

Carol,

I am sending this copy of Shirley's life that she had written when she was young for a class assignment. There is no one else to send this to.

She was born in 1922, Oct 17, Shirley Mae Block. She did not have any brothers or sisters and she outlived three husbands with no children.

I came into her life fifteen years ago and was the handyman around home in Plymouth, Michigan. That is where Shirley settled after World War II. She became a medical librarian and got a job in the Detroit area.

The last five years me and my wife Stella helped take care of her and I got real close to her, like the son she did not have. So I thought you might like to read this seeing it started with her being born in your building on the top floor where Shirley, Carl, Dad and her mom Gertrude lived.

Shirley was a wonderful woman with lots of stories about Watertown. She loved that town. She even got the Watertown newspaper delivered to Plymouth, Michigan.

I feel bad that she did not have any family left when she died. I kept most of her personables from her estate.

She loved dogs, birds and most animals.

I know you're not family but you are the closest that we have to any connection in Watertown, being you own her childhood home and what a wonderful thing you have done with the building.

So thanks so much for being there. We will come and see you the next time we go to Watertown.

Thanks again,

Chuck & Stella Holoweski

MY

LIFE

A+

by

Shirley Mae Block

Table of Contents

Chapter		Page
I.	Birthplace and Date of Birth	2
II.	Babyhood and Early Childhood	4
III.	General Course of School Life and Changes of Residences	6
IV.	Trips	8
V.	Funny Incidences	10
VI.	Hopes and Plans for the Future	21

Picture Pages

	Page
Dreaming	3
Gazing	11
Playing	12
Watching the Birdies	13
I Cry	14
Pals	15
Hang On and Don't Fall	16
Stand Still & Smile	17
The Sun is a Little Bright	18
Hold It Tight	19
Walking with my Dolly	20
Smiling in Autumn	22

Birthplace and Date of Birth

I was born on Tuesday, October 17, 1922 at 605 Main St. Watertown, Wisconsin. I weighed 9 ½ pounds at birth. I was always a healthy child, and all through my childhood I always was overweight.

I was and am the only grandchild on my Mother's side, and naturally I was the pet of the family.

At that time my Father owned a grocery store at 605 Main Street [**the Krebs store**]. We lived above the store. When I was about 6 months old, my parents bought me a swing, and put it up in the rear of the store. I used to sit there for hours and watch the people go in and out of the store. In fact I had to stay there as I couldn't get out.

Mother said I stayed out of mischief. All the salesmen that came in the store would play with me. The one I liked the best was the man who sold the cookies. He always gave me such good samples of cookies.

PAGE 3



Dreaming

This is the first picture ever to be taken of me.

I was 6 weeks old.

Babyhood and Early Childhood

I started Kindergarten when I wasn't quite four years old. I enjoyed my work in Kindergarten. I was very well acquainted with the teacher, Miss Brownly. She told me that all the children would always seem to mind me. When I told them to do a certain thing, they always did it. She also said I was naughty.

One day I did something wrong & Miss Brownly made me stand in the corner by the sand box. A boy from 7th grade came in with a note. I didn't want him to know I was being punished so I quickly started to play in the sand.

When I used to go home from school I had to cross Main Street & Mother didn't want me to go across alone. She said I should call Mother or Dad. Sometimes they were busy & couldn't come right away. There was a Barber Shop on the corner and at that time Eddie Werner owned it. We would come out and take me across Main St.

My aunt lived across the street from us. She had a little black dog called Patsy. We were great pals. Nobody but the people in our family could touch her & she didn't like any child but myself. Every noon when she thought it was about time for me to come home she would sit in the window (my uncle had a tavern) & watch for me. When she saw me she would bark & jump & nearly go through the window. I would always have to go over every noon.

Sometimes I would eat dinner home & then if my aunt had something I liked I would eat there too. One day I ate home first & my aunt had a broiled dinner and I ate some. That afternoon I took sick in school and I came home. That taught me not to eat two dinners any more.

General course of School Life and changes of Residences

I started the first grade at Douglas School in Watertown, when I was six years old. Miss Barganz was my teacher. Due to the overcrowded attendance at Douglas I was transferred to Webster School after January of that school year.

I remember my Mother was very ill and I came home with all my books & I told my Dad I didn't like Webster School and I wasn't going any more. I made a big fuss but nothing helped, so I had to finish the term there.

I went back to Douglas School to attend second grade. That fall my Father sold his business and we moved to Milwaukee where he worked in a box factory. My Mother worked in a National Tea Store. I went to second grade at Brown Street School.

The next fall we moved to Fort Atkinson where my Father ran a grocery store again. I attended third grade at Barry School and fourth grade at Caswell School. I did not like the idea of going to a strange school again. When I got to know some of the girls, I liked it very well.

Fifth and Sixth grade I was again taken back to my childhood days at Douglas School. We sold our business at Fort Atkinson and came back to Watertown. I now attend seventh grade at the Watertown Junior High School. I enjoy it here as I am back with my old friends and I hope I can graduate from here.

I think my record ought to be broken in attending different schools from first to sixth grade.

Trips

I have taken many interesting trips which I have enjoyed.

The one I think I enjoyed the most was when my Mother, Father and I went up to Three Lakes, Wisconsin just a short way from Eagle River.

We had a cottage owned by Cy Williams the famous ball player. He was not there but his family was. Every morning my Dad and I would have to go up to their house & get a pail of water.

I had lots of fun with Mr. Williams daughter. His family lived there the year round and they had a beautiful estate. They had a number of riding ponies, and they would let me ride one. The horse I had was named Betsy. I'll never forget the thrill I got when I rode one for the first time. We used to go swimming and boating together.

One year we had a cottage in Door County on the shores of Kangaroo Lake. We spent two weeks there. We visited every spot around there & it was very pretty when the cherry trees were in bloom.

We took one trip to Prairie du Chien Wisconsin. We took the Ferry down the Mississippi over to McGregor, Iowa, then to Dubuque down into Illinois to Rockford & then back to Watertown.

One year we took a trip to Bond Falls, Michigan. I also enjoyed that trip. In 1934 we went to Wisconsin Dells. My Mother and Father have been there a number of times but I never have so they took me up. We took a trip on the upper dells. I enjoyed the scenery very much.

We have taken smaller trips but those are the ones which I enjoyed the most.

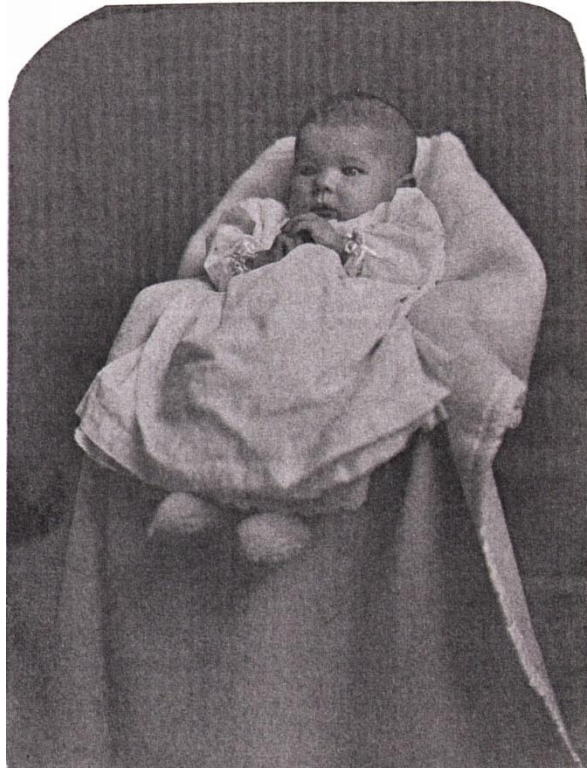
Funny Incidences

I remember quite a few funny incidences that happened in my life.

I remember especially one day my mother sent me down to the bank with some money & Mr. Hoge was coming across Main Street & he spoke to me. He said, "Hello there." I looked at him and I said, "My name isn't there, it's Shirley Mae Block."

When I wasn't a year old I gave everyone in our family a name. I called my Aunt Viola "Ode." Aunt Lillian "Buddy." My grandpa, "Papa." Uncle Herbert, "Hubie." My grandma, "Mammy." Aunt Julia, "Jula."

PAGE 11



Gazing

I was 3 months old when this picture was taken.



Playing

On this picture I was sitting in my high chair playing with my rattle.



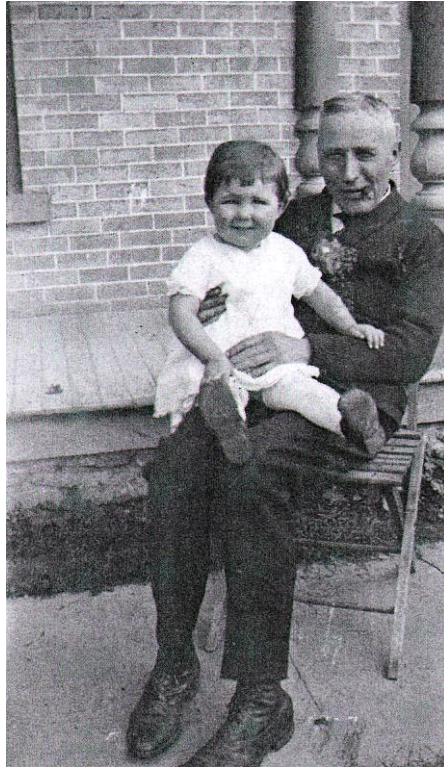
8 months 1923
Watching the birdies

In this picture I was watching the birdies.
I was eight months old and I was sitting
on a rug in our back yard at Watertown.



I Cry!

When this was taken my aunt was holding me
and I was crying because I didn't want my picture taken.



Pals

My grandfather was holding me when this picture was taken.

I had knocked the ashes off of his cigar
and they were all over his sweater.



Hang on & Don't tell

When this picture was taken I was learning how to walk.

I had walked the length of our bench.

I was 11 months old.



Stand Still & Smile

On the shore of Rock Lake with my daddy.

I was about two and one-half years old.



Shirley May and her pet

The sun is a little bright.

This picture was taken at Ladiens Woods at Johnson Creek.

I had my hand on the dog's collar.

The dog's name is Buster.



In Ixonia

Hold it tight

This picture was taken in Ixonia when I was four years old.

I was holding a little chicken.



Our daughter, 6 yrs.

Walking with my dolly.

This was taken in our back yard at Watertown, Wisconsin.

I am standing with my dolly.

Hopes and Plans for the Future

This finishes the book about my life. I have no special plans for the future all though I would like to go to some college in Milwaukee. I would like my parents to move there if I do go to college.

I would like to be a stenographer but I have many years ahead of me & by the time I am at least as things may be changed and I may have different ideas.



Smiling in Autumn

This was taken when I was eleven years old at Riverside Park.

I am standing with my mother.