



LIFE STORIES

**GORDON RAYMOND SCRIBNER
(1900 –1971)**

and

**ALICE JANE JOHNSON
(1903 –1986)**

by

**Douglas M. Scribner
July 26, 2000**

*“Honor thy Father and thy Mother:
that thy days may be long upon the
land which the Lord thy God giveth
thee.”* (Exodus 20:12)



GORDON RAYMOND SCRIBNER

- b. 26 July 1900
Green Bay, Wisconsin
- m. Alice J. Johnson
7 June 1924
Oakland, California
- d. 27 February 1971
Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico
- b. 3 March 1971
Greenwood Memorial Park
San Diego, California



ALICE JANE JOHNSON

- b. 31 March 1903
Saint Louis, Missouri
- m. Gordon R. Scribner
7 June 1924
Oakland, California
- d. 12 February 1986
San Diego, California
- b. 17 February 1986
Greenwood Memorial Park
San Diego, California

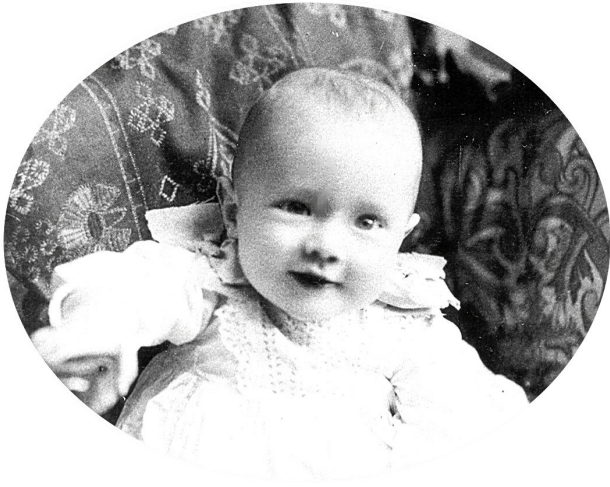
GORDON RAYMOND SCRIBNER

Gordon was born on 26 July 1900 in Green Bay, Brown County, Wisconsin. He was the only child of Irvin Aldridge Scribner and Isabella Livingstone MacKenzie. Irvin and Isabella's families lived in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, which is where the couple met. Isabella (known as Ella) and her family immigrated from Scotland in 1882, when she was only four years old, and settled on a farm in the small town of Algoma, on the outskirts of Oshkosh. Her immediate family consisted of her parents, William MacKenzie and Isabella Livingstone McKenzie (known as Bella), and her two brothers, Allan age six and William age two. Irvin's family lived in Oshkosh, having moved there from Peru, Illinois (where Irvin and two brothers were born) via Freedom Township, Iowa (where his youngest brother was born). His immediate family consisted of his parents, Jeremiah Banker Scribner and Frances Elizabeth Wood (known as Lizzie), and his three younger brothers, Herbert, Jerry and Jesse. Though Gordon had these five uncles and a number of cousins, he didn't see them often because they lived in the Mid West states.



ELLA MACKENZIE (19yrs) & IRVIN SCRIBNER (22yrs)

After completing high school, Irvin began an apprenticeship to become a jeweler. He moved to Green Bay and lived with the family of his employer. He would rise early to practice the art of engraving jewelry, before work, and then work all day in the store. He returned home on weekends and attended the same Plymouth Congregational Church where his family and Ella's family, were members. They met and courted. Then, when Irvin was 24 and Ella was 21, they were married in Plymouth Church on 24 August 1899 by the Congregational Minister, Edward H. Pruitt. Irvin's brother, Herbert Franklin Scribner, and Ella's brother, Allan Morrison MacKenzie, were the witnesses. The newly-wed couple settled in Green Bay and lived there for the next nine years. Gordon was born 11 months after their wedding. Tradition has it that Ella said, "Childbirth is so painful that I will never go through it again", and she didn't.



Gordon - 10 months



*Gordon and Ella
Scribner*



*Irvin A. Scribner &
Gordon R. Scribner - 1905*



Gordon - 2 years, 5 mo.

Times were good as Gordon grew up healthy and strong. Irvin's reputation as a jeweler increased and he soon was able to open his own business in Green Bay. Ella was happy at home and she kept strong ties with their families back in Oshkosh.

In 1908, Irvin, Ella and Gordon took a trip from Green Bay, Wisconsin to San Diego, California to see the mighty US Navy Fleet. They were so pleased with San Diego that they decided to move there. Irvin took Ella and Gordon back to Green Bay just long enough to sell his jewelry business, pack their things and say goodbye to the family before they moved out West. Ella's mother died in 1906, so Irvin and Ella asked her father, William MacKenzie, to move out to California and live with them. He arrived in 1910 so Gordon lived with his parents and his Grandpa MacKenzie from the time he was 10 all the way through his teenage years.



Gordon - Age 12



*Gordon during his
boyhood years in
San Diego - ages 8
through 12.*



Gordon had many talents including a special aptitude for mechanical things. He was very good at mechanical drawing and machining parts out of wood and metal. He was artistic, creative, and could fix anything. However, mathematics was not his strength! In 1918, when Gordon was in his Senior Year at San Diego High School, he realized he was failing in trigonometry. He wanted to become an engineer but he became discouraged so he dropped out of school to join the Navy. He served in the Navy for the next two years, from 1918 to 1920. Even though World War I was raging in Europe, the United States was not too involved and Gordon was able to serve on the West Coast without seeing any actual battles. He was released from the service in Oakland, California in 1920 where he found a job as an apprentice machinist. It was then that he met Alice Johnson, whom he eventually married.



Gordon - age 17



...
He loved to make Monograms

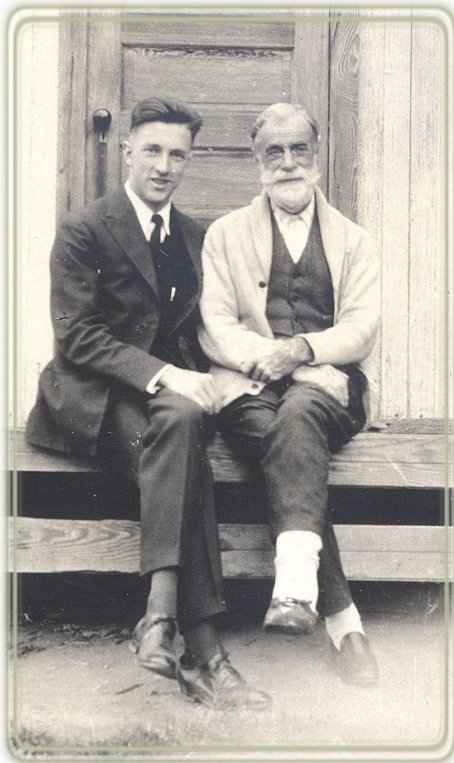


Years later Alice wrote about that first meeting. She said,

“When I first met your dad, he was just out of the service. We met at a dance, which was organized for the servicemen of the first World War. I went with a friend and her mother, who chaperoned us. I was still in High School (17).”

At his dad’s suggestion, Gordon went to night school until he finished the coursework and received his high school diploma. Then Irvin suggested that he go into Optometry, which he did by working part time and enrolling in the College of Optometry in San Francisco. Alice wrote,

“By 1922 Gordon discovered he would never get through school at this rate, so that Summer he went to Alaska with the Alaskan fishing fleet. He got a job as an “engineer” through the help of one of the men in the machine shop, and sailed on the “Star of Holland” to Alaska. It took 30 days and he was sick every day. After reaching Naknek, where the canneries were, he worked very hard, sometimes 22 hours a day while the fish were running. He came home in the Fall with enough money to see him through his next year of school.”



Gordon - age 20 ... He loved visits with Grandpa MacKenzie and hiking with his Dad (Shown on top of Mount Tamalpais)

ALICE JANE JOHNSON

Alice and her younger sister, Florence Elizabeth Johnson, were the only two children of Percy Townsend Johnson and Amelia Sophia Stumm. Percy's mother, Jane Elizabeth Townsend, and his father, Matthew Johnson, immigrated from England shortly after they were married in 1869. However, Jane died soon after Percy was born and Matthew died in 1911. Alice hardly knew her Grandfather Johnson, but they were together when this picture was taken in 1910.



Emily, Florence, Percy, Alice & Matthew Johnson

On the other side of the family, Alice's mother, Amelia (called Emily) came from a family of six children, one of whom (Fredrick) died young. Emily's parents, Carl Philipp Stumm and Sophia Julia Schueler immigrated from Germany in about 1879 with three children: Ernst Carl Stumm, Emil Philipp Stumm, and Elizabeth Julia Stumm (known as Bessie). They came to St. Louis, Missouri where Emily and her younger sister Ida Stumm were born. Their mother, Sophia, died in May of 1896 when Emily and Ida were only 14 and 11 years old. Life without their mother was hard, which may explain why Emily decided to marry Percy T. Johnson in St. Louis on June 10, 1902 even though she was only 20 while Percy was 31 years old. Alice was born in St. Louis on March 31, 1903.

Percy, Emily and Alice lived in the village of Crondelet, which today is a suburb of St. Louis. Percy was a printer so he bought the village newspaper for his business. When Alice was two years old, the rest of Emily's family decided to move from St Louis to San Francisco. However, Percy and Emily did not go with them because of Percy's newspaper company. The Stumms settled into a home in San Francisco in 1905, less than a year before the great earthquake of 1906. In the picture below, Emily's younger sister Ida is cooking dinner on the sidewalk because many of the chimneys fell down during the earthquake. It may have been a Sunday dinner since they are all dressed up in their best clothes.



Ida, Carl & Emil Stumm (plus a neighbor couple)

Communications were affected by the earthquake! Emily could not get through to her family to find out if they survived. She made Percy sell the newspaper business and they moved to San Francisco to be with them. When Percy, Emily and Alice arrived there was a shortage of good housing, so they moved into a temporary rental in Daly City. This place was so cold and drafty that Emily and Alice were sick a lot. Florence was born on February 18, 1909 while they were still living in Daly City. Emily became very sick after Florence was born, so Percy moved his family to the little town of Fruitvale, just East of Oakland. He hoped that the improved climate would help Emily regain her health. It seemed to work so they bought a small home at 1722 37th Avenue, and lived there all the years Alice was growing up.



Emily, Alice & Florence - 1911

Carl Stumm died in 1909. Then, on 18 June 1911, Emily's 34 year old sister Bessie married Otis Waite. Two years later, their youngest sister Ida married Henry Reichelt. The date of their wedding was 28 June 1913 and Ida was 28 years old. The oldest of the Stumm children was Ernst. He had married Augusta Eschle on 4 October 1893 but they did not move West with the rest of the family until later. Emily's other brother Emil never married, though he was a very handsome man. These were Alice and Florence's only Uncles and Aunts, but the family was close and spent a lot of time together as the girls were growing up.

Alice remembered how Percy would commute to San Francisco to work six days a week by walking to the ferry, riding it across the bay, and walking from the terminal to the printing company where he worked. Then he would return home the same way each evening at precisely the same time. She recalled that her father was a very neat, fastidious person who had his own towel and washcloth, which no one else was allowed to use. Though they didn't have much money, their home was always neat and clean and they had enough food and clothing to get along. Percy planted fruit trees and a vegetable garden and he raised chickens to supplement the food they had to buy. Gradually Emily's health improved.



Alice growing up in Oakland

At age 13, Alice got a summer job working for her two uncles, Ernst and Emil Stumm, in their bookbinding business in Berkeley. Her wage was one dollar per day, but it was enough for her to save up and buy a new winter coat at the end of the summer.

Emily was definitely a “city girl” who hated any form of roughing it in the outdoors. Alice recalled one occasion when family friends took Emily and her two girls on a campout. They had a “Model T” Ford and a big tent but Emily would not stay in the tent. Instead, she sat up all night in the Model T.

About this same time, Percy bought a 10 acre ranch in Oakley (near Concord) with almond trees and a horse. His idea was for the family to live there while he would come out to the ranch on weekends. Well, Emily hated it there! Finally, when the horse died, she demanded that they move back to town and their house at 37th avenue. Percy never took a vacation so, when Alice was in high school, Emily rented a vacation house in Healdsburg on the Russian River for two weeks. It was a short walk from the train station to this house on the river so they wouldn’t be out in the country. It was a fun trip filled with good memories. Alice remembered her mother as a patient, religious person with a good sense of humor, who loved to cook and was always singing. After graduation from high school, Alice enrolled in the Oakland Business College to become trained as a secretary. She wanted to go to a University but there wasn’t enough money for her tuition. This is when she started dating Gordon Scribner.

Courtship - Gordon & Alice

On September 22, 1920, Gordon wrote this invitation for a date:

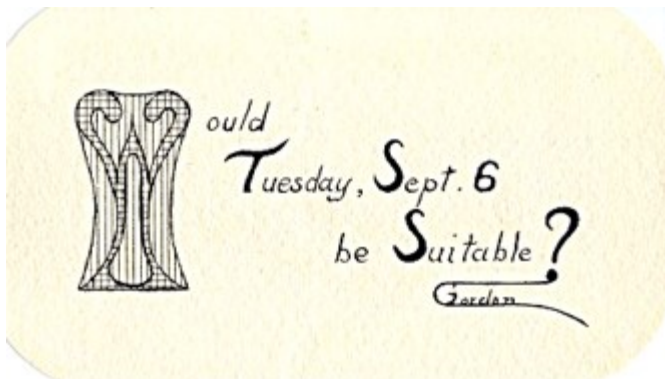
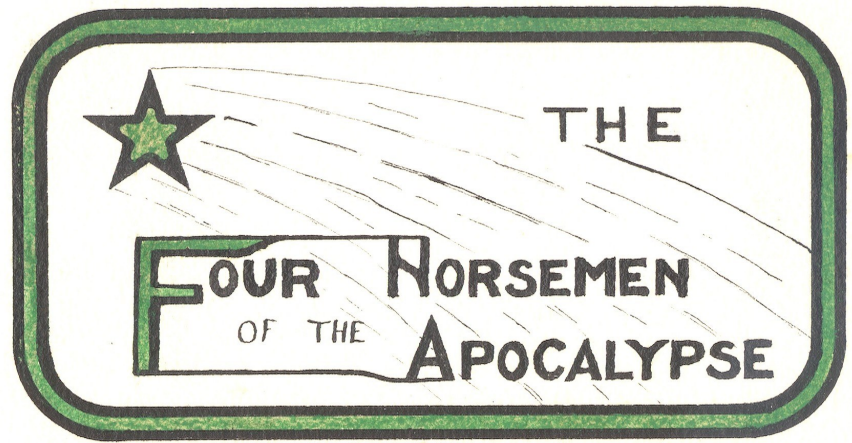
“If I should ask
That you should come,
After the setting of the sun,
And go with me
To old San Fran,
A show to see
At the Curran,
Would you?”

“Then should I plan
To go to Taits,
A bit of dance
Among the plates,
A pleasant hour
There to spend,
And then our footsteps
Homeward bend,
Would you?”

“A comedy
This week is billed
With wit, and song,
And music filled.
As to its merit,
I can’t proclaim;
I can but let
You know its name.
‘Buddies’..”



These four years, from 1920 to 1924, were filled with a gradual but sustained courtship. Gordon was a romantic young man who wrote Alice frequently and filled his letters with philosophy, theology and art as well as words of endearment. Alice may not have had a telephone in her home because many of the letters were written to ask her for a date. His black ink drawings were amazing graphic designs, monograms, beautiful lettering and artistic sketches. They often included poetry and philosophical prose. His favorite opening phrase was, "Dear Little Girl".





Gordon kept a tiny journal of his romantic thoughts, poems and frustrations during these four years of courtship and finally gave it to Alice with a beautiful monogram on the cover. Apparently Alice was convinced that Gordon should not kiss her very much with the fear that he would lose respect for her. She kept making him promise not to kiss her, but this is one promise he couldn't seem to keep because he never really agreed with the idea. Finally he wrote in the journal, "Some promises are damned hard to keep!"

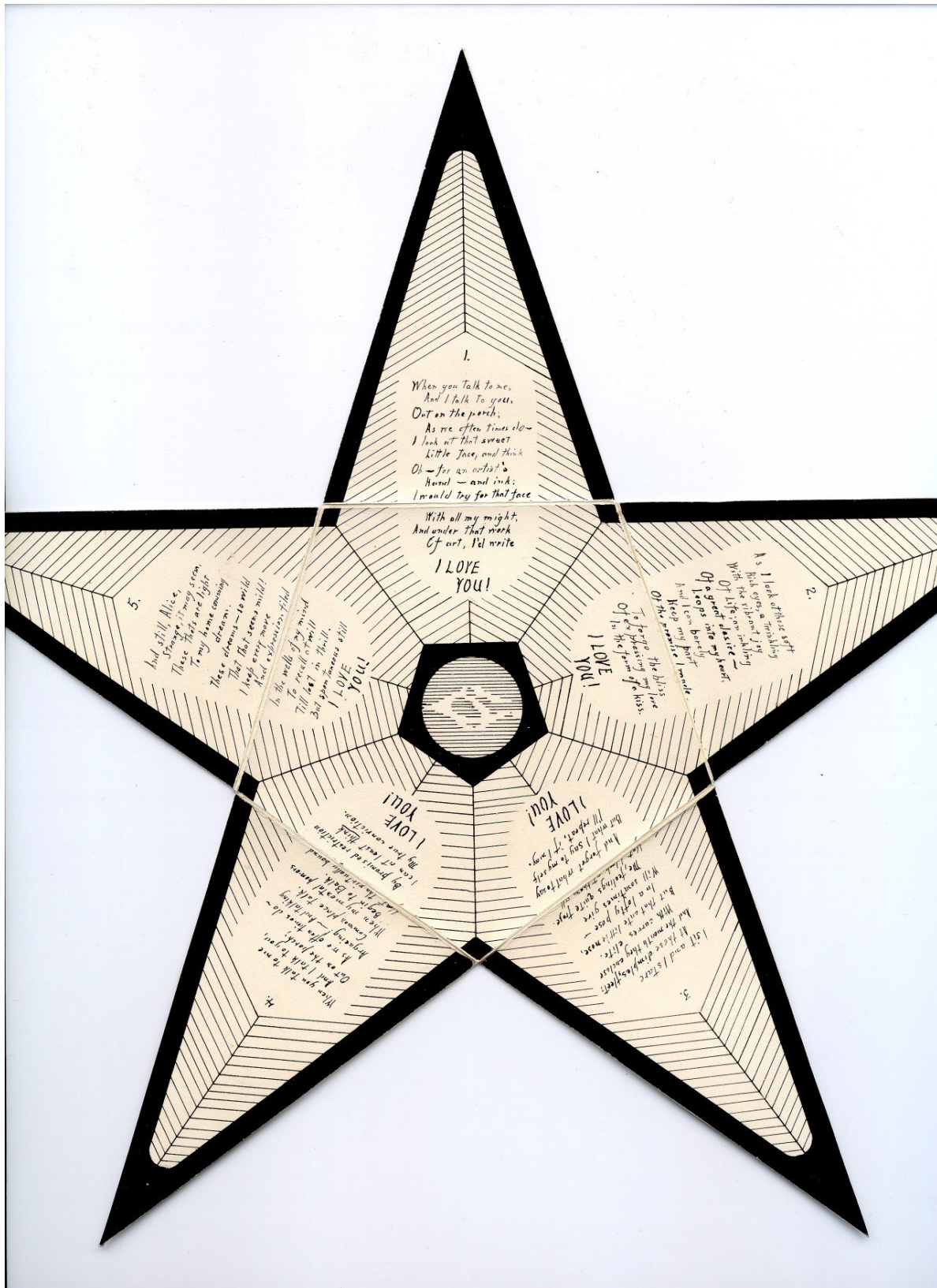
Sometimes Gordon recorded his favorite poems like this anonymous one, called "**Love's Secret,**"

"A simple word of sooth is this;
Love liveth still in giving bliss.

Who for himself bliss doth demand
He killeth love right out of hand.

Love loveth joy in other eyes;
Joy can be found in no other wise."

Other times the poetry was his own, expressing his love for Alice, such as this one on a graphic star.



1.

“When you talk to me,
 And I talk to you,
Out on the porch,
 As we oftentimes do –
I look at that sweet
 Little face and think
Oh – for an artist’s
 Hand – and ink:
I would try for that face
 With all my might.
And under that work
 Of art, I’d write
 I LOVE YOU!”

2.

“As I look at those soft
 Rich eyes; a twinkling
With the vibrant joy
 Of life; an inkling
Of a great desire –
 Leaps into my heart,
And I can barely
 Keep my part
Of the promise I made,
 To forgo the bliss
Of expressing my love
 In the form of a kiss.
 I LOVE YOU!”

3.

“I sit and I stare
 At these dimples, fleet:
And the mouth they enclose
 With curves elite.
But that cute little nose,
 In a lofty pose –
Will sometimes give
 Me, feelings quite froze
Yet, I look at them all
 And forget what to say.
But, what I say to myself
 I’ll repeat, if I may.
 I LOVE YOU!”

4.

“When you talk to me
 And I talk to you,
Out on the porch;
 As we often times do –
Arguing – And talking
 Common place talk,
When my mental powers
 Begin to balk.
Yet, though virtually bound
 By promised restriction,
I can at least **think**
 My true conviction.
 I LOVE YOU!”

5.

And still, **Alice**,
 Strange, it may seem
These thoughts are light
 To my home coming dream.
These dreams – so wild
 That thought seems mild!
I keep every move
 And expression filed
In the wells of my mind
 To recall at will,
Till lost in thrill.
 But spontaneous still,
 I LOVE YOU!”

On Saturday, June 7, 1924, **Gordon Raymond Scribner** and **Alice Jane Johnson** were married at her home Fruitvale, California by Kelly O'Neall, Minister of the Fruitvale Christian Church. The couple was surrounded by their friends and family, including Alice's Aunts and Uncles from Germany. It was a wonderful day and the beginning of a long and happy life together.



*Gordon & Alice at their Wedding
Florence (15 years) & Calvin Looser (Best Man)*

Just before the wedding, Gordon graduated from the College of Optometry and passed the State Board Examination. Then he went to work for an Optometrist in Oakland but he wasn't very happy working for someone else. Alice remembered that,

“Gordon lost two or three jobs because he wouldn't ‘oversell’ people. Finally a Sacramento firm of Optometrists opened an office in Hale Brothers Department Store in San Francisco and gave your Dad ‘carte blanche’ in running the office. He stayed there until Pops finally convinced him to come back to San Diego in 1939.”



*Myrl Owen's Home at 22 Nace Street
(Gordon & Alice lived in downstairs apartment)*

Their first son, David Gordon Scribner, was born on May 15, 1926 and Kenneth Jerome Scribner was born just two years later on July 22, 1928. Things were going great until a year later when the Stock Market crash of 1929 started the "Great Depression". Fortunately Gordon was able to keep working the entire time through the depression, but there was very little money for any thing but necessities. He loved to swim and hike so the family would take frequent outings. Weekend camping trips to Yosemite, fishing expeditions, or day hikes up a local mountain with the two boys made for a happy family life. They lived close enough to Alice's parents and her younger sister Florence, that they were often included in family activities. Even though they wanted to have more children, the economy was too depressed to be able to afford it.

Ken remembers that the family moved into a rental home at 35 Nace Street in the Piedmont area of Oakland, close to the Oakland hills. There Alice became close friends with a neighbor, Myrl Owen, who lived across the street. Myrl's home was a lovely, large old house at 22 Nace Street and Alice loved the place. Later, when Myrl and her family moved to Corning, California, the Scribners moved in and rented the downstairs portion of the house from her. Ken and Dave enjoyed living there and Ken has some great memories of family activities. When Ken was 9 or 10, he and Gordon built a model of the Spanish Mission, San Buena Ventura for one of Ken's school projects.

This was the home where many family gatherings took place. Alice, Gordon and the boys lived there during the worst part of the depression. It was ten years after Ken (known as Jerry) was born that the third son, Douglas MacKenzie Scribner came along. Doug (known as Mac) was born in Oakland on February 9, 1938. (Gordon always wanted a daughter but it just didn't work out that way). About this time, Myrl Owen decided to sell the house so Percy and Emily bought it and moved into the upstairs apartment



Doug (Mac) Scribner

Ken (Jerry) & Dave Scribner

Sons of Gordon & Alice born in Oakland, CA.

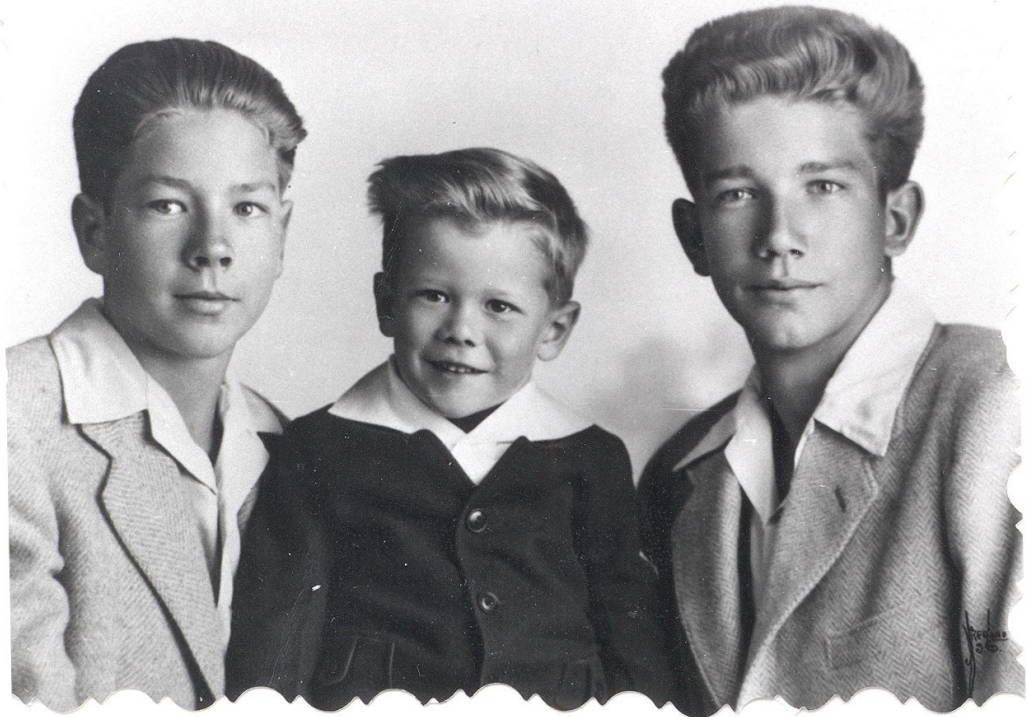
The next year, life took on a big change for Gordon and Alice. Gordon's father, Irvin (Pops), finally persuaded him to move back to San Diego and start up an Optometry Practice there in the family Jewelry Store. Alice wrote about the challenges that followed,

“In 1939 we made the move. Pops had promised to help us until your Dad got started, but in the Fall of 1939, Pop's store was robbed. Irvin had no insurance and he lost everything. He could no longer help us, but we managed to struggle through. Gordon opened his office in a rented building at 3814 5th Avenue. That Fall he joined the Hillcrest Lions Club where we made most of the friends we have today.”

The other big event that happened that year was that Alice's sister Florence got married. Florence Elizabeth Johnson married Henry Neergard on 22 July 1939. They settled in Monrovia, California and had two children, Phillip born 1 September 1941 and Karen born 28 February 1944. Phil and Karen are the only cousins to Gordon and Alice's four sons so the family traveled often from San Diego to Laguna Beach to meet them there.

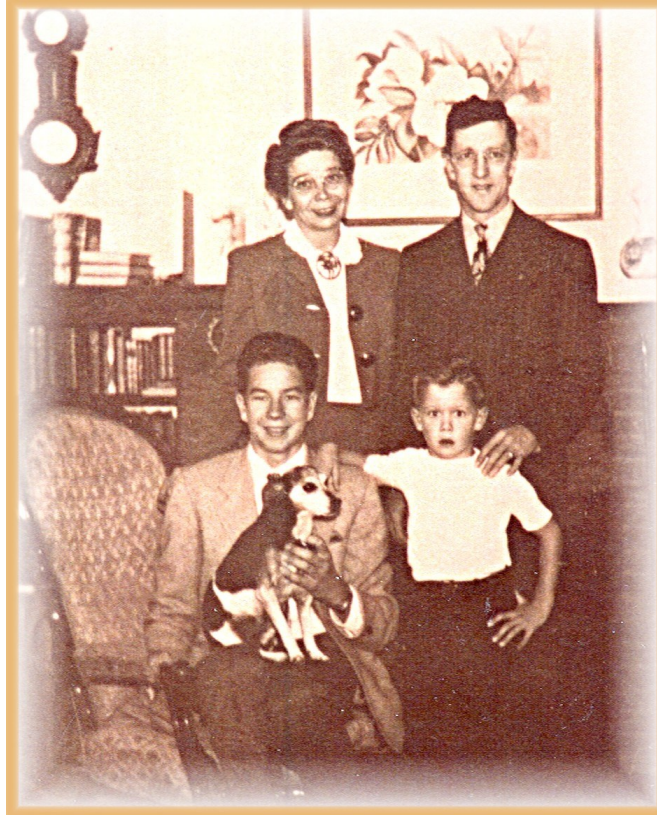
Alice continued her friendship with a few special people in the Bay Area by writing letters. Myrle Owens from Corning, California was one of these friends and they corresponded often. Alice was lonely at first and missed her family, so her dad, who was now 69 and retired, wrote often to her and included all the details of family gatherings. Eventually Percy and Emily sold their home on Nace Street and moved to San Diego so they could be closer to Alice and her family.

*Ken
Doug
Dave*



At first Gordon and Alice rented a home at 4734 Panorama drive. There Alice became a very close friend with a neighbor, Beth Ackerman, whose son David was the same age as Mac. After a few years there, and a brief stay on Cleveland avenue, Gordon and Alice bought their own home at 1433 Golden Gate Drive. During this time, World War II was raging in Europe and this time America was involved. However, Alice was just grateful that her sons were too young to serve. Gordon was building up his Practice and Alice loved to entertain. The house was often filled with “card parties” with groups of friends who would gather to play various card games, eat and laugh together. Gordon built a new garage with a workshop on the back and filled it with the tools and machines that he loved to use. He was a very skilled machinist and enjoyed making things for the home and the office. He would spend hours there just to help his sons with projects making things. He also loved his favorite sports of swimming and handball. He joined the San Diego Rowing Club and would often take one of his boys down to the club to trounce them at a good game of closed court handball, or to a bowling alley where he and Pops would enjoy beating them soundly. He also helped the boys through Boy Scouts, even serving as Scoutmaster for a while. Alice later wrote,

“I don’t have to tell you how much he loved and enjoyed his sons, and how much he helped them in every way he could. You all know what a good father he was to each of you. Also you know how much he enjoyed the out-of-doors, and how much he taught you about being self reliant.”



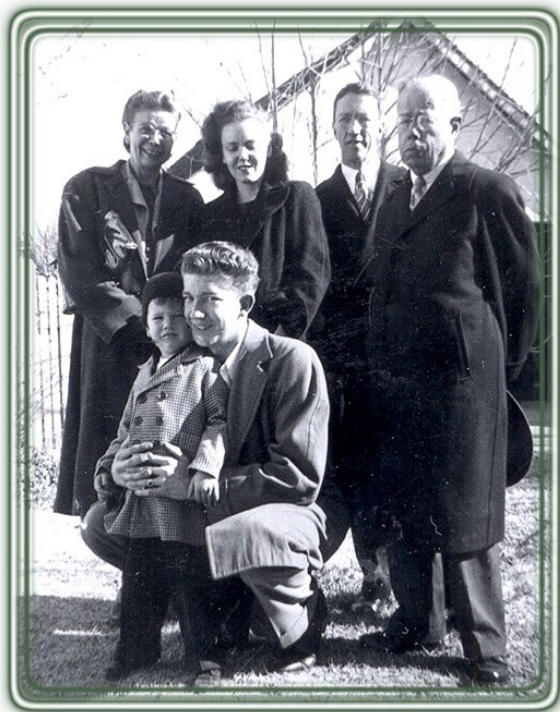
Alice, Gordon, Ken and Doug



Doug and Steve



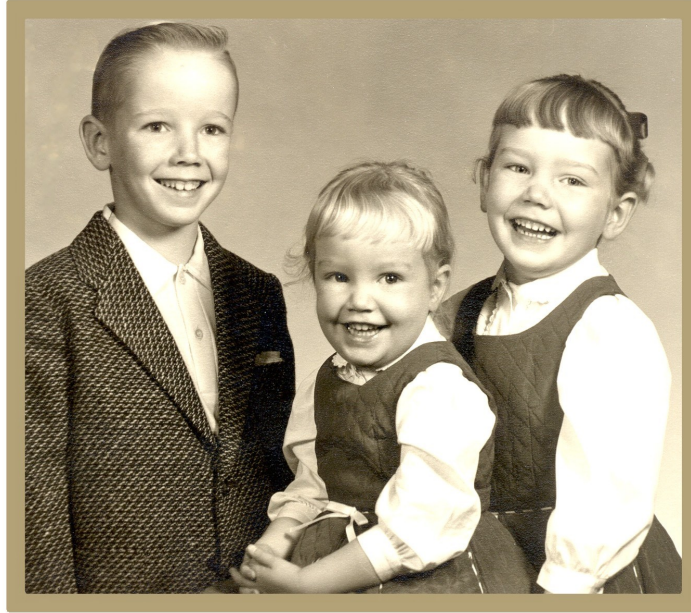
On December 7, 1941, Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. Ken remembered that our family was at the beach on that fateful day. America was now fully involved in World War II. San Diego was the major American Navel Base on the West Coast so many people thought it would be bombed next. Fortunately it was not. David was 15 in 1941 and too young to fight, but as soon as he turned 18 he signed up to join the war effort in Guam as an airplane mechanic. On August 7, 1945, Alice gave birth to their fourth son, Stephen Peter Scribner. The other event that year was that Percy and Emily Johnson sold the house at 22 Nace Street and moved to Johnson Avenue in San Diego, close to our home. Emily died in San Diego three years later on January 30, 1948, at 66 years of age. She died just five days after David married Marion Dunn in the Riverside Inn. David and Marion started out their married life together in the Texas "Panhandle" towns of Dalhart and Amarillo where Dave started a career in Radio Announcing and then later in TV. Dave and Marion had three children: Ron, Laurie and Leslie. Ken went off to college, starting at San Diego State and then transferring to the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he got a BS Degree in Chemical Engineering. This left just the two younger boys, Mac and Steve at home.



*Alice, Marion, Gordon, Percy,
Steve and Dave (1949)*



*Marion, Dave, Steve and Doug
(1949)*



Ron, Leslie, Laurie

In the years that followed, Gordon was recognized for his leadership and contributions to his profession and his community. It included building his own Optometry Office, serving as President of the San Diego Optometric Association, and becoming President of the Hillcrest Lions Club. Alice wrote,

“Your Dad always wanted to have his own office so he bought an old house at 3960 4th Avenue, and had an office built on the front of the lot. In January 1953 he opened his new office designed just the way he wanted it. He made all of the cabinets himself and even made some of the furniture. He worked every night until ten or eleven o’clock to get everything finished by the time the office was ready.”

“Gordon worked hard in both organizations of which he was a member. One was the Lions Club where he headed the sight conservation committee and started a program of tape recording books for blind college students. The other was the Optometric Association where he started a project of ‘taking in’ graduate students (like a CoOp) to help them get started. He became President of both organizations, and received the ‘Optometrist Of The Year’ award in 1961. He worked at the Plymouth Church in many capacities and made a glass enclosed bulletin board for the front of the church which is still used today.”

Doug’s memories of Gordon in the 50s were mostly centered around projects he did with his sons. One was a six foot totem pole that Doug and his friend Harry Schenck made for the Boy Scout woodcarving merit badge. Of course Gordon did most of the work, but the boys did enough to get the credit. The totem pole still stands in the Scout HQ in Balboa Park.

Awards and Recognition

Gordon was committed to the idea that many vision problems could be solved by training and exercising the eyes. He frequently designed and invented his own special instruments to do this training and used them in his new office.

March 4, 1954



Dr. Gordon Kindy, director of public information of the California Optometric association, left, presents a plaque for "distinguished service to optometry" to Dr. Gordon Scribner, San Diego optometrist.—San Diego Union Staff Photo.

Dr. Scribner Gets Citation Of Society

A citation for "distinguished service within the profession of optometry" was presented last night to Dr. Gordon R. Scribner, Hillcrest optometrist, as the highlight of a dinner-meeting of the San Diego Optometric society at the Plymouth Congregational church.

The presentation for the California Optometric Assn., which gave the plaque, was made by Dr. Gordon Kindy, who currently is director of public information for the state group. He also is a past president of the local society.

The optometrists were guests

of the group's auxiliary, headed by Mrs. Julian Lebo, of Pacific Beach at a "potluck" dinner.

Reports of delegates to the recent convention of the California Optometric Association at San Francisco, also were given. San Diego is being favored for the state conclave in two years, they said.

Dr. Scribner has practiced optometry here for 30 years, and has lived here since 1908. His citation of appreciation from the state association came principally for his work as first vice president of the Vision Conservation Institute.

Dr., Mrs. Scribner Plan Open House to Welcome Son

Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Scribner will hold open house Sunday from 5 to 8 p.m. in their home honoring their son, David G. Scribner, and his wife, who with their 7-month-old son, Ronald, arrived yesterday from Dalhart, Tex., for a short visit.

This is the junior Scribner's

first visit here since their marriage several years ago and it is providing Dr. and Mrs. Scribner with their first introduction to their grandson. David Scribner is a radio announcer in Dalhart. Dr. and Mrs. Scribner request friends of their son to consider this announcement an invitation to call Sunday evening.

Gordon Scribner Named Hillcrest Lions' President

Ratification of a panel of officers previously placed in nomination and the induction of a new member, Russell Crofoot, owner of the Lincoln Ambulance Service, highlighted this week's meeting of the Hillcrest Lions Club.

Elected unanimously, the following officers will serve the current fiscal year:

President, Dr. Gordon Scribner; first vice-president, Jerry Awes; second vice-president, John A. Lasher; third vice-president, W. W. Wilson; secretary, Bob Burgert; treasurer, Clyde Davee; Lion tamer, John L. Brazell; tail twister, Norman Dennstedt. James Bullied and George Little were named to the board of directors.

Scheduled for next week's after-luncheon interlude is a motion picture of, according to Bob Burgert, an educational nature.

On August 21, 1954, Ken married Muriel (Pat) Patterson. They settled in the San Francisco Bay Area and had two children: Dan and Julie. The next year, Mac changed his name to Doug, graduated from San Diego High School, and went off to Stanford University to study Electrical Engineering. That same Summer, Gordon's Mother, Ella, died. She passed away on July 20, 1955, just six days before Gordon's 55th birthday. This left just the two Grandpas, Irvin (Pops) and Percy for their grandchildren. Pops moved to a smaller house on Madison Avenue just two blocks from Gordon and Alice, and Percy moved right in with them on Golden Gate Drive. At this point Percy was 85 and becoming very forgetful, but Pops was only 80 and very healthy. There were lots of fun experiences for Steve and Doug doing things with Pops, who loved to go bowling or hiking with his grandsons. Steve recalled the fun he had at the cabin in Arizona. Gordon went in together with several friends to buy this knotty pine cabin in the Arizona Mountains and all the family would gather there during the summers to hike, swim and explore the area. Gordon had a passion for exploring unknown back roads just to see where they would go, so the family often ended up at the dead end of a bumpy dirt road.



Ken, Steve, Doug and Dave



Julie and Dan Scribner



Ken Scribner



The Gordon Scribner and Henry Neergard Families

Gordon and Alice faced a lot of life changes in the 1960s. Doug went off to Australia for two years to serve a mission for the Mormon Church. Irvin died in May, 1961. Percy died in November, 1963. Steve graduated from High School in June, 1963 and went off to Brigham Young University to study engineering. This left Gordon and Alice with an “empty nest” and a lot more time for themselves and their friends. On June 2, 1964, Doug married Cecile James. They remained in Provo, Utah for a few months while Doug finished his Master’s Degree in Electrical Engineering at BYU, then moved to Palo Alto, California to work for Hewlett-Packard. Perhaps the biggest change of all was in 1965, when Gordon closed the office and retired. The next six years were filled with wonderful experiences together. They visited children and grand children and traveled to exotic places. They spent a lot of time with dear friends



Dave, Ken Steve and Doug



Ken and Doreen Scribner

Ken married Doreen Price (December, 1977), whose artistic hands, loving heart and gentle ways have endeared her to the whole family.

On June 11, 1968 Steve married Mary Fay Davis. Then, in January of 1969 he graduated from BYU in Electrical Engineering. Eventually Doug and Cecile had eight children: Russ, Gina, Craig, Scott, Christy, Jim, Spencer and Lora. Steve and Mary had five children: Troy, Lara, Chad, Ben and Emily. This made a total of 18 Grandchildren for Gordon and Alice, though Gordon only got to know the older ones.



Doug and Cecile Scribner
1990



Doug and Cecile's Wedding



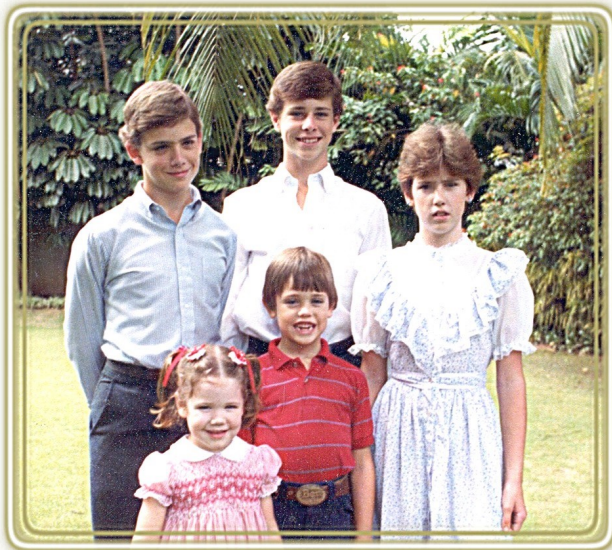
The Doug Scribner Family—1988



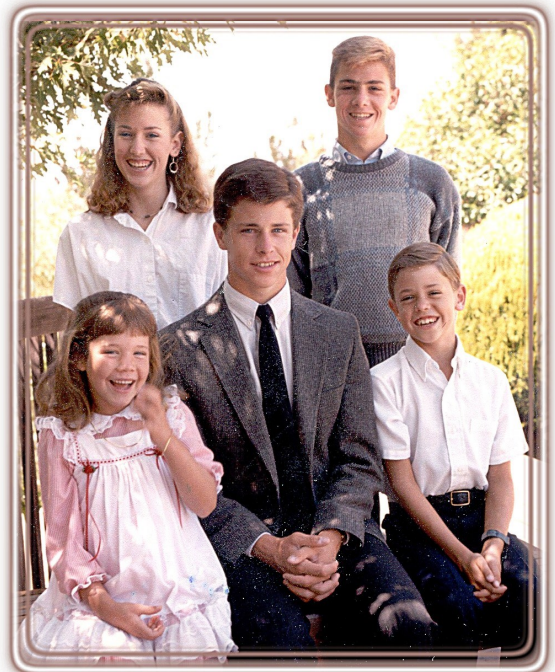
Steve and Mary Scribner



*Alice and Steve Scribner
High School Graduation*



*Chad, Troy, Lara
Emily, Benjamin*



*Lara, Chad
Emily, Troy, Benjamin*

In April, 1969, Gordon had his first heart attack. The family was staying at Dave and Marion's cabin on a river North of San Antonio, Texas, during the Easter Vacation. Gordon had been learning how to water-ski on the placid waters of the river and had just gone into a nearby town when he felt heavy chest pain. He was rushed into the hospital emergency room and ended up staying in the hospital for several weeks to recover. Steve was not there so he wrote to Dad and Mom expressing his love and faith. He also asked them to express their beliefs and faith. The following excerpts are from Gordon's reply:

"Dear Steve,

...As I grew up in the normal tradition of that time, - that is reluctantly going to Sunday School and often fighting sleep during sermons - my Mother became convinced that some special religious approach would answer her quest for better mental satisfaction and physical healing. My grandmother Scribner had become a Christian Scientist and so believed in this doctrine that she studied to become a practitioner. This then became our family religion for many years."

"Christian Science is one of the first really great 'Mind over Matter' doctrines. Its worthiness has been demonstrated by successful healing of physical and mental illness, and by promoting a 'success' psychology in its adherents. The Bible is its basic text book accompanied by Mary Baker Eddy's book 'Science and Health', which endeavors to interpret the tenets of the Bible into modern useful understanding.... I used to try this positive thinking science on myself, sometimes over-coming headaches, upset stomach, etc, but found this type of effort so strenuous that I did not have the drive and perseverance to continue."

"I was brought up pretty strictly in the moral sense and supposed that deviations from 'Ten Commandment' morality would get immediate and appropriate punishment... I sort of hung on to the Ten Commandments until I could figure out something concrete to believe in... And so I blundered about in search of a believable solution, gradually leaning toward science as offering the most provable theories. Of course that fell short of the goal because it did not adequately explain the important phenomena that you and I can vouch for as facts because we can **feel** them. (This includes) such things as love, friendship, social and moral responsibility, and a conviction of some sort of spiritual relationship with the intelligence which devised the immutable laws and order capable of governing the Universe, from its entirety down to the most minute subdivisions of its atoms."

“I married your mother (an orthodox Protestant girl) in 1924 and we agreed that church and religion (if not overdone) was a good influence, particularly for growing children. Children need goals to head for. ... After coming to San Diego in 1939, Mom was feeling the need for closer ties with religion, so we joined the Plymouth Congregational Church on University Avenue at Pershing. We both involved ourselves substantially. Mom taught Sunday School. I was on the Board and also did lots of repair and improvement jobs. I agreed to be the Scoutmaster for the Church sponsored Scout Troop.”

“Now about church. I liked Reverend Wallin who tried hard to build up the membership. However, factions built up in the church and choir which finally discouraged him, so, when war came, he joined the Navy as a chaplain. Then we got Reverend John Barbour. He was very tricky at politics and pulled together a faction which discredited the sincere key workers. This turmoil finished it as far as Mom and I were concerned.”

“During this time I became far more impressed by the marvels and beauties of nature than by sermons, and we sought opportunities to experience the physical and spiritual exhilaration to be found in places like Yosemite and Sequoia, etc. This period was probably when I subconsciously was forming The notion of Immortality which I presently believe in. ... Since then, Mom has tried to have me visit other churches but, for the most part, I now feel that church and religion are separate subjects.”

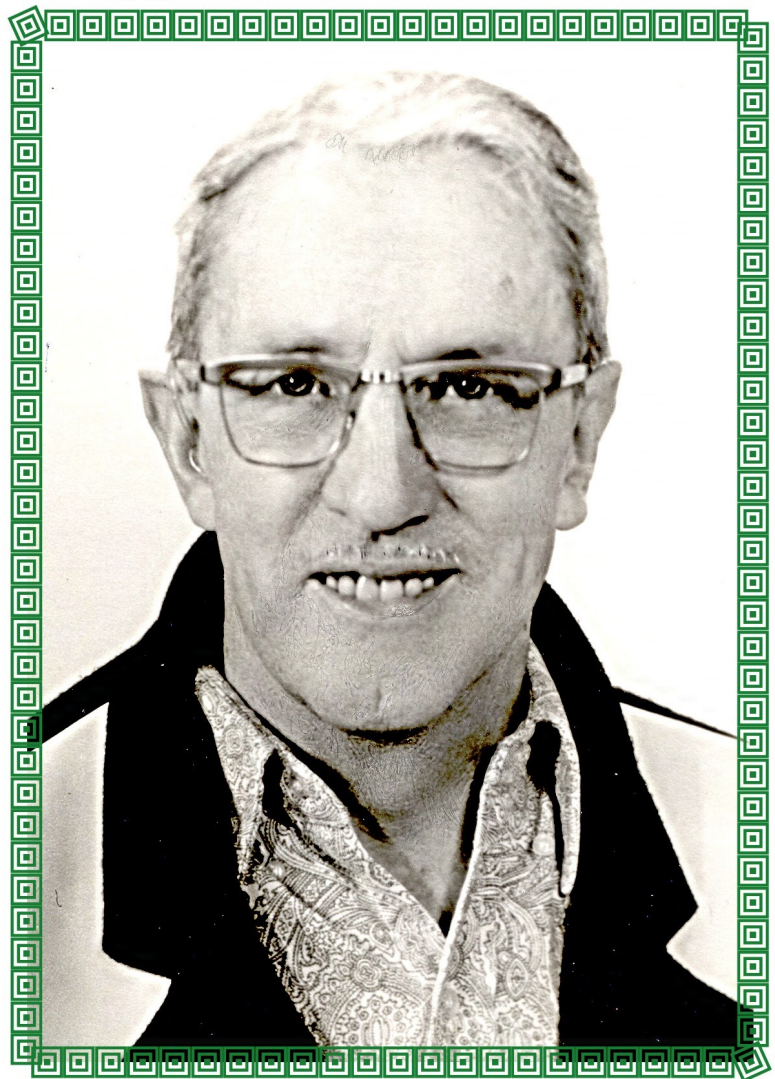
“What then do I believe in? The Reverend John Barbour once accused me of having a ‘Service Club’ Religion. I think his analysis was correct and I offer no apologies. The Ten Commandments (fine moral guidelines as they are) are all negative. They are ‘Thou shalt not’s’. Service Club credos are positive and encourage participation in civic and other laudable services where needed. ...”

“I promised you my present belief about immortality. Physically we see things and creatures live, die and disintegrate, but this does not terminate their usefulness. The forest products are reduced, by bugs and fungi, to basic soil and humus.... This dust and these ashes contain the special requirements for the growth of some other living thing. This is true ‘living on’ or immortality. From the spiritual level, I do believe in a sort of personal continuity. The things of value which one creates, or instigates, or promotes contribute toward the benefit of mankind, be this contribution large or small. Its net effect, carrying over after his death, constitutes whatever immortality a person can lay claim to.”

“This may not be enough for many people, but for me it is compensation enough. I hope this history, etc., will help you understand me better, but not love me less. Our love to you and Mary. Dad.”

In February 1971, Gordon and Alice were on an excursion to Mexico. They stayed in the city of Chichen Itza in the state of Yucatan to see the Aztec Pyramid there. Alice went to the hotel to rest while Gordon climbed the steep steps of the pyramid. There he had a severe heart attack and was rushed off in an ambulance to a nearby town with a hospital. Alice didn't know what had happened until someone slipped a note under her hotel room door. She got into a taxi and raced from town to town until she found him, shortly before he died. Gordon died on February 27, 1971 and was buried in San Diego on March 3. Alice lived for another 15 years after Gordon died. She stayed in San Diego surrounded by their friends, though she eventually moved to a smaller home that was easier to maintain. During those years Alice visited her children and grandchildren, even traveling to Scotland and Holland when Doug and Cecile were living in Edinburgh with their family, and to Manila in the Philippines when Steve and Mary and their children were living there. She even held a big family reunion at the "Beach Cottages" in San Diego, the summer before she died. One of her hardest moments was April 28, 1984, when her son Dave died from cancer. Alice knew that she also had cancer, but didn't tell anyone until it progressed to the point where she had only a few months left to live. Alice died on February 12, 1986 in San Diego, leaving only her sister Florence as the last one of her generation. Florence died two years later on July 4th, 1988 in Palm Springs.

Gordon R. Scribner
June 2, 1970



*Alice J. Scribner
March 31, 1983*



*All our love to
Gordon and Alice*

*From Dave, Ken,
Doug, Steve, Phil,
Karen and their
families!!!*

Steve, Ken, Alice, Dave, Doug

