

The years we spent in Louisville were good times in our lives.



1931 - Marie and Jamie ready for church. A Great Uncle with his coat buttoned incorrectly.

The formative years of our children's lives were spent in Louisville. Our house was built on a hill with a yard that was 100 feet wide and 300 feet deep and sloped down to a creek in the back. It was joined by a neighbor in back of us who pastured his cattle on the hill. Now that hillside is another large sub-division full of houses.

The children danced up the creek, waded in it, and looked for crickets (members of the shrimp family) in the banks of that creek.



Sl on a toboggan that I made from a refrigerator door.

We never had a snow storm that our yard wasn't filled with children sliding. They usually ended up in the creek, by accident or by intent and our basement became a dressing room for those who ended up in the creek while they waited for their clothes to dry.

Each year I planted a garden in the back yard. It was always a disaster. Louisville had more bugs, insects, and worms than any place I've ever lived.

One year Del gave us 100 seedling pine trees that we planted in the back yard. Those that escaped our careless feet growing are now 70 feet tall. Trees grow rapidly in Louisville.



Gary and I working on our 8' sailing boat.

While we lived in Louisville Gary and I built a small 8' sailing boat out of plywood using a kit. Gary, who was our sailor, learned a bit about sailing it.



Gary with the little boat we built.



Our family riding horses one fall day.

On one of my attempts at selling I overturned the boat and had pain and fear it to shore entertaining a lot of old friends watching from the shore at the Louisville Sailing Club. We had an old 4 hp motor that turned it into a speed boat.

used it for a 2nd car for a summer. It's radiator leaked and the lights weren't hooked up so it's use was limited to the daylight hours. I gave it to Gary who has it now. He still has lots of work to do on it but it's becoming very valuable. I wish I'd bought a dozen of them.



Gary catches his fish.

We had some amusing experiences in Louisville. One year we gave our Thanksgiving Turkey away to a family who were members of the church. The father was in prison. To learn humility and sacrifice we had hamburgers instead of turkey for Thanksgiving. The children started joking about the (hamburger) turkey they were eating. We remembered that Thanksgiving and for the (hamburger) dramatics we ate. It was a fun dinner.



Ed in his football suit.



Our Model A Ford with a flat tire.

While we were in Louisville I made one of my few good economic decisions. I bought a 1938 Model A Ford, for \$250.00. Marty, Gary and I did some restoration work on it. We rebuilt the running gear and enjoyed driving it around the sub-division. Whenever I drove it down the street the children came out of their houses climbed on the fenders and running boards until I felt like I was the Pied Piper of Hamelin. We took it to Chicago with us and Mary

Alan was out of town. Once he got down to a Thanksgiving dinner with all that good food Mary knew how to fix and he asked, "where's my tuna sandwich".



A Thanksgiving dinner when Joe and family and Mother and Dad came down to share the holiday with us.

One day Alan got into Gary's chemistry set and ate some of the good things in it. He frantically called the doctor and found out that he had eaten Epsom's salts, a laxative.

His first experience with fire occurred when he decided to cook on Janet's little electric stove. It caught to a box of mixes she was storing in the oven and caused quite a fire in Janet's room. I got out the fire extinguisher and the flames nearly asphyxiated me but I got it put out and the only damage was a blackened wall and some burned mixes.

An indigent family stayed with us for several weeks. To keep the father busy I asked him to move some trees I had been nurturing for many years. He cut off all of the roots except the tap root when he replanted them. They looked beautiful for a few days but everyone of them died within a few weeks.

While we were in Louisville, I went to the Kentucky Derby several times, usually buying the \$1.00 ticket to the infield. You never saw much of the race but it was fun to watch the crowd and make \$2.00 win, place or show bets on the horses.



1958 - Photo of Cheryl's church.

One time we did get a good box and invited the Wilsons and Zandels to go with us. It was a fun day. We made combination, \$2.00 to win, place, and show, bets on each of the eight races and at the end of the day we had won a total of \$18.00 - enough to pay the baby sister. We watched the people in the box next to us tearing up \$100.00 tickets all day long. I still have the winning ticket on Kua King for that derby.



All of our musicians.

All of the children took music lessons but some of them were very good except Edward. About all they got out of the lessons was an appreciation for music.

Our eldest, Ed, was strong willed (Cyrril wasn't) and a couple of times, arguments between he and Cy ended with him leaving home. He would spend the night sleeping in the woods or in a vacant house under construction while

Cyril and Mary spent a worried sleepless night. He would show up on the following morning after a wonderful night of adventure.

Ed loved football and made the little league all star team every year. He lettered in High School in his Sophomore and Junior Year and then quit when he was a Senior. He seemed accident prone. During the years that he played he broke his nose, his leg and had several lacerations that required stitches.

Ed loved music, playing first the piano and then the Oboe, and was a member of the Louisville Youth Orchestra and the Louisville Civic Orchestra. I used to take him to the practices and loved to listen to them. I'll never forget the Gayne Suite which they played for the Louisville Ballet one year. He played the solo music where the oboe is the duck in "Peter and the Wolf".



Chess and Hazel Kern with their family in Mt. Vernon, Mich.

Edward was a strange mixture of selfishness and selflessness. When he went to Cornell, he sent his Oboe which was worth some money, back to Mrs. Ritchie, the Orchestra Director, with the instructions that it should be kept by the High School and used by some needy student. He didn't know anything about his gift until Mrs. Ritchie called to thank us for it.

One year he asked that he be allowed to take voice lessons for his birthday present. At the time I viewed his request as a wasteful and frivolous use of money. But he had a good voice and sang in the High School Chorus and

in the Male Quartet. I guess it was worth it.



1938 - Edward singing in the Male Quartet.

His strong drives made him earn recognition. He was president of his High School Junior Class and he worked hard to do a creditable job.

In High School he became involved in theatrical productions and was in the cast of several of the Louisville Children's Theatre plays.

### "The Searing Stripes"



Edward was "Little Boyet".

At the Senior Variety Show he play-

ed "Little Egypt", a belly dancer, and in the company of some of the huskier football players, they acted out one of the popular songs of that year. He finished up his act with a back-flip. He was the star of the program and brought down the house with applause each time he did his act. He also sang with the Male Quartet in the show.

One time when Mary and I were to pick him (age 14) up after a dance we saw him smoking on the steps of the Country Club so we drove back to a drug store and bought a package of cigarettes. We picked him up a few minutes later and then both of us lit up our cigarettes. It really bothered him to see his mother smoking. He begged her to stop and finally pulled the cigarette from her lips.

A couple of times the police brought him home for being in cars with boys who had traffic violations. I guess he learned a lesson because he never got a ticket himself that we know of.

When he was a Senior, Edward volunteered Mary and I to be the chaperons at the Senior Breakfast held after their prom. It was held on the "Belle of Louisville", a riverboat owned by the city. The party started at 10:00 p.m. after the Junior Prom had ended. It was a fun evening. Everyone was well behaved and having a good time. He went almost to six mile island when someone shouted that a girl had jumped overboard. A fellow who was a lifeguard at one of the local swimming pools saw her and jumped in to help her. It was pitch black out that night. It took a long time to get the sluggish old Belle turned around and going back down the river. One of the boats that supplied the river barge traffic had heard the radio report of the incident and came out and picked her up. By then the party had degenerated into a dismal affair.

We encouraged all of the family to work and save their money for school and a mission if they chose to go on one. There was a sort of unwritten goal of having saving \$1,000.00 by the time each one was ready for college. Ed peddled ice cream, worked at Norton Hospital, at a Burger Queen (a fast food hamburger stand), at a nursery, and mowing right-of-ways for the Kentucky

State Highway Department. Martin and Gary mowed lawns and delivered papers.

Marty and Gary had as many as 10 lawns and mowed out several lawn mowers during those years. During the long rainy spells we were inundated with calls from people wanting their lawns mowed and gone. I finally bought a big Barton commercial mower which we still have.

Just before we moved to Chicago Marty and Gary were delivering a couple of Louisville Courier Journal routes.

Mary's mother sold her home on Michigan Avenue and bought a condominium in Capri Park on the south side of Salt Lake at about 9th East and 2840 South. All of the family had become attached to her home on Michigan Avenue and looked forward to visits there. It was sad to no longer go there but there were compensating attractions at Capri Park.



Alan looking at Mom Walker's swimming pool.

There was not much yard or house upkeep for Mary's mother. The lower maintenance made it easier for Mom Walker and Aunt Ethel now that they were getting older. There was a swimming pool, tennis courts, and a 2 hole, par three, golf course that the children could use. Al loved the swimming pool.