



(ABOVE) Clarence Raymond Stephenson Jr., first row, far right, and Keith Clinton, back row, third from left, pose with their crew in this undated photo. **(BELOW)** Clarence Raymond Stephenson Jr. as a baby

“She remarried about 10 years after her first husband died and, out of respect to my father, it was never discussed. He always thought I was named after his uncle.”

O’Conor said the first Stephenson’s family in Ohio knew of Helen was when Clarence brought her down to be married. Despite geographical and religious differences, Stephenson’s family were devout Protestants while Helen’s family were devout Catholics, the families liked the people and approved the marriage, O’Conor said. So much so that when O’Conor left Akron to travel to Springfield to visit Stephenson’s oldest sister Marjorie, he mentioned she had hoped he was bringing Helen and Ann with him.

“Marjorie saw Helen and Ann three times after Raymond’s death,” O’Conor said. “They visited once when Ann was just a baby. They made a second visit when Ann was about 5 years old and the last time she saw Ann was when Ann was about 15 years old. Marjorie’s oldest son, Randy, was at the house when I visited and said he remembered Ann’s visit because she loved rock and roll music and taught Randy how



to dance. The last time Marjorie saw Helen was in 1973.”

After meeting with Marjorie, O’Conor hit the road to return home to New York. He said his trip to Ohio has been an amazing one. Along the way he has met wonderful people and shared his story with all who would listen, more than a few who did not have dry eyes when the telling was done, he said.

O’Conor is still seeking information about Stephenson from those who knew him, either as a boy in Ironton or a pilot during WWII. He asks anyone who can help to contact him at moconn14@nycap.rr.com. ❧

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