

# The Girl Next Door



*"...The more I thought about it, well, the more I thought about it."*



*At a picnic with Ann Seltor and Irma Maidenberg*



*Newlyweds, 1942, in Colorado.*



*Bobbe, Helen Zimmerman (Frank's mother-in-law), and Nanette, circa 1938.*



*With Milt and Rose by the house at Third and D.*

**I** grew up next door to the daughter of George Zimmerman who was one of the town's leading merchants. He had two daughters, Nanette, and Bobbe. Bobbe died a tragic death at the age of 16.

Nanette was six years younger than me. She was the little rascal next door. When her dad and my dad were schmoozing on the front porch, she would come over and sneak up behind me and tear up my newspapers and I would get so damn mad at her...

I ended up marrying the girl next door."



"I was drafted into the military in July 1941, before Pearl Harbor. By that time I had looked at Nanette differently than the kid who tore up my papers, but we weren't really serious until I had to be away from her for a few months, and

the more I thought about it, well, the more I thought about it. And one thing led to another and we decided to get married. We were supposed to get married in January 1942 but because of Pearl Harbor, all leaves were canceled. We wound up getting married in Denver.

I was in the service for four and a half years. Nan wanted to get a family started and I didn't want to, because to start a family and then go overseas didn't seem right to me."



*Nanette with Tony, David and Jill. Tony was born in 1947.*

*Excerpted from an oral history of Frank conducted in October 1990 by Judith Pierotti in Madison, Wis.*