

Diary of Agatha Suderman Toews¹

Transcriber's introductory note not included in the Diary: Agatha Suderman was born January 8, 1865 in South Russia. She died March 16, 1959 at the age of 94 in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, where she had moved to be near her beloved daughter, Agathe Toews Piper, who had become the wife of Dr. William Piper of Mountain Lake. Agatha's body was transported to Homestead Cemetery in Aberdeen, Idaho, where it remains buried to this day. Agatha was the daughter of Herman Suderman and Anna Thiessen, Herman's third wife. The family moved at some point to Newton, Kansas, and presumably attended First Mennonite Church of Newton. There, Agatha must have met and married Johannes "John" Toews, who had been born in Danzig, Germany, the son of Jacob "Elder" Toews and Maria Wiebe. Jacob and Maria and family had also emigrated to Newton. John and Agatha were married in Newton on October 25, 1888. They were both 23 at the time. Subsequently, the couple moved to Aberdeen Idaho. Presumably the children of John and Agatha began to Anglicize the German name Toews, and began to spell it Toevs. There follows one year of Agatha's diary, transcribed by James T. Bartsch.

January, 1937

This book was given to me by my daughter Agathe for my birthday in 1937.

January, 1937

Jan. 1. In my 92nd ² year of life I started a diary according to the wish of my daughter Agathe. This morning we went to church. Rev. P. A. Wedel. He spoke from Exodus 15:16. For supper Agathe and I went to John and Lois. We had a very comfortable time.

Jan. 2. Rev. Wedel came to visit. We had a good conversation.

Jan. 3.

¹ This diary was written in German by Agatha Suderman Toews. (Her married name was probably originally *Toews*, but in Anglicizing the German name, people later came to spell it *Toevs*.) Dorothy Toevs Miller, granddaughter of Agatha Suderman Toews, had a friend of hers in Schowalter Villa in Hesston, KS translate it for her. The friend must have translated, and Dorothy wrote down (in cursive handwriting) the translation. I, her nephew, James T. Bartsch, have typed up her translation. There is a certain amount of difficulty in translating from German to English. Some of the wording did not come out right in English, and I have taken the liberty to smooth out the translations in a fairly small number of instances. In other cases, I simply cannot guess what the original author or translator meant. In such cases I have used the Latin *sic* to indicate – "Correct or not, understandable or not, that is how the copy reads." (Aunt) Dorothy thought that two years of the diary had been translated, but I have in my possession only one year, the year 1937.

² 92nd – see the note on January 8, her birthday. She was 72, not 92.

Jan. 4. Since Lois was alone Agathe went to see her. Son Edgar came to see me.

Jan. 5. Today Agathe and I went to John and Lois. Much snow and cold.

Jan. 6. A lovely cold winter day. The sun is shining friendly. Very cold. 20 degrees below zero.

Jan. 7. Today grandson Carl Wenger came and carried out the clinkers (what is left after burning coal in furnace). I'm always glad when the children and grandchildren come. Today Dorothy stopped in and brought many birthday letters.

Jan. 8, Friday. Today is my 92nd ³ birthday, which had to be celebrated without my dear husband. The children phoned and congratulated me this evening. Tonight the H. Banmans celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at the church. It is very cold, but there was sunshine. 34 degrees.

Jan. 9, Saturday. The Golden Wedding Celebration was very lovely in the church basement. The tables were very beautifully decorated. Agathe was brought here today in the morning by

_____.

Jan. 10, Sunday. Today we heard the first sermon by Rev. Wedel. He spoke on the text from John 5:6, "Do You Want to Get Well?"

Jan. 11, Monday. A lovely, quiet sunshiny day, but cold. Rev. Wedel said someone would stay in the hospital all winter without any hope. His wife is very sad. May the Lord comfort her.

Jan. 12, Tuesday. Snowed all day. Mrs. Jantzen – she said they wanted to take me to the hospital to visit Agathe but we had other plans. Grandfather Franz is coming to spend the night.

Jan. 13, Wednesday. Wonderful sunshine, but cold wind. I have been able to clean my house, for which I am thankful to the Lord. Today Mr. Peterson buried his wife. May the Lord comfort her.

Jan. 14, Thursday. Am invited to Mrs. Banman's this PM. Thinking I might not go as there is too much snow.

Jan. 15, Friday. Frank and Anna went on the sled. The roads were very drifted. Agathe is still in the hospital and I have been worried about her and concerned, but thankful.

Jan. 16, Saturday. Cold wind. Son John drove to Moscow on business. In evening, Lois showed up. She ordered geese from son Jacob. Jacob was concerned about the price of potatoes. My daughter in law Susie [Neuman-Toevs-Schmidt] was here for supper and her three daughters and they all had a wonderful evening.

Jan. 17, Sunday. Today Sunday we had a heavy snow. Some of the singers went to the hospital

³ 92 per Dorothy Toevs Miller's translation. But deducing from other known data, Agatha has to be 72, not 92 on this date. On Feb. 16, 1937 she says "Papa's" death was three years ago. We know he died in 1934. We know both Agatha and John Toews, her husband, were born in 1865. Therefore Agatha is 72 in 1937.

to sing for the patients. May the Lord have good things to say for that. Have received a letter from Agathe. Rev. Wedel brought me something from Agathe which made me very happy.

Jan. 18, Monday. The weather has been more tolerable but it has snowed again. She spent the night before going back to the hospital.

Jan. 19, Tuesday. Anna came with the milk sled. We had a very good afternoon together.

Jan. 20, Wednesday. Today we had snow again, then sunshine, but temperature 18 below zero.

Jan. 21. Friendly sunshine. 41 degrees below zero. Therefore you are also ready for the son of Man cometh the hour to least expect Him.

Jan. 22, Friday. Came to town to make quilts in Rev. Wedel's home. This evening the Savior called Betty Lou Tiaht home. The Lord comforts the sad parents.

Jan. 23, Saturday. I invited all the children to come for dinner tomorrow. Wanted to save them a trip in this cold weather and bad roads. The funeral is on Sunday and starts at 2 o'clock in the church.

Jan. 24, Sunday. Very cold. Edgar had everything ready when the children came for dinner. Agathe is in charge here. She and Anna are to sing in the house and in the church.

Jan. 25, Monday. A quiet day. In anticipated a visit with Lizzie and Agathe and Frank and Anna.

Jan. 26, Tuesday. A blue sky and lovely sunshine. Son John came home from Moscow in the morning. In the afternoon he came here with Barbara for an hour. Frank and Anna came also.

Jan. 27, Wednesday. Agathe planned to come home by sled but that goes bad and she will not be able to come.

Jan. 28, Thursday. Birthday of my dear father Herman Suderman. Drove with John and Lois to American Falls. In saw Agathe at the hospital and from there we drove to Pocatello. Had a lovely evening with Anna and Susie and granddaughter Elma to visit her parents.

Jan. 29, Friday. Mild weather but during the night a heavy snow.

Jan. 30, Saturday. Everything is being prepared for Sunday. Wishing so much that Agathe would come home from the hospital, for a little while. At least my wish came true. She spent the night and Dr. McKinnon took her back in the morning.

Jan. 31, Sunday. My son Edgar took me to church. He preached in Rev. Wedel's place. Rev. Wedel is in charge of meetings in Beatrice, Nebraska. For evening In came with Elma. Had a lovely evening.

Memo: Sold potatoes for \$3.50 per 100 pounds. Am happy and thankful for the rain from my Heavenly Father.

February, 1937

Feb. 1, Sunday, 1937. Granddaughter Elma was with me for the night. Someone took _____ to Pocatello. What a great blessing when young people travel in God's leading.

Feb. 2, Monday. Son John was here. Sold half of my potatoes for \$2.10. He also sold _____ from my 5 acre place. Am very thankful for his help. Agathe planted _____.

Feb. 3, Tuesday. Lovely weather after a snow storm yesterday. It looks as if the sun will shine all day. Susie came and brought me something from the store. I invited her for supper.

Feb. 4, Thursday.⁴ I'm homesick for Agathe. I'm so glad she doesn't have to get up because of her profession. I'm thankful for what God has done for me. The other children come often and show me great love.

Feb. 5, Friday. Today Dr. McKinnon brought Agathe home with the flu. I'm glad she was not sick Saturday and Sunday. I'm glad she is here with me so I can care for her. I'm glad John and Edgar come often with their help with everything.

Feb. 6, Saturday. A quiet day even though Agathe has to stay in bed and feels the grippe, but are glad to be together.

Feb. 7, Sunday. A beautiful Sunday. All the children came after church to check to see how Agathe is doing.

Feb. 8, Monday. A true blizzard, cold, uncomfortable and dangerous outdoors. A terrible snow life. Have already eaten five times with Agathe. Dinner eaten as usual.

Feb. 9, Tuesday. Dr. McKinnon was here to see Agathe and take her to the hospital again. She did not feel strong enough to give Edgar anything to eat or do any kind of work.

Feb. 10, Wednesday. Today we have pleasant weather. Coal is a necessary thing. I'm glad when coal man comes and I'm always glad when that is taken care of.

Feb. 11, Thursday. Anna came for lunch. She read the letters to me that came from Arthur. He is getting along fine but really has to study. We had a good afternoon together. Agathe does not feel right from Lord that help is powerful.

Feb. 12, Friday, Today is another big snow storm again, but we had sunshine in the afternoon. Edgar came and we had waffles and coffee. Agathe feels better. She even baked the waffles.

Feb. 13, Saturday. Granddaughter Dorothy Toevs has a birthday. Saturday we were busy at our work till noon and then we had a comfortable afternoon. Received a letter from Canada from niece Anna Epp. My cousin has gone home.

⁴ The diary skips Wednesday but the dates are consecutive. Something, however, is out of order, for she closes the month with Feb. 29th, and there was no leap year in 1937, an odd-numbered year.

Feb. 14, Sunday. In AM we were in church. We are glad Rev. W. was in our midst again. The weather became bad. Agathe did not go to church yet. Daughter Anna had fried chicken for us.

Feb. 15, Monday. Yesterday evening Rev. and Mrs. Wedel came here for awhile. He said he had seen my children Jacob and Marie in Kansas and they enjoyed that. Jacob and Marie are busy building a house.

Feb. 16, Tuesday. Today is our dear papa's birthday. It's been three long years. The Lord has been gracious to us. I'm not worth everything He does for me. Today F. Henson was buried.

Feb. 17, Wednesday. Daughter in law Marie Claassen Toevs' [40th] birthday. This evening after two weeks of not having it, we had German services. The English Bible was put aside. The Lord blessed this work of our minister.

Feb. 18, Thursday. Today was a sad cold wind. Went to our side neighbor Mrs. Knudsen. Today we bought from Horsches seven dozen eggs for hatching.

Feb. 19, Friday. Friday, Agathe just came back this AM with Dr. McKinnon. Tomorrow she will go to the hospital again to take care of one of his patients.

Feb. 20, Saturday. Today was our dear Father's funeral three years ago. It is very quiet today for me as Agathe went to the hospital with Dr. McKinnon. Yesterday she cleaned the house and did a load of wash. It already looks like Sunday.

Feb. 21, Sunday. Sunday afternoon serious and blessed sermon from Pastor Wedel. O if only every soul could be saved by the Lord. He walked back and forth.

Feb. 22, Monday. Granddaughter Elma Wenger was here for the night. This AM she drove back to Pocatello to school. Agathe is still in the hospital. Granddaughter Lois is coming this week from school and stayed over night.

Feb. 23, Tuesday. Today is spring weather. The high mounds of snow will disappear. Tonight our men – a quartet – are singing over the radio in Pocatello.

Feb. 24, Wednesday. Today bright sunshine. Very good weather. Tempted to go for a walk but still too much snow and slick. Just received a card from Agathe from the hospital. Does not know yet when she will come home.

Feb. 25, Feb. Thursday.

Feb. 26, Friday. Today we are expecting brother in law David Toews. He is invited to Will Dirks for supper and I am invited also. Had a lovely evening.

Feb. 27, Saturday. A lovely AM. I'm by myself today. Tomorrow we are all invited to John and Lois for supper with brother in law David.

Feb. 28, Sunday. Heard a serious sermon by brother in law David Toevs. Had a nice dinner at John and Lois. Everyone of the brothers and sisters brought something.

Feb. 29, Monday. In the evening we went to worship service.⁵ I had invited Susie and Uncle David and our family for awhile. Uncle David has visited all his nieces and nephews.

MEMO: On the 28th of March we heard from nephew Alfred Suderman of the death of Paul Suderman. Paul was so sick it was astonishing. The late Alfred and his wife Matilda can sympathize with others, the family of Paul. Had my niece Marie Busenitz. The Dr. has no hope for dear Paul. He had two children with Martha. On the 7th Paul has gone home. A serious warning for all of us. The old have to warn the young. The Lord Jesus will comfort dear Martha better than even his mother, and the dear Paul rests in Jesus. He is waiting for his loved ones. The Lord Jesus is also leading me and all my loved ones out of the grave through Christ in His kingdom where there is no sin. He died April 3, 5:45 AM. His father Jacob Suderman, my brother, died in 1924.

MEMO: On October 27, Jacob and Marie and their four children, Kenneth, Herman, Edna Ruth and my dear Arthur John moved to their home in Whitewater, Kansas. Grandson Kenneth and Walter Dirks went with them in a highly loaded truck. Jacob and the rest of the family came by car. The day before the children had an auction with very lovely weather. We received some bad news that they had an accident. The truck tipped over. The Lord in His grace protected Kenneth and Walter. Some contents were damaged.

On the 9th we received a card telling us more about the accident. The children are happy and thankful that the boys are not harmed. They could have hit. I'm glad that my dear Kenneth was not driving. The Lord had his hand over them protecting them. Now we see the Shepherd never sleeps when He is supposed to be watching.

Let all that could have happened put aside. If the sun would shine constantly, the world would be a desert in a short while. Don't give everything you have, don't believe everything you hear, don't tell everything you know.

March, 1937

March 1, 1937, Monday. Had sour meatballs and pudding for lunch. Today brother in law David and sister in law Anna were our dinner guests. Daughter came with milk and butter and she helped me very much. We had a lovely meal and time.

March 2, Tuesday. Rev. Wedel came with brother in law David and drove to Edgar and Annice. Had a very good dinner and afterwards a good visit. For supper we went to Frank and Anna's. A good discussion.

March 3, Wednesday.. Brother in law David went on to Boise. This AM someone came from California. That was a very good visit. It is different there. It is better to see them than to write.

March 4, Thursday. Carl got Aunt Agathe from the hospital. Her hard [?] patient. Twelve year

⁵ Worship service on a Monday evening, Feb. 29, 1937? Could she have meant Sunday evening Feb. 28?

old girl daughter on the way was taken away from her parents. Am very happy Agathe is at home with me.

March 5, Friday. Friday we drove to Pocatello after not having been there for a long time. We did much shopping. On the way home we stopped at the hospital to see Paula Horsch. She feels very good.

March 6, Saturday. We lived after a long time with anything and now it is beginning to start. We also felt good to have my daughter at home. We could forget our lonesomeness for her.

March 7, Sunday. We heard the first sermon from Rev. Wedel. Frank and Anna came with their children. In the evening was Christian Endeavor and Worship Service.

March 8, Monday. A lovely weather. Agathe worked on our Income Tax. Tonight our singer son Edgar stopped in. They want to sing something this evening over the radio on the farm.

March 9, Tuesday. Tonight our singers sing over the Radio. It was a nice program. Rev. Wedel had a good sermon.

March 10, Wednesday. Wednesday evening, German Worship Service. Rev. Wedel spends much time with us and also with the young people, which is very important.

March 11, Thursday. Today Edgar _____. In the evening there was an election for Deacons. Anna and Agathe participated in the friendship meal

March 12, Friday. Worked hard to get the laundry done and the house cleaned. In the evening Agathe went with Ed and Annice and Carl Wenger to a ball game in American Falls.

March 13, Saturday. Weather is dreary. It has already rained and snowed. Tonight is a program in Pocatello by a Russian singer. It was very good.

March 14, Sunday. Sunday AM it was announced in church that F. Toevs in Rupert has gone home. May the Lord bless the family. They were dear friends to us.

March 15, Monday. This AM Agathe and I drove to Rupert to visit the family of F Toevs. We want to do our share in showing our sympathy. The Lord is the best comforter.

March 16, Tuesday. Today is the service for F. Toevs. Rev. Wedel and Anna and Agathe and Frieda Kopper went together with Rev. Wedel to sing.

March 17, Wednesday. Lovely weather last night for the program. Tonight is German Worship service and Bible study. We carried it out in English. It was a time for us to enjoy and the Preacher spoke.

March 18, Thursday. Snowing terribly. Bad for the little chickens. It rained and snowed off and on. Today quilts will be made in Church. Everyone brings something for a friendship meal.

March 19, Friday. Today we went to Pocatello on business. Went through Blackfoot coming home in time for Agathe to make arrangements to sing over the radio. We got stuck.

March 20, Saturday. Last night and this AM it has really snowed. As soon as the sun came out

the snow came out. Had a very comfortable afternoon doing our work.

March 21, Sunday. How happy when you can attend God's services. Also attended Sunday School and visited the children's class. We should never complain when we can attend.

March 22, Monday. Dreary and cold. In the PM son Edgar brought a large wagon load of soil for our roses and garden. There a team of four horses. The road [?]

March 23, Tuesday. Yesterday both my daughters drove to Pocatello to visit my granddaughter Elma (Wenger Becker). In the evening they sang over the radio.

March 24, Wednesday. Today Anna and Agathe are invited by Mrs. Ira Wenger to a club this PM. A lovely spring day. In the evening went to the operetta. Grandson Carl had the main that he played in [?]

March 25, Thursday. Anna came for dinner and quilting and they [brought] borscht. In the PM the two sisters went to church again to sew.

March 26, Friday. Friday on Good Friday we heard about our Heavenly Father. A sermon by Rev. Wedel. A serious our dear son Edgar [?].

March 27, Saturday. A very busy day getting things for Easter. The children and grandchildren came home. The little ones were happily looking for Easter Eggs. A Church in American Falls. Edgar was invited for a baptism service.

March 28 Easter. Easter Sunday. We heard a serious Easter sermon. Agathe went to early service and sang a solo. Rev. Wedel gave a short sermon.

March 29, Monday. We had a lovely Easter Sunday yesterday. The grandchildren had a lot of fun hunting Easter Eggs. In the afternoon we took part in celebration with Adolph Claassen in American Falls.

March 30, Tuesday. Our dear Arthur John has a birthday. [He would have been two years old.] Anna invited Agathe and me to take part in the joy of being together.

March 31, Wednesday. Agathe took care of the business in town. Is planning to paint the house in town and the farm. In the evening went to worship service.

MEMO: On February 11 Mrs. Gustav Andres died at age 79. Her grandchildren and children will really miss her.

April, 1937

April 1, Thursday. This afternoon went to sewing circle. Yesterday forenoon we drove to Anna's and visited grand-daughter Elma who has a cold, high fever and cough. The Dr. was there and examined her lungs. It was all in order.

April 2, Friday. Fred Herr is here. Went into the coal cellar. We are glad we can take this before we can rebuild the house. This pm we intend to visit our friends John Beckers. Had a good rain.

April 3, Saturday. On the family Harders came from Kansas. And they are still here. Funeral is

Saturday. Today we got much done. John came and his three children. We had the bad news that my nephew Paul Suderman died.

April 4, Sunday. We had a blessed, peaceful forenoon. 2 pm we had Sunday School. Daughter Anna came for awhile. We had CE [Christian Endeavor] and sermon by Rev. Wedel.

April 5, Monday. Today we had a strong wind. We went to got to Franks and visit Elma. Still has a bad cold and after supper we went to daughter-in-law Susie and her three girls.

April 6 Tuesday. Everything is white and it is still snowing. Yesterday Edgar planted sugar cane on our farm. Granddaughter Elma stayed in school for dinner.

April 7. Wednesday. Today was the funeral for my nephew Paul Suderman. We are sending a telegram with our most sincere sympathy. May the Lord Jesus comfort his dear wife and brothers and sisters.

April 8, Thursday. Rev. Wedel took Agathe and me to Idaho Falls. Agathe wants to buy a piano. Had a wonderful day. The 8th I had a terrible headache and vomiting.

April 9, Friday. This a.m. we melted butter and lard together so we could bake coffee cake and zwieback. I want to go see Elma – she is better.

April 10, Saturday. Today we got a lot of things done. The two Hofer boys planted a tree and dug our lawn because they want to sow grass. In the evening we visited Wiebes.

April 11, Sunday. We have learned to love our preacher family. In the forenoon we had a very good sermon by Rev. Van der Smissen. In the p.m. Anna, Agathe, and I went to Mrs. Wedel who was sick in bed. Anna took care of supper. Agathe ... [incomplete].

April 12, Monday. This is the date of beloved Herman's death⁶. Today Agathe received her piano form Idaho Falls. We are both happy to have such a lovely instrument in our home. Happy especially for the songs that someone can play on the piano to sing. Am anxiously awaiting Louise to come from Kansas have had no word [from her].

April 13, Tuesday. Mrs. Rev. Wedel is somewhat better. Agathe is working in the garden. Today is good weather for planting. In the evening while Agathe was at choir practice, [someone] came for Agathe.

April 14, Wednesday. Today we made a lot of headway with our work, and now Agathe gets ready so she can drive to work at the hospital for night duty. We need sunshine for this sad day.

April 15, Thursday. Today was sewing hour. Anna made three pounds of butter.

⁶ Herman J. Toevs was the third of Agatha and John Toews' eight children. Herman was born June 13, 1892 in Newton, KS. He had married Suzanne (Suzie) Neuman on Nov. 8, 1917 in Aberdeen, Idaho. Herman and Suzie had three daughters, Elda, Dorothy, and Florence (who was my mother). Herman died an untimely death on April 12, 1924 in Aberdeen, Idaho at the young age of 31.

April 16, Friday. Agathe came home from the hospital, which was a great joy for me, which doesn't often last very long. I'm also happy when she can take care of the sick and encourage them.

April 17, Saturday. We had both the Hoffer boys to work. They trimmed the hedge and raked the yard and clippings off the hedge. And just as Agathe was ready, cleaning the house, we heard that it was time to plant vegetables.

April 18, Sunday. There is a quartet going to practice to sing at the hospital. We went to John E. Toevs for dinner. Nellie had a wonderful dinner. Edgar was invited also with their children. Agathe had to leave soon after eating to go to sing at the hospital.

April 19, Monday. Made a short visit to Henry Banman. Anna and Magda also were there. Letters were read from some relatives in Kansas (?) About Paul Suderman's sickness and death. In the evening we drove to Frank and Anna.

April 20, Tuesday. This evening we drove to John and Lois. Lois is very busy sewing summer dresses. She's also planning to spend a few weeks with her parents and taking Barbara. John and boys will come for a visit.

April 21, Wednesday. Today we are expecting Anna for dinner. Agathe is baking zwieback and rhubarb pie and we are also having sour meat balls.

April 22, Thursday. We had the privilege of having missionaries from China with us. Miss Tina Baumgartner spoke Sunday during Sunday School time.

April 23, Friday. Received a strange letter today from niece Marie Busenitz. It describes Paul Suderman's illness and dying and funeral. This is to give us a warning that should be [?]

April 24, Saturday. Wonderful, beautiful weather after a windy and dusty day. After lunch we got all work done and now Agathe is ready for Sunday School Class. Anna brought the dress she sewed to try on.

April 25, Sunday. Heard a sermon especially for the children. In the afternoon we drove to the cemetery and there Agathe and I and Susie and her daughters to get the trunk and then went to C. E. [Christian Endeavor].

April 26, Monday. Agathe and I drove to Frank and Anna. Anna is helping us to sew. Agathe cooked a lovely dinner for us. Carl and Lois were in school. Elma had surprised her parents. She came home from Pocatello Saturday evening.

April 27, Tuesday. Today Agathe washed and ironed with a new Mangle [ironing] machine. It made us happy. We mended our stockings and then drove to town and voted for a new mayor.

May, 1937

May 1, Saturday. The weather is nice. Granddaughter Florence is here and cleaned up everything as it was. I have to bake something today to send along with her. John and his two sons Donald and Richard are coming, and I wish my dear Agathe was here.

May 2, Sunday. Today is a lovely Sunday. In the am [we attended] worship service. For dinner son John and Donald, Richard and Walden were here. I have talked over a number of things with John. Had a good conversation. Agathe came home from the hospital in the evening and had a very good dinner with them.

Sunday, May 9. Thanks to the Lord for the love of the children. Had Sunday School and the [worship] service, which was filled with blessing. At 4 pm all the children and grandchildren and Rev. Wedels came and had a very good visit. In the evening we went to Baccalaureate Service for grandson Carl.

May 10, Monday. Sunshine and cool and cool wind. Have a little fire in the stove. Agathe drove to get strawberry plants. Tomorrow we will water them.

May 11, Tuesday. A windy, dusty day - quite uncomfortable. We are getting a lot of work done. I'm glad we are well.

May 12, Wednesday. Received letter and pictures from Jacob and Marie. Their house looks very comfortable. They are healthy and hard working. Anna has made very good soap.

May 13, Thursday. Today we started cleaning the house. Washed all the linens, dresses, and blankets. Tomorrow, if God is willing, more will be done. Nice weather. The tulips have started blooming. Everything [is] very nice this spring.

May 21, Friday. Agathe got up to irrigate at 5 am. I took care of our breakfast and cleaned up afterward. At 8 o'clock we got ready and went to Idaho Falls to look at the piano and order it.

May 22, Saturday. Today we planned a trip to Canada. We got an invitation from Uncle David. The piano was brought at 9 am.. It pleases both of us. I'm happy that she has gotten this nice instrument and that she can work with it [i.e. play it, presumably]. She paid for it with her hospital money.

May 23, Sunday. A lovely day which is really a blessing... We had a sermon and Sunday School and had the privilege of having missionary, Ruth Hege. She spoke at Sunday School and in the evening at Christian Endeavor. Her heart is filled with Jesus.

May 24, Monday. Everything planted is blooming and the Lord made it that way [so?] that my heart would be in the framework of prayer so that I could bring about thanks, praise and honor to the Lamb.

May 25, Tuesday. This forenoon the weather in the garden made everything look nice. Agathe hoed out the weeds. In the afternoon the weather changed. We have fire in the stove. Hope it doesn't burn tonight and many others were blessed [??].

MEMO. Yesterday evening after worship services Agathe had to drive to the hospital. Driving alone in the evening is very concerning for me. The Lord gives peace to me. He has protected Agathe from all accidents. Agathe had with the neighbors sons often helped here when they come home from school. They keep our place in good order. They planted roses. The flowers are blooming. They planted a vegetable garden. It is all as nature can make it and for us very comfortable. Agathe has spoiled me by being together. That is wonderful! How often we have

said we have it so nice. It is raining and we might not have to irrigate this week. Today is the 2nd of June. Walden got along very well with his car. He went to town and back. And I was with them and I was so happy for them and their boys.

June, 1937

June 1, Tuesday. Have had no word from Agathe today. I hope her patients are soon getting better. After the lovely rain we had a beautiful sunshine, and things look wonderful in nature. H. C. Wiebe has to make a trip to Rochester. May the Lord give him blessings.

June 2, Wednesday. Very wonderful weather. Everything is growing nicely. I was invited to go to Frank and Anna's for supper. They had also invited others for visiting. I decided to stay at home. In the evening Susie came with Florence [Toevs-Bartsch]. She is the last. She is staying with me for night since Agathe is in the hospital.

June 3, Thursday. Today church service was held in the basement, about mission work. It was sewing hour and election of offices for next year. I'm glad that daughter Anna can give up her work as President. She has given it up after filling her job for one year.

June 4, Friday. Mrs. John Becker invited a couple of older people. I was supposed to go too. Agathe has gone back to her work again in the hospital. Time always goes so fast when she has to work for me. Thinking of resting is out of the question. Hopefully it will go more peacefully soon.

June 5, Saturday. Nice weather. Florence has done all the work. Now we want to eat dinner. Then she will have to make a trip to town. She has to buy me something for Sunday.

June 6, Sunday. Son Edgar preached this a.m. I am so thankful to the Lord for his work and that he can do it. Today is a nice, restful day, and thanks to the Lord for that and good health and have the privilege of going to worship services and Sunday School. Agathe surprised me. She left the hospital during the night watch so we could go to church together. In the afternoon Anna came.

June 7, Monday. Yesterday I received a card from Louise Suderman. Herman and Edna had a little son. I'm so glad Agathe can be home again.

June 8, Tuesday. Seeded the parking. Had good luck.

June 9, Wednesday. Commencement Exercises. Granddaughter Elma graduated from the University of Idaho. Frank, Anna, Lois, Edgar, Agathe, Dorothy, and I were there.

June 10, Thursday. Nothing special planned. Did answer some letters.

June 11, Friday. This a.m. grandson Arthur surprised us. He came home from Bible Institute. Now my children, Frank and Anna have all their four children – all have allowed themselves to be led by the Lord. They have had a good time getting together and gave Him – the Lord – honor.

June 12, Saturday. Arthur came today instead of yesterday and drank a cup of coffee. everything is prepared for the Day of Rest. I'm expecting Rev. Wedel and her mother from Kansas this evening. The flowers are decorating the rooms, and the baking is standing ready to be served.

Edgar and Annice and Lois did not come until 8:30 in the evening. The house was dark when they came home.

June 13, Sunday. Rev. H. Fast spoke in the forenoon. Edgar had the opening. We had good music. In the evening was the Children's Program. It was led by a guest speaker. It is a joy to hear what the children have memorized.

June 14, Monday. Today was a beautiful day to do canning. In the afternoon we have to go to town to get the government check of \$67.67. Every little bit helps, and I'm thankful for that. After that we drove to visit Elma and Anna.

June 15, Tuesday. Today we Mangled and ironed. After dinner Mrs. Rev. Wedel and her mother came over for coffee. They told me very much. Today is Wilhelmina Claassen's wedding with a young Stucky from Kansas.

June 16, Wednesday. This afternoon son Edgar drove to the conference in Reedley. I'm glad he can have a vacation after his hard work.

June 17, Thursday. Today Agathe worked very hard in the garden and with the flowers. In the evening Elma and Arthur and Henry Becker came to practice to sing in the hospital.

June 18, Friday. In afternoon we drove to the IH Club at Mrs. Henry Tiacht. In the morning it was nice weather, but in a little while the sky got dark again and got colder. At 4:45 am Agathe watered. in the afternoon a strong wind came and ruined the flowers.

June 19, Saturday. Today is a dreary day and a quiet holiday eve. We got everything ready for the day of rest. The Lord wanted blest in the Sunday School. Minister Wedel and Edgar are at the conference in California. Margaret H and Marilyn are coming Sunday.

June 20, Sunday. This is a confusing day. Annice and the children were here for the noon meal. Agathe went with a quartet to sing at the hospital. Margaret H. and Marilyn were here for the night. They enjoy being together.

June 21, Monday. Today in town we started painting. The house on the farm smelled like smoke. Today it seemed quite warm. Edgar notified us that he would arrive at 2 am from the conference. Son John came home Friday evening from his business trip from Denver and Moscow.

June 22, Tuesday. This morning Edgar and Annice came to get their daughters Margaret and Marilyn. Thanks be to God for his thoughtful protection.

June 23, Wednesday. Today I made much progress with sewing. It is a nice cool day. We made good progress with painting. Agathe went to get the mail. Edgar has started to cut alfalfa and the next day a heavy rain came.

June 24, Thursday. Today we had invited the Dicks and Frank and Anna's young people for supper. They all were quite cheerful and after supper they went "choruba" (= ?).

June 25, Friday. Today after dinner we had invited Mime grandmothers for coffee, Anna and daughters Elma and Lois. Had a nice afternoon. After the visitors went home, Anna, Agathe, and I also went home.

June 26, Saturday. Today at M. N. Rev. Wedel came home from the conference. We had a very busy Saturday after a week of much work. Our house has a nice color with the paint. We didn't quite finish the painting. The lawn looks beautiful. Agathe and I are happy about the first Sunday that everything looks so nice.

June 27, Sunday. All the conference delegates were present in church. Rev. Wedel preached. In the evening there was Christian Endeavor and services. After church Frank and Anna with their children came over here for awhile.

June 28, Monday. Today we finished with the painting. We are so thankful we are finished with the smelly job. We are thankful that the work went well.

June 29, Tuesday. Today Agathe cleaned all the windows from the outside and put the screens back on.

June 30, Wednesday. Today Mrs. Banman helped me with a bath. In the evening there was a German worship service and English Bible reading.

MEMO. On June 22 my dear family friend died. John Entz, born [to?] Maria Spent in Bethel Hospital. She was born May 10, 1862 in West Prussia. She came to America when she was 14 years old with Uncle and Aunt Abraham Suderman. Since that time, we have not only known each other but loved each other. The funeral was on Thursday in the First Mennonite Church in Newton, Kansas. It was very important to me to read her self-written life story. The letters she wrote to me were always so welcome to me until I found out that she had to stay home because she was so sick. In one of her letters [she stated] that a group of people had come to America in 1876 and settled in Newton, KS. Now we two are the only ones still living. Who of us will be first that the Lord will call. Who knows! I know whom I believe will go to my Savior first and who will become a spirit instead of flesh and blood. Yes, my Lord will show love to all my people.

MEMO. Today we canned six quarts of beets. In the afternoon was serving hour. Anna stopped in afterwards. I had sewing hour here at home. I have planted flowers for Edgar and Children.

July, 1937

July 1, Thursday. The month of July we have hot weather. But may the Lord protect us from sickness while so much hard work is being done in the field.

July 2, Friday. We canned seven quarts of dark cherries. Also did some baking. In the afternoon Agathe gave Mrs. Banman a bath since she's been in poor health for such a long time. In the evening Agathe drove to American Falls for a shower for one of the nurses. It was a tremendous surprise when Agathe saw me with my swollen eyes. I was glad I did not have much pain.

July 4, Sunday. A hot day. After the worship service I was invited with all my children and grandchildren for dinner at Susie's and had a wonderful time.

July 5, Monday. Today we had a nice rain shower, which was encouraging, but it did not cool

off. For dinner we had fresh peas and carrots. John and Lois came and got Barbara. In the evening we drove a little ways in the nice air. After that we watered.

July 6, Tuesday. Today is a nice beautiful cool morning. The roses and flowers are blooming. The vegetables are wonderful Agathe transplanted flowers. On the 4th of July there was no accident in town.

July 7, Wednesday. Did a large laundry today. After dinner Anna is coming. We gave her some produce from the garden. Today is very hot. We are going to German services.

July 8, Thursday. Drove to Frank and Anna's in the afternoon. Now we are busy with fixing the house. When everything is taken out and there is much work. May the good Lord protect them from accidents.

July 9, Friday. Agathe is expecting to come home from the hospital this evening. This AM we went to Mrs. Stone. She will be sewing something for me.

July 10, Saturday. Today is a wonderful cool morning after a cool rain. Today Mrs. Albert Langenwaller paid for our house in town and also on the farm and adjoining buildings. Altogether \$162.50. Today they are paving the streets.

July 11, Sunday. Today after the Sunday School the older ones, younger ones, and children drove to the Sunday School picnic. The weather is very lovely. Agathe stayed with me because of my back and because it is Sunday.

July 12, Monday. Today is a beautiful morning. Today at 6 AM granddaughter Dorothy and Agathe worked in the yard cutting grass. Everything is growing nicely, even the weeds.

July 13, Tuesday. This morning we made much progress in the garden. My children, Frank and Anna, with everyone helping took the roof off the kitchen, and in the evening a strong [wind?] came and made it very unpleasant for everyone.

July 14, Wednesday. Agathe went to Mrs. Banman to care for her and visit her. Today was a wonderful morning. The rain has refreshed the fields. We also drove to Franks for awhile. We were all very encouraged to cook up something with cherries. We stopped at Edgars' awhile. We went with his hired hand to the fields.

July 15, Thursday. At 2 o'clock two nurses came to visit with Agathe. Today was a very busy day. At 10 o'clock Annice brought her four young children. I wanted to get a lot done, but it was impossible. Barbara and her four children came to add to the commotion.

July 16, Friday. Yesterday was Verna Friesen and August Huse's wedding. Rev. Wedel performed the ceremony in the church and after that some of the guests were invited into the home of her parents, John and Mrs. Friesen for a meal.

July 17, Saturday. A beautiful morning! Tomorrow I've invited my children Frank and Anna and children for dinner. Agathe has already cleaned the house and I want to start the baking soon now. We are looking forward to the lovely Sunday with the children and grandchildren.

July 18, Sunday. A wonderful day of rest. After the services Frank and Anna and children came

for dinner. It was wonderful to be together. In the afternoon, Agathe and Elma and Arthur drove to the hospital to sing. Just now Agathe came from the garden with a handful of strawberries. This is the first of the crop they planted.

July 19, Monday. A wonderful morning. It will probably get hot later today. In many places it has hailed. So far the Lord has protected us from that, for which we give Him praise. We did get very hot weather later today, but in the evening we got very cool, as we wished.

July 20, Tuesday. The flowers are blooming [beautifully]. Agathe has good luck with her flower planting. In the evening we drove to the children. Frank and Anna, Arthur, Carl and Lois went to choir practice. Frank went to irrigating. Ann and Elma achieved quite a bit, getting ready for the next day. The carpenters are at the middle of the work. The children will be glad when their home is comfortable again. We heard that Elma got a teaching job in Minnesota for \$100 a month.

July 21, Wednesday. Today is very hot. In the evening it cooled off. The English and German Bible services were well attended. Who knows how long our German Bible Study will continue. May the Lord give us the wisdom to decide.

July 22, Thursday. Grandson Donald has a birthday. We are all invited for the evening. On the green in the moonlight the children will really enjoy it. Agathe and Dorothy are busy trimming the hedge.

July 23, Friday. The remodeling at Frank and Anna's is going ahead. The plastering is supposed to be done this week. Yesterday evening Arthur came home with a friend from California. Agathe came home with apricots. We canned them right away.

July 24, Saturday. Today is grandson Carl's birthday. May God bless him in the future. This morning a little before 7 Agathe drove Elma to Minnesota. Elma has to see her contract and sign it. Agathe is glad to do this. Elma was glad I agreed with this.

July 25, Sunday. The church services this morning were well attended. In the afternoon we were comfortable at home. Daughter Anna came over before the Christian Endeavor service. Anna and Agathe, the two sisters, went to church together.

July 26, Monday. Today Agathe has done a large amount of laundry. It is very hot, and it looks like rain. May the Lord protect us from storm and hail. So far we have been protected from it. May the Lord be praised. After supper this evening we looked in on the children a little bit. We packed for a trip to Lava Hot Springs. We said goodby to all our children.

July 27, Tuesday. We said goodby to Mrs. Banman, who is sick. Will we ever see her again? In the evening Anna, Edgar and Lois came here for awhile. We have practically everything packed.

July 28, Wednesday. Yesterday we did laundry. Today the water does not taste good. This AM we both drove to our Health Spa. The Lord has listened to us lovingly. We had a good trip and got there at 11 o'clock, and by 12 o'clock we were settled in our apartment. We are happy.

July 29, Thursday. Today my son John has a birthday. Had to think of him and his loved ones a lot. This is the second day in our lovely quarters. I can't imagine anything better. Agathe is with

me. She has complained and tells me that God takes care of everything.

July 30, Friday. I feel happy and am a bit stronger. The Lord deserves my praise and thanks. At 7 AM I took my bath and after that went back to bed. I took a big sweat bath and then we ate our breakfast together. I have everything as good as I expected, but without Agathe I would want to be home.

July 31, Saturday. Tomorrow I will be thinking of all my children at home. After a wonderful rain last night we are having a nice morning. The air is fresh from rain. Even in the morning the people are going to the water bath. Many of the old people are so helpless that we hope the Lord will help them. Agathe has our apartment cleaned and polished.

MEMO. Today my children Jacob and Marie are having a house warming. May they give Him everything in His honor and may they be thankful to the Lord for everything He has done. Yesterday was

August, 1937

MEMO. Sunday, August 1. I received a nice letter from daughter Anna and granddaughter Elma. It seems so empty. We did read the Word of God the Lord had prepared for us. Edgar, Annice and children visited us.

August 2, Monday. Felt much better today. My pain has given up a lot and I'm grateful to the Lord for this. We received good news from home – the children are all well and happy.

August 3, Tuesday. This morning at 7 AM, John and Lois surprised us with their children Donald and Richard and then they drove on to Salt Lake. We left Mrs. Banman very sick, and she is not expected to get well.

August 4, Wednesday. It is our dear Edna Ruth's birthday today, and she is 6 years old and in her first year in Kansas. She is supposed to start school in the fall. May the Lord bless all my children and grandchildren.

August 5, Thursday. Nothing particular happened today. Also there was no news about the house. This evening we went to Quala to get a tree trimmer. Agathe has a write-up of our brother-in-law Jacob Claassen, and it is interesting to both of us.

August 6, Friday. A comfortable day. My thoughts are very much for my loved ones. May the Lord keep them healthy in their difficult work is my prayer.

August 7, Saturday. A comfortable Saturday. Agathe has already cleaned up everything and its ready for Sunday. Toward evening we drove into the fresh evening air. We went to get us some cheese and fruit for tomorrow. Agathe takes time to write out her Bible verses.

August 8, Sunday. The second Sunday without church in this place. There is only one place to have church services and that is in the park across the street, and it is so loud one almost gets scared about the warming of future.

August 9, Monday. A lovely day. Slept very well last night and we both feel refreshed. On

Wednesday morning we want to leave and go home to our dear place and be at home again.

August 10, Tuesday. Today is the last day at Lava Hot Springs. So one thing after another comes for the last time. The Lord has been very good to us. Agathe has taken care of me so well. I am very spoiled. Friends Classens came to see us. They said it is always good to be together after 12 o'clock. We were at L & A [?] to see the scenery. After that parents can leave their children at home.

August 11, Wednesday. This AM at the rising of the sun we awakened. We stepped with both feet out of the bed and said, "Today we are going home!" We packed our bags. She folded our coats in our nice bag, took our five pieces and headed for home. (We had German serviced today.)

August 12, Thursday. Agathe drove in the forenoon to Frank and Anna's. She wanted to get home in time to help Anna. Anna fell and broke her arm. Granddaughter Dorothy took care of her in our place. The lovely flowers are all blooming.

August 13, Thursday. I'm alone today. I can still feel the sun bath. [Apparently she means she did a little sun-bathing.] I took it even before Agathe drove to Anna's. It was wonderful nice, just as it was the Sunday before. Edgar stopped by. They are all well and happy they got so much work done. The Lord does not want to do without rain.

August 14, Saturday. Today we are expecting Kansas person Regier from Elbing. Just a week ago today we were in Lava Hot Springs. How completely different it is today to be in our farm. The Lord be thanked and praised that my rheumatism is better.

August 15, Sunday. Today is a lovely Sunday morning. We celebrated Communion. Several Kansas people are our visitors. Anna had invited H. Regiers and us for dinner. We had a lovely conversation. Anna had a good dinner.

August 16, Monday. Today for coffee we had a Kansas visitor, Anna R. The conversation was very interesting. We heard quite a few things about our Kansas friends and relatives. We are having good weather. We have many vegetables and are canning..

August 18, Wednesday. Agathe is washing jars for peaches. We want to can only two bushels this year. We got nice letters from Jacob and Marie. They are healthy and fine. In the evening we had German Worship and English Bible Study.

August 19, Thursday. Today we are still busy with canning. Agathe was invited for dinner to J. E. Toevs. It was a large group of women and girls [who met] to greet Nell's sister. They wanted to get together to greet them and hear interesting things.

August 20, Friday. Received nice letters from Alfred and Matilda. This forenoon Mrs. Ulrich Hege surprised us. In the afternoon her older daughter and Mrs. H. C. Wiebe visited us. Later her daughter Sadie joined them.

August 21, Saturday. Today [it was] a comfortable, busy Saturday. We invited Edgar and Annice and children for dinner Sunday. We want them to be our guests and not have to work. They are supposed to recuperate after much hard work.

August 22, Sunday. Today we have lived through a good day. Worship service and S.S. Rev. Wedel preached on Matthew 7:13-14. Today Edgar and Annice came with their children and John and Lois. Frank and Anna came after evening services.

August 23, Monday. Wonderful cool weather. Work is supposed to work [begin?] on my farm. We are beginning with threshing. May the Lord protect us. Agathe washed this am and at 9:00 she had everything done including washing the floors.

August 24, Tuesday. This a.m. Anna went with Arthur, Carl, and Lois [Wenger] to American Falls for shopping and to Pocatello. Arthur went to Bethel College and Carl to Biola. Agathe took the opportunity and went along.

August 25, Wednesday. Today granddaughter Dorothy [Toevs-Miller] mowed the lawn. Agathe ironed a lot, baked a birthday cake for LaVerna Ruth. This afternoon we want to drive there. Edgar finished the threshing. The wheat gave 73 ½ bushels [to the acre]. The Lord be praised.

August 26, Thursday. Today we had for the lat time, [a] family get together. Frank and Anna's three children are going to school. Elma is going to her first teaching position. I will really miss them.

August 27, Friday. Today we are thinking of having a restful day after busy days. Today Agathe irrigated. We picked cucumbers and put everything of yesterday's work in order. We have much reason to be thankful.

August 28, Saturday. A dreary day already – like a fall day. We had a fire in the kitchen stove with coal and that feels very comfortable. According to nature everything is slower, [and] the flowers are blooming. Everything is trying to look like spring.

August 29, Sunday. The Spirit of love and peace abiding among us. We went to church and Sunday School. We should be thankful for this relationship. Now we are thankful without persecution. Went to Edgar and Annice for dinner.

August 30, Monday. Again, let us be obedient to Him. A very fine day. Rheumatism is gone and every day I thank the Lord for that. After Agathe put everything in order, I tried to be helpful to her.

August 31, Tuesday. Today we both drove to Anna's. Agathe helped with washing and I helped with mending and sewed on buttons. Anna still has much work, especially since her three children are leaving for school.

September, 1937

September 1, Wednesday. It is September again and time goes fast. This evening we celebrated the Wenger family's mother's 82nd birthday. At the same time we celebrated the three grandsons' farewell – Arthur, Carl, and Malcolm. Lois stays home with her parents.

September 2, Thursday. Agathe went to sewing. Daughter Anna drove with Arthur and Elma to

Minnedoka⁷ who is in teaching school. Tomorrow Arthur leaves for Bethel College, Newton, KS. Sunday evening Carl left for Bible Institute.

September 3, Friday. Beautiful autumn day. Agathe irrigated this a.m. Today is a hard day for my children Frank and Anna. They said farewell [to] Arthur. Many prayers will be going along with Arthur under God's protection. We know our class children were born.⁸

September 4, Saturday. Today son Herman – his oldest daughter Elda [Toevs-Andres] has a birthday. She is 19 years old. We drove there after supper and stayed awhile. Susie will really be missing her Elda. She too is going to Bible Institute [presumably Biola]. She still has two daughters with her.

September 5, Sunday. The House of God was well-filled this morning, but it is not my desire to go this evening. My two grandchildren are going off to Bible School. May the Lord be with them.

September 6, Monday. Again, a lovely morning. May the Lord allow the sun to shine over the good and the bad. If the people would know that we are with the Lord and that He is leading us today, many would become a Christian. Yesterday evening there was a farewell for the students in church.

September 7, Tuesday. Many things were accomplished, ironing and mangled. Picked tomatoes – they are still standing upright. Flowers are still blooming. The time is coming when everything will freeze.

September 8, Wednesday. Today we were in the cellar where some fruit is ripening. We cleaned part of the place. Tonight we went to the German service and we discussed church building.

September 9, Thursday.

Received good news from a grandchild. The weather is nice again and things have not been frozen. The flowers are still blooming, roses, asters. In the forenoon we made soap and had good luck with it and we canned tomatoes, and now [we will] visit the neighbor.

September 10, Friday. First letter received from Carl. Today we helped Anna can tomatoes. Agathe and Anna cleaned windows, hung pictures and everything [is] nice.

September 11, Saturday. Got a lot done. [We are] getting our home fresh and comfortable for Sunday. This [Sunday] we are having Rev. Millers for supper.

September 12, Sunday. This was a very [good Sunday for] church services and Sunday School, and there was a good attendance. Rev. Miller preached on Matthew 4:19, "I will make you fishers of men."

September 13, Monday. Today is my dear Edgar's birthday. I have been trying to think how to

⁷ This is probably Minidoka, Idaho, a town SW of Aberdeen. Precisely who is attending the "teaching school" cannot be determined from the translation. Perhaps it is Elma.

⁸ Does she mean "born again"?

celebrate this day. After supper we want to go over for one hour. Agathe has baked a lovely birthday cake and we picked a nice floral spray. The weather is nice.

September 14, Tuesday. This evening we visited Rev. and Mrs. Wedel. We had a lovely visit. When we came home Anna stopped in.

September 15, Wednesday. Today we canned tomatoes again. In the afternoon we wrote letters. The weather was wonderful. Very favorable for the farmers. Tonight [we had] German worship service. After this there was a discussion about the church building.

September 16, Thursday. No one has ever seen God. Just as we love one another, so God shows His love for us. 1 John 4:12.

September 17, Friday. This evening my dear son Edgar preached for the last time. May the Lord bless his message. Today we had a plumber to clean out our water pipes. In the afternoon we had company. In the evening we got our mail and we had a nice letter from grandson Carl. He writes [that he is] so happy and satisfied.

September 18, Saturday. Son Edgar got the first prize for sugar beets. Today is a big [one] for the Aberdeen Fair. The people show great interest. Much produce is shown – fruit, vegetables, flowers, and horses, and milk cows. [They represent] very much hard work. Monday the fair starts in Blackfoot.

September 19, Sunday. [We] used the first bit of coal for winter. Sunday School and the worship service were well attended. It is a joy to see how eager people are to hear God's Word and to have the opportunity of hearing God's Word every Sunday.

September 20, Monday. Daughter Anna stopped by in the afternoon from her mission work. Edgar went at 5 a.m. and brought the horses home from the fair. This morning, Annice brought the three youngest children and took the two oldest to the fair. The children had a good time playing. Agathe and I canned apples and tomatoes.

September 21, Tuesday. Today is Aberdeen Day, but many drove to Blackfoot. The weather has changed very much. We are close to the middle of fall. We've had the first fire in the furnace. The sun is shining very brightly. The farmers are cutting the third cutting of alfalfa.

September 22, Wednesday. Niece Louise Suderman is said to be very sick. This morning we washed. We had nice weather. The frost of last night has not ruined anything. We covered them [the flowers?] up. Tonight is German worship service. We got the news that M. Suderman has gone home.

September 23, Thursday. This morning it is cold. The fire in the furnace is kept going. Today we received two cards from BDH. One was for Agathe and one was for me. [We heard] that Margaretha Suderman is sick and close to dying. She got my birthday card.

September 24, Friday. Today we had our first heavy frost. The air is winter-like. It has urged Edgar to cut the seed after the third cutting of alfalfa. After the alfalfa seed has been stored, they started the October work by digging the potatoes, and picking cranberries.

September 25, Saturday. We had cheerful, bright sunshine. We covered the flowers. Today we got ready for company tomorrow, when all my children and grandchildren will be coming. If my dear Agathe would not be here I couldn't do it alone.

September 26, Sunday. Today was a lovely Sunday. The children and grandchildren came for dinner. We had a wonderful get-together. The weather has warmed up again for which the farmers are thankful.

September 27, Monday. Today we cleaned everything up from yesterday's company. After that we drove to the farm. Edgar is irrigating. We just got home from Edgar's. They brought the two youngest ones for the night. Annice did not come.

September 28, Tuesday. Today the three school children came for dinner. Annice needs rest. He got her some help. I'm very glad for this. Sometimes it takes much help.

September 29, Wednesday. Tonight we had German worship service and Bible hour. We got three letters. Jacob and family, Elma from Minidoka and cousin Martha Woelk from California. All the news was good. Yesterday daughter Anna came and left letters from her children for us.

September 30, Thursday. We had lovely fall weather today. In the forenoon we did quite a few jobs. After supper we drove to John and Lois' home. We had a pleasant evening and are planning another one.

MEMO. Today we had Cornelius Classens. She surprised us with her two daughters Olga and Clarice. They plan to leave for their work soon in St. Louis. Both are nice Christian girls. We are almost through with our work. Everything is fresh and clean for Sunday. Tonight Agathe went to the church to practice for Sunday forenoon.

October, 1937

October 1, Sunday.⁹ A nice Sunday. A serious sermon based on Luke 14:18-24 by Rev. Wedel. It was about communion and each one asked forgiveness of each other. Rev. Wedel led our class. In the afternoon we visited sick people. J. Schroeder.

October 2, Monday. A comfortable day. Agathe got the last of the tomatoes for the year. Daughter Anna stopped [by]. Tomorrow we intend to go to Pocatello. I'm always glad when we come home from there.

October 3. Blank.

October 4. Today is my dear brother Herman Suderman's birthday. He has been in eternity for a long time. [Translator's note?] – Of all six of her siblings she is the last.

⁹ Sunday, Oct. 1. Something is wrong here. October 1 was a Friday in 1937. The date and the day finally match on Tuesday, October 5.

October 5, Tuesday.¹⁰ Today is daughter Anna's birthday. We drove there in the evening. Anna was very busy painting in the new kitchen. Had letters from Kansas from Arthur and Marie.

October 6, Wednesday. Today is daughter-in-law Annice's birthday. We plan to surprise [her]. Edgar is busy in the garden digging potatoes. It is going to be a heavy frost.

October 7, Thursday. Today is friendly sunshine. Cool air – very suitable for digging potatoes and sugar beets. Agathe had gone to sewing circle. Today we cut off the last asters. Heavy frost last night.

October 8, Friday.

October 9, Saturday. Today Elma Lehrman's wedding. Very lovely fall weather. Paula Horsch came back to her parents. May the Lord bless Paula. May she be a joy to her parents.

October 10, Sunday. A comfortable Sunday. Sunday School and worship service was well attended. The children, Frank and Anna came for dinner by themselves without any of their children. Lois drove to Minidoka yesterday to visit Elma.

October 11, Monday. This forenoon we washed and dried the laundry and got ready for ironing and mangled tomorrow. Got a telegram from Jacob. Would like to have a carload of potatoes. We still do not have our mail. We were expecting letters, but only one [[came] from Canada.

October 12, Tuesday. Rev. Wedel had a service in the Baptist Church. Yesterday Agathe, Anna, and I drove to Minidoka to visit my granddaughter Elma. She took us to her school house, a lovely new building. Elma is happy in her work.

October 13, Wednesday. A comfortable day. After Agathe has aired out her dresses and brushed them after the long day yesterday. After cleaning the house we could get much more done with our hand work. In the evening there was Bible Study.

October 14, Thursday. This morning Agathe was called to the hospital to take care of a person with Lordosis disease. She came home for the night so I would not be alone. She has to be at work by seven in the a.m.

October 15, Friday. Today is grandson Arthur's birthday. He is 21. I'm very thankful to the Lord and that my rheumatism is better, since I'm alone in the day and I can do the work. Agathe is very tired when she comes home in the evening

October 16, Saturday. Several mornings we made each of us a cup of coffee to wake us up early in the morning. A little after 8 o'clock, I had good luck with my baking.

October 17, Sunday. We drank coffee. We had both slept well. Agathe got herself ready to go to the hospital. We ate our breakfast together and then she went to work again, taking care of patients all day. This was a very quiet, lonesome Sunday. Did go to church. Dreary, rainy weather.

¹⁰ Tuesday, October 5. The day and the date finally match properly again.

October 18, Monday. Today more friendly sunshine. Very good weather for potato digging, also beets. John came in the forenoon and asked if I wanted to go with him to [see] how far they are at his place and to mine. Otherwise the work went on.

October 19, Tuesday. Agathe drove to the hospital again early in the a.m. The patient was in danger. Had gotten dangerously hurt. Anna planned to stop awhile in town, but nothing came of that because she had so much work at home, especially with the painting.

October 22, Friday. Haven't seen Agathe for 2 days and am much worried. Lovely fall weather. Trees and bushes have never had such colorful leaves in the fall. Some trees are already bare. Edgar has gotten ready in this nice weather and gotten the potatoes [in].

October 23, Saturday. Yesterday we received a small package from Margereta Suderman as [a] remembrance. She is at home. Today is a wonderful day. Lois starts washing floors and is finished. Am so thankful to the Lord for the children and grandchildren. Have heard nothing from Agathe. Am expecting her to come home this evening [the following word indecipherable]. The patient should be getting better.

October 24, Sunday. Went for dinner to Frank and Anna. In the evening son John came to visit with Barbara. Frank and Anna brought me to Sunday School and Church, which was pleasant. Rev. Wedel had the text on how Joseph recognized his brothers. Agathe could not attend at services.

October 25, Monday. I'm alone all day. Granddaughter Lois is coming for the night and that will be pleasant being together. I keep thinking about Agathe, maybe she can be home again soon. In the afternoon Mrs. R. A. Wedel came to see me and that made a nice afternoon for me.

October 26, Tuesday. Today Edgar came with a load of sugar beets to town. If all goes well he will finish up this week. I will be thankful to the Lord.

October 27, Wednesday. Today is daughter-in-law Susie Newman Toevs' birthday. She will probably think of her daughter in California. It is always a blessing when mother and children are healthy. We are still having fall weather. Have not heard from Agathe since Sunday.

October 28, Thursday. Today is Mrs. Gertrude Crippen's husband's funeral. Rev. Wedel had the service. He spoke on "Keep your house in order before you die." Many people are thinking and even saying it is a big relief to Mrs. Crippen that her husband is gone.

October 29, Friday. Today [I had] a few words from Agathe. No expecting that she will be coming home. The patients are so slow I coming home.

October 30, Saturday. Granddaughter Florence came to help. Grandson Walden came to help also. I'm grateful for my grandchildren. Agathe came here for a short time. It was a short but sweet time together. If the Lord would bring her home again. Today is a nice Saturday and everything feels like Sunday.

October 31, Sunday. This morning it looked like snow, cold wind and bad weather. Daughter Anna stayed with me for dinner. From 3 o'clock we heard our men's quartet singing over the radio. Son Edgar gave a short sermon. They also sang at the hospital. They brought me a greeting

from Agathe.

MEMO. Monday. Today I got a card from daughter Agathe.

November, 1937

November 1, Monday. As early as November we have a reason for complaining. Four years ago our papa was still with us. Agathe had come from home . Edgar from Ohio and Papa was very eager to see the children. Agathe stayed there and came back in a week.

November 2, Tuesday. Today a pleasant surprise. Agathe came home from the hospital. She was released of three weeks from taking care of patients in the hospital. Due to the fortunate G. Hansen all [sic] how happy I was. The lonesomeness was getting so long.

November 3, Wednesday. Went to Frank and Anna's to see their home. Frank has helped Anna very much. We went to my place. Edgar is looking after the fences and Papa would be very happy. Anna is busy with painting. It looks very nice.

November 4, Thursday. This afternoon is Sewing Circle. After a long time we have been going because of my rheumatism. I have been very thankful to the Lord that I'm free from it. In the evening Anna came over.

November 5, Friday. This afternoon Edgar and Annice drove to Twin Falls to the Sunday School Convention. They are leaving the children at home. The two youngest are staying with Frank and Anna. They are Edgar, Jr, and Margaret H.

November 6, Saturday. Dreary weather. We baked and cleaned up.

November 7, Sunday. In the forenoon we attended Sunday School and Services. We cannot be thankful enough to the Lord for having such a serious sermon and Sunday School for young and old. The children, John and Lois, invited us for dinner. Frank and Anna were also there.

November 8, Monday. It's a stormy day. In the forenoon we went to Frank and Anna's and stayed until evening. Agathe helped her sister Anna with varnishing the woodwork in the living room. In the evening, Agathe drove to a committee meeting. Son Edgar washed the storm windows.

November 9, Tuesday. Today was a nice day. In the afternoon we went to order two turkeys for Thanksgiving Day. We are going to Frank and Anna's to plan Thanksgiving to be with Frank and Anna and with their dear old parents and siblings.

November 10, Wednesday. This morning it is snowing and cold. The poor farmers who are still trying to get the potatoes and sugar beets harvested. If Edgar could stay with his good help they could finish tomorrow.

November 11, Thursday. Received a card from Agathe in Salt Lake. The first night Mrs. Burge had been taken care of. May the Lord help her in the future.

November 12. [Note by JTB. Nothing is written on this date. Furthermore the days of the week do not match the dates for 1937. I have reconstructed several days here by clues in the diary

entries, but some things don't appear to match up. Did Nettie Bolt get married on a Monday? Not likely, but possible. The translation says November 14, Monday, but Monday was on the 15th of November in 1937.]

November 13, Saturday. Dreary and cold – typical cold weather. Agathe has made our home clean and comfortable for Sunday, the Lord's Day. Grandson Walden came to help us. He raked grass and burned it.

November 14, Sunday. A quiet peaceful day. In the forenoon and evening we went to worship service. In the afternoon we rested and read. The weather is dreary and rainy.

November 15, Monday. Weather is dreary and looks like more rain. Agathe drove to town to do business for me. How thankful I am for all the support. Today is the wedding for Nettie Bolt. Agathe is supposed to sing for her.

November 16, Tuesday. The manuscript collector had good results. Today we had news from brother in law David Toews that he is very ill. We have heard nothing since then. In the evening Anna came with Mrs. Stambaugh. Today we received fruit from through Agathe from California which is very precious to me and I've been very happy for it.

November 17, Wednesday. A dismal, rainy day. Even some snow flakes came down. The children Edgar and Annice came for dinner with their children. Son Edgar is going to Ohio Thanksgiving Day to attend a program Committee of Conference for joy and for work.

November 18, Thursday. Agathe's birthday is today. We celebrated very quietly. Anna came in the afternoon with her sewing work. In the evening Edgar and Annice were also invited for a big supper. The other siblings came also.

November 19, Friday. This morning it snowed again, which makes it a nice winter. The land gets much use from this moisture. In the evening came son John with his Contract. He took me to town where we pushed it in the area of ?

November 20, Saturday. Today another dreary day. Rain washed our home. Cleaned up the house. Now we feel ready for the coming Sunday. In the evening Agatha joined the quartet practice is [sic] (to?) sing over the radio in Pocatello.

November 21, Sunday. Today after Sunday School Herbert Hege was married to Hazel Wilson. In the afternoon Agathe went with the choir to Pocatello to sing over the radio and in the hospital.

November 22, Monday. Today my dear son Edgar is leaving for Bluffton, Oho to attend the Program Committee of the General Conference. May the Lord be gracious to him and let him be safe in coming home.

November 23, Tuesday. This forenoon Agathe drove to Mrs. Baumgartner to give her a bath. She has been suffering for a long time. In the afternoon, Mrs. Lehrman came to work with Agathe to teach the high school girls to do mission work. Everything was sold for \$8.40 and given for a Thanksgiving gift for the poor.

November 24, Wednesday. Agathe went to the store to order the mission work to be sold. Bank work was done by the mothers of the daughters doing the handwork. The sale started at 2 o'clock and lasted until 7. I received a letter from Jacob and son Kenneth. Granddaughter Elma visited her parents for the first time since she started teaching.

November 25, Thursday. Today we had a very happy Thanksgiving with Frank and Anna and together with their parents on both sides. I am alone without dear papa, but Agathe is my earthly support. She takes care of me and spends time with me. Dear Lord, *You* want to keep her that way.

November 26, Friday. It has been a lovely, sunshiny day. We are still feeling a little of the holiday. Friday evening the Christian Endeavor Committee got together here and Mrs. Horsch was here for awhile.

November 27, Saturday. It is a dismal day. Inside, everything is comfortable. We have everything ready for Sunday. Tomorrow the children start practicing for the Christmas Program. I had hoped to get news from Edgar but nothing came.

November 28, Sunday. It has been lovely weather. We attended worship service and Sunday School. John Schroeder came for dinner. After a long time, they had a lot to tell us about past events.

November 29, Monday. Today we progressed a lot with the house cleaning. In the afternoon Anna came and stayed until Frank came back from the church building committee. (Willingly helping families with cutting expenses down.) Annice came over. She expects Edgar to come today.

November 30, Tuesday. There was news from Canada from Jacob Claassen that her (sic) brother in law David [has improved?]. The doctor hopes he will continue to improve. May the Lord help him.

MEMO: On the 22nd of December Edgar threshed the last of the Pampas grass. In the evening it started to rain and we are so happy the Lord permitted them to finish the work.

December, 1937

December 1, Wednesday. It has been a lovely day. We made a lot of headway with our fall work. In the evening we went to Bible Study.

December 2, Thursday. Agathe drove in the morning to Mrs. Baumgartner to arrange some missionary work. This afternoon Anna, Mrs. Friesen and Mrs. H. B. Wiebe took refreshments to the men working at the church building.

December 3, Friday. We drove this a.m. in nice weather to Pocatello to buy some things for Christmas.

December 4, Saturday. Today Agathe was called to the hospital for night duty. We planned our

Sunday dinner and got ready with everything.

December 5, Sunday. The first Advent. Agathe came home from the hospital at 8 o'clock, rested awhile, and then they went to services. Frank, Anna, and Lois, Edgar and Annice with their children are happy that Edgar returned safely from his trip.

December 6, Monday. We have had beautiful sunshine which is very good for the flowers. Everything is comfortable and quiet around me. I'm so glad Agathe can sleep. We don't know what the next night will bring.

December 7, Tuesday. Today we want to mix up the honey cookies. Yesterday we baked the first peppernuts. In the afternoon we drove to Frank and Anna. This is the last time we will drive there because the roads are undriveable (sic) [better, impassable].

December 8, Wednesday. I got a letter from Jacob and Marie. They are healthy. They have cold weather. Frank and Anna butchered hogs today. Yesterday they got nice letters from their three children. In the evening we went to German Church services.

December 9, Thursday. This a.m. Edgar brought their two youngsters for a visit. The parents drove to Pocatello with a truck. Edgar wanted to get coal for them and for us. Agathe has washed. The weather is dreary and cold.

December 10, Friday. Today we ironed and mangled. Anna came and brought liverwurst and ribs. We fried everything. We had a lot of work. We worked hard all day.

December 11, Saturday. Today we finished our Saturday work early. Today is dreary weather. Now we are sitting by bright lamp light. Agathe is studying her Sunday School lesson.

December 12, Sunday. We had a beautiful Sunday. We had good worship services and Sunday School. In the afternoon we read. Agathe had the music. In the evening we went to Christian Endeavor and Services.

December 13, Monday. Today after several days of rain and dreary weather we have sunshine again. Agathe drove with Anna and Sadie Wenger to Pocatello to take care of some things for Christmas.

December 14, Tuesday. Today we really baked – honey cookies, peppernuts, and butter cookies. In the evening Agathe went to choir practice. Anna came over and brought over a taste of her honey cookies. She had very good luck.

December 15, Tuesday. Dorothy stopped in and told us the three sisters bought their mom a watch for Christmas. Today I wrote Christmas cards. At almost 4:30 Agathe drove to American Falls. When she came back we ate supper and drove to Bible Study.

December 16, Thursday. Rain and snow. The roads are very bad. Agathe could not go to Baumgartners to work on the Bazaar, which is to be held on Saturday.

December 17, Friday. Dreary, rainy weather. Very little sunshine. Agathe drove to Pocatello once more. It is the last time she gets things for Christmas. Agathe wants to have a girls' class, the True Blue Class, – a party at our house on Tuesday, December 21st.

December 18, Saturday. Today the Bazaar took place. I baked coffee cake to sell. What sold most was baked food and handwork. The Americans enjoy buying baked goods from German people.

December 19, Sunday. Today was a large Silver Wedding Anniversary of Gerhardt and Marie Busenitz. Marie is the oldest daughter of my siblings. Tante Matthes is still here but homesick and wants to go home. (She was born a Claassen.)

December 20, Monday. For supper we were invited to Rev. Wedels. We had a very comfortable evening with their family.

December 21, Tuesday. Agathe had a great crowd of girls over in our home. Those invited were the True Blue Mission Circle.

December 22, Wednesday. Big snow storm. In the evening there was a service. It was well attended in spite of the snow storm. We sang Christmas songs.

December 23, Thursday. We wrapped up the Christmas presents and put them under the tree. In the evening the Christmas Cantata was practiced once more.

December 24, Friday. Great gifts were given only through Jesus were given (sic). Today on Christmas Eve, everything was ready to give away tomorrow evening at 7:30. The children and grandchildren came in spite of the snow and cold weather. Son Frank Wenger read the Christmas story from the Bible and son Edgar led in prayer for all who were here.

December 25, Saturday. In the forenoon we heard a serious but happy Christmas sermon. in the evening was the children's program. The theme - it is not in vain that there are children here.

December 26, Sunday. Today we participated in Holy Communion, and many people were saying, for the last time in this old church. This evening the choir is giving the Christmas Cantata.

December 27, Monday. Today is dreary, very much like winter. For dinner we invited Herbert Dirks and his sister Margaret, our father's ward [?].

December 28, Tuesday. Today our son Edgar went to Fairfield in his truck to help a poor family. Today we drove to Frank and Anna's. We were happy the presents the children had sent their parents from California and Kansas and the presents that Elma had given her parents and grandparents [had arrived?].

December 29, Wednesday. Today was Walter Horsch's wedding. He and Emma Hofmeister were involved [sic. Does she mean married?]. The wedding was very lovely including a meaningful sermon: "As for me and my house, we want to serve the Lord." May the young couple do likewise.

December 30, Thursday. Today is still a holiday, which includes a lot. Edgar and his family had guests for dinner. In the afternoon Edgar still had business to do. When he came back we had coffee and donuts and then we went home.

December 31, Friday. We've reached the close of the old year with lovely, friendly sunshine. Elma left this am for Minidoka. I had an interesting letter from Arthur from Kansas. We had visitors, Rev. Wedels, sister-in-law Anna and H. E. Toevs.

MEMO. Brother in law Cornelius Toevs died very suddenly on December 10, 1937. Nephew Rudolph R Claassen died December 17, 1939 (sic - does she mean 1937?) at 54 years. Sister in law Gretchen went home – died July 14, 1941 (sic).¹¹

¹¹ Transcriber's note: I'm not at all certain why Agatha included deaths dating from 1939 and 1941 when this diary is from 1937. If one supposes that she inserted the dates later, years after she had written the diary, why then did she not insert them in the appropriate year (assuming she kept writing the diary)? The fact that this is a Memo page at the end of December, which is also the end of the year 1937, might help explain why she might possibly have added additional deaths on this page since the first and second deaths mentioned both occurred in December. But even on that theory it is still unaccountable as to why she would have subsequently added a death that occurred in July (not December). A final thought is that she remembered in her diary where she had recorded deaths. There was a blank space there, and so she kept inserting deaths in a place where she knew she could subsequently find them. Perhaps some day we can ask her in person!