



The year 1942 was the year that drew the U.S. deep into World War II. The Philippines was forced to surrender and this led to the tragic March of Batan. Doolittle's bombers gave the U.S. a "moral" victory when they bombed Tokyo. One of the biggest clouds in U.S. history happened when 120,000 American-Japanese were forced into "relocation" camps. Women were needed in the military, so a separate service was established for them. If FDR had kept him as his VP in 1944, he would have been our President instead of Truman; do you know who he was? Napalm was invented by the Harvard chemist, Louis F. Fieser. In keeping with the war theme, Cary Cooper won the Academy Award for "Sergeant York." Finally, on a lighter note, the first gold record came about because RCA Victor sprayed gold paint over Glen Miller's smash hit record, "Chattanooga Choo Choo." Oh yes, FDR's VP in 1942 was Harry A. Wallace.

Esther Stryzewski is our feature graduate of the week. Her parents were quite well known then and remembered fondly today by anyone who shopped in downtown Akron over the course of 52 years when her Father, Henry (better known as Heinie) and Mother, Emma, owned the Akron Variety Store. It was located on the north side of the street, where the auto parts store is today. It was a "fun" store in which to shop because there were so many things to analyze! Heinie carried everything and in almost every situation it was simply easier to seek out Heinie in the first place and tell him what you were looking for because he knew where everything was!

Esther loved working in her Father's store. From the time she could see over the counter you could count on her being there helping out. Evidently she was pretty good at it too, since her Father told her: "You could sell an Eskimo a refrigerator." The only time she didn't enjoy working in the store was over the Christmas holidays; that time of the year meant one thing - inventory time! Who can't remember all those thousands of items and just imagine accounting for each of them? Is it any wonder she didn't like that time of the year?

The Stryzewski's home was located in the middle of the block across from the Methodist and Baptist (now gone) churches. Esther, and her brother, Ralph, and younger sister, Phyllis, attended the Akron school, just a short block away. Esther attended from kindergarten through high school. Living that close, you have little reason to be tardy, Esther was an excellent student, so it is doubtful that ever entered her mind. She was salutatorian of her class but this didn't stop her from enjoying different activities in school. Much of this centered on music; she was in the band, glee club, chorus, mixed octet, sextet, operetta, and was an accompanist. She also found time to be a cheerleader, join the pep club, and work on the Akronite

*From the AKRON Register Tribune*

Dear David,

Sorry this is so late, but your letter was misplaced. Hope this gets to you on time. Thanks for doing all the work and inviting me to participate. The other article which is enclosed was taken from the Akron, Iowa, publication. Not sure what it is called. It was the Akron Register Tribune many years ago.

I will appreciate getting the enclosed pictures back. Question: Is Marge Kusel your Mother? I knew her many years ago when I lived with Emma Wycoff and Min Kuhn on 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

Sincerely,

*Esther Halverson*

Esther (Stryzewski) Halverson  
265 Perch Street  
Carroll, Iowa 51401  
Tel. 712-792-2457

trash bag with you as you go from room to room. Learn to save steps any way you can.

I leave you with this thought, "Imagination is intelligence having fun." See you next week.

and annual staff.

Esther remembers an amusing story that happened in Mr. Fowler's algebra class. "It was a very warm day (no air-conditioning.) The windows were open but the room remained very warm. Since my last name was near the end of the alphabet, I was seated in the back row. In an attempt to fight the warm conditions, I would snap the elastic of my underwear. Those seated near me started to laugh. Mr. Fowler stopped the class and said, 'All right Esther, what is so funny?' It was difficult to explain, but it did feel cooler. No explanation was given."

Esther went on to St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota where music continued to be her love; it was here she earned her a Bachelor of Music degree in 1946. It would be interesting to know just how many young ladies went to college in 1942 and proceeded to graduate four years later? Esther enjoyed attending her 60th anniversary this spring in Northfield. Her education didn't end at St. Olaf, she also did graduate work at Drake University in Des Moines. She taught public school vocal music for eleven years. Esther tells how it was during her time in Carroll, Iowa, she had what she considers the highlight to her career in music, she organized and directed a community choir of sixty-five voices, of which several excellent groups were selected from the larger group.

In Esther's words: "In 1950, I married John J. (Jack) Rogers. We lived in Coon Rapids, Iowa. Jack was editor of the Coon Rapids Enterprise. We had one child, Ann Elizabeth, and I have two grandchildren. Jack passed away in 1960. It was necessary for me to become the editor and publisher of the Coon Rapids Enterprise. At this time, I sought and received advice from friends, Ray and Jerry Smith, editors of the Akron Register Tribune. In 1965 I married Bill Chambers and moved to Carroll, Iowa. Bill passed away in 1979. In 1981 I married Don Forrest of Cherokee Village, Arkansas. We continued to live in Carroll, Iowa. Don passed away in 1983. In 1994 I married Donald Halverson of Coon Rapids, Iowa. We live in Carroll."

Esther points out that she believes Akron is a progressive community. She knows it provided her with a quality education and looks "back with pride" on the years she spent in Akron. She continues to think highly of our community.

"I credit my parents and my church for providing a stabilizing influence, which has served me well. Each was there for me when I have needed support and encouragement."

The quote by Esther's senior class picture shows you the type of person Esther was in high school: "Charming, with a combination of intelligence and wit." It is obvious this charm, intelligence and wit have continued to serve her throughout her life.