AROLINE LOUISE HILES SCHMITT

BORN: In Jamestown, New York August 4 1904 and named Stella Louise
TO: Herbert O. Ball and E. Goldie Haskins Ball

ADOPTED: In Jamestown 19o8 Renamed: Aroline Louise Hiles
BY: John Aubrey Devere Hiles
Jane Winogene Scott Hiles

Graduated from Hammet Hospital in Erie Pa. 1925 as a registered nurse
Moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to work for Dr Wittey.

MARRIED: Max Joseph Schmitt 1926

CHILDREN: Maxine Jane Schmitt 1927
Married: George Henry Roberts

John Hiles Schmitt 1929
Married: Ruth Varner

GRANDCHILDREN: Shannon Stewart Roberts
Lynne Louise Roberts Leng

Suzanne Maxine Schmitt Hayasaki
Scott Schmitt
Stacy Schmitt

WORKED: U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region 1941 retired 1961
Timber Management and Conservation Education

Member of many conservation and ecology organizations

New York: Lived in Jamestown N.Y. until 1923

Wisconsin: Lived in Milwaukee until 1925
Lived in Wauwatosa until 1971

Idaho: Lived in Lewiston until 1986
Lived in Moscow until her death March 28 1995

Aroline's family, especially her mother Winogene, Worked with Mr. & Mrs. Gifford Pinchote, their good friends, to create the Allegany State Park. Through that association, Aroline was appointed at the beginning of the war to work for the forest service headed by Gifford Pinchote. Her job was to find and cruise the amount of board feet in all the forests in the U.S. and Alaska that contained the specific kinds of wood needed in the war effort. She reported to the Forest Service and the governors of the states that contained the wood.

She traveled by car, train or airplane. The trains were usually troop trains and only the troops were allowed seats so she had to travel long hours standing up. She used to return home exhausted with terrible head aches after being gone for days. In the mornings she would get a call telling where she was going and how long she would be gone. She'd go to the Forest Service office, hand her report from her last trip to her secretary, pick up the necessary papers and take off again. Toward the end of the war, she worked with the governors writting legislation necessary to keep the forests protected. As a result, she had many threats on her life from gypo loggers and companies who hired thugs when they didn't want to comply with the laws. Dad worried about her when he didn't hear from her and often called her boss. She was the only woman doing this kind of work that we knew of - at least in the Eastern Region which is still based in Milwaukee.

She worked for the Forest service from December 1941 until she retired in 1962.

During the war, Schmitt Blueprint Co. did war contracts - all secret stuff on one talked about. The part of the business where the printing was done was partioned off with floor to ceiling black ourtains. No one was ever allowed back there not even John or I.

I was working after school and on weekends at Brouwer Shoe Store selling hard toe work shoes to laborers. After work, I'd go to Dad's and we'd drive home together. We would stop at different companies to drop off blueprints. I'd wait in the outter offices while Dad would disappear through guarded steel gates.

Dad was a volunteer fireman and went to the fire department for classes that included aircraft identification and first aid. Fortunately he never had to use it, he couldn't stand the sight of blood or have any body hurt.

In the winter Dad was on a curling team at the ice rink. John and I weren't interested. Both he and Mom took us ice skating and tobogganing. Mom only liked winter sports. She liked boats,fishing but not swimming.

Mom was interested in nature and gardens. She spent a lot of her childhood helping the family's gardener. When we were in Lincoln Grade School, she taught Nature classes including the part of Astronomy about the stars and planets. It was volunteer work. She worked on special projects for the city of Wauwatosa and later for the League of Women Voters - especially the world's water problems.

She championed children's causes and worked with Juvenile Judge Breitenbauck. I remember going with her to pick up kids in trouble to take them to their parents. Sometimes the kids themselves would call her for help.

When John and I were little, she would put us in the car full of buckets of flowers and take them around to shutins and sick people - many she didn't know.

All through the years including the War, she was active in the garden club federation. They gave a scholarship in her name at the University of Wisconsin for a woman student in the field of conservation.

After the war,she continued working for the Forest Service retiring in 1961. During that time she and others created conservation organizations which specialized in different areas. Often she wrote legislation for the Federal government, State and Local too. When she went to Wash. D.C.for a hearing before a congressal committee, she only had enough money for her transportation and room but not enough to buy dinners so she made excuses and ate in her room. When she got home she was sick from exhaustion and lack of food.

Sometimes I would drive up to Madison with her for hearings on state bills. She was a small person so she'd be lost in a crowd of big lumbermen trying to browbeat her - she never backed down and they admired her for that even though they didn't like her personally. I remember the first time I went with her, she said,"watch they will all show up wearing wool pants, boots, and plaid shirts. Don't let that intimidate you. They really wear suits to work." Mom always wore a business suit.

When she retired from the Forest Service, she built a Medical Arts building in West Bend, ran that until she sold it to the doctors in it and with that money she started the blueprint business-Tri County - which John now owns.

ODDS AND ENDS

About Max and Aroline's Marriage: Max's family was planning their wedding. It got bigger and bigger; more and more elaborate scareing both of them. So they eloped to Chicago Ill.

Their friends in their early years, were Dad's boyhood friends and their families. The husbands bowled and golfed together - the wives played bridge and included Aunt MIKE. When the bridge club met at our house, Mom left the extra candy and nuts on the tables for John and I in the morning. We also had picnics on the beach of Lake Michigan where we would all play volleyball.

On special occasions when Dad took Mom out, he would buy her a corsage of a gardina. When they returned, Mom would lay it on the stand next to my bed so I would smell it as I woke in the morning.

School mornings, Dad would call us to wake up with "Rise and Shine" and we would have breakfast together. He would make himself a sandwich of cold cuts, wrap it in a newspaper and put it in his coat pocket then leave. Mom would get up and finish getting us off to school. When I was in Jr. High and had preschool activities, Dad and I would walk to the bus stop. He'd catch the bus and I would walk on to school.

Dad taught us and the kids in the neighborhood all the sports and kid games like kick the can, red rover - whatever came to mind. He also taught us to shinny up the street sign post until we could touch the ball on the top. The big kids he took to City Park and taught them tennis. We had to play in the street until we were old enough to go too. The kids would call to see if "Mr. Schmitt could out to play?" and he would always go. He taught the Neighborhood football and when they played on the high school team, we always went to cheer.

Dad taught John and I all the plays at a card table. He drew out the field and used buttons for players.

Dad had played End for the Navy. He also boxed (which he also taught us). Boxing is how he broke his nose. He told his father he wouldn't box so he said he broke it playing football.

Dad read to us in his big, soft chair and on monday nights, he took us with him to the library from the time we were babies and then he left us in the care of Miss Loveland while he went to the adult section for his and Mom's books.