
**Striving Diligently: Ethel
Elizabeth Blanch Stoker
Memoirs**

Ethel B. Stoker



Striving Diligently: Ethel Elizabeth Blanch Stoker Memoirs

Edited by Jimmie "B" Stoker

The Lee Hammon Stoker Family— 2004

*From Hist
921.73
5267se*

Dedicated to my Wife, Ann, and children, Matthew, Maia, Megan,
and Daniel

Striving Diligently: Ethel Elizabeth Blanch Stoker Memoirs, edited
by Jimmie "B" Stoker

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to start my life history I would like to meet
you acquainted with my forebears.
My father was Joseph Blanch. He
was born 11 June 1872 in K. Army Camp.
Hennepin. The son of Marsina Wenzel
Lauer. She was the daughter of



we do
of his
died
of
which
(America)



Jorge Sarama
not know
father. After
he joined
Jeans & Hunt
In 1970 he
married with



The man
Jorgensen
who, I hear
of Astley's
came to
him - he

daughter Massena, and her two children
Georgia, age 4 and Joseph, 11 months, when she
in Ogden May 1871. A Mrs Wagoner of
Huntsville, sponsored them to come to Denver a
was to meet the train in Ogden but the train
was two days late. As a result they were
not met. They were in a very difficult
situation, they couldn't speak or understand
English. A Mrs W. Hartley - Blanch - Ingan
Mary Nickleson (mother of Chris Blanch) at
the station and could speak Danish.
she took Massena and the two children
home with her to West Waver.

Joseph wouldn't leave the station as insisted Mr. Waggard would come, with he did the next day. Joseph went with him to Huntsville and worked a shoemaker in Huntsville for many years while there he married a Box Street Eva died and is buried in West Weber. After her death Joseph came and lived in Allf and daughter Margaret Blanch maybe in Knoxville until his death at the age 93. He also is buried in West Weber by Eva. Mary Ann was a school teacher in Remmick. She was the 2nd wife of W. Heasley Blanch, with whom she

My
Personal
Journal

[illegible]

Picture taken on
Honey moon in 1929
Grandpa & Grandma
Staten Island N.Y. 1929

Preface

This journal was handwritten by my mother, Ethel Elizabeth Blanch, after she received an 8 1/2" x 11" bound journal as a 1977 Christmas gift from the family of her son, Jesse Grant Stoker.

She started writing her life story in it sometime in 1984. It was near this time that she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She battled that disease stoically, preferring not to let her infirmity intrude into her writings because she had to tell us about her vigorous, younger life and its challenges. She wanted us children to read about the lessons she had learned. In her writing she pointed out how everyday obstacles are to be faced, confronted, endured, and eventually put behind us. Although she tried to hide the fact that her body was wearing out, her handwriting betrayed it toward the end of her writing, page 175 in this edition. In the middle of that page, with only strength and endurance to write three more pages, she finally acknowledged, "I'm writing this on the 13th of June 1986 and not feeling too well so my writing is all shaky—but must finish." And finish Mother did.

When her body retired to a bed, and wasted away over the next ten months, she wanted not to burden any of us with her suffering. Fortunately the doctors deadened her nerves with alcohol to ease her pain. Gently daughters and daughters-in-law rendered compassionate service to her. On Good Friday April 17, 1987 she finished her life and died leaving us her example.

She always had needlework of some kind in her hand, it seemed, rags in bags to be patched into quilts, everything saved and put away to be used when needed. She tried to get back to those things that were unfinished, to put a final knot in them. As I read through her history, I felt her straight-forwardness and strength. In my editing of her writing, I do not want to tamper with that aspect. For that reason when I typed and formatted her material, I tried not to change any of the grammar, usage, or spelling. It is precisely her vernacular that identifies her time, place, and statement in history. I created the chapters and the headings so that the material might be easier to understand at a glance. I also indexed the names of most of the people she writes about. I added photos, some that

were not originally in her journal. I do acknowledge that some of the photos that she had in her original journal were not placed in my edition, not too many, but there are some that were left out due to the difficulty to make them fit the layout of the page.

I have, over the past 17 years, worked countless hours on Mom's writings, adding photos from the family album that captured the story she was writing. I've also talked to my father, brothers and sisters, and others to learn more about my mother.

Uncle Grant, Mom's youngest brother, after reading an early draft, wrote in a letter dated December 15, 1987, "Thank you very much for the privilege of reading it. A great deal was learned about 'our' family as well as yours. I am truly grateful for this rich experience of having memories of the past brought forth in such a delightful manner. Being five years older than I, she recounts events, etc. that I don't recall being privy to. At the same time her memories of people, places, and events that have been within the sphere of my life and memory correspond almost identically with mine."

Uncle Grant pointed out some errors that Mom made. As editor I have footnoted in the text when necessary to correct something that may have gotten wrong, or that someone else remembered differently. You'll find many examples.

As Uncle Grant has shown, there are somethings in Mom's writings that may need clarification. Indeed, at one place, Mom mistakenly wrote down my marriage date as being ten years different than the correct date. My mother did not have the luxury to proof read her writing. It is very easy to make errors in writing. My major regret is that there were many othering topics that Mom didn't write about, such as her mission experience in England. She did keep a journal of that mission. I have it in my possession.

In the summer of 1988, my father gave me letters that had been sent to him and Mother on their 50th wedding anniversary, June 12, 1979. These came from friends and relatives. Mom did have access to these letters when she wrote.

During the course of several weeks in October to December in 1988, my brother, Leland Keith Stoker, helped me proof-read a first draft. He also added some insight to many of the experiences, some of which I have noted in footnotes. Unfortunately, he died of leukimia on June 5, 1990 at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Clinic in Seattle, and was buried in Othello, Washington at the Bess Hampton Cemetery in a plot adjacent to the ones in which our parents are buried.

In preparing for the Joseph Blanch Family Reunion held on August 8, 1995 at the Taylorsville North Stake Bowery, 1250 W. 4375 S., Salt Lake City, Utah, I printed some of Mother's writings in a 54 page volume entitled, *The Joseph Blanch Family of West Weber, Utah as described by Ethel Elizabeth Blanch Stoker in her personal journal and by Lee Hammon Stoker in his personal journal.*

To understand my mother, we must study her family. She is, by all rights, an emigrant's daughter, although she knew very little about her Danish heritage, not having heard Danish spoken in her home. Of all the emigrant groups who came to America in the nineteenth century, the Danes assimilated into the main stream culture faster than any other group. Most were escaping the oppressive economic conditions created by the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars and the simmering conflicts with Prussia over the duchies of Holstein and Schleswig where from 1848-1850, rebels, German-speaking residents whom Prussia backed, turned to war rather than accepting Danish rule. Traditionally, the Danish king retained authority over these duchies. When Christian IX, the Danish king, again attempted to impose Danish law in Schleswig, Prussia and Austria declared war. The Danish-German War of 1864 ended in a quick defeat for the Danes.

It was during these trying times that Ethel's great-grandfather, Jorgen Larsen, lost his wife, Birthe Marie Anderson. A history of West Weber tells that their daughter, Marsina Dorthea, attended her mother who had lapsed into a coma for a while and then suddenly opened her eyes and said she wanted to wear her black dress and attend an important meeting. She said this meeting was being held on a street corner by two men in black suits, and they were preaching out of a book like the Bible. After Jorgen and Marsina Dorthea dressed Birthe in her Sunday attire, she lay back and died, the date being July 16, 1865, and the place, Molholm, Tolne, Hjorring, Denmark. Some time later, Jorgen saw the scene described by his dying wife. Learning that the men were Mormon missionaries, Jorgen invited them to his home to learn about their religion. He and Marsina Dorthea were baptized on September 1, 1870. Religion played an important part in Ethel's life.

Jimmie "B" Stoker
Basin City, Washington



Introduction

1984

To my children-Keth, Jesse, Jimmie, Vanae, Lora Jo, and Dennis I hope all can say you were brought up in a home where most of the time was a happy place to be, where hard work was a must for everyone, but hope all can say they felt loved even tho I know I never told you so in so many words. I was more-or-less a demanding mother. When I said scat I expected action now. Many times I resorted to spanking. My temper really showed at times. I know I have a temper and have worked all of my married life to control it and be more even tempered like your dad.

If any of you remember any certain time you feel unjustified in what happened, I'm sorry and apologize. I want all to know I do love you very much. I'm proud of your accomplishments. I know all are respected as good upright members of your church and community. I hope and pray it will always be so. I love my sons-in-laws and my daughter-in-laws as my own children. The grandchildren & on & on. I'm proud of all.

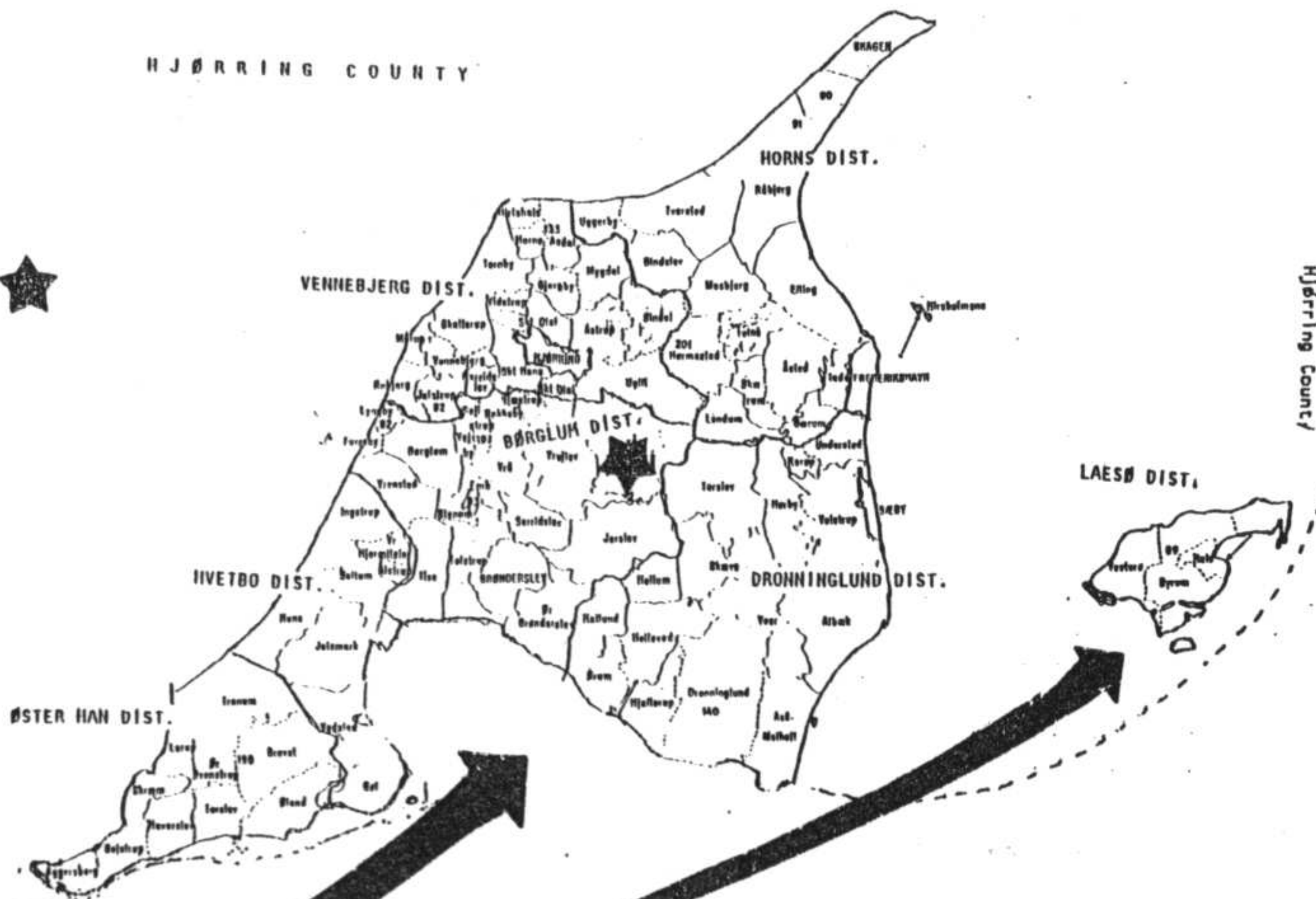
Above all I want all to know I love your father. He has had a stabilizing effect on my life. We have had a very happy and satisfying life together. Fifty-five years is a long time. Sure we have had our differences but both came out determined to use them as a growing experience in our life.

I hope all can strive diligently to create a perfect home where love and patience dwell. Stay close to our Father-in-Heaven and the church. Pray always. Keep the commandments. Have faith in God and your fellow men and you will be blessed. I love you very much! It is hard for me to write my life history but my kids are after me to do it. In fact have given me two journals to write it in. The church also recommends us leaving our memoirs for our posterity. Ma[y]be they can learn from our mistakes, which are plenty. Generations to come may learn about their progenitors and their life style.

The first part of the book is from memory so things are as I remember them. They may or may not be exactly correct. It's hard after 73 years to state facts from memory. Things are not stated in order of years. I pursued a subject and finished it regardless of the year it happened.

The second part is pretty much as it happened as I kept a diary of sorts. My writing and spelling are terrible. I'm afraid I write as I talk and not making myself clear. My English and my punctuation is almost laughable, but here goes. Good luck.

Tars ★



THE COUNTIES OF DENMARK 1793-1970



DENMARK

Joseph Blanch's birth certificate · Den danske Folkekirke

Fødselsattest

for udøbt (unavngivet): $\frac{\text{Dreng.}}{\text{Pige.}}$

Følested (på landet: by, sogn, herred og amt; i købstæder: købstaden, sogn, gade og husnummer) i

Borupmark, Tørs sogn, Børglum herred,
Hjørring amt,

Fødselsår og -dag:

1870 (attenhundrede og syvti)
II (ellefte) juni.

Førelidrenes eller adoptiv-
førelidrenes stilling og
fulde navne:

Ugifte, Madsine Dorteaa Jørgensen,
indsidder på Borupmark.

Overensstemmelsen med ministerialbogen bevidnes

1 The Danish Church
2 Birth Certificate
3 (unnamed) Male
4 Borupmark (name of field or neighborhood);
5 Taars (the "a" is doubled for the Danish symbol used)
6 parish; Borglum district; Hjørring county.
1870 (eighteen hundred and seventy); (eleventh) June.
Unmarried, Madsine Dorteia Jorgensen,
resident of Borupmark

Tårs prgd., den 13 juni 1962



Einheitszeitpunkt einer Zeit

J. E. Haarsbo
Fruited name.

Chapter 1

My Forebears

My Father and His Parents

They Come from Denmark

To start my life history I would like to make you acquainted with my forebearers. My father was Joseph Blanch. He was born 11 June 1870 in H. Jaring Amp [Hjorring Amt],¹ Denmark. The son of Marsina Dorothea Larsen. She was the daughter of Jorgen Larsen. We do not know the name of his father. After Jorgen's wife died, he joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In 1870² he came to America bringing with him his daughter Marsina and her two children Georgina age 4³ and Joseph 11 months.⁴ They arrived in

¹ Joseph's birth certificate states he was born in Borupmark (Field), Tars (parish), Borglum (district), Hjorring (county).

² Probably this date should read "1871" inasmuch as Joseph was born 11 June 1870 and was 11 months old on their arrival.

³ Georgina's birth certificate states she was born August 26, 1864 hence making her age closer to 6 years of age. Furthermore, her birth certificate indicates that she is the daughter of the bachelor Jens Mouritsen and Marsine Dorthea Jorgensen.

⁴ One might think that Georgina and Joseph were full brother and sister. This is not the case. On Joseph's birth certificate, it states he is the son of the unmarried Madsine Dorthea Jorgensen and no father is indicated. A letter from Julee Hicks, 1205 Bryan

Ogden May 1871. A Mr. Wangsgard⁵ from Huntsville sponsored them to come to America and was to meet the train in Ogden but the train was two days late so as a result they were not met. They were



Marsine Dorthea Larsen



Dorthea's father, Jorgen Larsen

in a very difficult situation. They couldn't speak or understand English. A Mrs. Wheatley Blanch, Ingor Marie Nickleson⁶ (mother of Chris Blanch), was at the station and could speak Danish so she took Marsina and the two children home with her to West Weber.

Jorgen wouldn't leave the station as he insisted Mr. Wangsgard would come. Which he did the next day. Jorgen went home with him to Huntsville and worked as a shoemaker in Huntsville for many years. While there he married a Eva Stred. Eva died and is buried in West Weber. After her death Jorgen came and lived with a gran-

Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005 to Jim Stoker, June 1992 contained a photo copy of LDS [Hjorring] Branch Records 1852-1904 No. 3880 Blessings of Children Family History Film #41944 which lists Joseph Larsen as the son of Nicolaj Christian Larsen and Marsina Dorthea Jorgensen.

⁵ Peter Wangsgaard.

⁶ Some records indicate the name is "Mickleson". Genealogical records in possession of Leland Keith Stoker spell the name "Mikkelson."



Eva Stred



Joseph's half-sister, Maime

daughter, Margaret Blanch Mayberry, in Kanesville until his death at the age of 93. He also is buried in West Weber by Eva.⁷

Marsina Dortha Marries Wheatley Blanch

Marsina was a school teacher in Denmark. She was the 2nd wife of Wheatley Blanch with whom she stayed & was married in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. Ingor was his first wife. We always understood Dad and Gena were adopted by Wheatley but we can find nothing to prove it.

To Marsina and Wheatly were born 2 children Mary or Maime as she was called and Margaret. Mary died of typhoid and Margaret married Charles Mayberry of Kanesville. Wheatley built a adobe

⁷ An explanation on a Family Group Sheet prepared by Georgia Blanch states, "Some archive records show a wife #2 Eva Strid married to husband, Jorgen Larsen. A search of GS film, TIB, IGI do not show an Eva Strid. Huntsville Ward records show an Eva Larsen listed below Jorgen Larsen and his wife, Martha Larsen. ...No marriage, sealing or other information could be found on her." In the 1880 federal census Jorgan Larsen, age 67, a laborer, born in Denmark, is listed as living in Huntsville with wife, Martha, age 48, a housekeeper, born in Sweden. They are surrounded by many Scandinavian families, most of whom are Danish, including the Wangsgaards. See FHL film #295,847. This Martha whose maiden name was "Petersen" was born on December 19, 1820 at Lundby, Skaraborg, Sweden to Lars Peterson.

home for Marsina on land we called "The Other Place." My sister Eliza and husband Parley Wagstaff now own it.

I've always understood Wheatley's first wife Ingor was a domineering woman. She and Wheatley had no children so when Mary came along Ingor took possession of her. Times were very hard. Grandmother Blanch took in washing, milked cows and made butter from the cream, had a garden and did everything possible to make ends meet.

Grandmother Dorthea Teaches Me to Stitch

I was old enough that I remember Grandmother coming to our home and staying for a few days at a time. It was her that taught me to crochet. I remember her as a little old woman standing behind me and guiding my hands as I endeavored to make the chain. Then she would scold me when I would pull it too tight. Under her guidance I learned to do the simple pieces such as the mile a minute and would sit by the hour with hook and thread.

Grandmother Dies in Peace

Grandmother Blanch, when Margaret was married and she was getting along in years, also lived with daughter Margaret Mayberry. She said she wanted to live to see peace restored. It was World War I. Her desire was granted. She passed away while the bells were ringing and the whistles were blowing signaling the end of the war. She died on her birthday 11 Nov. 1918 at the age of 76.

Dad Works for Neighbors

Such was the conditions under which my father was raised. His education was almost non-existent; however, he did learn to read



Joseph Blanch in his youth

and write. As a young boy, I've been told, he had nothing to play with so he would catch rats and make them go where he wanted them to go by sticks to make them turn until at times one would turn on him - then it was his turn to run. As he grew older he worked wherever he could, for neighbors then he started to herd sheep. One who hired him to herd sheep was his future father-in-law, Thomas Etherington.

When Dad was in his late teens he contracted typhoid also. He lay between life and death for a long time. His hair all came out but it did grow back in. His sister Georgina married William Jardine of Taylor.

My Mother and Her Parents

Her Father Comes from England

My mother's father Thomas Etherington, born in Bishop Auckland,⁹ Durham, England 1 Nov. 1836 the 9th son of John and Elizabeth Hemsley Etherington. His family joined the Mormon church when he was 14. He joined 3 years later, the only son to join. He came with his parents to Utah in 1855 and settled in Slaterville after crossing the plains. They endured all the inconveniences and discomforts of a sailing vessel for seven months riverboat and covered wagon.

Thomas Marries and Is Successful

He married Sarah Wheeler 9 March 1858. In addition to farming, Thomas helped organize the first dairy in Weber Co. The Slaterville Consolidated Creameries of which he was president. He



Sarah Wheeler



Thomas Etherington

was interested in improving irrigation and assisted in the building of many canals. He had many cattle, sheep and fine horses. He was also called to Echo Canyon to prevent the entry of federal troops in Utah. Helped drive Johnston's army back. In 1867 he married 2nd wife

⁹ Auckland.

married 2nd wife Margaret Newby. To this union 3 children were born John, Margaret and Isabella.

Thomas began life empty handed and by his constant efforts and great ambition he made himself one of the wealthy men of West Weber; however, his success did not go to his head. He was a most liberal hearted man. He passed away at 71 years of age of cancer of the stomach. He also was active in the church. He taught Sunday School for years. Was assistant superintendent of Sunday School and served a mission in Durham, England. "The high esteem in which he was held by the community was evidenced by the large attendance at the funeral and the wealth of beautiful floral tributes. He was buried in Ogden City Cemetery. All the speakers eulogized the many noble traits of character he possessed. His love for family and fellow man for whose comfort and welfare he had devoted both his time and means. His numerous posterity was admonished to emulate his excellent example," from Deseret Evening News. He died 20 Jan. 1907. The funeral was held in the Ogden Tabernacle. It was one of the largest funerals held at that time.

Her Mother Comes from England

My mother's mother was Sarah Wheeler Etherington born 21 Oct. 1840 at Gravelly Cambridgeshire England the 4th child of John and Elizabeth Gillings Wheeler. At the age of nine she came with her parents to America. They were on the water nine weeks. Crossed the plains with the William Walker Co. They suffered many trials and hardships. One was a mob cut the tongues out of two of their oxen.³

They arrived in Utah in 1857. They also settled in Slaterville so it was as neighbors that Thomas met Sarah.

Sarah's mother had rather poor health so much of the housekeeping fell to Sarah. She and Thomas were married by Pres. Brigham Young in the Endowment House in 1858.

Thomas and Sarah's Children

To this union was born 12 children. One boy and 2 girls died in infancy. Those who grew to maturity were: [See next page]



- 1st Child: Etherington, Elizabeth Ann
Birth: 29 Dec 1858
Place: Slaterville, Weber, Utah
Married to HADLEY, Samuel
Married: 16 Apr 1877



- 2nd Child: ETHERINGTON, Sarah Jane
Birth: 30 Jan 1860
Place: Slaterville, Weber, Utah
Married to GOODALE, Hyrum
Married 30 June 1881



- 3rd Child: ETHERINGTON, Mary Eliza
Birth: 19 July 1862
Place: West Weber, Weber, Utah Married to
McFARLAND, James Rankin
Married: 13 Apr 1882



- 4th Child: ETHERINGTON, Susan Adelia
Birth: 2 Apr 1864
Place: Slaterville, Weber, Utah
Married to McFARLAND, Charles Blair
Married: 17 Aug 1882



- 5th Child: ETHERINGTON, Frances Alice
Birth: 9 Mar 1866
Place: Slaterville, Weber, Utah
Married to CHARLTON, Edward Calvert
Married: 26 Nov 1884

1 boy and 2 girls died in infancy.



- 9th Child: ETHERINGTON, Laura May
 Birth: 2 June 1873
 Place: West Weber, Weber, Utah
 Married to BLANCH, Joseph
 Married: 20 Jan 1896



- 10th Child: ETHERINGTON, Esther Caroline
 Birth: 13 Feb 1876
 Place: West Weber, Weber, Utah
 Married to McFARLAND, Peter Fenton
 Married: 3 Feb 1897



- 11th Child: ETHERINGTON, George William
 Birth: 31 Oct 1879
 Place: West Weber, Weber, Utah
 Married to (1) CLARK, Hannah
 Married: 7 Mar 1900
 Married to (2) CARTER, Jane
 Married: 22 Sep 1941



- 12th Child: ETHERINGTON, James Albert
 Birth: 31 Oct 1882
 Place: West Weber, Weber, Utah
 Married to (1) BINGHAM, Hannah Melvine
 Married: 26 Nov 1902



Married to (2) HOSKINS, Rachel Leona
 Married: 26 Feb 1908

Summer at Red Rock

I remember all of the aunts and uncles. As all of the older children were girls they were required in the spring and summer to camp out in a canyon east of Ogden to a place called Red Rock where they herded the cattle, milked them and made butter from the cream. They also picked wild berries and made jam. These were placed in a hole that was dug in the mountainside to keep the butter fresh till Thomas or Grandfather I should say, came and took it to market. After I was married Lee and myself took mother up to where they stayed at Red Rock.



Children of Thomas Etherington

Standing: (left to right) Margaret Montgomery, John Etherinton, Margaret Dance, [Margaret Newby's children] George Etherington, Alice Charlton, Jimmie Etherington, and Laura May Blanch.

Sitting: Elizabeth Hadley, Adelia McFarland, Esther McFarland, Mary McFarland, and Jane Goodale [Sarah Wheeler's children]

Sarah, A Devoted Mother

Sarah was a kind and loving person. She made everyone welcome. Some would come and stay for weeks. She treated them all as her own. She was a very good cook. None ever went away hungry. Sarah was a counselor in the West Weber Ward Relief Society for 28 years. All who knew her loved her. She was a kind quiet woman. A true and loving wife and mother and a devout Latter-day Saint. The 2nd wife and Sarah lived together as sisters. She passed away 17 Mar 1899. This is what the Deseret Evening News had to print. "It had previously been arranged that on 17 March the people of the ward would celebrate the organization of the Relief Society. A fine program had been prepared, but on the morning of that day Sister Sarah Etherington, who had been ill for about a year, breathed her last at 5 a.m. It was at once decided to postpone the celebration.

"Twenty-eight years ago she was called to be a counselor in the presidency of the Relief Society which position she held with honor and trust until the time of her death. A more even tempered, kind hearted woman would be hard to find."

Services were held in the meeting house, being one of the largest funerals ever held here. All of the speakers bore testimony of her many good qualities. Grandpa Etherington lived eight more years.

I Look to My Ancestors

The only grandparent I knew was Grandma Blanch. I was 8 when she passed away. Oh how I wish I could of known them. All seemed so important and exciting. As I was researching. By looking at their pictures, in my mind's eye, I can almost talk to them. The men kind, hard working and strict. The mothers quiet and dignified. Who do I take after? Not quiet, not dignified. Mabe hard working and strict. Lets say a combination of all.

Chapter 2

My Early Years

Our Residences

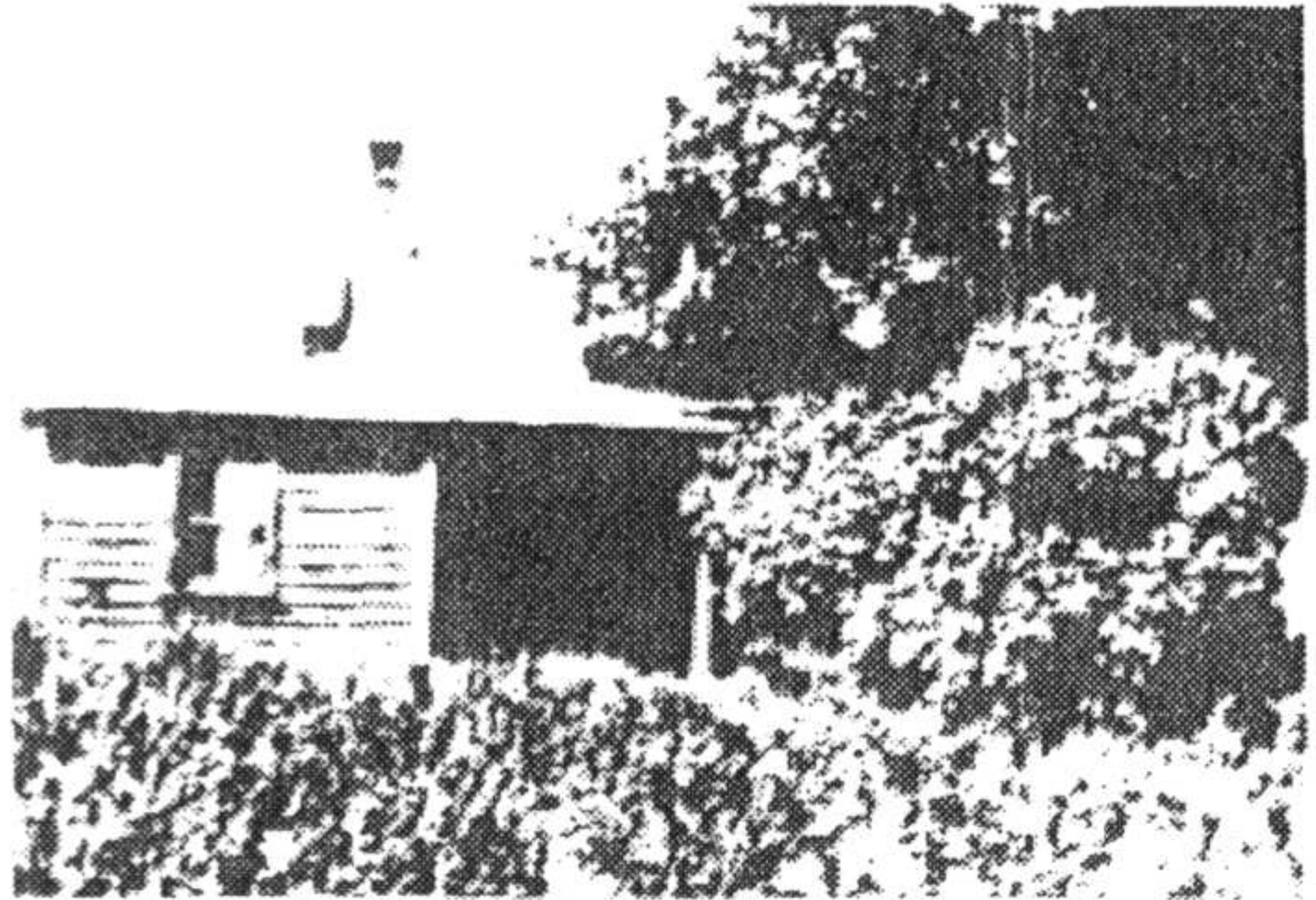
"The Lot"

As stated before my father Joseph Blanch was born in Denmark but came to America when but eleven months old. He was admitted to citizenship in the United States by the Fourth Judicial District the 1st of October 1892. He married my mother Laura May Etherington 20 January 1897 when he was 26 years old. The marriage was later solomized in the Salt Lake Temple 15 Sept 1916. Their first home was a place we called "The Lot". Reed Hancock lives on some of the land now. It was just under 2 acres, had a 2 room cabin on the property. There were many fruit trees and berries also. A well that provided water by lowering buckets tied to a rope. I vaguely remember the old house, plum trees and some pear trees there. Eventually the house, trees and all were cleared for farming.

"The Other Place"

At this time Dad worked for Fronks making adobe for buildings. Here Glen, Sarah and George was born. Then in 1901 or 1902 he bought his mother's home and farm which was about ten acres.

This we called "The Other Place." This was located about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the main road and very difficult to reach in the winter on account of snowdrifts and muddy up to the axles in the spring. Here Laura, John, Eliza and myself were born.



The Other Place

"The Selman Home"

Then when I was but a baby in 1911 Dad bought a brick home on the main highway to Plain City. Here Donald and Grant were born,.



The Selman home where I spent most of my childhood

Eliza lives in the home now and have done much remodeling. It is very comfortable & lovely. The Wagstaffs run a dairy and take good care of the buildings and yards.

"The Bottoms and Uncle Ed's Place."

In 1907 Grandfather Etherington's estate was settled and Mother and Aunt Elizabeth drew as their share a ranch in Rockland, Idaho. Later Dad traded for some land along the Weber River as we know it as "The Bottoms." In 1927 Dad purchased from Aunt Francis & Uncle Ed Charlton the house and farm where Mother was born. John lived there and farmed- in fact bought it from Dad- until he retired. Then the Wagstaffs bought it along with the Bottoms. Eliza's granddaughter built a new home there.

Family Affairs

Home Management

We did not have many luxuries when I was growing up but had equal or above the community at the time. Father hated debt and other than for land or machinery. He steered clear of it. He was honest in all his dealings. He always milked cows, had pigs and chickens. Mother always had the milk-cream checks to run the house on. Big purchases such as dining room sets etc. came from the farm. Mother was a quiet woman. Never had too much to say. Quite different from the rest of the family today.

My Brothers and Sisters:



- 1st Child: Blanch, Joseph Glen
Birth: 4 June 1897
Place: West Weber, Utah
Married to Middleton, Laura E.
Married: 22 September 1926
Place: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Temple



- 2nd Child: Blanch, Sarah
Birth: 7 April 1899
Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah
Married to (1) Judkins, Parley B
Married: 8 November 1916
Place: Salt Lake City, Utah- Salt Lake Temple



Married to (2) Judkins, Wilford Newell
 Married: 14 November 1931
 Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah

- 3rd Child: Blanch, George Thomas
 Birth: 8 September 1901
 Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah
 Married to Baxter, Eva
 Married: 22 August 1935
 Place: Logan, Cache Co., Utah- Logan Temple

- 4th Child: Blanch, Laura May
 Birth: 10 October 1903
 Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah
 Married to Hancock, Heber John
 Married: 15 November 1921
 Place: West Weber, Weber, Utah

End. June 1923, S.L. Temple

- 5th Child: Blanch, John Ray
 Birth: 11 March 1906
 Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah
 Married to Belnap, Voletta
 Married: 24 November 1926
 Place: Salt Lake City, Utah-Salt Lake Temple

- 6th Child: Blanch, Eliza Dorothea
 Birth: 2 August 1908
 Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah
 Married to Wagstaff, Parley Leroy
 Married: 14 March 1929
 Place: Salt Lake City, Utah- Salt Lake Temple



- 7th Child: Blanch, Ethel Elizabeth
Birth: 23 September 1910
Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah
Married to Lee Hammon Stoker
Married: 12 June 1929
Place: Logan, Cache Co., Utah - Logan Temple



- 8th Child: Blanch, James Donald
Birth: 24 February 1913
Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah
Married to (1) Johnson, Eva
Married: 13 December 1933
Married to (2) Egan, Georgia Elaine
(shown in picture)

Married: 30 October 1943



- 9th Child: Blanch, Grant Etherington
Birth: 4 July 1915
Place: West Weber, Weber Co., Utah
Married to Hanson, Emma Dell
Married 25 August 1941
Place: Logan, Cache Co., Utah- Logan Temple

My Father's Disposition

He Was Head of Our Home

Dad was the firm one. He was head of the house. Sometimes harsh in disciplining the family yet I've seen him take the grandchildren on his lap and play with them. But I never remember sitting on Dad's lap. Dad saw to it that we kids attended church. If any work had to be done on Sunday such as irrigating or feeding, he did it so the boys could be to church. In his early years, he was not very active in church but contributed to all activities. In his later years he attended priesthood and sacrament meetings quite regularly. At his death he was a High Priest.

He Didn't Like to Speak

I'm told at one time in sacrament meeting Ed Bingham from the stake high council called on Dad out of the congregation to speak. Dad went to the pulpit, stood there a few minutes then sat down without saying a word. I know how he felt. I've never heard either my dad or mother speak in church. Neither one possessed the ability to express heart felt feelings, but I know we were loved and they enjoyed the success of their kids.

My Parents' Deaths

Dad passed away age 59 of a accident 26 June 1929. A team of horses ran away with Dad as he went across a ditch with the hayrake. He suffered a broken neck. Mother 14 Feb. 1942 at 68 Years.

Grant wrote this about Mom

And at last 'tis this I pray
Striving, yearning, day by day
That somehow, somewhere
May I be nearer her nobility

I think this is what we all are striving for, to be a better person.

Some Poetic Verses I Like

I like this verse.

Your task to build a better World, God said.
I answered how?
This world is such a large vast place.
So complicated now
And I so small and useless am.
There's nothing I can do.
But God in all his wisdom said,
Just build a better you.

In doing this I take one step ahead and two steps backward, but I'm headed in the right direction I hope. This other poem I really feel it gives us something to think about and strive to accomplish.

You got it from your father.
It was all he had to give.
So it's yours to use and cherish
For as long as you may live.

If you lose the watch he gave you,
It can be replaced.
But a black mark on your name, son,
Can never be erased.
It was clean the day you took it,
And a worthy name to bear.
When he got it from his father,
There was no dishonor there.
So make sure you guard it wisely.
After all is said and done,
You'll be glad the name is spotless
When you give it to your son.

My Heritage

I was a very privileged spirit when I was sent to earth to have the names of Larsen, Blanch, Wheeler, Etherington and more as my heritage. I came into this world from hearty, honest pioneer stock on a Friday the 23 day of September 1910 at the family home at the "Other Place" in West Weber about 8 miles west of Ogden, Utah in the house Grandpa Blanch built for Grandma shortly after they were married. I was blessed 6 Nov. 1910.

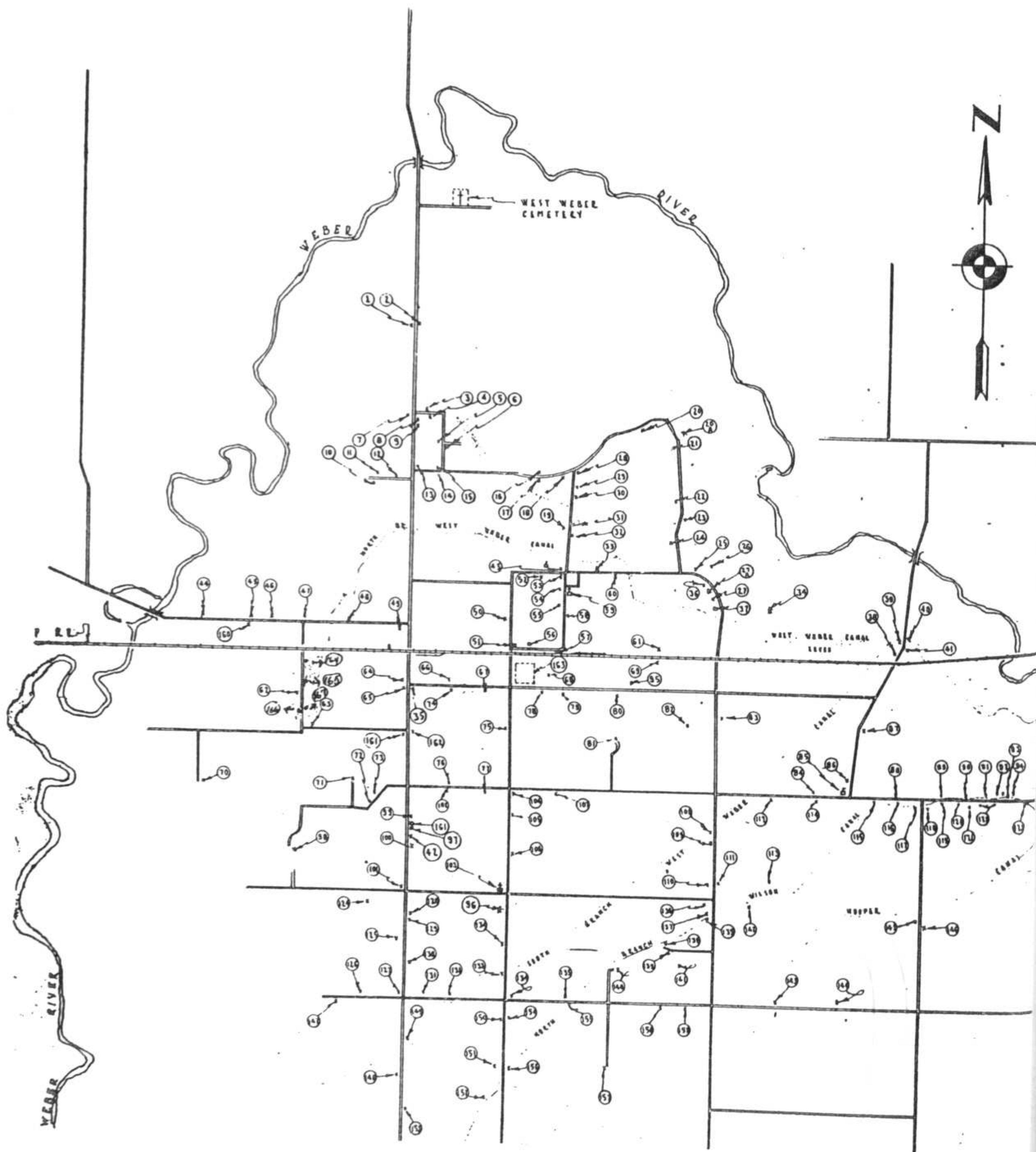
What I First Remember

Play in the Backyard

My earliest recollections were of playing in the back dooryard- where Eliza now lives- with cats. Later one of my tasks was to rake the yard clean. Then Mother would throw water on the ground. Thus a hard surface to bounce balls on. The backyard is where we played as at that time there was no grass or lawn mowers so the front yard grew to weeds or a calf was staked out to keep the weeds down. The lawn was planted many years later.

There was only two years between Eliza and myself so I always had a play-mate. Eliza was even tempered even as a child whereas I flew off the handle quite often, but we had but very few fights. Behind the house was a building we called the "Shanty." There was stored the flour, emptied in a big bin with a tight fitting lid. It opened more or less like a roll top desk. Also there was usually a barrel with salt water in in which hams and bacon was left to cure. Hams & bacon was also hung on large nails after liquid smoke or sometimes granules was rubbed on the meat. Beans and rice was stored there also. Just a catch all for things one

West Weber of 1910



LIST OF RESIDENTS IN WEST WEBER 1910

Map made by the Fronk Family

Submitted by Douglas Heslop

1. David Hancock	36. Lucy Greenwell	71. John Larsen	106. William Brown	141. William Buck
2. James Penman	37. Greenwell Slaughter	72. Ben Hansen	107. William Purrington	142. John Douglas
3. James Buck	House	73. William Jardine	108. George Goodsell	143. John Grant
4. Hugh McLean	38. James McFarland	74. Charles McFarland	109. Edward Barnes	144. Olie Olson
5. James Stanger	39. Robert McFarland	75. James Gibson	110. Sam Faddis	145. John Salmon
6. Charles Hogge	40. William McFarland	76. Thomas Gibson	111. Martin McFarland	146. Heber Cborne
7. Joseph Alvord	41. Thos. (Cud) McFarland	77. Stephen Hadley	112. Hyrum McFarland	147. August Anderson
8. John Hunter	42. Taylorsville School	78. Walter Hart	113. Blair McFarland	148. Hyrum Hadley
9. Harry Penman	43. Ephraim Hipwell	79. William Fronk	114. Charles Aldous	149. Joseph Hadley
10. William Telford	44. Lewis Bitton	New House	115. William Holmes	150. William Staker
11. Joseph Blanch	45. Ammon Green	80. William Fronk	116. Edwin A. Bingham	151. Henry Read
12. Chris Blanch	46. James McFarland	Old House	117. Thomas Smith	152. Alfred Jackson
13. Jacob Gibson	47. George Heslop	81. William Douglas	118. Elijah Bingham	153. Ezra Potter
14. George Hogge	48. Thomas Etherington	82. Alexander Morrison	119. Elisha Bingham	154. George A. Hunter
15. Wheatley Gibson	49. James Etherington	83. William Royal	120. Carl Erickson	155. James B. Hunter
16. William Hardy	50. August Lund	84. George Aldous	121. Robert Bingham	156. Henry Jacobs
17. Mamie Usher	51. Tone Fronk's Blacksmith	85. Garland School	122. Erastus Bingham	157. Elijah Clayton
18. Lorenzo Hadley	Shop	86. Hans Peterson	123. Gideon Holmes	158. William Staker
19. Walter Hadley	52. James Hogge	87. H.J. Peterson	124. Jacob Nielson	159. George Welch
20. Edward Charlton	53. Charlotte Mills Store	88. Heber Bingham	125. Eric Edvalson	160. James Measures
21. Tom Charlton	54. George Purrington	89. Tyler Bingham	126. John Moline	161. Peter McFarland
22. William Hipwell	55. Jewel Leavitt	90. Martinous Barton	127. Walter Hayes	162. Harvey Donaldson
23. John Hipwell	56. Canning Factory	91. Willard Bingham	128. Ann Nielson	163. Fronk Brick Yard
24. Ezra Hadley	57. West Weber R.R. Station	92. Eugene Bingham	129. Fred Nielson	164. Fanny Bulmer
25. Harry Dance	58. James Waterfall	93. John Martin	130. Andrew Anderson	165. George A. Heslop
26. John Douglas	59. West Weber LDS Ward	94. David Jenkins	131. Tony Favero	166. Frank Wright
27. Sarah Ann Hart	60. Thomas Cook	95. William Fronk, Jr.	132. Samuel Hadley	167. John Gibson
28. Joseph Greenwell	61. William Surrage	96. George F. Hunter	133. James F. Hunter	
29. Lucy Greenwell	62. William Hunter	97. John Clark	134. Adolph Anderson	
30. Archie McFarland	63. Walter Griffin	98. Samuel Walker	135. Conrad Edvalson	
31. Bert McFarland	64. Daniel Rogerson	99. William Nielson	136. Barnard Farr	
32. Joseph Hogge	65. Charles McFarland	100. Edward Clark	137. Winslow Farr	
33. Ben Bitton	66. Nephil Buck	101. Eric Anderson	138. Lafayette Farr	
34. George Bitton	67. Jacob Gibson	102. Jacob Gibson	139. Lorin Farr	
35. Anthony Fronk	68. George Anderson	103. Future Taylor Ward	140. Hyrum Jenkins	
36. Richard Greenwell	69. Richard Mills	104. Adam Hunter		
37. Nathan Hawkes store	70. Sven Peterson	105. James Dailey		
and house				

from *The Big Bend of the River: History of West Weber 1859-1976*
 compiled by Arvil Charles Hipwell & Ida Mae Deem Hipwell. West
 Web, Ut: West Weber Ward, 1976. pp. 212-213



The shanty (left), my brothers, Grant and Don, house

clothes there and was it fun to dress up in the summertime. It wasn't quite so much fun tho when we had to clean it up and put the clothes back in sacks so they could be torn for rag rugs.

Here we could play when the weather was warm. We had our dolls, even dressed cats in our doll clothes. We had no play dishes so we would use pieces of broken plates and old bottles to make do. Many hours was spent there crocheting with the sweat running down our faces and with the flies making music for us. It was in this shanty that we kept the doll trunk that Eliza and myself found before Christmas—snooping. No, Christmas was never the same.

Other Things I Remember

A way to Remove Warts

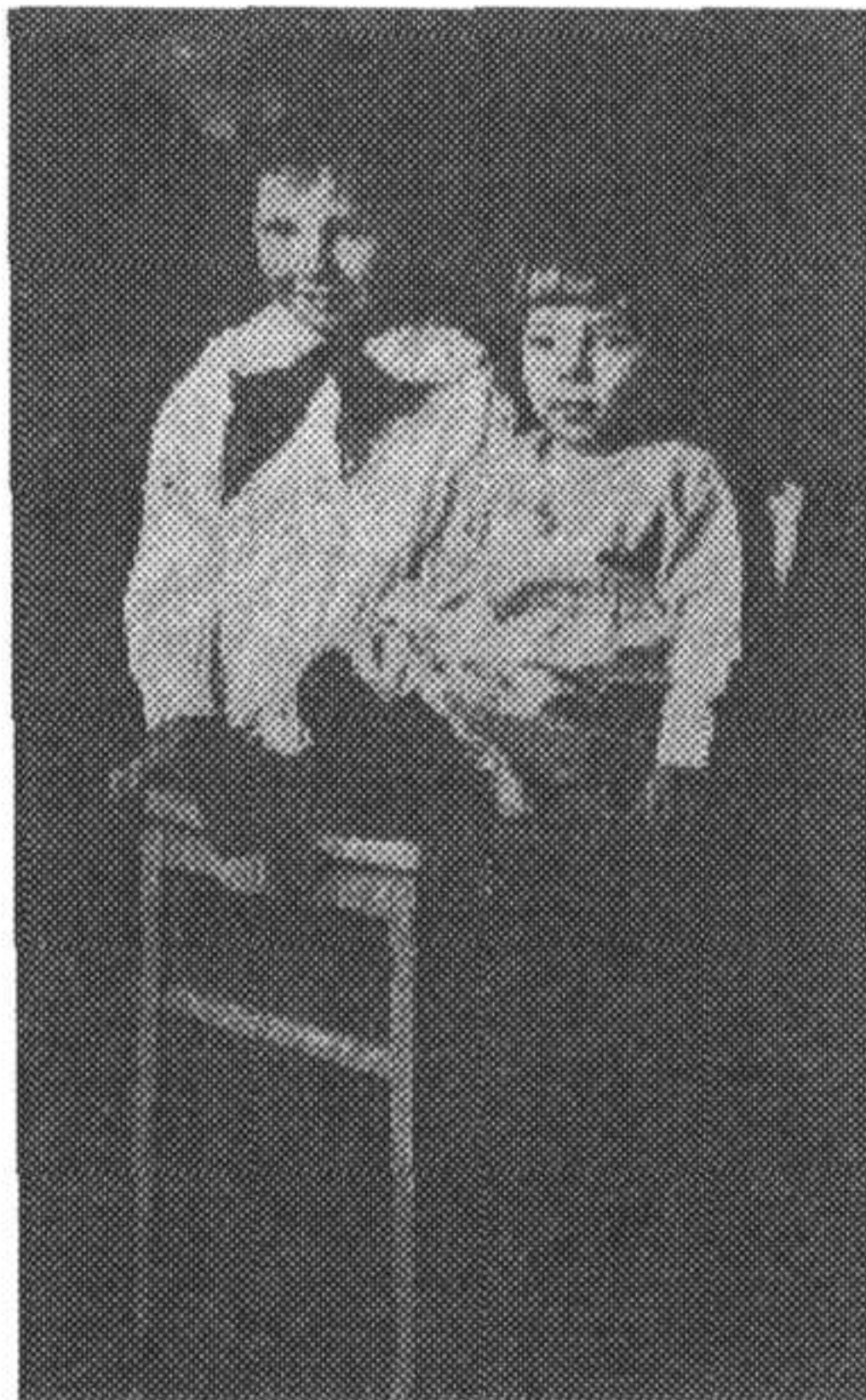
We heard of a way to remove warts. I had one big one on my hand—so we did what we heard. We took Mother's dish rag and rubbed the wart good with it then buried it out by a fence. No it didn't work. I still kept my wart and Mother never could find her dish rag.

I Loved Neighborhood Play

From the time I could keep up with the older kids we would go to Chris Blanche's of a evening and play in their barn and out buildings. They had a lot more places to hide when we played hide and seek or anti i over with a ball. They had children our ^{ages} and many hours were spent there after the supper dishes was done. Of course the dark didn't bother us at all hiding all alone or coming home cause we were having fun. But it was a different story when at home. We were afraid to go out side alone after dark. We even had to have mother walk out to the outhouse with us. Even Eliza with me wouldn't do. The outhouse was a good place to read the Sears and Roebuck catalogue and dream of all the dolls and jewelery someday we could get. Sears was the standard toilet paper of the day.

Outdoor Privies Are Scary

Talking of toilets cause there was no inside plumbing then especially out in the country. I don't remember how old I was but around 7 or 8, I spent a few days with Sarah when they lived in Warren. One afternoon she had me take Newell to the toilet. Course the seat was



Sarah' children, Newell and Lynn
Judkins

way too big for such a small boy. I was supposed to be holding him. Anyway he slipped and down the toilet he went. Thank goodness it was a new one—they were sill building their house. I went screaming in the house, "The devil is going to get him. Come quick, the devil is going to get him." Sarah got him out ok and cleaned him up but I don't ever remember having to take any more of her children to the toilet. It was one of my jobs quite often after the washing was done, to take a bucket of hot soapy water and a old broom and scrub the outhouse as well as the wooden step of the house and a wooden walk from the step to the shanty.

Mother Was Always Busy

Laundry Was Drudgery

Many a time when we got home from school Mother was still washing. She would have the boiler on the stove heating before we left for school. All the water had to be carried in in buckets as well as out again when all was done. I never remember when we didn't have a washing machine but it had to be turned by hand. I think it was a push, pull deal. Then the clothes was put through a hand wringer. After the whites were washed they were put in a boiler with soapy water to boil a while. Then rinsed in a clear water, then put in a tub with a little blueing in, then hung on lines outside regardless whether it was hot or cold out. In the winter many of times Mother would come in from hanging the clothes and put her hands in cold water they were so cold. Many times also she would get the "hot ache" in her fingers. No wonder many of the clothes were dark colors; however, they faded worse than they do now.

We didn't get the electricity until around 1918-19. In the rooms was a drop cord with a bare light globe on the end. It was heaven not to have to take a coal oil lamp every where one went.

A Winter Evening at Our Home

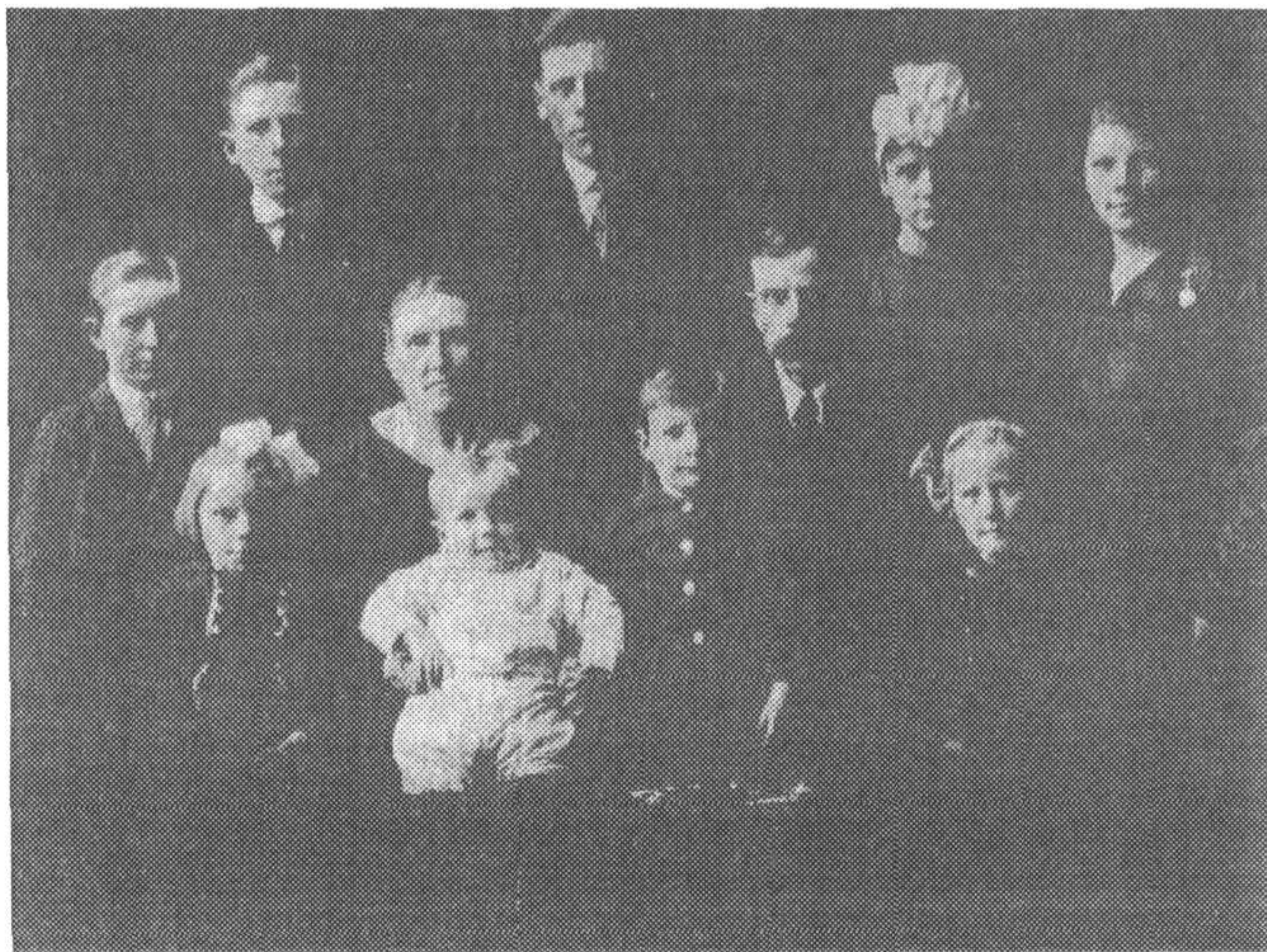
Many nights, in the winter especially, after supper dishes was done—dish pans was used on the table as there was no cabinets—and school lessons completed on the kitchen table, Dad and the boys would play a game of cards with the coal oil lamp set in the middle of the table. They played mostly high five. Mother would often pop corn on a red hot kitchen stove in a wire popper—hot butter and salt was used freely so no wonder the cards were always sticky & smeared. I loved those nights.

After Laundry Comes Ironing

The ironing was done by the old "sad irons" heated on the kitchen stove. Not so bad in winter where a fire had to be going to keep warm but in the summer it was unbearable. No wash and wear. When clothes were hung on the line there was no way they could be worn without being ironed. I never did much ironing with the sad irons as we had electricity by the time I was old enough to iron, that is until after I was married and lived where there was no electricity. Mother soon got a electric washer as well as the iron but she never did get a electric stove. The pantry and a closet was later made into a bathroom.

Our Well Was An Asset

Dad had a new well drilled close by the house. A team of horses was hitched to a derrick and they were driven round and round. A big weight would be lifted about as high as the derrick then it would drop on the pipe and drive it down farther into the ground. After the men would quit for the night the cool wet dirt was a great place to play. The flowing well is still in use today. Dad then built a box with burlap



The Joseph Blanch family, 1917 before Glen went into the army.

Standing: (left to right) John, George, Glen, Laura, Sarah

Sitting: Ethel, Laura May, Grant, Donald, Joseph, and Eliza

over the top and down the sides and put the box under the flowing water in which was placed the milk & butter. It was surprising how cold it was.

Mother Made and Sold Butter

Mother would churn butter and sell it. The milk was fed to the pigs (as well as the dish water—so as a result no soap was used to wash

dishes). Many times it fell my turn to churn. The churn was a big crock that set on the floor with a dasher that one raised and lowered. As a child I'm sure I was not very consistant but it would take all morning for butter to come. Mother would then take over while I enjoyed a glass of buttermilk. Mother would wash all the milk out which took several washings. Then salt it. I loved to taste it to see if it was salty enough. Then she had a butter mold that made 1 lb at a time, a solid brick. It made a flower design on top. Wrapped in a sheet of paper. It was called butter paper, sort of a parchement. Then taken, along with a few dozen eggs, to Hawkes' store about 1 1/2 mile from home and traded for groceries.

I Fibbed

One day Eliza and I walked to the store with a few eggs to get a item for Mother. Proudly I handed Mr. Hawkes a egg and said "I swiped a egg and want some candy." I really got a black look along with the candy. The worst part of it was I never swiped the egg at all. Mother had given it to me as she often did. I feel badly to think Mr. Hawkes will remember me as a thief as that is what I told him. Why would he think otherwise.

Mother Baked Bread

Mother mixed bread every other day. Baker's bread was unknown to me at this time. How great it was to come home from school and have a slice of new bread with butter and preserves or more likely with thick cream and sugar. Many nights I would hold a light and go with mother out to the shanty to get flour to mix bread. She used live yeast in which she would use the potato water from potatoes from dinner, add it to the start she saved from last mixing, add a little sugar and it would be ready to use at night. She would mix the bread just before going to bed. In the winter cover the bread with a clean cloth, wrap all in some heavy coats, put it on a chair and put it close to the stove. In the morning the bread would be to the top of the pan and for breakfast light dough biscuits or light dough dumplings with plenty of sugar and cream in the place of cereal. Oh, how good those breakfasts were to a skinny active girl.

Mother Could Cook Too

Mother was a excellent cook. I can still taste and yearn for her pork spare ribs. They cut the meat up themselves so there was plenty of meat on them, baked in the oven. Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding,

Rolly Polly Pudding or Rag Pudding, batter put in the center of a clean cloth and steamed for several hours served with hot dip. Or carrot pudding steamed in cans for hours. She made a soup for supper that we called "totty grout," a potato soup served with lots of bread and butter. It was great. Mine just doesn't taste like hers did.

Dad Provided the Meat for Mother to Use

In the fall and spring Dad would butcher a beef and a pig. It was a great day for us kids. We were always underfoot and in the way, fighting for the bladders. We would blow the bladder up through a long straw then tie the opening with a piece of twine and that was our football. Nothing was wasted. Mother would make headcheese out of the head. On a piece of bread with some homemade mustard, it was very good. Many times Mom would bottle the beef, mabe roast it first then boil in the boiler in the bottles. Pork she would partly fry. Put it in a crock and pour the hot grease over it to seal. Or as mentioned before the pork was salted or smoked. After the hams dried out good, they were buried in the wheat. The bacon would be so salty it had to be parboiled before it was fried.

Dad would raise his bull calves, feed them plenty of milk and butcher them as veal. Sold them to the packing plants so now we had another source for our footballs.

Mother Used Produce from Our Garden

Mother always had a garden but it was to the "Other Place" so everything had to be carried home. No car to go back & forth. Dad always took care of the planting, weeding and watering. It was a long way to get radishes for supper or a onion when needed. Many trees of apricots, pie cherries, plums and apples as well as a big red raspberry patch was over there also. Mother did lots of canning always cold packing it in the wash boiler. Jams and preserves was put in half gallon crocks and taken out a dish at a time as were pickles. She even made catsup using corks in the bottles and dipping all the top in hot parafine. We raised most everything except peaches and grapes. These were purchased from Montgomerys (Mother's half sister) in North Ogden and dewberries Mother would trade Aunt Elizabeth of Taylor raspberries for dewberries.

I Become Part of the Community

I Join the Church

I was baptized 6 July 1919 by David A Hancock in an irrigation ditch in the back of Ray Charlton's home. It was Sunday afternoon. We undressed in the willows on the ditch bank. Later the same day was confirmed by Charles Heslop.

I vaguely remember all going to the Bamberger train in Ogden after riding in a buggy to get there, and how long it seemed to go to the temple 15 Sept 1916. I can remember all of us in white but not much more

I Go to Town

Many times I remember going to Ogden with Dad and Mother of a Saturday. I would kneel in front of Mother and hold to the dashbord. We could almost reach out and touch the horses' rear end. I would love to look in the store windows and couldn't wait until noon came as Mother would take me to Wright's, a department store but they had a restraunt in the basement. There we would have soup with plenty of oyster crackers. I was impatient when mother would stop and visit. We only got to go to town though if we needed shoes or such. In the winter there were side curtains that could be put on the buggy. These did keep out the rain and snow and wind.

Dad Buys a Car

Dad was one of the first in the community to own a automobile. It was a Overland. It also had side curtains with little isingglass windows. Now we could go to church in style. The older boys learned to drive the car. By this time Sarah & Parl had moved to Paul, Idaho on a farm. Dad and Mother took Grant & Don, Eliza & Myself to visit them. We left at daylight, stopped at noon and ate a lunch Mother had packed. It was the longest ride ever. We didn't get there till after dark. Course no paved roads, just dust and chuckholes. I don't remember of having any car trouble, but do remember how tired I was and how happy when we pulled in the yard and seen Sarah in the open doorway waiting for us.

I Ride Horses

We didn't have any riding horses but I used to ride "Old Mont," a horse of Uncle Jimmie's with Wayne and Flora every chance I got which was often. They pastured their cows down in the pasture by "the Bottoms" so would have to pass our place to get them and to take

them back to the pasture. One day Flora stopped and asked me to go with her to get the cows so I got on behind her, no saddle, bareback. It had rained that day and there were mud puddles everywhere. We were going very fast and took the corner by Gibson's very fast still and yes we both fell off in the biggest puddle of all. Flora had ridden enough and was good at it I was holding on to her and pulled her off with me I'm sure. It was much more my style to ride Mag and Chuck Gibson's (our cousins) Shetland pony. However, I still rode with Wayne & Flora when ever I got the chance.

I Ride a Bicycle and Swim

It was a great day for me when Elmer Blanch let me learn to ride his small bicycle. All their boys had bikes but we never did have one. While on the subject of fun things, we used to go swimming in the irrigation ditch that separates Chris Blanch's pasture from our place. Flora would come down, Eliza, myself & Margaret (Peggy) Blanch would put on a old dress and thought we were doing a great job of swimming. One day Peggy said, "Watch me dive," which she did and ended up with her head stuck in the soft mud at the side of the ditch, her dress around her shoulders and her feet in the air. It cured her of diving. We had much fun then but now and probably was then a very shallow, muddy, mossy ditch.

I Fight with Flora

Flora would come and play with Eliza as they are the same age but it was always Flora and myself that had differences. One day we all



Flora Etherington Garner, 1945

went to play with Peg. They had lots of mulberry trees in front of their house, purple, white and black. Gee those were good. I don't remember what started it but Flora and myself started fighting. Were we ever a sorry mess with mulberries all over both of us. I've been told when I got mad I would bend my tongue under and really go to town. Can't even do it now. Guess my tongue was longer & not so thick then. I don't remember much of fighting with Eliza or Peg or even Don & Grant but Flora and myself was always going the rounds. However it wasn't long before we had our arms around each other as tho nothing had happened. Today Flora is one of my most

loved cousins, friend & pal. She has often said Eliza and myself are closer to her than her own sisters.

The Saturday Rituals and Other Events

When Saturday nite would roll around water was heated on the stove and we knew there was no getting out of it—it was bath nite. A quilt



Grant and Don, about 1917

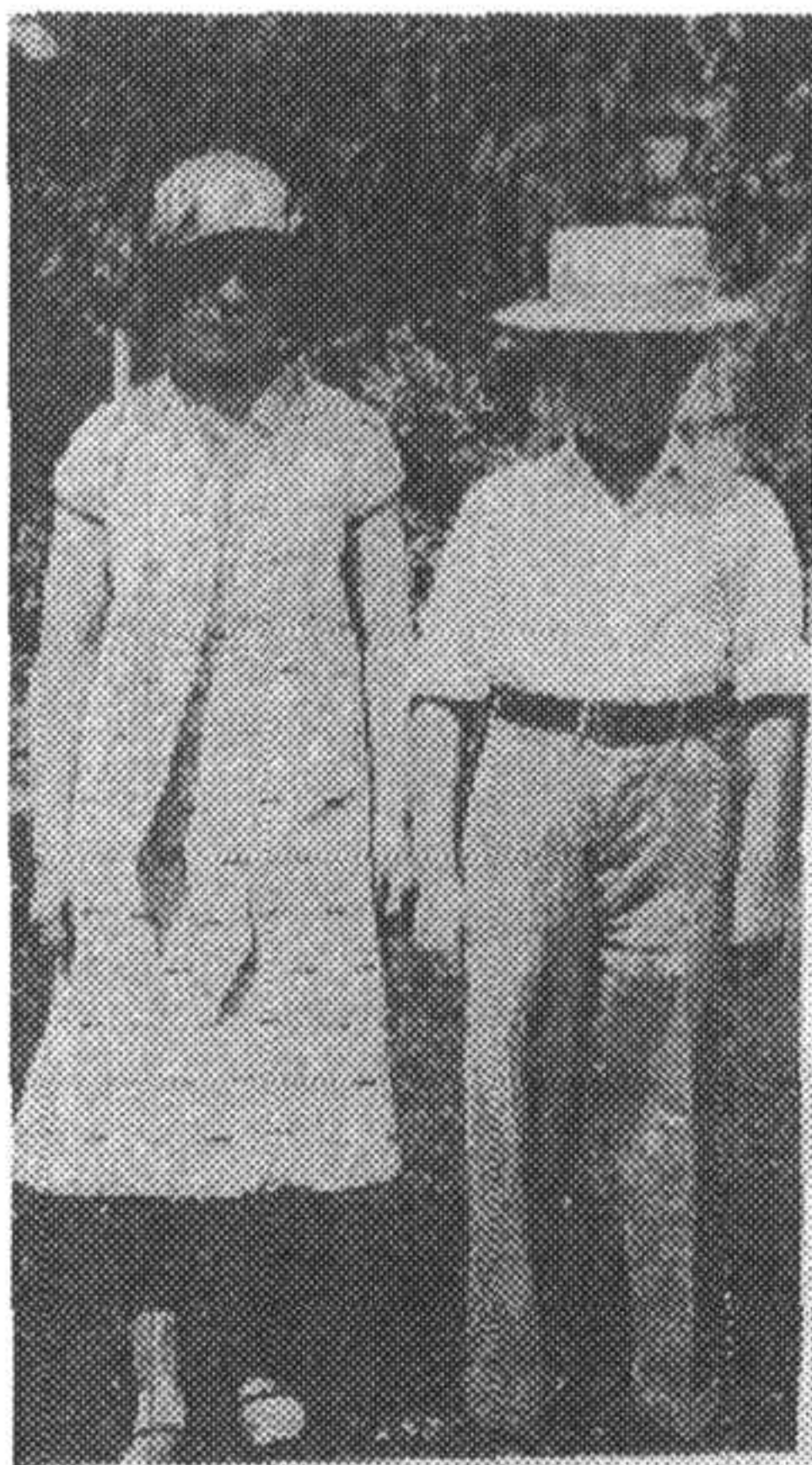
was put on the backs of chairs and the round wash tub was put as close to the stove as we could get it and there we took our turn. One would bath. More hot water added and the second one had his turn. Don't remember how many used the same water but when it had to be carried in, heated & carried out I imagine several. Hair was not washed every week. In winter sometimes it wasn't washed for a month. In the winter we mostly used the kitchen for everything as it was the only warm room in the house. Mabe on Sunday or special occasions a fire was lit in the front room.

How We Coped with the Cold and Santa Claus

We burned coal that Dad would haul from Ogden in a shallow box on the wagon. Then throw it piece by piece in the coal house. In the winter it was very cold to go to bed in a cold room. Was we ever grateful then for the feather ticks or mattresses.

Often on very cold nights, after we got to bed, Mother would bring in a warm sad iron wrapped in newspaper and put to our feet. The boys had to sleep out in the back portch. Dad had it built on. It was open on 2 sides with screen and a canvas on the outside that could be rolled up or down. The only thing one had to go outside to adjust the canvas. I mentioned we, Eliza and myself, snooped when we shouldn't have. The trunk was for both of us. A trunk underneath and a place where we could put our dolls to sleep on top. The night before Christmas was always a busy place at our house. This one wanting to leave Santa a sandwich that one a cookie and all wanting supper early so we could get to bed so Santa could come. Then each one trying to find the largest stocking possible to hang on the back of a chair in hope Santa would fill them to the top. Christmas morning we would start running to the kitchen about 3 a.m. We would hear a shout from Dad, "Go

back to bed." We would but not before we got a good peek of what was in our stocking. This would go on until we heard Dad shake the grate make the fire. Dad Always made the fire of a morning. This was a signal and we all made a mad dash for our stocking. Always Santa left some candy and nuts loose in the toe. One can't find candy like they had then. It was really good. In later years we would get a orange. If we received a doll and a pair of mittens we considered we had a very good Christmas. They boys would get gloves, skates or and a pocket knife. Santa always visited the ward Christmas morning. After



Ethel and Don, 1920's

a short program, I remember as I was older of giving a reading several years in a row, Santa would always give each of us a sack of candy & nuts, mostly peanuts and hardtack. Some gumdrops was included most of the time & nugets.

The Clothes I Wore

When I was small we used to wear flour sack bloomers, sometimes with the print of the kind of flour still in evidence. If we were really lucky we might have a pair of black sateen ones. We wore black ribbed stockings and button shoes. We were always hunting for the button hook. Now, no one knows what a button hook is. Silk underwear & stockings weren't around till about 1925. The silk stockings really run bad. The smallest snag and a runner the full length of the sock. In the summer the mosquitoes were so bad we would put a piece of newspaper inside our stockings to keep from being eaten up.

I Walked to School

I started school when I was 6 years old. We would have to walk except in the very coldest weather. Then Dad would take us in a wagon. In the winter before the snow came, we would skate to school on ice in the irrigation ditch. It was closer to walk on the ditch bank thru the field than to go around the road. We had to walk close to a mile. In the winter the ditch banks would be free of snow. The wind blew it off where the roads would have drifts on them. Course that wasn't always what we wanted. We would walk down in the ditch that was full of snow. After the first year or so I left the comfort of my older brothers and sister and walked to school with my friends Glenda and Marjory Gibson, cousins. I

would meet them at the bridge and would all go together. However, this also had its drawbacks. With 3 of us, at one time or another, one



West Weber School



Don, Grant and Max Hancock in front

was left out. The day I was left out was terrible, the 2 walking ahead with their arms around each other and the one trailing almost crying or getting ahead and running all the way. We all had our turn of being left out. While in the 3rd grade the flu was making its rounds.¹ There was so many ab-

sent the whole class was held back. We weren't immune either. Beds were set up in the front room. Several of us was sick at once. The only medicine for it was "hot toddys", lemonade or jello water with a tablespoon of whisky in it. Many lost their lives to the flu but Mother nursed us all back to good health including Dad.

¹ This was the great 1918 flu epidemic.

Chapter 3

My Teenage Years

My Patriarchal Blessing

On 1 October 1922 on a Sunday afternoon, Glenda, Marjory & myself had our patriarchal blessing given at our home. Mary Gibson, Glenda's mother, wrote it down long hand for all 3 of us. I still have my original copy. Mr. Nathan Hawkes was the Patriarch. He was a older man, the father of Heber Hawkes, owner of the store. I've referred to my blessing often. It has been a guide in my life. My one great wish is that I have lived a life good enough and will continue to be good enough that I will see the fulfillment of it, if not in this life then in the next as I understand and pray that our blessings are not only for this life. As if I interpret it correctly, I'll live to see wickedness swept from the face of the earth and the Kingdom of God established in power. What a blessing. It is very frightening, but oh what a privilege. We've got to get more involved in Temple work. both mine and Lee's blessing says we will be involved in saving our dead.

Part of my blessing has come to pass as it tells me that I will be married in the Temple to a honest upright young man and will be the mother of noble sons and daughters. How proud I am of my family. Their spirits were definitely the "choice spirits" there. All have been married in [the] Temple. All have held responsible positions in their wards and so far as I know are good upright citizens in their community. I love them all, sons-in-law and daughters-in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren. So far all that are married have been

married in [the] Temple. All have held responsible positions in their wards and so far as I know are good upright citizens in their community. I love them all, sons-in-law and daughters-in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren. So far all that are married have been married in the Temple to lovely partners. Oh, how I hope it will continue. We have sent 2 sons and 3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter on missions, 1983. Many more are growing up and getting prepared for calls.

My Experiences in the West Weber Ward MIA

Walking in the Cold

After graduation from Primary I entered Mutual. We still had to walk rain or shine, hot or cold. One night I remember it was a cold clear night. I was walking home with Laura. She was a teacher. And I got so cold. The insides of my knees got so cold that when I arrived home and got by the fire, my legs were blood red. Then when they started thawing out, I got the hotache in them. I even cried. Lelia Heslop and Aunt Rae Etherington was our teachers in Beehive class. Marsella Gibson, Marjories's mother, was the Young Ladies' president.

We Girls Took to the Hills

Every summer the girls would go up the the canyon and spend several days. We took tents to sleep in and cooked over a open fire.



West Weber Beehive Girls up South Fork. Ethel front row

Lelia Heslop's husband Herbert went with us one year. And as usual he was picked on and teased by us silly girls. One day we were in swimming in the creek. It was quite wide but not very deep. Mr.

Heslop was watching us so a couple of girls got behind him and pushed him in the water, shoes and all. Then all in the water tugged and pulled until he was in the middle in deeper water. In the scuffle his bib overalls came unhooked. Soon they started to fall. he was having fun until this happened. Then he got angry and shouted to let



George Thomas Blanch

him go as his watch was getting wet. We hurriedly let him go but the rest of the stay he couldn't live it down that he was more concerned about his watch than being exposed to the girls. Course they hadn't fallen that far. Oh how mean we were. Usually on our way home we would stop to a hot springs swimming pool at the mouth of the canyon and have a good swim before going home.

I respected my teachers very much, especially Aunt Rae. She was a good teacher as well as a good sport. She could be strict and firm if needs be. One year some boys came to our camp. It was boys from our ward. They rode up on their horses. Course I suppose we girls flocked to them like flies to sugar. It wasn't long before Aunt Rae had them on their way again. Some boys were Blaine Farr, Floyd Dance, Andrew Pennman.

I Speak in Public

While in Mutual I entered the public speaking contest. My brother George helped me or prepared my talk for me. I won in the ward. Also won in the stake, but lost out in a 4 stake contest. It was a good experience for me but very frightening. In the ward when a girl got married in the Temple, she was given a set of silverware. Mine and Eliza's set was the same pattern. I've used it for years and years; however, it's now stored away.

I Become the Outdoor Girl

Farm Work at Home

Dad had older boys to help on the farm so he thought a girls' place was in the house except in emergencies such as picking up potatoes in buckets and emptying it in gunny sacks. However usually only had

to fill 50 or so a day. Then in the fall I helped top beets. We would top the beets and throw them in piles. Then would throw them in a wagon. The men would use a beet fork. What was topped and couldn't



Glenda Gibson and Ethel
dressed to work in the cannery

get hauled that day was covered with beet tops to keep them from freezing.

Mother had so much work to do in the house that usually Eliza stayed in and helped while I went out. It suited me fine as I would rather be out than inside. A tomboy, mabe that is why Eliza is a much better housekeeper and cook than I am. One year I asked Dad if I could thin beets. Course it was no. The field is no place for a girl. So dad and the boys thinned our beets and I went and thinned beets for Uncle Jimmie Etherington. The field was close to the railroad tracks and I was rather frightened of all the tramps that was around the tracks but they never came my way at all. This was my first money earned; however, I'm sure Uncle Jimmie had second thots about hiring me when he saw how slow I was but I did get the field finished.

Needle Work and Cannery Work

After the work was done, many a evenings Eliza and myself would sit on the front step and talk and crochet. many yards of mile a minute lace as well as yolks for nightgowns and slips was completed there.

One spring a truck picked us up, all who would go to pick cherries in North Ogden. This was as bad as thinning beets. Several years I peeled tomatoes. One year rode with Laura to Plain City and one year a truck picked us up and took us to rocky Mt cannery in Ogden. Glenda & Marj went also. If all went well I could peel 75-100 pans a day. But mostly it was 50-75. I'm not sure how much a pan. They were big dish pans. But it was 10-15 cents. I'm not sure.

I Help Milk

One night Dad came home tired from irrigating. I had coaxed before and he wouldn't let me help milk but I started again this night and lo he said yes. He gave me a old gentle Durham cow. I did get some milk but I think Dad got more stripping her after I had finished. I was sure a proud girl. Now, I'd like a nickle for every cow I've milked.

Some of my Accidents and Afflictions

A Fall from the Watering Trough

I was 8 or 9 years old and Dad was fixing a fence in the corral and as usual I was out and in the way. I was walking on the edge of a cement watering trough holding on to a rusty barbed wire fence. Dad had told me several times to get down as I might fall. But as usual it went in one ear and out the other. soon it did happen. I fell and caught my finger on the barbed wire. It was a bad deep cut on the ring finger on my right hand. Dad sent me to the house with blood all over. Mother got the bleeding stopped and wrapped it but it soon started to swell and get red up my arm. So I was taken to Dr. Rich in Ogden. The doctor gave me some dark blue stinky liquid I was to put in a basin of hot water and soak it 2 times a day. It performed wonders. It wasn't long before it was all healed up. I carry the scar to this day to remind me that I should always mind my parents.

A Boil on My Chin

Its a wonder I don't have a big scar on my chin. I got a big boil right in the middle of my chin. It was so sore I wouldn't let anyone touch it. One day it was hurting bad and Laura coaxed me to let her heat a empty medicine bottle and put it over the boil and it would make it better. Course she said it wouldn't hurt. This I agreed to if she wouldn't touch the boil. This she did and of course the hot bottle clamped on my chin and did pull the boil out but it felt like my whole chin was gone also. The bottle was hard to pull off. It was half full of puss. Mother was out when this happened and did Laura ever get a tongue lashing but the hole soon healed up and didn't hurt anymore.

I Get the Shingles

About the sorest thing that lasted the longest was shingles. I couldn't of been any more than 10 years old. Mother took me to the doctor. They broke out on the back of my neck. My neck was a solid scab. Flora had told me that if the scab went all around my neck and meet it would choke me to death. So as a result I was very faithful to let mother rub on a sticky white salve the doctor gave me. I was quite sick with them and they hurt so I couldn't sleep at night so the doctor gave me some sleeping pills. It took a long time for them to heal up. Every once in awhile my neck would get bumps on it and it would itch. In fact still does after all this time so I guess its the results of shingles.

I Come down with Pneumonia

Another time I can remember of being sick enough I had to have the doctor was when I got pneumonia. One summer day mother had made some mincemeat pies for dinner. They were warm and I had a big piece covered with cream. After dinner Mother had to go to the store. Of course I coaxed to go and Mother let me. On the way I started getting sick until by the time we got there I wasn't interested at all in going inside and coax for candy. So I stayed in the buggy in the hot sun. By the time we arrived home I was really sick and I lost all my dinner. I insisted I was sick enough that Mother had to sleep with me. One night I dreamed I was on a high mountain and got pushed off. When I came to I was on the floor. I had fallen between the wall and the bed. Mother had to move the bed out to get me up I was so weak. The doctor was finally called and he said I had pneumonia and gave me pills.

The first day I got up was at dinner. After dinner Mother wrapped a shawl around me and let me sit for awhile in a rocking chair and look out the window. Soon flora came. She and Eliza was going swimming. I bawled and bawled to go with them. Yes, the only place I went was back to bed. To this day I don't care for mince meat pie as as a kid I was sure it was the pie that caused the pneumonia.

My Flapper Hair-cut Upsets Dad

I Wanted to Be Like All the Other Girls

The only time I can remember of Dad really getting after me was one time I disobeyed him so I deserved more than what I got. My hair has always been a problem. Glen has told me that as a kid I was skinny with not much hair. All the girls to school wore their hair in braids which came below their shoulders where my braids didn't even reach my shoulders. The style now was to have the hair cut. Many girls including Peg had their mothers' cut their hair. So I coaxed Mom to let me have it cut. And all she would say was, "Ask your dad." I was sure I would be the only girl in pigtails so I asked Dad. And he said, "NO." I just knew my hair would thicken if it was cut. So without even Mother knowing what was up I went to Annie Blanch. She had cut Peg's and asked her to cut my hair which she did. After it was cut I began to worry, but it was too late. Of course I told Mother and passed without too much scolding. I wore a dust cap for about a week around the house. But one morning I decided I just might as well get it over with. So I went to breakfast without my cap on. Dad had just washed ready for breakfast. He took one look at me and said, "I Thot

I told you not to have your hair cut." He then took the side of his foot and gave me a boot. It really didn't hurt at all but at the time it was



Eliza, Laura, Sarah holding baby, Ethel sitting

my pride that was hurt. I know I got off very light as it's terrible to go against ones parent.

Eliza Cared for My Hair

All through high school Eliza would get up and comb my hair for me every morning. Many girls was getting what was called a Marselle wave. Eliza would put finger waves in mine. Usually stayed fair during the day but when I would sleep it would all be gone by morning. I never did learn to take care of my hair, thanks to Eliza. I was really in a pickle when she was married and left home. Course I was married 3 months later. My hair is still my problem. It is so fine the curl comes right out.

I Remember My Mother

My Mother's Clothing

When the weather would turn colder, Mother would tie a red sweater around her neck by the sleeves. At night [she would] sit by the side of



My mother stands in our front yard

the stove with a facinator as we called it around her shoulders. It was a black woven three cornered shawl. I wonder what ever happened to it. It was used to throw over her head when she would go outside also. She was still using it when I left home. Mother always wore a apron unless she was going away. This apron was used to keep her dress clean. A apron was much easier to wash than a long dress. It was used to carry fruit from the "Other Place," bottom folded up and raspberry cups placed in the fold and pinned in back to pick the berries. Many wood chips was brought in the house to start fires. Many eggs were also gathered in her apron. Her best dresses all had long sleeves, house dresses three quarter. All came almost to her ankles. Most of her Sunday dress was a dark skirt and white blouse with a brooch at the neck or we would call the pin a breast pin. Her stockings, all I can remember, was tan lisle. Black tie oxfords.

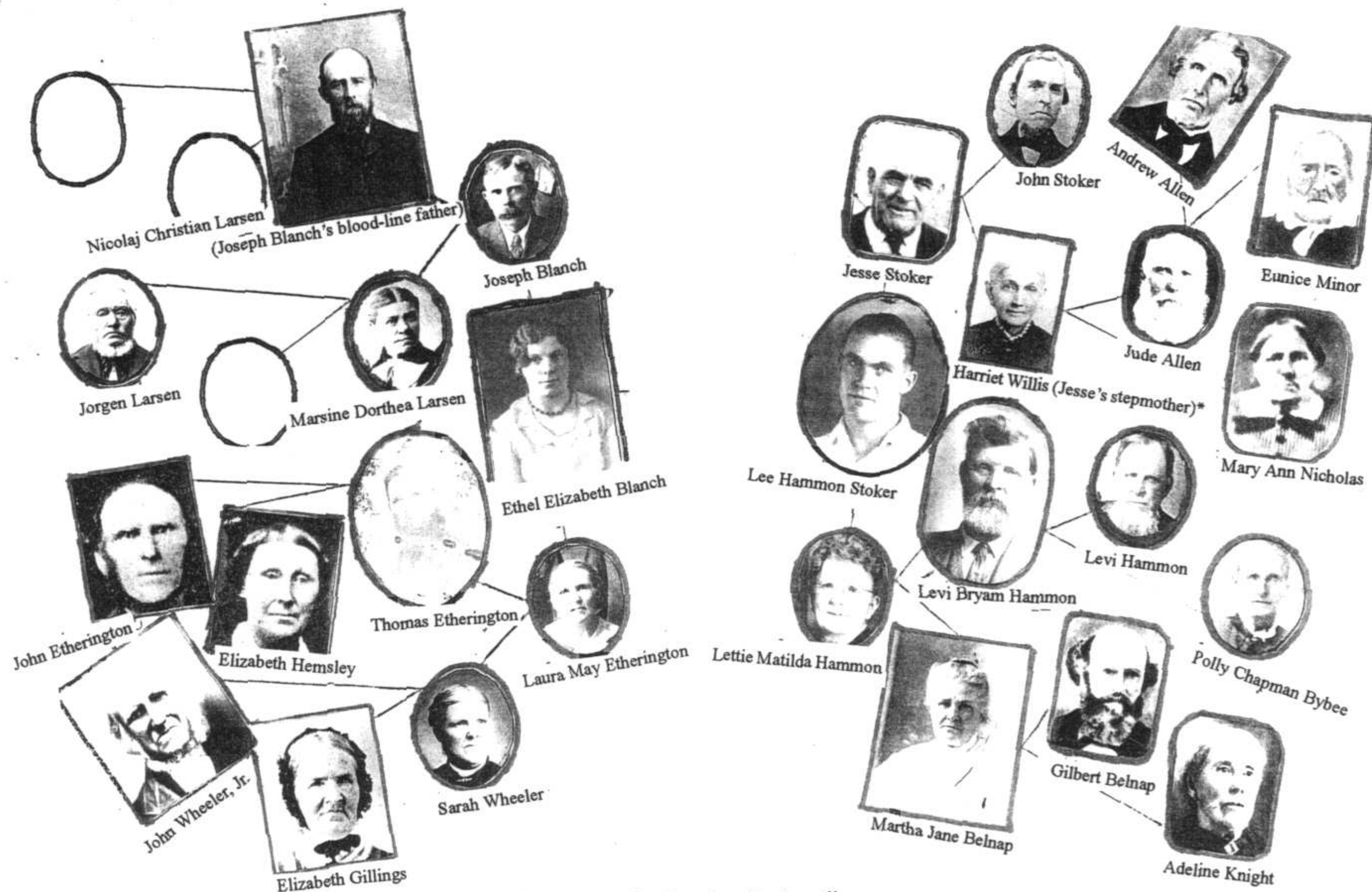
Mother Suffered from Vericose Veins

Mother has been gone these many years but her face and mannerisms are still so vivid in my mind. My one big wish is that some of her goodness, patience and cleanliness will eventually show up in me. I'm sure none of us ever will know or realize how much pain she suffered with her legs. Forever since I could remember, she had a running sore on each ankle and when night would come, her stockings would be soiled where the ulcer was seeping thru the bandages. They were



Laura Mae Etherington and husband, Joseph Blanch

Picture Pedigrees of Lee Hammon Stoker and Ethel Elizabeth Blanch

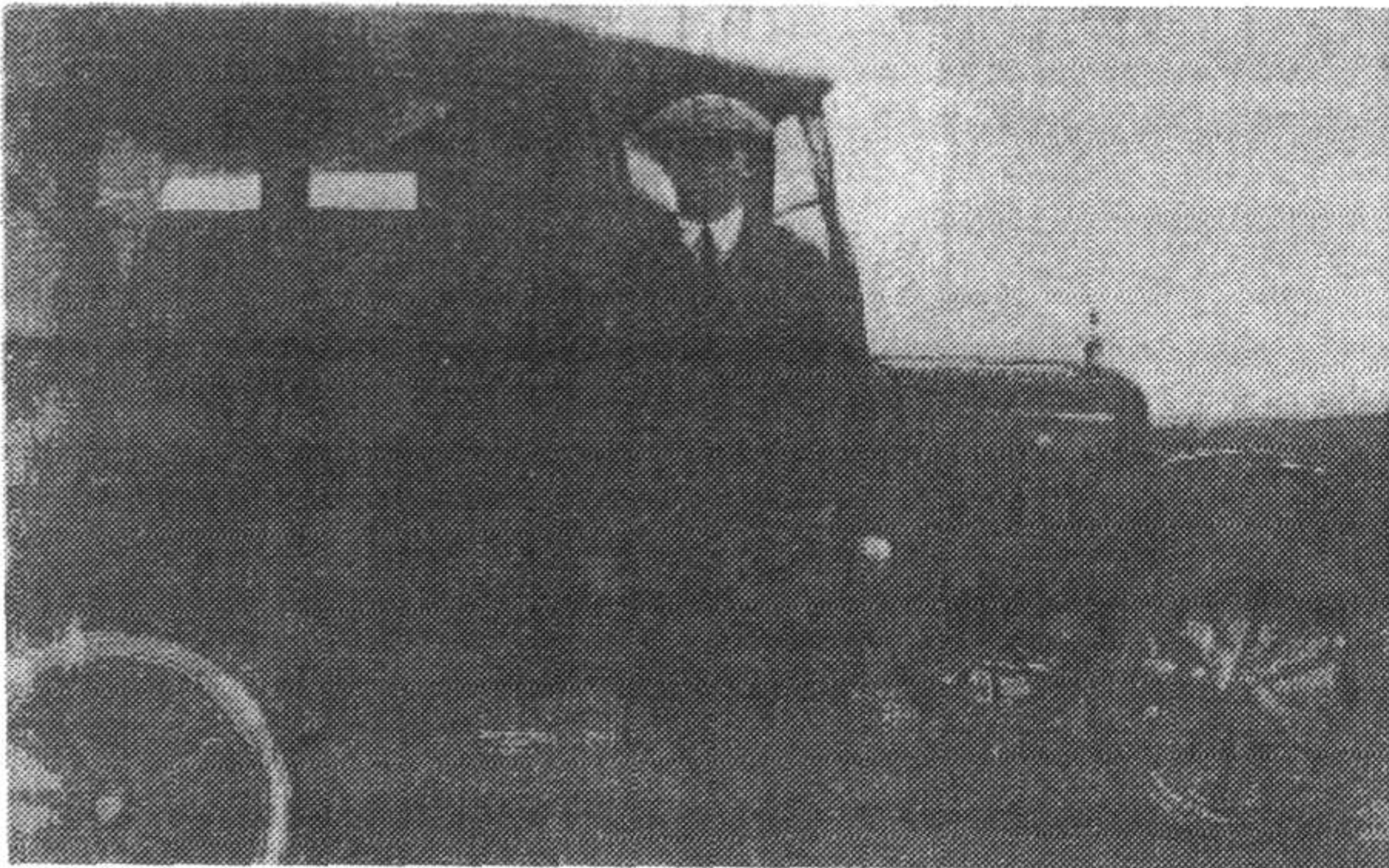


See the Appendix for detailed pedigrees
*No photo available for Jesse's mother, Jane Allen

always bandaged both morning and night and in the mornings both legs were wrapped with elastic bandages up to the knees. I have empathy for her as I've been bothered with my feet and legs enough to have a taste of what she went thru. I never remember hearing Mother speak ill of anyone. She was a very quiet and hard working woman. Above all she was my mother and I love her very much.

Some of Mother's Blemishes

I was a big girl before I knew Mother wore false teeth. One day she was cleaning them out to the flowing well. Probably had been doing so for years, but I hadn't noticed before. Anyway, it was a shock to me. I have inherited one thing from Mother tho and it is ugly arms. They are always covered with big red blue blotches, broken blood vessels I guess. They just come as I'm not aware of bumping them. My hair is thin and fine also like Mother's. She had to wear a switch in order to make a bun or knot at the back of her head. Front was twisted above her ears and fastened in the bun.



John and his car

My High School Experiences

Seminary Experience

I Graduate from Weber High School I went to West Weber all nine grades of school. We were the first class to not graduate from grade school as by now they were building the Weber Co. High School. So now we had to go to twelve grades. We were the first class to take all three years at Weber Hi, 10th in 1927, 11th in 1928, and 12th in 1929 when I graduated. I attended seminary the last year. It was the first



Seminary Class, Ethel is far right on front row.

year of seminary at the school. Floyd Eyre was teacher of Old Testament. We were bussed to high school which was built in Ogden between 11th and 12th Streets. Our bus drivers were Levi and Angus Hansen from Warren. By paying 10 to 25 cents we could ride the buss to the home basket ball games. While at Weber High the three of us, Glenda, Marjory & myself, took all of our classes together. Here again I liked school. Everything except geometry & algebra and thank goodness for a lenient teacher by the name of Mr. Murphy I did get a fair grade. I got A's and B's all through school but I didn't exert myself to do better.

My Sewing Projects

I took sewing. There I made a brown checked wool dress which I wore every other week alternating with a dark blue boughten dress. It had a plain skirt in back and circle skirt in front, tie belt, long sleeves



Ethel Blanch...Weber High
Yearbook, 1927



Lee Stoker...Weber High
Yearbook, 1927

& Peter Pan collar. The one I made had plain back with 2 pleates on side in front, belt buckled in front, made of plain brown as was the collar & cuffs. It had short sleeves. I didn't have many clothes like girls have today. But then no one did; however, we now have graduated from flour sack and black sateen bloomers to rayon. Also had a boughten rayon petticoat. No more high topped button shoes and ribbed stockings. Some girls were starting to wear anklets and go bare legged.

It was a great day when Mother finally bought me a bra. Up to high school I had worn some she had made. Many mornings as I was getting ready for school Mother would come in the bedroom and try to persuade me to wear a undershirt that I had taken off but I was headstrong as usual.

Chorus, Prom, and a Wedding Dress

Up to the time I started high school I had had but few dates. These were special occasions with the local church boys. At school I wasn't involved with any club. Took chorus from Mr. Albert Powell which I enjoyed even tho I couldn't sing. As a junior I attended the Junior Prom. I got a new dress for that. It was a yellow sleeveless, dropped waistline with a lace panel in front and back of a gored skirt. It was made of georgette. I also had a new dress when I graduated. It was



Ethel's High School Graduation Picture---1929

pink satin with a scalloped bottom, longer in back than in front, faced with lavender. It was also sleeveless. When I was married I purchased some material that matched and put sleeves in it. So I guess that was my wedding dress also.

My Courtship with Lee Stoker

My Introduction to Lee and His Friends

It seems odd now but Lee took his senior year at Weber Hi at the same time I took my freshman year, but I had never heard of him or he of me until 1928. West Weber held a dance and I attended the



Ethel and Lee at Lorin Farr Park, Ogden

dance with Vern Thompson from Roy. In the car was Vern's brother Frank and a Lee Stoker. Lee had Louise Charlton, my cousin. Later Lee told me that he asked Vern if I was his girl. And Vern said no. So in the middle of the week, I got a phone call. (Yes, we now had

phones) from Lee asking for a date to attend a dance at Roy. So from then on I went mostly with Lee. However, one night I went to the show "Sonny Boy" starring Al Jolson. Talkies had just been introduced, with a Dutchman by the name of Devries. Glenda went also with another kid. We enjoyed the show very much even tho it was sad. The next day I received a phone call from Lee asking me to go see "Sonny Boy" with him. I didn't know what to do as I wanted to go with Lee. Afraid to turn him down, so I said yes. Well Glenda got



Ethel, Glenda, Miss Betton, behind: Lee and Frank

a call from Frank Thompson also and she said yes. Neither of us let on that we had seen the show but in the middle of the show in a sad part both Glenda and myself started crying as we knew what was coming. Then on being questioned, we had to tell them that we had already seen the show. However, it made no difference to the men. They kept coming back but that was the last date I accepted other than Lee. Cost of tickets to shows was 10 cents to 25 cents. The Egyptian theatre cost 25 while the Orpheum & Lyceum was 10. Someone was hired to play the organ until the picture started as well as at intermissions. Tom Mix was a great attraction then, western shows.

We six, Frank & Glenda, Vern and Cleone Heslop and Lee & myself spent a happy summer and Fall going to ward dances. A dance was held every Friday nite at Roy with a 3 or 4 piece orchestra. On

Sundays the men would come in the afternoon & we would sit on a lawn. Yes by now lawns were gracing everyone's front yard. & have fun or mabe they would be waiting for us after church. Most of our courting was done by just talking as the men didn't have the money for gas to go very far. Many times Lee came courting in his dad's 1926 Dodge panel truck.

Lee and the Thompson Brothers Buy a Model "T"

In July or August Lee, Vern and Frank bought a old Model T for \$20.00. Each one put in \$7.00 so they had \$1.00 left for gas. Now whenever the Ford went all 3 boys were in it and



Lee at the driver's wheel

more times than not it was headed toward West Weber for us three girls. The radiator leaked so a can was hidden by well known water holes with which to replenish the leaked water. Now 6 in a Model T did have some problems. We were crowded. A girl had to sit on her boyfriend's lap. So as soon as we would reach one girl's house that couple would get out and do their visiting by the front door. It was decided between the men that the first couple married would inherit the said "Ford." We were the first couple to be married; however, all 3 couples were married in 1929. We drove the ford for awhile then traded it in on Lee's brother's Dodge touring car.

These were the happy days for me. Not a care in the world. Only for fun. We had lots of fun between ourselves. We didn't need to go miles to seek it.

Chapter 4

The Young Couple

Love Conquers All

Lee Proposes

Lee claimes he proposed to me. If you consider "When should we get married?" a proposal, I guess he did.¹ When one waits for months even these words were music to my ears. Just his voice sent my heart pounding so without hesitation I said "I don't care when." We set the date for the 12th of June 1929. We couldn't get married much sooner as I still had to graduate from school which I did in May.

For Christmas 1928 Lee gave me a vanity set, comb, brush, mirror and nail set. It was very pretty, white trimmed in black and gold. I gave him a silk pongee handkerchief that I had made. I pulled out some thread and replaced them with a red and green then I bought a wallet.

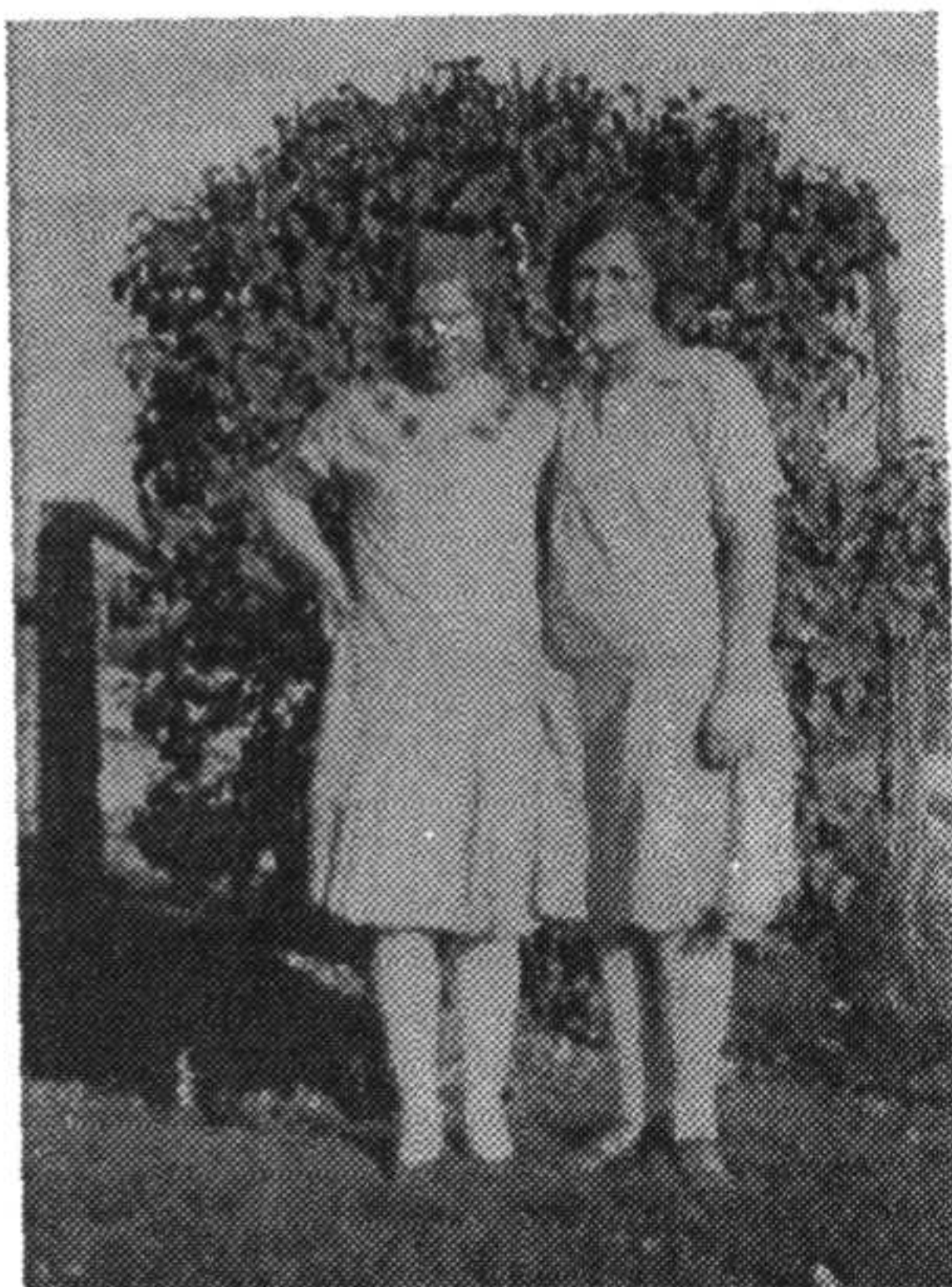
At New Years eve we went to Hooper to a dance, then had a progressive supper sponsered by Lees sister Eunice & cousin Norma Baker. So as a result it was 6 a.m. when we arrived home. As all was invited to our home for dinner, the men stayed to their girls homes. I put Lee to bed in my bed and I stayed up and helped prepare dinner

¹ Lee Stoker said he proposed just before Christmas in 1928.

also so Eliza, Mother and myself put on quite a feed.

In February for Valentines day Lee gave me a little cedar chest with a box of chocolates in it. The first box of candy I had ever received. Needless to say I was more than thrilled.

It was well known around school that I was getting married. Even the teachers wrote in my yearbook wishing us luck and happiness. Lee isn't much older but he started school when he was 5 and I didn't start till 6 then was held back a year.² So he graduated in 1927.



Ethel and Eliza

Our Friends Marry

All three couples were married in the Temple; however, Vern and Cleone were divorced after 3 or 4 children. Frank and Glenda both have passed away. Frank with cancer. Glenda was stake R S president. She passed away in her sleep. It was our privilege to attend their funerals held in Roy. In fact Lee was the main speaker to the funeral of both of them. Everyone we knew later said he gave a outstanding talk. I agree with all. Both Glenda and Frank were good upright

² The 1918 Flu Epidemic closed the West Weber schools causing Ethel to lose a year.

citizens, a credit to any community.

Now while we were having so much fun we still kept company with Marjorie. She also had been dating a boy from Roy, George Vestra. He wasn't a member of the church so they couldn't go to the temple. We were married and moved away so I more or less lost track of their doings. After 3 or 4 children shortly after the last one came, Marj took her own life. It was called childbirth insanity. In all our doings, Marj was the most stable of the three. I was certainly shocked. I loved her very much.

Preparing for My Wedding

It was busy day around our house preparing for two weddings. Eliza was married in March. Mother pieced two quilts apiece for us. While we were quilting on one of mine, Laura & Sarah was there and Laura started giving me a bad time about getting under the quilt with Lee and Mother let it go no farther. No hanky Panky there.

I remember plainly one morning Mother was stirring gravey for breakfast and something didn't go my way and I was making a scene & Mother said, "I don't know how Lee can ever put up with you after you are married." Well that set me thinking. I did have to change.

Everything is a blur- license, temple recommend, etc. Lee came and took me to meet with our stake president. I remember one piece of advice he gave and that was only one be upset at a time. Rest I don't know. I never remember asking my parents or any of my family to attend the temple with us. I was very self centered and now it almost haunts me to think I didn't give them more consideration.

Our Wedding Day

Soon the time came. I went to Roy and spent the night as we were going to the Logan Temple. Lees dad and mother were going with us. We were then going to Burley Idaho for our honeymoon to visit Grandma Stokers sister and husband Ursel & Rhoda Taylor. At the last minute Lees sister and her husband Jane and Marvin Venable decided to go. Also Lee borrowed his brothers Leslie's car. I remember we left before daylight 4 a.m. Dirt roads. Temple is a blur. I was so nervous that I had to memorize everything that was being said. Then unlike today where everyone has their individual lockers to dress in we women met in a large room with benches in the center. Everyone dressed all together. I had to rent all of my clothes and my dress was a size too large plain working dress. The instructions that were given flew over my head. I didn't realize that they referred to me. I truly didn't realize the responsibility. I was taking upon myself for years to come. I stumbled through. We were eventually taken to

a sealing room. This part is more worth remembering to me. Joseph Shepherd talked to us for awhile then he preformed the ceremony that made plain Ethel Blanch Mrs. Lee Stoker.

The only people there were Lees dad & mom, some relatives of Lees that just happened to be there, Addie Lowe & husband plus some temple workers. Jane and Marvin didn't decide to go till the last thing so they didn't have a recommend. They waited for hours on the outside for us. When we emerged from the temple, Jane & Marvin tried to make us believe a groupe from Roy had come up to take us back to Roy. Course we didn't bite. All then went to the Rainbow Restaurant and ate. Don't know what tho.

Our Honeymoon

We then drove up Logan canyon headed toward Soda Springs. When we reached the top we ran into snow. Roads were bare of snow, tho deep ruts, no pavement. We stopped many places such as Blue



Newlyweds standing near cavern with Big Blue Spring

Springs, threw snow balls and had a ball but soon all were feeling the long hours without sleep and the excitement of it all. I thought Soda Springs would never show up. Nite was upon us. It had been a long day. However, before long we did arrive and we found a hotel but the eating part was closed. They did give us what was left. Don't know what we ate but don't think anyone cared too much. We were wanting a bed. After a nights rest we drove to Rockland where we attended a Allen family reunion and spent the night. Then drove to Burley. After

finding where the Taylors lived we went there. Ursel & Rhoda were not home but some of the kids were, so we stayed in the shade on the back lawn until they came. Needless to say when they came everyone was overjoyed. All talking at once. But before they came we were entertained by the little kids Lyle and Clyd. Lyle told us that his mother got switches off of the tree and willowed their asses. We stayed there for 2 or 3 days. Went to Twin Falls and seen at that time the highest bridge in the world spanning the Snake River. Also seen Shoshone falls and the Hansen bridge. We enjoyed this. Enjoyed also being with Lee twenty-four hours instead of just four.



Highest Bridge, near Twin Falls Lee's Photo Album

All too soon it was time to leave; however, was anxious to get home and start keeping house. We had rented a 3 room house from Mrs. Terry. Had bought a lovely new bed, dresser & vanity a unpainted kitchen table and chairs and a large universal coal stove from Sterling Furniture Co. of Ogden. All of this on time with but very little down payment. Lee was working for Ira Ure farming so we didn't hesitate a minute about going in debt.

Coming Down out of the Clouds

The Shivaree

When we returned we found that a freek storm had passed thru the day before destroying crops and doing much damage by the large hail stones. Mr. Ure had tomatoes on the vines thinking they would have

early tomatoes on the market in early July and the hail just left stems. We had hardly driven in the yard when friends did show up. Lee was put in one car and I in another and all headed to Ogden to the Bamboo Noodle Parlor where we were to treat all to a bowl of noodles. All went as planned until Lee seen a chance to escape so escape he did. Grant Hammon found him so they decided to go to a show. No one would find them there. They sit through some of the show till Lee got feeling guilty leaving me in their clutches with no money to bail myself out. They came back and we all went in and had our bowl of noodles. Total cost around \$6.00, 25 cents a bowl. They took us back home only to find Lees sister Eunice and cousin Norma had gotten in our house and filled the stove with dried manure and short sheeted our bed. Nothing to do but clean it up & laugh.



Brownny, the wedding gift cow given by Joseph Blanch

Our Mothers Give Showers and My Dad Gives a Cow

Lees mother and my mother both gave us a shower, held in their homes where we received many useful gifts. I still have some. Mrs. Ure gave us a hand painted tea set. Only used it a time or two for cocoa but its pretty. Dad gave us a cow and one hundred dollars. It seemed a thousand at the time as by now our money was running out.

I Learn with Strawberries

We were offered some strawberries if we would pick them. After Lee came from work we picked the berries that were awfully ripe but oh so good eating. Lee is fast at things like that so soon we had the patch cleaned. Next day I bought bottles & sugar. Made some Jam and put rest up fresh. I thought I had helped mother enough I knew just what to do. I scalded the bottles, washed berries real good, filled bottles with berries, poured boiling syrup over berries, screwed lids on tight and put them away in the dark basement. Proud of my first fruit. They looked so good.



Teams of horses used to plow on the Blanch farm

Dad's Death

On the 26th of June, Grandpa and Grandma Stoker got Lee from work. They all came home and told me Dad had been raking hay and the team- (just breaking one horse)- had ran away with him on the rake and they went thru a ditch. Dad fell off and broke his neck. He lived until the boys got him home then he passed away.⁴ Lee and myself went to West Weber.⁵

⁴ The boys put him in the car which had a flat tire and drove him home.

⁵ Ethel's nephew, Lynn Judkin recollected the accident: *I was helping pile hay in 1929. I was 9 years old. And the horses that were being used was on a hayrake. My grandfather was raking hay with a team. Not many people used a team. They used a single horse for the rake. But he used a team. I was sent to the well to get a bucket of water. When I was coming back from the well with the waterbucket in my hand, I heard my Granddad*

Seeing Lee had a job, he went home but I stayed until after the funeral. A day later I got a frantic phone call from Lee saying, "Come home quick all your berries are spoiling." Sarah and Laura went home with me and did I ever get ribbed about my canning. I had done everything right what I had done but I failed to put the bottles in boiling water and cold pack them. No wonder they looked so good. They hadn't even cooled. We did salvage them in jam. So we ate our berries on toast instead of out of a bowl. I had learned my lesson the hard way.



Joseph Blanch burial in West Weber Cemetery

All of our relatives and friends were so generous and kind at the death of our loved one. The undertaker was called and he came to the

yelling, "Whoa! whoa." I looked up and the team of horses was running wild coming straight down the field. I saw him stand up and fall forward in front of the hayrake. Of course I was walking down the ditchbank and when the horses hit that ditchbank the rake flipped up in the air, and his body came out. I was the first one over to his body but all I could do was wait for my uncles. Uncle Don, and Grant, and John were there. They had a car there too. They put him in the car and took him up home. And he only lived which, I think, was only 2 1/2 or 3 miles up the road. We were down in the [Weber] river bottoms at that time. He only lived a couple of hours and passed away. When my grandpa died, it was a sad day for the Blanch family. That's for sure. I can remember the ward came out and did the farm work for him and helped him catch up. [Except from Lynn Judkin's funeral sermon for John Ray Blanch, October 1998, Lundquist Funeral Mortuary, Ogden, Utah.]

home, prepared Dad's body. Friends & family sat up all nite with his body until the burial. A large crowd filled the West Weber chapel. many comments were made as to Dad's honesty, a generous and hard working man. He passed away 26 June 1929 being 59 years old on the 11th of June.

A Cow to Milk

Before Dad passed away we brought the heifer home. all was well as long as Lee was there to milk it but hectic when it fell my lot as when a irrigation turn would come. Lee would have to stay on the job till the turn was over. At this time it fell my lot to milk. As stated before I was a greenhorn at milking and this being a heifer, she wouldn't stand still and kicked for me. I had milked for Dad a time or two and helped Flora milk but always a old gentle cow. Then someone was there to strip them. I hated to have those irrigation turns come. Not only for milking but I had never stayed alone before. I was really frightened and hated the dark. I had tended Lauras children some but I wasn't all alone.

The Things that Go Bump in the Night and in the Day

One night while alone I went to bed early as I was so frightened. The wind was blowing, making some odd noises. After I got in bed I couldn't sleep as I imagined I could hear someone cutting the window screen. I was petrified. Finally I couldn't stand it any longer. Very quietly I got out of bed and made my way to the open window fully expecting to see some one on the outside. To my relief I found the wind was brushing a branch of a tree across the screen. Hurridly I closed the window and got back in bed. I still couldn't sleep I was shaking so badly.

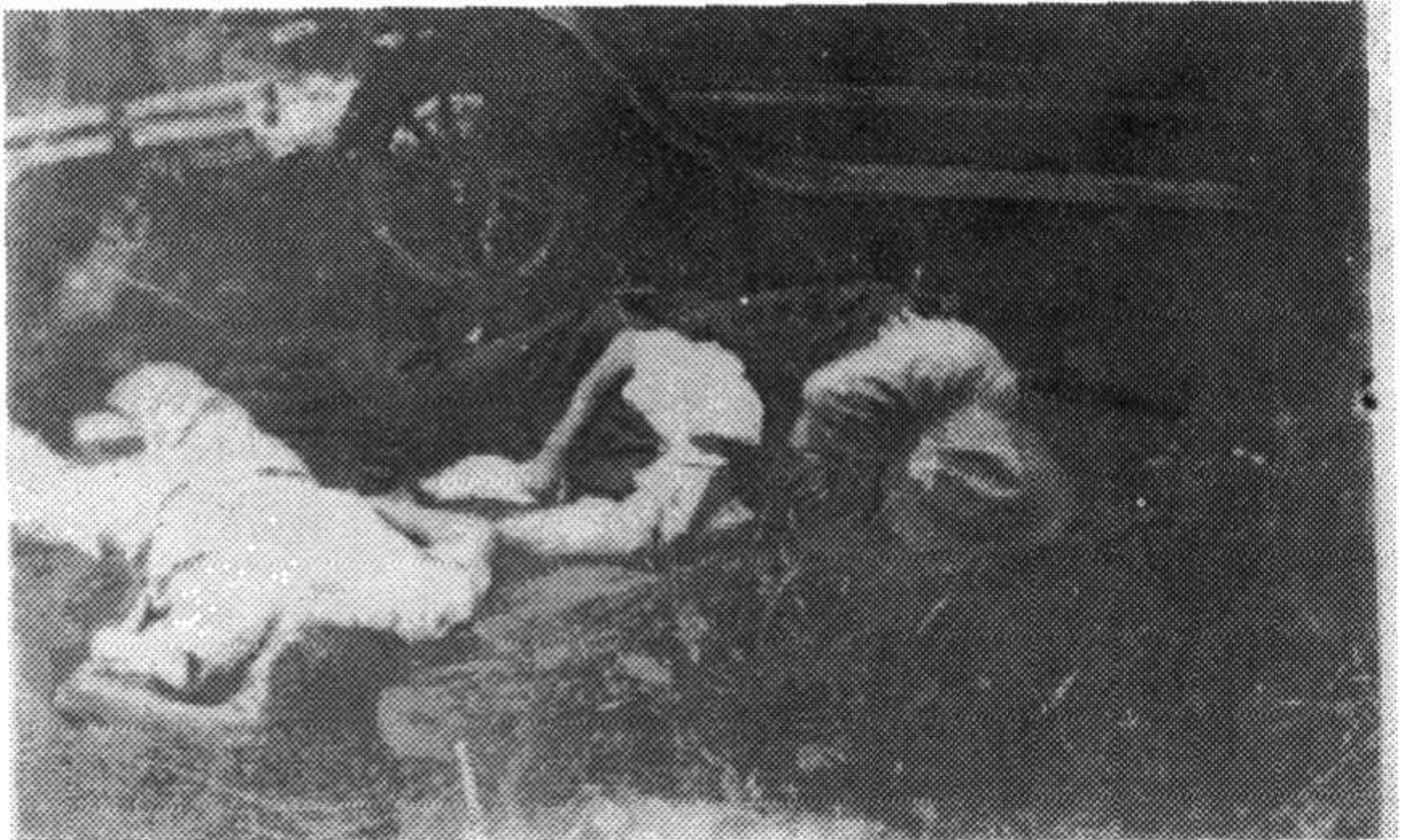
We didn't get a washing machine so I learned to drive the Ford and would go to Mothers to wash.

I Learn Not to Take My Eyes off the Road

In the fall Lee and Lauras Husband Heber decided to go chucker hunting and as the cow had to be milked, I took Lee over to West Weber and Heber said he would bring him home afterwards. They didn't get home till late so Heber insisted Lee bring his car home which he did. Next morning Lee wanted me to drive Hebers car and he would drive our ford. I said no. I would drive ours. Hebers car was a newer one and I was, by far, still an inexperienced driver.

So off we went. Lee following me. All went well until I looked back and couldn't see Lee behind me. Instead of stopping I kept going and looking back. I rounded a curve and was looking back so I failed to

straighten the wheels. As a result I went into the borrow pit and blew a front tire. Oh how I wished Lee would hurry. Instead of Lee tho a man came out of the house close by by the name of Nick Peruka. He asked me my name and I told him Lee Stokers wife. He knew Lee so to have some fun he said I wasn't old enough to be married. Soon he had me crying before Lee showed up. I was mad but so relieved to



Lee, Boyd, and Heber resting from the hunt. Lee's album

see him. To think that he had stopped to fasten his garter that had come undone. Course to my chagrin they laughed and had a good time at my expense. Nick had to harness his team to pull the car out. It didn't take long to fix the tire and we were on our way again, but I never once looked back.

We Move to West Weber

Lee worked to Ure's untill school started. Then we moved to West Weber and stayed with Mother. Lee milked her cows and did the chores so the boys could stay in school. He also helped harvest the beets. In winter Lee coached the West Weber boys basketball team and commuted to Roy to play basketball with his gang there. We stayed there in West Weber till Spring then moved back to Roy in a house by our former home owned by Mr. Nielson.

And Then There were Three

Returning to Roy, We Prepare for a Baby

This house had bigger rooms but we didn't have anymore furniture. We bought a couch and put a blanket over it and as we now were expecting our first baby also got a small rocking chair both used. By this time I surely didn't feel good. So nauseous, but the only time I got rid of it, of all things I had eaten sardines. As with all pregnancies after a few months, I felt great, busy making dresses, petticoats, etc. with tatting and crocheting on the sleeves and bottom. Then both the boys and girls wore the same for several months.

I was busy preparing for the baby. I guess I thought I had to eat for two. I mixed bread and made my butter and Mr. Barton had tomatoes planted in a field close by the house. Mr. Barton was renting the farm. So did I ever eat good tomatoes. Lee was still working for Ures so I was home all day alone and I spent much of my time eating. The Dr. never once cautioned about gaining too much weight. I don't know how much I gained but it has stayed with me. I've been heavy ever since.

I Wave a White Diaper

One day, a Saturday, Jane & Marvin and us decided to go swimming in the Lake by Hooper. I stayed in the car. I was to wave a white diaper. Jane stayed with me and she had a baby. If we needed to go, as I hadn't been feeling too good, they no more got out to the deeper water when out came the white flag. Now they had to walk back thru hot, salty mud without having any fun.

We had a Dr. Ward engaged. He was called and came right out but he said the baby was no where ready to come. So he went back to Ogden. Pains left so next day we drove to West Weber. Still I wasn't feeling too good. Next morning the pains started in earnest and Dr. was summoned once again. This time he stayed. In the middle of the afternoon we had us a 7 1/2 lb. baby boy. Eliza had had a baby boy about two months earlier. Our baby [was born] 7 July 1930.

Marjory Cares for Keith and Me

Grandma Stoker was with me but when I was resting Lee went to West Weber and brought Marjory. She had consented to come work for us cause then a new mother had to stay in bed ten days. She was great. The doctors fee for two trips to Roy plus sevral office visits was \$25.

The day I got out of bed I was very weak but felt fine. That night a movie was being shown in the recreation hall so Lee suggested we go. I felt as tho I hadn't been anywhere for ages so I was all for it. Marjory offered to stay with the baby. Half way through the show I realized I wasn't as strong as I thought I was. I was ready for my bed.

Marjory stayed the next day then I was on my own. I now had more to do than eat. Baby took most of my time. We had bought a used basket for him to sleep in. It was small enough to set on the vanity bench. So if I was working in the kitchen baby was there or if I was in the bedroom baby was there. I was really a mother hen.



Keith waves from the window of the Hammon home.

Grandpa Stoker Blesses Keith

When Fast day rolled around to my dismay Lee had a irrigation turn and couldn't leave so I took the baby to church and had Grandpa Stoker bless him Leland Keith. Guess we thought he had to be blessed as soon as possible. He was blessed 3 Aug 1930. I had been asked to be a visiting teacher in Relief Society. Now I carried Keith not only to do our teaching but also to Relief Society.

Lee and I Work Together

That fall Lee & myself picked tomatoes for Lees dad. Lee made it as easy for me as possible but it was hard work. That fall also we moved in Lees Uncle Amasa Hamons house. Amasa had been elected Weber Co. sherrif so he moved to Ogden. Durlin & Marion (Mutt) his sons stayed in part of the house. I fed them for the rent. We were now feeling the effects of the depression more keenly. So at beet thinning time we thinned beets for Roy Child and Bert Runquist. With

Lee helping me on the ends I could keep up with him but oh how hot I would get. When we finished the beets we found Roy couldn't pay us so he gave us a black colt.

Lee got a job on a pea viner but had to stay there so once again I was alone. But boys in part of house & I had my baby so I wasn't frightened.

Lee Puts a Car Together

We traded the Ford on the Dodge car that we took to Idaho when we were married. Les traded it in on a Crysler [Chrysler] so we traded ford for his Dodge. We paid \$112 on it but finally turned it back in as we couldn't pay for it.

Lee and Ethel Move to Idaho

Ranching in Lava Hot Springs

Herman wanted Lee to go to Lava Hot Springs and help him harvest potatoes & hay as he needed the help. Herman was dry farming so no money coming in except milk check. Lee went to Lava while I stayed and worked in the tomato factory in Roy. After the tomato season ended Nov 1931 we moved furniture and all to Lava in Stoker's Dodge panel truck. We moved in a two room Log cabin up Dempsy Creek. No electricity, no phone, water had to be carried from the creek. At night the rats would keep us awake playing between the rafters. The house set up on a hill with a small stable at the bottom.

Keith Has a Mind of His Own

While the men worked digging potatoes our black colt now had become a moma. Her colt was left tied up by the stable. This was where Keith insisted on playing. I was expecting another one in January so it really was a effort to run down the hill, retrieve Keith from under the colt, then plod back up the hill. This happened many times a day. So one trying day I decided I could take it no longer and it was too hot to keep him shut in the house. I found a long rope and tied it to the back of his home made overalls (we had purchased a used Singer treadle machine before Keith was born) then tied the rope to the clothes line so he could have freedom to play. I no more than got in the house when I heard this terrible scream when he found he was restricted to where he could go. I knew Keith was unhappy but I went about my work with him screaming to the top of his lungs. All at once the noise stopped. I finished what I was doing before I went to investigate. Keith was no where around the clothes line. Only his

overalls [were] laying on the ground. He had run to the end of the rope and hit it with such a force that it tore the stitching in his overalls and he stepped out of them. I found him in his diapers sitting under the colt. I was really happy when the potatoes were finished.

We Prepare for the Winter

The men were still busy tho as both homes had to have a supply of wood on hand as the snow has started to come and it is freezing at nite. It was hard work to go to the hills, cut the wood, haul it home then saw it in lengths to fit the stove.



Marvin's car stuck in Riverdale. It brought the Stokers home

I was getting bigger and bigger. January was fast approaching. We were in the hills where we could get snowed in but with no money to get out. All we had was two cows. We had plenty of potatoes & I had bottled lots of fruit so we had plenty to eat. And for some reason I was not worrying. However its a good thing someone did our worrying for us. One day a car drove to the bottom of the hill. It was Grandpa Stoker. He had gotten Marvin to bring him up and brought Lees brother Ike (Ivan) to stay and milk our cows & feed the horses so he could take us back to Utah with him.

Returned to Utah for Jesse's Birth

How grateful I am for their thoughtfulness and unselfishness. As Stokers had lost their farm or had to sell it and had moved to Morgan, Utah and all they had was their cows and a few chickens. This was just before Christmas. We stayed with them in Morgan doing nothing until I could take it no longer. Allen and Verda were 10 & 12. They argued and played so loud I thot I was going off my rocker. I persuaded Lee to take me to West Weber to Mothers which he did about the 15 of January. I definately feel sorry now and it has haunted me to think Stokers was kind enough to spend their meger earnings to see that we had the proper care and I was not appreciative of it. Mabe tho they were relieved to have us go. I gon't know but I do know I was a burden on Mother; however, Sarah stayed and Laura came & helped lots. I'm in debt to all.

Jesse was born 22 Jan 1932. Where it took three days for Keith to come, Jesse was only about three hours. The Dr. Ward again came to West Weber in a snow storm and ran off of the road but got there in plenty of time. The baby was coming beech and had to be turned. So the Dr was busy until it was over. Fee again \$25.



Grant Blanch after whom Jesse was named

Everyone was suggesting names especially Grant and Don so we had them put the name they wanted in a hat for the middle name. We had already decided to name him after Lees dad Jesse. Dons name was drawn from the hat and guess what? It was

James, after him, his middle name. So we went back on our word as we just couldn't have Jesse James and picked the name Grant put in which was his name also. So the name was Jesse Grant.

Jesse Is Blessed in West Weber

Lee stayed and supposedly helped in the house. I do know that once he scrubbed the floor on his hands and knees. Lee stayed until I got out of bed. The 7th of Feb we took him to church in West Weber and he was blessed by Heber's father David Hancock. When Lee took him up to be blessed one could hear the ahs from the people. Jesse had black hair. It was long enough it cascaded over Lees arm. When Glen first saw him he made the prediction that it would all come out and be white. It came true. It wasn't long before we had a tow head. Keiths hair was blond with a reddish cast or almost red. Both boys weighed about 7 1/2 lbs.

Lee Hitches a Train Ride to Idaho

On the 8th of Feb Lee left us with Mother and left for Lava Hot Springs. When Lee graduated from high school he took out a thousand dollar life insurance so he borrowed all he could on the insurance which was \$56. Knowing that this money was all we had and it would have to stretch as far as possible he decided to catch a freight train and be a tramp. Tearfully I watched him go. As neither of us knew anything about mooching free rides or who he might meet up with.

He got to the yards in Ogden and found there were many men waiting for trains to pull out. One of the fellows said he was going north and knew where would be a good place to catch the train. so they walked down the tracks till they came to where the Denver and Rio grande crossed the U.P. tracks. Both trains had to slow down to almost a walk. The other man said that it would be better if they caught a passenger train instead of a freight and they should board the train just behind the coal car. It was decided that Lee should jump up on the left side and he would take the right side. Lee caught the train Ok but that was the last he saw of his new found friend.

Our Move to Burley

While we were still in Utah, Herman had made a trip to Burley, Idaho and with Uncle Ursel's help rented a 80 acre farm as well as a 40 acre one. In hopes of both of us bettering

ourselves. Herman took the larger farm while we farmed the smaller one in Springdale. Herman was in Unity.

It was a busy time for all there while I was warm and comfortable with Mother. Lee packed all our furniture, dishes, fruit and all. I never went back to Lava. Of course I would of packed different than Lee did. We had a big fifty gallon wooden barrell that we kept our flour in. Well guess what? He packed our dishes in said barrel. Many of our fragile dishes was broken when unpacked. The men had a hard, cold time moving from Lava to Burley in February. I won't go in any detail here. I'll let Lee tell all about it in his history. But if I had known all I'm afraid I wouldn't of been sleeping nights.

We Work Long and Hard

After the move we had \$25 left. We had cows and horses to feed so we paid the money on 10 tons of hay but still owed \$30 for hay. After the move, they had borrowed a truck from Uncle Amasa Hammon. Lee and Ivan drove the truck back to Utah. Grant and Mother took us to Burley. Lee did have beds set up in a cold drafty house. The house had a pantry, kitchen and one big room across the front of the house & small bedroom. As we had no money for coal, sagebrush was hauled from the desert to cook and heat. Sagebrush made a quick hot fire but it took all of ones time chopping it, filling the stove and taking out ashes. There was no grass around the house. No electricity and once more water had to be carried both in and out. There was a old rickety barn to stable the horses and cows. The well with a pitcher pump was closer to the barn than to the house. Water had to be pumped for the horses & cattle. We were able to buy our seed potatoes for 15 cents a hundred. Wheat was 20 cents a bushel. Beet seed was furnished by the Sugar Co. and taken out of beet checks in the fall.

I Cut Potatoes

On rainy days we would walk to Hermans 3 miles away. Minnie would tend Keith & Jesse and I would go to the barn and along with Lee and Herman would cut potatoes. The

cut potatoes was stacked in a pile. Many of the cut sets started heating. As a result we did not have a good stand of potatoes. Hard lesson no. 1. When it was time to thin beets I worked along with the men. Minnie, Herman's wife, was expecting Vaughn so she gladly tended kids. Lee and myself thinned most of the beets while Herman cultivated and irrigated. I was nursing Jesse so I would walk to the house every 3 or 4 hours, feed Jesse and walk back to the field.

I Cut Hay

I cut most of the hay that first year. The hay had lots of June grass in it so the horses had to go fairly fast to cut it. I was driving Herman's team Kate and Kit. I really got teased about having such loud hiccups when I yelled at them. I also stacked the hay on the wagon with Lee and Herman pitching it up. Course they were careful and placed them about right so it was not as hard on me as it could have been.

Our First Sunday at Church

After walking to Hermans, carrying the baby, working all day and walking home at night, then fixing supper while Lee did outside chores, we were ready for bed. We really looked forward to Sundays to rest. We walked to church a few times and carried our kids but not too often. The first time we went to Springdale to church I sat by a woman about my age. The music was playing but she turned to me and said, "If you'll tell me your name, I'll tell you mine." We hit it off from the very first. Her name was Merna Marchant. Later when we were not quite so busy, we with Gareld and Merna and our neighbors Raymond and Elsa Johnson were together when ever a opportunity presented itself & many times for no reason at all.

Lee Makes Music

In fact later the three, Lee, Myrna, and Raymond formed a orchestra. Myrna on piano, Raymond violin & Lee chording on the banjo. To us it sounded great. They played for church dances in Springdale. We three couples made several trips to Logan to the temple. Myrna's mother lived in Logan and we stayed there on bed on back lawn. She was a temple worker. Many times we were reminded to tone down some. all of us were farmers and not used to close city neighbors. So guess we were very loud to them.

Chapter 5

The Struggle for a Farm

Our First Year in Springdale

The Government, Red tape, and the Taylors

Now back to us. We borrowed from the F.H.A. but before they would give us any money we had to buy what we needed for the Farm and take the receipt to them and they would reimburse us.¹ We were in a pickle. No money to buy with and being new comers no one would extend credit to us. thank goodness again for a great uncle. Uncle Ursel would charge what we needed and we would pay him. This money was just for farm use. So our menue mostly was potatoes and milk gravey. We were now milking 3 Jersey cows. So had milk but sometimes no flour to thicken gravey. During beet thinning time we salvaged the cut out beets and enjoyed them cooked as greens. We boiled whole wheat for our cereal and of course still had some bottled fruit and jam.

At one time neither us nor Herman had flour in the house and Aunt Rhoda came to our rescue again. She was president of Star ward R[elief] Society and she found that the government was giving flour

¹ \$350 was borrowed by Herman and Lee. The agency was not the F.H.A., but an earlier government agency lending money to farmers. Lee was so chaffed by all the red tape that he refused any more dealings with this agency or FHA during his lifetime.

ing flour to needy people so she and Uncle Ursel brought us each a sack. Aunt Rhoda didn't drive so Uncle had to take her wherever she went. We were so grateful to them as it's hard to feed kids and hard working adults on just potatoes and milk. We did have a small garden but it didn't do too well. Our only cash was from the milk. Our small amount of hay had to be saved to feed the horses as they were working hard so the days I didn't go to Herman's to work I would turn the cows out in the alfalfa and let them feed for awhile then put them back in the corral. This was a trying time for me as I knew the cows had to eat to produce milk so badly needed by us yet if they stayed in the green stuff too long they would bloat. One night when Lee got home about dark, I had the cows in the corral ok but all 3 of them were bloated. Two were not so bad, but Lee had to stick "Old Tiny." I felt very badly but all we could do was be so thankful that all 3 didn't die. Many times after that they did get full but didn't have to stick any more.

By now I had learned to be a better milker. Tiny was a easy cow to milk but I hated to milk her now as her side where the cut was was always oozing and did it ever stink. It took a few months to heal but eventually all was well.

Grandpa and Grandma Stoker to the Rescue Again

It was now nearing time to cut our grain. No combines then. It was cut with a binder that cut the grain and tied the grain in bundles. Only we didn't have any money to buy the twine. Here Stokers came thru again. I don't know how they knew we didn't know what to do but in the mail was a \$10 greenback. This bought twine enough for both us and Herman. We didn't have much grain to thresh so I was lucky they were not there for a meal but I went and helped Minnie cook one meal at their place. Herman's neighbor Connley had a old Rumley one cylinder tractor and a case separator so he did our threshing. Now after threshing we did have a few dollars after selling our grain but we squeezed it so tight that we wouldn't let go. We might need it worse later on.

After the threshing was over Stokers came to see us. The first thing Grandma Stoker said upon seeing Jesse was, "Your starving him." He did have dark circles under his eyes but he was a good baby and I thot all was well. I gave him some milk in a bottle and after 2 or 3 days he refused to nurse at all. I guess with all my hard work there was no milk for him. I didn't think I would ever get homesick as long as I had Lee and the boys but when Stokers left I really had a good cry.

Once again I was back to washing on the board and cleaning sooty lamp chimneys. After the harvest the men took their teams and wagons and went to Bostetter, chopped down trees, loaded them & on home about a one hundred miles. After a fire was going with sagebrush a big log was placed in the stove and it would burn for hours. Now the kitchen was comfortable as that was the only room in the house we could heat but the house had big windows on the south and in the afternoon when the sun was shining the big room was comfortable. The house had no insulation at all and the cold Burley wind came right in. It was so cold we all slept in the big room and when we awoke in the morning on cold windy nights our bedding would have frost on the quilts where our warm breath would collect & freeze.

Thank goodness for the warm quilts. Every morning would find all four of us in the one bed. Lee would hurry and build a fire then come back to bed until the kitchen got warm.

A Visit from the Bishop

One day Bishop Christensen paid us a visit and wanted to know why we were not attending church.² We just had to tell him that with no transportation and church being 3-3 1/2 miles away it was just impossible to make it. He suggested that our neighbor to the east, Axle Johnson, always brought his big truck and he was sure he would stop for us and let us stand in back. By this time we had been home so much with no place to go that we jumped at the chance; however, it was plenty cold at times. We had been so active in the church before moving. Lee was in sports and was activity director in Roy and was gone about every night in the week. That being able to stay home seemed great for awhile but we before long was longing to be active once more.

So the winter came and went. We survived. But how? Depression is no fun. Now I look back and wonder how we survived. Hopefully it has taught us a lesson and we have learned from the mistakes we made.

² On December 25, 1988, Lee Stoker said that Bishop Christensen's visit was near Christmas time in 1932.

Our Fortunes Improve in 1933

I Take Good Care of Our Animals

The next year 1933 was not so tough but we still had to thin our beets, cut our spuds and put up hay ourselves. No different work but now we were established and could buy the kids a pair of shoes or a sucker. We still needed a car, but we could borrow Hermans if we had to, which wasn't very often. We had hay for the cows now and I no longer had to worry about them bloating but I spent hours on the handle of a picher pump to keep water in front of them at all times as the cows were precious. The money from their milk, a truck came every day and picked up the milk, was all I had to run the house on so I was faithful in the watering and feeding of them.

We Get into the Pig Business

In 1933 there was a overproduction of pigs. Uncle Sam restricted the number a farmer could sell so our good friend and neighbor to west Raymond Johnson had a sow that was to farrow. He told Lee that if we wanted to we could take the sow home, raise the pigs, then give him the sow back. We gladly took him up on it but instead of giving him the sow back after the pigs were weaned, we bought the sow from him for \$8 and got more pigs. Gee how good meat tasted. We had been so long without any that we were in heaven.

In the fall we bought a used Dodge truck.³ We now had a way to get around if only we could keep gas in it. We had potatoes so Lee hauled ours as well as for neighbors. He really worked hard lifting sax 3/4 full of spuds up on the truck day after day sometimes into way after all should of been asleep.

Lee Suffers from a Toothache

We were glad that fall was here and we could take it a little easier for a few months. Course there was still wood to haul 100 miles and split, Pig & cows to feed & water etc. But we now could go to church on our own. Our boys were growing like weeds. We were still enjoying being together and working together. So that winter was very enjoyable to have meat, spuds & gravey. We had borrowed Herman's Ford for some reason or other and before we

³ Lee Stoker said this was in the fall of 1934 and the truck was a red 1933 model.

would forget it. all was well till about midnight and Lee awoke to a throbbing tooth. It was so bad he decided he would go into Burley & get a dentist out of bed. He got dressed and went to crank up the Ford. It was so cold it wouldn't start. Lee ended up by jacking up one hind wheel. He cranked & cranked but no luck.

He came in and decided he would pull it himself so he got a pair of pliers and worked & worked but the pliers kept slipping off so instead of pulling the tooth. He made it worse. I ended up by warming some salt in a cloth. He went to bed with the salt pack on his jaw and finally went to sleep. Next morning early he made the trip to the dentist to come home minus one tooth.



Keith, boy on left, with Marchant girls and Johnson boys

Time with Our Friends

Spring finally came once more. Still the same old grind but things were definitely on the improve. On the 4th of July our family plus Raymond & Elsa Johnson & family & Gerald & Merna Marchant & girls- Raymond had boys about our boys ages while Gerald had 2 girls about the boys ages- all got in a truck and went out on the desert to shoot rabbits.⁴ The very first thing, Elsa shot a rabbit a long way away. Raymond started walking toward the rabbit to see how far it was when Elsa moved her gun and it discharged hitting Raymond in

⁴ Keith maintains that the children did not go hunting with the adults. He thinks he and Jesse were at Grandpa Stokers". He remembers his parents telling him about what happened when they picked him up later.

the leg. Of course that was the hunting for the day. Raymond was taken to the Dr. & had to stay in bed for awhile. So the men had to help with Raymonds work.



Some of the rabbit hunters...Lee's photo album

We three couples were together quite often what with the 3 playing in the orchestra. We would always go to Marchants to practice as they were the only ones that had a piano- and our 3 day temple trips to Logan to Sister Ellis'. We had lots of good clean home fun. We still had no money to go much but met in our homes where there was much laughter plus many serious talks. I can still see and hear Garelds hearty belly ripping laughter.

The Boys Find out for Themselves

About 1935 Lee and myself got up early and went to the field to thin beets and left the boys asleep in bed. The beet field wasn't far from the house. when we came in for breakfast we found the boys already up. Keith had gone in the pantry for something to eat I suppose but found instead some chocolate candy. He being the oldest and biggest ate the lions share where Jesse didn't get much. but alas instead of it being candy it was a big box of Exlax. I rushed up to Johnsons. They had a phone and called the Dr. He said unless he threw up a lot and ran a lot to dehydrated to just let it go. Which we did. It was many many years later before Keith could eat chocolate candy.



Jesse with new straw hat

I think it was the same year. We were cutting potatoes in the dark spud cellar and Jesse came down crying. Upon investigating Keith had taken Jesse's new straw hat and milked some milk in it from a cow we had staked on the ditch bank. No, Keith didn't get praised for being able to milk at such a young age but did get a scolding for using a new hat.

Another time Keith came up missing. I thot he had gone with Lee to the water. When Lee came in he knew nothing of Keith so a frantic search was started. We even had the neighbors alerted as a big irrigation ditch wasn't too far away from the house. Lee hurridly



Keith with a new straw hat

diverted the water. We just knew he was in the ditch. Lee started following down the ditch toward the field when lo & behold he spied Keith in the field on his hands and knees sound asleep. He had started to follow Lee and got tired.

I Have My Problems

One hot afternoon we were putting up the 3rd crop hay in 1936. As usual Lee & Herman was in the field and I was on the wagon. I felt like I could not take one more step. I was so hot and tired so I blurted out to Herman that we were expecting our 3rd child. I was sent to the house and that was the last of my heavy work for the year.

About the year 1935 I didn't feel too good. Nothing physical just mental. Could of been overwork I don't know. We had a cellar under the kitchen part of the house that one entered thru a trap door from the portch. I got to where I almost absolutely refused to go down there, instead I would send Keith. Then get cross if he didn't bring up what I wanted. When Lee wasn't where I could see him I imagined he had gone down in the cellar. I could see him so plainly down there with a rope around his neck hanging from a rafter. My imagination really worked overtime. Then I was so cross with the boys and Lee. No one could please me. When I would go to do my shopping in

Burley, if I seen someone coming I knew I would cross the street so I would not have to speak to them. I wanted to be left alone.

Lee's Folks Move in as Neighbors

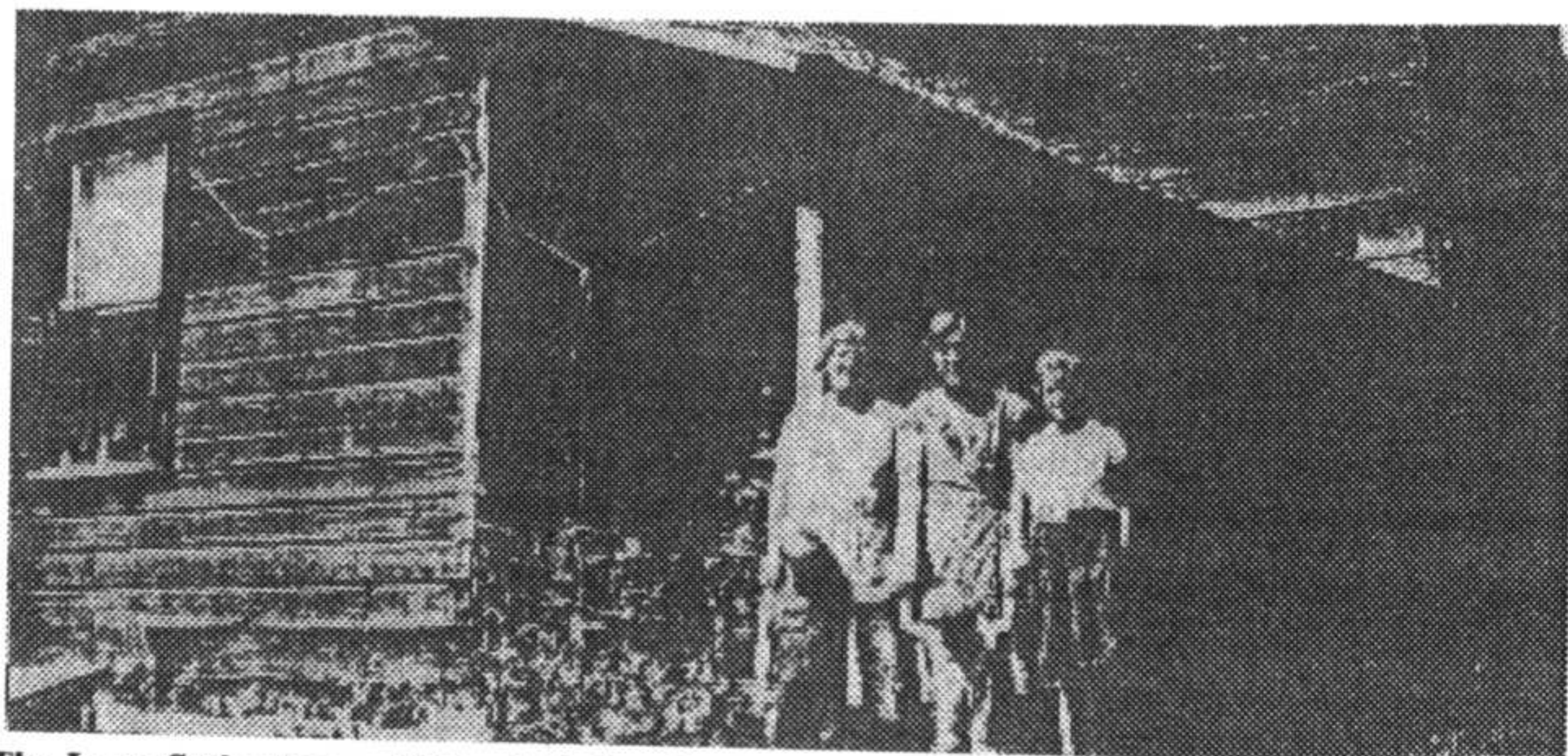
Grandma & Grandpa Stoker lost out in Morgan so they moved to a farm across from Axel Johnson in 1933; however, they were in the View ward while we were in Springdale. It was very good now to have family close. Their daughter, Lees sister Eunice and her husband Lee Southwick, moved with them; however, they all lived in the same big house. They only lived there one year & Lee & Eunice moved back to Roy.

The fall of 1933[Lee Stoker thinks it was the fall of 1934] the men all worked together in the harvest. Earl Stoker and Fred Sodencamp came from Roy to help in the beets. It was hard work topping beets by hand then throwing them in the truck. The fall was so wet horses had to help pull the truck out of the field. The men in the picture are Earl Stoker, Herman Stoker, Fred Sodencamp, Lee Southwick and Lee Stoker.



Stoker's beet harvesting crew

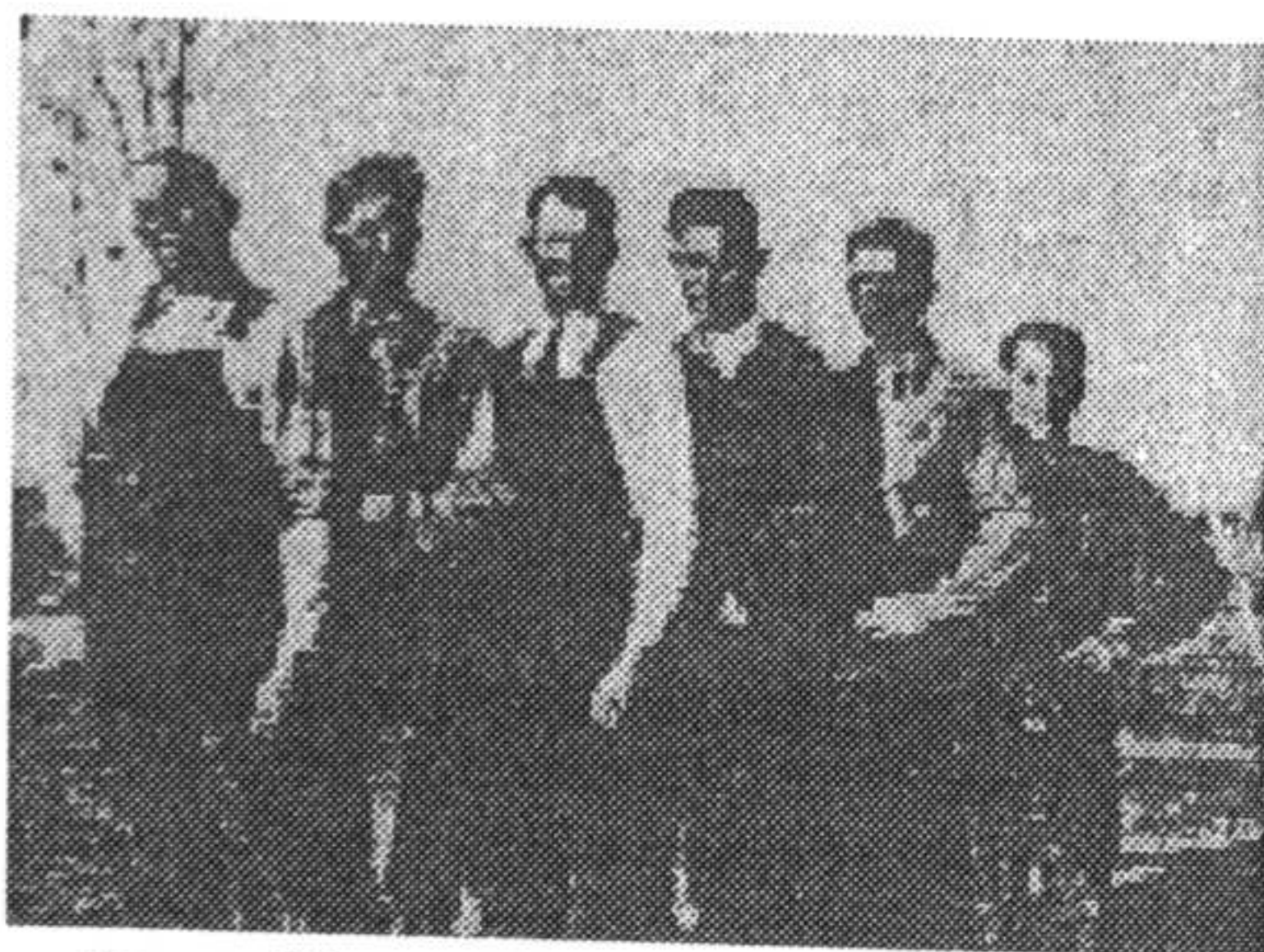
Stokers only lived by us the one year. They moved to the Listen farm for a year then to the Robinson farm. This farm was by the big 3rd lift canal. In the winter the canal drifted full of snow then when it started thawing the canal ran over. No place for the water to go so it flooded house, barn & all. Ivan had some sheep which had to be driven on high ground. The house was a mess. Water every where.



The Jesse Stoker home, 1933—*Back Row: Lettie, Eunice, and Verda Front Row: Lettie's grandchildren: Keith and Jesse Stoker*



Lettie and daughters, 1933— Lettie, Thelma, Verda, Eunice, and Jane



Jesse and his sons, 1933— Jesse, Herman, Lelie, Lee, Ivan, and Allen



Team of horses help pull truck loaded with beets out of the wet field.

I Get into Water Over My Head

It was in this big canal that I had my first fear of the water. Verda, Lees younger sister, and myself had been cutting potatoes. We got so hot and tired that Verda suggested we go swimming in the big High Line or 3rd lift canal. This suited me fine. I hadn't been swimming for a long long time and I loved the water. When we got there Verda said, "Can you swim across?" I said sure. In I jumped and started swimming, not stopping to warm up or anything. When I got almost to the other side I could see the current would take me to a open headgate so I turned and started swimming back. I was exhausted when I finally reached the other side. I now do not care for the water like I used to. Also that was my first and last swim in the High Line canal.

Stokers on the Move Again

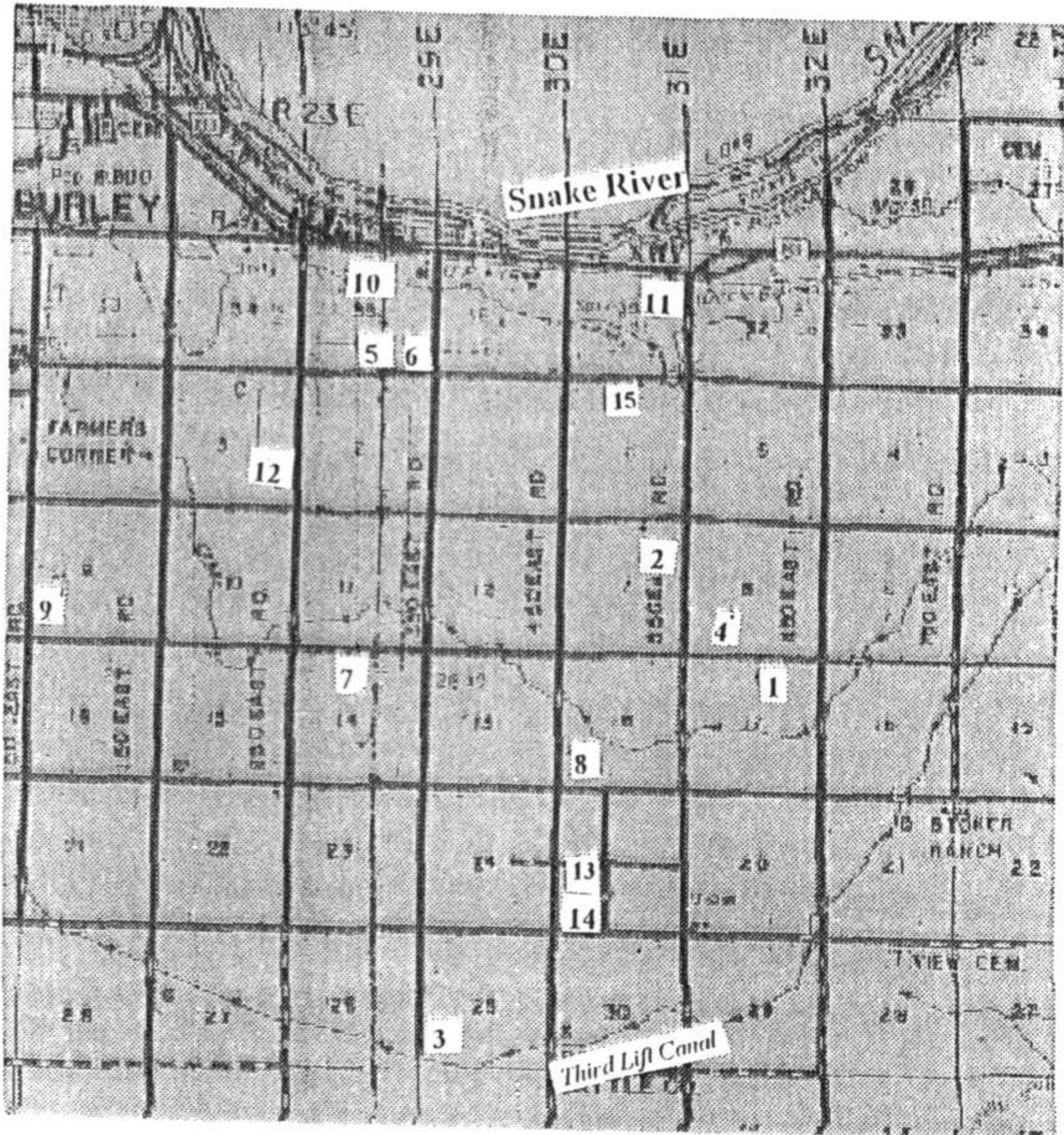
In the fall of 1936 Stokers moved back to Roy, Utah. their farming was over. They built a small house on some land of marvin and Jane Venable. Grandpa was custodian of the Roy chapel.

In the early spring of 1936 we got a chance to rent a 80 acre farm in Unity. This was great as there was electricity there. No more wash boards and sooty chimneys. We bought us a beautiful Speed Queen washer color green. Wash days were now a breeze. We even bought a lovely dining room set, table, 6 chairs and buffet. They threw in a green rose velvet table cover and runner. This was great. I didn't tromp hay anymore but did help in the field. In the fall of [']36 we had some boys from Oklahoma, 5 of them helped us in the harvest. The only thing, I had to feed them 3 meals a day so naturally I was not in the field.

We were only there one year when the farm was sold to Annie Barton from Roy and Delbert and Flora Garner moved up to Burley to farm it. I was sick, new furniture & washer. We sold our dining room set later but I wouldn't part with my Speed Queen washer even tho we moved back to Springdale in our old cold home and no electricity, back to the wasboard, oil & gas lights and the big copper boiler in which water was heated as well as the white clothes boiled in. Along with the washboard, I purchased a jouncer. It was on the same order as a toilet plunger only of metal. Now once in a while I could get Lee to help with the washing. We were only there the winter. In the spring we had a chance to buy

the farm joining the farm we farmed in 1936. It was called the Frank Manning farm.

With the help of my brother George, we paid \$1500 down, \$1000 borrowed. The 80 acres cost us \$9,000. How happy we were finally a home of our own after all that hard work; however, lots of hard work ahead of us to get it paid for.



The Stoker residences near Burley, Idaho

1. Jesse Stoker (1933); 2. Jesse Stoker (Listen place, 1934); 3. Jesse Stoker (Robinson place, 1935-1936)
 4. Lee Stoker (1932-1935); 5. Lee Stoker (1936); 6. Lee Stoker (1937-1946); 7. Herman Stoker (1932); 8.
 Herman Stoker (1933-1938); 9. Herman Stoker (1938-1943); 10. Herman Stoker (1944-1987) 11. Springdale
 LDS Church; 12. Unity LDS Church; 13. View School; 14. View LDS Church; 15. Springdale School

Scale: approximately each standard square is 1 square mile.

Chapter 6

Making a Go of it in Unity

Getting Established

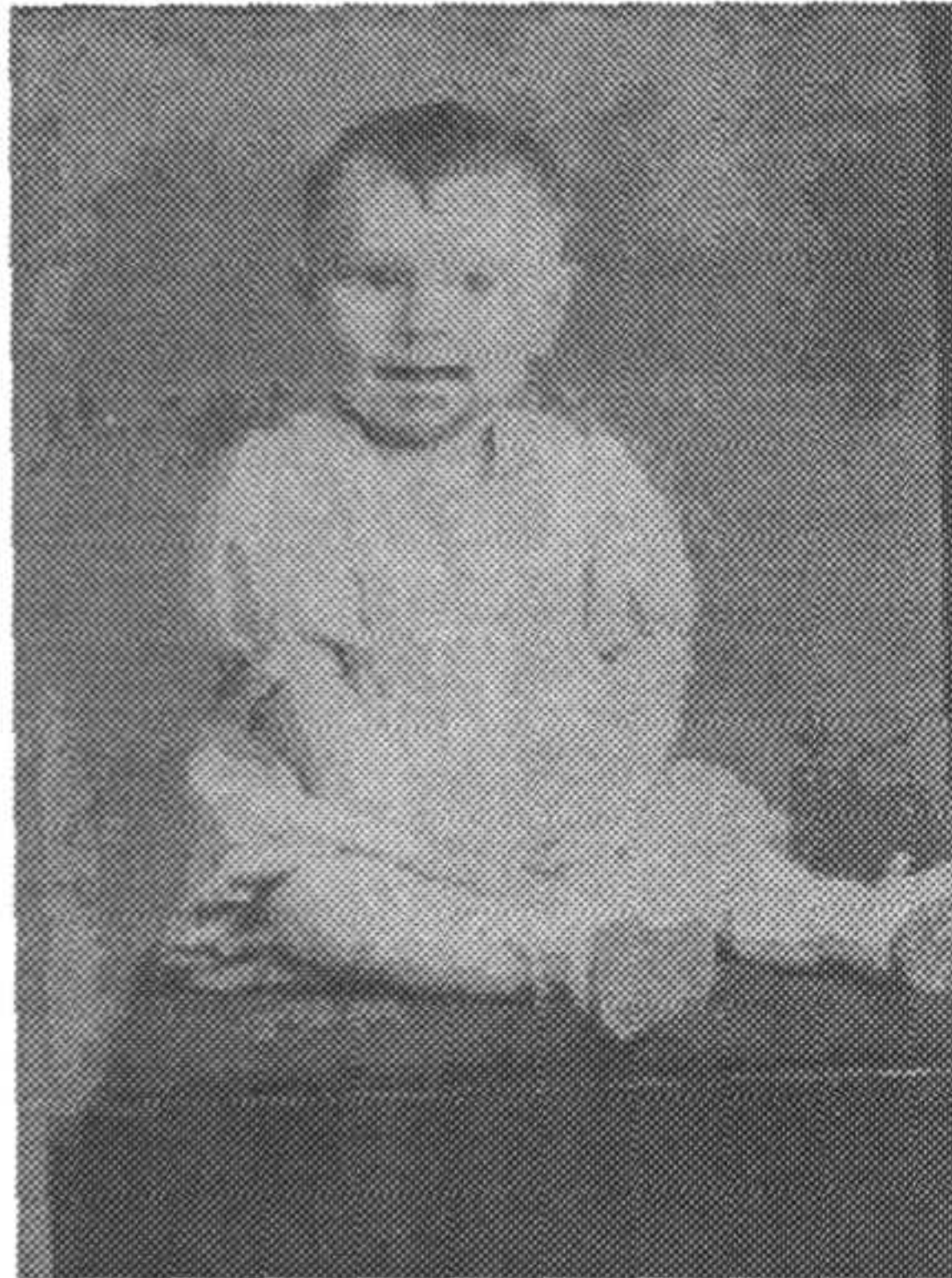
A New Home, A New Boy, and New Friends

The house was small 1 bedroom, livingroom and kitchen & pantry. A pump house was not far away. We had heard there were bed bugs there so before we moved we fumigated for them. I'm sure it helped much but for months we would turn on the lights, electric, and usually kill 2 or 3 that was crawling on the walls. We finally got rid of them. Also there was lots of mice in the house but by plugging the holes it ended them.

By this time, early March I was big with child. It was hard for me getting moved and all the cleaning but finally it was livable. Sarah, my sister, came to be with me. So on the 25 of March 1937 another cute tow head was born. We had our order in for a girl, but it didn't turn out that way. This time we engaged Dr. Kelley and as with Dr. Ward, he came out to the house. Charge \$50. He was blessed Jimmie B, the B standing for Blanch.

Here in Unity we made many friends also. Some were Deb & Flora Garner, Carl and Dora Meline, Howard & Raida Halford, George & Freda Kesler, Ed & wife Kesler, and a Christensen. I can't think of their name, plus Ray & Hattie Wilson. About once a month we would all the women meet & hold a gab session. We used to have lots to talk about. All seemed to make a big fuss over Jimmie. He was a cute baby. Walked early so he could walk right under the table. Flora loved to watch him for me.

When Jimmie was 2 or 3 years old a small ditch ran along side the lawn so we could irrigate it. We had a dog and on hot days the dog would get in the ditch to cool off. Only Jimmie would be right behind the dog. I talked and spanked all to no avail. Jim still went in the ditch whenever the dog did. One evening I caught them in the water again. When he seen me he started to come out of the ditch. It wasn't deep. I took my foot and pushed him back in. This



Jimmie at 9 months

time more than his feet were wet. Naturally he came up screaming and climbing out again. Once more he went back in the ditch. He was screaming loud enough that Lee came running in from the barn thinking Jimmie had hurt himself. This was drastic measures but we had bought so many pairs of shoes and I had cleaned him up so much that we had to stop it somehow. then who knows that he might of followed the dog in a big ditch of water. I took him in the house and cleaned him up and that was the last time he waded in the ditch after the dog.

We bought a red sofa and chair for the front room, also a Philco table model radio. The sofa made into a bed. However, we didn't buy these till after Jimmie was born. We moved my bed in the front room so Sarah wouldn't have to walk thru the front room to

the bedroom to tend baby & me.

We didn't move till March so Lee was really working hard.¹ When the baby was older I went to the field as before only I would leave the baby to the house and Lee would take 1 boy & I would usually take the other one. We had a good garden spot with a few berries and a scraggly orchard that I took care of. Not too much had changed except we had our farm & Herman had his. We no longer worked together but we will be forever grateful for Herman's help in getting us started in farming. Probably never would of got started. Our crops had turned out good. We had problems as others did such as when the white fly took our beets and one year not enough water but all in all we couldn't complain.

We Have our Problems, But Things Get Better

An Arrow Takes Keith's Eye

The year of 1938 we were working as usual. I had taken Jimmie to Floras to watch and seeing I was cultivating potatos close by we left the 2 boys to play in the yard. I came in the house to fix dinner² and found Keith in the house on the bed.³ When I asked how come, he said Jesse had hit him in the eye with a arrow. They had been playing cowboys & Indians and they had taken a willow and string and made a bow & arrow. I looked at his eye and really couldn't see anything so I told him to rest and I prepared dinner. When Lee came in we decided it wasn't much so both of us went

¹ Keith, on October 27, 1989, told of how he had listened to his parents agonize about whether to buy the farm or not. The farm had not been plowed the previous fall, and Lee had only three head of horses to work all the ground. Finally, Lee convinced Ethel, who was heavy with child, that a five-year-old son could ride the horse named "Nig," whom Keith had played under when it was a colt in Lava Hot Springs. The horse, with Keith riding it, would pull a single section of harrow to work down the plowed ground. Keith remembered that at noon of the first day on the job asking his dad how much ground they had worked that morning. Lee answered, "About an acre." At that rate, about 2 acres a day was all they could do. All the cultivated ground on the 80-acre farm, which excluding house and barnyard, amounted to over 60 acres, needed to be plowed, harrowed, and planted.

² In the Stoker family, this was the big meal at lunchtime.

³ Keith's version differs in that he thinks his mother was already cooking dinner when he came in with his eye wounded.

back to the field while Keith still stayed on the bed.

In the middle of the afternoon I began to feel uneasy and decided we had better have Keith's eye looked at. Keith insisted it didn't hurt much but he lay as in sort of a stupor that I didn't like so went to the field where Lee was working and told him of my fears. He thought the same so we hurriedly took care of the horses, got ready & went to Dr. Kelleys in Burley in the big truck. The doctor took one look at Keith and said he wouldn't touch it, that it was for a specialist and that time may be important to get there as soon as possible.⁴ We drove to Hermans and left kids there, borrowed his car, a Chev and headed for Twin Falls about 35 miles. Dr. called Twin Falls to a Dr. Oaks⁵ to let him know we were coming as by now it was evening.

If time was of essence, we must hurry. So hurry we did. Lee drove like a madman. Dr. Oaks was waiting for us in his office. We found that we needn't of hurried so fast as there wasn't anything he could do except take his eye out. He said if he had of been there when it happened he couldn't of saved it as the arrow peirced the pupil; however, in some cases the sooner the better. Dr. said that infection spread so fast from one eye to the other that he wanted Keith to be admitted right then to the hospital. He made the arrangements to admit him over the phone. I was about 4 month pregnant once more. I had to step out and sit on the step as I felt very faint. Soon it passed and we took Keith to the Twin Falls hospital then home to chores. We left the kids with Minnie. Chores early the next morning & on to Twin.

When we got there Keith had already been operated on and was back in his room. He was put in a room with some older men. They laughed and told us Keith asked the nurse for a drink. The nurse told him if he drank water so soon it would make him sick but she would give him some that he could rinse his mouth & spit it out. After the lecture she handed Keith a glass of water. He drank the whole glass before she could get it away.

⁴ According to Keith there was a discussion about where to go whether Salt Lake City or Twin Falls. The doctor had much respect for Dr. Oaks in Twin Falls and with it being closer the decision was made to go there.

⁵ Dr. Oak's son, Dallin Oaks, would become not only the president of Brigham Young University, but become a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Dr. Oaks told us a hurt eye was most painful but Keith didn't complain at all. When we got him home he played as usual and was almost proud of his black patch over his eye. In a few weeks he was fitted with a artificial eye. When Dr. Oaks fitted him with his eye he told us he had tried a new kind of operation.⁶



Jimmie, Jesse, and Keith who adjusts to one eye and glasses

He explained that the eye is like a onion made up of layers so he just peeled the layers off till past the puncture. So as a result all of the muscles that control the eye was there. So with a artificial eye covering the outside with a good fit it was almost unnoticable.

We are so thankful for our prayers being answered. It could of been much morse and at the time I was stunned, here a sweet 8 year old boy with his whole life before him with only one eye. I'm sure it is a handicap but Keith has done everything any normal boy could do, swimming, football, basketball as well as work. Our prayers are that nothing will harm his other eye. Before Keith even started school Lee had him ride a horse with one section of harrow behind and work the ground after the plow.

⁶ Keith says that Dr. Oaks had talked to Lee and Ethel about this type of operation in detail and gained their permission before it was performed.

Jesse Choses to Stay Home

The two boys grew up fast, plenty of work that kids could do. Then with Deb & Flora living so close they really had 2 sets of parents. They never went there except they were fed something so of course they loved to go. Jesse especially would slip away from home and end up there. One day I was washing and had the clothes sorted into piles when Lee seen Jesse coming home from Debs so he grabbed a dirty pair of overalls and told him there was his clothes and if he would rather be Deb & Flora's little boy he could take his clothes and live there. Jesse started to cry and said he didn't want to be Deb's little boy. So we had no more problems with Jesse running away. I have often wondered what we would of done had Jesse wanted to stay with Deb & Flora.



A three-roomed framed house; kitchen in the lean-to

We Improve our House

We had good crops on our farm and was able to pay George the money he loaned us after only 2 crops harvested. We also converted the pantry into a bath. Marvin Venable came and did the plumbing. One almost had to go in & back out it was so small, but how good it was not to have to bath in a wash tub or run outside when a Burley blizzard was on. I don't remember the year we did this or the year we

got our first electric stove. The war was on. We had increased our cow herd. In fact had built a new barn so I'm ahead of myself but we would go do chores then come in to eat. Lees stomach was starting to bother him so I told him if he would buy me a electric stove, I would get up and fix him breakfast before we went out. There was none to be had in Burley but Laura seen a ad in their paper of one for sale so she bought it for us and we went to Utah for it. It was 3 burners, stood on legs with the oven at the side of the burners. We still had to have our coal stove for heat but this was great. I kept my promise. Most of the time we ate before we went out to chores.

We hadn't had the bathroom in too long and one day Lee was sitting in the kitchen cleaning his gun when all at once it discharged and the bullet went thru the casing in the bathroom. A white scared little boy came running from the bathroom, pants down, wondering what had happened. It was laughable but could of been tragic.⁶

Lee Goes to the Hospital

Early in the spring of 1938 Lee began having pains in his stomach. He put off going to the Dr. as he had too much to do but one morning when he tried to get out of bed he couldn't turn over to get up. Finally he made it out of bed to his knees. We finally got him standing and went right to Dr. Kelley once more. The Dr. sent him directly to the hospital where he was operated on for appendicitis but when they got in they found the appendix had already ruptured. They inserted a tube for it to drain but Lee being big & strong and in good health wasn't laid up long. The day he came home from the hospital instead of going in the house and laying down he made a trip to the field where members of the ward were plowing the ground and planting grain. How great to belong to a church that will come to your aid when needed.

Finally, A Baby Girl

Sarah Helps Again

In 1938 we purchased a Model A Ford paying \$110 for it. We now had 3 boys, a farm a truck, now a car. Our baby daughter arrived on the 4th of Dec. 1938. The years had been very good to us. Sarah once

⁶ Keith says that the boy was Jimmie. Jim remembered the gaping hole left by the shotgun pellets.

more was called on to assist in the birth. Once more a bed was put in the front room, this time closer to the kitchen to save Sarah steps. We will be in debt to her all our lives. She helped so much. Never complaining. I do love and appreciate her so very much.



Vanae at 4 months

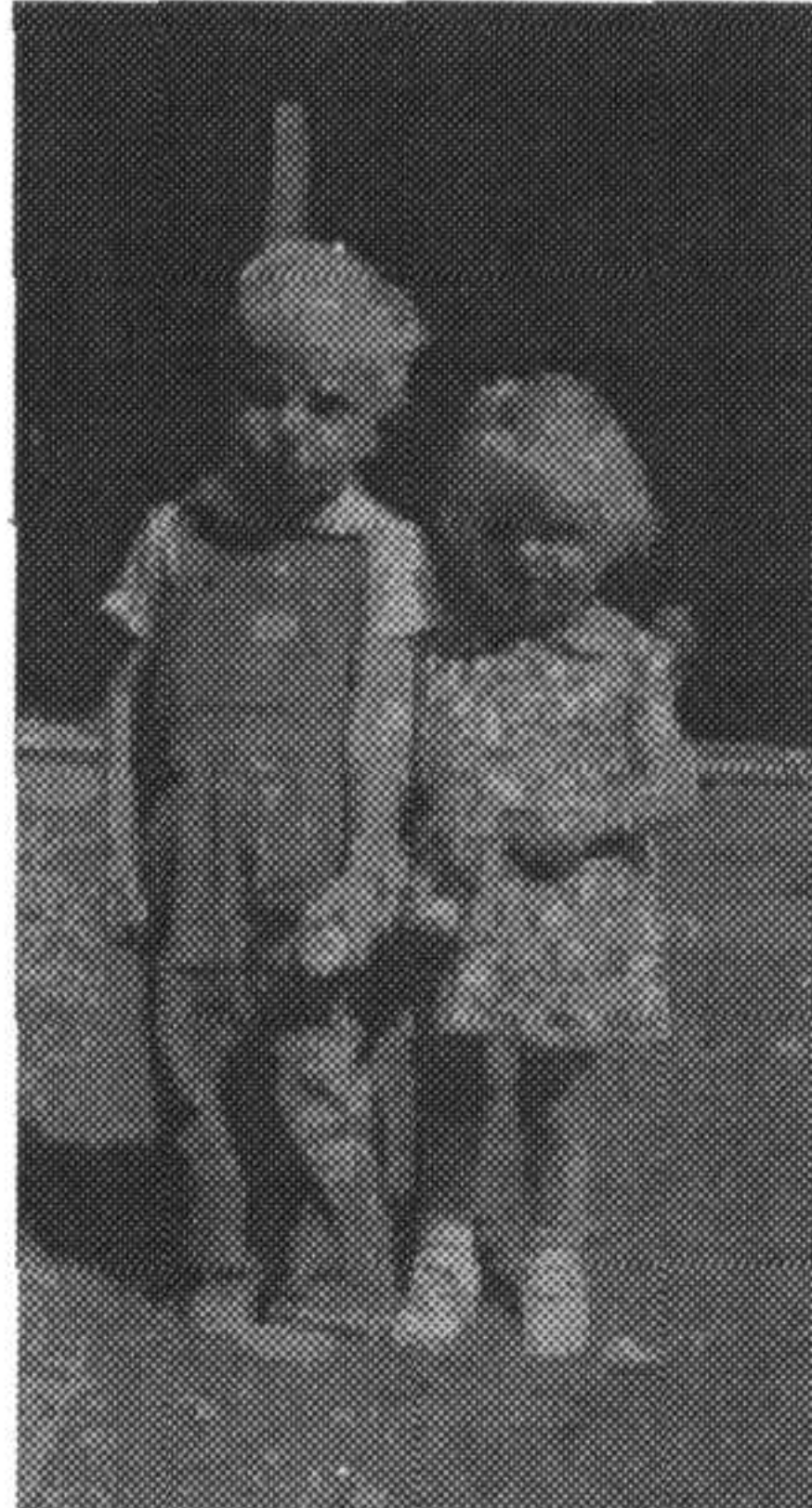
The day I got out of bed about 11th day, I was bathing her and noticed a lump on her shoulder. Sarah hadn't noticed it before so we were very excited and all got in the car and headed for the doctors office, including me. Lee and Sarah took the baby in while I sat in the car as I was afraid the Dr. would get after me for being out too soon. The Dr. looked at the lump and said her collar bone had been broken in birth and the lump had formed to protect the break. There was nothing we could do except be careful, relief.

When searching for a name for our bundle of joy, nothing seemed right until Sarah suggested Vanae. A woman she worked for had a daughter by that name. Both of us liked it even tho neither had heard it before, not alone know how to spell it. Sarah didn't know either so it ended up Vanae.

Vanae Has Her Troubles

Growing up with 3 rowdy brothers it wasn't easy to be the perfect lady. Soon she was the tomboy. Once while playing football with the boys she got her collar bone brokern again. This time they put her in

a harness to keep her shoulders back. Another time she fell off a horse and broke her arm, a green willow break. While still small she would get awful coughing spells. Nothing we did seemed to help, drinks, food, cough syrup, etc. Sometimes the coughing went on for hours, or so it seemed as they usually happened at night. No one got much sleep especially since we all slept in bedroom. We took her to the Dr. He had no idea. Finally we took her to a LDS doctor in Ontario a Dr. Lester Emmett. He said he thot a gland in her throat hadn't completely



Jim and Vanae, probably in a home-made dress

closed at birth but she would out grow it. Which she did.

One time Flora was visiting. It was the fall of the year and we had cattle running in the field. They were watered just behind the pumphouse. Val Garner and Vanae were out playing and they got in where the cattle were drinking. A yearling steer knocked Vanae down and kept rolling her. Val dashed in the house screaming. We ran out & upon seeing us the steer ran away. We took Vanae in & cleaned her up. Besides some scratches and skinned places, she wasn't hurt at all. It was a mighty close call tho. Thank goodness Val was there.

Vanae used to complain a lot of her stomach hurting so once more to Dr. Kelley. He said her blood count wasn't too high but he was

puzzled as to what was causing it unless it was appendicitis. He gave us our choice. So we decided she should be operated on. After the operation the Dr. said it never would of ruptured as the appendix was black and hard as a rock and twisted like a rope. He had never seen one like it and he thot that was the problem. But even tho she bounced right back her stomach still bothered her until finally to Dr. Emmet once more. He gave us some medicine and told us to give her some as she needed it & it wasn't too long until the pains went away.



Ethel and Vanae in front of Unity home

I Enjoyed Sewing for a Girl

I had made so many boys shirts and patched overall knees that it was fun to sew dresses for her out of any kind of material I could find. One dress I remember was a piece of pongee Sarah had salvaged from a dress. I had to gore the skirt; 8 gores, 4 in front & 4 back & each gore came to a point on the waist & it was piped in blue. I always like it. then I crochet her a all white one out of no. 30 thread. For Sunday I would put her hair up in rags then combed ringlets & her white dress, very pretty. I even made her a blue velvet bonnett trimmed in light blue. all this time we still worked hard but was doing quite well.

Delbert & Flora had bought a farm in Rupert and Vern, Deb's brother, and Carrie moved neighbors to us. They had kids our kids age, Norman & Donna.

Chapter 7

Family Fights War; Faces Death, and Moves



Stoker's Jersey cows at pasture

Stokers' Jersey Dairy

Lee and Herman Buy the Dairy

In 1940 we bought a small dairy route in Burley from Mr. Loveless.

We had increased our cow herd of Jerseys to around 50 and so had Herman. Once more they went together as partners in the dairy venture. To start with we bottled milk in the pump house & so did Herman while our new barn was being constructed.¹

It held 15 cows on each side with a big walk way in the middle & wide walkway on each side in front of cows. A room was built on the

side to bottle the milk as well as a big walk-in cooler. We had 3 large tubs on legs to wash the milk bottles in, one soap, 1 rinse, 1 disinfectant. Each bottle, all glass then, had to be washed sperately. Did have a electric brush mounted on the wall by the tub tho.

Our Jobs

We had 4 new Surge milkers. Keith, Jesse & myself used to do most of the milking while Lee was irrigating, feeding etc. I would start washing milk bottles early in the afternoon. Then we would milk. I would start bottling milk and let the boys finish the milking. We did have a milk bottler and capper, but the milk had to be, after it was cooled, lifted up & emptied in the bottler by bucket. Each bottle had to be taken from the bottler and put in wooden cases. Then the filled cases put in the cooler. Then when finished, everything, milkers, bottler, buckets, cooler etc, had to be washed & disinfected. Floors to barn swept and coated with lime. Then time to start supper for family then all were ready for bed because baybreak came all too soon next morning.

We did hire a man to deliver the milk in a red panel truck painted on the sides, "Stokers' Jersey Dairy." Our route eventually increased to where to keep up with the demand, we had to buy outside milk. We sold door to door for housewives, stores, bus depot, and schools. I also kept the books, made checks out for help and outside milk & made out satements. The truck driver, when he finished his delivery, he made 2 trips a day so it was always past noon when he would come to the house and bring what money collected that day plus how much & to whom on credit. I was always working on books when not in barn or working in my garden. We had a good sized garden plus

¹ According to Keith Stoker, in 1943, this barn caught fire damaging the roof. An alert neighbor stopped by at five O'clock in the morning, to tell Lee his barn was on fire. Lee dashed to the barn and emptied the barn of the thirty cows stanchioned. The fire was soon contained. No one knows how the fire started. The family suspected that the night before when they inspected the cattle for some brucellosis tests, apparently a match had been dropped by a hired man in some hay in front of the mangers. Perhaps someone stepped on it, igniting the match in the hay. The fire smoldered through the night following a path toward some Boy Scout gathered paper that was collected for the war effort. When the fire reached this spot it blazed up the wall, searing the surface but not burning it, until it reached the roof where it burned a hole. Fortunately the night had been calm, otherwise the whole barn would have gone up in smoke.

raspberries, strawberries, dewberries & gooseberries & currants.



Lee Stoker Family at Grampa's birthday party, 1941

Left to right: Keith, Lee holding Jimmie, Ethel holding Vanae, and Jesse

The Stoker Family Reunion²

On July 15, 1940 the family gathered together for Grandpa's birthday. His birthday is on 17 July. Ora, Herman's daughter and the oldest granddaughter made him a lovely birthday cake. Each family had their picture taken at this time.

²To be more faithful chronologically, the material in this heading was moved from its position, following the heading "Grandpa Stoker Dies" in Ethel's handwritten account.



The Jesse Stoker Birthday Party, July 15, 1941

Front row: Mary Stoker, Jimmie Stoker looking at the cake, Jesse Stoker with birthday cake, Duane Southwick, Lettie with ?, Marlene Venable, Lynn Stoker **Second row:** Elva Garner?, Jesse Stoker, Deloss Stoker, Dee Garner, Wayne Venable, Dale Stoker, in front of him- Elaine Garner?, Joyce Stoker, Leora Garner holding baby **Third row:** Nell Stoker, Keith Stoker, Lloyd Stoker, Gene Stoker, Genevive Garner, Ora Stoker, Shirley Stoker **Fourth row:** Marvin Venable with arms folded with Thelma Stoker Garner looking over his shoulder, Dewey Garner back of Thelma, Jane Stoker Venable, Eunice Stoker Southwick, in back of her-Lee Southwick holding foster daughter, Ethel Stoker (face partially hidden by Deloss) with Vanae, Lee Stoker behind Ethel and Vanae, Verda Stoker, Herman Stoker, Minnie Child Stoker holding Carol Stoker, Ivan Stoker **Top four:** Annie Weston Stoker, Leslie Stoker, Betty West Stoker, Allen Stoker

A Business Trip to Oregon

In the fall of 1941 Grandpa & Grandma Stoker came up & them, Herman & Minnie & us left Burley in Herman's car with trailer behind to go to Oregon to buy some cows. Our boys wanted some good 4-H heifers and we wanted some high producing cows. Herman bought 2 and so did we tho it would be a while before they would become high producing cows as they were only calves. It was our first trip to Oregon. In fact our first trip anywhere except to Logan & Ogden. While in Portland we attended the International Stock Show and Fair.

The first night we stayed in Boise, Idaho. It was dark when we arrived so we stopped to the first motel we came to. I had slept in a hotel when we were married and now a motel. We were on the ball. The motel had a kitchen so we ate breakfast before leaving the next morning. Before we got home Grandpa Stoker sure wasn't feeling to



Jim sitting on the Stoker's 1941 Chevy's running board

well. I really worried about him. He at this time, while we were alone, told me that he loved me and thot of me as one of his daughters. I guess he should as I am in the family. I alway thot of Grandpa as one of the kindest, gentlest men I have ever known. He often would pull me down on his knee & talk a minute. I'll never forget Grandpa, or Grandma either.

After harvest that year we bought a new 1941 white Chevy.³

World War II Rages

Labor Was Scarce

It was great but by now our work increased with more cows. A war was on and Uncle Sam kept taking our help. All the help we had was our delivery boy. German P.O.W.'s came and did our beet thinning & hoeing.³

Many times we would take them out cake, rice pudding & always milk. It was appreciated very much.



Christmas postcard from former POW Otto Graf

³ For the first two years of the war, Lee had built a small wooden frame labor house erected just east of his own residence in which lived four Japanese men who came from the Minidoka Relocation center. One of the younger of them, a Fred ..., spoke quite fluent English. During the last two years of the war, German Prisoners of War were used. The Stokers, either Lee or Keith, would drive a tarp-covered beet truck across the Snake River to the Paul camp. At first the prisoners were accompanied by armed guards. Each P.O.W. had a quota of work to accomplish each day. One of these men would work fast to have his quota finished by noon. He then retired to the shade for the rest of the day. He spoke English well enough to tell Lee that he had been wounded and had a metal plate inserted in his skull. When the sun sweltered, his head ached. The shade dprotected him from these occurrences. After the war, one prisoner, Otto Graph, corresponded with the Stokers from Dusseldorff, Germany requesting some basics. The Stokers responded by sending a package with clothing and essential items.

Bees Cause Horses to Run-away with Me

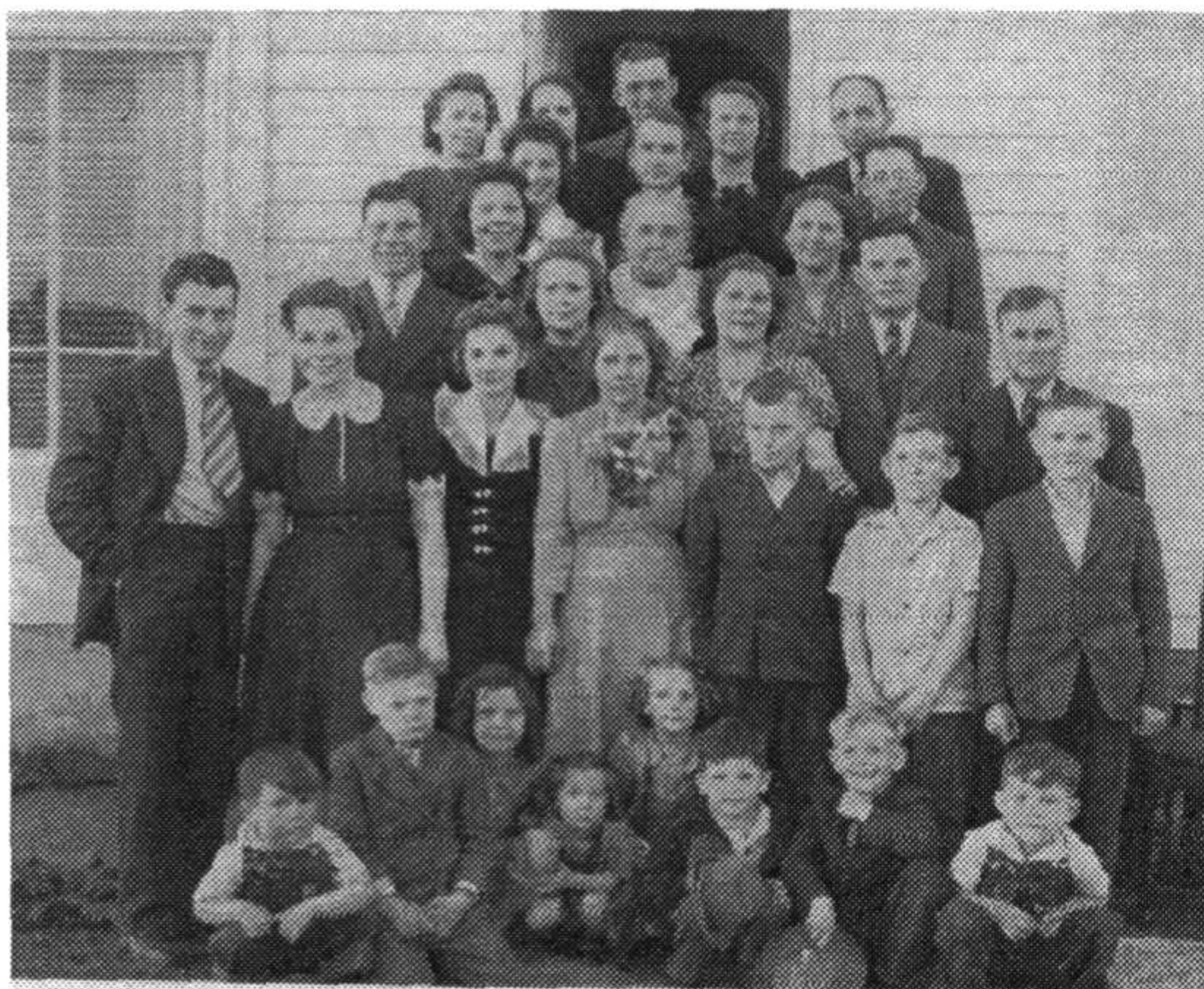
We rented a 40 acre farm. This was a 20 acre farm. from Honey Bee [Albert] Larsen so as to have feed enough for our cattle. We were going day & half the night. One day I was cutting hay and all was going well until I ran into a swarm of bees. The horses kept shaking their heads until I finally stopped them and got off the mower and went & took hold of the bit of one of the horses. It wasn't long tho before the horses took off. Every step the one horse made he hit me on the back of my leg with his front foot. Lee was there irrigating & he came running toward us yelling for me to let go which I did. [I was] just thankful I was not on the side where the knife was as I had left the mower in gear. The horses cut a swath thru the middle of the alfalfa field. It was hard going & finally the horses stopped and Lee could walk up to them. I still carry a lump on the back of my leg but it doesn't bother me at all and is getting smaller.

Mother Comes to Live with Us

Mother now was no longer able to keep house. In fact she lived or Don & Eva lived in her home and kept her. Then each one of us took our turn of taking Mother. Now it was my turn. We moved the boys in the pump house to make room for Mother. She didn't demand a lot of help but it was one extra when all was so busy. But I loved my mother and would do anything for her & do my very best. Mother was beginning to get quite childish. One day I left her just long enough to run for groceries. When I got home all my front room curtains were taken down, folded neatly on the bed. She would pick up the kids playthings and put them in the stove. One day when I went to make the fire I discovered Vanae's doll all black and sooty in the stove. It was hard to explain Mother's actions to the kids. I was close to a nervous breakdown. I think I had Mother 3 or 4 months then took her to Laura's. It was decided to place Mother in a nursing home as all had small children and it was equally as hard on them as it was on us. Mother was placed in a home in Ogden; however, had we of known her life would be so short we would never of thot of it. She was there only about a week. She passed away on Valentines day, Saturday 14 Feb 1942 at the age of 69.

I left as soon as I heard of Mother's passing on a bus. Laura met me at the station. Lee brought the kids and Flora Garner and came later. On the way Keith got his ears frozen but Lee will tell that in his history as I wasn't there. They came the day before the funeral

17th of Feb which turned out to be a cold clear day. When we went home a day or so later the weather was warm and the roads bare & dry. I asked for and got Mother's round oak dining table and 2 chairs, her trunk and a few pieces of glassware. I have no idea what happened to the rest of Mother's furniture.



Laura May Etherington Blanch at Sarah's birthday, 1941

1st row: Robert Blanch, Jesse Stoker, Joyce Judkins, Lenea Wagstaff, Evelyn Wagstaff, Duane Wagstaff, Jerry Blanch

2nd row: Newell Judkins, Myreta Judkins, Meribel Judkins, Sarah Blanch Judkins, Keith Stoker, Val Hancock, Gne Hancock

3rd row: Lynn Judkins, Ruth Hancock, Ethel Blanch Stoker, Donald Blanch, Heber Hancock

4th row: Nina Judkins, Laura May Etherington Blanch, Eliza Blanch Wagstaff

5th row: Alta Judkins Bailey, Albert Bailey, Wilford Judkins?

6th row: Eva Johnson Blanch, Violetta Belnap Blanch, Laura Blanch Hancock, Parley Wagstaff

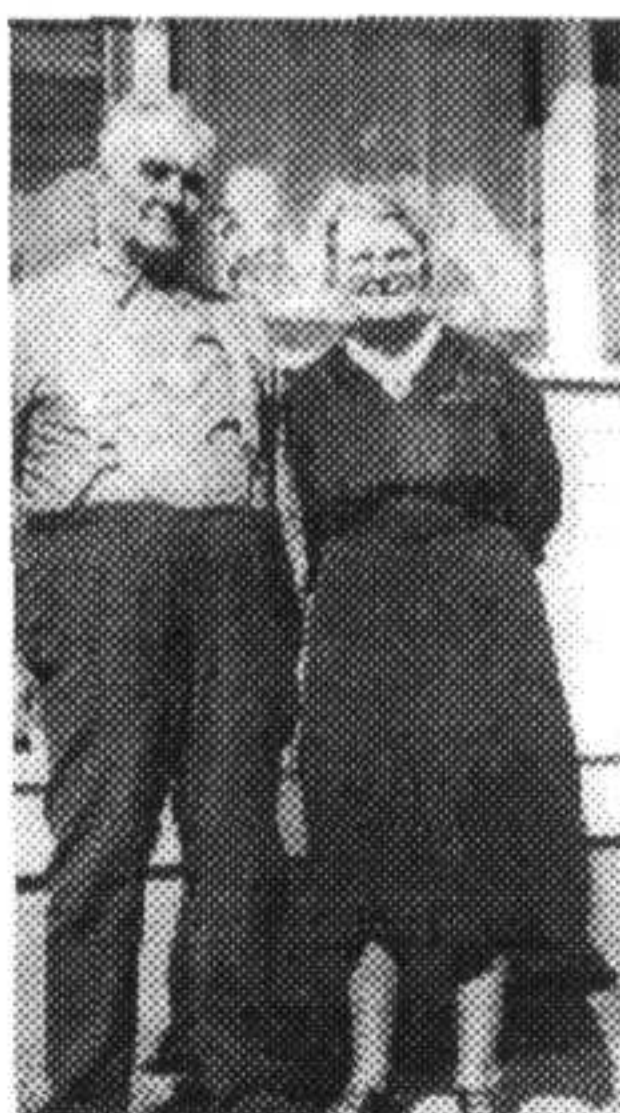
7th row: Lee Hammon

Stoker

I Face a Nervous Breakdown

About this time the world was upset about the Lindburg baby kidnapping. We followed it on the news thru the radio.⁴ I made men-

tion I was close to a nervous breakdown, the responsibility of the extra work, funeral & all was more than I could take. The Dr. had me stay in for a week & take it easy; however, it was almost easier for me to be working, but the rest was what I needed. While in I would lie on the bed and would doze, I suppose, but the oddest feeling would come over me. I knew my body was on the bed but my spirit was 2 feet above the bed. I would come to with a start, headache & shaking, a odd but terrible feeling. After a week or so of rest I gradually came out of it and it wasn't long before I was in the routine of work once more.



Jesse and Lettie Stoker

Grandpa Stoker Dies

Once more in the fall we got bad news. On Halloween Oct 30, 1942 Grandpa Stoker passed away at the age of 68. On that night he had done his home teaching, came home & he & Grandma were eating a piece of melloon that he had grown in his garden. He commented it was the best melloon he had eaten for a long time. Grandma didn't think that much of it. Then Grandpa told her how

⁴ Ethel, when mentioning the Lindbergh kidnapping, is alluding to earlier mental problems in the 1930's. On January 2, 1935, the Lindbergh trial started in Flemington, New Jersey in which Bruno Richard Hauptmann was tried for the 1932 kidnapping of Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., the son of the national hero, Charles Lindbergh. Consequently, this trial saturated the news in the newspapers and over the radio at that time.

he was going to saw up some trees. He was going to make a sawhorse. He crossed his arms to show her how but never got the word sawhorse out. His head slumped & he went limp. Grandma slid him to the floor & tried to revive him but no use. A massive heart attack. The Dr. said the main artery in his heart had burst. The whole family felt badly as he was such a great man. I'm sure I was loved as a daughter. He told me many times. It swelled my ego lots but I thot the same of him. I would do most anything for him. He was buried in Roy 3 Nov. 1942.



Ethel, arms folded; sisters bid "goodbye," 1946

I Become Ward Relief Society President

While living in the Unity ward in the summer of 1943 Bishop Crane called me to be president of the Unity ward Relief Society. I was the 9th president in the ward. I replaced our neighbor Evelyn Stout. I asked for and was given Afton Baker and Sister Allen for my counselors. Sister Rigby was the secretary. This was during the war so much had to be done. We always had a quilt on and made clothes, especially coats for children out of adult's coats. We collected clothes and care packages to send overseas. Thank goodness for people that were dependable. When I look back I wonder if I did my part as I should have; however, I did enjoy my work. I served as pres until we moved to Oregon in 1946. The last meeting in R.S. I attended was more or less a party in my honor. I held up fine until the last when it was my turn to say, "Goodby." I literally cried. Not just tears in my eyes, but cried. Ha me. It upset me to

think of leaving such loyal sisters. I was presented with a lovely glass bowl with pink flowers on it and a mirror to set it on. It was beautiful. Before I was made president, Sister Stout presented me with a beautiful figurine of a boy, girl holding a umbrella in the wind for having 100% visiting teaching.

Visits to Yellowstone Park

During our stay in Unity, it wasn't all work and no play. As no play makes Jack a dull boy. Along with women's parties in the day-time, we often got together with our husbands at nite. Once we went with the Deacons & Bp Crane to Yellowstone Park. We took



Camping in Yellowstone---Ethel, far right

our family but Vanae was sick most of our stay with a attack of Kidney trouble. Then once the couples made the trip to the Park in the back of a truck. We camped in tents. Here Carrie Garner put Lysol around our tent to scare off the bears. My how we all smelled. Lee and Carl Meline went fishing and didn't show in camp when they were supposed to. We were all worried for fear they were lost except Dora. And she insisted they got so busy fishing they forgot the time. We were ready to go to the Park rangers when in came Lee and Carl with 2 limits of fish each. They were

amazed that all was upset with them.

Another time Lee and myself went to the Park with Roy and Olivia Banner, just the 4 of us.⁵ Once more we camped in tents & cooked over a open fire. Here we, Olivia & myself put shaving cream on Lees toothbrush for tooth past. I asked him to try Olivieas new kind of toothpaste. We almost split watching him brush & foam at the mouth, not daring to say anything about her toothpaste, until finally we could keep it in no longer. We spent a day hiking up to a lake that we figured was so far away that it had not been fished out, but alas no fish to be had. But the scenery was



Yellowstone, Lee and Ethel with string of fish, 1936

beautiful. Coming back we seen a bear. Lee wanted to get a picture of it. Before he could snap the picture, the bear started toward Lee so he backed up & in so doing he fell over a log. That surprised the bear & he turned & ran away. It could of turned out different tho.

Idaho Falls Temple Trip

One day in the winter just before Christmas the ward had a excursion to the Idaho Falls Temple but the day before we were to leave a big blizzard hit such as one can in Burley. It lasted into the night. So everyone backed out of going. They figured the roads would be blocked, except our car. We took with us Evelyn Stout & Mr. & Mrs. Ira Frost. We left extra early on account of the weather, but

⁵ This trip was in 1936.

the roads were good all the way and we got to the temple before the doors were opened. Evidently the storm frightened many away as there were such few there. One of the temple presidency came & ask if any of the men were stake presidents or bishops or what. Lee said no but I was Relief Society president so I was invited to sit on the stand. This is when they held a meeting before the first session. One gentleman who was on the stand was called on to give the opening prayer so I figured for sure I would give the closing prayer. My mind was concentrating on the benediction when I was suddenly brought to life by hearing my name called that I would talk to them. I don't remember what I said but after the initial shock I wasn't frightened. I could feel the spirit there and knew we were where we were supposed to be. It was a very quiet but enjoyable day. -



Keith and Jesse, about 1945

Tonsils Come out

One summer Keith and myself had our tonsils out the same day in Dr. Kelleys office. I had not had a sore throat too often but always when I did it would turn to quinsey. That was terrible. Not only a sore throat but throbbing earache & headache. After a few bouts with that I was more than ready to have the tonsils out. We came home and after a few days I was feeling fine but was worried about Keith as he was content to stay in bed. I was smart so I went to a afternoon party for our group of women. Only the next day I was back in bed while Keith was up enjoying himself. I was down

for almost a week.

We Build New Dairy Plant in 1944

Our crops and cows were doing good now. A new dairy building was built over to Herman's a mile thru the field. A Pasterizer was purchased so the Stokers' Jersey dairy introduced pasteurized milk in Burley. Much of our work was lightened as I did not go to Herman's to work. A humorous event happened here. We delivered pasteurized 1/2 pt bottles to the schools. Jim did not like pasteurized milk but loved raw milk. So as a result we would have to bottle one half pint of milk with a raw milk cap on it and hand it to the cook at school so she would be sure Jim got it. Once in awhile a raw cap would be put on a pasteurized bottle of milk. Jim would come home furious. He could tell the difference; however, all that changed when he went on his mission to Samoa. When he came home he would drink any kind of milk, including chalk colored water.

Illness Strikes Keith

In the year of 1942 Keith was now 12 years old⁶ and able to help very much but he was dragging. He was willing but his body just would not cooperate. He would stumble out to the barn of a morning without being called but he looked so terrible he would be sent back to bed. In the year 1941 Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor so the war was on and everyone was working hard so we figured we were working a big strong growing boy too hard plus too long hours.

One day his hair was so long I had him get out of bed long enough for me to cut it but before I could get it finished he went down in a heap. He stayed down for a few days and was feeling better. It was no the 24th of July and the Elders were going to spend the day up the canyon to Bostetter. We had to go as Lee was the Elders president. Ray and Hattie Wilson's oldest boy Arnold had been in the Childrens hospital in Salt lake with rhumatic heart and they did not want him to go so we had him come and stay with Keith as we did not want him to go either. I left sandwiches, cake & ice cream and figured they would have a grand time.

When we arrived home at chore time, Arnold was sitting under a

⁶ Keith thinks he was 13 years old so the year could have been 1943.

tree on the lawn. When inquiring about the whereabouts of Keith we learned he was in the labor house we had built for our help. It had a bed in it but doors and windows were shut so it was like a oven in there. Arnold said that Keith hadn't eaten anything and had been asleep all day. We dashed in and found Keith in a stupor, wringing wet with sweat. Chores were forgotten and we made a dash to the Burley hospital. Saturday brought no change. The doctors couldn't find anything wrong with him except either the white corpuscles were eating the red or the red eating the white. I don't remember which. The doctors couldn't figure the cause of it. Keith had such blinding headache all the time. After church Sunday nite we asked Bishop Crane if he would go with Lee and administer to Keith.⁷ As soon as Keith was given a blessing his headache eased up and he slept all night. A day or so later he came home, weak and tired but feeling fine. Course the doctor was amazed. We still do not know the cause of his sickness but we do know how the priesthood can produce miracles. From then on Keith had good health but every so often had to skip a day of school and would sleep all day.

Settlement of the Blanch Estate⁸

Included in Ethel's papers is the following letter written by her oldest brother, George Thomas Blanch, regarding the Blanch Estate.

*Logan, Utah
August 31, 1943*

Dear Ethel,

At last the job of settling up the estate has been essentially completed. You will find inclosed a statement of the financial condition at the time of settlement and the distribution. If any part of this is not clear, or if you should desire any further information, I shall be glad to provide the additional information. Most of the details were gone over and approved at the meeting held at John's last

⁷ Keith says it was Bishop Roy Crane and his counselor, Morris Baker, who administered to him.

⁸ This heading with its material was not included in Ethel's writings. The George Thomas Blanch letter, note, and financial statement were found in Ethel's papers. The financial statement of the Blanch Estate (as of Final Settlement Date) is found in the appendix.

winter so that seems unnecessary to repeat all of that here.

There is one item that appears on the expenses that was not contemplated, that of abstracting which cost \$211.50. This also accounts for the fact that the final settlement for each individual is only \$975.00 instead of the \$1,000.00 which had been planned on

Cedar, Utah, August 19, 1948		\$975.00
Five hundred and seventy five and 00/100 Dollars, for value received, I		
promise to pay to Ethel B. Stoker		or order
Nine hundred and seventy five and 00/100		DOLLARS,
In U. S. Legal Coin at Cedar, Utah, with interest at the rate of 5 percent per annum from date until maturity and at the highest legal rate of interest per annum from maturity until paid both before and after judgment, and reasonable attorney's fees in the event of collection or suit. The drawers and endorser severally waive presentment for payment, protest and notice of protest and non-payment of this note and all defenses on the ground of any extension of the time of payment that may be given by the holder or holders to third or other of them; also agree that future payments of principal or of interest by renewal shall not release them as drawers, endorser or guarantors. Interest payable quarterly. If interest on this note is not paid as stipulated, the legal holder may declare the whole amount due and payable.		
No.	Due Aug 19, 1948	Parley L. Waqstaff
Postoffice Cedar, Utah		Eliza B. Waqstaff

Ethel's note from the Waqstaff's for her interest in farm

Should there be any errors in this statement, or in the settlement, I should appreciate being informed of the same.

Inclosed herewith is a note made out to you and signed by Parl and Eliza for your full share of \$975.00. This constitutes final settlement of the estate with you and is in accordance with the agreement previously made with you. You will note that the note is made for the period of five years but may be paid off sooner. Also that it carries interest at the rate of five percent. My understanding when you called here some time ago was that you would be satisfied with four percent, however, Eliza said five percent and my recollection of what you told me may be in error. If you desire to make any adjustment you of course can do so.

Will you please send me Don's address so that I can write to him? I would also like to have Eva's address as I want to clear this with her before making any payment to Don. Any suggestions on that problem will be appreciated. In concluding the settlement of the estate let me express my appreciation for the cooperative attitude and fine disposition displayed by yourself, as well as all other members of the family, in making the settlement amicable.

Sincerely yours,
George

Lee Bought Another Farm

By now we had paid George what we had borrowed and had our place paid for when in the middle of the summer one neighbor [a Mr. Dredge] on the corner across from our farm came and wanted to sell us his 40 acre farm, crops and all for \$8,000. We bit and borrowed from the bank to pay him but in 2 years that farm was paid for and we were free of debt once more.

The Want of a New Home Takes Us to Oregon

The war was still on. Our house was bursting at the seams especially in winter when it was too cold for the kids in the pump house. One had to get a permit in order to build. Allen, Lees brother drew up some plans for a 4 bedroom house. It had a upstairs in it. We were going to build in the orchard. We finally got the permit to build so we were all set to go until we started looking for material. Bath fixtures as well as other things were almost non existant. We went to Oregon, Lees brother Leslie lived there, in the big truck and took home a load of lumber but it wasn't very good. Lee went to a mill to get it.

It looked like the war was almost over so we decided when we couldn't get what we wanted we would wait a year to build hoping material would be more plentiful. The next year we had to apply for another permit. Only this time they turned us down.⁹

We made another trip to Oregon to visit but while there we looked at farms with a eye to a bigger house. We did find one that we liked and it had a bigger house on it. The Snake River was only a stones throw from the front of the house. The farm was mostly in alfalfa and looked good. Keith would now be a junior in high school so he lived with Les and Annie and he started school at Adrian. After school and on Saturdays he would plow. We also rented Les' farm. The place we bought was in a very small community that had a 2 room school house. It was located in the bend of the Snake River hence was called Big Bend.

⁹ Ethel's version of why her family moved to Oregon was commonly accepted as their rationale. Before he died, her husband Lee suggested that like many family businesses some family members rubbed others wrong. He, therefore, felt it would be better for him and his family to strike out on their own and distance themselves from the problems.



Stucco House on the Stoker's Big Bend Farm, 1948

The Snake River is located some 25 yards west of the left end of the house, the bank sluffs off, at the fence and tree, several feet before the water is reached. The wooden gable of farm yard buildings north of the house appear at the house's opposite end. It was at this end that concrete steps took most of the traffic by members of the Stoker family as they went to the cars parked just beyond the right edge of the photo or walked to the barns.

When one enters the house on the right side, he greets a glassed-in porch area that extended the full width of the house. At its left side were stairs that descend to the basement. Straight ahead in the line of entry, a door opened on the kitchen, near its left wall which divided the kitchen from the Lee and Ethel's bedroom whose window is separated by the trunk of a tree shadow from a small bathroom window. Beyond the kitchen and hallway to bathroom and bedroom lay an archway that opened on to the living room. West of the living room was another glassed porch area that one could view the river.

In the fore ground lies a vegetable garden and then the lawn by the trees next to south side of the house. A modest wooden framed labor house was located some 25 yards, slightly south and east of the right end. A chicken coop was located slightly northeast of a box elder tree whose branches enter from the right.

Chapter 8

Living in the Big Bend and Beyond

Getting Settled

Our Children in the Schools

We moved to Oregon in December 1946. Shipped most things by rail. Les was a carpenter so he was handy in fixing the house as we wanted it so it took almost all winter working inside.

The people in the Bend we used to laugh was backwoods people. No one wanted change. One woman told me that she had never been



Big Bend School

been to Boise, only 50 miles away. However, all were very nice women. We weren't there very long tho before we fell out of the grace with the Bend people. Our children had to walk to school while a school bus passed right by the school house taking kids to the high school. At first Lee tried to get the bus to pick up the kids, no. Then he tried after a year to get the Bend to consolidate with the Adrian school and buss all kids to Adrian. We were by now the black sheep. But after several tries they did vote to consolidate and the 2 room school was shut down. Now I don't think anyone there would go back to the old way but anger & tempers flaired at times. Lee was on the school board 11 years.

Keith was president of the student body in his senior year. Was up for validictorian but the school had a law that a person had to have all their high school at Adrian. All 3 of the boys were active in sports there. The school was small so it took everyone. They all did good in football & basketball.



Daughters of Utah Pioneers meet at Ethel's home, 1951

Back row: Dorothy Cleverly, ?, Ethel(captain), ?, ?, Vanae Stoker, **Second row:** ?, Dorthel Bybee Pike **First row:** Ruth Sessions, ?, Cleone Maw, Vera Patterson, Nora Howes

My Activity in the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers

While in the Bend I was president of the D.U. Pioneers for a while until it finally petered out. I joined with the Big Bend community womens group that met several times a year. In fact when we moved to Sunset Valley they presented me with a picture of a bowl of flowers on a table. I have it hanging on my wall now.



A view of Ethel's kitchen

We Build a Barn and Remodel a House

We rented our farm in Burley to my brother Donald. Our cows were were left there with a hired man to milk them until we could fix for them in Oregon. We now had sold our dairy route to a Jess Yarrington and was selling him our milk. Hermans boy took over Hermans set up and built new barns plus milking parlor. Cows, herdsman Charley Slagle, and all came to Oregon in 1947. Les helped build a milking barn, stanchions for 8 or 10 cows at a time plus a refrigerated room and a milk cooler and our old trusty 3

tubs. We had a smaller house in the backyard of our house and that is where the herdsman lived.

Our house consisted of a bedroom in the basement where the boys slept and after remodeling 2 bedrooms upstairs, big kitchen, living room and big back portch. We were very comfortable. More room than we had ever had. It was quiet and beautiful.

I'm All Turned Around

The only thing I was turned around. The sun came up in the north. The first time I went to Caldwell alone, I got there ok but coming home I got to the bend and made the wrong turn and



Ethel, 1947

ended back in Caldwell. By this time I was beginning to wonder if I could ever get home as it was getting dark but luck was with me. I made it.

Another time I was sent to Theron¹ Bakers on some church work for Lee. Lee gave directions as how to get there and I made it fine. Bakers told me how to get home but I didn't listen too good or something. I was lost again up Sunset Valley and Cow Hollow. I

drove up one hill and down another several times. It was beginning to get dark and the gas gauge said almost empty. I had been lost for 3 or 4 hours until all at once I came down a hill and low, I recognized Deb & Flora's house. They had moved to Nyssa before we did. I was so relieved I just had to stop; however, I had been there enough I knew my way home.

I Get Headaches

We hadn't been moved too long before I began to have migraine headaches then hot flashes, dizzy spells etc so I went to a Dr. Soli in Parma. He started giving me estrogen shots. I was going to him so often that soon he gave me the medicine and syringe for Lee to give me the shots. It wasn't long before Lee knew that I needed a shot before I did. I guess I got so onery he couldn't live with me. The shots didn't help my migraine tho but they sure did when my scalp would tighten up then let loose & it felt like ants crawling all over my head. I took the shots for several years. Then my heart wasn't acting just right. For that I went to a Dr. Finck in Caldwell. All he said was to slow down & not worry.

While in Adrian the branch met in the Kingman Colony school house. Les was the branch pres. I would get along fine at Sunday School but at night I kept having the feeling of sliding out of my desk and lying in the isle. Sometimes it was so real, I would have to keep shifting for fear I would do such a thing.

I Accept a Stake Primary Assignment

We hadn't been to church too long when Sister Pearl Ballantyne, president of the Weiser Stake Primary, asked me if I would work on the stake board. I was over one of the smaller classes. I think this was 1947. We would have to drive to Weiser for all our stake meetings.

Our Years in the Big Bend

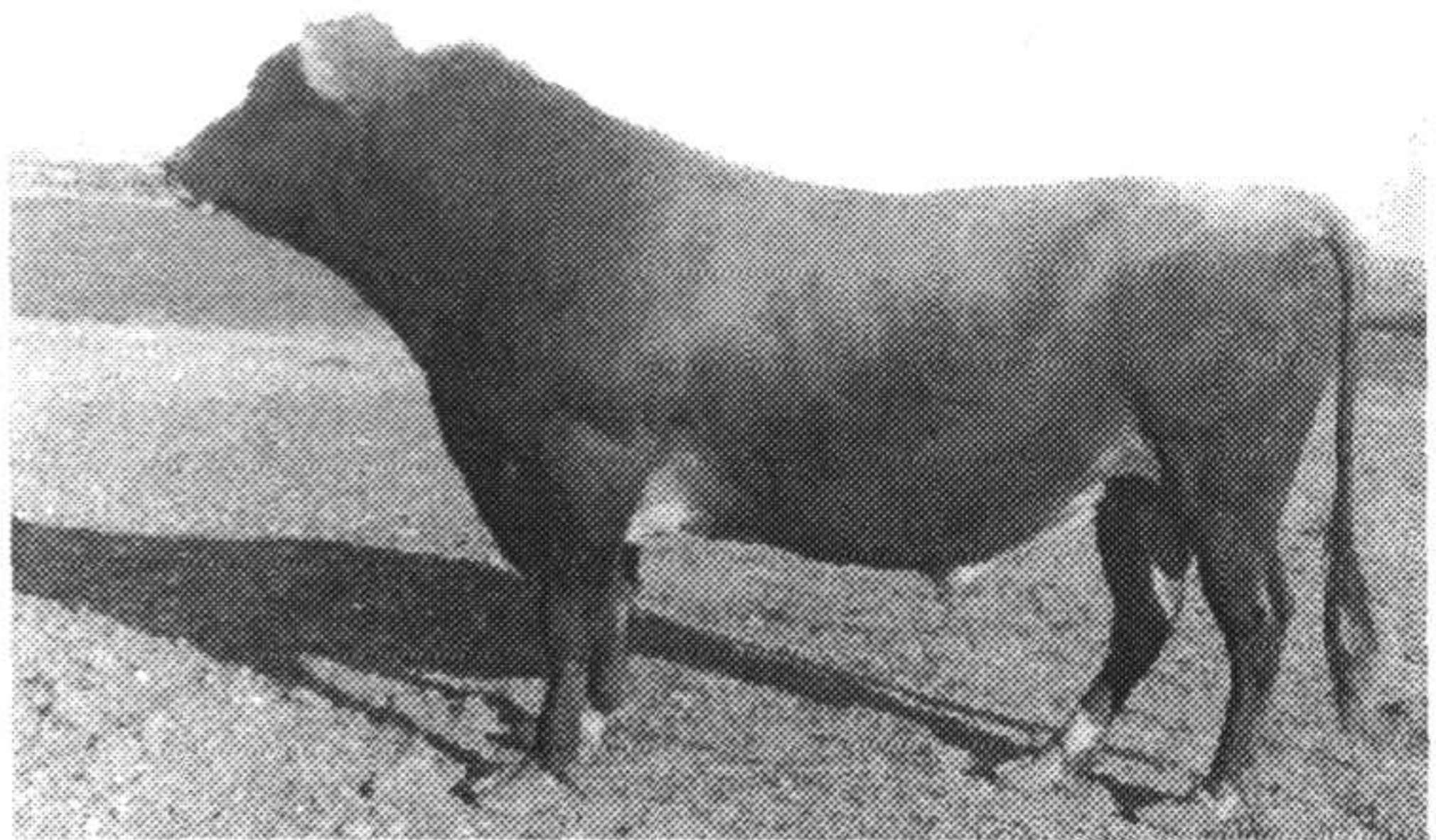
Eddie Comes Home with Keith

About this time we awoke one morning to find a extra boy in Keith's bed. Keith had been out the night before and Eddie Sharp told him he was leaving home. His mother had died and he was liv-

¹ Thurn.

ing with his sister Louise, married to our neighbor in West Weber, Ralph Blanch. They lived in Adrian. Eddie said he and Louise couldn't agree on anything so he was leaving. So Keith asked him to come spend the night. He spent many, many nights there until he was married. He married Delores Salter, daughter of Glen and Alzina Salter, good faithful members of the church.

He, Eddie, worked by the side of our boys milking cows & farm work. At this time our herdsman had left and we did the milking, irrigating, haying etc. He was treated just like one of ours, payed along with ours. Eddie was a likable kid. Never a dull moment. All the boys would catch frogs and if a person wasn't careful one would find one in a coat pocket or on top of the head. One day they were painting the barn and one caught a black cat only now the cat had a white strip down its back. The poor cat, after awhile all its hair came out where the paint was. Eddie was deathly afraid of a bull we had, Gamboge. The bull knew it also and every time Eddie was around the bull would bellow and paw dirt. Course the bull was tied up but Eddie would get no closer than necessary.



Idaho's First Signal, companion of Gamboge

Our Bulls Cause Nightmares

Our bulls and cows earned us many blue ribbons and two trophies at the fairs in Burley. "Jerseys" I could sympathize with Eddie tho as I didn't like the bull all that much either, especeally when he would get loose & that mostly at night. Trying to get him

back to the corral in the dark had most of us on edge as all the family was called out. I would dream of chasing the bull only to have him turn and charge me. I would wake up petrified. Lee and the boys respected the bulls but were not afraid of them.

Keith Rolls the Car

When Eddie and Keith were in highschool, Eddie was to go somewhere with the school class. Adrian & Nyssa went together on the buss, but it had to be boarded at Nyssa. Eddie set the alarm but when it rang he turned it off. So when he did wake up he was late. Keith took him in our white Chevy. Course they got in front of Ballantynes, some cattle came out of the borrow pit on to the road. Keith missed the cattle but rolled the car. Neither one was hurt. Course Eddie did not make the trip. We had insurance on the car with Farmers insurance Co. They fixed the car ok but wouldn't insure us again unless Keith was not allowed to drive. We changed insurance companies because Keith and Jesse were doing lots of driving now.

The Big Fish Stories

As I mentioned earlier the front of our house faced the Snake river. In June of 1947 some men on the other side of the river were fishing for sturgeon.² They were in a row boat. Well word got out

² Directly southwest from the house and near the west side of the Snake River was a a favorite sturgeon fishing hole which some say was about 45 feet deep. Many people would fish this hole, usually from the west bank. It was against the Oregon fishing laws to set a line by anchoring it to a weight on the bottom of the river. A couple of fishermen had violated the law by setting the line, probably a quarter inch clothes line rope with several large hooks attached to it baited with tripe or other meat and with a five gallon air- tight honey tin on the end of the rope as a float. During the high water the float had become submerged and the men were out in a row boat with a grappling hook suspended from a light chain trying to snag the submerged line which they did. To their surprise a large fish, no doubt a sturgeon, was also on the line. For over an hour they tried to bring the line in but the fish was too big a match. It dragged them around until they had to give up because of darkness and the rawness of their hands caused by the chain being pulled through them. As Keith visited a neighbor family by the name of Molt, he was told that the Purdys who had owned the river farm the Stokers had purchased were avid sturgeon fishermen. They had often used a team of horses to pull fish out of the river. Keith saw a picture in the Molt's possession that showed a sturgeon

that they had one on their line but it was so big they couldn't haul it in. Well for a week we had company in our yard for breakfast, dinner and supper. They would park their cars anywhere, even in the hay field and watch the river. Soon the piece came out in the paper. I have a copy of it stating that if the men caught the sturgeon they would be arrested for setting too many hooks or something. The police even came and patrolled the river. Now whether they ever had the fish or not I do not know. Eventually the people quit coming & it was quiet once more.

Our family and Les' family went on a fishing trip to Westport. On the way Nell got car sick but believe it or not when we got on



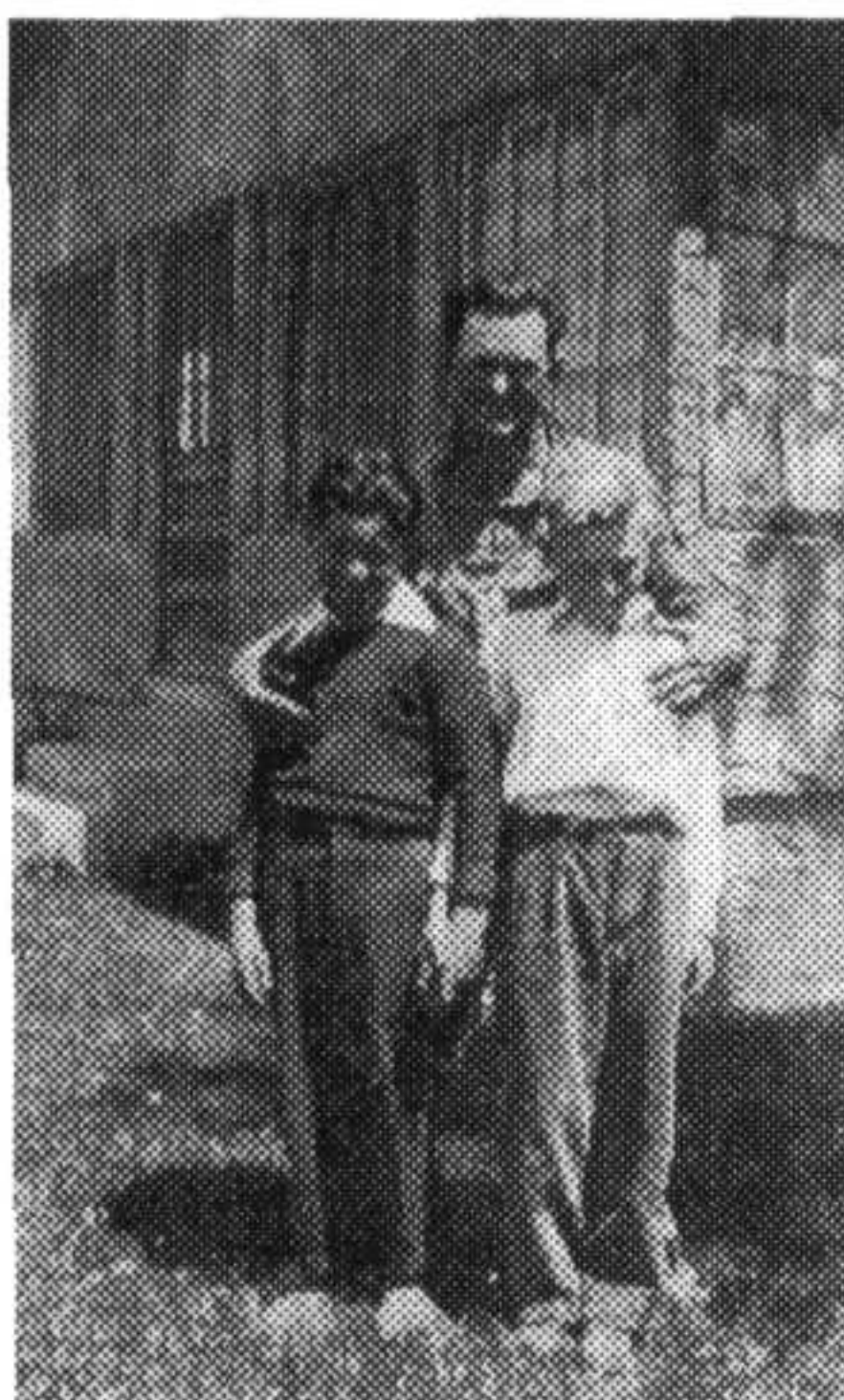
Keith in graduation gown, 1948

the boat she was the only one of their family that didn't get seasick. We hadn't had our lines out long before one by one they all had to leave the line. Les could be no sicker. None of our family was affected. I don't remember how many salmon was caught but do remember how sick Les was.

filling the length of a wagon bed and its tail hanging over the end.

Jesse, a Gunshot Wound; Keith, a Bucket; Eddie, a Wife

In the fall of 1947 the men were digging potatoes in the back field by Adam's. Jesse heard a pheasant and seeing that he was at the end of the row, he got his gun and off he went after said rooster. He never could find it so came back to the field and when he put the gun but down on the ground, he hadn't taken the shell out and it discharged hitting him between the thumb & forefinger. The men took him to Caldwell to Dr. Fink, dirt and all. It was after



Gail Cleverly, Lee Stoker, Jim Stoker--1948 family house

dark when they came to the house with Jesse's hand in a cast. I didn't know a thing had happened till then. He had to have a penicillin shot every four hours both day and night. It surely interrupted our sleep. One night I went down to give Jesse his shot and he was wide awake with pain while Eddie was snoring away in the other bed. When Jesse seen me he said, "Give it to Eddie. He needs it worse than I do." Now wouldn't that of been a nasty trick. Anyway his hand healed up very nicely. He was to keep the cast on until it started smelling. It wasn't too long before it was so rank Jesse could hardly stand to eat. The cast was taken off and no serious damage was done.

Keith dropped a bucket of milk on his foot and broke his big toe so that fall Keith and Jesse only played one football game together. Eddie was with us about a year before he and Delores was mar-

ried. Lee took them to Salt Lake to the temple. He worked for us another year. Lived in house where milk man had lived.

The Church during our First Few Years

I mentioned earlier that the branch held church in the Kingman Colony school that was right but the Relief society was held in the Legion Hall, a big cold basement. Annie Stoker was RS president & Lavon Peterson and Dorothy Lee were counselors and I was the secretary. But Sept 14, 1947 the Adrian branch and the Owyhee branch combined and made the Owyhee ward. Now we met in the Oregon Trail School house. However, the school had been discontinued and the kids bussed to Nyssa. Dick Maw was the first bishop with Wayne Berrett and Jim Peterson as counselors. Before church someone would have to go sweep up cigarette butts off the floors and set up the chairs as the Grange would hold parties there on Saturday nites.



Big Ben School Picture, 1950-51

Left to right—**Front row**: Teacher Bonita Witty, Laura Rockhill, Dorothy Stradley, LaDawn Woolley, Vanae Stoker, Gladys Molt, Margarie Roeder, George Jelinek, Glenn Molt, and Dallas Chaney **Back row**: David Cheney, Robert Rockhill, David Witty, Jerry and Gail Cleverly, James Fitzsimmons, Billy Shipley, Jimmie Stoker, Clarence Ferguson, and Richard Stradley

Vanae Faces Big Bend School

While living in the Bend before the kids went to Adrian I was having a problem with Vanae not wanting to go to school. She would come home complaining that all she did was correct the teachers papers. At the school christmas party the teacher came to me and asked how I felt about putting Vanae in the higher grade. That Vanae finished her work ahead of the rest of the class and was bored. Vanaes birthday being in Dec was a year older than many in her class. I thot it was a good idea so after the holiday I had no more, "I don't want to goes." She was now up with the girls her own age.

Lee Breaks Jaw in Auto Accident³

After we arrived home later that fall Lee, Vanae and myself were driving to Boise to visit Deb & Flora both in the hospital there. Just out of Caldwell Lee went to pass a big truck that had a big plank sticking out of the back. The truck never signaled to turn and just as Lee started to pass him he turned in front of us. Lee shouldn't of been passing at a intersection so guess both was at fault. Lee pulled back in our lane but the plank as it made the turn came thru the windshield and hit Lee on the side of his head. It dazed him enough that he fell against me. I doubt if the truck ever knew what had happened. A woman in a car stopped and took us to Caldwell to the hospital where we called a wrecker to tow the car to the Buick garage.

Dr. Finck was called again, but he couldn't do much till the swelling went down some. Next day he told Lee he had wondered and worried all night and just didn't know how to set his jaw as it was broken up where it hinges on the skull. He was going to send him to a specialist in Boise.

A ambulance was called and I rode with him to Boise, most of the way with the siren going. Next day Dr. Burton set his jaw by putting screws in the solid bones and a metal plate between such as one would put on to reinforce a broken board.

Lee was in the hospital a week then he could come home. It was now December. He could eat the only problem he had was the metal would conduct the cold and at night the screws protruded and

³For chronological purposes this material was taken from pages 127-129 of Ethel's original journal and inserted following the first paragraph of page 104.

would catch on the bed clothes. When that would happen he would come up with a start.

We had insurance on the car and also accident so all the bills were taken care of. Lee had put the brakes on so hard that it slid the wheels and resulted in burning the rubber off of all 4 tires in one spot so we had to have 4 new tires.⁴



Lee with jaw brace on his face, 1951

Lee carried on his church work for a month with the metal on his face wondering how the doctor was going to get it off. But when the time came Dr. Burton took a wrench and just unscrewed the screws. It healed up very nicely only a very small scar. Once more our family was blessed beyond belief. Neither Vanae or myself were hurt.

A Look at Our Children

Future Farmer Activities

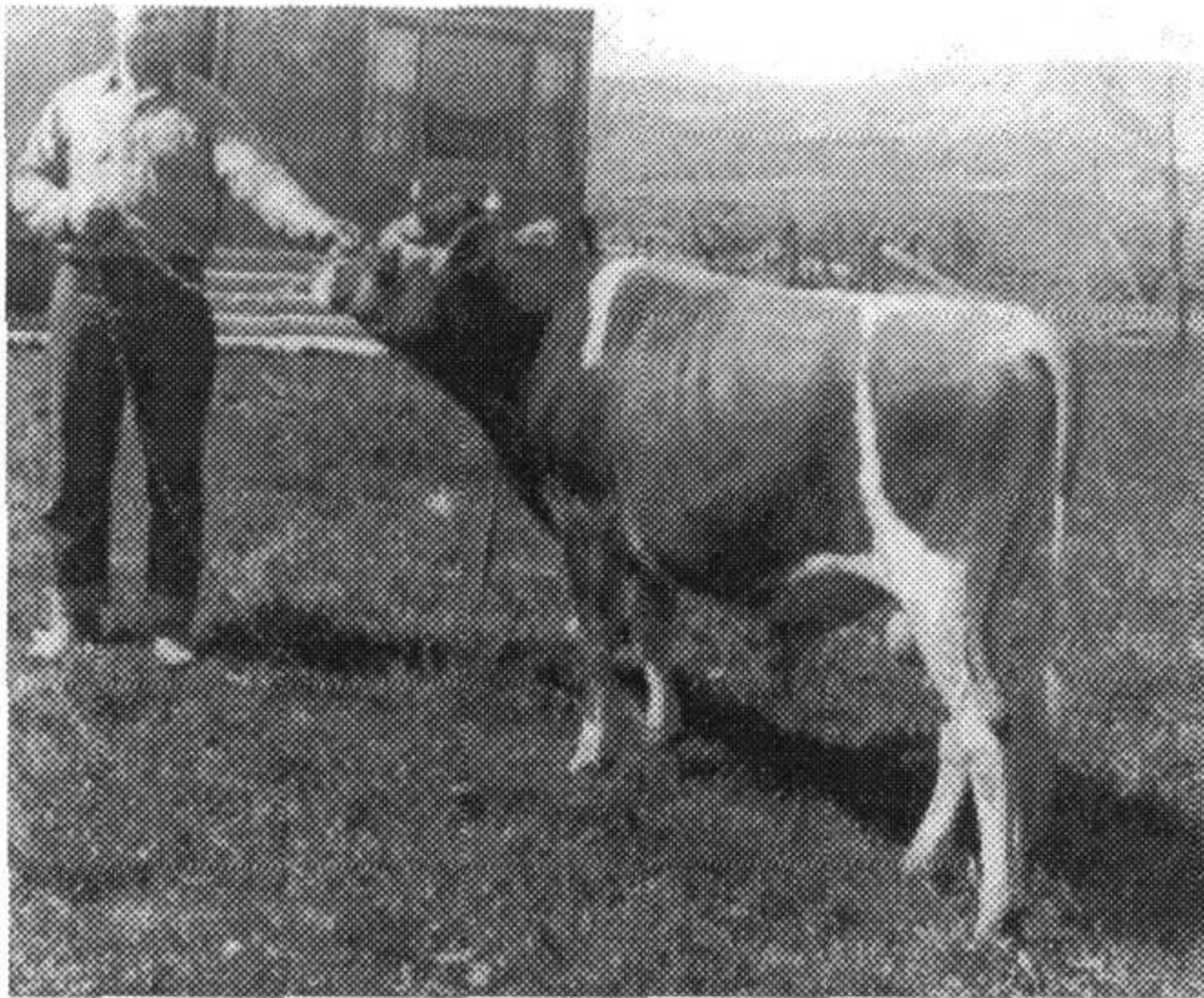
Jesse and Jimmie were both State Farmers under the leadership of Mr. Henry Reuter. In fact one night we went to the FFA dinner. When we went in Jimmie insisted we sit at the head table. We ob-

⁴ Keith Stoker states that Lee bent the brake pedal as well.

jected saying that table was reserved for the head of FFA. He then informed us that he was the president. This was in the spring so he had been president for almost a year and we knew nothing about it. He was chosen president the next year also.

Sports

Keith, Jesse and Jimmie were on the regular teams in sports in school. The only time I got very upset watching a game of basketball, and we went to them all, I don't remember what team they played but one boy found that by coming up on Keith's blind side Keith would turn into him and foul. I call that unfair but... Keith worked as hard at school as at play. He was to the top of his class at all times & good in sports.



Jesse, using FFA showman skills, poses young bull

Jesse and His Family

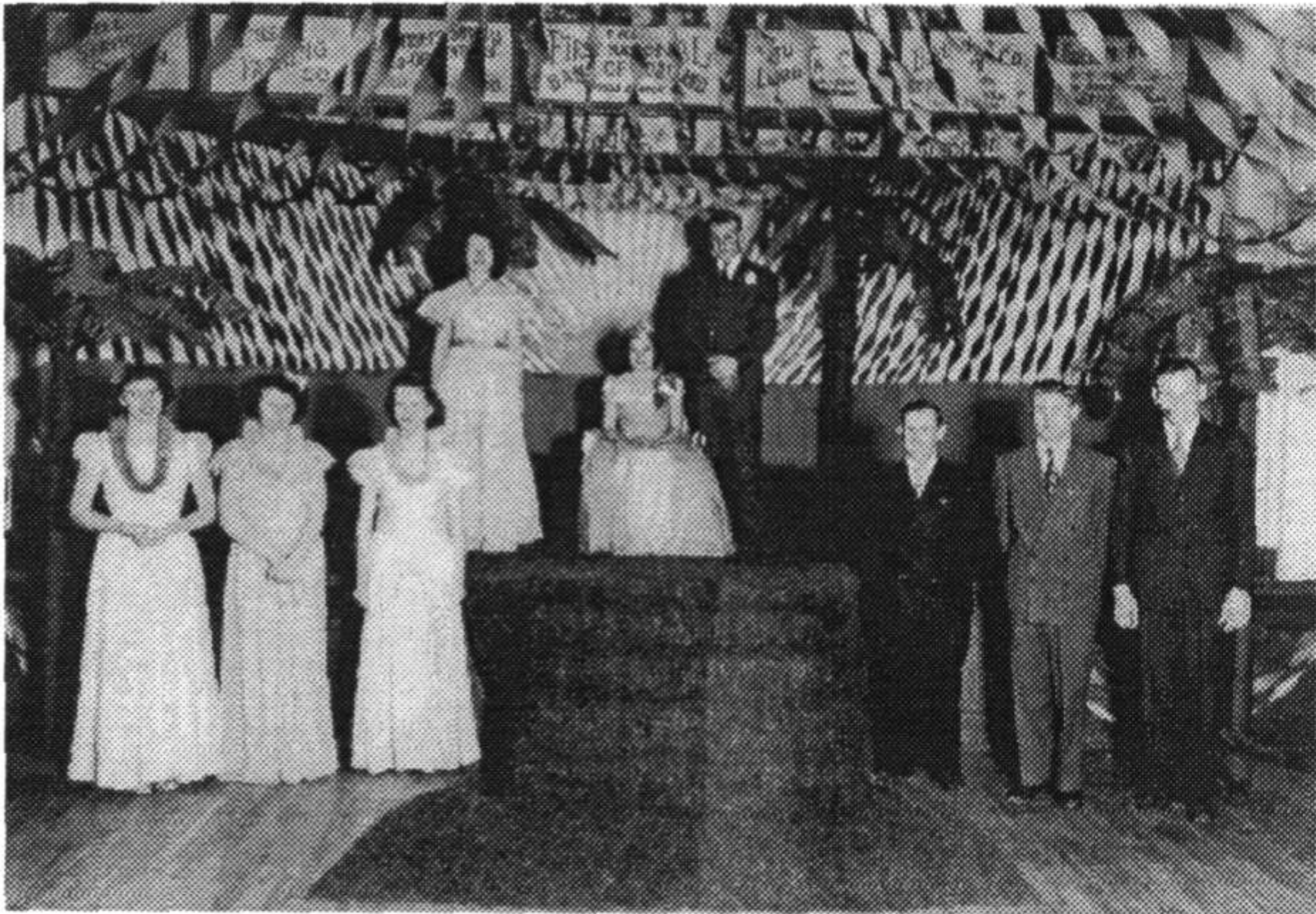
Jesse as a Student

Jesse was a good student in high school but too much playing had to be done in grade school. His report cards always said the same thing, "Has the ability but will not work." He would bring his report card home with an incomplete in a subject. We would get after him and sure enough the next report card would be satis-

factory in that subject but incomplete in some other class. I guess too much playing just had to be done.

Jesse Marries Audrey Mecham

While in the Bend Jesse was to Mechams quite a bit and always it was to see Vern but we knew otherwise. Audrey was the drawing card. They were married 14 June 1950 in the Idaho Falls Temple. We took them. Audrey's mother went for the first time also.



1949 Owyhee Gold and Green Ball in Oregon Trail School

Dancers on floor: Donna Garner, Audrey Meacham, Delone Durfee, Irvin Durfee, Jesse Stoker, Vern Meacham **On stage:** Lois Ricks, Queen Genevie Ballantyne, King Keith Stoker. Note the false ceiling obscuring commercial signs of merchants and firms on a roll down screen.

Father did not go. After the wedding we drove to Soda Springs and Lava Hot Springs on to Ogden then home. We gave them a reception. Keith was married now and was living where Eddie was so we fixed the basement for Jesse to live in. He wasn't there too long tho when Keith moved to Sunset Valley and Jesse then moved to the other house. Jesse & Audrey had a small baby, Earl 3

lbs. Mrs. Mecham came & stayed with Audrey and they pulled him thru. Eventually we moved to Sunset Valley & Jesse lived in our house, milked the cows & helped with farm work. Then he moved to Burley, Idaho in 1961 and bought a 80 acre farm. We bought the other 80 and so it was 160. But Jesse farmed both. He milked cows there also. All worked hard but he lost out & moved to Burley & worked in Ore-Ida potato factory as a electrician.

Jesse Works with Lee

We needed help on the farm so Jesse moved back to Oregon to help. Their children are Earl, Daryl, Donald, Niel died and Bruce. Audrey drives school buss. All active in church. Currently Jesse is a High Priest & gives the lesson, has been SS Supt & in MIA. Jesse moved to Washington with us.



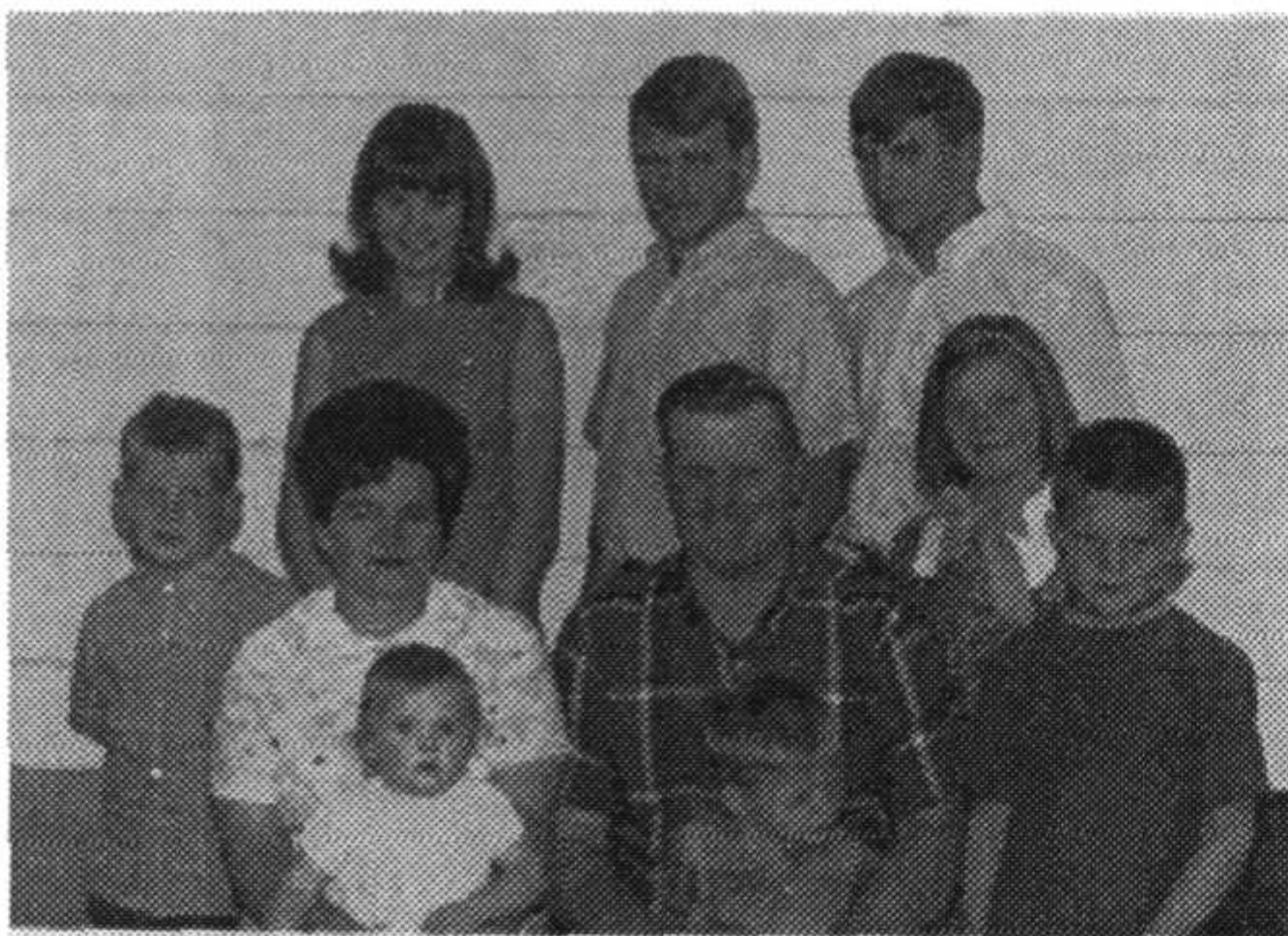
Jesse Stoker Family
Back Row: Bruce, Daryl, Earl **Front Row:**
Audrey, Jesse, Donald

Jesse's Washington House Burns

Lee & myself went to Utah leaving rest at home. While there we tried calling Jesse to see how things were going as Dennis was with them and they were remodeling their house 1970. We got no answer to our call. We couldn't figure why unless he hadn't paid his bill and they had disconnected his phone but knew that wasn't

likely. Finally we called home and Dennis answered the phone however we didn't expect a answer. We asked about Jesse's phone so Dennis gave the phone to Jess then he told us why. His house had burned to the ground and they were living up home. No one is quite sure what happened but Jesse thinks he had a can or bottle of gas on top of the fridg and when he went out he slammed the door. They were remodeling, gas spilt on a heater. Anyway they didn't salvage too much. They lived with us, beds in basement, until a prefab could be erected. We had insurance but still it cost us about \$10,000.

Jesse worked with us until 1975 then after days of getting things worked out, he went on his own. We gave him 180 acres clear. His boys were now big enough to help him. I said we gave him 180 acres. I didn't mean it that way. He earned it.



Keith Stoker Family

Back: Luray, Paul, Larry **Middle:** Craig, Genevie, Keith, Kim
Front: Dana, Mike, Skip

Keith and His Family

Keith was living in Sunset Valley on a farm that we bought from Mr. Ditty. It had a basement house. When we moved from the Bend to Sunset Valley he moved to a house on the corner and rented a farm from Mrs. Ditty.

So now Keith was on his own. He farmed there for 2 years then rented a farm in Ontario, Ore. He made a trip to Washington to see Norman Garner and Keith Wooley, liked what he saw, found a

farm to buy and moved. The land had been dry farms so the land had to be leveled, ditches made etc. It was lots of hard work. The 3 men, Norman, Keith & Keith pooled their machinery and worked together. Eventually all doing well enough to build nice homes, own a plane, build a shop, have cabins on Priest lake and hire most of their work done. They were known as Bruce Farms because they were close to Bruce I suppose.

All were active in the church. Keith was bishop in Othello. He was sustained 8 June 1963 and released 6 June 1971. Currently he is on the Othello Stake High Council over the buildings. His children, I should of said he married Genevieve Ballantyne of Owyhee 4 April 1949. Later solomized in Idaho Falls Temple. Now their children are Paul, Larry, Luray, Kim, Skip, Craig, Mike, & Dana and many grandchildren.

Jimmie and His Family

Jimmie was no problem in school at all. The only complaint in grade school was he wouldn't keep his desk neat. Graduated from Adrian, spent 2 years at BYU, left 23 Oct 1957 for a mission to Samoa. He was released with honors. Went to Y again and instead of going into chemical engineering like he had started, he decided he wanted to be a teacher. So in mid year he changed his major. When not in school he would come and help us on the farm. Finally the day arrived he received his diploma. Lee, myself and Vanae went to Provo for the occasion. He got a teaching position in El Centro, California. In the fall of the year Lee & myself, Ray and Vanae went down to see him. He was doing good and the students liked him. He took us into Mexico. We enjoyed it. He stayed there two years then seeing he wasn't married he said one didn't find pearls in filth so he got a teaching job in the Granite School district in Salt Lake.

Jim Loses his Eye

But before he went to school [college] he suffered a tragedy. It was the fall of 1953 [1952]. Jim was out doing chores in the Bend. And seen a wounded bird down by the river. Jim was a lover of birds, animals, kids or anything that moved. He had collected half dozen books about different kinds of birds so of course when he seen this large bird, he left the cows and ran and gathered the bird in his arms. As he did so it pecked him in his eye. It was a Blue Heron. Unlike Kieths eye Jims looked dull and damaged. We hur-

ridely called Dr. Jones in Boise, a eye specilist then hurried there about 50 miles away. The Dr. put him in the hospital, operated on his eye trying to save it. This was Saturday but Sunday morning he had to remove the eye as infection had already set in. Even to start with Dr. Jones was afraid but he tried.

It was hard on Jim undergoing two operations in two days but he was very uncomplaining and obedient as he always was. While visiting Jim in the hospital there was a glass window between two rooms and the drapes had not been pulled. In the other room was a young boy that had been severely burned. The bedclothes were stretched over frames so they wouldn't touch his body. He was laying so we could see. His body, it was a terrible sight. I hope none of my loved ones ever has a bad burn.

Jimmie got along fine but being 16 years of age it was a terrible age to have anything happen. Keith was young grew up with his handicap but Jimmie was older and I imagine much harder on him mentally. Many, many nites I shed a few tears for him but it didn't help at all. After so long he was fit for a artificial eye and once again if it was kept clean it was hard to tell;however, Jim's doesn't focus like Keith's does.

Tractor Accident Hospitalizes Jim

In the spring of 1953 Jim was out working with the tractor in the Bend and was coming to the house from the field. Rather than go the long way around he decided to come down the hill.⁵ It was steep enough the tractor rolled and Jim was thrown off. We rushed him to Caldwell to the emergency of the hospital. The nurse took one look at him after he was in bed and then called Dr. Hoover. We waited in a side room. Soon Dr. Hoover came to us saying he hadn't had time to examine him but he was worried as one eye

⁵ Jim says that the tractor was stalled. On that hot summer day he cranked and cranked, but the tractor wouldn't start. So being young, he unhooked the hayrake and pushed the tractor just enough to get it moving thinking he could put it into gear and start the engine on the compression generated by the moving wheels. But unlike a car, the tractor gears could not be shifted while moving. Consequently, Jim jumped on the tractor and tried desperately to grind the gear into place. In the meantime, the tractor plunged down the hill accelerating and as it hit some big rocks threw him against the wheel causing rubber tire marks on his shirt. Then the careening tractor threw him wide and away as it crashed on its side.

wasn't dialated like the other one. Lee said, "Doc he has a artificial eye." Dr. looked funny & said he didn't look too close and went mostly what the nurse had told him. Said he was very releaved but that was the best match he had seen for eyes. He had it special made, a man came to Boise and made it there.

Jim was kept in the hospital because he had a swelling under his chin. The Dr. figured his windpipe had gotten a small hole in it and the swelling was just air.



Back: Matt, Ann, Jim--Front: Megan, Maia, Dan

Jim Marries Ann Wahlquist

Jim didn't get married until 7 July 1959 [1969] to Ann Wahlquist. She lived in Ogden but taught school in Salt Lake. Jim called one night and said "Dad I've found her." He then said she had freckles, which wasn't all that true. Jim brought her to Washington before they were married, during a school break. I had mixed feelings. I thot seeing she was a city girl she would turn up her nose at the farm and what we had but found she was just the opposite. She was agreeable to anything.

Jim Moves to Washington

They moved to Washington one summer and Jim helped on the farm. They lived in the labor house. They really didn't move just

brought clothes etc. We scrounged furniture for them. They went back to Salt Lake when school started. Next year, [two years later, 1974] he got a teaching job in Connell at the high school.

They bought a house in Basin City. Jim taught several years but his health isn't good so he asked for a leave of absence. He has been to many many doctors but to no relief. He even went to Mayo clinic.

Ann took a refresher course so she could teach. She has been substituting some & teaching kindergarden. Currently she is teaching in Mesa. Their children are Matthew, Maia, Megan and Daniel.

Jim received his star scout award and his Duty to God award.



Lee Stoker Family, 1957

Back row: Jimmie, Keith, Jesse **Front row:** Ethel, Dennis, Vanae, Lora Jo, Lee

Chapter 9

The Girls and Dennis

Lora Jo Joins the Family

Lora Jo, My First Baby Born in a Hospital

On April 1, 1948 we were blessed with another baby daughter. I told Dr. Finck I didn't care when she came as long as it was not April Fools day but would you know that is what happened. Vanae had had a flair up with her kidneys and had to stay down with huge doses of sulfa and gallons of liquid. The only one I would leave Vanae with was Annie. The rest had to fare for themselves. It was morning when we took Vanae to Annie. And like usual we stayed too long. I was beginning to be quite uncomfortable but still had to go home & get cleaned up. This time the baby would be born in a hospital.

Soon I would urge Lee to hurry then he would urge me but before we got to Nampa to the hospital I was beginning to wish we had hurried faster even Lee was breaking the speed limit. When we arrived at the Mercy hospital, Dr. Finck was there. he came in my room and said I would be several hours so he would go back to his office in Caldwell and the nurse would call him when he was needed; however, he didn't even get out of the hospital when the nurse ran after him.

Shortly after 12 noon we had another beautiful baby daughter. We called her Lora Jo. Lora after Mother, even tho we spell it different and Jo after Dad. April 1st was a beautiful spring day. I did enjoy my stay in the hospital. Nothing to do. No mom this and can

I do that. But before long I was anxious to get home. The day we came home the apricot trees were all in bloom and bees were humming everywhere, a perfect day.



Lora Jo, before illness, on lawn west of house, river on right

Lora Jo Contracts Spinal Meningitis

I was still working in the stake Primary as well as the ward Primary, a Relief Society visiting teacher. Lee and the boys were all active in the church. Lee was activity counselor in the stake MIA. All was going well. We had rented some spud ground from Bro. Carlson and all working hard digging potatoes then beets. The latter part of October the boys were playing football in Nyssa. They had gone on bus when Lee got in to get ready to go. I had a feeling Lora Jo wasn't well. Nothing much but I couldn't shake the feeling. We called Dr. Maulding in Nyssa and he said he would meet us at his office. On the way Lee's drop off to the game and I take

the baby & Vanae which I agreed to do. The Dr. was waiting for me in his office. It didn't take him very long to tell me he thot it was spinal menengitis, for me to take her to Ontario to the hospital. Nyssa's hospital wasn't built then. And tell them the doctor would be over the next morning to examine her but not to tell them she might have menengitis or they probably would not admit her. I was really frightened. I went to the ball game and sat in the car with the baby and sent Vanae to get Lee.

Lora Jo's Illness Worsens

We took her to the Holy Rosary Hospital in Ontario. She was admitted without any problem but seeing they didn't know what was wrong with her they put her in a room on the main floor instead of up in the nursery and I was told I would have to stay with her as they were short of nurses. The next morning Dr. Maulding and Dr. Scott came, took a few tests and confirmed it was meningities. Dr. Maulding said he was going Elk hunting but Dr. Scott would take over. The baby bed was brought in the room & a bed was there for me. Lora Jo gradually got worse. Dr. Scott would take a spinal sample and it would always come back from the lab negative. In as much as there are several kinds of menengitis, each one takes a different drug. The doctors hands were tied. He knew what was wrong but not how to treat. She was kept alive on sulfa and penicillin. She would scream when the doctor inserted the needle in her spine then she would quiet down and go to sleep. One morning the Dr. came in and said I would have to help him give her a blood transfusion. I was petrified. The nurse, a Japanese girl brought the tray with everything needed on it and the Dr. excused her. Dr. inserted the needle in a vein in her temple. I had to hold her head still. Course she screamed and I felt like it also but soon she settled down. I had to count the drops that went thru the needle. Soon it was over but I couldn't see that it helped at all.

Convulsions and a Blessing

One day I was holding her and she had a tube in her nose hooked to the oxygen to help her breathe. She went into a convulsion and the Catholic mother came in and asked me to have her baptized as she didn't think she could last much longer. I told her no that we didn't believe in infant baptism. She then said, "She will go to hell if you don't." I was very upset and replied, "She'll go to hell if we do." The mother then left and never did come back to see the baby where before she was in several times a day. After about a week Annie came and stayed with her so I could go home and change

clothes & get clean clothes to take back and sleep for a few hours before I went back. The men were so busy I just hated to bother them but one day she would go into one convulsion after another so I called Lee. He came and brought Jim Peterson with him. They gave her a blessing. Jim gave the blessing and he promised her she would be completely well. Lora Jo was near death. There were so many in the small room that Les and Dewey went out and sat in the car. It was cold in the room. I had asked for more heat but didn't get it. It was now time for the change of shifts.

Mrs. Rogers Takes Over

A Mrs Rogers came in and first off noticed how cold it was so she had the heat turned up. Turned on more oxygen to the baby, placed hot water bottles filled with warm water on each side of



Lora Jo poses in highchair

her. It wasn't long before the baby's face started to get a rozy glow. Mrs. Rogers said, "They tell me the baby won't last the night. I've never lost a baby yet and I don't intend to lose this one. I don't know what your religion is. I'm a Seven day Adventist and I believe if you could get your minister to pray for the baby it would help."

Another Blessing

We told her we had already had someone pray for her but if she thot it would help we could have it done again. Lee got Les and Dewey to come back in the room. Mrs. Rogers fussed around the room like she was reluctant to leave so Lee asked her if she would like to stay which she redily accepted. Lora Jo was given another blessing in a matter of hours. We have no proof but we that heard both blessings said the blessings were exactly alike even to the wording. She was again promised she would recover and be a well and healthy child.

Mrs. Rogers soon after left the room. Not long after a nurse from the nursery knocked on the door and inquired if we were L.D.S. We said yes. She then told us that Mrs. Rogers had gone to the lounge and told the nurses there that she was witness to the most beautiful prayer she had ever heard and that they had used oil. The nurse said she just knew we were LDS as she was also.

Lora Jo quieted down. Company left. It was especially hard on Lee trying to keep a crew going in the field, feed the family and yet be to the hospital. The tests still came back negative. Lora Jo was not even holding her own. She kept getting worse day by day. I had a bath room off the room and many times I would seek privacy there and plead with Heavenly father to spare her life that I would take care of her even if she were a cripple. Then one day I came to, after years of being tied down, would I really appreciate her and love her as I should. This was a big jolt. I immediately went again on my knees and said, "Thy will be done." I felt as if a load had been lifted.

We Move Lora Jo to Boise

One day soon after Dr. Scott recommended we move her to another hospital that he had done all he could for her without knowing what he was treating. He suggested Seattle. I asked about SLCity seeing the folks were there. He said either place she would have to be flown with a special nurse. That night when I knew Lee would be in from the field, I called him and told him what the Dr. had said. The first thing I knew Lee was in the room ready to go. Jim Peterson had told Lee of a Dr. in Boise that was a childrens Dr that a Dr. in S Lake had recommended. So before Lee left home he called Dr. McKean and the Dr told him he would be waiting at Saint Lukes hospital for us to bring her right over. He then called Dr. Scott. Scott said to get all her records from the hospital to take with us. When Lee told the girl at the desk we were transferring

her to Boise she said we couldn't take her. Course this upset Lee and he told her no one was going to stop him from taking his own child. She then said we would have to pay the hospital in full but still would not give any records. Thank goodness we did have money enough in the bank to pay. She had been there three weeks.

We bundled her up good, got in the car and headed for Boise 50 miles away on our own with a bitter taste for the hospital. That was one wild ride I will never forget. A pitch black night, Lee driving like a car racer. Me frightened because of the speed yet fearful and checking the baby to make sure she was still breathing without the oxygen she was used to. It was a nightmare but we made it in record time. Not much traffic that late at night.

The Doctor Meets Us

We arrived at the hospital about 11 pm and sure enough the Dr. was waiting for us. Naturally he was dissappointed because we brought no records other than me telling him what I knew. He told us he would take a spinal that night but he would like us to stay in Boise. I asked to stay with her. My request was flatly turned down. I told him someone had to be with her all the time. But he assured me that a nurse would be in the room. Nothing to do now but find a motel.

Before noon the next day we were to the hospital and luckaly found the Dr. there also. Dr. told us the speciman should culture for 3 days to be exact but she was so far gone that he couldn't wait that long. He thot he could detect the influenza germ. He said there was a new treatment just released but it was expensive. We ask how expensive & he said \$50 a shot. He wasn't sure how many shots it would take. The influenza germ was the most terrible and crippling. And if it turned out not to be that type it wouldn't hurt her. We redily gave our consent to start treatment immediately.

It was a sad mom and dad as they traveled back to our family in the Bend. Every day we either went to Boise or called. At first it was she was holding her own. Then we got what we wanted to hear, she is improving.

Sarah and Laura came for a visit after she was on the improve. We went to Boise to see her. We could only see her thru a glass. The nurse held her up for us to see. By now she was smiling. When Laura took one look at her she, Laura started crying. It was enough to make anyone cry. But our cries were for joy. Her big eyes were sunken and dark and her mouth covered her whole face, to us a beautiful sight.

Lora Jo Comes Home

After about 2 weeks we could bring her home. When we went for her, 3 nurses came to the car with us saying they had all gotten attached to her and hated to see her go.

I was almost afraid to bring her home for fear I would do something wrong. It was a great homecoming for all the family especially seeing it was near the holidays. She was only home about a



Lora Jo and family car, green Plymouth sedan, 1949

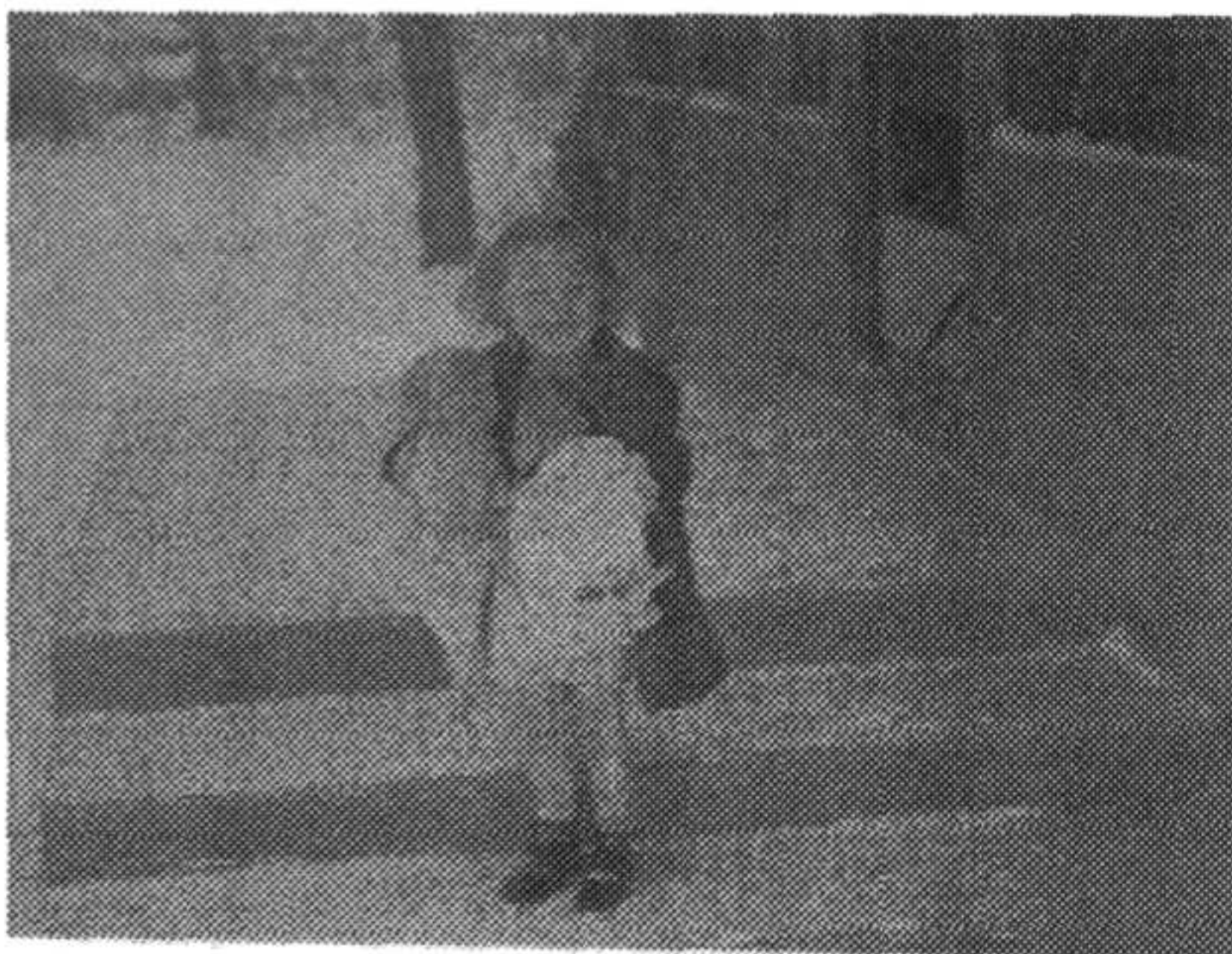
week and we took her back as she was acting ill again. This time she was only there a week. This time I was overly protective. I had her crib next to the oil stove in the front room oil stove in the front room. One cold day I turned the stove up a little higher. I felt the baby and she felt cold & clammy. Up went the stove higher, wetter and colder was Lora Jo. In desperation I called Dr. McKean. So fearful we would have to take her back. I told him I had her right

by the stove but she still felt cold. He asked me what the temperature of the room was. I had to admit we didn't own a thermometer, but I was sure it was warm enough as I was cooking. He laughed and told me to move her away from the stove, turn the stove to where we were comfortable and treat her like any normal baby. After I did, all went well. We had a very nice Christmas with all the family together once more.

During the holidays I crocheted her a pink dress. Soon She was standing up in her bed as she had done 2 months earlier; however, I didn't put her on the floor until late spring.

Lora Jo's Health Is Restored

In the spring Mrs. Rogers called and asked about her. I told her we had the baby home. She asked if she could come and see her for which we were glad. So Mrs. Rogers drove from Ontario to the Bend to see a baby she probably will never see again but for which



Lora Jo carries dolls on snow-flecked steps, 1951

we can say she kept her alive till we could change hospitals.

Dr. McKean had us bring Lora Jo in for a check up every other week. Then once a month, then every other month. She was normal in every way, running & playing. So one time I asked the Dr. why he wanted to still Lora Jo' Health Is Restored

In the spring Mrs. Rogers called and asked about her. I told her we had the baby home. She asked if she could come and see her for which we were glad. So Mrs. Rogers drove from Ontario to the

Bend to see a baby she probably will never see again but for which we can say she kept her alive till we could change hospitals.

Dr. McKean had us bring Lora Jo in for a check up every other if he thot the bug would come back. He said, no, the bug would not come back. If she got meningitis again it would be a different germ. But he still did not tell me why wanted to see her. So we stopped taking her until she was ready to start school. Then I wanted a complete checkup for the last time with Dr. McKean. The Dr. gave her a thorough examination and when he had satisfied himself, he looked Lora Jo right in the eye and told her that at the same time she was in the hospital a little boy was there also, but Lora Jo was the sicker of the two. But the little boy had just been to see him. He is a hopeless cripple. Can't walk or talk. But now she was perfect, not a thing wrong with her. Then he said, "When you got well there was there than just me." We knew what that help was. She was promised twice that she would be strong and healthy. The Lord needed her on this earth for a purpose. He could of taken her many times. Once again our faith in prayer has been strengthened. We rededicated ourselves to be stronger and better church members.



Lora Jo's high school graduation picture, 1966

Lora Jo Married David Phillips

Lora Jo graduated from Adrian school in 1966. Some of her highlights were Girls State, cheerleader for all 3 years, homecoming queen, in the top 10 in "I speak for Democracy," sweetheart queen and school salutorian. She entered the Miss Malheur Co. contest. Gave a reading, "The Lords Prayer" set to music. She was chosen Miss Congenialty. She attended Ricks College until December.

Then quit school to marry David Phillips from Parma, Idaho on Dec. 30, 1966 in the Idaho Falls Temple. Her reception was held 31 Dec in Owyhee. A big crowd from both Parma and Owyhee attended. By this time I had given Vanae a reception and I was better prepared for Lora Jos. The decorations was a winter theme using Christmas trees and boughs.



David Phillips Family

Back: Joe, Lee, **Middle:** Brad, David, Lora Jo with Ryan, Allison
Front: Rusty, Melissa

Dave was farming with his brother and father in Parma where they made their home until 1976. Then they moved to Royal City, Washington along with his brother Taylor (Spud). Both are active in the church. Dave a counselor in bishopric. Lora Jo many positions. Now YWMIA president of Royal. Their children are Joseph & Lee both of who received their Eagle scout on 26 March 1985. Brad, Alison, Melisa, Russell (Rusty), and Ryan. A baby died in Parma.

Vanae and Her Family

Her Schooling

Our first girl Vanae graduated from Adrian High in 1956. She and Francene Peterson were co Valedictorians, was honor student all 4 years. President of the pep club, co-editor of the school annual, sec FHA. In Thespian club, had a lead roll in 2 3-act plays. In GAA, was queen of the Sweetheart Ball and received the citizenship award.



Vanae in front of Sunset Valley Stoker home, 1958

She spent a year at the "Y" on a scholarship, came home in the spring and got a job working in the Idaho First National Bank at Parma, Idaho. Clarence Kneiffel was the president and he really looked after her. She worked there for 2 years. Lived at home and drove to work. Then she quit and went back to the "Y".

Vanae Married Ray Knight

She had been corresponding with a boy from Homedale, Idaho who was on a mission. His folks came over one Sunday and visited us. They were very nice. I guess feeling the family out. I don't know. Ray Knight came home in the spring. She did not go to

school the spring semester as they were married 12 June 1959 in the Idaho Falls Temple.

The reception was held in Owyhee ward. This being my first big one I really goofed. We asked Carried Garner to be over the decorations but failed to get anyone to take charge of the gift table.¹



The Ray Knight Family, 1980's

Front: Nichole, Mark, Vanae, Makaela, Lisa holding Kelli, **-Middle:** Laron Becki, Ray - **Back:** Marci, Jeri Ann, Jana, Scot, Kyle

¹ Written above this a sentence at the top of Ethel's journal is the following: "Her gift to the people a scroll- Altho I can't express our thanks as graciously as some. We won't forget your thoughtfulness for a long long time to come."

Sarah and Laura came up for the reception so they were put to work. A large crowd from Homedale and Owyhee were present. They first lived in Homedale. Then worked for us awhile, then Caldwell then Homedale now Washington. Ray was bishop of Connell ward almost 5 years. Vanae has had various positions, Primary & R Society. Their children are Jeri Ann, Scott, Kyle, Jana, Lisa, Mark, Becky, Marci, Laron, Nichole, Michaela & Kelli.



Lora Jo holding a one-year-old Dennis

My Last Child Is Born

After 6 years I was pregnant once more. We had moved to Sunset Valley in a basement house. The boys were big and all came to help if dad got behind. Keith lived not far away & Jesse in the Bend so I didn't go out to the field much. I did spray dotter in alfalfa & helped harvest beets but mostly stayed in. But since I was pregnant I was no good at all. Thank goodness for Vanae. She really was a blessing, looking back now about all I can remember is sitting in a rocking chair. I couldn't sleep nights so would often get up at night and sit in my chair and crochet. My age was against me. I was almost 44 years old. Lee insisted I doctor in Boise to a

specilist which I did a Dr. Rosenheim. Don't know that he did any more than any other doctor but he was nice. Seeing we lived so far from Boise he decided he would start labor. So on July 24th, we went to Boise planning on my staying but no go. I went back on 2 Aug 1954 and before nite we had another beautiful healthy baby boy. On the hospital card we put his name as Bruce but the more I thot the less the name suited him so 2 weeks later we went to the state building in Boise and changed his name to Dennis Lee. Dennis was born as the Owyhee ward chapple was under construction. So He was the first baby blessed in the new building and as Lee was in the bishopric on the stand I spent the first 3 or so years up in the cry room. When Dennis was 2 or so Vanae seen a sign on a post, "Puppies" so what does she do but stop and bring one to Dennis. From then on he & Lora Jo spent much of their time with the dog, Peg.² Many times I would go looking for Dennis only to find both he and the dog sound asleep, anywhere that sleep overtook them with Dennis' head on the dog.

Dennis Goes to Sleep and I Write Verse

One evening about dark the cows got out. Course all was recruited. When all cows were safely in we looked for Dennis. No one had seen him since dark. We called & looked everywhere when I went in the house. He had crawled in his crib and was sound asleep.

In 1958 in Relief Society the stake asked all to write a story or poem and hand it in before Jan 1. Seeing I was teaching in Relief Society I felt like I should but kept putting it off till the very last. This is the poem I wrote about Dennis. He was now 3 and into everything.

I've tucked my cowboy in his bed
 And heard his little prayers
 Still feel his damp kiss on my cheek
 And feel his hands in my hair.
 Immediately I forget the mischief of the day
 The pools of water on the floor
 And the scattered pieces of clay.
 When he gets up in the morn

² Dennis said that he and Lora Jo gave the dog the full name of "Peggy Lynn Puppy Stoker."

He is as sweet and nice as can be
But ere the night time rolls around
He has changed considerably



Cowboy Dennis

After a wrestle him in bed
Along with his prized toy
He smiles and says "I love you Mommy."
All is forgiven and I thank God for my boy.
Another short one I wrote.

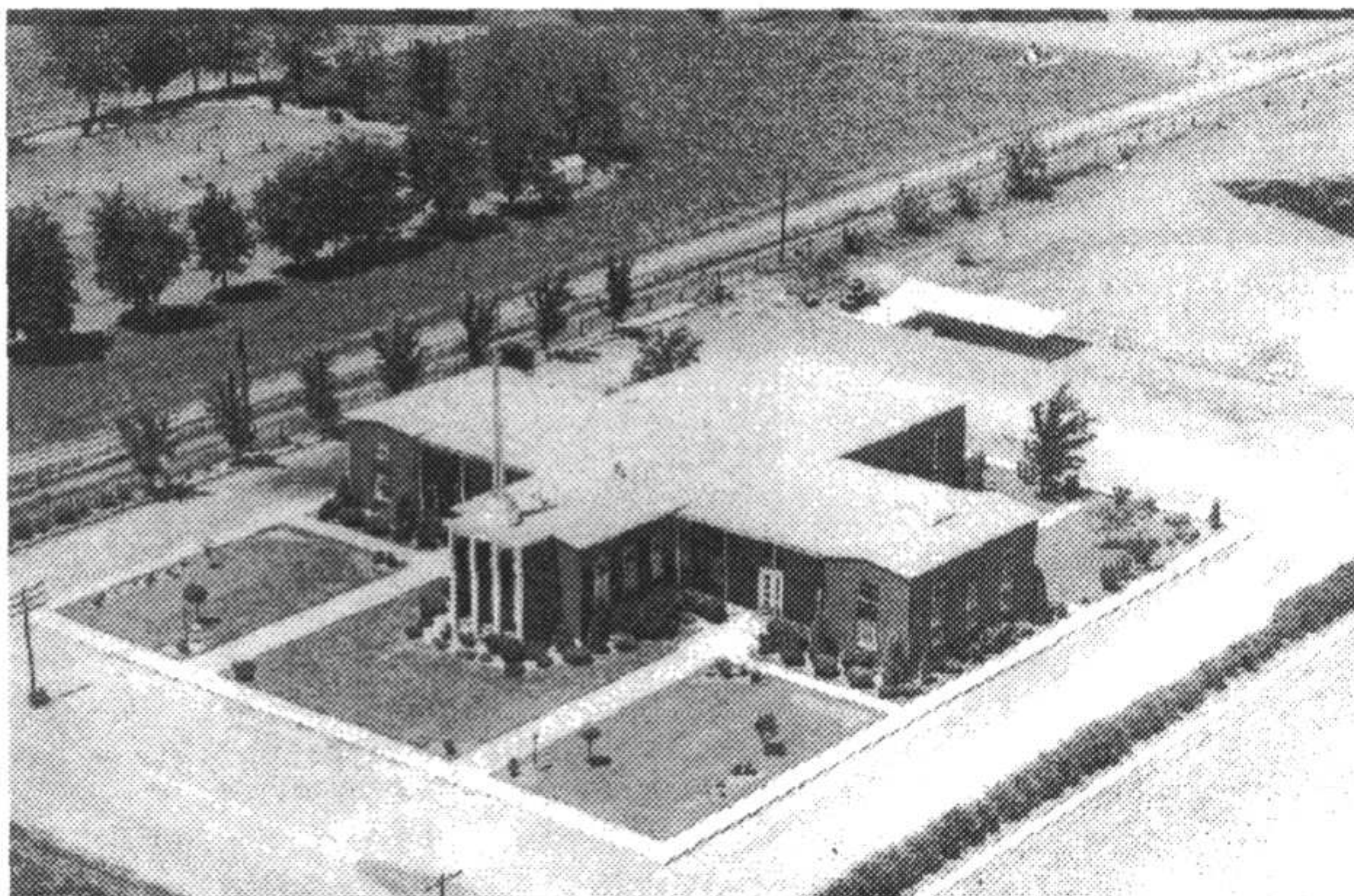
My children are the jewels
God has entrusted to me
To polish with Christ-like traits
So we can be together thru all eternity.

Hernia Problems

When Dennis was but 2 months old, I went with Lee to the field to fix a baler and left Vanae to bathe and dress Dennis. We were gone several hours and when we got back we found both of them crying. Dennis had been wearing a truss for a rupture but the rupture had come down during his bath and Vanae couldn't get it in place. That afternoon we took him to Boise to the Dr. Next day 9 Oct he was operated on for a double hernia. He got along fine but it was hard on Vanae.

Owyhee Chapel Dedication

Here I would like to mention the construction of the Owyhee church house. Wayne and Ruth Berrett donated land between the Oregon Trail school and Adrian on the road to Sunset Valley on which to build the chapel. It was about the center of the ward. Groundbreaking took place Sept 1, 1953. Cornerstone laid March



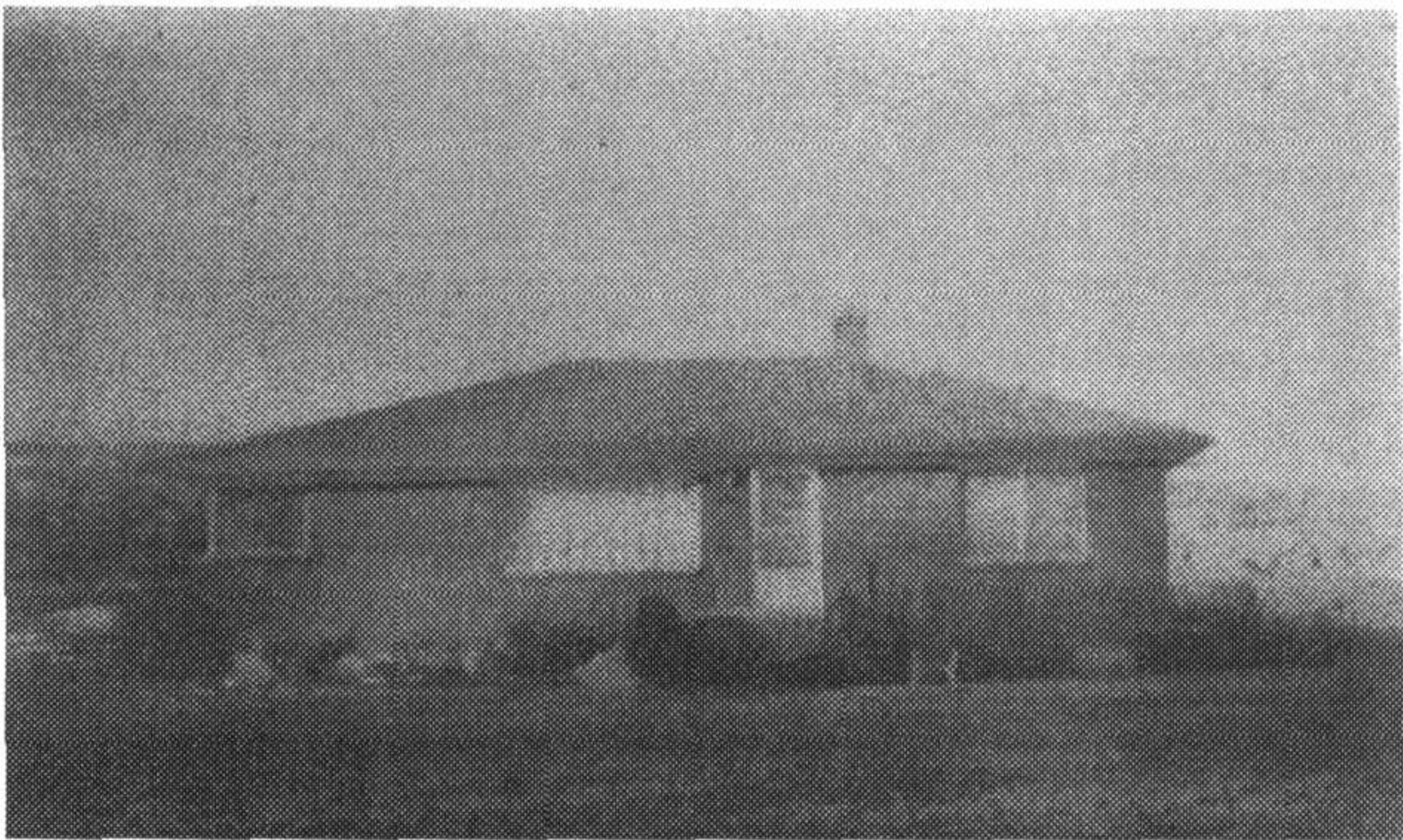
Owyhee Ward chapel, 1955

1954 and the first meeting was held 29 Aug 1954. Dennis was blessed the first Sunday in Sept. There was still work to be done on the building but soon it was completed but it wasn't dedicated until 17 April 1955 by President J. Reuben Clark. It took just a little over a year from the groundbreaking to when it was finished and paid for. Cost \$175,675. Some of the women of the ward helped but I was too big & awkward. President Clark came to Owyhee on Sat. Bp Peterson, Leland Montgomery and Lee took him and showed him the project. Then all ate supper to Petersons. Then all came home after Sunday School on Sunday and had dinner at our house. Then to the dedication where all the men spoke. We have a copy of the services. Then Pres. Clark was taken to catch the train. A wonderful 2 days with a counselor to the president of the church.

We Build Our House

We had moved to Sunset Valley with the intentions of building on top of the basement. I had spent hours going over plans. I no longer wanted a 2 story house like we had planned for Burley. It had to be so it would fit on the basement. We engaged Gordon Williams of Nyssa to build it. We told about what we wanted and he drew up the plans.

The house was started in the summer of 1954 or right after Dennis was born and the church house mostly done. Our men when not working on the farm would help on the house. It was finished



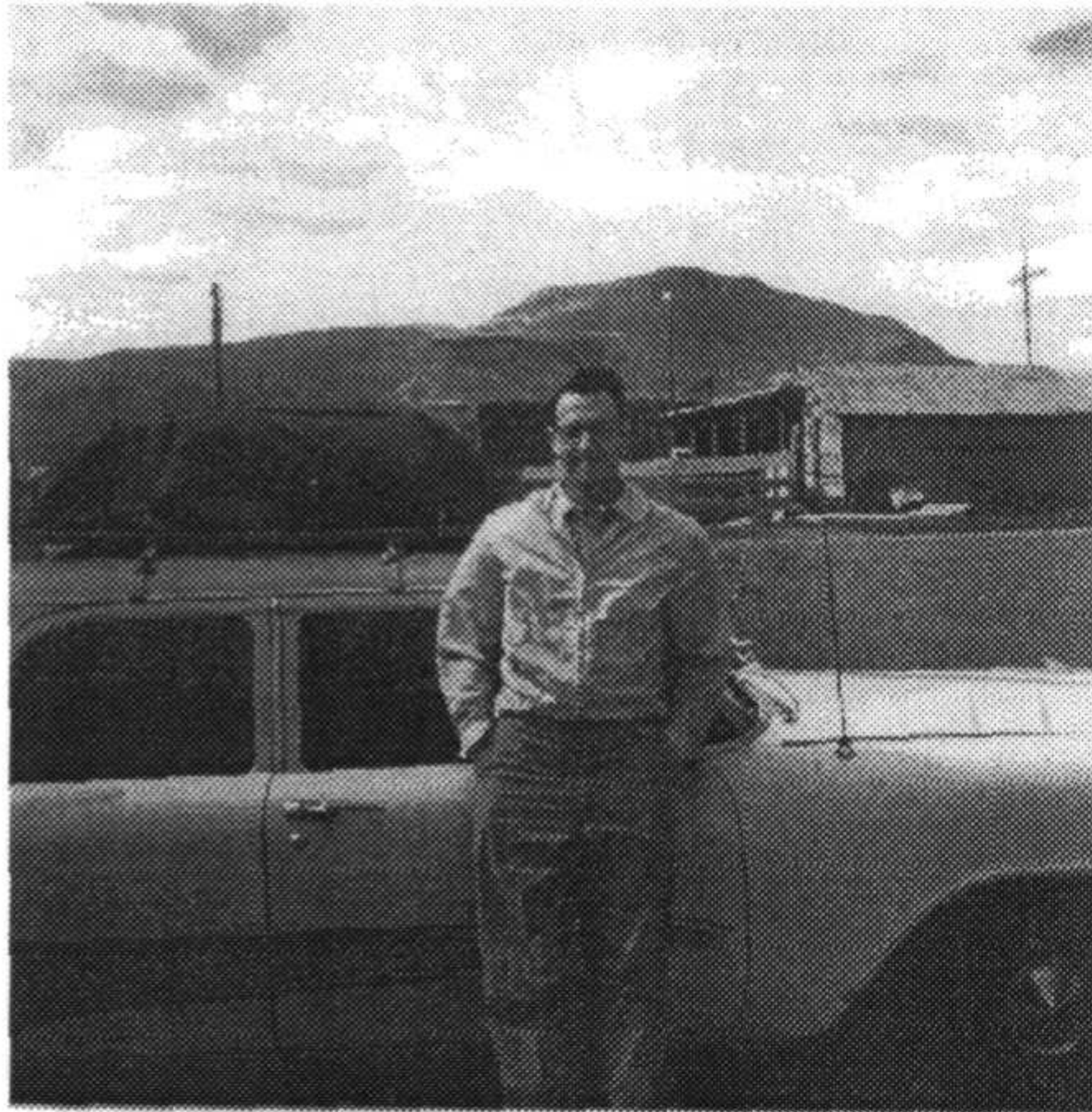
Stokers brick home built above basement house

early in 1955. Williams did all the inside work during the winter. He built the cabinets, light oak. In fact oak was used throughout the house. I did lots of sanding, sweeping, painting etc.

We bought my bedroom curtains and front room drapes but I made the curtains for the 2 bedrooms and the kitchen. It was work but I loved it. We also purchased a oak bedroom set and a new living room set.

Our house consisted of 3 bedrooms upstairs, study, kitchen, utility, dining room & living room. Then we left everything as was in the basement except we used one bedroom to house the furnace. We bought a new stove for upstairs so I did all my canning in the

basement. It was fun picking out the doors to our house. We found a door that the grain in it looks like a owl. That was the study. Dennis' bedroom door looked like a cowboy riding a horse. The living room rug was a green & brown. Kitchen & dinning room linoleum was a black, white & red plaid. When waxed it was very pretty.



A view from Ethel's kitchen window looking south

Brother-in-law, Willard Nelson, with family visited the Stokers in 1960. Beyond the barnyard building looms the landmark, Mitchell Butte.

Our house and furnishings cost us \$17,500 plus farmers help. It was appraised at \$25,000. I sometimes get the urge to go back inside it. Yet I'm sure others have changed it till it would no longer be our home. I know they have pulled out my row of roses & the berries, but then we make changes when we move also so I should not complain. So it was in a new house I entertained President Clark.

Chapter 10

Primary First, and Then Other Things

I Worked in the Stake Primary Organization

Some of My Assignments and Co-workers

Early in 1950 the Weiser stake was divided. Orvil Child was the president of the Nyssa stake. No more did we have to travel to Weiser to our meetings. Sister Pearl Ballantyne was released as Primary president and Iona Flinders was sustained as the new president. I was now given the assignment of the stake leader over the girls.

On the 4 May 1952 a special musical program was put on by the children of the wards. Some of the singing was "Of the Lord," "Of the Gospel," "Strength of Character," "Special days and holidays," "Home and Family," "Of Nature," "And of Special Occasion." It lasted 1 1/2 hours. The building was packed. It was very successful. On the 24th of Jan. 1953 I was set apart as 2nd counselor to Sister Flinders. Pearl Woodard had moved from the stake. Now I had the assignment of giving the teacher trainer lessons. I'm sure I improved much from my first attempt. I did work hard on the lessons. I was now back with the younger groupes. Now when I look back, I wonder how we accomplished all we did in the Primary program. The Guide and Seagull girls & parent was all done on a stake basis until 1958 when it was turned into the Daddy daughter Date and Guide Scout parents banquet. Eventually these turned into ward affairs.

Every year we held a Christmas party for all the ward officers. Sometimes the husbands were invited. Some of the themes of these parties were "Our Lucky Voyage," "Don't Hide your Light under a

Sometimes the husbands were invited. Some of the themes of these parties were "Our Lucky Voyage," "Don't Hide your Light under a Basket," "Dr. You-can-do". Sister Flinders was always a step ahead of the rest of us. One year we held a Christmas party just for the board members and husbands. I was Santa. Made a fool of myself sitting on Pres. Munns lap but all loved it.

For years the girls graduation from Primary was held on a stake basis where refreshments was served. Most of the names of the



Ethel, Iona Flinders, Richard Hayes, unidentified, 1951

classes have been changed such as Boys and Girls Zion class, Larks, Bluebirds & Seagull, Cub scouting was introduced under the leadership of Iona. Teacher trainer is now inservice. Penny Parade was Penny Appeal. Union Meeting now preparation meeting etc. I don't think we missed a Primary conference in Salt Lake. All the while I was serving in the stake. Primary conferences was held 2 days before general conference in April. Lots of times Lee would go with us or we have driven down alone. Iona used to laugh and say all Lee wanted to take us was to be fed goodies.

In conference 1961 Primary got a new look. All stake board members were to be released except music and scouting. The Nyssa

stake was on the Childrens Friend Honor roll for 14 years and most every year over a thousand dollars was sent to the Penny Appeal from the stake. I visited the wards and loved it. One class I attended was a Blazer class in Vale. The teacher in giving the lesson said, "Saul sought the Lord in prayer." a good 7 or 8 minutes had gone by. Finally a little boy raised his hand and said, "Why did Saul sock the Lord." Teacher had not made herself clear. It was lucky it was cleared 'up or a boy would of been confused for years.

I Was Set Apart as First Counselor

Aug 10, 1953 I was set apart as 1 counselor by Pre. Fred Blacker. We have worn out 6 high councilmen, Harold Saunders, Bill Beus, John Hartley, Mel Beck, Frell Blair, Niel Hiatt and Rex Tol-



Nyssa Stake Primary Workers
Ethel, Iona Flinders, Helen Evans, Joy Bell, Betty
Bower, and Olga Brown

man. each one contributed much to the Primary. Some of the counselors have been Fern Cox, Margaret Jones, Carolyn Blaylock and Betty Bower with Ida Moncur, Joy Bell and Alic Banner as secretaries. I can say I have never studied harder, put in longer hours or

been more tired than working in the Primary and yet enjoying it. Every year board members from Salt lake would attend our 2 stake meeting. Each department held meetings both in the morning & afternoons. One year Edith Rich came and stayed 2 nights with us. It was a wonderful experience.

This is what Iona put in the history book. Mostly exaggerated.

A Tribute to a Loyal Counselor

One of Gods choicest spirits, I'm sure
she must of been.
For she came endowed with so much love
And so many blessing from Him.
Such a joy to be around.
So neat and loyal, so true
Efficiently and uncomplaining
She does more than she's asked to do.
With a good husband by her side,
She's done everything well
That she's attempted to do.
We've called Lee our "Third Counselor"
Because many times he has helped us too
He has hauled us to conference in Salt Lake.
Make sure we had a place to stay and a bed.
All he'd ask was that we bring
candy and goodies to keep him
awake and well fed.
Ethel has a testimony of the gospel
And has never been known her duties to shirk.
She has served faithfull in so many
Calling and knows what it is to "work".
When asked to take a assignment, come to
Meeting or visit somewhere.
Without a slight hesitation she has
Always answered "I'll be there."
She has always had to drive a long distance
Sometimes in pickup or truck
In all kinds of weather and Ice and snow
Even slid off the road and got stuck.
She has loved this Primary calling
Her desire is to serve well

Just how many she has helped gain a testimony?
I'm sure it would be hard to tell.
We have truly learned to love her.
Who could resist her drive and ambition
A Jewell; Jolly and sincere and suggestive
Yet firm in her counseling position.
May God continue to bless her with
Good health and ability in whatever
Position she's called to fill.
May she continue to inspire others
As she has her Primary friends
To love and do God's will.

-Iona

Prayers and Blessings

The only time I had any trouble at all, not even a flat tire or car trouble driving the many thousands miles alone and after dark was I was supposed to speak at Nyssa 1st wards Primary meeting. I was traveling along after dark rehearsing what I was going to say instead of having my mind on my driving. I failed to take a curve and went straight instead. The front wheels went in a small ditch and I couldn't back out. I walked up to Bob Haneys and called Lee. He had a load of beets on the big truck so he came down and pulled me out. It didn't hurt a thing but I didn't fulfill my assignment & I felt badly. It was my falt completely.

I do know once again that prayers are answered that when one is in a responsible position. Words are put in their mouths. Many times at our meetings or conventions I would say things that I had never even thot of beforehand but they were appropriate for the occasion.

I'm indeed grateful for a loving Father that helped me accomplish what I did. I'm grateful for my good husband and children that I could leave most anytime. All of the work we did we always had a good feeling when finished. My Primary years were happy years. I hope and pray that I might of helped a little in furthing the work of the Nyssa Stake Primary.

Lora Jo was born while I was in the Primary. Iona had a daughter Gail just 2 years older but both their birthdays on 1 April. Iona and myself were released from Primary 16 Feb 1965. We both spoke in stake conference and a few tears were shed. I taught Primary in Burley making almost 20 years working in Primary. Iona gave me

a 20 year pin. I treasure it highly. For a while I was lost. Primary had been uppermost in my mind then to have it gone all at once was rather upsetting. Yet it was a relief not to worry. Mabe now I could help Lee more as on 23 Sept 1951 Lee was sustained as 1st counselor in the Owyhee Ward bishopric.

We Go East for Our Third Buick

In 1954 we moved to Sunset Valley as I have mentioned before. In the fall of 1954 Audrey stayed with the family while Vern & Carrie, Deb & Flora, Leland & Ethel Montgomery and us. Once



Flora and Deb Garner, ? on one of their Stoker trips

more boarded the U.P. train at 11 PM for Flint, Michigan for another new Buick. This time there was so many of us that we kept everyone on the train from sleeping or I should of said in the car. But next night we were tired and wanted to sleep and as we were nearing a big city many workers got on & off the train. Now we know how the people felt the night before. We arrived in Chicago. We engaged 2 taxis to take us sightseeing and was it ever a wild ride. One taxi trying to keep up with the other. We all decided to be brave and fly to Flint. It was the first of most but Lee and my-

self had been up with Allen, Lees brother. He was a pilot in the war. Everything went smooth. It was dark and the lights from the towns was beautiful. We landed in Flint, had to have 2 taxis to take us to a hotel. We only rode a few blocks and the price! Early next morning Lee and Leland got up and caught a taxi to go to the Buick place. They went clear across town for less than we had to pay the night before for a few blocks.

Soon the men were back with two new Buicks. 4 got in each car and we headed for New York. On the way Lee was in the lead and we drove miles. Finally I looked at the map and couldn't find any of the towns we had gone thru. So we stopped and sure enough both cars had gone about 50 miles the wrong way. In New York we got our first taste of one way roads. Lee was lead again. We saw people on the sidewalk swinging their arms & pointing to us. Then we seen the sign. Leland was behind us and knew it but dare not get seperated as we would never find each other again.

We seen some of New York. Drove to Niagra Falls. The Garners were getting a pickup each so we drove to the Ford place in Detroit, Michigan. We left them there. Those two couples would come and we would go on. But before we got out of Detroit, Leland was lead, he made a green light but we were stopped. He said he went a ways and stopped but never did see us pass. Well we went a ways and stopped. Soon the Garners came along. We sent them on and waited a while longer then we decided we might as well go on. We drove till dark and stopped to a motel. Next morning drove to Carthage Jail and who should we see but Montgomerys. Come to find out we both stayed in the same town only a few blocks from each other. This was another fun trip.

We Have Our Health Problems

Lee Suffers Back Problems

In 1952 we sold our place in Burley. My brother Don had been renting it. We didn't want to sell but Lee had co-signed with Les when he was in the contracting business and lost out. So it cost us almost all our property in Burley to clear us. So beware. Never, Never co-sign with anyone. 11th of November 1956 Lee was sustained as bishop of the Owyhee Ward. He had been operating in this capacity almost for a year anyway as Bishop Peterson got his leg caught in the power take off of a tractor digging the wards potatoes. This happened in the fall of 1955. James was bishop but his counselors had to fill in for him. As the last of November Lee had

surgery for a slipped disc. It had bothered him for years. He had sought relief from local doctors, clinic at Portland and S. Lake. The Arthritis Clinic at Wheeler, Oregon and to Ann Arbor Michigan, with no relief.

Then a Dr. in Boise Dr. Keifer found it. We had never heard of a slipped disc before and now it is very common. He got along well probably too well. As we went with Montgomerys and the Munns on a trip to Los Angeles, Calif. when he should of been home. He also went to the temple at Idaho Falls. He had to have surgery again. This time a ditch broke out in a field we were renting from Willard Bishop. Lee called a big dragline to come fix it. Lee was there alone and it was coming so he proceeded to lift heavy poles & put in a ditch to make a crossing so the dragline could cross to where the break was but in so doing he hurt his back again and after giving instructions started to the pickup across a alfalfa field. Before he got to the pickup the pain was so severe he ended up crawling. He came in the house and went down in the basement to lay down. When I found that he had hurt his back I called Dr. Keifer and he said come right over which we did.

We had to wait a few minutes for the doctor and when it was Lees turn to go in he stood up but couldn't make his legs go. The office girl got on one side and myself on the other. The doctor took one look at him and said, "My —, What is the matter with you." Lee told him. The Dr. didn't even examine him, but called the hospital and that is where we ended up once more.

This was in Aug 1961 he went to surgery once more for his back. While Lee was in the hospital I went to the Bon to shop but lo- I had locked the keys in the car. I was alone and didn't know what to do. I called a locksmith but it was Sat. and no one answered. I

called another one and he suggested I call the police which I did. I felt silly. The police pulled along side me, double parked on main street with many by standers watching while the policeman took a wire and lifted the lock on the door. No charge. But since I've been quite careful to remove the keys before I lock the door.

In 1962 Lee had to have surgery. Once more as his back was growing crooked. Before they didn't fuse the vertabrae but this time they did. Lee has really suffered with his back tho I've spent hours rubbing it with my hands as well as a vibrator. He has spent hours in a tub of hotwater. Leland Montgomery has had the same surgery once and he said his back never bothers him. But he took care of himself after surgery.

I Am Allergic to Bee Stings

One day I was setting water on the Bishop¹ land. I was there alone. The closest way to the car after I finished, was by some bee hives. So naturally I took the shortest way and I got stung. I got in the car and started home before long I had the feeling I was going to pass out. Instead of stopping as I should of done, I went faster up to 90 miles per hr. I don't know how I made it without a wreck. I felt terrible.

No one was home when I got there so I lay in the cool basement awhile but now my throat was starting to tighten up and I was beginning to itch allover, hives. I thot mabe if I took a soda bath it would relieve the itching. I put soda in the tub and rather hot water. I no more got in than I felt so faint I got right out again I was dizzy and faint I didn't even dry myself but got into bed. I was in and out all afternoon. When Lee got home I was some better. Could swallow better as well as see better so I refused to go to a Dr. It took 2 or 3 days before I felt myself tho. The next time I got stung was at night. I was sitting in chair under a light and a bug os somekind bit me. Right now my throat started to swell. Jim took me to the hospital to Nyssa. The doctor gave me a shot but had me stay a hour to see if it would do the trick. He then gave me a per-scription to be filled and to carry with me.

Next time I was sorting spuds on the spud harvester. A nat stung me by my eye. I had to quit and go to the house as my eyes were swelling shut. By taking my pills I was ok by morning. Since then I try not to go by bees. I have been stung since but they have not affected me quite so bad.

We Spend Three Weeks in Mexico

We Prepare to Enter the Country

In the winter of 1960[-61] we or I should say Lee was asked to go to Roy and perform the marriage ceremony of Ivan's girl, Karen. Deb and Flora were to meet us in Ogden and go to Mexico also but they called and backed out. The day before we left we

¹ This was river bottom land, close to 200 acres, that the Stokers rented from Willard Bishop in the early 1960's which was located in close proximity to the Owhyee Junction (Owyhee Avenue joins Oregon Highway 201), and near the Snake River within a mile of where the Owyhee River joins it.



Map of the Trip

bought a used camper. Put it on our pickup. Hurridly stocked it with dishes etc and left the next morning.

After the wedding we went to a doctor in Ogden for our shots to go to Mexico. We spent our first night in Craig, Colorado 5 above. It got mighty cold in the camper with no heat so next day we put more bedding underneath us and bought a gas lantern for light & heat. In Larado, Texas we bought insurance as we were told U.S.

us a stack of papers telling us what to look for and the places of interest. So Lee drove while I sat with the papers on my lap watching for the places of interest along the way.



The Stokers' camper and pickup

Our Experiences in the Country

The first big town we came to in Mexico was Monterey. We stopped and a man came up. He spoke good English and asked where we were going. He then took us to a big modern shopping Supermarket where we bought some groceries. He told us of a good brand of bread that he liked. Also took us to the meat counter where he asked the clerk to double grind us some hamburger. This was the only fresh meat we had on our trip thru Mexico. We had car trouble at the pyramid of the moon. Lee said the Mechanics made it worse. Anyway it really cost

We got in Mexico City on a Sunday afternoon. People everywhere, especially in the parks. We stopped and asked a policeman where to find a motel or somewhere we could park for the night. He couldn't understand English & us no Spanish. He called to a woman across the street. He went over and stayed with her children while she came and talked to us. She stayed quite awhile telling us where to go. We drove round and round but never did find the place so we drove out of the city only to find streams of cars, busses & trucks going and coming. It was a 2 lane highway but every once in awhile someone would want to pass and they would make it 3 lanes. They would lay on the horn and keep going. They were terrible drivers.



Traffic in Mexico City

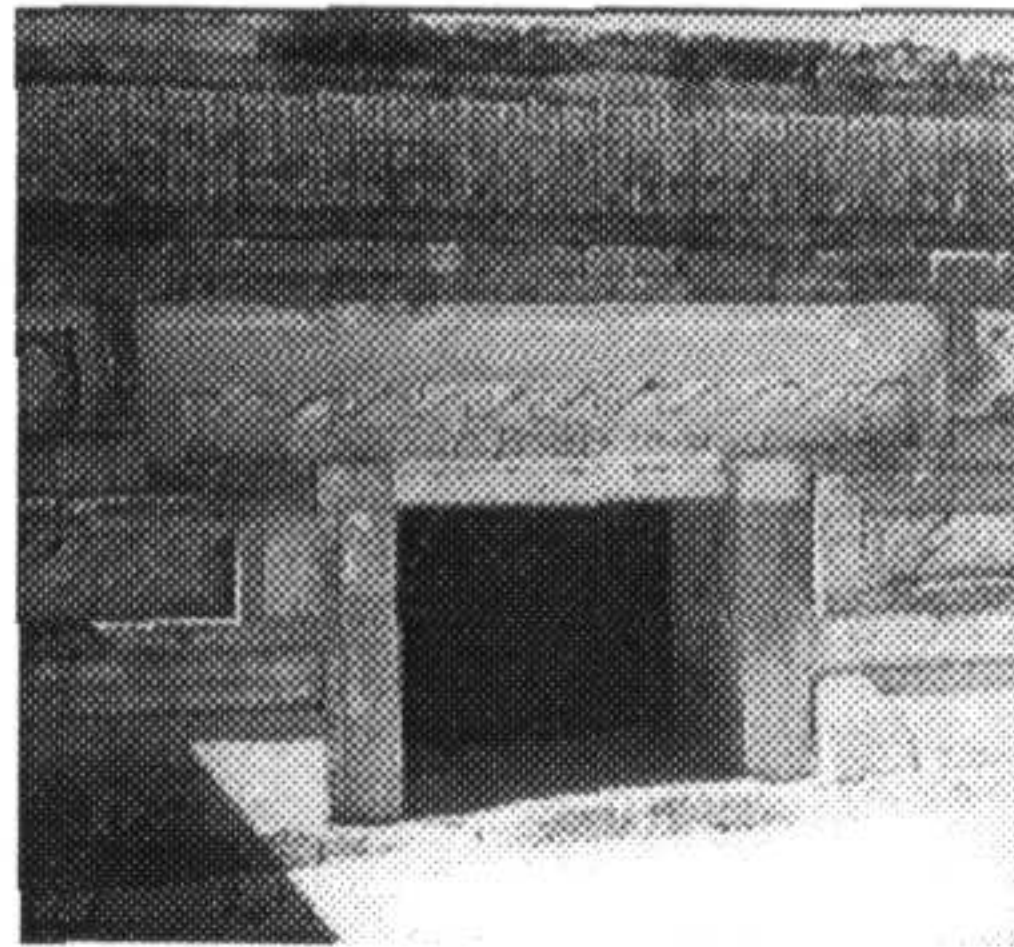
We drove several miles then drove off the main highway and came to a place where they were building a new road so we stayed the night there. Next day drove back to Mexico City. We could see a sign that said American Embassy but couldn't figure how to get to it. So we drove around & around it. Finally we pulled in a parking lot and a man, he had been to school in California, asked us if we were lost. He offered to show us the city. We parked our camper and got in with him. We were shown many places of interest. The new school and swimming pool built for the olympics.



Stokers' Mexican guide

Many many statues in the middle of the road plus the shrine of Gaudaloupe. He said fresh flowers were put all over the arch to it every day. We didn't go into the church, just the courtyard where many people were walking on their knees on the cement. Was told the more torture and agony one went thru the more your sins were forgiven.

In Mexico we had to buy a new wheel for the pickup. Guess the wheels weren't heavy enough for the camper. I sat in the pickup while Lee went with a hotel clerk that could speak English to locate one. It also cost. We traveled 300 miles south to Oaxoa to the ruins of Monte Alban and also to Mitla, the sunken gardens and many many more. Everytime one stopped people would come up



Mitla

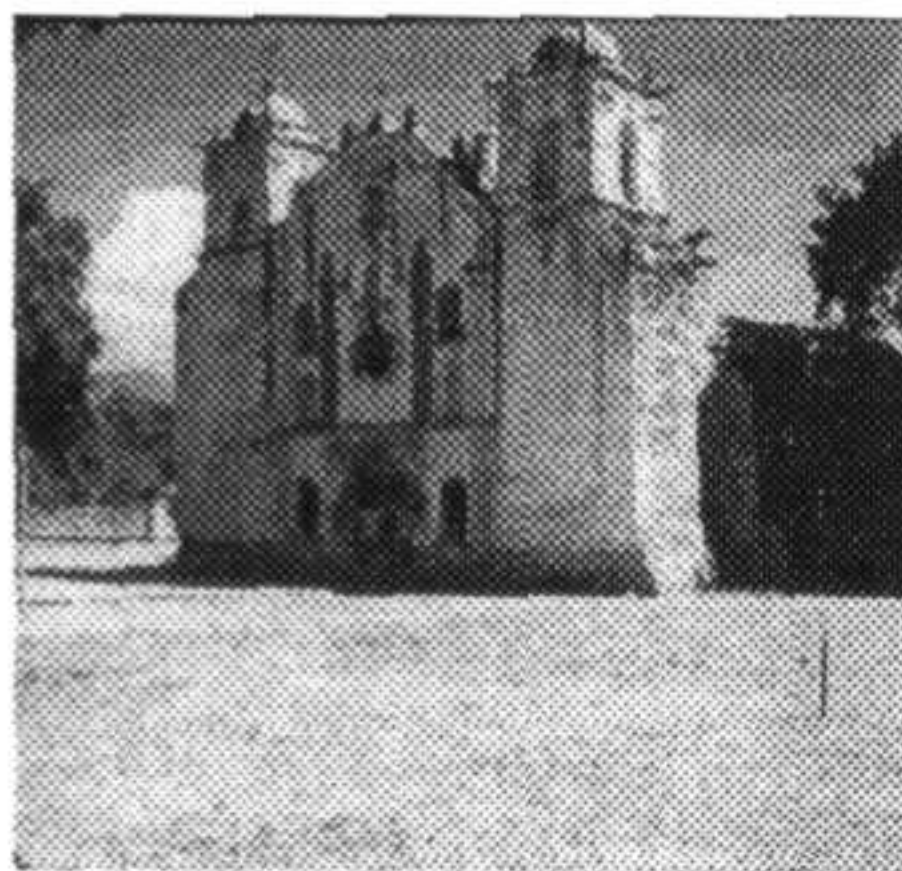
and want to sell you something. We did buy some things, bracelet, handiwork, purse & wallet. The people were poor and things were cheap. We bought a mellon and stopped by the side of the road to eat it & soon here comes a small boy. We couldn't see a house in sight. We gave him some melon but had to drive off and leave him. One other time we stopped and this time several older chil-



Ethel shares watermelon with Mexican boy

dren came to the pickup. I had some dried prunes and gave each one a handfull. As we drove away Lee asked why I didn't let them reach in the sack and take their own. When I seen their hands, so dirty, I wasn't about to let them help themselves.

I really couldn't see how they survive lots of desert and a few goats. Early in the morning while going past a home one would see smoke coming thru the willow roof. Every town tho had a big Catholic church. Cemeteries often are divided. One half nice big headstones the other half dried broken boards. Rich and poor we supposed.



Typical village Catholic church

Their markets were something else. Meat out surrounded by flies and stink. Oh, no refrigeration, just open markets. But we got some awfully good banannas and oranges. We cougth our drinking water in big 5 gal jugs. Was bringing one home and got as far as Salt Lake & left it on the table in the camper. It fell off and broke. Their road work was all by hand. We stopped to a home that had a sign out selling pop. We went in. The floor was dirt but it had been wet & packed & very clean. Their forests were clean also. I guess all the fallen limbs & trees were gathered for firewood. On the way home we passed some very good and prosperous farms. Tractors were being used instead of oxen. Acre after acre of tomatoes in all stages of development.

Stopped in Tuscon, Arizona and spent the night with Bernard and Lissy Law, our milktesters in Burley. We had been gone 3 weeks but had to get back as our ward reunion was coming and Lee was the father of the ward. 3 weeks wasn't long enough to go as far as we went to see it all. I enjoyed it but don't think I would like to live there. We asked about the missionaries. Was told where some lived but guess they were out. We never found any.

Chapter 11

Seattle World's Fair and Other Happenings

Our Family Goes to the Fair

In the summer of 1962 Laura and Sarah came to Oregon and we took them, Lora Jo and Dennis in the camper and headed for the World's Fair in Seattle, Wash. None of us had ever been to a fair so all were very excited. Some had to ride in the camper but it wasn't all that bad. We parked at the back of Lees sisters girls place Leo Eastmans. They lived not far from the fair. While there, Keith and Jesse and their families came. We enjoyed the fair but so many people. We waited for a hour to go to the top of the needle and finally gave up.

Laura, Sarah & myself got on a big Ferris wheel. Think all would of been chicken but each didn't want to be the first to back out. While at the very top it stopped for a long time. Whether problems or not I don't know but one could see all of Seattle & for miles. After awhile we forgot our fear and enjoyed it. Also went in a revolving house. The floor stood still but the walls tilted. It really gave me the feeling of being upside down. Its easy for me to get dizzy and turned around anyway.

My Sisters and Brothers and Their Families

Laura and Heber

We left the fair and ferried to the peninsula & then drove to Illwaco. Stopped many times and got our feet wet. But the old Pa-

cific was just too cold to wet much more than our feet. We enjoyed it very much as it was new country for most. Laura had a sore on her leg. She kept it bandaged then so no one ever seen it. Course she said it was nothing, but a year later the last of June 1963, she passed away of cancer.

Her husband Heber passed away 21 Dec 1960. She had said she hoped Terry, their only child at home would graduate and go on a mission then she wouldn't care. Terry did graduate. In fact was pres. of the student body at Weber and also filled a mission to Mexico. Laura & Heber has a very good family. I feel very close to all of them.

Sarah and Her Family

Sarah outlived two husbands, both Judkins.¹ They were half brothers or step brothers, I don't know now. She passed away 12 Nov 1974. She also leaves a very good family. She was a second mother to me. Was with me at the birth of my children, run me around S Lake at conference time. She was indeed my big sister. She has also lost one son Newell.

George and His Family

Our brother George passed away 21 March 1973. He had been sick for a while. He had a brilliant mind. Taught at Utah State College at Logan till his retirement. As they lived in Logan we were not as close to their family as I would of liked to of been. They had 3 children, a doctor in Ogden, dentist in Logan, and a girl in California.

Glen and His Family

Glen passed away 4 Sept 1980. We were in England in the mission field at the time. Our mission president called us early the next morning. Also Keith called us. Glen was in the hospital. Heart. Was told the doctor was in talking to him and he went in the twinkling of a eye. His wife Laura was in a nursing home. She had a broken hip and was too much for Glen to take care of. They had one son, Garth, a dentist in Ogden. Glens wife Laura passed away Aug 1982. We were in Canada on a trip with Les and Annie so we

¹First husband was Parley B. Judkins, whom Sarah married on November 8, 1916 in Salt Lake City. Her second husband was Wilford Newell Judkins, whom she married on November 14, 1932 in West Weber, Utah.

did not attend her funeral either.



Garth Blanch, Ethel and Lee Stoker, Scott Blanch in England

We enjoyed having Glen, Garth and Garth's wife come to our family reunion held at Fishhook State park. First tho, we went to Utah to a Blanch reunion held in West Weber. Keith flew us down as well as Jesse. The night before we met with the Stokers and ate at Harmons and did much visiting. Next day was the Blanch get-together while all was seated after eating I arose and invited all who would care to come to our family reunion.² A very few showed any enthusiam but about 2 weeks before the event, I wrote to the head of the families and invited them again. Was we ever sur-

²This reunion was held in 1978 at Fishhook Park on the Snake River, several miles east from Burbank, Washington.

prised. LaNea, Eliza & Parl, Grant & Emma Dell, Nina & Bob & some of their family. Reed, Max, & Val Hancock & some of their family, Glen, Garth & wife, probably more I don't recall. This is the first time any from down that way has met all our family so it was great. From all I heard they enjoyed it very much. Especially Glen, Garth & wife as Garth was a only child it was different to belong to such a large family as ours. They were very verbal in their praise.



Lee and Ethel visiting stable in England

And I'll admit the first time I've felt close to Garth. Then while on our mission Garth & wife came to London to get Scott who was there on a mission. They came to Chorley and spent about 24 hours.³ We took them to a baptism in the River Ribble. Showed

³ On Saturday May 10, 1980 Ethel wrote in her missionary journal, "Before breakfast Garth Blanch called and said they would be here at 6 P.M. ...Did some shopping so would have something to eat. At 6 met them where one goes from the motorway to Chorley. [They] Parked their car at Standish Farms store & they went with us to the

them some church historical sites in Preston. Church on Sunday, Scott & Garth both spoke. Then drove to lake Windemere. We think they enjoyed it. We know we did. We learned later that Glen and Scott drove up and visited Keith and some before we got home from England. Great.

Church Duties in the Late '60's

17 Sept 1967 I was sustained as a board member of the Nyssa stake Relief Society. My assignment was the visiting teaching message. While in this capacity I was privileged to attend conference in Salt lake in 1967 & 68. This calling did not require the work and travel as the Primary did. I suppose the more involved the better one likes it. I presented the lessons and that was about it. I enjoyed the women I worked with. When we moved to Washington I was presented a book "The Miracle of Forgiveness" by President Kimball. Lucille Goats from Parma was the president.

I have been a visiting teacher all of my married life except while in Lava Hot Springs, the first year at Burley, Idaho and while on our mission. I think I can truthfully say I have gone every month or made arrangements that I would not be home. In Burley I was given a beautiful figurine of a boy & girl and a umbrella in the wind for 100% teaching. In the Owyhee ward I gave the literature lesson. One I most remember was the "Life and plays of Shakespear." While in school I thot that reading of Shakespears plays most dull but when I studied for Relief Society I really enjoyed them and I think the class learned much. I know I did.

Also in Owyhee I taught a Sunday School class. It was the young marrieds, Robert & Lorna Munn, Irvine & Delone Durfee, Widmers, David Wyn & Marilyn plus many more. It was a good class and I enjoyed it. If I remember we went thru 2 books. One was the Articles of Faith. When I quit teaching there, I was presented with

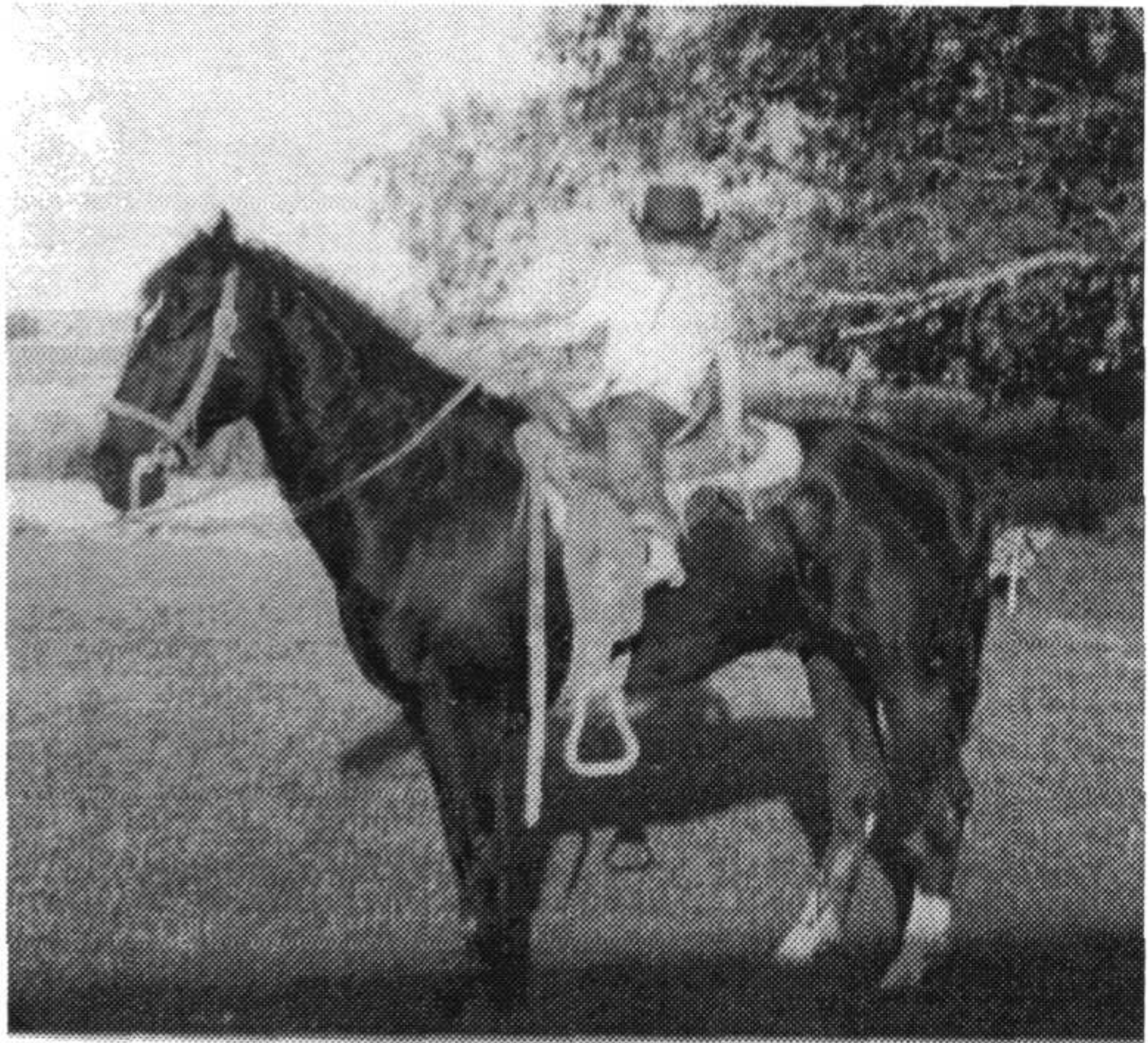
baptism." Ethel's Sunday May 1, 1980 journal entry: "...Garth came to Church—seemed right at home. Woods girls went nuts over Scott like they do all missionaries. ...We came home and made sandwiches, salad & beans, drink, fruit & cookies even left dishes and drove to Lake Windimere. It was a lovely drive. Many boats were on the lake and every car, I think, had the same idea we did. The day was warm and beautiful, held up about 1/2 hr—congestion on motorway. ...Arrived home about about 8.. After bread Jam and cookies & drink, Garth took off toward London."

a beautiful arrangement of flowers which I really didn't expect. We had good response in this class.

Some More about Dennis

Dennis and Nig

I must go back years to when Dennis was small and tell about him. I would help him on a horse we had called Nig and off he would go. One day Mrs. Woods brought him home. He told her he



Dennis riding Stoker saddle horse, Nig

was lost. He got too far from home, about a half mile away. Another time he came home leading the horse. He got off and couldn't get back on. Course the horse was older and wiser. Before Dennis started school 4 or 5 I would say, I was to the church house quilting. Lee had gone for repairs, Lora Jo home making cookies for 4-H. I got a frantic telephone call. When I got closer to home I seen lots of smoke, fire and neighbors.

Dennis Lights up for Kittens

We had told Dennis never to play with matches. We had some baby cats and they were in a pile of old boards and he couldn't see them so he remembered what we had told him about matches so he lit a candle. You know the rest. Thank goodness Lee came home soon. He ran up and cut the bank of the irrigation ditch full of water and let the whole stream come down around the stack yard. Soon manure was burning, then the hay stack & straw stack. We saved most of the hay stack, but it was several days before we felt we could leave as the fire kept starting up. No Dennis didn't get a spanking.

Lee's False Teeth Are Passed around

One Sunday after church we were getting ready to leave and a little boy about Dennis' age came and handed him Lee's false teeth.⁴ Lee had 2 sets, and couldn't wear either one without hurting. And of course one set was in his drawer in the bathroom and Dennis had taken the one to show his friends. I imagine he was 7-8. We now were only milking one or 2 cows and Dennis had the milking to do. One morning he brought in a full bucket of milk. When I went to strain it looked so watery. Come to find out he only half milked the cow and filled the bucket with water. Upon questioning him he had gotten the water out of the watering trough.

Dennis Mixes Oil and Water

He tried to get the kittens to swim in the watering trough as well as in a bucket filled with used oil.⁵ This used to upset Lora Jo very much. She was 6 years older and spent much of her time rescuing the cats from Dennis and cleaning them up. I would of now liked another baby but it was not to be.

When we moved to Washington, Dennis brought some cats as well as his dog Peg.⁶ Earl drove the truck and when they got to the house, no one of them had been there. They made a dash for the house. They had forgotten the cats. The cats took off thru the field and no one seen them after ward.⁷

⁴ Dennis says it was Gary Barton, son of Cornelius and Georgia Barton.

⁵ Quite often Dennis had the help of his nephews, Earl and Daryl Stoker, in greasing the cats.

⁶ Dennis says the date was March 19, 1969.

Dennis Gets on with His Life

After Graduation, a Mission

Dennis graduated from Connell High as well as from seminary. He could of gotten his Eagle badge in scouting but he didn't follow through. He turned every thing in to the teacher completed. Whether the teacher lost the papers or the uppers we will never know. I feel badly about it. Dennis was very good about coming home right after school and work in the field in the spring and fall.

After graduating from school Dennis attended CBC in Pasco and moved there, worked part time at garage at Penneys until the winter quarter then he transferred to Ricks.⁸ Up to now he was not interested in going on a mission. One Sunday night we got a call



Ethel riding in Keith's motor home to Dennis' wedding

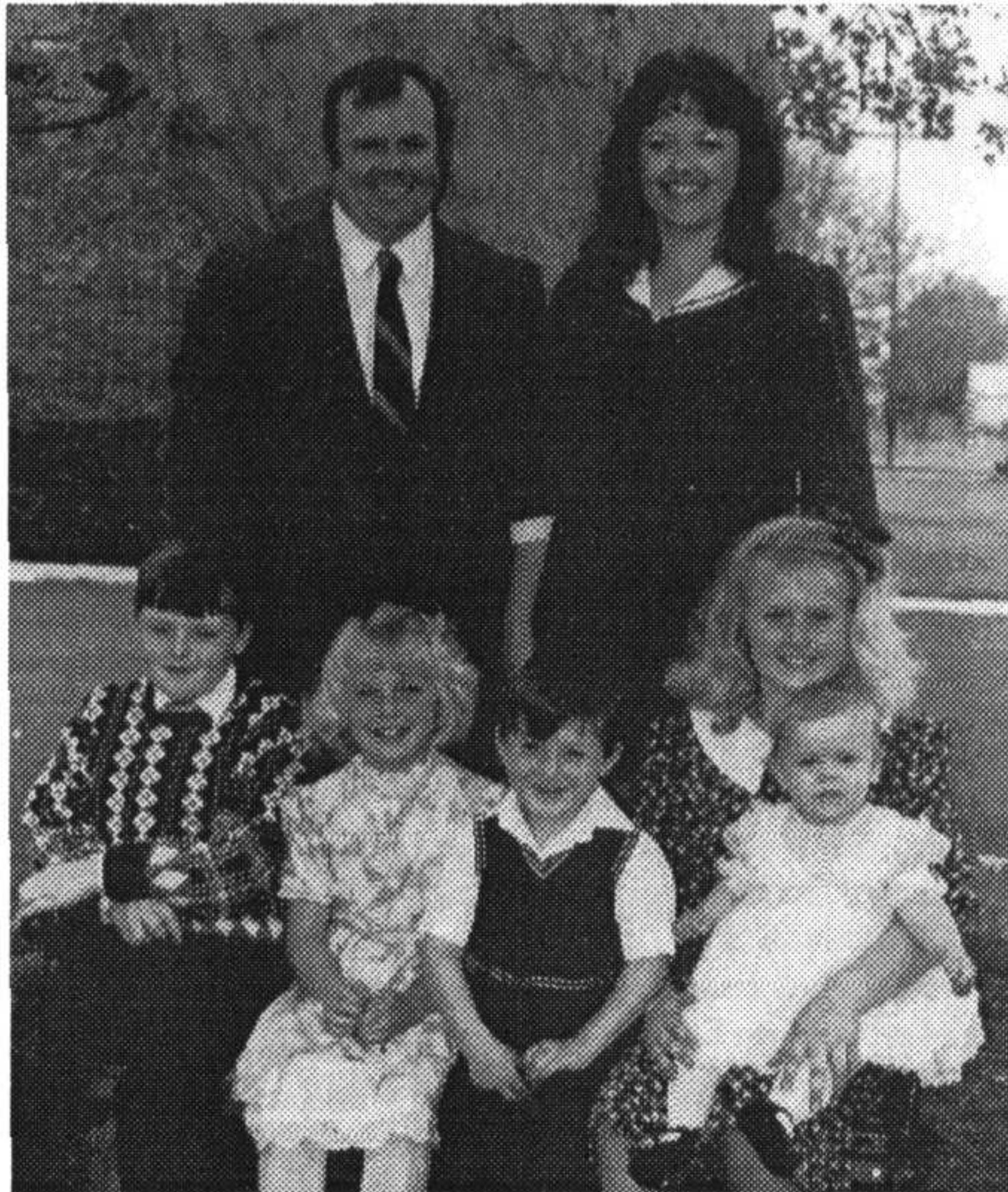
from Dennis stating he attended conference and heard Bro. Benson talk and now he was anxious to go on a mission. Of course we were thrilled. He wanted to leave as soon as possible. So in Aug 1973 he left for the Denver, Colorado mission. He spent some of his time in and around Ducheune, Utah as Zone leader.⁹ Also in Wyo. & Colo.

⁷ Jesse Earl Stoker drove truck to Washington

⁸ At both CBC and Ricks, Dennis enrolled in auto mechanics classes.

⁹ Dennis says he was senior companion in Duchensne and zone leader in Wyoming and Colorado.

The day Dennis left for his mission his dog Peg came up missing. She was old enough it was hard for her to get around. When Lee found her, she had gone to the garden and died. We called Dennis. Dennis went to S. Lake alone as we were so busy and Jim helped him as a father should.



The Dennis Stoker Family

Back: Dennis and Myra

Front: Bryce, Lauri Ann, Calvin, Mindi with Gwen

Dennis Marries Myra Burton

Dennis came from his mission and farmed with us. He started going with a girl from our ward, Myra Burton, a girl I taught in Mutual, Beehives. When they decided to get married they would live in a labor house but it required lots of repairs, \$5,318. A new roof, new floor in the bathroom etc. Lee & myself undertook to put the roof on while Mr. Page [Warren Page] did the inside. The roof was

a hot dirty job but we did get it finished. While the repairs was going on, one nite someone came and helped themselves to some furniture Myra had brought up as well as our big jack & a davenoe. We finally got bedroom & front room rug down, painting done etc. It was a very busy time, farming & getting ready for a wedding.

We rode with Keith in his motor home. Jim & Ann & Larry & Ruby went also. All met a Jim and Luray Plaisteds home 20th of July for lunch. That evening Myra went to the Temple for her endowments. We didn't go. They were wed 21 July 1976 at Provo. The marriage was solomized by Dennis' mission president [George Marion Hinckley].

All went to the Roadway resturant for dinner. We picked up the tab, \$41.00. Drove all night arriving home about 5 A.M. Reception was held in Basin City on 29 of July. Her folks did this. Sister Burton was M.C. I made a queen size peacock quilt.

The Young and the Old Part Ways

Dennis and Lee had been farming together for 2 years.¹⁰ These were hard years for both. Dennis [was] young and wanted to do things his way. Lee wanted to use the old tried way. Anyway in the early fall, Dennis pulled out and got a job and moved to the Tri Cities leaving dad the corn to harvest and the beets to dig. The family all came and helped. One afternoon 25 loads of beets were harvested. Finished beets the first of December. still corn to go but with the help of Jesse it was finished 10th of Dec.

We Lose a Great-Grandchild

On Dec 6, 1977 Jim and Luray Plaistead had a baby born in the car on the way to the hospital. It was early mabe even 2 months. The baby was taken to Spokane where it passed away. They had moved from Utah to Washington.

¹⁰ The first year Lee and Dennis farmed together. The second year, Dennis rented the farm from Lee. Doing it that way, Lee could work for Dennis and qualify for social security which at that time had a limit of the amount of money one could earn after age 65 and still receive social security payments.

Chapter 12

Nursing, Church, Trips, and Farming

I Train to Become a Nurse

I Enroll in a Mini-Nursing Class

In the spring of 1968 Georgia Barton came up to me in Sunday School and said she read in the paper that they were starting a mini nursing class and said she was going to take it as it was free so I decided I would take it also as I need help around sickness. Lee is much better around the sick than I am. It was held at the Malheur Co. Hospital. I enjoyed this very much. I scored among the highest on the tests; however, it, the course, consisted of only the basics, how to make a bed with the patient in it, sanitation, taking temps, and blood pressure, take pulse plus bed baths etc. When the course was over we were able to spend a morning watching the nurses do the real thing.

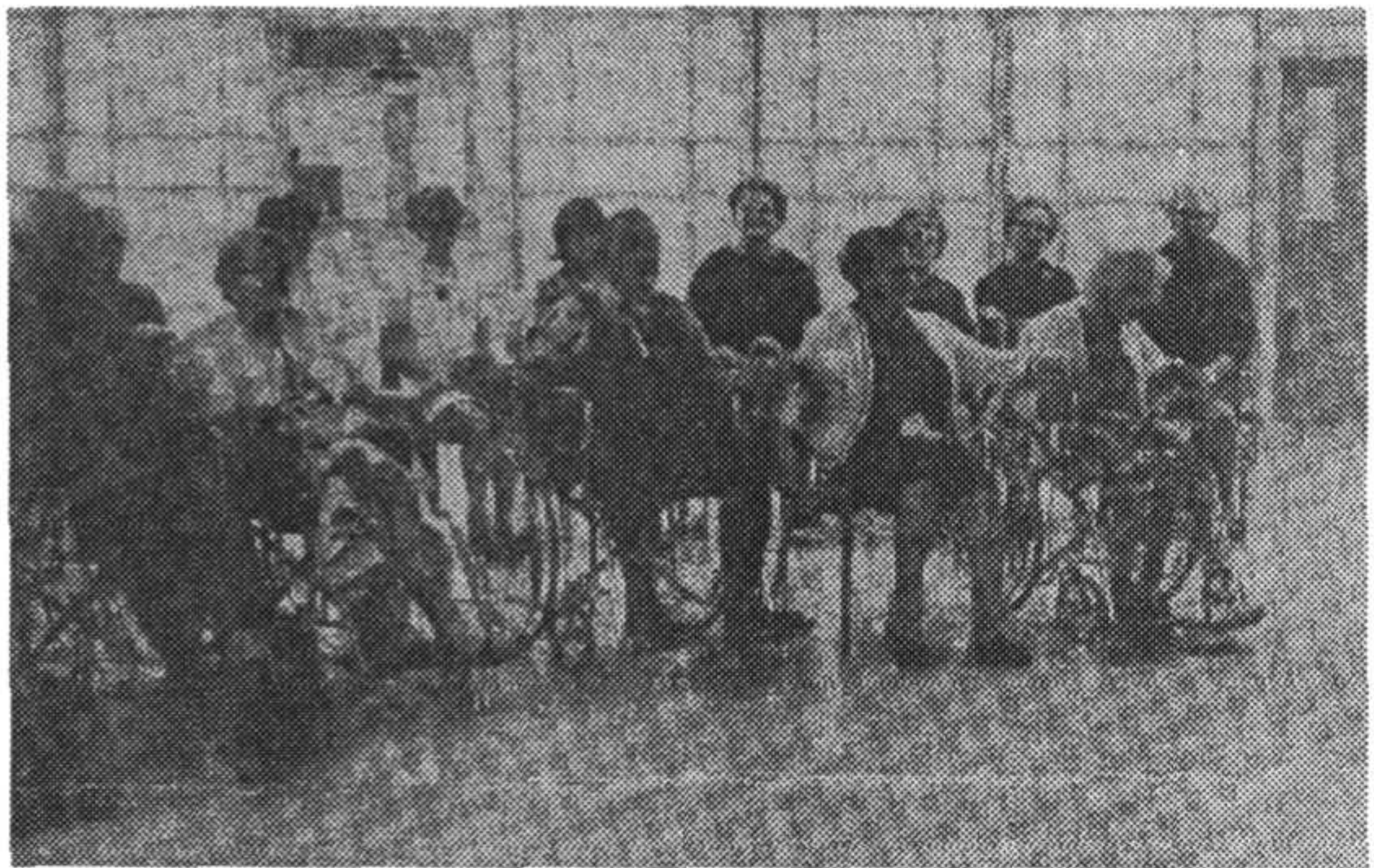
I Start Work

Only a week or so after finishing the class the hospital called and asked if I would come and help as one of the regular nurses couldn't come and they were short of help. Of course I said, "I'll be right there." Soon I was one of the regulars 6 days a week and 8 hour days. One of the first baths I had to give was to a little old man, Mr. Cudgel, who had been there for a long time. He was more or less paralyzed. Couldn't turn over without help. He had bed sores on his hips and shoulder. He would scream every time anyone would touch him. This was a ordeal for me, what with

cleaning the bed sores, moving him several times a day etc. It seemed as tho he was my patient quite often. Every day we were assigned our rooms.

The Pain on My Job

One day my assignment was to sit with a Mexican woman that had undergone surgery for hemroids until she came out of the anthesisea. Soon she was moaning, threshing around etc. I kept cold packs on her forehead & tried to make her comfortable, but soon



Ethel worked with some of these patients

she was insisting on something for pain. So I went to Mrs. Bennett, the director of nursing. We could not give medications. She said she had had a shot for pain before being brought to her room. Then this I did not know- that Mexican people have a very low threshold of pain to just keep doing what I had been to keep her comfortable. Was I glad when the shift changed.

Another time I was assigned to Mr. Bell, Joy Bells father. She was secretary of the Primary for several years. He had had a colostomy. I didn't think I was ready for that, dressing and changing bags etc, but I got along fine there. Another time a Negro man had been admitted in the nite. I worked days. When Georgia Barton worked also, but mostly nights. he was my patient and as the doctor hadn't said as yet what his problem was I had to give him a bed

bath. I got along fine till it came to washing his feet and legs. I changed water several times and scrubbed so hard I was afraid I was taking skin and all but I kept getting dirt on the wash rag but soon I dried him as I was ashamed of how hard I rubbed and how long I had been on two legs & feet.

In January of 1969, a new wing was completed on the hospital which was the nursing home. Ten patients from the hospital was wheeled down the hallway to the new part and for most it was their last move. At the start of the day until we picked up our assignments we didn't know whether we would work in the hospital or the nursing home that day. After a month or so of this I spent most of my time in the nursing home. Some were bed fast; others just old and no place to go. With the exception of one or two all were happy and non complaining. Nina Cagle, wife of man in hospital, was always complaining. We couldn't even cut her toenails right. She and her husband had not a good word for each other.

Bathing Can Get Complicated

Georgia Barton was assigned to the nursing home now also and one day we gave Mrs. Sission a bath. Most of the patients didn't like bath day at all. Most in wheel chairs were transferred to a big plastic metal chair and given showers in their chairs. Mrs. Sission didn't like showers and as she could get around herself she wanted a bath which was ok with us. She was a big woman 250 [pounds] or more and she was a complainer also. Didn't like it there at all. Georgia and myself got her standing in the tub and she asked if she could kneel instead of sit so we agreed to that. She was so large she filled the tub and when it came time to get her out she couldn't get up. And we couldn't lift her. We didn't know what to do. There was a block and tackle in the storage used for bed fast patients; however, neither of us had ever used it. So we rolled it to the tub and finally hoisted her out. Was we ever glad. Of course she was also amid all her sputtering. Needless to say she did not receive any more tub baths from us.

I Leave the Hospital Work behind

Some patients I felt very sorry for. They were all alone. Not a visitor at all. Others such as Mrs. West, Ann Beus' mother had company every day. I enjoyed my work there. I got rather close to some there. I worked to the nursing home until about a week before moving to Washington in March 1969, making almost a year at the hospital.

Mrs. Bennett complimented me on my work and said if in Wash-

ington I wanted to work in a hospital to have them write and she would give me a good recommendation. When we moved I thot I might work again but too much work at home and a hospital too far away. Now I wonder how I did it and have forgotten all I once knew.

Other Things I Remember

I Help in Church Activities

Like I said at the start I jump all around from Nyssa to Burley to Utah to Washington. After Lee was released as bishop of Owyhee ward, he was on the high council. The family went with him many times when he made his visits. I loved to visit the branches, Harper and Huntington. The people were so friendly. We even spoke a few times as well as Lee. The Nyssa stake combined with oither stakes around Boise bought a lovely place up by Idaho City as a recreation for the wards and stakes. The men built cabins, enlarged the swimming pool and did much to make it more attractive and enjoyable. Lee as Hi councilman was over it.

One year I went with the mutual girls. I had sprained my ankle and didn't get around too well but the next year I was asked to drive the girls up in a new truck of Munns. I now cringe at the thot. After one left the highway which was ok the road was narrow winding and steep. On one turn I had to back the truck up to make the curve. I almost shudder as I think now of the responsibility that was mine. The highlight of that week was a testimony meeting held in the main big house called "The Castle." One had goosepimples listening to the young girls.

Another time the High Council & wives from Nyssa spent a afternoon & evening there. Each was served a cornish hen & dressing cooked to perfection, a great place.

I Remember the 1953 Rose Parade

In 1953 we took Jim and Lora Jo to California to the Rose Parade. It was a enjoyable trip. Jim teased Lora Jo terrible. One time he said, "I see a white face" meaning cattle.

She came right back, "I see a red back." Going thru Las Vegas we left kids in the car and we hurriedly went thru one building. There I put a dime in the slot machine and hit the jackpot. A woman brought me a small paper sack to put the money in. We left leaving a trail of dimes from there to California. I'm sure everyone knew where we had been by the amount of dimes we spent.

We stayed to Lees cousins, Alex and Georgia Taylor's place. Alex delivered eggs around the city and knew every avenue and alley. The morning of the Rose parade, to me, things moved so slow. After breakfast the TV was even turned on and we seen the start of the parade. I hated to seem pushy but soon I mentioned that we had better get going. I couldn't see driving clear to California just to see the parade on TV. Oh, Alex said I'll get you there ok. So we watched the TV until the parade was half over. Then we went thru alleys to almost the end of the route. There Alex paid a man to park on his lawn. We walked a block or so to find the start of the parade coming. We even found a place to sit. Watched all of the parade. And was home before many had gotten to their cars. Lee took pictures of it but must of bumped his camera & got it out of focus. The shots were terrible.

Funerals of Our Friends

About 1961 we were called to Utah by the death of Frank Thompson of cancer, one of the 3 men that married West Weber girls. We had visited him in Roy earlier when he was ill. Lee was bishop at the time and was asked to speak at the funeral. He gave a very good talk. Everyone commented how good it was. Glenda passed away in her sleep about 10 years later. She was active in the church, was stake Relief Society president. Once again Lee was called on to go to Utah to occupy the pulpit.

Now both Glenda and Marjory, my closest friends while growing up were gone. Mar took her life after childbirth. She married a Roy boy, George Vestra. He was not a member of the church while married to Marj but he later married Lola Herrick Blanch, Elmer Blanches widow and joined the church. They, Marj & George had several boys and a girl. Her death was caused by "Childbirth depression." Vern and Cleone are divorced and both have remarried bu Vern is divorced again. Vern called us just before we left for our mission and talked for 30 minutes. He said it was big mistake when he divorced Cleone. The six of us had a lot of years of good clean fun.

Lee Serves as a Bishop

Lee had served as bishop for 6 years from Nov 11, 1956 to 1962; however, he had been in the bishopric for 12 years. Released as bishop Feb 1962 and was immediately put on the High Council of the Nyssa stake with Erickson as president. In this position until we moved to Washington.

Our Farming Operation in the Mid-Sixties

The years 1965 & 1966 were busy ones for us. We run 256 acres of our own land, lot of it in alfalfa seed tho but it was work spraying for dodder but the seed turned out good and we made money. We also rent from Willard Bishop as well as a island in the Snake River below Ballantynes. It was a bird refuge and hadn't been farmed for years. The only way to get to the island was by a ferry. It was connected to a cable that ran across from the shore to shore so the current wouldn't take the ferry down stream. The ferry was run by a gas motor which sometimes took up to 30 minutes to get started.



Jesse working on potato planter

This venture was a lot of good hard work for what we got out of it; however, our crops were good but having to ferry potatoes and beets across was a nightmare. I don't think I've been so thoroughly give out and tired as the 2 years we ran the island. One day we had grader cross over to grade for cement ditches. It almost made it across but it was so heavy it sank ferry and all as it neared shore. The water was shallow enough there that the grader made it on its own to the bank. A large picture and article came out in the Nyssa Gate City Journal. After two years we gave it up and it re-

verted back to a bird refuse.

Ore-Ida, a potato processing company, planted acres and acres of potatoes just out of Ontario, Ore and we took our harvester and trucks over and helped in the harvest. We took our camper and stayed right there. Audrey's mother and dad helped us and stayed there also. Sister Mecham & myself worked on the harvester. It was long hours and dirty but I enjoyed it. Toward the end Mr. Mecham got sick and was put in the hospital where he passed away with a heart attack. The second year we helped but traveled back & forth. Did real well financially the first year but not the best potatoes and not so many the second year.

We Buy Farmland in Washington

We lived in Sunset Valley and Jesse lived in the Bend about 20 miles apart. We were working together so it meant lots of traveling. If one wanted a wrench or a piece of machinery, it would likely be to the other place. Then the alkali bees had all been killed off so the alfalfa seed was not profitable now. So the men began looking for land all in one place.

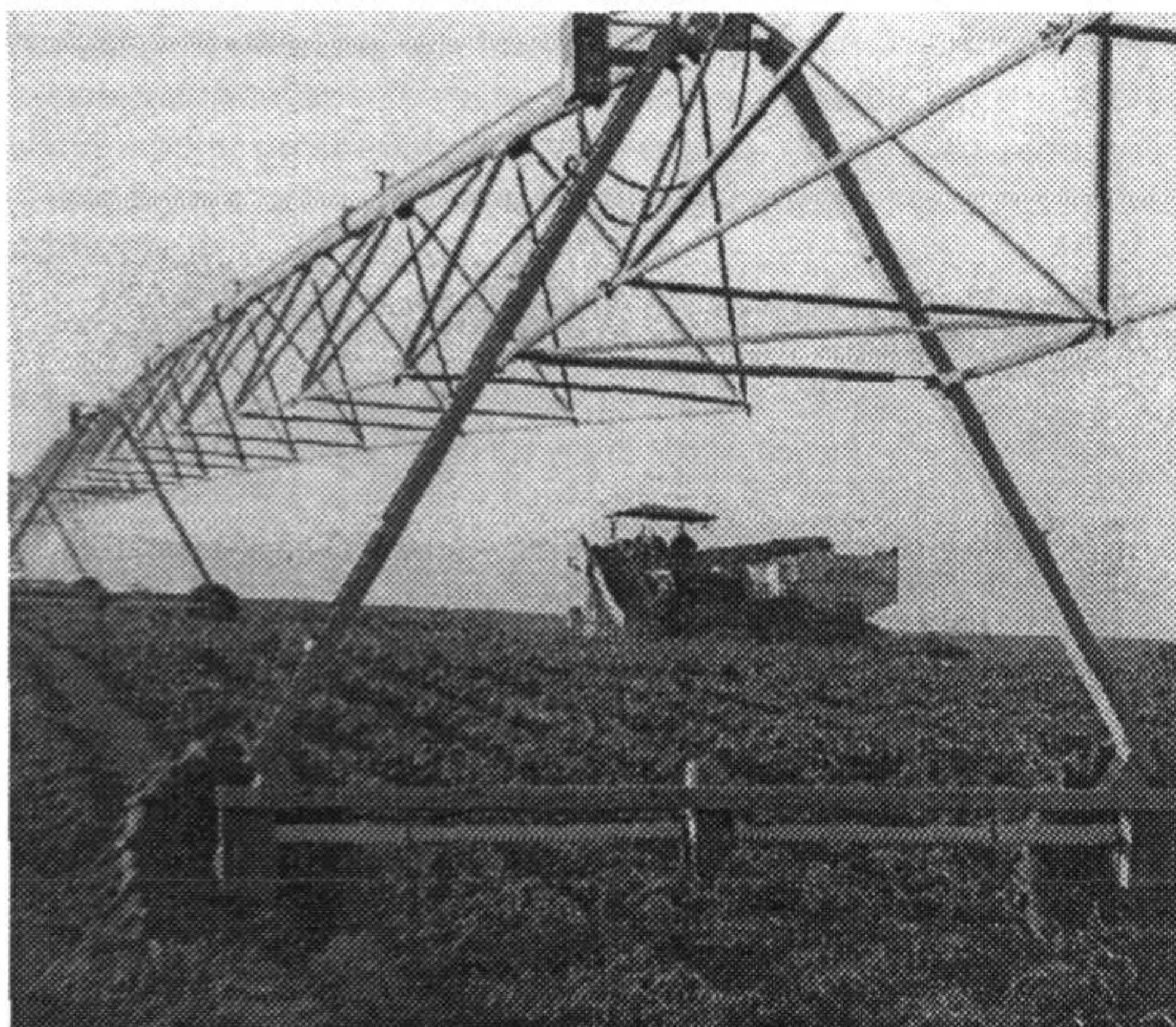
We made a trip to Washington in the fall of 1968 and located a place of 526 acres in Basin City belonging to Morey Koester that we all liked. Moreover, it had 3 houses on the land. No deal was made at this time. So in the winter Lee went to Washington and stayed to Keith's and worked out a deal to trade places for tax purposes. Later Morey sold the Sunset farm to Robert Munn. I don't know who bought the Bend place.¹

On 20th of March 1969 we held a farm sale and sold what we didn't think we would need in Washington. As usual the sale didn't bring what we had hoped for, \$5342. A Mexican boy had been working for us so he moved also. Armando Veloz. He had a wife and baby. They lived in the labor house that later we fixed up for Dennis. The men loaded the tractors and what machinery they could on two trucks, took them to Wash. Then came back for the furniture.

It was quite a procession, Lee, Jesse, Audrey and Earl driving trucks and me bringing up the rear in the car. We had no problems

¹ In 1985, the farm in Big Bend was owned and operated by Dick Bennet, a classmate of Jim's at Adrian High school.

at all and arrived in the late afternoon so it was a busy evening getting the beds set up and something unpacked to eat. next day the men hurriedly unloaded the trucks in the middle of the floor and took to the fields as they were late starting to farm. So it fell the womens lot to unpack and put away. While I was busy working, Lois Bybee Mitchell came and brought us a plate of cinnamon



Stokers harvesting potatoes in Washington

rolls. Greatly appreciated. The men had been working but a few days when we got one of Washingtons dust storms. Lee planted grain till noon then decided it would only blow out so we got in the truck and headed for Nyssa for more machinery. I had not cleaned the house very good and was going to do that but to my horror when I went to clean Robert and Lorna had wanted to get moved also so they piled what I had left in a corner and cleaned as well as painted the fruit room in the basement.

In 1971 and 1972 we rented land of jack Gannon about a mile from us. The boys Earl, Daryl, Donald & Dennis were old enough now to be a big help on the farm.

Some More Accidents

Lora Jo and Her Boys in a Car Wreck

In the afternoon of 23 April 1971 I received a call from Vanae telling us that Lora Jo, Joey & Lee had been in a accident coming from Ontario and that all were in the Ontario hospital.

I got in the car to go tell Lee but had to wait awhile as I got such a funny feeling in my arms and across my chest. When I got to Lee in the field we decided we had better go down. I called Keith to tell them about it and Keith offered to fly us down in their plane. It was after dark when we arrived there. went directly to the hospital. Lora Jo looked terrible, face all black & blue & red & cracked ribs. Lee about 17 mo. old had a bad cut on his forehead close to his eye. His left eye was quite droopy. Joey was unconscious so was taken to Boise to the hospital. They were not sure of the extent of his injuries.

The next morning we went with Dave to Boise. Joey had come to in the nite but that is all we knew.

I'm writing this on the 13 of June 1986 and not feeling too well so my sriting is all shaky, but must finish.

Lee and Keith left for home on Sunday leaving me & Genevie there. Lora Jo came home Sunday along with Lee. In my hurry to leave home I forgot my purse. Didn't even have a checkbook. Joey came home Sat. May 11. He had a brace on his neck. Found out later he had a broken leg. That is why he cried every time he was moved.

Another funny thing happened. Genevie & myself took a baby quilt I had made to Mrs. Hills in Vale to be hemstitched. I had borrowed \$10 from Genevie so I wouldn't be broke. While in Vale we decided to eat & nothing do but I pick up the bill. So went my \$10 & I was still broke. Keith flew down Sat. afternoon for us leaving Lora Jo & kids on the mend. Thankful that they were not hurt worse. The car was totaled, figured a tie rod or something came loose. The car went down a 12 ft embankment but landed right side up.

Skip is Burned

In May 1971 Keith called & said Skip was in the Othello Hospital with burns. He had evidently put gas on hot coals to make some green willows burn. He was burned on the side of the face, arm, shoulder & back. Some 3rd degree. He will carry the scars but it could of been worse. On Sunday June 6 1971 Keith was released

as Othello Ward bishop.² He was sustained 8 June 1963.

I Lose My Glasses

We had more work on the farm than Dad Jess & the boys could handle so once again to the field both Audrey & myself went setting syphon tubes, harrowing corn & cultivating spuds. One day while I was out cultivating spuds I got so sleepy I couldn't stay awake so I stopped in the middle of a row, climbed off the tractor & lay between 2 spud rows. I took off my glasses & put them on top of a row. I dozed off. Came to & was so ashamed of being stopped so long I jumped on the tractor & took off, forgetting my glasses. I made a round or two before I missed them. Unusual because my glasses are the last thing I take off at nite & the first thing I put on in the morning. I looked & looked but couldn't find them so no more work for the rest of the day. Next morning I was in Kennewick for another pair. Course I had to wait for the new ones. In the meantime I kept looking and would you believe it I did find my old ones so now no excuse back to the tractor & spuds.

My Hardest Teaching Assignment

Early in 1971 was called to teach first year Beehive girls. I was set apart by Ken Benson. It was the hardest and least rewarding class I have ever taught. I felt like I was not accepted by the girls. Guess I found I am not a youth teacher. Love little Primary, R S & Sunday school older ones but not Beehives.

Earl Marries Cheri Rush

On Dec 10 1971 Earl, Jesse's oldest boy was married to Cheri Rush. We left Dec. 8 headed for his wedding to the Idaho Falls Temple.

Our Ordeal Getting to the Wedding

When we left home we knew the heater wasn't working in our Buick so we would stop to the garage in Pasco to have it repaired. It was noon before we got away and when we got to the garage they didn't have the part to fix it so was told to go to Pendleton. Which we did. It had been a bright winter day. Snow covered the land but now it was beginning to cloud up and turn colder. We

² Keith states that the date was June 7.

made it to Pendleton with a quilt covering my legs only to be told they didn't have the part either but to go to La Grande. Again off we went but the farther we traveled the colder it got and the roads by now were snow covered. About dark it started to rain, a freezing rain that when it hit the windshield, it froze as we had on defroster to melt it off.

Soon we couldn't see at all. Lee rolled down his window and put his head out the window. He did bring a old cap with him to protect his head but it didn't take long before his face was freezing.



Ethel Shares Memories

Everything was white. One could hardly make out the road. So I rolled down my window to tell him how close he was to the edge. We was thankful there was almost no traffic as we kept in the middle of the road.

We figured if we ever made it to Meham we would spend the nite ther but alas when we got there only a service station was open. Everything closed for the winter. We purchased some stuff to put on the windshield to keep it from freezing as well as some salt. But our purchases were in vain. Nothing helped so again window down and face freezing. He asked if I had a scarf he could put over his nose & mouth. I did have a nylon one in my purse. When he went to put it on he found he could see thru it so he tied it over his head, replaced the cap and we were on our way once more. The

scarf helped immensely. The rain didn't pound Lee's face yet he could see. By going slow we finally reached la Grande very very cold only to find that the road between Le Grande and Baker was closed and all traffic headed toward Baker was stopped at le Grand so all motels, hotels, etc. was filled and had been for some hours. We were told we could go to a big hall with many others. No beds but it was warm & out of the weather. It certainly didn't appeal to us.

A Good Samaritan

We stopped to a gas station and Lee asked if he knew a LDS bishop there. He said he did and gave us his telephone no. Lee called him and he said he himself was stuck in his lane but told us to wait there & he would find somewhere for us to go. Soon he called back and soon the call came. We were told to stay there and the MIA stake pres would come and pilot us to his home. Before the help came another couple came with no place to go. So when our help came, Lee asked if they would have room for this other couple. Which he did. We followed him home. The wife had a nice supper prepared for us. Before we had finished eating a knock came on the door. It was 2 car loads from Royal City headed to the temple also for a marriage. These people knew each other. A neighbor was contacted and couple that came with us spent the night with them.

The people from Royal had several sleeping bags so most of them spent the night on the floor. We had a room to ourselves and a very good bed. During the night the weather had moderated some. So after a lovely breakfast we tried to pay for our lodgings but was rejected. Thank goodness for good church members and their goodness to us. We would of frozen in our car. The people owned the Artic Circle there and had a very lovely home. We were told where the Buick garage was and were on our way once more. The garage did have the part we needed and by the time repairs were made the road had been opened and the sun came out. It ended up a beautiful winter day.

We made it to Idaho Falls in good shape. Jesse said they were about the last ones to make it thru before they closed the road. Earl and Cheri was married 10 Dec 1971. After the ceremony we drove to Burley and spent the night there. The next day the roads were perfect all the way home. I don't think I have ever been so cold or so grateful for the kindness of people.

Appendix

1—Some Letters Ethel Received

Letter 1

*Letter written by Margaret Blanch Mayberry, Hooper Route 1 ,
Utah, to Mrs. Lee Stoker, RFD 3 Parma, Idaho, Oregon Side.*

Hooper Utah Dec 20 1950

I am writing a bit of history of my father Wheatley Blench who was born Apr. 7 1830 joined the church in Eng Durham Co. March 24, 1855. He left his native land his mother had died when he was 2 yr old so his sisters Hannah & Margaret raised him & his father Ralph Blench

...He [Wheatley] married my mother who came from Denmark about 1873 after the railroad was here when she came with her father and her 2 children Georgena Jardine & Joseph Blench their father never joined the church They were both sealed to my father & mother in the Logan Temple July 19, 1922. Joseph died in West Weber June 26, 1929. Laura May E. Blanch died Feb. 14, 1942.

...I don't think there was ever a more honest man than mothers father [Jorgen Larsen] he loved the gostel [sic] so much although he never learned the language. Joe's father tried to prevent mother from coming to this cuntry & taking Joe when he was one yr old but grandfather Larsen was determined to bring mother & her two children here as she was all he had left there was one son older than mother but he was never home much after he joined the army now I thought you might like to have this in the family as I am the only one left that knows anything about it all

Best wishes

Margaret B Mayberry

Letter 2

Letter written by Margaret Blanch Mayberry, Mesa Ariz Jan 23 1951 to Vanae Stoker, Route 3, Parma, Idaho.

Mesa Ariz Jan 23 1951

Dear Vanae Stoker,

We was so pleased to hear from you folks and that you won that lovely prize[, a Book of Mormon for having a winning Book of Remembrance (family history)]. I was thinking maby you would like a little history of your grandfather [Joseph Blanch] while I can't remember his fathers name Mother told me but I didnt write it down so of coarse didnt remember it but he was sealed to my father & mother ~~1925~~ 1922 in Logan Temple and was blessed by one of the elders in Denmark when he was nearly ~~1-yr~~ abt or 6 months old and named after Joseph Smith Mother told him & he said if so why didnt you name me the Smith also and I would have had a initial "S" well it gives him all the rights and privileges as one born under the covenant.

My father [Wheatley Blanch] was a very relegious man but weak in doing some things. My mother was a second wife and at that time had no rights at all & his first wife controwled everybody around and they were all so scared of her. You see they were jail-ing all the poligamests & he was never well and just couldnt take it. So he never took much interest in Mothers 2 children. She washed on the board to previde for us.

His first wife she was one of the meanest women I ever seen She got Annie as a baby from England & never sent her to school one day in her life & kept her as a slave. I had one sister [Mamie] that died with typhoid fever at the age of 15 Oct 9, 1887. Father died 9th of Nov 1887 I was so young then but I do remember them

So we always had to do for ourselves. When a young boy Joe herded cows & one dark night he didnt come home & Geena went to hunt him & cried all the way saying she knew he had drowned in the river but finaly meet him on the way. I guess he had a mission to fill so he freighted thru.

I wish you could have seen him as I have seen him in a dream. I just yelled out look at him look at him how beautiful he is & Chas woke me up & said whats the matter I replied I just seen Joe as we called him. Yes they told about him at your grandmas funeral how he had helped so many poor people your mother may remember some of these things.

Well we are down to Leonas in Mesa Ariz in the land of sunshine & flowers it is lovely the temple grounds is mabe as pretty as the garden of Eden now Yes i have a good memory & could tell you a lot of history. No one has time any more to listen

Letter

Letter written on August 31, 1943, by George T. Blanch, 557 Boulevard, Logan, Utah to Mrs. Lee Stoker, F.R.D., Burley, Idaho.

Dear Ethel,

At last the job of settling up the estate has been essentially completed. You will find inclosed a statement of the financial condition at the time of settlement and the distribution.¹ If any part of this is not clear, or if you should desire any further information, I shall be glad to provide the additional information. Most of the details were gone over and approved at the meeting held at John's last winter so that it seems unnecessary to repeat all of that here.

There is one item that appears on the expenses that was not contemplated, that of abstracting which cost \$211.50. This also accounts for the fact that the final settlement for each individual is only \$975.00 instead of the \$1000.00 which had been planned on. Should there be any errors in this statement, or in the settlement, I should appreciate being informed of the same.

Inclosed herewith is a note made out to you and signed by Parl and Eliza for you full share of \$975.00. This constitutes final settlement of the estate with you and is in accordance with the agreement previously made with you. You will note that the note is made for the period of five years but may be paid off sooner. Also that it carries interest at the rate of five percent. My understanding when you called here some time ago was that you would be satisfied with four percent, however, Elize [sic] said five percent and my recollection of what you told me may be in error. If you desire to make any adjustment you of course can do so.

Will you please send me Don's address so that I can write to him? I would also like to have Eva's address as I want to clear this with her before making any payment to Don. [Ethel's brother, Donald Blanch and his wife, Eva Johnson, moved to Burley, Idaho. They divorced.] Any suggestions on that problem will be appreciated.

¹ See "Financial Statement of Blanch Estate" heading in this appendix.

In concluding the settlement of the estate let me express my appreciation for the cooperative attitude and fine disposition displayed by yourself, as well as all other members of the family, in making the settlement amicable.

Sincerely yours,
George

Letter

Letter written May 29, 1959 by George T. Blanch, USOM-Iran, Ag. Div., APO 205, New York, N.Y. to Mr. and Mr. Lee H. Stoker, Route 2, Nyssa, Oregon, USA

Dear Stokers,

Today is one of the many Iranian holidays which we benefit from. It is the birthday of one of the Iman's, or former heads of the Moslem religion. Not having to work I resolved to write a few letter that I have been meaning to write for several months. Maybe I can get one or two finished since I've no one here to make me do something else. It is not a holiday for the school kids and Eva went with the school bus.

Joe's school will be out the end of next week. We feel that his schooling has not suffered by being here. After the initial week or two he, and the rest of the group here, has enjoyed it. He has had more home work than in Logan and in most of his classes the quality of instruction has been equal or superior. There hasn't been as much extra-curricular activities in the form of athletics, dances and such, but there has been some. Our kids here have participated quite extensively. It takes about an hour each morning and night in travel which involves some risk here, but so far there has been no accidents.

There have been times when Barbara and a couple of others who have no school here have been bored. They all have been doing some correspondence study but that doesn't take the place of personal associations. Barbara has had a few part-time jobs of typing and tending children, but now has a more or less steady typing job. It is not certain how long it will last but she, and we hope for a couple of more months. She is happier working. Transportation from here to Tehran at hours that will fit with working hours has been the biggest problem. She will return home and go to school this fall.

Tom will be released from his mission [in New Zealand] about the middle of August and will come this way and spend a few days with us. Then he, Barbara, and John, and Julia Walker, children of

one of our staff will return together. Present plans are to visit Jerusalem, then Tom will go to Athens and Rome while the others go to Vienna. The others have seen Rome. Then they will meet in Frankfurt, Germany, and pick up a car which Tom has bought and see some of Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. They will ship the car from Rotterdam, fly to London for 2 or 3 days and then cross the water by ship, pick up the car and drive home. Wish I or the rest of us could make about the same trip when we return. Tom has been First Counsellor in the mission presidency for the past three months or so. He seems to have enjoyed his work very much. We will be glad to see him if only for a few days.

We often wonder how Jimmy has been getting along. If he should go the long way round to get home we would be happy to have him stop and see us. We are the air lines going west and there would be no extra cost to stop off here. However, we have found that there is a few dollars extra cost to come this way. It isn't too much more than the Church allows however. If Tom travels tourist class his extra fare will amount to around \$400 to New York City. This would be by air to London and ship from London to NYC. It will not include the travel by car that they do in Europe. It would be nice if Jimmy & Tom were released at the same time and could travel together. But I suppose Jimmie's time is not up until some time later. If I remember correctly his is a 2 1/2 or 3 year assignment.

We have been comfortable here. We have a nice house and nice surroundings to live in. The weather so far has not been extreme. The first month or two was plenty warm but we didn't suffer. The winter was mild compared with Logan and the past month or two has been delightful. The summer is normally hot and dry. All the natives here are not so fortunate as we in their living conditions. Even though the winters are mild I don't envy them, their houses, either in winter or summer. I mean the common people. Mud huts with no conveniences of any kind—Recently I have had an occasion to assemble some statistics on the agriculture of the country. While some of these are not too accurate, they may illustrate the condition of the farm people. And about 75 percent of all the people of Iran live on farms.

The average farm family consists of 5 people. The work force, the man, his wife and children is figured as the equivalent of two men. The average farm has the equivalent of about 5 acres of crop land. Of this about one-third is dryland and the balance is irrigated.

A little more than half of the land is planted to wheat and about 15 percent to barley. Fruits, vegetables, rice, pulses, sugar beets and quite a variety of crops are grown, but of these only the fruits, vegetables, rice, cotton and pulses are grown in quantity. Hay is practically not grown at all. The average farm has about 1 3/4 head of cattle, 5 or 6 goats, 7 or 8 sheep and the same number of chickens. Being Moslems very few hogs are produced. The livestock subsist almost entirely by grazing, and most of the grazing land is almost devoid of vegetation. In addition, the quality of the animals are very poor compared with what we are accustomed to. Most of them are very poorly nourished. Crop yields generally will not average more than half of the U.S. average. Livestock yields will; and I am guessing here; not average as much as half. Probably about one third. Most of the work is done by man labor except plowing, most of which is done with oxen and a steel pointed wooden plow which merely scratches the ground. The laborers have very few, and those of poor quality, tools to work with. A shovel is about the only thing that seems to be universally available.

You wonder how the families live. I wonder also. My figures indicate that the gross value of the farm production (sale plus what is used by the family) amounts to the equivalent of \$288 per farm family. Of this 30 percent is the landlord's share. Not many own their own land. This income is supplemented by some income from work off the farm and some handicraft work at home, such as basket and rug weaving, broom making etc. But the amount can't be large for the average. A dollar here will not buy as much of most foods, as it will at home. At least ours doesn't. Meat is an exception. Such as it is it's cheaper there than at home. most families live very , very meagerly. Bread is the staple food. With a little milk, (from cows or sheep, or goats) some vegetables in season and tea and sugar. With very little meat. By our standards they don't live, they barely exist. I am sure that many are often hungry and cold, and also they eat things that we never consider as food at all, and a quality of food that we would hesitate to give to the pigs.

Most of the people are illiterate, but many, at least, are not dumb. With education, leadership and training, they could be as capable as anyone.

The processes of education and democracy are slow. They are sure if there is enough time and are of the right kind. In some countries, the people haven't been able to wait. I hope they can here.

We hope all is well with you, and will continue so. Eve, Barbara

and Joe, I am sure, would wish me to add their greeting and their best wishes.

Sincerely,
George

Letter and Christmas Card

Message written in Christmas card for 1959 by Eva Baxter Blanch from Iran to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Stoker, Route # 2, Nyssa, Oregon.

Another Christmas in Iran and we are all well and happy. We enjoyed so very much our visit with Tom in August and hated to have him and Barbara leave but they seem very happy in school. George has been conducting a marketing study for Cento during the past 2 1/2 months and has done a lot of travelling in Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. It has been most interesting to him. Joe likes school here very much. He is student body president of the American School here and on the basketball team. We have 14 children out here at college and they all seem to like it. They go in to Tehran each day to school.

Hope you are all well and happy,
George, Eva & Joe

Letter

Undated Letter written by Mrs. Sarah Blanch Judkins, Salt Lake City, Utah sometime in September possibly 1962 to Ethel Blanch Stoker, Route 2, Nyssa, Oregon.

Dear Sister Ethel,

I hope it has been a Happy Birthday. I'm always late saying it, but I wanted to write a note and the way things worked I was going to be late anyway so I thought one more day would not make any difference. So "Happy Birthday."

I have intended to write and find out about your honey, if you have some to sell, and the price and if anyone might be coming down and have room to bring some? Maybe if weather permits we could make another vacation and come and get it. We wanted beans from Jesse too. I'm writing this in a car while Joyce [Judkins Parkins, her daughter] is in getting some ice cream. Maybe you can't read it.

I hope everyone is well and everything is going O.K. I'll be hearing from you. And many thanks for a very nice vacation [possibly the visit to the Seattle World Fair] I had with you. As far as I know, my family are all o.k. Some slight colds, myself included, but I think I'll [be] fine. Sarah

Letter

Letter and birthday card postmarked 20 Sep 1967, written by Sarah Blanch, Judkins, 1446 E. 6050 South St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84121 to Mrs. Ethel Stoker, box 421, Rt 2, Nyssa, Oregon 97913.

Written on a birthday card—An other Birthday, they will come. Hope yours is a happy one and your wishes all come true. It is a long time no hear from you. I called Verda [Stoker Nelson, Lee's sister] and asked about Jim, but she didn't have his ~~address~~ phone number and I haven't heard from him. [Jim Stoker was teaching at Central Junior High on 2nd East and 3200 South, living with other bachelors] How is the family, all of yours? still working hard. Well don't work too hard.

It s good to be able to work when you do feel like it. I get awfull tired some times without doing any thing. Have had a painfull ear ache in my right ear about 10 O'clock night before last. It is much better this morning but it don't feel right. Sort of clogged feeling. I should have Nina [daughter who is a nurse] washed it out yesterday evening. I had supper there and she offered to do it. I was helping with some sewing for a daughter. Nina is a doctors office girl at Kearns and she likes it o.k. now she is on to it. And the doctor likes here work real well. He gave her a raise in pay sooner than she expected he would as in the agreement when she started. She has to get up earlier to get her house and children taken care of before going. Pam [Nina's daughter] is back in Ricks [College] again and doing some work there too.

We, Glen and I, went up to Logan and saw George the day before his birthday. I went up to say happy Birthday to Newell [her son] and took a sister-in-law up and called Eliza but got no answer. Called Glen and talked to him and told him I had tried to eliza on the phone and ask her if she could go and he said if I had my car he would go with me so we went. Didn't see Eva [George Blanch's wife] as she and some women were at the college having a meeting of some kind but he was home for lunch and he looked fine. He is not teaching [at Utah State University], but he has an office there and an assistant helper and it is ag work they do. He, George, was going to Vernal the next day (he thot) for a few days to work on it. It was his birthday on the 8th [September] too.

Lynn [Sarah' son] and Marybell [Lynn's wife] went to Texas to bring Clint home from his mission. He was to be released on the 21 I think he said.

By

Letter

Letter, written by Mrs. Laura Blanch Hancock, West Weber, Utah sometime late summer 1962, to Ethel Blanch Stoker, Route 2, Nyssa, Oregon.

Dear Sis,

Just a line to let you know alls well here and to thank you for your hospitality while we were there. Really enjoyed the trip. We got home around 9:30 Sun. Stopped at Don's [in Burley, Idaho]. Georgia was sick. Flue I suppose. Others were the same. Eliza is ok now. Looks better. Never did find out any more from the Xrays.

Been cold night and mornings since we got home. Warmer this a.m. tho. Haven't seen Sarah nor heard from SL since she left Mon. Morning. Thought we would get down to the fair [Utah State fair] but we didn't.

Hope alls well there and tell all hello and thanks again [Probably for Ethel taking her sisters to the Seattle Worlds Fair.]

Bye now

Laura

Letter

Letter written by Mrs. Eliza Blanch Wagstaff, West Weber, Utah and sent sometime in September 1973 to Ethel Blanch Stoker, Mesa, Washington.

Dear Sister,

Happy Birthday.

Think you for the birthday gift and card and very nice letter. I have thought about you all summer, wondering how you were getting along.

The summer has gone fast. And lots of work. The men are in the corn but they don't get enough hrs in to get much done. They are busy milking cows, feeding and cleaning after them. About all the cows are milking now so it takes about 8 hrs a day to care are for them. We have a full time hired man now so I have been taking it easy for the past mo. but still don't get much done. Hav been doing peaches, pears, prunes. Gave \$8.00 [a bushel] for peaches, \$4.75 pears, \$1.25 for prunes. Then Laura [Sarah's brother, Glen's wife] called this morning and ask if I would like some. Said Glen was picking them today. Then Elsie gave me a bucket full. So I think I had all the prunes I wanted.

She also said Tom Blanch's wife had a lump in her breast and has had it taken off and found cancer. Eva [Tom's mother, from Logan] is here [in Ogden] taking care of the children.

Newel Judkins [son of sister Sarah] called. His boy is home from his mission and is going to talk Sunday night and gave us an invitation to come and hear him and come to the house after and have refreshments. He said he had called Glen and John.

Alta [Judkins Bailey, daughter of Sarah] had told him Sarah wasn't too good. Said she just sit and staired. But was giving her the pills hoping it would bring her out of it by Sun.

Flora[Etherington Garner, a cousin] spent a few hrs with me about three weeks ago they had come to Deb's brother's funeral in Idaho and came on down. She isn't too good but had a nice visit with her.

I guess I will drive the corn truck this afternoon for a while. So had better get busy. Hope this finds everyone well.

Love,
Eliza

P.S. Sure was glad to hear Dennis got a mission call. Is he enjoying it? A boy from our ward was in the mission home at the same time. Am sending the hose back as part of your birthday. I take a 10 1/2. Thank you again.

Letter

Letter written by Mrs. Eliza Blanch Wagstaff and postmarked 20 September 1978, 747 S. 4700 W., Ogden, Utah 84401 to Mrs. Ethel Stoker, 721 S. Billington, Othello, Washington 99344

Dear Sis,

We got the first frost of the year last night. Everything was white this morn. Got snow on the mountains Sunday so we may be in for a cold winter. That's when I would like to go south.

We haven't started in the corn yet. It hasn't been ready. A few had and quit—too much water in it. Now it's frosted and it turns warm, it will be dryer. still have 65 acres of 4th crop of hay.

Got my peaches up. Gave \$10 a bushel for them. Gave up on the pears. So bought a case. Dad likes cottage cheese on them for supper. Haven't put up any tomatoes for myself. Put up 16 qts for LaNea yesterday.

Got a letter from Grant. His daughter is moving to Bountiful. Has a job with Albion.

Glen had a spell the other week. Said he got so dizzy he couldn't stand up. Stayed in bed all day. But is feeling better. Put up pears, peaches & tomatoes. I got him a 1/2 bu. of peaches when I got mine. Took me in showed me the room he had made in the basement and all his fruit. He was quite proud of it.

Eva called and wanted some information on genealogy. Said they were all well.

The mail will soon be here.

So hope this finds all well. It leaves here that way. have to make scalloped potatoes for opening social in R.S. tonight.

Love

Eliza

Letter

Letter written May 4, 1983 by Eliza Blanch Wagstaff, 747 S. 4700 W., (West Weber), Ogden, Utah 84401 to Mrs. Ethel Blanch Stoker 721 S. Billington, Othello, Washington 99344.

Dear Ethel and Lee,

Has spring arrived up there yet? All we have here is rain & more rain. No one has any crops in yet. And the way the weather man talks we are going to get more. It will be a week now if no more comes before we can get on the ground. The [Weber] river is high now. If it stays cool, may not get flooded. [much of the Wagstaff's ground lays along the river] Never know. The weeds grow tho.

How are both of you? Well, I hope. There has been a lot of sickness around. Val [Hancock, Laura's son] is just getting over the flu. [His wife,] Margaret was operated on a mo. ago for cancer, removed her breast and is taking treatments every Thursday. It gives diarrhea the next day but she is in good spirits. Comes to Church again. Heard she could live five yrs. Val is taking it hard. She is a loving person.

Did you know Don [Eliza and Ethel's younger brother] has had a heart attack. His heart was damaged about 10%. Has to keep packs on his heart. But is home and doing good. Is caring for his wife who has had surgery on her neck. There were five spurs on her neck. Scrapped them off. Started with pain in her side & went to her knee. Called two weeks ago and she said they were both doing good. Her dad is with them all the time now.

Yes, Grant said on his Christmas card they had been ask [possibly to work in the Seattle Temple]. It's their 50 class reunion this year but heard they won't be down.

Guess we will go to Evelyn's for Mother's day dinner Sunday. Karen is having a surprise Party Friday night for her 50th birthday. We had a family dinner for Parley's 80th birthday. We were all there but 3... Had his 2 sisters, 1 brother so there were 32 altogether. Went to the Glow room in Wilson. Dad will be in for breakfast. Hope this finds both well. We love you.

Eliza

Write when you can, Dropped in to Johns. They are both well.

2—Patriarchal Blessing

Office of Nathan Hawkes, Patriarch of the North Weber Stake in
the Church of Jesus Christ of LatterDay Saints, Taylor, Utah
Recorded on Page 557, Book 6

West Weber, Weber Co. Utah. October 1, 1922

A Blessing given by Nathan Hawkes, Patriarch, upon the head of
Ethel Elizabeth Blanch, daughter of Joseph and Laura Etherington
Blanch, born Sept 23 1910 at West Weber, Weber Co. Utah.

Ethel Blanch, In the name of Jesus Christ and by the authority of
the Holy priesthood I place my hands upon your head and confer
upon you a patriarchal blessing. You was true and faithful in your
first estate and you was one of those choice spirits that was des-
tined to come forth at this important time. You are of the tribe of
Ephriam and you will be entitled through you faithfulness to all
the blessings and priveleges that belong to that noble tribe. And in-
asmuch as you have been born under the new and everlasting cove-
nant you will be entitled through your faithfulness to all the
blessings and priveleges that belong to that sacred and holy cove-
nant. Now I would say to you, continue to honor and be obedient
to your parents and carry out in your daily life and conversation
the things that you are taught by them and also your teachers and
instructors in the different organizations that you have the privi-
lege of attending and I promise you if you will do that you are go-
ing to become a true and noble young woman. And you are going
to have the intelligence and ability to do a grand and noble work in
the temples of the Lord in helping to redeem you father's and
mother's household. For there were some of them that were good,
honest people and if they had heard the true gospel preached while
in this life they would have accepted it. An when the work is done
for them in the temples of the Lord they will know it and when
their friends meet them in the spirit world they will thank them for

what they have done. Now I would say to you, continue to be a good girl and when you are tempted to do wrong you will have the courage to say, No I won't do it.

Now dear sister I would say to you continue to observe and keep the word of Wisdom, also study the laws of life and health and I promise you if you will do that you will have a healthy body and you will not partake of the diseases that are common in the world. For I seal you up against the hands of the destroyer and you will live to see wickedness swept from the face of the earth and the Kingdom of God established in power. Now I would say to you become acquainted with the doctrines and principles of the church that you are a member of. Also read books that give an account of the lives of noble men and women, and I promise you if you will read and study these books with a prayful heart you will partake of the inspiration and faith that characterized these noble men and women that you read about.

Now dear sister, I would say to you, that if you will continue to be obedient to your parents and your teachers, you are going to become an intelligent, bright young woman and you are going to be placed in some responsible positions in the wards and stakes of Zion. For you are destined to become a leader among your sex and many will come to you for advice and counsel in things that are very important. But I bless you and say that you shall be made equal to any responsibilities that will be placed upon you and when you become of a marriagable age you will obtain a husband that will be a true and noble young man. And he will be worthy to take you to the temple of the Lord and you will be sealed to him as his wife for time and all eternity and you will be the mother of some noble sons and daughters for there are some noble spirits in the spirit world that will be waiting to take bodies through you. And you will be entitled to all the blessings and priveleges that belong to the new and everlasting covenant. And I seal upon you the blessings of the holy resurrection and you shall come forth in connection with your husband and family in the morning of the first resurrection clothed with immortality and eternal life. These blessings are yours through your faithfulness and I seal them upon you in name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the authority of the Holy Priesthood, Amen.

Nathan Hawkes, Taylor R.F.D. No. 1, Ogden, Utah.

3—Financial Statement of Blanch Estate (As of Final Settlement Date [1943])

Assets:

Real estate sold to John R. Blanch	\$2800.00
Real estate sold to Parley L. Wagstaff	\$6050.00
Real estate sold to Laura Hancock	<u>125.00</u>
	\$8975.00
Stock in Weber Central Dairy Ass'n	89.78
Cash balance at time of Mother's death	58.00
House rent and Weber Central payment (net)	54.50

Owing estate by members of family:
(A considerable part of this has been paid. The balance will, of course, be deducted from the shares of those owing)

Livestock	\$240.00
Rent	479.65
Note (net after funeral expense)	414.00
Loan	<u>90.00</u>
	1223.65
Total Assets	10,400.93

Liabilitiers and Costs of Settlement:

Cost of headstone and market for Father	\$115.00
Cost of market for mother	30.00
Settlement of loan and auto account	125.00
Grant's mission	1555.50
Cost of abstracting property	211.50
Cost of surveying, notarizing deeds, etc.	<u>15.00</u>
	2052.00

Distribution

8 shares at \$975.00	7800.00
1' share at \$548.93	<u>548.93</u>
	8348.93

4—Stoker's 1979 Golden Wedding Anniversary

Excepts from letters written by well-wishers who shared experiences.

Roy Banner

It did seem like an impossible idea when we approached the stokers about an vacation [to Yellowstone in 1936]. It all at once seemed a crazy idea when every waking moment was needed just to keep food on the table. However, we approached them with the idea and it grew into a reality by extra work and planning over a period of weeks. By using a light trailer to haul our tent, bedding and food supply we had room to be ritht comfortable in the Model A while we drove toward Yellowstone. ... We pooled what little money we had, probably less than \$50.00 all together.

Our first night was spent on the campground at West Yellowstone, a sort of practice run. Everything was new to us but we found room in the tent for both our beds, just quilts spread on the tent floor as I remember. We were get used to sleeping close to the good earth. Our breakfast was cooked over an open fire, then as Lee and I packed the bedding and tent, Ethel and Olevia did the dishes. Ethel called... "Come you guys and get your teeth brushed." Lee started brushing, evidently not pleased with the odd flavored tooth paste, but he didn't want to hurt Olevia's feeling by saying anything. He brushed and his mouth filled with foam and he'd spit and brush and spit again. Adding water only made it worse; it lathered all the more. The gals couldn't hold back their laughter any longer.

Glen Blanch

I am the oldest of the Blanch family. ... Together Lee and Ethel are very rich in the rearing of a splendid family ... I think the first time I met Lee was when our father was killed. They had been married 2 weeks before that and that fall for the harvest of the crops I got Lee and Ethel to live with Mother which they did and this was appreciated. Next at the funeral of Aunt Annie Etherington² they

had members of our family at dinner in Burley which we did enjoy. then in 1948 we visited them in Adrian and yet I don't know how we found them in the rain and dark. Next I visited and used their kitchen to bake hi-altitude cakes for Pillsbury³. They were not home, but the boys told me to go ahead.

Grant Etherington Blanch

I remember clearly...a black Dodge touring car piled high with personal effects as Lee and Ethel moved to Lava Hot Springs, Idaho [in 1931]. My elation was supreme when I was permitted to accompany them on one trip. While the details of what I saw upon arrival has escaped me. I remember being unimpressed with what I saw and wondering how they were going to make a living in that place. They didn't stay long but it was a step toward the achieving...ownership in farming. Lee and Ethel dared to dream in spite of the odds of a severe depression they found themselves in and were will to work together and to sacrifice together to make their dreams come true.

Memories of driving Mother from Utah to Burley to visit her youngest daughter flash ... across my mind. And after the Stoker and Blanch families moved to Oregon, how can one forget the numerous times my family and I stopped to stay overnight at Lee and Ethel's.... Somehow or another, night, morning, or afternoon, Ethel always had on hand ingredients that, when blended together by her know-how and skilled hands, became delicious meals for family....Arrangement for sleeping were executed with minimum fuss as though they were daily rituals. Lee was most generous on numerous occasions to forego or delay work routines to provide different experiences for my family by taking us boatridding or engagin us in other types of activities.

Wayne and Donna Call

Ethel was the Sec. of the Relief Society [in Unity] all the time my mother was president and she loved her for her faithfulness.

Wayne and I bought the 40-acre farm across from their home and

² She, Hannah Clark, was the wife of George William Etherington. She died on 17 January 1939 in Heyburn, Minidoka County, Idaho.

³ Glen was a chemist for Pillsbury and was checking out how to adjust the ingredients for baking at the lower Boise valley altitudes for the new packaged cake mixes.

later we sold it to buy the farm with the dairy barn which they had sold to Hanzels and we built a lovely new home on "their" farm just east of their old home....

Shirley Stoker Clark

These memories must have been in 1932. Aunt Ethel used to work in the fields just like a man. I remember thinking about that and wondered how she could do it. My mother did not do much field work and I used to feel a little bit sorry for Aunt Ethel. But she was so good at it and as I recall it was my duty to tend Keith and Jesse while she was in the fields. I would usually walk through our fields to Uncle Lee's house to babysit. Aunt Ethel always had them fed and she even came in from the fields to nurse Jesse. Her house seemed big and spacious and always had a waxed linoleum floor. I would play ball on it with Keith and of course I loved tending Jesse because babies have always been my joy. I would change his diaper and "rock" him...seems like it was a rocking chair that didn't have any arms on it

Zora Crowther

Lee and Ethel served wll wherever they were called in the Basin City Ward. Ethel's Relief Society lessons will be long remembered. She put her "all" into those lessons. She drew ideas and comments from the class members, and told of personal experiences to help put over the points of her lessons. And she has that sweet smile—warm—friendly, genuine.

Ella [Woolley] Davidson

These are a few memories I have that Ez and I shared with you....being neighbors in the Bend...and the couple of years of persecution we had in the Bend for being Mormons and trying to consolidate their one room school with Adrian, but we got the job done.

Iona Flinders

My first meeting with Ethel was after we had moved to Nyssa in 1946 and I was called to serve on the Weiser Stake Primary Board. ...I think the thing I admired most about Ethel. She was always cheerful! She had a most charming smile and happy laugh and yet, if she felt something wasn't right, she wasn't afraid to voice her opinion and stick to it. She often showed me a better way or solution.

Carrie Garner

Lee and Ethel Stoker have always been very special neighbors and friends, all four of us were from the same area. Vern and Lee were born and raised in Roy, Utah. I believe the Stokers were the most dedicated and hard working folks I have ever known. Lee was elders president in the Unity Ward ...when we lived there. Our farms joined each other. Our sons were very good friends. Keith and Norman have been in business for many years.

Flora Garner

Wasn't it great that West Weber had girls that Roy boys fell in love with....In 1936, Dec 4, we moved to Burley, Idaho.⁴ I think Lee and Ethel had moved...east of the Unity Ward earlier in the spring. Warrs moved and Lee and Ethel moved in 1937.

Jimmie wasn't very old when Ethel and I took him to the potato cellar in a buggy. We cut [potatoes; first Deb's, and then up to Lee's. We had a time keeping our gloves patched. At the last, I have adhesive tape around the patches. No money...had to wait for the milk check. But I enjoyed it and did we visit and catch up on all the back news.

...Between 1940 and 1945 we visited, had some parties, and some babies were born. We'd moved to Rupert, Idaho. Vern and Carrie and Lee and Ethel were neighbors. We moved in 1938, I think. Then bought in Unity in 1944. Then on the 9th of march we left Unity and came to Nyssa in 1945....It wasn't long until Lee and Ethel had moved to Adrian.

Gundrun Pedersen Johnston

Lee and Ethel Stoker are very dear to me, and I will always be thankful to them for the way they helped me. I am a convert to the LDS Church from Denmark. In 1951 when I decided to come to Utah, they sponsored me so I was able to come here as an emigrant. Homer D. Whittier...baptized me on Feb. 17, 1950, and when he asked them if they would like to sponsor me, they accepted without knowing me at all.

⁴Flora Etherington Garner was Ethel's cousin. She married Delbert Garner and they moved onto the place where the Stokers rented earlier in 1936. The Warr place which bordered the Garner place on the east was purchased by Lee and Ethel in March 1937.

Gareld and Merna Marchant

Would that we could strike-up that little country orchestra for a dance like we did in the olden days. I remember of being too poor to buy new music often so we just played those old favorites over and over...loving them all the more.

...Hospitality at the Stokers was so plus that we just loved going there for Sunday dinner or an evening of fun. It was Ethel who introduced the progressive suppers that were so hilarious. I still remember her Poor Man's Cake with no eggs....

Ida Moncur

Ethel had a dinner party at her new home [in Sunset Valley] and after dinner gave all the men an apron with a note pinned on it with their kitchen duties for the evening. She always had clever ideas and everyone felt a part of the party or meeting.

Eddie and Delores Sharp

Lee and Ethel have been just like another mother and father to us. Especially to Eddie because he didn't have a mother and he always said Lee was the kind of father he always wanted.

Ethel showed him love and kindness when he need it most. One thing that really impressed him was the peaceful meals they had and laughed and joked about things while they were eating. He said not once was anyone chewed out for something they hadn't done or for something that was done wrong. This impressed him so much that he was had this kind of meals with his own family and he is quite a joker.

Ethel showed Eddie such a strong example of cleanliness in her home. Also a great example of living the gospel by not finding fault with others and by showing great faith.

Jane Stoker Venable, Lee's sister

Lee called me one day and asked me if he and Tony Sodenkamp could bring their girl friends over and play games and spend the evening. I told him to come and I made some pies and we had a happy evening together. This was the first time I had met Ethel. She was a very sweet girl and I was impressed with her. We met several times after that at mother and father's home and when Lee told us she as the girl he had picked for a wife we were happy.

Eliza Blanch Wagstaff, Ethel's sister

It's always been our pleasure to have Lee and Ethel come to our home and visit. I hope they have always felt welcome as we have

in their home. When Lee was put in as bishop, he and Ethel would come each spring and fall to [LDS General] conference. Most of the time Laura and I would go to Sara's in Salt Lake City and Ethel would be there so we could have a good gab session, go shopping, and have lunch together.

Donna Garner Woolley

When I was growing up we lived just about a quarter of a mile from the Stokers. I used to like to go up there and watch the dairy operation. I liked to watch the milk being bottled and see it run down the cooling coils. I remember how good the cold milk tasted. I didn't like it warm, but it was soooo good cold. I remember watching Ethel work and noticing how fast she moved and how much she accomplished. They got up early and worked late. Their house always smelled so good.

5—The Stokers' Manchester England Mission, July 1979 to January 1981

Lee's letter to Elder and Sister Walter C. Davis

Written May 31, 1980 to a missionary couple whom they met at the Missionary Training Center in Provo, this letter sums up what the Stokers had been doing up to this point.

Dear Elder & Sister Davis,

It has been quite sometime since we heard from you and hope you have enjoyed your mission thus far. We are certainly enjoying being here in England. It has been somewhat different than home. The temperature never got much below freezing during the winter with just a skiff of snow 3 or 4 times but the air is quite damp and the cold seems to cut right thro ones clothes.

We have been working with inactive members since we came and we have met with success and failure as most missionaries do. The first few weeks we visited and got to know the people in our branch [Chorley]. We found many reasons for them being inactive.

One couple that were inactive was a former branch president of the neighboring branch. We visited them and found he had been on the high council of our stake and thro[ugh] some misunderstand-

ing his feelings were hurt by the stake presidency so we had to meet with the stake president and arrange for a meeting between our couple and the stake presidency. We took the couple to the meeting and, after talking to each side, we were able to get all to forgive and forget.

It sure don't pay to call a stake president to repentance because the next week I was asked to be the branch president of our branch. The branch president had only been a member 2 yrs and the branch was just made an independent branch at the time we arrive in Sept. They released the branch President and I took his place and he became my financial clerk.

I kept all the other members as they were and began to rearrange the calling in the branch. This came about on Feb. 3[, 1980] and since then we have taken away some of the jobs some people had. (Several had 4 or 5 jobs.) I have called inactive people and given them positions. We now have 7 inactives working in responsible jobs.

Our attendance has increased from 50 to almost 80 average attendance. We now have several priesthood holders that are spending 2 nights a week splitting with our 4 elders so we are getting twice as many tracting. When we first came, the elders were helping do Home Teaching. Now the elders are doing missionary work and the members are doing all the home teaching. We have come a quite a ways since we have been here and hope we will be about to have a good sound branch by the time we return home.

Sister Stoker is teaching teaching Sunday School and helping where she is needed. We have been teaching several different people and had our first baptism on May 16 so we were quite thrilled with that.

The countryside is beautiful here. There are many pretty flowers and the roads are all paved except a few lanes that go into farm fields. The people walk as many don't have cars. There are sidewalks along the roads even in the country. The grass never froze down; even in the winter it stayed green. The fields here are mostly pasture with hedge on all the fence lines, and herds of sheep and milk cows graze on the grass.

We had an 8-yr. old boy from our branch baptised in the River Ribble that runs thro[ugh] Preston on May 10. This is the stream where the first people to join the church were baptised in 1837.

Since the Brethern asked the people to stay in England and build the Church here, the Church is beginning to grow and there is a great future for the Church in England. We have great people in

our branch and they have strong testimonies (those that are active) so we feel that there is a great future here.

May the blessings of the Lord be with you always.

Elder and Sister Stoker

Strathyre Flat 3

Dawbers Lane

Euxton N Chorley

Lancs England

6—Ethel Elizabeth Blanch Stoker's Obituary

Ethel Stoker

Ethel Elizabeth Blanch Stoker died Friday, April 17 at her home in Othello after an extended illness.

She was born Sept. 23, 1910. She married Lee H. Stoker June 12, 1929 in the LDS Temple in Logan, Utah.

She is survived by her bushband, Lee; four sons, Keith of Othello, Jesse and Jim of Basin City and Dennis of Moses Lake; two daughters, Vanae Knight of Connell, and Lora Jo Phillips of Royal City; 38 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren; one sister, Eliza Wagstaff of West Weber, Utah; and three brothers, John of Ogden, Utah, Don of Burley, Idaho and Grant of Corvallis, Ore. One grandchild preceded her in death.

She was an active member of the LDS Church and served many years in the Primary and Relief Society organizations.

The funeral will be held Tuesday, April 21 at the LDS Stake Center, Othello. The burial will be in the Bess Hampton Memorial Gardens. there will also be a viewing starting at 9:30 a.m. preceding the funeral.

7—Life Sketch of Ethel Elizabeth Blanch Stoker

Written and delivered at Ethel's Funeral by daughter, Vanae Stoker Knight on April 21, 1987

Ethel Elizabeth Blanch Stoker was born of goodly parents—Joseph and Laura May Etherington Blanch on Friday, September 23, 1910 in West Weber, Utah. She was the 7th child and the 4th daughter in a family of 9 children. She is survived by three brothers, John of Ogden, Utah; Don of Burley, Idaho, and Grant of Corvallis, Oregon; and one sister: Mrs. Parley (Eliza) Wagstaff of West Weber, Utah. She was preceded in death by two brothers and

two sisters. She has four sons: Keith of Othello[, Washington], Jesse and Jim of Basin City[, Washington], and Dennis of Moses Lake[, Washington], two daughters, Vanae of Connell [, Washington], and Lora Jo of Royal City[, Washington], thirty-eight grandchildren, and thirty-nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one grandson and one great-grandson.

Ethel's ancestry shows a rich pioneer heritage. Both of her parents were from strong pioneer stock. Her father was brought as a small baby by his mother and grandfather from Denmark to gather to Zion. Her mother's family came from England in the early days of the Church. They crossed the plains and endured much hardship.

Many times, we children, have seen that noble pioneer spirit in our mother. She trusted the Lord completely. She knew how to work and took great satisfaction in putting in a long day's toil. Mom was thrifty. She wasted nothing. She loved knowledge and was an avid reader and excellent teacher.

From Mother's journal we take a glimpse of her childhood. She grew up loved and secure in a hard working farm family. She was surrounded by many relatives and so she had much companionship with cousins and she tells that of an evening they would play "hide and seek" and "ante-I-over" after the supper dishes were done. Her journal records, "Of course the dark didn't bother us at all hiding all alone or coming home because we were having fun, but it was a different story when at home—we were afraid to go outside alone after dark. We even had to have Mother walk outside with us."

Eliza was two years older than Mom and we know they enjoyed a special companionship. Mother says they did not fight because Aunt Eliza was so even-tempered. Fact is, it was Aunt Eliza that first dated our dad, Lee Hammon Stoker.

Mom's journal gave us an appreciation of modern conveniences as she recounted the coal oil lamps, the coal burning kitchen stove, ice cold bedrooms and sad irons wrapped in newspaper slipped in bed by a loving mother to warm a little one. She tells of curing hams, of the flowering well where Grandpa made a box covered with burlap where the milk and butter were kept cool, of trading eggs and the pound bricks of butter with the flower design to Mr.

Hawkes for groceries, and how sometimes her mom would give her an egg to trade for some special treat, of walking to school, of Saturday night baths in the wash tub, of gathering in frozen clothes off the line and having hot ache in her fingers. These accounts and many other molded Mom to appreciate all she did have in later life.

Mom had a love for the gospel. She tells of going to the temple September 15, 1916, where her family was sealed together and of the trip to Salt Lake and of remembering that everyone was dressed in white. Mother tells of her religion class once a week held after school. (Later it would be called Primary) and then of going to Mutual. She enjoyed going up the canyon and spending several days in tents as a Young Women's activity. She entered some Mutual Improvement Association public speaking contests when she was in high school. She won both ward and stake competitions and went on to the regionals.

When Mom was about 10 years old, she was very sick with shingles. These occurred on the back of her neck. Her cousin, Flora, had told her if the scab went all around her neck it would choke her to death. As a result she was faithful to let her mother rub on a sticky, white salve the doctor gave her.

Mom graduated from Weber County High School and attended Seminary her last year. Her life was filled with the usual things: studies, ball games, proms, etc. One thing that has changed—the price of a theatre ticket. It was 10 to 25 cents then.

Dad and Mom started dating while Mom was in high school. Dad and a couple of friends from Roy dated Mom and her two friends. They spent time courting and eventually the three men each put in \$7 to buy an old Model T Ford. They had \$1 left over which was used to buy gas. The car and the three couples had lots of fun and it was decided that the first couple to be married would inherit the Ford. Dad and Mom acquired the car. All three couples married in the same year, 1929.

On 12th of June 1929, the two sweethearts were married in the Logan LDS Temple. We know the loss Mom felt when her father was killed in an accident only two weeks after her marriage. Mom has been a real helpmate to Dad. They struggled during the depression years. Eventually, they started farming in Burley, Idaho with

Dad's brother, Herman. That first winter they burned sagebrush. These were trying times. By this time Keith was a 2-year-old and Jesse, a baby. Mom worked out in the fields while Aunt Minnie tended her two little ones. Through hard work these industrious people were able to buy a farm.

Within a month of buying their farm, Ethel gave birth to son Jim and the next year their first daughter, Vanae. During the War years help was scarce. They milked Jersey cows, bottled and delivered the milk and farmed during the day time. It was during this time that Mom served as Relief Society president.

Living in a one bedroom home was difficult with a growing family so after the War they applied for a permit to build a home. Lumber was also in short supply. After purchasing a load of poor quality product, they decided to wait. The next permit was turned down.

After visiting friends near Nyssa, Oregon, they found a farm to buy. It was located on the banks of the Snake River. It was here two years later that Lora Jo was born. It was also at this time that Mom was to begin many years of service in the stake Primary. The Stake Center was in Weiser, Idaho, some 50 miles away. Dennis completed the family in 1954.

The family moved to Basin City, Washington in 1969 where Dad and Mom farmed in Block 20. Now each of the children had been married in the temple. Two sons completed missions and it was time to retire to Othello and slow down the pace. But the Lord had another calling—for them to serve in the Manchester England Mission. They spent all 18 months in the Chorley Branch near Preston, England. This experience was a special time of their lives and they made friends, both inside and outside the Church. They have kept a correspondence with many of these choice people and one sister, upon learning of Mom's recent confinement, crocheted her a beautiful bed jacket. Dad's one wish was that he could take Mom back for a visit to this land where they have such fond memories, but this was not to be.

A little over a year ago, it was confirmed that Mom had [pancreatic] cancer. She was told that there was no cure. Sleepless nights, I am sure followed, but in her usual style, she accepted life

as it came—never complaining and never fearing death. Her only concern was that she could endure valiantly. We, as a family, are a living testament that she taught us much. I guess we had much to learn in patience and endurance. She never complained and asked for very little during the long months in bed.

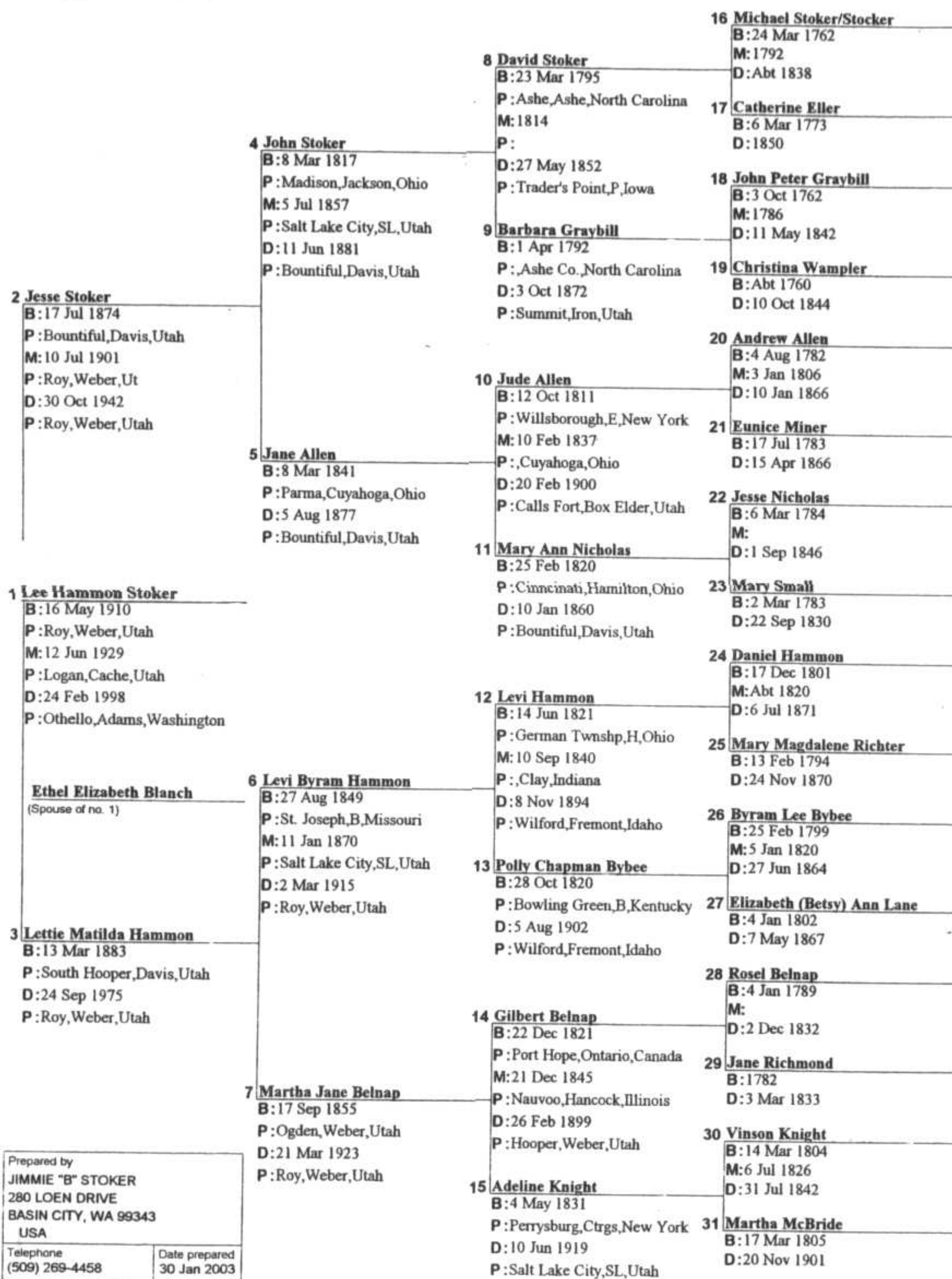
We had the opportunity to care for her and we "sisters" feel it was a great privilege to part-way repay the many years she selflessly came into our homes to help and nurse each of us. We pay high tribute to Dad for his love and devotion to his sweetheart of 57 years.

Sunday, as we gathered to dress this "house" of a great spirit for the last time, it was with love and tenderness that we placed the robes of the Holy Priesthood for exaltaion. Mother, May we meet you in your royal courts on high.

8—Pedigree Charts

The following two pages show the beginning pedigrees of Lee Hammon Stoker and that of his wife, Ethel Elizabeth Blanch.

Pedigree Chart



Pedigree Chart

* As an illegitimate child, Joseph was given the name of "Joseph Larsen" when he was blessed in an LDS branch at Taars, Hjorring, Denmark. The branch records indicate that he was the son of Nicolaj Christian Larsen. Later after his mother married Wheatley Blanch, he took the "Blanch" surname and the family was sealed to Wheatley Blanch.

[LDS sealing line]

Wheatley Blanch

B: 7 Apr 1830
P: West Wood, Durham, England
M: 11 Dec 1871
P: Salt Lake City, SL, Utah
D: 9 Nov 1887
P: West Weber, Weber, Utah

Ralph Blanch

B: 13 Feb 1789
P: Burnopfield, D, England
D: 15 Aug 1864
P: West Weber, Weber, Utah

Mary Young

B: 11 Apr 1787
P: Tysol, Durham, England
D: 1832
P: Durham, England

Ralph Blench

B: 1732
M: 27 Aug 1780
D: 2 Jan 1800

Hannah Wheatley

B: Abt 1759
D: 25 May 1841

[Biological line]

2 Joseph Blanch*

B: 11 Jun 1870
P: Tars, Hjorring, Denmark
M: 20 Jan 1896
P: West Weber, Weber, Utah
D: 26 Jun 1929
P: West Weber, Weber, Utah

4 Nicolaj Christian Larsen

B: 30 Sep 1843
P: Taars, Hjorring, Denmark
M: Not Married

8 Niels Peder Larsen

9 Kirstine Kraglund

10 Jorgen Larsen

B: 5 Sep 1812
P: Rodby, Maribo, Denmark
M: 26 Dec 1835
P: Mosbjerg, Denmark
D: 19 Aug 1906
P: Kanesville, Weber, Utah

20 Lars Laurits Bertelsen

B: 14 Mar 1784
M: 20 Nov 1813
D: 4 May 1862

5 Marsine Dorteas Larsen

B: 11 Nov 1842
P: Tolne, Hjorring, Denmark
D: 11 Nov 1918
P: Kanesville, Weber, Utah

21 Dorteas Hansen

B: 17 Apr 1792
D: 1 Feb 1865

22 Anders Jensen

B: Abt 1773
M: 20 Oct 1805
D: 9 Nov 1818

1 Ethel Elizabeth Blanch

B: 23 Sep 1910
P: West Weber, Weber, Utah
M: 12 Jun 1929
P: Logan, Cache, Utah
D: 17 Apr 1987
P: Othello, Adams, Washington

11 Birthe Marie Anderson

B: 2 Dec 1811
P: Orum, D, Hjorring, Denmark
D: 16 Jul 1865
P: Molholm, Tolne, H, Denmark

23 Maren Jensdatter

B: 5 May 1776
D: 16 Jul 1865

24 John Etherington

B: 10 Jan 1757
M: 14 May 1793
D: 18 Jul 1834

Lee Hammon Stoker

(Spouse of no. 1)

6 Thomas Etherington

B: 1 Nov 1836
P: Bishop Auckland, D, England
M: 9 Mar 1858
P: Endowment House, SLC, S, Ut
D: 20 Jan 1907
P: West Weber, Weber, Utah

12 John Etherington

B: 28 Apr 1794
P: Twin Burns, Durham, England
M: 2 Mar 1818
P: Witton, Le Wear, D, England
D: 13 Jan 1874
P: Ogden, Weber, Utah

25 Jane Burdess

B: 31 Oct 1754
D: 11 Jun 1805

3 Laura May Etherington

B: 2 Jun 1873
P: West Weber, Weber, Utah
D: 14 Feb 1942
P: Ogden, Weber, Utah

13 Elizabeth Hemsley

B: 25 Feb 1799
P: Hamsterly, Durham, England
D: 12 May 1868
P: Slaterville, Weber, Utah

26 William Hemsley

B: 3 Nov 1771
M: 26 Dec 1797
D: 9 Jun 1853

27 Frances Dawson

B: 17 Nov 1773
D:

28 John Sr. Wheeler Sr.

B: 22 Apr 1770
M: 8 Nov 1802
D: 13 Feb 1837

7 Sarah Wheeler

B: 21 Oct 1840
P: Graveley, C, England
D: 17 Mar 1899
P: West Weber, Weber, Utah

14 John Wheeler

B: 13 Sep 1804
P: Graveley, C, England
M: 18 Nov 1830
P: Toseland, H, England
D: 5 Jan 1885
P: Ogden, Weber, Utah

29 Mary Fisher

B: 6 Apr 1780
D: 8 Dec 1843

30 William Gillings Jr.

B: 19 Jun 1777
M: 3 Feb 1804
D: 10 Mar 1858

15 Elizabeth Gillings

B: Sep 1808
P: Yelling, Huntingdon, England
D: 13 Dec 1886
P: Ogden, Weber, Utah

31 Sarah Maunds

B: 11 Sep 1787
D: 10 Mar 1858

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Telephone (509) 269-4458 Date prepared 30 Jan 2003

9—Family Group Record

Husband Lee Hammon Stoker					
Born	16 May 1910	Place Roy, Weber, Utah	LDS ordinance dates		Temple
Chr.		Place	Baptized	7 Jul 1918	LIVE
Died	24 Feb 1998	Place Othello, Adams, Washington	Endowed	12 Jun 1929	LGN
Buried	28 Feb 1998	Place Bess Hampton Cemetary, Othello, Adams, Washington	SealPar	20 Dec 1911	SLAK
Married	12 Jun 1929	Place Logan, Cache, Utah	SealSp	12 Jun 1929	LOGA
Husband's father	Jesse Stoker				
Husband's mother	Lettie Matilda Hamm				
Wife Ethel Elizabeth Blanch					
Born	23 Sep 1910	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	LDS ordinance dates		Temple
Chr.	6 Nov 1910	Place	Baptized	6 Jul 1919	LIVE
Died	17 Apr 1987	Place Othello, Adams, Washington	Endowed	12 Jun 1929	LGN
Buried	21 Apr 1987	Place Bess Hampton Memorial Gardens, Othello, Adams, Washington	SealPar	15 Sep 1916	
Wife's father	Joseph Blanch ^{5,6}				
Wife's mother	Laura May Etherington				
Children List each child in order of birth.					
			LDS ordinance dates		Temple
1	M	Leland Keith Stoker⁷			
		Born 7 Jul 1930 Place Roy, Weber, Utah	Baptized	17 Jul 1938	LIVE
		Chr. 3 Aug 1930 Place Roy, Weber, Ut	Endowed	11 May 1950	IFAL
		Died 5 Jun 1990 Place Seattle, King, Washington	SealPar	BIC	
		Buried 11 Jun 1990 Place Bess Hampton Memorial Gardens, Othello, Adams, Washington			
		Spouse Genevie Ballantyne ⁸			
		Married 4 Apr 1949 Place Winnemucca, Humboldt, Nevada	SealSp	11 May 1950	IF
2	M	Jesse Grant Stoker⁹			
		Born 22 Jan 1932 Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized	28 Apr 1940	LIVE
		Chr. Place	Endowed	14 Jun 1950	IFAL
		Died 11 Jul 1997 Place Basin City, Franklin, Washington	SealPar	BIC	
		Buried 16 Jul 1997 Place Desert Lawn Memorial Park, Kennewick, Benton, Washington			
		Spouse Audrey "S." Mechem ¹⁰			
		Married 14 Jun 1950 Place Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho	SealSp	14 Jun 1950	IF
3	M	Jimmie "B" Stoker¹¹			
		Born 25 Mar 1937 Place Burley, Cassia, Idaho	Baptized	22 Apr 1945	LIVE
		Chr. Place	Endowed	24 Oct 1957	SLAK
		Died Place	SealPar	BIC	
		Buried Place			
		Spouse Ann Wahlquist ¹²			
		Married 7 Jul 1969 Place Logan, Cache, Utah	SealSp	7 Jul 1969	LGN
4	F	Vanae Stoker¹³			
		Born 4 Dec 1938 Place Burley, Cassia, Idaho	Baptized	19 Jan 1947	LIVE
		Chr. Place	Endowed	12 Jun 1959	IFAL
		Died Place	SealPar	BIC	
		Buried Place			
		Spouse Ray Edward Knight ¹⁴			
		Married 12 Jun 1959 Place Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho	SealSp	12 Jun 1959	IFAL
5	F	Lora Jo Stoker¹⁵			
		Born ¹⁶ 1 Apr 1948 Place Nampa, Canyon, Idaho	Baptized	5 May 1956	LIVE
		Chr. Place	Endowed	30 Dec 1966	IFAL
		Died Place	SealPar	BIC	
		Buried Place			
		Spouse David "T" Phillips ¹⁷			
		Married 30 Dec 1966 Place Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho	SealSp	30 Dec 1966	IF
6	M	Dennis Lee Stoker¹⁸			
		Born 2 Aug 1954 Place Boise, Ada, Idaho	Baptized	4 Aug 1962	LIVE
		Chr. Place	Endowed	17 Aug 1973	OGI
		Died Place	SealPar	BIC	
		Buried Place			
		Spouse Myra Burton ¹⁹			
		Married 21 Jul 1976 Place Provo, Utah, Utah	SealSp	21 Jul 1976	PRO

Family Group Record

Husband Joseph Blanch				
Born	11 Jun 1870	Place Tårs, Hjørring, Denmark	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
Died	26 Jun 1929	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 6 Aug 1878	LIVE
Buried	30 Jun 1929	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Endowed 15 Sep 1916	SLK
			SealPar	
Married	20 Jan 1897	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	SealSp 15 Sep 1916	
Husband's father	Nicolaj Christian Larsen			
Husband's mother	Marsine Dorteia Larsen			
Wife Laura May Etherington				
Born	2 Jun 1873	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
Died	14 Feb 1942	Place Ogden, Weber, Utah	Baptized 2 Jun 1881	LIVE
Buried	17 Feb 1942	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Endowed 15 Sep 1916	
			SealPar	BIC
Wife's father	Thomas Etherington			
Wife's mother	Sarah Wheeler			
Children List each child in order of birth.			LDS ordinance dates	Temple
M Joseph Glen Blanch				
Born	4 Jun 1897	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 3 Sep 1905	LIVE
Died	4 Sep 1980	Place Ogden, Weber, Utah	Endowed 17 Sep 1919	
			SealPar 15 Sep 1916	SLK
Spouse	Laura Evelyn Middleton			
Married	22 Sep 1926	Place	SealSp	
F Sarah Blanch				
Born	7 Apr 1899	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 7 Jul 1907	LIVE
Died	12 Nov 1974	Place American Fork, Utah, Utah	Endowed 8 Nov 1916	
			SealPar 15 Sep 1916	SLK
Spouse	Parley Berrett Judkins			
Married	8 Nov 1916	Place	SealSp	
M George Thomas Blanch				
Born	8 Sep 1901	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 7 Nov 1909	LIVE
Died	21 Mar 1973	Place Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	Endowed 28 Nov 1923	
			SealPar 15 Sep 1916	SLK
Spouse	Eva Cooper Baxter			
Married	22 Aug 1935	Place	SealSp	
F Laura May Blanch				
Born	10 Oct 1903	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 7 Jul 1912	LIVE
Died	27 Jun 1963	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Endowed 13 Jun 1923	
			SealPar 15 Sep 1916	SLK
Spouse	Heber John Hancock			
Married	15 Nov 1921	Place	SealSp	
M John Ray Blanch				
Born	11 Mar 1906	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 5 Jul 1914	LIVE
Died	Oct 1998	Place Roy, Weber, Utah	Endowed 24 Nov 1926	SLAKE
			SealPar 15 Sep 1916	SLAKE
Spouse	Voletta Belnap			
Married	24 Nov 1926	Place	SealSp	
F Eliza Dorothea Blanch				
Born	2 Aug 1908	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 6 Aug 1916	LIVE
			Endowed 14 Mar 1929	
			SealPar 15 Sep 1916	SLK
Spouse	Parley Leroy Wagstaff			
Married	14 Mar 1929	Place Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah	SealSp 14 Mar 1929	SLAKE
F Ethel Elizabeth Blanch				
Born	23 Sep 1910	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 6 Jul 1919	LIVE
Chr.	6 Nov 1910	Place	Endowed 12 Jun 1929	LGN
Died	17 Apr 1987	Place Othello, Adams, Washington	SealPar 15 Sep 1916	
Buried	21 Apr 1987	Place Bess Hampton Memorial Gardens, Othello, Adams, Washington		
Spouse	Lee Hammon Stoker			
Married	12 Jun 1929	Place Logan, Cache, Utah	SealSp 12 Jun 1929	LOGAN
M James Donald Blanch				
Born	24 Feb 1913	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 5 Jun 1921	LIVE
Died	23 Apr 1997	Place Rupert, Minidoka, Idaho	Endowed 13 Dec 1933	
Buried	28 Apr 1997	Place Gem Memorial Gardens, Burley, Cassia, Idaho	SealPar 15 Sep 1916	SLK
Spouse	Eva Josephine Johnson			
Married	13 Dec 1933 (D)	Place	SealSp	
M Grant Etherington Blanch				
Born	4 Jul 1915	Place West Weber, Weber, Utah	Baptized 5 Aug 1923	LIVE
Died	4 Jul 1999	Place Corvallis, Oregon	Endowed 1 Jul 1936	
Buried	9 Jul 1999	Place Corvallis, Oregon	SealPar 15 Sep 1916	SLK
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Married	25 Aug 1941	Place	SealSp	

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1929



The Children of
Lee and Ethel Blanch Stoker

invite you to celebrate
with them the Fiftieth
Wedding Anniversary
of their parents.

A reception will be held
on June 9th from 7 to 9:30 pm
at the Othello L.D.S.
ward building. A program
is scheduled at 8 pm.

1979



Married in the Logan Temple on June 12, 1929, Lee and Ethel started life together in a three room home in Roy, Utah. Keith, their first baby, joined them in 1930. The next year the family moved to Lava Hot Springs, Idaho. Early in 1932, Jesse brought the family number to four. He came in time to join the family in moving to Burley, Idaho to farm 120 acres with Lee's brother Herman. Jimmie joined the family in 1937 and Vanae in 1938.

In 1941 Lee and Herman bought a retail dairy and produced the first pasteurized milk in Burley. Consequently, the next five years were busy ones for the whole family. So busy, in fact, that sometimes even kids who came to play wound up washing milk bottles because of the labor shortage due to World War II.

In 1946 the family sold the dairy route and moved near Adrian, Oregon to farm more land. It was here in "Big Bend" during 1948 that Lora Jo was born.

In the fall of 1953 the family purchased and moved to another farm in "Sunset Valley" about twenty miles away. The next year, 1954, Dennis was born, bringing the family total to eight. He was just in time to move into Lee and Ethel's dream house which they built after years of planning.

Sunset Valley was home for the next fifteen years. The family then moved to Basin City, Washington where they, with sons Dennis and Jesse and his boys were still engaged in farming.

With all their children now married, Lee and Ethel finally retired in the spring of 1978 to their present home east of Othello on Billington road.

We request your help in compiling a book which recalls memories from our parents first 50 years of marriage. We ask that you write a memory or event that you have shared with them and return it to Lora Jo Phillips, Star Route #1, Royal City, Washington 99357, by May 25. We believe that the memories our parents have shared with you, their friends, would be the most treasured gift they could receive: therefore, we request no other gifts be sent.