

## **FRANK I. PICKERING'S SHORT HISTORY:1910-1941 (transcribed by Steven Pickering)**

*These are Grandpa Pickering's recollections of events between 1910 and 1941, originally mostly typed, with numerous additions and corrections in pencil. There are twenty pages, and they were found among my Dad's (Gordon's) papers. Grandpa seems to have set these memories down in 1939, because mostly everything after November 1939 is handwritten. Also, some of the pages are typed on the backs of military orders dating from 1939. He did not include every year, and there is a long gap between the years 1923 and 1934. Most of the 1939 narrative is about Grandpa's trip to Detroit to pick up a new car, and he seems to have intended this to be a draft of one of his extensive road trip journals (1920, 1923, 1926, etc.). Words that were unclear or could not be deciphered are marked with [?]. Abbreviations, and spelling or grammatical errors have been left in place.*

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### **1910**

Married March 2nd; at home of Rev. J.P. Dowd, the then Free Methodist pastor at Boulder, Colo.; Esther, Bertha's sister and Grandma Reshel were the witnesses; lived at my home for some months as expected civil service appointment but as none came which I could accept we moved to ourselves into an apartment on Pine Street, which, tho part basement, was roomy and airy; Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> received telegram from War Dept. offering me an appointment at Fort Riley, Kansas; accepted offer and reported to Commandant, Mounted Service School the morning of Oct. 22nd and took oath of office that day; we arrived that morning around 5 o'clock and as there was no fire in the depot we walked about the Army post to keep warm; we inquired as to a place for a person to find lodging and was told that Junction City, was the nearest, 4 miles back on the route over which we had come; we took the street car there and after considerable more walking we got rooms at the home of the Ericsons, members of the local Free Methodist church; later we moved to house on 15th St a short distance away where we got a house and yard for \$6.00 per mo. House had no closets for clothing, toilet was an outdoor "privy" and when I built the fire in the morning in the heater I could look up thru the cracks of the ceiling and roof and see the stars; we slept out on the back porch as we were fresh air enthusiasts & to prevent sickness. Our landlord got nasty so we moved to 1815 N. Jefferson St. to a new four-room house, sans closets for clothing, and with "privy" at end of lot but did have a nice back porch and a cellar. We slept on the back porch here even tho it was on the East and got the cold N.E. winds. My entrance pay was \$60 per month and we continued to pay the payments on the home at 1121 North St., where my parents lived and which had been my home prior to marriage. The property had been deeded, to me, by my parents, shortly before our marriage.

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### **1912**

Our first born, a son; arrived Feb. 18, 1912, name Gordon Lindley; the middle name was after our District Elder. Rev. E.C. Lindley, of whom we thot a great deal. He got a little red chair for Gordon which the boy had a great deal of pleasure using and dragging about with him. Dr. Carr was the attending physician and Sunday, after mother & son had been taken care of, along about midnight, he took me down to the RR depot in his auto, an "E.M.F.", so that I could send telegrams to our parents announcing the arrival of - in one instance - the first grandchild. That summer I was detailed as chief clerk of the Red Column, Major Robert E. L. Michie, Cav. was the Adjutant of the Columns; all this a new experience for me but I managed to

handle all the paper work satisfactorily; we struck tents at 6 a.m. when "the general" call sounded; we marched until one or two p.m. and then camped for the night; all the office work then had to be done before retiring for the night; typewriters were gritty due to dust and the lights used were ordinary lanterns. The "Blue Column" won as several errors were committed by the Red officers.

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### 1913

Made trip back to Colorado to see parents. Bought a 2-cylinder Maxwell thinking perhaps it might make the trip to Colorado but while it was "geared low enough", as the man said who sold it to me, yet we found that it was entirely impracticable for the trip. It had but two speeds forward, and the low speed was so low that with the small horse power of the motor, it could only take 'high' when on the level or at least going up only a small grade. It was like many second-hand cars then, rather unreliable. I had the fever bad tho and had dreams of owning a good car; cars were the main subject of conversation then when men met. We enjoyed the train trip however, and the trips up Boulder Canyon with the folks in Boulder.

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### 1915

Sold the Maxwell after the crankcase cracked (again) while on a trip to Millford to attend a revival meeting there, in March. It was a lovely spring day, most of the snow was gone and the roads (all dirt of course) were fairly dry and good. However, returning we took a different route which promised better travelling but we found that at one place we had to go thru a pasture. This did not bother but when we got back on the road there was a mud hole filled with broken rock. These stone were many of them half as large as the auto wheels (28") and in helping the car over them the frame was so twisted that the crankcase was cracked.

Republican River which flowed by our home in Junction City flooded in May and cut a channel thru the right of way of the main line of the UP and washed out two wagon bridges to Fort Riley. As a result I did not get to the office for three days. Got order (ltr dated w[?], Wash, July 28/15) transferring me to duty with the Southern Dept. at Fort Sam Houston, (San Antonio) Texas; I lost weight over the sudden change in our affairs but went as a delegate to the Kansas Annual Conf., representing the society at Junction City, on the way to Texas; Gordon was sick on the train and we did not get the lower berth to which we were entitled, travelling on Government transportation; arrived in San Antonio at night Aug 26/15 and walked about a mile to Alamo Plaza to the Arthur Hotel where we spent the rest of the night. We thot we would walk to a hotel near the depot but every hotel we passed seemed to be connected with a saloon so we continued to walk & carry our [?] & Gordon until finally we reached the Arthur. We paid 35¢ for meals. I had checked my bicycle on my ticket so rode it out to Fort Sam Houston the next morning (Aug 27/15) and reported for duty; found a house on Palmetto Ave for twice the rental we had been paying in Kansas, viz. \$20. per month. The Gov. shipped 3500 lbs of HH goods for us but we had 1800 pounds excess and paid \$12 to \$13 for this; Gordon got a boil shortly after our arrival at the home on Palmetto Ave & had to carried to church (about 3 blocks). He was quite heavy to carry that distance as he had to be handled carefully on acct of the boil.

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## **1916**

Our first daughter, whom we named Elizabeth after her mother, & Jane, after her Grandma P., arrived February 23d, on her mother's 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. We were living in the then Free Methodist parsonage at 107 Sharer St. While the baby was but a few weeks old Bertha became sick with malaria and I had two weeks of Dengue fever – all at the same time. Allie Lee Weatherly and her chum Eva Mac now Mrs. Miller helped us for the first day or so and then providentially we obtained the services of a trained practical nurse who took charge of us and the home and was a life-saver for us. Dr. Reagan was the attending physician, the charge \$50.00 for the confinement. When Elizabeth was 6 weeks old we all went swimming with a group of young people to Hot Wells pools. This was hot sulphur water and had curative value, at least it helped Bertha at this particular time; one young man carried the folding buggy; another carried the pillows for it; and one or more of the young ladies carried the baby; and Gordon was old enough to walk most of the time. We went on the street cars of course. We were introduced to the beauties of Breckenridge Park and to its swimming hole also, where many pleasant gatherings and picnics were enjoyed.

On Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> Congress created the grade of Army Field Clerk in lieu of Headquarters Clerk, as my position was called, and thus we became a part of the military service and subject to the 'rules and Articles of War'.

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## **1917**

War was declared against Germany April 6th and I was ordered into uniform; the heavy shoes and leather leggings wore blisters on my ankles the first few days I wore them; I had to practice the hand salute as we (the AFCs) wore the same insignia on our caps as the commissioned officers; the collar insignia was two crossed quills over the shield of the Adjutant General's Dept

My father, Isaac Pickering, died July 23d after a lingering illness. A letter (my last to him) containing a bunch of pictures of the "Border" (Mexican) and the troops there, reached Boulder the day after he died. I had delayed writing so as to send these pictures thinking he would enjoy looking at them and consequently he never heard from me that last time. I was told that each time the postman's whistle was heard in the neighborhood Pa would ask: "No letter from my son?" I could not attend the funeral as war was on and no one was given leave.

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## **1918**

Prospered during war years. Reduced the balance due on the home which we purchased in 1917 at 225 Sharer St., San Antonio, Tex. in order to get a place in which to live, so great was the demand for houses, owing to the influx of workers engaged in building Camp Wilson, a war cantonment, adjoining Fort Sam Houston

Our home was an old styled, high ceiled, large halled, Southern home with ceiled walls. We papered several of the rooms and this helped to keep out the "cold Northers" and to keep in the heat when chilling winds came. Took trip to Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Rockport, etc. and saw the ship yards where concrete and wooden ships were being built - concrete at Aransas Pass on the level sand and wooden at Rockport where the shore was higher. A tidal wave and hurricane which came

shortly after our visit, blew the lumber all away and wrecked most of the ships. We also had our first sight of ocean-going ships when we visited Galveston in the late summer. It was cool there tho still hot at San Antonio.

Bertha's father died at Boulder, Colo. on July 1, 1918 and she spent three months in Colorado which helped Gordon to overcome something which kept him below par physically. We had been giving him a tonic before he went there. When he came back he was all right and needed no more tonic. I rode up to Colorado on a "Furlough fare", i.e. 1¢ per mile - \$10.00 to Denver from SA. Elizabeth, two years old, when she saw me at Colorado Springs, shouted: "O Daddee, daddee!" and jumped into my arms. I almost missed her because I was not looking for her to jump, as I reached down to pick her up.

I grew a mustache while Bertha was away, but she didn't care for it.

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### 1920

Frances came to be my namesake Jan. 11th. We had the flu at our house - all at once but not so hard. L. K. Adams and Eva Metcalf (now Mrs. Adams) took care of us.

Took a trip up into Kansas and Colorado in the Lambert, Friction drive, with 36" by 4½" tires on rear and 35 x 4 on front. Had at least one flat tire each day, and sometimes more. Fabric tires got hot and melted the 'cold patches' loose, plus other leaks which developed. Had one the first afternoon before we got to Austin, Tex. The exercise apparently did me good, for I picked up after return home. We visited CAC at McPherson, Kan., then Esther and family on farm west of Junction City, Kan.; then west to Colo. Went up into Estes (Rocky Mountain) Nat. Park and enjoyed visits with Sarah and Lottie's families.

Mother buried her second husband (Mr. Woods) and strained her heart in walking up University Hill to the Hospital while he was there.

She was sick when we were leaving for Texas but got up and fried 4 chickens for us to eat on our way home. We were delayed enroute on account of rains and soft roads. When we got home we rec'd a telegram that mother had passed on Sept 4/26 aged 73 years. We had miles of mud and water to negotiate in the Texas Panhandle and western plains. We camped a day or so in the office of a "gin", waiting for indications that travel was getting thru. Slipped into the ditch a time or two. Had to be hauled out once - \$2.50. Stopped at Southland near there for the nite in a hotel where we were served hot biscuit and all the fixin's. Bertha had to take care of Elizabeth (4 ½ years and Frances (6 months) old, so missed out on the biscuits. The roads seemed endless stretches of mud and water. Had to wire for extension of my leave and for more money. But we finally made it O.K. and all felt fine for some time after.

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### 1922

Lost our "allotment checks" this year. These were made up of \$15.00 contributed by each soldier, plus \$15.00 contributed by Federal Gov. for Wife, and \$10.00 for first child and \$5.00 for each other child. We got just one \$5.00 for Virginia who came to us August 24, 1922. Our largest allotment check thus made up was \$55.00. Quite a loss when it all stopped.

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### 1923

Took trip to Colorado with Virginia the baby this time. Visited Colo. Where Ethel, Bertha's sister, joined us as we all went on to Yellowstone Park. Frances took sick on the last day out on our return to Colorado but was all right in a few days after reaching Boulder. Bertha, however, had a septic sore throat and was real sick for a week at Lottie's home on 24th St. in Boulder (Sarah's old home).

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### 1934

Enjoying home in Omaha, Nebr. which we built in 1930. Perfect heating in winter and with warm attached garage the winter cold was not felt. This winter we had a siege of zero weather - 26 days in succession when the temperature never was as warm as zero, either day or night.

Gordon was attending Greenville College; Elizabeth was attending CAC, and Frances and Virginia were in Clifton Hill grade school. The latter had a very good PTA - largest in Omaha - mother sang in a mothers' chorus and we attended the meetings quite regularly.

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### 1935

Enjoying our home in Omaha but feeling the cold more it seems, or was it 'just in our minds'? In May rec'd orders transferring me to Panama for duty. A "bolt out of the blue", but made pleas that such a move now would cause me to lose my home so I did not go, tho Mr. J. F. Gregg, WO (Who was primarily the cause of the orders because he wanted to return to SA, Tex., or as near there as possible) came to Omaha.

Virginia was taken with cold at spring vacation and before she was well again she had had a double mastoid operation. After the second operation, infection got into the cut and her ear and side of her face swelled to such unusual size that the nurse said she had never seen such a large one. Dr. Phillip Romonek operated and worked fast so that the infection was killed in 3-4 days. It was a long nerve-wracking siege. For a while Virginia was stone deaf and we feared for her hearing. But thank God she completely recovered. Operation \$150.00 (50% reduction) hospital \$70-\$80.

In June Gordon graduated From Greenville College, Greenville, Ill., with AB degree. He lacked ten hours of science or it would have been a BS instead. He took pre-engineering. As Virginia had not fully recovered we were unable to see our only son graduate from college. She was too sick to leave and then too additional expense caused us to forego this. Elizabeth entered GC in the fall, having gotten her Associate AB degree from CAC in June. Gordon's work during the summer in the "Tower Products" laboratory helping materially. We brot Gordon home from GC when we took Elizabeth to register there. Frances was attending North Hi in Omaha and Virginia, Clifton Hill grade Sch.

While the family were seated about the table one day during the Christmas vacation, vote was taken, whether to ask for foreign service or remain in Omaha. The majority voted for foreign service. Having replaced the mortgage on our home there to one under the Federal Housing Authority plan (FHA), thereby reducing the monthly payments, I applied for service in Hawaii; to go during the summer of 1936.

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### 1936

In March (Apr?) Gordon got his first real work after graduation in June the previous year. It was as surveyor on the Government's hydroelectric project at Columbus, Nebr. He also kept time on a gang of men working there. The Peter Kewitt Construction Co. of Omaha (and other large cities) was the contractor for whom he worked.

May 6th I received orders for Hawaii, to sail June 2nd from New York. The AG Col. Totten (the "First Sergt. Of the Army") 8th CA refused to let me go and tried unsuccessfully to hold me but I left as scheduled tho his action made it much more difficult to do the already difficult task of disposing of surplus accumulation of seven years at Omaha, renting our home, packing up and making arrangements concerning all the family.

Gordon remained, tho he seemed to feel that we were "casting him off" but he could not afford to leave his job. However, he did follow us to Hawaii in December as his work was changed and became uncertain in the winter season.

We had a lovely trip on the USAT Republic from June 2 to July 2. No seasickness to speak of. Spent 5 days at S.F. where Ethel, Charles and Esther met us and spend a few days. Had an interesting day going thru the Panama Canal.

We lived in furnished rooms on the beach near to Ft. DeRussy for nearly three months while waiting for our furniture to arrive which it finally did in October. Then we moved to "mouldy Manoa Valley" to live. Our furniture was delayed in shipment because the QMshipped it to N.Y. rather than SF - a WD policy. I had the car shipped by freighter but had to pay for it from NY to SF. From then on it was free because of new regulations which went into effect after my car left N. Y.

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### 1937

In March, Gordon finished up his work for the Gov't on the ammunition dump at Alliamanu and got a position with the Calif. Packing Corp. as assistant to the head chemist. The head chemist had been his lab pardner when he was attending

McKinly Hi School in Hono. Gordon was given several different jobs during the first few months and then when the head chemist left, he was made head chemist and supt of the by-products plant. Gordon applied for & was given a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ord-Res. (1937)

In July Elizabeth became engaged to F. Wesley Walls (whom she met at CAC, McP, Ks.) and sailed Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> for the mainland and Waterloo, Iowa to become his bride. They were married in Waterloo, in the F.M. church where his father was pastor, on Oct 17. We equipped Buffy the best we could and gave her \$100 in cash.

After much debate, sometimes rather sharp, I applied for return to station at Hq. 9th CA, or an extension of my tour in the Islands. Mr. Daniel Perettie, WO at HNCA was due for foreign service and wanted to come to the Brigade at Ft. DeRussy. I thot it best to return to Omaha, and hoped to do so, so that we could enjoy the results of our cash outlay and labor there in building our home, but as Bertha and the rest of the family opposed this, the above action was taken.

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### 1938

Gordon got a raise in March (?) which made him fully a member of the "staff" & thus receive his pay by check from San Francisco, the main office.

My orders for station at Hq. 9th CA arrived in April. I reported there for duty in July having arrived on the July Boat. The Whitman's met the boat and looked after us. The quarters which I had counted on getting were not available so had to rent a furnished apartment on Van Ness St. My month there cost me - rent \$57.50; cleaning charge \$9.00 and the lights and heat a few dollars more. We took a 10 day lv & ran down to So. Cal. & visited Ethel & Esther for a few days, hoping that ours would become available. However, we moved into Gov. quarters (our first) Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, out on "Lower Post". These had been Air Corps officers quarters for Crissy Field. They had small rooms but many of them (we had 9), a large yard and a "million dollar" marine and mountain view. It was foggy and chilly at times but we were cozy with the warm air furnace & automatic gas heat.

Virginia had to start school in August so only Bertha, Frances and I made the 985 miles trip via the Redwood Highway to Seattle, Wash, where Frances entered the freshman year at Seattle Pacific College.

Gordon remained in Hawaii as his position was too desirable to leave and he had no prospect of work on the mainland.

Elizabeth and Wesley were appointed pastors at Cedar Falls, Iowa. (Free Meth. church). The previous conference year Wesley had been assistant pastor at Waterloo, where his father was pastor. This was to help him get started for actually he was pastor at Cedar Falls that year also as the two points were together.

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### 1939

A baby boy, our first grandchild arrived in Cedar Falls, Jan. 3, 1939 - Forrest Wesley Walls. We changed our membership from the Omaha class to the Oakland class and I was elected delegate to the annual conf. which met at Santa Cruz, Calif in the Advent Christian camp ground - a permanent camp. Rev. Dallas Turner, the pastor, was returned to Oakland. His wife is a daughter of Rev. Howland, the editor of the church paper - the Free Methodist.

Buff, Wes, & baby came out to Calif. in July for a 2-week visit. Wesley preached once at Oakland F.M. Ch. Drove new DeSoto out for Jas. F. Nalors[?] of S.F.

Frances returned to S.P.C. in Sept. with Marshall Fiese and his sweetheart Janette Jamesen. Frances was the chaperon. In this way her transportation back to school cost but little. She also worked some before school began and took several hours of work during the year.

Somehow, perhaps due to insistence of the family, I placed an order for a 194C Plymouth, Delux, for delivery to me at factory, Detroit, Sept. 25th. I received \$182.00 for our 1931 PA Plymouth which had 76,500 miles on it & running fine, also there was \$155.00 off for freight saved. On Sept. 20th I booked passage on a Travel Bureau auto; left our home about 10 a.m., arrived in Los Angeles at midnight with the temperature around 94 degrees; left Pasadena at 3 a.m. arrived Barstow 7 a.m.; had breakfast there and then a stop at Ludlow, Calif. to replace tire which had blown out; Had supper at Williams, Ariz. and stopped to sleep a while at Phillips, N. Mex. at 3 a.m.; Reached Albuquerque, N. Mex at noon where we ate and then struck north across the panhandles of Okla. and Texas, arriving at Wichita, Kan at 3

a.m. Here we remained until 8 p.m. when we left with another car and driver and had paid \$20.00 more fare to get to Detroit. Reached Kansas City, Mo. at 3 a.m. and remained here until 8:30 a.m. Sunday. Here we dropped one passenger who was going to Omaha and picked up two for Detroit. The drivers lost the road in the night but we reached Detroit at 9 a.m. and another man and I, both after Plymouths, were out to the drive-away office of the Plymouth plant, at 10 a.m.. There was a continuous stream of persons coming for Plymouth cars. I had had not had time to shave so plugged in my Shavemaster there and got a fast shave. Somehow the current there operated the cutter much faster than any other time - so fast that the clipped hair flew from the machine like the straw from a threshing machine. I went thru the plant at noon and saw them putting the cars together and driving them off the end of the assembly line. I got my Biege Plymouth at 1:15 p.m. and drove away. Stopped at Ford's Greenfield Village and looked about there until 5 p.m. when it closed and I had to leave. Then drove to Will's home in Spencerville, Ohio, arriving at 10 p.m. The new sealed beam headlights were so good that it was easy to see at night. I was not sleepy even tho I had had no sleep the night before as the car had been too crowded for even dozing, nor very much the night before that. After visit with Will and family left for Mary's via Winona Lake to see our publishing house there. There I met Rev. Rowland, the Editor and Mr. Gaddis the Publishing Agent, and others.

I reached Litchfield, Ill. and Mary's home around 10 p.m., very tired as I had had a long day - 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.- and had driven 60 unnecessary miles. I had gone 30 miles out of my way and had to come that far back!

Here I made the first oil change - 660 miles - and put Pyroil B in the oil. Speed was held to around 45 miles per hour by the governor which the mfgr puts on the car. I had put in Pyroil A in the gas all along after I reached Will's and in the absence of the "B" had put "A" in the crankcase. Celebrated Will Fleming's 80th birthday Sept. 30th and then drove to Wesley and Elizabeth's home in Cedar Falls. Reached there in the middle of the P.M. Buffy was home and welcomed me with a happy smile. [~~Crossed out: "Buffy was home and was delighted to see me the first she had seen since she had bid us goodbye at the dock in Hawaii."~~] Wesley was attending a class at the College, where he was taking some advance work. The son, Forrest, had grown much since I had seen him when they were out to Calif in July, but seems to remember that he knew me. Buffy was busy as mother and pastor's wife. Seemed good, & withal a bit strange, to be in my married daughter's home. I was happy to be there.

Thursday p.m. I left so as to arrive in Omaha on prayer meeting nite around 8 p.m. My plan worked out O.K. and I had a chance to see most of the class at church. Tried to get passengers to cut expenses but none were available tho might have been if I could have waited. Bro. and Sister Flesher entertained me royally and would not hear to my going elsewhere for any meals. Rev. Lee Ensey, a former roommate of Gordon's a CAC was pastor. Bro. Ensey's father was our pastor while we were in San Antonio Texas and it was he who built the FM church in San Antonio which is now the Mex. FM ch. The new First FM ch has been built opposite St. Mary's [?].

Wesley took the governor off the car (1000 miles) while in Cedar Falls so after leaving there I drove from 50 to 60 miles per hour. I picked up two college students going home for Wk end; one woman out in the sparsely populated western Nebr.; a business man and a sailor on furlough - all hitch hikers - between Cedar Falls, Ia. & Denver, Colo. Leaving Omaha at 8:10 a.m. Sat. I drove around 60 miles per hour all day and arrived in Denver around 7 p.m. After registering for passengers at a travel bureau on 16th street in Denver I drove out to Longmont, over rather familiar hills and road arriving there about 10 p.m. (Oct 7/39). Myrna, Margaret's daughter was watching faithfully for me and was the first to discover that I had driven up in front.

Here I spent several days and over one Sunday visiting relatives and friends. All who could took the trip up to Echo Lake about 10,000 feet up (Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>). Ice was forming on the lake when we got there and we passed snow by the side of the road on the way up. We ate our dinner at Bergen Park lower down. It was an appetizing meal, tho the wind blew chilly off the fresh snow on the higher mts to the West. Lottie was master of ceremonies and chief cook. Finally persuaded Sarah to return with me and so she and I took off about 8 o'clock Oct. 12, 1939 for Denver. Reached there between nine and ten a.m. but tho I waited until after noon, I got no paying passengers. However, did take on one - a fellow who had but three dollars to get him to vicinity of SF in Calif. I took pity on him and took him along. I took Hiway 50 across Colo Mts as I wanted to see them. We scooted up Berthoud Pass so easily that we were at the top before we realized it. The road has wide sweeping curves generally and one can maintain 35 to 45 miles per hour right along. I had to change twice on account the curves were so sharp that I had to slow down to 25 - 30 miles. I was in a hurry to get over the many passes which I had to cross before night as they had had fresh snow a few days before. However, we saw only snow at sides of the road except on the shady side of

Berthoud Pass. There were a few places where ice from melted snow was clear across the road. We met car after car loaded with deer as this was the first day of the deer season in Colo. We stopped at Craig, Colo. for the night (Oct. 12/39). This proved to be a high-priced place but it was then five or six o'clock and I did not want to tire Sarah. The thermometer went down to 30 degrees here but the radiator was not bothered. We were up and off Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 a.m., ate breakfast at Roosevelt, Utah, and reached Salt Lake City about 1 p.m. Here we spent several hours so that Sarah could see the Mormon buildings. Tried to get passengers here but I could not wait long enough. Pulled out of town around 3 p.m. and in crossing the Salt Lake desert faced the setting sun and glare from the sun's rays reflected from the salt water by the side of the road as well as the direct rays of the setting sun. Rather difficult driving for an hour. Stopped for the night at Wells, Nevada (Oct. 13/39). Stepped the car up to 70 miles for a short time to see how fast another Plymouth was traveling. Up and on the way early again and enjoyed long coasts down the long slopes. The country was so open that one could see the bottom of the hill, even tho it was a mile or so away. Here I coasted as fast as 60 miles an hour on momentum. This day we enjoyed a gorgeous sunset. It lasted for a long time and was a pretty as any I have seen anywhere. Reached Donner's Lake (Oct. 14/39) about 6 p.m. and washed off the back of the car where my passenger who got car sick had smeared up the back of it. The highway policemen as I entered Calif. hailed me into their office and got all the data they could including an affidavit executed by me that I was not going to sell the car in six months. Got home about 10 p.m. Oct. 14/39.

Gordon came back fr. Hawaii to States for trip & to get new Ply. Convertible Coupe. We took him, Fran & Virginia with baggage for Gordon & Frances, the latter sufficient for school year, in our 1940 Ply. which I drove home from Detroit in Sept. Gordon went East to Detroit via Canadian Pacific. We returned to Presidio via Hiway 97 and stopped at Crater Lake Nat Park, Ore. A foot or so of snow had fallen the nite before so we followed the snow plow around the lake. The evergreens were very beautiful with the fresh fall of snow on their branches. It had rained on us that nite as we stopped in LaPine, Ore., in the Deschutes Nat. Forest.

Christmas we went South to Ontario where Ethel furnished the meal and Esther's family and ours chimed in. We drove down in a rain all day. Picked Dean up at San Luis Obispo and he helped us thru LA traffic.

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### 1940

Frances took part in radio program fellowship hour at SPC, singing and giving her testimony over the air. (Spring 1940). She made "Honors" each quarter & sometimes "High Honors" – she also was listed in "Who's Who in Colleges of America".

S.F. Exposition was going this year on Treasure Island – a man-made island in SF Bay. We used up 3 books of tickets attending. One feature was the "Cavalcade of the Golden West", a pageant of the early days.

Jan. I was transferred (against my will & [?] orders) to Nat Guard office. I appeared before bd and was promoted to Capt AG-Res. I took phy exam in April.

Virginia & Fran both attending SPC, V. having graduated from Galileo Hi Sch June 12/40. Fran got home in time to attend the grad. exercises. Virginia got a society pin.

Hitler invaded Norway, Belgium, France, & Holland.

I went as delegate to Calif. Annual Conf. representing Oakland society.

Bertha visited Ethel in Ontario in Nov. & I went down also. Met Gordon & Buffy (with baby Forrest) & all came back in Gordon's car except Bertha who had gall bladder attack & had to stay for a while.

Virginia threatened with appendicitis at SPC & when Christmas vacation came, she had her appendix out at Letterman General Hosp.

In Dec. I took a phy exam with a view to being called to "active duty" as Capt. AGD. Passed OK. General service.

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### 1941

Entered upon AD as Capt AG/Res at Fort Lewis Wash on Apr 29/41 after being [?] as W.O. on Apr 28/41. Was detailed as Asst Post Adjt and [?] to CASC Unit 1907 which was the "housekeeping" unit at Ft. Lewis.

We rented a nice place in the woods 7 miles from Ft. Lewis & toward Tacoma. This was a quiet retreat after the turmoil of a day at the office. I was Asst Adjt in chg of Off Sec & as such received all officers reporting for duty and signed all the



officers monthly pay vouchers, certifying no [?] available. I signed papers by the hour & had to take some home to get them all signed.

When on Dec. 7/41 Pearl Harbor was bombed, we were all called to the post, issued pistols & helmets, & had 24 hr watch of radio to learn whether another bombing might come to our shores. This meant a lot of night detail with no time off to recover.

I was ordered to Prince Rupert, Canada \_\_\_\_\_ but wired the Adjt at Corp [?] HQ whom I knew asked that departure be delayed until after school closed on Frances & Virginia were in college (SPC). I sent the message with permission of Col. Glass [?], CO of CASC 1907 but when my order was cancelled, Lt Col Johnson, made quite a thing of it.