



(Doris Mae Clemens-Hulton-Myers)

(May 12, 1920 – April 16, 2015)

My Mother, My Treasure

Chapter 1

GETTING STARTED

Mom first recalled her experience speaking to the Home Ec. Department class of 100+ students at Albright College in Reading, PA. She was about 30 years old when she spoke to the class about the uses of silver, flatware, veggie dishes, meat platters, and the importance of keeping silver cleaned and polished. It was a mixed audience with six teachers in the class also attending. At that time, she represented Diller's Jewelers in Reading where she served as a sales representative for several years.

Mom's first job after graduating from Reading High School in 1938 was working at Northwest Junior High School in Reading. She was a secretary and earned \$65.00 per month. That was decent money for her as she lived at home with her parents and had no other financial responsibilities. This allowed her to have two "charge accounts" as they were called then. Her co-worker was a good friend named Ardith. Ardith was two years older than Mom and a Valedictorian of her Reading High School class.

After work each day, they went to a store across the street from Northwest to drink Cokes and smoke cigarettes. Mother was strictly not allowed to smoke at home.

In those days, school kids could go to school from kindergarten through college on the same street in Reading. It was a convenience since students walked to and from school instead of taking a school bus. Buses were scarce or non-existent then.

Ardith had a friend named Ginny. Ardith, Mom, and Ginny went to another popular hangout named the St. Lawrence Dairy Ice Cream Parlor regularly to eat ice cream, drink Cokes, smoke, and have plenty of “girl talk.” It was an eight city block, one hour walk from work to St. Lawrence’s one way.

On Friday nights, the girls went to one more popular location called Lester’s in Pottstown to dance the night away. Mom was a good dancer, had a lot of rhythm. The guys really liked to dance with her.

EARLY YEARS

Mom’s Childhood – she had a good childhood, “whatever Doris wanted, Doris got.” For example, she wanted a scooter, so her parents bought her one. But she was afraid of it and didn’t use it very much. Nonetheless, she was spoiled by her parents and neighbors Wick and Wicky. One other time Mom wanted a black slate and chalk, so her father bought it for her.

“Wick and Wicky” were next door neighbors to Mom in Reading when she was about 6 or 7 years old. They had a big car in their garage and took Mom out in it occasionally. They had no children of their own so they “adopted” Mom and babied her. Wick and Wicky took Mom to the Farmers’ Market on Fridays. They went to other places, sometimes just for a ride.

Mom and her mother would go to a different farmers’ market on other days, but they walked there, did not ride.

When Mom was about 5-6 years old, her mother mashed potatoes in the kitchen sink. Mom would hang on to her mother from behind because it was a fun thing to do, “like taking a ride,” Mom said. She also sat on her father’s knee at the supper table. At supper time, the family always said a prayer, “God bless this food.” Her brother Russell prayed, “God bless this food except for the oatmeal.” He wasn’t very fond of oatmeal at all!

Her father (my Granddad) was a baker and made big, lovely, multi-layered, decorated wedding cakes. Occasionally she and her mother would go to visit Granddad at the Reading Bakery shop.

She attended Schuylkill Avenue and Greenwich Elementary School through the 6th grade. She was promoted to the Douglas and Weiser Junior High School for grades 7 – 9, then went to Reading High for grades 10 – 12. She became a member of the National Honor Society in high school and was President of the Honor Society in 9th grade. She served as Secretary to the Honor Society in high school and was very active in school, participating in many activities, except sports. “I was a real klutz!” she said.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The school was called Douglas & Weiser Junior High School. Mom was very popular there but she didn’t know exactly why. She was President of everything – homeroom, student council, and the clubs she belonged to, including Glee Club. The only thing she was not outstanding in was sports, as she said earlier. She was rather clumsy in sports.

Mom liked to sing, so she liked being in the Glee Club.

Her favorite subject was History, especially the Civil War. Two of her favorite characters of the war were Abraham Lincoln and General Robert E. Lee. She also liked the women of the South, how they dressed, their houses, how they lived.

Her brother Russell liked the Civil War as well. She liked to hear him talk about the individual battles within the war. She especially liked to hear Russell talk about Abraham Lincoln.

In all of history, Mom’s favorite person was Abraham Lincoln. He came from a very humble background yet became President of the United States. Mom liked “Honest Abe” as a person. He loved his mother and had a good sense of humor. She liked all that for which he stood.

One of Mom’s favorite teachers in junior high was her English teacher Miss Bucher. Mom also liked her in senior high. Miss Bucher had a good voice that

appealed to Mom. Miss Bucher was very attractive, being tall and dark. English became another of Mom's favorite subjects. Because of Miss Bucher's voice, Mom also learned how to speak well in public.

Mom's favorite thing to do in English class was to read something, then recite it, or write a short synopsis.

Another favorite teacher was Miss Gibson who taught English and Grammar.

Mom liked everything in junior high except gym class. She had a class in public speaking and eventually became a public speaker for some of her employers.

She participated in plays and dramatics. Miss Bucher and Miss Gibson also taught dramatics. The plays and drama productions took place in the auditorium where there was a stage. Mom was in a lot of plays, but can't remember how many.

HIGH SCHOOL

Mom really liked going to school and generally liked her teachers. She was also at the head of everything in her extra-curricular activities. But in gym class, she was at the bottom. She made a lot of friends in school, was in the honor society, and always did her homework in the evenings. Her mother saw to that. "Get busy with your homework," her mother used to say. Mom spent a good 1 to 1 ½ hours per evening with her homework. Consequently, she was a good student. Sometimes her friends in school asked Mom to help them with their homework. They knew that Mom always did her homework and never came to school without it being done.

There were a few teachers in school, mostly women, that Mom did not like because they were too strict. Mom said that her brother Russell got Mom to generally dislike women because he usually talked down to them or about them. Her brother also didn't like Mom because he thought Mom was too fresh and sassy. So, of course, everyone in the family was surprised when Russell announced one day that he was going to get married!

She was in drama club, a public speaking group, and a modeling club in 10th grade. She usually was president of the clubs where she was a member. She modeled clothing because she could "walk" well. Throughout her high school

years, she modeled because she liked to be a “showoff.” Why? She felt like she wasn’t accepted as a family member because she was the youngest. So she had to excel at something to get desired attention.

Her father gave her attention by giving money to her mother so that her mother could buy her things she wanted. Her mother gave her daughter the most attention in the family. “I was a spoiled brat,” Mom said. Sometimes she displayed her temper to get the things she wanted. The only exception was that Mom never got a car because her father could not afford it.

There was a hopscotch diagram drawn on the pavement in the backyard of the house on Lincoln Street in Reading. There were eight blocks in the diagram, and Mom hopped on one foot (her left) in the diagram. She also liked to jump rope. Additionally, she played school in the backyard when she was 10 years old because she liked school very much. She used a wooden fence in the yard as a chalkboard to teach school. Only she could be the teacher to the other kids in the neighborhood.

Mom recalled that she had a little rocking chair in the dining room of the house on Lincoln Street. However, it was a dining room where no one ever dined. Her mother had a sewing machine there where she would spend hours sewing and making clothes. Mom said that one time she sat and cried for hours in her rocking chair after her brother Russell bullied her for something he thought she did.

Later when she was out of high school and working, she went to the YWCA in Reading to learn how to swim but had a dreadful fear of the water. She did exercises in the water instead, never did learn how to swim. In spite of her fear of the water, she went to swimming classes at the YWCA in the morning anyway. She left the swim classes early to enable her to get a locker room so she could change clothes.

NEW YORK CITY

Flying – Mom always wanted to learn how to fly. She always loved airplanes and watching them fly. She had this desire to fly from an early age, about 16 years old. Flying lessons were too expensive and her parents had no money for that. So she did the next best thing – got a job with TWA in New York.

Airplanes were different from cars, trains, and busses. Planes were fascinating to her because they carried people and cargo for very long distances, and could take off and land.

She was 21 years old when she went to LaGuardia Airport in New York for her new job. She went without her parent's permission. She took the train through Philadelphia to get to New York City.

Training for her TWA job was in a class of 9 women and held for just one week. It was very concentrated training. Women were being trained to support the US war effort for WW II. These were the first women hired in this capacity. Men who had passenger agent jobs at that time were being recruited for the military, so women had to take those agent jobs. WW II had already started. She worked with DC 3s and DC 4s. DC 3s had two propeller engines, DC 4s had 4 engines. Training was on an OJT basis. Airplanes carrying people and cargo flew from LaGuardia to LA. There were no flights to overseas destinations at that time. What she liked best about that job was watching the airplanes take off, saluting the pilots as they departed from the ground. Mom assisted in getting the airplanes loaded and determining their centers of gravity (CG). The planes were loaded with cargo, rarely any passengers.

Mom says that she was the happiest in her life when she worked at TWA in New York. She loved airplanes, liked living in New York, and liked sharing her apartment with three other women. All of the other women worked in the airline business.

One roommate was a girl named Gladys, a tall and attractive young woman. Gladys was a secretary for TWA. Mom became a ticket agent for the airline and worked behind the customer sales counter. She worked nine hours per day, with an hour for lunch.

She worked for TWA for about one year. Her official title was "Passenger Agent" even though she did not process any passengers. She left the job and returned home to Reading to be with Bert Hulton who had gotten a promotion and transferred to Reading. She had some regrets leaving the job because she enjoyed it so much. Although Mom liked being in NYC, it was easier for her to leave because Bert was transferred back to Mom's hometown. If Bert would have been promoted to

anywhere else in the country, Mom would have stayed in New York.

There were three shifts, she worked one shift each month, then rotated. Later she became a passenger agent in the booth out on the ramp. She worked with loading forms to load cargo on the airplanes. She had to compute the weight of the planes (cargo and passengers) and their center of gravities for weight distribution purposes before the planes took off. She submitted this information to the pilots. DC3s and DC4s were considered dangerous and not safe to travel in during World War II. Nonetheless, she went to great lengths to get that job through a friend she knew at the Reading, PA airport. She was one of only nine girls to be hired at that time.

One of her roommates was a stewardess from a Canadian airline. She, a girl named Ethel, Mom, and Gladys were the four roommates in their furnished NYC apartment. They each made \$100.00 per month at their jobs.

When Mom lived with her three roommates, she never displayed her temper because her roommates would have never put up with it. They were her equal peers.

It was there that Mom got to know Bert Hulton better at TWA on her 3-11pm shift.

When she first met Bert, he was married and had a son named Robert (who later became my half-brother). Mom and Bert would share their dinner hour together on their shift. Bert's wife was a woman named Ruth. Mom never met Ruth or even talked with her over the phone. As a result, there were never any confrontations.

Chapter 2

AFTER GREECE

A Greek family moved in where Wick and Wicky lived after Wick and Wicky passed away. The Greek family had three sons, Mike, Jimmy, and Stevie. Their mother's name was Thelia. Mom spoke some Greek with them because of her experiences living in Greece a few years earlier. Mike made a thick wooden paddle and hung it outside on their back porch as a visible reminder for me and Denny to behave. Mom would "threaten" to call Mike over to discipline me and Denny if we

stepped out of line. Occasionally that paddle found its way to our buttocks when we misbehaved more than Mom could handle.



(Mom in backyard at 737 Lincoln Street, Reading)

After moving back to Reading from Greece, she got a job working as a sales rep at Diller's Jewelry Store in downtown Reading. Jewelry always appealed to Mom. There she knew she always had to speak well and get dressed up. She never had a job that she did not enjoy. The clientele at Diller's was the best because they had money! Some of them even came to Diller's in chauffer driven cars. The store was within walking distance from home, enabling Mom to walk to work. She worked at Diller's for about five years.



(Mom wearing her mink coat in downtown Reading)

Chapter 3



(At home at 5 Martins Lane, Daylesford Village, Berwyn)

2nd MARRIAGE AND DAYLESFORD VILLAGE

Daylesford Village – Mom played bridge with neighbors Betty Good, Winnie McCutcheon, and Martha Gilbert on a regular basis. She would also go to PTA meetings at Paoli Elementary School regularly with Winnie McCutcheon, but Winnie was always late. She liked going to the Daylesford Village Swim Club in summers each afternoon with her four kids. The family had a membership there. She played bridge sometimes there, too, or just sat in the sun. She had a nice sun tan by the end of the summer.

She liked attending Sunday school and church services at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Berwyn because it was such a short drive there. She enjoyed listening to sermons by Reverends George Gardiner and Bob Bohl.

She remembered Jimmy and Denny playing baseball on the Conestoga High School baseball field right behind the house. The field was such a handy walk from the house. Sometimes she would ring the dinner bell from the backyard and the high school baseball players would answer “Coming, Mother!”



(The family inside at Martins Lane)

She enjoyed having 3M employee backyard barbecue parties/picnics each summer as well as the Daylesford Village party in the back yard. Her elderly mother visited periodically in the summers and sat out in the front yard under the trees where there was plenty of shade and a cool breeze.



(Mom and Dad with their big Buick at Martins Lane, Circa 1956)

In 1959, the family moved to the housing development (named Derwydd) on Llewelyn Road in Berwyn. The house Mom and Dad built was larger than the house on Martins Lane with a bigger kitchen, two car garages, bigger dining room, bigger basement, and more bedrooms. The front and back yards had many more shade trees. Dad had a red Toro riding mower to cut the grass. It was in that house on Llewelyn Road that Dad started Valley Forge Tape and Label (VFTL) printing company in the basement in 1962. He always wanted to start this type of business. He thought he would make more money at that than what he was making at 3M as a traveling sales rep. He also would not have to travel so much.



(Breaking ground for a much expanded VFTL Hq. in Exton)

Eventually, Dad earned a salary at VFTL, but Mom received other things like clothing and jewelry instead of a salary in the early days of VFTL. Money was tight at that time. The business later grew to afford Mom and Dad having two cars in the garage on Llewelyn Road. But Mom wasn't really happier there. Dad passed away in 1976, creating a hard time for Mom. She was alone in that big house.



(Mom and Dad at the first VFTL Open House in Paoli, circa 1973)

Chapter 4

LLEWELYN ROAD HOME

This was a step up for the family than the house on Martins Lane. Mom never thought she'd have two Cadillacs someday in her garages!



(Mom and Jimmy at the two car garage at 648 Llewelyn Rd., Circa 1968)

She worked at Wayne Jewelers in Wayne as a sales rep for about two years. In addition to selling silverware and jewelry, she also went out to speak about silver to various groups throughout the Mainline. She liked the clientele there because they had money and were very friendly to serve. At that time she drove a light green Chevrolet Impala.

Mom liked having the VFTL business starting in the basement of that house. She worked in the evenings until midnight, sometimes later. She did general office work for VFTL, sometimes did some typesetting for the single printer the business had then. She also set up the business first accounting records.

In the beginning, there was no steady income from the business. Mom was very concerned about that. Denny and Paul eventually worked at the shop after it moved to the office on Lancaster Road in Berwyn.

In addition to the nice big kitchen in the Llewelyn Road home to make meals, there was also a nice big refrigerator with a slide out freezer part on the bottom. There was a big back screened-in porch off of the kitchen. Dad would go out on the porch on Sunday mornings to read the newspaper. There was also a bigger stove in the kitchen for making meals, her favorite meal being meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and green beans!

The spacious back yard faced a wooded area behind it. The big yard gave Mom a nice at home feeling. She enjoyed sitting out in the sun with her three little dogs during the summers. She began her sunning process in April, wearing a camel hair coat. She had a portable radio with her so that she could listen to the Philadelphia Phillies games, drinking Cokes while listening. She was one of the most loyal of Phillies fans!



(Mom with Yukie and Missy in backyard at Llewelyn Rd.)

MOM'S BELOVED THREE LITTLE DOGS - YUKIE, MISSY, DOC

She certainly loved those three little dogs. They were all very loveable. She always wanted a dog when she was a child, but couldn't have one. As an adult, she quickly had three! It was a busy time taking care of them. They all had their own places to

go outside when Mom let them out during the day or night. She really enjoyed taking care of them. They were a big part of her family life.

She favored **YUKIE** because he had more pep, more personality, and more life in him than the others did. Jimmy brought him home from the Poconos where he worked one summer in between his freshman and sophomore years. Yukie was a small, all-white husky kind of dog.

MISSY came from some friends of Dad's and was a black and white spotted terrier. Missy always got the most excited when she saw Mom coming home and driving up the driveway.

DOC was an all-black chubby little dachshund. He was fun to watch running with his short little legs and floppy ears.

It wasn't such a problem taking care of the dogs. When they slept at night, Doc was on Dad's bed, Missy was on Mom's bed, and Yukie was underneath Mom's bed.

Whenever the dogs heard the freezer door open in the kitchen, the three of them would come running for a cube of ice for each. They loved ice! Mom thought that was so cute!

Mom was afraid the dogs would run away when she let them out, she loved them that much. But they all stuck very close to home, except occasionally for Yukie.

The dogs would also lay out in the sun whenever Mom would go out in the yard to sun herself.

One time Yukie ran away. Mom found him sitting in a barn on South Leopard Road in Berwyn. He was sitting on a pile of logs but came to Mom right away as soon as he saw her. He never ran away from home again.

There were some very sad days when the three of them passed away on separate occasions over a period of about two years. Mom really missed those dogs. Yukie was the last to go; Dad took him to the Vet's that day in the back of his car.

As long as Mom had those three dogs for companions and to take care of them, she really enjoyed them. They were a big part of her family life. She was very sad and lonely after “her three little dogs” were gone.

It wasn't until some years later when she was alone in Hersheys Mill in West Chester that she got another dog (a tan Chihuahua) named Happy. She truly loved that little dog, too! Happy made Mom's life much more tolerable living alone.

Mom always enjoyed all of her dogs. She would always have one of the dogs up on her chair in the kitchen on Llewelyn Road; Happy would sit on her lap at Hersheys Mill. All of her dogs faithfully loved her in return!



(The historic temple Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece)

Chapter 5

LIVING IN GREECE

Athens, Greece – Mom, her two sons Jimmy and Denny, and her husband Bert lived in a lovely, big rented house in Athens near the Mediterranean Sea. It had a large living room, large front porch off of the living room, large dining room, but a

relatively small kitchen. There were three upstairs bedrooms, two bedrooms in the basement, and a lovely garden outside. The owner of the house paid the gardener to take care of the garden. The owners also slept outside on the porch because of the consistently mild, year-round climate.

There was a big master bedroom upstairs for Bert and Mom. A nice balcony was located off of the master bedroom. However, there was only one bathroom upstairs for the whole household.

Nicki, the Greek housekeeper, cooked the meals. She and her daughter slept in a bedroom upstairs. Once per week Bert permitted Nicki to have use of the TWA jeep to go to the village nearby to shop for groceries and other needed items for the household.

Occasionally Mom would go into Athens to shop with the wives from the airport. Mom did this infrequently because she didn't have any money. It was Bert's way of doing things. As a consequence, Mom wasn't very happy because of not being able to go anywhere most of the time. She was stuck at home. Occasionally she would go shopping with one of the wives in her jeep. Only once in a while would she go out socially with Bert. Other times she played bridge at home with the TWA wives. On a few occasions, Mom went into Athens with a TWA jeep driver or a mechanic to shop with the TWA wives.

There were neighbors nearby that Mom was able to converse with occasionally. That helped pass the time for her and ease her emotional pain.

Much of the time Mom was unhappy being in Athens.

Nicki and Mom would sit by the fireplace in the living room to have conversations in the evening. There was no fire in the fireplace because it wasn't needed. Sometimes there was a language problem because Mom knew little Greek and Nicki knew little English. They created their own "sign language" to communicate. Mom really enjoyed her relationship with Nicki. That added some relative degree of happiness.

When in Greece, Mom spent much of her spare time at home sitting in the sun in the yard. The pleasant weather lent itself to that, as well as the house being close to the sea. The sea was a beautiful color blue!

It was fashionable in Greece to have dinner at about 10:00 PM, both at home and going out on the town.

A focal point for her was seeing the Acropolis and Parthenon in Athens, both ancient Greek historical structures recalling the city's glory in another era.

She recalled a time when the family dog, a German Shepherd named Duke, contracted rabies and had to be put to sleep. Son Jimmy, at age 2+ years old, searched all around the outside of the house for Duke and could not find him. He kept on shouting, "Duke! Duke! Duke!," but to no avail. Duke had already been taken away. It was a sad time for Jimmy and the whole family. Everyone living in the house had to get rabies shots, **in the stomach**, one per day for 21 days! Ouch!

Mom and her kids lived in Athens for only one year, 1946 -1947. She and her two sons returned home to Reading, PA to live with her mother and father in the house on Lincoln Street. Mom and Nicki both cried when Mom left Athens. They sadly knew they would never see each other again.



(Mom with her two little boys, Jimmy and Denny, before going to Greece)

Chapter 6



(Mom with her “War Heroes, Circa 1967”)

THE MILITARY – Her Greatest Fear and Worry

Mom’s three sons were in the US military at the same time during the Vietnam War. Jimmy was in the Air Force, Denny was in the Navy, and Paul in the Army. All served out of the country during some point of their time of service. It was a lot of worry for Mom at that time because she was fearful of her sons going to Vietnam. However, none of them was in actual combat and therefore did not go to Vietnam. Jimmy was closest to it because of being in South Korea during some very dangerous conditions that existed there periodically - ever since the Korean War ended in 1953.

All three sons were gone at the same time from the house on Llewelyn Road. Eventually, Patti went off to college for a year, but later returned home. It was a sad and lonely time for Mom then. She wasn’t happy being home alone with husband Paul Myers.

Chapter 7

THE JEWELRY STORE IN WAYNE

It was a lovely shop in which to work, very posh. She worked in sales for Sam Spear, the owner. She liked him and liked working for him. Sam had asked her to become an employee when she was just a customer there. She liked working with jewelry, silverware, flatware, and chinaware. There was interesting clientele, they had money and were good customers. Mom also sold diamonds, “Gorgeous diamonds!” she said. Some of the clientele would come to the shop with their maids to help them shop. Other clientele came in their chauffeur-driven limos. Some clientele would let Mom know they had a lot of money. Mom worked there for about three years before her sons entered the military.

During Christmas time, she worked in the evenings. She didn’t like driving home alone at night. However, she felt she was making good money in comparison to working in other stores along the Mainline.

Some clientele were extraordinarily fussy, but for the most part easy to work with. They were well dressed most of the time. The store was attractive and the merchandise was well displayed. Mr. Spear was a good boss, but could be difficult at times. He knew most of his customers on a first-name basis and took care of their jewelry needs.

Everything was first class. All the co-workers got along well with each other, and the clientele. Mom would go back there to work again if she could.

She can’t remember why she left that job. Perhaps driving home at night alone could have been a factor. Dad did not want her driving home at night alone. Mom remembers she and Dad were driving home on a Saturday night from a social occasion and stopped somewhere for a nightcap. In that place, Mom saw Mr. Spear and he asked her to dance. Mr. Spear was suave, nice looking, and very sociable.

Mom liked to show off that she worked in a nice, posh place. She liked to dress well for the job she had at Wayne Jewelers. The only thing she didn’t like was working at night and driving home in the dark.

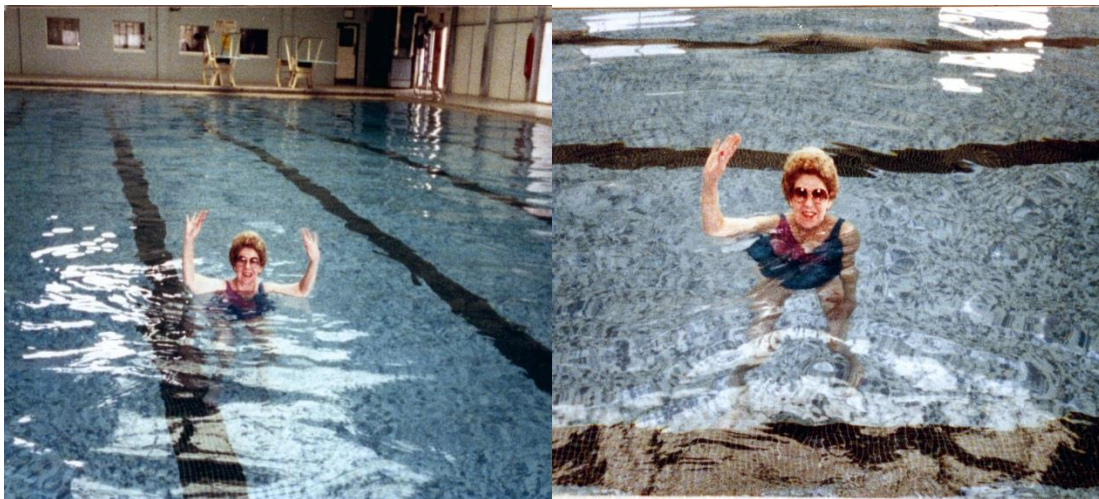
In any job working with people, some customers are good, some are bad. Some are difficult and temperamental, but they have to be handled with kid gloves. Mom liked working with people in all the jobs she had.

Chapter 8

THE MAINLINE YW/YMCA

Mom remembers getting out of the pool early from her exercise classes to get a locker because there was a shortage of lockers. She was in a class of 8 women doing aqua exercises. The exercises helped make her feel better, emotionally and physically. She was afraid of the water her whole life but was trying to overcome her fear through these classes. She never learned how to swim. She wanted to take lessons but never took the chance. She attended the Y for about a year. No doctor or any other professional suggested it to her. Each of the people in the class was also a bit timid of the water, but overall everyone thought the classes were enjoyable. NOTE: Because of her fear of the water as a young woman, she made sure that each of her four kids took swim lessons.

It was at the insistence of son Jimmy that Mom took those water exercise classes. He wanted Mom to get over her fear of the water and benefit from exercises that could be done in the water. He felt that Mom really needed those water exercises for her physical and emotional health.



(Mom loved her water exercises at the Mainline Y, Circa 1986)

Chapter 9



(Some of Mom's Phillies souvenirs)

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

Mom loved baseball! It was an easy game for her to watch growing up. She was still living in Reading when she became interested in the Phillies. They were the closest big league team that she could follow. Her favorite players then were Richie Ashburn, Robin Roberts, and Curt Simmons.

Baseball was much easier to understand than football because it was slower than football and not as complicated. She went to only one Phillies game in her life at Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia. She went with her bridge club partners. Bridge was the only other game she liked, "Bridge and Baseball," she said. Baseball was played in the summer time when the weather was fairer than in the winter. She has been a Phillies fan ever since 1950. She liked the pitchers best because that is where the action is in the game, the action starts there. Her son Jimmy was a pitcher when he played in Little League, Babe Ruth League, Conestoga High School, and Elizabethtown College.

She remembers the Phillies being in the World Series just a few times. Manager Gene Mauch, one of their best managers, was a manager for the Phillies in the 1960s.



(Mom and Phillies pitcher Tug McGraw)

She used to know all the names of the players because they stayed with the teams for a much longer time than they do today. Now players move around from team to team so frequently depending upon where they can make the most money.

COOKING

She liked being in the kitchen. Her favorite food was to make soup, particularly vegetable beef soup, clam chowder, and oyster stew. She also made potato soup. Her mother made good potato soup as well. It took her all day to make her soups as she knew her family enjoyed eating them.

She enjoyed baking cakes, her favorite being chocolate. Her favorite pie that she made was apple pie, with fresh apples.

She liked to cook big meals, such as at Thanksgiving. Because she liked to be in the kitchen, she spent a lot of time there to please her family.

When I (Jimmy) was about age 10, Mom taught me how to make applesauce. It was one of Mom's favorite things to make. First, she had to cook the apples, then peel them, cut them in quarters, and mash them with a potato masher to make them "saucy." Then they were seasoned with sugar, cinnamon, and brown sugar.

Note - I never made applesauce on my own again, chuckle, chuckle, chuckle, but I liked eating it!

She didn't like to clean house, however. There was too much cleaning to do with her kids in the house. As soon as she could afford it, she hired a cleaning lady.

Her first cleaning lady was Elizabeth on Martins Lane in Daylesford Village. Elizabeth really did a good job cleaning. She also babysat for a few times when Mom and Dad went out on weekends. She came from a poor family and neighborhood in the area and therefore needed the work that Mom offered her.

Mom and Dad went out frequently for dinner and dancing on Saturday evenings. They belonged to a dance club called Chesterbrook.

Chapter 10

RAISING FOUR KIDS

Mom noted and felt that it was pretty challenging in the beginning and throughout the years. No one is born with the knowledge of being a parent.

The best time she had raising four children was at meal time. Each kid had something different to say about what happened on any particular day as the family sat around the table. Mom liked to cook for her kids and her kids certainly liked to eat.

The kids would come home from school, change their clothes, and go outside to play. They were well trained to do that!

At meal time, her four kids had to try everything that Mom made and served. They decided what they liked or didn't like. For the most part, her kids liked whatever Mom made and served. That made it easier for Mom. For the family, the favorite meal was spaghetti and meatballs.

On Sundays, the family went to Sunday school and church. Mom taught Sunday school to young mothers who had kids. She taught them about Jesus.

Sometimes on Sundays after church, the family would go out for a drive through the country.

Boys' baseball was a big part of the family because Mom liked baseball and her Phillies. Denny and Jimmy played baseball, Paul did not participate in any sports, however.

Mom felt it was her duty to attend PTA meetings and other meetings at the Paoli Elementary School. She was a parent and wanted to learn about what and how each of her kids was doing in school. Each of her kids was in a different grade.

She felt overall that her kids were well trained at home which reflected well on them in school. Sunday school was also part of this training.

All in all, Mom's life was full because of her husband and four kids. A good time for Mom was sitting around the kitchen table with her kids.

Each summer the family went to Long Lake, Adirondack Mountains, New York for a week's vacation. Everything was good about these trips, including the food.

ANNUAL VACATIONS AT LONG LAKE, NY

During these week-long vacations, the family went out in the evenings to search for deer. Dad went deer hunting usually each winter. Occasionally a few deer were spotted and became an added pleasure to the summer vacation.

A friend of Mom and Dad's at Long Lake, NY named Herb had a motor boat. He took the family out on the lake for boat rides. Jimmy learned to water ski behind Herb's boat at age 12. Dad also skied with Herb.

On rainy days, the family would get in the car to take a drive through the Adirondack Mountains to search for deer and see the sights. On sunny days there was swimming and water skiing.

These were great vacations as Mom really enjoyed herself and relaxed.

Gladys and Ed, the owners of the Long Lake resort, were a good host and hostess. Mom and Dad got to know them well and partied with them during each of the family vacations there. Gladys and Ed were very friendly and sociable to all of their customers.

Helping Gladys and Ed close for the winter – Dad and Mom went to Long Lake in the fall of the year to help close the resort for the season. They were there for one week to help Gladys and Ed shut down until the new season the following spring.

Chapter 11

BEING A STAUNCH REPUBLICAN

Mom was a staunch registered Republican. She was a firm believer in getting out there to vote after she turned 21. She went to the YR (Young Republicans) Club in Reading to meet other Republicans. That is where she ultimately met Paul Myers. The YR Club was a “ritzy place.”

She attended the YR Club when someone could take her. She initially met a man there named “Babe.” He took her there for quite a long time, Mom said. Babe was about 12 years older than Mom. They went to the YR club quite regularly in his big Buick. It was more of a social club and gathering place for young Republicans. However, one had to be a registered Republican to attend.

Babe and Mom talked about getting married, but they never did. Babe was already married to a good friend of Louise Diller’s whom Mom was working for at the time. Babe was separated from his wife then, had an elderly mother to take care of, and was living with her during this time. Mom and Babe didn’t really know what to do with their relationship and wound up doing nothing. Babe passed away in his early 40’s soon after his elderly mother passed. That ended the relationship with him.

Babe took Denny and Jimmy to a lot of activities when Mom was working at Diller’s Jewelry Store. He treated them very well.

Following this part of her life, Mom went to the YR club with a couple of other girlfriends on Friday and Saturday nights. That’s when she met Paul Myers who had offered to take Mom home when they first met on a Friday night. At one particular incident, Mom could not go home with him because she had driven that night with a girlfriend by the name of Emma.

Paul knew Mom had a relationship with Babe. Later Paul asked Mom out on a Saturday night date for a movie and then to the YR Club.

Chapter 12

DAD'S PASSING

When Dad passed away in August of 1976, Mom was in the kitchen that morning making breakfast. Dad was in the bedroom suddenly lying on the floor dead. It was a big shock to Mom. Dad was restless in bed the night before, but Mom did not think anything of it. She wondered if she would have called out to Dad the night before he died, but she was not feeling well herself. Things may have turned out a bit differently. Dad did not complain about anything, nor that he was not feeling well.



(Mom and Dad at Llewelyn Rd., Berwyn)

THE TRADING POST

Mom was miserable being alone in the big house on Llewelyn Road. It seemed to her that her life had ended abruptly when Dad died. So she began working at the Trading Post full time to keep busy. However, Mom did not like living alone. The Trading Post became her second home. She did a variety of jobs there whenever she was needed to support the Post's main mission, raising money for cancer research and supporting efforts to find a cure for cancer. There were three people in the family that died from cancer – Uncle Russel (her brother), her mother, as well as her mother's sister (Aunt Rena (Irene)). She enjoyed working with the people at the Trading Post. Periodically she was put in charge of special sales events. She worked at the Trading Post for about 20 years, some part-time, some full-time. It was here that she had her photo taken with former Phillies pitcher Tug McGraw. Tug later contracted brain cancer and passed away.



(Mom with the Phillies “Tugger” at the Trading Post)

Mom's friend, Ruth Miller, from Mainline-Berwyn Apartments, got Mom interested in working at the Trading Post. Ruth worked there one day per week, but Mom eventually went on to work five days per week.

She was in her 80's when she stopped working at the Trading Post and felt very sad about it. Trading Post employees also were very sad to see Mom leave. They liked working with her. Mom worked there as long as she was physically able.

She developed a friendship with Betty Becker, a consignor at the Trading Post. Betty's family was also from Reading, PA. They knew each other for a long time for Betty was also a widow.

The most difficult part of being alone was at night. The evenings were terribly lonesome. To her, they still are to this day. She took up reading books more and more as this was something she always loved to do as a young adult. Most of the books she read were historical novels and mysteries. In school, she did not like history classes, however. One of Mom's favorite authors became Danielle Steele.

After Mom left the Trading Post, she lived in various assisted living facilities. During this time, she was and still is, very lonely. She misses being with people and having a family life. She also stopped going to the Mainline Y because she got too old for those classes in the pool. She also stopped driving, a decision she made on her own. She could not react as quickly anymore in the '92 Buick Regal she had at that time.

For the past 14-15 years, Mom does not cook anymore, but she still likes good food. Eating is one her favorite activities. She still has an interest in reading, but she can't read because of failing eye sight. It has been about ten years since Mom read a book. She really misses reading. She'd like to play Bridge again, but she can't see to do that either, and could not find a group of other women to play. Bridge keeps one's mind alert. "It's a very good game," she says, "but one has to know what the hell one is doing to play that game!"

Chapter 13

MOM'S LEADERSHIP

Whatever group or activity Mom was in, she was usually President, Secretary, or some sort of leader in the group. The difference between being a leader than just a regular member of the group is that Mom was usually smarter than the others. She always wanted to be the leader. She always liked to talk, and she always knew what she was talking about. She liked being a leader rather than a follower. "That's the way I was made up, I guess," she said. She points out an example at the YWCA, being an officer in her homeroom at school, and being on the school's Honor Roll.

She always tried to keep alert by reading about current news and events. She always enjoyed making speeches and participating in dramatics, plays, etc. She had a nice singing voice, belonged to singing groups, but never was in a church choir. She did not attend church regularly enough to participate in the choir.

Mom belonged to most anything in school except sports organizations. She enjoyed watching sports but didn't participate because she was very clumsy. When a person is in sports, that person has to be a leader to enjoy the sport. Mom enjoyed watching sports and had boyfriends and sons whom she watched playing various sports.

Chapter 14

MOM'S BOYFRIENDS



(Mom and Russ Yoder at Univ. of FLA., Circa 1940)

Her favorite boyfriend, Russ Yoder, played football in high school and college. In one game he played at Reading High School, he caught a pass, ran down the field, scored a touchdown, but ran the wrong way! The rest of the team could only stand there and watch him. Mom said, “I guess he was thinking about me at the time,” as she laughed. Russ was a blonde-haired halfback, his best friend Doug was a fullback.

Whenever Mom went out with Russ in his father’s car, they double dated with Russ’s best friend Doug and his girlfriend Irma. Their favorite place to go was a place called “The Hideout” in the countryside. It was a place where couples went to “park.” Russ and Mom eventually broke up, but Doug and Irma married.

It was after that break up that Mom later met Bert Hulton. She thought that the name Hulton was a neat name. Mom thought Bert was a newspaper reporter at the time, but he later joined TWA and went to New York.

Bert's sister, Evelyn, was a beautiful woman and a nurse officer in the U.S. Navy. She was a couple of years younger than Bert, but they never got along with each other. Mom and Bert attended Evelyn's wedding together.

Bert wasn't really liked very well by many people because of his personality. He was a show-off. Evelyn didn't like Mom much either. Brother and sister looked very much alike, both being good looking. Bert let everyone know he was good looking.

When asked if she would change something in her life and had the right opportunity again, she said she would not change anything. She would still leave Reading against her parent's wishes and go to New York to be with Bert and work at TWA.

Mom's mother and father did not like Bert because he was too "high faluting." But Mom married him anyway. He was the "one and only." The problem was that, at that time, Bert was married. He divorced his wife one day and the very next day married Mom on July 29, 1944.

Chapter 15

LIFE AT HERSHEY'S MILL



(Mom at her front door in Hersheys Mill, West Chester)

She liked Hersheys Mill because of the privacy it offered. Anyone coming into the complex had to go through a security gate and guard at the front entrance of the property.

She said that she played bridge there several times with three other ladies, but she didn't remember their names. They played on Tuesday afternoons.

She belonged to the Hersheys Mill Country Club where occasionally she went for dinner with guests and family. One of her guests was me (Jimmy). We would go there for dinner from time to time on Saturday evenings. It was a very nice facility to have a pleasant evening for dinner.

Mom's house was on the fairway of the 9th hole on the golf course. It wasn't really a safe place to live because some golf balls occasionally found their way onto Mom's patio overlooking the fairway. Luckily Mom never got hit by a stray flying golf ball.



(Enjoying Christmas time by her fireplace at Hersheys Mill)

Mom liked the back patio, sitting out there when the golfers weren't coming through. It was a nice place to sit and chat. She doesn't remember how long she lived at Hersheys Mill, but she eventually left it to live in various assisted living facilities. Some of Mom's friends passed away while she was still there. It also got too expensive to live there toward the end of her stay. "It was for golfers anyway," she said. It was really a golf club because just about everyone there played golf. Mom was one of the few exceptions.



(Mom and Jimmy at the Garden behind Hersheys Mill Clubhouse)

Special Note: It was at Hersheys Mill that Mom, her ex-husband Bert, Bert's fifth wife Tina, and son Denny had a "mini-reunion" one evening in the late 1980s after Tina and Bert had visited Jimmy in Allentown earlier that day. It came as a complete surprise to Mom. Bert and Tina went to visit Denny as originally planned, but the three of them thought to visit Mom as a surprise since she lived so near to Denny's place and the VFTL offices. Mom was very glad to see Bert after all those years (more than 30) they had been divorced. It was a great moment in Mom's life! The four of them together were "celebrating" their "reunion" in Mom's kitchen and it prompted Mom to call son Jimmy in Allentown that night around 11:30pm to tell him of the exciting news! Jimmy was very happy for Mom that Bert and Tina's visit turned out that momentous way!

Chapter 16

PEARL HARBOR ATTACK - Sunday, December 7, 1941

Mom was at a party with her friend Ardith when she heard about the attack at Pearl Harbor earlier that morning on the radio. The party was to announce Ardith's engagement. It was being held at a summer place of a friend who worked at Northwest Junior High School. The news Mom heard over the radio was truly unbelievable. The attack eventually led the US to go to war in World War II. About 35-40 people attended the party, most of them teachers at Northwest Junior High. Everyone was shocked by the news!

LONG LIFE AND BEING "FAIRLY HAPPY"

When Mom was asked about what she attributed her long life to, she said it was "just dumb luck." She did not get good sleep, did not watch her diet, and didn't take care of herself concerning her overall health. She has lived this long because there are long genes in the family. Mom had to take care of her own mother because she was living alone toward the end of her life. Life became more difficult after she divorced Bert before 1950.

She later married Paul Myers in 1953, making her life "fairly" happy. She says she is still "fairly" happy today.

She has good living conditions now, good food, and under good care. She is thankful for her three sons and daughter. She says that they "behoove" her. She doesn't see them often enough, especially her two younger sons. Her oldest son, Jimmy, who is writing this journal, visits Mom frequently and diligently and faithfully oversees her care. Patti visits on a weekly basis and assists in her care.

One thing that would really make Mom "happy" instead of just "fairly happy" would be to see all of her kids happily married. She also wishes that "all of her kids would come to see her together because she doesn't have that much longer to go."



(“Let’s Have a Party Clemens” was Mom’s Nickname at TWA)



(Enjoying a Happy Time with Patti)

Mom says that she feels that she’s had a “happy” life generally with the exception of a few down times. Everyone has down times in their lives from time to time.

There is still one thing to do that she has not yet done – fly an airplane! But this just didn’t get included in her life’s experiences. Early in life, her mother would not let Mom fly because it was very dangerous. And later on, Mom could not afford it anyway. So instead she spent part of her working years with a ground crew at TWA in New York. All in all, Mom says she has had a “full life.” She has had an “interesting” life as a worker and being a blessed mother with four children.

She never thought she’d wind up with four children. She had wanted just three of her own.

If she were giving a speech to young marrieds in their 20's or young women considering getting married, her advice to them about rearing four children would be "Keep your cool, it ain't easy!" However, she would not tell them not to have four children. Her best advice to young mothers is for them to "Keep their cool!" Her advice as a worker and a mother is that there is a full life ahead of them. Being a working mother is really a full life. Her advice to young boys considering being full-time fathers is that it is also a rewarding job. Her advice to both young women and young men is to have the experience of parenthood.



(Mom with Patti, Denny, Paul sharing Christmas at Denny's)

Chapter 17

WATCHING JIMMY PLAY SOCCER

One day, Mom went to Conestoga High School to watch Jimmy play soccer. Her impression was that soccer is a rough game. She saw Jimmy get knocked down a few times, and decided that she would not watch Jimmy play soccer again. "That was enough for me!" she said. She didn't like that game at all. One game, that was it.



(Jim's Graduation from E-TOWN, 1966)

Mom's Favorite Car – Her favorite car was her Cadillac. When asked why, she replied, “They were big and expensive.” Mom always liked to show off. Her father always drove Chevys as a contrast. Cadillacs were also bigger and more expensive than Buicks. “The bigger and more expensive cars were the better,” she said. She liked driving her big Buicks, too. It really didn't matter to her about cars as long as they were big, expensive, and well made.

ADVICE FOR HER KIDS

Patti – was easy to raise. She always asked questions and listened well. Her advice to Patti is to stay the way you are, people will love and respect you for it.

Mom's exacting advice for each of her kids is to always look their best, be well groomed. She says that all of her children listened well. She showed all of them love and affection, making it easier to raise them.

An important part of raising kids is to be firm. To raise children it must be done as a group. The focus can't be just on one child. Mom had to raise four children mostly by herself. She could not raise four kids individually except when they stepped out of line occasionally. None of her kids was really a big disciplinary problem.

When Mom was ill and could not take care of herself, she felt that each of her kids came to help her when they could.

Mom says that the family learned to do things as a group rather than individually. But being Mom was really a tough job, especially with more than one child. There was little time left for herself at the end of the day. When there was some time left, mostly when the kids were in bed at night, she tried to take advantage of that time whenever possible.

One thing that she could never learn to do was to swim. She could not get over the fear of the water. She wasn't exposed to the water at an early age. Her parents could not afford to give her swim lessons. But she made sure each of her kids learned how to swim and would advise young mothers to do the same for their children.

Because she learned to drive a car relatively late in life (over age 30), Mom made sure her kids learned to drive a car as soon as they were able. It's very important to drive a car because it helps with some possible family emergency at home. If Mom wasn't able to drive, then one of her kids could drive to help solve the possible emergency.

It was at Mom's insistence that she learned to drive at about age 33. Her kids learned to drive at Conestoga High School at age 16. Mom's mother never learned to drive, however.

Chapter 18

MOM'S BEST AND CLOSEST FRIENDS

Ev Bowen – she is gone now. Ev was Mom's greatest and dearest friend. She and Mom did a lot together when they were younger. Ev went to Kutztown College in Kutztown, PA. She eventually quit going to college to marry Bill Bowen. The wedding was held in the library at Ev's parents' farmhouse in Birdsboro, PA. Ev's parents lived there until they passed away.

Mom introduced Ev to Bill Bowen. Ev didn't like Bill at first, but she made sure Mom caught the bouquet after her wedding ceremony. Bill was a pilot in the military and served in Europe during WW II.

Mom and Ev did many things together at the women's classes at the YWCA in Reading. They went to school together at Reading High, walked to and from school a great distance, even double dated frequently with one of Bill's friends. Mom and Ev went to movies together and with several other women from the women's classes at the Y in Reading.

Ev was a serious person most of the time. She was very pretty and knew how to dress. But Ev was not as smart as Mom was in school. She was trustworthy, kind, and could talk about troubles she and Mom would have in their lives. After she married Bill Bowen, Ev had enough money at her disposal. She was a very good dresser and Mom always tried to dress as well as Ev did.

During high school, they would go to a place called Lester's on Friday nights. Lester's was a restaurant where there was a juke box that played popular tunes continuously. Mom and Ev were best friends all through high school.

Ev would get one of Bill's cars and she and Mom would go to Kutztown on Friday and Saturday nights to have something to do. This was while Bill was away during WW II. When they didn't go anywhere, Mom would go with Ev to Ev's mother's house in Reading where Mom would spend weekends with Ev. It was a beautiful old farmhouse. Mom and Ev remained the very best of friends for a very long time after high school.

They didn't go on long trips together because Mom didn't have the money and she would not let Ev pay for her way.

The housekeeper at the farmhouse, a man, was a relative of the Bowens.

Mom and Ev always kept in touch. They wrote letters to each other and phoned each other regularly during their adult lives.

Ardith Goas – a high school friend in Reading High, was two years ahead of Mom in school. Ardith graduated and went to work at Northwest Junior High School. Mom graduated two years later and also went to Northwest Junior High to work. It didn't take long before they became good friends.

Both Mom and Ardith worked in the office at Northwest assisting teachers with their duties.

Every evening they would meet and go somewhere, usually a drug store, for a Coke and sandwich, something light. Because Ardith had a steady boyfriend and Mom did not, she did not see Ardith much on weekends.

Ardith later married her steady boyfriend and moved to Pottstown. Mom didn't see much of Ardith after that. Mom and Ardith were close friends for several years. They got along well together from the beginning. Ardith was easy going and they seemed to like the same things, had a lot in common.

Mim Richter (maiden name was Shoemaker) – another high school friend at Reading High. Mom really didn't have much in common with Mim. But they both had a membership at the Reading YWCA. Mim was a good athlete, but Mom was not. Mim was on the school basketball team and a good player.

Mim's brother had a car to take Mim and Mom places to do things. Most of the time they went to the Y. They became good friends in their final year of high school. There was a dance club at the Y that they attended frequently.

After they both graduated from Reading High, they continued to go to the Y for Dance Club. Mim's brother still took them there in his car. Mom thought Mim's brother was a real JERK! Mim thought so, too!

Mim was an excellent bridge player as was Mom. They played bridge together often. Their bridge group included Gerry Klopp. Gerry's maiden name was Hartman. Mom liked Mim because they played a lot of bridge together and went dancing frequently at the Dance Club at the Y. (Mom also danced with her mother at home when Mom was about 7-8 years old. They did the Foxtrot and Waltz.)

Mom took me and Denny to Arizona to visit Mim and her family when Denny and I were very young, 5 years old or less. Mom liked Arizona because it was warm with little or no humidity. Mom also went there by herself sometime later. Over the years Mom and Mim kept in touch with each other by phone.

(Later in life, I was 37-38 years old, Mom, Patti, and I went to Arizona to visit Mim in Glendale, AZ.)

Gerry Klopp – was a short person only about 4' 9" tall. But she was a talker! Mom became friends with Gerry in Douglas and Weiser Junior High School. They were also classmates at Reading High. They would meet on the corner of the school and walk to wherever they wanted to go after school. They would talk about the girl's clubs they belonged to together at school, the things they were currently doing, and what they were going to do. They went to women's clubs together when they were older.

Gerry was always neatly dressed like all her other girlfriends. She was also very smart in school, like Mom. She was always in the Honor Society in junior high, but not in high school. Mom and Gerry went to the Y together to take part in activities there. They never double dated together. Mom dated more than Gerry did, however.

Mom, Ev, Mim, and Gerry were not a "foursome," so to speak, according to Mom.

Mom and Gerry kept in touch after high school, like Mom did with the others. Although they were not a foursome; they were good friends to Mom. Mom and Gerry belonged to the Women's Club at the Y, but the others did not belong.

The four kept in touch with each other after high school by telephone or by mail.

When Mom was in Greece she had lost touch with her friends in Reading, but gradually got back in touch after she returned home. They managed to stay in

touch even in the years that Mom lived in Berwyn in Daylesford Village and Llewelyn Road. But they never again got together as a group.

Mom did eventually get to Arizona to visit Mim, then eventually with Gerry in Tucson, Arizona. The three would ultimately meet together once again in Arizona.

The three of them met before Mom moved to Daylesford Village in Berwyn. They talked about their memories together of their years in school. At this gathering, they all had a wonderful time together reliving their favorite experiences.

Russ Yoder and Mom eventually got Bill Bowen and Mim together at the University of Florida. All of them were originally from Reading. Russ and Bill did not know each other until meeting at the University of Florida.

Special Editor's Note: Although not really classified as one of Mom's close and dear friends, Tina Hulton, Bert Hulton's fifth wife, it should be noted here that she was solely responsible for bringing Jimmy and Denny together with their father after more than 35 years of them being absent from one another. Tina worked diligently and tirelessly over months and months to finally make this happen so that Bert could see his two sons as mature adults. Jimmy and Denny ultimately went to Rhode Island in 1982 to see their father after all those years. Tina and Mom became friends over the ensuing years by phone, until that surprise visit at Mom's place in Hersheys Mill in the late 1980s. Tina is specially recognized here for her steadfastness and thoughtfulness for what she did to bring the Hulton family together.

Chapter 19

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Her mother got Mom ready to go to Sunday School when she was a little girl. Mom and some of her friends walked to Sunday School every Sunday. They went to St. Mark's Reformed Church in Reading. That is where Mom eventually taught Sunday School to high school girls and young mothers. Mom was also a young mother when she taught young mothers in Sunday School. She taught before she was a young mother as well as after she was a young mother. She says that she taught a good many years before she became an "old mother." On Monday nights, she held meetings with the young mothers to discuss what Mom was going to teach

the following Sunday. Mom felt that, sometimes, the young mothers came just for the refreshments.

Mom also taught Sunday School at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Berwyn, PA. She taught young mothers there as well.

After teaching Sunday School, Mom would go home to have lunch and then sat down to go over the lesson she just taught and prepare the lesson for the following week.

When living in Reading, on Sunday nights, Mom, her mother, and her two little boys would walk just a few blocks away to Aunt Ethel's (Mom's sister) house on Weiser Street for Sunday night supper. After supper, the family would watch The Jack Benny Show on TV and then walk home. Mom and Denny would walk together; Jimmy and his Grandma would follow behind.

Chapter 20

THANKSGIVING

A Favorite Time – Mom liked to cook, especially cooking a big meal on Thanksgiving Day. She always cooked a big turkey for the family, about 12-14 lbs. She made a special stuffing and mashed potatoes with gravy. Sometimes she made her own cranberry sauce. Then she included a vegetable, sometimes spinach, crushed corn, and dinner rolls.

Just family members were in attendance for the Thanksgiving meal.

While Mom was cooking dinner, her kids went to the annual Thanksgiving football game at Conestoga High School. When all the kids came home from the game, they were welcomed with a nice big turkey meal. Mom insisted that her kids be at home for every Thanksgiving. Dinner was ready and served by about 4:00PM. Mom liked those days because everyone was at home and together.

With the leftovers, the turkey made great sandwiches for school lunches. With the rest of the leftover turkey, Mom made a big turkey salad.

It didn't bother Mom that she cooked the meal by herself, or to clean up by herself after the meal was over. She didn't like too many people in the kitchen at one time to get in the way. But she did appreciate any help she could get to help clean up.

DRIVING TOO FAST

Mom liked to drive fast, especially on the PA Turnpike to and from Reading. It seemed like there were very few other cars on the turnpike when Mom was there. However, she never got stopped by a cop on the turnpike. So her advice is to tell people not to drive too fast.

NO SMOKING – it's the wrong thing to do. Too much smoking causes lung cancer. Mom is lucky she never got lung cancer because she used to smoke a lot as a younger and middle-aged woman.

MOM'S GRANDMOTHER – MINI KING

She was a very fashionable person. She lived with Aunt Rena in Washington, D.C. She was a very attractive old lady, different from Mom's mother and father. Mom never knew about her grandfather, never heard anything about him. Mini's personality was "high faluting." She wore diamond rings and expensive jewelry and was always well dressed. She spoke like she was "high faluting." Mom was very impressed with her grandmother and wanted to be just like her when she grew up.

Twice Mom and her mother went to Washington, D.C. to visit Mini King and Aunt Rena. Mom was about 10 years old at the time. Aunt Rena's husband was Uncle Ambrose. They lived in a "high faluting" house in D.C. Mom's father did not like Mini King, that is why she lived in D.C. instead of Reading. Mini would come to visit Mom as a child from time to time in Reading for about 4 days at a time. Mom said that was "enough for my father."

MOM'S FATHER – CHARLIE CLEMENS

Mom got just about anything she wanted from her father. When she couldn't get what she wanted, she threw a temper tantrum. Her father would give in and gave

Mom what she wanted. (Mom didn't give me an example of this on any specific incident.)

MOM'S SISTER – ETHEL DELONG

Aunt Ethel – Mom and her sister Ethel (Aunt Ethel) were very different. Aunt Ethel was the silent type, Mom was not. Aunt Ethel had a good friend named Margaret. Aunt Ethel was about seven years older than Mom. Mom was the better student in school.

There were few things that they did together because of the age difference. Once in a while, Aunt Ethel would take Mom to the movies that were compatible with Mom's age group.

Aunt Ethel sang in the church choir, Mom did not even though she had a good singing voice. Aunt Ethel was a good cook and liked to cook. One of her favorite foods Aunt Ethel liked to make was mashed potatoes. She also liked to bake anything except pies. She cooked roast beef frequently because her husband Uncle Johnny liked roast beef.

Uncle Johnny was one of the nicest guys anyone would want to meet. He worked at the Reading Gas Company for many years. Aunt Ethel also worked there for a while. That is where she and Uncle Johnny met.

Aunt Ethel was a good sister to Mom, but they weren't too close because of the age difference. They didn't have too much in common. Aunt Ethel also went to Reading High and graduated in 1931. Her son's name was Tommy.

After Mom graduated from Reading High and she and her sister became adults, the two of them got along well together. Their relationship was better than when they were younger. When they became older adults they would visit each other from time to time. After Tommy was born, visits would occur more frequently as well. Aunt Ethel was a very good housekeeper, mother, and cook. Mom learned some good cooking techniques from her sister. However, neither one of them learned how to sew. Overall, Aunt Ethel was a very special person and caring sister.

Christmas Time – Generally Christmas time was a happy time for Mom. But it was not very extravagant over her lifetime. She enjoyed being at home with everyone in her family. That was most important to her.

Chapter 21

OTHER INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT MOM

She and Dad (Paul Myers) founded Valley Forge Tape and Label Company in 1962. Mom and Jimmy ran the first printing press in the basement of the house on Llewelyn Road in Berwyn.

Mom had a collection of over 60 Santa Clauses and 60 watches.

Her dearest friends from high school were Ev Bowen, Mim Richter, Gerry Klopp, and Ardith Goas.

Mom loved to have fresh flowers in her house each and every week.

She liked to have her hair done every Friday, without fail! This particular tradition went on for her for over 40 years.

She was a most loyal and faithful Philadelphia Phillies fan. She shared the story about Harry Anderson playing in right field wearing “#9 on his cap in the 1950s,” HA!HA!HA!HA!HA! The players don’t wear numbers on their caps! She only attended one Phillies game, at the old Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia.

She shared the story about when Patti fell off the dock at Long Lake in New York’s Adirondack Mountains into 6 feet of water when Patti was about three years old. Dad jumped in the water fully clothed to save her. That was enough excitement for Mom for one night!

She loved to make her own potato salad and baked beans in the summers for her family when they had backyard barbecues on the enclosed porch and Dad cooked hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill.

In her later years when she lived in assisted living facilities and could hardly see, she would look up at the blue sky to see the sun, the puffy clouds, and leafy trees, she remarked, “That is God up there!”

HER RELATIVES

GRANDMA – AMY CLEMENS (Mom’s Mother)

She was a good mother. She tried to teach Mom how to sew and cook, but Mom wasn’t interested in that then. Grandma did help Mom with her homework from school through the lower grades. Grandma was good at teaching Mom the basics of life, what was right, what was wrong.

For much of the time when Mom was growing up, there was little communication in the family. When Mom came home from school, Mom would hear her mother singing. Her mother had a good singing voice.

Grandma was strict with her daughter. Mom was not allowed to go out at nighttime. She reacted to that badly and showed her temper.

Mom thought that her mother was a better Grandmother than a mother. She loved her three little grandsons very much, especially the ones with whom she lived with on Lincoln Street.

Grandma was a very good cook. She made good pies and soups. But she did not bake cakes because Granddad would bring cakes home from the bakery where he worked.

Mom said that her mother taught her that “life was tough.” Things didn’t come along easily. This is what Mom experienced in her life. Things didn’t come along so easily for her, like for so many others.

Grandma seemed to favor Tommy after he was born. He was the first grandchild. Tommy went on in later years to become a professional baseball player for the Detroit Tigers and a player scout for the Tampa Bay Rays.

Mom learned to be a good housekeeper from her mother. Things in the house had to be clean and in their place. Mom’s relationship with her mother got closer as the both of them became older. Grandma became a wonderful grandmother which helped strengthen the relationship with her daughter as they both got older.

PHOTOS



(Enjoying recreation time at Arden Courts, King of Prussia, PA, circa 2013)



(Celebrating the Holidays with her kids and grandson Jeff at Highgate, Paoli)



(Her four kids with Yukie and Missy at Llewelyn Rd., Berwyn, circa 1965)



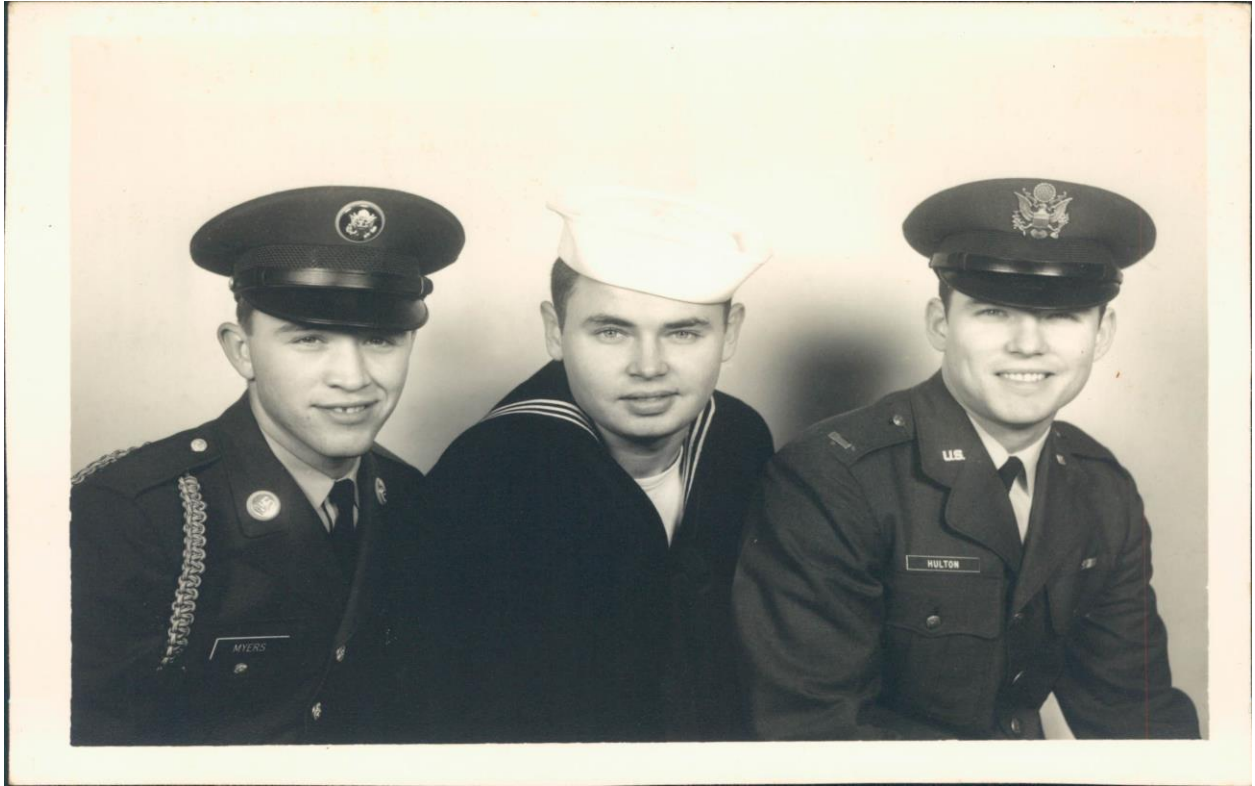
(Mom and Jimmy at Mainline-Berwyn Apartments in Berwyn, circa 2003)



(Mom's Halloween table display at Highgate in Paoli, PA, Circa 2011)



(Mom's other "kid", Teddy, at Highgate)



(Mom's Three War Hero Veterans, Protecting Land, Sea, and Air, circa 1967)



(Mom with Her Second Great Grandchild, Jackie)



(Mom's First Great Grandchild, Rayhana, Circa 2001)



With Love, From Mom

1951

*My two little boys, full of tricks,
One age four, the other – six
Are my great pride, share all my love;
Wonderful gifts from God above.*

*My two little boys from break of day,
'Til evening when they kneel to pray,
Are up and down and in and out -
Never a whisper – always a shout.*

*My two little boys in dungarees,
Dirty faces and bloody knees
Are happy with planes and cars and cap guns –
Lollipops and sticky buns.*

1984

*My two little boys – after many years
Of college, the Service – many laughs and many tears
Are grown up men with children of their own.
And I am here so very alone.*

*My two little boys will always be
A very special part of me.
In my life, with my loves, with my friends, with my foes,
In my happiness, my laughter, and all my woes.*

*My life has also been fully shared
With a husband, a third son, and a daughter with red hair.
They, too, have been so very, very dear;
We all gave to each other, year after year.*

*My husband is gone now, but I'll always be
Right here whenever they are in need of me.
They're in my prayers, my hopes, my heart
Whether close together or so far apart.*

*Now to my three grandchildren
Julie, Jeff, and Chris –
Always remember this
Your whole life through
Grandma says, "I love you."*

1989

*Many things have happened since I wrote the above,
My son, Paul, has two little ones whom I dearly love.
At this time their ages are two and one;
My granddaughter, Meredith, and Jason, my grandson,*

*My dear daughter, Patti, is a lovely young lady;
She keeps herself busy day after day.
Her happiness will always be
So very, very important to me.*

*I know my family will forever be
Loving, tender, and good to me.
And so I close the way I have begun –
WITH LOVE, FROM MOM*



2015

*I am gone now, and as I look down from above,
I see my two little boys, my whole family, whom I eternally love,
Although life changed dramatically as I became old, so ill, and gray,
My family - always a treasure - until my very last day.*

So many happenings in the last twenty plus years,

*They occurred so fast I couldn't keep back my fears,
I hoped and prayed my family would take good care of me,
For I did my very best to love and nurture them so dutifully.*

*Two more grandsons, little Paul and Sam,
No longer little, quickly grown and proud of them I am,
A new great granddaughter Rayhana, so far distant that I cried,
Two other great- grandchildren, Jackie and Luke, so cute and blue-eyed.*

*I am in perfect hands now as I'm with the good Lord,
My earthly deeds are done, I beckon to His calling Word,
I am finally at peace and rest from so many worries and disappointments in life,
But I loved my family so very dearly as a good mother and wife.*

*And now, always remember, all my dearest loved ones below,
Mom, Grand Mom, and Great Grand Mom says "I love you,
Just how very much you'll never, ever know."*

**Authored by (1951 -1989):
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