

NEBRASKA – Scene 2

It's a small office. Except for a few computers, it could be 1960.  
An older woman -- PEG NAGY -- types at a desk.

DAVID: Excuse me. Mrs. Nagy?

PEG NAGY: Yes?

DAVID: I'm David Grant, Woody's son.

PEG NAGY: Well, I'm very pleased to meet you. Your father is certainly quite the celebrity around here. Did Parker show up to take his picture?

DAVID : That's what I came to tell you about. Dad didn't win any lottery or sweepstakes or anything. He's a little confused about something he got in the mail, and it's gotten way out of hand.

PEG NAGY: So he didn't win a million dollars?

DAVID: No, ma'am.

PEG NAGY: Just goes to show you some things never change. He was always a little confused.

DAVID: You know my dad?

PEG NAGY: It's all ancient history, of course, and I don't want to speak out of turn, but Woody and I used to go together.

DAVID : You were his girlfriend?

PEG NAGY: That's right.

DAVID: What happened?

PEG NAGY: Your mother is what happened. How is Kate?

DAVID : Fine. She's here too.

PEG NAGY: You tell her Peg Bender says hello.

DAVID : She won't slap me, will she?

PEG NAGY: Why would she? She won. Water under the bridge. Don't get me wrong, I married a wonderful man -- we ran this paper together until he died -- had three children, eight grandchildren. I've got no complaints.

DAVID : Was he drinking back then?

PEG NAGY: Of course he was. It happens early around here. There isn't much else to do. Nowadays, of course, it's not just booze but all that other stuff. For Woody it got bad after Korea. He had a hard time over there.

DAVID : I thought he was just a mechanic.

PEG NAGY: Oh, he was, for the army planes. But he was shot down while being transferred. You knew that, right?

(David looks at her with a puzzled expression. LATER -- Peg leafs through a bound newspaper archive from the 1950s.)

PEG NAGY: (CONT'D) Here it is. Woody, Verne, and Albert.

(A HEADLINE reads "Grant Boys Return from the Fight" above photos of 20-year-old Woody and two of his brothers.)

DAVID: They look like kids.

PEG NAGY: Your dad was never much of a talker, and when he came back he hardly said a word. But always very kind. People took advantage of him. He couldn't turn down a favor.

DAVID : Well, now that everyone thinks he's a millionaire, he's a big hero around here.

PEG NAGY : I'm sorry I can't print that he is, but I won't print that he isn't either. I'll just do a little story on him and Kate stopping through town.

DAVID : Hard to imagine you and my mother fighting over the same man.

PEG NAGY: I knew I didn't have a chance anyway.

DAVID: Yeah?

PEG NAGY: I wouldn't let him round the bases.