

My
Early Boyhood Years
1938-1949



By
Douglas
MacKenzie
Scribner



Gordon Raymond Scribner



Alice Jane Johnson

This Certifies that
Gordon Raymond Scribner
and
Alice Jane Johnson
were united in
Holy Matrimony
7 June 1924
Oakland, California



With her sister Florence

Gordon and Alice had two sons born in Oakland while he worked as an Optometrist in San Francisco. However, in 1929 the American Stock Market crashed, which began the Great Depression. Though Gordon retained his employment, they were too concerned to have any more children for the next eight years.

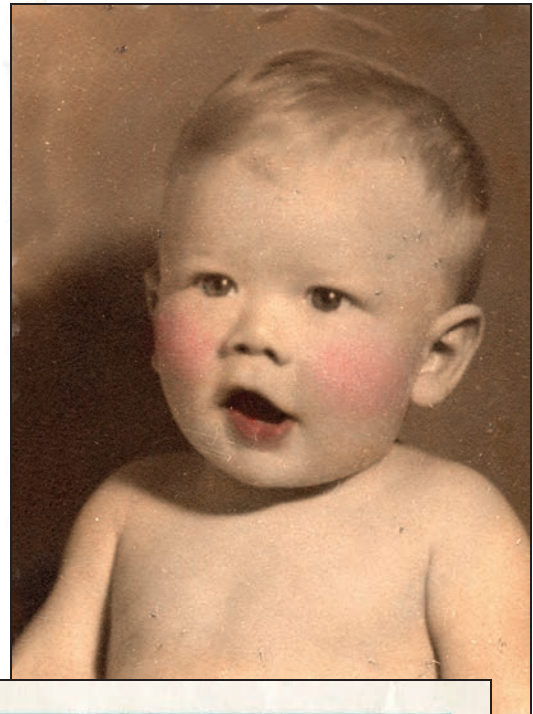


Kenneth Jerome
Scribner
b. 22 July 1928

David Gordon
Scribner
b. 15 May 1926

I was born 9 February 1938 and given the name Douglas MacKenzie Scribner. The middle name MacKenzie came from my grandmother Scribner's maiden name and gave me a strong tie to my ancestors in Scotland. From this I inherited the nickname "Mac" by which I was known for the next seventeen years.

Douglas MacKenzie
Scribner
(known as Mac)



Certificate of Registration
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
U. S. A.

This is to Certify, That DOUGLAS MACKENZIE SCRIBNER
was born on February 9th, 1938, in the city of Oakland.
That this birth was promptly reported by the attending accoucheur, as required by law.
If in the future a certified copy from the records of the Health Department is desired, refer to Index No. 542, year 1938.

The record of this birth may be used to prove citizenship or furnish proof of age for entering or leaving school, securing working permit or marriage license, holding public office, securing passports, adjusting insurance, inheriting money or property, and securing other financial benefits.

N. A. Ashley, M.D.
HEALTH OFFICER

INFORMATION RELATIVE TO BIRTH REGISTRATION MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE
THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS CERTIFICATE

22 Nov 1938, Piedmont Oakland Maternity Hospital Luella Stone Swauger:MD

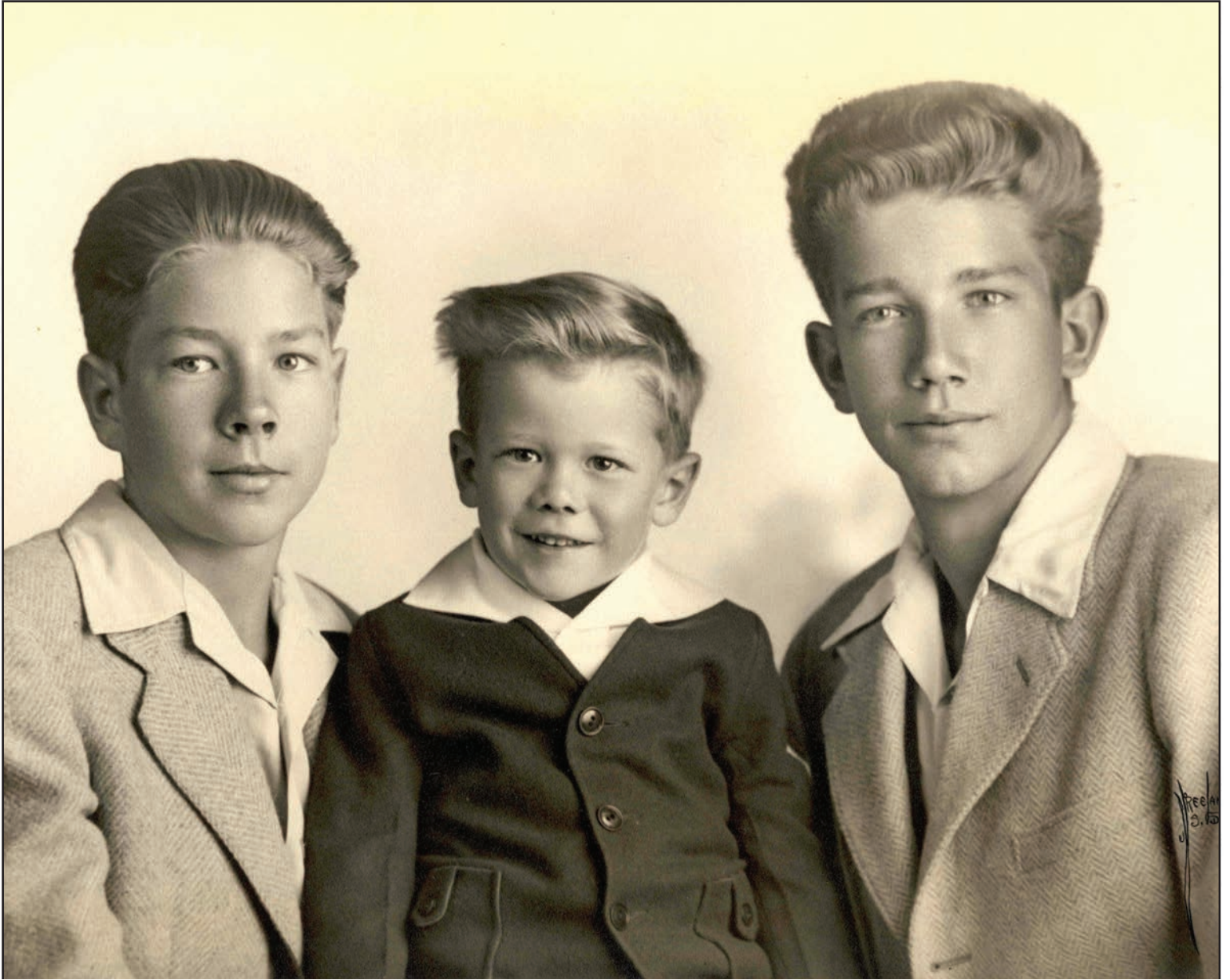
In 1939, when I was one year old, my father moved the family from



Oakland back to San Diego where he had grown up. His parents still lived there and his father, Irvin Aldridge Scribner, had a jewelry business so he could help Gordon start his optometric practice in a rented office in the Hillcrest District. Our family lived in a rented home on Panorama Drive where we became friends with Beth Ackerman and her son David, who was my age.

Two Year Old
Mac Scribner
in
San Diego

By the time I was four years old, my father had purchased a home in San Diego on Golden Gate Drive. My older brothers Ken and Dave, ages 14 & 16, were a great support to me there before I started school.



Ken

Mac

Dave

Of course my main support in those early years of boyhood was my mother and father. Mom taught me to be clean, kind and courteous as well as to work hard on jobs in the yard. Dad taught me to learn skills, read books, and to love adventures in the out-of-doors. He was also a great example of doing service for others. However my Scribner grandparents were also a big influence in my life. Ella taught me to learn about my Scottish ancestors. Irvin taught me to have faith in myself and to never give up. His example was amazing. His jewelry store had been robbed by thieves and his safe cleaned out. Instead of giving up he went to every customer who had left watches or jewelry in his store and promised to pay them back. Then he went back to work.



Ella & Irvin Scribner

Alice, Gordon, Ken & Mac

In 1943 I started Kindergarten at the nearby Alice Birney Elementary School. The birthday cutoff date was February 28 so with my birthday on February 9, I was among the youngest members of my class. Still, I loved school and the opportunity to make new friends. I was shy so my mother would often invite school friends from the neighborhood to come over to our home to visit and play. This continued through the first and second grades.

However, the biggest event of this period happened when my younger brother, Stephen Peter Scribner was born on August 7, 1945. Alice was 42 years old and Gordon was 45 so Stephen came as a big surprise. However he was such a happy child that he won over the affection of my parents and all their friends. Steve and I became the very best of friends and loved going on outings with the folks.



Stephen Peter Scribner with Mac

Then came a time of trial! I was eight years old and in the third grade when I began having serious health problems. I became a skinny little kid without much physical strength. A complete diagnosis revealed that I had Rheumatic Fever, which could lead to permanent heart damage. The doctor confined me to bed. I dropped out of school half way through the third grade and was home for one and a half years. Every afternoon I would get a high fever that would not subside until evening.



Mac home in the back yard.

So, what do you do to keep busy for a year and a half while recovering from Rheumatic Fever? Certainly my friends would still come to see me, though less and less as time went by. I also had a tutor who came and gave me homework to stay up with my class. However, mostly I developed hobbies. Stamp Collecting was a big one and coin collecting was another. Then it became building HO Gage model railroads. Finally it was learning and passing the requirements in Cub Scouts.



Part of a huge collection of stamps from many different countries.

↖ Friends including Dave Ackerman (rear, left)

Even Steve brought friends to visit me →



Returning to school for the 5th and 6th grades brought many new friends and some old ones back into my life. One of these friends was Harry Schenck. His father died when Harry was in the third grade so we involved him in many of our family outings. Since I was in better health, my dad planned many trips to the beach and to the mountains.



Dave Ackerman
with us in the snow.



Harry Schenck
with us on the beach.



Dad, Steve and me in the mountains.

In addition to class work and learning, the last two years of my Elementary School were a time of extra-curricular activities that helped me develop leadership and learn to serve others. The first example, in both 1948 and 1949, was the "Junior Traffic Patrol."

**SAN DIEGO
JUNIOR TRAFFIC PATROL**



Honorable Discharge

This is to Certify that:

DOUGLAS SCRIBNER

*having served as Junior Traffic Patrol Officer
at ALICE BIRNEY SCHOOL*

for 2 1/2 years from December, 1947

*to June, 1949 is hereby honorably discharged
from service with rank of Sergeant*

Principal Daniel R. Renke

Chief of Police A. Jensen

Director Marion Ham

Instructor Wayne Hettler

San Diego, California



Another example of extra-curricular activity was my participation in the Alice Birney School Service Club where I served as president of the Student Council. A third activity was the sixth grade choir.

San Diego City Schools

Alice Birney School Service Certificate

Mac Douglas Scribner

Has served in ALICE BIRNEY SCHOOL as a Student Council, Patrol
 During the 1948 - 1949 School year.

First Semester

This Certificate is awarded in recognition of the above service, which was in addition to regular classroom activities.

Date of Award February 4, 1949

Elizabeth R. Struthers Daniel R. Renke
 Sponsor Principal

**ALICE BIRNEY SCHOOL
 SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

NAME Mac Scribner
 Organization Pres. Student Council

This is to certify that the above named child is a member of the Alice Birney School Service Club. The bearer has been recommended by his teacher, the principal, and by the sponsor of the group.

Date Oct. 7, 1948
 Sponsor _____
 Principal Daniel R. Renke

Student Council



6th grade chorus

One important event that happened in our family during these years was the marriage of my brother Dave to Marion Dunn in January 1948 at the Riverside Inn. Dave met Marion while he was in the Army. She was the sister of one of his military friends. Since the war was then ending, Dave was released and was able to marry Marion. She was a beautiful red haired woman with many talents including a sweet personality and a great singing voice. She loved being in close harmony quartets. After they married they moved to Dalhart, Texas where Dave became a radio announcer and they began their family.



Gordon & Alice
in 1948

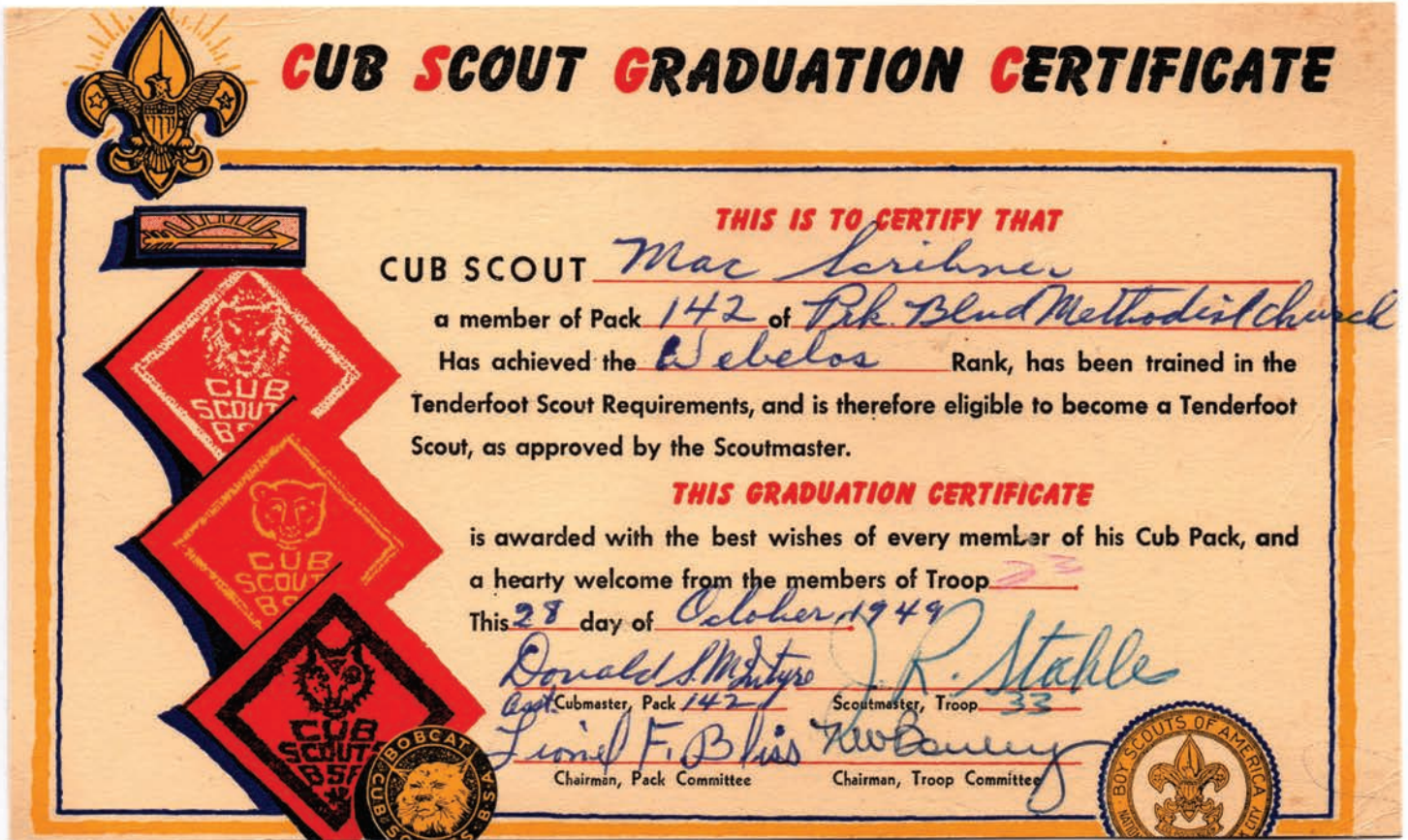


Dave and Marion with Mac & Steve

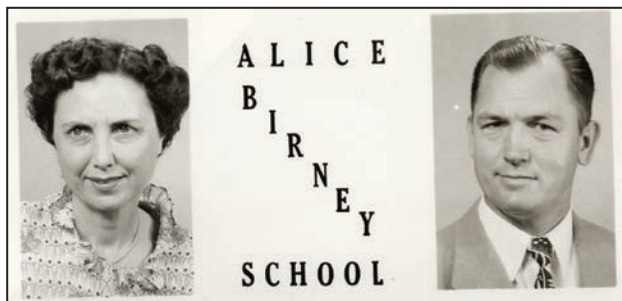


Dave & Marion with Grandpa
Johnson, Gordon & Alice

My graduation from the Cub Scouts was a big event which was the start of a life-long involvement with scouting. I completed the ranks including Webelos and was ready to become a Tenderfoot Scout.



However, an even bigger event was our graduation from Alice Birney. Our teacher, Mrs. Barnes and our principal Mr. Renke were great. She was a wonderful teacher and was also a mountain climber.



Me with Harry Schenck, other friends and Mrs. Barnes.



