

MPB'S PHOTO ALBUM

The first photographs I have are those of Mother and Father before they were married - mother as a teen-ager, working as a nurse-maid, Dad in two photos taken while he was in college, and probably when he was working as an engineer following his graduation in 1903. A later portrait of Mother taken in her middle twenties, probably dressed for a concert since, with her pretty white dress she is wearing long white gloves. She had a lovely, trained, Alto voice and was active in musical events in Buffalo, having earned enough money in her younger years to pay for voice lessons. She met Dad while both were members of a church choir, and they were married in 1910.

The next photographs were taken in Portsmouth, Ohio where I was born in 1913.¹ My father is wearing a suit and a shirt and tie, not to mention a hat, we are living in a pleasant looking house, and Mother looks appropriately dressed for a young mother. The first pictures of me and my brother find us happily garbed and with charming ringlets. And then, the concentration camp hair cuts begin, not only for Bill, but for me as well. Mother told me it broke her heart, but Dad was having no son with sissy curls, and apparently, just to underline the message, off came my ringlets as well.

On the next page, we have been whisked off to Bradford, Pennsylvania to take over the management of grandfather Piper's oil properties, and Dad is still the barber for the family. By this time there are five of us, and gone are the pretty clothes, the smiling faces, the attractive house with a veranda and a potted fern, gone are Mother's opportunities for a musical career in a metropolitan area, we are living in a small house in a small town, and life is real and life is earnest.

In the album I have identified the snapshots, but here I will skip the rest of the page with the home haircuts to jump to the next page and a sign of hope! Dad is no longer cutting our hair, Mother has been relieved of the assignment of making our clothes on her White treadle sewing machine, and we have a lawn and a garden where not too long before we sat on a bare hillside. Just below that happier family gathering is a photo of Mother on the beach in Fort Lauderdale.

In 1929 Dad, having decided that Florida would one day become again the promised land, bought a farm in the outskirts of that city. During our Christmas holiday that year he escorted Mother and their brood in a caravan of two cars southward to spend the Spring semester in the Fort Lauderdale school system. By this time, Bill had been enrolled in Mercersburg Academy , but I was in the middle of my Senior year in high school, and my next months were not ones I remember with much pleasure. For all of us it was hard to get used to new teachers, new courses, and new friends, but the afternoons and weekends spent on the magnificent unspoiled white sandy beach of those long-ago days are memories none of us will ever forget.

¹ From appearances it seems that the house is 1816 Grant Street, Portsmouth, Ohio. The house sits directly in front of the Portsmouth Indian Mound Park which has the remains of the Horseshoe Mound. There has been little or no alteration to the front porch of the house when seen in June, 2012, when compared to the photos shown on pages 7-9, including the porch swing which was set up sometime between when the photos on page 7 were taken and the ones shown on page 8.

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Sarah Elizabeth Maltby
Born: August 13, 1852, N.Y.
Died: February 6, 1948



Thomas Piper
Born: November 30, 1845
Roberts Bridge, Sussex, England
Died: date unknown



Maria Theresa Van de Water
Born: December 23, 1881
Buffalo, N.Y.
Died: December 11, 1937
Philadelphia, PA



William Thomas Piper
Born: January 8, 1881
Knap Creek, PA
Died: January 15, 1970
Lock Haven, PA



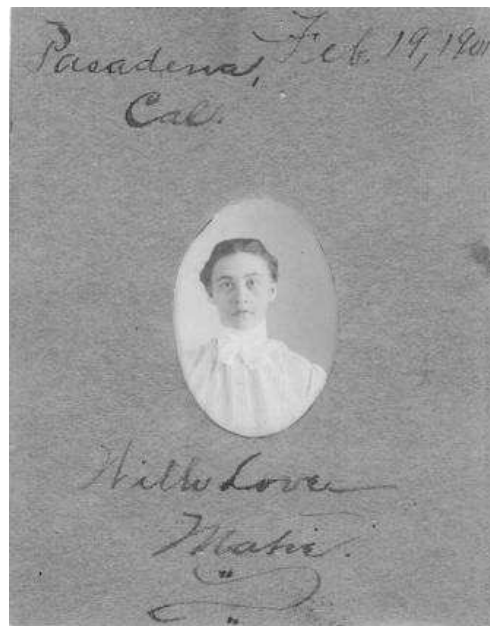
An early photo of
Maria Theresa Van de Water

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Mother and Dad before they were married: Mother as a teen-ager, a nursemaid in Pasadena in 1901, and two photographs of her in her twenties. Dad as a soldier in the Spanish-American War. Dad at Harvard. Dad was in the class of 1903. They both were born in 1881.







Mary Magdalena Houck Van de Water with daughters: Aunts Grace, Gertrude and Etta, the source of my German Christmas Cookies. Aunt Grace copied all of Grandmother's old recipes for me after hearing I wanted to try to make all the ones they sent each year.

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Photographs taken in Portsmouth, Ohio in 1913 and 1914. Mother with me, Dad with Bill and me, February 1913. Grandmother Van de Water and me six months later, Ruth, Aunt Gert's child and me. Bill and me all dressed up, and Bill with his curls.







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Bill and me out in the stroller



1816 Grant St. Portsmouth, Ohio

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Bradford, Pennsylvania and three children have been added to the two in Portsmouth. Dad is cutting the family hair, and Mother is making most of our clothes. We are in the side yard of the house at 116 Summer Street. Next, a picture of Betty, Mother and me, and two more of me. The hat is especially noteworthy. Mother and Grandmother Van de Water on one of her visits to Bradford, with Betty, Mary on one side of a photograph of Grandmother Piper. The top right hand photo is particularly significant because it is the first sign that better days are ahead - bought clothes and professional haircuts, and, underneath that picture, one of Mother on the Fort Lauderdale beach.



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Dad's family - Dad and his mother with Pug and David. Uncle Arthur and Aunt Maud home with their daughter Ruth (?) on a Sabbatical visit from the Belgian Congo where they have worked for many years as Medical Missionaries. With them are Grandmother Piper and Aunt Addie and Aunt Emma. A studio portrait of Grandmother Piper. Dad's brother, Uncle Archie, his sisters, Aunt Hattie, Addie and Emma.





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Bradford Pennsylvania and two photos taken the summer of 1929 in Chautauqua, New York. The small photograph of Betty is a school picture.



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Fort Lauderdale, Florida: Tony, Pug, Mother, Betty on the beach, Mary, Tony, Pug and Betty ready for school standing in front of the wonderful touring car we drove to school, Betty in front of the house, Mother and Dad on the running board of the second car in our trek to Florida.



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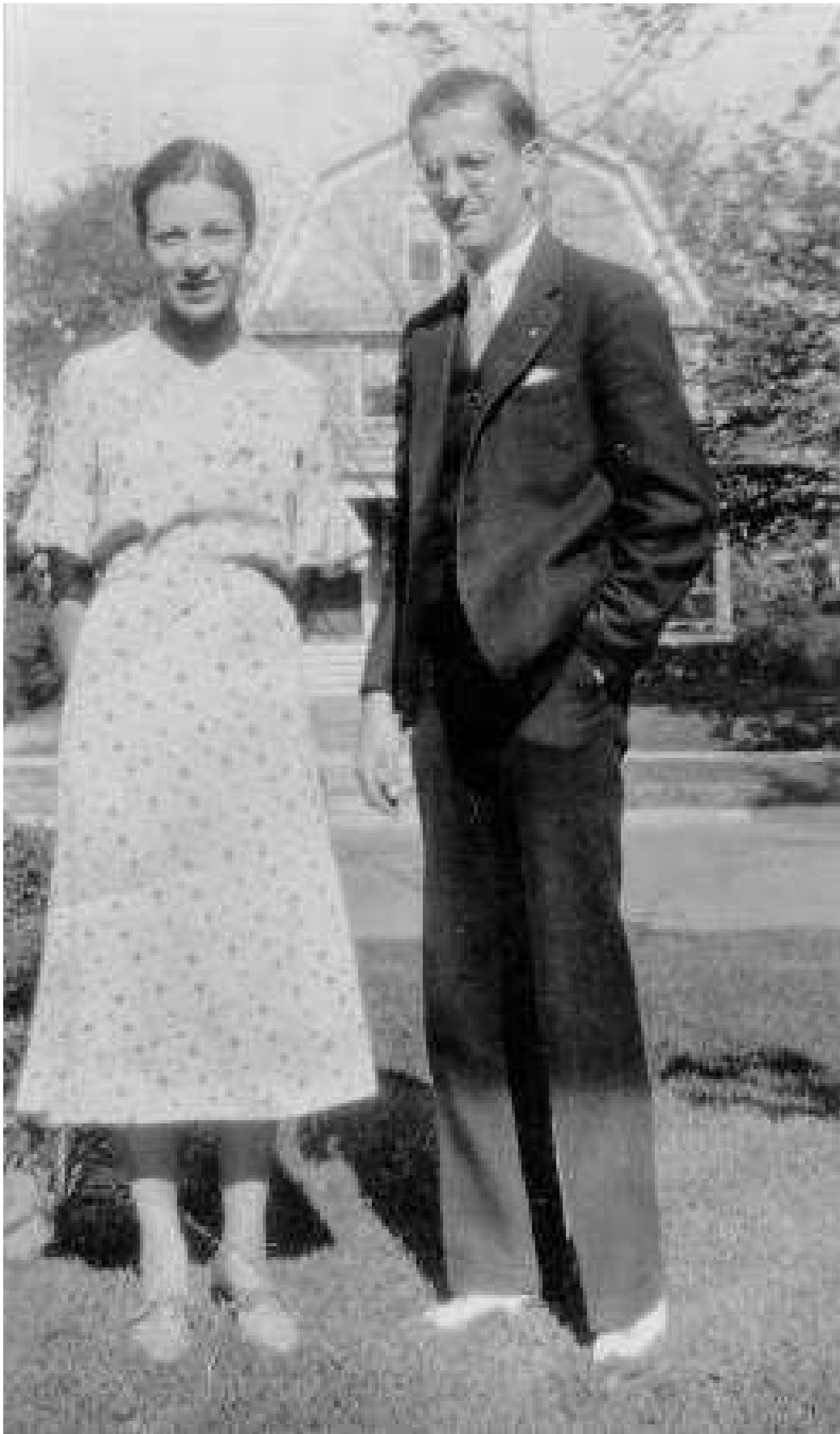


Helen Caldwell, her brother and Mary on the beach at Ft. Lauderdale.

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A mixed bag of Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1930: the banks of the Charles River in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1931, Mary on an unexpected vacation in Sedalia, North Carolina in 1932, Mary in front of the steps of Ladies the Gymnasium at Radcliffe, 1934.







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Mary takes a leave of absence from Radcliff
to work at the Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia, North Carolina

CHARLOTTE HAWKINS BROWN, PRESIDENT

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THE PALMER MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

Incorporated

IN MEMORY OF ALICE FREEMAN PALMER

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION, 287 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

SEDALIA, NORTH CAROLINA

(10 miles east of Greensboro)

March 21, 1933

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Piper
Bradford, Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Piper:

I am sure you have been anxious for some news of your little girl here in our school. I thought I would wait until she had been here, at least, a month to give ~~an~~ impression of her, and that accounts for the delay.

May I say to you in all frankness, she is a "peach" of a girl; she is sensible, so free from frills and furbelows. She has made herself perfectly satisfied here in our environment, which I am willing to admit is quite pleasant. We are giving Mary enough work to do to keep her busy, coaching a boy and a girl here and there, and she is doing some studying for herself. She seems to be happy in my home, and she is lovely to my three little girls (nieces of mine) who make their home with me.

The teachers and the students are enjoying her immensely, and she has entered whole heartedly into everything.

She is thoroly genteel and refined in her manners and I am very happy to have the privilege of knowing her.

Yours very sincerely,

Charlotte Hawkins Brown

Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown

chb:vof

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Dr. Brown's residence, The Canary House, where Mary lived with Dr. Brown in the 1933.





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Bill and Mary, John and Mary with Pud, John and Bill, all in front of Bill and Pud's house in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania; Pud and Bill visit Ross, California during the months Bill was on the road for the Piper Plant. Pud and one of their many dogs.



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Off to Persepolis



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At the Kasbah



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Mary at her first home in Fairfax, California





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A visit from Dad in Fairfax



At the new home in Ross



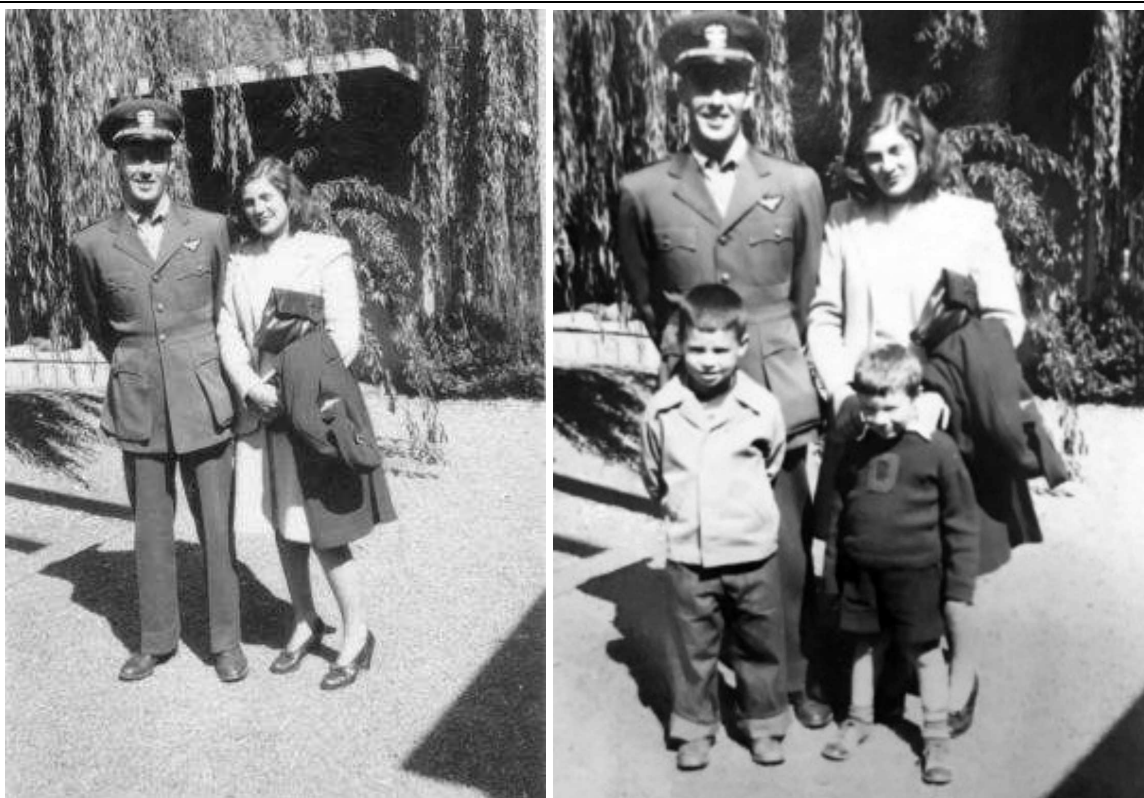
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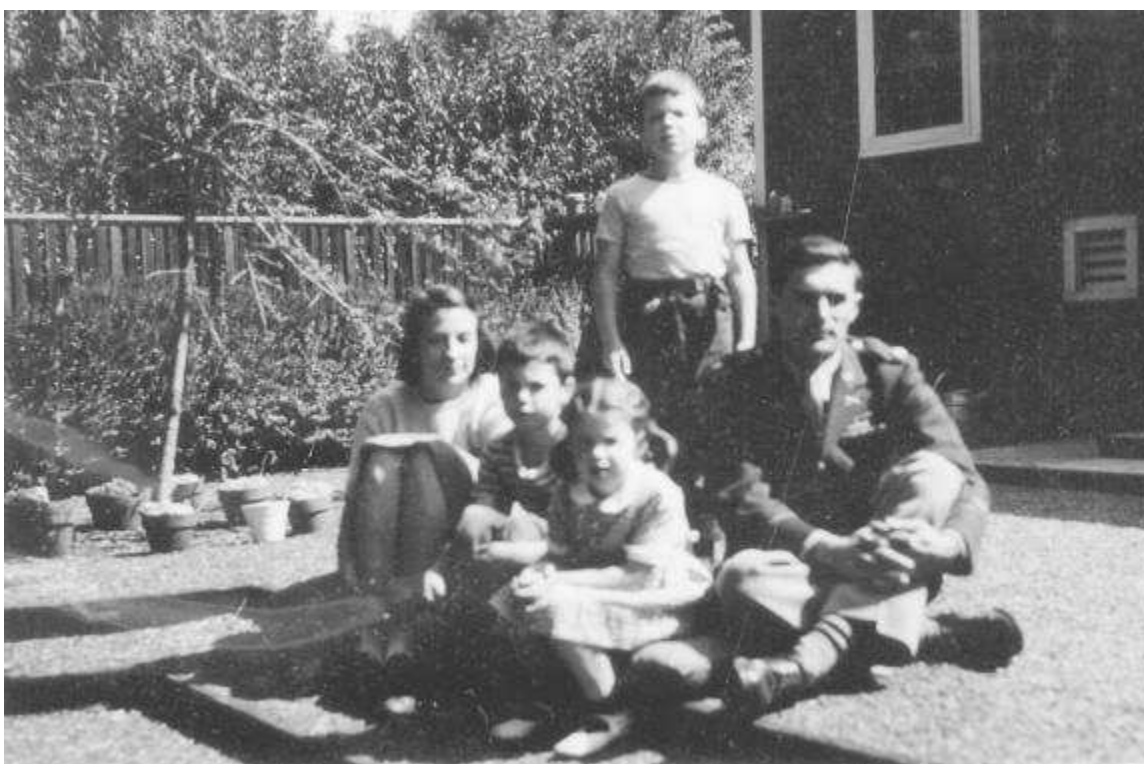
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Tom and Betty



Tony visits the family in Ross

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Tony



Pug

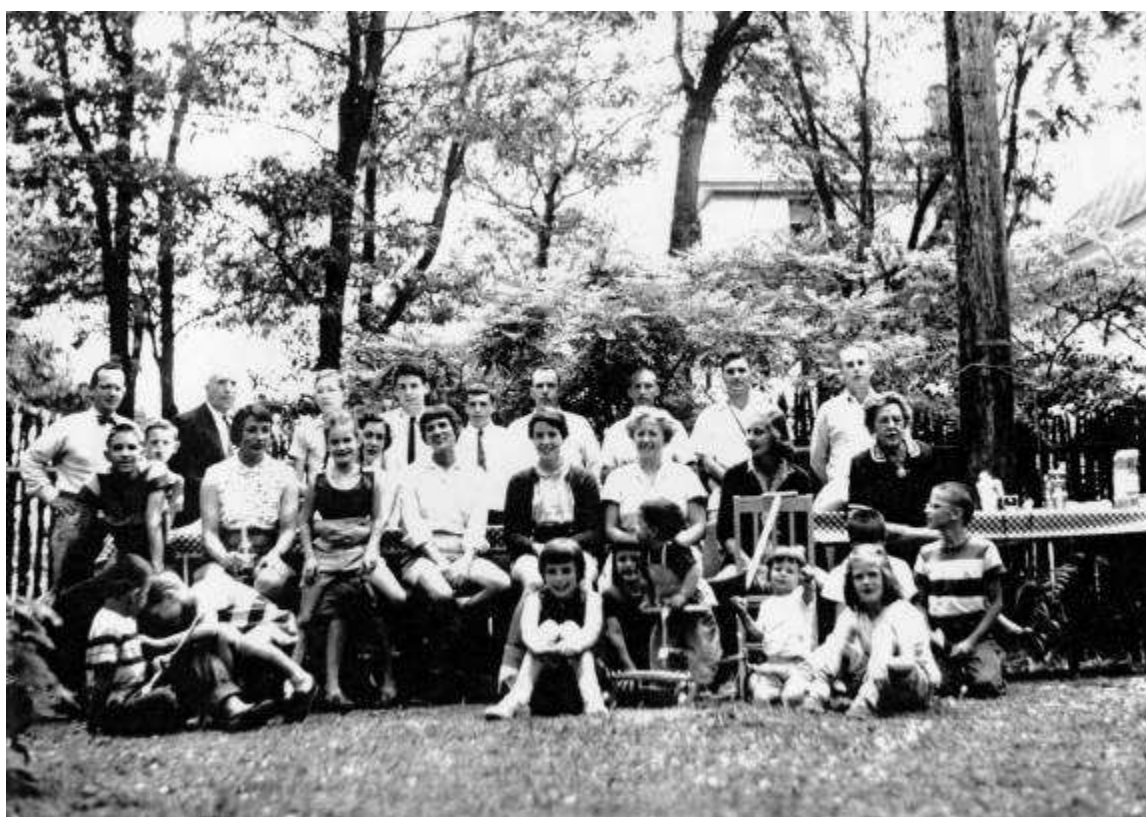


Helen with David Piper and her mother plus dogs

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Helen and Pug with their son David

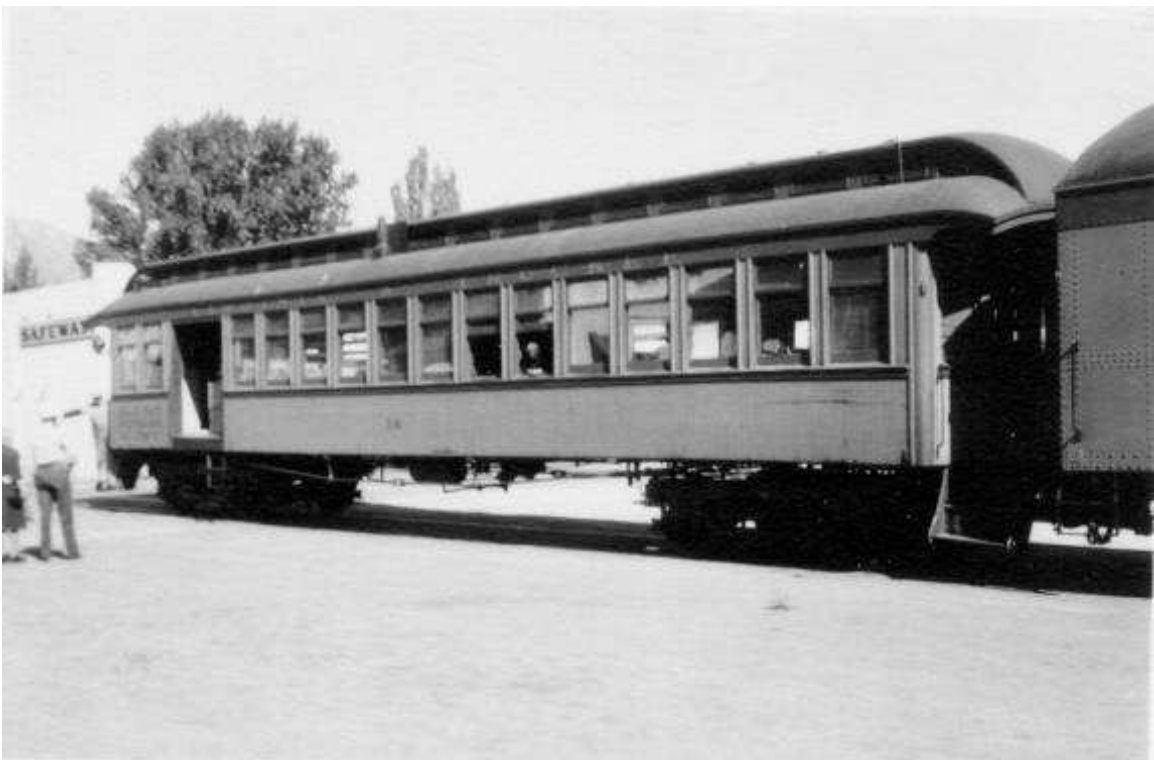


Family Reunion in Spring Lake, N.J. at Betty's house



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A trip to Nevada to ride on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad



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Sarah checking out the scenery



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In Virginia City



At the Sinaloa Restaurant
September, 1954



At Peter's Graduation from Deerfield Academy
June, 1954

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At Schulfarm Insel Scharfenberg, Spring of 1958. With Dr. Wolfgang Pewesin and Teacher Frau Rosenberg.



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At Harwich Port, MA
July, 1958

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David's Graduation from Cambridge School of Weston
June, 1959

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At David's Graduation from Marlboro College
June, 1965



Getting the four man shell ready to take to Jamestown, RI

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Watching the shell being launched at Jamestown, RI
July, 1965



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Two photos taken in the garden of the Lyon Street house were from a visit Uncle Gust and Aunt Grace made to California toward the end of their lives.



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At David's home, 1985