

WE GROW UP



? 1913: DADDY, PETER PEVERLEY, MOTHER, EVELYN, HAZEL ON THE KNEE OF PETER'S FRIEND, JANE WITH NINETTE. (ALFRED BLACKMORE or "TATE" WILLIAMSON)



1916: JANE, HAZEL MARSH, EVELYN, HAZEL, ALMA, GROVER PEVERLEY.



1918: EDITH CHRISTMAS, ? PROF. DALE, ETHEL-MARY CARTWRIGHT, MOTHER, MRS. DALE, GEOFF. + STEPHEN DALE, JANE, EVELYN, ALMA, HAZEL, MARGARET MURRAY (WONHAM). (? PHIL. WARDLEWORTH)



6 JUNE 1918, MOTHER, EDITH CHRISTMAS, EVELYN, ALMA, HAZEL, SCOTTY AND JANE.



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JANE, EVELYN, ? HAZEL, MOTHER, HAZEL, JANE, EVELYN, FREDERICK ELIOT, ALMA, RISGAIL ALMA.



1918: THE UNION JACK AS SUN CURTAIN. ALMA WITH ROSES.



1927 (GABOURT) E. H. A. J.

AIRDALE, WHISKER (?), 7th SEPT. 1924: MOTHER'S 46th BIRTHDAY

on She Breeze Street all the nannies gathered there with their prams and, later, all the children learned to ride their tricycles and, still later, their bicycles.

'Blue Bettle' is what we called the gatekeeper because he wore very thick dark spectacles, and we were allowed into the grounds because Daddy was both on Staff and a member of Corporation of the University. I have a lot of memories of those days such as the time when I was learning to ride a bicycle — I suppose I was 7 or 8 — and ran right into a party of suspicious gentlemen from behind. I couldn't stop. I couldn't even fall off or slow before I hit him. He wasn't at all pleased and I was mortified.

By the autumn of 1927 when I went to McGill we had moved to 655 Grosvenor Avenue and there were benches around as well as the trauma of studying at University level and dealing with a whole new kind of world.

The twins' first school was a ^{*}Kindergarten in a private house in a street nearby, probably Grosvenor Street. This was just after Alma was born — we were four years old and I expect too too many to have around all the time. I can't remember anything about that bit of our life, and I remember very little more about Miss Garsigne's school (later "The Study") where we went with Jane for a couple of years. Daddy was Miss Garsigne's lawyer who advised her about setting up the school and we were among her first pupils. It was said that Jane was made so unhappy there by a vast amount of tearing war our parents decided she must be moved. So we all went to TRAFALGAR including Alma when she was old enough.

All four of us were happy at that. Miss Cumming, the Headmistress, was a Scot from Inverness who looked upon her students as "lifters" or "leaners" and it was well to be a "lifter" because if you were a "leaner" you almost inevitably disliked school. The Howard girls, I

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guess were "lifters" because I remember no time when we weren't paper
after holidays to return and, as we became seniors and prefects and took
on more responsibilities, I, at any rate, couldn't get to school early
enough in the morning. I tore along Shakespeare Street with my books
held in front of me balanced on my tummy (as were everyone else's —
no one would use a school bag —); raced up Simpson Street; arrived breath-
less in the classroom to jabber with friends (No talking in the corridors!)
until the bell rang for the whole school (my memory is that there were
at that time 125 students) to line up on the stairs ready to march
into the gym for morning prayers ("Let the hills resound with song / As we
presently march along / For as of old our Sires were bold / Stout hearts have
we.") Most of the time it was Dorothy Ward — my class — who was playing the
Piano.
I was a mediocre student but lessons didn't bore me and almost always
I had done my homework which lessened my high-temper tendency to be
nervous in class. (Homework was done because the breaking of my father's
rule that was what one did between 4 and 6 every week-day afternoon
and after supper until the work was finished was unthinkable). I loved gym
work and would have liked to take dancing classes but Daddy favored an

* This was Miss Dunlop's kindergarten.

Louis Johnson (6 years younger than I) who was there for two years (we were there for only one) says it was on Stanley Street opposite the Drummond Apartments (where the F.M.G. Johnsons lived at that time.) If this is so either my memory is at fault or Miss Dunlop — and her sister Annie who taught Louis in his second year, moved the school after Evelyn and I left. He remembers the long outside staircase leading to the second storey flat where, in his first year, there was a huge dining-room-type table around which the smaller kids were taught. In the second year there were fewer children and they were in a much smaller room. He also remembers his "fairy princess", Betty Ogilvie, being driven to and from school in a buffalo-robed pony sleigh by a buffalo-hatted groom — with bells!

The only thing I remember is a swinging door — or, two doors — around and about and through which we pranced until the Misses Dunlops' nerves could stand the noise no longer and a halt was called.

Another thing I do remember is that we were not allowed to play in those tempting snow banks on our way to school. This was because the wool pullovers of our Red River outfits collected the snow in great clinging wet balls which were completely impossible to deal with indoors on a short-term basis. The rule was enforced by a very strict Nanny and quite possibly was the cause of our unruly behavior with the swinging doors!

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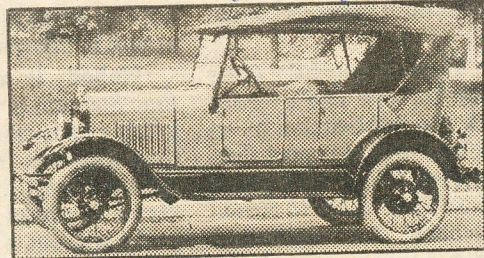
(KATHARINE LAMONT'S BOOK "THE STUDY:
A CHRONICLE" TELLS ALL OR ALMOST)



A NOTE ABOUT CARS

- The first car my father bought was in July 1926. It was a Chevrolet touring car "type 490" with which he had lots of trouble such as being able to negotiate Partington's hill only if he went up it backwards, and axels breaking (again on Partington's hill) and other miseries causing accidents, etc. There's a bulky file all about them here in the black box. It lasted until 1926 or '27.
- In 1927 he bought the "Model T" Ford which stayed in Town for a few months. Jane and Evelyn both drove it but I wasn't allowed to because I was "too reckless". However at the farm I taught myself to do so (at the expense of one gate post which Raymond West quickly mended) and have driven cars ever since.
- The third car was a Buick named "Becky P" because it was bought with profits from selling Quebec Power stock. But this wasn't a farm car: this was bought to take Daddy to and from the Court House and 655 Grosvenor Ave. Evelyn was the chauffeur, but we all used it, even Alma, when it was available.
- The fourth car was mine. I bought her in 1934 or '35 from Duncan Williams when he left Canada (Philip Fisher - my boss - helped me finance the \$400 it cost me). She was a yellow Reo sports car with a rumble seat and her name was "Phillida" ("flew me"). She flouted me into spending quite a lot of money on her but I did sell her in 1937 for \$400!
- But before that Harriet Colby had lent me "Laurielet" her small touring car. This was during her summer holiday in Europe. After that I simply had to have a car of my own.
- P.S. "Becky P" was a "black" 4 door Sedan bought about the same time as the Ford which Evelyn knew as "Her" car.

WE CALLED OURS MIKE



Vintage Ford Model T from 1927.



WHOSE DOC?



JANE'S SOUTH HOME WAS BUILT IN 1923 BY DADDY'S BROTHER - IN-LAW, BERT SOLONAY, FOR HIS MEN WHEN HE WAS BUILDING THE FARM BUILDINGS. UNCLE BERT LIVED IN GANTRY AND WAS A LUBBER MERCHANT, WE GIRLS SHINGLED IT. IT BECAME JANE'S RETREAT. IT WAS HERE ONE SUMMER THAT SHE WROTE HER EPIC POEM (ABOUT WHAT I CAN'T REMEMBER). AND IT WAS HERE TOO THAT SHE USED TO EXPERIMENT IN MENTAL TELEPATHY WITH THE HELP OF THE TWINS.

CORRECTION
- AUG. 1983.

Alma has sent me from England files of our father's containing a letter from Prof. Hancock dated 8th Sept. 1919 in which he tells of their trip back to Virginia and thanks Daddy for the Howard hospital at the Farm. Perhaps they came again but I don't think so. Anyway, Evelyn remembers Mrs Hancock making Harriet's curls by brushing her long hair around a broom handle! [Ears were done on a finger.]



- Aug. 1983.

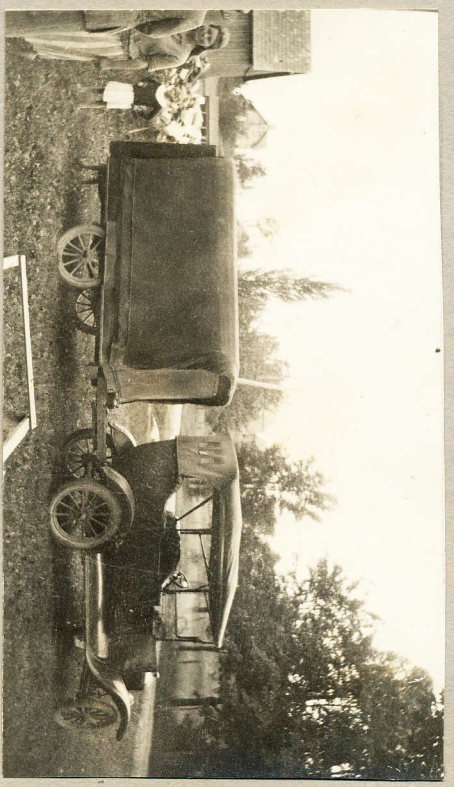
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? IN 1922 PROFESSOR CHARLES HANCOCK, HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTERS HARRIET (WHO HAD THE MOST ENVIABLE RED HAIR) ^{DORA - Lucy} CAME FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTEVILLE, VA. TO SPEND TWO MONTHS CAMPING ON THE FARM. THEY MADE USE OF SOUTH HOME AS WELL AS THEIR TENT.

HARRIET MRS HANCOCK

I THINK 1924 MAY HAVE BEEN A YEAR IN WHICH THERE WAS AN ECLIPSE OF THE SUN AND PROF. HANCOCK WAS ONE OF THE MANY VISITORS TO THE FARM ON THAT OCCASION. (MUST CHECK) NOT SO. - SEE ABOVE - ALSO SEE Pg. 22b.



THE HANCOCK FORD AND TRAILER 1922 JANE



1923 EVELYN, PROF. HANCOCK HARRIET or DORA or Lucy MRS HANCOCK

PROF. CHARLES HANCOCK MECHANICAL ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA