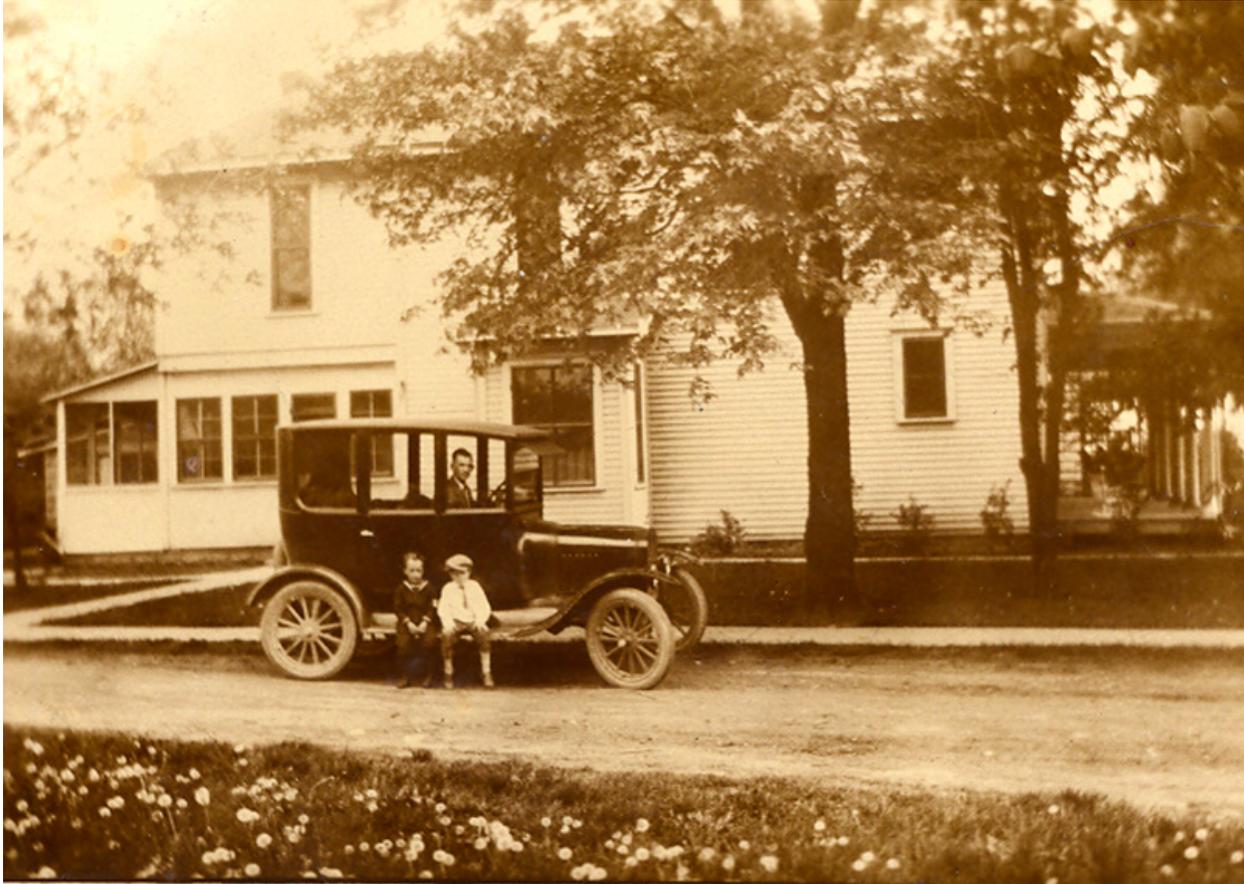


ENG 207 – Craft 3 – Place
The Bay Window



In my small rural midwestern hometown, my Great-Aunt Julia's house had a bay window facing a wide gravel street that also served as her driveway. That bay window, along with a large, windowed sunroom and door on the same side of the house, allowed her from the living room or kitchen to see company arriving. The formal front parlor with its large picture window and solid front door facing the paved street was seldom used.

When I was a child, that bay window contained the television, installed in a waist-high polished wood cabinet. It had a small lamp resting on a lace doily to protect the cabinet top and a formal picture of my great grandparents taken just a few years before they died.

The bay window was on the north side of the long living room which extended south to the dining room with its own large picture window opposite the bay. The rooms both with many side doors were divided by a walkway bounded by two very short narrow perpendicular polished wood cabinets with thick Doric columns of the same polished wood that rose from the countertop ends to the ceiling.

While the television sat in the bay, it was dark in all my memories, probably because I was visiting at the time, and very likely, when anyone was visiting. The focus for my elderly aunt and uncle was on the visitor, not the television.

Growing up, I just thought it was just my aunt's house, but it was much more. My great-great-grandfather had bought the house in 1901, and moved, along with his daughter,

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her husband and their two sons, from a nearby large city to this small rural town where he had just bought the local grain elevator.

Over the next ten years the family had expanded to seven children, including Julia.

After my great-great-grandfather's death, the family continued the business, buying grain from the county farmers and selling it to mills in the region, as well as stocking seed and livestock supplements.

Throughout the first half of the last century, the family hosted Sunday dinners, birthday parties, impromptu visits, book club meetings, and other events.

The daughter of a local family, Rose was a frequent visitor to the house. She had graduated from Indiana University, along with Julia's eldest brother. She taught at the local high school. She started "keeping company" with Julia's younger brother, George.

After about three years, Rose and George married. They spent a week in Chicago and Canada. Afterwards George went back to work at the elevator; and Rose returned to teaching at the high school.

Four months later, Rose was reported ill with "throat trouble" caused by a tooth infection. Within days, it was diagnosed as scarlet fever, and Rose died.

Final rites were different before the middle of the last century. Instead of visitation at a "funeral home" and perhaps a church funeral, a family took the body home for a visitation before burial.

In this case, Rose's casket was set in that bay window. The family hosted visits by relatives and friends. At one point the students walked from the nearby school and past that bay window to honor their teacher.

I learned the details of Rose's death through the local newspaper archives. Additionally, on an online genealogy site I saw Rose's death certificate. It included the notation that when Rose died, so did a baby, three-months along, within her.

When my great-grandparents died about ten years later, their children shared in the ownership of the elevator, but house was left to Julia, who was left in the house. Her siblings who remained had houses of their own.

Another ten years later, the television signal from Chicago could reach that small town, and my aunt set a television in that bay window. The bay window which I knew as a child had a story once unknown to me.

George&Rose marry.

SOCIETY

Rose Hawkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Hawkins, Star City, and George Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Phillips, also of Star City, were married by the Rev. R. H. Monnin Wednesday.

The bride wore a dress of Havana brown crepe with matching accessories and carried a bridal bouquet of Blush roses. Her maid of honor, Esther Hawkins, was attired in an Olive green crepe dress with brown accessories and carried a bouquet of Pink Tea roses. Thomas Phillips attended the groom.

The couple will reside in Star City after a honeymoon trip to Chicago and Canada to end October 1. Mr. Phillips is associated with his father in the grain business in Star City. He is a graduate of California Polytechnical school. Mrs. Phillips graduated from Indiana university where she belonged to Theta Phi Alpha sorority and for three years has taught home economics in Star City schools.

Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune 21 Sep 1934: 6. Microfilm.

George&Rose endure a shivaree, but likely less raucous.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. George Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wiseley and Mr. and Mrs. James Washburn Jr., took them for a ride Friday evening in a truck, over town and to Winamac. They are newly-weds.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 18 Oct 1934: 4. Microfilm.

Rose has tooth infection.

Mrs. George Phillips is ill from a throat trouble caused by an infection from a tooth.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 24 Jan 1935: 4. Microfilm.

Rose dies four months later.

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 ureamic 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.