

In early June Mary had what was thought to be appendicitis, but actually was a cyst on one of her ovaries. She had an operation in Salt Lake that removed both her appendices and part of one ovary. The doctor who operated on her was concerned about her ability to conceive a child if he removed the whole ovary. In the long run this didn't seem to be a problem. She did have difficulties with the incision healing because the doctor had used a suture that she was allergic to.



Mary Keane Stewart in Michigan.

I went to Michigan alone in June of 1945 and Mary joined me in August. We had obtained University student housing at one of the war-time villages built by the Government for workers at the Willow Run Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti. It had been operated by Henry J. Kaiser of ship building fame and was to have mass produced bombers. It made very few planes before the war ended. Ypsilanti was about 15 miles from Ann Arbor.

Our housing consisted of long single story row houses with six apartments in each block of apartments. Our apartment had a long kitchen-living room, two bedrooms, and a bath. It was heated by a single unit fired space heater located in the middle of the apartment. He also had a coal stove for cooking and heating water, and an ice box. We soon learned



Cyril at Willow Run Village in Ypsilanti, Michigan in the fall of 1945.

how to bank the stove to keep the fire going through the cold Michigan nights. When we opened the lid to the stove in the mornings the soot would fly everywhere. We bought a two burner electric hotplate to avoid using the kitchen coal stove for cooking, particularly in the hot summer, and an electric strip heater to keep us cozy with hot water. The original construction of the housing used minimal wiring so that none of these few electrical appliances were permitted because they overloaded the electrical circuits. Within the village an informal but efficient information and alarm system was developed to tell everyone when the inspectors were coming. Everyone had made the same changes that we had. I don't think anyone was ever caught breaking the rules.

The housing had ice boxes and we kept forgetting to dump the water from the melted ice. About the 2nd time Mary had to mop up the kitchen floor I drilled a hole in the floor under the ice box, attached a hose and let the water drain on the ground under the house.

We paid \$27.00/month for the apartment and it's utilities. It was inexpensive and filled our needs. The

biggest inconvenience was the 26 mile round trip from Ypsilanti to Ann Arbor and back each day. The University operated a bus line that was inexpensive but it wasn't very convenient. No one had cars and you couldn't buy one even if you had the money. The manufacturing facilities of the nation hadn't yet been converted over from wartime needs to pease time wants and there was a tremendous demand for cars and all consumer goods.



Mother, Dad, and Me standing in the middle of our garden.

During the three years that I was at Michigan, from the summer of 1940 to February of 1943, I went to school winter, summer and fall and even attended one 3 week mini-summer session. I took 18 hours of course work each semester and worked a half a day and managed to hold a 3.0, (91), average for my under-graduate work. This put me in the upper 10% of my graduating class.

They in front of the East Engineering Building at the Univ. of Michigan - 1941.

The following spring we painted, papered, planted grass and put in a garden. We dug furrows and irrigated our garden with a hose. Our neighbors, who had never seen irrigation, laughed at us but they soon had grass planted and were growing gardens. We made our apartment into a home.

Ann Arbor was a delightful city in a beautiful area. The city was a cultural center and had lots of civic activities.

Mother and Dad came over quite often from Mt. Clemens to visit us. They'd come on a week end and stay over night and go to church with us on Sunday. They usually brought a lot of groceries and vegetables with them and left a few dollars when they returned to Mt. Clemens.



Cyril and baby Edward - About Two Months Old.

I was academically eligible for all of the Engineering Honor Societies and I would have liked to have had that honor but my schedule and work didn't leave any time for socializing and getting acquainted with the right people and I was never elected to any of the

honorary. I wanted that honor very badly and was disappointed that I didn't get chosen for one of them.



Cycl in front of our house
in Willow Run Village.

At the end of the war Congress passed the GI Bill of Rights, the first modern entitlement. Sixteen million had served in the armed forces and almost half of them took advantage of the chance to get an education. The G. I. Bill paid for my tuition, books and \$100.00/month for subsistence. It was great but not quite enough money to live on any extra.

To earn extra money to buy some Christmas presents I worked on Saturdays at Montgomery Ward's as a clerk during the late fall of that first year that we were in Ann Arbor. I was also awarded a Cornelius Demow Scholarship which paid \$400.00/semester. Those few dollars also helped pay the bills.

Early in 1947, I got a job in a laboratory operated jointly by the Engineering Research Institute of the University and by the Michigan State Highway Department. I was a Test Technician and made a series of soil compaction tests to determine a soils load carrying capacity. This information was used to design bridge abutments and footings

for heavy installations such as steel mills. I was paid 90 cents an hour when working for the state and when I did exactly the same work for the research institute I was paid \$1.50 /hour. I worked four hours each day. I spent part of one summer doing field work (checking soil compaction on bridge abutments) in Petoskey, Mich. The Lab was conveniently located in the Chem. Engineering Building. I took a brown bag and ate my lunch there every day. It made me hustle to carry a full schedule and work half time. I also had a job helping to register students at the beginning of each term.



Mary carries the wash from a coin
laundry that was about a mile away.

Mary and I didn't do very much for recreation during those three years. Within our block we'd have an evening of bridge or just conversation with other students. To go on a picnic at the University Arboretum with a baby and buggy on a bus was a major undertaking and we didn't have much free time. To see some football games, always from seats assigned to first year students which were in the end zone. In my senior year we finally had seats on the ten yard line. The seats at the Michigan Stadium came right down to the playing field. The stadium held 75,000 people. It was a wonderful stadium.

Michigan had some great football teams during those years and the games were exciting. Harry Dexter was coach and the two Elliott brothers, Pete and Bump, and Bob Chapuis were the star players. The Elliotts later coached, one at the University of Illinois and the other at the University of Iowa.



Edward in the front of a Jeep that Mary's parents had just brought us.

In late summer of 1947 Mary's father acquired a Jeep Station Wagon, which he gave to us. He was one of the few students who had a car. People didn't have money for such non-essentials and you couldn't find a car to buy even if you had cash to pay for it. Their gift was certainly appreciated. It always seemed to have some mechanical problem but without it we'd have had problems getting places. They also bought us our first washer, a wringer type made by Maytag. It seemed like we waited forever for one to be available.

While we were in Ann Arbor, our first child, Cyril Edward, was born on June 15, 1947. Mary went to the University Hospital and then to their Nell Baby Clinic afterwards. The entire cost of the delivery and ten days in the hospital, the pre- and post-natal care was only \$25.00.

At Christmas time, in 1947, we went to Utah for the holidays, driving out

with friends or cars from Utah Utah with friends or cars from Utah Utah. Ray was doing graduate work at Purdue. The trip was a full of humorous problems. He started out and got to Toledo when I discovered that I had left my wallet behind. To avoid driving 200 miles back, I decided to drive on, borrow money from Ray and then pay him back when we got to Salt Lake. We made it to within 20 miles of Purdue when we ran out of both gas and money. We were also having trouble with a defective voltage regulator. I had to call collect to have Ray come and rescue us.



Victor, dad, and Edward visiting us at Willow Run Races.

That winter Michigan went to the Rose Bowl. I got two tickets and Mary's dad and I drove down to Pasadena to see it. (Michigan beat USC) We returned to Salt Lake on January 2, and then made a wild drive back to Ann Arbor skidding over icy roads on the trail of one of the worst ice storms in years.



Edward in the living room at Willow Run Races.

Little Edward never whimpered once on the trip. He raised his head occasionally, looked around and dropped back

down on his pallet and went back to sleep.



Sylvia Mary in front of her Willow Run home.

While we were in Michigan we went to church in Ann Arbor. Services were held in Conference rooms in the Women's Union Building. The members were mostly students. John Klaphasek, a local upholsterer, was the branch president.



Phyllis and baby Edward. She was a Freshman at the U. of M.

In my last year at the U of M my sister, Phyllis, was going to the University as a freshman and spent at least one night a week at Willow Run Village with us. I helped her (?) with Chemistry. She wasn't very happy at Michigan and transferred to MIT the following year, finally graduating from there.

In February 1948 I finally had enough credits to graduate. They didn't have a mid-year graduation and I didn't

return in June for commencement. I never even purchased a yearbook or a diploma. My education at Michigan was a good one and I have always been proud that I graduated there.



Both Cyril and Mary's parents at Willow Run Village.

I seriously considered getting an advanced degree in Business from either M. I. T. or Stanford. I applied at Stanford was granted admission to their MBA Program, but I decided that I should work for a couple of years first and I never got back. Once we started incurring the costs of raising a family it became impossible for us to return to school.



Edward fascinated by a dewdrop.

As graduation approached I started interviewing with a few select companies. When school ended I had a painful

operation on my nose to correct a deviated septum. The bone was chipped away and I was hospitalized so that I couldn't do much shopping for jobs but they were plentiful that year (1948). In January of 1948 I escaped from the school house and went to work.



Mary leaning on the hood of her
at Willow Run.

I had five offers of employment from G.E. @ \$15.00/month, U. S. Steel at their Gary Plant @ \$22.00, Goodyear in Akron @ \$25.00, Shell in Houston @ \$-32.00, DuPont in Belle, W. Va., and some others. During the war the U.S. had built a tremendous manufacturing potential that had not been met by the war and there was a great built-up demand for the consumer goods that had been in short supply for so long.



Edward on our front porch in
Zionsville.

I chose to go with General Electric and was put on their Rotating Engineering Program with my first assignment in Household Refrigerators in Erie, Pa. However I read Robert Frost's poem "Two Paths in a Woods" I wonder what the difference would have been if I had chosen to work for one of the other companies or if I had gone to Stanford.

Phyllis and Mary had to do most of the packing for our move to Erie. We gathered our few belongings together and made our move to Erie. We had come with only our clothing and a few books and dishes. While we were in Michigan we had accumulated a kitchen stool, a crib, buggy and other baby items. We were amazed to find out how much, mostly baby furniture, we had acquired in a couple of years but they really fit in our Jeep.