

## MEMORIES OF THE BLIZZARD OF 1949

IN 1949 MY HUSBAND DON AND I WERE LIVING IN CHADRON. WE GREW UP IN SPENCER, NE. AND MADE PLANS TO MARRY WHEN I HAD JUST TURNED 19 AND HE WAS 23. DON GOT A JOB AS APPRENTICE MACHINIST FOR THE C & NW RAILROAD. IN MARCH 1948 WE WERE MARRIED AND STARTED OUR MARRIED LIFE IN CHADRON.

THE BLIZZARD HIT DAWES COUNTY ON JANUARY 3RD. WE WERE LIVING IN AN UPSTAIRS APARTMENT AT 359 CHADRON AVENUE. OUR CAR--AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF CARS IN TOWN--WERE SNOWED UNDER. DON BEGAN WALKING TO WORK AT THE ROUNDHOUSE. I DOUBT I EVER LEFT THE HOUSE.

OUR FIRST BABY'S DUE DATE WAS FEBRUARY 17TH. EVIDENTLY BABY HAD NOT GOT THE WORD. THREE WEEKS EARLY, ON JANUARY 28TH, MY LABOR PLANS BEGAN. I HAVE OFTEN WATCHED THE "I LOVE LUCY"

EPISODE WHERE SHE, DESI, FRED AND ETHEL HAVE THE DRIVE TO THE HOSPITAL TIMED, AND LUCI HAS SUPPORT OF HER HUSBAND AND FRIENDS. WELL, IT WAS DIFFERENT AT OUR HOUSE. I DOUBT THERE WAS A PLAN A, MUCH LESS A PLAN B. DON HAD GONE TO WORK AS USUAL. WE HAD NO PHONE IN THE APARTMENT--THERE WERE NO CELL PHONES. WHEN NEEDED, WE USED THE LANDLORD'S PHONE DOWNSTAIRS. I DID NOT CALL DON AT WORK, BUT CALLED THE DOCTOR A COUPLE OF TIMES. HE SAID TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL. SO I CALLED A TAXI AS THAT WAS ABOUT THE ONLY VEHICLE RUNNING AT THAT TIME. BY THE TIME DON GOT HOME AND CAME TO THE HOSPITAL, I HAD DELIVIERED OUR FIRST DAUGHTER.

WHEN I WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL A WEEK LATER, ONE OF DON'S FRIENDS HAD HIS CAR RUNNING AGAIN, AND HE AND HIS WIFE TOOK DON AND ME AND BABY BACK HOME. THERE WERE STILL SNOW DRIFTS ON THE STREETS OF CHADRON.

SO NOW OUR BEAUTIFUL BLIZZARD BABY OF 1949 HAS GROWN UP AND WILL BE 60 YEARS OLD ON JANUARY 28, 2009. SHE AND HER HUSBAND HAVE TWO BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS AND 4 OUTSTANDING GRANDCHILDREN.

*Phyllis Bridge*

*Woodburn OR*



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*Woodburn, OR*