Betty, Brian and Robert pose in their Sunday clothes by the family’s ’51 Dodge Wayfarer with its new California license plates. Taken on Easter Sunday April 5, 1953. Most everyone in West Covina was from somewhere else, just like the Rogers!
Betty’s last pregnancy occurred when she was 33. Jonathan David was the only son born in California, joining the family in May 1954.
Dallas, Betty and their three sons on Christmas Day 1954

The three Rogers boys Christmas 1955

Dallas, Betty and their three sons on Christmas Day 1954

A growing family in the mid-1950s
Betty’s parents Ward and Mabel McCartney came by train to see their new grandson in January 1955, and made the down-payment on a new Maytag washing machine, which revolutionized Betty’s life....
The Rogers home at 1433 E. Portner Street in West Covina, as it appeared in 1955. The small deodar pine in right foreground was the family Christmas tree in 1953. Dallas made improvements to the home and grounds each summer, adding fences, gates, patios, gardens, playhouse, etc. The San Gabriel Mountains loom across the northern skyline.
Every five years or so the family returned to the Midwest to see their relatives.

In the summer of 1956 they drove their 1954 Dodge, via Las Vegas and Salt Lake City to the Juni relatives in Minnesota.

They returned along the northern route, visiting Mt. Rushmore (shown here) and mom’s cousins in Grants Pass, Oregon, on the long drive back to California.

Robert was 10, Brian 6, and David 2-1/2
The 1956 trip included a view of New York Central’s futuristic *Train of Tomorrow* (left) in Elkhart, built by General Motors.

The other views show the pony rides at Grandparent McCartney’s home in Niles. Robert managed to fall off the pony. He stuck to driving trucks after that.
Left: David posing with Betty in late 1956. Upper center: Betty, Brian, and David in summer 1957. Lower center: Betty and Dallas enjoyed gardening, filling their home with fresh-cut flowers. Right: Like her mother Mabel, Betty most enjoyed being the ‘queen of her kitchen.’
Family photo taken on Easter Sunday, April 8, 1957, when Dallas was 37 and Betty 36

Note brothers in matching suits, from Robert Hall Clothiers.

These were the only matching suits we ever had, but we always dressed in our best to honor the Lord on Sunday morning.
Betty and her boys wearing matching red corduroy shirts made by Grandma Rachel for Christmas 1957. Robert still has his....
The three Rogers boys and father Dallas visiting Solvang in August 1957. David loved wearing hats and sunglasses, as seen here. He was trying to be stylish, like his dad.
One of Betty’s favorite haunts was Birkholm’s Danish Bakery in Solvang, shown here in 1957.

Betty always dressed stylishly, and was frequently mistaken for various celebrities.

- One of Betty’s favorite haunts was Birkholm’s Danish Bakery in Solvang, shown here in 1957.
- Ask Betty about her delicious *abelskivers*!
**Last trip to the snow:** Betty pulls 4-yr old David on the old family sled, while Robert tries to slide on his stomach in background, with his broken arm in a sling. This was our last trip to the snow, at Oak Glen in the spring of 1958.
One of the family’s favorite activities were day trips here and there in southern California, when Betty packed a picnic lunch in this travel set given to my parents by Grandma Rachel before they moved to California. A family picnic was always something special.
Brian’s 8th birthday party on August 26, 1958. We are sitting in the breezeway patio of Betty’s home on Portner Street, with the Ronketty family. Right: Enlargement of Betty’s slippery summer party dress, in the Spanish damsel motif...
Dallas and Betty enjoyed their swimming pool, built in the summer of 1958.

Dallas built the pool house in the summer of 1959, using salvaged materials and concrete block.

He mounted flood lights and globe lamps in the rafters to accommodate night swimming in the summer.

Even with an unheated pool, Dallas and Betty swam year-round (one brewed coffee while the other swam first thing each morning)
The Rogers’ home on Portner Street as it appeared in the summer of 1958. The Monterey pine tree at left was the family Christmas tree in 1954. The walnut tree at right was part of the original English Walnut orchard that preceded our subdivision, so .... we never ran out of walnuts.
The Rogers Family on Easter Sunday, March 29, 1959, with Dallas’ mother Rachel. She made the matching suit coats that Brian and David are wearing. Note hats and white gloves being worn by the ladies.
Christmas Open House

Dallas and Betty sitting on the outer rear patio, which featured a fountain.

Betty standing in the new entryway built by Dallas in the summer of 1959.
One of Betty’s collateral duties was hosting Dallas’ annual Christmas Open House each year, when teachers would tour our home and punch holes in the linoleum with their high heels …
The Rogers home in West Covina, just after the summer 1960 additions, which more than doubled the home’s floor space. The old garage became the “new living room,” and a new, larger garage, was detached from the house (seen at far right).
In 1961 the family took the Santa Fe train *El Capitan* from Los Angeles to Chicago and spent a month living with Betty’s parents in Niles, Michigan, visiting relatives in Michigan and northern Indiana.
Best dressed family in West Covina

Family images from Christmas 1961, showing typical garb worn on Sundays, while attending church and hosting guests at our home afterwards.
The Rogers Clan, all spruced up for Christmas activities in 1962, a few weeks after the Cuban Missile Crisis shook us all up. All of the paintings were painted by Dallas.

Betty (right) and Dallas’s mother Rachel (at left)
Images from early 1963. A stylish streak of grey hair began to appear on Betty’s right forehead around the time of her 42nd birthday, in March 1963. Her mother Mabel had snow white hair by age 40.
Betty’s cousin Chuck Juni hailed from Midland, Texas. He rolled into town for the 1962 Rose Bowl Game and marveled us all with his Cadillac, cigars, and $100 bills. So, Betty’s son Dave decided to become a geologist...
1964 Graduations

Brian graduated from junior high one evening and Robert graduated from high school the following night in June 1964. Image at right from Santa Ynez Mission in June 1965. Note Dave’s jaunty fighter pilot hat.
1964 trip to Carmel

Betty with her friend Elsie Smith and husband Gerald

Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo

Cypress Point
Mother Appreciation Training: Betty drove back to Michigan with her high school classmate Mary Jean Yoder in August 1965, leaving her boys home to wash dishes and fend for themselves for several weeks.
By 1965-66 hemlines were on their way up, much to Grandma Mac’s dislike. However, there were still a few ladies that wore fuchsia colored pillbox hats to church on Easter Sunday; Elizabeth Rex in London and Lady Rogers in West Covina, shown at right.
In the summer of 1966 Betty accompanied Dallas on a month-long artist’s tour of Europe, which Dallas had been planning for years. Betty was always an adept traveler, and liked Switzerland best because it was so clean.