



THE EARLY LIFE OF BIRDIE 'LILIBET'REID

By: Birdie Elizabeth Reid

CHAPTER I

My mother and father were early settlers in Wisconsin, near Prairie du Chien, Honey Creek and Baraboo. Mother, whose maiden name was Rose Sewall, when a girl of twelve did housework for a family in Madison. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sewall, who also lived in the vicinity, had four daughters, Elizabeth, Ernestina, Anne and Rose; and four sons, Fredrick, Louis, Stephan and August, who was born when Grandma Sewall was fifty-one years of age. Their education in the country schools was not very much as they only attended classes when there was no other work to be done.

Wilhelm Kruger, my father, did grubbing in the woods to clear a bit of land for planting. He had a pair of oxen and a cow, which in those days was enough for a man to get married on. Mother, Rose Anne, at the age of sixteen and a half, married father, and they lived in Wisconsin for about five years. After that, with two children, Pauline and Mathilde (Mate), they started out to travel by oxen and covered wagon to Minnesota. Mother had to drive the oxen most of the way, with one babe on her lap, and another little girl by her side. Father had to walk a good share of the trip to see that the cow, which was tied on behind, would follow. They crossed the Mississippi River by ferry boat, and arrived in Minnesota just at the time of the close of the Civil War. There was a great celebration going on, guns shooting, bells ringing, and all. Father had been exempt from going to war, due to an infection in one eye which never bothered him too much.

After mother and father headed for Minnesota, all the other relatives came following along the trail, except Uncle Fredrick, who remained in Wisconsin. The others traveled on to the west coast and landed in Washington Territory near Centralia, Bucoda and vicinity. They have all remained there ever since. The men there took up claims and did timber work like logging and such. These logs were shipped down the rivers to long distances.

My Uncle Louis served all through the Civil War. He and another soldier were the only two out of a large regiment that came home alive. He would tell of the battles and of the Potomac Army, and many interesting experiences.

He had not been home long when he was killed by a runaway team of horses.

After arriving in Minnesota, my people, being both very shrewd and ambitious, heard of a good farming country in southern Minnesota. They headed for a settlement called Greenwood Prairie, nine miles north of Rochester, named after an old pioneer, Mr. Greenwood, who was the father of three sons. My father and mother were lucky to rent a forty acre little farm, with only an old house on it, but which they were glad to get at that. This was their start in this state.

Two years later, with good crops, they saved a little money and bought what was called the Fuller place. They paid \$80.00 down, which was all they had. After a few more good years they angled around for a farm with better buildings. Across the road was a choice one hundred and sixty acre farm with fine buildings - a good house, large barns, graineries, a plastered chicken coop, a large windmill and a fine orchard. It was all anyone could wish for, but at a very high price of \$8,500.00, which in those days was a large sum for a farm. An elderly couple owned and lived there by the name of Amos Blanchard. They wished to sell, and move into Rochester to retire. My father bought it with borrowed money, from an old timer living near. He made a small down payment, and paid so much a year afterward. This was the way the Blanchards wanted it, as they needed no more. This price for the farm was considered the highest paid on Greenwood Prairie.

Soon after the arrival of my people here, more children came after Pauline and Mate. There was Gustav, Rose Ann, Emma, Ida Lou, Birdie Elizabeth and another little boy, Willie. He was the baby, and a very brilliant child, but died of diphtheria at the age of four and a half. The whole family except for Mother and Pauline and the men were sick with this disease. Sister Emma caught it from someone in school who was not entirely over it and exposed others. There was no quarantine in those days. I was only six years old, but can well remember old Dr. W. W. Mayo driving out in the country every other day. His remedy was ice and whisky, which little Willie begged so hard not to

take. The remedy seemed to do no good. Some of my sisters were delirious most of the time. Finally, a friend of my folks, an old man, had a remedy from the old country, a carbolic gargle. We all used that gargle, and were relieved immediately. Soon we were all well, except for little Willie; he was too young to gargle, and he could not be saved. After that when the doctor came, he thought that his medicine had done wonders.

Both my people worked hard all day, and sometimes half the night. It was hard to get help during harvest time, and wages were high at \$2.50 a day. We had an old reaper. Two men had to stand in the back and catch the grain as it was cut and came up out of the canvas roller. It was then hand-tied in bundles, and thrown off for the men to put up into shocks. Having only one boy, Gust, who was never very anxious to work, father always called on the girls to help in the field. Rose liked to drive the reaper and four horses. Emma liked to plough. She liked sitting on the sulky plough, instead of having to walk with the hand plough, like the men, with the lines around their neck, and hands holding the plough handle. Rose also had to do most of the milking, and there were a lot of cows. Father was an expert on setting stacks so that it never rained in and rotted the grain. Pauline was left in the house to do the cooking and boss of all she surveyed. But mother did the bread baking. Sometimes she had to get up at four in the morning if the bread was ready to go in the oven.

Soon the self-binders were invented - the McCormick and the Deering. Our first was a McCormick, and how wonderful it was. It would self-bind, then push the bundles off, which saved a lot of extra help.

All of us attended the country school, District 127. My sister Pauline the boss, since mother had to work outside so much, would not let us take our dinners to school as we lived a quarter of a mile from it, and she thought that maybe we could do a few errands for her at noon. Many a jolly time we had at school during recess playing games. I liked baseball most of all.

After school every night sister Ida and I had our regular jobs of hunting eggs, which sometimes took us under the grainary. We would have to crawl the full length of the building, but would likely bring forth two or three dozen eggs. In the summertime the chickens would like to lay their eggs outside their henhouse in grainstacks, haylofts, etc. At this time Ida and I were about eight and nine years old. Saturdays we were made to herd cattle and sheep, sometimes a long way from home. We had a good shepherd dog, Fido, and if one animal was missing he was sent back in the cornfield and about to fetch back the cow or calf. In harvest time, Ida and I were made to carry lunch twice a day to the hired help in the field. This was a job we hated, as it took us away from our playhouses, of which we were very fond, and were allowed to play in a lot, for a wonder!

My first teachers in school were Miss Southwick, Frank Rollins, Helen Meyers of Dover, and Carrie Copley.

My people at one time were Lutherans, and worshipped Martin Luther to the highest degree, but soon after their arrival here changed to Evangelical. In the early days, there were a number of fundamental godly ministers here, holding revival meetings, and my folks were converted to that faith and remained ever after. After they settled in Greenwood, a large church was soon built, and a lot of families joined it.

After a number of years, father and mother owned land on both sides of the road for three miles, and the home across the road. This was land between the Lake City Road and Elgin. People used to call my father 'Farmer Kruger', as there were other Krugers living around there, although no relation. Father and Mother kept their money separate. For some reason father was more careless in loaning out his money on high interest, but sometimes would not get his principal back. There were no strict laws in those days. Mother was more careful not to lose money.

My sister Tilla was the first to get married to a man working during

harvest on our farm. He was Gotlieb Keller, from Springfield, Minnesota. He and sister Tilla got married in 1879. Sister Rose and her boyfriend Leonard Johnson stood up as maid-of-honor and best man. The Kellers settled on a farm his mother owned in Sanborn, Minnesota. A few years later Rose got married and also moved to Sanborn - Springfield, Minnesota. Uncle Len's father, A. K. Johnson, who was a good carpenter, went with Rose and Len, and built them a nice house on some land adjoining the Kellers. After a few years, the two couples sold out, and they both came back to Rochester to live on farms. The Johnsons settled near Elgin, and later moved to Rochester. The Kellers bought the Fuller Eighty and the Schingler Eighty, where they lived for some time. Later they moved to town. Len Johnson worked for the International Harvesting Company for twenty years. Mr. Keller just went back and forth, looking after his farms, but never invested in real estate, nor took any job. At one time, when J. C. Thompson was mayor, he was Chief of Police for about two years.

Pauline soon tired of doing farmhouse work, came to Rochester and worked a while in a hotel. When she heard of a lot of people going to Dakota, she got the fever and went too. She took up a tree-claim and homestead, and lived on it for so long before she sold it. She then took a job in a Redfield bakery selling bakery goods. The baker was Henry Keller, whom she later married. They lived in Redfield for ten years.

My folks tired of farming and moved to Rochester. They gave a deed to the farm to my brother Gust, with a mortgage. He batched it for two years, before getting married to a Mary Sasse of St. Paul. Gust sold out to the Thoerning boys, who lived one mile north of him. While they owned the farm they discovered in one of the hills a large sand pit. They made a fortune by selling sand and gravel to all the surrounding country for road graveling for miles and miles.

We kept a pony and small buggy so that we could travel back and forth to the farms. It took us three hours to go nine miles, from farm to town. The sandy roads through the woods were sometimes five to eight inches deep, which meant it sometimes even took longer. This was in 1882.

Soon after the Rochester cyclone my parents bought a house on the north side, and lived there for five years. We then moved to a place mother bought at 611 First Street, SW.

My folks took life easy after seventy and seventy-six. Father was very fond of going to the circus. Mother was not. One time he got in with a gambling outfit, who told him he could double his money with marbles under a nut shell, or the like. They talked him into going to the bank. They hired a taxi, and went with him, while he took out \$750.00. In the end he lost the entire \$750.00. For a time he did not tell anyone, but in the end told Emma the whole story.

Henry Keller was no relation of Ed Keller. Sister Emma married Albert Keller, a brother of Henry's, while my people were still living on the farm. At this time Pauline had gone to Dakota. Rose and Mate were married. Emma was in town learning dressmaking, on a chart. Ida was attending Darling's Business College in Rochester, where the tuition was eighty cents a week. Her board and room was \$2.00 a week, but was soon raised to \$2.25 a week. Two years later, Ida started teaching school out at the Springfield and Sanborn District for \$25.00 a month. She roomed at the Kellers. Later she taught at a school near Elgin; another time at Hammond, and the last one was our old District 127, when she again boarded with the Kellers, who then lived in the Schingler house. She later worked out here in the Court House for the Register of Deeds office. After that she took a trip out west to Seattle (Washington Territory), where she and her cousin Florence worked in a sweet shop. There she was married to Emor Bagby, whom she met at the World's Columbian Exposition Fair in 1893.

My mother made it a rule to dish out or donate to her children a sum of money equally, as she could spare it, or property. They in turn were to give her a low rate of interest for three years. The last time was when, at the age of 75 she dealt out a forty acre of land, on which the school was located, called the Adkinson farm, to Ida. She deeded to Matilda a house on East Center; to Rose, next door to Emma, an old brick lop-sided store on Broadway, and to me the present

location of the Princess Cafe. At that time, a shoe cobbler occupied it for \$12.00 a month. Later, Mr. Rubenstein bought it for \$4,500.00, and soon sold it for double. All property was put on record, with a life lease provision in it. Father lived to be ninety-five and a half, and mother eighty-six.

After moving to town I attended the Central Public High School and later went to Darling's College, where D. Darling was the professor, and Mrs. Barnum was the main teacher. In between school I learned the millinery trade, and then worked for the lady that owned the establishment as head trimmer for three years. During that time I would be sent twice a year for two weeks to Milwaukee and Chicago to trim hats and buy goods for her store. I would then bring back the hats I had trimmed, for our opening, on my return. I continued these trips for three years, after which time I purchased the store and went into business for myself. I was in business for myself for three more years.

In 1893 I spent three extra weeks in Chicago to attend the World's Fair, which was held there on the south side. At that time my sister Ida, then single, was with me. We would go to the fair every night ... and tired at night ... well, noone can imagine! We roomed together with a Mrs. Herrick, in a large rooming house on Ellis Avenue, on the south side. I always stayed with this lady. She had a daughter my age, Charlotte, whom I just loved.

My friend, J. E. Reid, from St. Paul, also came to Chicago for a few days. He worked for a jewelry store in Minneapolis. Previous to that he had worked for a jewelry firm by the name of E. A. Brown, on Seventh Street, in St. Paul. I had met Mr. Reid while spending a week's vacation with sister Rose near Elgin. Sister Ida and I were having a gay time skating, when he came down to show us how to cut a few figures; but he tumbled down in the act, and ripped his trousers almost up to his knees. I loaned him a stick pin to close up the gap. Later he sent me the pin back, with a plain gold bangle and a skate engraved on it.

Mr. Reid's people, who lived near the L. Johnsons, were moving into Elgin, and needing his help and advice, they persuaded him to buy a little new jewelry store and stock in Rochester. Since he was the only boy, they liked him to be near. This jewelry store was located where Massey Company now is. It belonged to Mr. Westerbaum, who used half of it for a clothing store. However, Mr. Reid soon sold out there, and moved over to the corner in a large store, then occupied by Leonard Shoe Store, but which is now the E. A. Knowlton Co. He paid \$90.00 a month rent.

After doing business on the Knowlton corner for a few years, he started buying buildings on Broadway, which meant that he had to spend quite a lot of time out of his office. Consequently, he accepted his half-brother, L. A. Orr, as partner. When Mr. Orr came in, he had only a box of jewelry to put in with J.E.'s stock, which he had brought with him from Conde, South Dakota, where he had had a small jewelry store, which he had lived in the back of. It was decided that his wages should be added towards his part of the partnership.

In the spring of 1894 I sold my millinery business to my head trimmer, Emma Bentlage.

On October 11, 1894, J. E. Reid and I were married. It was a small wedding with friends and relatives. My sister Ida and Douglas Buttles were our bridesmaid and best man. A blind musician, Mr. Wilmot, furnished the music on a piano I had purchased (just half paid for). The minister was Reverend Helcher. The flowers Mr. Reid had ordered arrived the day after. However, it was a beautiful day and everyone was very happy.

On our return from the honeymoon, which we had taken to neighboring towns, we lived in a house Mr. Reid had rented for \$10.00 a month. It was a brand new house, built by Cliff Elliott, on the 800 block of Zumbro Street, which is now Second Street, SW. There was no bath or furnace in those days, but otherwise it was complete, with a bedroom downstairs, and three upstairs. My people furnished the house, as they had done for all three of the other girls, as they figured it was the only fair way when the man is expected to bring in the

bacon, and provide afterwards.

Somehow or another my business ideas had not left me, and so after being married for two years, I bought an old house with an extra lot (now 7th St. and 7th Ave.) with the money I had saved from my millinery store, from a Miss Mamie Mount. We lived in that little house for a year, while all the time I was planning to build on the extra lot. At this time, my mother was again making gifts of \$300.00 to \$500.00, and so with her help I built an eight room house next to the old one. A Mr. Levi Gustine built quite a modern house standing right in the middle of what was then called Fourth Street. To the west of us, there were all gardens and pastures. Three years later the city was talking about opening up that street, so that the lots in back of us could be used for building houses to add to the city. Finally they passed a resolution to do so. The council ordered the property appraised, and we were obliged to sell to the city. They did not buy any more than needed for the street, which left me a strip of ground on each side. By this time property had gone up some in price. I sold the south strip, of twenty-nine feet to Dr. Starr Judd, to add on to his property, for \$2,900.00. The house I sold to the city for \$3,800.00, which I did not buy back. It was sold to Mr. Haase, who moved it back several blocks west, where it still stands. I kept back the old one-story house beside it, which we had at first lived in, and moved it on an empty lot which I had bought very cheaply. Fortunately, the strip on the north side had an eighteen foot alley adjoining it, which the city owned. They closed it giving each side one-half, thus adding nine feet to my land (or strip), which made my lot $34\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 160 feet. I then had the money I received from Dr. Judd and the city to build the 703 First Street and Seventh Avenue house.

Maske and Matzke were the builders. We moved in when it was completed, and it was at this location we were blessed with six boys, Norman, Roland, Harold, James, Archie and Donald. My mother, living in the next block at 611 First St., SW, came over often to help care for the children. I had a schoolgirl for a part time maid, and the lady next door did my week's washing for fifty cents. I myself never went out evenings, unless mother came over to stay nights. Mr. J. E. Norman

and Mrs. W. Yates, and I took a trip through Yellowstone Park in 1912, and stayed two and a half weeks, but not until I had gotten mother to consent to stay all the time until we returned. One time Mr. Reid and I took a trip with the Bigelows to see the forest fires near Moose Lake.

The fever of doing business had not left me, however, so with the money I made on one sale, I would buy again, (a bargain) ... as there were many bargains in those days. I built and sold again, until all told I had thirty-seven or more houses, I could name, that I had owned at one time or another.

There was a large barn on the back of our house that stabled two of Mr. Reid's fine horses ... Fanny and Bill, as well as the Shetland pony, with a harness, Cart, and sled for him. Cleveland, by name. We had bought him for the boys, because he was tame and gentle, although he would not tolerate big boys getting on his back.

Norman was the first boy to graduate from college, after attending the University of Minnesota. Harold went to Iowa University, and graduated in chemistry. Don went four and a half years to Shattuck, and graduated. Roland went to Stone's Watchmaking School in St. Paul, but somehow could not get interested enough to stick it out. Later, after he was married, he took up music and made a success of it. He had a studio in Chicago, on State Street, for four years.

Mr. Reid also had the buying and building fever. I sometimes objected, as I thought he was going too far, but since we had kept our money separate from the beginning, I could not boss him in that respect. He bought one building after another on Broadway, as he saw a future in Rochester, and he made good at his ventures. One was an old feed store, which he wrecked and built the present Empress Theatre on the site. Before that he bought two lots on the corner which were the old Daily Post and Record, a daily paper. He also bought the adjoining building from the Baihleys, which made three lots in all. On these he built the Metropolitan Theatre. At that time this town had but one theatre, the Grand Opera House, located on the third floor of the old Horton block, the corner where he had

his jewelry store on the first floor, and now the E. A. Knowlton store. The city had long longed for a theatre, on the ground floor, so Dr. Will offered his financial help ... a loan to Mr. R. of all the money he needed at 7% to build the Metropolitan Theatre. Mr. Martin Heffron was the architect, and the building was a great success. All this was in 1902.

On each side of the lobby or entrance to the theatre was a store; the north rented to Mr. Hetzel, the Candyland man; the south side was a shoe store, rented to Mr. Madden, and later to Mr. Vehstadt; the third floor was a hotel. The interior of the Metropolitan had six boxes, each with six seats, on the first floor; the dress circle was the last front half of the parquet; the second floor was the balcony; the third floor, the gallery. The box seats at the opening show sold for \$25.00 a seat, like most of the parquet. The dress circle and the first three front rows in the balcony sold for \$10.00 and \$15.00. These high prices came mostly from the merchants and the upper class, mainly as a donation for the new house.

The opening play at the Metropolitan was "The Chaperones", with Eva Tanquay as the leading lady. Mostly road shows were booked for week stands. Many famous actors and actresses played here during the show season, such as Fisk O'Hara, Walker Whiteside, the Winnegar brothers, Maude Adams, Adalaide Thurston, Grace Hayward, Kathleen Williams, Mariam Davies, and May Robson, Norma Talmadge and many others.

Mr. Reid next purchased the Henry Hynes corner across from the Metropolitan, which he wrecked, and built the Garden Theatre for movies, at the present location of the J. C. Penney store. He purchased another store from L. Hoffman (the present site of Miller's Ready-to-Wear), and built a movie house, called the Majestic. He also bought an old machine shop, a three or four story stone building, which he remodeled into a hotel, called the Commercial Hotel. Across from LeRoy Shane's he built a three-story building, and the third story was leased to the Rochester High School for two years, while the new high school was being built. He sold it before

long as the daily paper concern, which rented the second floor, moved to Main Street; and a Mr. Stuart, who ran a bowling alley on the first floor, had little business, and paid hardly any rent. Gamble Robinson, who was in the fruit business, bought the building.

In the movie business, competition soon popped up. Martin Lawler, the clothing man, started building. He built the Lawler Theatre; then the Bijou, at the head of Broadway; and another, the Grand, located near the present Empress. When business began to drop off, Mr. Reid gave up the Majestic, and rented it to F. W. Woolworth. This was the first chain store in town, and were the other merchants ever mad! Unless I could buy the building, he was inclined to drop it, as he had only a little paid on it, and too many other places to hold on to. And so I bought it from him, indirectly, for \$16,000.00, which was a little more than he had paid. The law said I could not buy directly from him. He first had to sign it over to Lawyer Callagan, and the next five minutes later it could be signed over to me.

After running and managing the show houses for a number of years, he leased them to a Schoneg Micklson and Rosner, and then started looking after his jewelry store more. The late hours of the movie business showed very rapidly on his health. Grandma Reid stayed with us for a week or more at the time after Grandpa Reid had passed away in Elgin. We would sit up until midnight at times and wait for Mr. Reid, then we would all have a cup of tea and cheese and crackers together.

Grandma Reid would do sewing for my boys every day while she was here. She even made suits and coats for the boys that looked like tailor work, as she had been taught perfect sewing in her younger days in England, and was at one time second seamstress for Queen Victoria. Aunt Jane also came over from Elgin frequently and stayed a week. She was perfect at cooking pies and cookies for 'the little dears', as she always called my boys.

Mr. Reid's family were Presbyterians. We would sometimes attend that

church, although he preferred my church, and went there a lot. He also allowed the Salvation Army to hold their meetings at his corner, and he said his most heart religion he owed to them, as he always enjoyed hearing them sing and pray.

When Norman came home for his vacation from the University, he did not care to clerk in the jewelry store. Rather he preferred the open. On two vacations he worked for Dr. Witherstine as chauffeur, and drove his horse when the doctor had calls, or did odd jobs about their home, which he enjoyed.

World War I came along, and Norm had to go to Camp Hancock, in Georgia. He took the flu there and nearly died. (He said the country was way behind in houses, streets, and all, compared to the Middle West. The rail fences looked as though they had stood since the time of Lincoln.) About the time he was ready to be shipped, the war ended. After he was home for a short time, he prepared to return to the University, but before leaving, I wanted a company of friends (his and ours) for a little Sunday farewell party, as he was to leave Monday. Mr. Reid had assisted me in getting things ready, and then went upstairs joking and happy. I stayed up late to get things ready. The next morning Roland, who was working in the Kahler dining room while going to school, stepped in his father's room to compare watch time, then ran along to his job. One of the other boys who had slept with him came down and said Pa would not move. We all hurried upstairs. I sent for Dr. Witherstine, who said he had already been dead for three hours. The most grief of my life and the childrens'. Dr. Witherstine said, "Oh! Such a good man." Later I learned he had been through the clinic, not telling me for fear I would worry. They had told him of his enlarged heart, and that he might or might not go through an operation. They really advised him not to.

The time had now come when there was a great change in my life. I had to be both a father and a mother. Little Don was only three years old.

For a while I gave up the house business to look after all the Broadway property. I hired Christenson for my lawyer, who did very well, realizing the head of the family was gone. Being the administrator, he looked after the interests of the minor children. We had a chance to sell the Commercial to Mr. Schuchard, and

sold it for \$40,000. I received one-third, the boys two-thirds, with Mr. Christenson taking care of the boys' money. Later the Olmsted County Bank took over the guardianship for Arch's and Don's income. They loaned out the extra or idle money the boys would have on hand on good secured loans to get the interest. Many times the bank would have to re-loan the money for different reasons, and so on, until they became of age. The bank was paid a certain sum for their services, which was taken out of the boys' income.

Mr. Reid had owned a bill-posting business, which was sold to Norman at a price he was interested in, and at which he made a success.

One time I was taking a few days vacation in Baraboo, with my niece. When I heard the phone ringing, I was so glad I didn't have to get up to answer it, but it was for me. Rochester wanted me to come home at once, as the Garden Theatre was being destroyed by fire. A Mr. Hymes, in California, still had a \$1,000.00 mortgage on it, and so we had it appraised to sell. However, he wrote later and said he would be glad to let the mortgage if we rebuilt. Well, we were nearly obliged to lose it, as no one had enough money to rebuild. Thinking it was too good a corner to let go, I quickly sold a few houses, and purchased the property myself from the boys. Mr. Crawford was the architect, and drew up plans for the new Penney Building. The third, or top floor, was all put into offices for different professions such as dentists, insurance companies, opticians, real estate, etc. One outside office I had reserved for Norman's use; he was to have free rent for looking after any of my legal business, insurance, and any repairs, such as sidewalks, etc. I usually got all my rentals figured out, ready for the revenue man, Ed Wobschall, to fill in the blanks. Norman was to give him the depreciations of the buildings. He was to also look after my tenants in general on the third floor of the Penney Building. I looked after all of my tenants in other stores or houses, as well as all of the repairs. In addition to this office, Norman was paid \$25.00 a month, out of the Reid Realty funds, for looking after the Empress and Garage, in general. The Metropolitan was closed, because of lack of business, and soon sold,

the same as the Garden. Montgomery Ward built a building on my lot. Later I assigned the Ward building over to the boys. Finkelstein and Reuben came to town, and said they were going into the theatre business in a big way. So the fellows holding the leases of our three houses, the Met being closed, advised us to have them sign over their leases, as they would only lose money trying to run along with the new parties; and so they did. Finkelstein and Reuben built the Chateau Theatre. Later they sold to them. Then is when we decided to sell the Metropolitan and dealt with Wards. Jimmie had finished school and graduated in law at Leland Stanford in California, and was now working for the Government in Washington, D.C. He advised me to sign over to the boys this piece of property, as he had learned that this was the last year the Government was going to allow \$40,000.00 gift tax exemption, for children. Next year it would drop to \$5,000.00. So I did as he directed me. Even at that I had to pay a \$7,000.00 gift tax on top, and provide a health certificate along with the deal.

After the Garden and Metropolitan were disposed of, we cut Norm's monthly pay to \$15.00. He was satisfied and reasonable, as we always got along fine.

Donald attended Shattuck for four years, and later went to Leland Stanford, where he graduated in law.

After the J. C. Penney Co. rented the third, or top floor of that building, for more room, Norman moved his office over the Empress Theatre building, previously occupied by the theatre company for \$30.00 a month. He still occupies it. A Mr. Laabs at one time shared part of this double office, using Archie's desk, etc. It was my impression that Mr. Laabs was allowed this privilege in exchange for assisting Norman in any extra legal work. But to my surprise, later two bills came in from Laabs. In order to keep peace, I paid both of them in Wobschall's office. (This was in 1949). But no more!

I always took care of my own business. Fortunately I was accustomed to this, as even in my early times, when my people moved to town, they too bought and

sold a lot of real estate in the 80's. Mother would always take me along when going to a lawyer's office, (mainly Eckholdt's) to do her legal work. She was very smart in that line. Mr. H. A. Eckholdt once said Mrs. Kruger was better posted in law than some lawyers.

After I was left alone with the boys, I had the barn wrecked in the back of our lot and built a cute two-story bungalow, the green shingle house; also a three story apartment house at 932 Second St., S.W., and next to it a double bungalow at 930; also 801 and 805 on First St., S.W. I remodeled the square house I am living in at present, by adding on a basement, and improved the first and second floor. I sold the corner house, 703, to W. Faber on a contract, after building a double garage on it. I bought, and sold after five years, an apartment house, 716 Seventh Avenue, S.W. It was a very fine building, but I did not make any money on this sale. I lost. I bought one-half of the Stevenson's Store on Broadway, from H. Weber; also the Arlen Shop on Broadway, from A. C. Gooding, as well as the Home Bakery from an outside party.

My husband belonged to the Elks Lodge. I am a member of the WCTU, and also a member of the Eastern Star. My father and mother kept a religious paper, called the Weekly Bolschafter, and church magazines for the girls. He was very much opposed to card playing. There was a little game called Cinch, we girls liked to play for five cents a corner. That he did not like, and in the morning we would find our deck of cards in the wood stove. He never drank, smoked or chewed. Neither did J.E.'s father. So why should my boys ever take to this filthy habit of smoking, etc. His long life" he laid to early to bed, a good noon hour of rest during hard work, no rich food, very little sweets, and most of all 'never worry' it does no good.

This is the end for tonight...