





My Record Book

Beginning

Month May Day 30th Year 1935

My Name is

Shirley Sue Smith

My Address is

Atlanta, Texas





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I left the country of the stars and came down to earth
Today Thursday, May 30th 1935, at
11 P.M. o'clock

I arrived amidst a great hubbub. The middle of all
the excitement seemed to be a lovely person called
My Mother Mayelle Richey Smith

There leaned over us, when I nestled down beside my
Mother, another smiling person

My Father Narcissus L. Smith

A very busy visitor who seemed responsible in some way
for my getting down from among the stars safely was

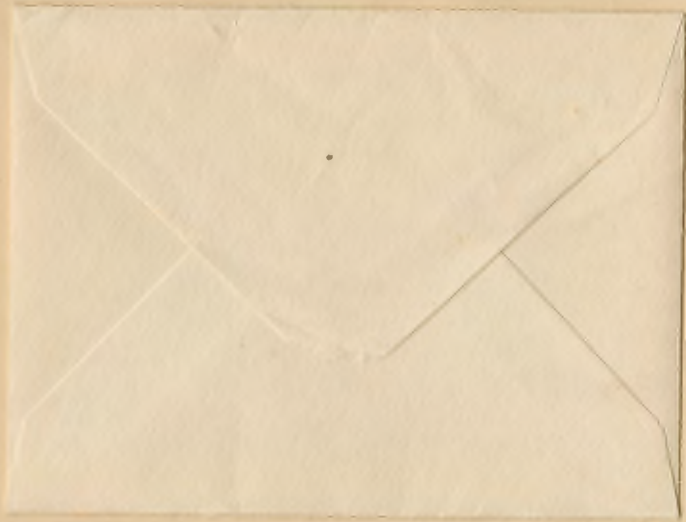
The Doctor _____

Fluttering in and out was a young lady, busy and
starchy,

The Nurse Miss Juanita Tomlinson
Tri State Hospital
Shreveport, La.



My arrival seems to have been a matter of some importance, not only to my Mother and my Father, but to many others. My Mother seems very pleased at all this, so it probably is quite all right. Even she wants to tell every one for she is sending out these amusing little cards.



My Father goes about telling every one about me. People whom I have never seen telephone to say they are glad I have come.



Paul Peterson March

The Book
of Life

Has opened for

Shirley Sue

Date May 30. 1935

Weight 6 lbs 14 oz

Mr. and Mrs.

James L Smith

My size is a matter of much curiosity but to me it seems such a personal thing. I cannot see why others should be so inquisitive. The Doctor and the Nurse studied it. They weighed me almost the very minute I got here, and went about telling every one. My Mother keeps it up all the time and since it is of such interest, I will publish here a chart of my weight and height.



At birth	Six	pounds	fourteen	ounces	$16\frac{1}{2}$	inches
At 3 weeks	Seven	pounds	one	ounces		inches
At 1 month	Seven	pounds	seven	ounces		inches
At 2 months	Eight	pounds		ounces	$18\frac{3}{4}$	inches
At 3 months	Nine	pounds	eight	ounces		inches
At 4 months	Ten	pounds	six	ounces		inches
At 5 1/2 months	Twelve					
At 6 months	Twelve	pounds	fourteen	ounces	$23\frac{1}{2}$	inches
At 7 months	Fourteen					
At 8 months	Fourteen	pounds	eight	ounces		inches
At 9	14					
At 10 months	14	pounds		ounces		inches
At 11 months	16					
At 12 months	16	pounds	8	ounces		inches

(with clothes & sweaters)



Everyone seems happy about my coming. They all coo and gurgle over me ridiculously, but pleasantly. They bring the jolliest things to my Mother and me.



Here are the presents:

_____ from _____

_____ from _____

_____ from _____

_____ from _____

The gifts of money, my Mother says, shall go into the Bank to build a Savings Account so that some day I shall go to college. I do not understand this, but she seems very positive, and my Father agrees, so I guess it will be done.



\$ _____ from _____

\$ _____ from _____

\$ _____ from _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTH REGISTRATION

This is to advise you that there is preserved under File No. 11874, in the
State office for the registration of vital statistics at NEW ORLEANS, LA.,
a Record of Birth, as follows:

Name Shirley Sue Smith Sex Female
Born on May 31, 1935, at Greensport La.
Name of father Norman Lucian Smith
Maiden name of mother Nozelle Kirby



M. Austin
Director of the Census.

Jas. A. O'Hara M. D.,
Special Agent, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PRESERVE THIS CERTIFICATE—IT IS VALUABLE

It shows that your baby's birth certificate has been properly registered in the vital statistics bureau at New Orleans, La. The name, date of birth, and registration number on the opposite side will assist in locating the birth certificate at any future time, should you or your people have occasion to refer to it. A birth certificate may become valuable in later years in proving such items as age, parentage, right to work (under child labor laws), rights to property or insurance, right to marry, right to enter school, to obtain a passport should foreign travel be contemplated, and for many other purposes.

NOTICE

If any errors are found in the statements given on the inclosed certificate, kindly return it with corrections at once to

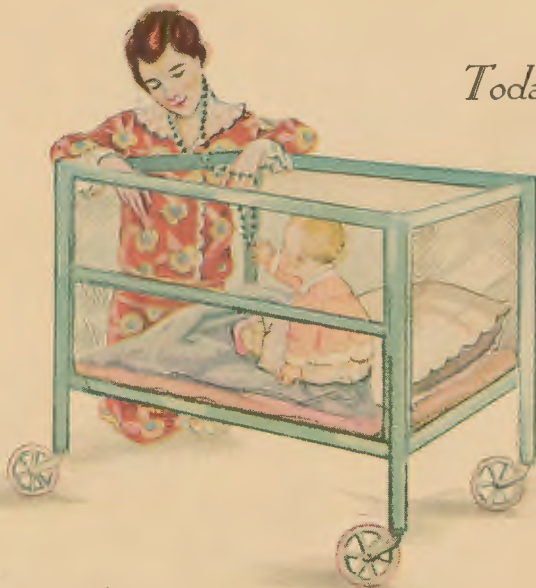
Jos. A. O'HARA, M. D.,
Special Agent, Bureau of the Census,
New Court House Building,
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Dr. O'Hara will then take steps to correct the records on file at the State office.



Today July 7, 1935

I smiled! My Mother was so pleased. I have been trying to do it for a long time. She smiles so sweetly and lovingly at me, I wanted her to know that I could do something besides stare at her. Finally I made my lips do it today, and she was very happy. She kissed me, and her soft hair in my neck made me smile again.



Today November 13¹⁹³⁵ I sat up!

I felt very important and capable. I wished that my Mother had let me do it longer but she snatched me up and hugged me tight in her arms.

Shirley first sat alone on this date but she was so tiny and her mother was afraid to let her sit long at a time for fear of straining her little back.

THESE ARE MY PICTURES



A snap shot of me at _____ weeks

My picture at _____ months



My picture at _____ months

AND HERE ARE SOME MORE

A snap shot of me at _____ months

My picture at _____ months

My picture at _____ months





Today ~~June~~ *June 10, 1936* I stood alone!

I stood right up for several seconds, then sat down abruptly, and after a few minutes of rest I tried it again. Just as I got on my feet my Mother came into the room. She squeaked in glee:

"O Daddy! The Baby's standing up!"

My Father came prancing in, proud as though he had done it himself.

Their excitement made me nervous, and I sat down again so suddenly it hurt.

I had to cry a little, but they both hugged me very tight and told me how wonderful I was, so I smiled at them and they went away to let me try again.





Today November 19, 1935 I have my first tooth!

I had been feeling cross for some weeks. My Mother told all her friends I was "teething." This meant nothing to me; I thought she was just excusing my ill temper. I never knew anything about teeth. I think it is stupid not to have brought them with me. I hear I will soon be getting a lot more. I hope they don't all hurt like this one.

The second tooth came December 2, 1935

The third tooth came December 31, 1935

The fourth tooth came January 16, 1936

The fifth tooth came January 17, 1936

At eleven months Shirley Sue had 12 teeth



Today_____.

I said my first word!

It was_____

My Mother was so excited she hugged me till I hurt all over. I almost cried, but I was too busy trying to say the word again. I hope that I will be able to do it for my Father. He is so proud of me when I do things I haven't done before.

Today August 8, 1936 ^{when began walking} I took my first step. ^(Had taken a few steps along before this)

I have been creeping and crawling for some time but today I grew tired of these slow methods of getting about, and decided to walk. It was easier than I had thought and I wish I had dared to try sooner. I fell down, of course, but I got up quickly and took another step right off.





Today _____ I had my first Party.

A lot of other Babies came with their Mothers who were all quite interested in us until things to eat were served. The Mothers had a pretty table filled with good things to eat but we only had milk and little white crackers. As it was my party, this didn't seem right and some of the Babies cried about it.

The party lasted most all the afternoon and by the time they left I felt pretty tired and Mother said I must have a nap.

The Guests were:





Today, December 25, 1935 is my "first Christmas."

I have a lovely big Christmas tree all covered with pretty things. They tell me that last night was Christmas Eve and that Santa Claus trimmed the tree. I just stared and stared.

I didn't see Santa Claus but he came down the chimney and brought lots of new toys. He filled my stockings which Mother says she hung over the mantlepiece.





Today May 30, 1936 is my Birthday!

That means that it is a year ago today that I came down from the stars. How long a time it seems! It is as though I had always been here with my Mother and my Father. They seem to grow sweeter to me each day.

Everyone has brought me gifts again—

Dress - Mother

Blue King Cole's - Larry

Dress - Mary Kiching

Tag - Helen

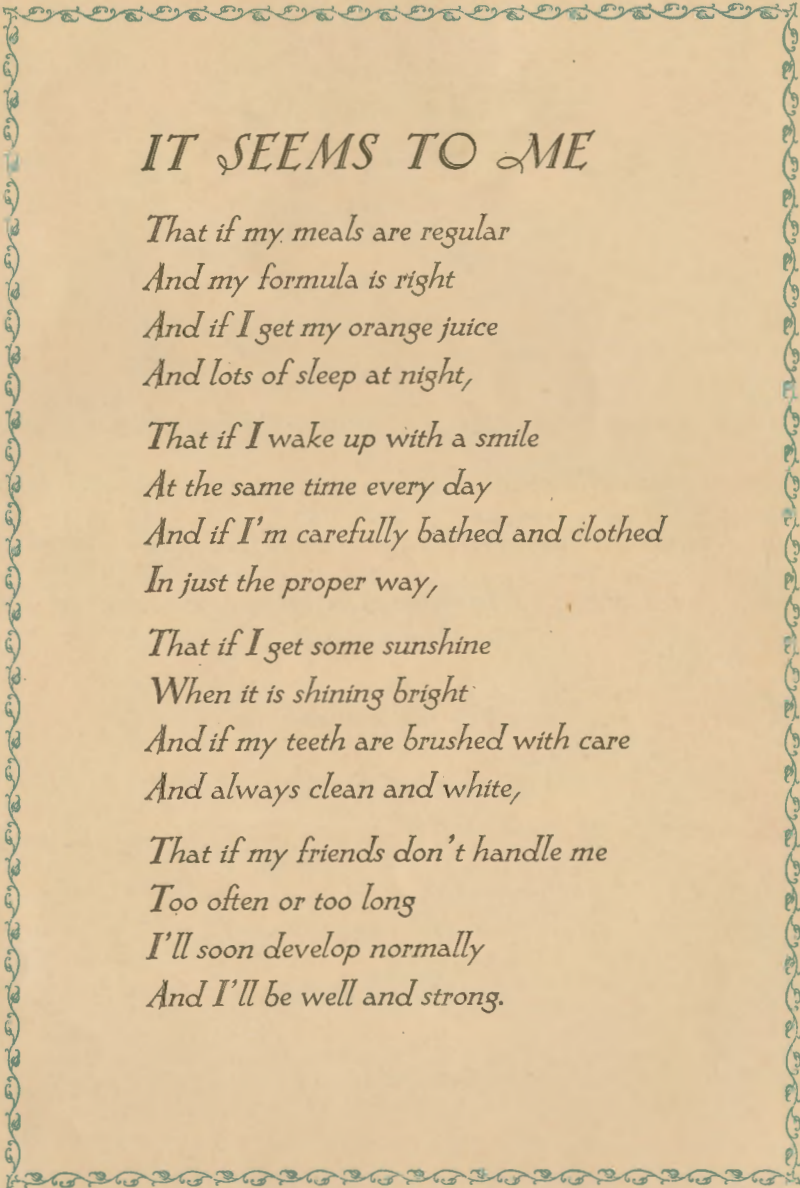
Gold beads - Mattie's Mamma
Kiching

Dresses - Mamma Williamson

Dresses and bonnet - Hazel

Ball - Gay Grumble

P.S. I will be too busy getting into things to keep this record any longer. So this ends the book.



IT SEEMS TO ME

*That if my meals are regular
And my formula is right
And if I get my orange juice
And lots of sleep at night,*

*That if I wake up with a smile
At the same time every day
And if I'm carefully bathed and clothed
In just the proper way,*

*That if I get some sunshine
When it is shining bright
And if my teeth are brushed with care
And always clean and white,*

*That if my friends don't handle me
Too often or too long
I'll soon develop normally
And I'll be well and strong.*

Due to the loss of Shirley Sue's baby book, I am recording the dates of her illness in this little book given by the Hospital as a future record.

In July ¹⁹³⁶ when she was fourteen months old she took the measles, having been exposed to Larry who had just preceded her - case was light.

Sprman, Larry, Shirley Sue and I left on Tuesday July 13-1937 for Memphis, Tenn. for purpose of consulting with Dr. Willis Conkell concerning back ^{condition} ~~condition~~. (We had been to see him in March 1936 when she was ten months old). After seeing the Dr. on Wed. morning we left for St. Louis that afternoon for purpose of consulting with Dr. V. P. Blair concerning malformation right ear. Enroute she was taken sick suddenly a few miles from Cape Girardeau, Mo. Continued sick in ~~Hospital~~ ^{Hotel} there till Saturday morning when we moved her to Hospital on recommendation of Dr. Hall whom we had called in on Thursday evening. She seemed to be suffering from ear throat, weakness by back, nausea and severe constipation, fever running around 103+104. On Sunday was clear of fever and was dismissed by Dr. Hall, but due to weakness of Shirley we decided to wait till Monday before leaving for St. Louis. ^{Early} ~~Monday~~ ^{Monday} ~~morning~~ ^{afternoon} ~~late~~ we noticed she had no use of her left arm - condition was reported to nurse on floor but she was unable to contact Dr. Hall till around 6 P.M. - He

pronounced the case as Infantile Paralysis
^{of left arm.} and isolated her, allowing me to remain with
her, Norman + Larry returning home the
following day. We remained isolated till
June. July 27 when we left by private car
to St. Louis where we were met by Norman,
who had compartment on train ready for us -
arrived in Atlanta at 8 A.M. Wed. July 28-1937.
After arriving home consulted Dr. Brewster
who put her in brace latter part of August
which she wore till last of Nov. or first of Dec.
Consulted Dr. W.B. Carroll of Dallas last of Dec.
On Jan. 2 he put on brace to hold arm out and place
muscles at rest. We stayed one week in Dallas going
to clinic each day to learn exercises. This brace she
wore till July when a stronger brace was made but of some
style - wore this till Oct. 17-1938 - due to condition
of back Dr. Carroll thought advisable to remove brace.
Took exercises till Nov. 1939 when went to Warm
Springs, Ga. where Dr. chief surgeon, said
exercises had done all good they could. Remained
on the foundation from Nov. to March where
was was sick in infirmary with upset stomach.
Had chicken pox in Dec. 1940, taking germ from Larry
who had in Nov. - Operated on in Baylor Hospital -
Dallas on Friday, June 7, 1940 by Dr. Carroll
for lowering of right scapula and loosening
tension of neck muscles on rt. side. Remained in
Hospital till June 16 (Sunday). Was very low
following operation - operation was at A.M.
out of operating room at A.M. - immediately
put under oxygen + given glucose and saline
water - blood transfusion on Sat. morning
and more glucose - Dr. Moore called
called in Sat. afternoon - more glucose on
Sunday - Conscious for 1st time on Sunday and
improvement began which increased rapidly
during week. Wore bandages six weeks removing
them on July 19-1940. In Oct. 1940 discovery made
by Dr. Carroll that back was worse + exercises for back started
by ~~immediately~~