



Char

It should have been here graduation picture
But commencement came with a baby, not a diploma
Her parents sent her away in shame to Peoria
The home for unwed mothers
She named him Wally after the assumed father
Both of them abandoned

There she met Jessie who gave her child away
They left for Rockford to work in the factories
Wally left at the orphanage while Char went to work
Friends set them up with handsome men
Jessie got her Wally and Char got her Lee
The Fifties started looking up

One day my grandparents came to the orphanage
They gathered Wally up
Drove him back to the farm in Troy Grove
They said they had a letter
Char's permission to give him up
Lee's folks wouldn't want a bastard