

FAMILY VISITING

Being of a gregarious nature, the human is wont to interact with fellow beings, and we were not any different. Relatives came first on that list, and we had lots of relatives. My dad was one of seven children, and my mother one of six living children. Four of these thirteen stayed single for whatever reason. Two had no children. Two sisters married two brothers and had a total of four children, and the remaining had four children. Out of thirteen there were only eight offspring, and I was the youngest.

There were our grandparents to visit, various aunts, uncles, great-aunts and great-uncles, cousins, and whatever. As a little kid, I remember several reactions when we would go somewhere. There was a curiosity about their home, and avulsion at being kissed. Now kids want love and affection. There is no denying that. The thing we didn't like was a mustache. My maternal granddad, [Charles](#), couldn't kiss without scratching us with his mustache. We kids used to run around our house with a hairbrush held over our lip, trying to kiss each other and saying, "Kiss grand-pop".

My paternal grandparents had experienced many financial roller coasters in their life, but in my time they had become "wealthy". We were told they were worth a half million dollars at a time when that bought a lot for a dollar. They owned a huge house on perhaps ten or twenty acres of land on [South Easton Road, Glenside](#). [Using other information from Mom and modern day street numbering, her grandparents' mansion was at [279 South Easton Road](#).] It was built especially for them, and they were the only ones to ever live there. The family moved there from [West Oak Lane](#) in 1904, and the house was destroyed by fire in 1937. [Here it seems Mom miss-typed. Three of my forebearers Find a Grave® entries say [Oak Lane](#), which is in [Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County](#). They are [Aunt Ethel](#), [my Grandfather Diehl](#) and [Aunt Flora](#). Indeed, to the best of my knowledge, the only person that was *not* born in Oak Lane would have been [Aunt Gert](#). West Oak Lane, East Oak Lane and Oak Lane are all a hop skip and a jump from each other.]

Here Mom is *wrong*. Is it a typo? I don't know. Jim Woods was reading old newspapers at the [Old York Road Historical Society](#), and came across [this front page](#) article in the March 14, 1940 [Glenside News](#). The actual fire was March 12, 1940. I transcribed the article to the best of my ability. I will share it now. Please note: The lack of capitalization for the word "road" is the way that the article was written.

\$10,000 Fire Damages Glenside Home

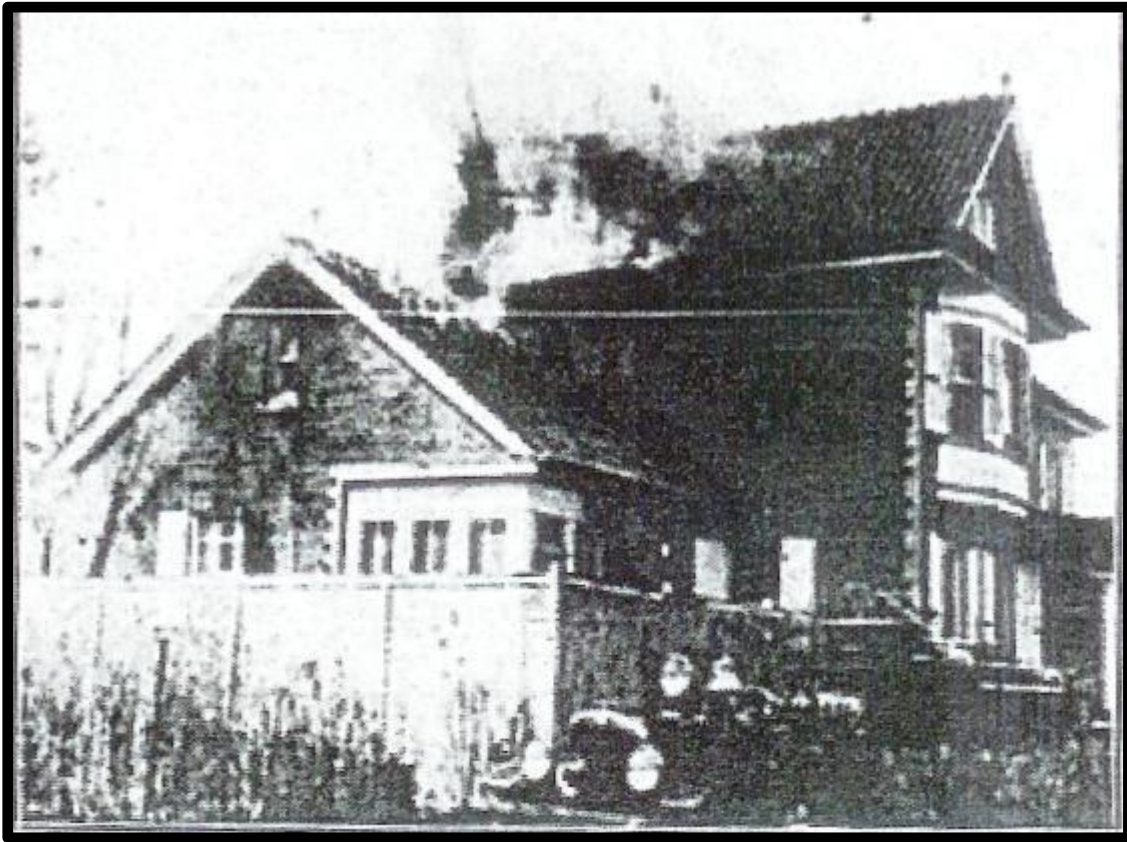


Photo snapped by an alert photographer just before fireman begin a two- hour battle to save the large home of S. Ervin Diehl on S Easton road Tuesday shows wind-driven flames eating into roof and third floor. Passerby assisted in removing all furnishings from the house when it was feared the entire structure was doomed. Four Cheltenham township volunteer companies were in service.

\$10,000 BLAZE SWEEPS DIEHL HOME TUESDAY

Spectacular Fire Near Business Section Keeps Firemen Busy 2 Hours

Volunteer fireman from four Cheltenham township companies battled for more than two hours to conquer a blaze Tuesday afternoon that destroyed the second and third floors of the S. Ervin Diehl home on Easton road opposite the Glenside Cheltenham school. Damage was estimated at \$10,000 Miss Gertrude Diehl, daughter of the owner, discovered the fire shortly before noon. She said she believed it originated in a floor directly above an open fireplace that was in use on the first floor.

The only other occupant at the time of the fire, Miss Myrtle Diehl, another daughter, summoned fireman and police. Both women then supervised the removal of all furnishings from the house to the lawn. Persons from the crowd that was attracted by the billows of smoke rising from the roof assisted in carrying out furniture and clothing for the blaze had gained such headway that it was believed the entire structure was doomed.

While The fire was confined to the third floor and two rooms on the second floor of the large Spanish type dwelling, the large amount of water needed fight _____ flames cascaded down onto into the first floor added to the damage.

Only one slight casualty was reported. Clarence Goldsmith, assistant chief of the Glenside company, sustained lacerations of the face when struck by falling plaster on the second floor.

The Glenside company responded first followed by Elkins Park, Oganz and La Mott. Elkins Park's hook and ladder truck was utilized to reach the stubborn flames beneath the roof above the third floor.

Members of the family unable to return to the home after the fire reported to temporarily reside with relatives in Glenside and Philadelphia.

When firemen arrived they found almost all windows wide open. Both women, believing that that that they were doing something helpful, had thrown open the windows to let out the smoke they said.

Mr. Diehl Who conducts a bottling machine and soda fountain fixture business in Philadelphia did not arrive at the scene until the fire was out.

Again, "The **clippings** are from the Match 14, 1940 Glenside News, page 1 - Jim Woods." The actual fire was March 12, 1940.

Let's return to Mom's 1996 text.

A gray stone wall with several wrought iron gates surrounded the property. Early photos revealed that the road was unpaved, but later was surfaced with concrete. Their curving driveway was also paved, and there was a portico to drive under. There were footmen figurines with rings to which a person could hitch a horse. On two sides of the house was a porch, which was enclosed on one side. The main entrance was on the drive side, and led into an entry room about the size

of an average living room. The living room was large requiring a pillar or two to hold up the ceiling. There was a music room, a dining room, large kitchen, pantry, den, and I believe a bath room plus a few little nooks and crannies on the first floor.

The cellar was paved throughout, and it was there that they did the household laundry. In those days there were standard tubs, and maybe there was an early edition of a washing machine. There were several stairways leading to each level. I don't recall the number of bedrooms and bathrooms on the second floor, but the attic was a place to go and see all the strange things stored there from the past. I used to slip up there to dream over it all.

Outside was a stable, a chicken house, and as I recall one or so small buildings. The chicken house was interesting in that there were little doors on the outside where each chicken nest could be accessed individually without entering the house itself. You could take your basket, walk down the concrete path, unhook a door and reach in under the hen to take the freshly laid egg. I was never inside the chicken house or the stable.

Before my time they kept two Jersey cows and whatever horse(s) they needed. They at one time had an Afro-American hired man to do the outside work, and a maid to do the housework. It was said that my grandmother was never satisfied with the way any maid would do the work, so she herself would do it. After all she did it before they had attained a measure of wealth. There was always a new maid being hired, and given a chance to perform to a satisfactory level. Apparently, none ever could. Also, before my time they had a collie named Mike. He was a real pal for the family and appeared in many of the photos kept in my dad's big black album. There had always been a vegetable garden, fruit trees, a woods, and pastureland. From old photos I believe they also raised the hay, feed, and straw needed for the animals and the chickens.

Now I would like to include several things. First, Mom assembled **two** one-page documents that further help document and describe her grandparents' mansion and early 1900's everyday life. Next in line are pictures of her grandparents individually. There are even two pictures of Mike. One is a picture of my great- aunt [Myrt](#) with Mike. The other is my grandfather [Earle Diehl](#) with Mike. 😊 Last of all, I am including a follow up article on the Diehl estate and my great grandfather Diehl's obituary as recorded in the *Glenside News* September 26, 1946.

Document One: Lawn Jockey/ Hitching Post [I, Carol, have captioned the pictures.]

LAWN JOCKEY (by Nancy Diehl Singer) April 13, 2012)

http://www.lawnjock.com/lawn_jockey_history.html site of history of these items

<http://tieguanyin-chaye.com/cok/lawn+jockey> site from which I obtained two pictures

► This last site cannot be reached in 2024. 🙄



A [footman figurine /hitching post/lawn jockey](#) similar to one seen at my great-grandfather Diehl's mansion before it was destroyed by fire in 1940. Mom says, "On the outer wall of the portico sat a [footman figurine /hitching post/lawn jockey](#) dressed as the left picture above. "



In describing the [footman figurine /hitching post/lawn jockey](#) found at her grandfather's mansion, which was destroyed by fire in 1940, Mom says, "Imagine the left jockey seated (as the right above) on the left wall of the picture below."

South Easton Road in Glenside, Pennsylvania (Montgomery County) was the location of my grandfather's estate. He was my father's (Earle Diehl) father (Samuel Ervin Diehl, Sr.) The home pictured below had a large portico for alighting from the horse and carriage back in the early 1900s. On the outer wall of the portico sat a lawn jockey dressed as the left picture above. I don't have a picture of it nor can I find one like it. Imagine the left jockey seated (as the right above) on the left wall of the picture below.



*The estate of my great-grandparents Samuel Ervin Diehl, Sr. and Gertrude Virginia Addis Diehl. Using modern numbering, it was at [279 South Easton Road, Glenside](#). "It was built especially for them, and they were the only ones to ever live there. The family moved there from [West Oak Lane \[Oak Lane \]](#) in 1904..." - Mom. While Mom said it was destroyed by fire in 1937, the **Glenside News** reports that it actually burned March 12, 1940*

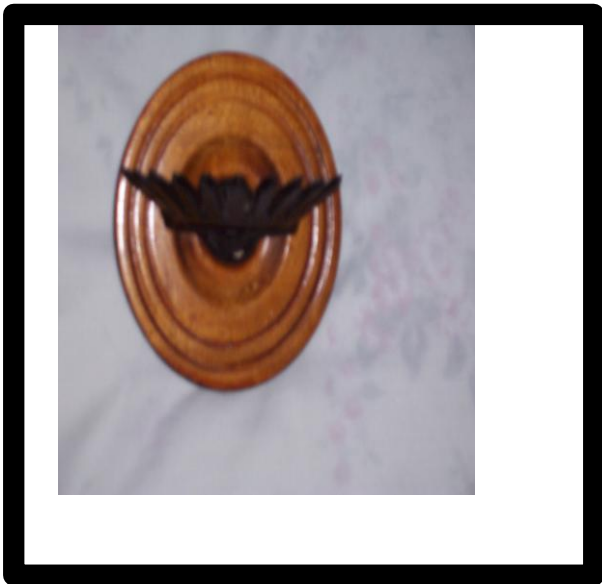
I do not mean the stone pillars for the gates. The stone fence went around the property.

Document Two: Whip Holder**WHIP HOLDER**

This strange contraption was from the stable of ([Samuel Ervin Diehl, Sr.](#)) my paternal grandfather's residence on South Easton Road, Glenside, Pennsylvania, circa 1905.

This whip holder was screwed into an upright beam in the area where the tack (harnesses) was kept. Each whip—either for driving—that is a carriage pulled by one or two horses or for riding whips or crops. There usually would be a loop on the end of the whip that the driver would hold in his hand. That loop was hung on one of the projections. If a driving whip the long lash could be looped through the circular grooves on the wooden portion. If it was a shorter driving whip the tip of the whip could be hooked on the metal projection next to its handle.

Nancy Diehl Singer
Pleasant Valley, PA
February 21, 2008



A part of a whip holder / Mom says it was, "from the stable of (Samuel Ervin Diehl, Sr.) my paternal grandfather's residence on South Easton Road, Glenside, Pennsylvania, circa 1905.



A part of a whip holder / Mom says it was, "from the stable of (Samuel Ervin Diehl, Sr.) my paternal grandfather's residence on South Easton Road, Glenside, Pennsylvania, circa 1905.



Mom's grandfather, [Samuel Ervin Diehl, Sr.](#), in latter years. On the bottom of the picture Mom has written, "Samuel Ervin Diehl, Sr." [Here is a link to a another picture of him.](#)



Mom labeled this picture, "DIEHL G.V.A" Also, if you look carefully, you can see what I think is Mom's writing on the bottom of the picture. It says, "Gertrude V. Addis Diehl" [Here is a picture link of "Gertrude Virginia Addis Diehl \(Grandma\)." in her younger years.](#)



Mom labeled this picture, "[Myrtle Diehl](#) & Mike." Notice the cross on Aunt Myrt's head sash. There is no date for the picture, but the cross makes me think it may have been taken during World War I.



Mom wrote, "Earle Diehl & Mike" across the bottom of this picture. I do not know where it was taken. Perchance it was taken at the 279 South Easton Road property? In her Dropbox file, "Diehl Earle" she labeled it, "Earle Diehl WWI USA ca 1918 q." "Also, before my time they had a collie named Mike. He was a real pal for the family and appeared in many of the photos kept in my dad's big black album." Could that album be where Mom found these two pictures of Mike?" I would think so, but I can't be sure.

Now it is time for the November 30, 1944, *Glenside News* article.

On September 7, 2024, Jim shared the forthcoming article in an e-mail. 'Hi, I came across this today while reading [the] newspapers at our Historical Society.' He shared it by means of two pictures ([Picture 1](#) | [Picture 2](#).)

([Here are the two pictures combined as a PDF.](#)) It took me a bit of doing to transcribe it, but I did it. 😊 I thought it a shame not to include it in Mom's life story. Here is the article and follow-up.

SCHOOL BOARD BUYS 4 ACRES ON EASTON RD.

Diehl Estate To Be Playground And Arboretum

The Board of School Directors of Cheltenham Township announced the purchase of the Diehl Estate at 279 South Easton road, Glenside, directly opposite the Glenside Elementary School. This property of approximately four acres will be developed as possible into a modern playground for the Glenside School, which is the largest elementary school in Cheltenham Township.

The resident on the property was partially destroyed by fire a few years ago, and it will be removed by wrecking contractors this winter after which a large portion of the land will be graded and surfaced for basketball, baseball and similar activities which require ample space, Final plans for the playground have not been announced, but they will include many interesting features which will prove to be a welcomed addition for the Glenside School facilities.

Fortunately, one portion of the Diehl property is thickly, wooded with many fine trees, and this portion will be retained in a natural state as an arboretum. The trees will be identified and labeled and the arboretum will be used for nature study by the bird club; the botany club and for other outdoor activities It is hope to have part of the new playground ready for use next spring. The present school playground will be reserved for the smaller children and will provide for them a safe and convenient play area.

Miss Esther I Taggart, principal of the of of the Glenside School, and Mrs. C H Smeltaer, president of the Parent Teachers Association are anticipating real benefits for the children from the new playground.

Miss Taggart said: "As principal of the Glenside Cheltenham School, I have long felt a need for more playground space. Three-fourth of our pupils stay for lunch and the present grounds are very crowded at noon hour. I greatly appreciate the move made by the School Board in the purchase of the Diehl property."

Mrs. Smeltear said: "The purchase of the Diehl property on Easton road by the Cheltenham Board of Education is an excellent example of forward-looking policy of our Board of Education. The present playground space is inadequate and this land is the only piece of land adjacent to the Glenside School, not developed. The Diehl estate with many large trees and present open space will provide adequate facilities for play and outings. It will be important, however, to preserve the trees."

This part is in line with the Board's policy of increasing the emphasis on health and physical education and the participation of all people in outdoor sports and other recreational and body-building activities."

Glenside News, November 30, 1944

I asked Jim more about this, as I continue to work to give Mom's story a 2024 forward feel.

Here are/were my questions regarding the newspaper article and my great-grandparent's former estate.

1. What is the name of your historical society?
2. What is on the property now?
3. Is the school mentioned in the article gone? I think so.

His response was this.

The local Historical Society is called the [Old York Road Historical Society](#). They handle most of the area and have a large collection of newspapers on microfilm and hard copy. They also have a [Facebook page](#).

If you type in [Glenside Post Office \[262 S. Easton Rd \]](#) on Google Maps, the property would be across the street, now an empty bank. [Produce Junction \[265 S. Easton Rd \]](#) and still an empty field. ***No park was ever built that I know of.*** Emphasis added

The Mpcarta Entries are these: the [Glenside Post Office](#) and [Produce Junction](#).

The School building was where the [Exxon station is on Easton Rd \[258 S. Easton Rd \]](#) The School was torn down, late 60's or so and a new one was built on [Limekiln Pike](#).

Here the Cheltenham High School Class of 1968 differs with Jim, but just a bit:

The old Glenside Elementary School, opened in September 1908, is now the site of the Glenside Post Office on South Easton Road. A few of the Class of 68 would have attended kindergarten here. I can remember my father bringing me to this school on my first day of kindergarten in September 1955. At sometime during that school year we walked as a class up Harrison Avenue to see the then being constructed NEW Glenside Elementary on Limekiln Pike. We would start first grade there the following year. [Cheltenham High School Class of 1968 >> Glenside Elementary School](#).

Remember, the original address of my great-grandparent Diehl's estate was South Easton Road. Well, I put the address for Produce Junction in Google Maps and put it in Street View. It is part of a small strip mall, the fabric of many small towns in America.

So goes the story of [279 South Easton Road](#), Glenside, PA. It started with the construction of my great grandparents Diehl's estate. "It was built especially for them, and they were the only ones to ever live there. The family moved there from [West Oak Lane](#) [[Oak Lane?](#)] in 1904, and the house was destroyed by fire in 1937." - Mom [**Remember**, the actual date was March 12, 1940.]

In November 1944, the four-acre property was purchased by the Cheltenham School District. In 2024, those four acres have been subdivided, and it now seems to be a small strip mall. Thankfully, some of the trees are still there.

Last of all, I would like to share my great grandfather's obituary, as recorded in the *Glenside Times*, September 26, 1946. This too is courtesy of Jim Woods. I have annotated and corrected it in various ways, using Mom's Diehl family tree and internet searches. Previously, I created a file on the Diehl Motor Works, which great granddad Diehl founded. I used Mom's information and internet finds. [I am including a hyperlink to that write-up](#). It was short-lived. "Strangely, Philadelphia and surrounding counties were the site of major automotive manufacturing plants. Unfortunately, the banking industry did not think that this upstart automotive venture would replace the horse. Consequently, the entire industry shifted to the Detroit region, and we in Pennsylvania lost out." - Nancy Diehl Singer | The lack of capitalization of the words "road" and "avenue" is how the obituary was written.

GLENSIDE TRUCK MANUFACTURER DIES

[S. Ervin Diehl](#), retired motor truck manufacturer, died at his home September 19th at his home, [132 Rosyln ave, Glenside Pa](#). He was a resident of Glenside for 42 years. Before moving to Rosyln ave, he lived in his large estate at 279 South Easton road. This was destroyed by fire in 1940.

Mr. Diehl had been a semi-invalid for the last for the last five years as the result of a stroke-suffered shortly after his retirement. For 20 years preceding that he had been associated with a motor truck firm bearing his name.

In the 1880's he was connected with the banking firm of [J. Coke and Company](#) and later with the [Manufacturers' National Bank](#). [[27-29 N 3rd Street](#) | Philadelphia, PA] He founded a beverage

bottle supply company in 1888 [[Bottler's Machinery and Supplies](#) located at [1229 N. Second St., Philadelphia](#) and then moved to [1300 N. Front Street](#). The name was changed to Beverage Bottle Supplies.] [As part of the business, they [made bottles by blowing the glass the old-fashioned way](#).¹ They also made [glass insulators for electric poles](#).² nds]

He is survived by three sons, [S. Ervin Jr.](#); [Thomas A.](#) of Rosyln Pa; [Earl \[Earle \]](#) of Doylestown Pa ; four daughters [Myrtle](#), [Gertrude](#); [Mrs. Ethel Surman](#) and Mrs. Flora Martin [actually [Flora May Diehl Martsegis](#)] of Atlantic City, NJ; a brother [Robert](#) seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Monday at [the [Edwin F. Theis Funeral Home](#) – now the [Freed-Givnish Funeral Home at 124 N. Easton Road](#)] Glenside. The Rev. M. T. McPherson officiated at the services. Burial was at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Glenside News, September 26, 1946

As a young man my father experienced wanderlust. He wanted to see what the prairie farms were like. His father had expected him to help with his business, but Dad hit the rails. He would [hop the boxcars](#),³ dodging the rail inspectors who were looking for the likes of him. On one trip he went through [Buffalo](#), but did not delay his travels to go to [Niagara Falls](#). He always regretted that he didn't. He would go out to the Dakotas [[North Dakota](#) and [South Dakota](#)] and work on the farms in summer. His mother would pace the floors at night worrying where Earle was. He

¹ Perhaps I have too much time on my hands, or I am inquisitive. Maybe it is both. I wondered what glass blowing was/is like. I went looking. I found a post with the nomenclature of “[A Timeline and Brief History of Glassblowing & Lampworking \[Updated\]](#).” It is found at [Working the Flame – Ignite Your Passion](#). This was posted May 11, 2020. (A related post which I *did not* read, *nor replicate* is, “[Colonial Glass Blowing History, Tools & Techniques \[Updated\]](#).”) Continuing and moreover, I found a YouTube video called, “[What the ancient art of glassblowing actually looks like](#).” It was posted May 25, 2017, by [From the Grapvine](#). The enhanced description of the 1:46 minute video is this. “So I visited [G Studio](#), a glassblowing studio in the Israeli city of [Tel Aviv](#), where artists Maayan Feigin and Boris Shpeizman make their own works of art and teach classes. I replicated both items and combined them. If you are not tired-out by reading my “blurb”, [you can read and watch the results of my labor HERE](#).”

² This link takes the reader to a post entitled, “When and Where Were Glass Insulators Used?” It is written by [Stacy Jones](#) at [Antique Answers](#). It is filed under [Glass Insulators](#), [Glassware](#). There are various pictures of glass insulators but non seems to be specifically labeled. “electric pole.” I also [replicated the post HERE](#). | Retrieved May 22, 2025

³ Retrieved June 13, 2024

would wire home, and she would be so upset that she would coax my grandfather to wire money⁴ to Dad to come home quickly. I believe Dad did this on two or more occasions, which did not ingratiate him with his father or his mother.

He had dreams and ideas that were not conventional to their way of thinking. In his heart of hearts Dad wanted to farm. There was this pull to be on the land. Their little [farmette](#)⁵ was not enough to satiate his desires. While he was in France during World War II, he was drawn to the countryside and quintessential farms of that period. [As you know, this is a typo. Earle was in World War I, **not** World War II.] His ideology was to a different drumbeat.

I was not at his parents very often. Although on speaking terms, there was some tension between my dad and his parents. On one occasion, when dad and I visited, there were apples on the ground (drops). He thought they would go to waste so he was picking up some to take home for pie and applesauce. His mother yelled out the kitchen window to let her apples alone. This became a sore spot with my dad. He figured if she wanted them, she could have just mentioned it. [My sister reminded me that the hired man would hide several bags of produce in the hedge for Dad to take home. He knew my grandmother would hit the roof if he were to do it openly.]

Perhaps because of this tension the family was not too affectionate with me. Both my Aunt Myrt and Aunt Gert were very friendly and loving, but my grandmother and grandfather seemed stiff and formal. He would sit in the den reading his paper when I would walk in. He merely nodded his head toward me and said, "How do you do?" I would quietly walk over to the couch, and look at the [stereoscope](#).⁶ There was a whole shoe box full of postal cards with the same picture on each half. They were dropped into a slot, and when you held it to your eyes you saw "one" picture which tended to give it a 3-D look.

My two aunts and grandmother would be cooking and baking in the kitchen. I ate dinner there on a couple of occasions, and knew better than to make a false move. Late winter 1936 the

⁴ This would not have been the money transfer of today. Quoting the [Wire transfer Wikipedia page](#) under History sans footnote, "The first widely used service for wire transfers was launched by [Western Union](#) in 1872 on its existing [telegraph](#) network. Once a sender had paid money to one telegraph office, the operator could transmit a message and "wire" the money to another office, using [passwords](#), code books to authorize the release of the funds to a recipient at that location. By 1877 the service was used to transfer almost \$2.5 million each year. Because the earliest wire transfers were using telegraph networks, it was termed [telegraphic transfer](#) and this name is still used in some countries." Retrieved June 14, 2024

⁵ Retrieved June 12, 2024

⁶ Retrieved June 14, 2024

family members all came down with the flu. Grandmother nursed each one of them, plus doing all the laundry herself - hanging the bed linens, and all on the line. Then she herself became sick, developed double [pneumonia](#)⁷ and my aunts now took care of their mother. It was not customary to go to the hospital for everything in those days, since there was not much that they could do. Grandmother grew worse and died. It was in March and the daffodils were blooming. We didn't have money to buy flowers, but with beautiful forsythia and daffodils were able to take a lovely spray to the funeral.

The next year the house burned when a chimney overheated. Then my grandfather, Uncle [Ervin](#), Aunts [Myrt](#) and [Gert](#) moved to [Roslyn Avenue, Glenside](#). (They later moved to [Harrison Avenue](#)). I often went to visit them when I lived in Glenside after finishing high school. I also went with my aunts to visit my great aunt [Millie \(Amelia\) Diehl](#) who lived in Philadelphia. She had a brush, mop, and broom business. It was a delightful home, in an attractive location that now is a total slum area of the city.

[May I say that I remember Mom saying that at one time Philadelphia was known as the City of Homes?⁸]

There was a red brick wall across the front of the yard, with a high iron gate at the entrance. The house was also red brick and very large. When you entered the gate, you went into a completely brick enclosed yard and garden. There were trees and flowers plus a small vegetable garden by the back door. It was peaceful and pleasant. Part of the house was utilized for the business. There were machines that were manually operated to clamp and hold material to be sewn together for the brooms. Other machines were used for the brushes, mops, and other items that she made. At the peak of her operation she had a number of hired people, but when I visited

⁷ [Merk Manuel Consumer Version](#) Retrieved June 14, 2024

⁸ “In the late nineteenth century, Philadelphia developed dual personalities. While industry intensified, making the city a hard-driving, muscular “workshop of the world,” by the 1880s civic boosters also promoted Philadelphia’s more domestic qualities as a “city of homes.”

Philadelphians’ pride in home ownership had deep roots in the founding and growth of the city. But even as the boosters of the nineteenth century celebrated the city’s high proportion of homeowners, aging housing stock and developing slum conditions began to pose challenges. With prosperous residents moving outward as neighborhoods sprouted along new transportation lines, reformers and later government agencies responded to the housing needs of the poor. By the twenty-first century, Philadelphia and the surrounding region retained a housing landscape ranging from eighteenth-century rowhouses to high-rise condominiums.” | Retrieved June 14, 2024 from [The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia](#) >> [City of Homes](#).

there about 1944, she had one part time helper. At her height she supplied [Reading Railroad](#)⁹ with all the cleaning equipment they needed to clean the passenger cars each night.

I was there to get information on our family tree. She told me many things, and we had a wonderful visit. She did not live too many years after that. I always found visiting the older family members so interesting. They had exciting tales to tell. In the thirties there was one visit that I remember being rather depressing.

Here is an insert about Aunt Millie. First of all, it is time for a picture of Aunt Millie in her latter years and a picture of her side garden followed by a newspaper clipping Mom copied and a bit more. Keep in mind that Amelia was born and raised in the hamlet or region of [Rock Hill](#).¹⁰ Today this is part of [West](#) and [East](#) Rock Hill Townships. Rock Hill was divided into East and West in 1890. Elsewhere Mom also says this of her great aunt, “Daughter of [George Diehl III](#), Aunt Millie (Amelia C. Diehl b. 1857) lived on the pottery farm. She was first cousin to the above William son of Samuel and stated that George Diehl started a pottery business in Rockhill, a small hamlet 3 miles south of Quakertown where trains stopped for water. Rockhill was so named because of the huge boulders in the surrounding countryside.” At first this small hamlet was just known as the "water station".

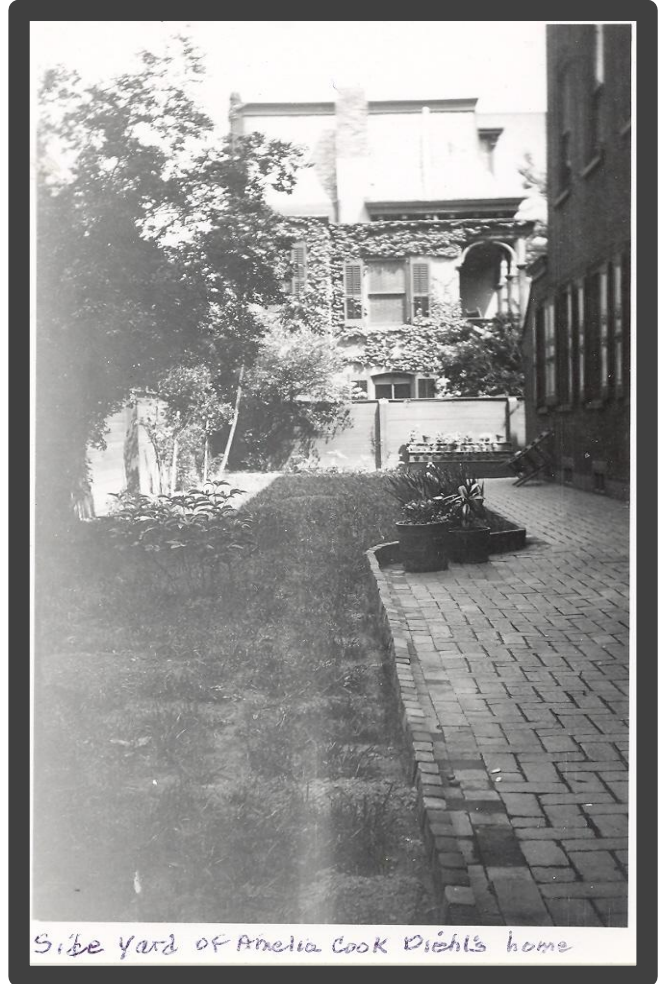
Here is a picture of my great-great aunt Millie in later years and a picture of her side yard. It is a shame that the picture is black and white.

⁹ Retrieved June 14, 2024

¹⁰ [Place Names, page 358](#)



*Mom's great aunt **Amelia Cook Diehl** in latter years. She was the sister of Mom's grandfather Diehl.*



Side yard of Amelia Cook Diehl's home

Mom wrote, "Side yard of Amelia Cook Diehl's home" across the bottom of the picture. She added the date of 1944 to the file name.

Amelia C. Diehl, a maiden lady, had her own business as a manufacturer of high- grade mops and cleaning supplies at 1709 North Eighth Street, Phila. She was born Oct. 10th, 1857 and even at the age of 5 showed signs of being a future business lady. While on the farm in Rockhill she would gather herbs and also small potatoes that were left in the fields. These she would give to her father who when making a trip to Quakertown to sell produce would sell her merchandise too. (From a personal interview with her. nds)

►►From a Newspaper Clipping about A. C. Diehl, May 11, 1944◄◄

A. C. Diehl is Foremost Concern in the Manufacture of Mops Since 1899

Strikingly in the forefront of its field on the basis of its almost half a century of manufacturing a variety of mops for all purposes, all of the finest quality available, is A. C. Diehl, which is located at 1709 N. 8th Street, in Philadelphia.

A. C. Diehl was established in April 1899, by Amelia C. Diehl with no capital at all to speak of, and her brilliant executive leadership, which led the firm safely through several depressions into a solidly successful business is a fitting tribute to her ingenious business acumen. In her firm Amelia C. Diehl possesses one of Philadelphia's most unusual and unique business. She is a prominent member of the Baptist Church. [She had large yearly contracts with Reading Railroad to supply all cleaning tools for passenger cars. nds]

My great-aunt Millie (Amelia) died Feb. 18, 1945, less than one year after I interviewed her in her 8th Street home at age 87. nds. [Strangely enough, we have not heard the last from and/or about Aunt Millie. Aunt Millie had a [marble-top washstand](#)¹¹ that calls the Singerlea kitchen home. Mom talks about it in Chapter 10, DABBLING, PUTTERING AND TINKERING. Stay tuned.]

Now let's return to Mom's story and see why, "In the thirties there was one visit that I remember being rather depressing."

¹¹ This link takes you to my replication of the post, "[The Evolution of 19th Century Washstands: A Glimpse into Victorian Era Hygiene](#)." It is written by Stephen Grove. He posted it to his website [19th Century Events and Developments](#). The post contains two YouTube videos They are entitled, "[2 SECRETS found in 1842 dresser](#)" and "[Children's Early 19th Century Morning Routine](#)" I retrieved this post March 1, 2025.

My maternal grandfather's brother was my great uncle John. He was of the vintage of the [Civil War](#),¹² was retired, and lived with his wife, Mary, in the [Patriotic Sons of America home in Chalfont](#).^{13/14} Mother dreaded visiting them for the same reason I did. Their long, narrow room on the second floor had one window. The walls were painted dark brown half way up, and a lighter brown up to the ceiling. A single light cord hung from the ceiling with a low wattage bulb in it. The furnishings were sparse, and Uncle John and Aunt Mary appeared as glum as their surroundings. What ever possessed the people in bygone days to paint everything so dark and somber, I do not know. We visit homes and hospitals today that are so bright and cheery, but perhaps brown and dark green covered the walls easier and didn't show the dirt!

It was always fun to visit my [Aunt Mabel](#), except for one thing. Her husband had deserted her leaving her with two small boys to raise. She was a switchboard operator for [Proctor and Schwartz](#),¹⁵ and struggled hard to keep their home going. She never got over his leaving her to marry another woman without getting divorced. She had a bright side though. She could tickle the ivories from the time she was just a tot, and all by ear. Music just flowed from her, and her sons were somewhat the same.

¹² Retrieved June 14, 2024

¹³ Retrieved June 14, 2024. It is first accessed from the [Digital Public Library Of America](#) and then through [Temple University Libraries Digital Collections](#). The full name of the building, as recorded on the picture notes, was the Patriotic Order Sons of America Home for the Aged. The building was built in 1902, as the picture found here was taken on 9/25/1980. The notes also reveal that in 1980, the home was 78 years old. Simple subtraction. [Here is another picture taken the same day](#). The building was razed. The building in its place is a luxury apartment complex called [Patriot Station At Chalfont](#) and carries the address of 131 N. Main Street, Chalfont, PA 18914. This information was also confirmed by internet search and a phone call to the sales agent at the property on June 14, 2024. In Mom's Davis Family Tree, she records this, "[John McKean](#) (b. Dec. 6, 1853; d. Jan. 21, 1939) m. [Mary Yates](#)". Using this information I found that my great-great uncle John is buried in [Mount Moriah Cemetery Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania](#). Mary lies beside him. Her dates are February 20, 1857 – May 31, 1937. My great-great grandfather Davis was [Samuel Boyer Davis \(10/1/1814- 10/15/1889\)](#). His wife was [Sarah C. Davis \(2/16 /1817- 7/31/1882\)](#). Her full name was Sarah Von Culin Livezly Davis, as recorded in Mom's Davis Family Tree. This information is also found on the [death certificate](#) of my great grandfather [Charles Livezly Davis](#). (For reference sake, I have replicated the above-mentioned pictures to the best of my abilities on February 12, 2026. [Picture 1](#) and [Picture 2](#).)

¹⁴ As with many things, you find something else when you set out to find a designated item. I stumbled over a [March 27, 2022 Lansdale Historical Society Facebook page](#) post on this once grand building. I remember it, and it was indeed a calling card of yesteryear. I have replicated the post in the previous dated hyperlink. The post gives a bit of history on the Patriotic Sons of America. Alternately you can read the post [HERE](#).

¹⁵ This is a self-made History perspective PDF made by combining three separate web pages. Proctor & Schwartz was one of the companies that combined to form Proctor Silex. | PDF created on February 16-17, 2026.

Aunt Mabel also loved flowers! Did she ever. In [Oak Lane](#)¹⁶ where she lived during my early years, she had a gigantic rock garden. She had transformed a huge deposit of boulders into a thing of beauty. Later she moved to a former schoolhouse in [Roelofs](#) near [Yardley](#), PA. I loved flowers, and I learned so much from her. She was not too far from the train, and she would be talking about Frank, her husband, while the train whistled on by and drowned her out. Later she moved to California with Ken, her son. I never saw her again, but we would write. [As Aunt Mabel died when I was 20, I must have written to her also, but I don't remember doing so. Mom wisely took one of her letters to me and digitized it. She also wrote notes to help me understand family history. [Here it is](#). I was just shy of 11, when I received this letter. What a precious keepsake.]

Another pleasant visit was always to my [Aunt Jean](#) and [Uncle Tom](#)'s place. They had lived on [Lismore Avenue](#) in Glenside, and at times I was allowed to visit with them for a week. My Aunt Jean would pamper me, because that was her nature. One day I was coming down their steps, slipped on a throw rug, and fell against the bottom step. It hurt so badly so I lay on the couch. When they found me it was determined I needed to go to the hospital. I had a broken collar bone.

Aunt Jean would send me to the dairy, which was about a block away. I would go down and get whatever she wanted and bring it back. At the dairy they bottled [citric water](#)¹⁷ that was refreshing to drink. [The bottles had the little porcelain tops and clamps to hold them snug](#).¹⁸

¹⁶ From the publishers of [Oak Lane, Olney, and Logan \(Images of America\)](#) by [Marita Krivda Poxon](#) and [Rachel Hildebrandt](#): "The northern neighborhoods of Philadelphia, which include East Oak Lane, West Oak Lane, Olney, Logan, and Fern Rock, were first settled in the late 1600s and gradually evolved into distinct communities. Old York Road and other historical roadways connected the local farms, mills, and estates to adjoining Philadelphia and Germantown. Images of America: Oak Lane, Olney, and Logan is the first book to chronicle the history of these neighborhoods through rare photographs gathered from a variety of private and public collections. Pictured are the schools, churches, businesses, theaters, hospitals, row houses, and apartment buildings that characterize the area, as well as the estates of notables, including James Logan, Fannie Kemble, Charles Wilson Peale, Joseph Wharton, and T. Henry Asbury.

¹⁷ "Citrus Water or lemon water is sweet, tart and lemony thanks to the addition of citric acid and lemon extract." [Citrus Water](#) by [Leigh Anne Wilkes](#) at [Your Homebased Mom](#). Posted: 8/04/20 Updated: 5/03/24 | Retrieved June 15, 2024

¹⁸ This picture link would seem to be what Mom is describing. Retrieved June 15, 2024 | As I work on this project, I find more useful items. One is a handbill for the S. Ervin Diehl & Co. The top of the ad says, "Why Diehl's Porcelain Stoppers are the Best in the World A round hole is the only correct one in a Porcelain Stopper. As your bail is round, why not the hole in the Porcelain Stopper? In closing the stopper on the bottle, it swings directly over the mouth of the bottle and comes down straight, whereas other makes of Porcelain Stoppers close down crooked. Then again, our stopper is thicker from the hole where the bail enters to the top of the stopper than any other make, and less liable to break. To be convinced, write or send for samples, FREE. OUR LETTERING ON PORCELAIN STOPPERS SUPERIOR TO ANY." [Here is that handbill](#). It is on page three.

Just a half block in the other direction on [Glenside Avenue](#) was the [firehouse](#).¹⁹ Uncle Tom was fire chief, and other family members were regulars there. I'm not certain as to what all they did, but it was a social club for them as well as going out to fight fires.

Again Jim helps us to have a fuller understanding of Mom's story. In a late June 2024 e-mail he wrote, "The dairy - There was a dairy farm at [Lismore and Waverly](#) which is a block from [Lismore and Glenside](#) and the only dairy anyone can recall. They referred to it as Brown's Dairy²⁰, but he could not recall the original name."

Let's turn to the Diehl family and the Glenside Fire Company. Jim found a picture showing **Uncle Tom and Uncle Ervin**.



This picture was taken in what is believed to be the year 1932. It was taken in front of the Glenside Fire Company Station at [210 West Glenside Ave.](#)/ Glenside, PA. It is a picture of the Glenside Fire Company Officers, and it shows us that Uncle Tom was the Chief and Sam Diehl (Samuel Ervin Diehl, Jr.) was the Chief Engineer. The men are identified as follows: Left to right, David Heinly, Harry Back, Tom Diehl, Clarence Goldsmith and Sam Diehl. This caption is from Jim Woods. Thank you, Jim.

¹⁹ Variousy retrieved and last retrieved June 15, 2024

²⁰ I looked around and found two glass bottles from Brown's Dairy. I found them on [Worth Point](#) on February 23, 2025. **Picture One:** [Vintage Brown's Dairy Embossed Pint Milk Bottle Glenside Pennsylvania](#). **Picture Two:** [Possibly 1920's embossed pint milk bottle Brown's Dairy Glenside PA No. 1](#)

With much help from Jim Woods and the archives of the Glenside Fire Company, [here is a write-up on my great Uncle Tom](#). The Diehl Motor Works even makes an appearance in this article.

Would you like to see a picture of Uncle Tom and his fire bell?



Thomas A. Diehl, Sr. as Fire Chief



*Mom wrote this for this picture. "GLENSIDE FIRE COMPANY BELL | WAS THOMAS A. DIEHL, JR'S BELL, THEN HIS WIFE'S, THEN MY MOTHER BABETTE D. DIEHL'S THEN MINE NANCY DIEHL SINGER. I AM GIVING THIS TO THE FIRE COMPANY AGAIN ON JANUARY 8, 2009." Of course, Mom made a typo. The bell belonged to Tom **Sr**.*

There is even a picture of the exchange. 😊



Mom wrote this to go along with the picture.
***“DONATING THE FIRE BELL TO THE GLENSIDE FIRE COMPANY
 ON JANUARY 9, 2009, TO BOB SCHOLLY—MEMBER OF THE COMPANY.
 This bell had belonged to my Uncle Tom, Thomas A. Diehl, Sr.,
 and was on a 1931 Chevrolet owned by Chief Tom Diehl.
 Bob Scholly is 2nd. Vice President of the fire company.”
 I don’t know if the bell was donated on the 8th or 9th.***

We would go to visit my maternal grandparents [[Charles](#) and [Josephine](#)] and [Aunt Rebie](#) after we moved to the farm. They lived at [117 South Easton Road in Glenside](#). They rented the

first floor, and the older ladies who owned the place lived upstairs. The ladies had a 1932 Plymouth.²¹ that they had driven occasionally, and then sold it to my aunt. She had never learned to drive, but would inveigle someone to drive her someplace by taking them along and paying their way. If Mother agreed to drive, one of us kids were invited too.



Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and times like that we would be at their place. It was a tiring drive over roads that were not the best, and the car needed a complete overhaul. Dad was a mechanic, and he could keep anything running, but Mother couldn't. Who do you think it broke down for? I recall one time we had started out to visit them. As we neared Doylestown Mother exclaimed, "Oh, look at that wheel going down the road! I wonder whose that could be." With that our car bumped down, as it was our wheel. My brother was able to help get things ironed out. I guess the lugs had come loose.

The sisters, Aunts Jean, Mabel, Rebie, and mother would all be cooking in the kitchen making a special feast. For my brother, sister, and I it was a chance to do something around town.

²¹ Mom did not specify if the car was a coupe, but this YouTube video, uploaded May 2024, offers a delightful look into the past. I retrieved this June 16, 2024. Things sure have changed! Just to be safe, [here is this same video](#).

Often we would go to the Glenside²² or [Keswick](#)²³ movie for a matinee. The Keswick not only had a movie but also a vaudeville show. I remember when they pulled a pigeon out of a hat and it flew right over my head on the way to the back of the theater. We also used to go there when I was real little before moving to the farm, and could walk there from where we lived in Roslyn.

When we would get back to the house, the sisters had a meal all set out, and we had a grand time. Dad never was very outgoing and wasn't there, but he [bached](#)²⁴ it at home when we went away. About dark we would set out for home, hoping the car would hold together. There weren't any heaters or defrosters, and the windshield wiper didn't always work. Somehow that seemed incidental the next day as we enjoyed the memories.

We not only went visiting, but relatives came to see us. During the depression they came unannounced, but expecting a dinner before going home. It often meant getting a rooster out of the flock, chopping his head off, scalding him in a bucket of hot water, plucking him, removing his entrails, and then cooking him. The women always helped with paring potatoes and things like that. Mother was a whiz at whipping up a meal, and set a beautiful table with tablecloth and napkins, and her best china and silverware. Even when we had no electricity in the era before it came into our area, she would have a tablecloth. It was necessary to wash and [iron it with an iron heated on the cook-stove](#).²⁵ That was something I learned to do early on. We washed

²² By happenstance I stumbled over an [April 5, 2025](#) post to the [You know you grew up in Abington, PA if you remember ...](#) Facebook page. [Frank Martin](#) asked, "Everyone knows the Keswick Theatre, but does anyone remember the name of the old movie theatre on Mt. Carmel Ave off Keswick (2210 Mt. Carmel) where Delta Family Services is now. It closed long ago but I saw my first movies there." The answer is the Glenside. According to the [Montgomery County Property Records Search](#) "folks", it was built in 1930. I have no idea when it ceased to be a movie theatre. [I have created a little document on this building. It is a only 0.43 of a mile between both theatres.](#)

²³ According to the Mapcarta entry for [117 South Easton Road](#), the Keswick is, "situated 3,000 feet northeast of 117 South Easton Road." (I checked. [It is .61 or .71 of a mile between 279 South Easton Road \(the Diehl residence\) and the Keswick. There is only a half of a mile between 279 South Easton \(the Diehl's\) and 117 South Easton Road \(the Davis's\).](#) What a small world! Tom Diehl, Sr. married Eugenie Vernon Davis. Aunt Jean was Grandmother Diehl's older sister. I don't know how they met. Also, as we already know Babette Davis married Earle Diehl. Two Diehl men married two Davis women.) As Mom says, The Keswick was a combination vaudeville/movie house. February 2026: [Here are two articles on the Keswick](#); one dated July 20, 2018, and one from December 28, 2025. They come from <https://glensidelocal.com/>

²⁴ **Verb 1** in this dictionary entry. "to live as a [bachelor](#)." Retrieved June 16, 2024

²⁵ This picture link is one of *many* pictures of cast iron irons heated on a stove that are available online. There were one or two at Singerlea. I don't know if they came from the Diehl or Singer side of the family. Retrieved June 16, 2024

clothes in a [wooden washer that had gears to turn the agitator](#).²⁶ You would pump the handle up and down to make it run. More kid labor.

If the weather were hot, the company would sometimes stop at the icehouse in Doylestown and bring a 50-pound block of ice so that we could make ice cream. We had a cow and lots of cream. We kids took turns turning the crank until the cream mixture hardened into ice cream. We got to lick the paddle too! We had lots of butter as we [churned it in a wooden churn](#).²⁷

On the Rumph farm there was an orchard of about 40 trees. Dad would prune and spray them so that there would be lots of apples to eat. We would have applesauce, pies, cider, and many good things that come from apples. We grew lots of sweet corn, and the company always loved that with butter and salt on it. Of course, we grew a lot of things, which is why we had so much company in the nice weather.

After the day's work was done in warm weather, we would go to the living room which was kept sealed off in winter. In there was an old [victrola](#), a [player piano](#)²⁸, and a lot of chairs. The room would be full of company, and we would have music to sing by, and we would listen to the grown-ups telling stories of what was going on in their neck of the woods. There was a lot of family interaction and fun.

If they stayed overnight or for a week or two on their vacation, they might pitch in to help outside with getting in hay or some other work. If there were some construction work to do, cement work or something, the men would help out. In the early years before we were able to hire a combine to harvest the grain, it was cut by [reaper and binder](#) and stacked. Later it was brought by wagon up to the old [thresher](#) that was there on the farm [[probable picture](#) >> 1917 thresher] with the [sheaves](#)²⁹ fed into the thresher as they were brought in from the field. The straw was piled high and the chaff separated onto another pile. The grain had to be bagged and put away. It took a lot of cooling drinks, and a big cooked lunch for the visitors who were helping.

²⁶ This is a picture of a wooden washer with gears and a handle. [Here is another similar picture](#). No wonder Mom had strong arms. As you know, she was able to shoe a horse. Retrieved June 16, 2024

²⁷ Retrieved February 24, 2025

²⁸ These last two links were retrieved December 8, 2024.

²⁹ The four links in this paragraph come from various sub categories of the [Meta-Wiki](#), the global community site for the [Wikimedia Foundation's projects](#) and [YouTube](#). According to Wiktionary, a sheaf is defined as, "A quantity of the [stalks](#) and [ears](#) of [wheat](#), [rye](#), or other [grain](#), [bound](#) together; a [bundle](#) of grain or [straw](#). Synonym; [reap](#)." For a picture of sheaves, the plural of sheaf, see [HERE](#). They were retrieved June 16, 2024

My cousin [Charles](#) came with his wife, [Ruth](#), and son, [Charles, Jr.](#) At first they lived in [Media](#) where we had gone to visit them a time or two. Later they lived in [West Trenton, NJ](#), but still came to visit Aunt Betty, my mother. Later they had two more children, and by then they must have had a better time in life. They didn't come for the Sunday dinners anymore.

My mother's parents and sisters were visiting in 1936. All the sister's who lived in the area plus [Aunt Bea](#) and [Uncle Ike](#) from [San Diego](#) were staying at our place. Everyone was having a happy reunion, and then my grandmother had a stroke. Not all the medicines and procedures we have today were available then. Undoubtedly, the doctor did little for her except leave some medicine. Within a week or two she passed away during the night.

All of her children were there but [Dorothy](#) who hadn't been heard from since leaving home many years before. [Grandmama](#) kept crying to see her before she died. Aunt Dorothy had gone away as a young woman. She had dated a "single" man, whom she later learned was married. This didn't please the family so Dorothy left home. She came back and was reconciled to the family before my grandfather died ten years later [Remember in chapter two, [Other Homes At A Later Time](#), Mom spoke of this. Look for [Aunt Dorothy](#).]

After Web and I had been dating for awhile, he suggested that it would be nice if I would go with him and his mother to [New York City](#) to visit his [Aunt Norma](#). She was a professor at [Hunter College](#),³⁰ and was at home alone with a bad cold. Not wanting to see her sister stay alone, [Web's mother](#) asked him to take her there. She not only had her suitcase for her own personal needs, but had prepared many delicacies to stimulate her sister's waning appetite.

On the appointed Saturday we began a journey that was to have an unexpected conclusion. We were nearing [Sommerville, NJ](#), when a rod bearing went on the car. We hopped a ride to a nearby garage, and when the car couldn't be readily fixed we were able to continue the journey via bus. We were laden with all the comestibles that had *not* been packaged for public transportation. They were stuffed on the baggage rack overhead and we pursued our destination.

In New York City we were nearing the bus terminal, when a truck cut in front of the bus and forced the driver to jam on the brakes. Everything began to fall off the racks and land on the floor. A squishy yellow goo was oozing from one of the bags, some dripping on our heads. "Oh! The eggs are broken," lamented Web's mother. The driver grumbled about the mess, and was muttering unspeakable [maledictions](#) interspersed with something like rubes as we toted the remnants of the treats down the steps and headed for the subway. We found the nearest trash can, and sorted through the contents of the bags. After depositing everything that was ruined we

³⁰ Retrieved June 16, 2024

bravely continued. We emerged from the subway in the [Bronx](#), and walked to the apartment on [1921 Andrews Avenue](#) a few blocks away. The remaining oblations were received with love and gratitude. [According to [ForRent.com](#), this address is still an apartment building. [This property was built in 1915. It has 11 units and 5 stories. It is called 1921 Andrews Ave Apartments.](#)³¹]

At Singerlea, we had family come and visit for birthdays, holidays, celebrations, and just about anytime. In the early sixties my niece, Wendy, would visit for several days at a time. She and Glenn would find more things to do together. I thought of the story of Tom Sawyer and his friend Becky, although I do not remember that story too well. They were busy doing something all the time.

On birthdays I would decorate and bake a birthday cake for our kids. I would bake a four-tier cake, and we would have ice cream and other goodies. I can not remember one time when relatives would not come to share in the party. Their Aunt June, Wendy, Susie, and Jeff were late one time, and the food was put away but we got it out again and had a good time.

Now it is time to dust off the family photograph album and share three birthday pictures. These will surely verify Mom's statements.

³¹ This information was variously retrieved and last accessed February 24, 2025.



Nancy Singer and her daughter Carol on Carol's 5th birthday. This would have been May 17, 1966, or thereabouts. This picture was taken in the Singerlea Farm kitchen. I note the [View Master "reels"](#)³² in front of the [Etch-A-Skerch](#)³³ and to the left of my birthday cake. I think that I still have those "reels."

³² "View-Master is the trademark name of a line of special-format [stereoscopes](#) and corresponding View-Master "reels", which are thin cardboard disks containing seven [Stereoscopic 3-D](#) pairs of small transparent color photographs on film. It was originally manufactured and sold by [Sawyer's...](#) In 1999, View-Master was part of the second year of inductees added to the [National Toy Hall of Fame](#)." Here is a link to a [View-Master reel from 1948](#) which is contained in this Wikipedia article. >> [Wikipedia article for View Master](#) | Retrieved February 24, 2025.

³³ "Etch A Sketch is a mechanical [drawing toy](#) invented by [André Cassagnes](#) of [France](#) and subsequently manufactured by the [Ohio Art Company](#). It is now owned by [Spin Master](#) of [Toronto, Ontario, Canada](#)." [Wikipedia article for Etch A Sketch](#) | Retrieved February 24, 2025.



Mom labeled this picture, "Glenn age 3." This would have been August 26, 1958, or thereabouts. The tree candles sit atop a four-tier cake. Someone gave Glenn what seems to be a Mother Goose Coloring Book and a John Deere toy.

There is one more picture to share.



This is Glenn's 7th birthday party, complete with decorations, cake, and most importantly family. This would have been August 26, 1962, or thereabouts. As you can probably guess, this picture was taken in the Singerlea Farm kitchen. Shown here and left to right: In the back are Mom and her mother Babette, our grandmother Diehl (Grandmommy). In front are Glenn, myself, our cousin Wendy Leaver (daughter of June Diehl Leaver (Aunt June) and Jacob Samuel Leaver (Uncle Sam), Norma Eva Johann, our great Aunt Norma, and her sister Alma Louise Johann Singer, our Grammy.

Sadly, we lost [Jeff](#) at only 44 years of age. You may wonder why [Aunt June](#) and [Uncle Sam's Find a Grave®](#) memorials are bare bones. The same goes for Jeff. Wendy (born 1954) and Susie (born 1957) have asked me not to add to them. Understandably, I am respecting their request.

We often would go to June's for Memorial Day, and the relatives came here on Independence Day, and sometimes on Labor Day. It was a lot of fun to have them all together, to take pictures, and to gab, gab, and gab. I began to notice something taking place. These once vibrant parents,

aunts, and uncles were getting to look just the same as I look when I now behold my visage in the mirror. The weathering of the years was leaving its telltale mark on them. Their gait was unsteady and slow. The talk was turning to doctor visits and stiff joints. There were fewer tales of activities, but no one could erase the happiness from their eyes as they once again mingled with loved ones. [My mother, at age 62, was the first one to leave us.](#) Then with unrelenting frequency they passed one by one from the scene. As I write this my [Aunt Gertrude](#), who was the youngest of them all, remains to be an active part of those precious memories.

Would you like to see a picture of Aunt Gertrude when she was younger? I do not know when the picture was taken. I do know that she could surely play the piano.

Also in 1988, in order to help Glenside celebrate their centennial, she gave an interview to the *Glenside News*. Other pictures and information have been added to my compiled write-up. Why not spend a few minutes and [share Aunt Gert's memories](#)? While you are at it, why not look at some new to me family pictures?

To close the chapter, please turn the page. I am putting the promised picture of Aunt Gert next to the last bit on Chapter Five. Mom closes this chapter with a paragraph that makes me smile.



*Gertrude Virginia Diehl in her younger years.
She could surely play the piano!*

Life is not static, and there is the new generation. Most of my cousins had moved from this area. Unfortunately, I did not get to meet and enjoy the company of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, but I have the blessing of my nieces, nephews, and grandnieces, and the special joy of my own grandsons who are so dear to me.