



**Title:** Childhood Diseases  
**Author:** Ernestine Macklin-Ramsey

**Timeframe:** Mid to Late 1940's  
**Location:** Paola, Kansas

**Main Characters:** Norma, Ray & Freda Macklin

Nearly everyone who grew up during our years, contracted childhood diseases. We received the DPT vaccine - diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus. Vaccines for measles, mumps and chicken pox had not yet been developed. We all had measles and chicken pox when we were quite young. I contracted mumps while in high school and promptly brought the home to them rest of the family, except Dad who had them when he was young.

I returned to school as soon as possible as I was 50 pages behind in algebra and Latin. Starting in October through January, one by one, family members endured mumps. Worst of all, Mother came down with them and was very sick. Norma also was quite ill.

On Saturdays Dad and I did laundry in our Maytag washer. Aunt Edna Mae brought Thanksgiving dinner to us. Dad was working at Taylor Forge Company across the street

from our house and he came home for lunch. Joan, who was eight years old, stood on a box to cook hamburgers and she had them ready for him. She also took care of Lee who was only 15 months old. He contracted mumps, but he was his usual frisky self and he spent most of the time in his stroller. When he fell asleep, Joan would put him in his bed which was no small task. After all, Joan was just a little girl and Lee was a sturdy baby boy.

