Sailor's Stream of Mail from Girls Could Have Been Called 'Love Follows Andy Hardy'

BACK IN HIS TEENS, my uncle Erwin Currier was well liked by the girls as he grew up, in Farmington, Maine.

Erwin played the guitar and also various harmonicas, and there would be many get-togethers at his home to sing and play music.

His sister Marguerite played the piano, and his sister Pauline, my mother, would sometimes join in, but I've heard she was the more studious of the bunch. They also had a Victrola with a wooden speaker that played records as long as the motor was cranked up by hand. I still have that Victrola.

Some of the admiring girls said Erwin reminded them of Mickey Rooney. While he was in the U.S. Navy, in WWII, Erwin received a good deal of mail from girls, including one with a ration book containing stamps for hugs and kisses from a woman he knew as Florence Adams while growing up.

Erwin, a radio operator, began dating Florence shortly before he transferred from the USS Card to the USS Bennington, a carrier with a 1,000-foot flight deck, the largest at the time. He also served on the USS Missouri, the famed flagship of the 5th Fleet, and received seven military honors.

After the war, Erwin took courses in radio and TV repair and got his electrician's license, and he and his wife, Mary, were wed. After two other jobs, he ended up working for the city of Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Although Erwin and Florence didn't end up together, Erwin did stay

in touch with Florence's brother, Linwood, who lived about a mile from him in Pittsfield and shared Erwin's interest in radio.

—Rachel Bryant, St. Albans, Maine