

KERNELS OF LEARNING

Personalized Education Newsletter– Generation 4 & 5 Edition

April 2022

Back In Time - A Look At Gen 2

Socialite and “Mummy Duster”

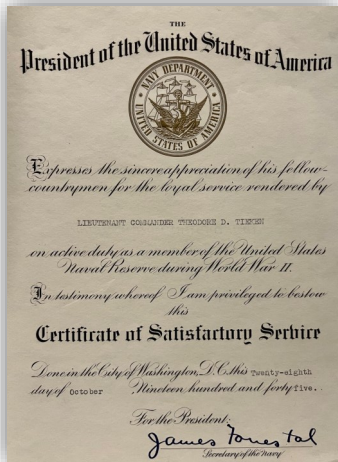
Elizabeth (Betty) Babson was born in 1916 to Henry and Laura Babson. Betty lived in the house in Riverside, IL for the first decade of her life and later the family moved to the Lakeshore Drive apartment in Chicago (highlighted in the last newsletter) after the death of her younger brother Billy, who died in 1925 from spinal meningitis.

Henry trained her to be curious and clear-thinking and Laura encouraged her to be an independent spirit that put her ahead of her era. She was often referred to as a socialite, as seen in this Chicago Herald American newspaper in 1939. As part of Junior League, Betty was featured in this story as they took over the Drake Hotel to give the normal staff a vacation. The snippet from the article was correct about Betty being bright but little did they know she would go on to do archaeology digs in the Middle East which was unheard of for women at that time. Betty didn't have a college degree but her dedication to good research and her curiosity about zoology, paleontology, and plate tectonics were legendary at the Oriental Institute where she volunteered, raised money, served on their board, and was lovingly given the name “Mummy Duster” by fellow volunteers because of her expertise in reconstructing artifacts.



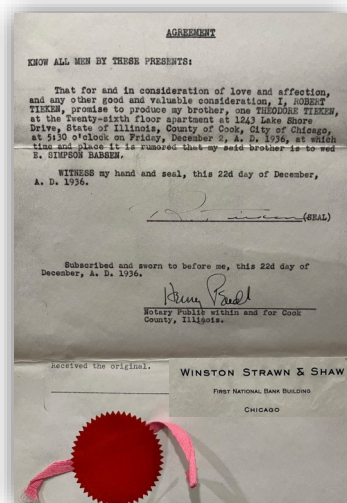
Lawyer, War Veteran, and Businessman

Theodore “Ted” Tieken married Betty in 1936. He had graduated from the Chicago School of Law and was a brilliant attorney before enlisting in the Navy during World War II. He served with the intelligence division in the Pacific, attaining the rank of lieutenant commander. Once Ted came back, the opportunities at the law firm were no longer available and Henry Babson asked Ted to join Babson Bros. Co. Many of these things you probably already knew, but you may not have seen some of these fun items.



While Ted and Betty were engaged, the “agreement” on the right came with a letter on Winston Strawn & Shaw letterhead (the law firm Ted worked for) addressed to Miss Betty Babson informing her of an enclosed agreement forwarded at Mr. Tieken’s request (written by Ted’s brother Robert) and asking for her signature. Here is what it said: “That for and in consideration of love and affection, and any other good and valuable consideration, I, Robert Tieken, promise to produce my brother, one Theodore Tieken, at the 26th floor apartment at 1243 Lake Shore Drive...at 5:30 o’clock on Friday, December 2, A.D. 1936, at which time and place it is rumored that my said brother is to wed E. Simpson Babson.”

Ted was discharged from the Navy on October 28, 1945 with 1 star for his service in the Philippines and 4 stars for his service in the Asiatic - Pacific. His official discharge certificate is on the left.



SOIL

Babson Farms - Biology Class in Session

University of Illinois Professor Comes to DeKalb



At the end of March, Meredith and Taylor went to DeKalb for the annual BFI strategic planning meeting. The team continues to be forward thinking and always on the lookout for ways to improve processes, create efficiencies, and add diversification to the company. With that in mind, we invited a distinguished Professor from the University of Illinois to join us. Professor, botanist, and biochemist, Don Ort, has been referred to as an “agriculture futurist” who is conducting groundbreaking research on the effects that environmental factors have on the photosynthetic performance of crop plants and how to improve photosynthetic efficiencies to increase crop yields. This research is crucial to keep pace with the ever-growing population of the world: 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion by 2050, and 11.2 billion by 2100. Thankfully, Bill Gates has an interest in photosynthesis, and made a \$25 million grant back in 2012 to establish the Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency (RIPE) program and has continued (along with others) to invest in this important research.

As we know, on a basic level, photosynthesis is how plants use energy from sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into food. This remarkable process is responsible for virtually all life on Earth. However, photosynthesis has some flaws. Plants are quite inefficient when it comes to using the sun’s energy. Just a fraction of the sunlight shining on a plant ends up fueling its growth, which means our crops are producing far less food than they could be. At the same time, climate change is putting additional stresses on our food supply because of erratic rainfall, severe droughts, and the spread of pests and crop diseases. Of all food grown, about 1/3 gets wasted (use by dates are a guide but doesn’t mean something is bad), 1/3 is consumed by people, and a 1/3 is used for livestock feed.



Don Ort and his colleagues are aiming to fix that by giving photosynthesis a tune up. If successful, their research is expected to double the productivity of some of our most important crops—like rice, maize, cowpea, soybeans, and cassava. Click [here](#) to see the “**Tuning Up Photosynthesis**” video. Using computer simulations, RIPE scientists can explore which changes might lead to the biggest increases in productivity. One promising area of research involves helping plants adjust to heat and light changes quicker (sometimes it can take minutes or even hours) so that photosynthesis continues and isn’t stalled. Another critical area of research involves an enzyme known as Rubisco, which captures carbon dioxide and turns it into sugars for the plant. Some researchers are working to speed up Rubisco activity in the plant, which would result in higher crop productivity.



While no single strategy will achieve the 50 to 70 percent increase in production needed to meet the demands of 2050, improving photosynthesis remains a source of untapped potential.

References: gatesnotes.com and
ripe.illinois.edu

“Investments in agriculture are the best weapons against hunger and poverty, and they have made life better for billions of people.” Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Family Spotlight

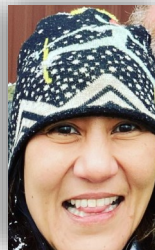
The Atlanta Kirkpatrick's- ME is wrapping up her junior year at Taft. She played JV squash, is on the varsity track team, and has started looking at colleges. Sarah is finishing up 7th grade and has been playing lacrosse this spring. Unfortunately she broke her shoulder but hopes to be back to activities, including cheer, in July/August. Mary Jane is gearing up for a big saddlebred horse show season. Dave is busy at CLC, spending a lot of time on NFTs, video games, and trading cards.



The Denver Kirkpatrick's enjoyed their spring break cruise in the Bahamas and time at CocoCay. Henry still loves swimming, has moved up a level in tennis, and can't wait for summer break. The house in Florissant continues to be a fun weekend getaway from the hustle and bustle of the city.



The Steamboat Kirkpatrick's are staying busy with Hummingbird Acres and all of their other personal and professional endeavors (with lots of love and help from the furry family members.)



JT recently attended the Spring Bay Horse Trials with the University of Findlay eventing team and earned a 7th and 8th place award.

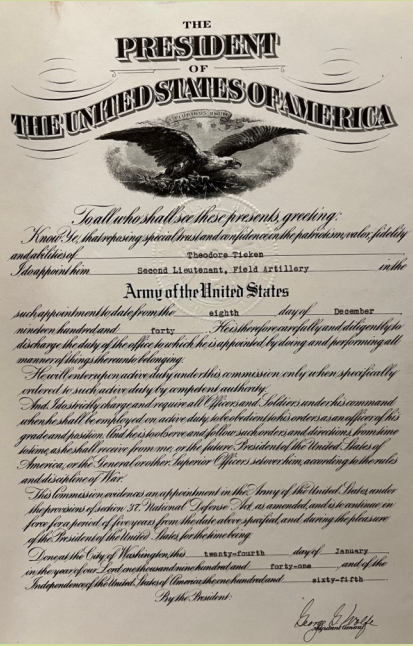


Check It Out

Babson Memories Slideshow <https://vimeo.com/231610306>

History Minute

The document below was an official appointment of Ted to Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery in the Army of the United States on December 8, 1940. We aren't sure on the connection from Army to Navy or if these documents were just worded as such.



Celebration

- Tim & Cho Anniversary April 3rd
- Dave & Mary Jane Anniversary April 25th
- Mary Jane Birthday May 5th
- Mother's Day May 8th
- Sarah's 14th Birthday May 14th
- Mary Elizabeth's 17th Birthday May 19th
- Cho's Birthday June 4th
- Father's Day June 19th
- Henry's 11th Birthday July 28th
- Zeff & Andronica Anniversary August 12th
- Tim's Birthday September 14th
- Dave's Birthday September 15th