

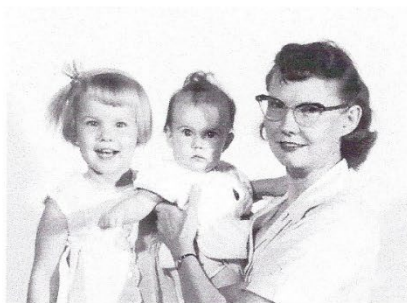
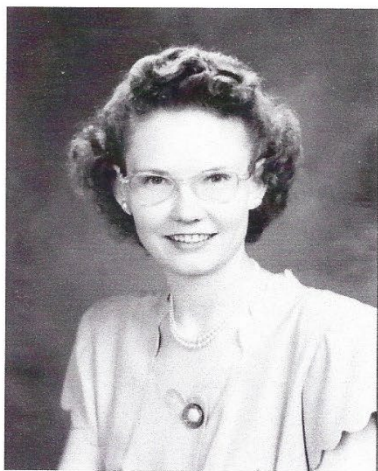
I put together this record of my mother's life from 1938 to 1955 which she always considered the "best years of her life." The pictures come from her own photo albums and scrap books. The text comes from interviews with her.

Dhyan (Kathleen) Atkinson

Erma
Erma Lorraine Groeger Atkinson
1938 to 1955



Erma
(Erma Lorraine Groeger Atkinson)
1938 to 1955



Erma Lorriane Groeger (Atkinson)
The Years from 1938 to 1955

Plus

Love Letters from Gaylord to Erma
1947

Erma Lorriane Groeger (Atkinson)

The Years from 1938 to 1955

Following High School graduation in 1937, Erma was unable to find a job in tiny Humphrey so she spent the next school year (with two other girls in the same situation) back at the high school taking a bookkeeping class. Her class was in the mornings and she had time to spend in the afternoons reading, practicing the piano or helping her mother. She was also hired occasionally to substitute teach at the school and filled in when teachers were sick or away. She said it would have been a pretty idyllic year except for the fact that she had just broken up with her high school sweetheart and felt pretty miserable much of the time.

Erma also volunteered to help with the high school yearbooks which, back then, were all individually typed with the photographs being pasted in one at a time on each page! Every year the current Senior Class of Humphrey High School was responsible for the design and execution of the yearbook and during this "post graduate" year when Erma helped type the books one of Seniors hand painted illustrations in each and every one of the 35 books that went out. (Erma's yearbooks, her autograph book and from grade school, and her meticulously kept scrapbooks which contain photographs of herself and her best friends along with commentary, momentos of events and places she visited, are still in family archives.)

The summer right after her high school graduation Erma attended Wayne State Teacher's College and continued to attend teacher training for several summer semesters thereafter. Upon graduation from Wayne State, she passed her State Teacher's examination and, with her teaching certificate and her experience substitute teaching in Humphrey under her belt, she was hired to teach in a little one room school with all of four pupils (two sets of siblings, all cousins with the same last name) in Tarnov, Nebraska which was about six miles outside of Humphrey. Like Humphrey, Tarnov was predominantly Catholic and had built a large church at the center of their

community. They had planned to also build a parochial school similar to the one in Humphrey (which the majority of the children in Humphrey attended, far out numbering, as a matter of fact, the public school kids) but Tarnov didn't have the funds to complete the project. Their solution was to send their children to public school for the first six grades and then drive them to Humphrey to attend St. Francis for the upper grades. A number of these "commuter children" later boarded with the Groeger family (who conveniently lived right across the street from St. Francis) during the school week and returned home to their families for the weekends.

Erma reminisced that she did "everything" at the little Tarnov school. She was the teacher for all subjects for all grades, the person who brought in the fire wood for the little stove that heated the classroom, and the janitor who cleaned the windows and swept the floors at the end of each week. She drove her Dad's car back and forth, paying for gas and any repairs the car needed out of her small salary, but during the bad weather months she roomed with a young married couple in Tarnov. Her father wanted the money she was earning to go into the family pot, but her mother insisted that it go into a savings account. This was a major turning point in Erma's life because without that saved money she would not have been able to enroll in the secretarial courses she later took in Grand Island. It is quite possible that this one single factor would have meant she never would have been able to leave Humphrey at all! Realistically, because she was Lutheran and not Catholic, her prospects for dating and finding a marriage partner were slim in Humphrey. College was not an option for most kids in rural Nebraska during those times... even without the advent of World War II. The majority of young people married someone from within the community and settled down. Some few who found themselves without options eventually had to leave the community to

seek careers elsewhere. Erma shared with me the story of one of her Groeger cousins who had to leave Humphrey in order find work but returned periodically to see if he could find work "at home." He never did and it is sad to think of those who wanted to settle in Humphrey but ended up living "in exile." On the other end of the spectrum would have been those who wanted to leave and because of the economics of moving from their small town, never got the opportunity.

Upon graduation from the secretarial classes she applied for and got a government job. World War II had started and most young people her age were affected by the war. The boys were enlisted and the girls held down jobs that might not have been available to them earlier. Both Erma and her best friend Emily Schmidt applied for and were hired to do government jobs in Washington DC. The two girls from Humphrey rented a two bedroom apartment together which they shared with a couple other working young women. Emily worked at a job in a classified office. Erma worked at a job in the Procurement Office of the Department of Agriculture where she did secretarial work, correspondence and other paperwork. The office she worked in processed requests from corporations and companies for items in limited supply because of the war. For example, a company would apply for a certain amount of steel to repair equipment in their industrial plant and her department would decide whether all or some of the requested steel was available for purchase or was needed for the "war effort."

Erma loved it in Washington! She blossomed into a beautiful young lady. She had always been nicely dressed as a child, even during the Depression, because her mother, a skilled seamstress, put a lot of time and effort into making clothes for Erma and her little sister, Mearl. Erma said that while she was in Washington DC all she had to do was send her mother a picture of a dress from a newspaper ad and her mother would make it up for her just from the picture. She had all of Erma's measurements and had the skill to take a basic sewing

pattern and adapt it to look any way she wanted. Looking nice had always been important to Erma and now, as a career woman with a small disposable income, her wardrobe shone!

Along with food rationing, the war effort required the rationing of many things that had been available to 'anyone with the money to pay for them' prior to the war. Some of the rationing didn't affect Erma very much. Gasoline was rationed but she used public transportation and could get anywhere in Washington on the bus or streetcars. Shoes were rationed and this was a problem for Erma. People had to wear shoes until their next shoe coupon became available but Erma wore a narrow shoe and they were even more difficult to find with rationing. Hose, or silk stockings, were also a rationed item and all young working women needed to have their hose! Erma said, "Before the war, hose were made from silk. Well, once the war started, silk just disappeared from the market! There was a product available that was a kind of brown lotion which, if you smoothed it on your legs evenly (without any streaking... which no easy task!) looked just like you were wearing hose from a distance. We often used that during the summer. Emily and I were both lucky because we worked in two of the few air conditioned government buildings, but during the winter you needed something on your legs to keep warm. During the war, nylon stockings first appeared and that was really a blessing to young working women!"

She had many boyfriends during this time. She was at the age where she and her friends would have been pairing up anyway, but the War effort meant that many young people from all over the United States were thrown together in Washington. Women had the unprecedented opportunity to fill jobs left vacant when most of the young male population enlisted in the military.

The Lutheran Church Erma attended had a very large and popular youth group called the "Walther League." Reaching out to the large community of young people far from home during war time, Christ Church had developed a very open door policy for

the young women who had come to Washington to work and the young service men stationed at the various military bases around the area. The church was a respectable place for young women and men to gather and have fun. Emily and Erma both belonged to the Walther League and Erma's scrap books from those years bulge with photographs of the outings they took and programs they attended.

Erma said, "Washington DC, during those years, even with the war going on, was a gorgeous city! Because of the war we had things like air raid practices, the capital building was not lit up at night like it had been before and was later, and you couldn't tour some things like the White House, but every weekend Emily and I would get on the bus and go visit some monument or buy a ticket for some concert or cultural event. We visited all the museums, art galleries and parks. We attended concerts and programs. It was so much fun! Our apartment was hot and really small but it didn't matter much because we were constantly going out."

One of her roommates commented about Erma that she never knew anyone who had a date EVERY single Friday night! This was the first time Erma really had the opportunity to vacation. Sometimes the Walther League was all invited to visit one member's family's house on Chesapeake Bay and everyone went canoeing, swimming and hung out beside the water. "Another time," she told me, "a group of us once went to New York to see the sights there. I was dating a guy named Henry Hildebrandt whose family had a house in the Bronx. The rest of the group stayed in a hotel but I stayed at his family's house."

Erma and Emily, best friends all through school, shared one bedroom of the two bedroom apartment and Erma said they had an agreement that whoever got home first from a date went to bed in the bedroom where their twin beds sat side-by-side, and whoever got in second slept on the couch in the living room. "It worked!" she said.

Erma was probably happier in Washington DC than any other previous part of her life. She was surrounded by friends, liked her work well enough, and

LOVED living in cosmopolitan Washington DC after having lived in "rural Nebraska" all during her childhood. In addition she was separated from the tensions at home between her parents due to money concerns, from her father's chronic health problems and alcoholism, her mother's tendency to take control of things, from the stigma of being Lutheran in Catholic-dominated Humphrey where anyone not Catholic was "treated as a pariah," and from the personal heartache of feeling plain compared with her dazzling little extrovert-of-a-sister, Mearl, who, she always felt, had taken her place in her beloved father's heart. In Washington DC, Erma began to come into her own!

Probably the most significant relationship she had aside from her continuing friendship with Emily, was her relationship with a serviceman named Wally. Wally shows up in a number of the pictures from this time and it was more than a casual relationship. Both Erma and Wally took the other home to meet their family and Wally gave Erma an engagement ring but something about the relationship didn't work in the end. Erma says she called off the relationship because "my mother didn't like Wally and his family didn't like me." She returned both his ring and all of his letters and wouldn't go out with him or speak to him any more although he attempted to contact her for a long time after her separation. All she would say about this was that "it wouldn't have worked if neither of our families approved of the marriage."

All around her friends were pairing up and getting married. Emily married Erma's cousin Raymond Groeger. Her friend Bea married an Australian service man who came back to get her after the war. Erma had had other offers of marriage but for one reason or another she hadn't chosen to accept any of them. "People were lonely and away from home," she told me, "the service men, particularly, were eager to get married, but I was glad I waited because many of those war time marriages ended up in divorce later."

After the war was over Erma wanted very much to stay in Washington DC but

things were getting more difficult at home. Her father's health, never strong, was getting worse and she finally felt that it would be better for her to move closer to home. So she applied for another government job in Lincoln, was hired, and moved back to Nebraska. In many ways this move was another huge change for her. The war, with both its special opportunities and challenges, was over. Servicemen, many of them now married, were going back to school on the GI bill. If Washington had been filled with young single people with an active social life, Lincoln was filled with young married couples and students living in large houses divided up into small, shared apartments.

Gaylord Atkinson, the man she eventually married, was in Lincoln living at Proudfits Boarding House which was predominantly full of young people from his hometown of Pawnee City, Nebraska. Erma's new boss, Mr. Cole, had initially found her a room in the house of a young married woman and her two small children. Her husband was still away in the service. Erma said, "She was awful to live with! So snoopy! She went through my clothes and she always wanted to know where I was going and when I was coming back. I didn't like living there and when her husband came home he didn't want to share the house with a boarder so it seemed a good time to move. There was a very nice room available in the house next door with a retired couple but after having lived in an apartment in Washington DC I didn't want to live in a room in someone else's house anymore. So I moved into an apartment with a woman named Lorena, but it turned out she didn't really want a housemate, so then I moved in with Alphadeen Campbell who happened to be a Pawnee City girl, until a room opened up in Proudfit's Boarding House where I eventually settled. At Proudfits I shared a room with Margaret Turner, who was also a Pawnee City girl whose brother, Daryl, also lived at Proudfits.

That Fall, Gaylord came back to Proudfits after having been in Pawnee City for the summer. Erma was now sharing a room with only one very small clothes closet

with Margaret. Gaylord came back to Proudfits to find "a woman's clothes" hanging in his closet... thus becoming inadvertently involved for the first time in Erma's life-long struggle for more clothes space in the closets of any house she ever lived in! The two met over the clothes in his closet. Pretty soon they were talking together over the communal dinner table and spending time in the evening with the other young people in the Proudfit communal living room or being out and about in Lincoln. There were still many places, post war, for young people to hang out and Gaylord, as a University of Nebraska student, had access to all the college activities.

When Mearl graduated from High School she followed her big sister to Lincoln and also moved into Proudfits but the rooming house was not a good match for her. Her roommate, Rosalyn Pearson, said Mearl made too much noise... even her CLOCK made too much noise!... and on her side, Mearl didn't like living with Rosalyn either. When a small apartment opened up in the house next to Proudfits she talked Erma into sharing it with her. When Erma moved next door, her room and Gaylord's now had windows on the same level looking out over the space between the building and they sat on their respective windowsills laughing, talking and feeding the squirrels that climbed up the walls to be fed by hand.

By 1947 Erma had found Gaylord a job working in another department in the Department of Agriculture where she worked. Erma continued to do secretarial work and Gaylord, along with several other university students, worked in the photographic lab where he processed aerial photographs of farms and created conservation contour maps for regional farmers. Erma and Gaylord were falling in love. Sometime in 1947, the Proudfits moved house and took most of their boarders, Gaylord included, with them. Gaylord and Erma were now separated by several miles. Gaylord talked to Erma about marriage "a number of times" without her giving a definitive answer. He told me, "I finally stopped asking," but in the Spring of 1948, "when the lilacs were in bloom," Erma

brought the subject up again as they went for an evening walk and became engaged. Back at Proudfits they happily announced their engagement to the other boarders, and their good friends Alphadeen and Dean Norris rushed upstairs, got a ring, and came down to announce their engagement as well (which Gaylord liked but Erma didn't. She felt their special moment in the limelight had been "stolen." He felt it had been "shared.") But the engagement was on!

Gaylord went home between the Summer and Fall semester sessions to paint his parent's house for them. (See letters at the end of this section.) Erma had once promised her mother that she would travel with her to California to visit old friends and she now kept her promise. She told Gaylord that if he could find an apartment in Lincoln (which was already crowded with young married couples) she would marry him in September... if not, they would have to wait for awhile. ("Which put an incredible amount of pressure on me to find an apartment!" Gaylord reported. "I hunted all over. I finally found an apartment that looked just perfect but when I opened a drawer in the kitchen it was just black inside with cockroaches. I can't stand cockroaches so I started looking all over again." Finally, he found an apartment and they set a wedding date. On September 5, 1948 they were married in Humphrey and returned to Lincoln to live in their cozy little apartment with its famous "closet" kitchen. (There are pictures of this kitchen that literally folded into the wall behind a door when not in use.)

Gaylord graduated with his Masters in Chemistry in 1951. When he landed a job at Midwest Research Institute in Kansas City the young couple moved there. They started a family in 1952 when their first daughter, Kathleen Marie, was born on Christmas Eve followed two years later on April 1, 1955 by their second daughter and last child, Janet Lorriane.

Love Letters from Gaylord to Erma - 1947

Written during the summer when Gaylord went home to Pawnee City to help his family paint their house and Erma was about to go on a trip to California with her mother. Letters are unedited.

From: GR Atkinson
Pawnee City Nebr

To: Miss Erma Groeger
320 So 15th St
Lincoln 8 Nebr.

Postmark: Pawnee City Nebr. Aug 14, 12-
M, 1947 3¢ stamp

Pawnee City
Aug 13, 47 Wed.

Dear Erma,

Hello Erma, The first day of hard work (?) is over, and I'm tired and ready for bed, but first I'll tell you what is going on here.

I got (I should have used arrived instead of got) here about five o'clock yesterday. At 5:30 I went to town for a scrapper. Ate at six, and thought of you eating up there. After supper I tried the scrapper out, found it wasn't much good to get into corners so I made one. From 7:30 until 9:00 I scrapped. From 9:00 until 10:00 I ate watermelon, visited etc. and from 10:00 until 4:00 am I slept. A (or the) fire siren woke me up then but no fire was in sight so I went back to bed. (An old fashion "out house" burned). Again my tired eyes opened enough to see the clock at 7:00. "I suppose Erma is getting up now" and went (or goed?) back to sleep for half an hour. After a hard struggle I decide to start the day off right so I "jumped" out of bed and by eight o'clock I had already eaten breakfast and had begun to work.

All went well for about five minutes (maybe six). Then Dad comes up from the shop and wanted to know if I would work in the shop for today, he was so far behind in his work. So off to the shop I go, not leaving it until 12:05 when mother called us to dinner. After steak, potatoes, tomatoes, roasting

ears, cucumbers, a glass of milk, a dish of ice cream and a big slice of watermelon I was ready for --? nap Fritz, our little dog, barked at 1:03 and woke me up - back to work. My job for this afternoon was to change a tractor from steel wheels to rubber tires. To do this it is necessary (or is it necessary) to cut the spokes and weld on a steel rim on which the tire goes.

All this sounds very easy (and isn't bad) but every thing must be measured, check and rechecked to be sure the wheel is true, etc. I "worked" until 6:00, ate, and went back to the shop and finished the wheels up (all four of them) by 8:00. I then came back to the house and messed around, ate watermelon etc until 9:00 at which time I started this letter -- it is now 9:30.

The electric welder causes a burn the same as sun burn and so since I was welding much of the time today I am burned more or less, more on my arms where nothing was over them and less under my "fur coat" where a "T" shirt (my oldest most worn out one) was.

Now Erma you now how my first day was spent, that is if you read all of that.

We haven't been apart long, but already I miss you and find myself wondering what you are doing.

How did your checkup come out?

Has your new swimming suit produced any results yet? I should have kidnapped it and kept it while I was gone -- I'm terribly worried about losing you!!!

I'll add some more to this in the morning --
Goodnite, Erma XX
10:45 Thu.

Thanks for the note and I'm glad you liked the flower.

Erma LorraineGroeger (Atkinson) 1938 to 1955

I have been working since 7:30 this morning and have 1/2 of one side of the house scrapped.

I just picked some corn to send to you, it is a little old, maybe more than a little old.

I better get this mailed soon and get back to work.

This is a crazy letter, I know, but its from a crazy guy, crazy about you, that is.

XLoveX,
XGaylordX

From: GR Atkinson
Pawnee City Nebr

To: Miss Erma Groeger
320 So 15th St
Lincoln 8 Nebr.

Postmark: Pawnee City Nebr. Aug 17, 12-
M, 1947 3¢ stamp

Pawnee City
Aug 17, Sun Morning

Dear Erma,

I'm still waiting for a letter from you but maybe if I write one it will bring one, not that I don't like to write letters or anything, at least not to you.

Right now I'm in the kitchen; the kitchen is where the record player happens to be and I'm too lazy to move it, anyway I'm here writing this and at the same time listening to, at the present, Dvorak's New World symphony, and also the noise that Wilma is making in doing the dishes.

Sometimes when I write a paragraph like that I wonder if the reader gets anything at all out of it. I just had Wilma read it and it didn't confuse her too much so maybe you can get through it or skip over it.

Ah, now the Grand Canyon Suite is starting. Which reminds me of last summer. A year ago today we arrived at Yellowstone Park. Someday we two (too) will take a nice vacation together. But with you anything is a vacation.

I nearly finished scrapping the house yesterday and will be ready to start painting it tomorrow. I can just see myself with a paint bucket turned upside down over my head, or whatever is supposed to happen to beginning painters.

The pain on the South and west sides was in bad shape and nearly all had to be scrapped off. It really makes the house look bad now. I wonder if it will be better when I finish with it.

Unless you, and your new swimming suit, has found a new interest I think I'll be able to get up this next week end. Dan is going to come home one of the two remaining weekends in August but I think it will be the last one. So other than the slight possibility of him coming this weekend, and I wrote to him last night asking him to come the weekend of the 30th, we should be all set for a nice weekend, and a nice send-off to Denver.

Well, Erma very little has been happening here so there doesn't seem to be much to write. Besides I seem to be about half sick this morning I don't know whether it is from not getting a letter from you, indigestion from everything I've been eating since I've been home or maybe I'm getting amebas (I know that isn't spelled right).

I better get this mailed if you are to get it tomorrow.

With all my love x - Gaylord

From: GR Atkinson
Pawnee City Nebr

To: Miss Erma Groeger
320 So 15th St
Lincoln 8 Nebr.

Postmark: Pawnee City Nebr. Aug 20,
12-M, 1947 3¢ stamp

Pawnee City
Tue nite
Aug 19, 47

Dear Erma,

The setting is much the same as when I wrote Sunday, I'm in the kitchen listening to records. The player is still out here. Wilma keeps it going most of the time, only today she has been busy painting screens.

As for what I've done as yet. Monday morning I finished scrapping and started painting the west side, it is in the poorest shape.

Much to my surprise painting takes time to get it on right. I thought I could easily paint a side a day but in spite of the fact that I worked eleven hours yesterday it got dark and the west side was only about 2/3 done.

This morning I woke up at five o'clock and thought I would get up in about half an hour. I woke up again at 7:45.

I had just gotten to work, a little before 8:30 when the mail came, and your very nice letter, that, of course stopped me for a while. Then back to work - stop - to help Wilma with the screens, back to work - stop - to take picture of Wilma, she looked so cute (?) working - back to work etc.

And so half an hour ago it once again became dark and I was only about a third done with the south side.

I hope to get up earlier tomorrow and finish the south side and (I hope) half of the east side.

No doubt you are very tired of all this talk of painting but its about all I'm doing - with a few minutes off each hour or two to rob the ice box.

But as I paint my mind is also busy (if possible) thinking of you and what we will do this weekend. In fact my planning got completely out of hand today and I planned not only for Friday evening and Saturday, but also for Sunday. It was going to be such a nice Sunday that I hated to call it off but I decided I better, and let you go to Denver as planned.

Anyway I'm working hard to try to get over the house with the first coat before I come up. But they say it is to rain - then what??? If I can't paint maybe I could come up there a little earlier, maybe huh?

You won't get this until Thursday, gosh that is a long time from now, I hope I don't have to wait that long for another letter.

Letters from here must be mailed by noon to get to Lincoln the next day, so this won't leave here before noon tomorrow. But they come from Lincoln much faster. This letter from you was postmarked 7:30 pm yesterday and I recieved it at 8:30 this morning.

The question at hand is can I or can I not fill another page -- thinking -- I'll try.

Did you happen to notice the sky today? It was beautiful, with big fluffy white clouds in front of an ocean blue -- I guess I forgot the word that was to follow "blue." Anyway it was nice, just right for a background for a big magestic Colorado Mountain -- I'm jealous -- I wanta go too. You'll have to bring back some real good pictures to make me happy, as if anything could make me happier than just having you come back, or for that matter just having you. I don't know why I use the word "just" it isn't the word I should have used because having you is much, much more important to me than "just."

From where I'm sitting I can see the moon - it gives me pleasant ideas. It won't be full by this weekend, but it will be nice, as everything will be.

I just helped carry a bed out for Mother and Wilma. They have a bed inside the garage doors of the basement and carry it just outside to sleep.

My room is always nice and cool but I may sleep out tonight, so I can watch the stars, and be a little nearer you, Erma.

I think you will agree that when I make as many mistakes as I am now, when I can't spell "sleep" "but" "many" etc its time to go to bed, even if it is only nine thirty.

Goodnite Erma

Love, Gaylord

P.S. Give my "Love" (?) to the gang.

From: GR Atkinson
Pawnee City Nebr

To: Miss Erma Groeger
336 So Washington
Denver, Colorado

Postmark: Pawnee City Nebr. Aug 25, 12-M, 1947 3¢ stamp

Pawnee City
Sunday Nite
Aug 24, 47

Dear Erma,

I suppose by now you are having a great time.

As we came home I tried to figure out where you would be at that time.

We took the long way home (better roads) so we didn't get here untill about 6 this morning. I drove all but about 15 miles but I finally got so sleepy that Dean had to take over.

As soon as I got in the house I plopped down and went to sleep, and slept untill one o'clock, got up for dinner and this afternoon was so hot that soon after dinner the heat drove me down to the basement where it is cool. I tried to read but in a matter of minutes I was once more asleep, this time I slept untill 7:00 pm.

This evening I opened a can of pineapple and tried to make a pineapple milk shake, with a hand beater etc. Much to my

surprise it came out very much like a milkshake should.

It is now ten oclock but even after sleeping most of the day I think I can sleep some more. It is raining now, not much right now but half an hour ago it rained hard, with a very hard wind.

My now has a big redish black scab formed over it, it looks as though I have been in a fight, or something.

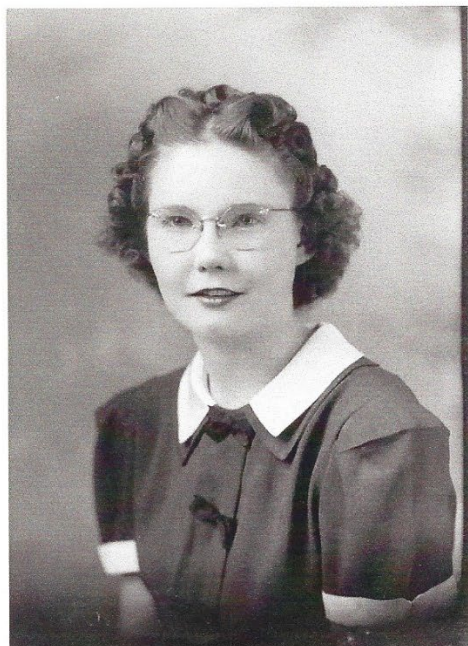
Erma I hope you are having a good time on your vacation, if you are having as good a time on yours, as I did on mine, I know you are having fun. Thanks again for showing the little country boy a good time in the big city.

I hope you are having a good time and seeing a lot, but I also hope you find time to write.

I think I'll go out and rob the ice box and go to bed. Where I can dream of you.

Love

Gaylord



High School Picture 1938



High School Friends: Paul Claussen, Doris, Erma and LaVerne



Graduating Class 1938:
Erma is second from the right



High School

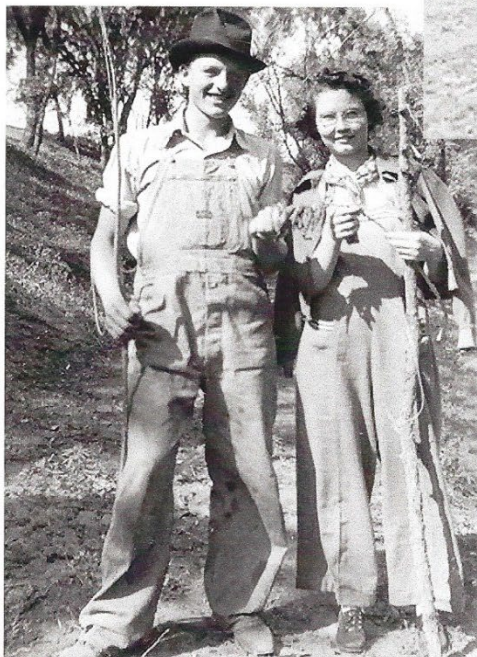
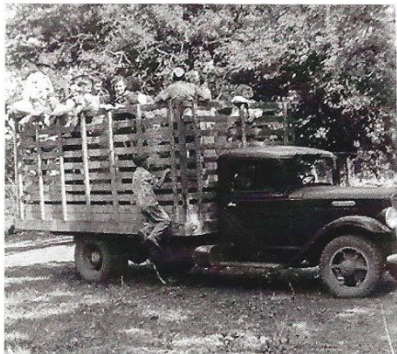


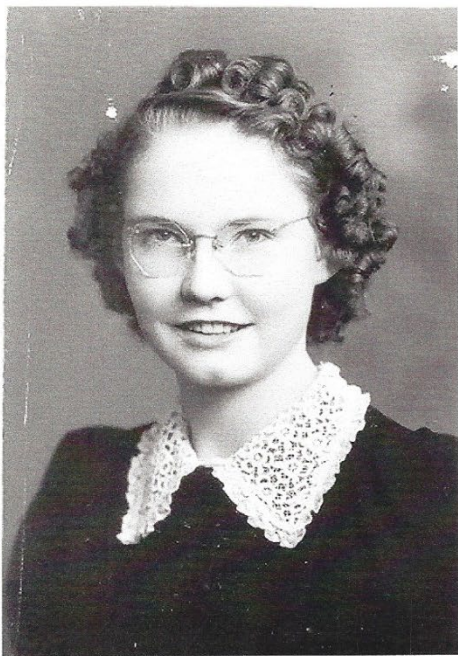
Erma, her little sister Merle and Buddy



The Groegers

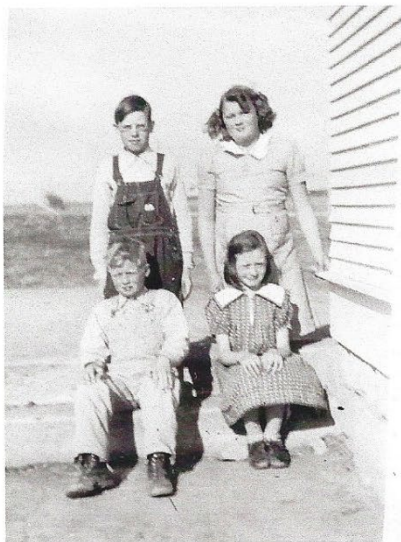
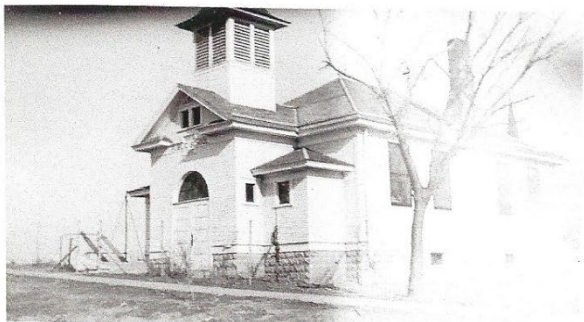
An Outing with Friends - 1939





Wayne State Teacher's College

Teaching School in Tarnov, Nebraska



Tarnov Students Visit Here

—Special Daily News Times 12/24/40

Four of the five students in district No. 4, Tarnov, who were guests of Norfolk, have the same last name. Left to right those in the picture are: Front row, Merildine Groeger, Richard Strehlow and Melvin Strehlow; back row, Betty Lou Strehlow, LaVerne Strehlow and Emma-Lorraine Groeger, teacher.

Surprise! My picture in the Norfolk paper!!!





Esmalorraine Groeger

NAMES and ADDRESSES
OF
Teachers and School Directors
Platte County, Nebraska

1939-1940

FRED S. LECRON
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

LAURA HEIDEN, Assistant
COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA

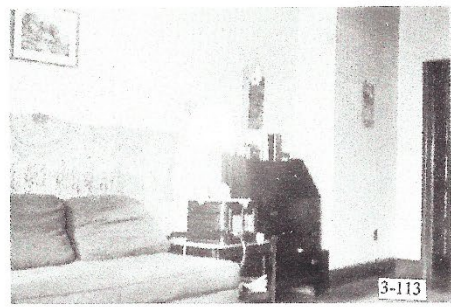
Teaching Credentials

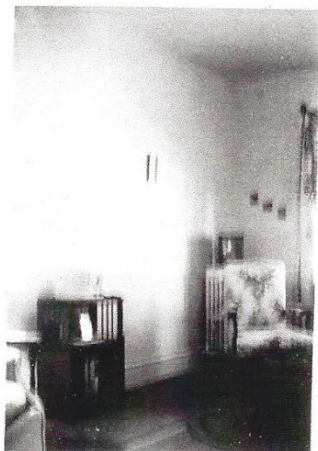
Dist.	Teacher	Address	Director	Address
38	Dave Schreiner	Monroe	George Peterson	Monroe
40	Verna Hasmann, Fr.	Lindsay	John C. Peterson	Lindsay
40	Irene Stone	Lindsay	John C. Peterson	Lindsay
41	Esmalorraine Groeger	Humphrey	Mike Duchon	Turkey
42	Modesta Dalme	Lindsay	Lawrence Pfeiffer	Lindsay
43	Rose Tidford	Lafayette	Fred Marx	Lafayette
44	Ruth Brinken	Columbus	Carl Steffen	Columbus
45	Sylvia Froistad	Creston	Vernon Koch	Creston
46	Dorothy Gates	Creston	Walter Zepf	Creston
47	Edna Olson	Newman Grove	Martin Rasmussen	St. Edward
48	Martha Polenz	Columbus	Ernest Kosche	Columbus
48	Angeline Koch	Humphrey	Herman Kallweit	Humphrey
50	Anna Rehan	Lindsay	Albert Saeper	Lindsay
51	Garnet Christensen	Lindsay	Owen Parry	Genoa
52	Wilhelmina Meyer	Humphrey	Michael Meyer	Humphrey
53	Doris Lewke	Humphrey	Mike Knott	Humphrey
54	Eileen Finn	Humphrey	P. J. Noona	Humphrey
56	Marie Spens	Genoa	Mrs. Dan Ditter	Monroe
56	Contracted		J. H. Proister	Lindsay
57	Edna Sivers	Newman Grove	Arthur Lundson	Newman Grove
58	Mildred Kafka	Lafayette	Harvey Sander	Creston
58	Audrey Larson	St. Edward	Chris. Matson	St. Edward
60	Vera Zurube	Platte Center	John Griesen	Platte Center
61	Ruth Ekstrom	Newman Grove	J. Victor Nelson	St. Edward
62	Viola Werner	Genoa	S. N. Taylor	Genoa
63	Edith Reinell, Fr.	Newman Grove	C. E. Matson	Newman Grove
63	Marvel Nelson	Newman Grove	C. E. Matson	Newman Grove
64	Eileen Lantz, Fr.	Lindsay	R. W. Christensen	Lindsay
64	Lida Saline	Lindsay	R. W. Christensen	Lindsay
65	Mildred Strombom	St. Edward	O. M. Swanson	St. Edward
66	Mary Jo. Walters	Humphrey	J. Wm. Wadd	Humphrey
67	J. J. Malone, Supt.	Humphrey	Dale Alderson	Humphrey
67	Lena Ake, Fr.	Humphrey	Dale Alderson	Humphrey
67	Marcella Hantmer	Humphrey	Dale Alderson	Humphrey
67	Helen Olmer	Humphrey	Dale Alderson	Humphrey
67	Leona Walters	Humphrey	Dale Alderson	Humphrey
67	Mae Prall	Humphrey	Dale Alderson	Humphrey
68	Evel Peterson	Genoa	Leslie Irwin	Genoa
68	Mary Taylor	Humphrey	Albert Hemmer	Humphrey
70	Contracted		Henry Delemann	Lindsay
71	Eva Kummert	Columbus	Oscar Ahlsson	Columbus
72	Burke Anderson	Platte Center	Walter Weigun	Platte Center
73	Bern Minkeln	Columbus	Mrs. Robert Nyffeler	Columbus
74	Fern Barrett	Creston	A. F. Barrett	Creston
75	Contracted		Frank Burzom	Humphrey
76	H. R. Hancock, Supt.	Monroe	Ed. Jenkinson	Monroe
76	John Ralston	Monroe	Ed. Jenkinson	Monroe
76	Martha Brockman	Monroe	Ed. Jenkinson	Monroe
76	Luella Mars	Monroe	Ed. Jenkinson	Monroe
76	Ethel Jensen	Monroe	Ed. Jenkinson	Monroe
76	Nina Anderson	Monroe	Ed. Jenkinson	Monroe
76	Evelyn Christensen	Monroe	Ed. Jenkinson	Monroe
77	Riva Dicko	Columbus	Leo Adams	Columbus
78	Alvera Wartenburg	Creston	Louis Boning	Creston
79	Mary McArthur	Lindsay	Chas. Groeger	Lindsay
80	Vivian Entcliffe	Columbus	S. P. Driahn	Columbus
81	Margaret Reed	Genoa	Jack Mohr	Monroe
82	Dorothy Neeneyer	Columbus	John Lusche	Columbus

Districts listed in black-face have high school grades.



Erma and Emily in Washington DC
Apartment 310





Christ Church - Washington DC
Erma attended this church and participated in the
Young Adult Group called the Walther League.



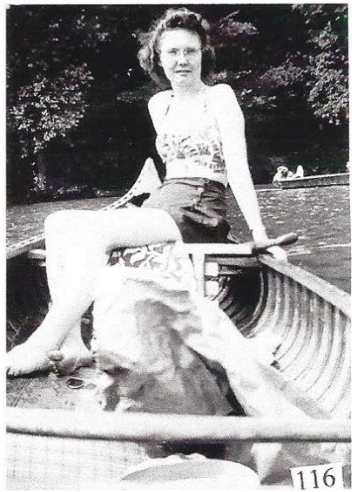


Playing Piano at the Church
and
Playing Organ



78

Erma and Wally



116

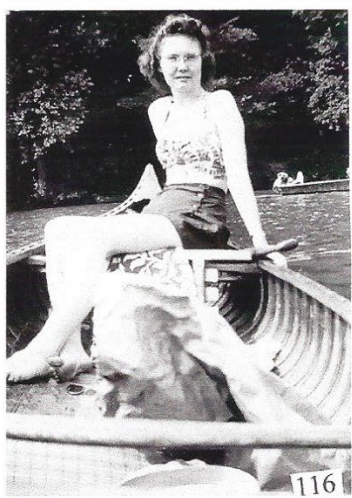


Playing Piano at the Church
and
Playing Organ



78

Erma and Wally



116

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

CT 107628

WAR RATION BOOK No. 3 Fold if altered

Identification of person to whom issued; PRINT IN FULL

Erma *Erma* *Erma*
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Street number or rural route *1630 Park Rd. N.W.*

City or post office *Washington* State *D.C.*

AGE	SEX	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	OCCUPATION
<i>22</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ht. In.</i>	

SIGNATURE *Erma Erma Erma*
(Person to whom book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity, another may sign in his behalf.)

WARNING

This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell it to any other person, or to lend it or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods in accordance with regulations of the Office of Price Administration. Any person who finds a lost War Ration Book must return it to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it. Persons who violate rationing regulations are subject to \$10,000 fine or imprisonment, or both.

O.P.A. Form No. 28-120

LOCAL BOARD ACTION

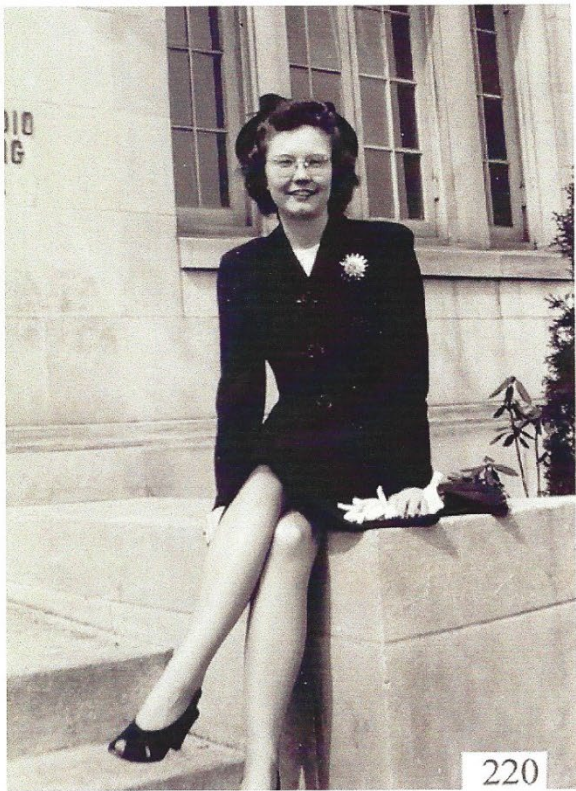
Issued by _____ (Local board number) (Date)

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City _____ State _____

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Happy Years



The Career Woman

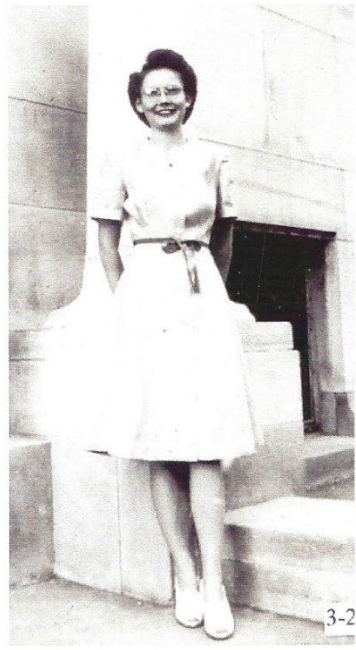


Erma and the mink coat she bought herself with her Washington DC money.

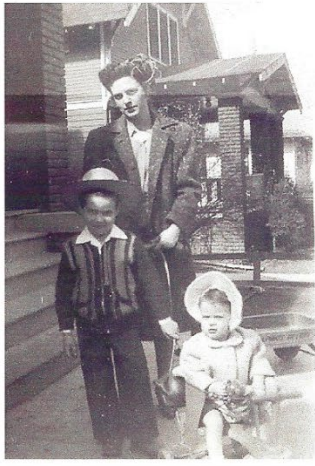




Erma's family visits her in Washington DC. The caption on the picture says "Dad, Mom and Pokey"



Lincoln, Nebraska - after WWII



The "snoopy" lady and her two kids.



Proudfit's Boarding House: Where Erma and Gaylord Met



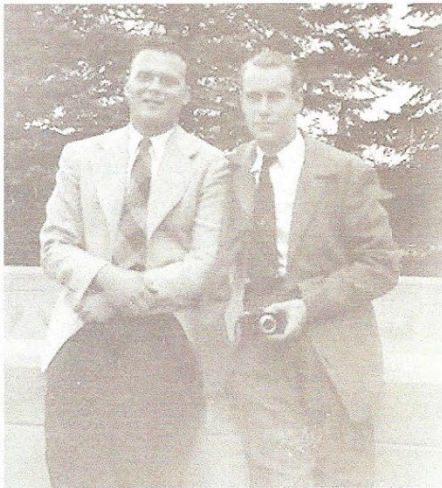
"Mrs. P"



Erma at Proudfit's
Gaylord and his roommate Dean

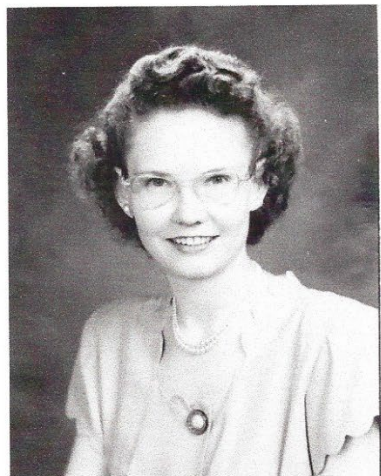


Friends: Dave Barker of Pawnee City (lower right)





In Love - 1948



Engagement Picture

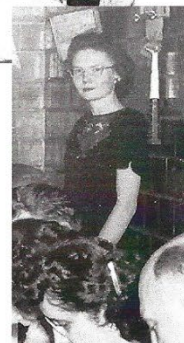
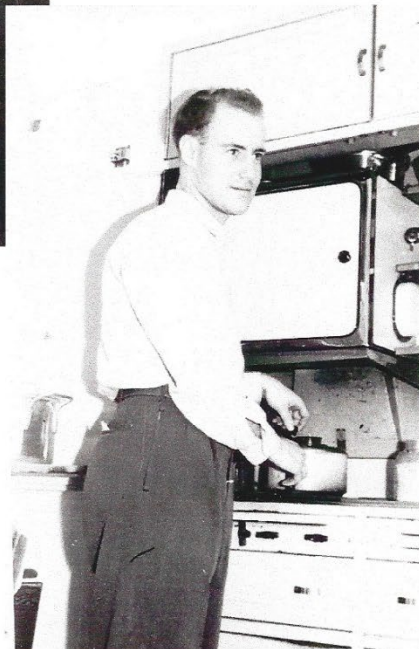


Wedding Day - Humphrey, Nebr.
September 5, 1948





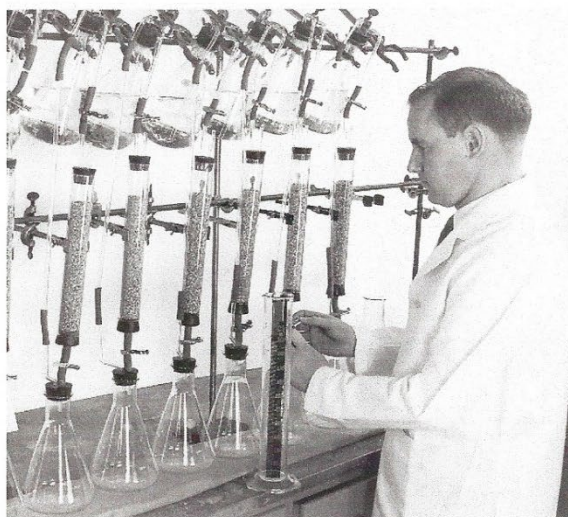
First Apartment
1231 "A" Street, Lincoln, NE



An Office Party for the Government Office
where Erma worked. Playing Bingo together.
Erma, Gaylord and Erma's
roommate from Proudfit's Esther



Gaylord took these pictures: Erma in her Green Coat

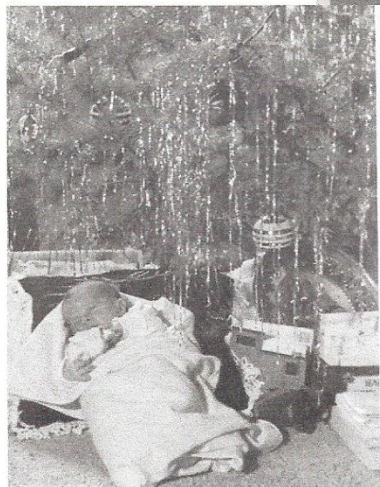
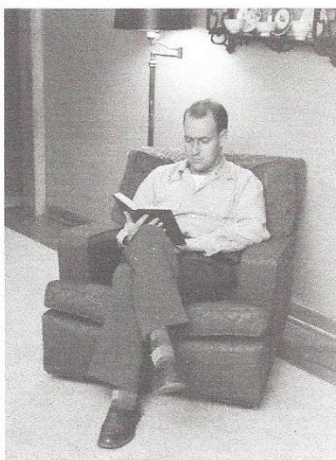


The move to Kansas City
Gaylord at Midwest Research Institute
With his apparatus for extracting
components from vermiculite

First House: 2804 West 47th Terrace, Westwood, Kansas



Waiting for Kathie - December 1952



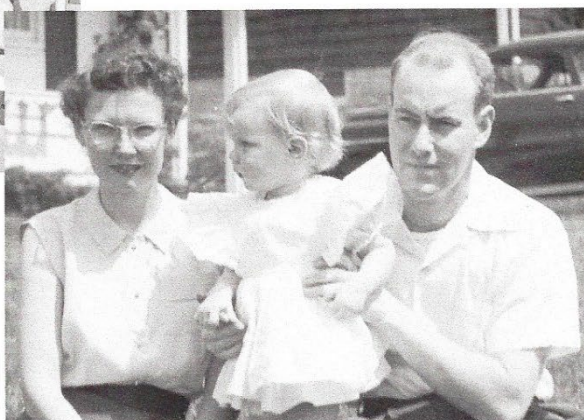
Kathleen Marie Atkinson - Dec. 24, 1952





A Young Mother

Feeding Kathie - 1953



Easter Sunday, 1954



Janet Lorraine Atkinson - April 1, 1955

