

Friday, Sept. 8, 1978: Donna called in evening. She thinks she is getting the secretary job at the school where Julie and David go to school.

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1978: We drove to Wahpeton. Visited Koppelman's for a while as nobody home at Donna's till 4 p.m. Donna starts working at high school today, so we went to Donna's. Julie was working at rest home.

Julie:

Mom was not a "secretary," but clerk of the school district. Sept. 13 is her birthday.

Emma:

Friday, Oct. 13, 1978: Ger went to Dr. Wernsing. He has dizzy spells. He said he had hardening of the arteries. Gave him some pills to take.

Saturday, Nov. 11, 1978: Donna called, Jay and Gail have a little girl. They are coming here to bring their motor home here to park it, then they go to Canby. Gail is in hospital there. Romalea Rae, 7 pounds, 2 ounces, born 4:50 a.m. on 11/11/78.

Monday, Nov. 13, 1978: Duane was just here, told us that Donna had an operation on her breast and head, but it was not cancer. Still under when Larry called Duane's.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1978: Donna called, she is home again and is fine. Plans to go to work again tomorrow. Larry called Scott, he got laid off from carpentry work, because banks won't borrow money anymore, so may come home.

Thursday, Nov. 23, 1978: We went along with Donna and Larry to church. Gades' for coffee. Jay and Gail had their baby baptized, then all to Duane's and Betty's for Thanksgiving dinner. All there except for Scott, and he is on his way home from Oregon.

Saturday, Nov. 25, 1978: Scott got home 1 o'clock yesterday. They had got as far as Jay's last night, got there at 10:30, so stayed there all night.

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1978: Wrote letter to Donna and all, sent check of \$600 to Scott, he starts school today at school of science.

Monday, Dec. 11, 1978: We got the Wahpeton paper from Donna through the mail. David's picture is in it; he was in a play. Julie had a write-up in there.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 1978: We to church. Scott and Roxie were there, too. Duane and Betty, Scott and Roxie here for dinner but left again early in eve, 'cause they were going to church for song fest. Lisa was also in that.

Sunday, Dec. 24, 1978: We to church in a.m. At noon we go to Wahpeton because Jay and Gail will only be there today. They will go to Gades' on the 25th. Romalea is sure growing and is so good. Slept all night long.

Monday, Dec. 25, 1978: Duane and Betty got there after Jay and Gail left. Scott and Roxanne there.

1979

Emma:

Sunday, Jan. 21, 1979: Donna called, Larry is in hospital, has nerve trouble again.

Julie:

This occurred on a school day, as I remember getting a note from a secretary in Mom's office.

Emma:

Sunday, Jan. 28, 1979: Ger shoveled snow and got a chest pain, so laid down. Donna and Larry, Jay and Gail come, so Duane and Donna took him to the hospital in afternoon, around 2:30 or so.

Monday, Jan. 29, 1979: Ger is in hospital. I called at 6:30 a.m., he had a good night. Duane and I went to hospital to see Ger. He is fine. They'll give him oxygen.

Saturday, Feb. 17, 1979: Donna and Julie and Mr. and Mrs. Gades, Gail and Romalea come, was here for dinner. They all paint except Shirley, she took care of Romalea. They got all kitchen, utility room painted, also living room and bathroom. Got stormy so they went home early. Donna and Julie stay all night at Duane and Betty's.

Julie:

Jay and Gail were moving into one of the apartments built by Grandpa in Chokio, across from Duane and Betty's.

I remember asking Grandpa if the new millennium would begin in 2000 or 2001. He stopped to think (which more people should do more often) and said 2001. I asked why. He said "Well, if I sold 100 sheep, I wouldn't let just 99 out of the pasture."

Emma:

Friday, March 9, 1979: Scott and David here in eve. They come to Chokio to get Larry's motor home.

Wednesday, March 28, 1979: Duane's, Jay's, and us drove to Wahpeton. Roxanne was confirmed at 7 p.m. Had nice lunch at Donna's after, all our family were there.

Sunday, April 1, 1979: Ger went to church. My knees hurt, couldn't walk good, so did not go. Donna and Larry, Julie, Lisa, Duane, and Betty here in p.m. and for lunch. David was working for a hamburger cafe. Scott and Roxanne were in Iowa.

Julie:

I think David was working at Haugen's Cafe in Wahpeton.

Emma:

Wednesday, May 23, 1979: We went to Wahpeton with Duane in eve to Julie's graduation. Jay and Gail went, too. Had reception after at her house.

Sunday, June 10, 1979: We drove to Larry Ihde's home to celebrate Min and Ed's 60th anniversary. Was real enjoyable.

Julie:

This is the second and last noted entry in which Emma expresses her feelings about anything.

Emma:

Sunday, June 17, 1979: We went to church, then to Long Lake where Donna and Larry are. We had a fish fry there. Scott, Roxie, Gail, and Jay there and Gail's brother and wife, too. Julie and David worked.

Donna:

This Long Lake was north of Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

Emma:

Thursday, June 21, 1979: Gail went to work at Carlson's Nursery today. Got a Ritter gal for a babysitter.

Monday, June 25, 1979: Duane stops here to tell me Jon and Heather are coming on a plane to Minneapolis June 30, so they meet them there.

Wednesday, June 27, 1979: Jay and Gail come over for a few minutes. Romalea was so happy, sits on her knees and plays with the blocks, shake them, smiled a lot.

Wednesday, July 4, 1979: Duane and Betty, Donna and Larry and Lisa, Jon and Heather, and us were at Duane's lake cottage to celebrate the Fourth. Jay and Gail come later, also Romalea, were there for supper.

Sunday, July 8, 1979: Julie and Steve at Jay's. They came over for a while, too.

Julie:

Steve Velaski, photographer for the Breckenridge-Wahpeton Daily News and my boyfriend my senior year and a bit beyond.

Emma:

Thursday, July 26, 1979: We went to Morris this afternoon, got sheets and pillowcases for Roxanne's shower.

Sunday, July 29, 1979: We to church, then drove to Wahpeton, had a shower for Roxie. All our family there, also Roxie's aunt and uncle from Wendell, Minnesota.

Friday, Aug. 3, 1979: We went to St. Cloud to get my ears checked. I'm getting a hearing aid. We had a car accident, broke the one light of our car, etc., in front.

Saturday, Aug. 18, 1979: Scott and Roxanne got married at 2 o'clock at church, real nice wedding. Julie, David, and Lisa sang. We went with Betty and Duane, at Wahpeton, N.D.

Julie:

I recall hearing that Jana Stillwell was married the same day in Wahpeton to Donald Hanna.

Emma:

Saturday, Sept. 1, 1979: Got first letter from Julie. She is going to school in Jamestown, N.D.

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 1979: We start out for Wahpeton after dinner, visit with Carl Koppelmans till 4 o'clock, celebrate Ger and Donna's birthdays. We had a fish supper. We slept in our motor home. We had the furnace on, so was comfortable in there, drove home the next day.

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 1979: We stop at rest area on our way to Jamestown, then went to see Julie.

Julie:

I remember when they came to visit me at Jamestown College. I had to wave apologetically to other drivers when Grandpa wasn't looking, because his driving skills had declined.

Donna:

Yeah, we used to check their car for dents regularly.

Emma:

Friday, Oct. 5, 1979: Donna and Lisa stopped here. They come to get Romalea. Jay and Gail are going hunting.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 1979: Donna and Larry went to church with us. Had dinner here, Duane and Betty here too, also Julie and Steve came from Wahpeton. David had to work. Scott and Roxie went to River Falls, Wis., to see about a job in a lumber yard. We all invited to Jay and Gail's for supper. I got sick so I went home before supper. Gades' there too.

Julie:

This was Romalea's first birthday.

Emma:

Friday, Nov. 23, 1979: Scott and Roxanne leave for River Falls, Wisconsin, where Scott will live, has a job at a lumber yard.

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 1979: Got letter from Donna, she said Scott and Roxie got an apartment in River Falls and he starts work on Nov. 26.

Monday, Dec. 24, 1979: Jay and Gail had car accident. Broke windshield.

Wednesday, Dec. 26, 1979: I straighten out my closet. We gave those cushions that we had in there to David. He is fixing up Scott's old van. They bought that from Scott.

1980

Emma:

Thursday, Jan. 24, 1980: Ger talked to Jay, he said Larry is going to have surgery on gall bladder.

Monday, Feb. 18, 1980: I wash. Read Norma Zimmer's book of her life.

Julie:

First time I have noted an entry mentioning any book she has read.

Emma:

Thursday, March 27, 1980: We call Donna in eve. They are all fine. Larry and Donna are still on a diet. He feels real good since his gall bladder operation and losing weight. Lisa is on the honor roll. David is cook at the cafe. Julie is studying hard, also takes some evening classes.

Monday, April 7, 1980: Julie decorated a nice birthday cake for me.

Sunday, April 20, 1980: Hot day. We went to church, from there to Wahpeton, ate dinner at the Cafe where David works. He was there. He come home late in afternoon, so we got to see him more. Jay and Gail and Romalea there too, also Steve.

Monday, April 21, 1980: Duane's business not good. Has no work for Jay so he is looking for a new job.

Sunday, April 27, 1980: Real nice day. We had a Mother Daughter Banquet at church at 2 o'clock. Donna come, then Betty and I and Donna all went. Betty and I come home, then Jay and Romalea come over so I got supper for them.

Tuesday, May 6, 1980: Jay and Gail here in eve to tell us they are moving to a farm home near Appleton. He works at a butcher shop there in Appleton and Gail at Morris.

Sunday, May 11, 1980: Went to Swan Lake. Donna and Larry have their trailer home there.

Friday, May 16, 1980: David and Lisa come with the van to help Jay move, but Jay had to work at the butcher shop so Ger, David and Lisa and Gail done the moving. I got the dinner for them. Betty babysat for Romalea.

Saturday, May 24, 1980: We drove to Jay and Gail's place on the farm. First time we were in their farm house. Was real nice. Jay was butchering today, so we didn't see him. Romalea still seemed to know us.

Friday, June 13, 1980: We called Donna but they are at the lake so we talked to Julie. They moved their trailer to Lida Lake now. Julie said she didn't go with Steve anymore. Donna got a big raise.

Donna:

Not very big.

Emma:

Sunday, Aug. 24, 1980: We went to Wahpeton to celebrate Donna and Larry's anniversary. Had open house. Duane and Betty roasted four turkeys on their outfit there. Had a big crowd.

Julie:

I made and decorated a tiered anniversary cake for their 25th anniversary.

Emma:

Monday, Sept. 1, 1980: Ger cut down the catalpa tree.

Julie:

Remember the tree with the huge leaves?

Emma:

Thursday, Sept. 11, 1980: Jay here for dinner. He is working for Duane again.

Friday, Sept. 12, 1980: Celebrate, Duane and Betty, Donna and Larry, Julie, David, Lisa here to celebrate birthdays, they both brought a cake "trimmed."

Friday, Oct. 3, 1980: Ger hit his finger with a hammer, so in eve, 6:30, Duane took him to Doc Shock in Morris. He broke some bones.

Sunday, Nov. 2, 1980: Jay said Becky Gades had a car accident, got hurt and is in Willmar Hospital.

Julie:

I have worn my seat belt religiously ever since.

Emma:

Monday, Nov. 3, 1980: Ger went to Jay's. He's home with Romalea. She talks more now.

Friday, Dec. 26, 1980: Donna called from Washington yesterday, from Roland's house.

Julie:

Mom and Dad, David, Lisa, Bea, and I flew to Sea-Tac and then traveled to Roland and Margaret's home on the sound.

1981

Emma:

Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1981: We watch the hostage homecoming on TV. First to New York, then flew in four planes to Washington, D.C.

Donna:

That must have been when Reagan took over as president after Carter.

Emma:

Saturday, Feb. 14, 1981: Got a valentine from Donna. As usual.

Friday, March 27, 1981: Julie called here from Halstad, Minnesota, where she works.

Thursday, April 9, 1981: Andy called from Oklahoma City. Bob has shot himself at 11:30 a.m. He will be cremated. He was getting real bad with a lot of pain.

Friday, April 24, 1981: We went for a ride to the farm that Jay rented 4 miles west of Morris. It is a nice place.

Saturday, May 2, 1981: Jay and Gail move today to a farm 4 miles from Morris. Larry and Donna help them move. Julie, too. We drove down at 4 o'clock, they had everything moved, put all the heavy things in place. Mr. and Mrs. Gades and Keith there, too.

Monday, May 4, 1981: We went to Morris in a.m. Got suitcase for David.

Saturday, May 9, 1981: Duane here, brought a letter from Ginny, California. Dennis is working for a ship builder. He flies for him, over to Florida.

Sunday, May 17, 1981: We went to lake where Larry and Donna are. They bought a house at lake. Jay, Gail there too.

Donna:

That was Prairie Lake.

Emma:

Wednesday, May 27, 1981: We went to Wahpeton to David's graduation, Duane and Betty took us.

Monday, June 22, 1981: Ina Shaw had her leg taken off today. Betty is there. She got over the operation all right, but sometime after she had lots of pain.

Wednesday, July 1, 1981: We went to Jay and Gail's in evening to bring Jay a birthday card. Romalea got her books from upstairs for Ger to read to her.

Wednesday, July 23, 1981: Nice day. Julie came early in a.m. about 8:30. I roasted a chicken for dinner. Julie fixed the belt part on Ger's gray suit. Put loops on for the belt. Also worked on his brown suit pants.

Monday, July 27, 1981: In afternoon we went to Morris to see a doctor. He took the stitches out from the side of my nose. He said cancer had started, but he said he got it all out.

Friday, Oct. 16, 1981: Donna and Lisa had been to Madison to see about Lisa's teeth. She had her teeth straightened out. This is her last trip. Had a real nice visit, they left and went to Jay's at 5 o'clock, Lisa had never been there. They live 9 miles from here, north of Alberta.

Thursday, Nov. 12, 1981: Ger mailed a letter to David about going to college, etc.

1982

Emma:

Friday, April 2, 1982: Jay works in Wahpeton.

Donna:

Jay got a job working for Mark Lorenz. He lived with us in an apartment close to the school.

Emma:

Thursday, April 8, 1982: Duane went to Alex and fell and broke two ribs. We went to see him last evening. He had quite a bit of pain.

Sunday, April 11, 1982: Easter Sunday. We to Wahpeton, all there except Duane and Betty. Duane is in the hospital with two broken ribs.

Sunday, May 9, 1982: Mother's Day. We to church then Duane's pick us up. We invited to Donna's at their lake home. Just Julie of the kids there. David was there with girlfriend just for a little while.

Saturday, July 3, 1982: Donna called, we should come today, so we did. Was there overnight, then just visit.

Sunday, July 4, 1982: Julie went to flea market, so Ger and Larry went to see her there.

Wednesday, July 7, 1982: Jacobson's here to look at our house; we got it for sale.

Saturday, July 24, 1982: Donna at the lake. David was coming tomorrow from Jamestown.

Wednesday, July 28, 1982: Got letter from Donna Monday. They sold their house and are moving in an apartment in Wahpeton.

Saturday, Aug. 14, 1982: We drove to Fergus Falls, met Donna there and Lisa. I bought a print lavender dress. Donna was with me. Ger drove on to their lake home where Larry was and Donna, Lisa and I drove there after we were done shopping. Duane and Betty there too with their motor home, so all our family there all night. We all went to their lake home which they were buying. All rode in Duane's motor home.

Sunday, Aug. 15, 1982: Bea and Leona come to see them, too, so we all drove around sight-seeing in motor home.

Sunday, Aug. 29, 1982: We went to church, then to Donna's lake home with Duane and Betty. Went to Felton to David's girlfriend's shower.

Julie:

Her name was Charlene Yeager.

Emma:

Sunday, Sept. 12, 1982: We went to church in a.m., then met with Donna and Larry, Betty and Duane, Jay and Gail and Romalea at the Holiday cafe for dinner, then all come over here for the rest of the day. Romalea went to Sunday school for the first time at Appleton church.

Thursday, Sept. 16, 1982: Duane and Betty are in Denver to Alan's wedding.

Julie:

That was Alan Shaw.

Emma:

Saturday, Sept. 18, 1982: We start out for David's wedding at 10 o'clock, stay at a cafe in a motel at Dilworth. We went to Felton, Minnesota, where David and Charlene were married. Jay and Gail were driving in front of us, so we got there at the same time. Also, Donna and Larry come the same time. They took pictures first before the wedding, also after, then had a nice lunch, then to a dance.

Sunday, Sept. 26, 1982: Our 60th Anniversary today. Donna and Larry, Duane and Betty had flowers on our church altar today.

Friday, Oct. 2, 1982: Larry, Donna, Betty, Jay and Butch Raasch helped us move to our apartment in Chokio. Had supper at Virgil's.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 1982: Sold house to D. Jacobson, \$36,000.

Julie:

Diary entries are becoming sparse.

1983

Emma:

May 22, 1983: Lisa graduated at 2 p.m. Duane's and us went at Wahpeton high school graduation.

Aug. 9, 1983: put new carpet in Apartment 3 bedroom.

Julie:

This was Grandma's last entry.

Emma Louise Bierman Busch died April 28, 1988.

Gerhart William Johannes Busch died Feb. 4, 1989.

Both died at the Villa of St. Francis in Morris, Minnesota.

They are buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens,

5851 East U.S. 12, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

A Tribute

On the blank pages which follow her last entry, I took the liberty of writing a tribute to Grandma Emma when, on May 2, 1992, I finished reading her diaries for the first time.

“Dear Grandma,

“This afternoon I finished reading through your diaries from the year I was born, until this, your last entry. Your diaries have been a special gift to us all, and I wish you were still alive so that I could tell you how much I appreciate this special legacy.

“I feel as if I have come to know you a bit better by reading your notes. You kept such good track of your family, and I see you even took care to backtrack and correct entries at times or add a few words of clarification.

“Always, the weather was noted, and what fruits and vegetables you harvested. Just reading these pages, I could see once again the rows of ripening tomatoes on top of the dryer and smell the special scent of the entryway pantry. I chuckled to see that each year of the Community Day Picnic, the kiddy parade seemed to be your favorite event.

“Grandma, your diaries have been a treasure to me as I seek to reclaim the memories of my childhood. Now I know how old I was when I got contact lenses, when we moved from home to home, and many other details which may otherwise have been lost.

“In your diaries I see your quiet love for your family, and how only the most notable national events were important enough to be included, along with notes on who you visited with and when. I saw your notes when we wrote cards and letters or called. I’m sorry there were not more times you could mark these events down.

“I see now that our visits really mattered to you and Grandpa. It’s sad that we aren’t as faithful today in recording our life details. Seeing what a rich resource your diaries are, I feel urged to do so. I can’t imagine doing so, day in, day out, as faithfully as you did.

“Thank you, Grandma, for this special gift of memories. Love, Julie”

Appendix

Entries by Duane Busch in 5-Year Diary of Emma Bierman Busch

Feb 9-28, 1945

Friday, Feb. 9, 1945: Was inducted into the army at 3:30 in afternoon. Sure felt good. Fort Snelling.

Saturday, Feb. 10, 1945: Had K.P. in No. 8 Mess Hall. Fed officers.

Sunday, Feb. 11, 1945: Had General Detail. Went to burlesque show in afternoon on Fifth and Hennepin in Minneapolis.

Monday, Feb. 12, 1945: Had K.P. in No. 8 Mess Hall. Fed civilians and officers.

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 1945: Had K. P. Fed officers the first two meals. And birthday party in eve. Colonel's birthday.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1945: Left about 5:30 for Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, on Western RR. Had General Detail.

Thursday, Feb. 15, 1945: Arrived at Jefferson Barracks.

Friday, Feb. 16, 1945: Got uniform from army. Had two shots in either arm. Wrote two letters.

Saturday, Feb. 17, 1945: Had General Detail. On K. P. in evening.

Sunday, Feb. 18, 1945: Wrote letter home to honey. Went to church. General Detail. Went to work at K. P. at 4:30.

Monday, Feb. 19, 1945: Got done with K. P. at 5. Slept till noon chow. (Unclear) got our shipping inspections. Went to dance at training center. Last night at Jefferson Barracks.

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1945: Left at 9:20 on Miss. Pacific Lines for Little Rock, Arkansas, Camp Robertson. Got there at 7 p.m. Had big meal. Got assigned Barracks No. 331 in Co. B, Platoon 3.

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1945: Called at 6:30, ate at 8:00, had classification in morning. Wrote (initials of aunts and uncles) and honey, Dad, Mother, Donna. Had first day drill, played baseball and went to PX, bought shaving cream.

Thursday, Feb. 22, 1945: Had drill in morning, ("show" or "slow") in afternoon.

Friday, Feb. 23, 1945: Had drill this morning. No mail today. Got changed (unclear) from 99331 to 99333. Had shoes and drill this afternoon. Went to PX in eve.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 1945: Went to show in morning. Went to show in afternoon till 3:00. We were showed how to roll our packs and the rifle arms-to. PX and show in evening.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 1945: Went to church 10:00. Went to show in evening.

Monday, Feb. 26, 1945: Got first letter from Donna and folks. We started (unclear) today. Saw movies in morning.

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 1945: Was on K.P. all day. Eight of us. Had a good meal for supper and dinner.

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 1945: Went to three discussions in morning. Had two-mile drill, short (unclear) anti-aircraft practice. Had rifle class in eve. Good meals.