

## **Earl and Lillian Skinner – PART 2**

### **End of WWII**

The close of the War in 1945 saw the cancellation of government shipbuilding contracts and major cutbacks in employment. Earl survived a couple of layoffs but was finally let go in October, 1946.

NY Ship stayed open until 1967, though at reduced workload. The last major project completed was the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, launched in 1961.

The loss of NY Ship was devastating to the city of Camden, NJ. Over the next several decades, Camden lost the rest of its manufacturing base, including the international headquarters of Campbell Soup and RCA records. These losses precipitated Camden's overwhelming decline – a decline that has changed little in the intervening decades.

The vacated buildings of NY Ship are still visible on the Camden waterfront, just north of the Walt Whitman Bridge.

### **A Keystone Insurance Policy**

What could have been a prolonged post-war recession for the United States turned into a post-war boom of epic proportions?

Earl lost his job at NY Shipyards in October of 1946. In that same month, he started his next job selling insurance for the Keystone Insurance Company.

Bill Hughlett, husband of Earl's sister and a banker [later an independent repossession agent], had suggested that Earl take a look at working for Keystone, a Philadelphia company that conveniently had a branch office in South Jersey not far from where Earl lived in Westville.

Per Earl in 1976 – *“Had trouble as one big shot there said I was too old and besides would not be satisfied to eat “crow”. I said I would if the Crow did not get too high priced – so they took a chance. My test results were “No Salesman”. Tests Bah.”*

Earl started with Keystone in 1946 at age 45, and continued to work there for the next 20 years until his retirement in 1966. The Keystone job required an initial training period. Lillian assisted Earl with his studies. Earl went on to become a very successful salesman with Keystone.

**Keystone (continued)**

The Keystone job brought relative prosperity to the family, partly because auto insurance became mandatory in the mid-1950's. Keystone would shape the future of son David Skinner as well.

Dave Skinner graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in chemistry in 1951 and completed a two-year stint in the Air Force in 1953. Earl suggested that his son consider the training program at Keystone. Keystone would provide some nominal pay, and Dave would have the afternoons free to look for work more appropriate to his degree in chemistry.

The life of a salesman on the road looked more appealing to Dave than working in a lab. So Dave Skinner ended up staying with his father's employer and went on to become the most successful salesman to work for Keystone.

**More On Son David**

Son David attended Rutgers University in Brunswick, NJ from the Fall of 1947 until the spring of 1951. ROTC had helped to pay the bills so he spent two years in the Air Force from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War.

David spent his first year of military service from July, 1951 to July, 1952 at Dow Air Force Base in Bangor, Maine. He spent his second year of service from July, 1951 to July 1953 at Alexandria Air Force Base in Louisiana. In May of 1952, while his unit was packing for the move from Maine to Louisiana, David married Annette Frederick

### **Trips To Louisiana**

In October of 1952, Earl and Lillian visited their newlywed son David and wife Annette in Louisiana. Not sure if Earl & Lillian drove or flew.



Dave, Annette and Lillian, Louisiana, 1952

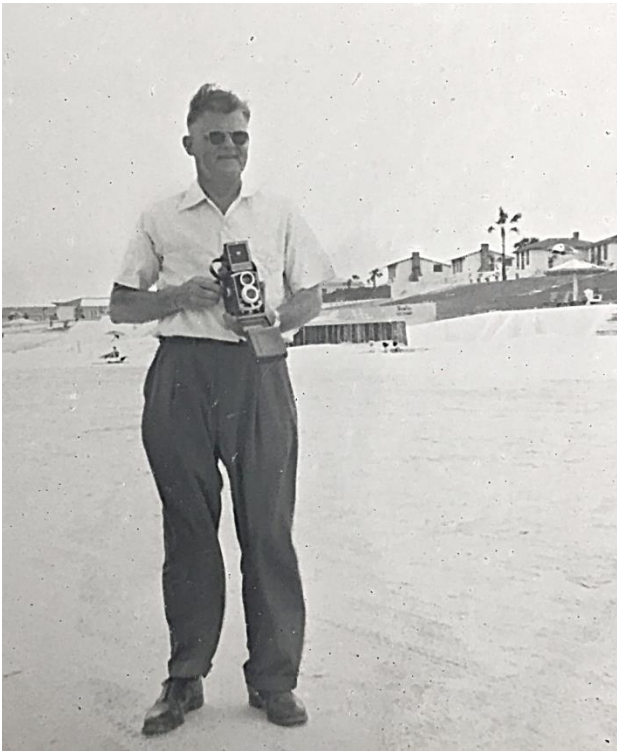
### **Louisiana For The Second Time**

In the spring of 1953, Earl and Lillian made a second trip to Louisiana. They drove and invited Annette's parents - Liz and Frank Frederick, along for the ride. They turned it into an extensive three week vacation, including one week with their children in Louisiana. This was just a month or so before Dave's two year stint in the Air Force came to an end,

Photographs show that the parents visited Washington D.C. and Birmingham, Alabama on the drive down. They returned home via a much longer route, with stops at Marianna, Florida (on the Florida Panhandle), St. Petersburg, Ft. Pierce, Cocoa Beach, Daytona and Fort Augustine. They enjoyed some fishing along the way. Frank Frederick took some photos of the trip and Earl took photos and movie footage.



1953 Fishing, Ft. Pierce, Florida, 1953



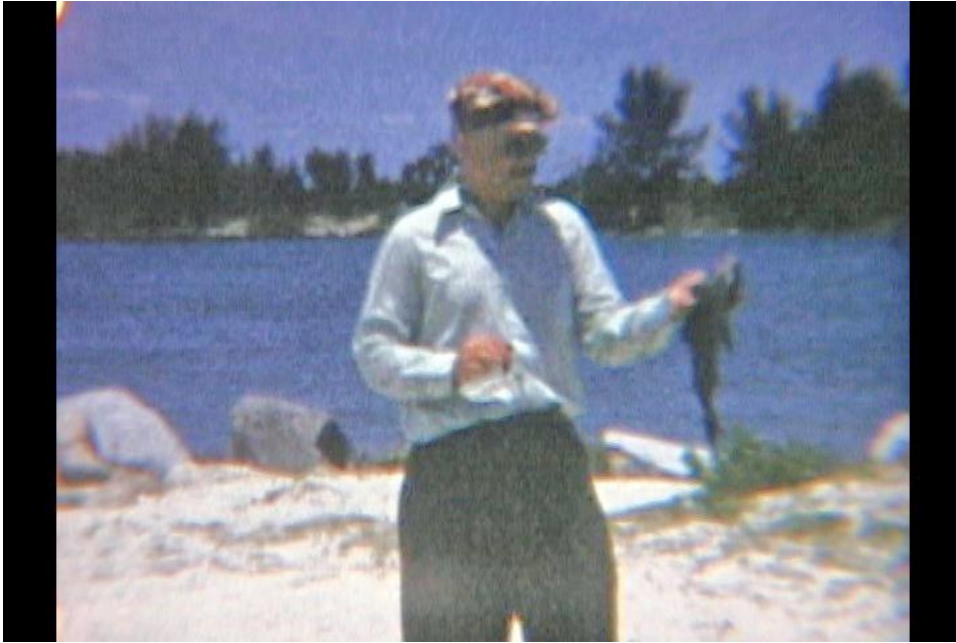
Earl, Liz Frederick and Lillian, Daytona Beach, Florida, 1953



Liz Frederick and Lillian, St. Petersburg, Florida, 1953



Earl & Lillian with Liz Frederick, Marianna, Florida, 1953



Fishing, Ft. Pierce, Florida, 1953



Earl, Cocoa Beach, Florida, 1953  
[Earl's movie footage]



Lillian with Liz Frederick, Daytona Beach, Florida, 1953

Earl's 1954 Plymouth Savoy

[Earl's movie footage]



The Fredericks and Skinners  
Daytona Beach, Florida, 1953  
[Earl's movie footage]



The Fredericks and Skinners  
Daytona Beach, Florida, 1953  
[Earl's movie footage]

Frank is showing off the six pack beer carton that he and Earl polished off.

## **Deptford NJ**

With a small loan from Earl, son David and wife Annette settled down in a modest home on an acre of land in Deptford, NJ in late 1953. Annette was pregnant.

Their home sat at the northeast corner of Clements Bridge Road and Lewis Avenue. That is where I grew up, living there from 1954 until 1964. Hard to believe, but at the time, there was nothing on the far side of Clements Bridge Road but some grazing cattle and a gas station down at the intersection with Cooper Street. My Dad would send me to the gas station to get his fix of his pack-a-day Kool cigarettes.

### **62 Walker Avenue**

In August of 1954, Earl and Lillian sold their bungalow on Walnut Ave. in Westville where they had lived since 1941. They upgraded to a nice property at 62 Walker Avenue, Deptford, just a few blocks from the home that Dave and Annette had purchased a year earlier.

The home of Earl and Lillian was a small, one-story ranch. I am guessing it was about 1600 sq. ft. But it was sitting on an acre of grass. The property included a large stand-alone garage and an additional out-building with several rooms that served as a large shed.

The house was shaped like a dog bone with the kitchen, office and dining area at one end, and the two bedrooms and bath at the other. Lillian had the master bedroom, Earl had the smaller one. The middle of the dog bone was the long, thin living room, that had a fireplace facing the front patio and a door leading out to the rear patio. The clean basement had little in it except for Earl's work bench and tools.

I would spend the first ten years of my life in Deptford within short walking distance of Earl and Lillian. I also lived fairly close to my maternal Frederick grandparents, who lived a few miles away at Woodbury Heights. In fact, my sister and I biked to the Fredericks when she was age 7, much to the distress of everyone.

Earl and Lillian's Deptford home was marvelous for a kid. An acre of land to explore, a favorite tree to climb, and the novelty of a key-start riding mower. In the summertime, Earl and Lillian would set up netting for an outdoor dining area 'festooned' with colored lights for barbecues and parties. I had friends in all of the surrounding streets in the neighborhood.

**62 Walker Avenue (continued)**

Lillian always loved animals. She would hang meat gristle for the birds and feed stray cats. Lillian had a dog 'Shine' born the same year as me (1954). An ugly mutt but she did not care.

The Skinner living room, heavy with the smell of Earl's cigars, was decorated with a southwest American theme - American Indian and horse-related paintings and artwork collected on trips to the American southwest that Lillian enjoyed. Decades later, Earl and Lillian still wore turquoise jewelry from the Southwest, though their travel preferences had changed to the northwest Oregon coast.

Towards the end of the 1950's, their travels included Bermuda and Sanibel, Florida and Lillian developed an interest in shell collecting. Earl built a glass-topped coffee table for their living room which Lillian filled with shells. The table had fluorescent lights in it so Earl had to put an electrical outlet on the floor in the middle of the Persian rug. The coffee table, sans lighting, reappeared in Sanibel years later.

They had a detached 2-story garage and a shed. By the late 50's, the shed, about the size of a 1-car garage, was filled with boxes of shells.

Earl had a home office for his sales job with Keystone Insurance, just off the kitchen. He had the corporate grey metal desk and metal file cabinets that you saw in every company in the 1950's. Same setup that my dad later had in Woodbury. I can still see Earl leaning back in the chair of his office, about 1965, with his thinning hair combed straight back.

I recall Earl pouring cement, colored red and green with dye, into rectangular molds to create stepping stones for the lawn.

A hand-made sign at the entrance to the Skinner driveway said 'Wind 'n Trees', and was illuminated at night with a railroad lantern.

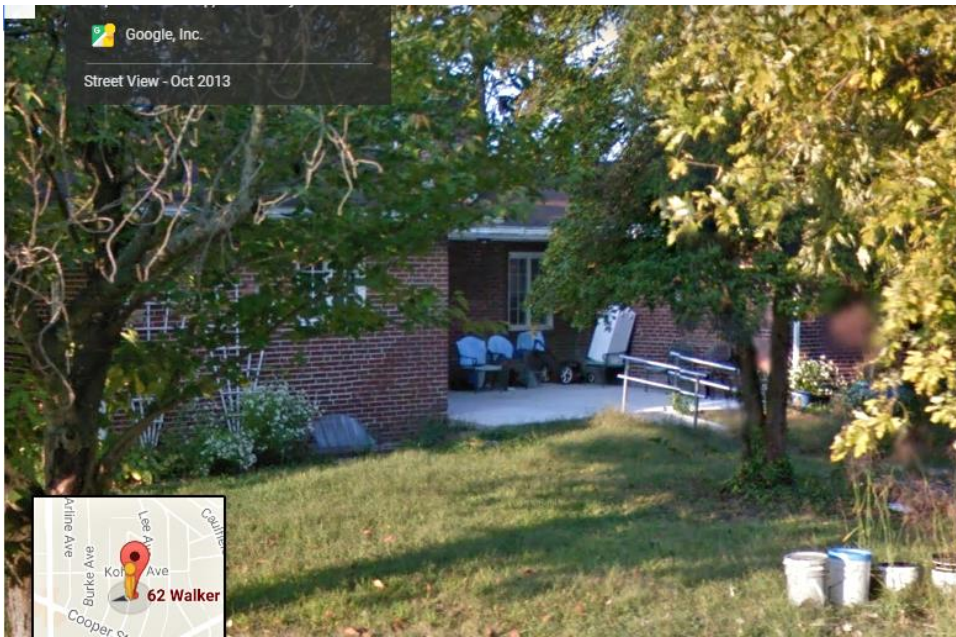


The Grandparents -  
Earl and Lillian Skinner; Elizabeth and Frank Frederick  
Earl and Lillian's home, 62 Walker Ave., Deptford  
My 8<sup>th</sup> birthday, 14 June 1962  
First photos taken with my birthday gift - Kodak Brownie camera.



62 Walker Avenue (Rear)

Walker Ave.  
Depot + Ford Turp.  
outside Woodbury, N.J.  
  
Sup. Garage - 2 cars  
  
H. E. Skinner's  
  
sold Fall 1965



62 Walker Avenue (front), Run Down, 2013



Garage, 2013 – torn down by 2017  
[google street view]



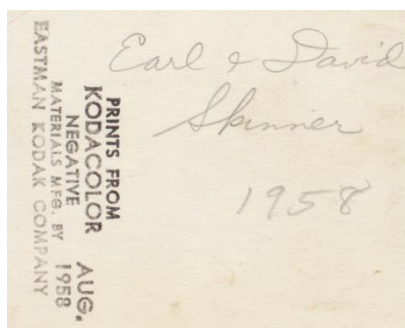
June, 1955



October, 1956, Home of Warren & May Skinner, Prospect Park, PA



Father & Son, Talking Keystone, 1958



Annette's writing



Susan, Kevin & Shine, Walker Ave., 1959 [DES slides]



Keystone Sales Prize for both Earl and David, Split Rock Lodge, Poconos, 1960



Madeline Doe 58

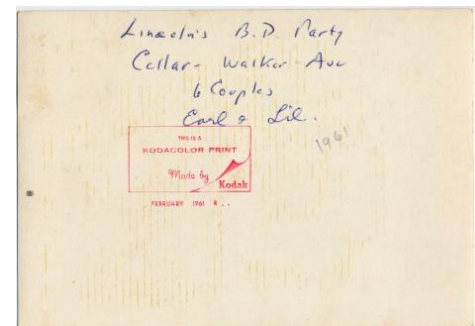
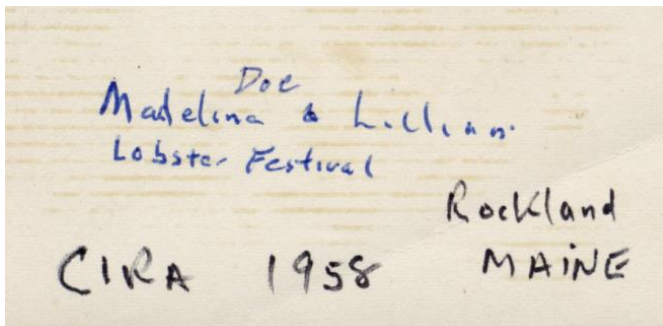
1958



Lincoln's Birthday Party

61

1961





Christmas, 1960, Walker Avenue [DES Slides]





Easter, 1962 [DES slides]



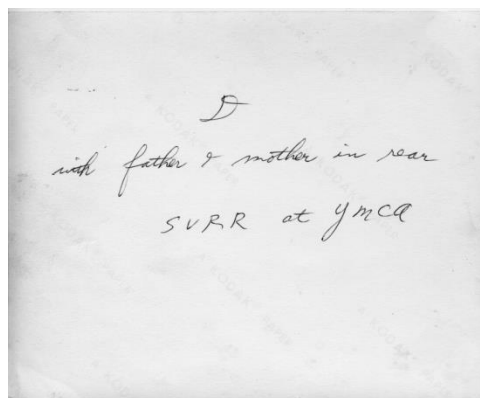
Susan & Kevin Birthdays, June, 1964, Walker Avenue;  
Earl's Mercedes in rear [DES slides]



Christmas, 1964, Childs St., Woodbury {DES slides}



Dave with parents, Earl and Lillian (rear)  
Silver Valley Railroad, circa early 1960's  
Dave's model railroading friend, Walt Price, at left



**Warren Joins the Family**

Earl's parents – May and Warren Skinner, had been living at 554 Ninth Avenue, Prospect Park, PA since the 1930's. Earl's sister – Gladys Hughlett, and her family lived a few blocks away from them in the 1950's and early 60's.

May Skinner died in January of 1963. The home of May and Warren was sold, and Warren came under the care of his daughter Gladys. This arrangement did not last long, and by 1965, Warren was moved to the care of Earl and Lillian. Lillian, a former nurse, was happy to care for her father-in-law.

**Keystone Retirement and Last-Minute Pension**

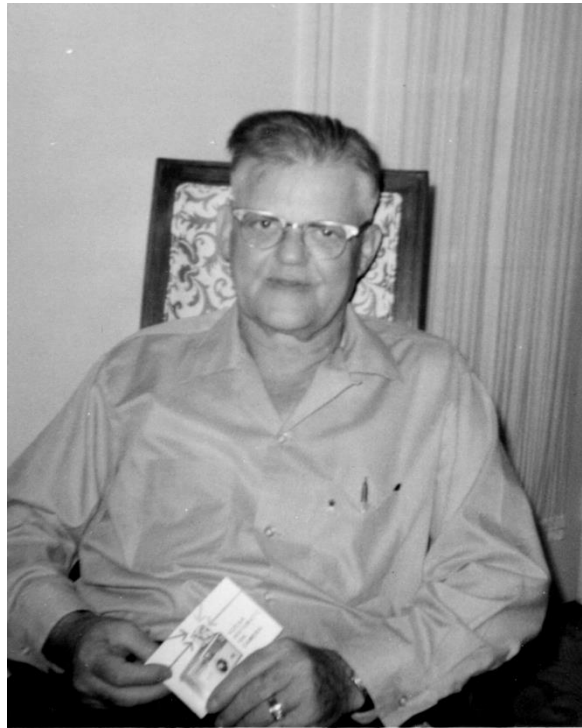
Earl retired from Keystone Insurance in 1966 at age 65. Earl had planned on retiring without the benefit of a pension. However, Keystone, under pressure from a newly formed labor union of employees, implemented a pension plan shortly before Earl's retirement. Son Dave had been one of the vocal proponents of the pension plan.

Dave assisted in his father's retirement finances. He took on Earl's book of customers and serviced them after Earl's retirement, mailing Earl any commissions from insurance renewals.

**Home Sweet Home - Haney's Mobile Home Park**

Earl and Lillian made plans to retire to Sanibel Island, Florida, an area they had first explored in the 1950's. In March of 1963, three years before Earl's retirement, they purchased a plot of land on Tahiti Drive, Sanibel in a small subdivision called Tradewinds. In 1965, one year before Earl's retirement, they sold their home on Walker Ave. in Deptford, NJ to free up the cash necessary to build a home on the Sanibel land. Their home on Walker Avenue in Deptford, NJ sold for \$20,000 in November, 1965.

Earl and Lillian spent part of 1966, Earl's last year of working, in a mobile home awaiting construction of their home in Florida. Their rental trailer was located at Haney's Mobile Home Park in Thorofare, NJ, about a mile from my parent's home at Woodbury. Earl's father, Warren, lived with them in the trailer as well.



Earl, 14 June 1966  
My 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, Childs St. Woodbury

Birthday gift was the Kodak Instamatic camera with the rotating flash cube  
– booklet in Earl's hands. This was my first color camera. My birthday was probably a month or two before Earl and Lillian made the move to Sanibel.

### **Sanibel Island, Florida**

Earl, Lillian and Earl's aging father, Warren, moved to 1339 Tahiti Drive, Sanibel in 1966. The 1900 sq. ft. house was a duplex and included a 2-room apartment for rental income. For marketing purposes, they named the apartment 'Port Au Call. . The house was a short block from the Gulf of Mexico.

The Sanibel home had an odd arrangement. The front of the house consisted of the rental apartment - a kitchen/living room space and one bedroom. Earl and Lillian lived behind the apartment in the rear of the house. Their living space was probably twice the size of the apartment, but still small, and consisted of one kitchen/living space and two bedrooms. Earl's father, Warren, slept in one of the two bedrooms.

Earl bought a small 14 ft. Boston Whaler with a 25hp motor. The boat was parked at the Tarpon Bay marina that was probably a 20 minute drive away.



Sanibel Island, Florida

Earl and Lillian lived on **Tahiti Drive**, beginning 1966, just a short walk from the Gulf. They kept their Boston Whaler at the **Marina ( X )**. Beth and I visited the address in 2008 and it was an overgrown wreck.

In 1972, Earl and Lillian moved to **Lindgren Blvd.**, about 7 miles closer to the doctors and shopping off the mainland. Again, they were just a short walk from the Gulf. Their boat was now parked in a canal in their backyard.



Tahiti Drive, Sanibel [DES slides]

The front and side doors were the apartment. The rear side door was the house.



The coffee table is one of several glass-topped display tables constructed by Earl



Loved those swivel chairs  
[HES Polaroids]



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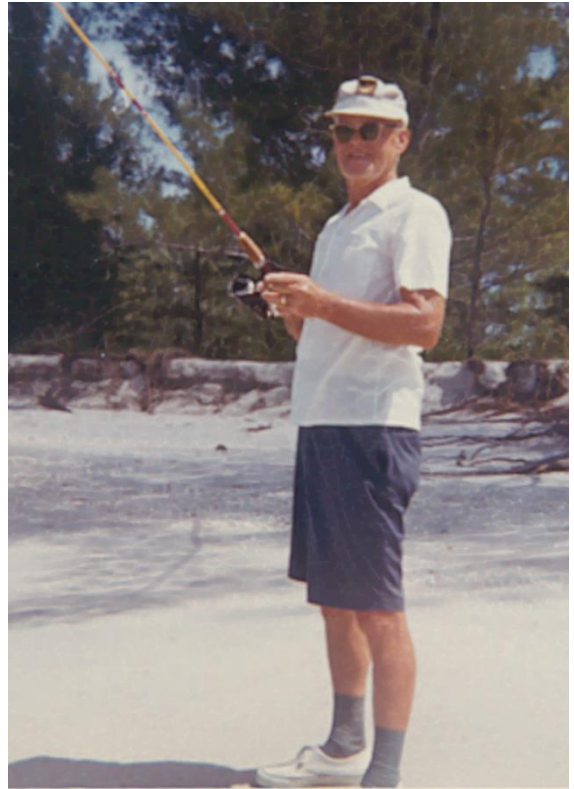
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**1967 Travels**

Our family first visited Earl and Lillian at Sanibel in August of 1967, staying in their apartment. I slept on a pull-out couch.



Earl and boat at the marina, undated.  
Earl's Polaroid film has held up.



Earl fishing on the Gulf, cigar in hand  
Tahiti Drive beach, Sanibel

Photo by me, Aug, 1967  
Same hat as at left.

*Carl*

Annette's writing



Susan and Me, 1967



Five Generations On This Page.



Lillian, Susan and Annette Skinner, Tahiti Drive, Sanibel; August, 1967  
Dressed Up for the airplane trip home.

My Kodak Instamatic camera.

I knew the historical significance of these generational photos.

Five Generations, Preceding Page:

A) Warren, Earl, Kevin and Dave Skinner, Aug., 1967.

B) David, Earl, Warren and Harry Skinner, circa 1932/3.

Note - - Harry (1846-1935) was eighteen years old when the Civil War ended. His father served in the Civil War.



Improved Images on this page courtesy of Dave's Nikon lenses {DES slides}



[DES Slides]



Sanibel, 1967 [DES slides]



Comparison Photos, at bottom, taken 18 years earlier in 1959 {DES slides}

**St. Augustine, 1968**

We had made our first family visit to Sanibel in August of 1967. In April of 1968, we did a camping trip down the east coast of the US with another Woodbury family, staying at St. Augustine for a time. Earl and Lillian drove across Florida from Sanibel to meet up with us. In August of 1968, we flew to Sanibel for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.



St. Augustine, 1968 [DES slides]



Tahiti Drive beach, Sanibel, 1971 {DES slides}

## Loss of a Father

Earl's father - Warren Skinner, died in his sleep at the home of Earl and Lillian on Tahiti Drive, Sanibel in 1970. He was 93 years of age. Earl had his father's body flown north for burial at Glassboro, NJ. My parent's home at Woodbury was used for the reception. We arrived home from a month-long camping trip out West a few hours after the reception not knowing a thing.



Warren, Sanibel, 1967

## Shine No More

Earl and Lillian had a 16-year old dog named 'Shine', born in 1954. I had grown up with 'Shine', who was born the same year as me. Shine died in 1970 on Sanibel.



[HES Polaroid]

**Lindgren Blvd, 1972 - 1987**

The Skinner home on Tahiti Drive was 8 miles out on Sanibel, and 28 miles from the doctors and shopping of Ft. Myers. As the Skinners approached age 70, they had to move closer to civilization.

In late 1968, they purchased a lot in a Sanibel subdivision called 'Sanibel Estates'. This property was much closer to the mainland than Tahiti Drive. Not sure of their intentions with the lot at the time, but they never built on it and sold it in 1980.

In June, 1971, Earl and Lillian purchased a home at 863 Lindgren Blvd., Sanibel and moved there shortly thereafter. The home was about a mile from the bridge to the mainland, putting them about 7 miles closer to Ft. Myers than their previous home on Tahiti Drive. The Tahiti Drive home was sold in March of 1972, six years after they had built it.

The Lindgren Blvd home was in a subdivision called 'Addition to Shell Harbor'. The home was new construction. I don't think they had any say in the design. It was a 2000 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms and a garage.

Like their previous home, they were situated about a short block from the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. They would drive to the beach, as Lillian was using a cane, and had vision problems as well. The home was on a canal where they could park their Boston Whaler. Despite the house being a short distance from the Gulf of Mexico, the boat ride out to open water was a long winding trip, about 1 mile, at 'No Wake' speed.

**The Damn Cats**

There were always animals around. An occasional alligator in the canal. A crow sitting with Earl on his chair. And Lillian always had a mix of cats - many strays from who knows where.

I will never forget the death of the cat Lillian called 'Big Red'. Lillian put on her straw hat, sat down in a chair in the front yard, and had me toil under the 95 degree hot afternoon sun digging the grave, while she quietly watched. It was a long, slow tearful process. You don't know how long it takes to dig a 4 foot deep hole until you have tried it. At the end of it, Earl arrived from the vet and handed me the plastic bag to be buried.

The cats always got the fish that Earl caught. Although Earl ate seafood, I never saw him eat something he caught.



863 Lindgren Blvd, Sanibel, 1972 [DES slides]

[HES polaroid]



[HES polaroid]



Wall décor by Lillian, including the painting.



The Housewives of Sanibel [HES polaroid]



## Visits To Sanibel

We visited Sanibel in 1967 and 1968. In 1969 and 1970, we skipped Sanibel, spending each August camping across the US and Canada.

We returned to Sanibel in 1971. I think that was the trip in which the 727 ran off the end of the short Fr. Myers runway.

I drove down to Sanibel sometime in the early 1970's. I was joined at Ft. Myers by an high school classmate who opted to fly.

We visited Sanibel again a a family in August, 1972. My lasting memory of that visit was a waterspout that formed over the Gulf of Mexico. You could see the water being sucked out of the Gulf into the clouds – very scary as it came closer, sent us running from the beach to the house. The spout collapsed when it reached land, but not before my Dad was able to grab his camera.

We returned for our first winter visit to Sanibel at Christmas, 1973. On that trip, I ran into the person that was going to be my fraternity roommate a few weeks later. Pure coincidence.

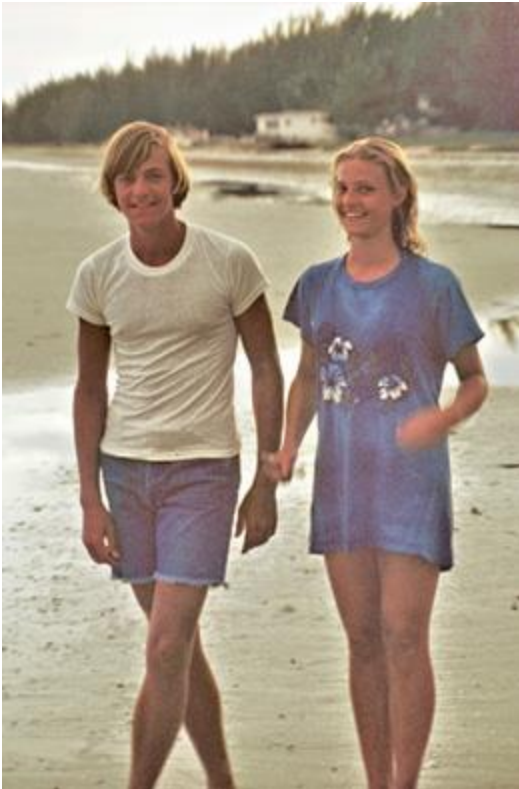
I returned again in January, 1978. This time I drove down with my Penn State graduate school roommate. We tooled around Ft. Myers in Earl's Mercedes.

Dad, Susan and I flew down in August, 1983 without Mother. This was the trip where the plane was diverted to Miami because the landing gear indicator light had malfunctioned. We landed with the runway lined by firetrucks. Dad rented a car for the drive from Miami to Sanibel.

We were all windsurfers by then and rented equipment out on Captiva. The dolphins would swim alongside us. My father made a few trips there on his own in the 1980's to help his aging parents.

Susan and I made a final trip to Sanibel at Christmas, 1986.

My grandparents always regretted that I never spent a college summer with them. So do I. What a waste of time doing dangerous, filthy factory work back home.



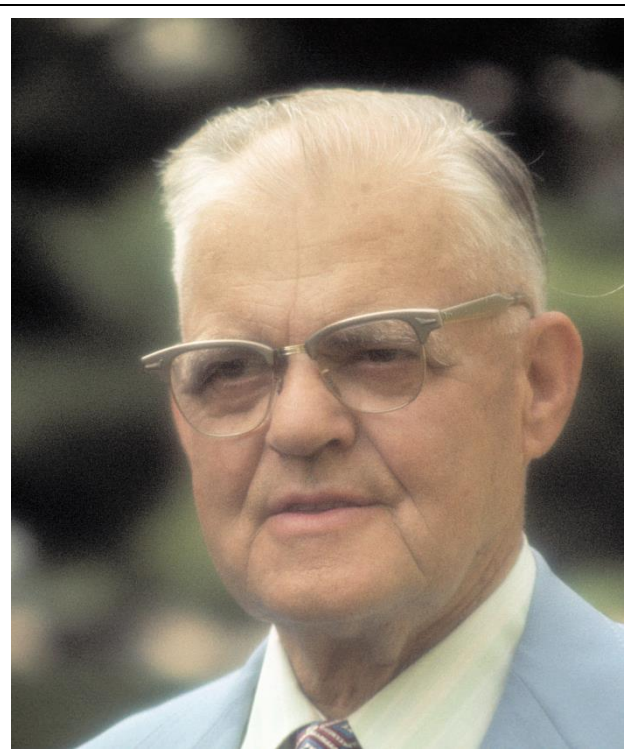
Sanibel, 1972 and waterspout [DES slides]



Penn State Roommate & Kevin, Sanibel, 1978 [HES polaroid]



Lillian and Earl, 1976  
Probably Earl's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday, taken at Childs St. Woodbury  
[DES slides]



**Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, 1977**

Lillian and Earl celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 1977. To celebrate, my parents met up with them in Franklin, North Carolina for some gemstone hunting. Lillian loved to visit Franklin to mine rubies. Following Franklin, the group traveled on to Sanibel.





Franklin, NC  
Earl with his trademark turquoise bolo tie [DES slides]



Lillian, Earl and son Dave  
Back from Franklin, NC to Lindgren Blvd, Sanibel, 1977  
[DES slides]





50th Anniversary Photograph, 1977 [Newspaper Photographer]

Earl and Lillian wore turquoise in their later years. The love of turquoise was an offshoot of Lillian's love of southwestern US culture – Indians, horses, etc. which developed out of trips made to the southwest in the 1950's.

Sometime photos don't capture people the way you remember them. This studio photo does not remind me of Earl and Lillian.

Per letter from Lillian, June 28, 1977 – *“While your parents were here, they arranged for the paper to take our picture. We both think it looks ugly looking – but if we are, we are!”*

*Important. do not Destroy 1977*

## Golden wedding anniversary



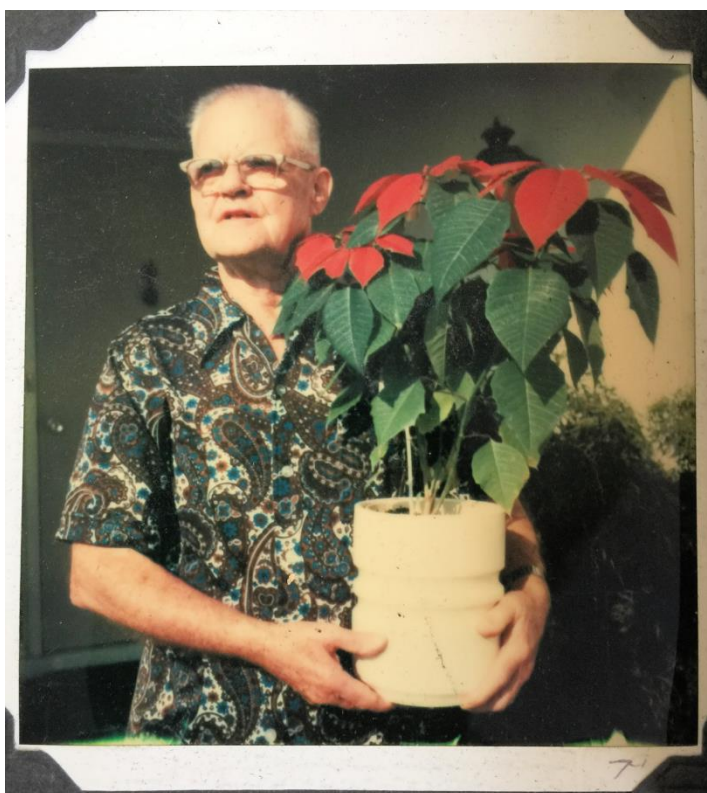
Mr. and Mrs. H. Earl Skinner, of 863 Lindgren Boulevard, Sanibel, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 10. The occasion was recognized with a trip with their son and daughter-in-law, David and Annette, of Woodbury, N.J., to Franklin, N.C. and Atlanta, Georgia. Their children returned with the Skinners to Sanibel for a vacation.

The Skinners also have two grandchildren, Kevin and Susan, who are attending the Pennsylvania State University.

Skinner is a retired industrial engineer and insurance salesman. Mrs. Skinner is a retired registered nurse. They moved to Sanibel in 1966 from Woodbury, New Jersey.

*Mr. and Mrs. H. Earl Skinner, of Sanibel, celebrate 50 years of marriage.*

Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, 1977  
 'Industrial Engineer' = Draftsman



Earl & Lillian, 1979



Lillian Skinner, Lindgren Blvd Beach, Sanibel, Sep 1983  
[KDS photo]

We visited south in September. They came north for Christmas as usual.  
If you ask me how I remember Lillian, this is 'her'.



*Just Happened to be in the  
Book store.*

*Carl*

“Just Happened to be in the Bookstore”

Earl's printing, Annette's writing, year unknown  
[Lillian polaroid]



The Senior Skinners  
early 1978  
Lil & Earl

[HES Polaroid]



Beautiful picture of Lillian and my sister Susan, Sanibel, 1983.



Earl Skinner; Christmas, Woodbury, 1983;  
Earl starting to look older.  
[KDS photos]

## **The 1980's**

Age started to catch up with the Skinners in the 1980's. My Dad had to make a few trips to Sanibel on his own to assist his parents. My Dad often joked about how cheap his father was – whether it was charging him for his first car in the 1950's, or the shock on Earl's face when my Dad would try to collect the money for his plane fare to come and help out on Sanibel.

At Christmas, 1983, Earl was starting to look a little old when they visited north for Christmas.

At Christmas, 1986, Susan and I made our last trip to Sanibel. I flew down a few days before Christmas. Susan arrived a few days later. For the first time, Earl seemed slow and forgetful. Susan recalls Earl's condition as being full-blown Alzheimer's, much worse than my recollection. We both agree that Earl was feeble and 'out-of-it' five months later at Susan's wedding in May of 1987.

On our Sanibel visit, I was surprised to find that their property was in disrepair. I helped trim the overgrown trees and bushes under Lillian's direction and made other repairs.

### **Move Back North – Wiley Retirement Community, 1987**

In 1987, with pressure from my father, Earl and Lillian packed up their belongings and prepared to move back north in time for my sister's wedding in May of 1987.

In March of 1987, Earl and Lillian made a long, arduous drive back to New Jersey. Earl was beginning to decline in health and the ride back was not easy. I should have driven them.

My father had made arrangements for Earl and Lillian to move into the Wiley Retirement Community in Marlton, NJ. They moved into a nice condo with a porch, a duplex arrangement with one other condo in the same structure. They did breakfast and lunch on their own, and drove to the main dining hall for dinners. They made short driving trips off campus for shopping.

Earl began to exhibit memory problems, similar to the Alzheimer problems suffered by his sister and father. He started repeating stories to me and had difficulty getting the shopping done correctly. For a time, he purchased bird food every time he went shopping, until my Dad found the trunk of his car to be filled with bird food. Earl insisted on continuing to drive, but my dad limited his driving to the daily drive on campus for dinner. My father eventually did the difficult job of retrieving the car keys. Earl's silver Cadillac went to my sister.



Lillian at Dave Skinner's Ocean City Property, 1982 [DES slide]

**Wedding of Susan and Marty; May, 1987**

Earl and Lillian attended the wedding of their grandchild Susan and husband Marty Hernon at the Woodbury Presbyterian Church in May, 1987. Earl was not in the best of shape, but Lillian, at age 83, looked stunning.



Lillian Skinner, Susan & Marty Wedding Day' May, 1987  
Childs St., Woodbury home of Dave and Annette Skinner.



Susan (Skinner) Hernon  
Wedding Day' May 30, 1987

1,2 – Earl & Lillian Skinner.

3,4 – Bill & Gladys Hughlett (Gladys - sister to Earl Skinner).

5,6 – Connie (dau. of Bill & Gladys) and her husband.

7 – Dick Hughlett (son of Bill & Gladys) standing near his wife, Peggy.

8 – Annette Skinner, mother of the bride.

Upper Right, unnumbered – Maxine & Chuck (Charles) Ungerbuehler,  
son of Marsden Ungerbuehler

(The father of Earl Skinner and mother of Marsden were brother and sister).



Christmas, 1987 [DES slides]

**Earl Skinner, 1901-1990 (age 88)**

Earl's physical health began to decline, along with his mind. On August 6, 1989, Earl was moved into Assisted Living at the main Wiley building. Lillian continued to live on her own in their condo. Some months before his death, Earl fell out of bed. He fractured his hip and required a hip replacement. He was in a wheel chair from that point in time forward.

When I visited, the nurses were always friendly and Earl was always happy to see me, wheeling his wheelchair down the hall to greet me.

Earl eventually ended up in a coma at Kennedy Hospital, close to the Wiley facility. I last saw him with too many tubes stuffed down his throat, rubbing his legs together as if he was awake, but in a coma. Not clear if arteriosclerosis or the Alzheimer's was his main problem. Probably the former. Not long after, Earl died of respiratory arrest. Earl lived just three years after the drive north from Sanibel in the spring of 1987. He died in the spring of 1990, just a few weeks short of his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Per his death record, he died from apnea, organic brain syndrome (senile dementia Alzheimer's type 1) and arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease. No posthumous testing was done for the Alzheimer's.

Earl exhibited signs of Alzheimer's for only 3-4 years before his death. His father, who lived to the age of 93, had suffered from the disease for 7-10 years. All of the Skinners, including my father, have shown initial symptoms of Alzheimer's in the neighborhood of age 83 to age 86.

The services for Earl were held at the Wiley facility on a beautiful spring day with the flowers blooming. Open casket. Lillian seemed fine. Family friend Fred Davis handled the funerals for all of my grandparents.

**H. EARL SKINNER**

H. Earl Skinner, 88, of Marlton, died Thursday at Wiley Health Care Center, Marlton.

He was a former resident of Woodbury and Sanibel Island, Fla.

Mr. Skinner retired in 1966 from Keystone Insurance Co., Philadel-

phia, after 20 years as an insurance broker.

Previous to that, he was a draftsman at the New York Ship Building Corp. of Camden, and was a member of the Marine Draftsman's Association.

Surviving are his wife, Lillian C.; a son, David E. of Woodbury; a sister, Gladys Hughlett of Willow Street, Pa.; and two grandchildren.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday at Wiley Church, 101 E. Main St., Marlton, where friends may call after 10 a.m. Burial will be in Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro.

Contributions may be made to Wiley Church, 101 E. Main St., Marlton, N.J. 08053.

Arrangements are by the Davis Funeral Home, Woodbury.

**SKINNER, H. EARL**

of Marlton, NJ, formerly of Sanibel Island, Fla. & Woodbury, NJ, on April 19, 1990, husband of Lillian C. (nee Showalter), aged 88 years. Funeral service Monday, April 23rd at 11am at Wiley Church, 101 E. Main St., Marlton, NJ 08053. Viewing at the church from 10-11am. Interment Eglington Cem. Arrangements by DAVIS FUNERAL HOME, 171 Delaware St., Woodbury, NJ. Contributions may be sent to Wiley Church.

H. EARL SKINNER, 88, of Marlton, formerly of Woodbury and Sanibel Island, Fla., died Thursday at Wiley Health Care Center, Marlton.

Survivors: his wife, Lillian C. Showalter Skinner; a son, David E. of Woodbury; two grandchildren, and a sister, Gladys Hughlett of Pennsylvania.

Services: viewing, 10 a.m. tomorrow, Wiley Church, 101 E. Main St., Marlton; funeral, 11 a.m. tomorrow at the church; burial, Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro. Davis Funeral Home, Woodbury.

*Died 4/19/90*

New Jersey State Department of Health CERTIFICATE OF DEATH										STATE USE ONLY	
1. NAME OF DECEASED (First) (Middle) (Last) H. EARL SKINNER											
2. DATE OF DEATH 04/19/90		3. SEX M	4. DATE OF BIRTH 05/17/01		5a. AGE - Last Birth-day (yrs.) 88	5b. UNDER 1 YEAR Months Days Hours Minutes		5c. UNDER 1 DAY Hours Minutes			
6. SOCIAL SEC. NO. 163-05-4110			7a. PLACE OF DEATH HOSPITAL: <input type="checkbox"/> INPATIENT <input type="checkbox"/> ER/OUTPATIENT <input type="checkbox"/> DOA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NURSING HOME <input type="checkbox"/> RESIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)								
7b. FACILITY NAME (If not institution, give street and no.) Wiley Health Care Center										7c. CITY/TOWN, OR LOCATION Evesham Twp.	
7d. COUNTY Burlington											
8a. RESIDENCE - (State) NJ		8b. COUNTY Burlington		8c. CITY OR TOWN Marlton		8d. STREET AND NUMBER 1A Lilac Court		8e. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		8f. ZIP CODE 08053	
9. BIRTHPLACE (City & State, or Foreign Country) Phila., Pa.			10a. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			10b. IF YES, WAR DATES (From/To) N/A			11. MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED		
12. SURVIVING SPOUSE (If Wife, Maiden Name) Lillian C. Showalter			13. USUAL OCCUPATION (Kind of work done most of life, even if retired) Insurance Broker				14. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Insurance				
15. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST EMPLOYER Keystone Insurance Co., Phila., Pa.											
16. RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK		17. AMER. INDIAN <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify):		17. OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? IF YES, SPECIFY: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		18. MEXICAN <input type="checkbox"/> CUBAN <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify):		19. PUERTO RICAN <input type="checkbox"/> CENT./SO. AMERICA		18. DECEDENT'S EDUCATION Highest Grade Completed 14th	
19. NAME OF FATHER (First) (Middle) (Last) George Warren Skinner				20. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER (First) (Middle) (Last) Viola May Lead							
21a. NAME OF INFORMANT David E. Skinner				21b. RELATIONSHIP Son				22a. DISPOSITION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BURIAL <input type="checkbox"/> CREMATION <input type="checkbox"/> ENTOMBMENT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify):			
22b. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Eglington Cemetery				22c. CITY OR TOWN Clarksboro				22d. STATE NJ			
23a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL HOME Davis Funeral Home, 171 Delaware St., Woodbury, N.J. 08096											
23b. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR Friedrich & Davis				23c. N.J. LICENSE NO. 2481		24a. SIGNATURE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR Kathi L. Pauley				24b. DATE RECEIVED 4/20/90	
25a. TIME OF DEATH 5:15 A.M.		25b. DATE AND HOUR PRONOUNCED DEAD DATE: 4/19/90 HOUR: 5:20 A.M.									
Complete Items 25c-d only when certifying physician is not available at time of death to certify cause of death.				25c. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, DEATH OCCURRED AT TIME, DATE, AND PLACE INDICATED SIGNATURE OF PRONOUNCER (If different than certifier): Mary Hines R.N.				25d. DATE SIGNED 4/19/90			
26. PART I: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death). Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to immediate cause. Enter UNDERLYING CAUSE (Disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death) LAST. a. Respiratory arrest → apnea b. organic brain syndrome (senile dementia/Alzheimer's type) c. atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease d.											
PART II: Other significant conditions - contributing to death but not related to underlying cause in PART I. atrial fibrillation											
27. IF FEMALE, WAS SHE PREGNANT AT DEATH, OR ANY TIME 90 DAYS PRIOR TO DEATH? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO										28. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
29. DEATH DUE TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NATURAL <input type="checkbox"/> ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE		<input type="checkbox"/> PENDING INVESTIGATION <input type="checkbox"/> COULD NOT BE DETERMINED		30a. DATE OF INJURY		30b. TIME OF INJURY M		30c. INJURY AT WORK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		30d. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED	
30e. PLACE <input type="checkbox"/> STREET <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify):				<input type="checkbox"/> HOME <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE BUILDING <input type="checkbox"/> FARM <input type="checkbox"/> FACTORY							
30f. LOCATION OF INJURY (Number and Street)						30g. CITY AND COUNTY			30h. STATE		
31a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER M.D. Sandra Willingmyer, Brick Road, Marlton, N.J. 08053										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAL EXAMINER <input type="checkbox"/> PRONOUNCER AND CERTIFIER	
31b. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, DEATH OCCURRED DUE TO CAUSES LISTED ABOVE SIGNATURE OF CERTIFIER: Sandra Willingmyer MD										31c. DATE SIGNED 4/19/90	

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APR 20 1990

DATE OF ISSUE

Kathi L. Pauley

KATHI L. PAULEY  
REGISTRAR

## Gladys Hughlett

Gladys Hughlett, sister to Earl, died in 1994. She was born in 1909 and was eight years younger than her brother. Like her father Warren Skinner and brother Earl, she suffered from dementia towards the end of her life. She tested positive for Alzheimer's in posthumous testing. Gladys reminded me of her mother May Skinner - quiet, soft-spoken, and somewhat conservative and strict in manner. Her brother Earl was made from a different cloth.

### **Gladys S. Hughlett, lived in Lancaster**

Gladys S. Hughlett, 84, of 300 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, died Friday morning at home after a long illness.

She was the wife of William C. Hughlett.

Born in Philadelphia, she was a daughter of the late Warren and May Leap Skinner.

She was a member of Calvary Church of Lancaster.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, Richard William of Clarksboro, N.J.; a daughter, Constance H. Silver of Bryn Mawr; three grandchildren; and a brother, Earl Skinner of New Jersey.

**HUGHLETT** - Entered into rest in Willow St., Pa. on January 14, 1994, GLADYS S. HUGHLETT, wife of William C. Hughlett of 300 Willow Valley Lakes Dr., in her 85th year. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from the Ivan B. Dewald Funeral Home, 227 W. 4th St., Quarryville on Tuesday, at 10 a.m. with Chaplain Rev. George Linehart officiating. Interment in Willow Street Mennonite Cemetery, Willow St., Pa. Friends may call at the Dewald Funeral Home, Tuesday morning from 9:30 until 10 a.m. Please omit flowers. Should friends desire memorials in her memory may be sent to Hospice of Lancaster Co., 120 W. Airport Rd., P.O. Box 5179, Lancaster, Pa. 17606-5179.

Earl not alive as stated in last sentence, above left.

## **Lillian Alone**

Lillian had been living alone in her condo since 1989, when Earl was moved into Assisted Living, and since his death in 1990.

In December, 1991, I videotaped an interview with Lillian at her Wiley condo. Lillian got her final say. Lillian was also videotaped at her condo circa March, 1992 with new great-grandson David Hernon.

Shortly thereafter, her condo was cleaned out and Lillian was moved into Assisted Living at Wiley in a two bed room. She shared her room with bed-ridden 'roommates' whom she barely tolerated.

I maintained all of the contents of Lillian's condo, from the lamps down to the furniture and rugs, in a storage locker until 2006.



Christmas Without Earl, Woodbury, 1990 [DES print]

**Lillian Skinner, 1903-1996**

Lillian, despite decades of debilitating back problems, a major bout of blood poisoning, dizziness resulting in falls, macular degeneration, blindness in one eye and growing lung and heart problems, miraculously y outlived her husband Earl. Her poor back had resulted in back surgery in the 1970's. She had (5) discs removed in 1983. Decades earlier, she had preferred living in one-story homes to avoid the stairs and back pain. She lost vision in one eye in the 1990's. Lillian eventually died of 'old age', her weakened heart working overtime to offset declining lung function.

Big-boned, Lillian never grew frail and remained relatively clear of mind, tough as a bird to the end.



Lillian Skinner (b. 1903), circa 1994

**Pride and Joy**

My Father was satisfied and proud of the care and attention he had provided to his parents. From the time he arranged for them to relocate from Florida to the Wiley Retirement Center in New Jersey in 1987, he looked after them, cared for them and spent time with them, visiting every week. For my father, it was 'Mission Accomplished'. As with everything else he did, he got the job done.

REG-18  
Jun 91

### CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. NAME OF DECEASED (First, Middle, Last) <b>Lillian C. SKINNER</b>				STATE USE ONLY	
2. DATE OF DEATH <b>4-22-96</b>	3. SEX <b>FE</b>	4. DATE OF BIRTH <b>12-7-1903</b>	5a. AGE - Last birth day/hrs <b>92</b>	5b. UNDER 1 YEAR Months _____ Days _____	5c. UNDER 1 DAY Hours _____ Minutes _____
6. SOCIAL SEC. NO. <b>148-40-8094</b>		7a. PLACE OF DEATH <b>HOSPITAL</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INPATIENT <input type="checkbox"/> ER/OUTPATIENT <input type="checkbox"/> DOA <input type="checkbox"/> NURSING HOME <input type="checkbox"/> RESIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)			
7b. FACILITY NAME (If not institution, give street and no.) <b>WEST JERSEY HOSPITAL</b>		7c. CITY/TOWN OR LOCATION <b>EVESHAM TWP.</b>		7d. COUNTY <b>BURLINGTON</b>	
8a. RESIDENCE (State) <b>NJ</b>	8b. COUNTY <b>BURLINGTON</b>	8c. CITY OR TOWN <b>EVESHAM TWP.</b>	8d. STREET AND NUMBER <b>199 E. MAIN ST.</b>	8e. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	8f. ZIP CODE <b>08053</b>
9. BIRTHPLACE (City & State, or Foreign Country) <b>Fairmont, W. Va.</b>		10a. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		10b. IF YES, WAR DATES (From-To): <b>N/A</b>	
12. SURVIVING SPOUSE (If Wife, Maiden Name) <b>NONE</b>		13. USUAL OCCUPATION (Kind of work done most of life, even if retired) <b>HOMEMAKER</b>		14. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <b>AT HOME</b>	
15. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST EMPLOYER <b>NONE</b>					
16. RACE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK		17. OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		18. DECEDENT'S EDUCATION Highest Grade Completed <b>15</b>	
19. NAME OF FATHER (First, Middle, Last) <b>JOSEPH BLAIR SHWALTER</b>		20. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER (First, Middle, Last) <b>BERTHA JANE DODD</b>			
21a. NAME OF INFORMANT <b>DAVID E. SKINNER</b>		21b. RELATIONSHIP <b>SON</b>		22a. DISPOSITION <input type="checkbox"/> BURIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREMATION <input type="checkbox"/> ENTOMBMENT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify):	
22b. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY <b>EGLINGTON CREMATORY</b>		22c. CITY OR TOWN <b>CLARKSBORO</b>		22d. STATE <b>NJ</b>	
23a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL HOME <b>DAVIS FUNERAL HOME, 171 DELAWARE ST., WOODBURY, NJ 08096</b>					
23b. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR <i>Richard E. Davis</i>		23c. N.J. LICENSE NO. <b>2481</b>		24. SIGNATURE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR <i>Gail R. Scheffler</i>	
25a. TIME OF DEATH <b>6:45 AM</b>		25b. DATE AND HOUR PRONOUNCED DEAD DATE: <b>4/22/96</b> HOUR: <b>6:45 AM</b>		25c. DATE SIGNED <b>4/22/96</b>	
26. PART I: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death). Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to immediate cause. Enter UNDERLYING CAUSE (Disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death) LAST.					
a. <b>RESPIRATORY FAILURE</b>					
b. <b>ANEMIA</b>					
c. <b>GASTROINTESTINAL BLEEDING</b>					
d.					
PART II: Other significant conditions - contributing to death but not related to underlying cause in PART I.					
27. IF FEMALE, WAS SHE PREGNANT AT DEATH, OR ANY TIME 90 DAYS PRIOR TO DEATH? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO					
28. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO					
29. DEATH DUE TO: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NATURAL <input type="checkbox"/> ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> SUICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> HOMICIDE		30a. DATE OF INJURY		30b. TIME OF INJURY <b>M</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> PENDING INVESTIGATION <input type="checkbox"/> COULD NOT BE DETERMINED		30c. PLACE <input type="checkbox"/> HOME <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICE BUILDING <input type="checkbox"/> STREET <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify):		30d. INJURY AT WORK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
30f. LOCATION OF INJURY (Number and Street)		30g. CITY AND COUNTY		30h. STATE	
31a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER <b>5-202 COOPER AVE. PARSIPPANY NJ 08107</b>					
31b. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, DEATH OCCURRED DUE TO CAUSES LISTED ABOVE.					
SIGNATURE OF CERTIFIER <i>Robert Davis</i>		31c. DATE SIGNED <b>4/22/96</b>			

H-4298

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APR 22 1996

DATE OF ISSUE

*Gail R. Scheffler*  
GAIL R. SCHEFFLER  
REGISTRAR

Lillian C. Skinner, 92, of Marlton, formerly a Gloucester County resident, died Monday at West Jersey Hospital, Marlton.

She was born in Fairmont, W.Va.

A homemaker, she won many awards for her shell art at the International Shell Fair in Florida. She was also an accomplished painter.

She lived in Woodbury for four years before moving to Westville and then Deptford. She also lived in Sanibel Island, Fla. for 23 years. She had lived at the Wiley Mission Home in Marlton since 1987.

She is survived by a son, David E. of Woodbury; two grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Graveside memorial services will be private. There will be no calling hours.

Memorials may be made to the Wiley Mission Inc., 99 E. Main St., Marlton, NJ 08053.

The Davis Funeral Home, Woodbury, is in charge of arrangements.

**Lillian C. Skinner, 92, of Evesham**, died Monday at West Jersey Hospital, Marlton.

Born in Fairmont, W.Va., Mrs. Skinner (nee Showalter) lived in Woodbury, Westville, Deptford and Sanibel Island, Fla., before moving to the Marlton section of Evesham in 1987.

She was a homemaker and an accomplished painter who won many art awards at the International Shell Fair in Florida.

Surviving are a son, David E. of Woodbury; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services and burial will be private.

Donations may be made to Wiley Mission Inc., 99 E. Main St., Marlton 08053.

Arrangements are by Davis Funeral Home, Woodbury.

*Courier-Post*  
4/26/96

04/22/96

**SKINNER, LILLIAN C. (nee Showalter)**, of Marlton, NJ, formerly of Woodbury, Westville, and Deptford, NJ and

Sanibel Island, Fla. Wife of the late H. Earl Skinner, she is survived by a son David of Woodbury, two grandchildren, Kevin Skinner and Susan Hernon, and two great grandsons, David and Coleman Hernon. Funeral Service and interment private. Contributions may be made to Wiley Mission Inc., 99 E. Main St., Marlton, NJ 08053. Arrangements by **DAVIS FUNERAL HOME**, 171 Delaware St., Woodbury, NJ.



Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro, NJ – one casket, one urn

## **Friends and Family**

Earl and Lillian had a full life filled with friends and family. On Sanibel, Earl went on frequent fishing trips with his neighbors, on boats or fishing from jetties or the beach. The neighbors in turn watched the stray cats when Earl and Lillian went away. Earl and Lillian kept in touch with people who rented their small apartment – people who were repeat visitors to the island.

Lillian had her own circle of friends from her participation in the annual Sanibel Shell Fair. The Shell Fair was a big deal. Lillian would make some formal shell arrangements to earn a prize. Earl would assist as well, making the frames that formed the backdrop of her shell displays. Lillian would also make junky shell trinkets that she sold at the fair.

Earl maintained a close relationship with two of his cousins – Ben Ungerbuehler of Delaware and Francis Sheppard of central New Jersey. Ben, in particular, made frequent trips to Florida, staying at Port Charlotte and often visiting the Skinners. In fact, the last time I saw Ben Ungerbuehler was at my grandparents' home on Sanibel in 1983. Ben, by the way, gave me a treasure trove of family photos in the early 1970's that I cherish to this day.

Every year or two, Earl and Lillian would drive or fly north. They would visit Earl's cousins as well as Earl's sister Gladys (husband Bill Hughlett), Lillian's sister Ethel, and other friends.

Earl and Lillian would stay at my parent's house during their visits north. Towards the end of the 1970's. Lillian grew tired of my mother's lack of hospitality and opted to stay at a small motel about a mile from my parent's house,

Lillian and my mother never quite got along. My mother did not like cooking and entertaining. She never had the food in the cupboard or the flexibility to adapt to a family gathering.



Lillian with her sister Ethel and Ethel's daughter Joan, Sanibel, 1975  
[HES polaroids]



Earl and Lillian with Earl's cousin Frances Sheppard and wife Sarah  
Tahiti Drive, Sanibel, late 1960's [HES polaroid]



Lillian and Earl with Earl's cousin Frances Sheppard and wife Sarah  
Lindgren Blvd., Sanibel, 1970's [HES polaroids]

## Madeline and Larry Doe

Earl and Lillian were friends for many decades with Larry and Madeline Doe. The friendship began in the 1940's when the Skinner and Doe families were neighbors in Westville, NJ. Both families had sons in the Woodbury school system [David Skinner and Larry Doe, Jr.) and both families attended the same Westville Methodist church.

In the 1950's, the friendship extended to the next generation in both families. My parents began hanging out with son Larry Doe Jr. and his wife Bobbi. Growing up, I remember a lot of fun barbecues and visits with the Does family and their four kids in Collingswood, NJ. And we spent a week together at the Jersey shore. For my parents, the friendship dwindled in the 1960's. For Earl and Lillian, they were still seeing Madeline Doe, later Madeline Robinson, in the 1970's.



Larry and Bobbi Doe, Annette and Dave Skinner,  
Dave's grandmother Bertha Showalter and Madeline Doe  
Home of Earl and Lillian Skinner, Walker Ave, Deptford, NJ



Do  
Madeline & Lillian  
Lobster Festival  
CIRA 1958  
Rockland  
MAINE

## Tryvola and Joe Harrington and Jane Hunter

Lillian's best friend throughout her life was probably Tryvola Harrington. Tryvola and her husband Joe had been neighbors of the Skinners back in Westville, NJ in the 1940's, same as the Does family. The Harringtons and Skinners were friends for the remainder of their lives. They did a lot of traveling together, including multiple trips to the Oregon coast. And the Harringtons were frequent visitors to Sanibel.

The Harringtons lived and traveled with Jane Hunter, a companion of Tryvola. I last saw Tryvola at Earl Skinner's funeral in 1990.

## Earls Travel Bug

Earl Skinner had a traveling bug at any early age. He came of age with the auto and the airplane, had worked for the Pennsy Railroad, had owned several boats and had helped design ship interiors – so he had all the travel bases covered!

Earl's traveling was jump-started in his late teens when his father started taking the family traveling in his 1919 Ford Model T. While still in his teens, Earl worked for the railroad and took advantage of free travel passes to tour the eastern US.

Earl made a total of seven trips to Niagara Falls, most of those trips made early in his life. Three of those trips were made while he was working for the Pennsylvania Railroad and one trip was made with his parents in their Model T.

In the 1930's, Earl starting making airplane flights for fun. Not sure how many of those trips involved his wife.

liking to fly. My total trips to Niagara by train, car, plane are seven but none since about 55. First in a 1919 Model "T" Few times when your Grandma went to Lancaster for the week end I was overtempted to take a short flight, usually she never knew. I recall one day went to Phila. airport and asked at counter if there was a flt. to Buffalo that stopped few times? Reply one leaves in 10 minutes (DC3) with a look to me of what kind of nut do we have here. I was the only passenger untill Williamsport. None on at Reading. Had lunch together with the hostess. Business picked up some at Elmira-Corning and at Rochester. Came back on DC6 one stop, Rochester that night. When I worked for The PRR one was allowed a pass

Letter from Earl to Me, 1976

## **Travels of Earl and Lillian**

Per letter from Earl, June 28, 1977 – “As I look back, we never had a desire to get to Hawaii, Mexico or Europe, but sure have seen a lot of the U.S.A. Hope you will get around some time and see this wonderful country.”

In the 1950's, Earl and Lillian began flying around the United States. Their earliest trips were to the American Southwest. When I was growing up in the early 1960's, Lillian had decorated her living room with paintings and artifacts relating to Indians and horses, all items collected from their trips to Arizona and surrounding areas. Later in life, they wore lots of turquoise jewelry purchased in the Southwest.

In the late 1950's, Earl and Lillian began making trips to Bermuda, and/or the Bahamas, and to Florida. Lillian fell in love with shell collecting and discovered Sanibel Island, Florida – rated as being the third best shelling beach in the world. When I went into the shed behind their Deptford home in the early 1960's, it was already filled with boxes of shells. Shell collecting and shell crafts became a hobby for the rest of her life.

Earl and Lillian made numerous trips to the Pacific coast – California, Oregon and Washington, particularly in the 1960's and 1970's. Many of those trips were made with their friends, the Harringtons. My sister recalls Lillian raving about the towns of Eureka, California and Garibaldi, Oregon.

Per letter from Lillian, September 6, 1977 – “Had a good plane ride west with good food. We had a real good time, Mrs. Harrington and I doing all the beaches we could get to gathering shells off rocks as that is the only place one finds them. The coast of Washington and Oregon is wild.”

In the 1970's, Earl and Lillian made frequent drives from Sanibel up to Franklin, North Carolina, where Lillian was fond of sifting mud for gemstones – particularly rubies. My dad had a nice, custom ruby ring made for himself as a result.

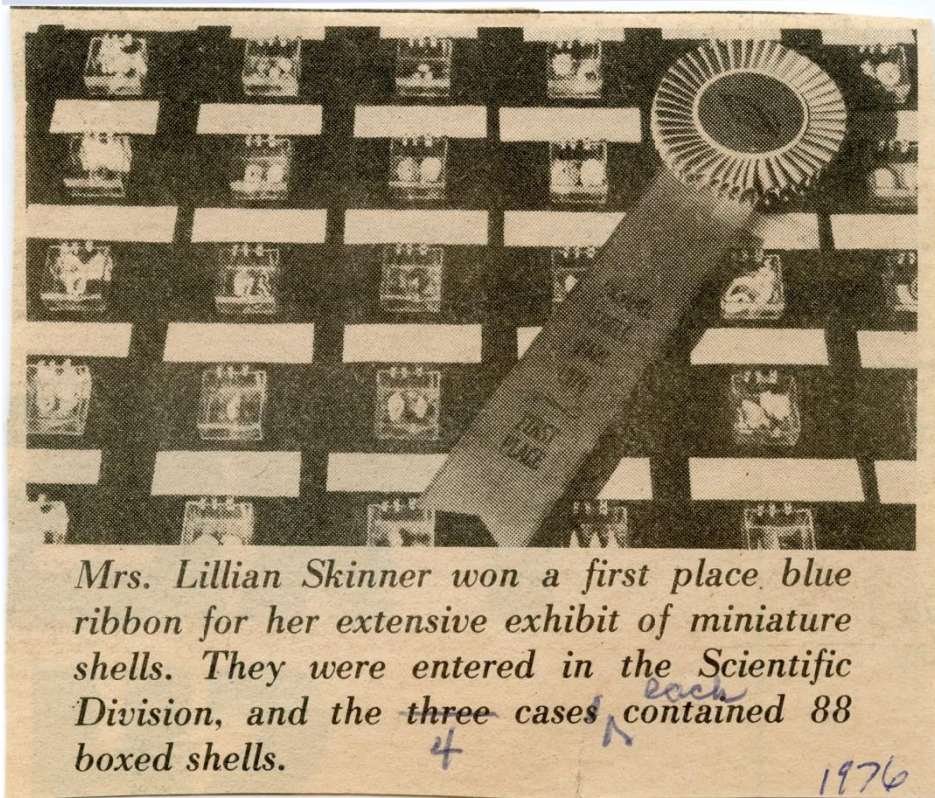
In 1977 or so, Madeline Robinson (formerly Madeline Doe), the Harringtons and Earl's cousin, Ben Ungerbuehler (wife Dot) got together for a three-day drive to Key West.

## **Shell Art**

Following the move to Sanibel in 1966, Lillian began using her shells she had collected over the years to create works of art. Sanibel's annual Shell Fair became an important part of her life in terms of exhibiting her work to achieve awards. Earl helped to create the frames for her displays. During his life, Earl also made two tables to display Lillian's shells. One served as a glass-topped coffee table in their Deptford home in the 1960's and featured shells on two layers of glass with interior lighting.



Lillian at the Shell Fair, 1974  
Display Table By Earl



## **Painting**

In the 1960's, Lillian began painting landscapes and people as an extension of her creation of shell art. Some of her paintings were amateurish; some were outstanding. Her painting of Earl's father, who lived with them on Sanibel, is one of my favorites. Of course, Earl made the picture frames.

## **Earl and Lillian**

Earl was talkative and was a bit of an opportunistic salesman, traits that served him well in life. He would chew your ear off with stories, made more boring with his somewhat monotone style of voice. His stories got longer as he got older. Similar to his letters to me, he would detail everything he did in a particular day, which usually involved fishing with or visiting with or commenting on neighbors.

Earl occasionally talked about his father Warren and grandfather Harry Skinner. Those stories started my interest in the family history.

Lillian enjoyed talking about Earl's mother, May Skinner. After marrying Earl, Lillian and Earl's mother would hang out and shop together. They lived under the same roof for a time, as Earl's parents were renters in Earl's house at the time of Earl's marriage. And Lillian served as the driver for Earl's mother, who did not drive. Lillian recalled going up to the attic with Earl's mother to see the family photo albums.

Lillian had a very warm spot in her heart for her father, Joseph Showalter, and for the Dodds – her maternal grandparents. She enjoyed talking about them and wrote quite a bit of information about them for posterity.

Earl had a home shop and tools, and did some wood-working. However, he did not have the tools or skills that my father does. And certainly not the artistry that my father inherited from Lillian. Like my father, Earl had classical music LP's and listened to classical music. But again, he did not have the interest or music collection that my father has. Despite that, the musical genetics that circulate around the family came from Earl's ancestors and have passed through Earl to me, and through Earl's sister to his Earl's niece Connie.

Cannot recall Earl really having a hobby, though he did some fishing and, like his parents, loved spending time at the shore.

Like many persons of their generation, I never saw my grandparents in swimsuits or swimming. Never saw them pictured in swimsuits in photos.

## **Earl and Lillian (continued)**

Earl would take a nap in the late afternoon. He would place a transistor radio on his chest, put an earplug in his right ear, and listen to a ball game, though he really had no interest in sports. Earl had the world's straightest back, which was accentuated by the fact that he always turned his back and neck together, as if he had a steel I-beam frame. In his younger adult days, Lillian says he suffered from occasional, minor seizures. Earl seemed very youthful to me, and I can still recall him running around his house in Deptford, NJ in the early-60's.

Earl had fair skin that rarely saw the sun. He had a faint light area from his appendectomy in 1924, the operation that resulted him in meeting nurse-in-training Lillian. In late life, he liked to wear 'untucked' shirts with tan cotton pants.

Lillian had a dark complexion – very dark. With a Florida tan she could have been any race.

## **Earl's Autos**

Earl never spoke of a love of automobiles, but in piecing together his life, it is clear he was proud of the numerous, and sometimes exotic, autos he had owned. Many of his photographs feature his automobiles, and the notes he made on the backs of the photos focus more on his cars than on people.

Earl's first car was a 1927 model T. Up until then, he had been driving his Dad's 1919 Model T. Earl bought his first house (1925) before purchasing his first car (1927).

In the early 1950's, Earl can be seen driving a very showy two-tone car – bright yellow with a dark top. Yellow would prove to be his favorite car color.

I can recall Earl owning some unbelievable vehicles in my youth. The earliest car I recall was a stunning, pale, lime-green 1956 Cadillac, complete with the chrome tail fins. Wow!

By 1964, Earl was driving around in an exotic, boxy, dark green Mercedes - probably the model 220. A really cool electronic-looking dashboard compared to contemporary cars. Imported cars were not common at the time – neither were leather seats. I drove the car sitting on Earl's lap.

The Skinners were an early two-car family. By 1964, Lillian had her own car – probably a small Buick or Oldsmobile. The car was a maroon or purplish color that only Lillian would have liked, those color shades being her favorites.

When we met up with Earl and Lillian at St. Augustine, FL in 1967, he was driving a yellow Chevrolet.

In July of 1974 he purchased a beautiful, yellow, 1975 Mercedes – 450-series. Full of all the electric gadgets that would later become standard features on cars. I loved visiting Sanibel and cruising around in the car in the 1970's. It was a down-

sized, nimble, sporty car compared to the huge vehicles of the 1960's, but still reeked of leather and luxury. Nothing special compared to the high-end SUV's of today.

Earl's last car purchase was a gray 1985 Cadillac with a red interior. A crappy car typical of American cars at the time. My sister inherited the car and all of its problems.

Earl had a few auto miscues in his youth. Once got broadsided by a car coming down Market St. in Phila – flipped his car.



1956 lime/green Cadillac



1964 Mercedes, Model 220 [classiccarscatalogue.com]



Mercedes Interior [internet]



1962 Buick Skylark [internet]



Three-car family – Mercedes, mower and Lillian's compact car (lower)  
with myself (red shirt), friend Jimmy Piper and my sister Susan.  
Residence of Earl and Lillian, 62 Walker Avenue, Deptford, 1964  
[movie frames]



1975 450-series Mercedes



Lillian was smart, strong-willed and artistic. These genes survive in her son David and her granddaughter Susan. Lillian was competent with people and animals. She had the right mix of qualities to be the nurse that she was in her youth. And she surrounded herself with all kinds of animals as an adult.

Lillian could be demanding – she liked quality, not junk. But Lillian and Earl were down-to-earth people, not as uptight as the rest of us, particularly my mother. Lillian took good care of herself and always wore nice, colorful clothing that made her seem more youthful than your typical senior citizen. It was refreshing to see an elderly person who always had their hair attended to and nice, colorful clothes.

By the 1960's, Lillian was suffering from a bad back. As early as I can remember, she had one of those machines in which you placed a vibrating belt around your waist to promote back flexibility. By the early 1970's, she was using a cane, and later a walker. She had back operations in the 1970's and 1980's that did not seem to help her. In the 1980's, she began to suffer from limited eyesight (macular degeneration) eventually going blind in one eye. She had an occasional equilibrium problem that would send her keeling over onto the floor. On a drive home from New Jersey to Sanibel around 1976, she came down with a severe case of blood poisoning that resulted in a lengthy hospital stay. Other than that, she was fine. Nothing really stopped her from walking the beach.

A lasting image of Lillian is how she dealt with a large pelican that got trapped in Earl's fishing line in the canal behind their Sanibel home (Lindgren Blvd.) in 1977. I lowered their boat into the water, helped Lillian into the boat and watched as she paddled over to the bird. The bird must have had a 4-5 ft. wingspan. Lillian wrestled and secured the bird by the neck, and untangled the line from its feathers.

As Earl entered the final years of his life, he would become extremely angry with Lillian as a result of his failing mind. Sometimes, however, my father found Earl to be strangely sedate and believes that Lillian spiked him with valium, some of her potent back pain medication – her final nursing duties.

Lillian heard someone pronounce her name as – 'Lill-yan', and liked it that way, though no one obliged. For some reason, she started using the name 'MiMi' in the 1960's when writing to us. The name stuck and she has been MiMi ever since.

Beginning in the late 1960's, we exchanged personnel greetings and messages on reel-to-reel tapes and, later, cassette tapes between those of us up north and Lillian and Earl in Florida. One cassette tape from Lillian and Earl has survived, although it is not very exciting – even Lillian tended to talk in a shy, reserved, monotonous way on tape compared to how she talked in real life.

Lillian and Earl were the first "modern" Skinners - new cars, new brightly lit homes, latest gadgets and colorful styles of dress.

**Burial**

There was always something about the way my father and Lillian could pick a fight over anything. When Lillian said she was cold and wanted her sweater, my father would say it was warm and that a sweater was unneeded.

Lillian once told me she did not want to be burned in fire after death (cremated). So, of course, my dad had Lillian cremated, the first in the family to undergo that process.

The urn was buried with a handful of people attending. I just recall my parents, cousin Dick Hughlett and a minister. My dad had me turn on a tape player on the seat of his car at the grave site playing one of my Dad's favorite songs – 'Amazing Grace'.



Lillian Skinner with granddaughter Susan (Skinner) Hernon  
and great/grandson David Hernon  
Lillian's Wiley Retirement Home Condo, 1992

Earl's favorite restaurant meal – shrimp scampi.

Lillian's favorite meals to cook – turkey in gravy or ham 'from the can'. Also baked pies. In this and other ways, she sometimes reminds me of Bridget Hernon.

Lillian enjoyed diet Fresca – she had many cases of it, and coffee. Earl had an occasional beer.

Earl's favorite television show in the 1970's – pro wrestling. Awful.

Earl liked to use the words 'doo-hickey' and 'doo-dad' in describing mechanical things. He would call a building a 'joint'.

Lillian pronounced the word 'either' as 'ither' (short 'i' sound), a vestige of West Virginia. Beyond that, she had no discernable accent, and was the only member of the family who did not have some combination of the 'Phila. metropolitan area' accent and the South Jersey 'hick' accent.

## Indian Blood

Lillian resembled an American Indian, particularly when living in Florida – thick, dark skin and coarse hair. Early in my life, Lillian had told me she had Indian blood in her – an ancestor having married an Indian gal from the Carlisle School of Indians south of Huntingdon, Pa.

Formerly Carlisle Barracks near Carlisle, PA

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School was opened in 1879 and accepted students from nearly every tribe in the United States during its 39 years. The Indian School at Carlisle was the idea of Brigadier General Richard H. Pratt, who was a Lieutenant at that time. In 1879 he petitioned Congress to establish a school to educate rather than subjugate the red man. He became the school's first superintendent and the first group of Indian students arrived at Carlisle on the night of October 6, 1879. The school closed in 1918.

The goal of the Carlisle School was to teach the Indian students how to be American citizens. It gave them lessons in English and other academic subjects and taught them a vocation such as shoemaking, tinning, carpentry, blacksmithing, tailoring, printing, harness making, plumbing, bricklaying, and telegraphy. The girls learned sewing, laundering, and cooking.

Athletics were also an important part of the education. Jim Thorpe, Chief Bender (a Philadelphia baseball pitcher), Louis Tewanima (1908 and 1912 Olympics star), and Coach Glenn "Pop" Warner were all Carlisle students.

Per <http://members.aol.com/tawodi/carlisle/intro.html>

In the 1990's, Lillian corrected the story about her Indian heritage. She said it was her Uncle Henry – brother to her father, who had married or dated an Indian gal. The family had looked down upon Henry as a result. She believes that another of her father's brothers - George, may also have had an Indian interest.

Lillian still maintained that her father had told her that his grandfather, in turn, had married Indian. Per Lillian – “He told lots of stories. You never could tell whether they were true or not.”

As far as I can tell, Lillian had no Indian blood in her heritage. She simply inherited the slightly dark skin of her father, Joseph Showalter, and was the darkest of her father's four children. Her father's brother, Henry, was also of dark complexion. My permanent tan is thus a legacy of one of the parents of Joseph Showalter, five generations before me. And her Indian heritage is unfortunately, contrived.



Cole Hernon, great/grandson of Lillian and Earl Skinner

**ARTIFACTS:**

1962 tape recording of the family get-together at Christmas; made by Dave Skinner at his home on Clements Bridge Road, Gardenville Center, Deptford

