

Helen Burnett Diary 1941

January 1st, 1941 Wednesday

New Year's Day again - A good year for me personally just passed - if the coming year's as good I'll have nothing to fuss about at all. But I sincerely hope that this year is better in general than most people anticipate! Woke up just long enough this morning to wish Mother and Deac¹ a good day at the Rose Bowl. Went to sleep again and got up at 2. Earl was over for luncheon, dinner, rather, about 2:30. Listened to the game over the radio-marvelous! Nebraska 7, then Stanford 7; Nebraska 6; Stanford 7 and was 13-14 at the half-then Stanford made another touchdown and kicked the extra point and the scores at the end were 13-21! What a game! It was anyone's game right 'till the end. Lovely day for it. Mother and Deac went with Leland and Crystal Yost. Earl, Tavie, Jerry and I then played hearts until about 10. Then Earl left and Tavie and Jerry went to bed and I waited till Mom came home. Deac and Leland had a drink, then they all left, and Mom and I retired. Mother was very tired

January 2nd, Thursday

Up this morning about 7:30 and about 8:30 we all left for Riverside, stopping at Bob's station for gas. Into Riverside, where Jerry took his test and got his California driver's license. Went to the Bank and to see Dr. Reid, then luncheon at the cafeteria. Then to San Bernardino. Mother and Jerry went to see about getting the grey car's papers fixed up and Tavie and I shopped. Bought a photograph album, a new stamp catalog and a neat looseleaf U.S. postage stamp album. Also some knitting needles. Left there about 5 or so and back to the Valley, arriving about seven or so. I had a pretty bad headache but couldn't wait to get started on the U. S. album, so got it out and worked on that until about 9, then read a little bit and got warmed up by the fire and then to bed.

January 3rd, Friday

Today Mother and Jerry went off on a camping trip with Bunny² and family, Perc and Nina. They were to be gone all night except for Mom and Jerry. Worked most of the day getting addresses organized in my old address book and my new one that Jerry gave me yesterday for Christmas. About 7:30 this evening Bob came out for me and we went into Indio to the movies. Had left my glasses in the car yesterday and as Mother and Jerry didn't get back until after Bob and I had left, didn't have them for the movies. "The Cat and the Canary, " Paulette Goddard and Bob Hope - for the 4th time! Also "Melody and Moonlight"-enjoyable. Vera Vague was in it - I forget her real name. Then on to the Majestic where Bob had some supper and I had a delectable milk shake-the first since I left Australia. Home at 11:25 .

¹ Deac (Howard Shumway) Oerc (Percy) and Earl were Ruth's brothers.

² Lorin 'Bunny' Shumway was a first cousin living in Lyons, NE. His wife Helen and children Stanley and Mary Ethel were visiting.

January 4th, Saturday

Up about 9. Mother and Jerry went downtown,. I worked on stamps all day long. Haven't a bad collection, as a matter of fact-not exceptionally good, either, but nice. Jerry and I danced a bit this afternoon. This evening Mother, Deac, Jerry and I went over to the Yosts' for dinner. Ralph and Thelma were there and we had a very nice time. Caddie is a lot prettier than she used to be. She and Jerry talked, I read and the rest played poker. I consistently refused to join them. About 12 o'clock the party broke up and we all left. Caddie is really quite attractive now. A very fine little cook, too. Home and got to bed at about 1:15 or so.

January 5th, Sunday

Up at 9:30, just after Jerry turned out of bed. Dressed and about 10:45 Jerry and I went down to Coachella to get the papers. Had a coke in the drugstore and Jerry wanted to play the marble machine so I put up 30 cents and he put up 5 cents. Well, we couldn't lose. We kept getting free games - didn't know we could cash in on them, and were trying to play them off. Finally it was 11:20 and we had to leave and we found we could cash in and collected 45 cents apiece! Home, a perfect chicken dinner, had Jerry's picture taken outside in his uniform -danced a bit. Perc and Nina came to say goodbye, then went to the station, put Jerry on the train and away he went. A great kid, that. Home. I worked on putting snaps in my album until about 9. Read a bit and to bed about 10:30.

January 6th, Monday

Up about 9. Worked all day on the photograph album after going into town to get some more mount corners. Have some very fine pictures in it, I think. Today got air mail from Australia-letters from Dad, with a Tin Can Island envelope in it! From Tony, with a clipping of the flash picture that was taken of us in Romano's that last night in Sydney, and from Rupe, with a copy and enlargement of the pictures he took of me just after having luncheon with him the day before I left Melbourne. Grand letters all. Worked on the album until about 9 and listened to the news-77th congress opened today. An important one, b'golly. Bed about 11 and read *Cobbers* for awhile and then to sleep.

January 7th, Tuesday

Just discovered this morning that it's a Matson ship, the *Monterey*, that's sailing for Australia tomorrow. So wrote fast and furiously all day. At 5:20 dashed over to Perc's to wrap up a Sears catalog to send to Wake's. Flew down to Coachella and got to the post office just in time for the stuff to be taken out by the carrier! Home, dressed, and at 7:30 Bob came for me. In to see "Santa Fe Trail" at 8:25 after going to Clint's and Norman's, but since the theater was pretty full, decided to wait for the second showing at 9:10. Went to the Plaza and played the marble machines. Then to the show-Olivia de Havilland and Errol Flynn and a very good cast. Most enjoyable. Over at 11:30. Had a drink at the Plaza and talked a while, then home about 12:30. Very nice evening.

January 8th, Wednesday

Got some new white ink and started writing titles to the snapshot in my album-did that most of the day. Read a bit. Not a great deal else. Wrote some letters for Wake's to get some catalogs to send them. February 14th, Friday I got up about 9, dressed and went over to the shed to pick up Henry and Mother; he and I went down to the Fair grounds to see about our date entry. I came back here for luncheon, then I picked up Henry, went down to Indio and entered the contest. Then I bought paper, poster paints etc. Came home and drove Mother to the Rau Ranch where we got some tomato plants. We came home and I sketched a couple of ideas for the booth. Earl came over a little later and he and Mother had some of his prize vegetable stew. I had a bit, and it was delicious. A lovely box of Valentine candy came from Bob. I made a pretty cute one for him. He phoned. Then I painted a bit. It is now 10:15. I'm going to bed soon.

A Mrs. Peck came over to the shed while we were there; she has a son from Dartmouth who wants a playmate for the next 10 days, so I may see a bit of him.

February 15th, Saturday

I got up about 8:30. I went over to the ranch house, then to Indio to get some brown paint for the signs. I dashed about, then went home. I painted 2 pieces of plywood, 4' x 14." Then, as Mrs. Peck had 'phoned a half hour earlier, wanting me to ride with her and her son, Bill Lucking (not sure of spelling) , I went off with them. We rode off toward the foothills to the west. Then we went back to their place for luncheon. Then Bill and I rode the horses back to their corral at the other ranch and Bill drove me home. He seems like a very nice chap. He's in the Naval Reserve after 4 months more training which he's about to start. I got home, and painted cards most of the evening. Tavie was here when I arrived. It is good to have her home again. The new grass by the walk sprouted last night . Deac dropped in for a moment. Later Mother popped some corn. Earl came for a while until after the 10 o'clock news. I put the 2nd coating on the boards. It's now 11:20. A glorious day!

February 16th, Sunday

I got up about 8:30. I fixed orange juice for Mother, Tavie and myself. Then I went into Coachella for the paper. I came home and Bill 'phoned and asked me to ride with him this afternoon.

I made another card for the exhibit. Then I started painting the gold on the signs. Bill 'phoned about 4 and made it a dinner-and-on date. He came for me about 5:30, we went over to his place and fixed a Tom Collins. Then Mr. and Mrs. Peck arrived from a cocktail party. We had dinner, after which Bill and I hopped off to Indio for some groceries; we stopped at the Hotel Indio, the Plaza, and wound up at the Jackhammer, where we stayed until 10:30 or 11 and then went home. It was a very pleasant evening. The Dartmouth lad's quite fun.

Mrs. Peck is cute. She didn't mention me to Bill at all last Friday and Saturday morning asked him whether he wanted to ride and he said he didn't think so. Then she 'phoned me and I said I would, then she asked him please to come along to help with the

horses. She said I was 20 or 22, pleasant, "corn fed," very colorless, etc., but she'd try me out and that I might be alright as a riding companion for her, for she said later she knew better than to recommend any girl to her sons before they'd seen said girl which tickled me.

February 17th, Monday

I got up at 8:15, dressed and started painting. Tavie went down town. Mother went over to the shed to work on the exhibit.

About 10:30 Bill called and wanted me to go to Palm Springs with him and his mother. Finally I agreed, though I'd much work to do. Off we went to Deep Well Guest Ranch where I met Mrs. Buckley from Detroit, who later had us to lunch there. Very attractive. Bill and I went to Harry Mann's shooting gallery and shot a while. Then we went to the bowling alley where we bowled a game. I was 76, and Bill was 108. Neither of us were so hot but I was awful! It was fun, though. Then we had lunch, and went back home after picking up Wilkie, their beagle pup, at the vet's. It's a cute pup. They're going to Los Angeles tomorrow.

I worked from 2:30 on with my painting and had a sandwich while I was watering our new-grown rye lawn - lovely, the lawn and the sandwich too. Mother and Tavie got back. Later Tavie went over to Parkey's with him to play Hearts with Parquita and Earl. I popped some corn after finishing both signs. I read the paper. Bob 'phoned from Colton. I washed my hair and now it's 10 to 12 and it's bed for me.

February 18th, Tuesday

I was up shortly after 8 and spent the entire day, aside from time out to have a sandwich for luncheon and another for dinner while watering the lawn, working on the cards and gilding some picture frames. I worked until 9, then decided that I should make a couple more descriptive cards, which I did. I started getting ready for bed about 10. 'Tis now 10:35. I feel quite proud of the work I've done, and of my Black Sultan and Arabian Knight (the two dates I named). My work has been wearying, but it's been well done, and I feel very good at the moment.

February 19th, Wednesday

I got into the fair grounds this morning about 9. I worked hard all day, fixing up the exhibit.

I made about 4 hurry trips out to the Ranch to get different things. Mother, Perc, Henry and I fixed up the exhibit, and Nina was down for a while during the afternoon. Around 4 the sky got black and we had quite a downpour.

I got home about 6 PM. Bill 'phoned, and I took a quick bath and he came at 6:45 and we went to Palm Springs. We had a very nice dinner at the Doll House, though I didn't seem to be able to eat very much. There were two Mexican guitarists there and they played several pieces for us, among them "Adiós Mi Chaparrita," "Adiós Muchachos" & "Casualidad." Then we went to Waikiki. We'd never been there before; it was nothing

special but what delightful company! Then we went to Bil-Al's and danced and talked until about 1:30, and went home. Bill is grand; I like him so much.

February 20th, Thursday

I was up at 7:30, down at the Fair by 8:30 and got everything fixed up. A Times photographer was there and got me to pose for a couple of pictures. About 12 or so, Bill & Mrs. Peck came in and Bill and I looked over parts of the Fair. A couple of Examiner photographers grabbed me for some more pictures. They were awfully amusing. One was Howard Hertel. I had my picture taken with a prize bull and bareback on the most gorgeous palomino stallion! We went back to the booth and Bill & Mrs. Peck left. The Examiner chaps took me off to have lunch with them (I had a coke). Then there was the flag-raising ceremony with the Governor, then the Queen contest, which Miss Banning won. Bill, Mrs. P., Pat and Dorothy came down about 3:30 again, and we saw the palomino exercised. About 4:30 they left. I stayed until 6:30. Norman Harris came over for a while, and also Ré Atchison. I went home, dressed and went to the Coronation Ball with Bob. A dead battery interfered, so we arrived about 11:30. It was a pleasant time, but golly, I had so much nicer an evening last night. Poor Bob. Home about 2.

February 21st, Friday

Bill 'phoned at 8:30 and I leapt out of bed, a good way to get up, no rolling over and going back to sleep. In a little while he came over to get some eggs. Then I washed my hair and did my nails sitting by the open oven getting my hair dry. At 11:45 I drove Mother in to the Fair, and on the way back stopped at Josephine's for Tavie, but she wasn't ready. I went home, had a sandwich, and Bill 'phoned. Tavie & Josephine stopped before going in to the Fair. I cut some cover crop for the chickens. Then Bill arrived and on the way to Indio we stopped at Mr. Shephard's to see a beauty of a pinto stud stallion. Bill rode him for a minute as Mr. S. wants him to ride him in the parade tomorrow. Pedro is his (the horse's) name. Then we went to the Fair for the Horse Show. We sat with Mrs. P., Mr. & Mrs. Bunnell, Pat, and Dorothy. It was fun. Then I went home for the car and back to Indio and took over the booth for Mother. I talked to Norm Harris a while and then to Ré Atchison. About 8 the trophies were presented and we won 2nd. Only the Association beat us! I was so happy. A beautiful gold trophy. Bill came. We went at 9 went to the amusement section, then to Slim's for a couple of drinks, then went home. We found out we were in love with each other. Oh, I'm so happy I could cry.

February 22nd, Saturday

I got up bright and early this morning and dashed in to the Fair about noon with Mother. I rambled around three until about 2 when my honey came in. We went to the rodeo and sat with his family. It was great fun; the first rodeo I've ever seen and I enjoyed it immensely. About 5 they left and I had a hamburger and a milk shake and then took over the booth for Mother, who went home. Ré Atchison came over and spent the evening with me

until Bill came shortly after 8. Ré and I stood up on the Association railing and saw Sunny Moore's trained dog show which was very good. Deac dropped in for a little while. Bill and I left at 9 and met Deac near the Plaza and took him in to have a drink with us. We had two, he left and a minute later we did too. It seems so cruel that Bill has to leave Tuesday. Home about 2 or so.

February 23rd, Sunday

I got up at 8:15. At 9:30 I dashed into the Fair to see whether Henry had taken the trophy in. I dropped over to see Mabel. Bill Webber was there and he, two others, Clint and I went off to go horseback riding, but there were no horses. So we went back again. We watched the midget auto races - 77 miles per hour. Then I went home for Mother and back to the Fair. I talked to Ré. At 4:30 "little Billed" came in and we sat on the tractors and talked. Bob came by and I introduced them, and Bob left. Bill found I'd not eaten all day, so had tea and a hamburger. Mrs. Peck wanted Mother and me for dinner but I was on duty so Mother went and Bill came about 8. We left at 8:45 and had a drink and then saw "Philadelphia Story" with Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn and James Stewart. It was very good. We got out about 12:15. Then we went home the longest way around. Oh, I'll be so blue when Billy goes. I can hardly bear to think of it.

February 24th, Monday

I got up about 9. At 12 I went into Indio and shopped a bit and saw Mabel for a minute. Got home about 2:20. Bill came over shortly afterward and took me home with him, & he, Mrs. P. And I took pictures. Then we went to the Bunnell' where Mr. B. showed us his birds & Arabian horses (sigh of envy.) Then Bill, Mrs. P. And I went riding, after a few more pictures. It was perfect. A couple of little youngsters came out of a ranch house and Bill took each for a short ride and then caught up with us. A little later Mrs. P. Went back and we rode on a way and watched the sunset and the evening star came out. Then we went to their place where we had a drink and wild duck for dinner, after which Billy brought me home. If we still feel the same in 4 months when he comes out again, we'll get ourselves engaged. I gave him my Valentine and then he left. I talked to Mother for an hour or so. I finally got to bed about 12 and cried myself to sleep.

February 25th, Tuesday

I got up at 8:45. My eyes were awfully swollen. I dressed and walked out in the sun a bit and tried to buck up. Then I came in and wound navy-blue wool. I made a dash to Sandy Corners at noon for bread. Then I knitted until about 3 when I went into Indio, I shopped, had a coke and saw Mabel. I went home and hit a dog right near Sandy Corners, but evidently didn't hurt him, for which I was thankful. My knees were water for an hour or more. Mother and Tavie read aloud a while while I knitted my honey's socks. Then I wrote him a letter which I'll mail in the morning. Now I'm writing in this. It is 11:05 and I'm going to bed right away.

February 26th, Wednesday

Little happened all day. I knitted on Bill's socks, shopped and read. This evening I had dinner with Dave Tansel at the Hotel Indio. Then we went to see "Western Union" with Robert Young and Randolph Scott. It was good color photography. We had a drink at the Plaza and I got home shortly after 12.

February 27th, Thursday

I wrote a letter to Bill this morning. Bob came for me about 4 and I mailed my letter, and received one from my honey which I read in the Post Office. We rode a couple of Charlie Wise's horses. I had a cute little half-Welsh pony, Tony, who was full of life. We went to Bonnie's for a snack, then saw "Strawberry Blond" with Olivia de Havilland, James Cagney and Rita Hayworth. It was louse. I could hardly sit through it. Afterward I told Bob I was in love with someone else. I got home about 9:30 or 10, and in bed about 11.

February 28th, Friday

I went to town, saw Mabel and dashed to Palm Springs with her while my car was having a lubrication job on it. After Harold left, Mabel had made some lovely waffles for us. I got home at 2 and packed. Went to Mabel's for dinner; a very pleasant evening. I got home about 10. It rained so I had to write a letter to Bill. Bed at 12.

March 1st, Saturday

I washed a lot of things this morning, then there was a thunderstorm. Grace was here until it stopped. It was a real clapper. Then I went over to Mrs. Peck's. I did the dishes with Patsy and Sue (a friend of hers down for the weekend.) Then we went riding and Mrs. P. and I had a grand long talk. We went over to watch a van being iced. Mr. Peck came and there was a lovely snowball fight. More fun! I met Mr. & Mrs. Scribner, who arrived just before I left. I went home.

Deacon came over for a minute. Then later Perc, Nina³, Henry⁴ and his wife came over to discuss a date proposition. I went to bed after knitting until 12:15 on Billy's socks (a new pair, for I sent the first pair to him today.)

March 2nd, Sunday

Everything was squared away and we left here about 10:30 for L.A. We stopped to see Zelba on the way. We arrived about the middle of the afternoon. I got everything unpacked and squared away. I have a love of an apartment. I wrote Bill part of a letter and had dinner with Vinneeta downstairs. She's a lamb. I went to bed about 10 after a luxurious long bath.

³ Nina Paul Shumway was Perc (Percy's) cousin and wife.

⁴ Probably Henry Paul, a cousin to both Perc and Nina.

March 3rd, Monday

I 'phoned Mrs. Scribner this morning and drove to her home in Pasadena for luncheon. I has a lovely time and she's a peach. She suggested American Airlines for a job working up to passenger relations and got me an appointment. Then I went back to the apartment. I went to Robinson's and got some white wool to knit Bill a sweater. I knitted all evening. I have to wait until Wednesday for the appointment.

March 4th, Tuesday

I got up about 8. At 9:30 I went to Robinson's for knitting instructions and got caught in a downpour. I went back to the apartment and had luncheon. Clive 'phoned and Mother and Vineeta went to dinner and to see "Kitty Foyle," and I went with Clive to Earl Carroll's place. A very pleasant evening talking. I got back to the Yale Apartments shortly after 1.

March 5th, Wednesday

I woke up about 6:30 and went to Burbank for the interview with Mr. Ted Schmidt at 10. The interview went very well and if I get the job I'll have one to 2 months training in New York! Bill's there! I wrote Bill. This evening we had dinner at La Golondrina⁵ at Olvera Street with Norman Harris. We had our fortunes told - some amazing things! I got back about 10:45 and went to bed right away. I weigh 125, less than I've weighed since I was 14. I have lost 8 pounds since the Fair.

March 6th, Thursday

I got up about 8 an dressed, packed, then went down to Bullock's to buy a pair of shoes. I went back to the apartment, said goodbye to Vinneeta, then went home. I knitted al the way on Bill's sweater. Got home about 6:30 or 7. I washed my hair this evening, and went to bed about 10:30

March 7th, Friday

I got up this morning and went into town. I saw Clint and Mabel. Mrs. Peck was in Palm Springs so I left a note. This afternoon early I took a sunbath for a couple of hours. Marvin Cothram dropped in and chatted a while. I phoned Grace to come over this afternoon, which she did and we talked. Then this evening she and Mother and I went to see "The Thief of Bagdad" with Conrad Veidt, Sabu, June Duprez and John Justin. It was darling; I loved every bit of it. We went home and I went to bed about 11.

March 8th, Saturday

About 10:30 Mrs. Peck and I went riding after she and Mother and I had chatted a

5

La Golondrina café was one of the earliest businesses to be established in the street. Originally founded in 1924 in Main Street near the present City Hall, the restaurant was owned and operated by Senora Consuelo de Bonzo and her husband. La Golondrina was the first restaurant in the city to serve "Mexican" food as opposed to Spanish.

while here. It was a grand ride, and very warm, after which we went into Coachella and had a milk shake and got some groceries. The I went home. I am getting a cold; I knitted and about 7 Norm came for me. After mailing a letter to Bill and picking up Mitch we went to Palm Springs. Then we picked up Frances Winters at her family's winter home there. We went to the Swedish Inn for dinner and then to the movies. We saw some rather dull movie and then had a drink at ChiChi, after which one at Cubaña. Three Mexican guitarrists played lots of Mexican songs for us. Mich (Harwood Mitchell) is half Sapanish and has been in Mexico a lot. Then we went home about 2. It was a nice evening but I sat down at my dressing table and wrote to Bill when I came in.

March 9th, Sunday

I got up about 11 and went into town to send Jerry a telegram for his birthday tomorrow. I saw Norm and Mitch, then went home after stopping at Mrs. Peck's for a moment. About 1:30 Norm and Mitch came for me and off we went to Palm Springs. We picked up Frances and after a coke we drove to 29 Palms and back. It was a lovely drive. I can't say I'm wild about Norm. He's too affectionate, and I told him lasst night that my affections lay in another direction.

At the last minute we couldn't get tickets for the Jack Benny broadcast, so we had dinner at the Winters'. It was a pleasant evening; we left about 9, and got home at 9:5. I went to bed about 10:30. My cold maked me feel like fury. It was a glorious day though. The kind of weather Palm Springs dreams of.

March 10th, Monday

My cold's rotten. I got up at 7 and at 8 I went riding with Mrs. P. Moms hadn't nursed Cricket (her colt) since yesterday morning, for she was in the other corral all night, so she was exceedingly anious to get back to him and gave a somewhat bouncy ride. I got home shortly after 11. I was going to write some letters but felt too punk, so I copied poems into my book most of the afternoon, and this evening Mother and Tavie read aloud until Earl came over. I knitted on Bill's sweater and went to bed about 10.

March 11th, Tuesday

An awful heartbreaking thing. Just after 7 Mother and Tavie woke me up asking whether Charles weren't Bill's brother's name. It had come over the news that Charles Lucking of Dartmouth had been shot, and there was a question as to whether it was suicide or murder. I dressed and we stopped by the Peck's. They'd gone. We went to Coachella for the paper. We saw Jim Bunnell and he said she had gone East. How awful for poor Bill, as well as the others. He so adored Charlie. I sent him a wire and a letter. Oh heavens, I feel so desperately sorry for them. How could it be?

March 12th, Wednesday

I got up about 9, dressed, and washed my hair. I got a wire from Bill. He's going to

Detroit for a week, then will come here, and he wants me to be here. What if I get the appointment to American Airlines? I'm all in a muddle, but if he wants me to be here when he arrives, by golly, I'll be here. I sent him a letter with a couple of poems I wrote today. I went to town. An article in the paper indicates that Charlie's death was suicide. But I can't comprehend it.

Deac, Perc and Earl came for dinner. We played hearts, then I sent a wire to Bill and wrote in this, and now it's nearly 12 and I'm ready for bed.

March 13th, Thursday

Little happened today, and I worried. I don't know what to do. I surely hope my appointment doesn't go through for a while. I saw Mabel for a while this afternoon.

March 14th, Friday

Bill 'phoned me this morning from Detroit. He wants me to be here, but everyone - Mother, Mrs. Peck and Mrs. Scribner, everyone except me, thinks I should go on with A.A. They (A.A.) phoned me this noon to go into L.A. for an appointment with Mr. Victor Vernon (the personnel director from N.Y.) Tomorrow. Oh, golly. Mother cut my hair a bit today.

March 15th, Saturday

I went into L.A. for a 1:30 appointment with V.V. I stopped at Vineeta's on the way. Everything seemed to go very well; he seemed to like me. Then I went to Burbank to take the application to Mr. DuBose. I saw A+ marked on it. Mr. D.B. said I'd know soon. I got home, have a bad headache and am tired. I had some tea and went to bed. I've lost a lot of weight.

March 16th, Sunday

I didn't do very much today. They (A.A., Mr. DuBose) 'phoned me this noon to say the job is mine and I'm supposed to leave Thursday on the 9:10 AM plane. Oh, Lord. I wired Bill to that effect, and this evening I wrote him a long letter, which I sha'n't send, while Mother, Tavie and Earl were at a concert of Mary _____ at the Rau's. I felt horribly blue. It is Mrs. Peck's birthday today. I had a card that I'd gotten in L.A. ten days ago for her, but didn't have the heart to send it, under the circumstances.

March 17th, Monday

Bill 'phoned. I 'phoned Mrs. Scribner regarding a deferment. I wired Burbank that Mother is gravely ill, suddenly. There has been no answer all day. I'm so up in the air I don't know what to do.

Mrs Scribner 'phoned that Mrs. Peck had 'phoned her from Chicago to try to get A.A. to let me stay. So she said she'd go over in the morning to do her best. Mr. Woodhouse painted the living room this morning. Clint and Mabel dropped in this afternoon to wish me happy landings.

March 18th, Tuesday

Mrs. Scribner phoned this afternoon that there was a hitch as to the 6 weeks deferment, but that a couple or 4 days would be okay. I went in to send a wire to Bill. Mr. DuBose 'phoned, and Mother caught me at Western Union and I 'phoned him back. Four days are okay, and a 6-weeks deferment is possible if it is imperative. This I'll decide after I talk to Bill. He arrives Thursday. I got a birthday wire from Garth from New Zealand.

March 19th, Wednesday

My birthday!! I am 23 today. I went into town this afternoon. There was a darling telegram from Bill - the sweet thing to remember, with all that he has on his mind. I washed my hair. Deac came for dinner, then we played hearts. I couldn't go to sleep for ages. There was a dust storm today, quite bad.

March 20th, Thursday

I went into town early for some apples to bake some apple pies; one for the Pecks - plus some roast lamb, etc. Mr. Peck met them in San Bernardino so they arrived here shortly after 12:30. Bill came over just about 1:20. We drove to the foot of Coral Reef and talked and walked about, and oh! I love him so. It was a perfect day. We went over to see Mrs. P. and Patsy. They're really grand people. I had a drink while Bill got cleaned up. Mrs. Bunnell dropped in. Mrs. P. Gave me a sweet clip for my birthday. I cooked Bill some pork chops for dinner at home and then we had a drink at the Plaza and then went home about 10.

March 21st, Friday

I got up early and 'phoned Mrs. Scribner about 10, after Bill came over. Then about 11 we went into Indio and sent some wires. Then we went off to Snow Creek for a picnic up by the waterfall. It was such wonderful fun. We went to the Pecks' about 7 and 'phoned Mother, who went to Henry's wife's baby shower in Palm Springs. Then we went home, after a drink while Bil cleaned up, and a chat with his grandmother, who is rather a dear. I cleaned up, and it was about 8:30 when we became engaged. Imagine it!

I fixed some bacon and eggs for us for dinner. Billy left about 10:30. I am tired but so terribly beautifully happy. Mother and Tavie got home, I packed and went to bed about 1.

March 22nd, Saturday

I got up at 7, had a bath and packed up. Bill came at 9:30. Mr. DuBose 'phoned. I had a physical exam by Dr. Morris between leaving home and saying adieu to Mrs. Peck and Patsy, who gave me a lovely little jewel case with a clock on it for my birthday. I told them we're engaged. They seemed awfully pleased. Cute Patsy squealed, then said, "Oh, well, we've been expecting it." We went into Pasadena, where we picked out the most beautiful ring in the world for me. Flowers. Then on the mountain road to the Scribner's, Bill put the ring on my finger. We had dinner with the Scribners. They're so nice. Just grand, and they seemed so pleased. After dinner we talked a while, then Bill and I went to the 7 Seas, which

I'll always adore and drank champagne cocktails. Then we had something to eat and went back to the Scribners', about 4. I hope we can be married reasonably soon, anyway. It was a glorious day.

March 23rd, Sunday

I got up at 8. It was a sunny warm day. I had breakfast out on the terrace with Bill, and Mr. Scribner took pictures. And then I packed and we left about 10:30 for the airport, and oh, it was so hard to leave him about 12:30, when the plane took off.

I met Anita Gibson, who's from L.A. and is also going to train in NY for A.A. and she saved the day for me; talking helped so much. We went to El Paso where we stopped after Phoenix; there was a lovely rose sunset. Then we flew to Fort Worth, where we had to stay over as there was no room on the sleeper. We stayed at Hotel Blackstone, which had cuspidors. We had supper and went to bed about 1:30.

March 24th, Monday

We got up and to the airport at 10:30. We had breakfast. It was a nice trip but it was colder at Nashville, then the trip was re-routed to Columbus. We got there about 7, and went to Neil House. Paul LaFreniere, an A.A. agent, took us to the Ionian Room & to the Century Room at Neil House. It was a veddy nice evening. Columbus is lovely from the air. I got to bed about 1.

March 25th, Tuesday

We arrived at the airport about 8:45 and had breakfast at the airport. We took off about 9:15 and it was a non-stop flight to New York - a ferry. So only the 2 pilots, the stewardess, A.G. and I were on the plane and we were allowed in the cockpit; we even sat in the pilots' seats, one at a time, for a while. Over Philadelphia we did a slight zoom & dive which was most thrilling! We got to N.Y. about 12:30 and to Forest Hills Inn about 2. Then we went into the city by Subway. We shopped and had dinner at an Automat for A.G.'s benefit, then Times Square, then back to Forest Hills. There was a darned cold wind. Brr! I washed my hair, had a bath, then I went to bed about 1:30.

March 26th, Wednesday

There were classes today from 9 to 5. Everything was very interesting, but there is lots of work. Everyone seems awfully nice. I studied and wrote letters this evening. I did my nails and went to bed about 2:30.

March 27th, Thursday

I got up at 7 and had breakfast at the airport. We were taken through the hangars, repair shops, assembly rooms, etc. It was very interesting. I studied hard all evening and went to bed about 1:30.

March 28th, Friday

There were classes as usual. It continues to be concentrated but interesting. I studied much this evening until nearly 2 for the Operations exam in the morning. Just a week ago tonight I became my honey's fiancé. Imagine it! It seems like ages since then. Gosh, I miss him. There was a darling letter from him today.

March 29th, Saturday

I had the exam this morning. I think I did pretty well on it. I went back to F.H.I. about 2. I had a spaghetti luncheon in town with A.G., Jean & Jane. It was fun. I did some shopping then back to F.H.I. I had just arrived when a bell boy brought up a box with a gorgeous gardenia corsage from Bill. So A.G. snapped my picture outside, we had a drink, Morgan photographer came & took my picture. Then E.J. dropped in & she, Betty, A.G., Andy & I went down for a drink. Mary Bingham (I.R. class at Smith) dropped in! It was great fun. Later I came up & wrote Bill. There was snow this evening. A.G. was cute about it. She's never seen it before. About 2 I got to bed.

March 30th, Sunday

We didn't stir, either of us, until about 12:30, and got up at 1. We had breakfast up here of hotcakes. Mmmm. Cliff 'phoned. The pictures - proofs - came. It was just all right, nothing extra. I showered and washed my hair. I dressed and Cliff arrived about 6:30. We had a very pleasant evening. We had dinner in the Grill. He's just the same as ever, a grand person. He left at 10 and I came up and & studied, quizzed A.G., wrote Bill (I finished yesterday's letter) and now I am going to bed. Briggs is in N.Y.! She 'phoned while I was downstairs. I 'phoned her back; I'm having dinner with her here tomorrow. I can hardly wait to see her.

March 31st, Monday

There were classes as usual. There was a fascinating class all morning. I got the highest grade in the class on the Saturday exam - 95%. I went back to F.H.I. about 5:30. There was a letter from Mom with one from Dad enclosed. A few minutes later A.G. brought one from my honey. Connie arrived about :30 and we had a marvelous time. We had drinks & dinner in the grill and talked our fool heads off. She left about 11 and I came up here and studied until 3.

April 1st, Tuesday

We had classes; I'm working hard. I got back to F.H.I. about 6. There was a pile of mail from Australia. I came up and did my nails and studied and now it is about 11:15. I am going to knit until A.G.'s ready for me to go over the reservations assignment with her, then I'll go to bed. I'm tired.

April 2nd, Wednesday

There were classes and much work. There was a letter from my honey this evening. I managed to get to bed about 11:30 or 12.

April 3rd, Thursday

There were classes as usual. There is much hard work these days. I hardly have time to breathe, but the work continues fascinating.

April 4th, Friday

Tonight I stayed up all night, both A.G. & I did, studying for the exams tomorrow.

April 5th, Saturday

I went to class. Both exams were pretty stiff, particularly Operations. I had a quick bite of lunch - it was raining - then went with Mr. Snyder to the down town Reservations office.

It was cold and I got so sleepy! Flights to Washington were canceled, so I couldn't go down, for which I was rather glad for I was dead tired. I got to bed about 10:30 after writing a letter to Bill.

April 6th, Sunday

I got up at 5 and caught the 6:45 plane to WA. I arrived there at 8:15 One of the trainees from El Paso was going home on the same plane. It was pouring in NY but alright in WA. I 'phoned Hertz from the airport & she & Justin ___ came to get me. He had to sing at St. John's so he lent her his car & we drove out to Fort Myer. We had fun. We had coffee at the parish house. Then we three had luncheon at a cute place in ____, Virginia. Then we drove through Alexandria - what a picturesque place! Then we went to Mt. Vernon, but it was too late to get in. Then I picked up my bag at Hertz's place and Justin drove us to the airport. Hertz and I went through the Reservations office with 2 of the Reservationists. We had a bit to eat with them. I caught the 9:40 plane back to NY. I got in about 11:30, it was a nice trip. WA & BO & PG & NY were glorious from the plane. There was moonlight on the plane. I got to bed about 1:15.

April 7th, Monday

Work today was as usual, but I got finished early. I went to bed about 10:30. Two letters from my honey.

April 8th, Tuesday

It was a perfectly lovely day. I had classes, and saw Mr. Vernon at noon. He told me I'm definitely going to LA when I'm finished with my course here! I'm so glad. Tonight we got a radio from Jack. I bought 2 blouses, good looking tailored sharkskin, one blue and one white. And my birthday present from Bill, a beautiful compact, was really exquisite - perfectly plain silver with my initials. Now I'm going to wash my hair and study and then go

to bed early.

April 9th, Wednesday

I worked and wore my blue blouse today. Everyone seems to be crazy about it. This evening I got a telegram from Bill - "Just because I love you" - and the rest in French. I had retakes on my pictures at 6. This evening Mr. Chumbly brought some class work over for some of the kids, and took Anita and me down for a couple of drinks. I wrote my honey, studied a bit and went to bed.

April 10th, Thursday

It was a bonny day today. This noon I went in to confess to Mr. Vernon that I'm engaged. He was so sweet, like a lamby grandpapá. I got my proofs and wrote a note & enclosed it with them and sent them off to Bill. I studied and went to bed.

April 11th, Friday

Classes. This noon Anita and I walked along the ramp. It was a perfectly gorgeous day. This evening I got a sweetie letter from Bill. I studied and went to bed about 12:30.

April 12th, Saturday

I had a reservations exam this morning. It was okay. About 1:30 I came back to the hotel. A.G. & most of the gals are going to WA for the weekend on their educationals. It is beautiful weather. I typed notes, washed clothes, wrote Bill had a lovely bubble bath, did my nails and went to bed about 1:30.

April 13th, Sunday

I got up about 9:30. I had a shower & washed my hair. I typed notes, studied, knitted and wrote Bill. A.G. got back about 10. I got to bed about 11:15.

April 14th, Monday

It was very warm today. I got paid. I got Saturday's exams back. I got 91, the highest in the class! Mr. Everett is now teaching in Reservations also. Tomorrow morning I have the Operations Final.

I got letters from Australia & pkgs from Norm, Deacon, and a box of the loveliest orange & grapefruit blossoms from Billy. Also a letter from him. I can hardly wait for next week to come so I can see him. I am going to drill Anita for the final tomorrow. The poor kid's not doing too well; in fact, she is doing rather poorly. I hope the drilling will help her.

Below are notes written for later updating of the journal ...

Friday, April 18, 1941	classes, one BU opening, wire, drinks, Jean, Alice, McGovern
Saturday, April 19, 1941	class, Mi BU, Mr. Fischer, Anita, FHI, Anita NY, wire to Bill, hair, bath, sleep, Clara Irwin
Sunday, April 20, 1941	10 AM up, AG & breakfast, studying, bed 12.
Monday, April 21, 1941	colored chalk, class, exam in aft, Alice Abbot to FHI, sun & wind, cocktail party, dinner, packing - 3:30 AM
Tuesday, April 22, 1941	up 6aAM, class after leaving bags at term bldg, with AA, AG, Jean; highest grade, lunch at 1:30, Mr. Midland, Fun, adios, Mr. Sanger, airport, out on 3:45 with pilots deadheading, Off WA, WA-NA, NA-PS - overnight DO, Mind Huber stwdess, bed 12:30 M
Wednesday, April 23, 1941	Up at 6, rain, 7-8:30, movie box, Mr. Grant, Mr. Hunt, airport, off - , Wes Chubb, good flt, missing engine, sleep, TZ, LA 6:15, Scribners, Mrs. & Bob Weir, Mother & Bill from Ojai, Monterey Courts, 12 M bed
Thursday, April 24, 1941	7 AM, breakfast, Valley, lunch, hair, car - Mom & Bill, tree, stamps, dinner, Indio, 1 AM bed
Friday, April 25, 1941	6:15 AM, breakfast, packed, LA, 12:30 A - AA, Newkirk, Ojai misty, Dinner at hotel, Catherine at Harmon's, Home, fire place, bed 12:30
Saturday, April 26, 1941	Dot's match; after breakfast, C., B and I at drug store; lunch at drug store, over to Pierponts', afternoon matches, 6:30 Harmon's, Mrs. Montgomery Country Club, Street Dance, Patsy & David, fire, bed 1:30
Sunday, April 27, 1941	up 7:30, breakfast home, Pat & Dot, skeet, drug store, Pierpont, Grammy, beautiful day, comics, 4:30 for L.A., L.A. 7:00, Copper Room, 11 PM room, back 1 AM
Monday, April 28, 1941	7 AM, work, whew!, off 3:30, Bill dinner drive in, apt 1 AM
Tuesday, April 29, 1941	work, Bill stayed until 7:30, dinner with him, he to Valley, bed 9 PM
Wednesday, April 30, 1941	work, Bed 9 PM
Thursday, May 1, 1941	
Friday, May 2, 1941	Work, home 4:15, families there, nighties, dinner at ____, Plaza Hotel, wedding plans, 2AM bed
Saturday, May 3, 1941	work, Bill at 4:00, dinner Scribners', bed 2:30
Sunday, May 4, 1941	little work, 4:00 home, 4:30 Bill, dinner, bed 2 AM
Monday, May 5, 1941	up 7 AM, breakfast, up to Ventura, Pierpont Bay, Grand, ?, sunburn, BU 5 PM for meeting, 6:30 groc, store tanning salve, bed 2 AM
Tuesday, May 6, 1941	very sore, Dr. Hawey, dinner after a beer, Pasadena, home 2:30
Wednesday, May 7, 1941	very sore, Pasadena, cow shop, Patsy & Gram, circus
Thursday, May 8, 1941	not so bad, work, after work, Pat \$, dinner

Friday, May 9, 1941	work, Pasadena, Cliffords, after dinner Parkey, Bed 2:30
Saturday, May 10, 1941	Mamá's up, met at Grams, Cliffords, shopping for ____, flowers & drinks & dinner at Francois, left them about 9
Sunday, May 11, 1941	Mother's Day, work
Monday, May 12, 1941	Day off, but changed with ____, bonnie day, bed about 1:30 or 2
Tuesday, May 13, 1941	day off, Ojai, new apt
Wednesday, May 14, 1941	cold, Dr. Carstairs
Thursday, May 15, 1941	SQ
Friday, May 16, 1941	work, dinner Cliffords
Saturday, May 17, 1941	families up
Sunday, May 18, 1941	work, home, we cooked our dinner
Monday, May 19, 1941	day off, stamps, lazing about
Tuesday, May 20, 1941	back to work, Billy drives me to & from
Wednesday, May 21, 1941	work, noon. After swimming at Valley Hunt Club
Thursday, May 22, 1941	work noon 9:30 met Jerry Hughes & Mary Barthelmy at Tropical. Nice evening, weeki- & monthiversary, lovely gardenias from Billy
Friday, May 23, 1941	work 7:00, shopped after work, cute blue suit
Saturday, May 24, 1941	work 7:00, off 3:30, stamps, groc, home, dinner, cramps early in AM
Sunday, May 25, 1941	day off, wonderful fun, stamps etc.
Monday, May 26, 1941	work, Bill's dad & Nancy arrived noon to Ojai, Bill, duBose, home, bubble bath, nails & bed, 10:30, hair
Tuesday, May 27, 1941	up 6:00, work, pen & billfold, knitting, Billy phoned, bed 9:00, Anita arrived
Wednesday, May 28, 1941	travel plan, my darling back again, arrived about 4:45 this aft, dinner at Chapeau Rouge, then "Fantasia."
Thursday, May 29, 1941	work 7 M, worked hard all day, shopped for grocs, home, steak, corn etc. 2 nd weekiversary
Friday, May 30, 1941	work, over to Pasadena at 4 to Valley Hunt Club, Pat gone, Ping Pong, Gram's, no stps, Scribners for dinner, Cath, Pat, Scribby, Belding; home 9ish
Saturday, May 31, 1941	work 7 Am, off 4, Brownie vacation, stps, shirt, apt, groc, home dinner, tired, Bill's fraternity pin
Sunday, June 1, 1941	work, off 3:30, Pat Bill & I up to Ojai; Mr. L. & Nancy, Bruce, Dick & Mrs. Cleveland; the Barrington's for dinner, beautiful moonlight night
Monday, June 2, 1941	Up 8, breakfast, riding with Pats, stamps before lunch, funnies & shooting dinner, packed, back home, songs, dropped Pats at school, perfect evening,

Tuesday, June 3, 1941	Car wouldn't start, Bill pushed, work, Bill to Ojai, dresses for pat & me, home 6:00, Bill phoned, exp. Acct, 3 days off next week, Campbell okayed it, travel lead.
-----------------------	--

June 27th, Friday

I miss Billy so awfully He's been gone only two weeks! I left at 3:30, over to Beverly Hills. I got back at 6:30. No letter from Billy. I feel kinda empty ... guess I'd rather expected my every-other-daily letter. 'Tis 8 PM now. Catherine just phoned and will be home soon. This mansion positively rattles with only me in it. Will write Bill a short note and get to bed reasonable early tonight, I think.

October 1st, Wednesday

Much to do all day; washing, ironing, cleaning up the apartment, writing thank-you notes, planning dinner, shopping, etc. And the spare moments knitting or working on my needlepoint. My hands got awfully sore this morning. It was torture to put them even for a moment into hot water. Ah me, the far-famed "dishpan hands." Billy got home about 5 this evening. We had our beer, then supper, and darn it, he has the 12 M to 4 AM watch on the "Delta Queen" tonight, so had to leave at a quarter to 9 for SF to get the bus for Treasure Island. After dinner he read aloud some more of the "Mr. Glencannon" stories while I needlepointed. They're really amoozin'. Now it be 10:15 so think I'll do a last bit on the needlepoint and then tuck in.

Notes written by Mom on the train from Detroit back to San Francisco after their honeymoon

Sept 12	Baker	St. Charles, IL (near Elgin)
Sept 13	Retlaw	Fond du Lac, WI
Sept 14	Ludington	Escanaba, MI
Sept 15	Lighthouse	Marquette, MI
	Mather Inn	Ishpeming, MI
	Copper Mine	Keweenaw Peninsula
Sept 16th	Copper Mine	Keweenaw Peninsula
Sept 17	Ojibway	Soo (Sault Ste. Marie)
Sept 18	Snows	Marquette Island
Sept 19		Mackinac
		Cabin

Sept 20	Durant	Flint
Sept 21	DO — Whittier	
	Joe Muirs seafood	
Sept 22	Wheldens	Statler & Book
Sept 23		Belle Isle