

CHAPTER 2

Good News

When Susan reached eighteen months Charles and I decided to try for a playmate for her. Little did we know that my childhood ambition of a large family had taken a step closer or indeed what lay ahead.

I conceived easily and we sat back eagerly awaiting the birth to complement our family's number. However, the pregnancy seemed different from when I carried Susan, for one thing I was MUCH bigger, but it was not until I was well into my sixth month of pregnancy that my much larger than normal girth aroused suspicion in my doctor. He was of the opinion that I was carrying twins and on that assumption he ordered that I should be x-rayed. During the month of March I was x-rayed no fewer than three times but despite all this activity the films showed only one baby. So much for x-rays!

Knowing myself better than any medical person or x-ray machine I felt sure this pregnancy was different from my first. For one thing I was so much bigger plus, now at six months, I was physically beginning to feel decidedly uncomfortable. However, I still felt very well in myself and carried on my normal routine housework, plus caring for baby Susan.

My feelings were supported by the midwife when she came to the house to give me periodic examinations. She was convinced she could hear two, possibly three hearts beating. My doctor was not going to be swayed from the x-ray's evidence and would not order a new 'filming'.

My doctor had given a likely delivery date as July 9th but the way I was carrying and the size I was I couldn't help feeling my baby would arrive sooner, therefore on June 9th I was not surprised when I started having labour pains.

Having prepared all the baby things in the new nursery for my arrival back from hospital, I cheerfully departed to the local maternity hospital a few miles away to await the birth of my baby, or babies – now we'd see who had been correct!