

Together at Last



DURING MY WEEK'S VISIT IN 1956, I never heard a word about Chris or Sally from Helen or her family. Of course, I had not been given any clue by my mother, Goldie, that there was a Chris, Sally, and Helen situation. However, Chris must have continued to be on the back burner for Helen, as they were married September 4, 1968. The events that brought this wedding about are not known, as Goldie saved absolutely no letters from those years. I wish there were a few at least, as she had saved so many from other years.

Again, we can write our own story here. Did Sally die? Did she and Chris finally get a divorce? The only clue of the wedding date was Helen's letter of September 1984 telling of Chris and Helen celebrating their sixteenth anniversary. And we know that Helen was sixty-five and Chris, sixty-four, when they married in 1968.

In Helen's letter of August 4, 1945, she mentioned a woman who had married after being a widow for twenty years. Her friend Estelle commented that the woman may as well have remained single for whatever was left of her life after waiting that long.

But for Helen, marriage with Chris was a twenty-five-year wait; she had been dreaming about it since the fall of 1943. They did have twenty-four years together. Helen must have had other opportunities for men in her life if she had been interested. She often said of a potential mate that he was not the one. In fact, in 1943, Helen predicted that one day she and Chris would be together. And Helen was right, even though that day would not come true for twenty-four more years.

Some of those years with Chris were happy, and in the later years, some were not so happy. Sometimes they were together in the same house but not really together as Helen desired. Chris spent many hours on his ham radio or

