

## Additions to the Fienning Family History 1997

### Stories of 1011 Shared July 1995

Uncle Rudy shared some of his memories growing up at 1011. He helped Grandpa (George Fienning) a lot, especially building things. He had other chores too. He broke up orange crates, started a fire in the furnace, and took out the ashes. He had a paper route. He drove when he was 14. He didn't help in the grocery until he was in high school, and this was during World War II.

Uncle Ed chimed in (from a couple tables over) that when Rudy was a little boy, the other children helped to raise him "rough and ready." At least once, young Rudy got hung on the clothesline.

Rudy noted that Grandpa disliked storms with lightening and thunder. If a particularly bad storm occurred, Grandpa had everyone bring a pillow and gather in the living room. That way, if lightening strikes, "We'll all be together."

Rudy remembers helping with the baking and the house chores also. He helped Grandma bake bread and pies. He has especially fond memories of her Dutch apple pie. It was made with a green, transparent apple which was smaller than a granny Smith apple. (The neighbors had a tree with this kind of apple.) She would put some rhubarb in with the apples to help it "set." And then she would add some "wherewithal", (some wine). She made delicious glazed doughnuts, and she baked lots of Christmas cookies. One of her favorite cookies was a rolled cookie with a mincemeat filling (or sometimes apricot filling). You rolled out the dough, cut a circular piece with the cookie cutter, and put a teaspoon or so of the filling in the middle. Then you folded the dough in half and pressed all around the curved edge with the tines of a fork. Other house chores included straightening the National Geographic magazines in the attic and checking on the sage-like grass in the L-shaped closet in the attic.

Rudy also remembers Ginger, a brown dog, part collie and part German shepherd, who belonged to Uncle Dick but who was sometimes a companion to Rudy, Bob and Ed. Ginger was a watchdog at the grocery. He was tied up at night and given a big bone from the butcher shop. He had his own bed. He was let out during the day. He would never walk up and take something. Once, though, a stranger came into the store, and Ginger nudged him out.

On Sunday, Ginger would walk down to 1011 and play with the boys. On Sunday evening, he would be returned to the store.

Ginger would also accompany the family on weekend hikes and camping trips. They would go to Clear Creek, Cheesman's or Whites' and camp. They had a tent that fit on the side of the car that 2 or 3 could sleep in. Sometimes part of the family would stay at the campsite while the men would go back into town and work at the store.

Rudy remembers that Charles Fienning (Grandpa's older brother) would always stop in at the store and visit. Charles married Elizabeth Klute. (Aunt Mattie married a Klute.) At Christmas time, the George Fienning family would go and visit the Charles Fienning family.

Rudy has fond memories of brother Paul. Paul had Scarlet Fever as a young child which left him unable to hear or speak. He also had polio, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and crippling arthritis. He had to be institutionalized when the family could no longer care for him and as an adult, he lived at the New Castle State Hospital. Paul loved candy, and when a family member went to visit him they would often take a big bag of candy from the store. Dick supplied Paul with candy and food. Paul liked Kellogg's cornflakes too. Paul like to go to Dick's cottage at Wayne Lakes. It had a calming effect on him.

Rudy recalls there was no one to "sign" with Paul. Paul discouraged family members from learning it. He wanted to communicate like others. Often communication involved writing notes back and forth. "He touched me so much," said Rudy.

> OTHER PROVIDED MONEY AT TIMES SO THAT I COULD SHOP FOR BROTHER PAUL AND BUY MAGAZINES, CLOTHING ~~ETC~~ SPECIAL SHOES : ETC

Aunt Esther added some details about life at 1011 as well. She remarked that she never minded doing the dishes. She added this was a good thing because there were lots of dishes and at dishwashing time Edith was often up in the bathroom reading a book. (Edith overheard this and rejoined that she remembers drying dishes when she was 3 or 4 standing on a stool. As the younger children got older, she wanted everyone to have the opportunity.)

Esther remembers the password for the tree house (which was for boys only):

danke de benesco komike flaymor flitzen ali bali gintzen!

Esther remembers her term of service at the grocery. "It was work!" You had to sweep, put up stock, answer the phone, clean the candy case, get up orders, weigh everything: sugar, flour, nutmeg, for example, cookies and crackers (crackers and cookies came in caddies with a lid), , She added that the sugar and flour came in sacks, and you could make things out of them. Esther kept the books after Edith.

She noted that Grandpa allowed customers to charge their groceries. During the depression, many people accumulated sizeable debts. "Grandpa could have retired on what people owed him. He was such a kind-hearted man."