

The families in 1955:

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) and Verda Machlan (1881-1936) had Orville, Leona, Doyle, Merle.

Orville and Vera Lee had Orville, Twyla, Donald, Kay, Phillip, David.

Orville was married to Beverly Stevenson.

Twyla was married to Norris Davis; they had Denny and Ricky.

Donald was married to Phyllis Reynolds.

Leona and William Van Sant had Richard, Judith, and Lana.

Richard was married to JoAnn Davis; they had Richard and William.

Doyle and Irene Wright had Terry.

Merle and Dorothy McCollister had Russell, Gary, and Randy.

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

Charles and Glen Ashby had Charles Jr., Jack, and Darlene.

Donovan and Ethel Filteau had Patricia and Nancy.

Anna was married to Howard Crate.

Dorothea and Art Kerr had Donna and Sandra.

Williams (1881-1950) and Jettie Short (1881-1973), “Dad & Mother” Gardner, had Lloyd, Dale, and Marie.

Lloyd and Clarice McGee had Carol, Nancy, Marie, and Mary.

Lawrence “Dale” and Helen Schaffer had Stanley and Dalene.

Marie and Ralph Kimmel had Susan.

Lena (1882-1968) and Pearl L. Yates (1883-1958) had Louise, Wayne, and Pearl Eugene.

Louise was married to John Wilson.

Wayne was married to Eula Neff.

Eugene and Lela Schaffer had Nancy and Robert.

Nancy was married to Gerald Weekman.

Charles (1884-1965) and Ida “Meda” Robins (1888-1957) had William Roswell and raised Meda’s niece, Annadell Cottrell (daughter of Arline Robins Cottrell).

William “Roswell” and Tressie Woods had Selma, Raymond, Richard, Shirley, Thomas, and Jewell.

Selma and Robert Wallace had Patti, Robert, and Beverly.

Raymond and Beverly DeVore had Michael and Gary.

Annadell and Frank Gonseth 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) and Ethel “Chloe” Orr (1893-1972) had Burl, Donald, Vivian, Kenneth, Norman, Marian, and Robert.

Burl was married to Opal Mathis.

Donald and Opal Horton had Karen and Karyl.

Vivian and Wayne Hanson had Donavan.

Kenneth and Doris Meyers had Larry, Linda, and Roy.

Marian was married to Bob Mericle.

Robert and Dorothy Semenchuk had Craig and Lynn.

Jonathan “Earl” (1895-1988) and Rouine Fleming (1897-1966) had Lester, Francis, and Max.

Lester was married to Ledell Mitchell.

Francis and Lemuel Holmes had Connie and Ann.

Max was married to Norma Stoen.

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

Harley (1898-1967) and Doris “Dot” Mitchell (1898-1975) had Keith and Eva.

Keith was married to Betty Akes.

Eva and Jerry Kelly had Cynthia, Michael, Michele, and Melanie.

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

Marvin and Fern Stevens had Susan and Tracy.

Margie and John Nish had Ann and Cathy.

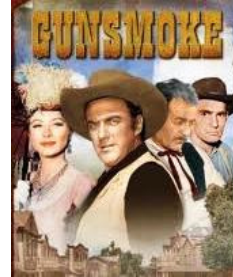
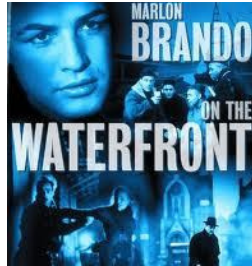
Gerald and Ressia Bishop had Juanita, Carole, Judith, and Alice.

Wilma and George Casey had Larry.

Larry was married to Irene Vanderlinden.

Diary of Dale Gardner 1955

Timeline: Winston Churchill resigns as Prime Minister of England; Anthony Eden succeeds him. The AFL and CIO merge to become the AFL-CIO. Fiber optics are developed in England. "On the Waterfront" wins the Academy Award for Best Picture, Best Actor (Marlon Brando), Best Supporting Actress (Eva Marie Saint), and Best Director (Elia Kazan). "Gunsmoke" debuts on CBS, and will become television's longest-running western. The Brooklyn Dodgers defeat the NY Yankees 4-3 in the World Series, the NCAA Football Champion is Oklahoma (11-0-0), and "Swaps" wins the Kentucky Derby.



Polio shots are given in schools for the first time, Rosa Parks defies Alabama law by refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, Tappan makes the first home microwave ovens, Crest (the first toothpaste with fluoride) is introduced, Ray Kroc starts McDonald's, Congress authorizes all U.S. currency and coins to say "In God We Trust," Disneyland opens in Anaheim, the Ford Thunderbird is introduced and gives GM's Corvette some competition, and actor James Dean is killed in an automobile accident after appearing in "East of Eden" and "Rebel Without a Cause."

We are living at 505 East 7th Street, Muscatine. "Weed Park" is the 72-acre town park; it has a swimming pool, ballpark, lagoon, small zoo, playground, tennis courts, and picnic areas. "Fun Night" is a teen dance held at the YWCA on Friday evenings. I graduate from high school, Dale participates in a moonshine bust, Dale and Helen and Dalene move to the Twin Cities when Dale is transferred to the Alcohol Tax Unit's Saint Paul office. I stay in Muscatine to finish my first college semester. Dale takes a memorable walk in the timber that used to be on John Short's land (his maternal grandfather), and Jettie Gardner marries Clarence Liggitt. Clarence is a widowed farmer who lives across U.S. highway 34 from Williams and Jettie's farm, so they have known each other for years.

As this diary from 1955 begins, Dale is 45 years old, working at Grain Processing Corp. Helen is 43, working at Muscatine Hospital. Stanley is in his senior year of high school, and Dalene is in 7th grade. They still have their dog Ringer (until March) and cat Dusty, and their 1948 Dodge. We see many family members during the year, including Wilma and George Casey; Marie and Ralph Kimmel and Susan; Jettie and Clarence; Ruth and Louie Schaffer; Clarice and Lloyd Gardner and Carol, Nancy, Marie, and Mary; Mercedes and Pearl Schaffer; Lela and Gene Yates and Bob and Nancy and her new husband Gerald Weekman; Ressia and Gerald Schaffer and Juanita, Carole, Judy, and Alice; Leona and Bill Van Sant and Lana; Minnie and Bert Chandler; and Lena and Pearl Yates.

Sat Jan 1 – Worked midnight to 8. Helen 7 to 3. Watched Bowl games on TV all day. Fried chicken for dinner. Warm & thawing today. To bed at 10 P.M.

Sun Jan 2 – Slept late. Took Dalene a ride. Helen worked 7 to 3. Dalene & I went after her. Called Uncle Pearls about their piano. Going after it next Sunday. Stan & Mick to a show.

Mon Jan 3 – Non-work day. Helen worked 7 to 11, had the afternoon off. We ate at Cole's. Wrote Uncle Pearl a letter asking how wide his piano is.

Thu Jan 6 – Worked midnight to 8 shift. Took Helen to the library & lunch at Cole's. Letter from Uncle Pearl about the piano width. Stan to a basketball game. Clear & colder.

Fri Jan 7 – Worked midnight to 8. Nice bright day. Went to the hospital for coffee & to see Helen. Card from Marie in Pasadena, Cal. Stan to a basketball game.

Sat Jan 8 – Worked midnight to 8. Picked Helen up at 3 P.M. Went downtown. Stanley worked at Woolworth's.

Sun Jan 9 – Took Helen to work at 7 A.M. Read Sunday paper till 8 A.M. Cleaned the house all over. Stan sang at the Country Club. I got dinner.

Sat Jan 15 – Dalene went to work with me on the midnight to 8 shift. She got along fine. Watched basketball on TV in the evening. Stan worked at Woolworth's.

Sun Jan 16 – Up late & all ate breakfast together. Stan & I fixed the vacuum cleaner. Dalene & I to a show in the afternoon. Helen fried a chicken for supper. Put a new needle screw in carburetor of car.

Sat Jan 22 – Worked midnight to 8. Last night on this shift for awhile. Colder today. Helen worked, has a sore hip. Stan worked at Woolworths. I roasted a beef.

Mon Jan 24 – Helen off today. I was home too till 4 P.M. Took it easy & nice together. I worked 4 to 12. Snow & colder. Zero at midnight. Schmitt came down to plant at 10:10 to 10:30. Wrote Mother a letter.

Wed Jan 26 – Non-work day. Picked Helen up at 3 P.M. 5° below zero at 9:30 P.M. Stan went downtown with Mick at night. Nice & warm in here, gas heat.

Fri Jan 28 – Worked. Below zero at night & only 5° above all day. Dalene & I to a show "Show Business" at night.



Sat Jan 29 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Temp up to 14° above by 4 P.M. Stan worked at dime store.

Sun Jan 30 – Cold. Wedged kitchen door shut to keep it from warping. Took Dalene a ride.

Tue Feb 1 – Non-work day. Helen worked 7 to 3. Meads & us surprised Fisher at night with a retirement gift and party. Gave him a French cuff shirt and necktie. He was surprised.

Wed Feb 2 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Stanley & Dalene have colds. I took Dalene to school at 7:45 to golf club class. Warm today, up to 33°.

Fri Feb 4 – Worked. Helen has a sore foot, maybe arthritis. Dalene & I to a basketball game at night. Snow after noon & bought new pair of chains for \$11. Stan on a date at night to Queen of Hearts dance.

Sat Feb 5 – Worked. Helen off today. Took the chains off. Warmer, 38°. Stan worked at dime store.

Sun Feb 6 – Muscatine went to dial phone system today. Our number is Amherst 3-8169. Helen worked. I washed, ironed, and got roast beef dinner.

Mon Feb 7 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Took Dalene to school at 8 A.M. for golf lesson. Had a flat tire. Took it to Standard Station for repair.

Wed Feb 9 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. She got some medicine for gout. Warm today, around 40°. Stan worked awhile at Tradehome shoe store. Stayed up to midnight watching TV.

Fri Feb 11 – Worked. Helen 7 to 11 A.M. Cold today. Stan to Des Moines to sing with chorus & give Gettysburg Address before legislators. I got my new glasses at Emerson's. Card from Mother.

Sat Feb 12 – Worked. Helen worked 7 to 3. 9° below zero at 7 A.M. Wrote Mother a letter. Stan worked 2 hours at Woolworth's. Dalene to a party at Sonja's. I watched TV until after midnight.

Mon Feb 14 – Bought Dalene & Helen Valentine Day cards & pins & hid them in their beds. I worked 4 to 12. Nice day, around 32°. Visited ½ hour with Rod Mead at midnight.

Tue Feb 15 – Non-work day. I baked my first cake & frosted it. Dalene ate 3 big pieces. It was good too. Helen worked 7 to 3. Letter from Mother.

Wed Feb 16 – Worked. Helen off at 11 A.M. Took Dalene to lumber yard after work for boards for her shop class. Warm today. Joined Gauger's Union.

Fri Feb 18 – Worked. Warm & cloudy. Took Dalene to a basketball game at night, Muscatine H.S. beat Ottumwa H.S. Muscatine J.C. beat Waldorf J.C. at Webster City in Junior College tourney.

Sat Feb 19 – Worked. Dalene went to work with me. We sawed the boards in the carpenter shop. Dreary day, but warm. Helen worked 7 to 3. Rain most all day. Dalene cleaned her bedroom.

Sun Feb 20 – Helen worked 7 to 3. I took her & went after her. Dalene & I took a ride. To alcohol plant & washed the car. I ironed & cooked a chicken. Windy today & 25°.

Mon Feb 21 – Non-work day. I washed and cleaned the whole house. Sent my watch back to factory in N.Y. Helen & I went downtown shopping after 3 P.M. Letter from Mother. Stan to a dance at night.

Tue Feb 22 – Double time today, 4 to 12. Dalene & I went to Weed Park & knocked golf balls. Stanley & Boy's Quartet recorded some songs for us at the radio station < *"Sh-Boom" and others* >.

Wed Feb 23 – I worked 4 to 12. Schultz at plant. Helen off today. We bought a new record player at Sears, also went to the radio station & bought 2 records Stan & chorus made. 40° at midnight.

Mon Feb 28 – Non-work day. Helen 7 to 3. Rainy. I washed & cleaned up the house. Watched Iowa beat Minnesota in basketball on TV, 72 to 70 at Mpls. Watched Steve Allen on the Tonight Show.

Wed Mar 2 – Worked 4 to 12. Helen came home at 1 P.M. (I went after her) with stomach flu. Dalene stayed home all day with it. Warm today, 55°. Record player didn't come, will be shipped by the 12th.

Thu Mar 3 – Helen stayed home with stomach flu. I worked 4 to 12. Warm, 55°. Wrote Mother a letter. Sent lesson #7 to Omaha. Married 23 years ago today.

Fri Mar 4 – Helen worked 7 to 3. Card & letter from Mother. We started taking cod liver oil. Stan took Ringer to Dr. Tillie, vet, to be put to sleep. He was too sick to suffer any longer.

Sat Mar 5 – Took Helen to work at 7 A.M. Record player came, it plays real nice.

Tue Mar 8 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Bought new oilcloth for kitchen table & new kitchen wastebasket.

Tue Mar 15 – Worked with Hancock in the warehouse. We all went to see Dean Loper at Muscatine Junior College & ate supper at Cole's.

Wed Mar 16 – Worked in the warehouse with J. Hancock. Took the record player to work. Letter from Mother. Cold, 30°, windy.

Fri Mar 18 – Non-work day. Watched State basketball tourney at Des Moines on TV, up till midnight.

Sat Mar 19 – Helen off. I worked 4 to 12. Warm evening. Listened to Ames beat Iowa City for state high school basketball championship for 1955.

Sun Mar 20 – Helen worked. I washed. Marie called at 9:30 A.M. to visit. Nice warm day but cloudy.

Tue Mar 22 – Worked 8 to 4:30. Helen 7 to 3. Cold this morning. Got my watch back from N.Y.

Thu Mar 24 – Worked from 4 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Short of help. Helen home sick. Stan to a Junior College play at night. Snow in the evening.

Fri Mar 25 – Worked. New Gauger Norman Millman reported & Schmitt put him on midnight to 8 shift.

Mon Mar 28 – Worked. Warmer, 42°. Loaded 3 tank cars. Helen worked 7 to 3. Sonja here in the evening to play with Dalene.

Tue Mar 29 – Worked. Warm & bright, 55°. Helen came home from work at noon, sick. Stan came home, dizzy. Stevens at plant on sort of inspection.

Wed Mar 30 – Worked. Helen 7 to 11 A.M. I went bowling at night & bowled 439. We won 2 out of 3. Helen & Dalene went along. Mullen boys < *Don and Bill* > here at night to visit Stan.

Fri Apr 1 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Took Dalene to a show at night. Warm & nice today.

Mon Apr 4 – Worked. Rain on & off all day. 3 tank cars loaded. We all ate at Cole's for supper.

Tue Apr 5 – Worked. Very windy. Helen, Dalene & I to a show at night, "Many Rivers to Cross."



Sun Apr 10 – Took Helen to work at 7 A.M. Stan worked 7 to 9 A.M. at flower shop. Dalene & Stan to church. Cleaned back porch. Cleaned inside of car. Dalene & I took a long ride in the country.

Wed Apr 13 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Rain today. Helen went with me to bowl at night. Bowled 496. Dalene & Sonja went to the show.

Sat Apr 16 – Worked. Time & ½ for today. Helen worked 7 to 3. Warm & bright day. Bought some pies, went to Grimm's & to our grocery store. Played basketball with kids in the back yard after supper.

Sun Apr 17 – Mailed our state income tax return. Helen worked. I fixed roast beef dinner.

Wed Apr 20 – Worked midnight to 8. Wrote Mother a letter. Bowled at night, 388, lousy. Sue Timm came in from their farm to meet Helen < *I was dating her* >.

Fri Apr 22 – Worked midnight to 8. Helen worked 7 to 3. 19 years with Civil Service.

Sat Apr 23 – Worked midnight to 8. Helen 7 to 3. Bought all new curtains, washed the windows & put the curtains up. Heavy rain all evening & thunder & lightning too. Tornado warning.

Wed Apr 27 – Worked midnight to 8 A.M. Nice day. Went to a show, "Vera Cruz."



Fri Apr 29 – Worked midnight to noon. I cap sealed on barge 4 hours. Beautiful day. Stan to Sue Timm's in the evening. Helen cleaned the pantry & did other housework.

Sat Apr 30 – Worked midnight to 8 A.M. Stan to Cedar Rapids to sing in a contest.

Sun May 1 – I washed & hung clothes outdoors. Stan & I washed windows & carried springs & mattress out of basement. Warm, nice, windy day. Helen worked 7 to 3.

Wed May 4 – Worked midnight to 8 A.M. Went to household sale & bought a Seth Thomas clock. Nice. Gave it to Helen for Mother's Day. Nice day.

Fri May 6 – Worked midnight to 8. Helen off today. We went shopping. Took Dalene's lunch to her & Helen sprained her ankle at Jr. High. X-rays etc., now she's laid up on the davenport.

Sat May 7 – Worked midnight to 8 A.M. Helen off with sprained ankle. Went to a household sale. Bought Dalene a library table for a desk.

Sat May 14 – Worked midnight to 8. Dalene & I drove to Osceola from noon to 3:15. Stopped at Wilma & George's & drove their tractor. Stopped at Marie's until Mother came home from Ames & Des Moines.

Sun May 15 – Mother, Dalene & I to the cemetery then to Louie's to visit awhile. Dalene & I drove his Allis Chalmers to the field & one round with harrow. Went to Lloyd's for dinner then out in field on tractor, then to timber pasture. Took our record player & Stan's record. Saw Uncle Pearls at Mother's. To George's at night.

Mon May 16 – Drove home from Osceola by 10 A.M. Dalene went to school in the afternoon.

Mon May 23 – Worked 4 to 12. Helen 7 to 3. Bought some rug cleaner at Coder's Hardware. Hot.

Tue May 24 – Non-work day. Washed 2 rugs with Blue-Lustre. Works fine. Helen cleaned wardrobe.

Wed May 25 – Worked. Helen worked 7 to 3. Nice, warm day. Went to Figg's at night to look at a used car for Stan. Letter from Mother.

Thu May 26 – Worked. Some rain today. Cooler. Storm warnings. Tornado warnings at night. First night of high school musical show, "Oklahoma."

Sat May 28 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Dalene spent the afternoon with me at work. Applied for credit cards from Standard Oil & D-X. Went to "Oklahoma" at night, Stan in it < *I played the role of Will Parker, engaged to Ado Annie, sang "I Got to Kansas City on a Friday"* >.

Sun May 29 – Helen worked 7 to 3. Stan, Dalene, & I to Moline, bought a '46 Chevy coupe at Mills Chevrolet Co. for Stan, he drove it home. Very cool today, with slight showers. Stan on date at night. TV for the rest of us.



My coupe, like this one, had no back seat, just storage space for traveling salesman, with vacuum-assisted shift on steering column that would drop out of gear at random times, and I loved that car.

Tue May 31 – Non-work day. Helen & I downtown in the morning. Put new seat cover on Stan's car. Trimmed hedges & cleared yard. Dalene to a school picnic at Weed Park. Stan on a school picnic at Wild Cat Den State Park.

Wed Jun 1 – Worked. Took Helen to work at 7 A.M. Took a ride out to Weed Park in the evening & played tennis with Dalene. Letter from Mother.

Thu Jun 2 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Dalene on school picnic in the afternoon. Hot 82° & humid. I bought new shirt, tie & clasp. We all went to the country club at night to a chorus party. Stan took Sue.

Sat Jun 4 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Called Mills Chev Co., Moline, 3 times regarding car title for '46 Chevy. Stan & 5 other boys went to sleep out all night down by the gravel pits. They came home at 1 in the morning for more food. Bright moonlight night for their party. Dalene to carnival with Sonja Sopher.

Sun Jun 5 – Rested all day. Helen's day off too. Stan to his baccalaureate at night. Rain all evening.

Mon Jun 6 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Had car steering checked & front wheels balanced. Got the license for Stan's car. Rain off & on all day. Cool in evening.

Thu Jun 9 – Worked midnight to 8 A.M. Helen 7 to 3. Stan graduated from Muscatine High School. We all went, Sue Timm sat with us. Beautiful evening, cool.

Fri Jun 10 – Worked midnight to 8 A.M. Helen, Dalene, Sonja & I to a double feature show at night.

Tue Jun 14 – Annual leave. Helen & I ironed most all day. Beautiful day. Took Dalene & Sonja to Weed Park in the afternoon.

Fri Jun 17 – Annual leave. Up at 5:30 & drove to New Ulm, Minn by 5:30 P.M. 340 miles. Car didn't use any oil. 1948 Dodge. Rain in New Ulm. Filled up with Standard gas in New Ulm. Nice visit at night with Genes & to bed at 12:35 A.M. Slept in upstairs apartment at Lela's.

Sat Jun 18 – Left New Ulm at 9 A.M., arrived St. Paul 11 A.M. 100 miles. Drove all over St. Paul & Mpls with family seeing familiar places. Visited Jack Owens in Mpls in the afternoon. Drove back to New Ulm by 10 P.M. Wonderful day. Met Nancy's husband & listened to him & Stan & Bob until 1:30 A.M.

Sun Jun 19 – Had a leaky inner tube, fixed it in New Ulm. Rain in the afternoon. Helen, Dalene & I bought \$30 worth of clothes at Gene's store. Had nice dinner at Gene & Lela's. Stayed up till 1:30 A.M.

Mon Jun 20 – Annual leave. Left New Ulm 10 A.M. Arrived at Gerald's in Latimer at 2:30 P.M. Hot driving. Gerald's have a very nice place to live. Lots of room, & quiet. Stan, Carole, & Dalene went swimming at a nearby lake. Sprinkled in the evening. Stayed up late & to bed at midnight.

Tue Jun 21 – Annual leave. At Gerald's in the morning. Drove to Ames to see Iowa State College & see Nancy at their trailer. Stopped in Des Moines at Younkers. On to Wilma's in the afternoon, then to Mother's in Osceola. Cool today. Stayed up late at Mother's watching a movie.

Wed Jun 22 – Annual leave. At Mother's. Up late & to the cemetery. To Lloyd's for dinner & out in the field. To Louie's in the afternoon. Family dinner at night at Saylor's for Bill & Leona & Lana. Nice supper & visit. 50 people there. Home to Mother's at 11:15 & to bed. Perfect day.

Thu Jun 23 – Annual leave. Stan & I helped Lloyd put corn planter & cultivator away in the morning. Took a long ride in the afternoon to Weldon & Woodburn & Ottawa. Mother had a party at night. 33 relatives at party. Had a sing-fest at Mother's later. Watched a late movie & to bed late.

Fri Jun 24 – Annual leave. Up late & out to George & Wilma's for dinner & supper. They showed us all around Osceola. 4000 people live here now. Rained $\frac{3}{4}$ inch last night & had a shower tonight too. Stan rehearsed a song with Greta Leeps to sing in church Sunday. I looked at pictures for 1½ hours.

Sat Jun 25 – Helen & I rode out to the cemetery & sat awhile. Had supper in East Park. Went uptown at night & sat in the car. Home to Mother's & watched a movie. Stan practiced his solo in new Christian Church. To bed at 10:50. Fine bright day.

Sun Jun 26 – Stan sang "The Old Rugged Cross" in Christian Church in Osceola. Very good. Went to Louie's for dinner. Went to Bert & Minnie's in the evening to visit. Back to Mother's for supper. To the cemetery after supper, & the telephone office.

Mon Jun 27 – Annual leave. Had breakfast in Milo, Iowa, with Aunt Lena & Uncle Pearl Yates. Home to Muscatine at 2 P.M. Cleaned the basement & front porch. Stan & Dalene to a show at night.

Tue Jun 28 – Annual leave. Helen washed. I worked on toaster. Worked on car radio. Got our cat from Vet's office. President signed our 7.5% pay increase. Worked on accounting course.

Wed Jun 29 – Annual leave. Worked on accounting. Rain, off & on, all day but not too hot. Helen, Dalene & I to Cole's for supper.

Thu Jun 30 – Annual leave. Visited at plant a little while. Hot today, above 90°. Went to a show at night & locked ourselves out. Had to wait for Stan to come home to get in.

Fri Jul 1 – Annual leave. Got driver's license renewed for 2 years. Stan got a job driving delivery panel truck with Holliday Cleaners. Took Helen to the library & grocery store. Mr. Lease here awhile.

Sat Jul 2 – Bought bumper jack & lug wrench for Stanley's car. Stan worked all day at Holliday's. Took Dalene swimming in the afternoon. Letter from Mother.

Sun Jul 3 – Up at 4 A.M. & Dalene & I drove to Osceola by 9 A.M. Too early for heavy traffic. Stopped at Casey's. Had dinner with Mother & Clarence. Went swimming at East Lake with Dalene & Lloyd's girls. Picnic supper in the park with Lloyds. Drove out to Louie's a little while at night.

Mon Jul 4 – Dalene & I at Osceola for Fourth of July celebration. Very hot & humid until 7:30 P.M. when it cooled off. Rain began at 9:45 & rained hard. Nice & cool to sleep.

Tue Jul 5 – Up at 3 A.M. at Mother's & left for Muscatine by 3:30. Left Dalene at Osceola for a visit. Home at 7:30. I had the car heater on from Oskaloosa to Sigourney. I worked 4 to 12.

Mon Jul 11 – Worked. New Inspector Hadley Hines reported to work for 3 weeks. Letter from Dalene. Nice day. I went to a show at night.

Tue Jul 12 – Worked. Helen worked 7 to 3. I'm 46 years old today. Painters broke our TV aerial.

Thu Jul 14 – Worked. Helen worked 7 to 3. Painters had TV aerial fixed. House almost all painted. Called Dalene at night to tell her I'm coming after her tomorrow night.

Fri Jul 15 – Worked. Helen 7 to 3. Bought Helen an 8 piece silver service for her birthday. Rain on me on the way home. Helped Helen clean the house & to bed early. Painters still painting the house.

Sat Jul 16 – Up early & took Helen to work & I drove to Osceola in 3 hours. Took a nap at Mother's in the afternoon. Went out to Lloyd's to watch them run the combine. Stayed all night at Mother's.

Sun Jul 17 – Up early at Mother's & drove to Muscatine; Mother, Marie Gardner < *Lloyd's daughter* >, Dalene & myself. Had nice dinner. Sue Timm here for dinner. Nice day.

Tue Jul 19 – Worked. Took Helen to work at 7. Loaded 6 tank cars. Very hot & humid. Eubanks took Helen, Mother, Dalene, Marie G, & I for a boat ride. Very nice. Light supper.

Wed Jul 20 – Worked. Mother & Marie still here. Hot & humid. Helen is 44 years old.

Fri Jul 22 – Worked. Mother & little Marie went home. Hot & humid.

Sun Jul 24 – Took Helen to work at 7 A.M. I mowed yard, trimmed hedges, changed cat box, emptied garbage. Took Dalene a ride in the afternoon to Dale Wilson's & Clem Curtis'. Nice clear & cool day.

Sat Jul 30 – Worked. Helen got too hot working at the county hospital & doctor sent her home about 9:30 A.M. Very hot & humid 100°+.

Sun Jul 31 – I put porch screens up then did a big washing. Helen didn't go to work. Still doesn't feel good from yesterday. Cooled off about 11 P.M. & sprinkled.

Sun Aug 7 – Non-work day. Quiet day at home. Kids went swimming.

Mon Aug 8 – Non-work day. Cool. Helen & I did the washing. Washer stopped & I fixed it later. Went with Mr. Lease to dump trash. Beautiful day.

Sun Aug 14 – Helen worked 7 to 3 at hospital today. I washed, ran sweeper, cleaned grass off front walks & got a roast beef dinner. Nice day. TV at night & to bed early.

Sat Aug 20 – Non-work day. Sheriff Anson & Deputy Martin came out with a bottle of moonshine. Called Meek at Omaha about it.

Thu Aug 25 – Worked. Mead, Owens, Anson, Martin, Stanger, seized a still with mash & whisky from Herbert Hume south on highway 61. This is the one Anson came here about, last Saturday. Hot today.

Sat Aug 27 – Non-work day. Went down to plant a little while, but came home after sending the mail out. Bought a used Spin-Dry washing machine from Stein for \$25. Washed.

Wed Aug 31 – Nice bright cool day. Worked. Had apple dumplings for supper.

Fri Sep 2 – Worked. Schmitt came down to plant a little while. Comes back to work Monday.

Sat Sep 3 – Worked. Time & ½ overtime. Received a letter of commendation for telephoning Harold Meek on August 20th regarding a still. Nice letter signed by Heflinger. Nice day. Went to Margaret's at night to watch TV. Ours is on the bum.

Mon Sep 5 – Holiday. Worked midnight to 8. Unlocked the stills, etc. I went to a show at night, "Not As A Stranger."



Tue Sep 6 – Worked 4 to 12. Helen & I cleaned the upstairs this morning. Got Dalene's winter coat at Batterson's. Went to library & grocery store. Cooled off by midnight.



Batterson's Department Store in Muscatine

Wed Sep 7 – Non-work day. Helen & I went downtown shopping. Bought Dalene a sweater & blouse. We also did a washing of the bedding. Nice day. Sold Stan's Chevy.

Fri Sep 9 – Worked. Hot & high wind. Went to football game at night. Muscatine got beat. Marie called to visit.

Tue Sep 13 – Worked midnight to 8. Worked on Evidence & Procedure. Rainy & cool.

Wed Sep 14 – Worked midnight to 8. Electrical storm at 3:15 A.M. Took Dalene a ride. Letter from Mother.

Sat Sep 17 – Worked midnight to 8. Talked to Schulz about volunteering to transfer. Watched football on TV in the afternoon.

Sun Sep 18 – Roast beef dinner. Chasteen here in the afternoon. I went to the show "Seven Year Itch" at night.



Thu Sep 22 – Worked midnight to 8. Asked about annual leave 1st 2 weeks in October. Talked to Rod on phone in the evening. Stan & Sue to a show at night.

Fri Sep 23 – Worked midnight to 8. Schulz called me at 2 P.M. to tell me I'm transferred to St. Paul about November 1st, as a Gauger. Stan & Dalene took it nice.

Sat Sep 24 – Worked midnight to 8 A.M. Mother called about 8 P.M. She is going to Tacoma next Wednesday to visit Aunt Elsie. Bought Stan a drafting set < for an engineering drawing class >.

Wed Sep 28 – Worked. Beautiful fall day. Took car to Hank Stickrod to fix gas gauge but he couldn't. Mother left Osceola today for Tacoma, Wash. to visit.

Thu Sep 29 – Worked. Schmitt got a letter about my November transfer to St. Paul. Rain today.

Fri Sep 30 – Worked. Got some barrels to move in. Helen, Dalene, & I to show at night.

Sat Oct 1 – Worked. Cleaned 6 barrels by steaming, at plant. Watched football on TV in the afternoon. Helen, Dalene & I downtown at night. Helen went to work at 11 P.M. at the hospital.

Mon Oct 3 – Non-work day. Helen & I worked on the car all day. Put 5 new compression rings on 5 pistons, & one new piston. Got done at 7:30 P.M. Big job. Sure sounds different, better. Nice day.

Wed Oct 5 – Worked. Got Minneapolis paper & map to study. Washed.

Thu Oct 6 – Worked. Helen & I sorted & packed books in basement. Rain & cooler at night.

Thu Oct 13 – Went after Helen at 7 A.M. at hospital. She worked last night. Gave a lot of stuff to Salvation Army. Worked 4 to 12. Got my letter of transfer to St. Paul on November 7th.

Sun Oct 16 – Helen, Dalene & I drove to Osceola. Took Helen over to be with Wilma who is going to have an operation tomorrow. Went out to Louie's & stayed all night.

Mon Oct 17 – Wilma operated on. We made ourselves at home at Mother's. Dalene & I took a walk in Grand-Dad's timber on the old Short place < *John Clark Short, Jettie's father* >. First time I had been in that timber for 36 years. Enjoyed it very much. Dalene & I to a show at night.

Tue Oct 18 – Drove home to Muscatine by 1:30 P.M. I worked 4 to 12. We are all pretty tired.

Wed Oct 19 – Worked 4 to 12. Rented a room for Stanley next to Benson's for \$5 per week. < *This was on East Fourth Street, one room on the second floor of a private home.* >

Sat Oct 22 – Worked 4 to 12. Watched U of Michigan beat Minnesota on TV.

Tue Oct 25 – Worked 4 to 12. Mr. Lease came over awhile. Helen & I packed some more. Took car to Hank Stickrod to put new lining on right rear wheel. OK now.

Thu Oct 27 – Changed with Rod & worked 8 to 4. Hancocks & us went to Jr. College play at night. Stan had the lead in "The Bishop Misbehaves."



TO OFFER PLAY THURSDAY—Ten Muscatine Junior college students who will enact roles in "The Bishop Misbehaves" a three act English comedy to be offered by the cast Thursday night, are pictured here at a recent rehearsal. They are (left to right) Sid Stark.

Ron Tietge, Jake Diercks, Larry Misel, Joan Bright, Carol Jensen, Betty Luedtke, Dick Herlein, Stan Gardner and Carl Keltner. Curtain time for the production, which will be presented at the MHS auditorium, is 7:30 p. m.

Helen clipped and marked this newspaper blurb about J.C. play; I'm second from the right end

Sat Oct 29 – My last day of duty at Grain Processing Corporation, Muscatine, Iowa. Worked 4 to 12. Home at 10 P.M. & packed some more. Colder today. Sleet at night.

Sun Oct 30 – Packed & packed & washed, & moved Stan's clothes to East Fourth Street. Rain & snow all day. To bed tired.

Mon Oct 31 – Told the boys goodbye at the plant. Fishers & Meads took us to Ina Mae's for supper & to Fisher's afterwards. Had a nice time. Home at 11 P.M.

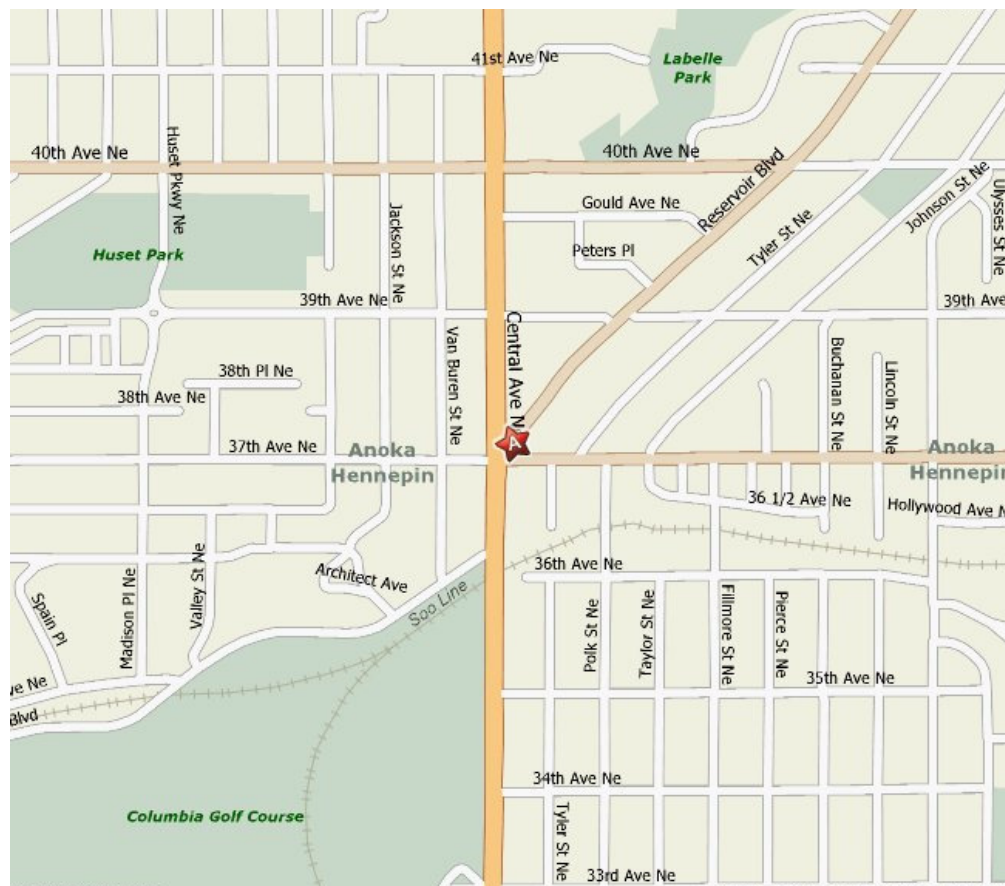
Tue Nov 1 – Annual leave. Had 2 teeth filled by Dr. Hathaway. Got all ready to go to Minnesota. Had lunch at Benson's.

Wed Nov 2 – Annual leave. Drove to Gerald's at Latimer, Iowa, by 5 P.M. Pretty cold today, down to 14° above in the night. Stayed all night at Gerald's, Helen, Dalene, & I < I stayed in Muscatine to finish the semester at the Junior College >.

Thu Nov 3 – Annual leave. Drove from Latimer, Iowa, to Mpls by 3 P.M. Found a cabin to rent at St. Paul Tourist Court by 5:30 P.M.. Nice cabin, & warm.

Fri Nov 4 – Annual leave. Looked over Mpls for a house to rent or buy. Pretty tough job believe me. Made an appointment to look at a house tomorrow on Reservoir Boulevard. We are all pretty tired.

Sat Nov 5 – Looked at some houses in Mpls. Bought one at 3727 Reservoir Boulevard for \$12,000. Rain in evening & cooler.



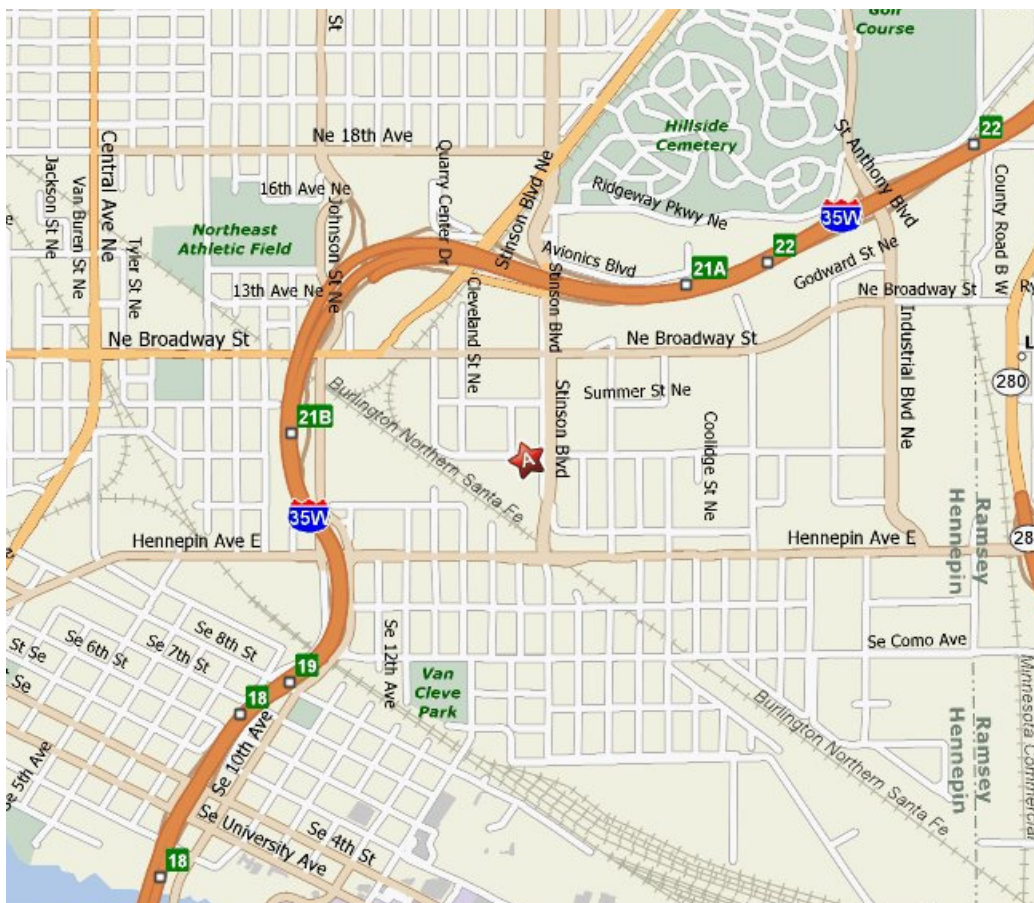
3727 Reservoir Boulevard N.E.

Note: 37th Avenue NE is the boundary between Anoka County to the north and Hennepin County to the south, so Dale and Helen's house lies just north of that line, in Anoka County, in the suburb of Columbia Heights (main business district at 40th and Central Avenues)

Sun Nov 6 – Cold, about 15° above. Wrote some letters. Took ride over by 3727 Reservoir & also to Zuercher's. Home at dark to the cabin in St. Paul Tourist Court. Drove clear down to main post office to mail a letter to Mother. Helen pin-curled her & Dalene's hair. Restful evening.

Mon Nov 7 – To St. Paul office on icy streets from 8 to 9 A.M. To Ed Phillips from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. with McNitt. First day on new assignment. Bought new alarm clock.

Minneapolis-based Phillips Distilling Company was founded in 1912 as Ed Phillips & Sons, inventor of the first Schnapps products in the United States and an innovator in vodkas and flavored whiskeys. Dale was stationed at their bottling plant at 2345 Kennedy Street NE, just off Stinson Boulevard.



Phillips Plant on Kennedy Street NE, the east-west street where the star is

Tue Nov 8 – At Phillips. Cashed some bonds at Columbia Heights bank in the morning. Took Helen & Dalene out to supper then to our new house for visit. Home to cabin early & to bed likewise.

Wed Nov 9 – Worked at Phillips. Worked with McNitt. Called Mother after supper.

Sat Nov 12 – Took a long ride all over Mpls, our house, Sears, & the airport. A lady in a Buick hit us on the left rear fender. Paid us cash to settle. Happened on Minnehaha Parkway.

Mon Nov 14 – Worked. Went to Heights theatre at night & ate supper in Columbia Heights.

Tue Nov 15 – Annual leave. Moved from the cabin to 3727 Reservoir Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Vern Lowe brought furniture from Muscatine at 1 P.M. Snow storm & cold. Miserable day. Couldn't get our kitchen stove hooked up. Discouraging. Ate supper out.



Front of Dale and Helen's house on Reservoir Boulevard

Wed Nov 16 – Annual leave. Blizzard & 8° above zero. Cold. Got gas stove hooked up at 10 A.M. Took Dalene to enroll in school at Columbia Heights. Figured up what we need to buy from Sears.

Thu Nov 17 – Worked. Cloudy day. 23° above at 7 A.M. Helen ordered a lot of things from Sears. One lady looked at the upstairs apartment, several called. Painted kitchen cabinets inside. Helped Dalene with arithmetic.



*Rear of house, showing steps to upstairs apartment
(Helen and Jettie on porch, taken a year or two later)*

Sat Nov 19 – Up by 8:30 & got car license. Burned trash. Painted inside kitchen cupboards. Showed the apartment to several people. Warm 31°. Lela called, invited us to Thanksgiving dinner.

Sun Nov 20 – Showed the apartment to 2 or 3 couples + some phone calls. We tore the built-in buffet out of the dining room & moved it to the basement. Unpacked all the dishes & pantry things.

Mon Nov 21 – Annual leave. Was going to paint but paint didn't come. Rented upstairs apartment to Mrs. Staebler. Helen & I papered some spots in the dining & living rooms.

Tue Nov 22 – Annual leave. Took drivers exam; vision, written, & drivers test in St. Paul. Took 2 hours, passed everything. Helen & I cleaned stairway. Our Sears paint, etc. came - painted ceilings at night.

Wed Nov 23 – Annual leave. Helen & I painted the kitchen sunshine yellow walls and white cabinets & woodwork. Looks nice. Ate supper out. Letter from Mother. She married Clarence Liggitt last Monday.

Thu Nov 24 – Holiday. Drove to New Ulm, Minn. for Thanksgiving dinner at Gene's. Nice dinner, nice visit. Stayed all night.

Fri Nov 25 – Annual leave. Drove home from Gene's by 11 A.M. Helen & I put counter top liner on the kitchen cabinets in the afternoon and painted the bathroom. Warmer. Letter from Stanley.

Sat Nov 26 – Painted all day except to Sears for paint. Mrs. Shirley Staebler & daughter Kay moved in upstairs apartment. Painted until midnight.

Sun Nov 27 – 1° below zero in morning and didn't get above 1° above all day. Brrrrr. Helen & I painted most all day. House is looking better every day. Mrs Staebler paid rent for December.

Mon Nov 28 – Worked. 1° above zero in the morning. Went to Sears after work. Helen washed. I painted walls in the dining room after supper then watched "Tonight." To bed too late.

Tue Nov 29 – Worked. Took an evening off & rested. Cold today, 2° above zero.

Wed Nov 30 – Worked. 2° above zero this morning. Got all the monthly reports out, in the warehouse. McNitt dropped in for a few minutes in the morning. I painted Dalene's ceiling & walls after supper.

Thu Dec 1 – Worked. Painted in Dalene's room at night.

Fri Dec 2 – Worked. Ate out & went to a show.

Sat Dec 3 – Got car greased, washed & oil changed. Painted walls & woodwork in our bedroom.

Sun Dec 4 – 5 inches snow last night. I shoveled walks before breakfast. Painted woodwork & walls & ceiling in hall today. We have painted the whole downstairs now & it looks real nice.

Mon Dec 5 – Worked. This is the coldest Dec 5th in Minn weather history. 7° below zero, zero at bedtime. Froze the car up taking Dalene to school. Got 1 gallon anti freeze. Now it tests 40° below.

Fri Dec 9 – Annual leave. Had to push the car twice to get it started. Helen & I signed the mortgage today at Twin City Federal, for our house. Bought new blinds & kitchen linoleum.

Sat Dec 10 – Got a hand choke put on 1948 Dodge. Helen took Dalene to Dr. Roberts for check-up. Dalene & I drove to Sears in the afternoon to exchange curtains. Had a nice evening at home. Shirley came down & watched TV. I went to bed about 10:45 P.M.

Mon Dec 12 – Worked. I think I got the car fixed today so it will start. Points were crystallized. Put a resistor on & a tune up. Got some lumber delivered for Stan's room. Helen & I worked on it until 9:30.

Tue Dec 13 – Worked. Car starts OK now. Not so cold today, up to 30°. Only 9° above at bed time. Helen & I worked on Stan's closet all evening. Letter from Stan.

Sun Dec 18 – Worked on Stan's room & finished it. Nice now but not warm enough. Burned a lot of trash. Cleaned up about 4 P.M. & rested.

Mon Dec 19 – Worked. 21° below zero & the car started. Stan came home from Muscatine for Christmas. He went to U of Minnesota to register for Winter Quarter. I picked them up at 4:30.

Tue Dec 20 – Worked. Still cold, & new snow makes it too slick. Bought Christmas tree & put it up.

Wed Dec 21 – Worked. Warmed up to 18° above by 9:30 P.M. Family went shopping in the afternoon. Decorated the tree. Stan & a girl friend from Robbinsdale went downtown at night in our car.

Thu Dec 22 – Worked. Stan took me to work & kept the car to look the town over. Dalene & he came after me at 4:30. Warmer, 20° above.

Sat Dec 24 – Dalene & I to Dayton's to Christmas shop, then to Columbia Heights to shop. Took Stan to the train at 5 P.M., he went back to Muscatine. We opened our Christmas presents at 10:30. Nice.

Sun Dec 25 – Up late & a quiet day watching TV. Snow in the evening. 14° above.

Sat Dec 31 – Worked in the basement cleaning up the place. Made myself a workbench & work space. Watched football on TV.

The Tonight Show

The Tonight Show went on the air in 1953. Steve Allen first hosted *Tonight* on New York's WNBT in June of 1953. The local show went national on the NBC network on September 27, 1954. Allen's show was done live and featured the multi-talented host playing piano, joking with the audience and doing comedy sketches with guest stars.



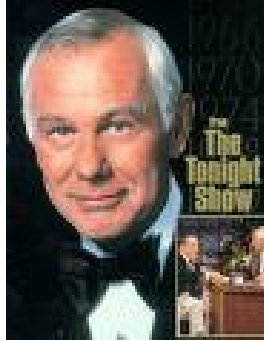
Steve Allen

Allen was replaced by Jack Paar in the summer of 1957, after a few experimental months where *Tonight* was a news variety show. Paar turned the emphasis to talk and interviews, and quickly gained a reputation for clever chat and quirky emotional outbursts. His most famous moment came on the show of February 11, 1960, when Paar walked off the stage in protest over NBC's censorship of one of his jokes from the night before. He returned a few weeks later. Paar's five-year run ended in 1962.



Jack Paar

Johnny Carson hosted *The Tonight Show* for nearly 30 years, becoming one of TV's favorite personalities along the way. His longtime sidekicks were announcer Ed McMahon and bandleader Doc Severinsen. At first Carson's show ran nearly two hours each night, from 11:15 pm until 1:00 am. That was cut back to 90 minutes and then (in 1980) to one hour, 11:30 to 12:30. Carson opened his shows with a standup comedy monologue, a notion which became a late night talk show staple. In later years Carson's extended vacations became a running joke, and his chair was filled with a series of guest hosts. His final show on 22 May 1992, with Carson being serenaded by guest Bette Midler, is remembered as one of TV's great farewells.



Johnny Carson

Jay Leno was named the successor to Carson. Ed McMahon retired with Carson and Leno worked without a sidekick, extending the opening monologue even further into the show. By 2001 Leno had become *The Tonight Show's* longest-running host after Carson.



Jay Leno

Leno stepped down as the host of *The Tonight Show* in 2009, to be replaced by Conan O'Brien.



Conan O'Brien

In 2010, Conan O'Brien left the show and Jay Leno resumed as host.