

**MARY ANN IMMEL**

**Her Life as a Mature Woman,  
1933 - 1962  
Her Accomplishments  
1963 - Present**

**- Mary's Middle Years**

**-Her Final Years**

**- Her Legacy**

**Book 3 of 3**

## MARY'S MIDDLE YEARS

. *Marriage to Charley Knouff*

. *Easier, Happier Life on Oby Place*

1933 - 1947

This was the Grandma I knew  
--comforting, supporting, gray-haired--  
a source of tranquillity & kindness--  
her problems and her heroic past  
were never conveyed to her grandchildren.

Part VII

## MARY ANN IMMEL

### Example for Generations

#### FAMILY SUPER STAR

The Grandma Mary that I knew was about in her 50's, elderly, quiet, and gray-haired. As a child she was always supporting me - clothing me, feeding me, taking me places, explaining things to me, but I never looked upon her as a family star.

[A family star is someone who accomplishes great things or overcomes great problems or disasters during their life and in addition, passes on qualities to subsequent generations that enable them to cope and survive during their lifetimes.] --MJZ definition.

#### HER QUALITIES

Grandma Mary had six exceptional qualities which she not only exhibited, but passed on to subsequent generations, primarily, of course, through her children.

1. **Dignity**  
She never complained to her children. She never talked to her children about her problems. She was always clean and neat. She went to church every Sunday. She never cursed or criticized Harry in front of the children.
2. **Responsibility**  
She taught by example. When her husband didn't bring any money home, she found an assembly job dipping chocolate candy. Her children always had 3 meals a day even when she was making 20 cents per hour. She never asked for donations, but made her children's clothing out of her sister's discards. She volunteered to work at the poll booths every November. She never drank her troubles away. She taught her children (at age 8) to make dinner. They always knew that she would be there. She encouraged her children to go to the library every Saturday. Two of her children became members of the National Honor Society. (Kenny has severe sight problems and quit school as a junior to work.)
3. **Integrity**  
She paid the family bills. When Harry pawned the family furniture, she paid off that note week after week. She was never known to have broken a promise or not pay a debt.

4. **Perseverance**

For making one mistake - getting pregnant by a destitute alcoholic, she served a 20 year sentence. Raising 3 children and working 60 hours a week, she often got what she called a "sick headache" on Sunday, meaning she was in bed most of the day. However, her Burnside in-laws state that she often came out on Sunday and sewed clothes for them. (They still speak of her in extremely loving terms - awe might be a better word.) But she stayed the course and made the survival and health of her family a higher objective than her own personal comfort.

5. **Sense of Humor**

Several people report her fine sense of humor - Janet and Wilda, nieces, and Lois and Ione, her nieces-in-law. They talk about how Mary like to make jokes and laugh with the 8 women who worked at the candy factory, although she was several years older than any of them.

6. **Maternal Love**

I'm always amazed at the admiration her 3 children describe for her even 25 years after her death. But this is a woman who was always giving to her children. At the time of her heart attack in Florida, she was taking care of Bernice. She was then 72 years old. Her letter to Judy shows this intense caring for her family. Her grandchildren, her in-laws, her nieces - none report a harsh word from her, and none have a critical word about her either. From Grandma we learned that a good parent is someone who provides solutions, not problems, demonstrates coolness under pressure, teaches rather than ignores, cares rather than criticizes.

**EXAMPLE:**

She took care of me when I had pneumonia, and various other illnesses but I never remember her having a problem. My problems were always dealt with first. She would make these huge hankies for the awful stuff that would come out of my nose. Then she would mix corn syrup in my milk to boost my body weight. She always made sure I was clean, that I had enough covers. She even took me out to fish at the Immel Farm, a very boring thing for her to do at her age.

As the testimonies in this book show, this love and support still has influence 40 years later.

**HER HERITAGE:**

I feel that you learn more from watching what your parents do than by listening to them. Certainly Mary Immel's children watched her. Her qualities of dignity, responsibility, integrity, perseverance, humor, and maternal love were passed on - you can see them even in the next 2 generations.

I remember one example this summer when I brought Grandma's great-great-grandchildren - Amy and Matt Spellacy to Mom's house. Judy Berkshire was there. She read to them, talked to them, established a relationship that the children can still remember their "Aunt Judy". I was seeing Grandma Mary again.

When Toby plowed through the medical bureaucracy in order to save Omar's finger, that was Grandma Mary.

When Monica flew out to California to take care of her sick son, Sean, last year, that was Grandma Mary.

When Mary Jo wrote and called Megan continually last year after Dave's death, that was Grandma Mary.

When Billy, dog-tired from trying to make a living as an independent businessman, played ball or made sure his children were taken care of at night, that was Grandma Mary.

And when Megan consoles her children and acts like she doesn't have a problem in the world, when inside the pain is very real, that is Grandma Mary.

Mike Z.

7/1/92



Cuba Photo? 1933



Belle Stewart 1945 Tom ANNE ← 1945  
Between Canton & Navilleon  
(Zethlers? lived on Roxham, a few flks. away.)

death of her mother  
Lydia Jane Dimmel  
1935

Genealogy Division  
Stark County District Library  
715 Market Avenue, North  
Canton, Ohio 44702-1080

APR 14 2006

OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

STATE OF OHIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
County Stark Registration District No. 1209 File No. 1935 47  
Township Trimishillen Primary Registration District No. 5849 Registered No. \_\_\_\_\_  
or Village \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_  
or City of \_\_\_\_\_ (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)

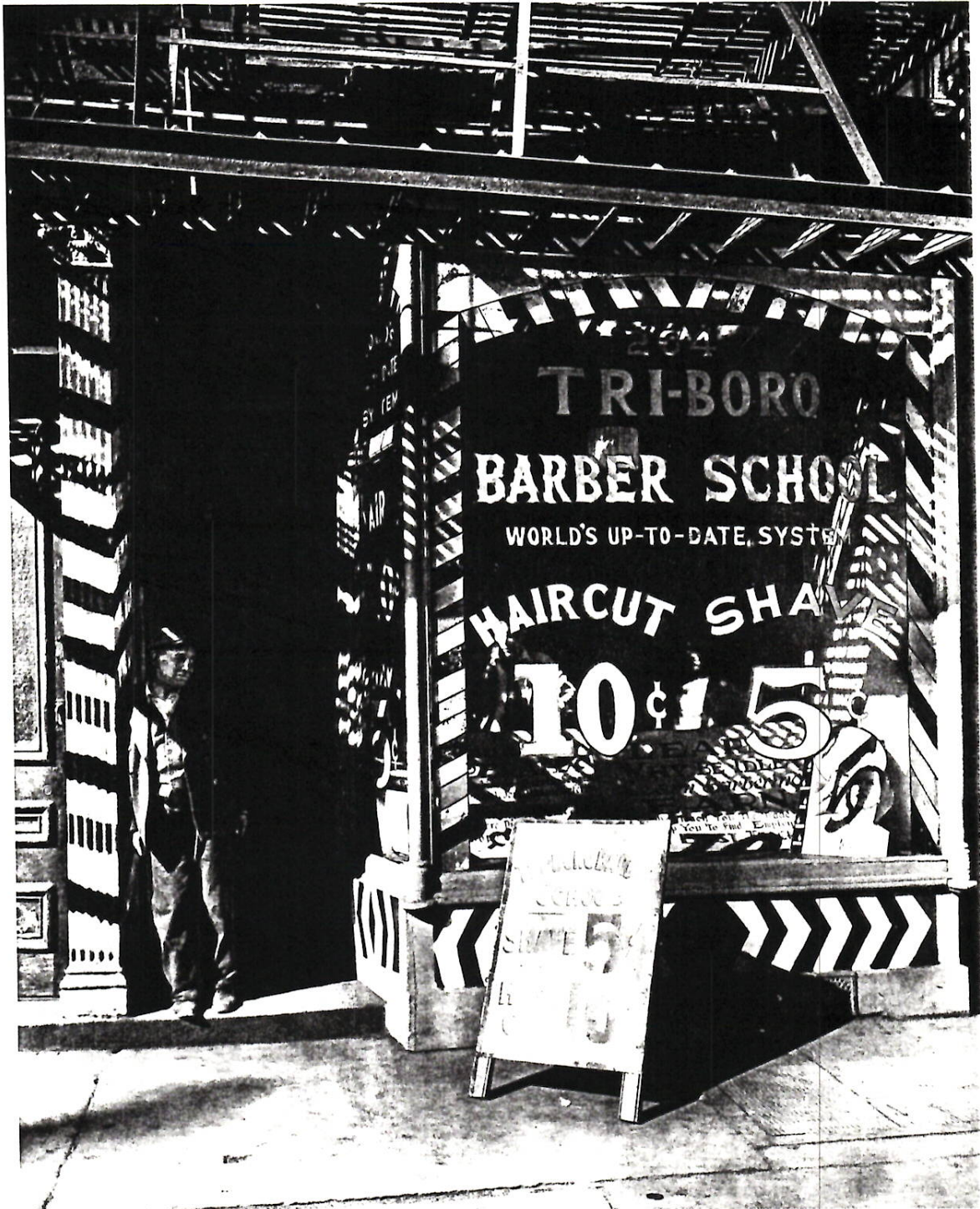
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? \_\_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_\_ ds.

2 FULL NAME Lydia Jane Dimmel Did Deceased Serve in \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Residence. No. Louisville, O., St. Rd. W. 4 U. S. Navy or Army \_\_\_\_\_  
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS					MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH							
3. SEX <u>Female</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>W</u>	5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <u>married</u>			21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>June 13, 1935</u>							
5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of <u>John Dimmel</u>					22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>June 7, 1935 to June 13, 1935</u>							
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>Febr 17, 1860</u>					I last saw her alive on <u>June 13, 1935</u> , death is said to have occurred on the date stated above at <u>6:30 P. m.</u>							
7. AGE	Years <u>75</u>	Months <u>3</u>	Days <u>26</u>	If LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. or _____ min.	The PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF DEATH and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:							
OCCUPATION	8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>House wife</u>				<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;"><u>Cerebral hemorrhage</u></td> <td style="width: 20%;">Date of onset <u>6/7/35</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>820</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<u>Cerebral hemorrhage</u>	Date of onset <u>6/7/35</u>	<u>820</u>			
	<u>Cerebral hemorrhage</u>	Date of onset <u>6/7/35</u>										
	<u>820</u>											
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc. <u>MI</u>												
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year)				11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation								
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Louisville</u> (State or country) <u>Ohio</u>					CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES of importance not related to principal cause: <u>arteriosclerosis</u> <u>8/5/30</u>							
MOTHER	13. NAME <u>Jonathan Slusser</u>				Name of operation _____ Date of _____							
	14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Louisville</u> (State or country) <u>Ohio</u>				What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? _____							
	15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Sarah Truman</u>				23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____, 19____ Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county, and State) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.							
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Canton</u> (State or country) <u>Ohio</u>					Manner of injury _____ Nature of injury _____							
17. INFORMANT The Signature of <u>John Dimmel</u> and (Address) <u>Louisville Ohio</u>					24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? If so, specify _____ (Signed) <u>A. E. Boyles</u> M. D. Date <u>6/14 1935</u> Address <u>Louisville, O.</u>							
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL <u>Union Cemetery 6/16 1935</u>												
19. FUNERAL DIRECTOR <u>W. H. Slusser</u> No. <u>1614</u> (Address) <u>Louisville, O.</u>												
19a. Was body embalmed <u>Yes</u> Embalmer's Lic. No. <u>9340</u>												
20. FILED <u>June 14, 1935</u> Registrar. <u>B. F. ...</u>												

1935

1935 PRICES



1935 HAIRCUT 10¢

Tri-boro Barber School, New York, 1935



Lora, Ind.  
Box 97



6 PM

IND.

1936



6 PM

IND.

1936

LORA  
APR 23

Mrs. Mary Knoff  
Cantons, O.  
808 My Pl., N.W.

Two letters from Jenny's friend who remembered the  
Civil War tragedies of William and Christopher Slusser

Floyd, Ind. Apr 10-1936

Dear Friend. I suppose you will appreciate these inclosures as much as you would an Easter card and it will stir up memories, perhaps some of them long forgotten and may be more appreciated because your father was school director and hired many of the teachers.

He drove thru our lane a few times in heavy snow storms to take the Carver kids to school.

I remember your brother Christopher as among the older pupils and about the close of the civil war when

neither of your brothers reached home.

I must still have the obituary of your bro. Peter's wife Lucia Stonehill Slusser but I may never see it as it is packed away with other belongings.

You and sister Flora were not of school age Flora died Apr. 2, 1935 at the age of 79 - My bro. Willard, died in Jan 1877. and sister Alice - in 19 - (I do not recall the year just now) near the age of 80. If you care to answer this I would be glad to hear altho I have left quite good account of the Slusser records I am very cordially Ella B. Mearham

Flora Ind. Apr. 23 1936

Dear Mrs. Knouff,

I had a mind to write this letter directly to your father because we are growing older and so many who are younger than we are stricken at an earlier age so I hope you will forward it at your earliest convenience. First, in order to settle in your minds where I spent early childhood I will say my father owned twenty acres west of the house that the Lincolns built just north of the Johnathan Slusser home but on the opposite side of the street. I think our house was yet standing when I last went to Louisville. It was on a direct line north of the Sam Spirk, Mrs. Samblant and Red deer houses - This last named one is where William Slusser's <sup>will</sup> and his little son, Nelson, <sup>awaited</sup> William's home coming in such a short time - and the deepest depths of sorrow into which they were thrown.

by his death. Her maiden name was Ringer -  
I think she had a sister at that time.  
I can not forget the impression that  
her sorrow made upon me. It has been a life-  
long impression and perhaps a deeper one  
than if her second marriage had been a happier  
one. I do not know the exact circumstances of  
of his death but am sure it was caused suddenly -  
I have wondered sometimes if he could have been  
on the ship Suttana which went down with so  
many of our soldiers aboard at the close of  
the civil war. I know he was expected home  
soon. I remember Christopher being younger -  
somewhat better and the hand that led the  
little girl down what we called the "Mexican"  
hill on the Ober or east side of the road and  
reached into his dinner pail and gave her a  
large Greening apple. There are some memories  
that Time fails to erase.

Christopher died of gangrene - probably caused by imprisonment I feel sure the father brought the body home. No wonder "Oh wrap the flag around me, boys" was sung at such times. I remember well when my brother came home from the Klingaman dam where he played with Jackie Burk and announced that the "President was shot". Willard Grant (my mother's maiden name) Carver was two years older than I was. By the way you probably live near my brother's son's home in Canton. He lives not far from the Infirmary on 25<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. and his son John Carver is a graduate of the McKinley H.S. and now in Hellsley College, Mass. His father Clayton Carver is a printer in the Claxton Bldg.

And I am sure I have heard my elders speak of Dan Knowff. I think he had a

sister but that is all that I recall.

Did not your father's people live in the Bixler (or Barnett) school district?

Alice taught there one term and I went to school to her. We went there the fields west to the Barnett home on the Canton road and then south.

I am 81 yrs and 6 mos. old and have heard

recently from Rev. Geo. Chond's widow at Tiffin - will be glad to hear from you any time soon and if I can I will

answer - You will notice my right I is fading but this is written without artificial light.

Hoping this reaches you soon I would add that the Samblant and Stonedell families have their names all down in my memory - and pleasantly so

I am sincerely Ella Carver Meacham

1937



Susan Spott

Monica

Grandma

1310 Oxford

1937



1937



GRANDMA  
+ JUDY  
in front  
Berkshire's  
in Louisville  
1937  
Reg worked at  
Isaly's.



Helen's  
Wedding  
Picture  
1933



Helen w. Toby 1939

Helen's Wedding



# WILDA'S REMEMBRANCES - 1938

CONVERSATION WITH WILDA

(1991)

Wilda's Mom & Dad were Sadie & Raymond (Grandma's bro.) (Wilda was Mary Ann's Neice)

Mike: What do you remember - you know she finally divorced Harry around 1928.

She had been working and supporting the family herself 8 or 10 years.

What do you remember of her - you would have been about 10 or 11?

Wilda: You know the sad part of it - I didn't get to see her too much because she was always busy working. It was always hard and they didn't have the transportation back and forth either at that time. But I can say one thing, despite all her problems in raising her family and trying to feed them and all, she always seemed to have a smile. That was one thing I could always remember about her, even though many, many times it was probably very difficult to smile, she did.

Mike: Well, some of you people have mentioned her sense of humor, of course I don't remember that because I...

Wilda: Yes, she had a little sense of humor and like I said it just went along with her despite her problems and seemed to still have a little sense of humor and a smile. That's one thing I can say. And when it comes down to it I believe she smiled more than any of the others that didn't have any problems. Really and truly. I think she did. She just seemed to have a smile and of course what always stands out in my mind about her that I never will forget is when my folks had their 25th Anniversary when the girls decided they would all go--oh, Dad always kind of made fun of them with their formals you know. Well, Aunt Stella was always in the Eastern Star, always talking about her formals. Well, Dad always was kidding about these formals you know. Swooshing around in these formals and everything, so when they had their 25th Anniversary, Mother had them all come to our house, all the Immels and they decided they would wear formals. Just to irritate my father. (Raymond)

1938

Party

Mike: What year would this have been?

Wilda: Let's see.

Mike: When were your parents born?

Wilda: Alright, now wait a minute. They were - what was the year they were married? That would have been 79 years ago when they were married. (1913)

Mike: So 1913.

Wilda: So anyhow...

Mike: No,  $1913 + 25 = 1938$

PAGE 2

Wilda: Somewhere in there. Anyhow, Aunt Stella had one of her beautiful formals on and I think Aunt Emma, she had a long skirt, nothing particular. It was long, and then your grandmother was the belle of the ball. Someone had given her a real, real fancy nightie. Lace and what have you. And she never wore it. And she came dressed in that beautiful nightie. I wish I had a picture of that. I thought of that so many, many times. She really looked beautiful that night. She took the prize of beauty. That's one thing I will always remember about her is how pretty she <sup>looked</sup> that night. [Grandma's use]

Mike: She had very fine features you know, even in pictures (where she was 43) she didn't have a whole lot of wrinkles for the life she went through.

Wilda: That and I said it just seemed despite all the heavy problems that she had and hardships she always had a smile. Very seldom that you didn't get a smile out of her.

Mike: Kind of a calm, steadfast...

Wilda: Sort of a - what you might say one of these level headed persons that - you know didn't make a big fuss over her problems or you know. Took them in stride. She did a magnificent job. No question about it. She managed like she did to raise her family and I often admired her greatly for that. She was one to be proud of and like I said, some of the others are on the hyper side. You know, very excitable. She was very calm and took things in stride.

Mike: Yes she was. I remember that. You wouldn't know, like when I knew her in the 40's and 50's, you never would have known the life she went through. I always thought she lived ~~on~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~Oby~~ and had an easy life and so forth and that took me 30 - 40 more years to find out the facts

Wilda: Some particularly didn't like Charlie, but...

Mike: I guess he scared off a lot of friends, didn't he?

Wilda: He did, but you know, he was good to her.

Mike: They seemed to get along.

Wilda: He made a home for her, which she actually never had. I know they - lots of times she didn't approve of what he did, but I think they got along as far as I know very good because every time I was over there to visit on ~~Oby~~ Place there, why, you know...

Mike: They seemed to have talked to each other and even though they were different people they seemed to be - what you say - good companions, good friends.

PAGE 3

Wilda: They went to the family, you know, to visit with the family.

Mike: You know, Charlie spent more time with me than either of my real grandfathers.  
He took us a lot of places.

Wilda: Yes, well like I said, of course we all have some things that people don't like about us. You'll always have that.

Mike: He was a...

Wilda: As far as I'm concerned I never had any problems with him and I don't think my mother and dad ever did. I think Mother was so happy that she [Mary] had a home and she didn't have to go out and work to make a living.

Mike: Was your mother a friend of grandma's then?

Wilda: You mean your grandmother?

Mike: Yeh.

Wilda: Oh sure.

Mike: See I didn't know Sadie was your mother.

Wilda: Yes.

Mike: I didn't know your mother.

Wilda: We used to go over when they lived on - she was at 3rd St. off Fulton there. Well, we used to go over there. I remember going over there when she worked at the candy factory.

Mike: Do you?

Wilda: Yeh. Around the corner there.

Mike: That little house.

Wilda: Wasn't very far - she didn't work very far from home. Oh yeh, I remember that.

Mike: Did she ever talk about her work?

Wilda: Oh, she never - she was one never to - what I would say converse about things like that you know. Make a big issue of anything like that. She never was like that.

Mike: Did she ever talk about her mother? What kind of a relationship did she have with your grandmother?

Wilda: I know grandma helped her quite a bit. Of course grandma was sick a good many years.

Mike: Yeh, this picture - 1926 - she looked real sick in that.

Wilda: Yeh, well, you see, as a matter of fact it just seems to me that all my life I can only remember grandma as being a rather sickly person and never too well. But, oh no, as far as relationship with her mother I don't think there was anything but the best there.

PAGE 4

Mike: How about with her father?

Wilda: Well, I think the same there. She was such a congenial type of person too. You know, when grandpa got up in the years and they used to go out there you know, she was one that let grandpa enjoy things you know. Well, the [Eva + Stella] two older sisters there, they restrained things and Aunt Hilda and Aunt Mary were two that felt that grandpa should be allowed to do a little bit and live their life. Oh yes. Aunt Mary got along with every one of her brothers and sisters.

Mike: Did she?

[Kathryn]

Wilda: I think so. Maybe not quite as much as the one that is living, because she disagreed with her a little bit, you know. We all - I guess they all did.

Mike: I was going to say. They probably all did.

Wilda: And I don't know if anybody has ever said this to you or not, but my mother always - when she moved over to Canton, I don't know what my mother said one time, she said - "Well Wilda, we're not going to turn her down because she is one spoiled girl." She said those two older sisters just spoiled her to no end. [Kathryn]

Mike: Did they?

Wilda: Oh my! Oh my goodness. She was born late in life. Grandma's 40's and they were just like little mothers to her and so she was just like one spoiled girl. That's what mother said. But we don't turn her down she said. She's just one spoiled girl and for a while there we had - well, even when we'd go out to the house there - I often felt that in her opinion we were bothering them. We shouldn't bother to come. You just didn't have the welcome mat if she was there. Of course, Aunt Stella and Eva, we went out, they were always glad, you know. Two different kinds of attitudes. But I get along with her now than I ever did.

Mike: I'll have to go see her. She's never - I've sent her two letters and she's never responded.

Wilda: Well you won't get one. Yeh, I can tell you that.

Mike: I got to go see her.

Wilda: I'll tell you what, just be prepared because if you go, you just don't know what kind of a reception you're going to get.

Mike: That's alright.

4 GENERATIONS -

1938



July 5, 1938

193



1938



Bernice's House on East Gorgas  
in Louisville when  
Rog worked at Isaly's



1938  
at  
St. Mary's  
Lake  
- Fishing  
cottage  
with  
outhouse

- Kenny  
had just  
got his  
divorce  
from  
Adelle  
Ditty

Mary's Son & Son-in-law were friends.

1937



Toby - Summer 1937 -

Bernie

Monica

196

1938

REUNION AT FARM



July 19 1938

197

1939



Grandma Mary 1939  
With A. Bernice & Judy  
on Ob. y Pl.

GRANDCHILDREN AT AUNT HILDA'S 1939

Mom & Dad's 1939  
Dodge - first new  
car for which they  
paid \$900.

A. Hilda  
sold eggs  
out of  
cellar



MONICA

JUDY

NORMA  
(Grandma's  
niece)

TOBY



Toby

Judy

1940

Monica Bernice Mike

6th Oby Place



1940

BERNIE

TOBY

MIKE

JUDY

AT  
PARK

1940



DINNER AT AUNT SADIE YINCE  
 RAYMOND IMMEL'S LOUIS VILLE, OHIO  
 N. MILL STREET

1st ROW } GRANDPA { J. J. IMMEL } IAN, KATHERINE, ETHEL, STELLA, ED

2nd ROW } EVA, MARY, SADIE, HILDA, NORMAN, RAY, CHARLIE



1940

Ed Cizek died 1946  
 Grandpa Charley

Stella

SUNDAY DINNER AT AUNT SADIE'S



1941

Anne  
In-progress

Judy

Spring 1941

OBY PLACE 1941 - more happy times at Grandma's

Steps with open backs



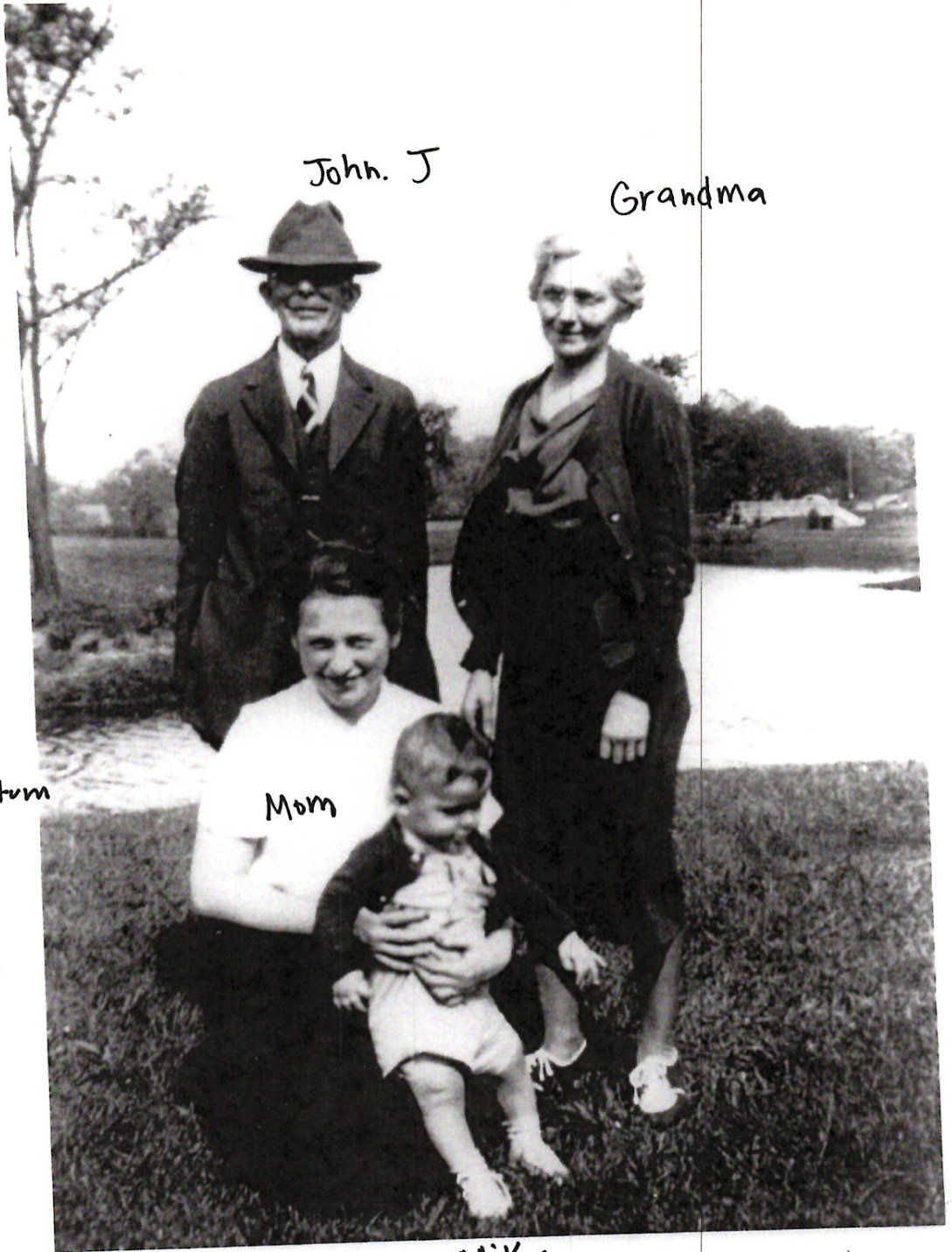
TOBY

JUDY

MONICA

MIKE

1941



John. J

Grandma

Mom

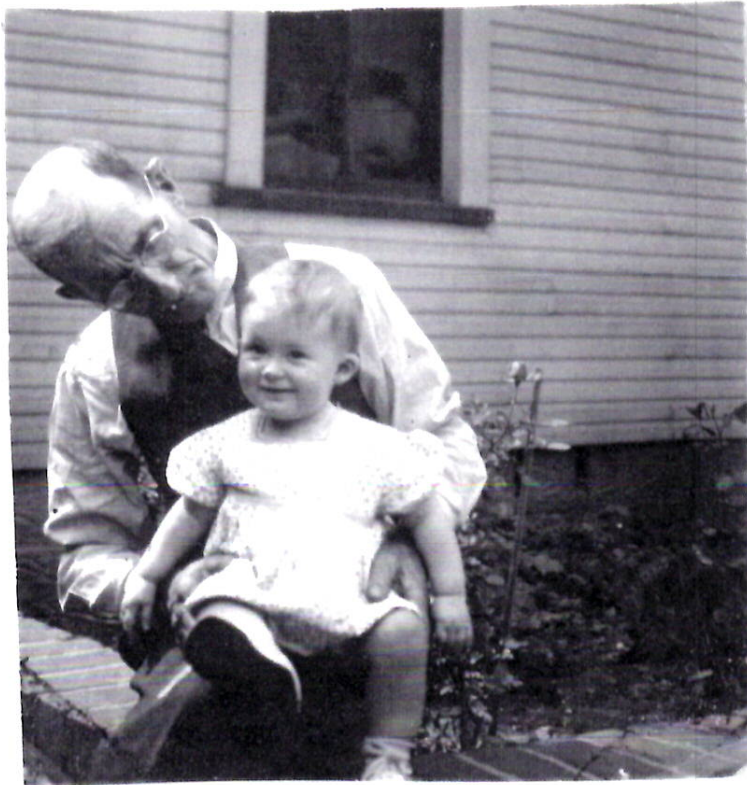
Mike

1941

4 generations  
taken at Arboretum  
Park in Canton



1941  
with Grandpa  
Charley



1939  
Grandpa Charley



Mike and  
Bernice  
on oby  
Place

1942

Grandma Mary



Monica

Toby

Judy

Mike

Oby Place 1942

1991 - OBY PLACE



Mary Jo

Toby

Mike

↳ 50 Yrs. earlier

1942 - OBY PLACE



Toby

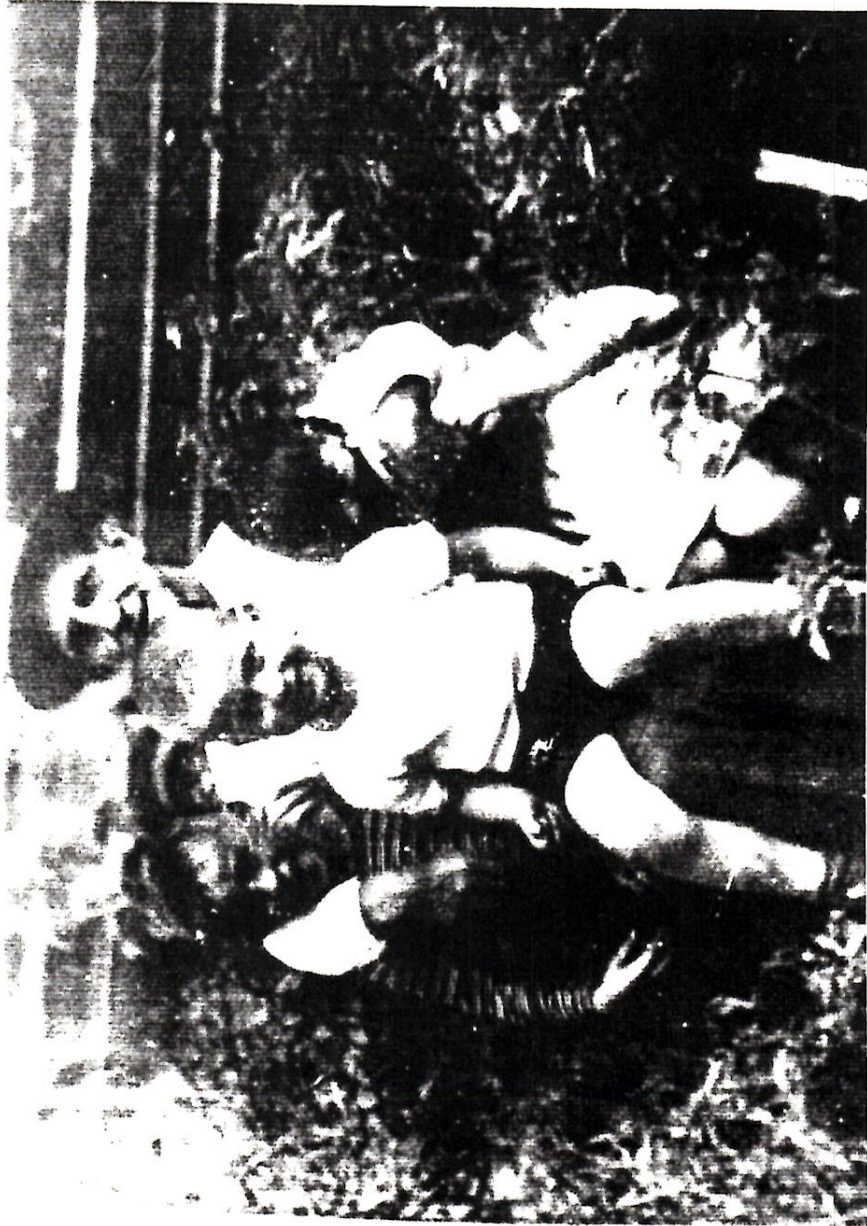
Judy

Monica  
&  
Mike



Charles Knouff - He was not a blood relative  
but he was a real Grandpa to us.

1942



Toby  
Mike  
Maree

Happy time at 808 Ob-y Pl  
with Grandpa Charby.

1942

1944



Refugee  
(I was in hospital  
that year with  
pneumonia)

Monica  
at Grandma Monica's House



1944

Monica  
&  
G.Ma  
in her  
garden

Grandpa

Grandma

Billy

Ann

Toby

Monica

Tom

Judy

Mike

1945

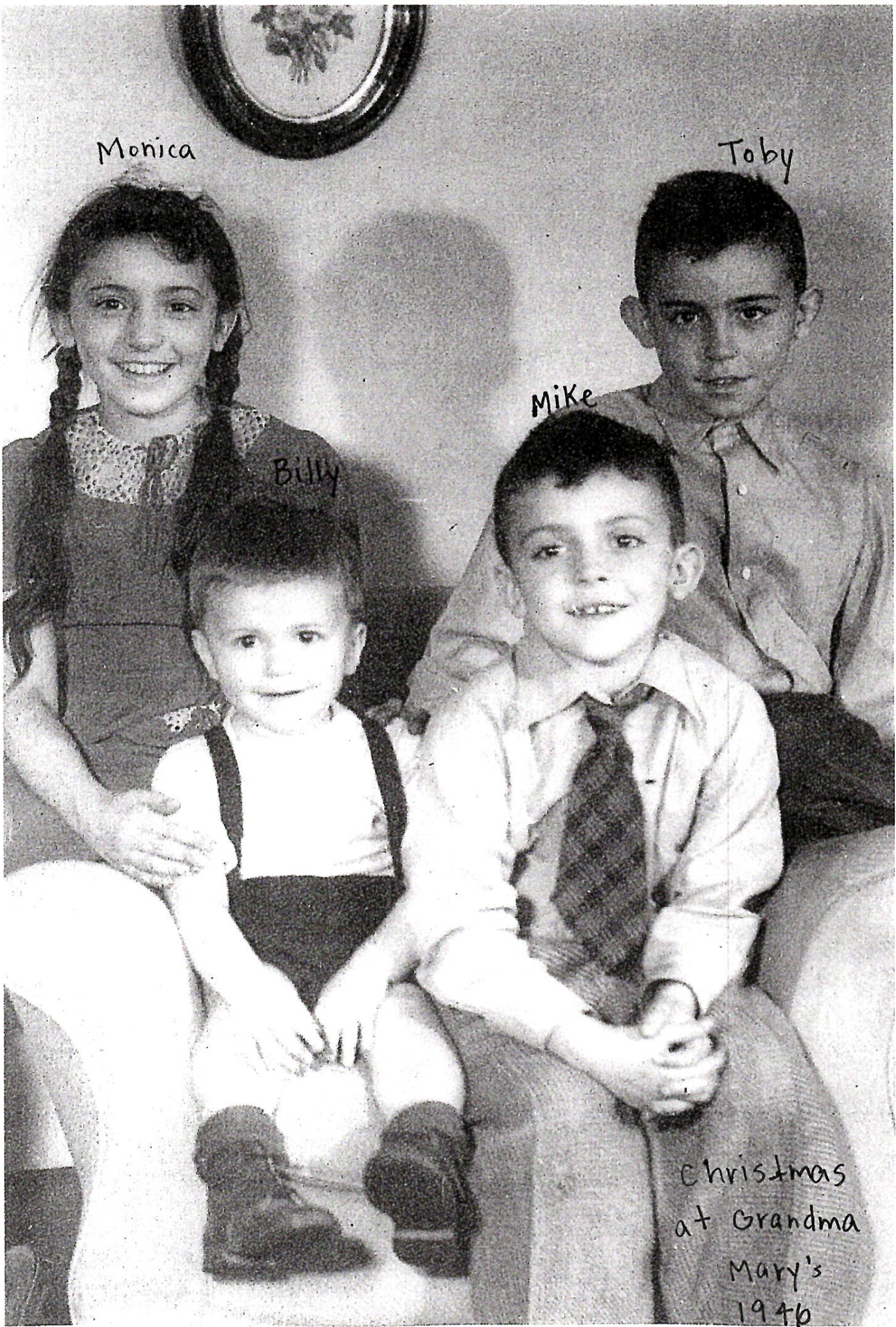


Ed

Charley

Norm

1945



Monica

Toby

Mike

Billy

Christmas  
at Grandma  
Mary's  
1946

1946



Grandpa  
Tom

Anne  
Mary Helen

Grampa

This is house across the street  
at 808 O'Bye.

## HER FINAL YEARS

*. Caring for her Grandchildren*

*.Sole Life Support for a Husband dying of Cancer*

*. Helping her adult Children*

1948 - 1962

I didn't communicate much with Grandma  
after the early 1950's. I was very "smart" - studying science in college.  
Now I see, I missed too much.

Part VIII



1948



1948



FALL, 1948 - We lived on Troy Ave - 7 blocks away.

Mother + daughter at Penszcola Beach .

1948 ?





Back: Mary Jo, Monica, Toby, Mike  
Front: Bill

1950

Back: Mary, Eva, Stella,  
Helen, Bernice

Front: Ann, John J,  
Mary Jo, Mary Helen

1950





Stella

Eva

Hilda

Mary

John J.

Norm

Ian

1950

FATHER WITH CHILDREN - about 1950



Stella

Eva

Hilda

Mary Ann

John Jacob Immel

Ian

sister but that is all that I recall.

Did not your father's people live in the Bixler (or Barnett) school district?

Alice taught there one term and I went to school to her. We went there the fields west to the Barnett home on the Canton road and then south.

I am 81 yrs and 6 mos. old and have heard recently from Rev. Geo. Chond's widow at Tiffin - will be glad to hear from you any time soon and if I can I will answer - You will notice my right I is fading but this is written without artificial light.

Hoping this reaches you soon I would add that the Samblant and Stonedell families have their names all down in my memory - and pleasantly so

I am sincerely Ella Carver Meacham



1937



Susan Spott

Monica

Grandma

1310 Oxford

1937

1937



GRANDMA  
+ JUDY  
in front  
Berkshire's  
in Louisville  
1937  
Reg worked at  
Isaly's.



Helen's  
Wedding  
Picture  
1933



Helen w. Toby 1939



Back: Judy  
Middle: Tom, Ann, ?, Billy  
Front: Mary Helen, Mary Jo

1951

# Charley by Helen

1933-1956

1107 3rd St.

## OBY BEGINS:

Charley lived in an apartment that he built on his parents back lot. He had a carpenter shop <sup>\*</sup> on the 1st floor. <sup>707 THIRD:</sup> His friends lived in the west apartment on the 1st floor. We lived in the east apartment. There were two apartments up and two down. Grandma met Charley in that building. Even though he was at a very aggressive personality, Grandma told Bernice he was always nice to her. Kenny and Bernice and Helen worked and gave Mom room and board money to live. They moved to 510 Fulton Road. Then Bernie got married in 1931 and Kenny <sup>3rd</sup> (Adele Ditty) got married June, 1933. Mom and Charley eloped to Maryland in July 1933. Joe and I married in September. Charley either lived in or grew up in the big house on Worley at the other end of the lot that his family owned. He designed and built the house at 808 Oby sometime in the 1920's.

\* This shop was Grandma's last apartment.

### Charles E. Knouff

Charles E. Knouff, 76, of 808 Oby pl NW, died at home Saturday afternoon after a long illness. A native of Seio, he had lived in Canton for the past 40 years.

Mr. Knouff was a member of Eagles Lodge 141. He was employed at the Union Mtg. Co. until his retirement in 1948.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Mary A. Knouff; two stepdaughters, Mrs. J. J. Zettler of Canton and Mrs. J. R. Berkshire of Pensacola, Fla.; a stepson, Kenneth P. Burnside of Canton; a sister, Mrs. Kitturah Snyder of Canton; a brother, Frank Knouff of Canton; nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

The Rev. Kenneth Hult will conduct services Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at Formet & Clevenger funeral home, 1803 Cleveland ave NW. Burial will be in Union Cemetery, Louisville. Friends may call at the parlors Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Grandpa Charley died 1956



Christmas 1951 at Pennscola

Same year as your picture at piano, but this is a better picture of Mom.

Rog's 45, Bernie 40

1951

ONE BRANCH  
- BERKSHIRES  
1951



XMAS, 1951  
Champaign, Ill.

227

GRANDMA LETTER SHOWING SUPPORT  
FOR HER GRANDCHILDREN

1955  
(she is 65)

May 22, 1955

Dear Judy:

I hope you have had  
& hearty by now as this is a  
big event in your life and I  
know you are having some busy  
days & nights at this graduation  
time, almost as bad as getting  
married. Toby has his scholar-  
ship at Fern in Cleveland and  
thinks he will have a job with  
some company there while he is  
attending school, I mean he will  
work several months & go to school  
several months, he seems to be  
very enthused about it.

We had a nice rain today  
and was glad as it was very  
dry. I have some pretty flowers  
in bloom now and the roses  
will be in bloom in a few days.  
We drove out to the monument  
this afternoon & through the cemetery.



## Grandpa Charley - Tough Carpenter

Charley Knouff was a hard man. He once told mom he chased a man with a knife and he was glad he didn't kill him because he would have if he had caught him. He spent time in prison in Utah for either assault or murder. He would relish opening up the car window and chew out a fellow motorist. (He owned a shiny green Buick--probably about a 1938 model with curtains on the windows.) He was an excellent craftsman. He designed and built the house on Oby Place. He made us many wooden toys down in his basement with his hundreds of tools. He made a wooden airplane for Billy. He made a large barn with little stalls and doors. He made a lot of other stuff that escapes my memory. He used to get Toby and me down on the floor and make us chew tobacco. I hated that experience. But he would laugh the entire time. When I was sick and staying with grandma, he and I would listen to The Lone Ranger and The Canadian Mounted Police on the radio. I had a lot of good conversations with Grandpa. Here are a few:

### Sense of Humor

One time when I was about 12 I wanted to go the bathroom and I kept looking for a book. I finally found the Reader's Digest which was one of grandma's favorites. As I headed down the little hallway, he said, "Mary, why does he always take a book into the bathroom?" Grandma said, "That's just the way they do it in their family, Charley." Another time when I was about 14, I had gone to a dance with a girl who didn't want to dance and didn't really say much. I spent a lot of money on a corsage and things. I told grandpa that I had wasted \$10. He never forgot that story. In fact, when he was close to the end, he asked me again if I'd wasted any more money on women. (Jokingly)

### His Last Battle

I didn't understand what death meant. I hardly knew that he had terminal cancer, even though one day grandma asked me to stay with him while she went downtown (I was about 14). I sat in his bedroom, not understanding the tragedy unfolding. Grandma cared for him night and day. He tried to get up to go the bathroom but didn't make it. He didn't ask for help. He said, "I shit all over hell & Texas, Mike." At that point, he swallowed six aspirin and said, "Mike, pretty soon this is all going to be over with." I said something like, "Oh, that's not true Grandpa." But he was right. He died in 1956. I didn't even go the funeral. I had a football game to play.

### Judy's Visit

Death - you don't always have time to say good-by. Last year, (1991) Judy was talking about her visit with Grandma after Charley's death. "The silence in the apartment was deafening, and shocking." Because it was always fun to talk to Grandpa. Thanks, Grandpa, for all the things you made us and places you took us and the conversations you had with us!

MJZ  
2/93

MONICA'S

1956  
DIERDRE + MARY JO + NEIGHBOR  
Age 1      Age 10



on  
Bellflower  
(Canton)

1986 - SEAN, DEIRDRE + TIM



Pittsburg



Helen

Monica

Mary

Deirdre

1957

HICKORY COLLEGE REUNION - 1959

Far left - Aunt Eva Immel. Third from left back - Stella Immel Cizek (wide white collar).  
Jan S. Immel - stooping, arm on knee from row. Mary I. Knouff - ? ? not sure but think she's  
in back row 3rd from right ? ?

JUN • 60



1959

The sins of the father are visited upon his children. 1960

KENNY: A FAVORITE GRANDCHILD OF LYDIA JANE,  
A FAVORITE NEPHEW OF BURNSIDES AND A FAVORITE  
UNCLE OF MINE.



CANTON

Kenny + Delores about 1960

BLIND FOR 30 YEARS



Kenny was legally blind: 1950-1980

Kenny took Harry in (to live) with he and Deloris on Woodland Ave. in 1939  
(Kenny was 30).

Kenny

1960



236

A LITTLE MIXED UP

One of Grandma's  
favorite poems  
in her later yrs.  
c. 1960

Just a line to say I am living,  
That I'm not among the dead -  
Tho, I'm getting more forgetful  
And more mixed up in my head.

For sometimes I don't remember,  
When I stand at the foot of the stairs,  
If I must go up for something -  
Or have I just come down from there!

And, before the fridge so often,  
My poor mind is filled with doubt,  
Have I just put food away,  
Or, have come to take something out.

And, there's times when it's dark out,  
And with my night cap on my head -  
I don't know if I'm retiring,  
Or just getting out of bed.

So, if it's my turn to write to you,  
There is no use in getting sore,  
I may have thought that I have written,  
And I don't want to be a bore!

So, do remember that I love you,  
And I do wish you were here,  
And now it's nearly mailtime,  
So, I must say good bye my dear.

There I stand by the mailbox,  
With my face so very red -  
Instead of mailing you my letter,  
I have opened it instead!

THE MIDWEST HOME NEWS  
Lawrence N. Main, Editor  
Lebanon, Ohio  
Return Postage Guaranteed

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Dayton, Ohio  
Permit No. 103

c. 1960

Mrs. Mary Knuff  
210 Oby Pl. N.E.  
Canton 3, Ohio

GRANDMA'S NEWS MAGAZINE

---

"I'M FINE"

There is nothing whatever the matter with me.  
I'm just as healthy as I can be.  
I have arthritis in back and knees  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak; my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well, for the shape I'm in.

My teeth eventually had to come out  
And my diet I hate to think about.  
I'm overweight and I can't get thin.  
My appetite is sure to win.  
But I'm awfully well, for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports, I have for my feet  
Or I wouldn't be able to go on the street.  
Sleep is denied me at night after night  
And every morning I'm a sight;  
My memory is failing; my head's in a spin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this as the tale we unfold,  
That for all those who are growing old  
It's better to say "I'm fine," with a grin,  
Than to let folks know the shape I'm in.

—From "Home News," Western Home

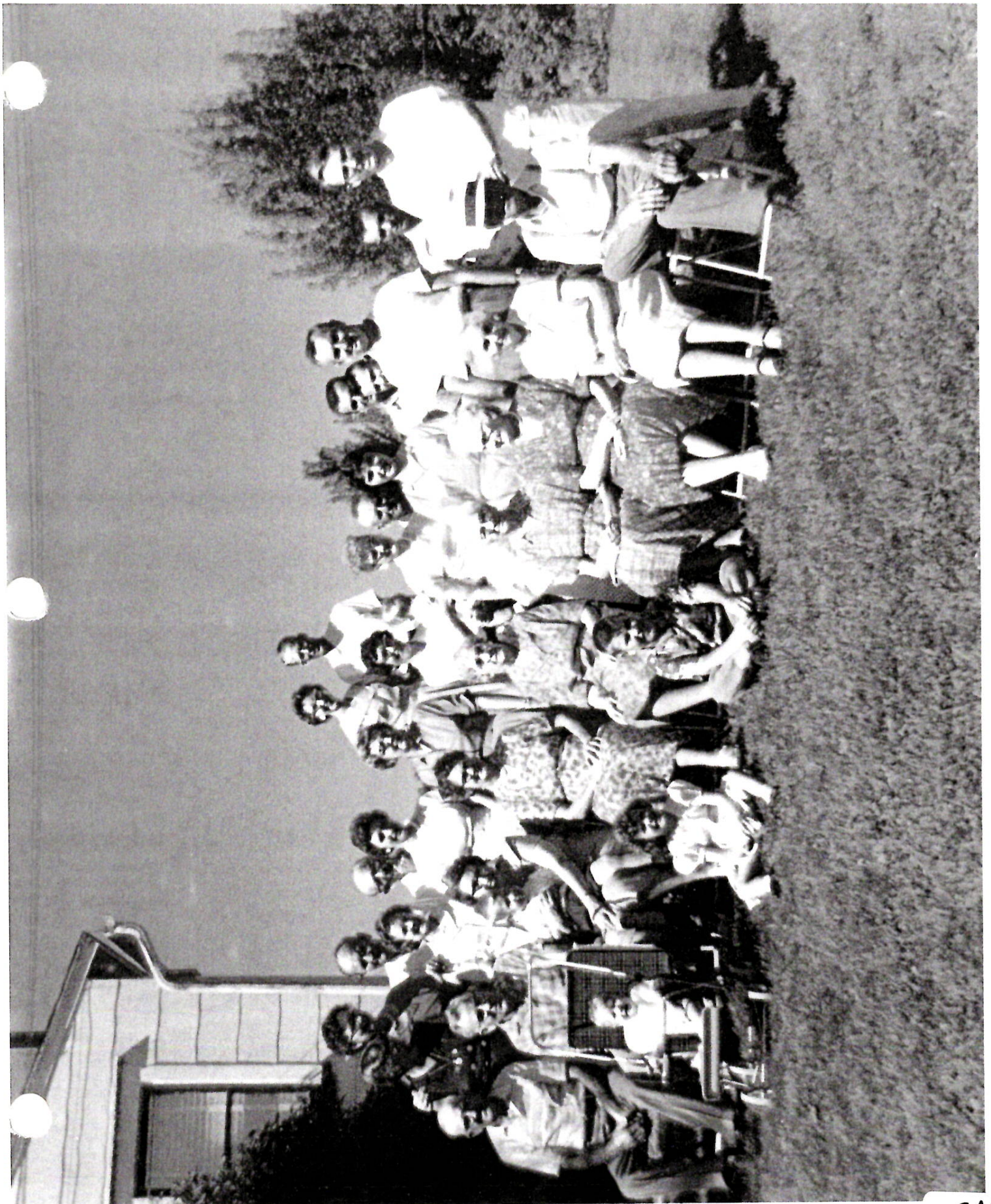


1960  
Beatty Road



Zettler + Berkshire + Burnside with their mom

IMMEL REUNION - 1960



55

240  
1960

IMMEL REUNION - 1960



1920-1962

MARY ANN IMMEL

ECONOMICS OF GRANDMA'S LIFE

Grandma worked for no pay on the farm until age 18. From the time of her marriage until she was 30 she contributed to family support by renting rooms which included cleaning. When she became head of household, she worked 9½ hours per day, 6 days a week for a total of 57 hours per week. For this she was paid \$12.00 or 21¢ per hour.

So Grandma had a gross pay of \$52.00 a month out of which she paid \$15.00 per month rent on Candy Court for a small 5 room house. So she paid out about 30% of her income in rent. This left \$37.00 per month for food, clothing, medical care, electricity, and heat.

Needless to say, she didn't own a home until she married Charlie in 1933. Charlie had designed and built the house on Oby Place sometime in the 1920's. As you can see by the pictures and of course your memories, it was a very unique house; very neat and well maintained. However, Charlie was unemployed for some part of the 1930's. He finally landed a job at Union Metal as a machinist and worked there for about 13 years before retirement in 1948. So neither Grandma nor Charlie had extensive social security benefits. She died with \$2,000.00 in the bank, and lived on a small social security pension.

RE: economic hard luck; her husband not only stopped bringing in income to the family, but actually hocked the furniture to support his way of life. Harry not only died penniless, but one of his sisters gave him a suit to be buried in.

This was a woman with exceedingly bad luck careerwise. At no time did she let her grandchildren or anybody else know this. Mom said that she never "poor mouthed." I always thought going to her house that she was well to do and had no worries. In reality she protected us from her worries and that was a big benefit to us.

1960  
REUNION

1960 - Grindmiz was 70. Taken at A. Hilda's on California Ave, Louisville



242  
1967

1961  
IAN'S FUNERAL



UNCLE IAN'S FUNERAL DAY - 1961  
(Grandma's favorite brother died completely unexpectedly)  
→ Getogether & wake at Ethyl's Apt. on 21<sup>st</sup> St.

243

(Continued from Page 7)

The new hospital unit which was opened in November is operating at full capacity. It provides facilities for more efficient care for our aged members.

Superintendent Allman is adding as opportunity affords qualified and experienced personnel in the fields of plumbing and heating, electricity, carpentry and painting which is so necessary in this size of operation. A skilled mechanic takes care of our cars, trucks, tractors and farm machinery.

This Home has increased its capacity for the care of the aged during the past year by 12 persons. The urgent demand which is upon all our benevolent homes makes it necessary that we look to the future for further expansion.

(Continued from Page 11)

chosen for his topic, "Always the Forward Look." A choral group from Zion Church, Toledo, Ohio and the children of the Home will also participate in the program.

I love the Haven Hubbard Memorial Home. It means more to me than words can tell. And Jesus, our Savior, is here with us. What more would we want? Mrs. Mary C. Johnston. Age 80. Entered the Home 1950.

• • •

Miss Justine Granner, R. N. formerly of Hubbard, Iowa joined the staff at Western Home in June, 1960. She spent many years as Missionary nurse for our Church in China and later at Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Her mother is 90 years of age and a member at Western Home. She will render valuable service in the care of the aged at this home.

Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay.  
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade;  
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;  
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,  
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.  
—Oliver Goldsmith.

The secret of a happy marriage is simple: Just keep on being as polite to one another as you are to your best friends.

I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man who lives in it so that his place will be proud of him.—Abraham Lincoln.

Before a man can wake up and find himself famous he has to wake up and find himself.

No man can live happily who regards himself alone, who turns everything to his own advantage. Thou must live for another if thou wishest to live for thyself.—Seneca.



1962

GRANDMA DIED MAY 29, 1962:

UNION CEMETERY  
Louisville, OHIO



**KNOUFF Mrs. M. A.**  
 MARY ANN, age 72, of 808 Oby Pl NW, passed away Tuesday evening in Pensacola, Florida. She was a life resident of the Canton area. She was a member of the First EUB Church. She is the widow of Charles Knouff. She is survived by two daughters Mrs. J. R. Berkshire of Gulf Breeze, Fla., Mrs. J. J. Zentler of Massillon, one son, Kenneth Barnside of Canton, four sisters Mrs. Stella Cizek, Miss Eva Immel, Miss Kathryn Immel all of Canton, and Mrs. Norman Shoemaker of Louisville, O., nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Calling hours will be Friday 3 to 5 and 7 to 9. Services will be at the Formet and Clevenger Funeral Home Saturday at 1 p.m. with the Rev. A. L. Brandyberry officiating. Burial will be in Union Cemetery in Louisville. (Formet and Clevenger - GL 6-4766)

**Mrs. Charles Knouff**  
 Mrs. Mary Ann Knouff, 72, of 808 Oby pl NW, died Tuesday evening in the Baptist Memorial Hospital, Pensacola, Fla., following a heart attack. She had been visiting a daughter, Mrs. J. R. Berkshire of Gulf Breeze, Fla. She was the widow of Charles Knouff. Survivors include one other daughter and a son. Services Saturday, 1 p.m., Formet & Clevenger funeral home. Burial, Union Cemetery, Louisville. Callers Friday, 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. *M. 2/1/62*



Grandma's Grave →



Michael J. Zeller and Associates, Inc.  
Computer System Consultants  
400 West Wilson Bridge Road  
Westborough, Ohio 43081  
(614) 338-3244

1962

Helen's Eulogy  
to her Mom

### Grief

Grief does not come as the morbid mouth  
Their worn cliches in a darkened room.  
Modern day customs put the mourners to task,  
Give not the time any questions to ask:  
Numbers to quote, responsibilities to take  
And perhaps it is best for ~~all of our~~ everyone's sake.  
But later, in doing some homely job  
Dishes or gardening or talking to God;  
Seeing the rose she planted in spring's green hope,  
Finding the tasks put back with which later to cope  
Grief hits like the lightning from out of the sky  
And between the tears, we wonder why  
It had to be, when life was wanted  
And others live day to weary day, haunted.

Sad

246

1962

**GRANDMA'S LAST LETTER**

**Grandma was in Florida helping to care for Bernice who had been in the hospital. Grandma had her first heart attack May 17 and was in the hospital until May 29, 1962. This letter was written on May 16.**

# GRANDMA'S LAST LETTER

1962

- TO JUDY

Wednesday

Dear Judy & Mick & the youngsters:

It hardly seems possible that it is nearly a week since I came here, it has been real warm here and the heat seems to make me lazy & peppy. Mrs. Coe was here this evening and brought such a lovely bouquet of gardenias and is hoping the bush will be in bloom when you arrive. The news about your mother sounds about the same as last year, she went back in the hospital yesterday morning and I talked with her on the phone this afternoon she says she has received no relief and she has a rash on her face and feels miserable, Dr. Morse is attending a convention in Miami and will be back Saturday, a Dr. Cassidy is looking after her now, she thinks it is a reaction from the drugs. I am hoping there will soon be a change for the better as it

is so depressing for her and a person feels so helpless, I tried to prepare her some food that would not cause distress but it did and her diet consisted mainly of juices & crackers.

I was glad to hear that you got to see your dad while he stopped over at Idlewood. Did he tell you I came by plane this time, it beats the train and I am only <sup>1/2</sup> half as long that's the biggest difference I could see, I left Akron airport at 8 AM. and arrived in Pensacola at 3 PM. I have not decided about the trip home probably will fly.

Bill J. had accepted an appointment to the Coast Guard and a week later he received an appointment to the Air Academy so he was in a quandary when I left which one to go to. Monica & Bob are coming home in June I do not know where they are heading for this time but it will <sup>be</sup> nice seeing them again.

Hi - I thought your mother might call this morning and I could give a report

(3)

We have not been to the hospital to see her she is in a 4 bed ward at present and she said there were two real sick patients and the room seems crowded & they give her medicine to sleep & we should not come so we stayed home, may get some one to take us over this evening whether she wants us or not, the Smiths & Wuntleys have been so nice & willing to help. Fannie is here doing the cleaning & ironing I just walk from chair to chair when one gets hot I move to the next one, makes me feel like an old lady —

I will enjoy seeing all of you and the new G. & G. children and we are looking forward to your visit, the grandmas are hunting up baby beds, high chairs etc.

I must write Helen & a few other people today.

With my love

Grandma

P.S. Mrs Wuntley <sup>took</sup> me to the hospital this evening and Bernice seemed a little better, had solid food for supper the first since she returned to the hospital she was expecting Dr. Morse in later on, because home

last night



1963

Gulf Breeze, FLA  
Alison

Virginis Anie  
Thanksgiving, 1963  
Wick

Judy

Elizabeth

## MARY JO'S EULOGY - 1963

Mrs. Mary Knouff

At nineteen she was married  
And from that marriage suffered much.  
Three fine children she raised,  
Although, receiving no money from her husband,  
She labored long hours to provide for them  
The necessities of life.  
Later on in life she again was wed  
To yet another man unworthy of her love:  
He was kind to her yet unkind to others  
And lost for her many friends;  
But those she had were held close and dear,  
And her children and her children's children  
Loved her more than words can tell.

At her death not only a few were saddened  
But hundreds, all who knew her,  
For all who knew her felt close to her:  
May her memory live on in their hearts!

## BILL ZETTLER'S MEMORIES OF GRANDMA AND GRANDPA

We used to walk up to Grandma's and Grandpa's house (we lived on Troy off of Shorb Ave. and they lived on Oby off of Shorb Ave.) -- Grandpa and I used to watch the Lone Ranger on TV. Before that, we used to listen to it on the radio -- a big wooden things with a green eye that got brighter as you tuned in. Grandma gave us Karo [Corn Syrup] sandwiches and "Boston Coolers" [Root Beer + Ice Cream] and always had a large cabinet full of toys. I always loved the cabinet in the hallway with the "hidden button" on the side that opened the doors. Grandpa Charlie had his cigars and his shop was fascinating. I remember the 1936 Buick (he always called it "machine") in the garage. He always made me a toy, a plane a car and the "great red barn." One time he took me down to the basement and showed me a small nugget that he pulled out of one of his hundreds of little drawers (nuts, bolts, nails, etc.). He asked me what I thought it was and I said "a gold nugget." He laughed and said no, it was the bone from his amputated finger! I can see his stub finger as clear as I can see this pen. Grandma's garden beside the house always had little purple and white flowers around the edge and a tilting clothesline holder. The brick wall between the garden and the next property was always fun to walk along. Grandma always tucked me in on the folding couch-bed (it must have been one of the first.) What gentle and caring people they were -- but then I guess that's what grandparents are for.



TOBY & MIKE'S FAMILY 20 YRS. AGO

1971



CANTON  
At Grandmz's (Helen)  
probably Christmas

Zerbe Zach Mike Toby  
Mary Jo Bill Kirsten Moniez

1972 Toby + Eleanor  
on the way to Ecuador



COLUMBUS

Erick Kirt Megan Tody Zosy/Mike  
Pante Nicky Omar Zack

HELEN + JOE'S FAMILY 10 YRS. AGO

1981



Zoeby Eleanor Toby Gaitly Nell  
Kelley's Island 2 Yrs. ago  
1990



Orna Bill Dave Nikki Pete Mary Jo Erik

HELEN & JOE AT KELLEY'S ISLAND 1985

ZETTLER BRANCH IN 1986

One of our  
Kelleys Island  
Holidays - we  
had fun!



Sandusky - K.I.  
Branch 1992

Great Great  
Grandchild →  
Isabella W.  
Amy Helen  
1992



1986  
Bernice



1986

258

## MARY ANN IMMEL'S LEGACY

### *Family SuperStar - Her Heritage*

Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ...  
*Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.* ( Matthew,Chap. 7)

### Part IX

**Mary Ann Immel's Heritage**

*(An earlier version of Grandma's summary.)*

**Economic:**

Grandma never made more than 25 cents per hour. At age 43, she didn't have the money to buy her daughter a slip for her Wedding. Grandma died with only \$2000 in the bank.

**Career and Educational:**

Two of her 3 children graduated from high school--a higher percentage than the average family in the 1930's. Helen and Bernie were both National Honor Society graduates.

Her **nine** grandchildren average over four years of college. Several have published professional papers. Six have advanced degrees. At least four are in business for themselves. At least five are professional managers.

**Social Class:**

In **two** generations, Grandma's family rose from "working class" to "upper middle class".

**Is all this economic and career success a coincidence?**

Not likely--the evidence shows that Grandma possessed strengths which she passed on to her children who passed them onto her grandchildren:

**1. Dignity:**

When she was working 60 hours per week at 20 cents per hour in the early 20's, she came home every night, she didn't drift into drugs or alcoholism, she didn't despair in front of, or scream at, her children. She kept her promises. Even though she worked in a factory, she didn't swear in front of her children.

2. Frugality:

This is obvious to those who know her children, but it is a key part of generating assets.

3. Responsibility:

Without a job skill, she took on the responsibility of head of household. She didn't borrow money to buy pretty clothes or "things". She didn't ask her children to quit school and work so she could rest. She rented rooms when her other income was too meager to live on. She paid her bills. She encouraged her children to go to the Library.

4. Pride:

She didn't complain to us about her hard life. Her personal appearance, her house and yard were always clean and neat. As Helen stated: "She was a proud, private person who never poor-mouthed or bragged."

5. Tenacity:

She didn't give up. She was calm under pressure. As Mary Helen describes "she had an innerpeace".



1990

OBY PLACE  
- MONICA'S MEMORIES  
of Grandma.

MEMORIES OF MARY ANN IMMEL

Although I, of course, think of her as "Grandma Mary", I must try to see her with a true perspective here, to view her as another human being and describe her objectively. I think the overwhelming impression one had of her was gentleness, humaneness, a sweetness and concern for others that was innate, not learned. I never recall her raising her voice or scolding any of us grandchildren. Everyone loved her: she had the good breeding and manners that come not from money or schooling, but from a natural civility. I believe she was a born leader. For many years she was president of her Sunday School class, and when on occasion I would attend church with her I remember how much the 15 or 20 women in her class appeared to like and admire her. And I suspect that I may have inherited my liberal, left-wing, pacifistic tendencies from her, as my other grandmother tended to be quite conservative in her political views.

Other qualities I associate with Mary Ann include a peasant-like tenacity and patience, and the serenity which age brings to only a few. She had never had much in the way of material possessions, but she was happy with what life had given her, grateful for her small apartment, food on the table, and the health of her family. She never seemed rushed or stressed (although I recall her

admittedly as middle-aged, no longer working, so this might not be an accurate description of her younger days when she was under more pressure). It was obvious, though, that she had had to exhibit a great deal of determination, to "hang in" despite much adversity, during her earlier years.

Of those years I can only report stories from Mom, second-hand images filtered through time and space, and impressions from the rare photos I saw. I think there is one of her graduating from the eighth grade in a little rural schoolhouse. That was probably a lot of education for a country girl in those days. She was an excellent student, and I can't remember if it was a lack of money or accessibility that kept her from further pursuing her education, but I'm sure it wasn't motivation. I'm not sure what she did during the period between graduating and marrying Harry Burnside, but in one photo of her as a teen-ager she is sitting on the front porch of the Immel house with several other family members. It must be warm weather: they are all in their shirt sleeves, the women have on aprons, and she is playing the guitar. She has a very sad, winsome look on her face, a look of loneliness and loss at a very young age. Perhaps a portent of what was to come. . . She must have been stunning as a young woman. Even when elderly she had piercing, deep-set eyes of the most beautiful blue I have ever seen. Combined with auburn hair the color of Mom's and a small, neat figure, those eyes must have made many a man look twice. It was her misfortune that she picked the wrong one, albeit a charmer. Life with Harry must have been hell, and it is a tribute to her strength of character that she booted him out for

1990

MONICA 3 of 7

good when Mom was in the second year of high school (and therefore after about nineteen or twenty years of marriage), and decided to go it alone--in the days when it was very unusual for a woman to do so. I don't recall any photos from this period of time, but I have seen the small, rudimentary wooden house they rented when she was working at the candy factory, a single mother working 12 hours a day, 6 days a week, and then caring for her house and children after that. Even today that's a tough life style, and I can't imagine how difficult it must have been then; no wonder that--as Mom says--she had a headache every Sunday and retired to bed. She was exhausted.

By the time the kids were teen-agers, she had met Charlie Knouff

(As pretty and pleasant as she was, I'm surprised she hadn't dated anyone earlier.) But she was still very poor. When Mom and Dad married, she had no money to give them a wedding present, not even the slip that Mom hinted she could use under her new dress.

I probably remember Mary Ann most clearly from when she was about 50 to 65, living upstairs on Oby Place with Charlie (whom I think of as my "true" grandfather, since he was always loving and caring toward us children, treating us as though we were his own). It always seemed very crowded there in the back alley, very urban and somewhat poor because the houses were right up against the road and there were none of the big lawns I associated with the suburbs where I mostly grew up. But the apartment they lived in was neat and clean and had its own quaint charm. My earliest memories include being frightened of falling down the steep single flight

264

of stairs that led up to their front door and helping Grandpa weigh beans into a bag and wait on customers in the coop store they once had on the first floor.

I remember the rooms of the apartment fairly clearly, and let me describe them briefly, in that they mirror Mary Ann's character. One entered into a small, narrow sunporch, which I believe had perhaps a straight chair or rocker, the bookcase with the secret lock, and windowsills lined with plants, particularly African violets which flourished under Grandma's care. Beside some old hardbacks of Grandpa's that always looked pretty dry--maybe some about Alaska or where he'd travelled--I believe the bookcase held some simple children's games, like Pick-Up Sticks. Or then again, do I remember a shelf of children's toys in the dining room buffet? I think at one time I remember Grandpa rigging up some sort of pulley system to feed the birds on the porch roof next to this sun room. Whatever, Grandpa and Grandma were always ready for grandchildren and seemed to enjoy them.

From the sunporch one could go toward the back of the apartment, toward the kitchen and bath (clawfooted tub and all) or toward the livingroom which faced the front. The latter area was where one usually found Grandpa, sitting in an overstuffed chair with doilies on the back and arms and a table on his left (in the corner) with a radio, perhaps a few magazines and books, and his famous "moose" ashtray with a cigar resting in it (usually lit). Facing him on the right was a couch, I think with a kind of tapestry cover, and across from him was another chair and the archway into the diningroom. I think there were many plants in the living room,

too, on the window sills and in those curley-cue wire stands that hold several pots, as Grandma really had a green thumb.

I recall the dining room as being fairly dark and crowded. I think besides a heavy wooden table and chairs there were two buffets, and also Mary Ann's sewing machine. When we were eating in the kitchen (which was most of the time) I think she used the dining room table to lay out her patterns and sewing materials. Her machine was the old type, with an ornate black wrought-iron foot pedal. She seemed to enjoy sewing. Although I'm sure she learned it out of financial necessity, I think she was probably an excellent craftswoman. She may have done some tailoring for pay. I remember her allowing me to sit at the sewing machine and work the pedal (obviously, this nurturing did not take effect).

The kitchen, behind the dining room, was small and crowded, but had a nice bank of windows facing the west. There was always a round, flat tin of cookies on top of the refrigerator (or was it underneath?) I think she made the type of cookies that you shape into a roll and keep in the refrigerator wrapped in wax paper. I remember an oval brown sugar type, and a round pinwheel filled with maybe some dates and nuts. Her stove was the old type, with the oven on the right, up high, and the burners down low, on the left. You had to light the burners manually, with some of those wooden matches that are kept hanging on the wall in a metal box with a lip at the bottom where you pull out your match. When I was older I was sometimes allowed to light the burners and blow out the matches.

I think she cooked fairly simple food, not highly seasoned, not

ethnic. Mom says she never used garlic and had the same can of black pepper for ten years. One of her specialties was pot roast with homemade noodles, which was served in the dining room for special occasions. I remember the long noodles hanging on kitchen towels over the backs of chairs. They were faintly dusted with flour and drying. I think she used high quality ingredients whenever she could afford them: I remember her making a trip on the bus downtown to the Arcade Market to buy a pound of fresh farmer's butter, and she and Charlie often went out to those "pick your own" farms to purchase fruit during the harvest season. One of my earliest memories is the two of them being very upset when I was stung by a bee in a peach orchard.

Pies were her forte as a cook. She made a fabulous flaky crust (out of lard, of course, Mike!) and filled them with fresh fruit such as elderberries thickened with tapioca. She taught me how to make her kind of crust, and the secret is delicacy of treatment, a minimum of handling and manipulation. I remember her telling me it's not like bread dough: you don't have to slap it around. You get that sucker rolled out as quickly as you can, mooshing it around only as much as is absolutely necessary. To this day I think of her when I am wrist-deep in pie dough and flour, and I still use tapioca (as opposed to flour or cornstarch) to thicken my fruit. Sometimes I think this "minimal intrusiveness" principle might be appropriate for many human endeavors, including artistic projects and, most particularly, international politics.

At the very back of the apartment, the bedroom was small and dark, without many windows, and filled with a large ornately carved

MONICA 7 of 7  
1990

bedroom suit. There was an old-fashioned dressing table with a round mirror in the middle, doilies or dresser mats on the two side tables, and a brush, comb, and mirror set--brass or silvertone--neatly laid out. I remember sitting there using the mirror, and perhaps trying on some dress-up clothes or hats she would bring out.

Individual scenes crop up in memory, out of context. She once sat in the chair across from Grandpa holding hot towels to her breast (over a slip or robe, I'm sure); evidently she was having some menopausal symptoms (she went through menopause very late, at the age of 55 or so). I remember her coming to our house on Bellflower and bursting into tears (comforted by Mom, of course) when she learned that Charlie had bone cancer. Visiting him during the last few months of his illness, I was horrified by his moans of pain but in awe of her calm, gentle way of caring for him, her stoicism in the face of what must have been excruciatingly difficult, both physically and emotionally. She kept him at home until the end, nursing him herself.

Shortly after that, Deirdre, Bob and I moved away from Canton for good, and for some reason my memories of Mary Ann become more scattered, less vivid. She died about 5 years later, in Florida. I was teaching in Phoenix, Deirdre was in kindergarten, and we had just mailed her a "get-well" letter.

MZS

01/22/91

FOUR GENERATIONS AFTER GRANDMA - HELEN'S COWS. BRANCH

1990



Mike →

Zach →

Nicholas →

← Elizabeth  
(Zach's wife)



DAVE TOOK THIS  
PICTURE.

FOUR GENERATIONS AFTER MARY IMMEL

1990



Heleen & Mike with War Hero's Family - Megan, Matt, Amy

Note: CAPT. DAVID M. SPELLACY TOOK THIS PICTURE AND  
WAS KILLED-IN-ACTION 4 MOS. LATER - Feb. 25, 1991 Kuwait City  
(A great parent in the tradition of Grandma Mary.)

OUR IMMEL COUSINS SPEAK UP FOR THEIR AUNT MARY

1990

**DOROTHY WAGNER** (Grandma's Young Sister Hilda's First Daughter) -- "Your Grandma Mary or Aunt Mary to me was always pleasant and had a good sense of humor; best wishes to you as you compile your "memoirs" of Grandma."

**JANET (IMMEL) CLARK** -- The Immel's were down-to-earth farm people who were well thought of in their family and community -- they were all so nice to me as a kid -- and as I grew up in Canton. I feel sorry for people who don't even know their relatives.

After our luncheon in Canton on Sept. 28th, Wilda and I talked on the phone and recalled what a nice time we had. We both remembered Aunt Mary (your Grandma) so fondly. She had the nicest temperament. She always had a smile and she saw the bright and funny side of life -- this from a lady who knew some very hard times. I still remember her giggle. I have a precious photo of Mary and Ian -- she a grown young woman and he a little 4 year old boy.

Janet



Mary Immel  
Pitt made on  
a Meyers Lake  
game machine  
(1915?)

Helen, Bernie, Kenny, Gene, Odene, Javi, etc. liked  
to visit here

1990

JEWEL BURNSIDE'S HOUSE



MARY'S IMMEL'S GRANDCHILDREN,



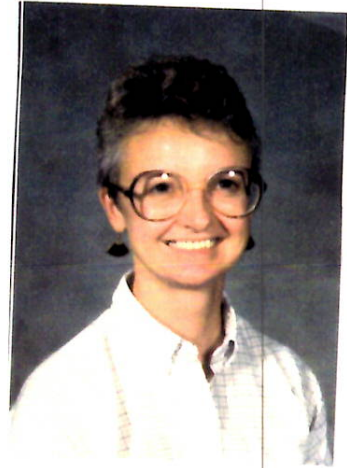
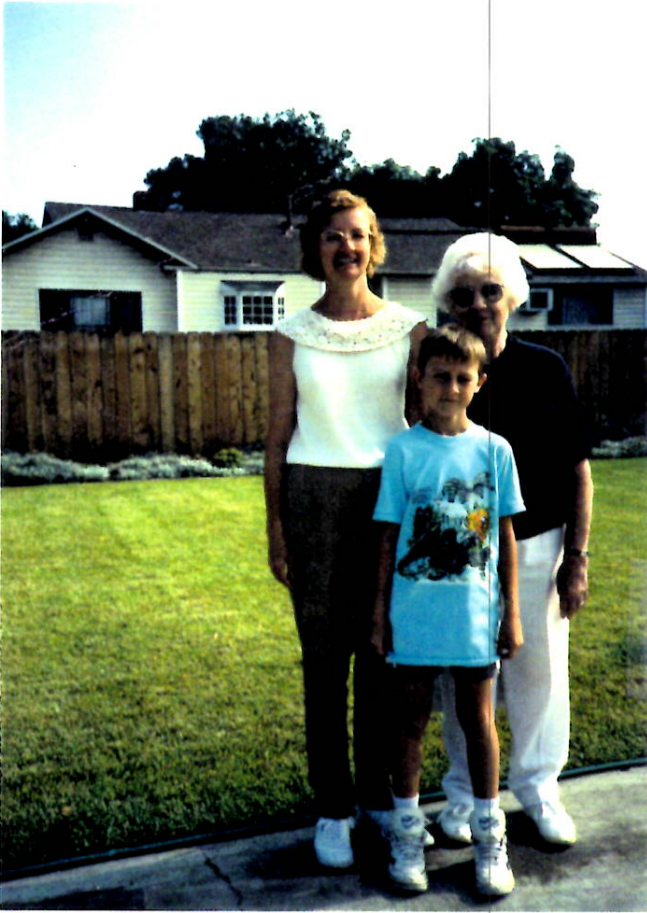
NIECES, AND \* GREAT, GREAT  
GRANDCHILDREN

IMMEL LUNCH  
IN CANTON

30 YEARS  
AFTER HER  
DEATH.

MARY HELEN'S FAMILY

1991



Mary Helen



Ben

Aunt Bernice  
Cousin Mary Helen and  
Nephew Benjamin  
Cousin Mary Helen  
so

WEST VIRGINIA  
1991

TOM'S FAMILY, 1991



Springfield  
ILLINOIS

Cousins Jennifer 24

Bretchen 20

Sarah 12

← Bernie's  
writing  
at age 79.



Charlotte Tom



1996

a-lot of Grandma Mary's descendants here

REUNION

From: MARY JO 1991

My memories of Grandma Mary:

1. She made me a swirly skirt that I wore to school every Friday for years.
2. She made me tiny doll clothes (some of which I still have) including tiny bras and underpants.
3. She grew rhubarb and strawberries just for us.
4. She always had soft ice cream and wonderful sausages.
5. She saved her aluminum foil.
6. She had this weird book about weird animals like flying squirrels.
7. She only ever got mad at me once, and then it was Mary Helen's fault.

Mary Jo--1-18-91



Mary Jo

Toby

Mike

1991



Bernie died July 3, 1992

1992

### Bernie V. Berkshire

Bernie V. Berkshire, died July 3, 1992 in Seal Beach, CA. She was born in Canton, graduate of McKinley High School in 1929. Survived by children, Judy Coe of Rock Hill, SC, Anne Swanson of Temple City, CA, Tom Berkshire of Springfield, IL, Mary Helen Kennie of Inwood, WV; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister, Helen Zettler; sister-in-law, Georgiana Berkshire, both of Canton. Memorial services will be held in Pensacola, FL, Aug. 9, 1992.

## Memorial service set for former resident

Bernice Virginia Berkshire, a resident of Gulf Breeze from 1955-1978, died in her home in Seals Beach, California on July 3. She was born in Canton, Ohio in 1911.

Mrs. Berkshire was a long-

time member of the Driftwood Garden Club and active in local scouting, government and education in the 1950s and 1960s.

She is survived by her sister, Helen Zettler of Canton, Ohio; four children, Judy Coe,

Rock Hill, South Carolina; Ann Swanson, Temple City, California; Mary Helen Kinnie, Inwood, West Virginia; Tom Berkshire, Springfield, Illinois; twelve grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, ten nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be held at the Pensacola Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 904 East Scott St., Pensacola on Sunday, August 9 at 2 p.m. For additional information please call 438-0783.

**BUSINESS**

as of 1992

GRANDMA'S 50 DESCENDANTS within 102 years of her birth

**Mary Ann Immel, b. Jan. 26, 1890, d. May 29, 1962**

Married Harry Burnside Nov., 1908 - Divorced 1928 (a 20 year sentence), b. 1855,  
d. Nov. 1950

Married July 22, 1933, Charles Edgar Knouff, b. June 17, 1885, d. 1956

**Kenneth Paul Burnside, b. Apr. 1, 1909, d. Sept. 21, 1987**

Married March 4, 1939

Dolores Green, b. July 28, 1918, d. April 7, 1974

**Bernice Virginia Burnside, b. May 14, 1911, d. July, 1992**

M. Dec. 19, 1931

James Roger Berkshire, b. Mar. 20, 1907, d. 1968

Judith Rogers Berkshire, b. May 26, 1937

Virginia - 1

Elizabeth

Henry

Michael

Ann Virginia Berkshire, b. June 9, 1941

Eric

Allison - 2

Steven

Michael

Thomas Jeffry Berkshire, b. Jan. 16, 1943

Jennifer

Gretchen

Sarah

Mary Helen Berkshire, b. Aug. 28, 1945

Benjamin

**Helen Mary Burnside, b. Aug. 21, 1913**

Married: Sept. 30, 1933

Joseph James Zettler, b. April 23, 1913, d. May 21, 1987

Toby Thomas Zettler, b. Jan. 4, 1937

Kirt - 2

Jody - 3

Erik

Dante - 1

Omar

Michael John Zettler, b. May 24, 1939

Zach - 2

Megan - 3

Monica Ann Zettler, b. Oct. 21, 1934

Dierdre

Sean

Kristen

1992

William Nicholas Zettler, b. Mar. 15, 1944

Nikki - 1

Zorba

Zooey

Gantry

Mary Jo Zettler, b. June 21, 1946

TOTALS:           9 Grandchildren  
                      26 Great-Grandchildren  
                      15 Great, Great-Grandchildren


**GRAND TOTAL: 50 Descendants**

*Memorial Day 1992 - 15 months after her Daddy died.*



**Hero's child, Amy, also 4 years old.**

**LOCAL**  
 REAL ESTATE  
*Professional*



**ANNE SWANSON**  
 Realtor  
 (818) 574-7950  
*Papa's Cousin*  
 Coldwell Banker  
 Retain this portion as proof of entry.

574-7950



ALISON



Alison's two little ones  
 Michela 7 mos Kevin 3 1/2 yrs  
 Anne's grand children  
 Aunt Bernice's  
 Great Grandchildren

1992

**Granddaughter Judy's Clan**



**Elizabeth, Henry, Judy, Michael, Virginia's baby is Amber.**

TOBY'S FAMILY 1992 AT LAKEWOOD



Lakewood  
OH

Kurt Eleanor Toby Denise  
Rob Edna Judy Erik Omar  
+ KIDS

Annie (1992) + Friends



MICHAEL  
With face  
like one here  
DAVE + hair  
like other  
here GRANDMA  
MARY.

DEAN  
with  
Israel  
Forehead

MEGAN'S

ZACK'S

BERKSHIRES IN 1992  
 at Aunt Bernice's memorial service  
 Pensacola, FLA.



**ANNE SWANSON**  
 Residential Specialist  
 Millions in Sales  
 BUS (818) 574-7950  
 RES (818) 285-5073

← ANNE - high-powered, independent sales person

Dear Mike,

Thanks so much for all your work for the memorial service. It was just perfect. We really enjoyed meeting you again + hope that you + yours will join us next year. Mary Helen + I had a great time at the service.



TOM + MZ



Mary Immel's Grand, Great, + Great-Great Grand children

Allison + Baby



Immel Co. ns visit the oldest fami' DNA

2000

Norma Mike Janet

Wilda Jane Dorothy



St. Peter's Reformed Cemetery in NE Stark County