

Myrtle Jane "Myrt" Harrington, daughter of Bernard Fiske (1889-1969) and Alice Cecilia (Goulait) (1892-1949) Harrington, was born 15 August 1913, Wyandotte, Wayne County, Michigan. Her parents divorced in 1921 and her mother married Carl Miller. Myrtle was using the surname Miller when she graduated from Eastern High School, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan in 1930. She furthered her education graduating, among a class of 15 women, in 1934 from the St. Lawrence Hospital School of Nursing, Lansing.



Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 27 May 1937

Miss **Myrtle Jane Miller**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller of Miller Road, has left Lansing for Tulare, Cal., where she will accept the position as a surgical nurse in the Tulare hospital. The city is located about midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Miss Miller was graduated from the St. Lawrence hospital nurses school in 1934.

While working in California Myrtle wrote chatty letters home to family about her California adventures. One missive was newsy and interesting enough that the State Journal ran a column.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Monday 29 November 1937

When Miss **Myrtle Jane Miller** left Lansing about a year ago to take up work in a hospital in Tulare, California ... she anticipated some interesting experiences on the west coast. Ad she has not been disappointed. In a recent letter to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller of Miller Road, Miss Miller tells of a visit to the home of a Japanese doctor ... and her descriptions of the visit are so interesting, we have asked for and been given permission to use them, knowing the column readers would enjoy them, too:

"Dear Mom and Dad: - If I can tell it straight, I know you will enjoy hearing about a very enjoyable and interesting week-end I have had...Friday night, M.P. and I were driving to Fresno to see a show. (Imagine going 50 miles to a show!) Mrs. C. was driving, and Dr. Taira, who lives in Fresno, was going home for the week-end so he rode with us. He is a Japanese doctor, and a fine man, clean, modern and intelligent. When we took him to his home in the Japanese section of the city, he invited us in.

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By Robert L. Ripley

Golfer W.C. ALBERTSON SCORED A BIRDIE 3 WITHOUT BEING ON THE FAIRWAY—IN THE ROUGH—OR ON THE GREEN—HOW?

HIS FIRST TWO SHOTS LANDED IN TRAPS—AND ON HIS THIRD HE CHIPPED OUT INTO THE CUP



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"We met his wife and two children and his father (who had on a diamond that looked like a flashlight to me, it was so large.) His wife is very pretty and "classy" too in the way she dresses and wears her hair, etc. They dress American, but live in the Japanese manner and talk Japanese. They can all speak excellent English except the boy, 4-years-old. He doesn't as yet, with the exception of his name and address. Also, he thinks he can understand it, but answers yes or no and wrong every time. This little boy was born in Japan and Dr. Taira never saw him until he was 2½ years old. He sure is cute.

The baby, 8 months, is darling . . . fat and solid, laughs, screams and plays like our American babies. He was very frightened of us at first, but after getting used to our different coloring, etc., was all right.

"They have two houses, one small one the family lives in, and a larger one to entertain in. They don't live as nicely as we do, having a stove for heat, etc., much simpler than our manner of living.

"They have very many pictures on the wall, but most of them are Japanese mottoes, very large and written in their language . . . black frames, huge black printing on white paper. Japanese newspapers and magazines were in the room. Their furniture is lined around the wall instead of being placed at angles, like ours. There were many beautiful vases—so different—made of bamboo, etc. . . . The inside of the vases are black.

"WE WERE served tea—some of the most expensive tea grown in Japan. (This is used as ceremonial tea and is powdered and not clear after it is made, but tastes very good.) Too, very expensive and runs into the dollars for a pound. The trees are grown in Japan for just this purpose and the most tender and best leaves are used.

"Mrs. Taira took us over to the Buddhist church to see a Japanese flower exhibit and explained it to us. She went to school in Japan after high school, but her folks are in San Francisco. She was awarded a degree in this flower art, which is considered quite an art in Japan. At the show . . . there are three heights of flowers . . . the tallest symbolizes heaven, the next tallest, man, and the lowest, earth. Mostly chrysanthemums, calla lily leaves, carnations and ferns were used, and some very rare Japanese flowers. All were placed in a crotch made of bamboo and must have taken a lot of time and patience to arrange. The roses were very beautiful and unusual. Whoever had contributed to this exhibit had their "degree" placed near the flower, which was a black wood engraved with their name in Japanese. They also had trays with pictures on them made of black and white sand. These pictures were gorgeous and looked similar to charcoal drawings. If the scene showed rocks, they used pure white or black stones. They certainly were clever, and I don't see how they could have the patience to do it."

We hope you have enjoyed this peep into a Japanese home . . . and some time we want to tell you of another interesting experience Miss Miller had . . . in meeting a

celebrity . . . under most unusual circumstances.

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In 1941 Myrtle joined the US Army Reserve Nurse Corp.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Sunday 23 November 1941

Miss **Myrtle J. Miller** has been commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States army nurse corps. it was learned here Saturday. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller of Miller road, she is a graduate nurse of St. Lawrence hospital and is now stationed at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill.



Lieutenant Miller joined the service as a reserve army nurse in San Francisco, Cal., and requested an assignment to an air corps base somewhere near her home in Michigan. She was sent to Chanute Field.

Chanute Field, Lieutenant Miller says, is the largest air corps technical school in the United States, and has been expanded from a peacetime village of 2,000 to an army center with accommodations for 20,000 men. Most of the soldiers are enlisted air corps men, she writes, with a sprinkling of drafted men and a few soldiers from other branches of the service.

"We live in barracks," the former Ingham county nurse says, "and we have large living rooms with all the conveniences of home. We eat in a mess hall and the food is excellent." Moreover, she stated "we have a good time, with bridge and teas. We have become

acquainted with co-eds at the near-by University of Illinois and are frequently entertained there."

The hospital has accommodations for 700 patients. The staff of 59 nurses administers medicines, oversees the medical corps men and maintain order in the wards. Each ward cares for 33 patients and is for a specific illness, according to a letter from Lieutenant Miller.

One of Myrtle's military assignments placed her in the country of Panama.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 28 January 1943

ENGAGED TO FLYER

Miss Myrtle Jane Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller of East Miller road, is engaged to Lieut. Frank Kluber of Cicero, Ill., it was announced Thursday. Miss Miler, a second lieutenant in the army nurse corps, has been in foreign service since December 7, 1941, prior to which time was stationed at Chanute Field, Ill., for several months. She trained at the St. Lawrence hospital. Her fiancé, a first lieutenant, is in

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Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 10 March 1943



CAPTAIN KLUIBER

LIEUTENANT O'REILLY

Capt. Frank C. Kluiber (left), pilot with the "flying box car" troop carrier outfit since his arrival in Panama in March, 1942, and Second Lieut. Tully E. O'Reilly of Eufaula, Okla., are shown in the above picture in one of the planes before Captain Kluiber arrived back in the United States the last of July. Captain Kluiber has since been returned to Miami Beach,

Fla., for reassignment to some other theater of operations. A native of Cicero, Ill., his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Jane Kluiber, and son, Frank Michael, Ingham county's first "war baby", live in Mason. Captain Kluiber has been decorated with the air medal and three oak leaf clusters for the impressive flying record which he has piled up with the troop carrier squadron.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller of East Miller road announce the marriage of their daughter, Lieut. Myrtle J. Miller of the army nurse corps, to Lieut. Frank C. Kluiber of the army air corps. The wedding took place February 27 at an unnamed foreign station. The bridegroom, a first lieutenant, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kluiber of Cicero, Ill. The bride, who is pictured here in the uniform worn by an army nurse while serving within the United States, is a second lieutenant. She was graduated from St. Lawrence School of Nursing and entered army service September 2, 1941, going into foreign service, December 12, 1941. The marriage of Miss

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Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 9 March 1944

SON BORN HERE TO COUPLE WHO MET IN SERVICE

Ingham county boasted Thursday of a new wartime honor, which possibly might be state-wide in scope.

The recognition was claimed by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller, East Miller road, who believe they are grandparents of the first child to be born to parents who have both served overseas in World War II.

MILLER ROAD, March 10 — Capt. and Mrs. Frank Kluiber announce the birth of a son, Frank Michael, born March 3 at Edward Sparrow hospital. Mrs. Kluiber will be remembered as Myrtle Jane Miller who has served as nurse on duty in Panama.

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Their claim was based on the birth March 3 at Edward W. Sparrow hospital of a son, Frank Michael, to Capt. and Mrs. F. C. Kluiber. Mrs. Kluiber, the former Myrtle Jane Miller, served 22 months in the Panama Canal Zone with an air force nurse group.

Mrs. Kluiber, who received her training at St. Lawrence hospital, returned to Michigan last October after serving as a second lieutenant in the nursing corps as an operating room supervisor. She received a medical discharge from the corps October 18, 1943, and since has been living with her parents.

Father Canal Zone Pilot

Captain Kluiber, a native of Cicero, Ill., whom the Lansing nurse met and married during her 22 months in the canal zone, is a pilot in the air forces and is still stationed in that area. By coincidence the baby's birth occurred on the day he marked his second anniversary in overseas service and automatically became eligible for return to the United States. He must wait for replacement, however, before being permitted to return to this country.

Captain Kluiber and Myrtle Jane Miller were married February 27, 1943, in the canal zone following a courtship that developed while they were stationed at the same air base.

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Franklin Charles "Frank" Kluiber, born 24 November 1914, Cook County, Illinois, loved to fly and honed his air skills at an early age out of Stinson Field, Chicago. After the

1959 Tomahawk



war Frank remained in the Air Force Reserve and retired from there as a Lt. Colonel. From 1948 until retirement in 1978, Frank was Plant Manager for the FMC Corporation. He and Myrtle had 2 children.

Myrtle after the war went back to school at Michigan State and earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in Education. She taught at Okemos High School in 1958-1959 and then was employed by the Lansing Public Schools for 17 years.

Frank and Myrtle celebrated 56 years together before Frank died 25 November 1999, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, Michigan. Myrtle died 7 December 2002, Mt. Pleasant. They were interred Riverside Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 11 December 2002

MYRTLE JANE KLUIBER

AUGUST 15, 1915 - DECEMBER 7, 2002

Myrtle Jane Kluiber, 89, of Mr. Pleasant passed away on Saturday, December 7, 2002 at the Isabella Medical Care Facility. Funeral Services for Myrtle will be held on Wednesday, December 11, at 11 a.m. from Clark Funeral Chapel, with Dr. Stephen Shugert officiating. Interment will follow in Riverside Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 10 from 7-9 p.m. at Clark Funeral Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Art Reach. Envelopes will be available at the funeral chapel. Myrtle was born August 15, 1913 in Wyandotte, the daughter of Bernard and Alice (Goulait) Harrington. She served as an Army nurse lieutenant during WWII in Panama, where she met and married Frank Kluiber, an Air Force Pilot on February 27, 1943. Following a successful career as a nurse, Myrtle graduated from Michigan State University with honors and both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education. Myrtle was retired from the Lansing Public Schools where she had taught for 17 years with distinction. In her retirement years, Myrtle enjoyed taking art classes and painting. She also loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Myrtle is survived by her children, Michael

(Candy) Kluiber of Milwaukee, WI and Mary Jane Flynn (Dick) of Akron, OH; 5 grandchildren, Kelly (Dustin) Preston, Katie (Bill) Flannery, Erik, Meridith and Alex Kluiber; 3 great-grandchildren, Kade and Jace Preston, and Nathan Flannery. Myrtle was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Kluiber, November 25, 1999; her parents; and 1 sister, Elizabeth Meissner.