

April - 1983.

Dear Joan:-

Was glad to hear from you, Joan. Get letters or cards from the three grand-daughters, but seldom from the boys. When I saw your Mother this past week she was telling me that you are still working hard for your Doctorate and hoping you will get it this August. Elaine will graduate from her 'art' course on June 9th. These outstanding events we are looking forward to with a great deal of happiness. My brother, Milton wrote that spring has been slow in coming to Champaign and now that he has retired (72 yrs. old) his hobby is gardening and would like the weather to be more suitable. They will be going to Germany this fall and he will close out his classes of German at Parkland College soon. Said he will restrict his German activity to reading "Das Beste" a German edition of the Readers Digest. Donald's Jean has been traveling a great deal these past two months, once to Denver, then to California, next Chicago and just the other day I heard from her in Florida. She said these benefits are wonderful.

I will be only too happy to relate my personal history. Nothing outstanding and hope it will not be too boring. Sometime ago I composed a genealogy of my ancestors and will send that to you in a separate envelope. Was born here in Milwaukee at 9th & Vliet Sts. in 1900 and lived there with my parents, sister Linda and brother, Ray. When I was eight years old we moved to 36th & Elm where my two other brothers were born. My grand mother (my Dad's mother) insisted that I be named after her (Eva) as there were six grandsons that preceded me. She is the only one I really knew- the other grand mother and the two grand-fathers died when I was real young or before I was born. My grand father from my Dad's side was drafted in the Civil war in 1862 the year my Dad was born. During that time he could have paid another man to take his place in the Army (guess it was \$100.00) but he wanted to be patriotic and left home with grand mother and four young children, my Dad being a baby. He never saw any service was sent down South and contacted malaria and died. Grandma was given a chance to view his grave (the Government paid all expenses) and she went down to New Orleans but she said that those graves were in a swamp like area. She existed on a \$25.00 a month pension - had a garden and sold those vegetables to make a little extra money - no sewing machines so she sewed the boys pants by hand.

Now as far as my education is concerned - Mother sent me to St. John's parochial school and there I attended school from 5 yrs. to 8 yrs. of age. The only subjects we had were reading, writing and arithmetic, and plenty of religion classes with a little calisthenics thrown in. We had to pay full attention to our teachers, no fooling around, but we did learn well what we were taught. When I started public school in about 4th grade I could really relax a little as schooling wasn't as serious and strict as it was in the parochial school. My Mother sent us to Reformation Church at this time where I remained a member until I joined Siloah in about 1930. Was married at Reformation in 1923 and had Shirley, Donald and Howard all baptized by the Pastor at Reformation. Made and kept many friends from young on and almost all of our relatives lived close by. On Sundays our recreation consisted of taking a walk through West Park (now Washington Park) and listening to the band concerts in the shell at the Park. We also enjoyed having cousins over for dinner on Sunday and playing the piano and singing. Linda and I took piano lessons from Miss Hinz (50¢ a lesson) and many a duet we learned to play.

In 1920 we lost our Mother very suddenly and just about that time I

met my future husband. When he invited me on our first date he informed me that seeing I lived so far away from his home would I please meet him downtown, instead of calling for me at my home. I consented but all the while I was waiting for him to show up (and he was very late) I thought I would forget about the date, but then again I liked him so I waited.

In 1918 we had a dreadful 'flu' epidemic and many of my friends passed away very suddenly. The wreaths that they used to nail on the front doors of a deceased person laid out in the home was something that made me very sad. And then, of course, there were the wars, War No. 1, War No. 2, the Korean and the Vietnam. These were hard times for all and the depression about the time Howard was born, 1929. Grandpa always had a job, but earned very little. Life at that time was very simple and I almost think that this recession or depression is even worse. During the war days, Grandpa enlisted in the Army (this was before I even met him) but was only in the service a short time when the armistice was signed. When my brothers Milton and Wilmer (both overseas and in the U. S.) were gone to war and when our boys Donald (in Korea) and Howard were in the States Grandpa and I prayed for their safe return. Many a young man that I knew from High School days never did get home again.

Now I will go back to 1923 when I got married and had a very happy life with a good husband and three children that we both of us loved dearly. Graduated from W.H.S. and also from Wisc. Commercial Academy. Had quite a number of jobs, the first with the draft board, a govt. job that didn't last long because the war came to an end soon after, then I worked for two brothers, the Grossmans in two different offices but when my Mother died my Dad was overcome with grief and he could see no other way but to have me remain at home and be the home-maker for him, my three brothers (Wilmer only 4 yrs. old) and Linda.

I am now happy to see my children, grandchildren and great grand children and wishing them the same enjoyment I had out of my life. I will continue to put my faith in the good Lord who will watch over me until my dying day. With loads of love -

Grandma.