



Grandma was a Lifelogger



Extracting meaning from lifelogs as historic documents

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About Me



Working on Saga – the essential lifelogging app – at A.R.O. in Seattle



S A G A

My grandma Pat was my primary parent until I was 12 years old

I read this diary for the first time this fall



Port Angeles WA, 1942



- ❧ Olympic Peninsula logging town & wartime Navy port
- ❧ Grandma turned 16 in October
- ❧ Lived with single working mom & older sister

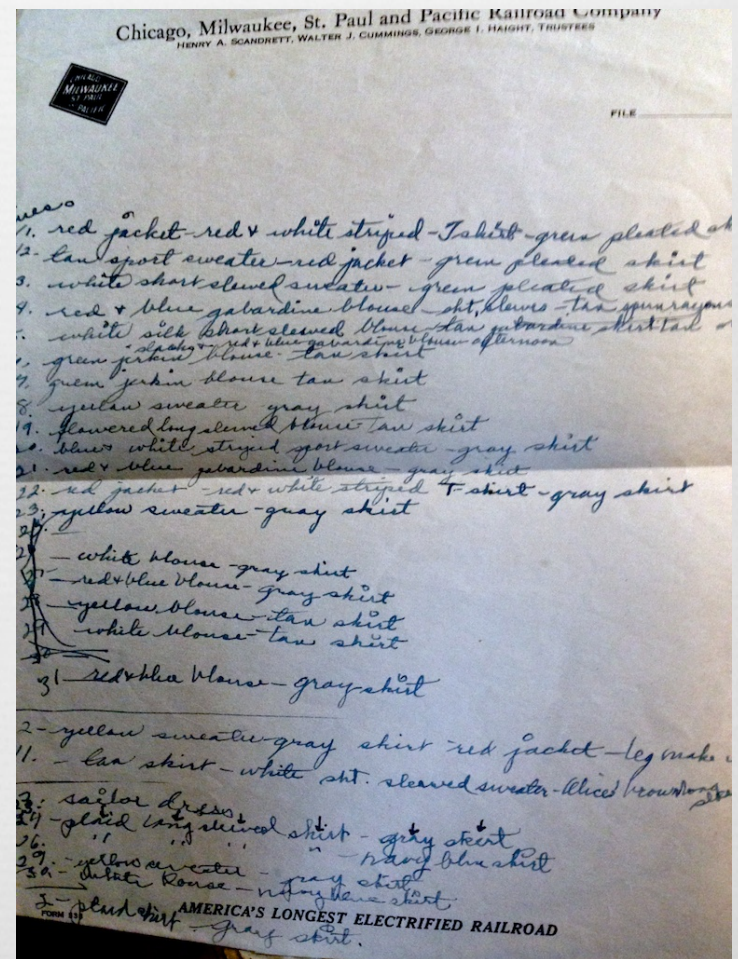
More Lifelog Than Diary

Typical entry:

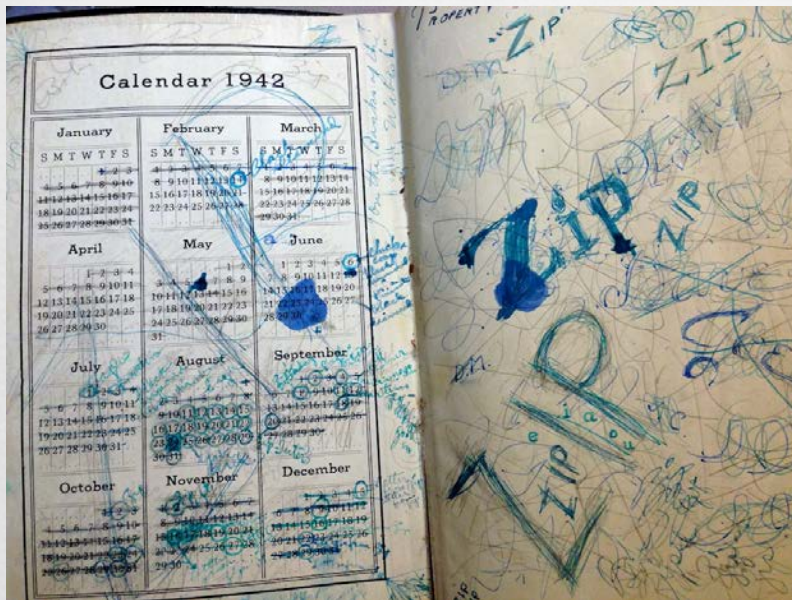


List of outfits:

- 🌀 Went to the afternoon show with Nola today
– W.C.Fields
- 🌀 And then went to her house
- 🌀 + ate there
- 🌀 Went to the rink to see who was there
- 🌀 Kenny was with us + we walked Nola home
- 🌀 He came home with me
- 🌀 I got mom a pink blouse for her birthday



What did I do?



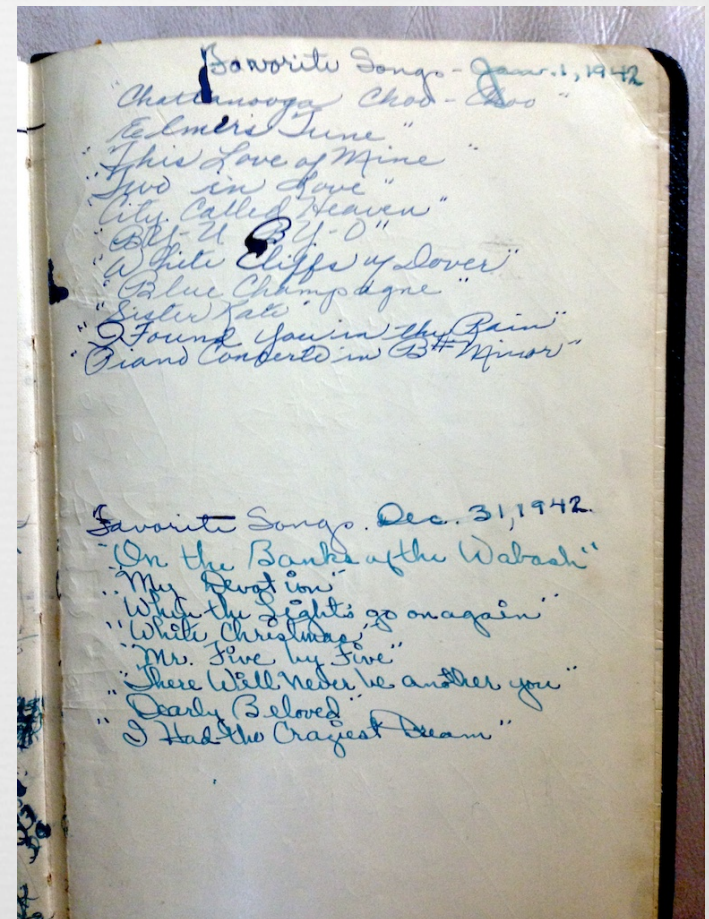
- ✧ Extracted data from grandma's lifelog & from my own
- ✧ Looked for patterns
- ✧ Asked what I could learn about my grandma & myself

What Grandma Tracked



Favorite songs:

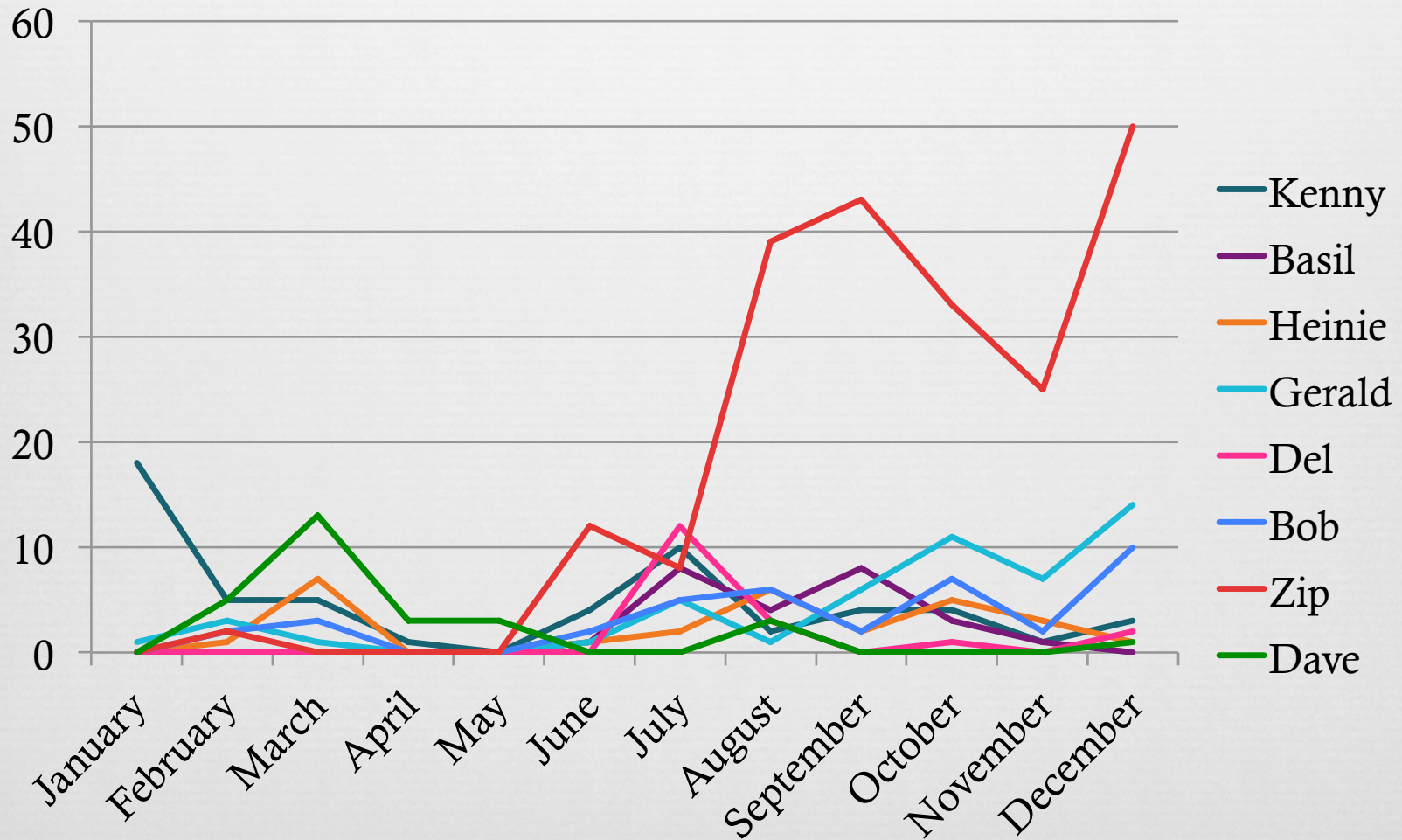
- Weather
- Household chores
- Outfits
- Shopping
- People
- Walks
- Location
- Moods
- Boys
- Time to bed
- Food
- Dances
- Movies
- Books/ Magazines
- Music



Grandma mostly tracked boys.



Mentions of Boys in 1942

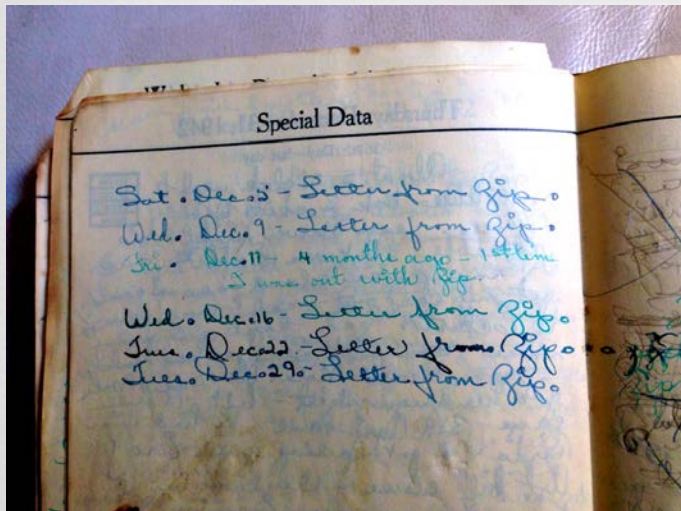
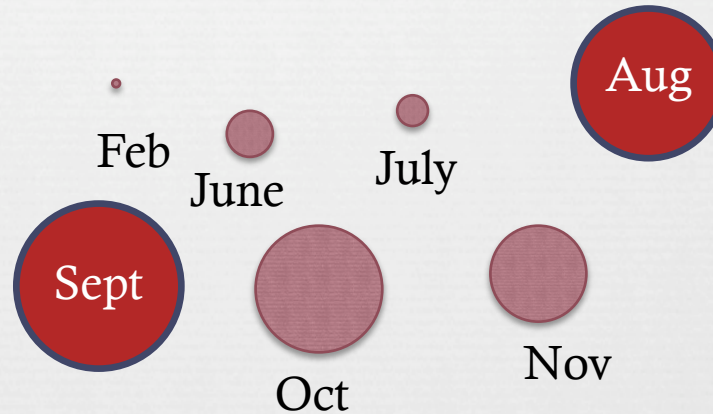


Zip

First Love



“I love Zip
more than any
girl could –
ever!”



“I want him.
I miss him. I
wish I was
dead.”

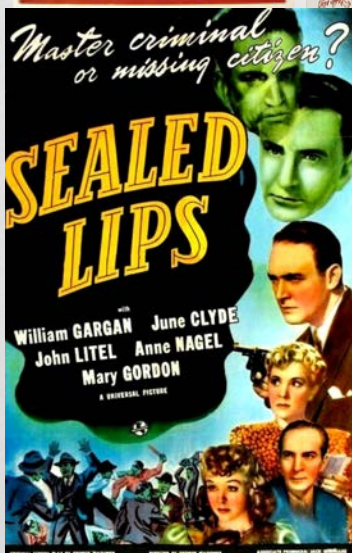
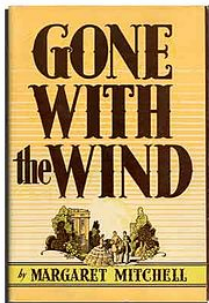
Food Tracking

August, 1942

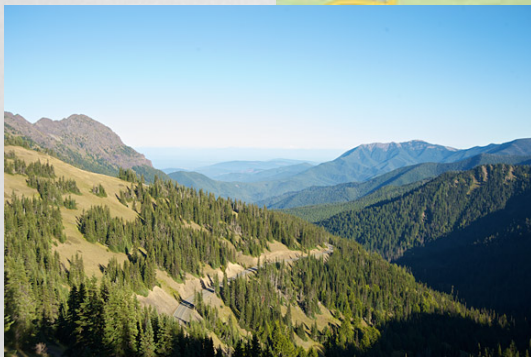
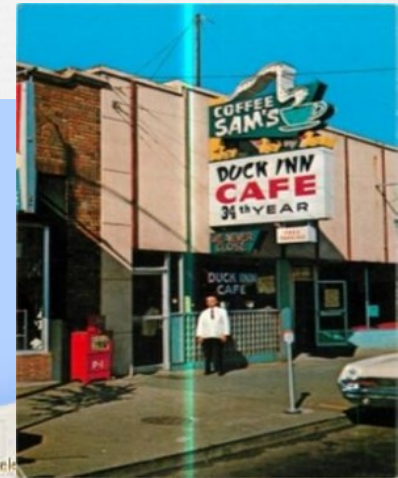
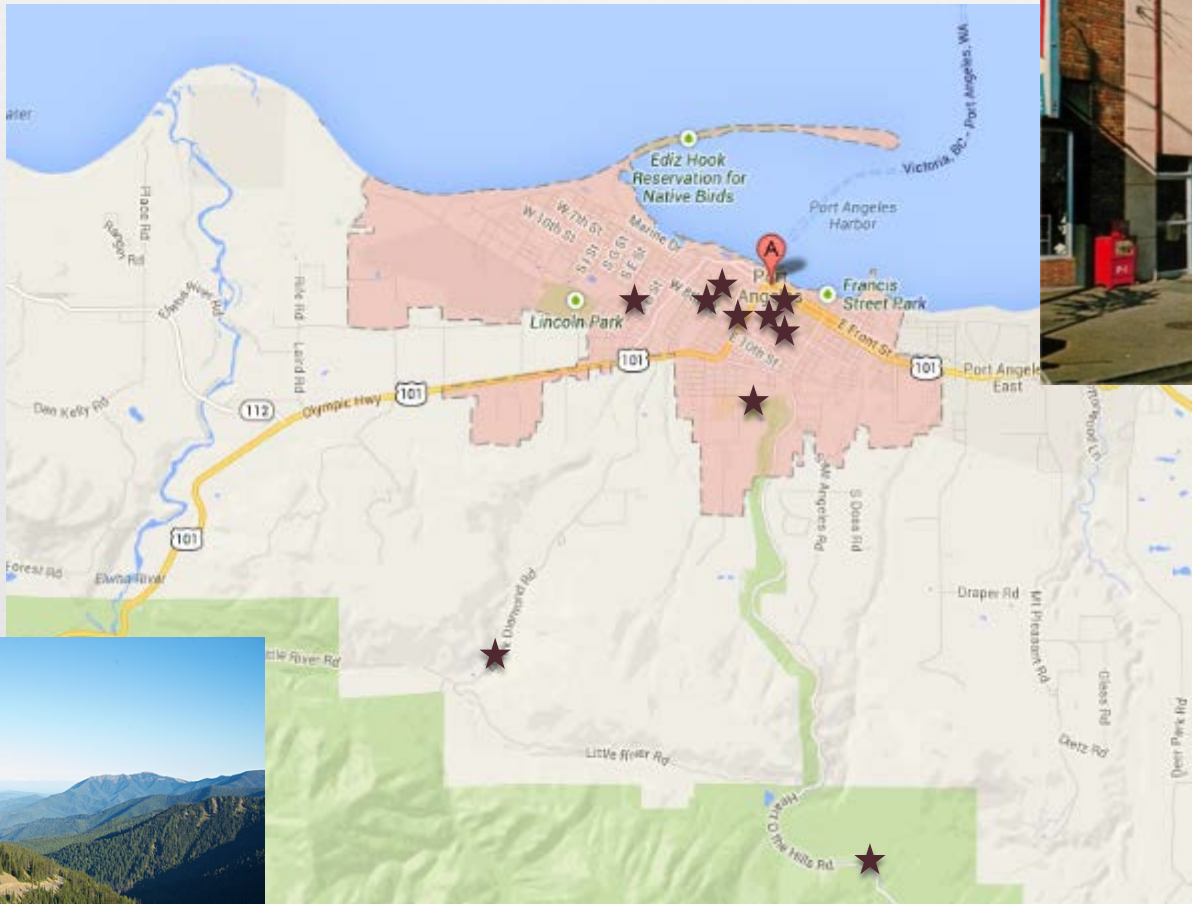


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Weds	Thurs	Friday	Saturday
						
		 	 	 		
		 	 			
						
	  	 				

Media Consumption



Location Tracking



What's missing?



- ❧ Her mother & sister are seldom mentioned
- ❧ **No meals at home, ever**
- ❧ School is somewhat rare & never important



What's the story?



A young girl in a small western town during wartime falls in love. With little parental supervision, she eats her meals in diners, goes to movies, and rides around in cars with dozens of boys.

A Revelation



Grandma at 16 wasn't much different from me at 16.

- ❧ Living with single mom, no supervision, no meals at home
- ❧ Out dancing several times a week
- ❧ Staying out all night, drinking
- ❧ Hub of activity @ home; mom as peer
- ❧ Fooling around with boys (though far more for her!)

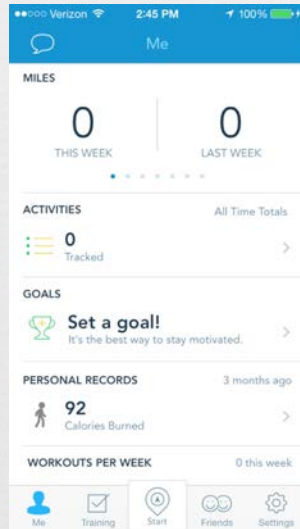
The Digital Lifelog



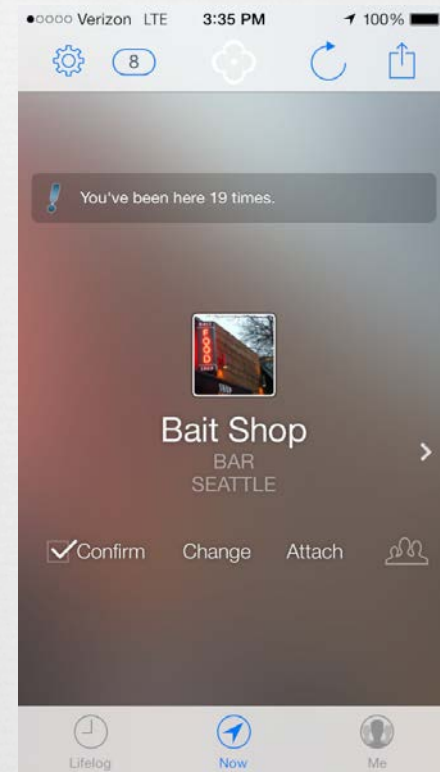
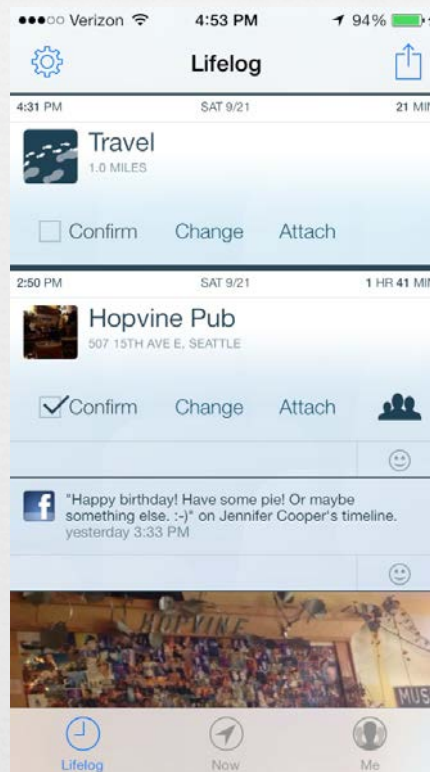
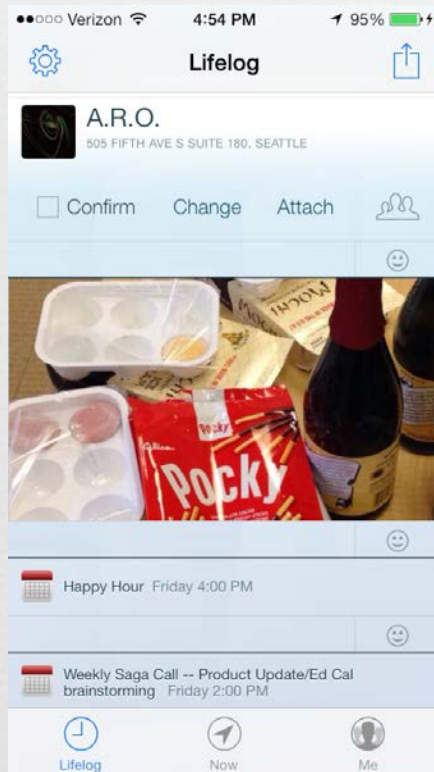
Confession



 I am a terrible lifelogger.

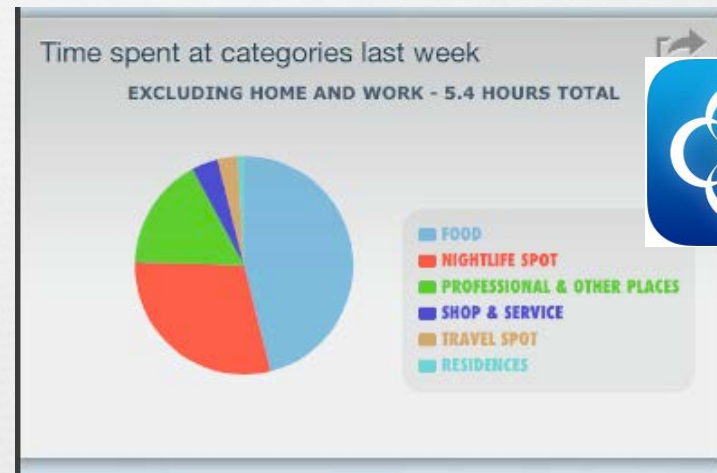
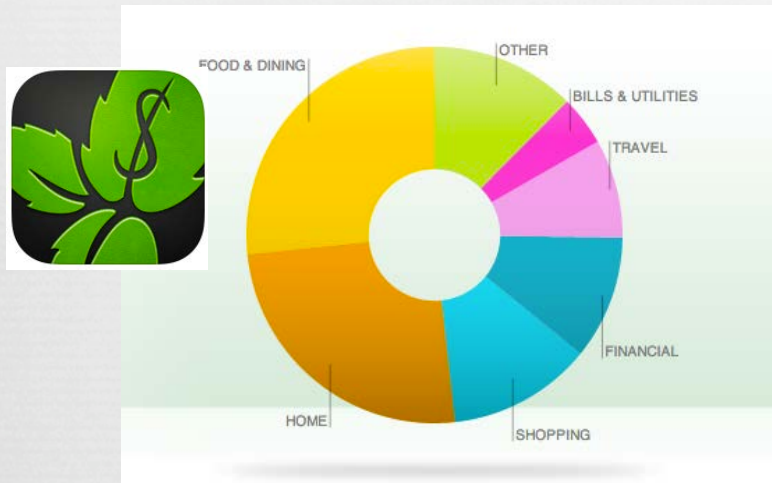


Passive Lifelogging



S A G A

I never eat at home.



Food = Love



What Did I Learn?



- ❧ My legacy began before I was born
- ❧ My grandma's influence goes beyond our 12 years together
- ❧ My life even now reflects aspects of grandma in 1942
- ❧ Food = Love = Men = Lipstick?

Family Legacy



Abandoned girls



Lipstick Legacy



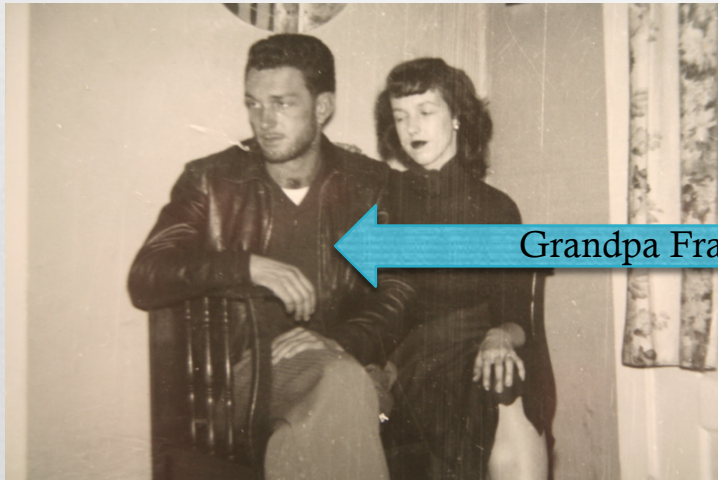
“Mom bought me
a one-dollar Max
Factor Lipstick –
um-m-m” –
October 22 (16th
birthday)



Quantified Lipstick



Searching for Mr. _____



Grandpa Frank



- ❧ Grandma didn't stop kissing boys in 1942
- ❧ 1st pregnancy 4 years later
- ❧ 3 babies by 2 men by 1949
- ❧ The reluctant housewife



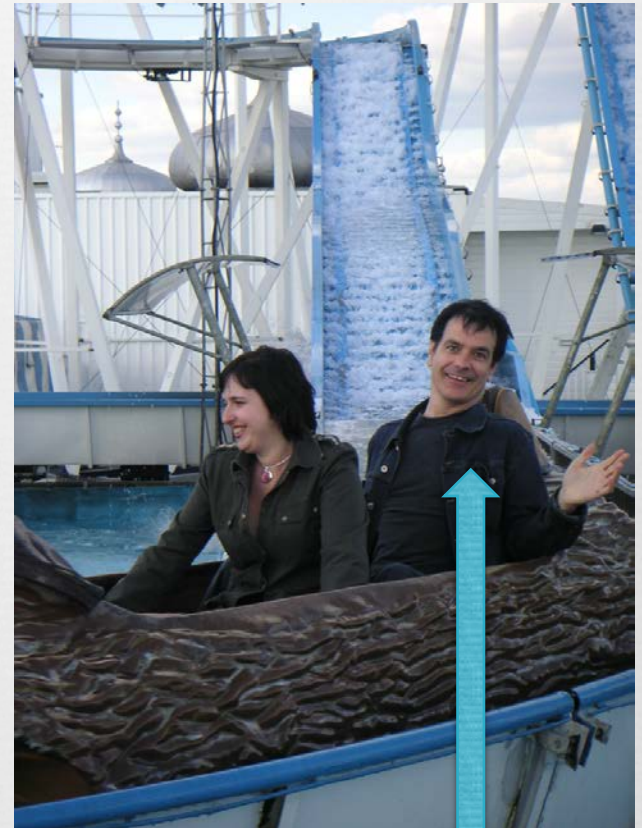
My mom

The Life Grandma Wanted



“Lifelogging” – get it?

- ❧ The life she wanted: independent & childless
- ❧ Relationships with men: Quality over quantity?
- ❧ Not bogged down by domesticity
- ❧ World travels & confidence to travel alone
- ❧ My lifelog could be an extension of hers



Minor rock star with whom I've never “necked”

Details tell the story

Grandma's lifelog:

- ❧ Apricot Pie
- ❧ Max Factor lipstick
- ❧ Brown slacks with tan sweater
- ❧ Watching falling stars
- ❧ Singing Auld Lang Syne in mom's formalwear
- ❧ Coke & aspirin



My lifelog:

- ❧ 39 Arctic Monkeys tracks played 9/28
- ❧ 17K steps taken in Amsterdam
- ❧ 18 visits to Aoki Sushi Bar this year
- ❧ Instagrams of cocktails
- ❧ Responded to 28/180 OK Cupid messages in 3 years
- ❧ 10 hotels so far in 2013

Life After Death



- ❧ 30 years after her death, I feel closer to her than ever
- ❧ The little details in her diary help me know her better
- ❧ Reading her diary is like having more time with her

Patricia Jacqueline Sumner Bevard

☞ October 22, 1926 – December 1, 1983



Thanks



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☞ getsaga.com



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