

Remembrances of Kathryn June Spencer Becker about her friend Mrs. her

Mary E. Spencer's death - Ray was off to war
(Mary's son + June's father)

She had been feeling poorly
Amanda (Ray's wife) always went to check on her about 6pm after work

Mary was in bed with a "gurgling" sound in throat + couldn't waken her
called doctor from Amanda's house

June stayed outside Mary's door when doctor came
Amanda was in house with doctor

It was early evening when doctor came
Death was at 12:30 AM - ambulance came + took her away - house had "death smell"

June + Amanda cleaned + packed up things in Mary's house; blankets, dishes etc. + put in trunk.

Frank came + ripped open all Mary's pictures to look for money.

The next day after Mary died - around dusk

June saw a figure in black in her dirt driveway in back of a car. June sensed it was Mary. June was not afraid.

Mary wore her hair ^{was long + rolled into a bun ~~was long~~} back in a bun. ^{Stout} small like 5'2". Always wore an ^(printed full) apron over dress. wore glasses; gray hair wore cotton print dresses.

Raymond would always visit his mother after work before ~~he~~ would come home to his own family.

When Amanda had tumor after Mary Ann's birth, Mary came over to care for kids + put all food in a pan + poured gravy over the top of it all.

Mary's house just had one room. Ray built on a kitchen + bathroom but Mary never took a bath in that new tub.

Bible was always open on table - she read every day.

Had a big oak table + a bible. Mary knew her scriptures. During the war Amanda had missionaries come + she was converted.

After earthquake btw. 1935-1940. Middle of night
Ray picked up Mary Ann + dog's ^{head} + mattress + all + threw them on the lawn. Mary went + sat in car + vowed she was "going back to TX."
This would have been after the 1933 earthquake
June + brother ^{ran outside} woke up.

Funeral was held at Neel's Mortuary + was a "Mormon" program - bishop spoke, song - "The Old Rugged Cross."

After Mary passed away Amanda + June found lots of postcards that Ray had written as a boy saying, "When are you going to come get me?"

Mary would talk to Amanda over the fence while Amanda hung up wash on line.

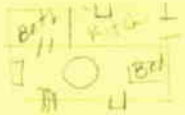
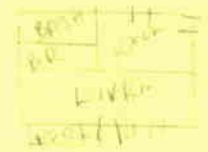
Mary's garage was always locked up + no one was ever allowed to go in because of Charley's death. Suicide was hush-hush in those days.

Mary made cakes - her house smelled like "almond." Never saw her smile, didn't hug or kiss generously. Had 2 portraits of Charley + Frank in uniform + flag behind them. No pictures of Katse.

Mary had worked in a laundry. Suffered from bursitis in shoulders from lifting heavy things. Mary valued owning property + buying land. Regretted not putting money into "Signal Hill" in Long Beach when first coming to CA. could've been rich from oil.

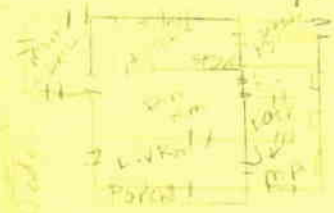
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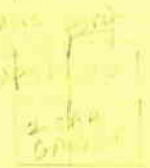


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