

## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

I confess. For the past five years or so, I've been stalking my parents. I wondered what they were like growing up, but they and their contemporaries are gone, so I can't ask them. But I figured out a way – through their hometown newspapers. That quest soon expanded to other relatives and residents of their small rural county in northwestern Indiana.

Stalking changed me in ways unexpected.

### My Obsession

At retirement, inspired by the genealogical research of an maternal aunt and cousin, I keyboarded their notes into a computer dataset and created a family tree on the website, Ancestry.com. I then extended research on the family using the two local competing weeklies and a few other regional newspapers. The result of that effort is almost 50,000 clippings about the public lives of my elders spanning the 24 years just before my birth.

In Pulaski County, my father, Bill Phillips, was born in 1924, and my mother, Rosie Kruzick in 1925. They were still living there when they married, as well as for a few years after my birth in 1947.

**Hometowns:** Winamac, Indiana, the county seat of Pulaski county, was my mother's hometown. During this period, the population of Winamac was about 2,500 and the county population was around 11,000. Star City, a much smaller town in the county was my father's hometown. About five miles south of Winamac, its population was probably about 500 during this time. The county economy was based on small family farms with a few animals and fields of grain.



Indiana's location in the U.S.



Location in the state of Indiana



Pulaski County

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulaski\\_County,\\_Indiana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulaski_County,_Indiana)

**Methodology:** My primary sources were the local weeklies, the Pulaski County (IN) *Democrat* and the Winamac (IN) *Republican*. A secondary source was the nearby Logansport (IN) *Pharos-Tribune*, a daily. The clippings chronicle the public lives of my family and other residents. They included my parents and others in the “greatest generation”, which endured

## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

both the Great Depression and World War II as well as their elders. The microfilmed archives of the weeklies were obtained through the interlibrary loan service from the Indiana State Library and viewed at the W.T. Young Library at the University of Kentucky. Each microfilm reel had about 18 months of the eight-page weekly issues and took about 20 hours to read those 600 pages.

Each day, after leveraging the employee lunch hour to get a parking spot, I would sit down at a table in the microfilm area of our huge library, thread the microfilm into a reader, insert my thumb drive in the attached computer, and settle into an afternoon reading the newspaper image on the computer screen. Periodically, using the mouse, I would draw a box around an article of interest and copy the item to my thumb drive. Throughout those weekday afternoons in my headphones was playing the music popular of the year currently in view, be it 1924, ... 1935, ... 1947. That was my weekday routine for four years.

Back home, I edited the clippings, and supplemented them with clippings from regional newspapers online and searchable.

### The Fourth Estate in Pulaski County

**Relentlessly Local:** With very few exceptions, international, national, and state news was left to the dailies in much larger cities. Those two hometown weeklies knew the secret of successful community journalism, relentlessly local news about its residents.

<b>2630</b>	
Different persons were mentioned by name in last week's issue of The Democrat. Reporters and correspondents did a splendid job of securing news concerning Christmas visitors and trips by home folks to other places. Some were missed, no doubt, yet the high figures set an enviable record. Following is the count by pages:	
First	208
Second	232
Third	528
Fourth	536
Fifth	335
Sixth	101
Seventh	383
Eighth	307
Total	2630
More than the above number of names appeared on most pages, but persons whose names appeared more than once were counted only the first time.	
Few local newspapers can claim such complete news coverage as that provided by The Democrat.	

**Community Correspondents:** Except for limited presidential election coverage, the news was focused on events related to Pulaski and adjacent counties. Births, marriages, illnesses, and deaths, as well as courthouse news were front-page staples. Within each issue, Sunday dinners, visits, and other social events were routinely reported by correspondents in each of the county's four smaller communities and their adjacent farms. Hospitalizations and long trips were announced without concern for confidentiality and potential burglaries. And sometimes, items included gossip. These correspondent reports were intermittent for a few even smaller communities. The number of people mentioned in an issue was around 2,500. Although it included visitors from outside the county, the number is significant for a county population of about 11,000. Short human interest and trivia items from beyond the region only seemed to be used as column filler.

**Matched Competitors:** Outside of political news and editorials, the two weeklies showed the same perspective and talent. While a publication date was never missed during those 24 years, frequently "holes" in the stories indicated that the staff was less-skilled than our current journalistic expectations.

## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

### Stalking My Elders

My paternal great-grandfather was John Clark "J.C." Phillips. He owned the grain elevator in Star City, buying grain from farmers and selling it to remote mills as well as stocking seeds and livestock supplements. After moving from a nearby larger city, he and his wife, Bertha Faye Reed Phillips, raised seven children born in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. One of their children was Bill, whose namesake son, Bill was my father.

My maternal grandfather, John "Papa" Kruzick, emigrated from eastern Europe with siblings and cousins in the early years of the last century. With his brother and another, he founded a concrete grain silo and bridge construction company in Winamac serving the region. Immediately after Prohibition, Papa built and operated a local nightclub. Papa and his wife, Rosa Eldridge Poole Kruzick, raised eight children born around 1920. One of their children, Rosie, was my mother.



We've all heard many family stories, but I discovered that not all family stories are shared or completely told.

While there were no horse thieves reported among my elders, there were news items that the family never mentioned.

It was never mentioned that my mother's brother shot their sister! I encountered a small news item about Uncle Clemmie, then a teenager. While cleaning his "empty" revolver, it discharged. The bullet passed through a wall striking his sister, Aunt Helen, in the shoulder. Fortunately, it wasn't serious.

I knew from family stories that Papa, their father, emigrated from a small village in Croatia at 11, joining his brother in America. At 21, Papa married Rosa, a state ward adopted as a child.

## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

After bearing eight children, Rosa died unexpectedly after an appendectomy, leaving Papa at 38 with children ranging from teenagers to toddlers. Eleven years later Papa married a woman who died unexpectedly after less than two years. The next year, for the third and last time, he married a woman with whom he remained until his death 42 years later.

Papa's second wife, Agnes, in her prior life held a dark secret. It came to light as her estate was being settled. Of course, Papa knew she had a grown son and daughter from a previous marriage. During the estate proceedings, however, it was determined that she had a stillbirth and had taken another's newborn girl without even an adoption procedure and raised it as her own issue! The grown 'daughter' was ruled illegitimate, and Papa and the son were initially assigned as the only heirs.

I had been told that my paternal Great-Uncle George's first wife, Rose, had died, but from the newspaper I learned that her scarlet-fever-related death came suddenly after just four months of marriage. When I saw her death certificate on a genealogical website, I also learned that when Rose died, so did their three-month-old unborn child. Within weeks of her death, there were items about checker tournaments, a sport never mentioned before in the papers – so here was a small community trying to distract him from his grief.

I vaguely remember that his brother, Great-Uncle Tom, had died of tuberculosis, but reading the intermittent reports of a decade of academic triumphs and social activities followed by five years of declining health until he succumbed at 30 was to me a slowly-evolving tragedy.

I knew that my paternal Great-Uncle John, was a Navy physician. I remember seeing his picture with another man displayed prominently in the parlor of his sister, Great-Aunt Julia. After coming upon items written in the weeklies, I realized that the man beside Dr. John was the World War II correspondent, Ernie Pyle! They had been classmates at Indiana University and had reconnected during the Second World War in Ireland.

My maternal cousins and I knew that Papa's eldest daughter, married but childless Aunt Sue, was the "cool aunt". There were family stories that during Prohibition, she hung out with gangsters down from Chicago vacationing at the resort and dance hall at nearby Bass Lake. From my reading, I discovered more of her youth. She was indeed a bit of a "wild child". At 15, her mother, Rosa, and a neighbor lady took Sue to a Grand Rapids school for girls, likely to be "straightened out". But it didn't "take". Sixteen months later and back home after Rosa's death, she ran away, but Papa located her within a week. This time, Papa and a neighbor took her to a girls' school in Indianapolis. By 21, Sue married, but within a year, she miscarried, and her first marriage ended in divorce four years later. She also had a motorcycle.

In the summer of 2020, I discovered that my father had cheated on my mother before they married. In 1943, within the same two-week leave from the military, when he was first linked romantically with my mother in a high school "gossip" clipping, another woman conceived a son with him. A few months before that discovery, I had identified a half-brother through DNA

## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

matching. His birthday was nine months after that two-week leave in 1943. His biological mother was also a resident of Pulaski County, who left to live out her pregnancy anonymously in a distant city. It appears that she didn't even tell her own family of her pregnancy, so likely my father never knew as well. Still....

### **Stalking My Hometown**

Over the past five years of reading, I came to know many of my family's friends and acquaintances as well as other county residents. Initially, they were just names in the paper, but I began to learn their public stories. As I reviewed the clippings, local dramas and stories spanning decades became visible.

### **How I was changed by this project**

I began this project with a slightly snarky attitude toward the community outside of my own family. Most newspaper ads seemed quaint, and the hapless folk in some of the news items were laughable.

But my one-dimensional stereotypes slowly transformed into real people. One example concerned a pretty party girl, a "grease monkey", and the muck soil common to this region. This soil type, "muck", is composed of ultra-fine particles of organic matter. Muck farmland was limited to only a few crops, including onions and peppermint. To promote the crops, a local young bookkeeper was crowned, "Muck Queen". In the community news over the next year or so, I noticed items about her attendance at nearby Purdue University parties. To me, she was just the "Muck Queen Party Girl". But over subsequent years of news items, I came to appreciate her as a person with physical frailties and strong family ties. And for her and a non-collegiate local boy, working at a service station, love blossomed into a life-long marriage with children.

The folks in recurring stories I ultimately found endearing, even if they were flawed, including my own family elders.

Most importantly, this project made me miss my elders more. They seldom volunteered personal stories and how they felt about them. And I was too self-involved or shy to ask. Sadly, the news items only provide public snapshots of their lives. Now they are gone, and I can't ask them so many, many questions, tell them how much I cherish them and how they enriched my life.

I have no children, so as my legacy, I'll retell their stories as well as some of my own.

This project has also helped me think about my own death. I've drawn some comfort in eventually following all those folks making their last trip into the cemetery. It's the natural

Stalking Pulaski County  
A metastory

order of things. I just hope it's quick, painless, and without leaving too many loose ends for my wife.

## Sample Clippings

### Clemmie (18) shoots Helen (23)!

Helen Kruzick suffered minor injuries Monday night when she was accidentally shot with a revolver. The accident happened when a gun which Clem Kruzick was cleaning slipped fire and the charge struck Helen in the shoulder, after going through the wall into the next room.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Aug 1937: 1. Microfilm.*



### Agnes substitutes baby!

## Bizarre Child-Substitution Case Ruled On By Rockwell

Judge Mark B. Rockwell, of Porter superior court, Thursday handed down a ruling in which he held Mrs. Jeannette Blaikie, of Terre Haute, can not share in the estate of a woman she believes to have been her real mother but who, testimony revealed, substituted Jeanette, then two days old, for her own child, who died at birth.

The woman, the late Mrs. Agnes Eyke Kruzick, of Winamac, made the substitution without the knowledge of her husband, Leonard Eyke, Terre Haute business man, according to testimony of her son, Charles Pelkey, of Bass Lake.

Judge Rockwell ruled Pelkey, who alleged he was the only blood heir of Mrs. Kruzick, was entitled to two-

third of the estate, which includes a Pulaski county farm and several cottages at Bass Lake. John Kruzick, the woman's second husband, is eligible for one-third of the estate, Judge Rockwell ruled.

In another suit pending in Pulaski court, Kruzick, administrator of his wife's estate, asks a declaratory judgment involving about \$40,000 in personal property belonging to the estate.

Before Eyke's death he executed a will bequeathing \$25,000 to Mrs. Blaikie, as his daughter, and approximately half of that amount to her daughter. These two also were beneficiaries of insurance policies.

(Valparaiso IN) Vidette-Messenger 23 May 1942: 1.  
Website (newspapers.com).

### Agnes' sister adds detail!

## Court Hears Strange Tale

### Witness Claims Woman Pawned Off Another's Baby As Her Own

The strange tale of how a woman pawned off a baby not her own to prevent an estrangement with her husband was related Monday from the witness stand in Porter circuit court.

The case on trial involves Charles Pelkey, Knox, Ind., and John Kruzick, Winamac, Ind., and Mrs. Jeannette Blaikie, Terre Haute, Ind.

Pelkey, son of Mrs. Agnes Eyke Kruzick, claims he is the sole heir of his mother's estate, estimated at \$50,000. John Kruzick is the third husband of the testator, and Mrs. Blaikie is advancing a claim she is a daughter of Mrs. Agnes Eyke Kruzick, and Leonard Eyke, former Terre Haute business man, now deceased.

Judge Lee Osborn, of the LaPorte circuit court, is presiding in the trial of the case as special judge.

Pelkey's claim that Mrs. Blaikie is an interloper, was substantiated in part Monday with testimony of Robert Fryor, Hammond health officer. From birth records he testified that Mrs. Blaikie was born in Hammond Aug. 26, 1910, to Fred James and Anna Johns.

#### Sister On Stand

Mrs. Edna Nevin, Chicago Heights, sister of Mrs. Agnes Eyke Kruzick, gave important testimony yesterday. She said she lived with the Eykes in 1910, and that two months before Jeanette was born, Mrs. Eyke underwent an operation which dissipated any hope of having a baby of her own. Mrs. Nevin was on the stand when court adjourned yesterday afternoon. This morning she was unable to complete her testimony because of attending funeral services for a sister, Mrs. Victoria Willis, at Chicago Heights.

In her absence Atty. Oscar Strom, counsel for Pelkey, re-introduced a deposition of Dr. William Buchanan, Hammond physician, who attended Anna Johns at the time of the birth of her baby. Dr. Buchanan, now deceased, said Anna Johns came to him for consultation. His testimony also revealed that Mrs. Eyke and her mother, Mrs. Olson, made arrangements with Anna Johns to take the child.

(Valparaiso IN) Vidette-Messenger 16 Sep 1947: 1.  
Website (newspapers.com).

### Agnes' estate finally settled after 7 years

## Jury Favors 'Doubt' Daughter Of Mrs. Kruzick

The estate of Mrs. Agnes Eyke Kruzick, a resident of Winamac previous to her death seven years ago, should be divided into three equal parts—one to her son, Charles Pelkey of Bass Lake; one to her foster daughter, Mrs. Jeanette Blaikie of Terre Haute, and one to her last husband, John Kruzick of Winamac,—it was held by a jury in circuit court at Valparaiso this week.

The estate, valued at approximately \$90,000 at the time of Mrs. Kruzick's death in 1940, has been in litigation during the intervening years. It included the former Kittinger farm of 150 acres at the north edge of Winamac, fifteen cottages at Bass Lake, lots in Knox and Michigan City, and about \$40,000 worth of personal property.

The rights of Mrs. Blaikie formed the basis of contention. She grew up as a daughter in the Eyke home at Terre Haute, where Mr. Eyke was a prominent business man. Following his death, Mrs. Eyke married John Kruzick of Winamac. Mr. Pelkey is her son by another marriage. He filed court papers, after his mother's death, alleging that Mrs. Blaikie was not her blood daughter; that she was brought into the Eyke home as a foundling to take the place of a child that died two days after birth, but that Mr. Eyke never knew of the substitution.

A court ruling at Valparaiso in 1940 held that Mrs. Blaikie was not entitled to any part of the estate; that John Kruzick was entitled to the widower's one-third, and Mr. Pelkey to the other two-thirds. That order was set aside by another judge last year, and retrial of the case ordered.

It was at the retrial this week that the jury held Mrs. Blaikie to be heir to one-third of the property. Attorney L. A. Reidebach was at Valparaiso on Monday looking after Mr. Kruzick's interest, although his right to a third of the property had not been questioned. The main question was whether Mr. Pelkey should get the other two-thirds, or divide that interest with Mrs. Blaikie.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 2 Oct 1947: 1 Microfilm.



## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

### George marries Rose

**RECENT WEDDINGS**

**Hawkins-Phillips**

Miss Rose Hawkins and George Phillips, both of Star City, were united in marriage Wednesday morning at the rectory of St. Joseph's church in Pulaski by Rev. R. Monnin.

Mrs. Phillips is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hawkins, west of Star City, and for several years was home economics teacher in the Star City high school.

Mr. Phillips is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Phillips, and is employed in the Star City elevator. They will make their home in Star City.

Winamac (IN) Republican 20 Sep 1934: 8. Microfilm.

### Rose dies

## BELOVED TEACHER DIES AT STAR CITY

**Mrs. George Phillips**

Mrs. Rose Phillips, wife of George Phillips, of Star City, passed away at her home Monday morning at 10:25. Ill less than two weeks, death came as a result of scarlet fever and uremic poisoning. The untimely death of this young and popular matron, was a distinct shock to her many friends who had hoped to the end for recovery from the dread disease.

Rose Elizabeth Hawkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hawkins, was born in Springfield, Ill., September 22, 1901. She, with the other members of her family, moved two miles west of Star City in 1909. She graduated from the Pulaski high school in 1922 and from Indiana University in 1927. She also attended school at Valparaiso and Winona. Entering the

teaching profession, she taught at Pulaski, Stillwell and for the past three years had been home economics instructor in the Star City schools. On September 19, 1934, she was married to George A. Phillips, of Star City, in which place they made their home. She was a member of the Theta Phi Alpha, national Catholic sorority.

Surviving are the husband, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hawkins; three sisters, Mrs. Agnes Cook, of Sandusky, O.; Ursula, of Indianapolis; Esther, of Star City, and two brothers, John, at home, and Howard, a student at Indiana University.

Because of the nature of the disease from which Mrs. Phillips died, burial services, conducted by Rev. R. H. Monnin, were held Wednesday morning at the Catholic church in Pulaski. Burial was made in the St. Joseph cemetery at Pulaski.

Tuesday afternoon the casket was placed at the window of the Phillips home and the school children passed by in a body as a mark of respect.

Winamac (IN) Republican 31 Jan 1935: 1. Microfilm.

### Rose's Death Certificate

V. S. 2		STATE OF INDIANA		Local No. <u>5</u>
PLACE OF DEATH		DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH		Registered No. <u>2708</u>
County <u>Pulaski</u>		BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS		
Township of <u>Van Buren</u>		No. _____		
Town <u>Star City</u>		St. _____		
City _____		(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its name instead of street and number)		
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred _____		No. _____		
FULL NAME <u>Rose Hawkins Phillips</u>		St. _____		
Residence: No. <u>Star City, Ind.</u>		St. _____		
(If non-resident give city or town and State)		St. _____		
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				
SEX <u>Female</u>	COLOR OR RACE <u>white</u>	Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word) <u>married</u>		DATE OF DEATH <u>January 28</u> 19 <u>35</u>
NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE (if deceased) <u>George Phillips</u>				I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Jan 21</u> 19 <u>35</u> to <u>Jan 28</u> 19 <u>35</u>
DATE OF BIRTH (if deceased) <u>Sept. 22</u> 19 <u>01</u>				and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>10:25 AM</u> .
AGE <u>33</u> years <u>4</u> months <u>6</u> days or less				The principal cause of death and related causes of importance were as follows:
Occupation <u>Housewife</u>				<u>Scarlet Fever</u> Duration <u>12 days</u>
Industry or business in which work was done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. <u>own home</u>				Other contributory causes of importance:
Date deceased last worked at this occupation _____				<u>Typhoid 8 mths</u>
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Illinois</u>				<u>Adenitis 7 3 mths</u>
NAME <u>M. A. Hawkins</u>				<u>Paratyphoid</u>
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Illinois</u>				Name of operation _____ Date of _____
MAIDEN NAME <u>Mary C. Dreyer</u>				What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? _____
BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Illinois</u>				If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following:
INFORMANT <u>M. A. Hawkins</u>				Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____
Address <u>Star City, Ind.</u>				Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county and State)
PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Pulaski Catholic Cemetery</u>				Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.
Date <u>Jan 30</u> 19 <u>35</u>				Manner of injury _____
EMBALMER <u>W. J. Kennedy</u>				Nature of injury _____
Address <u>Winamac, Ind.</u>				Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? _____
WAS THE BODY EMBALMED? <u>Yes</u>				(Signed) <u>H. W. G. G. G.</u> M. D.
EMBALMER'S LICENSE No. <u>3268</u>				<u>1-29</u> 19 <u>35</u> (Address) <u>Winamac, Ind.</u>
Date <u>Jan 29</u> 19 <u>35</u>				
Health Officer or Deputy				

Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates 29 Jan 1935. Website (ancestry.com).

## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

### Tom gets pneumonia

Tom Phillips has been quite ill with pneumonia and remains in a serious condition.

Winamac (IN) Republican 9 Apr 1936: 2. Microfilm.

George (will marry Rose) and  
Tom Phillips (TB will be his fate)



Collection of Julia Phillips Fagan - early 1930s, Star City IN

Bertha and Tom take month vacation  
(Tom may be showing signs of illness)

Mrs. J. C. Phillips and son Thomas left Monday for a month at the Phillips cottage on Lake Michigan, near Michigan City.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 4 Aug 1938: 7. Microfilm.

### Bertha and Tom return

Mrs. J. C. Phillips and son Tom, who have spent a month at a cottage near Michigan City, returned home Sunday.

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Sep 1938: 2. Microfilm.

### Tom goes to sanitarium

Thomas Phillips left Thursday for Healthwin sanitarium in South Bend, where he will spend several weeks taking treatment. He is bookkeeper for the Phillips elevator.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 10 Nov 1938: 4. Microfilm.

### Tom improves

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Phillips and daughter Julia visited Sunday with their son and brother Tom at Healthwin sanitarium near South Bend. He is improving.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 17 Nov 1938: 4. Microfilm.

Tom's much improved during a visit by family.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Phillips and daughter Julia and Mrs. Mary Phillips spent Thanksgiving Day with Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Phillips of Michigan City. Other guests in the same home were Mr. and Mrs. Garland Masterson of East Chicago. They all visited with Thomas Phillips at Healthwin sanitarium near South Bend in the afternoon. He is much improved.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Dec 1938: 4. Microfilm.

## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

Tom may be in the cross-hairs

### T-B Claims Its Heaviest Toll in 15-45 Age Group

Indiana continued its progress in the tuberculosis fight last year by showing a slight decrease in the death rate over the previous year, but the disease still takes its greatest toll between the ages of fifteen and forty-five, according to Dr. M. R. Lohman of Fort Wayne, president of the Indiana Tuberculosis Association. It is, he said, the leading cause of death in this age group, and is therefore a chief destroyer of homes.

"That tuberculosis is not under control is evident in the fact that 1936 showed a slight increase in Indiana and in the United States but the constant onslaught against this common enemy is having results. The battle is one in which all are given an opportunity to participate through the purchase of Christmas Seals," asserted Dr. Lohman.

From the National Tuberculosis Association headquarters in New York comes a statement from Dr. Kendall Emerson, managing director, who said: "The all-time low rate in this country's campaign against tuberculosis is encouraging to the medical profession and to the laymen who, since 1904 have been carrying on united efforts against this disease. It is doubly encouraging when we are learning that, through case-finding programs, more people who have tuberculosis are being discovered. Last year more than 110,000 new cases were reported an increase of 3,000 over the previous year."

"It is on expert case-finding that medical science places its hopes for a declining death rate from tuberculosis. It is especially important that these new cases be discovered in their early stages, thereby insuring early recovery and the return of adults to their homes and communities as able citizens."

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 15 Dec 1938: 2. Microfilm.*

Tom gets pneumonia

### IN SERIOUS CONDITION.

Thomas Phillips, a patient at Healthwin sanitarium at South Bend, has been in critical condition this week from pneumonia, which he contracted following a cold. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Phillips, are remaining with him, and his brother and sister, George and Miss Julia, have been there several times. Word from the sanitarium this (Thursday) morning states that he is slightly better.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 19 Jan 1939: 4. Microfilm.*

Aunt Jess comes from California to see Tom

**Mrs. William Stephens of Appos, Cal.,** came Friday because of the serious illness of Tom Phillips. She joined Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Phillips at Healthwin at South Bend, who have been with their son since a week ago Sunday.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 26 Jan 1939: 2. Microfilm.*

Tom returns home from the sanitarium

**RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL.**  
Tom Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Phillips, came home Monday from Healthwin sanitarium at South Bend, making the trip in an ambulance. He continues to improve from a severe attack of pneumonia which he suffered eight weeks ago. He was accompanied by a nurse, Miss Wolfe, who remained to care for him for a few days.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 16 Mar 1939: 4. Microfilm.*

Tom is seriously ill again

Tom Phillips, who returned recently from Healthwin sanitarium at South Bend, is seriously ill at his home.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 4 May 1939: 2. Microfilm.*

Tom dies

**Thomas G. Phillips**

The death of Thomas G. Phillips, 31, occurred Sunday morning, saddened the Star City community where he had spent his entire life. Mr. Phillips had been in ill health for several years and his condition had been regarded as serious for several months. Last winter he entered the Healthwin sanitarium at South Bend, where he received treatment for some time before returning to his home.

The deceased was a son of J. C. and Bertha Phillips and was born in Star City, August 18, 1908. He was graduated from the Star City

(Continued on Page 8)

**RECENT DEATHS**

(Continued From Page 1)

high school in 1927 and became associated with his father in the grain business, acting as bookkeeper.

Besides the parents, there survive four brothers, Dr. John R. of Michigan City, Robert of Logansport, William of Star City and George at home; two sisters, Mrs. Mary Masterson of East Chicago and Julia at home.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the home, in charge of Rev. W. B. Collier and burial was made in the Star City IOOF cemetery.

Winamac (IN) Republican 15 Jun 1939: 1&8. Microfilm.



## Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

### Dr. John and Ernie Pyle

#### **Prominent News Writer, Now in Ireland, Hob-Nobs With Dr. John R. Phillips, Former Star City Boy**

Ernie Pyle, an internationally known newspaper correspondent, is now in Northern Ireland and is sending a series of articles to America publications. In one written at Londonderry a few days ago he related this experience:

"At Derry I found an unofficial, quick-thinking, friendly people. Maj. Dungan of the Marine Corps happened to be standing at the door of the officers' house when my taxi drove up. He grabbed my typewriter and took me back to a small extra room with a cot, and said that was my room. Then he asked me up to his room for a chat before dinner. Pretty soon Comdr. Edward R. Sperry, executive officer of the base, and Lt. Col. Lucian Burnham, commander of the Marines, drifted in and sat on the bed.

##### **Schoolmates from I. U.**

"After a while we all went down stairs to dinner. Several other Navy and Marine officers were there, and I was introduced all around. Finally I came to one pleasant-looking officer with glasses and a mustache, who was introduced as Lt. Comdr. Phillips. Yes,



DR. JOHN R. PHILLIPS

of course we were schoolmates at Indiana University twenty years ago. I might have known it.

"John Reed Phillips is from Michigan City, Ind. He was a doctor in France in the last war, and has been in the Naval Reserve several years. He was called

up for active duty a few months before we got into the war.

"You've never seen a guy in your life like this Dr. Phillips. My little room was perfectly all right, but he insisted that I take over his own room instead. When I said no, he just picked up my bags and carried them upstairs. Since then he has been sleeping in a bare room while I have the luxury of his very homey, gas-heated room upstairs. I wear his sweaters, smoke his cigarettes and even read his mail.

##### **When Things Are Perfect.**

"There are nine officers in this house, and they're all grand people. Maj. Dungan drops in frequently for a before-dinner chat or midnight coffee. His name is James but we call him Red. He's tall and slim and carrot-topped, and looks more like the Marines' famous bulldog than it does itself. He is from Quincy, Mass. He owns a button factory, and has a wife and children.

"That's how things turn out when they're perfect. If I didn't have work to do I think I'd just stay here for the duration and let Dr. Phillips and the Navy support me in the manner to which I am becoming accustomed."

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Aug 1942: 1. Microfilm.*

### Dr. John hangs out with Ernie Pyle September 11, 1942

LONDON— . . .

My friend Lieut. Comdr. John R. Phillips, from Michigan City, Ind., the old school-mate I ran onto up in Londonderry, you know, has just been down to London on leave.

The other night we were walking along the street after blackout. The moon was like a harvest moon back home, and made the streets almost as bright as at early dusk.

We met a bunch of British soldiers and their girls in the semi-light, and just after they passed I heard one of them say, "My God, that was Lord Louis Mountbatten!"

*Indiana University Connections*

193

Mountbatten, you know, is head of all the British Commandos, and quite a handsome fellow. I just thought Mrs. Phillips had better know about this, and take precautionary action, as we military folks say. Any man who is mistaken for Lord Louis Mountbatten—well . . .<sup>20</sup>

"INDIANA UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS." In *At Home with Ernie Pyle*, edited by JOHNSON OWEN V., by PYLE ERNIE, 168-94. Indiana University Press, 2016.

'At Home with Ernie Pyle', edited by JOHNSON OWEN V., by PYLE ERNIE, p192-193. Indiana University Press, 2016.

### Dr. John Reed Phillips and Ernie Pyle



Collection of Julia Phillips  
Fagan - Londonderry, NI Aug.  
1942

Stalking Pulaski County  
A metastory

**Sue (15) goes to 'school for girls'**

Miss Mary Frances Kruzick went to Grand Rapids, Mich., yesterday to enter the Home of the Good Shepherd, a school for girls. She was accompanied there by her mother, Mrs. John Kruzick, and Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Reidelbach, who returned home last evening.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Sep 1928: 8. Microfilm.*

**Sue located**

**MISSING GIRL LOCATED.**  
Miss Mary Frances Kruzick, seventeen years of age, daughter of John Kruzick of this city, was located the latter part of last week at Shirley, Ind., after having been missing for several days. She was found in the company of a girl who had visited here, Patsy Vassenbinder, and was said to have become identified with some religious sect on the nature of the "Holy Rollers." Her father and L. A. Reidelbach went to Shirley on Sunday and induced the girl to leave there and enter a girls' school at Indianapolis.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 6 Mar 1930: 8. Microfilm.*

**Sue (17) runs away!**

**LEAVES HOME IN NIGHT**  
Mary Frances, the 18-year-old daughter of John Kruzick, left home some time Sunday night via the window route. She took a suit cast with her but abandoned it near the Magee Lumber Yard, where it was found and identified by her father.  
After a search about town by the neighbors and sheriff they decided to give it up.  
Miss Patricia Vazbinder, of Toledo, O., who was visiting in the Kruzick home a few weeks, left Sunday on the noon train and it is presumed the girls had planned to meet some where. They have not been heard from since their departure.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 27 Feb 1930: 6. Microfilm.*

**Mary Frances "Sue" Kruzick Woodruff Mitchell**



Collection of Amelia Kruzick Selle 1940s.



# Stalking Pulaski County A metastory

## Bill visits his folks.

William Phillips Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. William Phillips of Star City, who is with the Merchant Marine at Brooklyn, N. Y., came Wednesday for two weeks' visit.

*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Sep 23 1943: 2*

## Bill returns to the service.

William Phillips Jr. of the Merchant Marine left Tuesday for New York City after a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Phillips of Star City. He was accompanied as far as Indianapolis by his parents.

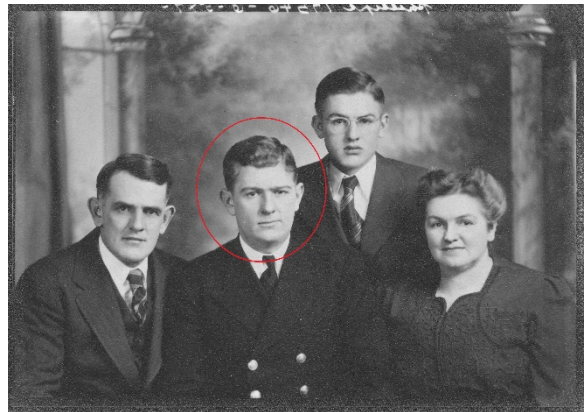
*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat Oct 7 1943:2*

## 1935 – Elaine Smith and family



Collection of David Budd Website (ancestry.com).

## Circa 1943 – Bill Phillips Jr. and family



## First mention of Bill and Rosie (from Student section in newspaper)

**Song Hits**  
Just a Little Love a Little Kiss  
----- Bob Shaw  
In the Blue of Evening ----- J.  
Skillen and J. Merneck.  
We Three ----- Nancy Hathaway,  
Ralph Fritz and M. Capper.  
**You And I ----- Rosalie Kruzick and Bill Phillips.**  
All Or Nothing At All --- M.  
King and Jim Gordon.  
Marjie ----- Your guess is as  
good as mine.  
You'll Never Know (about Bluffton) ----- Zinc.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 30 Sep 1943: 3. Microfilm.*

## Continued mention of Bill and Rosie (from Student section in newspaper)

Bill Phillips seems to be keeping Rosalie K.'s time well occupied. Uniforms must be her dish. Especially the blue ones.

*Winamac (IN) Republican 6 Jan 1944: 3. Microfilm.*

Stalking Pulaski County  
A metastory

Bill and Rosie marry



*Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 8 Mar 1945: 1. Microfilm.*

1952 Bill, Jim, and Rosie

