

In Inches, In Miles

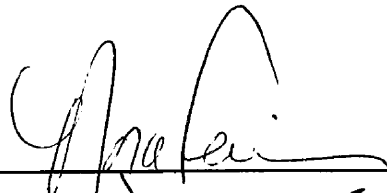
The Journals of Cecil Westervelt, 1963-1967

by
Karilynn J. Molter

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First Reader



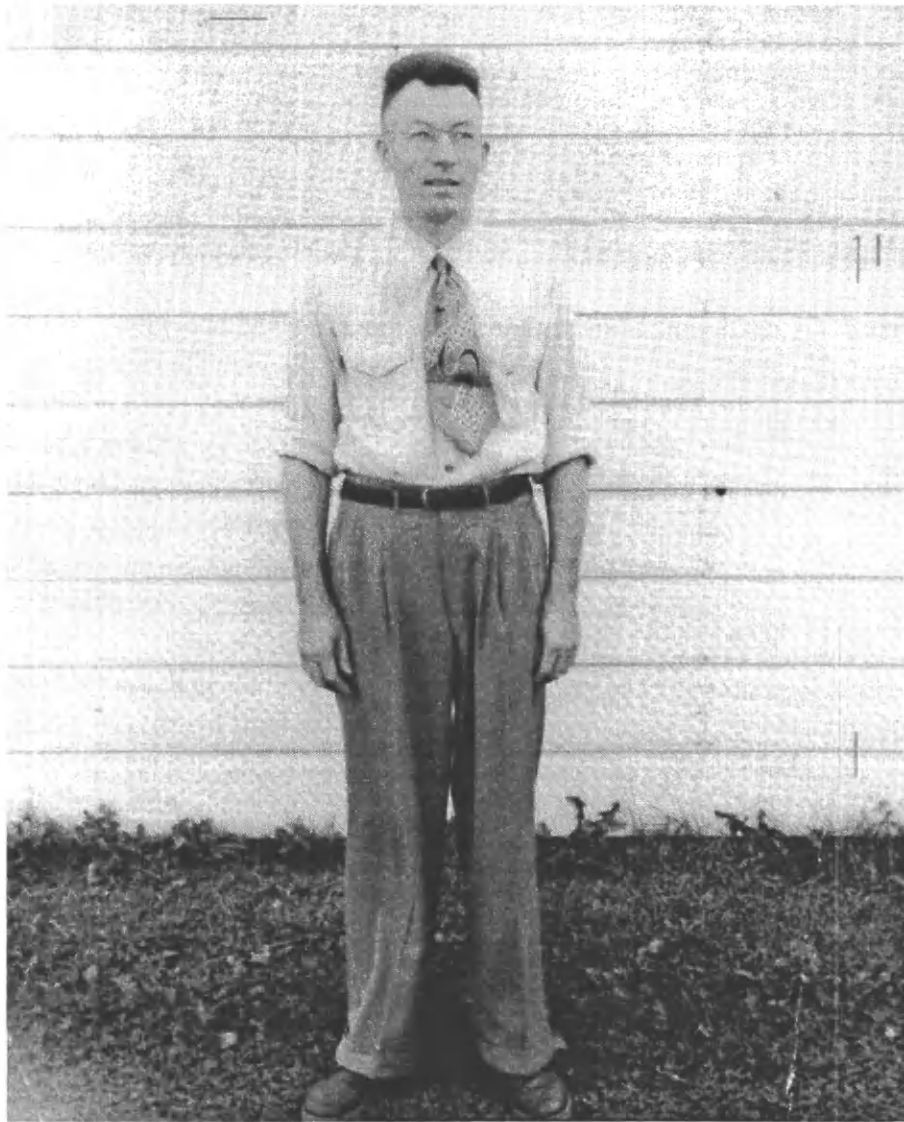
Second Reader



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John and May Westervelt, Evelyn and Cecil June 22, 1916

Seasons of Love

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
Five hundred twenty-five thousand moments so dear
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure - measure a year?

In daylights - in sunsets
In midnights - in cups of coffee
In inches - in miles
In laughter - in strife

In five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes
How do you measure
A year in the life?

How about love?

(Larson, Jonathon. "Seasons of Love" *Rent*. Original Broadway Cast Recording.

Dreamworks Records. 1996.)

Prologue

A Tan Overcoat

He was a man of shy strength to me - a man of unconditional love and incredible intelligence as he stood in front of the Christmas tree wearing his new tan overcoat.

He had every button connected and the belt run through the leather-covered buckle, the extra held to his side with his right hand, although the style of the day was to ignore the object and simply make a knot with the fabric instead.

When Grandma told him he “looked good” as she reached up to straighten his collar and tuck in the flap, he smiled, covering his mouth with his left hand as was his habit. Everyone sitting in the small mobile home’s tiny living room agreed, some noting how the sleeves were just the right length.

I was caught up wondering, as I sat on the floor with my back to the wall, their yorkie Mimi on my lap, how Grandma could even find clothes to fit him. He seemed so tall to my young mind, but a gentle giant who was always on my side, always ready with his “magic” handkerchief to wipe any tear away.

Grandma, satisfied that he was presentable, stepped back and snapped a picture with her 110. He smiled, but this time he kept his hand down, his lips spread tightly across his dentures. I noticed the two or three days’ growth of beard on his upper lip, another example of his ability to please all whom he loved. His grandchildren (my younger sister and I) liked the roughness of a mustache when he kissed our cheeks, but

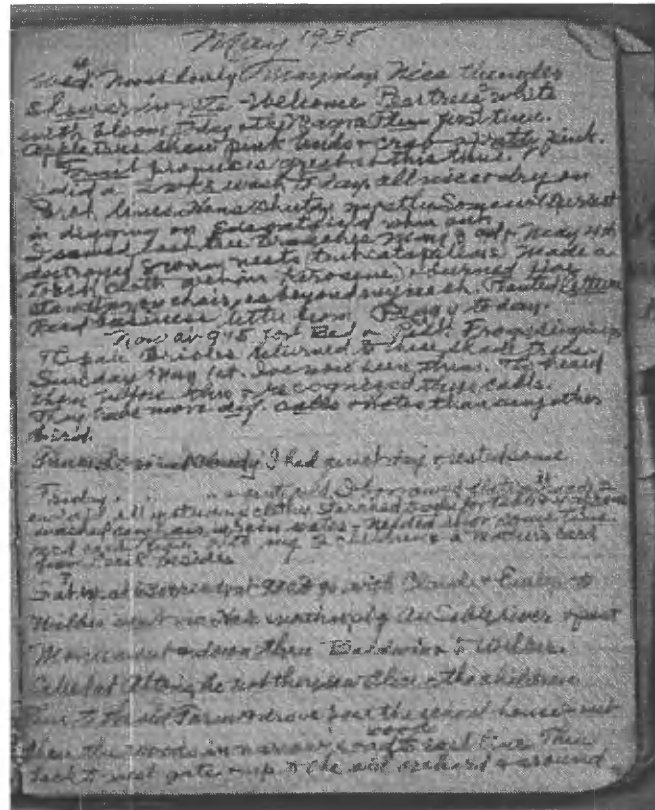
Grandma found it too “picky”. His compromise to both groups was to “forget” to shave there then make Grandma happy by appearing clean-shaven every third or fourth morning.

It was later that afternoon, after the remnants of the turkey, stuffing, and Grandma’s special sugar-glazed carrots were packed away in plastic butter dishes and placed in the refrigerator and all were dozing in front of *Miracle on 34th Street* that he disappeared, as he had so many times before, into his study for a short nap on the roll-away. About an hour later, the tap-tap, tap, tap-tap of his monstrous, silver manual typewriter was heard. He recorded who had attended the days’ festivities, the weather, the menu, and of course a few of his gifts. He was pleased with the overcoat.

Introduction

How do you measure a year in the life of a person? I believe Jonathon Larson had it right. Measure it in moments, because that's all we have as human beings... each moment... as it happens.

Cecil Westervelt recorded the moments of his life, his whole life, a habit he had inherited from his mother, who also kept a carefully written diary. Only one small portion of her diary still exists, but twenty years of his moments from 1963 until about one hour before his death in 1984 are preserved, typed, single-spaced, on notebook paper and stored in eight three-ring binders.



A page from May Westervelt's journal, May 1938.

My grandfather, Cecil Westervelt, was born in 1900. In 1963 he was married, living in Flint, Michigan, and working at Fisher Body “on the line”, a job he had held for about 10 years. He had two daughters, my mother who was married and living about five miles from him and my grandmother and my aunt Judy who was a student at Michigan State University. He was an incredibly smart man. He was interested in politics, science, reading, travel, and the stock market until the day of his death in 1984.

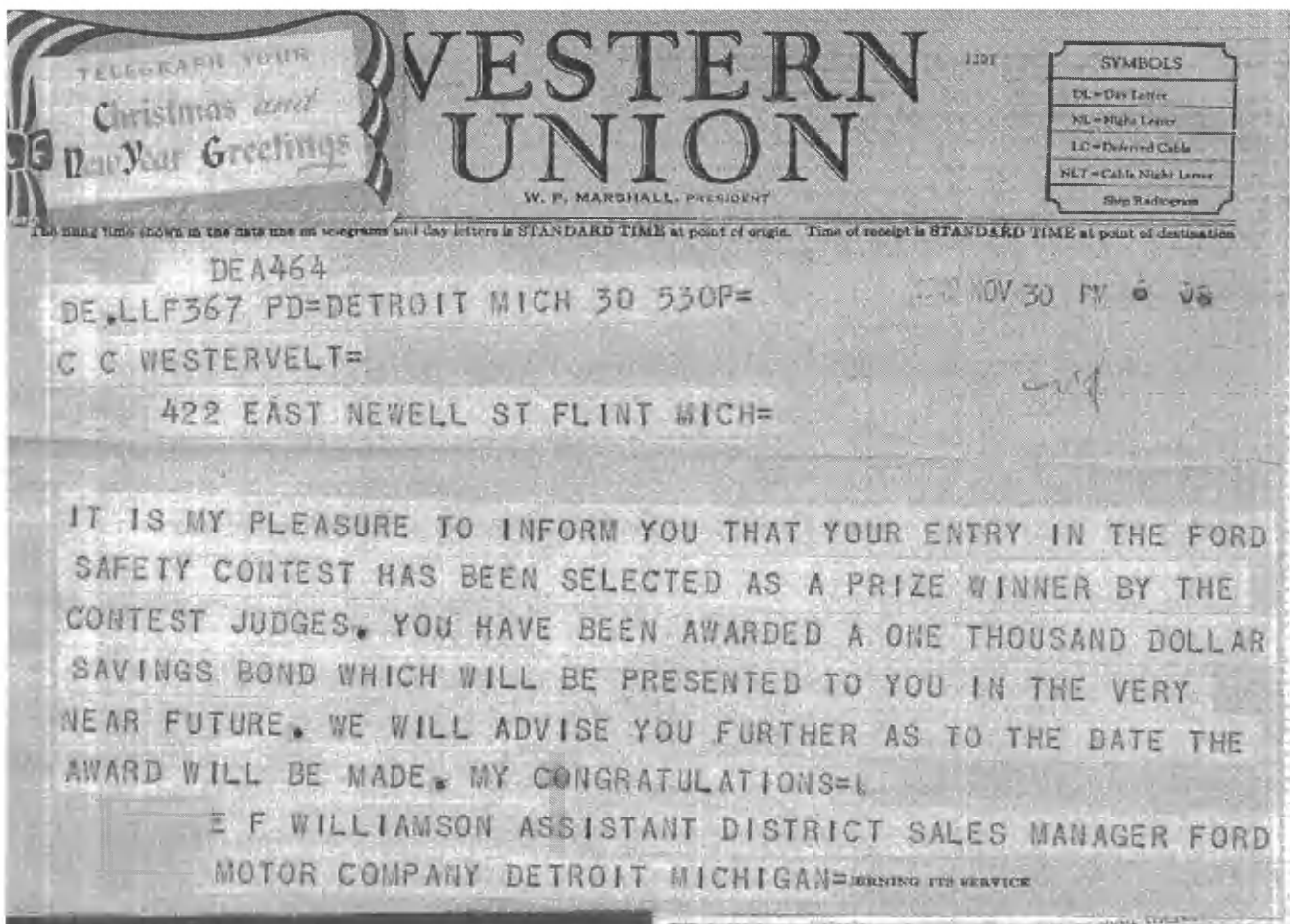
Understanding where he came from is important in understanding where he was in the story of his life when the copies of his diaries which remain begin. In 1918, he finished tenth grade at Taft school (as high as it went) then graduated from E. Tawas High School in 1920 where he was known as an outstanding pitcher on the baseball team. In 1920 he began work in the Rose City Bank. Homesick, he returned to Taft in 1921. That was also the year he purchased a typewriter (“Oliver” brand) and taught himself to “touch type” (His journals are all typed). In 1922 he returned to the bank at the urging of the owners and worked there until 1930 when the bank merged and he was left jobless. In 1931 he was mayor of Rose City (he doesn’t mention the year he was elected). He served one term, but did not run for a second. In 1930 he began working at a department store as an accountant (Danin Co.) and met my grandmother, Geneva Nunn, a girl 13 years his junior. He noted in the account of his life he updated in 1975 that they ran out of gas on their first date! They were married July 6, 1931, in West Branch, Michigan.



Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Westervelt, July 6, 1931

By 1932 the great depression had hit and the chain of stores for which he worked eventually closed. On May 3, their son Clyde Douglas was born, but died two days later. He worked for the post office in 1933 and they drove to Chicago to see the World's Fair. In 1934, he took a job in Midland doing accounting work but the chemical emissions from the Dow Chemical plant aggravated his asthma and in 1936 he moved to Standish where he worked as a bookkeeper for Shell gas distributors. My mother, Shirley, was adopted in 1937. In 1942 he took a job at Chevrolet in Flint after studying drafting through a correspondence course. In 1944, he quit Chevrolet and began working for Sinclair Oil Company on Corunna Road in Flint but quit a year later. He says in his 1974 account that he quit "for no good reason, and (with) no prospects for another position: a

dangerous thing to do, indeed...". He did office work for a while, unsure what to do with himself. In 1945 they began to care for Judy who was a year and a half old. (She was thirteen years old when her birth family finally allowed her adoption.) He got a job at Buick in late summer of 1946, then moved the family in late fall to San Antonio, Texas, where he worked as a bookkeeper for a supermarket, then collecting life insurance premiums. In 1949, they returned to Flint. He had won a \$1,000 bond as a prize for writing an essay in a safety contest sponsored by Ford Motor Co. and that and some painting work got the family through the winter. He noted, "how we got through this difficult winter I hardly know; without the proceeds of the bond, I fear the worst would have taken place, as all funds were gone... ."





Caption from Flint Journal for above photograph: \$1000 FORD AWARD- Cecil C. Westervelt (right), 422 E. Newell St., receives \$1000 Government bond Bud McKerring, Ford Dealer at 3615 N. Saginaw St. The prize was won by Westervelt for writing an essay in a safety contest sponsored by the Ford Division of the Ford Motor Co. Westervelt was the only winner in Flint. Prizes included 25 new Fords and 25 \$1000 bonds. E. F. Williamson, assistant Detroit district sales manager for Ford, came here for the presentation.

In 1950 he secured a position at Fisher Plant #1 on South Saginaw Street but was laid off in 1951. In 1952 he worked for Puro Seal Dairy and then in 1953 was called back to Fisher where he remained until his retirement in 1964. After his “retirement” he ran a small grocery store then later managed a motel.

Cecil Westervelt was a quiet man in person (except when someone got him arguing about politics or religion) and his journal helped him express himself. He could have been a writer if he had decided to (he did enter many contests which involved writing short slogans, and essays and had an article published in a magazine about living

in a mobile home in San Antonio, Texas.) He also used his journal as a kind of personal reference book of family events. I know that he re-read it occasionally to compare the prices of things... another argument against the inflation caused by those evil Democrats! It also helped him think, vent, and work through problems.

More specifically, Cecil's journal during 1963-1967 showed a man in his mid 60's living in Flint, Michigan, a town influenced heavily by the automobile industry, General Motors, in particular. In 1963, he was working at Fisher Body, a plant which assembled automobiles. He spent most of the year installing automobile windshields. Cecil had held the job there for nearly ten years in 1963. This was probably his longest tenure in any job.

After carefully exploring the years 1963-1967 in Cecil's diary, several categories, or themes, began to emerge from his entries. Many of them continued through all five years studied.

In 1963 these included work, the cost of things, the search for a second automobile, the birth of his first grandchild, entertainment, national events, and a California vacation. In 1963, Cecil was one of the older workers "on the line". He refused special treatment, but the work was terribly difficult for him. National events were also of significance that year as his journals clearly showed the effect the assassination of a president had on this one person and his family.

Many changes occurred in the life of Cecil and his wife Jean in 1964. At work, Cecil experienced two strikes and eventually went on disability due to high blood

pressure. Jean, who had been working at the YWCA also quit her job, and began working at Patt's Pantry, a little trailer store owned by Jean's brother in a mobile home park on the East side of the city, which Cecil and Jean eventually purchased that year. Cecil made note of snowstorms, plane crashes, and political events that year (it was an election year). For some reason, Cecil had a terrible year with automobiles in 1964. He experienced mechanical problems, a ticket, and several accidents. For entertainment, movies were the second choice Cecil made that year. His first choice was reading. He read many books, and watched a few television shows. With his family, Cecil recorded deaths, weddings, short trips, family visits and several friendly arguments, often after church on Sundays, mostly about religion.

Nineteen Sixty-Five was a quiet year for the couple and their extended family. Jean and Cecil continued to run the little grocery store, a job Cecil enjoyed a great deal more than working in the "shop". There were several family concerns that year, as Jean's brother, Jim, passed away after a long illness. Their daughter Judy was becoming a concern as she was not doing well at Michigan State University. She revealed her poor grades that year, explored the possibility of joining the US Army, and tried working at Macinac Island. Few world events seemed important enough to warrant attention in Cecil's journal in 1965, with the exception of the inauguration of President Johnson, the riots in Los Angeles, and the exploration of space.

Cecil became a grandfather again in 1966, as Shirley gave birth to another daughter in February. His grandchildren began to be a bigger part of his life as "Lynn" spent much time with Cecil and Jean. Judy was continuing her studies at Michigan State

University that year, but was still not doing well. At the end of the year, she left for Denver, Colorado. Jean and Cecil took several short weekend trips in 1966, often with Lynn, and continued to run their store. They tried, at the beginning of the year, to obtain a liquor license for the little place, but their request was turned down.

It is unfortunate that this study is ending in the year 1967, because it was an interesting year for Jean and Cecil, one that left many issues up in the air. They were enjoying their work at the store, but experienced many difficulties. In February, a big snowstorm hit, actually forcing the 67 and 52 year old couple to hitchhike to their place of business. In June, their store was burgularized, and in August, the owner/manager of the park where the store was located told Cecil that he no longer wanted to have the store located there. This caused Cecil to purchase the inventory and fixtures of a store in Flushing. The end of the year found Cecil and Jean running both places, without much success. Rusty the dog was put to sleep this year, and the grandchildren continued to be a big part of their grandparents' lives. A major family conflict arose in June as Cecil disagreed with Dick's treatment of Lynn. Judy continued to live in Denver, Colorado, but found herself in California at the end of the year. Cecil devoted more of his free time in 1967 to following the stock market, actually buying and selling a few stocks. Historical events made a bigger impact on his life in this year, as the events of the "long, hot summer" and the escalation of the war in Viet Nam increased his awareness of the social unrest in this country.

What do these diaries show? They show, like so many journals studied before them, the repetition of daily life. They show what is really important to most people, and it is definitely not world events. These diaries paint the picture of an introspective man who worked hard, loved his family, and tried to do the right thing. Occasionally, his pride or long-held beliefs from an earlier time got in the way and would not allow him to commit to a decision that, on reflection, might have been a better one. However, everyone makes bad decisions. Cecil just happened to write them down in his diary and left his thoughts for others to ponder on hindsight.

Finances

Money was a significant issue in every year. He recorded the cost of things, how many hours he worked, and sometimes his rate of pay. In the years 1963 and 1964, Cecil was making approximately \$3.00 per hour at Fisher Body. The number of hours he worked per week varied. In 1963, Jean also worked, full-time and then part-time at the YWCA to supplement their income. He never mentioned how much she made. Early in 1964, Jean quit the “Y” and began running her brother’s grocery store, which Jean and Cecil leased in August of that year. January, 1965, Cecil went on disability, and while on leave received \$65 per week. He did begin to receive social security that year, however, and he recorded that his check was around \$120 per month. Therefore, 1965 gave the clearest picture of the couple’s money situation of any year studied. Cecil earned \$380 per month. Income from the little store supplemented this amount, and although Cecil would mention how much business occurred at the store most days, he never gave a bottom line indicating how much income they gleaned from the enterprise.

Cecil retired from Fisher Body on February 23, 1966. His pension check was small, since he had just worked there the minimum amount of time necessary to receive a pension: ten years. He noted that year that it was \$43 per month. This was quite a reduction from the \$65 per week he was receiving on disability.

The store was certainly producing income for the couple, but in 1967, Cecil was told it would have to close. Concerned, he purchased another store in Flushing, but the end of the year left him in frustration as it produced little business.

Cecil did mention needing more money every once in a while, but they always made ends meet and were able to purchase a new car every few years, send their daughter to Michigan State University (with help from her biological grandfather), indulge their grandchildren, and travel occasionally. Although they never had a lot of money, they managed to “get by”.

Race and Gender

Race and Gender were two threads which were woven occasionally into the fabric of Cecil’s reflections. Cecil was a nurturing, loving person, but he did hold some opinions one could label as prejudiced. One of the reasons, I suspect, that he burned his earlier journals had to do with race. Shirley (his daughter), while at school in Chicago, (around 1960) was seriously involved with a boy who was Jewish. Cecil told his daughter that if she married this boy she would be disowned. Shirley eventually ended the relationship. It is my suspicion that, years later, Cecil regretted taking this stand and destroyed his journals until the year 1963 in order to bury feelings expressed there on this issue.

Cecil was frustrated in 1967 when he was told he would have to close their store in Holiday Village mobile home park. Cecil suspected the reason the owner of the park wanted the store to be shut down was because a housing project was being built down the road which would bring “blacks” to their store and as a result into the trailer park. Family members recall that Cecil was not a person who held a racist agenda, by any means. However, he did have a strongly held opinion that it was unnecessary for anyone to have more than two children, and he felt that “blacks” did have large families which put a strain on the welfare system.

His opinions about women surfaced occasionally. Although he and Jean both worked, I know that he would have liked to have been the sole income producer in the family. He liked the role of protector, and loved being the father and grandfather to girls. It was his sense of pride and antiquated belief that it was the man’s job to take care of the women in his life that occasionally led him to make poor decisions. The most obvious example of this was when he turned down the opportunity to work an easier job at Fisher body. He refused, because the position had previously belonged to a woman. This decision could have changed much in his life. Had he taken the job, he might have been able to work that job for a longer time and thus have a larger pension in the end. Although he occasionally expressed regrets, he never mentioned regretting refusing the easier job.

It is important for me to note that my memories of my grandfather are those characteristic of a caring, loving man. He held opinions, and enjoyed defending them;

however, his opinions about race (especially his steadfast ultimatum to my mother concerning her Jewish boyfriend) were out of character for the man I knew.

Family

Taken in total, these journals show a man who loved his family passionately. He wrote more about his family than about any other subject. Cecil was in love with his wife and enjoyed his family. He supported his daughter, Judy, as she struggled through college, left before completing her education, and eventually moved out West. He celebrated the birth of his granddaughters, and did not hesitate to defend them when he felt they were being treated unfairly. His journals demonstrate that, above all, this was a man who put his family above all else.

World Events

The mid-1960's were an extraordinary time in the history of these United States. When I first began to study Cecil's journals, I thought I would find a significant amount of his writing devoted to these fascinating events. I was wrong. Although my grandfather enjoyed a good political or philosophical debate and always watched the news on television and read newspapers daily, he did not reflect much on the newsworthy events of the day in his diary. Cecil mentioned a variety of news events each year, but that is all that he usually did: mention them in passing. He was a man who preferred to debate issues and explore them orally with other people.

Another reason for this could be that it takes time for history to recognize that an event is noteworthy. A person can look back on Cecil's thoughts and wonder why he didn't spend more time on Martin Luther King, desegregation, race riots, manned space

travel, or the war in Viet Nam. These events are so significant today. At the time they happened, however, many events were just another sound bite on the news or another article in a newspaper. Only time tells what makes it into the history books.

Entertainment

The final category which seemed to repeat itself from 1963-1967 was entertainment.

Cecil was a reader. He visited the library nearly every week, and read voraciously on a wide variety of topics. Throughout all five years, he read many books connected with the western part of the United States, and the trip they took to that area of the country in 1963. He read many novels as well (many with a western theme), and enjoyed magazines such as *National Geographic* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. Later in his journals, (1966 and 1967), he researched investing in the stock market.

Cecil rarely attended movies, but did enjoy watching television. His favorite shows were always westerns: *The Road West*, *Bonanza*, and *Big Valley*.

Looking back over these five years, I do not see a man living a life of “quiet desperation” as Thoreau said so many men live. Yes, it was repetitive; no, this man made no huge social impact, and much of the contents of his journals might be labeled as trivial. However, it’s exactly that triviality which makes them significant. They reflect what the real world was like in the mid-1960’s for many people. Cecil Westervelt’s journal fills in the blanks that the television shows, news broadcasts, and history books do not even attempt to explore.

What could be learned from these pages? For me, Cecil's granddaughter, I have rediscovered a man of intelligence, wit, commitment, and love. I have felt the touch of his handkerchief on my cheek and his arms around my shoulders once again. For others, this record of his life could simply send the message that, in this world that is so interested in money, success, and thrillseeking, the most beautiful moments are the simplest. They certainly illustrate the point that it is a person's journey through life, not one's destination, that is the most important.

The journals of Cecil Westervelt paint the image of a man who, like every other man or woman, lived his life, day by day, and when his time was up, his journey ended. He complained a little, worried some, and loved a great deal; he lived his life and accomplished what he could. His accomplishments were not particularly impressive or earth-shaking, but that's not a bad thing. These journals depict the life of a man, a portrait painted in moments.

A Note on the Use of the Diary Entries

I have copied his entries, typos, misspellings, abbreviations and all, as they appear in his journal when I quote them directly, except where meaning would be lost, in which case I have expanded his abbreviations. Cecil was fond, as are many diarists, of using abbreviations. Several which occur rather frequently, it should be noted, include: “thot” (thought), “d” (doughnut/dessert), “dam, G-dam” (damn), “tho” (though). Cecil also often indicated emotion in his writings through the use of multiple question marks, slashes, periods, and exclamation points.

K. Molter



Cecil and Geneva Westervelt in 1936

1963

“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed... that all men are created equal. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. And when this happens, when we let it ring, we will speed that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: ‘Free at last, free at last, Thank God Almighty, we’re free at last.’” -Martin Luther King, Jr., speech in Washington, DC (quoted in Gordon and Gordon 410)

“America wept tonight not alone for its dead young President, but for itself... Somehow the worst prevailed over the best... Some strain of madness and violence had destroyed the highest symbol of law and order.” -James Re... (last name unreadable on copy) (quoted in Gordon and Gordon 410).

These are the thoughts that ring through most minds when the year 1963 is mentioned. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous speech in Washington DC and President John F. Kennedy, Jr. was assassinated. It was also the year that Frank Sinatra, Jr., was kidnapped at Lake Tahoe and released unhurt in Los Angeles after his famous father paid a \$240,000 ransom (Gordon and Gordon 417). The first nuclear reactor, at the Jersey Central Power Company, became operational, Phillips introduced the compact cassette, and Roche Labs introduced the tranquilizer Valium. The Kodak Instamatic camera with a film cartridge first appeared, and the congress passed legislation which guaranteed equal pay for equal work (Gordon and Gordon 415).

In the field of entertainment, it was the year that the films *Tom Jones*, *Cleopatra*, *How the West Was Won*, and *The Birds* were released. *Tom Jones* won the academy award for best picture that year. The top television shows included “The Beverly Hillbillies,” “Bonanza,” “The Dick Van Dyke Show,” “Petticoat Junction,” “The Andy Griffith Show,” and “The Lucy Show”. Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore won Emmy awards for “The Dick Van Dyke” Show (Gordon and Gordon 411). On Broadway, Neil Simon’s *Barefoot in the Park* opened starring Robert Redford, and *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest* also made its debut starring Gene Wilder and Kirk Douglas. Tony Awards went to Edward Albee’s play *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolf* and Stephen Sondheim’s musical *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Gordon and Gordon 413). Hit songs included “Wipeout,” “Call Me Irresponsible,” “If I Had a Hammer,” “Puff (the Magic Dragon),” and “The Times They are A-Changin’” (Gordon and Gordon 412).

Critics were swooning over the books *The Centaur* by John Updike, *The Bell Jar*, by Sylvia Plath, and Betty Friedan’s *The Feminine Mystique*. Charles M. Schultz was the author of one of the year’s best selling books, *Happiness is a Warm Puppy*.

In sports, Sandy Koufax was the Cy Young Award winner after pitching his second no-hitter, striking out 306 in the season, and 15 in a world series game. Stan Musial retired. Los Angeles won the World Series. College All-Americans included Roger Staubach, Dick Butkus and Gale Sayers. Bill Russell, Elgin Baylor, and Oscar Robertson were the top basketball players (Gordon and Gordon 416).

Fashion was characterized by the “offbeat look”. Outfits were layered and consisted of various textures and styles. Women wore boots up to the thigh over woolen tights, and peasant smock shirts with fishnet stockings and sporty oxford shoes (Gordon and Gordon 416).

Timeline

(Source: *The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates*, 614 -621)

January 17: President Kennedy sent the largest federal budget (\$98,800,000,000 with a projected deficit of \$11,900,000,000) to Congress.

February 21: Medicare, a medical hospital insurance plan funded through Social Security, was sent to Congress by President Kennedy.

April 8: Academy Awards were presented to *Lawrence of Arabia* as best motion picture, Gregory Peck as best actor for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Anne Bancroft as best actress for *The Miracle Worker*.

June 8: The American Heart Association was the first public agency to try to dissuade people from smoking.

June 10: President Kennedy signed a bill requiring equal pay for equal work regardless of sex.

June 12: Medgar Evers, a civil rights leader, was assassinated by a sniper.

July 22: Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson in defense of his world heavyweight boxing championship.

August 30: The hot line between Washington D.C. and Moscow became operational. It was intended to reduce the risk of accidental war.

October 2-6: The World Series was won by Los Angeles Dodgers.

October 10: The deferred 1962 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. Linus C. Pauling. His efforts to ban nuclear testing were well known.

December 4: The Roman Catholic mass was allowed to be performed partially in English.

(1)

FEB. 1963 #228

Thurs. 7: Drove to Bay City to Gephart Funeral Home, 11:30 to 2:30...
 Talked with Mrs. Sherman, Alice - Oren and wife came in too.
 Nice day. Floyd suffered a great deal, she said. Poor boy.
 Worked 8.2. OK... Felt well. Jean got a permanent, \$5... Turned
 colder... Real cold....

Fri. 8: 4 below! Took Jean to work... Sun out now however...
 Now to bed at 9:15.... 8.3 hrs... Cold... Funeral at
 2 PM for Floyd....

Sat. 9: Up at 11... Bank, Hamady, \$11... Map for Jean, \$3... Shirley
 over, had dinner, and of beeching Friday! Children took on,
 cried, they loved her so!... Only 4.7 at Fisher, 1st 5... Zuck
 short of parts... Sat up till 1 and finished book, I take this
 land... A powerful story, R. Powell....

Sun. 10: Up at 9... Did dishes and now to letters to Margaret and
 Gertrude... Washing later... Light snow last night, and inah.
 Letter and check to Mards, \$25... Just check I mean, bel now.
 Check income tax too... Car license... Had dinner, fish and
 chips at Elie Rd., good. \$2, tip 25¢... Shirley and R. came over
 later and stayed till 8.... Visited....

Mon. 11: Milder; took Jean in; library and got 4 more 1st. Her. magz,
 1961 issues... Stopped at Summerfield's, date on Chev. 11...
 Checked teeth. He took xrays... Bank to have lunch with Jean
 on Det. St... Fine... Got type, paper... Won small prize from
 Raffle, read in - 2 pr hour!... Rested a bit, washing car first.
 Brakes leaked bad but worked fine otherwise.... Got 5.6 at Fisher.
 Turned much colder... Got tabs for 1963, \$12.25....

Tues. 12: Cold, 4 above... Jia back and in Bay Hosp... Alta back
 from Tucson... 8 Rapids....

Wed. 13: Jean drove to Bay with Zella to see Jim's work... Liver not
 working at all or little; intravenous liquids... Poor boy.
 Joy road up there she reports....

Thurs. 14: Took Z back to Menton; Express slick... 25-40 miles! Got
 2.00 at K... \$7... Hart shaped boxes of chocolates for
 Jean and Joyce... 1b and 8... Jean was so pleased
 when I got home, 7.4... cold... she had bought me work pants,
 N... green dark... left Jia at house, going to P-8-- she not
 home from school yet... The darling!

Fri. 15: Cold, 4 below but sun out and cheerful... Took Jean in and girl
 next door to Det. St... got out some letters, wrote CC of
 Calif... Now to bed at 10... 5 hrs at Fisher! Short week, 36-37.
 Home at 10, Taxi was here; sat up till 2 AM!

Sat. 16: Up early but did not go to dentist as planned; we argued.
 Taxi and I, cigarettes, etc... He went up and saw Jia in
 the Hospital... We went to bank, then Hamady for gas, \$5....

The picture of the year 1963 as represented in the major historical events and movements was not the same picture one receives from Cecil Westervelt's journal. It was no surprise to find more personal, daily events, but what was surprising was the fact that he spent very little time on what the history books consider to be the major events of the day. His diaries give a much clearer view of what was important to a person (well, this person, at least) day in and day out. The events generally fell into six categories: money and work, the search for a second automobile, family, entertainment, national events, and a California vacation.

Money and Work

Like many diarists, Cecil carefully recorded the cost of things. On May 25, he did some shopping, and, typically, recorded the prices of several items: "I went to Hamady's and AP for groc... Sugar .68 for 5# now at AP, .87 at Ham... I didn't get any more... Jean and I drove to Sav-More on Flushing Rd. and got some items, p clips, .08 each; shoe laces, 3 pr for .14..." Their trip to California in August was carefully recorded not only through the sights and events but also by entrance fees and motel rates. On August 20: "Drove late, dark, to Dixon, nice Motel, \$7.73 - he threw off \$1."

Nearly every day he worked, he recorded his number of hours and how he felt afterward. He worked second shift at Fisher Body. A sample of entries:

February 19: "We got 7.4, many stops, too!"

February 21: "Worked 8.8 hours... cold after lunch, had worn two sweatshirts! Okay later on..."

February 22: "Worked 9.7, very tired, too. Hard night!"

He was not a young man at this time, 63 years old, to be exact, but he did not want any special treatment. Family legends note that he was offered an easier position once the foreman discovered his age, but he steadfastly refused. Apparently, a woman had had that position previously, and his pride would not allow him to slow down, although his journal showed how difficult the work was for him. This was an issue of both pride and gender. Cecil did not wish to appear weak, and he certainly felt that taking an easier job, especially one that had previously belonged to a woman, (the weaker sex, in his opinion) would make him appear frail. Although Cecil supported Jean's own wish to work, and

did not seem to want to “hold her back” so to speak, he did have the basic belief that women were to be placed on a pedestal. He was always protective of his wife, daughters, and granddaughters, and liked being their champion. It is my belief that this attitude was not an ego trip, but rather the result of being raised in an earlier era where that role was part of being a good husband and father. This belief, combined with his regrets over not sticking with a job longer in order to accumulate a good pension (thus forcing him to work to a more advanced age than most), and finally, his sense of pride, all combined to cause him to continue in the more difficult job.

This was probably the best money he had ever made in his life. It was certainly the job he kept the longest. From September 13: “Cool. Cold. Frost up north... clear. Got 4 hours, day 4 too. 17.7 for the week! Some week... but rate up 9 cents... \$2.87 day rate now... ours \$3.0135 to be exact! 12 cents cost of living, up 2 cents over last June... check for the week, \$91.67...” He regretted not having “settled down” earlier in his life just a few days later: “And took Jean in to work full time now, but not tomorrow... She was tired too, I know. Too bad she has to work so much. Dam things... why didn’t I get in with GM way back... and save my money!” They were struggling to make ends meet and put Judy through college.

He gave some clues to what he exactly did at work. On November first he noted, “and the work went better, as arranged it differently: pausing after putting rubber on and spraying the windshield, etc...” On the fifteenth of that same month he continued about work: “4:00 PM... well, I went in as planned, up at 5, and to S Unit and worked but 6.8, enough; with a woman, Nellie on sealers on trunk... OK... she helped and I soon broke in,

but a steady run and tired by 11..." It was definitely my impression that he didn't really enjoy working at Fisher, but he needed the security of a fairly steady paycheck. On June 26, he had a particularly bad night. The temperature was hot and he wrote, "Hard night at F. took g p (green pill, the pill he seemed to take for a variety of reasons) too late, and we did 9.3! I got down, DOWN mentally - wanted to quit the place - bad..."

Looking at his diary, a large amount of space was dedicated to recording the mostly numerical data about his job. It was a significant worry, yet also a sense of security he had not had for most of his life.

The Search for a Second Automobile

Because he was working second shift at Fisher and Jean was working first shift at the YWCA, it became apparent that they were in need of a second car. He noted, on February 22, "Sun out now at 9:30... Took Jean in (to work). 5 below when I came home... worked 9.7, very tired, too. Hard night! Drove car to Y and gave Jean keys... took bus to Fisher, made it nicely; Jean got me after work..." The next day, he also noted this problem: "We work today so stayed in bed all day, so tired, heart bother-somewhat... too tired... finally up and bath and shaved at the latest possible time... better though haggard... thought 7 hours as before, instead, 9.3! But got through, best week ever moneywise, around \$42! Jean stayed up again and got me at the end... Need second car bad!" So he began to look around.

His search told an interesting story in itself. On February 25, he drove to Summerfield Chevrolet and took a drive in a "Chevy II" his review: "not too good".

After dinner, (Fish and Chips at 5th and Detroit Streets which cost .85!) he and my grandmother went to a Rambler dealership and spoke to Dick Brady, a salesman there. Grandpa was “impressed” and decided to return for a test drive at a later date.

March 23 was a beautiful, clear day so he and Jean drove to Clio to get prices on a new Dodge Dart. After that, it was back to the Rambler dealership: “Then to Rambler, but we did not get interested, as the 100 in one Am. too high in price; other too much...”

On Saturday, March 30, it was off to Victor George Oldsmobile. “Then we stopped and went in to V. George... talked with the younger man, George... good appearing fellow... saw a 1957, 4 door hard top, very good condition... so he drove it out and we both drove, very solid, 29,000 miles on it only, sure... gave us owner, older man, very careful, V-8, power brakes, very good finish inside and out; \$1095... can buy for \$150 down, \$52 a month for 24 months... will see him Monday AM... gave \$5 will get back if no sale... wondering? Too much for such an old model, but in wonderful condition... good car apparently for me for Fisher, 5 years as long as I intend to work there... may offer say \$995 or \$1045?” The next day, he took Judy to see the car. She was impressed, but thought it cost far too much money. “And she’s right,” he mused... “At \$895 it might be worth looking into, \$200 less... “ On April 1, he got his \$5 back.

On April 13, he returned to the Dodge dealership: “... they had a 61 Valiant, white, red inside, 20,000 miles, one owner, finish good, \$1250... sat in it...”

He finally made a decision in April. On the 21st, a neighbor, Mrs. Mossman let him know that her father wanted to sell his 1957 Pontiac for \$450. In the late evening he looked it over and drove it a few blocks. “Seemed OK, V-8, power, 51,000 miles, same

battery. A few rust spots but a radio, and should be a good buy: so tomorrow I will get \$300 from bank, one year, and take it; went over to give \$20 down; but he wouldn't take it!" The total cost of the loan was \$325, net, for one year. The license and sales tax totaled \$31.85.

Although it seemed that he spent a large amount of time tinkering with this car, and his diary indicated that he continued to drive Jean to work quite often, he seemed quite satisfied with his purchase although I think he would have loved a new 1964 Dart as he described in September of that year or one of the new Buicks he had seen on display on display a week or so earlier at the IMA. He described the Dart: "Dart \$2700 for this snazzy job with bucket seats in front, but very comfortable and adjustable back seat angle too!"

Family

His diary showed a man who was concerned with his family. The oldest journals still in existence begin on February 7, 1963 and he begins with a funeral. Just on that one page, which is single-spaced typed, he made 14 references to family.

He noted each time Shirley's family stopped by for a visit or he and Jean visited them. He mentioned each time he and Jean traveled to see her brother in the hospital in Bay City and later in Detroit. He recorded picking up her sisters and taking them places, and family visits to La Porte, Indiana and various towns in the "thumb".

One of his favorite things to do was argue. He loved to debate issues, most often political issues, as on February 16 when my grandmother's brother Tom (an English professor at Purdue University) was visiting: "Up early but did not go to dentist as

planned; we argued, Tom and I, cigarettes, etc.” He and Jean even got into it occasionally. She was a steadfast Democrat, and he was (usually) a Republican and on her birthday he noted, “Jean’s 50 - fiftieth birthday! How time flies: what a good girl she has been. Outstanding, even if a continuing Democrat! Bless her. Nearly 32 years of married life... A Darling!”

He wrote of his mother, whom he was very close to. His father had died in March, 1927 and she lived, mostly on her own, until she had a stroke in the late fall and died January 6, 1952. She lived with my grandfather and grandmother from the time of her stroke until her death. On her birthday he noted, “Jan 17... mother’s birthday! She would have been 95! 1868-1963! Bless her memory. The BEST of mothers!”

His relationship with his wife was one best characterized by tenderness, protectiveness, and deep love. He was working second shift at Fisher Body and she was on first shift operating a switchboard and serving as a receptionist at the YWCA. He often drove her to work, at first, it seemed, by necessity, but he also did so after they had purchased the Pontiac. He enjoyed doing things for her. He also met her often for lunch before he went into work. They made time for each other. On May 4 he noted, “Up at 11 or so, coffee in bed first and a good visit with Jean; we don’t get together often with our hours conflicting...” On July 6 they celebrated their anniversary with a movie and pie and coffee. He also often helped her around the house, often mentioning doing the laundry, sewing, running the vacuum, and ironing. It was interesting that he never mentioned doing these things “for her”. He was quite a modern guy in that sense, I believe. He shared quite evenly in the household duties without complaint.

A major event for the year included the birth of their first grandchild on June 8 (This writer got a half page of space!). He began, "Big day. Baby Karilynn Joy born at 7 AM... I got Jean from Osteo. Hospital at 8, she was tired out; Shirley got along fine... fine baby..." They baby-sat on Sunday, June 30 and he insightfully noted, "We fed the baby, I helped(?)" (The question mark was his!)

He rarely mentioned dreams... what he wanted for himself, except twice, he noted his wish to climb Mount Whitney. On September 14 he noted, "Tired out, stomach off... I am going down to have lunch with Jean, cash my \$66 check, pay lights and may take bus down and visit library and walk home! Hell, if I can't do this I am no good, and will never be able to climb Mt. Whitney!" Then on October 9: "Jean called... looking at California maps... want to climb up Mt. Whitney in a few years when we take that six-week trip West with no stopped (sic) to report, as on retirement! But next year it will be Mt. Washington in the White Mts. of N.H. and the NY Fair..." He did love to explore the beauties of this country!

Cecil Westervelt wrote a great deal about his family and those he cared about. They were the most important elements of his life.

Entertainment

He was an avid reader. It was surprising to note, when comparing what he read to the best selling books of the day, that he didn't mention any of them! He spent a great deal of time at the library, and kept a fairly complete record of the books he checked out. Many of the books he read in 1963 were about the West, in connection to his trip to

California. They included *America, America* by Elia Kazan, *High Sierra Country* by Oscar Lewis, *Colorado Vacations*, by Kent Ruth, and *How to Live in California and How to Retire There* by Andrew Hepburn. He noted finishing a book in February entitled *I Take this Land* by R. Powell. It was “a powerful story”. He noted many others as well, both fiction and non-fiction.

He read several magazines regularly, including *Reader’s Digest*, *Look*, *National Geographic*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*.

On television, he mentioned watching *The Virginian* and *Rawhide*, *Jack Parr*, and even *The Flintstones* once when a young neighbor boy had come to visit. He occasionally mentioned movies on television. In April, he was impressed with a color movie on television although he didn’t give the title, and that same month mentioned watching *Ten North Frederick Street* starring Gary Cooper. Later in the year he noted *The Seven Year Itch* with Marilyn Monroe.

He only made mention of two sporting events that year, the first being a boxing match between Cassius Clay and Jones that was on closed-circuit television on March 13, (he never said who won) and in October he noted the first game of the world series: “at NY: LA Dodgers won 5-2... Great pitching by Koufax, 15 strike-outs, a new record! Watched game on TV on davenport...”

National Events

1963 was a significant year, historically, and Cecil made note of quite a few events. In high school history courses, it seems like these major events were all that

happened in 1963. They ignore (understandably, I guess) the daily lives of the people. These were important events in Cecil's diaries, but when compared to the number of words spent on other concerns, especially his family, they were minor. The historical significance of Kennedy's assassination was evident at the time, but events like the march on Washington were mentioned in just one sentence. Understandably, it is only after time has passed that the significance of historical events becomes clear, but he was, at least, aware of them. This diary shows the significance of these events quite clearly.

In news events, he mentioned the ransom that Frank Sinatra Jr.'s famous father paid for his safe return in December (\$240,000), the threats of a railroad strike, the derailment of a Grand Trunk Railroad in April, floods in Ohio, the election in Canada, and a train wreck at Charlotte, North Carolina.

The march on Washington was noted on August 28, but was given less space than the potential railroad strike: "Big march on Washington today... and the rail strike set for 12 tonight is off; as bills thru Congress have prevented it: Board of 7, five months to iron out rules." This lack of attention to what later would become a significant historical event was another reflection of what was important that day in Cecil's life. This particular white male in Flint, Michigan found the fight for equal rights for blacks to be less of an issue than a railroad strike which could have affected commerce which could therefore have affected his livelihood.

Race was an issue, in his life, however. He mentioned two family debates about this issue. On September 15 (just a few weeks after the march on Washington): "Nice dinner... All there, Dar and family - Pam is growing up; we talked after dinner about

Negroes, mostly, Judy too.” On June 22, he and my grandmother visited her brother. “We stayed for two hours and visited; negroes, Jim down on Kennedy too over race question, etc...”. Cecil occasionally expressed his opinion concerning “negroes” in conversation, but generally, family members recall that he mostly felt that they produced too many children which then increased the load on the welfare system. He felt strongly, however, that no couple (of any race) should have more than two children (Shaw, Richard).

His entries for November 22 - 25 were nearly exclusively about the assassination of President Kennedy. His entries were uncharacteristically short and focused. These are his complete entries for those dates:

Fri. 22: A bad day: President Kennedy killed by an assassin in Dallas, Texas today at one PM or so, and seriously wounded the Texas governor... terrible... I was so shocked and grieved that I could not eat dinner; went in and got 9.2 hours (at Fisher)... without pill... Jean is at Shirley’s, latter nervous over the President’s death, and babe is upset over vaccination... I called when I got in, no car here... note on table I had not read,, we work tomorrow, and start at 4...

Sat. 23: Got 6 hours... TV music all time honoring President Kennedy... What a tragedy! Terrible! Unthinkable and yet it happened!

Sun. 24: A man in Dallas, Ruby, shot Oswald in the Police building... and he died shortly...!!! We, Jean and I, went to Woodside Church at 10... big crowd...

Mon. 25: The President's funeral today, watched all on TV... burial in Arlington.

The church service at Woodside Church was at the normal Sunday morning service time, therefore, it was not a service specifically created to commemorate the death of Kennedy. However, the minister at the time was a politically active, liberal, opinionated man named Dr. Franklin Elmer. It was certain that the sermon's content reflected on the death of the president.

California Vacation

On August 2, they (Jean and Cecil) left for a vacation that would take them from Michigan to California and back in 18 days. They saw a large number of relatives and a great deal of this country in their Dodge Dart. They left in the evening of August 2 and spent that night with Jean's brother and his family in LaPorte, Indiana. They spent August 3 with friends of Shirley's in Sterling, Ill. Their first night in a hotel was in Nebraska (cost: \$7.50) on August 4. August 5th they explored the Platte Valley National Cemetery then traveled through Wyoming, meeting relatives in Cheyenne. On August 6, he noted that they "Registered at the Cheyenne Emp. Com. (likely the employment commission where he may have been exploring job opportunities) in morning and then on to Ft. Collins, and real mountains in the southeast! What a thrill! Into the National Park at Estes, \$1... Rain! Sending cards to S and J., and soon others also... Some Peaks, great! All day here, and then motel at Empire, \$5 per night... Stove and heat, cool up here..."

Wednesday, August 7 seems to be a particularly interesting day to me. He began with breakfast, then Pike's Peak, then stopped at a friend's in Colorado Springs (If I've read his abbreviations correctly) who happened to not be at home when they arrived. But the door was open so they made coffee and relaxed. How many homes today are simply left unlocked?! He wrote, "Pretty young girl, blonde, at breakfast! Thrilling, sweet as ONLY a young girl can be in this world... on to G. of Dods Red or pink rock, and then up Pike's Peak, \$2; in rain and wet, snow at top! Some drive, 19 miles! Easy coming down, no brake trouble at all, used 2nd and 1st to slow down car... then Shirley's in C. Springs, at 8 PM, not home but door unlocked... We made coffee and rested and she came from a shower at 11..." August 8 was spent at Will Rogers' Memorial Tower (\$2) then Royal Gorge (\$4 - across a suspension bridge and 45 degree elevators to the river at the bottom). He was impressed.

It wouldn't have been a vacation without the car breaking down, even though he had had it thoroughly serviced the day before they left. After a stop at the Midas muffler shop for a replacement pipe from the motor to the muffler and later a reverse plug (that's what he called it). Then they were on to Utah. He described Utah as wild, bare, and desolate. They stayed at Payson, Utah, that night in a nice motel for only \$5.

On Saturday, the tenth, they made it to California at 1:00PM. They continued to Lee Vining, California, at the east edge of the Yosemite at 2:30 and found a motel for \$8. The next day, they drove into the park (\$3). He noted "wonderful peaks, deer, 50, bear and two cubs; finally El Capitan, and Half-Dome... Lunch, Valley; to the Glacier Point above, 32 miles one way to get there; looking down on all but half-dome, still 1200 feet

higher, but 3200 feet straight down to floor! Greatest view of all! Then to the dome which we both climbed and took pictures of each other and the tree there! Down to Sequoia big trees, more deer, great, and on to Merced for motel after dark, \$\$ nice..."

Monday, August 12, was a day for mailing postcards and traveling to "Oakland and the bridge and San Francisco around 2-3 PM". They found a motel, this time it cost \$10.82 but he noted that it was interesting because there was a place to park their car underneath their motel room. It cost them fifteen cents to ride the bus downtown where they shopped then rode a cable car to Fisherman's Wharf. "Cold downtown" he commented, "Unique city, never hot, always cool, winter and summer no cold or snow! ... eight miles square, 775,000... great... such hills!" The next day, they visited China Town, Coit tower, then up the twin hills for another view. "... such a view. To Pacific Ocean; tasted the salt!"

The evening of August 13 was spent visiting relatives near San Rafael, then they left for Lake Tahoe and Donner Pass. They stopped for a short rest at the Golden Spur in Reno then found a motel at Winnemucca for \$6 long after dark. The next day took them across the salt flats and into Salt Lake City where he noted temple square and the Tabernacle. He was amazed at the construction of the roof. After spending the night in Logan, Utah (\$6), August 16 sent them past the Grand Tetons in the evening. Yellowstone National Park was the road they traveled on August 17. They saw Old Faithful and many bears. He was more impressed with the dam and tunnel on the way to Cody Wyoming. The 18th was spent traveling through Wyoming, seeing Mount Rushmore towards nighttime. They drove 550 miles that day and had a hard time finding

a motel that night. The first negative comment of the trip surfaced here: “550 miles today... tired... home looks good.”

Mitchell, S. Dakota, was a stop on August 19. They visited the Corn Palace where his weakness for cute blondes surfaced again: “Went to Corn Palace; little blonde girl gave us tour, sweet: I gave her .25 at end.” They then spent the night at Jackson, Minn. logging 400 miles for the day. Dixon, Iowa was where they spent the night on the twentieth. They crossed the Mississippi at Dubuque, Iowa (no toll!) and after a one hour visit with his niece (he didn’t say where) they made it home to Flint the evening of August 21.

A number of things are particularly interesting about this trip. They took \$100 in travelers checks and \$276 in cash, having received a monetary windfall, which included a \$173.87 income tax refund and his vacation pay, net \$217 (he was given 100 hours of pay since he had been at Fisher 10 years). Also, he mentioned no world or national events at all even though most motels they stopped at had television sets. Another interesting element found after examining the diary of this trip is that he did not mention his health once. I think he was truly happy doing this.

1964



The year 1964 brought with it a deterioration of the situation in Southeast Asia. As a result, the United States increased its military and economic assistance to South Vietnam. More than fifty books were published that year about John F. Kennedy.

It was an active year for the space program. The first photographs of the moon were obtained, and the United States successfully launched a spacecraft designed to photograph the surface of Mars.

Racial violence caused riots in many cities as a quality education for all was at

issue. The New York World's Fair opened, but was not as successful as many had predicted. Young people were dancing to "The Watusi" and "The Frug".

Notables who passed away in 1964 included Herbert Hoover, Douglas MacArthur, Gracie Allen, Rachel Carson, "Harpo" Marx, and Cole Porter.

Timeline

(Source: *The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates*)

January 11-12: The U.S. Figure skating championships featured Peggy Fleming who won the womens' singles competition.

January 16: *Hello Dolly!* starring Carol Channing opened on Broadway.

January 23: The Twenty-fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which abolished the poll tax was ratified.

January 29 - February 9: At the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, the U.S. finished eighth in the unofficial team standings, taking one gold, two silver, and three bronze medals.

February 7: The Beatles arrived in New York for their first musical tour of the United States.

February 25: The world heavyweight boxing championship was won by Muhammad Ali. He beat Sonny Liston.

March 10: A National Book Award was presented to John Updike for his novel *The Centaur*.

April 8: The unmanned Gemini spacecraft was successfully launched into orbit from Cape Kennedy, Florida.

April 12: The Masters golf tournament was won by Arnold Palmer for the fourth time.

April 19: Michelangelo's *Pieta* was unveiled at the Vatican Pavilion at the World's Fair in New York.

April 22: Opening - day ceremonies of the New York Worlds Fair of 1964-1965 took place.

April 25: The NHL Stanley Cup was won for the third year in a row by the Toronto Maple Leafs.

May 12: Grammy Awards were presented to "The Days of Wine an Roses" as the best song of 1963. The best album was *The Barbara Streisand Album*. Peter, Paul, and Mary won for best group partially due to the popularity of their song "Blowin' in the Wind".

May 25: The closing of schools to avoid desegregation was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

May 25: Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore won Emmy Awards for best actor and actress in a series for *The Dick Van Dyke Show* which also won the award for best comedy series.

June 21: A perfect baseball game was pitched by Jim Bunting of the Philadelphia Phillies.

June 24: The Federal trade commission announced that health warnings would be required on cigarette packages beginning in 1965.

July 2: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed by President Johnson.

July 15: The Republican National Convention nominated Senator Barry Goldwater for the presidency.

July 18: A race riot broke out in Harlem, New York City, after an off-duty policeman shot a young black man who allegedly attacked him with a knife.

August 4: Three young civil rights workers were found murdered and buried in Mississippi after being held by county police for six hours on speeding charges.

August 19: Syncom 3 was launched. This communications satellite transmitted live broadcasts of the 1964 Olympic games from Tokyo.

August 26: The Democratic National Convention nominated President Johnson for the presidency. Hubert Humphrey was nominated for vice president.

August 28: A three-day race riot broke out in Philadelphia. More than 500 people were injured.

September 12: The Miss America title was won by Vonda Kay Van Dyke from Arizona.

September 22: *Fiddler on the Roof* opened on Broadway starring Zero Mostel.

September 25: General Motors Corporation was struck by the United Auto Workers. A three-year contract was agreed to on October 5.

September 27: The Warren Commission report on the assassination of John F. Kennedy was released, stating that there was no conspiracy in the assassination and that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

October 14: The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

November 3: Lyndon Baines Johnson was elected president of the United States.

November 21: Pressmen from the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press accepted a settlement after shutting the newspapers for 132 days.

Dec. 1963 #283

Sat. 28: Stayed up a bit last night visiting. Then to bed and up at 11:30 this AM... Had good visit, about Parks and trips mostly... No debatable subjects.... I went in to work at usual time, T and F had left earlier. Jean not well— I hid alcohol and packed lunch so she could rest in bed.... We got 8.2 hrs... so a good week will be.... Signed cards last night at P for 1% income City tax starting the 1st of the year...

Sun. 29: Cold but clear. 5 above... Judy at Shirley's with Pcn and I and I have driven the Dart two nights for fear it would not start, the Pcn that is; but they got it started OK, and Judy came home at 2 or so; Tom and H. left at 11, we visited for two hours as I got up at 9; Trips and mountains; his Alaska trip, and cure to SF.... Good safe subject. Louis shoveled the driveway and walks Fri. and Sat., Jean gave him 50¢ as I had suggested.... Terry is here now, 5:30; cold. Just ran motors of the two cars. Jean has had her hair fixed by Judy. I talked with Shirley. And Richard, OK.... They were eyes last eve with babe.... Got a nice letter from Gertrude F. H. from Johnson City, N. Y. Twins are now 8 and in in 2nd grade, and taking piano lessons!....

Mon. 30: Got 8 hours, pretty tired at first, but took g pill and finished OK.... Gold...

Tues. 31: Went in for the 4 hours at 11:30 to 3:30... Got Jean's sleeping tablets at Revco, had to wait. Then BE filled the Pontiac tank, double stamps! And only 329 for Ethyl, Shell! In evening we drove to Shirley's, the baby had fallen off a chair upstairs onto the hard floor, but tho it scared S. to death, it suffered no bad effects... To bed.... They are getting ready for a party, which lasted till 5 AM!... Then we stopped at Jim's for a few minutes. Then to Bea and Al's for the evening and till one, nice lunch and drink.... And then it was 1964!

1964

January:

Wed. 1: Warner... Ed, Bea and Stewart came over at 11... Were glad to see. Milla tired out... Then Shirley, K and E; and Jim and G., and then Pat and Shirley and Jim, Jr. and baby... Quite a house full; coffee and cookies and later dinner for us and Shirley's... Ed leaving early the 2nd for Chi.... They enjoyed my long letter of last Sept., about trip! Went to bed early, 8; tired....

Thurs. 2: Much warmer, 32 now! Called and then went up to Freeman E., and he put in a new thermostat and new lots of heat, \$5.22! 10 AM. now... And rest and then my wash the Fan; Jean has the Dart. She's quitting in a week or so... Good girl, she needs the rest. Went in, got 8.2, and a very hard night, as I didn't feel good; constipated and dull, and they ran almost every other one an E job, so that was rough for us both, especially as, with the shield! I went to bed without taking a bath....

For Cecil Westervelt, the year 1964 brought many changes. He began the year continuing his work at Fisher Body, a job he eventually left, first on disability. There were three strikes that year. It was the year Jean quit working at the "YWCA" and began spending more time at her brother's small grocery store run out of a mobile home in a trailer park on the east side of the city of Flint. He struggled to send money to his

daughter Judy at Michigan State University, while she struggled with her grades. He got to know me, his granddaughter, born the previous June. His main concerns in 1964 included his family and work but he also spent a significant amount of time in his journal frustrated with his automobiles (and his driving). He read a great deal, saw a few movies, pondered his religious beliefs, and even noted a few news events.

The News

On January 13, a big snowstorm hit to the south of them. He noted "... hundreds of cars marooned in Indiana..." and a "...private plane down with six aboard, lost near Indian River... all dead." Flint was not affected much, just a "cold and strong wind, light snow."

He noted the launch of a nineteen-ton satellite on January 29 and on the same day mentioned that the winter Olympics in Innsbruck had begun. On February 1 he did not sleep well so he woke at 8 AM and read an article about the New York World's Fair. "...had coffee and read about NY Fair... maybe we won't go this year and save money and pay off G (their house on Grandville street?) and buy stock. Then in 1965 we can go and see the new Narrows bridge, and tour N. England." That evening he watched the Olympics on television.

Another plane crash was mentioned, this time near Lake Tahoe, in early March, then the World's Fair was again on his mind in April as he noted that it opened on the 22nd.

1964 was an election year, and aside from the mention of a tornado in May, a

hurricane in August, and the World Series (on three occasions), the rest of the news worth noting in the year was concerning political events. Cecil was a man who held opinions, and he was not afraid of defending them. I recall many a Sunday afternoon gathered around their dining room table after church... bagels and donuts were piled high on dinner plates and the smell of coffee was in the air as he and my father discussed, often heatedly, the failings of those currently in power. On July 13: "Well the big Republican Convention starts today, and lots of oratory on the TV." On July 15: "Barry nominated for P" was all he said. He could sure argue around the dinner table, but didn't have much to say about the Republicans in his journal. The Democrats received no mention at all. Ronald Reagan spoke on television on November first: "... we watched TV and Ronald Reagan for Goldwater... was he eloquent!" was Cecil's comment. Little did he know that he was listening to a future president. On November 3, he didn't vote. "Election, but no vote for me this time! I went over at 1:30 and such a long line I left..." He added later that evening: "Big victory for the Dems, 486 to 52 electoral votes!" He gave no clue for whom he would have voted.

Strike!

This was an interesting year when it came to topics dealing with work for Cecil. Every day he worked at Fisher he mentioned the number of hours he put in. He never enjoyed it; he tolerated it, at best. Strikes figured prominently that year, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the sit-down strike. He wore a white shirt on February 11 to commemorate the event.

Nineteen-sixty-four began with a strike, the first of two. He worked eight hours on Friday, January 3 then noted, "Buick to strike!" at the end of his entry. He worked eight hours on Monday, January 6 then 6 1/2 hours the next day. On the eighth, it happened: "Well they struck as intended, and no work for us either!" With extra time on his hands, Cecil led the life he preferred. He headed straight for the library on the next day. On Friday, it was cold, and the Pontiac wouldn't start so he took Jean in the Dodge Dart to the YWCA to work then went back to have lunch with her, spending 83 cents for wheat cakes and coffee. Saturday found him back at the library, collecting three new books to add to the two he was then reading. On Monday, January 13 he wrote a 2 1/2 page long letter to Dr. Franklin Elmer from Woodside Church giving his ideas about religion and praising Elmer's sermons. The next day he filed for unemployment (with many others, he indicated), bought paint (having decided to paint his and Jean's bedroom "Edgewater Blue") and painted until eight o'clock that evening. The next day he painted the smaller bedroom "Rose Taupe". On January 16 word reached him that the strike was over: "... Back to work tomorrow, all settled at Buick...". On the seventeenth, Cecil finished painting the trim in the smaller bedroom before he went to work at 3:45 in the afternoon. He was not thrilled about having to go to work as his back was a bit tired after all the painting... "but will make it - have to!" was his comment. He thought of quitting often. From January 21st: "... after lying down at 9 I got up and felt very quamish, thot for a time I would have to quit if it got worse...".

Rumors of another strike began to surface again, and were mentioned on January 30, but that didn't pan out. One finally did occur in September, however. On Thursday

the 24th he recorded "... got 8 at Fisher... looks like a possible strike tomorrow!" The next day it was confirmed: "Well, a strike at 10: 260,000 walked out... so no work tonight...". Not having to force himself to go into work at Fisher Body, he was available to work at more enjoyable tasks once again. He worked on their Pontiac automobile, which was not starting reliably; replacing a pump plunger for \$6.95 did the trick. Driving to the store (Pat's Pantry) where Grandma was working, he set about some general maintenance, but had a little problem... "starting to take the screws from the floor plate (probably on a deep freezer) to get the dirt out, I touched the motor base, and wham! Sparks flew, and most of the lights went out in the trailer! We had fuses, so put one in, OK. Then I touched the door to the floor accidentally, and again out the lights; another fuse, we had three... will see Jim tomorrow about this?" He left the store about 8 PM, had chicken soup for supper, watched Jack Paar, listened to some music, and worked on an essay for a contest that asked about one's favorite president. His was Jefferson.

The mystery of the sparking deep freeze was solved a couple of days later (Sunday, Sept 27) when Jim and Cecil found a short: "Jim had cut a wire and when twisting it together had reversed the wires, both black! That was the trouble and all of it: we cleaned the fan etc, with vacuum. Then had coffee and visited." Later that day, Cecil cleaned the furnace after Jim had showed them how to start it, the two registers, and the "place back of hot water tank". He left around seven PM that day, hungry after moving around some canned goods to make room for some "Taystee" bread.

The strike continued. On Monday the 28th, Jean worked in the store all day (11 hours) and Cecil helped. The next day he had to picket: "We (he and Jean) drove to

Fisher at 2 and I found I had to serve on picket line! ... Jean left me at corner and I walked back to gate #1 and it was easy, about two hours, and sitting down and visited with a man... warm as bright sun all day. Then drove back to UAW building with him and we got registered there. Then Jean came by and I hailed her and we had lunch at restaurant on Hemphill... she had stayed down and went in Super City and got a .50 hammer! Japan, but looks good.”

The next day was “A beautiful day, cloudless sky and warmer!”. “We talked it over,” he noted, “and since Jean has Lois (her friend who worked at the store occasionally) until 6 PM we took a trip to Greenville”. They had a lovely day exploring small towns north of Lansing. They drove through Ashton and Carson City as well as what seem to be two small town he abbreviates as AA and GT. These were most likely Alma and Grant. “G,” (Greenville) he said, was “a very fine small city of 8,000, home of Gibson refrigerators! We drove through, big main part, 3 story buildings, many; building making ‘Hush Puppy’ shoes!”.

As the strike wore on, Cecil didn’t miss “The Fisher” a bit. This is the life he wanted to lead. On Sunday, October 4 he and Jean took a trip to the northwest part of the state... including Burt, St. Louis, Alma, and Big Rapids where he was “surprised at the new buildings to south of city, Ferris College!”. They had lunch at Alma and spent the night in Cadillac, where they found a “nice” cabin for \$6.24. The next day they returned home through Mt. Pleasant and he felt a cold coming on. It hit full force the next day so he called in and did not do strike duty. On Wednesday, he called in again, but began to feel better on Thursday. By Friday afternoon, Cecil was back on the picket

line, but had no complaints. He actually seemed to enjoy it. "At around 1:30 I left for the UAW hall; met John, committee man at once, so all went fine. Parked in a lot, in back; registered, and sat and visited and had two coffees and one nutty doughnut! Plenty left... out at 5..."

He spent a quiet day on Saturday and then was ill for the next two, but found himself recovered by Tuesday, October 13. "Beautiful day, so I went a picketing!" he said. "2 to 5, and got \$30 check; sat in car more than half of the time, easy." It snowed and hailed, then rained on Monday the 19th, and he worked at the store. He noted that many of the strikers were getting surplus foods on North Saginaw road near Dodge road. The next day he picketed even though he felt dull and depressed, the first mention of being "down" since the strike had begun. He didn't mention that money was a problem. Perhaps he sensed the end of the strike and his impending return to the Fisher. "Cool... dull and depressed... weak... went to do picket duty at 1:30; took book, and green pill; felt better then. got the second \$30 check OK and read a lot in book, heater on some of the time but cozy. Red punched our cards right after 4 PM so got back sooner than expected."

On Monday, October 26, Cecil called Fisher Body in the evening and found that he was to work the next day. There was no mention of the strike ending other than that.

By mid December, he was tired. He and Jean had begun to run a small store in a local mobile home park so he had essentially been working two jobs since that time. December 14, a Monday, was a long and difficult day. Walter, my father's father, died at 12:30 in the morning and Jean and Cecil went to my parents' home until all came home

from the hospital. He doesn't mention when he got home. The next day, he got groceries then rested two hours and went into Fisher, working eight hours. "Too tired around 10 or 12..." he noted, "taken pill too late. But made it. Must quit the F soon, and will take a leave of absence after Jan 1st if I can last that long...". Just a little over one week later, he still had quitting on his mind: "We shopped (for the store) at United and ran around a lot, for potatoes, even got a case of oranges at Central, 9 dozen or so! To Fisher, blanks (forms for) the day I quit...".

A New Enterprise

Cecil's frustration with work in general was evident on January 15 as he wrote about Jean quitting the YWCA and not getting a pension. He noted, "... just talked with Jean: Lena (Richard's mother who also worked at the YWCA) is getting her pension, long service, they said, and Jean not... It upsets her, I know... Breaking in a new girl Thurs., etc..." On Sunday, January 26, he noted that Jean didn't work anymore, "thank Heaven".

That wasn't an entirely true statement. Jean just wasn't working at the "Y" any more. She was, however, spending a great deal of time at her brother's store.

Her brother, Jim, owned a small store in "Holiday Village" trailer park on the northeast side of Flint. Jim's health was failing due to scerosis of the liver (he was a non-drinker), lupus, and hepatitis. (At the time he was diagnosed, he was one of 13 people in the world known to have the combination of these diseases.) He found it more and more difficult to manage working at the store. Jean spent more and more time there after she

quit working at the YWCA.

The store itself was a small mobile home that had been refurbished. The long, narrow store had a room in the back and a tiny bathroom, but the rest was essentially gutted. Shelves were built on both long walls and down the center of the trailer. Canned goods lined the walls seven shelves high on the right as one entered the door of the store. Six shelves of boxed foods lined the opposite wall. Refrigerated coolers and freezers were placed to the left of the door.

The first mention Cecil made of leasing the little market was on July 9. He noted, "Jim called, can have lease by paying trailer monthly payment...". On Sunday the 12th, Jean and Cecil had dinner at Jim's home. They discussed business. "... and we went to Jim's for dinner at 2... Chicken roasted outside the trailer, but eaten inside, as the weather has turned very cool! Very good dinner, too, and we stayed till 7 or so! Talking store afterward... Starts August 1, \$50 store payment; and the utilities, \$50 or so, and \$5 per month extra if the sales go to \$1600; \$1500 being base now... Jean will try out for a few months."

On August 1, the lease began. All involved met there and took inventory in sweltering ninety-seven degree temperatures. Then in September he and Jean met at Jim's with a man (a lawyer, presumably) named Russell Tuck. "He drew up the new contract, Jean taking over as of August 1st... \$1... inv. then was \$1200 retail, less 20% on retail, \$960.00... 20 there is the same as 25% on cost... Jim's figures the same as mine..."

From then on, the daily information recorded in Cecil's journal usually included how well the store did each day as well as his hours at Fisher Body. He also recorded

how much he spent at the places where he purchased his goods.

Car Talk

This was a bad year for Cecil's automobiles. In January, the thermostat on the Pontiac had to be replaced. Then the weather on the first or second day of the strike turned severely cold. The Pontiac would not start. Cecil had to take Jean into the "Y" in the Dart then later in the day primed it good and got her going.

It was not long after that when he got a ticket. He was fuming: "Oh, the injustice of the lady in the raincoat with that ticket book and the stupidity on my part! Why did I park in that loading zone at the 'Y' when I stopped there to pick up Jean's check? There was absolutely no need. I could have, should have, backed into that fifteen-minute space, too. It was empty! I ran in, collected the paper, and rushed right back to the Pontiac; then was I mad and upset when I saw her!" That evening he noted, "I remember tyrading on and on, finally charging the church with my contempt! That brought a sharp reply from Jean, and I subsided... but I had blood in my eye, and was determined to do what I could to oust those snoopers of the female cast; she was evidently waiting right there and started in as soon as I left my car. What littleness and lack of decency! It still makes my blood boil!"

It wasn't much later when the Dart jumped out of gear in his driveway as he and Jean were switching cars around before they headed to Shirley's. Jean backed out the Dart and Cecil did the same with the Pontiac. He pulled in and she returned to the driveway in front of him. He got into the Dart to drive, then noticed ice on the

windshield. Just as he was finishing scraping off the ice, the car lept forward, six feet, and struck the rear of the Pontiac. Apparently the brake had slipped off and it was in drive gear. Cecil was concerned about his lack of attention and what might have been: “My legs would have got it had I been in between and not time to jump aside; timing saved me.”

The next month, Cecil had an accident on Carpenter road, just East of River, with the Pontiac. It had snowed a couple of inches that morning and on his way to work he hit some ice. “It seemed,” he commented, that he “flew through the air, turning completely around, clockwise, and crossing the center of the pavement then slid until I hit a stump on the right side of the car near the middle. Then, an Oldsmobile coming west hit my rear left fender causing considerable damage and some to the right front of the Olds. My, was I shaken! I remember driving back to the trailer-store where Jean was working, but did not go in.”

In May, Cecil and Jean ordered a new Dodge... two-door, red. Three years to pay still seemed like a long time. Their payment was \$60 per month. He hated to part with the 1960 Dart, but “she had 70,000 miles on her, and there was just too much trouble ahead,” he thought. He described the day the new one was delivered: “...we got the call early in the morning and I got right up, half-awake. Jean and I cleaned out the old Dart and Alexander delivered the new one right away. After he drove off with the ‘60 Rusty got loose, so Jean, Lynn (we had been babysitting) and I got in the shiny new car and went searching. His little (dachshund) legs hadn’t taken him too far. Then Shirley came over and was surprised with the new vehicle. She loved it... drove it too.”

Just days before the new car was delivered, Cecil had another accident with the Pontiac. It hadn't been a good day at work. "The job irked," he noted, "especially toward the close of the shift. I cursed my fate not doing clerical work all my life, and was quite depressed. Leaving work, I was backing out of my parking space, and the brake must have failed. I tried to stop, but just panicked and kept my foot on the accelerator, hitting the opposite concrete parking curb then over the next one which stopped me. Was I shaky... I noticed a car had stopped in the lane for my dizzy doings! I vowed after that to never again use two feet when driving that car. I was 'down' the next day and cried for my weaknesses, but after having the brakes checked felt better, as no fluid was needed. I put off so many things. Why?"

Cecil ran out of gas near the end of the year, causing another bad day. He was on his way to work. It was particularly cold and he was running behind so he had to rush around and forgot to get gas even though he knew it was low. The trouble happened at Longway Boulevard by the IMA. Cecil put the car into neutral and she coasted almost to the Sinclair station, but wouldn't start in the road. The boys from the station pushed him in and with \$3 worth of gas and a jump start she roared. He called into work and went back to Jean's store for the rest of the day.

What strikes me as significant here is the amount of space in his journal Cecil devoted to these events. They were important to him. His automobiles were important to him. He described each event in detail, complete with all of the emotions he experienced at the time. The entries this year concerning his cars were more precise than any other.

Entertainment

Cecil and Jean managed to see a few movies in 1964. He mentioned seeing two movies at the theater. April 11 saw them spending two and a half hours watching How the West was Won. He noted Debbie Reynolds and Carol Baker and many other stars in the show. He thought the scenery was “great” and that he approved of the fine MGM color. In June he saw Bridge over the River Kwai at the Palace which he described as ‘good’. In July, they went back to the Palace to see Disney’s The Moon Spinners, “with my dear little Hayley Mills, English young girl. We saw her...” he recalled, “...last labor day in East Tawas in a rollicking play, this was fine too; she’s a doll, and in pink slacks that fitted shapely legs perfectly... I could renew my youth just looking at her.” The last movie he mentioned seeing that year played at the Capitol Theater. He thoroughly enjoyed The Unsinkable Molly Brown. They saw it for only \$1 each, and he rated it “very, very good! Debbie Reynolds was the star!”

Television was worth mentioning only in passing. He watched a few movies, but mentioned no names. He mentioned watching Jack Parr once, and the Miss Michigan and Miss America pageants, but that was it.

Jean and Cecil did see some live shows that year, including a concert by Roberta Peters at the IMA. In July, they visited the Chesaning Show Boat: “... drove to Clio for Show Boat tickets , none at drug store... we had supper at Walli’s, \$2, good, fish and chips and chicken! then out to Chesaning, nice drive and cool... luckily the man we asked

had 4 tickets left, we took two, \$5, best seats in the stands, middle up front! We sat on the blanket and waited until 7:30, then went in: Jean got a cushion for .25 and we draped the blanket over the backs of the chairs, and my seat, very comfortable. The show, starting at 8, and the boat coming around the bend at 9, was grand! We enjoyed it very much: after 11 when over.”

The bulk of his entertainment came from books, however. He mentioned many titles specifically, and visited the library often, at least once a week. His dream of climbing mountains was still very real to him although he was 64 years old. To this end, he was reading Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada by Clarence King, The Sierra by W. Storrs Lee, and Donner Pass by George R. Stewart in January. In February he mentioned reading Arthur Miller’s “powerful” play After the Fall in the POST.

February 17 was his mother’s birthday: “Mother’s birthday! 1868-1952... 84; would have been 96 this year! Bless her... Got up late reading Judas Tree! Had found it again! So good...” The Judas Tree by Neil H. Swanson, was, without a doubt, his favorite book. It was a love story, first published in 1933. Shirley believed the book appealed to Cecil because he was, in her words, “a sentimentalist at heart” (Shaw, Shirley). He mentioned reading it again February 22 until one AM. On March 7 he noted that he had received a letter that the book was out of print. He was looking for a hard-bound copy as he had a paperback edition purchased in 1955. (I remember his frustration with the library in 1979 concerning the book. He was still looking for a hard-bound edition of it, and the library had two copies. Considering that it had been first published in 1933, and neither copy of the book had been checked out for years, he

suggested they allow him to purchase one of the copies or let him know when one might be removed from the shelf. The Flint Public Library refused. After steaming about this seemingly illogical position for a while, Cecil eventually reported the book lost, paid his fine, and had his hard-bound copy.) April found him exploring R. Byrd's Alone, and in May he mentioned reading Wolfe's Life of Muir and deemed it "out of this world". A trip to the library in June yielded two texts, which he read until 4 AM that day: Gamow on Universe and a book he does not mention the title of by Thoreau, but it most likely was Walden. In September he mentioned reading The Sketch Book, volume two, and in early October mentioned renewing a book entitled Westward Tilt. As the year ended, he found himself once again reading The Judas Tree: "A marvelous book... nothing like it..." he reflected.

Religion

Cecil loved to get into arguments with my grandmother's brother Tom, although he often got quite "worked up" and that sometimes upset my grandmother. He would mention these debates and the reaction from Jean and often vowed to never participate again. That promise never lasted very long... usually only until Tom's next visit.

Cecil's views concerning religion were the biggest surprise to me as I explored all of the artifacts the family has retained connected with his life. He was a believer (although he infrequently attended church) and loved to explore the philosophical ideas connected to religion. He was a man of faith, one who believed that the only way to deal with the many mysteries of the universe was to put his faith in a higher being. He said,

“I am just trying to get away from the hopelessness that one has if you don’t believe in something.”



Thomas R. Nunn, Geneva’s brother and Cecil’s favorite philosophical adversary.

Tom was an extremely intelligent man and a professor at Purdue University. Their favorite issues were politics and religion. In December of 1960, my mother managed to hook up a reel - to reel recorder and record the middle of one of these conversations. Cecil mentions religion as well as these kind of debates with Tom and other family members quite often throughout his journals, and several examples are worth noting in 1964. A partial transcript follows, both to enlighten his religious views and show one of these debate sessions:

Cecil: Tom, religion is mystic, because you don't know; you know so little and me too; you know more than I do, you read, but Tom, you don't know why we're here, or anything. There are more mysteries right here on the end of my thumb if you could magnify that up there to last you for a hundred years, and you wouldn't know anything about it then.

Tom: I'm not a doctor, but there are plenty of people that can solve most of those mysteries that you have pointed out.

C: They have solved some things, but it's all like Isaac Newton said, it's just on the surface. The great ocean is way beyond us...

T: We have advanced a great deal since Isaac Newton's day.

C: Yes... but... aww... let's not get afraid of our knowledge, because it's a poor knowledge...

T: I will grant you that there are many, many questions that don't seem at the moment to be answerable, well maybe they never will be. But the point is this: that as far as any evidence we have is concerned... any evidence that could be accepted by anybody that is logical and reasonable and not impregnated with ideas that were just emotional reactions of his... as far as we can perceive, mankind is alone... on a planet whirling through what is for all practical purposes limitless space... life has risen on this planet through perfectly understandable laws which we now have the key to know.

C: We think we do.

T: We know the operation to a great extent but there is no evidence whatsoever of any interference with that process since the beginning of geological time. There is no implication that it will ever be interfered with...

C: That's right, too.

T: There is no evidence that man is in any way different from the rest of the universe. He is a part of it, conditioned by it, developed out of it, certainly.

C: Reliable...I'll agree with that.

T: And if he has any answers to his problems, and he has many problems, he will have to supply the answers himself. He has developed a certain kind of intelligence. He may, in the distant future... the next five hundred thousand years... develop a higher intelligence. I certainly hope he develops a better social intelligence than he has at the moment. He is at the moment handicapped by a whole string of dead weights that he carries along with him from the past... superstitions... ideas of personalized means that he is the center and the objective of the universe... that certain kinds of his religion is filled with

anachronisms of the type that eating this kind of meat or that kind of meat at certain times or doing this or washing his hands the wrong way will bring about an irritation of the divine powers that made the universe, and so on and so forth. All of which prevent him from looking coldly and logically at his problems and attempting to understand what they are and working toward their solution. So far as he has discarded those things, he has made progress. So far as he has hung on to them, he has failed to make progress.

C: Sometimes, yes.

* * *

T: You can not start out from the wrong basis of thought and come out with the right answer. You can't assume that two and two are five and work out mathematical problems correctly.

C: No, but neither can you change things...

T: They are changing, changing subtly, and actually, what is happening to religion is that it is withering on the vine. There are a lot of people in the churches, but those people don't believe in religion very much. The churches are social institutions.

C: But it would be better if they did.

T: One of the organizations that Jesus, if he were here on earth could not belong to would be the Christian church. He would have no part of such an organization.

* * *

C: Tom, all you said, though, doesn't dispose of the basic question that we know anything about. I say, just like you, that on the surface, I say, I agree with you, I say, that's just what it looks like from a rational, scientific viewpoint. But that's just part of one's concept and attitude... that's just one part. It doesn't prove a thing and the only reason, Tom, that you, and me, too, can't commune with anyone higher up, is because we're so little.

T: If there is an intelligence that pervades the universe, and is on that scale, that while I cannot talk to it, it would seem it would seem to find a way to communicate with me.

C: You're on much firmer scientific foundation in 1960 than there were back in Gallaleo's time, I agree to that, infinitely more knowledge has been produced... knowledge... I mean truths, scientific... but that doesn't mean that you've arrived...

* * *

T: For what is wrong with the world there is no way of escaping logically the

responsibility of God. There is another little poem by Thomas Hardy in which he pictured an individual traveling through space... traveling through space to the center of the universe and up to the throne of God. And God said, "where did you come from?" and he said, "I come from the world." God said, "the world... the world... man... and God said, I've forgotten all about you." I can't conceive of an intelligence that could permit...

C: I am just trying to get away from the hopelessness that one has if you don't believe in something.

T: I'm not hopeless.

* * *

T: If you read the actual words of Jesus... you read the Thomas Jefferson Bible. You will read that Jesus said a great deal about the kingdom of God which is in the hearts of man, but very, very little about any other world.

* * *

T: (The concept of heaven is) wishful thinking on the part of people who are very narrow-minded. I admit, I have no great desire for it. I admit that illogically, emotionally, a person does, he wants to see again those who have gone before, and so on... but you have that fear, and I recognize that that is a human feeling. We have to recognize that in this world there is separation. We live, we grow, we mature, and we pass on... and that is all to the good... we play our part, and we play it as well as we can, and that's it. There's no point... I can't see it. Religion is wrong in that it fosters a narrow and a selfish viewpoint. It separates man from man.

* * *

C: But Tom, just one little word... I was telling you about the universe... I never thought it was created... now that's just my opinion...I just thought it has just always been here. Well, all right, when I talk about God, to me, God is just a mystery... undefinable... you want to speak of it... it's plural, it's singular, it's one, it's a million. There is no word you can put down of any kind... it's just mystery, but it's infinite mystery. That's what I'm talking about. And, listen, here, me, with all my knowledge in the 20th century, 1960, I say what little I got, it's just, it isn't an end... it's just a little bit. It's better, maybe, in some fields, a lot better than what they had in the dark ages... but it's not the end. You cannot speak authoritatively on those subjects... even probably for the church. But it has set a precedent through the years, and it has built up in peoples' minds, a sort of a longing, and you can't break it in a minute, you can't destroy it... you see little children toddling off here to mass, all dressed up, walking to the Catholic church and you might say, "Oh, that's terrible..." what might they better be doing than that, Tom? What would be better?

T: Lots of things.

In February, after noting the poor state of health Jean's brother Jim was enduring, he noted, "I am so fortunate to be so well, and at my age, 63! I sense that it is better for the individual to BELIEVE, have a FAITH, even though he is somewhat indifferent to TRUTH. And what is truth? There are many different versions... I hope to acquire a better attitude... with God's help."

At the end of the month, he recorded some observations: "Think the universe is governed by LAW, mathematical in its invariability! God, while of course so great as to be not subject to definition, is the consciousness of law, the center, the essence of the whole. Dominating, as it were, the sense, yet not individually entering into commitments of decision. The sequence of events, while each effect is based on a preceding cause, allow the person a free will before the action takes place. But mathematical necessity of the set-up precludes the breaking of the law!"

After his accident in March where he spun around on the ice he was very upset. Two days after the accident, he was still disturbed: "A terrible mental morning! Prayed, and felt better after this..." In April, he recorded an argument similar to one of the ones he mentioned in his 1960 discussion with Tom: "God can't be infinite, as the term is used in math... but what are we to judge at all, being so little!"

Cecil mentioned attending church occasionally, often at Woodside Church in Flint in 1964. He often mentioned going there because my mother was singing. He wrote a letter to Dr. Franklin Elmer, Woodside's minister in January praising his sermons. They

went often enough to receive a call from Dr. Elmer in November inviting them to a meeting for those considering membership in the church. They were at church that Sunday but didn't stay for the meeting.

Family



Judy, Cecil, Geneva, and Shirley Westervelt in July, 1956 at Geneva and Cecil's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary celebration.

There were more entries about family matters than any other subject in 1964. Jean and Cecil's first grandchild (me), had been born the year before, so many visits were made to Richard and Shirley's to visit. Either my parents visited my grandparents or they visited us twice per week, on average. Significant events in Cecil's family life in 1964 included four funerals, two weddings, and many family visits and short trips. He spent a significant amount of time concerned with their daughter Judy as she continued her

studies at Michigan State University. Cecil also chronicled typical chores and responsibilities he held at home.

There were four deaths of family members mentioned... Stewart White, Dee's husband's brother, died in Florida in an automobile accident in January, then Glenn Nunn, Jean's cousin, died in February from a heart attack. Jean and Cecil drove to Hale for the funeral. More significantly, Jean's sister, Alta, died that year, in July. She had a stroke the first part of the month, then passed away on the 23rd. "Hospital called Pauline (Alta's daughter), she us; Alta much worse. We went right over, they came soon. She died around 1:00 to 1:15 PM... poor soul... no more suffering." The preparations for the funeral were also laid out: Sat. July 25: "Judy took Dee (Jean and Alta's sister) downtown to get a new dress... Tom and Thelma not here yet... soon... Funeral 1 PM Monday. No Sunday funerals here, Union as to grave digging. Tom came at 3, alone... went to parlor, very nice there... many came in evening." The next day, Tom picked up Thelma (his wife) who had apparently stayed with Dee then went to Reigle Funeral home while Cecil and Jean did laundry. The funeral was the next day at 1 PM. "We drove to Flushing and all got in line there of the close relatives... over in time so I went to work, 8.7 hours!" Then in December, Walter, Richard's father, passed away. Jean and Cecil were friends of Walter and Lena's as Lena and Jean had worked together at the "Y" for many years. Cecil was not particularly thrilled with the sermon, it was "too wordy, not our style" he commented.

The cycle of life continues, and with the bad there also came the good. Cecil mentioned two weddings that year... Tom, Jean's nephew, married that August, and Nila

Tosto, a friend of Judy's , married in November. "We went to wedding of Nila Tosto, at Episcopal church on Saginaw, 7:30.. to Tolley, Ed . Reception at Paradise Hall on Associate Drive off Hemphill, big and good. cool... waited quite a time for supper, 9:30. Danced with Jean and a polka with Judy! She said I did fine - first attempt."

They loved to travel. Cecil was always restless to explore. They would often make short trips with the purpose of visiting relatives. In April, they drove to LaPorte, Indiana to visit Tom. On Memorial Day they drove to Hale where many other relatives had also gathered to tend to the family graves. After much visiting, they drove home the same day. In June, on Flag day, they also took a day to explore some small towns in the "thumb" ... Snover, Upley, Argyle, and Bad Axe. In August, Jean and Cecil took an extended weekend and headed for the northern part of the lower peninsula. They visited Claire, Gaylord, East Jordan, and Charlevoix, taking pictures all the way with the new "Charge-o-Matic" camera they had purchased at the Yankee store for \$51.29. Then they traveled to the Soo, Batchawana Bay, and Wawa in Canada, visiting a uranium mine along the way. On the return trip, they explored St. Ignace and Mackinaw City then stayed in Indian River (their fourth night on the trip). They made it home the next day after having breakfast in Grayling. Their last trip that year was in October to see the colorful trees. They traveled through Burt, St. Louis, and Alma.

Judy was at Michigan State University, and typically, he noted the \$5 here and the \$15 there that he sent or gave to her. She would ride the bus to Flint regularly or Jean and Cecil would take a drive to East Lansing to visit. She was struggling with school a bit, and that worried him. In May she danced with a group from the University on

television, and in the summer she worked at the El Rancho restaurant. Unfortunately, she was fired in July for spilling some coffee on the owner's table!

Cecil had his jobs around the house. He often cooked his own dinner (usually a pot pie) on the days Jean was working all day at the store, and he often mentioned doing the laundry with comments like this one in August: "I did this and that, and had washed the big washing before and hung all out to dry." Cecil also took care of the lawn mowing duties. Their house on Granville Street was in the city of Flint, so the yard was not very large and Cecil had always cut it with a push mower... I can recall it quite clearly: it was made of metal, had a shaft made from two tubes of steel that separated and branched into a handle at the top where two bicycle grips were placed on the ends. The shaft connected to the long, curved blades which turned to blurry shadows when Grandpa made it move. The family had been pressuring Cecil to purchase a new power mower. He was hesitant, but made a decision in May: "I filed the mower good, and cut part of the front lawn, worked fine there- the rear is another matter! Both Jean and Shirley tell me to buy a power mower, \$40 or so... guess I shall have to..." He thought he would try Jim's mower, although the self-propelling mechanism was broken. Two days later, he drove Jean to the store and brought back Jim's mower. He cut the back lawn: "got the self-p to work, but stalled the motor a lot and it was hard to re-start; so I cussed and vowed no motor for me! It was set too low, and I did change... took back and got Jean at 2 PM. After that, he mentioned using the old mower once, having repaired it on May 31: "Up at 11 and cut some grass; fixed the mower good this time, I hope, wired tires on and another screw, both wheels turn the cutters." After that, however, he never mentioned cutting the grass

himself again that year. He often mentioned paying a man named Louie \$1 to do it.



Shirley, Richard, Zilla (Dee), Jean, Lena, Walter, and “Lynn”
on her first birthday.

The message that was obvious more than any other in 1963 and has been a constant theme each year, was that Cecil loved his family. He mentioned them often, and forgave easily, even when his eight month old granddaughter destroyed a floor lamp: (from March 7): “Shirley brought Lynn here... pulled the floor lamp over and shade fell and hit side of right eye, slight broken skin! She’s a doll.” He was not perfect, however, and acknowledged his resentment that Shirley’s dog Rusty did not go with her when she married Richard. On Wednesday, December 16 he went to East Lansing to get Judy for Walter’s funeral. She bought some new hose at Knapp’s, “put them on in the restroom at restaurant where we stopped. Then Rusty jumped on her when we came in the kitchen and a run in them. Made me put out...” Three days later, he was still frustrated with

Rusty. He had had a bad day, getting angry at a bank teller for requiring an address under his signature on a check he was cashing. "... very upset and nervous... Lay down and they (Jean and her friend Lois) put Rusty in. Richard and Shirley brought the tables and Rusty threw a fit, and I lay there with violent thoughts in my heart towards Rusty and all concerned with his being here. I got up at 3:30 and went in (to work), glad to get out of the house!" The image I like best from this year is the image that seems most characteristic of the man. It concerns a trip to East Lansing to see Judy dance. "Nice bright, and warm day. Fine trip. got gas... missed the gym at first then found it, 2:07 PM, but it was 2:45 before the demonstrators got started, others dancing at first, was fine. Judy had red skirt and white blouse, she made herself... dances intricate and great. At the intermission, Jean got me an ice cream sandwich, hungry as but one slice of toast! They changed dresses to the green trim for the second half, very fine. Judy the best and cutest!"

1965

Demonstrations were taking place all over the country protesting the war in Vietnam. President Johnson appropriated \$46,900,000,000 of the budget for defense. The Medicare program was passed. The first US walk in space took place and two Gemini capsules met in space in preparation for the first manned trip to the moon. Early Bird, the first commercial communications satellite, was up and running. A spectacular comet named Ikeya-Seki lit up the sky. The trend in clothing was sexual ambiguity although for women at more formal occasions skirts were worn two inches above the knee and blouses were ruffled at the neck and wrists. Young men grew their hair to shoulder-length, and girls wore bangs. Books published this year included *A Thousand Days* by Arthur M. Schlesinger and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

Timeline

(Source: The American Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates, p.628-635)

- January 1: The University of Michigan beat Oregon State in the Rose Bowl 34-7.
- January 4: T.S. Eliot, poet died
- January 12: Lorraine Hansberry, playwright, died
- January 20: Lyndon B. Johnson was inaugurated president of the United States
- February 3: 105 cadets resigned after admitting to cheating on examinations at the Air Force Academy.

February 13: Sixteen-year-old Peggy Flemming won the women's U.S. figure skating championships.

February 15: Nat "King" Cole, musician, died.

February 16: A plot to dynamite the Statue of Liberty, Liberty Bell, and the Washington Monument was discovered before any harm was done.

February 21: Malcolm X was assassinated.

February 23: Stan Laurel, comedian, died.

March 8-9: The first U.S. combat forces in Vietnam (3500 marines) were deployed in South Vietnam.

March 20: UCLA won the NCAA basketball championship by defeating Michigan 91-80.

March 21-25: Over 3200 persons joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on a march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

March 23: Gemini 3, the first manned Gemini flight, was successfully launched.

April 5: Academy Awards were presented. *My Fair Lady* was the big winner, receiving awards for best picture and Rex Harrison as best actor. Julie Andrews won best actress for *Mary Poppins*.

April 11: Jack Nicklaus won the Masters golf tournament by nine strokes.

April 11: Thirty-seven tornadoes swept through the midwest, killing 271 people and injuring 5000.

April 29: The complete desegregation of the nation's public school districts, required by 1967, was announced by the commissioner of education.

June 13: *Fiddler on the Roof* was named best musical at the Tony awards.

June 17: The first Mass bombing raid in the Vietnam war was accomplished by American B-52's on a Vietcong concentration 30 miles north of Saigon.

July 28: President Johnson announced that there would be increased troops in South Vietnam (from 75,000 to 125,000). He also doubled the number of men drafted from 75,000 to 125,000.

August 11-16: Watts, a black section of Los Angeles, California, was the site of riots caused by the stopping of a black man by a white police officer. The officer suspected that the black man was driving drunk. Thirty-five persons were killed and there was \$200,000,000 in damage.

August 31: Destruction of a draft card was made a crime.

September 9: Sandy Koufax pitched a perfect baseball game for the Los Angeles Dodgers against the Chicago Cubs.

September 11: Deborah Bryant from Kansas won the Miss. America pageant.

September 24: A new Panama Canal Treaty to replace the 1903 treaty was agreed to which gave joint control over the area.

Oct 4: Pope Paul VI visited New York City to address the UN General Assembly on world peace. During the visit, he celebrated a mass in Yankee Stadium.

October 6-14: The Los Angeles Dodgers won the World Series.

October 28: The Gateway arch in St.Louis, Mo. was completed.

November 27: An Anti-War demonstration in Washington, D.C. was conducted by over 15,000 people.

1964 end, and Year 1965

#333

Dec. 31: There also... Early at Carl's as we left after finding out the status of Rose City elders... Home and FF, now
12:24... Judy to Adler's... Fat in for difference in store accounts, I \$20.15; Jean bal., \$12.00... ??? Going to keep accounts more accurately, as our I meant; bringing down a balance daily....

January 1965

Fri. 1: New Year's Day. Up and took inventory at store; went well as Jean had many items counted and slips ready for listing. I entered in I book, and Jean counted; Richard over at I and helped with penny candy and bottles... Thru soon and to 31's for dinner and a while. Lena also. Lynn fine....

Sat. 2: Paid \$25 on OCBatic Thru's... And we at store, then Judy, and after 8 we went to E's with Owen, or bread oven, then to Gap for show, toy... \$42.50. not so good but a crowd; then out and pie at Big boy's, and home... Bed late. 1:30 AM! Had been downtown after I and I had washed away to Revco for med., and ate at H. Johnson's as they made it up, 32.... Good....

Sun. 3: Colder... But sun out. In bed till near 12... Very tired. We took down the tree and cleaned the carpet... Judy got ready, and Jeff called. Terry back and picked up Judy for a half hour! ???... Terry took Judy to K I, so we didn't need to go. 6:30, main; lots of room... We have watched TV, Walt Disney hour, good, Maryland. Now he had. 9:30... Kind of down now. Have given Judy her fumes! 2 checks: 1 for \$109.25 to BCU; 1 for \$40 to Mrs. Amanda Beall, 430 N.A. C. St., and \$50 in cash (\$20 for books; \$15 for her next week's food; etc... Total about \$200.... We did not go, as Jeff came and took Judy over in evening... Tired so better. To bed early...

Mon. 4: Up and to store at 9 as Jean sick. She stayed in bed all day, and Fat took over at I, and BILL B with G and J help.... We worked 8 hrs., 5 to 1:30... Got blank... and got tired at last as did not take the g p... My last night for some time. Sick leave....

Tues. 5: Jean went in at 9 as better... I slept till after 12... Jean came home at 1 or so; we went to warehouse and got groc... \$120.... Marked and wrote up cash prices, etc... till 8:30.... Then a bit tired... To bed early....

Wed. 6: I opened up at 9... Jean worked around house, better.... She came over at 12, and got dinner. I came home at past one, and got dinner, coffee (GHR) at IF... and stopped at dentist's, he took some off middle lower... Been very sore.... Now to shave and back soon to store. Getting things in line, lower on some, prices IE...

Nineteen-Sixty-Five was a quiet year for the Westervelts. Most of their time was spent working hard at "Pat's Pantry". As a matter of fact, the most entries made in Cecil's journal concerned the store. The second most frequent type of entry mentioned family matters. Jim, Jean's brother, died in February after a long illness. Judy was a concern this year, as she was still attending Michigan State University but not making acceptable grades.

Technology was creeping, sometimes unwanted, into the lives of Cecil and Jean. Television seemed to become the major form of entertainment in the Westervelt household; toward the end of the year, they purchased a brand-new color set. Cecil found himself mowing his lawn with a power mower when it was working.

Cecil spent quite a bit of time painting again this year, this time outside, (both the house and the store) when the weather was warm. Health was a concern for Cecil in December as he underwent surgery.

Work

New Year's Day, 1965 set the example for the rest of the year: "New Year's Day. Up and took inventory at store, went well as Jean had many items counted and slips ready for listing. I entered in I (inventory) book, and Jean counted; Richard over at 3 and helped with penny candy and bottles... Thru soon and to S's (Shirley's) for dinner and a while. Lena also. Lynn fine...". This typical entry pretty much summed up 1965 for the rest of the year. The Westervelts' lives centered around the running of the store and family matters. Cecil was on disability from Fisher and Jean had quit working at the YWCA the previous year. Because he was 65, Cecil was receiving Social Security, (about \$120 per month) but he still had concerns about money.

In the middle of January, they changed the store hours at the store, opening one half hour later at 9:30AM and then closing one half hour later at 8:30PM. At that time, Cecil went on sick leave from Fisher Body due to high blood pressure. He worked his last day there on Monday, January 4.

It was unusual to hear him speak of work in positive tones, although he was much happier working at the store than he had ever been at Fisher. January 15 was a good day: “To store at 9:30... put out bottles, and we had eggs and toast; then I left for Fisher, Union hall and groceries... all went well. Got check, last, \$23... left badge; and at Union I learned I can file for SS (social security) at once: got \$33 in groceries, more candy, etc. fun! Then to Met Bldg. and made out form; will get \$117.90 for last October, then \$118.90 or so for Jan 1965 and on till I die! Fine... so a good deal, with the \$65 or so while out on s (sick) leave too! Sure pleased. Could hardly wait to get back and tell Jean!”

His sick leave was extended by his doctor, Dr. Brenholz, at the end of the month until March 1 or longer. His first Social Security check arrived on February 11 after he had returned from “Arlans” (a discount department store) with boxes of valentines to resell at their store (2 large, 5 small... he purchased the small box for 19 cents then would resell for 39 cents). The check was for \$227, supposedly for the previous October as well as January of 1965.

Although this money was a help, Cecil was still concerned about finances. He noted on February 14, simply, “need more money”. On March 1, Cecil saw the doctor again, receiving a sick leave renewal form until April 1. “Hope I get it, this will be the final one, likely...” was his comment. A few days later, his money concerns showed up again as his check from Fisher Body arrived. “Check from Fisher, \$65 in mail tonight; so another month is assured! sure helps, those weekly checks of \$65. What shall I do without them?”

On March 16, something got him down. He wrote an entry on the seventeenth, but then didn't make another entry until the 27th. This was extremely unusual for him. On the 16th he noted that he had written Ottawa, Canada for information on "... BC and Alta... mountains!" I suspect that the thought of his inability to climb these mountains, possibly due to his blood pressure, along with some car problems on the next day may have put him in a slight depression for a while. "Wed. 17th: St. Patrick's Day! Storm, Jean went home and when she returned it was getting strong: I left and came home...storm was very bad... I rested for an hour or so, and went out and did I have trouble with the Dart! On Lyndon, the front wheels locked, froze, and rear slid to curb, and pushes did no good; I had to come home, get hot water, a second time; finally put dirt all around all 4 wheels, after shoveling the snow down to pavement. This broke the ice in drum. I hosed the drums with hot water, and still had a bit of delay, nearly frantic; called Carl, to tell Jean, which he did; but shortly later I backed out and got to store with no trouble; had called Shirley, walked to station on corner... a new thing for me." He may have been disturbed that he called his daughter for help.

On Saturday, March 27, he resumed his journaling, and blamed his omissions on a bad attitude: "Don't know just why, but see I have not entered anything in Diary since the 17th! Guess the storm and trouble kept me low; in fact I haven't been so well of late: bad attitude, that is! But there is really no good excuse for this long omission... Today is quite nice: sun out and warmer, much melting." He noted later on that day that he had taken another form from work to his doctor the previous Thursday so his disabled status would continue through May.

Work continued without many unusual or noteworthy occurrences for Cecil at the store for the next few months. He and Jean made regular trips to the grocery warehouse, bread stores, egg farms, and Luddington Press for inventory. Jean worked behind the counter most days, with occasional help from a few others when she was feeling poorly. Cecil would visit the store several times a day, working for a while then doing errands, then going home for a nap, only to return again in the afternoon to assist with closing down the shop for the day. He had a busy day on May 14, and it summed up most of his typical business activities in 1965: "Up at 6:30, and to U (United Warehouse?) for groceries... \$176... stopped for coffee, tea and d (doughnuts) in restaurant, then got 5-10 lb. sacks of Maine potatoes, cost \$.95! Sell for \$1.10! Rosen. wanted more! ...busy day. As marking, and Jean left and got Lois for eggs... then Lois helped pack them in dozens... and I took her home, she got 8 doz. eggs... I left eggs and cheese in home refrig. then made deposit up and left for S. Dort: got med (medication) for Jean; made deposit, and got the meat in a bag, \$3, special \$.25 each, and left bottles, \$1... Mags on way back... OK... Busy day, \$100 plus in end... Jean called and talking with Shirley; about Judy... 9:30 to 10:00... mailed sales tax, \$80.42..."

May seventh, he noted a new product: "...\$100 day at store. Mountain Dew from Pepsi is very good, a new one."

At the end of that month, it turned hot, so Cecil decided that the store needed an air conditioner. He purchased it on May 20th: "Got the Westinghouse Air Conditioner... \$117 net. Heavy, but carried to car... OK...". Although it was raining lightly, Richard came over and helped Cecil install it on Sunday, May 16: "Light rain.

But Dick came over and we two put in the Air C. Took all day, and then dinner at S's (Shirley's)... and back to straighten up things... went fine, and Dick cut through the metal siding with Lin. knife... Fine. Works OK, but rather small for the store... (although) so cool at first I lighted the pilot so Jean would have heat!" It would not work well for long, however. "Mon. 24: ...I washed end of store and then when dry enameled the 2nd coat. Looks fine: found an outlet box right under the A.C. and it ran OK and cooled down to 80! But about dark out went the lights on 2 circuits! I put in fuse and spark jumped across to left row of plugs; I pulled plug on AC and then with third fuse all light back on and OK rest of night but no AC... Jean thot (sic) of Ward, so we called him when we got home: he will be over tomorrow PM. But suggested we not use AC...". The next day the problems continued with the air conditioning. He also went to the doctor who advised that he apply for permanent disability: "Hot today, and no cooling! Put AC on but out went the fuses an hour or two later on! Put up the awning at end keeping out the sun so helped. Went down to see Dr. B at 12, but late as store clock had stopped and lost time! Went to bank and got adapter and came back; hot; went down again at 2, and he was in. He wants me to apply for permanent disability, as b. pressure 164, 170 at high. Ward didn't come till 7 or so with Pauline: tried it and it soon blew as before. Circuits overloaded with AC; and in fact too much without, as too warm the fuses, etc. Explained a way out perhaps with a meter or fuse box and run a double #12 cable to it and it connected to other, and hot wires tapped, he will do this?" Wednesday May 26 brought a tornado warning and a trip to Sears and Advance Electric for wire and a wall box to make the extra circuit for the air

conditioner. On June first, Ward returned. "...Ward and Pauline came around 8, and he put in the box and connected up the new circuit for Air C., and it worked fine! Gave him cigars, D. Masters \$.67; six Mountain Dew. And Jean candy and things for children."

After the new fuse box was installed, things settled back into more of a routine for a while. His doctor filled out the form for permanent disability on June 1. He continued painting the outside of the store, finishing that off on June 13 as he painted the front steps brown.

Other than this small frustration with money, it seemed all was well (with business, at least) until September 21: "... at 4:20 the lights went out and smoke and fire behind fuse box. Got out and called Pratt Elec. at Davison at Office, he came just before 6 and connected up so lights and all. Except air cond... needs bigger wire! Tomorrow will come back and fix... some time we had in dark with flashlight and customers! ...If this had started in the night, good night!!!! Shows the danger of taking a chance; wires should have been fixed when Jim set it up; and we should have when air conditioner was installed... luck..." the next day, Pratt Electric came by and installed the three-wire cable for \$25. Cecil figured it was a good deal considering all that had to be done.

Other than a recurring problem with the lock on the front door of the store (it broke and had to be repaired or replaced at least three times from September through December) the only other unusual thing that occurred for the rest of the year was a

strike by many of the local bakeries. He found himself traveling as far as Saginaw to purchase bread for his customers.

Money

Nearly every day, Cecil recorded how much money they took in. He categorized a busy day at the store as a day where they did over \$100 in business. Their daily intake ranged from \$75 to \$180.91 in 1965. On their biggest day (July 9), Cecil noted a profit of \$53 after all bills for that day were paid.

Their other income included \$113.00 social security per month which increased to \$122/month in October and Cecil's disability payments (\$65/month). He was informed in April that his pension would be \$156.30 per month upon his retirement after ten years at Fisher Body.

At that time, they owed about \$4000 on the store, as he noted on April 26. They averaged about \$125 per week in inventory purchases at the warehouse, not including bread, magazines, pop, and eggs. They purchased these things separately. Eggs, he noted, were costing about \$.45 a dozen.

Judy's tuition at Michigan State was being paid by her biological grandfather, but Jean and Cecil were paying for her rent (\$50-55/month) and spending money (\$15 per week).

Cecil mentioned the prices of many items they purchased that year.

Movie:	\$2-\$3
Haircut:	\$1.50
Midas Muffler:	\$16.00
Dinner at Howard Johnsons (apparently for four)	\$7.28
Lunch at Walli's restaurant:	\$2

Pie at Walli's restaurant	
(a big piece but overpriced, in his opinion)	\$.35
Three shares GM common stock (June 11)	\$99/share
Dinner at Bill Knapp's (for four)	\$9.52/\$.25 tip
Carry - Out Fish and Chips	\$1.19
13 mile ride on the Dunes near Traverse City	\$2 per person
3 years fire insurance on store	\$35
Blouse and "All-Weather" Coat for Shirley's birthday	\$17
Zenith Color Television w/new aerial	\$500
Dinner for one at Colonel's (Kentucky Fried Chicken)	\$2.86
Payment to two young boys for shoveling snowy driveway	\$2

He found himself frustrated with finances every once in a while, and made this brief entry in early June: "Fri. 4: ...then I went to bank with deposit, and paid \$85 mtg. (?) out of SS (social security) check, \$113.80. Dam payments!" "Thurs. 10: Busy day indeed! left for Clio at 10 and got car checked: oil changed, #30; new filter; then at 12 I drove to Farm and got 40 doz. large eggs, \$16... back and lunch and they tuned the motor, new plugs, E Autolite; points and cond., etc. \$33 ouch!"

Family Concerns



The Nunn Family, 1939. Back row: Alta Michael, Tom Nunn, Zella White, Jim Nunn, Geneva Westervelt. Front: Ellen and Edwin Nunn.

Birthday parties and weddings, deaths and births, short vacations and \$1.50 hair cuts consumed much of what Cecil recorded concerning his family in 1965.

Judy turned twenty-one that year on February 7. There was a party at Shirley's house as Richard's birthday was on the fourth. "Jean has been busy all forenoon making the cake, etc. Later: had good time and fine dinner: candles for both J and Dick. Lynn fine; Jean took some color pictures with flash."

A less happy event occurred that same month as Jean's brother Jim passed away. "Fri. 19: Colder. ...Jim in pain today; then worse in evening; and passed away around 9PM. We went to H (hospital), he had just died; Carl said G (Gladys, his wife) had wanted us to come, we had just left the store for her trailer. Poor Jim, sure tried bravely to live and carry on, always..." The next few days were difficult as family arrived from out of town and gathered at the funeral home. The funeral was on Monday the 22nd in Vassar, MI. "Drove to E.L. and got Judy at 12:30; we stopped in restaurant, Birch Run Road, for light lunch. Got to V (Vassar) at 2:20. Funeral at 2:30! Burial in Tuscola cemetery, just across the Cass and up a bit from Jim's old home there! Very cold. Zero this morning, bitter wind! Dinner at Jim (Jr.) and Shirley's afterward; many there, then home and we took Judy back... (to East Lansing)."

March 28 brought a family dinner, a strong drink, and talk of divorce in the family. "Went to church, then we all went to J's (possibly Howard Johnson's) for lunch on Dort. Nice day. Home and then to Fenton, where Zella (Jean's sister) had dinner for all... then Dick made drinks, and I had a too strong one: it upset me! I could feel the alcohol to my toes! A (Aaron) and M (Marnie) and Stef came over; and Tom

called Zella after others had left, and then talked with Jean... six weeks till divorce.”

Tom’s daughter Betty Lou was divorcing her husband, Bob. Tom and Thelma did not think that Bob was “good enough” for Betty. This caused Betty to break from her parents. According to Shirley, Cecil, at one point, wrote a letter to Betty encouraging her to be on speaking terms with them (her parents) and when Tom found out about the letter he was not happy with Cecil. Betty and her parents did eventually begin speaking again and the continued interference seemed to be the cause of the divorce.

After dealing (unsatisfactorily) with some car problems on Thursday, April 8, Cecil decided to take a drive, alone. The following introspective narrative was related: “...partly on this account and as because I was ‘down’ a bit, I drove out Stanley Rd. then south on Elms to Carpenter and by the old white house where C., Mabel and girls lived in 1930, etc. H (house) run-down, many new modern houses nearby, one being built just east and south of Carpenter... New Senior school in NE Flushing, west of Deland Rd. Where I turned south to the cemetery, and easily found the substantial reddish stone for both Mabel and Charlie; 1890-1951; 1880-1957. How change takes place: leaves one with a sad feeling! But all MUST die to make room for the new generations... West and then north on to McKinley to Vienna Rd., a pretty route, orchards to the west and east of the oxbowing Flint River! One can see so far at this time of the year. With no foliage on the trees! I was thinking now of having coffee and a d (doughnut) in Montrose... which I did. A little shop-bakery on north side of the main street. Other restaurants closed. Several men came in informally while I was there. The atmosphere so relaxed from the pace of big city modernity! I think of the

little store Pa had at Taft in the early part of this 20th century - - 1905-1927; then mother ran a short time afterward. And I foolishly, I saw afterward, urged her to close out and come to Rose City to live with me (make a home for lonesome Cecil, it amounted to...) She was but 59 in age and liked Taft. why, oh why, can't we see these things at the time and do as we should??? Then I returned to Flint via Seymour Rd., and thru Flushing, where the high school busses were turning onto Main St. and forcing travel to stop..."

His introspective mood continued on April 11. He and Jean defrosted a freezer in the store, and while the ice was melting, they took a drive. "...took Bray rd. as we thot bridge crossable, but it wasn't. so we drove in to cemetery to see Tom's grave; then on east south of Cass to Vassar. Lunch in restaurant there, chicken s's (sandwiches) and drinks... then back to Tuscola, and got 50 doz. eggs at S's (Shellhouse). Then to F (?) and west, then a mile west, went south on a new paved road, later west to Dixie... back to memorial cemetery on Dort; and to Mausoleum... fine... that is, an architectural great... Arch has a place with name on, and P and wife... inside; beautiful construction. Costly too of course, for those buying a space! Jean fears the ground; wish I could afford such a place for her when she needs it; we hope many years hence... Back to store and cased the eggs; then brought 25 cases home and stored in refig. Ice case was all defrosted and water deep, which we bailed out and dried; then turned on the current; will put the ic (ice cream) in tomorrow morning. Home, and it looks like rain."

Cecil noted the birth of a niece in May and also painted the house that month in-between visits to see Judy in East Lansing and dinners with Shirley and Richard. At the

end of the month, the Westervelts took their trip to the Hale area on May 30 and 31 which was Memorial day. He visited his old home in Taft and was saddened: "... down the Taft road: Sibley's not home; I walked in and around an auto road and back out our big gate: what a change! The trees are gigantic! The roof is or has fallen in on north part! The house is a wreck, windows gone, glass broken, and a big limb of tree across the roof of where Pa's bedroom was, pressing roof down... Terrible."

June brought the news that Shirley was expecting another child in February: "S expecting in Feb. 1966, I think...". His birthday was June 24, but the party celebrating his 65th year was on Sunday, the 27th. It was ninety-four degrees outside, so the party was held under the arms of the great willow tree in the back yard in the evening. He noted that afternoon that Jean was "...working like mad for my birthday party, cake and all... but nice of her...".



Rusty the daschound in the backyard on Granville Street.

Rusty was a rust-colored daschound. He was apparently Shirley's dog, but somehow never ended up going with her when she and Richard married. I don't think

Cecil cared much for the little guy. He thought he had gotten rid of him in early June when Judy took him to Lansing with her: "...she (Judy) left with Rusty and his things...". He was disappointed, however, the next day: "Jean called her (Judy) this morning early. Can't keep Rusty in apartment so may leave with friend till week-end; hell!". Rusty continued to plague Cecil in October and November as he and Jean found themselves making four more trips to the veterinarian for "stomach problems" by the end of the year.

In July, they took a trip with Jean's sister, Zella (whom we all called Aunt Dee) for four days. He noted visiting such places as Goodrich, Owen sound, Collingwood, Parry Sound Sutton, Stimcoe Lake, and Toronto. In September, they walked the Macinaw bridge on Labor day. In September, they traveled to Indiana to Jean's brother Tom's home for a short visit.

Early December brought surgery for Cecil. He was in the hospital from December 3 to December 11, but it didn't take him long to continue his journaling. He noted that Shirley had taken him to the hospital, because Jean was ill. Shirley remembers that he was concerned about her plans to name her child Kelly if the baby turned out to be female. He straightforwardly told her that he wasn't too fond of the name, and he wished that she would consider finding a better one. His entry for December 14 follows: "Shirley took me in Fri. the 3rd, Flint Osteopathic : 1:30PM. They took blood sample, urine, and Xray of chest, I paid the latter, \$5. Many visitors: Kay and Dave, gave nice flower baket; Ward and Pauline; magazine; Lena, nice artificial flowers, sleigh; Shirley live plants and flowers. Bea and Al came. All before

operation. It... was to be 12:30 (Monday the 3rd); put ahead to 10:30 or so, and Jean didn't get there with Shirley and Dick, till I was coming back... got along good... Jean over every day, so good... Out Sat. the 11th around or before 11 AM... feel fine."

Christmas that year was a bit unusual. He gave quite a detailed description: "Friday, 24: ...Judy came at 1 or so...we went to Yankees for present for Jean: what a mob, and parking terrible! Finally got out with perfume and a table cloth... got vodka at drugstore, Judy got a bottle of rum! Rested some and at 9:30 we drove to S's (Shirley's) and went to Woodside (Church) for 11 to 12 services. Judy babysat. Heavy rain off an on, mostly ON, all day, and now turned to snow and ice as we came out. lunch at S's and when we left, big flakes of wet snow! To bed by 2AM!" "Sat, the 25th -- Christmas Day! Up at 9. And, what a day! big snow storm in night, and how at 9AM big drifts all over, and both storm doors snowed in somewhat! And still snowing hard, a real blizzard! Storm reports bad... Detroit less; GR and L and Flint 4-6 at least! Jean called S and Dick had tried to go for Lena, and stuck before he got to road, couldn't make it. No car traffic on Granville for a long time; a few minutes ago a car stuck at Lyndon and Granville. NO progress! Just had turkey dinner, fine. Before that I had brushed the heavy snow and drift on trunk off some, and tried to start the motor! No success, started then stalled, finally no sound; storm let up towards dark, and clouds thinned, colder." Sun the 26th: Up at 9. Better day, now snow coming down. People getting their drives shoveled out, traffic moving. Car wouldn't start, I took distrib. cap off and oiled the cup at base. And M (Maynard) and L (Lois) and boys came over to shovel. Maynard looked the situation over and we poured gasoline into carb. at top, no

start; then he went home and got a big 12 volt battery and we connected it to ours, still no start; then he thot of the butterfly valve closed! Held it open, the motor soon took hold and ran like a bird! Hell... I let it run for a long time to recharge the battery; we paid Don and Brad \$2... had dinner at 3 or so. Lena came, too, nice big dinner...”

Judy



Judy and Cecil in the late 1970's at her home in Billings, Montana.

Jean and Cecil's twenty-one year old daughter Judy was attending Michigan State University. Her tuition was being paid by her biological grandfather, but Cecil and Jean paid for her rent and other expenses. Judy's performance at MSU was a concern for Cecil in 1965.

She began a new semester in January, and Cecil mentioned "giving her her funds" which totaled about \$200: "two checks, one for \$109.25 to MSU; one for \$40 to Mrs. Amanda Beall, 430 M.A, St. and \$50 in cash (\$35 for books; \$15 for her next

week food, etc...)”. He wrote many times of giving Judy money for a variety of things including doctor appointments, clothing, and groceries as well as rent. They sent her \$15 weekly for incidentals.

They also visited often; this excerpt concerns returning her to East Lansing after Jim’s funeral: “We took Judy back to E.L. after first going to store for some groceries for her. She has a very nice apartment in common with two other girls her age... they got me coffee while I waited. One engaged, a very pretty girl... Now we are back. 9:30... lunch in E.L.”.

In March, Judy revealed that she was not doing well: “Judy not doing well at Sate: she was home last Friday, Saturday... told us as much. Letter and marks yesterday, one sub. (subject) F, C on other, had dropped others this term. She’s on probation now... Am sending checks today for last quarter or term rather: \$110 plus \$35 for retakes; \$50 for room for another month at Waters’ Edge; and \$15 for next week’s expenses... If she does not make good this term, it will be out of college for a time...”.

May brought more bleak news: “Judy called late tonight, Jean talked with her: quitting, as talked with professor, and can’t make the grade in courses... has a job, \$1.50 an hour now... ??? Jean upset, didn’t sleep much, and no pink pills...”.

In June, Judy found herself beginning an investigation of army life. This wasn’t voluntary, exactly. Jean had signed her up for an army introduction program for college juniors to see what the service was all about. Judy notes today that she went along with it because she would get a free airplane plane ride... her first! There were a few problems, including a question about her adoption and a second physical due to the fact

that she had had rheumatic fever as a child. Cecil noted on June 16: “ Army man picked up Judy at 7AM and took her to Detroit for physical test; and in PM she went to 3rd for IBM (interview?), no chance till thru college! And tonite she left for E.L., I gave her \$5 for gas, etc. Poor child...”.

Cecil wished Judy could finish college: “Judy got us at 8:30 and we took her to C’s (Colonel’s... Kentucky Fried Chicken) for supper as she was tired and hungry. Wish she could get really interested in college... otherwise... ?”

On July 10, Judy left for Alabama. July 9, he noted, “Judy leaving tomorrow for Detroit and thence to F. Mc. (Fort McClennon), Alabama... busy getting ready, and Jean buying necessary things...” From July 10: “Jean helped Judy get ready, and took her to 2:30 PM bus, stopping at store. Stays in Detroit with five other Michigan girls tonight, Jet plane to Ala. tomorrow. Jean felt bad, and cried to see her go, and Judy was very nervous, taking a plane for the first time tomorrow... I came home at 4 and rested, slept too, till 6:30...” The next day, Judy called: “Judy called from Alabama around or just before 11PM... All fine, tired... good trip above the clouds, hot in Alabama, 95!”

Judy filled in some of the gaps on this episode in her life. She noted that Fort McClennon was the WAC training base. “It was hell!” she said. “Even though we got special treatment, getting up at 5 in the morning and marching, white glove inspections, etc. was not easy for this lazy college student.” She remembers, “It was a real eye-opener. We were told not to go off base in racially mixed groups. The south was still very segregated at that time. I even saw separate entrances at the movie theater, separate drinking fountains, separate night clubs, etc. . Anyway, after a week of ‘boot camp

heaven,' I called Mom and told her if she ever volunteered me again for anything I wasn't coming home. It really wasn't all that bad, very interesting, in fact." (Valley).

His next mention of Judy was on August 12 helping them out at the store: "Judy stayed in store while we went for groceries... this morning. Then back at 6 and we had lunch or supper at C's (Colonel's... Kentucky Fried Chicken) She's at a movie with Carolyn tonight... She came Wed, to Bishop airport: we got her at 9... all OK... hair black now!" Cecil definitely didn't like her hair! He commented on August 24, in his typically understated way, "Judy has dyed her hair black, not good!"

Judy remembers the dye job as well. "I did dye my hair," she said, "dark brown... the didn't recognize me when I got off the plane. I must have looked like some refugee gypsy. They loved me anyway, bless them both" (Valley).

Late that month, Judy decided to work on Macinac Island. He began with the hair again, then explained about the job... "Judy got her hair cut, black now, she dyed it. She's getting ready for the trip to Grand Island Hotel I mean, Mack. Isl... Ad in Journal the other day, Jean saw, and Judy called collect, and got it! Pays a hundred for the 4 weeks she will be there if all goes through..."

Before beginning the job, however, Judy had to go to East Lansing for a wedding. She had some sad news before she left. "Judy left for Lansing today late, Jean took her to bus; but before that she learned that Arch (Arch Hall, her biological grandfather) is very sick, in intensive care at Hurley, 6th floor! Jean had her call secretary to find out about him, and this was it; no one had let us know. Has been there for two weeks! Judy could see him but 5 minutes; he looked very bad, and hardly knew

her, a stroke, bad one, he's 75 now... Too bad. Judy cried a lot Jean said, but left for E. Lansing, of course... Rainy day and cool... dismal." Two days later, they found that Arch was some better and would be going to a rest home soon. "Doesn't know people, terrible! Has been so good to us since way back at Jamieson, and in Texas, \$300... I am in his debt always... I hope he can recover somehow and live another few years, at least."

Judy left for Macinac on August 29: "Up early and took Judy to bus for Macinaw City and Grand Hotel! I gave her an extra \$5, as Jean had given her \$20, but her bus fare to MC was over \$10. Two suitcases."

Shirley, Richard, Jean, and Cecil drove to Macinaw City to walk the bridge on Labor day, then they got a call from Judy four days later saying that she was quitting. "Judy called, quitting, wheezy and work hard! Be in on 3:54 AM bus. We set alarm and got her with 3 suitcases... very heavy rain in AM..."

Arch hall was improving. In September: "Thurs 16: Jean and Judy went to see Arch Hall. He's better, and knew them, but can't speak! Poor man... Sure hope he recovers and gets his speech back, and lives to enjoy life again... Has been so good to me, and the girls. Money. I never could repay... Wish I had had his drive, his business sense, his acumen! A fine man."

Cecil noted that Judy worked in the store on that day, then on September 23, she returned to MSU. "We took Judy to E.L. in PM. Had dinner at J's there... Nice apartment in a top, 3rd floor... \$55 a month, gave her ck for this, 9-15 to 10-15... \$109 to College, \$60 in cash for books, etc." After that, there were few entries concerning

her other than amounts of money sent and one weekend visit in November. He seemed pleased that a young man joined them at dinner: “Judy called just before we left: Bob with her, going to dinner. Seemed a very fine fellow, 24, on his Master’s; from Utah! Been to Alaska; majoring in Physics... We had a nice dinner, \$13... left Judy \$10 although she said she could get by...”.

The next entries concerning Judy were not so pleasant. “December 21: ... talked hard to Judy here: too hard. Upset, Jean at store, read an hour, went back to store.” The year ended with a bleak message from the University: “Judy got a letter from the College of Natural Science, Mate, advising her not to reenter this term, tho she can... two D’s last term... she is making a dress now, and is discouraged we know, seems she just can’t apply herself and get good marks any more.”

Gentlemen Prefer...

Cecil always had a preference for young ladies, especially blondes. He made special mention of a movie starring Debbie Reynolds on October 28, and never missed a Miss. USA or Miss. America pageant. He had mentioned Hayley Mills the previous year, but seemed to have a special crush on Jean Peters. He mused on April 28: “What a beautiful girl this picture of Jean Peters was back in 1949! Little wonder that I was drawn to her as an outstanding actress... I have her picture inside the cover of the typewriter of late... I look at her as I write this.”

In general, Cecil found most of his entertainment in four activities (outside of family visits) in 1965: television, movies, reading, and following the stock market.

He mentioned watching several television shows, mostly movies. He enjoyed *The Great Houdini, Riding High, A Farewell to Arms, Vertigo,* and *The Mountain* (with Spencer Tracy). He also mentioned several television series, including *Bonanza* and *Gunsmoke*.

They saw some movies as well, including *Mary Poppins* (he mentioned that it cost \$3 but was “very good... Different.”). He mentioned going to two other films, but none rated a mention of their titles (both cost \$2.50, however).

In February, he literally celebrated one book: “Oh, I am having a wonderful time reading the new, late book on the Yosemite. Wonderfully detailed by Adams: *Illustrated Guide to Yosemite*, Sierra Club, San Francisco, 1963. One can easily hike to the tops of such marvels as Half Dome, El Capitan, Cloud’s Rest.” In March he was reading M. Proust, and Einstein; in May he mentioned *Hotel*. September found him “schooling” himself in Mathematics and Science: “I got four books at the library Friday. Two on math and mathematicians! Fine. And am going to master Calculus this time, at 65!” An article in the POST upset him in October, and was worth this rant: “POST came today; some article by some fool writer, Werick, about the wilderness, has book coming out this fall. All kinds make up the world; and some will take any and all positions, crazy as it seems to us, we who KNOW! Should write the POST! Many will I am sure!”

Cecil had always been interested in the stock market. He would be amazed at its activity today! I recall when the Dow Jones Industrial Average broke 2,000 shortly before his death. He could hardly believe it. He would research companies and

purchase two or three shares here and there. He mentioned doing this in October: "... I went downtown to library; spent some time on stock magazines, etc.: decided now isn't the time to buy National Acme or Burroughs, though both good B+ stocks and good earnings this year: wait for a break later this year."

Other than that, Cecil didn't have much patience for other forms of entertainment. He recorded in March: "...foolish card game later in dining room...". In November, he mentioned going shopping (a little tongue-in-cheek, I believe) with Jean: "...now past three, and we are going to Arlans for bargains!"

World Events

Once again, world events for Cecil were only rarely mentioned in 1965. President Johnson's inaugural was only noted in passing (three words, exactly, "President J. inaugurated"), and another event of any historical significance wasn't mentioned until the Gemini rocket was launched on June third, which received exactly the same level of coverage. He was impressed a few days later, however, and devoted six words to the space program: "...astronauts on radio... returning to earth!"

In contrast, the riots in Los Angeles did concern him. "August 15: "LA having terrible riots and fire, damage \$175 million or more, National Guard, 16500 strong. Awful, 28 killed, 600 injured; over 2,000 arrested! Gov. Brown flew back from Greece!"

November did bring a mention of Mayor Lindsay's win in New York and the power outage there a week later.

The Gemini spacecraft returned to earth on December 16, and that was the last significant historical event mentioned in 1965.

1966

America's participation in the Vietnamese war continued to increase in 1966. Over 5,000 were killed and more than 30,000 were wounded during the year. Congress refused to approve a proposed civil rights bill, and the smallest deficit in seven years was approved for fiscal 1967: \$1,800,000,000; the total budget was \$112,800,000,000. The musicals *Mame* and *Cabaret* were introduced to Broadway audiences. Popular motion pictures included *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *Dr. Zhivago*. On television, nearly all network shows were broadcast in color. Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* was published. The Gemini space program concluded, and NASA began to prepare for Apollo. Sandy Koufax won 27 games in 1966, and Muhammad Ali beat five contenders. Women were wearing miniskirts and occasionally paper throwaway clothes. The use of drugs was growing, especially hallucinogenic drugs like LSD.

Timeline

(Source: The American Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dated, p.636-643)

January 29-31 The worst blizzard in 70 years killed 165 persons along the country's East Coast.

February 9: The Dow Jones industrial average hit an all-time high of 995.

March 2: U.S. troops in Vietnam was reported to have reached 215,000.

March 15: Grammy awards were presented to Frank Sinatra for best male vocalist and best album, *September of my Years*. Best female vocalist was Barbara Streisand for her album *My Name is Barbara*.

March 16: Gemini 8 made the first successful space docking, but a thruster rocket malfunctioned, causing the flight to end after only 11 hours.

March 25: Poll taxes were declared unconstitutional.

April 12: B-52 bombers were used for the first time on targets in North Vietnam.

April 18: *The Sound of Music* was named best motion picture at the Academy Awards.

June 3: Gemini 9 was launched, but was unable to perform its mission, a docking maneuver, due to equipment failure.

June 13: *Miranda v. Arizona*, the landmark Supreme court case, was decided, requiring that suspects understand their rights when confessing to a crime.

July 1: Medicare insurance was instated. Some criticized it as the first step toward socialized medicine.

July 14: Eight student nurses were murdered in Chicago. Richard Speck was convicted of the crimes in April, 1967.

July 18: Gemini 10 successfully completed its docking maneuver in space. Their splash down was covered on live television.

July 30: the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) was bombed by U.S. planes for the first time.

August 1: Charles J. Whitman barricaded himself in a tower at the University of Texas at Austin, TX. He shot and killed 13 persons there and wounded 31. Earlier,

he had killed his wife and mother.

August 6: Demonstrations against the Vietnam war were held across the country on the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.

August 22: The Consumer Price Index hit a record high in July, making 1966 the most inflationary year since 1957.

January 1966 #181

Wed. 5: Washed car, late PM, mild, 45 - 50! Hard work very dirty; Rested in between, tired; then finished. Looks so nice! This is written Fri. evening. Working for rest of week yet; we took Judy back to S. L. Tuesday PM. Laid in store. Slow day and roads and we stopped and had dinner at Miller R. on 78.... She's in Mason Hill again, and 2 girls with her; since moved out.... \$144.50 for State; \$60 check for Judy for books, etc.

Thurs. 6: We got up at 7:30 and got grub at S. Heavy load, too much, but OK. Then I went for 6 at SB and BK and then blanks at old PD, then Pat. and Ch. at W; Salays too...

Fri. 7: Storm this morning, snow! fog. I pulled a muscle in a back pushing type, and stand across the garage in back! Well... Had too. So have been quiet all day, and due to the storm as stayed in too. Rather a bit tonight! Heat and Sangey.... Good days all week, over \$100 each!... Called Al \$150 check today.... OK from W, East I presume!... They have been wonderful, Ned, Ann.... Letter from Edith W. last night....

Sat. 8: Cold last night, -- 5 below zero at our house! Had to start the Dats: Jean worked with it while I worked the 3 valve, and poured some gasoline in the carb. Finally it took off, and blew gas thru the carb, stalled several times, but then off and ran! I recalled heavy oil in the carb, so it turned over so slow; will put in 10 new week at change, 28,000! Then when we got to the store, frozen below the toilet! I worked for some time and finally got it thawed out, with hot water, - will fix up the float hereafter!.... Good day!... All over \$110 all week!....

Sun. 9: Much warmer last night, 20!... Mild today, 30... We went to store at 11... Had breakfast there. Returned I washed the big wash, sheets by the 10s! Tired! Jean cleaned up the rug; etc... I detergent the toilet, washed skates... Lay down. Then at 5 we went to Revco, and got the 2 H filled; and 1C in med. to re-sell my store... Shirley and Jan. came right after we got home. Now at 6 they just left... Heard of Ops on in Boston, great!

Mon. 10: Colder today, very much, 10 now, and very strong wind all day, light snow early. I fixed the door on stove with strips so as to keep out the drafts... Jean stayed all day, has a bad cold; rosted an chick sack of the knee. Slow day, but 80 or so.... My business is better.... Out of eggs tonight! Write-Jan-a-letter--

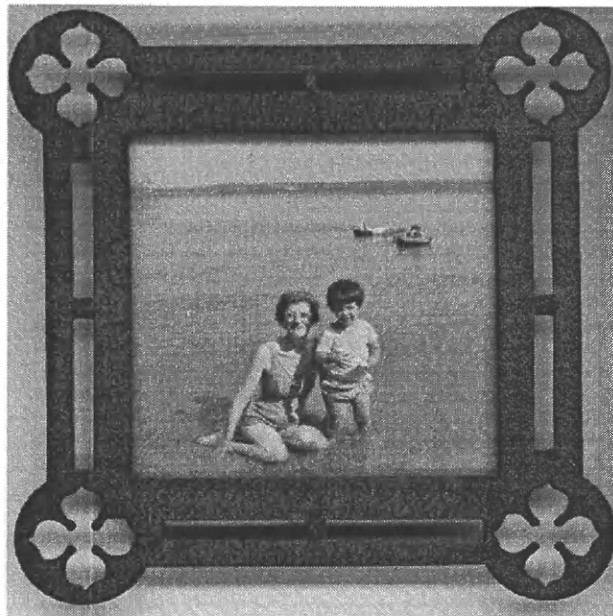
Tues. 11: Got 50 doz. eggs in AM, 1.5¢ now again. Roads good... Then got the meat, \$25; and some items from Helen's; also had the oil changed at Mack's in Dor., 5 lbs. \$1.00... Fixed at night. Lois came over in even., and I watched TV and wrote Jan.

Wed. 12: Jean left and got S. and went to Kay's for dinner. Came back around 1; and I took S and Lynn home; had coffee. Then to store.... \$96. Over \$100 since the 1st....

Cecil consistently wrote about the same number of typed, single-spaced pages each year. In 1966 he produced 45 pages of text, as compared to 55 in 1963, 49 in 1964, and 43 pages in 1965. Nineteen Sixty-Six seemed to be an unusual year, however, because the content of his journals was much more focused on family events,

with significantly fewer mentions of entertainment , work, and news events. The year's biggest events included the birth of a second granddaughter, a trip to Denver, Colorado, and pursuit of a liquor license for the store.

“Grandpa” Cecil



Jean and “Lynn” at Black Lake in July, 1966.

The first important event of the year occurred in February. Cecil and Jean's second grandchild was born. In his typically understated way, he noted the facts: “Sat. (Feb) 5: Nice day. Pipes not frozen this morning, gratefully! Shirley went to hospital early, and had baby, a girl, Kelly Jean, 7# plus at 10 AM! Got through fine... Judy came in late PM; I just home from store to take her and we will see S and baby at 7:30 tonight. We saw S and the new baby, Kelly Jean Shaw! Just fine, both. saw the baby,

7lbs 13 oz... Then to store to get Jean, 8:30.” A few days later, Shirley was still in the hospital. He visited her, and the love he felt for her was clear: “I went to see Shirley tonight at 7:30. She was so glad to see me; none other came today. We went down the hall and saw Kelly, fine... Shirley will be home tomorrow around 11... so glad. Shirley is such a good girl, what a lucky strike when Dr. Hasty gave us her mother’s name back in 1937!” He didn’t mention his dislike of the name Kelly he had discussed with Shirley before his surgery in December. Not many other entries were made concerning Kelly that year, but he did mention a significant event on March 9: “Jean went to see Shirley this PM, and Kelly smiled for the first.” He also mentioned her christening on May 8, and again in November: “We stopped at Shirley’s tonight: Kelly is so good, comes to me now easy like...”.



“Lynn” and Kelly in 1966.

A definite trend in 1966 was the time he and Jean spent with their elder granddaughter (he still didn't like the name Kari and continued to call me Lynn in his diaries). I was three in 1966, and "potty trained" so that might be one reason I spent more time with them beginning in that year. It is likely, also, that they were giving my mother a break seeing that Kelly was a newborn. Finally, Grandpa was secure in the knowledge that his granddaughter did no wrong. He voiced his disapproval of my father's treatment of me twice in his journal that year, so he may have been being protective. He mentions picking "Lynn" up and taking her places no fewer than 29 times. Lynn often stayed overnight with them. Sometimes, they just picked her up for the day or overnight; other times she went on vacations with them.

March 3: "...Jean... took Shirley and Lynn shopping, and Lynn got her picture taken, was very good. Dick is too hard on Lynn and cross with her..."

March 10: "Jean left for Shirley's then, and took her and Lynn to Capitol to Walt Disney show... \$2.50... enjoyed it, but it gave Jean a headache, eye strain."

March 14: "We had Lynn last night and she slept fine."

April 17: "Now we are going to a restaurant, and then east and get sand (for Lynn's sandbox), and have a drive with Lynn... (later) We went as above, and ate at the "Stables", dark inside! But a good meal and cheap, \$1 for fish and \$1.30 for chicken for Jean and Lynn!"

May 2: "We kept Lynn last night. All came to store around 12, had pop...

Now to bed. We have Lynn again, as we got her after work..."

May 9: "Kept Lynn all night."

May 30: "Lynn with us"

June 2: "Jean went to Shirley's to baby-sit at 6, Dick came for her; I ran

the store thereon - very busy... Lynn so glad to see me at 9, late!

Came a running outside!"



"Lynn" at Holiday Village Mobile Home Park, the location of Jean and Cecil's store.

These were typical entries for the first half of the year, relating to their eldest granddaughter. The rest of the year continued in this fashion, with a few exceptions. In July, they took her to Black Lake for the weekend to visit relatives. They swam (Jean and Lynn, that is... Cecil took pictures because he had forgotten his swim trunks, he

noted). In August, Cecil again thought that Dick was too hard on Lynn. “Sun. 21: Lynn stayed with us; got sick in night, threw up around 2AM. Dick had picked at her at table... we neglected to have her high chair between ours, instead of next to his... He’s a SA (?) when it comes to knowing how to treat a child... I got angry inside; had a pain around my heart, it stayed like all day... Monday too.”

In September, Jean and Cecil took her to Lexington for a long weekend, keeping her at their house one more day after they got home.

Judy

Judy continued to attend Michigan State University, and she continued to be a major thread in his writings in 1966. She had a boyfriend named Bob, and she was living in Mason Hall. On January 1, he noted paying \$144.50 to State and \$60 for books.

In March, Bob returned to Utah. It was not a happy time for her. Cecil wrote that she sewed continuously from March 23 - 26. On the 27th she returned to East Lansing. He doesn’t mention Bob again.

He had a disagreement with her on May 6: “Got Judy in PM... Argument in evening, too bad... hurts me most...” The next day, her birthday, she went out: “Now 11, Judy is going out with Carol, took car... hope for the best...” All was forgiven the next day, however, as he never stayed angry for long at any of his girls.

Judy called on May 26, and revealed that she wanted to go to Denver, Colorado the next summer and work. She left on June 10. She seemed to get settled in rather

quickly, and asked for some money to take a typing course. Cecil sent the \$25 deposit and \$10 for spending money. He sent \$30 more at the end of the month. He mentioned sending her \$5 in a letter on August 3, after Jean spoke with her the day before. Judy had purchased a car for \$150. The same day, he began thinking about a trip to Denver: "...was thinking, we might go to Denver in October for a few days... be nice trip... ."

At the end of the month, he mentioned that Judy was ill, to the extent of fainting while talking to him on the telephone: "Judy called this evening: fainted while talking, then came back... poor girl." She gave them a new address.

Cecil and Jean became worried about her in September, as they hadn't heard from her in some time. He mentioned this on the ninth, then again on the 21st. Because of her move, the last they heard was that the telephone hadn't been installed, but he was hoping for a letter.

The next mention he made of Judy was on October 9: "Jean called Judy, but girl roommate said away a week, not expected until Wednesday... landlord had locked the door on her, looked bad and we worried...???" Then Judy called back soon afterward: had been out in W north (?) modeling wigs, making better money; all fine now, I guess?????? Judy....."

Three days later, Jean and Cecil left for Denver. He did not take his typewriter, but he was sure to record everything upon his return. Wed 12 to Thursday, 20: Trip to Denver, Colo.: 3,000 miles... to Tom's Wed after dark when we got there, 7 or so!!! Left at 3 or so from Flint: Lois working; Patt after 4PM... Nice day... Thurs. 13: Up early and left: rain till way south towards Bloomington! dinner in Springfield, Ill...

wrote cards... fine warm day! On 36 hereafter all the way to Denver. Crossed the Mississippi River (in the) PM, and stayed in Hannibal, 20,000 for some time, seeing Mark Twain's birthplace, etc. On to Chillicothe for late lunch and motel... Dark... Fri. 14: Crossed the Missouri early, no tolls on bridges... Breakfast in Kansas, fine warm day, bright! Dust storm in PM, then light rain, and snow starting around Oberlin! Kept on, 10 miles getting very bad! Heavy wet snow on wipers, and building up against the front fenders rubbing on tires! Then two cars in road, can go no farther; got out and put on boots, mackinaw and cap over ears! Still cold, icy wind. Really chilled when I got in and turned around in road, snow tires on too! Back to Oberlin for Motel, hot bath, and coffee; but had overdone some, hard on heart too... But soon wore off. Must learn, Jean is always right, didn't want me to get out and in a storm, thinking to help a woman motorist. So good to be inside, raining out now... Sat 15: Up and breakfast and sun out, plows had been over the road so no trouble west. Endless vistas, no buildings! Miles and Miles! Into Colorado, just the same to Denver also! To Judy's around 3-4 or earlier I guess: OK. Glad to see us, and we her; basement apartment, girl gone so we had her nice bed for two nights! She worked Sat. evening, so we drove downtown, so pretty the lights... Sun 16: To west into the mountains, after big breakfast on Colfax. We had met Bill Embry; but he did (not?) get over to go with us. To Central City, Georgetown, and Echo Lake, Mt. Evans road closed here. ...Roads bare all around. Went to Loveland Pass, 12,000 feet altitude. Big snow starting up here, Judy drove. Low gear coming down... OK, however. After dark when we got back. Monday 17: Judy had appt. for hair, so left in AM, I checked her car for antifreeze first. We went

downtown and to capitol, dome! Great! Then to stores and restaurant and top of bank building, 33 stories, sun deck, took pictures. Fine, Hilton Hotel also, then left for home late PM. Got to St. Francis at dark. Motel... roads now bare of ice, which had been bad in Colorado... Tues. 18: On through Kansas, 400 miles across! Rained all the way too! Motel in Stewartsville east of St. Joseph. Fine \$8.24. TV... Wed.19: Stopped east 70 miles or so for good breakfast in rustic restaurant, and in Hannibal again, funny town... across the Mississippi on to Springfield. To L's (Lincoln's?) tomb; home, through it; and the Capitol, very fine building. Took many pictures. Then on to Decatur by dark and Peg's address; for the night. Glad to see her; fine apartment upstairs. Thurs. 20: Up early 6 left for Tom's... dark a long way... breakfast in Kankakee! Lunch at Tom's at 12... and on to Flint! Late meal in Charlotte, fish and meat... dark when home, to Shirley's first, fine trip, no car trouble... Great car..."

Although things seemed normal with Judy when they visited, in early November two letters to her from Cecil were returned, and he became concerned once again. Finally, on November 22, a letter from Judy arrived with a new address, but Cecil was still uncomfortable: "She is working in Bill's store... and OK -- I guess?"

He was still skeptical at the end of the month when they got a phone call: "Judy called last night from Denver. OK - I guess. Will be home for Xmas, for 2 weeks perhaps. Bill saving from her wages for the trip!" He then mentioned a third letter sent to Judy had come back on December 9. Some questions were answered the next day: "Mailed Judy's letter air mail. 3 letters have come back since I wrote first right after

returning from Denver trip; even the last one; her name wasn't on the box or something, Apt. 1 the letter said I see; Apt. 2 was given first... Careless Judy..."

She made it home on December 24: "... we left in time to get Judy at Bishop airport, at 5! ... we just made it, the plane was circling as we parked! Prop plane. Got her baggage, one small case and one box, and left and stopped at Walli's for a bite... heavy traffic on Pierson! Rusty glad to see Judy, and she him! ...tomorrow is Christmas!" Cecil got slippers from Judy that year. She left for Denver on New Year's Eve morning.



The house on Granville Street, 1963.

The Lawn Mower War

There were a few other interesting events spread throughout 1966. In March,

Jean hosted a Bee Line party, a kind of “tupperware-type” home party where clothes are sold. It was apparently quite successful. Cecil mentioned driving several ladies home around midnight.

The Lawn mower war continued, and was well-documented. May ninth was the first mention of a problem: “I came home at 12, no 1 PM. But couldn’t start the lawn mower...” The next day it continued: Tues. 10: “Stopped at house and tried to start the dam lawn mower; no success...” Frustration set in on May 11: “Cloudy, cool, looks like rain coming... came home and tried again, but no luck; other plug makes no difference; called a service, they thot flooded, so took out plug and aired out; no success. G-dam! These d (damn) mowers, harder to start than an old Ford Model T! Grass getting very long /////?????? Back to store then came back and took mower to Ball’s, can’t do for 30 days! Then home and called Clio Rd. shop, then took up, he pulled the starter cord and said no compression! Took top off motor and free up valve sticking, rust!” The lawn finally got mowed on Friday, May 13: “ Sun out and 50, better weather is in store... I’ll come home and get at the motor... Later, Sunday: did and all went well; got penetrating oil at hardware and took off head of motor first, and squirted it in the intake valve, which was frozen and not moving at all when motor turned over; finally after much tapping on valve with hammer over towel, and turning it worked; and motor started fine, and ran swell, better than even! Cut the lawns; then went for groceries...”.

He didn’t mention the mower again until September when, of course, it was refusing to work once again. “Quiet, Cool outside. Oh, took motor head off, but valves

ok, still it doesn't start! Damn!!!” So the grass once again continued to grow. On September 18, he tried again: “Nice day. Tired, up at 9:30. Now will try to start the motor to cut grass... Tues.: Well, I fixed it, or it started finally. First put gasoline in spark plug, then carburetor, then took apart, and turned lean-rich screw, it went and kept going, before would start and use gas, then stall... ????? Cut all the grass fine.” Several days later, he noted that it started on the second pull.

Other noteworthy events that year included several short trips to various locations including LaPorte, Indiana, and Lexington and Black Lake within the state of Michigan. Shortly before embarking on a short trip that took them into Canada, Cecil and Jean began wearing seatbelts. “We are using our seatbelts all the time since a week or so ago; a girl in the park got hurt by being thrown out of the car in accident: I suddenly realized we never used the belts, I never; Jean seldom...”.

Jean and Cecil celebrated their anniversary in July by visiting the “Musical Tent” for a performance of “The King and I”.

November brought election day, and for all the fun he had arguing about politics, Cecil did not vote. “Tues. 8: election day but we didn't vote; very busy in long line here, and as we cancel each other's vote on Republican - Democrat questions and wet outside, we did not go back: but the Republicans won great in Mich., Calif., Ill., etc... 47 new seats in the House... etc... We sat up till 11 and I till past 12; thoroughly enjoying myself!”

Work

Work at Fisher Body was behind him. Cecil received his retirement gift on February 23, a pen and pencil set: "...had a telegram to come in over the pension. Got all fixed up, 10 years time ...just made it... got pen and pencil at union, nice." Since he had been on disability for such a long time, the retirement did not create much of a stir for Cecil. He was glad he never had to return to Fisher Body, but he had moved on to other things, most notably trying to obtain a liquor license for his store.

The little trailer-store continued to occupy much of Cecil and Jean's time. Cecil explored the possibility of obtaining the liquor license and it became quite an ordeal.

Jan 21: "...looked for 1961 tax papers but didn't find. I needed the forms for the past 4 years in making out the application for a license to sell beer and wine at the store."

Feb 3: "Good day I think, around a hundred... Man in from liquor control commission as I got back asking questions."

Feb 7: "Man for liquor came 2:30; all went well; looks like Jean will get it ok..."

Feb 15: "Will get up early tomorrow and go to police department as to beer license."

March 8: "Wrote liquor commission..."

March 13: "Nice bright day, mild... Tom, Thelma, and Zella... and Shirley and family... had dinner... talked about beer license..."

March 14: “Jean listening to city commission, may talk on our license rejection by the State Commission.”

March 30: “Letter from liquor control commission in Lansing; giving us a hearing the 5th of April at 9:30AM... I’ll go over at least!”

April 4: “Liquor control man was in and a Mr. Mitchell too... I go to Lansing tomorrow for 9:30 appointment...”

April 5: “Up at 7 and away before 8! Didn’t know where the street was; assumed on west side, but not, so out of my way; found and then had coffee and doughnut, and made it! But had to wait until 10:30 or so, and fear they will not give it... will advise...”

April 5 was the last mention of the liquor license. Although expanding business by selling liquor seemed out of the question, the business seemed to be going well. Cecil noted on February 3 that January was a good month... “... \$2800, up \$900 from a year ago!”

Other than noting trips to purchase inventory and sales for most days, there didn’t seem to be much happening that was out of the ordinary in regards to the store in 1965. June fourth was the best day, according to sales, at work: “big day at store, \$200 taken in, \$70 in accounts, best yet in total I know... gradually better.”

The only other thread relating to the store that year was Cecil’s “bottle battle”. Finding enough space to store empty bottles began to be a pressing issue, although he

had mentioned the struggle storing empty pop bottles occasionally the year before. In July, he arranged to purchase a metal shed from a man named Sharkey.

July 7: "Got our Coca-Cola at last! So many bottles to move.

Tired. Sharkey over in AM to move the house but too heavy. We move Sunday, call him..."

July 12: "Sharkey came in late PM and I got key and we dropped

it down on blocks at west side. Later I took rug out and swept out, and put a lot of shells in it; sure will be a great help... Tired."

July 20: "... gave Sharkey the balance of \$100 on house. So many

bottles! We are bottle exchange!"

No other entries that year mentioned frustration with pop bottles. The shed must have helped their storage problem.

Although things at the store seemed to be going well, with business increasing slowly, Cecil was uneasy. He noted on September sixth that he paid Lois \$29.25 for the 19 1/2 hours she worked at the store. That works out to be \$1.50 per hour. He also worried about competition: "I told Jean about the front area being readied for the big old office building next to us, she thot perhaps Griffey was going to have a store in it! Later asked Bertha who said to rent better or sell better up front, so we hope..." On September 21, Cecil noted that they could have purchased the building, but decided against it: "We could have bought the old office building from Griffey, for \$6200... (would) make a big store but too much to take on, interest, etc. with ours not paid for

yet!” In November, Cecil decided to cut back, although much that he related showed that business was slowly increasing at the store. Nov. 4: “Bad day, argument with Jean over L (Lois) being let go from store due to M (money?) shortage and business falling off.” The next day, Jean called Lois: “J (Jean) called L (Lois) and she won’t work M (Monday). We’ll have occasionally, however, and she will help Jean with house.” A little more light was shed on his concerns on November 10: “Two better days, \$102 each; but days are slipping of late... ok, though with less costs now!”

December 1, Cecil wrote of money, both concerning the store and personally. They had bills to pay and only \$220 in their savings account. This entry seems to say that personal money concerns were an influence as to why they let Lois go, although Cecil didn’t increase the price of eggs to his customers when his cost rose. “After breakfast, I drove to S’s and got 60 doz. eggs, \$.50 now, up from \$.45 for the preceding... We marked \$.59 however, for the time, no rise in price... Cold today. 21 or so and to go to zero or below tonight: just 5 above now... letter from D. (Denver) bank: \$90 still due on J’s (Judy’s) course, Nov., Dec., and Jan. ... Got GMC pension check: \$43: will put on savings making around \$220 balance.”

Entertainment

Television continued to be a major source of entertainment for Cecil, especially movies with pretty women in starring roles and western series. He continued to go to the library, often studying stocks and the stock market.

Cecil mentioned going to the library often, and continued to particularly enjoy reading books about Western states and parks. A new trend began to emerge, however, more of his time at the library was spent researching stocks and the stock market, especially in March.

He decided to make a purchase on March 9. "Market went up today, so I am calling in tomorrow to Roney and buying 5 shares of Goodrich common, 58 or 59 I guess?" The next day, he made the call: "Called Roney and ordered 5 shares of Goodrich common, 99 1/8 then... have \$600 in common stock now. Dividend on GM just came today in mail, \$2.55 on 3 shares... nice to GET interest instead of paying it OUT!" Although he was a small investor, he watched the market carefully. March 13: "Stocks declined last week, 4 1/2 DJ (Dow Jones) I... But G (Goodrich) went up 2 1/2! Now 61, I paid 59 1/2 Thurs.! Fine x (?) dividend now, hope I get the dividend 2.20 or 55 x 5... \$2.75 a quarter." March 15 brought another downturn in the market: "Market went down a lot today, 919. I stopped at library and read some. DJ (Dow Jones) went down 11 points today!???"

It wasn't until November before he had another major entry concerning stocks other than a record of the general ups and downs of the market. He recorded some frustration on November 10: "Market rising since election day and before that it did, the low as Oct. 7 or so: when I should have bought some Newmont Mining, jumped 10 points since then! Dam! Phelps Dodge is one stock recommended by firm, and up since their recommendation 10 points. think I may sell the 3 shares of GM at a rise; and

at a later downtrend buy some as above as firm G says auto stock will not go up with the market next year, sales off..."

Cecil did not record attending one movie in 1966 (although Jean did see a Walt Disney movie with Lynn... Lynn's first, *101 Dalmations*, in March). Cecil and Jean were not big movie-goers, and possibly the reduction in income due to his retirement may have made him think twice before spending the money. Television seemed to be more Cecil's speed, and the fact that much of it was in color was still worth mentioning. He noted several movies including *The Wizard of Oz* ("in color, Great!"). On February 12, he saw another film which caused an emotional response. He neglected to mention the title, however: "We saw a very good TV movie: Susan Slade, Connie Stevens... I cried and cried... so it was good! ...the criterion!" He enjoyed a western, a "good color movie," *Ride the High Country* ten days later. Other shows he noted included the Teen International Pageant (Sweden won) in April, and Miss Michigan in July (Miss Dearborn won). He watched a John Paul Jones movie in May, and the television show *Big Valley* several times throughout the year. He recorded, once, one of the reasons he liked the show: "Nov. 21: Watched Big Valley: Linda in it, a beautiful; blue eyes, golden hair -- a darling! Like to see her." In November, he particularly enjoyed a "...movie... Grace Kelly and Bing Crosby and Holden, *The Country Girl*, very good; a very beautiful woman...". The last movie he mentioned in 1966 was *Tammy* with Sandra Dee. He did not give an opinion on its worth, however.

Cecil's reading choices in 1966 included investment magazines (as noted before) and the *POST*. He also continued his studies of western part of the United States,

particularly noting one he read in November: “Read in the book on silver mining in last century, very, very good, well-written! Must visit this section of the Rockies in Colorado, the next time we can get out; and ride the Durango Silverton narrow gauge railroad also!”

Although Cecil didn’t attend any movies in 1966, he and Jean did see two live shows. For their anniversary in July, as they had in years past, they went to the “Musical Tent”. He enjoyed the show, *The King and I*, but noted that it was long. In November, he saw a show at the IMA: “We went to IMA. First they (Shirley and Dick?) came over for nice dinner; we went over and then to Lena’s and went in Lyle’s new 4-door Buick! Dick drove. Big crowd and hard to park; fair performance, Johnny Desmond.”

Finally, Cecil noted that he was walking more. He seemed to do it for general health reasons, but he seemed to always have, in the back of his mind, plans to climb a mountain. “Can’t stand much work I guess: Can I climb a mountain peak? I think so, taking my time.”

World Events

Once again, world events were not paramount in Cecil’s life. Several did prove worthy enough to make an impression on him, however. In March, he noted a plane crash in Tokyo: “...airplane accident n Tokyo, Japan. 64 killed, nearly all... Fog, came in too low, hit breakwater and burned!”

July brought two events around the same time that caused him to wonder what the world was coming to. “July 17: Terrible murders in Chicago Wed. last: 8 nurses strangled and stabbed to death in doorm on SE side! One survived; they now have the man, and ex-sailor from Dallas! And bad rioting in Chicago by Negroes on W side... what a world!”

He was interested in the space program, and mentioned Gemini 8 on March 16, Gemini 9 on June 1, and Gemini 10 on June 19.

Philosophy

August 1963

COMMENTS ON LIFE

1. It would seem that the 'Universe' has had no beginning, No Creation: instead it has always been, but changing constantly.
2. That Man cannot know the ultimate. Is limited to a narrow field of thought, although expanding in range of detail in the inventive scope; he has great ability in using Nature, as the atomic fissure, in chemistry, etc...
3. But basically such terms as TIME, SPACE, INFINITY mean only concepts of thought, and no definition is possible. Take Infinity in Mathematics: defined as a Variable. No upper limit only. And Time appears to have no beginning and no ending. Space would seem to follow this pattern. Yet running into the Einstein concepts of curving space, injects a limiting factor into the situation - at present levels of thought....
4. In trying to formulate 'God' man seeks many different paths. This concept would seem to be above man's powers. Yet it is inherent in man's desire to try to define and make contact with a supreme and infinite category. Yet that there is a governing and ruling ONENESS seems logical and apparent. Just how near we are to defining IT, and how much contact thru mental powers, -- (Words and prayers and attitudes, etc.) we may attain is debatable in the extreme.....
5. That Natural Laws are never broken... That the orderly sequence of events flow from one Cause into a following Effect; the latter Effect being in turn a Cause for the succeeding event; in a space-time continuum... That to break one Law would be quite impossible; it would be a universal disaster, the outcome of which would be chaos!....
6. Yet the human Will is 'Free.'... The looking backward one notes that it could not have been otherwise... Decisions being in the chain of absolute Cause and Effect... Selection being free, but conditioned on the human individual pattern; that is, pre-determined - each step being open to selection, yet but an act in a strict conformity to Law....
- 8-63 7. It would seem that life begins when conditions without life are such that the ingredients are present to make life possible. But all life lives at the expense of other life... Rather a dismal subject when analyzed too closely....

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Religion was always something he pondered, as noted in the above "Comments on life" he recorded in 1963. In 1966, he was in a ponderous mood: "...just thinking: there seems to be so little difference between living matter and non-living matter, that merely the addition of certain acids or matter does the 'trick,' and inanimate forms become animate ones... but back of the whole 'creation' there must lie 'God', that is, the ultimate, infinite power or mining instrument; if the universe is timeless, then it never needed to be formed; and it will continue forever into the endless future. Really man's attempt to define or explore into such realms is without tangible results, in as much as it

is impossible to form logical judgments therein. Most religions try to bring down the so called infinite powers to within the human areas. To make 'God' personal, like a parent, watching over his created; directly concerned with their wants and needs; rewarding and punishing according to their individual merits. Doubtless mankind needs such a close kinship with the almighty. Certainly it cannot be 'proved' that this is the truth."

For a man who valued the written word, it was rare for him to comment about his own writing. He had an opportunity to do this, however, on January 21st: "Up at 7 and to U for groceries, \$217 and then a bite at restaurant on way back... I came home at 2PM, and lay down; looked for 1961 tax papers but didn't find. However, I thot perhaps, they were in box in attic, but no; and they were in a box near piano in basement, marked, papers! Way back; looked at one for 1943: War on, Chevrolet, Shirley age 6! Nostalgia... and just now I picked up some other papers: the one I wrote in 1930 on the Oliver Typewriter: about E. etc., so pathetic... I glanced through it. E was so strange... Life turns out so differently than one expects earlier... Words are such permanent things, when put down in print!"

1967

More than 17,000 Americans had died in Vietnam since 1961. Two-thousand more had died in the first ten months of 1967 than all of the other years combined. The U.S. suffered race riots in over 100 cities, the worst in history. Indian music, popularized by Ravi Shankar, influenced rock music, including the Beatles, whose *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* was released in this year. This album also reflected the growing influence of the drug culture. The U.S. economy remained strong. A British model named Twiggy influenced fashion with her short hair and tomboy looks.

Timeline

(Source: *The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates*, 642-651)

January 15: The first Super Bowl was won by the Green Bay Packers.

January 27: Three astronauts were killed during Apollo tests at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

February 10: The twenty-fifth amendment to the U. S. Constitution, providing for presidential succession, was ratified by Nevada.

March 10: The New York Stock Exchange had the second greatest trading day to date, surpassed only by Oct. 29, 1929.

March 26: Tony awards were presented to *Cabaret* as best musical and *The Homecoming* as best play.

April 4: The 500th U.S. plane was shot down over North Vietnam.

April 10: *A Man for All Seasons* was awarded the Oscar for best picture. Paul Scofield was named best actor for the same film. Elizabeth Taylor won best actress for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

April 15: Somewhere between 100,000 and 400,000 persons participated in an antiwar demonstration.

April 21: Tornadoes in northeastern Illinois killed 55 and injured 1,000.

May 13: A pro-Vietnam demonstration in New York City drew about 70,000 participants.

May 14: Mickey Mantle, New York Yankee outfielder, hit his 500th career home run, only the sixth player to accomplish this.

June 1: 313 were killed, and 2616 wounded in Vietnam the week of May 21-27, the greatest weekly casualty toll of the war.

September 6: The United Auto Workers went on strike against the Ford Motor Company.

October 2: Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first black Supreme Court justice in U.S. history.

November 7: The Corporation for Public Broadcasting was signed into law by President Johnson.

November 12: A revival of *Hello, Dolly* with an all-black cast, including Pearl Bailey and Cab Calloway, opened in New York City.

November 13: The musical *Hair* premiered off Broadway.

November 15: The Detroit newspapers began a strike that didn't end until August 9, 1968.

July 8: Billie Jean King turned in an amazing performance at the Wimbledon tennis championships. She won the women's singles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

September 9: The Miss America title was won by Devra Dene Barnes from Kansas.

October 4-12: The St. Louis Cardinals won baseball's World Series.

Dec. 1966

426

Wed. 28: Big storm in morning, I went to store, Jean stayed; B. and all came over, and Jean got dinner for them, they left for Fenton, the storm raging.... Fair day at store, better than average....

Thurs. 29: Another storm this morning, so did not go for eggs, as roads bad... icy, etc... We got 5 doz at H on way to work. Then I went for mags and to Ray Co.... OK. Then Jean went home... And Judy brot her book and went to S's for supper, getting us at 8.... Strong wind, and bells rattle awful; see two lights are out in them tonight, solder coming tonight.... Real winter weather. We ran the slides for Judy this evening; now she is talking to Sue on phone....

Fri. 30: Set up at 7:30 and drove to B for 60 doz. eggs, now 15¢! Road some snow and ice, not bad.... Judy out late in evening, 2:30 -- Adlers's. Jack came for her...

Sat. 31: Dull at store, and we closed at 6 this time.... And rested, very tired, as we had got up at 5 to get Judy to air port for Denver, -- 6:55! Made it time, then had coffee there. And stopped at U for 873 in groc. returning home... Joan taking inventory in spare time of shelves.... Judy better as she left... In evening, 9 to Kiddies off Mill Rd. for party, Al and Bea there. Nice time....

-----1967-----

Sun. 1: Mild weather, light snow... Up late, 10 as tired from last night's loss of sleep, 2 AM! Fine time, much to eat and music and TV, he has stereo, Fisher, two.... Then we went to store at 1:30 to take some inventory. Dick came in behind us, and stayed and took the front canned goods to help us... At 6 we left for S's for supper, nice S, chicken, etc. Kelly had a bad cold, poor child.... Light rain.... Now home at 8 and Kay and Dave coming over... They came, and we ran the slides of trips west for them; they seemed to like. Kay had a pink outfit out, slacks and upper, a very attractive girl - woman - 26!... And Susan came to me like I haven't seen her much at all! Jean got lunch, cake and ice cream, tea and coffee....

Mon. 2: Mild. Up late, and then watched the parades, till 2; then to store for inventory balance. At 4-5 we were tired and hungry, so went out and had late dinner at E. J's on Port... Good then came back to store and finished by 8, some customers came in too. Tired and home; watch B Valley, but poor to-night and I was disgusted!

Tues. 3: Mild. Oh last night while I was in B house and had the high on heat the lights went out! It had overhauled and broken the connection in side trailer! No fuse... I put the heavy black cord in use thru window for lights, and soon went home.... This morning I took down the red bells; then fixed the cord good by drilling a hole thru the wall, now all fine. Glad... We learned today that James Child was killed in an accident....

If 1966 was an uneventful year, 1967 was just its opposite. In 1966, Cecil made significant references to family happenings 84 times, entertainment 39 times, work (beyond trips to the warehouse and daily sales figures) 25 times, and world events 14 times. Nineteen sixty-seven brought 276 references to family happenings, 100 entertainment references, 124 significant references concerning work, and 34 which concerned local or world historical events.

Another interesting change in the content of his journal beginning this year is that

he began making carbon copies of many of the letters he had written. These letters provided an expanded insight to the events that occurred in his life that year.

Work

Cecil and Jean worked together at the store in this year, Jean usually working behind the counter and Cecil filling up their little red Dodge Dart with merchandise from the warehouses where they purchased most of their inventory. I can remember anticipating trips to the warehouses as a child. They were huge places, and I got to ride on the flat-bed rolling cart until it was filled, taller than I was, with boxes of candy, canned goods, and other grocery items. The store was averaging over \$100 per day in sales, so most of the days were categorized as “good” in Cecil’s diary.

It seemed that Cecil was enjoying his work in January. He expressed this on the 20th: “Friday 20: Milder, 31 today! Sun out some... drove downtown, stopped at post office and sent package to Midland for Judy; then mailed letter to clinic I had written; parked on E. 3rd... by ramp to post office, for blanks. Stopped at restaurant for coffee; to bank made deposit, etc. . Then changed dolls at Penney’s... back to car and to SB (a warehouse?) for groceries and cigarettes... 2:30 when back to the store, but enjoyed the outdoor trip.”

He noted on the 22nd of the month that inventory was up as compared to the previous year: “...and then we went to store, and I added the inventory: \$2580 up \$250 from 1965.”

A big snowstorm hit on Thursday, February 26, which caused Jean and Cecil to take extraordinary measures in order to get to the store. They ended up hitchhiking to get there and then stayed overnight with relatives who lived in the park. "Thurs. 26: Went for eggs as soon as we got in: snowing hard then: all way to Wil. Rd then bare; but when I left with the eggs it was starting in Tuscola and getting quite deep north of Flint! Snowed hard all day, we shoveled the walk time after time, still more 6-7 in. at least when we left for home; got home OK, but drive filled two feet deep, had to back up and L helped me; then backed back by curb... all night snowed and blew hard... Fri. 27: Up at 6:30... terrible 3-foot drifts all over the yard! L's snowmobiles out and doing fine. Didn't feel too good, either of us; rested in PM... Gladys called and customers wanting to get in! We should have come back and stayed here all night with Gladys. Finally I walked out to Dupont and back, and told Jean we might make it so we got ready and she packed the red case... bad walking, as some cars coming or going most of the time; and we had to get out in the deep snow at the sides, frequently; but as luck would have it at North St. a car with one driver, and Jean thumbed him... He worked for C&O railroad and brought us to Dort and Webster! Great. I was fine, but Jean tiring, she can't stand the cold air, and exertion, but gamely kept on. Stopped at Gladys' and Mike came over and shoveled the walk; and did the customers pour in; big orders in succession, then Jean came and still they came in. Now 8 and we are staying over. \$100 or so I guess. We stay with Patt and Mike tonight... fine, played a game. Tired. Sat 28: In morning we had breakfast and walked to store before 10... nice bright day and not too cold, 22. snow piled high everywhere... out of bread, milk, potatoes since last night! None coming as

yet, 1PM, but we hope! No trucks at 3-4, I went to Mike's and he drove me to Wonder, where I got a tray of bread and rolls (not enough), then we went to H's (Hamady's?) at Det. and got 10 half gal. milk, 4 cartons of cigs; on to house, no plow and we carried out the potatoes, and a case of eggs and shovel. Then Mike P. came, we returned via car. Mistake. Then Louie came with lots of milk, but bread soon sold out, no more... Stayed at Patt's... Big day: over \$200 I guess? Sun 29: Bright day, 30 at H... opened store. And Hopkins called Shirley, and she Patt... Plow to come through, and we came right over, Mike P., and they had shoveled the drive out, the car, and sidewalks, and to side door, they and Livingstons! So nice of them...". The plow hadn't gone through, but Jean and Cecil were able to stay home that night.

Having had such a difficult time getting to the store the week before, when snow was predicted on February 1, Cecil prepared for the worst. "Wed. 1: Went to SB for \$150 groceries... roads getting better, big drifts everywhere, tho... they got the Webster Road plowed out for two lanes this evening, and when we went home still working on it... snow started falling at 7 or so, very heavy! Predictions, 4 to 8 inches by morning. So we stopped at Federal's and got cot, \$12... Icy on hill at North and P. but I got through OK with the snow tires... stayed home till 11, then as 4 inches had come, we took bedding and came back to store, trouble at Lyndon and D. stopped for a car and stuck, used shovel, and a man behind pushed and Jean drove... Cozy in store... OK, cot fine." The snow wasn't that bad in the morning, however, and Cecil was able to go to Luddington for magazines, the bank, and Hamady's for some groceries.

Cecil expressed a little frustration later that month, after a busy day and some NSF checks: “I was very busy at times, Pop came and 20 dollar bills, checks... !! Tonight in mail several checks back, NSF! Dam... \$40 back!”

In April, Cecil noted the income they had made from the store in 1966: \$1,008. Cecil made no comment, but even for 1967, they weren't making much money above the small pension Cecil was receiving from Fisher Body. He did express frustration about their financial situation or few customers at times, (March 17: “...we went to the bank, as I had made out a deposit, and included \$40 in silver dollars to bring it up? We are short this winter often in cash!???” April 8: “quiet day at first, just children getting marbles”) but usually just recorded the daily sales figures and how much he spent at the warehouse. Reviewing how much dedication he and Jean had to the store, (hitchhiking to the store in the snow, working when sick, and staying in the store during a tornado warning to finish work when others were going to the shelters) and considering the long hours they worked, one wonders if it was worth it, but Cecil was certainly enjoying himself more than he ever had while he worked at Fisher Body.

Late April/early May brought a strike by local potato chip distributors, the repainting of the front steps, and the acknowledgment that they needed the revenue after a \$191 day where many paid their accounts. Eggs remained at 40 cents a dozen, Cecil still found dealing with pop bottles frustrating, and Lois still worked for them occasionally.

In early June, Cecil bought a refrigerator for \$150 from a woman named Lucille, and as a bonus, she gave them a washer and dryer for their house. (Before that time, I believe they used an old ringer washer.) Getting the refrigerator into the tiny store was

quite an ordeal. “Fri. 9: We stopped and gave Lucille check for \$150 on the refrig... also she is giving us an automatic washer and gas dryer! Free. Will cost a bit to move, that’s all. ... Sunday the 11th: ...Shirley called and mentioned that perhaps if we took the door off of the new refrigerator it would go into the store back door; so I went to Lucy’s and measured, and it will!!!! Refrigerator is 24”; door is 25” and 26 if sides are taken off! This will save moving our refrigerator and be much better... Monday the 12th: Hot day, the hottest yet, I guess, 96 on porch here at 3PM! Opened door and it went to 92 as Dick and I left... cleaned the basement for the two appliances from Lucy: washer and gas dryer. Went there at 7:45, and key in mailbox; movers came soon, two colored men, but OK; moved all three over; picked up Jean and left the 2; then to store with refrigerator and took off the two doors, 3 hinges, 9 screws, a bit hard to turn but made it; \$21...” Cecil mentioned a couple of days later that the refrigerator was a help: “...Jean defrosted the ice-cream case first; then the big deep freeze one afterwards... put all the things in the new COLDSPOT refrig., without it impossible... great, but quarters cramped in rear: I drove to front door and put all groceries thru it, worked ok; then in aisle... only empty boxes and bottles in rear!” He mentioned it again a couple of days later, too: “The new frostless refrig is wonderful, quiet as all get out; things very cold, no fuses blown as yet, with toaster and stove both on too? Ice cubes on hand all the time! Butter and milk and all always so easy to get, too! We put all groceries through the front door now; and I keep the bottles by door and take to bottle house several times a day.”

Just three days after this positive entry, trouble came knocking at the door of the little trailer-store. Cecil told the story best. “Sat. 17: (written Sunday, 3PM) Fair day.

Rain and turned cooler! Most welcome! Went to W's for groceries and cigarettes, 29 cartons in morning, made deposit... to bed fairly early....??? Little knowing what was happening at the store! Sunday 18: Nice bright day; very cold night... worked in yard in morning, Jean cut all the tall grass with cycle; while (I) ran the mower, it started fine... then about 11:30 Jim from the park called, someone has broken into the store! He called the police... We went right over, but not as bad as we had feared. Boys apparently, broke the window by gas stove; crawled in and took say a dozen cartons of cigarettes from drawer; lighters on card, some candy, bubble gum box, pair of gloves, etc.? \$30 - \$40 a guess... police came and took down the details... Detective to come tomorrow; Bobbie S. had heard a noise around 11:30 - 12, the window being broken likely. Dick and I fixed it with a board, wire, for the time: must get new glass in window, etc. We left the light on up front and the two by refrig., police suggested this. Monday the 19th: ...now a shelf and bar across the 4 south small windows... Tuesday the 20th: I put up a REWARD, \$25, in store, some saw it...". Cecil wrote to Tom Nunn On June 18th, and related the story of the break-in. In that same letter, he wrote that he enjoyed running the store, despite the break-in. "If we were younger, even ten years, would think of getting a larger store. For we like the atmosphere of a retail grocery... and I wonder why I did not try it earlier in life? I recall once we did go to Montrose, and look at a store for sale (I was out of work), but the day was hot and the store seemed unbearably hot, and living quarters above worse yet!"

As with everything, there are good days and bad days. July 5 was both: "Good day at the store, \$130... I went to AW's at noon for cigs and some groceries... later Jean

went to Shirley's with wading pool. And got the nice set of dishes they got for our 36th anniversary, very fine! Currier and Ives design! ...8 pieces... I am tired tonight, had a very busy time while Jean was gone, tired me out... To hell with the grocery business!"

On July 10, Cecil had an idea who broke into the store: three young men from the trailer park. "I am going to talk with the detective in morning, on phone first...". This train of thought continued on July 12. "I went to see the detective, Mr. Gorman, at 12:30; first Jean cleaned the case by front door; my how it needed it... I helped some too... Gorman had a form typewritten on desk: someone had called him and given him the name of the fellow who broke in, and handed the things out to two others... something should be poppin' soon." That same day, Cecil noted that they had had an income of less than \$5000 in 1966.

July 13 brought the discovery that the thieves had stolen more than Cecil had originally thought. "Shirley and the children were to the store just before I left for eggs... we discovered today we had no playing cards, either kind! They had taken both boxes of these too; but we had not missed them before? Odd. Until someone wanted some... Imagine! Here's another \$10 or so gone, guess \$75 - \$100 will be better for income tax, loss!" In a letter to Tom and Thelma dated July 17, Cecil noted that they were taking out an insurance policy against robbery, burglary and vandalism. The last journal entry concerning the break-in occurred on July 20: "Thurs. 20: Hot... got doughnuts on way to work... and I left at 12:30 for police department, saw Gorman, he thinks G. Allen the one now, and latter has skipped...???"

Another 'down' day occurred on August 4. "Fr. 4: Cooler! glad of this. We go

to warehouse for some groceries and cigarettes. Tired and depressed...??? What aim, Life? As one gets older and strength fails... (written Sat. evening:) Hard day, Jean lay down in PM and I got a bunch of the hard ones, and upset, so that when Jean awoke I told her in strong language, and the dam licorice unwrapped the trouble; one cent, two, ... no more, only sell the 5 cent packs; or 20 at one time..."

The really bad news was delivered on August 29, however. "Tues. 29: Warm today. We stopped going in for amount of rent, and Griff told me that he can't have the store in the park... Complaints, boys, etc. By next spring, latest,????? Naturally, we were surprised... So we'll see." Cecil revealed more of his thoughts in a letter to Judy on September 3: "We expect to have to find another location for our trailer-store, by spring at least; as Griffy doesn't want it there: the children and big boys coming in too much, etc., given as the reason; but we surmise it is the new public housing, to start immediately, and likely be ready for occupancy next summer: low cost, many Negroes in it. They would be coming into the park and store?" A similar version was found in his Sept 3 letter to Tom: "We are 'up in the air' at the store, however, as Griffey the Park owner wants the store taken out, tho we have till Spring... The older boys have been worse this summer, running thru it all times of day, --and night, etc. His reasons, but we think the real reason is that they are to build a \$1,800,000 apartment building just northwest of the Park, south of Carpenter. Open housing, low rent, project, starting right away, and Negroes would likely take over, and come into the park to a store?"

Cecil immediately began thinking about what to do. In a September 3 letter to Evelyn, Claude, and Elton (Evelyn was his sister) he considered Oscoda: "We think

Oscoda a very pretty town. Being on the lake makes it especially well-surrounded... It might be a location for a small business. Tho hard to break into a strange community... and competition is ruthless everywhere these days as always I guess.”

September 7 was a hot day, but that evening, they drove to a potential business site: “Jean phoned the man on the \$8000 store on Center Rd., just north of Maple: this morning; and tonight at 9 we drove over and talked with the owner and the real estate man; lots of room, low stock, etc. Could hardly handle now, but we’ll wait and see what turns up...” They drove past the store again Sunday, September 10 after church.

The next day, they drove to see Phil Lawrence on West Mt. Morris Road the owner of West Ambassador Park, but he was not home. A week later, they met with a woman and saw a store at the corner of Belsay and Richfield Roads. “Beer and Wine. \$500 down; \$485 a month rent; utilities around \$50 a month, Gross sales \$30,000 tops in last 3 years.... ?????”

Cecil talked to Griffey again on September 21, but he reported no progress. In a letter to Tom written that same day he summarized their search thus far: “We have looked around some, and ran down two advertisements for stores in the Journal. However, one was too much, \$8000 cash, the sales only \$50,000, SE section of Flint; the other a Beer and Wine setup mostly, tho reasonable in price. We want to stick with groceries mostly, so are looking...”.

He talked to the owner of another trailer park on September 28, a rainy, miserable day. That same day, Jean caught a girl stealing. “Martha Pringle and a girl were taking cigarettes, bars, and gum: Jean caught them! I saw the owner of park on Dort today; and

man owning the building on Dort????” They had another encounter with young people on October 5. “Nice day and cooler! Pleasant! Went to Flint C in morning; got doughnuts. Jean came home 11 to 4 PM... brought back nice supper; and while I was eating, (I did not know until over) C. Forsyth and the Barker boy came in; Jean refused service to CF, and the B boy said some nasty things, 4 letter words; so he is off limits too... what fools...”.

October 10 had Jean and Cecil visiting a promising location in Flushing. “Jean wanted to see the Flushing Park store for sale went in: looked good; \$1000 for all fixtures; stock less 20%, \$1500 perhaps? Rent \$110 plus \$4 for water, \$114. Andrews keeping their books, downtown Flushing, looked about like ours, from Sales Tax stubs, 9 months this year, \$23,599! \$3658 the highest, June. May \$3568; Aug. \$3256; July \$3350! Gas heat; surroundings fine, we drove south, many fine drives and houses; to north, Carpenter West and north east of River, hundreds of \$30 up houses, beautiful trees; apartment to east of McKinley; High School, new; homes... Looks good. Buy and run H Park store also till spring!”

Cecil pondered what to do the next day, then visited the store again on October 15. “...nearly 4 we went to Flushing store, and talked with them, he there too -- Hosea. then to man who owns it back of store, Ballengers. Nice people. Talked a time, learned a lot of history of the store: he built and ran 12 years, now 5 years since then, several operators; he has arthritis... \$110 plus \$4 for water, a month...”.

He knew he had to make a decision soon. In a letter to Tom on October 22 he summarized his feelings: “We have a store we are considering: in north Flushing, Park

Store. The best and most suitable yet, the only one we would consider. Eight miles from here, but no railroad tracks to cross and be held up by! Grossing about like ours here in summer months, but down in Jan. and Feb. . We shall have to build up the business, of course; and if we buy stock and fixtures, try to run both stores over the next few months, dull ones; cut the hours down here at the trailer store, and Lois will help 3 days a week at least... But it scares one, as Jean hasn't been too well of late; and when one thinks of the snow out in front for parking to be removed, we would have to hire a pusher."

It was a difficult decision for Cecil. This was evidenced by his October 23 entry: "Monday 23: Not feeling good this morning, guess in part worrying about the store and the one in Flushing! Must do something this week Jean keeps telling me. Jean keeps telling me, and she is right...". The next day the store continued to weigh on his mind: "Lois works tomorrow and we go to Flushing to see store again, and do something, I hope...". Wednesday, October 25 they went to see the Flushing store again. "Cold! And windy, leaves falling off trees fast... up at 8:30 and dull and indecisive all morning. Talked the store over; Jean worried if not bought; so at 12 or so we wrote up a counter deal: \$1800., plus \$900 payable \$1,000 November 1st, \$300 Dec. 1st; \$200 Feb 1st, or sooner." Their bid was accepted the next day. "This evening Hosea's called and will accept the offer, the inventory subject to taking it Tuesday the 31st, we four doing it; OK; and Lois will work both days, T and Wed, the first of November... \$1000 down..."

October 31 was inventory taking day at the new store. They were done by 12:30, and the current tenants, the Hoseas, took the information to their bookkeeping firm. Cecil recorded the following numbers: "...\$1816 Retail, less 20%. \$1453... Saw

lawyer, to be paid, \$1000 Nov. 1st, \$300 Dec 1st, \$300 Jan 1st, 1968, \$250 Feb 1st, \$250 March 1st; \$250 Apr. 1st... total, \$2350; \$900 for fixtures; \$1450 inventory... then to health department, paid the \$20 fee... can open tomorrow now.”

That same day, Cecil wrote to Judy and summarized his feelings about the new store: “We are buying the stock and fixtures of the Flushing Park store. Today we took inventory with the sellers, and in morning sign the papers and pay over the money! Think it will prove to be a good buy in the end. Tho the winter months are down, the summer is fine, and they have let it run down, and it needs cleaning and sprucing up. Lois will work again tomorrow so we both can be in it. Then I will run it mostly, and Jean will cover the trailer store; and Lois work two days a week or so... We are cutting the hours to 8 PM at the trailer, 7 on Saturday to conserve time and energy! But the Flushing one will have to stay open longer, and some Sunday PM’s too for a time...”

November 1 was cleaning day. They signed the papers and paid \$1000 on the contract plus \$55 rent until the 15th. The store was dirty, and Jean worked hard all day. He noted that the landlord, “Mrs. B” was over all day “fussing”. They saw some roaches around the sink and got some spray. Their first day at the store was not a good one, only \$30 in sales. The next day, Cecil noted not sleeping well; he was worried. During the day they went to the warehouses and purchased inventory, then continued to clean the new store. Sales for the day there amounted to \$54.

The health department inspected the Flushing store on November 3. A Mr. Underwood told them that they had to paint the floor with special paint and that no meat cutting would be allowed. This was not a problem for Cecil.

Sales continued to fall around the \$50 mark at the Flushing store, with the trailer store averaging around \$85. Jean's health was not good, but having Lois available to work gave Cecil time to fetch inventory. Running two stores was a lot of work for Cecil, who was 67, and Jean who was 53.

Saturday, November 11 was a bad day. "Sat. 11: A bad day! Worked on pipes at store; Mrs. B came over and helped; then I slipped off box as wrench pulled loose, and hit the pail of water to my left wit my left side, ribs, hard, and really hurt myself. But I finished the day till 8, this was 3... and only told Jean when I got home. Put on BenGay". The next day, he was still hurting: "Sun. 12: good night's rest, but very sore, so Jean called emergency at Osteo. and we went at 10, she drove. They x-rayed my side, no bones broken, game me pain pill prescription, but I have only used aspirin. No pain, just sore... then we paid Lois, and got heating pad at Yankee's, went to Flushing Store and put sign on door not open today; then north to V. road and to T for 60 dozen eggs, back to PP (Pat's Pantry), and put them half in cartons, then home and rested. Down a bit tonight of course; as Jean has to go to PP in the morning, and she is weak though better... I'll try to make Flushing and hold the fort; doubtless side will be better soon... Oh Life!"

Things were not going well. In November, it seemed sales in both stores drastically dropped. On Sunday the 19th, Cecil only sold \$28.45 worth of merchandise. On Tuesday, the 21st, he noted they "could sell out with little opposition" and "times are very dull... terrible here." November 22, Cecil found the time to write a letter to Attorney General Frank Kelly concerning his situation at Pat's Pantry. He didn't write concerning his situation, however, he wrote of the situation of a "friend".

November 22, 1967

Mr. Frank Kelly, Attorney-General
State of Michigan
Lansing, Mich.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

A friend of mine living in a Trailer Park in Genesee County, has contacted me about conditions there. He feels he is imposed upon, and it looks like it....

As you perhaps know, there is a great shortage of Trailer Parks for house trailers. Making it very difficult to change parks, as they are all full and have waiting lists I understand. So that when there is a lack of competition, there is almost always the chance if he is so inclined of becoming a work of dictatorial.

In this park above, there has been a small grocery store for four years, in a house trailer itself, doing a good business inasmuch as in addition to the park, there are many houses nearby. Now, the owner has given notice that the store must discontinue in the near future. Of course he and others in this Park feel badly about this, some having even chosen this Park because of no car during the day, making it easy to buy groceries alone... Some have talked with the owner, and suggested getting a petition signed by those want the store continued. This has only brought the return by office help to keep their noses out of things which don't concern them, else they will be asked to move!

To me the problem is this: as private property, the owner can decide as to whether or not he wishes a store continued. But, can he legally and morally discriminate against a tenant who pays his rent promptly and abides by all rules? Isn't this a sort of blackmail to threaten, unless...?

It seems totally wrong, when a little 'Hitler' can coerce his tenants, and hold them silent, because they cannot move, (no place, and moving is costly if available); thus taking a prime liberty away from them!...

I shall appreciate greatly if you can outline a man's rights and privileges as a tenant in a Trailer Park....

Sincerely

Mr. G. G. Santarvult
5610 Granville Ave.

The end of the month found Jean feeling weak and tired, yet working with Cecil at the Flushing store painting the floor with the special paint recommended by the health department. Cecil noted on November 30 that there were many bills, business was slow, and they were both tired.

Things didn't improve much in December. Sales at the Flushing store continued to be slow, and Mrs. B., the landlady, was not being helpful. December second was not a good day. The roads were icy, so Cecil took Jean to the trailer-store and he went to Flushing. "Made it ok but late, 10:30... then a boy slid into my rear left tail light as I was parked here, around 2 PM. Needs new tail light whole and chrome strip to center, I guess

all! Dam. I parked the car by pole then, as Mrs. B. had said it best and guess she is right here;;; I had just got the shelf in for phone book, nice; she saw and ?????!!! ...was I mad... What a meddling old F..... Ready to sell out.....”. That same day Cecil noted that sales for November were \$1440.78.

The health department visited on the 4th, inspected the paint job on the floor, and approved their license. The next day found him doubting his decision, however. “Today I have been unnerved. I walked down to the bank with a deposit... muddy streets, no sidewalks of much most of the way; Hell, a little run-down town, Flushing! And this store, cigarettes and pop,???? Why? Did we buy? Fools for doing so... got another map, new from City Clerk... peeked into stores, to see what the floor covering are: mostly tile, light colored; and hardwood boards in some... store on Cherry closed Mondays, long hours other days, including Sunday, and beer and wine... lack of the latter kills this store.”

Cecil’s frustration didn’t end there. The day after the previous entry, he noted that “yesterday was a really ‘down’ day! ...could see nothing to be glad about...” “Sat. 9: ... I’ve eaten too much trash; drank pop, and off generally: I hate this store, no business; all stores somewhat; wish I had said NO and trusted time and spring to uncover something... Cigarettes! Pop! Candy! Bread and Milk! What a business! And far too little of even these items!”

Monday, December 18 was another bad day for him. “I felt very down, but better now... a struggle... two store an error at this time, any time... but what can one do but keep going... “. The last entry of the year concerning the store was just as bad: “Last

working day in the old year, and am I down! Woke up feeling so depressed, and the business today has surely not improved my feelings... so dull... a hell of a store; wish I had turned down the deal back that Sunday when Jean wanted action... I guess I knew I shouldn't... Jean's health; cost... bad trade, all against us, and yet in I blithely plunged... I have just that of the scales, and meat slicer, and taken down the numbers and co's. Will not write for prices? Something to do in this dam place...".

Family

The grandchildren continued to be a focus for Jean and Cecil in 1967. Lynn (now occasionally referred to as Karilynn) continued to spend many nights with them. Cecil continued to be protective of his little girls and there was a significant family conflict in June when Richard was too hard on Lynn. Things calmed down after a few weeks, however, and the family took a vacation with Jean and Cecil to Oscoda in August. This was also the year that Rusty the dog ate his last roll of stamps, as he was put to sleep in September. Judy was out west, first in Colorado then in California with a new boyfriend named Bill. Jean began taking a knitting course on Monday nights.

Cecil mentioned watching the grandchildren or having one or both of them over for the night over 30 times in 1967. Lynn stayed the night many times, but Kelly was only a year old and did not stay over until June when Shirley and Dick went to Expo '67 for a few days.

January was not the best month for the children. Kelly swallowed an object on Wednesday, the 18th, then Lynn got sick: "Sun. 22: ...then to Shirley's where we stayed

with the children while they went to the store to look for a suit for Dick... Karilynn has a fever, 103... Kelly still has the part she swallowed!" "Tues. 24: Cloudy, still mild, 40! Jean gone to see Shirley, who stayed home from school today. Lynn had a fever and sick in night? Kelly still has the wooden thing she swallowed!"

Jean and Cecil took Lynn on several short day-trips throughout the year. On Sunday, April 30, they took advantage of the mild yet cloudy day to drive 'up north'. "...took Lynn with us... lunch in Kaw-; on to cemetery, then to Evelyn's for an hour or more: they had sold the 80, and plan on leaving in a month for Florida, in their pickup heavy truck... live in Norman's house, etc.... I left some magazines... Then we drove to Rose City, had lunch there, Jean a fish dinner; and then looked around the old bank, etc... Nostalgia! Drove by the Parliament house, Jean's old home, and ours, etc., Flynn house for sale. Then south to 55, and turned East, then South by a lake, artificial, Ogemaw Lake! Had left compass home, and cloudy and couldn't tell which way which! Greenwood, then turned right, Henderson Road, and it went south and then the Maple Road to Prescott, just where I first thought we would arrive! OK. In Bay City the Belinda Bridge, a boat going down river, held us up a spell; then to Richville via 15, and S into Tuscola, got 60 doz. eggs, as planned, and home, and put them all into dozen crates here at the house, now 10 and to bed, tired..."

Sunday, June 18 was Father's day. The day before, the store had been burglarized, and Cecil spent the morning dealing with that problem. Dick helped him repair the broken window. That evening, there was a party at Dick's mother's place. She and her new husband, Lyle, lived on Kearsley Lake. "Then to Lena's: all went well till

we went out to the car to get sweaters for a trip on the reservoir in Lyle's pontoon, when Lynn bumped into Kelly, then Dick lit into Lynn and spanked her unmerciful, and called her 'monster' etc. In a rage: I said that was enough of that and got into the car and backed out: and Jean came with me shortly." The next evening, Shirley called. "Jean had a hard night and we don't feel very good this AM. Shirley called at 10:10, and Lynn came on and I talked with her also...??? Jean was feeling so bad, I was sure Shirley would make contact." The next day, Shirley called again. "Shirley called this morning, and said things a bit strong, so I called back and stated our case. Then Jean asked for a meeting to smooth things over like, and I said I would go over and not raise my voice: Shirley was crying... so after breakfast I went over and stated my case and not sparing Dick either, but keeping my voice and comments under restraint; he hardly said a word, as I left she called Lynn who was on her tricycle down the street a bit, and I went to her, the dear. Then came back. Later, Jean went over and had a visit." It was obvious that things were still unresolved, but improving, according to the entry on June 22. "Shirley called this evening, and we talked with Lynn, Jean says Shirley seems better tonight, TIME! They are going to Expo '67, we keep both children. Tired tonight... but OK all day... Jean didn't feel a bit good, however; but worked. The affair with Dick and Shirley was hard on her." Two days later, however, on Cecil's birthday, things seemed better. "We went to Shirley's after work: she had baked a nice Chocolate cake and had ice cream, strawberries, and I had coffee; nice of them. All seemed OK?" Cecil and Jean had Lynn over for the night, and the next day, Cecil indicated that he was certainly not over the incident: "Lynn stayed with us Saturday night. She was so thrilled when she

found she could come over - it was pathetic! She was a good girl, heavy rain Saturday made her sand wet, but we had some more under the overhang and she played wit this...”.

Shirley and Dick left for their trip four days later, and Jean and Cecil had both kids. (The plan before the argument was that Lynn would go with Shirley and Dick.) Cecil reported that grandparents and grandchildren all had a good time, even going on a picnic with Jean’s sister Zilla to what Cecil termed as a “Sunken Gardens Place”. Shirley and Dick reclaimed the children on July 4.

The history books termed this the “long, hot summer”. They were, of course, referring to the social unrest, but also to the temperatures. Sunday, July 23 was one such long, hot day. “Sunday 23: Nice day but very warm, strong wind! So tired, stayed in bed till 15 to 10! Then was groggy and eyes weak. But finally better, and we planned a trip with Lynn, staying with us last night and tonight. she wanted to go to the Lake? So we got ready and left at 1:15 PM! Late! To store for paper and check: OK, 86 so left it closed... on B Rd. to Vienna, Otter Lake and east to Lexington! Detour at Burnside, rough gravel for 7 miles... had lunch in Brown City, hot inside, food fair... Poor town! the wet spells have hurt the crops a lot here abouts, corn so yellow and short. The beach at Lexington so crowded we stayed but a few minutes; went N. to Port Sanilac, also busy there; had sundaes, .35 each, and water cloudy and stones, so we left soon, and went to county park at Forster? Best place, stayed here an hour or more, getting late here so west and S to 46 and supper in Sandusky! \$2.35; air conditioned here... Fair... west a good time, 46 to Vassar, Main St. all closed, paving; Tuscola and farm and 40 doz. eggs, \$16. To store, leaving 30 dozen. Home at 10 past. Shirley just calling... now 11 and soon to

bed, all having baths.”

The conflict with Dick in June had calmed down after a time, and in August, Cecil, Jean, Shirley, Dick, Lynn, Kelly, and Zilla rented cabins (the place was called Thomas' cottages) in Oscoda for a week. Cecil and Dick stayed the first weekend, but drove home to work the weekdays. Cecil returned the following Saturday and collected Jean. Dick returned that same day and brought his mother, Lena, for the weekend. It is amazing how time heals. During the week Cecil and Dick stayed in Flint to work, Dick stopped by to visit two of those evenings.

Cecil, Jean and Lynn took one more short trip that year in September before running two stores took over all of their free time. “Mon. 4: Fine weather continues. Jean wants to go some place with Lynn, who is here with us. So we decided to go to Cadillac and ride the train if possible? We get started around 1:30 I think. And took camera, etc. Went out 57, looked for a place to eat, finally on 27 and 57 we have a good restaurant... then we go north on 66, etc. and arrive at Cadillac by 5 or so; no train today, too late, and tomorrow only a freight caboose! We get a fine motel on the lake, C. \$12 (down from first \$14), and take some pictures. And then drive around Lake Mitchell, and back to our motel on 55... Good Night's sleep. Heat didn't work however... Tues. 5: Up and B at the nice restaurant on Hill, as the night before also... Got gasoline, took pictures of the Shay locomotive in Park by Lake C... Drove to Lake City, and waited around till past 12 before they started! I was ready to call it quits... \$4.50 for the ride to and from C... Smoke and bumpy, three lakes, swamps, 23 miles! Returning we rode up in the high part where we could see much better! Then Jean phoned Shirley that we would be late

and to tell Lois in the store, which she did... We left soon as we had supper, 4-5 or so... took 6 hours to get home... 400 miles driven in all; came back a different way, went to Filmouth, where train also picks up freight... desolate country in parts, and some very nice rolling and groves of trees. Had supper in Carson City, on 57, and got to Shirley's 10 to 10PM! Left Lynn, who had been pretty good for a 4 year old! she got tired at times, then not so good... in Crystal Lake, big dance hall, 1/4 of an acre in area, old, 1900 perhaps, rundown somewhat, but interesting, and we took two pictures or so... Beautiful Lake, large!

The last lengthy entry concerning the grandchildren of the year occurred on a Monday when Lynn spent the night with them. "Took Lynn for a walk in the Park after returning from bank: roads wet, but we made it; she had no boots with her; the things are still up, and she rode the merry-go-round, 4 things to mount; and the slide a dozen times, then got a stick or two and dragged them in the snow and ice! After returning and she got warm and shoes and stockings dried out, Jean took her downtown, and got some Xmas lights."

Judy was in Denver, Colorado in January of 1967. She was spending a lot of time with a man named Bill Embry. She was working, apparently, in a store owned by Bill. She was taking some kind of typing course, and Jean and Cecil were paying for it. On January 21, he mentioned that things were not going well for Bill's business: "Judy phoned last evening, late... well, but Bill having store trouble; thinking of selling; Judy working on course... wants Bill to come to Michigan to find work... so not so good,

business...". The problems with the business became a little clearer on February 7, Judy's birthday, when she called. "Judy phoned this evening, had got letters, pleased; Bill having trouble with state tax, etc., losing business I guess....?????" She called again later that month asking for \$25. "Judy phoned a few minutes ago: needs \$25 to catch up rent she says; will send tomorrow; Jean will pay this. Working on course two nights a week she says, has no full-time job, looking."

Another call in March brought the news that Judy had broken up with Bill, was working part-time in an office, and dancing on the weekends. She wanted to go to California with some girlfriends the next summer then back to Michigan by the fall.

In early April, Judy had moved again to another part of Denver. On the 29th, she called to tell Cecil and Jean that she would leave in two weeks for California via Las Vegas with friends. "Judy called this evening: leaving with two girl friends in about two weeks for California, via L.Vegas, Los A. and then to S.Fran several weeks; then back to Denver for a time, then back to Flint: Bill and Bob she expects to see out in California."

Mother's day brought the return of a letter, unclaimed, and flowers from Judy. She called the next day and gave another address. May 21 brought a call from Los Vegas from her with news that she would be going to LA in a few days and that she had lost at gambling. She called May 31, (not collect, he noted) to say that all was okay from Los Angeles.

In June she called from California, either LA or Van Nyes, asking for \$25. On July 8 she called again, asking for more, but Cecil was fed up. "Judy had called collect, wanted to get a car, \$894; and out OK, etc. I can't understand Judy... Of course I said we

could not do this, and would not; Judy called around 10, and I told her.” On July 27, Judy sent a long letter saying, (among other things that Cecil doesn’t mention) that she bought a 1959 Mercury car, \$20 per month for one year. Over the next few weeks they received several long letters from her, but Cecil did not mention their content. They received the last one on August 14. On September 3, Cecil sent a letter to Judy, telling of the problems with the store, and how Lynn and Kelly were. He enclosed \$5 and asked her to keep writing: “We haven’t had a letter of late and trust nothing is wrong? Drop a line, my dear, and let us know.”

A letter did arrive on September 9, stating that she had been in Mexico but didn’t like it at all. On October 8, Cecil wrote to Judy reminding her that she would have to get her own health insurance since she was no longer a student. November 4 brought a telephone call from Judy in the evening, giving another address, this new one in Burbank, California.

Cecil did not mention any other correspondence from Judy that year. She didn’t come home for Christmas.

Rusty the dog was not doing well in 1967. He was ill in January, dragging his hind quarters. This brought some sympathy from Cecil, although he was not his biggest fan: “Rusty dragging his hind quarters... Poor dog”. They noticed this on the 29th, and took him to the vet on the 30th. He came home February 1. On the third, Cecil noted that Rusty was somewhat better: “Rusty coming OK I guess... seems to like to be home!” He must have been feeling better, because he escaped on February 9th and was gone

nearly an hour.

He was back at the vet a few days later, however, on a Sunday, but Cecil didn't mention the problem. He was home on March 2 to once again annoy Cecil: "Rusty got the \$5 roll of stamps that was in the metal box, and was chewing it before we saw him and realized what he had. Spoiled a lot of them. I was upset."

There was no other mention of Rusty until September 6, when Cecil noted a sore on his hind quarters: "Rusty to place on Dort..... sore very bad on rear.....". Exactly what happened on that day was related to Judy in the postscript of a letter on September 21. "Rusty got a bad running sore on hind quarters, and his cough was getting awful bad, throwing up, etc. So I let the vet have him put to sleep..."

Financially, Cecil and Jean were "getting by" but struggled a bit, especially at the end of the year when they purchased the second store. He noted on March 2: "...must send car payment, 3 more after this! No more 3-year financing! Hell, half a lifetime... 2 the max, and better 18 mos. or less, and soon I want to pay cash!" Three months later, he celebrated, but indicated that his time without payments on a car wouldn't last long. "May... Sunday 21: ...Am mailing in the final payment, \$70.36, on the Dodge Dart! Am I glad to be thru... even for a few months." He obviously had plans to purchase another new car, and it didn't take much of a search to find one.

On July 12, Cecil noted they might get a tax refund: "Treasurer... must see them next Jan. Feb. and may have a refund on tax? Less than \$5000 income?" It is possible that this was their income for the year. If this is the case, it wasn't much. The couple

needed a reliable car, however. They used it to deliver inventory to the store, and on top of that, they only had one car, so if it broke down, they had no alternate transportation. Cecil took good care of his vehicles, often mentioning washing and waxing them by hand, even in cold weather months. Therefore, in July, only two months after celebrating that final payment, Cecil found himself drawn to a Dodge dealership in Frankenmuth.

“Tues. the 25: ... to Frankenmuth, for nice late dinner, fish and chicken, \$2.50, .25 tip, waitress from St. Louis Mo. for summer... saw one nice blue Dart, \$1925 above our car...???” The next day he had made his decision: “Tired. Came home around noon, and called bank and made arrangements for their financing the deal for new car: 1900, 2 yr., \$88 month... then called Robert Loesel, salesman for Schaefer & Bierlein, at Frankenmuth, and he came down \$45, \$1925 to \$1880! So tomorrow I get the papers made out at bank, and Friday go to Frankenmuth and get the car, blue, 4-door, back-up lights, 145 hp motor, etc. ...and leave the little red Dart, which has been so wonderful, I really hate to part with it.”

The next day, the car was still on his mind. “...up early and to U for over \$200 in groceries. Should be the final trip for the little red car carting groceries! So nobly done always, and we have loaded it severely at times! Rush, rush, rush! took BP pill, then a bit later (we had a bite at our restaurant) I drove downtown, and got the loan thru, \$2095, 24 payments, 17th of month due, \$87.33 a month, \$2095.92 total -- \$215.92 charges... and when I returned, Jean drove down and signed, and brot the draft or money order back, for the F firm... Tomorrow at 10 or so I will pickup the new Blue Dart, and leave the red...”

They finally picked up the new car on July 28: "Well, today was the big day for the new car! Went earlier to store, after readying the car, etc. had doughnuts for B. then I left for Frankenmuth... didn't have to wait long, signed a few papers, I had all the right ones with me, including the all necessary bank money order for \$1880! They changed the license plates, etc. and he went over the operation of the car, etc. and I was soon on the way back, the fine blue car with 145 HP motor running fine, not more than 40 MPH... Jean likes it of course, and didn't ride in it till tonight, when she drove it to Shirley's. Shirley and children were over, and I took them for a ride in it: Shirley loves it. A beauty, sold and more like an expensive Fisher Body type! 50 miles on it tonight!"

On the last day of July they took their first day trip in the car, to Midland to visit family. He liked his new purchase: "250 on car now, and it runs like a dream! So smooth; so powerful, the 145 one. Glad it is... the most deluxe car we ever had!"

Stocks

Sept. 7, 1967

Mr. Eliot Janovey
c/o Detroit Free Press
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:

I have been taking the Free Press, Sunday, since
in at Spring, and reading your good column since then.

I note you are somewhat pessimistic over the market's sharp
rise since last Oct. It seems very logical too.

I have very small holdings of stock, but trying to augment it!
I had Goodrich and General Motors last fall, having held it
for six months and a year and a half, respectively. The GM
being down from purchase, and the G just holding its own.

How very didn't I buy Barracuda (common) - a notable rise since
then and this year. Now 152! I often wanted it but didn't
do anything about it; then in March I sold GM and G, and got
General Time Corp. common, as a very good write up in the
Magazine of Wall Street. Bought at 20, it went to 25 in July,
now lower, 22 or so....

Mind sight is so reliable; foresight so impossible!
Should I sell out and wait for a buying opportunity? This
is very hard to do. For once out of the market, one feels
inertent like!....

I shall continue to read your interesting answers....

Thank you very much...

Sincerely

Mr. Cecil Osterveit
2510 Newville Ave
Milan, Mich. 48065

Following the stock market became a bigger hobby for Cecil from March through early November in 1967 (when work concerns severely limited his free time and his money). For those nine months, however, Cecil read several books, and actually bought and sold some shares.

He made 68 references to the stock market during 1967. Many of them were just indications of the market's "ups and downs", but quite a few went into significantly more detail. Cecil, it must be mentioned, used a sort of shorthand in his journal. He often simply put the first letter of the name of a stock (or person or location) in his entries. For some, I will make logical guesses at the names of the companies and indicate that in parenthesis. Others, I will simply leave as he has noted them.

Cecil did a lot of thinking about buying and selling of stock. He didn't actually purchase or sell often, however. A typical set of entries concerning stocks, the following excerpts were written in March, the first on March second. "...B (Burroughs) jumped again, to 110! ...Market up some and I'm going to sell. Good... and GM, down to 72... Why did I not do this months ago when B was 60?" Twelve days later, however, he still hadn't sold that stock. "Market down a bit," he noted, "think I will sell the GM and G (Goodrich?) perhaps tomorrow after I see the Free Press for closings today, as B was down to \$107 at noon." The next day: "Phoned Roney while home: stocks moving up fast: GM and G 1 point; B over 3! So am waiting toll it looks OK to switch into B for both." He hesitated to sell again on the 19th of March: "Good coverage of stocks in the Free Press; C up to 42; B down a bit for the week, 113 or so? GM up 4, and Good up 3

for the week, so again,?????” He continued contemplating his moves on March 20: “I must get the Free Press Sunday each week, this will keep me up to date: and sell GM and buy Burroughs, even Chrysler is faster mover than GM or Goodrich.” He still didn’t take action the next day. “General Time Corp. given a good rating, selling at 19 or so, .50 dividend since 1963, looks good: 65 E (earnings?) was \$1.20; 66 was \$1.57, and to be better in 67! So may buy some soon: try some semi speculative kinds of stock, as GM and G are too staid and bond-like. If one can get in early on the low-priced good ones, he can see them rise!” Cecil made his big move on March 26th. Actually, it was a partial move... at least he sold some stock. “Came home now 12:15, and phoned Roney and talked with the rep. Dickens? and will give to Gekhart, from who I bought before? I have given orders to sell my Goodrich 5 shares at M, 64 now; and buy 10 shares of G Time Corp. at M, now 19 1/2; waiting on the shares of GM, 79 3/4; and Bur. as he says has been run up in anticipation of a split; they meet in April, but if not, band, down? Wait...” The next day Cecil reported that he sold for 63 plus, \$20 more than he had paid, gross; it cost \$6 and \$7 to sell, giving him a \$7 profit (but the dividends were good, he noted).

March 30, most of his entry concerned his stocks hobby. “Drove to Library, looked at Wall Street Journal, etc. ...then on to Roney’s : with stock certificate of Goodrich 5 shares, signed by Jean and I signed... Gen. Time up over a point already, and I bought another block, 25 shares, now will have 35! Around \$700. First 19 1/4 cost, and I sold General Motors, 3 shares, 77 or so... Felt so good then! Doing something, GT 20.75 already... then on to old post office and banks... Tired tonight, so to bed now, 9 PM... hope I can make a few hundred during the coming months; and get to use \$1000 in

the M (market); then more, and 100 shares eventually!”

It is interesting to note that even though he and Jean had serious concerns about money, he still found a way to purchase a small number of shares of stock. This shows the side of his personality that always seemed to get him into trouble. He always believed that he could make more money, quicker money, easier money by some method other than what he was doing at the moment. He was a dreamer who always thought there was a better job around the corner or an investment in the stock market that would make good money and therefore increase his income.

Cecil’s flirtations with the stock market continued. He revealed his vulnerability, however, on May 8 when he mentioned that he had lost money in the stock market the previous year.

But in July, Cecil’s GTC stock was on the rise, and he was thrilled. On July 16, he felt good about his investments. “...GTC went up 2 points, to 25, last week, \$150 or so profit now on the 35 shares! Wonderful. Will get at least \$300 more shortly, of BS or Rad., or other, with \$1000 base I should do well, I hope; would like to make \$500 in 1967; more next year! ...feel real good about stock advance, a big week on the exchanges, 57,000,000 shares traded. A record number!”

The next day, he made another move. “I went to library, first to bank...read in B’s Financial World: found that they recommend PP (Pacific Petroleums - 45% owned by Phillips Petroleum) as one of ten stocks underpriced selling below 25! So I bought 10 shares of PP at around 16 1/2! No dividend, but it looks good.” He got the money for that purchase by cashing in four bonds from 1960 - 1962 for around \$45 each, and drew

\$100 from their savings account, leaving an \$80 balance. That same day at the library, Cecil checked out a book on charting the stock market. He noted reading it several times over the next two weeks. He mentioned the same book again in September, and used some of its principles to monitor the market.

In September, Cecil wrote a letter to Eliot Janeway, the writer of a column in the Detroit Free Press. Janeway apparently advised investors in the stock market. He wondered if the time was right to sell. He did just that in October, selling his 25 shares of General Time Corporation for a \$50 profit. Later that month, Cecil decided to not purchase any more stock for the time being. "Market even on balance; ??? Trouble ahead, glad out of the 25 shares. Need the \$575 for the Flushing business..." was his thought.

September 20 was his last significant entry concerning his stock. "Market down some today... looks like a break below 900 to me soon! Just as well, as I can't get into the market till later on, as the store will take all I can raise now to swing. But then later sometime when prices are in a real buying range? Why buy!"

Entertainment

In addition to following the stock market, television and reading continued to be major forms of entertainment for Cecil Westervelt. As he conducted his daily errands, he would often mention having a cup of coffee and a "d" (doughnut, I think) at a place downtown called Lloyd's.

On television, Cecil mentioned watching the first Super Bowl, the Detroit Tigers,

the World Series, a “prize fight” with Cassius Clay (Cecil still called him that even though Clay had long since changed his name to Muhammad Ali), a Bob Hope Christmas Special (in January?!), and many movies including *The Gunslinger*, *Brigadoon*, *The Robe*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* (he didn’t like it) and *North by Northwest*. He also noted actors and actresses including Debbie Reynolds, Marlon Brando, Martin and Lewis, Jimmy Stewart, Grace Kelly, Marilyn Monroe, Mia Farrow, William Holden, Alan Ladd, and Gene Kelley. Cecil was a great fan of shows about the old west, and repeatedly mentioned *The Road West*, *Bonanza*, and *Big Valley* as shows he didn’t want to miss. Other television programs he mentioned watching included *Lucy*, *The News with Howard K. Smith*, *The Today Show*, *The Danny Thomas Show*, and *The Dean Martin Hour*.

On April 15, Cecil mentioned a show for the first time he called “the Pyne”. He was referring to a late-night talk show host named Joe Pyne. His show aired late Saturday evenings, and he particularly enjoyed “debunking various fools and charletons” (Fincke 1). He was apparently an “early version of Morton Downey, Jr. and Howard Stern. He screened his guests for how willing they were to be humiliated” (Fincke 1). Cecil seemed to have a love-hate relationship with the show. He would mention watching it on one day then on another, swear off it forever: “May, 1967 Sat. 27: “...sat up and watched the *Joe Pyne Show*, 11:30 to 12:30 past: no good... Bad... No more.” He had apparently not sworn off it forever, however, because he mentions watching it again in September.

As always, Cecil took special notice of pretty women. In February, he mentioned

an actress named Audrey B.: “Audrey B. on Big Valley tonight... she was fine: a very pretty girl: something? Like Jean Peters back in 1949 on.....?????” He mentioned Jean Peters again in March as he noted that she had been married to Howard Hughes for ten years. He watched the Miss. USA, Miss. America, and Miss. Universe contests faithfully for another year. In early December, he was significantly affected by the performance of an actress: “Last night I watched a very unusual play, a Canadian girl, Genivieve B---, in Joan of Arc... Shaw’s version... She played magnificently! A charming young girl... I cried and cried... Today I have been unnerved.”

True to his habits of years past, Cecil read a significant amount in 1967. He continued to visit the Flint Public Library frequently, and mentioned reading a good number of books this year. They included *Vanished Arizona* by Mrs. Martha Summerhaye, *Discovery of the Yosemite and Indian Wars of 1851* by L.H. Bunnell, M.D. . Cecil mentioned reading many other books as well, although he did not mention them by title. He explored more books concerning the West, and even one about the AuSable river. July was when he began studying books concerning investing in the Stock Market. In December, Cecil found himself devouring two fairly unusual choices for him: *Life With Father*, and *Nicholas and Allesandra*. He noted that the first was “brief” and the second, “touching”.

According to his journal, Jean and Cecil saw only one movie at the Theater, and that occurred in October. He did not mention the title, but did say that it was at the new theater on Dort Highway, cost \$1.50, and starred Debbie Reynolds. He also noted that it was not particularly good.

As was their habit, in celebration of their wedding anniversary, the couple went to the Chesaning Show Boat in July. "Thurs. 13: (written Friday evening, 10PM). we went to Show Boat, had lunch at the Snow Boat Lounge, nice new restaurant, there. But so cold! Boo! Almost froze; my chest felt queer! Put the rain coat on at intermission, but then too cold... show good... had coffee, tea, and strawberry shortcake afterwards, at same restaurant, and the players were there too! Home at or by 1AM or so!"

The Tigers had a small chance to win the pennant in 1967, and Cecil, Jean, Lena, Lyle, and Shirley's family went to Detroit to see a Tiger Baseball game, their last scheduled game of the year. "Oct. 1967, Sun 1: Nice day -- perfect! Up at 8 and to store for paper and doughnut for B (?) returning. Left at 11 from Shirley's in their car for ball game. Lyle and Lena, too. Parked right by stadium! Game just started and very thrilling; and the stadium, 38,000 or so! Detroit won first game, 6 to 4; and we left; dinner or supper at Ted's of Pontiac, \$3.95 fish... came back I-75 east of Pontiac, business route we picked it up... 70 miles an hour! Detroit lost the 2nd, 8 to 5... too bad... Boston the winner now in American circuit... we watched the last game's final innings on Shirley's TV. Lost... Brot Lynn home with us... nice night as stars out!"

The final special event of the year for Jean and Cecil was attendance at a concert given by Jazz great Fletcher Henderson at the IMA in downtown Flint on December 5. He gave no review of Henderson's performance, however.

A Broader Perspective

"The long hot summer" of 1967 was definitely reflected in Cecil's diary, even

giving some accounts of its effect on Flint. Cecil mentioned more historical incidents this year than he had in any other thus far. He mentioned the war in Viet Nam for the first time this year, and even wrote an editorial letter to the Detroit News concerning the subject in September.

The city of Flint was thriving in 1967 and Cecil found himself there often. As he visited the library, he would often stop for lunch at a diner called Lloyd's which was located (according to Richard) where the theatre building now sits on the campus of the University of Michigan-Flint. He often enjoyed walks around the city proper. In January, Cecil enjoyed just such an outing: "Friday 20: Milder, 31 today! sun out some... Drove downtown, stopped at post office and sent package to Midland for Judy; then mailed letter to C clinic I had written; parked on E. 3rd... by New Y being built! Interesting. Then walked west on 3rd, by the ramp to PO for blanks. Stopped at restaurant for coffee; to bank made deposit etc... Then changed dolls at Penney's... back to car." The next Monday, he found himself downtown again: "Mon. 23: Warm! 60! Sun out also. Grand day. I went downtown for City blanks, and made deposit too. Walked from the bank south to 5th, got blanks, then back to car, NW on Liberty West of Kearsley! Quite a walk... strolled into the Men's Y for the first time! Lobby, looked down into the big swimming pool! A very wonderful January thaw!"

February brought a mention of a strike in Mansfield. "Feb. 24: Mansfield strike hurting Flint and other cities, tho settled... thousands off in Flint."

On April 15, Richard Speck was indicted for the murders of eight nurses in Chicago which occurred on July 14, 1966. Cecil mentioned watching Joe Pyne on that

day (April 15, 1967). Pyne had a guest named Bishop Pike on that evening. Cecil indicated the next day that Pyne's discussion upset him: "Will soon retire as need rest... Shouldn't get upset over murders, like I do: the Speck case! Such a tragedy!"

May brought Cecil's first mention of Viet Nam. "Thurs. 18: Reading in *US News and World Report* today... bad war, Viet Nam." His concern over the war continued the next day: "War escalating as Marines in DMZ taking over, as they should have long ago: they wait and wait: after all war is to win, to achieve victory as fast as may be." Cecil mentioned casualties on Friday, May 26: "337 killed last week! ...terrible!" On September 15, Cecil penned a letter to The Detroit News concerning the war.

In the letter he said that he was frustrated with America's gradually increasing involvement in the war as well as the lack of assistance and growing criticism from our allies. He noted that he was in support of the war at first, but thought the country should make the commitment to win the war or get out. His thought the bombing of Viet Nam was terrible, and that the lives of too many young men were being lost.

Cecil began making carbon copies of many of the letters he had written in 1967, and these copies showed another side of the man. This letter, for example, was charged with opinions concerning an issue he barely mentioned in his journals.

Sept. 15, 1967

The Detroit News
Detroit, Mich.

Gentlemen:

I think you made a mistake in taking your support from Gov. Romney over the 'brainwashing' statement, etc.

We certainly need someone to challenge the administration in office....

I believe George Romney to have a great deal of vigor, ability and the business sense needed in high places; when in American Motors some years back I read his statements, and I said to myself: here is a man who is logical and sound, an unusual man!

As to the War, a very difficult area; gradually we have got deeper and deeper into it, and now carrying the burden, while from our erstwhile 'allies' we get only criticism! But the bombing IS terrible! What are we into, anyway, an unending undeclared War?

I too was for standing up to the situation, at first, but like the Korea War, an engagement of this far and no farther! Are Wars to be won or not? If I have had my own reasoning follow some such course as Gov. Romney's, I certainly can see his approach, and points - so is it so strange that someone in a high place would also have such an approach?

This throwing away thousands of boys' lives at the opposite side of the earth, with a stalemate; while professing to be holding back Communism, and several years ago doing nothing in Cuba, a hundred miles from Key West! And urging more trade with the Soviet Union, and its satellites -- surely this is a very inconsistent front from our Democratic Administration! Unless you are completely Pro-Administration, and not independent like the Free Press, I would take a good second look at the situation, and revise your thinking.... And anyway, I have noted that when it comes to voting, the voter pays little attention to News papers, anyway; pro or con, or in between!

I am an independent thinker, (age 67), and when I see a man full of ability and good health, etc., I will allow him some personal unpolitical remarks, and not desert him when he needs his own State and its newspapers behind him.....

Sincerely

Mr. Cecil Westervelt
5510 Granville Ave.
Flint, Mich. 48505

In July, the temperature rose. Cecil's entries concerning the summer's unrest tell quite a story. "Mon. 24: Hot... Bad riots and fires in Detroit, Northwest, bad: \$150 million fire damage; hundreds of separate fires; National Guard in; 5,000 federal troops flown in to Selfridge, and now some at fairgrounds..." "Tues. the 25: Riots in Detroit! some breaking in Flint..." "Wed. 26: ...State police with guns at Y's, on corner, and Pierson and Dort...?????" "Fri. 28: coming home from Shirley's at nearly 10, police in several places, stopped us at Dort and C; and again at Dupont and C. At Saginaw and C. they were, and Det. and C..."

Race was definitely a major issue in the United States, and in Flint in 1965. Although Cecil had an open mind about many things, he was a good example of the changing times. He was not without prejudices, some that had been long-held. These ideas subtly appeared in several entries. One such entry occurred in June as two men moved the refrigerator, washer and dryer Cecil had purchased: "...movers came soon, two colored men, but OK; moved all three over...". He was obviously not totally comfortable dealing with people of other races. Just the fact that he mentioned the movers were colored was significant; he would not have said that two white men came and moved the refrigerator, "but all was okay". He was an example of a typical 67 year old man dealing with the changing times.

Cecil attended a city commission meeting on August 21st. He was concerned in the open housing issue because he believed that was one reason their store had to close at the trailer park. "Commission meeting tonight, many talked pro and con as to open occupancy; order bad when against by speakers... Trash, many of the CP (colored

people)... and many whites also, WT (white trash)!" I believe his frustration with the forced closing of the store, and possibly the fact that his neighborhood on Granville street was beginning to change its racial make-up caused this outburst.

Cecil did mention several other social issues throughout 1967. He mentioned a strike at Ford in September, and another Detroit newspaper strike in late December. Music was not a big part of Cecil's life, but he did mention his dislike of the music at a wedding reception he attended in October. "A big crowd at the reception: 150 at least... good supper, but the dance band was terrible: all rock and roll, and raucous and unbelievably loud!"

Although the "Pill" had been in use since 1960, it was still a new idea for Cecil in 1967 (Snider 1). He made special attention of an article concerning it on July 7: "Read a long article in the *Ladies Home Journal* today, about the 'PILL' ...the dangers inherent in its use...". He also read an article in *Playboy* in December concerning Hippies and Christianity which he found to be "very well written" even though the author, Harvey Cox, had a "beard and all".

Epilogue

Jean and Cecil didn't have the store in Flushing for long. After about a year, they sold out. They removed the little trailer store from Holiday Village Trailer Park as well. It was remodeled and in 1969 became a weekend vacation home in Caseville, Michigan for the whole family.



Kari and Mimi (Jean and Cecil's dog) in front of the trailer that once contained their store at Caseville in 1980.

After closing those stores, Jean and Cecil ran a brick store at Gunther's Trailer Park on Dort Highway from 1968 to approximately 1970. It was at that time that they decided to sell the house on Granville Street. They secured a position managing the Cardinal Inn Motel in Birch Run, Michigan. The hotel was located where the Manufacturer's Marketplace Outlet Mall now operates (Shaw, Shirley).

That job was too much for the couple, however. In about 1973, when Jean's Social Security benefits kicked in, they quit that, their last job. They purchased a mobile

home in the same park where they ran the trailer store, and settled into retirement (Shaw).

Judy remained out west, where she lives today. She married Bill, the boyfriend she met in Denver, Colorado in 1969. They were married ten years, and amongst other things, bred Yorkshire Terrier dogs. It was after a visit to Judy in 1975 when Jean and Cecil neglected to keep “Cindy” and “Charlie” apart, that “Mimi” was born. Judy sent the pup to Jean and Cecil on an airplane. She was great company to them in their retirement, and outlived them both. In 1980, Judy remarried and in 1981 had a daughter named Courtney, Jean and Cecil’s third granddaughter.

Jean and Cecil enjoyed their retirement years, taking several trips out west and many to Caseville. Jean learned to decoupage, continued her knitting, and shortly before her death began volunteering in the libraries of elementary schools in the Kearsley School District. Together, they both continued to make regular trips to the library and took community education classes in astronomy and genealogy.

The journals of Cecil Westervelt present the story of a life, and it was all there: everyday concerns like work, money, family, entertainment, automobiles, vacations, births, weddings, funerals, the death of a President, and a horrible war. All of these events made up his life in the years 1963-1967. The history books don’t show many of these things. The history books seem nothing more than a list of political events and the “big news” of the day, but miss what was really important to the individuals in this country.

The 1960’s traditionally are looked at as a time of unrest and upheaval, but to

Postlude

I can recall standing on a stage in 1994 in rehearsal with a chorus performing Mozart's *Requiem* and listening to our conductor. He told us that he would pause at the end of the "Hostias" section for a moment before concluding the piece with the Sanctus and Agnus Dei. His reason for doing so was in reverence to the memory of the composer, he said, for it was, at that moment, that the great man had died.

During performance that evening, we voiced the words that ended the "Hostias": "Hostias et preces tibi, domine, laudis offerimus. Tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam facimus: fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam, quam olim Abrahae promisisti, et semini, semini ejus." ("Sacrifices and prayers of praise to Thee, O Lord, we offer. Receive them for those souls, whose memory on this day we keep; grant them, O Lord, to pass from death to that life which of old you promised to Abraham and to his seed.") As the sounds of the last chord echoed to the back of the auditorium, I could hear, in my mind, a voice saying, "It was, at that moment, that the great man died." The deep and suffocating sense of loss I felt at that moment was indescribable.

This is the feeling I get when I look at the last pages of my grandfather's diary. The music stopped on that Christmas day in 1984 when, about an hour after he typed his last entry, he had a massive heart attack and died, only four days after his wife of over 50 years.

I remember the last time I saw both of my grandparents alive, together. It was December 20, 1984. I was in the alto section of the University Chamber Singers standing

under the huge rotating engine during the grand opening of Autoworld, the “theme park / museum” that was supposed to save downtown Flint. Kelly, my sister was in the soprano section, and the man who would become my husband five years later was in the back row of the bass section.

I recall being surprised when I saw Grandma and Grandpa sitting on the bench in front of us, because getting them out of their mobile home was becoming more and more of a challenge. Grandma was wearing the pink sweater Grandpa had purchased for her that Christmas (she had pointed it out only days before and he bought it), a brown skirt, and knee-high tan boots that zipped up the side. She looked very thin, as she always had, actually. Grandpa was there beside her, that tan overcoat folded in his arms, somewhat covering his navy blue pants. His white shirt and bolo made in the shape of Michigan from a highly shined petosky stone looked good with his patterned suit jacket. A few days’ growth of mustache could be seen on his upper lip.

We sang Christmas Carols. People passed by. Many clapped in appreciation when our performance was over.

Kelly and I descended the risers, and went straight into the arms of our grandparents who assured us that they had enjoyed our music. We had lunch with them: chicken, fries and Cokes (according to Grandpa’s diary). We looked around the shiny new building representing so many hopes and dreams for the future of the city of Flint then parted ways with more hugs and kisses.

Little did we know that while we were singing Christmas carols to entertain the crowds of people that holiday, we were actually nearing the last note of the “Hostias”.

The next day Grandma died. Four days later, Grandpa was gone, too. Hostias et preces tibi, domine, laudis offerimus. Tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam facimus: fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam, quam olim Abrahae promisisti, et semini, semini ejus.

December 1984

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(191)

Monday the 17th: Bright nice day, a bit cooler tho; 55 Sunday.
38 Nov. 12:16. Read meters. Just had sausage
for Br., 2 oranges, B feeds. Must call Jean. To School Library today.
Kari called. Jean sleeping. Mail: H. C. Love, let.; Harris, Jennifer;
Pak & Rick, let. 3:45. Jean to Sch. Lib. Got out 12 cards. Had some
C soup, new kind, last of it, 47c. .. Jean came at 4 PM. Supper
by 6. And we went to Ealy Sch. on Genesee, High School. At 6:30.
Heavy traffic on G. Left turn... Program started at 7, 1/2 hour.
Over 100, 3rd and 4th, children, play. Talked with Shirley afterward
on Stage, and Prin., Dick there too helping. Home now as before 8.

Tuesday the 18th: Changed the ribbon. They don't last too
long. I sticking. Got rest of cards add.
56 in all. Short 3 stamps; get and mail at PO this PM. Now 1:34.
Got out the rest of the Xmas cards. 56 in all. Still have some to
get out, overlooked. ... Went to PO in MN; got stamps, \$4. and mailed
the 24 letters. Then to Ham. in MN. Much better store than the H
by Kmart. Had Milk for small dogs; got 2, had triple con; for them!
\$18+. Jean got some boxed candy at Kmart; I parked and went in front,
she didn't seeme. So we waited! ... Turning colder, now 7 PM. 24!
.. News. DJ up 34, most since Aug! Int. rates are decling somewhat.
Must be around 12:00? ... New ribbon is so much better. Must get
some more from Sears, and change more often... Short in money at
first. Then later recalls that Sunday I had given her \$4 in ones for
Carolyn's children. 8:27. Ate good supper; then added black cherries.
So good. Got 3 more cans at MN Ham. store. 94c; were \$1.09 at Ham.
at Coldwater. Poor store in some ways. Elk Rapids ones too.

Wednesday the 19th: Snow! 2" or so I think. This early morning!
K as the widwalk to our car. I just now
did ours and brushed the snow from car. 11:20. .. And have add.
4 letters, for cards, 3 Labdians, and Gene M. in Tucson.
2:15 PM. Mail not come yet? 4 letters to go. Came at 3 PM. And
two of ours came back? Catherine and Aletha's, Jean had got them in
each others's env. I... So she wrote them anew, and send new cards,
as they would be the largest env. we had... 8:00 PM. May go to
Auto World, tomorrow, 20th, as Kari and Kelly sing at 1 PM there; we
have coupon for \$4 off, too, till 30th. So cost \$5 each.
Knife missing; Jean found in davenport; I the one, cutting apple.
Hotel: pretty girl. Got her man. 22. Eel on again... Tears in my
eyes; acting of young man in hotel...

Thursday the 20th: Sun out; cold. 26. Went to Auto World at 12.
Home just before 5 PM. 5 hours. Saw K and K
after they sang in U o f M group, at 1:30. Had lunch and invited them,
had coke. We had chicken and fries, etc., \$2.95. Very interesting!
We enjoyed it a lot. They have spent a lot on it. Water stream comes
in NR corner, runs under bridge, to Mill. Great.

Friday the 21st: Worst Day of my Life.... Jean had a massive
Heart Attack in early morning... ..

December 1984

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(192)

Sat. the 22nd: Colder. windy. To Reigles Sunset. All arrangements made. Around \$4000. Shirley and took me and helped so much; lost without the, them....
Phoned Amy in Hale. And Marie; she'll phone Lillah and Norma....
Funder at 4 or so in Hale. But 10:00 AM here at Reigle's Sunset on Richfield Rd. Dinner at Community Pres. Rev. McMilcan the minister. Then to Hale, just at Cemetery. Burial by the baby, Douglas Clyde.... The best wife in the World; never same now...
But must carry on.... 2:17 PM. .. Found cemetery lot. Ismond Evergreen Cemetery, Hale. Lot 17, 1 A. 4 lots now taken. Baby; Ed. white; 1980. And now Jean. And place for Ed.'s wife Bes. 4 lots left, Mine; and 3 others.
Judy got in 10:30; drove a rented auto up from Detroit. Stayed with me the night.

Sunday the 23rd: Cold. 20. Up at 7. and went to Church with Judy to Shirley and Dick's. 10 to 11. Karl there too, Last row. 1 hr service. Lancaster.
Then to S's for food, ham and coffee, and rolls. Then to Reigle's. Judy had driven the Renault car.
12. Many came; Murchy's, Kim now 18! Looks so good. Etc. Ward brot me over as a bit tired before 3 PM. And I gave him the Catton book. Now 3:32. Mimi OK. Misses Jean; just lies around... I feed and water. I'll drive my car back later when I feel ready. And for the evening.
Jean looks so peaceful, like sleeping. Bless her heart...

Paid office at Reigle's: for Opening the grave at Cemetery; they had to pay the Sexton tomorrow. Plainfield Twp., \$115.00; gave check for \$95; a \$20 bill. Receipt. Total will be \$3759.06....
30 days. Will check with them Wed. the 26th, as some things I understood must be paid then....

Monday the 24th: Cloudy and snow on the ground when we got up at 7 AM. Got ready for trip to Hale, Dick driving us 4. Brushed off car, but he came over for us at 9 AM. Went out Pierson to I-75. Snowy. But got thru OK; stopped in Standish, I suggested; getting thirsty. Wheeler closed! Went back to McDonalds and got cof. and water. Anacins. 12 of us. Then on to Cox., but slowdriving, ahead slowed us. I rode with Ken then. We made it at 4:03 PM. Amy B. and D. Fazel there in chapel, stove. Drove by Lot, 17; Opened and the Interment Receptacle in grave; they lowered the casket into grave while we watched; by Baby's grave, N. Sealed both, as casket steel. AG Jean wanted... God bless her...
Snowing. Back to Standish, Mc again. Cof. and a fish sandwich. Shirley got for me, F fries too. A bit better returning, I-75 better too. Home. by Ken's. 8:35 now. Judy called Home, B., Elwin and CJ; I talked to them too: cold -4; 10 " of snow!....
Mimi OK. Holly had been in with mail and paper, and fed Mimi....

9:20 PM. Had some pop corn; Judy asked about it and I found a can of it. Tasted took, small dish. Judy loves it. ,, 6-12 tonight. 12 now I think. Cold tomorrow. The Feb. S. digest came, and marked ahead a year, to Feb. 1986 OK!... Came early.
Bless Jean; such a wonderful wife. Traggic that she had to go like this; But not ~~supper~~ long... Some days, weeks, months, years, I know. I must try hard to adapt to a new type of living...

December 1984

(193)

12/24: Many to the funeral here at 10 AM. Elwood Daley. Mary
others. Mar. and Steph... So many friends and relatives.
Beautiful card of sympathy from Lois and Waynard Peterson, etc. ...
MANY ABOVE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FIRST, OF COURSE; BEFORE TRIP TO HALO.
MANY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS TO FUNERAL AT 10 AM; REIGLES TO
Sunset... So kind... Bless her, she deserved all and more....

Tuesday the 25th, Christmas...

A bright day, but cold.

Zero, 01 10 now at 10:34.

Had light B, with Judy. Bacon, toast, juice. She called Shirley.
Dinner at 4 I think. Then I brushed off the car. Judy had swept
some on porch and steps, et., last evening. Then in; then out and
used the new sjoval! Had run car, to warm up; started at once! Fin
Tomorrow early will go to Bank, etc. and call Reigles.

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