

For Charlie & Harriet

In 1933 the Herman Barker family resided on the 4-acre farmette north of Avon. Dad worked at the Diamond Chain. Our family had a chicken farm. On Saturdays dad had a chicken and egg route in Indianapolis. Friday afternoons were spent dressing chickens in preparation for Saturday's business. Mrs. Culise often worked on Fridays dressing chickens. We had a large garden, an apple orchard, strawberry patch, plum trees etc. The cellar was always full of canned goods.

Beula²² was in her last year of Nurses Training. Ira, at 20, started teaching at Six Points. This was a 2-room school, grades 1-6. Minnie B. Parsons had the primary grades.

Lorna¹⁸ entered Indiana University in Sept.

Lois⁷ started 2nd grade.

The 4 acres was a happy and popular spot in the community. There was a tennis court and a miniature-sized golf course. The young people of the area were welcome to use these facilities.

We attended the Primitive Baptist Church in Danville. On Dec 9, Herman and Ada attended a meeting, the purpose of which was to "fire the preacher". Naturally they had to take Lois along.

Returning home from this meeting, the accident happened on the hill west of Aron.

Meanwhile, Ira had returned home from school + was bringing the cows home from pasture for the evening milking.

Evan Mc Clain came up and notified Ira of the accident. The "preacher" removed the sheet from Ada's body so that Ira could view her mangled form. Ira drove me to the hospital. (Piley). Dad was in hospital with broken ribs + unable to attend the funeral.

I was unconscious for 72 hours with a fractured skull.

I don't remember anything before the accident. I remember things that happened in the hospital.

When dad was released from hospital he and Ira lived on the 4 acres. Lorna returned home to "keep house". When I was released they took me to Grandma Barker's house + I lived there the rest of the school year. School was very difficult because I did not remember. However Aron, in its great wisdom, passed me to third grade anyway. I was in high school before I really caught up with the class.

I don't remember visiting the Blacks, they were like strangers to me,

Lorna became ill with a nervous breakdown. At first she was in a Private hospital in Indianapolis. Then stayed a while at Grandma's (Aunt Ruth's house). Next, Lorna was in a hospital in Cincinnati - + Returned home. (Dementia Praecox. ^{Diagnosis})
Next, she was in the hospital in Madison.

In the meantime Beula + Dick married in the Spring of 1934. They lived in Tilden first. I remember going with them to visit your Grandpa Mustons. They always made home-made ice cream on Sundays. I remember Ira playing at a ^{WLS} Barn Dance at Tilden Community center.

Dad had two different house-keepers. Mrs. Crowe and Mrs. Brown. They were nice ladies but neither one lasted long. I don't suppose Dad could afford a house keeper. Aunt Ruth stayed there for a while, but mostly Dad + Ira batched and I lived at Grandma's. Ira was going to Crawfordsville to see Jay. He took me along a few-times + I was treated royally. We went fishing on Sugar Creek. Ira often took me places.

In Winter of 1935 Aunt Jenny came from Neb. to visit. Ira took her home during Xmas vacation. Aunt Rena, Lorna, + I went along. That was an interesting trip. Jay was nursing at the hospital in Leavenworth, Kansas. so of course we went there. There was a blizzard ~~the~~ in Jan. 1936. Schools were closed for weeks.

In the summer of 1936 Ira + Joy were married. In the fall of 1936 Dad and Minnie were married. Of course, no one told me that dad was seeing any one. I found out from some of the nasty brats at school. Ira + Joy lived on the 4 acres + that winter Dad + Minnie lived in Indianapolis. I lived at Grandma's and went to Indianapolis on the bus every week-end. Lorna was in Madison Hosp.

In the summer of 1937 dad divided his furniture up among the kids and he and Minnie + all Minnie's "junk" came to the 4 acres. I was moved home to live with my dad and new mother. They both worked at the Diamond Chain. So we got up at 6:00 A.M. ^{+ did Chores} They took me to Grandma's until time for school. After school I went to Grandma's till they came home from work. Aunt Ruth kept house for dad + Minnie for a short time. That didn't work out.

Lorna came home for a while. That didn't work. I can remember hearing a discussion if it was safe for Lois to share a bedroom with Lorna. Minnie was the outsider in Dad's house. Lorna went back to Madison.

Ira stopped by a lot and I went places

with him and joy. I remember joy cut & styled my hair, All the family was upset, because I had a decent cut.

I don't mean to be disrespectful, but I had a daily dose of "Mama" for several years. Dad + Minnie were very strict + I wasn't allowed to do most of the things other kids did. They got me a bike for my 16th birthday because they thought I was finally old enough to be "careful." I remember how I hated wearing "grandma oxfords".

I did not like Avon high school. I had a pretty good music talent that was totally ignored at school. Fern Dawson was the music teacher one year "junior" and that was a disaster. Betty Hick was nice but she was a friend of Ma + Pa.

I remember the kids in Phenny Davis's class discussing "What happened to Lorna Barker?" I know that my dad had it hard with everything that happened. I'm sure that he did the best he could to hold everything together.

He + Minnie were practically strangers to their grandkids + that was a shame.

When I was a junior I started working in Myrphie's Department store in Indianapolis + worked there through my senior year. When I was 18 I moved out of my dad's house + back on

Dad wouldn't let me read books or see the news, that was "No fit book" for me to read. Flashlights were great instruments.

The 4th epileptic seizure during my eighteenth year. They have never recurred. I haven't had that medication for 35 years,

to Aunt Ruth's house. I worked in Indy for another year til I enrolled in Canterbury College.

When I was a ^{fresh} junior in High School Beula had Lorna released from Madison into her custody. Lorna got a job at Allison's. She told them that the reason she had never worked was that she had kept house for her dad + now he didn't need her anymore. She married Fred Fisher + had Fred (I told you about that) a year later she had Florence + 2 months later she called Dad + told him to come get the kids ⁽¹⁹⁴⁹⁾ ~~(1947)~~ cause she could take care of them anymore. Fred almost died from malnutrition. At 1 year he couldn't even hold his head up.

When Charles was 6 I took him to school for the first day. I was staying with Beula + Dick awaiting Sarah's birth I lived there Aug. Sept + Oct that year. I also stayed with you during the nights before Dick was born. Your dad working nights + Beula didn't want to be alone.

At the 4-acres, I remember Tom Merritt coming to visit. He always chewed tobacco. Dad had a heating stove in the dining room. Tom would open the stove door + spit. Never Missed

I remember visiting Mrs. Moran. She had a big coal cook-stove. She baked her own bread + always had a kitchen full of goodies.

Danville Canterbury College

I shared 2 upstairs rooms with 2 other girls. One room was a bedroom - the other a kitchenette. We did most of our own cooking. This house was 1 block from Aunt Millie & one block from Uncle Willie. I did not see those people even once while I lived in Danville - didn't even pass on the street.

I got a job in a dry cleaner. Do you remember Jesse Pearson? They were really great people. Later they came to Griffith & they came to Bass Lake went out in boat. When I graduated I could have had the third grade at Sticksville. I'd forbid. I figured the teacher's certificate was my ticket out of Aron so I chose to go to Griffith.
Good thing.

Art was waiting to walk his nephew back & forth to school.

I graduated in 3 years with Honors

When Fred + Florence were adopted
Dad had Lorna committed to Central Hospital
a few years later Reverend Ashley was
with the hospital working with the patients
He met Lorna and arranged for her to become
his house keeper and Nanny for his kids
Dad agreed under "certain conditions".

Lorna lived with them in Indy
and Columbus + went on vacations with them.
They were nice people, when the Ashley
children were getting bigger the Reverend
arranged for her to ^{join} meet ^{+ marry} Mrs Ross

I liked him too. He was a nice enough
old guy, Cause he was dad's age. Then
Lorna worked at ages long enough to get a
pension from them. Thank God

I hear that Mrs. Ashley has died.

Enough of this. Goes against my better
judgment "Don't write anything down", Aunt Ruth
Rena + Uncle Raymond were great. I remember
going to Circus + Movies with Aunt Ruth. Uncle
Raymond always had a nickel in his pocket for
his youngest niece.

Have a good winter

Lis

Lois Barker Smith