



PHOTOGRAPHS



Family Album 1

Leonard & Meta Hellmers

Edited by Norman D. Hellmers
December 2009

The Blurb-provided layout designs and graphic elements are copyright Blurb Inc., 2009. This book was created using the Blurb creative publishing service. The editor retains sole copyright to his contributions to this book.



INTRODUCTION

This book is a reproduction of the first photograph album of Leonard Hellmers and Meta Wegener Hellmers of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Sometime in early 1937, Leonard Hellmers purchased a camera and began taking pictures of his family and friends. The camera was a Kodak Senior Six-16, with a Kodak Bimat Lens. The camera used 616 film and produced negatives and prints that were approximately 2½ x 4¼ inches. In this album, all of the photographs were black and white.

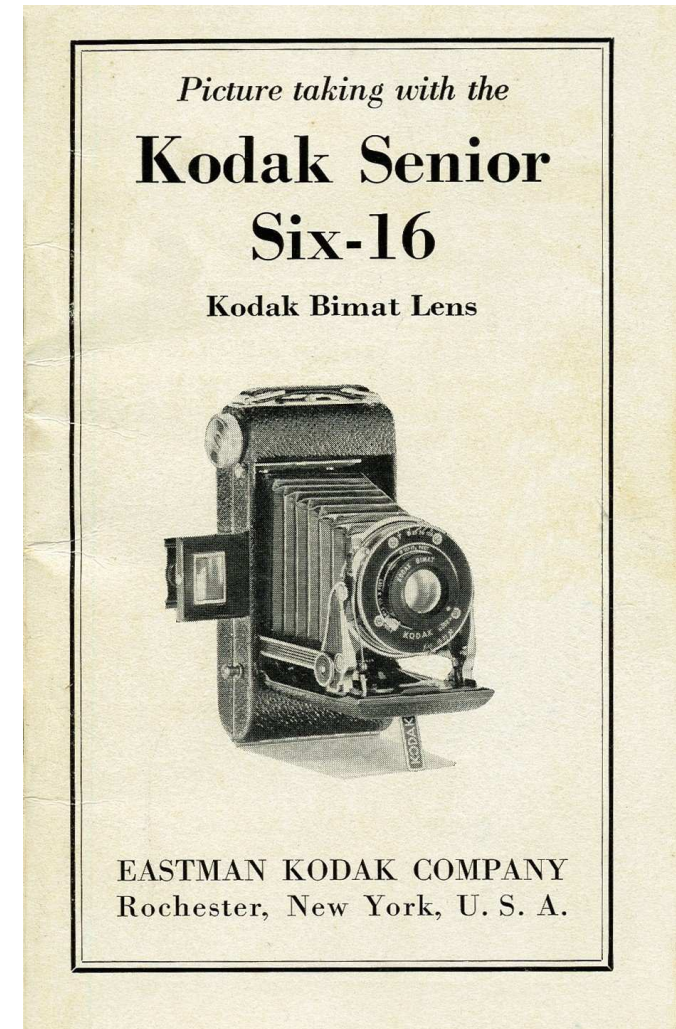
The album begins with some childhood photos of Leonard and Meta, followed by the group activities that were a big part of their lives.

Many of the pictures Leonard took were during his courtship days with Meta Wegener. After their marriage on July 6, 1938, Leonard and Meta purchased their first album. Written on the inside cover is: "Family Album, Leonard & Meta Hellmers, August 11, 1939." The album documents their marriage and the births of their first two children, Leonard Jr. and Janet.

Leonard was at first quite thorough about dating and identifying the pictures. By the early 1940s, he had added photos in this and a second album, but few were identified.

At Christmas 1991, Norman Hellmers sat down with his mother and asked her about the pictures on each page. The descriptions in this reproduction album are based on the original labels along with information provided by Meta Hellmers.

Norman D. Hellmers
December 2009



“School Days” and some early pictures of Leonard and Meta.

The school pictures of Leonard Hellmers and Meta Wegener were taken at what was then known as St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran School.

Bottom left: A school picture of Leonard Hellmers.

Bottom center: Milton and Leonard Hellmers with their mother’s younger brother, Philip Neff.

Bottom right: Meta Wegener photographed at Camp Mandeville, a campground used for many years by the young people of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The camp was located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain and was reached by a ferry. The picture of Meta was taken by Herb Kramer, the son of Pastor Gotthilf Kramer.

SCHOOL DAYS



LEONARD

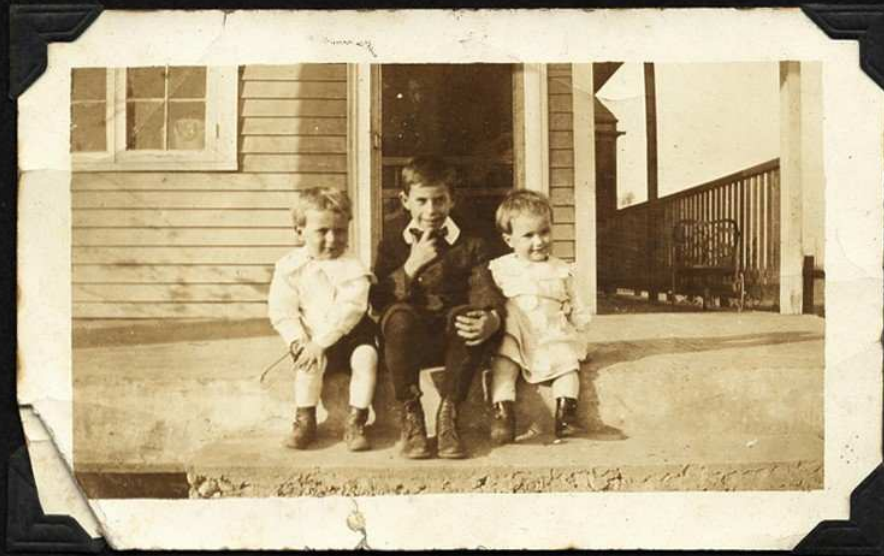


META

St. Paul's Evan. Lutheran School



LEONARD



MILTON, UNCLE PHILIP, LEONARD



"META"

Beach at Camp Manitowish

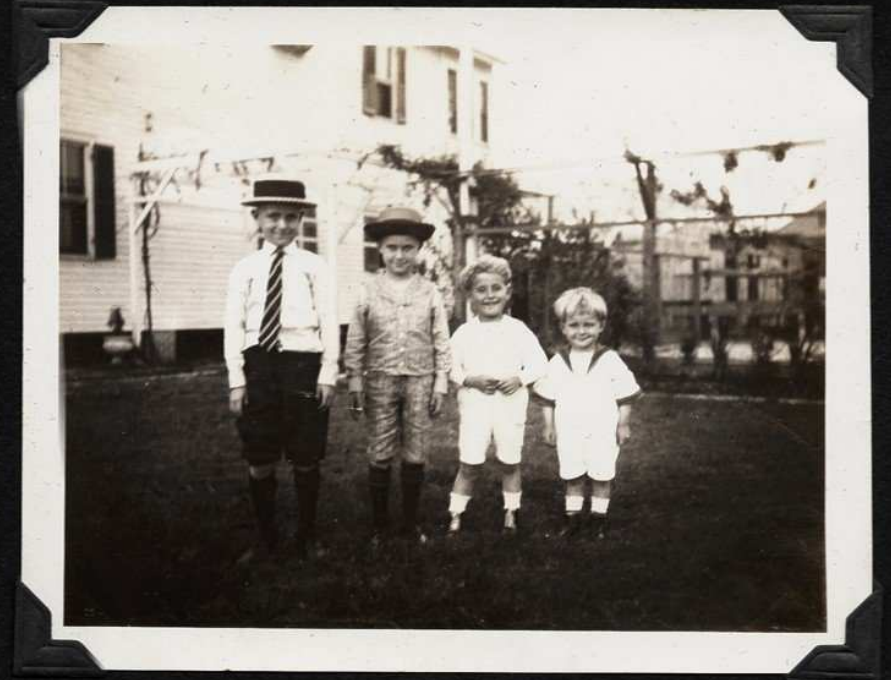
The photographs at the top were taken by Milton J. Hellmers, Leonard Hellmers' father. They are of his four oldest sons: Milton, Leonard, Earl, and Clifford. The pictures were taken about 1925 in the side yard of their home, then numbered as 1329 France Street. M. J. Hellmers built this "camel-back" double home for his family. They lived on both floors in the right half of the house. After the Hellmers children left home, the upstairs rooms on both sides were made into small apartments and the right-hand downstairs unit, lived in by widow Juanita Neff Hellmers, was renumbered as 1327 France Street.

In the bottom photo are Leonard Hellmers and Meta Wegener about a year before they were married. The occasion was a Walther League outing at Pakenham Oaks in St. Bernard Parish. (More photographs from this day appear later in the album.)

1329 France St.



Clifford, Carl, Leonard, Milton



Milton, Leonard, Carl, Clifford



The pictures were taken at a Sunday picnic in March 1934 at Milneburg, which was a resort area on Lake Pontchartrain at the end of Elysian Fields Avenue.

Top left: Leonard Hellmers is in the wheelbarrow being pushed by Oscar.

Top right: Oscar is in the wheelbarrow being pushed by Leonard.

“W.P.A.” is a joke, referring to a relief program established in 1935, the Works Progress Administration.

Bottom left: The young women are Henrietta _____, Oralee Scheffler, and Elsie Stoll. The young men are Leonard Hellmers and Ferdinand “Ferdie” Hoppe. (Elsie Stoll later married Oralee’s brother, Charles Scheffler.)

Bottom center: Oscar was the brother of a Lutheran pastor.

Bottom right: Elsie Stoll is in the wheelbarrow, surrounded by Leonard, Ferdie, and Milton Hellmers (who later married Elsie’s sister, Anna Stoll).

SUNDAY PICNIC MARCH 1934

NE - MILNEBURG



W.P.A.



"CANC"



W.P.A.



Henrietta, Oralie, Elaine
Leonard, Ferdie



Oscar & Leonard



Elsie
Leonard, Ferdie, Milton

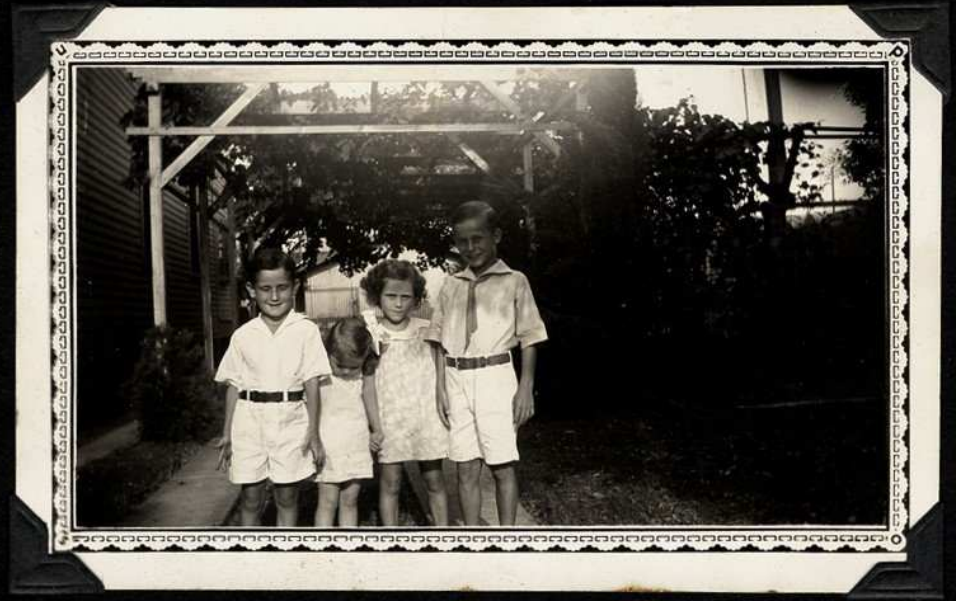
The photographs were taken in the driveway of the Hellmers home at 1329 France Street.

Left: Leonard Hellmers' youngest sibling, Juanita.

Right: Leonard Hellmers' siblings—Donald, Juanita, and Robert—and a friend, Ally Bird, who lived nearby on France Street.



Juanita



Donald, "Ally", Juanita, Robert

The page is labeled “Little Woods Outings.”

“Little Woods” was an area of hundreds of “camps” (simple cottages built on pilings over the water) that ran along the Lake Pontchartrain shore from Downman Road east to beyond Paris Road. The camps were privately owned, but were often rented out by the week. None are left.

Top left: Claire and Lefty (last names unknown), Dorothy Schroeder, and Ferdie Hoppe.

Top center: A group of relatives and friends. Leonard Hellmers is in the bottom left. To his right is Velma Trosclair, whom Leonard dated for a time.

Top right: Anna Stoll and Milton Hellmers, probably about the time of their marriage.

Bottom left: Milton Hellmers and Anna Stoll.

Bottom right: The “chaperons” were Leonard Hellmers’ grandmother Neff (Marie Landwehr Neff), his great-aunt Adele “Della” Landwehr Bauer (his grandmother’s younger sister), and Aunt Della’s husband, his great-uncle Jacob “Jake” Bauer.

LITTLE WOODS - OUTINGS



Claire, Lefty, Dorothy, Paulie

"CHAPERONS"

Anna & Milton



Milton & Anna

Grandma Keff, Aunt Della
Mabel, Jake

The page is labeled "Camp Little Woods Couples."

Top left and right: "Us" is Leonard Hellmers and Meta Wegener. They were married July 6, 1938.

Top center: Milton Hellmers and Anna Stoll. They were married November 20, 1937.

Bottom left: Philip Neff and Anita Dougall. They were married June 23, 1937.

Bottom right: Elmore Bauer and Lorraine did not marry.



US



Milton + Anna



US



Anita + Philip



Elmer + Harrine

CAMP
LITTLE WOODS
COUPLES

Top left: This is a group of family cousins—presumably at Little Woods—including (from the left) Milton and Anna Hellmers, Philip Neff and Anita Dougall, Meta Wegener is between Adele Bauer and Millie Alt, who married Jacob Bauer, Jr. Below Millie is Calvin Bauer on his brother Jacob's shoulders. The couple to the right is unidentified.

Top right: Same group as above.

Middle right: Same group as above.

Bottom left: Some of the bathrooms for the Little Woods camps were privies on land.

Bottom right: The "W. L." was the Walther League, the young people's organization of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. In the 1930s, young people stayed in the Walther League well into their 20s. In the doorway of the bus is Meta Wegener's older brother, Walther. Below him (to his right) is Leonard Hellmers and to Leonard's right is Meta Wegener. Others in the picture are Amann Randolph and Louise Wegener, and Richard Wismar and Evelyn Wegener.



"PRIVY"



Crowd from St. Pauls. W. L. attending
all day outing Little Woods July 4, 1937.

The page is labeled “Delacroix Island, July 1937.”

Delacroix Island was—and is—a small seafood-oriented community at the edge of the coastal marsh in St. Bernard Parish, home to shrimp, oyster, and fishing boats. In the 1930s, it would have been an adventure to drive there, spending a day catching crabs.

Top left: Leonard Hellmers and Meta Wegener

Top center: Meta Wegener, her younger brother Martin Wegener, and a visiting Wegener cousin, Helen Kliemand.

Top right: Helen Kliemand, daughter of Lydia Wegener Kliemand.

Bottom left: Juanita Hellmers dressed for Mardi Gras. This may have been on Mardi Gras Day, February 9, 1937.

Bottom center: The Hellmers home at 1329 France Street. Leonard Hellmers’ 1929 Model A Ford is in the driveway.

Bottom right: Sandbags were used to plug a leak in the levee. In 1937 there was severe flooding along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.



DELA Croix
JULY

Leonard & wife



Mita, Martin, Helen

ISLAND
1937



Helen



Juanita



1329 France Street



Sand Bags on levee
march 1937

The page is labeled "City Park, March 1937."

Leonard Hellmers bought his first car in 1935. It was a 1929 Ford Model A. In later years, Meta said: "He got this car in 1935. He had it when I came home from Chicago after having spent some time with Aunt Frieda when Roy was born. [Roy Speckhard was born June 19, 1935.] He met me at the Greyhound station with his automobile and he had it just a short time before we were married. He sold it because we couldn't afford to have a car."

The photos of Leonard and Meta were taken in City Park around the Peristyle, a feature constructed in 1907 as a dancing pavilion.

CITY PARK MARCH 1937



me & my 1929 Model Ford



The page is labeled "St. Paul's Walther Leaguers. Present at first dedication of L.S.U. Lutheran Center." The Lutheran Church apparently established a center for Lutherans attending L.S.U. Some of the Walther Leaguers from St. Paul went there for the dedication.

Bottom left, front row left to right: Anna Wegener, Helen Kirwin, Hulda Wegener, Meta, Leonard. Back rows, left to right: Mr. Richard Wismar Sr., Louise Wegener, Amann Randolph, Pastor Herbert Roupe, Myrtle Landwehr Amerland, Irma Landwehr Doerries, Louise Vortisch Gabriel, Wilbert Amerland.

The other pictures were taken on the L.S.U. campus and on the grounds of the Louisiana state capitol.



L.S.U. Campus



LA. STATE CAPITOL BLDG.



In front of the Capitol



*St. Pauls' W. luther League
Presents at first dedication of
L.S.U. Lutheran Center.*



Capitol Lawn

The top pictures were taken on the same day as those on the previous page.

The bottom page photos were taken on Mardi Gras Day, February 2, 1938. The children were not relatives. The "Drum Major" picture was taken at the corner of Canal and Camp Streets, and the others seem to be in the same general area.



Howe & Amann



LSU LUTHERAN CENTER DEDICATION



Not ready!



Dutch Girl



Old Fashioned



Drum Major



Bell Hope

Pictures taken Mardi Gras February 1938

The top pictures were also taken on Mardi Gras Day, 1938. The “Creoles” were white people in blackface. This picture was taken on Canal Street.

Arlene is Arlene Gabriel, the daughter of Henry Gabriel and Gertrude Wegener Gabriel. The pictures of Arlene and of Leonard Hellmers (“Me”) were taken at the side of St. Paul Lutheran School.



KING REX
1938 CARNIVAL



CREOLES



ARLENE



ME

The page is labeled “Wedding. July 6, 1938. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.”

After Leonard and Meta were married, the wedding party went to Pons Studio at the corner of St. Claude and Alvar Streets for pictures, including this one. They returned to the parsonage for the reception.

Of her wedding day, Meta said: “The night of our wedding we went to the Monteleon Hotel and we only left, well we left the [parsonage] in these clothes . . . and then we went to the Monteleon Hotel in Mr. Selle’s automobile and then the next day, we drove from the Monteleon to Little Woods. I had a very pretty outfit, but nobody saw it. Daddy didn’t want to go through the parsonage just to tell the people goodbye . . . [we] went through the church, down to the car, and we sneaked away very quietly.”

The next day, they drove to Little Woods in their “traveling clothes.” The pictures by Mr. Selle’s car were perhaps taken where they parked at Little Woods. Asked about her outfit, Meta said: “Beige and brown. It’s a dark brown top and then a beige jacket. I had a pretty hat that was beige. This little weekend case Daddy had given me the Easter before we were married with some lingerie in it . . . it was really nice. It was a beige purse. The dress was beige and brown and in the center . . . the jacket was brown to match this brown. And then I had the beige and the brown shoes, everything matched. It was a real pretty dress I thought.

“Mr. Selle” was Mr. Fred Selle, the owner of Neo Fabrics, Inc. and Leonard Hellmers’ boss.



PHOTO BY PONS

WEDDING
July 6, 1938
St Pauls Lutheran Church



TRAVELING



TRAVELING

The page is labeled “July 7 - 15, 1938.” Leonard and Meta were married on Wednesday, July 6th. They had a nine-day honeymoon from Thursday, July 7th to Friday, July 15th.

Leonard and Meta’s “honeymoon cottage” was the Little Woods camp named “Louise.” It was on pilings over the water. In front of it on land was another camp named “The Palms,” which can be seen to the right in the bottom-center photo. Meta said: “Well, we were in the back on the water and this ‘Palms’ was on land in front of it. In other words, you had to come to the back on the side of the ‘Palms’ camp to get to our camp. All of this on the side here was for ‘Louise’ . . . and this runway that you see leading all the way out, that was where we used to drop our nets for the crabs. [The screened porch] was really nice, it had a nice table and chairs, and this is where we ate our meals, we had a lot of seafood and crabs.” Barely visible on the left edge of that photo is the wooden cistern, which was the camp’s water supply.

Also on land was the outhouse (“modern bathroom”) that served the “Louise” cottage (see bottom right photo). Of it, Meta said: “Daddy [Leonard] fixed it up with kraft paper, covered the whole thing for his bride. He wallpapered it with kraft paper, so I wouldn’t have to sit in the old wooden outhouse. . . .”

In the top-left photo, Meta is holding a gun. She said: “Daddy had a little gun . . . he used to shoot at cans and stuff. It was more than a ‘BB.’ I don’t know what the name of it was, but it was his gun that he owned. Later he gave it to [or] traded it to Donald, the gun for, I don’t know, something, in later years.”

In the bottom-left photo can be seen the boardwalk that extended out into the lake. These piers (known as a “walk” or “run”) were used for crabbing and fishing, allowed the “campers” to get into the water where it was deeper for swimming, and could be used to dock a boat.



Steps of Palms Camp
Little Woods



Honeymoon Cottage
"Louise"

July 7 - 15, 1938



Back yard of "The Palms" Camp



Board walk



Rear view of the Louise Cottage



Modern Bathroom

The page is labeled "July 7 - 15, 1938."

Meta said that the large pile of shells was somewhere near the "Louise" cottage. She did not know where this "bayou" was. In the background of the pictures of Meta and Leonard, one can see many of the walks or runs that led to the nearby camps.

July 7-15, 1938



On top of the shells



Shore of the Bayou

"Louise Cottage"
Little Woods, La.

The page is labeled “8 Days Vacation, July 15 - 23, 1939, Louise Cottage, Little Woods, La.”

A year after they were married, Leonard and Meta spent a week’s vacation in the same cottage where they had honeymooned the year before, the “Louise” cottage. Meta said: “You know we liked the honeymoon cottage, because the next year we went to the same place with Milton and Anna; [they] spent time with us there. This was when I was expecting Leonard. He was born that December.”

These pictures were all taken around the “Louise” cottage. Leonard was Milton Jr.’s Godfather. Of this vacation, Meta said: “Well, this was pleasant, this was really a good time. We had a good time.”



8 DAYS
VACATION

JULY 15-23
1939



LOUISE
COTTAGE

LITTLE
WOODS
LA.



Milton, Anna, Milton Jr., Meta, Leonard



Afternoon Bath



Feaving Old



Cooling Off

More pictures from the July 15 - 23, 1939, vacation.

Top left: Anna, Milton, and Milton Hellmers, Jr. in front of "The Palms" camp.

Bottom left, back, left to right: Meta, Grandmother Juanita Hellmers, Milton, and Anna's parents, John and Anna (Bruns) Stoll. Front: Donald Hellmers, Anna (holding Milton Jr.), and Juanita Hellmers.



Mother, Father, Son



*Milton Jr.
NINE MONTHS OLD*



Uncle, Aunt, Nephew



Our visiting company on Sunday



"Kittle Skipper"



More pictures from the July 15 - 23, 1939, vacation.

Top left: In front of "The Palms" camp.

Top center: Milton Jr. in a skiff.

Of the sunsets, Meta said: "Oh, that was beautiful from the cottage that we had. You could see the sun setting on the water in the evening, a beautiful sunset."



Uncle Leonard
and his God-child



"Skipper"



First wading



Sunset

These photographs were placed in the album out of chronological order, so Leonard labeled it with the phrase: “Turn backward, turn backward, Oh time in thy flight!” (The phrase is from a poem by Elizabeth Akers Allen.) The picture of Leonard and Meta on the second page of the album was taken on this day.

The pictures were all apparently taken at Pakenham Oaks, an area that preserves the oak trees and remnants of the de la Ronde Plantation in St. Bernard Parish. The British General Sir Edward Pakenham apparently used the home and grounds as his headquarters during the Battle of New Orleans. It was a popular destination for young people in the 1930s.

Top left: Sisters Meta and Louise Wegener. The gate appears to be atop the Mississippi River levee.

Top center: The “young lovers” are Leonard and Meta

Top right: The “pals” are Louise Wegener and Amann Randolph, who were married on July 3, 1939. They are standing by the fence that encloses the ruins of the de la Ronde house.

Center: The “hoboes” are Amann Randolph and Leonard.

Bottom left: Leonard is “between” Meta and Evelyn Wegener (who later married Richard Wismar Jr.).

Bottom center: The couple taken “off guard” are Leonard and Meta.

Bottom right: Leonard is giving Amann a “helping hand.”

"Turn backward, turn backward, Oh time in thy flight!"



waiting at the gate!



young love



Pals



Hoboes



"Bitones"



Off guard



a helping hand

A
T
I
A
C
K
E
N
H
A
M
O
A
K
S

The page is labeled “Christmas Time at our House 1939.”

This was the first Christmas for Leonard and Meta’s first child, Leonard Jr., who was born December 5th. They were living at 2028 Music Street in the right half of a double house owned by Anna Hellmers’ father, John Stoll.

The guests were Leonard’s mother Juanita and his two youngest siblings, Juanita and Donald.

Bottom right: When asked about the silver serving set, Meta said: “The silver we had gotten from Mrs. Hickman [?]. I threw it away. I put it in the garbage can. I used to get tired polishing it. Out you go.”

CHRISTMAS TIME AT OUR HOUSE 1939



BABY'S 1ST TREE



Mother and Baby Leonard
(taken 12/31/39 when only 26 days old.)



Juanita,
mother & Leonard
& Donald



Ms

The page is labeled “All night pictures taken New Year’s Eve and during following week.”

The three guests in the bottom-right photo were all employees at Neo Fabrics, Inc., where Leonard worked. They were: Luitgardis Tell, Alfred Withauer, and Rosemary Mocklin.

ALL NIGHT PICTURES
TAKEN NEW YEAR'S EVE 1939
AND DURING FOLLOWING WEEK.



Sisters-in-law



Meruef



LUITGARDIS, ALFRED,
TELL W ROSEMARY
MOCKLIN

The page is labeled "February 11, 1940 on lawn at 1329 France St."

February 11, 1940, was a Sunday, so perhaps these photographs were taken after church. All of the pictures show the side of the Hellmers home at what was then numbered as 1329 France Street.

Top right: Leonard Jr. was Juanita Neff Hellmers' second grandchild. Her first was Milton J. Hellmers, Jr.

The bottom center photo includes the three youngest Hellmers children still living at home: Juanita, Donald, and Robert.

February 11, 1940 on lawn
at 1329 France St.



10 Weeks old
"Baby"



Father & Son



Grandma Hilliers
and her grandson



Part of the family

Presumably these pictures were all taken the same day as the previous page, Sunday, February 11, 1940.



"Watch the birdie!"



Posing



Hold tight



Aunt Juanita takes turn

The page is labeled “Taken by Uncle Martin at 824 Port St. using family bassinet.”

Uncle Martin was Meta’s youngest brother, Martin Wegener. His camera took photographs in a square format. The photographs were taken at the parsonage of St. Paul Lutheran Church, then located adjacent to the church at 824 Port Street. At the time, Martin was still living at home with his parents. Presumably the “family bassinet” was used for the many Wegener children born there. Of the bassinet, Meta said: “And, this is what I wish we still had in the family. This was a bassinet. It was so cute and so pretty . . . you can see the little shape of it, the wicker. It had legs, it stood on legs.”



Baby Leonard
7 weeks old



Taken by Uncle Martin
at 824 Post St.
using family bassinet



The page is labeled "Pictures taken at Carl & Helen's on 3/10/40."

The pictures were taken on Sunday, March 10, 1940, in the backyard of the home of Carl and Helen Wegener at 3724 Banks Street, where they lived for many years. The Wegeners' guests were Leonard, Meta, and Leonard Jr., and Amann and Louise Wegener Randolph, who were married the previous July.

Top left and right: Leonard is in a wicker laundry basket.

Top center: Leonard Jr.'s Godmother was Louise Wegener Randolph.



Aunt Louise
and her god-child



On the basket



Baby Leonard
at 3 1/2 months



Our family

Pictures taken at Carl + Helen's on 3/10/40

These photos were presumably taken the same day as those on the previous page. Included are Carl and Helen Wegener's two oldest children, Paul and Joan.

Bottom center: The "everybody" picture was obviously taken by Carl Wegener. They are from the left: Paul Wegener, Joan Wegener, Leonard Hellmers, Louise Randolph, Leonard Jr., Meta Hellmers, Amann Randolph, Helen Wegener.



Joan



*Carl, Helen,
Paul and Joan*



Paul



Everybody

The page is labeled "Pictures taken by Uncle Martin on Palm Sunday, March 17, 1940 at 824 Port St."

Leonard Jr. is once again photographed in the Wegener bassinet in the backyard of the parsonage at 824 Port Street. Grandpa and Grandma Wegener were Meta's parents, the Rev. Gottfried Wegener and his second wife, Anna Klein Wegener.

The bottom right photograph is of three Wegener-Klein generations.

Pictures taken by Uncle Martin
on Palm Sunday March 17, 1940 at 824 Park St.



Grandpa & Grandma
Wegener & Leonard Jr.



3 generations

These photos were presumably taken the same day as those on the previous page. Leonard Jr. was photographed with his Uncle Martin Wegener, Aunt Anna Wegener, and Aunt Hulda Wegener, all of whom were still living with their parents in the parsonage.

Herbert was Herbert Gabriel, the son of Henry Gabriel and Aunt Gert Wegener Gabriel. He was killed in France during World War II.



Uncle Martin



*Aunt Anna
(all taken with Grand Pa)*

Aunt Hulda

Herbert

The page is labeled "Vacationing at Little Woods, July 13-21, 1940."

Once again, Leonard and Meta rented the "Louise" cottage (or camp as they were called) at Little Woods for their vacation. Spending their vacation together were Leonard, Meta, and Leonard Jr., Milton, Anna, and Milton Jr., and Milton and Leonard's youngest siblings, Donald and Juanita.

Bottom left: "Skipper" is Milton Jr.



We three



*Vacation
At Little Woods
July 13-21, 1940*



me and my boy



"Skipper"



all the campers



On the beach

These photos were presumably taken at the same time as those on the previous page.

“In the pen” is Leonard in his playpen. Meta said of Leonard: “He was such a good child, you could put him in a playpen, he’d just stay in. Look how cute. Then the playpen was put on top of a bed and that’s what he slept in. He slept in the playpen, at night I just put him in.”



"Smiles"



"Ahoy!"



Leonard Jr.
at 7 1/2 mos.



In the pen

These photos were presumably taken at the same time as those on the previous pages.

Top left: The three mothers and their sons were:

Elsie Stoll Scheffler and John

Anna Stoll Hellmers and Milton Jr.

Meta Wegener Hellmers and Leonard Jr.

Elsie Stoll Scheffler and Anna Stoll Hellmers were sisters.

The “Campers and Sunday visitors” included:

Back row – Anna’s parents, John and Anna Stoll, Anna’s sister Elsie Scheffler (holding Milton Jr.), Juanita Neff Hellmers

Front row – Juanita Hellmers, Anna holding John Scheffler, Meta, Leonard (holding Leonard Jr.)

Bottom right: Donald Hellmers



3 mothers and
their sons



Baby Leonard



Aunt Juanita
and Uncle Ronald



Aunt Juanita
and Milton, Jr.



Cenna & Milton, Jr.



Campers and
Sunday visitors

These photos were presumably taken at the same time as those on the previous pages.

Top left: Meta getting Leonard Jr. to pose.

Top center: Leonard Jr.

Top right: Milton Jr.

Bottom left: Donald Hellmers with his nephews, Leonard Jr. and Milton Jr.

Bottom center: Another picture of the three mothers and their sons.

Bottom right: Milton Jr. with his Aunt Juanita Hellmers.



Uncle Donald
and his nephews

These photos were presumably taken at the same time as those on the previous pages.

Top left: Leonard Jr.

Top center: The “scalped” visitors were (from the left) John Stoll, Anna Stoll, Elsie Stoll Scheffler, Juanita Neff Hellmers. Seated: Juanita Hellmers, Anna (holding John Scheffler), Meta (holding Leonard Jr.), Milton (holding Milton Jr.). Below: Donald Hellmers.

Top right: The “cuties” were Anna and Meta.

Bottom left: The camps in Little Woods were reached after crossing the double railroad tracks used by a number of different companies, including the L&N (Louisville and Nashville) Railroad, Southern Railways, and the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad. The frequent passing trains were a familiar sound to all of the campers.

Bottom right: Also on Lake Pontchartrain was the New Orleans Lakefront Airport (dedicated in 1934), a general aviation airport used by private planes. Some Little Woods camps were removed to make room for the airport.



*"Scalped" by
the photographer*



Cuties



The top photos were presumably taken at the same time as those on the previous pages.

Top right: The “Rebel” was a streamliner passenger train operated by the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad.

Top center: A private plane landing at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

Top right: A view presumably from “Louise” toward nearby camps.

Of life at a Little Woods camp with a baby, Meta said: “When Leonard was a baby, Daddy would ride in every morning . . . to a grocery in town . . . to get certified milk because he had to have certified milk to drink, Dr. Alleman insisted on it. We had an icebox, one of those wooden ones outside.”

The photographs at the bottom of the page are of Leonard Jr. at the Hellmers home on Music Street.

Of the little swing, Meta said: “A friend of Daddy’s gave it to Leonard as a gift and Daddy had to assemble it. It was a real cute little swing.”



The Retel



Coming in



Duck family



Leonard Jr.



Almost 8 months



In our yard

The top photos were taken at 2028 Music Street. When asked who owned the house, Meta said: “Mr. Stoll, John Stoll. He had built three doubles. We were in the middle one and the Sterling Ransoms lived in the [other] half at that time. He was the son of the funeral director, Ransom’s Funeral Home.” Mr. John Stoll was the father of Anna Stoll Hellmers. Meta also said: “We lived there until Janet was born, 1941. We lived there a little while in ’41 after Janet was born . . . we asked Mr. Stoll to close in the back porch, but he said, ‘No, these houses weren’t meant for big families.’”

Bottom left: Leonard Jr. in the yard between St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. Meta said that the little wicker rocker came out of the parsonage.
Bottom right: Leonard Jr. with his Grandmother, Anna Klein Wegener in the backyard of the parsonage.



Baby Leonard



2028 music St.
8/21/40



8/2 1940



Sitting in the school yard



With Grandma Cegner

The captions on this page say:

“Family burial plot of Grandpa & Grandma Neff”

“Taken August 31, 1940. Flowers placed on grave for funeral of Grandma Neff, 8/30/40”

Leonard Hellmers' grandmother, Marie Landwehr Neff, died on August 28, 1940. She was buried two days later in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, No. 2. Leonard's grandfather, John Neff, died two years earlier on January 27, 1938.



Family burial plot
of Grandpa + Grandma Neff



Taken August 31, 1940

Flowers placed on grave
for funeral of Grandma Neff 8/30/40

The page is labeled "Trip to Baton Rouge, Labor Day, 9/2/40"

Top left: The "new" Louisiana State Capitol was completed in 1932.

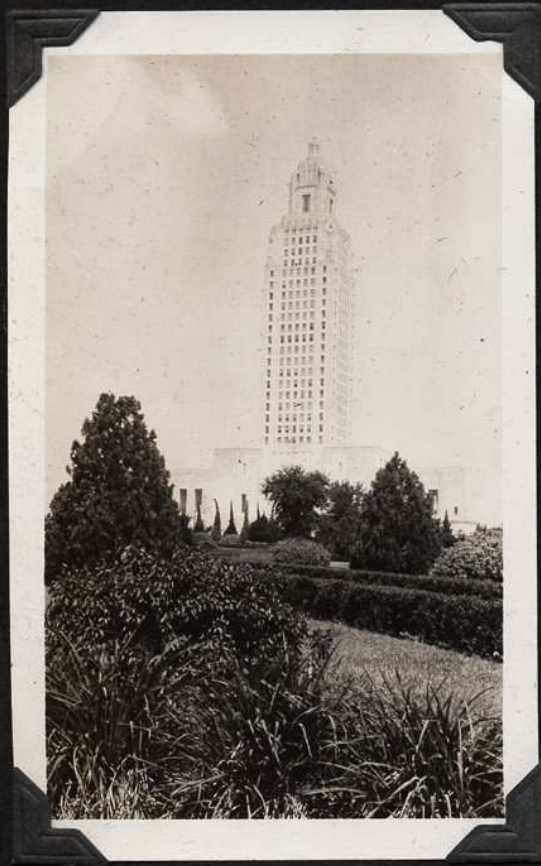
Top center: The view from the Capitol looking north. The Mississippi River is to the top left.

Top right: Governor Huey P. Long was shot in the Capitol on September 8, 1935, and is buried on the Capitol grounds.

Bottom left: The "granite figures" at the Capitol are Elizabeth "Beth" Oppermann and Meta.

Bottom right: The "campus cuties," seated in front of the Lutheran Center on the L.S.U. campus, are Meta, Martin Wegener, and Elizabeth Oppermann.

Trip to Baton Rouge
Labor Day 9/2/40



State Capitol



View from tower of
the Capitol



Statue and grave
of Huey P. Long



Granite figures



Campus Cuties

The top two photos were presumably taken on the same day as those on the previous page.

Top left: Leonard and Meta with the L.S.U. Memorial Tower, or bell tower, in the background.

Center: Martin Wegener and Elizabeth Oppermann. They were married about a year later on August 30, 1941.

Bottom left: Photo was taken on the front steps of 2028 Music Street.



Us again



Martin + Elizabeth



*Sunday morning
on our front porch*

Left: City Park Stadium was constructed in 1937, so it was still quite new when this picture was taken of Leonard Jr.

Top center: Leonard is in a Wegener family rocker carved by Julius von Wittke, the father of Juliane von Wittke, G. J. Wegener's first wife. The rocker is now in the Dunlop family.

Bottom center: Audubon Park Zoo was a favorite family attraction in New Orleans.

Right: Of this picture, Meta said: "Daddy just spread a blanket and just was out there with the baby, Leonard Jr., just relaxing."



"Surprise"
(Taken in front of City Park Stadium)



Our favorite
in an old rocker



Mother + Leonard Jr (10 mo.)
1st trip to Audubon Zoo



Morning lunch in
our back yard

The page is labeled "Pictures taken at right on Thanksgiving Day, November 21, 1940, in church yard."

Top, left and right: Two more pictures of Leonard Jr. in the Julius von Wittke child's rocking chair.

Bottom left: Leonard Jr. near the front steps of St. Paul Lutheran Church.
Bottom right: Leonard Jr. in front of the cornerstone of St. Paul Lutheran School.

According to Meta, Leonard Jr. was not yet walking on his own at this time.



Pictures taken
at night on
Thanksgiving Day
November 21, 1940
in Church yard



Leonard Jr. (11 1/2 mos.)

in St. Paul's School yard

Top left: The guests at Leonard's 1st birthday party included: (back from left) Arlene Gabriel, Gladys Neff (with her arms around cousin Philip Neff), Helen Keim, Delores Neff, Paul Wegener; (front) Leonard Jr. in swing, and (seated) Joan Wegener.

Top right: Leonard in his "Taylor Tot" stroller.

Bottom left: The "chaperones" (left to right): Milton Hellmers, Anna Hellmers, Gert Neff, Amann Randolph, Louise Randolph, Juanita Neff Hellmers (holding—perhaps—Leonard Jr.), Helen Wegener, Gert Gabriel.

Bottom right: Same identifications as above, with the addition of (far right) Juanita Hellmers with her arms around Milton Jr.

Leonard Jr.



Guests at Leonard's 1st Birthday Party



1 YEAR OLD



Chaperons at the party



Top left: Labeled "Christmas Day, 12/25/40," Leonard is with a metal toy train given to him by his Uncle Clifford Hellmers. Taken in the back yard at Music Street. On the trellis to the right are sweet peas.

The other three pictures were taken in side yard of the Hellmers home on France Street on January 1, 1941.

Leonard Jr.



Aunt Juanita,
Milton Jr.
& Leonard Jr.

Christmas Day
12/25/40



Jan. 1, 1941



Grandma Hellmers & Leonard Jr.

The page is labeled "January 26, 1941, Some of his first steps."

The pictures of Leonard Jr. were taken on the front porch and in the side yard of the Hellmers home at 1329 France Street.



January 26, 1941

*Some of his
first steps*



The page is labeled "Pictures taken at home, February 2, 1941"

Left: Leonard at age "14 months" is seated in the high chair bought for him at Universal Furniture Store on St. Claude Avenue. It was still being used by the family nearly 70 years later. The pictures to the right were taken on the back steps of 2028 Music Street.



(14 months)

*Pictures taken at home
February 2, 1941*



"Gore 'em tight"

The top three pictures were taken on February 16, 1941, and were labeled “The Play Boy in front of Hogan’s” presumably because of Leonard Jr.’s fancy outfit, including a beret-like hat. The Hogans were John and Mary Hogan, who lived next door at 2032 Music Street.

Bottom left: “Little Sweet Pea” was taken in front of the sweet pea vines in the Music Street backyard.

Bottom right: “Not so good” presumably refers to Leonard Sr.’s cropped head and Leonard Jr.’s unflattering pose.



2/16/41

The Play Boy in front of Hogan's



Little Sweet Pea

Not so good.

The page is labeled “Mardi Gras — Feb. 25, 1941”

All of the pictures (except for the top center) were taken in front of the home of Richard and Evelyn Wismar at 3701 St. Claude Avenue. Leonard Jr. wore a purchased bellhop costume. The top center photo was taken on the front steps of the house on Music Street.

Top right: Evelyn Wegener Wismar is holding her first son, Richard W. Wismar III.

Bottom center: A group “waiting for the parade.” Apparently there was a downtown “3rd District” parade on Mardi Gras Day, which in 1941 was on February 25th. To the far left are Richard Wismar Sr. and Richard Wismar Jr.



Down at 3701 St. Claude Ave.

Our favorite little hope

Evelyn & Richard III

Mardi Gras - Feb. 25, 1941



Waiting for the parade

More pictures from Mardi Gras Day in 1941.

Top left: Who was the “Drug King”? He was perhaps a downtown druggist who was King of the 3rd District parade.

Top right: A float in the 3rd District parade.

Bottom: How many do you know? Among those standing in back are James Turner and Elsie Brinkmann, Charles Bosch and Lillian Cooper, Clifford Hellmers. Kneeling in front are: Joe Brandt, Louis Oppermann, George Heintzen, Lillian Wismar, Ferdie Hoppe, Lillian Wildgrube, Harold Amerland.



The Drug King.



Our family



One of 3rd Dist. floats



How many do you know?

Top left: The picture is dated March 30, 1941, and is a Chevrolet “newly owned by Uncle Earl and Clifford.” It is parked next to the Hellmers house on France Street.

The other pictures were taken on April 6, 1941. Bottom left: Louise Wegener Randolph is holding her first child, Henry, who at the time was about 2¹/₂ months old. Bottom right: Amann and Louise Randolph with Henry. These pictures were taken near the Hellmers house at 1329 France Street. At the time, the Randolphs were living at 1319 France in one of the doubles owned by Juanita Neff Hellmers.



3/30/41 Chev. newly owned by
Uncle Earl & Clifford



Leonard Jr (15 1/2 mos)



4/6/41
Aunt Louise
& Henry Amann Jr.



Amann, Louise
& Henry Amann Jr.

The picture in the top left was also taken April 6, 1941. Leonard Jr. is in his Taylor Tot.

The other pictures were taken Easter Sunday, April 13, 1941, around St. Paul Lutheran School and the parsonage.

Top center and right. Taken outside St. Paul Lutheran School.

Bottom three: Leonard Jr. with his Wegener grandmother; nasturtiums in the yard of the parsonage; and, Gottfried and Anna Klein Wegener.



4/6/41 Leonard Jr
& his T-ToT



4/13/41 Easter fancies



At the school yard



With Grandma Wegener



Among the nasturtiums



Mama & Papa

These were taken the same day as the previous page, Easter Sunday, April 13, 1941.



Leonard Jr + Grandma



"sticks + stones"



"Over-posed"

*Easter
4/13/41*



Leonard + his Easter bunny



Grandma, Grandpa + Leonard Jr.

All of the pictures were taken Sunday, May 4, 1941, in the side yard of the Hellmers house on France Street.

“Mother Hellmers & her family of 7 children” were, standing left to right: Milton, Leonard, Juanita Neff Hellmers, Earl, Clifford; bottom left to right: Donald, Juanita, Robert.

Bottom center: Juanita Hellmers was confirmed on Sunday, April 27, 1941. Her “first communion” was on Sunday, May 4th.



Mother Hellmers & her
family of 7 children
(5/4/41)



Grandma Hellmers
& Leonard Jr. (17 mos.)



Juanita on
Communion Sunday



On Daddy's lap

All of these pictures were also taken Sunday, May 4, 1941, in the side yard of the Hellmers house on France Street.

Amann and Louise Randolph lived next door at 1319 France Street. In May 1941, their son Henry was 3¹/₂ months old.

5/4/41



"his"



I'm ready
to play!



sitting pretty



Louise & Henry Jr. (3 1/2 mos)

All of the pictures were taken on June 22, 1941, apparently in the backyard of the Carl Wegener home at 3724 Banks Street.

The caption "Heavy, heavy, hangs" appears to refer to the flower pot behind Leonard Jr.'s head. "Heavy, heavy hangs over thy head" was an old game often played by the children at the Carl Wegener home.



Paul, Leonard & Joan
6/22/41



Carol Wegener



Heavy, heavy, hangs



Joan Wegener

The center pictures were taken on the same day as the previous page at the Carl Wegener house.

The left and right pictures were taken in the backyard of the house on Music Street. The galvanized watering can is now a family heirloom. Meta Hellmers said that the rocking chair was a wedding gift. A couple of rockers like this were in the Hellmers family for many years, but have not survived.



Little Gardener



Joan, Carol & Paul



Carol (6 mos)



Smiles

These unlabeled pictures were taken in Audubon Park. In the bottom center photo, Leonard Jr. is sitting at the base of the sundial.



The middle two pictures are of Leonard Jr. in front of 2028 Music Street.

The pictures on the sides are of cousin Henry Randolph perhaps in the Music Street backyard. In the left picture, Henry is sitting in the Hellmers family high chair.



All of these pictures were taken on the day Janet Mae Hellmers was baptized, August 10, 1941. (She was born July 21st.) Her Godparents were Uncle Earl Hellmers and Aunt Anna Wegener.



Anna, Earl &
Baby Janet



Janet Mae Hellmire
on her Christening Day
August 10, 1941



Aunt Anna &
her god child



Leonard Jr (20 mos.)

These pictures were taken in mid-August 1941 when Janet was three weeks old.

The picture of Leonard Jr. in the bottom center was taken in front of the neighbor's house. John and Mary Hogan lived at 2032 Music Street. The "puppy" was a stuffed toy.



Sister & Brother



Caught napping



*Janet in her crib
(3 weeks old)*



Leonard Jr & our puppy on "Honey's" lawn.

These pictures of Janet were taken in the backyard of the Music Street house.



In the top left picture, Leonard is standing by the fence between the Hellmers and Hogan houses.

All of the other pictures were taken at the Audubon Park Zoo. In the top right, cousin Henry Randolph is in the Taylor Tot next to Leonard Jr. Leonard was a little over a year older than Henry, who was born January 19, 1941.



The top two pictures were taken in Audubon Park.

The bottom pictures were taken by the Hogan house. In the bottom right picture, Leonard Jr. is with Mr. Hogan. Leonard Jr. called Mr. Hogan "Hogey."



All of these pictures of Leonard Jr. were taken at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School.

Note: This page originally had four pictures, but one is now missing.



Soon after Janet was born, the Hellmers moved to 1617 Alvar Street in New Orleans Ninth Ward. The pictures of Leonard Jr. on his new tricycle were taken in front of that house. The Hellmers rented from John Schwegmann, Jr., of the Schwegmann grocery store family.

The bottom pictures, according to Meta, were taken on Easter Sunday in either City or Audubon Park. In 1942, Easter was on April 5th, so Janet would have been 8½ months old.



The top two pictures may have been taken on Easter 1942.

The bottom pictures were taken in the side yard of Grandma Juanita Hellmers home on France Street.



The top right picture was taken from the front porch of 1617 Alvar Street looking toward the intersection of Alvar and Claiborne Avenue. Perhaps the street flooding was associated with a hurricane.

The bottom pictures were likely taken at City Park. The group of Wegener family cousins are from left: Henry Randolph, Leonard Jr., Janet, John Speckhard, and Roy Speckhard.



All of these pictures were taken in the backyard of 1617 Alvar Street.

In the bottom right photo, a white tub can be seen hanging on the fence. It was used to give the children a bath.



Sometime in the summer of 1942, when Janet was one year old, the Hellmers family stayed at the Little Woods camp belonging to Jack and Thelma Waldmann.



In addition to Leonard, Meta, and their two children, there were other family members (Uncle Donald and Aunt Juanita) who stayed with the family at the camp. Meta said: "A few of them [the family] stayed at the camp with us."

Top left and right: Leonard Jr. sits on his Daddy's shoulders.

Top center: Milton Jr. is with his Aunt Juanita and Leonard Jr. is with his Uncle Donald.

Bottom left and right: Aunt Juanita with Janet.

Bottom center, back from left: Janet, Leonard Sr., Grandma Hellmers, Meta, Joe Brandt. Front: Donald, Clifford, Leonard Jr., and Juanita.



More guests at Little Woods.

Top left: Milton and Anna Hellmers and Milton Jr.

Top center: Milton Jr. and Leonard Jr.

Top right: Aunt Juanita with Milton Jr., Janet, and Leonard Jr.

Bottom left and right: Donald with a large fish, a gar perhaps?

Bottom center: Donald, Clifford, Joe Brandt, and Leonard.



Uncle Earl in his Army uniform. Earl was enlisted on July 18, 1942. All of the pictures were taken next to Grandma Hellmers' house on France Street.

Top left: Uncle Earl holding Janet, with Leonard Jr. and Milton Jr.

Top center: Uncle Earl with his Goddaughter Janet.

Top right: Grandma Hellmers with her three oldest grandchildren: Milton Jr., Leonard Jr., and Janet.



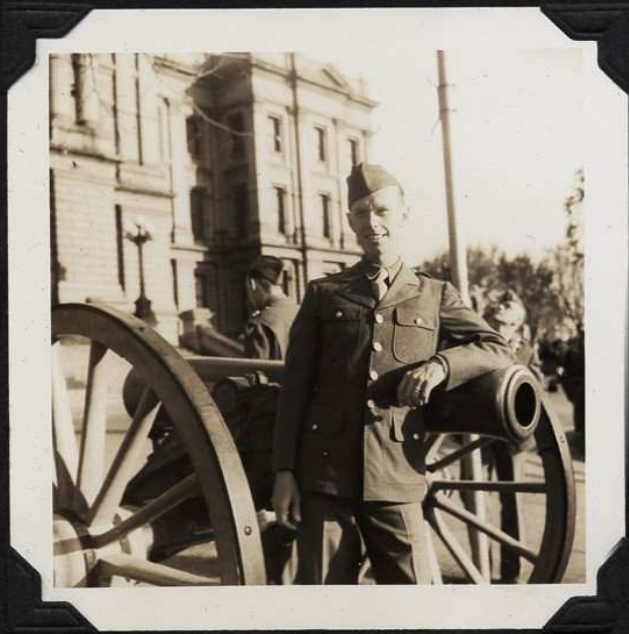
More pictures on the same day with Uncle Earl.

Top left: Grandma Hellmers with her third son, Earl.

Top right: Earl with his sister Juanita.

The bottom three pictures are of Martin Wegener in his Army uniform.

Martin was enlisted on the same day as Earl Hellmers, July 18, 1942. These photos were presumably taken with Martin's camera. The location is unknown, but it may be London.



Uncle Clifford in his Army uniform. Clifford was enlisted on February 12, 1943. The four corner pictures were taken in the backyard of 1617 Alvar Street.

Top left: Uncle Clifford with Janet and Leonard.

Top right: Leonard Jr. and Janet.

Bottom left: Clifford and Esther Wildgrube. Clifford and Esther were married on August 21, 1945.

Bottom right: Clifford and his mother, Juanita Neff Hellmers.



The top three pictures are of Leonard Jr. and Janet in the backyard on Alvar Street.

Bottom center: Leonard Sr. with Leonard Jr. and Janet in the side yard on France Street.



All of pictures were taken in the side yard on France Street.



End of Hellmers Album 1



