

Kansas Memory



Martha Farnsworth diary

Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

Martha Farnsworth kept a personal diary from 1882 through 1922 with only a few gaps. The diary describes her daily activities, her first unhappy marriage to Johnny Shaw, her second happy marriage, and her involvement in social and community affairs, primarily in Topeka. Both of Martha's husbands worked for the Post Office. Martha and Fred, (sometimes called Teddy) taught a class of boys at the First Christian Church in Topeka. They continued to teach the same class as the boys grew up and these young men and the girlfriends became a surrogate family. This particular volume covers the years 1917 and 1918 during which a number of the boys in the Sunday School class served in the Army. They frequently gathered at the Farnsworth house and the class took an annual camping trip. There are emotional statements about the "enemy" as well as constant concern about "her boys." Martha did not show her diary to anyone during her lifetime so many of the entries are personal and show her emotions. She, at times, is judgmental of others. Martha was an avid amateur photographer and this diary included references to taking and printing pictures. She also makes reference to traveling by car, meaning a street car. She generally makes a distinction if she is traveling by automobile. A searchable transcription is available under Text Version below. Thanks to volunteer Erica Hare for preparing the transcription.

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Thurs. 25 Dark, cold, cloudy, rainy, misty day, not at all as October should behave in St. Louis. I have written letters all daynd not half thru; but "agents" of various sortsnd neighbors on errands, have kept me trotting to the door, all day. I'm sort of "busy" too.

Fri. 26 October is smiling, her old self, again today—so bright and fine and all "sunshiny". Have been more than busy all day. I never seem to get thru.

Sat. 27 Another lovely Autumn day. I have, "baked" "mended" "cleaned" and did "oceans" of work today.

This afternoon, Robt. Simpson with Bernice Heath and (Jack Johnny) Miller with Helen Rolly, came out to dance awhile—Johnny is just learning and wanted to "practice". And today was Helen's ^{her} Birthday. They seemed to have a jolly time. I took ^{her} pictures in the yard. This evening Mora Wiedend Miss Holmes, nurses at Christ Hosp. came out for a call.

Sun. 28 The morning was fine—We took car to and from S.S. and church. I had 9 boys in Class, this bar has almost broken it up. Rev. Clinton Brooks of Ohio, preached for us this morning—nothing extra. Very cold this afternoonnd eveningnd hard wind. Ernest Sheldon, Carl Swansonnd John Perine came out this afternoon, and this evening came, John Perine, Carrie

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Nicole, Jack Miller, Helen Rolly, Ernest and Carl. So very cold few came - but always there is some one, to make the day "sunny and pleasant." We enjoy our young friends.

Mon. 29 We found the ground white with snow, this morning and has been cold all day, tho' the sun shone this afternoon. I washed a large washing and got it dry in the house in time to do my ironing this afternoon, so I have been busy - Teddy not home to dinner.

Tues. 30 Gold and snow & rain "flurries" most of day. I baked "witch" drop cakes and made other preparations for my Party tomorrow night for my boys. I went to town this afternoon to get some needed things - Awfully busy all day.

Wed. 31 A splendidly fine day - I put up my Halloween decorations, and worked hard all day, yet am not tired. And this evening the young folks came and we had a very jolly Halloween together, with the usual stunts, fortunes, etc. I served Cider, "Witch" cakes and dough-nuts - the Witch cakes had a ring (Ron got it) a penny and Helen Rolly got it, & a thimble, drawn by Scott Brown. Those who came, were Scott Brown & Dorothy Christian, John Penne, Carrie Nicole, Jack Miller, Helen Rolly, Virgil Scholes, Alice Officer, Robt. Simpson Nancy Boone, "Babe" Mahan, Helen McGahan, Luther Davis, Lillian Larson, Charlie Blath, Olive Monroe, Ronald McGord, Lucile Maguire, Earl Farmer, Rose Rogers, & Fred Brackett. I gave small Halloween boxes of "Dream" cake as souvenirs.

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Thurs. 1st Clearing up today, after last night's Party - putting away Halloween trimmings etc. Charlie Pfeiffer came out this afternoon and I took his picture and before he left Miss Niede and Miss Maddern (Christ Hospital nurses) came out - Monica as usual, "scrappy" with Charlie - too bad! Has been a fine day, tho' cool wind. Fred not home at noon.

Fri. 2nd A splendidly beautiful day. Doing all sorts of odds & ends of work today. Wended curtains and hung lace curtains in front room. Scott Brown's 20th Birthday and this evening, he came out, with Dorothy Christian, Jack Miller, Helen Rolley, Luther Davis, Lillian Garrison, Laurent Schwartz and Mildred Stanton and had a wee Birthday Party - brought Marshmallows and roasted them over the grate fire and they danced, and it was a happy evening.

Sat. 3 The day has been fine and my! how I made the work fly. Tonight I went to "Eastern Star" alone, for we have been up so much and Fred's work so heavy, thought he had better go to bed and rest. I got home at 1 o'clock.

Sun. 4 Another grand day. We took car to and from S.S. and Church. Mr. Danielson an ex Mormon Priest, gave us a talk, exposing Mormonism - I did not like him but he told many things my Mormon sister-in-law has told me, only she excused and justified what he condemned. This afternoon, Carrie Niede, Flo Herren, (Virgil Scholz joined us) Classes today, from the Barrack Class)

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Scott Brown and his father Dorothy Reddick, Charlie Plath, Ronald McGord, Mora Wiede and her friend Miss Maddern were out. Charlie, Dorothy and Elo stayed for supper, then Chas. left. Dorothy + Elo stayed for the evening and Scott Brown came out with Dorothy Christian, he also brought his father; Earl Palmer, Rose Rogers, Ronald McGord Lucille Maguire, Robt. Simpson Bernice Heath, Jack Miller Helen Rolly, John Perine Carrie Wiede, a Mr. Hesselbroek with Paerrie Rosenthal, Luther Davis Lillian Carson, Ruth Pittinger and Margaret Rust came for the evening and it was a jolly, jolly bunch of young folks - they wrote short messages to Edwin Jones and Harry Davis at Fort Sill also Don Fay at Great Lakes Naval School - they played piano and sang and they played the Victrola - also they played the ukulele, some one brought and sang to its accompaniment and it was a very happy evening.

Mon. 5 A beautiful "Indian Summer day." I washed a good big washing - also pair of double cotton blankets - I did my ironing this afternoon. Fred's mail heavy and he did not get home to dinner, so I kept right on working. He worked 8 hours and I worked 11 hours straight but his was hardest.

Tues. 6 Another splendid "Indian Summer Day". Mora Wiede came out this afternoon and stayed for Supper and the evening and Miss Scott, Miss Holmes, Miss Maddern, Miss Bennett, Miss Becker, Miss Ghassy and Miss all nurses at Christ Hosp. and Chas. Plath came out for the evening and roasted Marshmallows at grate fire, sang and danced and had a jolly time.

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Wed. 7 A fine "Indian Summer Day". Have cleaned, and did much other work as usual. Fred home this afternoon getting half a day, Holiday, to fix Henhouse. Ruth Pittenger and Helen Williams, came in for the evening - we think them, two, especially fine, girls and Helen unusually beautiful.

Thurs. 8 Another fine, "Indian Summer Day," and I was too busy to go outside, into the sunshine, into the hazy dreamy, blue, of a late Autumn day, tho' I got bits of it as I went to town this morning to pay the usual Bills and "shop" a bit. This afternoon, Melvin Pribble and wife, with five nurses from Stormont Hosp. came out for a Call. I took Mel and his wife's pictures. Jennie Remington also, in awhile this afternoon. Teddy and I went to the Orpheum this evening to see Farrar in "Joan the Woman" - Fine, but O, I don't like War pictures.

Fri. 9 Today has been, splendidly fine - the weather man says, "warm as August." I baked lovely bread today and made a Plum Pudding, to send Harry and Edwin at St. Olaf. Most awfully busy all day, and wish the days were longer.

Sat. 10 A lovely "Indian Summer Day". So much to do today, but didn't get it done, for this reason, just after Breakfast Jennie Remington and 2 cousins, came in to use phone and stayed to play Victrola and look at P.T.G. Class Book. and before they left, Mel Pribble and wife came

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in their car, and wanted me to go hunting with them to Valencia - of course, I couldn't go; a little later cousin Eugene Vanfrosdol, of Tototri, Alaska, came; it was splendid to see him again - haven't seen him for 15 years - has been in Alaska 20 years: he stayed for dinner - Fred has cold and a stiff neck so was home this afternoon, for another half Holiday. Gene left at 2:30 just as Carrie Wiede came - she left and 5 o'clock and soon as Supper was over, she came again and Dorothy Reddick and Elsie Herren with her - they were here until 11 o'clock, when Elsie's Auntie came for them in car - and we love these girls especially well, as we do the others and are glad to have them come. I had to write my Soldier Boys, so I wrote Edwin Jones Harry Davis at Ft. Sill and Orr Fay in Navy, at Great Lakes - its now, almost 1 o'clock Sunday morning and I'm off to bed for a wee bit of sleep.

Sun. 11 Another pleasant day. We took car to and from S.S. and church, as usual. Rev. Frank Mallory preached for us this morning - he is always good. This afternoon, Scott Brown, Johnny Miller, Ronald McLeod, Robt. Simpson, Ernest Sheldon, Dorothy Reddick, Carrie Wiede and Mr. + Mrs. R. Jones, parents of Edwin, called. This evening, came Ernest + Carl, Ronald with Lucile Maguire, Robt. Simpson with Berrie

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Heath, Earl Palmer, Gillian Carson, Luther Davis
Mis Malone, Virgil Sholes / Helen MacLean^{and}, Johnny Miller
& Helen Kelley. Margaret Rust & Ruth Pittenger also
came in a moment. Melvina Bribble called a moment this
I took a picture of the boys, this afternoon afternoon

Mon. 12 A most splendid day. I washed, cleaned, got
dinner for my good Teddy, and did my ironing. Busy.

Tues. 13 Summer time day, tho cool in morning. I
did some baking and got up a good evening dinner
Cousin Eugene Van Gersdol, home from Talton, Alaska
came this afternoon and stayed all night with us.
and we had a fine visit - he had not been home for 9 years.

Wed. 14 Gene went home this morning as Fred went to
work. I have written letters most all day. Mrs. Halett &
Mrs. Hill called this afternoon. I printed pictures too and
Fred and I spent evening with John Rungens. Grand day.

Thurs. 15

A fine day again. I wrote many letters and was
very busy all day. Went to Prayer meeting and S.S. Teachers
Conference, alone this evening at the Church.

Fri. 16 A grand day. At noon Fred & I rode to town with
Mr. J. Tullock in his Auto. I went to Court House to
pay taxes - awful, awful high. Then I went to
512 Park to see Mrs. G. M. Brill, and their dear

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Baby - bright, sweet, and fine. I took some pictures of him - his daddy is one of my S. S. boys. I then called on Mrs. Goodman 921 Garfield, and Mrs. Harbaugh W-10 St., neither home, then called on Mrs. P. H. Howe Morris Ave, and had a lovely visit. I enjoyed being out, so much.

Sat. 17 Rained some this morning, but day turned out fine. Baked and cleaned and worked hard most of day. This evening we went to Eastern Star. Mrs. Tennyson was the only one initiated - we got home rather early tonight.

Sun. 18 Sunny, but rather cool. We took car to and from S.S. and morning services - Guther Davis came to Glass this morning, but do not know whether he will join the Glass or not. Mr. Wm Biby, talked on the war "Y.M.C.A." work this morning instead of our having a sermon and it was a most splendid "talk" too, on a subject both Teddy and I are fully in accord with.

This afternoon Flo Herren, Dorothy Reddick, Carrie Wiede, Carl Palmer, Guther Davis, Scott Brown, Ronald McCord, Robt. Simpson, Carl Swanson, and Ernest Shelden came out. This evening, Scott Brown, Sara Dwyre, John Perine, Carrie Wiede, Robt. Simpson, Bernice Heath, Earl Palmer, Rose Rogers, Guther Davis, Lillian Larson, Ronald McCord, Quilla, Maguire, Johnny Miller and Helen Rolley came out and the house has been full of "sunshine" all afternoon and evening. I took pictures this afternoon of Flo, Dorothy, Carrie

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Mon. 19 A fine day, all sunny and hazynd "Indian Summer". I got my washing out early and did my ironing this afternoon.

Tues. 20 Another fine day. Wrote many letters today and did a lot of work beside. Roger McFieley spent evening with us.

Wed. 21 A very fine day - too warm most, for comfort. I went to town this afternoon for we bit of shopping. Called a moment at Mrs. J. Henderson's

Thurs. 22 Colder today - made a Plum Puddingnd killed an old hen, made two doz. Patty shells, cleaned house, pasted many pictures in my Glass Book, a new one I'm making.

This evening, Scott Brown, Luther Davis, Robt. Thompson, Johnny Miller with Esther McArthur, his friend, Mr. Fred Dunninger of Wamego, with Era Doyle, and a Mr. Ramsey with Marian McArthur, came in for the evening and it was like having a surprise Party. Mr. Ramsey of Strong City and Mr. Dunninger, we had never met before, but we liked them very much - fine appearing young men.

Mr. Ramsey had the most beautiful red hair I ever saw. These young people were full of fun and made the evening very jolly for us!

Fri. 23 A fine day, but cold, so that we built a fire upstairs, one in the Grate and kept up kitchen fire. So busy all day, for tonight, the young folks came in for a "Farewell Party" for Lucille Maguire, who leaves Sunday, to teach school near Sapulpa, Okla. Scott

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Brown came with Helen McGahan, Earl Palmer, Lillian Carson, Luther Davis, Dorothy Christian, Johnny Miller, Helen Rolley, Robt. Simpson, Kathryn Dolan, Mr. Fred Langer, Buela Hall, Ronald McCord and Eucille Maguire. All so jolly and full of fun. They danced, played Piano and Victrola; roasted Marshmallows over the Grate fire too. I served them Bread & Butter sandwiches with creamed chicken in Patty shells, Plum Pudding with hard cream sauce, and Jello. And no one hurried home tonight.

Sat. 24 Slept some this morning and has been cold all day. Have been very busy all day - "cleaning up after Party."

Sun. 25 Gold, raw, wind - just a wee bit of sun this afternoon. We took car to and from S.S. and church this morning. Rev. F.C. Mallory preached for us. I had 12 tops in Glass - one was Mrs. F. Langer a visitor. Mrs. Kelley and her Glass refused to give anything for the Orchestra. Buelah Hall is leader. Mrs. Kelley is an old crank. This afternoon Johnny Miller, Mr. Fred Langer, Robt. Simpson, Ronald McCord, Scott Brown, Luther Davis, Roger McFieley and friend Mr. Taylor, came, and this evening, Johnny Miller with Helen Rolley, Mr. Fred Langer, Esther McArthur, Chet Kelley, Dorothy Reddick, John Perine, Carrie Niede, Robt. Simpson, Kathryn Dolan, Luther Davis, Dorothy Christian, Scott Brown and Helen McGahan came in for the evening. They roasted Marshmallows at the Grate fire - played Piano and Victrola and we had a very happy evening together. Teddy & I like Mr. Fred Langer very much - a very pleasing young man.

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Mon. 26 A nasty, foggy, cold day. I dried my washing in the house, in time to do my ironing this afternoon and fill up the day with some "cleaning" and mending. Teddy got home to dinner - mail not so heavy as usual.

Tues. 27 A pretty fair sort of a day. I wrote letters all day, most of them to my Sunday School boys, who are away in the Army. Oh! God, that we might have Peace.

Wed. 28 Clear and cold - a beautiful day: heavy frost this morning. Skinned a fine young Pullet and made a Plum Pudding and found no trouble keeping busy all day. This evening we went to the Orpheum to see a Blacktop Play "The Judgment House" by a bunch of Stars! The Play or rather Picture was splendidly acted, but we did not like it at all - too many good people got killed.

Thurs. 29 A cold, raw day; heavy fog until noon - no sunshine all day. Thanksgiving and Fred home all day. We have a world of things to be thankful for, even tho' the World is at War, and many loved ones in it, both relatives and friends. Ronald McFord gave us tickets to the Football Game - "Washburn against Aggies". We walked over to Washburn this afternoon and to our sorrow saw Washburn "licked" 38-0, dreadful. This evening the young folks came in, for a Party in honor of one of my beloved boys, John Keating who

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came home (from work at Junction City) for Thanksgiving. Those who came Ronald McCord, a "Stag" since Eucille left, Scott Brown, Sara Dwyre, Earl Palmer, Esther McArthur, Luther Davis, Margaret Officer, Virgil Scholes, Cillian Carson, Robt. Simpson, Florence Peterson, John Keating, Helen Malahan, John Perine and Carrie Heide. And no one went home early - 11:30. We certainly had a good time - Music, piano and Victrola - young folks danced. I served Southern Pumpkin pie and Plum Pudding with brandy sauce. I did little for Thanksgiving - roasted a chicken and for dessert Plum Pudding.

Fri. 30 Heavy fog until about noon. A very busy day, clearing up after the Party, doing some much needed mending, and C, a lot of things. Mail so heavy my good husband not home to dinner, so I kept right on working too. Robt. Simpson and Luther, Ron and Earl ran out for a moment to get Robt's music and say was going hunting and might not get back for S.S., Sunday. I wish boys would not hunt on Sunday and would be regular at S.S. and church. So sleepy - bed 8:30.

December

Sat. 1st Heavy fog this morning which soon cleared away, and the sun came out fine and warm; a most delightful day. I baked a little, sewed, washed windows and planted two kinds of Plum seeds, some black walnuts and Persimmons. Very busy all day. Mrs. Robt. Maxwell came over this afternoon and brought me a beautiful Onyx clock, for the mantle - at one time a very expensive clock, belonging to an aristocratic family, the

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C. K. Holiday is, who owed a large sum, to Mr. Buhr, father of Mrs. Maxwell. This evening we went to Eastern Star. I had to go one car ahead of Teddy, to be time. Election of Officers, so not home early - Miss Aldridge because of much absence, resigned, so ~~Mrs. Morrison~~ was elected Matron.

Sun. 2 Cold, raw day. We took car to Sunday School & Church. I only had six boys in class most of them went rabbit hunting. Rev. Harter of Manhattan preached for us - didn't like him. After church Fred went to the dentist's & Dr. Smith brought me home in his Auto. This afternoon Scott Brown, Carl Swanson, Johnny Miller, Jennie Jones, Flo Herron, Dorothy Reddick & Carrie Wiede came out. I took pictures. This evening, Charlie Plath, Dorothy & Flo, John Keating with Helen McFahan, Scott Brown, Mira Atchison, Johnny Miller, Helen Rolley, Ronald McGord, Cuthbert Davis, Earl Palmer and Robt. Simpson came out, and we sat about the open grate fire as usual and enjoyed the usual "chatter" and music - and the boys telling of their rabbit hunt which I was sorry occurred on Sunday - I wish they "would remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy".

Mon. 3 A fine day. I washed and ironed as usual.

Tues. 4 A most splendid day. I went to town this morning shopping and this afternoon to Christ Hospital to see Mrs. C. J. Gould and to Stornoway Hospital

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to see Bernice Heath, who has appendicitis - both, doing fine.
Met Mrs. Heath at Hosp. and like her very much.

Wed. 5 A cold morning and the afternoon became severely cold. I went this afternoon to call on a Mrs. Armstrong at 1836 Kan. Ave - a stranger in the City. She was absent so I went next door to call on Mrs. Sexton and she too was absent so I took car up town to shop a bit and met Mrs. Hill in Green's store and we visited for an hour. I bought 10 lbs of Chili beans @ 15¢ per lb. We love chili at our house. Scott Brown came out for the evening - just a dandy boy.

Thurs. 6. Awfully cold all day - down to 7° above, but sun wriggled thru the clouds by noon and we had a half "sunshiny" afternoon. I baked bread, churned, made apple pie and a big kettle of chili. Most awfully busy all day.

Fri. 7 Winter at last, after two months of blue, hazy, dreary Indian Summer. Gold of my! and has snowed all day. Went to 8° below last night, and doesn't seem any warmer than that today. Another very busy day - just lots to do.

Sat. 8 Another cold, wintry day; I baked and cleaned and "mended" and busy as could be all day long. Fred Brackett called me up this morning to tell me, he and Nan Osborne, were married Thurs. 6 inst. Well my boys will soon all be married, & I will have a married men's S.S. Class instead of a "Young Men's" Class.

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Sun. 9 My! this has been a "fierce" day - so cold and the wind almost a gale and whipping the snow into every tiny crack and corner. Got home from Eastern Star and went to bed at "Midnight" last night and up this morning at 5:30 ^{AM} & hurried about my work, then off to Sun. School. I had Fred stay home out of the storm, but I had to go to teach my Glass and I had the largest Glass, present too - 8 young men on time, Ronald, Luther, Ernest, John K., Roger, Robert S., Robert J. Scott Brown & Virgil Scholes were tardy. I stayed for preaching and Mrs. Mallory preached one of quiet sermons, I never heard - I would not have missed it for anything. I took car both "going and coming" but cars were all dreadfully off schedule, ^{and tho'} awfully, whispy, whirly, blowy, I enjoyed being out in the storm. This afternoon, John Devine, Carrie Wink, Dorothy Reddick, Ronald Miford, Luther Davis, Chet Kelly, Roger McFiddy, Robt. Simpson, Fred Brackett and Max (his wife) came out and I took their pictures! I made a big, long, four layer, Wedding cake, for them, yesterday with white cream icing, custard filling, covered with English Walnuts & Candied Cherries, this I served them, with cocoa. This evening Fred & Max came again, also Ronald with Dale Foregrin, John Keating, Helen McCallum, Robt. Simpson, Julia & Dixon of Halton, Jack Miller, Helen Rolly, Luther Davis, Dorothy Christian, Chet Kelly & Charlie Poth. Charlie came out for Supper and stayed for the evening. I served cocoa again and the rest of the Wedding cake. We had a very happy evening together, the young folks played and sang all evening.

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Mon. 10 An awfully cold day tho' moderating. I washed dried clothes in the house, did my ironing and mending. And busy every moment of the day. John Keating and Jack Miller came out this evening, to borrow some of my Records for Victrola and got 6. My busiest days are the cold ones. and the cold, causes anxiety for our Soldier Boys and Oh! it crushes ones heart with pity for those suffering from the appalling disaster at Halifax, Nova Scotia. Awful
46 years ago today, I came to Kansas, from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

Tues. 11 Bright, sunshiny day, and moderating, but still very cold, and half cloudy in early morning, and few snowflakes fell. Busy drawing some Cartoons, for Glass Party, New Year evening.

Wed. 12 Cold weather-real winter. Printed pictures, all day. Wish days were three times longer so I could do more work.

Thurs. 13 Awfully cold, dark, gloomy. I drew Cartoons most of morning. Went to Masonic Temple at Hoilock to meet Eastern Star Officers of Beulah Chapter for little drill work.

Fri. 14 Bright, sunny, cold. Drawing Cartoons all day.

Sat. 15 Bright, sunny and cold. Fred home this afternoon having a half day vacation. We went to Eastern Star, at Hoilock - Annual Banquet and Installation of Beulah Chapter All very fine and I'm glad, to be out of Office. Home 12:30
Midnight

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Sun. 16 A fine day - much warmer, but a "chill" in the air.

Cousin Jim Van Oordot, of Silver Lake, phoned us this morning at Topeka, that aunt Kate Van Oordot, died last night at 9 o'clock. She has not been really well, for months but up and around, all the time. had Grippe and Pleurisy went to her heart by as usual Friday - died last night. A dear, blessed woman, loved by everybody - everybody's friend.

We took car to and from S.S. and church, this morning. Had 6 boys in Glass on time, ~~that~~ close of Glass, Robt. Sympson and John Keating came.

This afternoon Virgil Scholes, Ronald McGord, Scott Brown, Johnny Miller, Merle Allton, Luther Davis and Charlie Poth came out to the house.

This evening came Ronald McGord, Dola Forsgren, Scott Brown, Sara Dwyre, Robt. Sympson, Katherine Dolan, John Keating, Marjory Petro, Mr. + Mrs. Fred Brackett, Johnny Miller, Helen Rolly, John Berne, Carrie Kiede, Isabelle Southern, Merle Allton and Beth Harmon. A splendid bunch of young folks.

Mos. 17 Cold, cloudy, damp, so I hung my clothes, in house and they dried, so I did my ironing this afternoon.

Tues. 18 Rather cool, but yet a fine day and sunny and warm in afternoon. Fred had day off, for Aunt Kate's funeral. Mr. Snyder, came after us in Auto, at 11 o'clock and took us out to Uncle Marian's and to Aunt Kate's funeral held in Methodist Church, at Silver Lake. A very large and very sad funeral - Sermon preached by Rev. Pence, 82 years old. Buried in Prairie Home Cemetery. Waller Sally brought us back to Topeka at Topeka at 7 o'clock P.M.

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Wed. 19 A fine day. Have been busy as could be all day with "Cartoons". They told us at funeral yesterday, that Aunt Kate had not been sick a day, had no cold or anything yet died with congestion of the lungs - I am sure it was an attack of the heart that killed her - I have no faith in their old Dr. Dudley. She knew she was going to die and asked her sons and grandsons to be her Pall-bearers and made arrangements about giving her friends their Christmas presents she had made and planned for them.

We went to the Orpheum tonight to see Douglas Fairbanks in, "Reaching for the Moon" - He is always good. I did not like the silly, "Fatty Arbuckle" opening act. The Red Cross, Special feature was pleasing, and they get part of the evening "proceeds" I was out awhile this afternoon, canvassing for Red Cross memberships - was one of the Orientants in this Canvassing Campaign.

Thurs. 20 A fine day - Called at Mrs. Schwartz's (Dr.) this morning on Red Cross business - put in a busy day too, getting ready for my boys, who came out tonight to dance, in celebration of Johnny (Jack) Miller's 19th Birthday, which was yesterday.

The phone rang while we were at breakfast this morning and in answering, heard the voice of my beloved Edwin (Jones) Teddy & I could not love him more if he were our son. He had just gotten home from Ft. Sill, discharged from Army because of his heart. He came out this evening with Ruth Pettiger, Ronald McLeod with Ola Forgrave, Johnny Miller, Helen Rolly, Scott Brown Alice Sullivan, John Keating, Mildred Lusk, Robert Sympon, Kathryn Dolan Virgil Scholes, Sara Davyne, Charlie Blath, Frances Holman, Luther Davis, Dorothy Christian, A jolly bunch. Were great to see Edwin - he was looking fine - a handsome fellow.

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Fri. 21 Awfully busy all day - tinting in some pictures of my father, to make Calenders for our family.

Sat. 22 Another busy day - baking, cleaning etc. Mail so very heavy, Fred did not get home to dinner, but got thro' the day fine and was not over-wearied, when he got home.

Sun. 23. Gold all day, but sunny and real living weather. We got up late this morning and I had to hurry away to S. S. without my Teddy - I had 8 young men in Class.

Edwin came in his uniform - a handsome fellow, always but "stunning" in his uniform, and certainly, causes a flutter among the girls, when he puts in an appearance anywhere and starts their hearts "pitty-patty-ing" a faster pace.

Geo. Lyon was going to preach, so we did not stay for church - a good man, but such an old "fogey." This afternoon, came

Edwin, John K. Ronald, Jack, Bob. J. Paul W., Ethna Stewart Dorothy Reddick and Flo Herren. I took pictures of all. This evening, came John Neating, Alice Morehouse, Ronald McCord Francis Dolan, Jack Miller, Ethel Gaster, Edwin Jones, Dorothy Christian, John Perine Carrie Wiede, Ghet Kelley Ruth Pittenger, Byron Boone, Thelma Huston Robt. Simpson Nancy Boone, Charlie Blath and Mr. & Mrs. Fred Brackett.

A dear, blessed bunch of young folks that certainly bring a world of sunshine into our home. I thank God for the friendship of young people, and that my heart has never closed against them.

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Mon. 24 Q, but it is cold - are having lots of zero weather. yet I enjoy it, and thankful there is no snow for Fred to walk thru' with his heavy loads - he did not get home until late tonight - working "overtime". I had a very busy day, spending the morning doors down shopping. Bought a Goose for our Christmas dinner, \$1.95 - war prices on everything.

Christmas

Tues. 25 Christmas day, and what a day, it is! Two thousand years ago, when in a lowly manger, the world's Savior was born, Angels, sang, "Peace on Earth, good will toward men," and today the whole world is at war - men committing the most fiendish, the most hellish atrocities against their brother, man - to even think of it sickens ones heart, almost unto death: surely Christ will come soon, for, "except the time be shortened, there will be no flesh left upon the Earth." The weather has been cold and sunny and I have been very busy with my baking, and putting in order, our home. Fred not home until after 3 o'clock for dinner. I roasted a Goose, the first we ever had, and we liked it very much. "Santa" was very good to us - Candy and handkerchiefs, etc. Mrs. Maxwell gave me a lovely shopping bag and my blessed boys, gave me a lovely Oak rocker, upholstered in Tapestry and they came out this morning to bring it - Edwin and Robt. Jones, Ronald McLeod, John Keating, Robt. Simpson, Fred Brackett, John Perine & Chet Kelly. I took some pictures of part of them - Fred, John P. & Chet only here a moment - I had just baked some Cherry and Apple pie and gave boys, one of each. Carrie Wicke and Roger McKiddy came out this afternoon. We are alone tonight. Shelley Monroe and

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Wed. 26 Cold, zero weather. Fred not home all day, because of heavy mail. I have been busy all day making Cartoons of my boys, for our New Year Party.

Thurs. 27 And still it is cold, but I like the cold.

Fred not home today either, and it makes the days awfully long - I have worked all day on my Cartoons.

Edwin and Robt. Jones and John Keating came out for the evening.

Fri. 28 No "let up" to the cold, and every day a busy one.

I have finished Cartoon's for the boys but not of the girls.

Fred standing the heavy Christmas work fine.

Sat. 29 Cold but sun shone fine all day. I baked, churned ^{and} did such a lot of work today. This afternoon, Edwin Jones, John Keating, Robt. Simpson and Jack Miller came out and helped take up carpets ^{and} stairs and polish the floors.

They are the dearest, best, boys - I wish they were mine.

Sun. 30 Very cold and windy - I went to S.S. alone. 8 boys in Class.

Fred stayed home to rest. This afternoon, Blanche Pittenger, Merle Allton, Edwin Jones, Robt. Simpson, Ronald McCord, Scott Brown, Guther Davis ^{and} his mother, Ernest Sheldon ^{and} Virgil Scholes came out ^{and} this evening, Mr. & Mrs. ^{Fred} Brackett, Jack Miller, Ethel Castor, John Penne, Carrie Wiede, Virgil Scholes, Sara Dwyre, John Keating, Florence Peterson, Robt. Simpson, Nancy Boone, Blanche & Merle here to Supper, Edwin, Scott Guther, Ron ^{and} Carl S. "tagged" it. I served Cocoa and cookies.

A very happy evening with our young folks!

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Mon. 31 The last day of the Old Year and what shall I say of it? The Year, has been very good, to me and mine. God has blessed us richly with health, with friends, with blessed fellowship and companionship of youth, in the S.S. Class of my beloved young men and their girl friends: With all my heart and soul and mind and being, I thank God for the friendship of young people; that He has not let my heart grow cold, and away from them; that He has given me an understanding heart to know the worth whileness of young people - a heart overflowing with love for them - that the best there is in life, is the love and friendship, of and for, young people. And I can ask no greater blessing than that all my years may be filled with the love and companionship of young people and for young people. And I pray God to guide me, to give me wisdom, to make me strong in heart to go forward thro' the coming year, a righteous life, lived honorably before all young people. I thank God for blessings so many, all thro' the year, ^{that} I cannot "Count them, one by one".
Teddy's mail was very heavy today and he did not get home to dinner. And this evening the young people come in to dance the Old Year out, the new One, in. I had Mr. Paul Harrison take a Photo of them. Edwin Jones brought Nancy Boone, Merle Allton, Betty Harmon, Jack Miller, Ethel Caster, Chet Kelly, Ruth Pittenger, John Keating, Blanche Pittenger, Scott Brown, Alice Sullivan, Luther Davis, Adalaide Taylor, Earl Palmer, Marion McArthur, Ronald McLeod, Francis Dolan, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Brackett, Chas Plath and Roger McKittrick. Sleet and fog and cold tonight.

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Tues. 1st. Standing again upon the threshold of a New Year, and with awe in my heart for what it may bring - the old world is whirling in chaotic confusion these days and time swings faster than a speedometer can record, and one can but wonder what the year will bring. The one great thing, a world at war, prays for, is Peace. A world at Peace.

The young people came in last night, to watch the "Old Year out and the New Year in" - they left at 2 o'clock this morning - tired and happy; they danced all evening. God bless the young people and keep their hearts young.

We went to bed soon after 2 o'clock and got up at 6 o'clock. A heavy frost fog, made everything beautiful in the early morning hours, but as day came on, the sun came out and spoiled the pretty picture and took off the sleet that fell last night. Fred had to work at P.C. from 8 to 9 o'clock then came home and lay down on couch for a few hours sleep, while I "snoozed" in a rocker. We cleaned some of rugs and straightened up house and then rested for rest of day, and enjoyed a quiet day and evening. Arthur Dennis came in for awhile this evening, our only caller today.

I am thankful for the blessings of the past year and pray divine guidance, for the new year; that God will help me to keep my life clean, to be strong in all righteousness; to be humble in spirit, to live my life blameless before

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Him: that I may be strengthened to live my duty to my fellow men. And with all the heart and soul o' me, I pray God, to bless and keep and guide, the lives of my beloved young men - the young men of my S.S. Class who have been with me so long - help them to be faithful thru the year, to S.S. and church - to lead clean lives, and "true to themselves, then they cannot be false to any man" Edwin Jones, Robt. Jones, Scott Brown, Jack Miller, John Keating, Ronald McLeod, Robt. Simpson, Neene Saxon, Luther Davis Henry Mason, Ernest Shelden, Roger McFieley, Charlie Plath Carl Swanson, Clarke Ellington, Hill Jackson, those in Army Harry Davis, Walter Morris, Earl & Frank Bruce, Dan Ketchum Charlie Clements, and in Navy Don Fay.

Wed. 2 The morning, chill, dark, blowy, blustery, misty snowy - the afternoon, fine sunshine. Mail too heavy for my good Teddy to get home to dinner. Been writing all day. Scott Brown and Luther Davis came out, for the evening: two mighty fine boys - we like them very much.

Thurs. 3 Another, threatening morning, that turned into a fine day; and another day of heavy mail, so Fred not home to dinner and again I wrote letters all day - answering Christmas mail

Fri. 4 And still the mails are heavy and weather cold, and Fred with a bad leg. Sprained it a week ago Thurs. getting off a car and it Cramped it is very sore. Charlie Plath came out this afternoon - Spent time with Anna for a change - my! what a life they will lead!

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Sat. 5 A cold, cloudy day. Fred home all day; his day of "compensation" because he had to work Christmas.

John Keating and Edwin Jones, came out this afternoon and I had them stay and have Oyster Stew with us. We think they are two as fine young men, as can be found. Fred helped me clean carpets and make them in rugs and put them down - no more carpets, dirty things, for me.

Sun. 6 Awfully cold, snowy and blowy. I took car to S.S. did not stay to church - Tally stayed home to rest. I had 2 boys in Glass. This afternoon, Robt. Simpson, Jack Miller, and his cousin Harry Crane, Ronald McCord, Edwin Jones, Robt. Jones, John Keating, Scott Brown, Luther Davis and Virgil Schools came out. This evening, John Perine, Carrie Niede, Virgil Schools, Vola Fargren, Ronald McCord, Marjory Petre, Robert Simpson, Nancy Boone, Merle Allton, Betty Harmon, Tom Wakeling, Thelma Houston, Byron Boone, Alice Morehouse, Jack Miller, Ethel Gaster, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Brackett, Edwin Jones, John Keating, Scott Brown and Luther Davis. Scott soon left to go over to see Alice Sullivan - Chet Kelly came out too. I served them hot cocoa before they went home and we gave them a box of Marsh Mallows, which they roasted at the grate. They sang a great deal this evening and it was lovely.

Mon. 7 A fine day - Fred's mail heavy and not home to dinner. I dried all my washing out doors, but the starched clothes. And did my ironing this afternoon. Awfully busy all day - take care of cows in evening and do all chores for Tally.

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Tues. 8 A dark, damp, misty day. I went to town this afternoon on several errands - up to Lincoln Circle to pay dues, and over to Y.W.C.A. to a Missionary class, taught by Mrs. Lanning - a Home Missionary Study - Mrs. Lanning an interesting teacher. Jack Miller and Bob Sympson came in a little while this evening.

Wed. 9 Cold, snowy weather - sort of misty as if preparing for snow storm, worth while. Edwin Jones and John Keating came out, and brought me two new Records and borrowed six of me - John is going to have a dance at his house. Fred's leg bothers him a good deal and I am afraid it is "milk leg".

Thurs. 10 Snowed hard most all day, but sun shone late this afternoon - Fred not home to dinner. A beautiful snow storm, and a big one - awfully cold tonight.

Fri. 11 A bright sunny day, but awfully cold - 15° below zero wind almost a gale from north. Fred's mail too heavy for him to get home to dinner - kept me lumping to carry coal and keep house warm. Wrote letters all day.

Sat. 12 A blistering cold day, the sun shone brightly all day. 17° below, but we slept with windows wide open last night as usual, and no fire. I worked hard all day "cleaning" and carrying coal and kindling. My "Bunch" were to have a "Bob sled" ride tonight and a "spread" afterwards, but it was so cold, could get

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no one to take them, so they came here and had their "Spread" without the ride, and danced until mid-night - sang and played piano - & so jolly and happy, makes ones heart glad, to have them here. The girls brought the "eats," and came alone, in bunches, boys came in several bunches. Nancy Boone, came early and had Chili with us for supper; then came Carrie Wiede, Ruth & Blanche Pittenger, Helen Rolly, Bernice Heath, Thelma Houston, Betty Harmon, Alice Morehouse, Frances Dolan, Lucille Smith, Irene Seery, Nan & Fred Brackett, Byron Boone, Chet Kelly, Merle Allton, Edwin Jones, Ronald McLeod, Tom Wakeling, Walter Fodge, Virgil Scholes, Luther Davis, Jack Miller, Robt. Sympon, Scott Brown, Ethel Caster, Mrs. Boone, John Perrine and Charlie Plath. Every one seemed so happy tonight.

Sun. 13 Awfully cold - cloudy dark day, snowed a little.

I took car to S.S. to teach my Glass - had 10 boys present and we were sent to Barraca room, as all Classes were "bunched" so not to have to heat whole church.

Mr. E. V. King, Barraca teacher had but one present aside from his own son - he never has been able to hold a Glass long and now wants to meet with my Glass yet had taken his son out of my Glass - no I don't want King, to meet with my Glass, for I'll soon have no Glass if he does. Fred stayed home today out of the storm and cold, to rest. This afternoon,

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Edwin Jones, Virgil Scholes, Luther Davis, John Neatby, Charlie and Walter Plath, Robert Jones, Robert Simpson, Ronald McGord and Jack Miller, came in to "thaw out" and have a bit of music. They had a long Bob sled hitched on to an Auto and were having a jolly cold, sleigh ride - had been "dumped" several times and clothes were badly torn. Merritt Rowell and friend Paul Smith, came in for the afternoon too and this evening the boys came back with their girls. Edwin Jones with Nancy Boone, John Perrine Carrie Wiede, Scott Brown Helen McGahan, Luther Davis Sara Dwyre, Jack Miller Helen Rolly, Robt. Simpson Bernice Heath, Nancy Fred Brackett, Virgil Scholes Betty Harmon, Ethel Kelly, Keene Saxon, Chas. Plath and Ronald McGord & Major Petro. And the evening was very happy with song and jest, until time to go home when out of the happy evening, an ugly storm blew up, no one knows how, or what about, except that Robt. Simpson, (impetuous Peter that he is) was in the centre of it, and ready to "lick" the whole house: he had found Helen, for no apparent reason, in tears, and she blamed Scott as having offended in a joke; Bob forgot, that Jack, not he should have settled it, if was anything to settle, and butted in with his hot temper, causing a most unhappy ending to a very happy evening. And no one knows why or what, only would have been nothing to it had Bob looked after his own beloved and let others do same, but Bob is a big warm hearted, impetuous fellow that can't stand for tears and thought he was right.

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Mon. 14 Very cold but sunny. Fred's mail heavy and not home to dinner. I washed and dried my clothes in the house. Wrote some letters this afternoon.

Have felt very unhappy, all day, over the quarrel last night in my lovely family of young people—it seems such a catastrophe; yet as Edwin says, we can't expect things to run smooth all the time and this will come out alright.

Edwin called me up, to talk it over with me and I felt much better, to relieve some of the "tension" on my mind: sure would be no quarrels, if all were as fine as my beloved Edwin. Carrie Wiede and Dorothy Reddick came out for the evening.

Tues. 15 Another cold, dark day. Very busy ironing, writing mending. Mrs. J. Bettis came in for the afternoon Bob phoned this evening to apologize for Sun night furo - all's well again

Wed. 16 Warmer and snowing little. Awfully busy all day. We went to the Orpheum this evening to see Fairbanks in "A modern Musketeer" and he was great.

Thurs. 17 Very cold and sunny. Writing all day. In late afternoon Jack Miller came in with two friends Mr. Rainey and Mr. Huffman—played Victrola and piano and this evening John Keating, Edwin Jones and Robt. Simpson came in for the evening—brought a new Record for the Victrola—more music.

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Fri. 18 Just awfully cold but sunny and fine. I have written all day and guess over no one else a letter. I love to get letters and too, I love to write them, when I have lots of time.

Sat. 19 Another cold day. Very busy cleaning, baking etc. Got a letter from Don Fay, today, with a couple of his pictures in uniform - one of my beloved boys in Naval Radio work. He sure is one dandy boy. I so much enjoy letters from my boys.

Sun. 20 A fine day, tho' cold. I took car to and from S.S. this morning - only had seven boys in class, and we went into the old Barraca Room, as we were told to do last Sun. Mr. King has lost his Barraca Class - just dropped out, one by one, and the Room should be given to me'd my class, but they tried to run us out to day - Frank L. Ogle, S.S. Supt. came in and raised a fuss with us: he has no judgment, diplomacy, tact, no common sense. Mrs. Kelly, an old teacher, told me this morning, "that we would soon have no S.S. if we didn't get new Supt. pretty soon, as Ogle was killing it." This afternoon Edwin Jones, John Keating, Bobt. Simpson, Jack Miller, Margaret Rust, Ruth & Blanche Pittenger came in. This evening John Keating with Florence Peterson, Charlie Blath Carrie Wiede, "Bob Robert" Simpson Nancy Boone, Luther Davis Sara Dwyre and Merle Allton with Dola Forsgren and her pretty sister were the only ones who came out - the little storm of last Sun. night has not entirely "calmed" and made every one feel "blue" tonight and several to stay home and poor Bob felt he was to blame, as he truly was.