

*Dawn*

WILL SULLIVAN DAVIES Sr.

by his wife

Gladys Krafft Davies

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Once upon a time, so my favorite stories begin, there lived in Dallas, Texas, a very happy family, Mommy, Daddy, and six children, Diane, Frank, Will Jr. Robert, Linda, and Margaret(Peg). As the years went by the children gradually left home to seek their fortunes. They became interested in knowing something of their ancestry and the life of their Father. What type of a person was he? How did he make his living? How did he get to Texas from Illinois?

To each child Will was a different father. The age of each one, the circumstances of events in the world, environments, and physical conditions changed from year to year.

So I, Mommy, will attempt a biography of Daddy, the one and only "True Love" in her life. How much of our personal life together to reveal will depend on reading between the lines.

Most of the notations are from my diaries which I kept during my teens. Knowing that diaries were supposed to be secret, yet, others were known to sneak a peak. I wrote carefully, as one was to "bare" their innermost thoughts to "Dear Diary". I recall that I purposely wrote things for the amusement and amazement of those glimpsing over the pages.

Will Sullivan Davies was born, November 26, 1910, at their home at 1600 S. 1st. Ave. Maywood, Illinois. His weight was 10½ pounds. His parents were Francis Burns Davies and Nora Sullivan Davies. Will was the third of six children. He was Christened and Dedicated at Unity Universalist Church in Oak Park, Illinois, in June, 1914.

Father Davies had established the Davies Realty Shop in Maywood when he first arrived there in 1899. Will's brothers, Frank and John, took it over after their father died. Now in 1962, Frank's son, Dana, and John's son, John III, are keeping the Davies Realty Shop in existence.

"Willy", as he was nicknamed by his family, was educated in the Maywood Schools and graduated from Proviso High School. His favorite subject, in which he excelled, was Math. After high school he worked at the Diamond T truck company during the day and attended night school at Lewis Institute Junior College in Chicago.

Work became slack at the truck company and Will then worked at the Public Service Utilities Co. He then took night courses at the YMCA. His pay check was given to his father

who invested part of it in the real estate business. Spending money for dates and extras was doled out as needed. Depression days had finally hit the Chicago area. Later, I was told, the Realty Shop lost several houses and stores as they couldn't make the payments. -

I met Will, age 20, at Unity Universalist Church in Oak Park, Illinois. The architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, named it Unity Temple. It is now a National Landmark. My father became interested in the church when Dr. Densan was named the new minister. Dr. Densan had broken away from the Baptist denomination and started a small group of liberal thinkers. My dad asked me to join him and mother at a Sunday service. It was during the service that I noticed a tall good-looking young man in a blue pin striped suit. He was sitting in an adjoining balcony with a group of six other young people. Our eyes met several times and I felt a blush creeping over my face. My heart began to beat faster. I was 16 and just started to date. My dad wasn't too pleased with my choice of dates and suggested that I get to know the tall Davies boy. To spite my dad and to show him that his opinion could be wrong, I decided to try to meet the tall Davies boy. I got up some nerve to attend the YPCU (Young Peoples Christian Union) meeting on Sunday evening. -

On January 11, 1931, I attended my first meeting and was invited to go to the Chicago Opera with a group the following week. The Public Service Co. had purchased a block of tickets for their employees to attend a performance of "Don Giovanni". On the 18th, a carload of Davies, plus me, attended the Opera. This could be considered our first date as Will asked me to sit next to him.

During the next month I attended several YPCU meetings. After a meeting at church, a social time was held at various homes. One evening I invited the group over to my father's studio, which was in the rear of our yard. We danced, talked and played games. Will presented me with a card that read, "Good for One Kiss". I made use of it and handed it to him. We alternated the use of the card for the rest of the evening.

It was my custom to say, "Goodnight," to my mother before I went to bed. She retired early and was awake when I climbed the stairs. I gave her a report of the evening's activities. This was my confession time and I named her my "confessorass". On this particular evening she said she could tell something unusual had occurred as my eyes sparkled and expressed my feelings of excitement.

As Will worked days and attended night school, his daily schedule and mine were opposite. Father Davies had no set time for leaving work. Their evening meal was anywhere from 7 to 9 P.M. My dates with Will were anytime he arrived- 9 to 11P.M. At my home we ate dinner about 4P.M. Many nights I walked to a local movie house by 6 P.M. Price was 10¢. I was home before my date arrived. A few times I managed two dates in one night.

Our relationship at first was not very friendly. We were very sarcastic to each other. Both of us tried to outdo the other with smart remarks. This kept us busy thinking up nasty things to say. My mother asked me if we were ever civil to each other.

By April we were together once or twice a week. The first time we went on a double date was to a ballroom, the Melody Inn. "Star Dust" was the popular song at the time and for the rest of our time together we considered it "our" song.

I noted in my diary, "Will is just as bad as the rest of the guys. Every Sunday night he fools around with a different girl. Guess I am just as bad for I am seeing other boys to make Will jealous."

I don't know if there is a record for the number of miles one kiss was held. I would like to submit a distance of thirty miles for one kiss. One Sunday evening four of us attended a YPCU meeting in Joliet. Will and I sat in the back seat of the car and held the kiss the entire distance.

In June, Mother, Dad, Will and I met Mr. and Mrs. Grunwald, Marianne, and her friend, Jimmie, at a small country hotel in Grand DeTour, which is 90 miles northwest of Oak Park. The Colonial Inn was a favorite place of my Dad's. Our family often stayed there while Dad painted scenery along the Rock River. Jokingly, Will signed the guest register at the Inn as Mr. and Mrs. Will Davies.

Marianne and I, Will and Jimmie were assigned rooms across the hall from each other. Our parents had rooms in another wing as those rooms were larger and more elegant. We all had a memorable weekend.

At the next YPCU meeting, Will and I called each other Nubby and Wifey. If our friends didn't believe it they could look at the register at the Inn.

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Will and his brother, John, were in the National Guard Band. In August they went to camp for two weeks in Rockford. Dick and Russ Harrington, Jessie, Helen Mahr and I drove to Rockford in an old vintage touring car, about 1917 model, just to see the boys at camp. Unfortunately we drove off the campgrounds and returned after Taps had sounded. We didn't know what the punishment would be if Will and John were not in bed. Somehow the jalopy smuck in amongst the tents, John and Will jumped from the car and got into their cots before bed check.

The car broke down on the return to Oak Park. It was in the middle of the night and no garage was open. My father was furious with worry of me being out all night. Someone was to have relayed the message to him that we had car problems. Dad did not receive the call. Perhaps it was because he was on the phone calling all the hospitals from Rockford to Oak Park. I arrived home about 10 A.M., dead tired, was severely reprimanded and grounded for a few weeks.

Will was unpredictable about his feelings towards me. Perhaps he didn't want to be tied down to one person as he had hopes of furthering his education. Aviation interested him and he had a desire to go to Randolph Field of Kelly Field, "the West Point of the Air". Married men were not allowed. San Antonio, Texas, was far from Illinois.

The night before my 17th birthday, he came over to deliver 17 big kisses. But he had a date with another girl the next night. He later apologized and said "so many nice things", which I tried to believe. At times I was so irritated and mad at him that he refused to go home until we made up. I wasn't too sure about our feelings for each other. He was a very serious young man at times. He said I was a good influence on him. I got him out of his moods with my silliness. My pet name for him was "You Big Bum", because of his actions. He retaliated by calling me "my little bum". We kept these pet names all our married life.

In the spring of 1932 we were together most every day. He was unemployed and went out with me to sell paintings for dad. I graduated from high school and Will attended several activities with me.

The National Guard held their yearly camp in Pensacola, Florida, in August. Will spent a few hours of his leisure time on a fishing pier in the Gulf. When I picked him up at the Armory upon his return, he was accompanied by a skeleton of a shark's jaw-bone and teeth. He was so proud! He had caught the shark and brought the carcass home as a souvenir. Eventually maggots got into the skeleton and it was buried in the yard to get rid of the odor. Too bad I could not have buried my father's car, too.

Will was Vice-president of the Illinois State YPCU and

editor of the state newsletter. In the fall he was busy making arrangements for the State Convention that was held in Peoria.

1933 went fast. Mom and Dad sold the Round Table Tea Room in Oak Park which we owned for four years. I was invited to play the Viola with the Oak Park Symphony Orchestra. We performed on Oak Park Day at the Chicago World's Fair. Will and I were trying to sell paintings. If we were successful Will was given a commission.

Uncle John Davies lived with the Davies family. He was a teacher in a Chicago high school for many years. During the Depression the Chicago teachers were paid in script. The Board of Education did not have the cash at the time and issued script money as a type of IOU. Will's sister, Catherine, was a teacher in the Maywood schools. Her salary kept the family afloat.

Uncle John and Father Davies decided that Will and brother, John, should have a college education as long as they were unemployed. In September they left for the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, a long 125 miles from me. They lived in one room over a group of stores, cooked on an electric plate, and washed dishes in a bathroom which was shared with other students.

In early July, Catherine, Nora, Jess, Will and I left Maywood to attend a National YPCU Convention in New Jersey. When we arrived at relatives in Pittsburgh, a telegram awaited us to return home immediately. We drove all night and next day. Father Davies had died. He had walked to a store and when he didn't return he was found unconscious in the alley. It was a great shock to all. Father Davies and I had been good friends.

Will and John returned to the University in the fall. However they joined different fraternities. Will pledged Theta Xi. John was a Music major and played trombone in the Illini Band. Will was a Mechanical Engineering Major as the University did not have an Aeronautical school at the time.

After the Holiday season passed by, I did not receive a letter. I was peeved at Will for not writing me. I heard that he was dating a girl in Urbana. I knew her as one of the YPCU members. John was home for a weekend. I gave him Will's high school ring to return to Will. I had decided to go out with someone else instead of staying home waiting. My father said, "Out of sight, out of mind." I dated Ed, the Urbana girl's boyfriend in Chicago.

January, February, March and half of April passed with no word. On April, Dottie phoned me to say that Will was home from college due to a nervous breakdown. I wondered how long it would be before he called me. On the 17th, Morabelle said Will had inquired about me. About 9 P.M. on the 19th, Will walked in the front door. No word that he was coming over to see me. It took a lot of courage for him to come in. He said he had no idea how I would treat him. We had a long talk. He looked terrible and was very nervous. The doctor at the University had asked him if he had had any problems with his girl friend. He recommended Will return home and straighten out his love affair. I accepted his high ring again.

The next night he came over and proposed marriage. He surprised me when he presented me with his fraternity pin. He seemed so happy and relieved when I accepted his. His entire appearance changed.

The following day was Easter. He surprised me again when he called for me to take me to church. He also presented me with a gardenia corsage. He bought a box of cigars for the announcement. Later in May, I attended a Formal Dance at the Theta Xi house and was serenaded by the whole fraternity singing the traditional song when a brother member "pins" his girl. It was a thrilling weekend.

In the fall he was back at college. Several weekends he hitched a ride to Oak Park and stayed at our home. He wanted to be married but also finish college. If the college found out that he was married during the semester he would be expelled.

Onnight he thought of us being secretly married. He would come home, get a license and next day be wed. The first weekend he was able to come home, it was too late to get a license. City Hall was closed.

March 27, 1936 Will did arrive in Chicago in time to get a license. Saturday morning we went to a jewelry store and bought a wedding ring for \$3.50. It was to be a temporary one, but for sentimental reasons I could never part with it. We made arrangements with Dr. Frank Adams of Unity Church to marry us that evening. I phoned my dearest friend, Margaret McHugh(Weissenborn) to be our witness. At 9 P.M. on March 28 we said our "I do's" at Dr. Adams home and were secretly married. The bride wore a black satin dress.



In the summer Will transferred to the Aeronautical University in Chicago. For some reason I stopped writing in my diary at this time. Now I had someone I could talk to in person. Uncle John was assisting financially in Will's tuition. As our marriage was still a secret Will was living at home. I have no idea as to his mother's thoughts as to why Will was not at home every night.

My mother later told me that she remembered the night we were married as I was extra bubbly and excited when I kissed her good-night.

The following February I became pregnant. Will did not have the courage to tell his mother he was married and was to be a father. His brothers and sisters knew. Someone had seen the Church's records of marriages. Diane was born Nov. 21, 1937. Mother Davies was finally told by her son that she was a grandmother and she visited me in the hospital. She never mentioned our secret marriage.

My first night out was to Will's graduation in Jan. 1938. His first employment was with Northwest Airlines at their overhaul base in St. Paul, Minnesota. He worked as a mechanic on the Lockheed passenger planes. After a few paychecks, Will found a small apartment and Diane and I moved to St. Paul. The one-room apartment was a sleeping, eating, and a living room. A foldaway bed was let down at night. Diane's crib fit into the eating area next to the kitchen. We lived there for a few months and then moved to a house which we shared with the widow-owner.

My father passed away in October and Diane and I flew back to Oak Park. Working for the airline Will and I did not pay for passage, just space available. The plane held ten passengers, one seat on each side of the aisle. On one flight Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of President F.D.R. was also a passenger. While waiting at the airport before loading, a newspaper photographer requested a photo be taken with Diane, Mrs. Roosevelt and I. Diane has the newspaper clipping and Mrs. Roosevelt's autograph.

In the spring of 1939, Will lost his job. He was told that it was a favor for him as he was over-qualified for the work he was doing, and he should seek an engineering position. As long as he was employed at Northwest he wouldn't look elsewhere for another job.

We returned to Oak Park. We mapped out a route to various aircraft companies within the United States and packed the car. A tent, ice chest, stove, food and change of clothing was put into a large box on the back bumper of a 34 Dodge, and Diane, Will and PG Me started East on a big adventure. We thought we had enough money to visit the eastern companies and then drive to California, sell the car, if necessary, and bus back to Oak Park.

Our first stop was Detroit where was spent a few days with Marjorie and Arnold Adams, Will's cousins. During the day Will called on various manufacturers.

Second stop was around Buffalo, N.Y. area. Here we pitched a tent on some ones farm and stayed several days. It was hard keeping Diane happy in and around the tent. I had no camping experience, no running water, no electricity, and nothing to do. Will was in town all day contacting aircraft companies.

We then drove across New York to East Hartford, Conn. We were informed that Chance Vought had just moved to Stratford, Conn., sixty miles south. We arrived there too late on a Friday and the plant was closed on Saturday. Chance Vought had merged with Sikorsky to form the company Vought-Sikorsky. Igor Sikorsky was the first builder of helicopters. The company was also building "flying boats".

We drove on to Long Island. Marshall and Ruth Davies, Will's cousins, invited us to stay with them. Will interviewed at several places on Monday and then we returned to Stratford. It was getting dark when we arrived there. We inquired at a gas station where we could camp for the night. A vague area was pointed out and we pitched our tent. Next morning we discovered we were on the south side of the airport runway, in a swampy spot that flooded during high tides. We were fortunate that we didn't get stuck in the mud. Later we did learn that it was illegal to camp anywhere in that town.

We packed our gear, stopped at the Municipal Building so Will could shave, dress and be presentable to apply for a job. Diane and I stayed in the car while Will was interviewed. He was offered a position in the Engineering Department and was to start work in two weeks.

As we had time to look for other positions, we drove to Washington, D.C. and spent a few days with Will's uncle.

Aircraft companies near Washington and in Maryland were contacted.

We drove back to Illinois, unloaded and returned borrowed camping gear, reloaded with household necessities, and returned to Stratford. We rented four rooms in the rear of a 1776 house on S. Main Street. The rest of the house was made into sleeping rooms to be rented. One bathroom upstairs served all. We had a living room with a small bedroom off to one side. The eating and kitchen was in a lean-to addition of the house.

The flooring had the original wide planks. The fireplace had an oven on one side of the opening. The water heater which was in the basement was not automatic. In order to have hot water one had to go outside, down the trap-door steps, and light the heater which was on the dirt or muddy floor. It had to be constantly turned on and off if one needed hot water. I found it more convenient to heat most of my water on the kitchen stove.

John Ropes, Frank Richardson, and Henry Triana, all new engineers at Vought-Sikorsky, rented the sleeping rooms and boarded with us. I was not an experienced cook but we all gained financially.

Six months later, we moved to a larger flat in a house belonging to the Chief of Police. John and Frank moved along with us. Will's starting salary was \$27.50 a week. Our first budget may be of interest- Rent \$30; Food \$60; Car \$4.50; Insurance \$4.50; Utilities \$9; Misc.\$4.50. Fortunately, overtime pay helped a great deal to buy clothes and essentials.

Son Frank was born in November, 1939. Jessie flew from Maywood to assist me in caring for two little ones and five big ones.

In the late '40's we rented a house at 38 Cleveland, in Devon. The owner lived on Long Island and once a month she drove to Devon to collect the \$40 rent. She decided to sell the house. For us it was a question of buying or looking for another place to rent. Davies Realty assisted us in the down payment of \$750. Total price of the house was \$4500. We had four bedrooms upstairs, kitchen, dining room, living room, sunporch, attic, and full basement. The dining room was turned into a playroom for the children.

The walls were lined with bookcases for toys, two large blackboards were hung and two double desks were built in under the two windows.

Will Jr. (Chip) arrived in April, 1941. Grandmother Krafft flew east to take care of all of us. I stayed in the hospital for three weeks (two weeks was normal) to take advantage of a good long rest.

In December of that year, Pearl Harbor was attacked and World War II began. All manufacturers soon geared up for the war effort. Automobile factories made tanks, planes and munitions. Vought went on overtime. Will worked until dawn a few nights. Gasoline was rationed. A, B, C stickers were issued to be placed on car windshields. The letters signified the use of gas. If an employee lived miles from work he was allowed more gas than those living closer. We lived less than five miles from Vought and did not have extra to drive around.

Cigarettes were hard to find as the service men were supplied first. We rolled our own when necessary. Canned goods were rationed. They could only be purchased with "points". Each person was allowed so many points a month and it was up to the buyer as to how to use them. Example- canned peaches 14 points, pears 16, apricots 8, plums 10, soups 6, vegetables 8-16. Our family did fine as we had 5-6 books during that time.

Butter was handled "under the counter" to good customers. If a market had a delivery, the news soon spread thru the neighborhood. Milk had cream on the top in those days before homogenization. It was a daily chore for the children to pour the cream out of the bottle into a jar and shake and shake and shake until it turned to butter.

Connecticut, being on the shores of Long Island Sound, could be seen for miles at night due to the glow of lights from the cities. During the war the coastal gates had dim-outs or black-outs. Every night was a dim-out. No street lights were turned on, black paper was placed over the upper half of car headlights, and black window shades were pulled down to cut the amount of light visible.

The long wail of screeching sirens from our local fire station was a signal for a black out. Traffic did not move. All lights were extinguished. Block air raid wardens

checked all houses for lights. A blackout was always a surprise, and lasted 15 to 30 minutes long. In order to keep the children from being frightened we sat on the floor, sang, played games, or tried to read books by a covered flashlight. The "all clear" sirens were a great relief.

In September of '42 Will was assigned as Vought representative at Goodyear Rubber Co. in Akron, Ohio. Goodyear was building Corsairs. Will was to be gone for a month or two. By Christmas I was going crazy being alone with three small children and I was pregnant again! Will had the car and I had to depend on friends for urgent transportation. Luckily there was a grocery store a block away and I used the children's wagon to tote home the boxes of groceries.

Will drove to Devon for Christmas and all of us returned to Akron for a New Years Eve Party at the hotel where Will was living. We enjoyed the luxury of hotel living, and eating in the Dining Room three meals a day. The children and I then went by train to Chicago to spend a few weeks with my mother and grandmother.

In February, I had a scare when the placenta separated and the doctor said the baby could be born at any time if I did not keep off my feet. Will drove from Ohio to Chicago, picked us up and drove us to Devon. Then he returned to Akron. I did not want to have the baby in Chicago as all the essential baby things was at home. March and April crept by and Will could not set a date for his return. I was a nervous, worried individual. Will drove into the driveway two days before Robert (Bob) was born April 20, 1943.

The next few years were more or less routine. The war was over. Will purchased a 16 ft. Comet Class sailboat. This was his favorite recreation. He studied the art of racing and joined the Windjammer Sailing Club. Every Saturday and Sunday from March until October Will was sailing. Our club met with other yacht clubs on the Sound. Races were handicapped events which meant sailboats of various sizes were eligible to enter.

It required two people in our boat "The Arrow", to race. One handled the mainsail and rudder, that was the skipper's job. The crew trimmed the jib sail and assisted the skipper. I would be his crew if needed. It was hard to find a babysitter for an unknown number of hours. I couldn't relax enough to fully enjoy racing. The wind was known to stop blowing about dusk and it could be so calm that the boat was

dead in the water. We were towed into the harbor quite a few times.

The children and I had the task of sanding and re-finishing the hull every spring. The barnacles were scraped off several times a year. It was a chore to keep the Arrow in tiptop racing condition. For Will, the love of the sport of sailing and racing on the open waters gave him an opportunity to forget his problems. He was able to steer his own course through calm or choppy seas.

Rumors began circulating thru the plant and town that Chance Vought might be moving again. It was denied. Rumors persisted. A neighbor, who worked at Vought, spent a few days in Dallas, Texas, looking over a plant that had been used during the war. A Bridgeport newspaper wrote that there was no truth to the story of a move being contemplated.

In the spring of 1948 it was announced that the largest industrial move by a company would take place. Over 1500 personnel would be relocated from Stratford to Dallas. This involved over 1000 married men with families. Some refused to move, others returned east after one summer in Dallas.

Literature of all kinds were mailed by the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. Comparative living expenses between the two cities were compiled giving the costs of food, utilities, clothing and taxes. An example was- a family of five in a three bedroom house could budget \$312 a month in Dallas compared to \$355 in Bridgeport.

The Davies Family held a conference as to whether to move or stay in Devon. Diane was 11, Frank 9, Chip 7, and Bob 5, and all inschool. It sounded so exciting. Cowboys, horses, ranches, and everything Western! We voted to make the move. However, as I was pregnant again, the move had to be postponed until later in the year. The anticipated date was late November.

Plans had to be coordinated. We had to sell the house, boat, and get another car. We had a '39 Mercury, dubbed by friends as "The Green Hornet". I had to decide what to pack for the moving van for long time storage, and what to bring with us in the car. We would be on the road for over a week plus the time it would take to find a house in Dallas so that our goods could be delivered. Packing for four children plus a baby, plus 2 adults in one car trunk was considered when buying a car. When the war ended the car manufacturers were slowly returning to making autos. As no new ones were

made for several years cars were scarce and demand was high. We decided on buying a 1948 Hudson and put down a deposit of \$50. The dealer would contact us when one was available. In October we were offered a demonstrator. We paid them \$2561 plus the 8 year old green Mercury.

Linda was born November 7, 1948. A definite date could be set for the move. Chance Vought allowed the following transportation and relocating expenses; 1,687 miles @ 7¢ per mile = \$118.09; each adult and child over 6 \$7 day; under 6 \$5 day. Travel time of 7 days allowed. Subsistence allowances in Dallas for up to 30 days- Each adult and child over 12 \$5 per day; child 6-12 \$3; under 6 \$2 per day. This was one time that it was advantageous to have a large family.

Moving day finally came. The packers spent two days packing everything except our suitcases which we had hidden and the sleds buried in the snow. Ashtrays with butts and ashes were packed. Some friends even found lost garbage wrapped when they unpacked. All foodstuffs were taken except a few things I managed to sneak out for the trip.

The date set for the moving was the 20th of December. On the 18th it started to snow. On the 19th it snowed. On the 20th it snowed for a total of 26 inches. The huge Mayflower Van could not manuever the streets. The snow plows could not keep up with the snow. Our plans were to spend Christmas with our mothers in Illinois. When the van did get thru, it was about 3 p.m. when the movers finished loading. We packed our car, gave our neighbor, Mrs. Klose, the keys and asked her to please clean up the house.

We drove as far as New Jersey the first night due to bad road conditions. Next morning we purchased new tire chains and drove on to Chicago. After spending a few days visiting relatives we left for the wide open spaces of Texas. It started to snow and the further south we drove the weather became worse. After St. Louis we proceeded an ice storm to Dallas. Chance Vought made reservations for us at the Grande Lodge on Zang Blvd. Next day ice covered everything. On New Years Eve, Ray and Alice Elliott had a party. Will and I took baby Linda with us and left Diane in charge of the others in the motel room. When we returned the room was over 100 degrees. Diane did not know how to turn off the floor furnace. I had second thoughts about leaving the children alone again.

The accommodations at the motel were a bit cramped and we were relocated at the Y (Double Y) Ranch in Arlin-

gton. Several families were staying there. We had one-half of the bunk house which consisted of one large room. Two sets of bunk beds, one double bed, a crib and a seating area filled the room. A common space between the two halves of the house was facilities for several bathrooms. All meals were served in the main house, buffet style. In the basement was a recreation room with a bar and television set. I had not viewed a TV before then. One neighbor in Connecticut had a set and Diane and Frank had watched a children's program from New York. WRAP Channel 5 was the only station on the air and broadcasted from 6 to 10 p.m. Several nights after the children were asleep, Will and I walked the few yards to the main house for a nightcap, TV, and to meet other Yankees.

Diane, Frank, and Chip entered a local two-room school. They walked across an open field, up and over a fence stile and were at school. Grades one to four were in one room and five thru eight in the other. Diane and Frank especially enjoyed the experience. Chip was a little young to appreciate a country school "schoolhouse".

During the day, Will, Bob, Linda and I went with a real estate salesman, hired by Chance Vought, to look for a house. Most of the three bedroom homes had been purchased by those moving to Dallas earlier. What was available seemed too expensive for us to buy.

The house in Connecticut sold for \$8000. We had about \$4000 for a down payment. Time was running out on the subsistence period of thirty days and we were still living out of suitcases. Will, also, was expected at Vought. The decision to buy a two-bedroom house at 1630 Elmwood Blvd. was made with the idea of buying a larger house in a few years.

Late in January, 1949, the papers were signed at a price of \$13,000. The next day the owners moved out and the following day we moved in. Ice and snow were still with us. The only heat was in the bathroom. Two month old Linda and I stayed there while the van unloaded. We returned to the YF Ranch for the last time. Next morning we packed our belongings, the children, said our farewells and drove to our new home in Dallas. The stove, refrigerator, and a borrowed space heater was hooked up, some boxes unpacked, groceries purchased and we were all set to begin living Western Style.

One of the first purchases was a set of bunk beds. Frank and Diane used them in the breezeway which had no heat and just outside blinds, jalousies. One night it was below zero but they survived. The Dallas Chamber of Commerce



did not tell us that it ever got that cold nor that we could expect one or two ice or snow storms a year.

Shortly after moving in, we had a landscaping problem. The alley was paved and the fill dumped next to the pavement was broken concrete and large stones. We made the decision to make raised flower beds and level off the portion of the backyard as a play area. The soil consisted of rock shale that had to be broken up and carted away. A sledge hammer and iron bar was used to chisel and brake up the solid rock. When the boys were unruly and needed punishment they were sent to the "rockpile".

School years were interesting for all. We discovered that the Dallas schools were at least a year behind the Devon School. Diane and Frank were bussed to Reagan School as Henderson was overcrowded. Later an addition and portables were not sufficient for the great growth of Elmwood and North Wynnewood.

Three houses were west of the creek between Elmwood, Hampton, Illinois and Rugged Cr. Elmwood was a dirt road from the creek west. Clearview Airport was at the southeast corner of Hanson and Illinois. Ferndale from our corner to Edgefield was just paved and it was barricaded when we moved in. As we could not use the driveway the car had to be parked in front of the house for a week or so.

The Fifties and Sixties held many changes. As Diane wanted a baby sister, Linda also wanted one. Margaret (Peggy) was born September 21, 1953. Daddy Will was at home asleep when Dr. Brown phoned to tell the news. Diane answered the phone and relayed the message to the family. Dr. Brown was very surprised that Will was not at the hospital. It did not surprise me as he always managed to sleep when I was in the delivery room during the night hours.

We were married for 37 years and dated for 5 years, yet I felt that I really never knew him. He was unpredictable. He liked to argue and would often take one side of a discussion in order to keep the conversation going. If I said something was black, he tried to prove it white. When he was asked for permission to go somewhere or do something his reply was "I'll see." Will could not say, "yes" or "no". He wouldn't commit himself.

Before we were married and attended church together, the minister extended the usual invitation to those who wished to join the church to come forward. It was embarrassing for all when the minister beckoned for Will to come

forward. This continued for many years. Father Davies was very active in the church. All the other brothers and sisters and I had joined. Mother Davies was Catholic reared. This created a family problem, as Father Davies confessed to me. Will and I never had an exchange of thoughts or discussion on his beliefs. He was Christened as an Universalist, attended Sunday School and Church every week, an officer of the YPCU, but would not join as a member.

Father Davies and his brother, Uncle John, enjoyed washing supper dishes. It was a form of relaxation to them, Uncle John said. Will did not like to see the men of the house doing female chores. During our marriage he refused to do dishes or housework. He did complain a few times that the house looked like a pig-pen but he never helped picking up the toys or cleaning. He knew his obsession was detrimental and he did insist his own boys share the dishwashing and household chores with the girls.

Rather than give an allowance to the children, they earned money by doing their chores, the more they did, the more they earned. Fines were given for not making their bed and for leaving clothes on the floor.

Will loved his children but it was hard for him to express his true feelings. He believed "actions speak louder than words". He rarely gave compliments. He had great patience in helping the children the children help themselves. Math problems were put on the blackboard in the kitchen and with a bit of logic and questions the math was solved. It amazed me to watch the mental process at work. He tried to teach by letting them figure out the answer, I was the one who spoiled things by pitching in physically to help.

Will was the parent who checked them at night, who got up first to aid them at night if they were sick. He rubbed their backs and as "Doctor Davies" he took care of cuts and bruises.

After baths, one at a time they wrapped themselves in a very large towel and crawled to Daddy with the towel covering their head. On hands and knees they imitated a dog and barked, "woof-woof". The towel became known as the woo-woo towel. After drying them and putting on their pajamas, it was Daddy's job to cut toenails and fingernails.

We had two favorite sayings in the household. When someone asked what to do with or where to put away an object he would say, "Put it in your back pocket". This meant you should know where it belongs, so why ask.

One day, somebody put a glass jar containing paint in the vise on the workbench and tightened it up so that the jar broke. Paint squirted out and leaked all over the vise. It was a mess to clean up. No one admitted to doing it. I had just read a story titled, "The Little Man Who Wasn't There". The family decided that the culprit must of been the little man that wasn't there. From then on he got the blame for anything that was unexplainable.

Will liked sports. Softball, golf, bowling, sailing, duplicate bridge were teams in which he participated. His card sense was remarkable. He usually was the winner in poker, bridge, hearts, and other games. His favorite golf caddy was either one of his sons.

Will had the ingenuity to make things work. He somehow managed to substitute or make a part. The stone walls on the property were built by him without cement to hold them together. He preferred the rustic look.

We made the plans for the cabinets in the den. We searched hardware stores and catalogues looking for invisible hinges. Not finding any hinges on the market he designed them and I made them.

Will and I had a few disagreements. He couldn't be rushed. He was a bit stubborn and wanted things done his way. He deliberated and thought through with his plans. I was the anxious one to get things done and to stop worrying about it.

One argument was over the purchase of our first TV. We had one on approval from a local music store for a trial period. Will would not say yes or no about buying it. The salesman called most every day. Two weeks became four and then six and still no definite answer. Rather than giving up my only form of recreation, I signed the papers to purchase it for \$319.15 in easy monthly installments. Will blew his top, very angry to think I would buy anything without his approval. Shortly before he died, we talked about old times. I asked him why he had been so upset. His reply was that he thought his job was in jeopardy and he didn't want to take on any extra debts.

He worried about finances. He was concerned that his income would not be sufficient to put six children thru college. It was understood that they all were to go to college. The cost would be shared by working during the summer or part time during the year. Diane received some scholarships and lived in a co-op house on campus. She was employed part time in the library. Frank assisted a TV repairman during the summer and as a TV cameraman in Lubbock. Chip and Bob worked as city lifeguards. Chip also received a cash scholarship. Linda and Peg worked part time while attending college.

I tried to ease Will's money worries by telling him that to me money wasn't everthing in life. Somehow I felt I could manage if anything happened to him. Happiness was more important to me.

The first sign that Will's health was not up to par was in 1963. We drove to Washington to visit Jessie and Al Tupper. Will became ill as we drove into Yellowstone Park. After a few days at Old Faithful Inn we drove on. By the time we got to Jessie's he felt weak, huffed and puffed and had no enery.

The next spring he complained about having difficulties climbing stairs at work. His lungs were x-rayed. A specialist was called in to read the x-rays as the lungs showed up black. Dr. Brown did not seem to be concerned. We drove to Chicago and stayed with John and Dottie. I took Linda and Peggy sightseeing around the Windy City. Will rested at the house. He had no ambition and was not his normal self.

The following summer we spent our vacation in Colorado Springs. The motel room was near Pikes Peak. Peggy<sup>LN</sup> and I took the cog train ride to the top. Will refused to join us. We swam in the pool. Will did not and remained in the room.

I mention these few incidents as they were warnings that something was going wrong. Will would not return to our doctor willingly. Vacation time was the only time I saw him for 24 hours a day. I did not know what happened during the time he was at work.

On New Years Eve, 1967, both of us came down with the flu. We huddled in blankets while watching the football games. After I went to bed, Will could not breathe and

called for Linda who was home for the holidays. She phoned Dr. Brown who ordered him to the hospital. I, evidently, had a high fever and Linda tried to awaken me. In a stupor, all I recall saying was, "OK Bye". I went back to sleep.

It was several days before the doctors diagnosed his condition as "Emphysema", a strange word at the time. He was forced to retire by "ought" due to disability. It took away some of the incentive to get well. He was hospitalized later in the year but did not improve. We suspected that the doctors were experimenting. In 1972, he was back again in the hospital. Valium and other sedatives gave him hallucinations. He saw things on the ceiling. Someone stayed with him 24 hours a day. Will had me tell the doctor that he believed in euthanasia and he didn't want the doctor to prolong his life.

The doctor told the family to get our affairs in order. Six months was the prognosis. We were allowed to bring him home to make him more comfortable. I stopped giving him valium when I noted he was more alert without it. He had to be assisted around the house. He was on oxygen continuously. The day before he died he had periods of comas. I asked Bob to spend the night. During the night I noticed a brown fluid drooling from Will's mouth. At dawn I called the ambulance to take him to the hospital as Will wanted his eyes donated to the Eye Bank, and to allow an autopsy if the doctors could increase their knowledge of lung diseases. He passed away about an hour after he arrived at the hospital and never regained consciousness.

After eight years I still miss him. I am thankful for the many things he taught me. He was a good father and faithful husband. He could be hard at times and stubborn. He looked stern and dignified but could also be a pussy-cat. Perhaps the differences in our personalities was the reason we raised six wonderful children.

My mother gave my dad a ruby ring when they were married in 1907. My dad gave it to me for Will to wear in 1936. I removed it, lovingly from Will's finger before his last trip to the hospital. I wear it on my travels. I have a feeling that Will and my Father are watching over me.

Aeronautical Engineering positions while employed at Chance Vought Corporation.

Will began his employment in June, 1939. Vought-Sikorsky had just moved from Hartford, Connecticut, to the shores of the Housatonic River in Stratford, a suburb of Bridgeport. His starting salary was \$110 a month.

During the thirty years his work was confidential or top secret. When he was asked as to what he was working on, his reply was, "It's a military secret".

The following information was compiled from notes and does not include everything. The initials used stand for-

- S- Scout, plane which searches for the enemy
- B- Bomber, Plane capable of carrying a few bombs
- X- Experimental, not yet in production
- U- Designation by Navy for Vought
- P- Photographic plane, Camera installed in fuselage
- O- Observation plane
- T- Torpedo plane
- F- Fighter plane

Numbers signifies different versions of a plane.

The first job Will was assigned to was the development of the gull shape wing of the first Corsair, XP4U-1

- 1940 Senior designer of fuselage redesign on SB2C-1 OS 23-1 Equipment design  
F4U-1, 1P-3, 1P-4, F4U-2N night fighter  
F4U-3, High altitude
- 1941 Armament for Corsair. Chest protection of lead plate for pilot  
First bullet proof glass
- 1942 TB-1 Fuselage  
Engineering Representative at Goodyear in Akron, Ohio, as consultant on FG-1, name of Corsair plane made by Goodyear during the war.
- 1943 F4U-4
- 1944 F4U-5P Camera installation
- 1945 F4U-5 Sliding canopy, window cleaning in flight
- 1946 XP6U-1 & P Fuselage design  
F6U Pirate

In October a letter was sent to US Patent Office "Retractable Pilot's Steps, an idea conceived by Will Davies and P. Thorgusen, for automatically and manually retracting cockpit access steps. Because of the simple, light weight mechanism, this device will be used on F4U-3 airplanes."

- 1947-49 Senior designer on F7U-142 Outclass  
 1949-52 F7U3A 3P  
 1953-55 F7U redesign  
 KP8U Armament. Retractable Rocket Pod.  
 Gun installation system  
 Trip to Edwards AFB testing range in California  
 1955-56 F8U-1 Crusader armament  
 1956-59 Dynasoar Proposal. Human factors Engineer.  
 A newspaper clipping from Washington D.C. states  
 "Under study since June, 1958, is a winged  
 glider designed to be boosted into orbit by a  
 Titan missile. It will be able to orbit the earth  
 or lesser distances and then glide back through  
 the atmosphere to a normal landing supported  
 by its wings." Thus was the beginnings of the  
 space shuttle which flew in 1981.  
 During this period Will was living in outer  
 space. He found it difficult to get back to  
 earth at night to cope with household problems.  
 His hours at work involved weightlessness condi-  
 tions. Man in space, space suits, and the heat  
 shield for the space module were developed in  
 the Dynasoar Project. Vought was only one of  
 several companies presenting ideas and proposals  
 on the project.  
 1960 Group Design Engineer on B52H. Boing contract  
 1961 Design Project for Scout Missile.  
 1963 Received notice that U.S. Patent Office issued  
 Patent No. 3 099 938 to Davies and Marshall for  
 "Armament for Jet Aircraft". Patent filed 4/30/57.  
 1964 Point Magu, Cal. for testing of Scout.  
 1965 Apollo Rocket Radiator, Space suit, Heatshield  
 1966-67 Scout Rocket  
 In 1966 NASA Apollo Achievement Award for service  
 culminating in the first landing on the moon.

Aviation has changed rapidly the past fifty years. The next fifty years will also see changes. Future generations may be interested in knowing something about the aircraft company where an ancestor, Will S. Davies, was employed for thirty years.

Chance Milton Vought, founder of the company was a pioneer aviator trained by the Wright brothers. In 1917 Vought teamed with a B. Lewis to form Lewis & Vought Corp. The company's first plane, the VE-7 was the winner of an Army trainer competition. A number of them were delivered to the Army before the close of World War I.

A version was modified for the Navy. In 1922 VE-7 made history by being the first aircraft to takeoff from a flight deck of an aircraft carrier. The USS Langley was the first "flat-top" aircraft carrier in the U.S. Navy.

The Vought O-1 was the first aircraft to be catapulted from a battleship. It was convertible as a land-plane, seaplane or amphibian. In 1926 the original Vought "Corsair" was built. The O-20 series made their mark during the course of military service. In 1927 four world records were set- Altitude 22, 178 ft.; speed of 147 mph for 100 kilometer closed course; 136 mph for 500 km course and 130 mph for 1000 km. Altitude 1962 Record for plane launched from carrier, 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 750 ft. 1976 Speed over closed circuit 2,092 mph.

The SB-1 was an all metal scout bomber, it was built to operate from aircraft carriers and was the first airplane of its type with a top speed of 200 mph.

Vought Aircraft originally was located in Long Island City, New York. It moved to Hartford, Connecticut and then joined Sikorsky Aircraft and moved to Stratford, Connecticut, in 1939.

Igor Sikorsky designed and built the first four-engine plane (1913) and first successful single-rotor helicopter (1939). He also designed the "Flying Boat".

The Vindicator (SB-2U-1) was a monoplane (one wing) built to carry a 1,000 bomb, smaller bombs in addition to its machine guns. Vindicators flown by U.S. Marines played an important part in turning back the Japanese attempt to take Midway Island.

First production model of the OS2U Kingfisher took to the air in 1940. This new monoplane, convertible



for use as a land- or sea-plane was designed for catapult operation from battleships and cruisers. Convoy duty, submarine hunting and rescues at sea were all in a day's work. It was used in the initial assault against the Japanese based on Attu and was considered one of the most rugged planes ever produced.

The next Vought plane was destined to become one of the truly great fighter planes in the history of military aviation. It was the famous "U-bird" the F4U Corsair. The Gull-winged plane was the first U.S. fighter to fly at more than 400 mph with a full load. It first flew in 1939 and first production F4U flew in 1942. The Japanese called the Corsair "Whistling Death". Before they surrendered Corsair pilots had shot down 2,140 Japanese planes.

The last of the Corsairs was delivered to the French Navy in 1953. A total of 12,571 was delivered to our Navy, Marine Corps, Royal Navy and New Zealand and the French during 11 years of production. It was the last piston engine to be built for the armed services in the United States.

The Vought organization entered the jet age in 1946 with the XF6U-1 Pirate, a single-engine jet and the Navy's first fighter with an afterburner.

The F7U-1 Cutlass was unveiled in 1948, just before the big move to Dallas, Texas. It was the largest industrial move by a company, about 1500 employees were transported. The Cutlass went into production in 1950. It was the first jet fighter designed from the outset for use of afterburners, first swept-wing fighter and first to release bombs at a speed faster than the speed of sound.

In 1953 a supersonic fighter, the F8U Crusader was announced as the winner of a design competition by the Navy. On its initial flight in 1955 it reached a speed of Mach 1.05

Major John Glenn Jr. was the pilot for "Operation Bullet" and set a record from Los Angeles to New York in 3 hrs, 23 minutes, 8 4/10 seconds, the fastest in history by averaging 725 mph and speeds up to 1000 mph in a Crusader. He flew in a F8U-1P and took photos

coast to coast, horizon to horizon. Glenn became the first U.S. astronaut to orbit Earth in space.(1962)

In the Sixties the P8U Crusaders and the A7A Corsair were built. They were developed for close air support of ground forces and destruction of targets in the battle areas.

Vought became diversified in its products. It worked closely with N.A.S.A. on several space projects. It also did sub-contract work for other companies.

Scout, nicknamed a poor man's rocket, was launched in 1960. It was a four-stage solid fuel vehicle with the capabilities of carrying satellites into orbit. The satellites, or payloads, were scientific or military experiments. Scout could carry 150 pound payload into orbit 350 miles from earth or send a 50 pound instrument package on a space probe 14,000 miles out.

There were several versions of airplanes, rockets, and aircraft which I omitted. Scout was the last project Will S. Davies participated in before he became too ill to work. He was forced to retire in 1970 due to his health.

The following article was written of Will's father, Francis Burns Davies, for the Golden Jubilee of Davies Realty Shop.

" Early in the year 1899, a short and stocky individual, his feet encased in heavy boots, might have been seen walking along the board walks of Fifth Ave., Maywood, threading his way carefully thru the mud at the crosswalks. On reaching Fifth Ave. and Harrison St. he found himself surveying a vast prairie, dotted with farm houses.

The individual was Mr. Francis B. Davies, on his first trip to the infant village of Maywood. He had arrived to view the properties of the Maywood Company, which had come into being in 1869 with a bang, and thirty years later had given up the ghost to receivership. Mr. Davies had been appointed receiver.

He had arrived in a town without a bank, nor a high-school or a public library. A small and unreliable electric light plant furnished 8 and 16 candle power lights. It was in such surroundings that the Davies and Co., Ltd. had its birth at 1315 S. Fifth Ave. A few years later the office was shifted across the street to 1308 S. Fifth.

The principles upon which the business was founded brought success in a goodly measure and before many years two additional offices were established. The coming of World War I brought about the end of the branch offices and in 1923 the main office moved to its present site at 1209 S. Fifth as Davies Realty Shop.

In 1907 Mr. Davies found the girl of his choice, Miss Nora Sullivan and a wedding followed. Three sons and three daughters resulted in this union.

During the lean years of the early depression, one of the sons, Francis N. Davies, was initiated into the intricacies of a real estate deal and while the pickings were slim, the reputation that Davies Sr. had built up helped to sustain and keep the business moving. The final summons came in 1934 and of the most colorful and public spirited characters in the history of Maywood was gathered to the land of his fathers."

F.B. was born in Lombardville, Illinois. He was raised

on the family farm in Osceola Township, Illinois. Later his father went into the grain, lumber, and general merchandise business in Lombardville. Francis worked at the store. After the death of his father in 1893, the business was sold. With his brother, George, a grocery store was opened in Sandwich, Ill., "Davies Brothers Spot Cash Grocery." The customers did not believe in paying cash and in a few years the grocery was sold.

Francis moved to Maywood, and started the real estate business. He was a charter member and secretary of the Maywood Rotary Club from its inception until his death. He took an active part in various civic projects including the Chamber of Commerce and Real Estate Board.

His six children are, Catherine Davies Griffith, Francis Marshall Davies, Will Sullivan Davies, John Michael Davies, Jessie Davies Tupper and Norabelle Davies Springer.

#### Will's Grandfather Francis Davies 1818-1893

Grandfather Francis Davies was born in Kilbarchan, Scotland on September 10th, 1818. He was the oldest of a family of eleven children.

He early learned his father's trade, hand loom weaving and worked at this in his father's house. In 1840 he was married to Annie Aitchison, with whom he sailed to America in 1842 laying their then only child to rest in the ocean. To them were born two sons and four daughters.

Landing in Philadelphia at a period when work was hard to get and wages low, and when many like him often knew not where the next meal was to come from, his first job was at his old trade. In 1845 he moved to Laurel, Maryland, where he taught the village school and learned the trade of a machinist. He went to Alexandria, Virginia, in 1851, and was employed as a time-keeper and paymaster in a large locomotive works. Here his faithful wife died, leaving him with four small children, one an infant who died a few months later. In 1856, he married Nancy Marshall, this union being blessed with the birth of four sons and three daughters.

In 1859 Francis came west with his wife and children, Mary 16, Annie 14, Belle 9, George 2, Willie 1. They settled in Peoria, Illinois, where he worked as a machinist until

1862 when he bought a farm in Osceola Township, two and a half miles from the little settlement of Bradford. Here he spent ten years amid the joys and trials of early farming in this vicinity.

When the railroad was put through and Lombardville located, he took charge of the grain business, moving there with his family in 1872. He became a member of the firm of Brewer, Davies & company, carrying on a general merchandise business in connection with the buying of grain and adding the lumber business. In 1877 the firm became Davies, Fleming & Co., and the business was carried on with the help of his sons.

He filled the office of Clerk of Osceola Township for twenty-one consecutive years. He early identified himself with the advanced movement in politics, education, and religion in the west of Scotland, and ever upheld his reputation as a leader in everything that would tend to the moral betterment of the community. Born of Universalist parents, he identified himself with that church. He passed away October 30, 1893 and was buried in the Bradford Cemetery."

The preceding was written by Vernon Davies, a cousin of Will's, in 1958. Vernon is the son of George Davies, a brother of Francis Burns Davies.

Will's Uncle Jehn, another brother of George and Francis, left a few notes on their parents' move to Illinois. Grandmother Marshall was the mother of Nancy, wife of Francis, and grandmother of the above brothers.

"Ever since coming to Peoria County in 1839, Uncle Shaw and his wife, Grandmother Marshall's sister, had been writing back to England, and later to Maryland, urging their brother George Marshall, to come to the land of Promise and Opportunity. Strong ties of home and friends had prevented them until 1848 when the family came to join the other relatives in Maryland.

Father joined the family marrying Mother, Nancy Marshall, a daughter of George. Father met many discouragements for future advancements. At last, with Mother's approval, they determined to "Go West".

In March 1859, Father and Mother joined the great westward movement and came to Peoria where they were to make their home for the next three years. They came by train. Mother spoke of "Smokey Pittsburgh" and "Muddy Chicago". They reached the later in a late snow storm and arrived in Peoria in rain. The next morning Mother looked out the hotel window and exclaimed, "They must have been hauling lots of coal on this street, it is so black." Just more Illinois mud out of which material they were later to dig a favorable living, and a modest measure of success.

And now for Uncle Shaw's home, 15 miles north.

The coach and two straight horses were announced but when Mother saw them she vowed that they all would be killed in such a rattle trap. The driver assured her that it was safe, and the finest carriage in town. In place of springs there were great wide straps which gave it a rocking horse sort of motion and when they went through pool of mud and water, the rounded bottom became a boat, while the horses' legs were out of sight. The price of the trip was \$15. or \$1 per mile for the group of six. The luggage had been smashed on the train and left at the depot.

They were disappointed by the cool reception at Aunt Hannah and Uncle Shaw's home. She was probably panic stricken at the prospect of what this healthy bunch of poor relatives would do to her scrupulously clean and orderly house, to say nothing of the possible expense of taking care of them until they could establish themselves. Mother was broken-hearted. Father lost no time in taking steps to find a home.

After canvassing several possibilities in the way of small farms and finding none that came within his means, he made his way back to Peoria, rented a very small cottage at \$5.50 per month and sent for the family. It didn't take long to get settled because they had so little. In addition to the damage to their luggage, a large box of bedding was sidetracked a month or more in Baltimore.

Father nearly wore his shoes off looking for work. At last one was found in a machine shop at \$9 per week. Moneys for buying necessities were sent by friends back in Maryland who collected cash for the sale of furniture, cows and calves left in the East. Father's salary for his term of teaching school was also forwarded.

Early in 1860, Father and Mother joined the Universalist Church which gave them some pleasant and valuable contacts.

Father's work in the railroad machine shop grew more regular. Wages remained low. He became Secretary of the Machinist Union. He also joined the Odd-Fellows Organization."

"In November of that year came a turning point in the life of the family. A tract of land, 80 acres 40 miles north of Peoria, was for sale. Father made the trip by horseback, approved the land, and the deal was closed. Possession was to take place the following March, 1862.

Father wrote friends - The farm consisted of 80 acres of prairie land with some trees on the NW corner where a few acres were cut off by the east fork of the Spoon River. It was 1 mile W and 1 1/2 N of the village of Bradford. There

was a four room house or cottage, grainery, stable, 2 wells, fences with 60 acres in cultivation and the rest was pasture. The price of the farm was \$1500, \$500 cash and the rest payable in 3 annual installments of \$333.33, interest at 6%. They bought a horse for \$90, 3 ploughs, harrows, and fanning mill for \$35. They needed another horse, wagon, harnesses, cows, hogs, feed, seed, etc. All were anxious to get on the farm and make it go. They were all pleased with the neat and comfortable appearance of their new home, which they occupied for the next ten years.

In December, Father made a report for their first year as busy farmers. It wasn't a good year. He went to Peoria for the winter months and worked as a machinist for \$3 a week. The next winter he taught school at \$22 month. In five years the farm was paid for and now worth \$2000, Farm implements \$1000 more.

In 1871, Father took a partner in the grain business and operated the Lombardville Elevator Company. He also went into the lumber, coal, and general merchandise business in Lombardville. A new house was built in town and the family moved from the farm.

Francis died in 1893. His wife, Nancy, lived with her sons, John and Francis, in Maywood and died in 1913.

Great Grandfather John Davies was born in Kilbarchan, Scotland on June 3, 1795. His parents were John M. Davies and Mary MacKay. Kilbarchan is located a short distance west of Glasgow and was in the heart of the hand loom weaving industry. John learned his father's trade in hand loom weaving at an early age, starting to work when he was eight years old. He became a beamer in this industry. Later he acquired the local coal business.

He was married in 1816 to Mary Dick, who was born on April 2, 1796 and died May 11, 1861. To them were born eleven children, six of whom died at an early age. Surviving to grow to maturity were four boys and one girl.

John carried on his business in rooms which were part of his house. He kept up a correspondence with his sons in America until his death. He retired at the age of 70 and kept busy with local affairs, being a member of the Pools Law Board, and President of the General Society formed in 1765.

He died in Kilbarchan July 4, 1873, at the age of 78. He had had hopes of joining his sons in America.

V.L.D. 6/58

Will's Great-Great-Grandfather John M. Davies was born in the county of Renfrewshire, Scotland, in 1765. He married Mary MacKay. (Mackie). The Scots Ancestry Research Society of Edinburgh, Scotland attempted to trace the ancestry in 1974. The marriage was recorded in an old parochial register- " 1784 John Davies and Mary Mackie both in this parish were booked for proclamation in order to marry December 17th." The 1841 Census lists a John Davies as a cotton handloom weaver.

The Research Society wrote, "Although it stated that John Davies was born in the county of Renfrew, the old parochial registers of Kilbarchan and neighboring parishes of Houston, Killlilan, Inchinnan, Lochwinnoch, Kilmacola, and Renfrew were searched circa 1765 for the birth of John Davies, but this was not found to have been recorded. As it was not known where else in Scotland he was born, the investigation was concluded."



1. PLACE OF BIRTH County of <b>COOK</b>	Registration Dist. No. <b>42B1</b>
<b>MAYWOOD</b>	Primary Dist. No. <b>42B1</b>
*Delete the three terms not applicable—Do not make "X, S," "S, F, D," or other F. C. Address.	
Street and Number No. <b>1600 S 1ST AVE</b>	

 STATE OF ILLINOIS  
 HENRY HORNER, Governor  
 Department of Public Health—Division of VITAL STATISTICS

# CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

Registered No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Conservative No.)

(If born deceased in hospital or institution, give the name and number of ward)

 10. RESIDENCE OF MOTHER: STATE **ILLINOIS** County **COOK** Township **PROVISIO** Precinct Dist. \_\_\_\_\_  
 General place of abode **MAYWOOD** Street and Number **1600 S 1ST AVE**  
 City or Village \_\_\_\_\_

 1. FULL NAME OF CHILD (Print) **WILL SULLIVAN DAVIES** (If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed)

2. Sex of Child <b>MALE</b>	4. Title, Single or other <b>0</b> (To be examined only in the event of plural births)	3. Number in order of birth	6. Premature Full term	7. Legitimate? Yes <b>YES</b>	8. Date of Birth <b>NOVEMBER 28 1910</b> (Month, day, year)
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9. Full name <b>FRANCIS B. DAVIES</b>	16. Full name <b>NORA SULLIVAN DAVIES</b>
11. Residence (street, city or village) <b>1600 S 1ST AVE MAYWOOD ILL.</b>	17. P. C. Address Street and number <b>1600 S 1ST AVE</b> City or Village <b>MAYWOOD</b> State <b>ILL.</b>

13. Color or race <b>#WHITE</b>	12. Age at last birthday <b>41</b> (Years)	15. Color or race <b>#WHITE</b>	14. Age at last birthday <b>31</b> (Years)
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13. Birthplace (city or place) (State or country) <b>LOMBARDVILLE ILLINOIS</b>	14. Birthplace (city or place) (State or country) <b>CHICAGO ILLINOIS</b>
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14. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as farmer, carpenter, bookkeeper, etc. <b>REAL ESTATE BROKER</b>	15. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc.	16. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as housekeeper, typist, nurse, clerk, etc.	17. Industry or business in which work was done, as print house, lawyer's office, silk mill, etc.
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18. (a) Including this child, how many children born alive to this mother? <b>3</b>	(b) How many of these children are now alive? <b>3</b>	(c) How many still-births has she had?
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19. What treatment was given child's eyes at birth? \_\_\_\_\_

 24. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE\*  
 I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was BORN ALIVE at \_\_\_\_\_, Ill., on the date above stated.  
 \*Where there is no attending physician or midwife, give the father, mother, householder, etc., what made this report.  
 25. (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: **411 S 16TH AVE MAYWOOD**

 26. Given name added from a supplemental report \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Certificate Signed **JUNE 19 1919**  
 (Month) (Day) (Year)

 27. Filed **JUNE 19 1919** by **C. TEVANDER**  
 Registrar Post Office Address **MAYWOOD ILL.**

CERTIFIED COPY OF A RECORD OF BIRTH.

 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached is a true and correct copy of the record of birth of **WILL SULLIVAN DAVIES**

as made from the original certificate of such birth now on file in this office in accordance with the law requiring reports of births, stillbirths, and deaths in Illinois.

 Signed *Harriet M. DePue*

 Official title **DEP. REGISTRAR**

 Address **MAYWOOD ILL.**

 Date **JUNE 19 1919**

# Certificate of Ownership

RESTLAND MEMORIAL PARK

DALLAS, TEXAS

State of Texas }  
County of Dallas }

Know All Men by These Presents:

That RESTLAND MEMORIAL PARK OF DALLAS, a Texas Corporation, of Dallas, Texas, owning and operating Restland Memorial Park, a perpetual care cemetery, for and in consideration of the sum of

Fifty Five and no/100 (\$ 55.00), to it in cash paid by

Cladye K. Davis of Dallas County, Texas, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does by these presents grant, subject to the conditions, reservations and restrictions hereinafter contained, a continuing easement and a perpetual right of use unto the said

Cladye K. Davis/her heirs or assigns, for the right and privilege of the burial of deceased persons in the following described portion of RESTLAND MEMORIAL PARK, a perpetual care cemetery, as shown by the recorded map and plat thereof of record in the Map and Plat Records of Dallas County, Texas, to which reference is here made for all purposes, the particular portion thereof and the space herein granted being described as follows, to-wit:

Space B of Lot No. Twenty Three (23) Block "O" in Urn Garden

**To Have and to Hold** the above right and privilege of burial unto the said

Cladye K. Davis/her heirs and assigns, forever, with all the privileges of an interment right or space purchaser and owner subject only and always subject to the by-laws, rules, regulations or requirements of RESTLAND MEMORIAL PARK OF DALLAS, its successors or assigns, grantor herein, on file in its office now existing and/or which may be by it hereafter adopted, either by amendment, alteration or the adoption of new by-laws, rules, regulations or requirements, and which by-laws, rules, regulations, and requirements are specifically referred to and made a part of this conveyance as though copied herein in full, and said by-laws, rules, regulations, requirements, conditions, reservations and restrictions are and shall be binding upon the grantee herein,

herself/her heirs, devisees, executors, administrators and assigns.

Restland Memorial Park is operated as a perpetual care cemetery, which means that a perpetual care fund for its maintenance has been established in conformity with the laws of the State of Texas. Perpetual care means to keep the and to repair, and all places where interments have been made in order, and to care for trees and shrubs planted by the cemetery. The perpetual care provided herein shall be carried out to the extent that the income from the permanent care fund shall permit.

This continuing easement and perpetual right of use is made upon the express covenant of the grantee herein,

her heirs and assigns, to the grantee herein, its successors and assigns irrevocably, that only bodies of deceased persons shall be buried, interred or entombed in said Restland Memorial Park, and this covenant runs with continuing easement and perpetual right of use hereby granted and shall be binding upon the said grantee herein.

**In Testimony Whereof**, RESTLAND MEMORIAL PARK OF DALLAS has caused this instrument to be signed and acknowledged by C. W. Shackelford its Executive Vice-President,

and attested by Fan McDowell its Assistant Secretary, and its corporate seal hereunto affixed, this the 30th day of November, A. D. 1923.

ATTEST

RESTLAND MEMORIAL PARK OF DALLAS

Fan McDowell  
Assistant Secretary

By C. W. Shackelford  
Executive Vice-President

State of Texas }  
County of Dallas }





DAD



FRANK MYRON JOHN HAYNER  
WILL JOHN JESSE CATHERINE



1932



1939



1967



ROCK PILE



"ARROW"



WILLIAM S. DENTON SR.  
OCT 11 1914

WILLIAM S. DENTON SR.  
OCT 11 1914







86 47



**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

STATE OF TEXAS		STATE FILE NO.	
1. NAME OF DECEASED a. COUNTY <b>Dallas</b>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Place of usual abode, if different address before admission) a. STATE <b>Texas</b> b. COUNTY <b>Dallas</b>	
3. CITY OR TOWN or locality (city, town, precinct or hamlet) <b>Dallas</b>		4. CITY OR TOWN or locality (city, town, precinct or hamlet) <b>Dallas</b>	
5. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN CITY OR TOWN <b>24 yrs.</b>		6. STREET ADDRESS (if not given furnish) <b>1630 Hinwood</b>	
7. NAME OF PLACE or hospital, physician or institution <b>Methodist Hospital</b>		8. A RESIDENCE WITH CITY LIMITS	
9. PLACE OF DEATH (City Limit)		10. PLACE OF DEATH (City Limit)	
11. NAME OF DECEASED (Print or print) <b>Will Sullivan</b>		12. DATE OF BIRTH <b>October 27, 1973</b>	
13. SEX <b>Male</b>		14. COLOR OF HAIR <b>White</b>	
15. OCCUPATION (Occupation of last held, giving year of acquisition, year of ending) <b>Design Engr.</b>		16. PLACE OF BIRTH (State or foreign country) <b>Maywood, Ill.</b>	
17. FATHER'S NAME <b>F. B. Davies</b>		18. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <b>Nora Sullivan</b>	
19. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. <b>No</b>		20. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR <i>Will S. Davis, Jr.</i> <b>Will S. Davis, Jr. by M.B.</b>	
21. CAUSE OF DEATH (Specify law when per the Sec 31.01 and 31.02) FIRST CAUSE CAUSED BY <b>Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage</b>			
22. SECOND CAUSE <b>Due to</b> <i>Ischemic Colitis Ulcer</i>			
23. THIRD CAUSE <b>Myocardial Infarction with Coronary Atherosclerosis</b>			
24. HAD ANY OTHER EMPHATIC CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH NOT RELATED TO THE USUAL CAUSE OR OTHER CAUSE IN PART 21			
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WHEN IMPRESSED WITH THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS, THIS IS CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE PERMANENT RECORD AS FILED IN THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.

ISSUED: OCT 23 1973

*Maurine Lamm*  
LOCAL REGISTRAR  
DALLAS HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY <b>Dallas</b>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (When deceased lived, if institution; residence before admission) a. STATE <b>Texas</b> b. COUNTY <b>Dallas</b>	
b. CITY OR TOWN (if outside city limits, give precinct no.) <b>Dallas</b>		c. LENGTH OF STAY in 1 b. <b>24 yrs.</b>	
d. NAME OF (if not in hospital, give street address) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION <b>Methodist Hospital</b>		d. STREET ADDRESS (if rural, give location) <b>1630 Elmwood</b>	
e. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
f. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
1. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) Will (a) First <b>Sullivan</b> (b) Middle <b>Davies, Sr.</b> (c) Last		4. DATE OF DEATH <b>October 27, 1973</b>	
5. SEX <b>Male</b>	6. COLOR OR RACE <b>White</b>	7. Married <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Never Married <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>	8. DATE OF BIRTH <b>Nov. 28, 1910</b>
9. AGE (in years last birthday) <b>62</b>		10. UNDER 1 YEAR IF UNDER 24 HRS. Months Days Hours Minutes	
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) <b>Design Engr.</b>		10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <b>L. T. V.</b>	
11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <b>Maywood, Ill.</b>		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? <b>USA</b>	
13. FATHER'S NAME <b>F. B. Davies</b>		14. MOTHER'S M maiden name <b>Nora Sullivan</b>	
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) <b>No</b>		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	
17. INFORMANT <b>Will S. Davies, Jr. md</b> <b>Will S. Davies, Jr. by m.b.</b>			
18. CAUSE OF DEATH (State only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).) PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) <b>Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage</b> DUE TO (b) <b>Probable Peptic Ulcer</b> DUE TO (c) <b>Respiratory Failure with Chronic Bronchitis</b> PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (a) <b>Respiratory Failure with Chronic Bronchitis</b>			18. INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH <b>12 hours</b> <b>WEEKS</b>
19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
20a. ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE <input type="checkbox"/>	20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of Item 18.)		
20c. TIME OF INJURY Hour Month Day Year a.m. p.m.			
20d. INJURY OCCURRED WHERE AT BY WHAT MEANS	20e. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office building, etc.)	20f. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION	COUNTY STATE
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from <b>Sept 1 1973</b> to <b>10/27 1973</b> and last saw the deceased alive on <b>10/27 1973</b> . Death occurred at <b>11:30 A.M.</b> on the date stated above, and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.			
22a. SIGNATURE <b>Will S. Davies</b> (Type or print)	22b. ADDRESS <b>Methodist Hospital Texas</b>	22c. DATE SIGNED <b>10/28/73</b>	
23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) <b>Cremation</b>	23b. DATE <b>10-29-73</b>	23c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY <b>Restland Memorial Park</b>	
24a. LOCATION <b>Dallas</b> (City, town, or county)	24b. STATE <b>Texas</b>	24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE <b>RESTLAND FUNERAL HOME, INC.</b> <b>Maurine Lamm</b>	
25a. REGISTRAR'S FILE NO. <b>7764</b>	25b. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REGISTRAR <b>OCT 29 1973</b>	25c. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <b>Maurine Lamm</b>	

WHEN IMPRESSED WITH THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS,  
THIS IS CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE PERMANENT  
RECORD AS FILED IN THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.

ISSUED: **OCT 31 1973**

**Maurine Lamm**  
LOCAL REGISTRAR  
DALLAS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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