

## My Grandma's Remembrances

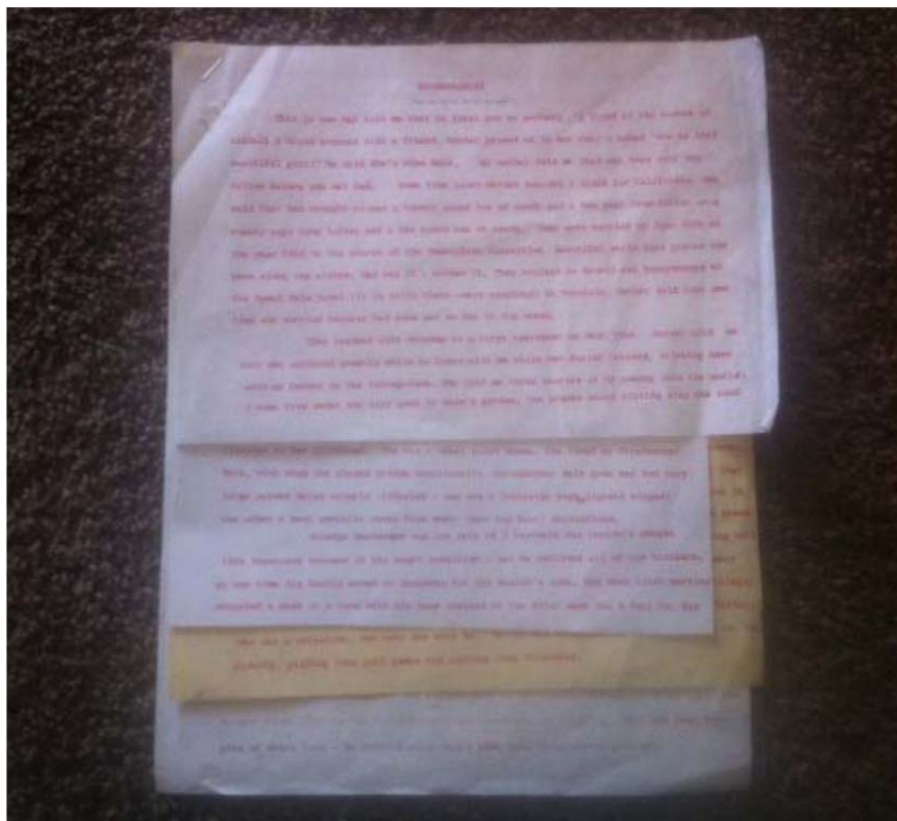
These 4 typewritten pages are great. My father handed them to me late in 2012 and said his mother gave them to him. I am unsure exactly when this could have been, but I suspect it was likely sometime between the 1970s and 1990s. I would guess that it was during a time when she was still living in Missouri.

There are 4 pages. I clearly see where the end of one page ties into the first sentence structure on the next page, so the thoughts flow well from page to page.

It is very strange how all the pages are stacked. There are 4 pages, each of different size and shape. The last page is the only full page. It is an ivory paper and a very textured linen. The third paper is cut an inch shorter and yellow. The top two papers are regular typing paper, though the top page is wider and the second sheet is narrower than the rest.

I am guessing she kept scrap paper by the typewriter, and cut them when she did not need the entire paper. I cannot think of another reason why a four page letter would be on two different color/textures, and four different sizes/shapes. Note also the ink is red not black. It does definitely add a different feel to it. Very period piece. Certainly would not see that in today's technology.

~ Jeanne Shelton



## REMEMBRANCES

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This is how Dad told me that he first saw my mother: "I stood at the corner of Lindell & Grand Avenues with a friend. Mother passed us in her car/ I asked "Who is that beautiful girl?" He said She's Mina Belz. My mother told me that she knew only one fellow before she met Dad. Some time later Mother boarded a train for California. She said that Dad brought either a twenty pound box of candy and a ten page love letter or a twenty page love letter and a ten pound box of candy. They were married on June 24th of the year 1916 in the church of the Immaculate Conception. Beautiful satin bows graced the pews along the aisles. Dad was 23 - mother 21, They cruised to Hawaii and honeymooned at the Royal Palm Hotel (it is still there -very sumptuous) in Honolulu. Mother said that one time she worried because Dad swam out so far in the ocean.

They resided with Grandma in a large apartment on West Pine. Mother told me that she suffered greatly while in labor with me while her doctor relaxed, drinking beer with my father in the living-room. She told me three stories of my coming into the world: I came from under the lily pods in Shaw's garden, the bronze stork sitting atop the roof

of the Sunset Country Club (this was later melted to benefit the war effort, and - one day she awoke to find the most beautiful baby lying beside her! I recall living in a beautiful wide house on Longfellow Ave with a large wide yard. There were 2 baby photos (now gone) of myself in a wide white bonnet in a buggy and one of me sitting atop a white sheet in our back yard. My hair was short and very blonde (I was about 9 mos. old. I also recall my picture being taken sitting on mother's lap on a window-seat. It was lovely in deep color - mother's hair was a beautiful red shade. I recall having a big stuffed monkey and a dainty white etched in gold paint fragile doll-high chair.

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My grandmother Muckerman (Pauline) was a plain little woman. She usually wore pin-stripe housedresses and sat sewing in her small sitting-room listening to her favorite radio programs (one of which was "Death Valley Days". Once I did observe her at a dressing-table preparing for a party wearing an amber necklace. She usually departed from her dining-table before any of us did in order to smoke her after-dinner cigarette so that her grandsons wouldn't see this. She wore high-necked dresses because she had large scars on her chest due to a hot jelly disaster in her childhood. She was a sweet quiet woman. She loved my Grandmother Belz, with whom she played bridge occasionally. Grandmother Belz gave her two very large carved Swiss animals -lifesize - one was a fantastic eagle (spread winged) the other a bear umbrella stand from Berne (meaning bear) Switzerland.

Grandpa Muckerman was the only of 5 brothers who couldn't obtain life insurance because of his heart condition - yet he outlived all of his brothers. At one time his family moved to Pasadena for his health's sake. Dad when first married occupied a desk in a room with his many cousins at the Polar Wave Ice & Fuel Co. His



salary was \$100 monthly. Later he managed his own stationery shop. I recall my beautiful printed book-marks which he made for me. They depicted a small girl holding a wide open book on her lap (my name, Elizabeth Muckerman, printed below exquisitely). In later years he handled electrical saws; another pastime he had was his oil-burner shop (Barrett Haley, his salesman, later became an FBI agent in Canada. One time Dad asked Barrett to take me to a play at my high school; I felt very grown-up. Dad owned several apartments in ST. Louis for many years. His best venture was the ownership of the Dobson Business School, which he sold at a good profit. His best interests lay in real estate. He owned two farms, one in Whiteside, Mo. and the other out of South Haven, Michigan. He grew excellent peach trees there. He often took his father to both of them. This was a good pastime for the both of them. Grandpa was a small, very shy man. It was said that he had his shoes raised in order to be the same height in stature as Grandma. He had beautiful gray hair which was actually a hairpiece bought in N. Y. when he decided to give it up he traveled yearly to N.Y. and had it made smaller for smaller years. One embarrassing incident occurred on our rented property along Lake Erie one summer. His wig blew off his head, while he spoke to his son-in-law's mother there. It was probably the most embarrassing incident in his life, because Mrs. Krause was a very proper woman. Our family had our Christmas and Easter dinner festivals at Grandma and Grandpa's house. I had sixteen cousins and we dined in the sitting-room with their nurse. I remember that I was especially fond of Grandma's beautiful turkey dressing. (At Christmastime Grandma in later years dispensed with the dinner idea and had tea parties. ) Grandpa gave each grandchild a 20 dollar gold-piece! At the top of his huge polished oak staircase was a long hall. All along it sat large boxes of assorted chocolate candy. At Eastertime there were many sitting and standing luscious chocolate Easter rabbits. How I enjoyed all of these things!

My Dad had two brothers, one older, Chris, of whom he was very fond, and Walter who was a socialite, and very shy with me. Walter was extremely handsome. He lived to be elderly, playing long golf games and walking long distances.

Dad told me that when he stood on the corner of Lindell & Grand Avenue he asked his friends, "Who is the beautiful girl who drives by so often?" I guess that he was told, "She's Mina Belz." Mother told me that she knew only one fellow before she met Dad. Mother boarded a train for California some time later. She said that he either gave her a 20 pound box of candy & a ten page love letter or a twenty page love letter & a ten pound box of candy. She wore a bridal veil of orange blossoms. They married at the Immaculate Conception Church in south St. Louis - there were blue satin ribbons tied to the pews. She was 21 and he 23. They honeymooned at the Royal Palm Hotel in Honolulu - she said that one time she worried because he swam too far out into the ocean. They lived with Grandma in a large apt on West Pine. She suffered when in labor with me while her dr. drank beer with Dad in the living-room. She told me 3 stories: I came from under the lily pods in a pool in Shaw's garden (on the south side) the storks on the roof of Sunset Country Club (which were later melted (copper) for the war effort) and One day she awoke to find the most beautiful baby lying beside her.

Grandpa Muckerman was the only of 5 brothers who couldn't obtain life insurance, probably because of his heart, yet he outlived all of his brothers. At one time the family moved to Pasadena for his health. Dad had a desk among many of his cousins at the Polar Wave Ice & Fuel Co. making \$100 monthly. He later had a stationary shop. He made beautiful book-marks for me, showing a small girl holding a large book on her lap with my name so beautifully printed beneath. He invested in electrical saws and later had an oil-burner co (his salesman later became an FBI agent). His best venture was in real estate. He owned apts on the southside of town & much later sold the "Dobson Business School" at a good profit. He owned 2 farms - one at Whiteside, Mo. (out of Troy, Mo.) and an earthy farm in Michigan (wonderful peaches) He often took his father to both of them.

Dad delighted in buying balloons for me and letting me select mine. The balloon man stood on the corner of Lindell & DeBoliver on Sundays. Then we went to the zoo. St. Louis is known as having the finest zoo in the world. The huge, oval bird enclosure is a landmark in Forest Park, the 2nd largest park in our country (14 miles) We watched the keeper throw fish to the seals among great commotion and flapping. There are huge bear-pits of white rock - we watched polar bears dive from their center pedestal.