

My Dad was Fredrick Pestinger. He was born in Hunter KS< 1895, June 15, with his twin frank: # 12 & 13 of family, Mother was 50 when she had them.

I'm number three son of Fredrick M. and Myrtle A. Pestinger with No. one son Richard Jay, No. two son Billie Eugene, and one daughter Phylis Ann born last.

I was born Feb. 16, 1926 at the Gallaway Hospital by Dr. Gallaway. I was named after Dr. Gallaway's son Philip Lee. I think if I had been a girl I would had been Phylis Ann.

My address was listed Crisfield, Kansas, family move to Hazelton, Ks when I was a very young, just a baby. I spent the next eleven years there. Went to school for five grades in a building that housed all twelve grades. The grade school on the ground level and high school on the second floor. The grade school was taught with two grades in one room taught by one teacher. No running water and out door toilets. Did pretty good grade wise straight A's, but my deportment (behavior) was a little lower.

Moved to Anthony, Ks in 1937. All of us thought it was the largest town in the world with 3000 people compared to just 200 in Hazelton. My brothers and me really didn't want to move, but was glad we did later on. My sister had passed away in 1936 with strep throat, at age eight. My brother Billie was not in school any more, he quit walking after 3rd grade due to a disease called Fredrich's disease. My mother taught him at home for a while and he was a smart boy.

I was starting the sixth grade in all different set up than Hazelton schools. They had two section for each grade, A for the smarter B for the other children. I was put B section being a new student. They transferred me to the A section after the first six weeks. I was a lot happier and alright grade wise still all A's through eighth grade. They started basketball in the sixth grade, which started my athletic career.

We move into house that had running water and electricity gas furnace sure lived more comfortable. No chopping wood to heat or cook with and have to go outside for the toilet.

In high school I took all college preparatory classes, which really helped me later in life. Not many went on to college after graduating from High School, was to expensive, but with service (Army) we got the GI bill that paid for a college education. In sports we had football in which I played

center , we were undefeated my junior year no state play off in those years, Basketball in which I played guard to short to play any other position, we got second in the State Tour. my junior year, third my senior year should have won first both years-track I was a pole vaulter primarily and ran the 1/4 mile on relay team also high jumped. Tennis played singles my freshman, soph. and junior years, played doubles my senior year, should have won state tournament, but didn't. I lettered in Tennis my freshman year, tennis and track my soph. year, and all four sports my junior and senior years. Played baseball during summer, no baseball in high school.

Played in high school band (drums) in 7th,8th and 9th years, to busy with sports to play in band later Was in most of the high plays and was Student Council President my senior year. Didn't keep up the "A" record in High School, but I did OK. By the way I took tap dancing lessons during 8th grade year. (Mom was a great dancer and could kick her leg to the top of a door frame)

Japs Bombed Pearl Harbor Dec. 7,1941 I was soph. in high school. Since we were in WWII the draft board was started and every 18 or older up 40 years of age were drafted. I got student pilot's license while in high school, so when I turned 18 I didn't want to be want drafted into regular Army I wanted to fly so I tried to enlist into the Army Air Corps. They weren't wanting any more pilots in 1944. I waited to be drafted hoping I would get the Navy (they were taking ever other one in Army Navy) of course I drew the Army. At the time I didn't know it turned out to a lucky draw. I was sent to Fort Riley for my Basic Training. It was a Cavalry Division. You took half of 16 week training in the Horse Cavalry and the other half in mechanized cavalry. I was trained as a radio operator (dids and dots)the only thing I remember about it is(didy-dum dum- didy) which means SOS. **Is this the same as that song: do wa diddy dum diddy di. Walk on, my door???** I finished basic training in October, 1944. So they decided to send our Company to Europe. One other fellow and I were only ones out of the company they didn't send. I really felt bad that I didn't get to go. The company got over there about the time of the battle of Bulge began the biggest battle of the European campaign. They were really green horns and really got slaughtered. I felt bad about it, but probably saved my life. I still at this time don't know why I didn't go. They didn't know what to do with me, I had scored high on the Army IQ test so they asked me to go (OCS) Officer Candidate School. I turned it down because I had heard that the (ninety day wonders) that's what the enlisted men

called them were the first shot or killed in most battles.

Army high lites at Fort Riley are: Mickey Rooney being in the barrack next to mine, Joe Louis at Camp Funston the camp next Fort Riley and playing baseball for Fort Riley was Major Leaguer Harry Walker, Pete Resser, and me catching Major League Rookey Pitcher Chris Howie.

The rest of the story. They sent me to radio repair school for six weeks and then home on a two weeks before I left for the South Pacific. I ended up at Fort Ord in Calif. which was place you got training for over sea's duty. We got our orders to get ready to leave and word came from Red Cross that Billie had passed away and they were getting me an emergency leave for the funeral. So I missed that wave of going over seas. Went back to Fort Ord and shipped out, that was June 1945. Took 30 days to our destination (due to evasive maneuvers to avoid being targeted by enemy), which was Okinawa. Joined the 88th Chemical Company as a radio operator to direct fire for the 4.2 inch mortars. So that battle was over, so went the Philippines to take training to make the invasion of Japan.

Right before we left for Japan they dropped two atomic bombs and Japs surrender. We all wondered how two bombs could end the war. No one knew what a atomic was we were all happy celebrated a lot. (The war was over and outside of training, I never had to fire a shot)

You got so many points service time and double for overseas duty some had been over there along time with 100s of points they went home first. I was sitting there with just 42 points and the 88th battalion was getting pretty small I was T5 corporal the 1st sergeant had gone home so they made me acting 1st sergeant. They told me if I would reenlists for two more years they would give a permanent rank of 1st sergeant. With just 42 points I probably wound be there two more years before I got to go home. I wrote my mother about what I was thinking doing and she said to do what I wanted to do, but if I were you I wouldn't. This august 1945 and I was on the boat the middle of March going home. I got discharged April 15,1946 at Fort Douglas Utah.

After discharge I relaxed a lot and partied too much. I talked with dad about what I should do now. My railroad work carried on while I was in the service it had accumulated four years of seniority. We discussed whether I should go back to the railroad or not. My dad said if he was me I had the GI Bill to go to college and get an education. That's what I decided to do. I

had already talked with Fog Allen and he said come on up and try out and if you make the squad we'll talk about some aid. Dwight Lee my best friend and I went to Lawrence in July, 1946 to find a room to live in, there were no dorms at KU at this time. We found one and paid the first months rent as a deposit of \$10.00. In August the lady with the room wrote and said she wasn't going to rent out the room and gave us back the deposit. We went back to Lawrence to find another room. Was only a week until school started, we couldn't find another at that time so we stayed at the hotel for almost a week and couldn't find another room. Couldn't afford to stay at hotel so we decided to lay out a semester. Went home and the Southwestern College AD called and said come over and we will give you a basketball scholarship. We really didn't want to go to a small college, but we decided to go look at it and that's where we stayed.

I didn't know what I wanted to major in I thought about med school and took a lot of premed course and after first year I thought two years

of premed and four years med school if I could get in was to long, so I changed to teacher education. I graduated with a BS Degree in 1950. I lettered one year in football two years track and one year in basketball. Didn't do athletics justice at SC. I did play one semester of basketball at Pratt JC and lettered. We won league and the best success and best time in athletics at Pratt JC.

My first teaching job was Sawyer, Kansas, two miles south of Pratt, Ks. Just a very small school with about 35 students. Taught Industrial Arts, PE both boys and girls, and math. Coached two sports for boy's basketball and baseball and Girls Basketball. Fairly successful. After second year my first wife decided we would get along a lot better if I got out of coaching and teaching we moved to Wichita and was draftsman for Beach Aircraft. More money, but didn't like sitting at a drawing table all day long. Our marriage was not any better, so we ended it in 1952. Enough about that will not mention again.

Left Beach and looked for another teaching job. Found out they were not plentiful. One opened up at Vermillion, KS another small school. I went there for an interview with the School Board. When I got there the town looked awful and the school was not to good. I really didn't want the job, but had driven 270 mile so went to the interview. They wanted me and offered me the job for \$3200.00. I said no because I really didn't want the job. They said what would I have to have to take the job. I said \$3500.00 knowing they wouldn't accept the offer, but they did. Pretty successful in football only lost one game good for only having 13 players out and playing

11 man football. Basketball was not so good and baseball was fair. Second year was not to good after loosing 9 senior boys due to graduation. Only had 11 out for football and only won one game, basketball was better and baseball was OK. Best thing about going to Vermillion was I meet Rheta Kimball in the first year 1953 and married in summer of 1954.

Went to Winchester, KS in the fall of 1955 and was a disaster. I hated the school some pretty good kids. Rheta and I both didn't like the town. In May 1956 my father passed away, so that summer went to Anthony and stayed the summer with my mother. The best part of that Rheta was pregnant and Kim was born in Anthony on July 29,1956. 1956-57 year wasn't to bad, but decided to get out of teaching and sell Life Insurance. Made a lot more money, but didn't enjoy doing it so quit in March 1958. Applied for a job in Lawrence at West Jr. High which was being built. Got hired for the 58-59 year. So I threw KS City Star until school started in fall of 1958. Bought a home in Lawrence glad to get out of the trailer house. West Jr. High didn't get finished so went to Piper high for one year. Drove back and forth from Lawrence the first year. I like Piper so well that we bought a home KS City, KS and stay at Piper eight more years. Very successful at piper.

The school system in KC was bad so got a job in Lawrence at Central JR, High. By the way Jay was born Oct 19,1958 in Lawrence my first year at Piper. Joyce was born May 30,1960 Rheta liked the Dr. Reed that delivered Jay, so Joyce was born in Lawrence hospital.

Moved back to Lawrence in June 1967 and taught at Central Jr. High the first year of 67-68. Got my MS Degree the summer of 68 in Counseling so went to Lawrence High School in the fall of 68 as counselor. Coached, taught and counseled until spring of 87, when I retired.

I worked part time Alvamar Golf Course and Corp Adjusting for American Agrinsurance for about 8 years after retirement.

I had my second Heart Bypass and Rheta's mastectomy in July 1994. It was pretty good for about four years and then it got rougher. It was tough going for Rheta from 1999 to 2001 when she passed away. What a trooper she was going through all of that. It was wonderful that all three of you were through with education and settled down before she got so bad. We had so much fun with all of you.

It is better now although I do miss Rheta a lot. The two women that I met has helped keep down the loneness.

Phil, thanks for writing these great stories down. We've loved hearing them from you and now are happy they are written down for future generations. With Phil's permission, words in parenthesis were added by Sara Pestinger, Phil's daughter-in-law. I also did some spell checking, but did not change much grammar or flow of Phil's writing.