







# Family Album 2

## Leonard & Meta Hellmers

Edited by Norman D. Hellmers  
September 2010



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## INTRODUCTION

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

Sometime in early 1937, Leonard and Meta purchased a camera and began taking pictures of their 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.

This album begins with Janet's second birthday in July 1943. It continues through the birth of the Hellmers' third child, Norman, in February 1944 and then to the birth of Eileen in July 1949. The album ends in the summer of 1951, when Eileen was about two years old.

Some of the pictures are not in chronological sequence, so some of the dates are estimates based on the appearance of the younger children.

There were no captions in the second album, although a few prints had dates written on the backs. At Christmas 1991, Norman Hellmers sat down with his mother and asked her about the photographs on each page. The descriptions in this reproduction album are based on information provided by Meta Hellmers and the memories of those pictured.

Norman D. Hellmers  
September 2010



All of these pictures were taken on the occasion of Janet's second birthday, which was on July 21, 1943. The photos of Leonard and Janet were taken in the back yard of their house at 1617 Alvar Street.

The group celebrating Janet's birthday included a variety of relatives. In the top center are back row, from left: Paul Wegener, Dolores Neff, Aunt Juanita Neff (holding Gordon Hellmers), Helen Keim (holding Annabeth Randolph), Gladys Neff, Arlene Gabriel, Milton Hellmers Jr. Seated in front are, from left: Janet, Carol Wegener, Ronald Wegener, Joan Wegener, Henry Randolph, Leonard Jr. The same group is in the bottom left photo.



Leonard Jr. and Janet in the back yard of the house at 1617 Alvar Street. Leonard has a set of blocks and Janet appears to be holding a stuffed animal. In the garden can be seen a poinsettia and a rose bush. The pictures were likely taken in late summer or early fall of 1943.





Leonard Jr. and Janet some time in the late summer or early fall of 1943. The pictures were taken in the yard of Arnold and Emma Klein, whose home was at the corner of Alvar Street and Claiborne Avenue, adjacent to 1617 Alvar. The building in the background is their garage. (Arnold Klein was Meta Wegener Hellmers' uncle. The Klein house and garage still existed in 2010 as did the yard next to the house.)



The Hellmers family's first Christmas in their living room at 1617 Alvar Street. The top picture shows a gift to Leonard Jr. and Janet, a metal table and chair set. Gifts were given to the children in the late afternoon on Christmas Eve. The tree was placed atop a decorated box, a Hellmers tradition for many years.



More pictures taken on Christmas Eve, 1943. At the time Leonard Jr. was 4 years old and Janet was 2-1/2.



Norman Donald Hellmers was born on Thursday, February 3, 1944. At the time, Leonard Hellmers Sr. was working at the Delta Shipyard and his family lived at 1617 Alvar Street. These pictures were taken when Norman was only a few weeks old, perhaps on his baptism day, Sunday, February 27th.

Of the top middle picture, Meta said to Norman: "You were trying like anything to hold your head up."





All of the pictures were presumably taken in the Alvar Street back yard on Easter Sunday, April 9, 1944. Leonard and Janet show their Easter gifts on the new table.

The bottom center photo is a double exposure. The camera user had to remember to wind the Kodak Senior Six-16 camera after each picture.



All of these pictures were likely taken on the same day as the previous page, Easter Sunday, April 9, 1944. The bottom three photos were taken in front of 1617 Alvar Street.



All of these pictures of Leonard Jr., Janet, and Norman were taken in the back yard of 1617 Alvar Street, presumably in early spring, as the flowers have started blooming.



The zoo in Audubon Park was a favorite destination. Top left and right are Norman with his parents. In the top center photo are Leonard Jr., Janet, and Milton Jr. In the bottom center photo are, Milton and Anna Hellmers and their sons, Milton Jr. and Gordon. Milton Sr. took home movies; his camera case can be seen at his side.





The photo at the left was apparently taken on the same day as those on the previous page at Audubon Park.

The two photos of Norman on the right were taken in the back yard of the Alvar Street house. This was presumably some time in the summer of 1944.



These pictures of the Hellmers children were taken in the Alvar Street back yard about the time of Janet's third birthday, July 21, 1944.



For Janet's third birthday party, many cousins were again invited. In the top and bottom photos are: Gordon Hellmers, Janet, Norman, Leonard Jr., and Milton Hellmers Jr.

In the center photo are, back row left to right: Dolores Neff holding Gordon, Helen Keim holding Annabeth Randolph, Arlene Gabriel. In front are: Leonard Jr., Milton Jr., Janet, Henry Randolph. (Gordon Hellmers and Annabeth Randolph were married in 1960.)



Norman in the back yard of the Alvar Street house. Many of the pictures of the children at home were taken by Meta Hellmers.





These were presumably taken on the same day as those on the previous page. The child in the far right photo is cousin Ronald Wismar. Norman and “Ronnie” became close friends and attended the same schools together for 17 years. Ronnie was the son of Richard and Evelyn Wismar. Of this photo, Meta said: “I guess Evelyn came over one day. We were really close, Evelyn and I.”



More pictures of Norman and the Hellmers children taken at 1617 Alvar Street, apparently in the summer of 1944.

The photograph in the bottom left was not taken with the Hellmers family's camera. Meta Hellmers suggested it may have been taken in the parsonage of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The three boys standing in back are three Keim brothers: Carl, Leonard, and Elwood. In the middle row standing are: Arlene Gabriel, Helen Keim, Paul and Joan Wegener, and Roy and John Speckhard. The little ones in front *may* be: Donald Speckhard, Janet (crying), Carol Wegener, and Leonard Jr. The date of the picture is not known, perhaps Christmas 1943, when Janet would have been about 2-1/2 years old.



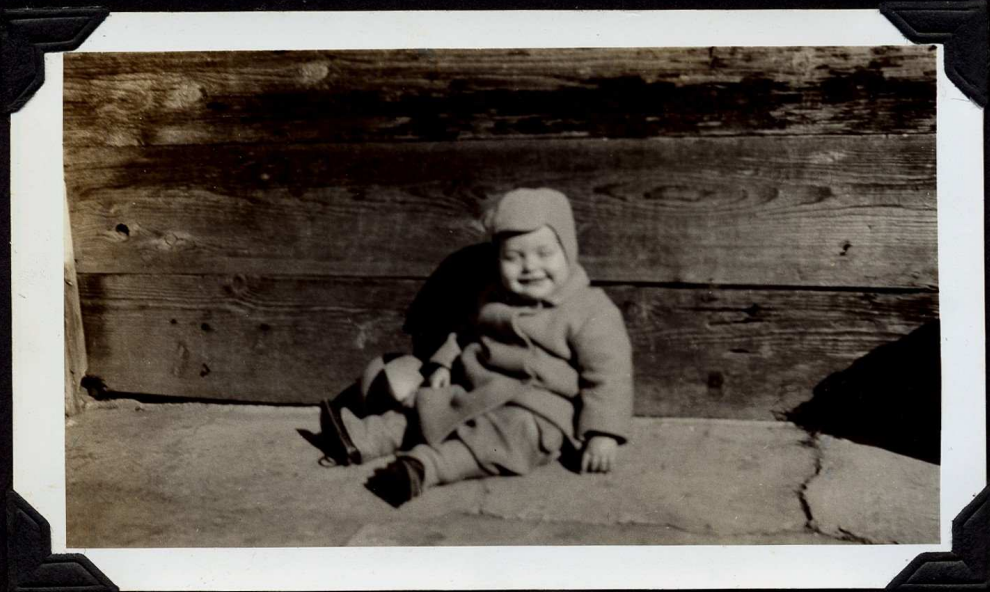
The Hellmers children on the lawn next to the Klein house. The houses across the street on Alvar Street are in the background.



In the top right photo, Janet and Leonard Jr. enjoy end of the season ice cream bars, which Meta thought may have been purchased from the “ice cream man.”

The other photos were obviously taken on a cool day, perhaps while Leonard was at school.





Leonard started Kindergarten in September of 1944. Perhaps these are “starting school” pictures.

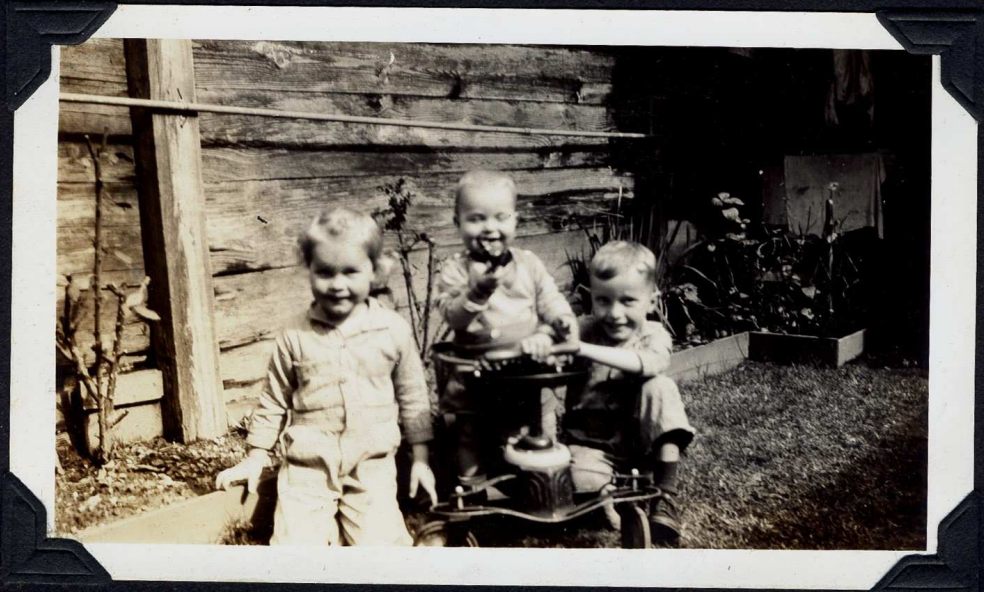


The top photo is of Martin Wegener, Meta Wegener Hellmers' younger brother. Martin was inducted into the U. S. Army Air Forces in July of 1942. The stripes on his uniform indicate that by late 1944 he was a Sergeant First Class.

In the other pictures, Leonard Jr. is wearing a uniform that, according to Meta, may have been borrowed. Leonard wore it for some kind of program on the stage at St. Paul Lutheran Church.



The Hellmers children in the back yard on Alvar Street. Norman is in the "Taylor Tot," purchased when Leonard was a baby.



In the top left, Norman was about one year old.

The pictures in the top right and bottom left were taken on or at the time of Norman's first birthday, which may have been celebrated on the actual date, since in 1945, February 3rd was on a Saturday. Back row, from left: Dolores Neff, Carol and Joan Wegener, Milton Jr., Leonard Jr., Helen Keim, Paul Wegener. In front are: Janet, Ronald Wegener, Arlene Gabriel holding Norman, Henry and Annabeth Randolph. Arlene Gabriel is holding Norman since she was born exactly ten years before him, so her birthday would also have been celebrated on the same day. In 1945 Arlene was eleven years old.

In the bottom right, the Hellmers children are with their uncle and aunt, Adolph Felten and Augusta Wegener Felten, who were visiting from Kewanee, Illinois. Aunt "Gussie" was Meta Wegener Hellmers' older sister.





In the top left is Dolores Neff, who was confirmed on Sunday, April 15, 1945. Cousin Dolores (known as “Dee-Dee”) frequently babysat for the Hellmers children. The photo was taken in the side yard of the Roschuni home. Meta said: “It was a house just down the block . . . they had a pretty yard.”

The home of Louis and Margaret Roschuni was down the block at 1633 Alvar Street. They had a landscaped side yard that the Hellmers occasionally used as a setting for family photographs. (In 2010, the Roschuni house was still there, but another house had been constructed where their yard used to be.)

The clothing in the center picture suggests that it may have been taken on a Sunday.

In the top right and bottom pictures Norman is sitting on the toy train given to Leonard Jr. by Uncle Clifford Hellmers.



The first two pictures were taken in the spring of 1945, about the time Norman was learning to walk. Meta said: "You all didn't walk until you were about 13-1/2 months."

The bottom right photo shows a view from the railroad tracks along the Mississippi River toward the St. Louis Cathedral. Why this picture was taken is not known.



In the top center is Herbert Gabriel. This picture was taken before July of 1944, when Herbert was killed in action in Normandy, France.

The bottom two pictures show Leonard Jr. in the courtyard between St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. Meta said: "This was during the war when we were collecting scrap metal. We had that all stacked up."



The Hellmers family.

In the background is St. Paul Lutheran School, so the picture was likely taken on a Sunday after church. Judging by the clothing, it may have been Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945.

This picture, and those on the previous page, were taken with someone else's camera, probably by Uncle Martin Wegener.





In July of 1945, the Hellmers family vacationed at a Little Woods camp. Based on a comparison with photographs in Album 1, it is the same camp where the family stayed in 1942. That camp was identified by Meta Hellmers as belonging to Jack and Thelma Waldmann.

The top center photograph includes the name sign, which says "SPEISS COTTAGE," which Meta pronounced as "speeze."



At the time of this vacation, Leonard Jr. was about 5-1/2 years old and Norman was not quite 1-1/2. Meta remembered: "I know Janet was four here because I gave her a little ring in a little velvet box and when she opened the package she said, 'Oh, a cute little velvet box.' She liked the box."

The top center photo includes some guests, perhaps for the weekend. Along with Meta and the Hellmers children are: Aunt Anna Wegener, Aunt Juanita Hellmers, Grandma Juanita Hellmers, Aunt Hulda Wegener, and Helen Keim.

The bottom center photo includes the Richard Wismar Jr. family. In back: Richard III, Helen Keim, Ronnie Wismar on his father's knee, and hidden by the railing, Evelyn Wegener Wismar. Janet and Leonard Jr. are in front. The Wismars may have come for a day of swimming.

Asked about Helen Keim being in two of the pictures, Meta said: "Well, Helen, we would just leave her come, you know, spend a little time with us or something, could be that she helped out a little bit with the children."



All of the pictures on this page were taken on the day of Leonard Jr.'s kindergarten graduation from William Frantz Elementary School in June of 1945. In the left photo, Leonard Jr. is holding his rolled-up diploma. The three photos on the right were taken in the side yard of the Roschuni home.



The top two pictures were taken in the late afternoon of August 14, 1945. The huge banner newspaper headline in the extra edition of *The Times-Picayune* said "PEACE." It announced the end of World War II. About this, Meta said: "That was the end of the war . . . we took them outside and took their picture in front of the house with the flag with the peace newspaper." When asked about her feelings that day, Meta said: "I don't recall. I just knew that I had to get a picture of the paper."

At the bottom left is Norman in cooler weather, perhaps the fall of 1945. Looking over the fence is Aunt Gert Neff. She and Uncle Henry Neff and their daughters, Gladys and Dolores, lived for a time in the other half of the house at 1619 Alvar Street.

The photo in the bottom right appears to have been taken in the Alvar Street back yard sometime in the summer of 1945.





In the top left, Leonard Jr. and Janet are on their bikes near the Klein's car and garage. The large three-wheel bike was a family favorite. This picture and the one in the bottom right were taken in March of 1946.

The pictures in the top right and bottom left are from earlier in the year. They are identical to two photos on page three of the original album. (See page 9.)

Of the picture in the bottom right, Meta remembered: "I think that's our first car. I don't know what kind it is though." Janet, Norman, and Leonard are sitting on the running board. Meta also said: "We only got our first car after you [Norman] were born, I know that definitely."

Leonard and Meta Hellmers did not have an automobile in the nearly seven years between their marriage in 1938 and February 5, 1945, when they purchased this used 1936 Plymouth Deluxe 4-door sedan, which Leonard Sr. sold to his brother Clifford in May 1946 for \$370.



All of these pictures were taken in the Alvar Street back yard. Of the top left photo, Meta said: “We made a little railing so when you opened the door this way you could hold on to that coming down.” A door pull near the bottom of the door helped the little children to open it.



Uncle Walther Wegener came for a visit in October of 1945. He served in World War II and then made the U. S. Army his career, reaching the rank of Chief Warrant Officer. He died in 1963 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

The top photo includes cousin Arlene Gabriel.



In the top left, the Hellmers children are joined by cousin Ronald Wegener for a trip to the zoo. The other three photos were taken in front of the Klein garage on Alvar Street.





In the top left Janet is playing nurse with what may be a new doll. Meta said: "She must have gotten it for Christmas or something. She liked to play nurse." Janet with the doll is also in the bottom left. This picture was dated February 1946.

In the top right, the Hellmers children are visiting with the Carl Wegener children at their home at 3724 Banks Street. Standing in back is Paul Wegener. The girls in the middle are Carol and Joan Wegener and Janet. In front are Leonard Jr. and Norman and Ellen Wegener. Ellen was a year younger than Norman, born January 18, 1945. (Ellen died as a child on October 15, 1951.)

At the bottom right is a gathering of cousins, photographed on the front steps of the Alvar Street house. The boys in the back row, from left: Leonard Jr., John Speckhard, Paul Wegener, Roy Speckhard, Milton Jr. In the center row: Henry Randolph, Joan Wegener holding Ellen Wegener, Donald Speckhard, Carol Wegener, Janet. At the bottom: Gordon Hellmers, Norman, Ronald Wegener.

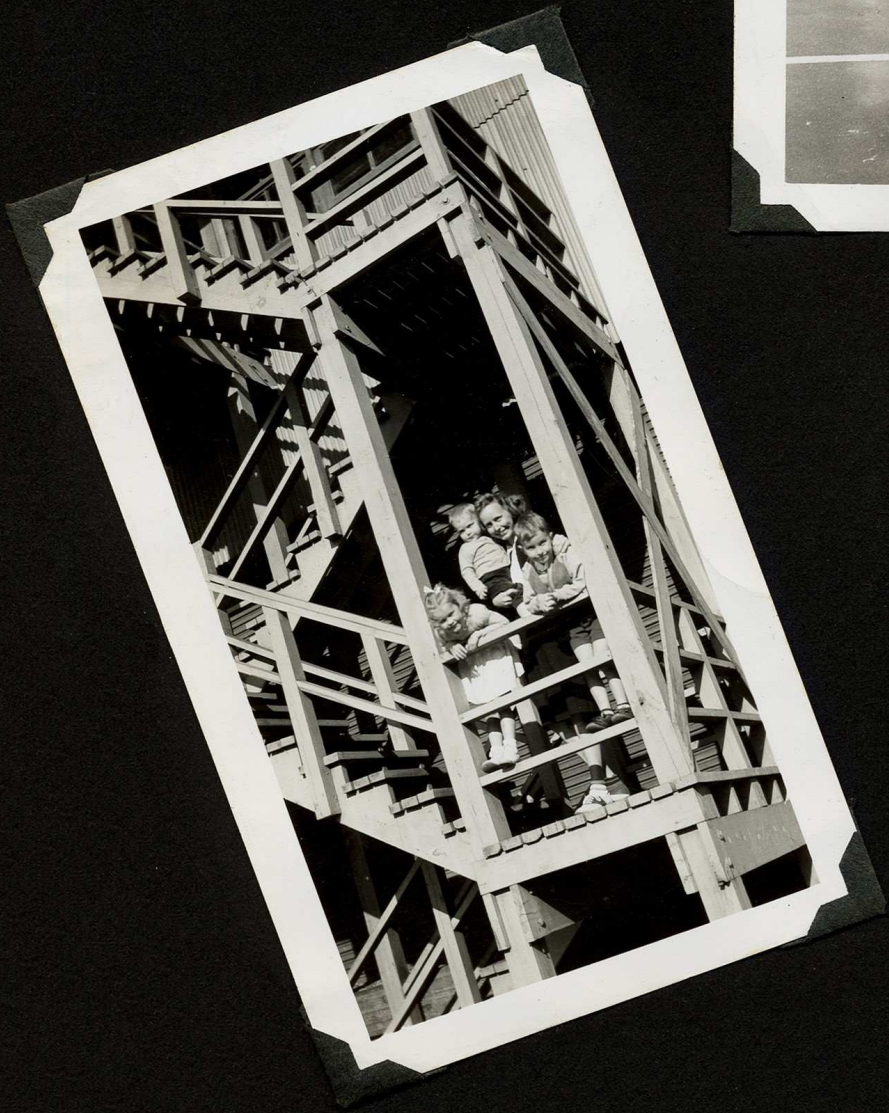


In the top center, Janet joins some of her cousins for a Mardi Gras picture. Left to right behind Janet are Roy and John Speckhard and Helen Keim. The photo was taken in the yard of St. Paul Lutheran School on Mardi Gras, March 5, 1946. At that time, the Speckhard family was living in New Orleans.

About the photo in the bottom left, Meta recalled: “It was just an area by the river that they had this stairway going up . . . the Mississippi River.”

The bottom right picture shows the Hellmers children, with azaleas in the background.

Both bottom pictures were also taken in March of 1946.



The left and right photos were taken in front of the Alvar Street house in February 1946, when Norman was two years old.

The top center photo was taken at the wading pool in City Park. Meta keeps an eye on her children, while Grandmother Hellmers sits on the bench behind them.

The bottom center photo was taken on the front steps at 1617 Alvar Street in the summer of 1948. The kids were neighbors from Alvar Street. Left to right: Gary and Jeffrey Wallace, unidentified girl, Norman, Jolie Landry, Janet, Leonard Jr., Uris and Noel Tabb. (Jolie, a cousin from the Klein family, was visiting.)



The Rev. Gottfried J. Wegener, Meta Hellmers' father, died on November 25, 1946. The photographs show the Wegener family tomb in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in New Orleans and the many floral tributes that were sent at the time of his funeral.

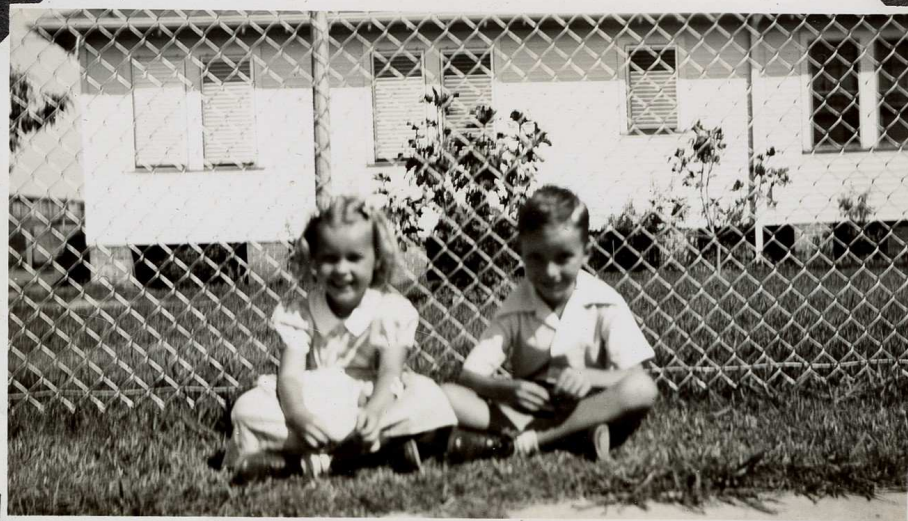




In the top left, Norman and Leonard, both raised to help with lawn and gardening chores, show off their sweeping skills.

The top right photos were probably taken in Audubon Park. Meta said: “I know we went out to the Park often with you all.”

The bottom two pictures were taken beside the new fence erected by Uncle Arnold Klein. These pictures were taken when Janet started Kindergarten in September of 1946.

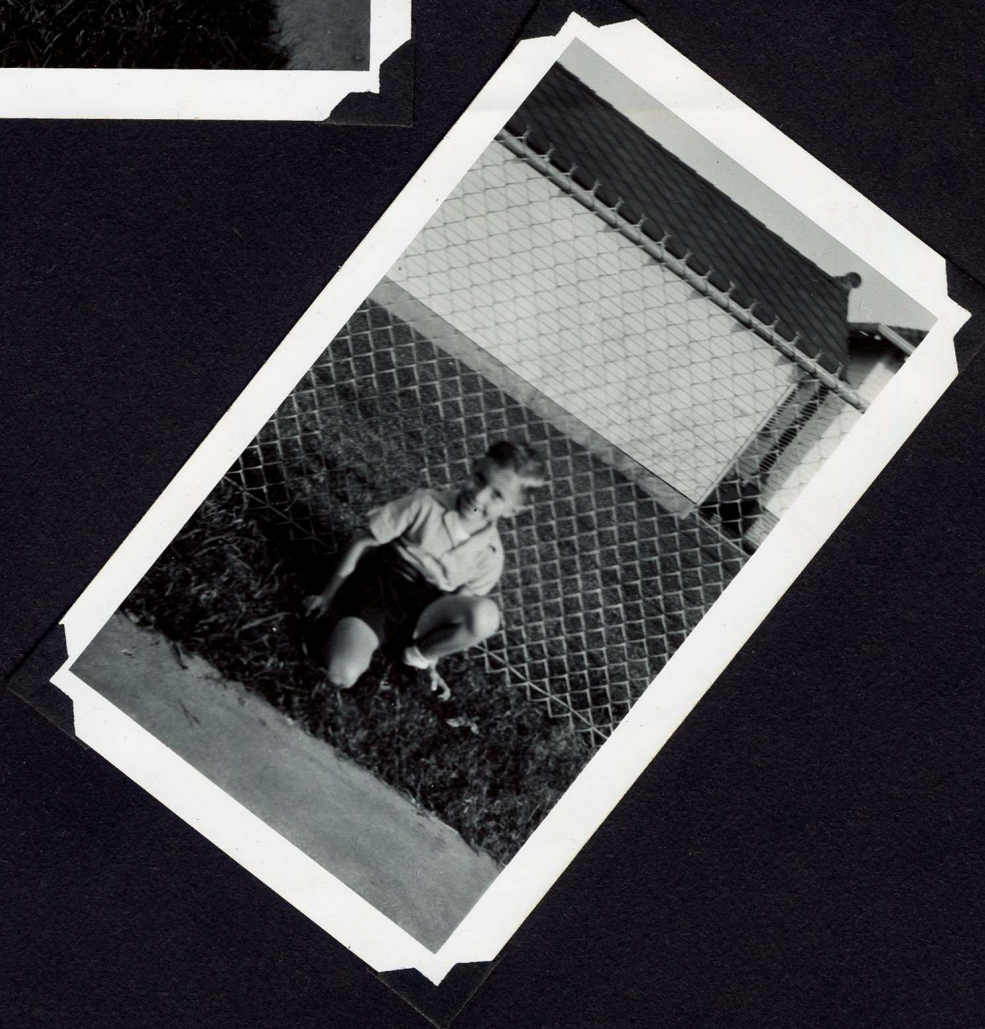


Meta believed this was taken on an Easter Sunday. She did not remember where or by whom. This may have been in 1947, when Norman was three years old.



On the left is Leonard Jr. dressed as Santa Claus for a program at St. Paul's school in December of 1946. Meta recollected: "He was on the stage at St. Paul . . . and I know Mr. Groth was just cracking up when he was on the stage doing his part. Now, I made that little Santa Claus outfit." (Elmer Groth was a teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School.)

The two pictures of Leonard Jr. on the right were taken on Leonard's seventh birthday, December 5, 1946.



Mardi Gras was occasionally celebrated at the home of the Carl Wegener family on Banks Street, as here on February 18, 1947.

In the top photo in the front are Norman and Ellen Wegener. Through the middle are Leonard Jr., Carol Wegener, an unidentified person, Joan Wegener, and Janet. In the back, is Paul Wegener. The unidentified person must have been a relative or friend of the Wegener family. Of the costumes worn by the Hellmers children, Meta said: "I had made these little clown outfits to wear."

In the bottom right photo, the children were taken downtown to visit their aging grandmother, Anna Klein Wegener, then living with her daughter Louise at 1319 France Street. (This was in half of a double owned by Grandma Juanita Hellmers.) In back from the left are: Aunt Hulda Wegener, perhaps Aunt Agnes Schmalz Klein, Meta, Aunt Helen Wegener, Paul Wegener, and perhaps Uncle Carl Wegener holding Ellen. Towards the front are: Joan and Carol Wegener, Grandma Anna Klein Wegener, Norman, Leonard, and Janet. (Anna Klein Wegener died a year later on March 1, 1948.)





Janet graduated from Kindergarten at William Frantz Elementary School on June 3, 1947. These pictures were taken by the Roschuni home on Alvar Street.



The Hellmers family frequently got together with several other families from St. Paul Lutheran Church. This included picnics at City Park, gatherings on Mardi Gras Day, New Year's Eve, and other occasions. The other families were:

Milton and Anna Hellmers

and their sons, Milton Jr., Gordon, and Evan

Richard and Evelyn Wismar

and their sons, Richard III (or Balty), Ronnie, Bruce, and Keith

Adam and Marian Cooper

and their sons, Adam Jr. (or A.J.), Jerry, and Ronnie

Dudley and Althea Parker

and their daughter Beverly

Occasionally Woody and Elsie Naquin, and their children Linda and Wayne, were also guests.

These pictures were from a picnic at City Park on Sunday, June 29, 1947. The top photo is at the swimming pool. Norman is hanging onto Dudley Parker, with Beverly nearby.

At the bottom left are: Leonard Jr., Janet, Linda Naquin, Beverly Parker, and Norman. At the bottom right are: Leonard Jr., Ronnie Wismar, Linda Naquin, Norman in front of Janet, A. J. Cooper, Ronnie Cooper in front of Jerry Cooper, Gordon Hellmers in front of Balty Wismar.



The left two pictures are of Norman, perhaps taken the same day as Janet's Kindergarten graduation.

The family on the right has not been identified. This picture was taken on June 29, 1947.



These Mardi Gras pictures were probably taken in Audubon Park on March 5, 1946.

At the left are Janet, Norman with Leonard behind him, and cousin Ronald Wegener.

In the middle is Ronald, and at the right are Norman and Ronald. Ronald Wegener, born February 11, 1943, was about a year older than Norman.

These pictures were all taken with a different camera, perhaps by Uncle Martin Wegener.





The top left and bottom right pictures were taken on Mardi Gras, March 5, 1946.

At left are the three oldest Wegener children, Joan, Paul, and Carol.

In the center is cousin Kenneth Wegener, taken on the balcony of his grandmother Oppermann's house on Burgundy Street. Kenneth was born August 25, 1946, so this was taken later than the other two pictures.

At the bottom right is the same group as pictured on page 75.

These pictures were all taken with a different camera, perhaps by Uncle Martin Wegener.



The Hellmers family frequently got together with the Carl Wegener family, such as this day trip to Baton Rouge in July 1947.

At the top left is the Hellmers family and in the top right, the Wegener family. The top center is a view of the Mississippi River taken from the top of the State Capitol. Below are the two families (except for Leonard Sr. who took the picture) on the steps of the capitol building, at that time fewer than 20 years old.



In the two left photos the Hellmers and Wegener kids fill a tree, probably on the State Capitol grounds.

On the right, Janet is pictured on her sixth birthday, July 21, 1947.



Picnics at City Park were a popular 1940s activity, involving relatives and friends from St. Paul Lutheran Church and School.

In the top picture are Leonard, Kathleen Kreiter [?], Norman, Milton Hellmers Jr., and David Randolph.

Bottom left: Cousin Bruce Wismar.

Bottom center: Cousins Elwood and Elmore Bauer.

Bottom right: Norman.





More picnic pictures.

Bottom left: Dottie and David Randolph.

Top left: Janice Wegener.

Top right: Kenneth Wegener, with Dottie Randolph in the background.

Bottom right: Unidentified.



Norman Hellmers remembered:

“In the summer of 1947, the Hellmers family visited the family of Pastor Theodore Wegener in Lake Charles, Louisiana. This was the first vacation trip we took any distance out of New Orleans. Jovial, cigar-smoking ‘Uncle Theo’ and gracious Aunt Adeline hosted us in the parsonage of St. John Lutheran Church on Ford Street. The ‘us’ was Daddy and Mama and their then three children: Leonard Jr., Janet, and Norman.

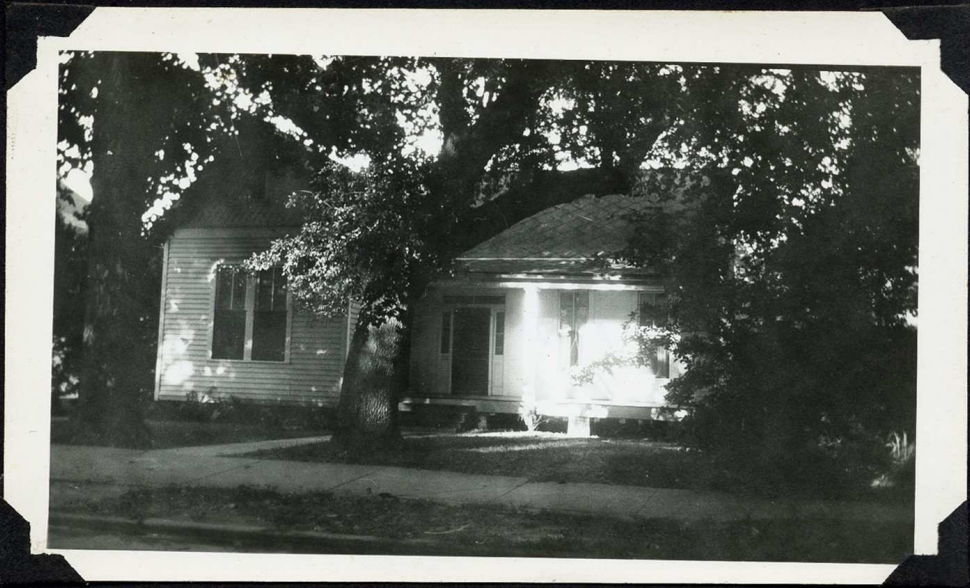
Five of the nine Wegener children still lived at home: Gottfried (called Gitch), Albert, Barbara, Marie, and John (then called Johnny). Adeline, Ted, Esther, and Lawrence were already married. Our cousins treated us like younger brothers and sisters. We went to Vacation Bible School with them, toured the Lake Charles area, and generally enjoyed an idyllic visit in what we city kids from New Orleans considered the ‘country.’”

Top: Parsonage of St. John Lutheran Church in the late afternoon sun, home of the Rev. Theodore Wegener and his wife, Adeline Amerland Wegener, and their children.

Bottom left: St. John Lutheran Church, 521 Ford Street.

Bottom center: Leonard Sr. takes a break in the swing on the porch of the Ford Street parsonage.

Bottom right: Downtown Lake Charles.



More pictures from the Lake Charles vacation.

Top left: Barbara and Marie.

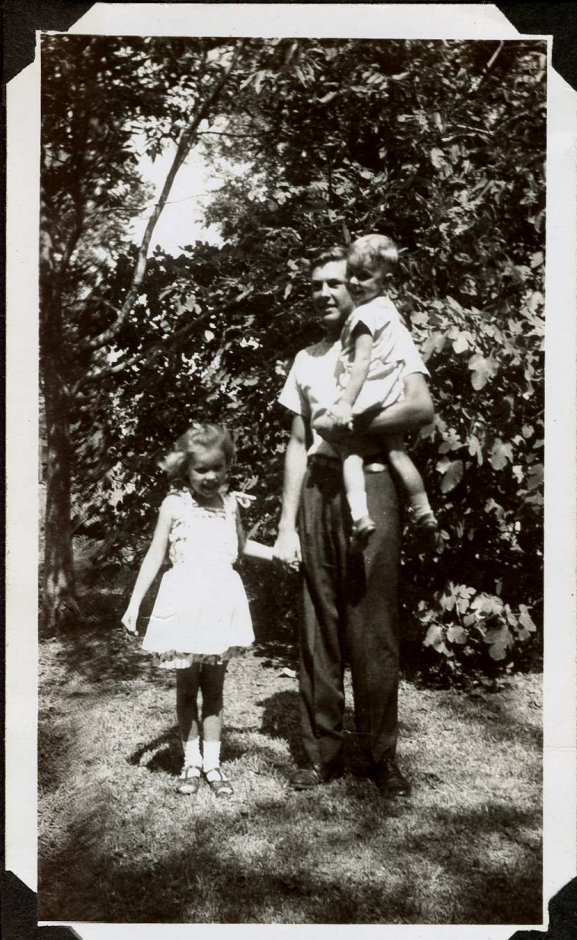
Top center: Albert (holding Norman) and Janet.

Top right: The Hellmers kids with the youngest Wegener kids, Barbara, Norman in front of Leonard Jr., John, Janet, and Marie.

Bottom left: Back row, Marie, Aunt Adeline, Meta, Elizabeth Schmid, Uncle Theo.

Front row, Norman, Janet, Leonard Jr., Johnny. Mrs. Schmid lived in Sulphur, Louisiana, about ten miles from Lake Charles.

Bottom right: The family of Theo and Adeline Wegener—Gitch, Aunt Adeline, Uncle Theo, John, Barbara, Marie, and Albert. (The baby Aunt Adeline is holding is not identified.)



More pictures from the Lake Charles vacation.

The left three pictures were made at the country home of a family Uncle Theo took us to visit, Clarence and Marie Schultz, who lived outside Bell City, Louisiana. Bell City is about 23 miles southeast of Lake Charles.

At right, the Wegener girls dressed Janet up like a bride.

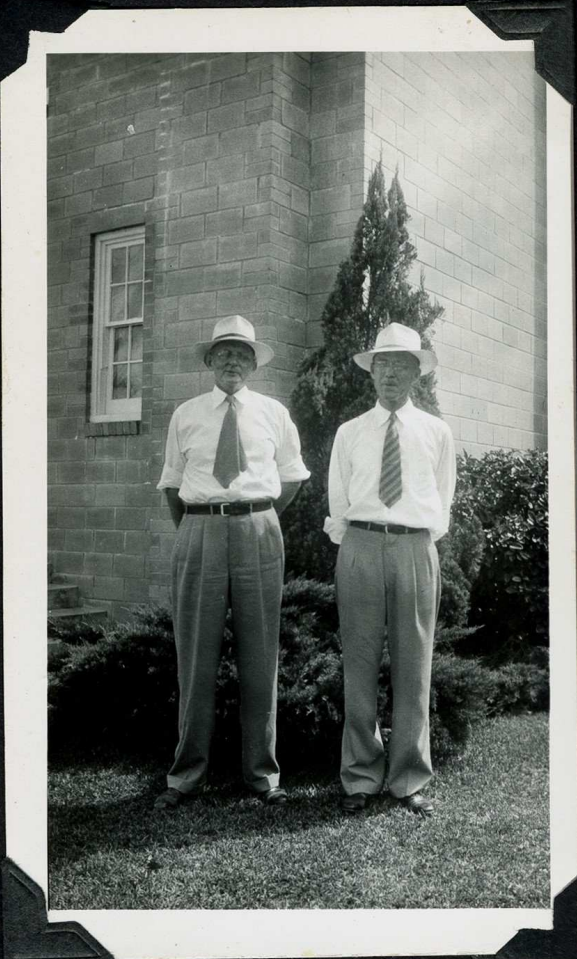




More pictures from the Lake Charles vacation.

The top three pictures document a trip presumably to a nearby town to see a Lutheran Church. The left photo is Uncle Theo with the Pastor. The right photo is perhaps the parsonage.

At the bottom, the Hellmers kids were invited to attend part of Vacation Bible School with the Wegener children.



More pictures from the Lake Charles vacation.

Left: Norman (in Gitch's lap) and Janet opening pecans.

Top left: The Wegener and Hellmers kids pile into the back of an old car.

Top right: Marie and John.

Right: Uncle Theo with John and Marie and the three Hellmers children.

Bottom: The Hellmers children standing by the 1947 Dodge they traveled in from New Orleans, via Highway 90. The car was not the family's, but was loaned to them by Leonard Sr.'s boss, Fred Selle, the owner of Neo Fabrics. (Leonard Hellmers bought this car from Neo Fabrics in June of 1949.)



The top three pictures were taken at the start of the 1947-1948 school year. Leonard entered the 3rd grade and Janet the 1st grade.

The two bottom photographs were taken in November 1947.

At the left, Grandma Juanita Hellmers is pictured with her seven oldest grandchildren. Standing are Norman, Leonard Jr., Janet, Milton Jr., and Gordon. Seated on the ground are Clifford Jr. and Evan.

At the bottom right are Uncle Earl Hellmers and Aunt June Clark Hellmers. They were married on April 4, 1948.



All of these pictures were taken on Mardi Gras, February 10, 1948.

At left is an unidentified reveler on Canal Street. Leonard Sr. enjoyed taking pictures of unusual costumes.

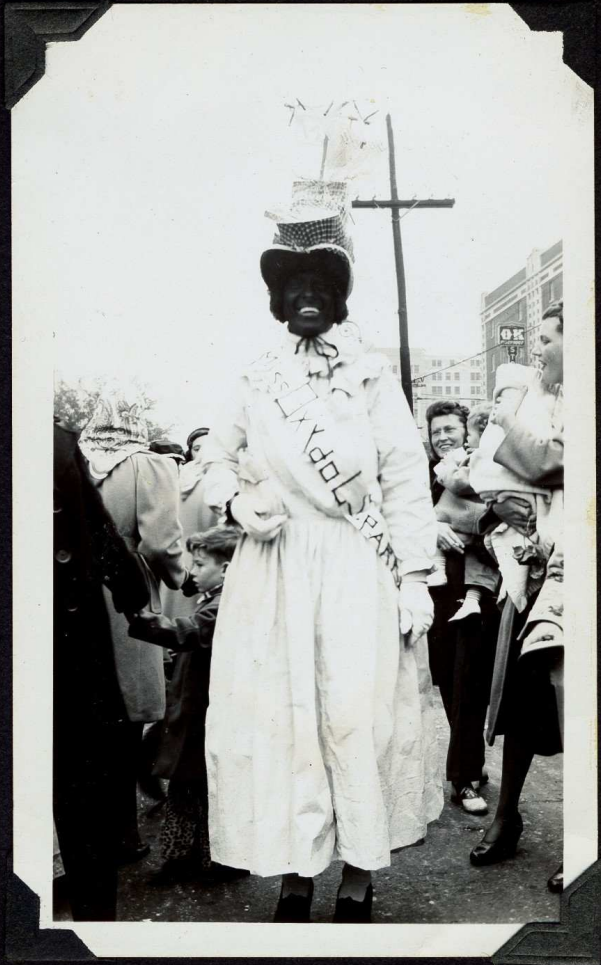
The family ended the day at the home of Uncle Milton and Aunt Anna Hellmers at 2551 Bay Street.

In the top right picture are some of the children, who appear to be (back row) Leonard Jr., Janet, and Milton Jr. and (in front) Gordon, Ronnie Cooper, Norman, and perhaps Evan Hellmers.

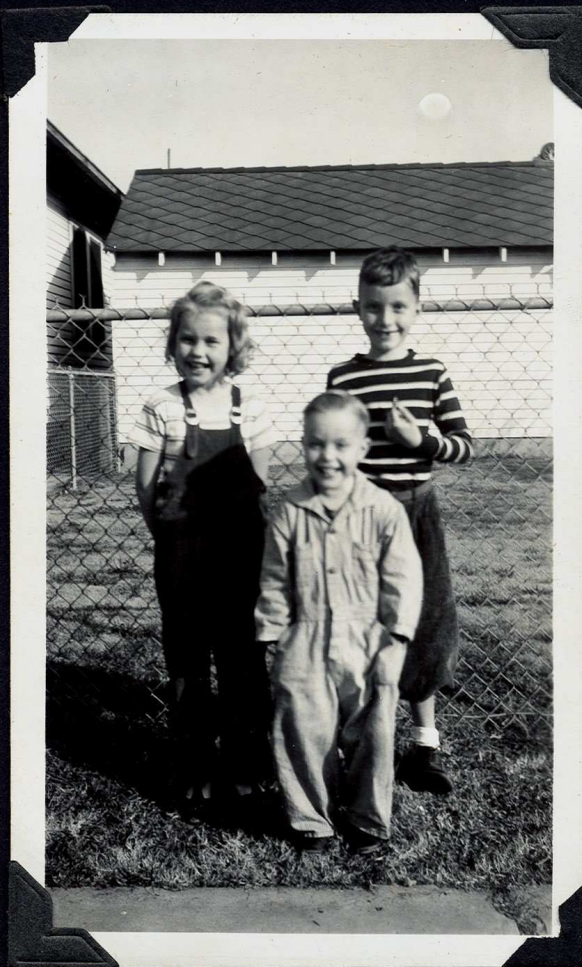




Leonard Sr. captured some of the variety and excitement of Mardi Gras Day on Canal Street.



All of these pictures were taken near the house on Alvar Street on Norman's fourth birthday, February 3, 1948.



Aunt Juanita Hellmers and Charles Schroeder were married on September 25, 1948. Two of her Neff cousins, Gladys and Dolores Neff, were bridesmaids. Her niece Janet was a junior bridesmaid.

The pictures were all taken the day after the wedding in the side yard of the home of Uncle Henry and Aunt Gert Neff at the corner of Lesseps and Urquhart Streets.

Top: Dolores, Janet, and Gladys.

Bottom center: Dolores and Gladys.



At the top, Norman and Janet show off their 1949 Mardi Gras costumes.

Bottom left is Leonard Sr.'s idea of trick photography. Norman remembers:  
“I can still picture our doing this in the back yard on Alvar Street. Daddy set up this huge box on a little platform he constructed and had Leonard Jr. stick out his legs. I didn't know what it looked like until I saw the picture.”

In the bottom right is Norman on his fifth birthday, February 3, 1949.





Norman graduated from Kindergarten at William Frantz Elementary School in June of 1949.



Leonard and Meta Hellmers' fourth child, Eileen Gail, was born on July 3, 1949. While Meta was in Hotel Dieu Hospital, Leonard Sr. moved the family from 1617 Alvar Street into a half of one of his mother's double houses at 1317 France Street.



Eileen Gail Hellmers in the summer of 1949. The left and right pictures were likely taken at the Hellmers' new residence at 1317 France Street. This may have been on Sunday, July 31st, when Eileen was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church by the Rev. Herbert Roepe.



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Eileen in the back yard at 1317 France Street.





All three photos with Eileen were taken in the back yard at 1317 France Street.



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Eileen Gail Hellmers, taken about March 1950, when she was eight months old.



Mardi Gras in 1950 was on February 21st. After viewing the parades uptown, the Hellmers and other families were hosted by the Adam Cooper family at their home at 3309 St. Claude Avenue.

Top left: Meta and Leonard Hellmers.

Top right: Janet Hellmers (dressed as a drum majorette with a baton).

Bottom left: Norman (dressed as an Indian), Leonard (dressed as a cowboy) holding Eileen, and Janet.

Bottom center: Eileen.

Bottom right: Janet with cousin Richard "Balty" Wismar III (dressed as a gaucho).

The pictures were all taken with someone else's camera.



In 1950, Easter was on Sunday, April 9th. These pictures of Eileen were taken in the back yard at 1317 France Street.

In the photo on the right, Eileen was sitting in the high chair purchased when Leonard Jr. was a baby. (As of 2010, this high chair has been used by three generations of the family.)





Eileen in the back yard on France Street.



A reunion of the Wegener family was held at the Randolph home at 24 Packenham Avenue in Chalmette, Louisiana, on Sunday, June 18, 1950. Eleven of the fourteen surviving Wegener children and numerous grandchildren were present.

Top: The family gathers for a group picture.

Center: A picture of everybody.

Bottom: Wegener grandchildren of all ages.



More pictures of the Wegener family reunion on June 18, 1950.

Left: Two sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Oppermann Wegener and Helen Henneberg Wegener.

Top right: The surviving Wegener sisters. Left to right: Maryann Randolph (granddaughter), Louise Wegener Randolph, Lydia Wegener Kliemand, Meta Wegener Hellmers, Frieda Wegener Speckhard, Hulda Wegener, Julia Wegener, Anna Wegener, Gertrude Wegener Gabriel. (Olga Wegener Keim did not attend.)

Bottom right: The Wegener brothers and brothers-in-law wearing party hats. Left to right: Henry Gabriel, Leonard Hellmers, Herman Speckhard, Martin Wegener, Amann Randolph, Carl Wegener.



Eileen in the backyard on France Street, probably when she was about two years old.

Left: Eileen in the Taylor Tot used by all four of the Hellmers children.

Center: Eileen knew what airplanes were and pointed skyward when she heard one.

Right: Eileen with one of her first dolls.



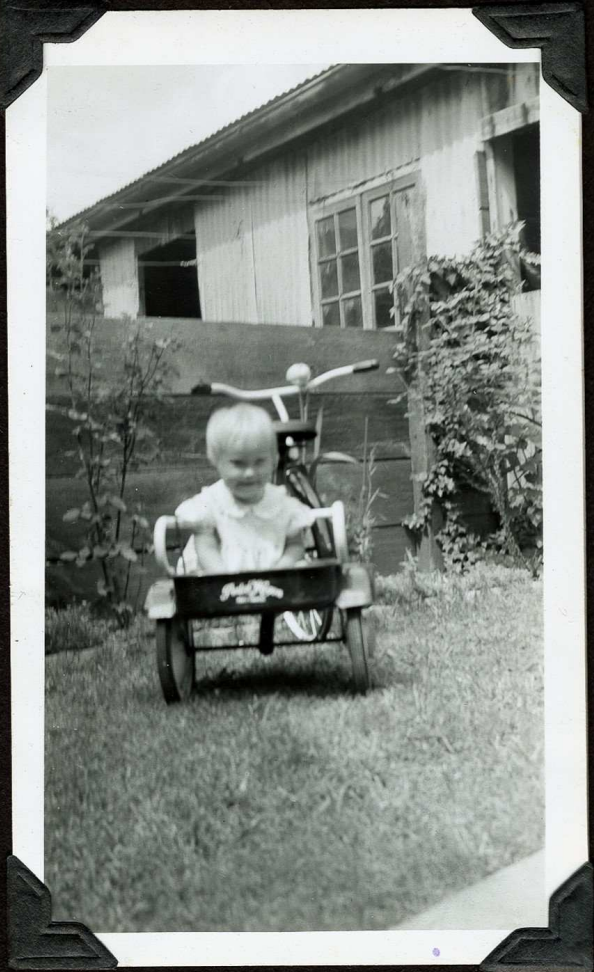


Eileen at 1317 France Street, probably when she was about two years old.

Left: Eileen sits in the back of Norman's three-wheeled bike.

Center: On the front steps of the house on France Street.

Right: Some of Eileen's first steps.



The Leonard Hellmers, Milton Hellmers, Adam Cooper, Richard Wismar, and Dudley Parker families picnicked in City Park together often. Their traditional location was near the McFadden Girl Scout cabin. This picnic was in the summer of 1951.



More City Park picnicking pictures.

Top left: The women in the chairs appear to be Anna Hellmers, Evelyn Wismar, and Marian Cooper. Janet is standing nearby with a camera.

Top right: Eileen, Janet, and Jerry Cooper.

Bottom left: Eileen with Jerry.

Bottom middle: Leonard Sr., holding Eileen, and Janet.

Bottom right: The Hellmers family.



Cooling off in the backyard on France Street. The shower was a hose hung over the clothesline.

Top left: Eileen.

Top right: Norman.

Bottom: Eileen, Norman, and Janet.





## End of Hellmers Album 2

The second album was the last that Leonard and Meta finished. Over the years, many more pictures were taken, but they were not placed in albums.

In the future, additional albums may be created from the many loose pictures that still exist.





