

BETTY'S DIARIES (*You will never have to watch "Days of Our Lives" again*)

Mom kept a daily diary from 1939, her junior year in high school, through 1943, the year she turned 21. There were three important words to note

1. **"Swell"**, as in Bill is swell, George is swell, Harry is swell, Keith is swell, Phillip is swell, Bruce is swell, Dunk is swell...*well, you get the drift.*
2. **"Nuts"** as in "George asked me to go to the prom, but I already said I would go with Bill. My only chance to go with him. NUTS! To Heck with Bill!"
3. **"Mess"** which is repeated over and over as Mom made two dates at one time..."Went to game. Harry was there. I skipped out with Bill. When we got home Harry was in the front room talking to Mom. What a mess!"

1939:

May 18: Tom McGarry asked me why I didn't come out for the play because he wanted me to be his leading lady. He's a swell kid.

June 6: George called and I hung up on him. Harry called. Gee! I like him. Bruce called and asked me to go sailing tomorrow.

June 14: I WON'T GO STEADY (*We figured that out, Mom!*)

June 30: Went to reunion at Conneaut. Talked to Ward and he said he was coming out to see me. I hope so. Also, Donnie Tyler said he would come out. Gee, I'd love to go with him. Even though he is my cousin.

1940 continued with dates to movies and "eats". How Mom stayed so thin is the question as she stopped for burgers at Morgans, Wheelers, Purple Cow, The Mansion, Isaly's, Stone's and Riblets. Movies she saw included "Citizen Kane", "Philadelphia Story", "North by Northwest", "Lost Horizon" and "Mrs. Minever", to name a few. It appeared that to date Mom you had to go to a movie and out to eat.

In early **1941** Mom met Dad:

February 1: I went to the Elms with Don Grover from Brownlee Woods. Gee, he's swell. I guess I fell for him. He brought me home at 3:15AM but gee! He's sort of conceited, but I like him. (*And my curfew at 19 was 11 o'clock*)

1942 saw most of Mom's boy friends head to war. She spent a lot of time writing to all her guys, but mentioned "Dunk" a lot. By 1943 Mom had been asked by three guys- Dunk, George and Bill - to marry them. She told two of them "no".

November 8, 1943: Bill came for me again. Went out for eats. He asked me to marry him and I said "no". He said to let him know if I ever changed my mind. *She never did.*

Some family entries were also very interesting (Mom DID do a few other things than date swell guys)

February 5, 1939: Mom and Dad took Gene, Don Ruth and I down to Wellsville to see the Ohio River. It's real high. (*Actually I think it flooded the whole town that week*)

February 10, 1939: Oh, me, these boys, wouldn't it be swell to live in a house with just girls to worry about.

April 22, 1939: Mom took Ruth to Canfield for the spelling contest. She lost.

June 22, 1939: McKay's barn was struck by lightning and destroyed. Nearly all Poland was at the fire.

June 25, 1939: Nicolls' reunion. Marge is engaged to Pete Ohl.

June 27, 1939: Dad bought tickets to the Cleveland/Detroit game. Bob Feller pitched. He struck out 13 players and allowed only 1 hit. My feet hurt, but I want to go again. (*See, Bill, you are not the only fan*)

November 25, 1939: Listened to Michigan beat Ohio State.

June 6, 1940: We are really in bad with Sherrys' now. Toots bit Bobby this P.M. and Mr. Sherry called and swore a blue streak at Bob and told him he would shoot Toots if we didn't keep him tied. He was tied when he bit Bobby so Bob must have been teasing him. Such luck!

July 28, 1939: I went to show "Andy Hardy Girls Spring Forever" (*And we thought "Girls Gone Wild" was a new show*)

October 29, 1939: Bob is treasurer of the junior class and Dave is secretary/treasurer of the sophomore class.

November 27, 1939: Mom and Dad started going to Physical Education classes at school. (*Needed a few more abs exercises?*)

April 15, 1940: Dan Richard said this morning that I was elected most popular girl in High School and after school I had to go into the Betty Gay Shop and put on a formal, then have my picture taken for the paper. (*Probably all those swell guys voted for her*)

June 5, 1940: Coming home, Jim let me drive and I tried to turn in our drive and missed. They can't fix the car and I took the bark off of the two trees out front. Honest, I can't see why I get in so many messes. (*Maybe glasses would help*)

November 5, 1940: Election Day. Roosevelt won third term. Nuts! I wanted Wilkie to win.

December 7, 1941: Grandpa hasn't wakened since it happened yesterday. Grandpa died this evening about 11:20 PM. I can't believe it. Japs today killed 140 Americans.

December 8, 1941: President Roosevelt declared war on Japan at 12:30 PM today. I can't seem to believe it.

February 9, 1942: I slept until 11:15 (Wartime). Pres. Roosevelt moved us up 1 hour until the war is over.

May 28, 1942: Went to Dave's commencement in eve. Gee, he looked swell. Cute, too. He got lots of gifts.

October 28, 1942: Dunk's brother Hank was killed in action today in the Solomons. His mother got a telegram from Washington, D.C.

December 1, 1942: Gas rationing started today.

February 11, 1943: Up at 6:15 AM and all of us went down to see Bob leave for army. He seemed so happy to go.

March 23, 1943: Dave left for Navy at 10:30 PM. We all went to Bus Arcade to see him leave. Gee, he looked swell!

June 9, 1943: Dad got 50 more chicks.

September 29, 1943: Jennie had an 8 ¼# baby boy at 12:10AM today. She is fine.

October 20, 1943: Doris, Betty and I went to the Notre Dame-Navy game at Cleveland. Rode home in baggage car with whole Navy team who were going to Annapolis. Had a swell time. When got to Youngstown, they made us kiss each of them before we could get

off. NEVER HAD SO MUCH FUN IN ALL MY LIFE! (*I bet those Navy guys are swell!*)

So ends the life and times of young Betty M. Nicolls....