

The families in 1956:

Gardners – Isaac N. Gardner and Nancy E. Williams had Gilham, Elsie, Williams, Lena, and Charles.
Gilham (1875-1954) and Verda Machlan (1881-1936) had Orville, Leona, Doyle, and Merle.
Orville and Vera Lee had Orville, Twyla, Donald, Kay, Phillip, and David.
Orville and Beverly Stevenson had Larry.
Twyla and Norris Davis had Denny and Ricky.
Donald and Phyllis Reynolds had Donald.
Kay was married to James Johnson.
Leona and William Van Sant had Richard, Judith, and Lana.
Richard and JoAnn Davis had Richard and William.
Judith was married to Richard Easley.
Doyle and Irene Wright had Terry.
Merle and Dorothy McCollister had Russell, Gary, and Randy.
Elsie (1877-1960) and Fred Matheny (1870-1945) had Gilbert, Charles, Donovan, Anna Lois, 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) had Lloyd, Dale, and Marie.
Lloyd and Clarice McGee had Carol, Nancy, Marie, and Mary.
Carol and James Green had Cheryl.
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 Schaffer and Alice Lewis had Lloyd, Earl, Pearl, Harley, Louie, Gerald, Wilma, Lela, and Helen.
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, Roy, and Jeffrey.
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 and Betty Akes had Anita.
Eva and Jerry Kelly had Cynthia, Michael, Michele, and Melanie.
Louie (1899-1975) and Ruth Cherington 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 and Irene Vanderlinden; they had John.

Diary of Dale Gardner 1956

Timeline: Felix Wankel in Germany develops the rotary internal combustion engine. The DNA molecule is first photographed. The neutrino is first observed at Los Alamos, NM. The Nobel Prize in Physics goes to William Shockley, Walter Brattain, and John Bardeen for developing the electronic transistor. The Academy Award for Best Picture goes to "Marty" (United Artists). Elvis Presley emerges as a rock star, appearing on the Milton Berle, Steve Allen, and Ed Sullivan TV shows. The NCAA Football Champion is Oklahoma (10-0-0), and "Needles" wins the Kentucky Derby.

We are living at 3727 Reservoir Boulevard in Columbia Heights, MN, a northern suburb of Minneapolis. The upstairs apartment is rented to Shirley Staebler and her daughter Kay. References to "washing" are for laundry, which was hard work involving a wringer-washer, with clothes hung outdoors or in the basement to dry. Shirley and Kay do laundry there, too. Dale marks 20 years of working in the federal Civil Service. Dalene breaks her right arm. The game of Yahtzee is introduced. Pepsodent starts the "You'll wonder where the yellow went" ads, and Clairol introduces the "Does She or Doesn't She?" advertising campaign ("Only her hairdresser knows for sure"). The Federal minimum wage is raised to \$1 per hour.

As this diary from 1956 begins, Dale is 46 years old, working as the government agent at Phillips bottling plant. Helen is 44. Stanley is halfway through his freshman year at Muscatine Junior College and about to transfer to the University of Minnesota. Dalene is in the 8th grade in Columbia Heights. We still have Dusty the cat and the 1948 Dodge. We see many family members during the year, including Jettie and Clarence Liggitt; Lela and Gene Yates; Marie and Ralph Kimmel and Susan; Margie and Jack Nish and Ann and Cathy; Ruth and Louie Schaffer; Wilma and George Casey; Rouine and Earl Schaffer; Opal and Burl Schaffer; Clarice and Lloyd Gardner and Carol, Nancy, Marie, and Mary; Eva and Jerry Kelly and Michael, Michele, and Melanie; and Opal and Don Schaffer.

Highlights of 1956

(Source: babyboomers.com)

MAJOR EVENTS:

- Dwight Eisenhower re-elected President, defeating Adlai Stevenson handily for a second time
- Soviet leader Khrushchev publicly denounces Stalin, begins official policy of "de-Stalinization" in the USSR
- Egypt seizes Suez Canal; Britain and France respond with force; U.S. and Soviet Union help negotiate a cease-fire
- Israel invades Sinai Peninsula
- Soviet troops suppress a popular uprising against the communist regime in Hungary
- Congress approves the Highway Act, which allows for construction of the U.S. interstate highway system
- Fidel Castro begins the revolution in Cuba
- Italian ocean liner *Andrea Doria* sinks after colliding with another vessel

BUSINESS & ECONOMY:

- Atomic Energy Commission approves development of commercial nuclear power plants
- IBM founder Thomas J. Watson dies

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

- First transatlantic telephone cable goes into operation
- Dr. Albert Sabin develops oral polio vaccine

SPORTS:

- **World Series:** New York Yankees over Brooklyn, 4-3
- Summer Olympic Games are held in Melbourne, Australia

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

- **Movies:** *The Ten Commandments*, *Lust for Life*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *The Man with the Golden Arm*, *The Seventh Seal*
- **Songs:** *Don't Be Cruel*, *Blue Suede Shoes*, *Hound Dog*, *I Could Have Danced All Night*, *On the Street Where You Live*
- **TV Shows:** *Danny Thomas Show*, *Perry Como Show*, *Ed Sullivan Show*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *December Bride*, *This is Your Life*
- **Books:** *Peyton Place*, Grace Metalious; *Profiles in Courage*, John F. Kennedy; *The Last Hurrah*, Edwin O'Connor; *The Organization Man*, W.H. Whyte
- Rock and roll becomes a national phenomenon, fueled by the popularity of Elvis Presley
- *My Fair Lady* opens in New York
- Grace Kelly marries Monaco's Prince Rainier III
- Artist Jackson Pollock dies

EVERYDAY LIFE:

- Interstate highway system authorized, helping to fuel a long-term trend toward the populating of suburban communities, often at the expense of established urban neighborhoods

Sun Jan 1 – Worked in the basement at 3727 Reservoir Blvd. Had Mrs. Staebler & daughter Kay down to dinner.

Sun Jan 8 – Took it easy. Worked in the basement a little getting Stan's room ready.

Mon Jan 9 – Worked. Stan came home to Mpls from Muscatine. His first day at the U of Minnesota.

Thu Jan 12 – Worked. Helen cleaned the house & had a nice supper. Stan has a job at Danielson drug store in the Heights beginning tomorrow night. Good for him.

Fri Jan 13 – Worked. Stan started on his new job as stock clerk at Danielson's. He worked 6 to 9:30 P.M. We all watched TV until 12:30.

Sat Jan 14 – Dalene & I took a ride through Wirth Park & to Sears. Above freezing most all day.

Sun Jan 15 – Family took a ride, in a snowstorm, to Hopkins to see used cars. Had hamburgers at White Castle on the way home. Light snow all day. Fried chicken for supper.

Wed Jan 18 – Worked. 6° above 7 A.M., 8° above 10 P.M. Put a catch on Staebler's door to hold it closed. Stan worked at the drug store 5 to 9:30 P.M.

Thu Jan 19 – Worked. Stan & I went car hunting at night in below zero weather. Found a 1949 Ford 4 door at Midway Ford in St. Paul.

Fri Jan 20 – Worked. Bought the '49 Ford for Stan & he brought it home & drove to work at drug store. Below zero all day.



Stock 1949 Ford

Sun Jan 22 – 11° below zero. Stan & I shoveled the driveway out for his car to go in the garage. He got his tire patched. Stan & Dalene to a show in the afternoon.

Fri Jan 27 – Worked. C. Shulz & Radke at warehouse. Radke on annual inspection & Shulz on visit.

Sat Jan 28 – Dalene & I watched St. Paul Winter Carnival parade on capital grounds in St. Paul.

Sun Jan 29 – I put Congowall on the kitchen wall. Looks very good. Stan went to a party at night.

Tue Jan 31 – Worked. Radke finished warehouse annual inspection at Phillips.

Thu Feb 2 – Worked. 3° below zero at 7 A.M. 2° above at 8 P.M. Brought some lumber home from Phillips.

Fri Feb 3 – Worked. Dalene & I went to a show. Stan worked at the drug store. Dalene & I took his car up to him at 9:30 P.M. Not quite so cold today.

Thu Feb 9 – Worked. Stanley left at 4:30 A.M. for Muscatine in his 1949 Ford. Mother called in the evening. They are coming up tomorrow.

Fri Feb 10 – Worked. Mother & Clarence came up from Osceola. 35° today.

Sat Feb 11 – We took Mother & Clarence downtown & then a long ride over Mpls & St. Paul.

Sun Feb 12 – Took Mother & Clarence to watch skiing at Wirth Park. Had roast chicken for supper.

Mon Feb 13 – Worked. Mother & Clarence went home through New Ulm to see Lela. Stanley came home from Muscatine after midnight. He got 21 miles to gallon @ 70 miles per hour. Cloudy and 26°.

Tue Feb 14 – Worked. 2° above zero at 7 A.M. 2° above at 10 P.M. Stan took Helen uptown in the afternoon to see about a job in the Heights. Dalene stayed home from school, had a sore throat.

Wed Feb 15 – Worked. Helen went to a finance company to see about a job. I took her downtown after work to fill out application at Hotel Dyckman for PBX operator.

Thu Feb 16 – Worked. Warmer, 24°. Jack Owens dropped in to see me at Phillips warehouse. Helen went downtown again to see about a job. Lela called to say they weren't coming up this weekend.

Fri Feb 17 – Worked. Helen went to work with me to see about a job at Hustad Construction Company 5 blocks from where I work.

Sun Feb 26 – Up & got breakfast for family. Dalene & I took a ride to zoo, etc. Cold. 9° above at 8 A.M.

Mon Feb 27 – Worked. 3° below zero. Radke at warehouse most all day checking reports. Helen washed. Kay Staebler came down at night to visit awhile. To bed at 10:45 P.M.

Tue Feb 28 – Worked. Helen got a job at Steel Sales Corp., 401 Harding Street, Mpls. Starts Thursday.

Wed Feb 29 – Worked. Got up to 38° today. Pretty nice. Took Dalene to the doctor for pain in her side. Helen decided not to take that job. Stan to choir practice & then downtown.

Fri Mar 2 – Worked. Last day in the warehouse for 6 months. Helen went downtown with Stan to see about a job. 36° today & cloudy.

Sat Mar 3 – Watched Iowa beat Illinois. Married 24 years ago today.

Sun Mar 4 – Warm, 40°. Took a ride in the afternoon. Stan went downtown in the evening.

Mon Mar 5 – Worked. First day in rectifying plant of Phillips in Minneapolis.

Dale's 1956 diary has repeated references to working in the "Rectifier" or "Rectifying" Plant. This will be abbreviated "R.P." from now on. An online search came up with the following:

"Rectification — Older distilleries do not provide alcohol sufficiently pure for industrial purposes. The raw spirit contains a quantity of aldehyde and fusel oils. The operation of rectification is designed for the removal of these substances. The operation is discontinuous, the boiler being filled with the diluted spirit and carefully distilled. The operation is then broken and the residues removed; then the boiler is refilled, and the distillation repeated. The loss amounts to 1.5-2 per cent, of alcohol.

The raw spirit was thus separated into four products: (1) First runnings or foreshots, which is a mixture of acetaldehyde and ethyl alcohol. It boils at a lower temperature than pure ethyl alcohol, and is called ether by the refiner. (2) Clean or rectified spirit, which is the intermediate product, and consists of almost pure alcohol, 96-97 per cent by volume. (3) Feints, a mixture of various alcohols, consisting of some ethyl alcohol and much amyl alcohol, and similar alcohols of high boiling points. (4) Fusel oil, which remains in the still together with the water."

Tue Mar 6 – Worked. R.P. I went to show "Witch" at night. Helen & Dalene to science fiction show.

Sat Mar 10 – Dalene & I went downtown to The Great Minneapolis store sale. Too many people. Snow all day & drifts. Had the oil changed & car greased.

Sun Mar 11 – 3° above zero & 4 inches of snow. I helped Stan get his car out then shoveled snow off walks. "T" bone steaks for supper.

Mon Mar 12 – Worked at R. P. Helen came down to see about a job & had lunch with me. 8° below zero at 7 A.M. Coldest March 12th on record. I don't like it. Got a new generator (rebuilt) for Dodge.

Wed Mar 14 – Worked. 9° above at 7 A.M. Helen got a job at Century Theater as PBX operator. She worked from 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. learning.

Thu Mar 15 – Worked. Helen worked a couple of hours at Century Theater.

Fri Mar 16 – Worked. Helen worked 2 hours from 6 to 8 P.M. at Century Theater.

Sat Mar 17 – Stanley drove to Muscatine today, for a week's visit.

Sun Mar 18 – Helen worked 2 hours in the afternoon at Century Theater.

Mon Mar 19 – Worked. Helen worked 9 to 5:30 at Century Theater. Dalene fell & hurt her arm & leg.

Tue Mar 20 – Worked. Helen 9 to 5:30 at Century Theater. Dalene home all day alone after her fall last night. Helen took her to the doctor after work. Helen quit the Century Theater job, not busy enough & too much traffic.

Sun Apr 1 – Gene & Lela here for dinner.

Sun Apr 8 – Shoveled mud off brick driveway & patched a couple places in drive. Not too warm today. Started wearing my watch again. Runs fine now.

Mon Apr 9 – Worked. Stan washed his car after 4:30. I helped Dalene rake & carry leaves. 51° today, but cool wind. Mailed Iowa and Federal income tax returns. Stan went to a show at night.

Tue Apr 10 – Worked. Got up to 61° today. Rented a trailer & brought a timber home for the garage. Took Helen downtown to see about a telephone job. Stan to chorus practice at night.

Fri Apr 13 – Grannes at R. P. to investigate a bottle of 63 proof vodka that should have been 80 proof.

Sat Apr 14 – Put new timber in garage between doorways. Took me all forenoon. Took it easy in the afternoon. Kay washed & hung clothes outdoors. Very windy today.

Sun Apr 15 – Raked the yard. Took family to buy some clothes & to help Frank Arth dig out his cesspool. Windy & cool. Snow flurries at night. Staebler came down & watched TV with us.

Mon Apr 16 – Worked. Merle & Beulah Osterquist here for supper & visit. Learned about Muscatine Plant personnel.

Tue Apr 17 – Worked. Wrote Uncle Pearl a letter, he is in hospital in Des Moines.

Fri Apr 20 – Worked. Went downtown & bought 1 pound Fanny Farmer candy & treated the bottling line girls on account of 20 years with Civil Service.

Sat Apr 21 – Shopping in forenoon. To Arth's warehouse in the afternoon for Dalene's spring coat.

Sun Apr 22 – Snow flurries. I fixed the tail pipe so it won't rattle. Sowed some grass seed. Chopped sprouts out of back yard. Stan & Dalene to a show in the evening. 20 years with Civil Service.

Mon Apr 23 – Worked. Palmer, Warwick, & Radke visited plant. Shirley here at night till midnight watching TV. To bed too late.

Tue Apr 24 – Worked. Nice day. High 57°. Sent 2 samples to chemist with McNitt. Stan to choir practice at night.

Sun Apr 29 – Cool. Rain, high 45°. Went to University chorus recital at Northrop Auditorium. Stan sang in the chorus.

Mon Apr 30 – Annual leave. Fixed ceilings in basement shower room & lavatory. Took Helen to see about a job at Ford agency. Got up to 50° today, but still cool wind. Stan worked 5 to 9:30 P.M.

Tue May 1 – Annual leave. Worked on the back porch most all day. Went to look at garage doors in south Mpls. No good. Stan went to chorus practice at U of M.

Wed May 2 – Annual leave. Helen & I ironed in forenoon. Bought 6 gallons paint at Allied Unclaimed Freight in the afternoon for apartment. Stan went to choir practice at night. Watched TV all evening.

Thu May 3 – Annual leave. Rain & damp all day. Took it easy. Took Helen to Hampshire Arms Hotel to see about a switchboard job. Shirley came down to visit awhile at night.

Fri May 4 – Annual leave. Worked on apartment door all day. Nice day. Helen, Dalene, & I to a show at night, "Hot Blood."

Sat May 5 – In the 50s today but rain, thunder, & lightning. Put Congowall on the kitchen in apartment. Helen helped me. Let antifreeze out of radiator.

Sun May 6 – Nice day. Stan & I took storms off apartment & put screens on. Marie called just to visit in the evening. Watched a movie on TV & to bed at midnight.

Tue May 8 – Annual leave. Painted in the apartment most all day. Very windy. Helen training at the switchboard from 3 to 6 at Hampshire Arms Hotel. Started getting morning paper.

Wed May 9 – Annual leave. Painted in upstairs apartment all day. Helen worked 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. at Hampshire Arms. Shirley Staebler came down all evening, after supper.

Thu May 10 – Annual leave. Helen & I washed in morning. Painted in apartment in afternoon. Went to “Forbidden Planet” at night. Stan tried door-to-door selling Collier’s Encyclopedia, didn’t like it.



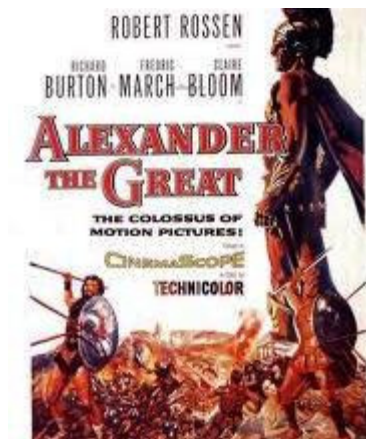
Sat May 12 – Burned trash, Helen took a sun bath in back yard. Mother sent me a \$1,000 check. Gave each of her children \$1,000. Wonderful. Called Marie in the evening to talk about it. Helen worked 3 to 10:30 at Hampshire Arms. Dalene & I went to Cinerama Holiday.

Sun May 13 – Called Mother & thanked her for the 1,000 dollars. Helen worked 3 to 10:30 at Hampshire Arms. I went after her at 10:30.

Mon May 14 – Worked. Helen put my check in the bank. Nice feeling. Stan mowed the lawn & Dalene dug up dandelions all evening. Stan went to a show after supper. Beautiful day, in the 60s.

Thu May 17 – Sick leave. Got a letter from Rod Mead. Helen & I washed in the morning & hung the clothes outdoors. I raked the back yard. Stan touched up his car with paint. Beautiful day, in high 60s.

Fri May 18 – Worked. Nice day, 74° but windy. Family to show downtown at night, “Alexander the Great.” To bed about 10:30.



Sat May 19 – Had trash hauled away. Whole family downtown all day, shopping for clothes & things for the house. Beautiful day. Stan polished his car.

Sun May 20 – Beautiful day. 80°. Took Dalene a ride. Worked in upstairs apartment putting window shades up. Family took sun bath in back yard. Stan took Dalene a ride in the evening.

Thu May 24 – Worked. Stan left for Muscatine at 5 A.M. Marie & Susie drove up from Osceola.

Fri May 25 – Worked. Helen, Marie, & Susie visited at Ed Phillips where I'm working.

Sat May 26 – I mowed the lawn. Marie, Dalene, & Susan went to look at some ponies & then downtown in the afternoon. Took a ride in the evening over to St. Paul, etc.

Sun May 27 – Up at 4:30 to see Marie & Susan off by 5 A.M., to Osceola. Took a ride in the afternoon. Dalene took some pictures. Dalene played across the street in the evening.

Wed May 30 – No work, holiday. Changed storms for screens on 1st floor & patched some screens. Very windy all day. Cool, 65° at 9 P.M. Stan & Dalene to a show.

Sat Jun 2 – Painted the basement stairway a beautiful blue. Nice day. Fixed Dalene's bicycle.

Sun Jun 3 – Painted all day on the front porch, got all done except floor. Beautiful day. I'm tired tonight.

Tue Jun 5 – Worked in the warehouse. Busy all day. Furnace cleaner man here in evening. Stan's 1st day at Crown Iron Works summer job, chipping & painting steel girders.

Fri Jun 8 – Worked. Lofgren & wife visited me at the warehouse. Holland Furnace Co. cleaned our hot & cold air registers & furnace. I worked on Dalene's bicycle.

Sat Jun 9 – Helen, Dalene, & I downtown to buy Dinnie a bathing suit. We all went to the fair grounds at night to see display of mobile homes.

Sun Jun 10 – Hot, 99°. Hottest 10th on record. We went swimming in Lake Calhoun in the afternoon. Painted the rear fenders on the Dodge. Took a window fan to Shirley, upstairs.

Mon Jun 11 – Worked. 70° all day in the warehouse. 95° outside, another all time record. Kay Staebler rode to work with me. Stan brought her home. Shirley came down & sat on the front porch at night.

Tue Jun 12 – Worked. Hottest June 12th in Mpls history. 97°. Cool where I work, 72°.

Wed Jun 13 – Worked. Hottest June 13th in Mpls history, 100°. Worked on the bathtub drain upstairs.

Fri Jun 15 – Worked. The family gave me a Norelco electric razor for Father's Day. Got a load of cinders for the driveway.

Fri Jun 22 – Worked. Bought 1 gallon of paint. Took Dalene & friends to a carnival.

Sat Jun 23 – Up & painting by 7 A.M. Painted stucco on front of house & around porch. Painted lower part of bathroom. Beautiful day, & not hot. Stan worked 7 to 3:30.

Sun Jun 24 – Fixed window screen for upstairs apartment. Beautiful day, 67° at 10 P.M. Stan went swimming. Took Dalene & friend to practice basketball.

Mon Jun 25 – Worked. Got letter from Mother. Stan brought a duck home, about 1 week old. Picked it up on Central Avenue on his way to work.

Sat Jun 30 – Up at 6 A.M. Painted the shower room & downstairs toilet room. Helen & I cleaned the basement. Worked from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. in basement. Hot today but no rain. Stan worked.

Sun Jul 1 – Sue Timm came on the train from Muscatine to visit 2 weeks. Stan met her at the station at 8 A.M. We all went to Arth's in the afternoon for steak fry. Palmers were there too. Nice time. Stan & Sue went downtown to a show at night.

Tue Jul 3 – Worked. Cool. Stan, Sue, Kay & 2 other boys went swimming in Lake Calhoun after work.

Wed Jul 4 – Holiday, no work. Helen, Dalene & I to shows downtown. Stan & Sue to Excelsior Park. We took a little ride at night to watch some fireworks. Sprinkle, on & off today & cool.



Excelsior Park

Thu Jul 5 – Worked. Nice day. Letter from Mother. Stan got a ticket for illegal U turn at 40th & Central. Sue went to her cousin's house to stay all night.

Fri Jul 6 – Worked. Stanley's car rear end went out at Excelsior. Dalene & I went after him & Sue.

Sat Jul 7 – Took Stan & Sue to Excelsior to get his car fixed. Rain last night. Cool today. Stan & Sue to Cinerama at night.

Sun Jul 8 – Rain & cool. Picked Linda Durst up at the train station at 8 A.M. Went to Como Park in the afternoon. Dalene & Linda to a show at night. More rain.

Mon Jul 9 – Worked. Nice day. Wrote Mother a letter. Took Dalene, Linda, Mary Ann & another girl a ride after I mowed the back yard. Shirley visited awhile at night. Stan & Sue to Cinerama.

Thu Jul 12 – Worked. I'm 47 years old today. Helen bought me some underwear. To bed early.

Sat Jul 14 – Slept late. Bought Nu-Enamel medium gray 3 pints at Big Wheel auto store. Bought 2nd hand tire at Sears. Stan worked 7 to 3:30. Took girls to airport but rained out. Stan & Sue to a show.

Sun Jul 15 – Painted the Dodge with medium gray Nu-Enamel. Took me 8 hours. Hot today. Had fried chicken for dinner. Sue went home on the 5 o'clock train. Stan went to a show at night.

Thu Jul 19 – Worked. Took Dalene, Marianne, & Linda out to golf driving range "Big T" about 9 P.M.

Fri Jul 20 – Worked. Helen is 45 years old today. Nancy Gardner came on 4 P.M. bus & I met her. Drizzly evening. Stan took girls a ride after supper.

Sat Jul 21 – Took Dalene, Nancy, Marianne & Linda to parade from 8:30 to noon. Girls to Cinerama at night, Helen & I to "Eddie Duchin Story."

Sun Jul 22 – Took the girls to Lake Calhoun to see boat races, etc. Took Linda to the 5 o'clock train for Muscatine. Drove some golf balls at big T after supper. Nice day. Nancy here.

Mon Jul 23 – Annual leave. Took the duck to Como Zoo but didn't leave it. Brought it home.

Wed Jul 25 – Annual leave. Built a portable pen for the duck. Arthur Godfrey had a good show, "Frontier Days" in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Thu Jul 26 – Annual leave. Went to St. Paul capital & museum. Went to Como Park. Dalene & Nancy took a ride on water bicycle. I went to show "Scarlet Week" at night. Pretty good.



Como Park

Fri Jul 27 – Annual leave. Mowed the yard. Washed the car. Had it greased & lubricated. Dalene had a tooth filled in the morning. Walked down to 37th & watched them black top it.

Sat Jul 28 – Up at 4 A.M. Dalene, Nancy, & I started to Osceola at 5 A.M., arrived at 12:30 with time out for stops. 309 miles, 20 miles to the gallon, no oil. Cool in Osceola. Stayed at Mother & Clarence's.

Sun Jul 29 – At Mother's. Dalene & I to Margie's & Louie's in the morning. To Wilma's in the afternoon. Earl & Rouine there too. 79° was the high today. Cloudy until evening. Fried chicken for dinner. Took a ride down through Woodburn after supper. Took a walk out in Clarence's field.

Mon Jul 30 – Annual leave. Dalene & I at Mother's. Fixed Mother's front porch step banisters on house in Osceola. Went to cemetery. Temp in low 80s & good breeze. Fried chicken for supper. TV at night.

Tue Jul 31 – Dalene & I drove home from Mother's, from 6 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Rain & cool driving. Gave our duck to Dr. St. Cyr on Twin Lakes. Shirley paid the rent & stayed to watch TV. To bed at 10:30.

Wed Aug 1 – Annual leave. Dalene to a show with Marianne. Stan's first night working at Heights Theatre as usher and candy counter clerk.

Fri Aug 3 – Annual leave. Sawed out some lumber for garage doors in forenoon. Worked on the doors all afternoon. Got some floor boards too for back porch. Card from Mother. Stan worked at Crown Iron & at Heights Theatre after supper.

Sat Aug 4 – Finished making doors for our double garage. Helen, Dalene, & I to a show downtown at night. Stan worked all day, then at Heights Theatre at night. In the 80s today.

Sun Aug 5 – Painted garage doors 1st coat, grey. Washed the cars. Went to see the duck but no one home. Stan worked at Heights from 1 P.M. to 10 P.M. Dalene to a show at night.

Wed Aug 8 – Worked. I went to "Trapeze," Dalene too. Dalene & friends went swimming at night.

Fri Aug 17 – Worked. Cool & breezy at bedtime. Watched last session of Democratic Convention.

Sat Aug 18 – Put new floor in upstairs porch. Mowed the lawn. Bought metal cover for front room cold air register. Cool today, high 70° & 56° at bedtime. Beautiful.

Sun Aug 19 – Up at 8:30 & read paper & got breakfast. Took a ride in the afternoon around Lake Harriet & Lake Calhoun. Beautiful day, high for the day was 67°. Cool.



Lake Harriet



Lake Calhoun

Mon Aug 20 – Worked. Cool, high 72°. Helen applied for PBX job at Mpls-Honeywell.

Tue Aug 21 – Worked. Helen washed. Took Dalene to the dentist in the afternoon. Watched the Republican Convention at night.

Wed Aug 22 – Worked. Watched the Republican Convention on TV at night. Dalene stayed all night at Winchester's.

Thu Aug 23 – Worked. Beautiful day. High around 75°. Watched Ike & Nixon accept the Republican nomination on TV.

Sat Aug 25 – Helen, Dalene, & I downtown shopping & then to Minnesota State Fair all afternoon looking around. Stan worked. Nice day. High 80°.

Sun Aug 26 – Took Helen & Dalene to see the baby Helen is going to care for starting Sept 4th. Bought a bassinet in South Mpls for the baby. Watched TV at night.

Fri Aug 31 – Worked. Wrote Mother a letter. Dalene broke her right arm, the big bone, just above the wrist. Fell over a low fence at Winchester's.

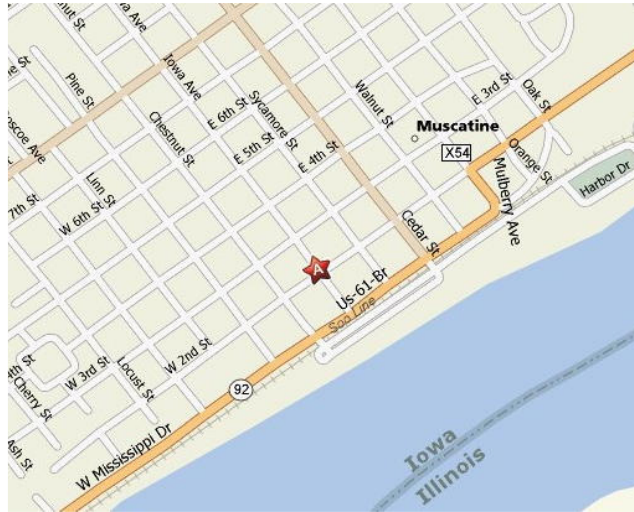
Sat Sep 1 – Helen took Dalene to the doctor to set her arm. Put it in a cast. I ironed some, painted back porch upstairs & steps, and washed a rug on one side. Beautiful day. High 71°. Stan to the State Fair.

Sun Sep 2 – Helped Stan put new seat covers on his 1949 Ford. Took a ride in the afternoon.

Mon Sep 3 – Holiday. Helped Helen wash in the morning. I went to big car races at Minnesota State Fair. Beautiful day.

Tue Sep 4 – Annual leave. Helped Helen wash & washed a 9x12 rug. Rented Stan's room to Jerry Gooding & Ron Kolinski. Ron moved in. Stan loaded his car for the trip to Muscatine tomorrow. Rain and cool.

I moved back to Muscatine for my sophomore year at the Junior College. I shared a room at the YMCA for a week or two with Chester Ballenger while looking for an apartment. Chet was a town tough who liked to fight, and he taught me to box. Then I moved to an apartment at 217½ Iowa Avenue which I shared with two high school classmates.



217½ Iowa Avenue, Muscatine

Wed Sep 5 – Annual leave. Helen & I up at 3:30 A.M. to see Stanley off for Muscatine & Junior College. Helen stated taking care of a 6 month old baby, Shelly. I went after it at 7 A.M.

Sat Sep 8 – Finished painting 2 doors and front steps. Put storm windows on front of house, living room & Dalene's bedroom. Took Helen & Dalene shopping. Ron came up & watched TV in the evening.

Sun Sep 9 – Painted dining room table & 6 chairs black. Put storm door on front door. Dalene on a picnic with the Winchesters. Had fried chicken for supper. Ron Kolinski here at night to watch TV.

Wed Sep 12 – Worked. Nice day. High of 78°. Took Helen & Dalene to library in the evening. Dalene got a letter from Judy Fisher. We got a letter from Stan.

Thu Sep 13 – Worked. Bought electric fan heater of Donaldson's for downstairs bedroom. Lloyd is 49 years old today.

Fri Sep 14 – Worked. Dalene & Marianne to a show. Wrote Stan a letter.

Sun Sep 16 – Beautiful day, high 67°. Helen, Dalene, & I to Lake Minnetonka for a picnic supper. Nice drive. Nice day all around.



Lake Minnetonka

Mon Sep 17 – Worked. Nice day, high of 62°. Letter from Stan, he has a job as shop helper at Willis Cabinet Shop to sweep out at closing.

Fri Sep 21 – Worked. Phillips closed at 1 P.M. for a party. I came home & helped Helen wash. Ate out. Dalene has a cold. Letter from Stan.

Mon Sep 24 – Mother is 75 years old today.

Fri Sep 28 – Worked. High 87°. Cooler in evening, windy. Watched Columbia Heights get beat by White Bear. Dalene had cast taken off her arm. Helen talked to shoe store man about job. Dalene on slumber party all night.

Sat Sep 29 – Worked most all day hooking up a sink in downstairs room. Ron Kolinsky helped. Cool, in the high 50s. Ron had supper with us. Dalene & Marianne to a show at night.

Sun Sep 30 – Put storms on upstairs apartment windows. Borrowed Mr. Holms' ladder. Ron ate supper with us. Jerry had a snack after supper too. Took a ride out to Pec's Timber in the evening.

Mon Oct 1 – Worked. Helen worked 1 to 4 P.M. at shoe store in Heights. Letter from Stan, & Mother. Dalene to school at night to a club meeting. Braced the sink in downstairs bedroom.

Tue Oct 2 – Worked. Dalene on picnic supper with school friends. I went to a show at night.

Wed Oct 3 – Worked. Nice day. Burl & Opal here in the afternoon & stayed all night. They have a 1955 Olds. I drove it all over. Nice.

Thu Oct 4 – Worked. Helen 9 to 6 at Schuyler's Shoe Store. Nice day. Burl & Opal left at 7 A.M. Card from Mother from Ozarks.

Fri Oct 5 – Worked. Windy & chilly. Helen worked 9:30 to 4 P.M. at shoe store.

Sat Oct 6 – Helen worked 9:30 to 6 P.M. at shoe store. I washed, & other odd jobs around the house. Took Dalene & friends to Peck's Woods. Watched TV at night. Very windy & chilly.

Sun Oct 7 – Worked on garage doors, putting strips over cracks. Beautiful fall day. Took Helen & Dinny to Peck's timber. Watched some football on TV in the afternoon.

Mon Oct 8 – Worked. Helen sick in bed all day with stomach flu. Gave Shirley & Kay our tickets to a pancake supper at church. Letter from Stan.

Tue Oct 9 – Worked. Frost this morning. Helen went to the doctor, she has infection in her throat & stomach.

Wed Oct 10 – Worked. Nice day. Letter from Lela. Yanks beat Dodgers for World Series crown.

Fri Oct 12 – Worked. Took Dalene to Macalester College at night to look at the moon & Mars through a telescope. 84° here today, for all time high for Oct 12th.

Sat Oct 13 – Put some more storms on. Very, very windy. Dinny & I to Red Owl about 11 A.M. Put some more strips on garage doors. Kay came down at night to watch TV awhile. Heavy rain late.

Sun Oct 14 – Beautiful day. Helen & I did 2 big washings. Took a ride to Como Park in the afternoon. Asked Shirley to keep her cats quiet at night. Jerry Gutting watched TV with us at night.

Mon Oct 15 – Worked. Got the Dodge winterized. Helen worked 1 to 5 P.M. & 6 to 8:30 at shoe store. Dalene & Marianne to a show.

Tue Oct 16 – Worked. Beautiful Indian Summer day. 74°. Helen walked to the Heights & back.

Fri Oct 19 – Worked. High 74°. Wrote Mother. Dalene to a football game at night. Helen worked 1 P.M. to 5 & 6 to 8:30. Letter from Stan.

Sat Oct 20 – Helen worked noon to 6 P.M. in shoe store. Nice day. Dalene & I went bowling in the afternoon.

Sun Oct 21 – I got breakfast. Took a short ride around noon. Watched football on TV. Had roast beef dinner. Shirley & Kay here to watch TV at night. Wilma called to tell Helen about Beulah Schaffer being killed in car wreck < *Beulah was the daughter of Eva and Jesse Schaffer, and first cousin to Helen* >.

Mon Oct 22 – Worked. Nice day again. Helen, Dalene & I left Mpls at 6 P.M. for Estherville, Iowa, to see Lela & Gene. 100 miles in 4½ hours. Stayed all night there. Went to bed at 1:30 A.M.

Tue Oct 23 – Annual leave. Left Estherville at 9 A.M. & drove to New Virginia & Osceola by 2:30. 300 miles. Nice day, nice drive. Went over to Lloyd's awhile. Stayed all night at Mother's.

Wed Oct 24 – Annual leave. At Mother's. Dalene & I rode around with Lloyd picking corn. Went out to Eva's in the afternoon & to Marie's. Went to Don & Opal's at night for a visit. Very windy.

Thu Oct 25 – Annual leave. To Cliff Vaughn's to look at sale preparation. Took Mother to church. To Louie's for dinner & Margie's for visit. Back to Mother's for supper & the evening. Colder tonight, 40°.

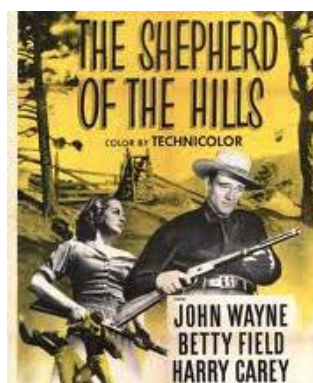
Fri Oct 26 – Annual leave. From Mother's to Muscatine by 2:30 P.M. To plant for visit. Talked to all the Gaugers at plant. Talked to Rod on the phone. To Stan's apartment to stay all night. Saw Sue Timm.

Sat Oct 27 – Left Muscatine at 9 A.M. To Jack Owens' to visit & see their new house. On to Minneapolis at 8 P.M. Drove over 1000 miles since Monday, used 1 quart of oil. Nice to be home.

Sun Oct 28 – Up & got breakfast. Fixed back outside door so it would latch. Nice day but windy. Dalene rested today, not out of the house. Watched TV late. To bed at 11:30.

Mon Oct 29 – Worked. Helen did a big washing. We went to Robert Hall at night & bought Dalene a new winter coat. Wrote Mother a letter. Sent Stan some want ads.

Tue Oct 30 – Worked. Rain but warm. McNitt inspecting R.P. I went to see "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" and "Shepherd of the Hills." Good shows.



Thu Nov 1 – Worked. Letter from Stan. Kay ran her sewing machine all evening, shakes the whole house.

Sun Nov 4 – Rain. Had brakes adjusted at Shell station. Put the rest of the storms on. Cleaned fruit room out for Dusty. Watched football on TV in the afternoon. Dalene & Marianne went bowling.

Tue Nov 6 – Worked. Election day. Eisenhower re-elected for 2nd term by landslide.

Sat Nov 10 – Iowa 7, Minnesota 0 at Minneapolis. Watched it on TV. Beautiful day, high 50°. Talked to Shirley about kitten noise. Letter from Stan.

Sun Nov 11 – Got a good night's sleep last night, no cat noise. Dalene to Taylor Falls with Winchesters. Football on TV in afternoon. Helen & I looked at house trailers. Real nice. To bed at 11 P.M.

Thu Nov 15 – Worked. Rain in the morning turned into the first snow of the season. Blizzard by 5 P.M. Took me 2 hours to drive four miles home. Traffic wouldn't move. I'm tired tonight.

Fri Nov 16 – Worked. Low 13° above. High 20°. I shoveled walks before breakfast. Went to "Solid Gold Cadillac" at night. Good show.



Sat Nov 17 – Got some salted sand for sidewalks. Watched Minn beat Mich State 14-13. Iowa 6, Ohio 0. Iowa goes to the Rose Bowl. Nice day. Low 17°, high 35°.

Sun Nov 18 – Slept late. High 47°. Dalene went bowling in the afternoon. Had one game of 127. Watched pro football in the afternoon on TV. Shirley, Kay, & Jerry here in the evening to watch TV.

Thu Nov 22 – Thanksgiving holiday. Stan came at 1:30 P.M. for the week-end with Don & Bill Mullen. Took the car to the Shell station to have rear brakes re-lined. Had turkey for dinner.

Fri Nov 23 – Worked. Low 5°, high 18° above. Brakes work good again. Stan, Don, & Bill came down to Phillips to watch the bottler work. Dalene went downtown with Sharon Lynn to "Giant." Boys had dates at night. Snow flurries.

Sat Nov 24 – Fixed leak on our toilet water inlet to the stool. Fixed an old toaster for Stan to take back to Muscatine. Don went to bed at 7:30 in Stan's room. Stan & Bill brought 2 girls here to listen to records.

Sun Nov 25 – At 1 A.M. the water inlet to the toilet came loose & we had water everywhere. Fixed it. At 5 A.M. Stan, Don, & Bill left for Muscatine. Watched football on TV in the afternoon.

Thu Nov 29 – Worked. Wrote letter for Helen to answer an ad for hospital PBX operator.

Fri Nov 30 – Worked. High 40°. Nice day. Took Dalene & friends to a basketball game at night.

Sat Dec 1 – Watched Army 7 - Navy 7 on TV. Letters from Stan & Mother. Went bowling with Dalene in the afternoon. High 41°, low 21°.

Mon Dec 3 – Worked. Helen had a chance to interview for PBX job at Mt. Sinai hospital but turned it down - too much loop traffic to struggle through. Turned our little radio on in our bedroom at night to drown out cat noise upstairs.

Fri Dec 14 – Worked. Light snow. High about 25°. Low about 12°. Took Dalene to a basketball game & went after her. Got a Mirro-Matic automatic coffee maker from Mother.

Sat Dec 15 – Christmas shopping today. Put the tree up too. Snow but not very much.

Sun Dec 16 – Warm, 36° & cloudy. Watched Bears beat Lions in professional football. Nice, quiet day.

Mon Dec 17 – Worked. Office luncheon. I went, had baked ham & everything else. Mailed presents to Osceola. Decorated the Christmas tree.

Tue Dec 18 – Drove to St. Paul office to be finger printed. Stopped to visit with Pieper on the way back. Helen & I to store & library after work. Dalene stayed home sick today. High 25°, low 3°.

Thu Dec 20 – Worked. Foggy on the way to work. Low 21°, high 45°. Nice day. Took Dalene to a basketball game at night & went after her.

Fri Dec 21 – Worked. Low 24°. High 44°. Nice day. Dalene went to the show at night.

Sun Dec 23 – Finished painting basement walls. Stan came home about dark from college in Muscatine.

Mon Dec 24 – Worked. Double time. Took Dalene a ride downtown after supper. Kay & Shirley here a few minutes after supper. High 21°. 15° above at bedtime & falling.

Tue Dec 25 – Opened our presents before breakfast. Many nice things. Dalene got me a vise, a dandy. Stan here too. Kids to a show downtown in the afternoon. Had turkey for dinner. Light snow. Low 9° above, high 28°. Very nice day all around. Wore my new pajamas (Christmas present) to bed.

Wed Dec 26 – Worked. High 40°. Nice day. Snow almost gone. Stan bought a nice pair of ice skates 2nd hand, like new. Jerry here tonight, back from Christmas vacation. I walked on Dalene's hall tree.

Thu Dec 27 – Worked. Low 29°, high 38°. Stan started to Muscatine about 8 A.M. Shirley came down & visited awhile.

Fri Dec 28 – Worked. High about 26°. Wrote to Mother, and Del Snyder. My foot hurt all day. Helen helped it after I got home. Got an old drum to burn trash in. Dalene & Marianne went to a show.

Sat Dec 29 – Fixed a leak in water pipe under the kitchen sink. Watched 2 football games on TV. Snow flurries. Very quiet nice day. Low 18°, high 25°.

Sun Dec 30 – Warm, 45°. Beautiful day. Watched Giants beat Bears 40-7. Finished painting basement walls.

Mon Dec 31 – Worked. Low 7° above, high 32°. Letters from Mother & Wilma. Watched TV until midnight.