This is Earl and Lillian Skinner Part 2 (1963-1996)

To go back to Part 1, click HERE

Death of Earl's Mother

Earl's mother, May Skinner, died in January of 1963.

May and Warren had been living at 554 Ninth Avenue, Prospect Park, PA since the 1930's. After May's death, their home was sold, and Warren was brought under the care of his daughter Gladys. Gladys and husband Bill Hughlett lived just a few blocks away in Prospect Park. I visited Warren's vacated house in 1963 while the house was still being emptied of the possessions.

Warren's stay with his daughter Gladys was an arrangement that did not last long. By 1965, Warren was moved to the car of his son Earl and wife Lillian. Lillian, a former nurse, was happy to care for her father-in-law. Warren moved into the guest room of the Skinner home at 62 Walker Avenue, Deptford, a bedroom that Earl had been occupying.

Keystone Retirement and Last-Minute Pension

Earl retired from Keystone Insurance in 1966 at age 65.

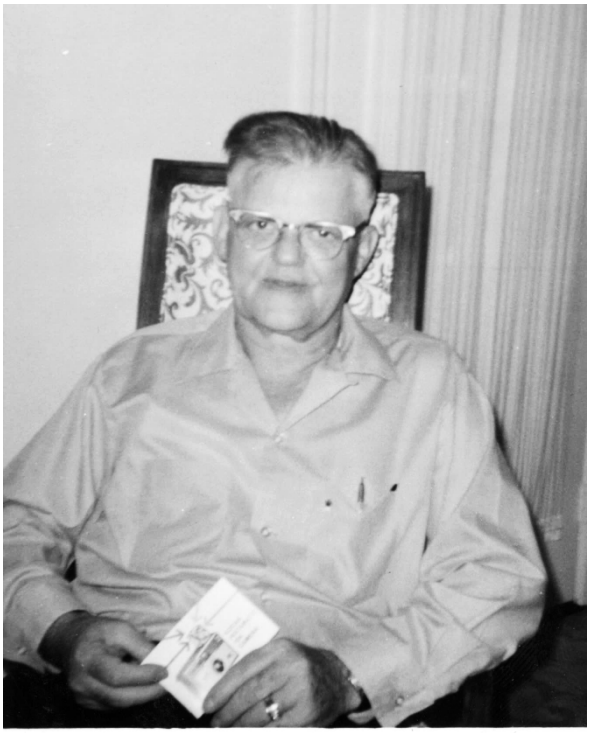
Earl had planned on retiring without the benefit of a pension. However, Keystone, under pressure from a newly formed labor union of their sales force and other employees, implemented a pension plan shortly before Earl's retirement. Son Dave had been one ofthe vocal proponents of the pension plan. And so Earl retired with a surprise pension.

After Earl's retirement, son Dave took on Earl's book of Keystone customers. Dave serviced Earl's customers and mailed Earl the commission money earned from the annual 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 back when Sanibel was serviced by a ferry. 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 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 for Keystone, in a mobile home while 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. The trailer had a kitchen, living room and two bedrooms.



Earl, 14 June 1966
My 12th birthday, Childs St. Woodbury

My birthday gift was a Kodak Instamatic camera with the rotating flash cube – booklet in Earl's hands. This Instamatic camera was a break-thru in technology, as it was the first Kodak model in 50 years of Kodak cameras, in which the flash cube contained four flash bulbs, instead of just one bulb, which meant you could take four flash photos before having to load another bulb cartridge into the top of the camera.
My birthday was probably a month or two before Earl and Lillian moved from Deptford to Sanibel, Fl.

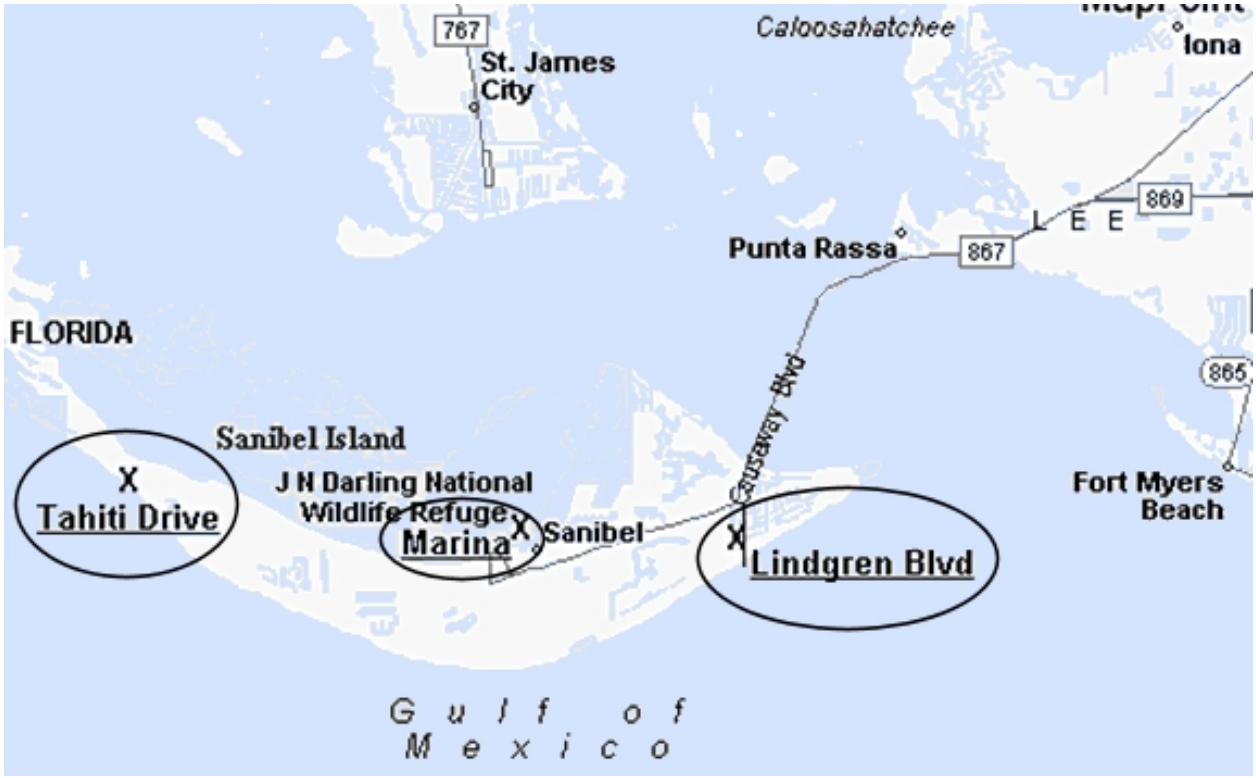
Sanibel Island, Florida

Earl, Lillian and Earl's aging father, Warren, moved to 1339 Tahiti Drive, Sanibel in 1966. They had designed the home to be a duplex consisting of the home plus a 2-room apartment to provide rental income. For marketing purposes, they named the apartment ''Port Au Call'. The house and attached apartment totaled 1900 square feet. The house was a short block and walk from the Gulf of Mexico.

The Sanibel home had an odd arrangement. The front of the house was 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 combination kitchen/living space and two bedrooms. Earl's father, Warren, slept in one of the two bedrooms. Their home was decorated with old stuff from their Deptford home, which did not really fit with their Florida location, though the furniture in the apartment was colorful and new.

Underpowered Boat

Earl bought a small 14 ft. Boston Whaler with a 25hp motor. Not enough of boat for my water skiing plans. The boat was parked at the Tarpon Bay marina fifteen minutes away. One of my grandfather's favorite memories was the time he and I took the boat out into Tarpon Bay and got caught in an afternoon lightning storm. We hid in the mangroves and rode out the storm there. Earl was angry when I stepped out into shallow water far offshore and lost my wallet – but my wallet was found and mailed home so no problem. Susan and I would explore the endless channels of water between the mangroves and hope to fine our way our.



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. We visited again in 2023 and met new owners who were renovating it.

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



The front and side doors were the rental apartment. The second side door was the Skinner home.



Tahiti Drive, Sanibel [DES slides]

Ugly wall paneling, most décor from up north, nice painting by Lillian, one of her best. Probably her first real painting (a copy of someone else's painting) and done before they moved to Sanibel.





The coffee table is one of several glass-topped display tables constructed by Earl. The table had two or three layers of glass with shells on each layer. Up north, they had an electrical outlet in the middle of their Persian rug to power the fluorescent lights in the table. On Sanibel, there was no outlet in the middle of the floor and thus no lighting in the table.





I loved those swivel chairs and had them until 2006!

[HES Polaroids]



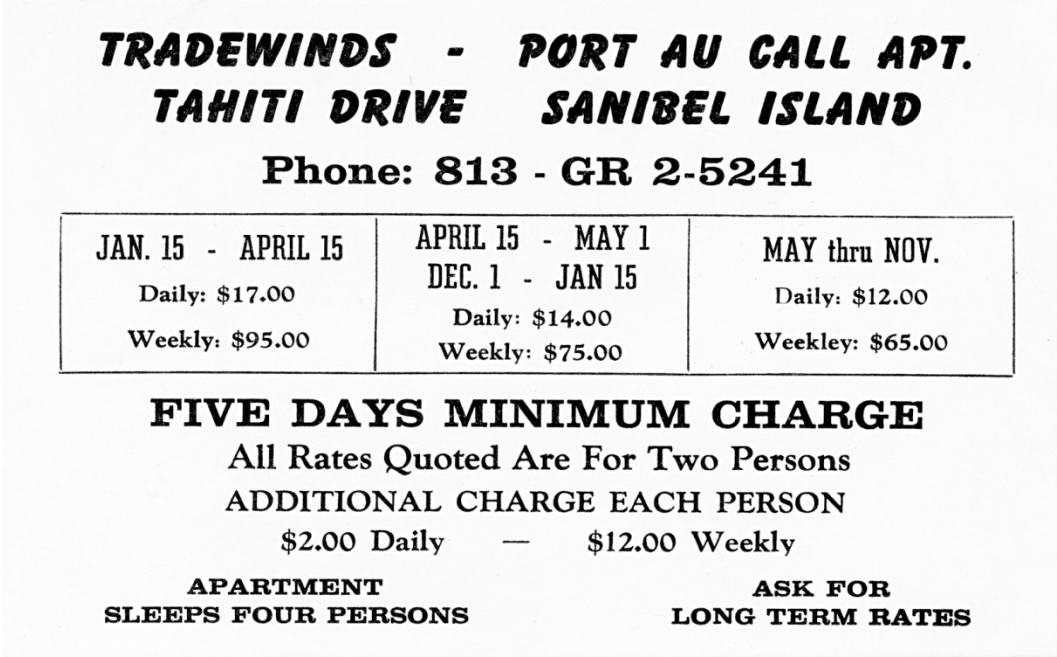
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Advertising Postcard for the 2-Room Apartment
Susan and I slept on the two pull-out couches; Our parents had the bedroom.



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1967 Travels

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

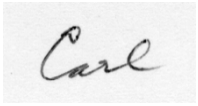


Earl and boat at the marina, undated.
Earl's Polaroid film has held up well.



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

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



Annette's writing



Susan and Me, 1967





Five Generations On This Page.



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

My Kodak Instamatic camera.
I knew the historical significance of these generational photos.

Just for Fun, Five Generations on the Preceding Page:

A) Warren, Earl, Kevin and Dave Skinner, Aug., 1967.
B) David, Earl, Warren and Harry Skinner, circa 1932/1933.

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 Dad’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 the 2nd consecutive year.





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 until my Dad checked in with Earl via telephone when we were close to home.



Warren, Sanibel, 1967 [KDS Instamatic Photo]

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 2000 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms and a garage.

Like their previous home, they were situated 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 - their Boston Whaler was now at their house instead of at a distant marina. Despite living 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. My Dad purposefully booked planes that stopped multiple times coming and going. 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 Ft. Myers runway.

We visited Sanibel again 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 took some photographs.

I drove down to Sanibel, probably Christmas1972. I was joined by a high school classmate who opted to fly.

We returned for our first winter visit to Sanibel at Christmas, 1973.

I returned again in January, 1978, driving straight thru with my Penn State roommate. We tooled around Ft. Myers in Earl's Mercedes.

Dad, Susan and I flew down in September, 1983 without Mother. This was the trip where the plane was diverted to Miami because the landing gear indicator light had malfunctioned. The runway lined by firetrucks.

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.

Earl and Lillian often came north, usually at Christmas time. One day, while they were north, we went out to Sunday Brunch at the Centerton Inn. I loved it because of the all-you-can-eat buffet, but what I really remember is Earl talking about his grandfather Harry Skinner, who made barrel staves for a time and, coincidently, had a lot of barrels of stuff in his basement. I was totally taken by Earl's comments about his grandfather - that was the beginning of my interest in knowing and preserving my family history and the start of a life-long hobby.





Sanibel, 1972 and waterspout [DES slides]



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

Travels & Friendships of the 1970's and 1980's

Coming of age in the 1970's. I started to exchange letters with my grandparents and began to have a record of their travels.

Earl & Lillian made (5) trips to Oregon and Washington in the 1970's and 1980's. Many of those trips were made with Lillian's good friend Travola Harrington and Travola's partner Jane Hunter.

1970 - shelling trip to Oregon via Portland
1973 – shelling trip via Seattle
1977 – Oregon with Travola
1980 – shelling trip to Oregon via Portland with Travola & Jane
1981 – 3 weeks in Oregon; Earl mentioned he had driven the stretch of coastal highway by the Heceta Lighthouse 5 times over the years.

Earl & Lillian made frequent trips to Franklin, North Carolina where Lillian loved to pan for rubies, garnets and other gemstones. Earl lucked out and ended up having a few rubies he found polished up, though I don't know what happened to them. They may be the same rubies that my Dad ended up turning into a ring.

Travola and Jane were frequent visitors to Sanibel, usually for the annual Shell Fair.

Madeline Robinson (formerly Madeline Doe), another one of Lillian's friends that had been neighbors in Westville, NJ in the 1940's, visited every so often.

Earl had two cousins that visited – Frances Sheppard (wife Sarah) and Ben Ungerbuehler (wife Dot). Ben & Dot continued to visit well into the 1980's. And Lillian's sister Ethel visited in 1975 with her daughter Joan.

Dressed Up for What?

While visiting in the summer of 1976, Earl & Lillian went out ‘on the town’ though I can not recall what the event may have been. Maybe Earl’s 75th Birthday (born in May, 1901), though I doubt it. Their photos are outstanding.



Lillian and Earl, July, 1976
Childs St. Woodbury
[DES slides]







Wow – terrific photos [DES slides]

Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, 1977

Lillian and Earl celebrated their 50th 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. After Franklin, the group traveled on to Sanibel.









Gemstone Hunting – sapphires, rubies, garnets; Franklin, NC
Earl with his trademark turquoise bolo tie [DES slides]





Lillian, Earl, son Dave and tourqoise
Back from Franklin, NC to Lindgren Blvd, Sanibel, 1977

[DES slides]



Dave & Annette



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' equals 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’.



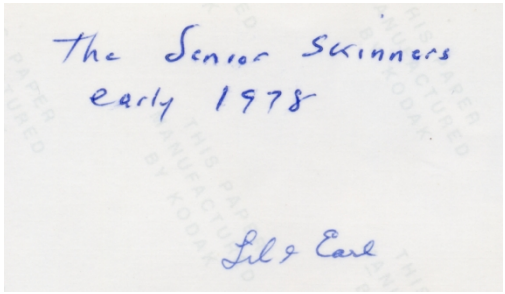
Just Happened to be in the Book store.

Carl

"Just Happened to be in the Bookstore"

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





HES printing [HES Polaroid]



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



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

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.

Lillian, 1984 – *"Your grandfather is not very well, has dizzy head and that is not good for driving in this heavy traffic."*

Earl, 1986 – *"Getting closer to our property we own up NJ way - to be exact Clarksboro [cemetery]. Cheerful guy – yes?" ....."The main problem with me excluding a couple of body ailments is forgetfulness. Thank goodness I can still drive without worry. When that ceases it is time for a wooden box."*

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, sharing the building with just one other condo. 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 father and sister. He started repeating lengthy 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
Property purchased from my Mother's aunt Emma Fleck [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



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 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, a few weeks short of his 89th 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 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., Philadelphia, 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

REG-18
Aug 88
*H3636

New Jersey State Department of Health
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE USE ONLY

Items 1 and 2 to be typed by Funeral Director: 15

To be printed by Physician

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 Birthday (yrs.): 88 | 5b. UNDER 1 YEAR: Months / Days | 5c. UNDER 1 DAY: Hours / Minutes

6. SOCIAL SEC. NO.: 163-05-4110

7a. PLACE OF DEATH: HOSPITAL: ☐ INPATIENT ☐ ER/OUTPATIENT ☐ DOA OTHER: ☒ NURSING HOME ☐ RESIDENCE ☐ 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 Evesham Twp.

8d. STREET AND NUMBER: 1A Lilac Court

8e. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? ☒ YES ☐ NO

8f. ZIP CODE: 08053

9. BIRTHPLACE (City & State, or Foreign Country): Phila., Pa.

10a. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? ☐ YES ☒ NO

10b. IF YES, WAR, DATES (From/To): N/A

11. MARITAL STATUS: ☐ NEVER MARRIED ☐ WIDOWED ☒ MARRIED ☐ 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: 1 ☒ WHITE 2 ☐ BLACK 3 ☐ AMER. INDIAN 4 ☐ OTHER (Specify):

17. OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? IF YES, SPECIFY: ☐ YES ☒ NO 1 ☐ MEXICAN 2 ☐ PUERTO RICAN 3 ☐ CUBAN 4 ☐ CENT./SO. AMERICA 5 ☐ OTHER (Specify):

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 Leap

21a. NAME OF INFORMANT: David E. Skinner

21b. RELATIONSHIP: Son

22a. DISPOSITION: ☒ BURIAL ☐ CREMATION ☐ ENTOMBMENT ☐ 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: Judith E 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 Hynes 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.

IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Enter the diseases, injuries or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. List only one cause on each line.)

a. respiratory arrest → apnea

DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:

b. organic brain syndrome (senile dementia Alzheimer's type)

DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:

c. atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease

DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:

d.

INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH:

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? ☐ YES ☐ NO

28. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? ☐ YES ☒ NO

29. DEATH DUE TO: ☒ NATURAL ☐ ACCIDENT ☐ SUICIDE ☐ HOMICIDE ☐ PENDING INVESTIGATION ☐ COULD NOT BE DETERMINED

30a. DATE OF INJURY

30b. TIME OF INJURY M

30c. INJURY AT WORK? ☐ YES ☐ NO

30d. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED

30e. PLACE: ☐ STREET ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE BUILDING ☐ FARM ☐ FACTORY ☐ OTHER (Specify):

30f. LOCATION OF INJURY (Number and Street)

30g. CITY AND COUNTY

30h. STATE

31a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER: Sandra Willingmyer, M.D. Brick Road, Marlton, N.J. 08053

☒ CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN ☐ MEDICAL EXAMINER ☐ 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

PHYSICIAN - Please Print
NAME OF DECEDENT AS KNOWN BY ATTENDING PHYSICIAN: H. EARL SKINNER
DATE OF DEATH: 4/19/90
TIME OF DEATH: 5:20 AM

STATE USE ONLY
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CAUSE
PLACE OF ACC.
CROSS CLASS

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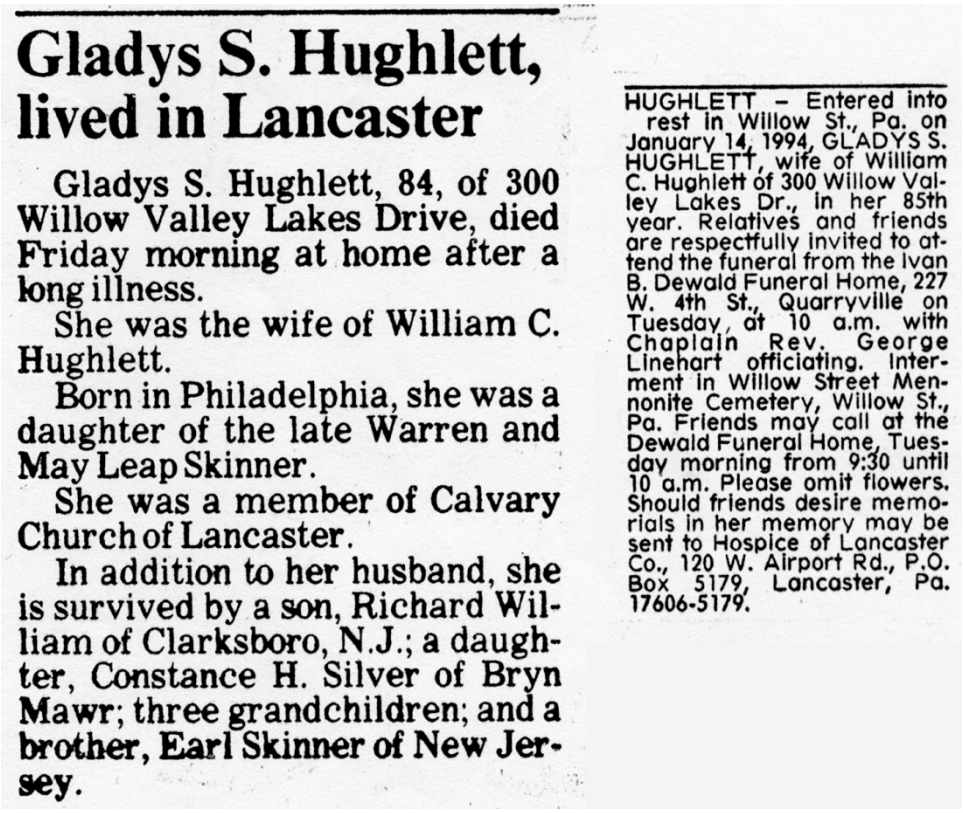
APR 20 1990
DATE OF ISSUE

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 brother and father, she suffered from dementia towards the end of her life. She was the only person in the family who was tested for Alzheimer's in posthumous testing – she tested positive.

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. 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 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.

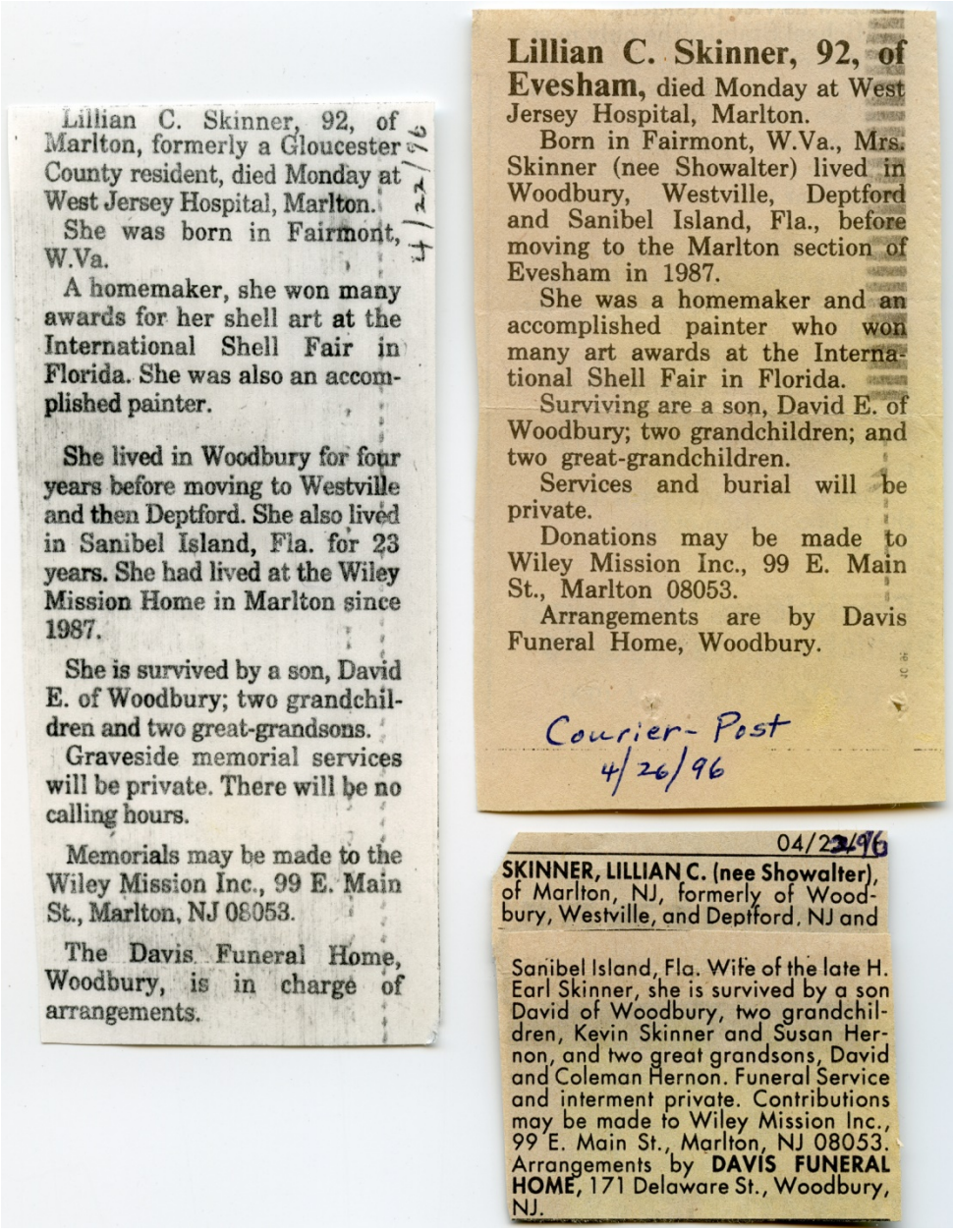
Big-boned, Lillian never grew frail and remained relatively clear of mind, tough as a bird to the end.



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.



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.

4/22/96

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.

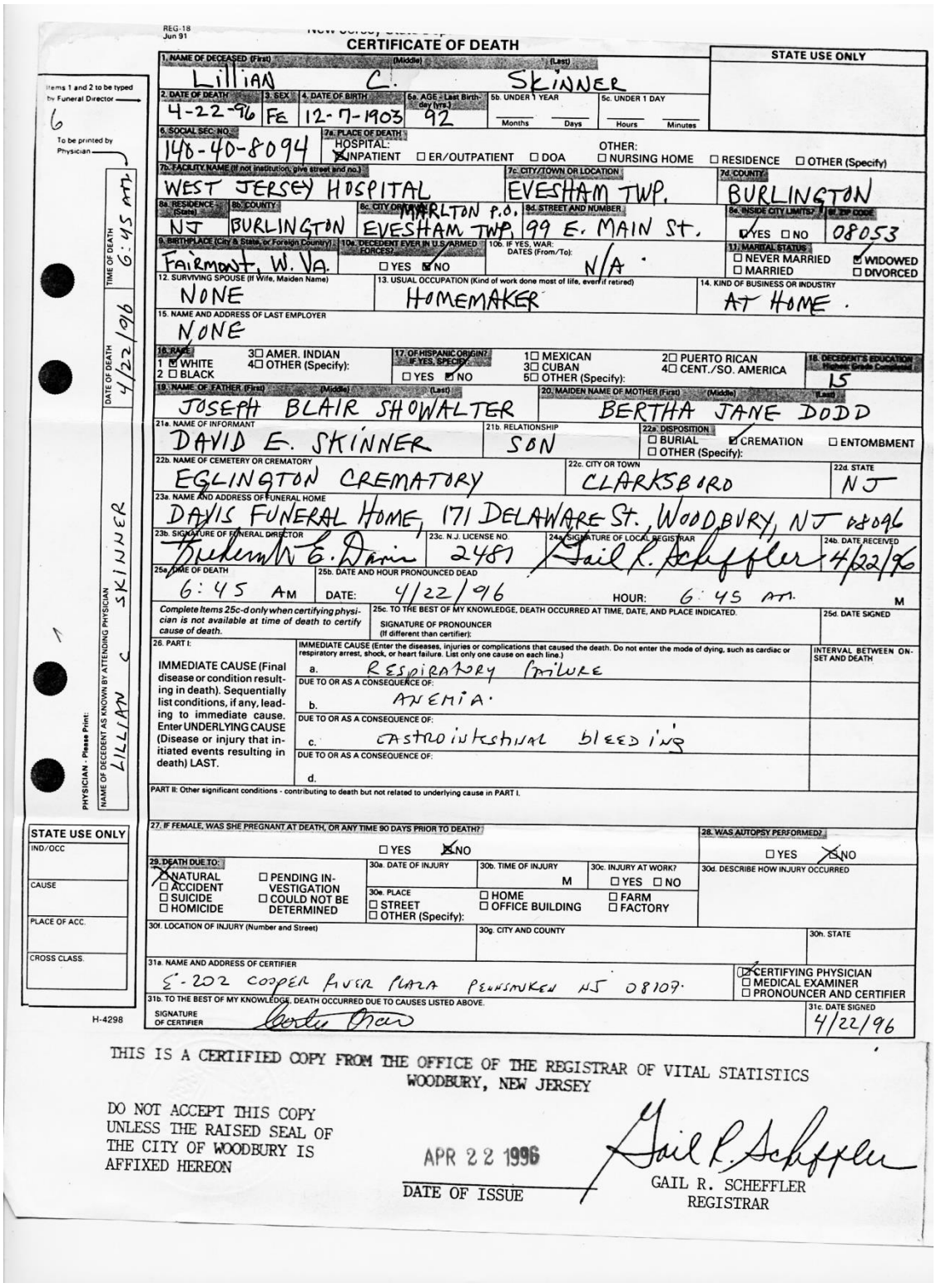
Donations may be made to Wiley Mission Inc., 99 E. Main St., Marlton 08053.

Arrangements are by Davis Funeral Home, Woodbury.

Courier-Post
4/26/96

04/23/96

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.



REG-18
Jun 91

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

STATE USE ONLY

Items 1 and 2 to be typed by Funeral Director: 6

To be printed by Physician

1. NAME OF DECEASED (First) (Middle) (Last): Lillian C. Skinner
2. DATE OF DEATH: 4-22-96
3. SEX: Fe
4. DATE OF BIRTH: 12-7-1903
6a. AGE - Last Birthday (yrs.): 92
5b. UNDER 1 YEAR: Months / Days
5c. UNDER 1 DAY: Hours / Minutes
6. SOCIAL SEC. NO.: 148-40-8094
7a. PLACE OF DEATH: HOSPITAL: ☒ INPATIENT ☐ ER/OUTPATIENT ☐ DOA — OTHER: ☐ NURSING HOME ☐ RESIDENCE ☐ OTHER (Specify)
7b. FACILITY NAME (If not institution, give street and no.): West Jersey Hospital
7c. CITY/TOWN OR LOCATION: Evesham Twp.
7d. COUNTY: Burlington
8a. RESIDENCE (City): NJ
8b. COUNTY: Burlington
8c. CITY OR TOWN: Marlton P.O.
8d. STREET AND NUMBER: Evesham Twp. 99 E. Main St.
8e. INSIDE CITY LIMITS? ☒ YES ☐ NO
8f. ZIP CODE: 08053
9. BIRTHPLACE (City & State, or Foreign Country): Fairmont, W. Va.
10a. DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? ☐ YES ☒ NO
10b. IF YES, WAR: DATES (From/To): N/A
11. MARITAL STATUS: ☐ NEVER MARRIED ☒ WIDOWED ☐ MARRIED ☐ DIVORCED
12. SURVIVING SPOUSE (If Wife, Maiden Name): NONE
13. USUAL OCCUPATION (Kind of work done most of life, even if retired): HOMEMAKER
14. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY: AT HOME.
15. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST EMPLOYER: NONE
16. RACE: 1 ☒ WHITE 2 ☐ BLACK 3 ☐ AMER. INDIAN 4 ☐ OTHER (Specify):
17. OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? IF YES, SPECIFY: ☐ YES ☒ NO — 1 ☐ MEXICAN 2 ☐ PUERTO RICAN 3 ☐ CUBAN 4 ☐ CENT./SO. AMERICA 5 ☐ OTHER (Specify):
18. DECEDENT'S EDUCATION (Highest Grade Completed): 15
19. NAME OF FATHER (First) (Middle) (Last): Joseph Blair Showalter
20. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER (First) (Middle) (Last): Bertha Jane Dodd
21a. NAME OF INFORMANT: David E. Skinner
21b. RELATIONSHIP: Son
22a. DISPOSITION: ☐ BURIAL ☒ CREMATION ☐ ENTOMBMENT ☐ OTHER (Specify):
22b. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY: Eglington Crematory
22c. CITY OR TOWN: Clarksboro
22d. STATE: NJ
23a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF FUNERAL HOME: Davis Funeral Home, 171 Delaware St., Woodbury, NJ 08096
23b. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR: Richard G. Davis
23c. N.J. LICENSE NO.: 2481
24a. SIGNATURE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR: Gail R. Scheffler
24b. DATE RECEIVED: 4/22/96
25a. TIME OF DEATH: 6:45 AM
25b. DATE AND HOUR PRONOUNCED DEAD — DATE: 4/22/96 HOUR: 6:45 AM 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):
25d. DATE SIGNED:

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.

IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Enter the diseases, injuries or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. List only one cause on each line.) — INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH
a. Respiratory failure
DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:
b. Anemia.
DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:
c. Gastro intestinal bleeding
DUE TO OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF:
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? ☐ YES ☒ NO
28. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? ☐ YES ☒ NO
29. DEATH DUE TO: ☒ NATURAL ☐ ACCIDENT ☐ SUICIDE ☐ HOMICIDE ☐ PENDING INVESTIGATION ☐ COULD NOT BE DETERMINED
30a. DATE OF INJURY
30b. TIME OF INJURY: M
30c. INJURY AT WORK? ☐ YES ☐ NO
30d. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED
30e. PLACE: ☐ HOME ☐ STREET ☐ OTHER (Specify): ☐ OFFICE BUILDING ☐ FARM ☐ FACTORY
30f. LOCATION OF INJURY (Number and Street)
30g. CITY AND COUNTY
30h. STATE
31a. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFIER: E-202 Cooper River Plaza Pennsauken NJ 08109
☒ CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN ☐ MEDICAL EXAMINER ☐ PRONOUNCER AND CERTIFIER
31b. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, DEATH OCCURRED DUE TO CAUSES LISTED ABOVE. SIGNATURE OF CERTIFIER: Richard Davis
31c. DATE SIGNED: 4/22/96

PHYSICIAN - Please Print: NAME OF DECEDENT AS KNOWN BY ATTENDING PHYSICIAN: Lillian C. Skinner
DATE OF DEATH: 4/22/96
TIME OF DEATH: 6:45 AM

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CROSS CLASS.

H-4298

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APR 22 1996
DATE OF ISSUE

Gail R. Scheffler
GAIL R. SCHEFFLER
REGISTRAR

Dave's printing





Eglington Cemetery, Clarksboro, NJ – Earl in casket, Lillian in 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, fishing on boats or 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 ever 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 from that time forward,

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 with Larry and Madeline Doe for many decades. 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 (mother of Larry)
Home of Earl and Lillian Skinner, Walker Ave, Deptford, NJ



Madeline Doe 58

Madeline Doe & Lillian
Lobster Festival
Rockland
CIRA 1958 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. Joe, Tryvola and Jane were recorded together going all the way back to my parent's wedding in 1952. After Joe died in the 1970's, Tryvola and Jane continued to travel with Earl and Lillian into the 1980's. Letters to me from Earl and Lillian often mentioned them. I last saw Tryvola at Earl Skinner's funeral in 1990.

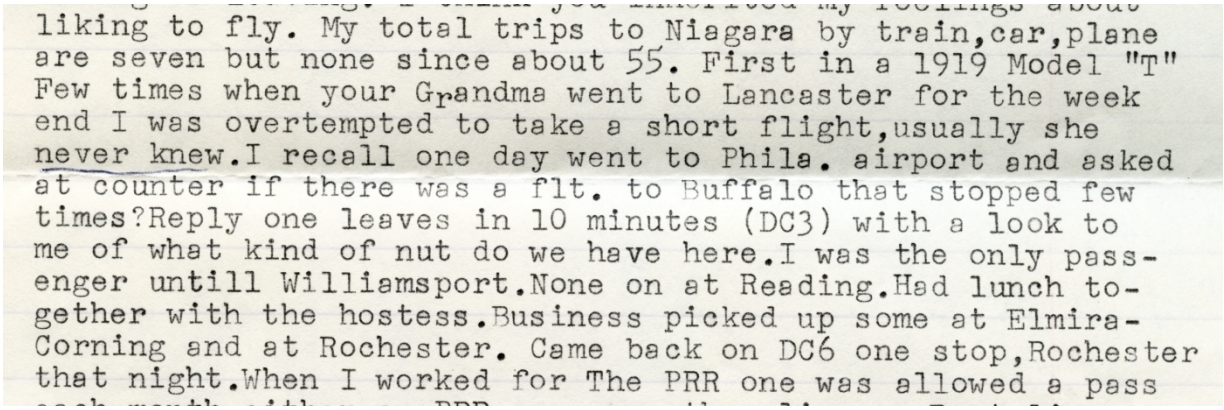
Earls Travel Bug

Earl Skinner had a traveling bug at any early age. He came of age with the auto and the airplane, had worked for the Pennsylvania 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 on trips 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 pass-
enger untill Williamsport.None on at Reading.Had lunch to-
gether 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 that they had 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.

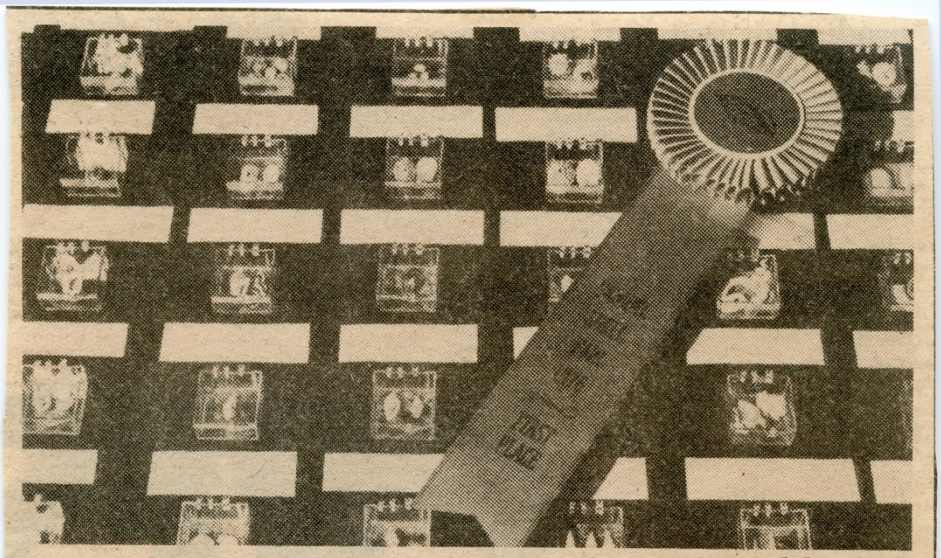
In 1977 or so, Madeline Robinson (formerly Madeline Doe), the Harringtons and Earl's cousin, Ben Ungerbuehler (wife Dot) got together for a three-day drive to Key West.

Shell Art

Following the move to Sanibel in 1966, Lillian began using the 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



Mrs. Lillian Skinner won a first place blue ribbon for her extensive exhibit of miniature shells. They were entered in the Scientific Division, and the ~~three~~ 4 cases each contained 88 boxed shells.

1976

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. 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 the weather and everything he did in a particular day, which usually involved fishing with, visiting with or commenting on neighbors.

Earl occasionally talked about his father Warren and his beloved 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 Earl's niece, Connie.

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

Like many persons of their generation, my grandparents did not wear bathing suits, nor did they swim in the water.

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, which he purchased at about the time of his marriage. 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 two-tone car – bright yellow with a dark top. That was a car that made a statement. Yellow would prove to be his favorite car color – he owned a 1966 yellow Chevy Impala and a yellow 1974 Mercedes.

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 around the neighborhood sitting on Earl's lap. The car was probably special-ordered from Germany, as was my Dad's first VW.

The Skinners were an early two-car family. The introduction of compact cars, as an affordable second cars, made that possible. Lillian had her own car by 1964 – probably a small Buick or Oldsmobile. The car was a weird maroon color – a color only Lillian would have liked. She had a liking of anything in the general family of purple.

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 larger vehicles of the 1960's, but still reeked of leather and luxury. It had front bucket seats and a huge amount of power with an 8-cylinder engine. Probably a comparable car to the high-end SUV's of today.

Earl mentioned that he ended up owning the Mercedes longer than he had owned any other car in his life. That happens with age. Earl's next and last car purchase was a gray 1985 Cadillac with a red interior. An ugly, crappy car typical of American cars at the time. My sister inherited the car and all of its problems about 1988.

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Thoughts of Lillian

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, though some of that was for her lack of eyesight. 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.

Lillian's longevity surprised me. She had a mountain of health issues going back decades. And she came from a family that routinely died early from heart attacks. I figured that Earl, with his genetically-endowed ancestors who routinely lived into their 90's, would outlast her by a decade. But that did not happen. Like many men, he faded suddenly and quickly. He drove up from Florida in1987 with slight memory problems and was dead three years later. Lillian would outlive him by a whopping 6 years!

As Earl entered the final years of his life, he would have bouts of extreme anger with Lillian – the agitation typical of dementia. At other times, however, my father visited his parents and found Earl to be strangely sedate. My father came to the conclusion that Lillian was spiking Earl with valium, some of her potent back pain medication – her final nursing duties in life.

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 – no kidding. Lillian wrestled and secured the bird by the neck, and untangled the line from its feathers. I could not believe it.

Lillian once 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. Kind of like my wife Beth is known as ‘TeTe’.

Earl and Lillian wrote many letters to us, beginning in the late 1960’s, when they relocated to Florida. Of course, I and others in the family wrote many letters back. I still have most of their letters written to me spanning the last 25 years of their lives.

Beginning in the late 1960’s, we began exchanging personnel greetings and messages on small-diameter, reel-to-reel tapes and, later, cassette tapes. Most of those tapes have disappeared, though I was able to digitize one tape which survives. 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, as if she was reading from a script.

The one thing about Earl is that he was very consistent – his written letters and his talks on tape were all identical to how he talked if you were in the room with him. So if you read a letter from him, it was as though he was talking to you in person.

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. They both had the aggressive gene – or argumentative gene. When Lillian said she was cold and wanted her sweater, my father would say it was warm and that a sweater was unneeded.

Lillian was kind and soft-spoken, but she had a confidence with people and could be aggressive at times. If she yelled at Earl, the argument could only end if Earl backed down. If Earl, like a cornered animal, did not back down, the argument could result in Lillian stomping out and staying days with her sister.

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 of ashes 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 had an informal way of speaking – he 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 that was located 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."

I have found no evidence that any Lillian's paternal ancestors had any Native American heritage. However, her reference to the Carlisle School years ago suggests that someone in the family, perhaps an uncle as she later recalled, had a Native American connection.

It turns out that Lillian's dark complexion has an easy explanation that does not relate to Native American ancestry. Per Lillian late in life, she 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.

The story of Native American ancestry has an interesting twist that Lillian was probably unaware of. Not only did dark skin come from her father's side of the family, but was also buried in the genetics of her mother. Per information passed on by a member of *Google Groups – Harlow/Dodd* – Mary Alice (Harlow) Dodd, Lillian's maternal grandmother, was said to be part Black Dutch (slang for dark-skinned German) and part Native American. And so Lillian turns out to be correct = she was part American Indian.



Cole Hernon, great/grandson of Lillian and Earl Skinner

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, which he must have purchased at about the time of his marriage. Up until then, he had been driving his Dad's 1919 Model T. Earl bought his first house (1925) before purchasing his first car (roughly 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 – the color of his early-50's car, his late 60's Impala and his 70's Mercedes.

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 around the neighborhood sitting on Earl's lap. The car may have been ordered by the dealer from Germany as was the German Volkswagon that my Dad purchased in 1963.

The Skinners were an early two-car family. By 1964, Lillian had her own car – one of the new subcompact-style cars. The car was a maroon or purplish color – a color only Lillian would have liked, as purple tones were her favorite, and lilacs her favorite bush.

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

In July of 1974 Earl 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 larger vehicles of the 1960's, but still reeked of leather and luxury. It had front bucket seats and a huge amount of power with an 8-cylinder engine. Probably a comparable car to the high-end SUV's of today.

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A Closer Look At Earl's Autos





1952 Plymouth Cranbrook convertible with Earl driving
1952, Wedding of Dave & Annette Skinner



1952 Plymouth Cranbrook
Dave Skinner, 1953



1952 Plymouth Cranbrook Convertible
[internet image]



1954 Plymouth Savoy
1953, Daytona Beach



1954 Plymouth Savoy
1953, Frederick Home, Woodbury Heights



1954 Plymouth Savoy [internet image]



1955 Olds 98
Kevin Christening, 1954
Home of Dave Skinner



1955 Olds 98
Home of Dave Skinner, 1956



1955 Olds 98 [internet image]





1956 lime/green Cadillac [internet images]

This is the earliest of Earl's autos that I can recall. Stunning tail fins with the integral tail lamps at the top, and holes for the exhaust near the bottom. Super cool. Earl's correspondence to me years later confirms that his Caddy had been a model year 1956. I believe he had this car into the 1960's.



Early 1960's Mercedes
Earl's Garage, Walker Ave., Deptford, 1964 [home movie frame]
Myself in red polo with friend and neighbor Jimmy Piper.



1964 Mercedes, Model 220
[classiccarcatalogue.com]



Mercedes Interior [internet]

This Mercedes would have been an early 1960's model, probably earlier than the 1964 sample photo shown here, as Earl's previous car had been a 1956 Cadillac.



1962 General Motors Subcompact
Kevin & Susan, 1964 [home movie frame]



1962 Buick Skylark [internet image]

For a brief time, 1962-1965, the Skinners were a two-car family.
This was their one and only secondary car – Lillian's auto.

I can't identify the car Susan and I are pictured with above, but it appears to have been one of the new GM subcompacts (Chevy, Pontiac, Olds, etc.) that would have been a sister model to the Buick Skylark shown here. The car companies came out with these new smaller autos to serve as the beginnings of the 2-car family, and the Skinners were early adopters, though this was the first and last car time that the Skinners would own two cars.



1967 Chevy Impala [internet image]

This Chevy was the first auto that Earl purchased after moving to Florida in 1966. A boring car, but the second of three yellow cars that Earl would own. Earl and Lillian had to sell their home in Deptford NJ before purchasing their home in Florida, so money was probably tight compared to their earlier Mercedes' days.



1974 450-series Mercedes [internet image]



Tan, Leather Interior [internet image]

A fantastic car to drive. Powerful, and much smaller and more maneuverable than it appears. All of the 1970's autos were downsized from the giants of the 1960's.
Check out the bucket seats. The car had gadgets like electric windows and electrically adjustable seats that would later be standard features on all cars. The radio antenna could be raised and lowered with a switch. The car always had a wonderful thick smell of leather. Spent many a day and night driving around Ft. Myers in this auto.



1974 Cadillac with a Red Interior [internet image]

In 1987, Earl & Lillian packed up this car and drove to Jersey for the last time for their move back north. I think most of their possessions were sent by moving van. In 1988, Earl drove this car a few miles here and there around their ‘campus’ and to the supermarket. Then, my Dad retrieved the keys and Earl’s driving days were over. I don’t think Lillian had driven since the early- or mid-1970’s.

[end]