



Billie Enid
Rodabaugh

Book of Memories

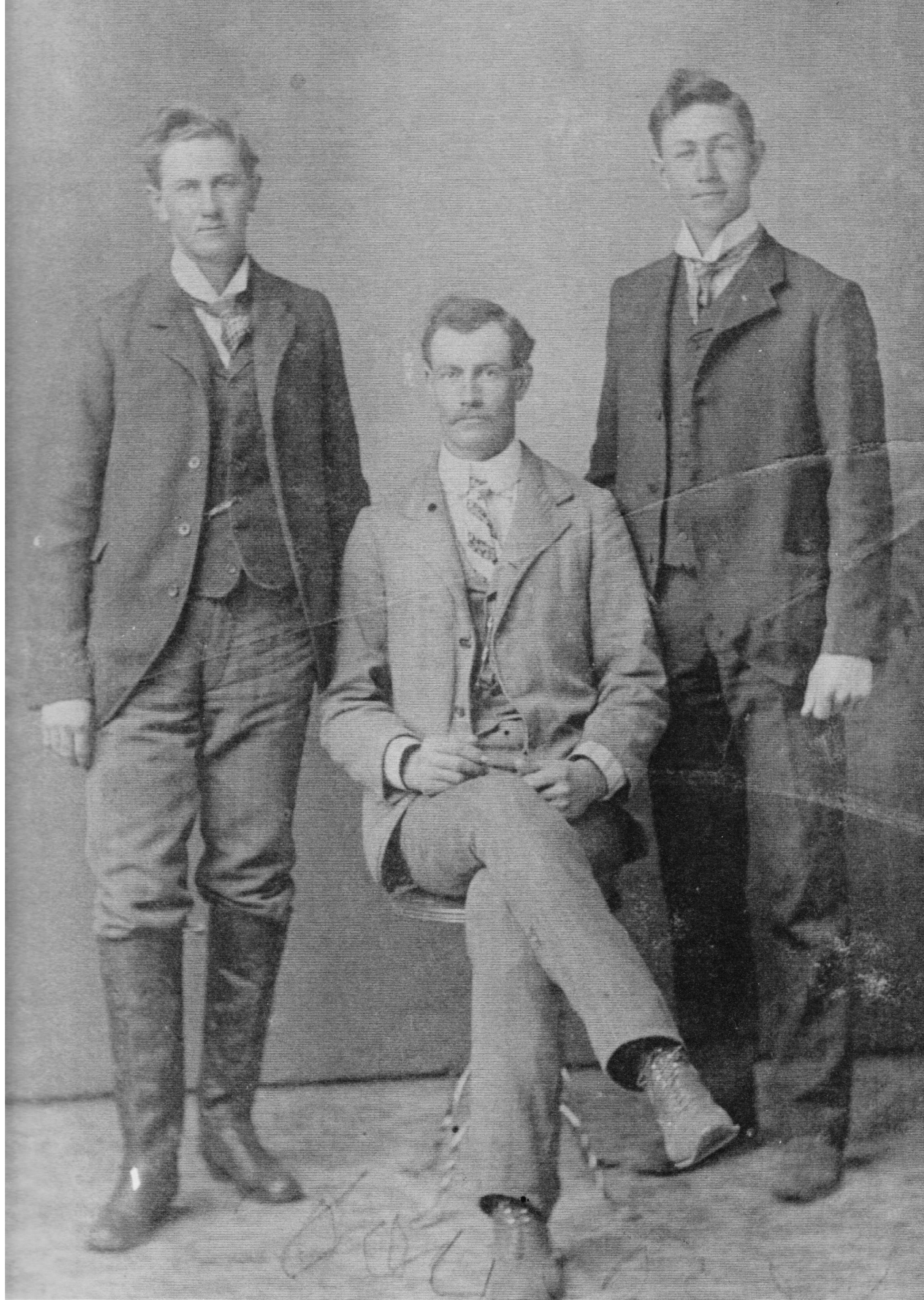
Presented Christmas, 1997,
in honor of her 80th birthday
on November 3, 1997



Ancestors

**Abraham Rodabaugh
& Sarah Coleman
Rodabaugh**

**Parents of
William Henry
Rodabaugh,
Billie's father**



William Henry Rodabaugh (father)

John Rodabaugh (uncle)
(Taken in the 1790s)

Ed Rodabaugh (uncle)



Great-grandparents

William Reddick

and

Matilda Creager

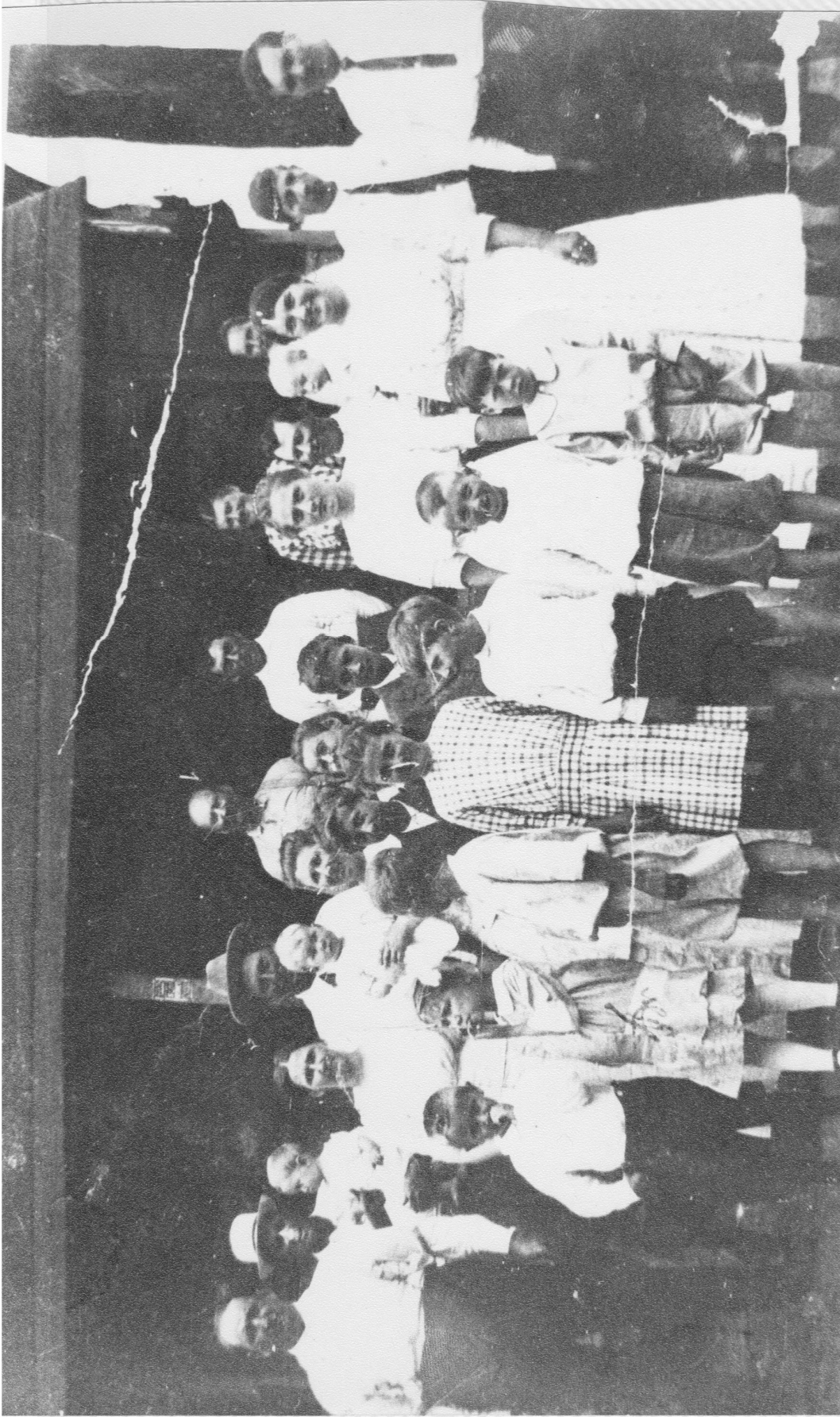
parents of

Hanna Reddick,
the mother of
Billie's mother

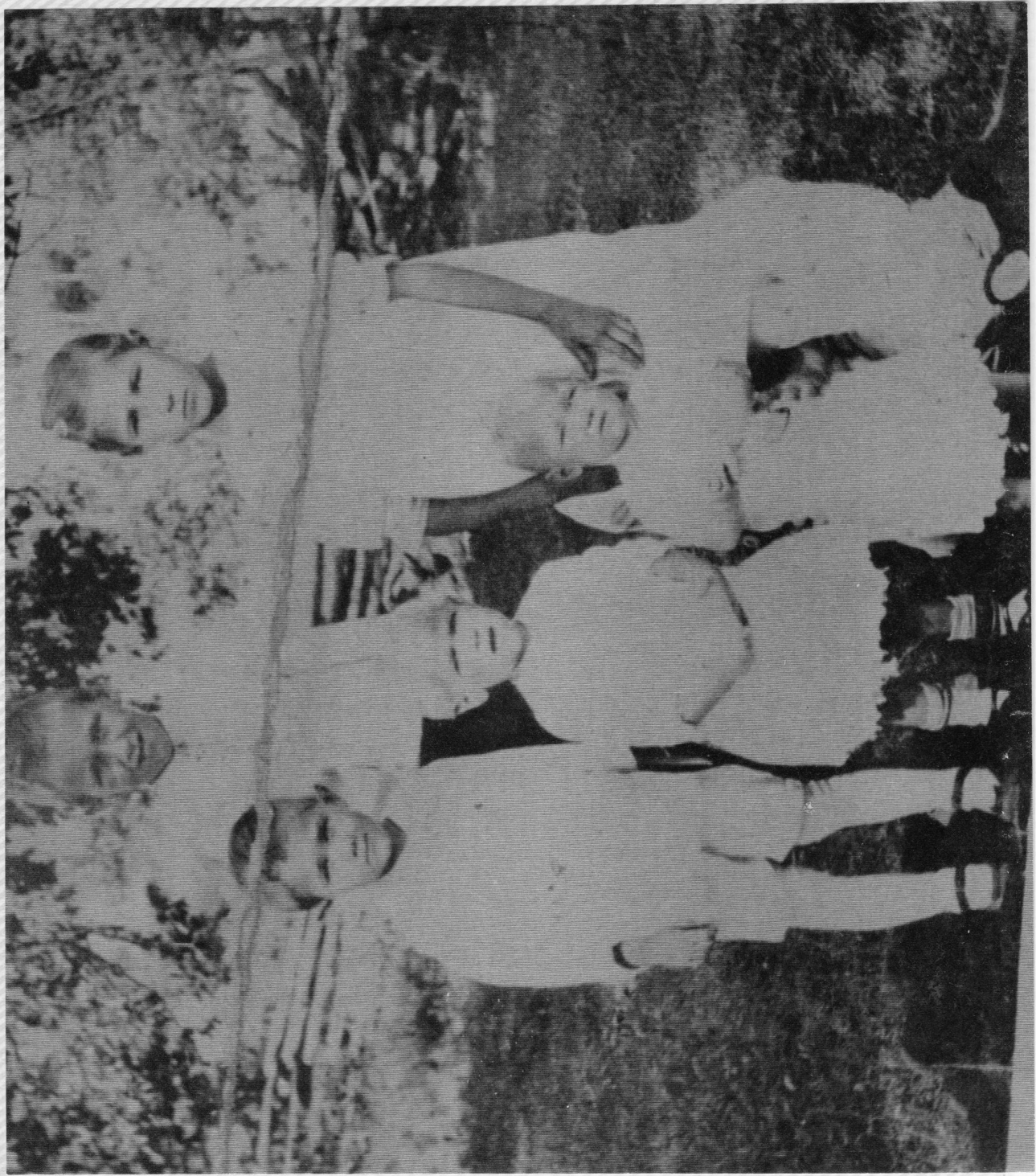




Hanna Reddick, wife of Walter Jordan. Walter and Hanna were the parent's of Billie's Mom.



The Jordan clan. At the far left is Billie's uncle, Leslie Jordan. Next to him is Billie's father, William Henry Rodabaugh, holding Billie's brother Walter. Her mother, Lena Leota Jordan, is next to William and Walter. Directly below Lena is Billie's brother Sylvan and her sister Golda. The man in the center, on the far left of the back row, is probably Walter Jordan, and his wife Hanna Reddick is perhaps the woman just below Walter's left shoulder. Billie's aunt Edna is below Walter's right shoulder.



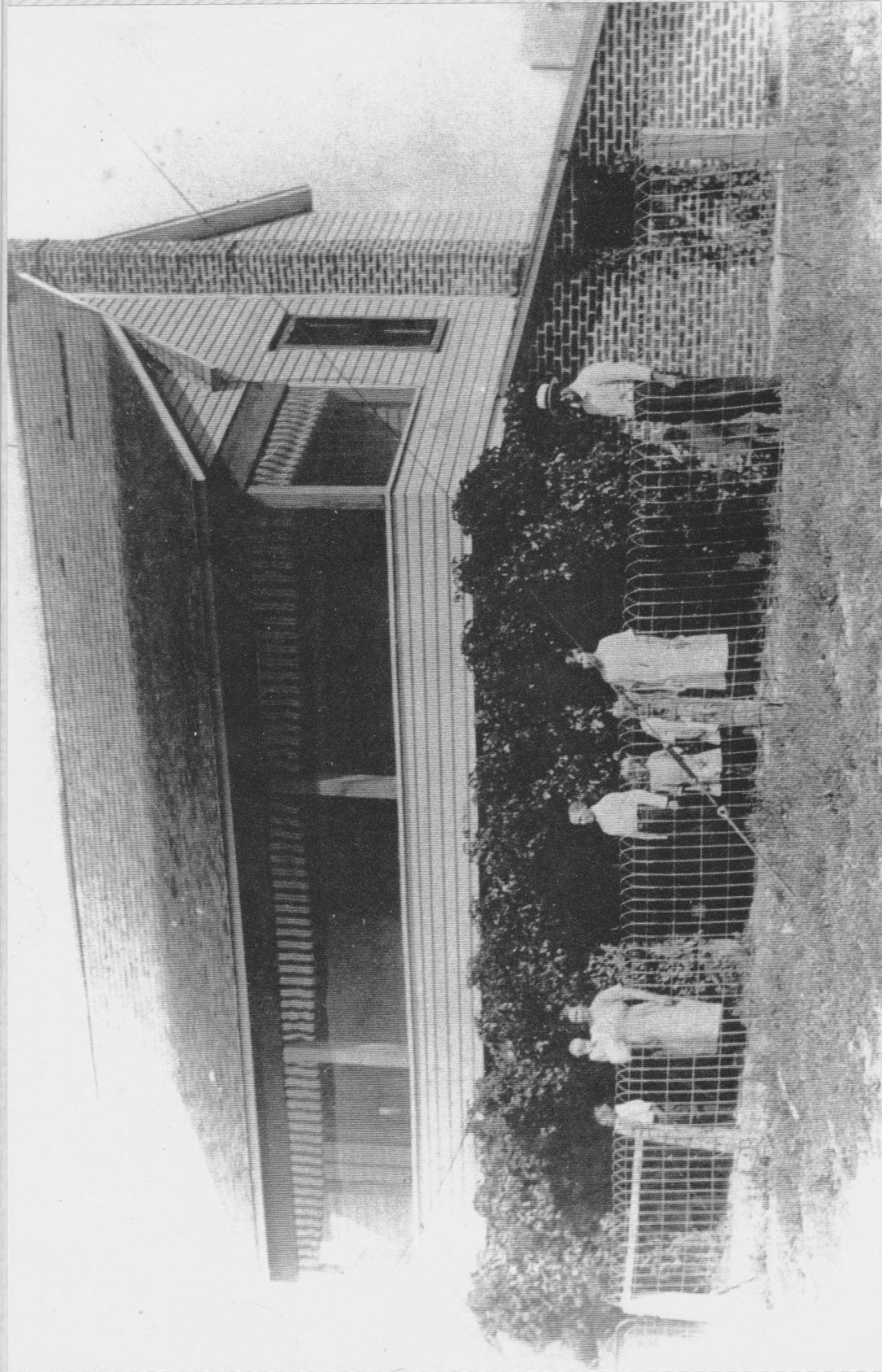
Billie was born in Osceola, Missouri on November 3, 1917. Her birth certificate says "Willie Enid Rodabaugh." She was always known in her parent's family as "Willie," but when she was an adult others began to call her "Billie."

She lived in Missouri for the first few years of her life.

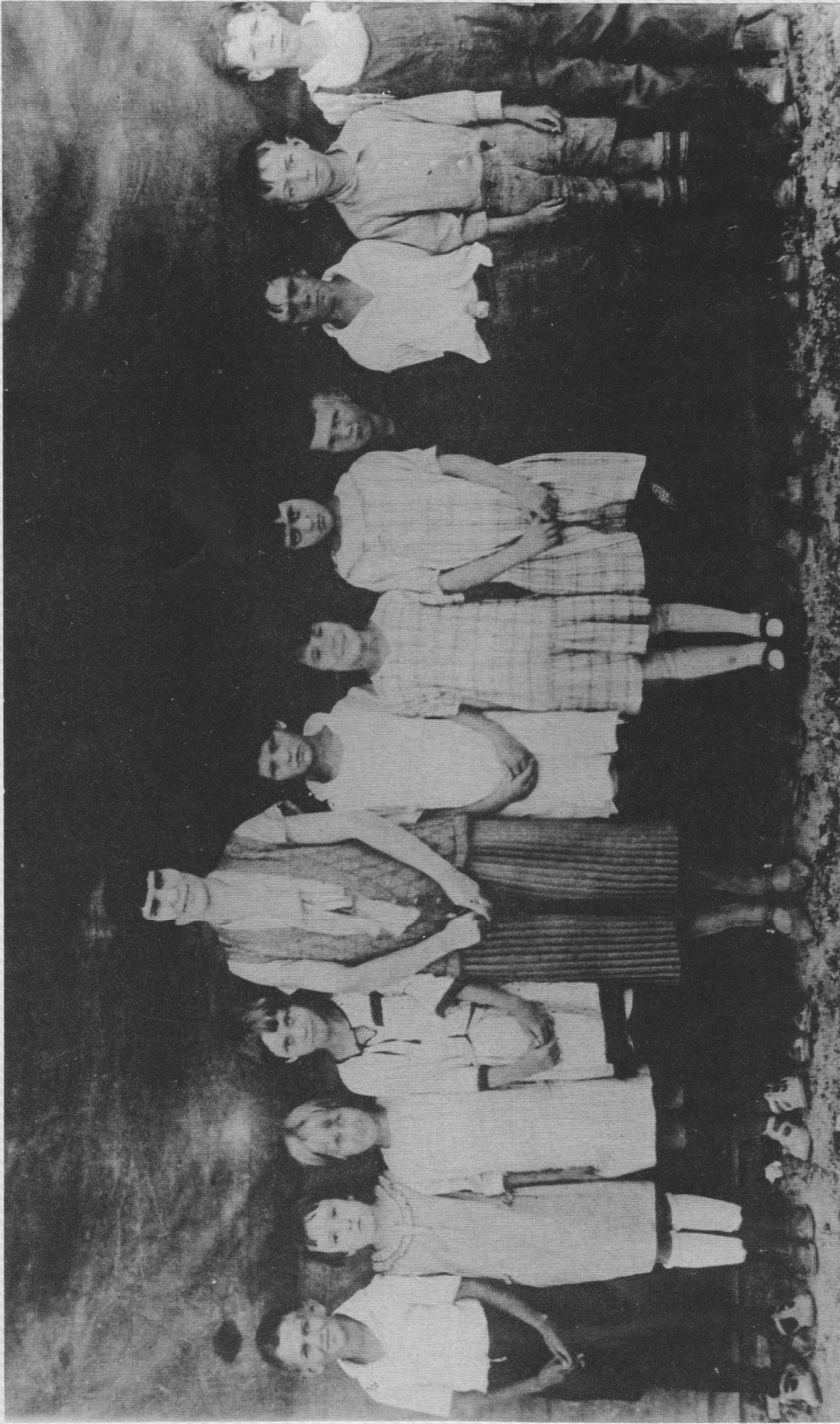
This picture, from the Missouri period, shows Billie (small girl in lower right) with her brothers and sisters, Sylvan and Golda (top row), and Walter and Evelyn (bottom row).



William and Lena Rodabaugh moved from Missouri to the Nebraska Sandhills in 1919. Billie began school in Thedford, Nebraska. Here she is (on the right) with her brother Walter and her sister Evelyn, in front of their house in Thedford.



William and Lena had a house in the town of Thedford, and William ran a general store. But they also had a dry-land farm north of town where the family spent the summers. A sod house was on the farm. Here is a picture of the Thedford house. In front, left to right, are Walter, Lena holding Bonnie, Sylvan, Evelyn, Willie(behind the fencepost), Golda, and Hank (Junior) next to father William.



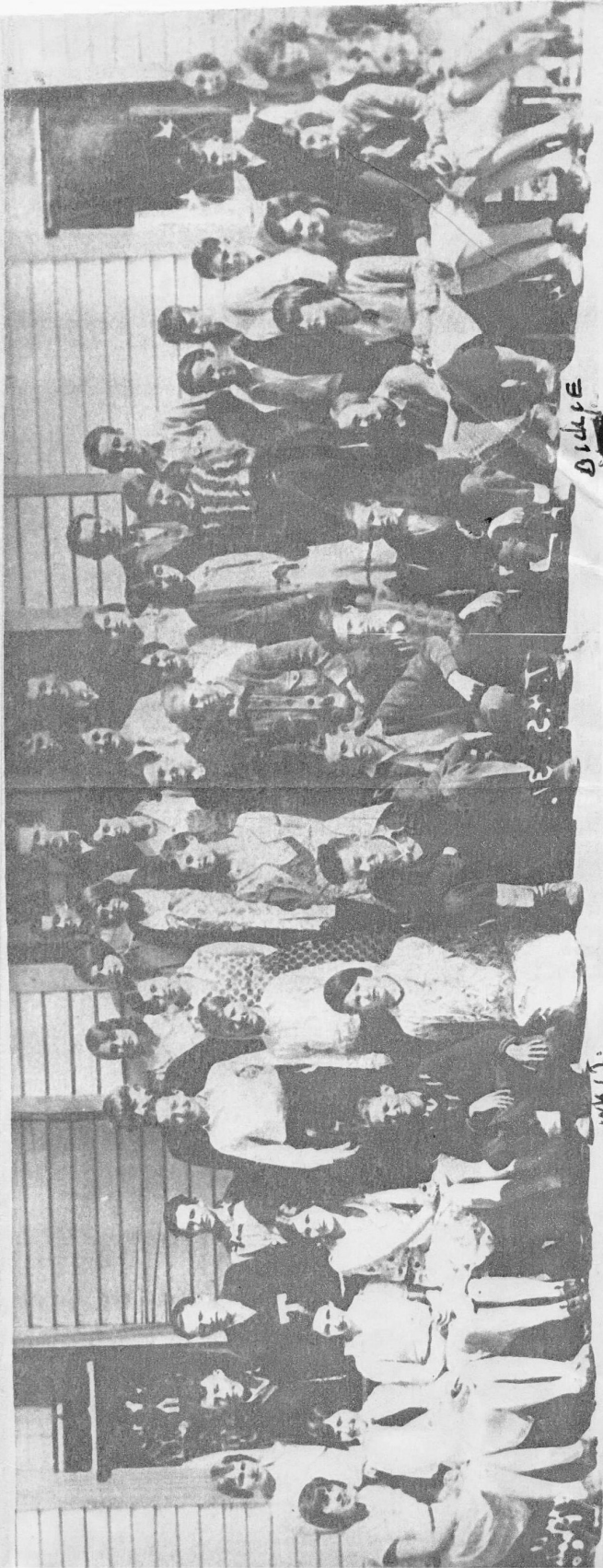
5-6?
Billie's grade school class in 1922-23 (combined third and fourth grades). Walter Rodabaugh, Bonnie Campau, Billie Rodabaugh, Olive Adams, Mabel Lowe (teacher), Josie Nicholson, Gintrude DeBeer, Valier Stevenson, ? Sornogle, Dale Thompson, Jack Doyle, Ralph DeBeer (l. to r.)



Billie, about ten years old, in front of the Thedford house.



Billie, school picture.



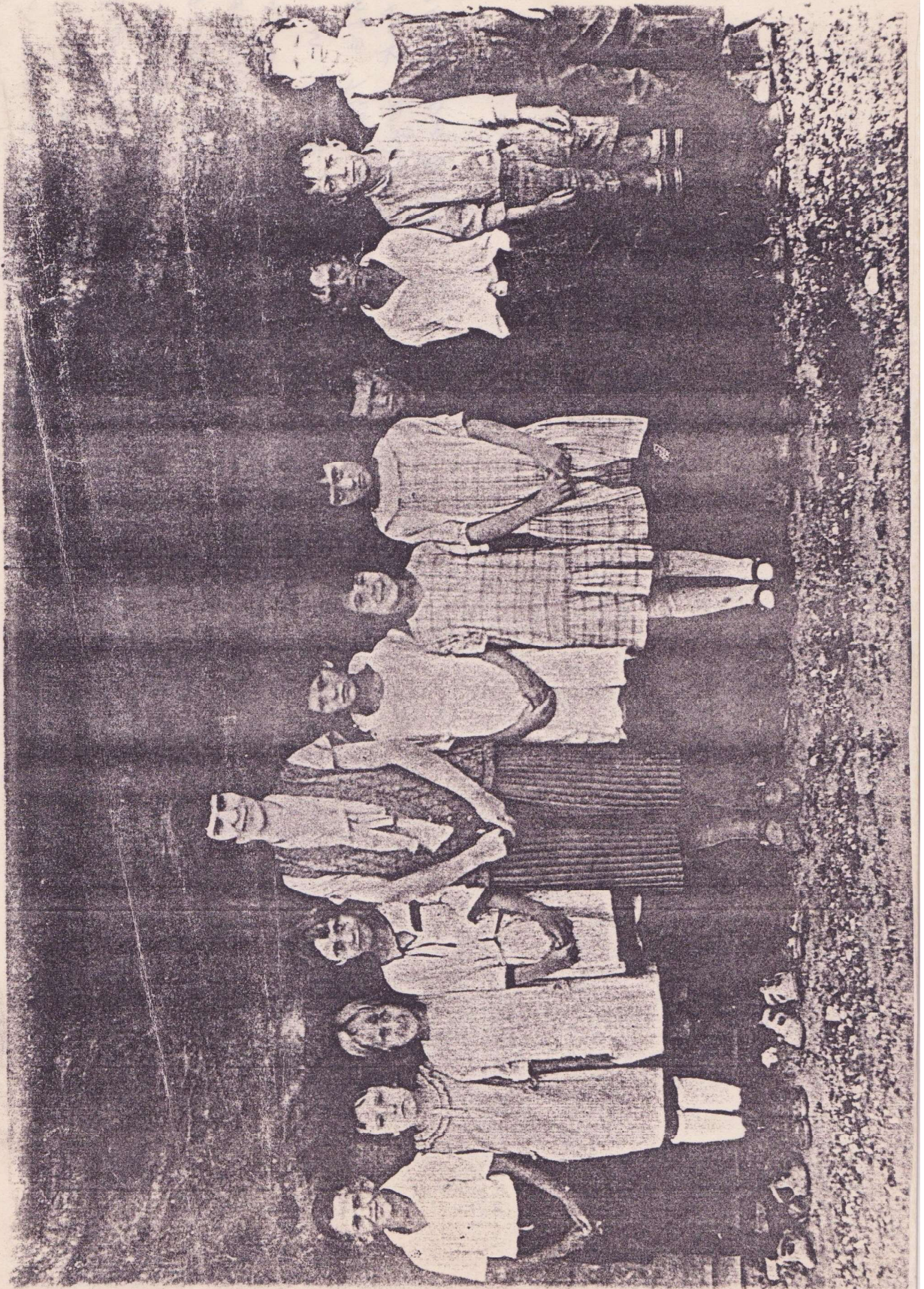
DILLIE

WALTY.



Miss Wood's room at the Theford grade school in 1928. Counter-clockwise, beginning with the girl to the left of the teacher: Pat Steen, Miss Woods, ??, Valier Stevenson, Ethel Treat, Helen Claybaugh, Jack Ritter, Derrell Peel, Dale Thompson, Gerald Lowery, Keith Ogle, Denzel Barth, Bonnie Campau, Lela Coffman, Agnes O'Neill, Billie Rodabaugh

3 rd and 4 th grade



Thomas County



Billie
graduates
from
eighth
grade

Willie Rodabaugh

of District No. 4, Thomas County, Nebraska, has completed the Course of Study covering the work of eight years in the Common Branches required by Law to be taught in the Public Schools of the State, and is therefore entitled to this



DIPL OMA

In Witness Whereof, My signature is hereunto attached.

Given at Thedford, Nebraska, this 14th day of May A.D. 1930



Perhaps a picture of the sod house on the farm north of Theedford.



Billie's early years at Thedford High School. Perhaps 1932. She is second from the left in the top row.



Some of Billie's high school teachers. One of her favorite teachers was the man with the glasses. She remembers that he had eczema, and scratched himself all the time!



High school buddies. Christie H., Jessie M., Virginia W., Billie R. and Willeta B., taken at Sanderson's house, in 1933-34.



Graduation from Thedford High School in 1934. Billie is in the top row, second from right.



Billie's parents, William Henry Rodabaugh and Lena Leota Jordan, in Thedford.



Billie graduated at the height of the depression. After high school she took a temporary government job in Thedford that had been set up to help with unemployment in Thomas County. She worked at this job for two years, two days a week. In 1937 she and her friend Lillas left Thedford. They stayed in western Nebraska, in Scotsbluff. She got a job in a cafe by saying that she had previous work experience in restaurants. After seven months she returned to Thedford, then went to Mitchell, Nebraska, where she worked in another cafe for the summer, and dated a fellow who worked in the telegraph office. Her brother Sylvan got a job on a dude ranch in Colorado, so Billie and Lillas got a ride to Cody with a lady who charged them all the money they had for the ride. Billie and Lillas couldn't get jobs in Cody, Wyoming, so they went to Sheridan, Wyoming, where Lillas had an aunt. Billie then went back to Cody and worked on Nichols Ranch (a dude ranch) for two summers, mostly working as a maid. When she was back in Thedford Billie heard that Red Harvey had a job for her at the cafe east of Broken Bow. It was at the Broken Bow cafe that she first got to know O. K. Luther, who she would later marry (she had seen him when she was still in high school, when he visited Thedford for a graduation). Billie only worked at Red's cafe in Broken Bow for a short while, then moved to Ogallala and worked at a hotel and cafe there (O.K. was on a construction job at the Ogallala dam). In 1940-41 she attended business college in Grand Island.

While Billie was travelling and working, her parents sold the farm in Thedford and moved to a log cabin in Twin Falls, Idaho.



Billie, about the time she was in business college.



In 1941 Billie accepted a secretarial position with the War Production Board in Washington, D.C. When she left for Washington she didn't think that O.K. wanted to pursue the relationship. By the spring of 1942, however she had an engagement ring from him and was making plans to return leave the Washington job and return to Nebraska. The documents on the next few pages are part of her work record for the War Production Board. It shows her salary increasing from \$1260 to \$1440.

A T E	THIS ADVICE	FORM GA-39 (3-2)
	5-12-42	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WAR PRODUCTION BOARD
OATH OF OFFICE		ADVICE OF PERSONNEL ACTION

To: — EMPLOYEE NO.

Rodabaugh, Billie E.

THIS ADVICE NOTIFIES YOU THAT THE WAR PRODUCTION BOARD HAS TAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTION WITH REGARD TO YOUR EMPLOYMENT.

NATURE OF ACTION

Change in Status and Intra-Division Transfer

EFFECTIVE DATE May 1, 1942

	FROM :	TO :
Position	Under Clerk Typist	Junior Clerk Typist
Grade & Salary C.S.C. No.	CAF-1, \$1260	CAF-2, \$1440
Office		
Division	Materials Division	Materials Division
Branch	Office of Administrative Assistant	Internal Services Section Mail and Files Unit
Section		
Headquarters	Washington, D. C.	Washington, D. C.
Departmental or Field	Departmental	Departmental

REMARKS:

Under this appointment you are subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Retirement Act as amended, and accordingly 3 1/2% will be deducted from your basic salary for deposit to your credit in the Retirement Fund.

This appointment is for such time as your services may be required and funds are available therefor.

The first six months of service under this appointment shall be a trial period, satisfactory completion of which shall be considered part of the entrance examination. If conduct or capacity at any time during this period is not satisfactory, the appointment may be terminated.

This appointment is subject to the condition that a character investigation, yet to be made, will be satisfactory. If unsatisfactory, the appointment will be terminated.

By direction of the Administrative Officer

William E. Hargrave

DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

William E. Hargrave

EMPLOYING OFFICER

CAUTION: THIS LETTER, WHILE EVIDENCING AN OFFICIAL ACTION AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE SHOWN, IS NOT TO BE ACCEPTED AS AN OFFICIAL CREDENTIAL.

OFFICE OF PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Whom It May Concern

DATE: August 10, 1942

FROM: Nelle Q. Hargrave
Acting Chief, Internal Services

SUBJECT:

Billie Rodabaugh has been a typist in the Mail and Files Unit, Materials Division of War Production Board since February 16, 1942. She has also assisted in routing mail.

She is an exceptionally willing and conscientious worker. Her work is neat and accurate. She has a very pleasant personality and is able to get along with her fellow workers.

Nelle Q. Hargrave
Nelle Q. Hargrave



Billie, about the time she was in Washington, D. C.



Billie in Washington. In the picture with the umbrella she is with her friend Earline and the man Earline later married (but who Billie dated first). In the other picture she is with a Mr. Barber, who used to take her out to a fish dinner each week.



Dear Bill:

You had better sit down when you start reading this. The shock may be too great. Isn't it awful the way I write letters? O.K. and Gerald both have been after me all week to write, but you know me.

I've been cleaning house all week. Seems like that's all I get done, and it still isn't clean. I'll still be doing it when I'm old and grey, I suppose. Oh me.

We sure had fun while we were in California. Pitched a bitch, and how. You can imagine Herb and Don, and Lillas thrown in. Wow! The first night we went down to a night club on Alvarez Street. Everything Mexican, except I don't remember much about it. Isn't that bad? But I was trying to try all the mixed drinks on the list, and I found I couldn't take it. Don and I kept dancing all the time and on every corner I would fall down. Then the Mex orchestra stopped playing to get a drink, and Herb, Lil, and I proceeded to the bandstand to make some music. They sure got back up there in a hurry. I guess it was terrible.

We went to the Trianon Saturday night and danced to Bob Crosby. That was really swell. Don and Gerald got lousy, but Herb and I were enjoying the music too much. I got his autograph too. Leave it to me.

How are you making it, kid? It seems like you've been there about two years now. Do you like it? We heard you were going to join an ambulance corps. Are you still thinking about it? It would sure be exciting. Kinda dangerous, though.

We're going down to G.I. this week to see the College. I'd sure like to get it straightened out. I don't want to have trouble with them though, cause if Gerald goes to the army, I'm going to take Civil Service. I may be seeing you some of these days.

How is Katherine getting along. Tell her hello for me.

Well, kid, it's dinner time again, so I guess I better feed those two Luther men. We've sure been having swell weather.

Take it easy, Bill, and write. Sooner than I did, too. I'm sorry I didn't send you a Xmas card, but don't feel bad. Nobody else got one from us, either.

Keep your nose clean.

Lotsa Love,

Sonty

P.S. Excuse the lousy typing. First time in 4 months, I think.

A letter from Sonty (Sonia Sontaman, who later married Gerald Luther) to Billie in Washington.

Burbank, Calif.
April 29, 1942.

Dearest Billie --

Perhaps I should break the monotony of things and drop you a few lines. We are still holding down our jobs. Sylvie worked last Sunday and he thinks he will have to work this Sunday. I didn't get to work Sunday so I just left Burbank about eleven o'clock and ran around till four o'clock Monday morning. I was down to Uncle Charlies during Sunday afternoon but there wasn't anybody home.

In the last letter from Mom she said that she thought that you had changed your mind about your vacation. I imagine it was quite a disappointment to her and probably to you also. (One to many s's in the above word) Why don't you arrange to come out here the last part of July and go back with us. We are quite sure of going back about the twenty-first.

I went down and saw Sonty & Gerald also Don and his wife the day after we received your letter. She seemed glad to see someone she knew. Don had a job with Douglas aircraft but Gerald hadn't been able to get in yet. I guess we will have to drop down and see how they are coming. We could really have a swell time some night if we could get together and go on a good party because they seem to favor the idea quite readily when we suggested it. But they said they wanted to work a little first because they were damn near-----well---broke, resulting from all the phone calls and telegrams they kept sending and receiving from Luther and the draft boards.

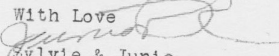
The folks found a place they liked quite well at Twin so they wrote and told us about it and wanted to know if we thought it was a wise thing to do instead of paying rent all their life. We answered that it was O. K. with us so I guess they closed the deal and we made the down payment for them. They were given notice that the owner wanted the place in which they were living and in trying to find another place to rent they stumbled on to the one that they finally bought. I am glad for their sake because now they have a place that they can do what they want to with and they won't have to be moving all of the time. We left \$200 in the bank at Twin when we left Christmas for their use if they needed it. Then last week we sent them a draft for \$300., so I guess they are making out pretty good with what work Pop does and their chickens. I guess they paid around \$400 down on the place. I think its a five room house with one acre of land. They pay about \$15 a month including taxes and interest. We have \$400 in defense bonds. How much have you invested in bonds? I am trying to fill a defense stamp booklet but it is going rather slow at the present time.

I guess Bonnie will be out here in a month or sooner. She really is planning on it and we won't disappoint her.

We have already sent her the money for graduation and her trip out here.

I have been taking quite a few pictures recently. I bought an Eastman Kodak about two months ago. Its the type that folds up into a small case. It is equipped for taking time exposures and flash pictures.

Its almost three o'clock so I will have to close this and eat -- then go to work for another eight hours or put in my time I should say. Don't wait as long as I did to answer. I owe Walt & Goldie a letter also but one a day is my limit.

With Love

Sylvie & Junie

Letters from Sylvan and Hank (Junior) to Billie while she was in Washington and they were in California. Following these are three of the dozens of letters that she and O.K. exchanged while she was in Washington and O.K. was working in Nebraska.

Burbank, Calif.
May 19, 1942.

Dearest Billie:

I shouldn't have neglected to write for so long but it just seems that I couldn't get around to it. Bonnie will be out this week if every thing goes as it is planned. Don't know what day exactly. She will probably be disappointed in her trip and California -- I know I slightly was because it isn't any better than any other place and not as good as some that I know of. But we are out here so I imagine that will be the chief attraction for her and we can show her a good time. You should be out here while she is here -- perhaps you will be because I don't know when she will go back or whether she will before we do. Uncle Charlies will probably want her to stay a week or so with them. We could get her employment here at about eighteen hundred per year. Would that beat Civil Service? On either position it probably wouldn't hold out when the War is over. So I think the one at which she could make the most would be the best. ---- Of course I am not trying to plan anyones life, it is entirely up to her as far as I am concerned as to what she wants to do and who she wants to be with.

The very idea, Billie, of making a date an then ditching it and being so utterly thoughtless about what the poor boy did or his feelings toward you after he realize that he had been stood up. You know if you were a boy and were ditched a time or two your feelings would be more considerate toward one who would offer to take you out. The next day I suppose you were mushy, mushy nice to him an he forgave you after you had fed him a line about why you couldn't make it. But after all he still feels quite humiliated over the fact that he thought he could trust you and then you so thoughtlessly forgot about him. I imagine that the date that night was all that helped him pull through his days work and then after being disappointed he probably vowed never to trust any of the opposite sex again. But some day he will be mulling around the same place again waiting for someone to show up and if its you he will probably be disappointed again. Believe me if I am ditched purposely by some girl I just want to make one more date with her and then I will be the missing person. Enough for that but just for my sake you should be more considerate about standing anyone up and realize how you would feel if you were the one being fed a line. Or have you? If this war keeps up the girls will be chasing the men in stead vice versa. They will be almost as bad as Brenda and Cobina. Maybe worse!!!!!!

An -- a new page -- I mustn't get this one so cluttered up with my emotional feelings.

The folks seemed to be real pleased with the place that we bought for them. We will get to see it in July if they don't start rationing gas before then on the Pacific coast. I was to the same dance three Sundays straight now. The first two were swell and I had a good time. The last one seemed to have panned out as far as I was concerned or I wasn't in the mood to have a good time -- it was one or the other. Sylvie said it was alright but I had to disagree with him as usual. I think there were two many older people at the dance -- that is older than I am -- and I thought the biggest percent were exceedingly tall or maybe I just wasn't seeing straight or my vision wasn't perfect. Now don't get any ideas about why I couldn't see because every thing was under perfect control -- including Sylvie -- I think!!!!!! But something was wrong -- I still insist the dance wasn't as good as it should have been. But it is the best dance we have found in L. A. and we have been to practically all of them. Sylvie went with one girl for three Sundays straight not long ago but then --- well --- well they quit. Ah -- love at first sight and then after second it gradually dulled --- and then after the third it went clear out -- so that's the way it goes. I was practically drug out on the floor by a girl last Sunday night. I had danced with her before that night -- I mean the week before -- She was very very nice but I found out the week before that she was planning on being married in the near future so why should I meddle around and make her boy friend jealous -- or maybe that's what she wanted -- but any way I still insist that I was in very low spirits. But she did help considerably -- she couldn't quite realize why I hadn't ask her to dance tho -- but I wasn't dancing with any one --- much --- they were too tall so I say or anyway that's the way they looked to me. Good God this page is almost as bad as the first; perhaps worse. Your Opinion it? How is you leave coming out? Do you think you will get it?

They just rolled out a B-17 Flying Fortress Bomber from the Vega plant; it is just a block from our back yard. It is the first they have turned out of this type of plane. Really a big one; practically ready to take off. We are still working on the Yippies. The work is getting rather monotonous. Any work does after so long a time unless you like it exceptionally well.

I want to go downtown today so I guess I had better taper this letter down to a closing point and call it good for this time. Write or better yet come out.

I would like to have a good picture of you so why don't you send me one.

Love
Sylvie
Junior

"We Sell for Less"



Luther Oil Company

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GLOBE OILS and GREASES
BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA

Sunday 32-

Dearst Billie last tuesday I took a wife to Lincoln, Omaha and down as far as talk dirty I felt I ought had to get away for a few days after the kids left home friday and was I be surprised, two letters from some one that I really over expected, is here from again, do you realize it had been two weeks since you must have received my last letter, and now another. I think you must have that now the new boy friend than you that you did to neglect me like you did, I suppose I can expect a little more consideration now any way until a new comes along, you see I have quite commenced to realize again that to have a good looking boy friend hanging around one that can handle and will buy you just things entertain you. Oh well, such is life I guess well any way thanks for the check that makes 50⁰⁰ and 20⁰⁰

Your Friendly Globe Neighbor

1071 90⁰⁰ leaving only a little left

"We Sell for Less"



Luther Oil Company

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GLOBE OILS and GREASES
BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA

16⁰⁰ to square us up that is in dollars & cents glad to hear you have a prospect of getting money to the middle next even tho it is very slight you told me some time ago you had one when you coming I wrote and ask you when you would have 2 weeks but you never received. find an and let me know and we will try and figure out some thing I intend to go but to last form where the kids are for a visit in May or June Mildred & Iris are still in hospital a shaking quite a visit for them, it is snowing again news now report in deep there hasn't been a bit of wind all winter every snow lay just like a carpet, well honey don't forget to write me you will never know how tickled I am to get each letter and another thing I love you and always

Your Friendly Globe Neighbor

no ever comes



Luther Oil Company

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GLOBE OILS and GREASES
BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA

Monday

Dearst Billie I wrote you yesterday and am sure
again today the reason is I want to take back all
of the mess things I have that about you late
for not writing I was gone a few days and here
at the office they put my mail in a drawer a
the big desk and I looked it over did not dig
deep enough and missed the letter with the
valentine and the one you wrote before that or
two in all so if you think I was stringing you
my letters it was because I was not getting your
and I am terribly sorry, if there is any one in
the world that I would write to at least one
after I had reason to believe they had lost

Your Friendly Globe Neighbor



Luther Oil Company

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GLOBE OILS and GREASES
BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA

interest in writing to me it is you you know
honey we have come a long way together, haven't
we take one of these last letters that about some
girk getting transferred to the middle west so
Billie I want you to put in an application to
be transferred within the hour from the time
you get this letter sometimes I get so nervous
for you I feel like just heading west and never
stopping until I see you Frank was in town
last night and today just left B of K and Grand Court
came to town you ask about the folks Bess is
getting better every day since his operation you would
know him Mamma and I'll see both feeling
fine in fact all of the sick folks are on their
feet again it is terrible around here

Your Friendly Globe Neighbor

"We Sell for Less"



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GLOBE OILS and GREASES
BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA

Tuesday

Dearst Billie I received both of your letters they
came together for which I was thankful for. I
did hope you can get transferred Washington
is just to damn far away you also spoke about
getting another job for some money but if you
do you will not be able to get transferred that
'will open' to any way of thinking that is more
important than the extra money do you
I would like to go to California as soon as I get
done or done which I should be by the middle
of May is you apply for your vacation the last
of May or the first of June just whichever
you can and it will be alright want that
see heart get to be together for two whole

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"We Sell for Less"



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BROKEN BOW, NEBRASKA

well it dont seem possible I to get to working
what you look like will have to start off on
of next week got a letter from the kids they are
sing watched. 53 boys left here today for the
Army every month there are about that many go
really there isnt any unmarried men around
here any more, you know I feel more contented
since I have something to look forward to feel more
like working and getting something done
really honey I did not realize how much I had
become attached to you missed you terribly at first
but that I would get over it but instead I get
worse any way honey I love you lots and lots
now write me a big messy letter as soon as
you get this a card

Your Friendly Globe Neighbor



Billie and her father, in Idaho, during a break from the Washington job, in 1942



With her brother Kenneth in front of the log house that her parents owned in Idaho. 1942. Kenneth was 16.



Billie with her father and (below) with her sister Evelyn.





Billie and her mother, Lena.



Billie's sister and brother, Bonnie and Hank, about 1942.



The summer of '42. Billie and her brother Sylvan. Billie went to California with O.K., Frank Holland, Marie Nelson, and Sonty in the summer.



Billie's uncle Charlie Rodabaugh owned part of an oil field. In the summer of '42 Billie visited him. Above, she is with her brother Sylvan, and Luella, Helen, and Fritz, daughters of her uncle Charlie.

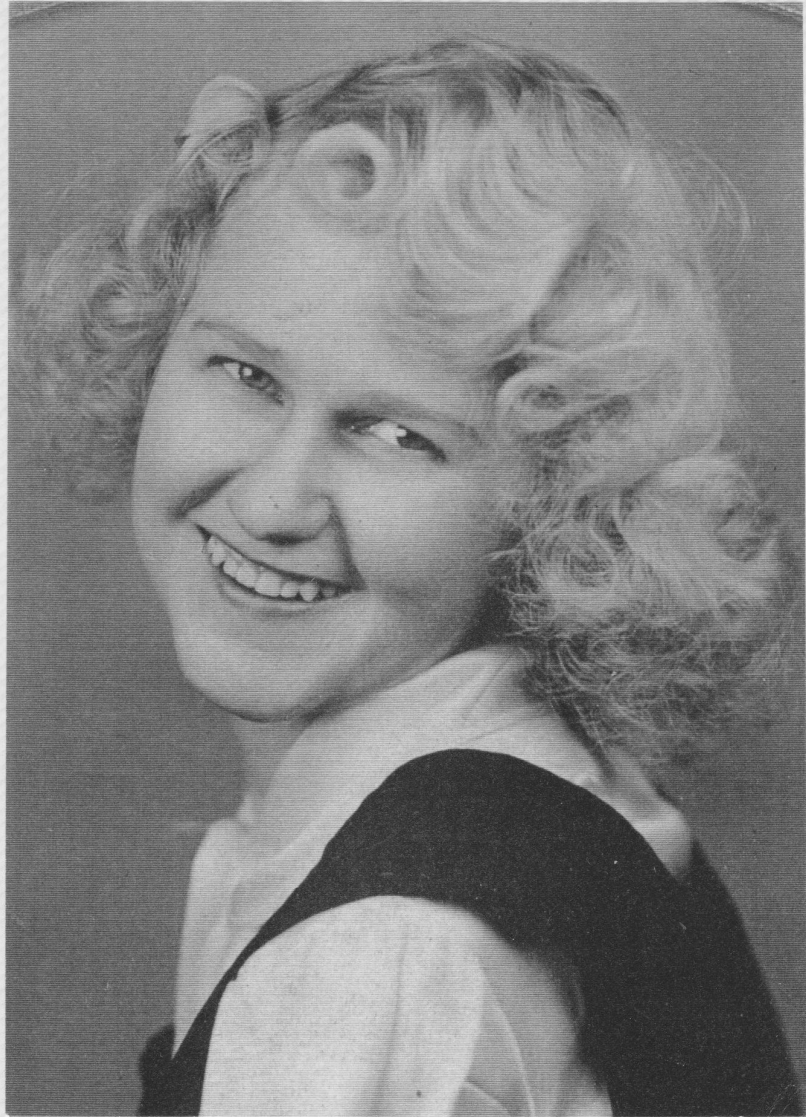




Billie in California in 1942.



Billie with her cousin
Luella Rodabaugh.



Billie's sister Bonnie. In Bonnie's 1942 letter to Billie (right) she is talking about the man she would later marry, Roy May.

Twin Falls, Idaho
Nov. 25, 1942

Dearest Willie,

From the first glance at Kenny's letter you would think he was writing a poem of some kind I read it last nite when I came home and like to died laughing. (Of course he didn't know anything about it.)

Well as Mom told you, I worked for about a week and a half ~~down at~~ Swifts picking chickens I just wanted to get a little money so I could fix my hope chest up this week--WHY?--Because there isn't any sence in waiting till Xmas to get married I love him Willie With All My Heart and the only way either one of us will be satisfied is to get married. Willie--do you know what it's like to half to leave a guy at your door when you don't want to--I want to be with him all the time-- I just can't be without him and I can't wait until Xmas to get married. We are planning pretty strongly on either Sat. or Sunday. (to be the set date) Roy may not be a millionare as far as money goes but we've got love and he's got ambitions. Well that's enough of that--you should know how I fell by this time.

Well Evelyn just tried to read my letter and I told her that this was one letter that not even she could read.

Well you know I should close this letter and get to work on my hope chest or I'll never get it done.

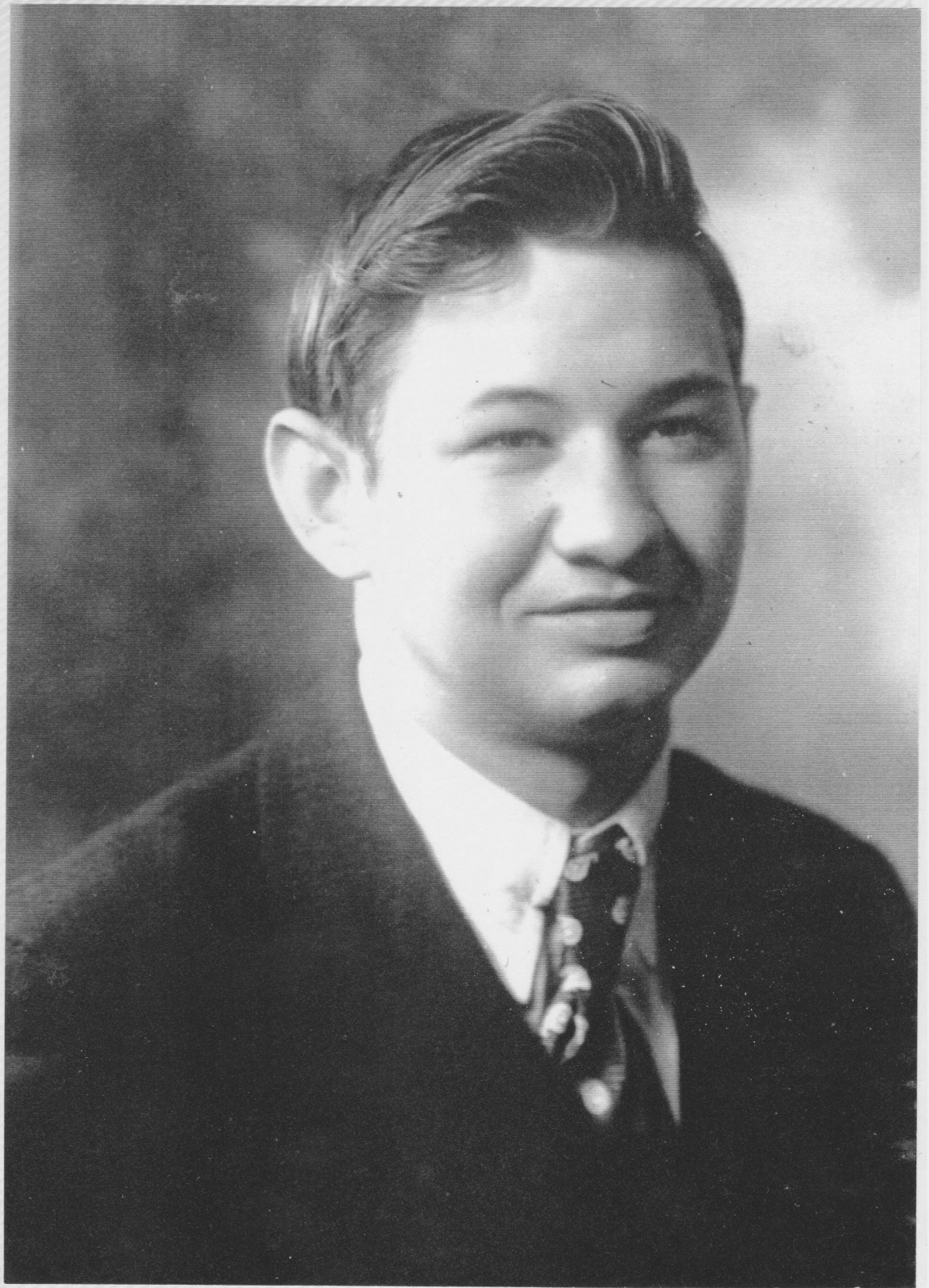
Why did you want me to wait till Xmas--Did you want to discourage me or tell me something for my own good--Huh---

Signing off for now

Bye

Love

Bonnie



Billie's brother Kenneth, and (at the right) a letter from him.

Twin Falls, Idaho.
November 24, 1942.

Dear Willie,

I seem to be getting along all right since Juny left the car here. There isn't much in Twin Falls to go to though. I had to go get the ration card for the gasoline today because Mom was working and the ration board closed before Mom got off work.

Do you have to wait till christ-mas to come? What are you working at? You don't have to answer that last question, Mom did. My ribbon ran out in the middle of that sentence.

I wrote to Boise to get me a job after school hours, but I haven't heard from it. I got to get in on this big money, I'm nearly broke.

I believe Bonnie is going to get "Married" before you do, the way it looks now. She's gone now. Probably went to ashow with Roy.

Got my room all fixed up before this cold weather came. Its been raining all week. It really came down at noon, today. The school is four blocks from town. ~~and~~ most of the kids walked up town and they sure looked like drowned rats when they got up town.--I had the car.

I got a two weeks vacation about the first of November so I don't gett but a 1 day vacation for Thanksgiving.

I wish I could write like Juny. Its really hard work for me to write a letter.

Guess I better quite writing and go to bed. Got to get up early in the morning 7:30.

Your loving brother

Kenneth Edward Rodabaugh

Barney + Gold are working
in a ranch at Harrison, Neb.

Trina Falls, Ida.

Apr. 4, 1944.

Dear Willie,
Guess you didn't get
my letter in time
to see Sylvan, he said
he got off the train
there about ten minutes.
He is in Tampa, Florida.
Bonnie June is at
Tacomb Wash. Her address
is Hotel Craft, Junior's
send us some things
the natives us to keep
time with when they.
Something like Tom -
Tom you know. Guess
you'll have to come
up and help Kenneth

with his lessons,
he is having a hard
time getting them.
He is taking Arpanatics
and Basic Mechanics
and they both take
Algebra and he didn't
have Algebra. Sylvan
had his picture taken
when he was home
as soon as I get
Kenneths will send
you one. Junior is
very disgusted about his
ratings. You should see
the verb he made up.
Guess this is all the
news. Love.

Mamma!

A letter
from Lena
to Billie.



Sylvan, was drafted in '43. During the Second World War he was a tail gunner on a bomber in the European theater.



Hank spent most of his war service in Puerto Rico.

ORND SERVICE SQUADRON
APO# 845 8 PM
New York, New York

9 January 1944.

My Dearest Billie ---

I shall try and improve this letter situation a wee bit by answering your letter which I received yesterday. I am glad to hear that you spent the New Year in a respectable sort of way. Oh you did didn't you???? After all you must remember Billie that drink is only one of the smallest vices into which a human being can tumble. I was rather "shocked" over that little episode concerning the woman and the razor blade. I take it that she wasn't one of those women that are always whispering sweet little "Nothin's doing" into your ear continually. Even with those kind those I sometimes (almost always) find that someone else had broken down those "tirades of speech" long before I came along. What fickle things women usually turn out to be!!!!

I know you wouldn't believe it Billie but I really have been living a very quite life the past week. I have refrained from going into town so therefore I have been on the up and up right along. Tonite I am going to town and while I am there I shall probably go AWOL (You know what that means -- After Women or Liquor). After all Billie I must admitt that men are rather weaklings. Just to sum it all up I think that there is a lot of truth in that little ditty that runs like this:

Breathes there a man
With soul so sad
Who never turned his hear
And said---
HM!!! Not Bad!!!!

Movies come and movies go but I always sit here and wait and wait and wait. Lately several good ones have come this way. These were "Stagedoor Canteen", "Strange death of Hitler", "Affairs of Martha" and "Son of Dracula". When I arrived here I was idle for quite so time except for detail work. I was assigned to a job but (((((Do you see that ink blot in the first paragraph??? One of the fellows I work with just filled his pen and a drop of ink plummeted into the air and fell to earth ---- on my letter. He said for me to tell you that some "jerk" just threw ink on my letter.)))))) now to return to my original thought ---- it wasn't the kind of position for which I had been trained. In fact if it had been cars instead of airplanes I would have thought that I was running the Gas Station that you and I talked about when I was in Nebraska and Swisher was about to go bankrupt. At the present time I am doing work which appears to be quite interesting so far. It varies considerable and altho its usually the same thing over and over its not always the same. I might say --- just to give an example --- It would compare to a job where I spent all my time kissing girls but each and every time I would kiss a different girl. Of course my work isn't any thing in that line but that might clarify what I tried to express. Maybe its best if we just leave it alone at this stage. I do like my work tho.

I spent the New Year in a very quiet way. In fact I started it by sleeping. Don't you think that that is a very appropriate way to begin it??? I done enough celebrating last year to last me for this one also. I wrote to Mom and let her know that you were spending it like a "good girl should". Considerate of me to do so eh????

Mom told me that Marty Anderson was wounded but he was recovering. I don't know when or where it occurred. Dariel Piel has been missing in action for quite some time, and about a year ago Vestie Steel was a Jap prisoner. I see by the paper that 27 Air Cadets who were attending gunnery school were killed in an accident at Kingman, Arizona. With that Air Cadet phrase inserted I guess I can rest assured that Sylvie is O. K. You probably know that he is at gunnery school at that base. I heard from him a few days ago.

Billie received dozens of humorous letters from the bored Hank. Two are on the following pages.

while if I had to acquire a wife and baby in order to arrange it????
I think that one step at a time would be about sufficient to keep me
busy without having the "lock, stock and barrel" all thrown in to
gether.

Mom rather hinted that Juanita was married so as she could secure
the soldiers allotment. I wonder if its true or whether she was trying
to ease the situation with me. If thats the case why about two more
days on my furlough time and I would have been the "victim". I know
that two reasons kept us from doing so (I know half of this is true
anyway) I wanted every thing but the marriage. She wanted the marriage
and nothing else. Maybe I should have convinced her of the old saying
of "You can't have your cake and eat it too". My letters really develop
into a lot of nonsense!!!!!!! So she says to me, "Listen soldier, this
won't be any GI inspection and you're not going to be any Inspecting Officer"
"She finally consented after I convinced her that an American soldier
never hear of the word, 'defeat'".

There comes a time in every man's life when he has exhausted his
suply of knowledge, news and "otherwise" and has to bring his letters
to an abrupt close. So this is it.

Love to All

Jenny
Jenny

P. S. Helen R. was married about a month ago. She married a Lt.
that had been in Australia for some time. He was returned to this
country (U.S.) and was assigned to one of the hospitals to recuperate.
Helen decided that while he was "under the weather" she might be able
to handle him so they were married. "Thats my opinion" His parents
objected to the marriage to a very great extent. But regardless of
this it took place anyway. They even went so far as to denounce Uncle
Charlie and his family in a very vulgar way. But love will out.
His parents reside at Pasadena, California. I hope the young couple
will live a very happy and properous married life, regardless of the
fact that the marriage had to take place in such abversed conditions.
It will be just another "mother-in-law" that will live up to the old
established "reputation". Luella, sister of the bride, informed the
undersigned of the intimate details of the above marriage.
Wow!!!! Some fight took place I guess-----verbally but it
almost turned into a different one!!!! Yes Marriage is a great
institution.

Jenny
Jenny (again)

63RD SERVICE SQUADRON
APO # 845, 8 PM
Miami, Florida

20 March 1944.

My Dearest Billie ---

Ah -- one more day and spring will be here!! Won't that be grand?? You know -- "In the springtime a young man's fancy turns to"-- but why should I go on. What I'm wondering is, "What happens to an old man's fancy. Is it the same??? I'm asking You???" Yes Yes forever tantalizing you!!! Forever and forever just keep pouring it on!!!! But never you mind, its all on the surface on my part. Deep down I envy you and so does every one else but no one wishes to admit it. "Oh for a peaceful, quiet, cozy, home, a substantial income (quite substantial) a loving wife and interesting work." Now wouldn't that be the life!!! Yes I think so but after securing that my interest would probably drift and still I would be as unsettled as ever. I wonder??? These thoughts aren't to arouse you Billie but to show you my sentiments about life.

I received your long looked for letter today. I was surprised to find that you didn't relate your latest escapades. Perhaps that is a thing of the past!! Is it so??? I hear that Sylvie wished that you would return home while he was there but that you failed to do so. Why??? I guess he had a pretty wild and good time while he was home. That's the way we always do. Maybe they will keep me away from home long enough this time that when I return I shall be satisfied to spend all my evenings at home. The last time I was home I think that one evening was spent there. I hate to admit it. But that's the way it always goes. Now Sylvie did the same thing and I can't say that I blame him. He was home the first nite. That's better than I did. Remember??? I guess we return home so as we can leave again. But if I had a leave now the same thing would probably take place. At least Billie when you go home you do stay and visit for a little while, that is unless one of us boys happen to be around to drag you out. I hear that Sylvie found a "beautiful blond". I wonder how long this infatuation will last!!! I think it will be long time before he sees home again! He has reported to Tampa, Florida by this time for further adventures in his army career. He had the irony to wave his "PFC" around in my face. You know, "Six months in the army and a Pfc already". But yet as you say, "In some ways perhaps I am lucky" but I never have seen a good stroke of luck fall my way yet. Why should I unburden my ungratious(sp) feeling on you??? You have enough with your income tax!!!! Ha! Ha!

Oh Yes about the trip. I still think that it would be a grand thing but I'm afraid its hopeless. That is in the near future. You know Mom & Dad wouldn't consider selling their livestock, poultry and locking everything up and leaving it. Of course its entirely up to them ... I told you what I would do about it and what I say goes for good....anytime. You might broach the subject to them if you think you could get any results. But remember --- if one goes they all go --- Mom has been left behind too many times already. She persists in working. I don't know why because they could get along very easily without her doing so. Yes it would be a good idea for Evelyn to go also.

Well Walt will be home around the first of June. Anyway that is what has been planned. He will be inducted around that time. Bonnie is still in Washington. Roy is still stationed there. Barneys have decided to stay in Wyoming. If they moved to Idaho they would have to sell all their livestock and besides they have plenty of work in Wyoming.

Well Billie its about time I stopped lamenting and started to looking on the brighter side of life. I missed your joke this time. I think you are slipping. But that doesn't stop me from relating a small but I think a very good one

"It seems that one day a small boy was walking down a country road with his dog. After walking for awhile the small boy chanced to glance behind him and notice a large black limousine bearing down upon him. He stepped to the side of the road to let the car pass. The driver of the car -- a wealthy old gentleman with a few airs --- stopped his car and asked the boy if he cared to ride. The boy looked the car over and said, "Sure". He climbed into the front seat beside the old gentleman. The gentleman asked the boy if he wished to put his dog in the car also. The boy replied, "No he will run along beside the car." Therefore the old gentleman drove off. After progressing a small distance he looked at the boy and said, "Where's your dog?" The little boy looked out and said, "Just in front of the front wheel." The old man drove a little faster and then said, "Now where's your dog?", The boy replied, "He is still in front of the wheel." The old man did not like for his car to be out done by a mere dog so he stepped on the gas to show the dog a thing or two. "Upon inquiring again he learned that the dog was still in the same place. Roaring with rage he slammed down and the gas and let the car out to its full limit. About this time a sharp curve appeared in the road and the old man failed to make it. He crashed into a tree just at the corner of the turn. After the accident the old man manage to climb out of the wreck. He looked around and saw the boy standing beside the wrecked car. He looked at the boy and asked, "Now where's your dog?". The boy said, "Right there". The old man peered at the dog and said, "That's not yours. Your dog didn't have any collar on." The boy said, "Hell thats no collar, that's his a----- he just ain't use to these sudden stops!!!"

Well here I sit. The same old place. "I'm still free, white and twenty-one". Take away the free, and twenty-one. One consolation I'm still "white". Thats more than I can say for some of the people I associate with. As Fritz said, when she wrote to me, "How's Uncle Sam's flirting (but not fighting) soldier. Well she was close to right thing but "flitting" would have been the appropriate word. First I'm here and then I'm there. I've never gone with anyone steady except the gal over in Ponce. And now thats all over. I know a lot of gals around here but usually one date is enough. You know "Some have beauty", "Some have Brains". Its hard to get along with either type. Those that have both won't hardly associate with you. Also consider the fact that some speak your language and some don't. It takes about a dozen contacts to find one half way likeable and then some thing else comes into the picture. What??? Well if its not the "color" its the "Stature" or her "parents" or her "ideas", etc, etc. So you see what it all amounts to??? I sent one picture home and Sylvia remarked, "She isn't really beautiful". I had a notion to write and say we went with them for their brains not their beauty but I know thats not right. Perhaps it would be best if everybody consider this question and then put it to the final vote, "Are you in favor of the present plan of having two sexes???"

Saw the Bob Hope show troupe the other day. I still go to the movies once in awhile. Last Saturday I went on a USO tour thru the Sugar factory. Very interesting. I would take a few pictures of the scenery but its getting a little difficult to get film.

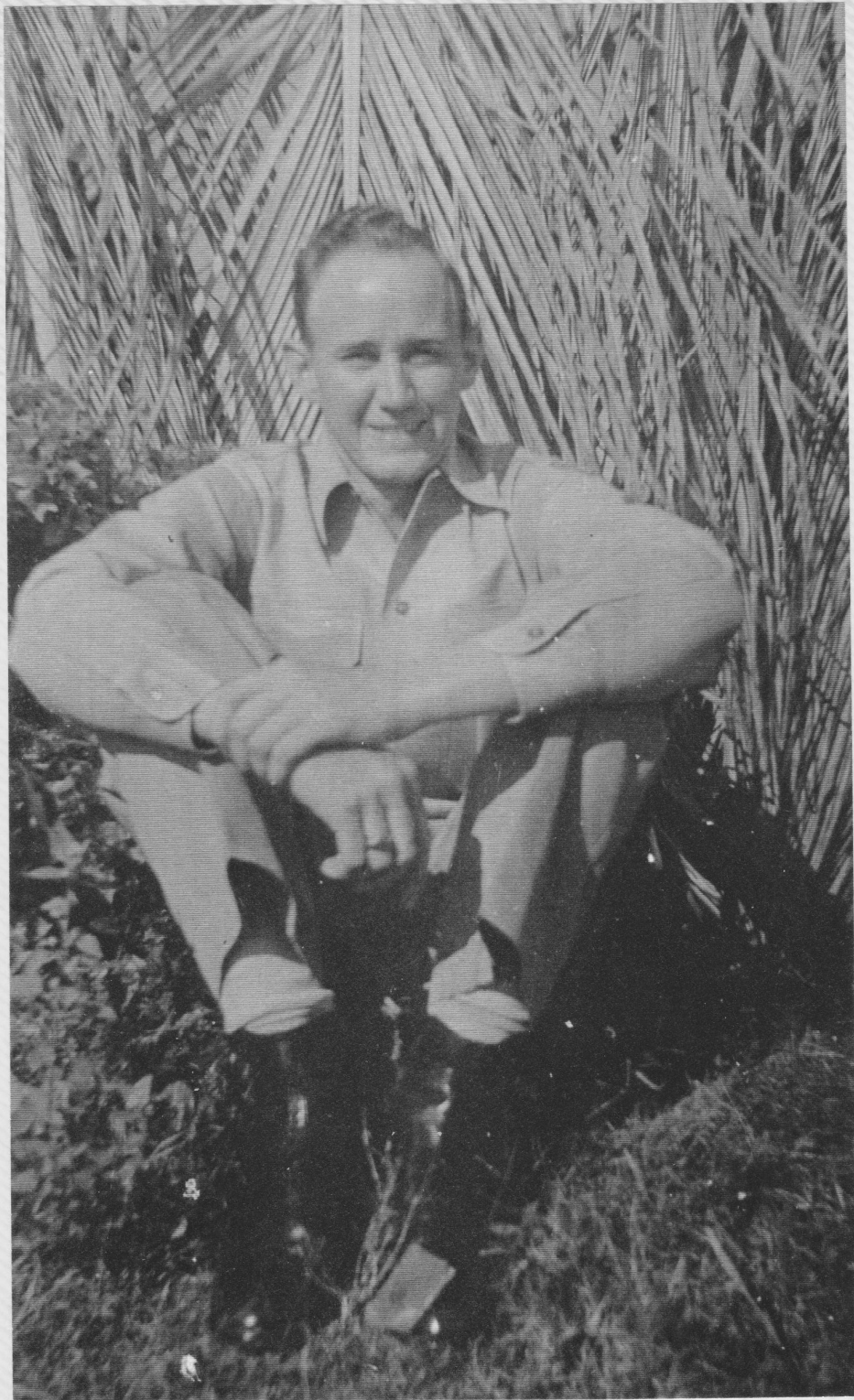
I have one other letter that I must write today and if I make it as long as this I'll have to stay overtime so I guess I shall have to close. I've covered everything of interest and everything not of interest anyway.

I'm not discourage about receiving the billfold. Just so I get it in time to put my "bonus" in it after the war is over. So you have plenty of time. In fact you can even raise a calf for the purpose of securing the leather if that product is unavailable at the present time.

Write when you can find time.

Lots of Love

Jimmy
Juny



Hank in Puerto Rico.



O.K. was working on the ordinance plant in Grand Island from 1941-43. When Billie returned from Washington she and O.K. lived mostly in trailers, following the construction jobs. Billie kept books for O.K.'s business. Here is Billie with Helen Maddox, the wife of one of the men (Ralph Maddox) who worked for O.K.'s company.



Two pictures with O.K. taken in the early 1940s. Tom Varney owned the ranch west of Broken Bow, and when he noticed that O.K. had \$11,000 in the bank, he suggested that he buy the ranch. Lee Fisher lived on the ranch in the early 1940s. O.K. and Billie moved onto the ranch after the war.





The Broken Bow ranch that Billie and O.K. moved into in the 1940s. This and the following picture were taken in later years. When they first moved in, there were tall elms in the front yard, and there was no white fence—the fence was later put in to keep Kem from wandering onto the highway.





O.K., Billie, Sonty and Gerald in the early 1940s

Leona 'Evelyn' Price

KIMBERLY — Leona (Evelyn) Price, 60, Kimberly, died Saturday morning at Gooding County Memorial Hospital following a long illness.

Born Aug. 26, 1916, in Collins, Mo., she came to Idaho in 1942. She married Lorn Price in Twin Falls Feb 11, 1950.

She is survived in addition to her husband by one son, Dewayne Price, Pocatello; four brothers, Sylvan

Rodabaugh, Pasco, Wash.; Kenneth Rodabaugh, Portland, Ore.; Henry Rodabaugh, Gooding, and Walter Rodabaugh, Buhl; three sisters, Mrs. Golda Powers, Hemet, Calif.; Mrs. Willie Luther, Broken Bow, Neb., and Mrs. Bonnie June Mays, in Utah.

Services will be at Reynolds Funeral Chapel at 2 p.m. Tuesday. Final rites will be at Sunset Memorial Park.



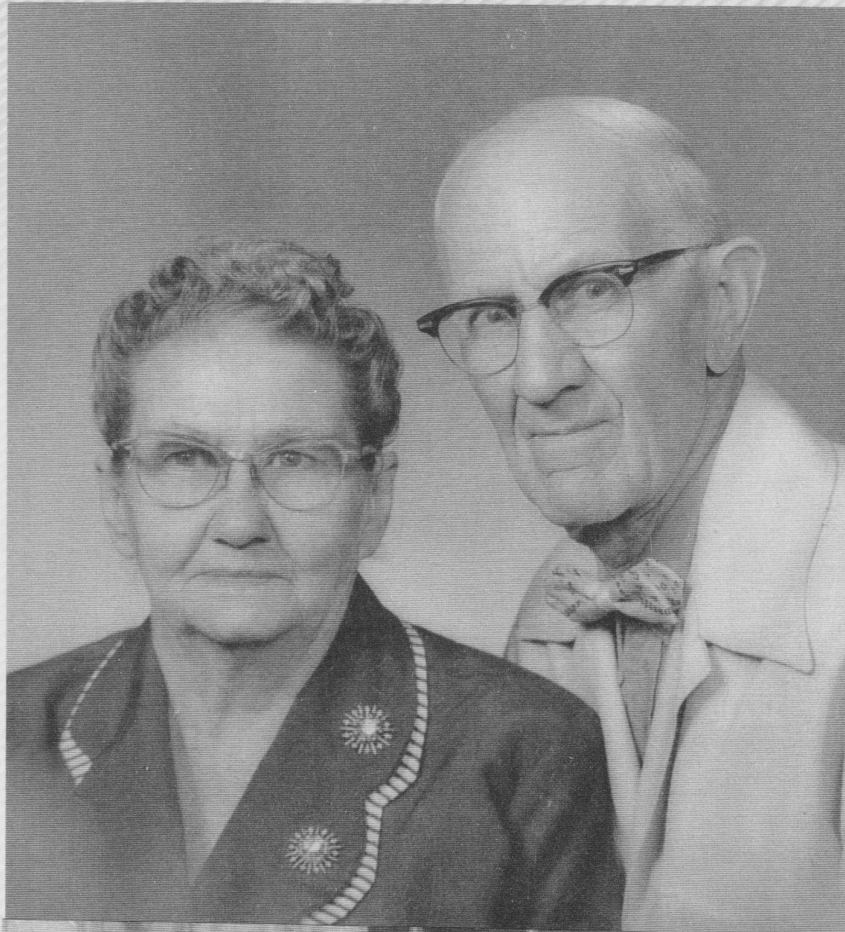
Some Rodabaugh family pictures from the years after Billie moved to Nebraska. Evelyn, William and Lena at their Twin Falls home.



Walter Rodabaugh, with his second wife Suzy, and their children (l. to r.) Jerald, Robert, and Randy.



Hank Rodabaugh. He was a jeweller in Boise, Idaho, when this picture was taken in the 1960s.



William and Lena, Billie's parents. The pictures on these pages were taken about the time of their 60th wedding anniversary, in 1965.







In 1946 Billie became a mother. The above picture was taken in the late 1950s, in the ranch house in Broken Bow. Below, Lena holds the infant Kem.





Billie and Kem at the Broken Bow ranch house, about 1948.



Billie takes the toddler Kem for a walk at the ranch. Kem is concerned that the colors he is wearing are not coordinated.



Billie on the west steps of the ranch house.



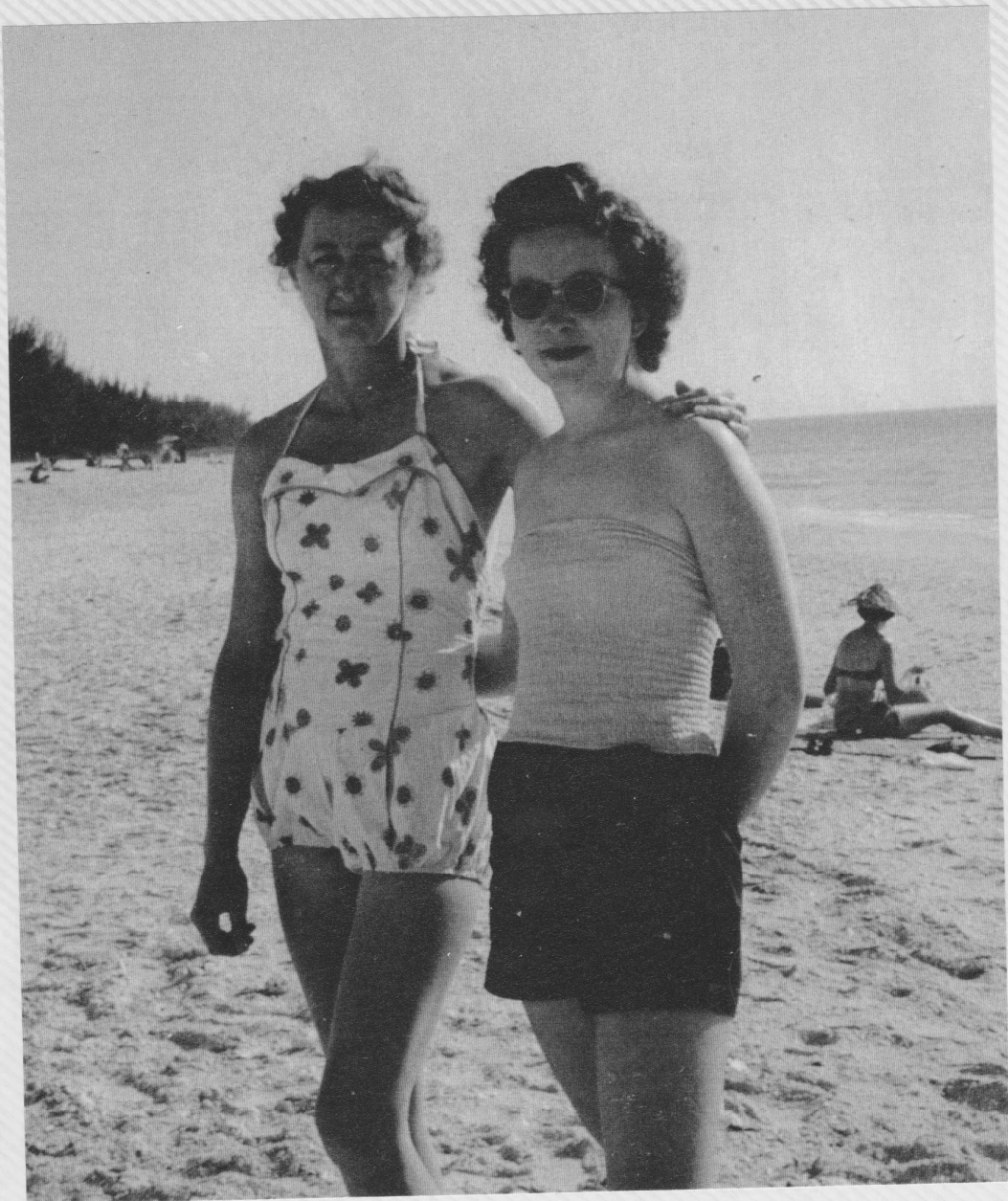
At a birthday party, at the house of the nearest neighbor, Wayne and Florence Reynolds. Connie Reynolds is in the background. About 1952.



Billie, on a trip to Yellowstone National Park.



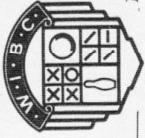
The Rodabaugh sisters. Lena (on the left) with (l. to r.) Golda, Bonnie, Billie and Evelyn. 1958.



Bathing beauties: Billie with Frieda Luther, Gerald's third wife.

WOMAN'S INTERNATIONAL BOWLING CONGRESS, INC.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL AVERAGE RECORD CARD



TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL Billie Luther SEASON 19 62-1963
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DATE	OPPONENT	Series			Season			GAMES			Handicap	PINS		No. Games	Average	High Game	High Three
		W		L	W	L	1	2	3	Series Total		Grand Total					
1/6/62							108	126	136	39	370	370	3	123	136	487	
1/13/62							98	111	99	46	308	678	6	113	136	487	
1/20/62							88	85	120	51	293	971	9	107	136	487	
1/4/62							101	93	98	52	292	1263	12	105	136	487	
1/11/62							85	100	65	55	250	1513	15	100	136	487	
1/18/62							88	75	107	55	270	1783	18	99	136	487	
1/25/62							104	94	116	55	314	2097	21	99	136	487	
1/1/62							141	105	121	54	367	2464	24	102	141	532	
1/8/62							119	107	90	54	316	2780	27	102	141	532	
1/15/62							120	124	97	53	341	3121	30	104	141	532	
1/29/62							86	131	114	53	331	3452	33	104	141	532	
1/6/62							123	126	115	51	364	3816	36	106	141	532	
1/13/62							117	121	133	51	371	4187	39	107	141	532	
1/20/62							92	135	118	57	345	4532	42	107	141	532	
1/10/62							79	101	81	51	261	4793	45	106	141	532	

The 1960s: Billie was an avid bowler, and played in a women's league each week. As you can see by her scores, there was no danger she would turn pro.



The 1970s: Billie with (l. to r.) Frieda Luther, Gerald Luther, Irene Luther, O.K., in front of Gerald's house in Broken Bow.



In the 1970s Billie became a grandmother. This and the next picture, showing her granddaughters Jeni and Erin, were taken at a Christmas visit to the ranch, about 1980.



Dear Grandma + Grandpa,

Dec. 10/82

How do you like my fancy paper? I got it for Christmas from Natasha (Nat.). She's a girl in my class. I know what your thinking. I'm not supposed to open my presents until x-mas but the suspense was killing me. Besides she said I could. If your wondering why I'm printing it's because this pen is to fat for me to hold. I also got this pen for Christmas from Nat. I did pretty well this term my marks are....

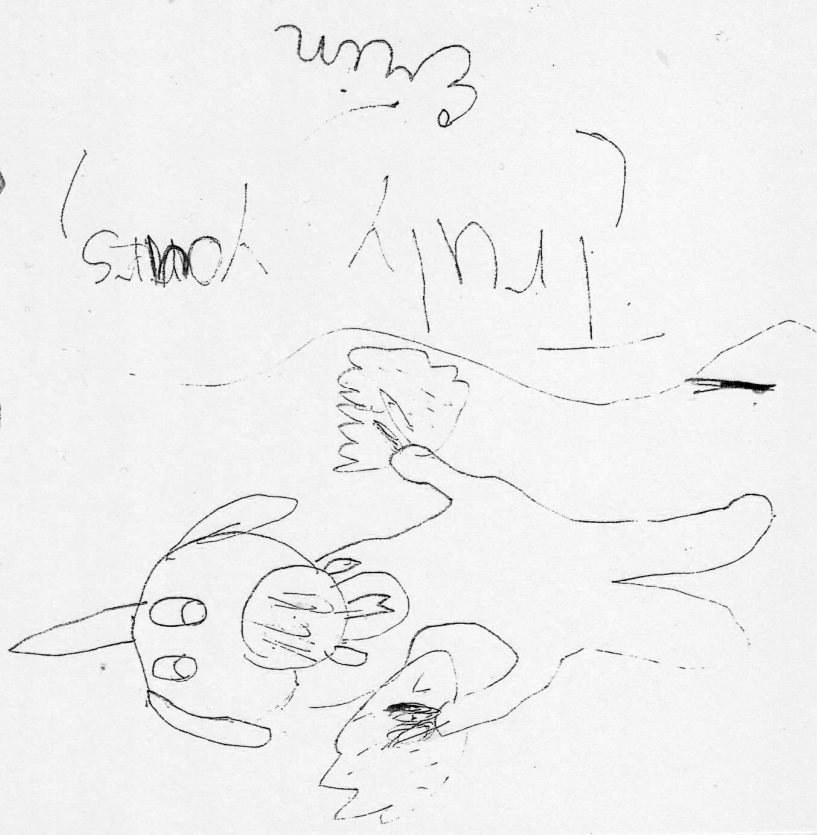
French	B
Comprehention	A
Math	B
History	C
Geography	C+
Science	A

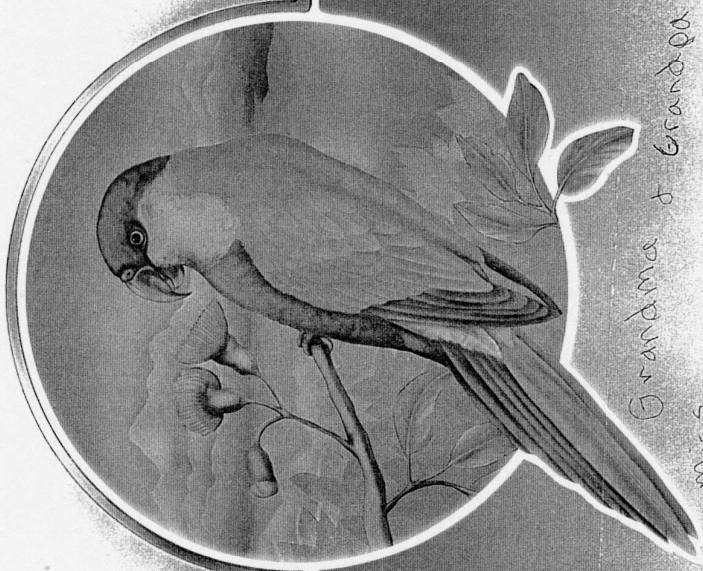
I'm having fun here and I have lots of friends. I got moved up to a Gr. 8 speller and that's not bad for a grade 7ner. Well I have to go now because I have to get ready for the party tonite. I love you and I cant wait...

On the next pages are letters written to Billie in the 1980s by her granddaughters, Jeni and Erin.

Dear grandma and grandpa,
Happy birthday I have
decided to send you
this letter because my
mom said you would
like this more than
anything. mommy said
"mabey you can think
of something of
something to give her b
all I could ^{turn over} think of

was my dragon costume
that I wore to my
school party!!





Dear,
 Grandma & Grandpa
 I miss you I just
 got home from school I just
 and since I love you both so
 much I am going to give you
 a copy of the poem I wrote
 last night and I made it up
 all by my self this is how it
 goes.....

Over

Title

SPRING

poem
 Spring is beautiful
 grass is growing
 wind is blowing
 Spring is not at all
 like winter or fall
 Spring is special
 but most of all the
 important thing
 is that I like

SPRING

Lots of love
 your Granddaughter
 Eryn



ps
 sorry
 but
 was
 a n

Rudolph!



To: Grandma & Grandpa

Every Day is a fresh beginning
Every ~~am~~ morn the world made new
You who are weary of sorrow and
Sinning

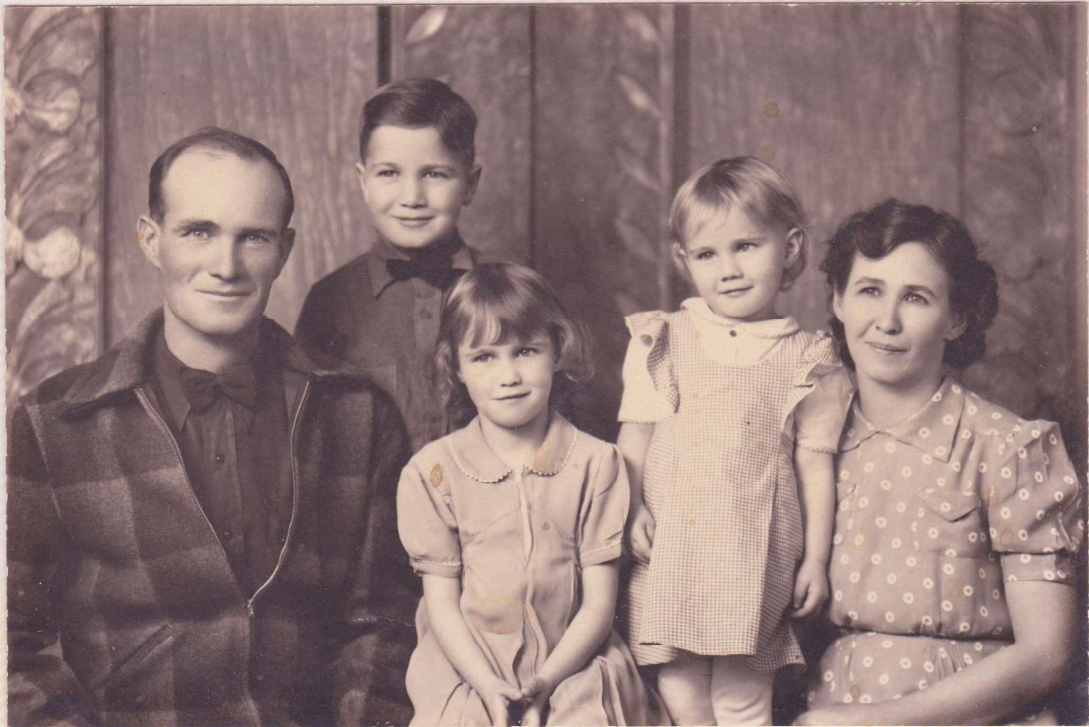
Here is a beautiful wish for
you **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Love of Jenny & Er,

We love you both very
much! And in love will



In the 1980s O.K. had back problems at first, and eventually had small strokes, that kept him confined to the ranch. Billie spent a lot of the 1980s nursing O.K., and taking care of the ranch business.



Barney

Golda





O.K. died in 1989. In the 1990s Billie was able to take trips to visit her children and relatives. Here she is in Washington state, visiting Artie and Sylvan Rodabaugh. She stayed with them for several months.



Billie and Alma Isaac, the mother of Billie's daughter-in-law, Jeanne, at a Christmas party in 1995.



JUL • 66

