**MAYME OSBORNE STANSBERY’S DIARY**

**1943, The Last Year of Her Life**

Transcribed by her Grandson, Glenn N. Holliman

December 30, 2009 latest draft

**Introduction**

**Mayme Osborne first saw daylight in January 6, 1896 in Cove Creek, Watauga County, North Carolina. Her parents were George Washington and Frances Wilson Osborne. Mayme was the last of seven children who grew to maturity.**

**In 1914, she married Charles S. Stansbery, Sr. of Afton, Tennessee. After three children, the last being my mother, Geraldine Stansbery Holliman Feick, b 1923, the marriage dissolved in 1933. Although Charles remarried and had several additional children, Mayme, almost always in ill health, did not. Economically destitute, Mayme survived on some child support from Charles and income from her first child, Louise Stansbery Sherwood who went to work after graduating from high school in 1933. Later her son, Charles S. Stansbery, Jr. would send an allotment from his meager U.S. Army pay check until her death in 1943.**

**In 1941, after the death of her mother, Frances Wilson Osborne, Mayme, along with Geraldine and two canaries of Mayme, moved with Louise and her new husband, Vance R. Sherwood, Sr. from Bristol, Tennessee to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.**

**Vance had work there during the war, although he was drafted into the Army in Philadelphia in 1943. They all lived together in a row house near Germantown. Mayne and daughter Gerry shared a bedroom. One suspects the canaries were in the kitchen or living room! Vance was discharged from the service for hardship issues in August 1943 and returned home. In early 1944, the family relocated to Knoxville, Tennessee where Vance continued civilian work.**

**The move north proved life-changing for Geraldine, who would meet and marry my father, H. Bishop Holliman, a U.S. Navy sailor who was occasionally docked in Philadelphia.**

**Written in pencil on a calendar entitled Weekly Memo 1943 is the last diary (perhaps the only one we have of her) of Mayme. What can we discover of the life and times of this family unit of Mayme, her two daughters and son-in-law as they lived through the middle of World War II?**

**1942**

December 24 – “Gerry sent those not good snapshots to Walt, Kerm(it), Ralph, Paul, Alex, Bill D., us, Bill H., Otis.” ***In this first entry, we discover Geraldine had many boy friends and she would have many more! Kermit, she met at East Tennessee State College before her move to Philadelphia in 1941. Ralph Conner, also, was from Bristol and a high school boy friend. In 1988, 'Gerry' would have a short-lived disastrous relationship with Ralph, her old beau, that led to a divorce from Bishop, her husband of 43 years.***

***The calendar skips forward to February 1943:***

**1943**

February 19 – “Bill D. came home on furlough. Gerry had date with Bill. She felt badly so didn’t go to work and was here when Bill came in a.m.” *One is struck by Gerry's continued ill health. In the late 1940s until a hysterectomy in 1959, she would have occasional problems.*

February 25 – “Gerry went on mobile canteen.”

February 26 – “Vance left for the U.S. Army today. Gerry put $40 into the budget.” *Gerry worked at a bank in South Philadelphia, later moving to a secretarial position with the national Boy Scouts office.*

February 27 – “Otis spent nite here. He and Gerry went to ‘Y’.”

February 28 – “Gerry and Otis went to N.Y. today.” *An unknown boyfriend. The move from the mountains of East Tennessee to the northeast was a culturally broadening experience for Gerry.*

March 2 – “I put $20 in budget.”

March 8 – “Louise started working all day, instead of half days.” *We do not know the type of Louise's work.*

March 10 – “Brother came home unexpectedly at 6 a.m. today. We were thrilled to tears to see him. It was the first time in four years. He left Guatemala enough to home January 21st.” ***This was Charles S. Stansbery, Jr., the only son of Mamye, b. 1918, who joined the Army Air Corps in his late teens.***

March 14 – “Gerry wore orchid sent from Art in California for their 1st anniversary of acquaintance. Edd took Bro. and Louise for ride also Betty. Louise put $40 in budget. Gerry put in her second $40.”

March 16 – “Gerry and Brother went ice-skating at the Arena. Gerry met William Harrall, a sailor from London, England. Very nice boy, she says.”

March 17 – “Brother went to Stage Door Canteen and met Ann Smith. Seemingly they fell in love at first sight. Gerry’s last date with Otis before sailing.”

March 18 – “Gerry went with Bill to ship dance at the Moose Hall. Brother went to Natalie’s (***a next door neighbor***). Otis’ ship sailed during the nite of 17th or early morn of 18th.”

March 19 – “Brother and Anne had first date. Bill took Gerry to show.”

March 20 – “Snow storm while at vesper service. Bill attended with Gerry. Edd took our family and Bill for ride after forum.”

March 23 – “Brother gave Anne engagement ring.” ***They had known each other six days! The relationship would last until Anne’s death in 2003.***

March 24 – “Brother and Anne over until late. Bill sick couldn’t come.”

March 25 – “Prepared dinner for Brother, Anne and Kerm. Brother left for Boise, Idaho on the 7:40 pm train. Kerm came at 7:10 a.m.”

March 26 – “Vance gone for weeks. I called Ann. Anne received wire from Brother in St. Louis. Kerm went to Ohio.”

March 27 – “Gerry and Anne had lunch together in Town. Gerry feels bad.”

March 28 – “Gerry sick. Anne came over in afternoon. Had sandwiches and went to church with us. Edd took us all for ride and Anne home.”

March 29 – “Kerm came back from Ohio---Ann had night letter from Bro. Ann called me twice. Gerry stayed home from work.”

March 30 – “Gerry had letter from Otis. First one after sailing the middle of month.”

March 31 – “Louise and I selected furniture. Gerry wrote Otis.”

April 1 – “Ann had special air mail letter from Bro. Kerm left for University of California. Gerry and I bought furniture!”

April 2 – “I had air mail letter from Brother. He arrived in Boise Sunday nite at 2:30. Bill back tonight after a week’s sickness.”

April 3 – “Sugar died.” ***One of the love birds brought from Tennessee by car in the summer of 1941.***

April 4 – “Anne had supper and went to church. Rushed home about ten because of call from Red. Snowed about nine.” ***Mayme refers to her son, Charles, as either Brother, Red or my little man. He had red hair, and amongst two sisters, he was the only brother.***

April 5 – “Louise back to work after being off Thur., Fri. and ½ of Sat. Was sick. I wrote Bro. and Bascom. Gerry rec’d letters from Art, Paul & Kerm.” ***Bascom Osborne, Mayme’s brother, lived in Owensboro, KY. She had four other brothers: Toby, Bill, Bishop and Leroy (Roy).***

April 7 – “Gerry rec’d six letters! Anne called, said she had a letter from Bro. Otis, Boyd, Ralph, Alex, Wall and Bill D. (wrote).”

April 8 – “Gerry rec’d two letters from Kerm.” ***My Mother must have been a letter-writing factory during the War!***

April 10 – “Letter from my ‘little man’. Gerry rec’d one from Bill H and Ralph.”

April 11 – “Telephone rang and it was Otis back. He came out at 2:30. Ann and family came. Otis ate supper and went to church.”

April 12 – “Announcement of Bro. and Anne’s engagement came out in the *Bulletin*. Gerry and Otis went to Earl. I was kinda sick.”

April 13 – “I wrote Maggie. Announcement of Bro & Anne’s came out in *Inquiry*.”

April 14 – “Sold $15.00 furniture and diamond ($75.00). Bo’t corset and 2 new dresses and G hat.” *Was this a wedding ring from her former husband, Charles Stansbery?*

April 15 – “Couch came today. Otis took Gerry to show and dinner from work. Leroy sent the $20.00. Boyd called from his home.”

April 16 – “Gerry bo’t bracelet, from Kerm. Boyd called sick and couldn’t come. Gerry and Louise put $40 each in budget.”

April 17 – “Bro. sent Anne corsage of gardenias for 1 mo. Anniversary. Boyd came afternoon and eve. Our dining room furniture came.”

April 18 – “Boyd went to S.S. and church; had dinner with us. Their family ate 5 o’clock dinner at Nat’s mother. Boyd stayed till late.”

April 19 – “Started Easter boxes to Art. Boyd left. Gerry’s in love again! I went to eye doctor. Otis came. Bob F. wanted Gerry to go to Opera.”

April 20 – “Started packages to Bro. Vance, Paul, Kerm, Ralph and Sherwood’s. Easter card to Bill D. Went to eye doctor again. We went to Anne’s. Boise sailed.” ***Was this the USS Boise with Otis on it?***

April 22 – “Gerry sick a.m. and didn’t work. Rite and went to rehearse for Mother and Daughter bouquet. Had Anne, Bette and Natalie for dinner. Went to communion at church. Discovered Gerry’s ring gone.”

April 23 – “Gerry had holiday. I wrote Bro. in ans. to yesterday’s letter which I rec’d after I mailed his.”

April 24 – “Got flowers from my little man. **(her son Charles)** Got my glasses.”

April 25 – “Louise gave me $5 in a beautiful card and a handsome candy jar. Gave me a lovely flower for my coat. Boyd came. Ann over for last time before going to Boise.”

April 26 – “Anne and parents left for Boise, Idaho. Gerry letter from Ralph, Paul and Kerm.”

April 27 – “Mother, Daughter Delta Sigma Banquet. Gerry ‘Mistress of Ceremony’, did fine.”

April 28 – “I put $10 in budget. Borrowed it from ring money to do so, but will pay it back when I get my allotment the first of May.”***This was Charles Jr.’s monthly contribution to his Mother’s economic survival.***

April 29 – “My anniversary (*wedding in 1914*; *must have been bitter sweet memories*). My little son was married at 5 o’clock today. I’m kinda nervous but I’m glad he is happy and may they ever be.”***The couple met on March 17th, became engaged a week later, and married six weeks after their first hello. This is a fantastic World War II love story!***

April 30 – “Had wire from Bro. Telling me of his wedding yesterday. I fell down steps. Headache a.m. Gerry went to conference this afternoon. It will be there until Sunday p.m.”  ***A Methodist Church meeting?***

May 1 – “I stuck my thumb in an eye at 5:30 a.m. Could hardly see all day. Mrs. Smith called and told me of wedding. I do wish I could have there. My luck!” ***Sadly Mamye had little luck in her short life. This remark is one of several complaints recorded in this diary of her fate in life.***

May 2 – “Not well enough to go to S.S. and church. But am getting better. Headache again.” ***Mayme’s health issues seemed to be compounding perhaps in part due to the fall. My Mother reports that in 1928 Mayme had her gall bladder, appendix and female organs removed, and then contacted diphtheria! After hospitalization, she had to learn to walk again. Two years later her husband, Charles Sr., drank contaminated Jamaica Ginger and became paralyzed in his left leg. As the Depression began, both parents were suffering ill health. The economic stability of the family collapsed as did the marriage.***

May 4 – “Couldn’t go town yesterday but went today. My glasses still don’t feel good.”

May 5 – “Took headache about 1:30 felt terrible while with Louise in Germantown. Took aspirin and laid down at 5. Got up 5:45 went with Gerry to wedding. Pretty day.”

May 6 – “Head doesn’t feel too good today.”

May 8 – “Went to Alma’s wedding. Beautiful day.”

May 9 – “Card (and perfume later) from Gerry. $5 and cute jar and beautiful card from L. Felt badly in afternoon and stayed home rest of day.”***Mother’s Day.***

May 10 – “Felt better today. Louise and I worked in yard. Letters from my little man and Bishop. Wrote a special air mail. Let fire go out in the furnace.” ***Bishop is not Geraldine's future husband, but rather her brother in Bristol, Tennessee.***

May 11 – “Weather has been pretty since Wed. am. Until last night. It rained and has a little all day. Had to build fire again. Mother said it wasn’t safe without fires until after May 10th.” ***Frances Wilson Osborne, her mother, spent her life in the mountains and valleys of western North Carolina and East Tennessee. The fire must be a coal furnace.***

May 12 – “Rain might be over. Warm this a.m. Glad I went to town and had my glasses adjusted again yesterday. They feel better this a.m. Gerry worried yesterday because they wanted to give her a promotion.”

May 13 – “Rained nearly all day yesterday…cooler last nite. Pretty this a.m. Gerry got 4 air mail letters this a.m. Walt, Paul, Art and Kerm. She gets letters almost every day tho’.”

May 14 – “Rained through the nite and this a.m. Not cold but dreary. Beautiful in eve. Nites cool enough for fire. Put up curtains in dining room.”

May 15 – “Rained thru’ nite. Gloomy part of day. Gerry and I went to gro. store and for L. We went to church to put up pic. Letter from Ann today. Put up curtains in living room. Gerry and Louise put $40.00 in budget.”

May 16 – “Had dreadful headache. Couldn’t do anything all day. Cool enough for fire. Gloomy all day. Ann’s picture in paper today. Good. Louise read to me.”

May 17 – “Gloomy this a.m. Letter from Ann. G – letters from Paul, Ralph, Boyd, Alex and Otis. Weather pretty this p.m. Louise and I went to town, got gifts for Bro. and Anne. Mine cost $5.91, Louise cost $6.55.”

May 18 – “Felt punk and didn’t go to town to mail packages. Mailed Boyd gift yesterday. Today his birthday. Hot today. Grass coming up. Wrote Maggie tonight. So tired. Sent pic of Bro. and Ann to Maggie.” ***Who is Boyd?***

May 19 – “I went to town to mail packages and it rained but not on me. I washed this a.m. Louise and I sowed flower seed. Nat and Bette here till late.”

May 20 – “Stormed thru’ nite. Wrote Bro. and Ann this a.m. Bo’t gro. Today. We are trying to house clean. Stretched curtain tonite. Could use fire today. Didn’t go to eye Dr. yesterday. Package to Gerry from Kerm.”

May 21 – “Started raining about 12 last nite. I know because Paul called Gerry from Pensacola, Fla at 10 till 12. Raining and cold this a.m. Not going to Dr. today either. Need fire tonite.”

May 22 – “Gee I wish we had a fire in furnace. Have gas log burning. Terrible gloomy this a.m. Louise worried over Vance’s disappointment. Louise good kid.”

May 23 – “Sunshine for change but rather chilly. We all went to church. Gerry gloomy. Louise put $5.00 in budget. Blackout about 9 or 9:30 pm.”

May 24 – “Still cool but didn’t rain. Gerry letter and locket from Boyd, letter and large photo from Paul, letter and card from Otis and letter from Ralph. Alex came early. Gerry went to meeting at YWCA. She went last Mon. also.”

May 25 – “Still cool enough for a fire but keep hoping it will soon quit raining. Floods where Vance is and many other places. Came a few sprinkles of rain but warmer, I guess. Went to eye Dr. Glasses not strong.”

May 26 – “Gerry ans. five letters to-nite. Louise elected chairman again of Young Adult. Big job for here. I put $10 in budget today for June.”

May 27 – “Gerry sick. Beautiful today for a change. Took glasses to be reground- made stronger. Terrible without glasses. Jackie over.”

May 28 – “Gerry had five letters yesterday. Bill, Edgar, Boyd, Kerm and Mrs. Stuart and one today from Boyd. Went for glasses today and they still don’t’ feel good. Stormed this afternoon.”

May 29 – “Sun shined most all day but still a little cool – coats feel rather good. Gerry went to church banquet. Went down and came from work with Louise.”

May 30 – “Didn’t go to S.S. or church. Didn’t feel very good and it looked like it might rain. Wish I could put flowers on little Mother’s and Papa’s graves today.” ***Frances Wilson Osborne and G.W. Osborne were buried in Bristol, Tennessee.***

May 31 – “Letter from my little man, Ann rather. Gerry or Louise didn’t have to work. We worked hard in the yard. Natalie did too. Had eats over there at 11 & 3 and Pepis in eve. All had good time’cept for blisters.”

June 1 – “Rained thru’ nite and still is this a.m. No hot weather yet. Louise had 3 letters and anniversary pkg. from Vance in Camp Crowder yesterday. Anniversary is tomorrow. Gerry letters from Otis and Paul. Warm this p.m.” ***A Signal Corp training camp in World War II, it was located near Joplin, Missouri.***

June 2 – “Stormed, wind, rain and hail a little past 12 last nite. Natalie was over here until 11. We hope to go to bed early to-nite. Bette been in Atlantic City since Thur. Louise anniversary today. Weather pretty. ***This was Louise and Vance’s second anniversary.***

June 3 – “A real summer day at last. Gerry went on Mobile Canteen tonite. I am making Gerry a dress at last.”

June 4 – “Another hot day. I had to go to town. Met Gerry. We got gift for Paul. I stopped for Louise on way home and we got gro. Did I feel awful! Mrs. Smith sent photo of Ann. Good.”

June 5 – “Pretty today. Gerry went to dance to-nite with Bill Harrel.”

June 6 – “Wonderful day, a little cool but wonderful. Went to church & S.S. and church in eve. Geo. Zeigler and boy came and took Gerry for ride. They picked up Marg.”

June 7 – “Rained practically all day. Two soldiers came by and Jackie came over. Boys from Atlantic City. Gerry supposed to go to YWCA meeting. Gerry letter from Otis.”

June 8 – “Cool enough for coats today. Very cloudy but didn’t rain. Gerry went to sor. Meeting.”

June 9 – “Rained terrible in a.m. Rather cool too. I had headache all day. Louise didn’t feel very good either. Gerry went with Bill to see “More the Merrier”. She had letter from Otis.”

June 10 – “Cool this a.m. I still don’t feel good. Bill called Gerry twice. Letter from Boyd.”

June 11 – “A little cool this a.m., but sun is shining. Still don’t feel good. Just a chronic grunter, I guess. Not much pleasure for me. Even tho’ it is a wonderful world.” ***These are sad words as she was just six months from death at this writing.***

June 12 – “Nice today. I cleaned bedroom. Gerry went to Atlantic City to USO dance.”

June 13 – “Bill H. came in afternoon. Had 6 pm dinner with us. We enjoyed him. Stormed and didn’t go to church in eve.”

June 14 – “Gerry off today. Louise home in p.m. We worked in yard again. Louise 3 letters from Vance and Gerry one letter Art, Boyd, Ralph, Kerm, Paul and Ed Baker of Atlantic City. Bill H. called – very nice!”

June 15 – “Nice day yesterday. I wrote Bro. yesterday. Bro is 26 today. Gee Id’ like to see him. We need rain.”

June 16 – “I went to dr. tonite. Have to go back next Wed. nite. Hope I soon feel okay.”

June 17 – “Letter from Ann this a.m. My son’s okay. Poor Louise kinda blue over Vance letter. Bill H. and Gerry went to movie. Terrible storm caught them. Bill drenched, had to put on Vance robe and pajamas and spend nite.”

June 18 – “Nice to-day. Wonderful breeze. I went to town to get glasses adjusted. Met Gerry and we stopped for Louise then we got groceries. Bill H. is very attentive with his calls. Boyd wired couldn’t come.”

June 19 – “Nice again today. Gerry to ‘Jackie’ went to USO dance in Atlantic City again. Came back tired but happy.”

June 20 – “Rather warm today. Went to church but didn’t get there in time for S.S. Little Mother had lived, she would have been 92 today. Died three years ago. Jim S. called Gerry for date.” ***Frances Wilson Osborne was born June 20, 1851 in Ashe County, North Carolina. Her death came about as a result of complications of a broken hip.***

June 21 – “Terribly hot today. Gerry rec’d 3 letters from Atlantic City and other letters. Bill H. called here at work and came to-nite. Louise 3 letters from V.”

June 22 – “Hot again. Had air raid test at 4:30 this a.m. Sorority meets here to nite. Oh gee, paper says 94 hot. Gerry got promotion but dreads it. Bill H. and Jim S called. L. went to Gerry to Western Union.”

June 23 – “Nice breeze today. Gerry sick. I feel a little better today. Jim S. here to-nite.”

June 24 – “Didn’t feel too good to-day. Bill H. had dinner her to-nite. Boyd called from house.”

June 25 – “Nice breeze this a.m. Terribly hot to-nite. Boyd called from here. Bill H. here to-nite again.”

June 26 – “Is it hot? Temperature 97 degrees at 3:30. Gerry and Nat went to Delaware at 5 to see Boyd. Rained about 9 but no cooler.”

June 27 – “Terribly hot all day. Didn’t go out of the house. No water in bathroom. Vance came home this a.m. Cooler to-nite. Must have stormed somewhere.” **Vance was discharged from the Army.**

June 28 – “Grand breeze. Gerry got back about 11 last nite. She had a grand time. Bill H. had dinner with us. Then they went to movies. Finished letter to Anne and Bro.”

June 29 – “Rained last nite. Cooler this a.m. letter from Ann. My son married 2 months today.”

June 30 – “Gee but its really cool today. Have to wear coats. Gerry and Bill H. went on chartered boat with British down river. Went to Dr. feel some better.”

July 1 – “Beautiful today. Still a little cool.”

July 2 – “Still pleasant but I have a head ache. Got better about 4. Had to cook dinner. Before we ate Bill H. came so he ate a tiny bit too. He left at 9 for Newark. Took Hospitalization.”

July 3 – “Still pleasant. Head hurting when I awoke at 5. Wire from Paul, be here Mon. nite. Gerry got permanent today.”

July 4 – “Kinda cloudy and cool enough for coat if want one. We went S.S. & church. I took headache. Took aspirin and slept it off in p.m. Gerry and I went to Bettie D.M. after 7. Good time.”

July 5 – “Rained last nite. Cloudy and little cool this a.m. We’re not celebrating. Louis & Gerry off from work. Paul wired plane had to turn back, be here Tue nite or Wed a.m. Bettie came and after 8, we went on Ave to street dance. Bob Ross and boy, Gerry, Bettie and I caught in rain.”

July 6 – “Nice but a little warmer. Letter from Ann & Red still happy. Gerry had letter already from Jim S of Cornell. Bill H. taken Gerry to movies and to dinner.”

July 7 – “Rained before dawn and still raining. Bill H. called about 7:45 to say was leaving. So suddenly it’s sad. He and Gerry had swell time last time. Nice to remember. Paul called last nite Gerry not here. I mailed letter to Ann and Red. Gerry wrote Mon. & I yesterday.”

July 8 – “Rather cool this a.m. after our rainy day yesterday. Went to Dr. for fourth week last nite. He gave another shot. Blood pressure same as last week 110/78. It gained 10 points over 2nd week. Don’t know 1st week reading. Paul called G. from Norfolk on way up.”

July 9 – “Nice, kinda cool this a.m. after rain in nite. Hot this p.m. tho’ I went to Germantown to get glasses adjusted and to bank. Gerry letter from Otis and answered it. No more word from Paul.”

July 10 – “Very close and cloudy this a.m. Gerry letter from Kerm and Willie. Paul called about six at Navy yard at last. Called again about 9. Didn’t get to come until about 10.”

July 11 – “Cloudy, felt badly and didn’t leave house all day. Terrible headache in p.m. Rained in p.m. Paul ate dinner here. His birthday.”

July 12 – “Terribly hot to-day. Head doesn’t feel good again today. Took a short nap to get rid of eye ache. Went to air port with Gerry to see Paul off. He left on 11:15 plane for Pensacola.”

July 13 – “Cloudy this a.m. headache for eyes again. Went to sleep but don’t feel much better. Perfume from Kerm to Gerry. Very nervous to-nite. Plans made for me to go with Gerry to Fla.”

July 14 – “Hot this a.m. Vance started to work. Nite letter from Paul. Went to Dr. Blood pressure same, changed medicine. Paid Dr. $10.00. Gerry put $40.00 in budget.”

July 15 – “Nice this a.m. Terribly sick thru nite and still upset. Met Gerry in town. Got me dress. Disgusted over train trip to Fla…no reservations. Louise and Vance went?”

July 16 – “Nice breeze this a.m. Headache again. Letter from Ann. Gerry got tickets for our trip. Hot to-nite. No breeze. Gerry went to church to plan caravan.”

July 17 – “Hot this a.m. No breeze again. Eyes still don’t feel good. Gerry card from Tony in At. City. Couldn’t go to dance to-nite. Not enough aspirin. Gerry and I went to Germantown.”

July 18 – “Terribly hot. Breeze nice tho. Felt better and went to S.S. & church. Gerry and I went to park and suburban station.”

July 19 – “Cool thru’ nite and strong breeze to-day. Since hot. Feel some better but mouth gums rather sore now. Started Bro. Bishop’s letter. Am going to another eye Dr. and get Gerry a dress and hat to-morrow**.” *Her brother Bishop L. Osborne lived in Bristol, Tennessee where he worked as an accountant with King’s Department Store and a regular writer for the local paper.***

July 20 – “Cloudy and kinda cool. Tony from At. City called me then Gerry and called again at 10. Wanted date but Gerry was going to YWCA and USO dance. Met cut boy there – Earl Manning. He was to sail last nite.”

July 21 – “Bill H. returned and called Gerry about 1:30 am. My head hurt all nite to still a little this a.m. Bill gone two weeks. Billed called at home and here too but Gerry had promised Tony to-nite. She met young Dr. on sub train.”

July 22 – “Gerry didn’t like Tony. Terrible wind this a.m. Cloudy and Storm somewhere. Hot later, real cool to-nite. Got permanent today. Bill H. took Gerry to movies. Louise went to dr. with indigestion. Bill H. spent nite.”

July 23 – “Still nice and cool. I have headache. Had to go to eye Dr. and my head hurt dreadfully all day. Bill & Gerry went places and then out to dinner.”

July 24 – “Cool this a.m. Had to go to see Dr. Pd him $10. Still have headache and sore in my mouth. One week to-day since it started. Gerry & I came home together, stopped at drug store and got medicine. Vance stayed from work and went to horse races.”

July 25 – “Felt better because I slept all nite, took sleeping tablet. Went to S.S. and church. Disgusted with everything and everybody. Wish I had an apt. of my own. Could keep things clean. Gerry sick to-day. Grand breeze.” ***Not surprisingly,*** ***The stresses of three women and Vance living in the same row house in cramped quarters were an issue evidently.***

July 26 – “Rained a little yesterday late. I wrote Red last nite. Kinda cloudy this a.m. Fairly pleasant. No headache thank goodness, wish my mouth would get well. Rained some but hot. Gerry got card from Bob Rose.”

July 27 – “Nice this a.m. I’m feeling better. Thank goodness. Sewed some. Cleaned the house. Prepared dinner for Bill H. He spent nite. Louise went to Dr. She is okay. Gee am I tired. Alert about 12.” ***The alert would be an air raid test.***

July 28 – “Cool and cloudy like. Headache but new medicine helped. Went for new glasses. Do hope they help. Mouth so sore, I’m frantic almost.”

July 29 – “Nice Breeze. But cloudy and hot. Don’t feel too good. Bill H. here for date. Painted bird cage last coat. Nice Kid. Gerry had sweet letter from poor ole Ralph, also one from Art.”

July 30 – “Nice this a.m. Tried to storm last nite. We need rain. Bill H. spent nite, last nite. Laundered my dress, such a job! Made me feel terrible. Bill H. date.”

July 31 – “Really cool in breeze. Bill H. took shower and stayed last nite. Ships are terrible places to sleep, they say. Gerry date with Dick Balder. Gerry cablegram from Otis. I got letter from Ann.”

August 1 – “Nice this a.m. but I was terrible hot later. Had headache and didn’t go to church. Felt some better and we took picnic and went to Willow Grove, Bill H. went too.”

August 2 – “Nice breeze today a.m. really cool. My ol’flushes back again. I nearly melt every little while. Bill H. slept here last nite. Bud P (Dick B’s friend) called and wanted date but Gerry said no.”

August 3 – “Cloudy this a.m. Nice cool breeze. Bill called last nite. Wants to take Gerry out to dinner and show Wed. nite going to YWCA to-nite. Went shopping, got new hat, and seersucker dress and blouse.”

August 4 – “Grand breeze, but I’m hot. Gerry had grand time last nite. New boy “Bill” Baron. Bill H. took Gerry to dinner and movies and will spend nite here.”

August 5 – “Terrible hot this a.m. No breeze. Grand rain last nite. Really cool to-nite. My allotment came to-day. Bill H. to spend nite. Gerry’s sent Bill’s grandmother Handley and Lillian rouge, lipstick, comb, mirror, hat pin, dainty cotton and cosmetic bag.”

August 6 – “Worked hard to-day getting ready for our trip. Gerry’s helping too. I had letter from Ann and Bishop.”

August 7 – “Really cool nites to mornings. Gerry’s first day of vacation. Good to have her home. She’s helping plenty. She put birds in newly painted cage to-day. Bill H. painted it. Louise gave me $25 on my trip. I had $16. Gerry gave me $30. Oh my.”

August 8 – “Warmer this a.m. than the previous mornings for about four days. Went to church. Caravan conducted it. Packed all day and into the nite.”

August 9 – “Still warm. Louise and Vance went on trip at 2 this a.m. Louise fine girl. On top of my clothes to pack she had left a box of candy and card. Bless her little heart. I miss her. Gerry and I went shopping. Bill H. came spent the nite too. Gerry went to church, she hated to leave the caravan especially “Chuck”. Bill Barons called and wanted date.”

August 11 – “Arrived in Pensacola 11:45. Paul met us with car. Tiresome trip but had fun. Gerry met “Bob” and Ensin.”

August 13 – “Terrible hot. We had breakfast and lunch together. They went to beach on 2 o’clock. Had good time Gerry met “Smity”. Wanted dates but Paul would object. Met Buster too. Paul came to beach.”

August 14 – “We went to beach. Had breakfast and went on 9 o’clock bus. Gerry met darlin’ boy. He stayed with us all day and went home with us. Wanted date but Paul called saying he would be here. Gerry terribly sunburned. Really sick.” ***Fifty years later this sun burning would result in cancerous lesions on my Mother’s nose requiring minor surgery.***

August 15 – “Gerry fainted for 1st time. Terribly sick all day. She had me scared sick, was sick anyway from sun burn. I had to by myself for breakfast.”

August 16 – “Gerry’s face was swollen terribly yesterday and to-day. My eyes are swollen nearly shut and can hardly get shoes on my feet are so swollen. Gerry called Floyd on request.”

August 17 – “Gerry and I had our hair fixed and it didn’t stay ‘put’ but a little while Smity called several times and wanted dates. Buster called Mon. and to-day. Wanting us to come out.”

August 18 – “Gerry sick. We went to movie. We went to see Buster but couldn’t get in because he had duty and couldn’t meet us at gate.”

August 19 – “We went to Bronson field. Had good time. Went to U.S.O. I met Mickey; he’s cute but too young for me. He and Paul stayed terribly late.”

August 20 – “Paul got leave for to-day. We kinda hated to come home. It was a little cooler this a.m. It was 99 in shade nearly all week.”

August 21 – “Am writing this for to-day sometime later for we weren’t at home until about 12:30. Got to station at 11:30. Bill H. called Gerry from Newark, so he’s still here. Gerry wired Paul when we arrived. Letters here from Otis and others.”

August 22 – “We slept until one o’clock. Gee but we are tired and I have the headache. We are sorry we didn’t stay longer.”

August 23 – “Bill H. here. Art called. He’s home on furlough from California.”

August 24 – “Art came, went with Gerry to Sorority Meeting. Gave Gerry very pretty pin.”

August 26 – “Gerry date with Art.”

August 27 – “Gerry didn’t feel like going to work to-day. Date with Bill H. to-nite. I had letter from Mickey this a.m.” ***Ah, a bit of happiness for Mayme. She and Mickey would exchange letters for the remaining months of her life.***

August 28 – “Letter from Ann. Son now a Master Sergeant! Bless his heart! Art bro’t Gerry from work and took her to his house to spend nite. Dick Baker called. Miss my girl. Real cool.”

August 29 – “Headache this a.m. Took Stanback. Felt better and went to church. Finished Bro. and Mickey letters. Got dinner for Art. Gerry had good time. Terribly cool.”

August 30 – “Cloudy and rainy. Gerry letter from Boyd, Otis and Ralph. Bill H. called. Bette down in eve. Louise and Vance bo’t ice cream and V. gave L. box candy.”

August 31 – “Warmer this a.m. I have to go to eye doctor. Bill H. came wanted Gerry to go to dinner and show. We had him eat here.”

September 1 – “Cloudy and cooler. Bill H. called not feeling so good. Bill Bond to? came in his care, wanted Gerry to go to party for Jack. Bette De Moatis went with other boy.”

September 2 – “Hot this a.m. Cleaned house all day. Terribly tired. Gerry wrote to Otis, Boyd, Earl, Bob R., Bill D., Paul, **H.B**. and Mrs. Stuart. Pkg to Mrs. Stuart.” ***Humm…finally my Father shows up in the letter writing factory. The Sherwoods always called him H.B. so as not to confuse his name with Louise and Gerry’s Uncle Bishop Osborne. I believe my Father was back from his cruise to the Mediterranean (the Invasion of Sicily) and finally answered Mother’s letters. They met in 1942 at Atlantic City at a vaudeville show, when he leaned forward from the row behind and asked Mamye if she could remove her hat so he could see better. Or so the story goes…***

September 3 – “Cloudy and cool. Hemorrhoids! Had hair fixed. Went for groceries. Went to dance with Bill and Gerry. Had good time. Bill very nice. Bill is spending week end with us.”

September 4 – “Gerry went to work. Bill slept late. I had to go for gro. Gerry feels rather bad. Dick Baker called.”

September 5 – “Tiny bit rainy. I didn’t go to S.S. with Louise, Gerry and Bette, went to church with Bill and Vance. Gerry has temperature and cough.”

September 6 – “Hot this a.m. Bill’s week-end holiday over early this a.m. Glad he enjoyed himself. Glad Gerry doesn’t have to work today since she feels so badly. Glad Louise doesn’t also.”

September 7 – “Took Gerry to dr. last nite. Low blood pressure. Tooth hurt thru nite so she didn’t work today. We went to dentist, he treated her tooth. I had a terrible headache until 6:30. I had letter from B.W. and Mickey. Gerry from Floyd, Edgar and a card from Paul in Mounti Cristi. Bill here tonite. He called twice Monday. Storm this p.m.” ***B.W. was a brother, Bascom Osborne.***

September 8 – “Bill called. That would be last time before sailing; duty to-nite. Rained a tiny bit this a.m. I wrote Mickey. Gerry wrote Otis and Edgar in London. “

September 9 – “Cool and cloudy. Gerry sick. Poor kid has a time with tooth, hay fever and everything. We’re kinda blue over Bill. He is so nice.”

September 10 – “Cool, very cool this a.m. Wrote to Bro. Went to bank in Germantown. Went to eye Dr. Headache hurting. Met Gerry, went to drugstore then Salvation Army. I stopped for gro. Head splitting.”

September 11 – “Cool this a.m. Head hurt all nite and awhile this a.m. Nothing but a fuss would have kept me at home with Gerry so went to town to see “Heaven can Wait”.”

September 12 – “It seems the cool weather is here to stay. Had headache again, after breakfast. I took medicine and went back to bed until 12 noon. Others went to S.S. and church. Gerry still blue over Bill. I’m blue today. Gerry went to young people’s meeting to-nite.”

September 13 – “Cool this a.m. Gerry had letter from Otis and 2 from Paul. Louise and I went to town. Bill hadn’t sailed yet. He called Gerry last time this p.m. Hadn’t been of ship since he was here Tuesday, 7th.”

September 14 – “Cool this a.m. but warm this p.m. Gerry went to sor. Meet at Joy’s. Louise went to meet. At church. Bill evidently sailed as there’s no response to phone.”

September 15 – “A bit warmer this a.m. rained about 9:30 last nite. So disgusted – my eyes hurting again.”

September 16 – “Nice to-day. Rained about 9:30 to-nite. Mailed blanket to Bro., cost $1.02 to send it. Met Gerry in town, we each got shoes. I turned my ankle before and after alert. Got home, found letter from Mickey. Prompt!”

September 17 – “Terribly cloudy this a.m. Foot hurt all night. Gerry went with me to gro. Store. I had letter from Ann. I answered Mickey’s letter today. Gerry scared about movie, slept with me.”

September 18 – “Real cool this a.m. Sunshine is beautiful. Cleaned all day. Gerry & I moved into middle room sleep.”

September 19 – “Weather pretty but cold, 42 degrees at 7 o’clock. Went to S.S. & church. Headache trying to hurt all afternoon. Gerry & I went walking in afternoon. Went to League meeting.”

September 20 – “Terrible headache, all day. Gerry feels punk too.”

September 21 – “Warmer to day. Rained in afternoon a little. Gerry went to USO dance at YWCA. Had headache all nite and awhile this a.m. Couldn’t go to get hair fixed…from Calin bo’t Gerry home.”

September 22 – “Kinda rainy this a.m. I feel weak. Nice and warm in afternoon. I wrote Bro. Gerry went to Fort Dix. Had letter from Anne. Louise did rather, I had one from Hallie.” ***From late October to early December 1968, this writer was stationed at Ft. Dix, New Jersey relearning typing and the Army filing system. After time at Ft. Hamilton, NY, I was sent to Vietnam arriving January 31, 1969. Hallie was Vance’s sister-in-law.***

September 23 – “Beautiful to-day. I went to town to mail quilt to Bro.”

September 24 – “Rained last nite. I overslept until 8:15. Gerry was too late for work. She has a dreadful cold anyway. Letter from Mickey.”

September 25 – “Didn’t sleep well last nite so tried to sleep to day. Couldn’t so got up and worked hard all day until after 11 o’clock. Prepared Vance’s birthday dinner for Sue, Bette and Edd ate.”

September 26 – “Beautiful, but cold. Went to S.S. and church. Bette and Edd here for Vance’s birthday dinner which should be Monday. All of us took Edd to station in his car.”

September 27 – “Cold last nite and this a.m. Warm in p.m. Ans. Mickey letter to today. I’ bed all day with terrible cold. It started yesterday. I had letter from Ann.”

September 28 – “Beautiful day. Much rain. Paul sent wires. Still can hardly set up with cold but got out of bed to go with Gerry to have her picture taken. Photographer thinks she should be a model.”

September 29 – “Nice again today. Gerry had to take eve. Gowns for photographs to make sample picture. She has to go to USO again to-nite. Could be glamorous model if not too modest. Bristol fellow bro’t Gerry home from USO.”

September 30 – “Rainy and cooler to-day. Felt some better today. Felt worse by nite. Neck swelled from coughing. Louise having trouble with wisdom tooth.”

October 1 – “Rainy and warm this a.m. Felt some better. Gerry had wire from Kerm. H has washed up.” ***I suspect this means he flunked out of flying school at some air base (which may have saved his life).***

October 2 – “Pretty this a.m. Kerm wired from Okalahoma City at 7:30 a.m. I felt better, did right much work. Went to cleaners and to-nite I feel worse.”

October 3 – “Little cooler and cloudy. Couldn’t even go out of house. Terrible cough. Gerry wrote Otis and about seven others.” ***The one person letter writing machine continued!***

October 4 – “Don’t feel so good. Weather 48. British fellow called and came. Very nice.”

October 5 – “Pretty but cold. Felt little better so I’m going with Gerry to see proofs. We met Marine. Cute. Two sailors. Jimmie had Gerry paged at USO dance. Four went to town to celebrate Jimmie and Jackie’s birthdays.”

October 6 – “Cold, then warmer. Keith called in afternoon. Russell called in eve. Terrible headache all day. Gerry sick. Left house, went to town shopping.”

October 7 – “Warmer. Headache all nite. Better about 10 to-day. Letter from Mickey yesterday. Gerry went on Mobile Canteen. Russel phoned. Jackie too.”

October 8 – “Russel took Gerry to dinner and show. Jackie and Larry went too. I went to town for Gerry bag and gloves.”

October 9 – “Beautiful to-day. Sinus terrible. Keith called Gerry, then Russel, then Jimmie. Russel again. Gerry called Jimmy. Jay called and wanted Gerry to date. Jimmie called again, then came. I danced with Jimmy and wrote Mickey**.” *It seems new young men were visiting the Stansbery home.***

October 10 – “Didn’t feel like going to S.S. Gerry didn’t either. Mailed Mickey’s letter. Russel called & was coming later and couldn’t get out.”

October 11 – “Pretty but 35. Felt terrible all a.m. Went to town with L. Russel called said he had to see Gerry to-nite for it’s his last liberty before leaving. Called twice. Coming at 10 after Keith leaves. Mailed Ann birthday gift.”

October 12 – “Beautiful day. Gerry holiday. My cold no better. Gerry sinus. Russel didn’t come last nite. Called to-nite but she didn’t want him because didn’t answer phone at 9. Begged her to write to him as he’s leaving to-day. Larry called. Sorority here.”

October 13 – “Beautiful day. Was sick all nite. Didn’t sleep till 3 a.m. Going to Dr. today. Gerry letter from Otis. Jimmy called.” ***Mayme’s illnesses seem to be compounding. At this entry, she is only 7 ½ weeks from death****.*

October 14 – “Gerry wrote Otis, Bill, Jimmy and Dick last nite and mailed today. I went to Dr. last nite, don’t feel much better. Jimmie called, coming to-nite and to YWCA. Gerry’s first train (obscure).”

October 15 – “Cloudy and warm as was yesterday. Still feel bad, staying in bed today. Rained. Gerry got photos yesterday. Really marvelous. Took one to bank. They all like them. So does Nat and family.” ***Gerry worked at the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society first as a messenger, later a stenographer and then as secretary in the deceased accounts. Her pay was $60.00 a month plus lunch. On Fridays she worked at the PSFS office in South Philly (a ‘tough’ part of town) and had to ride the subway to North Philadelphia. Then she boarded a street car on Ogontz Avenue, dismounted later and walked two blocks to the corner of Briar Road, where her Mother would be waiting with a flash light in the dark.***

October 16 – “Still raining. Still in bed. Felt very bad this a.m. But better to-nite.” Keith called. Gerry made biscuits and cooked liver and onions for dinner. Good too. Guess Vance will decide she can cook too. My side hurts now.”***Unfortunately the pain in the side was probably the beginning of an infection in her abdomen that would result in her death. Perhaps an adhesion from an early operation had opened?***

October 17 – “Cloudy, cooler than yesterday. Didn’t get up to eat breakfast. Felt better tho. Family went to S.S. & church. Gerry made biscuits again, good. Keith came. Everybody went to vesper services.”

October 18 – “Didn’t get up this a.m. Cold and cough – better but side and legs and hemorrhoids hurt terribly. Warmer Rain at nite. Ann’s birthday.”

October 19 – Cold and cloudy. Jimmie called. Gerry went to USO dance. Jimmie bro’t her home. I got up and helped Louise and Bette cut off Louise’s green curtains.”

October 20 – “Cold this a.m. I told Gerry to call me at noon for she gets lonely not calling. I got out of bed and answered phone. Jimmie called. Larry called.”

October 21 – “Pretty today. Lost screw out of glasses last nite…had to stay in bed again but feel better. Gerry gone to YWCA for instruction.”

October 22 – “Glad to get up this a.m., but couldn’t do much work. Had to go back to bed several times. Felt bad. Jimmie called in afternoon. Called again, came. Keith called. Started Otis photo.”

October 23 – “Headache this a.m. Jackie, Keith, Jimmie, Alma and Marg called. We called Jackie, Strawbridge and Daisy and Louise & Vance called. Gerry and Keith double dating. Gerry went to Nat’s to see Eric and wife.”

October 24 – “Still don’t feel too good but am up trying to do. All gone to church. Jimmie called. Ruby and everyday had grand time. Ruby left.”

October 25 – “Gerry letter from Earl & H.B. **Poor kid, was so happy she cried over H.B. letter**. Jimmy called, then came. They went to town hall and date club. Jimmy wanted Gerry to marry him after war and they take me to England too.”***Hum…emotional day for my Mother. Glad my Father wrote!***

October 26 – “Terrible headache all nite and until about 3 this p.m. Jimmy called and ship is sailing Wednesday for about two days. Gerry wrote Palmolive and Mary Pickford.” ***Perhaps some type of contest. Mary Pickford was a famous silent screen star of her day.***

October 27 – “Raining. Gerry helped with dinner at Salvation Army. British fellow said Bill’s ship had arrived in England!!”

October 28 – “Raining, took headache in afternoon. So disgusted. Gerry enjoyed course at YWCA. Met boy on bus from Kentucky. She invited him to Halloween party at church.” ***How many boy friends could my Mother keep track of?***

October 29 – “Sun shining to-day. Headache all nite again and until about noon. Jimmy called, had just gotten back. Wants to come if he gets liberty. (Didn’t come). Gerry went to H. party at church. Boy from KY bro’t home.”

October 30 – “Headache again this a.m. Jimmy couldn’t come last nite cause didn’t get liberty till 10. Couldn’t spend week end for no duty and trial trip. Said over phone last nite still loved Gerry.” ***I think they all loved Gerry!***

October 31 – “Headache again. Disgusted. All went to church but me. Gerry wrote Otis. Keith called. Bill Corbin, KY called twice. Gerry had to call him then he came. They went to movie.”

November 1 – “Sun shining for change. Still no letter from Ann. I am going to town with Louise. My first time out. L. got 2 dresses. So tired, had to go to bed but not any sicker.”

November 2 – “Still pretty to-day. Felt terribly weak as I do very a.m. Gerry not working today. Election!! She and I went to town, then to bed when we got back. Worried about my side, and Gerry’s teeth and throat. She went to YWCA dance. Polish boy bro’t home.”

November 3 – “Gerry went to dentist for wisdom tooth. Pretty day. Gerry teeth or throat still hurting. Got date with dentist. Bill Corbin called and asked her to go to lunch with him. She couldn’t cause of teeth. Preacher and wife here.”

November 4 – “Pretty day. Gerry very sick last nite. Wisdom tooth is the trouble. She couldn’t work today. I don’t feel well yet. My side still hurts, fresh cold. Jimmy’s ship is away now. Sorry he’s gone.”

November 5 – “Pretty today. Didn’t feel good but went to town anyway. Letter from Mickey. Gerry still feels bad but worked anyway. Bill C. called, wants date Sat. nite.”

November 6 – “Another pretty day but rained thru nite. Letter from Ann. Gerry letter from Earl, very nice. Bill and Gerry went to town.”

November 7 – “Beautiful day. I had terrible headache all nite and today. No one went to church. Bill C. came by see why Gerry wasn’t there. He called this afternoon.”

November 8 – “Rained hard to-day. Gerry letter from Boyd and 2 from Otis. Gerry went to dentist. Bill called and wanted to come so of course Gerry let him. Nice boy.”

November 9 – “Rained all nite…Still raining. Bill A. went to bank at noon. They walked in park. He called at 6:15. Woman called to get Gerry’s address for Captain Crocket. Gerry thrilled. She answered Otis’ letter today.”

November 10 – “Beautiful but cold. Went to have glasses adjusted. Gerry and I went shopping in Germantown after dinner. Bill C. met Gerry in Germantown. They went to movies. Poor kid, he’s in love.”

November 11 – “Sprinkling this a.m. Gerry holiday today. We rested and worked all day. Gerry got beautiful bag from Paul for birthday. Gerry went to YWCA. Bill called about 6:15.”

November 12 – “Real cold to-day. Cleaned upstairs and went to grocery store in afternoon. Bill called, Jackie called, said boy on bus last nite wants Gerry to call him. Bill came.”

November 13 – “Cold. Fred came unexpectedly last nite. I am so tired fixing dinner for tomorrow and cooking today. Bill C. called and Jackie did too. Gerry went to Egg Harbor. Snowed, rained and sun shone.”

November 14 – “Cold but sun shining. Fred still here. Bill C. and Jackie ate dinner here. Gerry’s birthday dinner two days early.”

November 15 – “Very cold. Went to town in a.m. Bill called in afternoon. Gerry went to bed early with sick headache. Otis called long distance from NY about 9:30, wanted to come from NY, be here about 12 but Gerry too sick to left him come.”

November 16 – “Cloudy to-day. Gerry’s birthday. Nat gave her card. Jackie – cologne and hanky. Paul traveling gag, Bill C a beautiful cameo bracelet. She got other gifts. Otis called from NY again and is coming. Bill called and came. They to USO. Long distance from Kerm. Had accident.”

***Kerm’s accident was serious according to my Mother. A car hit him and he lost a leg. Kerm kept up with Vance and Louise for a time after the war.***

***These were the last words Mayme ever wrote. They were about Gerry, one of her two beloved daughters who gave her so much joy. Obviously Mayme was living the last year of her life through Gerry, her many friends and the whirlwind of World War II.***

***During the night of November 16, 1943, after all the friends left, Mayme became very ill, and was transported the next morning by ambulance to Temple University Hospital where she underwent exploratory surgery. Infection increased, and at age 47 she passed away, one month short of her 48th birthday. Gerry always believed her Mother******would have survived if penicillin had been available for civilians during the war.***

***Louise, Vance, Gerry, Charles Jr. and Ann conducted her body by train back to Bristol, where she lies today in East Hill Cemetery next to her parents. In 2009, Gerry, two of her children, Becky and Glenn (this writer) and a grandson, Sean Murphy visited gravesites along with Phyllis Mink and her husband, Duane. Phyllis is the grand daughter of Bascom Osborne, the brother mentioned twice in this diary.***

***Early in 1944, Vance decided to move to Knoxville and work with his brother in the furniture business. However, before settling into that position, he went to work at the top-secret Oak Ridge Laboratories, not realizing scientists there were working on the atomic bomb. Gerry, who had left her position at the bank, and was employed by the Boy Scouts organization in Philadelphia, moved with her sister and brother-in-law to Knoxville, living with them still and taking a job with the East Tennessee Boy Scouts.***

***No longer being located near the Philadelphia Navy Yard and several military bases, there were fewer young men to meet. She seemed to settle on the one she claimed she fell in love with at first sight – H. Bishop Holliman. They would marry back in Philadelphia, June 26, 1945. Charles Stansbery, Jr. would give the bride away, and Louise served as maiden of honor. A Navy buddy served as Bishop’s best man. They honeymooned in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the tourist attraction where they had met three years before.***

***Louise and Vance would remain the rest of their lives in Knoxville, raising their one son, Vance Jr. and enjoying Kate, the daughter of Van and Donna, his wife. Vance died in 1990 and Louise in 2006.***

***Gerry and Bishop would have three children, eight grandchildren and as of this writing, nine great grandchildren! Their war time marriage ended in 1988. Gerry is now married to The Rev. Donald Feick, a retired Episcopal priest, and live in Hermitage, Tennessee. Bishop, long retired as a manager in the Social Security Administration, is married to Ellen Cox, and they reside in Avilla, Indiana.***

***Charles and Ann Smith Stansbery gave birth in 1946 to Susan Stansbery, now MacKenzie. After retiring from the Air Force, he and Ann lived most of the rest of their lives in South Dakota. Susan now lives in Greeley, CO, and has two children and two grandchildren. Ann, as noted, died in 2003 and Charles in 2006.***

**Comments by Geraldine Stansbery Holliman Feick**

(After reading the above, December 22, 2009)

*“I enjoyed Mother's diary.  I was not aware she was really so very near death. Perhaps because the migraine headaches had been (normal) for her all my life; that other illness was almost normal.!!!  We were aware that she had serious hemorrhoid problems and drank mineral oil, hoping to relieve the pain.*

*I want you to put a note in that all these "boy friends" were, ONLY friends, or fellows that I AND  my sorority sisters would feel sorry for during the war and would have them in our homes only because they were homesick and frightened about their  future.  I am certain most of them had girl friends in their home towns. Especially Otis Ely, who was engaged to a nurse in Boise, Idaho.  He talked about her a great deal. Most of those names do not even ring a bell in my memory! That is how important they were!!.*

 *How ever, Ralph and I had dated longer and were more serious.  Your Dad was the one that I fell hard for the first time we were together. Partly because he was a college student and from Alabama, a Methodist, and had a keen sense of humor.   All those letters were written by my Mother, and I would sometimes copy them.  She loved to write and I did not care that much about writing.*

*On page 20, Nov. 9 - Captain Crockett was Charles Crockett from Bristol and we were high school friends.  I never knew what happened to him.*

*Pg. 21, your comments. Mother was given Sulfa drug, which was new on the market and the Dr. was not sure whether it would kill or save Mother.*

*Brother & Ann were notified about Mother's condition on Thanksgiving, & Ann had just started baking a Turkey!  They got a train back to Philly and were with us for a brief memorial service & then with Mother's body we 3 children ; Vance & Ann and then by train to Bristol. We stayed with Vance's parents in Chilhowie, VA and also  were at Aunt Maggie & Uncle Roe's house where Daddy and  (I think Lee) were.*

*Brother was nice to Daddy at that meeting. I guess the last time those two ever saw one another!*

*I cashed my War Bonds I had to have money for the train trip.  I would also like to add that the starting salary each month, of $60.00, I used to take $6.00 for the church every month and give $40.00 to Vance.  When I changed jobs I made a little better income, but I do not recall how much.*

*Pg. 22 Susan has 2 granddaughters by Roxann & her husband.*