



To

FRANK L. FAY

and

MARIE WELLS FAY

Upon the Occasion of the

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Of their Wedding

August 12, 1896

The Cover Girl (Powers Model late Victorian style) with the "Got-My-Man" look is S. Marie Wells, the heroine of this story. The young man with the coal black hair putting his best foot forward and looking well satisfied with himself is Frank Fay, the hero.

Little would you suspect that two years before he had portrayed the villainous James Barclay in the Girard Dramatic Club's presentation of the five-act drama "Tony, the Convict" (Benefit of the Wilcox Library). Could this have been the beginning of a romance?

But he has reason to be satisfied with himself for this accomplished young lady is something of a catch. Her father is F. P. Wells, prominent oar manufacturer of Buffalo, and she traces her bluish blood back to the New Hampshire Bartletts, one of whom had a pen handy when the Declaration of Independence was circulating around looking for signatures.

Here they are all ready to wheel their bikes around and pedal off over the landscape to Lake Erie and Buffalo, or is that just a back-drop in the studio of Girard's leading photographer?

Off to Buffalo, and in front of the Franklin P. Wells home at 207 Richmond Avenue. Within, family and friends alternately smile and daub a Victorian tear as the minister intones "for better or for worse" It is August 12, 1896, the culmination of the courtship by the young station agent at Wallace Junction of the talented and charming school mistress of Girard. The young couple emerge from their nuptials to face the future on \$60.00 per month.

From the Geneva, Ohio, "Times",
November 3, 1897:

"Mr. F. L. Fay, the popular and accommodating Nickel Plate agent at this place, has been transferred to Painesville, taking the place of Mr. A. H. Ayer, who



comes to Geneva. The transfer took place on Monday. This is in the nature of a promotion and came entirely unexpected and unsought, which is all the greater credit, and is a justly merited recognition of faithful and careful attention to duty on the part of Mr. Fay. During his stay he and his accomplished wife have made many friends, who will regret their departure."

Fall of 1899: "Mr. Robertson, car accountant, Cleveland, wants a man . . . \$75.00 per month to start."

December 1901: ". . . it would seem as though the time had come when I might with propriety ask for an increase in salary."

1902: Our heroine packs and boxes for freight shipment for the last time. To Greenville! Many moves are to come, but from street to street—Packard, College, Columbia, Main, Eagle, Main, The Farm, Main.

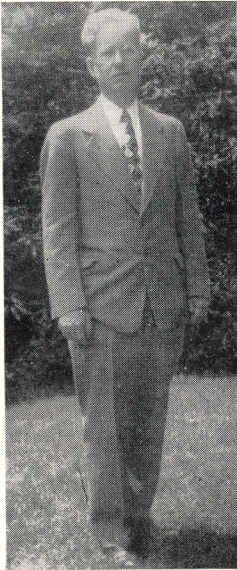
Here, except for Helen (Geneva), the children are born, nursed through



HELEN



WELLS

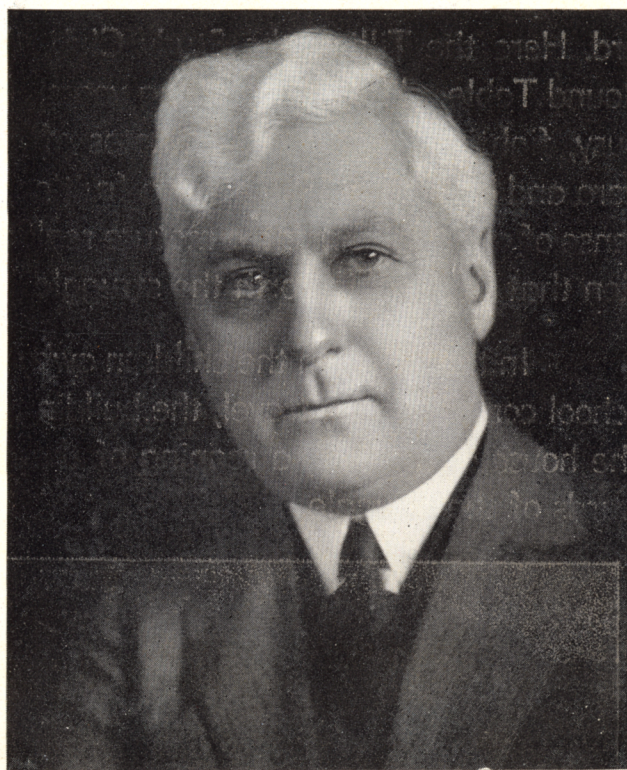


JIM



FLORENCE



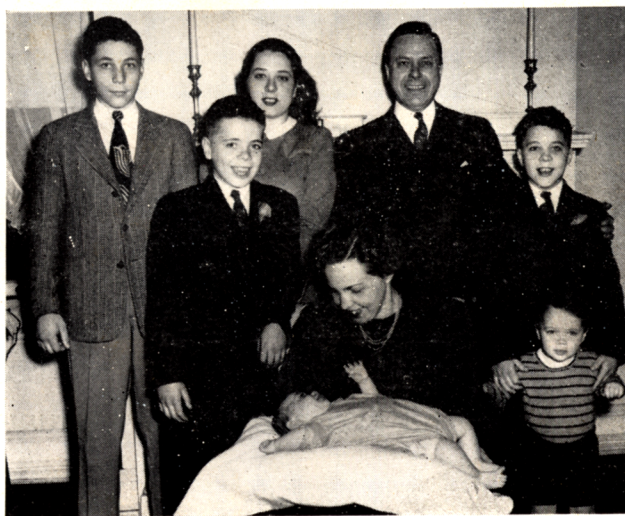


measles and mumps, Sunday schooled. Here, the horse and buggy from the livery stable of a Sunday afternoon gives way to the Empire and Fay, Pierce-Arrow and Packard. Here the Tillies, the Study Club, the Round Table. Here the growing years, the busy, fighting, good years. Photos of our hero and heroine in 1919 show a fruition, a sense of accomplishment, a mature realization that the goal is worth the struggle

In the 20's with the children away at school comes leisure, travel, the building of the house on the hill, a reaping of the rewards of the struggle.



That magnificent house on the hill!
Sunset and the million dollar view. There



came celebrities, college friends and roommates. Kay Harris and Wally Beer, romance in the garden—and history repeats itself—wedding and grandchildren—eight of them.

At the Farm the family assembled for Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays—the Fortieth Anniversary where our heroine slipped into her gown of 1896 and posed with her hero with an air of unblushing possession.



Who shall say that it has not been a busy, fruitful and happy half century—





1896 - 1946? The many obvious and tangible successes of this couple are well known to their friends and acquaintances of the community and will not be here recorded. Many intangible achievements are indelibly recorded in the memories of their children and their close friends. For all of these, our hero and heroine, are we grateful to you.

Turning back to the cover 50 years ago you were facing with the gravity of youth an uncertain future. With courage you faced it, with courage you took the hurdles and with indomitable spirits you ran the course together to an undeniable success. As this story ends we see you looking smilingly and with confidence into the years ahead. With you is always the devotion of your family and the affection of your friends.