

Shirley Ann Gauglitz and Erich Josef Gauglitz, Jr.

Notes from Phillip A Gauglitz



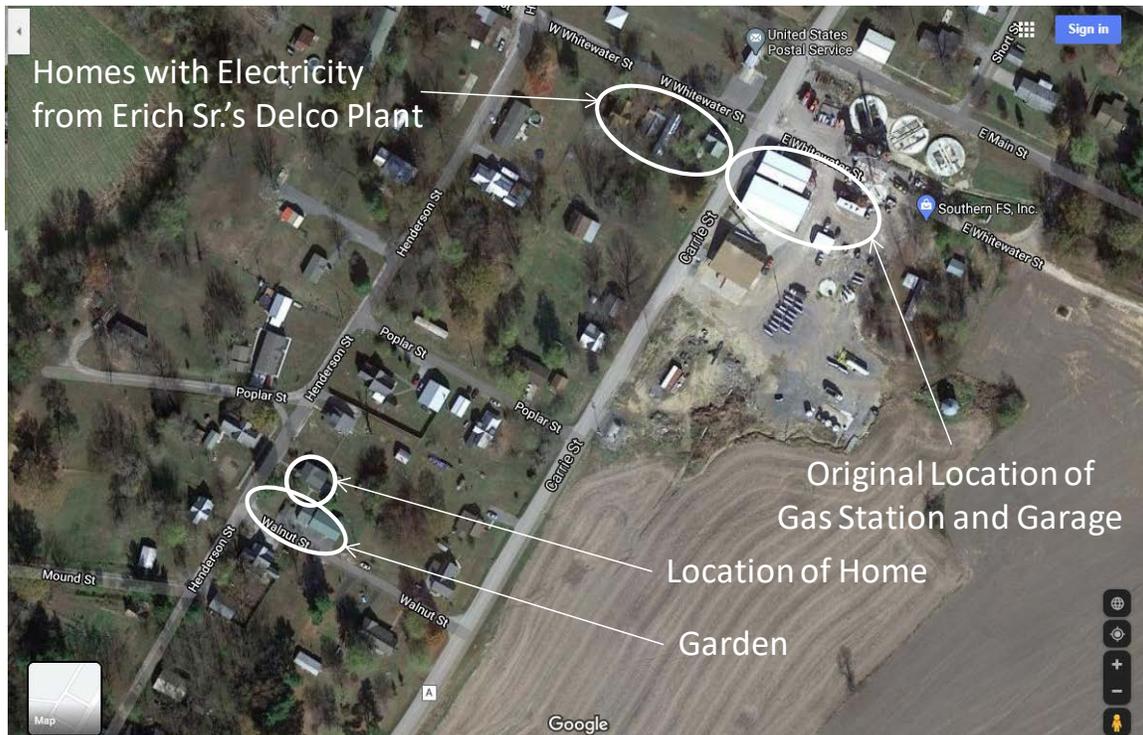
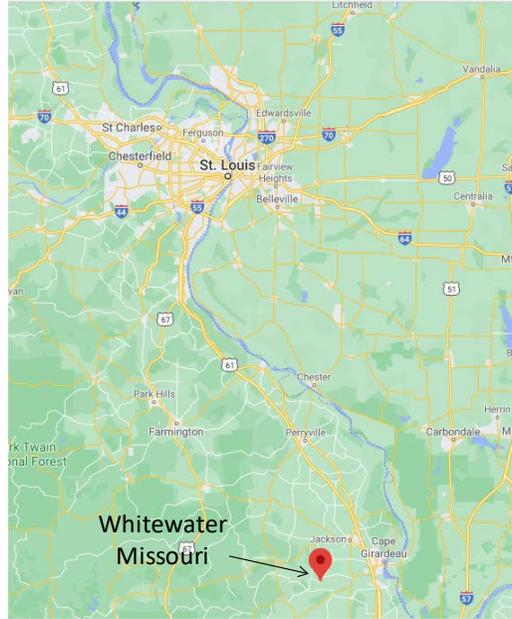
Shirley and Erich Gauglitz, Jr. in about 1970

This is a short family history of Shirley and Erich, my Mom and Dad, as recalled by me, Phil Gauglitz, with input and memories from others.

Beginning with Erich Jr. He was born on July 3rd, 1929 in St Louis, Missouri to parents Kathryn Elliott Gauglitz, nee Morton, and Erich Josef Gauglitz, Sr. In 1935, when Dad was about 5 1/2, the family moved to Whitewater Missouri where they initially rented two rooms in a house, then moved to two more homes, then finally purchased a house in town with about 2 acres. My Grandpa (Erich Sr.) had a gas station and garage a few blocks away. They typically had one or two cows, which Dad would look after and milk (and sell the milk to others in the small community), a large garden, and they also raised chickens and hogs. Much of what they grew in the garden was canned by Grandma, and the canning included lots of chickens.



Below is a satellite image showing the location of the family home and gas station/garage in Whitewater Missouri, which is about 120 miles south of St. Louis, MO. (downloaded in November 2020). The locations of the home and garden are also highlighted from when Dad lived there. Also highlighted is the location of the gas station and garage a couple blocks away. In the Garage, Erich Sr. had a Delco Plant, which had a gasoline engine that would automatically run a generator and charge a bank of lead-acid batteries. This provided electricity for the garage and gas station and also three nearby homes.



After moving to Whitewater, Missouri, Dad started grade school in 1936. There was significant conflict in the world at this point in time and it was during the Great Depression. With the start of WW II, there was gas and tire rationing, which made it difficult for the gas station and garage to provide enough business to support the family. As a result, Grandpa (Erich Sr.) enlisted in the US Air Force in 1942 and was stationed in Texas and repaired airplane engines until he was honorably discharged about a year later. During this time, Dad stayed with my Grandma in Whitewater. When Grandpa was discharged from the Air Force in 1943, he returned to Whitewater but soon moved to Richmond California in 1943 and began working in the Kaiser shipyards.

While in Whitewater, Dad helped Grandpa (Erich Sr.) in the garage and learned how to repair cars, trucks, and farm equipment from Grandpa, the mechanic. When the Tennessee Valley Authority brought electricity to Whitewater in 1938, Dad and Grandpa wired a number of houses in the community, with knob-and-tube wiring which was in common use at the time, and Dad learned about home electrical systems from Grandpa, the electrician. In his senior year of high school, Dad and Grandpa tore down the back half of the family home, while the family lived in the front, and rebuilt a new house on the back, and along the way he learned carpentry. Although Dad became a chemist by profession, he used these other skills on all sorts of projects and repairs throughout his life.

Dad lived in Whitewater through the first year of high school and then the family moved to California in the summer of 1943 and lived in Richmond (northeast portion of San Francisco Bay area) where Erich Sr. had gotten a job working in the Kaiser shipyards. Dad attended two years of high school in Richmond California at Richmond Union High and then returned to Whitewater and completed his senior year of high school (1946) at Delta High School, Delta, Missouri, which is about 3 miles SE of Whitewater. In his senior year, he earned a varsity letter in basketball. After high school, at age 17 ½, Dad enlisted in the Army in 1946 and served 3 years and was honorably discharged in 1949. Below are medals from Dad's time in the Army.





Dad's WW II Victory Medal (left and top center), Presidential Medal of Good Conduct (upper right), and US Army 12th Infantry Regiment Unit Crest (bottom center and right).

In 1947, Grandpa and Grandma moved to San Francisco to a place near Golden Gate Park. This is probably when Grandpa started working for a company that repaired large electric motors from around the world that lifted drawbridges. I remember Grandpa showing me an electrical meter he designed and built that could check for breaks in the wire winding in a motor, which helped him know what part of the winding to repair. My brother Karl remembers seeing one electric motor being repaired by Grandpa, which was the size of a room and that had been transported to San Francisco bay on a barge. The copper wire winding was actually a ribbon with a cross section of about 1 x 3 inches. After a few years of living near Golden Gate Park, they moved to the home on 331 Jules Avenue in San Francisco where they lived for the remainder of their lives. This is where I remember visiting Grandpa and Grandma.

Dad started his university studies at City College of San Francisco in 1951, then continued his studies at UC Berkeley and was graduated with a BS in Chemistry in 1955. While at UC Berkeley, Dad met mom, Shirley Ann Scharpf, through her roommate, Chris Chalias, who worked in the Chemical Stores at UC Berkeley and they were married in January of 1955. Mom and Dad moved to Seattle, Washington where Dad started graduate school, studying organic chemistry, at the University of Washington and received a MS degree. Dad always had an interest in natural products, a branch of organic chemistry, and was offered a job in the research laboratory at the National Marine Fisheries just south of the University of Washington that provided an opportunity to conduct research on natural products. He



accepted the position and in 1958 started a 39 year career with the National Marine Fisheries and retired in 1997. While at the UW, Mom and Dad lived in what they called the half-of-house, east of the University at 5726 38th NE (living room and kitchen upstairs, and the bedroom downstairs via outdoor stairs). Rod and Ouida Quacchia lived in the house behind them. Dad knew Rod from his time at UC Berkeley, and he and Ouida would become life-long friends with Mom and Dad. While at the UW, Mom and Dad met Dick and Jinny Murphy, who moved into the half-of-house when Mom and Dad moved to north Seattle and into their home for the next 60+ years. Dick and Jinny would also become life-long friends.



Half-of-House, East of the UW, 5726 38th NE, Seattle, WA, circa 1959

Dad's career at the National Marine Fisheries initially focused on isolating omega-3 fatty acids from fish oils to support very early human and animal clinical trials on the health benefits of fish oil (fish oil rich in omega-3 fatty acids has, over the years, become a widely used supplement for heart and brain health). In the 1970s, he worked in analytical chemistry to quantify mercury in fish, which is toxic to humans, and worked with others to identify both man-made (industrial) and natural sources of mercury that were entering the marine environment and, through the food chain, to fish that people consume. The work of the National Marine Fisheries, together with other countries, has greatly reduced mercury in the oceans and marine fish throughout the world. In the latter part of his career, Dad quantified the presence of domoic acid in crabs, and their favorite food razor clams. Domoic acid is a biotoxin created by an algae bloom, much like "red tide" in shellfish, and the razor clams filter sea water and concentrate domoic acid and are then eaten by crabs, making the crabs unhealthy to eat. Eventually, monitoring for algae blooms and domoic acid in crabs became common place and reduced this health hazard. They also determined that domoic acid is not present in the meat of crabs, unless they are cooked whole, which is the common commercial practice. It is much better to clean the crab (remove the shell and internals) prior to cooking. This effectively eliminates the presence of domoic acid in the cooked crab meat and also results in outstanding quality of the crab for eating. Cleaning then cooking crab has become my absolute favorite way to prepare crab for dinner.

Mom (Shirley Ann Gauglitz, nee Scharpf) was born in Cleveland Ohio in 1926 (residence was in Steubenville, Ohio). Her dad, who was a foreman at a local steel mill, was killed in a blast furnace explosion when she was 4 years old. From then until her college years, Mom's family moved a number of times and her mother re-married twice. Alas, I don't not recall enough from the conversations with my mom, or my Aunt Lois her older sister, to be able to give much of any detail on where she lived. I do recall her saying that she stayed for a while near Crescent City in Northern California (prior to high school). One example of the unusual places she lived came to light during a day of wine tasting with Mom and Dad while I was going to graduate school at UC Berkeley. We were traveling between Napa Valley and Sonoma Valley and stopped in the small town of Calistoga CA for some reason, perhaps for lunch. We were walking around and my Mom asked that we wait for a moment. She walked about 2 blocks from the main street in town and looked at a house and said – I lived there one summer. In hindsight, I suspect that she must have thought it possible that she might find a place she recognized. The more amusing part of the story, since I was an adult at this point and she was willing to tell me, is that she described how her older sister, Lois, would sneak out of the house at night and Mom (Shirley) was threatened with all kinds of older sister threats if she ever said a word. I don't think Lois ever got caught.

Mom lived in Oakland during her high school years. Also, though mom never told me this, I later learned (Sue found it in her high school yearbook) that she was on the Archery team in high school. She went on to earn a varsity letter at UC Berkeley, and a varsity letterman jacket (actually a blazer that Sue Gauglitz now has) as part of the Archery team. As the story goes, as told by Dad (Erich Jr.), she wanted to get a varsity letter in athletics because she planned to be a Physical Education teacher, and it seemed like a great credential for a PE teacher, which she would later become.

I also recall the story from mom where she forged her birth certificate (to be old enough) to get a job as a welder in the Oakland shipyards, which I think was after high school. Somewhere in this time period she lived in Oakland CA near Lake Merritt. She recalled going to a local coffee shop and listening to Dave Brubeck before he became famous. In her college years at UC Berkeley, she lived with Glo Newhouse (before she married Dick Newhouse) and Jan De Moor. Glo and Dick and Jan became lifelong friends (and Sue and I, and our daughters Katie and Megan, got to know Glo and Dick and their son Russ Newhouse and enjoyed a few vacations at their Capitola CA beach house and a weekend trip to their Yosemite cabin). While going to school at UC Berkeley, she worked as a switch board operator where she listened to callers and pulled cords and connected them to who they were calling.

After receiving a Physical Education degree from UC Berkeley and a teaching certificate (MS), Mom had her first teaching job in Los Gatos and then taught PE at McClymonds High School in Oakland, CA. One of the memorable stories from Mom was that Bill Russell, the basketball player, was in one of her dance classes. She remembers Bill being very graceful for such a big young man. Dad (Erich Jr.) remembers Mom saying she danced the Watusi with the young Bill Russell.

Erich Josef Gauglitz, Sr. and Kathryn Elliott Gauglitz, nee Morton, Grandpa and Grandma

Grandpa (Erich Joseph Gauglitz, Sr.) was born and raised in Friedland Germany. (As a side note, I sat next to a person on an airplane once who studied linguistics and had an interest in family names. He said the family name “Gauglitz” was of Prussian origin, which makes sense because Friedland is within the historic area of Prussia.) Erich Jr. remembers Erich Sr. saying that an earlier Gauglitz relative had been selected for Frederick the Great’s (King of Prussia) honor guard (roughly mid 1700s), which only selected men that were at least 6 ft. tall. While Grandpa (Erich Sr.) was only about 5 ft 9 in., there was some height in the family tree that helps explain why Erich Jr. was 6 ft 6 in. tall.

When in Germany, Grandpa completed apprenticeships in both electricity and mechanics, which are skills he used throughout his life. Grandpa was in the German military and Dad (Erich Jr.) remembers him saying that he tended horses. Grandpa was born on June 23, 1902 (see family tree information) and WW I ended in November of 1918 (Wikipedia), so Grandpa was 16 years old at the end of WW I. So, his time in the German military was probably after the end of WW I. It was a difficult time in post WW I Western Europe and Dad (Erich Jr.) remembers Erich Sr. saying they would trap rats in the stables and cook and eat them. Grandpa immigrated to the United States (departed from Hamburg, see immigration card) and arrived on December 23, 1925 (see immigration card). He was the first of his immediate family to immigrate and stayed with relatives (Erich Jr. recalled that it was relatives named Feller; Erich Sr.’s mother’s maiden name was Marie Feller, so it was probably relatives from this part of his family) in St. Louis, Missouri when he arrived. He later helped his brothers Kurt and Max Gauglitz when they too immigrated to the US. Grandpa became a US citizen on September 11, 1931.

Grandpa’s first job was working as an electrician for Emerson Electric in St. Louis, Missouri (an electrical manufacturing company that made electrical fans). In addition to working at Emerson Electric, he would “moonlight” at a Phillips 66 service station (Karl Gauglitz has a locket with a picture of Grandpa [Erich Sr.] in his Phillips 66 uniform taken in St. Louis).

Although we don’t know how or when, he met my Grandma, Kathryn Elliott Morton, and they were married in June of 1928. After completing high school, Grandma attended the Southeast Missouri State Teacher’s College. For a period of time, she worked for the Pevely Dairy Company in St. Louis. I don’t have much family history on Grandma, but Dad (Erich Jr.) remembers quite a few relatives from Grandma’s family coming over to the house, including his Grandma Jones (Ida Helen Morton, nee Jones) and his granny Jones (Dad’s great grandmother Viola Jones, nee Wimberly). The family tree information collected by Shirley Gauglitz shows four generations of the Morton family, prior to Grandma (Kathryn), and that the earliest Morton relative was a “Pioneer of Tennessee”. Assuming 25 years between the births of each generation, the earliest Morton on the family tree (William Morton) was born circa 1800 (Wikipedia notes that Tennessee became a state in 1796, that open conflict with native Americans was ongoing in 1800, and that the US Military forcibly displaced the Cherokee and other tribes in 1838, so being born circa 1800 was certainly “pioneering times”). Erich Jr. also remembers a number of relatives from Grandpa’s family visiting their home. Below are pictures of Grandpa (Erich Sr.) and Grandma (Kathryn) and Erich Jr.’s Grandma Jones.



Erich Josef Gauglitz, Sr. and Kathryn Elliott Gauglitz, nee Morton, circa 1928



Ida Helen Morton, nee Jones, circa 1928



Erich Josef Gauglitz, Sr. and Kathryn Gauglitz, nee Morton, circa 1970
in front of their home at 331 Jules Avenue, San Francisco, California