

OUR CABIN IN THE SKY

FISH CREEK MOUNTAIN

LOOKOUT TOWER

ESTACADA

OREGON

June 24, 1945 through September 18, 1945

Helen and Elbert Brubaker

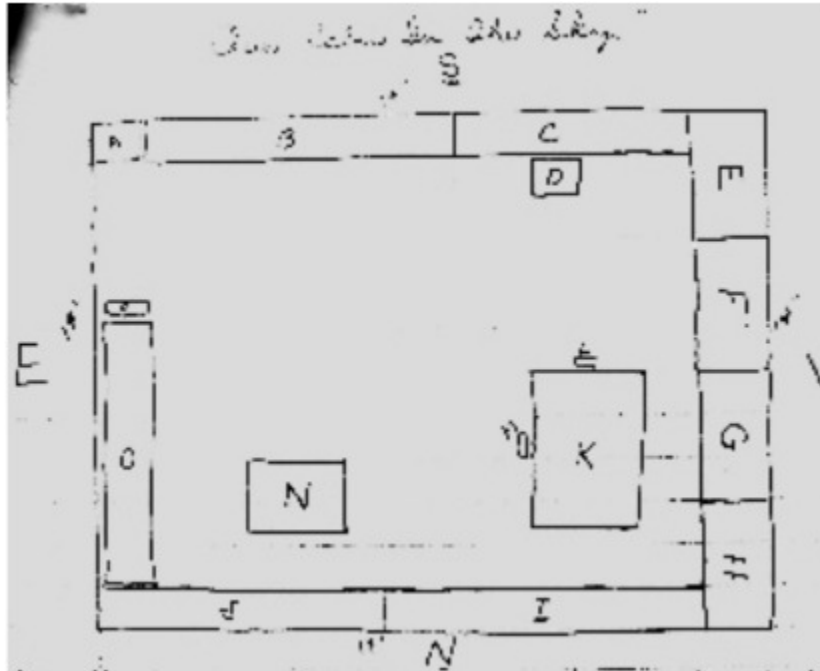
June 24, 1945

Rex Orser, the ranger in charge, called us at seven a.m. We dressed in a short time and folded our blankets to pack along. Ate breakfast at ranger's house - pancakes 'n eggs 'n coffee - Afterwards we got in a truck with our things, 'n rode to where the mules were ready to pack. Packer packed the mules, three of them, 'n Ranger McDonald started us out on our eight mile hike. We had to cross a creek on a cable car - a thrilling experience. The first part of our hike was marvelous. Made us think of the period when the earth was all plant life, as all you saw was beautiful, tall, pine trees (some 180 ft. - 'n 200 to 300 yrs. old) and ferns. So cool 'n still. We started our hike at 9:45 a.m, so we had only gone about 3 miles when we stopped to eat our Army "K" rations. My first, and I really did enjoy my meal. The climb from then on was pretty steep, especially the last three miles when we were plenty tired did the climb go practically straight up. Reached tower at 2:30 p.m. Our tower is very nice and in good condition. While Elbert 'n Mac took the mules to the lake for our water supply, I sorta fixed something to eat before Mac started back the long trail. Our phone wouldn't work even tho' both guys worked on it. Elbert 'n I washed all the dishes as they were rather dusty. Our bed is a single cot, but wasn't so crowded. Read the Bible and went to bed 'bout 10 p.m. - pretty tired. The moon was pretty 'n bright. We didn't have but one shutter open, but still could see.

June 25, 1945

Got up a little before 6 a.m. in order to go after our water. The hike after the water goes straight down as it is a narrow trail on side of a cliff. I was plenty tired when I reached the top with my two and a half gallon can. But we made it on schedule - 7:30 a.m. It's a mile 'n half after water (one way) but we took a short cut. Elbert rebuilt the fire 'n I fried bacon 'n eggs for breakfast. After breakfast I done a little hand wash. Used that water to scrub out all the boxes where we put our things. I got all our groceries away and fixed a salad lunch in order to keep from building a fire (uses wood and we cut the wood). Finished unpacking 'n replacing our clothes. I fixed a dressing table on top of one cupboard that won't need be opened so much. Seems more homier. Elbert cut a tree for a new flag pole. Put up our signs, i.e. - "Fish Creek Mt. L.O. elevation 5145" "Garbage" then hunted around to find where the "Men" sign belonged. Fixed up my clothes lines 'n fixed up three new oranges crates for me a ice box . With things all located in proper place seemed more like a home -- our first, so really lots of fun, planning comforts for each other. They got the phone fixed 'n called us about 11 a.m. Good to be in touch with outside world. Wind rather cool today. This morning was clear, but after supper all light mt. peaks (snow capped) were invisible. Elbert shaved. I took a facial, read a while, bed around 9: - We layed in bed admiring the beauty of the full moon !

Our Cabin In The Sky



- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| A - Door | I - Our clothes |
| B - Food Chest | J - Lookout supplies |
| C - Wood box with utility bench above | K - Table, radio on corner |
| D - Small woodburning stove with oven | L & M - Chairs |
| E - Dish cupboard | N - Fire finder over shelves |
| F - Food and cooking supplies | O - Single cot (holding two!!) |
| G - Bread and canned goods | P - Box - holding testers 'n wraps |
| H - Extra supplies with dressing table on top. | |

The cabin is built on 12 ft. stilts. The wall's height is 2/3 windows. On the north side is the steps. Along the side we have three orange crates for ice boxes. On south side Elbert erected a new flag pole. On the east down 100 ft. we discovered what "MEN" sign was for. Our view is all the beauty of God.

June 26, 1945

To think, last night we admired such a beautiful full moon, a clear sky - could see the lights of Portland, all the mts. peaks -- St. Helen's, Adams, Rainier, Hood, Jefferson, and Three Sisters - and a gorgeous sunset - to awake this morning and find that we were "fogged in" "no visibility" whatsoever. Since it was so bad and we had enough water for today we didn't take that three mile hike, but stayed in bed till 7:30. Really cold, so kept a fire all day. Elbert messed around outdoors most of the day. Wore his new rain outfit. He got the new flagpole erected that he made yesterday. I helped him put it up, afterwards I picked some rhododendrons for centerpiece on the table, he started to drill on the pole 'n I tho't was a rattlesnake - I really got out fast. Since it was so cold today I made some jello for supper (able to freeze it), tasted good. After supper Elbert made a cute little ashtray from a "Pet" milk can - even has the little holder to lay the cigarette on. So cute! During the day I have a table cloth on the table to look more like library table. Has radio, magazines and picture of Christ. More livable. We eat on the oilcloth to save on laundry bills(?!!). On our dressing table we have Elbert's shaving equipment, my make-up, comb 'n brush, mirror 'n in corner some books. I have on it a dresser scarf. Seems nicer than digging in suit case everytime you want to comb your hair. Even a sunporch gets cool in cold weather 'n so's this place - G'nite.

June 27, 1945

We awoke this morning to find us still in the fog. So we turned over and went back to sleep till nearly 9.A.M. Almost 10 when we ate breakfast, so we did without lunch. Elbert worked outdoors awhile and then read the "Reader's Digest". I sorted all my pictures, burning any duplicates 'n arranging them into groups. 'Bout 3 o'clock I decided to bake some "Nut Brownies". Everything went swell except that I couldn't regulate my oven 'n they got a little too brown. Elbert liked them - or at least was nice enough to eat some. I cooked some rice with raisins and that didn't stick, so I didn't feel too discouraged over cooking. When Elbert made the 4:33 report we were out of our fog cloud 'n could see about 4 miles. Later after supper we were able to see Mt. Jefferson 'n part of Mt. Hood. Nice to be able to see out again. We felt rather like Admiral Byrd as all we could see was whiteness 'n it was so cold. Last evening before retiring and again today we saw deers in our front lawn. Different ones, too. We threw them bread, as we'd like to have some pets. Elbert put up the flag after the fog lifted. We're proud of it. Elbert shaved, I took a facial 'n spend our evening reading.

June 28, 1945

I was lady of leisure this morning. We were "fogged in" again, so we stayed in bed. About 7:30 Elbert called "Woman, get up" and he had a wonderful breakfast of grapefruit eggs 'n bacon, 'n coffee ready for me!!!. It was so good we ate seconds on eggs 'n bacon. I cleaned up breakfast dishes 'n swept our cabin. Elbert mopped it for me - really shined nice. Our flagpole was too tall to sight fires with fire finder, so Elbert cut the top off. I took time out from book I was reading to fix Elbert a salad lunch with cheese'n cracker sand. The fog lifted around noon, but you couldn't see any of mts. but Jefferson. We read until supper time. We had a nice meal - to T Dorsey's music. After supper work I finished my book which I enjoyed. "One Foot in Heaven". Elbert is reading "Oil", amusing in parts, he reads them to me. Started raining some around 7:30, so we took the flag down. The deers still hung around, we fed them bread 'n crackers. Oh, today Elbert made me a cute candle holder from an empty milk can. He's really quite a man! He helps me so much with little things that take time. We re-made our bed, the mattress is too wide, so we put chairs on sides for more room.

June 29, 1945

We were fogged in again this morning, so we stayed in bed rather than go for water. Elbert built the fire and warmed things up for me when I got up. I got breakfast and done up breakfast work. Elbert's reading, so I addressed some birthday cards and started a letter to mother. I don't expect to mail them for a month, but I want to have mail ready to go out if someone should come. I fixed a lunch and then we decided to work our water trail and get water. Elbert took the cross-cut saw 'n we took our two 2 1/2 gal. water containers 'n started out. A wonderful hike. Such beautiful tall pine trees covered with moss, down at the lake is quite a bit of snow. We could see quite a bit of fish in the clear lake. We hiked a piece on up "Whalehead" trail, but then headed back. As the hike is pretty much straight up 'n isn't fun with the heavy water canteens. I baked some cookies for supper using syrup instead of sugar. Not bad only I can't adjust my oven and gets to hot. Elbert shaved 'n I put up my hair. Then I read to him out of his book. He has told me so much I am interested to. Read for couple hours. Elbert made me a sugar shaker from a "Prem" glass jar. Bed about 10 - Rather chilly.

June 30, 1945

We woke very early to see a beautiful sunrise. The sky was a beautiful color, our cabin was above the clouds, they appeared as the earth's surface, and the protruding mts. seemed only as small hills. Elbert got up and made fires then called me about 7: a.m. He went after water and was back within a hour. I got breakfast, cleaned things up then I read to Elbert from our book "Oil". He fixed coffee 'n cookies for our lunch. Then he read while I "Bon Ami" all the windows. 80 panes in all! I was rather tired so I took a nap while he worked around outside. Then I got supper. After supper I shampooed my hair and took a bath (in same water) Elbert took a bath also. While I was pinning up some curls. Ranger Parkes phoned that a fellow was coming up tomorrow to fish. So we quit reading to write some letters home 'n send out with him. Today the East winds came. They are winds that dry the forests. Really strong at times. They are off the deserts, so are really dry. Before we came out to the lookout, Elbert got a butch haircut 'n I got a feather cut. He calls me "Goldie Locks" and I call him "Curly". We are really a chance to be together 'n live 'n act like a married couple. It's love.

July 1st, 1945

Elbert called me around 7: he had the fire built and was ready to go for water. He has gotten so that he can go the three miles (using some short cuts) in an hour. We had some devotions before breakfast. After cleaning up the breakfast dishes we read some on "Oil". About 10:30 the fisherman arrived with quite a bit of mail. In Mother's letter she said Alfred didn't return with his ship back into action but had a nervous breakdown and was being hospitalized at Oakland, Calif. I'm glad he didn't have to go back. We had two letters from Elbert's folks, Elbert's mother, Idamae Royce, C.P.S Union and C.P.S. #21, card from Petrys 'n Loretta Anderson. Glad for them all. Fisherman drank a cup of coffee then he went down to lake to join the other fellows. We ate a lunch, then I wrote a letter to Gene 'n one for Alfred. Elbert took them down to the fellow at the lake (we had already given him some to mail to our folks) and also brought some more water. I read 'n watched for fires while he was gone. Ate supper. I layed in sun awhile while Elbert caught up to where I left off. Then I read aloud 'n we finished the book. Worthwhile 'n interesting reading. Wind changed from East to West this afternoon. Still a very warm day. Elbert's nose bled for quite a bit while the fisherman was here.

July 2nd, 1945

Elbert got up and built the fire and put on the wash water, then called me before he left to get water. I got up and dress had breakfast started when he got back. Elbert washed his hair then we ate. I put the sheets in to soak while I done breakfast dishes. I then done a nice size wash on the washboard. I just wore my panties 'n bra, so I could be tanning while I worked. Elbert hung up the sheets for me then he took a nap. Wasn't too windy this morning so clothes hung dry without any pins. Ate some plums for lunch. Elbert mopped the floor with the washwater. I took a sulfathiazole, I believe I'm getting my pyelitis again, then took a nap. Elbert started painting on outside, got the shudders on East side finished. I got the clothes in, dampen down. Then I baked some biscuits for supper. Elbert said they were good. After supper I done the ironing with the sad iron. Wouldn't get as hot I'd like, but clothes looked better than no ironing at all. I done supper dishes. Elbert swept. I took a facial. Elbert shaved. He tooked the alarm apart while I'm writing in my dear diary. I'm very tired especially my back, so I'm going to bed even tho 'tis 8:20. West winds most of day.

July 3rd, 1945

Elbert built the fire and then called me before he left to get water. I didn't get up right away and he almost caught me in bed. Only took him 50 minutes. I don't see how he does it. I had a restless night all night, bad dreams. Elbert dreamed Edith 'n Kenny had a baby girl named "Lindy Lou". After breakfast dishes were finished we both painted. We finished the East side of cabin completely including the railing. I fixed an apple salad 'n pieces of cheese for lunch. Elbert took little nap until time for 1:03 report. Then we painted. Was lots of fun. Talked alot about problems of life 'n lots about Elbert's two families. He said he enjoyed talking with me things he'd been thinking about. I stopped at four 'n started supper. I got a pain in my tummy hurt awful. Constipation pain I guess. Elbert finished up supper. Ate 'n I insisted on doing dishes alone. He read. I am writing in my diary, then am brushing my teeth and going to bed. My back aches so much. West wind today. Should keep fire hazard down awhile. Clear all day able to see all mtns. Since Elbert worked on the alarm, sure runs swell. He's a fixer-up!!!!

July 4th, 1945

Last night about 2 a.m. I whispered "Kiss me" and Elbert woke up 'n kissed me. Then we watched all the lights of Portland and the yellow moon coming up. We both got up around 7- and went after water. Elbert cleared trail for a little ways. I took my shirt off for a while at the water to get reflection of the sun. All the snow is gone at the lake now. The hike was really vigorating. I made some buckwheat cakes for breakfast - good. We painted then, on South side. Fixed shrimp salad 'n grapefruit juice for lunch. I painted all afternoon without a shirt on to help out with my tan. Air rather chilly. Made french fries for supper. While fire was still going Elbert popped some corn. He shaved and I took a bath. We studied dictionary awhile. Mainly learned that biannual means - twice a year - 'n biennial means every two years. - Then Elbert read to me "On Being a Real Person" - by Fosdick. Rather deep so we discussed it until it was simple and interesting. I put on Elbert's jacket 'n my high heels 'n took the flag down -- rather coolish!!!! - The sky is certainly an array of colors today. Really beautiful colors in the sunset. Bed bout 10 - We were on the lookout today of a Jap fire bomb. We couldn't spot it. Later proved to be a moving planet which I think I spot now.

July 5, 1945

I woke this morning with the cramps, so Elbert went alone after water. I got up and dressed, had breakfast all ready to cook when I saw him coming round the bend. After cleaning up dishes, Elbert insisted I go back to bed. He fixed the hot water bottle. He cut some wood, and at lunch time fixed us a lunch, then called me. Last night we had made some raspberry gelatin, he fixed it for lunch, sure good. After lunch I layed in the nude on a blanket in the sun. Best hot pad I ever used. I began to get red all over, so I dressed and helped Elbert paint. We finished up the South side. He had said he would get supper, but I felt alright, so I got us some supper. After dishes we loved 'n talked awhile - just having fun. Then Elbert read to me "On Being a Real Person". Only 12 pages as rather deep reading. I rubbed my legs with oil as sure red. I brushed my teeth, then I'm writing in my diary while Elbert is reading "Down to Earth", geology. Oh, I put on some finger nail polish while he read to me. Ranger said we had three letters at station. Wish we could get them. Wrote letters. Very hot today with little air.

July 6, 1945

Elbert called me before he went to get water. I got up later and lit the fire he had all ready. I made some dope for french toast using powdered eggs. Works fine. I just didn't use enough in proportion. We decided not to paint today as we like to paint, so we want the job to last awhile. It occupies our time. Elbert took a sun bath while I wrote to Floyd, then I took a sun bath while he continued to read his geology. We drank some grapefruit juice for lunch. East wind today, so very warm. I wore only a towel pinned around me - a sojourn effect. I wrote a letter to Murray while Elbert read. Then we messed over each other - Elbert cut hair under my arms with scissors - rather close 'n eye straining job, but he can do a real one. We both got supper, he's better at cooking than I am. He shaved while I done dishes, then I took a facial, put up my hair, brushed my teeth 'n washed my feet. We discussed things from Elbert's book. I read several stories from "True" magazine. Watched the beautiful sunset, then Bru took the flag down. I wrote in dear diary by candlelight. Bed at 10 -

July 7, 1945

Elbert called me, so I put on my shorts and my red flannel shirt and went along after water. I carried the gal. water canvas bag so wasn't so heavy. Water too chilly to take a dip. I took my shirt off coming back, just my bra felt more comfortable. Had last of our bread for french toast for breakfast. While I done dishes Elbert took his sun bath 'n I read in "True" magazine till my turn. Elbert timed me. I get too impatient just cooking myself in the sun. I'm getting a nice tan tho'. Elbert has on his back a wonderful tan. Fixed lunch. We both read and discussed what we were reading. Then we had a nice talk about life in general. Elbert told me some about his younger days and his home life. We both fixed supper. Elbert keeps my morale up - as I dislike to plan meals. While I cleaned up supper mess he fixed one of my ice boxes up out of reach from the deers. They nibbled on our beacon 'n apples. I fixed all my Manchester pictures in an album while Elbert read his geology. Rex called to chat told me what mail we had 'n read a card from Alfred, glad to hear from him. Bed at 10. -

July 8, 1945

Elbert called me about sumpin', but I don't remember his leaving to get water and I didn't hear him come back as I was still asleep. He went earlier as the fire danger was high. I got up 'n we had breakfast over by 7:30. There is a fire over on other side of mts., so boys down at station had to go (last nite). Elbert read our worship service. I read while then I took a nap. I read some more then as I was so hungry I started supper. Must be the mt. air as I nearly starve (no it's not my cooking!). Elbert helped - made some lucious cocoa. I made some gingerbread (mix), but we still can't regulate our oven. We ate it tho. After supper - which I ate plenty - Elbert mixed up some jello while I done dishes. I don't always write it, but my husband 'n I spend lots of our time - loving - he's so attentive to me 'n I love it! We listened to "Album of Familiar Music" 'n "All Girl Orchestra". We both read, then we talked. Elbert spoke of his interest in maybe going to college after war. Be swell as he is so interested in things 'n he is brilliant. He spoke of other things he is interested in doing. Mainly setting up a repair shop - which he is capable of doing. Nearly 10 when we went to take flag down 'n then to bed.

July 9, 1945

We awoke at 5:a.m. to see the eclipse of the sun. We were able to just see a partial eclipse. From Montana to Russia they were supposed to see a total eclipse.

I was too tired to go this morning, so I slept until just a few minutes before Elbert came back, but I felt better later on in morning. Elbert fried the mush for breakfast. He knows more about cooking than I. He ate a whole pan of mush. I ate only two pieces. We read a while this morning. The fire the fellows have gone to is going from "bad to worse" they called from ranger station. Another fire broke out at Deschutttes, so we were extra cautious today. The visibility was bad as the valleys were filled with smoke from the fires. Ate lunch then I started to work on another photograph album. This one has my pictures of "Univis" working days. Took a rest period and persuaded Albert into letting me take his picture in shorts 'n barefeet. I took two of him. He was so silly all day. So sweet 'n "kiddish". The ants are horrible 'n he found the hole where they were coming from and would sit on floor killing them as they came out. He really had a massacre. I baked biscuits for supper 'n Elbert fried the potatoes in cornmeal 'n made the rice. More fun when we work together. After supper work he shaved and I washed my hair 'n took a bath. He read 'n quoted to me from his geology. I finished my "Univis" album. Bed at 9:45. G'nite.

July 10, 1945

In a change I went along after water. Really nice out. Elbert took a swim to wash off. Rather cold he said. So far I'm chicken, I guess, 'cause seems to cold for so early in the day. I fried some buck wheat cakes, bacon 'n eggs for breakfast when we got back. After dishes I went out with Elbert and we sawed down a "snag" for some firewood. Quite a job but fun. I sat on grass to sun, while he chopped it to sticks. I wrote a letter to Thelma before lunch. We wrestled a while after lunch 'n then I spent the afternoon writing two more letters. Elbert is still reading between watches, his geology book. We rested 'bout a half hour - then we got supper. Elbert made some macroni 'n cheese while I made some cornbread. 'N say, it was just real good. Baked so nice, didn't crumble at all. I'm almost afraid to make any more as I seem to have beginners luck! After supper dishes, Elbert tried to explain to me the earth "longitude". Said it's divided into 360 degrees, and each degree being 60 minutes, the minutes being distance 'n not time. He's a real teacher - as I'm a dense pupil! I wrote to Nada 'n then in you dear diary. We've a strong North West wind, rather chilly. Lots of clouds which look beautiful in sunset. Bed at 9:30. G'nite.

July 11, 1945

I woke up when Elbert was leaving. But I was in bed asleep when he came back. He had a lovely bouquet of rhododendrons for me. I fried some buckwheat cakes for breakfast. Done up breakfast dishes and then we composed a list of groceries including pts. 'n price so we can make a list at end of month. Elbert took a sun bath and I wrote a letter to Clate. I took a sun bath for 55 minutes, rather long for me to lay so still. Elbert says I'm getting a beautiful tan. Ate a snack for lunch. After our 1:o'clock report we painted some on West side. Had lots of fun talking. Most of conversation was Paul Wright and Ogden Ludlow. - I fixed supper. - not so much as our supplies are running rather low. We took a walk out to our West ledge. Really beautiful. Lots of rocks - straight down - 'n covered with moss that has a purple bloom. Really could see straight down. Both valleys are full of smoke from fires, I guess. Unable to see any mts. for most of time. Sunset still gorgeous in all the smoke. Elbert read some this evening 'n I wrote to R.J. - I massaged Elbert's head, put up my hair. Wrote in diary 'n then to bed - 9:o'clock, but I can't ever go to sleep. G'nite.

July 12, 1945

We both hated to get up this morning. Our cot is really too small to sleep comfortably. Too, we are quitting coffee and tea for supper. We both went for water, took us an hour, I even took time to wash my feet. Bacon 'n eggs for breakfast. Elbert made some jello while I done dishes. I took my sun bath first. While Elbert took his I combed out my hair 'n put on a little make-up for a change. We sang awhile - little bit of everything that we knew. After lunch he dic(t)ated a letter to me to send to the C.P.S. Union at Camp #21. I typed it up ready for mail. I studied a while on my "Private Secretary Manual". I addressed a birthday card to mail to Jayne, wrote a note on back. Elbert is still interested 'n involved in his geology book. They called us 'n said our water schedule is changed to 7: to 8:30A.M. I'm for that! We both got supper. We used "Velveeta" cheese in our macroni tonight and it was lucious! Elbert liked my fried 'taters. We had some brown bread (toasted) that's prepared in emergency ration cans for Forestry Service. Cleaned up supper dishes. I wrote a letter to Gass family. Then in my diary. Been smoky all days in the valleys. Able to see the mtns. most of time. I'm so sleepy. G'nite --- only 7: o'clock --- but I'm sleepy.

July 13, 1945

Last night I couldn't go to sleep - so Elbert told me a story. - 'Bout princess that prince's royal family put a pea in her bed to see if she was of royalty or not. Then he massaged my back until I dozed off. He's the sweetest husband I got. I love him.

Elbert woke about 5. o'clock as there was a thunder storm 6 miles from us. Since there is a great danger from lightning striking and starting fires they called all the lookouts to be on the watch. Rex went out and found one fire, but he was able to control it as they don't spread fast. The storm went East, missing us, the Lord must have been with us -- I sure wouldn't want the lightning too close. We are pretty safe as our bed is even grounded. Elbert went for water, back in an hour. I had breakfast already to put on. Did up dishes -- too hazy 'n very little sun, so no sunbath today. Read some more of my "Private Secretary's Manuel". Fixed lunch. After lunch a pursuit plane went by -- gad, he was lower than we - only about 4500 ft. It was so hazy that to us we could hardly see how he was dodging mtns., as there were higher ones south of us, but by phoning other l.o.s we found out he got thru. We spent most of the afternoon discussing economics. Got started on how at N.C.R. in three months I made 3 'n 400 dollars 'n didn't save a cent. Elbert explained lots of things to me - strikes, inflation etc. Baked biscuits for supper 'n good macroni 'n cheese again. We liked it so much. After supper we both drank lots of water don't know why. In pouring water I broke a glass 'n was my biscuit cutter!!! Put up my hair 'n bed about 9 -

July 14, 1945

I forgot your diary until I was in bed so here I am on Sun. morn.
It was real chilly so I didn't go with Elbert. I tried to coax him from going as we have plenty of water on hand, but he likes the exercise, he says. I had breakfast ready to put on the fire when he came. After breakfast Elbert made mush 'n melted some sugar candy for syrup, while I baked my first pumpkin pie. Elbert helped supervise -- took me couple hours but it turned out super - My pie pan was little too large for my size oven, so edge got extra brown, but pie in general was good, Elbert says. We ate half of it for lunch. After lunch I typed a letter to Mr. Hubble, steward at State hospital at Marion. I asked him to send me a statement of my earning this year, so I can have it when I file my income tax. Elbert still reading his geology book - rather interesting - all this area - Cascade Range - is formed from volcanic action. I typed a letter to Miriam and then got supper. Baked biscuits. Since I broke the little glass that I used as a biscuit cutter, I had to use the end of a lamp globe, rather small, but more biscuits then. After supper dishes we listened to "hit parade" Elbert shaved then I shaved back of his neck. I put up my hair, washed my feet 'n then read some. Elbert finished his book. When I got to bed I got the giggles like I used to get. I laughed till tears rolled down my cheeks - I missed having Dad say "Let's be a little more quiet over there" - as he used to say to Betty 'n I when we giggled in bed.

July 15, 1945

Elbert went for water but so cool I hated to crawl out. I can never coax him to stay in! I had fire agoin' when he came. He had me some pretty rhododendrons. He fried the mush - says he can do it better than I. It was fried a beautiful golden brown. I changed the bed linen as I hope tomorrow I can wash. Last two days so foggy. Tonite too we are fogged in. I threw crackers to two deers, Elbert got a swell picture of the doe. After breakfast work I started reading in Bible. Elbert has an "American Bible Translation", so much easier to read so I read all day, except for lunch time. I started with 20th chapt. of Acts read rest of Acts, Romans, 'n 1st Corinthians. Elbert and I discussed some of Paul's writings, don't necessarily agree with him on everything. Elbert read some in "On Being a Real Person". We discussed some of earlier home life - I didn't realise how fortunate I was to have good, Christian parents that keep a home together for all of us kids. Got supper. Baked gingerbread. After supper read some more. Jake called from ranger station and read a card from Mother. In it she said Howard was being sent out after 3 wks. training in Texas - made me rather blue. I wrote him a letter, started one to the folks. - We listened to "All Girl Orchestra". So chilly. Bed 9:30 -- G'nite.

July 16, 1945

We were really fogged in this morning, so after naggin as Elbert called it, he didn't go for water. They called all I.o.'s at 7:30 to be on guard as in a district (2) there was a 15,000 acre fire. We got up at 9: o'clock. I baked a pumpkin pie while Elbert got breakfast of mush, bacon 'n eggs. After breakfast work we went out and sawed three snags down and chopped some firewood. Nice supply. Fun to saw - I like to yell "Timber" even tho' small . After lunch I read some of Paul's letters in the Bible. Elbert and I discuss them quite a bit. Elbert is reading "History of World" by H.G. Wells. He tells of different religions in ancient times, so our reading are interesting to discuss at same time. At 4 - we stopped to get supper. Elbert put most of things on while I baked cornbread. We really had to much to eat. When Elbert made his 4:30 report visibility was 0 - (zero) again. We read until 9: o'clock 'n it's so cold we have to go to bed. I hope tomorrow that I can wash. Ever since I've planned to wash it's been bad weather. But if it keeps fire hazard down I'm for it. Jake called and said our pictures had come in mail. Gee, so cold I can't write -B-r-r- G'nite.

Mother's Birthday
July 17, 1945

Up at 7 - 'n everything fogged in pretty much. Elbert put wash water on anyhow. I got up when he did 'n while he went for water I baked a pumpkin pie. I had pancake batter all ready to fry when he came back. I done breakfast dishes. It had cleared pretty well, so I started washing on the board. Elbert hung up clothes for me. I had fairly large size wash. When we got it all was when the wind came up - so kept me running to keep things off the ground. (I have only one clothes pin.) After lunch Elbert decided to take stove pipe down 'n make it shorter 'n 'cram it' together in doing so he cut his left index finger - thru the nail 'n round thru middle of finger. After bandaging it, he finished his job. Really helps the stove. I swept and mopped the floor as really a mess. We rested awhile as both plenty tired. 'Bout 4 o'clock we fixed supper. Made biscuits. While I did dishes, Elbert cut me a biscuit cutter from a small can - real nice. I gathered clothes in, folding sheets 'n towels 'n dampening things to iron. I finished reading a "Life" '43 magazine 'n then wrote to Mother 'n Dad. Rather a long letter - I asked them about some things I'd read of Paul in Bible. I sent them some pictures I had some duplicates of. Elbert's reading "History of World" - We lit gas light 'n finished up our doings. Bed at 10:30 -- Elbert's yelling to hurry.

July 18th, 1945

Up at 7 to take down weather report and then to go for water. A strong East wind 'n cold, so we dressed warm. Nice down at lake. Elbert fried the mush for breakfast while I ironed, that way we needn't have a fire all morning. Such a strong wind, the fire didn't burn very well. Elbert was messing around in our little attic and found some magazines. So I spent most of the day reading "Life" and "Esquire" even tho' three 'n four years old. Lots of other good magazines, so have something to read. Elbert is still reading his history. We took time out for supper. We are running very very low on lard, so I couldn't bake any bread. I heated some stale crackers. Helped some. After supper I read some from the Bible. Rained a little. So cold, we sit around with wraps on to keep warm. Takes so much wood to keep the fire going. I wear Elbert's wool socks in bed to keep warm. Elbert made some jello, should freeze as cold as it is. They called from Ranger Station 8:45 that there were to be thunderstorms tonight and we have to be on watch for lightning flashes - as when they strike they mean fire! - So cold - G'nite.

July 19, 1945

Up at 7 after a good night's rest. No thunderstorms as weather report said there would be. I went with Elbert for water. Much warmer today than has been. Elbert tried to fry mush for breakfast, but we have only two tablespoons of Crisco left. They said they would bring us some new supplies a week from Sat. Guess we'll live on love till then. We typed up our order supply list, so we could phone in our order when they wanted it. After lunch I typed a letter to Albert 'n Nita 'n to Alfred. Then I read some of "Ladies Home Journals" we found in attic. Elbert's still reading history. Elbert baked some potatoes for supper - works not using grease. Can't bake any sort of bread tho'. After supper Elbert shaved. Hasn't done so for several days due to his sore finger, so he really had a beard. He scratched loose some of dry scalp in my head 'n massaged it with Vaseline hair oil. It's 7:45, but as you can note from looks of my handwriting I feel punk, so am going to bed. Hope I can sleep -- G'nite.

(I was asleep when Elbert came to bed. He said the ranger station put a radio to the phone for the Guy - I missed it - even tho' Elbert put the receiver to my ear.)

July 20, 1945

I got up and went with Elbert after water. Nice hike. I felt good after a real night's rest. I made hot-cakes 'n fried them without grease. Not bad. After breakfast I washed my hair and put it up. While I was doing that Elbert 'n I discussed his book by H.G. Wells. For lunch we opened a "K" ration, hoping there would be a chocolate candy, but none in a I ration.. After lunch we phoned in our order for our new supplies. They informed us that the Forestry Service (big shots in Portland) will only foot half of our food bill and C.O.'s wife has to pay the rest -- that's stinkin' as other lookouts are allowed \$35.00 'n that's all we spend together. The fellows down at our Ranger Station are pretty decent, as they could have told us that before we got up here, so they said they would pay \$35 of our bill - they would list me on emergency lookout while Elbert worked trails on bad days. -- I read rest of N. Testament except the 4 Gospels - I read Revelations aloud to Elbert. Too deep in a way. After supper Elbert took a bath. We read some in some old "American" magazines. Evesdropped to the kids on the telephone line. Sorta a chilly day today. Bed about 10 -- G'nite.

July 21, 1945

At 4: a.m. this morning I heard our telephone ring. I told Elbert - while he was waking up 'n finding his glasses I took it off the hook. R.S. had been reported a fire and wanted us to see if we could locate it - all we could see was red sky in N.E. - probably from some fires in another district. We really didn't get any more sleep as they were phoning different lookouts 'n all to see what everyone could decide. After all that I didn't go with Elbert after water. I got up at 7:30 'n took down the weather report when they phoned it to the l.o.s. Then I dressed 'n had buckwheat cakes all fried when Elbert came. We tried to make some sugar syrup, but wasn't so good. We read in "American" magazines. For lunch I was starved what I wouldn't give for a hamburger! We made a fire and heated water for scalded crackers, baked some rice for Elbert, drank orange juice. We were fogged in afternoon - rain too, so Elbert slept awhile. I'm still read(ing) magazines. Elbert started supper while I finished a story. Listened to hit parade. Elbert shaved, read till 9 - 'n to bed.

The Tillamook fire has gone up to 70 sq. miles - 3,000 men fighting it.

July 22, 1945

Up about 7:30 a.m. and both of us went after water. Foggy 'n rather chilly. While Elbert fries mush for breakfast I baked some bran cookies (take neither shortening nor butter) Elbert had to squeeze the bacon rind to get grease to fry mush. Since we are fogged in today 'n everything fairly wet, they called from R.S. 'n suggested we get acquainted with some of our territory. So at 11:45 a.m. Bru 'n I started out. We had some signs "No Smoking" to put up, so we went down to lake, 'n on up on another trail, "Whalehead" trail - trail wasn't so good, but was beautiful. Lots 'n lots of rhododendrons, although they were pass blooming. I found some beautiful, large lilies, had the best fragrance. One area of trees were growing very densely 'n some had fallen - seemed so ghostly as everything was so quiet. On our way back we stopped to eat a "K" ration. One of our sign boards had been torn down pretty much, 'n we found bear hair caught in the boards. Tree was stratched where he probably tried to climb. When we got to the lake we put up some signs 'n Elbert got his canteens of water. We were plenty tired when we got back as we had in all today hiked 11 miles. We fixed some supper. I washed my feet as we really got wet. Elbert typing a little to his folks - Bed early - I'm tired!!!

July 23, 1945

Since we made two water trips yesterday we slept until 9- this morning. We fried a little mush. Elbert had to squeeze our bacon rind for grease. At 10:10 we were eating breakfast, so our morning was short. Around noon time the fog lifted and we could see out. Jake phoned from station and say we had a package weighing about 20 lbs. from Elbert's mother. Sat. we got a pkg. (at station) from my mom, so it's just like Christmas. We have lots of letters he said. We had cookies, apricots 'n grapefruit juice for lunch. After lunch I finished reading the "American" magazine. Elbert's reading a prewar "Readers' Digest". I wrote another page to Mother B's letter, more to my folks 'n Elbert's folks. I built a fire and got supper alone, for a change, as Elbert was reading. We had our favorite dish, macroni 'n cheese, diced beets, fried prem, (has its own grease - even leaves some in skillet for eggs in morning), baked potatoes, tea, browned crackers 'n honey, and apricots. After dishes Elbert called Larry Haggen (C.O. on another I.o.) 'n chatted. I read chapter of "Matthew" from Bible. Elbert is typing a long letter to Brownie - after a year - Bright full moon tonight. Very cool for July!! Larry heard on radio that the fire was 140 sq. miles, have to pack in half a day to fighting lines. Saw two different deers this evening. Bed about 9:45 - G.'Nite.

July 24, 1945

Up at (?) and both of us off to get water. Our shoes were rather stiff after getting water soaked Sunday. Elbert fished awhile, but I don't guess they are hungry as they won't bite!!! We had one egg for breakfast. I made Elbert eat it and I ate cereal. While I did dishes he made some vanilla pudding for lunch. Nice 'n sunshiny today so we had our sun baths. While Elbert had his I wrote a letter to Marge. We started to finish up the painting on West side of tower, they called us to be on lookout of a Jap balloon. So we took turns watching, but it didn't get near enough for us to see. Supper again as usual - beets, bake potatoes, macroni 'n cheese, toasted crackers, cocoa 'n vanilla pudding!!! After dishes I typed a letter to Irene Cress at Marion. asked about all my mental patients! Then I typed some letters for Elbert requesting free booklets on things from Illustrated Mechanics. We listened to Guy Lombardo program. Elbert typed a business letter of his own while I wrote a letter to Mary Lou. Getting dark 'n chilly now - a strong West wind 'n a beautiful full, harvest moon. Brushed teeth and to crawl in bed with Elbert. G'nite.

July 25 1945

I woke up, but just couldn't pull myself out to go with Elbert after water. I took down the weather report. I was dressed when he came back. Since we haven't nothing to cook we didn't build a fire. We had cereal and grapefruit juice for breakfast. After breakfast Elbert polished the stove - gee looks as good as new - pipe especially since he had fixed it before. I washed the windows. After Elbert finished he helped stretch the paint off of some. After lunch - we made soup 'n coffee - I washed all the woodwork and window sills. Elbert took a sunbath; then I took mine. Afterwards he took all the wood out of the box 'n swept it out. I put a clean dresser scarf on our dressing table 'n a stand cover under our stack of books. We sawed some more wood - another weeks supply. For supper we had same thing - roast potatoes, beets, macroni 'n cheese 'n cocoa - but tomorrow we can eat as we get our monthly supplies! 'N mail! Oh boy!!! - We have 35 letters to mail. After supper I took a much needed bath, shaved my legs 'n under my arms. Elbert typed a letter to Clyde Haseldon 'n put one in it to Bob Case. Then I typed a real long letter to Gortners 'n Smiths at Marion. Elbert read some in a 1940 Readers' Digest. Cooler this evening. Bed at 9:45. Tomorrow is a much look forwarded to day!! - G'nite!

July 26, 1945

We are excited today as we are at Christmas - mail day. We were up at 7:00 a.m. and after water. Warm today. Really a nice day. After breakfast I put on a clean luncheon cloth and mopped the floor. Elbert went down the trail a piece to raise the telephone line higher. He then moved some of our orange crates around - out of animal reach. I cleaned up, put on clean clothes - instead of a towel - and then sealed our letters for mail. I read some in Mark - and Elbert took a sunbath. At 12:40 we heard him coming around the bend, so hurried in to build a fire to get dinner. Elbert helped him unpack while I got dinner ready. He brought us some ham - gee I haven't seen any in ages - ! So I fried ham, brown potatoes in ham grease, macaroni and cheese, green beans, lettuce (with dressing), 'n jello - coffee (he drank four or five cups). We got a nice pkg. from M. Brubaker - candies, fruit, soup, pop corn, games, mints, 'n a pkg from Mom. Some good warm bed socks (now I won't have to wear Elbert's work socks) Canvas water bag - really keeps water cool, we have one, kleenex, 'n "Bible Promises". We got 16 letters and 7 cards, 2 magazines. 4 newspapers, 2 bunches of pictures. While fellows were eating dinner, I opened some of letters 'n got all ours ready to go out. Send Marge some negatives. In our groceries, Jim Coffman, grocer stuck in 5 Hersey bars - I could love him for life as I was so hungry for some. Bob, the packer, stuck around and talked until 4:0'clock. I couldn't wait I had glanced thru all the mail by then. We took his picture when leaving. Then Elbert and I read all the mail together. Unpacked our supplies and put them in place. Two eggs were broken and quite a few cracked, so we fried some egg sandwiches and done dishes. Been a wonderful 'n full day. We are as tired as if we had worked all day long. Bed about 10 - so tired, but been wonderful. G'nite.

July 27, 1945

I was too tired or lazy so I didn't go after water. - Oh, last night Elbert didn't sleep with me. We had had such a big day we just couldn't rest in such a small bed, so he finally put up the army cot. For breakfast we had ham, eggs, cereal 'n coffee - gee to eat again. After dishes I read all the mail again. Elbert read the Register Heralds. I took my sunbath and then fixed lunch. After lunch Elbert took his sunbath. He has been giving his "golf itch" sun treatments - sure cure. I read the new "Readers Digest" Elbert's reading one - 1940 - We fixed supper - got so much we don't know how to plan our menu! We had browned potatoes, lettuce, carrots, cocoa, french toast (few) 'n vanilla pudding. After supper I got my old case of "giggles" Elbert tho't I was half nuts, I think!! We talked awhile - mostly about our mail and then continued our reading - discussing that. We put up our new flag they sent us. "Sure looks purty"!! - Elbert took my picture this evening - Me in my "bathtowel sarong" - hoping my tan will show up. Beautiful sunset - so many beautiful colors. I can't help from thinking of where Howard is tonight. I do hope he wasn't sent out. God bless my brothers!

July 28, 1945

Elbert read by the gaslight until 11 o'clock last night I went to sleep about 10 -. We went for water about 7:15 - took the camera along 'n got a picture of the lake. I carried the canvas bag Mother sent us. I fixed a batch of hot cakes for breakfast -- gad, we were really stuffed. We read a little while and about 10-A.M. I went to sleep and slept until after 1p.m. when Elbert insisted I get up and take my sunbath. He had finished with his. I was still drowsy but I woke up after awhile. We talked and loved and read until supper time. I fixed some french fries creamed some fresh peas Mrs. Orser sent up from her garden) Green beans, macroni and cheese 'n cocoa. I baked some brownies. While I was doing dishes Elbert took a bath (he shaved this morning.) We listened to five minutes news, fifteen minutes hit parade 'n fifteen minutes "Pet Milk" program. I put up my hair 'n washed my feet, then we snuggled on the bed to read. They called Elbert about a fire - we could (see) some smoke, but mts. in way. The Tillamook fire is 200,000 acres and getting worse. I read "Children of God" about Brigham Young 'n Mormons - in 1940 Readers Digest. Getting cool so we really snuggled together. Bed at 10:30 -- G'nite.

July 29, 1945

Sunday morning and we had plenty of water, so we stayed in bed until time for the 9:03 report. Elbert fried the mush for breakfast. I fried eggs, plus cereal 'n coffee we had enough. We had a visibility of only about a 1/2 mile, so we couldn't watch for fire. So cold we crawled under the blanket and read. I read rest of Mark 'n some of Luke. Elbert's reading new Reader's Digest. At 12:30 I fixed an apple salad for lunch. Coffee was still warm as breakfast was late 'n we had some Brownies left. After lunch, we crawled under covers again I finished Luke -- long, but interesting and Elbert continued his digest. Fixed supper -- fried potatoes, gingerbread (Elbert said it was "divine" as it turned out super - golden brown) vegetable soup, perfection salad, 'n hot cocoa. After supper dishes - Elbert acted like a little kid as usual - as me laughing most of time. We crawled under covers 'n talked about our future. -Where we could live, what all we'd like to do - our dream house 'n our children. 'Bout 9 - got so cold n all fogged in we decided to get ready for bed - oh yes listened to Wayne King.

July 30, 1945

We talked until late last night - about our future - Guess we can at least dream. -!! My right shoulder has been bothering me quite a bit, so I didn't rest any too well. Elbert went after water around 7:30. - I was still in bed. It was so cold and foggy. He started the fire and fried the mush. I got up and fried eggs. Had grapefruit juice. Started clearing up, so we put wash water on. For it got too hot I washed out some "T" shirts and then started in on the rest with washboard. Elbert made bed with clean linens and then made me some nice clothes pins from nails! He hung up all the clothes for me. Had both lines full. I mopped the floor and scrubbed the platform while he polished stove. Elbert took a half hour of his sunbath and then we ate lunch -- perfection salad -- he finished his sunbath and I took a short one - sun left East side 'n West wind too cold. Elbert finished his "Reader's Digest" 'n I read a '39 "Good Housekeeping". We both gathered the clothes in. I put supper on - browned potatoes, fresh creamed peas, macroni 'n cheese, prem (fried), cocoa. Elbert watched it while I done the ironing. After dishes we listened to news 'n Hoagy Carmichael's program. I put clothes away, put up my hair, took facial 'n a much needed bath. Read 'n talked the evening away. --

July 31, 1945

Up at 7 - warmer than usual - both went for water. We fished awhile, doggone fish jump out of the water even to tantalize us - but won't bite. I fried buckwheat cakes for breakfast plus fried eggs 'n grapefruit 'n cereal. After breakfast Elbert filled up the woodbox. We read -- 1940 magazine -- rather interesting as pre war. - We took our sunbaths - very warm - I got restless. - Out of a clear sky Elbert decided to type a letter to his folks - so unusual for him to write a letter on his own accord. Ate chocolate pudding for lunch. Read this afternoon. Saw a pretty fawn -- interesting to watch the deers they jump on all fours at once. They let us get fairly close to them. We can stand on the platform and throw crackers to them and they won't jump away! Both fixed supper gingerbread, baked potatoes, clam chowder, rice with raisins, and chocolate puddings! We listened to five minute news at 5:55 and then to that wonderful music of Guy Lombardo's. I put up my hair. Elbert shaved this morning. Elbert read some in "On Being a Real Person" 'n then a '40 "Digest" - I continued my '40 "Cosmopolitan" -- Read until 9:30 'n to bed. Can't rest too well in such small quarters my right arm has been hurting most of the week -- Ah well!

August 1, 1945

When 7:a.m. came I was still so sleepy as I didn't go to sleep until late - I just can't drink coffee in evening. But I climbed out and went along with Elbert for water. For breakfast we had grapefruit juice, bacon 'n french toast 'n cereal. Elbert made some jello while I done dishes. We sawed down a snag and made rack of firewood. After that Elbert took a sunbath and I read. He ate for lunch the left-over baked rice 'n gingerbread from supper. I didn't want any. Just lounged around and read all afternoon. I read a weird book length novel in "Cosmopolitan" . At 4:30 we started supper. Fried potatoes, macroni 'n cheese, diced beets, cocoa and perfection salad. So good. After supper I read some in book of John - Elbert his digest listened to five minute news. Got sleepy at 8:30 and decided to go to bed. Warmer today but still a little cool. I'm hoping I'm pregnant and so is Elbert. We're not real sure yet - but we hope. We were thinking of names - we sorta ended on "Pamela Kaye" if she's a girl, or "Douglas Laurence" if he's a boy. We talked about what I do - stay here or go home - when etc. Fun planning - seems more like we have a future to look to!

August 2, 1945

I couldn't go to sleep very soon last night, so I just couldn't coax myself out this morning. Elbert's sweet and doesn't insist, so I was there until he came back. I made buckwheat cakes for breakfast plus one grapefruit, eggs 'n bacon. After breakfast we read. I'm reading a May '42 Reader's Digest - Elbert a 1940 edition. He took his sunbath about 11:30. We saw 6 airplanes go over in V formation. For lunch I fixed perfection salad 'n we had our weekly chocolate bar with almonds. We broke it in half as we have five and there's some chocolate each week. So good! Too cool I didn't sunbath again today. After lunch Elbert painted railing on W 'n North sides. I finished the "Digest". I started supper -- fried 'taters, diced beets, noodle soup, cocoa 'n some good cherries mother B. sent us. Also lettuce salad. I did dishes -- went out to back 'n of course put my hands on paint!!!! Washed my feet, put up my hair. We listened to 5 minute news 'n half hour music. Then we had fun! We drew plans for the house we're going to build -- we had ever so many plans - and it's hard to get everything in place. We had gobs of fun dreaming -- if our future would only come -- just to be free again!!

August 3, 1945

Married fourteen months today 'n twice that much in love!!! I finally won over the little gremlins 'n got up 'n went with Elbert after water. He worked trail some -- finished up our water trail. Breakfast of french toast, grapefruit juice 'n bacon. We were informed today that they would only pay half our food bill. Gee, they don't pay the C.O.s 'n then aren't willing to give them allotted amt. for food. At F.S. they are pretty decent, so they are having me work as lookout enough days to pay for my part of the bill. On those days Elbert would work trails or cut wood. Not fair, as non C.P.S. men have to work their trails on weather days. Even tho' they are getting paid over \$100 per month - still enforces the idea of slavery! 'n I'm again it. We could hardly leave as the grocery bill is in our names 'n we have to pay about \$30 on our own under this set up!!! Read all New Testa. now 'n am starting in Genesis. Since they are coming up with papers for me to sign tomorrow we spent all evening writing letters to mail out. Jake read me Dick Tracy over phone 'n told us what our mail was. -- Gee, it's 10:30 so off to bed - hard small old thing, can't rest!!

August 4, 1945

I hated so much to get up this morning, but I did, and went with Elbert for water. We carried a supply of tin cans and dumped them in the rocks. Elbert fried the toast while I baked a pumpkin pie! Everything went fine until I got to crust and for some unknown it just wouldn't do right. I even called Vickie but she had never had same trouble. Finally I crumbled it all up 'n started over again. Finally, got the pie in the oven that was much too hot 'n burnt the outer rim!!! The pie boiled instead of baking - was I disgusted!!! - I wouldn't serve it - I had pears for dessert!! Jake arrived a little after 1 - he was "pooked" out he climbed it in 3 hrs. - too fast. He threw up couldn't eat his lunch except hot chocolate 'n pears! He layed down on ground to rest up. I signed about 4 different papers - almost my whole life history. I'm now working for government! We were glad for the mail - 12 different letters and 3 cards, plus some kodachrome picture (slides). We sent out a film and 7 letters. Jake stayed until 5:10. I warmed up some supper 'n made some soup. I had to insist that he eat. Afterwards Elbert 'n I done up dishes listened to news 'n hit parade. Reread all letters 'n Register Herald. Elbert took a picture of a pretty fawn - only couple weeks old - so cute. Bed 9:30.

Rex Orsen sent us some fresh lettuce, onions, green beans, radishes. Sure sweet! I must add that before Jake came we washed windows, mopped floor 'n polished the stove. Each took a bath 'n cleaned up!

August 5, 1945

Sunday morning so no water trip. Stayed in bed until about 8. Elbert got up and read few more pages of "On Being Real Person", decided not to eat breakfast until 9 - so I read some more in Gensis. Breakfast of french toast, 'n bacon, grapefruit juice. After dishes we read some more. Too windy for a sunbath. East wind was almost 20 for awhile. I finished Gensis 'n then I fixed lunch. I fixed some lettuce that Rex sent us and then we ate the rest of our pumpkin pie. After lunch Elbert read some in a digest 'n I started Exodus. I got sleepy reading, so took a little snooze. We acted silly awhile and fixed supper. Asparagus soup, fresh green beans (Rex sent) onions'n perfection salad (we put apples, celery, lettuce in cherry jello, so hot today jello was melted) gingerbread that really baked supper this evening! Listened to beautiful Wayne King music! He just is hard to beat! Did dishes and then we talked, we had planned some radio programs, but I got Elbert to tell me some of his traveling experiences as a C.O., some pretty interesting. Elbert explained again how to read the fire finder. I almost fainted - we guess I'm pregnant as it's 32 days now. We are so thrilled, all we talk about. East wind strong and lots of thunderclouds - looks like a bad storm tonight.

August 6, 1945

We awoke several times last night to be on the lookout for lightning strikes. We saw some flashes, but not in our district. We both went for water again this morning. I fixed breakfast -- buckwheat cakes, bacon 'n eggs 'n grapefruit. After dishes we read. I finished Exodus 'n Leviticus. Interesting, but somewhat repetition. I took a snooze for awhile. It's a very sultry day, so very uncomfortable - temperature 82 degrees - I'd hate to be in a city if it's that up here. We ate jello 'n pears for lunch. After lunch we finished painting on North side. Now our cabin is all finished on outside. Really, most of time I ran around in panties only!!! I got supper, Elbert not feeling very good either. He labeled some cans in supply cupboard. We had baked potatoes, green beans, macroni 'n cheese, lettuce salad, 'n pears - oh yes cocoa - so good!!! - After dishes Elbert 'n I sewed the handle on canvas water bag - so heavy Elbert used pliers to put the needle thru - he's so smart. Said he learned that from helping doctors in hospital. Listened to Hoagy Carmichael 'n news. Read until late. Bed at 10:15 -

August 7, 1945

Both went for water this morning. We carried out a bunch of cans and dumped them in the rocks. Really rather cool, but Elbert took a bath in the lake. We rested awhile before starting breakfast of french toast, bacon, cereal 'n grapefruit juice. After breakfast I baked two pumpkin pies. Had a real time with the crust!!! The handles came off the rolling pin - even had Elbert helping me roll them out as my wrists got tired. Baked them an hour 'n still not real done -- at least fire didn't burn them. It was after eleven when I finished breakfast dishes. Elbert shaved this morning 'n took a sunbath. I read awhile, then we ate vanilla pudding for lunch - Elbert ate some pie. I took a sunbath. So hot - bad today as Northwest wind has brought in smoke from fires around 'n we have a visibility of only 2 miles - 'n it's so dry! Afterwards I went to sleep 'n slept until almost 4:30!!!! Fixed supper - baked potatoes, vegetable soup, diced carrots, cocoa, pudding 'n pie. After dishes I shampooed my hair, took a much needed bath really felt lots better. While doing so we listened to music of Guy Lombardo. Put up my hair, brushed my teeth 'n then crawled in bed to read on 1936 edition of "American" magazine. Wind almost 20 miles an hour. Listened to fifteen minutes of news at 10:15 and then to bed -- in our horrid cot!!!!

August 8, 1945

We both piled out and went for water. 8 yrs. ago we had our first date. I wrote mom to play for us some favorite songs. We sang them while we tho't she was playing them. Same breakfast again to use up the bread. Smoke haze all around us. Visibility is only a mile. Jake phoned a news flash that Russia entered war against Japan. Don't see how it can last much longer - Russia plus the atom bomb!!! Wonderful to think of freedom again, but so much killing for peace!! Elbert curled up on my shoulder 'n took a nap. Ate lunch. I read in Bible 'Numbers' 'n Elbert reading Fosdick's still. We discussed parts of both. Supper - gingerbread, macroni 'n cheese, cole slaw (Rex sent a head of cabbage) bake potatoes, carrots, pumpkin pie. We spent all evening discussing our future - building a house 'n all .

August 9th, 1945

Both after water at 7:15 this morning. Breakfast of buckwheat cakes, bacon 'n eggs. I didn't feel well this morning - morning sickness I guess! We sawed a rick of wood. Then read. I didn't eat lunch - Elbert ate some pie. We both took our sunbaths - I'm going to have to stop as I'm looking like a half-breed!!! I finished "Numbers" and Elbert finished "On Being a Real Person" - He continued reading "Colour Scheme" - I builded fire 'n got supper alone fried 'taters, noodle soup, cole slaw, cocoa, 'n pie. Buttered toast. We listened to President Truman's speech - I put up my hair using wave set - (it's so stringy) Both read until 10:O'clock news 'n then to bed - Smoked in again today!

August 10, 1945

Both of us piled out 'n went for water. So pretty 'n peaceful down by the lake. Breakfast of buckwheat cakes, eggs 'n cereal. Elbert picked some huckleberries down the hill about 20 ft. We ate them with syrup 'n cream, surely good. I took a short nap 'n Elbert read. Fixed supper - baked potato, diced beets, prem, macroni 'n cheese 'n our huckleberries. After supper Elbert typed a letter to his dad 'n one to his mother. Almost unbelievable for him - two in one evening. I read a complete book length novel in a "Cosmopolitan" 1939 - I crawled under a blanket as so cold. Listened to news 'n sounds favorable. Bed at 11 - Fogged in.

August 11, 1945

I just couldn't pull myself out this morning, so Elbert went alone for water. I had fire built when he came back. Fried mush - had a horrible time - no more mush on this stove! .. - Ate huckleberries on our cereal, good. I done good size wash on board. Elbert hung them all up for me. Then he polished the stove 'n mopped the floor. We made bed with clean linen. Ate jello with apples for lunch. I took a nap after practicing on my knitting. Elbert used some of my knitting yarn 'n darned his socks. Good job. Elbert prepared supper while I iron. I did bake some huckleberries in gingerbread. O.K. Finished ironing after supper 'n put things away. Wrote letter to folks. Listened to news 'n hit parade. Read 'n bed 'bout 10 -

August 12, '45

9:34 p.m. E.W.T. a false flash that the war with Japan was over!!! Up at 9 - Sunday so no go for water - made buckwheat cakes, we put huckleberries in some - rather good. Read some in Bible. Elbert took a nap. He ate lunch of jello 'n both drank grapefruit juice. Layed around most of afternoon some. Elbert read "What is a Man" short, religious book. Listened to Wayne King's beautiful music. Didn't eat much for supper - I just drank cocoa 'n ate couple of biscuits. What we both need is to get out for an evening's excitement 'n we could enjoy the next four weeks better. The idea of maybe a new flash - makes us better. Listened to music over phone 'n then to radio for "All Girl Orchestra.". Went to bed 'n read in bed to "Gaslight" - listened to 10 - news 'n to sleep, -- Fogged in.

August 13, '45

We both piled out 'n went for water. Fog left things nice 'n damp. Cleaned cabin. Cleaned up ourselves. Rex Orser came about 11:30. - more mail 6 letters, 1 card 'n 2 papers. fixed dinner - not much. - Sit around 'n talked till 4:30 - fixed some coffee 'n then Elbert 'n Rex went fishing. While they were gone I baked a huckleberry pie - Gad, 'n I swore I'd never bake another! Done O.K. - except it boiled in the oven. I was so mad! At 9- we ate mt. trout, fried 'taters, green beans, macroni 'n cheese, 'n pie. After dishes we were so tired we decided to go to bed. We put up the cot, with couple of blankets, for Rex to put his sleeping bag. Warm, slept with door opened. Listened to news - they tho't again the war ended, but Japs hadn't said yet they'd surrender! Really tired! Bed around 11 -

August 14, 1945

At 7 p.m. E.W.T. an official announcement that the Japs had accepted surrender!!!! Thank God!! Up at 6:45. Breakfast of hotcake, bacon 'n eggs, while guys ate I wrote some more on mail. Rex left at 9- Elbert went down trail aways to get a log off. Came back at noon. I don't feel well today. Slept all afternoon until news came on. Got supper - fried trout, made noodle soup, 'n cocoa. Wish we could get out to civilization tonight. After supper we read. I finished "Duet". Elbert's reading "Citadel". Listened to news at 10 - in bed! I started reading "Colour Scheme" till news time. Mystery, interesting.

August 15, 1945

Didn't wake up till 7:30 -. but we both went for water anyways. Elbert felt bum for sleeping so long so he took a cool bath in the lake which helped alot. I felt bad too. Elbert made me take some "c.c." pills - after they started working I was really kept on the run. Breakfast of french toast as Rex brought us some bread. After breakfast we both continued in our novels. Lunch of chocolate pudding 'n an orange. Radio said "gas ration 'n food rations on canned goods lifted". Wonderful. Storm came up in part of our district, but didn't get near us. An army scout plane circled around - came alongside us. Nice supper mainly, macroni 'n cheese 'n sliced peaches ! I'm losing my appetite more or less same food all time. Read this evening. I finished my book. Listened to 10-o'clock news. I went to sleep before Elbert came to bed 9:30.

August 16, 1945

We were up at 7 - 'n away for water. Elbert practiced casting. We were both shagged when we got back. That trail never gets shorter. I made Elbert buckwheat cakes, eggs 'n cereal. I continued reading "Citadel" - Elbert reading "One Foot in Heaven" I took a sunbath - real hot. - then we ate sliced peaches 'n an apple for lunch. Read all afternoon. Meager supper. I'm never hungry anymore. Elbert ate a whole (pie?) of gingerbread! Listened to some music. I brushed my teeth 'n washed my feet, then read till bedtime. Last night I dreamed about our baby -- Twas a darling boy. Chin 'n jaw like mine; eyes 'n forehead like Elbert's!!!!

August 17:45

I didn't get up to go with Elbert for water. He was feeling sorta down in dumps when he got back. Pancakes for breakfast. Cereal 'n eggs. I read in the "Citadel" and finished it about 3. Good book. Elbert took a sunbath then after the 1: o'clock report he painted three sides of the platform red . Looks so nice. 'Bout 4:30 we fixed supper. I made biscuits. After supper I put up my hair 'n brushed my teeth. Then we layed on bed 'n talked 'n talked about the future. Where we'd like to start up 'n cost 'n stuff. We built houses - 'n Gee, we talked till time for the 10: o'clock news. News seemed rather bad yet, guess Japs aren't ready to stop, at least they aren't adhering to surrender. -- Had a awful night. Both tossed 'n covers keep sliding off Elbert. He nearly froze.

August 18, 1945

Elbert had pain in his chest but insisted on going for water so we went. He "casted" awhile for fish, got a bite, but didn't hook it. Came back 'n breakfast again of buckwheat cakes, bacon, coffee 'n a orange. Elbert layed down 'n slept. I kept watch 'n read in Bible "Judges 'n Ruth". At 1:0'clock I woke Elbert for report 'n we ate some jello 'n half of apple. We both lay down 'n slept awhile. Both felt pretty bum. Elbert got up after a while 'n I slept till supper time. Made cornbread for supper, corn beef hash patties, vegetable soup 'n plums. Elbert made some mush according to directions. Listened to hit parade. I took a bath. Sang "happy birthday" to Jayne 'n put flag at half mast for "Joey"!!!! Listened to 10:00 news. Elbert started reading "Adam 'n His Children". I read "First Book of Samuel" so interested ...(unreadable) eye so tired!!! (?).

August 19, '45

My arm hurt pretty much last night. Got cold had to put on another cover. Wind was East 20 this morning. Didn't go for water. Up around 9 - Elbert fixed the mush - really good! Elbert continued in his book, finished it this evening. I started reading "The Mentally Ill in America" by Deutsch. Interesting. Ate plums for lunch 'n read awhile. A small army plane circled low 'n dipped its wings. Elbert walked around. I sat out in sun 'n watched him - warmer out than in. Fixed supper after listening to Wayne King's beautiful music - macroni 'n cheese, cocoa, biscuits, apple salad, beets 'n plums - After supper we talked 'n listened to telephone (music) then listened to part of "All Girl Orchestra" - really clear today. Cooler too. Elbert read a old "Time" magazine 'n I read the "Second Book of Samuel" in Bible. Listened to 10:00 news 'n then to sleep!

August 20, '45

Elbert went alone for water. I slept. He no sooner got in the door 'n they phoned him to go out and work trail. So we ate bacon, eggs, 'n buckwheat cakes for breakfast. I fixed him some raisins, peanuts, candy, gum, orange, water 'n grapefruit juice to take along. He started out at 9:25 a.m.. The day was so lonely . I wrote 7 letters, keep watch 'n read quite a bit in the "Mentally Ill of America" very interesting reading. Elbert got back at 5 - very tired. He walked 10 miles - carried the axe - 'n worked as he came back. He walked until he met Jack - 'n then they worked on their way back to their cabins. I fixed supper. Really hot today - this morning was a 20 mile East wind. Elbert took a bath. We layed around till bed time 'n newstime.

August 21, 1945

I went along for water this morning. There was a 25 mile East wind when we awoke this morning. Dies down during the day. Beastly hot 'n dry. Elbert fried the mush for breakfast. Had cereal 'n grapefruit juice. I put a patch in Elbert's rubberized pants pocket 'n a patch in another pair of trousers. My first experience at patching. Ate cherries for lunch. So good. - After lunch rested awhile. Then Elbert read chapt. of Matthew in Bible 'n I continued in "The Mentally Ill of America". Both fixed supper. Baked potatoes, macroni 'n cheese, biscuits, diced beets 'n prem. I didn't eat much I can't stand the same food over 'n over much longer. I'm homesick for civilization. Elbert will be glad for it too. I washed my hair 'n took a much needed bath. Elbert manicured my nails. We sat around 'n chatted until bedtime 10-o'clock. We thought of Joey today. Yr. ago when he was buried.

August 22, 45

Elbert awoken about 2:20a.m.. It was thundering 'n lightning. So he got up. Rained very little. At 4 we saw a flare of fire 'bout 2 miles (by air). He reported it. They kept calling every hour to check on it. Hear lightning snap on the phone. So really we didn't get any sleep. To top it off they sent Elbert out at 8:30 to the fire. He joined two other men. I had to stand watch. It was dreadfully lonesome. Several other fires in other districts, so we really got smoked in. I gave the weather reports 'n moped around. I read some. At 7 I baked some "brownies" - (got too brown) I was concerned, but didn't worry. Elbert came at 8 o'clock p.m. - he had water as he went via of lake. He had hiked 16 miles 'n helped fight the fire until it was pretty well out. It hadn't got a big start. I fixed him some hot soup, tea 'n fried potatoes. He took a bath 'n bed after 10 - news. Very tired both. I was weak from loss of sleep. Poor Elbert all those miles!!!!

August 23, '45

Slept pretty sound, both of us, until 8 - I fixed breakfast. Spent all morning talking of future. Where we hope to live 'n about the new house we hope to build after we can afford it. We designed it 'n everything. At 1:15 p.m. Elbert went out again to check for sure if the fire is out. He found 4 spots burning in the ground. He used his shovel 'n hands to put them out. He found a spring in a rock (little off the trail), but didn't drink as a bird was bathing in the water. Came via the lake 'n brought home water. Got in at 7:30 - 9 miles for today!! Phoned Rex. He took a bath 'n swim in lake, so he helped me some with supper. Ate at 9 - So tired. We talked till news time 'n then to sleep. Got cold during night.

August 24

This makes 61 days from civilization!! Real cold this morning. Up at 8:30 Elbert fried the mush - really crisp 'n good. Also had eggs 'n bacon, grapefruit juice. Elbert shaved (as he does every morning) we phoned in our grocery order - guys in Portland changed their minds again - this time we buy at govern't warehouse 'n they pay for it all. Jake read some cards from Mother 'n told me what mail we had. Two pkgs 'n the summer funnies!!!! - At 12:30 Elbert started out again to check on the fire. A tiny spot in the ground had burned since yesterday, but it had all gone out. - 9 miles again I hope this is all! Brought some water back. It was so cold I stayed under the blankets except to give the reports. Elbert got back at 5:30. Fixed supper, rain some -- good good!! Listened to radio (music) put up my hair went to bed to keep warm - so cold!!!!

August 25, 1945

We kept close together all night to keep warm. Rained all last night 'n all day today. Hope that means leaving here soon as I'm ready to get back to civilization. I've lost all my appetite. Breakfast 'n fruit is all I eat. We got up at 9 - fried pancakes, bacon 'n eggs for breakfast. We kept a fire all day 'n hung around the stove. I wore flannel slacks 'n sweater. Still chilly. After some jello for lunch we looked at all my pictures. Among them Elbert's baby pictures. So darling. We can hardly wait till March when we hope to have a son or daughter. 'Bout 2 - we went out 'n cut some wood. Wasn't raining then just heavy fog. We got quite a bit 'n started to rain. I've been praying for rain, so we can go down as then no fire danger. We look thru a magazine 'n played a quiz contest Elbert's smart! Fixed supper. I ate only scalded crackers 'n plums. Listened to hit parade. Went to bed to keep warm.

August 26, 45

Slept pretty good last night. I wore a gown 'n bed socks.'n Elbert put on a "T" shirt 'n wool socks. Elbert listened to news. I went to sleep. We stayed in bed till 9 - Elbert got up 'n swept the cabin. Since we had mush he got breakfast - He had a real nice breakfast of crisp mush, bacon 'n eggs, juice 'n coffee. I got up in time to make the bed before eating. Really a queen's life this morning. Quit raining during the night, but we caught almost a tub full of water in things we set out. 12 o'clock by time dishes were done so we didn't eat our fruit until 2:30. We talked 'n dreamed our farm we want to set up 'n house we hope someday to build, chickens 'n hogs we want to raise. Lots of fun dreaming. Fogged in all day. Got supper 'bout 4:30. Listened to "All Girl Orchestra" 'n talked till news time.

August 27, 1945

Slept till 9 - got breakfast, eggs, cereal, juice, coffee, - they called Elbert to go out on trail 'n cut three logs off. (East Mtn. Trail). I went along. It was wonderful going! And fun cutting (sawing the logs), One was green, laying across the ridge. When we split it in the center it split into 'n fell down side of ridge. Really made noise. We ate an orange for lunch. All was wonderful until we started up the last 3 miles of trail. It's so steep I was always resting 'n Elbert even pulled me some. We carried the saw, so I hung onto that. My health-spot shoes are wonderful, but my legs got so tired. We were back by 5. Both of us got supper. I only drank cocoa 'n ate scalded crackers. After dishes listened to "Hoagy Carmichael" program. I put up my hair, wrote to my folks Elbert wrote to his mother as packer is to come tomorrow. I'm so tired. 9 miles hiking.

August 28, 1945

Elbert got up at 7 - 'n went for water. I got up at 7:30 'n started frying the mush. We cleaned up the cabin 'n ourselves. Sam, packer arrived at 1:05. I got dinner 'n while they ate I opened mail 'n added a couple lines to the mail we sent out. We received 15 letters 'n 9 cards, one letter from Mom had 8 letters totaling 22 letters, 3 Register Herald's, 'n Grace sent us five current magazine, Mother B sent us a wonderful box of assorted candy' n a box of chocolate, Dad B sent us a 4.2 lbs of cookies. I feel better now. Oh yes. Dad B sent me all the funnies of this summer. I think I can stand the next few weeks pleasantly. I was getting a low morale! In our order we received some fresh tomatoes (um-m) so for supper we ate a salad lunch, carrots, sliced tomatoes 'n lettuce 'n a egnog. Really a feast ! Oh yes, we opened some sliced peaches! Also got some Colo colas, hope they hurry 'n get cool! I'm tired from excitement - so bed rather early. Wrote a line to Mom. Listened to radio music 'n Elbert the 10: news. I read funnies.

August 29th, 1945

Up at 8:30. Breakfast of cereal, orange juice, bacon 'n eggs 'n coffee. I did a big washing on the board - nice with rain water - Elbert hung them all for me. Finished at 1:o'clock. Elbert read Sept. issue of "Outdoor Life" that Grace sent 'n I finished all the funnies. Sure good to read them all at once. Had a lucious supper. Elbert toasted him a cheese sandwich 'n I made some bacon 'n tomato sandwiches - hit the spot, - sliced tomatoes, perfection salad, fried potatoes (in bacon grease, um!) sliced peaches. Green beans were fresh 'n didn't finish in time. I did the iron after dishes. Minced on cookies 'n candies. Cool 'n like rain this evening. Read 'n talked. Drank a Coke today!!! Heavenly!!! We drank some cold orange juice before going to bed. Listened to radio. Bed around 10 --

August 30, 1945

Elbert went for water this morning. I was dressing when he came back. Fried bacon 'n eggs for breakfast. Made toast, ate grapefruit, ate sliced peaches on our Post Toasties. Drank coffee. Elbert made chocolate pudding for lunch, ate cookies too. Elbert spent most of the day reading the funnies. I started reading in "Mc Calls". Got supper at 4:30 - bacon 'n tomato sandwiches 'n Elbert toasted him a cheese. Made salad, green beans, baked potatoes, 'n apricots. I didn't feel like eating. I ate at my sandwich, little salad 'n drank a glass of juice. After dishes we read until newstime. After we turned the radio off we heard the rat or squirrel getting into the salad we had left from supper 'n we sat out for to keep cool. Elbert tried to catch him in the act, but 3 different times he was too fast. Found the pan 'n lid on the ground next morning!!! Devil .

August 31, 1945

Stayed in bed til 9 -- Sun rather warm! Make pancakes for breakfast. Also bacon, eggs, grapefruit, cereal 'n postum. I read awhile. Elbert spent from 11 - on with times out to eat sawing some logs that were already cut-down to firewood size. I helped him stack a rick on some. Ate apricots for lunch. Yesterday Elbert spilled a half can of roofing tar in the attic. Today it really started seeping thru. I was in cabin only a little while 'n a whiff of that make me throw up the apple salad that didn't agree too well with me last night. Felt awful at time, but better after a taste of soda. I read when not helping Bru. Fixed supper. - Fried taters, salad, sandwiches, cocoa. Listened to music 'n later news. Spend evening reading mags.

Sept 1, 1945

I stayed in bed until Elbert came back from water. Then we fixed breakfast, eggs, grapefruit 'n french toast. Elbert made postum with milk - rather good! I had to lay down a while, my left eye got funny - like heat waves in front of it. I put a cloth over them, better. After dishes we both lay down till noon, Elbert slept. I ate jello 'n fixed Elbert a salad with his. He read the "McCalls" and I the "Redbook" till supper time. Made french fries, bacon 'n tomato sandwich, celery, peaches. I washed my hair, took a bath. We listened to the hit parade 'n was intrupped (sic) with the signing of peace document in Toyoto Bay. Switched on the telephone so other guys could listen. Heard all including Pres. Truman. Tomorrow is VJ Day. Peace at last. Let's pray it is everlasting! Read 'n talked till bedtime. I forgot. I got warm while doing dishes 'n took off my slacks 'n sweater - Bru took my picture in my underclothes - 'n my hair was a mess!!!! The The turd!!!

V-J Day Sept. 2, 1945

We stayed in bed until 10 a.m. Elbert gave the report 'n hung his coat over the window to keep the sun out of our eyes. Breakfast of pancakes, 'n eggs, juice 'n postum. Elbert celebrated the day by taking a much needed bath!!!! Clean clothes 'n all! 12 o'clock by that time, so no lunch today. We spent the afternoon reading, I read "Everywoman" mag 'n Elbert read "(?)". A rat, (cross of a squirrel) kept sneaking in our vegetable box 'n we saw him snatching carrots - he got 4 - left one!! We tried to catch him, but he's really shrewd 'n quick - wish we had Elbert's rifle!!! Listened to Wayne King's music 'n ate noodle soup 'n peaches for supper. After supper we still tried to catch rat! Listened to "All Girl Orchestra" 'n spent most of evening talking about our future!!! Drank a Coke -- celebration!!!

Labor Day - Sept. 3, 1945

Elbert got up 'n went for water. I couldn't go back to sleep but I stayed in bed. For breakfast we had grapefruit juice, eggs cereal 'n postum 'n toast. Layed around 'n talked about the future (?). Started raining at 12.05 but I'm so happy!!!! Elbert slept awhile 'n read "Everywoman's" magazine. I read some in Bible, finished "First King" 'n started in "Second King". Got so cold we built a fire at 3:o'clock. Elbert gathered in some more wood. Fixed supper, bake potato, bean soup, salad, bread, apricotss 'n postum. After supper listened to Hoagy Carmichael program, sat around the stove 'n talked about old times. Went to bed finally to keep warm. Listened to news. Put out dishpan 'n basin to catch water, wind so strong blew them off the platform. We put stones in them to hold them down. Really rattles shudders, Plenty strong !!!

September 4, '45

Elbert got up at 9 to give weather. Still raining. We got a tub full 'n a bucket full of rain water! Wind so strong. Blew "Thunder L.O." shudder off his tower, can't even find it. After a breakfast of fried mush eggs 'n grapefruit we started compiling our inventory. We have hopes of going down Monday. We took time out for lunch of postum 'n apricots. Both of us working together we got it in shape. I started typing a copy. Two pages typed. Quit for supper. Fried taters, salad, gingerbread, noodle soup 'n cocoa. Listened to Guy Lombardo's music. Made a strainer cloth on a wire for me to strain water. Went out to toilet (only time out all day). Raining real nicely. Last night strong South wind blew water under our door standing on the floor. Talked around fire till bedtime. Listened to news.

September 5, '45

Up at 9- to give the weather. Rained all night, but not windy. Breakfast of grapefruit juice, french toast, eggs, bacon 'n postum. Almost noontime by time breakfast work was over. Elbert cut two days supply of wood. Stopped raining for awhile but rained off 'n on for most of day. Fogged in most of time! I typed up the inventory copies. Finished them up around 4 - Elbert read the novel in "Redbook" after lunch of peaches 'n postum. Kept fire all day. Cool outdoors. Listened to radio awhile this evening. Supper -- fried 'taters, green beans, slaw, noodle soup, toasted grapefruit 'n tea. In a telephone conversation with Larry, (C.O. on other lookout) Elbert mentioned our going to have a baby. They were rather surprised!!! So wonderful -- we dreamed of the day. Bed around 10 - raining. Listened to news.

September 6, 1945

Didn't rest too well, had headache, 'n that bed is too hard for two people to sleep so cramped, I lie on one side 'n rub the aching arm I had been sleeping on 'n vice versa. Took a Sal Foyne and felt better at 9, when we got up. Breakfast of hotcakes, cereal, eggs 'n juice 'n postum. We made jello 'n set it out to cool. An East wind 'n sun today but was hard by 12:30. Elbert finishing painting the platform 'n steps red. Took down the flag pole rope 'n signs while they were dry. I slept awhile this afternoon, then layed around. I got supper while Bru finished painting. Baked potatoes, green beans, slaw, bacon, tomato sandwich 'n cocoa 'n peaches. Our bacon is starting to mole so we cleaned it for breakfast. I took a bath, facial, 'n put up my hair. We listened to music on radio, talked, 'n messed around till news 'n bedtime.

September 7, 1945

In bed til 9 - although awake. Nice clear day. All the mtns look so beautiful. It has snowed on Mt. Rainier 'n Mt. Adams. South to the snow line on Rainier 'n down to our level. Fixed breakfast of eggs, bacon 'n cereal -- orange juice 'n postum. Elbert shaved as usual while I done dishes. Then I done a handwash of my undies. Elbert wouldn't let me wash more. Spent all day -- except time out for 1 o'clock report 'n lunch - drawing plans on the new home we hope to build 6 or 7 yrs. from now. Elbert drew it all according to scale. We had a time getting all the closets in that I wanted, but Elbert got 'em in. Bru 'n I hope our future isn't too long off or too dreary! Larry talked to Elbert at suppertime 'n I can't plan a meal without him so all we had was bake potatoes, vegetable soup, slaw 'n apricots 'n postum. Spent evening discussing the future farm we hope to have. Bed at 10 -.

September 8, 1945

Elbert went for water, I slept - a chance to stretch - half the night I spend rubbing my aching arms 'n legs in order to rest. Elbert doesn't rest well either. Breakfast of hotcakes, cold orange juice, eggs 'n postum. Elbert put some signs up on the short cut when he went for water. He cut wood after he shaved. I swept 'n cleaned some windows. Rather cool today a North wind. After he came in we loved 'n rested till 1 o'clock report. Spent the afternoon in talking about the future. All the implements he wants, furniture I want etc. Fun hoping. For supper we got together 'n believe it or not made some gravy 'n mashed potatoes, plus biscuits, noodle soup 'n apricots. Elbert took a bath after supper. We listened to hit parade. Spent evening talking. Bed usual time.

Sunday, September 9, '45

A very strong East wind last night, blew over an orange crate we had set up with some things - mainly cokes - in it! Broke one! Rattled the shudders - we didn't get much sleep at all. Awoke at 9 - to find the phone out! So!! Ate breakfast of fried eggs 'n mush, grapefruit 'n postum, biscuits then Elbert started down the trail to check the line, after checking phone here. I read the rest of "Judges", "First Chronicles" 'n started "Second Chronicles". I would try the phone every 5 minutes after the half hour. (Elbert 'n I arranged the time so he wouldn't be working on line). At 2 - I got thru, but not plain, off 'n on. Elbert came back at 2:45 after 8 miles in all. He got some limbs off the line 'n chopped a log off. Bob, packer, had started out from station 'n he came on up bringing our mail "happy day". I fixed them (Elbert 'n Bob) supper 'n while they ate I read mail 'n wrote a hurried note to each of the folks. He left at 6 - Telephone went out pretty bad again. So Elbert worked here 'n put a new piece of wire in on our post. Read mail - 9 letters 'n pictures. Bed at 10 -

September 10, '45

Wind calmed down last night. Today we had a West wind. We got up at 9- I made hotcakes, fried eggs, grapefruit juice, postum 'n some left over biscuit for breakfast. Read some mail over, Elbert read C.P.S. "bulletins" 'n reporter". Ate orange, cookies for lunch. Last of our chocolate candy. Spent afternoon talking about future. Wondering where we could get some money without robbin' a bank. Talked about people 'n stuff. For supper baked potatoes, clam soup (um good) beets, gingerbread, 'n postum. Listened to Hoagy Carmichael's program. Layed around 'n talked some more. Praying for rain - hope to get down this week. Started discussing an old boyfriend - Elbert got real jealous. I love Elbert!

September 11, 1945

Elbert went for water, but I couldn't pull myself out to go. Such a climb. Breakfast of hotcakes, juice, eggs 'n coffee. Spent all day drawing plans. Elbert drew the house 'n I said if I liked it. So nice. Big nice basement with rec-room. He even drew outside so I have a idea. Opened peaches for lunch. Warm today. I took a sunbath. I got supper - a mess - fried 'taters, slaw, biscuits, tomatoes (canned) 'n cocoa. Listened to Guy Lombardo "sweetest music", put up my hair 'n took facial. Spent evening discussing the plans. Bed 10 --

September 12, 1945

Up at 9 - breakfast of hotcakes, eggs 'n coffee. A strong East wind last night 'n this morning. Elbert drew some more house designs. Ate peaches for lunch, drew this afternoon. I read some more in "Mentally Ill of Amer". Supper of macroni 'n cheese, green beans, gingerbread, tomatoes 'n cheese 'n cracker sandwiches. Listened to "Celoanees Hour" music, talked. Elbert drew some more. Bed early. Water tomorrow.

September 13, 1945

We piled out a little before 7- 'n both went for water!! Fun, but a climb. Elbert got breakfast as he likes to fry the mush. After dishes I mended his overalls 'n then Elbert pinned up a hem in a dress for me. Hung uneven. I got fainty 'n had to rest several times. Elbert drew a front view on bungalow style house'n the upstairs! Surely swell. Listened to radio after supper.

September 14, 1945

Got up around 8- breakfast hotcakes, eggs 'n postum. Elbert drew the upstairs of the bungalow style house. It's adorable, lots of closet space. -4 rooms 'n bath, gee wish we could start on it!!! Spent all evening discussing Elbert's childhood. He told me some things, we laughed till tears came. Bed at 10- after news. Elbert took a bath! Clean clothes.

September 15, '45

I woke up at 5:15 'n shouted "Baby, it's raining"! Gee music to our ears. Slept till almost 9. Elbert didn't go for H2O since raining. He got breakfast as fried mush. Divided a fried egg, cereal 'n grapefruit juice. Rained intermittently all day. Bru made me a egg nog for lunch - dried egg 'n canned milk -- I nearly urped . Ate an apple a piece. I mended 'n sewed most of the day. Remade two bras. Elbert packed some in duffle bag! Kept fire as cool. This evening he shut the shudders on West side. Much warmer. Fixed supper -- clam soup, baked 'taters, biscuits, cheese, postum. Listened to hit parade, took a facial - we discussed plans on the house. Putting in pipes from furnace to all rooms etc. Fun. So chilly bed early - 40 degrees outdoors. -- Hope we go down Monday but it is wonderful living with my darling hubby!! Forgot to mention I pressed his pants - with a sad iron - quite a job -- not so hot either!

September 16, 1945

Coaxed Elbert to stay in bed 'n get water this afternoon. It was so cold 'n foggy - Ther. 40 degrees inside 38 outside. We had our six blankets on us - plus Elbert's leather jacket. Elbert said they were so heavy we felt like a bunch of papers under a paper weight - Kept warm keeping close together. -- He built fire 'n helped with breakfast of pancakes'n cereal, postum. We stayed in bed till 10- so breakfast was late. We talked 'n read our daily devotion from "Upper Room" -- Cleared out at noon - could see all around us - warmer. We went to lake at 1:30- took a lot of pictures got water. Rested a lot -- till gone only a hr 'n half. Crawled under covers to keep warm. Listened to Wayne King's half hour of music. Bob was at the switchboard today. He read off who 'n what mail we had. Got supper -- macroni 'n cheese for Bru, macroni 'n tomatoe for me, cheese, biscuits 'n gravy (um) 'n apricots. Elbert made mush for breakfast. After dishes, Elbert lounged around, took a smoke, I put up my hair. Listened to some of 'All Girl Orchestra' -- spent evening talking of past 'n future. I love my husband 'n love to talk with him. Sky was overcast at about 7:45 - didn't talk long -- who knows may snow -- So cold we kept fire until bedtime around 9--

September 17, '45

Fogged in about 11 last night - rained some. Very cold, so about 8:45 we woke, but stayed in bed till 11- 'n talked (Elbert gave 9:00 report). We saved wood for heat 'n helped on our food which is low. We spend most of the time talking about the future -- cost of things will need to settle down on a farm 'n things when we were kids. Elbert built the fire 'n I got breakfast. We had fried mush, cereal 'n postum. I made bed 'n hung around. Elbert went out at 1:15 'n cut two orange crates of wood. I wrote two letters. Talked till suppertime which was asparagus soup, baked potatoes, tomatoes, gingerbread, cheese, apricots 'n postum. Listened to radio for half hour. I took facial. Elbert drew furnace installation in new house. Bed after news!

September 18, 1945

Last night, just after we crawled in bed, at 9:15 to be exact, Bill Parks, ranger, called 'n said we could plan to go down Thurs!!!! Oh happy day, we could hardly go to sleep after the news!!!! -- We got up at 9:30 this morning to breakfast of - yes - pancakes, apricot juice, cereal 'n postum. Afterwards we cleaned cupboards, throwing out almost empty bottles 'n putting flour etc in cans to leave here. Elbert packed up books etc. in orange crates, I got my things in suitcase, so really ready to go except last minute details. Elbert also greased all tools. Got supper - macroni 'n cheese macroni 'n tomatoes, noodle soup, biscuits, cocoa. I washed my hair while we listened to Guy Lombardo's music. Vicky called me 'n we chatted for half hour. Elbert took a bath while I put up my hair. Talked awhile 'n then decided to go to bed 'n talk till newstime. Pretty moon tonight!!

Sept 19, 1945

An East wind this morning 'n all last night zounds!!!! Up at 9- breakfast of pancakes, cereal 'n postum. I wrote a letter to mother after work was done. Elbert read an '39 "American". We ate some butterscotch pudding for lunch (each got a spoon 'n ate out of pan!) Also had a half of orange apiece! Elbert chatted with Larry after 1 o'clock report - while doing so I plucked some of his eyebrows (over his nose). We talked 'n loved awhile then Elbert installed (worked on plans) the furnace on the house. I read stories in "American". Started supper at 5.- a good one too. -- baked 'taters, macroni 'n cheese (for Bru) 'n with tomatoes for me. We've just enough grease to fry hotcakes in a.m. so we made the bestest gravy using butter in our cake flour biscuits! Really full, had to rest awhile before dishes! After dishes we checked over our supplies to be left 'n put things in cans, such as flour etc. Labeled everything 'n listed them on paper for ranger's station. I pressed my f(l)annel slacks to wear down. Strong West wind this evening -- thank goodness! Last night on awful cot!!! -- But we will miss the place 'n very often think of our precious moments together 'n how happy we were when we found we were in the family way! G'nite - I must take a bath 'n then to bed. --