

***Before We Were
Gammy and Pappy***



or even Mom and Dad ...

when we were just Jeanne and Jamie

HELLO!

If your name is Levi or Koa or King or Sunny or Dell or if you are a younger sibling to any of these special people, then this book is for you! *Why?* Because it was written with you in mind by your grandparents, your very own Gammy and Pappy. We thought you would like to know what we were like before we were Gammy and Pappy, before we were Mom and Dad to your daddies, even before we knew each other!

You see, before we met, we were Jeanne Phelps and Jamie Loehnis. *Do you know who we called Mom and Dad?* Well, when you visit Grandpa Burt and Grandma Elaine, you are visiting Gammy's Dad and Mom. And, when you hear about Grandpa Loehnis or Grandma Haynor, you are hearing about Pappy's Dad and Mom.

Are you ready to read some stories about us from a long, long time ago? We hope so!

We love you!

Gammy and Pappy

PS: We want you to know that there is another way for you to enjoy this book. Ask Gammy for the link so you can read and maybe even listen on your iPad!

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Gammy: Life-Sized Easter Bunny

*When do people give you presents? On your birthday? At Hanukkah or Christmas time? Well, Gammy also got presents on a special day called Easter. Each year the "Easter Bunny" would make up baskets filled with candy and toys and hide them for her and her brothers and sister to find. One year, when she was only about three years old and pretty small, she got a VERY BIG present. *Guess what it was?* An Easter Bunny! A life-sized Easter Bunny bigger than she was - what a huge surprise!*



Gammy and Pappy: Sandwiches

When Gammy was a little girl, she played outside a lot with the other kids who lived on her street: Susie and Debbie and Alan. Debbie had a lot of brothers and sisters too. *Who are your favorite friends? Did you meet them at school or pre-school? Do they live nearby?*

One of the games she played with her friends was *Back to the Boneyard*. One person would count while everybody else went to hide. Then everyone tried to get back to the “boneyard”, the counting place, before being caught. I bet you have played a game similar to this one!

Sometimes, when Gammy went outside to play, she took her favorite lunch food with her. *What is your favorite lunch? Have you ever tried hers – a catsup sandwich?* Yes, really! She liked bread that had nothing on it except catsup. No, she doesn’t eat that anymore. But she did!

Speaking of sandwiches, Pappy had a favorite sandwich when he was a young boy too. His was braunschweiger on white bread. Now, braunschweiger, a German food, is mostly made of pork so Levi, Sunny and Dell, you certainly haven’t tried it! And Gammy hates it! *Koa and King, do you eat braunschweiger?*

There was a special reason why Pappy liked braunschweiger. You see, there was only one other person in his family who liked it. And, because it smells bad, you don’t come anywhere near it unless you want to eat it! *Who do you think liked braunschweiger?* If you guessed Pappy’s Daddy, your Great Grandpa Loehnis, you’d be right! Braunschweiger in the house meant that Pappy had some very special one-on-one time with his Daddy.

What special foods or activities do you share with your Mom or Dad? What is your favorite thing to do when you are alone with Mom? With Dad?

When Pappy was little, he did go to a couple baseball games to watch the Detroit Tigers with his Dad. Here is a picture of Pappy next to his Daddy, your Great Grandpa Loehnis, and Great Grandma Reca, Grandpa’s wife, many years later. If you look, you’ll see Gammy up in the corner! This picture was taken at a baseball game in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Gammy: Stilt Walking, the Parade, and First-Aid!

Have you ever been to a parade? If you have, you have heard music and watched the marching bands. You have seen floats -- trailers decorated in a special way with paper or flowers. Maybe some of your friends have marched in a parade. Well, when Gammy was about five years old, she marched in a parade alongside her big sister, your Great Aunt Julie and her big brother, your Great Uncle Mark. Aunt Julie and Uncle Mark walked on wooden stilts the whole parade with their feet about 16 inches off the ground! They were very good at stilt walking. This picture isn't of Great Aunt Julie or Gammy, but this is what stilt walking looks like! And the stilts they used were made of wood, just like these are.



But they couldn't get up on the stilts without a stool or a bucket. *And, since every so often someone would fall off, well guess what?* Gammy (their little sister, Jeanne) was right there carrying a bucket and wearing a nurse's outfit with a sign, "First Aid"! And if either Julie or Mark fell, Jeanne stopped, set the bucket on the road upside down, and they would get back up again. Then, bucket in hand, she kept on walking.

Have you ever walked on stilts? You have to be able to balance very well. *What do you balance on?* A bicycle? A scooter? In case you don't know about stilts, here is a video that will show you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vGK2OFkgpc>

Pappy: Dance Lessons!

Do you take lessons for anything? When you are old enough to go to school, you have lessons in reading and math and science and other things. But, outside of school, you might also take lessons! We know that Levi and Sunny have taken swimming lessons. And Koa and King have gone to the library and done art projects. Well, when Pappy was only five years old, he started taking dance lessons every year from September through May! His two older sisters, your Great Aunts Kim and Luann, were already taking lessons when Pappy started doing tap and acrobatics. He started jazz lessons a few years later.

Sometimes, Pappy and his sisters would do their acrobatics on the front lawn. Here are couple pictures of them.



Pappy's Mom, Pappy, Great Aunts Luann, Patty and Kris



Pappy, Great Aunts Luann, Kim and Patty, and Pappy's cousin Jeanne

Acrobatics is like gymnastics which Levi has done. Probably you all have done a somersault! Tap, on the other hand, uses special shoes and looks really tricky. Here is a video that shows you how to tap dance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y60nqyhwYoM>

Watch some tap dancing from the movies here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVlrmXUO4V4>

As you watch, listen to the sounds from their shoes and watch how fast their feet move!

Now, Pappy and his sisters would dance for other people in recitals. Sometimes they danced together; other times by themselves. The first time Pappy danced in a recital he was by himself and dressed up like a toy soldier. His mom, your Great Grandma Haynor, made his costume which probably looked something like this:



By the time Pappy was seven or eight years old, all four of his sisters took dance lessons and the family of five performed together as The Loehnis Troupe. *Wouldn't it be fun to do something together with your brother or sisters – or – with your cousins? Why don't you ask Pappy if he can tap dance for you!*

Pappy: Christmas Memories

You all know a bit about Christmas. Each of you has a stocking with your name on it that Gammy made for you. Gammy and Pappy have visited Koa and his parents at Christmastime. Levi and Sunny have visited Gammy and Pappy at Christmastime. Dell will visit this year!

Now, when Pappy was little, he and his family celebrated Christmas on December 25th every year.



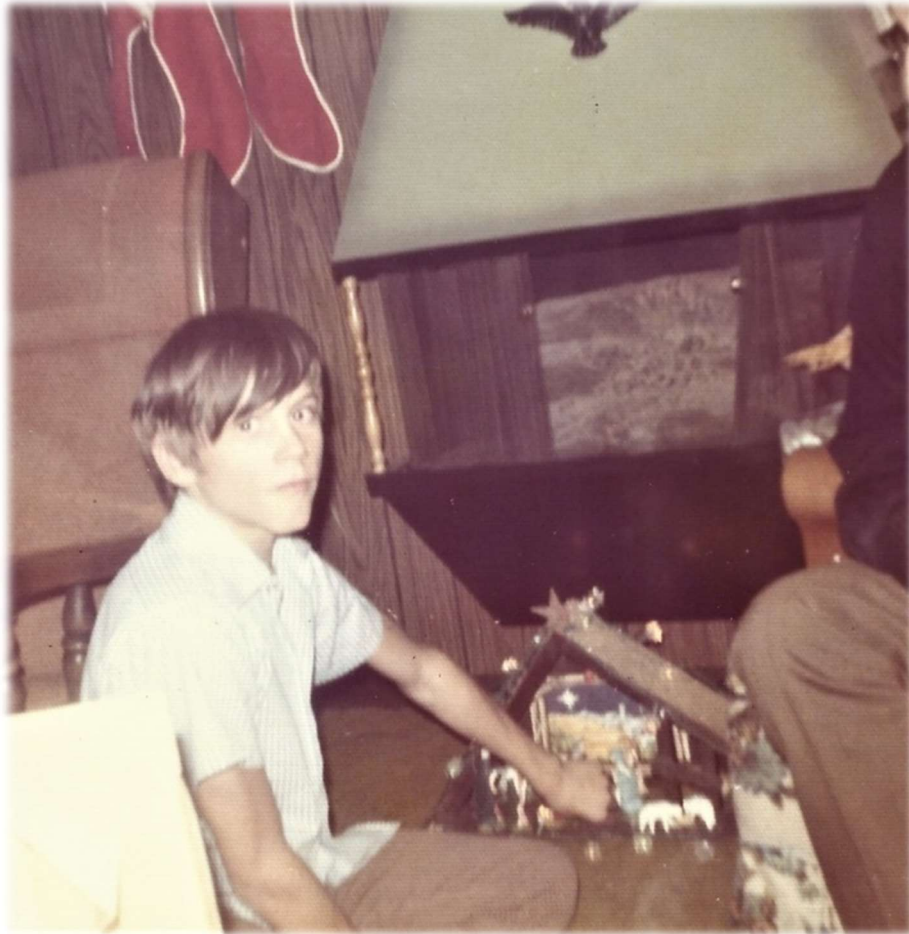
Pappy with his Dad's Fireman's Hat and Boots on! See his Christmas stocking on the mantle.

A few special memories come with Christmas for Pappy. One of those is presents! There were lots of presents underneath the Christmas tree on Christmas morning. When Pappy was nine years old, he got a very special present that didn't fit under the tree. It was hidden in the dining room on Christmas morning. *What was it?* It was a brand new, purple stingray bicycle! It looked something like this:



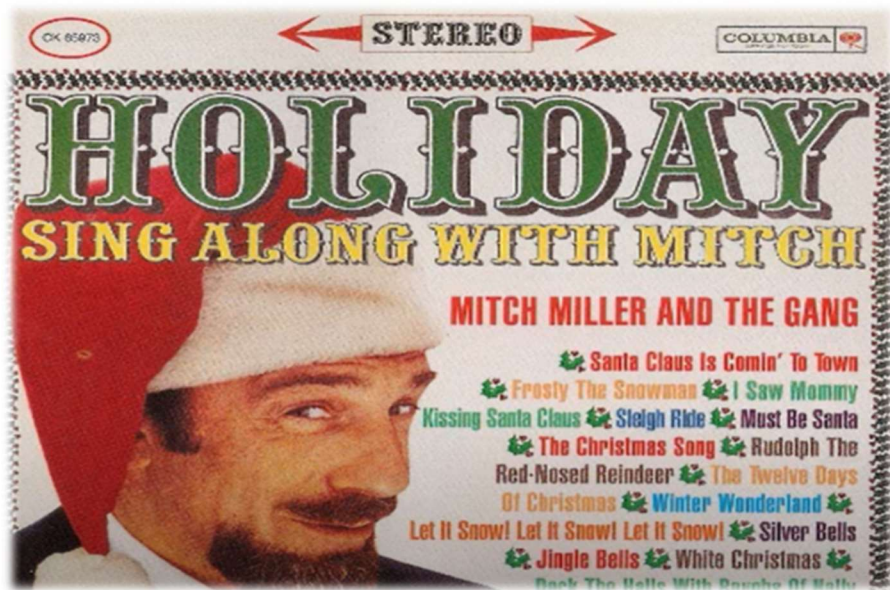
Now Pappy lived in Detroit, Michigan and Christmastime usually meant lots of snow on the ground. That year, when Pappy's gift would mostly be used in the summertime, the sidewalks were clear! On December 25th, Pappy took his new bicycle outside and rode it around the block and probably did a few wheelies. *Do you know what those are? Would you even want to do one?* He was a very happy little boy!

Another really special part of Christmas for Pappy was the lights. He would lie underneath the tree and look up at the pretty colored lights and smile. Pappy was also responsible to set up the manger scene. Levi and Sunny have seen a manger at Gammy and Pappy's house. Pappy sets it up for us also!



Young Jamie (Pappy) setting up the Christmas manger scene

Finally, Pappy loved the music! Only on Christmas Eve, the day before Christmas, did his Dad, your Great Grandpa Loehnis, bring out the Mitch Miller holiday album and play it on a record player. Lots of well-known Christmas songs were on that album. You can listen a bit here:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzasgSXPTLQ>

But before you do, *would you like to know what an album and a record player are?* Well, here is a picture of a record player:



If you look carefully, you'll see a black circle around a red circle. That is the album. The album was used all the time before people invented the CD and the CD player. Some of you know about those! To learn more about how the record player, also known as a phonograph, works, check this out:

<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/phonograph/276406#>

Gammy: 1st Day of School Photos

Do your Mom and Dad take pictures of you on the first day of school? Well guess what? Ours took pictures too! We thought you might like to see two pictures of Gammy (Jeanne) on the first day of school.



Great Uncle Mark, Great Aunt Julie, and Gammy!



Gammy in 8th grade

Gammy: Trick or Treat

Do you go trick or treating in October each year? Do you carve pumpkins? Gammy would go trick or treating with her older sister, Julie, and her older brother, Mark. Here is a picture from one of their adventures and another of Gammy without her mask on!



Imagine those big bags filled with candy! Very yummy! Gammy liked the chocolate candy bars the best.

Look closely at those costumes. That year, Gammy was dressed up like Donald Duck. *Have you heard her talk like Donald Duck? Ask her!*



Gammy without the mask

Pappy: Toothless!

Have you lost any of your baby teeth yet? We all do! Everybody starts out with no teeth showing. Then, our first set of teeth, 20 of them in all, pop through our gums beginning when we are about six months old. Usually when we are about six or seven years old, those teeth start to wiggle, one at a time, and fall out! Thank goodness they are replaced by bigger, permanent teeth. In fact, once all of those permanent teeth are in, we have 32 of them. Can you imagine eating without your teeth?

Here is a picture of Pappy showing off his grin without one of those front teeth!



*Back row: step-brother Bob and dog, Mitze, Great Aunt Kim, Pappy's Mom.
Front row: Rita Verfalie, Great Aunt Patty, Pappy*

Gammy: Climbing Trees

I bet you didn't know that Gammy likes to climb trees. She really does! When she was only six years old, she would climb the big, old oak tree in her yard in Union Grove, Wisconsin.

When she was 51 years old, she was still climbing trees. The picture on the left was taken on the 18th hole at Pebble Beach Golf Course in the state of California.



The one on the right? There Gammy was “almost Gammy” as it was taken in the year 2015 right here in Appleton. You, Levi, were born just one year later. Yes, she still likes to climb trees!

Gammy: The Mouse House

How many different houses have you lived in? We think, Levi, that you have lived in three houses so far. Koa, maybe two? Sunny, Dell and King, just one. Gammy lived in a house at 809 High Street in Union Grove, Wisconsin. Then, when she was in 1st grade and six years old, her parents, Great Grandpa Burt and Great Grandma Elaine, bought a house in the country near Lyons, Wisconsin. It was an old farmhouse and it had some very fun rooms in it! We moved in and, well, we didn't stay very long - maybe only two nights! *Why?* The house had mice living there, too, and Great Grandma Elaine did **not** want to live with mice. *Would you like to share your house with a family of mice?*

I bet you wonder what happened next. Well, Grandpa Burt's Mom, (Gammy's Grandma Phelps - your Great Great Grandma Phelps), lived all alone in a big house back in Union Grove. This picture was taken one year earlier. That is Gammy's family in front of Grandma Phelps' big house.



Great Uncle Mark, Great Uncle Paul as a baby, Grandpa Burt, Gammy!, Grandma Elaine, Great Aunt Julie

We moved in with Grandma!!! Imagine if you moved in with CocoPops or with Grandpa Frank or Grandma Susie or with Gammy and Pappy! Well, that's what we did.

We lived with Grandma Phelps for about eight months. That isn't quite one year. Gammy walked to the same school she went to before they moved to the mouse house. She finished 1st grade while living there with her Grandma.

During that time, Grandpa Burt bought land and with the help of his friends who knew lots about building houses, they built us a brand, new house between Lyons and Burlington, Wisconsin. Grandpa Burt actually did the plastering in that house. He was a very good plasterer. Grandma Elaine and Grandpa Burt still live there and some of you have been to that house and played in their big yard.

When Gammy was little, she played in that big yard. She would also climb the hill and play in the woods with her friend, Robin. Gammy always liked secret hideaways and the woods was a very wonderful hideaway!

Gammy and Pappy: First Communion

When Pappy and Gammy were little, each of them belonged to a Catholic church with their parents, your great grandparents. When they were in 2nd grade, seven or eight years old, they participated in a very special ceremony at their church called First Communion. That ceremony means that they were old enough to receive communion like the adults and older brothers and sisters. It was a special time.

Now, when Pappy made his First Communion, it was **doubly** special! You see, his Mom, your Great Grandma Haynor, made her First Communion also. *How can that be?* Well, Great Grandma Haynor didn't go to a Catholic church when she was little. So, she never made a First Communion in 2nd grade. But, when Pappy made his First Communion, she wanted to be part of that special church activity. So she spent the year going to school to learn about the Catholic church. On that day when Pappy got all dressed up to make his First Communion, his Mom did the same thing! They went to church together. All of the students in Pappy's class sat together. Since Pappy's Mom was in his class, **she sat with him!** It was a very special day for both of them.

We don't have a picture of Pappy and his Mom, but here are two pictures of Gammy on her First Communion day. The people with her are your Great Great Grandparents!



The first picture is Gammy with her Grandpa and Grandma Rynders, Grandma Elaine's parents. In the second picture, she is with her Grandma Phelps, Grandpa Burt's Mom. She never knew Grandpa Burt's Dad. He got sick and died before she was born. We are lucky when we have grandparents to love and who love us!

Gammy: Snow Forts

What kind of forts do you build? What is fun about forts?

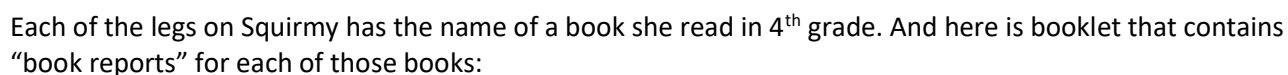
For Gammy, there was one very special kind of fort which, for sure, Koa and King have NEVER seen. *What do you think that is?* If you guessed, a snow fort, then you'd be right! *Levi and Sunny (and little Dell!), why do you think that Koa and King have never seen a snow fort?*

When Gammy was seven years old, the first winter after moving into that new house that Grandpa Burt built with his friends, Gammy and her siblings had the absolute best snow fort ever. You see, they didn't yet have a garage for their cars. And it snowed a LOT that year. Each time it snowed, Grandpa Burt would plow the snow onto an ever growing mound of snow up by the house. It got so big that they could climb up and sled down the pile! Not only that, but they dug a tunnel straight through from one end to the other and from the top down. *Can you imagine?* It was SO fun!

Even after the garage was built, Gammy built snow forts. One year, in the back yard, the wind had blown the snow into a great big drift. It was so tall that Gammy and her siblings could tunnel through it and, deep in the middle, dig out a room that they sat in. Really! Now, that is hard work. Every time they would dig a little and loosen a bit of snow, they had to drag it out of the drift tunnel. And, the longer the tunnel got, the further the dragging! But once it was done, oh what fun they had in the warm little fort.

King and Koa, do you think someday you'll get to play in a snow fort? Do you want to?

Do you like to be read to? Do you know how to read yet? If not, you'll probably be reading in school very soon. When Gammy was young, she kept track of the books she read using a *book worm*. Take a look!

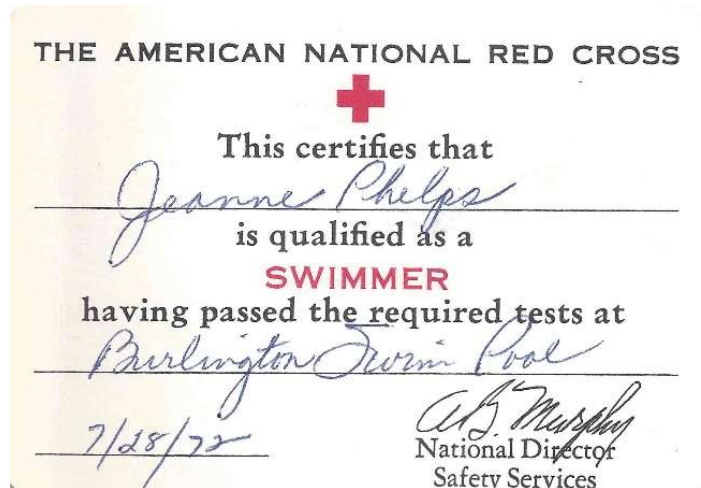


Think about something else. Look at that Book Report. *What is different about those letters than other ones you read? Can you read any of the words?* If not, it is probably because you aren't learning about *cursive writing*. When Gammy and Pappy were little and your parents were little, we were taught not only how to "print" but also how to "write in cursive" where all the letters in a word join together. Some of the letters look the same as when they are printed. But some look different. *Do you want to learn about reading and writing in the cursive style someday?* Here is that sentence in cursive: *Do you want to learn about reading and writing in the cursive style someday?*

Gammy: Swimming

Do you know how to swim? Some of you are learning and that is important in order to feel safe in the water or on a boat. For King and Koa, who often go to the beach on Maui, it is crucial. Their beach is part of the big, strong, Pacific Ocean. *Why?* Because Maui is an island and part of the state of Hawaii. They need to be **extra** careful in the water. Levi, Sunny and Dell visit their grandparents, CocoPops, at a cabin which is on a lake. The lake is smaller and less fierce than an ocean. But they still need to learn how to swim!

Gammy took swimming lessons for six years when she was little. Each year, she got stronger and learned new things. And, each year that she completed her lessons, she got a small certificate to celebrate:



Gammy: Learning to Write Left-Handed

Which hand do you write or draw with? Which hand do you use to feed yourself? Most people are right-handed. Do you know why? We don't. Maybe you and your Mom and Dad could find that out and teach us.

Gammy has always been right-handed. But, when she was in 4th grade, her friend, Forrest, broke his right wrist. He was also right-handed. *How do you write when your wrist and hand are covered with a cast?* Well, you don't write with that hand!

Forrest needed to learn a new way to write so he could do his schoolwork. He brought a typewriter to school. I bet you don't know what a typewriter is! Well, before there were screens like iPads and phones with little keyboards that could send messages, there were typewriters. Look at the picture.



Do you see all the letters and numbers on little keys? Compare that to Mom and Dad's phones. Are the letters in the same order?

Now, imagine putting a piece of paper into this machine. Then, when you want to write a word, you hit the letter keys really hard in the right order:

K-O-A L-E-V-I K-I-N-G S-U-N-N-Y D-E-L-L

Your key press would cause the machine to put ink on the paper that looked like the letter or number you pressed. You might want to watch a video of how a typewriter works. Here is a good one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpZZKACkY4k>

Okay. So, Forrest did his homework using a typewriter. Gammy was inspired to learn to write with her left hand instead. After school or at night while lying in bed, she would lie on her right side and practice writing with her left hand. She got pretty good at it. Ask her to write for you with her left hand next time you visit.

Pappy: Coco the Puppy

When Pappy was six years old, he got a very special birthday present – a light brown puppy he named Coco. *Before we say more, Levi and Sunny and Dell, isn't it funny that you have a grandma you call Coco and Pappy had a dog he called Coco?*

Back to Coco the dog ... On Pappy's birthday, his Mom came into the living room and sat down on the couch beside little Jamie. Then, much to his surprise, Mom pulled a very small puppy out of her shirt! It had long brown hair and was about six inches long. *Do you know how big that is? Can you go find a ruler and check it out?* Coco was so very cute and cuddly! Right away she licked little Jamie's face which is how a puppy says they like you and want to be your friend. We don't have a picture of Coco but she looked something like this with darker brown fur:



Do you think it would be fun to have a puppy? It is! And, owning a puppy is a LOT of work! Koa and King, you have cats as pets. They live inside and outside and can take care of themselves much of the time. Puppies, however, especially one that lives in the house like Pappy's, need to be fed, played with, walked and very importantly, potty trained! *Bet you know what that is!* Each of you wore diapers when you were little, right? At some point, you had to learn how to use the toilet and wear underwear instead of diapers. *Have you ever seen a dog wearing a diaper or underwear?* NO! Potty training a puppy means you have to take them outside every few hours so they can learn to pee and poop outside. When you don't, they make messes all over the house! *Guess who had to clean up Coco's messes?* You guessed it – Pappy! Once the puppy is potty trained, they will go to the door and scratch it or bark to let you know that they need to go outside. But until they know, it is YOU who needs to remember. You need to train yourself to let the puppy out!

Gammy: Kittens in Grandma Rynder's Barn

King and Koa, you don't get to visit the homes of your grandparents very much, do you? You live so far away on Maui! Dell and Sunny and Levi, you visit CocoPops at their house in Whitefish Bay and their cabin way up north a lot. You come visit Gammy and Pappy in Appleton sometimes, too.

When Gammy was little, she visited her Grandma and Grandpa Rynders, Great Grandma Elaine's parents, a lot. They lived in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, in an old farmhouse. Gammy's favorite part of those visits was going into the old barn and sitting very, very still and quiet. You see, there were wild cats who lived in the barn and had kittens every year. Gammy would try to catch one of those kittens and pet it until it trusted her and willingly let itself be held. That took a long time!

One very special visit when Gammy was nine or ten years old, Grandpa Burt and Grandma Elaine let her bring a kitten home! They put the kitten in a box on the floor in the back seat of the car for the ride. Misty was a gray kitten who lived in the garage. Gammy took care of her kitten by cleaning out the sand in the litter box, feeding her warm milk and cat food, and of course playing with her!

For a few years, Gammy had cats and those cats had kittens. Always she could only keep one at a time. If there were kittens, she had to decide which pet to keep and which to find other homes for. That was hard! Little Jeanne (Gammy) felt sad sending any of the kittens or their mother away. She spent lots of time loving those animals. She even trained one of the cats to sit and stay and come when called like a dog! This smart cat would greet her at the end of driveway when she got off the school bus each day. Sadly, two of the cats got injured and died while chasing mice out in the farmer's field nearby.

One very fun memory is this. Grandpa Burt sometimes had a hunting dog that lived out in the dog house and pen in the back yard. One night, the cat accidentally got locked out of the garage. It was wintertime and cold. In the morning, little Jeanne was looking out the window when the dog walked out of the dog house and stretched. Then, much to her surprise, her cat walked out of the dog house and stretched! Really! They had spent the night together. I'm sure the dog kept the cat warm. And after the big stretches, both animals went and ate the dog food. Yes, this is a true story! We were so very surprised since often dogs and cats don't get along very well. We had no idea that they were friends. It made us happy that the dog was so welcoming of the cat.

King and Koa, how many kittens and cats have you had as pets? What are their names? What other pets have you had?

Pappy: When Brothers Play Rough!

Do you ever play rough and tumble with your brother or sister? Does anyone ever get hurt? Do your parents ever tell you to stop? Do you know why? Well ... here is a story you might want to listen to. When Pappy was about six years old, he and his older step-brother, Bob, used to play pretty rough in their living room. It was one very small room in a pretty small house (though, Koa and King, your house is smaller). Anyway, the room was small and it had furniture, a television, and some tables in it. One winter day, Pappy's brother held him by an arm and a leg and swung him around like an airplane. Around and around and around he went until ...

Whack!

Can you guess what got whacked?

It was Pappy's forehead hitting the table in the middle of the room. OUCH! Not only ouch, but HUGE OUCH! Pappy's head had a big cut in it that was bleeding a lot. *Now, do you think just maybe their Mom and Dad had told them not to play that rough game?*

Well, luckily, your Great Grandpa Loehnis, Pappy's Dad, was home. He picked Pappy up, wrapped a towel around his head, and went out to the car. Off they went to the emergency room at the hospital! That is, until they got to the end of the driveway and realized that there was too much snow in the street and no cars could get through. There was a winter blizzard happening! Not only could no cars get through, but not even a police car or an ambulance could get through.

Yet, Pappy needed a doctor – fast. He had a major cut on his head that needed stitches to sew it together.

What do you think happened next?

Pappy's Dad did what a good Dad would do – what your Dads would do! He carried Pappy, through the blizzard, on his shoulder, for 1½ miles to get to the hospital. Think about that. Carrying a big boy who was crying and scared through a blizzard. That walk took about 90 minutes.



Who else do you think was scared?

If you said, Pappy's brother, well you are probably right! His Mom and Dad may not have been too happy with him that day.

Anybody else scared?

If you said Pappy's Dad, you are also right! Why? Well, he had a big job to do and he loved his son. He needed to be sure that Pappy got to the doctor before he bled too much. That's a lot for a Dad to do!

Have you ever gotten hurt so badly that your Dad or Mom needed to get you to a doctor quickly?

Would you think about something? The next time your parents or grandparents or babysitters say "No, that is too dangerous, you need to stop." PLEASE STOP! They probably have a good reason even if you don't understand it or like it.

Pappy: Little Pappy Sings!

Have you ever heard Pappy sing? Have you noticed that he loves music and has it playing a lot? What about you? Do you like music? Do you like to sing? When Pappy was in the 3rd grade, about nine years old, he started singing in church. A church is a place where people go to be with others in community. Pappy's church was called Assumption Grotto. It was very big and is still in Detroit, Michigan. Here is a picture of the outside of Pappy's church. It was built a long time ago, almost 100 years, in 1929.



The inside of the church looks like this:



Music is part of many church services. Most of the people sit on the ground floor in the “pews” you see in the picture. The musicians are often high above in the back of the church in what is called the “choir loft”. A choir is a group of singers. Maybe someday you will sing in a choir at school or at church. When Pappy sang, he was in that loft way up high. And he often sang solo – alone! Just Pappy's young voice in that great big church.

Why do you suppose he was asked to sing? Well, Pappy sang for funerals and weddings. *Do you know what they are?* A funeral is a gathering of people who care about someone who has died. During a funeral, there can be music and prayers and stories about that person. A wedding is when two people love each other and want to commit to being together. Jim and Alanna are married to one another. So are Joe and Evan. So are Gammy and Pappy! *Ask your parents what music, if any, they heard when they got married.* Gammy actually sang to Pappy at their wedding. Yes, Gammy sings too!

Gammy: Playing the Flute

Did you know that Gammy played the flute when she was little? Actually, she still has it and has played it a lot over the years. Your parents also play instruments. We know that cello, guitar, violin and piano are some of those instruments.

Well, when Gammy was five years old, she said she wanted to play the flute. Her parents said no, that she would need to play the saxophone like her sister, your Great Aunt Julie. That made little Jeanne sad. When she was nine years old and old enough to play an instrument in the school band, she still wanted to play the flute. One day, she came home from school to a big surprise: there was a brand, new flute on her bed! She didn't quite know what to do. What a gift Grandpa Burt and Grandma Elaine gave her. You see, they didn't have a lot of extra money, so buying this flute was very special.



Now, how do you play a flute? *Have you ever tried?* Here is a video that explains how to make a sound on a flute:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYdH6U_gCIY

It would have been SO helpful if there were videos when Gammy was little. There weren't any videos – no computers – no video cameras – no phones with pictures of the people talking. So, when little Jeanne tried to play the flute that was on her bed, she couldn't make a sound! Not even a peep. As the days went by, everyone else in her house, her Dad and Mom, sister Julie, and brother Mark (maybe not little brother Paul who was pretty young) could make a sound before Jeanne! Finally, after about two weeks – 14 days – Jeanne finally got that flute to make a sound. Whew! Fortunately, that turned out to be the hardest part of playing the flute. After that, she practiced every day, learning how to make different notes on the flute and reading the music to make pretty melodies.

Gammy played the flute in the school band all the way through high school. She also played at her church for many years after that.

What instrument do you want to play?

Gammy: Aunt Louise and Uncle Paul

When Gammy was little, her Mom and Dad took her to visit aunts and uncles and cousins and grandparents a lot. Some, however, lived too far away to visit much at all. Koa and King, you live much, much further away than Gammy's relatives. But Grandpa Burt's older sister, Gammy's Aunt Louise, and her husband, Gammy's Uncle Paul, lived close by. They LOVED to have their nieces and nephews come to visit. You see, they couldn't have children of their own but they loved kids. Gammy even stayed overnight alone with them when she was only 1½ years old! Now, she doesn't remember that visit but she does have some other special memories.



Uncle Paul, 3 year old Jeanne, Aunt Louise

Aunt Louise and Uncle Paul owned a six-room motel in Union Grove, Wisconsin. People from other towns would stay overnight in "The Esmond Motel". Gammy learned how to change bed sheets from Aunt Louise in those rooms.

Uncle Paul and Aunt Louise had a pretty, metal, candy dish that always had M&Ms in it. *Is that your favorite candy too?* Yum Yum!!! Uncle Paul liked coffee, at least maybe he liked coffee. What Gammy remembers is that Uncle Paul put more milk and sugar in the coffee cup and the saucer than coffee!

This picture was taken in their house when little Jeanne was about six years old.



Aunt Louise and 6 year old Gammy

Why do you think she is holding up her hand? Well, her birthday present that March 27th was a special ring with a blue stone the color of the March birthstone, Aquamarine. Did you know that every month has its own special stone? What month were you born in? Can you find the color of your birthstone in the diagram here?



Probably the most wonderful Aunt Louise and Uncle Paul memory is this. When Gammy was about 10 years old, she and her older brother, your Great Uncle Mark, rode their bicycles from Burlington to Union Grove by themselves. It was almost 18 miles and little Jeanne still had a bike with small, 12 inch, tires. It took a few hours to get there. They packed a lunch and a snack and stopped at a rest area half way there. They stayed a few nights with Aunt Louise and Uncle Paul. That was fun! Some years later, Gammy made the same trip with her little brother, your Great Uncle Paul. On one of those trips, someone had a flat tire. Luckily, they were almost to Union Grove so Aunt Louise and Uncle Paul could come and get them.

Most of you are probably riding your two-wheel bikes by now. We know that Levi likes long trips with his family and Koa likes to skid when he stops. *King and Sunny and Dell, what will you do on your bikes?*

One more special memory from Aunt Louise is this. When Gammy was about 15 years old, she flew on a very big airplane with her Aunt Louise to the island of Aruba. On the way, they stopped in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and took a taxi around to see some special places. *Look at a map of the world to find Aruba and Puerto Rico. Then find Wisconsin where Levi, Sunny, Dell, Gammy and Pappy live and Maui where Koa and King live.*

You might wonder why they went to Aruba. Well, Gammy's cousins, Celeste and Kristen, were living there for one year with their parents, Gammy's Uncle Roene and Aunt Sylvia. They were missionaries, or helpers, on the island for one year. Aruba is a beautiful place with blue ocean and coral sand beaches. *Koa and King, do you think Aruba is like Maui where you live? Gammy went snorkeling. Do you know what that is?*



Gammy with Kristen and Celeste on Aruba

Gammy: Great Grandma Elaine's Creativity

What talents do your Mom and Dad have? How do they share them with you? Gammy's Dad, your Grandpa Burt, was very good at fixing and building things. He taught her brothers a lot of cool stuff. Her mom, your Grandma Elaine, knew how to cook and sew and knit and lots of other things too. Here is a picture of a dollhouse that she made for little Jeanne out of a cardboard box and some contact paper. Just maybe Grandpa Burt helped her!



Each of you has a Christmas stocking that you hang in your house or see hanging from Gammy and Pappy's mantle every December. Now, Gammy made YOUR stocking. *But, who do you think taught Gammy how to knit?* You guessed it! Grandma Elaine. Look at this picture when Gammy - see the little girl who is walking away? - was only two or three years old. *Who do you think those other two kids are?*



Mark, Julie, little Jeanne

And Grandma Elaine knits a lot! You might have mittens or socks that she has made for you. But when she was a little girl, her Uncle Art had a sock knitting machine that was made in 1914. That was over 100 years before you were born! It was heavy and made of lead and looked a lot like this:



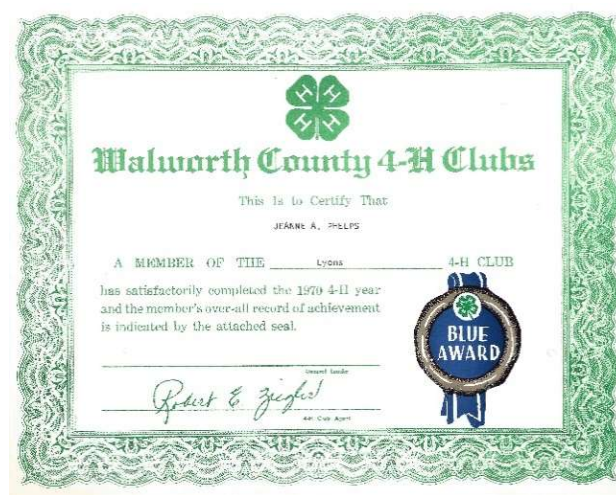
When Gammy was about 14 years old, she and Grandma Elaine got this old machine out of its wooden crate and got it to work! That was really tricky. It was very old and some of the parts were bent. But Gammy made one pair of socks with that machine. You might want to see for yourself how this kind of machine works. It's pretty cool!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u40IM5V1Zq8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7N7hsho4Sjg>

Gammy: 4-H

Do you know what 4-H is? Maybe you know about the Boy Scouts or the Girl Scouts? Well, Gammy was in 4-H from age 9 to 18. Here is a certificate saying that she was a member of 4-H in the year 1970:



The 4 H's in 4-H stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. 4-H has a motto that goes like this:

I pledge my **head** to clearer thinking,
My **heart** to greater loyalty,
My **hands** to larger service,
And my **health** to better living –
For my club, my community, my country and my world.

In 4-H, we could learn all sorts of skills like cooking, knitting, sewing, wild flowers, fixing engines, art and taking care of animals. At the end of each summer, we would take our finished projects to the County Fair and display them. Gammy made a sweater one year for her brother, Paul, and she drew a lot of pictures too.



Gammy and your Great Uncle Paul

The kids in 4-H could also perform as a group making music or acting in plays. Gammy learned how to play the guitar so she could accompany a group of singers when she was 13 years old.



She also acted in many of the plays. When she was nine years old, she was the narrator in a play and was dressed as a Japanese girl with a black wig.



Her job was to come on stage at the beginning of the play, bow to the audience, and then speak a very long introduction. Now, the funny thing is that when she walked out on stage during the first dress rehearsal and bowed, her wig fell off! That was fixed before the real performance.

Another year she was the rooster in a play called, **The Bremen Town Musicians**. You might want to find that book from the library or listen to it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DviYDtFG9mI>

Pappy: Fishing with Night Crawlers

What do you like to do with your friends? When Pappy was 9 or 10, he loved to go fishing with his friends on the Detroit River. Before they could fish, however, they needed bait. Bait is the food that a fisherman puts on the hook before casting the hook into the water. The fish are attracted to the bait. When a fish goes for the bait and bites down, the fisherman yanks on the line, and the fish gets “hooked”.

Now, before we tell more of this story, we know that Levi is a vegetarian and the idea of hurting the fish and eating it doesn't feel right for him. That's okay! But some people do eat meat and fish. And that's okay too.

Back to Pappy. He and his friends used night crawlers for bait. A night crawler is a very big worm that comes out and crawls around at night! In order to catch them, Pappy and his friends would water the lawn before dark. This would cause the worms to crawl to the surface where it was easier to breathe. Once on top and after it was dark outside, Pappy could go and just pick up the worms and put them in a can with a little bit of dirt so they would stay alive. Here is a video that shows how to catch nightcrawlers:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ss6NfVetd0c>

Remember that purple stingray bicycle? The next morning, before the sun came up, Pappy and his friends, Don Verfalie, Dennis and David Cirrello, would take the worms and their fishing rods and ride their bicycles down to the Detroit River. It was a very long ride.

Now, Pappy used a Zebco casting fishing rod and reel when he fished. It is tricky and takes practice! His Dad, your Great Grandpa Loehnis, taught him. You can learn about that here:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4LSgcEvqH0>

Pappy: Riding with Dad on the Block Truck

Have you ever gone to work with your Mom or Dad? What was it like? What did you do? Well, when Pappy was five years old, his Dad actually worked two different jobs. Some days, he went to the firehouse and worked as a fireman all day and all night! On other days, he worked for his brother at Loehnis Trucking.



At that time, his Dad would work eight hours driving trucks that delivered heavy bricks and blocks to construction sites. Pappy got to ride in the front seat with his Dad all day long at a time when the trucks didn't have seat belts and children didn't have car seats. *Can you imagine?* While that might sound like fun, it is better that you ride in cars and trucks much more safely now. The truck Pappy rode in looked something like this one:



In the morning, Pappy and his Dad, your Great Grandpa Loehnis, would go to the block factory which made the blocks. The truck would already be loaded for the day's deliveries. Pappy and his Dad would climb in and head to the first construction site. Often, it was a small site on which a new house was being built. Blocks are used to build the walls in the foundation or basement. *Can you see any grey blocks in your house?* Now, if the house needed bricks, Pappy would take the bricks off of the pallet counting how many were needed.



Each pallet usually had about 280 bricks. Sometimes he would need to count to 140 as he stacked that many bricks near the house! *Can you count to 140?*

Actually, this brick counting was Pappy's first job. You see, his Dad would pay him one penny for every brick he unloaded. *If he unloaded 100 bricks, how much money would he get?* If you said, \$1 – one dollar, you'd be right! One last thing about that dollar. In 1965, when Pappy was five years old, that dollar was a LOT of money! Having one dollar then was like having \$9.46 today in 2022. *What would you do with \$9.46?*

Do you see the straps on that brick pallet? The last thing Great Grandpa Loehnis would do is put new straps around the bricks that stayed on the pallet so they wouldn't fall off when the truck drove away!

Pappy: Tenting in the Back Yard

Do you ever go camping and sleep in a tent? What is your tent like? Have you ever slept outside in a tent by yourself? Pappy did! When he was 10 years old, Pappy had a small, blue pup tent. He would sleep alone in his back yard. His tent might have looked something like this without the red rain cover:



Pappy always had his sleeping bag and a flashlight. Sometimes his dog, Coco, would sleep with him; sometimes his friend, Donald. Sometimes he would just go out there and go to sleep. Other times, he would listen to the Detroit Tigers baseball game on his radio.

Pappy was never afraid. He liked being outside alone in his tent. There was a fence around the yard and he was very near his house. He felt safe and loved sleeping outside in the summertime.

What do you think that would be like? Who would you want with you? What would you do in your tent?

Gammy: Horseback “ride”

Probably one of the scariest moments when Gammy was just 10 years old is this. She had a friend named Jenny. Jenny owned a horse and liked to ride it. The horse lived in a small fenced in area right in Jenny’s yard. One day, Jenny asked if little Jeanne would like to go for a ride. Jeanne (Gammy!) had never ridden a horse and didn’t know how. Jenny said that they could ride together, at the same time, so Jenny would steer the horse. Now, she also said that sometimes her horse didn’t like to ride “double” but then Jenny said, “It will be okay”.

Before we share the rest of the story, we should tell you that Gammy didn’t ask permission from her Mom and Dad. *And if Jenny’s horse really didn’t like to ride double, why would we do it? Do you think that was a smart thing to do?*

Well, Jenny and little Jeanne got on the horse. And then, in this small pen with a building in the middle, that horse started to gallop! He ran right underneath the roof and they had to duck so they didn’t hit their heads. A little while later, the horse bucked them both off and down they went! They were lucky. They didn’t break any bones but they did scrape their skin from hitting the dirt and wood chips.

What do you think happened next?

Well, Little Jeanne went home and didn’t tell her Mom and Dad. But, Jenny’s Mom had already called your Grandma Elaine and told her everything that had happened. Parents are pretty special! Our parents – and our friends’ parents – are special! They all want us to be safe and happy. Sometimes they take care of us by talking to each other.

Gammy: First Time Playing the Organ at Church

Did you know that Gammy and her older sister, your Great Aunt Julie, played the organ at church? They did! When Julie was in 8th grade, she started playing at the church that Grandpa Burt and Grandma Elaine still go to. She played there for five years. Gammy would go along and sing with her. They actually rode their bikes four miles EVERY morning during the summer to play for the service at 7:00am. That's early! Here is a picture of the church which is in Lyons, Wisconsin:



When Gammy was 13 years old, Julie needed to be gone for a week so she asked her sister, Gammy, to play the organ for her. Gammy had to practice A LOT to learn the songs for each church service. Now, Julie was pretty smart. In addition to all Gammy's practice at home, she had Gammy play the organ while she was still there with her.

Guess what happened?

Well, Gammy got through the first song okay. But during the second song, she got very nervous and started making lots of mistakes. *Have you ever gotten nervous when you have tried to do something for other people?* It's okay! It happens to lots of us. That day, though, there were people downstairs trying to sing and they needed the organ to keep them going. And Gammy just couldn't. Julie, though, quickly saved the day! She sat down on the bench and one finger at a time simply took over playing where Gammy was fumbling! The song kept going and the people kept singing.

But that's not the end of the story! Maybe you can imagine that Gammy was pretty scared to try again with the next song. She might not have tried if it weren't for her smart, older sister. Julie simply told her to get on the organ bench and play! No need to listen to the fear. Just face the fear and play! And she did. Gammy played the organ after that for about 10 years and then for another 20 years when she was older. That's a lot of organ playing!

Gammy: 8th Grade Majorette and Baton Twirler

Music has always been a big part of Gammy's life. *Remember the flute?* Well, when Gammy was in 8th grade she was still playing the flute in the school band. That band played concerts and marched in parades. The band director, Mr. Gollmar, was a good director and he was very talented with a baton. *Do you know what a baton is?* It looks like this:



When the drum majorette uses the baton, they lead the band after counting off 1 – 2 – 3 – 4. The band starts marching and the baton usually goes up and down to help everyone keep together. Sometimes, the majorette twirls the baton. Mr. Gollmar taught young Jeanne how to twirl, throw and catch it. Here is a picture of Gammy ready for a parade and another at the end of a different parade with her family:



Grandpa Burt, brothers Mark and Paul, Gammy and Grandma Elaine

Gammy: Fishing with Dad and a Labor Day Prank

One of Gammy's favorite activities with Grandpa Burt and sometimes Grandma Elaine was fishing from a boat. Grandpa Burt would help put worms on the hook and cast the line far out into the water. Here is a picture of Gammy with her older brother, Mark, showing off the fish caught that day:



Little Jeanne with older brother, Mark

Fishing was so important that Gammy put a fishing pole on a birthday card for her Dad!



A card Gammy made for her Dad, your Grandpa Burt

Usually, on the day BEFORE the first day of school, Gammy and her Dad would go fishing early in the morning. That was special! One year, however, Gammy's big sister, Julie, played a BIG trick on her. It was the night before the day before school was to start and Gammy planned to go fishing in the morning. Julie, however, set her alarm for VERY early, 4:00am! It was still dark outside. Julie said, "Jeanne, get up. It's time to get ready for school." "No it's not. I didn't go fishing yet!" "Yes, you did. Don't you remember? You caught eight fish and had lots of fun. Now you need to go take a bath and put on your school clothes!"

Well, somehow Gammy was convinced. She got ready for school only to see that it was now 5:00 in the morning and Julie was laughing. What a prankster! *Would you ever play a trick on your brother or sister? Do you know the difference between a fun trick and something mean?* I hope so!

Pappy: Golfing for the First Time

Have you swung a golf club yet? Of course, you have! Both of your daddies play golf and we know that all of you have golf clubs just your size. Gammy and Pappy even had toy golf clubs at their house for when you came to visit as little ones.

When Pappy was very young, his Dad, your Great Grandpa Loehnis, and his Dad's brother, Pappy's Uncle Chub, would go golfing. They also watched golf on TV sometimes. Even when Pappy's Dad was working, Pappy would go to Uncle Chub's house and watch Jack Nicklaus on the TV playing in a tournament. Uncle Chub lived right around the block so it was easy for Pappy to get on his bike and ride over on his own.

After watching Jack, Pappy wanted to golf and he would dig holes in the back yard and put soup cans in them. *Can you imagine why?* Yes! He would practice putting right there in the back yard. You might be wondering how he could putt with the tall grass in the yard. Well, during the summer, his family had a 24-foot swimming pool in the back yard. All that water, 12,000 gallons worth, would flatten the grass and the ground beneath it. *Do you know how much water that is? Imagine filling up your bathtub 300 times.* That's how much water was in his pool!



When Pappy was 13 years old, his Dad took him to a golf course for the first time. This picture is of Pappy on that day with a golf club in his front yard.

They went with a neighbor, Al DeLeva, who was a very special friend to Pappy growing up. The course was at Rammler Golf Club in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

You probably know how much Pappy loves to golf now and how much your Dads love golfing. But that first time was very hard! Pappy couldn't do anything right. His Dad tried to correct him. But the more his Dad tried, the more frustrated Pappy got. He really didn't want to go back after that!

But he did.

Pappy golfed a few times in high school. Then, after your daddies were born, he started golfing again when he was 30 years old. *How many rounds of golf do you think Pappy has played since then?*

Gammy: Gymnastics in 8th Grade

Can you do a somersault? Can you do a back bend or a handspring? Those are stunts that people learn to do in gymnastics classes. Have you ever taken any gymnastics lessons?

When Gammy was little, she REALLY wanted to take gymnastics lessons and become a gymnast. But there was no gymnastics school in Burlington where she lived. That is, until she was in 8th grade! Now, that's pretty late to start doing gymnastics. Gammy tried though! She got to take about 10 lessons and learned a few stunts. Here is a list of all the stunts that she might have learned:

-
- Acrobatics
1. Front limbers / handed ✓
 2. Back limbers
 3. Back limber to hand stand - hand walk forward
 4. Round offs
 5. Crab walks - front and back
 6. Head springs - with + without hands
 7. Front hand springs
 8. Cart wheels - count slow - count fast
 9. ~~Running cartwheels~~ handed
 10. Running cartwheels
 11. Running cartwheels inside twist
 12. Running cartwheels outside twist
 13. Front walk over
 14. Back walk over
 15. Running front walkovers ✓
 16. Front chest rolls
 17. Back chest rolls from limber
 18. Back chest rolls from back somersault
 19. Back somersault into back chest roll - NO HANDS
 20. Head stand with press up (lay down)
 21. Head stand with splits and twists
 22. ~~Head spring~~ ~~handed~~
 23. Walking head stand
 24. Hand walking
 25. No hand back bends (regular)
 26. Back somersault into layout
 27. Cartwheels
 28. No handed front somersaults
 29. Front limber & twist
 30. Running cartwheel into jump split
 31. ~~Walking to split~~

But it wasn't possible to learn them all in 10 lessons. Ask her sometime which ones she can still do. Or better yet, show her what you can do!

Pappy: St. Lawrence Seminary for High School

When Pappy was only 14 years old, he decided to go to a very special high school. The school was called St. Lawrence Seminary and was 450 miles from his family's home in Detroit, Michigan! *Can you imagine?* It takes about seven hours to drive to this school from his home. *Do you think he slept at home?* NOPE! This was a school where the kids stayed overnight and only went home for breaks. The school had everything that your schools have plus a large dorm where the students had their bedrooms. *Would you like to be away from your parents and siblings for 60-90 days at a time like Pappy was?* Sometimes, when they would have two or more days off of school, Pappy and his new friends at the school would take a Greyhound bus home to Detroit. It was a long ride but they wanted to be with their families.

Pappy chose this school because he would learn more about working in the Catholic Church. At that time, he thought he might want to be a priest when he grew up. A priest is someone who leads the services and cares for the people who come to church. Levi, Sunny and Dell, you go to a Jewish "church" called a synagogue. You don't have a priest, but you do have a rabbi who does the same kind of work for the people of the synagogue.

Here is a picture of young Jamie (Pappy!) in a classroom during his first year of high school:



Pappy: Choir

In addition to school work, Pappy did a few “extracurricular” activities all four years at St. Lawrence Seminary.

One of these was singing in the choir. While that isn’t surprising since he sang so much as a young boy, he chose to sing because he didn’t play an instrument! At this school, each boy was required to play in the band or sing in the choir. The choir sometimes sang during mass but always sang a concert before leaving for home before Christmas vacation. Pappy’s second year, when he was a sophomore in high school, the director asked him to sing the only solo in a Christmas concert. He sang this line in the song, “’Twas the Night Before Christmas”:

“And what to my wondering eyes did appear but a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.”

Do you think he could sing it for you now? Can you find Pappy in these pictures?



(Top)
S. Miller
J. Loehnis
D. Bellamy
T. Moehn
D. Kirschbaum
T. Kretzmer
(Bottom)
J. Bekkers
A. Rietveld
T. Reardon
J. Bekkers

CHOIR

An important part of the daily liturgy is the music that adds its special quality to the service. The choir, under Fr. Myron Kowalsky's direction, supplies this special beauty with the most beautiful sound of all, the sincerity of the human voice.

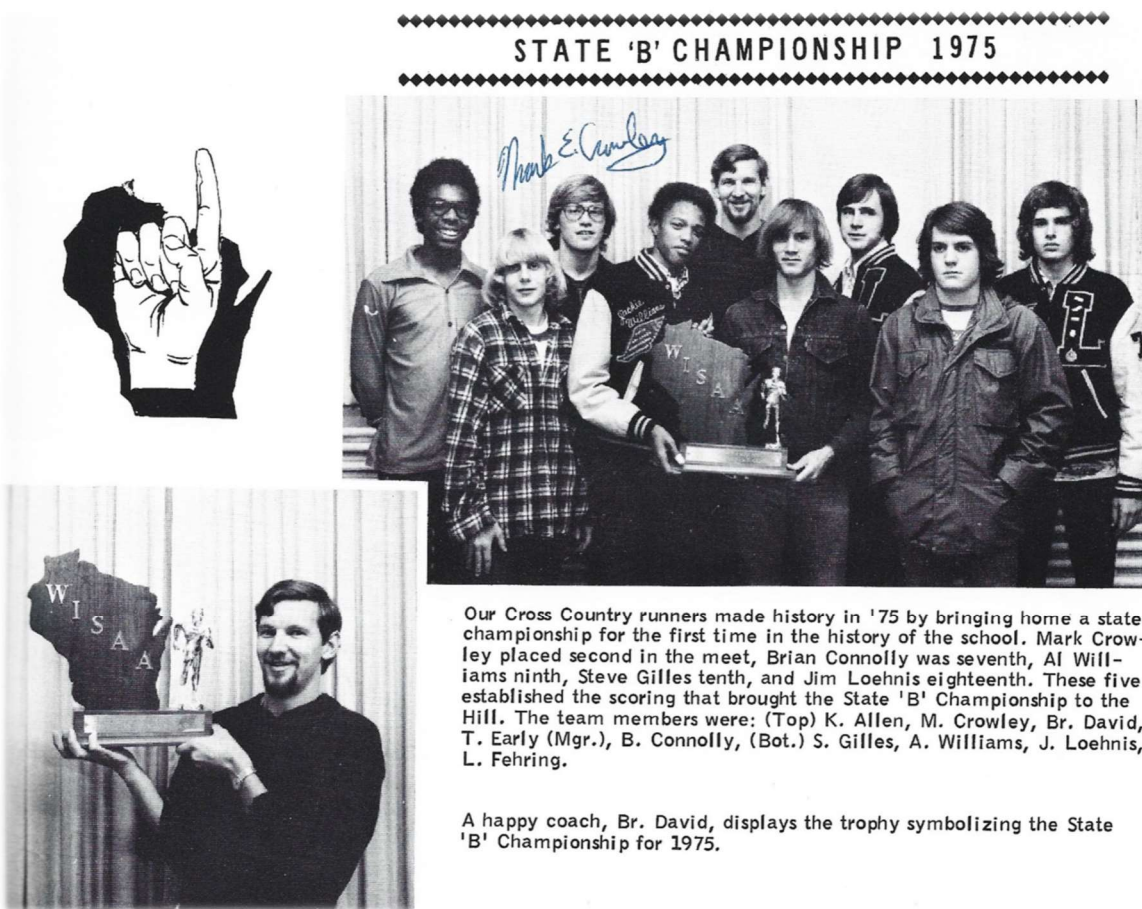


(Top) M. Lorenz, S. Voss, D. Caceres, M. Schmidt, J. Loehnis,
M. Crain, M. Dobrzynski, T. Welcenbach, J. Tourangeau, M.
Cassin.

Pappy: Cross Country Running

A second activity that Pappy did all during high school was to run with the cross country team. Running “cross country” means that the running happens – not on a track – but across the land, through fields, up and down hills. It is hard work! When Pappy and the team ran, it was usually for 2.8 miles. That is a long way, especially when hills and rough land is involved. And the “track” that Pappy practiced on at St. Lawrence Seminary was actually the hardest in the Winnebago Lake Conference. Other teams who ran with them at meets found it very difficult! *Where do you like to run? How far do you run?*

Pappy ran as part of a team. The leader, early on, was Steve Gillis. He was awesome. *Why?* Pappy says that Steve always spent everything he had, really ran his hardest, every time! He would get to the end of the 2.8 miles and collapse from exhaustion. Steve loved to run and to do well for his team. You see, cross country is a team sport. Each runner does their best. The time it takes to run the 2.8 miles for the top five finishers on a team is added together. Then, the team score is compared with the team score for other teams. The team with the lowest combined time would win the meet. Pappy’s team, with Steve as the leader, won the State Championship his junior, or third, year. This was the FIRST time that his school had ever won and was very exciting!



Pappy loved running. When he ran, he used his imagination a lot. He would dream about things while his body worked hard. That isn't possible in some sports. He plays pickleball now and it is very important that he stays focused on the court, where the ball is coming from, and how he needs to hit it!

What sports do you enjoy? What do you like about them? What sports might you do in school?

Pappy: Cheerleader

Do you know what a cheerleader is? Well, if you've ever seen a basketball or football game, then you may have seen people on the sidelines who *cheer*, who try to get the crowd excited and encourage the team on the field. They would lead the crowd in chants like, "Two, two. We want two." In basketball, that's like saying they wanted the boys on the gym floor to make a two point basket.

When Gammy and Pappy were in school, cheerleaders were usually girls. But, Pappy went to an "all boys" high school.

Who do you think the cheerleaders were?

If you guessed *boys*, you were right! In fact, Pappy was a cheerleader his junior and senior years during basketball games. Here is a picture of the "squad" his junior year:



J. V. Basketball cheerleaders. (Top) V. Oria, E. Janisse, J. Loehnis. (Bottom) L. Fehring, T. Early, M. Dolniak.

In addition to leading the cheers, Pappy's squad was famous for building human pyramids like the one below:



Varsity basketball cheerleaders (Standing); Larry Holzem, Tim Giebel, Tim Sprosty, Steve Gilles, Tim Sommers, Jim Loehnis. (Sitting) Joe Laethem, Frank Shircel and Rick Staab.

THE MEN WHO KEEP THE SPIRIT ALIVE



One of the Hilltopper's more famous formations!!

Pappy's cheerleading squad had a coach whose name was Jill Kritzke. She wanted each cheerleader to work well as a member of the team – and – to have a chance to use their unique talents. If you remember, Pappy took dance and gymnastics lessons before he went away for high school. At some point, Coach Kritzke asked Pappy:

Coach Kritzke: "Can you walk on your hands?"

Pappy: "Yes I can."

Coach Kritzke: "Show me."

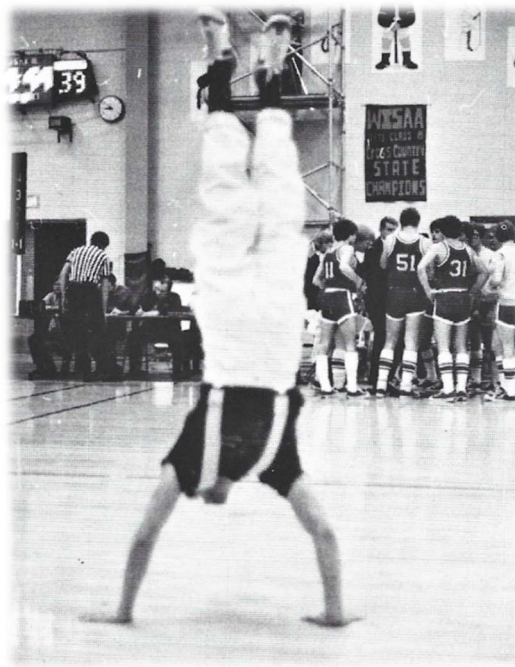
After Pappy had walked a short distance but while he was still on his hands, he asked:

Pappy: "Is this far enough?"

Coach Kritzke: "Keep going."

With that, he walked all the way across the gym floor! From then on, he would walk diagonally across the floor every home game. That is almost 100 feet! He probably had to more than 100 steps on his hands and he never fell down. *Can you walk on your hands? Try it!*

(Below) Jim Loehnis looks at a different world as he "walks" off the court.



Take a look at the clothes Pappy is wearing. Those "painter pants and suspenders" were his squad's "signature clothing". Here is a video of someone else walking on their hands:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omQcFoMuZXg>

Three more things about Pappy and cheerleading. First, after he walked on his hands for Coach Kritzke, she asked him to do a head stand atop some scaffolding in the gym which was 15-20 feet up in the air – almost to the ceiling! *Would you do that without a net to catch you?* Second, it takes a LOT of arm strength to do what he did and he never lifted weights! Pappy was very strong. Finally, Pappy did like talking to the cheerleaders from the other teams during halftime. *Can you guess why?*

Pappy: Tennis



Pappy played tennis when he was in high school. In the spring of his senior year, 1977, when he was 17, he and his friend Paul Gayan, were in the tournament finals. Pappy was running from the left to the right side of the court to get a baseline shot. He got it!

But, as he followed through with his swing, he hit himself with his aluminum racket – hard! His forehead bled and they had to stop playing so Pappy could get a band-aid. The two continued playing the match, but unfortunately, Pappy lost the tournament.

How do you think Pappy got started playing tennis?

Well, his Dad played with him. He used a wooden racket at that time. And, when the racket wasn't being used, it was put in a frame and tightened with butterfly nuts so that it would not warp. Wood will bend when it gets wet and stays that way for awhile.

Here is an old, wooden tennis racket and a modern aluminum racket which people use today because it is lighter weight.



Pappy: Leadership and Liturgical Representative

At the seminary, Pappy and his classmates went to church every day. The church service was called a liturgy or mass. The Liturgical Reps met to discuss how to make those services better and more meaningful. Pappy was voted by his classmates, about 60 of them, to be a rep during his junior year. On Tuesdays, the juniors went to mass together as a group. He and the other reps were responsible for all that was needed that day.

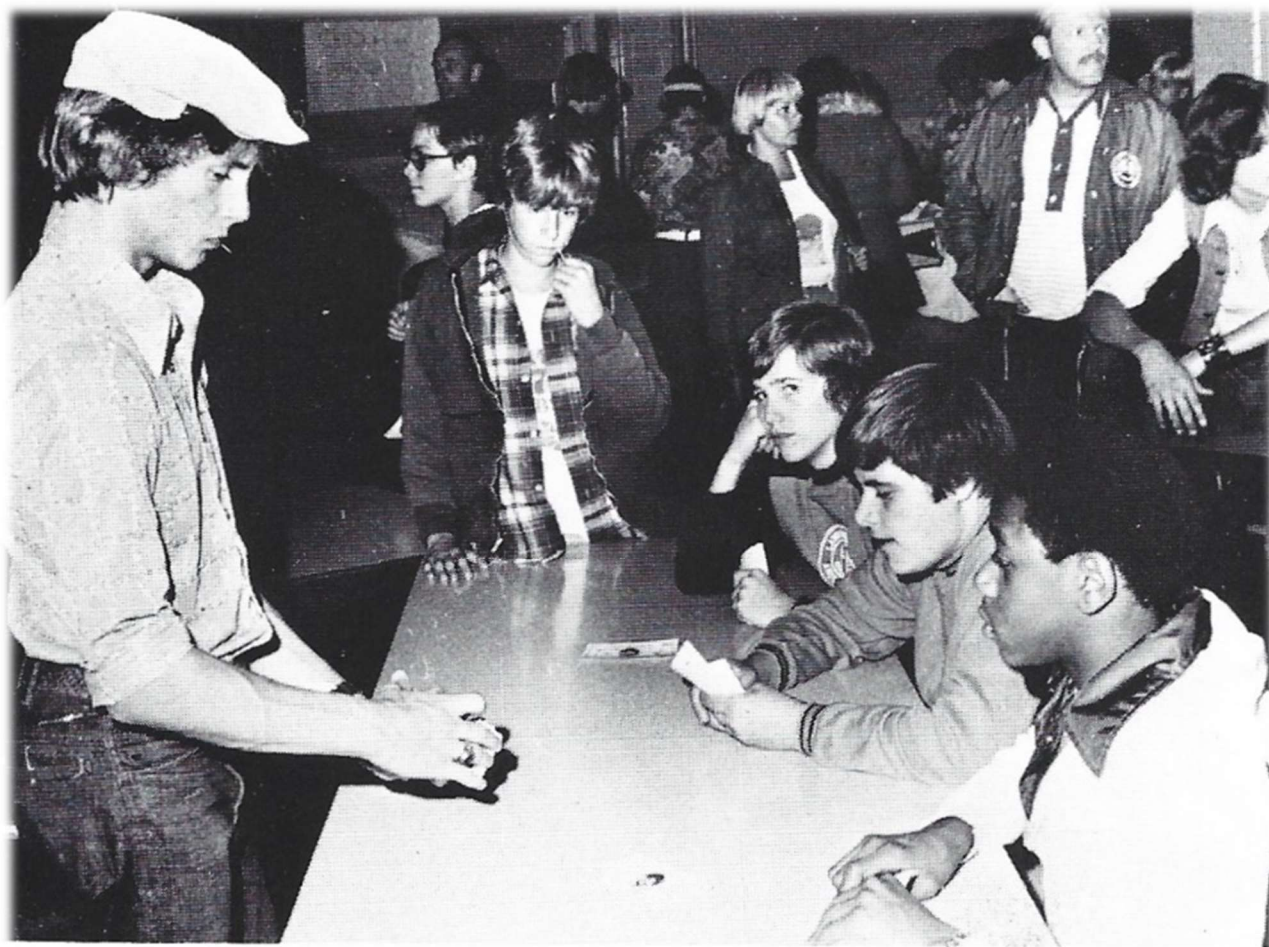


JUNIOR CLASS OFFICERS, Top: T. Giebel (Lit. Rep.), W. Bartel (Stu. Co.), R. Rebro (Lit. Rep.), J. Loehnis T. Riste (Lit. Rep.), G. Eaken (Sec.), J. Timmers (Lit. Rep.). Bot.: M. Novak (Tres.), T. Elms (V.P.), J. Copeland (Lit. Rep.), T. Reardon (Pres.), J. Tushaus (Stu. Co.)

Pappy: Casino Night

When Pappy was a junior in high school, he was starting to be seen by his fellow students as a leader and as someone who had influence over others. That was a big deal and Pappy took it to heart. He was being appreciated for who he was and what he could bring. One of the ways he exercised leadership and used his influence was on the Casino Night planning committee. A casino is a place adults go to play gambling games. Sometimes they bet a lot of money on those games. For Pappy's school friends, though, Casino Night was once a year, and while they played gambling games, they didn't bet lots of money. They did have fun though!

That year, the other students on the committee asked Pappy if he would be willing to be the dealer at the Black Jack table. You'll have to ask him how to play Black Jack. He'll teach you! *Look closely at that picture. Do you see Pappy and his toothpick?* Pappy looks pretty professional, doesn't he?



Mike Olson watches Jamie Loehnis deal to Jim Reynolds, Tom Paulus and Joe Grant.

Pappy: The End of High School

At the end of Pappy's four years at the seminary, his family came for his high school graduation. They drove the seven hours pulling a pop-up camper. Everyone stayed at Columbia Park campground near the seminary.



The camper didn't fit everyone so Pappy once again got to sleep in his pup tent! The campground was a fun place to be as it was on the water, Lake Winnebago, and had a game room with pin ball machines. *Do you know what a pin ball machine is?* Pappy remembers, though, when the coffee maker in the camper tipped over. As he was cleaning it up, he got a shock! *Have you ever been shocked?* It hurts! It's always important to be careful with electric appliances around water. Ask your Mom and Dad about that.

Pappy and his Dad drove back to the seminary on the day after graduation to pick up his things. Since he was living there, he had clothes and books, sports equipment and his music player. Pappy's Dad let him drive since Pappy had gotten his license when he was 16 years old. On the ride, there was a new sign at one of the corners in Johnsburg. It read, "Right turn no stop." So, Pappy didn't stop!

But, his Dad, your Great Grandpa Loehnis, had never seen a sign like that before. He lived in Michigan where they didn't exist. *Guess what happened?* Pappy's Dad made him turn around and go back and STOP at that corner!

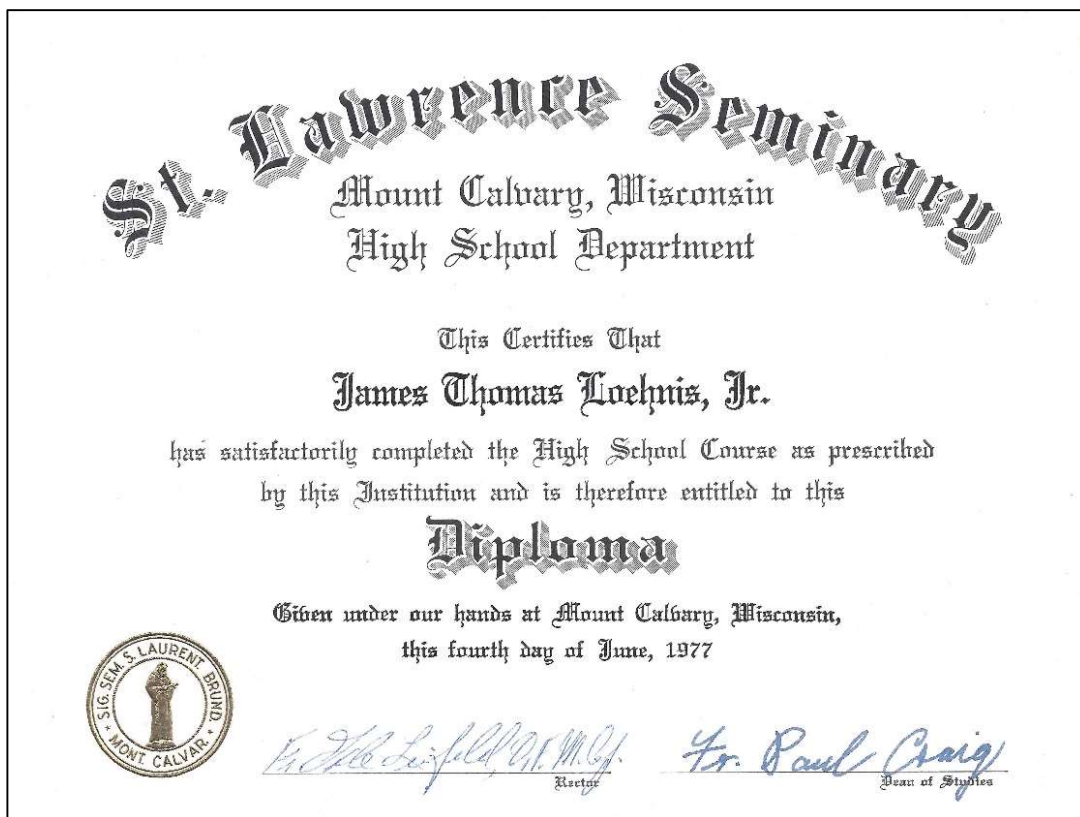


Here is a picture of Pappy and his sisters on graduation day. It was pretty special that they all made the long trip to celebrate with him!



Pappy with his sisters, your Great Aunts: Kris, Patty, Kim, Luann and Pappy in his formal, senior year photo

Here is Pappy's diploma, a certificate that shows he completed his four years of high school at St. Lawrence Seminary:



Gammy: Musicals

Remember that Gammy did some acting in 4-H plays? Well, in high school, when she was 15-18 years old, she got to be in musicals. A musical is play with music. The people on stage sing and sometimes dance. One year, Gammy played a nun in a musical called **The Sound of Music**. A nun is a woman who works for the Catholic Church who wears a long robe with, sometimes, a belt around the waist. Well, this musical had three nuns who sang together a few times. For "belts", they wore glow-in-the-dark rosaries, or chains of beads. Imagine the nuns coming out onto a dark stage and all that you could see were the glowing beads around their waists! Lots of fun! The rosaries came from your Great Aunt Julie, Great Uncle Mark and Gammy who had gotten them as gifts many years earlier.



Another year, Gammy was in a musical called **The Fantasticks**. Here are some pictures, including one of the cake that Gammy made and decorated for the party after the show. *Did you know that Gammy could decorate cakes?*



Gammy: Kids from Burlington

In high school, Gammy also sang and danced with a group called the **Kids from Burlington**. It was fun and it was a lot of work to learn the music and the dance steps! *Do you like to sing? Do you like to dance?* Maybe someday you'll perform like Gammy did! Here are some pictures of the group! *Can you find Gammy?*



Gammy: Cleaning House for Heidi and Ernie

Do you think you'll get a job when you get older? When Gammy was 12, she started to babysat other people's children. When she was in 8th grade and 13 years old, she worked for a couple named Heidi and Ernie.



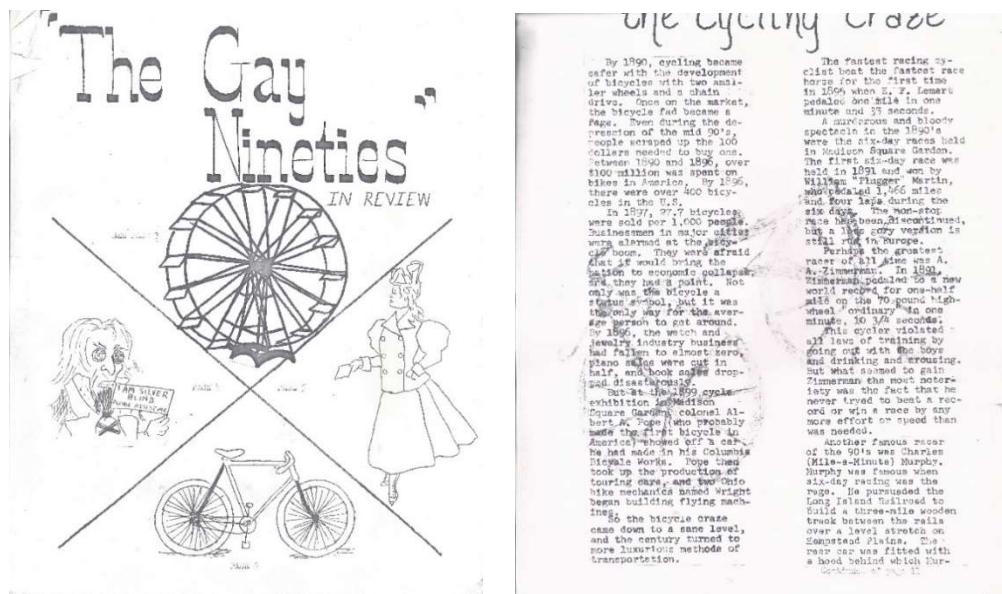
She cleaned their house every Saturday. Heidi taught her a lot about dusting, vacuuming, scrubbing and cleaning windows. It was hard work! Yet it was very important for Gammy. We all need to learn new skills and learn how to be responsible at a job.

What jobs do your Mom and Dad do? What jobs might you like to learn how to do? What will you do with the money you earn?

Gammy: Connie and the Julius Caesar magazine

Do you have a special friend? Maybe you have more than one! Gammy had a friend named Connie. They were best friends from 8th grade through high school. Connie played the clarinet in the school band. What was so surprising in 8th grade was that Connie and Gammy had almost ALL of their classes together! Now, when you first go to school, you stay in the same room almost all day. But, in 8th grade, you get to go from room to room and teacher to teacher. Each teaches something different. *Sunny, Levi, and Dell, do you know that your mom used to teach Science and Social Studies?* Other teachers taught reading and math and music and art.

Well, that first year, after Gammy and Connie realized they were walking from class to class together, they became great friends! Then, in 9th grade, they had the same English class. In the springtime, they did a project together. *Do you ever do projects with other people?* That can be a lot more fun than doing it by yourself. Plus, with more people, there are more great ideas for the project. Their project was a magazine they imagined could have been printed in the 1890's. That's now over 130 years ago! Connie was a very good writer and Gammy liked to draw. So, they put their ideas together and used each of their talents. Here is a picture of their creation:



And a real photograph of a woman and her bicycle from the 1890's:



Gammy: Valedictory speech and terror

Do you ever ask for help? Are you ever the one helping or leading others? Well, at the end of high school, there is a big gathering called graduation to celebrate that the students made it through all 12 grades. Next, many get a job or go on to college. Gammy was asked to give a valedictory speech at her graduation ceremony because she had studied hard and done very well throughout high school.

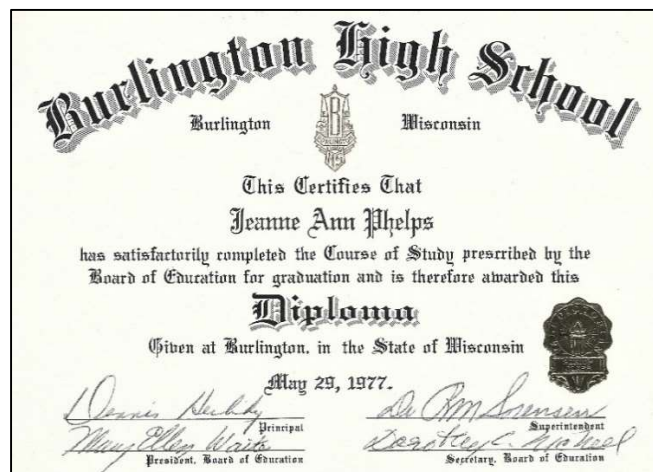
For the speech, she was to stand up in front of all the other students, about 350 of them (and their parents) and talk about something meaningful. Here is Gammy walking across the stage on graduation day:



As the day grew closer, Gammy was struggling. She tried to write her speech but when she imagined giving it, she got very scared. She needed help. Luckily, she asked a teacher. This special woman listened to her fears, helped her write the speech, and then told her that she was very capable of speaking to people. “Just do it! You’ll be fine.”

Do you think Gammy gave the speech? YES! Do you think someday you will stand up in front of other people and speak? Bet you will!

Here is Gammy’s diploma, a certificate that says she graduated from high school.



Gammy: The College Years

After high school, some people get a job and some go on to college. Do you know that your Daddies and Gammy went on to the same college? Yep! Gammy went to Lawrence University in Appleton. Then, Koa and King's Dad, Jim, went there for one year before he transferred to Coe College in Iowa. Sunny, Dell and Levi's Dad, Joe, went to Lawrence University for all four years, like Gammy did. Actually, Gammy's sister, your Great Aunt Julie, went to Lawrence too!

It just so happens that Gammy and your daddies also all worked at Lawrence. Gammy worked in the Computer Center and wrote programs as a student. Then, after graduation, she worked for the University in Computer Services for another 30 years! Jim and Joe worked in the food service area, helping feed the college students, when they were still in high school. Then, Jim worked in the Computer Center, too, when he was a student.

Gammy studied music in college. She did a lot of singing and had to sing a recital in front of a room full of people. That was scary – like that speech in high school. But she did it. Joe gave a recital too - on his cello. Beyond singing classes, Gammy studied French, Spanish, Music Theory and History, Religion, Psychology, Math, Art and Computer Programming.

Do you remember that Gammy played the organ in church for many years? Well, some of those years were during college at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Appleton. She would go every Saturday and Sunday and play the organ and sing.

One of those Sunday mornings was pretty special. In between masses, she would take a break in the kitchen. That morning, as she was eating some breakfast, there were some boys sitting across the table. *Guess who one of those boys was ... did you guess?* It was Pappy! Gammy and Pappy met at St. Joseph's Church in Appleton, Wisconsin. You'll have to ask Pappy what happened next.

Finally, just like high school, after completing the school work for your college studies, there is a graduation ceremony. Someday, maybe you will go to college and graduate! For Gammy and the job she did for 30 years, it was important to learn a lot, learn how to study hard, and graduate. Here is Gammy walking across the stage at her college graduation to get her diploma, or certificate of completion.



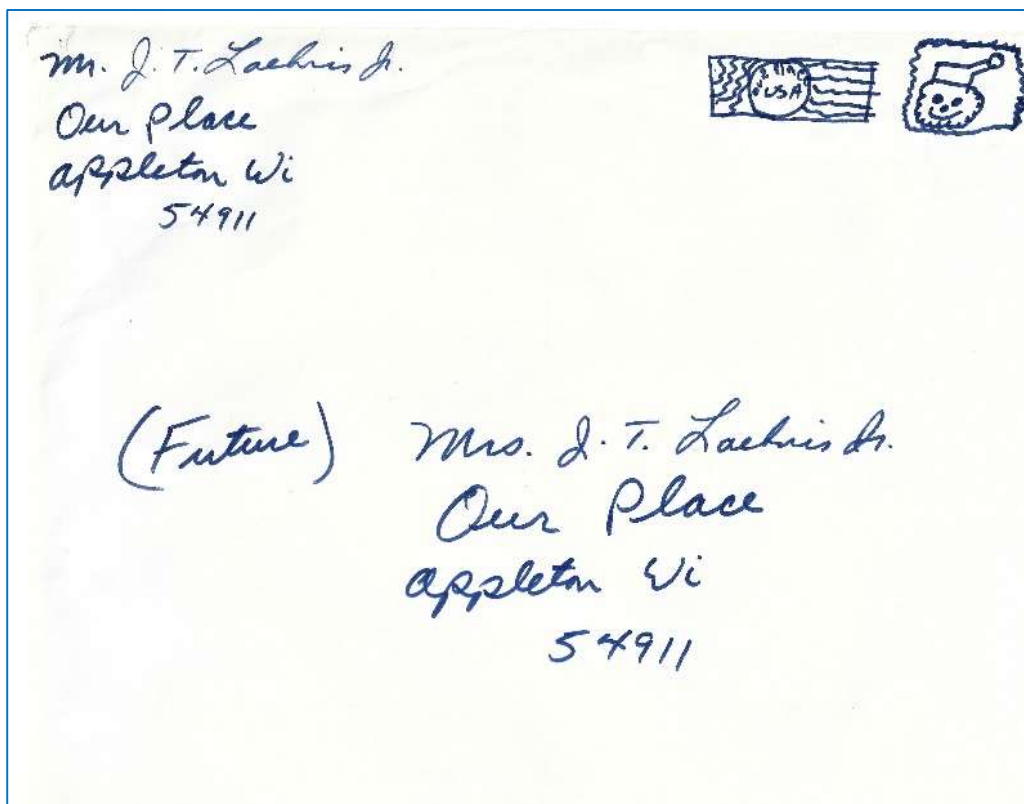
Do you recognize the people in these pictures?



Why don't you ask your Mom and Dad about their education? What did they study? What was important to them?

Gammy and Pappy: What Happened Next?

Before Gammy graduated but after she and Pappy met, Pappy wrote many letters to Gammy. He was very creative too! One of those letters came in an envelope that looked just like this:



One summer, Gammy and Pappy were with Grandpa Burt and Grandma Elaine at the beach. Brown's Lake is where Gammy learned to swim when she was very young. Here are some pictures from that beach day:



Jamie and Jeanne



Your Great Uncle Paul, Jeanne, Jamie, Grandpa Burt!

Then, just six days after Gammy's graduation from Lawrence University, Gammy and Pappy got married. Jeanne Ann Phelps married James Thomas Loehnis, Jr. on June 20, 1981 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lyons, Wisconsin. Jeanne decided to change her last name to Jamie's so she is now Jeanne Loehnis. But of course, you know her as Gammy and you know him as Pappy!

