

Helen Lucking Diary 1943

January 4th, 1943 - Monday

Not much since Bill went out New Year's morning. Did very little all that day but that afternoon I had a drink with the Wallace's and met her mother and father - the Yosts. They asked me to have dinner with them at the Officer's Club on Terminal Island - but I declined. I was in need of sleep. Saturday I did the biggest washing I've done yet - and of course it would have to be a non-drying day so that come evening I had to drape the laundry all over the living room and dining room to finish drying over night. Helen, Jr. was christened the 28th and Helen [Wallace], in Mary Beth's name¹, and Uncle Dean² promised to give up the devil and all his works - ha! The wording of the idea was most amusing. Also on Saturday I took down the Christmas tree - surely hated to do it - t'was such a lovely tree. The red candles, the pine cones and all - and a bunch of holly Bill brought home from Catalina on his last trip over. It was lovely - finally threw that out today. Going back to the christening, Catherine³, Pat⁴ and Grammy⁵ came down and brought Uncle Dean, and had a blowout on the way - I'm glad it didn't happen when I was driving home from the Valley. As it was, it took me about ten hours to get up here Christmas Day. Did quite a lot of work Sunday - ironing, cleaning up around and so on. Today I mailed the seven letters I'd written yesterday and Saturday night - also the checks for gas, light and phone. Felt very noble - writing all those letters. Washed my hair, cleaned, dusted vacuumed 'n' stuff. Very busy - this afternoon was able to get a half pound of bacon and a quarter pound of butter! Was most pleased - also some steak! Wheee!! Hope Bill'll be in tomorrow.

January 6th, 1943 - Wednesday

Yesterday noon I was all set for Willie to come home in the afternoon but got a letter saying he might not be in until tomorrow! I was making some *blanc mange* for him. So Helen W. and I put the baby in the carriage and went to Safeway - each got a pound of butter. It arrived as we were at the checkstand. Yippee! Went to bed a little after 9:30 last night. This morning I took the babe to Dr. Saffro. She's now 26 and 3/4 inches and weighs 17 pounds, and 10 ounces. Little husky - Had her first whooping cough shot - one in each arm. Took the safety deposit card in to the B. of A. Also got the \$2.50 refund of deposit from the gas company - plus .15 interest. Hah! It's a beautifully sunny day today - though quite dry and very windy. Hope Willyum will be in this afternoon. Didn't get a letter from him this morning so have my hopes.

¹Mary Beth Scribner, who died in 1944.

²Dean Lucking, Bill Lucking's treasured uncle.

³Catherine Peck, Bill Lucking's mother

⁴Pat Lucking (Starbuck), Bill's sister.

⁵Gran's mother, Charlotte Duhme Eustis Ives

January 8 1943 - Friday

Willie did get in Wednesday. Gosh was I glad to see him - yesterday he came home early - about 11:15 a.m. and said he had the " duty " from 1:30 yesterday afternoon until 1:30 today. So we couldn't go to the Hoods (Bill's 3rd officer on the "Radio") for dinner. Yesterday he took command of the "Volador" - offshore patrol ship. Today as soon as he gets off we're driving to Ojai - he has 48 hours' leave - The first since October - t'will be such fun. Mother and Jerry are coming up today - Mother will take care of Jill⁶ - that is great. Jerry goes back to school Sunday evening. Uncle Dean and Laviah⁷ are going up to Ojai tomorrow.

January 15th, 1943 - Friday

It's 6:45 a.m. and I just got back from putting Mother on the 6:25 train for Los Angeles - surely hated to have her go - for Willie may be out another two weeks. He went out Tuesday morning. Took him down to the base about 6:15 that morning. Some fog both mornings - more of a fog on the hill this morning. Tuesday it was thicker at the base - pea soup is the word! The fog plus the dimout makes it bad. When we left this morning, about 6:05, the babe was stirring and talking but had gone to sleep by the time I got home again. Think she's awake now but hope she'll go back to sleep until 8. Our trip to Ojai last weekend was wonderful. We left about 2 Friday afternoon and got there about 6:30. Grand drive. We had a little extra gas so we thought we'd better take advantage of it on the 48. Had dinner at the Roblar. Ojai is filled with soldiers. We'd thought that we'd be getting away from uniforms at least in peaceful little Ojai - but even there we couldn't. Quite an encampment. Friday night we went back to the house, built a wonderful big fire and lazed in front of it with a drink. Gosh, it was fun. Up about 8 the next morning - just in time for the sunrise. Had breakfast in the town - went out to see the Pierponts, then stopped at the Kempes. Then snooped around town to find some steak to have that evening for Uncle Dean and Laviah. Mr. Kraft was our pal and got 4 pounds of the most beautiful baby beef I ever saw! We called on the Harmon's⁸, too. They're having quite a time taking care of their two little grandsons - cute kids. I understand Rawd's in Honolulu with either the Navy or the Coast Guard. That afternoon we picked quantities of oranges - filled a large packing box in the car. No avocado's as yet, though. Then we had a little target practice on the Hill; that was fine. It was a perfect day. That afternoon we also went to see the grammar school that Bill went to - a progressive school - and on the sensible side; and I was completely taken with it. I hope

⁶ This is what Lana was called at one time.

⁷ Laviah Lucking, Uncle Dean's daughter. She later married Guy Harden.

⁸ Rawson and Mary Harmon were Detroit residents who were brought to Ojai to manage Arbolada land sales

that there's a school like that for us to send our youngsters to⁹. Uncle Dean and Laviah arrived about the middle of the afternoon. We all had large glasses of orange juice in front of the fire. Then they went down to the Roblar to leave their bags and clean up (imagine preferring to stay at a hotel with that beautiful house ready and waiting to be lived in). Bill went with them to get fixin's for the steak. Meanwhile I took a wonderfully luxurious bath. Dinner was delectable. Bill cooked it and Laviah helped, while I talked with Uncle Dean. Never enjoyed a meal more! Laviah and I washed the dishes and then we all sat in front of the fire and gabbed. It was such fun. Mr. Ford¹⁰ that afternoon had given us two cyclamen plants - lots of buds. Sunday morning we left about 7 o'clock. Drove up the same way we went down - Ventura Blvd - and saw some of the most wonderful farms. Next time Bill's in we're going to take a trip up there to look things over - for Uncle Dean thinks that now is the time to buy land here, rather than after the war. We'll see what's available and how much and all that. Got home about 11:30 - it was great to see Mom and Jerry. Bill took Jerry down to the base that afternoon - took him on the ship and all that, which pleased Jerry no end. He and Mother went into Los Angeles about four or so - and had dinner & champagne at La Golondrina in Olvera Street. Guess they had much fun. Bill and I went to the movies and saw "Arabian Nights" - John Hall, Maria Montez and Sabu. Pretty, technicolor - amusing; not anything extraordinary but enjoyable. Monday Bill had to spend most of the day at the base - got home about four o'clock and we whipped downtown to do a little shopping. Helen W. and mother gabbed while we were gone and when we got home and we had a drink around. John came home about that time so he joined us. Then we had chicken and dumplings. Mmmmm, good. Mother made the dumplings. Got to bed pretty early as we had to get up at 5 A.m. the next morn. Tuesday was our year-and-one-third-iversary - so we had an extra special breakfast - and omelet with chopped ham in it - whee! Then I took Willie down to the Base. Gee I miss him. Can't even write him when he's on off-shore patrol - ratz! Slept for two and a half hours that afternoon, and Mom and I went to bed about nine o'clock too. Wednesday took the babe down to the doctors for her second whooping cough shots - then home and Nadine came over and mother and I went into Los Angeles. Did a lot of shopping and got back to San Pedro about 5:40. We were due at the Davis's for a drink between 5:15 and 5:45. So we couldn't find the place and finally got there about 6:20! Then scurried home. The babe had been feeling pretty good, considering the shots. We read aloud for a while. Then bed. Mother bought some wool for me to make a scarf for Jerry. Yesterday, Thursday - Mother read aloud a lot while I worked on Jerry's scarf. Last evening John was away and Mother and I went over and had a couple of drinks with Helen. Was much fun. Then home, dinner, a little reading - then bed about 9:30. And now it's 7:45 - I've spent a whole hour catching up. Goodness!

January 18th, 1943 - Monday

⁹This was Ojai Valley School, and we did!

¹⁰ Virgil 'Bud' Ford, Ernie Sr's father, Chris, Dave & Spencer's great-grandfather

Friday I lay on the couch and knitted on Jerry's scarf most of the day - today I put on the rest of the fringe and blocked it. Good looking scarf. Will mail it Wednesday when I take Leyna down to the doctor's. Wept quite copiously this morning when I found I had the curse. Ratz! Bought some vitamin E pills, though, promptly! Spent most of Saturday knitting - did some shopping - went to the auto club and paid the insurance, etc. Had the tires inspected. Sunday night poked around - took down the curtains for Mrs. Hards to send to Long Beach to be laundered. Boy they surely need it! I was blowing some dust off the window molding near the babe's crib and all of a sudden she started to giggle and kept on laughing every time I'd blow - for about 20 minutes. It was really a big joke is far as she was concerned. She's a cutie. When Helen and John Wallace came home they whisked me over there for a drink - also had dinner with them. I supplied the Spanish Rice, Sauterne, French dressing and lettuce. Good dinner. 'Twas fun. Up about 9 this morning - I'd worked until nearly midnight last night on Jerry's scarf. Washed my hair - got bangs now. Hah! Helen took me down to Fitzsimmon's shopping - took Leyna (Jill) with us. She's certainly heavy to carry around for long! Did quite a few things this afternoon - finished the scarf and blocked it - ironed the bathroom and kitchen curtains which I'd washed yesterday - put up the new bedroom curtains. It was a beautiful day - though cold. The frost warnings for tonight are plenty! 25° in Ojai and 27° in Indio. Golly. Gee I miss Willie (sigh). He ought to be home in between seven and eleven days now. Ten o'clock now. Guess I'll tuck in.

January 21st, 1943 - Thursday

Tuesday had luncheon and played bridge at Helen W's. Connie _____, who is about to have a baby (I felt very envious of her) and her sister, Joan Clark. 'Twas lots of fun. Connie and I played together and ran up a mighty neat score. Cleaned up the house a bit that morning. Tuesday night the frost warnings for Ojai were 27° and for Indio 23°! Wheeew! Hope the oranges on the Ojai place weren't frozen - cuz we want some more! Yesterday took the babe to the doctor for her third whooping cough shots. Helen went with me and we did a bit of shopping. Jill was quite fretful from the shots all afternoon and had less than half of her 8 o'clock bottle - but slept fine and woke up very cheerful this morning. Yesterday I did quite a washing, but didn't have time to get it hung out until about 2:30 - so then it clouded up and began to sprinkle about 4 so had to take it down. Ah me. So hung it in the wash house this morning as it's been raining all day. Ironed some of it dry. Scrubbed clean all the window sills yesterday afternoon, so today it rains and gets them all dirty again - ratz! Have fixed my blue sweater so that it's good as new again - except that it now has short sleeves. Took me from about 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon until midnight and part of this morning - plus all afternoon and evening. 'Tis now nearly 11 and I'm already for bed so will tuck in. My darling's due in now anywhere between four and eight days - between about 96 and 196 hours.

January 22nd, 1943 - Friday

Gosh I wish Bill were home - it's a veritable gale outside now. I don't think it's

stopped raining since it started Wednesday afternoon, and the wind is really pounding at the house. Over the radio it was announced this evening that the rain and high wind will continue to tomorrow in the coastal and mountain areas. Hope that means it's only in those areas and not at sea or wherever my darling is. Surely hate to think of him out at sea in this gale on a little 110 foot sailing ship - even if it (she - hah!) does have auxiliary power. Darn barometer is still going down. How I wish I had my honey snug at home. Went down to the dentist this morning and had the permanent stickum put in for my bridge. It's nearly 10:30. The babe is getting more adorable every minute - she's sweet - she's six months old tomorrow.

January 25th, 1943 - Monday

Saturday I took the car down for lubrication - also got some new batteries for the portable radio. The man told me that those batteries may be our last for the duration. It started raining when I was downtown. Quite a wind up all day, but not a great deal of rain - just in fits and starts. Sunday morning I'd just gotten out of the shower and washed my hair when the phone rang - it was Willie!! Golly I was so glad! Whipped around the house and did a couple of days work in about three hours. Got down to the Base at 12:15 and baby! Was I glad to see my honey! Gosh! We read funnies after a luncheon of scrambled eggs and bacon - Wheee! Foodled around and played a couple of games of cribbage - and I won each time!! So pleased. Then part of a funny paper and Bill had to go down to the base - he's got the duty tonight. So all afternoon I've been polishing silver - doing a laundry to hang out in the morning if it's a good day. Its raining now - has been since about four o'clock off and on - and also have been generally catching up on things. Washed my hair - gave myself a manicure and such things - plus a little sewing and mending. Willie called up a little after 9. Now it's 10:30 and I'm going to tuck in right away.

February 2nd, 1943 - Tuesday

Cleaned up the house last Tuesday morning, made some tapioca pudding and so on - and Willie got home about 1:30. We did some grocery shopping and went bowling - I won the first string and Bill the second - we both did very poorly the first time and in the second string Bill did lots lots better and I did worse. But it was lots of fun. Was raining when we got out of the bowling alley, and my sweetie bought me a beautiful bunch of yellow roses. They were perfectly lovely and lasted wonderfully through Friday. Wednesday we upped and dashed off to Long Beach to get some whittlin' stuff - also went to the movies. Saw "Palm Beach Story " - Joel McCrae, Claudette Colbert, and Rudy Vallee. It was zany but good. Also "I Married a Witch " - Frederick March and Veronica Lake. Also good. Bill bought me a pin - a miniature of his cap emblem - it's good looking and gosh! I'm proud of it. It was a glorious day and we surely had fun. Golly things are wonderful fun with Bill. Went to bed pretty early and got up Thursday morning at 5:30. Nadine got here at 7 and we left for Oxnard and points en route - Farm hunting. It was such fun - so exciting - and it was a glorious day. Saw several places that were quite intriguing - but expensive! Returned to

Los Angeles a little after six. Dressed and Uncle Dean and Laviah came over and we had several drinks up in the room. Then we went down to the Grove for dinner. It was lots of fun. We left about midnight and Uncle Dean & Laviah left to go back to the Chapman Park. Friday morning we left about ten o'clock. Willie had bought me an orchid last night. It was shore purty. I certainly felt dressed up - in my black $\frac{3}{4}$ length dress - plus "the Rocks! " Got home about noon Friday. Willie had to report at the Base for a little while. He did a little whittling and I read to him. Helen's Mother and Dad were down for dinner and they asked us over for a drink. We joined them for about hour. Mr. and Mrs. Yost are very nice. Saturday Bill got all ready for whittling but had no turpentine so we got Mrs. Colegrove to come over and we whipped downtown for about an hour. It rained again that day, quite a bit. A little whittling that afternoon after Bill had spent a couple of hours at the Base. Also read the funnies. We had fun drinking beer and eating cervelat (salami) while we read the funnies. Sunday morning Bill went out - had to be down at the Base by 7o'clock. I did practically nothing all day except a cross word puzzle. Got it all too. My first real cross word puzzle. Quite fun. I went down to the Red Cross blood bank and gave a pint. I'm really ashamed that it was my first time. Uncle Dean, Laviah and Sally Nelson (Frank Nelson's¹¹ wife) came down in the afternoon and Helen W. came over a little later. We had a drink and some hors d'oeuvres and they had to leave about five o'clock. Helen and John came over for a drink later. I went to bed about 9:30 or so. Today I did little. Made out the account sheets for February and added up January's accounts. They were bad. Must do better. This afternoon Helen looked after the baby while I went to the dentist and did a little shopping. I had dinner with her - came home a little before 8 - knitted and now it's nearly 11 o'clock, and past bed time. Gee I miss Willie. G'night.

February 7th, 1943 - Sunday

Not very much has happened here at home in the last five days. I wrote about seven realty companies for farm information on the fourth. On the fifth I noticed that Lāna is really getting interested in her feet - plays with 'em and chews at 'em. Thursday Helen went down to San Diego. She and John came back yesterday afternoon and then went to L.A. for the weekend. Little goes on.

February 15 - Monday

Last Monday Grammy was going to come down but the day started out rainy so she waited and came Tuesday, though Monday turned out a nice day after all. She is amazing - at 78 she whips all over the place - as independently as you please. Helen came over and we three had lunch. I drove Grammy down to the three o'clock P.E. It was fun having her come over. That afternoon John and Helen went into L.A., he to go S. F. and she to stay with her mother for a week until he gets back. Wrote lots of letters - am or less up now. Made a beautiful Valentine for Willie - he didn't get home in time to get it on Valentine's Day,

¹¹ This was an associate of William Lucking Senior'

though - yesterday. Watered the garden Thursday after spending the afternoon making some Valentine's for the family. Friday got a mat to go under the bedroom rug and the Wallace's got some new furniture - all courtesy of Mrs. Hards, of course. From 2 o'clock until 6:30 I worked in the garden - and I mean I worked! Whew! Did same Saturday after doing a laundry about 7:30 and making an apple pie for Willie. Very warm days - Saturday was 91° - Sunday about 5:30 it was 86° in the house - made some Boston baked beans. They're not as good as the canned variety, though. Mr. Colegrove sawed off a piece on the bottom of the bedroom and closet doors so they'd swing over the rug now that it has the mat under it. Watered the garden - listened to the radio and waited until about ten - then bed. Got up a little before 8 this morning - the plumber came to fix the wash bowl drain about 8:30. Wished the phone would ring and it'd be Willie me darling - Gosh how I miss him! Today's the second anniversary of our meeting - I won't give up hope completely for his getting in today until about an hour after sundown - but he may not be in until Wednesday now. Ratz! Called up Vi Engel this morning and Al left for Baltimore last Monday, she told me - a raw deal, methinks - but maybe not. Seems to me he was so useful to the Navy right here. Another hot day today. Amazing weather for February. Though the temperature in the dining rooms only 78°. Wished Willie'd get home s'afternoon! Yesterday General Arnold said: "I have an appointment in Berlin one year from today and another in Tokyo six months later." Surely hope he's right.

February 19 - Friday

Tuesday I washed my hair hoping that if my hair was all tied up, Willie might come home that day - on the theory that when you look your worst the most exciting things happen. The Wallace's got back yesterday. Tuesday night about 7:30 there was a knock on the door, and it was Willie! Goshalmighty it was wonderful! I'd surely missed him. Wednesday Bill was home all day except for a little while down at the Base. Mac and Elaine McCrory came up for a drink about 1:30. Wednesday night we went to see "Random Harvest" with Ronald Coleman and Greer Garson. It was awfully good - excellent. Thursday, yesterday Bill whittled during the morning - in the afternoon Wendell Shore, one of his officers, dropped in for a few minutes and then they both went down to the Base. I snoozed for a couple of hours. Bill got home about five o'clock and the darling - he got me a gardenia and a pink camellia - Valentine present - so sweet. We played some cribbage over a beer. About 6 Lieutenant Commander Ben Bryant - a friend of Mary Beth - phoned, and about 7:30 came over for a "quick one" - and left about 10:45. But it was very nice - he seemed very pleasant - and I believe he is rather lonesome down here. He's a doctor. Willie was pretty grumpy 'cause he stayed so long but then we're a couple of old fogies, really - we're so jealous of our time together. It's surely wonderful that way, though - as we appreciate every moment of it. Willie whittled this morning and I read aloud to him. We played a little cribbage and he skunked me! Gratz! Then at 12:30 I drove him down to the Base. He has the "dooty" tonight. I went to the Bank and C. Thomas's and marketed - did the accounts, washed my hair, worked in the garden. Willie phoned about 6 o'clock. Now it's nearly 9

o'clock. I've given myself a manicure. Oh yes - on Wednesday, the 10th, I took the babe to the doctor. She weighed 18 pounds 15 ounces - and was 27½ inches tall! Whee - hope she doesn't turn into an Amazon!

February 25th - Tuesday

Today got our No. 2 ration books for food - canned goods, that is - beautiful day on the whole, though the sky did pucker up a couple of times. Last Saturday morning I did some laundry for Bill - about 1 o'clock I went down to get him and instead of coming straight home, he took me in and we went aboard the "*Volador*," which was tied up alongside the "*Radio*," so I saw a little of her, too. Bill's ship for a year. The "*Volador*" is a beauty - I'd surely like to be aboard when she is under way! And I was amazed at the amount of room below decks; of course the biggest sailing ship I've ever been on before is a Star Boat. I understand, incidentally, that they're surveying the "*Radio*" - in that last blow her seams all opened and I guess the storm really cut her up a bit. She got her name from the fact that she was the ship with the radio aboard some years ago - maybe about 1924 - on a North Pole expedition. Met one of Bill's officers on the "*Volador*" - Phil something-or-other - and Bill showed me most of the ship - then we went to the new wardroom and had a cup of tea. It's certainly beautiful - lovely wood paneling 'n' all. They really treat the Navy right - big picture windows facing on the harbor - on a clear day we might have been able to see the battle ships at anchor. Had a roast beef! for dinner - a small one and not too tender, but nonetheless a roast of beef - and did it taste good! It rained all that night and I hadn't taken in the laundry so of course Sunday morning I had to wring it all out again - Bill helped me, the sweet thing. He whittled all day. The model ship is really coming along beautiful. Bill's really good at making model ships. The scale model of the "*Tartar*" that he made when we were in Oakland has a prominent place our book case. Sunday evening we went over to N.O.B. on Terminal Island - on Roosevelt base - for dinner. Wendell Shore - one of Bill's officers - and Nancy, his wife joined us there later - also some others. It was lotsa fun. We played the slot machines and dropped \$1.60 cents in them! The odds had been stepped up since we were last there. We had delicious steaks for dinner - 95 cents apiece! I've not seen a steak for over a month and the last ones we had together were at the Grove and dinner was \$4.50 apiece there!!! Came home about ten or so. Lots of fun. Nancy I thought most attractive. They live in Manhattan Beach, though - which is too far away, what with gas rationing. The N.O.B. there is really beautiful - sumptuous is the word. Monday morning Bill went down to the Base for a little while. It was a funny day - rain in the morning. Then bright sunshine and I hung the laundry outside to get dry - then the skies opened and it poured for about ten minutes - in sheets it poured! But we got the laundry off the line before too much damage was done. Then sunshine - bright - but finally the sun gave up and rained the rest of the day. We went over to the Wallace's for a drink - then home and had a hash dinner that was awfully good - plus peach (canned) shortcake. We had a little over the quota of five cans per person and have been diligently eating the canned goods to get rid of them before getting our ration books. Tuesday Bill whittled a little - and we played some cribbage

over a beer - then lunch and Bill bought a book and some plotting sheets downtown and then to the Base. The *Volador* got an extra day in but it didn't do us much good because Bill took the "dooty" the last night. Rain. He phoned me a couple of times - Gee, I love him. Wednesday morning at 6:30 he phoned again - just before they sailed. That was only yesterday morning and yet it seems as if he'd already been gone at least a week! Worked cross word puzzles most of yesterday. Catherine phoned this morning from Indio. She may come up with Kenneth¹² this weekend - hope so. Hoping Mother can come out for a week or so, too. It gets kinda lonesome when Bill's out. In fact it's erful! But can't crab. It could be an awful lot worse. Helen W. watched the babe for me while I went to the Ration Board. We had some tea when I got home. The babe has cut a tooth! It is barely through the skin - you can feel it more than see it. Fun.

March 3rd, 1943 - Wednesday -

Just phoned Mother to wish her a happy birthday. The last week has certainly dragged - Goshamighty fishhooks. It seems at least six weeks ago that Bill went out instead of a week ago this morning. Spoke to Dad for a minute - he says he's planning to be in the East ten or twelve weeks - plans to be back sometime in June. Wish he could come by this way on his way east, but he's driving - taking the blue car to leave on the farm in Nebraska. Just imagine - what fun to be able to drive 2000 miles these days! Have been doing lots of crossword puzzles in the book Willie bought me when he was in. Friday Helen W. and I worked in the garden a bit. It was beautifully sunny, though the wind was chilly. Mrs. Bowlin - the Lieut. Commander's wife - came over and we had tea - and fancy serving - plus cinnamon toast. Saturday I did some washing in the morning. I expected Catherine all day. When I talk to mother just now she said that Catherine had tried to get me all day that day. Don't understand it - she couldn't have been calling the right number. I'm so sorry, 'cause I'd been hoping to see her. Oh yes, on Friday Helen and John had a drink with me. Sunday did little - cross word puzzles & knitting. Monday same. We have a new neighbor - Sylvia Sandler - her husband is an ensign at the Base. Now we've an ensign, a Lieut.(j.g.) -Bill - a Lieut. - John W. and a Lieut. Commander here in the courts - over half of the people in the courts are Navy - because there's an enlisted man and his wife here too. Tuesday, yesterday, I went shopping and gave Helen and Sylvia a lift downtown. Little else happened. Today it's been raining all day - hard. I went down to the hospital to get Helen W. when she got off 'cause it was teeming and I hated to think of her walking 15 blocks in that muck. She came in and had some tea with me. Little else goes on. But I got a small piece of beef this afternoon! Had half of it for dinner tonight - good. Golly, the babe is adorable - more so all the time. Mother's coming up Monday. She'll be positively enchanted with her

Mar. 6th, 1943 - Saturday

That precious adorable baby - Gosh she's so cute I can hardly leave her alone.

¹² Kenneth Peck, Bill and Patsy's beloved stepfather.

Chuckling and giggling and having so much fun. I just bedded her down for the night - I hope. Mother phoned this evening - saying Dad's plans have been changed. The State Department wants him to go to Washington immediately - so he'll be leaving by train Monday night if he can get reservations - instead of driving to Nebraska as originally planned. Wonder what the State Department wants? So Mother won't be up until Tuesday if she can make it that soon - it all depends on when Dad leaves. Cleaned up the house today - spic 'n' span. Yesterday the painter came and painted the kitchen table. Looks great. And that got me started! I cleaned the kitchen within an inch of its life and even waxed the floor! Waxed the traffic spots in the other rooms, too. Sylvia Sandler came over about 3 and stayed until 6. Wow! I guess she's awfully lonesome, though. She was talking of going back to Baltimore within a month if she doesn't start liking San Pedro better. Hell's bells, though - she's here with her husband. What more does she want? I can't understand babes like that. Did little Thursday, as I remember. Oh yes - Helen came over and we mended things and listened to Tchaikowsky's Fifth symphony and Gershwin's concerto in F on the photograph. She brought some salad and I rustled up the rest of the meal. 'Twas fun! I'm sorry Mother's not coming Monday - Ratz!

March 16th, 1943 - Tuesday -

Last Sunday Elaine McCrory came over from Long Beach about 4 o'clock and we gabbed. The Wallace's dropped in about 6:30 and we had a couple of drinks. Then Elaine and I had a meager dinner of spaghetti and salad. Then she left about 10:00. Monday Willie got home - I was so pleased. I'd not expected him 'til Saturday. Tuesday we had dinner with the Wallace's. Wednesday we just foodled around, as I remember - and thoroughly enjoyed doing that. Thursday Bill had the "dooty" and he got home Friday about 2 - and about 3, the McCrory's picked us up and we went into Hollywood to a Dinah Shore broadcast at 5. From there we went across the street to the Tropico where we had a couple of drinks - then out to The Copper Room. Bob gave us a round on the house because it was our 1 ½ anniversary of our marriage and also our being in the Navy - and Mac had just made been made full Lieut. and their eight-month-iversary was several days later. We had steaks - boy were they good - and only \$1.10 apiece! George Hoage dropped in to see us (we'd called his house and talked to Betty) and showed us how to play darts - I won, too! Then to The Copa de Oro room at the Beverly Wilshire where a couple of soldiers allowed as how I was Ann Sheridan! And then to the Beverly Hills Tropics, where we stayed until about 11:30 - danced and had much fun. Then to a drive-in - where we had some sandwiches - then home. Saturday we did little during the morning - went to Manhattan Beach about 1:30 that afternoon to see the Shores - Wendell is one of Bill's officers on the Volador. Skeets, Wendell's son by a former marriage was there - certainly an attractive kid - 12 or 13, but with more presence and poise than many and adult. We walked up the beach - Nancy and Zo and I - while the boys braved the breakers - they didn't much, though. It was chilly. I paddled in the water *mit* shoes and socks, - after a dash to get some water in my beer glass (empty) to throw at Bill after he squirted me! Then we flopped about - played poker - no money - just chips and Skeets and I were

high - with 105 and 95 chips respectively. Dinner and home about 10. Offshore patrol was disbanded Friday so they're just standing by now. Sunday we foodled and yesterday Bill went down to the base about 8:30. He had the dooty last night too. Mother arrived about 5 p.m.. Vi Engel had dropped in for a few minutes. Fun to see Mom. We did cross word puzzles and gabbed. Mother, as I knew she would be, is completely enchanted with Jill - she's getting so responsive and cute. Willie phoned me a couple of times last night and once this morning. I did some laundry and made two batches of blanc mange - one chocolate and one the vanilla. Mother likes chocolate and Bill can eat a whole recipe of vanilla by himself. Mother and Helen W. and I were sitting outside about 2 - beautiful day - when air raid sirens began to howl - nothing happened, though - and the radio stations didn't go off the air - then a little later the all-clear sounded. They must have been just testing. Am expecting Willie home at any time now - wish he'd come right now. I sure do miss him.

March 24th, 1943 - Wednesday

Last Tuesday's air raid alarm was a real one - red alert - it seems there was a fleet of 20 unidentified bombers headed this way - but it turned out all right. That night Bill and I dropped over to see Ben Bryant - had a couple of drinks and came home shortly. Yesterday Bill had the dooty again. Thursday Willie brought home some beautiful roses. They were for my birthday the next day. Also he brought me a Monopoly board - we played it for a while. Helen came over and we had fun playing Monopoly. A present from Catherine and Grammy - The cutest skirt and blouse. Mother cut my hair and I washed it and got all dressed up. Bill's now going to be on the *Thorsgell*, a Norwegian killer boat. That night we saw Bob Hope and Dot Lamour in "They Got Me Covered" - OK. Friday morning I took him down to the base expecting him not to be home for at least several days - but he phoned me almost as soon as I got home - the ship was out so he was home all day. But I got him at the Base - then we took the car down to C. Thomas and had new spark plugs put in. Did a little shopping and got some Schick injector blades - which we hadn't been able to get for a long time - good enough. That afternoon Bill and I went out to the Police Target Practice Range. We had lotsa fun. Wendell Shore dropped in that evening for a drink and we'd already asked the Wallace's - was nice. Saturday morning Mom left at the crack of dawn - she wouldn't let us get up at 5:30 to take her down to the station as she found she was able to get a taxi after all. Bill went down to the Base about the middle of the morning. The ship had come in. So Bill had the duty that evening and came home for only a while shortly after luncheon. A wedding present came that afternoon - imagine! After all this time! A lovely serving spoon from the David Winton's in Minneapolis. Sunday morning Bill got home about ten o'clock. Had much fun all day reading the funnies and just being together - wonderful. Monday Bill was at the Base all day and Tuesday the same. Tuesday, yesterday, the babe was 8 months old. This morning Bill went out on the *Thorsgell* - expect him back Sunday or Monday or so. Took the baby to the doctor - she's now 20 pounds and 9 ounces. And she's 28 3/4 inches tall! What an Amazon. Little else today - Helen came in for some root beer this afternoon - it certainly tasted good. I'd gotten it while shopping a little while before. Gee I miss my darling

Willie. Wish Mom were here now.

April 2nd , 1943 - Friday

Don't remember what happened last Thursday, the 25th - apparently not much. On Friday I picked Helen up at the hospital and met little Mrs. Kirkpatrick, who has just had a baby and whom Helen and another Nurse's Aide, Mrs. Robb, and I are going to help out a little when she comes home from the hospital. Was able to get a small ham hock on the way home, too. Kenneth had phoned from Pasadena that Cath and Aunt Mary Harmon were arriving that afternoon and they wanted me to go to the "Blackout of '43" with them - but I couldn't make it. Didn't want to have to come home late at night with the midnight San Pedro element around the station down there - the knifing zoot-suiters, etc. Saturday morning phoned Catherine and tried to get them to stay over but they couldn't. Worked hard all day - the laundry, ironing, cleaning house, polishing silver, etc. Bill phoned that evening. They'd gotten in ahead of schedule, but he had the duty that night, so didn't see him until Saturday morning. We foodled around, read the funny papers, had a beer and played some cribbage - lunch, then Dad arrived. He'd just gotten back from Washington -is going to Nebraska the end of this week - has probably left by now. We had a couple of drinks - then an early dinner and took Dad down to the station to catch his train. It was surely fun seeing him. Wish he could stay longer. Played a little cribbage and went to bed soon after Jill's eight o'clock feeding. Monday Bill dropped me at Mrs. Kirkpatrick's about 8:45 on his way to the Base and I bathed her baby, washed didies and generally helped clean up a bit for her. It was fun. Bill picked me up a little before 11 - then home. Lunch and took a nap. Bill went down to the base again about 4 to take the duty for Ross Nelson (one of the officers on the Thorsgell) whose wife had had a bad bicycling accident the day before. When he got home Tuesday about 11:30 we sat on Helen W.'s steps in the sun and drank beer for an hour and half - much fun. Then lunch and Bill and I went up to the clubhouse near Abalone Cove and lay in the sand for an hour or so. The storm washed out all the beach that had been there. Quite a nice one, too. Then home and a nice shower and I got dressed and fixed up while Bill napped. Then we took Helen over to NOB and met John and we had some drinks and dinner and had lots of fun. Home about ten after missing the last ferry back. John and Helen just made it. Wednesday we got up at 6:15 - breakfast in a hurry and I took Bill down to the Base. Got there a little after 7. He went out that day. Home and laundry and washed the car and did lots of things - beautiful day. Went over to the Wallace's for a Vodka Collins that evening. Quite good. Thursday, yesterday, Helen and I sat out in the sun for a couple of hours and got a nice sunburn - not too much - just right. Helen came over later and we had a rum collins. John was on a stag party last night. Mrs. Webber was acting up and we got ahold of Mrs. Hards and got the lowdown later that afternoon. I did an ironing last night and several other things. This morning picked flowers, cleaned house, put on some baked beans and a lot of other small items - am expecting Bill home this afternoon, I hope I hope. Now am going out for a sunbath with Helen W.

April 10th, 1943 - Saturday

Willie did not get in on the 2nd a week ago yesterday, but phoned me Saturday afternoon to come down for him. Surely was great. On the way home we stopped at the market - got a beautiful leg of lamb - 430 points - 4 ½ pounds. Had baked beans for dinner. Sunday Bill had a cold - so kept him in bed all day. Read to him and brought him his meals on a tray and played nurse. Monday he went down to the Base for a little while. Then came back and to bed. When I learned that the ship was to go out Tuesday at 8 a.m., I convinced him he shouldn't go out if he could help it - Having a bad cold and standing watches and getting wet, etc.. So he went down to sick bay and got put on the sick list and sent home to bed. Tuesday I kept him in bed all day and Wednesday he was lots better. Got taken off sick list and we drove over to Claremont to see Pat. Oh yes, Tuesday night I went to a movie with Helen W. Didn't want to go at all - but she was a little worried about coming home by herself on the bus. John had the duty that night and she had to go more or less - because they wanted Red Cross uniforms for the Red Cross drive. Saw "Hello Frisco, Hello" - Alice Faye and John Payne and Jack Oakie. Enjoyed it - Technicolor. Anyway Wednesday we left about noon - had sandwiches in the car. Saw Pat at Scripps and took her over to Webb School for a while. Had much fun. That's really a wonderful school - cozy and really beautiful - Mr. and Mrs. Webb and one of their sons, Bill, took me all around the place. Bill looked around mostly by himself - he went there for about four years. We couldn't shake the others, so I did the honors by going with them. Left about 4:30. Took Pat back to school - had some hot chocolate at Wilson's and stopped at Gram's, hoping for a free dinner too - but she was still down in the Valley, so drove on and Bill surprised me by taking me to dinner at Olvera Street. It was lotsa fun. Got home about 9:30. Thursday we foodled about. Bill did some whittlin' in the morning - Helen came over about noon and we had some beer. Then lunch about 1:30 or so and about 3 Georgia¹³ and Parky arrived. Georgia is going to have a baby in August. I'm so pleased. Kenny has left for overseas. They left about 5:30. It was much fun seeing them. I hadn't seen Georgia for about a year and Bill hadn't seen her since the day we were married - Sept. 12, 1941 Wayne, Illinois - and had a reception at her house. We had our leg o' lamb that night - Golly was it good! Friday Bill was at the Base from about 9 until 4. I did a laundry for the baby and stuff. She's started the cutest trick - a sort of growling - so amusing. And stands up in the crib - on her toes - not on her feet as they should be - and is so tickled with herself. Golly she's adorable. Started training her in civilized ways March 25th. She got a very slight case of the sniffles from Bill - so light that I'm not even sure she had them. Last night we had the Wallace's over for baked beans and corn bread. Good, too. Then we played poker, followed by Black Jack - until about 10:15. It was lotsa fun. Bill went down to the Base about 8:30 this morning - has the duty today and tonight. I did the laundry, changed the bed and cleaned the shower curtain. Golly, it was a windy morning! Letter from

¹³ Georgia Clifford Hess; she and her husband hosted Helen and Bill's wedding

Mother - Jerry is in the Army now. His whole class at N.M.M.I.¹⁴ enlisted in a body - they had to before going to Fort Riley this summer for more training. Golly, it seems funny for Jerry to be in the Army - he's so young - though he's 20, after all - but a young 20. Bill phoned me just now. Its 6:15. He 'lows as how he's going to bed practically immejately. Goot. Had the babe down on a blanket on the rug this afternoon. She loves it. Crawls all over the place. Now must fold up the clean laundry and do some general house cleaning. Slept about an hour this afternoon. Also worked a crossword puzzle. Helen W. came over for a little while before John got home.

April 20th, 1943 - Tuesday

Let see, a week ago, Sunday as I remember, Bill got home about 10 o'clock in the morning. We had a wonderful time just a-foodlin' around all day, reading funnies and stuff. That night Mother phoned about nine o'clock that she was driving up to stay with Catherine and Kenneth - and they'd be down Wednesday. Expected Willie in Wednesday. But as it turned out he got in Thursday and Cath and Grammy came down that day instead. Monday I got my sweetie down to base before 7 - he went out that morning. It was our year and 7/12th anniversary. Did quite a lot of things that day, including writing some letters. Red alert that night - or Thursday night - I don't recall which, but nothing came of it. Did lots Tuesday getting things slicked up and ready for Bill on Wednesday. Mother came down Wednesday A.m. Here about 10:30. Fun to see her. She was so intrigued with the babe - she'd grown up so much just in the previous couple of weeks - standing up, etc. And course that little growling of hers is the most amoozin', cutest thing! Bill didn't get in Wednesday as scheduled. I had my hair in pigtails, Mother and I read aloud 'n' stuff 'n' gabbed. Thursday about 10:30 Catherine and Gram arrived. Much fun - they liked my pigtails - which Bill emphatically did not, when I went down to get him about 12:30! Bill napped a couple of hours that afternoon. I got about a half hours sleep, then went out and played bridge with Mom, Cath and Gram for a while. About 5:30 we all went into town. Met Kenneth at the Turnabout Theatre where we picked up tickets to that night show. Had a couple of drinks and dinner at Richlor - good place, lots of fun. Gabbed with Kenneth about farms, etc. Then to the theater - it was awfully good - the Yale Puppeteers and "Noah's Ark" - and a revue that was highly amoozin' - Elsa Lanchester is the star. Thoroughly enjoyable. They dropped us at the P.E. Station and we got home about 1:30. Friday Bill had the duty. Saturday he got home about noon with the news that the first four on the list for Sub-Chaser School have already gone - and he's 6th on the list. (Thud went my heart). We went down to the rationing board after lunch and applied for gas to drive to Ojai if Bill gets some leave before he goes. When we got back we had a quick one with the Wallace's before they went into town. They were going to Oceanside for a couple of weeks Communications School, and we thought we might not see them again before we left. That night we had dinner downtown and saw "Something To Shout About"- Janet Blair, Don Ameche & Jack Oakie - amoozin' but

¹⁴ New Mexico Military Institute.

nothing to shout about. Sunday we fried up the chicken and took it up to Redondo Beach to the Nelsons - Ross and Mid. Lots of fun - gabbed, drank beer and ate and played four handed cribbage - fun - cloudy though, until about 4:30, so no sunning or swimming. Got home about 6:45. A little dinner and bed early. Monday, yesterday, took Bill down to the base before 7 - did the laundry and lots of things that day. Took Jill to Dr. Saffro for her 2nd diphtheria shot - also to the photographers for her picture. Packed up stamps, etc., preparatory to leaving here - how I'll hate to leave! This morning bright 'n' early I got the curse! Ratz! Two days overdue and I was really beginning to think maybe we'd made another baby. Worked hard all day. Laundry again, washed my hair, and cleaned house from top to bottom, had dinner with Helen (John had the duty), came back and did an ironing. Mother phoned and will come up and take care of the baby if Bill gets leave. Golly, the baby's adorable. She's all over the crib at once practically - gets up all by herself and stands in the crib - holding onto the rail, of course. And so cute. And Gee I miss my wonderful darling hubby. How I wish this war were over and we were on the farm, together and working together and with each other all the time. Sigh. I love that guy. Golly the baby's adorable - she's all over the crib at once practically; gets up all by herself and stands in the crib, holding on to the rail, of course. So cute. Gee I miss my hubby; how I wish this war were over and we were on the farm, together and working together and with each other all the time. Sigh.

April 25th, 1943 - Easter Sunday

I learned yesterday that Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox, March 21st - and April 25th is the latest date that Easter can fall on and that it won't be that late again until 2006 A.D! Last Wednesday, April 21st, Willie phoned me about 4:45 - we did a little shopping and got home about 5:30. Had a couple of beers, played cribbage - then dinner, which was mainly a 3 ³/₄ pound of 1½ inch 30 point steak! We have so many points that I give away stuff all the time - everything except gas! Thursday Bill had the duty - so after a breakfast of waffles and bacon and Coachella grapefruit, left Bill at the Base by 9 o'clock. That night Helen had dinner with me. Doctor Saffro dropped in for the dates Mother brought up for him. Bill phoned me twice and Mother also phoned. Friday Bill phoned me at 7a.m.. He went out shortly afterward. Won't begin until Monday or Tuesday - probably Tuesday. Only one evening in - Gratz!! That afternoon I started to clean the Venetian blinds and worked steadily until a quarter to nine at night - but they're certainly beautiful now - as good as the day they were made - and as pristinely beautiful. Saturday I took Lāna to the doctor for her smallpox inoculation, did a little shopping, and picked up the gas coupons for the trip to Ojai - if we get leave. Washed the windows, hosed off the screens and cleaned the woodwork. Then I cleaned the kitchen walls, top to bottom !! Mrs. Bowlin, the sweet thing, gave me a pink Easter bunny for the baby today. Last night about 9 the phone rang - and it was Willie! So nice to talk with my sweetie. The ship was in Santa Barbara for the night. Mrs. Hards tells me today that there was a coast-long alert yesterday and everyone was standing by 'most all day. Today have been cleaning up things in general. The baby is learning to ease herself down from a standing position - instead of just ker-

plunking as she has been up to now. Washed some of her things and did a small laundry - which, incidentally, probably won't get much dryer this afternoon - it being a quarter to 6 - so I guess I'll take it down.

May 1st, 1943 - Saturday

Last Monday did a lot of work, washed my hair, vacuumed and dusted the house, etc. Tuesday Willie got in about 2 o'clock - it was sure wonderful to have him home. Catherine and Pat arrived about 3:30. Had tongue for dinner - it was surely good. They brought it. They spent the night with us. It was fun to see them. They had been going to go to San Francisco that morning but turned in their reservations to come see Bill since he might be leaving. Wednesday John gave Bill a lift down to the Base a little before 9. Catherine and Pat left about 10:15. I went downtown with them and we picked up the rest of the baby's pictures and ordered some more - they dropped me at home again - soon after that Bill 'phoned for me to go down to get him. It seems he only thought he had the duty that day. He whipped over right away and took his physical for lighter-than-air school. It's the same exam given to Navy plane pilots. And he passed it 100%! He'd been taking 80,000 units of vitamin A daily to get his eyes in shape. Had a beer and foodled about - dinner and cribbage. Gee I love my sweetie. We phoned Catherine to tell her the result of Bill's physical, but she wasn't in. She phoned back the next morning, Thursday a.m. I took Bill down to the Base by 7. He went down to San Diego (i.e. the *Thorsgell* did) for 3 days at gunnery school. Expects to be home Monday. Had a sunbath with Helen Wallace. Phoned Mother that night re coming up Monday. Bill expects to get a week's leave starting Monday - unless orders come through first to cancel it. We plan to go up to Ojai and take a lot of stuff up to leave - most of it for the duration, probably. Golly, the house will look so bare without our book case, coffee table, books, etc. We also plan to look around at farms and use up the present two months quota of the Zephyr's gas. What fun! Yesterday, Friday, I did a laundry, took an hour's sunbath about noon with Helen W. and a short one by myself in the afternoon. Today I took a sunbath from about 11:00 to 12:30 - interrupted by ten minutes of heavy fog. This afternoon I packed silver and other things into eight big boxes. What a job. This morning Bill phoned me - the circuits were busy last night. Oh yes, last night I had I had a drink and dinner with the Wallace's - they asked me to go to the movies with them but I didn't 'cause I expected Willie to phone. Helen W. went into L.A. this morning to stay until Tuesday. Phoned Bill tonight at the Bunnell's in San Diego to remind him to wire Mr. Ford to have the Zephyr all set and ready to go. It was fun to talk to Jim Bunnell. I'd like to have been down there with Willie.

May 2nd, 1943 - Sunday

Did lots today, whipping about the place, cleaning things up and getting ready for Willie to come home tomorrow. The baby is sitting up without any support now - doesn't have to hold on to the crib bars at all anymore. She's certainly loves her bath - splashes all over the place and giggles - such fun. Rather warm today. Roosevelt's speech tonight to the

coal miners was very good. Should have a decided effect and send them back to work tomorrow instead of Tuesday. Hope orders don't come through tomorrow to cancel our leave!!!

May 21st, 1943 - , Friday

On Monday, May 3rd, Bill got home about 10:30. We packed things up - Mother arrived about 2 o'clock - we left almost immediately for Ojai. Stopped at Robinson's on the way and Willie bought me the most yummy new bathing suit and a powder blue and coral dress - all his own idea. Sweet darling! We arrived in Ojai about 9:30. Turned in immediately. Tuesday we foodled around during the morning, unpacking the car and getting things stored away in the house. About 1 p.m. got the Zephyr - Mr. Ford had gotten it serviced, etc. Ambled around Ojai and ran into Mr. Cole at his place. Most amusing old foof. Between the three of us we all but killed a quart of Bourbon. Then we went over to meet his wife - the former Mrs. Merrill. Had a glass of sherry there! Home, dinner, fire - took a walk and had a game of tag - so I skinned my left knee beautifully. Fine thing. Wednesday we went up to Piedra Blanca - had a wunnerful time. Swam in the creek in our panties - fun. Found a horseshoe, spit through it, and threw it over our left shoulders for good luck. That afternoon we went over to see Mr. Pierpont - gabbed and he took us over to see the Gorham place - badly run down, but what possibilities it has! Then a coopla drinks back at the Pierponts - then home and dinner and bed immejately. Thursday we went over to Santa Barbara. Went to Chase Realty Co. and Mr. Saxe showed us around some farms. The Clevelands¹⁵ hadn't returned yet so we went back to Ojai. Got there in time to grab a quick bite of dinner and dash back to the movies. Saw "The Major and the Minor" - Ginger Rogers and Ray Milland - quite amusing. Friday morning saw Dr. Drace - then over to Santa Barbara - went swimming at the Biltmore - fun. Then had a couple of beers and went to the Cleveland's for drinks and dinner - Dr. and Mrs. Eder and their children were there for a while. The Clevelands had just gotten back from Boston and were having the bedrooms painted so didn't ask us for the night - but the next a.m. when we started to pay our bill at the Biltmore, we found it had all been taken care of! Also that evening, out of the clear blue sky, Cynthia gave me the best looking white felt hat! Amazing people, those Clevelands. Met Dick after dinner at El Paseo with another boy, Bob Neuen-something - and with them were the 2 gals we'd seen that afternoon in the Coral Casino bar - having an argument with the bartender as he didn't think they were 21. Patsy Marsh and Sally Grey. It was lot of fun. Had a bite of supper and to bed about 1:30.

May 22nd, 1943 - Saturday

Foodled part of the next morning, which was Saturday, the 8th. Breakfast and got back to Ojai about 2 p.m. after spending some time looking through the museum of the county

¹⁵ Cynthia 'Cinnie' and Bruce Cleveland were long-time friends of the Luckings, and their son Dick was a boyhood friend of Dad, WAL Jr. WAL Sr was Cinnie's family lawyer.

courthouse in Ventura. Went to see Alfred Reimer and gabbed about farming and Ojai while he inoculated pigs. Then went over to the Gorham place and looked over another part of that. Then home and had steak for dinner - a beautiful piece that Mr. Houk saved especially for us. Sunday Mr. Pierpont dropped by about 8:30 or 9 and took us over to see a ranch reclaimed by Mr. Henjen (or something like that) - fascinating place. Then back to San Pedro. Arrived about 4. Bill's orders for Sub-Chaser's school had arrived that morning. Ah me. Monday Mother left very early in the morning. We packed all day - Lord what a day! Helen W. came over and we had some brandy after dinner. Tuesday morning we packed the car and left about 11. A nice drive down via Riverside. Arrived at Catherine's at 4:15. Made good time, for we took about 3/4 hour for our lunch and the baby's. Mother and Tavie came over for a while after dinner. Wednesday Bill and I unpacked the stuff at Mother's. In the afternoon played some threehanded bridge with Catherine. Then went over to the Hayes to get some tomato culls. Then back to Mother's for dinner, and Kenneth arrived home just as we were leaving - so we all went over in Catherine's little car! Amazing having cannot get off that early. Had leg of lamb. Boy!! Thursday morning did a washing and ironing for Bill at Mother's. Washed my hair. Took Mother back to Cath's that afternoon - about 4 - and she, Cath, Bill and I played bridge. Dinner there and she and Cath went to an airwatch meeting. Bill and I went into town to use up our 8 gas coupons which expired that night. Parked in the moonlight on the way back. Gee I love Willie. Home and in bed by 10 p.m.

Friday, the 14th, Bill and I painted the priming coat on the porch windows for Catherine. Played bridge that afternoon - teaching, or rather, starting to teach Pat to play. That evening we all went on a picnic up at the foot of the hill - had roasted corn among other things and Cath and Pat played their guitars and we all sang. Such fun. It was Cath, Pat, Mother, Bill and I. Tavie couldn't come and Kenneth was too busy. Dad, of course is in Nebrasky. Saturday, Bill, Pat and I helped out on the bean packing. Foodled around after lunch. Some bridge with Pat. Little else. Bed early. Sunday we had the best lunch - dinner it was. Roast pork and potatoes cooked in the fat in the pressure cooker. Read the funnies after lunch - more bridge. Went on another picnic that night - near the ranch - Pat rode Lucky over. Monday Bill and I went into town to get his ticket, to get a check cashed, etc. I managed to get a beautiful baby beef sirloin for dinner - wonderful. In Coachella our steering wheel, which had been loose, came off. Had it fixed right away - then packed a few beans - then luncheon, and foodled. Bill wrote Mr. Reimer and packed some. That morning Mother washed some things for Bill. I darned socks. Later on after a little bridge Bill and I went over to see Perc and Nina. Had a drink at Mother's en route. Back to Cath's - Mother came over for dinner - zee beyouteefool steak! A little bridge afterward. Took Willie down to the train - he left about 11:15 p.m. Gosh I sure hated to have him leave. It was so lonesome crawling into bed without him.

May 29th, 1943 - Saturday

Am using my new Parker pen for the first time. Got so disgusted with the old one that I had ever since the middle of senior year at Smith that I finally hauled off this morning and

bought one. It's a nice job. Tuesday the 18th packed some beans for Kenneth and painted 2 driveway signs for Catherine. The next day Pat left at 8 a.m. for a week in Santa Barbara - the Starbuck wedding. Helped Cath clean house, transferred stuff over to Mother's, had the car serviced. The 5,000 mile job. Took the baby to Dr. Morris - she weighs 24 pounds and is 29 inches tall. Also he gave her her smallpox vaccination (this one took! In a big way!) Picked up Catherine on the way home and we played some three handed bridge. Thursday afternoon more three handed bridge. Earl brought in a letter from Willie that night. Friday Grace and Cath came over and we played bridge - in the morning! Wire from Willie from New Orleans. Did a big washing. Saturday the 22nd did some shopping and picked up Grace Moody and son Charles and brought them out. Played bridge with Cath and Grace in the afternoon. Sunday a wire from Bill to join him in two weeks - apparently has found a place to live! Goody! Monday more bridge and applied for reservations to MM. Tuesday wrote quantities of letters and got them off my mind - also out of my writing case. Talked to Francisco Alvarez Blanco from Chilchota, Michoacan for ½ hour English, ½ hour Spanish. Was fun. Thursday Tavie left for the summer. Is going to be in Fallen Leaf, Nevada with Leslie. Friday afternoon Cath and Grace came and we had about three hours of bridge and iced tea. Today I picked up my ticket to Miami - got a sanding machine for Mother and such things - also my beautiful pen. When I got home there was a wonderful letter from Willie. Got one the day before yesterday, too - the one telling about Miami and the appointment.

June 24th, 1943 -Thursday

Well, here I am in Miami - have been here three weeks this Saturday. Surely wonderful being with Willie. The trip East was relatively uneventful. Lots 'n' lotsa soldiers on the train. Three fourths in my car were soldiers and sailors. Played bridge with a general's wife named Mrs. Goldthwaite, and Lieut. Lennon, Spaulding & Stevens. In New Orleans was squired about the city for the day by a Brigadier General Carter. Much fun, though he did walk my poor feet off me. Saw "Five Graves to Cairo" with Franchot Tone and Akim Tamiroff. Quite good. New Orleans in some ways looks much like Maracaibo - the older architecture, etc. Oh yes, the day before I left the Valley, Cath, Pat and Kenneth came over for a drinkie and we certainly had an argument as to whether Pat should go back to Scripps for another year. I think she should finish. Monday the 31st Cath, Pat and Grace came over, Cath and Pat for dinner and Grace for bridge afterward. Played until time to go to the train. The train was pretty much on time all the way, which was amazing. No signs of the flood at New Orleans. On the train between New Orleans and Jacksonville, knitted socks and talked to Josephine Dorland, who's on her way to Orlando where her husband is an air cadet. Played bridge with General Carter, Sergeant Clemo (there's a combination!) and a Miss York. In Jacksonville had a drink with Jo Dorland and Major George Konolige. On the Pullman early - about 11:15 - it was already made up so people could go to sleep. Train didn't leave until nearly 1 A.m. Saturday the 5th got in about 10 a.m. - whipped up to the apartment. Sweet note from Willie sweetie. He was at sea for the day. Got in at 4 p.m.. Gosh, as soon as I arrived at the apartment I hopped in the tub. Had a long soak and washed my hair. Felt much

better. When Bill got home we had a drink, and dinner at Betty's Restaurant (recommended by Duncan Hines). Then to the Seven Seas for a drink and home. Wonderful! Sunday Bill was at sea, home at 4, club at five (Bath Club) saw Ford, met Capt. Parsons, who shares the cabana. A drink and swam, (ocean very warm) and then to the Old Forge for dinner with Jack Orear of San Pedro days and Mary Alice Woodward. During the week Bill is home for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, study and sleep, generally speaking, though we have had a very few games of cribbage. On the 9th went over to see Lee and over to the Club. On the 10th had a very fauncy dinner with cake & candles, etc. 'cause it was Bill's 26th birthday. Got the cutest wire from Cath. "Sold superfine bill of goods - even better satisfied at 26. " signed "Pat and Peck, Inc." Most amoozin', because of course you can't send birthday greetings nowadays, or anything of the sort. Hah! Saturday the 12th we had Art and Margaret Cox over for a drink, then went to the Clover Club for dinner. Fun. It was our 1 3/4 anniversary. Sunday we got over to the club at 10 p.m.. Found it doesn't open until 11:30 of all things! Read funnies at Ford's in the meantime. Swam, had lunch, talked to Ensign Greg Smith. Ford and Captain Parsons came a little later. We came home about 5:30 - slight burn. Dinner, study, sleep. And on Monday I went down to try to buy a pair of brown and white spectator pumps! What a laugh. The #17 shoe coupon expired the next day and apparently everyone waited till the last minute to use it. That afternoon at Burdine's chatted with a gal, Alice, who's being married to an OCS on the 26th. Also to Anne Jones, whose husband just finished SCTC here. Bumped into Jack Yuhl on the bus who looked at me and said, "You're Mrs. Lucking, aren't you?" He was in V-7 with Bill and had seen us walking to the bus together. Russ Burr came over for drinks and dinner that evening. Maxine was arriving that Wednesday and he was so excited he was just good for nothing! The Whelden¹⁶ family arrived Wednesday. Went swimming with Lee at the club that day. Went over again Thursday and saw the Wheldens for a few minutes. Saw the 8 months one, Priscilla. Cute baby, but not as cute as our little Lāna. Surely miss that little tyke. We gobble up Mother's letters about her. We're pleased as punch that Willie III (I hope) is on the way - due January 23rd. Fun. Friday's Ford & Gertie gave a cocktail party, which was fun. More gold braid than I'd seen in a coon's age. Met Captain Benson, Captain Nixon and Admiral Monroe - all Navy at the party except for two or three civilians, among them Hervey Allen, author of *Anthony Adverse*. Got a kick out of Gertie Jr. who, when I said I wanted to meet Anthony Adverse, started to introduce Hervey Allen as Mr. Anthony! Afterward, Gertie Jr., Greg Smith, Bill and I had dinner at the *Palm*, in Miami Beach. Then home. Saturday Bill and I had dinner at the *Venetian* and then saw "*The Ox-Bow Incident*" which was the worst movie, or excuse for one, that we'd ever seen. It was horrible - all disjointed and generally ungood. So we promptly hied ourselves downtown and saw "Navy Blue and Gold", an old picture, with James Stewart and Robert Young. Amusing. Then a couple of beers at _____. Then home. Sunday we foodled about at the beach. Read funnies and a Rhinehart mystery in *Good Housekeeping*. Home about 8. Dinner, study, bed. This week little has gone on. Tuesday Bill

¹⁶ Ford and Gilbert Whelden were 2nd cousins of WAL Sr. They also lived in Detroit.

was at sea. It poured most of today and was cool and delightful. I slept all morning. Washed some things in the afternoon. Yesterday I went over to Maxine's (cute apartment-their first chance at playing house since they were married a year ago). We swam and sunned and gabbed at the Club. Home at 5. Bill got home at 6. We had a beer, then a steak dinner (mmmm!), played cribbage and foodled. No study. Fun. Nice cool night again last night.

August 11th 1943 - Wednesday

Golly, so much can happen so fast. July was mostly study for Willie and a few movies and comparatively little gadding. Dinner several times with the Wheldens. Swimming and sunning at the Bath Club - dinner with Russ and Max. The 22nd we went on a splurge with Betsy Fawell and Jack O'Rear. Oh yes, and that afternoon just as we got to the bus stop, I had a nice dizzy faint. The 24th, Saturday, at 11 a.m. we left Miami for Sound School in San Diego. That night we were routed out of our Pullman at 12:30 a.m. 'cause the darn thing had burned out a journal (something on or part of the axle, I guess) and we spent the rest of the night in a coach. However, got a section in the other Pullman that A.m. so 'twasn't so bad. Pretty awful while it lasted, though. Hot, dirty. Even the Pullmans were pretty hot all the way. Sunday night in New Orleans we had dinner at Arnaud's with Peggy and Jack Chilton in U.S.N.A.C. - they were also on their way to San Diego. At Arnaud's we all had pousse café - amazing drink!! Seven layers of different colored liqueurs!! Arrived in Indio about noon on 28th Wednesday - surely fun. The baby is wonderful. Gosh, she's cute. We played with her all afternoon. Called Cath - she was in San Diego but got back to Pasadena that night and she and Pat arrived in the Valley the next morning! It was such fun seeing the family. And Jerry was still there! That Friday night he got a wire though, telling him to report to Fort Benning August 5th. I guess he left the Valley Sunday, reservations or not. Hope he got one, because that trip by coach would be gruesome!! He's growing up so much! Sweet kid. It was great seeing Mother and Dad. We hardly let Lāna alone a moment. Golly she's adorable! Cath and Pat and Kenneth had dinner at our place Thursday night and we all with them Friday evening. We left Saturday afternoon about 3:15. Spent the night at Warner's Hot Springs - after the first time in three months, we were cool! Then to San Diego, arriving at 9 a.m.. Bill reported in and then we went to the Coronado where Dorothy Royce had gotten us a reservation. Everything's jammed down here - no apartment for love or money. We were able to get a room at a private house, however, after four days of the Coronado, through Lieut. Cdr King, who Bill had met in Miami. He was leaving for a while and let the Moffets have his house whereupon we got their room. Have seen Aunt Hattie and Uncle The - they're at the Park Manor. The McCrory's are down here - had dinner with them last night. Night before last we had dinner at the Bunnell's. Fun seeing them - Mrs. Bunnell was there too. Expect Cath, Pat, Gram and Kenneth this weekend. We ran into Dick and Bab Campbell one night - Bill had known Dick at Dartmouth. Have been seeing quite a bit of Babs. Ran into Peggy Chilton at the dispensary Monday - she and Elaine and I are playing bridge with Babs tomorrow. Bill got last Saturday afternoon and Sunday off - we slept - 12 hours! - Went picnic swimming in the afternoon. Fun. We got up between 5 and 5:45 a.m.

every morning so we don't get much sleep if we go out at all in the evening.

Sept. 12th, 1943 - Sunday

Our 2nd anniversary - Willie is more wonderful by the hour. We're leaving here either today or tomorrow - depending on whether Bill's detached today or tomorrow. He's over at the Sound School finding out about it now.

To go back over the past few weeks we do, we moved in with Mrs. C. F. Sawyer -526 A. Ave., Coronado - on August 4th. A Milly and Albert Williams (Marine Corps) were here for a couple of weeks after we arrived. We got kitchen privileges when they left. He went overseas, she back to N.C. It's nice as can be here. About that same time Marjorie Rhodes, Mrs. Sawyer's oldest daughter (married to a Naval Air cadet) arrived from Jacksonville with her 8 month old son. Very nice. We painted the breakfast nook white with red trim, did some gardening, have been having innumerable gabs over coffee. Much fun. Poor Bill didn't have a single day off from the first Sunday on until the end of school. Cath, Kenneth, Pat and Gram came down the weekend of the 14th. Had lotsa fun. Dinner with the Bunnells that night and at the Coronado the next. Have played some bridge with Elaine McCrory. We've had drinks and dinner with them several times. Also have seen Aunt Hattie and Uncle The several times. They're at the Park Manor in San Diego. Wonderful people. We expected orders last Saturday, the 4th, but didn't get them until yesterday. Will have a couple of days in the Valley, and then on to San Francisco. Hope we can find a place to live there! Bill is going to the *Yarnall* - don't know what type of ship she is - probably D D.

Nov.11th 1943 - Thursday

Let's see, what's happened in the last couple of months. On September 12th we bedecked ourselves and went to the Sky Room at the *Cortez* and had some drinks. Then weren't able to get into the dining room. It closed up - no more food. Went to several places - finally went to the *Golden Lion* - got an enormous meal - including butter! The next day we drove down to the Valley by the southern route - through Julian - beautiful country - then some horrible barren desert the likes of which I'd never seen before - the Coachella desert looked like a verdant valley in comparison. And was it hot!! Arrived at the house about 4:30 or 5. It was much fun - seeing the babe and the family and so on. A couple of days later, we drove up to Pasadena with Catherine on our way to San Francisco. Had dinner with Pat, had a flat tire, went to Pasadena, saw Mary Beth, saw Gram, then went to the *La Solana* for the night. Saw the Cliffords - also Georgia and her little son, Kenny Jr. the next morning - got about 9 o'clock the next morning, the 16th - and had another flat tire. Finally left La Crescenta about noon. Spent the night in Santa Maria, left about 6:30 the next morning and arrived in San Francisco Friday afternoon the 17th. Stayed in Scribby's and Betty's apartment until the 22nd. Bob Weir came out and we drank some beers one afternoon. On the 22nd we moved to the Palace Hotel as we expected Scribby and Betty back - but they didn't get back until Sunday, as it turned out. From Thursday until Sunday Bill expected transportation to Pearl Harbor. Finally left on the Clipper Sunday the 26th. Catherine and Kenneth left for Los

Angeles that same evening. The next day I tried the War Housing Center for an apartment. We'd enlisted the aid of Miss Hart, Mr. Linnard's (of the Fairmont Hotel) secretary in apartment hunting. But through the W.H.C. actually dug up apartment at \$100 per month in the more-or-less-basement of the James Evanoff's apartment - 1490 18th Ave. out by Golden Gate Park. The next day, the 28th, I took the train down to the Valley. Wednesday between trains I went out and saw Helen Wallace - had lunch with her and her mother and then she drove me down to the train. Arrived in the Valley about 8 that night. The train was actually on time. The next week I got the little house in Indio fixed up so that Louise Blaney could move into it. She arrived on the 9th. She and Catherine and Mother and I played bridge a couple of times. It was fun down in the Valley as long as I couldn't be with Willie anyway. And fun to see the babe. She'd started walking by herself shortly after the middle of September. Awfully cute. Surely missed Bill while he was in Honolulu - poor guy - that rash he had really broke out while he was there - so he didn't get very much of the C. I. C. school (Combat Information Center) that he went down there for, because he was in the hospital there for three weeks. Didn't expect him back in San Francisco consequently until about the end of the first week in November. However, I'd been able to get reservations for a bedroom on the Owl¹⁷ for the 25th so I thought I'd better keep 'em. Mother drove me up to L.A. via San Pedro, where we had an appointment for Lāna with Doc Saffro. She weighed 26¼ pounds and was about 31 inches tall as I remember. Mother left me on the train at 5 o'clock. Had called Gram - she was in bed with a bad cold. Had a rather bad night - Lāna's not used to sleeping with anyone. Then she lost her breakfast in the morning, just after I'd gotten her all dressed. I had no dinner or breakfast as they have Pullman meal service only for invalids - and I didn't want to leave Lāna or take her into the diner. Lāna was in bad shape next day, the 26th - completely listless. So unlike her. She was just worn out. It was a dismal morning that we arrived - cold and windy coming over on the ferry. And after I picked up the car at the Palace Garage where we'd left it, and transferred the baggage, it started to rain - and the windshield wipers didn't work. It really poured about the time we arrived at the apartment. Oh how gloomy - until, about ten minutes after we arrived, Bill phoned!! He'd just gotten in on the Clipper! So exciting! The gloom certainly lifted fast! I dashed around fixing things up and Bill got home around 3:30 that afternoon. Golly, it was certainly wonderful! We went out and did some shopping for dinner then - beer! It's awfully hard to get in the Valley and we hardly ever got it in San Diego. Seems to be no problem here, though, so far. That Sunday we took Lāna down to the beach and let her run around - was she intrigued! And she picked up every shell she could see. Monday night the 1st we had drinks at the Top of the Mark Hopkins with Roger and Leslie Sherman - also Navy - Roger is expecting orders for transportation out any day. Leslie is Eleanor Wilson's daughter. She and Bill had fun discussing the Snows. Then to *Vanessi's* but no luck on a table so went to the Venetian which was much nicer - nice atmosphere. Finally got home about midnight. Woof! Tired! We can't take it as we useter! Then this week Bill has been at Mare Island - taking more

¹⁷ A scheduled Southern Pacific train which ran along the Pacific Coast.

Radar school - he went up Sunday night. Expect him home tomorrow. Have painted the bathroom (it was awful before) a light cream and powder blue - it's awfully pretty now. Quite a difference. Have taken to washing, starching and ironing Bill's uniforms myself now. Got fed with the laundry service here these days. Oh, yes - Bill's a full lieutenant now - as of October 1st - the new double bars and full stripes are most impressive. Have been dashing around this week finishing up on odds and ends and now think we're really pretty well settled. Painted the bathroom floor with another coat. Yesterday went over to see Liz Yost, Helen Wallace's sister-in-law, and her two little boys - one 2 ½ years and one seven months. Lāna was so intrigued. When we left, Paul, the older little boy, put his arms around Lāna and gave her several hearty and resounding smacks on various parts of her face, which face was a study - she didn't know what to make of that. We were all so amused. Paul was so enthusiastic and Lāna so bewildered! It's 10:30 now and I'm weary - gonna tuck in right away.

November 19th 1943 - Friday

Just made an apple pie, some applesauce for Lāna, did the ironing - Bill's uniforms - then did some socks 'n' stuff and cleaned house to a certain extent and now I hope the babe is finally asleep for her afternoon nap. Don't dare go in to see.

Our minds are a bit upset this week. It seems last Saturday Bill got orders to report for duty on board the *Pritchett*, a destroyer building in Seattle, after a month's more training at Treasure Island. The commissioning date is about the same as the *Yarnall's*, and housing conditions in Seattle are about as bad as here so it would be foolish for Lāna and me to try to go up there with Bill - so that means we'd go back to the Valley about the 15th of December. Dammit!! Bill's skipper hit the ceiling when he learned Bill was being transferred from the *Yarnall* and is doing his best to have the orders changed back again. So it all depends on how much weight his wishes have with Bupers (Bureau of Personnel) as to whether Bill stays or goes. We're expecting to find out for sure one way or the other any day now. Maybe Bill will know when he comes home tonight. Day before yesterday we had dinner at *Maison Paul* and then Faye and Joe Lacey joined us and we went to see "Kiss and Tell," a play by F. Hugh Herbert. It was very clever and highly amoozin'. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Joe is an ensign aboard the *Yarnall* - Bill and he take turns driving each other to Treasure Island every morning. They're a nice couple - have a 10-months-old son - after the play we went to the Patent Leather Room at the St. Francis and had a few - everything closed at midnight so perforce we came home. It was a lot of fun. Thoroughly enjoyed the evening. But we've been catching up on our sleep ever since! Mrs. Barrett (formerly from Brisbane and Adelaide - some 15-odd years ago) came and took care of Lāna - very pleasant, smiling woman. It's 4:15 now. Bill ought to be home in little more than an hour.

Another night, the week before Christmas, we went to a party at the Lacey's. Much fun - talked quite a bit to a nice gal, Irene Libarle, Tom Murphy's fiancée - he's the one that Bill and Joe pick up every a.m. to take over to Treasure Island. Most of our time in S.F. was very quiet, but so wonderful. It certainly heaven being married to such a wonderful guy.

The week before Christmas Bill came down with the flu - or what they call in the Navy cat fever. Temperature of 101° plus - that Wednesday he went over to the hospital on Treasure Island. Came home Friday - but I went over and got him - but had to go right back again, due to the screwy doc in charge - who didn't appear to check him out until Monday, so Willie spent Christmas in the hospital. However, we just didn't consider that as being Christmas and had our Christmas Eve Monday the 27th and Christmas the next day. We had such fun. It was really Christmas for us. But Bill was not completely over the flu yet and ran intermittent fevers for the next ten days. He'd come home one night with a temperature of 101 and I'd keep him in bed the next day and he'd be OK and the following day, he'd go back to work and work too hard for several days, then another fever and another day in bed, etc. - poor darling. I gave him his meals in bed and lots of orange, tomato and such fruit juices. The day before we left his old sinus trouble flared up in a big way and he was miserable. Felt so darn sorry for him - and so helpless. The night we left, the 9th, Bill was in S.F. and had some drinks and dinner with Doc Emerick, the *Pritchett's* M.D. I wired him from Fresno where Mother and I spent the night at an extremely nice little auto court - the Ritz, if you please - I must say the name is against it. But our New Year's Eve was very quiet also, but lotsa fun. We gave each other belated Christmas presents that night. I'd finally managed to get the gold tie clip for Bill that I'd been trying to get ever since San Diego - a very plain one - two narrow gold bars with a plaque in the center on to which I had put a miniature gold officers cap signature insignia. Awfully good looking. And Bill gave me the most beautiful gold watch - black face - with a leather strap. The watch is square - a perfect beauty. Now I won't have to wear my diamond watch for every-day knock-about use. It was really rather incongruous to be scrubbing floors and doing laundry, etc., in a \$500 diamond watch. My watch from Bill though was a complete surprise. I'd not realized how much I needed and wanted it until he gave it to me. New Year's Eve he brought home a quart of 1928 Lannier (or something like that) champagne - which was excellent, and we sat up and played cribbage and honeymoon bridge until midnight when we hailed the New Year and brought in the loaf of bread and dollar bill and drank the last two glasses of champagne and were in bed by 12:45. It was a perfect New Year's Eve, though, just being together.