

## Clarence and Arwilla Martin Family



Clarence Dalton Martin  
about age 16 in 1927.

Clarence Dalton Martin was born March, 1911 and was the first boy of Herman and Mary Martin to be born in Dalton. As a result he was given Dalton as a middle name. The other interesting thing about his name is that it did not become shortened or made into a nickname as was so common with his brothers and sisters. When the Martin family showed movies for the town above the drug store, Clarence often operated the player piano to help keep things lively. Clarence graduated from Dalton high school in 1929. Along with his brothers, he had always had an interest in cars. It was natural for him to find work at a local service station and farm implement business, where he worked for a number of years.

Neoma Arwilla Brennan was born in Dalton on December, 1915 to Roger and Marie Brennan. One day in school, Arwilla needed some change in smaller coins than what she had. She was about fifteen when she asked a handsome upper class man for some change. Somewhere in this high finance transaction, Clarence ended up with a nickel which he associated with the attractive Arwilla and kept for the rest of his life in remembrance of that special encounter. His son Richard still has it today. This spark of romance grew and soon after Arwilla graduated from high school, Clarence and Arwilla were married in August, 1934.



Clarence Martin about  
age 23 in 1934.

Clarence and Arwilla lived in Dalton for a number of years and their two children, Richard and Nelda, were born there. Clarence continued to work at the service station and implement business. About 1940, opportunity called from California. Chet, an older brother, convinced Clarence and Arwilla that there were opportunities in California which might be appealing. So, Clarence, Arwilla and the children moved to Torrance, California. Initially, Clarence worked in a large aircraft manufacturing company supporting the war effort.

Chet had established an auto parts business in southern California and wanted Clarence to come and work with him. He knew of Clarence's interest in cars and his knowledge of what made them run. Clarence went to work for his brother Chet in his new auto parts store in 1946. When Chet died in 1957, Clarence managed the auto parts store, and then bought it and operated it as Martin's Auto Parts. Clarence died, at the age of 52, in January, 1964 in Wilmington, California. For some time, Arwilla managed the store, before eventually selling the business. Arwilla later moved from California to be near Nelda in Tennessee, where Arwilla died in 1990.

For a number of years, their son Richard worked at Martin's Auto Parts. He is the father of five children, and continues to live in California. Nelda lives in Tennessee where she raised a family of four children, and has worked and managed in the restaurant and catering business.



Clarence and Arwilla Martin, late 1940s-early 1950s