

CHAPTER III

SCHOOL DAYS 1950-1958

From the diary of Jane Weaver, age 10:

Mon. Jan. 1, 1951 - Ma got home yesterday. [She had been to Canada to attend her mother's funeral.] We went to Rollins. Ice-skating pond was mushy. Had a good dinner and supper. Chinook weather. Thawing.

Tues. Jan. 2, 1951 - It rained in the night. No school. Very slushy out. Helped Ma with braided rug. Went to Joan Matheson's surprise party (birthday). Slept till 10 am.

Wed. Jan. 3, 1951 - Made a boy stocking doll. Starting a girl. Names: Sammy, Sally. Rained again. Still snow and slush. Sally's almost finished. E.C.'s club came over. Carol is nice. All nice girls. Joanne is loud-mouthed. Bobby is cute. Still drizzling out. I am lonesome for Gary or for someone to cuddle up to. Am hungry for affection, am lonesome for someone to sleep with. [Up to this point Jane and E.C. had always shared a bedroom with twin beds. This year E.C. moved into Dad's knotty pine studio upstairs. Beryl, our boarder, had Gary's room upstairs while he was away at college and mission, and Jane was alone in her room. We all shared just one bathroom on the main floor.]



Thurs. Jan. 4, 1951 - Snowed last night. I got up at 10:30 in the morning. Started making Sally a dress. Stayed home alone but was not scared like I usually am. E. C. got home around 8:30. I read a chapter in my Book of Mormon. Sweet dreams.

Sat. Jan. 6, 1951 - Went downtown. I got home at 2:00. It was snowing dreadfully. I went with E.C. to her piano lesson, then we went to the Art Institute (Vermeer exhibit). Missed some.

Sun. Jan. 7, 1951 - Went to church. I fasted and said my testimony. Went to night church. I am promoted, no longer in Jr. Sunday School. I am with Milly Waldvogel. Beryl got in. E.C. and Pa and I brought her home from the Northwestern train station. I saw beautiful pigeons.

Tues. Jan. 9, 1951 - I went to school. My seat changed to the back. Had gym. Nobody would dance with me but Linda. Listened to "Baby Snooks," [on the radio]. Beryl is home.

Wed. Jan. 17, 1951 - Went to school. Had a fair day. Warm. Took clarinet. Am doing well in it. Read Louisa M. Alcott, some of "Little Women." Went to PTA (with Ma). Pa had choir and E.C.

meeting. Just as Mother left, Birdie [Beryl] came home and saved me from staying home alone. [Jane hated being left home alone, and had a lot of anxiety about it. Perhaps our parents had unrealistic expectations of a 10-year-old.]

Tues. Jan. 23, 1951 - Had Bar-B-Q at school. Bob and Robert threw snowballs at me. Said I was a baby 'cause I couldn't fight B. & R. Pa went to \$4.00 banquet. Listened to "Baby Snooks." Ma didn't go to choir. EC home, too. I hope I don't have to stay home alone tomorrow [night].

Thurs. Jan. 25, 1951 - Had a bake sale at school. Didn't buy any. Broke EC's necklace. Probably Ma & Pa looking at trailers. We might move and sell this house and live in a big trailer till we are settled. Went to bed at 9:30. Got A on my handed-back fraction paper. I feel lonely, but I don't know what for. Ever since Grandma died.

Fri. Jan. 26, 1951 - Nothing special at school. Doral let me read the "Bobsy Twins at Indian Hollow." Snowed 1 inch. Got some paper for school. Had fun outside. Ma washed. I was grumpy about doing dishes. I am so mean when I don't mean [to be]. I am so lonesome for something, for something unknown. I feel lost. I need Mother and Father to help me.

Tues. Jan. 30, 1951 - Took Claire [clarinet] to school. Had gym. Left Claire at school. Have to play her tomorrow. I got a pen for school. 20 F. We started pens yesterday. I got no ink. Got a pen. Birdie came home 'bout 10 min. after I was in bed.

Thurs. Feb. 1, 1951 - Got along fine at school. Made Ma's Feb. calendar. At noon the teacher put me in charge of the room. Jerry was bad. Had about 25 [stay] in. He thought he could do what he wanted. George & Elmer were bad, too. Jerry had a rubber frog which he made to spit water at me. Then he went through my desk. I told teacher when she came. Jerry was mad. He said he would beat me. I hope not. So far nothing has happened.

Mon. Feb. 5, 1951 - Nothing special. [Ma had] teachers meeting. My left eye is swollen. Did go to school. The old feeling is back ever since Grandma died. I cry at night for an unknown purpose.

Tues. Feb. 6, 1951 - Snowed a lot, then froze. Had band. Got out early. Told Daddy finally about my crying each night for something unknown ever since Grandma Holmes died. Ma went to Relief Society.

Wed. Feb. 7, 1951 - Did not stay home alone. Got to bed at 9:00 'cause of my homework. Very cold and frozen. Hurt my knee at school. Saturday I start piano again after stopping for left broken arm and broken foot. Something has come over me, changed me. I will never be happy.

Tues. Feb. 13, 1951 - Today is Grandpa Holmes' birthday. He would be 92 years old. I brought my Valentines to school. For once I got my health drawings. Listened to Beryl. I am going to tell her I am lonely.

Wed. Feb. 14, 1951 - Had the social. Eileen stuck up her nose at me in band 'cause I had my red taffeta dress on. I went with Howard to the social. I received 31 Valentines. Stayed home alone [evening]. We are going to give Beryl [photo right] a surprise [birthday] party.



Thurs. Feb. 15, 1951 - Miss Gates came and gave us an art lesson. I can play my piano piece good. Dennis pushed me and I pushed him in school. He is always tripping me when I walk down the aisle. Ma and Pa went to the funeral home to see dead Sister Moss. EC is at a party and Beryl went out to dinner. I am alone.

Fri. Feb. 16, 1951 - I was reading when teacher explained adding unlike "f." [fractions?] I felt so lonely when EC left me to go to the church. She went to Mutual. Ma is washing. I feel so left out of everything. When I was in the closet changing clothes I cried. I am lonely. I wish Ma would spend some time with me.

Sat. Feb. 17, 1951 - We all went downtown. Miss Walcott said I had a very good lesson. EC and I went to the Art Institute to wait for Dad and Ma. We met Princess Yogadi* alone, freezing with no coat. At home I played with Joan M. Very warm. We were going to see trailers, [but] no. Ma and I stayed home. EC, Pa, Beryl went to conference. I am happy.



[* Yogadi, photo left, from India, claimed to be a "Princess." Perhaps she was. Daddy had met her at the art school. Mother and Daddy befriended her.]

Mon. Feb. 19, 1951 - It was very cold at school. Joyce passed paper flowers. Mrs. Kennedy gave us home work. We put our coats on in school for ½ hour. At 10:00 we went home 'cause the furnace broke down. Mother made choke cherry jelly. Pa went bowling.

Tues. Feb. 20, 1951 - I wish the furnace broke down again. Nothing to tell.

Tues. Feb. 27, 1951 - A little dog followed me at school. He liked me. When the cop came to take him away he went to be protected. I told Ma and Pa and EC. Ma and Pa went to choir. I helped EC with her play part.

Wed. Feb. 28, 1951 - EC didn't care [about the dog], but Ma and Pa did. But no, I can't save his life. When we go out west I will have a pony, dog and cat. Got a new seat in band. Ma said Joan and me [could have] a sewing club.

Thurs. Mar. 1, 1951 - Someone took Red [the dog]. I am glad. It's nice out. Ma tried out our new sewing machine. House cleaning. Karen and I were playing. Jimmy bothered us. I hit him. He Boo-hooed. Then Bobby threw stones and trampled on the grass and wrote on our sidewalk. We

did, too. Pa came out and made me go in. I feel like a prisoner in my own house. I wish for the wide open spaces. I cried. It added to my loneliness.

Sat. Mar. 3, 1951 - E.C. and I went downtown alone on bus to music lessons. Then Ma, Pa and I went and saw the trailer show. Then we saw "King Solomon's Mines," and "Prehistoric Women." P. W. is a dopey picture.

Mon. Mar. 5, 1951 - We had gym outside. After school Billie and I bumped heads in the doorway. Ma and Pa went to get apples. I helped EC with her play. She told me my faults - said she could hardly trust me. I told her everything, then broke down. She said to cry so I would get it out of mind.

Tues. Mar. 6, 1951 - Very warm out, 70 F. I forgot to listen to "Baby Snooks." My head still hurts. We had gym. Very hot at night. I slept mostly uncovered.

Sat. Mar. 17, 1951 - Had a good lesson. Went to St. Patrick's Day church party. Had a lot of food and fun. FREE. Also showed a movie.

Sun. Mar. 18, 1951 - Had fun in church. Papa gave an evening talk. Went home early. Joan Matheson came here and then I went there. She cut her finger. Her lesson in Sunday School was first aid. I cut my finger, too.

Mon. Mar. 19, 1951 - My finger still hurts. I forgot to do my weekend homework. Had gym. EC went babysitting. Pa's bowling team won 3 straight games.

Tues. Mar. 20, 1951 - Forgot to bring my clarinet. Couldn't listen to "Baby Snooks." I sang a solo in music. When I went by Joan, she said, "Doral and I can sing lots better than you any old day! Your singing stinks." (I can sing a lot better than them, though.)

Sat. Mar. 24, 1951 - Don't want to go downtown. EC didn't have class. Met Mabel. She said Craig had a Mad Crush on EC. I hope EC likes him. Went to plays. Ours was the best.

Sun. Mar. 25, 1951 - A very nice Easter. Mother made me a new outfit. No school tomorrow. Hurray! Went to Bishop Turner's birthday party.

Wed. Apr. 4, 1951 - President Smith [George Albert Smith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints] died today. I almost cried when I heard he died. I didn't have to stay home alone. Goodie!

Tues. Apr. 10, 1951 - An angora cat went into the school. Joan K. got him. [I am keeping him] till the owner shows up. I might have to bring him back tomorrow. (Yellow cat.) Very warm day.

Wed. Apr. 11, 1951 - The band contest is sure coming up fast, and so is my piano lesson. Ma said I could keep Rusty if I took good care of her. She is going to have kittens. Rusty sleeps in the garage. Very rainy. I'm home alone [tonight].

Thurs. Apr. 12, 1951 - I had a good lesson. Got 2 cans of dog food for Rusty. Wrote a letter to Gary. Foggy. I love Rusty. She loves me.

Thurs. Apr. 19, 1951 - Went back to school. Had my seat changed. Sit in front of Jimmy B. What a pest. One of these times I'm going to whop him. Very warm, almost as warm as yesterday.

Fri. May 18, 1951 - This morning Rusty came out, then darted back in the garage. She had her kittens! Three of them, all yellow. Very hot. Played baseball all day.

Tues. June 12, 1951 - Warm and rainy. Can't find Rusty! Some people came over. They might buy the house. When Joan and I were at Shabbona Park a cop caught us on our bikes. EC said that maniacs hang out there. When I went to Joan's, Betty wanted to get rid of me. She said, "Isn't it kind of late to be out?"

Tues. June 19, 1951 - Went to church to help pack with Mother. Some boys chased Joan and me on our bikes and kissed US. Joan knows them. Are they cute (the boys)! We were on our bikes, but they made us get off of them.

Fri. June 22, 1951 - Went to the wedding of Lee Knoblock and Dick Shilling. I wish I was older. I made a pie and helped EC make a cake. Sweet dreams!

Sat. June 23, 1951 - Helped Marie fly her kite. I met Chi Chi, a deaf girl. My pay is a quarter a day. Rusty chased Chipper. Poor Chip! Sweet dreams.

Wed. June 27, 1951 - It rained at the house. Chi Chi came over and stayed with me. She can talk! Thanks to me. God bless her. She can write my name. Her real name is Veronica.

Wed. July 18, 1951 - EC and I decided on a dinner for Saturday for Mom. Then we will go to Lake Villa (with Milly).

Fri. July 20, 1951 - Did not go to the house. Tomorrow [actually the 20th] is Ma's birthday. I made her a foot scraper from bottle caps.

Sat. July 21, 1951 - Had a wonderful family birthday party. Daddy was so overcome he couldn't say the prayer. EC's present was a little plant in a jug.



Milly & Jane

We took Milly and went to Lake Villa and went swimming. We let Dad off at the house. Hot and rainy all day.



Sun. July 29, 1951 - A new girl is in both of my Sunday School classes. Her name is Ellen Knapp and she just came from Germany. She can hardly understand or speak American. She is a member of the church. Milly was not there.

Sun. Aug. 5, 1951 - Primary stuff at church. When we sang, Ellen had a strong grip on my hand. I introduced my family to hers. Her little sister is Krista and her little brother is Klaus. Her mother is very nice.

Sun. Aug. 12, 1951 - EC and I went to church (Sunday School). Ma, EC and I went to Ravinia. [Ravinia was a beautiful open-air covered pavilion in Highland Park where concerts were held.] Pa stayed and worked at the house.

Sat. Aug. 25, 1951 - We laid the cement for the garage. Warren told me he loved me.

Mon. Sept. 3, 1951 - We moved the day before school. We left the old home (sob, sob). Now I begin to appreciate it. I waved my last farewell to Joan and HOME. No Rusty or Timmy, either. I'm lonely.

Tues. Sept. 4, 1951 - Mother and I went to town while Dad and EC went to school. I took a nap in the morning and Rusty got on the bed. The house is SO empty. School tomorrow. Hooray!

Mon. Sept. 10, 1951 - Bergy and I played with Marge Blome. We went to Killinger's [hardware and school supplies store] and we stole things. I stole a little notebook.

Tues. Sept. 11, 1951 - Today I stole a blue-grey 50 cent pen and a bottle of 10 cent ink. Bergy stole a \$1.00 one.

Wed. Sept. 12, 1951 - We had band today. All went well. I think I will return my stolen things and ask God to forgive me.

Mon. Oct. 22, 1951 - My Birthday. We went downtown and got me a mohair coat. Dad gave me 11 bucks and Grandma Weaver gave me a dollar. Mrs. Fausel gave me a horseshoe pin made of blue rhinestones by a crippled woman.

Wed. Oct. 24, 1951 - Report cards today. I got F in department and in self-control. Dad and Mom were mad. Dad said he would see Mr. Doherty. Oh, dear. I forgot my clarinet. Connie, Joan B. and I made a tin can phone at noon.

Sun. Oct. 28, 1951 - Got home from Weber's at 3 AM. Slept till 10:30. Ma and I didn't go to Sunday School. Ma, Dad and I went to North Shore at night. Between times Warren and I had a marshmallow roast.

Tues. Nov. 6, 1951 - Boy, a lot of snow. The wind drove the snow like sleet into my face when Warren and I were making our fort. It is almost all ice, now. Judy and Connie are librarians. I and seven others are going to have a spelldown at 8:00 tomorrow. The three best will try for the school championship.

Sat. Nov. 24, 1951 - Had a fair lesson. Practiced much today. EC and Dad went to a stake dance. I wish I could have gone. Gary and Naomi are engaged. Oh Boy! Oh Boy! They will get married next Sept. But where will they live? Maybe I'll soon be an aunt.

Wed. Dec. 5, 1951 - We got our report cards and I got an F in self control, D in department, A in science, A in English, Reading, Literature. It rained in the evening. I completed my first composition for the piano.

Tues. Dec. 25, 1951 - Boy, did I get some nice things. I got a King James Bible, a book on drawing horses, a blue cashmere sweater, two blouses and yellow gloves with blue trimmings. The pheasant and chicken were under done. The pheasant was no larger than an overgrown robin.

Thurs. Dec. 27, 1951 - Gary's gift to the family came today. [Gary was serving as a missionary in Texas.] Mom and EC and I got beautiful hand-tooled Mexican purses. Daddy got a Mexican hand-tooled wallet. Boy, are they nice.



Sun. Dec. 30, 1951 - Went to church with my new purse, but my black velvet dress isn't done. I wore my red taffeta. We went to Bishoffs' for a housewarming. They put rum in the eggnog. Boy, did it taste horrible!

Mon. Dec. 31, 1951 - Well, it is the last day of the year. We spent New Year's Eve at Nicholse's. They said Rusty, their dog, didn't like candy, only put on an act. But he did! What a boring evening. Got to bed at 3:00.

1952:

Fri. Jan. 4, 1952 - Snowed during night. When I tried to tell Mother her mistake in begrudging Daddy shoveling people out, she just laughed at me.

Wed. Jan. 9, 1952 - Had band. Went to the eye doctor. Have to get new glasses to wear all the time.

Tues. Jan. 15, 1952 - School today. Missed music 'cause of talking. Had to stay after school when I was supposed to be in band.

Wed. Jan. 30, 1952 - Had art. Drew stick figures. Practiced my song with Miss Feurello. She said I had a nice voice. It's name is "I'll Do What You Want me to Do." I will dedicate it to Gary.

Sat. Feb. 2, 1952 - Had a fairly good lesson. Saw Miss Swiefka [dance teacher]. Next Saturday I'll begin dancing. Went to the Mutual misfit party. They served breakfast instead of supper. [In those days the M.I.A. was not very consistent about who attended. Jane was only 11 at this time.]

Sat. Feb. 9, 1952 - I had a good music lesson. Had my first dancing lesson. The assistant taught me. Had to wait in the wind for almost an hour for Ma and EC. [Waiting for Mother was a given for both Jane and E.C. How we hated being kept waiting and waiting!]

Sun. Feb. 10, 1952 - I sang my song at church. Everyone said it was good. Chuck said I would be an opera star. I dedicated my song to Gary. It was "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go."

Wed. Feb. 13, 1952 - We went to Oak Park and got me some gorgeous shoes from England - tan and black suede. I'll wear them to our party tomorrow.

Tues. Mar. 4, 1952 - Blizzard. Almost didn't get to school. Was late anyhow. Had band. Had to leave early. Stopped snowing. Went outside and played. Pop took 6 pictures of me.

Wed. Mar. 5, 1952 - Had band again. Had art, too. Got report cards. Mine was good, except for Geography. Got D in it. Mr. Doherty said that if anybody told him the name of the peninsula off Greece, he would give them an A. I got it!

Sat. Mar. 8, 1952 - Had a good lesson. I am in the 11 o'clock class in dance. Miss Swiefka says I do well. EC and Ma went to Rose Festival at North Shore.

Tues. Mar. 11, 1952 - No music! It's a cheat! I can sing "Palomita" in Spanish. Seven books for homework. Didn't get it done. Gosh, will the teachers be mad.

Sat. Mar. 22, 1952 - Had a good lesson. Broke out in pinkeye. Didn't go to dance. Went to bed early. Pop put penicillin in my eyes.

Tues. Mar. 25, 1952 - Helped Ma with washing. I found my new Seagull book. I learned about menstruation and reproduction of humans. Played baseball with Jerri. Got all muddy.

Fri. Mar. 28, 1952 - Went to Gold and Green Ball. The twins, Joan and Judy Owens from Colorado, were there. Had lots of fun. Twas wonderful.

Sat. Mar. 29, 1952 - Went to band contest. Got first! I also went to Chain-o-Lakes Branch square dance. Darn Lynn anyway! Didn't dance with him.

Mon. Mar. 31, 1952 - Very warm. Bought a ball, played with Daddy. Linda and I are pulling an April Fools Day joke on Mr. Hoffman. Mary Jane and I practiced with Stussy for Friday. Yesterday was her birthday (22 years old). [Mrs. Stussy, who taught sixth grade, rode to school with us when we lived in the city. She was anything but 22 years old!]

Thurs. Apr. 3, 1952 - Didn't go to school. Sick with pinkeye. Hope I can go tomorrow 'cause I have to sing a duet. I have a big plan (singing)!

Sun. Apr. 13, 1952 - Easter Sunday. A very nice day. I got my first suit! Gave Mom and EC gifts, drew Dad a picture of Easter. Brother Pico came for dinner. I gave him a musical Easter egg. Bro. P. and I sang a duet in church at night. Ida gave me her white carnation corsage for singing well.

Thurs. May 29, 1952 - Went on our room's skating trip. Fell down. Think I broke or bruised my right elbow. EC went to the prom. I got the PM off.



Daddy and his girls

Fri. May 30, 1952 - We went to Nauvoo. I can't tell all, so will include a paper in back of book. Dad's birthday [today]. I got him a tie.

Sat. May 31, 1952 - Went to hospital to get arm x-rayed. Only a bruise, thank heaven. But it hurts!

Tues. June 10, 1952 - Picked weeds all day. Ma made me a strapless halter. When I was picking weeds in it, I got a terrible sunburn. Ohhh! I took the Fridley kids riding on Gary's bike. I couldn't take Nancy on another ride 'cause it was too dark. I took Diane.

Fri. June 13, 1952 - Went swimming at Edgewater Beach Hotel, church doings. We were late. Only got ½ hour in the water. It's all EC's fault 'cause we didn't leave [on time].

Tues. June 17, 1952 - We were downtown all day. Mother went to several places about segregation. [She was working on a class paper exposing prejudicial housing practices. Ralph Bunch was among those she interviewed.] Then we went to North Avenue Beach. Went to annual commencement and graduation at Chicago Musical College. Darice Richards played. Wow! Has she got it! Only 11 and in the 9th grade. Didn't get home till 11:30 PM. Good Night World!

Mon. June 30, 1952 - Got up late. Am dead tired. Sewed quilt blocks all day! On Ma's new machine! Nice and cool. The people across the back moved in. I played with Linda, 7 years old, who was with Warren, Ronnie and Larry. They all like her. Dad's off school.

Thurs. July 3, 1952 - We had a fight at supper about me, with me. Ma's so anxious to make me something, she's almost sick with pushing me. But we got all made up. We watched the fireworks from Arlington Heights. EC went babysitting.

Fri. July 4, 1952 - We went to Humboldt Park. Sara Lynn Turner and I found a crawfish. We put him in a sack. We tried to catch a minnow. In the morning a solid line of cars were coming out [of the city, headed, I presume, for the countryside]. A grand display of fireworks all around. EC went swimming and to Riverview.

Sat. July 5, 1952 - EC came home on the train. She says she should have not gone and listened to Mother. We went to Warren's for Bar-B-Q. I drank iced tea thinking it was root beer. Ughh!

Sun. July 6, 1952 - We went to North Shore at night. I am to stay at Janet Edmund's house all next week, starting Sunday. We found a cute cabin for Gary and Nana.

Mon. July 7, 1952 - Ma and Dad went to see cabin. Ma says it's out, too cold. EC and I started the puzzle she won on the 4th. We went to Fridleys' to watch the convention. I came home, knocked my elbow darn hard, couldn't move arm for a while.

Tues. July 8, 1952 - Listened to Hoover's speech in the Republican convention. Jerri gave me some material and I am making her doll clothes. I made a doll dress.

Sat. July 12, 1952 - Went to Janet's house. Will stay till Tuesday night. Went to a drive-in-theater. Saw "Scaramouche" and "Atomic City." Had fun. 1:30 when in bed.

Tues. July 15, 1952 - Janet and I scrubbed the bathroom and shower room. I came home after supper. Boy, is it good to get home! It's nice to go away, but it's nicer to come home.

Mon. Aug. 11, 1952 - Bobby Jo came before I was up. She took a nap. What a cute kid. We canned corn half the day. EC and Ma went downtown to get Hannah Mae a goodbye present. They are giving her a party tonight. I went to Jerri's at 7:45 PM, came home at 9:30. Had to use her flashlight for my bike. I just got to get a headlight!

Thurs. Aug. 14, 1952 - Sunday night we are going to Utah and taking Lloyd Hawkes. B. J. was here. I babysat while her ma went to the doctor. Ma got mad and hit me cause I argued with her. Had a talk with EC about loneliness.

Sat. Aug. 16, 1952 - Tomorrow we go! I can hardly wait! Bobbie came ½ a day. She ripped my shirt when I was talking on the phone. Darn that brat!

** * * No more 1952 entries. * * **

1953:

Sat. May 2, 1953 - Youth Achievement Roundup. Met Judy Parry, real cute and nice, 514 73rd, Kenosha, Wisconsin. Stayed over night with the twins from North Shore. Ma made me a new skirt for the occasion. Scott Morgan is kind of cute! But I can hardly wait till Pop gets an assignment in Milwaukee!!

Sun. May 3, 1953 - Testimony Meeting. Saw two cute boys, Grant and Gordon Meyer. Grant 14, Gord, 16. Judy Parry and I were drooling. They kept looking (staring) and talking and grinning. Judy is so cute! [She's] from Racine, Wisc. The twins were there. Grant bore his testimony, said, "So glad to come so I could meet the girls.....and boys," and they both looked at us!

Sun. May 10, 1953 - Today is Mothers Day. I gave Ma some three-colored stationery in a big box. EC gave a box of candy, Gary and Nana some pearls and flowers. Dad, the best of all, love. Had Conference. Janet and I took care of the nursery for a while. Saw Judy Parry [whom I had] met at Youth Conference. Went to museum, [saw] an army display. Real cute soldiers kept looking at us. Wow!

Fri. May 22, 1953 - Was rainy and stormy all day. But it cleared up in the afternoon. Bob C. and I were shooting paper wads with rubber bands during band. It was war between me and Heintz and Carmen. Oh, I like him! I hope he likes me.

Sat. May 23, 1953 - Played in a recital, "Aragonnaise." We left right after I played so we could get to the Beehive Swarm Day, where I played "Aragonnaise" again. Got 4 home badges and my Individual Award. Millie was there. She and Joan M. played a duet. I went to a show with Gary and Nana in Elmwood Park.



Sat. Aug. 29, 1953 - We got a telegram tonight. Uncle Albert [Winkler] died! What a shock. Poor Aunt Ellen! [Ellen Winkler was Margaret's sister.] EC was at a pajama party, but Dad had to go get

her, 'cause we were going to go to Utah after the funeral, and bring Nana home, so we got EC ready to go to college in 2 or 3 hours. Man! We left at 10:00 at night. We forgot the bug screen two blocks away, but didn't go back. [The trip to Alberta, Canada, then Provo, Utah and back to Chicago was over 4,000 miles of driving!]

Tues. Sept. 1, 1953 - We got to Aunt Ellen's place this morning at 6:00. She started crying. Poor Mary and Carl. How are they going to exist! The funeral is today. Just everybody was there. And they all said nice things to us about Uncle Albert. He was smiling when he died. He had a heart attack (working too hard).

Tues. Oct. 20, 1953 - We got our seats changed. Now I'm second in row. Tim's right across from me. Wow! Oh: Duke's so cute and Brad: M-m-m man! But Brad is going with Lori, darn! Otherwise I'd try to get him. Wow, wow! (Yawn)

Wed. Oct. 21, 1953 - Well, tomorrow's my birthday. Finally Robert Matheson won't be able to call me a pre-teenager any more.

Thurs. Oct. 22, 1953 - Well today I'm 13. I feel more grown up than I did yesterday, but I'm sure it's all in my mind. I still haven't M yet. Oooh! I got two new blouses, saddle shoes, socks, and a half slip, 10 bucks, and two neck ties from Vicki. School was hot! Doherty gave us a test. When he talks to you in private he practically sits on ya. Grrr, Oooh!



Jane became an aunt on November 1st 1953. Kathryn Weaver was born to Gary and Nana in Libertyville, Illinois. What a precious baby she was! She was the only grandchild that Duncan Weaver was to know.

The following is Jane's only diary entry for 1954:

Sun. Apr. 15, 1954 - I know this is out of place, but today is Easter. A real nice one, too. Horrible weather, though! Mother put a ruffle on my crinoline, and it cut my new nylons to pieces. I wore my New Year's dress. Kathy [Kay Weaver] looked real cute. Nana wore EC's hat. We had a ham dinner. I'm not sure, but I think Dave likes me again. I hope so! I love him so much!!!



Jane & Dave Montgomery

Jane was encouraged, along with other girls in her Beehive class at church, to keep a scrapbook known as Treasures of Truth. In later years she jestingly called it her “treasures of trash.” However, because of it, and the things she saved, we can get a fairly comprehensive idea about the many activities in which she participated during her school days.

1951: Jane received the MIA Joy Award at church.

1952: Jane earned Award Certificate in band, for the 51-52 season, Franklin Park Grade School.

1952: Temple recommend for baptisms only.

Church Individual Achievement Awards for: 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57.

1953: Jane attained National Honor in the National Federation Festival of Chicago sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs for her piano solo.

1953, March: Arlington Heights Band concert. Jane played 1st chair of 3rd section of the B Flat clarinets.

1953 - Jane won an Arlington Heights Junior High School Play Day relay ribbon.

1954, June 9: Commencement exercises of the 8th grade of the Franklin Park Public School.

1955, February 27: Jane received Award Certificate from CBS television for participating in the “This Way Up” program.

1955, September 19: Jane was selected for A Cappella Choir at Leyden High School.



Also in her Treasures of Truth scrapbook we found a personal biography prepared by Jane in 1956, and it shows how well she wrote as a 16-year-old:

My Story:

On the 22nd day of October, 1940 a new baby came to live at the house on Melrose Street in what was then the very outskirts of Chicago. That baby was me. I was the 3rd and last addition to the Henry Duncan Weaver family. On the 1st of December, which was a Fast Sunday, I was blessed by my father.

Like most people, I can remember little of my early life, so I have to go by what people tell me. My family had moved into a new house shortly before I was born. On the opposite page is a picture of my brother Gary, my sister Ellen Claire, and my father standing in the living room-to-be. Below it is a picture postcard of our house a few years later, with me sitting on my tricycle out in front of the house.

Most children, when they are learning to walk, usually learn to crawl first. But not me! I had to be different. I just scooted around on my backside instead. Also, when I began to talk, instead of saying single words at first, I would repeat whole sentences that someone had just said, just like a parrot.

I must have been pretty friendly when I was real small, because I have two pictures taken one right after the other, and they sort of prove it. In the first picture I am on the ground, tweaking the nose of Bobby Peterson, who is sitting in his baby buggy, and in the next picture I am in the buggy with him.

I have said that I can't remember much about my early life, and that is true, but a few things are very outstanding in my memory. For example, the two summers that I went to Bible School at the church where my girlfriend, Joan Harms, went, in 1944 and 1945. Mother let me use her Bible and we felt so grown up, Joan and I, as we walked down the street with the Bibles under our arms. Maybe the reason I remember it so clearly was because they gave us ice cream every morning.

Another event which I remember very clearly was my 5th birthday party. The boy next door gave me 3 pair of panties and I was very embarrassed. Also, while playing "It" in the living room, I crashed into the coffee table and hurt myself.

The next fall I started school at the Franklin Park Public Grade School in Franklin Park, where my mother taught. Milly Waldvogel was in my room during kindergarten and 1st grade. Then her family moved from the farm in Franklin Park to Bensonville. When I was in 3rd grade I was in my mother's class and she wasn't very easy on me, but I lived through it.

Like most of my friends at church, I was baptized when I was 8 years old, on December 12, 1948, by my father who was a High Priest.

On December 23, 1950, my Grandmother Holmes died. My mother went to Canada to her funeral. It was an empty Christmas without Mother. Although we tried to be happy, the pile of gifts seemed smaller than usual, and the Christmas dinner didn't taste as good as when Mother cooked it, but in a few days Mother was home again.

During the summer of 1951 when I was 10, we sold our house in Chicago and bought a house in Prospect Meadows, just north of Mount Prospect, Illinois. It was just a shell, so during the summer we finished it and moved in when fall came. That year I was in the 6th grade and I continued to go to the Franklin Park Grade school, but I spent the next year at Arlington Heights Jr. High. The next summer we sold the house in Mt. Prospect where we had lived for two years, and moved into a house on Grand Ave. in an area about 1 mile west of Franklin Park.

Near the end of the summer we went to Palmyra, New York, to see the Book of Mormon pageant that the Eastern States Mission puts on every year. There was only one thing wrong, and that was that I got a real bad attack of asthma. After we had been home a week or two, we got a telegram that Uncle Albert Winkler had died, so we all went up to Canada to his funeral. We came home by way of BYU, in Utah, and left Ellen Claire there where she was going to start college.

On the first of November a baby was born to my brother and his wife, Naomi. Her full name is Kathryn, but we all call her either Kathy or Kay.

On the 12th of February, my father's stepfather, Bryan Meldrum died. My father went to Canada for the funeral.

During the spring of 1954 our basement flooded after heavy rains. The sewer had backed up. There was three feet of the stuff and was it ever a mess! Summer came and I graduated from the Franklin Park Grade school on the ninth of June. That fall I started high school at Leyden, and

like most green Freshmen, I was kind of lost for a while. I didn't take me very long to get adjusted, though.

My biggest dance in my freshman year was the Turn-A-Bout. I went with M. D. Rogers (I was going with him at the time.)

Ever since the time that we moved to the house on Grand Ave., Gary and Nana had been living in a trailer in our back yard. But someone complained, so they had to sell the trailer and move. They moved into a little apartment in Oak Park and Naomi continued to teach at the Franklin Park Grade School.

Toward the end of the summer my father became very sick, and went to St. Luke's Hospital to have an operation for a malignant tumor. His doctor was Dr. Reynolds, one of the best in the country. He was operated on Aug. 12, 1955. The operation was nine hours long and was a difficult one, because the cancer had spread so much. Through the blessings of the Lord, he was "up on his feet" very soon. He came home from the hospital in about two weeks. All through the fall he seemed to be doing very well, although we all knew that he didn't have very long to live. Kay's birthday was the last time that he ate dinner with the family. All during this time Ellen Claire had been taking care of him every day. Grandmother Meldrum had been here with us since early October. In the early part of December Daddy's brothers, Frank and Allen, came to see him. On Monday, Dec. 5, 1955, my father passed away. It was quarter to seven in the morning. The funeral was at the West Suburban Chapel, on Dec. 8th. He was buried in the Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery. I am really convinced that he was called to do an important work, for I am sure that otherwise the Lord would not have taken such a wonderful man, who was, and is one of His most faithful servants.

Gary and Nana came back from Oak Park to live with us, and Ellen Claire went back to school.

* * *

In her Treasures of Truth scrapbook, Jane had a section called "My Hobbies." She wrote:

I have no single hobby. There are many things which I like to do. I like to sew and draw and, well, a lot of things. I think my piano is one of my main hobbies. It really isn't a hobby, but I like it just the same. So, in this section I have put a few of the things which I do in my spare time. Besides my piano, I like to design houses, and to do all sorts of stuff like that. The items in this section are just a few of the things that I have done.

There were quite a few pages of programs of her musical presentations saved in the scrapbook, including:

Chicago Musical College preparatory school reports on musical achievements. "Jane has accomplished a great deal this year." (1953) "Jane has made excellent progress." (1954)

Recital programs:

Chicago Musical College recital series:

Feb. 14, 1953 "Berceuse," Iljinsky, "Trepak," Nevin, Jane Weaver, pupil of B. Ward.

Oct. 24, 1953 "Für Elise," Beethoven - Jane Weaver, pupil of Beatrice Ward.

Jan. 30, 1954 "Scotch Poem," MacDowell - Jane Weaver, pupil of Fred Seifers.

May 28, 1953 "Aragonaise" Jane Weaver - pupil of Beatrice Ward.

National Federation of Music Clubs Junior division festival: 1953, Jane Weaver, Superior rating.

Newsclipping from (unnamed) paper:

Arlington Girl Gains Recognition for Piano - Jane Weaver, 12,612 Larkdale Lane, Arlington Heights, has received 'Superior rating' for her piano performance in the district and state contests sponsored by the Illinois Federation of Music Clubs. She is a member of the Chicago Music Junior Club of Chicago Musical College's Preparatory division. Jane won the rating for playing two compositions in both the first district playoffs and the state contest. Judges selected by the federation heard the performers in Wurlitzer Hall.

Additional recitals:

Jan. 22, 1955 - Jane played in a recital "Sicilienne," Paradies and "In Autumn," MacDowell - student of Dorothy Mendelsohn.

May 14, 1955 she played two Grieg numbers: "Nocturne" and "To Spring." She was still the student of Dorothy Mendelsohn.

May 19, 1956 Jane played "Nocturne in C# minor," Chopin and "Little White Donkey," Ibert.

April 8, 1956: Jane played a piano solo in the M.I.A. Sunday evening service at West Suburban Ward.

A note Jane had saved was also found in the scrapbook, undated:

"Dear Janie,

"I was so proud of you tonight. You looked beautiful and you played beautifully. I'm so happy to tell people that you are my sister.

Goodnight and love,

E. C."



Jane loved to read.

Her "Treasures of Truth" scrapbook ends with descriptions of her friends:

There are good ships, there are bad ships, but the best ships are friendships.

I have many friends, both at school and church, but since my school friends will in time pass out of my life, my friends at church are more important to me. Therefore in this section, which is titled "My Friends" I have chosen to write about the friends which mean most to me, my friends at church:

Milly - Mildred Dorothy Waldvogel is 14, about 5'1" and rather slim with short, dark hair. She is a lot of fun, and we are best friends. She lives about three miles from me in Bensenville, Ill. While she lived in Franklin Park, we were in the same room at school. Since there is no direct transportation between Bensenville and Franklin Park, we don't get to see each other very often, except at church, or when we go somewhere together. Although there is about 6 months difference in our ages, we are in the same grade at school, and we also plan to attend the B.Y.U. together. Milly is a wonderful girl and a grand pal.

Vicky - Although Victoria Montgomery is about 1 ½ years younger than me, we are good friends. She lives about 2 blocks from where I now live. We see each other almost every day, and spend much time together. She is shorter than me, with medium length blond hair. There are 10 people in her family, so it is normal for things to be popping at their house, and things usually are. She has 5 brothers and 2 sisters. Vicky is full of fun, and is a wonderful pal.

Joan - Joan's full name is Joan Ellen Matheson. When our family lived in Chicago, Joan and I lived about 3 or 4 blocks from each other. I can't remember when I first met her, but our parents have been friends for years, even before we were born. She is about my height although she is slightly heavier. She has light brown hair, and wears glasses. For the past 3 or 4 years we both have been taking music lessons from the Chicago Musical College in downtown Chicago. I am 3 months older than Joan and like Milly, she is in my Sunday School and Mutual classes. She is a grand girl, and a real pal.

Ellen - I have not known Ellen Knapp as long as I have known Milly, or Joan, or any of the others. I am not exactly sure how long I have known her, but it has been between one and two years. She came here from Germany with her parents and her brother and sister. She has brown hair and is about 5'7" tall and is heavily built. She is always a lot of fun, and is a real good kid. I like her a lot.

Betty - I can't even remember when I first met Betty Kamptner. I guess all of us kids just sort of grew up together. It seems like I've known her all my life. And I probably have, too! Betty is about the same height as me. Maybe an inch or so one

way or the other. She has blonde hair and is real cute. She is good natured, and she's always full of fun. She and I teach the 4, 5 and 6 year old in the "Children's Hour" every Sunday. Betty is a good friend, and a real wonderful girl.

Marianna – I've known Marianna Young all my life, it seems. I can't remember when I first met her either. She is 2 years (almost) older than me, but that doesn't stop us from being good friends. Marianna has light brown hair and is shorter than me. She has a very slight build, too. She also wears glasses. Once in a while people get us mixed up, although when you put us together, we don't look very much alike, but Marianna is a really wonderful girl, and a very good friend, and I like her a real lot.

Other items stuffed into the back of her scrapbook were:

March 17, 1957 - A Cappella Choir spring concert, Leyden High.

April 1, 1957 - Patriarchal Blessing given by Chicago Stake Patriarch, John E. Whowell (see Appendix).

June, 1957 - Jane sang with the A Cappella choir at Leyden High School graduation.

Summer, 1957 - MIA play, West Suburban Ward - Jane played the part of Miss Frisby in "Behold a Butterfly."

December 8, 1957 - Combined Leyden Community church and Civic choirs - Jane was a member of the chorus.

December 15, 1957 - St. Timothy's Lutheran Church presentation of The Messiah. Jane was the contralto soloist.

Christmas, 1957 - Nativity Pageant, Leyden High School. Jane was the alto soloist.

March 16, 1958 - Jane sang with the A Cappella Choir, Leyden High School.

April 26, 1958 - West Suburban Ward's part in the Stake Gold and Green Ball, held at the Michigan Shores Country Club was to provide the floorshow. Jane participated by singing with a group doing a medley of nostalgic songs.

May 28, 1958 - Jane received a Civil Service Commission rating: As a typist GS 1-3, score 84.0 and as Stenographer GS 2-4, score 87.9.

1957-58 - Earned Individual Award, West Suburban Ward, Chicago Stake, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

September, 1957 - English mechanics and literature test 98+ percentile. (Earned 3 "A"s, 3 "B"s on report card)

May, 1958 - Jr. and Sr. National Honor Society banquet program.

June, 1958 – Graduation program from Leyden High School.



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