

Inventory List

Diaries of Stanley “Stan” Cook

19 Diaries (1930-1936)

6 War Diaries (5/16/42 – 5/46)

1 1952 diary with Railroad timetables

1 British Isles Pocket Atlas for Tourism

2 Papers from American Red Cross and Itinerary of sightseeing trip to Paris and Versailles

Indexing for first nineteen diaries for 1930 – 1936. Last entry is April 30, 1936

Book 1 – July, 1930 to May, 1931 contains the following inserts: Melophone Club Show at North High; The Boston and Albany Railroad schedule from June 17, 1951

Book 2 – May, 1931 to August 1931

Book 3 – August, 1931 to December 1931 contains a program for the”Melophonic Club Show at North High dated Friday, December 1, 1931

Book 4- December 25, 1931 to March 17, 1932

Book 5 – April, 1932- June, 1932

Book 6 – June 17, 1932 to August 15, 1932

Book 7 - August 15, 1932 to October 26, 1932

Book 8 - October 27, 1932 to February 10, 1933

Book 9 - February 10, 1933 to May 26, 1933

Book 10 – June, 1933 to September, 1933

Book 11 - September 10, 1933 – January 13, 1934

Book 12 – January 13, 1934 to May 2, 1934

Book 13 – May 4, 1934 to August 6, 1934

Book 14- August 7, 1934 to October 11, 1934

Book 15- October, 1934 to February, 1935

Book 16 - February, 1935 to April, 1935

Book 17 – April 1935 to July, 1935

Book 18 – July, 1935 to November, 1935

Book 19 – November, 1935 to April, 1936

Last Entry in this series of diaries is April 30, 1936

Stanley Cook was born in Worcester on June 30, 1914, the only child of Oke and Emma Cook and grew up on Gosnold Street of what is considered the Greendale section of Worcester. His passions were railroads and art illustrations.

International/Domestic Happenings

July 23, 1930 Interposed a telephone conversation between New York City and London

July 24, 1930 Death toll in the Italian South and Central rises to 1883 with 10,000 injuries

April 15, 1931 King Ferdinand of Spain goes to Portugal when he realizes that his monarchy is doomed

March 1, 1932 Charles Lingbergh's baby son is kidnapped. Country is in an uproar.

March 4, 1932 Kidnapping blazes first

March 15, 1932 George Eastman of Kodak committed suicide and yet lives on

May 12, 1932 Newspaper boy's shouting at the top of their lungs in the middle of the street, "Lindbergh, Jr. is found dead".

February 14, 1933 Ernie Schaaf, a well-known boxer is dead from an intra-cranial hemorrhage following a knock out in the hands of Giant Carnera. Died after a blood clot was removed.

Worcester Happenings

July 27, 1930 Prohibition Agents are fighting downtown

August 5, 1930 Two trolleys were proceeding to Worcester. At turnout # 43, the #1 car motorman failed to signal and the trains collided as the second car came around a blind curve. The Trolley's telescoped. 30 people were injured with 2 critically and the motorman lost his legs.

March 14, 1931 Excavation began for new auditorium at Lincoln Square.

March 28, 1931 The A & P Market and other new stores opened on New Bond Street

April 6, 1931 On Pleasant Street, bulbs that worked from a form of a remote control were placed in a bowl with goldfish

May 23, 1931 400 planes flyover Worcester headed to Boston

June 3, 1931 Whiskey bootlegger murdered by the Lake

June 4, 1931 Old arc light are being substituted by the frosted heart shaped globes

June 5 1931 Police raid at Roads Point where a drunken crowd watched two French girls, age 22 and age 26 dancing nude under the management of a 36 yoa man. The 22 year old girl was on probation from a girl's reformatory.

June 29, 1931 Description of Ringling Brothers Circus attractions

June 29, 1931 Describes the piggery on East Mountain Street

July 9, 1931 Everyone is yo-yo ing in Worcester; they are \$.25 and the mayor uses it to build his muscles

July 27, 1931 Fire at White City. Fun House, Bathing Pool and Jay's Bowling Alley is burned

August 21, 1931 Reed's Pipe Organ factory is past Wachusett Country Club on Malden Street

August 28, 1931 Mentions Pressed steel museum company

December 27, 1931 Stan went to the West Side of Worcester where there was a yard filled with artificial snow and had an illuminated castle of ice. On Flagg Street, there is a Santa going down the chimney that casts up a red flaming light.

December 30, 1931 New “high class” Westwood Hill residential Park is being built

January 19, 1932 All Saints Church is in ruins after it was set on fire.

January 31, 1932 Fire at 62 Anthrop Street. Quite a description of the fire.

May 28, 1932 Great description of the Walter L. Main circus

June 28, 1932 Ringling Brothers circus train came in from Manchester

July 1, 1932 Wild West rodeo is at the American Legion

Month of August and September 1932 Newspaper article and diary entries regarding the Greendale A.A. baseball vs. the Worcester T & G

September 5, 1932 Politician was booed and laughed off the field

September 27, 1932 Judge Webster Thayer’s house and garage blown to fragments by a bomb. No one was killed

October 1, 1932 Auto Races are being held at the Fairgrounds.

October 1, 1932 The Klondyke Casino has an exhibit at the Industrial Building. People can gamble with fake money and was told about scams

December 1, 1932 Local hardware store goes bankrupt

January 21, 1933 Goes to the new building at the Art museum and is impressed with the international exhibit

July 14, 1933 Reed’s Organ Factory goes bankrupt

September 2., 1933 Mentions C.C. Lowell’s

September 4, 1933 There are now electric lights along Holden Street

September 27 1933 100,000 people thronged Main Street to witness the Municipal Auditorium Dedication parade

December 25, 1933 CWA men are chopping down every tree along Brooks and Ararat Streets in order to widen the streets

June 27, 1934 The Commerce High School is the first graduation held at the Memorial Auditorium

July 28, 1934 Madame Maree’s circus at White City

August 29, 1934 First “talkie” Treasure Island at the Poli Theatre

November 25, 1934 CWA widens Clark St, a little used road

July 2, 1935 The very long, old wooden icehouse belonging to Walker Ice Co on Grove Street is destroyed by fire with 60K worth of damage

August 16, 1935 Metro-Goldwyn Company of Hollywood makes movie in Grafton “Ah, Wilderness”

February 29, 1936 Rembrandt exhibition about to leave Worcester

March 19, 1936 Serious floods wash out railroads, bridges and countless homes. Salisbury Pond rose higher than Grove Street and flooded close to Lincoln Square. Sand bags put up to protect Northworks.

Railroads

August 11, 1930 The old car rails from Leominster to Clinton are being taken up. The Worcester Consolidated that was abandoned in 1925 formerly owned the rails. It was once the nucleus of the extensive northern system of the W.C.S.R.

September 7, 1930 The last Holden car, "Momentous" ran today. A red lantern was hung at the rear of the car to signify the last run.

September 8, 1930 A trolley car runs from the city line from the square for \$.10. The route number has been changed from 26 to 7. The car tracks have been removed on Shrewsbury Street. Busses are now following the route through Chaffins (Holden) from Jefferson with the Trolleys running only at rush hour.

October 20, 1930 The Worcester-Millbury car line is to be abandoned to the Grafton line.

October 30, 1930 trolleys now serve The Grafton City Line via Millbury.

November 1, 1930 Boston, Worcester and New York transport Company get a permit to operate a bus in Westboro over new turnpike

December 12, 1930 The 6:30 Mt Ararat is a gasoline engine passenger train. Details on engine, cabooses and tramps

December 15, 1931 Only the Grafton City Line and North Worcester line will have terminals at Salem Square.

December 15, 1931 Longest car line is Worcester to West Auburn

January 15, 1931 B & W Electric car, "the pride of the Massachusetts Railroad System" is thrown out of service between Framingham Center and Worcester. Villages along the route swung their lanterns in tribute as the last car sped to Framingham.

February 28, 1931 List of trolley transfers

May 23, 1931 The Consolidated is to abandon the Grafton City line trolley and replace them with busses at \$11,000 each

March 29, 1931 State is building road from Summit to West Boylston. The abandoned right of way was bought from the Worcester Consolidated Railroad, an electric railway that was abandoned in 1928. It was the finest in the United States. The Ny, NH railroad had control of the trolley company and therefore it placed its busses on the road and consolidated to abandon the "airline"

June 21, 1931 Rocky Point in Providence are still running the old fashioned open cars

July 10, 1931 Speaks of the "El" – the "Elevated" in Dorchester

July 16, 1931 Consolidated will not motorize Shrewsbury Street and will continue the Lake and Lake View Cars

August 2, 1931 Saw Consolidated's barn in Northboro where it cannot be used because there are no overhead wires to Worcester and no tracks for a stretch.

August 10, 1931 Reconstructing Burncoat Street and laying new tracks

August 11, 1931 Morning and evening runs of North Worcester trolley will be substituted with busses

September 2, 1931 Relaying the rails at Larson Square. The right northbound is open on Burncoat on the new stretch from Randolph St to Dorothy Street

September 4, 1931 Description of the Lynn, Lawrence, Newburyport and Salem trains. The Salem Lawrence line is unique because the conductor is used between turnpike and Andover. Two man cars are rare.

September 12, 1931 Three lines have been discarded: the Franklin Street line (Rte 8); Elm Park Line (Rte 3) and the Grafton City Line (Route 5). The Salisbury Street Line connected with the normal school line

October 12, 1931 In North Worcester, the tracks are being taken up from the ice house at Nelson Place to the turn off at North Worcester

October 31, 1931 Consolidated Street Railroad barn between Holden Center and Jefferson burns

November 29, 1931 In Fitchburg, the former Gardner-Fitchburg trolley line route is now “Flanagan’s busline”

December 9, 1931 The B & M Railroad has petitioned to discontinue its single passenger train between Oakdale and Northhampton and operate only necessary freight trains. Closed nineteen more public stations

January 16, 1932 Railroads are in very bad shape. The B&M petitioned to abandon the Oakdale and Northhampton and 16 stations from Jefferson to Hadley

January 9, 1932 At North Worcester station, they twisted the car shack so that it faces the road instead of the tracks

February 1, 1932 Commuter rates to Boston is \$8.85

April 4, 1932 The Boston, Worcester and New York Railroad will have to abandon the remainder of its trolley system to suit the public utilities board on the new turnpike stretch from Framingham to Boston. Biggest, finest cars in New England will be scraped.

April 7, 1932 In one week, the last BW & NY trolley will run to Wellesley because the turnpike is commencing operation from Framingham. The barns are being razed.

May 31, 1932 Old B and W Railway Company followed line into Chesnut Hill. It was once the finest in New England. Still runs but it is its former self.

June 10, 1932 Last B and W trolley rolled into Framingham

September 21 1932 From South Station to Worcester, a New England Wolverine #13 express takes one hour

October 4, 1932 Worcester to Boston train speeds up to 80 MPH, normally 60 mph

December 7, 1932 The Wolverine #13 is a unique train. The train’s whistle is fierce, loud and impatient, sounding like a wolf chasing a deer. The conductor of the train is unusual having a weird and drawn-out “A-Board”, sounding like a wolf cry

January 5, 1933 Writing to the Electric Railways to get timetables before all electric lines are abandoned. They are getting scarce and therefore the timetables will be priceless

February 10, 1933 (Book 9) Stan notes on the title page that the Worcester trolleys are being painted orange red with cream trim

February 12, 1933 The first snow train of the season. All the gas trains are being pulled by steam locomotives

April 19, 1933 Saw new busses on the New Lake View- Lincoln Street Bus line. Route #12 is the Old Millbury car line. Lists some of the Consolidated abandoned car line.

May 9, 1933 Royal Scot, the crack L.M.S. flyer from England is on the sidetrack at Union Station. Red Maroon engine. It’s the fastest train of all.

June 3, 1933 The Boston Elevated discontinued the trolleys past Cypress Street on the Chesnut Hill line and beyond Audubon Road on the Cypress-Ipswich and Mass Station

June 6, 1933 Mentions the Trolley Sprinkler Car, and intensely brilliant but softly lighted

July 15, 1933 Sprinkler car with bright mellow lights and a shiny paint with a clear, musical gong.

July 15, 1933 The “490” series is used on the summit line, formerly used on the Spencer line. It is equipped with facilities for using an arc-light

August 12, 1933 At the Bryn Mawr turnout, the street lights are out as an economy measure

October 16, 1933 The Eastern Mass Co. to Stoneham is extremely clean newly painted. The operators wear nice gray/green uniforms with leather leggings, "sam browne" belts and nicely shaped caps

February 14, 1934 Train service between Springfield and New York abandoned indefinitely because of the blizzard

April 26, 1934 Saw a radically new train, CB&Q's "Zephyr" on exhibit at South Station

September 26, 1934 Rode on the first air-conditioned coaches to Worcester

October 7, 1934 Johnson Line Bus travels to Petersham

Railroad Accidents

September 16, 1930 A North Worcester car jumped the track at a curve below the Northworks station

March 5, 1931 Electric Railway service of the NY, NH railroad was disrupted on the Boston to Nantucket line when tracks were washed out when the schooner "Nancy" was thrown by the waves onto the tracks

May 28, 1931 In Fargo, North Dakota, a train was lifted off the tracks by a tornado

June 8, 1932 In Clinton, the Marine Bulle, the crack freight company that operates the express schedule is derailed by a broken track. Fourteen cars burned.

October 13, 1932 Two persons are dying after Back Bay train crash

Interesting items

April 7, 1931 Railroad bed in East Northboro is under the road

June 21, 1931 A list of the Providence trolley lines

June 29, 1931 Fare on the Lake Shore line is raised from \$.17 to \$.20

August 22, 1931 Investigations into the ice cream business caused the price to drop from a high of \$.60 - \$.70 for quarts and from \$.25 - \$.30 to \$.15 - \$.05 for a cone

August 21, 1931 Uncle loses job in Philly. "Conditions of the country is terrible, no work, no money, nothing".

October 18, 1931 The Evangelist Aimee Semple MacPherson Hutton threw down bibles to people who did not own one. 40,000 people were in attendance at the Boston Garden.

October 31, 1931 Thomas Edison is buried. All lights are turned off in his memory.

October 31, 1931 Tuberculosis sanitarium being built near Briar Lane.

November 20, 1931 Stan played violin at the Bancroft Hotel where there were many women smoking.

November 28, 1931 Newspaper article on the views of famous authors – "The Industrial Revolution will result in man's dominance being duntrodden by the women of tomorrow who

are becoming amazons through their participation in sports while men are deprived of exercise by machines.

December 5, 1931 People are unable to afford coal for their furnaces and stoves

January 31, 1932 Present fad is Eddie Cantor's "quack-quacks"

June 28, 1932 Listing of timetables for railroads, busses, steamships

July 30, 1932 Milk is \$.11

September 27, 1932 The New York Yankees beat the Chicago Cubs 12-6 in the World Series

December 30, 1932 J. Smith is building an organ in his barn

March 6, 1933 All banks in the United States are closed this morning with no explanation

March 8, 1933 Banks remain closed

March 10, 1933 Banks are open but practically no one but the unemployed may draw out money

April 13, 1933 14" of snow in Worcester; 3" in Rhode Island and 28" in NH

April 24, 1933 "Major Mite", the tiny midget is seen walking along Beacon Street in Boston.

"A baby faced, tiny little being in long pants talking in a baby voice with brains and confidence of a mature man

September 21, 1934 Describes the Boston North End's slums

Stan Cook's life

1930 Attends North High School where he is in the "All Worcester High School Symphony Orchestra", playing the violin. Also involved with the Drama Club, Stamp Club, Demosthenes Club, Debate Club

May 23, 1931 Mother sees ghosts in their home

July 3, 1931 Stan teaches Sunday School at Zion Lutheran Church

July 10, 1931 Stan takes a long journey on the railroad: Boston to Park Square, South station to Quincy Neponset, Brockton, Holbrook, Ashmont to Scollay Square. Took Salem Limited in Chelsea to Saugus to Salem to Lawrence and Marblehead

July 29, 1931 Stan's 17th birthday

September 18, 1931 Speaks of the Oakdale-Jefferson B & M tracks

September 27, 1931 Barbers car to City Hall to West Auburn. Got off at Prospect Park to Twin Oaks terminal to Worcester and spoke with motorman. Consolidated asked to run the Malvern Road bus that the Auburn selectman ok'd as long as the West Auburn line is not abandoned. Took summit car to the end of the line and thus riding from the farthest southern point of the trolley system to farthest north.

October 15, 1931 Stan is selected to play at the Teacher's Convention in the small symphony at the Plymouth Theatre

November 25, 1931 Father worked at Norton and has not worked in four weeks. Father lost job at Norton after 25 years. 500 of 2300 still employed at Norton. Father makes a little by cutting hair. Depression is the twin of the Panic of 1837. It took the Gold Rush to overcome the Panic.

December 25, 1931 Darned Depression dampened Christmas – "No giving, no getting".

January 26, 1932 Stan wants to go to the Massachusetts College of Art. States that he can't go anywhere unless the Depression eases up. "It will be a cursed thing, I've had plans for my life"

January 29, 1932 Pa got work at last. He got a temporary job until Pa's division starts up again. "Now I may be able to go to art school".

March 17, 1932 Stan wore a brilliant orange tie

April 11, 1932 North High Orchestra is the best in the City

April 14, 1932 The Norton annual picnic is held at Sandy Beach because of the Depression saving \$72.00.

April 22, 1932 Mother's brother, John is hit by a car in Norway and dies

May 12, 1932 Teacher has seen to it that he gets a \$100.00 scholarship to art school

May 27, 1932 Went to the Historical Society and looked at stamp albums and antiques. "What a time we had".

June 12, 1932 High School graduation

June 25, 1932 Using punching bag to develop agility

July 1, 1932 Accepted at Massachusetts College of Art, now is only worry is finances

July 9, 1932 Trip to Cape Cod to visit Johnson Point. Left at 6 and arrived at 10:45.

July 30, 1932 Eighteenth birthday

August 30, 1932 Ate cream cheese and olive sandwiches

September 15, 1932 Stan goes to the Arnold Arboretum via the Forest Hills elevated

September 19, 1932 First day of art school. Left house at 5:45 a.m and took the 7:00 a.m. local and was at Huntington Avenue at 8:03 a.m. Left Boston at 4:00 and arrived home at 6:05.

October 7, 1932 Home telephone is now disconnected because it is too expensive

November 26, 1932 Went looking for greens at Holden Reservoir

December 15, 1932 Receives letter of introduction to the New England Greenfell Association offices in the Nottingham Building to sketch a view of Copley Square and Trinity Church

December 23, 1932 Mass Art Christmas celebration. Santa gives presents of cookies to teachers and freshman students. "Eats for the sweet".

January 21, 1933 Stan begins to note how many miles he walks per day.

July 30, 1933 Nineteenth birthday

August 13, 1933 Hitches ride with the Cox Cakeman – does this frequently

December 12, 1933 Notes that his writings are devoid of emotion but that he is an extremely joyful person and that he is blessed

February 14 1934 Blizzard. The snow is to Stan's waist. Worcester – 18" with drifts. New Haven – 28"

February 25, 1934 Saw Whistler's Mothers painting at MFA before it went to Chicago

May 23, 1934 Elected president of the sophomore class

May 25, 1934 Lutheran Orchestra plays at Rutland Sanitarium

July 30, 1932 twentieth birthday

August 14, 1934 Mistakenly went into the Girl's locker room

August 26, 1934 Takes the boat from Rowe's Wharf to Nantasket and tells the story of the intoxicated crowd

October 9, 1934 On the student advisory board

October 18, 1934 Junior Class president

February 2, 1935 Saw three talkies – "David Copperfield, "Fate's Fathead"

February 2, 1935 Father's 50th birthday

March 30, 1935 Speaking with David Johnson the owner of Johnson Steel and Wire Co about a job

April 9, 1935 Family now has an electric refrigerator

June 3, 1935 Mother's 50th birthday

June 12, 1935 Getting ready for his commencement where Governor Curley is the speaker

November 12, 1935 Paints "Northworks at Night", a sincere piece of work. Feels he should make a series of similar ones