

When I got back to the ship that night, I had more money than when I started. When the skipper of the ship found that I hadn't had but one months leave in almost five years, he told me that whenever I wanted to take a weekend liberty, to just make out the papers and if he wasn't there to sign them, to sign them myself. I flew down to Los Angeles several times and on one occasion, my folks invited Angagh over for the weekend. One night we went for a walk and I kissed her for the first time. On the next trip down wouth, I didn't get to L. A. until four A.M. and I went home and went to sleep. I was supposed to be at her house at noon and when I hadn't shown up, she called. I got to her house at 12:30 and we went for a picnic at Ferndell in Griffith Park. It was there that I asked her to marry me. I still had amost a year and a half to do in the Navy, so she didn't answer right away. Later, as we were watching the sun go down at Santa Monica, she said "Yes"

We stopped at a jewelers on the way to her house for her rings. When we got to her house, I met her father for the first time. Later, he told her Mother, "He looks like a healthy young man, he should make her a good husband. We had decided that when I got my first leave, we would be married.

One of my most memorable days in the Navy was shortly before I got out. I was assigned to the U.S.S. Tawasa, a sea-going Tug. She had been at the A-Bomb tests at Bikini Atoll and when she returned to the States, her entire crew were let go, and a new crew assigned. The Skipper was a "Mustang" Lt. and was eager to get out of the Navy. The Executive Officer was an Ensign, who had never been to sea. I was a Signalman 1/C and the third in command of the ship. We had a crew of about 35 or 40 men. One day, when one of the radiomen came back from the Port Captains Office, with an ALNAV message, I read it first, and realized that this was what I had been looking for. It was ALNAV 512. I'll never forget it. It stated that because of an excess of certain rates, the Navy was going to release men who requested it, provided they were on the list of excess rates. I was! I went right to the Captain and asked for discharge. He didn't know what I was talking about, until I showed him the ALNAV. There were 5 other men on the ship who could get out under the same ALNAV. The Captain waited until we got our orders to leave for Eniwetok before he let us go. We had all the paperwork done, but he waited until we were set to leave and then he called the Port Captain and said he couldn't get underway because he didn't have an adequate crew,

I had never mentioned to Angagh that I could get out of the Navy, but I was so eager, that one evening as I was playing 'catch' on the dock, I was not paying attention to what I was doing and one of the guys said, "Why don't you call her, you won't be any good to anyone until you do". I went to the pay phone, on the dock, and made the call. When Angagh answered, I told her I was going to get some leave. She yelled! Then I told her that I

would get 120 days leave. She yelled again! Then, I said "After that, I will get a discharge from the Navy!" From what I heard later, her Mother and sisters thought she was going crazy.

When we left the ship, we were sent to Mare Island Naval Base and went through the normal Naval Operation, "Hurry up and wait" When I went into the Navy, among other things they gave me, was an eye examination. When I left they just made sure I had the normal number of eyes. I was lucky in one respect, though, When I went into sickbay to see about getting a copy of my blood test, I met a Pharmasist Mate who had served with me on the Allen, and he got the test results that I would need to get a marriage license.

I left Mare Island two days later and went to L.A. by a bus from Oakland. It was a cross town bus, because the regular bus was loaded. There were just six of us and the driver on the bus and we had a great time traveling to Fresno, where we could get the regular bus. We got into L.A. in the early morning and I headed for the folks place. I had left my car with Mother when I went into the Navy and thought I would have it when I came home, but Mother had other plans. She allowed me to use it for the few days before we were married, but wouldn't give it back to me after, saying that she needed it and that I had given it to her.

I had arrived home on the 20th of October and the following week Angagh and I were busier than a one armed paperhanger. We had to get our marriage license, borrow chairs from the church,(The reception was at her folks house) get fitted for Tuxedos,(Dad, Archie, Hal Lindberg, and Tom Kilcoyne) and me!, pick up the cake from the baker, have a wedding rehearsal, and the night before the wedding, we were making sandwiches for the reception. My folks came by for me at 9 o'clock and took me home.

I always thought that I would never be able to sleep the night before I got married, but I slept quite soundly. I got up at nine, and showered, shaved, (carefully) and sat around in a robe until the afternoon. When the time seemed right, I got dressed and got ready to go. Dad and Mother were going to drive me to the church after picking up Tom. When we got to the corner of Whittier Blvd. and Boyle Ave, the car broke down. Dad got it into a gas station that supposedly had a mechanic and tried to get it going. After many tries, I decided that I had to get on the road, or the wedding would be late. Tom and I stood on the corner trying to hail a cab, but to no avail. Finally, a cab came up and picked us up. The cabbie said that there was a law that cabs could not pick up fares if they were heading back from an eastside run. I remember the cabbie saying "It looks like you are going to a wedding!" I said, "If you don't get a move on there may not be a wedding!" When we got to the church, Archie was waiting outside looking worried. (He was the best man) Archie and I sat in the sanctuary waiting for the wedding to start, Dr. Martin came in and sat a few rows ahead of us. When the Wedding March started, Archie said "Good luck, George, you will need it" The castinets I heard were my knees knocking together. When we stood there at the altar of the Chapel, I knew that this was the best thing I would ever do. Angagh came down the aisle and when I took her hand I realized that I was going to dedicate my life to trying to make this girl happy. As we kneeled during the singing of the "LORDS PRAYER", which was being sung by Steve Eggleston, Angagh started to slip on the satin pillow. Dr. Martin and I held her hand tightly to make sure she would not slip. At the receiving line, I met so many people that for years later, I would hear, "Oh, I met you at your wedding"

I really don't remember much of our wedding reception. I do recall Angagh's Father dancing with my friend Leonell, who was at least twice his size. We left the reception early and went to the Beverly Wiltshire Hotel. I got the reservations just a few days before, when I told them I wanted it for our wedding night. The room was very large and I remember carrying Angagh over the threshold. I also remember all the rice that came out of my suitcase. Archie put it in, and I could never figure out how he did it. It was locked, and the rice came out of that suitcase for years. Archie kept calling us until I got wise and told the switchboard to accept no more calls.

We had breakfast the next morning in the hotel breakfast room and then got a cab to Angaghs house to get her glasses. From there, we went to the Pacific Electric Depot on sixth street to get the "Red Car" to San Bernardino and the bus from there to Big Bear, where we had reservations at the "Langlois Lodge"

We spent one week there before coming back to Los Angeles. We got a room at a motel on Labrea Blvd. Where we spent the next three weeks. Angagh went back to work and I went looking for work.

We got an apartment in San Pedro, called Banning Homes. It was a government housing area. There were eight apartments in one building and the walls were very thin. We could hear what the people in the next apartment had to say, in a whisper. Just before Christmas, I wondered what I would be able to buy Angagh for a Christmas present. (I didn't have much money) When I went to the post office and while waiting in line, I picked up a twenty dollar bill off the floor. An oriental girl ahead of me said "I hope you don't turn that in, it's a merry Christmas present "

I bought a wrist watch for Angagh on Christmas eve.