

Harold's Diary
June 1946 – January 1947



As compiled by Dorothy Wolf Wise
And
Kate Allison Wise

Diary text, photograph captions and photographs: © Harold
Wise 1946-47

Biography of Harold Wise © Dorothy Wise 2008
Introduction, Index, Biography revisions © Kate Wise 2008

For the family

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Introduction

This book as it stands now all started as a project for class. For the major class project (and the majority of the grade!) we were encouraged to write about an aspect of book or print material preservation. As is usual for me, I found my mind wandering, thinking about other things. I knew if I was to get through the class, and finish the class project, the project had to have an element of personal interest or connection.

Once I had settled on this diary for my project, I had to decide what to do with it. For purposes of the class, a publishable article or academic paper on the practical aspects of do-it-yourself preservation of print materials would do nicely. But by that time, the diary had captured all of my interest, and I began to think beyond the work required for class. I fell in love with the diary, and a bit with Grandpa himself. I wanted to be able to share this with the family. According to what I had learned in class, my primary objective was to preserve the original diary, yet make the rich family history accessible and available to others.

Harold was only 21 years old when he wrote the diary. There is nothing in the diary that tells why he started writing it, or why he stopped. However, this diary covers a very important 8 months in his life. It was the first time that he had been away from home and family for such a long period of time, let alone out of the country. Yet, Grandma D. says that it was essentially the same man who wrote the diary and whom she later married.

The text of the diary is essentially as he wrote it; I have standardized the majority of spelling and shorthand for ease of reading. The photographs are his own.

It is my hope that you will find, between these pages, a bit of Harold, and a bit of yourself as you fit in the family, weather it be mine or yours.

The Harold Wise Story

Bayneville, Kansas, was an unincorporated village about 12 miles south and west of Wichita, Kansas, where the Missouri Pacific railroad that runs between Anthony and Wichita crosses Tyler Road just ½ mile south of 71st Street. In the early twenties it was on the Kansas Highway map, (K-42 Highway ran down Tyler Road), and consisted of an elevator, a blacksmith shop, a depot and a half-dozen houses on the south side of the tracks with the Wise farm on the north side. Today you can find it on a county road five miles west of Haysville or seven miles northeast of Clearwater.

Dean and Iris Wise had moved to this farm in 1923, shortly before their first son, Stanford Lyle Wise, was born. Previously, they had been teachers in the Philippine Islands. Iris was a graduate of Iowa State University, and was working in Wichita for the Kansas State University Extension Services as a Home Demonstration Agent teaching homemakers how to make bread with little or no wheat flour due to the shortages of World War I. Dean and Iris had met on a train in 1919, when they were both on their way from Manhattan, Kansas to Wichita where Dean, a graduate of Kansas State College, was home on leave from his teaching job at a farm school in the Philippines.

Iris Livingston Wise grew up in Iowa City, Iowa, the only child of Albert Livingston and Estella Streeter Livingston. Albert Dean Wise was the child of Albert Wyley Wise and Catherine (Kate) Patch Wise who lived on the Wise homestead, three miles west of Bayneville.

Harold Livingston Wise was born on Friday the 13th in February 1925 at the old Wichita Hospital on West Douglas, in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Iris stayed in the hospital the usual ten days, while Dean's brother and sister-in-law (we think it was Leslie and Dora) took care of Stanford. Harold was a chubby child with curly blonde hair and blue eyes.

Nearly two years later and another brother, Richard Stephen Wise, was born. Stanford worked on the farm with their father as soon as he was able, and Harold helped his mother in the house, since there was no sister. Living on a Kansas farm in the "dirty thirties" and caring for three boys were about more that Iris could handle, due to her chronic anemia and varicose veins, so all the boys had to help with the cooking and cleaning as well as farm work.

The three brothers went to Springbank School, a one-room country school on 71st Street about a mile and a half west by road, or about a mile when they walked across the fields. They usually walked with the White children (who were African-American) and lived in Bayneville, whose father was a rural mail carrier out of Clearwater. All the White and Wise children continued their education and became engineers or scientists or owned their own businesses; Anita White married a Dr. Burney of Wichita. The Wise boys graduate from Clearwater High School, and went on to graduate in engineering from Kansas State University in Manhattan,

Kansas. Stanford was a mechanical engineer, Harold was an electrical engineer, and Richard was also an engineer.

Harold was active in the Clearwater Methodist Church, and the local 4-H club, the Who's Who Club and the college 4-H club where he was a photographer and showed prize chickens at the Kansas State Fair. He demonstrated an interest in mechanical things early in life, and when the Rural Electrification Administration came to the farm on August 15, 1939, he had already helped wire the house for electricity and became even more interested in things electrical.

After graduation from high school, in 1942, Harold continued to help his father on the farm with the crops, milk cows and beef cattle, and to live at home. From December 1943 to February 1944 he worked as a mail clerk in the post office in Clearwater. From November 19, 1945 until March 1946, he carried mail in west Wichita. This enabled him to qualify for two new tires, on the car he was driving. Tires were hard to get because of wartime rationing.

As the only remaining son not in the service, Harold had a farm draft deferment. However, the deferment was about to expire, so he decided to join the army before he was drafted. In March 1946, Harold enlisted in the U. S. Army. World War II had ended in 1945, and young men could enlist for about a year and a half knowing they would spend a year somewhere overseas and be assured of "G.I. Benefits". This meant an almost free college education for Harold. Stanford had joined the army and was station in Germany. Richard had joined the Merchant Marines and was sailing all over the world.

Roger Wilk, a high school friend, and Harold went to enlist together, but Roger failed the physical, so Harold went alone. He had graduated from high school at 17 and worked for

four years; but Harold was a very young and homesick 21 year-old when he was stationed at Camp Lee, Virginia, not far from Richmond, Virginia and Washington D.C. He purchased a diary on June 15, 1946 and the following pages and letters describe the subsequent 8 months of his Army experience. He had 12 days at home in time to help with harvest that year, and then reported to Camp Stoneman, in Northern California. Later, he spent 18 days on the ship Marine Swallow before arriving in Japan.

The diary gives glimpses into his life, his friends, his family, attitudes, values, ambitions and the beginning of his lifelong hobby of photography.

Harold L. Wise was honorably discharged from the army on the 9th day of September 1947, in time to help build his parent's new house on the farm where he was born. He enrolled at Kansas State College, majoring in Electrical Engineering, on the G. I. Bill. He met Dorothy Wolf in September 1949 and they were married August 24, 1952. They had two sons. He worked at Cessna Aircraft in Wichita as an electrical engineer for 21 years until he died of a heart attack on November 8, 1973.

As a note, according to his high school grade card, he made a "D" in typing, and he ended up as a typist in the Army!

People You Should Know in Harold's Diary

In order of appearance:

ROGER WILK: High school friend and son of Hugh Wilk, hardware dealer in Clearwater

AUNT RUTH: Sister of Dean Wise. Later married Russel Kirby, who later worked at Beech Aircraft in the 1940's.

VIRGINIA GRANFIELD (Stauffer): Friend from 4-H club, Who's Who club, and college 4-H. She was in the Homemakers Club attended by Dorothy Wise. Her brother, Jim Granfield, was put in Harold's position in later November 1973.

RUTH WISE WILLIAMS (Bane): Cousin, daughter of John and Jane Wise, who married and divorced Larry Williams and later married Paul Bane

BILL YOUNG: Father of Arthur Young and friend of Harold's father.

DONALD WISE: cousin of Harold, son of Leslie and Dora Wise.

UNCLE HERSHEL NELSON: married to Alice Wise. Completely rebuilt the Albert W. Wise house, removing the second story and putting a basement below it. The "new" house.

JOHN CLARK WILK: Younger brother of Roger Wilk and son of the hardware dealer. Both Wilk boys graduated from Kansas State University.

HAROLD DALBOM: High school friend

AUNT ALICE: Sister of Dean Wise. Was a nurse and married Hershel Nelson, mother of Katherine Nelson Wolf.

RAE REUSSER: A high school friend, who was in Stanford's class, married Athol Furman. Farmed near Viola, Kansas.

EVELYN KING

RUTH MAECHTLEN: May have been the mother of the Maechtlen's who lived at 71st Street and Tyler Road.

REX ALEXANDER: Minister or son of minister of Clearwater Methodist Church in 1946

GERALDINE FITZGERALD: Cousin of Roger Wilk, and probably a high school friend

AUNT DORA WISE: Wife of Leslie Wise (d. July 31, 1945), who was brother of Dean Wise,.

NORMA RAE KOON: Daughter of postmaster in Clearwater, and probably a high school friend.

E. C. ASPEY: related to Mrs. Aspey, a friend of Iris Wise.

J. B. or JOHN WISE: Harold's Uncle John, younger brother of Dean Wise, married to Jane Wise. Father to Ruth and Mary.

UNCLE STEVE WISE: first cousin of Dean Wise, son of Hager Wise. Steve owned the Penzoil dealership just west of the river on West Douglas Street in Wichita. Father of Robert S. Wise, of the GardenWise dealership in Wichita.

MRS. LUKEN: Carrie Luken, mother of Harold Luken, a friend who lived south of Bayneville.

MILDRED KINCAID

REVEREND ALEXANDER: Minister of the Clearwater Methodist Church

ANNA SCHMISNER: Teacher in Clearwater High School

LLOYD BISHOP: Banker in Clearwater

DON KIMEL: Case Farm Implement dealer in Clearwater

THE SHANNONS: Guy Shannon was a blacksmith in Clearwater

NORMA RAE: Probably Norma Rae Koon. See above.

MARY AND CARL CROWDUS: Mary was cousin of Harold and daughter of John and Jane Wise

FRED SPEERS: Son of Lloyd Speers, who lived northwest of Clearwater. Lt. Fred Speer had his own jeep and was stationed at Atsugi Airbase in Japan.

HUGH GIBSON: (a.k.a. Hoot) a high school friend who latter attended Dellrose Methodist Church in Wichita where Harold and Dorothy attended

MARION ALEXANDER: wife of the minister at Clearwater Methodist Church

MRS WILK: Wife of Hugh Wilk

DORIS HOPKINS: Wife of Roy Hopkins, lived south of Bayneville. Active in 4-H. Their son is Donald Hopkins

ALVIN ELSHOFF: Son of Mrs. Don Elshoff. He also served in Japan.

JOHN McMILLAN: High school friend, who had the Home State Insurance Company in Clearwater

ENTERLINES: Mrs Enterline was the science teacher in Clearwater High School

MR. CHILDERS: Youth leader in Clearwater

One Year Diary

Saturday

JUNE 15

1946

I purchased this diary in Richmond. Got up at the usual time 4:30 A.M. at Camp Lee. Some more of my company shipped out to Band Training Unit and adjutant Gen. Dept. Dwyer left for 50th company.

Came to Richmond at noon spent the afternoon looking around. Bought a Baby Brownie camera for \$10.75. I expect to sell it back in camp for 2. or 3 dollars. Went to St John's Episcopal Church for supper. I was rather surprised to see the girls sitting around smoking. All went to Salvation Army for coffee and donuts. Sat in a YMCA tonight.

Saturday June 15, 1946

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*Delbert Gentry - Trenton, Herman Diel - Rome, Vernon Clarey - Trenton, MD.
Basic Training at Camp Lee, 1946 - June*

Sunday, June 16, 1946

Got up at 9:00 after a good night's sleep. Went upstairs in the YMCA and got free coffee and donuts. The YMCA is Richmond is very nice. It was built in 1942. Went to Century M. E. Church. Went to see "At My Heart Goes So Goes My Love". Was a very good picture. Met several buddies from 66th company. Sawger, Shehan, Dill, C Carey. Watched a man at U. S. O. make a charcoal drawing. Wished I could have gotten one of myself. Went to hymn service at Camp Chapel HQ. I hope I receive shipping orders tomorrow to go home.



Service Club, Camp Lee, VA 1946

Monday June 17, 1946

Another day of waiting to go home but no shipping orders. I did about ½ hr at work in the morning and 1 hour of cleaning rifles again in the afternoon. Spent the rest of my time sleeping and reading. Received a post card from Mother. I only hope I get home in time for the dedication of the new organ at church this Sunday. It is rumored that some of us may be here in camp Lee until July 14. Harvest is in full swing at home. Went to a

picture show at the camp theater. Saw "The Centennial" Wrote a letter home.



Tuesday June 18, 1946

Another day of waiting for shipping orders but to no avail. A few boys got delay enroutes to Camp Richard. Didn't do anything except clean 3 rifles and take an hour of P. C. I can hardly run tonight. I am so stiff. It has been a very hot sultry day. However, it is raining now. I spent the afternoon reading

“Dispirited Passage” It is an excellent book. Went to the library and wrote a letter home requesting \$20.00 I also wrote a letter to Virginia Grandfield since I received a letter from her today. I have just about given up hopes of getting home very soon.

Wednesday June 19, 1946

Today was my day of good tidings. My name was read on a delay enroute shipping orders for Camp Stoneman, Calif. I expect to leave here early Friday morning. I went down for another of those dental check-ups. Just a waste of time but what else is there to do with ones time around here! Spent the rest of the morning and afternoon cleaning rifles again. Sgt Bedard was unreasonable about them. I am convinced that he is not too good a leader. Called home and asked for \$25.00 I expect to get it tomorrow. It sure is good to hear directly from home. I hope I can make it home by Sunday morning at 10 to hear the new organ at church dedicated. Took an hour of P. C. this morning. Am stiff as ever.



June 30, 1946

Furlough from basic training at Camp Lee.

Photo taken on steps of M. E. Church

Left to Right:

Rev: Marion Alexander

Pvt. Wise

Roger Wilk

Rae Russer

Thursday June 20, 1946

It rained last nite and has been damp and cool all day. I didn't have to do much today except run a patch through a few rifles. Harvey and I went over to the Firestation with Cpl Lasosky to get 3 fire-extinguishers repaired. It is rather humorous to see how many men it takes to do a simple job. There were 8 of us over there just to get a simple job done. I am all packed now ready to leave camp tomorrow at 7:00 AM. Everyone is in a good humor tonite. They are all going home tomorrow. I received the \$25.00 telegram from Aunt Ruth this morning. I hope I get home by 10:00 Sunday morning but I have my doubts if I make it. My last night in Camp Lee.

Friday June 21, 1946

I started my long awaited journey home today. After much waiting and delay at the Camp Lee & Peterburgh I boarded the Norfolk Western for Cincinnati, OH. I received 14 dollars for meal tickets to Pittsburgh, Calif. I am disappointed in that I have only 12 days at home. I am due at Camp Stoneman on July 6. This N. F. W. is a slow train. It must be a milk train for it stops at every little burgh. 9 O'clock and still in Virginia. Should be in Cincinnati, OH at about 8:00 in the morning. I think I'll take a plane from there. It won't be very nice sleeping tonite in a chair car. I saw some beautiful country this afternoon but not very resourceful. Wheat is turning brown. Some of it is being bound. Hope to be home tomorrow nite.

Saturday June 22, 1946

Woke up and found myself along the Ohio River. Saw some steel mills, river was up due to recent rains. Got into Cincinnati at 8:20 after a slow and tiresome night. Got on a B & O streamliner and really moved to St. Louis. Saw some good farm land. Went through Ohio, Illinois & Missouri today. Just got into St. Louis at 3:20 in time to hop a Union Pacific Streamliner to Kansas City. It was the nicest train I had ever ridden on. Had dinner with a lady who was a Student Counselor at Stevens College. Talked to two sailors on the train. Had a very nice chat. Got into K. C. at 8:20 and had some more supper at the Harvey House. Got a Santa Fe to Wichita. Not very good but rather fast. Arrived at 2:40. Waited until 5:00 AM Sunday morning and called home.

Sunday June 23, 1946

The day dawned bright and clear for me as I lay waiting in the rail road station in Wichita waiting to go home. I called Aunt Ruth and she said she was coming out for the church service. Got home at 6:20 and had some good old home cooking. Went to church in my civies just to be different. I wore a white shirt and red neck tie. Boy did I ever create a sensation. Dedication of Rimes Memorial Organ was very nice. Ruth is learning to play quickly. Her music teacher also played. Roger played the postlude. Everyone just sat instead of leaving. I met lots of people and got several invitations for dinner during the next week. Saw Roger's new enlarger. Aunt Ruth stayed for dinner. Spent the afternoon combining wheat. I got 136.40 from about 26 acres. I'll be paying income tax now I suppose.

Monday June 24, 1946

Got up at 7:00 for the first time in several months. Went over to Bill Young's and got his new grain blower since he was to combine for us in the afternoon. Had a hard shower about 9:00 so I got ready and went to Wichita. I got my duffel bag, bought a pair of shoes and some shorts to replace those stolen at Camp Lee. Stopped at Farm Bureau and had a nice visit. Bought some photographic supplies. Will not get my camera for another month or 6 weeks. Spent the afternoon combining. I scooped about 4.5 acre an hour. We harvested 500 bu. Dad and Stanford didn't get along so well due to the grain elevator conveyer chain. Went over to Donald's this evening and got some photo equipment. He has a new 110v DC generating outfit. A very nice one, too. He also has a telephone now. Expect to continue combining tomorrow.

Tuesday June 25, 1946

Just a regular day of harvesting on a farm. Bill Young finished combining for us and started on Donald's. I went along and helped Donald. We combined about 46 acres this afternoon and got about 950 bu. of wheat. It kept us pretty busy hauling. It took us only 30 minutes to scoop 100 bu and be back again to combine. Received a letter from Richard with a picture of him enclosed.

Wednesday June 26, 1946

Another day of harvesting. Hauled wheat in the morning and part of the afternoon. The combine broke down during the morning so I didn't have much to scoop. I went to Clearwater

late this afternoon and took my khakis down to the cleaner to get the legs shortened 1 inch. I also had quite a talk with Roger. Went out to his farm and saw the place where he raised 50 bu. to the acre wheat. Got some more photo-equipment from him. Stopped on the way home at Uncle Hershals to see his new house. It is very nice, what part is finished. The chimney and fireplace is extra nice. Developed a roll of film tonight with the new Edual Super 20. It comes out OK. May start thrashing tomorrow.

Thursday June 27, 1946

Dad and I went over to the Loger place and finished combing the last of our wheat crop. We then took the cutter bar lever off and took it to Clearwater to get it welded. Saw Roger and heard that my new camera was in at Jeff's. Dad and I put the combine together and I brought it home. Roger and I went to Wichita during the afternoon. He got the camera and a sun shade. It cost \$70 altogether. We stopped at the Farm Bureau and had a long visit. John Clark was along with us so we saw a show "The Postman Rings Twice". It wasn't so good. I developed another roll of film tonight. One was from today and I will be "on my way".

Friday June 28, 1946

I went over to Young's and spike-pitched in the field on the thrashing crew. The bundles were really heavy. The oats made 60 bu. per acre so no wonder they were heavy. We ate dinner at A. Young's. While there a big storm came up so I didn't have to work this P.M. I went to Clearwater and got some more

photo equipment. Tonite I enlarged some of my pictures. I was rather disappointed in them. I think it was the Verichrome Film instead of the developer. It is still raining outside. Read the instruction book about my new Argo-Thex. I am sure now that I have made a right buy. Called up Mrs. Shinn so I am looking forward to a wonderful time Sunday morn.

Saturday June 29, 1946

It rained some more during the nite so I didn't have to do any farm work today. I went to Clearwater with Stanford. I saw Harold Dalbom. He and Roger are making plans for going to K State this fall. Wish I were going with them. Got my printing box for Alexanders and printed some pictures that Stanford took with Aunt Alice's camera. He is going to send them to Richard. I paid Roger today my camera. I spent almost all afternoon developing and printing pictures. I just finished the roll I took in Washington D. C. I hope I can finish them and take them to church tomorrow morning.

Sunday June 30, 1946

It dawned a bright and hot day. I developed the rest of my pictures this morning before church. Went to church and saw many of my friends. Went out to Shinn's for dinner. Harold Dalbom and Ray Reusser were there too. Had a little storm during the afternoon but we had a nice visit. Came home at 6:30 and then went up to Aunt Ruth's for a family reunion. Her

back yard is fixed up very nice. I took my lights along and put them on the garage roof. I showed my pictures and my new camera. Got home about 11:30. Had a big day I ate two big meals.

Memo

3 Months of my enlistment are up.

Monday July 1, 1946

Another day of my delay enroute has slipped away. Time goes by so fast yet there is little I can do about it. I had most of the morning to myself so I sewed up my cap and stenciled my name on my duffel bag. I also wrote a 3 page letter to Richard and sent him some pictures of baling, combining and thrashing. I went over to Young's this afternoon and helped thrash some more wheat. We will finish these tomorrow morning and get started here. I am planning on going to Manhattan with Roger and Harold Dalbom tomorrow and they are looking for a room for this fall. I wrote a letter to Richard Hennessey and sent him his pictures. I'll take a bath now and call it a day.

Tuesday July 2, 1946

I didn't go up to Manhattan today as planned. Roger and Harold aren't going until Friday. Stanford wants to go with them if possible. I spent the day thrashing wheat and oats after going to Clearwater this morning for bread. I took a picture of Wilks new store front and also one of Maher Stamp Co. new store to send to Richard. I developed the first roll of film from my camera this noon while eating dinner. It came out pretty

good. I am pleased with my camera so far. We will finish our thrashing tomorrow morning. The oats made almost 40 bu. per acre. I am developing another roll of film from my brownie camera tonight. I expect to enlarge them tomorrow.

Wednesday July 3, 1946

We finished thrashing this morning. The rest of the crew went over to Donald's. I stayed home. I took a long nap first of all. In the afternoon, I developed another roll of film and printed the first roll I took with my new camera. I am well pleased with the results. I think I'll like it when I come home and use it. Went to Donald's and took the enlarger back. Loaded the car with all the stuff I had borrowed from Roger. After supper I went to Clearwater and left the photo equipment with Roger. I got this Univex Mercury camera and left my new Argoflex. I said good bye and came home. I loaded the camera with some 35mm film I had and went to bed.

Thursday July 4, 1946

My furlough ended today. I spent the morning packing, then wrote letters to Clarey, Gentry, Heidenrach & the Lenihans. Had my last meal at home I'll probably have in a long time. Dad came home and Dad & Mother took me to the train. After they had gone I found the train was late. I waited by myself & suddenly felt very lonely and blue. There was nothing I could do but just wait. Got on the Santa Fe Scout at 3:00. Went through Oklahoma and then Texas. I saw some very beautiful country in Oklahoma but not very good for agriculture. The

train stops at every station, almost, however it does get up and move sometime. Not a very happy 4th of July for me.

Friday July 5, 1946

Another day of riding on the train. Went through New Mexico, Arizona and now California. Saw some colorful mountains in New Mexico this morning. I took several pictures of them. Spent the rest of the morning and afternoon riding through a semi-desert. Went over the Arizona divide in the evening near Flagstaff. It was beautiful. Wrote a letter to Donald and one to Mrs. Shinn. I sent her the pictures that took last Sunday. I also wrote a letter to Evelyn King. I ate dinner on the diner this evening. I also wrote a letter home to the folks. I tried to take a picture of an Indian woman who was selling souvenirs but she saw me and covered her face. I got a good picture of a blacksmith's shop along the railroad tracks.

Saturday July 6, 1946

Arrived at Camp Stoneman about 8:00PM after standing around the railroad station at Pittsburgh for an hours. It is very cool here due to the ocean. Saw the mountains of California. They look like they were all sand. I took several pictures of them. Saw some liberty ships in their graveyard in the bay. Wrote a letter to Ruth Machthen but I didn't have an envelope so I haven't mailed it yet. Ate dinner on the diner today. Camp Stoneman doesn't look too bad. There is nothing but loose sand around here. There are mountains to the south. I am not too well impressed with California. It's all desert except for where

they irrigate. I saw large orchards of peach, cherry, and fig trees. They also raise some wheat here but it isn't very tall.

Sunday July 7, 1946

My first day in Camp Stoneman. I got up about 5. Took a shower, made my bed, and fell out in formation for chow. Had a good breakfast. At 8 O'clock we were free for the rest of the day. Went to church at 10:00. Had communion. They used real wine. I almost coughed after I drank it. All the buildings around here are a dull brown. The ground is barren except where it's watered and cared for. Had a good dinner. Chow here is far better than Camp Lee. I spent most of the afternoon writing letters. I wrote to Rex Alexander, Richard, Roger, Aunt Ruth, the folks, and the Shinns. I also got the doll ready to mail to Geraldine Fitzgerald. Tomorrow I begin my processing. Have heard all kinds of rumors about how long I'll be here.

Monday July 8, 1946

I awoke this morning about 3 or 4. Whistles were blowing everywhere. I guess it was mostly the negros. I got up about 5:30, made my bed and went to chow. I stood in line for about ½ hr. I fell out for roll call at 7:30 and after standing around for ½ hr, I went back inside and wrote letters. About 10 we were called out and marched to a medical building where I got one cholera, one typhus, and one small pox vaccination. I stood in line one hour for chow at noon. I spent the afternoon sleeping and writing letters after roll call was finished. I wrote a letter to Aunt Dora, Uncle Hershel, Ray Reusser. I spent the evening

looking for the post office and reading at the library. There are more negros in this camp than whites.

Tuesday July 9, 1946

I got up at 5:30 and made my bed then went to chow. The line wasn't too long. At 7:30 everyone fell out for roll call. We all went over to Classification and Interview. After standing around for an hour, I got an interview. I am classified as a critically needed photo-lab tech. there is no opening for that so I guess I am a typist in the G.M. Corp. I had a chance to remain at Camp Stoneman but I turned it down. I went to finance and got \$27.50. \$2.50 was deducted for laundry. I also got \$6.60 for 10 days rations while I was home. This PM I moved over to Co. A for some more processing and about 2 weeks training. I feel rather depressed. I got a shelter-half, pack and canteen cover and cartridge belt. I wrote letters today to Harold Dalbom, the folks, and Athol Furman and Virginia Grandfield.

Wednesday, July 10, 1946

I got up at 4:30 and prepared for another "rough" day, but it turned out pretty easy. We were all marched over to a theater ½ mile away. We sat there for 10 min. and then came back to the barracks. We then proceeded to have a clothing shake down. They didn't get to me. I still don't have my duffel bag. I turned in my check card to the supply sergeant this morning. This being Wednesday; we got the afternoon off. I went to the post office and mailed a package to Geraldine Fitzgerald. I wrote her a letter later. I stopped at U.S.A.T.D – paid my two dollars and got 3 text books on geometry. 2 of them were plane and the

third was solid. Spent my spare time reading and writing letters. I wrote letters to the Farm Bureau, Bill Young, S Fitzgerald and Norma Koon and E. C. Aspey.

Thursday, July 11, 1946

We were gotten up again at 4:30 this morning. After the usual roll call, police up and chow we fell out again and went to the theatre again. This time we heard our speaker and got our personal affairs adjusted ready to go overseas. He said we would be going to the Central or South Pacific. Time will tell if he knew what he was talking about. I had my Class E allotment raised to \$70.00 beginning with September. Since I'll be getting \$10.00 when I leave the states. I also had "power of attorney" papers made out to my father. I had my clothing shakedown this PM. What little I had since my bag hasn't come yet. Layed around all afternoon and studied my plane geometry. For got to record my buying a 17 jewel watch day before yesterday at the P. X. \$23.50. I wrote letters to the folks, Roger, and J. B. Wise.

Friday July 12, 1946

We got to sleep until 5:00 this morning. Had revile and chow as usual. At 7:15 we fell out and after a while we went clear across camp to "Model Stocks". There I got my new issue of clothes or at least part of them. I had trouble getting my size but I did pretty well. I came back and much to my satisfaction I found my bag outside the supply room. With my old issue and my new issue I had a choice of what I wanted to keep. I had everything but my socks. I don't know what happened to them.

I sold my Baby Brownie for \$3.00. I spent the evening writing letters and shining my new combat boots. I signed my name for a pass to Frisco tomorrow. I hope I don't get K. P. or guard duty. Most of the boys are at the outdoor theater to a variety show. I think I am missing something. I can hear some of it from my barracks. Wrote letters to Roger, Uncle Steve and home.

Saturday July 13, 1946

We got up at the usual time of 4:30 and had revile We made special efforts to clean up since it was an inspection day. After much standing around we got ready for a parade down on the square. I never stood around so long in formation in my life. I also carried a rifle. The first time I had carried a rifle since I had finished basic. My arm got very tired. At about 1:00 we all got passes but most of us had K. P. and had to be back by 4 tomorrow morning. I went to San Francisco to look the place over and buy film. I went through Oakland and the Bay Bridge. A very scenic drive. I took lots of pictures but I discovered later that the cameral was set for 6 ft. I ruined the film I brought to mess up the day completely. I got back to bed at 9:00 and I hope I'll be around next Sunday.

Sunday July 14, 1946

I had to get up at 4:00 and go to the mess-hall for K. P. duty. K. P. wasn't bad because it was Sunday and there were so many of us. I stood by a work table and sorted silverware, cups, and bowls. I had a very easy job all day. I also had to scrub and

mop after each meal. I got off at 7:00. K. P. wasn't half-bad today. I only wished I had had my Sunday off. I wrote a letter to Roger and I told him my photography misfortunes of talking pictures with only 6 ft focus and exposing 27 ½ ft of film. I also told him about having my serial number put on the bottom of the camera. I am going to unload the camera as soon as the lights got out and mail them to Roger when I can get down to the Post Office.

Monday July 15, 1946

We all got up at 4:30 and made preparations to go to Rock Castle. I rolled my two blankets together with my swimming suit and got my canteen ready to go. After laying on some rocks until 8 o'clock a convoy of trucks took us out to Castle Rock. Much to my surprise Castle Rock was a pleasant little out door camp with a swimming pool, ball diamond, and boxing ring. I lay around on my bed until noon. I went swimming for an hour or so on in the afternoon. There was a P. X. so I had ice-cream and cookies while laying around. I saw some boxing matches and a picture show during the evening. I wish I had my camera to take pictures. I wrote letters to Aunt Ruth and Ray Reusser. I'll mail them when I get back to camp tomorrow.

Tuesday, July 16, 1946

I got up at the late hour of 6:15 this morning at Castle Rock. Had a good night's sleep. Ate chow and after the usual police up and standing around we started our hike back to the trucks. We rode back over a different highway so I saw some different

country. Saw some more of Frisco Bay. I got back to camp and we all go the usual welcome a bawling out for this and that. I found I had a gig for my clothes. I guess I didn't have them buttoned. This afternoon we all went on a long drowsy hike. Got back about 4:15. I went to chow tonite for a change. It wasn't too good. We were all restricted for a while this evening since some shipping orders had come in. I got m first two letters today from Aunt Ruth and Evelyn Ring. They are both going on vacations. I have spent what little spare time I had studying geometry. I may not be here much longer.

Wednesday July 17, 1946

This morning was inspection morning and a number of the fellows were shipping out overseas. We got up at 4:00. After we had cleaned up we went back to bed for more than an hour. I didn't do anything in the morning but clean a few rifles and got out of detail. I studied my geometry. I got ready to go out on pass. I left camp about one and got into Frisco after 3:00. I scouted around and bought 3 rolls of Ansco Ultra-speed and 27 ½ roll of Eastman super XX. Enough film for 500 pictures. I also went to the USO and mailed my jacket home today. I also mailed some exposed film to Roger. I got back just before lights out. I was greeted with the good news of K. P. duty the next day. I would have to get up at 4:00 again.

Thursday July 18, 1946

I got up at 4:00 and hurriedly made my bed and put my personal effects in order and fell out for roll-call. I went to the mess hall and there spent the day pouring coffee, dishing out

butterscotch pudding and peaches. I helped scrub the floors between meals. They had to be swept and moped after every meal. They way the floors of these Army buildings get soaked with water everyday, it's no wonder they don't last long. I hated the dining room supervisor. He was lazy and didn't have much leadership ability. I like most of the other cooks. I think they are a pretty good bunch. I got to sleep about two hours between meals today I got off K.P. at 6:45. I will write a letter home before lights out. Received letters from mother and Athol Furman.

Friday July 19, 1946

We were lucky this morning, we didn't have to get up until 6:15. After the usual clean up, roll call, and chow line we fell out for duty. I went to T-1. Most of the boys are medics so they went to T-3. There are twelve T's to the Training. I went out to a practice rifle range. It was the same old dry run rifle marksmanship we had all had in basic. It wasn't bad though. We sat around mostly. We had one rather interesting period during the afternoon when the captain tried to answer our questions about "What's wrong with the Army?" He was a professional soldier by his own admission. He had been in 10 years. He didn't convert anyone to his ideas though. We all enjoyed the "discussion". I wrote letters to Aunt Ruth and Roger. I received a letter from Geraldine Fitzgerald for the doll.

Saturday July 20, 1946

We had no other training today other than the usual inspection and parade before the brass hats down on the black top. I signed for a pass and was one of the lucky ones to get one. The RT wouldn't sign all of them. I came to Oakland then I took a street car to Berkeley. I spent the afternoon or what was left of it finding a place to stay and what the price of a new Oldsmobile. I got my bed at the YMCA. The price of a new Olds out here in Calif. is \$1500. I could probably get one back home for 1400 without the hydramatic drive. I guess I'll buy a ford when I get out. I spent the evening at the Y typing some letters and listening to the radio. I wrote letters to Mrs Luken, the Shinn's and Mildred Rinhard.

Sunday July 21, 1946

Another week-end and vacation from Army life is at an end tonight. I spent the day in Berkely looking the place over. I got up at 9:00 o'clock after a rather cool night at the YMCA. The blanket was too short. I had breakfast at the Y. It was served by some ladies of some veterans organizations. I have a waffle and some coffee. I went to the Trinity ME Church for church services. I meet a boy from Ann Arbor, Michigan and had dinner with him. I paid the checks since he didn't have much left. I spent the afternoon looking Calif. University over. I don't think the campus is as nice as K State of KU I went to the top of some tower and took pictures. I took 28 pictures over the week-end. I sent Rev. Alexander a Church program and message. I wrote to Ray Reusser and asked the price of a Ford Car.

Monday July 22, 1946

I started this at 3:30 for some reason. We all fell out and the K.P. were sent out. After moping and sweeping around my bunk, I went back to bed. I didn't sleep long before someone called me out. I and another boy had to pull K.P. duty since two of the regular boys were A.W.O.L. I got off tonite at 7:00. I didn't have too hard a day. I got 7 letters and cards and 3 newspapers. Some of it was from Camp Lee. I got a month old letter from Miss Schemisener and Norma Koon. I also got a second letter from her today. I received a very nice letter from Mrs. Shinn in response to those photographs I sent her. I got a delayed letter from home and a card and 2 Clearwater Newspapers. I also got a R. C. Starr. I got a letter from Kansas State College but it contained more of the information I requested. Wrote a letter home.

Tuesday July 23, 1946

I got up at 5:00 once again after a restful sleep after the usual routine of cleanup and chow. We all fell out for our daily duty. I went on T2 which was the Rifle Range. It was about 2 miles out there. I spent the morning in the pits pushing the targets up and down. The boy I worked with came from Minnesota. At noon we all marched out but had to go back since there was no chow. When we did get out we had to go out a fire. We got dinner at 3:15. Dinner consisted of two sandwiches, an orange and a candy bar. We came back right after dinner. I got back just in time for retread. I got my supper at the P. X. tonite. I wrote letters to Mrs. Shinn and Anna Schmeissner. I didn't receive any mail.

Wednesday July 24, 1946

I got up at the usual time of 5:00 o'clock and went through the usual routine. After breakfast I got a rifle and went out and had some dismounted drill. After some DD we had some physical conditioning. It was easy compared to Camp Lee. We had to run several blocks though. I got a pass after dinner so I got out of camp at 1:30 and started for Frisco again. I called Alma Shannon but didn't contact her until later. I bought a yellow filter for my camera and some 127 film. I wandered into a square where some shriners were playing. I saw B Jacques then Lloyd Bishop then Mrs. Bronson of Wichita. I later saw Mr. and Mrs. Don Rimel and Mrs. Bishop. I had dinner with them at their hotel. I had a wonderful time. I tried for 1 hr. to get across Market Street while the parade was going. I got back in camp ½ hr. late.

Thursday July 25, 1946

I found it hard to get up this morning since I didn't get to bed until 1:00 o'clock after my wonderful evening before. I did the usual morning routine at about 8:30 we all fell out for parade practice for Saturday's Transportation Day. We spent the morning standing around in the cold and the rain. It rained a little this morning which is most unusual for Calif. at this time. I lay down on the road and went to sleep. The afternoon was spent doing a "dry run" at the parade ground. I got awful tired standing around so long. I got a letter from Athol today with her sister's San Francisco address. I wrote letters home and to Norma Koon and Evelyn King.

Friday July 26, 1946

We got to sleep until almost 5:30 this morning. There wasn't much unusual or different today. We had to practice making left and right turns out in a dirt field this morning. We spent plenty of time just standing around. Had to police up the area again after dinner because of the special day tomorrow. We fell out at 2:15 for the practice at 4:00 on the parade grounds. I am getting so tired of this "chicken" and so is everyone else. There is no sense in standing around so long before a practice. The whole thing lasts about 20 minutes. I got a Clearwater News from home and a letter from Ray Reusser. He cut a little of his finger off. Wrote a letter to Richard.

Saturday July 27, 1946

Today was Trans. Corp. day. I didn't have to do anything except a retreat parade at 4:30. I got out of camp at 1:00 and went to Frisco again. I went to the U.S.O. and called the Shannons. They weren't home so I made a last minute rush for the theater where the Broadway play "Bloomer Girl" was playing. I got the last ticket. It cost me \$4.80 and my bag cost me 25 cents to check. It was the first big stage show I ever saw and I enjoyed it more than I can describe. I stayed at a service men's club down near the bay. It cost me a dollar and I got my breakfast the next morning for the price. I wrote a nice long letter to Ray while at the service club in Camp Stoneman. Eight pages in all.

Sunday July 28, 1946

I got up at 9:00 and had my breakfast. I called Mrs. Shannon and then took a street car to their apartment. I visited with them awhile then he said he would take me to Fisherman's Wharf. As it turned out we spent the rest of the day seeing San Francisco. I visited Telegraph Hill – a hill near the docks. It was named this because the news of approaching ships was telegraphed down to the town below. I got lots of good pictures for this point. I saw the ocean for the first time. I cannot say how I felt about it. O got a good view of the Golden Gate bridge. It is painted a barn-red now. I visited the cliff house and bought a set of bananas salt and pepper shakers for Aunt Ruth. I also saw the largest swimming pool in the world and I took my first roller coaster ride. We also went through the zoo.

Monday July 29, 1946

Another blue Monday. I spent the day doing nothing useful after the usual chow lines and police up we had some dismounted drill directed by one that no one likes. He is just a big chicken. We did push-ups because he thought we weren't making flankings and about face movements. Oh, well, such is Army life. We took a 2 or 3 mile hike to finish the morning. During the afternoon we went out and played drop the handkerchief and fooled around to kill time. I went to early chow and at 6:00 o'clock myself and 3 others went over to 1st Regt headquarters and g.s. the floor. We got done about 8:30. Just in time to shove off and go to bed. Wrote letters to Athol Furman and Mother. Received letters from Home, Fitzgerald's and Richard.

Tuesday July 30, 1946

I got up about 5:30 and went through gruesome routine. Most of the boys were on a shipping list that are supposed to go to Korea this Friday. I am not on the list. Some of the boys insist that I was on a list with 4 other boys for Hawaii. I think I am lucky that I am not going to Korea. I said around the rest of the morning while the rest of the boys were being shook down for clothing. I had to clean out a ditch this afternoon and I dressed up for retreat but since there were only 6 of us, we didn't go. I got a letter from Rae Ruesser. A new Fort Tudor costs \$1185, a club coupe costs about \$65 more, radio cost \$55 and heater \$27.50. I got another letter from home and a box of cookies. Received a letter from Uncle John, Aunt has gone to Panama. Wrote letters to Shinn's, Roger, Bishops, Rimmels.

Wednesday July 31, 1946

The casbre didn't wake up until late so I didn't get up until 5:30. I was on K. P. and was supposed to be there at 4:30. It was a usual day of work. Not too bad though. I got to sleep a couple of hours. Today was pay day but I haven't gotten mine yet since I was working. I'll get it tomorrow. I should get \$55.00 this time because of the new pay increase. I did some washing tonite. I received a Clearwater News and a Kansas City Star from home. I wrote a letter to Aunt Ruth. I received word yesterday that she was in the hospital recovering from a serous intestinal operation. I hope she gets along O.K. It was just one year ago tonite that Uncle Leslie died of a heart attack.

Memo

4 months done. Sent \$40 home and \$20 allotment

Thursday August 1, 1946

We were awakened at 3:30 this morning because so many of the boys were shipping. Most of us went back to bed after the roll call. The chow line was not very long after so many had left. I received my shipping orders this afternoon. I have spent the rest of my time getting ready and packing. I leave tomorrow morning for Manila as a quartermaster's replacement. I thought about the annual 4-H club picnic today. Wish I could have been there. I had plenty of milk and ice cream tonite. I have been busy writing letters. I wrote home and sent \$40.00. I got paid \$54.90 today. I received a letter from Dad and a package with some socks and underwear. Wrote to Reusser, Aunt Ruth, Mrs. Shinn, and the Shannons.

Friday August 2, 1946

Tonite finds me aboard the U. S. Army Troop Transport Marine Swallow. I got up at 3:00 and after the usual waiting around I boarded a ferry and went down to Fort Mason. I guess we will spend the night at the pier. I have as good a bunk on the boat as there is. At least for an enlisted man. I have a top bunk about as high as my chest. The lower bunks are only 2 ft apart. Not enough room to sit up. I can sit up and I have light to study by. The temperature down here is about 84°. I am in the forward part of the ship in about the center. I shouldn't get rocked so much. I am on C deck. There is one more deck below me. This ship is not too large a vessel. There were larger ones in the harbor. I wrote to Geraldine Fitzgerald and

Rev. Alexander tonight. I'll try and get the letters off board tomorrow morning. My last day on American soil.



Ivan Freeman playing a trumpet solo on board the Marine Swallow. The boys call him "Harry James"