

The families in 1942:

Gardners – Isaac Newton Gardner (1851-1909) and Nancy Ellen Williams (1856-1887) were the parents of Gilham, Elsie, Williams, Lena, and Charles Gardner.

Gilham (1875-1954) was married to Verda Machlan (1881-1936); they had Orville, Leona, Doyle, and Merle.

Orville was married to Vera Lee; they had Orville, Twyla, Donald and Kay

Leona was married to William Van Sant; they had Richard, Judith, and Lana

Doyle was married to Irene Wright

Merle was single

Elsie (1877-1960) was married to Fred Matheny (1870-1945); they had Charles, Donovan, Dorothea and Anna.

Charles was married to Glen Bellows; they had Charles, Jack, and Darlene.

Donovan was married to Ethel Filteau; they had Patricia and Nancy.

Dorothea was married to Art Kerr; they had Donna and Sandra.

Anna was married to Howard Crate.

Williams (1881-1950) was married to Jettie Short (1881-1973), "Dad & Mother" Gardner; had Lloyd, Dale, and Marie. Jettie's parents were John Short (1854-1945) and Aurora Belle Howard (1860-1926).

Lloyd was married to Clarice McGee; they had Carol and Nancy.

Lawrence "Dale" was married to Helen Schaffer; they had Stanley and Dalene.

Marie was married to Ralph Kimmel.

Lena (1882-1968) was married to Pearl L. Yates (1883-1958); they had Louise, Wayne, and Pearl Eugene. The senior Pearl's parents were Carter Yates (1854-1911) and Alvira Harrass (1852-1934).

Louise was married to John Wilson.

Wayne was married to Eula Neff.

Eugene was married to Lela Schaffer; they had Nancy and Robert.

Charles (1884-1965) was married to Ida "Meda" Robins (1888-1957); they had William Roswell and raised Meda's niece, Annadell Cottrell (daughter of Arline Robins and Harold "Glenn" Cottrell).

William "Roswell" was married to Tressie Woods (1909-?); they had Selma, Raymond, Richard, Shirley, Thomas, and Jewell.

Annadell was single.

Schaffers – George (1868-1934) and Alice Lewis (1873-1930), "Dad & Mother" Schaffer, were the parents of Lloyd, Earl, Pearl, Harley, Louie, Gerald, Wilma, Lela, and Helen. Alice's parents were Ezra Lewis (1848-1873) and Susan Stiverson (1850-1934).

Lloyd (1893-1963) was married to Ethel Orr (1893-1972); they had Burl, Donald, Vivian, Kenneth, Norman, Marian, and Robert.

Burl was married to Opal Mathis.

Donald was married to Opal Horton; they had Karen.

Vivian was married to Wayne Hanson; they had Donavan.

Kenneth was married to Doris Meyers.

Jonathan "Earl" (1895-1988) was married to Rouine Fleming (1897-1966); they had Lester, Francis, and Max.

Pearl "China" (1896-1963) was married to Mercedes "Cedar" Sutton (1899-?).

Harley (1898-1967) was married to Doris "Dot" Mitchell (1898-1975); they had Keith and Eva.

Louie (1899-1975) was married to Ruth Cherington; they had Marvin and Margie.

Gerald was married to Ressler Bishop; they had Juanita, Carole, and Judith.

Wilma was married to George Casey; they had Larry.

Diary of Dale Gardner 1942

Timeline: The United States is now in World War II. Nazi leaders initiate the systematic genocide of Jews known as "the Holocaust." The declaration of the United Nations is signed in Washington. More than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the western U.S. are moved to "relocation centers." The first safe self-sustaining nuclear reaction is accomplished by Enrico Fermi, Edward Teller, and Leo Szilard at the University of Chicago. Napalm is invented and radar comes into operational use. The U.S. government starts the Manhattan Project, led by Robert Oppenheimer, to design and build the atomic bomb. "Casablanca" premieres in theaters. Bing Crosby releases "White Christmas," from the film "Holiday Inn." The Academy Award for Best Picture goes to "How Green Was My Valley" (Twentieth Century-Fox). The St. Louis Cardinals defeat the NY Yankees 4-1 in the World Series, the NCAA Football Champion is Ohio State (9-1-0), and "Shut Out" wins the Kentucky Derby.



Thu Jan 1 – Worked all day at George Benz I R Bottling Works #1, St. Paul, Minn. as Gauger.

Thu Jan 8 – Worked as Gauger at IRBW-1.

< No diary entries from January 9 through February. >

Sun Mar 1 – Working in St. Paul, Minn., as U.S. Storekeeper-Gauger.

Tue Mar 3 – 10th wedding anniversary. Married 10 years ago today in Maryville, Missouri.

Sat Mar 28 – Balanced the warehouse books & took 2 hours annual leave. Came home & helped Helen wash. Mac & I went to State basketball finals at night. Buhl beat Marshall 30-29.

Mon Mar 30 – Worked at Benz Rectifier Plant No. 1. Merle at Benz for instructions for Storekeeper-Gauger. Mrs. Marshall here at night. Letter from Wilma. Cloudy day & damp.

Tue Mar 31 – Worked at Benz Rectifier Plant & warehouse. Merle there too. Went to Gaugers meeting at night at Alcohol Tax Unit office. Read new Regulation 3 at meeting. Home at 11.

Wed Apr 1 – Worked at Benz in warehouse. We ate supper out. Warm day. Letter from home.

Fri Apr 3 – Merle, Walker & Carter at Benz learning the Gauging business.

Sat Apr 4 – Finished the monthly warehouse report at Benz. Warm. Put screens on the back door & bedroom window.

Sun Apr 5 – Stanley & I went down to Jewel Hotel after Merle. Merle Osterquist here for dinner.

Thu Apr 9 – Benz Rect Plant. Went to show “Belle Starr” at night & took Mac’s catalog home after the show. Fine day.



Sat Apr 11 – Benz Rect Plant 4 hours. Went after Macs in the afternoon. Took a ride. They stayed all night. Mac & I went to a show.

Sun Apr 12 – Fine day. Mac & Edith here all day. Picnic at Phalen Park. Warm.

Tue Apr 14 – Worked at Benz Rect Plant. Real warm today. Helen washed. I went to see “Wild Geese Calling” at night.



Thu Apr 16 – Benz Rect Plant. Mac, Stanley & I went to a show, “A Yank in the R.A.F.” Home after 11 P.M.



Sat Apr 18 – Worked 4 hours. Helen, Stan & I drove to Osceola in the afternoon. Stayed all night at the folks on the Utley farm.



Williams and Jettie's farmhouse, 1942

Sun Apr 19 – Schaffer dinner at Pearl & Cedar's. Fine day, fine eats, etc. All the Schaffer brothers & sisters there except Lloyd S. Had a haircut at Ottawa by John Devore.

Mon Apr 20 – Took Helen & Stan out to Wilmas. I came on to St. Paul & home by 8:30.

Tue Apr 21 – Benz Rectifier's. Wrote Helen a letter. Sprinkled the lawn. Fine day.

Wed Apr 22 – Benz Rect Plant. Fine day. Gaugers meeting at night at Jackson's office. Nelson gave a talk & comments were made by the men. Home at 11 o'clock.

Thu Apr 23 – Worked at Benz Rect Plant. Called Jackson after work & got 4½ days leave. Went to a show, "Ball of Fire."



Fri Apr 24 – Annual leave. Started down home at 10 A.M. & got there at 6 P.M. Surprised Helen & all. Stayed all night at folks.

Sat Apr 25 – Annual leave. At the folks on the farm in Iowa.

Sun Apr 26 – Gene & Lelas came up. We rode out to Wilmas & Louies with them. George & Wilma came out to the folks & borrowed our camera.

Mon Apr 27 – Annual leave. At the folks. Mother went with us to Albia to get some arch supports. Marie came out to the folks for supper.

Tue Apr 28 – Annual leave. Drove to St. Paul & home. Stopped in Milo & Ames. Got home about 8.

Wed Apr 29 – Annual leave. Planted flowers in front of the house. Re-seeded back yard. Went to a Gaugers meeting (school) at Mr. Nelson's apartment at night. 21 present.

Fri May 1 – Worked at Benz warehouse. Giddings & I gauged 80 barrels of whiskey in a little over 2 hours. Helen & Stan met me at work & we had dinner out. Marie's birthday < her 24th >.

Sun May 3 – 40° above. Got up late. Went to McCumbers for dinner. Went to "Aunt" Lou's for birthday party for Sarcy's. Went to a show, "Johnnie Eager" at night. Home at 10:30.



Mon May 4 – George Benz Warehouse & Rectifier Plant. Cool & cloudy. Worked with Carter most of the day.

Wed May 6 – Worked at Benz. Gaugers meeting at the office at night.

Sat May 9 – Worked in the Alcohol Tax Unit office on floor tax. Mac & Edith & Edward Winters here in the evening. He is a Naval Aviator. Letter from home.

Sun May 10 – Merles came out & took us a ride around Lake Phalen.

Mon May 11 – Benz Rect. Rainy all day. Went to McCumbers in the evening. Home at 9 P.M. Card from Lela.

Tue May 12 – Benz Rect Plant. Took the car over to Zuercher's station in the evening. Stanley & I rode the bicycle home & to the drugstore after a paper.

Wed May 13 – Benz. Bottling in bond. Merle in Rectifying. Went with Merle to Gaugers meeting at Radke's at night.

Sat May 16 – Worked in the Alcohol Tax Unit office on floor tax. Brought Mac home for dinner. Mowed the lawn. Went to a show at night.

Sun May 17 – Slept late. Went to Merle's in the afternoon & to a show with them. Rained.

Mon May 18 – Benz warehouse. Carter here for supper. He took us to a show.

Wed May 20 – Benz warehouse. Gaugers school at night. Mrs. Wilkenson & Sara Jo here today. Beulah stayed here while Merle & I went to school.

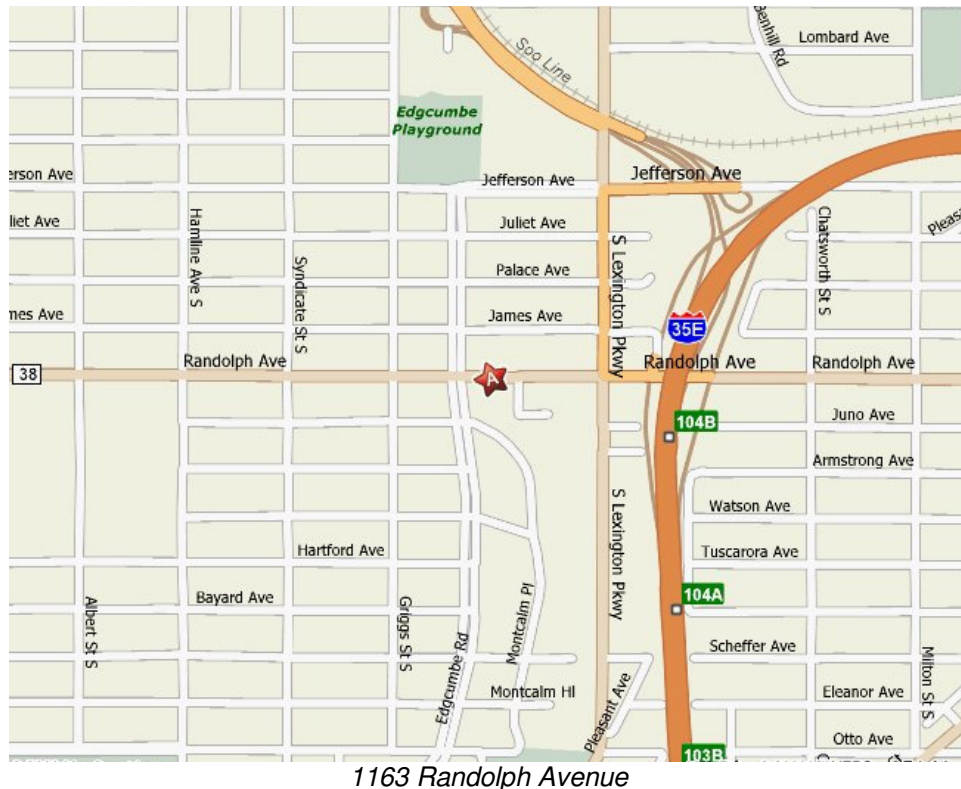
Fri May 22 – Benz warehouse. Walker helped. Too busy for 2 Gaugers. Stanley sick with nose-throat infection.

Wed May 27 – Worked at Benz. Picked up Mac in the evening & took him to Gaugers school.

Thu May 28 – Went to Shakopee with Leah to inspect the plant. Nice day – nice time. Merles here in the evening a little while.

Sat Jun 6 – Worked on floor tax in office. Looked for an apartment. Zuerchers here a little while. Dropped in on Merles a little while in the evening.

Sun Jun 7 – Rented the apartment at 1163 Randolph Avenue. Merle's for dinner. Macs here for supper.



Mon Jun 8 – Worked at Phillips warehouse. Walker there too. Stanley & I rode the bicycle & tricycle to the filling station for air.

Tue Jun 9 – Phillips warehouse. Wrote a letter to the folks. ½ hour overtime.

Fri Jun 12 – Phillips warehouse. ½ hour overtime. Worked with scales all day – testing & weighing. Submitted report on same to the office as per request of Mr. Lahant.

Sat Jun 13 – Worked in the office on floor tax. Went fishing with Merle & Billy in the afternoon. Stanley got a kick out of it.

Mon Jun 15 – Annual leave. Drove to the apartment on Randolph Avenue. Macs here at night. Painted the commode.

There are no further diary entries for 1942. My speculation: alcohol became a very important wartime resource and Dale had less time and attention for maintaining a diary.