

The families in 1952:

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, Merle.

Orville was married to Vera Lee; they had Orville, Twyla, Donald, Kay, Phillip, David.

Twyla was married to Norris Davis.

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

Richard was married to JoAnn Davis.

Doyle was married to Irene Wright.

Merle was married to Dorothy McCollister; they had Russell and Gary.

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

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

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

Anna was married to Howard Crate.

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

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, Nancy, Marie, and Mary.

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

Marie was married to Ralph Kimmel; they had Susan.

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; they had Selma, Raymond, Richard, Shirley, Thomas, and Jewell

Selma was married to Robert Wallace; they had Patti.

Raymond was married to Beverly DeVore.

Shirley was married to Mervin Briggs.

Annadell was married to Frank Gonseth; they had Jon and Debra.

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 "Chloe" 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 and Karyl.

Vivian was married to Wayne Hanson; they had Donovan.

Kenneth was married to Doris Meyers; they had Larry and Linda.

Marian was married to Bob Mericle.

Robert was married to Dorothy Semenchuk; they had Craig.

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

Francis was married to Lemuel Holmes; they had Connie.

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.

Keith was married to Betty Akes.

Eva was married to Jerry Kelly; they had Cynthia and Michael.

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

Marvin and Fern Stevens had Susan.

Margie was married to John Nish; they had Ann.

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

Wilma was married to George Casey; they had Larry.

Larry was married to Vallee Baker.

Diary of Dale Gardner 1952

Timeline: George VI of England dies; his daughter becomes Elizabeth II. The U.S. explodes the first thermonuclear bomb. Jonas Salk develops the first safe polio vaccine. The first jetliner service is inaugurated by BOAC between London and Johannesburg, South Africa. Television's first magazine-format program, the "Today Show," debuts on NBC with Dave Garroway hosting. Jackie Gleason's "The Honeymooners" debuts on CBS, beginning a two-decade run. The Academy Award for Best Picture goes to "An American in Paris" (MGM). The NY Yankees defeat the Brooklyn Dodgers 4-3 in the World Series, the NCAA Football Champions are Michigan State (9-0-0) and Georgia Tech (12-0-0), and "Hill Gail" wins the Kentucky Derby. The Summer Olympics are held in Helsinki, Finland, and the Winter Olympics take place in Oslo, Norway, where 22-year-old Dick Button repeats his 1948 gold medal figure skating performance.

I get my first "real" job this year as a box boy and stock clerk at 35 cents per hour, with wages subject to Social Security. Otto's Market was a narrow little grocery store on Second Street in downtown Muscatine, and one of the few remaining grocery stores that had worn wooden floors with tall shelving units on the walls and long-handled mechanical arm extenders I would use to reach high shelves and "grab" a container of food out of the customer's reach. Paper bags have not yet made it to Otto's (and certainly not plastic), so customer purchases are placed by me in a cardboard box, with the heaviest items in the bottom of the box, and lighter items on top to avoid being crushed. The boxes are what merchandise came in, and I have to select the size box that comes closest to holding their purchases without any excess room left over in the box. Waste not, want not. If the customer wants me to carry their box out to their car, that is in my job description too. I still remember getting my small yellow pay envelope each week, with handwriting on the outside showing my hours, gross income, deductions, and net income, with actual cash inside. It isn't a lot, but it beats mowing yards for 25 cents each.

Dale records a three-day examination of Helen at Still Hospital in Des Moines, but he does not write the reasons for the exam, nor the outcome. The only notations he includes are about the hospital's incompetence dealing with insurance.

One incident of national importance this year is the election of Dwight David Eisenhower as 34th President of the United States, succeeding Harry S. Truman. His running mate, Richard Milhaus Nixon, is elected Vice President - and later, 37th President. Eisenhower had been commanding general of the victorious forces in Europe during World War II, then assumed supreme command of the new NATO forces being assembled in 1951. His campaign slogan of "I Like Ike" helps him win a sweeping election victory and his military prestige helps win a truce in Korea, and he works during his two terms to ease Cold War tensions.

We are living at 505 East 7th Street, Muscatine. "Mickey" or "Mike" is Mike Collier, my closest high school friend. He and his mother were immigrants from Burton-on-Trent, England. Margaret Sinnott is the woman who lives next door at 503 East 7th Street. "Weed Park" is the 72-acre town park; it has a swimming pool, ball park, lagoon, small zoo, playground, tennis courts, and picnic areas. "Fun Night" is a teen dance held at the YWCA on Friday evenings.

During the year, we visit with many family members, including Roswell Gardner (at least half-a-dozen times); Jettie Gardner; Ruth and Louie Schaffer; Margie and Jack Nish and Ann; Marie and Ralph Kimmel and Susan; Opal and Don Schaffer; Wilma and George Casey and Larry; China (Pearl) Schaffer; Ressia and Gerald Schaffer and Juanita, Carole, Judith, and Alice; Lela and Gene Yates and Nancy and Robert; Clarice and Lloyd Gardner and Carol, Nancy, Marie, and Mary; and Opal and Burl Schaffer.

As this diary from 1952 begins, Dale is 42 years old, Helen is 40, Stanley is in his freshman year of high school, and Dalene is in 4th grade. They still have their dog, Ringer, and their 1939 Mercury.

Tue Jan 1 – Holiday. No duties. Meads here to watch Pasadena parade. We watched Illinois (40) beat Stanford (7) in the afternoon. Lela & Wilma called from Ames. Nice quiet day & good supper.

Thu Jan 3 – Worked. Roswell here at night for oyster stew & TV. Clear & warmer, 25°.

Wed Jan 9 – Worked. Roswell stopped in a little while at plant on his way to Osage.

Sat Jan 12 – Non-work day. Watched Navy beat Georgetown in basketball on TV in the afternoon. Watched pro football game, too. Stan & Dalene to a show in the afternoon.

Sun Jan 13 – Up late & read the Sunday paper. Stan to Sunday school. Had baked chicken for dinner.

Tue Jan 15 – Worked. Played Wahoo < a board game played with marbles > with Dalene at night.

Sat Jan 19 – Took family downtown & to grocery store. Kids to a show in the afternoon & Stan again at night. Lavonne Owens here in the afternoon. Damp & rainy.

Sat Jan 26 – Non-work day. Dalene & I took a ride through Weed Park. I washed the kitchen ceiling. Went to a show with Dalene in the afternoon. Warm & rainy. Mead on radio.

Sun Jan 27 – Up at 9:30 & breakfast with Helen. Bob Shoup here for a short visit. Mickey here to visit Stan. Mary Ellen here to play with Dalene. Clear & bright & cold, 26°.

Mon Jan 28 – Worked. Filled 3 trucks today. Cold all day & snow flurries. Wrote letter to Mother. Judy Fisher here to play with Dalene; Mickey Collier here for Stan. Margaret Sinnott here at night.

Wed Jan 30 – Worked. 10° above at 7 A.M., 35° above by afternoon. Long letter from Mother. Stan & Mick to Neitzel's drug store for a soda after supper. Meads here at night for TV.

Sun Feb 3 – Up at 9 A.M. Had baked chicken for dinner. Dalene to a show with Judy Fisher. Stan to practice Madrigal singing. Changed oil in the car. TV at night. 40° today & damp & foggy.

Tue Feb 5 – Worked. Meek at plant for visit, for 2 or 3 days. Roswell here at night for TV.

Thu Feb 7 – Worked. Stanley went with Muscatine High School chorus to Washington, Iowa, to sing.

Sat Feb 9 – Up late & all had breakfast together. Dalene bought Valentines. Chopped a peach tree down in the back yard in the afternoon.

Sun Feb 10 – Up at 7 A.M. to read paper. Stan & Dalene to Sunday school. Took family to Wild Cat Den State Park for awhile.



Pine Creek Mill in Wild Cat Den State Park, near Muscatine

Tue Feb 12 – Worked 8 to 3:30. Took off 1 hour to drive to Indianola to see basketball game. Osceola won 48 to 47 in a thriller, on to Osceola to Mother's to stay all night.

Wed Feb 13 – Non-work day, at Osceola. Took Mother to the cemetery, Louie's, Margie's, & Marie's. Went to Osceola High School & looked around. Drove home to Muscatine in rain & snow storm by 6:15.

Sun Feb 17 – Dalene & I took a ride to the airport. Dalene & Sonja to a show in the afternoon. Had a good roast beef supper.

Fri Feb 22 – Holiday. Wrote Mother a card. Stan worked all day at high school on project for shop class.

Sat Feb 23 – Non-work day. Snow today. To store & library. Dalene & Judy to a show in the afternoon.

Mon Feb 25 – Worked. Nice bright day. Helen blew a fuse washing. I came home for lunch & fixed it.

Fri Feb 29 – Worked. Card from Mother. Judy Fisher here at supper to play with Dalene.

Sat Mar 1 – Non-work day. Dalene & I went to a show in the afternoon. Bright cold day.

Mon Mar 3 – Worked. Snow most all day, not cold. Talked to St. Paul 3 times regarding filtering. Married 20 years ago tonight. Mickey here in the evening.

Tue Mar 4 – Worked. 10 inches of snow last night & cold, 14°. I got stuck getting out of the garage & had to shovel clear to Mulberry Avenue < *downhill in the alley* >.

Wed Mar 5 – Worked. Worked on inventory all day. Zero at 7 A.M. Left car on the street, too much snow to get it in the garage. Letter from Mother.

Fri Mar 7 – Worked. Stan to Mickey's at night & Helen, Dalene & I to Bushery's for evening of TV & visit. Golden Gloves on TV. Got stuck getting into garage.

Sat Mar 8 – Up at 9:30 A.M. Snowed & rained all day. Stan & Dalene to a show in the afternoon.

Mon Mar 10 – Worked. Rain all day. No mail, very quiet day. Sent Federal tax return to Des Moines.

Fri Mar 14 – Worked. Stanley went to Rock Island with Muscatine High School singing group.

Sat Mar 15 – Non-work day. Walked downtown & back. Took kids to a show in the afternoon.

Sun Mar 16 – Up at 9 A.M. Had breakfast at 11 A.M. Started dieting. Weight 198 stripped. Too much. Washed the car. Nice day. Dalene & Maryella to A-Mus-U in the afternoon. Stan rode his bike.

Mon Mar 17 – Worked. Wing drove down in his new Ford, visiting daughter in Davenport. 50° above today. Hayes called about daily report. TV at night, good on Studio One "The Vintage Years."

Thu Mar 20 – Worked. Marie called to say Uncle Joe died Tuesday night < *Joseph Garwood, husband of Sarah Gardner, daughter of John McBain Gardner* >. Wants us to come over.

Fri Mar 21 – I drove to Osceola to Uncle Joe's funeral. Left Osceola at 3:30. Took me 7 hours to drive home, blizzard & rain all the way. Got stuck out by West Liberty. Home at 10:15 P.M.

Sun Mar 23 – Up late & breakfast at 10 A.M. Kids to a show in the afternoon. Supper at 5:30, roast beef, very good. Snow & high winds all day & 25° above zero. TV in the afternoon & evening.

Mon Mar 24 – Worked. Cold & windy. 33° above. Filled 8 trucks today. Letter from Lela & Wilma. Steak for supper. Saw film of Davenport beat Keokuk at night on TV.

Tue Mar 25 – Worked. Hayes at plant today. Cold, 30° above. Took Dalene to Neitzel's after work for rock candy. Stanley sang at school in the afternoon & at night. Helen wrote Lela a letter.

Sat Mar 29 – Non-work day. Up at 6:30 to see Stan off to Davenport to singing contest. He got back at 4 P.M. Dropped in at Bushery's. Got Helen & Dalene's shoes fixed. Made fence around trellis. Warm.

Sun Mar 30 – Rain in the morning, nice in the afternoon. Baked chicken for supper. Arthur Godfrey on "What's My Line?" < TV show with panelists guessing mystery contestant's identity >.



Stock photo of "What's My Line?"

Tue Apr 1 – Worked. Got office windows fixed. Got fence gate at plant. Opal & Don Schaffer < Helen's nephew > & children dropped in for supper on their way from Libertyville to Osceola.

Thu Apr 3 – Worked. New door on government office. Stan to Oakdale at night to sing. To bed early.

Sat Apr 5 – Up & made a gate for the picket fence with Stan. Kids helped me paint the new fence.

Sun Apr 6 – Mother called at 8:30 to tell us she is coming over. Dalene & I met her at 4 P.M. at the Burlington depot. Stan raked the yard & Margaret Sinnott's too. Meads dropped in to say hello.

Tue Apr 8 – Worked. Mother, Stan, & Mickey to Junior College play at high school auditorium at night.

Wed Apr 9 – Worked 8 to noon. Took Mother to Burlington to catch 2:25 P.M. train for Osceola. Bought Dalene a dress, scarf, pajamas & shoes; Helen a scarf; Stan pajamas. Much colder. 34° at bedtime.

Thu Apr 10 – Worked. Took Helen & Dalene downtown after work. Bought Helen hat & gloves; Dalene gloves. Kids to a show at night.

Fri Apr 11 – Annual leave. Drove family & Mickey Collier to Mother's at Osceola. Stopped at Sigourney for lunch < a convenient Maid-Rite café was there > & at Wilma's to visit. Kids & I to a show at night. Rain at night & to bed at 11 P.M.



Sat Apr 12 – Family all at Mother's. Visited Louie & Ruth; China; to Margie & Jack for dinner. Kids played in the barn. Had supper at Mother's, 14 people there. Miserable day, rain.

Sun Apr 13 – Dalene went to Sunday School with Susie. We drove home to Muscatine, had dinner in Oskaloosa, also flat tire. Home at 5 P.M. & glad of it. Snow & rain all day. Called Jack Owens at night.

Mon Apr 14 – Worked. New tank leaks & had to empty it. Smith kids here at night to play cards. Mead bought a TV set.

Fri Apr 18 – Worked. River at 17.2 feet & getting higher. Family raked the yard & moved Margaret's bush in the evening. Kids skating at night.

Sat Apr 19 – Washed screens for porch & washed porch. Mr. Lease came over & helped put screens & awnings on the front porch. Took family to look at flood. River at 18 feet.

Sun Apr 20 – Got car battery quick-charged & put a new starter switch on. Helped Bushery carry his furniture to his attic to avoid possible flood. River at 18.5 feet. To Mead's for TV at night.

Mon Apr 21 – Worked. River at 19.3 feet. Flooding at riverfront. Fried chicken for supper.

Tue Apr 22 – Worked. 16 years in Civil Service. Rode to work with Arms. 3 truck shipments today. I went down at 10 P.M. & stayed till after 1 A.M. helping Rod lock up. More rain. River at 19.6 feet.

Wed Apr 23 – Took Helen & Dalene to dentist, Dalene had 3 teeth pulled. Boxing at night on TV. Cool today. River at 20.2 feet.

Thu Apr 24 – Worked. River at 20.5 feet. Clear & warmer. Roswell here to say hello. Dalene home, sick with tooth. Stan & I to a show at night.

Fri Apr 25 – Worked. River at 20.7 feet. Filled 3 trucks. Bought Stanley new shoes & slacks. Letter from Wilma. Busherys here at night.

Sat Apr 26 – River at 20.8 feet. Helen up early to get Stan off to Vinton at 6:45 to singing contest. Dalene to a show in the afternoon. Bright, warm day.

Sun Apr 27 – River stage 21.0 feet. Up early & got my own breakfast & took a ride up the river & through Weed Park. Perfect day. Greased & washed the car. Walked to filling station for cigars.

Mon Apr 28 – Worked. River stage 21.0 feet. Rode to work with Mrs. Adams. Olsgaard at plant for annual inspection. I'm down to 180 pounds. Lost 18 pounds since March 16th. Walked with Dalene for ice cream soda at night.

Tue Apr 29 – Worked. Hayes & Olsgaard here at plant. Olsgaard inspecting, Hayes on visit. Hot today, 91°. Highest April 29th on record. River a bit under 21.0 feet, falling a little.

Wed Apr 30 – Worked. River fell to 20.8 feet. Hayes & Olsgaard still at plant. I took half of tank farm inventory in the morning. Plant has a new coffee machine. Warm again, 88°.

Thu May 1 – Worked. Another nice day. Filled 7 trucks today. Mead back to work. I worked on monthly records all day. Borrowed a ladder from plant & put the swing up after work. River at 20.6 feet.

Sat May 3 – Helen & I did a big washing. Stanley got his first job - at Otto's Market, 35¢ per hour, carry-out boy. Saw a ball game, the White House, Kentucky Derby on TV.

Sun May 4 – Up early & to Bushery's to carry furniture back downstairs. Family at their house for dinner. Stan to a show in the afternoon. Warm, bright day. I planted flowers in the back yard.

Mon May 5 – Worked. Bushery & I worked on past reports for Gaugers all day. Got new slacks at Batterson's. Dalene & I took walk downtown after supper. Cool at night. Letter from Mother.

Fri May 9 – Worked. No shipments today. Rainy day. I bought a pair of soft shoes for summer wear. Dalene & I walked downtown after 9 P.M.

Sat May 10 – Rested all morning. Dalene to a show in the afternoon. Stan worked all day at Otto's. He & I to a show at 9 P.M. No mail. Car has a knock in motor. Cold!

Sun May 11 – Up & read the Sunday paper. We gave Helen her Mother's Day presents at breakfast. I mowed our lawn & Margaret Sinnott's lawn. I took a walk downtown at night. TV at night.

Mon May 12 – Worked. Cool & clear. Loaded 2 trucks & 1 tank car. Margaret S. gave Stanley 18 shirts. Stan, Dalene & I to Bud Swick's at night after engineer's boots. Card from Wilma.

Tue May 13 – Worked. Bushery, Arms, Mead, & I cap sealed on the still. Took Stanley's engineer boots to shoe shop for stretching. Helen, Dalene, & I to Benson's at night to take tickets for high school play.

Thu May 15 – Worked. Slow day. Warm & bright. Olsgaard at plant. Picked up Stan's stretched engineer boots after work. Stan to high school for musical comedy at night.

Fri May 16 – Worked. Helen, Dalene, Judy Fisher & I to high school at night; Stan in musical comedy.

Sat May 17 – To plant in the morning to make out schedule for next week. Stan worked at Otto's. Downtown in the afternoon & to store. Dalene & I downtown at night looking at cars.

Mon May 19 – Worked. Loaded 2 trucks & 1 tank car. Business is slow. Helen visited at Fisher's & M. Sinnott's. No mail today. Dalene & I to Neitzel's at night for a soda & magazine.

Sat May 24 – Up late & helped Helen wash. No mail today. Stanley worked all day at Otto's. Dalene to a show in the afternoon with Hahn girls. I bought new canvas shoes.

Sun May 25 – Fine day. Had fried chicken dinner. Margaret Sinnott here at night for TV.

Tue May 27 – Worked. Rain today. Stanley went on school picnic to Wild Cat Den State Park. 54° at bedtime. Fire feels good. Called Lela.

Fri May 30 – Holiday, no work. Dalene & I washed & polished the car. Also cleaned it with sweeper. Stan & Dalene mowed the yard. Kids to a show in the afternoon. Dalene again at night with Hahn girls. Meads here to watch boxing.

Sat May 31 – Slept late. Stan worked at Otto's all day. Took Ring to kennel. I went to a show at night.

Sun Jun 1 – Up early & drove family to Grinnell. Dinner at Gerald's. Drove to Ames in the afternoon. 215 miles from Muscatine. Picnic supper at Gene & Lela's. Helen, Dalene & I slept in one of Gene's cabins, Stan with Bob in the house < *Gene and Lela owned and operated a motel in Ames* >.

Mon Jun 2 – Annual leave. Took Helen to Still Hospital in Des Moines for a 3 day examination. Had lunch with Merle Osterquist & Wilson. Supper at Osterquist's. Visited Helen in the afternoon & evening. Back to Ames by 9 P.M. Dalene & Nancy to a show at night.

Tue Jun 3 – Annual leave at Ames. Dalene & I slept late in cabin 19. We drove to Des Moines by 2 P.M. & visited Helen. Went to the top of the Capitol building. Brought Dalene back to Ames & I went back to Des Moines to visit Helen at Still Hospital. To bed late.

Wed Jun 4 – Up late & to Still Hospital to see Helen. Brought Helen home to Ames in the evening. Visited with Gene & Lela. Kids to a show in Ames.

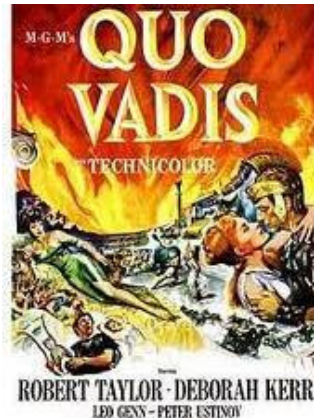
Thu Jun 5 – Drove from Ames to Osceola in afternoon. Supper in Indianola. Stayed all night at Mother's. TV at Casey's. Hot today.

Fri Jun 6 – To Louie's in the morning. Dinner at Mother's. Visited at Marie's. Drove back to Muscatine by 7 P.M. Hot today & tonight.

Sat Jun 7 – Very hot. Fixed the furnace fan to blow cool air from the basement. Stan worked at Otto's.

Sun Jun 8 – Up at 9 A.M. & got breakfast for family. Finished taking storm windows down & putting up screens. Greased the car. Kids to a show in the afternoon. Had roast beef supper.

Mon Jun 9 – Worked. Beautiful day. Filled one truck & one leaker. Stanley & I to a show at night, "Quo Vadis."



Tue Jun 10 – Worked. Benson, Owens, Arms, & Bushery helped Grannes with inspection. I went to a show, "Streetcar Named Desire."

Wed Jun 11 – Worked. Received itemized bill from Still Hospital. Called Still Hospital about insurance.

Thu Jun 12 – Worked. Very hot today. Too hot to sleep at night. I slept on the front porch & Helen on the davenport until early morning. Must be 100° in the shade.

Sat Jun 14 – Helen to Penney's with Dalene to buy me presents for Father's Day. Stan worked at Otto's.

Sun Jun 15 – Very hot today. Dalene & I took a ride to the bluff & she shot her cap gun at passing cars. Took family a ride in the evening. To bed about 11 P.M.

Tue Jun 17 – Worked. Visited at Owens' at night a little while. Wrote a letter to Still Hospital about insurance & report. Cooler. Watched TV till 11.

Wed Jun 18 – Worked. Fixed camp cot in the evening. Stanley went swimming with Mickey. Cooler.

Thu Jun 19 – Worked. Cool today. Stan to a show in the afternoon. Steak for supper. Took family a ride at 9 P.M. Cool in the evening.

Sat Jun 21 – Up early. Stan to work at Otto's. Helen, Dalene & I to the library & store. I went to a sale in the afternoon & bought book shelves. Stayed up late watching Bob Hope & Bing Crosby on TV.

Mon Jun 23 – Worked. Very quiet today. Roswell in town & out to our house at night. Hot & humid.

Tue Jun 24 – Worked. Hot & humid. Not much business today. Took Stan & Dalene to see carnival on the river front & to Weed Park.

Fri Jun 27 – Worked. Bushery visited the plant. Cooler in the morning but hot & humid in the afternoon. Stan went swimming at Weed Park. Showers in the evening.

Sat Jun 28 – Dalene's rubber play pond came. Hot & humid. Stan worked at Otto's.

Mon Jun 30 – Worked. Cooler today but humid in the afternoon. Kids went swimming at Weed Park, 1st time for Dalene. Margaret Sinnott came over in the evening for visit. Cooler tonight.

Wed Jul 2 – Took 2 hours annual leave, took kids to Weed Park to swim. Cooled off in the evening.

Thu Jul 3 – Worked. Drove family to Osceola by 10 P.M. Cool but car overheated. Took Mickey Collier. Mother was working in Marie's store, so was Carol. To bed late.

Fri Jul 4 – Fourth of July in Osceola. Stan, Mickey & Dalene had good time. I boiled the car radiator out in the afternoon. Kids went to a midnight show. We got to bed late.

Sat Jul 5 – Got a haircut at John Devore's shop. Took family a ride in a '49 Chevy at McPherson's. Stanley took his first girl, Anita Diehl, to ride on Ferris wheel. I rode with Dalene once on Ferris wheel.

Sun Jul 6 – Up early & started home at 10:30. Said goodbye to Mother at Marie's store. Hot on road. Home at 2:30 P.M. Helen doesn't feel good from so much riding. Fred King called.

Tue Jul 8 – Worked. Had E. Bloom write a letter to Still Hospital. Talked to their doctor on phone, he doesn't have good sense. Kids & I to a show at night. Cool & clear.

Wed Jul 9 – Worked. Nice day. Card from Mother. Roswell & Tressa here at night to visit. Watched Republican convention all evening.

Thu Jul 10 – Worked. Hayes at plant to interview Gauger prospects. Roswell & Tressa here part time. Watched Republican convention on TV. Card from Mother.

Sat Jul 12 – 43 years old today. Stan worked at Otto's. Dalene to a show in the afternoon. Hot today.

Sun Jul 13 – Up at 8 A.M. & read Sunday paper. Dalene to a show in the afternoon. Cloudy.

Mon Jul 14 – Worked. Talked to Meek twice. Arms went home sick. Rain & cooler. Stanley & I to a show at night.

Tue Jul 15 – Worked. Arms still sick. Cool & sprinkle today. Loaded 2 trucks. Helen not so well again. Card from Marie, from Mexico.

Thu Jul 17 – Worked. Letter from Mother. Rain off & on. Took kids to "Greatest Show on Earth" at night. Came home in a cloudburst.

Sat Jul 19 – Hot & humid. Stan worked at Otto's. Margaret visited in the evening. To bed late.

Sun Jul 20 – Helen is 41 today. Hot & humid. Kids swimming in the afternoon. Fried chicken for dinner.

Mon Jul 21 – Worked. Jim Chasteen began Gauger work. I went with him for oath & bond, etc. Picked kids up at Weed Park at 5 P.M. Dalene & I to a show. Watched Democratic convention at night.

Thu Jul 24 – Worked. M. Sinnott here at night to visit. Stanley to a show. Convention on TV.

Fri Jul 25 – Worked. Picked Stan up at Weed Park pool after work. Kids to a show at night. Watched Democratic convention on TV at night.

Sat Jul 26 – Worked. Dalene & I walked downtown at night. Stan worked his last day today at Otto's.

Sun Jul 27 – I got breakfast of bacon & eggs. Dalene & I to a show in the afternoon. Stan went swimming. Had roast beef dinner. Hot & humid today. To bed late, too hot.

Tue Jul 29 – Worked. Mother, Marie, & Susan came about 5:30 P.M. Cool evening. Bought some ice cream at Wintermute's. To bed late.

Wed Jul 30 – Worked 8 to 12:30, 4 hours annual leave. Went to Weed Park with Marie & kids. Jack & Lavonne Owens here at night to visit. Cool tonight.

Thu Jul 31 – Worked. Stan went to Osceola with Mother & Marie. Dalene & I to a show at night.

Sat Aug 2 – Watched a ball game on TV. Dalene & I to a show in the evening.

Sun Aug 3 – Rain today & cool. Dalene, Judy, & Mary Ella to a show in the afternoon. Fried chicken for dinner. TV for a ball game & TV in the evening.

Sat Aug 9 – Up at 9 A.M. Dalene & I to a show in the afternoon. TV at night & to bed late.

Sun Aug 10 – Up at 9:30 & helped clean the house. Washed windows, etc. Fixed Margaret's door stop. Cool & clear today. Dalene to a show in the afternoon with Sonya Sopher.

Thu Aug 14 – Worked. Working on floor tax at the plant. Card from Jack Owens in California. Put a new thermostat in car hose. Rain in the evening & hot today. Card from Stan & Mother.

Fri Aug 15 – Worked 8 to 2:30. Took the afternoon off & took Dalene down the river on paddle wheeler "Avalon." Watched All Star football game on TV at night, 10-7 in favor of Rams.

Sat Aug 16 – Up late & mowed our yard & Margaret's too. Dalene & I to a show in the evening. I went to the Drive-In at midnight. Home at 2 A.M.

Sun Aug 17 – Up at 8:30, read the paper & got breakfast. Had dinner at 4 P.M. & took Helen & Dalene a ride in the evening. Margaret Sinnott here at night to watch TV. Humid today but not too hot.

Mon Aug 18 – All working on floor tax audit. Olsgaard at plant in the morning. Mr. Lease painted the garage 1st coat. Marie & Stanley called at night.

Sat Aug 23 – Greased the car & fixed stoplights. Dalene & I went to the Burlington depot after Stanley.

Sun Aug 24 – Up at 9:30. Beautiful day. Kids & I to a show in the afternoon. Hamburgers for supper.

Mon Aug 25 – Worked. Floor tax audit. Kids & I to show at night. Fine day.

Tue Aug 26 – Worked. Loaded 1 tank car today. Thundershowers all day & evening. Diet supper.

Thu Aug 28 – Worked. Hot today. Roswell here at night for visit. Stan & Mick to a show.

Fri Aug 29 – Worked. Hot today. Bought Stan & Dalene new clothes for school. Roswell here at night to stay all night. He slept on the front porch.

Sat Aug 30 – Rode to Des Moines to the State Fair with Roswell. Spent day at the Fair, races, etc. Rode home with Mr. & Mrs. Jim Chasteen, got home at midnight. Helen was awake & waiting.

Sun Aug 31 – Up at 7:30 & read Sunday paper, got breakfast for family. Arms here in the afternoon to visit a few minutes. Had fried chicken for dinner. Stanley went swimming. Cooler in the evening.

Tue Sep 2 – Worked. Inventory day. Took Helen & kids downtown for school supplies for kids. 52° this morning & cool all day. Furnace fire feels good.

Wed Sep 3 – Worked. Kids in school all day < *Stan now a sophomore in senior high school, Dalene in 5th grade at Jefferson grade school* >. Cool yet. Heat on in government office.

Fri Sep 5 – Worked. Kids & I to a show at night, “She’s Working Her Way through College.” Beautiful day & evening. Temp 69°.



Sun Sep 7 – Stanley went to church. I washed & polished the car. Beautiful bright day. Stan & Mick to a show in the afternoon. Had roast beef supper. TV at night.

Wed Sep 10 – Worked. Took Helen to the library. Took kids to Will Rogers show at night. Hot today.

Thu Sep 11 – Worked. Sent Lloyd a birthday card. Kids to a show in the evening.

Sat Sep 13 – Dalene & I left Muscatine at 3:40 A.M., arrived Osceola 7:15 A.M. at Mother’s. Went out to Louie’s, had chicken dinner at Lloyd’s (45 years old), up town at night.

Sun Sep 14 – Visited with Mother & Marie in forenoon. Stopped at Wilma’s. Dalene & I home to Muscatine by 5:30 P.M. Nice clear cool day. Helen had roast beef for supper.

Tue Sep 16 – Worked. Hayes visited the plant. Warm & bright today. Stanley, Mickey & I went to the Hilltop drive-in theatre at night. Wrote Mother a card.

Fri Sep 19 – Worked. Loaded a tank car today. Stanley went to a football game, then to Fun Night.

Sat Sep 20 – Up late & got breakfast. Watched football & baseball on TV. Kids to a show at night.

Sun Sep 21 – Nice day. Fried chicken dinner. Dalene & I walked downtown & along the river.

Mon Sep 22 – Worked. Filled 1 tank car & worked on floor tax audit. Sent Mother a pair of foam rubber soles & heels house slippers < for her 71st birthday >. Bright, cool day.

Thu Sep 25 – Worked. Fine, warm day. Stan to Minstrel Show at high school at night.

Fri Sep 26 – Worked. Nice day. Dalene bought Ringer a football for his birthday. Stan went to Fun Night at YWCA after Muscatine beat Keokuk 13-6 in football.

Sun Sep 28 – Took a bicycle ride with Dalene down to the river, etc. Fried chicken dinner. Helen feels good. Kids to a show in the afternoon. Hot weather.

Wed Oct 1 – Worked. Cooler today, high 83°. Dodgers beat Yankees 4-2 in 1st game of World Series. Light supper. Cool in the evening. Fire in the furnace.

Thu Oct 2 – Worked. Filled one tank truck. Stanley joined church choir. Wrote Mother a card.

Fri Oct 3 – Worked. Dalene, Stan, & I to a football game, Muscatine beat Washington 19-6. Letter from Mother.

Sat Oct 4 – Watched World Series & football on TV. Went to a midnight show at Uptown theatre.

Sun Oct 5 – Watched World Series & football on TV. Fried chicken dinner. Kids to a show at night.

Mon Oct 6 – Worked. Re-gauged 3 drums of NSG for tax payment. Cool today, 28° in morning. Took Dalene a car ride after work. Stanley started to work at Cohn's news agency, 50¢ per hour.

Tue Oct 7 – Worked. Herrick working on heater in government office. Too cool to work in there. Yanks won World Series today. Got my first overtime parking ticket & it wasn't my fault.

Sat Oct 11 – To Montgomery Wards in the morning to buy clothes for Stan & Dalene. Stan worked in the afternoon at Cohn's. I watched football in the afternoon. Dalene to a show. TV at night & to bed late.

Sun Oct 12 – I got breakfast at 10 A.M. Alva & Teresa here in late afternoon. Dalene played outdoors all afternoon. Had chicken dinner.

Wed Oct 15 – Worked 8 to 10 A.M. at Grain Processing Corp. Drove to Collector's office in Des Moines for reorganization conference. To Osceola at night. Visited Louie & Ruth, then Marie at her store. At Mother's all night.

Thu Oct 16 – Left Mother's at 8 A.M. & drove to Muscatine. At plant in the afternoon. Stan to choir practice at night. Cooler tonight.

Fri Oct 17 – Worked at plant alone. Other Gaugers to Davenport for reorganization meeting. Helen & I to school at 4 to meet Dalene's teacher, Mr. Chamberlain. Dalene & I to plant until 6:30.

Sat Oct 18 – Got Stanley & Dalene new storm coats. Stanley worked all day at Cohn's. Football on TV.

Tue Oct 21 – Worked. Burl & Opal here for lunch in their new Ford. Took Helen for a ride after work.

Wed Oct 22 – Worked. E. Miller & John Smith at plant for visit. Stan to musical program at high school at night, punched tickets.

Thu Oct 23 – Worked in the morning, annual leave in the afternoon. Took Helen to have a tooth filled. Looked at a new Dodge in the evening with Dalene. Beautiful day & warm.

Fri Oct 24 – Wing, Olsgaard, & Hemerson at plant. Warm & dry today. Stan to YWCA at night for Fun Night. To bed about 11 P.M.

Sat Oct 25 – Watched football in the afternoon. Dalene to a birthday party in afternoon. Raked the yard.

Sun Oct 26 – Up late & breakfast at 10:30. Stan to church & Helen, Dalene, Ringer, & I to Wild Cat Den State Park. Roast beef dinner & football in afternoon on TV. Borrowed a '48 Buick & took family a ride.

Mon Oct 27 – Worked. Cooler. Took the Buick back to garage. Dalene & I to wrestling match at night.

Fri Oct 31 – Worked. Warm & windy. Bought 2 pair trousers for me & one for Stanley. New dress for Helen. Stan out halloweening at night.

Sat Nov 1 – Took screens off the front porch. Tried out a 1947 Buick, good car, too much money. Stan worked. Bought him new shoes. Very warm & dry.

Sun Nov 2 – Up at 8 A.M. & took Dalene a ride. Had breakfast at Johnnie's Grill. Watched football in the afternoon on TV. Kids to a show in the afternoon. Roast beef supper. TV at night. Cloudy & damp.

Mon Nov 3 – Worked. Bill, Jim, & I sealed the stills. Wrote Mother a letter. Looked at '47 Buick. Dalene & I to a show at night.

Tue Nov 4 – Worked. Warm & clear. Stayed home at night & watched TV until 1:30 A.M., watching Eisenhower & Nixon elected.

Wed Nov 5 – Annual leave. Helen & I shopped in the morning & I covered the back door in the afternoon. Dalene & I drove to Osceola from 4:15 to 7:25 to football game. Stayed all night at Mother's.

Thu Nov 6 – Annual leave. Dalene & I visited Louie's and Lloyd's in the morning. Had chicken dinner at Mother's. Home to Muscatine at 5:20 P.M. Stopped at Sears in Oskaloosa & bought Dalene shoes.

Fri Nov 7 – Worked. Plant started cooking yesterday. Cool & clear. Stan to high school play at night.

Sat Nov 8 – Bought towels & washcloths at Grant's, also shoes for Helen. Took Margaret Sinnott to Moline in the afternoon. Helen & Dalene went along. Stan worked all day.

Sun Nov 9 – Cloudy. Stan to Sunday school & church. Quiet day. Roast beef for dinner. Took flat tire to filling station to get it fixed. Football on TV in the afternoon & more TV at night.

Tue Nov 11 – Worked, double time holiday pay. TV at night. Stan worked 3 hours at Cohn's.

Wed Nov 12 – Worked. Bright & warm. Got 3 goldfish. Letter from Mother. Card from Margaret Sinnott.

Thu Nov 13 – Worked. Stills & cooker running, 1 tank car. Olsgaard dropped in for a visit at plant.

Fri Nov 14 – Worked. Quiet day. Roswell here at night. Warm day. To Dalene's school at night, open house. TV at night & to bed late.

Sat Nov 15 – Non-work day. Stan worked at Cohn's. Dalene to a party at Linda Fosholt's. Chasteen here in the afternoon to visit. Football in the afternoon on TV. Letter from Mother.

Sun Nov 16 – First rain in 75 days. Took a bike ride in the morning with Dalene. Stan to Sunday school & church. Mrs. Collier & Mickey here in the evening for visit.

Mon Nov 17 – Worked. Warm & lots of good rain. To store at night & to pick up Stan at Cohn's. TV in the evening & to bed about 11 P.M.

Tue Nov 18 – Worked. I'm in Receiving Room today. Stanley & I to father & son banquet at church at night. Cooler, around 40°.

Wed Nov 19 – Bowled 452 at night. Cool & snow flurries.

Fri Nov 21 – Worked. Clear & cool. Stanley to Iowa City at night for basketball game with some school friends. 32° at bedtime.

Sat Nov 22 – Burned the trash. Football on TV all afternoon. Mr. Lease had front storm door hung in the afternoon. TV at night & to bed late. Cool.

Sun Nov 23 – Up at 9 A.M. & read the Sunday paper. Stan to Sunday school & church. Kids to a show in the afternoon. Clear & cool. Watched Bears (24) beat Lions (23) in the afternoon.

Mon Nov 24 – Worked. Went to Wards & signed up for ironer for 7 day trial, to be delivered Wednesday. Rain & snow. Stan to high school at night to take tickets at a play.

Wed Nov 26 – Worked. Wards delivered a new ironer but it hurts Helen's shoulders to use it. I went to bowl at night but wasn't needed. TV at night at home & to bed late.

Thu Nov 27 – Thanksgiving. Had roast beef at home & rested all afternoon. TV at night & colder.

Fri Nov 28 – Worked. Took Dalene to work with me in the afternoon. Stan to a basketball game at night. Letter from Mother. To bed late.

Sat Nov 29 – Took Helen to the library. Dalene to a party at Ann Hocking's. Football on TV.

Sun Nov 30 – Up at 7:30 & got my own breakfast. Worked on correspondence course in English Usage. Roast beef dinner at 4:30. Football in the afternoon on TV.

Thu Dec 4 – Worked. King, Lofgren, Mead, & Owens got letters of transfer. That will leave Benson, Fisher, & I. Bought Dalene a Teddy Bear for Christmas present. Dalene & I to a show at night.

Fri Dec 5 – Worked. Warmer today. Dalene stayed home with a cold. Stan to a basketball game.

Sat Dec 6 – Took Helen to the library. Tightened shock absorbers & hood on Mercury. Dalene & I went downtown.

Sun Dec 7 – Up at 8:30. Took Dalene a ride in the country & looked at Bosch's new house. Chicken for dinner. Dalene & I to a show in the afternoon. TV at night, & to bed.

Mon Dec 8 – Worked. Took Helen for 10th tooth filling in the morning. Leave approved between Christmas & New Year's. Card from Wilma.

Tue Dec 9 – Worked with 3 hours sick leave for dentist office. Warm spring like day. Stan to high school at night to chorus practice.

Wed Dec 10 – Worked. Loaded 1 tank truck today. Home for lunch. Bought 50 Christmas cards. Sent Marie a card. Boxing at night on TV & to bed after 10 P.M.

Thu Dec 11 – Worked. Slow day, 1 tank car. Took Helen to the library after work. Cleaned bathroom walls & ceiling at night.

Fri Dec 12 – Worked. No business today. Very quiet. Looked at '48 Chev. Roast beef for supper.

Sat Dec 13 – Up at 8 A.M. & had breakfast. Dalene & I looked at used cars. Shellacked front storm door. Painted the clothes hamper. 20° above most all day. Stan worked & to a show at night.

Sun Dec 14 – Cold today, 20° above. Stayed in the house all day. Had roast beef for dinner. Stan sang in "Messiah" at high school in the afternoon. Bears beat Cardinals 10-7 on TV in afternoon.

Mon Dec 15 – Worked. Wing called about still boilout. Hayes told me I'm going to St. Paul soon, to work. To show at night. To bed late.

Tue Dec 16 – Worked. Boiled out the still today, at Wing's request. Warm today. Home early & Swiss steak for supper. Stan & Helen addressed Christmas cards in the evening.

Wed Dec 17 – Worked. Last day here at Muscatine plant for Chasteen & Maisenbach. Took Dalene downtown Christmas shopping after work. TV at night, boxing - Maxim lost to Moore.

Thu Dec 18 – Worked. Took Dalene downtown after work to Christmas shop. To bed early.

Fri Dec 19 – Worked. Car in garage all day getting clutch repaired. Des Moines called Rod & Jack, this is their last day here. Wing called King, this is his last day too. Freezing rain all day.

Sun Dec 21 – Got my breakfast. Stan to church. Dalene & I took a walk downtown. Football in the afternoon on TV. Dalene to Fosholt's for dinner. Stan to an afternoon show. Chasteen called to visit.

Mon Dec 22 – Worked. Got clutch fixed & general repairs on car, new hoses, etc. Rain all day. Took Helen & Dalene downtown at night shopping. Stan to sing & to church party.

Tue Dec 23 – Worked. Dalene & I went Christmas shopping. Lots of presents under the tree tonight.

Wed Dec 24 – Worked. Loaded 1 tank car today. King & Owens at plant saying goodbye. Helen, Dalene, & I shopping in the morning. Good programs on TV all evening. Stan to Mickey's at night.

Thu Dec 25 – Christmas at home. Stan & Helen gave me a Bulova Director wrist watch. We all got a nice lot of presents. Called Mother. Had turkey for dinner, gave Margaret Sinnott some.

Fri Dec 26 – Holiday. Dalene & I drove to Osceola. Mercury stopped in Oskaloosa. Wired up wrong. Had to be towed to Ford garage. Mother was surprised to see us. To Lloyd's at night for ice cream.



Hand-crank ice cream maker

Sat Dec 27 – Dalene & I drove out to Louie's for dinner. I drove his Dodge & talked to Shep at Chev garage. Watched football in the afternoon on Marie's TV. Had supper there. Went to George & Wilma's after supper.

Sun Dec 28 – Brought Mother home to Muscatine with us. Took 3½ hours. Bright day. Helen had meat loaf dinner. Watched Detroit Lions beat Cleveland Browns on TV. Good programs on TV. To bed late.

Mon Dec 29 – Annual leave. Downtown in the morning, Helen to doctor's office. Mother here. Had turkey pie for supper. TV at night.

Tue Dec 30 – Mother & I to Stillwell < *about halfway between Grinnell and Oskaloosa* > for dinner & visit with Pearl Wood & husband George Parrick. Nice day. Home by 6:30 P.M. Turkey pie for supper & TV all evening. To bed late.

Wed Dec 31 – Took Mother to Dr. Pearson for blood test. OK. Took Helen to the library & store. Talked to Jim Chasteen. Stan to a midnight show. TV all evening & saw the old year out.