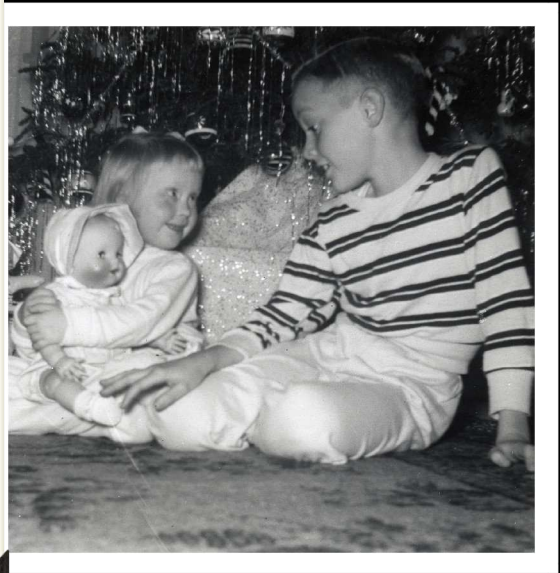
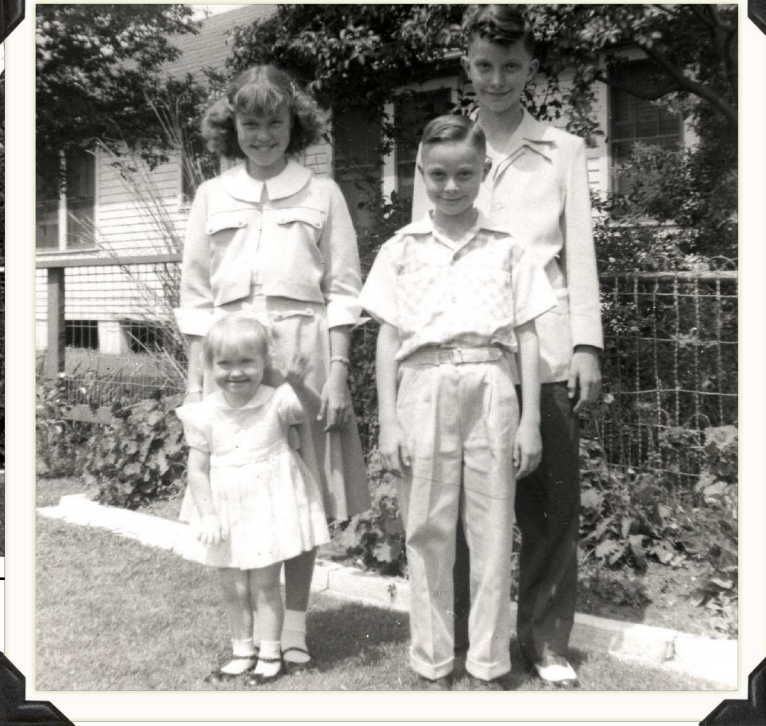


HELLMERS
FAMILY
ALBUM
3



Family Album 3

Leonard & Meta Hellmers

Created and edited by Norman D. Hellmers
December 2011



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INTRODUCTION

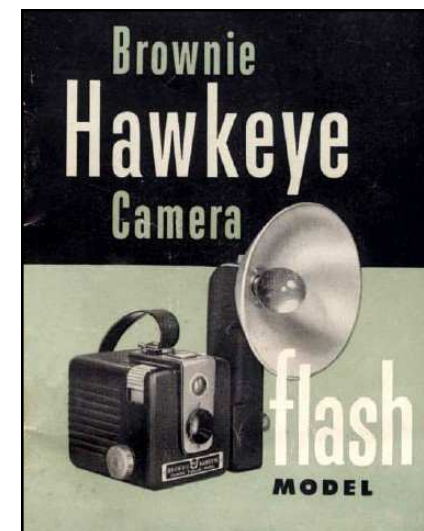
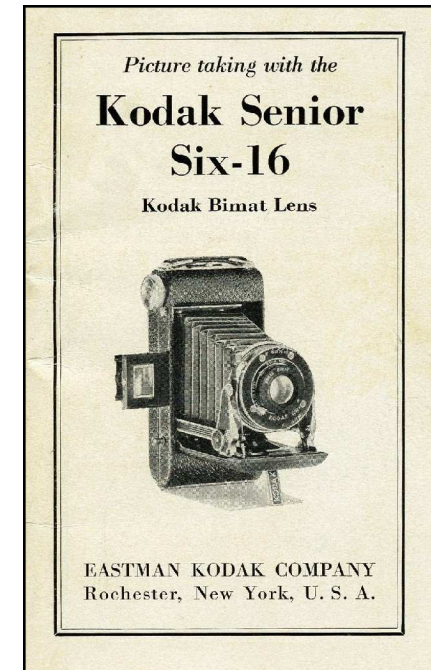
After completing their second photograph album, Leonard Hellmers and Meta Wegener Hellmers of New Orleans, Louisiana, continued to take photographs, but they were not placed in an album. This book brings together many of the pictures they took in the years afterward. It represents Hellmers Family Album 3.

Leonard Sr. continued to use the Kodak Senior Six-16 that he purchased in 1937. Starting at Christmas 1951, pictures were also taken with Leonard Jr.'s Kodak Brownie Hawkeye.

This album begins with a number of photographs that were not included in albums 1 or 2. After that, it continues with family activities in 1951 and ends in 1964. The pictures are in approximate chronological order.

Only a few of these photographs were identified on the backs, so the captions are based on the memories of Janet Hellmers Neumann and Norman Hellmers.

Norman D. Hellmers
December 2011



Leonard and Meta Hellmers created two photograph albums. This new album, number 3, begins with pictures not included in the first two and then continues where Album 2 ended.

Some of the pictures in this album (such as those on the right) were found only by looking through the negatives, most of which were preserved over the years.

Leonard and Meta took many pictures on their honeymoon at Little Woods, which followed their wedding on July 6, 1938. Those pictures are in Album 1. The pictures to the right were not in Album 1. Perhaps Leonard and Meta found them too "private" for their family album.



These "found" photos are all associated with the Hellmers church, St. Paul Lutheran.

In the left picture, Meta is with her mother-in-law, Juanita Neff Hellmers. Behind Juanita is her oldest son, Milton. Meta is holding a mask, suggesting the picture was taken on or around Mardi Gras.

Top right: Men of St. Paul posing in front of a storage shed they constructed on church property. Many are Hellmers family relatives. Front row: Leonard Hellmers, Richard Wismar Jr., Richard Wismar Sr., Martin Wegener, Frank Silver. Back row: Adam Cooper, Milton Hellmers, Earl Hellmers, Elmer Doerries, Woodrow Naquin, Robert Hellmers, Elmer Growth, James Frink.

Bottom right: The members of St. Paul Lutheran Church performed many shows on its basement stage. Leonard Hellmers, with a large fake mustache, is in the front row at the far left.

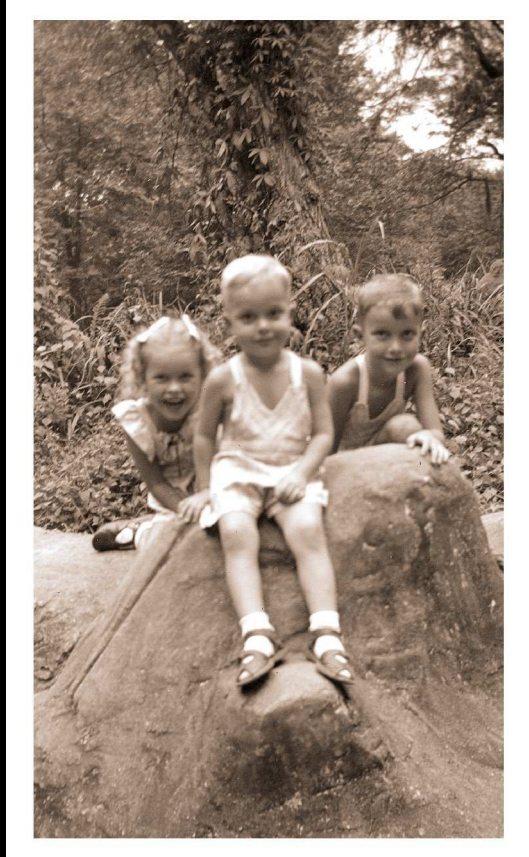


Left two photographs: This Christmas tree was in the Hellmers living room at 1617 Alvar Street, perhaps in 1946. There were French doors between the living room and the dining room, seen in the upper left of both pictures. About two weeks before Christmas these doors were locked and covered with kraft paper. The mysteries behind the doors, including the decorated tree and gifts, were only revealed to the children on Christmas Eve.

Middle top: Uncle Walther Wegener visited the Hellmers family in October 1945. He is holding Norman. See more pictures from this visit in Album 2, page 69.

Top right: Leonard and Janet with 1617 Alvar Street in the background. Taken in September 1946, when Janet started kindergarten. See related pictures in Album 2, page 81.

Bottom right: Janet, Norman, and Leonard, taken in September 1946, probably in Audubon Park. See related pictures in Album 2, page 81.



Left: Norman when he was two years old.

Middle: Norman with his godmother, Aunt Juanita Hellmers, who at the time of this picture was 17 years old.

Right: Aunt Juanita Hellmers is between her cousins, Dolores and Gladys Neff.

All of the pictures were taken at 1617 Alvar Street about the time of Norman's 2nd birthday, which was on February 3, 1946. See related pictures in Album 2, page 77.



On a couple of occasions, Leonard and Meta splurged on color film. These pictures were from Mardi Gras, March 5, 1946. All of them were taken on the campus of Tulane University. The building in the background is Gibson Hall, which faces St. Charles Avenue.

Top, left to right. Norman, cousin Ronald Wegener, Janet, and Leonard.

Bottom three photographs: Norman, Janet, and Leonard.

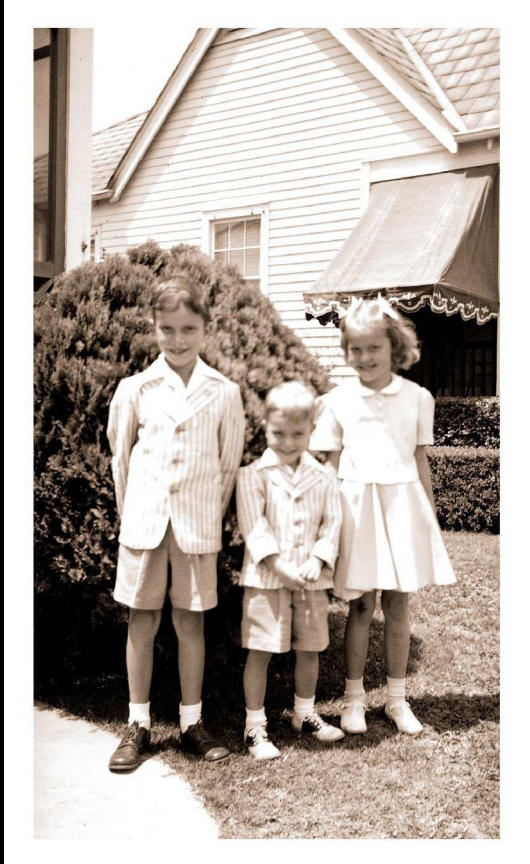
After 64 years, these photos have faded considerably. Presumably the color dyes were not stable to begin with. Even with the fading, a bit of the original colors can be seen.



The left two photographs were taken on an Easter Sunday, probably in 1947. See the related picture in Album 2, page 83.

Top right: Apparently taken later in 1947 or early 1948.

Bottom right: Janet wearing a new winter coat. Of this picture, Janet said: "I think I may have been between 7 and 8 years old. I don't remember an occasion but I remember that coat and I really liked it."



On Mardi Gras 1948, Leonard and Meta again tried color film. Despite the fading, a suggestion of the colors of the costumes can be seen in these photographs.

In 1948, Mardi Gras was on February 10th. The pictures of Norman, Janet, and Leonard were taken in Audubon Park.

After these pictures were taken, the family drove to the home of Uncle Milton and Aunt Anna Hellmers at 2551 Bay Street. Pictures taken there are in Album 2, page 119.



The home of Adam and Marian Cooper at 3309 St. Claude Avenue was frequently the final stop for the Hellmers family on Mardi Gras. All of these pictures were taken there on March 1, 1949.

Top: The Cooper boys, Ronald (Ronnie), Gerald (Jerry), and Adam Jr. (A. J.).

Bottom left: Janet, Norman, Ronnie, and Jerry.

Bottom right: Leonard Jr.

The bottom two pictures were given to the Hellmers family by Jerry Cooper in 2010.

Janet and Norman in their 1949 Mardi Gras costumes are pictured in Album 2, page 127.



The Hellmers children — Leonard Jr., Janet, and Norman — attended St. Paul Lutheran School (also known at one time as St. Paul—First English Lutheran School).

Each year the school held a spring program, always involving music. At the end of the 1951-1952 school year, the musical was "Cinderella," directed by Meta Hellmers.

Top left: Janet, who was completing the fourth grade, was Cinderella. Here she is with her fairy godmother, Joy Ann Bilich.

Bottom left: Second-grade sisters, Diane and Lee Russell, danced as part of the program.

Top right: Was this part of "Cinderella" or a different program? (This is a double exposure.)

Bottom right: The combined first and second grades sang and played simple instruments, including triangles and homemade tambourines. The "director" was Mary Martin. Norman, then in the second grade, is third from the left.



In the summer of 1951, the Hellmers family made its first car trip of any length, traveling to Chattanooga, Tennessee. There the family were the guests of Elmer and Dorothy Groth. The Groths, who were both highly regarded teachers at St. Paul Lutheran School, moved to Chattanooga in 1947, where Elmer became principal of First Lutheran School.

Top left: The Groths had three children, including their youngest, Elmer Jr. ("Buddy"), who was still living at home. Also living with the Groths was Dorothy's mother, Mary Kaufmann (known as "Aunt Mamie").

Top middle: Eileen with the Groths' dog, "Gerhard."

Top right: The Hellmers family on the Groth front porch.

Bottom left: "Umbrella Rock" in Point Park atop Lookout Mountain.

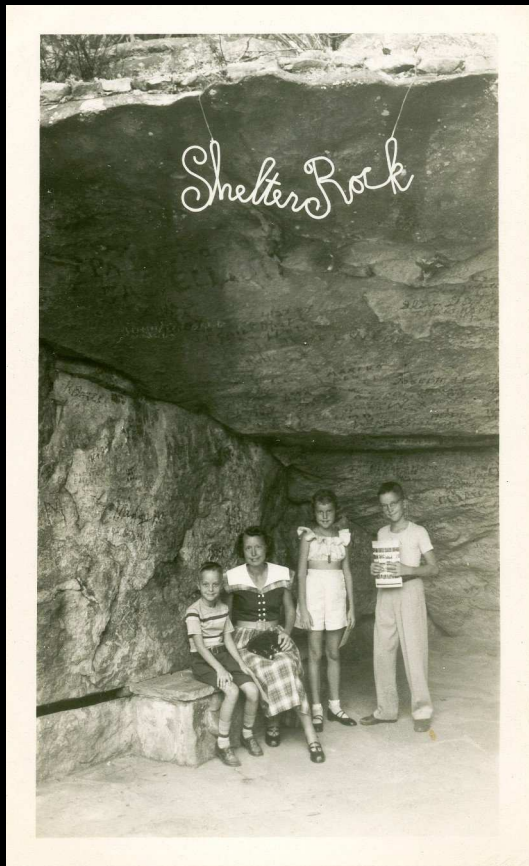
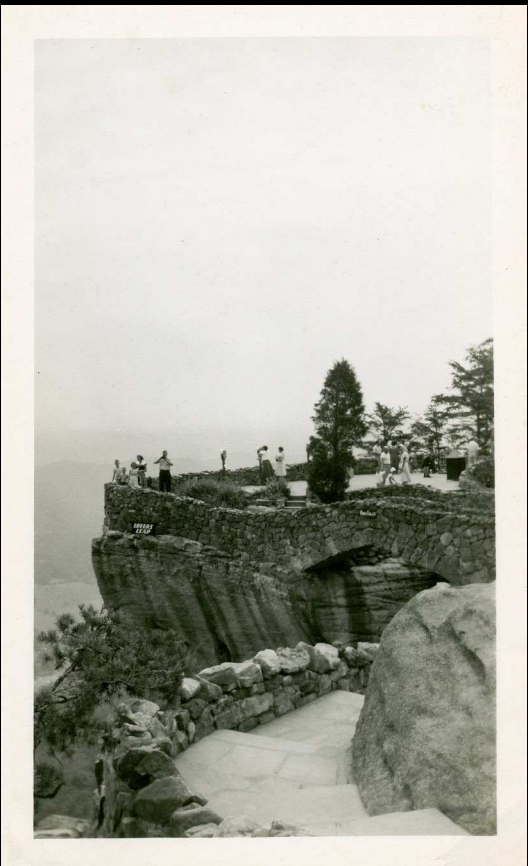
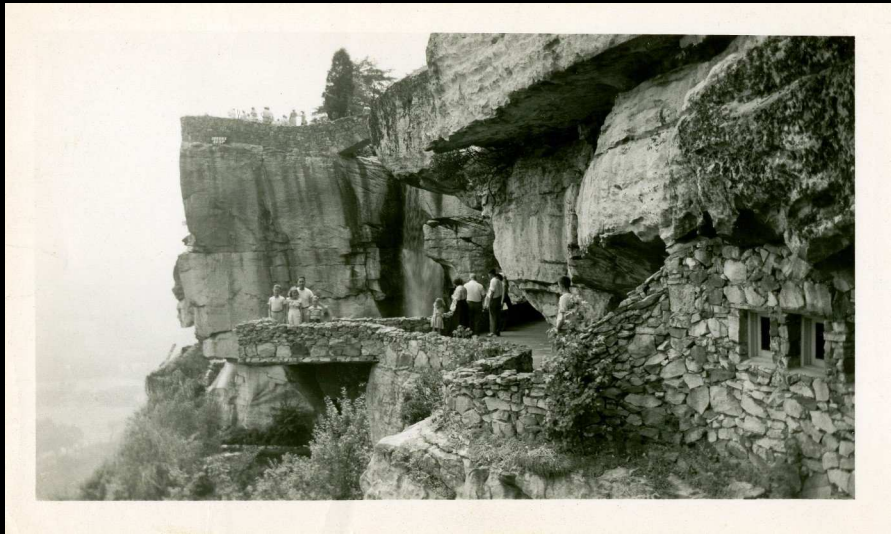
Bottom right: The Hellmers family with the automobile in which they traveled the 500 miles from New Orleans to Chattanooga. In June of 1951, Leonard Hellmers bought this, his first new car, a 1951 Nile Green Plymouth Cranbrook 4-door sedan.



One of the highlights of the trip to Chattanooga was a visit to the renowned "Rock City." Having grown up in New Orleans, the Hellmers children had never seen mountains or even hills.

The Chattanooga trip also included Ruby Falls (in a cavern), Point Park on Lookout Mountain, and a ride on the famed Incline Railway.

It was a memorable family vacation.



Top left: The church to which the Groth family belonged was First Lutheran Church, then located at the corner of S. Hickory Street and Bennett Avenue near downtown Chattanooga. Their school was in the building next door.

Top right: While Elmer Groth was principal, First Lutheran built a new school at 800 Belvoir Avenue in Chattanooga. The school was dedicated in the fall of 1951.

Bottom: The Hellmers made a day trip with the Groths to Chickamauga Lake, a TVA-created impoundment on the Tennessee River northeast of Chattanooga.



For Christmas 1951, Leonard Jr. was given a new camera, a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye (Flash Model). The prints were about 4 x 4 inches. For a time, the family took pictures with both Leonard Sr.'s old Kodak Senior Six-16 and Leonard Jr.'s Kodak Brownie Hawkeye.

Top: These pictures were apparently the first that Leonard took with his new camera. This was the Hellmers family's last Christmas at 1317 France Street

Bottom: Some time in early 1952, the family made an excursion to the Chalmette National Monument, scene of the Battle of New Orleans.



Top left: This picture of the Hellmers children was taken on the visit to the Chalmette National Monument (see previous page).

Top right: Uncle Walther and Aunt Mary Wegener on one of their occasional visits to New Orleans.

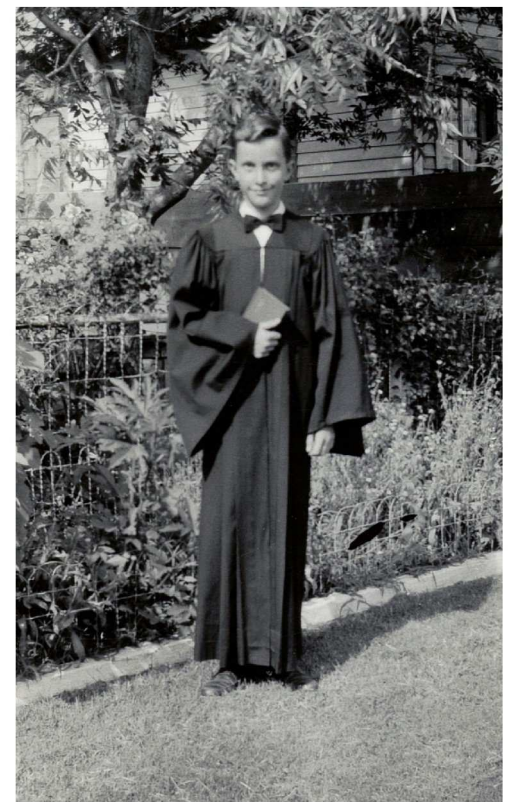
Bottom: These pictures were taken on the lawn of Grandma Juanita Hellmers, next to her house at 1329 France Street. In the bottom right, the children appear to be: Donald ("Donnie") Hellmers, Janet holding Eileen, and Deborah Schroeder, holding her sister Natalie.

At the time of these pictures, Grandma Hellmers rented halves of her double houses on France Street to five of her children: Robert, Donald, Leonard, Clifford, and Juanita.



Leonard Jr. was confirmed on Sunday, April 27, 1952, at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The pastor at that time was the Rev. William F. Wedig. In Leonard's class there were ten girls and five boys.

Bottom right: Leonard is holding his confirmation Bible in the back yard at 1835 Gallier Street.



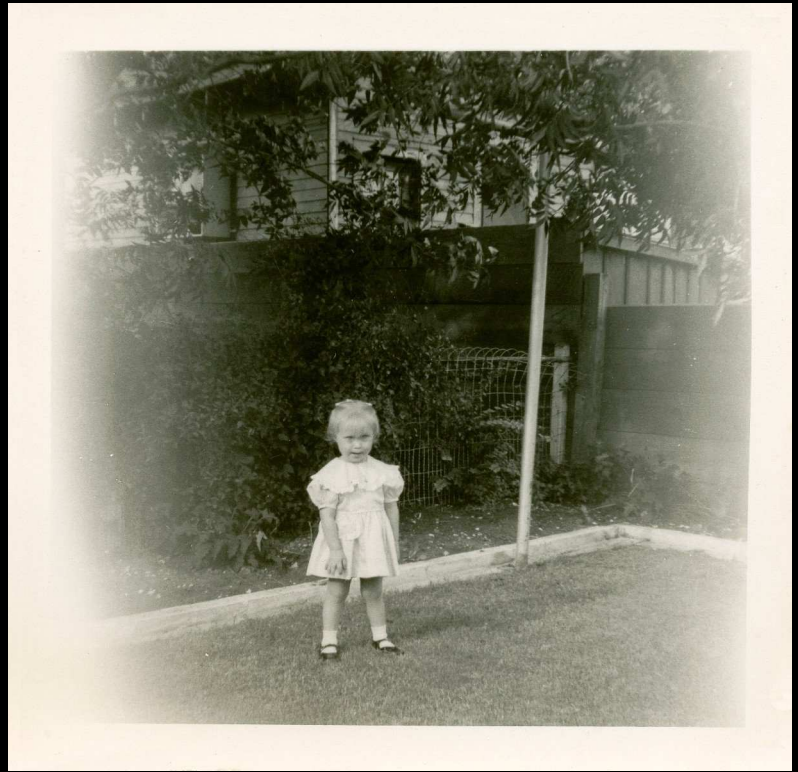
The left three pictures were taken in the back yard at 1835 Gallier Street on Eileen's 3rd birthday, July 3, 1952.

At right, Eileen's birthday was celebrated in the Gallier Street dining room. (Behind the arched doorway was a small hall. Through the hall to the left was Leonard and Meta's bedroom and to the right was a bedroom shared by Janet and Eileen. The bathroom was behind the doorway visible in the picture.)



All of these pictures were apparently taken on Eileen's 3rd birthday, July 3, 1952. The top two were taken in the front yard of 1835 Gallier Street, the bottom two in the back yard.

Janet remembered: "Mama, who was a talented seamstress, made these matching dresses for Eileen and me. They were pink."



Top left: Christmas 1952 was the first on Gallier Street. Leonard Sr. made the wreath for the front door and the twin candles. The front of the house was lit with spotlights.

Top right: Christmas decorations in the dining room included a yule log with three candles (made by Leonard Sr.) for the table, red and green candles and a Christmas tree card holder on the buffet, and hanging pine cones with a red ribbon (made by Meta).

Bottom left: The Christmas tree was placed on the false fireplace in front of the living room window. The door to the right led to the screened-in front porch.

Bottom right: The Hellmers purchased a Baldwin spinet. Janet remembered: "I began piano lessons with Mr. Robichaux when I was in the 4th grade at age 10. That was in 1951. I assume that the piano was purchased around that time, but I'm not sure of the date."



Top: Eileen poses in front of the 1952 Christmas tree. At the time she was about 3¹/₂ years old.

Norman remembered: "For many years, our family followed the same traditions on Christmas Eve. In the late afternoon, we would sing carols and enter the previously closed off living room, where we saw the tree for the first time. Daddy read the Christmas story from Luke 2, and then we were given our gifts. We had supper and then attended the children's service at St. Paul Lutheran Church. After church we stopped at the home of Uncle Martin and Aunt Beth Wegener on Burgundy Street in the next block from church. We then drove to the home of Uncle Milton and Aunt Anna Hellmers where we spent the rest of the evening. This way both sides of the family were visited."

Bottom left: The Wegener children at their home at 2530 Burgundy Street. From the left are Kenneth, Janice, and Ronald holding Merrill.

Bottom right: Celebrating Norman's 8th birthday, which was on February 3, 1952. Seated from left are Deborah Schroeder, Norman, Eileen, and Donnie Hellmers. Janet is holding Natalie Schroeder. The guests were the children of Norman's godparents, Uncle Donald Hellmers and Aunt Juanita Schroeder.



The first school Eileen attended was known as Sunny Court, which was a nursery school for special needs children. Sunny Court was located in the French Quarter on Burgundy Street, adjacent to Cabrini Playground (near Neo Fabrics, Inc.).

Left: Eileen is in the front left chair.

Right: Eileen with her teacher, Mrs. Jean Boes.

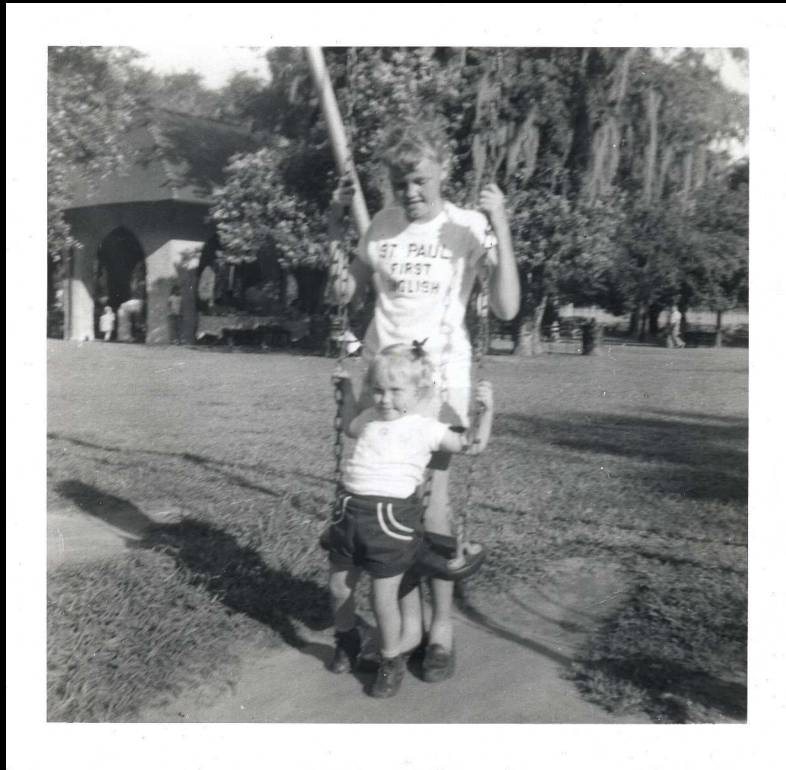


Near the end of each school year, several different picnics were held, including a school picnic, a Sunday School picnic, and several family picnics. All were held in City Park.

Top: Eileen gets ready to go.

Bottom left: Norman shows off his broken collar bone, which was fractured in that year's Sunday School picnic during tug-o-war. The trunk is filled with the family's gear for another picnic, including the picnic basket, table cloth, and folding chairs.

Bottom right: Janet and Eileen swing near one of the picnic shelters.



Janet and Eileen in front of the Hellmers home at 1835 Gallier Street.

Janet's picture was taken for some special occasion. But what? Perhaps her 12th birthday, which was on July 21, 1953.



48

Christmas, 1953, at 1835 Gallier Street.

It was a doll year for Eileen. At least four can be seen in the pictures.



Top: On a mild day after Christmas, Eileen tries out her new doll stroller and a tricycle.

Bottom: Norman on his 10th birthday, February 3, 1954.



For Mardi Gras 1954, Meta sewed red and white polka-dot clown costumes for everyone.

These pictures were taken with Leonard Jr.'s Kodak Brownie Hawkeye in the backyard of 1835 Gallier Street on Mardi Gras Day, March 2, 1954.

Leonard Jr. created the diamond pictures. The bottom picture was taken by Patsy diBenedetto, who lived next door.



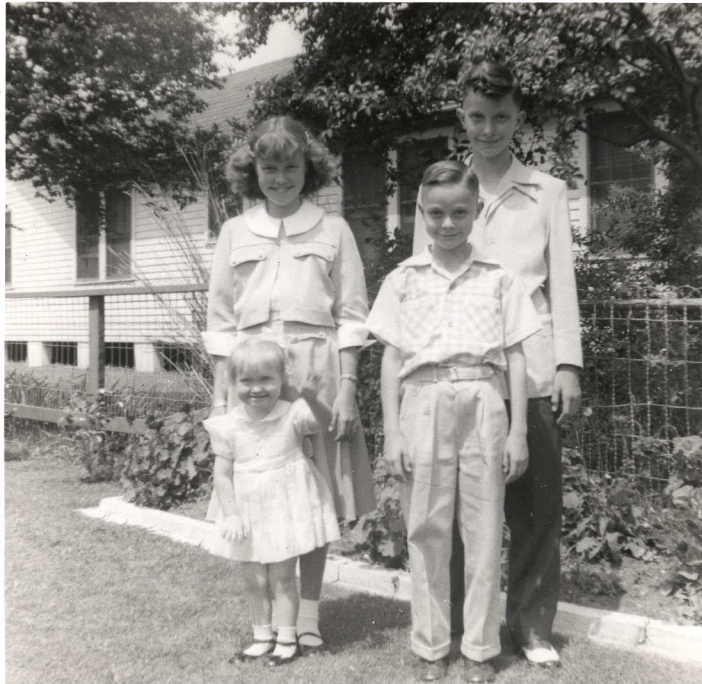
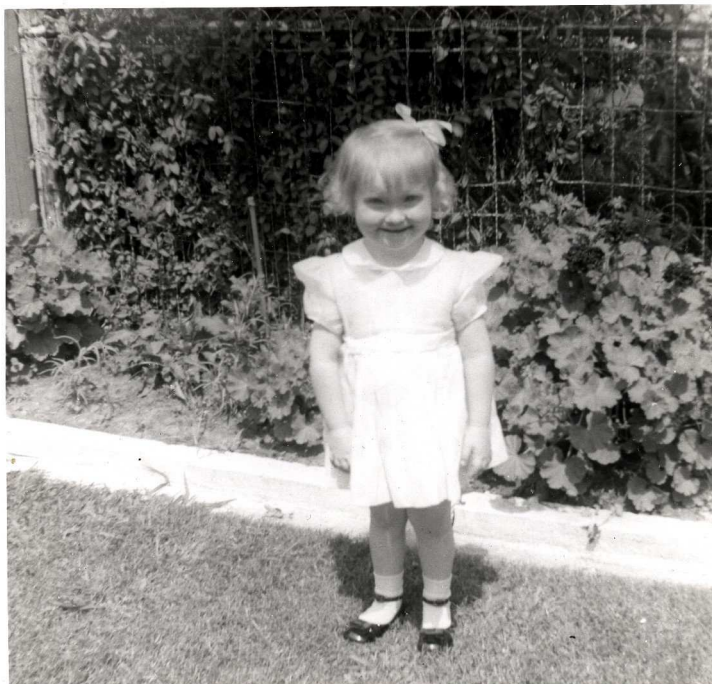
More pictures of Mardi Gras 1954 were taken with Leonard Sr.'s Kodak Senior Six-16. As on a few occasions, two family cameras were used that day.



Leonard Jr. used his Brownie Hawkeye to capture these Mardi Gras masqueraders.



All of these pictures of the Hellmers children were taken in the Gallier Street back yard on Easter Sunday, April 18, 1954.



Janet was confirmed on Sunday, April 25, 1954, at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The pastor at that time was the Rev. William F. Wedig.

In Janet's class there were eight girls and ten boys.

Bottom right: Janet is holding her confirmation prayer book in the back yard at 1835 Gallier Street.



Top left: Janet had several good friends in her confirmation class, including Beverly Parker (left).

Middle: Janet with her prayer book.

Lower right: Janet in her confirmation dress. Behind her is a climbing rose arbor that went over the driveway at 1835 Gallier Street.

Janet remembered: "Mama made the white 'eyelet dress' for me for my confirmation. Most of us purchased a prayer book and St. Paul Lutheran Church gave all of us a Bible with a list of our class pasted inside."



In the summer of 1954, cousin Judith Dunlop came to visit New Orleans. William Dunlop and Helen Kliemand Dunlop and their five children made their home in New Jersey. Judith was the oldest. Over the years, other Dunlop cousins came to visit.

Top left: A day trip to Bogue Falaya Park in Covington.

Right: Both pictures were likely taken at Bogue Falaya. In the bottom right is Judith with her grandmother, Lydia Wegener Kliemand, and her grand aunt, Julia Wegener. Julia (unmarried) and Lydia (widowed) lived together in Brooklyn, New York.

Bottom left: Judith in a French Quarter courtyard.



Top: Eileen, perhaps on her 5th birthday, which was July 3, 1954.

Norman remembered: "The fences behind Eileen were built as soon as we moved to Gallier Street to give Eileen a secure back yard to play in. I remember helping Daddy with these fences and many other home improvement projects."

Bottom: This single house at 1835 Gallier Street was the first home purchased by Leonard and Meta Hellmers. The house was built in 1948 for Mr. and Mrs. Emile Hoffman. Leonard and Meta purchased the house from the Hoffmans in early 1952 for \$16,500. It remained the Hellmers home until the summer of 1959, when they sold it to Meta's brother Carl Wegener and his wife Helen.



Cousin Arlene Gabriel and Otto Kretzmann were married at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 29, 1954.

Janet, then 13, was a junior bridesmaid, and Eileen, 5, was the flower girl. Eileen was Arlene's godchild.

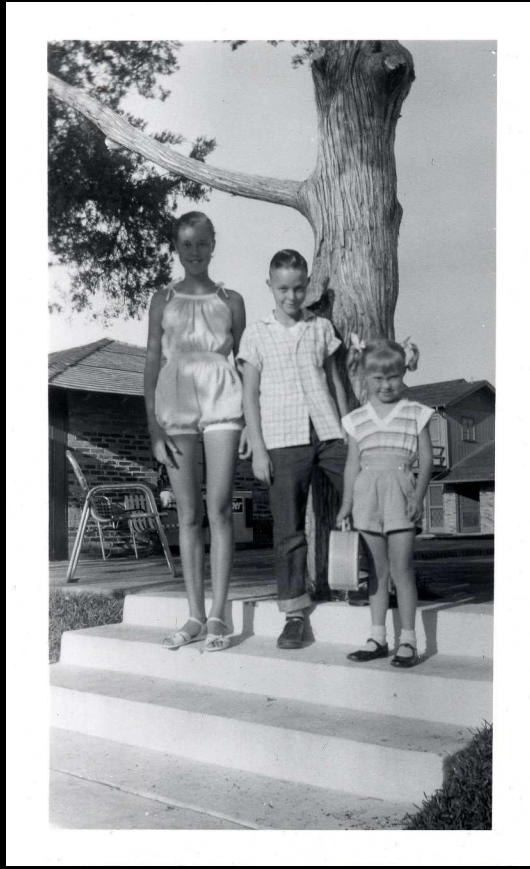
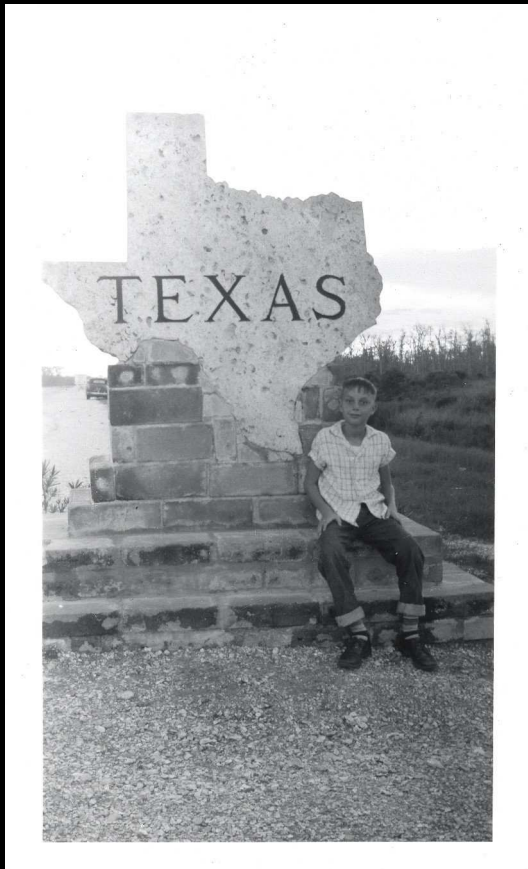
Janet remembered: "Cousin Annabeth Randolph was also a junior bridesmaid. Mama made these green dresses for us."



In the summer of 1955, the Hellmers family (except Leonard Jr.) traveled to Dallas. While Leonard Sr. attended the Dallas Furniture Market, the family relaxed at the New Westerner Tourist Courts.

Swimming in the pool was a favorite activity. In the bottom center picture are Norman, Janet, and Tommy Gavin. Tommy was the son of Patrick Gavin, a Naugahyde salesman for U. S. Rubber (now Uniroyal) and a close friend of Leonard Hellmers.

Norman remembered: "We traveled to Dallas by way of Shreveport and stayed there overnight at the Alamo Plaza Hotel Courts. I had only stayed in a motel once before, so this was very exciting. At the pool in Dallas, Janet taught me how to do the crawl stroke. On the way home, we went through Beaumont and Port Arthur. It was all a great adventure."



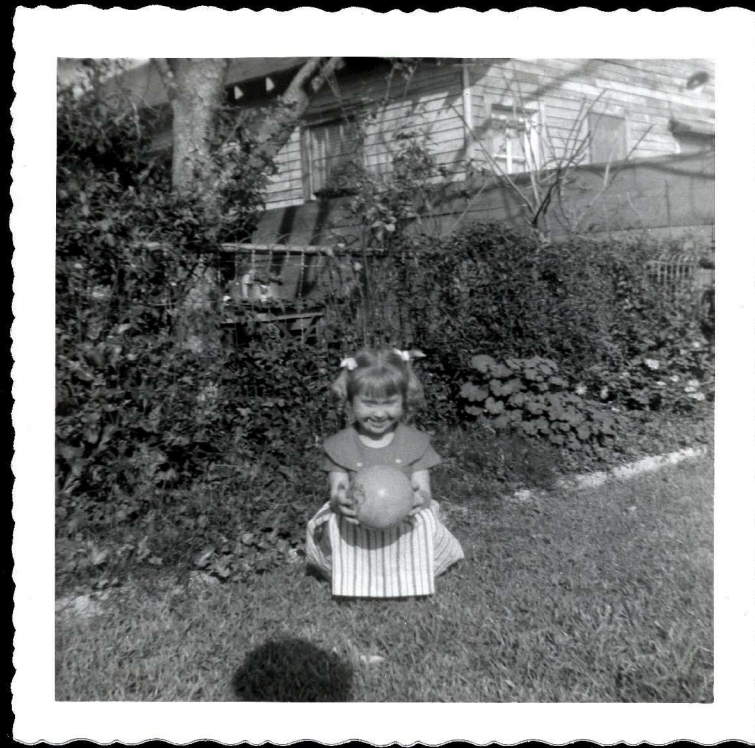
Top: Eileen, probably in Norman's pants. This may have been about the time of her 6th birthday. The Hellmers house at 1835 Gallier Street was across the street from Bunny Friend playground, which can be seen in the background.

Bottom: Eileen wearing an Indian costume worn by Norman at Mardi Gras.



In 1955, when Eileen was 6 years old, she entered a special education class at William Frantz Elementary School at 3811 N. Galvez Street (where her three older siblings attended Kindergarten).

Top: Eileen with her new school bag.



To celebrate Grandma Juanita Hellmers' 60th birthday in 1955, all of her children and grandchildren gathered at her house at 1329 France Street for a party. (Juanita Carolina Neff Hellmers was born on 2 September 1895.)

Top: Grandma Hellmers and Eileen in Grandma's living room.

Bottom left: Grandma Hellmers' seven children, seven children-in-law, and her then 25 grandchildren were present for the special occasion. (Uncle Robert is missing as he took the picture.)

Bottom right: Grandma Hellmers and her 25 grandchildren. She eventually had 29 grandchildren.



Top left: Grandma Juanita Hellmers on her 60th birthday.

Top right: Norman is in the center of this picture. He remembered: "The weather was mild and everything was held outside in the yard at the back of Grandma's house. The tables were probably boards on sawhorses."

Bottom: Grandma and her seven children. Back from left: Milton, Leonard, Grandma, Earl, Clifford. Front: Robert, Juanita, Donald.



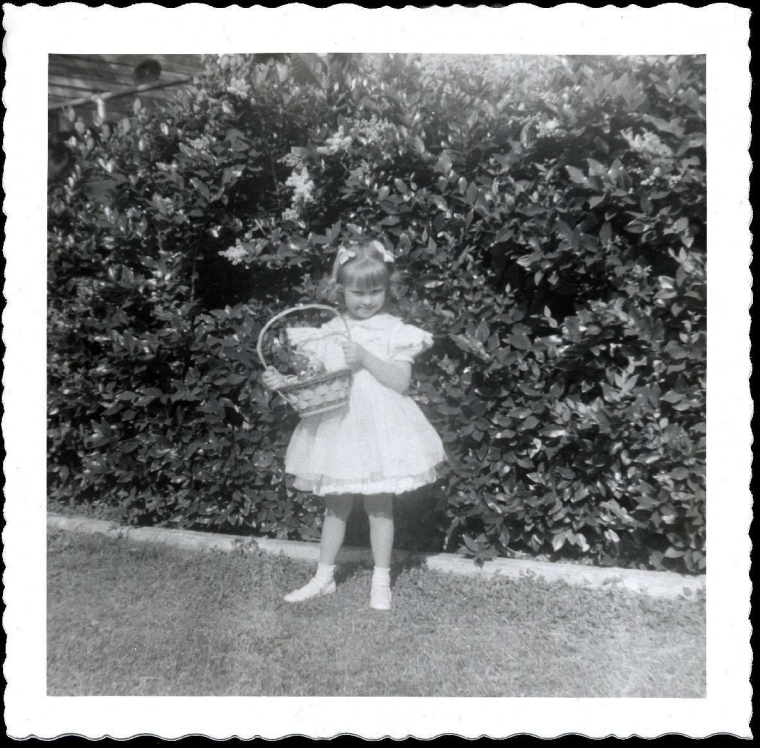
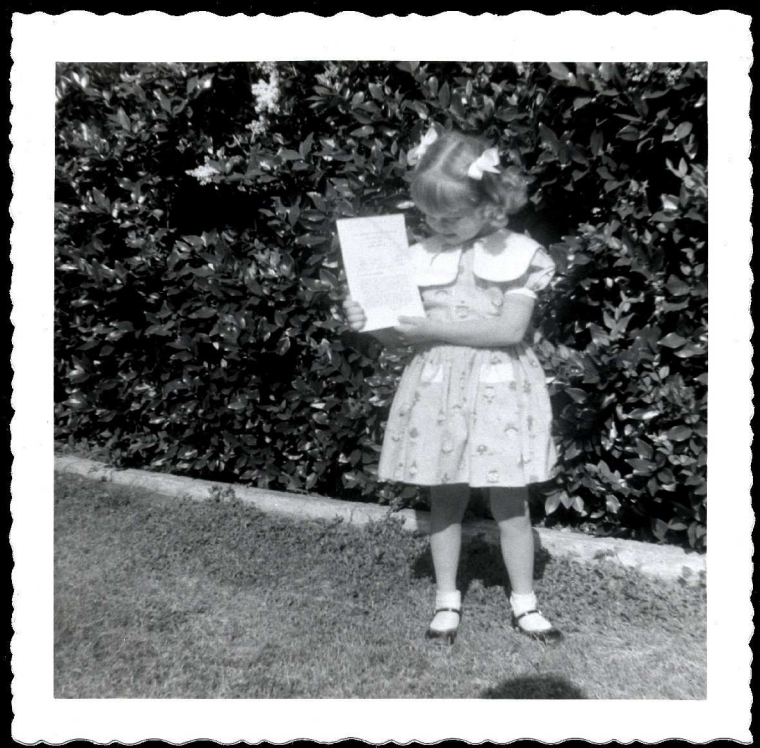
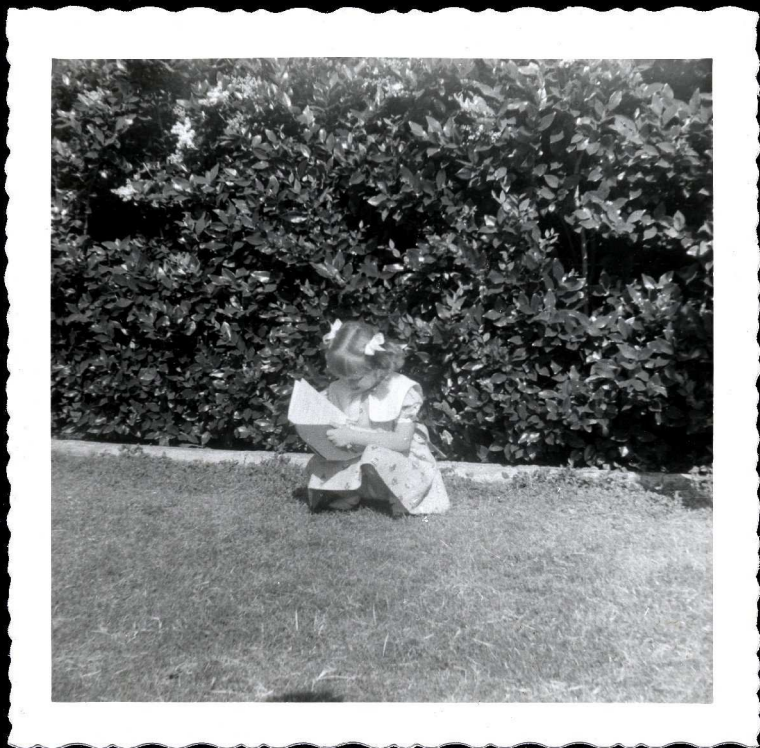
Eileen and Norman at Christmas 1955.

Bottom left: Eileen received a record player as one of her gifts. She enjoyed music all of her life.



Bottom right: Eileen on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1956.

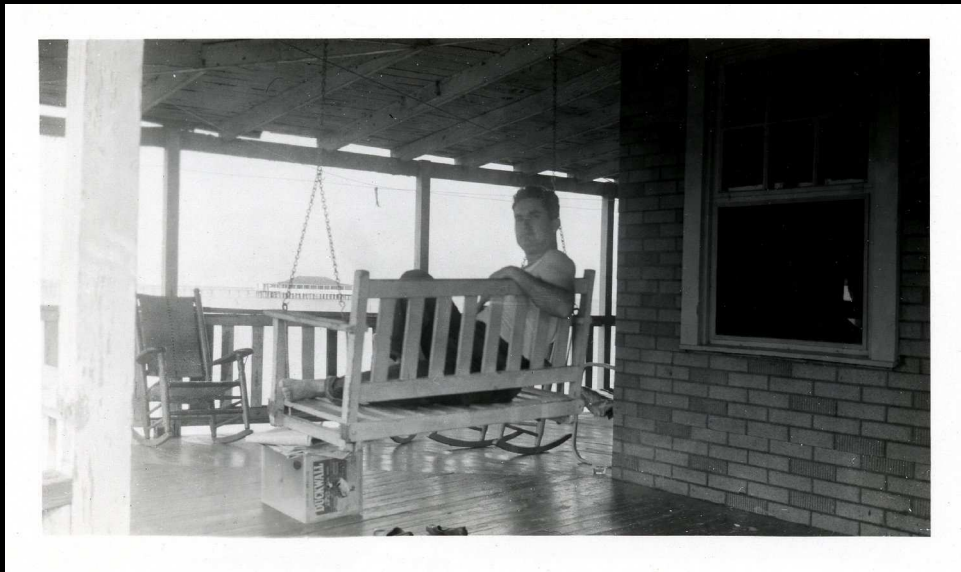
Others: Eileen, perhaps with a report card at the end of her first year at William Frantz School.



In late July or August of 1956, Leonard and Meta rented a camp at Little Woods, this one named "Jimmy's Wish." In the 1950s, there were still hundreds of camps on Lake Pontchartrain, from the lakefront airport to beyond Paris Avenue. Over the years, storms destroyed them. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, none were left.

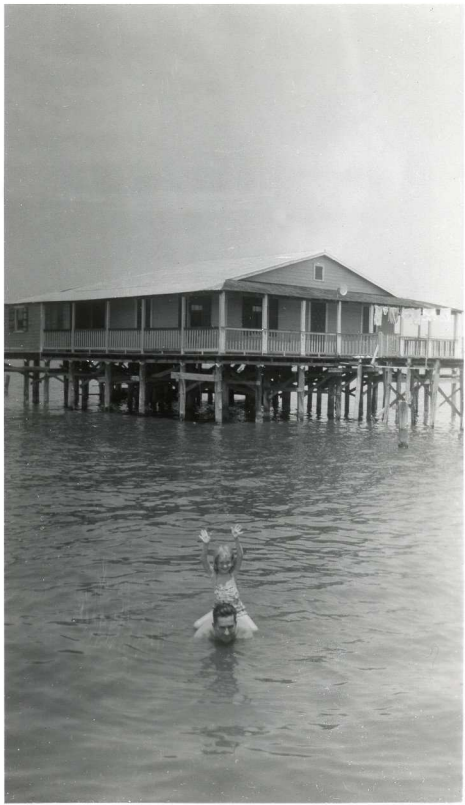
Norman remembered: "Janet and I could bring a friend along for the week. She invited Linda Naquin and I asked our cousin Ronnie Wismar to join us. Ronnie and I spent a lot of time playing ukuleles and singing."

Bottom left: In back, Janet, Meta, Leonard, and Linda. In front, Norman, Eileen, and Ronnie.



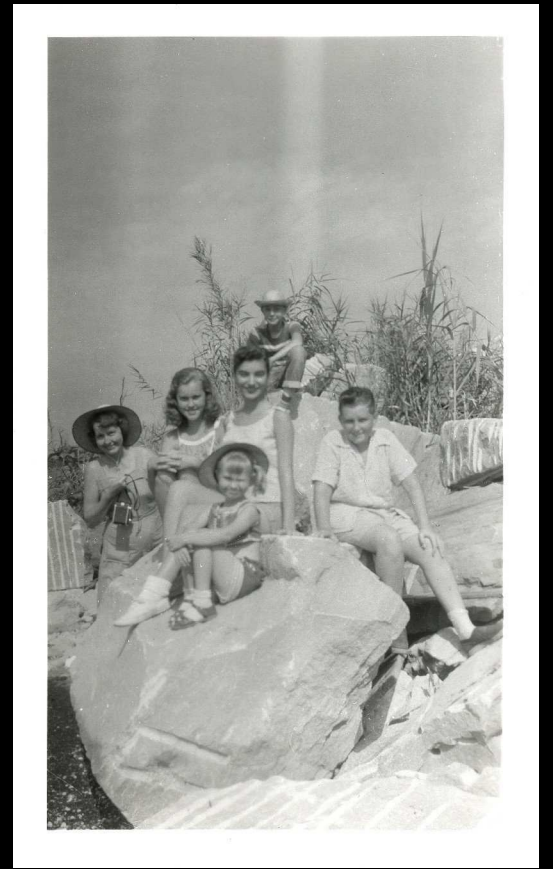
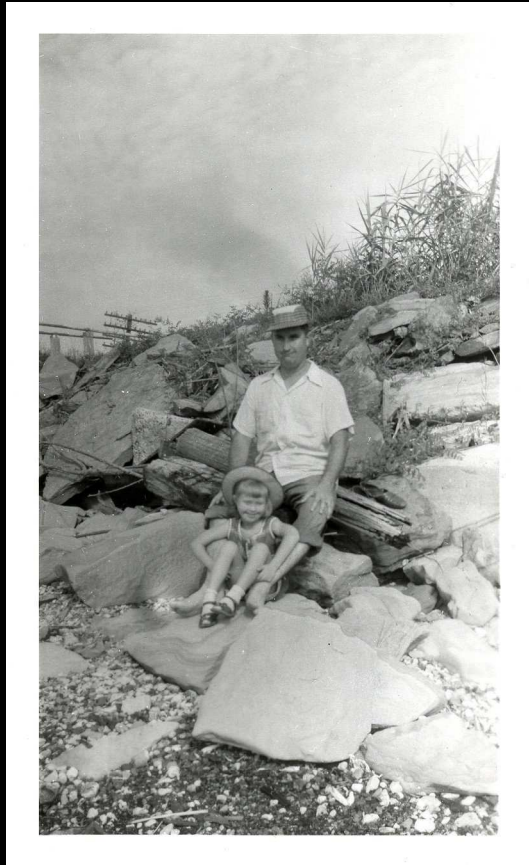
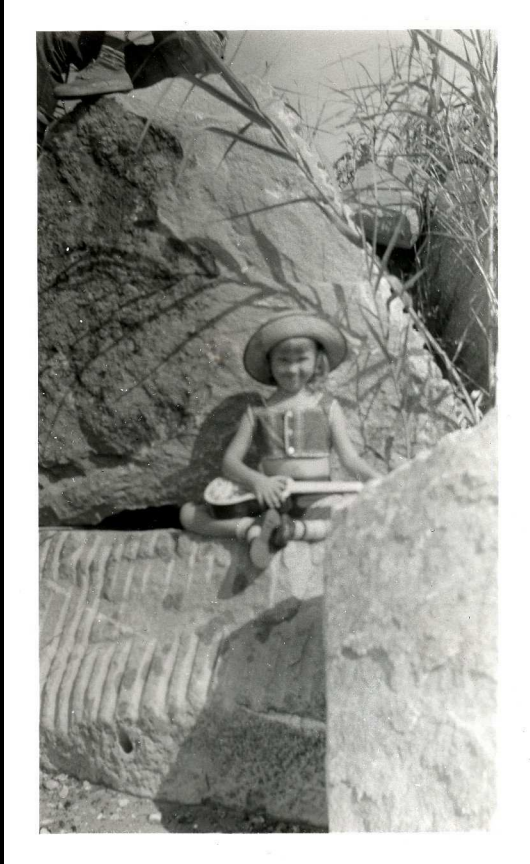
"Jimmy's Wish" at Little Woods in the summer of 1956.

Norman remembered: "Little Woods was a place for total relaxation: lots of swimming, games, crabbing, and doing nothing."



"Jimmy's Wish" at Little Woods in the summer of 1956.

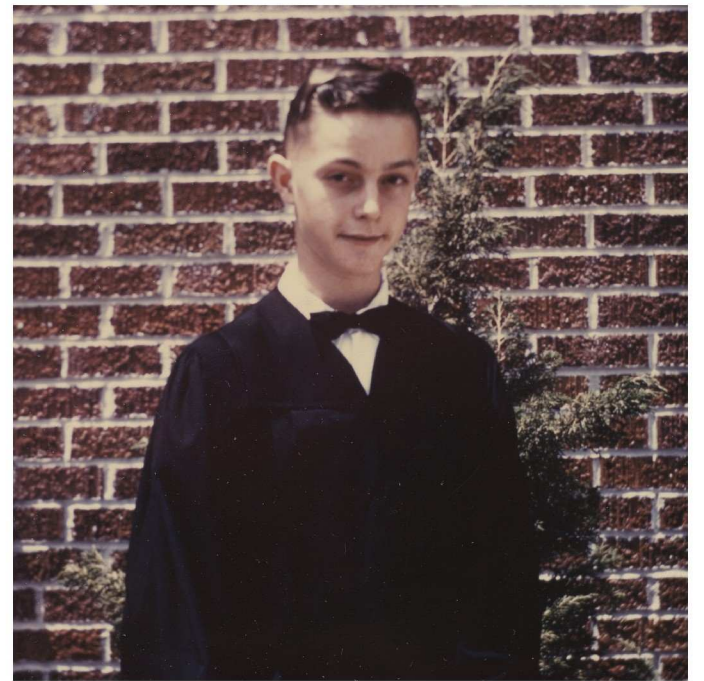
Norman remembered: "There were large boulders placed along the levee to prevent erosion. Being from New Orleans, we didn't have many places to climb on rocks. It was a fascinating place to pose for a few pictures. Ronnie brought his ukulele. He taught me how to play it and we sang together for hours."



Norman was confirmed on Sunday, April 28, 1957, at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The pastor at that time was the Rev. William F. Wedig.

In Norman's class there were nine girls and eleven boys. Norman is in the back row, second from the left.

Bottom right: Norman's picture was taken by Uncle Donald Hellmers, Norman's godfather.



In June 1957, Leonard Hellmers and his business partner Herold Ave'Lallemant purchased a weekend/vacation cottage in Waveland, Mississippi. The house was located at what was then 142 Waveland Avenue and was about 400 yards from the Gulf of Mexico.

Some of the first visitors were the Martin Wegener family, who presumably came over for the day.

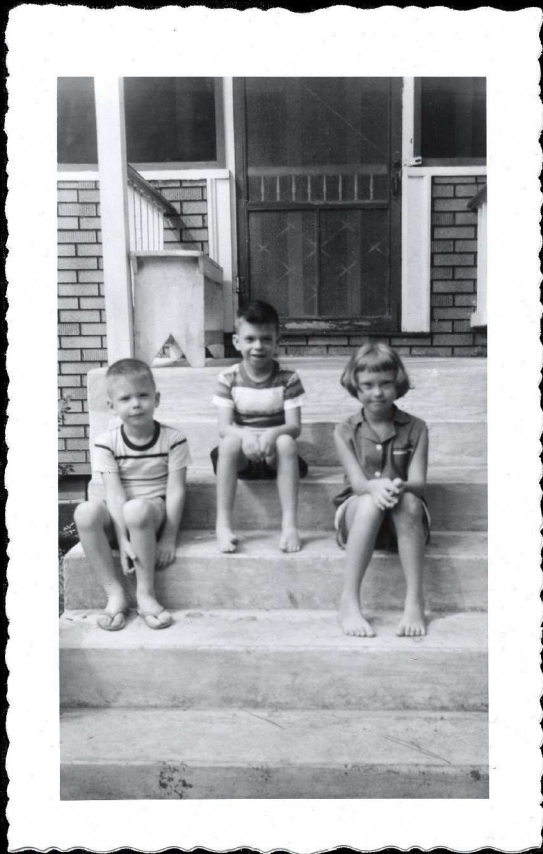
Left: Sitting on the front steps are Stephen, Merrill, and Eileen.

Middle top: The cottage had a large screened porch across the front. Behind that were two bedrooms. In back were the bathroom, kitchen, and a long dining room with windows looking out into a forest. Upstairs were several small bedrooms. The house was surrounded by tall pine trees.

Middle bottom: Merrill, Stephen, and Eileen.

Right: In back are Eileen, Aunt Beth, Uncle Martin, and Ronald. Seated are Stephen, Janice, Meta, Kenneth, and Merrill in front.

Norman remembered: "The cottage was sold in August 1963. It was destroyed in August 1969 by Hurricane Camille. In 2011, the property was still vacant."



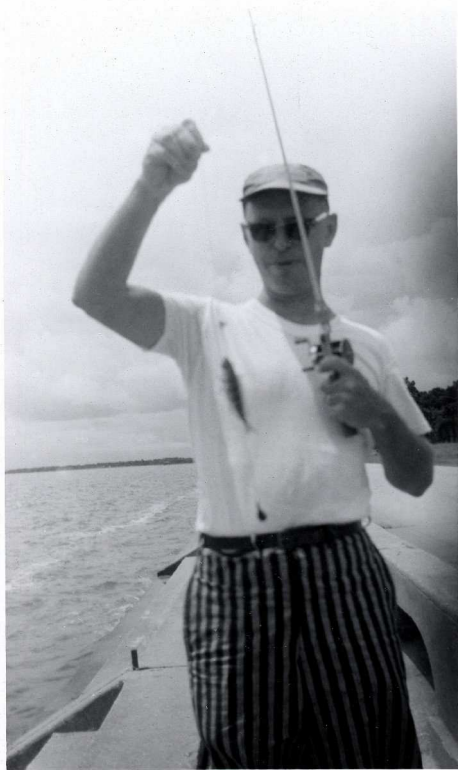
More pictures of the Wegener family visit to Waveland.

Top left: The Gulf of Mexico, this part of which is known as the Mississippi Sound. This view is from Waveland toward Clermont Harbor.

Top right: The Wegener family with Meta and Eileen. Uncle Martin baits a crabnet.

Bottom left: Uncle Martin with a small catch.

Bottom right: The visit included a drive to "Wildwood," the weekend/vacation house of Uncle Milton and Aunt Anna Hellmers. The house was on the bank of the Jourdan River, not far from Kiln, Mississippi. The Hellmers family was forced to sell "Wildwood" in the 1960s when the federal government purchased much of the area as a 125,000-acre safety buffer zone surrounding what was then known as the Mississippi Test Facility, where the Apollo Program's Saturn V rocket engines were tested.



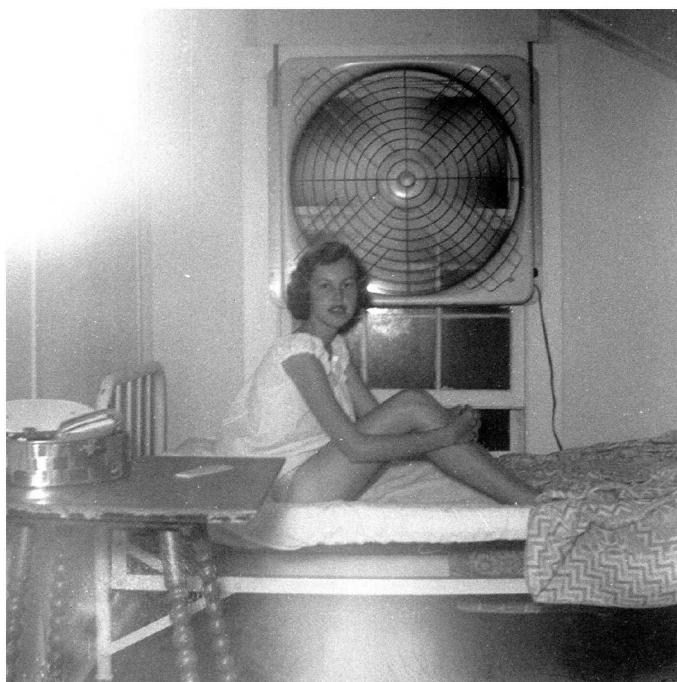
Some time in 1957, the Hellmers and Ave'Lallemant families were together at 142 Waveland Avenue.

Top left: Eileen and Craig Ave'Lallemant by the front gate and the new mailbox.

Top right: The Hellmers and Ave'Lallemant families. Janet took the picture.

Bottom: Janet in an upstairs bedroom. There was no air conditioning, so fans were used in the hot, summer weather.

Norman remembered: "The cottage was on a large lot [150' x 94']. There was a garage toward the left and a large yard to the right. Some time in the late 1950s, Daddy bought a nice boat. It was 15' with a 35hp Evinrude engine. I bought skis and the other gear for water skiing with my own money. The boat, named 'Dale,' was kept in the garage. I used to launch it at Clermont Harbor or on the Jourdan River. Daddy sold it not long after I left for college."



Top left: Next door to 142 Waveland was the Chassaniol house. They had two daughters close to Janet's age, Cynthia and Gail, here sitting on the Waveland Avenue pier.

Top right: Norman and Janet with inner tubes.

Bottom left: Cynthia, Eileen, May Ora Ave'Lallemant, Craig.

Bottom right: The Ave'Lallemants and Eileen in front of the Chassaniol house.

Norman remembered: "Where Waveland Avenue ended at the Gulf, there was a small public pier. The pier was a place to sit and relax, but more importantly, it was a way to safely enter the water over the concrete seawall. When we first went to Waveland, the pier needed repairs, so Daddy bought the materials and we added supports, decking, and steps as needed. Most of the many public and private piers along the Gulf are now gone. They are no longer needed since a sand beach has replaced the seawall."



Leonard and Meta Hellmers were the godparents of John Leonard Hellmers, the seventh of the nine children of Earl and June Hellmers. John was born on August 17, 1957.

These pictures in the backyard at 1835 Gallier Street were probably taken on his baptism day.

Top: Back row, from left: Grandma Hellmers, Uncle Earl, Meta (holding John), Leonard. Middle row: Karen, Clark, Earl Jr. Sitting: Eileen, Michael, David, and Sandra.

Bottom left: Leonard and Meta with their godson.

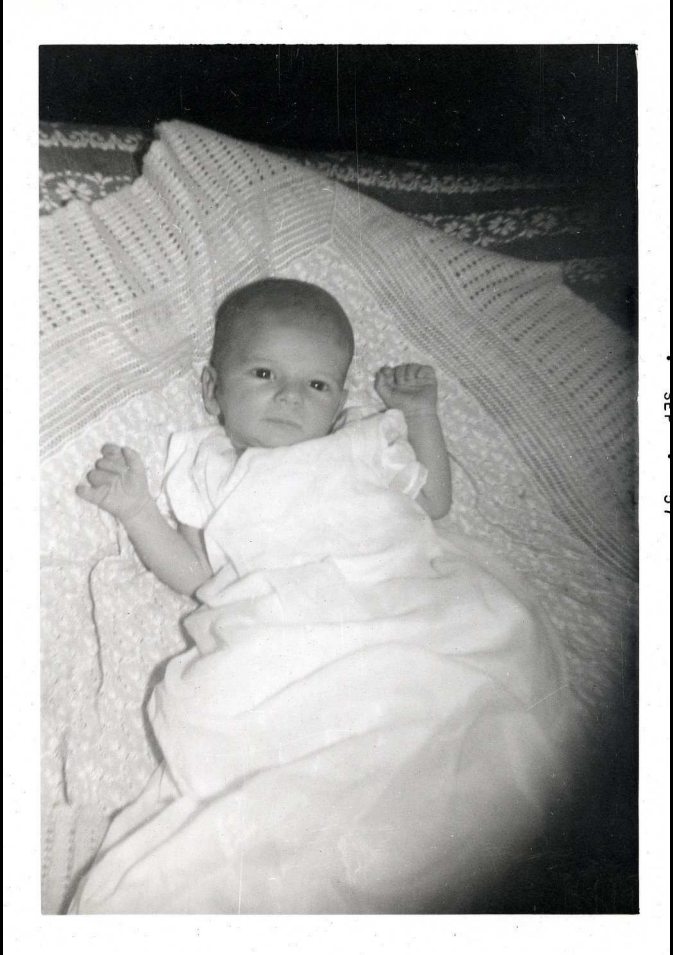
Bottom right: John Leonard Hellmers.



SEP • 57



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On February 12, 1958, New Orleans received one of the heaviest snowfalls in its recorded history, 1.3 inches. The following day the sun came out and Meta took these pictures of Eileen.

Left top and bottom: Eileen in front of the neighboring house of Walter and Esther Duffourc.

Right top and bottom: Eileen in the front yard of the other neighbors, the diBenedetto family. Bunny Friend playground is in the background.

Norman remembered: "I was in ninth grade at Kohn Junior High. Snow started falling during the morning and by early afternoon, we were dismissed from school. I took home movies of the memorable event. It was the first snow most of us had ever seen."



Eileen poses with the snowman made the day before.

Norman remembered: "Cousins Ronnie and Bruce Wismar came home with me. We had a bigger yard and lots of snow. We decided to make a snowman, but we didn't know how. We first tried gathering the snow into a big ball. We then realized that you could roll the wet snow and make a ball that way. The snowman lasted for at least a few days, but the warm weather soon returned to New Orleans."

JULY 1968



At the end of the 1958 school year, Janet recorded some memories of her junior year at Francis T. Nicholls High School.

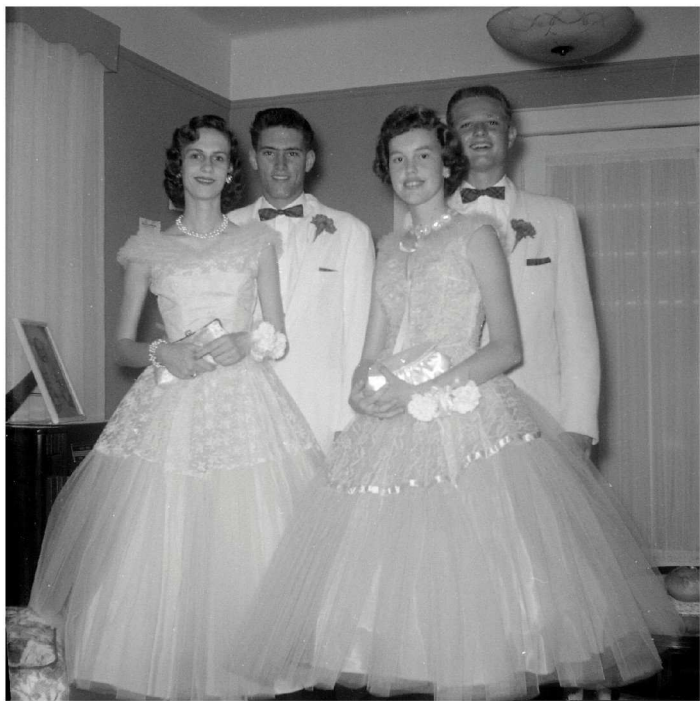
Top left: Carolyn Orth and Annie Schill. Behind Carolyn is Richie Hauptmann.

Top right: Janet's "indoor ball" team won the intramural championship. Janet is in the back row at the far left.

Bottom left: Prom dates, Carolyn Orth and Jimmy McCormick with Janet and Errol Orth.

Bottom right: Carolyn and Janet in their prom dresses.

Janet remembered: "Errol was Carolyn's first cousin. Carolyn's dress was pink and mine was blue."



These pictures were taken some time in 1958, probably about the time of Eileen's 9th birthday.

Eileen was given a stuffed toy collie, who was promptly named "Lassie." Eileen enjoyed this "Lassie" dog for many years.

Norman remembered: "The car was a blue 1957 Plymouth Suburban two-door station wagon. It was part of the growing fascination with tail fins. In another picture, you can see a diamond-shaped garden bed. Daddy designed it to match the diamonds in the screened porch. We worked on this together. Every spring I'd go with Daddy to a nursery to get new plants."



JUNE 1958



JUNE 1958



JUNE 1958



JUNE 1958

In the backyard of the cottage in Waveland, Leonard and Meta put up a small wading pool for Eileen. Here she tries out her "diving" skills.

SEPT 1958



Top left: A Neo Fabrics delivery truck outside the warehouse at 901 Barracks Street.

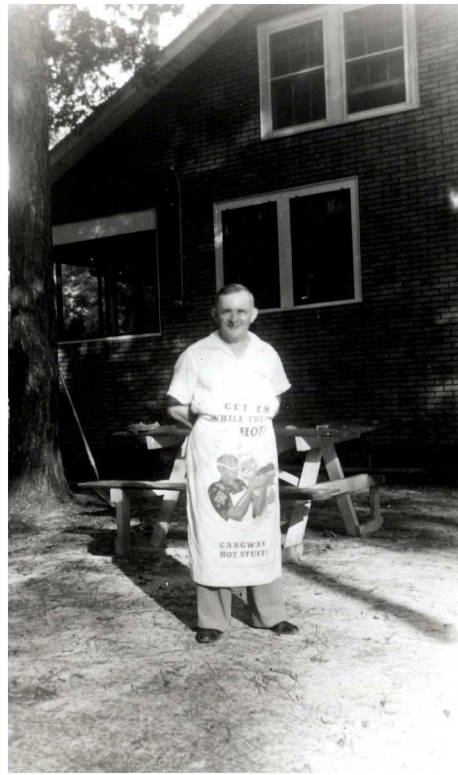
Business partners Leonard Hellmers and Herold Ave'Lallemant used the cottage in Waveland for business purposes as well as for personal use. In the summer of 1958, Neo Fabrics held a gathering of its sales staff.

Top right: Back row, from left: George Broadbridge, Floyd Vicknair, Luke Jovanovich, Norris Delamore, Robert Scanlan. Front row: Joe Bozant, Wally Chaplain, Herold Ave'Lallemant, Johnny Laporte.

Bottom left: Floyd Vicknair and Joe Bozant play horseshoes, a favorite pastime at the cottage.

Bottom center: George Broadbridge (married to Leonard's Aunt Anna Neff) was an experienced cook.

Bottom right: Johnny Laporte and Norris Delamore, who worked at the Neo Fabrics front counter for many years, assisting in-store customers.



In the summer of 1958, the Dixie District Convention of the Walther League was held at Emory University in Atlanta. After the convention, most of the Leaguers spent a week at a nearby camp. Janet and Norman both attended. Janet took the pictures.

Top left: Girls from New Orleans in front of Harris Hall at Emory are Nancy Quick, Yvonne Repath, Linda Naquin, Annabeth Randolph, Dottie Randolph, and Sharon Miller.

Top right: At the camp outside "Moon" cabin are Linda Naquin, Charlotte Donahue, Yvonne Repath, Sharon Miller, Dottie Randolph, and Annabeth Randolph.

Bottom left: Campers gather for Bible study or some other activity.

Bottom right: Swimming. Dottie Randolph is at the far right. In the extreme lower left in the water are Ronnie Wismar, Norman, and Ronnie Cooper.

Norman remembered: "These Dixie District Walther League conventions and camps were wonderful experiences. There was always a group from our church who went, but we got to know young people from other states, including Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. The kids from Tennessee always seemed the most lively and they taught us lots of new songs, like 'Good 'ole mountain dew.'"



In the summer of 1958, after her junior year at Nicholls High School, Janet attended Pelican Girls State, held on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Top left: Girls in front East Hall (now East Laville Hall) on South Campus Drive.

Top right: The group from Janet's Girls State "city." Girls from all around the state were divided up into these cities.

Bottom left: The girls from Nicholls ready to head home.

Bottom right: Janet waiting for the bus to return to New Orleans.

Janet remembered: "Our group was called Mississippi City. Each city had a nickname. We were the Schmoos. We won as the 'best' city."



On November 20, 1958, Eileen transferred to George Washington Elementary School at 3819 St. Claude Avenue (later changed to Dr. Charles Richard Drew Elementary School). These may be pictures taken the day she started there.

Top: On the back steps at 1835 Gallier Street.

Bottom left: Next to the driveway.

Bottom right: On the front sidewalk.

SEPT 1958



SEPT 1958



SEPT 1958



Top left and right: The cottage at 142 Waveland Avenue.

Norman remembered: "I think I took these pictures of the Waveland cottage just before leaving for college in the fall of 1961."

Bottom left: The Lutheran Church of the Pines, constructed in about 1961.

Norman remembered: "Once the church was built, the family attended services there occasionally."



Some time in early September 1961, the entire Hellmers family traveled to River Forest, Illinois, to bring Norman to Concordia Teachers College.

On the way, the family stopped in St. Louis to visit Concordia Seminary.

Left: In front of the statue of Martin Luther, Eileen kneels by the family's circa 1959 Dodge Royal.

Top right: Posing in front of the replica of the 1839 Perry County log cabin in which the Seminary had its beginnings.

Bottom right: Walking past Sieck Hall on the Seminary campus.

Norman remembered: "This was the last trip made by the entire family. Janet wanted to go since her fiancé, Wolf, was working for Zenith in Chicago, and living in nearby Maywood. Apparently I was dropped off quickly at college, as there are no pictures of me from that first day."



Cousin Carol Wegener married Philip Peterson on November 12, 1961. They lived in Mobile and later Long Beach, Mississippi. Some time after their wedding, Carol's parents, Uncle Carl and Aunt Helen, made a day trip to the Gulf Coast to visit them, along with Leonard, Meta, Leonard Jr., and Eileen.

Top left: Leonard, Eileen, and Leonard Jr. at the Popp's Ferry Bridge on Biloxi's Back Bay. The group probably stopped there for lunch at the well-known Popp's Ferry Restaurant, a family favorite.

Top right: Eileen, Leonard, Uncle Carl, and Aunt Helen.

Bottom left: Eileen, Meta, Aunt Helen, and Uncle Carl.

Bottom center: Phil and Carol Peterson.

Bottom right: Meta, Eileen, and Leonard.



On 5 November 1961, Janet was given a surprise bridal shower.

Top left: Janet is greeted by her future mother-in-law, Erika Spilsbury. With Janet is her maid of honor, Carolyn Orth.

Top right: Shower treats and favors.

Bottom left: The guests included Janet's bridal party and many family and friends.

Bottom right: Janet with her bridal party, mother, and future mother-in-law. Back row: Dottie Randolph, Bonnie Riemer, Carolyn Orth, Meta, Erika Spilsbury. Front: Percy Reinboth, Janet, and Eileen.

Janet remembered: "The shower was in the 'basement' of a friend of Carolyn's. The 'wishing well' is where the gifts were. I was surprised because I thought I was going to a birthday party. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon."



On Wednesday, 27 December 1961, Janet and Wolfgang Neumann were married at St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Orleans. A reception followed at Lenfant's on Canal Boulevard.

Top left: Janet and Wolf greet their guests at the reception.

Top right: Janet's bridesmaids, from left, Bonnie Riemer, Dottie Randolph, Percy Reinboth, Janet, Carolyn Orth, and Eileen (flower girl).

Bottom left: Janet and her father, father-in-law, groomsmen, and ushers, from left, Norman, Skip Mize, Jerry Saacks (who later married Bonnie Riemer), Leonard, Janet, Wolf, Sidney Spilsbury, Courtney Russo (who later married Percy Reinboth), Leonard Jr., and Imre Hegedus.

Bottom right: Following a New Orleans tradition, the bridesmaids and unmarried female guests pull ribbons looking for the attached silver charms (ring, heart, thimble, button, clover, horseshoe, etc.), each of which has a different meaning.

Janet remembered: "Our wedding and reception were like a grand family reunion. It was all enjoyable and I have so many wonderful memories.



Top left: The bridesmaids watch as Wolf and Janet get ready to cut their cake.

Top right: Wolf and Janet cut their cake.

Bottom left: Sharing cake.

Bottom right: Janet and Wolf take the first dance.



Wolf and Janet honeymooned on the Gulf Coast.

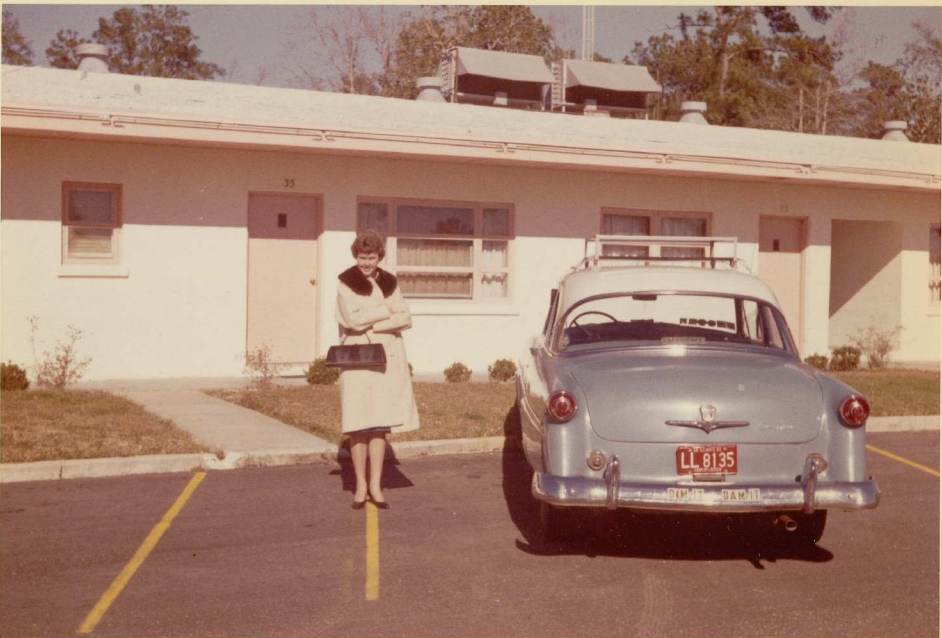
Top left: Wolf poses at the War Memorial Park in Pass Christian.

Top right: Janet by a historical marker for Pass Christian, with the Gulf of Mexico in the background.

Bottom left: Janet next to Wolf's 1954 Ford V8.

Bottom right: The newlyweds by the office of the Holiday Inn in Pass Christian.

Janet remembered: "It was cold, but we had a great time."



After their three-day honeymoon, Wolf and Janet stayed overnight in New Orleans at the Hellmers' home at 5400 Chatham Drive before driving north to Maywood, Illinois.

Top left: Mementoes of the wedding on top of the bar (Wolf's boutonnière, a pendant Wolf gave to Janet, cake topper, and a framed invitation).

Top right: Some of Wolf and Janet's wedding gifts displayed in the family room.

Bottom left: Norman, Leonard, Leonard Jr., and Wolf (who took the picture), enjoying boiled crabs and Dixie beer in the family dining area.

Bottom right: Janet at the front door of 5400 Chatham.

Janet remembered: "We left New Orleans on Sunday, which was New Year's Eve. We drove as far as Dyersburg, Tennessee. We had been given a bottle of champagne by Lenfant's. At the motel in Dyersburg, Wolf put it in the tank of the toilet to keep it chilled. Memories!"



In 1962, Mardi Gras was on March 6.

Left: Eileen in front of azaleas on the Tulane University campus. Her toreador costume was "reworked" from one Janet wore for Mardi Gras in 1961.

Center: Eileen on a ladder waiting for a parade.

Right: Leonard in his Army uniform, apparently home on leave after basic training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina. The picture was taken at Moisant Airport. After basic training, Leonard was selected to attend the Army Language School at the Presidio of Monterey in California where he studied Italian.



At the end of December 1962, Wolf and Janet traveled by train to New Orleans from Maywood, Illinois, to celebrate Christmas and their first anniversary on December 27th. The celebration was at the Hellmers house at 5400 Chatham Drive.

Top left: Guests included Wolf's family, from left, Erika and Sidney Spilsbury, and Wolf's "Omi" (Berta Timmreck Bembenneck Vahrenhorst). Janet was expecting her first child. (Katrina was born 23 March 1963).

Top right: Some of the wedding party, Jerry Saacks, Bonnie Riemer, Carolyn Orth, and Harry "Skip" Mize. Kathy Smith is next to Harry; they were later married.

Bottom left: Janet and Wolf, with Eileen, cut the top of their wedding cake, which had been saved in the refrigerator on Chatham Drive.

Bottom right: Eileen at Christmas 1962.

Janet remembered: "Our celebration followed the wedding and reception of Courtney Russo and Percy Reinboth. Wolf, Jerry, and Bonnie were in the wedding party, so that's why they're dressed as they are. I was pregnant and in that era, it was thought to be inappropriate to be a bridesmaid."



In August of 1963, Wolf and Janet again visited New Orleans, this time with their new daughter, Katrina, who was born in Illinois on March 23rd. One of their activities was a fishing trip on the boat of Wolf's stepfather, Sidney "ST" Spilsbury. Sidney and Wolf's mother Erika were both CPAs, so their boat was named the "Debit."

Top left: Wolf prepares to cast off as they leave the boat sheds at Chef Menteur Pass. From left, Sidney, Janet, Wolf, Leonard Sr.

Top right: Wolf helps Leonard Sr. land a big one.

Bottom left: Janet waits patiently for a bite.

Bottom center: Wolf nets Sidney's catch.

Bottom right: Wolf and Janet with Katrina.

After the death of his parents, Wolf became the boat's owner. In 2005, the "Debit" was destroyed by hurricane Katrina.



At Christmas 1963, the Neumanns again traveled down from Maywood, Illinois, to New Orleans for a visit. All of these pictures were taken in the backyard of 5400 Chatham Drive.

Top left: Norman (home from Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois), Meta, Eileen, Leonard Jr., Leonard Sr., and Janet holding Katrina.

Top right: Janet and Wolf with Katrina. Janet was expecting her second child. (Krista was born May 14, 1964.)

Bottom left: Leonard holding Katrina.

Bottom center: Katrina Elizabeth Neumann.

Bottom right: Eileen holding Katrina.



Beginning on June 10, 1964, Norman and two companions (cousin Ron Wismar and classmate Les Netland) left Chicago for New Orleans on a raft they had built themselves. On July 1, at Helena, Arkansas, they were joined by their friend, Mike Riemer. After 33 days and 1,400 miles of travel on several waterways and the Mississippi River, the rafters arrived in New Orleans on Sunday, July 12.

Top left: The raft approaches the landing at the foot of Canal Street, then known as Eads Plaza. Visible at the bow are Les Netland and Norman.

Top right: Holding sugar cane stalks are Les, Ron, Norm, and Mike. All were students at Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois.

Bottom left: The rafters meet the press.

Bottom right: Norm with his family where the trip came to its end near the Chalmette Monument. Back: Leonard, Norman, Leonard Jr. Seated: Eileen and Meta.

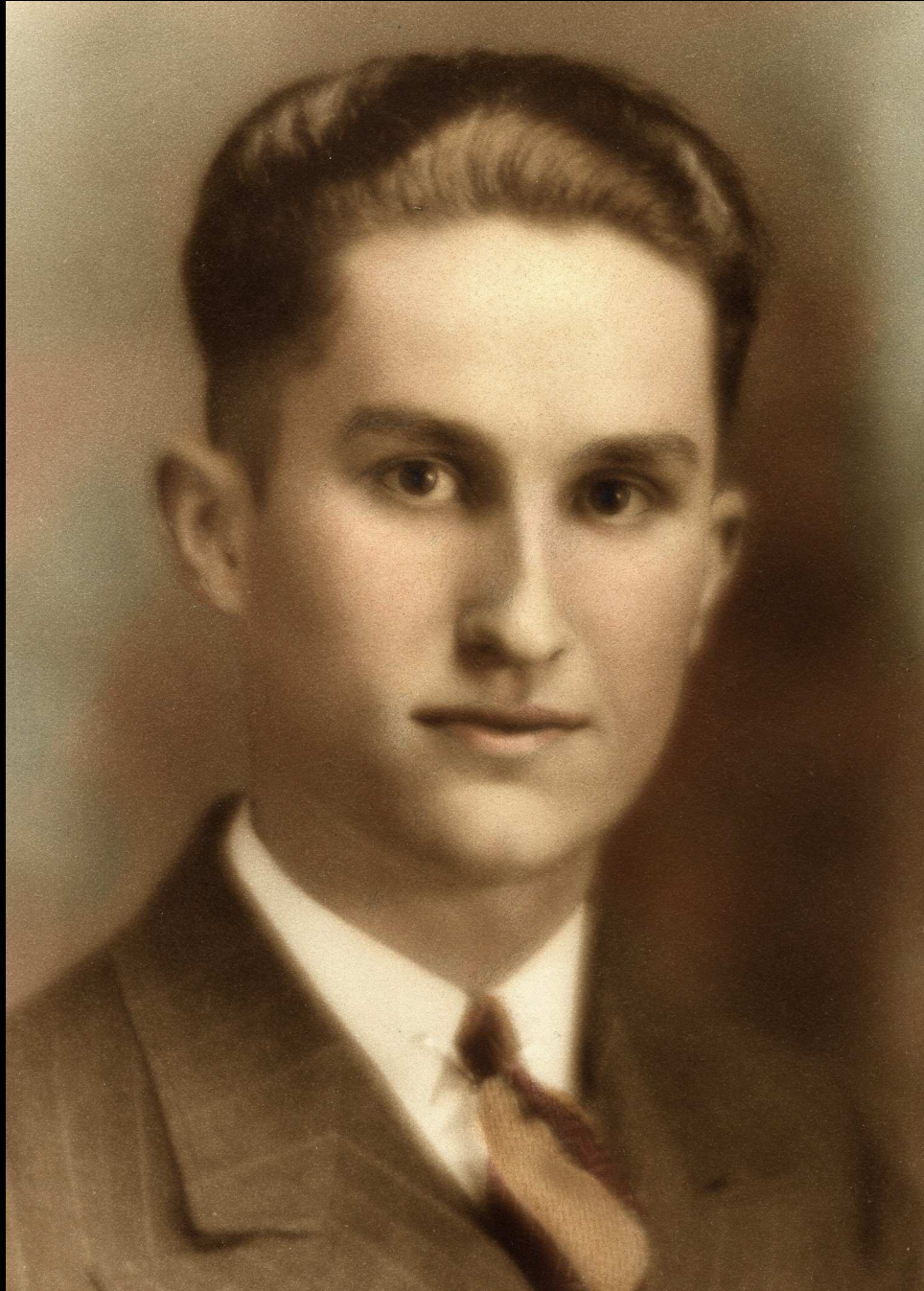
Norman remembered: "The raft trip was an incredible educational experience. We learned about life along the river and some practical lessons in self-sufficiency. It was the adventure of a lifetime."



By the mid-1960s, photography was changing. Family activities by then were being documented with home movies and color slides. This album ends with the last of the black and white (and some color) photos taken by Leonard and Meta Hellmers.

The remainder of this third album includes a number of Hellmers family portraits.

These portraits of Leonard and Meta were probably taken shortly before their marriage, which was on 6 July 1938.

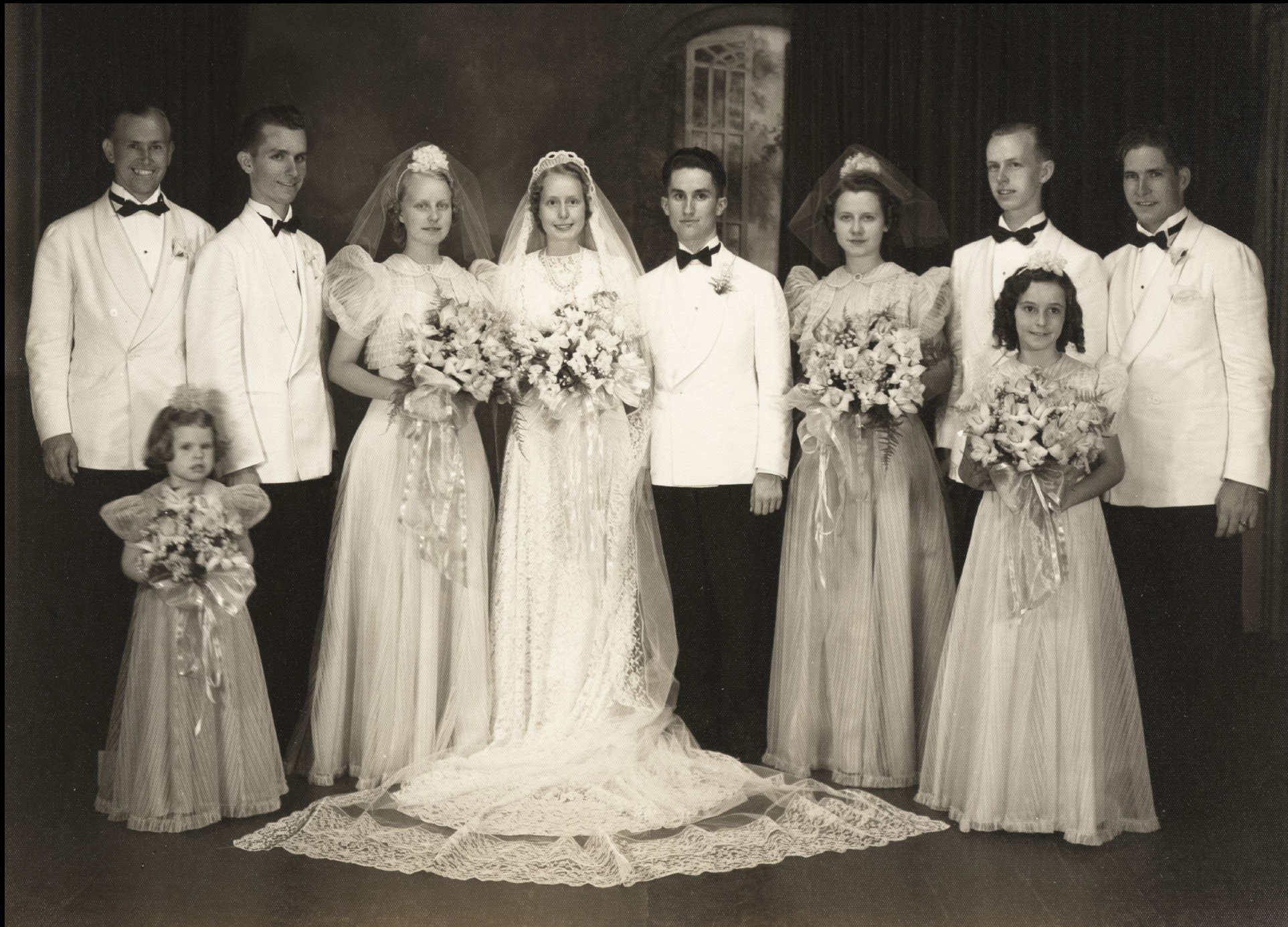


Leonard Hellmers and Meta Wegener were married on Wednesday, 6 July 1938, at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Immediately after the ceremony, the wedding party traveled in limousines to Pons Studio at the corner of St. Claude Avenue and Alvar Street.

Photographer Maurice Pons (with the assistance of his wife, Marguerite) took three views: the couple (a copy of which is in Album 1), the bride by herself, and the image to the right, which included the entire wedding party.

Pictured from left are: Elmore Bauer (usher), Milton Hellmers (best man), Louise Wegener (maid of honor), Meta, Leonard, Evelyn Wegener (bridesmaid), Martin Wegener (groomsman), Wilbert Amerland (usher). In front are: Arlene Gabriel (flower girl) and Juanita Hellmers (junior bridesmaid).

Meta remembered: "The bridesmaids' dresses were pink and blue. Juanita wore pink - Evelyn blue - Louise pink and our little flower girl Arlene wore blue. She was precious! My dress was white lace with a train. . . ."



This portrait of Norman, Janet, and Leonard was taken about the late spring or summer of 1947. At the time, Leonard would have been about 7¹/₂ years old, Janet about 6, and Norman about 3¹/₂. (See page 15.)



This portrait was taken at Pons Studio, perhaps in about 1951.

In the middle of 1951, Eileen, who was born 3 July 1949, would have been about two years old. Leonard would have been about 11½, Janet about 10, and Norman about 7½.



These two portraits, one color and one black-and-white, were also taken in about 1951 (according to a notation on the back of one by Meta). In the middle of 1951, Eileen, who was born 3 July 1949, would have been about two years old. Leonard would have been about 11¹/₂, Janet about 10, and Norman about 7¹/₂.

The back of the picture is labeled:

Zel Mar Studios

922 Canal St.

2nd Floor



In December 1961, the Hellmers children "secretly" arranged to have their picture taken as a Christmas gift to their parents.

At the time, Leonard (22) was about to enter the U. S Army, Janet (20) was to be married at the end of the month, and Norman (not quite 18) was in the middle of his freshman year of college. Eileen was 12 years old.

The photo was taken at Reppel Photo Studio, 2170 Filmore Avenue.



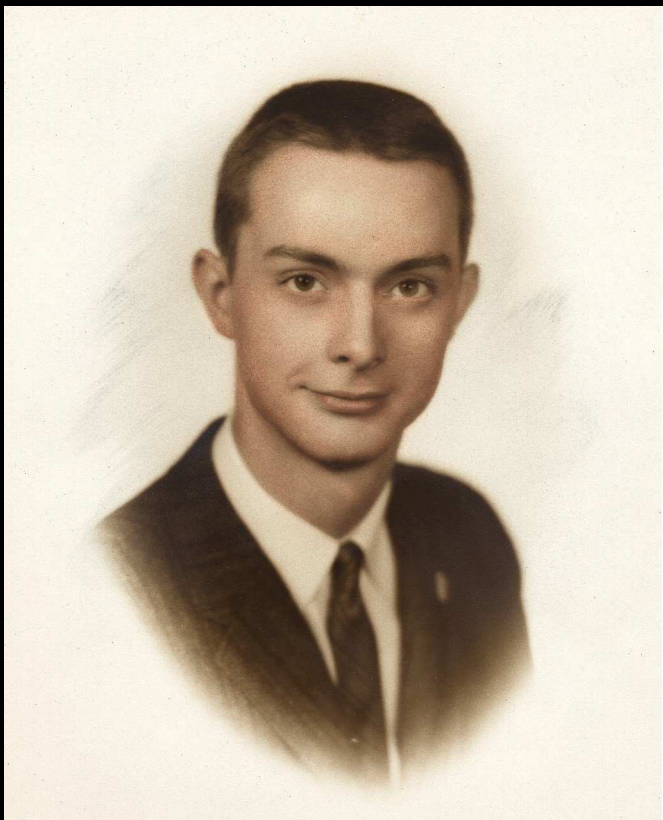
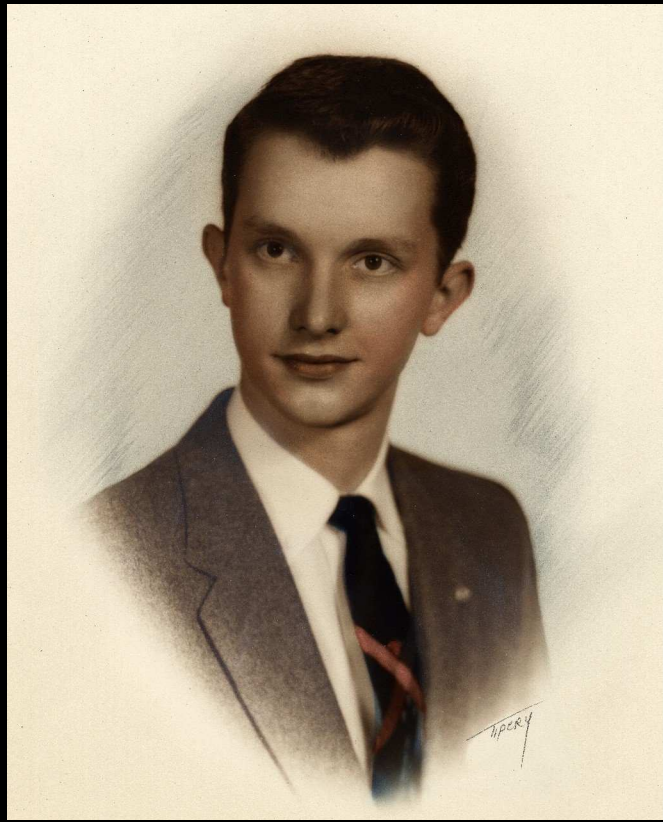
High school graduation pictures of Leonard, Janet, and Norman. All three graduated from Francis T. Nicholls High School in New Orleans:

Leonard in 1957

Janet in 1959

Norman in 1961.

The picture of Eileen was taken when she was about four years old.



End of Hellmers Album 3

This third album includes the last of the black and white and color prints taken by Leonard and Meta Hellmers. After this, color slides became the new format for picture taking in the Hellmers family. Hundreds of these slides have survived. In the future, additional albums could be created from these slides.

Norman D. Hellmers
May 2012 (2nd edition)



