

Grandfather
Elmer Yenney 1904-1962

Grandmother
Ruth Wade Yenney 1906-1983

Based on my mother, Barbara Pearl Yenney Saucerman. Bio/timeline prepared by Stephen S. Saucerman 4-5-2019

Elmer L. Yenney was born Wednesday, January 20th, 1904 to Melchoir and Bostrva (Barbara) Babler Yenney in Fayette County, Iowa near the town of Elgin. His grandparents were Rudolph and Anna (Blumer) Yenney, who emigrated to America from the former municipality of Ennenda in Canton Glarus Switzerland in the year 1895. Melchoir and Bostrva had already come over in 1892.



Elmer Yenney

Elmer was Melchoir and Barbara's fourth child. His siblings, Melchoir Junior (born 1895), twins John and Freida (1899), and younger sister named Margaret (1905) were also born in the Elgin area. It's probable that Elmer didn't recall much about his grandparents. Rudolph died when Elmer was only three years old and grandmother Anna followed in death just four years later, when Elmer was seven.

The Youth

By all accounts, both Elmer's parents and grandparents were responsible, hard-working and respected members of their community and strove to give Elmer and his siblings every advantage possible to the worker-class citizen of the day. Elmer attended a good school in Elgin and (along with sister Margaret) was consistently cited for excellent grades and laudable achievement in extra-curricular activities. Ambitious even in youth, at just 14 years of age, Elmer went to work as an assistant at the local Capper's Store in Elgin.



A few months after he was hired, he (*cute story alert!*) sold a birdhouse he'd crafted in his 4-H Club (still relatively new at the time, having been formed in 1902) to Mrs. Capper - the storeowner's wife. But in what may be a poignant indicator of sort of man he would become later in life, Elmer donated the money he received from Mrs. Capper to the local Junior Red Cross Fund.

In all, it's entirely reasonable to surmise that Elmer grew up in an atmosphere of 'typical America' for early 1900's, eastern Iowa. All through his youth (and like most families), Elmer and family worked and played among the community and spent free time visiting friends and relatives – basically experiencing all things quintessential to a provincial Iowa way of life. Short visits were still mostly conducted via horse and cart (or far more often, *walking*) but automobiles were now finding their way onto the streets of Elgin. And though excursions and travel were generally of limited, reasonable distance for most families, this would change for the Yenney family as the children grew toward adulthood.



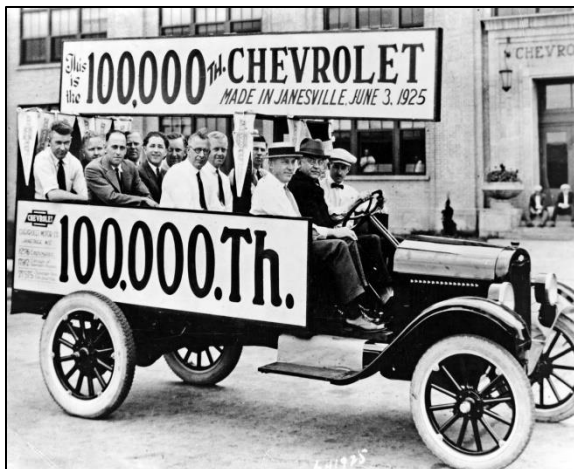
Ruth Wade with daughters Barbara & Zoa (1963)

Older brother, Melchoir Junior, was the first to stray from the Yenney nest. In Elmer's seventeenth year, Melchoir Junior accepted a job as section foreman for The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company and thus found himself compelled to relocate to Huron, SD, where the position was. This didn't hamper the family connection, however. Less than a year later, Melchoir Senior took the entire family

to Huron to visit the eldest son and witness his new life and home. By then, he had married. Shortly after the family's return to Elgin, John, the second oldest son, moved to Waukegan, IL and took a bride there. And now, it was Elmer's turn.

The Working Man

In his later teen years, he tried his hand at his father Melchoir's trade by going to work for the Northwestern Railroad. This is likely where Elmer was exposed to his first union experience (which we'll discuss later), becoming a member of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Union. Then, in his twenty-first year, Elmer heard word the new Chevrolet Plant (General Motors) in Janesville, Wisconsin was hiring assembly linemen. He - along with a few friends from Elgin - made the trip to Janesville and filled out applications. He - along with many of those same friends - was hired only a short time later. Elmer's first day at the GM plant in Janesville was May 15th, 1925. He likely had no idea at



the time what a monumental impact the plant would have on his life as he walked through the door that day, but from that point on, he and General Motors would forever be linked in the memories of local historians.

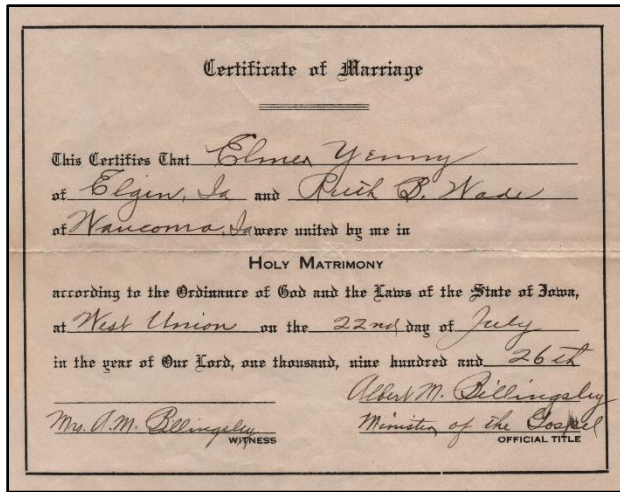
Shortly after being hired, Elmer relocated to Janesville, WI. Melchoir and Barbara Yenney's nest was now growing empty. Not that this meant the family didn't see each other. Elmer frequently traveled home on weekends or other times members of his family would come and visit him in Janesville. The family remained close and (as I saw over and over in my research) it was readily apparent that the Yennys faithfully and lovingly supported and nurtured one another, even well into adulthood.

Elmer settled into his new work role and the Janesville area. Roughly a year after he started at the plant - on July 21st, 1926 - he married his longtime sweetheart, Ruth Wade of Waucoma (born in Arlington, IA) at the M. E. Parsonage in West Union, IA. They had no attendants. Ruth was the daughter of Pearl Jewett and Harrison 'Harry' Wade (born in 1845) of Fayette County, IA. She also had two sisters, Lillian (Prichett) Wade of Rockford, IL and Faye (Gaynor) Wade of Hinsdale, MT.

After the wedding, the couple then spent a brief honeymoon in Clear Lake (unclear if this was WI or IA; I'm guessing IA) before Elmer had to return

On Elmer, Unions and this Biography

Elmer Yenney was a remarkably accomplished man, so accomplished in fact, that it forced me to make a choice as I was preparing this work. Should I attempt an 'all-inclusive' account of both his personal *and* business lives? Or, given the extensive scope and depth of his involvement with General Motors (or more to point, the labor unions affiliated with GM), should I choose the arguably more achievable (and let's face it, more *readable*) tact of focusing primarily on his personal life and adding in only enough work information to allow the reader a general but no-where-near complete understanding of the impact GM and Unionism had on his life and those around him? I chose the latter. The subject of unions combined with the motive forces behind Elmer's actions is simply too complex and colossal to tackle in less than a dozen pages. And who knows? It may even make a good book someday. I only know right now that it isn't possible (if one is genuinely attempting to do the subject justice) to intelligently address the Union Movement and Elmer without *also* factoring in all the peripheral influences - such as economy ('Great Depression' ring a bell?), greed, powerplay, envy, and all the myriad vagaries that cause men to be both good and evil. Besides, even if you *were* to address those things (spoiler alert: *you won't*), it will only free you up long enough to tackle the even deeper, complex political and *philosophical* associated with unionism, like socialism, communism and propagation of strict a class system in this quintessentially capitalistic society we call America. And I don't know about you guys, but that's *WAY* more ink than I have left in my printer. ☺



to work at GM. Just three years later, the couple welcomed their first child, a daughter named Zoa Anne (Mrs. Paul Shank/Mrs. Cliff Hahn), into the world. This would be followed in 1931 by the addition of another daughter, Barbara Pearl (Mrs. Simon Saucerman). This would make up the extent of Elmer and Ruth's immediate family.

Back to Work

Employment during the Great Depression era was anything but stable, and (still being comparatively low on the totem pole at the Janesville plant) by 1933, Elmer and his sister's husband, Charles Knight, found themselves facing the prospect of either being laid off or seeking other GM opportunities in St. Louis, MO. This was a major step and

both Elmer and Charles' families were prepared to make the move should the opportunity prove long term. But, as it happened, shortly after arriving in St. Louis, GM offered both men a 6-month contract to work at the Chevrolet Plant on the World Fair Grounds in Chicago, IL. Both accepted. This would all lead to a rather circuitous route back to Janesville in late 1934, where the men would once again be employed at the Janesville facility.

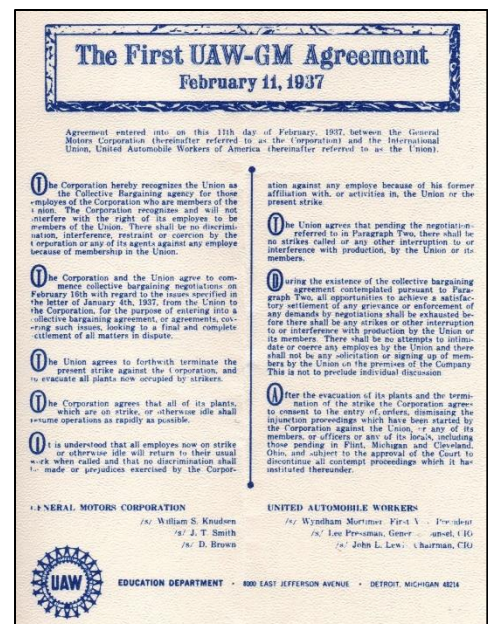


Elmer's Exposition Pass During His 6-Month Chicago Contract with GM

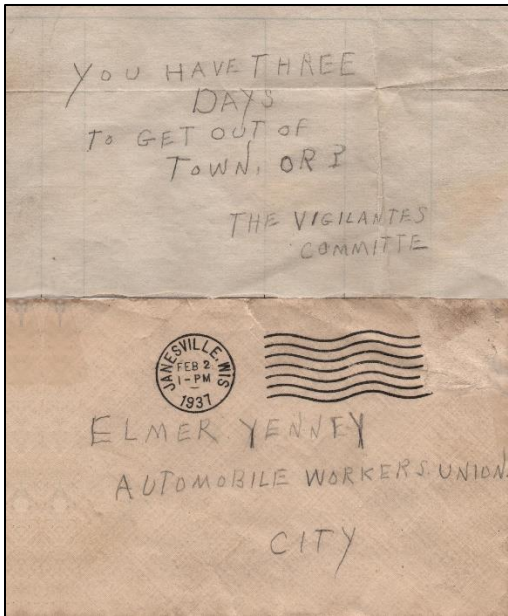
Making a Leader

1934 is also the year that Elmer starts to come into his own. Aware of discourse and ill-sentiment toward management at the plant, he began to devote himself to the organization and eventual formation of the first Chevrolet Workers Union, eventually known as the United Auto Workers Local 121. This was late 1934. A short time later, he's elected the union's first President by a wide margin. And then, on January 5th, 1937, Elmer would lead his membership in the first and now-famous 'Sit Down Strike of the 1930's, where (in Janesville's case; the origin and the focal point of the strike started in Flint, MI) Elmer's local 121 joined together with the members of the (new) Fisher Body Local 95 to halt all production at the Janesville plant until a written contract (not existing before this) could be struck between workers and management guaranteeing 'equity, dignity and justice' to the regular worker.

He would go on to serve in the Presidential role until 1944, when he would leave to become the international representative for the UAW in Kansas City (MO), St. Louis (MO), Chicago (IL) and Janesville (WI).



But by 1945, tired of all the travel and politics the international role required, he once again returned to the Janesville plant where he became the tool crib attendant (*Author's note: in some of Elmer's correspondence left by my mother Barbara, there appeared to be a bit of a running commentary over the tool crib attendant position. In short, the position is considered one of the cushier positions at the plant and it's further inferred that Elmer was given the role as a show of respect and reverence for who he was and what he'd done for his fellow worker). He then acted as chairman of the of the shop committee and in 1949, was again re-elected union President. He was then re-elected annually until the tenure of his Presidency reached a full 21 years in total.



Actual Threat Letter Sent to Elmer

and even their families – was becoming a daily reality in the newspapers. Spying, intimidation, impersonation, disinformation, and sabotage were deployed on both sides.

Dark Side

It's difficult – if not impossible – in today's watered-down world to fully comprehend and understand the risk Elmer accepted when he assumed such a high-profile and boldly-visible association with the divisive union movement of the day. Opposed factions were sharply, bitterly divided. It was not at all unusual for those expressing their opposition to stray from civil discourse to more base and primitive methods.

Mobs sprang up all over and beatings were reported. Anti-union violence – targeting union officials, organizers, members, sympathizers,

Janesville Daily Gazette
February 4, 1937

Union Leader Threatened

Anonymous Letter Turned Over to Police for Investigation.

A threatening letter has been received through the mails by Elmer Yenney, president of the Chevrolet local of the United Automobile Workers Union Wednesday, it was learned today.

The letter, each word printed out, said in substance "get out of the city in three days or—" and was signed "Vigilantes."

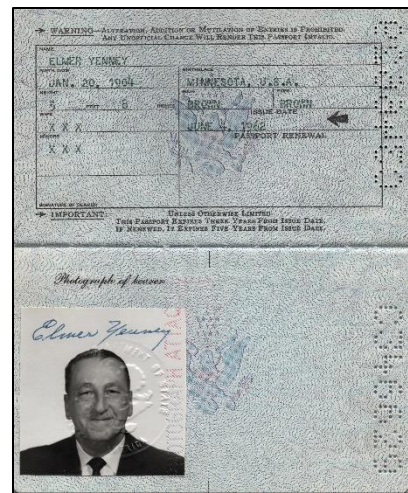
Mr. Yenney showed the letter to police here, stating that the incident did not alarm him but that he thought attention of the officials should be called to it.

He was referred to the district attorney and eventually to the post office.

It is believed official action will be taken to trace the writer of the letter. It was said that in most strikes, leaders receive many letters of intimidation but that they are generally written by cranks. Little weight is placed in the sincerity of the letters.

"The writing of an anonymous, threatening letter is a pretty low form of a joke," said Yenney Thursday. "For the benefit of whoever wrote it I would like to say that I am not planning to leave Janesville. I am not much upset about the letter but it is causing my wife and family no end of worry. That's the mean part of it all." Other union officials expressed the same sentiment and said they would back Yenney to the limit.

The letter was postmarked Janesville, 1 p. m., Feb. 2.

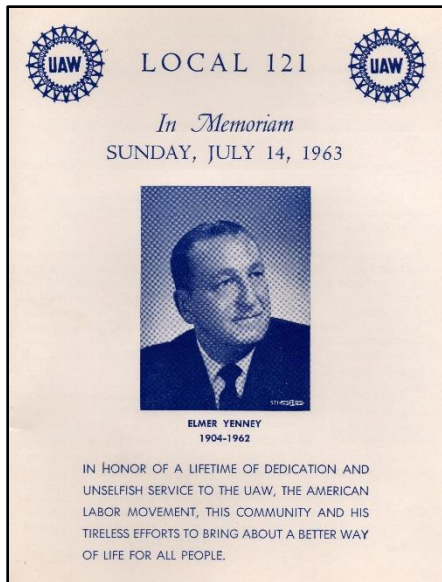


Passport Issued 5 Days Before Death

Elmer didn't escape the madness. He too was the target of intimidation tactics and threats. On February 2nd, 1937 (*see figures on this page) he received a letter in the mail, postmarked February 2nd, 1937, telling him "you have three days to get out of town or?". It was signed "the Vigilantes Committe(e)"-appropriately misspelled in keeping with the level and intellect of the sender. Police never did find the culprit. Elmer worried only for his family and not himself, stayed right where he was, continued his work ... and no physical violence against him or his family was ever recorded.

Pillars

And who knows? Perhaps these were the sort of events that motivated the man. He remained extremely (defiantly?) civic-minded and dutifully served on/in many boards, committees and organizations including the GM Pension Program Committee; Janesville Parade of Champions (the annual Labor Day Celebration in Janesville); The Boy Scouts Board (& Camp Rotamer); the area



Community Chest, which acted to support many local charities and benevolent causes; the UAW Constitutional Conventions Committee; the UAW Credentials and Education Committee; National UAW Steering Committee; the Rock County Selective Service (draft) Board; and he was elected 12th Ward Supervisor in 1938. On top of all this, he was an active member of his church, the Cargill Methodist congregation of Janesville and worked (in his spare time 😊) to bring an organized baseball league to Janesville, serving on the Janesville Baseball Board of Directors.

No wallflower herself, wife Ruth also grew quite active in the community. Besides being Elmer's rock and most ardent supporter, she was elected President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Central Labor Union, a group that sponsored many local plays and activities in the Janesville area. This was 1935. Ruth also took part in many community activities and groups, one of her favorites being her weekly bridge club - where she built a reputation as being a formidable player (Elmer also liked cards. He was in a group called the 'Easy Aces Card Club'.) Ruth also enjoys sewing, cooking, family and

keeping up the Yenney's two-story home the couple purchased in 1945, located on Milton Avenue at (what was then) the north end of Janesville.

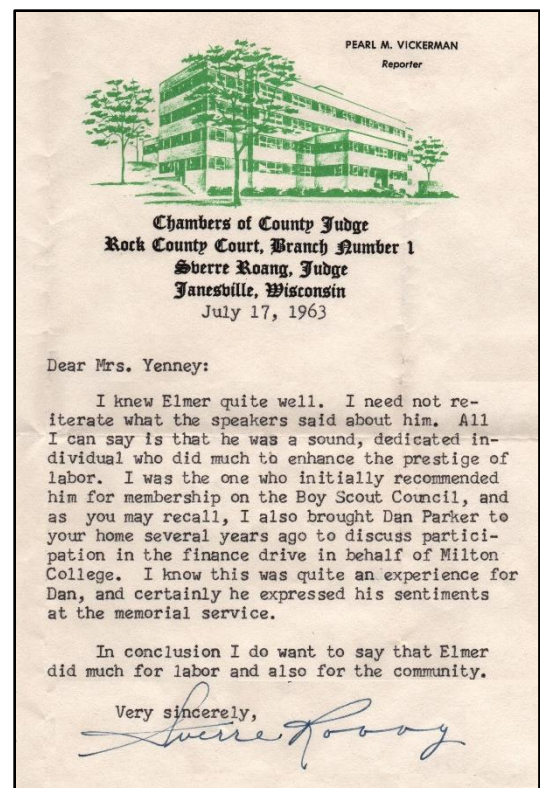
Twilight

Elmer's dad Melchoir died in 1941. His mother would pass away in 1949 from tuberculosis (yes, it was still around). Elmer and Ruth continued to visit and support family both younger and older – even allowing Ruth's mother, Pearl Roberts, to spend winters with them in their Janesville home after her Pearl's husband Harry passed away. Then, on June 9th, 1962, Elmer himself unexpectedly succumbed to a heart attack while visiting his younger sister Margaret Knight's home in Edgerton, WI.

The community was surprised and shocked by Elmer's death. He was only 58 years old but had grown to mean so much to the community - and to the average working man. The outpouring over Elmer's death was swift and considerable. There were letters from politicians, judges, community leaders, labor groups and – of course – regular workers – friends - who'd benefitted so much from Elmer's selfless effort and actions ... and from knowing Elmer the man and his family. Wife Ruth would follow in death on Thursday, September 29th, 1983. One notable twist: in the years before her death, Ruth went on to marry again October 9th, 1966 - this time to Charles Knight (sound familiar ... yes, Elmer's sister Margaret's husband!). Margaret had died shortly after Elmer and Charles was left a widower just as Ruth had been left a widow. The couple (obviously) knew each other well and everyone in the family was delighted when they got together.

Final Thoughts

I must be honest. I was only five years old when grandpa Elmer died, so I don't hold an abundance of clear memories regarding him. I regret that. I remember small snippets of playing with him in the yard and watching him organize his tools in his garage. Through all of it though, I remember him being a kind, funny and gentle person.



One crystal memory I *do* retain quite clear (and dear) is one occasion where we were visiting Ruth and Elmer (grandma & grandpa) at their home on Milton Avenue in Janesville. My whole family was there and I'm guessing it was Sunday, because I remember the women darting in and out of the kitchen - tending to the supper cooking on the stove and in the oven. It smelled like Heaven.

And then I clearly recall sitting in Grandpa Elmer's prize recliner (the recliner was a BIG deal to me at that age), combing Grandpa's thinning black hair into crazy patterns, while he sat on the floor in front of me, laughing along with everyone else as they teased him over his 'new hair styles'. Grandma Ruth was sitting across the room on the sofa, darning Elmer's socks on one of those old wooden forms shaped like a foot (another thing I found fascinating as a kid). As she darned, she busily chatted with my mom and siblings. And I don't remember ever feeling more safe and happy.

FACTS & GENERAL INFORMATION

RELATIONSHIP	Grandfather	Grandmother
Who	Elmer L. Yenney	Ruth W. Wade Yenney-Knight
Birth date	Wednesday, January 20, 1904	Saturday, March 31, 1906
Death date	June 9th, 1962	Thursday, September 29, 1983
Occupation:	Union Representative/autoworker	Parker Pen, Janesville, WI retired '67
Birth where	Manderville, MN	Arlington, Iowa
Death where	Edgerton, WI	Janesville (Mercy Hospital)
Burial loc:	Milton Lawns Memorial Park, Janesville, WI	Milton Lawns Memorial Park
Spouse to:	Ruth (Wade) Yenney - Grandmother	Elmer L. Yenney*
Married date:	July 22, 1925	July 22, 1925
Divorced date:	n/a *Elmer died in 1962	n/a *Elmer died in 1962
Birth date	March 31, 1906	Wednesday, January 20, 1904
Death date	September 29, 1983	June 9th, 1962
Birth where	Arlington, Iowa	Manderville, MN
Death where	Mercy Hospital, Janesville, WI	Edgerton, WI
Burial loc:	Milton Lawns Memorial Park, Janesville, WI	Milton Lawns Memorial Park, Janesville, WI
Children #1:	Zoa Anne Yenney	Zoa Anne Yenney
Children #2:	Barbara Pearl Yenney	Barbara Pearl Yenney
Sibling #1:	Melchoir Rudolph Yenney Junior (1895-1964)	Lillian (Prichett) Wade - Rkfd, IL
Sibling #2:	Freida (R. A. Crider) (1899-)	Faye "AUNT BABE" (George Gaynor) Wade
Sibling #3:	John Frederick Yenney 1/20/1899-1964	<i>*Ruth would later marry Charles Knight Oct. 29, 1966</i>
Sibling #4:	Margaret (Mrs. Chas Knight) Yenney (1905-)	<i>following Elmer Yenney's death in 1962.</i>
Mother:	(Bostrva*real) Barbara (Babler) Yenney	Pearl (Jewett) Wade/Roberts

Elmer & Ruth Yenney (and some surrounding family) Chronology/Timeline:

Exact Date:	Age:	Description/Item:
5/28/1872	(32)	Elmer's father, Melchoir Yenney is born to Rudolph and Anna (Blumer) Yenney in Canton Glarus Switzerland. Melchoir's future wife, Bostrva (Barbara) Babler Yenney is born in 1875.
6/26/1876	(28)	<i>The Battle of Little Big Horn goes horribly wrong :-)</i> for Lt. Colonel George Custer and his 7th U.S. Cavalry.
1/20/1904	-	Elmer Yenney is born to Melchoir & Barbara Yenney. He is the couple's fourth child. His siblings are Melchoir Junior (1895), twins John & Freida (1899) and Margaret 1905).
11/8/1904	-	<i>Theodore Roosevelt wins his first elective position as US President, having already served 3 years in office due to the death of William McKinley.</i>
10/29/1907	3	Elmer's grandfather, Rudolph Yenney dies.
3/23/1911	7	A public auction at the house on Pleasant Street of Rudolph Yenney in Elgin will take place Saturday, March 25, 1911 (*listed by Melchoir)

5/12/1911	7	Elmer's grandmother, Anna Blumer Yenney dies.
6/29/1911	7	"The four children of Melchoir Yenney, Elmer, Johnnie, Freida and Margaret, are now over the measles and return to school.
2/8/1912	8	Elmer is out of school all week sick
<i>11/5/1912</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>The first democrat since 1892, Woodrow Wilson overcame a three way race to win the US presidency.</i>
4/3/1913	9	Elmer and Margaret are listed as pupils who have been neither absent or tardy in school (*several of these on various dates)
5/10/1917	13	Eighth-grade Elmer practices his part in the graduation exercise
12/27/1917	13	Elmer's brother John becomes the helper at the depot (railway station)
1/31/1918	14	Elmer goes to work as an assistant at Capper's Store in Elgin
3/28/1918	14	Elmer Yenny adds 35 cents to the Junior Red Cross Fund by selling a bird house he made to Mrs. Frank Capper.
9/18/1919	15	Melchoir and son Elmer visit Cedar Rapids on Friday
11/20/1919	15	Elmer Yenney hits and gashes his chin and tongue at basketball practice; called a 'severe and painful' wound.
12/4/1919	15	Elmer plays 'Peter Hartleigh' in the school play, "All on Account of Polly".
12/18/1919	15	Elmer is listed as having top grades at his high school with a 93.9% average overall.
1/29/1920	16	Elmer and Margaret take part in a Declamatory Contest or oratorical and dramatic readings and plays
3/18/1920	16	As part of his Sunday School class known as the 'Willing Workers', Elmer is named to the social committee for an upcoming party and business meeting.
6/3/1921	17	Elmer graduates from Elgin High School, Elgin, Iowa
8/10/1922	18	Elmer goes to Huron SD to visit his brother Melchoir Jr (*NOTE: Melchoir Jr sometimes went by 'Mike', especially when to avoid confusion with Melchoir Senior)
9/14/1922	18	Elmer goes to Huron SD to visit brother Melchoir Junior
3/6/1924	20	Elmer and Louis Becker call at the Charles Peters home Sunday evening
1924	20	Melchoir is elected to Elgin City council (14 years until ill health forced him to resign) [until 1938]
<i>11/4/1924</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Calvin Coolidge is elected President of the United States.</i>
1/9/1925	21	Melchoir/Barbara Yenney return home from Huron, SD
7/2/1925	21	Blurb about Elmer working at Chevrolet plant in Janesville, WI "the boys were busy as bees, pulling in good wages and enjoying good health as well as work".
7/21/1926	22	Elmer Yenney of Janesville marries Ruth Wade of Waucoma (no attendants) at the M. E. Parsonage at West Union; Honeymoon'd at Clear Lake, WI; Elmer back to work at GM
7/29/1926	22	Elmer comes from Janesville to visit folks in Elgin for 3 days
9/30/1926	22	Elmer & Ruth Yenney and Charles Knight of Janesville, WI spend Sunday at the home of Melchoir Yenney in Elgin, IA
3/7/1929	25	Elmer/Ruth Yenney are the parents of a girl born last Thursday, Feb 28th, 1929 in Janesville, WI. Her name is Zoa Ann Yenney
1/1/1931	27	Charles/Margaret Knight, Elmer/Ruth Yenny & family, & Melchoir/Barbara Yenney spend Christmas at home of Mrs. R. A. Crider (Elmer's sister Freida Yenney)
1/1/1931	27	Chas/Margaret Knight, Elmer Yenney family, and Melchoir/Barbara Yenney all spend Christmas day at Freida's (R. A. Crider) home. They stayed four days.
4/21/1931	27	Elmer/Ruth Yenney become parents of a second daughter, Barbara Pearl, born Tuesday, April 21, 1931 at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, WI
4/30/1931	27	Mrs. Melchoir Yenney (Barbara) spends a week visiting Elmer and Margaret Knight at their homes in Janesville (to see new granddaughter)
6/2/1932	28	Charles/Margaret Knight of Janesville, Elmer/Ruth Yenney & family spend Memorial Day in the home of Melchoir/Barbara Yenney in Elgin
6/30/1932	28	Elmer comes from Janesville to visit sick daughter at the home of Mr./Mrs. Harry Wade
6/30/1932	28	Zoa falls down basement stairs at New Home Café and suffers slight concussion, gets briefly sick. Cared for at grandparents, Mr/Mrs Harry Wade (with Ruth there)

2/16/1933	29	Newspaper: "Elmer Yenney and Charles Knight find employment in St. Louis, MO. About 2 weeks later, their wives will join them and make their homes there." ????
5/11/1933	29	Elmer/Ruth Yenney and Chas/Margaret Knight go to Chicago where the men are employed for six months at the Chevrolet plant on the World Fair grounds
5/24/1933	29	Elmer/Ruth Wade & family move from St. Louis to Chicago where Elmer has found employment with Chevrolet (*for a 6-month stint only)
1/4/1934	30	Margaret Crider (Freida's daughter??) returns home after a week with Chas Knight and Elmer Yenney families in Janesville, WI
3/16/1934	30	Ruth Wade Yenney wins Bridge match at Thursday's card club in Janesville
7/26/1934	30	Elmer & children visit relatives in Elgin Sunday to Wednesday
12/7/1934	30	Elmer wins prize at Easy Aces Card Club on Thursday afternoon
1/15/1935	31	Ruth Wade Yenney, who is president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Central Labor Union, announces the next regular meeting in the labor hall at 13 South Main St in Janesville
1/9/1936	32	Illness prevents Ruth Wade Yenney and children from visiting relatives and friends in Elgin
3/14/1936	32	Elmer Yenney re-elected president of Chevrolet local No. 121 International Union United Auto Workers in Janesville, WI
6/18/1936	32	Chas/Margaret Knight & Elmer/Ruth go to Elgin to spend the week at the homes of Melchoir/Barbara Yenney and Mr/Mrs RA Crider (Freida)
7/23/1936	32	Chas Knight & Elmer/Ruth go to Elgin to spend the weekend with Melchoir/Barbara Yenney and Mr/Mrs RA Crider (Freida) (*Barbara Yenney is ill, being cared for by Freida & Margaret)
11/3/1936	32	<i>Franklin D. Roosevelt overwhelms Republican challenger, Alfred Landon, for a second presidential term.</i>
2/3/1937	33	Elmer and family receive a letter of threat from 'the Vigilantes Committee(e)' telling them to 'get out of town or ?'. Elmer turns the letter over to the local police.
8/10/1937	33	RA/Freida Crider & Mrs. Melchoir (Barbara) Yenney go to Janesville for visit to Chas Knight and Elmer Yenney homes. They pick up Margaret Crider (who was already there) and return home
8/12/1937	33	RA/Freida & Chas/Margaret drive to Chicago for a Cubs double-header with the Boston Bees.
9/18/1937	33	The "Cotton Cuties Lady Minstrels", sponsored by UAW lady's auxiliary present show at St. Mary's auditorium. Ruth Wade Yenney is VP of the auxiliary
7/18/1938	34	Melchoir retires from the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company after 38 years of employment
2/24/1938	34	Mrs. Melchoir Yenney (Barbara) arrives home after spending a week with Chas Knight and Elmer Yenney families in Janesville
6/10/1938	34	Ruth Wade Yenney presents program for the YWCA, welcoming new members and acquainting them with the Y
12/28/1939	35	Melchoir/Barbara hold Christmas day. Melchoir Jr/family, Elmer/family, Chas/Margaret Knight, & Freida/RA Crider were all there. (*RA is a veterinarian and does by 'Dr.')
8/1/1940	36	Elmer Yenney undergoes an appendicitis operation at Mercy Hospital and is recovering nicely
7/24/1941	37	Melchoir/Barbara Yenney return home Saturday night after 10 days in Janesville at the Elmer Yenney/Chas Knight homes. Chas/Margaret brought the elder Yenney's home and then returned to Janesville.
9/7/1941	37	Chas/Margaret & Elmer/Ruth arrive in Elgin, called by the serious illness to Melchoir Yenney. Margaret remained as all went home after 3 days. By the time they had returned to Janesville, word had come of Melchoir's death, compelling them to turn around at Janesville and return to Elgin, Iowa. Melchoir Junior (Huron) and John (Waukegan) also came to Elgin.
9/8/1941	37	Melchoir Yenney (Senior) dies after long illness
9/9/1941	37	Melchoir's son, John, and family return to their home in Waukegan, IL after father's funeral
9/9/1941	37	Melchoir Jr returns home to Huron, SD after father's funeral
9/9/1941	37	Charles Knight returns home to Janesville (for work) after father-in-law's funeral; Margaret Knight (M's daughter) stays in Elgin
9/11/1941	37	Margaret Crider, Melchoir's granddaughter returns to Cedar Rapids after grandfather's funeral
9/11/1941	37	Elmer Yenney and wife Ruth stayed 4 days after Melchoir's funeral before returning to Janesville

12/7/1941	37	<i>Attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, commences at 7:55 a.m. when Japanese fighter planes launch a surprise attack which took the greatest amount of U.S. naval life in history with 1,177 sailor and marines perishing. This leads to the entry of American troops into World War II.</i>
1/22/1942	38	Barbara Babler Yenney leaves Elgin to visit the Chas. Knight and Elmer Yenney homes in Janesville, WI
2/5/1942	38	Barbara Babler Yenney returns home after visits with Chas. Knight and Elmer Yenney homes in Janesville, WI
12/17/1942	38	Barbara Babler Yenney leaves Elgin to visit the Chas. Knight and Elmer Yenney homes in Janesville, WI
7/8/1943	39	Mr/Mrs Harry Wade and their daughter, Ruth Wade Yenney, arrive in Oelwein, IA to visit Mrs. Wade's aunt, Mrs. G. A. Lickiss.
12/21/1943	39	Freida (RA Crider) and Margaret (Chas Knight) leave Elgin to visit Elmer Yenney & Charles Knight.
12/23/1943	39	Margaret (Mrs. Chas Knight) leaves for Fairfield, OH where she will report to active duty in the Army Nurses Corps at Patterson Field.
1/20/1944	40	Barbara Babler Yenney leaves Elgin to visit the Chas. Knight and Elmer Yenney homes in Janesville, WI
1/4/1945	41	Elmer/Ruth Yenney purchase a new home in Janesville and moved in Dec. 1st.
8/6/1945	41	<i>President Harry S. Truman okay's the use of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. On August 15, Emperor Hirohito of Japan surrenders.</i>
10/25/1945	41	Elmer/Ruth Yenney visit the R. A. Crider (sister Freida) family and Barbara Babler Yenney in Elgin. (*Note: Freida had two daughters named Margaret and Barbara (just to confuse things :-)
1/17/1946	42	Barbara Babler Yenney leaves the Chas. Knight and Elmer Yenney homes in Janesville, WI to return to Elgin after a 6-week visit (Author's note: "6 weeks?? Holy cow!" :-)
8/7/1947	43	Barbara Babler Yenney is brought home from St. Mary's hospital in Rochester, MN by Freida (Crider) and Margaret (Knight). The daughter's returned home but Ruth Wade Yenney came to look after Barbara. Mrs. Yenney's condition "remains about the same, but she is happy to be able to be in her own home again".
8/14/1947	43	Margaret Knight & Elmer Yenney come from Janesville to visit their mother Barbara Yenney, who is ill. Margaret remained with mother; Elmer returned to Janesville
8/14/1947	43	Margaret (Mrs. Chas Knight) and Elmer Yenney come visit their mother Barbara in Elgin, who is now very ill. Margaret remains; Elmer returns to Janesville.
7/8/1948	44	Elmer/Ruth Yenney from Janesville come visit the R. A. Crider (sister Freida) family in Elgin.
7/1/1949	45	Barbara (Bostrva) Babler Yenney (Melchoir's wife; Elmer's mother) dies at Mercy Hospital in Janesville, WI at 75 years old.
4/24/1950	46	Elmer Yenney receives a ticket for 'leaving a parking space at curb to cause a collision with the moving car' of Gladys Curtus, 609 Laurel Ave, Janesville, WI.
6/25/1950	46	<i>The Korean War begins its three year conflict when troops of North Korea invade South Korea.</i>
12/14/1950	46	Elmer Yenney arrives in Elgin to visit his mother Barbara.
2/28/1952	48	Elmer's daughter, Barbara Pearl Yenney marries Simon Saucerman, son of Mrs. Mildred Saucerman, in Rockford, IL. The couple will reside with her parents. Simon is awaiting overseas assignment at Camp Stoneman, CA (Korean War).
6/19/1952	48	Elmer/Ruth and (Aunt Lil) Lilian Prichett & son, of Rkfd, IL were visitor's in the home of Mrs. George Lickiss and Mrs. Pearl Wade on Friday. Then, all drove to Marion to visit William Roberts, a brother of Mrs. Lickiss, who celebrated his 99th birthday on March 16th of this year. Mr. Roberts is in good health and was out on the porch enjoying the beautiful weather when the company all drove up for the visit. (*from the Arlington News, Arlington, IA)
8/21/1952	48	Elmer/Ruth go to Fayette, IA to visit the home of Harrison Roberts; they then went to Elgin to visit Freida.
11/4/1952	48	<i>General Dwight D. Eisenhower gains an easy victory over Democratic challenger Adlai E. Stevenson. Electoral College vote is 442 to 89.</i>
11/6/1952	48	Freida/R. A. Crider spend the weekend in Janesville visiting the Elmer Yenney and Chas Knight homes.

11/5/1953	49	Freida/'Dr.' R. A. Crider spend the weekend in Janesville visiting the Elmer Yenney and Chas Knight homes.
4/22/1954	50	<i>Joseph McCarthy begins 'Red Scare' televised Senate hearings into alleged Communist influence in the United States Army and elsewhere (*Author's Note: many Union leaders were targeted at the time. For many years prior, opponents to unions liked to alarm the public by spreading the belief that unions were propagating socialist and communist ideals). Later in the year, the US Congress votes to condemn Senator McCarthy's conduct during the hearings.</i>
10/25/1956	52	Elmer/Ruth are dinner guests at the home of Dr. R. A. Crider and wife, Freida in Elgin, IA.
6/6/1957	53	Elmer/Ruth are dinner guests at the home of Mrs. Pearl Roberts in Arlington, IA.
7/11/1957	53	Elmer/Ruth and C. E./Lillian Prichett of Rockford, IL visit both lady's MOTHER, Mrs. Pearl Roberts in Arlington, IA.
7/31/1957	53	Mr/Mrs George (Faye "Aunt Babe") Gaynor and son Grayson of Hinsdale, MT arrive for a visit at the home of Pearl Roberts (in Oelwein, IA or Arlington, IA), and then go visit Mrs. Elmer Yenney (Ruth) an in Janesville and Mrs. Cyril Prichett (Lillian) in Rockford, IL. (*from the Oelwein Daily Register, Oelwein, IA)
12/5/1957	53	Elmer/Ruth are dinner guests at the home of Pearl Roberts (*the Arlington News, Arlington, IA)
12/26/1957	53	Elmer/Ruth accompany mother Pearl Roberts to Dubuque to catch a train to Hinsdale, MT where she will visit the George Gaynor (Faye) family. She will then return to Janesville to spend time with other family members for an indefinite period.
10/30/1958	54	Elmer/Ruth are dinner guests at Mrs. Pearl Roberts home in Arlington, IA.
12/11/1958	54	Elmer/Ruth arrive in Arlington to take mother Pearl Roberts home to Janesville with them, where she will spend the winter with the Yenneys and daughter Lilian Prichett of Rockford, IL.
4/30/1959	55	Elmer/Ruth bring Pearl Roberts back home to Arlington after spending the winter in the Janesville/Rockford area.
7/23/1959	55	Mr/Mrs Geo Gaynor (Faye) and son Rory return to Hinsdale, MT after spending 3 weeks visiting the home of Pearl Roberts (Arlington), Ruth (Janesville) and Lillian (Rockford).
11/8/1960	56	<i>November 8, 1960 - The presidential race to succeed two term president Dwight D. Eisenhower is won by Senator John F. Kennedy, the Democratic candidate from Massachusetts, over incumbent Vice President Richard M. Nixon. Kennedy was a narrow victor in the p</i>
3/23/1961	57	Elmer/Ruth come pick up Pearl Roberts who has spent the past week in Arlington visiting friends.
10/4/1961	57	Elmer/Ruth are weekend guests of Dr. R. A. Crider/Freida Crider in Elgin.
2/7/1962	58	<i>February 7, 1962 - The first sign of a looming Vietnam conflict emerges when President Kennedy admits that the military advisors already in Vietnam would engage the enemy if fired upon.</i>
6/10/1962	58	Elmer Yenney dies of a heart attack while visiting his sister Margaret at the Chas Knight home on Applewood Road in Edgerton, WI.
6/13/1962	58	Mrs. R. A. Crider (Frieda) [and virtually all relatives and dozens of acquaintances including the entire body of the local 121 Auto Workers] attend Elmer's funeral, officiated by the Rev. Lynford Sanders of Wesleyan Methodist Church, at the Overton Funeral Home in Janesville.

NOTE #1: Most of the dates below are those of the newspaper date, so the events described may have happened a few days prior.