

## The families in 1954:

Gardners – Isaac Newton “Newt” 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; they had Denny.

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

Richard was married to JoAnn Davis; they had Richard.

Doyle was married to Irene Wright; they had Terry.

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

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

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.

Dorothea 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.

Louise was married to John Wilson.

Wayne was married to Eula Neff.

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

Nancy was married to Gerald Weekman.

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 and Robert.

Raymond was married to Beverly DeVore.

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 and Susan Stiverson.

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, Linda, and Roy.

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.

Max was married to Norma Stoen.

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, Michael, Michele, Melanie.

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 1954

*Timeline: The Geneva Conference is convened to bring peace to Vietnam; the country is divided at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel. The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously bans racial segregation in public schools, and the Senate condemns Senator McCarthy for misconduct. The U.S.S. Nautilus, the first atomic submarine, is commissioned at Groton, CT. Boeing tests the 707, the first jet-powered transport plane. The Academy Award for Best Picture goes to "From Here to Eternity" (Columbia). Bill Haley and the Comets venture into rock and roll, writing hit songs. The NY Giants defeat Cleveland 4-0 in the World Series, broadcast in color for the first time. The NCAA Football Champions are Ohio State (10-0-0) and UCLA (9-0-0), and "Determine" wins the Kentucky Derby.*

*We are living at 505 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Muscatine. "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.*

*Helen becomes a PBX (Private Branch eXchange) operator at the brand-new county hospital in town. Dale's uncle Gilham Gardner, older brother of Williams, dies in California. Muscatine high school basketball team becomes state champions, a major event in my junior year. I get a really cool after-school job at Woolworth's, giving away samples of hot cashews to lure customers to the candy counter. Dial telephones are installed around town, replacing operator-assisted calling; the dials are wheels with ten finger holes cut around the perimeter, labeled from 1 to 0 in counter-clockwise sequence, turned clockwise by a finger inserted in a specific number's hole until you reached the "stop" to represent that number. As this diary from 1954 begins, Dale is 44 years old, Helen is 42, Stanley is in his junior year of high school, and Dalene is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. They still have their dog Ringer and cat Dusty, and their 1941 Oldsmobile, replaced in October by a 1948 Dodge.*



*Dial phone*

*We have contact with other family members, including Marie and Susan Kimmel; Jettie Gardner; Clarice and Lloyd Gardner and Carol, Nancy, Marie, and Mary; Wilma and George Casey and Larry; Ressia and Gerald Schaffer (who has his cataracts removed in Iowa City) and Juanita, Carole, Judy, and Alice; and Margie and Jack Nish and Ann.*

*I added a page at the end of this year's diary to show you what a typical page from one of Dad's five-year diaries looks like. I scanned it and reproduced it at as close to actual size as I could, so you can see what such 366-page (or more) booklets were like.*

Fri Jan 1 – Watched football on TV. Quiet day.

Sat Jan 2 – Printed some pictures. Dalene & I took a ride. Football in the afternoon on TV.

Sun Jan 3 – Dalene & I went to a show in the afternoon. Marie called to say hello.

Tue Jan 5 – Got monthly reports out. Took Helen to the dentist for teeth adjustment.

Fri Jan 8 – Worked. Dalene & I went to a show in the evening.

Sat Jan 9 – Stayed in the house all day. Cold. 14° above at 7:30 A.M. & colder at 11 P.M. Helen & I addressed Christmas Seal cards. TV at night & to bed late.

Sun Jan 10 – Dalene & I took a ride. Cold today, 14° above at 8 A.M.

Mon Jan 11 – Annual leave. Helen had 6 upper front teeth pulled & upper plate put in. 8° above.

Tue Jan 12 – Annual leave. Took Helen back to the dentist to look at upper plate. 8° below zero this morning, & cold all day.

Thu Jan 14 – Warmer, around 33°. Took Helen to dentist for denture adjustment. Dalene & I to a basketball game at night; Muscatine Junior College 86, Creston 49. Ran her a race on the way home.

Fri Jan 15 – Worked. We looked at a refrigerator but no sale. Stayed home in evening & watched TV. Stan & Dalene to “The Robe” at night.



Sat Jan 16 – 2° above zero in the morning. Waxed front room floor. Stan, Mick, Dalene, & I went bowling at night. I bowled 201. Below zero at bedtime.

Tue Jan 19 – Annual leave. Warm & foggy. Restful day. Stan got a job setting pins at the bowling alley < this was prior to automatic pinsetters; I sat at the back of the “pit,” manually put balls in return chutes and hand-racked the pins >.

Thu Jan 21 – Worked. Cold. 4° above zero in morning & only warmed up to 14°. Helen filled out an application to work the PBX board at the new hospital.

Sat Jan 23 – Helen, Dalene, & I to the new hospital in the morning for job interview as PBX operator. Downtown in the afternoon.

Tue Jan 26 – Worked. Misty rain until evening & then snow, about 3 inches. Put chains on & shoveled walks after I got home. I saw Muscatine H.S. beat Ottumwa H.S. 58 to 54.

Thu Jan 28 – Worked. Got a haircut on the way home. Stanley set pins at the bowling alley.

Fri Jan 29 – Worked. Warm, 42°. I went to a show, “Globetrotters,” at night. Stan to a basketball game. Betty, Judy, Mary Ann, & Dalene to a show too.

Sun Jan 31 – Nice warm day, in the 40s. Helen, Dalene & I took a ride around town. Stan to Burlington.

Mon Feb 1 – Worked. Filled 2 tank cars & 1 truck. Nice day. Helen got a letter from Muscatine Hospital offering her a job. She accepted by letter. Good for her.

Fri Feb 5 – Worked. Dalene & I drove 32 miles on our way to Osceola but car boiled & we came back. Ate supper at Johnny’s Grill & then to a basketball game, Muscatine Jr. College beat Grandview J.C.

Sat Feb 6 – Non-work day. Stan set pins. Dalene went roller skating. Roast beef supper. I went to a show at night. To bed late.

Mon Feb 8 – Ran cleaner over stairway & downstairs. Christian Church in Osceola burned yesterday.

Wed Feb 10 – Helen & I downtown to buy shoes & dress for her. I worked 4 to 12. Helen to school at 3:45 to talk with teacher on Visitor's Day. Stan used the car & picked me up at midnight.

Fri Feb 12 – Cold. Helen & I washed in forenoon. Had trouble starting car, flooded. Worked 4 to 12.

Sat Feb 13 – Non-work day. Mother called, Marie & Susan came over in the afternoon. Nice warm day. Downtown in the afternoon & to library & store. Stan set pins at night.

Sun Feb 14 – Marie & Susan here. Dalene, Susan & I to Jefferson School to play ball. I rode to Osceola with Marie & Susan & spent the evening with Mother, watching TV & visiting. Warm.

Mon Feb 15 – Annual leave. To Lloyd's for visit & dinner, Mother & I. Fixed railing on Mother's stairway; planed off her front door; fixed latch on door too. Walked to Marie's at night. Saw George Casey.

Tue Feb 16 – To Des Moines with Marie & Mother after groceries. Bought a tennis racket for Dalene, 2 pair hose for Helen, 1 pair socks for Stan. Home to Muscatine from Des Moines on the bus, 2:45 P.M. to 7:20. TV in the evening & glad to be home.

Thu Feb 18 – Worked. Nice day. Came home early to bring Helen's shoes from Tradehome Shoe Store. Took Dalene to Weed Park to try her new tennis racket.

Fri Feb 19 – Worked. Swept the government office. Took Dalene to Weed Park again to play tennis. Went to Bill Robinson's at night to listen to Muscatine J.C. get beat by Northwestern J.C.

Sat Feb 20 – Helen & I washed. Stan set pins. Dalene to a basketball game in the morning. Watched pro basketball in the afternoon on TV. Sprinkled rain.

Sun Feb 21 – Up late. Took Dalene & Sonja to the tennis court at Weed Park. Helen & I took a ride, saw a jet plane. Stanley set pins in the afternoon. TV at night.

Mon Feb 22 – Holiday for me. Helen started to work at Muscatine County Hospital as 7 to 3 PBX operator. I went to West Liberty depot after Margaret Sinnott at 11:30 P.M.



*Muscatine County Hospital, in the 1950s*

Tue Feb 23 – Non-work day. Helen worked 8 to 5 at hospital. Took Dalene to the dentist, has to have 2 teeth pulled Saturday. I got supper & washed dishes.

Wed Feb 24 – Annual leave. I got dinner for kids. Got car greased. Went to the hospital after Helen at 4:30 from her work. Letter from Mother & Lela.

Fri Feb 26 – Helen worked & I worked 4 to 12. Stan to Fun Night. Warm, in the 40s.

Sat Feb 27 – Worked. Dalene had 2 teeth pulled. I went to work on the bus, caught a ride home. Helen & Dalene each bought a pair of shoes. Stan stayed home.

Sun Feb 28 – Very restful day. Helen & I washed. Dalene to a show in the afternoon with Judy.

Tue Mar 2 – Helen worked. Me too, 4 to 12. Getting colder. 25° above at midnight. Wrote Mother a letter. Hospital officially opened today.

Wed Mar 3 – Helen & I worked. Married 22 years ago today.

Thu Mar 4 – Both worked. Stan to Oakdale to sing at night. 13° above at bedtime.

Fri Mar 5 – Helen got off at 11 A.M.. We went to dentist & I to work 4 to 12. Cold today. Mother called, Uncle Gilham died in California < *March 3 in Los Angeles; he was older brother of Williams* >. Funeral Sunday at Osceola.

Sun Mar 7 – Helen worked. Dalene & I to Weed Park for tennis. Nice day. Dalene & I walked downtown at night.

Fri Mar 12 – Worked. Helen's day off. Dalene & I to a show at night. Stanley to Ottumwa to basketball game. Rainy day.

Sat Mar 13 – Non-work day. Took Helen to work at 7 A.M. Dalene & I went downtown shopping & to Maid-Rite for lunch. Bought a new can-opener. Watched TV at night. Stan downtown.

Sun Mar 14 – Helen worked 7-3. Kids & I took it easy. Had steak supper. Dalene made cookies.

Tue Mar 16 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Muscatine beat Slater at Iowa City in high school tournament basketball.

Thu Mar 18 – Worked. Helen had non-work day. Watched Muscatine H.S. beat East Waterloo on TV at Jefferson School PTA room.

Fri Mar 19 – Worked. Helen 7 - 3. Came home to lunch & took Dalene to work with me. Watched Muscatine H.S. beat Council Bluffs 68-62 in State basketball tourney at Iowa City on TV.

Sat Mar 20 – Worked. Took Dalene with me. Dalene & I to Iowa City at night to watch Muscatine win State high school basketball championship from Des Moines Roosevelt, 67-53. Had a grand time. < *I went with a few friends, and we cheered ourselves hoarse! Hugely important my Junior year.* >

Tue Mar 23 – Helen worked 7 to 11. I worked. Dalene got her long hair cut off.

Sat Mar 27 – Finished raking the yard. We all went to Iowa City after Helen got off work to see Gerald in the hospital. Had his cataracts removed. Back by 8:20.

Sun Mar 28 – Non-work day. Helen worked. Dalene & I to alcohol plant after boards for basketball back-board. I put it up in the afternoon.

Mon Mar 29 – Non-work day. Helen worked. Snow, about 3 inches, & 18° above.

Tue Mar 30 – Worked 4 hours. Took Helen to the dentist & to pick out new spring coat. Went to high school at night for supper & to listen to high school music groups sing.

Fri Apr 2 – Helen came home sick at noon. Has the flu. Little better at bedtime. Watched Bobo Olson beat Gavalan & retain his world middleweight crown.

Sun Apr 4 – Worked 12 to 8 this morning. Traded with Jim Chasteen. Warm today, in the high 50s. Helen worked 7 to 3.

Fri Apr 9 – Painted the kitchen ceiling. Helen worked. Bought Dalene a spring coat & 2 pair shoes. Stan on a singing trip to Oskaloosa & Newton.

Sat Apr 10 – Finished painting the kitchen, including woodwork. Bought new linoleum, curtains & tablecloth < *remember oilcloth?* >. Watched a late show & to bed at midnight.

Sun Apr 11 – Straightened up the kitchen & Helen cleaned the pantry. I went to the show at night, “Ma & Pa Kettle.”



Mon Apr 12 – I painted around the kitchen linoleum and the table & chairs. Took me until 2:30, but the kitchen looks nice. We all ate out at night. To bed early.

Sat Apr 17 – Worked. Helen off today. Dalene cut her hand on the ash tray in the car & doctor took 5 stitches in it at the hospital.

Sun Apr 18 – Worked. Nice day. Dalene had a shot for lockjaw. Helen worked 7 to 3. Stan to a show with Mickey at night.

Mon Apr 19 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Wrote Mother a letter. Stan went to a dance with Mick & Jerry Page.

Thu Apr 22 – Worked midnight to 8. 18 years in Civil Service.

Sat Apr 24 – Cleaned both porches. Went to Iowa City after 3 P.M. to see Gerald. Warm day. Card from Mother.

Sun Apr 25 – Helen worked 7 to 3 & turned her ankle at work. Stan to Burlington.



Fri Apr 30 – Worked. Eleven tornadoes all around us last night. We didn't know it until this morning.

Sat May 1 – Worked. Bought Dalene a Yo-Yo with her name on it.

Sun May 9 – Dalene & I to Muscatine Air Show. Cool. Helen worked 7 to 3. She called Ruth on phone.

Thu May 13 – Worked. Nice day. Helen & I to school at night to watch Dalene sing with others on high school auditorium stage. Sat with Lavonne Owens.

Fri May 14 – Worked. Fine day. Helen & Dalene to church supper, me to a show, Stan to senior play.

Sat May 15 – Worked. Dalene ate dinner with me at plant. Warm & bright. Helen worked 7 to 3.

Sun May 16 – Worked. Stan & Dalene ate lunch with me at plant. Fisher turned 69 years old yesterday.

Wed May 19 – Non-work day. Cool. Telephone man put dial phone in < *previous phone required the local operator to place every call* >. Letter from Mother.

Fri May 21 – Worked. Fine day. Helen worked 7 to 3. Dalene & I to a show at night. Stan to Elks Chanters < *men's singing group* >.

Sat May 22 – Non-work day. Helen worked 7 to 3. I bought a rug, pad, & chair at a sale. Put them in the front room. Warm. Dalene to Hocking's all afternoon & all night. Sure quiet here.

Thu May 27 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Wrote Mother, Mr. Lease, & Wilma. Showers & humid.

Fri May 28 – Worked. Rain most all day. We went to musical comedy at high school at night. Stan stole the show < *"The Merry Widow" - I played an elderly playboy* >.



*That's me high-kick dancing, "stealing the show"*

Mon May 31 – Worked. Rain & warm. Franklin Deitrick works in drier house. Been there 6 weeks. Talked to Nettie King on phone. Stan, Larry & Mick out after the girls at night.

Thu Jun 3 – Worked. Rain & cool. Pay day. I paid some bills. Dalene & I to show “Elephant Walk” at night.



Fri Jun 4 – Worked. Warmer & bright. Bought Stan new shirt & tie at Penney's. He went to the Junior-Senior Prom tonight.

Sun Jun 6 – Non-work day. Helen worked 7 to 3. Central Standard Daylight Savings Time. Dalene & I to Weed Park & she went swimming, Stan too. Beautiful day.

Thu Jun 10 – Worked. Hot & humid. Chasteen wanted to trade cars. I washed the car. Dalene & I to show “French Line” at night.



Sat Jun 12 – Worked. Hot again. Went downtown & bought Dalene some new clothes & tennis shoes. Talked to Mother on the phone.

Sun Jun 13 – Took Helen to work at 7 A.M. Dalene & I to Burlington depot in the afternoon after Mother & Nancy. Hot until evening when a cool breeze came up. Visited with Sinnotts in the back yard.

Thu Jun 17 – Worked. Mother, Dalene, Nancy & I went to the drive-in movie at night.

Fri Jun 18 – Worked. Bought a window fan & also a small fan for Helen to use at work. The window fan cools the upstairs off. Very hot & humid day.

Sat Jun 19 – Dalene gave me a belt for Father's Day; Stan, pajamas. Helen worked. I took Mother, Dalene, & Nancy to Burlington to go to Osceola. Very hot & humid until 7 P.M., then cooled a little.

Sun Jun 20 – I washed, cleaned the house, and got fried chicken dinner. Helen worked 7 to 3. Very hot & humid. Dalene in Osceola.



Tue Jun 22 – Annual leave. Helen off too. Had a nice day. Weather cooler, 73° at 8 A.M. & clear. Mowed the yard, fixed bathroom window, fixed kitchen window box. Stan worked at Tradehome Shoe Store all day < sales clerk; a classmate's father owned the store >.

Sat Jun 26 – Non-work day. Took Helen to work. Hot, hot, hot, but cooled off a little in the evening. Wrote Dalene a letter. TV at night & to bed early.

Tue Jun 29 – Worked. Helen worked 7-3. Very hot 99° at 11 A.M. Cooled off in the afternoon & again at night. I went to Weed Park to a ball game. Letter from Dalene & card from Mother.

Thu Jul 1 – Worked. 1 tank car. Helen worked 7 to 3. Stan worked at Tradehome shoe store.

Sat Jul 3 – Stan, Mick, & I left Muscatine at 4:30 A.M., arrived Osceola at 9:30. Watched the parade & Fourth of July celebration in Osceola. Helen stayed home, had to work.

Sun Jul 4 – Ate at Mother's. Visited at Wilma's & home to Muscatine with Dalene by 7:30. Not too much traffic. Helen was glad to see us.

Mon Jul 5 – Watched the Muscatine parade & went to Weed Park. Not too hot.

Tue Jul 6 – Stan, Dalene, & I had lunch at Woolworth's. Helen worked 7 to 3. I worked 4 to midnight.

Thu Jul 8 – Non-work day. Cool. I took Helen a sandwich at 11:15 A.M. Dalene & I to a show at night.

Mon Jul 12 – Non-work day. I'm 45 years old today. Card from Mother. Took Dalene & Mary Ella swimming. Very hot, 101°.

Tue Jul 13 – Non-work day. Cleaned house all over. Helen to work in a taxi. Stan took the car in the morning to detassle corn < my part-time summer job with Mike, Don Mullen, and Bill Mullen >. Had roast beef dinner. Dalene & Mary went swimming.

Wed Jul 14 – Worked Bought new Coldspot window air conditioner from Sears. Dandy.



Thu Jul 15 – Worked. Cooler. New air conditioner works fine. Helen off at 11 A.M.

Sat Jul 17 – Slept only 6 hours today. Getting hot again but we have it whipped with our air conditioner. Mary here to play. Stan detassled.

Tue Jul 20 – Helen is 43 today. Hot & rain in the evening. Meads here at night to visit.

Fri Jul 23 – Dalene & I slept till 10 minutes to 1 P.M. I worked 4 to midnight, Helen 7 to 3. Stan took me to work & came after me at midnight. Dalene waited up till I got home.

Sat Jul 24 – Helen worked 7 to 3. Stan worked at Tradehome Shoe Store.

Thu Jul 29 – Worked. Bought a second-hand washer (Kenmore) from Reynolds. Bought a new refrigerator & window fan from Sears. Going to take the air conditioner back tomorrow.

Fri Jul 30 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Took the air conditioner back, used GPC pickup. Took TV set to Clelland for repair. HOT. Cooled off by evening. Chasteen & Maisenbach got 30 day notice.

Sat Jul 31 – Worked. Got TV repaired. Good again. Helen worked 7 to 3. Dalene to a show with Judy. Rain at midnight & lightning & thunder. Cooler today.

Mon Aug 2 – Worked. Stan worked in the morning. Helen 7 to 3. Warm today. Cool tonight.

Sat Aug 7 – Non-work day. Helen 7 to 3. Stan worked at Tradehome. Got a new 20 inch fan at Sears, for kitchen window.

Sun Aug 8 – Non-work day. Helen 7 to 3. Cool, turned the furnace on in the morning. Stan to a show in the afternoon.

Tue Aug 10 – Worked. New Coldspot refrigerator delivered in the evening. 11.5 cubic feet. Sure nice.

Wed Aug 11 – Pay day. Bought some frozen foods for our new Coldspot. Merle Osterquist at plant to visit unofficially. Cool.



*Vintage Coldspot (Sears) refrigerator*

Thu Aug 12 – Worked. Beautiful day. Guy Graybill, Bill Maisenbach, Don Stevens & I went golfing after work.

Sun Aug 15 – Helen & I both off work. Dinny & I to a show in the afternoon. Stan & Dalene swimming.

Wed Aug 18 – Worked. Helen worked. Rain in morning. Dalene went swimming in the afternoon. Hot in daytime but cooled off at night. Stan on a date at night.

Fri Aug 20 – Worked. Bought Stan & Dalene some school clothes in the afternoon.

Sat Aug 21 – Worked. Went to a household goods sale. Bought a new crystal for Dalene's watch. Rod Mead borrowed our cot. Rode all over town.

Sun Aug 22 – Dalene & I to boat races in the afternoon. Helen worked. I made roast beef dinner. Stan went swimming & on a date.

Wed Aug 25 – Annual leave. Helen worked 7 to 3. Dalene & I washed & polished the car.

Thu Aug 26 – Cleaned the house. Picked Helen up at 11 A.M. Went shopping in the afternoon. I bought 2 new pair trousers. Kids to a show at night.

Fri Aug 27 – Annual leave. Helen's day off. Rain in the morning. Stan worked in the afternoon. We all had a fried chicken picnic at Weed Park in the evening. Dalene & I to went to the drive-in.

Sun Aug 29 – Helen worked 7 to 3. Dalene & I to Davenport's Credit Island to ride horses, then to Monkey Island. Put some dope in carburetor to free sticky valves. TV at night. HOT & humid.

Mon Aug 30 – Dalene & I went golfing in the morning. To a show at night. Cooler in the evening.

Tue Aug 31 – Cool this morning, 60°. Fire in the furnace. Dalene & I to the dentist in the afternoon. She had 2 filled, I had one. Cool all day.

Wed Sep 1 – I washed, cleaned house, & mopped & waxed kitchen floor. Helen worked 7 to 3. She & I & Dalene to Drive-in at night. Stan to church choir.

Thu Sep 2 – Annual leave. Helen off today. Hot today. Getting ready to go to the Fair tomorrow. Helen fried a chicken. To bed at 10 P.M.

Fri Sep 3 – Dalene & I to Des Moines for the State Fair, got there at 9 A.M. Saw everything & grandstand auto races at night. Left at 11 P.M. to Osceola to stay all night.

Sat Sep 4 – At Mother's in Osceola, Dalene & I. To Jack Nish's to work on car oil leak. To Lloyd's for dinner & the afternoon. Evening at Mother's. Too much to eat.

Sun Sep 5 – Dalene & I drove home to Muscatine by 3 P.M. & picked up Helen at work. Hot driving. Stan on a date at night.

Mon Sep 6 – Holiday. Dalene, Helen, & I to a show in the afternoon. HOT today. Margaret & Brian here at night to visit. To bed late.

Tue Sep 7 – Non-work day. Cool. Helen off today. School started < *Stan starts his senior year in high school, Dalene starts 7<sup>th</sup> grade at junior high* >. Lavonne called to talk to Helen a long time.

Wed Sep 15 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Traded washing machine motors with Reynolds + \$3 to boot. Fixed Dalene a playhouse in the garage.

Sun Sep 19 – Dalene & I took Helen to work at 7 A.M. & then took a ride. She drove the car a little. We washed it down at the plant. Stan to church, & a hayride at night.

Tue Sep 28 – Non-work day. Looked at a 1951 Packard. Thunderstorm.

Wed Sep 29 – Worked. Watched Giants beat Indians 5-3 in 1<sup>st</sup> World Series game. Warm today.

Sat Oct 2 – Non-work day. Bought a new sofa-bed & rug for sitting room.

Sun Oct 3 – Helen went back to work. Stan went on a hayrack ride at night & it rained. HOT today, 85°.

Mon Oct 4 – Worked. Cooler. Helen worked 7 to 3. Shower in the evening. Stan to a show. He bought a new jacket.

Wed Oct 6 – Worked. Cool & clear. Bowled at night, 425. Won 2 out of 3.

Sat Oct 9 – Bought a 1948 Dodge 4-door sedan from Tille-Feise. Stan to Indianola for Hi-Y meet. Ate supper at Cole's drive-in.

Sun Oct 10 – Rain hard most all day. Kids to a show. Helen worked. Watched football on TV.

Mon Oct 11 – Worked. Cloudy & warm. Had 6 inches of rain Saturday night & Sunday. Went to Dalene's school at night.

Tue Oct 12 – Worked. Warm & bright. Got our 1948 Dodge with 44 miles on engine overhaul. 73,144 on speedometer.



*Stock photo of 1948 Dodge; ours was white*

Fri Oct 15 – Worked. Cool. Left car at T. Feise to fix the wipers.

Sat Oct 16 – Non-work day. Helen doesn't feel good, has X-ray Monday. Stan worked.

Fri Oct 22 – Worked. 72° today. Got oil changed, wheels packed, etc. Dalene & I to a show at night.

Sat Oct 23 – Worked on TV aerial most all day. Mr. Lease had new chimney put on house. Warm.

Sun Oct 24 – Cut vines off kitchen etc. Took right front wheel off to see what makes it grab. Fluid leak.

Mon Oct 25 – Worked. Warm. Had right front wheel brake cylinder fixed. Took Helen & Dalene to the library at night.

Thu Oct 28 – Worked. Schmidt & I cap sealed all afternoon on the barge. Plant fixed my windshield wipers. Stan sang at Hotel Muscatine < I was 2<sup>nd</sup> tenor in Boys' Quartet; we sang for luncheon group >.



*Boys' Quartet, Stan at left*

Sun Oct 31 – Lazy day. Cleaned house. Cool. Fixed car heater. Showed Dalene the alcohol barge.

Wed Nov 3 – Worked. Cool but clear. Got windshield wipers fixed at Tille-Feise. Worked on English lessons at work.

Fri Nov 5 – Worked. Put storm windows on. Stan had the car on a date at night. Not too cool today.

Sat Nov 6 – Non-work day. Dalene & I to Burlington depot at 2:30 to pick up Mother. Car is fine, 1948 Dodge. Helen & Stan worked.

Sun Nov 7 – Non-work day. Stan & Mother to church. I fixed roast beef. Warm bright day.

Sun Nov 14 – Dalene & I took Mother home to Osceola. Watched football on her TV in the afternoon. To Lloyd's for supper & back to town by 7 for TV.

Mon Nov 15 – Dalene & I drove home to Muscatine from Mother's. Nice day.

Wed Nov 17 – Put a re-built fuel pump on the Dodge. Did it myself. Warm, bright day.

Fri Nov 19 – Worked. Helen's day off. Bought Stan & Dalene some clothes at Batterson's.

Wed Nov 24 – Non-work day. Helen off too. Bought a turkey at Ed's.

Thu Nov 25 – Watched football on TV. Had turkey for dinner. Stan went to Des Moines at 3 P.M. for 3 days singing festival. Dalene to work with me, 4 to midnight.

Fri Nov 26 – Dalene & I slept till 10 A.M. Took her a ride. Fixed the back porch for winter.

Sat Nov 27 – Worked. D. Fischer helped me on accounting problems. Stan in Des Moines to sing since Thursday < *Iowa All-State Band, Orchestra, and Chorus Festival* >.

Sun Nov 28 – I washed, also ironed a shirt. Stan got home at 4 A.M. from singing in Des Moines. Colder at night, 30° at 8 P.M.

Mon Nov 29 – Worked. Cold, about 25°. Took inventory in tank farm. Took Dalene to "White Christmas" at night.



Thu Dec 2 – Worked. Got off early to take Helen to Dalene's school to visit. Ate supper at Cole's. Stan ate at church & also sang.

Sun Dec 5 – I ironed 4½ hours. First time for me. Washed after Helen came home from work. Nice day. Football on TV in afternoon.

Wed Dec 8 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Cool & cloudy. Snow in evening. Stan to sing at Palace Theatre.



Thu Dec 9 – Worked. Cold today. Took Helen & Dalene to Junior High singfest at night & I went to plant to visit with Rod Mead till 9 P.M.

Fri Dec 10 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Stan to Burlington at night to a basketball game. Cold.

Sat Dec 11 – Non-work day. Helen worked 7 to 3. I washed & sprinkled ironing < *before irons had steam, damp garments pressed better* >. We went downtown at night. Some rain & slick.

Sun Dec 12 – I ironed. Helen worked 7 to 3. I watched football, Bears beat Lions. Went to high school in the afternoon to singfest < *high school chorus performed Handel's "Messiah"* >.

Tue Dec 14 – Worked. Snow at night. Had picture taken at Bamford's for commission. Stan to sing at night. Slick streets but thawing.

Fri Dec 17 – Helen & I went shopping at night. Stan & Dalene to a basketball game. Snow & very slick.

Sat Dec 18 – Went shopping. Ran battery down last night, left map light on. Sent Mother a camera for Christmas. Stan got a job at Woolworth's, 75¢ per hour < *great job, wearing tall chef's hat and handing out free hot cashew samples to entice customers to candy counter* >.

Sun Dec 19 – Helen & I both off today. 12° above at 7:30. I ironed 3 hours. Stan went skating. Football on TV.

Tue Dec 21 – Worked. I went Christmas shopping at night with Dalene.

Wed Dec 22 – Worked. Damp & cool. Dalene & I to high school to watch Harlem Magicians play basketball. Punk. To bed at 10:30.

Thu Dec 23 – Worked. Washed car after work. Took Helen & Dalene shopping after work.

Fri Dec 24 – Worked. Holiday, double time day. Warm & bright. We opened our presents after supper. Very nice Christmas for all. To bed late.

Sat Dec 25 – Christmas at 505 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Muscatine, Iowa. Nice meat loaf dinner. Good day all around. Football on TV, Blue beat Gray 14-7.

Sun Dec 26 – I washed & ironed. Helen worked 7 to 3. Dalene & I took a ride around town. Heavy rain in evening. Stan on a date at night. 45°.

Wed Dec 29 – Worked midnight to 8 A.M. Helen 7 to 3. Slept all afternoon. Heavy blizzard in the afternoon. Stan to a formal dance.

Thu Dec 30 – Worked midnight to 8. Helen off today.

Fri Dec 31 – Worked midnight to 8. Helen off today. Warmed up to about 40°.

In case you have not seen a five-year diary of the type Dale Gardner used, here is a page from the next series (1955 through 1959). This is actual size, about 5 inches wide by 6 and 1/4 inches long.

AUGUST 4.

1955 - THU. 7:30 to 4

1956 - Saturday. Finished making doors for our double garage. Cost me \$20.00 for lumber & hinges, etc. Helen, Dalene, & I to show downtown at inter. Stan worked all day, then at Heights Theatre at inter. In the 80's today.

1957 - Sunday. Beautiful day. High 69. I painted the outside of the basement & one side of the garage today. Looks better. Stan brought Corinne Kent here at inter to watch T.V.

1958 - Monday. 2 R B W. Palmer came over, I may get grade 8 again. Not so for Frank. Sultry about 5 pm, & heavy rain (1 1/2") at 8:30 with 61 mi per hr wind, mean looking clouds. High 88°. 65 at 10:30 P.m. Had Chene headlights adjusted at terminal garage.

1959 - Tuesday. EPS. High 94. & humid. Dalene took drivers license exam for temporary permit & passed. No mail today.

As you can see, this page represents one date, August 4, spread down five years, where this date from the first year of the series takes up the top six lines, the same date from the second year is the next six lines, and so on. So there is not much space in which to record meaningful information for any given day. That's why Dale's diary entries can be so terse. And sometimes his writing can be difficult to decipher.