# Jerry & Norma



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# Parents & Siblings







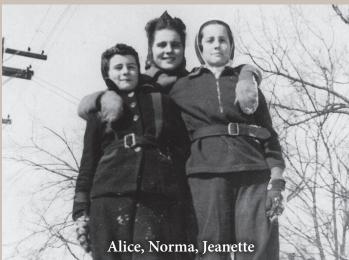








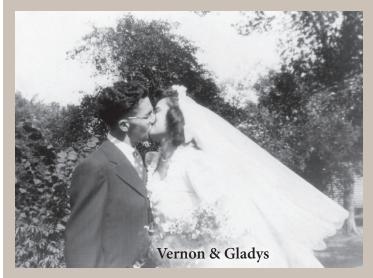
























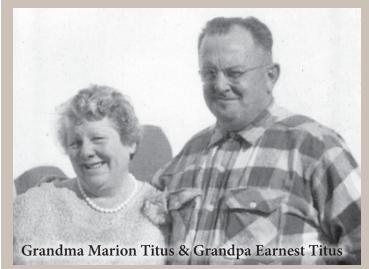


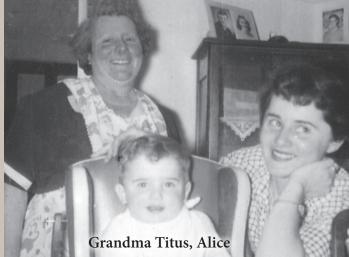






Members of St. Andrew's Guild, who were in charge of the rummage sale held at Legion Hall last week Thursday. Front row: Rev. Henry Mattocks, vicar of St. Andrew's Church, Mrs. Anna Cleary, Mrs. Lester R. Cummings, Mrs. Susan Aldrich; back row: Mrs. Ernest Titus, Mrs. Anna Day, Mrs. Frank L. Maxwell and Mrs. Alice Bly.

















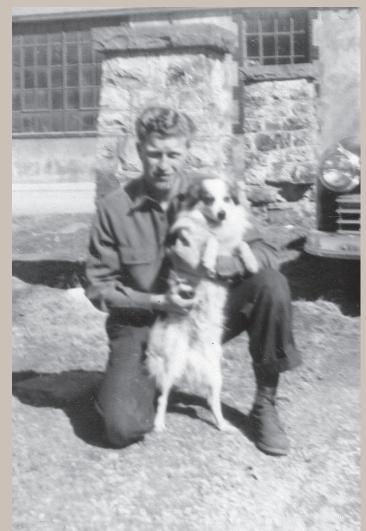




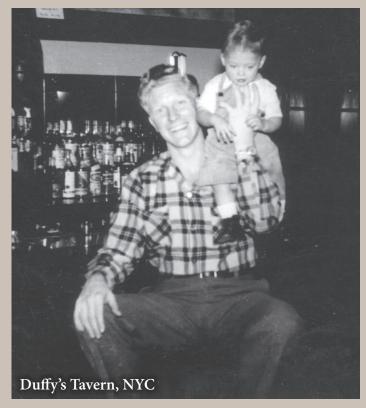
## Jerry David Finnegan

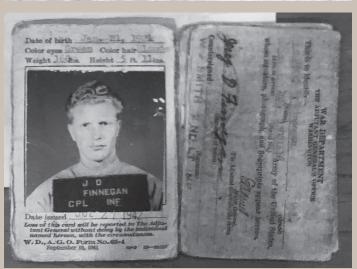
October 11, 1922 November 01, 2004



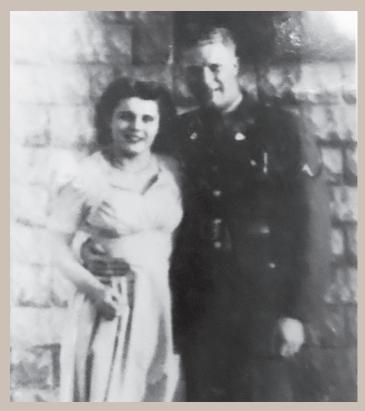














#### Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that JERRY D FINNEGAN 13 021 416 CORPORAL

CANNON CO 26TH INF

Army of the United States

is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military service of the United States of America.

This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service to this country.

Given at

SEPARATION CENTER FORT DIX, N. J.

Date

27 JUNE 1945

H. M. FIX





NO 950

# HEADQUARTERS FORT DEVENS, MASS. TAXICAB PERMIT

FINNEGAN

. Jeri

(LAST NAME)

(MIDDLE NAME)

(FIRST NAME)

1 NASHUA STREET AYER MASS.

(HOME ADDRESS, STREET, CITY, COUNTY, STATE)

SAME AS ABOVE

(NAME OF OWNER)

SAME AS ABOVE

#### (ADDRESS OF OWNER)

ISSUED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AS SIGHTED IN CIRCULAR NO. 23, HEADQUARTERS FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS, DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1951, WITH CHANGES.

NO FT DEVENS FORM 117

Pavid Reco To

PROVOST MARSHAL



#### **Hartnett Tanning Salutes**

\*\*\*\*\*

Jerry Finnegan of the Ayer tannery management team. He supervises the hide splitting operation, where a razor sharp knife, in the form of an endless steel band, slices the leather into two layers. He is a member of the town fire department and is active in several local organizations.



\*\*\*\*\*



Jerry Finnegan
October 11, 1922 to November 1, 2004

Jerry was a part of what is known as the "greatest generation." Born in 1922 and raised in the years of the great depression, he fought in WWII as a young man. He was present at Omaha Beach and participated in three major invasions as part of his five years of service in the Army.

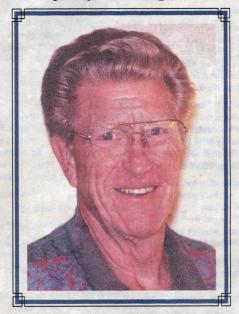
Jerry met his wife Norma at a USO dance and they married in 1947. They had three children, Nancy, David and Peter and have five grandchildren. They celebrated fifty-seven years of married life together.

Jerry was a foreman in a tannery in Bennington, Vermont for 33 years, and spent the past seven years working in a grocery store in Florida. He was a man who loved to dance the jitterbug to the Big Band music, to golf, fish, bowl and hunt deer.

Jerry was a Mason, a Legionnaire, and a member of the Lions Club. He was always ready with a joke, but not afraid to speak his mind. He was a treasure to all who knew and loved him.

#### The Celebration of a Life

#### Jerry Finnegan



October 11, 1922 ~ November 1, 2004

### **Love Letters**



#### HISTORY OF THE FIGHTING FIRST

Although the First Division comprises some of the oldest units in the American Army, the Division itself was not formed until 1917 in France. Historically, the oldest organization is Battery D and was the entire army shortly after the Revolution. The rest of the army had been disbanded by a penurious Congress because of the expenses of maintenance. Battery D was organized by Alexander Hamilton in 1776 and fought in the Battle of Long Island.

During the first World War, the Division was the first U.S. Army Division to land in France, the first to suffer casualties, and the first to take prisoners. It participated in the Battle of Cantigny, the first full-scale American offensive, and later in the campaigns of Picardy, Montdidier-Noyons, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Lorraine, Soissons and the Argonne. The 26th Infantry regiment was the first American infantry regiment to enter Germany (on December 1, 1918) as part of the army of occupation.

In the present war, advance elements sailed for England in July of 1942 and the entire Division was overseas and garrisoned in England by August 9, 1942. The Division had been picked as one of the assaulting forces for the invasion of North Africa and the capture of Oran. Amphious training for the invasion was conducted in Scotland during September and October. On November 8, 1942 the Division landed two forces on either side of Oran. The 16th the 18th Infantry went ashore at Arzew, and the 26th Infantry in the vicinity of Les Andalousese.

After the fall of Oran, the Division was committed piece-meal in the long confused advance across Algeria and Tunisia. Units of the Division operating under various commands participated in the battles of Tebourba, Medjez-el-Bab, and Longstop Hill. During the operation in the Ousseltia Vally, which began January 20, 1945, the Division made its only withdrawal of the War, a move which was dictated by a German breakthrough in another part of the line rather than by enemy pressure. This breakthrough was the opening stage of the Battles for the Kasserine Pass. Late in Feburary, 1943, the Division launched a crushing counter-attack to hold the Pass, and was successful in driving the Germans back and inflicting heavy losses. After relief by the 9th U.S. Infantry Division on February 27, the Division reorganized, then attacked and took Gafsa after a spectacular 40 mile motor march.

During subsequent operations in the vicinity of now-famous EL GUETTAR, the Division withstood and drove back four full-scale tank and infantry attacks by the German 10th Panzer Division. Later the Division moved North in the vicinity of Beja and engaged in the bitter operations which finally resulted in the fall of Mateur. During these battles the Division was opposed by the famous German "Barenthin" Regiment. On May 7, the day that Tunis fell, the Division was relieved.

Preparations for the invasion of Sicily were made in the vicinity of Oran, and on July 10 the Division attacked the beaches of Gela. Gela was quickly taken, but the enemy made a strong counter-attack during which their tanks approached to within 1,000 yards of the beach. The Division stood its ground, and on the following day the advance continued. On 1 August, Troina was captured after savage fighting. During the battle the 16th Infantry repulsed seven counter-attacks, the 18th, one, and the 26th, thirteen. The Division was relieved about the middle of August and reorganized at Palma De Montechiaro. On October 25 the Division sailed for England, arriving November 5.

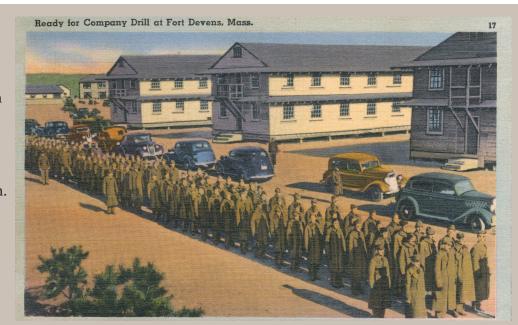
Soon after the Divisions arrived in England, Division Headquarters began blocking out plans for the invasion of France. Preparations included intensive training in assault tactics, street fighting, river crossing, reduction of pillboxes and strong points, and amphibious landings. On June 6, 1944 the Division struck at the beaches near Colleville-Sur-Mer in the face of intensive small arms fire and mortar and artillery concentrations laid down by a full strength German Division, which had moved into the area two days before for anti-invasion maneuvers. After a temporary stalemate on the beach itself the Division broke through the crust of the enemy defenses. During the ensuing three days the 352nd Geman Infantry Division was overrun and destroyed as the Division drove South, halting its advance at Coumont, the farthest Southern penetration of the Normandy beachhead. The advance was stopped at Coumont until frinedly units on either side of the Division could come up and over the Division's dangerously



exposed flanks. The friendly units never did pull abreast. In spite of an enemy counter-attack to retake Coumont on June 15 and 16, the Division held firm until relieved by the 5th Infantry Division in the middle of July.

On July 15 the Division moved to Golombiers to refit and re-equip for the assault which was to break the containing forces holding the Allies in the beachhead area. The plan called for the Division to pass through the 9th Division in the center of the Cotentin Peninsula base, capture Marigny and continue the advance to Coutances on the West. On 27 July Marigny fell and the Division continued its offensive South and West. South of Coutances the Division cut Eastward again and took the high ground East of Mortain. The purpose of the operation was to hold open supply corridors down the Western side of the Cotentin Peninsula through Coutances and Av-ranches. Its final result was the now famous "Falaise pocket."

Although the Division did not receive the full force of the German counter-attack to close the supply route, the situation East of Mortain produced a curious tactical situation. As the Division expanded its position, with the aid of an attached CT from the 9th



Infantry Division, it was engaged on three sides. The CT from the 9th Division was attacking North, the main body of the Division was moving South toward Mayenne, and the left flank of the Division was under steady pressure from the East. Mayenne fell on August 6.

The Division then turned Northeast and drove to La Ferte Mace. From there the Division moved Eastward. Three days after the Division reconaissance felt out the situation on the Seine, the Division crossed the river Marne. Two days later Soisons fell - Soisons, where the Division had lost 9,000 men in the four days a quarter of a century before. For Major General Huebner, it was the second campaigh through the area. In the last war he commanded a battalion in the First Division. This time he commanded the Division itself. On August 14, Division engineers were blowing up pillboxes on the Chemin-des-Dames, between Soissons and Laon. The Germans were pulling out too fast to attempt to defend them with any tenacity.

As the Division attacked Northwards toward Mons in the first days of September it ran directly into the flank of a German corps trying desperately to extricate itself Eastward to the Siegfried line on the Mons-Liege road. The ensuing battles resulted in one of the most catastrophic defeats the German Army suffered in France. All elements of the Division including Division Headquarters, Division Artillery, and the Engineers were engaged in close combat. More than 17,000 prisoners were taken in four days by the First Division alone. The Third Armored Division operating the Division's right took addltional thousands. German dead and wounded ran into many thousand, and' with this defeat German hopes of holding the Siegfried line, in strength in the Aachen area collapsed. The forces caught at Mons had been racing to the West Wall to mend it before the Allies got there.

Four divisions were largely destroyed by the First Dvision at Mons, and two others ground down to skeletons. After the Mons battle, the Division encountered only moderate opposition in its rapid advance through Belgium. Charleiroi, Namur, and Liege fell in quick succession. Finally on September 12 advance patrols of the Division crossed Germany proper some six kilometers East of Aachen. The deployment of Division forces was international. There was a reinforced battalion in Germany, an outpost in Holland, the main body of the Division in Belgium, and a rear echelon in France. After 24 hours of hard fighting, the first belt of the Siegfried Line West of Aachen had been forced. On September 15, three days later, East of Aachen, the second and last closely knit line fortifications and pillboxes were breached.

In this war, as in the last, the First Division maintained its tradition of being the first in every operation. It was the first infantry Division to land in Africa, Sicily, and France. It was the first to break out of the Normandy beachhead, and the first to force the Sigfried Line. Since the original landing in Africa, the Division captured more than 47,000 prisoners, most of them including the tens of thousands who surrounded at the end of the Tunisian Campaign.

#### February 9, 1942



Dear Morma I received you invitation and gladly accept, and I am very glad to have been to me you picked I musted you at the dance Thursey every time some ziels very disopposited. but if you had of hun there I profly you there was such a crowd. It dosent say what time to come so if I don't see your home of 8:00 welock. Jone

Fel 41942





#### July 15, 1942

July 15. 1942 Dearest Morna Just received your swell letter and you don't know what it means to get a letter from you It makes me feel warm in side to know somebody is thinking about me, When I read your letters I stop thinking obsut things I shoulding be. Well Larling I am glad to have that you had a good time over the Fauth after working so hard you desure a good time. Honey don't work to hard In it not good for you and I don't like for a zil to work any how but I guess you ful lips all the net of the people, you want to do

your share to. I hope you get you chease and get to be a numed dist think there is a better were for I befine a nume does every thing I hope you get to chance to pack one up some were are there for I doit they I could be in better hands. Honey I am twith sorry to hear of you hard luch and unformation accident I hope your bothe recoveres very soon and dail worrie A te alight. I am glad to hear you are getting around and having a lettle less that more thed can esoy





M since get in this new Co. I have been coming and going. Me are getting realy for a big more I don't know were or where but it soon and Justing dail stop writing you letter meane alat to me there are thing I look for word to. Honey please read me none prities In I got the other ones about were out from looking at there and showing the to the Lellow I tell them your my wife and bay doe they peolised hope you fait mind we cally your my wife. Know body know you has except Stan and

he helps me out. I have that much time ate disin to the radio but I have beard the Jungey Donne and a lot more I haft hen daing much Soring deuch I could come and me you we dance all night Well mory part of the night. That a sull song it reall fito you Swish I could be around the day your fet you fist uniforce and to be the first or to kiss you or segetted congrottate you. Mell Sailing my noor hour is obout up So give your Mother and Father and family my love All my.

Torse Mew address on back

#### May 19, 1943

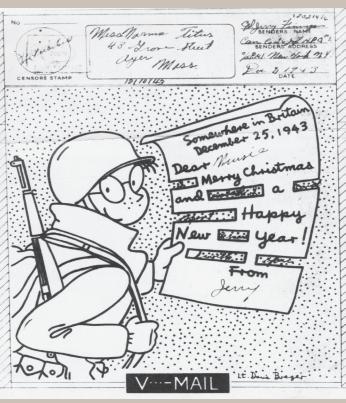
May, 19, 1993

I

Dearest Nigget There is that man agane you know that guy who is very much in love with you and would give his right arme to see you just to hold you for a few minutes then I would hoppy and read In a nother fattle but I hope that there will never he a nother one for us any how I then's the men of the First Div did there job and deserve a nice long rest some wer in the States althout don't think we well see the States until and orwell It not food at all I guess thainh are brutty had as far as notioning in concered on your rich of the fine Well Lailing & gues that all for now give all my Jore to the family. I love you Dailing

Jerry







#### December 18, 1943

Dec. 18, 1983

norma Dear, Hello my dailing and how did every thing go in the P.X. today? Don't sell all that jundry for I might won't to key some thing for a swell lettle nume when I get back so save me something that you would then she would like, at Honey I am plad to hear that you have som thing to do now ford know what it is to sit around home theriping and Thirking it gots or ones nerve and you ear always use the money the onely part I don't lepe in all Those good lookey fellow



around the I hope of word love my lett much to one of theing To you this I well? You Mygetts I care twith rong to hear about your fother accedent of tope every thing turnes and oh. about Han I get to see him about every day and De alevery asked about you and the family Juling am sony to shader your dream. but I am apaid we not be to gether for know, of There was any may passiff for me to huite you My you know I be the Make with luck It he



with you for next know We are not dowing much at the time as you know I am beck with the old outto and one some were in England just waiting; I dail know any thing about The future. Well My darling dill sign of with all my I fre you ps. Jerry. Give The family my Jave.



#### **September 17, 1944**

Sept. 17, 44 Hi Sweethard Gormany. Sainy I hafin't written sooner but have been dam busyie and don't get much time to pmy self. your mail has hun coming through my good. and it really is a great half. for my moral is as bout as low as can There not much I can talk about so Jagin me if other is short I hopen't heard from home fa over two with didor energ prow they were tack from Haying place of trope they had a good time. gan get this goer bother will be majind tell fin I wish shim all the best. I tofint see Stan for some time

The Jat to malais buy and he bagh for prost I mily kope the war is over when I see him again. you shed we what I guented for Kmass well Juling I though you know I won't you all wrapped up in I man poper and sent our has but your had better not ariver before Xman or de fee fait to upen the package byla x man morning. but mounty I could use a pine of gloves and a little carry that all Mill Jailing I hope you can read this In I am withing it fast thying to get it fromshil. You my don to the all my dons



#### October 20, 1944

Od. 20, 18 44 Same were in a few lines to let you know that I am well and thinking of you I received your remail of the 7th and was more them happy to hear from you. In your alter of the 3 th I think that was the date the me with the pictimes and I doe mean pictures for all the fellows asked me if that was my lavail pin up and I said it was my onely pen sufo Honey that one were you are on the stump sure is a rock out and that dues is a shear Olean have more taken in it and some of the same pour you sure are my ideal of a newser your tare really



shows when you have anyon

uniforme I wish I could send you some pictures of my suffer had even if I hade a camany I don't More time to take an enaper or were would I get them the tops temporal developed. I tail there times or that one. Quined a letter from Das and she is well she first had a North pulled audride of that she is oh. She is getting her manige anulad. I hout know what the trouble is. I coul figure out these Jeople now dage it they Can't make it stick why get manied at all I know we will never for tiouls like that, I hatent lead home Hang for some stime now

I guess he is pretty bury now and howin't the time to write. The not much I can tel you about my self. We are still in Germany and don't know were will go from here. I wish I could tell you some of the thing I am doing and were we are at but it impossed, but you can but your sweet little life we are in the think Will Jailing I'll sign of now fine my fore to the I hope my mail is coming though now. With all my Tore
you for always.

Jerry.

#### October 23, 1944

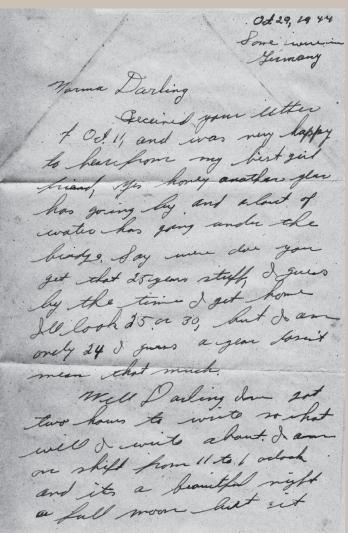
Oct. 23, 1944 Lumany Dailing of Bet 10 10 th and was my glad to hear from my hest girl bird. I only wish I could ans your letter of the 10 the way it should but ar you know I am a very por letter writes. Darling I only wests I could expus my self but do you said you Can't but some thering acrossed in a letter that you feel to I well wait untill that by day comes and I'll tol your han ile look out for the x mass packages I have a pretty good idea when it should get here. Speaking of pack ass I am sending you one



It is some someries & puched up there is not any thing I great notice so you can with them. That pectur of your brother and his wife sure is swell that just you want watell I get home and me how our taken then we well show my body some their. frein at much from fat she is getting day sulf Well I arling her I so again Give my For to the saidy! Islan you may heart all Jerry.



#### October 29, 1944





very cold the in know more but it won't sup mine me if some morning durate to first it alto I pray this is over before the snow falls I guess its getting putty Cold the for you and say doe you know what townow night is? Met it Wollower Ge when I think of som of the change of und to doe and the party and good times I wind to have, East a by pin of Penkin pie do me. He what I would give for a ly sine of Renki or mine pie, doe you like pies? That are of my weekers pies and sentino so now you know what to mohe for me when you



vort a new het a some Du Thong when I think of the good tonis we are going to · have when this thing is ser I could shout to Joy First will do all the the you won't to the well stant in me to sely don't that will not it lost longer the well really paint the tour real I am not me but make I'd to able to have a piture take but it will be along time. before I can get it developed so dist hack anist for now time I don't think I have change much except in for some windles and any away look in my eyo but thy well clay when'

I get love, your lain is still the same & lindy got to take a both in a Yearnay how the the day the Juy that live the dide and it any more it me was sull and my I have in or long or me of they but Lutters it you know what I men and about what I kofist giver much talls but I put on some wight I going That about all. Mill Dailing I gives I'l Letter rigue of you my for to the Good night Swethout I fare you with all my wist from your for always Jors Jerry

#### February 15, 1945

Feb. 16, 1846 Germany Deaust Marma a few lins to let you know that I am well and thinking of you always I am sony if you hoping been getting any mail but darling I have been very berry the last month or so I have been getting your spail renglar and you nem know what they mean to me & gum it your letters and the dream that I am Coming home to you that pups me going. in one day and it was a my dark day and what they

for the books I can't remberall that you raid in then but ore was were you men withing your aunt & spent and you played a game stattall when I would be home march 145 waren't it well Sweet I don't know you se we den't get much new and they don't tell in to much a guess they have the worm, Maby must x man fil to all to spend hope and we can stand as that lette dream bome of ours for it sur sounds good to me

Will Thony I don't show who he to with. Orges I got a letterfrom my frather and he sent a picture of finiself and the Children it sure bought a lung in my thout he owns fis our home now and and a car so I guess he is al set. mill & arling that alfor now fore to Aformily you your always Jerry.

July. 6, 6845 My Harling I love you and and can hardley wait until our mys meeting. I wish that I was up there with your now, the could be out under one of those ada trees on a lawn whave and darling & would have my armo around you and telling you over and over again how lovely you are and how much I have your Porling it is going to he may hard to wait untill au many for I went you more

their I can enery put the boso and Il first dream for I know Hot you have, your heart set on whit and furet white it shall be Morma those 4 days were the happer days of my life and they will live in my menous always. (I fore you) Mill my finit it so hat that I just got to stop Will with more in the nort letter mother and DI x Hy sends there fore Good night Dayling all My Jone your for ever 



## Norma Alice Finnegan

April 26, 1924 September 30, 2011









# Anger High Schwall

This Certifies That

#### Norma Alice Titus

has completed the requirements prescribed by the School Committee and is awarded this

#### Miploma

Given at Aver. Massachusetts, this tenth day of June, nineteen hundred forty-two.

Star Star Star Star Star Superintendent

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#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

#### CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING

This is to certify that

NORMA A. FINNEGAN, MRS

5 March 1951

has satisfactorily completed the course of

TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MEDICAL AND SURGICAL TECHNICIANS

Given at

U. S. ARMY HOSPITAL

FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS

Jack Segal
JACK SEGAL
Colonel MC
Commanding









BATHING BEAUTIES — Straight from the Boardwalk at Atlantic City the "Bathing Beauties" shown here in a gala moment at the Littleton VFW Minstrel Show. They received a standing ovation at the end of act. L to R—Phyllis Gariepy, Gerry Keefe, Norma Finnegan, Helen Waterman, Mary Gardner, Marjorie McHugh, Ines Coyne and Avis Cookinham. Conway Photo)



#### FREE PRESS — Wednesday, August 17, 1960



MOMS HELPED TOO — Accompanying their Pee-Wee sons to the end-of-season cookout at the home of John Conway, these lovely mothers register smiles of contentment while working up a gossipy appetite. L to R: Mary Kidder, Millie Feinberg, Trudy Jodka, Norma Finnegan, Bessie Safakis, Betty McDonald, Irene McDowell, Marion Wynne, and Lil Rockwood. (Photo by Conway)









## Jerry David Finnegan & Norma Alice Finnegan

Married: September 21, 1947









































































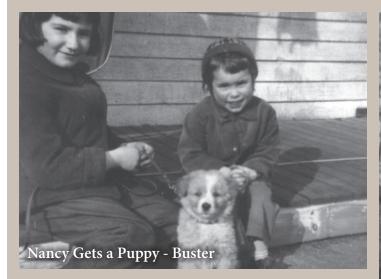


































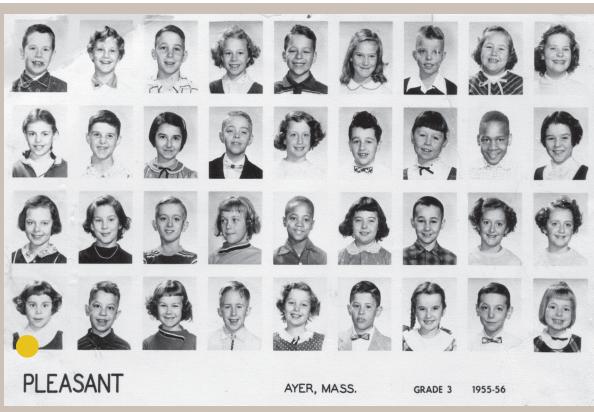


















GRADE 4



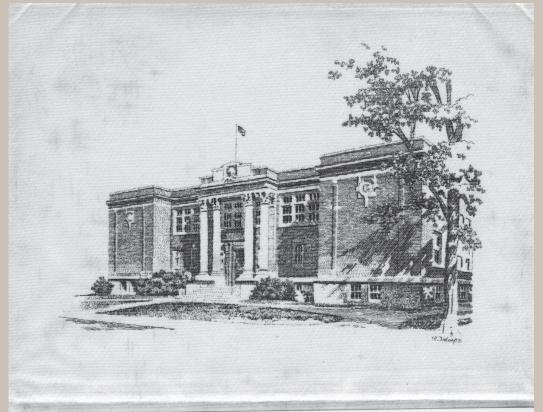












## Bennington Kigh School Bennington Hermont

## Nancy Lee Finnegan

has completed the Course of Study prescribed for this Kigh School and is awarded this

## Diploma

Given at Bennington, Hermont this fifteenth day of June, 1965.

Trankley O Riley
Richard C. Scheman
Secretary of Trustees

Lay S. Kaces

Principal

Superintendent of Schools



PERFORMS — Nancy Lee Finnegan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Finnegan of Jefferson Heights, goes through a modern jazz routine at the monthly meeting of Mt. Anthony CC Scotch Foursome. Dad "Jerry" was master of ceremonies. (Hughes)



TV STAR — Nancy Finnegan, who will be teaching at the Cecelia Green School of Dance this winter, shows how she will appear when she dances to "Moon Goddess" Friday at 8 p.m. on "The Barn" TV show.





## David Wayne Finnegan

March 2, 1952























