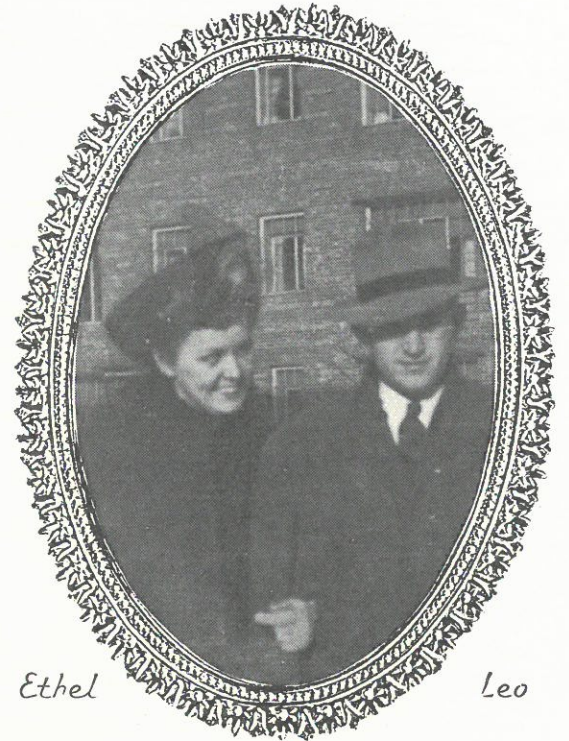


Anniversary



Ethel

Leo

December 27, 1941



*Leo and Ethel Griffing
1991*

Children

*Darryl R. Griffing Arthur C. Griffing
Gwen Griffing Eidman Lois L. Griffing
Leo Bradley Griffing*



THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR MEMORIES

FOR OUR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

We thank you each and every one
for what you had to say.
You've added to our happiness
in a very special way.
The memories of the happy times you've shared
will give us pleasure;
They bring you back to us again
in memories we treasure.

A WEDDING WITHOUT GUESTS

(December 27, 1941)

Listen, our children, and you shall now hear of the strange romance
of your parents dear.
'Twas in the summer of nineteen hundred and thirty-five that their
sweet love story first came alive.
In psychology class he first saw her sweet smile, but to find out her
name would take him a while.
Leo listened intently as she answered roll call,
But his pals bet him loudly he'd not rate at all.
Tom, Wayne, and Guy then conjured up a bet
That a date with "Miss Aveny" he never would get.
Her landlady grew increasingly tired of answering the phone,
For it took seven calls ere he could find her at home.

'Twas the twenty-seventh of June, a most special date;
They'd meet after class to decide on his fate.
"I'm Mr. Griffing," he said, as he fell into step;
With happy surprise her tender heart leapt.
It happened on Friday, and she'd be leaving for home,
so they settled on Tuesday in the dark of the moon.
They went to a movie, be he left his lights on;
When the movie was over, the battery was down.

Two more dates came quickly, then came to an end---

Who came into town but Leo's old girl friend!!!

He gave no explanation, not even a smile,

'Twas only a week, but it seemed quite a while.....

When Juanita went home, the romance could resume,

Making up was quite sweet by the eclipse of the moon.

There was no time for study, for they met EVERY night;

Ethel's A-graders dived deeply until quite out of sight.

For to Alice, her roommate, she'd made a firm pact,

She'd snag a new boy friend, now it might be a fact!

One who would phone her long distance on the home party line,

Impress all the neighbors, oh, that would be fine!!!!

Soon they traded their pictures, as they bid fond farewell;

There'd be phone calls and letters, our Ethel could tell...

There were oft Sunday visits, sixty miles through the mud;

But his father was ill, he came oft as he could.

So the courtship continued for year after year;

He moved to her county and thus could be near.

But she went off to college and then to the City;

She was hard to pin down, it was really a pity.

She was determined for a degree, then to pay off the debt;

These ambitions were firm, her mind was quite set.

But Leo persisted, he knew what he wanted;

With her smile and her spirit, he seemed to be haunted.

Finally in the autumn of the year 'Forty-One,

Her Extension job ended, her dream seemed undone!

But she trekked off to Chicago to seek a career,

But said that she'd marry at the end of the year.

She'd train at Swift's kitchens, be placed in St. Joe,

He could find a job nearby, they'd make it a go...

They'd marry in Chicago during Christmas vacation.....

...But suddenly...World War II caused a new complication!!!!

The kitchen was canceled, the War put it on hold...

Also women at Swift's do not marry, our Ethel was told.

She was advised by her boss, when she learned of the plan,

And was told again firmly by a sweet, grey-haired man:

"Two masters, my dear, no woman can serve...

No husband should suffer..." This cast quite a curve!!!

But determined they were, so Leo came on a train,

The hazards he lived through* seemed almost insane.

A traditional wedding was quite out of the question,

During wartime, guests and such detail just add complication.

No invitations were sent, there could be no tradition,

The War and the blizzards, this was a strange situation!

But with the aid of the Jordans, the wedding transpired.

There were ten days together, then Ethel was fired!

But Ethel was hired as a writer at the Meat Institute,
She'd stay on in the City, the question was moot.
He was Number Ten in the Draft, just what should they do?
To get back together, the choices were few.
Leo went back to Kansas, no wife by his side!
He'd stay with his school, by contract he was tied.

Many letters were written, daily sent in the mail,
They'd work something out, their vows could not fail.
They met on March seventh, she traveled by train,
To his sister's in Lincoln, no solution was plain.
And, by the middle of May, her college debt was paid,
She'd return to Kansas, the decision was made.
Leo found them a house for his Mom and his wife,
They rented a stove, bought a bed, so began a new life.
The Avenys all gathered at Wakefield in June...
They welcomed their new son, found that all were in tune.
So 'tis June that we choose for this great celebration
Of the forty-nine years of this union's creation.

We regret to our wedding you were not all invited,
When first we were wed and our true love was plighted.
Some guests who would have been there are no longer living,
To the ones who are here now, we hope you're forgiving.
For vows to be solid, and a true marriage make,
Just what is important, just what does it take?

Well, once we were rated on true wedded bliss;
The computer computed and came up with this:
Our birthdays were fed into that computer machine;
We breathlessly waited...just what could that mean?
Came out our PHYSICAL FITNESS, rating a cool seventy-four...
That seemed to make for a fairly good score!
Next came the rating of our mutual SENSITIVITY,
On that we scored great...nearly three more than NINETY!
It appeared that our total score could turn out just great,
"Oh, joy," we exclaimed, "How good will we rate!"
But 'twas the third part that dealt us a terrible blow,
For TOGETHERNESS figure read out a new low!!!!

The Togetherness score sank to a barely FIFTEEN,
"Oh, our average is ruined...just what does this mean?"
Though our average sank to a mere SIXTY-ONE
By some other couple the high prize would be won!
Our eyes met---we took a deep breath and then understood,
The truth stood before us, honest, straight-forward, but good:
Though not often together in the things that we do,
We stand by each other, disagreements are few.
Leo's interests are sports, Ethel gets buried in books,
But that togetherness item's not as bad as it looks.
Through courtship and marriage, we were often apart,
But always together in matters of heart.

Though our likes are dissimilar, our Love intercedes,
 SENSITIVITY tells us just what the other one needs.
 Now our friends often kid us that we're never at home,
 When the driveway is empty, there's only one of us gone.
 When Leo does errands, Ethel's home with her sewing;
 When Ethel is shopping, he won't think of going.
 For he's home with his punching or watching sports on TV;
 For shopping's her "spectator sports," don't you see?
 So may you heed what we most sagely advise:
 Be sensitive always, for we found it was wise.
 Never mind, our dear ones, what the horoscope reads,
 Be even loyal to your mates, be aware of their needs.

And now as we look back on all both of us shared,
 Look back on the mem'ries of how much we cared,
 Our children, all five, have made us most blest,
 We're proud as can be, during these years as we rest.
 We treasure our friends---what they've added to Life!
 The years have been precious as husband and wife.
 The reward of long living is the mem'ries we share
 Of dear friends and loved ones for which we much care...
 We thank you for coming, or sending your note...
 We'll treasure them always, each one that you wrote.
 This happy Reunion honors mem'ries of the past fifty years...
 God bless you each one, you're all precious, my dears.

1941 THROUGH THE YEARS WITH LEO AND ETHEL 1991

We have lived in many places and moved 13 times. Let's reminisce!
 Can you place in this review the times and places where our lives
 touched?

December 1941 - During the turmoil following Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7,
 1941, Leo and Ethel were married in CHICAGO, as Ethel was working
 there. Leo was elementary principal at WESTMORELAND, KS.

1942-44 - In May Ethel and his Mom joined him in WESTMORELAND. During
 the summer Ethel supervised a Pott. Co. mattress-making project and
 Leo worked in the Burlington RR shops in LINCOLN, NE. In September
 little DARRYL RAY was born at home, but in November it was Leo who
 was hospitalized with appendicitis. In addition to his school, Leo
 "moonlighted" working in Green's Grocery and running the township road
 maintainer. In March Ethel became a County Social Welfare home vis-
 itor. In August 1943 Leo's sister Lois, her husband Norman Lull, and
 7-year-old Patty joined the family, until their farm in Washington
 county would be available the next March. In April 1944 Leo volun-
 teered for the Navy but was later released due to lung scarring.

1944-46 - Leo accepted the principalship in FRANKFORT, where they moved
 into the Presbyterian Manse, and Ethel commuted to her Westmoreland
 job. Leo continued working toward his K-State degree with correspon-
 dence and summer school, moonlighting with refereeing sports and chec-
 king Fox Theatre attendance all over NE Kansas. Leo completed his 3rd

degree Masonic work in May 1946.

1946-48 - In the fall of 1946 the family moved to ELLINWOOD, KS, then later to a high school principalship at CLEBURNE. On Jan. 1, Leo's brother-in-law Chet Peeples died suddenly and his sister Alma and 7-year-old Marshall joined the family for a few months. Feb. 12 Ethel's mother died; the following day daughter GWENDA LYNN was born. By summer Alma had moved to Lincoln, taking Mother G. and Marshall with her. In August Leo finished his bachelor's degree from K-State, and Ethel went back to work at "Westy", with Opal Pickett the babysitter with the two little ones.

1948-51 - During the summer of 1948, Leo and Ethel moved to CIRCLEVILLE High School jobs, taking Opal along until she married, then Leta Holt and Doris Fernkopf were the sitters. In Jan. 1949 Mother G. passed away in Lincoln. During the summer Leo tried a stint at soap selling with his brother Carl in DAVENPORT, IA but returned to Circleville to remodel their home there. Dad Avery came to visit and in Dec. he suffered a stroke, later passing away in the Holton hospital. Leo and Ethel joined Eastern Star and Leo transferred his Masonic membership, earning his 32nd degree in Topeka April 12, 1949. In the summer of 1950 Leo bought an Indian pinto "Champ" for Darryl, was continuing with his refereeing, was coaching, and playing softball.

1951-54 - In the spring of 1951 Leo resigned his school job to buy the local grocery and locker plant. On Oct. 4 a 2nd son ARTHUR CLARK was born. Later they sold the house and moved into the apartment adjoining the store. Leo pitched softball with the Holton Flyers, having thrilling games, was butchering up to 16 beeves a day, raising baby

chicks, selling eggs and dressed chickens in Manhattan, while commuting to work on his Master's degree. No wonder he was having health problems! In August 1953 Ethel went back to Westy to fill in on the SW director's vacation; little LOIS LYNETTE was born Sept. 11

1954-56 - In March 1954 Ethel went back to work in Pott. Co, SW, commuting with AC and Lois, staying in Opal Taylor's apartment during the week. Still working on his Master's during the summer Leo signed to be elementary principal at ONAGA. After the family moved into the Marjorie JENKINS house there, he turned the store over to his help, Roy Daugherty and Wanda Fernkopf. Ethel was teaching at White Pigeon rural school while Leta(Holt) Kocher babysat. Darryl was in Scouting, 4-H, and school band. Later Mrs. Vera "Grandma" Witham came to babysit. In 1955 Leo completed his Master's from KSU. His grade school BB team won the County tourney. In May 1956 the Jenkins house caught fire, and the family moved back to the CIRCLEVILLE apartment, where Ethel had signed to her former HE-English job. July 1 the store sold, and the family left on a 5-week trip through the East, then moving back to the Dave Clark house in ONAGA, Ethel commuting to Circleville.

1956-65 - Leo and Leonard Ottman built a "teardrop" trailer for future trips; Ethel began working on library training hours and teaching English in the Onaga High School. Gwen won the talent show and resumed ballet lessons in Manhattan. Darryl, who had been working summers on his Uncle Albion's farm, earned a Bel Aire Chevie. In 1958 the family took a memorable trip to the West Coast...In Jan. 1959 Leo's school building collapsed and classes were held all over town while plans

were begun for a new building. In Jan 1960 Ethel gave up her high school job, as 3rd son LEO BRADLEY was born March 5. In June the family purchased the DUNN house. Leo was Lions Club president. In the fall Darryl was off to K-State, and Ethel began teaching in the Jr. High...In 1961 Leo received State Commendation on his outstanding music and physical education programs in the new building. Gwen won the Co. 4-H style revue...In 1962 Darryl took Marine basic training at Quantico, VA, and the family with Linda Jones had a holiday in TN.... In 1963 Leo and Ethel, as well as Gwen and AC, were in summer school at Emporia, while Lois and "Little Leo" were at Aunt Esther's. Darryl and Linda announced their engagement. Gwen received a Gold 4-H Achievement award...In 1964 Darryl and Linda were married on Ethel's birthday and as soon as Darryl received his BS from K-State they were off to the Marines... Ethel was busy promoting the new Pott-Wabaunsee Co. Regional Library system.

1965-1966 - Unification of school systems caused upheaval, and Leo signed a superintendency at FOWLER, KS in Meade Co. and Ethel was h.s. librarian and English. Gwen was a freshman at Emporia State.

1966-1980 - In Jan. 1966 Leo accepted consultant position with the State Department of Education, moving the family to TOPEKA during the June 6 Tornado week. July 2 Little Natalie Rae was born to Darryl and Linda. In August Ethel completed her Master's at E-State and became teacher-librarian in Topeka's Dist. #501. AC and Lois finished high school at Shawnee Heights near Topeka, taking honors in scholarship, forensics, and music. AC received a Baker U. Presidential scholarship, spent one year studying in Germany, and finished at KU in 1973. Lois finished in 1975 at Emporia and began teaching speech and debate at Wichita North High.

In 1975, Leo had his first heart bypass surgery at St. Luke's in KC on Feb. 14, returned to the Office, but had 5 more bypasses in 1978 on March 23, Gwen's 10th wedding anniversary (she was married to Gene Eidman in 1968, graduated from E-State in 1969, and was mother of 3: Donal James born in 1971, Julie Jo in 1974, and Clinton Gregory in 1977). Leo retired, and Brad graduated from Shawnee Heights and enrolled at KU.

1980 - Feb. 6 Leo had a severe heart attack, closing off 3 of his 6 bypasses; Ethel finished a history of the Highland Park community, where she had been teacher-librarian for the past 14 years, retired, and they turned their Topeka home over to Brad. In their Open Road motor home, Leo and Ethel started out to the Southwest, settled upon Yuma, AZ as the most healthful climate for Leo, but take many trips to Good Sam Sambo-rees and enjoy companionship of other "Second Chance Sams." In 1981 Jan-elle Renee Eidman was born, and Brad and Terri Lynn Pound were married and lived in the Topeka home until 1984 when Brad transferred to Providence, RI. A tornado took the house May 6, 1983 but it was rebuilt and sold in 1986, after Leo had bought in Kenyon Mobile Home Park in Yuma, where they enjoy the pool, jacuzzi, and social life with friends from all over the USA. In addition to his trips in their Pace Arrow motor home, Leo takes pride in his "punch embroidered" jackets he has placed all over the world and watching TV sports. Ethel is ever busy with sewing and crafts, family history projects, and keeping in touch with old friends like you. Keep in touch! Many of you are kept up to date with her annual Griffing Greeter each December.

OUR FAMILY

DARRYL RAY GRIFFING, b 17 Sep 1942, graduate Onaga HS, 1960, K-State 1964, Marine jet pilot flying 287 missions over N. Vietnam in 1967-8, resigned commission 1970, bank officer for 14 years in Manhattan, KS, now financial consultant with Prudential Insurance in Mesa, AZ. Married Linda Rae Jones 7 Mar 1964, one son Douglas Ray, Arizona State student.

GWENDA LYNN(Griffing) EIDMAN, b 13 Feb 1947, graduate Onaga HS 1965, BS and Masters Emporia State, homemaker, teacher, community worker at Saffordville, KS. Married Gene Eidman 23 Mar 1968, 4 children: DJ, student E-State; Julie, jr. at Cottonwood Falls: Clint, middle school; and Janelle 4th grade.

ARTHUR CLARK (AC) GRIFFING, b 4 Oct 1951, graduate Shawnee Hgts. HS 1969, KU 1973, world traveler and travel and convention consultant, entertainer with Jesters men's trio, specializing in vintage music of the Twenties and Thirties.

LOIS LYNETTE GRIFFING, b 11 Sep 1953, graduate Shawnee Hgts. HS 1971, E-State 1975, taught speech and debate in Wichita high schools for 7 years, now a professional stage manager at the renowned Goodman Theatre in Chicago, IL.

LEO BRADLEY (Brad) GRIFFING, b 5 Mar 1960, graduate Shawnee Hgts. HS 1978, Washburn U. 1983, outstanding broadcast student, guitarist and composer. Married Terri Lynn Pound 27 June 1981, 2 children: Riannon Nicole, age 8, and Savanna Renee, age 4.

*The hopes and dreams we two have shared,
The happy hours we've spent,
The caring and the giving,
The times of deep content,
The memories we cherish,
The joys we've known together,
The way we've faced life's ups and downs
In bright or cloudy weather....
These are the ties that keep us close,
And all are reasons why
Our marriage grows more meaningful
As every year goes by.*

OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS FOR YOU

LEO and ETHEL