

*Addendum to the Pinter Family History Book*

*The Harold Phillip Pinter Family*

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**H**arold Phillip Pinter, my dad, was born to Gustav and Katie Pinter in Ladd, Illinois, on April 24, 1914. He was their fourth child. It is not clear exactly where their house was when he was born. It is thought that Gus and Katie and family lived in a farm house on Cleveland Street (south end of Ladd) while the farm they worked was one-half mile north of Ladd. This farm was purchased just 2 years before Harold was born. It is likely that he was born in the house on Cleveland Street.

He had 4 other brothers and one sister.

**Chronology**

When old enough, Harold was sent to elementary school in Ladd. He attended school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

He quit school after the eighth grade as most boys did in that time frame. This would be about 1927. He went to work for his dad on the farm and later in the blacksmith shop. He was maybe 13 years old. He was confirmed at the Church on the Hill in 1929, the year his grandfather Jacob died.

During the years that mom was in High School (1933-1937), she related that dad would watch out for her as she went back and forth to school. Apparently, he hung out with the Rolando boys whose parents had a hotel or some other business on main street down in the area of the school.

He worked for his dad on the farm and the blacksmith shop until about 1937 (est) at which time he moved to Peoria and went to work for National Cylinder Gas Company as a janitor I believe.

In Peoria, he rented or purchased a very small house trailer that he lived in probably until he and Julia married.

They dated in the time frame of before 1937 to 1940 (est). He lived in Peoria. They married in 1940. He was about 26 and she was about 21. They moved into a house on Hines Street in Peoria Heights. In about 1942 he enlisted in the Army Air Corp. They sold or stored

their stuff, and he left for basic training while she moved back to Ladd and moved in with her parents.

Dad went to Goodfellow Field in San Angelo, Texas, to train as an airplane mechanic. Mom told about going over to visit dad's mom and dad periodically, especially when she would receive a letter from him.

After some period of time, Mom went to San Angelo to join him. When she arrived there, she rented an apartment. He was still confined to the base so he could not live with her, but he would apparently sneak off of the base in the trunk of a car to see her. Later, he was allowed to live off base, and so they moved into the apartment.

When he would get a furlough, they would take a train from Texas to Chilicothe, IL, and Aunt Alma would come and pick them up.

Mom was with dad for 3 years while he was in the service until he was sent to Japan. They spent some time in Spokane, Washington, and then dad went to Japan in Sept 1945 and was there for 5 months. After the war ended, he was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in the 8<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron on 18 Feb 1946.

They returned to Peoria, and things began to happen quickly. He returned to his job at NCG and purchased the two lots on Hazard Street and built the small house. I was born in May, 1947, all within 15 months of his Army separation.

Soon after completing the "little" house on Hazard Street, he began to plan and then build the larger home next door. The house was basically built by him with help from his dad and a friend named Barney.

We moved into the house when I was maybe 4 or 5 years old. Kathy was born soon after we moved in, in 1951.

One day when I was in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I recall coming home from school on my bike and learning that dad had been in an accident. I didn't think too much about it at the time, but later it was apparent that it was a serious accident and that he was in the hospital.

Apparently, he had been installing a new oxygen pipeline at a customer site, and they were cleaning the line with pure oxygen when it backfired or ignited, and a blast of flame hit him in the face and upper body. His boss was with him at the time. The story I heard is that he came up out of the hole he was in with his glasses melted off, his rolled up shirt sleeves on fire and skin hanging off his arms and chest. The glasses saved his eyesight, but the shirt sleeves caused heavy burns on his arms and chest. I'm not sure of the percentage burned but it seems to me it was maybe 25 – 30%. In those days (1958-59) this could be fatal.

When we were able to visit him in the hospital, he was pretty much wrapped up like a mummy. I wasn't smart enough or old enough to know how serious it was, and at no time did mom or anyone let on how serious it really was.

He had a lot of skin grafting later and ultimately survived the ordeal with only scarring on the chest and upper arms. He was off of work maybe 6 months. The image of him as a mummy and of his homecoming are quite vivid in my mind.

He recovered fully from this accident except for a significant scarring on his arms and chest. The years following were pretty normal. We took a number of driving trips for vacation. Many involved camping.

He spent a lot of time helping neighbors and relative fix things or remodel homes or install iron railing or whatever they needed. He also had to finish the big house because some of it was still unfinished when we moved in. He also build a “shed” in the back yard for gardening and yard tools.

When I joined the cub scouts and then boy scouts, he got involved and served for a while as treasurer for my boy scout troop. He drove me out to many campouts including trips in the dead of winter. We would leave after school on Friday and return back on Sunday.

He worked for 42 years at one company. He received a few promotions or maybe job changes until at one point he was their main field technician who would go out and install or fix the companies oxygen service equipment. Later in his career he was working with Liquid Oxygen. At one point he was offered and accepted a plan manager position in Peoria. He works this for a number of years but really disliked the people management aspect of the job. He preferred hands on. Also, at one point, he was offered a plant manager job in New Jersey but he turned it down.

During all these years, Mom was a stay-at-home mom. She did not work and did not drive. I believe later on she took a job in the Heights school cafeteria. She had to walk there every day to work.

Sometime in the year of 1988, he began to show some health problems. This manifested itself in weakness, which was not one of his typical characteristics. Mom said they traveled to New York and Washington DC with perhaps Gilbert and Lena, but that he was not interested in too much sight-seeing. I was in the process of getting ready to move from Schaumburg to Texas when he called to tell me that he had stomach cancer.

The cancer was so advanced and aggressive that I didn't even have a chance to visit. Donna Doyle called me the day of his death, 1988, to inform us. Movers were at my house packing our stuff into a truck at the time. The boys and I then drove to Peoria to attend the funeral and three days later drove to Austin.

### **Specifics**

He described that as a kid he raised pigeons and chased rabbits around the yard until he wore them out.

He described that in the winter the kids all slept together in a room to keep warm.

He had a keen interest in steam engines. When he lived on the farm, they used wood burning steam engines as tractors to perform farming activities. Apparently, as a kid, he drove these monsters. In the summers of many of my childhood years we would journey to Pontiac, Illinois, to the Thresherman's convention.

He built at least two houses basically by himself. His dad helped build the bigger house on Hazard. He also assisted a friend, Barny Sinkovich, in building his house in Peoria Heights. They helped each other build the two houses.

He had this tendency to tackle big projects and problems with the intent to figure out how to solve the problem or perform the task himself. This was, I believe, a Pinter trait. Consequently, for example, when it came time to place the radiant heat boiler in the basement from the garage, he rigged a system to lower it into basement without help from others.

He admitted that he was very good at copying someone else's idea, but was not as good at being creative himself.

He had exceptional mechanical skills. These included woodworking, welding and iron work, fixing anything, electrical wiring, and plumbing. He wasn't into car repair, however. He became recognized in the neighborhood, at his Church, and with the relatives as the go-to guy to get something fixed. He was an accomplished welder and made lots of things out of wrought iron. At one time, he taught welding skills at a school somewhere in Peoria.

Later in his life, he developed an interest in clock repair and construction. He built quite a few wooden clocks, including 3 identical grandfather clocks for his kids. But, this was apparently a life-long interest because he built two other clocks earlier in life: a Grandmother's clock and a very miniature grandfather's clock of a size that would fit on a shelf and with a pocket watch as the clock works.

He played two musical instruments in his life: the Marimba, and the Harmonica.

Harold had a variety of interests. One was photography. At one point, I'm not sure at which house, he had a dark room and would develop his own pictures. Also, it was his long time ambition to own an Edison Phonograph. He would travel around Illinois in search of this phonograph. He succeeded in finding two different units: one that had an inside horn, and one that required an outside horn. Of course, his goal was one that had the outside horn.

### **The Filippini Family (Julia Filippini married Harold Pinter)**

This section will focus on the Filippini family of Ladd, Bureau County, IL. Much has already been written on this family and can be found in [The Filippinis of Bureau County, Illinois](#), on my web site [www.kenpinter.com](http://www.kenpinter.com). Therefore, this will be a quick summary of the family.

My Mom, Julia Patricia Filippini, was born in Ladd Illinois on 24 November 1919 to Abramo and Anna Filippini.

Abramo Filippini was born in the village of Stabiazioni, in the commune of Sambuca, in the Province of Pistoia, region of Tuscany, in Italy on 29 March 1874. His parents were Giulio Filippini and Gioconda Taddei. He had 5 brothers and sisters. Little else is known about this family.

His wife, Annina (Anna) Cecchini was born in the nearby village of Case Pieli on 26 July 1886. Her parents were Jacopo Cecchini and Faustina Jacometti. She had 6 brothers and sisters.

Abramo and Anna married in about 1902. He was 28 years old, she was 16. They had both a civil and a church wedding. In about 1906, Abramo left Tuscany and sailed to America looking for a better life. His first child was born in Italy while he was in America and died soon after birth. Abramo found employment in Ladd, Illinois, as a coal miner. In 1908, Anna traveled to Amercia and joined him in Ladd.

Abramo and Annina bought a house in 1910 and raised a family of 8 children. One child died at about age 5.

Here is the complete family:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age in 1930</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Married</b>
Abramo Filippini	56	3/29/1874	10/26/1954	28 October 1904
Anna	43	7/26/1886	6/20/1981	
Unknown name	-	In Italy	In Italy	--
Dina	-	9/19/1909	2/6/1914	--
Olinto	19	12/8/1910	9/12/1982	Mary Cioni
Alma Anne	17	8/24/1912	4/28/2006	Frank Ellerbrock
Dino Benjamin	15	4/3/1914	1/16/1993	Dorothy Rose Grivetti
Delmo Robert	14	3/14/1916	2/7/2007	Bertha Buckingham Dorothy Campbell Rose Petree
Julia Patricia	10	11/24/1919	6/28/2007	Harold Pinter
Margaret Ann	7	6/20/1922	10/1/2006	Glenn Korte
Paul James	3y11mo	4/6/1926	12/10/2001	Geraldine Mae Zimmerman

The mines shut down around 1924 and Abramo and Anna worked for a while at a factory near Ladd. Abramo died on 26 October 1954. Anna lived to be 94 years old and died on 20 June 1981.

Again, refer to the section titled [The Filippinis of Bureau County, Illinois](#) on web site [www.kenpinter.com](http://www.kenpinter.com) for more information on the Filippini family.

### **Julia Filippini**

Julia Patricia Filippini, my mother, was born in Ladd, Illinois, on 24 November 1919. She was the seventh child born to Abramo and Anna.

The family led a simple and relatively poor life style. They maintained a garden for some of their food. The girls' toys were limited to maybe one sharable doll and lots of paper dolls. Christmas consisted of stocking stuffed with food items. A Christmas tree came later. Everyone in the family slept upstairs in the two rooms, three to a bed, that occupied the upper floor of their home. The lower level contained a kitchen and sitting room and storage.

Early in her childhood, Julia suffered from a "blood disease". The nature of the disease is unknown to me. Her parents employed an alternative medicine practitioner to heal her, and sometime after that, the disease was cured. The name of the actual disease and how and what actually cured the disease is unknown. However, it seems to have had no effect on the rest of her life.

Julia attended 4 years of high school and at one point participated on a girls basketball team, probably at the school. She graduated in about 1937. Around that time, she began dating Harold and they dated. They married in 1940 and set up housekeeping in Peoria, IL.

Harold had a job in Peoria and so they lived and worked in Peoria between 1940 and 1942. In 1942, Harold enlisted in the Army. He trained in Texas and Julia joined him there. Later he deployed to Japan and she went back home to Ladd to live until he was discharged from the service.

Julia spent most of her life as a stay at home mom. There were times in her life where she might have been employed, but it is not known if she was. Later, after her youngest daughter was in school, she worked for some time as a cafeteria worker in the nearby grade school system.

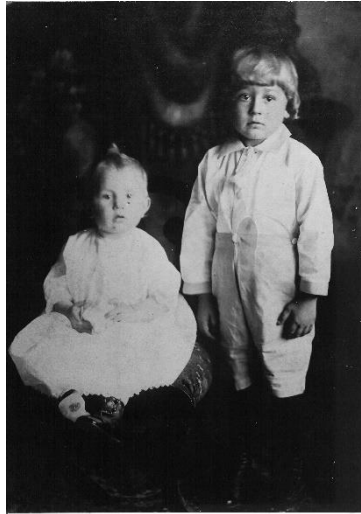
She never learned how to drive a car. When she needed to shop, she took a bus which was available a half-block from the house, so she could get most of what she needed by bussing to the stores. For groceries, however, she and Donna who lived across the street made weekly trips to the grocery store together. This went on for quite a few years.

Julia was a relatively healthy person. Her first major health issue was cancer of the mouth or throat. However, this was managed well by her docs. She also had some heart issues and when she died on 28 June 2007, it was due to cardiac arrest.

## Harold Pinter and Julia Pinter Family Photo Album



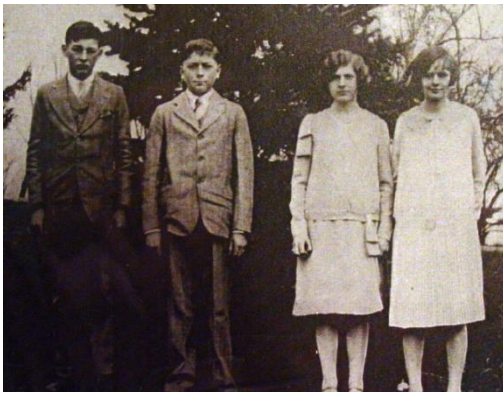
Katie and Harold – ca 1914



Gilbert and Harold- ca 1919



Harold – ca 1829



Harold confirmation – ca 1929



Harold and Julia – location and date unknown





Harold's trailer and car in Peoria – ca 1937

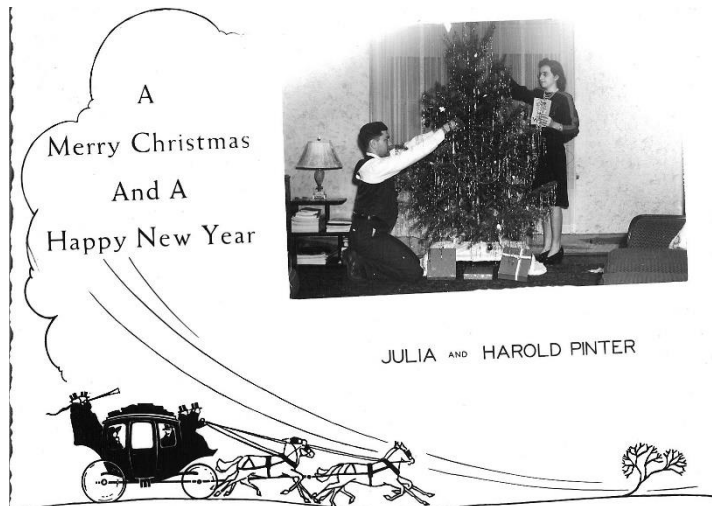




Harold in center



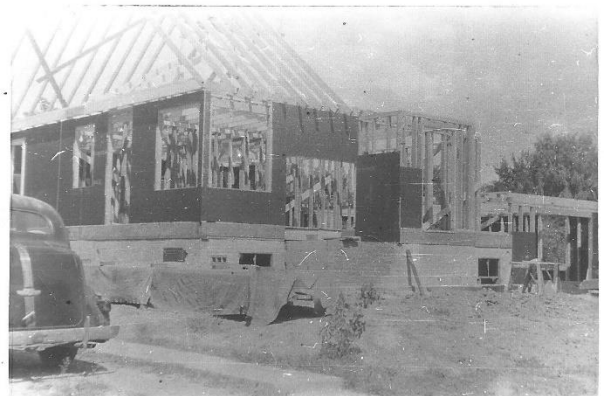
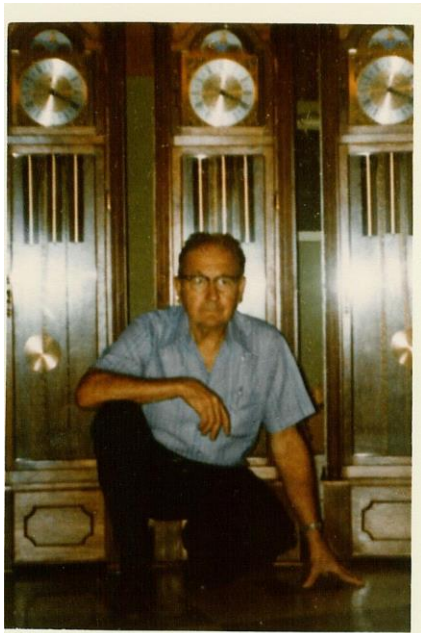
Harold and Julia at Margaret's wedding

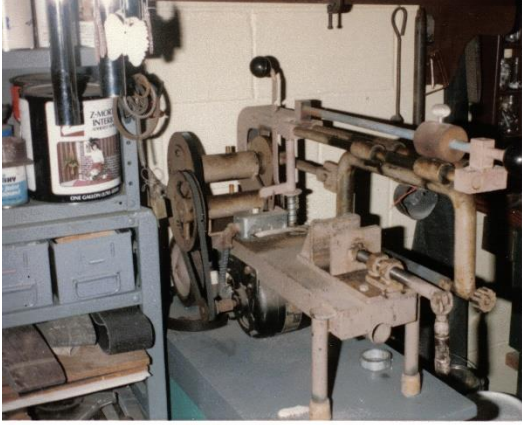




Harold's retirement party







Power hack-saw



Can crusher



Julia and Ken and the roto-tiller



Play house with Carrie from next door



Fireplace and trailer