On Thanksgiving Day 1918, Mabel met Arnold O. Beckman at a Greenpoint YMCA Thanksgiving dinner. She was a Red Cross volunteer serving the troops. They started corresponding by letter, and nearly seven years later, they were married. Mabel’s photo diary holds pictures of the two of them during their courtship and Arnold’s time while at university.
Squinting in the sun, but on Arnold’s arm, Mabel appeared happy and in love. When the two married on June 10, 1925. Mabel’s brothers, Walter and Charles, and her cousin, Frances, were part of the wedding party. Arnold invited Bill Hincke as best man.
Mabel spent her entire childhood and young adult years on Oakton Street in Brooklyn. When she married Arnold, the two embarked on a cross-country journey out west. Headed for Pasadena, California, Mabel supported Arnold’s return to Caltech. Her early years had been filled with adventure, preparing her for their eventful future together.
A.O.B.

Mabel’s century-old image of Arnold O. Beckman, labeled “Freshie 1919,” showed him on the University of Illinois campus in his first year.
A.O.B.

Sitting in an “one horse open sleigh,” Arnold O. Beckman was bundled up and ready for snow during year two at University of Illinois in this image Mabel labeled “Soph 1920.”
VIEW OF U OF I
1923

It wasn’t Bayside, it wasn’t Pasadena. It was Illinois and it was Arnold, and Mabel added it to her album. The image showed him on campus near the “old drinking fountain,” with graduation on the horizon and a new chapter about to begin, for both of them.

Old drinking fountain with natural history building in the background
LEARN MORE ABOUT MABEL MEINZER’S EARLY YEARS: