

The Original Joke Book

Written by

Emma and Gerald Talen

April 2, 1951 – November 2, 1975



Emma's writing in black

Gerald's writing in red

April 2, 1951

Kathy has recently learned to stand by herself. She can get up but she doesn't know how to get down. After a few minutes she just cries until we put her down again.

Kathy (Treeny as we call her) has just learned a new game. We play it every nite just before she goes to bed. I undress her and then put her bare little body on the living room rug. She realize immediately that she doesn't have any clothes on and she gets as frisky as ever. But when I say, "I'm going to get you" then she falls all over herself trying to get away. When I catch her I kiss her back and she giggles and thinks it's a big joke. Some fun.

February 22, 1952

Almost a year since last I wrote in here. During that time we have received a son, Timmy, who we think is the intellectual type. We predict that Kathy will be an extrovert extremely normal and happy and well adjusted socially. Timmy may be more quiet and serious, perhaps an introvert.

Kathy's vocabulary so far includes: hot, cold, awe done, pow for powder, bib, pail, out tide, babee. eat, and nigh-nigh. Kathy loves to get things for us. She gets our shoes, brings waste paper in the basket, puts diapers in the pail, etc.

April 9, 1952

I have just returned from the bank. It was a busy day: many telephone calls, GI loan applications, and routine work. We are planning an open house in the bank for a "Know Your Bank Week" program.

Kathy says "but pea" for peanut butter.

April 13, 1952

Today is Easter and it's snowing so hard we can't go to church in Baldwin. I sing in the Lutheran choir so I wasn't going until this afternoon. Em has to nurse Timmy so she can only go to the early service in the Lutheran church. Our church situation is terrible. We belong to Baldwin but we go to the Lutheran church.

Kathy loves "ou si" (outside). She always wants to go out to play with the cute boy next door, Gary.

August 7, 1952

I had planned to write in here every month. Em and I are debating whether or not to send my application in for a position with the Natl. Cash Reg. Co.

Kathy says "banken" (blanket) and each morning she comes to bed with us with her banken. Timmy can sit up now and he is gaining weight much to Em's delight.

Sept. 5, 1952

I have just returned from Banking School at the U. of WI. Kathy doubled her vocabulary during the two weeks I was gone. She says Gamms, Ah-leen, Dimmy, and so forth. She is very athletic; always wants to do tricks and run. Tonight Em said, "Mommy going to church". Kathy repeated it and said "Daddy going to church and Kathy going to church".

September 14, 1952

Dunn Co Dairy Day is over. I was chairman of the affair and because of the weather it was a huge success.

Kathy calls Bud Talen "Uncle Daddy".

Oct. 13, 1952

Today I sang at the mission fest in Baldwin. Jerry is in G.R. and life is terribly lonely. Kathy was very naughty for the babysitter this afternoon. She wouldn't take a nap and wiggled her bed all over the room. When she saw me coming home she hit the lady and said, "Go home, Laylee". Timmy is a darling, but into everything. He creeps now and stands by the furniture. The other day he got into the fireplace., Recently he also tipped over a vase of flowers, ripped a newspaper, and tipped the spinning wheel – all within 3 minutes time.

Every afternoon we go for a walk to the school grounds. Kathy rides her bike and I push Tim in the stroller. We swing and ride the merry-go-round. Then we go look for acorns under an oak tree.

Kathy wants to do everything by herself now. She's very independent but says, "Lub mommy". Timmy seems to be more dependent and very sweet natured.

Oct. 14, 1952

Every night we pick Kathy up and put her on the toilet. Tonight I left her a minute to open her bedroom window. When I came back she was sitting slumped on the floor next to the toilet sleeping. She had finished, gotten off, and her knees buckled under her she was so limp. Sometimes she sleeps through the whole process.

Jan. 5, 1953

Three months I've been on the job with NCR. It's not as good as I expected but in the next six months there may be a change for the better.

Em and I have decided to rent for at least 18 months. We feel, 1. There will be a recession by that time at least in the Real Estate market. 2. My job is not too secure and I may want to leave for something more pleasant.

I usually put Kathy to bed at night and we have fallen into quite a ritual before I can finally say goodnight. It goes like this. After she has undressed herself, brushed her teeth, rinsed her mouth and climbed into bed with her baby, she has to pray. I start her off and she can usually finish "Now I lay me down to sleep". But always at the end before Amen she says, "for Keegus (Jesus) sake and.....Ah-men". Where she gets the "and" business we do not know. Then I butterfly kiss her on both cheeks and follow the same procedure with her baby and if I miss anything she is sure to catch me. Before leaving the room I have to say goodnite about a dozen times.

Jer, "What's your nose for?"

Kathy, "To wipe it."

Kathy (watching water go down the drain) "Bye, wa-er".

Kathy's table prayer, "Lor, bess dis food and drink for Keegus sake and.....Ah-men."

Tim can't walk yet. He likes newspapers and magazines. Timmy rolls bottles all over and chases them on hands and knees.

Tim has a tooth at last! He is a year and a week old. Kathy looked out of the window today at all the new-fallen snow piled high on the roof of the car. Finally she exclaimed, "Look, Mom, Kakhy's car has a hat on".

March 4, 1953

Em just returned from an Alger Park church meeting. The ladies were very friendly and Em felt welcomed. It looks like we will fit in with this group very well.

I am still not devoted to my job with NCR, although at times it becomes very interesting.

When trying to teach Kathy the names of certain objects, I pointed to the Bible and said, "That's a Bible, Kathy." She replied, "That's right, Dad".

May, 1953

Mom Kuipers and Florence were here for a two-week visit. Em, Kathy, Timmy and I took them to the depot for their return trip. All of us went on the train to say good-bye and as we were leaving Kathy spotted a bald-headed man on the seat behind Mom and Florence. As soon as she saw him she shouted at me, "Look, that man doesn't have any hair". She said it again before I could get out of the train with her.

June 21, 1953

Today I am leaving for NCR's Sugar Camp. Em and I are both quite sad because it means being away from each other for four weeks. I will certainly miss her and Kathy and Timmy.

Timmy doesn't obey very well. When told not to touch something he does it again without batting an eye, even after having his hands slapped. But he's a cutie. He can say, "Baby, bye, Daddy, Mommy, all gone, Bobby, and bark like a dog". He gets so excited when he sees a dog that he trembles all over. He imitates me when I clean - gets his little sweeper, plugs the jumping rope into the wall, and picks up all the throw rugs and cleans them. He has a huge appetite and screams bloody murder when he wants his milk or the next course. He hates a haircut!

Kathy spends a lot of time with Bobby Berkhof. She is outside almost all morning except to run in for a cookie or a drink. She loves the story of "The Three Bears" and also, "Black Sambo". She spansks the tiger in the book and kisses Black Sambo when we read the story. I was yelling at her for something the other day and she said, "Don't you feel good, Mommy?"

July 26, 1953

NCR looks a lot better after Sugar Camp. I will soon get a Junior Territory and I feel things will work out all right.

Kathy, just before I left her bedroom after putting her to bed: "Daddy, I have a baby in my tummy like Mommy". Daddy: "You do? What kind of a baby is it?" Kathy: "It's a black baby". Daddy: "Is it a boy or girl black baby?" Kathy: "No, it's just a baby, not a boy or a girl". "Well, where do boy babies come from?" "They come from downtown". "Where do girl babies come from?" "They come from airplanes".

Today I said, "Kathy, will you go upstairs and get my slippers?" She started upstairs muttering, "Again!" She's growing up.

Sept. 5, 1953

Em and I are getting excited about moving into our new house at 1520 Lancashire . We've ordered paper, paint, etc. and Al Hoort is going to remodel the upstairs.

Nellie: "Kathy, who makes the clouds?" Kathy: "Mrs. Schloss". Note: Mrs. Schloss is our landlady.

Timmy says "Hi" to everyone he meets.

Sept. 21, 1953

Almost moved into our new house on Lancashire. Our problem is getting the painting done and the carpenters out.

Nelly showed Kathy the moon tonite as she came back from Bobbie's house. Then they went to the back of the house to come in the back door and Kathy said, "Look, Nelly, there's another moon".

Jan. 3, 1954

The start of another year. We have high hopes for this year. It should be prosperous and bring us another child.

Kathy said to Daddy tonite, "You should be a little boy, then you wouldn't have to go to work tomorrow".

Feb. 10, 1954

Timmy and Kathy have a new game. Every nite before going to bed they both go upstairs and holler, "My chadow". I told them once about their shadow but they have forgotten what it is, except the word. As they holler they run back and forth getting more excited all the time. They even say, "My chadow" during the day now. Em does not like this game because it gets the kids too excited. I like it though, because they are so cute when they run and scream.

March 3, 1954

Timmy says "Dee" for milk or water. He calls Mary "Murmur". Mary is a good girl, just eats and sleeps. Timmy says, "Duppy" for slippers.

Last nite we didn't use caution. Hope it's OK.

April 28, 1954

Still don't know.

Kathy loves her friends. Today she came home crying. Em thought she was hurt. All she said was, "Marijo said I couldn't play with her".

This morning she looked at her cream of wheat and said, "Look, it's smoking".

She has the habit of getting up early, usually 6:00. She gets two boxes of cereal and takes one to Timmy upstairs. They both sit in bed and eat out of the boxes.

Timmy likes to rough house with Kathy.

We're very busy: Service charge machine, choir, junior choir, garden, Mary.

May 21, 1954

Em bought a pair of black buckle shoes for Kathy. Kathy is so proud of them that all afternoon she would keep coming in the house and ask. "Can I play in the house now?" Then she would put her new shoes on and walk around the house looking at her feet.

Em made some lemon pie and she gave some of the filling to Kathy. She said, "Say, this lemon is chewed already".

Kathy also got some new play shoes. Em: "These shoes are called Keds." Kathy: "Let's call them Jets".

Refer to 3/3/54: it's all OK. Sure am glad because our new hospital insurance with the Co. does not take effect until June 15, 1954.

Timmy is very cute. We feel very blessed with a nice home, family, and good health.

Kathy was eating supper. Her girl friend, Marijo, was standing by the screen door waiting for her to come out. In order to keep Marijo waiting Kathy said, "Wait for me and I'll tell you something happy when I come out".

Dec. 4, 1954

Mary loves to have someone hold her little hands and walk with her. When you stop she puts her head on the floor and cries with gusto.

This past week we experienced the funeral of Mom Kuipers. All the children were here and their families, except Harriet and Quent. Kathy attended the funeral. She was very good and showed no fear of the body.

Dec. 4, 1954

Mary can say "Da-da" (11 months) and also "haw" for hot. Kathy and Timmy get up early every morning and play.

Dec. 19, 1954

The Christmas tree is up and both Kathy and Timmy are very excited. Daddy to Kathy: "It's time to go to bed, honey". Kathy: "No its not, I haven't yawned yet".

Mary is very cute. We call her our little head down girl. Every time you look at her she coyly puts her head down.

During a TV showing of Amahl and the Night Visitors Timmy got very excited. He did not like the three kings who visited Amahl. He thought they were Indians and proceeded to shoot them. Then he went up to the TV set and hit them on the screen.

Kathy knows every package under the tree.

Last week we had our NCR office party. Em did not like the way I acted after two martinis.

Jan 7, 1954⁵

Kathy and I took a trip by train to Menomonie to attend the annual meetings. It was Kathy's first train ride. She was very friendly with the passengers. One conductor came in the car and hollered, "Meel-waakee". Then as he went past our seat Kathy said to him, "What makes you so mad?" The first night away Kathy was feeling lonesome. She said to me, "Tell me a story about Timmy". On the way back we had a two hour layover in Chicago. I took Kathy up to the top of the Board of Trade building during that time.

Kathy now has the measles. She is quite sick tonight, but the rash is yet to appear. We're having an epidemic in G.R.

Mary will have her 1st birthday tomorrow! She still doesn't walk alone, but its coming close now.

Jan. 20, 1955

Daddy left for Dayton this morning. Timmy and Kathy learn about squares, crescents, rectangles, etc. in Ding Dong school. This morning Timmy watched himself urinate and said, "See, it comes right out of that triangle".

Last Sunday we road to the airport. Kathy was telling Timmy that they don't keep airplanes in barns, like he said, but they hand them up on hangers.

Looks like Michigan Mortgage Co. fell through. We're slightly disappointed, but Jer is quite content in Nat'l Cash now so we don't care too much.

Mary takes about 2 steps alone now. She's so quiet and sweet. She still spends a lot of time in bed and is such a delicate little gal.

Kathy tries hard to write her own name. Her first E looks like this =. She often cries because she "can't write very good".

Timmy stutters a little. When he can't get something out he gives up and says, "I can't talk berry good".

Jan. 29, 1955

Back from a trip to Dayton and my first CPC. It was a very interesting experience. They revealed the electronic data processing machine. With this machine the future in NCR looks very good.

March 18, 1955

Two accidents today. Kathy and Timmy were taking a bath and Em and I were in the bedroom. All of a sudden we heard Kathy saying, "Mary, Mary, stop doing that!" Then we heard Mary cry. We rushed into the bathroom to find Mary standing in the bathtub. Somehow she had climbed over the edge, completely submerged, and managed to stand up. Kathy sensed something was wrong and shouted at her. It was quite a scare for us.

In the evening, while Em was at the store shopping, Timmy fell against the window seat. He cut his lip badly and jarred his front teeth. He bled quite a bit and he had a huge swollen lip.

A week from today we are planning to go to Menomonie for Arlene's wedding. Dennis Dick is planning to fly us there in his plane. Em is not too crazy about that because she wanted a restful train ride.

Kathy is growing up. Today she said, "If Susan and Kitty are going to the wedding, why can't I".

April 24, 1955

Em has a sinus infection, we think. We wonder if it's an allergy. We'll check again next year at this time.

Timmy, as he was going to sleep, "Oh dear, I'm so tired of having you spank me all the time".

He is such a naughty boy. Today I caught him bending the arms of the clock. He is destructive.

July 13, 1955

Just back from a trip which took our family to Ann Arbor, Detroit, Rochester, and Dayton. We stayed at Millers in Ann Arbor and attended the MBA convention. We then drove to Rochester for the fourth. I flew from there to Dayton to give a talk at Sugar Camp and presented Mini-card and flew back to Rochester. In Rochester, with the John Kuipers family and us around the table, John was getting us quieted down for prayer. He said, "Everyone be quiet now, we are going to pray...ready!" Then, just before he began Timmy piped up and said, "Go".

July 17, 1955

Timmy, what are you going to be when you grow up? "A spirit".

Kathy is all excited about swimming. She wants to know just how to do it and she wants to go to the lake all the time. (5 yrs. old)

July 31, 1955

We took a canoe trip on the Pere Marquette River yesterday. Canoeed 72 miles – it took 12 hours. But it was wonderful. Arlene and Bud stayed with the kids. The night we were packing to go Kathy felt left out. At the supper table she said, with lip quivering, “You kids are all decided (meaning excited) because you are leaving me and Timmy”. We certainly hugged her after that and hated to leave her.

Mary had a haircut because its too long to be comfortable in this hot weather. She is so sweet. She loves to brush her teeth like the big kids. She plays outside with Karen Kaiser next door. They love eachother. Mary is always hugging her so hard they both fall over.

Tim is a little demon with a terrific sense of humor. He loves bugs and cares for them tenderly, like pets. He puts them in milk bottles and gives them so much water to drink that they drown. He’s naughty for baby sitters and won’t go to bed. In his words, “I’m just pepping it up a little bit”.

Mary can’t talk much yet, but she can hold her own by just screaming. She eats our food now.

Kathy loves to make tents with my blankets. We finally gave her a tent for her birthday, but she really doesn’t care for it. She still wants my blankets. She loves to color and play paper dolls.

Sept. 22, 1955

Mary is growing up. First thing she does in the morning is get her shoes. If we don’t put them on right away she is heart broken. She also has to have all her buttons buttoned and doesn’t like any dirt on her hands.

I took all three downtown yesterday. They got free balloons and Timmy popped his and Mary’s right away. The sales lady jumped a mile. Then he wailed because his balloon was gone. Tim loved to ride the “alligator”, meaning escalator, but almost fell on his nose once.

Kathy has a love affair already. Jim VanderWerp calls for her for school and they get the bus together.

Before going to bed Timmy always suggests acting out some story.

Nov. 1, 1955

Some big decisions coming. Should Dad buy Greenville bank with me going up there, or should I go in with Jack Grubb, Dale Discher on a computer center.

Mary is sleeping upstairs with Kathy for the first time. Timmy had a wonderful time trick or treating last nite. He came home all by himself with a whole bag of candy.

Nov. 19, 1955

Asked Timmy, "What time is it?" "6-4-19 to now".

Jan. 9, 1956

We celebrated Mary's 2nd birthday tonight. We gave her some plastic dishes. She blew out the 2 candles on the cake and got very mad when we took a sucker away from her. Mary says "K" for clay.

Timmy is very naughty in Sunday School. Kathy sings solos in Sunday School.

Feb. 17, 1956

Today I taught Kathy's kindergarten class. She was so sweet and quiet in school. She rode the school bus as usual while I rode to school in a car. When we met at home for lunch the first remark she made was, "Mommy, you did the milk wrong".

Tim has a little Bible from Sunday School. He carries it with him always and is so proud. He was so excited when he got it that he forgot to put his coat on and ran out in the snow to wait for a ride home not even aware of it. When it hit him he cried and was taken care of by some "man with grey hair".

Mary is 24 lbs. now and doesn't eat a thing unless forced. She stores food in her cheek like a squirrel. She is lively though and so lovable. She chatters a lot but her words are not clear. She calls Debby Nagel "Ba-Ba". Kitty is "Ta-kee" and dolly is "da-ee".

March 9, 1956

Timmy, at the evening table, "I want to tell a story! Well, Daaaaavid (Kaiser) and me built a castle with your lumber, you know. And then we went out in the woods to find a bear and we found a pail full of mud. Then we made pies and Timmy said, 'what, what and what what. What, what said David and what what said Timmy, etc., 3 more times. And then the pies laughed!"

April 8, 1956

This Sunday afternoon, like many Sunday afternoons, we all went for a walk in the woods along Plaster Creek. Timmy obviously had to go to the toilet because he was

holding himself and jumping around. Mommy said, "Why are you jumping around, Timmy?" "Oh, I just like to dance in the woods".

May 27, 1956

Mary and I were playing on the floor. I happened to yawn without putting my hand over my mouth. Mary came real close to my mouth, looked in and said, "Hi, Daddy".

June 17, 1956

Today has been fairly eventful. I have the German measles, plus a Charlie horse in my left leg, plus being very p.g. This afternoon we went for a ride down a country road, met the VanderMey's, stopped to talk by a big puddle in the road. The next thing we knew, a car came swishing by and gave us all a mud bath, Mary and Daddy especially. We laughed so hard, but Mary and Tim cried.

Kathy will leave for a 3 week visit to Menomonie tomorrow morning. She and Janie will ride with Uncle Jim. I hate to lose her.

Timmy and Kathy were discussing our new baby with Bea VanderMey. Timmy said it would be a boy. Kathy said, "Only Jesus knows if it will be a boy or a girl". Timmy said, "I know it, but Jesus told me it will be a boy".

Kathy's main interest in life is a two wheeled bike. She has been practicing on borrowed bikes and rides very well.

Sept. 13, 1956

Little Jerry is 10 lbs. and some ozs. He will have brown eyes we think. He is good and looks like Kathy.

Timmy looked at my blue varicose veins today and said, "Oh, look! You've got writing on your leg".

Mary plays so cute. She pushes Kathy's buggy down the street. She says, "Ya, I did".

Kathy got a two wheeler today. Now she can ride to school and home for lunch. She loves it, and also school.

Timmy can pump his wagon with one leg now. He goes sailing down the street pumping for all he's worth. He has some water melons growing in the basement window.

Oct. 17, 1956

Beautiful late fall weather. Sunday evening we had supper on the picnic table and roasted wieners. The moon was shining brightly and Timmy looked up at it and said, "That's Jesus' foot".

June Talen is home from the hospital and she will get better slowly. She had a non-paralytic polio.

Kathy has an inseparable friend, Linda Cooper. She has a new bike also and they ride to school together every day.

I usually put the 3 oldest to bed upstairs. As I go down I say, "Goodnite, dear kids, the best kids in the whole wide world." They usually answer back with, "best daddy etc.," but tonight little Mary said, "Goodnite, Dummy Head".

With the advent of electronics, the prospects look very good with NCR. However, right now I'm worried about Zeeland State Bank and G.R. Mutual S.& L.

Oct. 26, 1956

Mary at 21/2 yrs., "Mary, what is your name?" "Mawy" "Mary who?" "Mawy, little lamb".

Jan. 16, 1957

Trip to the Waldorf.

Feb. 10, 1957

Kathy to Daddy, "Why don't you put another seed in Mommy so we can have a baby, and be sure it's one that says boy on it because we want a boy".

Daddy took Kathy, Tim, and Mary to Portland yesterday afternoon. Timmy let the baby calf suck on his fingers. When he got home he put his dirty fingers in his mouth. I said, "Don't put your fingers in your mouth because the calf sucked on them". He said, "So now am I a cow?"

Mary is very popular in Sunday School. All the teachers think she's so cute.

March 11, 1957

Lost G.R. Mutual, but Zeeland bank is happy. Now looking for special job on the electronic sorter.

Mary continually says, "Big cows have big teeth (arms spread wide), but little cows have no teeth".

We looked at cottages Saturday for Mom and Dad and John and George's family. When we got back both Em and I were sick so we spent a miserable weekend and I am still home Monday. Thanks to Nelly, who stayed with us Saturday and Sunday, we are pretty well rested up. Kathy came down with the mumps on her left side. Boy! Have we had sickness. Mary is the only one who is well, but when you ask her if she has the mumps she says, "No, but my legs hoort".

March 17, 1957

Mary, saying her memory text, "Suffer the kids to come to me".

June 6, 1957

Something broke. We'll see.

June 27, 1957

Mary is so cute. Tonight we were talking about heaven and she said, "Am there beds there?" She never eats a thing. She's only 27 lbs.

Aug. 4, 1957

Refer to June 6. The chance in a million happened and Em is pg. We are not too happy about it. It means a new house for us and, with the possibility of a move to Dayton, we don't know what to do.

We just enjoyed the past week at a cottage on Lake Michigan. John and Letty, George (for a few days) and Lorraine, Florence and Nelly, and Em and I were all together.

The pipe organ for Alger Church is consuming quite a bit of time. Very interesting. I think we will buy a Wicks.

Timmy had a slight temp this morning but he started school anyway. He left in tears, with Kathy holding his hand and dragging him along. Quite a picture! He said, "Why do I have to go to school anyway?"

Timmy yelled in the bathroom at school today and so had to stay in for recess.

Mary loves to play dolls. When she is scolded for something she says, "Nobody loves me anymore". And if we are at the table she uses my kitchen curtain for her crying towel.

Dec. 16, 1957

We took the kids downtown (G.R.) to see the toys and the stores. While in Harp's Em was talking to a saleslady and Timmy and Mary became interested in a lady manekin.

Before she knew it they had lifted up the dress on the mannequin and Timmy said, "I wonder if she has a pants on". Em was embarrassed to tears.

Dec. 19, 1957

Mary hollered downstairs, "Mom, my lip fell off".

Business looks good for next year. However, I would like to move as T.M.

Refer to 3-11-57. Got a 4 machine order from G.R. Mutual.

Little Jerry is into everything. He pulls out all the pots and pans, floor mops, brooms, etc.. He has ruined my plant in the living room. Whenever you ask him a question he shakes his head vigorously and says, "Uh-uh".

Feb. 21, 1958

We get Timmy up every night and put him on the toilet. He barely wakes up during the process so this is a fast operation. Tonight, as I led him to the bathroom, he mumbled, "I was dreaming that I was reading a book". We made some comment and then as I was tucking him in bed he said, "Lets see, where was I dreaming? Oh, yes, here I am!"

We just returned from seeing the movie Peyton Place . Still, the baby does not come!

Feb. 23, 1958

Little Emily came at 1:46 this afternoon.

March 8, 1958

I'm home from the hospital and ready to try taking over the work now. Elaine Nagel took Mary and Jerry last week which gave me a wonderful chance to recuperate. Little Emily is such a good baby. She's one of the family already. Tonight I found Teddy under the blankets with her in the basket...Mary's work.

Timmy is such a nut. He and Billy DeVries decided to go trick or treating the other day. They were successful too. Each got a sucker and a cookie.

Kathy was so eager to see Emily last Sunday. She came flying home from Linda's. She was really thrilled about her new sister.

Little Jerry is beginning to talk. He is such a hefty little fellow and cute as can be.

We bought Frank Stevens' lot and will build a new house soon.

May 13, 1958

Timmy cut his leg on a piece of barbed wire. He came running home yelling, "Oh, all my good blood! All my good blood is going to waste! Oh, mother, help me, help me". So dramatic! He was very brave when Dr. Shaarda sewed it up. He has five or six stitches.

May 20, 1958

We had an offer to be Exec. V.P. of a new bank, Security Nat'l., in Manistee. \$9,000 plus stock options. Turned it down and instead signed an order with Robert Baker to build a new home for us.

May 22, 1958

I asked Mary who was the first to reach the tomb on Easter morning. Mary said, "The bunny rabbit".

June 15, 1958

NCR offered me a T.M. position in Jamestown, N.Y. We didn't accept because our new house is in the process of construction and we couldn't get out of the contract.

July 19, 1958

Em and I camped out in Canada, then spent 3 days at the Grand Hotel with the S. & L. convention and then went to Menomonie to pick up Kathy and Timmy who had spent two weeks there.

July 26, 1958

At supper Mary pulled out the sides of her stomach and said, "Look, I swallowed a tooth pick". This struck Kathy so funny she laughed with a mouth full of milk and it came out of her nose.

Timmy traded the rabbit, Friskie, to Peter for a turtle.

We sold our house (1520) to John L. Johnson.

Sept. 3, 1958

Kathy (3rd grade) and Tim (1st grade) will start school tomorrow. Tonight I found that Kathy had her dress and slip all ready on a chair by her bed. She'll be so glad to go. Today I took them to get new shoes. Kathy cried because I made her get the cheaper black saddles and Tim cried because I made him get the more expensive Red Ball jets.

Little Mary was perfectly content with three pairs of socks. She wore one pair to bed tonight.

Little Jerry is talking now. He says, "Hi, Mommy and Hi Daddy, etc."

Emily is sick with an ear infection. I had to bundle her off to Dr. Johns this afternoon and leave Kathy to watch the chicken pies in the oven. Kathy is beginning to take a few responsibilities now.

Sept. 4, 1958

Timmy wanted to take his lunch to school. I finally discovered why. It's because he's afraid he won't know how to get back in school at noon. He assumed the lunch pupils stayed inside and that would solve his problem.

Mary and Mommy have "Elfreda" haircuts. Very cute on Mary!

Sept. 22, 1958

Mary, after observing me take communion, "How did you like your beer and toast?"

Mary watched me try to catch a hornet in our kitchen with great concern. Finally she said, "I guess I'll pray.....Please God help Mommy catch the hornet and bless our sins for Jesus sake. Amen". (I caught it).

Timmy is a bundle of nerves since school started. Kathy loves her friends, especially Linda.

Jerry calls Timmy "Pimmy". He says, "Daddy home, not"? Also, "Waw" for water and "Bye, Gamma" to Bob Baker. He loves to swing on Julie Scotts swings and also pushes the buggy a lot.

Tim wants a putt-putt because Billy has one. But he's too small to build it himself. Kathy is interested in the hoola-hoop.

Dec. 3, 1958

I just returned from a bank meeting in Detroit. Em picked me up at the Elliot St. station and left the kids home in bed for the short trip. She told the kids she was going to do this at the supper table. When we got back from the train, there was Mary sitting in the living room looking at a magazine. She said, "I'm the baby sitter".

Jan. 26, 1959

Another year and business looks good. Union bank ordered a sorter, etc.

Today was Timmy's 7th birthday. He received a bow & arrow, scissors, color crayons, and a flannel shirt. They are all stacked neatly in his room on his dresser. Little Jerry was singing "Happy Birthday" in his sleep tonight.

Emily is a human dust mop. She slides everywhere on her stomach.

Everything is, "Big train or truck" for Jerry.

Feb. 8, 1959

Lettie and Emma visited us for dinner today. As soon as they left Timmy asked, "How did I act?"

March 11, 1959

Jerry, looking at a stalk of celery, "Look, a tree!"

March 21, 1959

Em was sick all day with a sore throat.

May 25, 1959

Mary: "You go to bed at night and zoom (gesture) ...morning".

Took the kids to the dentist today. When the nurse asked who should be first, Mary got right up and trotted into the inner office all alone, the smallest but spunkiest.

Emily started to walk this week. She has changed from a baby to a little girl overnight. She also insists on feeding herself.

Little Jerry always calls, "Momma I wanta get up" (sung in a minor third). I'm going to write a symphony with that theme. Even Emily tries to sing it.

Jer is working in Cleveland now. Last night we sold the house to Shedliski for \$27,750. Not too bad.

Big changes in store for us. We wonder how we'll like Cleveland.

Kathy loves school and is extra good in arithmetic.

Tim is wild about nature. He collects anything alive. Now he has a clam, pollywogs, a toad, a turtle, and a dead crab. He gets all of this stuff by the creek. He also caught a fish down there the other day.

Little Jerry is a doll. He loves trucks and sits in the driveway making roads, etc., perfectly content for hours.

August 10, 1959

We are now settled in Cleveland. The moving day was hectic. Because of a shyster lawyer and the station wagon being broken we did not leave G. R. until 2 a.m. We drove all night and arrived in Cleveland at 8 a.m. What a day!

Kathy found a friend – Laura Cooper. Tim and Mary have found friends too.

Timmy to Mary: “What makes boys different than girls?” Mary: “Boys have haircuts”.

Cleveland Trust looks good for some business.

Nov. 19, 1959

Two Sorter orders – Society and Union Com.

What subject do you like best in school? Kathy: I like arithmetic. Timmy: I like science. Mary: “I like sinning”.

Nov. 26, 1959

Day before Thanksgiving and we are truly blessed with a nice home, wonderful children, good job, and a magnificent mother.

I asked Jerry if he would like to sleep with Timmy so he could get warm. He said, “Good”.

We are going to the Vander Zydens for Thanksgiving Day.

Dec. 12, 1959

Tonight at the supper table my prayer was a little bit longer than usual and little Jerry was unusually hungry. Part way through he said in a loud whisper, “That’s all!”

Dec. 13, 1959

Today we prayed by listening to part of the Messiah. After a little while Jerry said, “Wake up”.

Dec. 15, 1959

Big meeting with Keeseaker and George Gund, Pres. of Cleve.Trust. Wonder what will become of it.

Dec. 16, 1959

Timmy: "What does batting average mean? Like Rocky Calevito has 316". Emma: "It means how long he can hit the ball"!

Dec. 30, 1959

Nelly was here over Christmas.

Jan. 24, 1960

Jerry (3 ½ years old) looked up at the clear blue sky and saw a jet vapor trail. "Look," he said. "That man is scratching the sky".

Feb. 10, 1960

Emily is a little toughie. She says "Mo" for "No" and "My-my" for night-night. The alarm rings at 6:30 and we hear Jerry's little voice say, "Pimmy, the bell wang". Timmy just grunts but Jerry usually gets him out.

Kathy and Mary have a house in the attic. They are now collecting old cans and cartons for their kitchen cupboard.

Last week the hamster had eight babies. Now only three are left.

Feb. 17, 1960

When Mary was little she said "Jawy" for Jerry. Now Emily says "Wawy".

Feb. 25, 1960

Every morning as I dash out little Jerry says, "Don't forkiss me"!

March 6, 1960

Timmy and Jerry were talking to me at bedtime. Tim said, "What's spit for? It just comes up all the time. Is it dirty?" Jerry piped up from his bed, "I know. They adbertize it on TV".

March 14, 1960

After school Timmy was instructed to take Jerry and Emily outside. But he wanted to go to the park with Kim Saxton and go sliding. So as soon as he got Emily outside he took a big snowball and shoved it down her little neck. Naturally, she wailed and Em had to take her in. Timmy admitted doing it and was sent to his room and he could not watch Barney on TV.

June 20, 1960

I asked Mary why she wakes up so early every morning. She said. "Well, my dream is all done, I guess".

I'm teaching Bible School and this morning took all the kids. Emily is terrible – runs all over the place. I'm directing the music (using R.S. tactics) and teach Kathy and Tim. They don't seem to mind.

June 27, 1960

Jerry: "Daddy, you got a cut hair". He also says, "lawn the mower".

July 22, 1960

Jer has been gone for two weeks to school in Dayton. Sunday night after he left Tim went to church along with Jim and Joyce who were visiting here. Dennis Hoekstra started his sermon with a question, "Who reads the sports page?" Tim immediately raised his hand, which stopped the sermon and gave everybody the giggles including the minister. Tim was quite embarrassed about this.

I took the kids to VanderZyden's farm Wednesday afternoon. We brought some steaks and ate supper outside. Emily is such a wild one, but she makes friends with everybody. She sings a lot. She picks up all the Bible school songs and anything else she hears.

August 6, 1960

We went to the Sunday School picnic today at North Olmstead park. Emily had to go to the toilet so I took her to the smelly outhouse. As she sat there she said, "Mommy, are we going to see the cows now?" Quite perceptive for a 2 ½ year old.

Emily is quite rambunctious and a little sunny person. She sings beautifully with such a pure tone and true to pitch. We enjoy her so much.

Mary dreams and talks in her sleep quite often. She has her hair in braids (French).

We camped at Swallow Falls with Harriet, Quent, Florence and Nelly.

August 19, 1960

The kids ate supper alone this Saturday as they often do. At the table they told Emily various stories about how turtles eat little girls, etc., always ending up, "If you see a turtle be sure to run". After supper Timmy got a little rubber turtle. Kathy got a string and they tied the thing to Emily. When she saw it she just wailed. The kids were

disappointed. They wanted to see her run. (Note from Emma: Later they did make her run and she cut her forehead, which left a deep scar!)

August 24, 1960

This noon we talked about lying at lunch because Tim hit the back screen door with a croquet mallet and broke some glass and then lied about it. Jerry had innocently spilled the beans by stating the facts. After I prayed I called on Tim to pray and he had a long lingo and said he was sorry he lied, etc. Then Emily said, "My turn." She broke the serious mood by praying, "Polly put the kettle on, for Jesus sake, Amen".

Tim and Mary giggle and giggle whenever they play together. They usually dream up some silly scheme – imaginative! They make people out of tinker toys, tie washcloths around for clothes and gallop around the house, imaginations running wild. Tim says, "Make believe..." and there they go.

Kathy is always gone, playing with Laura or Ellen. She is very dependent on her friends, wilts without them.

I read Mother Westwind books to Tim, Mary, and Jerry at night if they tickle my legs. A pretty good arrangement.

October 6, 1960

Sunday afternoon we auditioned for Robert Shaw and word got to him that we had five children along with us. So he came upstairs and shook hands with all the kids. He asked Emily how old she was and immediately she held up two fingers. The kids were very polite and we were very proud of them.

Em went to the store today and Jerry went up to the manager and said, "Do you have any suckers?" The manager said, "You wait and see me in the front of the store". While checking out, Jerry spotted the manager, went up to him, and said, "Well, look who's here". He got his sucker.

Emily does everything Jerry does. He said, "When I grow up I'm going to be a pilot". She chimed in merrily (a little mixed up) "When I grow up I'm going to be a toilet".

Jerry works puzzles by the hour. He can put Jack in the Bean Stalk together alone, and it's quite hard.

Feb. 26, 1961

Tonight after our usual Sunday supper of waffles, we asked Timmy to pray. He prayed. "Thank you God for everything. We pray to Jesus that Kathy will get her bird and may

Mary get a little kitten. Dear Jesus, may I get a turtle pretty soon. For Jesus sake, Amen". Immediately after Jerry said, "I didn't know Jesus had a store".

April 1, 1961

Daddy was home alone with Mary, Emily and Jerry on a Saturday morning so he had coffee with them in the basement. After coffee time Emily said, "I am going to read the Bible now". So she picked up a board that she pretended was a Bible. She started to read, "and then Jos... " Then she put her finger on the board and turned to Mary, "What's that word?" Mary said, without blinking an eye, "Joshua" and Emily kept on "reading".

July 19, 1961

Sunday afternoon Jerry woke us from our nap by saying, "Mommy, you're going to be mad! My cookie dropped on the floor and Emily stepped on it. But, that's the way the cookie crumbles".

After a weekend camping with the Hertels and their dog, "Taffy" at the Minnema reunion in Paw Paw, Emily pretends she is a dog. She wouldn't even pray with the other kids before going to bed. When I asked her to say amen she said, "arf-arf".

The Cleveland Fed deal looks very good.

Nov. 12, 1961

The Cleveland Fed and Society Nat'l's 310 computers are in and operating. Quite exciting and busy.

Kathy is on a Girl Scout hike.

Dec. 14, 1961

Em and I just returned from a concert: Belshazzar's Feast.

Emily: after the first snowfall, "Look, the bottom of the ground has snow on it".

May 10, 1962

Shameful that we never write in here anymore.

Jer is quite repetitious when he prays, and often prays for the "sick and afflicted". When Emily prayed she said, "Bless the sick and the flick".

We are going to Puerto Rico next month. Still don't know where to put the kids. We are very excited about the trip.

May 31, 1962

Just returned from a Puerto Rican party at Harriet Z's house. When we came home Em sat down at the piano and stumbled through some music. I went upstairs to take care of Emily. Mary sat up in bed, listened to a few of Em's mistakes, mumbled, "Oh, Mommy!" and went back to sleep.

Timmy is all wrapped up in Little League. His team is the Cubs and they were beaten by the Yankees 18 to 0. Tim is the catcher.

June , 1962

Puerto Rican trip, New York and then vacation in Watertown, S.D. with Bud and June and Menomonie, WI with Mom and Dad.

Sept. 5, 1962

Em spent 4 days in G.R. attending the music conference. Over the Labor Day weekend we camped at Cook Forest State Park in PA. It rained quite a bit so then we went to Pymatunng Park. Had a wonderful time.

Sept. 7, 1962

Today was the first day of school for Kathy, Tim, Mary, and Jerry. When Jerry came home Em asked him what kind of time he had. He said, "We had a real neat time. One of the kids vomited">

Sept. 18, 1962

Little Jerry came home for supper tonight and announced that he and Marky Rhein were going to walk to Chicago. He got out a lunch pail and was ready to go. During supper we reminded him of the problems involved and after supper he finally said he wouldn't go.

Business is real good with NCR and the money is rolling in. Right now I spend a lot of time with visitors from other cities and foreign countries.

Last Saturday Em and I were in charge of a mystery trip for the Forum Club. It was very successful.

Nov. 7, 1962

I prayed with Emily tonight but when she got to the part "if I should die" she stopped and said "amen". I asked her why she didn't finish the prayer and she said, "I don't like that part about dying".

Jerry came home tonight with mud all over his clothes. This has happened repeatedly and he received a sound spanking for it.

April 20, 1963

For the past several months, when we would come home from church Jerry would run upstairs and get our slippers. Instead of giving them to us directly, he would hide behind a door and throw them at us. Then he would sneak our shoes and take them upstairs. A very nice thing to do.

April 21, 1963

Em was selected as one of a few who did not have to audition for the Puerto Rico trip. I did have to audition and right now am nervously awaiting the verdict.

July 15, 1963

Mary's arm is stiff and sore again. We don't know what it is and we are worried about it.

Tim returned from Boy Scout camp - his first. He had a good time.

Emily saw the steam rise from the pancakes and said, "Look, those pancakes have electricity in them".

Oct. 23, 1963

Em and I sang "El Presebra" with Pable Casals and the Cleveland Orchestra at the United Nations, N.Y. Shaw announced that the Chorale was disbanding and the COC hadn't seen anything yet.

Nov. 5, 1963

While talking on ham radio Grampa asked Jerry why they called him turtle. He said, "It's because I have such a hard shell". He really is pokey.

Nov. 30, 1963

Returning home from Ann Arbor, where we spent the afternoon with Jim and Joyce and watched OSU beat U of M, little Jerry saw a dog by the side of the road. The dog looked at the headlights and his eyes shone. Jerry said, "Boy, it's spooky out tonight. I just saw a dog with glasses on".

Dec. 1, 1963

Kathy didn't feel well this morning and didn't want to go to church. We said, "You take your temperature and if you have a fever you don't have to go to church". She said, "Oh, that thermometer never lets you have a fever".

Jan. 9, 1964

Emily calls her friend, Mary Pat, on the phone. She holds the mouthpiece by her mouth and the earpiece is way up on her head. Yesterday she was saying, "Mary Pat, I can't hear you. Talk louder!" Jerry nearly split watching her.

Jerry is the bed fairy now. Every morning he runs around making everybody's bed.

April 2, 1964

This morning, early, Mary told Emily she was going to draw her picture. When it was complete it had a lot of bumps on top. Emily wanted to know what the bumps were for and Mary said, "They're the rocks in your head". Emily came up crying because Mary was mean and teased her again.

We just returned from Severence Hall where we sang Honneger's "King David. This week we had the Calvin A Cappella Choir in the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Sept. 27, 1964

Just returned from a 2 day 315 meeting in Dayton. When I got home Em was sick again with a sore throat. She has to have her tonsils out. She did (suffer - suffer).

Jerry was in bed waiting for Tim to come up. It was dark and windy outside. He sang, "In the dark and stormy night, etc." and then he said, "Now I'm not scared".

June 8, 1965

Tonight Sam was outside running and playing with Mary and Timmy. When they came in and had gone to bed I suddenly looked up and saw Sam carrying his water bowl into the living room. It was empty and he wanted a drink. Smart dog!

June 11, 1965

Little Jerry (8 yrs. old) put up a tent after school and is now sleeping in it in the back yard, all by himself.

July 30, 1965

Just returned from VBS program. Em directed the music and our kids were outstanding. Tomorrow we leave for our vacation and when I put Emily and Jerry to bed Emily

prayed, "O Lord, make our trip safe tomorrow. Don't make us have an accident and turn over, OK?" She waited for an answer.

Jerry prayed, "Help me to wake up early tomorrow so I can go on the trip and I will praise you forever!"

Jerry went to the library alone and returned his Indian book. The library called later about the book being past due. After questioning Jerry we found out that he returned it right to the shelf where he got it.

Jan. 13, 1966

Little Jerry calls Sam "The honey of the schnackies".

Little Jerry was caught cleaning up the family room. Em said, "That's nice of you to clean up the family room". A few minutes later he said, "Not for you though. I want to play football".

Kathy had her first date. It was with Carl Van Hoff – nice boy.

Sept. 13, 1966

Mary is so nervous about starting Junior High that she vomits in the morning before she goes. This morning she made a serious effort to conquer her nervousness. She brought her clothes downstairs and dressed in the bathroom because she gets nervous when she's alone in her room. She said, "So far so good". Jerry had to go with her upstairs while she made her bed and put her pj's away.

We sang in the opera yesterday – "Nuns of the Carmelites". The kids all came to see Daddy's crazy costume. Jerry walked right up to Jer and looked at his arm and said, "Yup, that's my hairy Dad!" Emily was so worried when Mommy walked up the stairs to have her head chopped off that she got out of her seat and walked to the stage.

June 17, 1967

Father's Day. I received a new shaver. The kids were very cute, and so is my wife. Timmy is at Rattlesnake Is. with his friend, Glen Edgecomb. Sam is limping again. He doesn't look good.

Today was my last Sunday in West Park church. After the service the minister announced that the clerk would read some information about our duo. Little Jerry leaned over and with eyes sparkling said, "Are we going to have a duel?"

Two weeks from now we will be living in Deerfield. Then Sept.1 we move to our new house in Lake Forest.

August, 1967

Kathy broke her arm falling off a horse at Jensen's riding school. She spent 5 weeks in the Eau Claire hospital. Her whole attitude was very good.

Sept. 26, 1967

Jerry screamed at the table and Mommy said, "OK"! She got up and started toward Jerry and Jerry said, "Now wait a minute!"

Jan. 10, 1968

Emily has one cute sweater and skirt that she seldom wears. I asked her why and she said, "That one makes me full of electricity every time I take it off".

May 20, 1968

Had a very happy birthday today. We went out to eat at "My Favorite Inn" in Highwood. Tim said, "The reason why we all like your cooking best is that over the years we've molded your cooking to our tastes". Very true!

The kids gave me a bird, a tennis dress, and a jewelry box. And, Tim took a poster that I hated off his bedroom wall.

Now we all like Lake Forest. We've started Catechism lessons on Sunday evenings to supplement meager learning at the Presbyterian Church.

July 5, 1968

We took a trip to Lincoln land - New Salem. Returning, we stopped at a fruit stand. I bought some fresh tomatoes and plums which I washed before putting them into a brown paper bag. After buying some pop, Jerry volunteered to help carry the stuff to the car. He was holding the bag by the top when a plum fell out of a hole in the bottom. He turned to a car that had just passed and said, "Hey, they threw an apple at me". Then a tomato fell out of the bottom and I became very upset with him for not holding the bottom of the bag. Watching from the car, the family was laughing hysterically.

Sept. 23, 1968

Returned from Europe - good time.

Timmy says when he is in college he will not study past 9:30 p.m.

March 29, 1969

Jerry and I went on an overnight scout hike. We slept together in the same tent which was not put up too well. During the cold night we kept waking up and my air mattress kept going down. About 2:00 a.m. I noticed that Jerry was shivering. I said, "Jer, how are you doing?" Jer: "At this point I'm just fighting to stay alive". I had a stiff neck for the next couple of days.

Jerry always says, "I'm only four".

August 30, 1969

Moving day from L.F. to Erie. Beautiful day. Kathy is at Calvin.

Tim has to look in my toolbox, get a nut and bolt, turn it, and then he can go to his bike and know which way to turn a nut to loosen it.

Jerry, while taking down the basketball bank board, "Why don't you use a cratchet?"

Sorry to leave L.F.

March 1, 1971

Women's lib is here. Last night Wayside church asked Emily and her friend Leslie to be acolytes for the month of March. It seems they had complained that only boys were asked. So now they will be given equal opportunity.

We took some business friends out for dinner and as we walked out the door Emily said, "Don't let that coat fool you - it's only rabbit fur", a reference to my black fur coat.

Oct. 12, 1972

We now live in Orchard Park, N.Y. Last week Jerry and the boy next door took the Karman Ghia up the street without permission.

Oct. 26, 1972

Emily argued in class today about hitting children. She maintains that she will not hit, spank, or strike her own children.

"I will never hit my kids". Signed E. Talen.

Nov. 4, 1973

Just been informed that we will be moving to MPLS as area Fin. Mgr. Emily has 2 ½ years to go and she is very upset about the prospect of moving. She says, "My kids will never be hit and never have to move". Signed Emily Talen

Dec. 19, 1973

Change 11/04 – now moving to Dayton as Director/ Com Banks. Sounds good.

Dec. 22, 1973

25th Anniversary. Japanese dinner with kids. Had George Unger do Portraits.

Jan 20, 1974

Last month I gave Jerry and Tim credit cards and told them to get a new tire for the car. They went to Sears and stayed several hours and came back mission accomplished except for one detail – one of the credit cards was missing! We made them search the house and car. The next morning it was still gone. After church we were trying to report the missing card to Sunoco when we received a strange phone call. A man said he had found the card. He was in Forest Lawn cemetery looking at the grave where his father was to be buried and noticed a Sunoco credit card lying in the bottom of the grave. He recovered it and said that he would see that it was returned to us. The phone call had us completely baffled until Jerry sheepishly revealed that he and Tim had walked into the cemetery while waiting for the car Saturday morning. They saw the open grave and Jerry got in and laid down to “see what it felt like. After all, he’d have to lay that way so many years, arms akimbo”.

Jan, 1974

Emily has a paper route. She’s a good worker and is making lots of money. Sometimes Sam goes along and one slushy day Emily said, “Oh dear, it’s BOSF weather again”. BOSF translated is “balls on Sam’s feet” weather.

Jerry had to sign up for career day at high school and decided to spend his day with Rev. Porter as he plans to be a minister. The trouble is, he lied about it and wrote on the form that he had already made the arrangements with Rev. Porter, which he hadn’t! Some minister!

I’m a physical wreck these days. Have water on the knee, a tumor in the uterus, Meneire’s disease, and yesterday was violently ill with a drug reaction (I think). Sang at Kenmore this morning and almost didn’t make it (dizzy). Jerry has a beautiful new black top hat.

July 7, 1974

We now live in a beautiful house in Dayton. Business is good, hiring people all the time.

Nov. 2, 1975

Business rotten. FNCB cancelled letter of credit. Cut down Walnut tree.