

JULIE GONNERING

DIARY OF A PHYSICIST'S WIFE

August 1:

Tidy the house. See to the washing;
Ironing; darning of socks.
Hem eggshell dress. Permanent wave at
Jade Beauty; luncheon downtown.

In the evening: wheels and steel
blades trim the grass blades back.
A firstborn son mows his first garden.
He wants, so, to be a grown man.

Green.
And green.
And green, then,
Again.

August 3:

Make up the beds. Another big washing.
Pick apples from the ground.
Boys want the circus; we take to the zoo.
Buy power lawnmower in town.

Sons are sleeping: darling, we
can linger, in apple tree shade.
Tie up climbing roses, pull away weeds.
For dinner—the “7 Seas.”

*We eat
apples and oceans
climbing and falling:
a rose
weeding
the zoo.*

August 6:

Prep. for hospital stay (Loren's tonsil removal):
A washing. Haircuts, shampoos.
Beatrice comes. Bake two fruit pies.
Learn of first atom bomb

dropped today on Japan.

The damage—must have been horrible.
The radio off, Wilson offers
his quiet confession—this,
the fruit of his past year's war effort work.

*The egg is an eye.
An eye unlidded, yet everywhere
lidded, the iris
once living
inside.*

August 9:

Home again now. Tidy the house.
More washing. Change linen on beds.
Read newspapers on atomic bomb—
A second falls on Japan.

Added coverage—more revealing.

Take the boys to street fair.
Noise. I'm not feeling
well: the Ferris Wheel
unsettles.

*The engine engenders
a ringing, broken
hinge. Rearranged
danger: this deranged
Ring.*