

A TRUE LOVE STORY OF THE TWO D'S

It struck some of the neighbors as odd that the doctor didn't have a TV of his own. If someone asked, I told them my mom said television sets were too expensive. One of the neighbors called her up. "You'd better give your son a different excuse. Everyone is ready to take up a collection for you," she said.

One day when I was in seventh or eighth grade, the priest of St. Mary Magdalen showed up at our door with a new TV.

Left to right: Bill, Mary Ann, Dick



DOROTHY & DICK

"We were giving it away as a prize for the raffle, but no one claimed it. We thought maybe you'd like it." Mom was willing to allow the TV inside the house, but not without first setting down some rules about when we were allowed to watch it. Today, I still clearly recall the first program I watched: *Tom Corbett, Space Cadet*.

I hung around with a group of friends that included Dan Favier, Bob Simon, and others. There were a few girls in our group, too, but there was no romance between anyone. We spent time playing at each other's houses or going to the movies at Brentwood Theatre, or grabbing a hamburger at Carl's Drive-In. One time the owner of Carl's asked us to stay after we finished eating. A civil rights sit-in had been planned for the tiny diner, and he wanted us to keep the stools occupied. It seemed strange to me. The only black guy who came in and tried to order some food was nicely dressed and very polite. I didn't understand why the owner didn't want to serve him. Maybe he was afraid of teenagers overrunning the place.

When I was in eighth grade, Dad bought a 16' ski boat. He kept it docked at Twin Lakes Yacht Club in Alton, Illinois, near the confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers.

We spent a lot of time on the water, taking day trips to Pere Marquette Park for lunch or skiing behind the boat (at age 52, Dad learned how to waterski on the Mississippi River). Our longest journey took us along three rivers: the Mississippi River from Twin Lakes to Cairo, Illinois; the Ohio River to Paducah,