

Bill and Helen Get Married



Helen Photo, captioned to read as "Chicago press, caption: 'Love Blended on Ocean'"
"Miss Helen Blumenthal is pictured at the Municipal Airport by Captain William Loring, who
will marry her after she becomes an ensign Friday at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.
Miss Blumenthal arrived on the American Air Lines plane from Los Angeles. She and Loring
met in a hotel in Seattle last year."

Mom was welcomed with great enthusiasm into the Lucking family because apparently everyone was worried about Dad's settling down. Also, they told Mom that Dad was much nicer after he met her. She arrived in Chicago by airplane, and remembers being at Dad's

commissioning ceremony (at the Great Lakes Naval training center) with Ruth, her mother. Then they must have eaten lunch, though Mom doesn't recall, and then went up to Wayne, in the Fox River Valley, near Elgin, IL.

This is where Georgia Clifford Hess and her husband Kenny lived. Georgia's mother Virginia was a friend of Gran's [Dad says a childhood friend from Minneapolis.] Georgia found a church for the wedding and put on a reception at her home afterward.



They had 2 weeks of leave after the wedding, which they spent driving in Wisconsin and Michigan and down to Detroit in WAL Sr.'s Buick "Roadmaster", a convertible. They spent a night in Elgin (?), Flint, Escanaba, and Green Bay Wisconsin. They took, she thinks, a ferry across the lake. They ended in Detroit and Dad and Mom went to Granddad Bill's office and "Pa Bill" asked Mom, "Dear girl, do you have a watch?" and Mom showed him her watch which she



"Wayne, Illinois, Sep 12, 1941 Helen C Burnett after her wedding
with William Alfred Lucking Jr, Ensign, USNR
from Jerome Burnett's photo album

had gotten as a gift for high-school graduation. He sniffed at that, and got out two jeweler's boxes, each with a nice jeweled watch and said "they both cost the same; take one." So Mom chose the one which she still wears; some time later she bought a new metal band to replace the stylish-but-not-practical black fiber ones which kept breaking and were expensive to replace.

Dad's orders said he was to report to the 12th Naval District at Treasure Island. They found an apartment in Oakland at the Hill Castle

Apartment Hotel which overlooked Lake Merritt and Dad commuted to Treasure Island. Bob Pierpont (Dad's boyhood friend) visited them here. Dad said they had dinner on the *Delta Queen*², which was the BOQ. He said that it was a nice, gratifying meeting³.

After about 3 months Dad was ordered to the USS *Mugford*, a destroyer; he was to travel by FAGTrans (First Available Government Transport). They had some leave and they were going down to the desert, where Dad planned 10 days of quail hunting, and they had a small car that Catherine had loaned to them. The car had no radio. They spent the night of the 6th in a motel in Bakersfield (but Dad says they spent the night at the Big House) and arrived at the ranch in Indio about 11 AM. Jim Bunnell, husband of a friend of Catherine, came out and said “The Japs are bombing Pearl Harbor.”⁴ And Mom said, “Just like that. Wow.”

²This was an old stern-wheeler which up to this had been traveling between San Francisco and Sacramento. It was used for a time as the BOQ and then sent ‘round Cape Horn to the Mississippi River, where it was sold/leased to the Green Line. It continued to carry passengers until about 2010. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_Queen

³ Bob was newly-commissioned from West Point, and he was en route to the Philippines. He was at Corregidor, captured, was on the Bataan Death March, survived that, and after 3 years in a prison camp was put on a Japanese ship, the *Arisan Maru*, to be sent to be forced labor or a human shield. But the ship was torpedoed on October 24, 1944 by an American submarine.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arisan_Maru

⁴But Dad says that it was his wife.