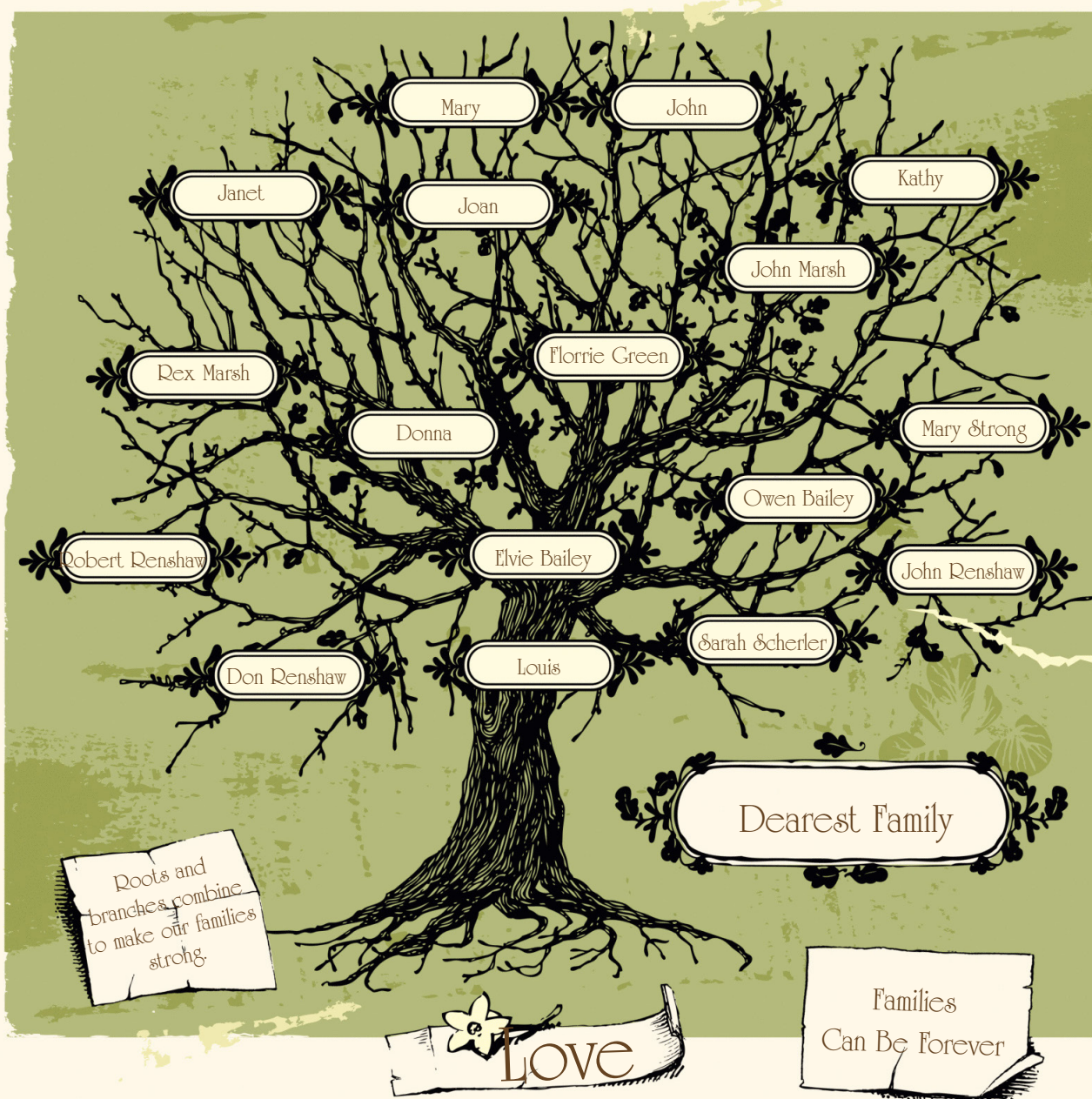


Elvie Renshaw's—1954 Diary



Cast of Characters in Elvie's 1954 Diary

Elvie Renshaw: married to **Louis Renshaw**, **Donna Renshaw:** their daughter.

Rex Marsh married to **Donna Renshaw Marsh** and children, **Janet Eileen**, **Elvie Joan**, **Mary Elaine**, **John Louis**, and **Donna Kathleen**.

Lorene: a sister living in Los Angeles, California; married to **Charles Clayton** who died in 1952; children, **Raymond** and **Mary**. **Mary** married **Vernon Jorgensen** with son **Lynn**. **Raymond** married to **Miriam Jensen** with daughter **Marilyn**.

Sue: a sister living in Burbank, California; married to **Al Hoglund** who died in 1948. Their children are **Elaine**, **Bette**, and **Shirley**. **Ernie Vandergrift** married to **Elaine Hoglund**, children **Ann**, **Carol Sue** and **Michael**. **Ray Haddock** married to **Bette Hoglund** and sons **Jerry**, **Bradley**, and **Ricky**. **Shirley** married to **Ken Bird** with son **Steven** and daughter **Karen**.

Annie: a sister living in Los Angeles, California; married to **Bill Andersen**. Their children are **Beverly**, **Glen**, and **Dale**. **Glen** married to **Irene** and they have a son, **David**.

Owen James Bailey: a brother living in Salt Lake City, Utah; married to **Lydia Hoglund** (Al's sister). Their children are **Mildred**, **Bobbie**, **Billie** and **Jimmy**. **Mildred "Mickey"** married **Vernon Olson**.

Violet: a sister living in Cedar City, Utah; married to **Otto Fife**; daughters **Dolores** and **Yvonne**.

The Marsh family: parents **John** and **Florence**, children **Lewis**, **Rex**, **Florence** and **Ruth**. **Florence** married to **Ernie Oates**: their children are **Ernie**, **Elaine**, **Irene** and **Diane**. **Lewis Marsh** is married to **Miriam Chandler** they have three daughters. **Ruth Marsh** married **Richard Deal** and their daughters are **Kay**, **Barbara**, and **Linda**.

Happy New Year. I did not have my new 1954 diary book until January 4. I've recorded New Year's Day on the last pages of 1953 diary; so will use these first pages for my favorite "gems of truth."

Sheridan says of gossip, "Believe not each accusing tongue, as most weak persons do; but still believe that story wrong, which ought not to be true"

—Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Brigham Young said, "To conquer and subdue and school ourselves until we bring everything into subjection to the law of Christ, is our work. The thousands and tens of thousands of incidents that make up the sum of human lives, whether for good or evil, depend on a momentary watchfulness and care. Let each person be determined to be the master of himself.

A successful man is not always contented, but a contented man is a success.

He, who seeks to find happiness for others, finds joy for himself.

"Greed for gain has obscured many a golden opportunity"
—from the Millennial Star

Build a little fence of trust around today.
Fill the space with loving work and therein stay.
Look not through sheltering bars upon tomorrow,
God will be there, to help thee bear, what comes of joy or sorrow.

—Mary F. Butts

"A life spent worthily should be measured by deeds, not years." —Sheridan

Truth is hidden in common things
In sun and wind and silver rain,
In jeweled dews that morning brings
In quiet peace that follows pain.
In flowers that bloom beneath the snow
In song birds salvos to the dawn,
In all the lovely things that grow,
The truth of God lives on and on.

—Pricilla May Moore



January 1, 1954, Friday

I haven't bought my new diary yet, so will record January 1, 1954 in this book [1953]. It has been a "happy" day for me, with my sister Violet and family and Annie, Bev, Bill, and Norma Hardy. We enjoyed having Doug Jones with us, also. Bevan parked their car in our yard, (the Utah car the Fife's came in). Norma parked her car in our yard, also, they

all walked over to where Lou had his car parked on Foothill and Delray Street. Bill Andersen stayed here to watch the Rose Parade on our TV. I kept little Nadine Jones here; she was very good. The little dear vomited once, but was not cross or fussy at all. She is surely a cutie. She followed me around and chattered so darn cute. I had the buffet lunch all ready to serve the folks when they got home; the young folks walked back and got here 35 minutes before Lou could get his car out of the traffic mess. Otto, Annie, Violet, and Ronnie came with Lou. Everyone was hungry, 'twas almost two o'clock before they were all here ready to eat. The ball game in the Rose Bowl was on TV so they ate and watched the game; U.C.L.A. and Michigan. It was a very exciting game, by the sounds from our group. Michigan won 28 to 20. Joan spent the day with the Oateses'; Andersens picked her up there and took her to Dody's home tonight for our family party. I'd love to have had Donna and family with us today. I thought of them so many times, but this little house was crowded as it was, with fourteen of us. They saw the parade from out their way, near the end of the march. The folks left here about 4 p.m. after the game was over. We had a very pretty Rose Queen, Barbara Schmidt, 1954 Rose Queen. Lou and I rested until time to get ready for the party at Bevan and Dody's home. It was almost nine o'clock when we got over to Dody's. Lou had to watch half of Lawrence Welk's Show first. We had a lot of fun with the family and Joneses. I was sorry Kenny Bird couldn't come, little Stevie was sick. We missed Kenny. Shirley came with Mary and Vernon I believe. We also missed Glen and Irene Andersen. Little Gilbert is sick, too bad. It was Warnie's first time to meet Janet's relatives tonight. Dolores asked him, as they were leaving, what he thought of joining such a family and he answered, "Well, I say, if you can't fight 'em, join 'em" ha ha! We played a quick drawing game, which was fun, and then Donna had the "adjective game," which caused a lot of fun for us. Dr. Lamoyne Hickman came to wish the Fife's good-bye; he and Yvonne talked for a while in his car. That romance is over now, I guess. Douglas Jones and Yvonne are interested in each other it seems now. All nice young people, I wish them all happiness. We were happy to have Elizabeth and Andrew Jensen with us tonight. I'm always happy when with my beloved family. We enjoyed some good Cedar Mountain pine nuts. The refreshments were delicious, too. Hot hard Rolls, with a delicious spread, salad, wonderful cake with whipped cream and Jello mixture, punch, candy, and nuts. We all paid some and it wasn't much, for the happy time we spent together. Donna, bless her, washed the dishes, I helped dry them. Ann Vandergrift will leave tomorrow for B.Y.U. College; she came home for the holidays. I enjoy looking at our sweet young boys and girls; they're all so lovely to look at. Lou was on the brink of leaving in the morning, and taking Janet and Warnie with us, going to Death Valley with Otto, Violet, and Yvonne. Doug, Bevan, and Dody were thinking of going, also. But too many obstacles, so we gave up the happy thought. The three Fifes will make the trip alone, I guess, and then home to Cedar City.



January 2, Saturday

Lou and I enjoyed sleeping late this morning; we got up at nine o'clock. After breakfast Lou took the car somewhere for a car wash and tire change. Donna phoned to see how her chances were to get Daddy to spray paint her four kitchen chairs. He said to bring them to the shop and he'd do them. Janet and girlfriend Judy Swim took the chairs to the shop. Lou took the iron arms off our cabaña chairs and painted them, also. I spent this day taking down the Christmas decorations and vacuuming up the snow mess, from said decorating. The house is back to normal, I hope to be soon too, he he! We had a late breakfast and skipped lunch, ate at 4 p.m. Lou enjoyed a nice nap, I wrote in my diary. Later Lou wrote to the bank in Pennsylvania, the Stock Transfer division. He says he is going to sell his Utah Mountain Fuel Supply Company stock. I talked to Dolores on the phone, she said her folks left at seven o'clock this morning; that vacation was over with quickly, eh? It seems like everything is rushing by in life, the same way. "It's later than we think?" Lou put all the Christmas boxes away for me, some in the garage and some in the top of our linen cabinet. We enjoyed our sweet little home tonight and the television programs. It is good to relax after the busy rush of Christmas and the New Year's celebrations.

January 3, Sunday

Well, we'll have to get used to writing 1954 now. We got ready for Sunday School a little early so Lou could drive along South Euclid Avenue just north of California Street. He wanted to look at a place for sale, with a large house in the rear and a small one in front. We had the general location, but not the house number. We didn't find it. Lou took me to church, but he didn't go in this morning, no singing practice today, so he thinks it isn't necessary for him to attend. My dear man doesn't realize that Sunday School was organized for our needs, not for the needs of the school. I love Sunday School and fast meeting. And I do feel the need of all church worship, especially on the Sabbath day. We had a large attendance this morning, many out of town visitors, folks who have come to see our wonderful New Year's Day Rose Parade. Lou came for me after fast meeting. There was such a wonderful spirit in our fast meeting, many wonderful testimonies born. A lady touched me on my shoulder after Sunday School, I turned around and she said, "Do you remember me?" I couldn't call her name, but there was something familiar about her face. She said, "I'm Eva James." I was delighted and surprised. I think it has been almost 40 years since we saw each other. We were girls in the 10th Ward together in Salt Lake. She said she knew me when I walked in the chapel, however, she did have the advantage over me, as she knew I lived in the East



*Glen and Beverly Andersen
circa 1920.*



Pasadena Ward, through my friend Eloise Brooks, who is her cousin, I believe. Eloise has mentioned me to her several times, and she has written of Eva James to me. We had a fine speaker in church tonight, from another ward, forgotten his name. Rex and Donna left Johnny out near our house this evening, while they went to the welfare meeting at 5 p.m. We took him to church later. Rex had a cold, so they didn't stay to the night meeting; they took Johnny home. Nan Rains and Truman Fisher gave us a piano and organ duet in church tonight. It was excellent.

January 4, Monday

It is my nephew, Glen Andersen's birthday today. I intended to mail him a card, but the date slipped up and I didn't think of it again until this morning, too late. I hope he has a happy birthday anyway. I did some work in my new scrapbook this morning, while waiting for my insurance man to come and collect. I went uptown after lunch; I had to buy this new diary book, if I am to keep on with my recording habit. This is starting my 25th year of keeping an everyday diary. I've not missed one day in all that time, that is I've recorded everyday, even if I did have to do a few days at a time a few times, because of illness, or not having the time to write until the next day. But for the most part, I do it every day. I bought a pretty turquoise blue pin in the sale in Hertel's Department Store for \$1.00; it will match the pretty earrings Violet gave me for my birthday. I also bought two jars of my favorite Colonial Dames face cream on sale in Hertel's today, half price. \$3.09. I had the pleasure of riding home on the bus with Marie Doezie. She had been to the dentist, Dr. Alder, Lorene's husband. I stopped in the Shopping Bag Market to buy the beans, bacon, brown sugar, and catsup for the baked beans I'm taking to the building fund dinner tomorrow night. Lou got home a few minutes before I did this afternoon. He was putting the iron arms on our cabaña chairs when I arrived at 5 p.m. He took the arms to the shop on Saturday and painted them. Donna, Joan, and Johnny came down this evening for a few minutes; Donna borrowed my silver and some dishes. She is having about twenty ward folks to the building fund dinner at their home tomorrow. Ruby Willis phoned this evening to check on the baked beans I'm taking to her house tomorrow. She is about sick with a cold. Our darling baby Kathy got a painful burn on her dear little hand tonight from the hot waffle iron that Joan was cooking waffles on.

January 5, Tuesday

It was warm, like a summer day today. I went to Relief Society without a coat. I took my white wool stole. Br. Earl Willis phoned this morning to tell me that both he and

Ruby are sick with the flu and can't have the building fund dinner in their home tonight. I'm surely sorry they are ill. Claire Smith told me in Relief Society that the group was coming to her home for the dinner, instead of to Willises'. I cooked the beans last night, so all I had to do this afternoon was add the ingredients and bake for two hours. Bonna Gordon came for me a few minutes earlier this morning. She had Marie D., Margaret W., and Melba Kunz. We picked up Addie S. Donna looked very pretty in her new navy blue suit and pink blouse today. We had three mothers visiting from Utah, with their daughters today. Ovena Mayo's mother was one of the visiting mothers; Sr. Richens. The lesson was beautifully given by Sr. Louise Cotterell, our stake theology teacher. Lydia Stephens, our regular teacher, was out of town. The lesson was on Ammon and the people of Limhi, from the Book of Mormon. The lesson was also lovely, in our earlier visiting teachers meeting, given by Margaret Waugaman. The objective of that lesson was to show the importance of refraining from injuring one another. "Believe not each accusing tongue as most weak persons do, but still believe the story wrong which ought not to be true." Wonderful advice, eh? I baked the beans this afternoon. I was disappointed in the beans, I got too much liquid in the mixture, and they didn't get as thick as I wanted them to be; but I had to take them, to my chagrin, "juicy." The folks were kind enough to take second helpings and say they tasted delicious anyway. We had a nice dinner and enjoyed our evening spent with the Smiths, Eric and Claire Smith and Eric's father, visiting from Utah, Herman and Vera Smith, Bill and Beulah Doutre, Chris and Ruth Meier, and Lou and me; eleven of us. We came home at 10 p.m. Donna and Rex had one of the dinners in their home, nineteen guests there. Joan had a babysitting job tonight. Janet and Warnie went to see the movie, "Brigham Young" an old picture brought back again.

January 6, Wednesday

I talked to Donna on the phone this morning. Joan was out of school; she was home with a cold on Monday, also. She went to school yesterday. Her cold is about cleared up, she intended to go to school this morning, but Donna overslept and Joan missed her school bus at 8:45 a.m. It was a nice day, but not as hot as yesterday when the temperature went past 80 degrees. We have had a mild dry winter so far; we need some rain, but are afraid to have it come since the dreadful fires have burned the trees and brush off the mountains. Many of the homes in the canyons are in danger of floods. Donna

said Mary was a big help to her last night, serving the guests and etcetera. She said they all had a good laugh after dinner, with Rex's adjective story game and another game called "Elephant." I did my washing this morning. The clothes have all dried beautifully so far this winter, wonder when our wet weather will arrive? I got ready to go to Mutual with Elvenia Summers this evening. I sat with coat and purse near the front door; ready to jump and run when she came for me. I guess she forgot all about inviting me yesterday in Relief Society, to go with her tonight. I was disappointed, as Donna and Rex were both on the program for short talks. The subject was something like, "How to live happily married for a hundred years." I should like to have heard their talks. They had a book report given on the Bible, by a lady convert to our church, she had studied to be a minister in another church and is an excellent speaker.

January 7, Thursday

Joan and some of the 10th grade students at Wilson School went to the funeral of Jack Leffler this morning. He was a student at Wilson who was accidentally shot a few days ago. He was a handsome lad, as shown by his picture in the paper; it surely is sad. I talked to Elvenia Summers over the phone this morning. She was sorry about leaving me last night, but she understood that I would phone her if I was going for sure. It was just a misunderstanding, no harm done. It has been cooler and cloudy today, some sunshine, but no rain, as promised by our weather report. I had a larger ironing than usual; Lou had more shirts because of the holidays. I rested on the couch for an hour after doing said ironing. I had about three heart pains, but not as severe as they have been at times. Lou came home early today at 3:30 p.m. The work is very slack at the shop again. Bill S. took yesterday afternoon off and Lou took off this afternoon. I mended a white blouse for Donna; it is Joan's I believe.

Lou enjoyed his nap after I got up. We ate dinner at 5:30 p.m. I tried to compose a queen tribute this evening but was not in the mood.

We are enjoying the delicious Desert Sweet Dates that Beverly gave us for Christmas; bless her. We were surprised to receive an invitation to the wedding reception of our dear little niece, Elaine Renshaw. It doesn't seem possible that Elaine is old enough to get married, the last time we saw her she was a little girl. Lou and I would love to go up to Oakland to her reception on January 22. I was delighted to learn that they are to be married in the Salt Lake Temple on January 18. She is marrying Marvin L. Alexander. I think she is about 19 or 20.



This movie was made in 1940.



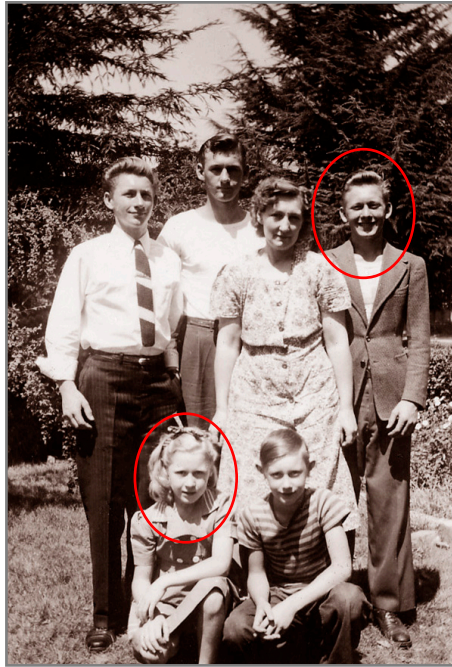
Elaine Renshaw

January 8, Friday

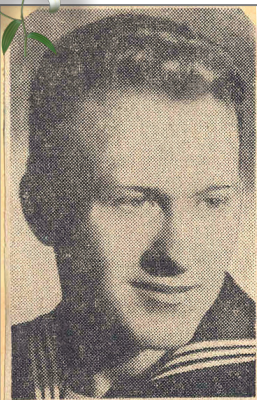
We had some rain this morning early, but not much and we do need some rain so very much. I shampooed my hair this morning; it is such a job, with my long hair. I don't do it until I just have to because of the time and effort involved. That's when I wish I had short hair and I'm tempted to cut it off. I do enjoy it long after it is dressed nicely though. It is several inches past my waistline now. It would be longer, but I keep it cut, there is a limit, ya know, ha ha! I darned socks for Donna's family this afternoon until I got weary. After dinner I composed a "Queen for a Day" tribute, to Clarice Warnick. Lou was watching boxing on television. He wrote a note to Lillian later, on the birthday card we are sending her. Rex and Donna brought Johnny and little Kathy down here this evening for a short visit. They brought my silverware and salad plates back. Donna borrowed them for her building fund dinner. Mary was invited to spend the night at the Cummingses' and eat dinner with them this evening. Janet and Warnie had gone to a show or somewhere? Joan was babysitting. Rex took his folks to a drive-in movie theater tonight, so they didn't stay long. Kathy wanted to stay longer, she had her coat off and the playthings out of box, all set for play, bless her heart. But Daddy Rex wanted to see a picture show. I gave the baby a few cookies in a sack to take with her so she was happy. They had a blanket for her to sleep on when she was tired of the picture.

January 9, Saturday

I talked to Rex on the phone this morning; he said they took Johnny and Kathy to the Big Sky Drive-in theater last night after they left here. They saw the movie, "War of the Worlds." I told him I was glad I didn't have to worry through that dreadful picture with them. I hate anything to do with wars. Donna was down at the new church building with others, helping to select the colors to be used in the building. President Hunter was there, also Bishop Jack Thompson; I believe Jack has the painting of inside edifice in charge. Lou worked in the yard and went to the market this morning. I did the housework, defrosted the refrigerator, and cleaned the patio cabaña. This afternoon we received the shocking and disturbing news that Gene Renshaw has been missing on a Navy plane for two weeks. The search for the plane has proven fruitless. It made us feel very sad. Gene was 24 years old, a handsome young man, and a very good boy. My heart



Standing, Charlie, Roland, Winnie, Eugene, in front, Elaine and Jerry Renshaw in September of 1944. Elvie finds out that Eugene is missing January 9, 1954. Elaine is getting married in January of 1954.



Radioman Eugene Renshaw, 24, of Oakland, missing on Navy plane.

Oakland Sailor On Missing Plane

An Oakland sailor was listed today among four Navy men missing aboard a twin-engine Beechcraft between Norfolk, Va., and Jacksonville, Fla.

The sailor is Radioman Third Class Eugene L. Renshaw, 24, son of Mrs. Winifred Renshaw of 614 El Dorado Avenue, Oakland.

The plane landed at Norfolk to refuel en route from Akron, Ohio, its home base, to Jacksonville. Another sailor got off at Norfolk and Renshaw boarded the plane, apparently hitch-hiking to Jacksonville to visit friends, according to his mother.

Coastal lands from Florida to North Carolina were being searched by air today. The plane has been missing since 8 p.m. Monday, when it was due at Jacksonville.

The other three aboard were Lieut. Vernon H. King of Akron, pilot; Capt. Alex Dutkin, Franklin, Pa., co-pilot, and J. M. Paschall, Pensacola, Fla., aviation machinists mate.

Renshaw graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in San Jose, where he lived with his family, before moving to Oakland. He enlisted in the Navy here three years ago and served on the Destroyer Borie in Korean waters during the fighting and in the Mediterranean before being assigned to shore duty at Norfolk.

He has four brothers, Sgt. Roland R. Renshaw of the Los Altos Police Department; Stanley R. Renshaw of Salt Lake City; Charles W. Renshaw and Gerald Renshaw of Oakland, and a sister, Elaine Renshaw of Oakland.

Jan. 1954.

is indeed sad for poor Winnie, she has had more than her share of heartache, and she is a fine person. Winnie's only daughter is being married in the Salt Lake Temple on the 18th of this month (Elaine Renshaw). We are invited to her reception in Oakland the 22nd of January. Lou took me in the car, to our little 15¢ Store on Colorado Street. I bought some white darning wool to use on Donna's children's socks. I ran out of white on Friday. I bought a cute flower teapot, to hang on our kitchen wall. I put some live ivy in it. I saw it there the other day but didn't have the 79¢ to buy it. I bought a yellow rubber sink pad and a pretty blue pin to match my blue earrings. I got rid of \$2.23. We enjoyed our sweet little home and TV tonight.

January 10, Sunday

It was cold but pretty this morning. Lou and I picked Hilda Botting up on Colorado Avenue on our way to Sunday School. She was waiting for the bus. She

was delighted, as she had missed the bus she takes to get her to church in time. She gives out the programs at the door, and we got her there in time. Little Kathy looked so sweet in the cute little dress that Clarice Tanner gave her for Christmas. My children all looked beautiful, they always do. Donna sat by me in class. Mary went home with the Howards; David Howard came home with Johnny. Lou enjoyed a long nap after dinner; I wrote a letter to Winnie Renshaw, a letter of condolence. Her son Gene is missing with four other Navy boys, in a navy plane, somewhere between Norfolk, Virginia and Jacksonville, Florida. We all feel very distressed over it. Sierra Madre had a Thanksgiving program and special prayer in their park this afternoon. Donna and some of her family went. She said it was very impressive to see all of the people kneeling there on the grass, while one of the ministers thanked God for saving their homes and little town, from the dreadful fire that threatened their happiness last week, or two weeks ago. If the wind had not changed when it did, the little town of Sierra Madre would have been caught in that dreadful blaze, raging on

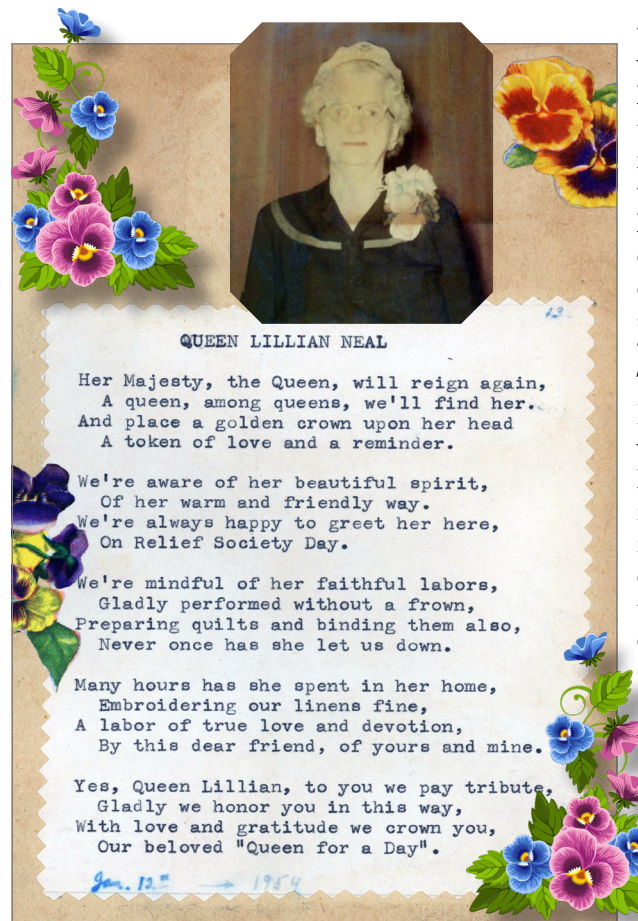
the nearby mountainsides. We went to sacrament meeting and farewell testimonial for Elder Gary S. Williamson this evening. It was a nice program. Our friend Emerson Crowley gave a nice talk. It was all nice. Gary and his parents talked.

January 11, Monday

I had a rather restless night because of pain in my back. I've kept the heating pad to my back today, while I sat and did some scrapbook work. I kept the heat on it most of the night, also. Donna phoned and told me the plans for our luncheon in Relief Society tomorrow; it is being served by two districts now, because of the increase in our membership. This time it is my district and the one Donna and Clarice Tanner are in. They have planned for everything, all I have to do is take a pound of butter and Donna is going to get it for me. I'll pay her tomorrow at Relief Society, bless their hearts. We had some rain this afternoon; the sky was black in the east. The sun was shining in the west, and it was raining and I have never seen a more beautiful double rainbow. I just had to step out on the back porch to see the colorful beauty. I wrote letters to Ethel Newbold, Violet Fife, and the Will Taylors. Lou phoned me this afternoon from the shop. He said they had about twenty Venetian blind orders come in and he wanted me to phone Beverly and ask her if she could come over to the shop in the morning and help them out for a day or two. She said she would be glad to go over. A few hours helps her, she works nights for Cannon Electric Company, but she can get about seven hours of sleep if she goes into the Venetian blind shop about 9 a.m. Janet had Warnie's car this morning, she came by my house on her way to school. She left the typed copies of Clarice Warnick's queen tribute. Donna types the poems for me after I've composed them. Then I put them in a colored folder and pretty them up with flowers cut from my greeting cards.

January 12, Tuesday

It has rained most of this day, but we are all glad to see the rain, as we do need it. We only hope and pray that it will not come down too heavy, because of the danger to homes in Monrovia, Sierra Madre, and Arcadia. The dreadful fires last month, in the Sierra Madre Mountains, have brought about a hazardous condition. Bonna came for me this morning. We had a large crowd out. I was amazed on such a wet cold day to see so many out. I helped Lillian Neal trim the edges off the dishtowels, so Marie Doezie could hem them on the electric machine. Donna and I dusted the kitchen up, it was very



untidy but we got it in order so we could prepare the luncheon. I lifted a few folding chairs, I guess the action brought a little heart flurry. I sat down for half hour until the weakness in my legs had left me. I felt fine, the remainder of the day. The ladies on both districts came in the kitchen and lunch was not any trouble, 'twas fun. Donna Marsh, Clarice Tanner, Mary Howard, Nora W., Louise A., and Bonna Gordon, (it wasn't her district, but the darling helped us) and Vera Smith's niece, I don't remember her name, several ladies sent food, but couldn't come. I read the queen's tribute and Melba Kunz crowned our lovely Queen, Lillian Neal; she was surely surprised. Mary Howard took a picture of our beloved queen, after the luncheon. Bishop Summerhays was with us today; Clarice Warnick invited him to give us the lesson on "Family Money Management," he has worked out a splendid budget on food buying. The lunch was delicious,

I brought Marie Andrus's glass baking dish home for her. Melba Kunz brought me home this afternoon. Kathy stayed with Ovena Mayo all day. Sr. Anna L. Meiling's funeral was held in the Pasadena Ward chapel at 2:30 p.m. I went to the funeral with several of our ward sisters. It was a very nice service. Anna L. Meiling [*Anna Letitia Anderson*] is Virginia White's mother and Addie Strang's sister. Beverly worked at the shop today.

January 13, Wednesday

There was an earthquake, rain, hail, snow, and plane crash in our southland yesterday, while we were peacefully enjoying ourselves in Relief Society. I felt the earthquake slightly but wasn't sure it was a quake, until I heard the TV news this evening. Lou brought me some postage stamps last evening. I wanted to mail my letters yesterday, but was out of stamps and it was too wet to ask anyone to take me to the post office, so I mailed them today. Life is strange; here we were enjoying ourselves in Relief Society yesterday, while in our southland many folks were experiencing some tragic and dreadful things. In Long Beach an airplane crash cut a 200 foot swath of death, through four buildings on Signal Hill, The jet fighter plane had it's controls frozen by a rain storm, six people were killed, four persons injured, two of them critically. Our southland was rocked by an earthquake at 3:30 p.m. yesterday, believed to have been centered near the town of Tehachapi, where 11 persons died in a shattering quake the summer of 1952. We had rain, hail, and snow yesterday; our surrounding mountains are pretty today; white with snow. Twelve persons were hurt in the

car accidents on slick streets yesterday, we haven't had any rain for such a long time that the streets were real slick with this first storm. It was a beautiful sunny day today; I did my washing, made a pot of beef stew, and darned twelve pair of socks for Donna's children. Beverly worked at the Venetian blind shop yesterday and today. Our Johnny boy walked home in the rain, from school yesterday. The neighbors, Kirks, offered to bring him home in their car, but he wanted to walk in the rain. A cold didn't develop as he may have anticipated; he went to school as usual this morning with some persuasion from Mother, ha ha! The forced cough didn't get over to her some how, ha ha! (Love that boy!)



Johnny Marsh in 1951. In 1954 he is doing his best to figure out how to get out of going to school.



Colonial Dames face cream was a favorite product that Elvie used for many years. She usually found it on sale for about \$3.09.

Colonial Dames "new formula" is available to purchase on Amazon today (2021) for \$14.25.

Using an inflation calculator Elvie's cost of \$3.09 would be \$30.21 in 2021 dollars. Some things are cheaper now? Although, we don't know the size of the jar in 1954.

January 14, Thursday

I went up to our drug store on Colorado Street near us. I bought a bottle of Breatheasy Asthma Inhalant, a bottle of One A Day Vitamins, and a large jar of Colonial Dames face cream. The cream was on sale, half price this month. I have a year's supply now, three jars. I wish we had that much food supply. I left my little green straw shopping bag, with purchases from the drug store, with the lady clerk while I went to town on the bus, and to Warnie Mueller's Grandfather's funeral. I rode to



One A Day Vitamins came in fancy bottles.

Nash's Department Store and bought a wedding gift for Elaine Renshaw. I had them gift wrap it and mail it to her in Oakland, California. I sent a little card of congratulations from us and Rex and Donna. The gift was from the Glassware Department, a large fruit or flower plate, it is deep with a curled edge, and a relish or candy dish, of the same pattern. Nash's is having their big sale, so I got both pieces for \$6.00. I ate a bowl of good creamed soup at Hertel's lunchroom, and then took the bus to Lake Street. I called in the shop to say hello to Lou, Beverly, and Gordon. Lou insisted on driving me the two blocks to the Utter McKinley Chapel at 825 East Orange Grove Avenue. I was fifteen minutes early so waited in the reception room. I went into the chapel just before the services started. I didn't see Donna and Janet arrive. The services were nice, a Lutheran minister took care of prayers, readings, and everything but the two nice solos a man sang. Warnie drove me home, Donna and Janet, also. Janet took Donna in Warnie's car.

Warnie has an infection in his eyes; he went to see a doctor after taking us home. We went to the Mountain View Cemetery in Warnie's car; Janet drove. Warnie was a pallbearer with other grandchildren today.

January 15, Friday

It has been cool and cloudy most of today. The snow has about gone from our surrounding mountains. I wanted to get started early with the vacuuming but didn't get at it until after lunch. I wrote a letter to Winnie Renshaw and did some serving this morning. Beverly worked at the Venetian blind shop again today; I'm glad she was called in the four days this week. Donna phoned, she wondered if Aunt Lorene would be interested in working for a lady not far from Donna's place. She would have her own apartment in the home, with two little children to care for. It pays \$150 a month plus board and room. Donna was going to talk to the lady before we called Aunt Lorene about it. I talked to Donna later and she said the lady wanted a younger woman as the home was large and there was a lot of walking and work, cooking, cleaning, and caring for children. Not good for Lorene, eh? Joan called in here after school; she wanted to see a picture of her friend Phil Croft in our newspaper. It was a group of school boys watching the police wash the snow away with a fire hose; the boys had brought said snow to the school grounds for a snowball fight. The neighbors called the police when the icy balls came too near their windows and the little tots in yards; so the fun was brought to an end. Phil was outside

(1st Prize Song)

BUILDING FUND HYMN

by Elvie Renshaw

(Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic)

We're building us a Church house
near the Sierra Madre hills.
A magnificent structure
which is piling up the bills.
We're sending out this S.O.S.
dear Pasadena Saint
Come drive a nail or paint.

Chorus:

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah,
Come drive a nail or paint.

Our cash on hand is running low,
dig deep into your jeans.
It takes a lot of dough
to buy the rafters and the beams.
Let's rally 'round our Bishop
and push the work along;
Come join our happy throng.

Chorus:

Glory, Glory --- Come join our happy throng.

On work days, sisters bring the food
to feed each hungry man.
It surely is amazing
what they bring in pot and pan.
So men put on your working togs,
until the job is done.
Come out and join the fun!

in his car; he took Joan home, as he often does of late. This evening Lou and I attended the church building fund dinner and meeting. The men folks served the dinner, baked beans, French buttered bread, cabbage salad, cold water, and a tooth pick for dessert. We sang the building fund songs. My song was the first one sung tonight, Bob Gordon had me stand up and take a bow as mine won first prize. We voted on the problems involved in our building program. Our meeting was interesting but long; pep talks, a report on expenditures of the building, more [money] needed now.



January 16, Saturday

It was clear but cold this morning. Lou worked in the yard; he raked up the patio lawn, got it ready to reseed. He pruned the rose bushes and cleaned up in general. Donna came by about 11 a.m., on her way to Highland Park.

She had Johnny, Kathy, Joan, and her girlfriend Janice Garret. They invited me to go with them. We let Joan and her friend out at another girls home. They were going to prepare a poster for some school election.

I didn't know when we started out that Donna was on her way to the bank, but half way there I asked why she was going to Highland Park. She said, "to the bank." She thought the bank was open half a day, I knew different, but we went on anyway as she said she'd mail Rex's deposit in the post office in Highland Park. We called in Andersen's to see the folks.

Annie was out. Beverly and Bill were home. Bill was putting a new drawer in Bev's desk. Beverly was going to the post office to mail a letter, so she took Rex's bank deposit. We called in to see Lorene and Miriam. Mary J. phoned Lorene while we were there and said Hazel A. had phoned Sue that Aunt Ray has had several strokes; she was in a bad condition. Lorene was invited to a dinner out that way, Monday evening in Van Nuys. An old friend, Sr. Cluff, or some such name was having Lorene, Sue, and Maude Craddock. We also learned that our

dear friend Ann Buxton is very ill with a malignant tumor, (cancer, eh)? Rex and Donna went to their club dinner at Otis Coyle's home. Donna and Ovena made fig puddings for the dinner. I took a nice ride with Lou this late afternoon; we disposed of our cuttings in a

gully dump. Lillian wrote Lou a nice letter thanking him for the birthday card. She can't go to Elaine Renshaw's wedding reception; she is expecting Will and Flora Taylor. Janet has a cold, which brought on asthma troubles. She didn't work for Dr. Anderson as usual today.

January 17, Sunday

I cooked wheat last night, while I was taking my bath; so the cereal was all ready in the double boiler, ready to reheat and eat this morning. It's an easy breakfast and good to eat. It has been cold and cloudy all day. We had a full house in Sunday School; I enjoyed Don Rowberry's lesson as always. Jack Jones was our High Councilman, representing the Stake High Council this morning. He was our main speaker this evening. Janet was home with a cold. Donna and Kathy

stayed home, also. Mary Howard was home with a cold or flu. Warnie brought the Marsh children to Sunday School. Harry Howard took them home. I believe the two Howard children ate dinner with the Marshes. Joan Marsh gave the benediction prayer in Sunday School; it was a very nice prayer, too, that's my sweet Joan. Lou and I ate a Bob's Special Hamburger and a piece of pie on our way home from Sunday School. Lou went to the Sunday School Union meeting in Al Rowbotham's car this afternoon. I read the lessons for our next two Relief Society meetings, also the scripture reading, until sleepy eyes prevented more reading. So I took a nap until Lou came. He enjoyed a nap later, while I finished my Book of Mormon scripture reading, (an assignment for Relief Society). We went to church this evening; it was lightly raining when we went in the church, just a mist, but a nice steady light rain when we came out. We had a nice meeting. Our ward choir sang two numbers. Jack and Jennie Jones both spoke, was very fine; they are lovely people. Janet stayed home all day, Donna had Kathy out to church tonight. Joan went to the Oateses' ranch to visit for a few days. The Wells family has moved to their desert home; their 16 year old son, Eddie, is living at the Oateses' ranch now.

January 18, Monday

It rained most of today, a nice gentle downfall. I spent my day darning socks for Donna's family. Florence Marsh phoned to tell me they would go with us Friday, up to Oakland. John is feeling much better. I talked to Donna and Janet and little Kathy on the phone this morning. Janet's cold is better, but she is bothered with some asthma, so couldn't go to school. Kathy told me about a sore on her little finger (pinger); she got some orange juice in it and made it hurt (hut). Oh, she is a cutie. Beverly worked at the Venetian blind shop again today. I received a nice letter from Violet; she is enjoying her memories of their trip to California at New Year's time. She said the trip back home, by way of Death Valley, was wonderful, too. They saw Scotty's Castle and him, on Saturday. Scotty died the following Monday. Otto used to work for Scotty, in Death Valley, a few years ago, about 15 years ago, I believe. Florence Marsh said that her ward, Highland Park, had reorganized their bishopric and the Relief Society in church last night. Leona Thompson was released with her counselors and Bishop Thompson's two counselors were released (Lewis Marsh was one of them). She told me the names of the new officers installed, but they are not known to me so I've forgotten their names. Annie sent a

25¢ piece to me, with Beverly. Lou brought it home. I phoned Annie tonight to find out what it was all about. Bill was home alone; Annie had gone to a stork shower for Lucy Wall. Bill didn't know why the 25¢. Lorene, Sue, and Maude Craddock had dinner in an old friend's home this evening. Her name is Minnie Cluff.

January 19, Tuesday

It rained hard most of the night, causing a lot of damage to property in Sierra Madre, Monrovia, and Arcadia. The dreadful brushfires in the Sierra Madre Mountains, in December, are the result of these flood conditions now. Several friends have phoned to ask Donna if her home is all right. Thank goodness it is okay. Sue phoned from Burbank to ask, Annie has phoned twice. Florence Marsh phoned Donna early this morning. She phoned me this evening. I'm surely glad Donna's home is not on one of the side streets in the flood area. I feel so sorry for the poor people who are in danger. Donna took me to

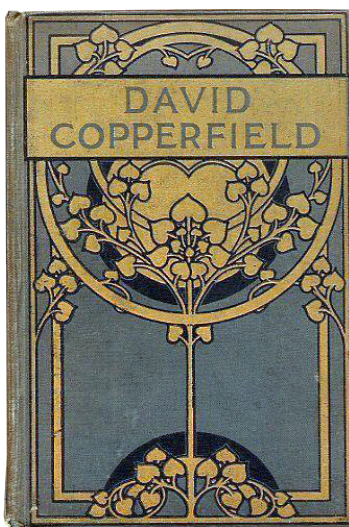


Irene, Elaine, Eddie Wells, and Diane

This is the beginning of a lifelong friendship with the Oates family and Eddie Wells. He lived with the Oateses' until he left for his mission. Eddie was treated as a family member and he still attends significant events of the Oates family. During holidays Eddie often stayed with the Oateses instead of going to visit his family in their desert home.

Relief Society as usual. My baby Kathy was there in her white rubber boots, green coat, and bonnet. Some smart kid had locked the catch on the playroom door, up high, and gone out the other door, which locks from the inside. We couldn't get into the nursery where the children stay with Mrs. Morris. We all had a try at shaking or bumping said door to unlock the silly catch. Mrs. Morris got it unlocked, so the kiddies were happy, as well as the mothers, (and grandmothers)!

I enjoyed Faye Timothy's Literature lesson; it was beautifully given, she gave a book review of Charles Dickens's "David Copperfield," at the end of the lesson. She is an excellent teacher. I darned socks for Donna's children this afternoon and cooked a pot of beef stew. I have about finished the big sack of socks that Donna brought for me to darn. We enjoyed our pretty little home and the television programs tonight. Annie sent the two pair of L.D.S. garments, I had her send for, with Beverly. I'm giving them to Lou for his birthday. Bev has been working at the store this week. I phoned Annie this morning; she said the 25¢ was from Beth Johnston. She found out she had overcharged us for the refreshments, for the Strong's meeting.



January 20, Wednesday

It was a beautifully clear sunny morning, a fine treat after our two days of rain. I had my washing out on the lines by 10 a.m. I went to town on the 11:30 bus, to the Broadway Store to buy

me a hat to take up north with me. I have some summer straws, but no winter hats. I bought a small black velvet hat with a few rhinestones on it; the cost was \$3.95. I'm happy with it, because I can wear it without changing my hair dress. It is difficult for me to find a hat that looks good or fits well with my long hair. This little bonnet sets back of my braid, has a cute little velvet design on each side, by my temples. Lou likes it and I received some nice compliments when I wore it to Mutual tonight. I wasn't uptown long, it looked like rain, so I brought the clothes in from the lines at 2 p.m. The heavy pieces dried in the house. I had a spell with my heart this afternoon; it was painful. I felt better after resting on the couch for an hour. Donna phoned and asked me to call page 8 on the ward list to remind the members of the clothes drive for needy children and people in Korea. We are to take our used articles to church on Sunday morning; one of our ward boys in the service in Korea wrote our bishop for this needed help. He is Edith Fox's son-in-law, Stanley Koontz, Connie's husband. Elvenia Summers came for me this evening; she had Marie, Ephra, and Elmira Doezie with her, also her son Roger Summers. Joan came over from Oateses' to be in the M.I.A. Maid program in Mutual. The girls did very well. Diane Oates came for Joan after Mutual. I enjoyed Ruth Hale's review of a play; she is entertaining! Our young folks had a dance rehearsal after Mutual, the church is having a dance festival for our young folks out here in California, in August, instead of their going to Salt Lake City as before. We received a letter from Will Taylor; they are going to Phoenix, Arizona, and then here later.

January 21, Thursday

It looked like more rain early this morning, but it was pretty and clear by 10:30 a.m. My Joan is enjoying her visit this week with the Oates family. Lou brought two little corner whatnot shelves home yesterday evening; Bill S. at shop gave them to him. Lou painted them ice-green to match our dinette. He hung them up last night and I put some little pieces on each tiny shelf. It looks cute. I love this pretty little room anyway; it is darling. My phone visit with Donna was cut short this morning, as baby Kathy had the box of matches, emptied in her lap, and she was trying to light one. Never a dull moment there, eh? I did my ironing and dusted up in the house. Beverly worked again at the Venetian blind shop today. Gordon asked her to come tomorrow, also. Florence Marsh phoned this evening.



Elvie always liked to look her best, so wearing just the right hat and jewelry were very important to her.

She was upset because she heard over the radio news that the Health Department had warned all Sierra Madre people to boil their drinking water. It is contaminated because of the floods there. The news said that 150 people were very ill because of the water. I phoned Donna to tell her; Dody tried to get Donna when she heard the disturbing news, too. The line was busy, so she phoned me. Donna said that soon after I phoned her, the loudspeaker came up and down the Sierra Madre streets telling everyone not to drink any water until it had been boiled. Sierra Madre and other towns are digging out from an avalanche of mud and debris, caused by the floods. It is a result of the dreadful fires in the mountains. Oh that thoughtless smoker! Lou and I packed a few things to take on our trip to Oakland tomorrow. Marie Andrus

came over this evening for her casserole dish. I brought it home from the Relief Society luncheon for her. I'm worried for Donna; she is working too hard to do necessary work today and tonight before leaving with us tomorrow. I surely wish I could help Donna with her housework. I know she is overdoing to go with us on this trip tomorrow.

January 22, Friday

Ovena Mayo is going for Kathy this morning at 8 a.m. Rex will be home Saturday and Sunday to look after the children. Lou picked Donna up at 5 a.m. I had a bowl of wheat cereal for Donna and me to eat. Lou didn't want anything but his coffee. We picked John and Florence up at 6 a.m. and had a nice prayer there before starting our trip. Florence prayed. It was a beautiful morning. We enjoyed the ride all day. The mountains on the Ridge Route were very pretty, with the blanket of snow covering most of their hills. We stopped at 9:30 a.m. in Bakersfield for breakfast at a lovely eating-place called "The El Adobe." We surely enjoyed our food, eating by a big window, away from the smokers. Florence insisted on paying the check. We stopped again in Tracy at 2 p.m. and enjoyed a nice sandwich and a milk shake. After we left Tracy it started to look cloudy. We ran into some rain off and on along our way to Oakland. It was raining lightly when

we got out at Ruth's home. We had very little trouble finding the place, Florence asked a few times at gas stations, but she and John and Donna had the right directions in mind, so we lost no time on wrong roads, which was nice. It was 3:30 p.m. when we arrived. Kay and Barbara have grown so tall; they were surely delighted to see Grama Marsh. They want her to stay there. Linda is a cute little tot, she reminded



"Never a dull moment, eh?" Kathy tries to light a match.



Roland Renshaw, Winnie Renshaw, Marvin's parents, best man who looks like a brother to groom, Marvin & Elaine Alexander, Donna Renshaw, and two bridesmaids.

us of little Kathy. Ruth looks fine; her infant son Kenneth is a beautiful baby and very good-looking. Dr. Dick wasn't home until this evening. Ruth phoned some motels for us and made reservations at the MacArthur Motel. We went there and rested a while then got cleaned up pretty and went back to Ruth's. She invited us to come back to dinner. We surely enjoyed the delicious leg of lamb dinner. Ruth played some very lovely records for us "Only a Rose" and others. Dick built their recording player. He is surely a genius with the inventions he has made. He took us to the basement to show us the recording devise that he has made to take messages from his patients. He also can open his garage door when he goes or comes, by just pushing a button. It was raining hard when we left for the L.D.S. Chapel in Oakland 1st Ward. Ruth lives a way up in the hills. Jerry and Charlie Renshaw greeted us at the door of the church recreation hall, where the wedding reception was. They were surprised to see us and seemed delighted. The bridal party was having their pictures taken. We waited until after to see Winnie and the others. Roland and Donna were in the receiving line; she was beautiful in a blue gown. Elaine was a very sweet little bride in white lace over satin. They all treated us just grand. The groom and his folks are nice people. The groom danced with Donna and with me after they were free to leave the line. The bride danced with Uncle Louis. It was a very nice reception. Winnie looks very well. Donna helped Aunt Winnie put the gifts back in their boxes ready to take to her apartment. Elaine and Marvin got lots of nice gifts. We were disappointed that

Shirley Little couldn't come to the reception. I helped Elaine get out of her wedding gown, after the people were mostly gone home. She is a cute little lady, real sweet. We had a very lovely time tonight with Winnie and her fine family; so glad we came. Bishop Warnick (Carl's brother), came up to us at the reception; he remembered Lou leading the singing, when he and his wife visited Carl and family two years ago. His wife was with him; they are nice people.

January 23, Saturday

Today is Lou's birthday; he is 64 years old. We gave Lou two new white shirts, and two pair of L.D.S. garments. We had a very good nights rest in our nice motel. Donna and I slept together, Daddy on the couch bed. Lou has a head cold. Our car had a flat tire this morning. Lou had to have it fixed. It was raining, too. We ate a very good breakfast in a nice coffee shop not far from our motel. I surely did enjoy it. I had one egg and some potatoes and toast. Donna phoned Shirley Little after we ate breakfast. She invited us to come to her house for lunch at 1:30 p.m. in San Francisco. Donna then phoned Vera Reiche and told her we were coming over to say hello; she was delighted and surprised. We had a nice visit with Vera and her family. Fred and son John took Lou and me through the new church they are building next door to the Reiche home. Fred and John spend all their spare time in the building. Fred has charge of the building; it is a lovely building. John and his girl friend made a cake last night. They served Lou a piece for his birthday, with a lighted candle on it. We all sang "Happy

Birthday" to him. The cake was green with pink frosting. Lou talked to Mickey Olson on Vera's phone, told her we would call to say hello to them. Fred tracked our course on a map, that John gave us, so we found Von and Mickey's [Olson] place without any trouble. They live in Cerrito, California, not far from Oakland. It rained all day long, which was miserable for us to get in and out of the places that we visited, but we had a wonderful time seeing our dear friends and relatives again. Mildred's children are so cute and good-looking; we had a nice visit with them. I asked Vera to phone after we left her place and tell Mickey not to think about lunch for us. Lou forgot to tell her over the phone, that we were going to eat lunch in San Francisco, with Shirley Little and children. Mickey and Von look grand, as do the three little children. They are a lovely family. Von got his car out to go after us when we passed his house but we had turned around and were on our way back. They have a pretty home with a lovely view of the city. Von gave us instructions how to find Shirley's apartment in San Francisco. Mickey and Von know Shirley and Franklin, the boys were in the service together, and their wives lived in the same town or camp with them. They are sorry about the separation of the Littles. Franklin is married again now. We arrived at Shirley's a few minutes after 1:30 p.m. She and son John had gone to the laundromat to have washing done. Daisy, her colored lady was ill today. Shirley had a lovely fried chicken dinner ready with corn bread, broccoli, salad, and cake and whipped Jello dessert. It tasted so good; she is a sweet little lady. We had a nice visit with her and her three children. The two little girls are darlings, Janet and Julie. I played two spin the card games with Julie. We all rested after lunch. Donna helped Shirley do the dishes. John showed us the model airplanes he has made and Shirley showed us his drawings. He is an artist, bright and handsome. The little girls danced for us. Janet played the piano; they are a lovely family. Shirley is lonely but a wonderful girl. I phoned Winnie as I'd promised her I'd do. She had gone out with a friend. Charlie talked to me and to Shirley. We took Shirley to get her laundry and then came back to Oakland. We had a sandwich and piece of pie in the same nice eating-place where we ate this morning. Donna phoned the Deal's home twice, no answer. We went to our motel, enjoyed the radio. Donna took a bath. We went to bed early. It has been a very happy day in spite of the rain.

January 24, Sunday

'Twas raining again this morning, and it did all night. Lou got up at 6 a.m. and turned on the gas heater, then got back in bed. We all got up when the room was nice and warm. We ate a good breakfast in the same eating-place we did yesterday morning, the same excellent breakfast. We ate there last night, also. We went up to Ruth's for John and Florence. The little children were all up to see Grama and Grampa off

on the trip back home, they are a very sweet family. After drinking some hot chocolate milk they all went back to bed, I'm sure, as they sleep late on Sunday mornings. Ruth and Dick took the two older girls with them last night when they took the Marshes out to dinner. They left the two babies with Dr. Deal's sister, Dot. They were all looking out their big living room window as we drove away in the rain, Dick,



Dot Christensen is Richard Deal's sister.

Ruth, and the four children. It rained all the way to Fresno, California. We had a delicious rolled beef roast dinner in a lovely eating-place. John knew about it, as he had eaten there before. Florence tried to pay the check again, but we wouldn't have it. They insisted on paying for Donna's dinner anyway. Rex gave Donna \$10.00; she took the \$10.00 home with her. John and Lou would not let her spend her money. It is needed at home for sure. We left Fresno at 1:25 p.m. It did not rain after we left Fresno for about two hours. Donna drove about 53 miles into Bakersfield, while Lou rested. The rain started in again after leaving Bakersfield. We had rain all the rest of the way home. It was very hard to drive with lights in Lou's eyes, plus the rain. We were all glad to arrive at the Marshes' home at 6:40 p.m. Donna phoned her home to let them know

we had arrived that far, safe and sound. Florence insisted on fixing a nice little lunch for us with hot chocolate milk, baked ham, raspberries and cakes. It surely tasted grand to all of us. We have enjoyed this nice trip with John and Florence such a lot. It has been a long time since we took a trip with them. They helped with gas and eats and it was all so much fun to be with them again on a trip. We took Donna home to Sierra Madre at 7:40 p.m. Her happy little family was glad to have Mother back home. They didn't go to church because of the rain. Joan is still at Aunt Florence's with Diane. I was too tired to hear my TV favorite show tonight, "Letters to Loretta Young." We went to bed early. We were surprised to see the avocado tree had been topped while we were away. It looked so strange, but we're delighted. Annie phoned tonight to tell us that Miss Bee (Ann Buxton), died on Friday. Her funeral will be Wednesday.

January 25, Monday

It looked and felt like rain today, but we didn't get any. Gordon had to go home ill this afternoon; Lou is worried over his condition, he needs an operation. He suffers with a pain in his side most of the time. Beverly worked again at the shop. I'm glad they can give her this extra work. Joan is still at the Oateses'. She phoned Donna from school today; she wasn't feeling very well, she had cramps and stiffness, from horseback riding. Donna told me that Rex fried chicken for his family on Saturday night. They ate it after Sunday School yesterday. Mary Howard brought dinner down to them Saturday night, nice eh? Rex took the two Howard children to the drive-in show with him and his three children on Saturday

night. The children stayed all night. Mary Howard came down Sunday morning to help get the children ready for Sunday School. I did some work in my scrapbook and some in the Relief Society scrapbook today. Nora Williamson phoned to tell me she was back from the trip to Utah, ready to do our Relief Society teaching. We're going tomorrow afternoon, after Relief Society meeting. We'll go about 2 p.m. after we've been home for lunch. Lou received two birthday cards today, one from Will and Flora Taylor, and one from Ethel Newbold. He had to go to the post office to get Ethel's because 3¢ was due, it was a big fat one, but cute. Will and Flora are going to visit Jack and Lillian Keller for a few days after the first of February, then come to see us here, nice eh? Will sent his picture clipping, telling of his retirement from A.S. & R. Company after 42 years continuous service in the company. Lou went to bed early, I stayed up to cook cracked wheat cereal and copy notes from our trip in my diary. I'm tired!

January 26, Tuesday

It was a treat to see a pretty sunny morning after the cloudy wet weather. Ray Blid came this morning and fixed the wallpaper that had come loose in our living room; a strip at the side of our front door. He papered it last year for us. Bonna Gordon came for me; she was alone. Marie Doezie couldn't go today because of some plumbing trouble at home. I was sorry because I know she loves Relief Society and hates to miss any. We had a nice crowd out; Mrs. Morris was swamped with little children and babies to look after this morning. We had a very interesting lesson in social science, "The Constitution of the United States." Phyllis McDonnel is an excellent teacher and so cute with her humor. I opened our meeting with prayer this morning. Bonna Gordon took Donna and Kathy home, because Clarice Tanner stayed to quilt after the meeting. We were turning into Donna's driveway when some young boys missed hitting us with their hot rod by a split second. They burned up the tires on their car stopping, black marks for 10 feet. It upset poor Bonna; she was shaking all the way bringing me home. Nora Williamson came for me at 2 p.m. We did our Relief Society visiting. It was her first time out, as a visiting teacher. I believe she enjoyed it. I gave the message in the homes. Beverly gave Lou a box of See's Chocolates and a birthday card. Donna sent a box of Juliette's Chocolates



WILLIAM H. TAYLOR

On December 31, 1953, William H. Taylor retired. Bill has been working continuously for A. S. & R. Co. since September 1, 1911, and when he retired had over 42 years of continuous service with the Company.

Bill has been a foreman in the Power House since May 16, 1949. Mr. Taylor has lived in Salt Lake City many years and he and his wife have raised five children.

Bill is looking forward to retirement. He plans to travel to California to visit friends and relatives.

A group of his friends gave Bill a send-off and presented him with a fine gift. He was also presented with a wrist watch by the 25-year Club for his many years of loyal service.

Best wishes and lots of luck, Bill, for many happy years of retirement.

Article that Will Taylor sent to Elvie on January 25, 1954.

home to Daddy, too. We'll have more fun, and more avoirdupois eh? I enjoyed TV tonight. Lou went to a Sunday School meeting at Louise Anderson's home tonight. He ate pumpkin pie and whipped cream.

January 27, Wednesday

Donna took Kathy on the bus this morning at 9:20 a.m.; they had to ride three different buses to get to the Deluxe Venetian blind shop, where Grampa Lou works. He let Donna drive his car and take us to Miss Ann Buxton's funeral, in the Vermont Ward Chapel. Donna came back here for me; we went to Highland Park and picked up Leona Thomson, at her home 5043 Buchanan Street. We picked Aunt Annie up on Avenue 57, she'd been to the bank, then we picked Lorene up at her home, 223 South Avenue 57, and then to Marshes to pick up Florence at 2017 ½ Hancock. There were seven of us in the car, counting baby Kathy. She sat on my lap in the backseat. We got there 25 minutes early. It is a long drive so we left early. Miss B. looked lovely in her temple robes, but so thin. The flowers were beautiful; the one we sent was very pretty. It was \$8.00 so cost us \$1.00 a piece. The services were very nice; a young woman sang two lovely solos. Miss B.'s former bishop and the present bishop spoke. Donna stayed out in the car with Kathy; she had a little lunch in a sack that I fixed for her (sandwich and cookies). They took a little walk to the schoolyard, nearby and saw some baby pigs and other animals. We all shook hands with Kathy Saxelby after the services. She was about to get into

the family car of Rice Mortuary, to go to the cemetery in Inglewood Park. We had a funeral sticker on our car, but it was too far for us to go as we did have a long way to go back home. We left Florence Marsh off, then Lorene, then Leona. Donna, Kathy, and I ate lunch with Annie; I bought some bread, milk, and lettuce at Annie's corner store. We surely enjoyed the nice lunch. Beverly came about 2:20 p.m. She'd been working at the Venetian blind shop for Gordon. She gave Donna and Kathy some Kraft Caramels to take home. Annie gave Donna and me some canned fruit, and tuna from the Deseret Industries. We stopped in the shop to see Lou. I went to Sierra Madre with Donna and baby. Lou worked until 5 p.m. His friend Jack brought him home. I did some ironing for Donna while she prepared her dinner and typed some queen tributes for Aunt Annie. Donna and I went to her little store and bought a few things for our dinner. Rex and Kathy ate when he came. Donna drove our car here. Rex

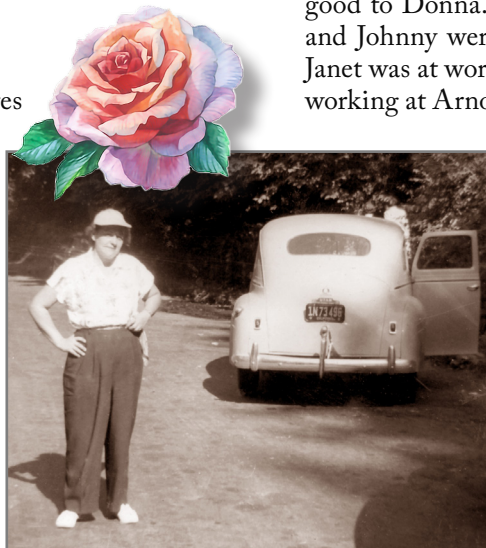
came to get her a few minutes later. Rex stayed to watch the boxing on TV so Johnny and Donna ate here. Yes, Kathy ate again, ha ha. Janet and Mary ate at home. Janet went to Mutual with Clarice Tanner. Mary stayed home and read her book until the folks got home.

January 28, Thursday

I did my washing this morning. It was damp and cloudy, but the sun managed to get through, long enough to dry them. I defrosted the icebox after lunch and made a Jello dessert. They finished up the work at the shop today, so Beverly will not come back tomorrow. Lou will phone for her when they need her again. He told me he wishes he could keep her on steady, full time. The Cannon Electric Company is laying off several of their employees tomorrow evening; Beverly is one of them. I feel sorry about that, I do wish she could find a real good paying job. She is such a dear girl; we all love our Bev. Dale is quitting his job with Dick Johnston's company so he can go to school at the P.C.C. (Pasadena City College). He is taking art and? He is wise to do it while he is young but he has been a big help to his family, I can't see how they'll manage if Beverly doesn't find a job soon. There is a lot to worry us in the old life, eh? Joan is going up to the Mt. Baldy camp, with the Oateses tomorrow, for a stake Gleaner and M Men snow party. It is a Mutual stake party, not sure about which group. Joan has been living with the Oateses the past two weeks. She loves to stay there. Lou brought the little whatnot piece [*shelf*] he made, home this evening. It is stained and varnished dark walnut, like our furniture. It looks cute on our living room wall, with some little whatnots on it. Our ward teachers came tonight, Br. Summers and young Lynn Rowbotham. We enjoyed their visit. Lou treated the Marshes to his birthday chocolates last evening, when they were here. Donna bought them for his birthday.

January 29, Friday

Donna took Kathy to the Las Flores Ward this morning to the Relief Society leadership meeting. They have a lady in the nursery there, to take care of the children. Donna brought her here at 12:30 for me to enjoy, while she went to Bonna Gordon's to lunch with her officers and teachers for their board meeting. I poached eggs for Kathy and me, she had cottage cheese first, and canned peaches for her dessert. We looked through my scrapbooks and played with her dolly. She wasn't ready to go home when Donna came for her at 2:30 p.m. but she was smiling when they left. Clarice Tanner gave her a dime for ice cream cone. Faye Timothy was in Clarice Tanner's car, too. I did my ironing this morning, before my baby arrived. I had a pain in my left ear today; it felt much better after I put the warm medicine and



On January 30th several family members and friends dropped by to see the Renshaws.



Beverly Andersen in the photo on top, below Harold Gunn and Annie Andersen.

cotton in it. I rested with a warm pillow to my ear. I have a slight head cold, my neck is stiff, and it hurts to turn my head. (Enough of your troubles Grama.) Joan is going up to Mt. Baldy with Oateses and their stake Gleaner and M Men party for fun tomorrow. She has borrowed some skis and is going to learn to ski. I hope she has a grand time, without accident. I do love my sweet little Marshes. Lou got his car back from Mr. Frost this afternoon. His grill was fixed and new chrome in it. He dented it pushing Gordon's workshop truck to get it going. Gordon's insurance paid for the job. Gordon had to have work done on his own car too; he had a little accident with it the other day.

January 30, Saturday

I got up first this morning for a change. I cooked a nice breakfast for Lou. He took his car for a wash job after eating. He was back home in no time; he did a little polishing and painted a spot or two on the red trim around Indian heads. He keeps his car looking like new. Mr. Frost put the grill, which had been dented when Lou pushed Gordon's truck about ten days ago, back on our car yesterday with a new chrome job, too. We went to the nursery and bought some chlordane spray and a spray bottle to use with the hose. [*Chlordane spray is toxic and was taken off the market in 1988.*] It cost my man \$4.00, ☹. We got groceries at Shopping Bag Market, another \$20.00. We went to Nellie Fisher's for some cracked wheat cereal. She misunderstood and gave Lou five pounds of wheat flour. We had to go back for the cracked wheat. We took the flour out to Donna as she bakes bread with whole-wheat flour. The Marshes arrived at Donna's a few minutes after we did. We had a nice visit. John insisted on Donna taking \$1.50 for new nylon hose, because he took home a sack of avocados. He is so darn generous and good to Donna. Both of the Marshes are, bless 'em. Mary and Johnny were at a matinée with the Howard children. Janet was at work, she got home just before we left. Rex was working at Arnold Stephens home. Joan was up in the snow with the Oateses and their stake Mutual young folks. We all left Donna's at the same time. Lou and I stopped at the new church. Br. Beck and his invalid wife were there guarding the place. Lou told him he'd come up after eight if no one came to relieve them. Br. Beck called Lou at 8:30 p.m. Lou went over but didn't have to stay long. Br. Maughn came for the night watch. Lou and I had a very nice surprise this afternoon. Two cars full of our dear old friends came to see us. They had been to lunch at Van de Kamp's in Pasadena. Beverly led the way to our house. It was Beverly, Annie, Lorene, Sue, Sr. Burnett, Maude C., Alice S., Bishop Harold Gunn and wife Evelyn, and young son Terry. It was a grand surprise for us. We had just finished spraying our patio lawn and the camellia bush, which are infested with moth worms. The smog came in on us today; it was the worst we've had in many months. (Awful!)

January 31, Sunday

It was a beautiful sunny morning, no smog; the factories are not running today. Too bad we can't have freedom from the dreadful smog always, eh? We enjoyed Sunday School as always. There were a lot of out of town visitors again this morning. Ethel Burk greeted them in our class. Janet had a pretty new dress on that she bought. It is sleeveless, a little strap over her shoulder, neck line low, (too low this Grama thinks). The dress is flowered cotton. Janet makes any dress look pretty. Mary went home with the Campbell's, after Sunday School. Joan is at the Oateses'; I miss not seeing my sweet Joan at Sunday School. We brought Johnny home with us. Grampa Lou treated us to dinner at the newest Bob's eating place in East Pasadena. We all had a Bob's Special and French-fried potatoes. Johnny and I had a thick chocolate malt. The bishop called a special meeting for many of our ward sisters this afternoon in the new church building. Later this afternoon, we learned what it was about when Dorothy Campbell and Rhoda Jorgensen called on us, asking the members to give more on the new church building so they can keep the work going on it and finish it by May for the dedication. Lou gave Bishop Summerhays \$25.00 this morning. If he can keep work, he will pay two days wages a month until May as the bishop has asked the membership to do. The sad part is some of the people have not paid at all on the building. We told Hilda Botting we'd take her home from church tonight and then we came home without her. Oh, we did feel sorry about it. I hope she'll forgive us. I'll write her a note in the morning. We got so interested listening to the news about the two new wards in our stake; Monrovia and Las Flores Wards were divided today. Some of the Las Flores Ward folks have been put in our ward. Donna went out with Phyllis McDonnell this afternoon, to collect money or get pledges signed. They collected \$250. It included a \$200 check from Br. Paulson.

February 1, Monday

One of our 1954 months has gone into the past, how time flies, eh? It was a perfect day, warm, sunny, and a breeze. I washed all of my loop rugs and both of our bedspreads; everything dried beautifully. I was very tired when finished and had to lie down for 1½ hours. I wrote a note to Hilda Botting, asking forgiveness for forgetting her last night. We forgot to bring her home from church. Annie and Bev got a letter from Elsie and Doris, they are coming to California in two weeks for a short visit. Gordon Hodges used Lou's car today; his is in the garage for repairs. The old one they gave him to use, while his was being repaired broke down today.

Lou brought the truck home this evening. After dinner he went over to Arnold Stephens to take a window out of the shower room. The ward priesthood men are fixing the house up for Mrs. Stephens. Arnold is in the hospital at Sawtelle. Lou didn't stay long; he didn't have enough nails for the job. Janet, Joan, and a girl friend went out for some refreshments somewhere this evening (eats). Rex and Donna went to Oateses' to get Joan last night after church. Joan didn't go to school today, she is not feeling well. She took care of Kathy while Donna went to her Relief Society meeting at Melba Kunz's this morning. Dale started school at the P.C.C. this morning, after working for a year. I'm glad he is taking the art course while he is young and not married. I hope he'll be as fortunate as his brother Glen, with a good job in that field, when he graduates. I was glad to hear Lou say that a few blinds came to the shop, so he had a busy day after all. This a.m. he told me on the phone that he had nothing to do but shine his shoes.

February 2, Tuesday

It's another beautiful day. Bonna Gordon came for me at 9:15 a.m. Marie Doezie was with her and we picked Addie Strang up at her home, bless that Bonna's heart. I enjoyed Margaret Waugman's lesson to the visiting teachers, "Let not the pride of your hearts destroy your souls" (Jacob 2:16). (The Cultivation of Humility.) We teachers will take this message into the homes we'll visit in February. We had a lovely big crowd out today. Louise Cotterell gave our Theology lesson, and she did a beautiful job of it. It was on the record of Zeniff. She made the Book of Mormon characters live for us. We had many lovely testimonies after the lesson. I was the second one up today, so I could enjoy the others in comfort. I enjoyed my precious baby Kathy, after the meeting. She was with Mrs. Morris and the children in the nursery while we were in meeting. I'm amazed at all she can say now; her vocabulary is surely growing fast. She was so slow compared to the other grandchildren, she had a strange baby lingo the others didn't have,

but now she can say most anything she hears (2½ years old). I got two dozen Brown and Serve rolls from the Helms Bakery man, to take to the dinner at Cuff's tonight. I'm taking a half pound of butter, too. I read my Relief Society scripture assignment this afternoon, Mosiah 9-22, the same as we had in January. I talked to Donna about it over the phone, she also wishes they'd give us the reading in smaller amounts so we'd have the same chapters in the Book of



Visiting Teacher Messages

Book of Mormon Gems of Truth

Lesson 21—"Let Not This Pride of Your Hearts Destroy Your Souls!" (Jacob 2:16).

Leone O. Jacobs

For Tuesday, February 2, 1954

Objective: To encourage the cultivation of humility.

THROUGHOUT the scriptures, mankind has repeatedly been admonished against pride and its degenerating effects. Oft quoted from Proverbs is: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

Ruskin said, "In general, pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes." From the pages of history, we learn that pride has been the initial step in the downfall of many peoples and nations. Particularly in Book of Mormon history is this evident. The rise and fall of different peoples chronicled therein, closely parallel the absence or presence of pride. Wars and tribulations have been preceded by this pernicious evil.

Typical of many similar quotations are these:

And now, in this two hundred and first year there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride (4 Nephi 24).

They persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their pride they are puffed up (2 Nephi 28:13).

And also the people who were called the people of Nephi began to be proud in their hearts . . . And from this time the disciples began to sorrow for the sins of the world (4 Nephi 43, 44).

Pride is the forerunner of many other evils. It is a contributing fac-

tor in the downfall of many societies.

How may one's soul be destroyed by pride? Pride has always been a stumbling block in the way of righteousness. When it infects the human heart, the very essence of Christianity is crowded out, which is the true love of one's fellow men. Pride leads one to become selfish, and selfishness is not righteousness. When one is proud, he is inclined to show preference for social prestige, wealth, the worldly acclaim of men, and to set aside the things of God. Thus pride cankers the soul.

Pride leads some to exercise unrighteous dominion over those less fortunate, to be lifted up in their own estimation above others, to expect special privileges and consideration. Such a spirit is not in harmony with the gospel of Jesus Christ. "Think of your brethren like unto yourselves" (Jacob 2:17), said Jacob, in The Book of Mormon.

Elder Albert E. Bowen said, "There is no aristocracy with the Lord except the aristocracy of righteousness."

Pride is a destructive force, while humility fosters and builds righteousness and nobility of character. Humility induces one to give credit and thanksgiving to his Maker for

First page of the visiting teaching message published in the November 1953 Relief Society Magazine.

Mormon, for three months. I believe we'd digest it better, if we didn't have the same long assignment for three months; a few chapters each time instead of so many of the same thing at once. We enjoyed our dinner and evening at Cuff's. Rex and Donna went to the Howard's home. The mothers went out tonight, collecting for the March of Dimes Fund for poliomyelitis research. They came here and up to Cuff's.

February 3, Wednesday

I'm thankful for another day free from smog, it is lovely and sunny. We had a nice time last night, with Bob and LaDorna Perine, Dr. Harold and Dixie Kratzer, the Veterline's, (a nice young couple we met for the first time.) She is a member of our church, and Champ and Mary Dawn Cuff in their lovely home. It was our building fund dinner and it was good; tamale pie, green tossed salad, fruit Jello salad. I took the rolls and butter. We had home-made fruit ice cream and chocolate cake. Rex and Donna ate fried chicken at Mary and Harry Howard's home last night. Johnny boy is enjoying a day out of school; he had a touch of diarrhea last night. Donna says one of Joan's school friends has invited her to fly to Hawaii with her, to visit her grandmother, during vacation time. The Grandmother has a hotel over in the islands, all expenses paid. Our Joan can't understand why Donna isn't anxious to let her go. To Joan it's the chance of her lifetime. To Mother, 'tis impossible, she doesn't know the girl



Joan was invited to Hawaii for an all expenses paid trip. Sounds pretty interesting!

or her folks. To Grama Elvie? Well, dear Lord, help them, my teenagers to keep sweet and clean and be happy. Thank goodness I do not have to decide what is best for them. I know Donna is wise enough for the enormous job. I phoned Elvenia Summers not to call for me for Mutual tonight. I was going to sister Annie's to visit with Maude Craddock and Alice Schulthess, and sister Lorene. After Lou had seen the Blue Ribbon Bouts on TV this evening, we went to Highland Park to spend the evening. We had a nice visit with Andersens and Maude and Alice. I was disappointed that Lorene couldn't come; she had a missionary appointment. We watched television, Bev and Annie served cookies and sherbet drink. I did not indulge, but was sorely tempted. I'm not feeling too good today; I ate too much rich food last night. We took Alice and Maude home from Andersen's tonight to Alice's home. Maude is going back to Provo, Utah

soon. I wrote to Lillian Keller, Violet Fife, and Eloise B. today. Lou said he'd take our two kitchen chairs to the shop in the morning and paint them. I washed them this evening.

February 4, Thursday

The good old summertime is here. I phoned Donna this morning; she was rushing to get ready to go to the Singing Mother's rehearsal. They're going to take a picture of the group, for the Relief Society Magazine today. They are wearing white blouses and dark skirts. I spent an hour watering the lawns and flowerbeds this morning. Lou put grass seed in our lawns and it is coming up now, so it must have water these warm days. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold this a.m., now I'm all caught up with everyone, I can set back and wait for the answers, eh? It's so much fun to receive letters, but, so hard to get down to answering 'em, eh? I phoned Andersens to ask after Bill; he didn't feel very well last night. Beverly said he felt fine this morning and went to his work. I went over the walls and woodwork with Soil-off in the kitchen and dinette. I had some trouble with my heart, half way through the job, so I took two hours off to rest on the couch. Soil-off is so wonderful to clean with. The homes in California do not get dirty like they used to do back home in Utah, but it doesn't take much exercise to put me down for a rest anyway. Janet and Rex went to choir practice tonight. Donna took Johnny and Kathy with her and Mary to the school, to Mary's Girl Scout award program tonight. A lady from Sierra Madre phoned Donna today and asked if they could use her home for a voting place, their next election day, for \$12.00 from 7 a.m. to about midnight. I do not think it is worth the trouble and the wear on her already too worn rugs. She is going to give her answer tomorrow evening. Lou painted our two kitchen chairs today at the shop with spray gun.

February 5, Friday

Our beautiful clear days are still favoring us. I was going to do some good vacuuming today, but I got interested in composing Queen for a Day tributes in rhyme, result, no cleaning. I composed one poem to Mary Hill and one to Madge Fowler. Madge is our stake Relief Society president. I had a nice visit over the phone with Madge. I told her I wanted to know a few facts, as I was going to write up a little article to go with the picture of her, that we are going to put in our Relief Society scrapbook. I have written the article up also; the facts she gave came in handy for her surprise queen tribute too, when we use it. Madge has served in Relief Society for 27 years. She was a ward president three times, and the stake president for the past 10 years. She's a very lovely person. Mary and Harry Howard went to Las Vegas, Nevada today with Mary's sister and husband. The children are staying with Donna and family until they come back Sunday afternoon. Joan went to stay all night with her girl friend, Janice Jared; she is going to the beach with Janice

and her folks tomorrow. Janet and Warnie went to a show tonight. Nina Wolfe invited Mary, Johnny, Bonny, and David Howard, in her home to watch television. She rents the little house in rear of Donna's home. Two ladies called to talk to Rex and Donna about using their home in June for the voting or polling place. They want Donna to work on the board on Election Day. She may work for them for \$15.00, but she isn't going to have them in her home. I think one lady's name was Buchanan. Lou fixed our kitchen table leg tonight; it was too short. Lou received a letter and a birthday card from his sister Lillian. The card had been returned twice to her because the address was wrong. She got it right this time. Lou went to the market for our groceries tonight. He bought a nice leg of lamb, so I could invite Donna and family to dinner on Sunday. I phoned her; they are invited to the Oateses' where all the Marshes are having dinner because Madge and family are here from Montana.

February 6, Saturday

Our kitchen table is wobblier than before; Lou will have to operate on it once more, ha ha! He went over to Arnold Stephens home to help Ver! Tucker do some carpenter work. Arnold is still in the hospital at Sawtelle; he is paralyzed, the poor man. Mrs. Stephens is working nights. Joan has gone to spend the day at the beach with Janice Jared and family. Mary, Johnny, and the two Howard children went to a special matinee at ten o'clock this morning. Baby Kathy has had a busy morning getting in Mama's way. I phoned at the wrong time, when Donna was mixing bread. Kathy took over the job while Donna was on the phone with me. Bill Andersen phoned to tell Lou the paint Lou got for Bill's kitchen sink, curdles up when applied to the sink. That is not good, eh? Lou said there were a dozen or more men at the Stephenses' home working, cleaning up the yard, painting inside. Lou hung eight doors on the cabinets. The priesthood is doing the job for the Stephenses. This evening we picked Lorene up at her home then went to Andersen's and picked up Sue and Annie. We all went to Hollywood to Helen and Van Obremski's. Bill didn't feel enough to go with us, his legs are bothering him. We had a nice meeting. Blanche read part of a letter, and had Lorene read another letter from Frances Helman. She handed me a poem by Eloise Brooks to read, I also gave my own poem "Spring" and one that I didn't compose, "The Old Clay House." Helen sang a solo, "Marketta." The girls from the south served a nice luncheon on a plate.

Our car wouldn't start until Clint pushed it. We got home without trouble. We took Sue home. Today Lorene, Annie, Beverly, Sue, Maude C., and Alice S. went to Farmer's Market in Los Angeles for lunch. I told Donna to come to dinner on Monday night and we'd have "Home Night" here. They're going to Oateses' on Sunday.

February 7, Sunday

Today was a real warm sunny day. Our car wouldn't start this morning, so I went to Sunday School on the bus. Ann Hartshorne and little son Donald, and Ann's mother, were on the bus, too. We walked up to the church together. We had a nice big Sunday School; a large group of folks from the Las Flores Ward have been transferred into our ward and one family from the Monrovia Ward. They all were friendly and lovely looking people. I hope they'll like East Pasadena Ward and be happy with us. President Hunter and family, stake secretary Jensen and family, Br. Ashton and family, Br. Dunkern and family, and several others. I can't remember the names. Their records were read off in our fast meeting. I believe they said 85 souls in all, counting babies. Those present stood up as their names were called. Mr. Edgecomb let Lou use his battery charger for a few hours until our car would start. Lou took it to Chet's station later, to talk to him about a battery, and etcetera. Lou washed the cement floor in the cabaña out with the hose. I dusted the furniture. Dr. Don Anderson brought me home from Sunday School. He had his darling little children with him, and Bishop Summerhays's small son Dale. They are all beautiful children. Louise A. had her own car, a station wagon. Don has to leave earlier, because of his priesthood

class, so Louise brings the children in time for Sunday School. I guess they all want to ride home with Daddy eh? They're a lovely family. We were just about to leave for our night meeting when Helen and Van Obremski came; they wouldn't let us stay home from church. Lou gave them the deer meat he promised them. We went to church. We enjoyed the meeting tonight. It was the Boy Scouts meeting. Lou fixed our kitchen table again; it is okay now. Rex and family went to the Oateses' ranch after Sunday School to a fried chicken dinner. All of the Marshes got together to celebrate the visit of Madge and family from Montana.



Louise and Don Anderson with daughter Dixie.

February 8, Monday

It was sunny and bright today. My washing dried in a short time. I made a Jello fruit salad, cooked a leg of lamb, prepared my vegetables, and

"I invited my little Marsh family to come here and eat dinner with us at 6 o'clock, and have Home Night here. I also invited John and Florence Marsh to come and eat and join in the Home Night. ... We had a happy time... Mary had charge of the program; we sang "Shine On," for the opening song. Johnny gave the opening prayer. I read my poem, "Memories." ... Baby Kathy sang, "I Have Two Little Hands." ... Our teenage lovelies sang with us, but wouldn't perform alone. Oh, I do love my beautiful grandchildren. This is one of the happiest days of my life."

—Elvie Renshaw

set the table. I invited my little Marsh family to come here and eat dinner with us at six o'clock, and have Home Night here. I also invited John and Florence Marsh to come and eat and join in the Home Night. Donna made pies for the dessert; coconut cream and chocolate with whipped cream. She made four pies, and they were delicious. We had a happy time. Lou washed all the dishes, Florence, Donna, and Joan wiped them, and I put them away. Janet had to go to the Juanita Studio at 7:30 to have a retake on the picture she is going to have for her club book. Warnie called to take her; he came back with her and enjoyed our Home evening with us. Mary had charge of the program; we sang "Shine On," for the opening song. Johnny gave the opening prayer. I read my poem, "Memories." Rex wrote up a story while we were doing the dishes, we all filled in the adjectives and then he read his story, which caused fun and laughter. Mary and Johnny sang two duets. Baby Kathy sang, "I Have Two Little Hands." Donna played some old time songs; we all enjoyed singing them. Grama Marsh told about Paul Bailey's book, "Story of Indian." Then she dismissed our program with a nice prayer. Our teenage lovelies sang with us, but wouldn't perform alone. Oh, I do love my beautiful grandchildren. They all went home at nine o'clock, as it was a school night. Grama Elvie was very happy, but tired. This is one of the happiest days of my life. Earlier today I read Madge Fowler's queen tribute to Joan over the phone, she repeated it to Donna and she typed it amazingly fast. She brought it to me tonight. I mounted it in the folder and put roses on it tonight.

February 9, Tuesday

I put Madge Fowler's queen tribute in a green folder last night before going to bed, it is ready in case we want to use it today. We have four of them ready. Mary Hill's is not typed yet, but is composed. I'm waiting for Bonna Gordon to come for me at 9:30. Later, Donna and I both had a surprise today; we thought Clarice Warnick was going to be crowned. Then Melba Kunz told me that Ethel Burk had a tribute ready for Donna, and they would honor her today, as our Queen for a Day. I knew just a few minutes before going into the recreation hall for the coronation and the luncheon. Ethel had composed a very lovely tribute poem for Donna; she read it to her honor. Donna was a surprised and



Queen Donna Marsh, see following page for the poem about this lovely lady.

beautiful queen, in her pretty blue dress, gold crown, and the lovely camellia and rose bud corsage. Melba Kunz presented our queen with a book. The luncheon was delicious; the tables were beautiful, decorated in a valentine theme. Ann Hartshorne, Addie Strang, Lydia Smith, and Ella Wride's districts put the luncheon on today. Donna stooped down to light the miserable big ovens, in the kitchen at church this morning, and both of her best

nylon hose popped big runs in them, down the front. (A queen with runs!) I drew threads on little guest towels today. Bonna brought me and baby Kathy home; she had a car full. We took Emma Valdegin home today for the first time. We surely had a nice big crowd out to Relief Society. Several of our new members from the Las Flores Ward came, all nice looking ladies. I was sorry to learn this evening, when Lou came, of Beverly's dreadful accident this morning in which her nice car was wrecked. A fellow a few cars ahead, turned out and caused the following cars to stop quickly, because of a large truck. Bev didn't see him turn so she crashed into the car ahead of her. She didn't get over to the Venetian blind shop until noon; the poor dear was bruised and heart sick. Her car had to be towed to a garage. Bev wasn't seriously injured. They brought me a lovely picture of Janet. Kathy had a nice nap with her doll on my bed this afternoon. She ate dinner with us. Mary, Joan, and Johnny came with Donna this evening to get Kathy.

February 10, Wednesday

It's my sister Annie's birthday. I talked to her on the phone this morning; Beverly went to work again today, at Gordon's Venetian blind shop. She has some bad bruises on her knees and arms from her accident yesterday. I'm so thankful she isn't in the hospital, or worse. Annie phoned Hazel Anderson, to ask how Aunt Ray is; she's had several slight strokes lately. She is in a bad way, but is not paralyzed. Ovena Mayo and Gary called in to see me this morning. She wants me to compose a birthday tribute to Bishop Summerhays in a poem to be read at the Sunday School party on February 19. It will be a belated poem; his birthday was December 27. Donna talked to Dr. Nebeker last evening; she made an appointment to take Joan, Mary, and Kathy to see him today. This is Joan's third day of school. She has some lumps in the back of her head; it is her glands we think? She has had a cold for several days. Kathy has a bad cough, Mary's feet are hurting, it is turned arches. Donna took her to the Children's Hospital Clinic, they had her wear corrective shoes, but it has not helped the condition much. I believe it is only one foot that hurts her now. I composed the birthday tribute to Bishop Summerhays this afternoon. It is in the rough, will need some work on it yet, before I'm satisfied. I had dinner ready at 5 p.m. but Lou stopped to look at a large empty house on the corner of Blanche and Virginia. He talked to the owner for 40 minutes, so we ate at 6 p.m. We had to hurry



OUR SPECIAL QUEEN.

We wanted to find a delightful gal,
And wrap her up in a dream,
Wanted to put our arms round her
And crown her beloved queen.

To find such a one that is beautiful,
Compassionate, friendly and gay,
One who has a great many talents,
Sings well and the piano does play.

A companion that men could envy,
And the women all deeply admire,
Knows the gospel well and is gentle,
With excellent taste in attire.

One who is constantly doing much good,
A mother that is kindest and best,
Sews and quilts, and is full of charm,
A peacemaker who stands the test.

To fill requirements as stated,
One who is blessed and meek,
One whom we all call our friend,
Such a one we earnestly seek.

She must qualify in all that is meant,
Well - we have one, as now will be seen,
Our beloved Relief Society President,
So we crown Donna Marsh our Queen.

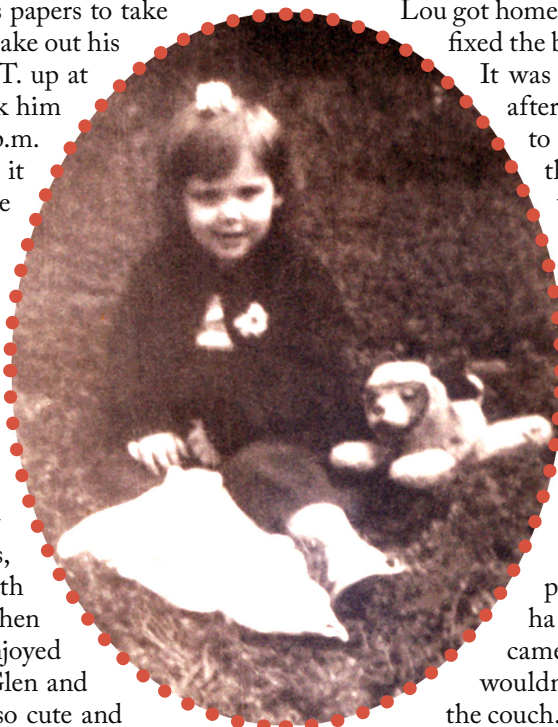
Ethel Leone Burk. 2-9-1954.

Feb. 9 - 1954

to get dishes cleared away and Lou's papers to take to Andersen's for Lon Timpson to make out his income tax papers. We picked Lon T. up at his home on Lincoln Street and took him and his type writer to Annie's at 7 p.m. Lon took care of Lou's papers first; it took longer than before because of the state tax. Lon is not well; he has to be operated on. He did Beverly's papers next, but he was too nervous to do Bill's and Dale's so he took them home to do. He has the needed information that Annie gave him. Beverly made a delicious cake for Annie to treat us; it had whipped cream and fruit frosting and was it good! Annie received many lovely cards and gifts from her club friends, we, her sisters, gave her cards with \$2.00 in. We took Lon T. home when he finished with Beverly's taxes. I enjoyed the TV programs. I was glad that Glen and family were there; the children are so cute and good looking. The baby has grown so fast, he is adorable, I held him a while. Glen and family brought a lovely white stole, nylon mitts and TV slippers to Annie. Lou bought some cinnamon candy balls on Friday last, and believe me, I'm enjoying them. Sorry that Mary and Johnny do not like them, I love 'em. I treated the folks to cinnamon candy balls. David and Gilbert liked them and ate several of them.

February 11, Thursday

I phoned Donna this morning, as I was anxious to hear what the doctor had to say about the children. Joan's trouble is gland swelling because of her cold. The doctor says it will go down all right. Mary's feet need a special exercise to correct her turned arches. He gave a prescription for baby's cough. There is always something to worry parents huh? I'm glad it isn't serious. I worked the poem over that I composed for the bishop this morning until it sounded better. Then I read it to Ovena Mayo over the phone. She was nice enough to tell me it was just what she wanted. I'm sure she was pleased, so I am, also. She asked me if I'd read it on the program on February 19. I told her I'd be glad to do it if she thought I could do it okay. Donna took Kathy to the Singing Mother's practice with her this morning. Kathy likes this baby sitter, Bessie, there. I stood on my kitchen table and wiped the ceiling clean, with Soil-off. I did half, and then rested on the couch for a while, until my heart action was normal, then I did the rest of it. I did the walls and woodwork last week. The homes in California do not get black, like they do in the snow countries. Soil-off brings the dirt off without a lot of hard rubbing. I rested on the couch when I was finished. I was there when



Kathy's imagination at work while she tells her doll "she can't have any of Kathy's candy....it would hurt the dolls stomach if she ate it."

Lou got home from work at 5 p.m. After dinner Lou fixed the broken handle on our kitchen stove jet.

It was his turn to take a nap on the couch after dinner. Donna phoned this evening to ask if Kathy could stay with us while they went to choir practice. Of course we were delighted to have our precious baby here with us. They came about 7:30. Kathy has a cough, I'll be glad when it is cleared up. She was so cute tonight. Clarice Tanner gave her a tiny little valentine box with a few pieces of candy in. It was very amusing to watch the baby telling her doll that the box was for Kathy and not for the baby doll, she told the doll it would "hurt her stomach if she ate it." The expressions she gets on her precious little face is surely something, ha ha! Kathy was still awake when they came for her. She was undressed, but wouldn't go on my bed. She wanted to lie on the couch. The light and the TV kept her awake.

Joan made herself some raisin toast, ha ha! Janet, Joan, Rex, and Donna all go to choir now, preparing for our dedication program in May.

February 12, Friday

It was clear this morning, but clouded up in the afternoon. I took my bath before breakfast; I went uptown on the 11 a.m. bus and bought some valentines for my kiddies and a few little gifts; a silk scarf for Mary, white beads and earrings for Janet and Joan, socks and a toy gun for Johnny, socks and a plastic toy for Kathy. I also got two large flowered vegetable bowls for Donna and Rex and some Kraft Chocolate Kisses. I wasn't gone long. Donna went to church this morning for the chorus practice, for our Relief Society program coming soon on a Sunday night in March. The kiddies were all home from school because of Lincoln's birthday. Johnny was at the Howards; he stayed all night, also. Mary was at her little girlfriends home, Carol Colvin. Beverly took Annie's bedroom Venetian blinds to the shop to be re-threaded and have drape heads put on. Lou took his bath when he got home at 5 p.m. and then rested for an hour on the couch. I defrosted the icebox. Joan came at 6 p.m.; she walked from Allen Avenue, down by the Cal Tech School. She'd been visiting her girlfriend Paula Wild. They'd been babysitting for Paula's cousin. We took Joan home, after getting some gas for the car. I gave the Green Stamps to Joan to take to her mother. Lou and I ate at Bob's eating place, the latest one in East Pasadena. We bought our week's supply of groceries at Shopping Bag Market and then came home to enjoy Lawrence Welk on TV. My heart has pained more than usual this evening. I went



Elvie liked using Soil-off.

past the point of wisdom yesterday and today, eh? I am really fatigued tonight.

February 13, Saturday

It rained most of the night and all day today. Lou got up and out without me hearing him. He ate hotcakes and coffee at Bob's eating place, then he went to Arnold Stephens's home to help the man fix the place up. He painted inside until about noon. After lunch, here at home, he enjoyed a nap out in the patio cabaña. He loves to hear it rain while he is resting. I'd rather be inside, where it is warm. He had his wool blanket. Ovena M. phoned to see when Lou was coming to help her choose some dance records for the Sunday School program on the 19th. She took Gary over to Donna's to stay while she and Lou went to the music store. Lou left here at 2:30 to go to Ovena's.

I received a pretty valentine from Ethel Newbold and a valentine poem from Eloise Brooks. I answered her poem in rhyme. I wrote it in red ink, and pasted a pretty red heart with a red rose bud on it. Lou got home from town at 5:15 p.m. He and Ovena went to town and selected about seven records to play for the dance next Friday night. Beverly Andersen let Lou borrow two books of her dance records, also. Gary stayed with Donna's girls this evening while Ovena and Chet went somewhere. I tried several times to call Donna on the phone, but no answer. Ovena phoned this evening to tell me that Donna's phone is out of order. A huge limb from the tree in their front parking broke off, cutting the telephone service off. She said that Rex and Donna were going to a movie, but the children would all be home. It stopped raining for a while, so we took the valentines and little gifts out to Sierra Madre. We didn't play the game of sending them after we found out that Mary and Johnny were at the show. Gary and little Kathy enjoyed the gum and candies in the valentines. We put the gifts and valentines up for kiddies. Janet and Joan were home with the children this evening. Warnie came as we were leaving. The girls liked their white beads and earrings. Lou bought a lovely valentine for me while he was out today. It had a red satin heart in the floral heart, very nice verse, too.

February 14, Sunday

We've had a bit of all kinds of weather today. It was raining when we went to Sunday School; we had some large hailstones, while in Sunday School class. We've had dark threatening clouds, and blue skies with sunshine all in this one day. We had a large attendance in spite of the wet weather this morning. Don Rowberry's class was interesting as always. I enjoyed seeing my Marshes this morning, too.

I didn't see Janet, but I did the others. They brought Lou and me a nice box of chocolates, in a pretty big red heart box, with a red satin bow, bless their hearts.

Mary wore the silk scarf we gave her this morning. Donna thanked me for the vegetable bowls and candy and valentines. My sweet Daddy treated me to a lovely dinner at

Fisher's Restaurant. [Lou valentine is on the next page.] He enjoyed a nice nap at home this afternoon. I enjoyed a television program. I was sorry to learn that Lillian Neal is ill again; someone said that Hilda Botting is ill in the hospital, I missed her this morning. I heard them announce that Sr. Botting was ill in the hospital, but I did not hear them say "Hilda." I do hope it isn't my friend Hilda Botting. We went to church tonight. It was a farewell testimonial for Marilyn Palmer. She is leaving here on Wednesday for Salt Lake City. She has been called on a mission to

the Mexican people. After the sacrament, we had a lovely program in honor of Marilyn. Remarks were by Eddie Kawai, Fayette Kunz, Helen Palmer, Bishop Summerhays, and our missionary Marilyn Palmer. Bill Raddatz sang a lovely solo. Madge Fowler and Lydia Smith played organ and piano duets for prelude and postlude. Norman Johnson and Bob Austin gave opening and closing prayers. Marilyn is a lovely girl; she'll be a wonderful missionary. Rex gave Donna a certificate for a permanent wave for a valentine gift.



A copy of the poem Elvie sent to Eloise Brooks on February 13, 1954



Above is the valentine card Lou gave Elvie in 1954. This photo of Louis Timothy Renshaw was taken in 1945.



February 15, Monday

It was a treat to see the sunny skies again and a nice breeze made the day perfect for drying our clothes. My neighbors and myself washed. Donna did her washing, also. Br. Ballard came for Donna this morning, took her to the Forest Lawn Cemetery; she sang a duet with Betty Ballard, at the funeral of Betty's neighbor, an elderly lady 90 years old. Mary Howard took Kathy up to her house while Donna went to the funeral. She brought the baby home when Donna returned and had a nice long visit with Donna. I cut up my old black straw hat and made it over. I hope I'll wear it and like it? The Edgecombs turned in their '50 Studebaker automobile for a '52 Studebaker car today. It is a pretty light green. Rex phoned us this evening from his mother's home. He wanted me to phone Donna and let her know he was eating with his folks. I phoned him back, after talking to Donna, to tell him to bring some oranges home with him. Beverly phoned to invite Donna and me to go to the Farmer's Market with a group of the relatives on Friday. Elsie Bailey and Doris Davies will be visiting here from Salt Lake City, Utah. They are with Elsie's folks in San Diego now. LaPriel Bunker is going with the group. She said she'd take the group through the mission house after they've been to the Farmer's market. LaPriel lives at the mission house, her husband is the mission president down here in California. Of course the group will see the Los Angeles Temple going up on the same grounds, also. I'd surely like to go. I hope Donna and I can go. Ovena Mayo said she would take care of Kathy for Donna.

February 16, Tuesday

'Twas a beautiful clear sunny day. Beverly phoned from the Venetian blind shop, she says maybe Dolores will pick Donna and me up Friday at noon, and take us to Highland Park where we'll meet the other folks at Andersen's to go to the Farmer's Market to lunch. Elsie and Doris are expected to be there Thursday night. Bonna Gordon came for me at 9:40 a.m. Marie Doezie was with her. We picked up Ann Hartshorne, and her little son Donny, and a lady living in one of Ann's apartment houses, I've forgotten her name.

She went to be a babysitter for our small babies.

Mrs. Morris took care of Kathy's age tots. I was surely surprised and delighted to see Venna Cannon in our Relief Society meeting, with Nora Williamson; they are dear friends. I had a nice visit with Venna after meeting; she looks fine, but has to be careful because of a heart condition. Faye Timothy gave a very beautiful lesson in Literature, on Thomas B. Macaulay, (Literature and History). She had a vocal solo sung by one of the lovely ladies from Las Flores Ward who was just transferred to our ward. She has a beautiful voice. Lorene Alder played a very lovely violin solo in our class period. Kathy cried to come home with me, I surely hated to leave her crying, bless her heart. I ate lunch and read over the visiting teacher's message. Nora Williamson came for me at 2:20 p.m. We did our Relief Society visiting. Nora and Venna had eaten lunch at Bullock's Pasadena

before she took Venna home. I enjoy going with Nora on our visiting, she is a very lovely person. We found seven of our nine families at home, so it was very nice this time. Donna brought the typed tribute for Bishop Summerhays and two queen tributes I'd composed. Lorraine Major is the young woman's name that sang for us today.

February 17, Wednesday

The weatherman says we have some rain on the way to our southlands in California. It felt like it all morning, but the sunshine managed to get through this afternoon. Beverly and Lou went to work an hour earlier this morning, so she could get her Venetian blinds strung up before eight o'clock, when she starts working for the company on Gordon's time. I shampooed my hair this morning. Donna phoned to say "good morning," she was going to shampoo her hair when she hung up the phone. Little Kathy was on the phone when I answered the ring. It was delightful to hear my baby say, "hello GamMa" mama gona wash hair." I made a birthday folder to put Bishop Summerhay's tribute poem in. I phoned Lou to tell him that Will and Flora are leaving Phoenix, Arizona, tonight and would arrive here at six o'clock in the morning on the Greyhound bus. They've been visiting with Lillian and Jack since last Friday the 12th. I do hope we will have nice weather while they're here. I'm glad they'll be here to go to the Farmer's Market with us on Friday. Beverly took her blinds home and hung them this evening. Her dad and mother think they are very pretty. I really wanted to go to Mutual tonight, but am too tired to make the effort. I did my ironing and vacuumed the rooms. The vacuum works fine since Lou had the hose fixed. It is award night, for the young people with 100% attendance at church. Janet and Joan will receive awards I believe. Donna and Estella McComas are singing a duet. Lou went to Dr. Don Anderson's office after work this evening and had a big tooth extracted. The molar was on the upper left jaw. He said it came out slick and easy. Janet assisted the doctor. Lou took Janet to her Sierra Madre bus and waited until it came. He gave her the 25¢ carfare.

February 18, Thursday

It rained last night but was nice this morning when Lou went to the bus depot at 6 a.m. to pick up Will and Flora Taylor. They have been visiting with Lillian and Jack for a few days, in Phoenix, Arizona. I cooked breakfast and we had a nice little visit before Lou had to leave for work at 7:45 a.m. The folks look well; it is nice to have them here with us. They both rested after Lou left, Bill on the couch, Flora on my bed, which is their bed while here. In the excitement I forgot to put up my Lou's lunch, "I'm slippin." The Andersens are expecting Elsie and daughter Doris today. Annie had to go to a social or meeting or club this afternoon. She was worried because she wouldn't be home to answer phone if Elsie came in to Los Angeles before she'd get back home. Donna went to Singing Mother's practice this morning. She brought Kathy here this



Sarah Renshaw Taylor, Will and Flora Taylor. Sarah is Lou's Aunt, and Will is Lou's cousin.

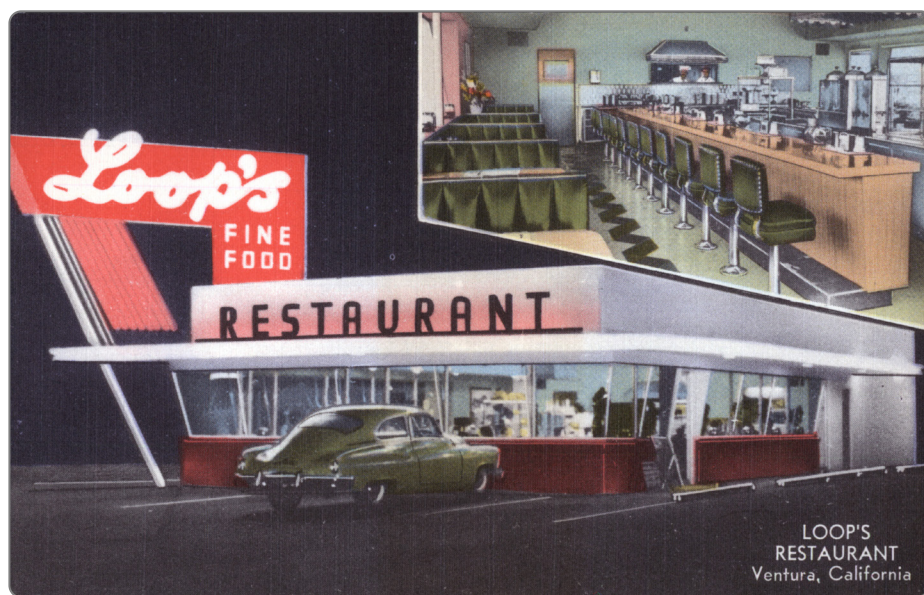
afternoon while she had a permanent wave. Ovena and Chet Mayo brought little Gary here while they went to see a friend in the hospital. They gave the little tots some liquid in a small bottle with the ring sticks to blow soap bubbles. They had a lot of fun for a while. Gary was old enough to blow easy and make good bubbles, but my baby Kathy blew too hard so didn't have many bubbles, but she was delighted when she did have a bubble to show off. Donna and Kathy ate lunch with Flora, Will, and myself. This evening we went to Highland Park to Andersen's. Glen showed movies of all of us taken at Dolores and Bevan's wedding five or six years ago, and some of Jack and Jenny and their children taken when little tots. It was fun to see them and see Dad and Al [Owen A. Bailey and Al Hoglund] again, (marvelous)! We took Flora and Will over with us, it was nice to see Elsie and Doris. They came from San Diego this morning, but took a tour to Knott's Berry Farm today.

February 19, Friday

We were thankful for a beautiful sunny day to take our Salt Lake visitors sight seeing in. Dolores Jones picked Will and Flora Taylor and me up in her car here. We changed cars at Gordon's shop. We left her car for Lou to go home in and took his car to church where we picked up Donna. She had been to a

singing practice there. Dody had to pick up a radio gadget for Bevan on Allen Street and Colorado. We then went to Clayton's where we met the others; Dody drove our car. Beverly had her car full, little Ronnie Jones stayed with Miriam and her little girls while we went for the day. Bev had Elsie Bailey, Doris Davies, Annie and Lorene. Beverly led the way to Farmer's Market in Los Angeles in the old Frazer car they'd loaned her. The front wheels shimmied all the way, but we got there and back okay. There we met Sue H. and Bette H. and little Ricky H. We looked around the interesting market place and then ate our lunch there. Most of us had fish and chips. I bought rolls and French pastry to bring home, also a pint of salad dressing. Donna bought a cake. Will bought tomatoes to bring home, they were 45¢ a pound, but sure tasted good with my potato salad this evening and the baked ham. Will insisted on treating Donna and me to lunch, bless his heart. He was the only man with eleven ladies; twelve when we went to the mission home and LaPriel B. joined us on a tour through the beautiful L.D.S. Temple and mission home. [The Los Angeles Temple was dedicated on March 11, 1956.] President Bunker was there when we arrived; they made us so welcome.

Bryan had to leave but he returned before we left. LaPriel served us our dessert and it was delicious; chocolate chip ice cream and a piece of lovely chocolate nut cake. She sent word to Annie yesterday that we must not eat any dessert at the market. Beverly took Elsie and Doris to town in Los Angeles to meet Helen and her husband. They all went to Blanche's for dinner tonight. We got home about 6 p.m. Ovena M. had Kathy; Mary and Johnny were at Howard's. We heard most of Lawrence Welk's program this evening before leaving for church for the Sunday School building fund party, honoring Bishop Summerhays's birthday. I read the birthday tribute to him. Donna was in the group that sang the Primary birthday song to him; they were dressed as children and each had a lollypop, it was cute. The record player with nice dance records was very good. Everyone seemed to be having fun. The donations for songbooks came to over a hundred dollars; ice cream and cake was served.



February 20, Saturday

"Oh such a beautiful morning, oh such a beautiful day! We took Will and Flora Taylor for a lovely drive to Santa Barbara today. Lou took us along the coast route, miles and miles of beautiful blue ocean, with the pretty white foamy waves rolling in. It is a truly beautiful scenic drive, on a perfect day like

today through Malibu Beach, Oxnard, and Ventura. We ate a delicious lunch at Loop's restaurant in Ventura. We drove around the city in Santa Barbara, then parked by the beautiful bay, where hundreds of pretty sail boats and fishing boats and some lovely launches are floating. It is really a wonderful sight to behold. I enjoyed watching them while Flora and Will bought some postcards and wrote on them to their children in Salt Lake City. I took a walk myself, down a gangplank on to a large barge, where I enjoyed the feel of the ocean waves rocking the big platform. We sat on the pier and enjoyed the beauty of it all. We enjoyed the drive back home; we came inland through lovely green hills and farmlands. This is surely a grand country. God is good to his children in this beloved Earth; believe me! We got home about 8 p.m., ate supper, and watched television for a while. They all took a nice warm bath before retiring to bed. I will have mine in the morning. It has been a very pleasant experience, this nice outing today. Beverly took Elsie and Doris to the Forest Lawn to see the beautiful, world famous painting, "The Crucifix," this morning. They left them in town this evening with niece Florine. She will take them to the bus to head for home after eating with her.

February 21, Sunday

I got up at 6:40 this morning, and wrote in my diary while the wheat cereal was cooking. The folks got up at 8 a.m. I cooked breakfast for the three of them. I took my bath while they ate. I had eaten my cereal. We enjoyed the Tabernacle Choir broadcast from Salt Lake City, Utah. Three of the Taylor children sang in it. Flora did the dishes while I bathed and got ready for Sunday School. We had lots of out of town visitors; President Price and folks from Arizona, Will and Flora, and several others. Will paid for our dinner; we ate in Bob's newest place in East Pasadena and then we took Will and Flora to Arcadia to call on their friend Margaret Hubner. We found a note on their front door; they'd been called away in an emergency to someone in her husband's family. They talked to her on the phone last evening, and she was expecting them today. We took a nice ride in Pasadena and took the folks through our new church building. Br. and Sr. Kunz had a group of friends going through it, also. He had the Ray Blied's and President Price and wife from the Arizona Temple. Lou took a nap on his bed until Viral Tucker woke him on a phone call to come and get his table saw. Will slept on the cabaña swing and Flora in her room. I wrote in my diary and composed a verse for Annie to use in her next "Queen for a Day" tribute in Relief Society. Donna phoned at 5 p.m. Their car was out of running, they were at Orange Grove Avenue and Lincoln Avenue, and they couldn't get it going. Lou and Will went over to help them, after they got home from getting the table saw from Viral T. Joan was home with Kathy. I phoned to let her know about her folks. The car started after Lou had pushed or towed them about two blocks. Donna got home in time to go to church with Warnie and Janet. He took Donna, Janet, Joan, and Mary. Rex stayed home with the two youngest. Flora and I got ready for church. Lou and Will got home about five minutes before church time. We went anyway and enjoyed the meeting. Sorry we missed the sacrament. Lou and I fixed a plate lunch for the four of us. We insisted on Flora staying out of the kitchen and letting us serve her at the little TV stand table, while watching TV. Janet and Joan both stayed with girlfriends last night, (different homes). Tomorrow is a holiday. Janet had a club school tea today. Rex and the seventies put on a building fund skit in Sunday School just before closing prayer.

February 22, Monday

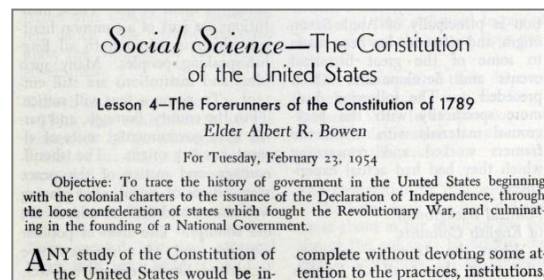
I am surely thankful for the beautiful sunny weather we are having here, while Flora and Will Taylor are visiting us in California. After breakfast, Will took a walk to the market and bought some milk, lettuce, bread and figs, and a can of tamales. Flora and I did the washing; it was finished by 11 a.m. She dusted up the house; I mopped the bathroom and kitchen floors. We ate lunch; she brought the clothes in from the lines while I cooked some beef stew, browned it with onions. Mary phoned, and said that Donna, Melba Kunz, and Clarice T. had gone out to do some Relief Society

visiting; she and Johnny were home with Kathy. Lydia Smith phoned this afternoon, to tell me she promised to phone Donna and tell her that Mary Howard had taken the children to the park with her and she'd bring them home later. Lydia couldn't get Donna on the phone so called me in case Donna phoned here. Janet and Joan stayed with girlfriends last night and today. Donna phoned me later this afternoon. I had tried several times to get her, but she was out all day. I'm glad the children had a nice time at the park with Mary Howard and her children, David and Bonny. Our kiddies love to be with the Howards. This evening Ruby Hodges phoned and invited us to come over to their home and spend the evening. We went over and had a nice visit with them. Pearl and Pawnee Redborg came from Monrovia, Lutie and her daughter Betty and the two beautiful grandchildren were there when we arrived. Betty's husband was there, also. They didn't stay long because of the little ones, and Paul was home alone. He is ill with heart trouble. Lutie didn't want to leave him too long. We enjoyed delicious chocolates, a drink of ginger ale, and some ice cream and cake, along with our

conversations tonight. Oh me! I will never get rid of the weight I should lose if I keep this up, eh? We had a little heat wave discussing Pearl and Pawnee's property rights, ha ha! Lots of fun, they are swell people.

February 23, Tuesday

Will went to town on the bus; he went over to the shop to spend the day with Louis. Flora and I went to Relief Society and enjoyed the Social Science lesson given by



*From the November 1953 Relief Society Magazine.
The lessons were to be given on the same day
throughout the church.*

Phyllis McDonnell. She is an excellent teacher. The lesson was "The Forerunners of the Constitution." Bonna Gordon took us to Relief Society and drove us to the Broadway Store after; she is a darling. Flora bought a nice sport shirt for Will in the Broadway Store. We ate lunch in Albert Sheet's; it is across from the Broadway Department Store. Flora insisted on paying for it. We looked at dresses and suits in some of the ladies shops, just for fun. We bought some chocolate bridge mix and hair nets in Kress Store. We came home on the bus. Flora bought some vegetables and ice cream in Shopping Bag. I bought an angel food cake and a lemon roll from Van de Kamp's Bakery. It was hot walking home, we both rested. She almost finished the book she is reading, "Nothing Ever Happens Sunday Morning." Will and Lou came home together. Will had his hair cut while there, near the shop. He helped Lou do some of the jobs around the place. After dinner, the men folks rested for a while. Lou went to a Sunday School local board meeting at Al Rowbothom's home tonight. We had a pleasant evening with Margaret and Ken Hubner, a very nice couple, living in Arcadia. They are friends of the Taylor's. Margaret was raised in the same neighborhood as the Taylor children. She played piano at church programs, while the Taylor boys and others sang. This dear girl came in her wheelchair. She had poliomyelitis 25 years ago and hasn't walked without crutches since. Her fine husband married her in that condition. It is a pleasure to have Will and Flora here. He waters my flowers and burned the papers; she helps

with the housework, it is fun. Janet missed her bus today, she couldn't go to work, and she didn't go to school.

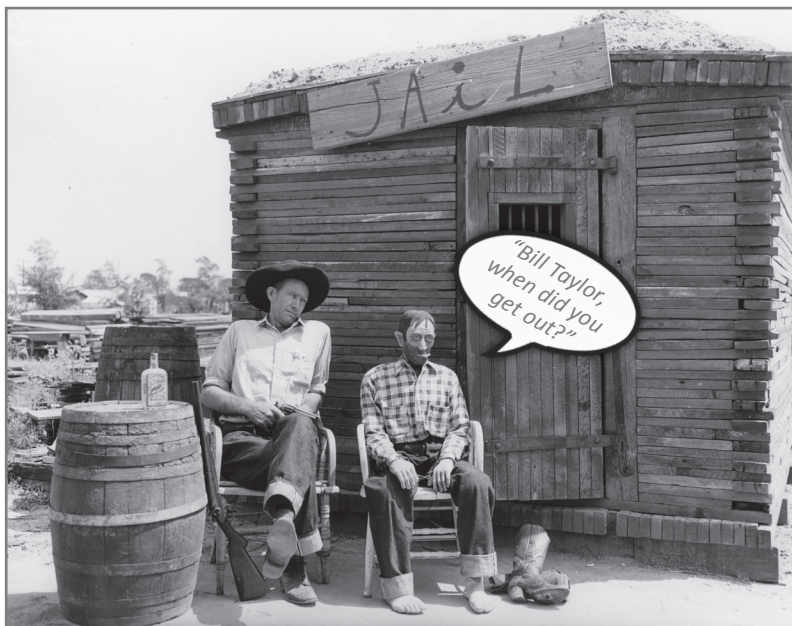
February 24, Wednesday

Another summer day; too warm for comfort his afternoon. Will watered flowers, hanging baskets, and lawns. I surely enjoy having him here to do it. I can do things I have to do in the house. Flora washed out a few of her things by hand, then she and Will walked to the market. I made a fruit Jello salad, a meat loaf,

(which didn't turn out as good as usual) and baked some Hubbard squash, while they were out. They brought bacon, tomatoes, buns, and a can of tamales and a glass water pitcher and an icebox water container for me. They're the limit; I can't keep them from spending their money. I had to phone Lou and tell him to cross the bacon, tomatoes, and buns off the list I gave him this morning. I phoned Beverly to see if we could go to Los Angeles with her today, but she had gone; she left at 7:30 this morning. She was going to apply for Social Security [*unemployment*] again. She phoned me later this afternoon and said she got her car back today and she'd be glad to take us to Los Angeles and round to see some of the interesting places. When Lou got home this afternoon at 5 p.m. we took a nice ride up Flintridge Hills and looked out over the towns. It was a beautiful sight, we drove around for an hour and a half, we came home and Lou helped me fix the toasted buns with tomatoes, cheese and bacon. We baked them for a few minutes in a hot oven, and I made a green salad. We enjoyed our buns with some sweet pickles. Lou had some like this at Rowbotham's last night at the Sunday School meeting; he wanted us to taste 'em, they are good. We all enjoyed television tonight. Donna and Janet were in a mother and daughter skit in Mutual tonight, I'd like to have been there to see them.

February 25, Thursday

It was another beautiful day. Beverly and Annie came for us at 10:30 this morning. She got her car yesterday from the repair job caused by her accident last month, no, it was February 9 she had the accident. We drove along beautifully until we reached a little town, "Rivera," then the fluid in her brakes had air in it and caused the wheels to lock, and the brake lights to stay on and when we pulled up in the Richfield gas station the brakes were smoking. It took the attendant thirty minutes to unlock the wheels; he put new fluid in after bleeding the other out. We were not far from our destination, the Knott's Berry Farm, where we were going to eat lunch and look around, Will Taylor paid for the



Sad Eye Joe at Knott's Berry Farm.

gas in Beverly's car, he can surely find his wallet quickly, I had my card ready to use. I got even with him when we ordered our lunch, I asked the waitress to bring the slip to me and she did. We had a chicken sandwich and hot tiny biscuits, with their famous boysenberry jam and pie. We ate at 12 noon, and then looked around the interesting little ghost town. We all had a good laugh when we paid a visit to Sad Eye Joe in the jail. Flora and I went together and I was surprised to hear

the voice saying "Hello girls, you in blue, and you with the flowers on your hat," and so on. Will went with a group and when he peered into the jail, the voice said, "Hello there Bill Taylor, when did you get out," and so on. Beverly had slipped the man at the mike his name, and was he ever surprised, ha ha! The look on his face was good for a swell laugh, which we all enjoyed. We all had our pictures taken in the covered wagon. It came out clear, is cute; my expression is funny, but the others are excellent. Flora bought a souvenir from the little gift shop with illuminate articles that show up in the dark. We got home about 3:40 p.m. had a nice rest before dinnertime. We all enjoyed television tonight. I wish Lou could have been with us today. Betty Ramish phoned, I was very disturbed to learn that all is not well with Elinor and Gill. Betty is trying to find someone to take her building fund dinner on Tuesday.

February 26, Friday

It was overcast this morning, but the sun was out in the afternoon. Bill cut and watered the lawns. Flora and I dusted up in the house, she wrote some birthday cards to her family in Salt Lake City, Utah. They walked up to the post office and market. Donna phoned this morning, she went to a leadership meeting in Las Flores Ward. She took Kathy. Johnny and Mary are both home from school with colds. Donna left the baby here this afternoon while she went to her Relief Society Board meeting at Melba Kunz's home. The baby ate lunch with us. Donna and Clarice Tanner ate at Melba's. Bill and Flora brought pork chops, a loaf of bread, head lettuce, cheese, Del Rich Oleo, and some asparagus home from the market. I can't stop them from buying food or things for us. Johnny and Mary were home with Kathy this afternoon while Donna and Clarice T. did some Relief Society visiting. Donna came here for Kathy at 2:45 p.m. Bill went uptown to the shop, after lunch, to take Lou's wristwatch and the Mutual Savings book for the house payments. They came home together. Flora looked so sleepy I insisted on her taking a nap. I rested in the big chair and



read some from the Bible and some from my Relief Society Magazine, my lesson for March 2. Lou phoned and said we would eat at Bob's new place tonight. Bill thought he'd like another one of Bob's Big Boy's. I was delighted we did not have to

cook dinner tonight; we got in ahead of the huge dinner rush this evening so didn't have to wait long for a table. We all had pie for dessert. We took a nice ride and then came home; we had a nice visit talking, and then enjoyed Lawrence Welk's TV program and Western Varieties Show. We planned to take our lunch tomorrow and go to the Balboa Beach for the day. Joan went to the Wilson School dance tonight. It was "girl's choice," she invited Richard Berger, her old boyfriend. He was happy to take her. I phoned Betty Ramish this afternoon; Elma Frandson is going to take her place this next Tuesday night for the building fund dinner. Betty R. wants to come over and talk with us about Elinor and Gilbert????

February 27, Saturday

There is almost two months of 1954 in the past already. It was overcast this morning, but not cold. Lou and Bill went to town this morning, after breakfast, to make the bus reservations on Greyhound Bus for Monday evening. They have their tickets but wanted to be sure of a seat when the bus arrived in Pasadena from Los Angeles. They brought home some chocolate bars, apples, and root beer. Flora and I made some sandwiches; cheese, tuna fish, and ham and pickle. We left home about 10 a.m. It was a lovely drive to Newport Beach. We walked out on the pier and watched them fishing, we saw a fellow bring in a spider sea crab, (ugly thing). He threw it back in the water later. Another fellow brought a star fish up and one a halibut. We watched the men bring in their catch in boats too and dig in the sand for bait, (sand crabs). 'Twas all very interesting. Flora and I watched two seals swimming in the ocean together; every few minutes they'd jump up high in the water. We ate our lunch on the sand where we could watch the pretty waves roll in. The lunch tasted so good out in that cool ocean breeze. We had two blankets to sit on; people and little tots were in the water, amazing for winter time, too cold for this Grama! Lou had a nap on the blankets, the rest of us watched people have fun in the water. We took a nice drive to Balboa Beach nearby and saw the beautiful colorful homes, around the Balboa Bay. Lots of pretty sailboats and lovely big launches. On our way home, Bill bought two dozen fresh brown eggs. I believe they were 61¢, were large brown eggs. We all took a nap when we got home at 4:05 p.m. Donna phoned this evening to tell us that Mary and Rex would be on the radio

in a few minutes over K.W.K.W. I turned in and heard them. I was so proud of my little Mary; she answered the question some of the adults couldn't answer, me for one. The question was "Name the three vessels that Columbus came to America in first," and my Mary did it and won two silver dollars. I could hear them very clear and natural. They were in Dave Reese's Market being interviewed with other customers. Joan had a date with John Austriman tonight, Janet with her Warnie boy.

February 28, Sunday

The last day of February and oh me, how fast time flies. "It's later then you think," eh? I got up at 6:30 a.m. so I could use the bathroom mirror before the others needed the bathroom. I need that good mirror in the bathroom for my hair dress, it has such a good light over it. We went to the Monrovia High School to our Pasadena Stake Conference. We hope to have our own stake house chapel for the next conference in May. We had a very wonderful conference this morning, a huge crowd out to hear Elder Hugh B. Brown, of the general authorities of the church. He is a very excellent speaker, has a keen sense of humor. Flora and Will were happy to see their dear friends, Margaret and Ken Hubner and Margaret's sister and husband, out to church. Rex, Donna, and Mary came to conference. Janet stayed home from church with Kathy, Johnny, and Gary Stonebraker. Joan was with some girlfriends; she has been chosen one of the princesses for the royal court of the famous Wisteria Vine of Sierra Madre this year. The queen will be chosen from these five princesses. Donna took Joan up to the vine after dinner, to have pictures taken. Lou, Flora, Will, and I ate a good dinner at Fisher's Restaurant. We took a nice ride and called in Donna's place. Lou picked four or five grapefruit from Helen's trees, for the folks to take home to Salt Lake City, Utah. Donna gave them some avocados to take, also. Warnie and Janet were busy in the backyard, doing some yellow painting on his car wheels, the rims. We came home and rested before going to the evening session of conference, which started at 6:30 p.m. It was another grand meeting. Rex, Donna, Joan, and Johnny came to conference tonight. Mary was home with Kathy. Janet and Warnie went to the beach for a ride. Ovena Mayo took Kathy to her home after conference this morning. She kept her there all afternoon.

March 1, Monday

Flora insisted on helping with the washing, so I got the things ready to wash and we were through by 10:30 a.m. She dusted and swept with the hand sweeper, while I mopped up the bathroom and kitchen floors. I phoned Donna; Mary was home from school with an earache. I talked to Beverly on the phone; she said she took Annie and Lorene to Los Angeles to town to get Annie's new suit, (a beige color). Lorene and Annie stayed in town to a show. Our nation received a shock this afternoon, when three assailants in the press gallery opened fire with pistols on congressmen in the House of Representatives chamber this afternoon. Rep. Pen F. Jensen, of Iowa was shot in the back. Rep. Alvin M. Bentley of Michigan was shot in the chest. Rep. Clifford Davis, of Tennessee was shot in calf of leg. Rep. Kenneth A. Roberts of Alabama, shot in the leg and Rep. George

H. Fallon of Missouri was shot in hips. The three assailants, two men and a young woman, were Puerto Ricans, said to be members of the same gang which attempted to assassinate former President Truman on November 1, 1950. Oh, what are we coming to? We started the Star News newspaper again this morning, and found a picture of our sweet Joan in it, with a group of girls from Sierra Madre. 14 pretty candidates for queen of 1954 Wisteria Fete, Joan was told Sunday that she was one of the five, chosen to be princesses. The queen will be chosen from the five. I had dinner ready at five o'clock. Flora helped me with the dishes Lou wiped some, too. We took Bill and Flora to the Greyhound Bus Station in Pasadena at 6 p.m. The bus arrived from Los Angeles on time, at 6:30 p.m. They were on their way shortly after. Another couple boarded the same bus with them. We went to the market and home.

March 2, Tuesday

I made the Jello fruit salad last night, after we got home from the market. I miss Flora and Will Taylor, we enjoyed their visit a lot; they were here with us for twelve days. I hope they enjoyed the trip home last night; they should arrive at 2 p.m. today. Bonna Gordon came for me at 9:05 this morning. Marie Doezie was with her, we picked up Ann H. and Little Donny and Grandma D. Donna left Kathy home with Mary this morning; she has a slight cold in her eye and ear. Mary went to school but the nurse sent her back home, her throat looked sore and she had a slight temperature, so said the nurse; Mary said she felt good. Donna and Clarice were a few minutes late to our early meeting; they stopped for some sweet peas, which F. Washburn was going to send with them. She was picking them so they waited. Then, they called for Addie S. but she had left. I enjoyed our visiting teachers message given by



Joan Marsh circled in red. The five finalists have blue X mark.



Lowell and Helen Palmer with three of their children, Helen, Edward, and Marilyn on January 2, 1938. In February 1954 Marilyn gave her missionary farewell and on March 2, 1954 little Helen pictured front left taught Relief Society for the first time. Photo from Family Search.

Margaret W., I'm sorry Nora W. was ill and couldn't come today, she is my partner. I opened the first meeting with prayer. We had a nice theology lesson in the second meeting, Book of Mormon, "Alma the elder." It was given by Helen Palmer's sweet daughter, Helen Snelgrove. It was her first time, and she did an excellent job of it, only the little dear

was about petrified with fear, she says. She is a very lovely young woman. I walked to Sears Store after the meeting and bought some garters to sew on my old girdle, so I won't have to wear my best one every day. I came home on the bus. I missed seeing my precious baby Kathy at church this day. I did my ironing after lunch and then rested on the couch until Lou came at 4:50 p.m. He took over the couch until 6:30 p.m. when we got ready for the building fund dinner. I took two dishes of fruit Jello. Those there were Francis Jorgensen and his sister, and Vilate Pack, Marie Andrus, Cyril and Bessie Ballard, Howard and Addie Strang, Faye and Melba Kunz, Ken and Elma Frandsen, and their children and Lou, and myself. Seventeen of us enjoyed the dinner and visit in Frandsen's lovely little home tonight. We had a nice boiled dinner, corned beef and cabbage, carrots, new potatoes, and beets, cornbread cake for dessert. It was nice for a change. Donna and Rex went to Louise and Newell Cotterell's home to their building fund dinner tonight. Donna took a large pan of scalloped potatoes. Joan's picture with other queen candidates was in the Independent Newspaper this morning.





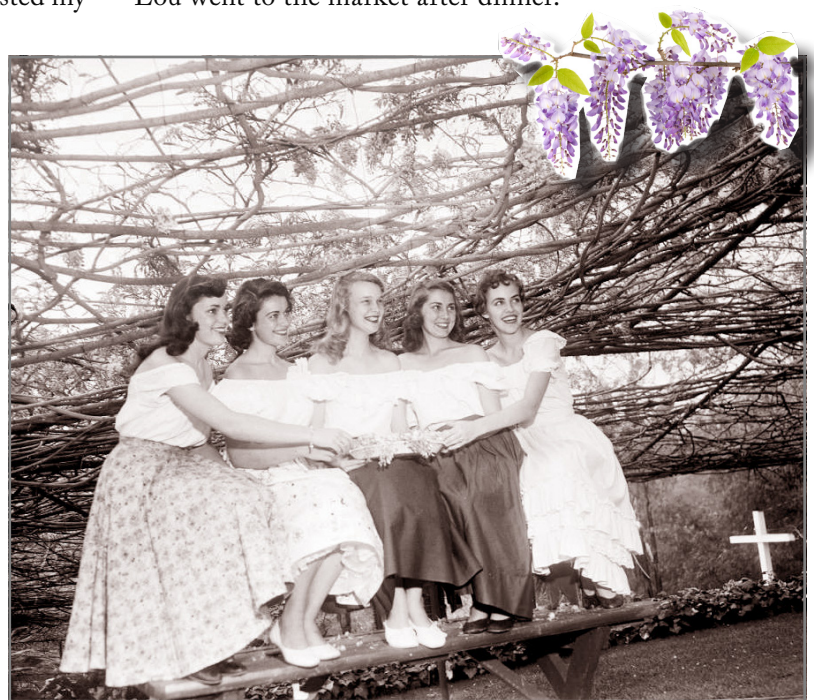
March 4, Thursday

My Joan's picture is in the Independent Newspaper this morning with the four other girls, chosen to be princesses of Wisteria Fete. The queen will be chosen from them. Joan knows who will be queen; I think they all know it will be Barbara Duffy. She was asked to go have her pictures taken alone, like they had Janet do when she was chosen queen two years ago. Joan likes Barbara and is happy about the choice. I think all of the girls are pretty, but Barbara is a beauty. (But so is my Joan!) Mr. Adrian, of the school for models, talked to Donna on the phone today, he was very much impressed with Joan. He said she was lovely to look at and had a lot of personality. He would like to have her for one of his models. Donna isn't interested. I defrosted my electric icebox and prepared vegetables and meat for dinner tonight. I had a nice long visit with Dolores over the phone before answering Violet's letter. I know she is anxious to hear about her precious little Joneses' so I try to talk to Dody each time I answer Violet's letters. Dody said she called her mother on the phone Tuesday, and she wrote a letter to her the same day. Violet wrote also, same day after talking, they can't tell everything in the three minutes allowed over wire. I'm surely glad my Donna lives where I can see her and precious family often. I'm living the exciting and thrilling days all over again in my Joan, like I did when Janet's pictures were in the newspapers in 1952. Our Star Newspaper had a beautiful picture of the five princesses, all beautiful girls. Joan is just lovely in both papers today. Grama Elvie is indeed proud of our sweet Joan, so is Grampa. Bless his heart, he wrote a check for Donna this evening for \$50.00 to buy Janet a formal and to buy Joan a party dress. Janet needs a formal for the Gold and Green Ball and her graduation in June. Joan needs a new dress for the Wisteria party next Wednesday. Isn't he a Grand Pa!

March 5, Friday

I pasted Joan's pictures, as Wisteria Princess, from the Independent newspaper and Star Newspaper, in my new scrapbook this morning. My good neighbors Mrs. Edgecomb and Mrs. Stacey let me have the girl's pictures from their papers, also. I have some extra ones for Grama Marsh now. My precious little Mary is home again today with that sore throat. I guess she went back to school too soon. Donna took Kathy to church with her this morning, where she had a singing rehearsal for the Sunday night Relief Society program. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold, sent her a picture of the five princesses. Beverly brought the picture of the five girls to work this morning, the one from their Examiner Los Angeles paper. Lou brought it home to me. I put it in the scrapbook with the others. It is real good of Joan and the others. Mr. Adrian, of the Adrian School for Models, phoned Donna again today, this time about Janet. He wanted her to be in a fashion show on television tonight. Janet had other plans made.

Mr. Adrian wants Janet to enter a contest sponsored by Brew 102; he says there are many prizes, as high as \$2,000. The money is a huge temptation, but for beer? We'd hate to have Janet on a billboard or magazine with a bottle or glass of beer in her hand. John Marsh worked on our new church cement job today again. Janet met him at 4:30 p.m. and went to Marshes with him. Rex has been working near Marshes so he went there tonight to eat dinner with them. It is John's birthday. [*John Marsh celebrated his 72nd birthday today.*] After dinner they are going up to Ivers Store to look at formal gowns for Janet. I surely hope they can find one she likes. Her grandparents say they'll buy it for her if she does. Isn't that grand! We can buy Joan a nice dress then. Lou went to the market after dinner.



Joan Marsh with the four other Wisteria Princesses



Joan on left above the Wisteria vine and pictured below on right.



Donna have \$35.00 to help buy things for the girls. Janet got a hoop skirt to wear with her new formal gown; she bought new white shoes and a bra, also. Kathy ate lunch with Grampa and me; she was so cute. She played with her doll and talked to it; just as if it knew all she said. Donna had an appointment to have her hair set at 4 p.m. so they came back without Joan finding the dress she wanted. Donna shampooed her hair here; then went to have it set. Janet took Joan to her girlfriend's home near us; I believe the friend was going to take Joan back to Bullock's Store to buy the dress she has decided she wants. Janet phoned Warnie, he came here for her and Kathy. He took Janet to Highland Park to get her formal; it had to be shortened. I made tuna fish sandwiches for Janet and Warnie. Kathy ate again, ha ha! She didn't want to leave with them, but they took her anyway, crying. Lou went with Mr. Edgecomb to see the new house he is building. Lou would like to buy it? Lou went to Sears Store later, to look for a seat cover for the back of our car. We went to the baptismal service in our new church at 7:30 p.m. The room was full. Mary, Johnny and Donna came. It was the first time the font was used. Twenty-four people were baptized in the new font tonight. Bishop Summerhays was the first one to baptize anyone in the new stake font, he took his little daughter Sharon into the water for baptism. Dolores led the songs for us and Donna played the piano for us to sing by. I felt it an honor that my daughter and my niece were on that first program in the Pasadena Stake house. President Howard Hunter gave a nice talk before the baptizing took place. Br. Gurr baptized two converts, an elderly couple. Br. Burk baptized a young man, and Bevan Jones baptized a young woman. Br. Gurr had charge of the

March 6, Saturday

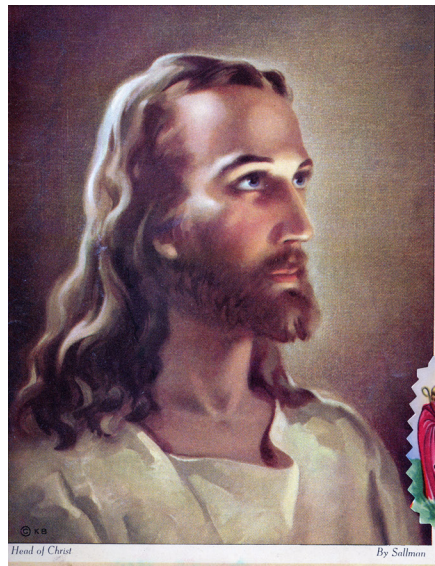
Lou and I both worked in the yard this morning. I can't hold out as long as he does. I came in and rested. We sprayed all of the plants; the aphids is on the rose bushes as usual, in March. With our new water hose spray is isn't a hard job anymore. I phoned Donna this morning before we went outside, in case she wanted to call me. We don't hear the phone very well when we are outside. I was delighted to learn that Janet found a formal gown she liked in Ivers Department Store last night. Grandma and Grandpa Marsh bought it for her. Donna, Janet, Joan, and Kathy came here about noontime. They left the baby with us and went to Bullock's Store and other stores in Pasadena looking for a dress for Joan. Lou let



baptismal services. We came home and ate a bite and went to the Gold and Green Ball at church, on El Molino. Janet was very pretty in her lovely new pink formal. The Gleaner girls were presented to us. The fathers of the girls were the escorts at presentation. The girls presented were each given a pretty white comb with flowers on it. The hall was very beautiful with an "Under the Sea," theme. It was a lot of work to make it so lovely. Mary ate lunch with the Howards today and went to a matinée with Bonny Howard. Johnny went with Rex this afternoon to Arnold Stephens to do some plastering. I received a card from Flora Taylor; they arrived home okay.

March 7, Sunday

Lou took me to church this morning, but he came back home. I was pleased to see Al Green and his sweet wife Ruth, in Sunday School. They moved to Idaho about two years ago. We had so many people in the opening exercises that many had to stand. There was more room after, for the class work, because we were in the chapel then. We had a lovely testimony meeting, but it was short, because of so many confirmations and babies blessed. Russell Peak made a very beautiful baton for Lou. It is like a miniature fishing poll, he has Lou's name and address on it. The handle is cork; the stick is fiberglass. It is a lovely piece of work. I was sorry that Lou wasn't present to thank him, but I did my best. Lou came for me after Sunday School. We took Johnny home with us; Mary and Donna had fasted since yesterday at lunchtime, so they were both very hungry. The others fasted breakfast, but my boy was hungry, too. I fried a chicken this morning so it didn't take very long to get dinner on the table. Donna fried two chickens this morning, too. I invited Mary to come home with us, but she wanted to go home today. Johnny enjoyed the television all afternoon. Rex brought Kathy here while he went to singing practice for choir. Donna went out to call on a lady in the ward who is ill.



Relief Society Sunday Evening Service
March 7, 1954

"Oh, May I Knew the Lord as Friend"

O, may I knew the Lord as friend,
And love of Him my life attend;
May freedom's joy my soul e'er thrill,
In yielding mine to Father's will.

O, may I grew to love, to give,
And for the help of others live;
My greatest joy be mine to know
That I have lessened other's wee,

May life eternal be my share
Under my Redeemer's care,
With those I love, eternal joy,
Eternal day in God's employ.

Dr. George H. Brimhall



Bishop Summerhays sent her and Clarice Tanner. They went to sing in the Pasadena Ward Relief Society program then our own later. We fed Kathy and Johnny and took them to church this evening. It was a lovely program. Donna's talk was, "What Shall I Give to My Heavenly Father." The stake president, Madge Fowler's, was on "Oh May I Grow to love, to Give, and for the Help of Others Live." The scripture readings were by Faye Timothy. Phyllis McDonnel gave a biographical reading and Clarice Tanner the beautiful words of a song. Marie Doezie gave the benediction. The chorister was Ovena Mayo, the organist Nan Rains, and the pianist was Iona Cottam. It was a very lovely meeting. The program was printed on lovely folder with a picture of Jesus. The theme was, "O ye, that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day." Doctrine & Covenants 4:2

March 8, Monday

We had a few drops of rain this morning, but not enough to do any good. The smog came in this afternoon and made it miserable. Donna and Clarice Tanner brought Kathy here this morning at 9:20. They had a Relief Society board meeting at Melba Kunz's home near here. Melba Kunz's little boy is coming down with the mumps, the brother just got over them, so Kathy couldn't go there. I was glad to have my precious little baby here. We had a lot of fun until Donna came for her about 11:45 a.m. I invited them to stay to lunch, but they felt they should get home to the work waiting. (There is always work waiting for my Donna, eh?) I pasted the Relief Society program for last night, in the Relief Society scrapbook this morning while Kathy was watching. She wasn't much help, ha ha! Annie phoned, she and

This is the program that Elvie put in the Relief Society Scrapbook.

PROGRAM

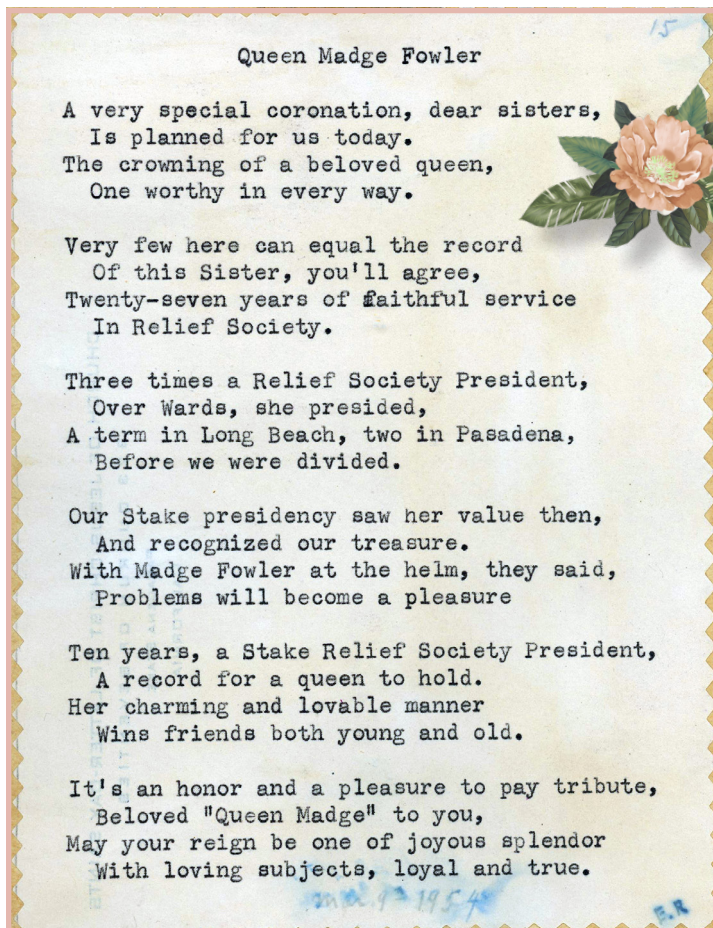
THEME: "O ye, that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve Him with all your heart, might, mind, and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day." (D.&C. 4:2)

1. Prelude Music
2. Song - "The Lord Is My Light" Page 103
3. Invocation Melba Kunz
4. Chorus - "Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee" Singing Mothers
5. Talk - "What Shall I Give to my Heavenly Father?" Donna Marsh
6. Introduction to Theme Song
 - a. Scripture Reading Faye Timothy
 - b. Biographical Phyllis McDonnel
 - c. Reading of Words of Song Clarice Tanner
7. Chorus - "Oh, May I know the Lord as Friend" Singing Mothers
8. Scripture Reading Faye Timothy
9. Talk - "Oh, May I Grow to Love, to Give and for the Help of Others Live." President Madge Fowler
10. Song - "More Holiness Give Me" Page 111
11. Benediction Marie Doezie
12. Postlude Music

Chorister - Ovena Mayo
Organist - Nan Rains
Pianist - Iona Cottam
Chorus - East Pasadena Ward
Pasadena Ward



Madge Fowler was crowned Queen on March 9, 1954.



Sister Burnett were fixing up a queen tribute for one of their Relief Society ladies; they wanted a little help on one verse, to make it rhyme. Annie said that some youngsters broke into Glen and Irene's home and stole David's paper route money. He'd collected \$12.00 and they took \$10.00 and scattered his comic books and toys around and got into the cookie jar. The house was locked; they broke in somehow.

(What are we coming to, eh?) Irene is thankful they didn't know about the \$80 she had in the house at the time. Beverly is working at the Venetian blind shop again for a few days, while the work lasts. Lou says he wishes they were busy all the time, so he could have Bev come steady; she is an excellent worker and he enjoys having her there. Joan and other Wisteria princesses were on the radio, KWKW, tonight at 9:45 p.m. Lou and I tuned in to hear them interviewed. They came over the air good. Joan was asked about her sister Janet over the broadcast tonight twice. She was asked questions about when Janet was Wisteria Queen in 1952. Joan bought her dress in Mather's Department Store. Joan bought a dress, \$10.95, some white high heels shoes, and some gloves today after school.

March 9, Tuesday

When Joan got home with her dress last night, she found the ties for her sleeves missing, so Donna took the dress back to the store after Relief Society this afternoon to get the ties. The dress that Joan bought was hanging up with the ties in the sleeves and her name on it; she brought the wrong one home. It was marked \$14.95 she paid \$10.95, nice, eh? Mary Howard took Donna to the store and home. Clarice Tanner took Felicia Washburn to the hospital, to see her husband, Br. Washburn. He was operated on for a bad hernia last night, an emergency operation. Bonna Gordon took Marie Doezie and me to Relief Society as usual, bless her heart. I tried to pay for some gas, but she wouldn't have the money. Marie told me it is Bonna's birthday on Friday, so I'll send her a card and a pretty handkerchief I guess; I'm glad Marie told me. Bonna gave Kathy her daughter Susan's last doll, it is darling, dressed so adorable and all. Baby Kathy loved it, so cute! I hope she'll be good to this lovely dolly; she is only 2½ years old. Bonna also brought a lot of toy furniture and storybooks for the nursery. Susan has had a cleaning day, eh? The sweet little girl has grown up into a very lovely young lady. It is nice of her to let the church nursery use the beloved toys. We had a very lovely luncheon given by two of our districts; some eggnog cream pie, it was delicious. Madge Fowler was our surprised and lovely queen; I read her tribute. Bonna made a beautiful delicate pink corsage, three lovely camellias, white satin ribbon. Donna crowned our queen; she looked very lovely in golden crown. The Society gave her a book; I've forgotten the title. I wrote a note to Flora and Will Taylor this afternoon and sent it in Flora's birthday card. I'll write a thank you note in Bonna Gordon's birthday card tomorrow. Lou had some work done on his teeth after work. Janet was not at the office today; she stayed home from school, too.

March 10, Wednesday

I talked to Donna on the phone this morning, she was trying out some Jello salad and a tuna fish and mushroom dish, to see if they will want to serve it to the Relief Society for our March 17 anniversary party. Clarice T. will be invited to come to lunch and try it out with Donna this noon. I'm sorry I don't live nearer, eh? I composed a thank you rhyme to Bonna Gordon, and put it in her birthday card with a pretty handkerchief and a tiny package of

sachet scent. She is a dear to call for me every Relief Society day. Good friends are precious. It looked like it might rain any minute all this day, but there was a breeze so I took a chance and did my washing. I'm glad I did, as everything dried beautifully. We do need more rain so I hope we'll get some tonight. It surely looks and feels that way. Joan didn't go to school today as she had to be up at the Vine by ten this morning. Nina Wolfe took Joan and Barbara Duffy up to the Wisteria Vine on her way to work. Donna couldn't have the car today. Joan phoned Donna this afternoon, to let her know that Barbara Duffy is the queen and Joan was delighted. Donna says Joan couldn't have been more pleased if it had been herself. Barbara is her friend, we all knew it would be Barbara because she was the one girl they took pictures of alone two weeks ago. They did that with Janet two years ago, when she was queen. Barbara is a beauty. Her picture was in our Star News tonight. Donna phoned this evening to tell us that the queen and four princesses would be on television this evening at 6:45 on Channel 11. I called the Andersens and we were all tuned in on channel 11 to the newscast, where they were to be shown in the film taken at the Vine this morning. But there was no mention of them; or the Wisteria Vine Fete. I believe Donna's children went to the neighbor's TV to see Joan. We were all disappointed. That is life, eh? They'll run it when we're not looking, eh? Donna went to a welfare meeting in Baldwin Park tonight. Rex had his cesspool drained today, \$15.00.

March 11, Thursday

The wind blew our needed rainstorm away in the night. The sun was shining brightly when we awoke this morning. It's Bonna Gordon's birthday, I hope my greetings arrive okay and hope she'll have a delightful day. Donna and Kathy went to the Singing Mother's practice at Las Flores Ward today. I did my ironing this morning. I wanted to water the flowers and back lawns, but we had a strong breeze and I didn't care to have the wind blowing the spray all over me. I had a nice visit with Betty Ramish over the phone; she is coming to our house tomorrow night, to talk to us about a heartache, which is depressing her. I hope we can help her, I know she isn't feeling very well. It seems we are all tried and tested at times. Lorene called me on the phone this afternoon. I was happy to hear her voice; she had been down with Mary and family for a few days. Mary's children were sick. Mary phoned Lorene today and said that Shirley and Kenny's little boy, Steve, was going to the hospital tonight to be operated on for appendicitis. I'm so sorry about that. Lorene has company, Charlie's niece Phyllis has a boy, John, and he is 22 years old. He came to Lorene's home, broke, a week ago. He is trying to find work in Los Angeles. I hope he can find some work soon, as Lorene is out of work herself, and it is a hardship all around. Donna said it was a pleasure to use her washer today knowing the cesspool was emptied and wouldn't back up and cause trouble for her. It was drained out yesterday. I feel good about it, too. Rex is

going to dig another cesspool to be on the safe side. Mary and Bonny Howard were caught in a dust storm coming home from School in Sierra Madre. Janet got her tax return money today, \$62.00.



March 12, Friday

It was clear and cold today; I watered the flower plants, hanging baskets and back lawns this morning. I was glad the wind stopped cause they did need water. I defrosted the icebox and vacuumed the rugs. It took me all day long. But I'm so thankful I felt well enough to do it. I had to take 30 minutes out this morning until the heart action got back to normal, then I was fine all day. Beverly has worked at the Venetian blind shop all week. I hope they can keep her there until she is called back to her job at Cannon Electric. I phoned Donna this morning, she was shampooing her hair and baby Kathy climbed up and answered the phone. She said, "hello" so distinctly, that I thought it was Johnny home from school. Our little 2½ year old is surely a cutie. Lou had a little dent job fixed on the car today; a lady accidentally bumped into his parked car two weeks ago. She came into the shop to tell him and she paid for the repairs; nice person, eh? Sorry we haven't more like her in our old world, eh? Lou brought some groceries from the market and my ParLac Tablets from the health store on his way home from work. I made a baked dish of macaroni, tuna, and cheese for dinner, and a carrot, apple, and raisin salad. We invited Betty Ramish to stay and eat

with us, but she was anxious to get home to Willomia. Betty unburdened her soul to us, she has a tragic worry; we tried to give comfort. I hope and pray things will adjust for that dear family so peace and contentment will be theirs again. *[Inquiring minds want to know? The groom in this story is Mary Clayton Jorgensen's brother-in-law.]*

March 13, Saturday

It was clear and cold again today, but it warms up in the afternoons. I phoned Donna, she said Rex was starting to dig another cesspool. Kathy was outside watching him. Janet stayed with a girlfriend last night, (at Swim's, I believe). Joan stayed with Janice and her sister Dolores Jared last night and Mary stayed at her little friend's house, Carol Colvin. Johnny and Kathy were the only children at home with Rex and Donna last night. Janet went to work this morning to Dr. Don Anderson's office, from Judy Swim's home. Joan came home after a fried chicken brunch at her friend's home. Lou had his car washed this morning. He also did a lot of yard work. He keeps this place looking nice. I made a lemon filling to put in the little cakes I bought. I'll put whipped cream on top and serve them tomorrow for our dessert. I invited Donna and family to eat dinner with us tomorrow after Sunday School. Lou bought a nice beef roast last evening and they'll help us enjoy it. We drove up to Donna's this afternoon. I was amazed at how far down Rex had dug in his cesspool today. He got it bricked in before we left. I matched up some socks and brought them home to darn for Donna. Joan cleaned the two front rooms. Johnny had the job of cleaning off brick for Rex; two of his little neighbor friends came later and helped hand the brick down to Rex (Smokey Bush and Kirky Kirk). Lou put the seat cover he took off our car the other day on Rex's front car seat. We have two new ones in our car. Lou and I enjoyed our TV programs. Annie phoned and said Beverly was in bed with her back trouble again. Donna Gordon phoned me today to thank me for the birthday greetings. She is a dear. We received a letter from Lillian; she is up in San Francisco with Shirley and family. She is going to visit with us next week on her way home to Phoenix. It's been a long time since she visited us. I hope she'll enjoy it. I'm looking forward to a nice visit with her, too.

March 14, Sunday

It was our ward conference today; we had a nice Sunday School. President Hunter and many of the stake officials were present. Our song service was conducted by Br. Bruno Demke; his daughter Sr. Udall was at the piano. I had a busy morning preparing our dinner before Sunday School. I cooked the roast and vegetables.

I steam heated them later. Lou helped me, he creamed the potatoes with the electric beater. Lou and I brought Joan, Mary, Johnny, and Kathy home from Sunday School with us. Warnie and Janet came together. Rex and Donna came last. Johnny and Mary ate at the little TV tables. We had lemon cakes with whipped cream on for dessert. Rex went to priesthood meeting after dinner. Donna washed the dishes; the girls wiped them. I put things away. Warnie took Donna, Joan, Janet, and Kathy home. Mary and Johnny stayed here to listen to TV. Grampa went to sleep in the cabaña swing. Donna had an early meeting and choir practice. They left Kathy off here on their way to church. We took the three children to church with us at six o'clock. Rex, Donna, and Joan sang in the choir, it was a nice big choir and they sang lovely. Donna and Lorraine Major sang a duet part in one of the hymns. We had a very nice evening session of conference, two hours long. Mary and Johnny got restless; they thought the meeting was too long. I would have too at their age, but I enjoy the fine talks now at age 61. How life changes us, eh? It was nine o'clock before we ate our little Sunday evening snack tonight. No time for television programs this evening. We had it on for a little while, was all.

March 15, Monday

More clear blue skies today. I did my washing and a good breeze made everything nice and soft. I phoned Annie to ask about Beverly. The doctor said she could get up and walk to the bathroom, but if the pain returned to her back, for Annie to call him. He said she could stay up a short while then back to bed. There was work at the shop for Beverly, but of course

she couldn't go in. I received a nice thank you note from Madge Fowler, for the queen tribute I composed for her; she's a dear. I phoned her to tell her I had received her lovely note. I got a letter from sister Violet; it's always a treat to hear from her. Also a nice letter and a poem came from Eloise Brooks, now I'm in their debt again. Donna had a very busy morning; she and Clarice Tanner went shopping for the Relief Society anniversary party luncheon tomorrow. This afternoon she made Jello salads and patty shells for the luncheon. I talked to Betty Ramish on the phone, she received a telegram from Elinor and Gill, and they arrived up north safely. Betty would like to talk to Donna about her troubles. I wish I could give the poor dear more comfort than I've been able to give. Our neighbors, two doors south, have had repair work done on the roof of their home today. I could smell the tar smoke and hear the men working all day (William's house). The tax assessor came this afternoon; she was very pleasant. I'm glad I was home so our tax bill will be mailed to us. I forgot to ask if she was from the



Sarah Renshaw and daughter Lillian Keller in 1938. Lillian is coming to visit Elvie and Lou in March of 1954.

city or county? We have the two tax bills each year to pay. Lou and I enjoyed our pretty little home and television again this evening. Donna phoned this evening to say that Ovena Mayo would take care of Kathy tomorrow morning, and she'd come for me in time for the Relief society luncheon, so Donna could stay at church and help with the luncheon. Miriam Summerhays is in the hospital for a minor operation.

March 16, Tuesday

Today is the East Pasadena Relief Society anniversary party. The Relief Society is 112 years old tomorrow. It was cloudy and felt like it would rain all day, but we didn't get the rain until about 5 p.m. and then we had a nice steady downpour. Ovena took Kathy to her home to play with Gary this morning. Clarice called for Donna and they went to church early to prepare for the luncheon. Ovena came for me at noon; Kathy and Gary were with her. The ladies had done a beautiful job of decorating the tables. I don't believe I ever saw the banquet tables look lovelier. They had our colors, blue and yellow gold in large calla lilies, which they had dipped in calcimine to color the white lilies. Some were blue and some gold. Green ivy was placed in the center of the tables where the beautiful lilies were placed. The past presidents of Pasadena Ward were seated at the west end of the hall. Ethel Burk, a stake board and ward member, gave a nice little tribute to each in rhyme. Our stake president, Madge Fowler, told a little interesting bit about each one of the past presidents. She knew all of them. Donna conducted the program, she looked pretty in her new beige color dress, and she did a lovely job of conducting as always. Donna pinned a pretty corsage on each of the past presidents, as Madge talked about them.

A trio from South Pasadena Ward sang for us, three young women; their numbers were beautiful. Sr. Bodily, a former member of Pasadena Ward, gave two short humorous readings. Louise Cotterell of our ward and stake board gave an interesting review of our Relief Society history. Our delicious luncheon was served beautifully, by the precious sisters in the kitchen, before our program. I sat between Betty Ramish and Lillian Neal. I'm so glad Betty came; I know it helped her to feel better; she has been so upset. Clarice Warnick's mother gave the opening prayer, Melba Kunz the closing prayer. Bonna Gordon, Melba Kunz, and Clarice Tanner took charge of serving and work in the kitchen, bless their dear hearts. We all love them for their faithful service. Mrs. Morris was in the nursery with the children. The huge birthday cake was beautifully decorated in blue and yellow flowers. It was all very lovely, only two sad regrets this day; Miriam Summerhays is in the hospital, we missed her; and sweet little Mary Howard slipped, while serving us, and fell, hurting her back. She had to go to the doctor for x-rays. A part of her lower spine, tail bone, is chipped. She will be five or six weeks mending the doctor says. I'm so sorry about that.

March 17, Wednesday

It rained in the night, I'm thankful for this nice rain for the crops and our flowers. I wrote a little note and sent three dimes to little Stephen Bird in a get-well card; he was operated on March 11. Donna phoned and said Mary picked up a wood tick in her arm from somewhere. The school nurse took it out yesterday, but it was sore and inflamed today, so the nurse called Donna on the phone and said Mary should have a doctor look at it. Donna phoned the medical center in Sierra Madre and had Mary sent there for the doctor to see the arm. Where in the world did she get a tick bite? *[Note from Mary: she remembers very well where she got the tick bite, at the school yard.]* The doctor took some pus out of the sore and then he told Mary to go home and put hot packs on the sore. She went back to school after her lunch and hot pack treatments. Lorene phoned me from Andersen's she was sitting with Beverly while Annie went out to do her Relief Society visiting. Beverly is still suffering with her back. The sacrum is out, or was out, until Dr. Allred put it in place again a few days ago. Beverly's auto accident caused it to go out of place. A little twist the other day, sent her to the doctor in a lot of pain. I do hope she'll be all right soon. It got very black in our skies this evening, we expected more rain, but nothing came of it. The stars were shining brightly when we went to bed. We have lots of snow in the mountains northeast of us, they are pretty to see and the temperature here is much cooler now. Lillian's letter said she would leave San Francisco for the Southland tonight, if her plans work out okay. We expect to see her tomorrow sometime. It has been a long time since she visited us.

March 18, Thursday

The sun was shining very bright this morning at 7 a.m., but some clouds are threatening that beautiful blue. The radio newscast this a.m. says another storm is headed our way. Lou left a little earlier this morning; he wanted to get his haircut before going to work. He phoned me later, told me to look in Edgecomb's Independent Newspaper from this morning. I borrowed the paper and found Carol Byron's picture on the front page; she walked out on the Wisteria royal court, she was one of the four princesses. She blamed it all on Mr. Adrian, said he was high pressuring her to be one of his models and he had led her to believe she would be chosen queen if she'd be a model and take the course in his school. The parents in Sierra Madre are all up in arms about it, so said the paper. They claim it is a "fix choice." I read the article to Donna over the phone. A reporter from the Los Angeles Examiner phoned Donna, after I'd talked to her, he wanted to know if Mr. Adrian had given them any trouble high pressuring Joan to be an Adrian model? Donna told the reporter "No," Mr. Adrian said he thought Joan was lovely, and he'd like to have her for a model, but he knew Donna had a large family and couldn't afford the school. I guess



Carol Bryon was not happy with the queen selection.

the mamas have to blame someone because their daughters are not chosen queens, eh? Mr. Adrian had to be the goat. Mary felt a little sick to her stomach this morning, after taking the penicillin tablet the doctor said she was to take to clear up the infection the wood tick caused. She went to school anyway, because this was the day for her first lesson in horse back riding. The Girl Scouts are having it after school. Annie phoned to say that Blanche phoned to tell her that Myrtle [*Belle*] Strong Gailey passed away. She wanted me to mail a sympathy card from our Strong Family Society. I darned socks for Donna most of this day. I phoned Andersens this morning and was glad to learn that Beverly is feeling much better. She was able to get out of bed this morning without dreadful pain in her back.

March 19, Friday

Our radio news says we had a slight earthquake shock in Southern California about 2 a.m. I didn't feel anything. I went to town on the ten o'clock bus this morning, took our income tax return check, \$100.93, to the bank for deposit, with \$13.00 cash. It was cold and felt like rain any minute, so I didn't stay uptown long. I bought and mailed a sympathy card to Arthur Gailey in Kaysville, Utah. Our cousin, his wife, Myrtle Strong Gailey; passed away a few days ago. I bought some construction paper, in pretty colors, to use for the folders that I put the queen's tributes in for Relief Society. I was back home by noon. We received an airmail letter from Shirley Little to let us know that her mother, Lillian Keller, will leave San Francisco on Saturday at 8:15 a.m., on flight 403, Western Airlines, arriving in Burbank at 10:05. I phoned Lou at the shop so he could make arrangements. He had planned on working Saturday, as they are very busy at the shop. Beverly has been out all week with her bad back and they surely could have used her this week. We'll be happy to have Lillian visit with us; it has been such a long time since she came to see us to stay a day or so. Donna and Rex and Clarice Tanner went to the basket lunch party tonight. Lou and I do not enjoy ourselves at basket lunch parties, where the men folks bid for the baskets, so we stayed home and enjoyed ourselves, shame on us. Lou went to Dr. Don Anderson's office after work and had the new bridgework put in his mouth. He is having a dreadful time to get used to it; eating dinner this evening he bit his tongue several times and made it bleed. I felt sorry for him. Beverly is feeling better; she got up for a little while today. It rained this evening.

March 20, Saturday

It rained off and on all night. Lou got up early and went to the shop to start working

at six o'clock; they have so much work on hand he decided he'd have to work today, also. He wanted to go to Burbank to pick his sister Lillian up, (at Western Air Lines) at 10:05 this morning. I phoned the airline to see if flight 403 from San Francisco, would be on time; they told me they were expecting it on time. I am sorry the weather is so bad today. The rain was pouring down about 10 a.m. Rex went to plaster the shower room at Arnold Stephens's home today. Lou and Lillian arrived here about 11:40 a.m. He went back to work, I was disappointed that he wouldn't drink a cup of the nice warm onion soup that I had ready for him. I know his mouth is sore because of the new teeth, but I thought he'd drink the soup. Ruby Hodges phoned and invited us to eat dinner with them. She said

she had a leg of lamb she would cook, if we'd come. She phoned Lou at the shop and made arrangements for us to eat with them at 6 p.m. Lillian and I had a nice visit this afternoon talking about our precious children and grandchildren. She rested on the couch for a while. We had a short visit with Lutie and her little granddaughter Nancy at Ruby's when we first arrived there. They wouldn't stay for dinner as Paul was home waiting for his dinner. Nancy is surely a beautiful little child. Ruby's dear friend Lillian Davis (and I've forgotten her married name) was visiting a few days with the Hodges. Her husband Jimmy passed away about four months ago. Our dinner was delicious. The two Lillians, Lou and I, Ruby and Gordon ate. We had a lovely evening, enjoyed television after doing the dishes, which we insisted on doing. I'm sure Gordon had a lot of distress in his stomach, he held his hand over the sore place, but never mentioned his troubles. He was an entertaining host; we had a pleasant evening. Lou went to Dr. Anderson's after work today; Warnie M. was there, he is having some bridgework done, also. Warnie took Janet home.



*Western Airlines ad from 1953.
Lillian flies in on Western Airline
on March 19, 1954.*



Donna Marsh and Clarice Tanner

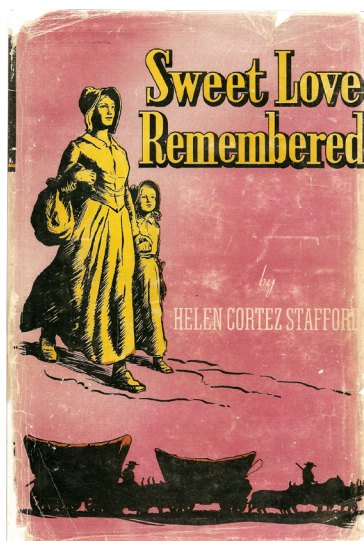
March 21, Sunday

It rained in the night and was cool and cloudy all day. We went to show Lillian through our new church building before Sunday School. Lillian and Clarice Tanner had a nice visit this morning before Sunday School. They knew several people living in Arizona; Clarice came from Arizona and she lived there for 50 years. Lillian also knew Br. Lewis Alexander and had a talk with him about his people in Arizona. Donna sat with Lillian and me in Sunday School. She introduced Aunt Lillian to the class. We wanted to see Joan on the television program, but couldn't get out of Sunday School without a lot of embarrassment to ourselves, so we stayed in and wished we could see Joan and

the other wisteria princesses and the queen, interviewed on TV at 11:30 a.m. It came in the middle of our sacrament. Ethel Burk, Madge Fowler, and LaRue Gura gave a little skit for the Relief Society, to stimulate building fund interest in Sunday School after class work. It was good. Lou brought Lillian and me home, and then he drove to Al Rowbotham's, where he left his car and drove to the Sunday School convention with Al. The Sunday School officers had a hamburger sandwich at Rowbotham's before leaving. A free lunch was served at the stake house to the Sunday School workers but our ward didn't know they were going to do it. I fixed a little lunch for Lillian and me. She had a nap on the couch after lunch. Donna had a special meeting at the new stake house this afternoon, a building fund meeting. It was five o'clock when Louis got home. He had a short nap and then took us to church. We sat with Rex and Donna. Little Kathy has a head cold so she didn't come out today. Rex stayed with her this morning and Mary and Johnny stayed with her tonight. Janet and Joan came to church. Joan had a date after church with Bob Perry. Warnie didn't come to church. Janet went home with her folks. Miriam Summerhays came home from the hospital this morning.

March 22, Monday

Of all things! Lou forgot to set his alarm clock back to the regular time, so it went off an hour early. We rushed around, I got his breakfast and put up his lunch while he dressed, cause we slept too long after hearing the bell. He said, "Gosh, it's twenty minutes to eight." I didn't check the time, but when he got to work at 7 a.m. he phoned me and said, "Do you know what time it is?" Here he was on the job at seven o'clock instead of eight o'clock. Saturday he went in at six o'clock on purpose. We had a good laugh anyway. It was a miserable wet day. Lillian and I talked, and read some. I guess I bored the poor gal with my scrapbooks and my amateur poetry? I had a nice surprise this morning when the parcel post brought us a lovely book from Flora and Will Taylor. "Sweet Love Remembered" by Helen Cortez Stafford. It had a very pretty thank you card and a nice note inside; thanking us for the nice visit they had with us last month. They are grand people and we surely enjoyed having them here with us. Lou's mouth is very sore, caused by the two new teeth Dr. Don Anderson put in the lower jaw. The top two do not make his gums sore, but it's the bottom two that are sore. I'm very much afraid the offending two teeth will rest in peace atop his dresser, ha ha! His poor tongue is suffering from painful bites received while trying to eat with the new teeth. We left here this evening at 8 p.m. and went up to spend the home evening with Rex, Donna, and children. We had a musical evening. Donna played some, and Aunt Lillian played some pieces. Alicebeth Ashby came to practice a duet with Donna, (Love's Sweet Dream). They're singing it in Relief Society tomorrow. Lillian played the piano for them; she's playing tomorrow, also. Mary and Donna sang a pretty duet. Johnny



started the spin the bottle game; it didn't last long. I saw Janet's lovely latest photo tonight; it is beautiful. Joan made a delicious chocolate cake. We had ice cream and cake for refreshments. Warnie and Janet stayed to have home night with us. Boy Perry came and Joan went somewhere with him. He had two days away from camp; they both were glad to escape our music, and us, me thinks, ha ha!

March 23, Tuesday

We were indeed happy to see the sunshine come through the clouds at last; it has rained most of the time since Saturday when Lillian arrived here. Bonna Gordon picked Lillian and me up at 9:30 a.m. Marie Doezie and Susan Gordon were in the car. We picked Mrs. Duffy up at her home; she helps take care of the children in the nursery. Lou phoned the church, he thought Ruby was going to meet us at 11 a.m. and he knew we wouldn't get out of Relief Society until about noon, but I told him it was twelve o'clock when Lillian would meet Ruby, it was Gordon who said 11 a.m. Bonna took Lillian to the Broadway Store after the meeting. They ate lunch in Albert Sheets's. We had a very lovely lesson in Literature today, given so beautifully by Faye Timothy. It was on the life and works of Robert Browning. Alicebeth Ashby and Donna Marsh sang a duet, "Love's Sweet Dream," or something like that? It was very lovely. Lillian K. played for them; she also played for our opening song and the prelude music. Sr. Cottom was a minute or two late, but she took care of the

song practice. Venna Cannon was to our Relief Society again today; she left early, so I didn't get to speak to her. She wasn't feeling well Nora said. Joan was home with Kathy today; both have head colds. Nora Williamson came for me at 2 p.m. and we did our Relief Society visiting this afternoon. Ruby and Lillian invited me to go with them this afternoon but I was anxious to get our visiting done when Nora could have the car to take us. I wrote a thank you note to Will and Flora Taylor for the lovely book they sent us (Sweet Love Remembered). It's a true story of Mormon pioneers, taken from diaries, letters, and living relatives of the people. The Rich family is mentioned, and they are Aunt Ida's people. Gordon Hodges brought Lillian home; she and

Ruby went to the shop after the show. They suggested we all go out to call on Pearl and Pawnee in Monrovia tonight. We picked Gordon and Ruby up at 7:30 p.m. and went in our car. We had a nice visit with the Redborgs. Pearl served ice cream and cake tonight.

March 24, Wednesday

I was surely disappointed to see the miserable wet weather was still with us this morning; we have had a cold wet time of it ever since Lillian arrived and we wanted to get out and see things. Donna phoned this morning; she had taken Rex to work so she could have the car to take Aunt Lillian and me anywhere we wanted to go, bless her dear heart, and she is

so busy. She has to be out tomorrow and Friday, too. I know she has a lot to do at home this day, too. She came for us after leaving baby Kathy at Ovena Mayo's home at 11:30 a.m. We went to Bullock's Pasadena Store and had a wonderful time looking at all the pretty things we could see in our short two hours. I spent most of my time in the lovely wishing pool room on a comfortable seat while Donna and Aunt Lillian looked around. Lillian bought a very beautiful gold bowl for \$10.95 and had Bullock's send it to their friend's home in San Francisco. They are celebrating their golden wedding in a few days. I think their name is Howe. Lillian and I bought a white necklace and earrings for Donna, for \$2.00 plus tax. We ate lunch in the Van de Kamp's in Pasadena, and then went to Glendale to the Forest Lawn Cemetery to see the four o'clock showing of the largest religious painting in America, "The Crucifixion." Lillian and I were not hungry this evening, so Lou ate alone, soup and toast and ice cream, bless his heart. He isn't hard to please and it was his idea to have the soup. We went over to visit the Andersens this evening in the rain. The Mormons received a jolt tonight when they expected to see David O. McKay on the television show, "This is Your Life." It was a hoax. Everybody called everyone they knew. We had a pleasant evening visiting and laughing at the big hoax that President David O. McKay was to be on the TV program, at 10 p.m. It was a colored man. I felt a cold coming on while at Annie's tonight; she gave me three of Dole's Tablets to take to break it up. Lou and I looked up in my diary to find when he started working for Gordon H. It was 1945 as Lou said; Gordon thought it was 1946.

March 25, Thursday

We had clouds, sunshine, and some rain today. I was miserable with a head cold so I stayed in bed all day. I drank liquids every time I'd get up, hot onion soup, or water with my pills. Lillian brought me a nice hot cup of Breakfast Cup to me this morning. She went uptown on the bus about noon. She came home from town with Louis this afternoon at 5 p.m. They stopped in the market and the drug store for bread and nose drops. Lou cleaned up and they went to Bob's eating-place for a fried shrimp dinner, (my idea). I don't eat shrimp; they both love 'em. Annie went to her club today, it was a riot, all telling of the people they phoned and the ones that called them about President David O. McKay being on the TV program last night. It was a big hoax. Sue phoned me from Annie's; she and Bette and little boys were over visiting with Beverly. They had a lot of phone calls too, and called some people, also. Oh, it was funny, and miserable as I've felt today, I have had to giggle off and on all day. Joan was home from school with an earache. She has a head cold, too. Lou informed Gordon that the diary tells us it was 1945, as Lou said it was, when Lou started to work for

Gordon. It was July 23, 1945. Gordon was sure it was in February of 1946. So I had to look it up for them. I got up this evening and watched the TV program of the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Science awards. I was on the couch. I was very fatigued before the program was over. I'm dreadfully sorry that I had to feel so ill while Lillian is here. Lillian phoned Jack this evening in Phoenix, Arizona. She was upset to learn that Jack's company people are going to buy one nice special gift and she has already sent a personal gift from her and Jack. Too bad, eh?

March 26, Friday

It was a beautiful clear sunny morning, I had a rather restless night and felt miserable this morning, backache and headache. I took two aspirin tablets early this morning and I had two sinking spells, which frightened me; one before Lou left for work. I was about to call him from the kitchen, but I didn't. I had the second one before Lillian left for Lynwood, but I didn't mention it to her either. It made me feel panicky for a few minutes though. Ruby Hodges phoned to see if Lillian and I would like to step out to a show with her today, she was surprised to hear my raspy voice and to learn that Lillian had gone to Lynwood for a few days. I went back to bed after talking to Ruby. I spent the day in bed feeling very miserable all day. Lou went to Dr. Don Anderson after his work, to have the doctor grind more from the two teeth he made for Lou; they were making his mouth dreadfully sore. Lou says they feel much better now. I believe he can keep them in his mouth now, and not on his dresser, ha ha! Donna and Rex went to eat dinner at the Howard's home this evening. Mary and Harry H. invited Rex and Donna, Bishop and Miriam Summerhays and Eric and Clair Smith to dinner. The two Howard children ate with the Marsh children at Marshes'. Mary Howard sent a casserole and some other food to Marshes for the children to eat; she is a dear little person. She had a nice roast of beef and etcetera for the grownups at her home. I was glad to hear that she is feeling well enough to do all that work after her accident, which injured her spine on the 16th of this month. Beverly Andersen worked at the Venetian blind shop today. I hope it wasn't too much for her.

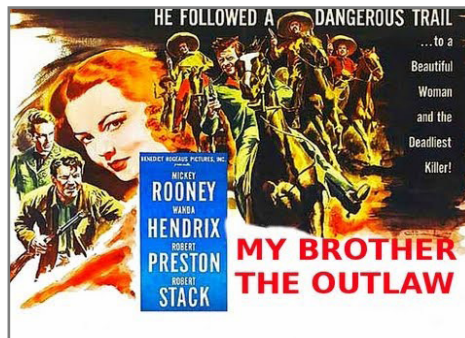
March 27, Saturday

It was a lovely sunny day and I had to stay in bed most of it. I feel some better, but still miserable, I seem to have aches all over me. Lou brought me some orange juice and some lemon juice. I have taken off a few pounds these past two days, but oh me, what a price to pay, eh? Donna phoned about 11 a.m., she is not well either, she has a cold in her head. Janet couldn't go to work for Dr. Anderson because of a cold in her head. David Warnick is spending



David O. McKay was rumored to be a contestant on "This is Your Life." Sounds like a good way to boost ratings for the show for one night.

the weekend with Donna and family; his parents are in Hawaii. Rex took Johnny and David with him to do a plastering job in Whittier this morning. Lou worked in the yard, cut lawns and cleaned up a little; he went to the market for a few things we were in need of. I hope Lillian is enjoying her visit in Lynwood with Jack's sister, Mary; we expect her back here tomorrow. I wanted to stay up and watch television with Lou this evening, but felt too weak and miserable so I stayed in bed with my poor aching face and body. Lou's choice on TV was torture to hear, men shouting, horses hoofs and the bang, bang, bang of their noisy guns. I was really happy when he turned off the noise, but he'll never know; unless he reads my diary some day; bless his heart! It was a Mickey Rooney picture, "My Outlaw Brother," or some such title. My little Johnny and Mary would have loved it too, ha ha! Lou slept in my bed tonight, as he was afraid for me to change beds while I was suffering with the flu. I went in his bed so Lillian could have my bed last Saturday. Ain't we got fun? Joan was on television at 1:30 p.m. today with the Wisteria queen and the princesses on Channel 4, on The Homes and Garden Program. I sat up long enough to see them. They looked pretty. Joan made a little speech and presented Bob with a clipping from the famous Sierra Madre Wisteria Vine.



March 28, Sunday

We had fast day services in church this morning because next Sunday most of our bishopric will be in Salt Lake City to general conference. I wasn't well enough to go to Sunday School. I rested better last night, but stayed in bed today, as I'm weak and still battling this miserable flu. I got up this afternoon to write a little birthday greeting note to Violet and send \$2.00 in the birthday card with it. Lou stayed home from Sunday School. He stewed a chicken. I enjoyed a piece of chicken and a cup of broth for lunch. He fixed a quart of frozen orange juice for me also, which feels good to my throat. He is a good nurse. I surely hope he isn't coming down with this dreadful flu. I notice he is sniffing some. Donna and Mary came this afternoon for a little visit. Donna gave Daddy some money, \$20.00, on the loan he let her have a few days ago, when she bought clothes for our little Wisteria princess, Joan, and her sister, our former queen Janet. It cost money ye know to hob nob with royalty, ha ha! Janet and Warnie paid us a social call this afternoon also. I'm always happy when any of my precious little Marshes come to see us, and the boyfriends are welcome, too. Warnie is like a member of the family now. I do miss church when I'm not able to attend. Janet has a slight cold, and she has a rash or a breaking out on her legs. She wondered if it is poison oak? She stayed



home from church tonight with baby Kathy, while Donna and Rex attended. Joan was up at the Wisteria Vine, with the queen and her princesses this afternoon. I believe she was in church tonight, (I hope so). Lou was really miserable by nightfall with a cold in his head. I'm so sorry he has it now. We doctored him up good, he slept in his bed alone. Lillian didn't come from Lynwood as we had expected, so I slept in my own bed to let Louis have his bed to himself. I hope he'll not be ill, like I was, with this dreadful cold. Donna fasted 24 hours again this fast day and cooked a lovely dinner for the family. They fasted breakfast. Warnie bought some gypsy cream ointment for Janet's rash. I hope it will clear it up.

March 29, Monday

It rained a little in the night and a few drops today. It was cold and cloudy all day. We are wondering why Lillian didn't come back as planned? I surely hope she isn't down with a cold in Lynwood. I got dressed this morning, the first time for almost a week. I felt weak and look white, but am thankful I feel much better. Lou went to work in spite of his head cold; I surely hope he'll

not be ill like I was. Beverly went to the shop to work today, she was a little late, cause she and Bill came to Pasadena this morning to have their auto licenses renewed. Janet was home from school again today; she has a cold and a rash on her legs. Donna went somewhere with Bishop Summerhays to look at furnishings for the new church house this morning. Janet took care of Kathy. She let Kathy talk to me twice this morning. The baby was upset to think that Mother and Clarice T. would go without her this morning, when they nearly always take her along. Of course when big sister is home, it's a different story, eh? Annie phoned to ask about me and talk about our Strong's meeting, scheduled for next Saturday night, in our home. She wondered if I'd be well enough. (Sure, I will!) Homer Kitchens [Homer Nelson Kitchens] is home from his mission now, and his son Garry has a mission call. They are from Garvanza Ward. Lou felt miserable tonight, he had a bowl of hot chicken soup and was in bed shortly after six o'clock. I fixed hot lemonade for him and gave him some aspirin tablets. Later, when I went to bed, I gave him two Bromo Quinine tablets; he has taken them all day, after meals. I think he should have stayed home today but he wouldn't or couldn't. Lou was doctoring me up last week, now I'm doing it for him. It always amazes me how he can snap out of his colds, when I have such a big struggle to shake 'em off. My heart has behaved well this day, no pains and no sinking spells, nice, eh? Mr. Farline, the colored man, who tuned ours and Donna's pianos some time ago, phoned today. I guess they both need tuning again, but will have to wait, like many other things do at tax time eh? He does good work.



This photo of Homer Kitchens is from Family Search. He married three times. With his second wife he had several children and then divorced sometime before his mission. After his mission he married the third time in 1957.

March 30, Tuesday

We've had some rain off and on today, the sun was shining brightly when Lou left for work this morning. He said he rested well last night and felt much better this morning. I'm so thankful he isn't ill, like I was. It did rain hard several times in the night, it woke us both up. I phoned Bonna Gordon to tell her not to come for me this morning. I'm not well enough to go out yet. Donna took Kathy to Relief Society with her. Janet is home from school again today with her cold. Lou phoned from work to ask if I had heard from Lillian yet. He is concerned about her. He says if we do not hear today, he'll phone Lynwood this evening and find out why she didn't come back Sunday as expected. I do hope she isn't ill with the dreadful flu we've had. This rain is doing wonders for our flowers, lawns and the county crops, but, oh me, I've got a big washing in the hamper, what with the weather and the flu, we're running low on bath towels and etcetera. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold, she is a dear friend. Lillian came this afternoon shortly before Lou got home from work. She brought me a pretty little broach she bought in Huntington Park. I was happy to know she did not catch my dreadful flu cold. The folks wanted her to stay over Saturday and Sunday. They were having a big church picnic and revival or conference, which they wanted her to attend. Lillian has a very nice singing voice and the Burleson's religion consists of songs and singing for the most part. *[Mary is Jack Keller's sister and she is married to Clyde Burleson.]* Mr. B. teaches members how to lead singing. Lillian plays and sings, so she fits into the picture very well. We were glad to have her back, also. Donna phoned and between us we talked Lillian into staying over another day so we could take her to see the famous Wisteria Vine in Sierra Madre. She wrote Jack an airmail letter saying she'd leave Thursday morning. Ruby Hodges phoned and invited Lillian to spend tomorrow with her. We'll all go to see the vine.

March 31, Wednesday

It was a very bright sunny morning. Lou went up to Donna's to get her; she rode to work with him so she could bring his car back to take us out today. Donna and Kathy came for us about 10:40 this morning. We picked Ruby Hodges up at her home and then we stopped in the Azalea Gardens to see the gorgeous azalea plants all in bloom, every shade and hue. Oh, it is really something lovely to see. We then went to Sierra Madre to see the famous Wisteria Vine, another beautiful sight to see; the wonder of it, so huge from one vine. Donna had passes for all of us because our Joan is one of the

princesses. I met Mrs. Pratt again. It is lovely up at the vine. I wished I had prepared a lunch so we could have eaten our lunch there in such beautiful surroundings. I didn't feel very well. Ruby and Lillian invited us to go with them to see the movie, *The Glen Miller Story*. I said I'd go to Donna's home, give Kathy her lunch and we'd both have a nap, so Donna could go with them to see the movie. It was no place for our baby, I was sure of that. They ate lunch in Nash's Store then went to the show. Grama and baby enjoyed a nice nap. Johnny brought a little school friend home from school, Lynn Parks. I believe he said his name was. He wanted to go to Lynn's home for an hour, so I let him go after he had assured me it would be okay with Mother. Mary came next; she had a purse that her little friend had left at school, Valerie somebody? She wanted to take it to her a few blocks away. Kathy went with Mary, so I was all alone when they came for me at 5 p.m. (Lou, Lillian, and Donna). We spent the evening home with the TV. Dixie W. brought Joan's schoolbooks home from the bus. Joan went to a birthday party, a surprise on Ann Price. Rex and Donna went to a seventies party or social at Teasdale's home tonight.

April 1, Thursday

Violet's birthday is today. I do hope she will have a happy day. I was delighted to see another bright, sunny morning. Lillian left with Lou this morning to go to the Greyhound Bus Station, where she was to board her bus for her home in Phoenix. Lou couldn't wait until the bus arrived; he had to go to work. I hope it was on time and everything will be okay on her trip home. We surely did enjoy her visit with us. I had a huge washing, which I got busy on as soon as the folks left. The rain and my illness kept me from washing for over two weeks, so it was a dandy! I was so very fatigued I had to spend all afternoon in bed. It takes days for me to recuperate after overdoing it, like today.

Donna took Kathy to the Singing Mother's rehearsal this morning; she sounded hoarse over the phone this afternoon, so much singing, and she said Sr. Teasdale's home was so cold last night at the seventies party. She was afraid she'd caught another cold. She said she felt chilly all evening there. Oh why didn't she go get her coat on? Well, I had to learn the hard way, too. I talked to Beverly on the phone; she said she'd come and help me do my ironing and clean the house tomorrow. She called up again this evening and told me she was going to bring her mother and Aunt Lorene so they could all help get the work done up quickly. Lorene was going to do her washing early in the morning and Annie and Beverly would do their cleaning early. I'm so very thankful for my sweet wonderful family. I am surely blessed. Beverly said she would not let me pay her for helping me tomorrow, that's like her, the dear girl. Lou said he'd pay her \$5.00 to help me but she is bringing Aunt Lorene and her mother to do the job up quickly.



April 2, Friday

There was a heavy fog this morning when we got up, but it was sunny and bright by 9:30 a.m. I defrosted and cleaned the icebox, made beds and washed dishes, before starting the ironing. I was almost finished ironing when my precious sisters, Annie and Lorene, and Beverly, bless her dear heart, came about 11:20. Beverly finished the ironing and the girls, (yes, girls) my sisters will always be girls to me, took over the cleaning and vacuuming. Annie brought her own vacuum because she is used to it. We used my vacuum for the furniture as I have the best attachments for that dusting and cleaning. It was fun to see the house get such a good going over in so little time. I sent Bev up to the new Bob's eating-place, east of us, for some of their famous Big Boy hamburger sandwiches and some doughnuts. I had some orange juice made in the icebox. We had a lot of fun eating and talking. Bev is on her diet, so no doughnuts for her, the darling. This Grama would have been better off without the delicious one I ate. Oh me! I had Lorene read Eloise L. Brook's last two letters to us. Eloise has a lot of humor; she mentioned the party they had at her sister Mary's home, a short while back, where many of the old girlfriends were gathered. She said they had a lot of fun looking at some old snapshot pictures of all of us when we were young girls together. She said they talked about the "Bailey girls" and wished we could have been with them that day. It would have been fun, eh? The folks left about 3 p.m. Annie had to get some Relief Society money to the bank, which is open on Friday now until 5 p.m. I phoned Sue in Burbank while the girls were here. Lorene invited her to stay over to Sunday with her. Bev said she'd take her home. Elaine Vandergrift has gone, or is leaving soon for a visit in Utah, to see Ann at B.Y.U. and attend the conference in Salt Lake City. Mary and Johnny went home from school with the Howard children. They are staying there all night, fun eh?

April 3, Saturday

Lou went to Los Angeles this morning, to Al Rowbotham's printing shop, to work with some of the elders. They are getting the big Pasadena Stake book ready for the press. It's going to be a very interesting, lovely book. I'm anxious to see it finished and published, and in our homes. I'm still a bit weak, but better, I believe. My stomach is sore from coughing and my legs tremble. (Enough of me.) I talked to Betty Ramish on the phone this morning. That dear person is always helping someone in ill health; this time a man with cancer of the lungs who lives in her neighborhood. She says Elinor and Gilly are working in the Sunday School music department up north. Elinor has decided to stay up there with Gilbert. After lunch Lou cut the lawns and cleaned up the yard and washed his car.



Lorene, Sue, Elvie, Annie, Mildred, and Violet Bailey pictured above. This frame was hanging in Bonnie Jean Reynolds's home. Bonnie is half sister to these dear ladies. On April 2, 1954 Eloise Brooks tells of a gathering of friends in Salt Lake City and how they missed these Bailey girls.

Br. Earl Willis came with the five pounds of cracked wheat I ordered from the elders. Nellie Fisher's husband grinds it at their home, I phone the order to her. Our bishopric will all be out of town tomorrow; Bishop Summerhays and Dr. Don Anderson in Salt Lake City to general conference, (their wives are going with them) and Carl Warnick and wife are in Hawaii. I believe Br. Russell Peak will have charge of the ward until they return. Janet will not work until the doctor gets back. Rex painted his house gables today, he went to the shop to meet Lou and get the firewood that Lou has saved for them, and he also gave Rex a screen door for the little rear house. We had a very nice time at our Strong Family Social here tonight. Blanche Hoglund came with Clint, Tottie Strong and Nora and Bert McKay, in Bert's car, little Susie Ellen Scott was with them. I'm not sure, but I think they all came in one car (seven of them), Glen Strong came, we were happy to have him again. I hope he'll continue to come. I was sorry that Sue didn't feel well enough to make the effort to come on the bus. She's been washing walls and has overdone it, I guess. Beth and Dick Johnston went to a wedding first, so they were late getting here. We had finished our meeting. Donna read for us the life of Aunt Louisa Strong; it was very interesting. Rex stayed home to take care of baby Kathy, as the babysitters were not home tonight. Janet had a date with Warnie and Joan had a date with Scott Lyon. Mary and Johnny were staying all night at the Howard's home. Beth Johnston has cute organdy half aprons for sale, \$2.00. She makes them, and the money goes to their building church fund. I told her to make a black, with red flowers and trim for me. Irene Andersen is cutting hair for her talent money. Mary Jorgensen is selling Bullock's hand lotion to multiply the dollar that the bishop gave her. I'll buy a bottle of her lotion, too. But Irene dear, I just cannot let you cut my long hair, my dear, ha ha! Our refreshments were delicious, hot butter rolls, Jello salad with Pepsi Cola in, small Easter eggs, and mixed nuts.



Harriett Louisa Strong, Donna read her life story at the Strong meeting April 3, 1954.

Excerpts from a Sketch of the Life of Harriett Louisa Strong Pool 1853—1937

This sketch was written by her daughter-in-law, Ida Melissa Berrett Poll

Continued on following page



Harriett Louisa Strong Poll was born in Harrisville, Weber County, Utah, April 23, 1853, at the home of her parents William and Martha Bromley Alvord Strong. ...

Jacob Strong was born in York County, Pennsylvania, October 9, 1799, died February 18, 1872. He and his wife, Sarah Hill Strong, also their children Sarah, Susan, William, Lucinda, and John A., lived in Strongstown, a little village laid off by his father in Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

This family converted and joined the LDS Church and in 1840 moved to Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois where three more sons, James, Thomas, and Hyrum were born. While living in Nauvoo, William was afflicted with rheumatism; in fact, he was so badly crippled that he could not walk without his crutches.

The family was very happy for a time but later suffered all manner of persecution and was finally driven from their home and the beautiful city by an armed mob whose faces were blackened. The family then crossed the Mississippi River and emigrated westward. While traveling across the plains of Iowa the exiled saints were called upon to raise five hundred men to participate in the war of Mexico. The enrollment was completed and the men were mustered into service July 16, 1846 and known as the Mormon Battalion with Captain James Allen in charge. William Strong was one of the volunteers. *[William was 18 years old at the time of his enlistment.] ...*

The Battalion had opened a road to the Pacific but had arrived too late to take active part in the conquests of California. They enjoyed the beautiful seashore, the warm climate of San Diego and many of them were interested in the old Spanish mission established there by the Catholic Father.

The Battalion boys built a lighthouse which is still standing on a point of rocks near the old barracks where eighty-one officers and men reenlisted for six months and performed garrison duty at San Diego, the balance of the Battalion being mustered out of service July (having enlisted for twelve months only) began their march for the Great Basin of the Rocky Mountains going by way of Sutter's Fort at the junction of the American and Sacramento Rivers.

Arriving at Sutter's Fort and finding opportunity for employment at good wages, William Strong with a number of others desired to take advantage of that opportunity and with the consent and approval of their associates, a few remained. William was employed by Captain Sutter when James W. Marshall discovered gold on January 24, 1848 in a sawmill race about forty miles due east of the fort. After a few months' work William, with some others, decided to wend his way back to the main body of the Church.

After a long and tedious march across the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Will arrived in Salt Lake City in the fall of 1848 and worked at various kinds of employment. He went with a surveying party and helped survey the Great Salt Lake in which he discovered a small island know as Strong's Knob.

In the summer of 1849 William went east with a team, met his father and family and assisted them the balance of their way to Salt Lake City. While on this journey, William met Miss Martha Bromley Alvord with whom he fell in love. She was born in Waterford, Michigan, February 28, 1833. Her parents were Thaddeus and Celestina Briggs Alvord. ...Thaddeus and Celestina were the parents of Joseph, Martha, Benjamin, Simeon, Gideon, and Ruben....

Martha was sixteen when they crossed the plains, arriving in Salt Lake City October 28, 1849 and just one month later, November 28, 1849, she and William were married. They lived in the old Fort, Salt Lake City, that winter. ...William and Martha made their home in Harrisville. Their daughter Louisa

was born there....

When their little daughter was quite young she moved with her parents to Farr's Fort near Ogden and from there to Springville where Johnson passed through Salt Lake City on their way to the establishment of Camp Floyd.

Louisa's father, being a believer in the principal of plural marriage, had married a second wife, Harriett Neely, better known as Aunt Harriett. He married again, the third wife being a widow, Sarah Elizabeth Garlick Richmond.

Louisa's childhood was made very sad and unhappy by the separation of her parents. [They were separated because of the federal government trying to stop plural marriage.] When she was quite small her time was divided among three homes: her father's home in Springville, her mother's home in North Ogden, and her grandfather Strong's home in Salt Lake City. The grandparents had moved into the Tenth Ward the spring of 1850. They also owned a farm in Emigration Canyon and much of Louisa's time was spent there.

Louisa loved granny Strong very dearly and life was happy with her cousin Lizzie Mower who, having lost her mother, made her home with her grandmother. The two girls were real chums. Theirs was a loving friendship that never withered. Granny taught them to knit and spin and when Louisa was about twelve years old she spun the yarn and grandmother dyed and wove the cloth from which Louisa made herself a dress. She knit her own stockings, also made herself a nuby (*An article of clothing similar to a scarf or a shawl*) which she wore when she attended meetings in the tabernacle, and felt that she was very well dressed.

Louisa always looked forward with pleasure to the days she would spend in her father's home. He was, in her estimation, the "man perfect." She enjoyed playing with the children and she loved Aunt Harriett who was like a mother to her. She attended her first school when she was seven years old while living at their home in Springville.

Traveling in those days was both uncomfortable and inconvenient but Louisa made her trips between Salt Lake City, Springville, and North Ogden quite regularly. Sometimes she went on horseback. One trip, she and Sarah Lizzie made from Springville to Salt Lake, was with their Uncle Hyrum who was coming on horseback and driving a bunch of sheep. The girls took turns walking and riding so each girl walked about half the distance. Sometimes she went with an ox team. Sometimes they drove mules, etcetera.

Louisa's next school was in North Ogden and William Burton was her teacher. Her schooling was very limited but she certainly learned to work. When she was about thirteen years old she walked from North Ogden to Harrisville [3.1 miles] every Monday morning and back Saturday night most of one summer and spun for Mrs. Martin Harris, Jr. four skeins of yarn a day. ... Her wages for the work was \$1.50 per week provided she made four skeins per day. If not her wage was cut.

When Louisa was about eight years old her mother and Aboil Fuller Campbell were married. They became the parents of two girls, Sylvia and Albina and a boy who died about ten months.

Louisa was baptized in North Ogden by Franklin Clifford the day she was eight years of age. That was the beginning of her church work. The summer she was fifteen she lived with her grandmother Strong who at the time was the president of the Relief Society. Zina D. Young and Eliza R. Snow came out to granny's and taught the ladies how to make temple clothes. At that time there were no sewing machines. The two girls, Louisa and Sarah Lizzie, worked right along with the ladies. Oh, the yards and yards of hemming.

Continued on following page

Louisa taught a class in Sunday School and also joined the Retrenchment Association (later called the Y.L.M.I.A. or the Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association) and there she learned to make straw flowers and braid straw for making hats. She learned while very young to sew. She pieced a set of blocks which were made into a quilt and quilted on her ninth birthday. When she was about fourteen, Ellis Ship taught her how to draft patterns from a chart and after that she did a great deal of sewing for people.

Louisa was greatly surprised while in North Ogden when she opened a letter from her cousin Sarah Lizzie to find a friendly letter from Sarah's friend, William J. Pool, who with his parents moved into the Tenth Ward, Salt Lake City from Dixie. ...

...The Poll family moved back to Salt Lake City about 1867 and William F. worked for the Dinwoody Furniture Company and on the temple for some time and later owned a carpenter shop on the corner of 4th South and 9th East, which in later years became Poll Meat Market.

When Louisa returned to Salt Lake City she lived in the home of her father, who at that time lived in Tenth Ward. She met William J. Poll, a pleasant sociable and friendly young man. He was a splendid tenor singer, belonged to the band, and took an active part in the ward. He was very well respected and had many friends. She began going out with him and they became engaged to be married when he went through Emigration Canyon and over the little mountain on his way to Echo Canyon where he worked on the railroad. A party was given by the ward for the boys on their return from camp in the fall.

William J. Poll and Harriet Louisa Strong were married August 2, 1869 in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City. Squire Wells performed the ceremony. Louisa's wedding dress, white barred muslin with dainty pink and blue flowers, was made with a plain waist with pale blue ribbon pleated in the neck and wrists. The skirt was straight plain and very full gathered at the waist. She wore a blue sash around the waist and tied a large bow at the back.

The next summer she wore her wedding dress to celebrate the 4th of July at Calder's farm (now Nibley Park). The grasshoppers came that day in such countless numbers they looked like great dark clouds and they darkened the sun. When they settled, everything, even the people were covered with hungry grasshoppers. Louisa's dress was utterly ruined. The skirt was almost severed from the waist by grasshoppers that lodged in the gathers. William J. looked like "the ragged end of hard times." The white linen duster (top coat) which gave him such a well-groomed appearance, and of which he was so proud, was almost eaten up by the grasshoppers. Clothing was very valuable and Louisa was somewhat peeved but William got a huge wallop out of it. He was out for some fun and spent most of the afternoon doing stunts on Calder's Lake.

William J. was a carpenter and cabinet maker and before they were married he made their furniture in the Eleventh Ward cabinet shop, owned by his friend Joe Smith who added a rolling pin, a potato masher, and a salt set made of wood. These were the only wedding gifts Louisa received except a set of German silver teaspoons given to her by William's uncle, James Cusing.

Their first home was one adobe room that stood near the corner of 4th South and 9th East. They began housekeeping on a very small scale. They had three small white plates, three cups and saucers, two little white bowls, a glass sugar bowl and spoon holder, a little iron kettle (that her mother gave her), a little top stove, and a little kerosene lamp. Their bedding consisted of straw tick, a pair of army blankets, one sheet, one quilt, a pair of small pillows, and one pair of pillow cases made out of her baby sister's long petticoat.

Their first child a boy, William John, was born and died while living in this little adobe house. Later they bought a house and lot on the corner of 10th East and 4th South. This house consisted of two large rooms with a porch across the front and a shanty at the back.

William made and added several pieces of furniture to their holdings and now their home was much better than the average home of those days and they were real cozy. Here their second son, William Albert, was born December 22, 1871, and their only daughter, Lizzie Maria, came December 10, 1873. They were real comfortable and happy but sorrow came when William was moving a fence for George Chandler and injured himself by lifting on a cedar post. He died April 14, 1874.

Louisa was just 21 years old when she was left a widow with two children; Lizzie, youngest, being four months old. Life's problems were many and difficult but Louisa met them bravely. She rented her home to Tom Shreeves, who lived there until the house was sold a few years later, and went to live with her husband's parents where she did the family sewing.

On the 25th of July she went to North Ogden and kept house for her Uncle Joe Alvord. Later she went to live with her father in Salt Lake City and went out to work by the day. Her wages were 75¢ per day, 25¢ of which she paid Aunt Harriett for taking care of Lizzie. Willie lived with Grandma Poll. Louisa sewed at night and earned a little more that way.

The next summer she and her Aunt Lucinda, who was just younger than herself, went up Thaynes Canyon and cooked for men at the sawmill. During these years she taught herself to write. This was a great benefit to her and in her later life she had a very large correspondence, which brought her much joy and many happy hours.

From there she went to what is now Pleasant View and kept house again for her Uncle Joe Alvord, who was living on his farm. Life there was very hard and she suffered with neuralgia and toothache.

While there she met Oscar Short, son of Ruben and Laraine Short, born January 10, 1852 in Tioga County, Pennsylvania. She and Oscar were married October 6, 1876. Oscar was a kind husband and a splendid father to her children. Life was much better. Oscar was a good provider and although she always worked hard she was happy. She spent four summers at the white pines cooking for sawmill men. Oscar owned a sawmill and sawed lumber which was hauled by team to Ogden and sold to various companies. Lumber sold at \$8 per thousand feet at the mill. Some years they made money and some years they did not do so well.

Several years Oscar sawed lumber for David Eccles, Barney White, and others. It was hard work but Oscar and the family enjoyed the mountains and the timber.

After moving around for some time, Oscar and Louisa built a nice brick home in North Ogden where they were comfortably settled. Louisa took an active part in the church and community. Although her husband was not a member of the church he had no objections to her attending to her religious duties.

Sorrow came again when Louisa's mother died, September 27, 1882, and her beloved father passed away December 24, 1888.

Oscar and Louisa were the parents of:

Clarence Oscar, born September 12, 1877
Adella Rosalia, born September 22, 1879
Ella Lucinda, born June 30, 1882
Mildred May, born February 22, 1884
Martha Lea, born March 12, 1886
Parley Clive, born January 22, 1888

Continued on following page

In the spring of 1890 Louisa, with husband and her family, moved to Idaho and settled about eight miles northeast of Eagle Rock (now Idaho Falls, name changed in 1890) on a timber culture claim which Oscar bought from Milt Marshall.

Their home in Idaho consisted of two neatly built log rooms and a two-room lumber slope with shingle roof (an uncommon thing in those days, nearly all homes had dirt roofs). Louisa was lonely, homesick, unhappy, and dissatisfied with the big open valley. The wind blew nearly every day but when the sun went down at evening the wind ceased and the men (those who were fortunate enough to have a little patch of alfalfa) hauled their hay at night.

The Snake River Valley at that time was one big sagebrush plain with dirt roofed cabins scattered here and there. There were many larger streams of water with no bridges and the roads, being new and very rough, were almost impassible at some seasons of the year.

Most people rode in lumber wagons. A buggy was a luxury and the nearest stores and Post Office were at Eagle Rock (8 miles away). Fences were few and trees were rare. One big cottonwood tree on the bank of Sand Creek and one near Willow Creek could be seen at a distance of many miles.

Louisa was happy when fall came and they returned to North Ogden where the children attended school. Spring found them on the farm again in Idaho. Louisa was much more contented. She took an active part in the Willow Creek Ward (now Ucon) which at the time extended from Snake river on the west to the same river on the east (about 25 miles), from Willow Creek on the south to Lewisville on the north (about 12 miles). The church, one log room, was located about the center of the ward. A.B. Simmons was the bishop.

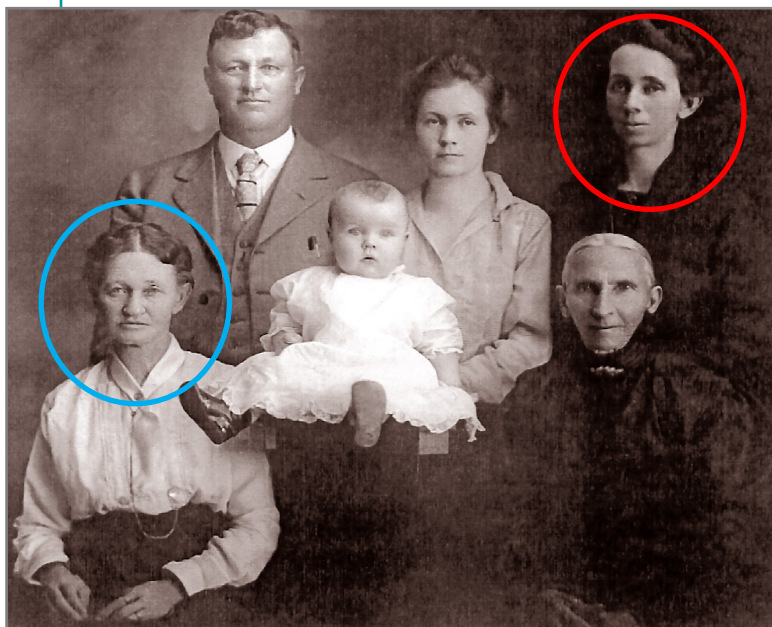
Louisa's home was once more filled with grief when on November 15, 1891 Oscar died after a short illness, although he had been in poor health about four years, at that time having had typhoid fever, then suffered a relapse which left him with consumption. He was buried in North Ogden and the family returned to Idaho.

That was a long and dreary winter. The snow was deep and the home was gloomy. A dreadful epidemic of Grippe broke out. Louisa, being a splendid practical nurse, was away from home much of the time doing her bit to relieve the suffering of people, and sewing for the dead not only her own ward but also in Idaho Falls where she received some little remuneration for her labors.

After the Willow Creek Ward was divided and the log meeting house moved and rebuilt two and one half miles from her home on the corner of L.A. Huffaker's family, the newly organized choir spent many pleasant evening at her home practicing where they had the use of her organ.

November 11, 1893 Louisa and Leuman E. Shurtliff, son of Leuman A. and Melissa Shurtliff, were married by Bishop A.B. Simmons. Leuman E. was the father of one son, Lew, by a former marriage and Louisa was the mother of his two children: Adeline, born May 1894, and died when about six weeks old; and Ernest Leo, born September 19, 1897 at Willow Creek, Idaho. This was a very unhappy and unsatisfactory marriage and when Leo was about two years old the couple separated.

Sometime later Louisa built a comfortable home on the Elva town site where she cooked for builders, served many meals to traveler, and several years boarded the school teachers. At that time Melissa Berrett was the president of the Relief Society and Louisa was one of her dependable counselors. She devoted



Four generations: in back William Albert Poll, Charlotte Louisa Poll, Ida Melissa Berrett Poll. In front, Harriett Louisa Strong Poll, William Pool Phillips, and Charlotte Elizabeth Jones taken in 1919. Circled in blue is Louisa who this life story is in this diary and circled in red is the author of the story.



much time to caring for the sick and afflicted, the poor and needy, and those who were in sorrow and distress. Those were busy days and she always considered them among the happiest days. Her children and grandchildren used to gather at her home on special occasions where they enjoyed her hospitality and the company of each other.

During all her life, groups of young people met at her home where they made candy, popped corn, played games, etcetera.

In the fall of 1903 when Louisa was making preparations to move to Rexburg for the winter to give her younger children the benefit of the academy there, the grim reaper robbed her of her beautiful daughter Martha, who was nearly 18 years old, causing a wound that was never healed.

Louisa went to Rexburg two years and cooked for school students, then moved to Idaho Falls and later to Salt Lake City where for several years she worked in the temple. She spent one year in Pueblo, Colorado and one year in Los Angeles, California.

Hers has been a very busy life with many ups and downs, but she never allowed her griefs to usurp the joys of life. She found pleasure everywhere. She was keen-minded, quick-witted and sarcastic, independent, self-reliant, persistent, and generous.

Louisa has always taken great pleasure in making acquaintance with people and cultivating their friendship. She was never idle and even in her 81st year she did beautiful handwork, especially crocheting.

Louisa died May 18, 1937 at the home of her daughter Mildred in Colton, Idaho, and was buried in the Ucon Cemetery May 21, 1937.

*This sketch was written by her daughter-in-law,
Ida Melissa Berrett Poll 1877-1952*

The death date for Oscar Short on Family Search and death records lists the date as November 22, 1889. It has not been corrected because the date is in question by the editor.

April 4, Sunday

I was thrilled to listen and see the morning session of conference over our television this morning, thanks to Donna, for phoning to tell us it was coming over the TV. We are surely living in a wonderful (and dreadful) age. If anyone had told me a few years ago, that I could sit in my own living room and hear and see the conference from Salt Lake City, Utah, a way out here in California, I wouldn't have believed it. But I did just that, last fall and again this spring. Oh, it was grand to see these men of God and hear their inspiring messages to the membership of God's church, and to all who would listen. President David O. McKay conducted and gave a wonderful talk. Joseph F. Smith, Hugh Brown, and Stephen L. Richards gave excellent talks, also. Elder Brown's talk was like listening to poetry, it was so beautifully given. I enjoyed every minute of the conference session this morning. Sorry the afternoon session isn't going to be on TV, also. Bishop Summerhays and wife, Dr. Don Anderson and wife, and many of our ward members are in Salt Lake City for this conference. Carl Warnick and wife are in Hawaii. Br. Russell Peak has charge of our ward until the bishopric return. Lou told me the Fowlers are not in Salt Lake, Madge was out to Sunday School. Donna played for Lou's singing practice this morning as Ephra Doezie is in Salt Lake City. Ephra was thrilled and excited when she phoned Lou on Friday to tell him she was going to conference. I'm so glad she could go; she's a darling girl. I phoned Sr. Elvenia summers this afternoon to tell her that Lou and I will not be able to take part in the Mutual skit. She wanted us to take the grandparents part. Lou doesn't want to be in it and I have a dreadful cough. I am sorry I had to miss church tonight, the week will not seem right without Sunday School and church. I must get over this cough before I go out in this changeable weather. Donna and family went to church. The Howards kept Mary and Johnny all afternoon. Donna had a nice rest. Rex worked for Mr. Adams today.

April 5, Monday

The sun was shining when we got up, but there were lots of clouds threatening our day. We've surely had a lot of rain lately. Donna phoned this morning. She was trembling because of a scare she'd received a few minutes after the children left for school. She heard some car brakes screech in front of her house and saw a lady get out of her car and run. She said she was afraid to go look, but she had to, cause she knew the little Bush girl often crosses the boulevard to go to school with Johnny and the Kirk kiddies. The car had struck a dog; she thought it looked like Bush's dog, Taffy. The children will all feel bad if it was Taffy, cause they loved her, (or him). Donna didn't cross the street to the place where the dog was; it made her feel ill. She told me later, it was not Bush's dog, but belonged

to a man in the neighborhood; He takes the dog out every day for a walk, he usually has it on a leash, but he let it go free this morning and the dog ran into the street, too bad. I composed a queen tribute to Clarice Tanner and one to Addie Strang. I talked to Annie on the phone; Beverly went to work at the Venetian blind shop this morning. I'm glad they got some more work in so she can earn something while waiting for the Cannon Electric Company to call her back to work! Dale is home sick in bed with a cold. There are so many down with colds now. Annie says they took a nice ride to Burbank yesterday afternoon to see Sue. They took Lorene along. Ray and family have gone to Salt Lake City to conference; they invited Lorene to go, but she had missionary work and etcetera on her mind. The folks took Sue for a ride to Booth's [Irene's parents] home, where Glen, Irene, and family were visiting. Then they drove out to see Beth Johnston and Mary Jorgensen and families in Van Nuys. Sue fixed a nice lunch for all of them when they got back to her place. Elaine Vandergrift has gone to Salt Lake City for conference and to have a visit with her daughter, Ann. She is going to the B.Y.U. College in Provo. Lou and I rode out to Sierra Madre to see our children; they were still at the dinner table. Rex had given them one of his missionary lessons before he went out this evening with

Br. Jorgensen. L. Cottam came to practice a duet with Joan tonight, they are singing in a Mutual skit tomorrow night. Warnie M. came; he and Janet went to the store for Donna. Br. Jorgenson brings candy to Kathy and she runs up to him each time for it. John Marsh worked at our new church today; he went to Donna's after work to take two samples of nylon material for Mary to choose the one she likes best for Grama to make her an Easter dress.

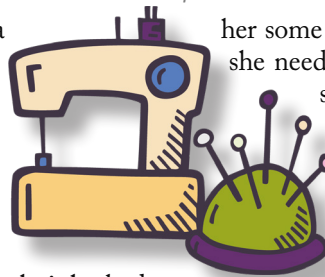
April 6, Tuesday

Florence Marsh is busy again this Easter time making pretty little dresses for her granddaughters, the little ones. She has a white nylon dress for Kathy and is making Mary a lovely blue nylon, dotted floral pattern dress. Ruth's little girls and Lewie's little ones, also. She doesn't sew for the teenage girls anymore. I gave Janet \$5.00 last night, to pay down on a dress she wants in a Sierra Madre shop. It is \$21.00. I may be able to help

her some more on it; I want to help Joan get the material she needs to make the dress and duster coat, she wants; she'll try organdy or nylon. Janet works for Dr. Anderson, so she has some money to help buy her things. She works after school a few days each week. I want to help Donna get some new clothes for our Johnny lad. The Marshes are taking care of Kathy, shoes, dress, bonnet and slip, wonderful, eh? Bonna Gordon took me to Relief Society. We had a very fine lesson in our visiting teacher's meeting at 9:30 a.m., it was given by Elma Grandson, "To Give Assurance of Life After Death." Elma gave it for her mother and Sr. Margaret Waugaman, who are



Florence Marsh 1952. In December of 1953 Florence announced she was done sewing dresses. However in April 1954 she revamps that idea to only sew for the little granddaughters. Maybe because teenagers are harder to please?



in Salt Lake City to conference. Our Theology lesson was beautifully given by Jeanne Brinton. It was her first time to give it and I surely hope she'll continue giving that lesson. It was "Leadership of Alma" and "Just Rule of King Mosiah" from the Book of Mormon. We had very lovely testimonies also, there was a grand, sweet spirit present. Many of our ladies are in Utah to the conference. Joan Sidlow brought Marie Doezie and me home. Bonna Gordon went to town after the meeting to get a birthday gift for her father. Ethel Burk brought the typed tributes she composed to the past Relief Society presidents for our anniversary party last month, including the past presidents of Pasadena Ward before we were divided. I pasted them in the Relief Society Scrapbook this afternoon and prettied 'em up with flowers and etcetera. I baked my tuna, macaroni and cheese casserole dish this late afternoon to take to the building fund dinner at Nellie Fisher's home tonight at 7:30. Harold and Lydia Smith arrived at the same time we did, 7:25 p.m. Phil and Helen Snelgrove came with the baby asleep in her arms. He slept all the while we were there. The Duncoms came last; they are the new members from the Las Flores Ward. There were just ten of us with Frank and Nellie Fisher. We had a nice dinner and enjoyed singing songs after. Lydia Smith played the piano. I couldn't sing cause I was miserable coughing all evening. It was embarrassing to cough so often, during the dinner and after. I was glad to come home. Rex and Donna went to Elvenia Summers to the dinner tonight. She took a Jello salad. Silvia Fisher has to spend half her day in bed, after school. She has developed a kidney ailment.

April 7, Wednesday

Donna phoned this noon, she had been to court for a traffic violation; she took Kathy with her. She got a ticket on March 31 for making a U turn in front of Gordon's Venetian blind shop, when she left Daddy off at work there. She had his car to take Lillian, Ruby Hodges, and me to the Wisteria Vine in Sierra Madre. She didn't mention it to me so I didn't know, until today. Even worse luck, she'd left her license in her other purse at home. Well, the judge let her off free this time, because it was the first offense for her. She saw the movie "Five Families, Now Four," and listened to the judge's lecture. Donna thinks everyone who drives, should see that movie. She said Kathy was good; she got a little restless before it was over. When the policeman stopped her that day, Kathy asked him if he had "any cookies," everybody is her friend. Ha ha! Donna bought Kathy a dark red sweater and some pajamas for herself. She told the family at dinner this evening that the judge told her he would let her go this time free on one condition, that she buy a new sweater for Kathy and some new pajamas for herself. He said it was a disgrace for her to wear such worn out pajamas, ha ha! The family enjoyed the joke, and Donna is enjoying new P.J's. I would liked to have gone to Mutual this evening, they had a nice program; my Joan and Lorraine Cottam sang a duet in the little skit. They sang, "Shine on Harvest Moon." I think there was a song for each season or maybe month of the year. Donna left Johnny and Kathy off here while they went to Mutual. Clarice Tanner came in this evening

when they came for the children. Joan was with them and Mary, also. I gave Clarice \$2.00. A group of ward folks are going in together to buy a wedding gift for the Well's boy, Rulon, and his bride, Hilda Cilaya. I believe Clarice is going to buy a steam iron for them. Rex and Donna went to the hospital last evening before going to the dinner; they went to see Geraldine Jester who is ill there. Rex and Donna had a delicious turkey dinner at Summerses' last night, lucky, eh?

April 8, Thursday

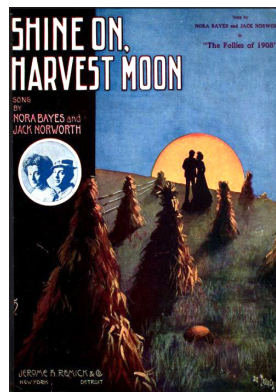
It was a lovely sunny morning; sorry I'm not well enough to put out my washing. Mary is in a little play at school today, and again this evening for the parents. The program is on books; Mary is the little sister Beth, in the sweet story of "Little Woman." She has a cute old-fashioned costume, from the school, to wear. She went to school this morning with a big bow in her hair. She has lovely brown hair with a natural curl, in fact all of Donna's children have a little natural curl as all were curly headed babies, but not as curly when they grew up. Rex was not well when he left for work, but he went anyway. He had to come home after two hours work; he has intestinal flu. Janet went to work at Dr. Don Anderson's after school. Joan was later getting home from school because of some school activity. Mary had her horse back riding lesson after school. Johnny went to Primary. I received a nice letter from Violet thanking me for the birthday card and \$2.00 and telling of the nice gifts she received. I talked to Annie on the phone, she'd been busy cutting and trimming in her garden. She went to Relief Society union meeting this morning;



Darrell and Emily Batson.
Emily was a dear friend of Violet's.

we call it leadership meeting in our stake. Violet said the tablecloth Donna sent looked lovely on her table and she is crazy about it. She is also delighted with the two aprons Annie and Beverly sent. Lorene sent pillowcases and \$1.00. Sue and I sent money. Dolores and Bevan sent beautiful earrings and a pin. Yvonne gave her kid shoes and a fancy birthday cake. Otto

gave her nylons and money. Emily Batson sent stationery, engraved, and little Susan gave her a box of hankies, nice eh? I'm glad she had a nice birthday. Our dinner was a cinch for me this evening. Lou wanted some canned red salmon and some pork and beans. With my wonderful can opener and a tomato and lettuce salad, we had dinner on the table in short order, and it tasted good, too. No pots and pans to wash either. Fun, eh? We enjoyed our TV programs this evening, wonderful for old folks who like to stay home anyway, eh?



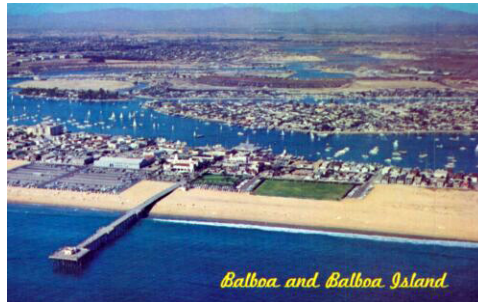
April 9, Friday

It was a bright sunny morning, I was tempted to do the washing but, my lungs are still quite congested and I'm coughing a lot. Lou said he'd help me with the washing tomorrow and insisted I leave it until Saturday. Rex felt better today; he went to work. Donna and Kathy went to the Singing Mothers' rehearsal in Las Flores Ward, I think. They usually have it Thursday morning, but their conductor, LaVer Mallard, had a special group of singers to conduct in Long Beach or somewhere. She has several groups of singers to work with all the time. The P.T.A. Singing Mothers is one of them. She is excellent. Donna said Mary's school program was very nice last evening, Mary took the part of Beth, in the book "Little Women." Lorene phoned this afternoon, she was a little upset because of a surprise proposal of marriage from her next-door neighbor, John Odom. She felt better after talking to me. She told him, "Oh no! I'll never marry again." He is 70 years old, a nice gentleman, and he has been very good to Lorene and to Charlie when he was so ill. Lorene is going out to Mary's for a few days. Janet came this afternoon after school to get my little suitcase; she had several girls in Warnie's car, all excited and happy because of their vacation at Balboa Beach. Janet took her friend Barbara home with her and they washed Warnie's car and packed Janet's clothes. Warnie drove them to the beach this evening. I think some of the other girls went along. Donna talked to one of the girl's mothers who is going with the group, the Phenix school club. Florence and John Marsh went up to Donna's this evening, to fit Mary's Easter dress that Florence is making. They took Donna and Kathy to town in Pasadena and bought new white shoes for Kathy to wear with the cute white nylon dress Florence made for her. They bought a white shirt for Johnny and half-slip for Mary. They are really wonderful grandparents. Gordon Hodges phoned this evening and made arrangements to pick us up in the morning to go to Corona Del Mar with them.

April 10, Saturday

Lou got up early and rushed me. The washing was out on the lines by 8:30 a.m. I had the floors mopped and was all ready to go with the Hodges by 11 a.m. Annie phoned and said that Blanche H. wanted me to send Hannah Helman a get-well card. She fell and broke her arm; the card is from our Strong Family Society. Rex worked at our new church building today, plastering. Johnny went to town on his bicycle this morning, in Sierra Madre, to buy a birthday gift for a little friend who is having a party today. He got an airplane for 50¢. Mary

had a little girlfriend stay overnight with her. The girl's name is Michael. [Not a typo, Mary perfectly remembers that was her name.] She lives up at Lake Arrowhead most of the time, but she spent this winter in Sierra Madre. She went to town with Mary to have her foot treatment this morning from the foot doctor. Two other little girls went to town with them, also. The four happy excited little girls were going to town on the bus, buying hot dogs and window-shopping and etcetera, bless their hearts. Beverly took Bill out to Glen's home last night; he is going to stay with Glen and family over the weekend. Bill had an adjustment from Dr. Allred before he left; his legs are bothering him a lot. We brought most of our clothes in dry before Gordon and Ruby arrived at 12:30 noon. We enjoyed the



lovely drive with Gordon and Ruby to Corona Del Mar, a beach town, not far from Balboa Beach, where Janet and Warnie are spending a few days with their school friends. Janet's club has rented a lovely beach apartment. Two of the girl's mothers are with them and the girls. Warnie is staying with some boyfriends about a mile away. We stopped to eat a delicious chicken potpie lunch at a nice place, on our way to Corona Del Mar. A couple, Gordon's customer friends, living in Pasadena, have built a two-unit apartment house in Corona Del Mar. Gordon went to measure the apartments for Venetian blinds. Ruby and I enjoyed a walk, (block and a half) to see the boats in the bay water. It was a very beautiful view, lovely homes. We arrived home about 7 p.m. The ocean was a beautiful blue today. Joan wore her orchid formal tonight to the Well's wedding reception. She helped serve. Rex and Donna went to the reception at 10 p.m. after their club dinner.

April 11, Sunday

Ethel Newbold phoned from Los Angeles this morning. It was rather cold all day, my big coat felt comfortable. I enjoyed Sunday School; I had to miss the past two Sundays because of a bad congestion in my lungs, which kept me coughing a lot and feeling miserable. I'm so thankful to feel better. I was happy to see dear Sr. Tucker out to Sunday School. She has been so ill, had an operation on her jaw for cancer. She can't talk very well, but she looks better. Lou and I ate a good dinner in the Crown Cafeteria after Sunday School; we then drove to Los Angeles to Harold Elton's home, to see our old friend, Ethel Elton Newbold. She is visiting her son Harold, and family for a month. We had a very nice visit. Lou went to church this evening with Harold and Margie and two oldest children. Ethel and I stayed home with the three younger children.



Ada, Ethel, and Harold Elton
circa 1918. Both photos on this
page are from Family Search.



Harold and Margie Elton
circa 1936.



She fed the baby boy and little Connie and put them to bed at 8 p.m. We all ate ice cream and cake when the folks came home from church. Margie and little daughter Joyce came first, as Harold took Lou through their lovely new ward, and stake chapel. Margie and Joyce walked the three blocks home and left the car for Harold. He took the young son's friends home before bringing Lou home. Lou was pleased because he saw several old friends at church tonight; Earl White and his wife, Laviza; their daughter Gerry and son Alvin White. Alvin was the speaker in church tonight; Lou also talked to Althea Robinson and she introduced Lou to her new husband, I've forgotten what they said his name is. Margie and Harold's children are all lovely; they have grown so much since we saw them a year ago. The baby is a year old now; he is a darling. We got home about 9:45 p.m. and I went to bed first for a change.

April 12, Monday

I welcomed the nice sunny day. Donna had an 8:30 Relief Society meeting at Melba Kunz's home this morning. I was sorry to learn from Melba yesterday that her son Monty has a broken ankle, in Provo, Utah; he broke it skiing. I had a busy day and I feel better, too. I shampooed my hair first thing after my morning work was done up. Then I did the ironing that we washed on Saturday. I mended the hole in Lou's pocket, in his brown trousers. I wrote in my diary, and prepared two queen tributes in colored folders, one for Clarice Tanner and one for Addie Strang. My Joan feels sorry for Joan, she says, "all of her friends are out at Balboa Beach having a wonderful time and here she is at home." We are expecting Janet and Warnie back home this afternoon. Joan went to visit one of her girlfriends in Sierra Madre this afternoon. The friend is

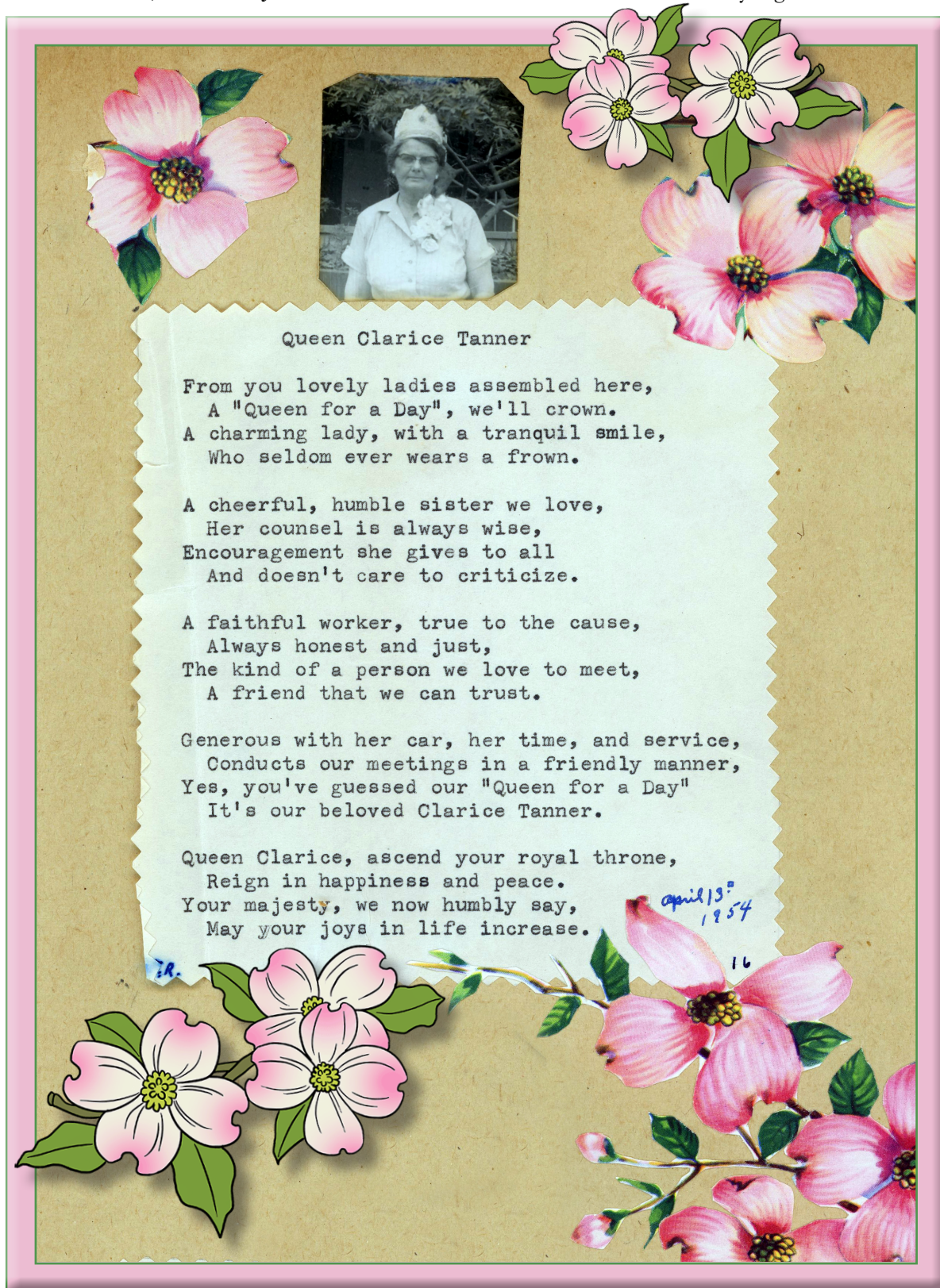
making something to wear, a dress or skirt or something. I told Joan I'd buy some material for her to make something for herself. That will help keep her mind occupied, eh? Mr. Barton came to visit the Venetian blind shop; he'd like to come back to work. I wish there was enough work for him to come back and keep Beverly on the job, too. Bart is a good all around man, Lou doesn't have to be in the paint shop as much when Bart is there, but there just isn't as much business as they had a few years ago. People are using the draw drapes more now. Lou went to the market before coming home this evening. He also bought 3¢ stamps for me from the post office. We were so busy going places Saturday and Sunday that our marketing had to wait until this evening. I gave Lou a list this morning. Bonna Gordon phoned, she is helping with the luncheon tomorrow so will be later coming for me; I like that. 11 a.m. suits me fine. It is workday in Relief Society tomorrow. Carol Blied phoned, I'm on her list to buy tickets for the Relief Society building fund program on Friday night.

April 13, Tuesday

We had a heavy fog this morning at 7 a.m. I couldn't see my neighbor's house in back of us; it cleared up by 8:30 a.m. Bonna Gordon got through with her casserole dishes (three big dishes ready to bake), earlier than she thought she would, so she phoned to ask if I'd be ready at 10:30 instead of eleven o'clock. I told her I was ready now, I was just reading. We picked up the lady who takes care of the little babies. Bonna had some beautiful rosebuds, which I arranged in a bowl, for the table, she also brought a lovely bouquet of sweet peas, which Mary Marsh arranged in the other flower frog and bowl. We had a nice crowd out to our workday; Donna tried her hand at quilting for the first

time. Poor little fingers, she surely picked 'em to pieces. I fringed little guest towels again this time; My Mary worked with me until she became weary of the job. She loves Relief Society workdays; she helped Mrs. Morris with the children for a while, too. LaRue Gurr worked with me fringing, also. I quilted for a while after the lunch. We crowned Clarice Tanner; she was a beautiful queen and a surprised one. I read her poem tribute; her gift was a lovely book. The luncheon was delicious, that sweet Joan Sidlow insisted on serving me, so I didn't have to stand in the line with the ladies to serve myself. I was a bit shaky; I haven't gotten over my weakness from the flu yet. Clarice Warnick told us of her trip to Hawaii. She is as brown as a native now, herself. Bonna Gordon, the darling, took Mary and me to town in her car. I bought Mary a half-slip (crinoline), and a pretty little camisole in Penney's Store. They didn't have her size in white slippers so we went to Leed's Shoe Store and bought some. I spent \$8.14 on my little Mary. Ovena gave Mary \$1.00 and she bought three pair of white socks with it. Grama Marsh made a beautiful blue nylon dress for Mary so she is all fixed for Easter. I want to buy my Johnny boy something now. Mary

enjoyed our ice cream cone from Grants Store. We bought hot cross buns on our way home, in Shopping Bag at Van de Kamp's Shop. We came home on the bus. Mary stayed overnight with us. We enjoyed a lamb chop dinner and TV programs tonight. Rex gave Joan \$5.00 to buy material for a dress yesterday; she went to a girlfriends' home today in Sierra Madre and made the dress. I'm so proud of my darling Joan for making her Easter dress. I paid Carol Blid \$2.00 for our tickets for Friday night.



April 14, Wednesday

I wrote a note to Ethel Newbold, inviting her to visit us; she is in Los Angeles with her son Harold and family. I wish she'd come to our lovely Relief Society program next Friday night and stay overnight with us. I let Mary sleep as long as she could this morning because she was up until 10 p.m. watching TV last night. After our housework was done up, Mary and I walked up on the boulevard to our little 15¢ Store, and I bought Easter cards to send to Ethel Newbold and Florence and John Marsh. We went to the post office and mailed the cards, I put Ethel's note in her card. At the Shopping Bag Market, in Van de Kamp's Bakery, I bought one and a half dozen chocolate eggs, cream filled with yellow yolk center. Two of them for each of my Marshes Easter baskets, and two for us here (Lou and me). We bought potato chips and jelly bean Easter eggs for our lunch treat. Donna and Clarice Tanner brought Johnny and Kathy at 12:30 noon; they had eaten lunch at home. Mary made some tomato cream soup for her lunch and mine. She ate potato chips and Ritz Crackers with the soup. Kathy had some chips and a dish of peaches. Johnny had TV all afternoon, with some jelly bean Easter eggs in his jean pockets for an extra treat. (That's my boy.) Mary got Kathy to sleep this afternoon while I sewed for her. I shortened a half-slip, and two organdie dresses, that sister Janet brought from a society rummage sale. I bought the half-slip new, for Mary yesterday. I cut a pretty bouquet of roses for Donna and Clarice to take to Sr. Phillips, who is in the hospital. She is Ann H.'s mother. Donna and Clarice went up for Melba Kunz; they drove to the hospital in Melba's lovely Packard car. Donna drove it. Clarice gave me a dear little thank you note for the queen tribute I composed to her. It is so like that beautiful sweet soul; I'll always treasure it. I phoned Melba Kunz this evening to ask if I could ride to Mutual with her. I wanted to hear and see the TV and movie star, Madge Blake. She is a middle age character actress. She was interesting and cute; she is a wonderful (plump) "mama" type. Br. and Sr. Crandall and Marie Doezie and her two daughters, Ephra and Pauline, went with Melba Kunz tonight, also. Rex had a little scare from the plasterer's union, trying to make trouble because he hasn't been plastering long enough for a card. Melba K. told me about it.



TV and film star Madge Blake.

April 15, Thursday

I was happy to see a bright sunny morning. We've had a lot of overcast and foggy ones lately. Eldine Stephens phoned this morning, and gave me the songs she and Charlotte Hill will sing Easter morning, in the Sunday School program. Their accompanist is Nellie Manning. Lou wanted the information for the Easter programs. We heard over the radio this morning of the trouble the teenagers are causing at Balboa and Laguna Beaches. It's amazing all the dreadful things they are doing. I hate to have my precious Janet or

Joan anywhere near the place, with such an environment, yet that is just where they want most to be. Joan is unhappy because Donna and Rex did not give consent for her to go to Balboa Beach tonight, with her friend, Don Austramen, (I believe it was him). Well anyway, the boy phoned and Donna talked to him; he said he called to ask Joan to go today, instead of tonight because he didn't care to be there tonight with the hundreds of trouble makers, nice boy, (Grama likes him). He said he'd look for Joan; she had gone for a walk. Donna decided to stay home this morning and miss the Singing Mothers' practice. She is away so often. Johnny and Mary went to Primary this morning, Mary had her horse back riding lesson at school this afternoon. Janet worked at Dr. Anderson's office this afternoon. She went shopping this morning. Rex is working today. I hope the union will okay him. Janet had Warnie's car today; she let Donna use it while she was working. They picked me up on the way to Janet's work. I put \$1.00 of gasoline in his car. We went to Penney's Store and Donna and I bought Johnny some Easter togs; grey slacks, a maroon colored belt, blue bow tie and some maroon shoes. We also got three pair of socks for Kathy. I went home with Donna, did her dishes while she took Mary to school for her riding lesson. Little Terry Maxon rode with Donna. Kathy was asleep. Terry has been with the Marshes for two days. Mrs. Maxom came for him this afternoon. Lou came for me after work; he fixed Donna's Venetian blind in her bedroom. Donna went to pick Janet up. Rex got home before we left. Janet and Warnie went to the beach this evening, she to stay with the club girls at Laguna Beach until tomorrow night. Lou and I ate at Bob's eating-place on our way home. We worked in the yard this evening, put acid around plants, watered and etcetera. Mary and Johnny were invited out to a barbecue dinner tonight up in the Sierra Madre Canyon to a neighbor of the Howards. They are going to stay all night with the Howards and they love it, too.

April 16, Friday

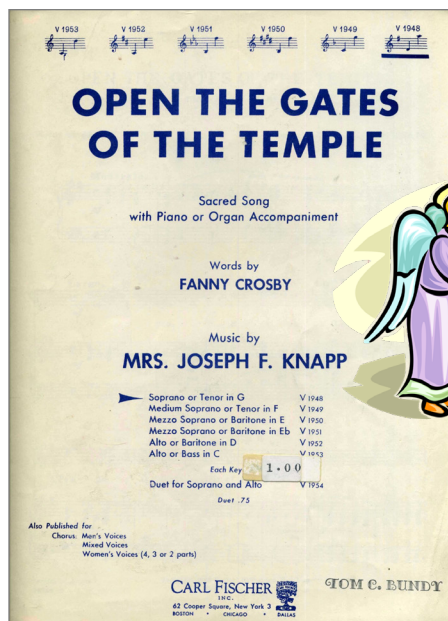
It is another beautiful morning. I cooked Lou's breakfast and put up his lunch, while he shaved. He usually cooks while I do the lunch. I phoned Florence Marsh for Donna reminding her of the program tonight and to ask her if she'd make buttonholes on her machine for Joan, in the new dress Joan made for herself. She'll be happy to do it; she is a wonderful Grandma. Joan was made blissfully happy this morning, when Diane Oates and Dale Andersen invited her to go to the beach with them; one or two of Dale's boyfriends went, also. I vacuumed the house, took a bath and went to bed for an hour. Lou cut the lawns this evening. I made a green salad. We enjoyed a cold dinner and warm cup of Breakfast Cup later, when Lou had finished his outside work. Mary and Johnny stayed all night with the Howards last night, so they're having fun today. They ate a barbecue dinner last night with the Howard's neighbors. I like to hear about the fun my children are having. Wish my Donna didn't have to work so hard all the time though, bless her heart. She has worked hard on the building fund program, I'll be glad when it is over and I hope she'll be able to relax but I know there is always something doing for her with the Relief Society work and home and family. We went to church this evening

and enjoyed the Gay Nineties Program. The Relief Society ladies served refreshments and the presidency was in old-fashioned costumes. They looked cute. Donna wore a long white dress and huge hat. John and Florence Marsh came to the program; she brought Mary's beautiful blue nylon dress that she made for her for Easter. She took the cotton dress Joan made home with her to put buttonholes and buttons on it. She's a wonderful grandmother. Mary came to the program tonight with the Howards. I think David stayed at Marshes with Johnny. I was delighted to see my old friend Bessie Hanson again; she came with Wanda, her daughter, and Wanda's husband. It was Wanda's Horseless Carriage Club that put on our program. Bessie helps Wanda change her costumes. They have a nice group with beautiful costumes. Jennie Jones sang several old-fashioned songs; she was in costume. Bill Raddatz sang several old songs. There was a barbershop quartet, too. It was a lovely program. Punch and cookies were served after the program. The houseful made it a fine success.

April 17, Saturday

It was a bright sunny morning; I got up first, for a change and cooked breakfast for Lou. I ate grapefruit and toast. Lou went to have a leak in the water apparatus of our car fixed. The man put some liquid solder in the water and it stopped the leak; it cost a dollar and a few cents. He had the car washed and bought our groceries, while I did house work and got ready to go to town. We parked our car in the Broadway lot; I wanted some new artificial flowers for our mantle. I was disappointed to learn that the Broadway Store doesn't have any of them now. Lou bought me two lovely pair of nylon hose at Broadway and some blue felt house slippers in Woolworth's. We bought new white lampshades, in Grants Store, for my little bedroom lamps, on my dresser. I got some Easter chickens and a bunny in Grants Store for my little one's Easter baskets, (plastic chickens and a small stuffed bunny). I bought two chocolate Easter eggs a piece, for the family, from Van de Kamp's the other day. We looked in Nash's Department Store for flower arrangements; they've quit carrying artificial flowers, also. Even the little shop on East Colorado Street, that used to make and teach people how to make flowers, has gone out of business. Of course Grants Store has a lot of them, but they look artificial. I want the ones that look real; they're not cheap either. I left two pair of my shoes at the repair shop near us, to have rubber heels put on. Lou and I rested for a while, and then went

out to Sierra Madre to take our Easter things. Donna and Ovena had gone to town to buy a few Easter things to put in the children's baskets. Kathy and I took a little walk to the corner, (up and down), she had her sun suit on and hair in little tails on each side of her head; looked so darn cute. Gary Stonebraker was at Donna's playing in the backyard. Warnie, Janet, and Joan were playing with a water gun on the patio. Warnie painted the new phone number on the "For Sale" sign. Rex is going to put it up in the front yard again. Donna and Ovena came while we were there. Donna had a box of See's Chocolates for Lou and me. (She shouldn't have.) She had one for the Marshes, also. Grama Marsh sent Joan's blouse home with a zipper in the back of neck instead of the buttons she expected. Joan made the blouse and skirt for herself. I brought my little suitcase home that Janet borrowed to take to the beach. The handle got broken some how? I'll have to get a new handle. It was hot today, went up to 90 degrees. Donna gave us some colored Easter eggs the children had colored. It was Ivy Jo Hill's wedding reception tonight. I think Rex and Donna went. Ovena and Donna gave a gift together.



John, Kathy, and Mary Marsh in 1954.
Could be Easter Sunday, or not?

April 18, Sunday—Easter Sunday

It was a nice day, but not as warm as yesterday. I was sorry the sun couldn't get through the overcast skies for the hundreds of people who went to the Sun Rise Services in our southland. We had a very lovely Easter program in our Sunday School; two duets, "The Empty Tomb" and "Open the Gates of the Temple," by Eldine Stephens and Charlotte Hill, accompanied by Nellie Manning. Barbara McGinnis gave a beautiful reading of the Easter Story, (she is good). We, the congregation, sang "Christ the Lord is Risen," "While of These Emblems we Partake," and "I know that my Redeemer Lives." The invocation was by Robert Austin, Benediction by Glen Clawson. Lou and I came home to a cold lunch I had prepared, potato salad, cold meat, tomatoes and cheese. Rex and family went to the Oateses' ranch for dinner with the Marsh relatives. Warnie went with Janet. Rex was standing near Alvin A.'s car when he started it up after Sunday School, and his best trousers got sprayed dreadfully with black oil. Lou had a flat tire on his car when we came out of Sunday School, so he had to change it before we could move out of the

lot. It was a lovely sight to see the pretty Easter dresses and suits on our young people today. My little Marsh children looked most beautiful to me, they would eh? Baby Kathy was just a big doll in her white nylon dress and tiny yellow Easter bag, new white shoes; my Johnny boy was handsome in his new gray slacks, white shirt, blue bow tie, and new brown shoes. Mary was a lovely picture in her pretty blue nylon dress that Grama Marsh made her. Joan was

beautiful in her new floral spring dress. I didn't see Janet or Warnie but I know she looked beautiful, too. We had a large crowd out this morning. Glen Strong's little daughter Pamela was out to Sunday School. Lou tried to nap in the patio swing, but a pesky fly or two drove him inside to the couch. After his nap we went over to the new church, on Sierra Madre Villa, to take some clean rags and some cans for the painters to use. Lou took a group of people through the building, explaining the rooms and etcetera. I took a quick tour myself as I've been through a number of times. I sat out in the car and waited for Lou to come. We went to church tonight. Johnny and Mary sat with us. Rex and Donna sang in the choir. Johnny had some green molding clay, which he and Mary entertained themselves with. Br. Rands gave a good talk; he is on our high council. Lou and I went through a house for sale, near the new church, this afternoon. Too much for us. We got our Pasadena Stake Family Album today, a lovely book.



April 19, Monday

A real estate man showed an elderly lady through Donna's house this morning. Donna doesn't think she was interested in the place; too large or too much needs doing to it, or? I had a large washing, as I didn't do any last week. The children are back in school this morning, after the Easter vacation. Donna says that Melba Kunz is going to ask Bishop Summerhays to release her from her Relief

Society work; she feels she is needed in her home, with the three little boys to raise, and she is right, too. But Donna says she doesn't know how she'll get along without Melba. She has been a faithful worker in Relief Society for several years. I know that Donna has to neglect her home and family too, at times, because of her Relief Society job, but she feels like she must stay in a while longer. The society must make some money as they've spent such a lot in the building and furnishings of the new building. I hope and pray she'll keep well, and be able to keep up her home and church work. Louis was later this evening; he stopped somewhere to see about buying a new tire for his car. One of our tires has a break in it, which caused us to have a flat tire yesterday. The shoe repairman said my shoes would be ready on Monday, I left them with him Saturday. Lou took me up to his shop this evening, he hadn't started to work on them, but he said if I'd wait a few minutes, he'd do them now. I waited and he put the new rubber heels on both pair, \$1.00. Lou waited in the car for me. I phoned a few luggage repair shops, to find a place to take my little overnight case to have a new handle put on it. It got broken off when Janet had it at the beach. Jerry Warnick came in the shoe shop to have new heels on his shoes while I was there. Beverly told Lou at work today of the time Dale and friends had at the beach on Friday. They took Joan and Diane Oates and another girl, Marilyn Parks. It was nice of Dale to take the girls. Oh these teenagers, (our girls).

April 20, Tuesday

It was cloudy and cool today. Bonna Gordon came for me at 9:35 a.m. Marie Doezie was with her. Mrs. Morris was a few minutes late, little Kathy wouldn't stay in the nursery without "Morris," because little Linda Ballard gave her a push, which sent her to the floor, so she kept a tight hold on my hand. Rosa Clawson tried to get her to stay with her and the other little children. Kathy had a large rose bud she was waiting to give Mrs. Morris. We went out to the parking lot to meet Mrs. Morris. Kathy went happily along into the nursery with her. Faye Timothy's literature lesson was beautifully given. It was on the life of the poet, Robert Browning, and his lovely wife, Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Theirs was a truly beautiful love. Bessie Ballard sang, "I Love You Truly." Marie had an appointment with her doctor so she didn't come home with us. Mary Howard took little Kathy home with her, our baby held Mary's hand and said, "Can I go home wish you?"

Donna and I talked about Joan and Diane's trip to the beach on Friday with Dale Anderson. Nora Williamson came for me at 2:15 p.m. We did our Relief Society visiting. I enjoy going with her, she's a lovely person. I met Sr. Ethel Ashton for the first time, she has a beautiful home on the same street that Nora lives on, and they are dear friends. I phoned Margaret Waugaman to report our visiting done. Lou took my overnight suitcase to a luggage repair shop, on Fair Oakes Avenue. He left it there to have a new handle put

on it. Donna and Joan came down this evening, Joan wanted to tell us about the misunderstanding we had of their beach trip, she phoned to talk to Dale Andersen, but he wasn't home, so she talked to Aunt Annie. Our little "tempest in a teapot" has caused some concern in a few of the best circles in Garvanza Ward, all innocent, when understood. [*Diane Oates may have been the tempest in a teapot.*] That's all you'll get my little diary. Joan is working on a dishtowel for our new church house. All the Miammaids are making one. Joan is painting a pretty iris in the corner of hers. Tonight was the ward cleanup at the new church.

April 21, Wednesday

We had to rush this morning as we overslept after the alarm went off, but Lou got off to work on time in spite of it. Donna took care of Alicebeth Ashby's two youngest children today. Alicebeth went to a matinée. She brought the children about 10 a.m. I talked to Annie on the phone and had a nice chat. I did my ironing and some mending today. Wish I was near enough to help Donna do her ironing. Annie phoned this evening and I talked to Dale (sweet kid) more about their beach trip. Dale went up to Oateses and they cleared up the misunderstanding so everybody's happy now. Beverly went to her doctor for an adjustment on her spine this evening. She has a weakness in her back, the sacroiliac slips out, causing her a lot of pain and trouble. Oh me. What a speller am I. Donna went to Mutual tonight with Clarice Tanner. It was play night, so I stayed home. I do not like the games. Janet and Warnie tried the dancing lesson, after some persuasion from Donna. He wasn't very happy over said dancing so he gave up and went home. Joan is in the chorus for the church contest, which will be held in Southern California this year. Janet and Warnie were going to try the dancing, but I guess he has changed his mind. I believe Janet would like to be in the dance festival this summer, but Warnie isn't too fond of dancing. A real estate lady has Donna's house for exclusive rights to sell, for one month.

April 22, Thursday

It has been cloudy and cool all day. I had a very busy day. I washed curtains in Lou's bedroom, the bathroom, kitchen, and service porch. I had to iron the bedroom panels, but the other curtains are plastic, I like that! I washed all the windows and hung the curtains, watered the flowers and back lawns and made a chocolate pudding. I was really tired this evening. Lou came home tired also; he had been working on the big Venetian blinds, for the apartments at Corona Del Mar Beach. We both rested before dinner. I got up to answer the phone; it was a wrong number. I stayed up and cooked dinner; we ate at 6 p.m. I tried several times to get Claytons on the phone today. I guess Miriam was out. I wanted to ask Lorene if she'd consider staying three days in a home in the Hastings Ranch district for a Mrs. Howells, who is going to San Francisco with her husband for three days. She will pay \$8.00 a day. I'm sorry, but I couldn't contact Lorene. The lady was going to call Donna again this afternoon. After dinner we listened to President Eisenhower's radio broadcast, on Transforming an Age of Atomic Hysteria into an Era of World Peace. Sounds good anyway, eh? It was cold and damp

outside, but in our little doll house it was cheerful and warm. We enjoyed our TV programs.

April 23, Friday

It rained a little last night and drizzled some this morning. I was glad, because the flowers and grass were taken care of without any effort on my part. I mailed Dolores a birthday greeting card; it is her birthday on Sunday. I hope my sweet Dody gal will have a very happy birthday. I'd love to send all my nieces and nephews a nice gift on their birthday, but I'm too poor for that pleasure. My love is the best I can do and I love them all. I vacuumed cleaned the house today, then rested so I'd be able to attend the concert in our new stake and ward house. I talked to Lorene on the phone, Annie told her I tried to get her yesterday, so she phoned me. She said she'd be glad to go stay the three days in Hastings Ranch home for Mrs. Howells while they went to San Francisco. I phoned Donna, she talked to Mrs. H. and she had another lady coming. Sorry I couldn't get Lorene yesterday. Mrs. H. said she would much rather have had Donna's aunt if she had only known yesterday. It's too bad because Lorene needs the money, too. We left home this evening a few minutes past seven o'clock. I was amazed at the number of cars parked in front and in back of our new stake house that early. Janet, Joan, and the other pretty girls looked beautiful in their lovely formal gowns; they were usherettes; the young boys of our ward were out doors parking cars. It was truly a thrill to see our beautiful new stake house recreation hall filled with people. The stake Sunday School sponsored this wonderful program. The Mormon Choir of Southern California presented an Evening of Music. The conductor was Frederick Davis, and his marvelous 300-voice choir gave us the thrill of a lifetime. We also had some guest stars, Roxana Byers at the piano. G. Delos Jewkes was a soloist, and Cecily Adams Brown at

the piano. This was truly a wonderful experience tonight. Lou and I ate a sandwich at Bob's, after the program. Dixie Wolf stayed at Donna's tonight with Kathy and Gary Stonebraker. Mary went to the concert. We sat with Donna, Rex, and Mary. Betty Ramish sat next to me, Ovena and Chet next to her. Our East Pasadena ward officer's pictures were in the Independent Newspaper this morning. "Pastor" Summerhays was the only name mentioned.



April 24, Saturday

After breakfast Lou went out to buy a new tire for our car. He mailed Lorene's birthday card for me. I sent \$3.00 in it, wish I could have sent a lot more, bless her heart. She is a wonderful sister. I gave Lou the grocery list so he could do

our shopping before coming home. I took my bath before dressing this morning after Lou left. After lunch Lou cut the lawns and cleaned up the yard. He surely keeps this place looking nice. I try to keep the inside as nice, "keeping up with Father," is a job, eh? Donna phoned this afternoon, she's had a hectic morning going places and doing things. She took Mary to her foot doctor, and spent an hour waiting on him. We are all delighted that Mary's foot is getting back in the natural line, the measurements show it is a lot better since he has been giving her the treatments. Her new shoes will cost \$16.95 and are being made for her. Her feet do not hurt like they did before the treatments, caused from bad fallen arches. Mary and Johnny went to Howard's this afternoon, to Bonny Howard's birthday party. The car stalled in Sierra Madre town, Rex came on the bicycle, put gas in it and took the kiddies to Howard's. Joan is going to the Rose Prom Ball, with Larry Steimle tonight at Covina. Rex and Donna are going with a group of ward married folks. The Majors have invited them to their home after to eat. Florence Oates let Donna borrow her pink beaded sweater and taffeta skirt. Johnny had his hair cut at the barber college while Donna and Mary were at the doctors, he began to think his mother had forgotten him; they were so long coming for him, poor little man. Rex worked for Br. Mortenson today. Janet worked for Dr. Anderson's office. A happy surprise for me this afternoon; Beverly Andersen came to ask me if I'd like to ride with them over to wish Dolores a happy birthday. I was delighted, the car was full but they made room for me somehow. There were seven of us, (eight with baby Jimmy). Annie, Lorene, Mary Jorgensen, and myself in the back seat, Beverly, Irene, and baby Jimmy and Aunt Sue in the front seat. (Sue, Lorene, and Mary had been uptown to lunch in honor of Lorene's birthday. Dolores treated us to a piece of delicious chocolate cake. We tempted her into opening the gifts from her mother and family. There was a big box for Dody and one for little Nadine, both have birthdays on the 25th of April. We had a nice party. Jenny Jones is having Dody and Bevan to dinner tomorrow. Dody got a pretty new dress, some shoes and some jeans and earrings from her folks. Nadine got two cute dresses, shoes, white wool stole, a doll and bracelet, wonderful, eh? Mary J. looked so pretty today, she is slender now. Dody looked pretty too, she is nice and slim, too. Our girls are all pretty, Irene and Bev, too. Bless that Bev for calling for me, I surely enjoyed going with them. Beverly gave Dody a pretty apron that Annie made. Sue gave Lorene a lovely nightgown; Mary gave her an apron and money. Today I composed a tribute to Lou, for his new songbook.



Mary and Bonny Howard
On April 25 Elvie says, "Kathy has fallen in love with Mary Howard, like the other little Marshes, I can't blame 'em, we all love her."

April 25, Sunday

We woke up to Daylight Savings time, we lost an hour somewhere in the night? Lou put all of our clocks one hour ahead, so we got to Sunday School on time. Rex was surely sleepy in Sunday School, he and Donna went to the stake Rose Prom Ball in Covina last night, then to Lorraine Major's home for supper after the dance. Donna made the building fund announcement or report in Sunday School. She did a good job. Mary Howard and Jeanne Brinton had three small boys help them with the building fund skit this morning. Little Dale Summerhays gave his first part nice and loud. He is a cutie, but the last half he became self-conscious and sat down on the floor, much to the embarrassment of his daddy, the Bishop, ha ha! We never know what a "small fry" will do, eh? I enjoyed Br. Don Rowberry's lesson as always. My dear friend Sr. Emily Peak brought a beautiful little hand crocheted doily to me this morning. Sr. Peak is 85 years old and her handwork is just lovely, perfect work. Bless her dear heart. *[Emily Peak is Madge Fowler's mother.]* I shall always cherish this dear little doily, crocheted by her precious hands. We had a cold lunch today. Lou went to Monrovia this afternoon to the Sunday School Union meeting. Br. Dempky asked Lou to take charge of the music department today, as he couldn't be there. Lou went in Al Rowbotham's car with some of the other Sunday School workers. I enjoyed a nice quiet afternoon reading and writing. Donna and family went to the open house this afternoon, at our new ward and stake center on Sierra Madre Villa. Punch and cookies were served. LaDorna Perine was in charge of the refreshments. Janet helped serve. Dick Johnston phoned this evening at 5 p.m. and said Beth was bringing my little apron. They were at Aunt Ethel's home, and it took thirty minutes to get here. Beth made a little black organdie apron with a big red flower pocket, and red fancy trim stitching. I like it very much. I asked her to make a black one for me.

She is making and selling them for their new church building fund. She also makes pies for it. Beth and Dick have earned \$50.00 so far, for the building fund, nice eh? Our church, or The Church of Jesus Christ, is growing so fast we are building L.D.S. chapels all over this country. The Johnstons had their two youngest daughters with them, Kathy and Elaine, both beautiful children. Beth said that Aunt Ida is back home from her visit in New York, with daughter Ramona, and her sister Andrea in Washington D.C. Senator Vivian Watkins's wife, Andrea, is Ida's sister. Lou and I went to church this evening making three meetings for him today. We sat in the same row with our precious Marshes. It was a treat to have Janet with us. She is usually in the back with Warnie; they get away so fast I never get to see my pretty Janet. But Warnie went fishing over the weekend so Janet was with her parents. My baby Kathy has fallen in love with Mary Howard, like the other little Marshes, I can't blame 'em, we all love her. We had some amusement in church tonight. It got rather warm; Dick Summerhays put the big window up from bottom, (near us). He had quite a time undoing the lock with the long pole. We were all too cold with the window up, so Lou told

Franklin Fisher to pull it down again. The darn thing made such a noise after two attempts that Franklin gave up. Then Lou got up and the window came down with a bang, causing everyone to laugh, ha ha! Rex's house was advertised for sale in the Star News this morning. Lou and I didn't recognize the ad; some build up that the real estate lady put in, ha ha!

April 26, Monday

It's my sister Lorene's birthday, I hope she'll have a delightful day and hope my greeting card will arrive okay with the \$3.00 in. I composed a thank you poem to my dear octogenarian friend, Emily Peak, for the pretty little doily she crocheted for me and brought to Sunday School yesterday. This afternoon I did some watering in the yard, the hanging baskets and flower plants. I cooked a nice dinner for Lou this evening; the chicken I was going to fry yesterday, I fried this evening, and we enjoyed it with potatoes and gravy, hot rolls, and green salad. Mr. Edgecomb, our neighbor on the south, came to our back door this evening and informed us we had a flat tire on the car. Lou was enjoying his nap, as usual, after eating dinner. A week ago Sunday, we found a flat tire on our car when we came out of Sunday School. Lou bought a new tire last Saturday. He put it on the car tonight; I hope this second flat is not because of a broken tire like the other was? If so, we'll be out some more money for a tire. I cut a bouquet of rose buds to take to Lorene. The Andersens, Beverly and Annie, were at Lorene's when we arrived there. Miriam and her little daughters, Carol and Marilyn were also there. They were all enjoying Lorene's delicious dessert, a Jello whipped cream and jelly roll cake delicacy; she also served chocolate covered raisins and some cashew nuts. We watched the TV show, "I Love Lucy," and visited after the show. Sue gave Lorene a pretty rayon nightgown. Elaine Davies gave her a book (Church Works), and she got some pretty nylon hose. Most of us gave her money. Mary gave her a pretty organdy apron that Beth J. made. Maybe Mary made it, but it is like the aprons Beth is making and selling for their building fund.

April 27, Tuesday

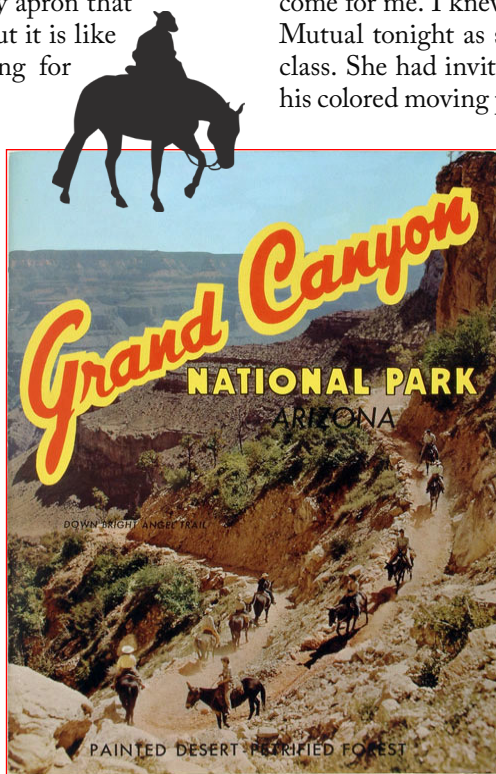
Ethel Newbold phoned me this morning at 9 a.m. She and Margie are coming to see me Thursday. I invited them to come to lunch. It was cloudy and cold all day, my winter coat felt good. Bonna G. and Marie D. called for me this morning as usual. We had a very fine Relief Society meeting. Phyllis McDonnell's lesson was very interesting. She is an excellent teacher, and so cute to listen to with her keen sense of humor. It was our Social Science lesson, "The Constitution of the United States, Philadelphia Convention." I brought Kathy home with me in Bonna's car. Donna and some of the sisters went to the new church, to clean windows and floors in the Relief Society rooms, to get it

ready for the new rugs to be laid down. The room will then be kept locked; to keep it clean while the rest of the building is finished. We are all getting anxious to move into our new church. It will be grand for us, and for the Pasadena Ward, too. I know we disturb them as much as they do us. It is hard to keep people quiet when they are visiting out in the patio. We are noisy waiting for them to dismiss so we can go in, and they are noisy talking outside when we are starting our meetings. Of course both wards want to be quiet and considerate, but it's so hard to remember the other ward is in session. I love the Pasadena Ward folks and Bishop Hill, I'm glad we'll see them at the stake center often anyway. Donna phoned, she was about to type my tributes in rhyme, one to Lou, and one to Emily Peak. Bless my Donna, what would I do without her? Donna had me phone Florence Marsh for her, to let her know that the Mormon Choir of Southern California was broadcasting the lovely concert by tape, over K.W.K.W radio tonight. Donna thought it was 9:30 p.m. but they started at 9 p.m. so we missed the first part. Today Kathy and I ate lunch and looked at my scrapbooks. She picked out her family pictures; when she'd see any of them she'd say, "That's my Mary, or that's my Doan," (Joan) and so on. She's a cutie. She had a nap on my bed.

April 28, Wednesday

We had a nice rainfall most of the night; I was happy cause I did not have to worry about watering the flowers. I had a busy day inside vacuuming and cleaning and preparing for my company luncheon tomorrow. I made a fruit salad, bought butter rolls and cherry pie from Helm's Bakery. (He comes to the house.) I cleaned the patio cabaña; it was surely dusty, as we haven't done anything to it for almost a month. It was dark and gloomy looking until after 2 p.m. then lovely and sunny after that. I phoned Elvenia Summers to see if she had room for me in her car this evening. She was happy to come for me. I knew she was anxious to have as many out to Mutual tonight as she could get out to the Special Interest class. She had invited Mr. Orrin W. Fox to come and show his colored moving pictures of the Grand Canyon in Arizona

and the canyons in Utah. I was surely glad I did go as it was beautiful and most interesting to listen to Mr. Fox tell of their wonderful trip into these scenic places, where people cannot go with a car. They used a Jeep as far as they could go, and then walked miles to get some of the wonderful pictures. Donna and Joan came to Mutual; Janet went to one of her school club meetings. Joan rehearsed with a group of young folks for the church contest festival in August some time I believe. Lou brought my little overnight case home from the luggage repair shop this evening. It cost \$2.00 to have a handle put on it, and it isn't a new handle either. Donna had my tributes typed, but forgot to bring them to Mutual. She said she'd get them to me somehow tomorrow.



April 29, Thursday

Janet came by in Warnie's car this morning, on her way to school. She had a girlfriend with her. I met her outside, cause Donna phoned to tell me that she was bringing my typed poems but she was in a hurry, so I went out to save her time. I put Emily Peak's poem in a pretty colored folder, with some flowers I cut from a greeting card. It was a thank you tribute to her for the pretty little crocheted doily she gave me last Sunday. The other poem was a tribute to Lou. I pasted it in his new songbook, (he wanted it there). Ethel and Margie came at 12:35 noon, I phoned Lou, and he arrived about eight minutes later. We ate lunch; they seemed to enjoy it a lot. We had a tuna, cheese, and macaroni casserole, green peas, buttered carrots, hot buttered rolls, and a Jello fruit salad with cherry pie and ice cream for dessert. I forgot to pass the after dinner mints, darn me, I had 'em dished up on the little cupboard but forgot them. Lou had to go back to work after lunch. Ethel insisted on helping me with the dishes. Margie was busy with her two little ones; they are surely cute kiddies. She had her baby boy and little Connie. Ethel brought a very cute figurine for our whatnot shelf. It is two little boys and their dog; it is darling. I was disappointed that Donna and Kathy couldn't come. She was out this morning to Singing Mother's rehearsal and all day Tuesday to Relief Society, and will be out all day tomorrow to a Relief Society board meeting and luncheon. Donna and Clarice Tanner have the luncheon for tomorrow; they are serving it in Melba Kunz's nice home. Donna had a lot of work at home this afternoon. Ethel and Margie left here a few minutes to 3 p.m. She wanted to miss the heavy traffic. I enjoyed their visit a lot. Lou and I enjoyed a nice evening in our little home with our favorite TV programs. Ethel is going back to Utah soon, she will come back to California in August, to stay with Harold and Margie's children while they take a trip to New Mexico.

April 30, Friday

I received a letter from Violet; she said Yvonne is in California at Dolores's home. She left Cedar the day after Violet wrote me. She is here to take tests for nurse's training at the Los Angeles County Hospital. Today is the last day in our lovely month of April. It seems just a few days ago to me, that we were welcoming in 1954, now four months are in the past already! I got an early start with my washing; it was all on the lines by 10:30 a.m. I got the last piece out when it started to rain lightly. Well, it didn't last long. Donna and Kathy went to the Relief Society leadership meeting in Las Flores Ward this morning. Donna and Clarice Tanner served luncheon to their local board this afternoon, in Melba Kunz's lovely home. They left Kathy here

with me. I had her lunch all ready when she arrived, and she was ready for her lunch as usual. She has a cough, which I do not like; I surely hope it will clear up soon. We played for a while; I showed her some colored pictures of children and their toys. She wanted to watch "TB" later, as she calls the television. She is adorable. Grama Elvie loves to have her here. Kathy wouldn't take a nap on my bed, but fell asleep on the couch. Ovena Mayo and small son, Gary, came. She brought me some datum [details] about her parents; she wants me to compose a Golden Wedding tribute for her to read at their reception in June. Oh, I surely hope I can do it, to please her okay. I wish I were as talented as some people think I am. This job looks immense to me now. But I love Ovena and want to do it. Clarice Tanner came for me this evening at eight o'clock. We went to Louise Anderson's home to a baby shower for Dixie Kratzer and her new infant daughter, Tara Kim. Joan came here with Clarice, then some of her girlfriends picked her up here. They ate out somewhere, and the girls took her home. Donna came to the shower later. She went to an open house at the school first. It was a lovely shower with lots of lovely gifts. There were delicious refreshments and Donna brought me home. Clarice Tanner, Donna, and I gave a tied quilt made in our Relief Society to baby Tara Kim Kratzer.

May 1, Saturday

Lou went to Dr. Don Anderson's home this morning. He worked all day in their den, putting wainscot paneling part way up the walls. He is doing it to pay for some dental work the doctor did for him, nice, arrangement, eh? Donna took Janet to her work at Dr. Anderson's office and took Rex to the church to work plastering. She had to take Mary to town to her foot doctor; it cost \$17.50 for her shoes plus \$2.00 for her treatment and 60¢ for shoetrees. \$20.00 for little Mary's shoes and treatments! Dreadful, but we are all so happy the doctor is helping her foot condition a lot. I hope he'll have them normal soon. She has a badly fallen arch. Lou came home to eat lunch with me. Donna took Rex's lunch to him. Our Mutual is having an operation mop up contest for the young people to earn some money from the ward folks, to pay their building fund assessments. Joan Marsh and Willmia Ramish worked for Ovena Mayo today, cleaning house for their donation. Johnny Marsh tried hard to stay with the job of cutting his dad's front lawn, to earn some building fund money. I composed a queen tribute to Joan. Lou came home about 6 p.m. He was tired, poor man. He slept on the couch after dinner. Yvonne Fife phoned this evening; she had taken her tests today for the nurses training. She'll



Yvonne Fife takes test to become a licensed Registered Nurse on May 1, 1954.

know in about three weeks if she passed okay. She is going with Dody and Bevan to the new stake center tonight to the baptismal services, where Dolores has charge of the music. Dody told Yvonne she could lead the singing tonight for her. Yvonne is leaving tomorrow for home. She is going to take little Ronnie back to Cedar City with her. Violet will bring him back home here, in about a month. I'm sure Violet will be delighted to have her little grandson with her for a month. Yvonne says when her college is out the last of May; she will go out to Beryl and work all summer in the store for Otto. Violet will move out to Beryl when school is out. Otto will have a house rented for them to move into. Yvonne will come to California in the fall. I mended Lou's gray trousers today; the back seam came open.

May 2, Sunday

It was surely a treat to see the bright sunshine this morning; we've had so many cold damp days lately. I went to Sunday School without a coat. We had a large attendance to Sunday School, couldn't all get in the recreation hall for the opening exercises. Our fast meeting was held in the chapel where we had more seats. We had a fine Sunday School and a wonderful spirit in fast meeting. Lou and I had planned on taking Mary and Johnny out to Bob's eating-place after Sunday School for a big boy hamburger, but Mary was not in Sunday School. She was home with a cold. We took Johnny; I invited Joan to come also, but she was expecting some of her friends to call for her at home this afternoon. Johnny was so full of food he had to undo his belt a few notches. He ate a Big Boy sandwich, French fried potatoes and a chocolate malt. We drove over to Joneses to see Yvonne. Dolores and Bevan were at a missionary meeting. Dr. LeMoyne Hickman was just leaving; he'd been there to dinner. Yvonne is taking little Ronnie Jones back to Cedar with her. Dolores wants her to stay until tomorrow. She'd planned on leaving this evening. We came home so Grampa could have his nap. He looked so sleepy I was afraid he'd drop off while we were visiting, ha ha! Johnny was delighted to come home and watch the western pictures on our television set; he pulled my big platform rocker up close to the platform rocker he was in, and I suffered through all the noise of the cowboys fighting and riding all over the hills chasing each other. Oh me! We went to church early, as it was Primary conference. Johnny had a part to say; the teachers wanted the children there early. Johnny said his part real well; everyone could hear him. So many of them we didn't get what they said at all. Mary sang with her group. It was a nice program; teachers have worked hard on it. The theme was "A Testimony Grows." Melba Kunz was released from her Relief Society work today, and Sr. DeHaan was put in Melba's place as a counselor to Donna.



The Renshaws and Johnny Marsh enjoyed lunch at Bob's Big Boy.

May 3, Monday

It's Elaine Vandergrift's birthday, I do wish I had thought about it in time to mail her a card. I noticed it only when I went to write in my diary this afternoon. I hope she'll have a happy day. Mary had an earache, so Donna kept her home from school; she has a little head cold. Clarice T. took Donna to Melba Kunz's home at 10 a.m. this morning to a Relief Society meeting. They left little Kathy here with me. Grama and Kathy had fun until Mother called for her about 12:30 noon. Kathy ate lunch with me. The insurance man came and I parted with \$5.23; he comes once a month. The electric power went off in the night; so all of our clocks were twenty minutes slow this morning. We have three electric clocks. Lou got to work on time, because his alarm clock was on the job. I received a nice letter from Lydia; it's always a treat to read her letters. She is on a vacation from her work at the Children's Friend, until the fall. I did my ironing this afternoon, after some work on the queen tributes, three of them, Ovena Mayo, Mary Howard, and Joan Sidlow. I went over the poems again tonight after dinner. We didn't turn on the television. Lou read from the book the Taylors sent us, "Sweet Love Remembered." He worked in the yard before dinner, cut lawns and watered. I phoned Dolores to ask if Yvonne and Ronnie got away last evening. Yvonne answered the phone; they are leaving on the bus this evening. She phoned her mother in Cedar City to tell her they were staying over until this evening, so Violet will not worry. Violet will bring Ronnie back next month.

May 4, Tuesday

Today is a lovely sunny day. Lou gave me \$20.00 on Saturday to buy me something for Mother's Day. I got dressed with the thought in mind of staying uptown after Relief Society meeting, and buying something with the \$10.00 he most always gives me, and the \$20.00. I was going to go "all out" and buy something nice, but after the beautiful Book of Mormon lessons in our two Relief Society meetings this morning, I hadn't the desire anymore, so I came back home with Bonna. The worldly goods seemed to mean little to me then. I will go another time because I promised my sweetheart I would buy something for myself from him. Sr. Margaret Waugaman's lesson in the visiting teachers meeting was very lovely and Jeanne Brinton's theology lesson on Alma, son of Alma, was truly an inspiration. The testimonies that followed were wonderful. It was a blessing to be in the midst of such fine sisters and that beautiful spirit present. Most of us bore testimonies; we had a nice big attendance. It seemed strange to see Melba Kunz sitting in the audience instead of up in front with the officers. Sr. DeHaan looked at home in Melba's place. I'm sure she'll be an excellent counselor. I think she resembles Melba a little, too. Donna phoned this afternoon; she was excited over a large five bedroom, old home, for sale, in Sierra Madre with no large lot to pay taxes on. It is only \$10,000. She is anxious for Rex to look at it. I hope if it is right for them, they'll be able to sell their home and buy this one. I mailed Donna three queen tributes for her to type for me. (Poor dear, as if she hasn't got enough to do.) This evening Rex phoned to see if Lou

and I would come up to Sierra Madre and look through the big old home to see what we think of it. I made my green salad in a rush and we went up. Mary and Kathy were sitting on the curb waiting for us to arrive. We took Rex, Janet, Johnny, Mary, and Kathy in our car. Joan had to go babysitting, so she was disappointed she couldn't go look at the place again. Donna was busy in the kitchen getting her meatballs and spaghetti cooked for the dinner at Helling's this evening. It is a big old fashioned home, but looked like home, it is romantic looking; yes, I like it. I hope they can sell their home and buy this one if it is right for them. I know they do need more bedrooms. I want them to find comfort and happiness. The taxes are much less because of the small lot. They have too much property where they are now. Rex and Donna went with us to the building fund dinner at Ward and Elva Helling's home, (a lovely home.) Champ and Mary Dawn Cuff, Eric and Clair Smith, James and Phyllis McDonnel, Rex and Donna, and Lou and myself were the ones there. It was the first dinner we've been to in the same home with Rex and Donna since the building fund dinners were started two years ago. We had a nice time. Donna helped with the dishes. I forgot to bring my bottle of French dressing home from the Helling's tonight. Darn it!

May 5, Wednesday

We had a heavy fog this morning, a change from yesterday's bright sunny morning. Donna talked to the real estate lady who is trying to sell their home; she wants them to arrange to be away Sunday and let her have an open house there, to see if she can sell the place. Donna would like to buy the large old home she looked at yesterday, but they must sell this one first. I did four verses of the Golden Wedding tribute for Ovena's parents this morning. I stopped working on it to write a letter to Eloise Brooks, to thank her for the pretty Mother's Day greeting in her Easter card greetings. I also wrote to Will and Flora Taylor to thank them for their letter and Easter card. Lou had a talk with a man at the loan company across the street from the shop, about Donna's home. He said he'd go out and look the place over. Work is real slack at the shop again now, hardly enough to keep Lou busy. I'm so sorry, because Beverly needs money to make her car payment and etcetera. If they could only keep work coming in at the shop Beverly could stay on there. The Cannon Electric Company is surely slow in calling her back to work, as promised! I invited Donna and family to eat dinner with us next Sunday, Mother's Day.

May 6, Thursday

I felt quite well this morning, so I decided to go uptown and buy the dress that Lou gave me instructions to buy, for a Mother's Day gift. He gave me \$20.00 last Saturday. I looked in a lot of little stores from Helen Smith's all the way to a little shop that I've never been in before,

Weber's Half Size Fashions. I was glad I went in this store because I was having trouble finding 16½. They had a lot of pretty clothes in my size there. I bought a blue linen two-piece dress; it has white dots in it and was \$10.00 I bought a white linen skirt in the Slender Line Shop for \$5.95 to change off with the blue one. I bought a white hat in Nash's Store, a very small one for \$2.00, a white flower in Mather's Store for \$1.00, some white beads and earrings in Grants Store. Now I'm all set to blossom out on Mother's Day. My white shoes, purse, and gloves will do again this year; they'll clean up nicely, I hope. I had to stand up almost all of the way home on the bus, it seems everyone had the same idea, to go shopping this day. I was really tired by the time I arrived home, a short time before Lou got home. It was indeed an effort to cook dinner and clear up after it. I was glad to sit in my easy platform rocker this evening and watch television. Donna went to the Singing Mother's rehearsal in Las Flores Ward this morning. She took Kathy along. Our baby used to go in the nursery with the other children willingly, but I don't know what happened to make her decide she wouldn't stay in the nursery now. Donna has a struggle to leave her with the lady in attendance lately.

May 7, Friday

I did a few more verses on the Richen's Golden Wedding tribute this morning. I have several done now; I work until I feel a bit nervous then I stop for a while. I'll work for a long while on one little ole verse, then zoom, several verses will come to me in a flash another time! Donna phoned to tell me that Sally Taylor died this morning. She dropped dead while ironing, just a short time after Dave left for work at 7 a.m. Beth Bywater phoned Donna to get Bill Raddatz's number; they'd like him to sing at Sally's funeral next Tuesday in Garvanza Ward.

I'd like to attend her funeral. We've known Goldie (Sally) and Dave for many years. Poor Dave will miss her dreadfully. I walked up to the little shoe repair shop on Virginia Street and Colorado Boulevard after lunch.

The cobbler put new rubber heels on my white shoes for 50¢. I waited for the job to be done. Lou went to Ralph's Store this noon and bought a nice leg of lamb for dinner on Sunday. He left it in the store until after work. We received a letter from Ethel Newbold; she expects to leave for Salt Lake City next Monday. Harold and Margie bought her a lovely new coat for a Mother's Day gift; she was happy over that. Lou came home tired and provoked this evening. Bill S. brought some Venetian blinds in for refinish or new cord and tape or something. He said the lady said that Lou quoted her a price of \$50. Well, the job she sent in is \$150. Lou got her on the phone pronto! I guess they take the blinds back to her on Monday with nothing done on them, as she "won't pay such a price."



Goldie (Sally) Taylor died May 7, 1954. This photo is from Family Search. She was only 52 years old when she died.

May 8, Saturday

It has been cloudy and cold all day. Lou went to work at Don Anderson's again this Saturday. He worked until 1 p.m. when he ran out of lumber and came home. We ate lunch, he took a nap and I defrosted the icebox. I dusted up the house this morning and worked in the yard. I cut all the chrysanthemums back. My mouth is a little better, but still sore. It's been acting up for several days, I wonder what is causing it? It feels like fever blisters are going to break on my lips but they don't. This afternoon we went to the Shopping Bag Market and got rid of some money, about \$15.00 for a box of groceries. Johnny went uptown with Mary on the bus this morning. She went for another foot treatment; Rex went to our new church this morning at six o'clock, to do some plastering. Donna went later, to wash dishes at the church and get them put away in the cupboards. Tomorrow is our last day at the old church on El Molino Street. We've had some wonderful times in that dear church, I'll miss it and the friends I love in the Pasadena Ward. I bought a few little gifts in the 15¢ Store next to the market, got them for Donna's little ones to give their mother tomorrow; two powder puffs, four dish cloths, and a box of cleansing tissues. I bought some little Mother's Day card, also. Donna and Rex left Kathy with us while they did a little shopping, for Mother's Day, I think? We took Kathy for a short ride, while we got gasoline for the car. Kathy helped me wrap the little gifts for her mother; did I say help? She got tangled up in the Scotch Tape and dropped the roll of ribbon on the floor, unwinding it. Donna came for Kathy; she left Rex having his hair cut at the barbershop. We drove over to Andersen's tonight. Dale was on his way to the East Glendale Stake dance. Beverly was out with Norma H. to some Mutual stake affair, Swarm Day or something. We enjoyed TV with Bill and Annie. Joan went to the dance with her cousin Diane Oates tonight. Diane was picked with some other girls, to be a princess to the queen, in East Glendale Stake. The young people went to the Oateses after the dance to celebrate Eddie Well's birthday, with good eats. It was a surprise to him. He lives at Oateses'. Dale went, too. P.S. Lorene is out to Mary's home.

May 9, Sunday

"Mother's Day" and this was our last Sunday School in the Pasadena Ward chapel. We had a lovely Mother's Day program; the Junior Sunday School classes put it on. I always love to see the children and hear them sing and recite. Our little Kathleen Marsh looked like a big doll in her white nylon Easter dress; she didn't do a thing but stand there and look pretty, while the larger ones sang and made the movements with hands and arms, Oh, they are cute. Our Johnny boy said his little piece real nice; he has a nice voice. I could hear him singing above the others, he knew the words well, too. I cooked the leg of lamb this morning early and prepared the dinner



as far as I could before Sunday School. Rex didn't stay for the program, he went home to do a little work in the basement; it was the Open House at their place because they are trying to sell it. We brought Donna and children home from Sunday School. Rex came later; he brought the fruit Jello salad and a coconut cake. Warnie and Janet came together, we enjoyed our dinner. Joan washed all of the dishes; Janet and Donna dried 'em. I put them away. Donna laid down with Kathy until she got to sleep. Lou slept in the cabaña swing. Rex napped on the living room floor. Mary and Johnny watched TV. Joan went to her girlfriend's home, she came for Joan in her car. Warnie rested on the couch; Janet took his car to see her girlfriend for a few minutes. John and Florence Marsh, Dr. Dick and Ruth Deal and daughters, Kay and Barbara called on us this afternoon. The Deals are here visiting for a few days. Ruth has a painful little abscess on her face. I gave her a flesh colored Band-Aid for it. She took off the white one and it looked better then. The Aaronic priesthood had charge of our meeting tonight. Lou led the singing for them. It was a nice meeting. I believe it was the first time for Br. Earl Willis and Br. Howard Nicholson to address our congregation; they did very well. Donna and Rex gave me a pretty rayon nightgown for Mother's Day.

May 10, Monday

It was cloudy and damp this morning, but I did my washing in spite of the weather. I had a big one, as I didn't wash last week. The sun got through this afternoon so "all's well that ends well, eh?" The huge Lyon Van moved our nice neighbors, the Williams, out this morning (two doors south), they sold their home last week. I put the three typed queen tributes that Donna typed for me, into the colored folders this afternoon and prettied them up with flowers from my greeting cards. We have eight tributes ready now. I can forget about queens for a while and get busy on Ovena Mayo's Golden Wedding tribute to her parents now. I have several verses done. I had a nice visit with Betty Ramish over the phone today. She has been up north to visit with her daughter Elinor; the Jorgensen's took her up with them. Gill is going to be sent to Japan in two weeks. His folks

wanted to go up to see him before he left. He may be overseas a year or more. Elinor is taking the two weeks vacation, from her work at the bank, to be with husband Gill before he leaves. He has a two weeks furlough, also. I was glad when Lou phoned and told me Gordon sent for Beverly to come into the shop to work for a few more days. Oh, I wish that sweet girl had a good steady job. Cannon Electric Company is so darned slow calling their employees back to work after the lay off. We enjoyed our nice little home and the TV as usual this evening. Tomorrow is Marva DeHaan's [*Marva Mabel Sander*] first experience with the workday at Relief Society; she'll have charge of it.



Donna Marsh, Elvenia Summers, and Helen Palmer, Elvenia was queen May 11, 1954. This photo was taken the day Helen Palmer was released and Donna Marsh was put in as Relief Society president, on March 22, 1953.

May 11, Tuesday

Bonna Gordon came for me alone this morning. Marie Doezie was on the luncheon committee today, so she went with someone else, Sr. E. Summers I believe. We picked up Bessie Isimidlion, the lady who is going to be the babysitter for our new church. She's been babysitting for the Singing Mothers, at Las Flores Ward for some time past. Kathy knows "Bessie," but she will miss Mrs. Morris, cause she loves her a lot. We had a very large attendance out this morning, over 50 sisters. Betty Ramish came; she sat down to quilt and had a heart attack. It was an upset to all of us; she had a lot of pain, and shook all over. She would not let us call a doctor; she insisted she would be all right soon. Bonna got some ice for her to hold in a cloth by her heart. She rested on the couch with our coats over her to stop the chill that followed. Miriam Summerhays took Betty home in her car. Donna drove Betty's car home. Miriam brought Donna back to church. I quilted on the big quilt; they tied a baby quilt and started a second baby quilt. I quilted a little on it. We had a nice luncheon. I read the queen's tribute first; Elvenia Summers was a lovely queen, our seventeenth. I'm sure everyone was happy over her coronation. Our dear little Kathy got her finger crushed badly, with a little wagon she was playing in. Mrs. Morris came for Donna. Clarice Tanner had Band-Aids for Kathy's finger; bless her. That took my appetite away so I didn't get the plate finished or my dessert. Miriam Summerhays served Betty R. and me. She is a darling. Her mother is visiting her and was out today. I brought Kathy home with me in Melba Kunz's car. I was quilting when Bonna had to leave. Donna stayed at church to meet Rex; he was late as the car acted up. He didn't work today, he went to see about a loan on his house; a down payment on the house they want to buy, when they sell their home. I gave Kathy her dinner; she was too hungry to wait for mother to come.

Queen Elvenia Summers

Within the garden of our hearts,
Where flowers of friendship grow,
Dwells a gracious kindly lady
We're all proud to know.

Faithfully she, her duties perform,
Whatever be the weather,
Lovingly we always think of her,
With happy days spent together.

She was our first Relief Society President
In East Pasadena Ward,
A wonderful lot she accomplished,
While cheerfully serving the Lord.

Her good husband, once our Bishop,
Is loyal and faithful, too,
Very often he cooks for church dinners,
The delicious meats we chew.

We value this dear sister's friendship
More than words can tell,
It's a joy to honor and pay tribute to her,
Whom we love so well.

A golden crown we'll place upon your head,
Without further adieu -
Your majesty, beloved "Queen Elvenia"
We now pay homage to you.

May 11, 1954 - 11

E.R.

Johnny phoned to see why Mama wasn't home. Kathy and I played ball in our backyard this afternoon. Today was Sally Taylor's funeral, sorry I couldn't attend. Annie and Lorene phoned and said they went. She had a lovely service, with a large crowd out. Sue was there, she isn't feeling very well, a kidney flare up. Bette brought Sue to the funeral.

May 12, Wednesday

The city assessor came this morning, he said he thought we were under assessed, but he'd leave it that way. Nice of him, eh? He is a new man. Gordon and Bill took the Venetian blinds down to Corona Del Mar beach today. Lou and Beverly worked alone in the shop. I did my ironing, which was a big one, two weeks worth. Lou hasn't had coffee for about two weeks, I guess. Maybe he is going to quit that little old bean, eh? I truly hope so. I watered the flowers this afternoon. Donna says she fears that Kathy may lose the little fingernail on the dear little crushed finger. I'm so sorry she had that nasty accident. Lou was a little later this evening. He stayed to close up the shop at 5 p.m. After dinner he fixed the drawers in our kitchen stove, now they'll open and shut with ease for which I'm thankful.

May 13, Thursday

It was overcast this morning again, but I like 'em somehow. I did up the housework and spent most of the day on Ovena Mayo's Golden Wedding tribute to her parents. I phoned her once to ask about the notes she gave me. This is a workout for my poor little brain. I do hope I can please Ovena. Donna took Kathy with her to the Singing Mother's rehearsal in Las Flores Ward. The baby stayed in the nursery. Donna sang herself hoarse again, she called me on the phone when she got home and I could tell she'd been singing a lot. I believe they practice about two hours. Lou was weary this evening, he had worked hard. Gordon was disappointed when he went to hang up the Venetian blinds yesterday in Corona Del Mar, at the new beach apartments. He'd made a mistake in the measuring of one or two large blinds, they were too short. So they had to come back to the shop. Lou also made a stupid mistake in two headers for some blinds; they'll have to be done over, just one of those days, eh? Beverly has worked at the shop this week. I wish they could keep her working steady. The new neighbors moved in Williams's house today. Lou has had a passenger ride with him for several weeks, a young lady neighbor. She is on her way to the bus about the same time he leaves our driveway, so he takes her to Sierra Madre Boulevard where she gets her bus, a Miss Wolfe, I believe her name is. Wolf, eh? She looks okay, ha ha! I guess Grampa is safe. Donna has a jury call, which she'll have to be excused from, she has no one to leave baby Kathy with and too much to do at home anyway. Donna cooked dinner for the Howards this evening and took it up in Harry's car. Mary Howard is sick in bed. Rex turned his '41 Oldsmobile car over to Bob Killion to sell; he bought a '46 Chrysler from Bob for \$250. The old Oldsmobile will not bring more than \$25.00 or \$50.00 me thinks!

May 14, Friday

It rained a little in the night, I'm glad I will not have to do any watering today. Our roses are lovely again, the second bloom for this spring. Last month they were really pretty, too. Donna phoned this morning, she has a busy day ahead as usual. She has little Terry Maxon to take care of until tomorrow; she brought Mary Howard's ironing home to do. I wish I were near enough to go get some, or all of it, to help Donna out. She has too much work to do. She received notice that their F.H.A loan money is in the bank waiting for them. It looks like they'll buy the two-story home in Sierra Madre. They are thinking of taking out a \$1,000 loan on their own home to fix it up to rent or sell, too. I do hope everything will work out for their best good, bless their hearts. I'm sorry we are not able to do more for them. Rex left his old car, the '41 Oldsmobile, at Bob Killion's garage in South Pasadena last night, to see if he can sell it. Bob let Rex take a '46 Chrysler car home; he says Rex can buy it for \$250, and pay

as he can. Donna says it is in fairly good condition, 'tis light green. I spent the best part of today composing verses for the Golden Wedding tribute for Ovena's parents; I'll surely be happy and relieved when I've completed it.

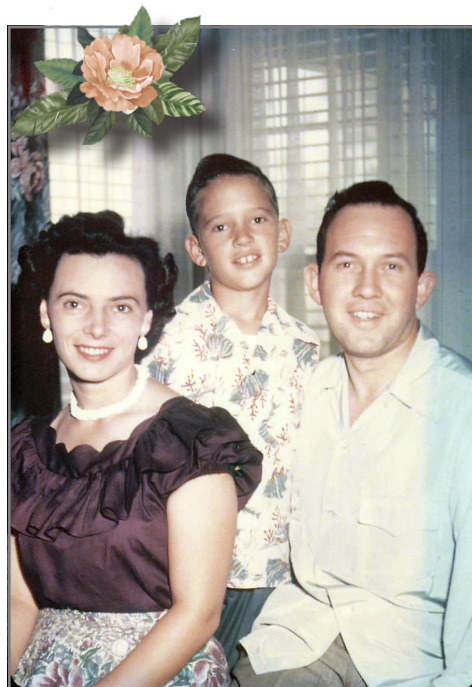
May 15, Saturday

It rained in the night and drizzled this morning. Donna and some of the Relief Society sisters went up to Howard's home, to do Mary's cleaning for her, as she is in bed sick. Helen Rowberry left her baby at Donna's with Joan, while she went to Mary's. Clarice Tanner went also, I believe. Joan had Kathy and little Terry Maxon to look after, too. Mary and Johnny helped to entertain them, I guess. Janet was working at Dr. Don Anderson's office. This afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Loren Pratt entertained the Wisteria Queen and the princesses, in Los Angeles, at the Ice Capades. Joan is a princess this year (see March 10), Lou had hot cakes for his breakfast at Bob's eating-place near us. I had my grapefruit and raisin toast at home, when I got up at 8 a.m. Phyllis McDonnell's little daughter and her daddy were eating breakfast at Bob's, too. They were having a day out, up in the mountains or somewhere. Phyllis was home with baby. Donna was busy going most of today; a rehearsal with the Singing Mothers at the new stake center, an appointment with a hair dresser, and one with Bishop Summerhays. Mary went to town for her foot treatment, Lou and I went to town this morning, we looked in Sears Roebuck Store and another store where they had a sale on Men's suits and coats, next door or near Sears, and in Penney's Store. Lou couldn't find anything he wanted to buy, so we went to Zeeman's Men's Clothing Store in Glendale, where he bought a very good looking light blue grey suit. (We left it there for some alterations.) We drove to Burbank to see Sue; she was home alone. Bette and children were at Shirley's overnight last night while the men folks were on a father's and son's outing. Sue had just finished frying a chicken for her lunch; she insisted we eat with her. We had intended to take her out to lunch with us. We took a nice long

ride after lunch, and then came back to Sue's until we were ready to eat again. This time we treated Sue to dinner at Bob's eating-place. Bette and children were home when we got back the first time; her two baby boys are surely darling children (Ricky and Bradley). Jerry is a handsome lad, too. I talked to Donna on the phone this evening; she has had a very busy day as usual.

May 16, Sunday

We had a thrilling experience this morning when we entered our beautiful new stake house for our first stake conference. It was a wonderful session, splendid talks and LaVer's Singing Mother's chorus were really grand, so beautiful, I had to cry. Our visitors from headquarters were both very good speakers. They had keen senses of humor, also, Br. Carl W. Buchner and Br. Strasiner from Salt Lake City.



Bette, Jerry, and Ray Haddock in 1954.

I believe Elder Buchner has charge of the rock construction, of our marvelous Los Angeles L.D.S. Temple, now under construction. Our young people of the stake were given front seats in the conference sessions today. Warnie M. was so impressed with this morning's session; he brought his mother to this evening's session. It was a fine meeting, but not as stimulating as the morning meeting was for the young people. The sustaining of church authorities this evening took time and is not very interesting. I was happy to see Betty Ramish was well enough to be out this morning and this afternoon, also. Rex went to the Howard's this evening to administer to Mary Howard. I'm so sorry she is not feeling as well, since her fall in church a few weeks ago. We had a huge crowd out to both sessions. The chapel and recreation hall were both filled up and some folks were seated on the stage. John and Florence Marsh came to this morning's session, they ate dinner in Van de Kamp's and then went to see John's brother Ruf and wife Alice, this evening; they've been to see children in Montana. We had over two-thousand people out this morning and I guess as many or almost as many this evening. Lou, and I shopped at the Shopping Bag Market, after the morning session, we ate a cold lunch at home. The Singing Mothers had their pictures taken after this morning's session.

May 17, Monday

I shampooed my hair this morning. Donna phoned to ask if Kathy could stay here while she went to town with Clarice Tanner and Lydia Smith to buy a piano for the Relief Society room, in the new chapel. I thought she'd be back about 1 p.m. so I did not give baby her nap after her lunch. We played ball outside and with the curtain rings inside; she was really sleepy by 3 p.m. She went to sleep on my couch. Donna came for her about four o'clock. They had purchased a piano and a lamp and tables for their room. The music company is sending out a piano in the morning for them to use until the one they bought can be sent out from the warehouse. Donna said five of the Relief Society sisters were there to choose the piano and lamp. I do not know who the two others were; I didn't ask her. I believe Iona Cottom and Marva DeHaan were with them, but not sure. I wish that little Mary Howard was well, I'm so sorry about her illness. She is such a sweet little lady; we all miss her in our Relief Society. Donna took half of her ironing to do, and Clarice Tanner took the other half.

May 18, Tuesday

That darling Bonna Gordon came out of her way this morning to pick me up and take me to our new church to Relief Society. It was surely an important day for our

record and a thrilling one. We held our first meeting in the beautiful new Relief Society room. The new counselor, Marva DeHaan, conducted for the first time; she did a good job. She'll be a big help to the society, I'm sure. We had a large attendance; the room was about filled, what'll we do if all of the members attend at once, eh? (Were over fifty out today.) Our Literature lesson on Charlotte Bronte and her two sisters, Anne and Emily, was very beautifully given by our teacher Faye Timothy. She can surely make the characters live for us. Donna and her counselors stayed after the meeting to get some of the Relief Society things moved from the El Molino Church; they have everything out of the church there I think now. I brought Kathy home with me in Bonna's car. It was the first time she didn't come gladly. She cried for her mama most of the way home. After lunch she was happy again and we played ball outside. Donna and Clarice Tanner came for her about 3 p.m. They were tired out. They hadn't had lunch and wouldn't let me fix a sandwich for them. I hope they will be able to relax now that we're moved into the new Relief Society room. Nora Williamson phoned and said she could go out this afternoon to do our Relief Society visiting teaching. I said I could go as soon as Donna came for Kathy. I phoned her when Donna took the baby. We only found two of our people at home, so it didn't take

very long. Carolyn Thatcher and Louise Anderson were at home. It's always a treat to visit in their homes. I gave the message. Louise treated us to a, fresh from the oven, oatmeal cookie, good! Nora and her husband are leaving Saturday, on the airplane, for Hawaii. Rex couldn't work at his job today, the sand was not right. He worked on the jobs at home that needed his attention.

May 19, Wednesday

I talked to Donna on the phone, she said that Johnny was up at the crack of dawn this morning, anxious to be off to school. He was all excited because his school class was going to spend the day in

Griffith Park, at the zoo. "Oh, happy days, eh?" Mary and her Girl Scout troop are going to San Diego on Saturday to spend a happy day in the beautiful park there and visit the zoo. Rex couldn't work yesterday or today plastering, the job is held up because of sand or something? But he has a lot of work to do on his home outside and inside; he is painting their front bedroom today. He wants to fix the house up and sell it. The real estate man hasn't called to inform them if the people will let them have the two-story place they'd like to buy with the furniture in the house. I talked to Annie on the phone she says Beverly got a check for \$65.00, a sick benefit, which came in handy for her car payment, which was due. Dale is going to work over his summer vacation, for Dick



Kathy pulls a face for the photo.

Johnston. That will help them, too. Annie is entertaining her club tomorrow. Donna and I are invited too, nice, eh? I wrote a letter to Mary Stead in Phoenix, Arizona. She sent me some snapshots of herself and the little neighbor boy to look at; she also sent a picture of herself for me to keep. I sent the others back to her. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold and composed a little friendship poem to her, recalling the nice little gifts she has left in our home. Donna asked me to phone a page in the ward list, reminding folks of our victory party on Friday night, in honor of our Bishop and the new church he worked so hard to obtain for us. Lou and I enjoyed our nice little home, the easy chairs and television programs tonight. Ye know it's a lot of fun to grow old together. This Grama thinks so anyway. Rex painted their front bedroom blue today; he is going to do the hall and Janet and Joan's room in the same blue.

May 20, Thursday

Donna went to the Singing Mother's rehearsal in Las Flores Ward this morning and took Kathy to the nursery room there. Dolores took Kathy home with her to play with Nadine, while Donna went to Aunt Annie's with me to lunch. It was Annie's club day, she invited Lorene, Sue, and me, also Bette and Donna. Bette brought Sue over from Burbank. Donna drove me in her new car. It was really grand seeing all the dear old Garvanza friends again. Jennie Bingham lives in Long Beach, Violet Knighton out in Van Nuys. Bessie Hanson in Glendale, the others are still in Highland Park. I was delighted to see Willmia Robinson there; she is visiting Ed and Myrtle in La Crescenta (they have a baby boy), she is leaving this evening for her home in Prescott, Arizona. There are thirteen members in their club, all old Garvanza Ward members that I know and love. I can't write all the names down. The luncheon was delicious, hot buttered rolls and green salad, olives, pickles, a frozen dessert that was really good. They drew names for their new secret pals, and found out who their secret pal had been all last year. Each one had a gift to open. They chose a new president, which was Annie Andersen. Florence Marsh was last year's president. Viola Sorensen is the new secretary, Margaret Reese (Beth's Bywater's mother), was last year's secretary. They have a lot of fun at these club luncheons. We enjoyed being with them. Donna and Bette did the dishes, and helped serve. Florence Marsh had a pretty sofa pillow for her gift; I believe Bernie made it. Donna took Mother Marsh home in her car; I enjoyed the ride with them. I put \$1.00 in gas in the car. We stopped at Dolores Jones's for



*East Pasadena Ward Bishopric center Bishop Richard S. Summerhays, 1st counselor on Bishop's right, Carl Warnick, 2nd counselor Bishop's left, Don Anderson, not pictured ward clerk Russel Fowler.
On May 21, 1954 the ward had a victory party and honored the bishop and his family.*

little Kathy. She was having fun playing with little Nadine. Both babies had taken a nice nap after their lunch. Dody's little boy Ronnie is in Cedar City with Grama Violet Fife. We got home at 5 p.m. Rex phoned that he was at the yard waiting for Donna to pick him up. Gordon and Ruby Hodges left for a couple of days for the beach. He took some Venetian blinds to the apartments in Corona Del Mar. Beverly has worked at the shop this week with Lou; he gave Beverly the ticket for her and someone else to go to the Policeman's Ball and entertainment on Saturday night, at the Santa Anita Race Track Auditorium. I have been two or three times, but the crowd is too much for me. Gordon gives Lou the tickets each year. I was happy to learn that Ralph and Alice Shaffer have an infant son. Thora Goodsell has a baby girl, and her daughter, Alice Shaffer, had a son born a week or so apart. I did my vacuuming this morning.

May 21, Friday

We had light drizzle this morning, but I washed in spite of it. I thought surely the sun would get out by afternoon, but it didn't. The lightweight pieces got dry anyway. I finished phoning my ward list this morning to remind them of the victory party tonight, in our new church house. Elinor and Gill Jorgensen are visiting Betty Ramish today; they've been over to Gill's folks for a day or two. Gill is leaving for Japan in a short time; Annie phoned to say that Blanche H. phoned her, to find out if we could have our Strong's meeting on Friday the 4th of June, instead of the usual night, Saturday. She and Oscar can't come on the Saturday night. It's okay with me. We received Yvonne Fife's commencement exercises program today, she is graduating from the College of Southern Utah, in Cedar City, Utah, today, May 21. I'd love to be in attendance with Violet and Otto, the proud parents. Yvonne is one of the graduates

in Science. Lou and I enjoyed a very good chicken pie dinner in Fisher's lovely restaurant this evening. We went to our new church, to the Victory party and enjoyed the exciting program in honor of our bishop and his family. It was really good, a surprise for the bishop ("This is Your Life"). Br. Claron Oakley was an excellent M.C. He and his wife Julie and others, on the committee, surely worked hard to make this a nice affair. They flew Joyce Summerhays here from the B.Y.U. College in Provo to surprise her father, the bishop. They had several of his old friends, his boss and his parents come out of his past on to the stage, with lots of picture slides of bishop from the time he was a baby to honeymoon pictures. It was fun and real cute. We sang our building fund songs before the program started. Donna greeted guests at the back entrance. Bob Gordon added a last verse to my Building Fund song now that the building is finished. It was cute and just what we need now. Ice cream and cake was served, free, to all. There was large crowd out. East Pasadena Ward went way over the top with their payments on the new church, that is why the victory party.

May 22, Saturday

I cooked breakfast for Lou, he went to Shopping Bag Market while I cleared up the dishes, made beds, and got dressed to go uptown. We went uptown about eleven o'clock; he let me off in town to do my shopping. He went to Zeeman's Clothing Store in Glendale to get his new suit that he bought last Saturday. I went to the Bible Stationery Store, bought my graduation cards for my granddaughters, Janet, Joan, and Mary, and one for my niece Yvonne Fife. I mailed Yvonne's with \$2.00 in it. She graduated yesterday from the college in Cedar City, Utah. My kids will graduate next month. I bought a Golden Wedding card to put Ovena Mayo's parents poem tribute in that I composed for her. I bought some nice stationery paper for Donna to type the poem on. I bought Mystic colored tape to mend the box that the Relief Society scrapbook is in, it was



Bishop Dick Summerhays above. The Bishop and his family were honored on May 21.



Sister Miriam Summerhays above was the first Queen honored in the East Pasadena Ward Relief Society on December 9, 1952. Bishop and family were honored on May 21, 1954 at the completion of the chapel.

broken when I got it, but I fixed it up this afternoon. I bought some get-well cards and mailed one to Mary Howard. I hope that dear little lady will soon be well; we all love her and miss her. I met Lou at twelve o'clock at Grants Store. We came out near our home, went to Simpson's Nursery and bought two hanging pots with the heavy wires to hang 'em, and two pretty begonia plants to put in the pots. The lady is going to have them planted and ready for us on Monday. We enjoyed lunch at home, grilled cheese sandwich, potato chips, and sweet pickles. Sound good? It was. This evening we went out to Sierra Madre, Donna was getting ready to go to their club dinner. I think she said it was at Haslem's. Rex was in the shower; he's been painting their front bedroom a pretty blue. Janet painted her clothes closet the same blue. Ovena and Chet brought Gary over to stay with Joan, Mary, Johnny, and Kathy, while they went with Rex and Donna to the club party. I read her the Golden Wedding tribute I did for her parents, she liked it, she said. Mary had a wonderful time in San Diego with her Girl Scout troop today. Donna's car wasn't needed to take the girls to the train in Los Angeles. I took fruit balls candy to my children tonight. Lou and I took a nice little ride to look at new homes up on the hills, near Hastings's Ranch. I cooked the nice rolled roast tonight with onions and carrots in and some potatoes in jackets.

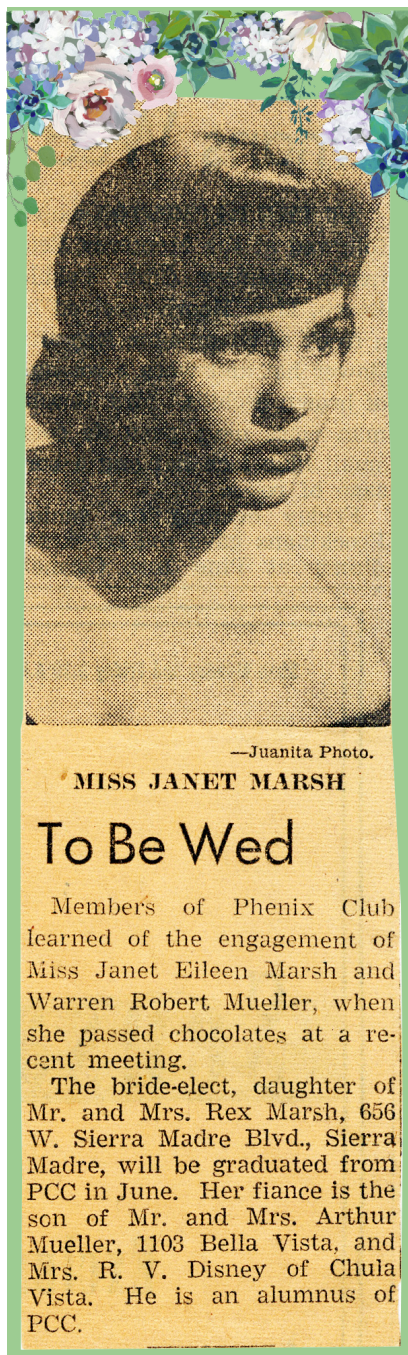
May 23, Sunday

Today was our first Sunday School in our new church, a thrilling experience. Janet Marsh's picture was in the Star News today. A bright sunny morning greeted us; it was surely a happy experience after so many overcast mornings. Lou went to put on his new blue grey suit and discovered the trousers didn't have buttons for his suspenders. He cut the buttons off of an old pair of pants and I sewed them on his new ones. He didn't think to tell the man at Zeeman's that he always wears suspenders and would need buttons. Lou looked real nice in his pretty new suit. He always looks nice when he is dressed for church or anything.

We picked Sr. Mary Hill up on Colorado Street, as we planned to do. Donna asked her daddy last night to pick her up this morning. There are no streetcars, or buses that go out by our new church, so folks are out of luck to get there if someone doesn't pick them up. Our beautiful chapel was almost filled up, if we have many more out, we'll have to use the choir seats. 'Tis wonderful how fast the L.D.S. church is growing everywhere. Lou and I enjoyed our dinner; carrots, potatoes, and onions in with the small rolled roast. We just warmed them up for us, cooked last night. Lou took a nap after dinner, and me?" I write or read while he sleeps. We picked Mary Hill up again this evening for church. We had a nice meeting, Sharon Brown, accompanied by Doreen Johnson, sang two lovely solos. Judy Warnick and Dale Williamson gave short talks. Our main speaker was Robert R. Austin; he gave a splendid talk I enjoyed a lot. Br. Harry Wells wanted me to have the fireside chat at our home in two weeks, I'm so sorry I had to tell him I do not feel well enough to prepare refreshments for that large group. My heart is causing me trouble enough, without the excitement of having to plan for the large group in this little home. I hope he isn't hurt; I do like him a lot. We hung two green hanging pots, with small ivy in; up on our front porch yesterday, they look nice.

May 24, Monday

I was surprised to see my dear little Janet's picture in the society part of our Star News paper this morning. I was just glancing through the Sunday paper, before putting it out, when I saw her beautiful face, (Miss Janet Marsh to be Wed.) I was relieved to find no date set, as I'm sure, she and her fiancé, Warren Robert Mueller, are not financially prepared for marriage now. He is out of work at the present time; bless their hearts. I talked to Annie on the phone, we both feel so sorry for dear Dave Taylor; he must miss his little wife Sally, dreadfully. I did my ironing after lunch. I haven't much pep today, I had to force myself to finish the ironing. My heart gave me a little trouble this morning, but it didn't last long, just left me feeling weak. Lou stopped at Simpson's Garden Nursery this afternoon, after his work, to get our two plants. He had to wait while the lady put them in the hanging pots for him; they are pretty begonias, with pink flowers. He bought an extra hanging



This news may have been a jolt to the Renshaws and the Marsh family?



pot, with the wire hangers, for us to plant some of our little plants, in, Mother and Chicks? I do not know for sure what they are all called, but I believe they belong to the cactus family. Anyway our backyard looks pretty, with the seven hanging baskets, four on the cabaña and three on the garage's west side rafters. We have two with ivy hanging in on our front porch. All pots will be the same blue green as our house trim, when Lou gets around to painting the new ones, too.

May 25, Tuesday

Bonna Gordon phoned this morning to let me know that Melba Kunz would call to take me to Relief Society. Bonna's car had a flat tire and she had to phone for a service man to come out and fix it. She came in to the meeting later. We had a nice big attendance again today. It is wonderful to be in our beautiful new church. This was our second meeting in the lovely Relief Society room. Clarice Tanner conducted the meeting today. Phyllis McDonnell gave our Social Science lesson, "The Constitution of the United States, and the Fight for Ratification." She made it very interesting; I enjoyed her lesson as always. Phyllis has such a cute sense of humor, too. Mrs. Morris couldn't be there to take care of the children today, so Donna brought a lady from Sierra Madre, to help the other babysitter, the one that lives in one of Ann Hartshorne's apartments. Both ladies are in their sixties, I guess? I went to the nursery after the meeting to get my little Kathy; she had a big caramel in her mouth, all of the little ones were eating candy. I didn't give Kathy the little cookies I had for her in my purse, as it was about lunch time and I do not know how much candy she'd had? I came home with Melba Kunz; she had a full car going and coming. Her sweet little mother was with her today, also. I talked to Donna on the phone this afternoon. The one loan they applied for was not granted, but they had no trouble getting the first one, F.H.A. In as much as the house they wanted to buy is sold, they will fix up their own home, so it will sell quicker. It needs a lot of fixing before people will be interested in buying it, I'm sure. Lou was looking our house over good this evening; he thinks he'll spend his weekend holiday painting the outside. He thought he had a gallon of white outside paint but upon checking over his paint, he remembers he gave it to Rex. He says he'll use Gordon's gallon until he can order some more for Gordon on next Monday.

May 26, Wednesday

Donna took Joan to school this morning; she left Kathy off at our house, a few minutes to nine o'clock. The baby stayed with me all day, until Donna came for her about 5 p.m. It was Relief Society convention, two stakes met at our new stake center. Donna and her board prepared and served lunch to the other visitors at the convention. The stake paid for the food, our ward ladies planned for it, cooked and served it. Donna was in the convention all afternoon. Some of our ward ladies did the dishes up after lunch. I gave Kathy my undivided attention today. We played ball outdoors. We played with the curtain rings inside, made a house or rooms for the plastic toys to stay in. We looked through Grama Elvie's scrapbook, ate lunch and had a nap. I washed Kathy's mouth out several times with the powder, the doctor told Donna to use for her. It is a mouthwash with water. She has a sore mouth. I surely hope this antiseptic powder will clear up our baby's little sore mouth. Rex came with Donna this afternoon, to get Kathy. She picked him up after his work. My dear little neighbor,

Mrs. Lowe, brought me a pretty bouquet of sweet peas. I am so glad she is feeling better again. She has stayed in the house for several weeks, not well enough to see people. She is the most friendly little soul, when she feels well. We gave her some of our red roses last night; she is Mrs. Edgecomb's mother. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe live with the Edgecombs; they are lovely people.



May 27, Thursday

Florence Marsh phoned this morning, her sister-in-law passed away yesterday in Idaho (Sam's ex-wife). Florence would love to attend her funeral and see all of her people, but John isn't feeling well, and he gets nervous when she talks of leaving him, his ulcers act up. She was writing a letter to her grandson Ernie in Japan. Donna said Kathy's mouth looks better this morning. I'm delighted to hear that. Mary had an earache in the night; she is home from school today. This was a lazy day for me, I did some scrapbook work, and I love it. Donna has so much hard work, I wish I could help her with it, but I'm too far away to be of any help to her. I phoned Melba Kunz this afternoon to ask her about her Relief Society labors, how many years she has served as counselor, and as president and what wards and etcetera. We want a nice article in the Relief Society scrapbook about her. She was released from our ward



presidency on May 2. She was Donna's second counselor. Sr. Marva DeHaan is working in Melba's place now. Melba said she'd phoned me later, in a few days, when she has the information I asked for assembled. I wrote an article this afternoon for the scrapbook about our first meeting in our lovely new Relief Society room, held on May 18. Donna will type it for me. I do not like to put my writing in the Relief Society Scrapbook. I'm not blessed with nice looking penmanship, but it is readable, I hope.

May 28, Friday

Donna dialed the phone for baby Kathy, she said "Hello Grama," when I answered her ring. She is such a cute talker, she told me about Mary's doll that she was playing with. I told her to be careful with Mary's doll so it wouldn't get hurt, and she said, "k" which means okay. I understood most of all that she said this time. She talked on and on. She is a cutie. Donna told me that Janet's picture coming out in the Society News last Sunday, announcing her engagement, brought all kinds of callers to their place, stores wanting her

to select her wedding trousseau, printing shops, a lady came out to the house last night and Janet and Warnie signed up for a set of sterling silverware and a set of china. A bakery shop delivered a small-decorated wedding cake, which the family enjoyed last evening. I fixed the hem in my old grey rayon dress; I'll use it for a house dress now. I haven't bought a cotton house dress for several years. I use

up my old better dresses that way.

Donna came this evening; Johnny and Joan were with her. Mary stayed home with Kathy, Johnny stayed here with Grampa, while Donna, Joan, and I went uptown. We looked in the Broadway Store for summer suits, and dresses. Joan didn't find a suit she wanted for graduation, she went across the street and bought some white shoes she needs now. Donna couldn't find the dress she wanted, so we bought a white Orlon cardigan sweater, from Grampa and me to give Mary for her graduation gift. It was lucky because they were having a good sale on sweaters, \$6.00 with tax. We didn't have enough time before the stores closed to buy much. I sat up until midnight to see a very lovely television movie, "Carnegie Hall." The music was just wonderful. Lou did a little painting this evening on the screens on the south side of the house.

May 29, Saturday

It has been cold and cloudy all day. Lou painted the white woodwork on the south side and front window frames of our house. I cooked him a nice breakfast first. My neighbor, Mrs. Kriste, across the street, took me to Colorado Street to the bus line. I met Donna, Mary, Kathy, and Bonny Howard at eleven o'clock at the Broadway Store. We went with Mary to have her foot treatment from the foot specialist across the street from Broadway Store. Then we went to the Sears Store. Donna bought Mary a cute full, pink skirt, and white peasant blouse, for her graduation gift from her and Rex. She is going to wear her blue nylon Easter dress to graduate in. Joan had to babysit today; she'll look next week for her graduation suit. I want to buy it for her if it isn't over \$20.00. We saw some pretty cotton suits for \$15.00 and \$17.00 today. I bought Donna a nice blue dress in the Slenderline Shop, for \$18.58 with tax; it has a real full skirt, with a full white underskirt. I'm amazed at the high price of cotton clothes. This is Donna's birthday present from us. Everything comes this June! Kathy's birthday, too, and the three girls graduate. I bought a cute little squaw dress for Kathy in Grants for \$3.00 or was it Penney's? I can't remember which. I bought some sandals for myself for \$3.00, for the beach trip Lou and I have planned. They are blue with red trim. Donna and I waited an hour for her Hasting's bus to come; I left her still waiting after she got on it. They had a flat tire and had to wait for a bus to pick them up. She was about two hours trying to get home. Donna bought navy blue shoes and a bag in navy with the money Rex gave her for her birthday. I stopped in the drug store on my way home for asthma spray. I was surely fatigued this evening after my big day and a lot of walking. I was glad of my easy platform rocker and the nice TV programs. We sent Mary, Bonny, and Kathy home on the bus, after Donna bought Mary's dress, then we went shopping for ourselves. Janet took care of Kathy this afternoon while Mary, Bonny, Johnny, and David Howard went to the matinee in Sierra Madre. The Howard children stayed at Donna's last night and today. Mary Howard is still sick in bed.

May 30, Sunday

It warmed up a little today, for which I was thankful. Gee wiz, but it was cold yesterday for this time of year. We picked up Sr. Mary Hill, near her trailer court again this morning and took her to Sunday School. It is really a thrill to attend Sunday School in that beautiful new chapel. We had several visitors this morning; we always have more in the summer vacation time. Sr. Rowberry's parents were there this morning. Donna brought the Golden Wedding tribute, I'd composed for Ovena Mayo's parents, this morning, beautifully typed into verses and she had put them into the Golden Wedding card for me. It is five pages with about five verses to a page. It looked lovely. I gave it to Ovena after Sunday School. Lou signed our names to the verse on the card. The tribute was added to the card, with gold or yellow ribbon. I punched holes in the card and pages to make the booklet for her. Ovena seemed real pleased with it. We took Mary Hill home after Sunday School. We did some shopping in the Shopping Bag Market, came

home, and ate a nice cold lunch. Lou took his nap as usual. I pasted Janet's picture in my scrapbooks, one in each. It was the announcement, in the Star News last Sunday, of her engagement to Warren Mueller. I sent a picture clipping to Aunt Violet and one to Aunt Lydia last week. Mary Hill's son-in-law, and daughter and baby boy, took her to church this evening. They had spent the afternoon with Mary; they came to dinner. They didn't stay to church; Mary showed them around the place, they are not members. Mary is a recent convert herself. We took her and Marie Doezie and daughter Ephra home after church. We all enjoyed a very lovely sacrament service tonight, two vocal solos by Leonard Pacheco. Marge Fowler accompanied him. Linda Palmer and Keith Smith gave splendid short talks. Patriarch Clarence Stephens gave an excellent talk.

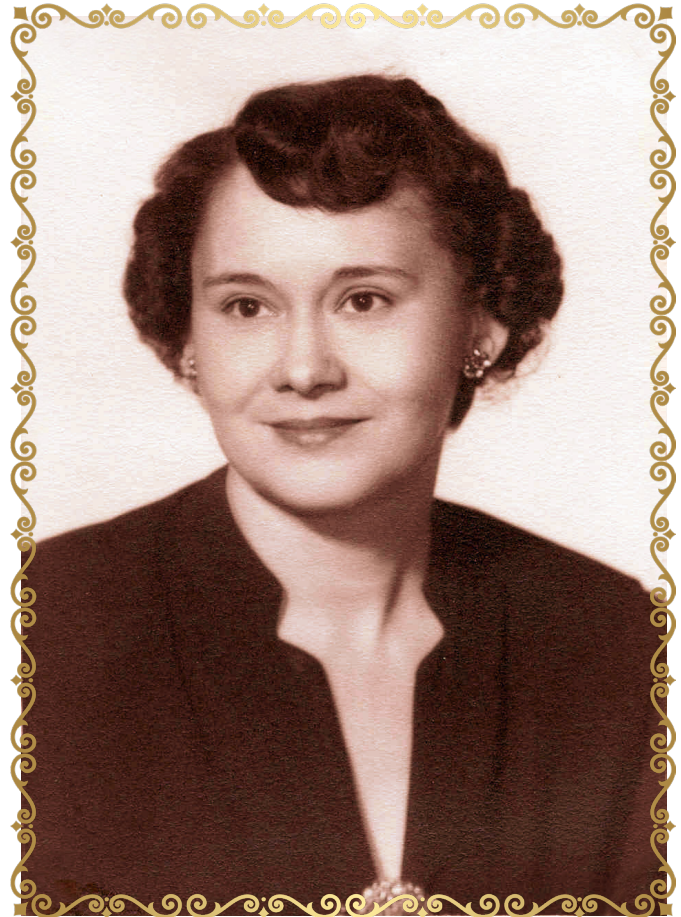


May 31, Monday—Memorial Day

'Twas a treat indeed to see the sunshine early in the morning again. We've had so many overcast mornings lately. Lou and I got the breakfast ready together. I mixed up two batches of stucco paint for Lou; he painted the south side, and front, stucco part of our house. He washed the windows on the south side of the house and hung up the newly painted screens. I did my washing and cooked a nice dinner. I browned some beef brisket in the oven with onion, cooked potatoes, and carrots. We both enjoyed it. Lou took a nap after lunch. I talked to Donna on the phone, (Mary answered it). John and Florence Marsh were up there; they'd taken Donna's birthday gift up to her; some lovely L.D.S. garments. I believe they're nylon with lace on the top neckline, two pair I believe Mary said. Louise and Don Anderson's baby girl was staying at Marshes today while the family went to San Diego for the day. Joan was going to take care of her, but Aunt Florence invited her to spend the day with them at their cabin in Mt. Baldy, so Donna told her she'd look after the baby. Janet and Warnie went to the beach to meet another young couple. Judy Warnick stayed last night with Mary, Johnny went to stay at Warnick's with their small son, David, I believe his name is. Rex promised the children they'd go up in the mountains near Sierra Madre, the Chantry flats, and cook dinner this evening. He painted in the house, and Donna did the washing, same deal as here, eh? I told Donna to tell Marshes to come visit us on the way home, but I guess the painting job didn't sound interesting. Ha ha! They are lost when Florence [Oates] and family are up at their cabin home. Janet got home from the beach this evening, sunburned, in time to stay with Dr. Anderson's baby, while the family went to the picnic they'd planned at Chantry Flats. Donna got home before Dr. Anderson came for his baby at 9 p.m. Donna said she was as good as gold all day. Lou and I enjoyed our pretty little home and television programs.

June 1, Tuesday

Our sweet daughter, Donna, is 39 years old today. I called her on the phone, to wish her a Happy Birthday. She was in a rush, as usual. The Relief Society is out for summer vacation, but not my Donna! She was taking Sr. Mary Hill to the church Deseret Industries; to buy material for a dress for Mary H. Sr. Allen is going to make the dress for Mary. Janet couldn't go to school today, because of a bad sunburn; they seem to forget how dreadful the pain of sunburn is; the same thing happens, every time, when a day is spent at the beach. I learned my lesson many years ago, with my first and last bad case of sunburn; when out of the water, cover up! Rex and his little family ended up cooking their dinner in Arcadia Park last evening. They drove to the Chantry Flats, but were told that it wasn't safe, because of rock slides now, so they went to the Monrovia Canyon Camp and it was closed. Well, the dinner tasted good in the Arcadia Park. They roasted wieners and etcetera. Joan took the \$5.00 I gave Donna to have Joan pay down on her graduation suit; she was going to shop after school. I do hope she'll find what she wants. My insurance man came this morning. I parted with \$5.53 of the \$10 Lou gave me last night. Oh me! I mailed a birthday card to Clarice Tanner; it is her birthday tomorrow. She made a lovely decorated birthday cake for Donna today; she is a sweetheart. Lou took my bedroom Venetian blinds to the shop to change slats, to match the living room green blinds, so the two front windows, of our home, will be the same color. He hung the green Venetian blinds in my bedroom this evening. They look lovely; they're a very light shade. After dinner we took a bouquet of rosebuds to Donna. They were just going to eat dinner. We gave Donna a blue dress; the Marshes gave her two pair of nylon garments. Rex gave her shoes and a purse. Marty Strong phoned Donna from Murray this afternoon. Rex was trying out some paint for color in the front hall, a beige shade. We brought some of the lovely birthday cake home, as we were too full to eat ice cream and cake with them. A lady came to the house to bring Donna back some change, from Mary's swimming lesson fee. She starts swimming lessons in the P.C.C. pool soon. Rex took Donna and Clarice Tanner to a picture show



Donna Marsh turned 39 years old in 1954.

in Monrovia tonight. It is Clarice's birthday tomorrow. Joan bought her suit at Bullock's in Pasadena for \$19.95. Joan's girlfriend Janice J. went with her after school to the Pasadena Bullock's Store where Joan bought her graduation suit. It is white with tiny red stripes, which gives the suit the appearance of being pink in color. Joan went home with Janice for dinner and went from there to Mutual. Janet didn't go to Mutual because of her painful sunburn. Warnie Mueller started a new job at Hammonds Industries; it is night work.

June 2, Wednesday

I talked to Donna on the phone this morning; Kathy answered my ring, while Donna was outside hanging clothes or something. She was surprised to find the baby talking to me on the phone when she came in. I watered the flowers and lawns this morning. Our roses are lovely now. The fuchsias in the hanging baskets, have never been as pretty, they are full of bloom. My mouth is still sore, it is my lips, and I can't heal them up. They feel like cold sores, but do not breakout, just little blisters which go away and come back when I eat. It is very annoying. It is an allergy I guess? (I wonder how it's spelled?) I enjoyed reading all afternoon; from the book *Flora and Will* Taylor sent us, "Sweet Love Remembered." It is a story of the Mormon pioneers. The Latter-day Saints surely suffered a lot of persecution back in the early days. I wonder if we could take as much for the gospel's sake, eh? Melba Kunz phoned this evening, with the information I asked her to give me about her years of service in Relief Society. We want an article in our Relief Society Scrapbook about her. Melba was



This is the variety of hanging Fuchsias that the Renshaws often had in their backyard.

released May 2, 1954 from our Relief Society presidency. She is still an active member, helping every way possible. She is a wonderful person. She has three, small, adopted sons to raise and has a grown up son of her own. He broke his ankle at college a few weeks ago at B.Y.U. He is home now with his folks. Papa and I enjoyed our comfy home and television programs as usual. Warnie did not start the night job last night; he just turned in his application. I misunderstood.

June 3, Thursday

It was so cloudy and damp; I thought it might rain this morning. I phoned Donna; she was rushing around to be ready to go to the Singing Mother's rehearsal. Annie phoned to ask if we were going to the Strong's meeting in Compton tomorrow night. (Answer, yes.) Oh, the flowers in our yard and Edgecombs look so pretty from my window, while I sit here writing in my diary this morning; pansies and carnations in Edgecomb's yard, and salmon pink cannas, lavender geraniums, and red roses along our south fence, in our yard. This is truly the place to grow lovely flowers the year around. I spent this afternoon writing articles for our Relief Society scrapbook. Donna will type them, one is about our first Relief Society meeting in the new church. One is about the Relief Society convention for Pasadena and East Los Angeles Stakes, in the new Pasadena Stake Center, and the third one is about Melba Kunz and her release from Donna's Relief Society presidency and her years of work in Relief Society. I walked to the drug store for One A Day vitamin tablets and Campho-Phenique for my sore lips. Donna phoned to talk to Daddy this evening. She says Rex has a cold and he doesn't think he'll be able to sing the verses of the song Lou asked him to do next Sunday evening in church. It is the Sunday School night for the evening meeting program. Rex says he'll ask Bill Raddatz to sing them for him; the congregation is going to sing the chorus with him. Janet and Joan went to the church tonight to rehearse for the M.I.A. Festival. They're both in the chorus. Joan is in a little ballet dance, and they want her in a play also, for the festival. Joan's friend Don Austramen brought her home from Church. Warnie M. brought Janet home.

June 4, Friday

I really felt chilly this morning outside, talking to my nice little neighbor Mrs. Lowe. I cut a bouquet of roses for her. It was damp and cold until after 1 p.m. when the sun got through to warm us up. Donna and Kathy went to Glendale this morning to buy the fireplace set for the

Relief Society room. The piano came yesterday; Donna says it is beautiful. The end tables are expected to arrive at the church today, and then the Relief Society room will be all ready for the church dedication next Sunday at 2 p.m. I did my vacuuming today. Joan has a date tonight with a Garvanza Ward boy, Wayne Bates. Jack West gave his second Book of Mormon lecture in our new church tonight. I'm sorry I had to miss it. I wanted to hear all of them, but something has come to prevent me each time. The third and last lecture will be when Lou and I are at the Laguna Beach on June 11, I believe. Ovena sent Donna a pretty thank you card and handkerchief for typing the Golden Wedding tribute. Two very lovely handkerchiefs came in a pretty folder with a sweet little thank you card from Ovena Mayo today. She was thanking me for the Golden Wedding tribute I composed for her parents. We each phoned to thank Ovena. We called for Annie this evening at 7:35 p.m. Ralph Shaffer drove up at the same time. He came for L.D.S. garments. I congratulated him for the new infant son he and Alice have. Ralph has surely put on a lot of weight, he is a large man now; a fine man, too. Bill didn't feel well so he stayed home. We called to see if Lorene was going; she was expecting Mary, so wouldn't leave. Br. and Sr. Jorgensen took Mary and the other daughter-in-law, Colleen up to San Francisco, left about midnight. Another daughter-in-law, up north, is going to be baptized tomorrow night, into the L.D.S. church. They will be in attendance. The husbands here are home with the children, nice eh? Beth and Dick brought Aunt Sue to the meeting. The Strong's meeting was at Nora and Bert's home in Compton, California. We had a nice meeting. Clint had to work, so he wasn't able to attend. We missed him. Blanche took charge of the meeting, she asked me to give one of my poems, and I gave Janet's baby poem.





Elvie and Louis Renshaw taken June 6, 1954 the day of the East Pasadena Ward building dedication.

June 5, Saturday

Our nice little neighbor Mrs. Lowe gave us some Boston fern, and some maidenhair fern, from their garden this morning. Lou planted it in our front garden and it looks pretty. I love ferns. Lou painted our white cement duck, and the front and north side window frames and some screens. He cleaned off the cabaña swing and washed the cement floor with the hose. I washed off the chairs and table; things surely get dusty out in the patio cabaña. I had a busy morning inside, preparing for dinner tomorrow; Jello fruit salad, hard-boiled eggs, and potatoes cooked in jackets. I also cooked a nice dinner for us at 1 p.m.; fresh broiled salmon and corn on the cob. I had

quite an exciting time for a few minutes when a fish bone got itself lodged in my throat, but I managed to cough it up. Donna went to the church this morning to help polish up the place for the dedication services tomorrow. Rex was painting at his home in the front hall. Lou and I went for a nice little ride this evening to Monrovia, to see Pearl and Pawnee. We stopped at Ovena Mayo's on the way to leave her the typed papers she gave me to help me with the Golden Wedding tribute I composed for her parents. We gave them to Chet; he was packing a few things that he was taking out to the new house. They are going to move into it soon. We didn't stop there, we called in Donna's house; Rex was painting the front hall closet. Janet was giving Kathy a bath in the washtub on the back porch. Kathy was unhappy about it; she likes the big tub better. I don't blame her. Mary was cooking wieners and corn for the family. Joan was babysitting. Donna was at church, which upset Rex, as she'd been there most of this day. They asked her to come to the baptismal service tonight and lead the singing for them. Donna can't say "no" to the church work, bless her heart. Pearl and Pawnee were not home, so we enjoyed our ride and came back to our peaceful home and watched TV. There were a large number baptized tonight, ten children from our

ward. Clarice Tanner donated a most beautiful painting to the Relief Society room, a scene in oil painting of the River Jordan; a lovely big picture. [See newspaper article below.]

June 6, Sunday—Dedication Day for Our New Church

'Twas a lovely sunny day from early morning and all day. We picked Sr. Mary Hill up on Colorado Street. Our beautiful church was shining bright and new, ready for the dedication this afternoon. We had a splendid Sunday School lesson and wonderful fast meeting later; four infants were blessed. The ten children baptized last night were confirmed last night to



A Relief Society Stake Convention for Pasadena and East Los Angeles Stakes was held May 26th, 1954, at the new Pasadena Stake Center, located on Sierra Madre Villa. The East Pasadena Ward Relief Society Board prepared and served luncheon to the two Stake Boards and the visiting General Board members. This occasion gave us the first opportunity to use the lovely new kitchen.



Painting by Local Woman Takes 4th Place in Festival

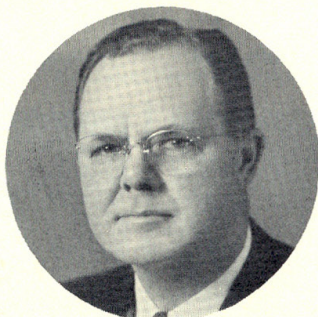
A pastel painting, "The River Jordan Headwaters," by Mrs. Walter D. Thurber, 480 Manzanita, was awarded fourth place in the fifth annual Arts and Crafts Festival in San Gabriel, May 27-29. The award was based on the painting's outstanding popular appeal.

Mrs. Thurber, a self-taught artist who took up painting just three years ago, was the only Sierra Madrean represented among the 50 paintings shown by professional artists.

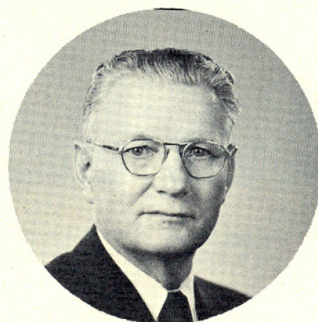
The three top honors went to nationally-known artists, including Norman Hall of Alhambra who won the first place trophy for the third consecutive year.



The painting that this clipping speaks of, "The River Jordan Headwaters" was presented to the Relief Society as a gift from Sister Clarice Tanner. She arranged to have Mrs. Walter Thurber paint this beautiful scene for our lovely new room. It indeed adds beauty, charm, and peace to our Relief Society Room.



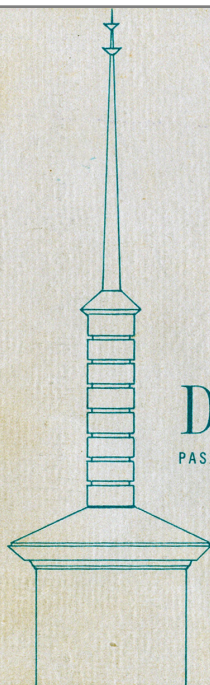
Robert L. Gordon
Chairman of the Finance Committee



Fayette F. Kunz
Chairman of the Building Committee

DEDICATORY SERVICES

Opening Song	"How Firm a Foundation"—66
Invocation	William A. Pettit
East Pasadena Ward Choir	"Bless this House"
Remarks	Bishop Richard S. Summerhays
Remarks	Robert L. Gordon
Remarks	President Howard W. Hunter
Choir	"Let the Mountains Shout for Joy"
Dedicatory Address and Prayer . . .	President Stephen L. Richards
Congregation . . .	"The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning"—213
Benediction	Fayette F. Kunz



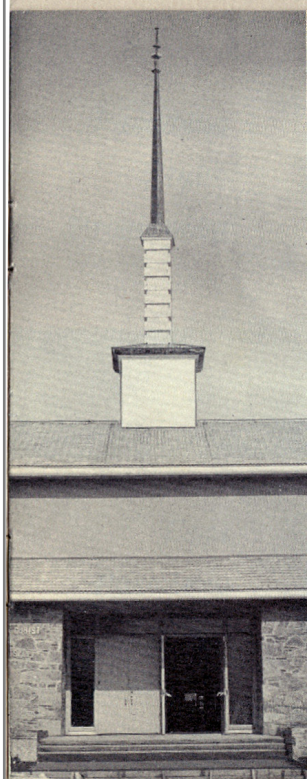
DEDICATION PROGRAM

PASADENA STAKE CENTER • EAST PASADENA WARD • JUNE 6, 1954

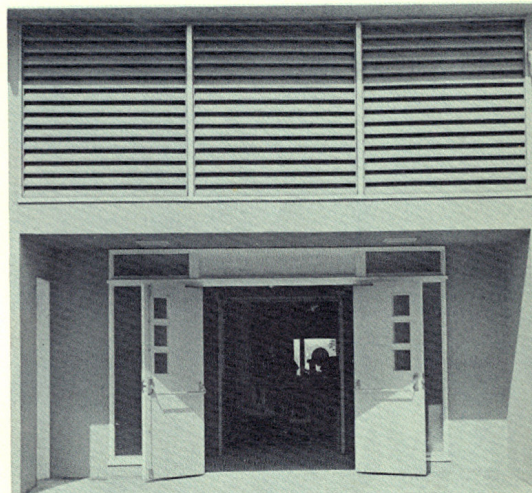
save time today. Bishop had Br. Don Anderson bring them all into our meeting. He gave a short talk about them and had each child stand when his or her name was called. Then Br. Anderson took them back to the Junior Sunday School. I made sandwiches so we didn't go home after Sunday School. Mary and Johnny ate with us. Sr. Hill had her own lunch; she ate in our car. Donna, Rex, and the two girls went

home to enjoy the meat loaf Donna cooked this morning. They all sang in our choir, at the dedication this afternoon so didn't have to worry about getting seats. Beverly brought Annie and Sue over; they held seats for us while we finished our lunch. We sat an hour to hold our seats for the service. It seemed like everyone had the same idea. The chapel was filled up an hour before time. The huge recreation hall was filled up almost as quick. The service was very nice, with remarks from President Hunter, Bishop Summerhays, Robert L. Gordon, and Apostle Stephen L. Richards. President Richards gave the dedicatory prayer at the close of his fine remarks. Our choir sang, "Bless This House" and "Let the Mountains Shout for Joy." They did a very beautiful

job of it, too. I was thrilled. They looked so nice with the ladies all in white blouses and dark skirts and the men in dark suits. President William Pettit opened with prayer. Br. Fayette closed. We came home and enjoyed a nice cold dinner. Beverly and Annie helped me. Sue and Lou talked. We all went back to church in the evening. Our young men's quartet tonight was fine. Lorraine Cottom, Jerald



*To the members of East
Pasadena Ward, mem-
bers of the Stake, and our
many friends and neigh-
bors . . . **WELCOME** to
our house...may its doors
be open always to you
and yours...*



Warnick, Richard Summerhays and Ronald Bottner. The Sunday School children sang, "Can a Little Child Like me." Norman Gough conducted the meeting. Al Rowbotham introduced the theme. The speakers were Elma Frandsen, Mary Wride, and Benjamin Taylor. They all gave fine talks. The Sunday School had charge of the evening service; Lou led the singing. It was very nice, it only lasted forty-five minutes. Ephra Doezie gave a splendid talk on reverence in music. The theme was reverence. Beverly took pictures of us all before dinner. I was sorry that Lorene could not be with us today; she was out to Mary's with Vernon and the children. Mary is in San Francisco with the Jorgensens. It has been a wonderful and happy day with my loved ones.



Elvie, Lou, and Annie June 6, 1954.



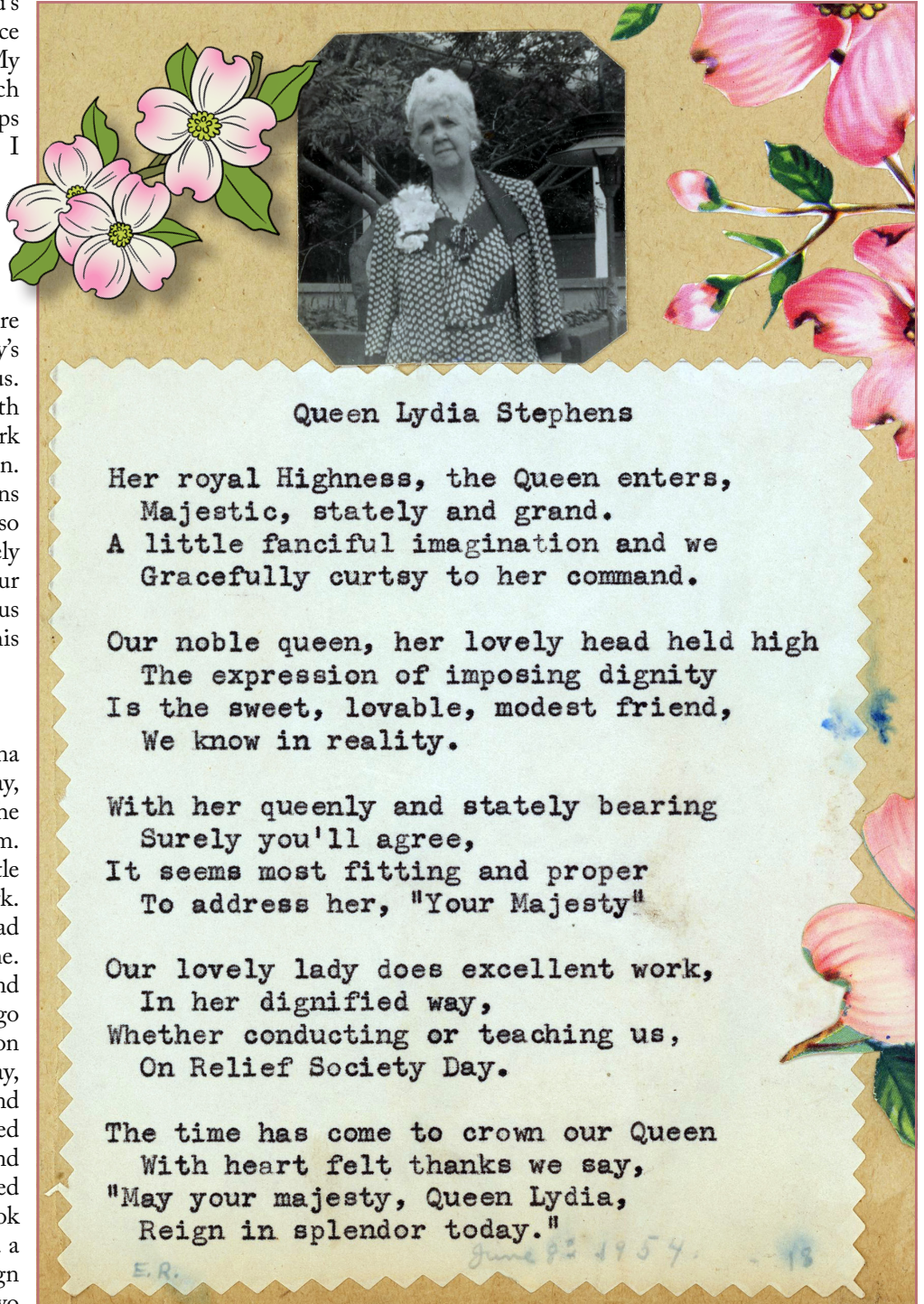
June 7, Monday

It was another lovely sunny day. My washing dried in a short time. I've had my little Mary on my mind, since she told me yesterday that the two little fingers on her hands are getting hard to close up, they feel stiff. Oh now what? I phoned Annie this morning to ask how Bill was. He feels better; he rode out to Burbank with them last night, to take Sue home. I'm glad he feels better; sorry he wasn't well enough to be with us yesterday. We missed him. I'd hoped Bill and Dale would both come. Joan stayed home from school today; she is coming down with a cold. Donna went to church after doing her washing; she had an accident with the washer this morning, soapsuds all over the floor, because something wasn't put back in the washtub after Kathy had her bath on Saturday. Joan went to a friend's home this afternoon to practice for some school song activity. My mouth is sore again. It felt so much better yesterday; I thought the lips were healed up okay, but not so. I didn't have to cook dinner this evening; we had food left over from our dinner yesterday. I surely did enjoy having my sisters and sweet niece Beverly to dinner yesterday. Wish we could do it more often. Lorene was out at Mary's home, so she couldn't be with us. Mary was in San Francisco with Vernon's parents. I did a little work in my scrapbook this afternoon. Lou watered the flowers and lawns this evening. Our yard looks so pretty now with so many lovely flowers in bloom. We enjoyed our nice little home, and television, plus each other's companionship this evening, as usual.

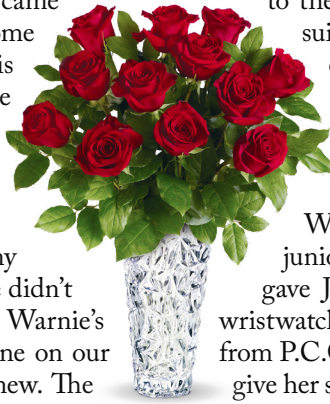
June 8, Tuesday

Today was a pretty sunny day. Donna worked on the election board today, her first experience at this work. She had to be away all day, from 7 a.m. until after 7 p.m. Rex brought little Kathy here early, on his way to work. She ate breakfast with me. Lou had just finished eating when she came. I curled baby's hair in ringlets, and put her pretty little dress on to go to Relief Society. Bonna Gordon worked on the election board today, also. We surely missed Bonna and Donna today. Melba Kunz picked us up; she had Marie Doezie and a neighbor lady along. We picked Sr. Manlove up at her home. I took the roll for Bonna today. I passed a notebook for all the sisters to sign their names; there were forty-two

present. I also took names of sisters that prayed for opening, closing, and blessing the food for our Relief Society record. I worked on the quilt a little, and hemmed a piece of curtain net, for wool to be woven into the holes. It will be a baby blanket or afghan. The luncheon was delicious; sisters from two districts served it (Clair Smith's and Clarice Warnick's districts). I read the queen's tribute before we ate; Sr. Lydia Stephens was our honored queen. I believe she was surprised. She looked so lovely in her pretty blue dress and gold crown with rose bud corsage pinned on her blue dress. Lydia put her arms around me after the luncheon and thanked me for the tribute; she said she'd treasure it as long as she lived. I always give the queen her tribute poem, in a little colored folder, with flowers on the inside. Donna types said poems for me.



Rex had to wake Kathy up this evening when he came for her at 5 p.m. She was tired when we got home at 3 p.m. Donna had time off from the polls this evening to prepare the dinner for her family, one hour. Our roses are just exquisite now. Lou and I cut a nice bouquet this evening and took them up to Mary Howard. We stopped by for our Mary and Kathy in Sierra Madre, so Mary could show us the way to Howard's home. Johnny was out playing when we picked Mary up so he didn't get to go with us. Janet took Joan to Mutual in Warnie's car tonight. Lou had a special cleaning job done on our car today. It was an \$18.00 job and looks like new. The cleaning and polishing job that Lou had done on our car is called, "Porcelainized Cleaning."



June 9, Wednesday

I phoned Donna this morning and I was amazed when she said it was three o'clock this morning before they'd finished counting the votes at their polling place in Sierra Madre. Rex got worried about her at 2 a.m. and went to the place and waited for her to finish the count. She expected to work until about 10 p.m., the Primary election is never as heavy, but it seems folks in Sierra Madre are active voters and the ballot was an extra long one this time. It took me longer than usual to stamp the ballot. Donna took orange juice to drink during the night, while the other workers were drinking their coffee. This brought about a little friendly discussion about our faith and the new church building on Sierra Madre Villa Boulevard. Donna had to have some sleep this afternoon. I told her to put a pillow over the phone so she wouldn't hear it ringing while she and Kathy had their naps. I did my ironing this afternoon. I'm enjoying a beautiful bouquet of roses I cut from our own garden this morning. They are so lovely and fragrant. It seems to me they are better than ever this season. I memorized the nice poem our Relief Society gave us to leave with the families this month, when we do our visiting. It is called "Success," and it's lovely. I like to memorize the beautiful thoughts I hear in rhyme. I believe I could recite poems that I've committed to memory, for an hour, without any trouble. When I can't sleep at night, I recite them over; it's more interesting than counting sheep, eh? I spent another pleasant evening in our pretty little home, with my sweetheart Lou and the television programs.

June 10, Thursday

It was a bright sunny morning; this is a beautiful old Earth we live on, especially for us, living in the good old U.S.A., where peace and plenty abide. I went uptown this morning

to the Pasadena Bullock's Store, where Joan had her suit put in will call. I gave her \$5.00 to pay down on her graduation suit. She bought a very pretty white suit with tiny red lines in, which gives the suit a pink appearance. It is a very cute suit, I'm anxious to see her in it. I paid the balance of \$15.65; the suit cost \$20.65 with the tax. We bought Janet's suit when she graduated from junior high school, two years ago. Rex and Donna gave Janet a wristwatch, and they are giving Joan a wristwatch this year. My sweet little Janet is graduating from P.C.C. the same night, June 17, in the Rose Bowl. I'll give her some money to buy what she wants; she graduates in a formal gown. Grandma and Grandpa Marsh bought a lovely formal dress for Janet. Our dear little Mary is graduating from Sierra Madre grade school and going into junior high. I bought a white Orlon wool sweater for Mary. Marie Andrus came for me this evening at 7:20. We went to the new church to the Relief Society party in honor of Melba Kunz and the visiting teachers. Donna was a bit late arriving; she and Rex took Johnny to Dr. Nebeker. Our boy came home from school with an inflamed swollen elbow. The doctor said it was infection from a spider bite or something. He gave John a shot of penicillin and said to soak the elbow in hot water. The doctor looked at Mary's little fingers and said nothing serious was wrong. He also put some medicine on Kathy's sore tongue. They took the three children in on Johnny's appointment. We had a nice program in the Relief Society party. Bishop Summerhays gave some nice remarks, also. They served ice cream on cake with chocolate sauce and whipped cream. It was good. Donna gave a nice talk about Melba Kunz's fine work in Relief Society and gave her a gift.

The gift was a beautiful necklace and earring set. This morning Donna and Kathy went to church to eat "brunch" with the Singing Mothers; they had a breakfast and lunch party for fun.

June 11, Friday

Gordon Hodges was eating his breakfast this morning when he lost the sight of one of his eyes. He phoned his doctor who sent Gordon to an eye specialist. I'm so sorry; I surely hope the sight will return soon. Lou went to work at six o'clock this morning. He got off early so we could be on our way before the evening traffic jam. I had a nice visit with Dolores over the phone; she thinks her folks will be moving out to Beryl, Utah soon. Johnny's elbow is better, the swelling is going down, he was soaking it in hot water this morning, sitting in Kathy's high chair when I phoned. I dusted up the house, watered the flowers and lawns, and packed a few things

What is Success?

*It's doing your work the best you can,
And being kind to you fellow man;
It's making money, but holding friends,
And staying true to your aims and ends;
It's figuring how and learning why,
And looking forward and thinking high,
And dreaming a little and doing much;
It's keeping always in closet touch
With what is finest in word and deed;
It's being thorough, yet making speed;
It's daring blithely the field of chance
While making labor a brave romance.
It's going onward despite defeat,
And fighting staunchly, but keeping sweet;
It's being clean and it's playing fair;
It's laughing lightly at Dame Despair;
It's looking up to the stars above,
And drinking deeply of life and love;
It's struggling on with the will to win,
But taking loss with a cheerful grin;
It's sharing sorrow, and work, and mirth,
And making better this good old earth;
It's serving, striving, through strain and stress;
It's doing your noblest—that's success.*

—Anonymous



for our trip and took my bath. We left home at 4 p.m. and enjoyed the lovely drive to Laguna Beach. We arrived at the Hotel Laguna at 5:45 p.m. It's a beautiful hotel with fine service. We got a lovely room overlooking the ocean. After resting and freshening up, we ate a delicious dinner in the coffee shop of the hotel. We didn't patronize the huge dining room, the Terrace Room, or the cocktail rooms of the hotel. We sat out on the long terrace of the hotel this evening in one of the garden swings and watched the ocean, until the sun went out of sight, in the ocean. It was really thrilling for me to see the sunset turn the ocean blue to gold. It was a dream come true for me. I was glad I took my big red coat; it felt comfy in that ocean breeze tonight. I almost left it at home. My only regret is my family can't enjoy this beauty with us, bless their hearts. How Donna would love this nice peaceful rest too; and my sisters and all. It's grand to have my darling Lou, he made it all possible for me, bless him. We took a walk around a few blocks in this pretty little beach town and came back to the hotel and I wrote a letter to Betty Renshaw, congratulating her on her coming marriage to Thomas Hansen on June 16, in the President's Suite of the Newhouse Hotel. They're having a wedding supper in the Hotel Terrace Room at 7:45 p.m. We received the invitation today. We'd love to attend, but it is impossible at this time. I have three granddaughters graduating next week, Janet, Joan, and Mary. Lou is enjoying the lights of the town and the ocean from our hotel window, while I write. Someone left a nice box of home made Tollhouse cookies on the swing on the terrace. Lou brought them to our room; he bought a bottle of milk while we were out, and he's enjoying milk and cookies. Ha ha! That's my man!

June 12, Saturday

We had a good night's rest, in an excellent bed. We were lulled to slumber by the ocean's magic sound of waves breaking against the shore, and were pleasantly awakened this morning, with the same welcome sound. When Lou pulled the draw curtains, I could see miles of wonderful ocean rolling into shore from where I lay in the bed. The ocean was gray this morning early, it was reflected from gray skies. By noon it was blue again like yesterday evening before the sun went down. We ate a nice breakfast in the little restaurant near the hotel and then walked around the town.

I bought a pretty white necklace and earring set, \$5.00, for Janet's graduation gift. I have \$10.00 at home in a card for her. We bought shoelaces in a 15¢ Store for Lou, he broke one this morning while dressing. I bought some tiny rubber dolls for Kathy. We got some postcards and stamps. Lou took a walk up the hill on Park Avenue to locate the L.D.S. Church, about six blocks from the hotel. I looked in a little store, bought some seashells to bring home to the children, pretty ones in color. I came back to the hotel alone and wrote postcards to Ethel N., Eloise B., Beverly A., Donna M., and Lillian K. Lou enjoyed a nap after his walk. He found the church and talked to the bishop. I'll ride to Sunday School in the morning, thank you! It's all up hill. We noticed a nice looking lunchroom, in a good smelling bakery, while out this morning, so we went there and had a very nice lunch. I had a piece of cheesecake for dessert. It was even better than it looked and it looked wonderful. Lou ate pie. I wish we had that bakery near our home in Pasadena. They make excellent sandwiches and salads. There are so many good-looking eating-places in this town. After lunch we watched the many bathers, having fun on the beach, and in the water. Lots of bright colored surfboards, or inflated rubber, or plastic surf boards. They were having a wonderful time. The pretty bright umbrellas dotted the beach making a very gay appearance. I've never seen so many brown bodies; they look like Indians to me. This Grama thinks a fair skin is more lovely by far. There was a wedding reception in the hotel somewhere this afternoon. I saw the people come and the bride and groom and bridesmaids beautiful baskets of white flowers and etcetera. One of the hotel maids told us of the beautiful wedding cake in the hotel for this reception. I watched it all from my hotel window while Lou slept on the bed. The bride and maids looked beautiful, the groom handsome in white coat and dark trousers. We ate dinner in the White House Restaurant; the soup and salad were swell, but I was disappointed in the breaded veal. We went to the South Coast Theater to see Marilyn Monroe and Robert Mitchum in a colored picture, "The River of No Return." It was good. We went back to the hotel terrace at 9 p.m. and watched the ocean in the moonlight. It is surely fascinating day or night. Lou took a shower while I wrote in my diary notes tonight. This is a perfect ocean vacation, the best I've ever had.



June 13, Sunday

It's Sunday morning, and I must give up this wonderful ocean vacation thrill, but I shall always remember this beautiful hotel and my happy hours spent on the terrace watching the ocean roll in to the shore. Darn the hotel management, they charged a dollar a night more, than they quoted us over the phone when Lou made the reservations last week or ten days ago. \$18.00 for two nights, and \$2.00 for the car. They said \$8.00 a night and charged \$9.00. We ate breakfast in

Allen's Coffee Shop. It was very good; there are nice eating-places here. We checked out of the hotel at 9:45 a.m. It was too early to go to Sunday School, so we drove around in the residential district. There were lovely hillside homes and beautiful flowers everywhere. Laguna Beach is truly a pretty place. We drove to 682 Park Avenue, to the L.D.S. Church. Sunday School started at 10:30 a.m. They have a nice little chapel; it is new. It was strange seeing so few people compared to our huge attendance, but the same songs, and lesson made us glad to be there with the saints on this Sunday morning. We were surprised when the Sunday School superintendent, or his counselor, announced that the stake superintendent was visiting them, a Br. Conrad Hawkins. Sure enough, there was an old friend from Garvanza Ward, Lora Valentine's husband, Conrad Hawkins. They live in Long Beach now. He came up to us as soon as Sunday School was over. We enjoyed the lesson; there was a very good class leader. He also led the singing. (Donna took care of Daddy's singing in our ward this morning.) We came home by way of Santa Ana, Anaheim, and Whittier. We ate dinner in Bob's eating-place near our home. We were happy to see our nice little home again. Clarice Tanner called in after church to see Lou about some Venetian blinds he is doing over for her home. She and Goldie Clark were on their way to a fireside chat, at Bob Gordon's home. I phoned Donna when we arrived home. Lou went to bed early, he has a slight head cold. There was a letter from Ethel Newbold in the mailbox when we arrived home.

June 14, Monday

Today is baby Kathy's birthday; she is three years old. I sang happy birthday to her over the phone. Donna came later with Kathy and Terry Maxon. They had left Mary Hill at Dr. Don Anderson's office to have an impression taken for her new teeth. Donna had forty-five minutes to wait, so she came here. We went up on the avenue. Donna priced tricycles, the price and cycles too high. Donna bought graduation cards, for her three girls, and for Robin Marsh. She also bought a pretty hanky to put in Robin's card. They left me off home and went back to doctor's office for Mary Hill. Donna invited Daddy and me to eat with them this evening



*Conrad and Lora Hawkins circa 1950.
Image from Family Search.*



*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 682 Park Avenue in July 2015.
This is the chapel Lou and Elvie visited on June 13, 1954.*



Kathy Marsh wearing the dress Grama Elvie gave her and riding the tricycle she got for her third birthday in 1954.

in the Arcadia Park, where they are going to celebrate Kathy's birthday. Gordon Hodges fell off his ladder yesterday, while cutting some branches from his tree. He must stay in bed with a sprained ankle a few days now. This, with all of his other worries, it's a shame, he lost the sight in one eye on Friday, and he is facing an operation for ulcers shortly. We received a post card from Lillian Keller. She and Jack were in Wichita, Kansas. They've been to Chicago. This evening, after work, Lou stopped in to see Gordon. He said his eye looks very bad, it was a blood clot that caused him to lose the sight of the eye. I do hope it'll clear up and he'll get the sight back all right. We met our little Marsh family in the Arcadia Park about 6:30 p.m. Donna had a very lovely picnic lunch on the table. Rex was at the stove heating the wieners. Donna forgot to put mustard, catsup, or mayonnaise in the box. Janet took our car to a nearby store and bought a small bottle of each. We surely did enjoy our dinner. Dr. Don Anderson

and family were eating dinner at a table not far from us. Several folks were enjoying picnic lunches there this evening. The Horse Club that Mary belonged to was there, also. After dinner we sang "Happy Birthday" to Kathy, while she looked at her pretty pink cake with three candles on. She opened her gifts, and was given the new red tricycle her mama and daddy bought. She was delighted with it all. The children all had gifts to open tonight at park. It was fun. We gave Kathy a cute squaw dress and some tiny dolls in seashells. I gave Johnny a bag of seashells I brought from Laguna Beach and Mary one, they were pretty ones I bought for them. We took the graduation gifts to the park also, and gave them to the girls (Joan's suit, Janet's necklace and earrings, and \$10.00, Mary's white sweater). Donna and Rex gave Joan her lovely wristwatch and Janet a pretty card with \$15.00 in. She can buy what she wants with the \$25.00 now.

June 15, Tuesday

Donna phoned this morning to tell me that Mary's white sweater wasn't large enough for her. I was surely disappointed. We planned to go to town and change it. I was glad that Kathy's little squaw dress fit all right. The expansion bracelet on Joan's wristwatch is too large. Donna will have to have it fixed smaller. Joan wore it to school today anyway. Lou forgot to take some papers this morning that Gordon Hodges gave him last night. He sent Bill S. after them. Beverly is working at the shop with Lou again; I wish she could stay on there steady. If only the work would come in faster, she could. Donna and Kathy came for me about noontime. Kathy looked darling in that little squaw dress we gave her. We couldn't change Mary's white Orlon cardigan sweater in Broadway Store, for one larger, like it, so we changed it for a white Orlon shrug jacket; it didn't cost as much, so with the refund and a dollar more, we got a bathing suit for Mary. They had some cute cotton suits on sale for \$3.99; I believe they were. While Donna was taking care of the exchange, Kathy and I walked to the Thrifty Drug Store and left some films that I wanted developed. We had to hurry to the Wilson School to Joan's graduation program. We sat up in the balcony; the car was parked in Kunzes' yard. It was a nice program; the girls were pretty in lovely party dresses. Joan looked real sweet in her new pink dress. Pauline Doezie played the piano for the class songs. Joan introduced me to her friend, Janice Jared; she is a pretty girl. We saw Mrs. DeBry, her daughter Diane is graduating with the class, too. Joan's boyfriend, Richard Berger, is in the class, I remembered him, because he has been to my house to see Joan. Kathy was a very good little girl today; no bother at

all. Donna and Kathy ate some peaches and raisin toast here after the program. The Wilson School graduation will have their formal graduation exercises Thursday evening in the Pasadena Rose Bowl. I cut some roses for Donna, she had to come back for them from Kunzes', she forgot them. Donna picked Rex up at Kunzes yard at 5 p.m. I'm sleepy, I stayed up late last night reading' the book the Taylors sent us; "Sweet Love Remembered." I almost finished it. I gave Donna my seersucker house robe dress; she needs it more than I do.

June 16, Wednesday

Today is Betty Renshaw's wedding day; I'd loved to have been there. We received a letter from Bill and Flora Taylor yesterday. They've been called to fill a mission for the L.D.S. church for a year, at the Liberty Jail, in Missouri, as care takers and to meet people who come to see the old jail. I'd planned to wash today, but we had a light rain until almost noontime. It's a change from our sunny warm day yesterday, eh? Well, I can wash another day. I enjoyed doing some scrapbook work and writing letters. Kathy stayed at a neighbor's home this afternoon, while Donna went to Mary's graduation exercises at the Sierra Madre School. Mary took her pretty blue nylon dress to a girlfriend's home last night and her best white shoes and slip, so she could dress up at noontime for the program this afternoon. The girl's house is across

the street from the school. I'd like to watch her class graduate, but it is too far to go. Donna and her neighbor Mrs. Kirk went to the school in a taxi. They went to the luncheon at the school and then stayed to the graduation exercise after. Beverly A. phoned me from the shop, to thank me for the card I sent her from Laguna Beach. Lou says Gordon feels some better today. He can see a little out of the stricken eye. I do hope the sight will fully return. He went to see his doctor, also the eye doctor today. I wrote letters to Ethel Newbold, Flora and Will Taylor, and Violet Fife. I walked to the corner mailbox with them this evening while Lou was watching the Blue Ribbon Bouts on TV. Johnny and Mary went to Primary after school, I was delighted to learn that Mary Howard is well enough to drive her car again; she took the children to Primary and up to her house after, to stay all night. They'll go to school from Howard's in the morning. Summer vacation time from school starts next week. In fact, tomorrow winds up this term. Mary has a picnic at the school tomorrow. Rex made an appointment to show a party through their home tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. He forgot, for the moment, about the graduation exercises in the Rose Bowl for Janet and Joan. Lou will go up and take the man through the place so Rex can leave for the Rose Bowl.



Mrs. Thomas Franklin Hansen, lovely bride of Wednesday rites, solemnized at Newhouse Hotel, was Bette Renshaw.



Joan Marsh graduates from Wilson School in June of 1954.



Janet Marsh graduates from PPC in June of 1954.

June 17, Thursday

It was overcast this morning, but nice and warm. I did my washing. The sun broke through the clouds about noontime. Donna phoned, she said that the children would be in school about half a day and she expected them home early. Mary's class had a picnic party this morning with eats at noon. Joan and Janet got out at 1 p.m. I believe Johnny's class had a little party too, and Kathy? Well, she had a nap, ha ha! Warnie M. brought Janet home from school. Joan has a date after the graduation tonight with one of the schoolboys in her class, Eddie ? Of course Janet's date is with Warnie. Joan is going out Saturday night with Wayne Bates, a Garvanza Ward boy. We received a Golden Wedding invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Edgecomb, honoring her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer F. Lowe, on June 27; reception is in Edgecomb's home. The Lowes live with the Edgecombs, they are surely a sweet old couple. I'm very fond of them both. Annie went to Long Beach to her club luncheon, at Jennie Bingham's home. She phoned me after she got home to tell me that she got a letter from Violet and she was leaving Cedar City to bring little Ronnie home. Yvonne was out in Beryl, Utah, working for her father in the store. Violet is expected in California at Dody's tomorrow morning. We went up to Donna's at 6 p.m. Rex wasn't home from work yet; Donna was putting the house in order. A man was coming to look through it at 6:30 p.m. Lou was going to stay and show him through. We took Kathy up to Howard's home in the canyon. Mary and Johnny were up there; they stayed there last night. Johnny took Kathy from our car; she had the little plastic bus and people that Mary H. let her borrow last time we had her up there. It belongs to Bonny H. The three of us had a very good seat in the Rose Bowl, near tunnel three. It was a beautiful sight to see the graduates in all colors, with the boys in dark suits. The jewelry on the girls sparkled in the lights. We enjoyed the program. We saw Bonna and Bob Gordon, Marie Doezie with her. Susan Gordon and Pauline Doezie graduated, also. A very strange coincidence amazed Rex, Donna, and me tonight. With all the hundreds of graduates receiving their diplomas at different spots in the bowl, where their line of march took them, to their school officials, Janet and Joan, in different lines, received their diplomas at the very same instant! Our girls met us after the exercises at the entrance of tunnel three. Both looked beautiful; Janet in a delicate pink formal dress, Joan in her pretty pink suit. They waited for a while to see if

Gramma and Grampa Marsh were there; I guess they couldn't make it. The girls left for their school prom dances. I'll write more about them on the next page. Rex and Donna brought me home. The man didn't come to see the house.

June 18, Friday

Donna phoned this morning. She is fighting a cold; she felt it coming last night in her throat. I gave her some Bromo Quinine tablets to take home last night. She thinks she can check the cold, I hope so. It was her Singing Mother's rehearsal morning, but she couldn't sing. Mary and Johnny stayed up to Howard's all night again. Janet and Joan got home in the early hours, from celebrating their graduations. Janet and Warnie went to the Pasadena Civic



Moulin Rouge, in Hollywood with a modesty flower.



Photo of Liberace in 1954. Janet asked for his autograph on June 18, 1954. Sparkles on his suit were understated compared to later in his entertaining life.

to the Prom dance. Then she came home, changed her formal dress later, and put on her lovely red velvet dress; they then went to the Moulin Rouge in Hollywood, where they saw, the now famous, Liberace. He autographed their program. Joan and her school friend Eddie (?) went to their school prom dance in the Pasadena Athletic Club after graduation and from there they went to a supper party at Joan's girlfriends' home in Sierra Madre. Both girls had lovely gardenia corsages from the boys. Donna typed some articles I'd written for the Relief Society scrapbook. I phoned Dolores's home this morning a few minutes after Violet and

Ronnie had arrived from Cedar City. Violet rode on the bus here, with Mildred Pinnock Sergeant. Millie is in California visiting with her sisters, Ann and Rose. I'd like to see all of them again. I just learned that Liberace was a supper guest at the Moulin Rouge, in Hollywood, not an entertainer, as I first thought. Janet and Warnie went to his table for the autograph, he he! That's my Janet. It's nice knowing that sister Violet is in our state again. I'm anxious to see her. I know she is tired after her long ride, she had a headache and her feet were swollen. Like my ankles, hers swell when she rides for a long time on the bus, too. Lou went to the market this evening for our groceries, while I did up the dishes. We enjoyed our pretty little home and the television; our favorite program, Lawrence Welk's orchestra.

June 19, Saturday

I phoned Donna this morning to find out if she was going uptown; she was toying with the idea. Mary had an appointment with her foot doctor. Donna wanted to buy some

Father's Day gifts, so she said she'd come by for me. She got here before I was ready, so they had to wait a minute or so. Mary and Johnny were with her. Lou went to the shop to run out some wood for a job, and then he went up to Rex's and fixed some doors and a little cupboard. He did a few jobs that needed a carpenter. Rex is painting his living room. Donna went to Fuller's Paint Store for more paint, and then we went to the doctor for Mary's treatment. We left Johnny in the barber college for a haircut. He came up to the Broadway Store and met us after. Donna bought three nice sport shirts, \$3.00 each on sale, one for Daddy Lou, one for Pa Marsh and one for Rex, from his children. I bought one for Lou, because he is a grand father, ha ha! I bought a pretty lace Quaker table cloth, had the Broadway Store mail it to Betty Renshaw Hansen and husband Tom, for a wedding gift, it cost, on sale, \$6.50. I also bought a pretty gold bud vase, a tall one, to give our nice neighbors, the Lowe's, on their fiftieth Golden Wedding anniversary on June 27. I came home broke. We let Johnny and Mary have our last few pennies; they bought some chocolate M & M Candies. Donna took Mary's shoes to show the doctor how poorly they wore, had 'em only six weeks and they cost \$18.00. He had the shoe man look them over; they are going to repair them for free. (I should think so!) We met a nice man in the doctor's office. He looked like the late president F.D.R. He said he could tell we were mother, daughter, and granddaughter and said some very nice things. We like him, yes, siree! *[Mary remembers this well. She loved being told she looked like her mother and grama.]* Lou and I took a nice ride this evening. I bought two pretty summer ties in Thrifty, to wear with Lou's new Father's Day shirts. Janet stayed in Temple City tonight with Warnie's mother and grandmother, at the grandmother's home. She is going to San Diego in the morning with Warnie's mother to visit in their home. Warnie didn't go. Donna met Warnie's real mother this evening. *[Warnie's parents divorced when he was young. He lived with his dad and a step-mother. The mother mentioned here was his birth mother, Ruth Violet La Marr.]* Lou got our prints from the Thrifty Drug Store. I mailed some of the pictures to Sue and some to Annie and Beverly. They were all good. *[These are the photos by June 6, 1954.]*

June 20, Sunday

It was much warmer last night, and was hot today. Lou wore the light gray sport shirt I gave him for Father's Day gift; also



Brotherton's Farm House in Pasadena circa 1980.

of celebrating Father's Day. I had turkey and he had baked ham and it was really good. For dessert we had boysenberry pie a la mode. I put the typed articles Donna gave me this morning, in the Relief Society scrapbook, and then enjoyed a nap while Lou was at his Union Meeting. Rex and Donna took the children to Marshes this afternoon, to take a gift to John (a sport shirt like Lou's). I called Dolores's home to talk to Violet, but no answer. We took Mary Hill to church again tonight. It was the Melchizedek priesthood program. Robert L. Gordon, a high priest in our ward and stake, took charge of the program. It was very nice; short talks by Jesse Dixon, Robert Perine, Jean Cummings, Harry Wells, and Ray Blied. Eldine Stephens sang two lovely solos. Linda Goodsell and Donald Haslam, children from the Pasadena Ward, gave very fine talks. It was a splendid talk by Robert L. Gordon. Nice meeting. It has been hot today. I missed Janet today; she is

in San Diego visiting with Warnie's mother. (His real mother.) Warnie lives with his dad and stepmother in Pasadena. Violet is visiting with the Andersens.

June 21, Monday

I phoned Annie this morning; she was finishing up her washing. I talked to Violet; she said they had a nice time yesterday on Sunday. Andersens took Violet and Lorene out to Burbank to see Sue and family, then went to Van Nuys to see the folks out there and had dinner with Irene and Glen. Lorene stayed out to Mary's a night or two. It was little Karen's birthday. Shirley and family were at Sue's enjoying



Mary, Elvie, Donna, and John in 1949. In 1954 a man noticed how Elvie, Mary, and Donna looked so much alike.

the swimming pool. Violet is staying at Andersen's tonight, also. They took Violet to see the Los Angeles Temple and the mission home. LaPriel and President Bryan Bunker were happy to see them. Violet and LaPriel were pals when kids, in Salt Lake City, they are also cousins. I had a busy morning sewing. I let the hem down in my green cotton dress and shortened Lou's sleeves, in his two new Father's Day sport

shirts. Nora Williamson came for me at 2:10 p.m. We did our Relief Society visiting. Only five of our ten families were at home, it is vacation time. Donna, Clarice, and Marva made some sick calls today; Clarice took a cake to Ella Wride who is ill with ***milk leg**. Donna took a cake to Glaya Nichols who has been operated on. They called to see Sr. Tucker. She was operated on her jaw for cancer a few months ago. She saw Janet's picture in the paper announcing her engagement and went out and bought a pretty towel set to give her for a wedding gift. She thought she was getting married soon. (Dear Sr. Tucker.) They called to see dear Sr. Peak, 85 years old, maybe older. She was delighted; she showed them her lovely crochet work. They called on Sr. Beck. She has been ill for years, poor little dear. Joan had been at her friend Gay Fanther's house all day, sewing, making blouses. She stayed there all night tonight, ate dinner there, nice friends, eh? A Mrs. Boise phoned to have one of Donna's girls babysit this evening for her. She has three little girls. Mary went. It looks like she'll take over the babysitting jobs now, eh? Mrs. Sally Boise lives up in the Coronet Homes, not far from Donna's place. Rex has the first coat of paint on the living room now. It is a big job to do that house inside. Lou went to bed early, he was tired. He went to work at 7 a.m. today. He went to see Gordon after work; he isn't very well.

Warnie went to the train this evening to meet Janet. She has been visiting Warnie's real mother and his stepfather in San Diego. I talked to Janet this evening; she had a real nice time. She went to San Diego on Sunday morning with Warnie's mother, after staying at his grandmother's in Temple City on Saturday night. His mother gave Janet an electric iron she doesn't need now that she has her steam iron. She gave Janet a pretty slip for a graduation gift.

June 22, Tuesday

When Donna phoned last night, she said a real estate man came to the house; he wants to have their house, up for sale, for a month exclusive. I do hope they will have good luck selling it at the price they ask, and all. Gordon Hodges's sister-in-law Nellie, I believe her name is, died a few days ago. She went up north to have a major operation. Lou and I met her in her home in Long Beach, when we went with Gordon and Ruby to Corona Del Mar Beach a few weeks ago. I received a nice little thank you note from my sister Sue, for the snap shots I sent her. They are the pictures Beverly took of us on June 6, when they came over to our church dedication. I put the set of pictures in my scrapbook

*Milk Leg

The popular idea is, that in this disease the woman's milk has fallen into her leg, which has inflamed. This is of course absurd. As to the real nature of the complaint, there are various opinions, some holding it to consist in inflammation along the sciatic, crural, and pubic nerves; others, that it is an inflammation of the lymphatic of the groin which causes it; others, that it is an inflammation of the crural veins. The fact of the matter is that this disease is one of the many evidences of septic matter entering the circulation and setting up local trouble where it is deposited. It is, in other words, a mild form of pre existing blood poisoning.

Symptoms. The disease begins in from two to seven weeks after delivery, with pain in the lower bowel, groin, or thigh. The pain is more violent when the thigh is extended. In a day or two, the pain diminishes, and the limb begins to swell, frequently in the calf of the leg first, thence extending upward; but generally in the groin, and extending gradually down. The skin becomes entirely white, smooth, and glossy, does not pit when pressed, is painful to the touch, and is hotter than the skin upon the other limb. In connection with this local disease, there is general fever, with small and rapid pulse, thirst, etc.

Treatment. The patient must lie flat upon her back, with the swelled limb placed upon pillows, or a bolster, raised so that the foot shall be a little higher than the hip, and then charged not to put her foot down upon the floor until she is very nearly well.

<http://householdphysician.com/chapter11.php?page=30>



today. I talked to Donna on the phone this afternoon; she went to Relief Society at noontime to serve lunch to the few sisters that went to a special quilting. Donna and Marva D. served them lunch. Janet and Warnie went up to Crystal Lake this afternoon to fish. This morning Janet went to a few dentists that Dr. Anderson gave her names of, to apply for work as a dentist assistant. Dr. Anderson can't give her full time and she needs a full time job now that school is out. Johnny went to David Warnick's birthday party today. Mary enjoyed her babysitting job last night; she earned \$1.50. She went to town in Sierra Madre to buy gum to treat the children tonight. The lady wants her to come again tonight. It looks like our Mary is in business, eh? Janet and Joan have about outgrown the babysitting jobs now, I guess. Donna made a chocolate pie for dinner this evening. Our baby Kathy had a spoon and was into the icebox helping herself while Donna was talking to me on the phone 🎵 "Yes Sir, That's my Baby." 🎵 Beverly told Uncle Lou she was going to Dody's house for Aunt Violet tomorrow night to take her over home to hear the Arthur Godfrey program on TV. Lou said, "Nothing doing, kiddo, you had her over the weekend. I'm going for her after work on Wednesday. She can have dinner with us and see the Arthur Godfrey show at our house." I talked to Dody and Violet on the phone this evening.

I told Violet to come prepared to stay overnight with us. Dolores invited me to her house to lunch on Thursday. I'm going with her and Violet to the Singing Mother's rehearsal Thursday morning. Beverly went to a show with Annie and Violet tonight in Alhambra. Beverly and Lou both went to work yesterday morning at 7 a.m. instead of 8 a.m. They had a special job to get out for a lady anxious to get her Venetian blinds back. Dolores went to Andersen's this morning to get her mother, Violet. Johnny went to the Boy's Club with David Warnick yesterday, on Kennida Street, not far from here. He had a swell time; he made a speedboat. I wish he could join the club and go every day, Monday to Friday.

June 23, Wednesday

Work is very slack at the shop again; Lou has managed to keep Beverly on so far this week. She cleaned up the shop yesterday, after the other work was finished, just to get a day in. He has some Venetian blinds for her to work on today. Gordon is suffering a lot with his sprained ankle, I feel so darn sorry for him. He has enough to worry about without this accident. My lips are sore again; I thought I had them healed up, I wonder what causes this to come?

Annie phoned this morning to tell me that we must go see Audrey Hepburn in *Roman Holiday*, a movie. She says that Audrey reminds them so much of Donna, looks and acts just like Donna. She wants us to go see the show, I'm anxious to see it. I talked to Donna; she saw the picture and even she can see a slight resemblance to herself. Marty Strong wrote Donna from Utah, and told her to be sure to see the picture, because the actress is so much like Donna. Annie, Beverly, and Violet went to see it in Alhambra at the Coronet Theater last night. It was the second time for Annie and Beverly. (Me? Well, I'd like to see it once, if I can talk my man into going with me?) The TV and home is all he wants for entertainment. I changed the bed linen and vacuumed, took a bath and rested before Lou and Violet came. Blanche Hoglund phoned Annie; she had a letter from her sister Harriet. Elsie Bailey and Harriet are taking another bus tour next month. I believe it is a beach tour this time; they'll be in California a few days. It is nice they can have all these lovely vacation tours, eh? *[With the Bailey children's inheritance?]* Lou cleaned up and we went to Bob's new eating-place for dinner. Violet and Lou had fried shrimps. I had a delicious salad, with diced ham and cheese and greens. Violet and I ate ice cream for dessert. Lou ate custard pie. We came home and sat in the cabaña swing. The patio is pretty now; the fuchsias in hanging baskets are in colorful bloom. All of the flowers are lovely. Lou went in the house to watch the fights on TV. We visited in the swing until time to go in and see Arthur Godfrey on TV. The programs were all good. Gilda Gray on "This Is Your Life," was very thrilling to listen to. I think Lou's shrimps gave him a little gas, cause 🎵 "the shrimp burps were a commin." 🎵 When Lou picked up Violet today, Dolores gave him five nice mountain trout that little Ronnie caught in Utah. Johnny went to Primary this morning; Mary went to the P.C.C. pool to take her swimming lesson.

June 24, Thursday

Violet and I enjoyed grapefruit and raisin toast for breakfast. Dolores, Ronnie, and Nadine came for us at 10:10 this morning. The children went in the nursery at our new stake house, while the Singing Mother's rehearsed. Violet and I enjoyed listening to them sing; we also walked



Audrey Hepburn at the top of the page. Donna below. Annie Andersen, Marty Strong, and even Donna can see the resemblance between Donna and Audrey.



Violet and Otto Fife

around the grounds admiring the lovely building, the plants, flowers, and etcetera. Donna brought little Kathy to the nursery; she was surprised to find Grama at church today. She looked darling in the bright little squaw dress we gave her for her birthday. Her hair is so pretty with the natural curls. I was sorry when Donna said she couldn't go to Dolores's for lunch with us. Donna had little Donny Hartshorne with her today. Ann H., his mother, has been taken to a sanatorium for a rest; she had a nervous collapse a few days ago. The real estate man that has Donna's house up for sale held an open house this afternoon; a few folks looked through it. Dody phoned Beverly and Aunt Annie when we got to her house and invited them over to eat lunch, told them to bring Aunt Lorene, but Lorene couldn't come, she was tending Miriam's little girls, while Miriam went to her club at Lorene Steimle's home. I was sorry Lorene could not be with us. We had a lot of fun and a delicious lunch; salad, hot rolls, creamed cheese celery, and a delicious frozen fruit dessert. Dolores's two children are real cute. I played on the floor with little Nadine and her big blocks. She's a darling, is only two years old and talks so darn cute. Both children took naps after their lunch. It was fun being with my family at Dody's today. Sorry Donna couldn't have been with us, also. Mary was visiting

her girlfriend today and had been swimming I believe. She stubbed her toe and made it swell up. It's the poor foot the doctor is giving her treatments for. It was painful; she soaked it in hot water at home this evening. She'll have another treatment tomorrow. I hope it will not be sore. Dody, Violet, and the children brought me home at 4 p.m. Violet got her overnight bag. Ronnie feels bad when his Grama Fife doesn't stay at his house every night. Little Nadine thinks everyone's last name is Jones, or Dones as she says it. She told me she saw Kathy Marsh Jones at church today (Kaky Mars Dones). Even the neighbor's big dogs, she calls by their first names and she adds Dones. I've forgotten the dog's names, but Dones is added. Lou said he'd take me to Alhambra to see the picture *Roman Holiday*. I phoned Dody to see if it was still playing. She gave me the phone number of the theater. Sorry the picture had changed so we stayed home and enjoyed our TV. Janet went to the beach with a girlfriend today. Joan was on a babysitting job.

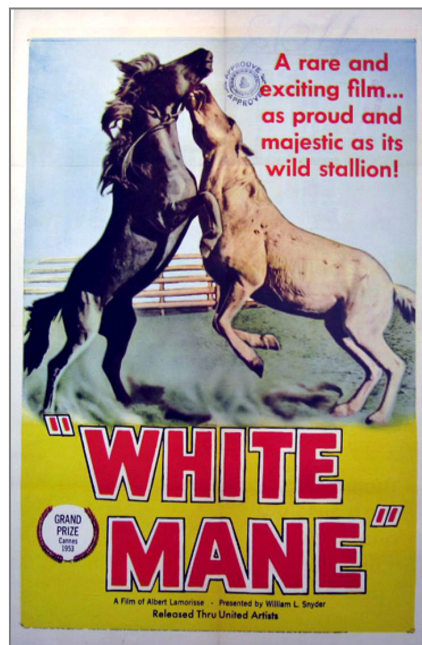
June 25, Friday

Lou left so quiet this morning. I didn't hear a sound. I got up at 8 a.m. and was surprised to find his bed empty. It was sweet of him to let me have that nice extra rest. I put out a large washing; it's always larger when I have the sheet blankets in. I phoned Donna and was glad to hear that Mary's toe felt better; the swelling gone, just a bruise there. Mary had gone to her swimming lesson at the P.C.C. pool. Johnny had gone to the store to buy food for him and Daddy to take on the father and son's stake outing tonight and tomorrow. Joan went to the beach this morning with Don Austramen, a Sierra Madre boy, and cousin Diane Oates, and a boyfriend. Our neighbors the Edgcombs had a man come out today and put up two pretty plastic awnings, white with brown trim, over the back porch and window south of porch. It looks nice. I was surprised to get a letter from Margaret Renshaw; she had an accident, broke her left leg and is in a wheelchair. I'm sorry for her. She sent a paper clipping and a picture of Betty in her wedding dress. It is a lovely picture of Betty and I'm glad to have it for my scrapbook. The bride and groom, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Franklin Hansen, are honeymooning in the Northwest and Canada. I hope they'll have a wonderful marriage. Betty is a darling girl. Margaret says he is a very nice boy, so it should be okay. Lillian and Jack Keller visited Mel and Margaret and stayed for the wedding. The real estate man is parked in front of Donna's with flags out, for the open house. I wonder if he'll sell the place for them, eh? Br. Ray Blied is going to Donna's tomorrow to do the kitchen walls with something new, a paper that can be washed. Lou stopped at Ella Wride's home after work to see about cutting her piano down, like he did Donna's and ours. It is different, they may buy a piece of wood to make a wide straight panel like ours is. Lou and I went to town after dinner to the Broadway Store. He bought three seersucker sport shirts for work, short sleeves. They were on sale for \$1.99 a piece. They are nice, have colored stripes in a small pattern. I like the seersucker because they do not need ironing if hung correctly on the lines. He bought a nice wool shrug jacket for me, white, for \$4.95. I bought a pink nylon blouse for \$5.95 to wear with my white skirt. Lou bought a pretty pink flower for me. I bought some pink gloves. We got back home in time for him to hear his favorite TV program, Lawrence Welk.

June 26, Saturday

It was raining this morning and kept it up until after 10 a.m. We were disappointed all around. Br. Ray Blied didn't come to paper Donna's kitchen, cause the paper didn't

arrive at his home. He went on another job. The paper came later. Donna's icebox and stove are disconnected, so they're eating cold breakfasts. Rex and Johnny slept out with the fathers and son's in a camp somewhere. I do hope they are not miserable and wet. We had planned a picnic lunch at the beach; Mary and Bonny Howard were going with us. Mary Marsh has a broken toe; the doctor phoned Donna this morning after he received the x-ray pictures of Mary's foot. It is fractured near the nail. She stubbed her toe last Thursday. *[Note from Mary: I didn't really stub it, I slammed it into a cement stair outside that was taller than I expected. I will never forget the constant pain for many hours.]* Joan and



Diane Oates had planned to horseback riding this morning with the two boys they went to the beach with yesterday. Janet went uptown in the drizzles, in Warnie's car to buy a wedding gift for one of their friends. Lou went to Ella Wride's home to do a job on her piano; cut it down like he did ours and put the mirror on it. I told Donna to bring the children down and eat lunch with me. I baked a macaroni, cheese, and tuna casserole. I told them I would open some soup but I changed my mind. We enjoyed this lunch a lot more. Lou got home in time to enjoy some warm lunch, too. I was glad of that. Donna, Mary, Kathy, and I went to the picture show near us, the Colorado Theater, to see "Heidi" and "White Mane." We enjoyed both pictures. Donna insisted on paying for show tickets. I treated to ice cream chocolate bon bons. Donna bought Mary a pair of house slippers in Karl's Shoe Store for \$2.00, before we went to the show. She had Rex's big slipper on the foot with the broken toe, when she came down here. Joan visited a girlfriend in Sierra Madre this afternoon. I was sorry she didn't eat lunch with us. Lou and I went to the market this evening. Br. Ray Blied went to Donna's this afternoon and did all the papering back of the stove, so it could be connected up tonight when Rex got back. Joan took care of the children tonight. Rex took Donna to a show somewhere. Mary Hill looks nice with her new teeth and hair wave permanent.

June 27, Sunday

Sr. Hilda Botting phoned this morning and wanted us to pick her up from the bus line and take her and a lady friend to Sunday School. No bus runs near our new church, which makes it bad for folks that do not drive a car. We always pick Sr. Mary Hill up near her trailer court. We're always happy to help anyone get to the new building. I missed Johnny boy this morning; he was not feeling well, a cold, I believe. My Mary came in a house slipper on her poor foot, with the broken toe. I didn't see Janet, but she was there. Joan looked sweet as usual; she was in a hurry

after Sunday School. She had to be back to church at 1 p.m. for a rehearsal. Don Rowberry's class was interesting as it always is. We met a lady and her daughter from Cedar City, Utah; I forgot the name. She knows the Fife family, but not Violet. Lou and I had a delicious chicken pie dinner at Fisher's Restaurant. Rex said it didn't rain at the camp; they had a swell time at the father and son's outing. I was happy to hear that as I was afraid they'd get wet. We rested at home until 4 p.m. We went next door to congratulate the honored couple on their Golden Wedding celebration. The house was full so we signed the guest book, ate a piece of the wedding cake, some mints, and delicious fruit punch. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe looked real sweet. The daughter-in-law had on Mrs. Lowe's wedding gown of 50 years ago. It was lovely; in it's old-fashioned style. They had beautiful flowers; I took a gold glass bud vase. Donna, Clarice T., and Sr. Willard came about 5:15 p.m. We took them to the East Los Angeles Stake Center, the Eastmont Ward, where the Singing Mother's of the Pasadena Stake sang five numbers. It was grand; we sat with Violet, Bevan, and Br. Jones. Donna, Dolores, and Jenny Jones sang in the chorus. June and Harold Hays, Bob and wife, and baby girl, were happy to see us. June Hays showed us t h e beautiful new Relief Society room and the lovely kitchen. The building was dedicated the same day our new church home was; June 6, 1954. It was a lovely program.

June 28, Monday

'Twas a treat to see the sun shining this morning early. Mr. Lowe took me in Edgecomb's home to see the lovely Golden Wedding gifts and all the flowers this morning. It was too crowded yesterday to see anything but people. Ray Blied papered Donna's kitchen today. The rugs were going to be laid, but the man phoned and said they wouldn't lay them until the end of the week, as the man who lays them was away on vacation. Donna went to church this afternoon to plan for the next gold plate dinner for stake and ward benefit. I wrote letters to Margaret Renshaw and Lillian Keller. I was glad to know that Johnny felt fine today. He got over his cold quickly. Janet was going uptown to look for work at some dentist offices. My lips caused more distress for me, wonder why I can't clear up this infection. My face felt hot like it was sunburned and looked like it too, yet my arms and legs felt chilly. Ah me! I didn't mention it to Lou, why worry him more than I have to anyway? Pearl Redborg wrote a letter to a dentist and his wife, friends of hers, asking them to give Janet work in their office if possible. She gave Janet a splendid recommendation, was nice of her. I hope Janet will be able to find a good full time job in a dentist's office. Dr. Don Anderson can only give her a few hours a week and she needs more money to pay for the china and silver she has signed up for.

June 29, Tuesday

My dear Lou couldn't get to sleep last night because of a pain in the back of his head, back of his ear. I wonder what causes him to have that dreadful pain so often. I can't help but worry about it. I didn't feel very well when I went to bed, but it passed and I slept all right. I was thankful the good Lord answered my prayer and I was well enough to go with Marva DeHaan this morning at 9:30. We had a special quilting today, to help get a quilt done for a lady, not a member of the L.D.S. church. It was a nice quilt to work on; I enjoyed the day. The president of our stake Relief Society, Madge Fowler, Carol Blied, a Sr. Clark, Sr. Romig, and myself quilted. Marie Doeze sewed on the electric machine, hemming dishtowels for our bazaar. Donna came down to bring some rolls and olives. Marva brought a lovely fruit salad. Vera Smith brought cupcakes. Donna didn't stay, she was going out with

Clarice Tanner to do Relief Society visiting, but Rex came home. No work plastering

today. He wanted her to stay home so she did. Rex tore out the shower tile and everything. He is going to have a tile man do it over. He did it the first time, but it wasn't just right. Donna took Janet to town this morning to see the dentist that Pearl Redborg wrote to, about work in his office. He was nice but had no work to give Janet. Donna told

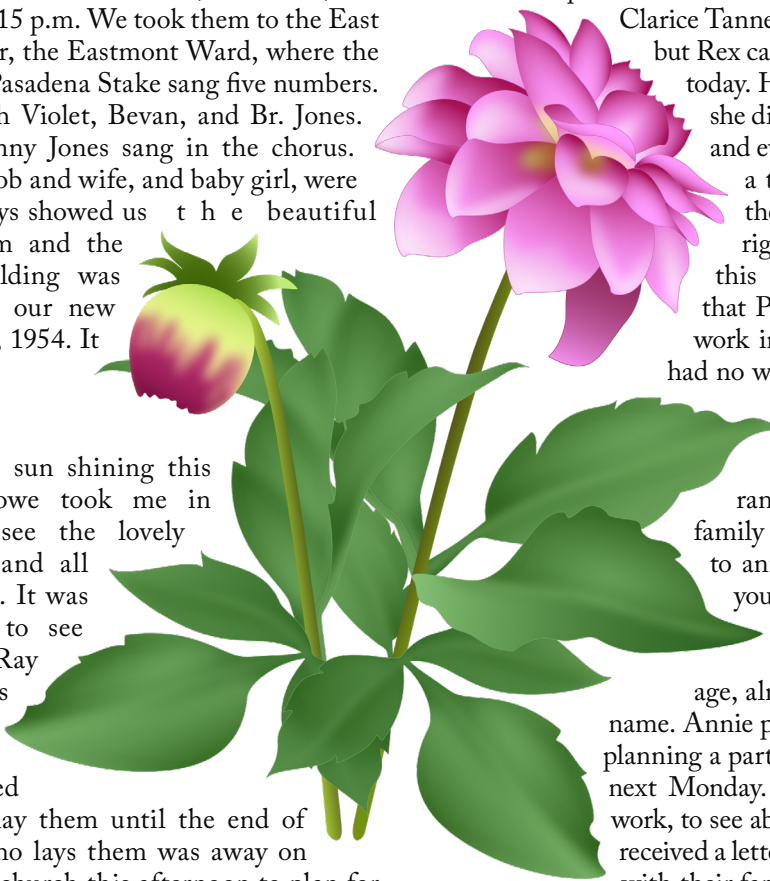
me I'm invited to go with her and the girls, Janet and Joan, to the Oateses' ranch tomorrow evening to a family party. Irene Oates is going to announce her engagement, to a young man in another ward in their stake. He is studying to be a doctor. Irene is Janet's age, almost 18. I don't remember his

name. Annie phoned to tell me the family is planning a party at Bette and Sue's place, for next Monday. Lou went somewhere, after work, to see about some work, we ate later. I received a letter from Will and Flora Taylor, with their farewell testimonial program in.

They are leaving soon for the Central States Mission, a special assignment to the Liberty Jail. The Taylor sons and daughters are furnishing the music on the program. It is July 1. I'd like to go.

June 30, Wednesday

Our last day in June was sunny, almost half of 1954 is gone already, it doesn't seem possible! I talked to Violet and Dolores on the phone; they'd been to Sears Pasadena Store this morning. They bought a gym set for the children. Violet paid the down payment and Dody and Bevan will help with the balance. Violet bought herself a blue nylon duster coat, short sleeves, for a housecoat. Donna phoned this afternoon. She said a young couple is interested in the home if they can arrange the price. Rex wants to move his family to Provo, Utah. He is thinking of buying a gas station with some of



his house money. He has got his family thinking about it anyway. I suffer a little heartbreak just thinking about it. How can I ever live through it? Well, it's their life, may God bless whatever they do. (I do not want any more winters in Utah.) I tried to compose a queen tribute this afternoon, but two verses were as far as I got. I wonder if I can ever settle down to life without Donna and her children? Lou went to George Wride's house after work; he is fixing their piano for them. He cut it down on Saturday, like he did Donna's and ours. He had to make the music stand to go on it. George gave him two small cans of clams, a large can (six pounds five ounces), of little stewed onions and a one-gallon jug of wild cherry syrup. George had a lot of canned goods left over from the restaurant he sold some time ago. The Wrides have to move because their rented home is sold. They are looking for another house to rent. Donna went to Sr. Phillips's home this evening to get some dinner for her. She came home from the hospital this morning. Bishop Summerhays brought her home; she had an operation on her eye. Daughter Ann H. is ill. I went with Donna at 6:20 p.m. to Sierra Madre. Janet had been to the beach; she and Joan were getting ready to go with us to Oateses' ranch. Rex was home today, working in the shower room, taking out the old tile. He worked on it yesterday, also. We went to the Oateses' ranch. Donna took a fruit salad to the party. The table was loaded with delicious food, baked ham, salads, relishes, hot rolls (Gramma Marsh made them), punch, and a beautiful big decorated cake with Irene and Ray on it. There was a pretty heart decoration in pink sheer material, with both names on. It was fun seeing the old Garvanza friends, and eating at card tables out on the patio. Ray Cattani came later and met all of the ladies. I met his mother; she is the daughter of Mr. Summers that Lou worked for at the Butter Crust Bakery in Salt Lake City. I sat at a card table last night with Florence Marsh, Ruth Kitchens, and Aunt Alice Marsh. We each had a pretty basket of candy and nuts, with our own name on the handle. I sent mine to Kathy. Aunt Florence gave Donna one for Mary and Johnny and Rex. It was a lovely party. Janet and Joan went with Diane Oates and Marilyn Parks to take Aunt Alice Marsh and Tim [Rex's female cousin] home.

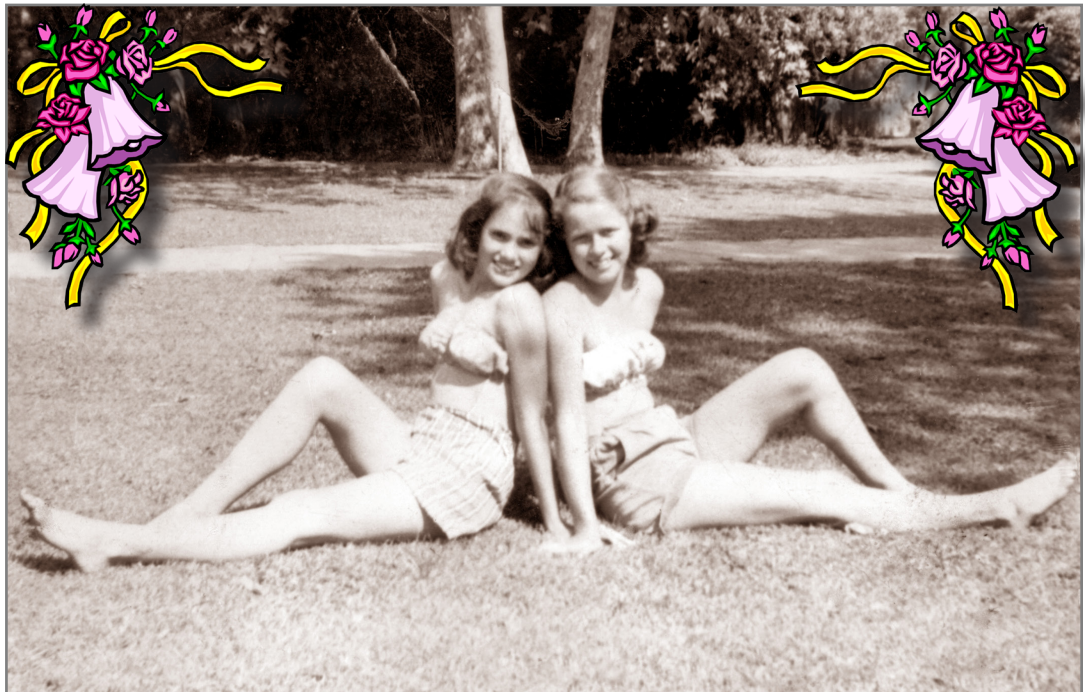
July 1, Thursday

The alarm didn't go off, Lou was almost late for his work, and he didn't stop for breakfast. He just took some fruit with him. I put out a small washing and did the kitchen rugs with suds and a broom, and the water hose. Rex went up to Harry Howard's home this morning to help him do a

cement job. He hasn't had a plastering job this week. Janet painted the fence rail of the patio; Joan cut the front lawn and cleaned up the front room. Lou phoned this afternoon and said that Ray Cazal died in the Los Angeles County Hospital at six o'clock this morning. The poor man has been ill for a long time, in and out of the hospital. He had a stroke two or three days ago. He had been unconscious since until he passed away this morning. Johnny went to the Boy's Club today. Donna took him down. Rex called for him this evening. I'm so glad that the sight is returning to Gordon's eye. He is still laid up with his sprained ankle. Donna went to Sr. Phillips again this morning to cook a breakfast for her and to dress the eye she had operated on. My dear little Donna has to find someone to go in and cook the meals for the sick folks or do it herself. Sr. Phillips's daughter, Ann Hartshorne is suffering a nervous breakdown, she came home from the sanatorium a few days ago. I feel so sorry for her, and all the dear people that are in that sad condition. I came very near to a nervous collapse myself, in 1923, after my baby was born. It is truly a dreadful experience. I worked on a queen tribute this afternoon, not in the mood I guess. I gave it up. (My lips are still sore.) The plumber came last night to fix the shower room. Rex helped him. It is ready for the tile man now. Rex put the green stucco on the back of the house last night, after Donna got home. She held the light for him to see to do the job. I surely hope they can sell the place when it is finished up nice.

July 2, Friday

Rex is home again, today, but he has a lot to do around the place fixing it up for the sale. I do hope they can find a cash buyer, and buy a more convenient home for their needs. They need more bedrooms and less property to eat up the tax money. I had a painful heart struggle in the night caused from a spasmodic coughing attack; I thought it was the finish for me, for a few minutes. It seemed as if my blood



Janet Marsh and Irene Oates circa 1950. On June 30, 1954 Irene and Ray announce their engagement at a party at Oateses' ranch. Janet and Warnie announced their wedding in May 1954.

vessels would burst, but here I am this morning. July is not a good season for me; I have to use the asthma spray a lot in the summer months. It started two weeks ago. I enjoyed the winter, almost free from asthma, unless I was careless with eating sweets. Joan stayed all night with her girl friend Barbara Duffy who was the Wisteria Queen for 1954. She is a lovely girl. Joan was one of her princesses. Donna went to give Sr. Phillips her breakfast, then to Ann Hartshorne's, and did her dishes, then home to her house full of work. May God bless my darling Donna with good health and happiness. She is a wonderful person. I managed to do the cleaning up in the house, with the hand sweeper. I vacuumed well last weekend. I'm not feeling well enough to do a good job today, but our little home stays clean very well, no little ones to mess it up like at Donna's place. Gordon and Ruby went in the shop today. He isn't able to work yet, but he brought the checks in for Lou, Bill, and Beverly. Bev only got three days in this week. There is nothing to do in the shop now. Gordon ordered flowers for Ray Cazal's funeral. Lou and Bill S. are helping to pay for them. Ray's funeral is next Wednesday. Ray was foreman for Gordon for several years. A nice fellow, they all liked him, he's been ill about four years. Lou is doing Ray's work now.

July 3, Saturday

This is our smog season, and my asthma season, too. I haven't been worth a darn the past few days. I got breakfast for Lou, did up the dishes, made beds, and went back to bed on Lou's bed. I just felt so miserable and weak after being awake so much last night. The Breatheasy Spray relieves me of the asthma attacks, but using it too often is really hard on my heart. But not as hard as fighting asthma would be, so you can't win. I had several sharp heart pains, which shot up through my left shoulder today from my heart. Lou washed the patio cabaña out and cleaned the patio furniture. I put it back in the cabaña when the cement floor was dry, after Lou left for Rex's place. Lou did some yard work before going to Sierra Madre. The rug men came and laid the rugs in Donna's bedroom, the halls, the girls bed room, living room, and dining room. They had a big full day of work. Lou and Rex put some wooden steps in to the basement. Rex cleaned the basement up good and sprayed under house, with D.D.T. He wore a gas mask. Lou put a ceiling in the little back porch on Nina's house. I did a small ironing. Joan and Johnny went to the Sierra Madre Canyon pool to swim; Mary went to a matinée in Sierra Madre. I cooked some potatoes in jackets for our picnic



*Barbara Duffy, and Supervisor Herbert Legg.
Joan Marsh and Barbara were good friends.*

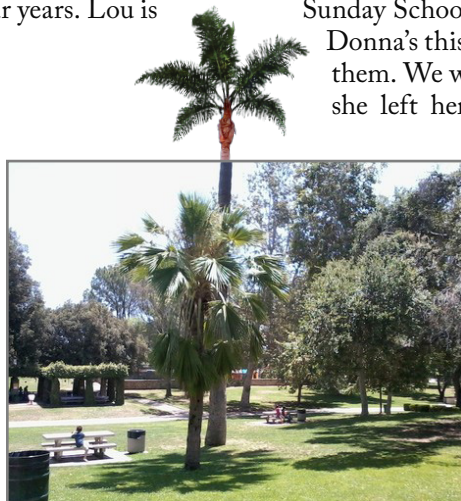
in Burbank next Monday. I'm taking a salad. Donna is making a cake. After dinner this evening we drove out to Sierra Madre. Lou trimmed some off the doors so they would shut over the new rugs. The rugs are lovely beige color and they match so beautifully with the paint Rex put on the woodwork and walls, a rose beige shade. Shirley Little phoned Donna this evening from Lynwood. She and her father Jack Keller were at his sister's home in Lynwood. They are coming out to Pasadena in the morning to go to our Sunday School and spend the day. Shirley is staying all night with Donna. Jack is going back to Lynwood. Janet and Warnie went to a wedding reception this evening for one of his relatives. Joan stayed home to help the folks get the place in order. (It wasn't her idea, ha ha!) She'd been out with friends all

day and she was needed home.

July 4, Sunday

It was hot and smoggy almost from the start today. It is always lovely and cool in our chapel with the air conditioning. Hilda Botting phoned and wanted us to pick her up where we pick Mary Hill up on Colorado Street. We all went to Sunday School. Jack Keller and Shirley Little went up to Donna's this morning and came to Sunday School with them. We were all happy to see Jack and Shirley again, she left her children in Phoenix, Arizona with her

mother, for summer vacation. Jack drove as far as here to be company and help her drive. She is staying overnight with Donna, and then starts for her home in San Francisco in the morning. She has to be to work on Tuesday morning. Donna put up a delicious picnic lunch, fried chicken, potato salad, and everything for a picnic. The Howards, Mary, Harry, and the children, and two little neighbor boys went with us. We all went to the Alhambra Park. Goldie Clark went with Howards, too. Warnie took Janet and Joan. Harry told them to meet us at



Alhambra Park

Story Park in Alhambra. He thought this nice park was the Alhambra "Story Park" but not so. The three half starved kids went to a little park a mile away, it was the "Story Park," we were in the Alhambra Park. Well, they found us at long last. We had finished eating, but there was plenty left for them. They were nice about the deal but unhappy, bless their hearts. All parks were crowded, we couldn't find a table, and so we sat on the grass and ate our lunch. Bonny H. took Kathy for a little walk. We missed the baby but didn't notice that Bonny was gone, too. So we had some excitement for a few minutes about the time we were leaving. Our crowd went in all directions looking for Kathy in her bright little

squaw dress. Rex's car made strange noises on the way home and going, but we made the trip okay. Jack and Shirley went with Rex and Donna. Donna had to take care of Sr. Phillips and had a welfare meeting, but they took Uncle Jack to the Statler Hotel this evening in Shirley's car. Jack treated them all to dinner in the Statler Hotel. They then took him to his sister Mary's place in Lynwood, California. Shirley came back with them. We went to Dolores and Bevan's home this evening and took Violet for a ride seeing some of the pretty new homes in the area. Dody made a cake and invited us to come in and have some. We didn't want the cake, we were too full, but we did visit for a while. We saw the children light fireworks with Bevan's help. When Lou tried to start our car tonight, it was dead. We were glad it happened at Bevan's; he had what it takes to get us started. We got home all right, but it went out again when Lou tried to put it in the garage. Joan's hand is swollen up today from a bee sting yesterday.



July 5, Monday

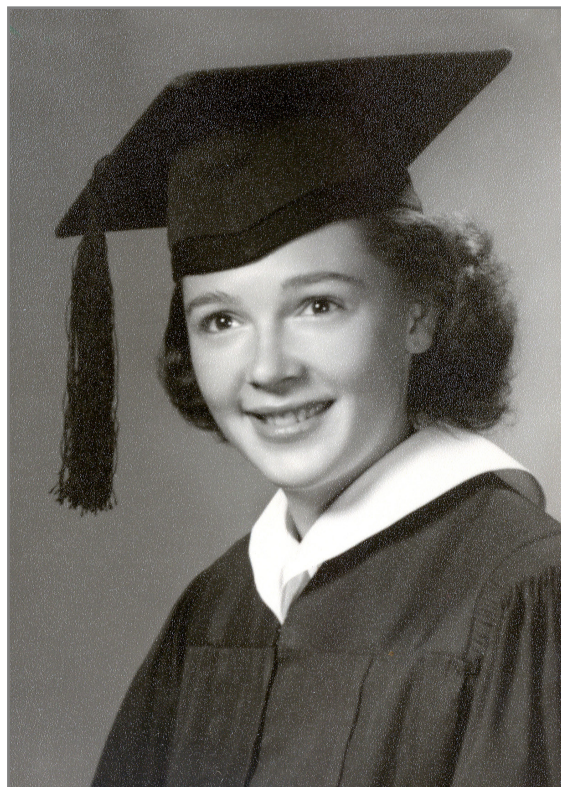
Our car battery was dead again this morning; Mr. Edgecomb, our good neighbor, put his charger on it for about an hour. It started up okay. Edgecombs went for a picnic with a couple of good friends of theirs. Grandpa and Grandma Lowe stayed home. I cooked breakfast for Lou, and then he went up to Donna's to help Rex put a light switch in the shower room. We were sorry Shirley couldn't stay over a day and go to Burbank with us, but she is expected on the job, in San Francisco, in the morning. She left Donna's place about six o'clock this morning. She is driving alone to her home in San Francisco. She got up early and dressed without waking anyone, then went in to kiss Donna goodbye. Joan and Diane Oates slept at Barbara Duffy's house last night. Florence and Ernie came for Diane this morning. Rex and Donna went up to get the girls, also. Diane's friend, Ralph Miller, left for somewhere; in the service today. Donna couldn't start our car to go for Joan and Diane. Rex took Lou up to Harry Howard's home to get a new battery in our car. Harry was not home but Mary let them into his shop to get the battery. They went up later to pay Harry and take some tools. Harry gave Lou the wholesale price, less than \$10.00 for a \$23.00 battery, nice of him. Harry is really a swell fellow. I got the picnic lunch ready today; all but the delicious milk chocolate cake that Donna made. I made potato salad; we all took weenies and buns and what we wanted with it as relish. Joan's hand is a lot better, but still swollen from the bee sting she got on Saturday. Mary Hill phoned to tell me her daughter Molly had a baby boy this morning. The son-in-law had come to take her to their house to take care of the other little boy while

Molly is in the hospital. Mary H. will not be going with us to Sunday School for a few weeks. She says she'll let us know when she gets back home. We arrived out at Bette and Sue's home about 2:30 p.m. Most of the folks were there, the pool was the place of interest. The young folks were swimming, we older ones enjoying ourselves watching them. Our little Kathy had a swell time in the water, with Mary, Johnny, Joan, and Janet taking turns helping her swim, with the bright life saver on her body. She got one good dunking when she tipped over. Mary can swim real well, she tried to learn how to dive into the water (with lots of instructions), but she kinked her back and it hurt all afternoon. But it was worth it, she said. She shouldn't have taken off the bandage from her broken toe, but she did. I don't think she'll tell the doctor she went in swimming, ha ha! I tried to talk her out of it, but she had so much fun I'm glad she went in, bless her heart. It was grand being with all of my beloved family for the day. We missed Vernon, he stayed home with the two youngest boys; Mary and Lynn came. We missed Yvonne, but happy Violet could be with us. Miriam and Ray's two little girls both got a little nip from Jerry's dog, Julie. They wanted to hug her like they do their kitten. She'd have none of it. Our picnic dinner was good. Bevan and Dolores brought three gallons of lemonade in her boss's large container. There is a bad brush fire in the hills near Burbank; we could see the smoke and flames on our way to Sue's. Ernie Vandergrift went up to help fight the fire.

July 6, Tuesday

It was clear and hot today. I stayed inside, with doors shut to keep out the heat and smog. We really had a nice time out to Burbank yesterday with the family. It was fun, believe me. Oh, I do love my people. They are the best in this world. Mr. Kunz didn't have any work for Rex today, the foreman

Roy, told Rex of a small plastering job. Rex took Johnny with him to see about the job. Rex had some work to do up to Don Mortenson's home today, also. Don has built on an extra room; I think Rex was going to plaster it for him. Donna said they had a very nice evening at home last night. Warnie had some firecrackers; he helped Johnny set off his fireworks. Donna and Rex and baby watched in the nice cool of the patio, Warnie took Joan, Mary, Johnny, and Janet to Arcadia Park later, to watch the big rockets go up. Beverly worked at the Venetian shop today, but there is very little work to do there. Gordon came to work today, his ankle still hurts, but he limps along. I shampooed my hair this morning. There was plenty of work I could have done, but I felt so darn shaky and weak, I didn't do much of anything. I did paste Yvonne Fife's nice graduation picture in my scrapbook, along with her graduation program



Yvonne Fife graduates from Cedar College.

from the Cedar College. I rested on Lou's bed a couple of hours. After dinner, Lou and I drove up to Rex's to have Donna sign the papers, on the second mortgage we held on Mr. Robert Birkenhimer's home. Mr. B. is paying it off. Lou let him have a \$300 discount for the case settlement of \$1,280.32. Lou went to the Pasadena Savings and Loan with the Birkenhimer's papers today on his lunch hour. Mr. B. phoned Lou a few weeks ago to see if we'd give him a discount if he'd pay up. Nina and Dixie Wolfe are moving from the [Marshes'] little rear house in the morning. They have a place near us. I'm so glad they've found a place. Marshes' home will sell quickly now, we hope. Lou phoned Beverly this evening and told her to come to work tomorrow. They got in fourteen blinds after she left. We found our little Marsh family in a dream world this evening; they are all going to Detroit, Michigan, to buy a new Ford station wagon if they sell the house.

July 7, Wednesday

I didn't rest well last night, I feel weak today. I hope that Florence Oates and Uncle Bill Andersen will both have a happy birthday today; they are two very lovely people! Nina and Dixie Wolfe are moving from Donna's little rear house this morning, to a place not far from us, through the block on San Gabriel Street. I hope they'll like it there. Donna phoned me this afternoon, when she got home from the Deseret Industries Store in Los Angeles. She and Mary went with Clarice. They were delighted with their purchases; they bought six cotton skirts for Mary at 35¢ each, three blouses for the same price. For Kathy they bought two dresses for 35¢ each, a bathing suit, 20¢, and two pair of shoes, 35¢ each and a little top to wear with her shorts. Donna bought herself a dress for \$1.25 and a red jacket for 65¢. These things are all in good condition. They have been turned into the welfare. People have outgrown them or? Warnie and his friend Frank Hutchens took Janet and Joan to Huntington Beach today. I hope they have a happy day. Bishop Summerhays sent a moving van up to move Nina and Dixie Wolfe from Rex's little rear house this morning. Lou, Bill S., Gordon, and Ruby went to Ray Cazel's funeral at 2 p.m. today. I wasn't well enough to walk to the bus in this dreadful heat, or I'd have gone, also. Lou took his suit to work so he could go from there. Beverly Andersen stayed at the shop. I phoned her at the shop, while the men were at the funeral, to say hello. She had a lot to do so I didn't keep her long. She is a dear girl. I composed a queen tribute to my sister Lorene Clayton, for Annie and Bernie to use in Garvanza Ward. I hope they'll think it is okay. It's impossible for me to compose a poem nice enough for my sweet sister Lorene, but I did the best I could. Lou brought a sack of peaches home this evening. Bill S. brought a sack for us and one for Beverly this morning from his trees. They're nice and sweet, and are large for a Babcock Peach. Beverly went

to get Violet at Dody's after work, took her home. Lou and I went over to Andersen's at 8 p.m. to wish Bill a happy birthday. I took some rose buds from our garden to Bill. We enjoyed TV with them. Lorene came after her missionary calls. Annie served ice cream and cake in soup-bowls. I didn't eat any and it looked so inviting, darn this asthma!

July 8, Thursday

It was clear and hot again today, I have to stay close to the house and indoors to keep alive. These hot days take all my pep and strength away, and I haven't any to spare at best. I finished a queen tribute to my sister Lorene and composed one for Phyllis McDonnell. I did a few verses of Lorene's yesterday. I phoned Donna this morning. Rex was going up to do a plastering job for Don Mortenson. I thought he did it on Tuesday, but he just went up to look the job over, I guess. Mary was cleaning up the little rear house so she and Joan can move into it to sleep. Donna went to her Singing Mother's rehearsal this morning. Ella Wride phoned to tell Lou that George had the wood to fix the piano top; they have moved into their new house. The one they lived in was sold, so they've rented another one. Lou went up to Wrides after eating some good cold cantaloupe. He said not to fix anything for dinner; it's too hot. He'll have something cold when he comes home later. Isn't he a dear? Lou brought me a dollar's worth of stamps and paid me my allowance a day sooner. I told him to take the stamp money out of my \$10.00. I do hope we'll have some cooler days, so I can get out and buy a few things I need. I dare not get out in this dreadful heat. I wrote letters to Will and Flora Taylor and to Eloise Brooks this evening. I wrote a note to Donna and sent her the two queen tributes to type. I walked to the corner mailbox with the letters. It was pleasant after 7 p.m. I watered the lawns and flowers. We ate some fruit Jello with

cream when Lou came from Wride's home. Ella sent a bottle of mint flavored apple jelly. It is good. We watched TV programs from 9 p.m. to 10:40 p.m. Joan and Mary moved beds into the little house. Dale came home in his National Guard uniform last night. It was the first time I've seen him in it. He looked handsome, even with that crazy flat top hair cut. Annie bought a dozen nice big cantaloupes from the elders in their ward. Lou bought two from her last night. We enjoyed some this afternoon when he came from work. Ice cold and so nice and sweet. I wish we had more like them.

July 9, Friday

I talked to Joan on the phone this a.m. Little Kathy had a bad earache this morning, Donna put some warm earache medicine in it. She was asleep when I talked with Joan. Rex went to work today with his brother Lewie and Pa Marsh. He hasn't had any plastering jobs for two weeks. Donna and Mary walked uptown to buy a few things; Johnny went on his bicycle. He is going to a birthday party this afternoon and he went



Lorene Clayton in 1947. In 1954 Elvie composed a Queen poem for Lorene to be presented in Garvanza Ward.

to buy a gift for the little friend. It is Loraine Major's little boy. Kathy had a fever when she woke up. I hope she'll be normal soon. Donna bought her a color book and crayons, she was sitting on John's bed coloring when Donna phoned me after lunch. I'm glad her little ear isn't aching now. I did the vacuuming in our house today. But it took me all day long.

I could only work a few minutes then had to rest on the bed until the heart and lungs would feel better. It was a struggle and I surely feel miserable. I haven't done any work all week, only what I had to do. The washing and ironing I couldn't undertake. Well, I did write some letters and compose queen tributes, not much exercise to that, eh? There is such a lot I can see in the house and the yard that I would love to do, but staying alive is all I can manage at times. This evening I talked to Donna on the phone. Kathy was much better; she ate a good dinner. Mary had gone babysitting at Julie Oakley's, her sister's children. Joan went to rehearse at church, Janet and Warnie on a date; Rex to Rowbotham's to work on books. We enjoyed our favorite TV program, Lawrence Welk. Lou can't miss that! I wanted to ride out to Sierra Madre to see Joan and Mary's little apartment in the rear house, but stayed here to please Lou. Joan and Mary are delighted with their little apartment in the little rear house. Mary bought a snack to eat tonight there. Mr. Howe, real estate man, put a special ad to veterans in the paper yesterday for sale of Rex's home. It was the Gold Plate dinner last night at our new church. Rex and Donna went, it was \$10.00 a plate, and it goes on our ward budget.

VETERANS
 \$2000 DOWN — \$86 MONTH
 4-year-old Ranch house. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Luxurious new wall to wall carpeting. AND SEPARATE 3 ROOM GUEST HOUSE!
 A terrific deal.
 SPECIAL PRICE, \$17,500
 (Non-veterans may also buy)
 ASK FOR BOB HOWE
ARTHUR T. RANGE CO.
 SY 3-7155 Res., BL 3-7421



Donna Marsh on the porch of the Sierra Madre home that is for sale in July 1954.



July 10, Saturday

Rex worked with his brother Lewie and Pa Marsh again today. Alicebeth Ashby phoned Donna to have her go down to church this morning to play for some M.I.A. rehearsal. I was delighted to find that little Kathy felt happy and well this morning. She talked to me on the phone. Her earache and fever were gone. I got up first this morning, for a change; combed my hair and cooked Lou a good breakfast. He put the finishing touches on the music stand he made last evening, to go on the Wride's piano that he cut down for them a short time ago. It is in the shop being refinished now. So Lou had to get the stand to the man to do it, also. The ad

to Veterans, in Thursday's Star News, brought a few to look at Rex's house. I hope they'll find a cash buyer soon. Lou bought our week's supply of groceries, after he'd taken the music stand to the furniture shop. I took my bath and dressed up. I wanted to go uptown but not well enough to walk around in the heat. We went up to see our little Marsh family; Lou took tools to fix

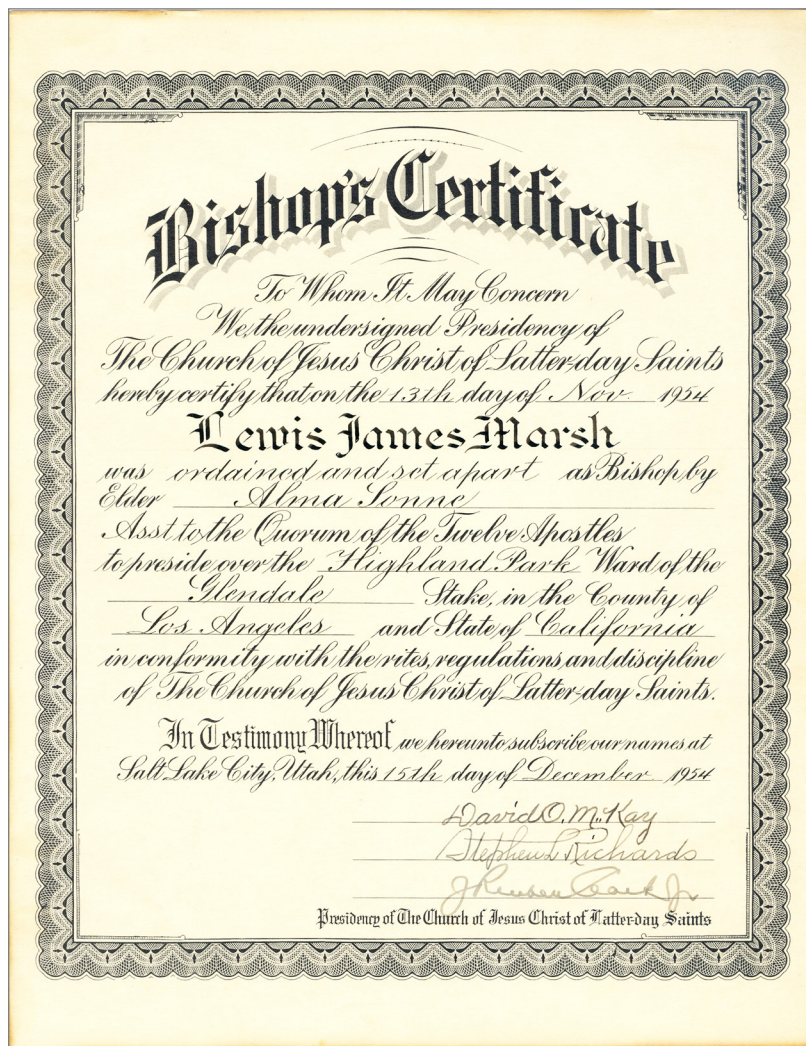
the kitchen swing door, so it would swing over the new rug in the dining room. It was a more difficult job than the other doors that he cut off last week. They are all fixed now; the new rugs look lovely. I went in the little rear house to see Joan's and Mary's room. They are real cute. They are happy to have this doll house to sleep in. Mary showed me her six skirts from the Deseret Industries, and the three cute blouses. Mary and Johnny went to Sierra Madre town to bank her vacation money

earned from babysitting. They brought home a 25¢ coloring book to Kathy. Mary gave her a package of her own crayons. Donna bought her a color book and crayons yesterday. She got through it in a hurry, the way she colors. Janet did a few nice pictures for her, also. Mary and Johnny colored nice ones, I believe. Joan and Rex did a picture for her, too. After lunch, Lou took a bath and a nap. Lou forgot to bring Gordon's little electric saw home, so we went back later this evening to get it. We took Violet with us. We went to Dody's for her. We took the saw to Gordon and visited a few minutes with Ruby and Gordon. They were just about to eat dinner out on the patio so we didn't stay. Violet ate a cold dinner here with us. We took her back to Dolores's. We took her back early, so she could go to a picture show with Bevan, Dody, Dr. LeMoyne Hickman, and his girlfriend Diane. [LeMoyne and Dianne Yvonne Litchfield marry on July 31, 1954.] Janet

and Joan went with Alicebeth Ashby to the East Los Angeles Stake house for a rehearsal for the M.I.A festival to be held out here in August. The Salt Lake City director was here to go over the songs with them. Warnie and a friend of Joan's was going to call for them at 9:30 p.m. Lou and I took a nice long ride tonight.

July 11, Sunday

We've had a lot of smog the past few days, along with this hot weather. It has been miserable for folks. Lou picked Hilda Botting up at the bus line, and we took her to Sunday School. It is lovely in the chapel with the air



conditioning there. We brought Johnny and Mary home to eat dinner with us. I cooked some Swiss steak and potatoes this morning. Rex made sandwiches for Joan and Janet. He brought their lunch to them after Sunday School. They had to go again to the East Los Angeles Stake house for another rehearsal for the M.I.A festival in August. The Salt Lake City director was here to go over the music with them. Johnny and Mary and I looked through my scrapbooks after a TV show, then back to the TV again. Annie phoned to tell me that Uncle Sam Bailey phoned her from Esther Graham's home last evening. He tried to reach us last evening also, but we were out. Annie said the battery in Beverly's car went dead last night, when she was out with a gentleman friend. They had to wait two hours in the car, while it was recharged. She and friend, Hank Anawalt, had eaten at Bob's Place, and then started out for a drive-in show, when the battery went out. It was close enough to see the picture but not hear it. Donna, Kathy, and Rex came by this evening for a few minutes before church time. Rex had been to stake priesthood



Lewis Marsh circa 1928

meeting. He took a short nap on Lou's bed. The rest of us watched TV. I played with Kathy to keep her entertained, so the others could listen to the TV. We played with the old curtain rings on the floor, making a house plan. We put the little plastic toys in the rooms. My little baby Kathy is a cutie, like the others all were, and are. Mary and Johnny went to church tonight with Rex, Donna, and Kathy. Grampa Lou said he was too hot to attend church. I could have gone with Donna and Rex, but I didn't feel very well, so I stayed home, also. I hate to miss sacrament meeting. Florence Marsh phoned this evening to tell us that Bishop Jack Thompson had been released in church this evening. Lewie Marsh was the new Highland Park Ward bishop. Wonderful! His counselors are Ronnie Taylor and Ed Sutter. Bishop Jack Thompson is ill with a heart condition.

July 12, Monday

I felt some better this morning, but weak. I did my washing in spite of my feelings. I had to, as I didn't wash last week. I had just finished hanging out the last pan full when Lucille Bailey (wish I could remember her married name) [Lucille Smith], came with her husband [Joseph Leon Smith] and small son and Kenneth Bailey's son, and Uncle Sam Bailey. I was delighted to see them, they all looked well. They'd been staying in Long Beach. Uncle Sam stayed a few days with Esther Bailey Graham, so he could go and visit Aunt Ray [Rachel W Whittaker], Frank Bailey's wife, and his brother, Uncle Bill Bailey [William Esau Bailey]. They were disappointed that they didn't know how to find the girl's homes. They wanted to see them. I called Lorene, Annie, and Violet on the phone and they talked with them. The young boys found 28¢ in our patio swing, from Lou's pockets. (He naps in there.) I gave it to the boys. They were delighted, are cute kids. Lucille's boy looks like Uncle Sam did in his youth. I remember his pictures. I received a nice letter from Margaret Renshaw, she said she slipped off the back porch steps and broke her leg. She broke both the large and small bones. She is in a wheelchair with her leg up, the poor dear. She has been that way for seven weeks now. She'll have to be in a walking cast for five more weeks, when they remove this other cast, which is from her toes to her hip. I was glad to know that Betty received our wedding gift (lace tablecloth), so now I

can throw away the Broadway Store slip. I wanted to fix a bite of lunch for the folks before they left here, but they were anxious to be on their way home to Draper, Utah. Florence Marsh phoned this evening. Pa Marsh wants Rex on the job at 7:30 in the morning. I phoned the message to him for her. Rex and Donna were both out. Donna was at church

helping Ephra Doezie with the piano music for a M.I.A. skit. Janet spent the day with Marsha Mueller, Warnie's sister-in-law and her 10-month-old baby boy. Warnie had a nursery job landscaping or something, in La Canada today. So he took Janet along to visit Marsha. This evening they went to Warnie's grandmother's home to get his little half sister Marcia Gladney. She is staying at Janet's home tonight. She slept in the little rear house with Mary. A little neglected toy collie dog attached itself to Warnie and Janet this evening. It got into his car while he was at his grandmother's. It was so friendly they couldn't put it out. They gave it a bath and food at home. Johnny had a toy collie sleeping in his room when Rex and Donna got home tonight. Oh, Oh! Are the Rex Marshes going to have another mouth to feed? That's my Marshes; yes siree! The tile man did the tile work in Donna's shower room today. The Bush children had a carnival today. Mary, Johnny, and Kathy went over to enjoy the fun.

July 13, Tuesday

Some parts of our city had showers this morning, but not us. There was a beautiful rainbow in the sky at 7 a.m. It was cooler this morning, felt like it would rain. I hope Uncle Sam Bailey and family will not suffer with the desert heat on their way home to Draper, Utah. Rex is working today with his father and brother, Lewie, at the Cannon Electric Company. This is going on the third week since he had any work with Br. Kunz's company. I hope things will pick up soon. Bonna Gordon came for me at 9:45. She had Bessie, the babysitter. We picked up Marie Doezie and daughter Pauline at their home. By this time it was hot and sticky, an uncomfortable humidity in the atmosphere. I was glad to get inside of the church where it was cooler. I quilted for an hour and a half, but I felt so miserable I gave up and went in the lovely Relief Society room and rested on the nice upholstered sofa for a while. I fringed four napkins later, when I felt better. Two of the visiting teaching districts put on a very nice lunch for us. We crowned Addie Strang "Queen for a Day." This is our 19th queen we've crowned, and I've composed each one and several for Garvanza Ward, also. I read her poem tribute, and the luncheon followed. Some of our ward members went to the Pasadena City Hall at 3 p.m. to gain permission to use the lot our church is buying south of the church building, for parking and recreation purposes. Kathy came to Relief Society with Donna. She stayed in the nursery. Mary stayed home to entertain her guest, Marcia Gladney, Warnie Mueller's little half sister. They both have the same mother [*Ruth Violet La Marr*]. [*Warnie's mother was married several times. A Social Security record shows seven last names.*] I believe Bonny Howard came down to play with them, too. The children are just crazy about the little toy collie dog that Janet and Warnie picked up and brought home to Marshes. I mailed a birthday card and \$2.00 to my sister Bonnie Jean, also a card to Lydia Bailey, my sweet sister-in-law.

July 14, Wednesday

It was another hot day from the start. I did my ironing this morning and was really weak from the heat and my poor health. Oh, to be well again! I phoned Donna this morning. Mary and Marcia Gladney walked uptown, in Sierra Madre to buy a little birthday gift; to take to a party at Carol Colvin's this afternoon. Rex worked with his Pa and Lewie again today. I rested on Lou's bed all afternoon. I'm not worth much on these hot days. I see so many things I'd love to do around here, but I'm too weak to start anything. My poor heart has a struggle to navigate as it is, without placing extra burdens upon it. "Woe is me." This evening I cut some pretty rosebuds to take out to Donna. She and Rex were at the new church to a welfare meeting. I guess it was a stake meeting, judging by all the cars there. The children were all home when we arrived. Johnny and Warnie's little half sister, Marcia, were having a wonderful time with rough and tumble play on the front lawn. Of course Grama and Grampa tried to stop the fun, for fear someone would get



Queen Addie Strang

Once every month we crown a queen,
Twelve coronations in a year,
Then, a favored lady in our group
Finds her special day is here.

We have wonderful ladies to choose from,
Like the sister we're honoring now.
With a tribute composed especially to her,
Our allegiance we avow.

She is sweet, mild, and gentle,
In a quiet and friendly way.
To associate with this dear sister,
Seems to brighten up our day.

Into the homes she takes the message,
Of Relief Society cheer,
On work days you'll find her quilting,
Or busy working for us here.

We're delighted to honor you, "Queen Addie"
And we deem it a real pleasure
As your loyal subjects we give,
Our true love, beyond measure.

hurt. Grandparents are like that for some reason, but I have a strong suspicion it started all over again, when our backs were turned. (I should know, I was that age once myself, believe it or not.) Warnie came for Janet and they went somewhere in his car. Joan took Kathy for a walk to her girlfriend's home. Mary was happy with the newfound toy collie dog. It is a pretty dog, I'm sure some little boy or girl is unhappy about the loss of their precious pet dog. I gave the children each a candy fruit ball to suck. Lou and I inspected the new tile job in the shower room, kitchen and bath. It looks very nice, is an improvement to the home. The house looks lovely now.

July 15, Thursday

My sweetheart Lou knew that I didn't rest well last night, so he told me to stay in bed. He ate breakfast out and also his lunch. I got up about 8 a.m., dressed, and combed my hair. Then I flopped back on my bed. Oh! This dreadful weakness, if I feel so shaky and weak this morning, what will I feel like this afternoon, when it is really hot? These hot days are truly a trial for me. I talked to Joan, Kathy, and Donna on the phone this morning. Donna and Kathy were going to church to the Singing Mother's rehearsal. I didn't mention my weak feeling to Donna, why distress others, eh? Nothing anyone can do about it anyway. Rex worked with his folks again today; he is lucky to have them to work with, when plastering jobs run low, eh? Kathy likes to play in the nursery with the other children, while Mama is busy with rehearsals, and etcetera. I answered Margaret Renshaw's and Ethel Newbold's letters. The bed claimed me this afternoon. I stayed on top of Lou's bed cause his room is the coolest in our house. I felt lightheaded all the while I was preparing our dinner, but said nothing about it. I really get provoked with my weakness and hate to say anything to Lou, cause I'm sure he can't do anything about it, so why worry him anymore than I have to, eh? I'm glad I can tell it to the diary and get it off my chest without bothering anyone, eh? We sat out in the patio swing this evening after dinner. Rex came to get Lou's electric drill to fix his shower door, back on the new tile. Warnie Mueller took his little sister Marcia back to her grandmother's after three days visit with the Marsh children. It was Annie's club day at Sr. Burnett's home. She took Violet to the luncheon with her. Annie phoned this evening and read Elsie's letter to me. Elsie and her sister Beat, and sister-in-law Harriet Speirs will be in Long Beach at the hotel Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. They'll go to Laguna Beach Hotel for two days after leaving Long beach.

July 16, Friday

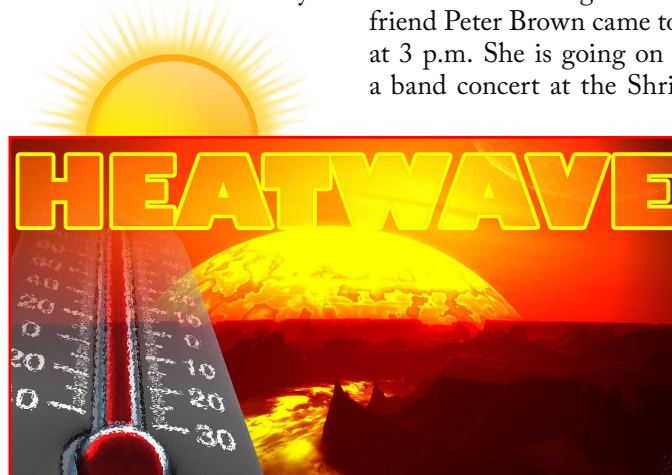
It was another dreadful hot day; it got started early. I vacuumed our three wool blankets; I folded them in fourths, so as to have a small area to do at a time. After doing them good on both sides, I hung them in the sun for an hour and a half, and then folded them away in plastic pillow cover bags, and zippered them up until we

need them in the cold weather again. The way I feel now, we'll never need 'em, ha ha! Rex worked with his folks again today. Donna and Rex are going up to Mt. Baldy to Nellie Ellsworth's cabin this evening, to their club dinner. Jim Ellsworth is home for a short time, so they're having it while he is here. Nellie is expecting a baby in a few months. The family came back to California for their summer vacation. The FBI moves Jim around a lot. I do not know where their home is located now. They sold their lovely home in Pasadena, but kept the cabin at Mt. Baldy. Joan has a date with Peter Brown, the neighbor boy across the street from them. She is going to a concert with him tomorrow night. The older Brown boy invited Janet out once, but she was going steady with Warnie M. and didn't go. I hope Elsie, Beat, and Harriet have a real lovely vacation at Long Beach the next few days. I do not feel well enough to go so far to see them; they are not coming to Los Angeles this trip. It was too hot to cook dinner, but My Lou is a darling. He was happy with cold rice and milk. I made some raisin toast. I cooked brown rice this morning. We have fruit Jello salad for later if we want it. I phoned Florence Marsh for Donna this evening; to give her measurements for Rex's blue jeans she is giving him for his birthday. I was glad when it cooled off this evening. This has been a longer hot spell than usual for us out here. Our payoff check, on the Birkhimer house loan, came in the mail today; \$1,290.13 made out to Louis, Elvie, and Donna. Lou bought two pair of L.D.S. garments from Annie; Beverly brought them to work yesterday, \$4.86.

July 17, Saturday

We didn't get up this morning until 8:35. We couldn't have more than a sheet over us all night, which is unusual for Southern California. A light blanket feels good most of the summer nights. The seasons seem to be changing. I defrosted the icebox after breakfast, while Lou went to the Shopping Bag Market, near us, for our groceries. Lou cut a pretty bouquet of roses to take up to Donna's. We went up to have her sign the check for Birkhimer's house loan payoff; it came yesterday in the mail. Rex had a double [root] tooth extracted this morning. Dr. Don Anderson took it out. It sure left a big hole in his lower jaw. Rex broke the tooth in half biting on a rock or bone, in a hot dog a few weeks ago. Dr. Anderson tried to save the tooth but couldn't. Janet and Warnie went to the beach this morning to water ski or some such name. I'll be glad when they're back home safe. Joan's friend Peter Brown came to meet her parents this afternoon at 3 p.m. She is going on a date with him this evening to a band concert at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Donna went in swimming last night with her club, at Mt. Baldy's pool. The dinner party was at Jim and Nellie Ellsworth's cabin. I bought a flowered skirt and while blouse after coming from Donna's house. I got them at the Mode O'Day Store near us. Donna bought two cute cotton dresses yesterday at Penney's Store. Lou wanted



me to buy the flowered skirt. I was afraid it was too gay for my age, but he said no, and the clerk agreed. I tried on several dresses not a right fit. They were too large or too small. Mary's arms are covered in mosquito bites. Kathy has some, also. Mary slept out on the patio one night. I gave Mary \$1.25 to buy some Gypsy Cream for their bites and some Vince Tooth Powder for Kathy's teeth. I gave Joan \$1.00 to buy a white scarf for herself. I like to share my allowance with my precious grandchildren. I got relief from the sticky heat by taking a cool bath. We went over to pick Audrey Fuller up at her house and take her to church. We also picked Donna, Mary, and Johnny up at their home. Rex had to leave early to figure on a plaster job. Perry Fuller was playing in a church ball game. Audrey Fuller broke a blood vessel in her finger pitching a ball for Perry. We sat with Florence and John Marsh at a picture show tonight at church. It was a very entertaining evening. I really enjoyed the Oliver Cowdery picture with the Hale Family playing in it. Ruth and Nathan Hale wrote the play; also Wendell Nobel played the part of Joseph Smith. We were saddened this evening when the little toy collie dog ran into the street and was killed by an auto. Janet and Warnie phoned from the beach. Janet met her girlfriend Barbara Bentley at the beach. She lives there in the summer. She invited Janet and the girl with her to stay overnight at their home. Warnie and the other boy had a place to stay, also. They'll be home Sunday afternoon.

July 18, Sunday

Well, Donna hasn't got the problem of what to do about the toy collie dog now. Fate took a hand. It was a cute, well-behaved dog, must have been some family pet. Our children named it Goldie. Johnny gave the dog a bath yesterday afternoon, then last evening the poor little dog ran into the street and was struck by an automobile. The driver stopped and came in Donna's; he felt very bad about it. But of course he wasn't to blame. He used Donna's phone to call the Humane Society; he couldn't get an answer so he called the police and they came out. Goldie had been taken away when we got home from church last evening. I'm thankful the poor little thing died almost instantly. It was hot today again, but our new chapel is nice and cool, with the air-cooling system. We had several visitors introduce themselves to our class this morning. The Sunday School dismissed from the classroom today because of a special meeting called by President Hunter, after Sunday School. The stake presidency and stake high counsel were in attendance. Br. Don Anderson was released from our ward bishopric, and Br. Harold Kratzer was voted on and set apart to take Dr. Anderson's place. It was a surprise to everyone. We'll all miss Don, he is a very fine person. Harold Kratzer was our Sunday School superintendent, which means we'll have a new Sunday School superintendency now. Lou and I ate a very nice dinner at the Brotherton's Farm House. I had chicken pie; he had roast turkey. Joan looked beautiful this



Vince Tooth Powder



morning in her pretty pink sheer dress. I missed Janet, she is out to the beach, will be home this afternoon. Lou took a nap when we got home. He stripped off his clothes to the limit, which is the L.D.S. garment, so he could rest in beautiful peace and comfort. I rested for a while on my bed but it got hot in my room cause of the west front window. We both sat in the backyard later this afternoon; there was a nice breeze by then. I persuaded Lou that he really wanted to go to church tonight, so we went. Donna and Rex went to an early welfare meeting. The nursery door was

locked. Mary and Johnny wanted to take Kathy into the nursery to play, so our boy Johnny climbed over the high redwood fence, around the nursery playgrounds, in his light grey trousers and white shirt, to unlock the door for Mary. Need I say more? The trousers had just come back from the cleaners cause he got grass stains on them July 4, in Alhambra Park. We sat with Rex, Donna, and Johnny. Mary stayed in the nursery to help take care of the little ones. Warnie

brought Janet and Joan to church tonight. Janet and Warnie had red-hot faces from their two days at the beach. Oh, how it changes their looks. But then they had a wonderful time. I do not think the sunburned skin is pretty. I never did think so. My girls are beautiful in the wintertime, when their complexions are pretty. We had a nice meeting this evening. Two young people gave fine talks. LaVer Mallard sang two nice numbers; Br. Jean Underlick gave a fine talk. Jim and Nellie Ellsworth and two younger sons came to church. Bishop Summerhays called on Jim to say a few words. It was nice seeing these fine people again. I wore my new flowered skirt and white blouse.

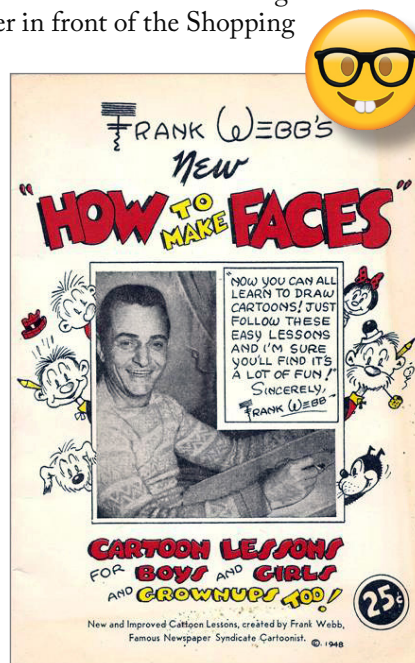
July 19, Monday

It was hot from the very start this morning, I got my washing out as early as I could, then tried to take it easy this afternoon. Lou went to the Mutual Savings and Loan to deposit the check he got from the Birkhimer loan payoff last Friday the 16th; he had a new book made out with Donna's name, in joint with ours, in case anything happens to us she will have no trouble getting the money. He is a wonderful dad, Donna dear, to put such trust and faith in you, eh? Well, we both know you darling, and so there isn't any risk involved. Donna and Clarice Tanner went out to visit some new ward members this afternoon. Janet had Warnie's car this morning; she went to apply for work at the telephone office in Monterey Park. I'll be very glad when our hot spell is broken. It has lasted so much longer than usual. We received a nice letter from Lillian Keller; she has really got a good reason to complain about the heat. I guess Phoenix, Arizona is about the hottest place in the country, bless her heart; it must be terrible. I couldn't take it. Our 90 degrees here almost puts me out of commission. I'm so weak and shaky when it's hot. My Relief Society partner Nora Williamson is in Utah visiting her folks, her father

isn't well. I wonder if she'll be home to go on our district this month? I hope so. Donna says she'll try to find someone to take me if Nora doesn't get home in time. If I had a car and could drive, I'd take care of it myself. I dampened down the clothes after Lou went to bed this evening. It was cooler then and I felt better. Lou took measurements this evening for an awning he plans to make for our kitchen window. The sun comes in too bright in the mornings at times. He is going to use the metal slats.

July 20, Tuesday

Lou got up and slipped out early, without even waking me. I got up at 8 a.m. to find he'd gone, no lunch or breakfast. He likes to eat out once in a while, and he is thoughtful of me too, because he knows I do not rest very well these hot nights. The asthma and heart distress sometimes are bad. Rex isn't working today; Lewie Marsh is going to help him do a job this afternoon, up at Don Mortenson's. Donna says the big new Shopping Bag Market at the corner street is now open. It has everything, even a department store in it; she hates to sell her home now and leave all that wonderful convenience; a business center at the corner, drug store and all. I hope they'll find a way to refinance their home. I hate to see them move away from the new church and shopping center and their lovely new rugs and nice home. Johnny has spent the day at the new shopping center. Donna says he haunts the place, It's a thrill for our boy to have so much exciting activity near his home. Donna came for me after lunch; we went to Pasadena town, to Fuller's Paint Store to buy paint for their kitchen and then to Nash's Department Store, where I bought Rex and Johnny's birthday gifts. I got a white dress shirt and a sport shirt for Rex, and two cute sport shirts and three pair of socks for Johnny. Donna was glad to get the S & H Stamps. I left some films in Thrifty Drug to be developed. I bought hairnets in Kress. Donna went to pay Mary's foot doctor, but he was too long coming, so she had to leave. The nurse wasn't there either. Donna got a bawling out, from an irate sister in front of the Shopping Bag Market near us. I had her stop while I bought a loaf of bread. Donna intended to move forward to give the old gal more room to park, but instead she shifted backwards slightly touching the car. Ha ha! Sometimes our good intentions go awry, eh? Lou helped me with preparing dinner; it was ready in short order. He is a dear. It was leftovers from last night. I felt very sorry to learn of the bad luck Joan had with her new graduation suit; the cleaners got three large spots on the skirt, which were not on it when it went in to be cleaned. She had only worn it once. The benches at the Rose Bowl got some soil in back of suit. I do hope they'll make it okay.



Frank Webb came to the Shopping Bag Market Grand Opening.

July 21, Wednesday

We had a very wonderful relief from the heat this morning. The sun didn't get through the over cast skies until after noontime. I was glad to feel cool and not weak again. We had suffered the longest spell of hot weather I can recall in California. I put food acid on our plants and watered them well this morning. Rex didn't have any work today. Donna went to Sr. Vivian Gough's home this morning to help her. Vivian went to the beach and got her legs so badly sunburned that they are blistered and she can't walk. She's expecting a baby very soon, too. It's a miserable condition for the poor girl. Violet went uptown in Pasadena this morning with Jennie Jones, to look at the sale dresses in Helen Smith's Shop. I talked to Dody on the phone and she said Jennie told her that she and Violet would eat lunch in town and maybe go to a show. Dody is taking care of the children, hers and Jennie's. I patched a suit of Lou's underwear this afternoon. Yvonne phoned her mother last evening. They expect to move into the new house in Beryl, Utah the last of this month. Violet will leave here next Tuesday to help with the moving. Work has picked up at the shop. Lou and Beverly have been very busy. Gordon is having an extra man come in tomorrow, to help them get some of the work finished up. Folks want their blinds in a hurry as usual. The fellow's name is Johnson. He sells a food supplement called Nutrilite. He used to work in a Venetian blind shop so he knows the work. Gordon gave Lou a \$5.00 bonus because of the extra work while Gordon was at home with his sprained ankle. Lou put a dollar and a few cents with it and bought a pair of slacks for himself, nice eh? Beverly got a \$2.50 bonus. Beverly went to Dolores's after work to get Aunt Violet. Dody said they are going to a picture show tonight. Donna and Clarice Tanner went Relief Society visiting this afternoon. I phoned Nora Williamson again, but she isn't home from Utah yet. I worked on a queen tribute but didn't get far, one verse; I'm not in the mood to compose poems. Joan

went to a show with Peter Brown. Rex and Donna went to dinner in Chinatown; it was a stork shower for the Ellsworth's. I learned later that Violet, Jennie, and Marilyn Jones ate lunch in Albert Sheet's. Jennie bought Marilyn a dress in Helen Smith's Shop. They didn't go to a show.

July 22, Thursday

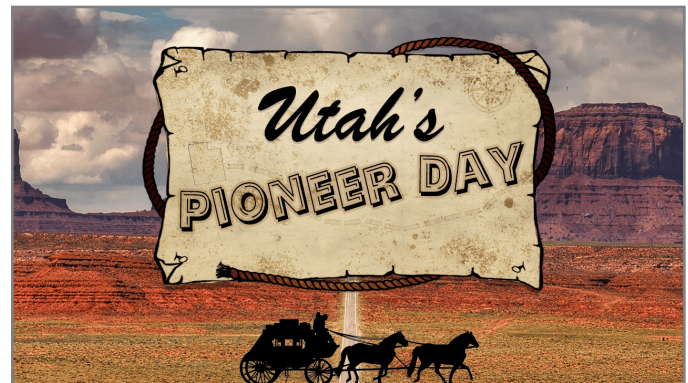
Today was the grand opening day for the new Shopping Bag Market at 3841 East Sierra Madre Boulevard at Michilinda Street, at the corner of Donna's home. Donna phoned me this morning, she said that her boy was up and over at the market at seven o'clock this morning. He came home later for his breakfast and then back over to the market. It's a wonderful thrill for the kiddies. They have free gifts, balloons, cotton candy, Indian war bonnets, lollipops, and other favors for the kiddies. There are also orchids for the ladies, and prizes; the best fun is the Tinkertown Carnival, with free rides for children. Entertainers will be there too, Captain Jet of TV, cartoonist Frank Webb, Sheriff John, of TV, magician Eddie Silverman, Little Oscar,

Nutsy the clown, Commander Comet of TV with his flying saucer, and Chief Will Bird, the Hope Indian Chief. It's no wonder our little Marshes are excited, eh? Mary took Kathy over this morning, and her girl friend, Carol Colvin took her little sister, and they met another little friend with a little brother or sister at the carnival, cute, isn't it, eh? Big (little) sisters taking care of baby sisters or brothers at the carnival, free rides and all, bless their hearts. Rex went to work for Br. Kunz this morning. I hope they'll have lots of work now. Donna and a group of their friends went to China Town last evening for dinner, in honor of Nellie and Jim Ellsworth. Florence and Ernie Oates were with them. After the dinner, they went to Carl and Clarice Warnick's home and had a stork shower for the Ellsworth's. They had Jim open all the gifts, cute idea, eh? Ovena Mayo, Florence Oates, and Donna gave one of the little baby quilts, made in our Relief Society. Joan went to a show in town last night, with the neighbor boy across the street, Peter Brown. This morning Janet and Warnie went to the beach. Donna went to the Singing Mother's rehearsal. I talked to Violet on the phone at Annie's this morning. She said they decided to go out to Burbank and see Sue last night instead of going to a show. Sue was taking care of Bette's little ones, while she and Ray went to a ball game that Jerry was playing in. They weren't gone long, so the folks got to see Bette, Ray, and Jerry, too. Dale was restless at home, waiting for Dick to call him in to work this morning. I could hear him practicing on his saxophone; I believe it is a sax. Well, he was blowing off steam anyway, it sounded good. Dick Johnston told him he would call him to come to work and he is waiting for the call. Poor kid needs money to pay for his car and etcetera. We received a nice letter from Will and Flora Taylor, from Liberty, Missouri where they are serving on a mission at Liberty Jail, owned by our church. I composed a queen tribute to Faye Timothy today. This evening we rode up to Donna's. Lou left me there and went to a meeting at church. I went to the new market with Rex, Donna, Mary, and Kathy. It is really a wonderful market; crowds of people were there. They took me to church. I was just in time for the party. The party was given by the Sunday School, the wieners tasted extra good, cooked in Al Rowbothem's lovely electric roaster, barbecue style. There also was potato salad, and soft drinks. Donna couldn't go visiting yesterday as planned; she had to stay with Vivian Gough all day. Madge Fowler is with her today. She has a dreadful case of sunburn.

July 23, Friday

It was nice and cool this morning, Lou told me to stay in bed. He ate his breakfast out; he is a darling. I got up at 8:30 a.m. We had a nice time last night at the Sunday School party; it was given in honor of Br. Harold Kratzer, the out going counselor and the new counselor, Br. Richards. I talked to Annie on the phone this morning. She said that Gordon and Ethel Strang had been visiting with Beth and Dick Johnston for two weeks. They are all up in San Francisco now. Beth and Dick went that far with them. Two of Beth's girls are in Salt Lake City with Aunt Ida and Diana and family. I think it is Diana and Kathy. Beth's sister Diana is going to bring the children home in a few weeks. Dick and Beth plan to go

to the October conference in Salt Lake City. Aunt Ida may come back with them. Janet and Warnie were late getting home from the beach last night and Donna was worried. He said they'd be later, but she didn't think it would be after 11 p.m. She expected them about 9 p.m. We're always relieved when we know they are back from the ski swimming in that old ocean. I wish I had some money to spend; I'd go to town this nice cool morning and buy a dress on the big July clearance sale. But I'm always broke when the big sales are on, so I'll take advantage of the cool weather and vacuum the rugs. Ugh! That is not fun. I rested this afternoon until time to prepare dinner. My Lou said he'd take me to town tonight. The stores are open until nine o'clock, so we went. I looked in several stores, but the size 16½ I was after, was very limited. I found two nice dresses in Mather's Department Store, one \$7.99 and the other \$9.00; they were marked down from a higher price. The light gray is a nylon jersey; it has a tiny leaf figure in it. The other is navy blue with tiny colored dots in; it has scalloped sleeves and peplum lined with rose pink. I like them both. Lou bought the \$9.00 dress, and I bought the other with my allowance. We had to wait in our car for sometime, as it was hemmed in, back of the Mode O'Day Store. The manager's car had us locked in. It was his private parking place so we couldn't say anything, ha ha! Mary and Joan went to the new market this evening and bought themselves a pair of peddle pushers. Joan's is yellow and Mary's red. They wear the same size, so will have a change, eh? Joan wore the yellow to church tonight. Pat and Al Rowbothem have a brand new Cadillac automobile. It's a beauty! I doubt if it would fit in our backyard.



July 24, Saturday

Today is Utah's big day! I would like to look in on the celebrations. Lou went to fix a door for one of the shops, in the Venetian blind building this morning. I talked to Donna on the phone. Joan had gone to church to rehearse for a skit the M.I.A. is having. This afternoon she is going to help a lady do some housework. The lady is expecting company from out of town, Utah, I believe. Janet was busy cleaning up in the house for Donna. She and Warnie are going to the beach this afternoon. Joan wore the red pedal pushers to church this morning. She and Mary wear the same size, they bought a pair of yellow and a pair of red. Joan wore the yellow last night; Mary will wear a pair to the park this afternoon. (Ain't we got fun?) I talked to Dolores this morning on the phone. I invited her to join us in the park for the picnic today. Andersens had taken Violet with them, to Burbank and Van

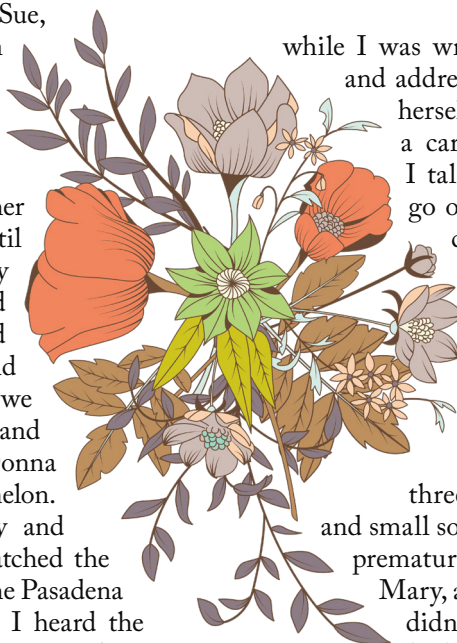
Nuys this morning. The Las Flores Ward is celebrating with a show this evening. The same deal we had on July 17, The Oliver Cowdery picture is good. Well of all things, we had a little rain shower this afternoon about noontime; it came off and on for an hour or so. Mary, Johnny, and Kathy were at the carnival at their new Shopping Bag Market. John came home for his lunch; he heard the man over the loud speaker calling the kids to come and see a show. Donna said he was out of the house like a shot with his sandwich stuffed in his mouth. She ran after him to say, "Look out for cars when crossing the street." (Just one reason why mothers go gray, eh?) The opening of that colossal market, at the corner, has really been a big thing in the lives of our little Marshes. I made a lime Jello salad, cooked a small pot roast and cooked potatoes in jackets, preparing for our cold lunch tomorrow. Donna prepared the food for our park picnic today. We took rolls and soft drinks, paper plates, cups, and napkins. I got off easy, eh? I addressed Beverly's birthday card and put \$2.00 in it. Wish I could afford to put \$200 in. (I guess she does too, he he!) I received a delightful surprise this afternoon; my cousin Ruth Paul Nutt [Ruth Ardelle Paul], her husband [Edrick Donald Nutt] two young daughters, and sister-in-law called to see us. They have been visiting in California from Chicago, Illinois. I haven't seen Ruth since she was a young girl, now she has a married son and daughter, plus the two sweet girls with her today. Ruth is still beautiful, her husband very nice and his sister is charming. I was very sorry that Violet and Annie were not at home. Ruth wanted to see all of the sisters, but no one was home. I tried to phone Sue, but no answer. The folks stayed about an hour. Ruth was especially disappointed at not seeing Violet, after hearing that she was in California. She was at the Los Angeles Temple this morning and didn't know that LaPriel Bunker, her cousin, lived in the mission house, until she arrived at our house. Violet's and my address were the only ones she had, and they were not right. She went to our old Garfield home; they told her how to find us here. I'm surely glad we were home, we went to Brookside Park this evening and ate a very lovely picnic lunch, which Donna prepared. The ward treated us to watermelon. We brought our melon home. Mary and Johnny went in swimming. We all watched the ball game after eating; it was between the Pasadena Ward men and East Pasadena Ward. I heard the score was 12 to 3 in favor of East Pasadena Ward.



Pictured above is Aunt Julia Strong Paul, who is a sister to Elvie's mother. Julia is also Ruth Nutt's mother. Ruth came to visit Elvie on July 24, 1954.



Aunt Julia Strong Paul and her daughters, Ruth, Melba & Elizabeth in 1946.



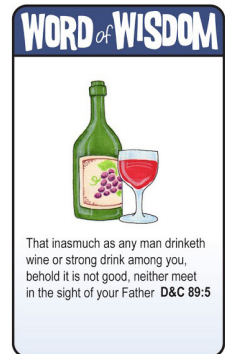
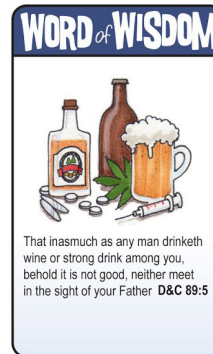
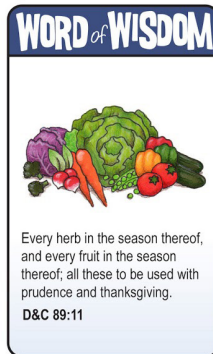
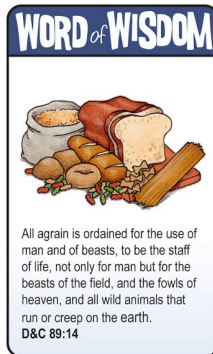
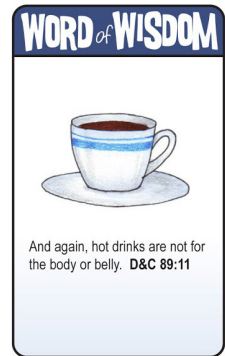
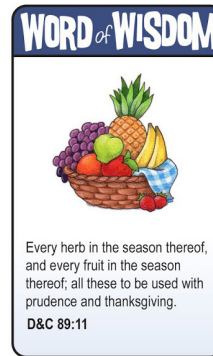
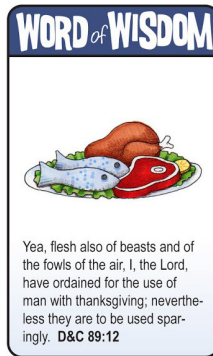
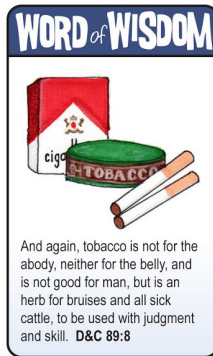
July 25, Sunday

Jack and Jenny Jones are away on vacation somewhere. Donna invited Aunt Violet to eat dinner with them tomorrow evening. I wore my new nylon jersey dress to Sunday School. It's white with little gray flowers and leaves in. I wore my lavender hat, had some nice compliments. People are nice, eh? We had several visitors in church this morning. Bob and Iris Peterson and daughter Judy and their youngest child came to visit us. Bishop called on Bob to say a few words to us. Our new counselor, Br. Richards conducted the Sunday School this morning. I put the potato salad together this morning; it didn't take long to get dinner on the table. Joan and Johnny came home with us. They helped me; we had it all ready when the folks arrived. Lou cut the meat. Mary didn't go to Sunday School; her throat was a little sore. She had a wet head from swimming last night and it had this fussy grandmother worried. I tried to dry it for her. Donna went home to get Mary and Kathy a change of clothes. Warnie and Janet brought a half-gallon of ice cream with them, I had a lemon cream pudding made, but the children like ice cream better. Janet and Joan had to leave as soon as they'd eaten to go to East Los Angeles stake house for a chorus rehearsal for the coming M.I.A. Festival next month, in the Hollywood Bowl. Rex took Kathy home to have her nap. Warnie went home. I think Janet drove Rex's car to the rehearsal after taking him and Kathy home. Lou took a nap. Donna dried dishes for me then she took a nap. Johnny spent the afternoon watching television. Mary talked to me while I was writing in my diary, she was writing names and addresses on a piece of typing paper to entertain herself. Lou went to see a Mrs. Caldwell about a carpenter job after he woke up. Donna and I talked to Violet on the phone, we wanted to go over to see her and Dody, but Lou took the car. Lou brought home a little sewing table that Mrs. Caldwell wants him to cut down to make a typewriter table for her. Mrs. Caldwell is Ella Wride's friend; she was her neighbor before Wrides moved a few weeks ago. Mary Hill phoned this afternoon, she wanted to ride to church with us this evening. She has been away for three weeks taking care of her daughter's home and small son. The daughter, Dolly, had a baby boy born premature; he weighs 4 pounds. We took Donna, Mary, and Johnny home to get ready for church. Rex didn't have a nap because some people came and looked through the house. Kathy had a nice nap.

The girls had been rehearsing all afternoon, so were not in the mood for church tonight. Joan did go and I'm glad, as Bishop Summerhays called several girls on the stand to present them with awards for special merits, attendance at church and etcetera. Joan was one of the girls to receive an honor certificate. Both Doezie girls played piano selections in church, very fine. A doctor friend of Audrey and Perry Fuller gave a fine talk on the Word of Wisdom. Tobacco causes lung cancer, etcetera. We took Mary Hill to church and home after. We went to Dolores and Bevan's after we'd eaten some lunch together and had a nice visit with Violet, Dody, Bevan, and kiddies. Douglas Jones came over. Marilyn Jones came to invite the folks to come and eat some cookies and ice cream. She told us she'd be happy to have us come, also. She is a sweet young lady. Richard and his sweetheart (the Barnhart girl in our ward) were at the Joneses'. They made the cookies and ice cream I believe. She said she'd let us know when it was ready so Doug came to tell us. Lou and I came home, as we didn't think more eats would help our sleeping any. Old folks can't get away with the rich foods late at night, like the young ones do, eh? It was very sweet of them to invite us anyway.

July 26, Monday

I forgot to mention the nice gift I received yesterday after Sunday School. Ovena Mayo gave it to Lou to give me. It is a cute little pottery beehive with a bee on top. It's a honey jar, with a pretty thank you card, from Ovena's mother, for the Golden Wedding poem tribute I composed for them. My sweet Lou didn't make a sound this morning; I didn't wake up until nine o'clock. He knew I had a restless night; it was hot from the start today, but I had to do the washing, as Lou was getting low on underwear. These hot days he has to change often, because of the sticky wet clothes. Janet went to work for Dr. Don Anderson this morning; she'll have a few days work I guess. I hope she'll find a steady job before long and Warnie, too. I had to go to bed after washing; this hot weather gets me down. Donna fried two chickens this evening. She went for Aunt Violet at Dody's. She had tickets put away to take Violet to see the play in the Glendale Center Theater tonight. It's the playhouse that our friends, Ruth and Nathan Hale run over there. I received a nice card from Ethel Newbold; she is coming to California soon. I have phoned Nora Williamson several times the past two weeks, she is still in Utah, I guess. I wonder how we'll get our Relief Society visiting done. I hate to worry Donna about it. I know she has so many districts to worry over when the sisters are on vacation and can't do their visiting. I do hate to see our wonderful climate in Southern California changing like it has been the past few years. First the dreadful smog, and now these hot spells, lasting three



Perry Fuller gave a fine talk on the Word of Wisdom July 25, 1954

weeks at a time. We used to have a few days of hot weather, then a cool spell to relieve us. A blanket always felt good at nighttime before, but the sheet is all we can stand lately. It's like summer nights back home in Utah, well, not quite as hot. Ray and Miriam took Lorene with them for a nice vacation trip up north; the little girls went, also. I'm glad they took Lorene with them; she needed a change, too. Violet went to dinner with Donna and family this evening. They took her to the Glendale Center Theater after.

July 27, Tuesday

Our new neighbors moved in the house they bought across the street this morning. The elderly couple that lived there sold it last week and moved out. The young folks moved in. It was done up in a hurry. Rex has had his place up for sale for several months. Marva DeHaan came for me at 10 a.m. I went over to quilt with the sisters called there to do this quilt. It was a child's quilt, made up of animal blocks with a letter in each block, like A for Apple, B for Bear and etcetera. I guess I'll quit explaining it while I'm ahead. We quilted around the little animals, and flowers, and the letters. It was a tough one to do. I like the straight quilting for my part. We started soon after ten o'clock and finished the quilt at 4 p.m. Believe you me, I was tired. We had some distinguished visitors come in the Relief Society room while we were working. Bishop Summerhays and Br. Ray Summers brought a dozen or more of our city's top men, through our new church building, including the mayor and chief magistrates of the departments, city councilmen, and etcetera. The bishop introduced each one to our group of quilters. He asked Madge Fowler to introduce us to them and she did. After work, Lou took the little typewriter table that he cut down for Mrs. Caldwell to her home. I think he made \$7.00 on the job. This evening Lou and I went over to wish Beverly a happy birthday. I took her a bouquet of

rosebuds. I sent her a card with \$2.00 in last Saturday. We had a nice visit. Miriam Clayton and little girls came. Lorene came after her missionary work. I did not feel at all well, so I turned down the delicious looking chocolate cake and the ice cream. It was such a dreadfully hot evening I surely could have enjoyed that cold ice cream, but this d___ asthma makes life miserable enough without me adding to the grief. I did enjoy visiting with the family. Violet left on the 9:30 bus for her home in Cedar City this morning. I hope she will not suffer from the heat.



Beverly Andersen in front of the Fife's home in Beryl, Utah. In July 1954 Elvie thought Otto and Yvonne were busy painting and getting it ready to live in.

July 28, Wednesday

Mary Stead phoned me this morning from her son Albert's home. She has been visiting her daughter Lillian and family in Kanosh, Utah, also friends in Salt Lake City. Mary lives in Phoenix, Arizona. It was sunny and hot all day. I didn't rest very well last night. Lou fixed some bananas and milk, and ate some coffee cake for his breakfast. He took two bananas for his lunch. We do not feel as hungry in this hot weather somehow. I got up at eight o'clock. I watered the plants in the hanging baskets, and a few of the flowers. I did my ironing after eating some grapefruit and raisin toast. Bonna Gordon phoned at 1 p.m. and said she'd take me out to do my Relief Society visiting this afternoon. My partner Nora Williamson is on vacation in Utah. Bonna came about 2:15 p.m. She is precious; I surely enjoy being in her company. We only found four of our ten sisters at home. Sr. Phillips was at Louise Anderson's with her children, while Louise was having her hair cut and curled. Sr. Phillips looks happy and younger

with new glasses and she can see real well now. She has had her eyes operated on for cataracts. I had a rather severe heart pain while in Carolyn Thatcher's home, but it was quick and gone soon. I said nothing about it until later to Bonna. I disrobed and lay on Lou's bed for a while until I felt better this afternoon. Janet worked for Dr. Don Anderson again today. The telephone company phoned to say Janet can start work if she'll go into Los Angeles to start the work. Joan went to her friend Gay's home today to make a black weskit for herself. Mary and Kathy took their daily walk to the new Shopping Bag Market. Violet and Otto will be busy moving their furniture to Beryl, Utah this

weekend. I hope they'll enjoy the brand new house out there. Otto and Yvonne have been painting the inside of it. I rested on the bed until time to prepare our dinner. I had a miserable time tonight while watching television; it was sticky hot, my heart hurt, I could hardly breathe. Oh me! I'll be glad when the cooler weather comes. This is dreadful!

July 29, Thursday

Rex's birthday; 41 years old. I hope he will have a nice day. I know it'll be a hot one, as it got a good start

this morning. Our newspaper states that we haven't had as many hot July days since 1886. We have had fourteen days this month with mercury readings of 90 or more. It was 96 yesterday. Well, it is 109 in Phoenix, so says our news. How do Lillian and Jack live through it? I have really suffered from the heat this summer. I phoned Joan this morning; Donna had gone to the Singing Mother's rehearsal. Mary and Johnny were at the new market buying a gift for Daddy's birthday. Joan was cleaning house and going to make the birthday cake. Janet was working at Dr. Don Anderson's office. Kathy was home with Joan. Rex is working for Br. Kunz. Joan says the cleaning establishment will not make good her suit skirt, they got three large spots on it when she sent it to have a few soiled marks cleaned, where she sat on the benches at the Rose Bowl on Graduation night. It wasn't dirty, as she'd only worn it the one night. I feel bad about her lovely \$20.00 suit and she only got to wear it once.

Something should be done about it. I don't think that



Rex Marsh and Russell Fowler working on the East Pasadena Chapel circa 1952.

Janet would let them get away with it that easy. I answered Lillian Keller's letter and Will and Flora Taylor's letter. Oh, but I'm hot and sticky. Annie phoned to say that Harriet Speirs phoned her from Blanche's home. She is leaving for her home in Salt Lake City this evening I think. Harriet said that Elsie had the old trouble come in her back, when she was packing to go home from Laguna Beach last week. I hope she got home okay without serious trouble. She has a dreadful time when her back slips out, as it does at times. We didn't see Elsie or Harriet or Elsie's sister Beat this time, they didn't come to Los Angeles, but stayed in Long Beach and Laguna, at the Laguna Hotel where Lou and I stayed. Lou cut a nice bouquet of roses to take out to Sierra Madre to Rex and Donna. We also took a dress shirt, and a sport shirt to Rex for his gift. It was lovely out on the patio this evening. Donna served ice cream and cake and we sang happy birthday to Rex. Helen, the girl that owns the lot next door, came and ate and sang with us. She would like to buy Rex's home if she can arrange it. I hope she can. Janet and Warnie had gone to help his friend paint a boat. Joan and Peter Brown, the boy across the street, had gone in his sleek red convertible car, to a show. Donna bought Rex a pair of slacks at the new market department store. They are surely enjoying that wonderful shopping center so handy! Rex, Donna, Johnny, and Mary were at the new market when we arrived this evening. Joan was home waiting for her date. Lou walked to the market. He took a root beer bottle back. He bought some peaches and doughnut rolls (doughnuts without holes). I didn't eat any of the beautiful cake or ice cream; but enjoyed seeing the others eat it. This time of year is a struggle for me with out adding to my grief, eh?

July 30, Friday

It is another hot day. I wanted to give the house a good vacuuming, but I'm too weak to do it. I did take the hand sweeper around and the duster. Our little house doesn't get very dirty with just the two of us here. I'll do a better job when the weather cools off. I talked to Donna on the phone this morning. She was washing and hanging clothes on the lower lines, so the patio would look nice when people came to look through her place. Someone came to see it at one o'clock today and a man was there this morning. I hope things will work out alright for them, one way or another Johnny has talked his mother into letting him have a few of his boyfriends over after Primary next Wednesday on his birthday for a little luncheon party. Mary helped him make the plans. They went to the new Shopping Bag Market to buy a few little prizes for the games they've planned. Kathy walked to the market with them. Joan had a babysitting job this morning for a Mrs. Fillman. She has a busy week ahead, is helping a lady do her housecleaning. She has several

rehearsals planned, some for the music skit she is in for the Mutual convention next week. President David O. McKay will be here for the convention and rehearsals planned for the M.I.A. Festival in the Hollywood Bowl next month. Janet is also in the festival chorus. Janet has worked for Dr. Don Anderson this week. I talked to Annie on the phone, and was glad that Dick has work for Dale today. I wish he could have steady work this vacation time. He needs it; he wants to go back to PCC in the fall. The work is holding out well at the Venetian blind shop, so Beverly can work. I patched a pair of Lou's underwear. They'll take about one more wearing. Annie sent two new pair with Beverly this morning (LDS garments). Now he has four new suits of summer garments, with the two old ones I think he'll make it okay. This hot weather he has to change every day. He gets



Mary transplanted cannas.



so wet with sweat. I rinse 'em out, they're not dirty, but soaking wet. Annie takes care of the LDS garments for their stake Relief Society board. We get ours from her. I mended the hem of a dress I use for a house dress. I caught my heel in it and tore about a foot of the darn hem. Ah me! And it is too blooming hot to do anything. I had to take time out on Lou's bed because of a strange feeling in my head, high blood pressure maybe? Uncle Frank showed me a stunt to take it down several years ago, bless him. I use it every time I feel these crazy sensations in my head. It always helps me. My dear Uncle Frank (Dr. Bailey) has helped me in many ways. He was a wonderful man. After our dinner this evening, we took a nice long ride in the cool air, to Azusa. I felt much better and hope to have a good night's rest. Mary transplanted some cannas a few days ago. She keeps them watered good and they're doing well. My sweet little Mary likes to make "her garden grow."

July 31, Saturday

It is another warm day. I rested better last night. Lou took the little white fence from the front garden, where the plaster duck is, to the shop to paint it. He also took a list of the groceries we need, as he'll stop in Boy's Market because he is going to look for the Holly Hill Grapefruit they carry, for 19¢ a can. Annie buys it in her Boy's Market. It is delicious. We've been paying 23¢ a can at our Shopping Bag Market. That's about all I eat for my breakfast. Rex did a cement job for Estella McComas's brother George Mark today. He was also doing some plastering for Don Mortenson this afternoon, so he has a full day. Harry Howard was going to help Rex move the rubbish pile away from his back steps sometime today too, in Harry's big truck. Joan was helping Mrs. Wayman do housework. I think the name is Wayman? Johnny told me that he and Mary bought the invitations for his birthday party yesterday, and they sent them today. I guess he is anxiously waiting for next Wednesday eh? "Bless his heart." Lou worked in our yard this afternoon. He washed

out the cabaña cement floor with the hose, after sweeping the swing off good. I washed all the patio furniture. I'm so thankful I haven't had any of the dreadful feelings in my head today like I had yesterday. Donna says they have two parties that seem anxious to buy their home. Both are trying to make the necessary arrangements. I wonder what Donna will be living in and where? She and Rex do not seem the least disturbed about it. Why, oh why do I let it worry me? I'm just crazy I guess, but I just can't help it somehow.

August 1, Sunday

Lou went to the shop this morning and spray-painted our little white fence the second coat. It looks strange without the little fence in front of the house. The tiny fence on the north side didn't need painting. We took Sr. Mary Hill to Sunday School as usual. We had several out of town visitors again in Sunday School. Br. Wilford Cole gave the lessons in our class again this Sunday. Br. Don Rowberry is away on vacation. It was an interesting class discussion! We had a nice fast meeting later. We were all happy to welcome Joan Sidlow's husband, Steve, into our church. He was baptized last night. A young man was also confirmed today by one of our young LDS men, about his age. Sorry I do not know their names, but the young man that did the baptizing and confirming goes with the young Kawai girl. We took Mary Hill to her trailer court after Sunday School. Lou and I ate a cold lunch, at two o'clock. We met a real estate lady by appointment at 3218 Matara Avenue. She took us through the house. The price is \$10,500. Her name was Sommers; the place was empty. It needs cleaning up but isn't bad. It is near the bus line and our new church. We drove over to George and Ella Wrides home so Lou could measure the piano for the mirror. They talked over which music stand to use on the piano and they decided on the one Lou made for it. Wrides have a very beautiful home to live in. They are renting it for \$150 a month. The surroundings, lawns, flowers, huge oak trees and everything is just lovely. We drove to Donna's home. The girls, Janet and Joan, had been to East Los Angeles Stake house for a rehearsal for the M.I.A. Festival chorus. Both were tired when they arrived here. It was a big day with Sunday School, fast meeting and rehearsals. Rex and Donna left in our car for the welfare meeting at the church at 5 p.m. as the girls were not home then. Rex came back for the children in time for church. Janet didn't go to church tonight, she and Warnie went to have a lube job on his car so they can go to the beach tomorrow. Lou and I took Joan down to church. Lou didn't stay to church, but I wouldn't miss the nice Primary program. The program was very lovely. It was the 25th anniversary of Home Building, presented by our Primary. The Primary president, Claire Smith, gave the greeting tonight. I haven't room for all on the program. Bishop Summerhays gave the

special awards. Mary Marsh and Kathleen Sidlow, Seagull girls, gave nice talks. Harry Howard and daughter Bonny, talked. The talks were all good and the singing was very nice. Pearl and Pawnee Redborg called on us tonight. We had a nice visit. We watched the Band Stand Review on TV.

August 2, Monday

I stayed in bed until 8:30 this morning. Lou fixed his breakfast and took fruit for lunch. He is trying to cut down his weight he says. I've lost several pounds. I always do when the asthma is tormenting me. I believe Lou has lost some weight too; this hot weather takes one's appetite. Well, we look better with the fat off anyway. I wish I could remember when I feel like eating the chocolates at Christmas time; when the asthma has eased up. Ha ha! Janet took a test this morning in the telephone company in Pasadena. She and Warnie went to the beach this afternoon. Mr. Kunz had no work for Rex today, so he worked around the house; had the shower door fixed. I'm sure Violet was disappointed to arrive home in Cedar and learn the house in Beryl isn't ready to move into yet. It is not wired or painted as she expected. Otto wasn't at the depot to meet her; some neighbors brought her home. Otto had phoned and they said the bus wouldn't be in for an hour or so; she was hungry and tired. The bus didn't stop long enough for dinner. The bus driver said they'd stop only ten minutes in Las Vegas and she didn't have time to eat (she thought), but it was 30 minutes before the other bus picked her up. What a life, oh! Otto took her out for a sandwich. Donna had a Relief Society board meeting at church this afternoon. I believe

Joan was helping a lady with housework. I put out a large washing this morning. It is always larger with the sheets in. I don't do them every week, as we only sleep one in a bed and they are not soiled that way as quickly. Donna phoned this evening to tell me Rex was taking her and the three children to a drive-in theater to see Danny Kaye in "Hans Christian Andersen." She was expecting Janet to phone from the beach to let her know if she was going to stay overnight with her girlfriend and her mother. Donna thought Janet might phone me if no one answered at home. Janet did phone here about 9 p.m. She was staying overnight. Warnie was with his boyfriend. Joan was at church rehearsing for the M.I.A. music skit she's in. Dee Austin took her and brought her home. I phoned Joan before I went to bed to let her know Janet had phoned here, so she could leave a message on Donna's pillow for her. Janet and her friends have a wonderful time water skiing at the beach. Dear Lord, take care of her for us. Annie didn't do her washing

today; she is suffering with the rheumatism in her hands. I'm so sorry about her poor aching wrists. Oh why do we have to have so many discomforts in life? Dody Jones phoned me this morning and read Violet's letter to me. That is how I got the information about Violet.



August 3, Tuesday

I was thankful for the overcast sky this morning, which gives us a cool start for our day. I didn't rest very well because of troublesome asthma. I composed a few verses for Jeanne Brinton's "Queen for a Day" tribute for Relief Society. I have seven on hand now; this will be eight. I did my ironing. We had a surprise shower for a few minutes; some large drops of rain wet the pavement this afternoon. It has been cooler today, cloudy most of the day and oh, it's a treat from the blistering hot weather we've had lately. I pasted some snapshot pictures of Mary, Johnny, Kathy, and Bonny Howard in my scrapbook today. Rex worked for Br. Kunz today. I phoned Annie, her wrists are not as sore today, she did her washing, but it hurts her to use her hands at all. Oh dear me, we've all seen better days, eh? I made hash from the little veal roast I cooked Saturday; I ground up meat, onions, carrots, and potatoes. It tasted real good; Lou was hungry, as he had eaten only fruit for lunch. We ate before five o'clock. He enjoyed a nap after dinner. I read the newspaper and folded up Lou's socks. I surely like his nylon work socks; I never have to darn them. They are some he has had two years, they cost \$1.00 a pair, but are worth it. We enjoyed our nice little home and the TV programs this evening. Things are looking up at the Andersen's; Dale has had more work, even overtime, for Dick Johnston. Beverly has had a busy two weeks at the Venetian blind shop. I hope the work comes in right along to keep her busy there. She likes the work and Gordon likes her. He told Lou he was going to give her a 10¢ an hour raise. Lou likes to have Beverly work there, also.



David Howard, Johnny Marsh, Mary Marsh, and Bonny Howard circa 1953. On August 3, 1954 Elvie pasted snapshots in her scrapbook.

August 4, Wednesday

Our Johnny boy is nine years old today. I called him on the phone to sing happy birthday to him. He is happy over a toy submarine his folks gave him. I had to listen to it in action, over the phone. I also talked to little Kathy; she was eating her breakfast. I asked her what she was eating and she said "apple sauce," I asked, "is it good?" she said "S." (Yes to you.) Johnny said he was going over to the new market center to buy some tennis shoes for his birthday. Mary and Johnny are going to Primary this morning. Johnny's little class of boys is coming home with him to a birthday lunch and party after. Mama told me (confidentially) that she'd be glad when



Kathy and John Marsh 1954.

the party is "in the past tense." Ha ha! I comprehend! My dear Lou let me sleep later this morning again! I didn't hear him make a sound when he got up and left for work. I got up at 8:30 a.m. It was lovely and cool this morning so I felt better. The hot weather is really tough on me. Janet stayed another night at the beach with her girlfriend and mother. Warnie is there with his boy friend; our young folks have a wonderful time water skiing. I'm glad they are happy; also glad this Grama isn't near to worry and fret about them getting hurt or drowned. I'm sure they are glad, too. Ha ha! I walked up to our little 15¢ Store and bought a plastic train engine for Johnny to construct. I hope he can put it together okay. I'm glad I don't have to do it since looking it

over better! The directions are in the package. The clerk said her eight-year-old boy put his engine, like it, together. I'll bet he had help. I have two sport shirts and three pair of socks I bought two weeks ago, at the Broadway Store, for Johnny. At his age clothes have little appeal. I bought him a zipper purse to put his vacation money in, if he has any. I put 30¢ in it and some gum. I phoned Dolores to read her mother's letter to her, but Marilyn Jones answered and said Dody was working at the bank for a few days. I answered Violet's letter. I finished Jeanne Brinton's queen tribute this afternoon. I have two ready for Donna to type now. Faye Timothy's and Jeanne's. Ernie and Elaine Vandergrift called to see Donna today. They were having a little outing for the day somewhere out that way, to Crestline. They had Mike and Sharon, and Bette's Jerry with them. Elaine invited Janet and Joan to stay at her home tonight with Ann and Carol Sue. The girls have a rehearsal in Burbank, for the M.I.A. Festival. They have

one this evening and another rehearsal at one o'clock tomorrow afternoon. So Janet and Joan took their pajamas and stayed in Burbank tonight with the Vandergrifts. They'll come back home tomorrow after the rehearsal. Some of our ward folks will bring them home. This evening, after Lou had seen the Blue Ribbon Bouts on TV, we went to Sierra Madre to take Johnny's birthday gift. The little man had had a busy day for sure. He showed us the gifts the children gave him. Toys and games, two nice tee shirts, swim trunks, from mother. He was pleased with the construction toy we gave him. I believe he liked the shirts and socks, I know Mother did, ha ha! I believe baby Kathy

thought it was her birthday too, the way she tried to take over Johnny's gifts. Mary Howard brought Kathy a cute purse and Mary a book, as well as the gift David gave Johnny. It was a game I believe? Anyway they had a happy day. The children played outside with Kirk's kids tonight. Rex was at church to a seventies meeting. They're planning food for the festival folks. I received a letter from Violet, she is still in Cedar City, expects to move out to Beryl before the 8th of August.

August 5, Thursday

Today was another nice cool morning and I love it. Our new neighbors, south of Edgemoor, have had a big machine truck making a lot of noise all morning. I believe they are having their house sand blasted or something done to paint or clean the stucco. It's a lot of noise anyway. The man has worked to fix the yard up so lovely since they moved in; they are lovely neighbors. I think Lou said they are Italian (nice folks). I phoned Donna this morning; she said Janet phoned from Burbank to see if they could order a recording of the M.I.A. chorus, which will be taken the night of the festival in the Hollywood Bowl. It is \$3.75. Donna told them yes. It will be nice to have, and then I can hear it. I'm sorry I am not well enough to get in the huge crowd and walk all that long ways up to the bowl, from the parking. I do wish that Lou would go and hear it; he says he will not leave me home. I'll have to work on the idea, eh? Kathy will be with me here. I won't be alone. I didn't even hear Lou this morning; he is surely quiet getting away. I got up at 8:45 this morning. My best sleep is in the early morning hours for some silly reason. I can't always get to sleep before the wee hours, so I spend my night saying over the pretty poems I've learned. Some of them are my own compositions, but I like 'em, ha ha! This afternoon Donna and Clarice Tanner are visiting Sr. Cox, who is ill. I was delighted with a letter from Will and Flora Taylor. They sent me a picture of the old Liberty Jail in Missouri, and the history of the jail and the story of our beloved prophet Joseph Smith and the five brethren confined in the jail with him for nearly six months. The indignities suffered by them were dreadful and indescribable. Ethel Newbold phoned this afternoon; she arrived from Salt Lake City last Monday to her son's home. She is going to stay with the children while Harold and Margie have a nice vacation trip. They are taking a tour trip going to New York City and other cities on the tour. It will take almost a month, nice eh? It was nice hearing Ethel's voice again, she is a very lovely person. I answered Will and Flora's letter and vacuumed my bedroom. Our girls are surely busy running from one rehearsal to another. They stayed in Burbank last night with the Vandergrifts because of the rehearsal at 1 p.m. Elaine and Ernie are remodeling their home, adding two more bedrooms and making a den out of Mike's old bedroom. They are making several changes in the house. It will have a dining

room now, I believe. The girls came home after the rehearsal this evening. Peter Brown took Joan to the Philharmonic to see Porgy and Bess. She'll be late getting home and she has a rehearsal at six o'clock in the morning for the circus music skit she is in tomorrow afternoon for the M.I.A. convention. President David O. McKay and other church officials will be present. Donna says the tables are beautiful. Our stake has charge of the luncheon; maybe it's our own ward? Janet and Joan learned that Rex was working in Burbank at the same school they were rehearsing in today, so he gave them the money to buy the record of festival music, which will be recorded tomorrow night in the Hollywood Bowl. Uncle Ernie V. took the girls for a ride between rehearsals to see studios today.

August 6, Friday

These are really busy days for my little Marsh family; Donna was up at five o'clock this morning. She took Joan to the six o'clock rehearsal and stayed to hear and see their dress rehearsal. It is a circus music skit, which will be given at the M.I.A. convention today in the East Los Angeles Stake house. This is our M.I.A. conference, held for the first time in Southern California. It will eliminate the California saints going to the June conference in Salt Lake City. The Beehive department will have their special day tomorrow for all workers in that department of the M.I.A. It will be held in our new Pasadena Stake center. Miriam Marsh was there last evening decorating for this occasion; she called at Donna's to say hello. Joan rushed home from the rehearsal this morning and went to her girl friends home and had her help her make a full red skirt to wear in the music skit, with the new red and white blouse she bought the other day. It makes me dizzy to think of all the activity for Joan, with dates and rehearsals. Mary Howard made a little yellow net jacket for Janet to wear with her pretty yellow net formal



Liberty Jail in Missouri. Will and Flora Taylor are serving a mission there in 1954.

dress at the Hollywood Bowl tonight. The M.I.A. convention started at 9 a.m., they had a prayer meeting at 7:15 a.m. They have to be on their toes, eh? I believe the East Pasadena Ward has charge of the luncheon served at the convention today. Rex has planned with his seventies committee for this, or one of the luncheons? I just can't keep up with the details. I only know what I hear from conversations.

I vacuumed the rooms and Venetian blinds and drapes. I managed to get all the windows up to wash out the sills, all but the dinette window. It was really stuck tight. Lou had to take the screen off outside to pry the darn window loose. He worked from the inside first; it was stuck fast. I haven't been able to raise it since Lou painted it a few weeks ago. All of the windows were stuck, but I hammered them loose; this one I couldn't budge, the darn thing! I put the picture of old Liberty Jail and the history of it in my scrapbook. Will and Flora Taylor are on a mission at the old Liberty Jail.

They sent me the material information; bless 'em. Beverly offered me reserved seats at the Hollywood Bowl, for tonight's M.I.A. chorus program. She is a darling. But I'm just not well enough to do all the climbing up to the bowl in the crowds. I'd surely love to be there; Janet, Joan, Carol Sue, and Ann are singing in it, along with about fifteen hundred young LDS boys and girls. Donna and Rex came by this evening to leave Johnny and Kathy here. Johnny decided he'd rather stay and watch television with us. Mary and Warnie went with Rex and Donna. Janet and Joan left earlier, in Warnie's car, I believe. Rex and Donna got home about midnight. They had taken Warnie home and been to their own house to put some potatoes on to cook for the salad. Rex and his seventies committee will serve at noon tomorrow in the South Pasadena Ward building for the M.I.A. convention visitors. I learned tonight that Rex will serve his lunch tomorrow. Marilyn Jones invited Janet and Joan to their house after the musical for some refreshments. Janet took Joan in Warnie's car. Warnie had gone fishing; his friend was waiting for him when Rex took him home tonight. Kathy went to sleep in my bed; I went to bed with her until she was asleep. She had to have her doll and new plastic purse, also. She is a cutie. Johnny stayed with the TV programs until a few minutes before his folks arrived. He was asleep on the couch then. In Johnny's rush to look at a western TV movie tonight, he flew into our platform rocker and it went over backwards with him in it; never a dull moment, eh? Donna said the program was beautiful. Beverly took her boyfriend, Hank, to the Hollywood Bowl with the family tonight. The world was shocked today with the sudden death of one of the famous Dionne quintuplets. Emily, an epileptic, died of a stroke.

August 7, Saturday

I'm enjoying these cloudy mornings; it doesn't get so hot this way. This was Rex's busy morning; he shopped for the convention luncheon, which he and his seventies committee were going to serve at the South Pasadena Ward building today at noon. He had the potatoes cooked last night and peeled, too. He told Donna she didn't have to go along to help; they could manage okay. She was glad because of so much work to do at home. Lou did our weeks grocery shopping at the Boy's Market again this weekend. We like the brand of grapefruit they carry, "Holly Hill" it is only 19¢ a can and is delicious. I haven't felt very well today, but diary you are the only one I'm telling about it. I've had some sharp heart pains and a dreadful weak and trembling feeling. Oh well, I've had it before many times; it

will pass. Lou went to George and Ella Wride's home this morning with the mirror from Fuller's Paint Company. He put it on their piano, also put the music stand on the piano. He says it looks lovely and the Wrides are very happy with the job. Lou cut their piano down like he did Donna's and ours. They had the piano refinished, and it looks like brand new. After our lunch Lou cut lawns and cleaned the yard up and watered and etcetera. I dusted out the patio cabaña. I made a tapioca cream pudding this morning and cooked potatoes in their jackets. The lady that is so anxious to buy Donna and Rex's home came to talk to Donna again this afternoon. The real estate man didn't send her, she saw their for sale sign several weeks ago, when Rex was trying to sell it himself. Beverly phoned to remind me she has tickets for the dance festival in East Los Angeles Stadium tonight and we are welcome to them. She is a darling. Later this early evening, Donna phoned to say they had signed their home over to the young couple, Taylors by name. \$4,000 down and \$3,000 in payments of \$50 a month. The \$2,000 bank loan will be paid up in the contract. The place will have a six weeks escrow period. Rex will take the family for a two weeks vacation. They'll leave next Monday. They'll have to find a home to move into, when they get back. Lou and I left home a few minutes after seven this evening. We drove to the East Los Angeles Junior College Stadium. The Andersens said to meet them at gate two. We parked in the driveway leading up to gate two and waited almost an hour for them. Glen Andersen had a slight accident on the way, no one hurt, they locked bumpers. Miriam Clayton brought Lorene and the two little girls, Marilyn and

Coy. Glen had Annie and his wife Irene and baby Jimmy. We all sat together, good viewing seats. We could see Shirley and Kenny Bird and children and Dolores and Bevan and Ronnie Jones not too far from us, but couldn't make them look at us. We were all amused at how many times Shirley yawned. Could it be my little niece was bored with the whole affair? Ha ha! They got away so quickly we didn't even get to say hello. Beverly and Norma H. were together somewhere. The thousands of dancers in beautiful colors and the thousands of people there to see them dance was a wonderful sight. It was thrilling indeed, just grand, so glad I could go see it. Rex took Donna, Janet, Joan, Mary, and Sr. Bennett, and then he went back home with Johnny and Kathy. We brought

Donna and family and Sr. Bennett home. I couldn't begin to mention all of the old friends we saw tonight but Marilyn Cartwright and her three children we were delighted to see. Dody and Bevan ate dinner with Shirley Bird and family this evening then they all came to the dance festival. We all feel sorry to learn of the sudden death of Emily Dionne, one of the famous Dionne quintuplets. I think they are 20 years old now. The news says she died of a stroke.



Emily Dionne was 20 years old when she died.

August 8, Sunday

A general session of the M.I.A. conference was held at nine o'clock this morning in the Hollywood Bowl. Rex and Donna took Mary and went. Janet and Joan went to the Speech Festival at 1:30 p.m. in the East Los Angeles Junior College Auditorium. They had to leave before Donna and Rex got home, so they left Johnny in charge of Kathy. Janet and Joan sang with a group of young folks this afternoon in the speech Festival Conference. Johnny phoned me, cause his folks were not home by 1 p.m. He said he was hungry and he was going to scramble some eggs for himself and Kathy. I told him they'd be home soon, and to wait. They came about 1:30. It took them over an hour to get out of the bowl traffic. There was a huge crowd there today; the bowl was filled. Donna said it was a very lovely conference session. President David O. McKay talked for about an hour. She said it was a wonderful talk, everyone in the bowl stood up when he entered it. They had lovely music and several fine talks. It was dismissed at 11 a.m. Lou and I went to Sunday School in our own ward, there weren't enough people out to hold a Sunday School in the adult chapel, so Br. Kratzer and Br. Rowbotham invited the adults to join with the Junior Sunday School for their opening exercises. It was like attending one of the branch Sunday Schools in our church, but we all enjoyed it. When the children went to their class work, we went back in the large chapel and Don Rowberry led us in an interesting gospel discussion. He will use our regular lesson next week, when we are back to normal. Lou and I came home, I cooked chops and cob-corn for our dinner. He looked through the ads in our newspaper for a house for Donna and family. She asked him to keep an eye open for homes with four or five bedrooms, in the ads for sale. There was nothing today within their reach. Lou enjoyed his usual Sunday afternoon nap. I wrote in my diary and read the paper. Later we took our two suitcases up to Donna's house. They plan on leaving for their vacation trip next Tuesday. We were all wishing they had the new station wagon to go in, wondering if the old car will make the long trip and all? They need about \$350 cash, with \$650 turn in on their old car, to buy the new Ford station wagon. Lou said he'd loan them the needed cash, until they get their house money from sale of home in a few weeks. Rex was out with Harry Howard somewhere, planning on a deal of some kind to install swimming pools for people. I do not know much about this new deal. Lou and I drove out to see Sue and family in Burbank. Kenny and Shirley Bird were there with their sweet children. Shirley fainted at the M.I.A. Speech Festival today. I am a little



President David O. McKay spoke to the assembled conference attendees for an hour. Everyone stood when he entered the Rose Bowl.

concerned about Shirley; she doesn't look very well. Lou mentioned it to me on our way home this evening. Elaine, Ernie, and family came while we were at Sue's. Sharon was already there; she's been visiting a day or so. Ernie took the young folks and Jerry to play miniature golf. Elaine stayed and visited with us. Bette went with Ernie. Ray has an infection in his ear, so he didn't go with them. Bette and Shirley made grilled cheese sandwiches for us earlier. It was a nice brunch with pickles, chips, lemonade, ice cream, and cookies. Bette took moving picture of us as we arrived. We called in Andersen's on our way home and asked for Beverly's old metal suitcase for Donna, but Dale had taken it today to Camp Ord for a two weeks training. Beverly insisted on us bringing her two best big suitcases to Donna; she also sent three overnight cases and some other things, bless her. We went out to Donna's to take the cases. They'd been to Oateses', for sleeping bags, camp stools, and folding table. Kathy went to her crib with a little camp stool opened. Bette, Ray, Shirley, and Kenny are going up to San Francisco next weekend. Carol Sue is going to take care of the Bird children and Sue will care for Bette's children.

August 9, Monday

It was surely amusing to look at little Kathy asleep in her crib last night, with the little camp stool opened up by her side in the bed. Florence let them borrow several camp stools, one very small, that Kathy claimed as her own. She had to take it to bed. She is all excited about their trip. She packed her own suitcase yesterday. (She emptied her drawer, put everything that she could crowd into the little overnight case.) Yes, "it surely takes a heap of living in a house to call it home." And our little Marshes have a "heap of living." Joan was out in front of the house, in Peter

Country Sedan . . . distinctive four-door beauty

First, it's a smart and comfortable 8-passenger sedan. Now, just lift out the light, two-section rear seat and you can carry six people and a large load. Next, lower Stowaway center seats into floor for carrying space galore.

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Brown's beautiful red convertible car. Warnie was just leaving in his car when we arrived tonight. I guess he hates to have Janet go away on this vacation trip with her folks. I did my washing this morning. Rex went up to finish a plastering job for Don Mortenson; the family was on edge because they wanted him to go out and buy the new Ford Station Wagon. Lou even phoned to see why they hadn't come to him for the needed cash. Mary phoned me about 2 p.m. to say they had bought the station wagon. It is cream color with red upholstery. She said that Mother and Daddy were still shopping for things needed for the trip; a trailer and tent and etcetera. Oh me! Such excitement. Later this evening we learned that the first deal for the Ford didn't go through. The manager wouldn't okay the deal, so Rex and Donna went to another place where they bought a Ford Station Wagon, cream color, with blue upholstery; it is a six instead of an eight, but it is very pretty. They had a radio and heater installed; they did some shopping while it was being done. It is brand new, the first new car they've had the thrill of breaking in themselves. We are all happy and relieved to know they'll have this lovely, brand new car to take their vacation trip in, and have plenty of room for all of them. Rex rented a trailer, a tent, and other camping equipment. Lou took me up to our little 15¢ Store this evening. I bought a granddaughter birthday card for Janet and put \$5.00 in it. It is her birthday next Saturday. I'll have a little gift for her when she comes home, but the money would come in handy on the trip. I gave Joan \$2.00 and the other three kiddies \$1.00 a piece. I had each in a little envelope with their name on. Oh, how I do love my little Marshes, I hope they have a wonderful vacation trip. My sweet Donna has worked so darn hard, I hope she can relax and enjoy the trip, every minute of it. I also bought two oblong mirrors for them to use while camping out. I did a little ironing for Donna but very little, she washed



Mary Marsh happy as can be on the new 1954 Ford station wagon.

today, went shopping, and goodness knows what she had to do. She looked so tired. The three older girls packed their own suitcases, but Donna took care of the other packing and that big ironing, the food to take, and all. Clarice Tanner came by to get the welfare order from Donna. She ironed a few pieces; she is a dear. Lou and I went with Rex in the new wagon to Monrovia to George Mark's home, for an air mattress that he is loaning them. The car rides lovely. Lou took his Mutual Savings book this morning, and let Rex borrow \$400 to make the deal for the new Ford. I think he got \$590 as a turn in on the old Chrysler. Warnie and a boyfriend and folks are going to leave Friday for a vacation trip up in the high Sierras. It is nice he can have a vacation while Janet is away. We told Donna to give us a buzz on the phone when they left on the trip, whatever the hour. I hope she will get some rest before she starts out on that long drive. We were amused this evening when we arrived at Marshes, in Sierra Madre, to see, written in red flowers, (geraniums) in the driveway, "Hi New Car." The words in red flowers were Janet's artwork. Cute, eh?

HI NEW
CAR

"We were amused this evening when we arrived at Marshes, in Sierra Madre, to see, written in red flowers, (geraniums) in the driveway, "Hi New Car." The words in red flowers were Janet's artwork. Cute, eh?"

August 10, Tuesday

Our telephone rang this morning at 5:30 a.m. Donna kept her promise to let us know when they left for the trip. My thoughts as well as her daddy's best wishes will be with them everyday they are away. We do hope and pray that they will have a wonderful vacation, bless their hearts. Melba Kunz phoned me at nine o'clock this morning to say she'd take me to Relief Society work meeting this morning, as Bonna Gordon had phoned her that something had come up in her family and she couldn't go today. I hope it is nothing serious. Melba didn't say what it was. I was glad to go and help quilt; I worked until the lunch was served at 12:30 noon. I didn't feel well today, so was happy when Joan Sidlow offered to bring me home about 2:30 pm. We crowned Joan Sidlow and she was really surprised. She looked just beautiful, with a blue and white dress, gold

crown, and a very pretty corsage, which, by the way she made herself. *[Thinking she was making for someone else.]* It has little pink rose buds with fern and blue satin ribbon. She received a nice book gift. I read her queen tribute, which she was pleased with. She has a cute personality; everyone enjoys Joan. Melba stayed to quilt a little longer. We had few quilters, so we did not get very far with the quilt. Lillian Neal tied a baby quilt all by herself, put it on the frames also; she is a darling. Madge Fowler gave us a talk on welfare food saving, it was a good talk. She had two charts written out on the two large black boards. I wonder how many Latter-day Saints have stored away one year's supply of food? (We haven't, I'm sorry to say.) We are full of alibis, like Madge pointed out to us today. Well, we'll be a hungry household when the dreaded days arrive, eh? Just like millions of other poor folks, we'll have to starve with them, sounds awful, eh? I didn't feel well enough to iron this afternoon. I rested on Lou's bed. His room is cooler than mine. After dinner this evening, we rode out to Sierra Madre, took the mail and newspaper in the house. I brought the few clothes Donna washed last thing last night, in from the lines, folded them up, and put them away. They must have stayed up all night to get the packing all finished and leave the house so nice and clean. Everything looked just lovely. We brought the potatoes and some meat home; Donna told me to bring any food left in the ice box, home, as they'll be away two weeks.



The Marsh family leaves for their vacation on August 9 in their new car. Everyone in the family is excited about the trip.

August 11, Wednesday

I feel so much better now that our hot spell is broken. I'm surely enjoying this cooler weather with the overcast mornings. I was delighted to hear from our folks, Donna wrote a card from Independence, California. They had been riding about seven hours. They ate a good breakfast in Palmdale; she said they were surely enjoying their lovely new Ford Station Wagon. It is roomy and wonderful she said. She also said they changed around often; Kathy was sleeping in the back seat when she wrote. She said they



got a thrill every time they passed a store window and saw themselves driving by in that lovely car. She said they would soon be in Bishop, California and then on to Lake Tahoe, where they'd camp overnight and spend tomorrow, which means they slept in Tahoe last night, and are spending today there, in that lovely place. I'm so glad they are having this nice vacation. I hope they'll enjoy every minute of it, bless their hearts. Lorene phoned to thank me for the queen poem tribute I composed to her. She said she was surely surprised when they crowned her queen today. Annie invited Donna and me over for Lorene's coronation, but of course we couldn't be there; I was happy to hear about it anyway. I talked to Annie on the phone, also. They had an apron shower for the Relief Society bazaar today, too. I phoned Florence Marsh to let her know the children are enjoying their first day out on vacation. We had a nice visit, she read Ernie Jr.'s letter from Japan. He is a really fine young man, 'tis no wonder she loves him so much. Carol Sue Vandergrift enjoys letters from Ernie Oates, also. Lou made an awning from Venetian blind slats and wood, to go up over our kitchen window. Mr. Edgecomb helped him put it up this evening. It looks real nice; it's exactly the same shade as the house. The slats are green aluminum. We'll not be bothered with the bright morning sun now. Warnie Mueller phoned this evening for Wayne

Strong's address in Murray, Utah; he wants to send Janet a birthday gift. He received a postcard from Janet today, from Independence, California.

August 12, Thursday

My sweetheart Lou got his own breakfast again. He told me to stay in bed and rest. I hope he took some lunch. (I have a precious husband.) We received another nice letter from Will and Flora Taylor; they sent a picture of the house that is built over the old Liberty Jail site. I was happy to have it put in my scrapbook beside the picture of the old jail, as it was when our beloved prophet Joseph Smith and the other brethren were imprisoned there for six long winter months in 1838-39. In the picture we received this morning, we can see the house next door, through the trees, where Will and Flora live, while on their mission there. Both buildings are owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I'm thinking of our sweet Donna and precious family, on their way from Lake Tahoe, to visit Wayne and Marty and family in Murray, Utah. I do hope and pray for a wonderful vacation trip for all of them. I miss them dreadfully, that is, my phone call visits each morning. I wrote a postcard to Donna, sent to Strong's, one to Hanna Helman in Pennsylvania, to Will and Flora Taylor in Liberty Missouri, and to Ethel Newbold at her son's home in Los Angeles. Ethel is taking care of the children while Harold and Margie are on vacation in the East. Mary Stead phoned from Albert's home, they are leaving for Phoenix, Arizona today. They are taking Mary home, going to visit Harold and family in Phoenix. Mary has been to Utah to visit daughter Lillian and family. I walked to the drugstore, bought colored picture folder, went to the post office and mailed it to Pennsylvania. I also mailed some cards. I bought six pretty cards to bring home and the stamps for them. I stopped in the market, bought my favorite date nut loaf, from Van de Kamp's Bakery. I was glad to get back home, felt shaky. After dinner this evening, we went out to Sierra Madre and Lou watered the lawns and flowers good. I wanted to sweep off the patio and porch, but we couldn't find a broom anywhere, I used Donna's floor duster mop. I wonder if Rex took the broom with them? We ate

some mints in the candy dish in the living room. I believe they were left from Johnny's birthday party. Helen drove up with a man to look at her property next door. She is going to build. We brought the cold cuts of meat home from Donna's; we forgot to get it out of the icebox storage Tuesday night. Blanche Hoglund wrote to me and gave me an address that Hanna Helman sent to her. It's a lady in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, who is a shut-in by the name of Anna Rensch. I mailed her a colored folder of the California missions, from our Jacob Strong Family Society. Beverly got a notice from Cannon Electric Company to have her physical exam and report back to work. It is good it came now, as the Venetian blind work has run out.

August 13, Friday

It was a nice cool morning; I worked in the yard, burning up the dried flower cuttings that Lou had stacked by the incinerator. We got it all cleaned up, then more cuttings! I can't win. But we do have to keep the flowers looking nice. I watered the lawns and gardens, and then my morning was gone. I was happy to hear from our folks today; a postcard from dear little Mary, she said the lake at Tahoe was "beautiful and big, the sky so blue and the trees so green and the air so fresh." She said they were all enjoying the new car and having a "good time." Lou phoned to see if we'd heard from the folks, the mailman hadn't been, but I phoned him later when Mary's card arrived. We have a different mailman this week; he came at 9:30 yesterday morning, it was after noontime today. No payday for us today, Gordon, the boss, is in Salt Lake City, Utah, with wife Ruby. I hope they're enjoying their vacation trip. I think Donna and family are in Murray, Utah with Wayne and Marty Strong today. They'll spend a few days with them I guess. Beverly went to the doctor for her physical exam. She expects to start back on her job, at the Cannon Electric Company, soon. Dale is up at Camp Ord for two weeks. Bill is driving Dale's car to and from work. A small blood vein broke in Annie's finger, causing a little stinging and itching feeling and discoloring the finger. I phoned Margaret Hubner to read Will and Flora's letter to her. She is a lovely lady who has been in a wheelchair several years, from an attack of poliomyelitis. She is a dear friend of the Taylor family. Will and Flora's children were raised with Margaret in the same neighborhood. She was delighted to hear about them. Lou got home a few minutes early this evening. I had a cold dinner ready, so we were eating at 5 p.m. He enjoyed a nap after, until 6:30 p.m. I read the newspaper and put the picture of the house built over the old Liberty Jail in Missouri, in my scrapbook. Will Taylor sent it to me. Lou and I enjoyed our pretty little backyard in the cool of the evening. He pulled some weeds out of the garden; I tied up some of the chrysanthemums. They are getting tall now and will droop down if not tied up to sticks. Lou hammers the stakes into the ground for me to tie the mums up to. We enjoyed our television programs tonight, especially the Lawrence Welk Show.

August 14, Saturday

It's Janet's birthday today; she is 18 years old. I wonder how she is spending her birthday? I hope she has fun. We both enjoyed sleeping in late this morning. Lou ate something late last night before going to bed (fruit Jello and cream and date nut loaf). I was tempted when I saw him, but glad I refrained, as he had cramps in the night and had to get up to the bathroom, poor Papa. We ate breakfast and put our house in order, which didn't take long. Then we went for a nice drive out to Glendora. It was a pretty drive. We looked through an older home in Glendora, a three-bedroom home. The price is fine, \$7,500, but it is old and so far away. I hope that Donna and Rex can find one in



Janet Eileen Marsh turns 18.

Pasadena or Monrovia, not so far away. We saw through some new model homes in a new tract; they are very nice, are being built in an orange grove. They are priced from \$10,500 and up, with four bedrooms. We also looked at new homes going up in Westridge Tract, nice also, but a little higher priced. We saw some very pretty homes while driving around. We stopped at Donna's home in Sierra Madre, to take the papers and mail inside the house. We bought some groceries at the new Shopping Bag Market near Donna's place. Oh, I forgot to mention the nice lunch we ate, at a little eating place in Glendora. We had a sandwich and some pie. Lou enjoyed his nap when we got home. I wrote in my diary, composed a verse for fun, to old folks, and read some from my diary. I surely do miss my little Marshes, but I'm so glad they are having this lovely vacation. Ethel Newbold phoned again from her son's home, she is taking care of the little ones while Margie and Harold are on a vacation tour, by train. They will be away about a month. Daddy and I had a nice evening at home as usual. I wonder what Donna and family are doing?

August 15, Sunday

It was a bright sunny morning, no smog. Florence Marsh phoned to tell us that Florence Oates talked to Elaine Oates long distance, in Utah. Elaine said she was with Uncle Rex and the family last night in Murray at Wayne and Marty's, and they had a lot of fun together. She said Rex was taking her back to Provo, Utah to the BYU this morning early. She had to be back to take part in the Sunday School program or church conference this morning, I understand. Florence Marsh said Lewie Marsh and family are going on a vacation next week, and she and John are thinking of driving up to Oakland to see Ruth and family. Everyone is on vacation or talking of going it seems. Our Sunday School didn't look natural this morning with so many away. Al Green and family, from Idaho, came to Sunday School, it was nice to see them again. Br. Richards, of our Sunday School superintendency, called on Al to speak to us. Mary Hill is away, I think. I tried to phone her this morning, no answer. We passed her corner to see if she out there waiting for us to pick her up. She always phones when she wants to go to Sunday School, so she must be away, too. Lou and I ate lunch in Fisher's Restaurant, and believe it or not, we ate buttermilk hotcakes and a slice of fried ham. 'Twas delicious. I was amazed at myself for ordering hot

cakes and syrup for lunch, but when Lou said he was going to have some it sounded so good so I said "me too." It shocked him too, ha ha! (I had a short order.) We went to Donna's place from Fishers, to take the Sunday's paper in the house and water the lawns. I did a little dusting and watered the houseplants. They left the house so nice and orderly, it looks clean, and oh so quiet. How I miss my precious little ones; no

one to ask Grama for gum. Clarice Tanner says she surely misses Donna and family. I hope Donna has forgotten her Relief Society worries and is having a wonderful time with the family. Louis and I went to church this evening. We had a nice meeting with two lovely vocal solos by Gordon Lund. Our speakers were a young man from West Arcadia Ward, Raymond Lowe, and Monte and Fayette Kunz. We drove over to see Lorene after church. We were going to take her to Andersen's but she was taking care of Ray and Miriam's little girls. We visited for awhile in Miriam's and then went to Andersen's. Ray and Miriam and girls went house hunting in Covina and out the same way we were yesterday, looking at new homes. Violet is moved into her Beryl home. I hope she'll be happy there. I guess she has been in Beryl about a week. [Beryl, Utah is 49 miles from Cedar city in the middle of nowhere.] Clarice Tanner's dear old father, Br. Lewis, opened our Sunday School with prayer this morning. He gave a fine prayer.



Beryl, Utah: a picture is worth a thousand words?!



Ada Ethel Elton was 41 when she died. Family Search lists three husbands. Her death certificate list cirrhosis of the liver as the cause of death. We wish we had more details about Ethel's daughter.

August 16, Monday

I got up and cooked a nice breakfast for Lou and put up his lunch. Ethel Newbold phoned this morning about six o'clock; she had received word from Salt Lake City that her daughter Ada, had died in the hospital there. She was leaving on the 8:45 train this morning. She had to leave her son's children with a neighbor. I felt so sorry for her, this dreadful thing to come to her, when her son Harold and his wife Margie are on a vacation tour, in the East somewhere. Ethel came from Salt Lake City to stay with the children while their parents were gone about a month. I guess they've been away about a week now. Lorene is going back out to Van Nuys on Wednesday to stay with three small children while their parents are out of town somewhere. She came home from Mary's yesterday; had been with Mary a few days. Sue has had a babysitting job while Bette and Ray were up in San Francisco with Shirley and Kenny. Carol Sue Vandergrift took care of Shirley's children. Jerry and Michael V. were helping Sue with Ricky, ha ha! Well, they tried anyway. Ricky flushed his panties down the toilet, while Sue was cleaning up a mess, never a dull moment. Sue took care of the baby Bradley. I'm glad the parents can have a few days away from the babies,

but I'm sure the babysitters will be glad to see the parents come home. I know; I was delighted when Donna and Rex got home from Oakland; Janet and Joan did most of the work too, but Johnny and Kathy and the two cats were a handful for Grama, ha ha! I wrote Ethel a letter of condolence, sent it airmail to her home in Salt Lake. We received two postcards from Donna, written Friday the 13th; they arrived at Marty and Wayne's on Thursday at 1 p.m. Friday, they went to Mt. Timpanogos, took a picnic lunch. Marty stayed home with the two babies, Kathy and Donna Kay. It was a lovely clear sunny day, not too hot. I went uptown on the bus for the first time for many weeks. I didn't venture out in the hot weather. I went to the post office to mail Ethel's letter; met Bishop Summerhays there. I bought a few things I needed in Kress Store and some from the drug store. I looked in Nash's Store and Mather's for beach towels, about sold out! I found some in Hertel's. I bought a large white one, with colored flying fish on it and had it gift-wrapped. A man waited on me and wrapped the gift and he did the nicest job I've seen in a long time, very pretty. It is a white box with lavender ribbon bows. He was generous with the ribbon. The towel was on sale for \$3.00. It is a birthday gift for Janet; I gave her \$5.00 to take on vacation, but wanted to give her a gift, also. I was glad of a seat on the bus coming home, as I was very weak and fatigued. The walk home from the bus seemed longer than the usual five blocks. If only our street, Vinedo, came through from Colorado. That is where I get off the bus, so I have a block one way or other before I start the four blocks home to Blanche Street. I went to bed until Lou arrived this evening. I cooked dinner while he cut the front lawn. Beverly told us last night that she and Hank Anawalt have broken up their friendship, (no more lovely flowers and gifts, Bev). Last week he sent her a huge bouquet of carnations. Well, it's for the best, he's too worldly to make Bev happy.

August 17, Tuesday

'Twas another clear sunny day, not hot, and free from smog. Oh, if it would only be like this always; of course we want rain, but not the smog. I got up early enough to fix Lou's lunch, bless him; he doesn't wake me if he can help it. I rested better last night, so felt okay this morning. I wonder what my Marsh family is doing today; I hope they're having fun, (gee, but I miss them)! I'm thinking of Ethel Newbold also, she has the distressing task of making arrangements for her daughter's funeral. More heart aches for that dear soul. I shampooed my hair this morning. I composed a queen tribute to Iona Cottam after lunch. I have three queen tributes ready for Donna to type. My dear old neighbor, Mrs. Agnes Scott, phoned me this afternoon. She is in a home for elderly people now. Her son Paul found a nice place for her; she said she is happy there. The dear old soul is blind. I was glad to talk to her, I want to go and see her sometime. Lou came home an hour early this afternoon. He went up to Sierra Madre to cut Rex's lawns. He took his own lawnmower, rake and edger. I prepared dinner, and then rested until Lou came. He said Warnie Mueller and a boy friend stopped by Marshes. Warnie said that Janet had told him in her letter, that it was so full of vacationers at Lake Tahoe that they couldn't camp out as expected, with the tent and etcetera. But they stayed in a lady's shed overnight. August is a bad month to find accommodations, I know, but folks have to go while the children are out of school. Lou and I go in September or October when the vacationers are back home. There is lots of room and better rates. Lou didn't cut Rex's lawns; they didn't need it. He watered good. Warnie said he'd cut the lawns on Thursday, nice boy, eh? Lou enjoyed the creamed gravy and



Donna Marsh and Marty Strong

Mary Marsh Tibbets has a vivid memory of visiting the Strongs in 1954. Mary especially remembers watching Aunt Marty making malts for everyone. The part that was interesting to Mary was that Aunt Marty used a big bowl and mixer to mix up the malt. A great way to make enough malts for a big family and company.



Rex Marsh and Wayne Strong



Mt. Timpanogos

ground beef and potatoes for dinner, but he had a spell of gas bloating, which made him uncomfortable tonight. He took soda to relieve the distress.

August 18, Wednesday

Lou left so quietly this morning I didn't even hear him get up. That's the nice part of having one's own room, eh? I didn't rest very well in the night, but was sound asleep this morning when he left. He didn't fix breakfast, I hope he was over the gas bloat he had last night. (He is a dear.) My mouth feels better this morning; I wonder what causes the blisters to swell up on my lips so often? There is always something, eh? They swell up when I eat, at times. I decided to wash at the end of the week and then I won't have to do any washing next week. (Save on soap, and me, eh?) We received a letter from Violet, the first one from her in her new home, in Beryl, Utah. She says they are still in a mess, as the painting isn't finished yet. She couldn't find the ink bottle, so wrote in pencil. We also received three postcards from Donna telling about Janet's birthday and etcetera. The family went to Lagoon; Rex, Wayne, Janet, and Donna drove to Provo on Saturday morning and brought Elaine Oates back with them. Elaine went to Lagoon with the Marshes and Strong's. Donna bought a cake, put candles on it and they all sang happy birthday to Janet. Elaine stayed all night at Strong's with them. Rex and Janet took her back to Provo on Sunday morning, to attend a conference. The kids all went in swimming at Lagoon on Saturday. On Sunday Donna and family went calling on Lyllis's sister Venda. Donna phoned her and she wanted them to call by so she could see the family. Mrs. Homer told Donna over the phone that Lyllis is married and lives in Ogden. She is still running the ice cream place there. They'll see her on the way home. They leave Salt Lake City Thursday, (tomorrow) after camping in a canyon for three days. I guess it is Cottonwood? Donna said a canyon near, or close to Wayne's. She didn't name it. On Sunday they called to see Aunt Lydia and Uncle Owen. They met Billy's girl, he is engaged and getting married next month. Aunt Lydia went with them to call on Ruth Cartwright and Uncle Ern and Aunt Margaret and Uncle Melvin. Margaret has had her cast removed; she is walking with the help of crutches. Louise Keller Pierce is in Salt Lake City doing genealogy work. She is staying with Aunt Vinnie. Donna said she'd phone her. Rex and family will come home by way of San Francisco, so says the card. Florence Marsh phoned this evening; she and John are leaving in the morning for Oakland, going to visit Ruth and family. They are eating breakfast at six o'clock in the morning at



Kathy, Joan, John, Donna, Mary, with Janet in front. Picnic by the side of the road during the Utah trip in August of 1954.



Mary, Joan, Donna, and John Marsh with the new Ford and trailer during their vacation.

Van de Kamp's, then on their way up north. Lewis Marsh and family with Al Stead and family are going up in the mountains camping for a week. The Ellsworth's, Jim and Nell and family, are moving back to Pasadena. Jim has quit his FBI job. He has a good offer here in Southern California. They are tired of moving the family around all over the country with the FBI job. Gordon and Ruby Hodges are back from their trip to Salt Lake City. He was at the shop today. I talked to him on the phone; they called to see Margaret and Melvin in Salt Lake City. The city trimmed some branches off our trees, in the front parking today. Our neighbor, Mrs. Edgecomb's father, Elmer Lowe, was operated on today for a hernia. He is a fine old gentleman; I hope he will get along all right. Mary Hill phoned to tell me she is leaving for a trip to New York City. She didn't say why?



Janet, John, Rex, Kathy, Donna, and Mary in front of Crescent City Motel.



*Wayne, Rex, Kathy,
Donna, Donna Kay,
Marty*



Mary, John, Kathy, Janet, and Rex Marsh on their road trip vacation to Utah.

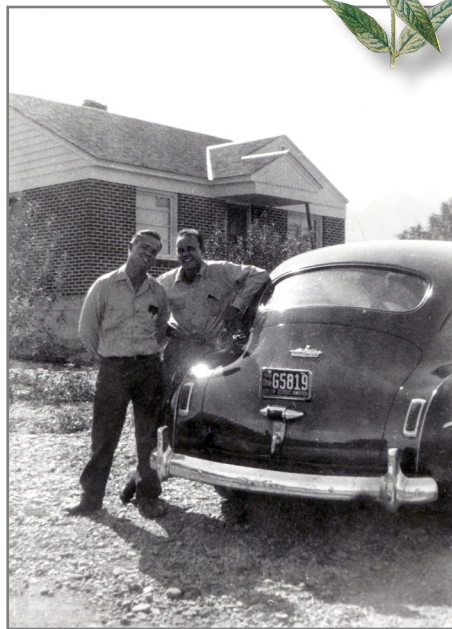


Mary, Janet, Florie Strong, Joan, Patsy Strong during visit to Utah in 1954.

Uncle Wayne and Aunt Marty Strong were very close to the Marsh family over the years. Wayne was a cousin to Elvie Renshaw but was much closer in age to Elvie's daughter, Donna.

August 19, Thursday

I guess John and Florence Marsh got a nice early start on their trip up north this morning. Rex and Donna and children start their trip back to California, from Salt Lake City this morning. They are coming back by way of San Francisco. They'll be calling on Lyllis Jacobs, I do not know her new married name. She lives in Ogden, Utah. It was nice and cool to do the washing this morning. I enjoy the overcast mornings in the summer time. The real hot weather is hard on me. We received another nice letter from Will and Flora Taylor; they're on a mission for the LDS church in Liberty, Missouri, at the old Liberty jail site. I'll be happy when Donna and family are back and settled in their new location. I wonder where it will be? Oh, I have missed them such a lot. They've been gone ten days today; it seems much longer. I miss not talking to Donna on the phone every day and learning about the family. There is very little to write about in the diary when my grandchildren are not here to do things, to write about. Thank goodness my darling Lou phones every day, I just couldn't enjoy life without him. He phoned this afternoon and said, "don't bother about dinner tonight, we will eat something at Bob's eating place, and go out to Donna's and take the newspapers and the mail inside the house." Isn't he a dear? Eh? Louise Anderson phoned



Rex and Wayne

to ask me what I use to get relief from asthma attacks. I told her of the blessed Breathe Easy spray I use. She is going to try it. I surely hope she will get the same wonderful relief I get. That old asthma is dreadful. Louise is such a darling girl, I'm so sorry she is troubled with asthma. We enjoyed our dinner this evening in Bob's place; our neighbors the Edgecombs, had the same idea this evening; they ate at Bob's place, too. The new home Mr. Edgecomb has just finished building is directly in back of Bob's. He has it up for sale now. It's a pretty little stucco house, a light brown with white trim. Warnie Mueller drove up in his father's nursery truck at the same time we arrived at the Marshes' home in Sierra Madre. Warnie brought his lawn mower and cut the front and back lawns. Lou took his little lawn edger up, so he took care of edging the lawns and the watering after. Warnie says he surely misses Janet. I'm sure he does, and I'll bet she is anxious to get home to him about now. Warnie's stepmother phoned and wanted him to come home with the truck, so he went as soon as he'd finished. He trimmed up the front garden a little, also. The place looks nice now. A young man called to see if Warnie was there about half an hour after he had left; he was in a car. I think he is hard of hearing, but he said he'd go to Warnie's home to find him. The Oates family is leaving for a trip to Hawaii, by air, in a few days.

August 20, Friday

It was another nice cool morning, overcast they call it out here. I didn't get much sleep last night, my heart acted strangely and hurt at times, but I'm happy I had relief from asthma troubles, I only had to use the spray once or twice. I thought of Louise Anderson; I hope she was free from asthma last night. She can't afford to lose her sleep, with her small children to care for every day. Lou closed my bedroom door this morning, so I knew he didn't want me to get up and help him. Isn't he a dear! I got up about nine o'clock. Clarice Tanner phoned near 10 a.m.; she was about to leave for the Singing Mother's chorus rehearsal and wondered if I had any idea when Donna and family would be home, and if I knew which route they'd take. All I knew was that Donna said in her card, they'd leave Salt Lake City on Thursday and come back by way of San Francisco. I did my ironing this morning. It was a small one. Lou's four seersucker shirts need very little ironing. I pressed the collar and front

when I took them off the lines yesterday. They are his work shirts and most of the time I fold them up without ironing at all. But they look better with some pressing, but there is no work at all to them. Janet Thomas phoned and gave me her mother's address and phone number in the home she is living in now, in Altadena. A Mrs. Hughes runs the home, and dear little Mrs. Scott phoned me from the home last Tuesday. I cleaned my asthma nebulizer this afternoon; it gets brown from the inhalant, and the rubber hose and bulb. It is a problem some times to get the stains out, but they came out very well today, so I was delighted. Jack Jelta phoned to ask if I knew when the Marshes would be home from vacation. Sorry Jack, but you know as much as I do about that. Now who do you think that handsome lad is interested in? Janet is engaged, so it must be Joan, eh? Ha ha! I told him I expected them any time after Sunday. He said he drove by the Marshes' home last night and noticed the lawn had been watered, so I guess he came by after we left here. Well, I'm not the only one waiting for them to get home, eh? I had two phone calls for Donna, while we were up to her house, also. I cleaned up the patio cabaña and then rested until Lou came from work this evening. Gordon went up to Mr. Wilson today to get a Venetian blind job.

August 21, Saturday

Lou went to Dr. Don Anderson's office this morning to do a little carpenter job for him; take out some shelves I believe he said, or some cabinets. Lou looked through our neighbor's paper, the Independent News. Mr. Edgecomb let him have yesterday's paper to look at the ads. There are not many four-bedroom houses for sale, at a price Rex can pay. Lou marked a few we may look at. Oh, I wish Donna and children were settled in a home they can be happy in and pay for. I just can't rest easy until I know what they're going to do about a home to live in? Warnie Mueller phoned about noon, to see if we'd heard anymore about the Marshes and when they'd arrive. He is very disappointed that Janet hasn't written him more often. I believe three letters and two or three cards are all she has sent him. I thought that was pretty good, but he asked her to write everyday and he gave her the stationery also, poor kid. Janet has "let him down" the little "so and so." I also know it's hard to take time out to write letters when you are on the go every minute on a vacation trip. A card is about the best I can do, and Lou? Well, he won't do even that much. But he is good to write to me when he's away, which hasn't been for many years. We go together on vacation. When we were younger, in Salt Lake City, Lou used to have jobs out of town once in a while and he'd write almost every day. I didn't have much to do today, as I had it all vacuumed and etcetera in the middle of the week. I put the house in

order and defrosted the icebox, took my bath and rested. I fixed a bacon and egg sandwich for our lunch. Lou brought home a water faucet from Don's office, he thought it was nicer looking than the one we have in the kitchen, so he proceeded to change it. I thought it was a lot of work for the little difference, but don't tell him. Ha ha! Both are the swivel type faucets, for hot or cold water. My man likes to work anyway, bless him. Mr. Edgecomb came in to give his advice, he let Lou have a bolt or something he needed for the job. He is a nice neighbor. Well, I'll have to admit the new faucet is better looking now that it is in. This evening we went up to Sierra Madre to water the lawns,. Lou did

the work, I dusted up in the house, but it did not get very dusty; they left it nice and clean. I watered the houseplants. Jack Jelta phoned to see if the Marshes were home and Warnie Mueller phoned, both lads were disappointed. Lou and I did our shopping at the new market again this week. We took a few groceries up to Donna's also; two dozen eggs, three quarts of milk, bread, a pound of bacon, tomatoes, ½ pound of butter, two pounds of ground beef, a box of Val Soap Powder and a package of Cheerios, an oat cereal. We brought our groceries home, ate a lunch and took a nice ride through the pretty Altadena Hills district. There are some very lovely homes in Altadena up in the hills. Our neighbor came home from the hospital today, (Mr. Lowe). I'm so glad the dear little old man came through his operation okay.



← A 1951 ad for Cheerios.

Original Cheerios® was invented in 1941 by food science innovator Lester Borchardt. Originally named "Cheerioats," healthy, wholesome oats have always played an important role as the cereal's main ingredient.

The Renshaws bought food for the Marshes return. Cheerios, Elvie noted, was an oat cereal. Not something she normally bought.

August 22, Sunday

I had a busy morning, cooked a pot roast, prepared potatoes, carrots, and onions, to bake in with it; left them in a very low oven while we went to Sunday School. The dinner was baked to perfection when we arrived home, all ready to eat. Lou invited Warnie Mueller to come home and eat with us, but he felt he should go home. It seemed strange without seeing any of the Marshes again this Sunday, at church. Everyone seems to have missed them, so many asked about them. Br. Cole gave our Sunday School lesson again today. Br. Don Rowberry is out of town again. We had an interesting lesson anyway. I surely missed the organ music this morning; something has gone wrong with that lovely brand new organ. I'll be glad when it is fixed. After dinner Lou and I went to look through three houses for sale. One is near us, off Blanche, or Santa Anita Street and two on Paloma Street. All have three bedrooms; one has two bedrooms and a den. I do not think any of them are large enough for Donna's family. We both took a nap before church time; we also ate before going to church. I got hungry and started it. Dixie Wolfe phoned, wanted to ride to church with us. Her mother and a friend were out

looking for a three-bedroom home to rent; Nina is thinking of housekeeping for a widower and his children. He doesn't like to keep his little ones in a home for children, wants his own home for them. We picked Dixie up at 6:10 p.m. Nina was home by then. Dixie stayed in the nursery to take care of the little children while the mothers were in church. We had a nice meeting. A young lady, Mary Wallace, sang two lovely solos. There was a talk by a young boy, Kent Dixon; our speakers were Harry Beck and Wilford Gurr. Br. Gurr has just been released from his stake mission of two years. We drove past the Marsh home in Sierra Madre, after church, no signs of life there yet. We took Dixie home and then enjoyed the television. We both had some peaches and cream and date nut loaf while watching Band Stand Review. Fun, eh? Warnie M. called by tonight to see if we'd heard from the folks. He didn't come in; he had a boyfriend waiting out in the car. We told him we had not heard from the folks. I was just about to climb into bed tonight at 11:45 p.m. when the phone rang. I thought the folks had arrived home, but it was a long distance call from Oakland, California. It was Donna calling from Ruth's home. They had just arrived there; she said they were leaving for home in a short while, driving all night. I was glad she let me know that all is well with them. Sr. Edith Fox was married today to the man she divorced years ago, when her children were small. It is their own father. I hope they'll find happiness this time. Ray Haddock is the new bishop of Studio City Ward, he was set apart today. Wonderful, eh?



*Jerry and Ray Haddock circa 1948.
In 1954 Ray is made bishop of the
Studio City Ward.*

August 23, Monday

I expected to hear from the Marshes anytime after 8:30 this morning but it was 10:50 when Johnny phoned. The phone rang a few times before that, each time I thought it was Donna calling to say they were home. Champ Cuff phoned to ask when the Marshes would be back, he wanted to know if the lot next door to Donna was up for sale, (Helen's lot). I did not know. Lou phoned to see if I'd heard anything from our family. I phoned Warnie Mueller this morning to tell him they were on their way home from Oakland and would arrive this morning sometime. Janet phoned him after they'd called me. Little Kathy talked to me; she was delighted to find her tricycle in Johnny's room. That is all she talked about. Her tricycle was waiting home for her. Donna said the children were all anxious to get home. They had a very lovely trip; Rex visited his uncles in Idaho. They took their time and enjoyed the vacation. I'm glad they are back safe and sound. Janet thanked me for the beach towel; she said it was beautiful, I'm glad she liked it. Joan said they stopped at Shirley's apartment long enough to say hello to her, in San Francisco, on their way to Oakland. They didn't get out of the car. Shirley had some company, but she came out to the car. She insisted on

them eating some cake, so she brought it out to the car. Joan said they were all tired and messed up, so didn't want to go in Shirley's apartment last night. They'd been driving many hours. They ate a big dinner at Aunt Ruth's home, in Oakland about midnight or 1 a.m. before starting out for home. Uncle Dick (Dr. Deal), gave Rex, Donna, Janet, and Joan some "No Doze" pills before starting out so they were very alert and enjoyed the drive home. Kathy slept on Janet and Joan's lap in the front seat with Rex. Mary slept in the middle seat with her head in Donna's lap. Johnny slept on the back seat. Joan was still full of pep; she was going to walk uptown in Sierra Madre to take a roll of films. Warnie was up to Janet's before she could phone him. She was trying to get him on the phone when he came to the door. Donna thanked me for the food we put in their icebox, it was nice to have something ready without going to the store, she said. I wrote to Violet Fife and Will and Flora Taylor this afternoon. After dinner we went out to see the folks and hear all about the trip. It was really interesting. We had some news to tell them, also. Lorene came home from taking care of the little Jewish children in Van Nuys, (while their parents were away). She phoned to tell me that Blanche H. phoned to say that LaPriel Bunker wants the Strong Family Society to come to their home, (the mission home) on Saturday night the 28th. She will have a nice program and serve refreshments. She wants everyone to come, nice eh? We also told Donna about Bishop Ray Haddock and about Ada Elton passing away, and that Diana Strong Sealander is visiting with Beth J. They brought Lorene to Los Angeles town in their car from Van Nuys. Janet was out with Warnie tonight; Joan went to a girlfriend's home. John and Florence Marsh are still up in Oakland visiting Ruth. She had a house full last night, eh? Dale Andersen came home from Camp Ord on Saturday night. Bishop Lewie Marsh and family and Al Stead and family are on a camping trip in the mountains somewhere.

August 24, Tuesday

We surely enjoyed hearing about the lovely trip our family had. Donna says that Lyllis's daughter, Myrna, is married and living in California. Myrna [Lyllis Myrna Jacobs] was only 15 years old when she got married. I hope she is happy, she is so young to be married, but she does look much older, she is a nice looking girl. We think Janet is too young to be engaged and she's 18 years old. I was 18 when I was engaged, but I didn't get married until I was 21. I hope Janet can wait that long. All I really want is for them, my children, to be happily married. (Bless 'em.) The age doesn't matter if it's a good marriage. Donna said they all slept sound last night and feel fine today. I did not get to sleep until almost daylight. Lou shut my door and I did not hear him go this morning. He is a darling. I had so many things on my mind last night, after hearing Rex and Donna's plans to move to Utah, and build houses and swimming pools and etcetera, etcetera. My poor old head can't keep up with them. They're young and I hope they'll make their wonderful dreams come true. I phoned Nora Williamson to see when we'd do our Relief Society visiting; her car is in the shop. She will call me when she has it home. Lou phoned me, he is interested in the house we looked at last Sunday, for a rental. It is near here, just two and a half blocks. It has three bedrooms; he

wonders if it would be alright for Donna's family until they can build the home they are dreaming of, in Murray, Utah? It is on South Santa Anita, just off Blanche Street. Lou said he'd make the down payment and let them make the payments of \$90 a month, if they are determined to rent a place. When they move to their own place again, Lou will have no trouble renting the place in that location. I wish I knew what to answer. I do not know the answer, but I do know they'll have to pay more than \$100 a month to rent a house with three bedrooms in. I went uptown after lunch when I found we couldn't go Relief Society visiting; I bought a box of birthday cards for \$1.00. It has fourteen pretty cards in; I got it at the Bible Book Shop. I looked at little wool jackets, like my white shrug jacket. I've enjoyed it so much. I wanted one in pink or blue. I found one in the Slenderline Store, 100% wool for \$5.95. I bought it. I phoned Lou from the store, and he picked me up in town at 4:35 p.m. We stopped at the Santa Anita place, but it was locked up. Lou phoned Mrs. Hazel Buckln and she came over and met us there. She showed us through the house. Lou phoned Donna and Rex and they came down to look it over. They thought they could live in the place a year or so and pay rent, the payment, if Daddy could make the down payment of \$1,550.00. We buy it; they live in it and make the payments in rent until they can build their own home. Then we'll sell or rent. I do hope it will work out all right for all of us. I know they'll be crowded for bedroom and closet room, but the location is good, near to transportation and schools. Lou will have a lot of work to do on the place. He is going to put in a clothes closet and a shower and toilet and bowl, painting and etcetera. It all makes me feel ill to think about. Lou phoned the real estate lady, Mrs. Buckln, she came over tonight and made out the sales paper. Lou paid \$100 deposit and we've arranged to go to the Pasadena Escrow and Safe Deposit Company in the morning, so we can get it in escrow before the title escrow, they have there now, for the place, is closed. It was all ready waiting for the termite inspection, which was taken care of today. The lady that put it in escrow, has decided she wants her money back, she can't handle it, so she is selling out. Her name is Faye E. Snyder. She was buying the place from Mr. W. H. Goodson. (Confused eh? Me too.) Kathy came with Rex and Donna to look at the house. Janet and Joan got dinner ready. The Ernest Oates family left for Hawaii today by airplane, all but Ernie Jr. He is in Japan for Uncle Sam.

August 25, Wednesday

Lou went to work without waking me; he cooked his own breakfast, isn't he something? (Precious man.) He phoned to tell me that Mrs. Hazel Buckln would come for me at 10 a.m. to take me to the Pasadena

Escrow Company. She phoned, also. I was ready when she arrived at 9:55 a.m. We met Lou and Mrs. Faye E. Snyder, (the lady selling the place), before her escrow is even closed, and Mr. W.H. Goodson, the owner she bought from. He came to bring the termite clearance papers. Diary, just between you and me, I really do hate all this red tape, papers to sign and read over. It puts my head in a whirl. I'd never buy property if it were up to me. Give me one little home to love and live in, is all I'd ever ask for in this world. My sweet man loves to look at houses for sale, and buy and sell 'em. I hope this will work out well for all concerned. I can see a lot of work ahead for Lou and Rex. Oh, why must we always get so involved? Gee, what a terrible businesswoman I'd make. Ha ha! Nora Williamson and I were going to do our Relief Society visiting this afternoon, but her car didn't come from the garage shop as promised. Mary and Johnny went to Primary today. Joan sewed for herself. Janet went uptown to buy a wedding gift for a girlfriend. Donna went Relief Society visiting with Lydia Stephens. Rex worked for Harry Howard on swimming pool at Howard's home. I believe Janet went to Bullock's Pasadena Store, not uptown. This evening things took on a different look. We were all upset because we couldn't find a space in the Santa Anita house for Donna's icebox. Such blundering idiots as we were, to even think we could use that small kitchen for Donna's family. The more we measured the worse things looked. We had Rex and Donna come down; they brought Joan and Kathy. Janet came by in Warnie's car, she was on her way to pick him up and go to the wedding. I believe it is Warnie's cousin that is getting married. We tried to phone Mrs. Hazel Buckln, but she'd gone to the beach. Lou asked Rex to ask his real estate agent, Mr. Range, if we could be held to the contract. Mr. Range phoned us. Lou and I took the contract and escrow copy over to Mr. Range's home. He read them over, and told us we would lose the \$100 deposit, but they could not hold us to the rest of the contract. It wouldn't hold up in court. We were relieved to hear that. It isn't the first \$100 we've lost in a bad investment. I feel dreadful about the whole deal,

sorry for Mrs. Buckln, she is such a nice person.

I'm very unhappy, for poor Mrs. Snyder, she was so happy to be rid of the place. I can see why

now, the kitchen is impossible. The house is in excellent condition; the location is wonderful, good-looking hardwood floors. Well, we live and learn. Donna and Rex received bad news about their home. The sale they thought was going through didn't work out, the loan companies can't agree on some details, so they feel all unsettled.



Irene, Ernie, Florence, Ernest, Diane, and Elaine Oates. Ernie is in uniform and serving in Japan while his family flies to Hawaii for a vacation.

They need the money for car payments and other things. It is dreadful. A Jewish lady looked through the house this morning. Mrs. Range brought her. She brought her husband back to see it, and then later they brought the grandmother, who has the cash. We hope Grandma likes the place as well as the young couple do! Rex says he'll have to refinance the place if they do not take it. Oh, how I wish he could find a way to live in it with my precious family. It is such a lovely home for them. Joan and Peter Brown went to see the movie "Gone With the Wind" tonight. Warnie had to have some work done on his car. There is always something to worry folks, eh? Poor kid, I wish he had a good steady job. Mary and Johnny went to a moving picture show, with the Bush family, in Sierra Madre tonight. They went to Primary this morning. Happy childhood, eh?



August 26, Thursday

Lou left without fixing breakfast this morning. He took some bananas for lunch, bless his heart. I got up at 9 a.m. and felt better. I phoned Lou at the shop and got Mrs. Buckln's number so I could talk to her. I had a rugged time last night with nervous chills, until I got up in the wee hours and put the heating pad in bed with me. This morning I phoned Mrs. Buckln and told her we would not go through with the escrow as planned. I told her how we'd measured every way possible to find a space to put Donna's icebox and table and chairs in that small kitchen. We didn't think of the icebox, until last night, and then we knew it was all a very sad mistake. She felt very bad about it, but she was nice; she is a very lovely person to deal with. She phoned the lady that is selling the place; Mrs. Snyder. I'm sure it was a dreadful disappointment to Mrs. Snyder as she was so very anxious to get rid of the place. Mrs. Snyder phoned me and said she could hold us to the contract. I felt so sorry for the poor dear. I told her that we had been advised that we would lose our \$100.00 deposit, but the contract would not stand up in court. I told her to take her copy of the contract to an attorney, if she was in doubt about what she could do. I was as nice as I could be, and she was, also. I hope this is the last we hear about the troublesome deal and I do hope she can sell to someone that can place the furniture all right. I'm sure we couldn't rent the place for \$110 per month, which we'd have to get in order to pay the two loans on the place, plus taxes. Oh, I'm glad to get rid of the worry of it, (bye

bye \$100). Donna went to the Singing Mother's rehearsal this morning. Warnie Mueller is working with Rex and Harry Howard up at Howard's, digging the swimming pool for the plastic pool deal they're putting in. Janet and Joan rode up to Howard's in Warnie's car, to see how the work was coming along. They didn't stay long. This evening Mrs. Snyder phoned and talked a long time to Lou. She wondered if he could help her with some carpenter work if she decides to move into the place herself. He said he'd be happy to help her fix the place up. The Jewish people came again to talk with Mr. Range about Donna's home; Timmerman is their name. I guess their Grandma doesn't think it is right for them and she's the gal with the money. So that sale is off. We wonder what is in store for our little Marshes? I'm wondering how Ethel Newbold is holding up and how she got along with her daughter's funeral? Dear Ethel, I'd love to have a nice talk with her, the poor soul. I'm sure Ada is much better off where she is now, than here in the sad condition she was in. Nora Williamson phoned to tell me she couldn't go with me this afternoon, to do our Relief Society visiting. Her husband wanted her to go to Santa Barbara with him and stay overnight. He had to go there on business and didn't want to make the long drive alone. She said if they get back in time tomorrow, we would go.

August 27, Friday

Lou ate hotcakes at a little eating place on Lake Street this morning. I got up about 7:55 a.m. and was surprised to find he had left for work already. I thought it was earlier; he is a dear to go out and not wake me. I did rest a lot better last night. I'm feeling much better today. I went outside and burned up the flower cuttings that Lou had placed by the incinerator to dry. It took me almost two hours to clean up the pile that was heaped up there. Mrs. Hazel Buckln phoned to tell me that we had to go to the Pasadena Escrow Company and sign the paper to release the escrow that we signed for on Wednesday. I phoned Lou and he called Mr. Jones of the Escrow Company and made arrangements to go in after work this evening. I didn't have to go for which I was very thankful. Nora Williamson didn't get back from Santa Barbara today in time for us to do our Relief Society visiting as planned. We're having a time to get it done this month. Donna and Janet drove up to Howard's in Warnie's car, to get the station wagon, so that Donna could do some visiting of the sick. She brought Kathy here to stay with me while she went to call on Ann Hartshorne. Ann has had a nervous breakdown; she is in a depressed frame of mind. Donna stayed with her for about two hours. I feel sorry for Ann, I do not think anything is worse than that illness. I had a touch of it many years ago. Ann's mother is visiting with her brother in Arizona. She, (Mrs. Phillips) was operated on a short time ago, had cataracts removed from her eyes. I gave Kathy her lunch when she arrived, but I waited for Donna to come home to eat. We had pineapple and cottage cheese and raisin toast. Kathy ate again with us. Kathy and I played ball in the yard; we pretended we were driving to the beach, in our garden swing. She did the driving and oh, the fancy curves she made! She is a cute baby. Warnie and Rex worked up at Howard's again today. Mrs. Snyder phoned this evening;

she said she is moving into the Santa Anita place next Monday or Tuesday. She wanted to know if Lou would do some carpenter work in the house for her. He said he'd be glad to help her fix the house up. He has a job to do for Dr. Don Anderson tomorrow, but it will not take more than half a day. The Andersons are away on a vacation, but they gave Lou a key to get in and do the job. Our ward block teachers came this evening; Br. William Ashton and young Dale Williamson. We always enjoy their visit and message. We enjoyed our TV programs tonight, until bedtime. The loan company sent a man out to look the Marsh home over, to see about a loan to refinance it for Rex and Donna. I wonder how it will all end, eh?

August 28, Saturday

Lou and I ate breakfast together, for a change. We can do it on the days he doesn't go to work early. Lou talked to Mrs. Snyder on the phone; she is anxious to have the work done. He went over to measure up for the job, then phoned to tell her what lumber was needed. He met her at the lumberyard; she bought the material and he did the job this morning. He fixed a closet and put up a partition so she can have her icebox on the service porch. She paid him the \$10.00 for the work before he even did the job. She is a nice person to deal with. Lou came home for lunch, and then went to Dr. Anderson's home to do the job waiting for him there. Rex and Warnie worked for Harry Howard again today. They laid some brick in the new swimming pool. Janet had a babysitting job for a Mrs. Sheffield today; she is a ward member. Mary went to Alicebeth Ashby's to babysit for her. Joan went uptown with Diane DeBry. Donna said the Zimmerman's were bringing a brother to look at the house today. The Grandmother didn't want them to buy it, but they like it very much. (But Grandma had the cash??) Well maybe the brother can help 'em, eh? Annie phoned to tell me that Blanche Hoglund phoned and told her to have me bring all the poems I've composed about our Strong's Family Society. It took me over an hour to locate them all, and the Jubilee song that I did for our Strong's reunion several years ago (June 11, 1934). I do not know just which ones they will want, but I'll take the scrapbook and have them all handy, where I can locate them quickly. Annie and Bill are going with a young couple from their ward, Br. and Sr. Northrup. She is a daughter of Br. and Sr. Elsibush. He is head over the genealogy in their ward, and he asked if he and wife could attend one of our family meetings. Annie and Bill and Blanche decided this would be a good meeting for him to attend. Donna said she and Rex would take their new station wagon and take the Claytons and us. We wanted to get started at 7 p.m. but had to wait until Mary got home from Sheffield's where she went to relieve Janet, as

Janet had to get ready for the Gleaner Banquet in our stake center. Janet and Warnie and Joan went to the banquet. Mrs. Sheffield said she'd be home at 6 p.m. but it was almost 7:30 before she came. We picked up Miriam, Ray, Aunt Lorene, and the two little girls. Mary Marsh stayed home with Johnny and Kathy. We arrived at the mission home about 8:30 p.m. Beth, Dick, Shirley and Kenny, and Mary J. arrived a few minutes later. We had a very lovely meeting.



LaPriel and Bryan Bunker in front of mission home 1952

Donna played for our songs, "The Spirit of God," opening; my jubilee song was on program and "Love at Home" for closing. I read the poem we California Strong's sang to the Salt Lake Strong's, twenty years ago, 1934, in our Strong's reunion in the 10th Ward Hall. Helen Obremski sang two lovely numbers; President Bryan Bunker gave a lovely talk, also LaPriel, his wife. We had a wonderful meeting. LaPriel served chocolate chip ice cream and cookies. It was delicious. A beautiful spirit was felt in the lovely mission home. It was grand being there for our family meeting. Elaine, Carol Sue, and Ann Vandergrift came with Sue, Bette, and Bishop Ray Haddock. We missed Ellen Scott and Nora and Bert McKay. Tottie Strong couldn't come because of the sudden illness of her little daughter Susie. Clint came. We had a nice big attendance. I sat in the back seat with Marilyn and Koy and told them stories and poems, we had fun riding in the new Ford station wagon.

August 29, Sunday

It was hot and sunny early this morning. The temperature went up to 100 degrees, and that is hot for Southern California. It is nice and cool in our lovely new chapel, so we enjoyed Sunday School as always. I was happy to see our excellent teacher, Don Rowberry back on the job. My Johnny boy wanted to come home with us. He wouldn't let me out of his sight after Sunday School. We had to wait for Lou, thirty minutes. The Sunday School workers had a meeting after Sunday School. I hope they don't do that very often. Fathers and little children were waiting for the mothers in the meeting, and mothers waiting for the fathers that work in Sunday School. I think it is a shame to have them waiting when they're tired and hungry. I do not mind so much, but it's a good thing it isn't Lou waiting for me, eh? Ha ha! Lou was so busy working yesterday, then we went to the Strong's meeting, we had no chance to do our shopping, so we went to the market from church. We got cold cuts of meat and had a quick cold lunch, salad tomatoes, lettuce, chips, and ice cream. Lou had a nap on the couch. I entertained Johnny the best I could until 3

p.m. then I let him have the TV programs on; the “hootin tootin” cowboy picture soon woke Grampa up, but he enjoys ‘em as much as Johnny. I enjoyed a nap on Lou’s bed, while they chased over the mountains and planes with the cowboys. Lou did sleep through one picture that John had turned on low. He was almost sitting in the TV set, oh me! President Howard Hunter, his wife, and two sons furnished our program in church this evening. The invocation was by John Hunter, the benediction by Richard Hunter. The speakers were Clara and Howard Hunter. Madge Fowler played two lovely organ solos, two young people, a girl and boy, gave short talks. There was a nice cool breeze out this evening which was a treat from the blistering heat his morning.



President Howard Hunter and his wife Claire with their sons John and Richard circa 1950.

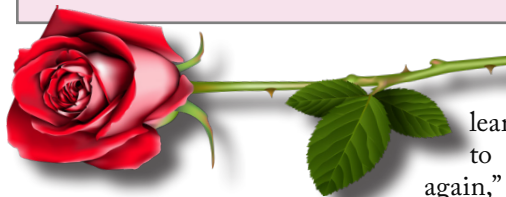
August 30, Monday

It was hot and sunny to start out with this morning. I had a rather large washing because I didn’t do any last week. I phoned Nora Williamson at 9 a.m. to see if we were going to get our Relief Society visiting done this afternoon. She had an appointment to have a permanent wave at 1:45 p.m., so we decided to go at eleven o’clock today. I was glad I had an early start with the washing; she was expecting the plumber to fix her water pipes. Well, it worked out, and we got our visiting done, for which I’m thankful. We found Marie Andrus home; she arrived just as we were about to leave. Edith Fox was not home; she got married a week ago, to her ex-husband, Mr. Fox. We were back home in an hour because of the families away on vacation. LaDorna Perine showed us some of the cute gifts her mother brought to them from Europe. I was glad to get home and out of the heat, but I always enjoy our visits with the lovely ladies on our district. Nora is a very nice person; it’s fun to go with her in her beautiful car. Donna phoned this afternoon; she and Janet had been up to Howard’s, to take some lunch and cold buttermilk to Rex and Warnie. They are still working on the new plastic swimming pool for Harry Howard. Mary Marsh was out to lunch, at Bullock’s Pasadena Store, with her friend Carol Colvin and mother, and aunt, I think. Nice, eh? Johnny Marsh was up to Howard’s with David. He slept there last night. Bob Perry, Joan’s friend, took Joan out for a drive somewhere. He has been away most of the summer. We received a letter from Ethel Newbold telling of Ada’s funeral. She isn’t coming back now, her son Harold and wife flew to Salt Lake City from Washington D.C. They gave up their tour when word reached them of Ada’s death. They flew back to Los Angeles after the funeral; a neighbor was taking care of their children. Ethel had to leave them when she received word of her daughter’s death. I’m sorry they couldn’t enjoy the lovely tour they’d planned for so long. I phoned Sr. Margaret Waugaman, and Bonna Gordon, to report our visiting done. We got in on the deadline, eh? I surely hope we’ll do better next month. LaDorna Perine received a

What is Success?

*It’s doing your work the best you can,
And being kind to you fellow man;
It’s making money, but holding friends,
And staying true to your aims and ends;
It’s figuring how and learning why,
And looking forward and thinking high,
And dreaming a little and doing much;
It’s keeping always in closet touch
With what is finest in word and deed;
It’s being thorough, yet making speed;
It’s daring blithely the field of chance
While making labor a brave romance.
It’s going onward despite defeat,
And fighting staunchly, but keeping sweet;
It’s being clean and it’s playing fair;
It’s laughing lightly at Dame Despair;
It’s looking up to the stars above,
And drinking deeply of life and love;
It’s struggling on with the will to win,
But taking loss with a cheerful grin;
It’s sharing sorrow, and work, and mirth,
And making better this good old earth;
It’s serving, striving, through strain and stress;
It’s doing your noblest—that’s success.*

—Anonymous



surprise today when she “put me on the spot,” I told her I gave last June’s message so many times that I had it memorized and she said (in fun), “all right, if you have it memorized, let’s hear it now, cause I was not home in June.” It was the lovely poem, “What is Success,” and I did memorize it, ha ha! I was able to give it to her. She said, “Well, I’ve learned better than to doubt your word again,” We had fun over it. Lou and I sat out in

the cabaña on the swing, until 8:30 this evening. It was a perfect evening. The little crickets sang for us. A little fat owl sat up on the wire surveying the neighborhood.

August 31, Tuesday

It was a good sunny start for another hot day. I paid today, for overdoing it yesterday; I didn’t rest well last night. My legs are weak and my heart pains this morning. I phoned Donna; she was ironing. She is either washing or ironing most of the time. She said they went down to Marshes home last night; Grandma Marsh gave her two pair of nylon hose and a pair of embroidered pillow slips with crocheted edges, nice, eh? Mr. Range, the real estate man, phoned Donna yesterday, and told her that the Taylors, and the Zimmermans are both trying to negotiate loans to buy their home. He said they should have the answer by the first of the week of which one will, if any, buy the place. If nothing comes of it, he, Mr. Range, will get busy on the refinance deal for Rex’s home. Rex is still working up at Howard’s on the new plastic swimming pool. Warnie is working with Stan Koontz today on a nursery-landscaping job. My darling Lou didn’t call me, he fixed breakfast and lunch, got out quietly, isn’t he precious? Donna had a lot of phone calls to make this morning, to arrange for six sisters in the ward to go to the cannery for welfare this week. I wish I were well enough to go and help out, but I know better than to get in that heat and work. I received a nice letter from Eloise Brooks; she asks for more of my poetry. I just can’t get into the mood in this hot weather. The queen tributes for Relief Society are about all I can

manage. Our neighbors the Barnes are away at the beach for vacation. While resting this afternoon, I composed a poem, to my dear old octogenarian friends, "Eternal Youth." A bright idea, I'll send it to Eloise, my dear friend, the power of suggestion is truly strong. That dear gal has inspired me into the mood of rhyming once more; she won't let me rest for long, I'll be a poet yet, if she has her way, ha ha! Eloise is very talented; she has composed some really fine poems. She also does lovely paintings and pen sketches, lots of comic sketches. I have many of them in my scrapbooks. Lou came home tired and hot. He wanted to rest before eating dinner. I was glad of a chance to rest too, on the couch. Lou rested on his bed. I planned a cold dinner so we didn't have to eat until we were cooled off and rested. Lou took a bath; his clothes are wet with sweat when he comes home on hot days like this. After dinner, in the cool of the evening, I sat in the garden swing. Lou cut the grass away from our stepping-stones leading to the cabaña. It's amazing how fast the grass grows over them if let go. They look so nice and large now. Our yard is pretty thanks to my Lou! Peter Brown took Joan to the Shrine Auditorium tonight to a nice program of some kind. He lives across the street from the Marshes.

September 1, Wednesday

It wasn't as hot today, but plenty warm. Here we go into the fall months, dear me, it seems like we were just starting into 1954 a few weeks ago, and it is almost a thing of the past already. Time marches on, eh? I didn't feel very well this morning, so I decided to fast my breakfast. It does me good to fast and pray at times. (I'm getting too fat anyway.) I phoned the home to talk to my old neighbor Mrs. Agnes Scott. She was listening to her favorite radio programs and asked me to call back later, ha ha! How I've wished I could do that a time or two myself! I'm glad she did ask the matron to have whoever it was to call her after 1 p.m. The dear little lady is in her eighties and is blind. She had the matron dial my number a few days ago and she asked me to please call her once in a while, as she is lonesome. The matron said she thought it was her daughter on the line this morning. She'll be embarrassed when she tells her it was Mrs. Renshaw, I'm afraid. But I do not wish to take her from her stories. I remember how much she enjoys hearing her favorite programs. Donna phoned

Eternal Youth

*You say I'm growing old and I live in the past,
Dwelling on the memories that within me last,
But I answer you with words of truth,
My friend, I have eternal youth!*

*True, my hair has turned to snowy white,
My eyes no longer are clear and bright,
And the furrows on my brow are deep,
I nod in church and fall asleep.*

*My hearing is not so keen, I know,
My footsteps are faltering and slow
These things, my friend that you see today
Are but a worn and weary house of clay.*

*This cloak of flesh has served me well,
But me, I'm here, inside the shell,
Ere long I'll shed this house of clay,
And in peace await that glorious day.*

*When renewed, this robe of flesh will rise
To become my precious, eternal prize.
Then, safe within my Savior's fold,
You'll see, I wasn't growing old.*

By Elvie Renshaw—August 31, 1954

*This poem was read by Donna Marsh
at Elvie's funeral in 1980.*



this afternoon; she had prepared the dinner for the girls to put on the table, as she was leaving with five other ward sisters at 3 p.m. to go to the church cannery and can fruit or vegetables. Br. Rowbotham was going to take them in his car. Janet was busy today gathering up clothes from girl friends, for the rummage sale her school club (Phenix Club) is having. I was sorry to learn that Br. Will DeHaan was rushed to the hospital with internal hemorrhage; his wife Marva is flying home from Salt Lake City to be with him here. I was also sorry to learn that Br. Jared Brown was taken to the hospital with a heart attack. Zina is his wife. Mary and Johnny Marsh went to Primary this morning; Mary Howard took them, and Richard Timothy, up to her home for lunch, then to a matinée, and here's the "kick;" the Howard's two children are visiting some of their friends in El Monte. Ha ha! One would think little Mary Howard would take advantage of the peace and quiet, eh? Ha ha! Mary H. promised to take our baby Kathy up to her house to lunch tomorrow. 'Tis no wonder the children all love that little lady. Warnie M. is working with Rex and Harry up at Howard's today. I had a nice visit with Mrs. Scott over the phone this afternoon. She seemed delighted to hear from

me. Her daughter is going to take her to the beach for a few days on vacation soon. My Daddy Lou phoned as usual, he calls once or twice a day as a rule unless he is too busy. But work is a little slack at the shop now. I had a happy surprise this afternoon when Ruby Hodges and Pearl Redborg came to visit. Gordon H. brought them over on his way back to work after his lunch. We had a lengthy discussion on our ailments and what to eat and not to eat. The Helms Bakery whistle interrupted, I had to go out for some bread. The company followed out to look over the goodies. We all bought bread and cookies. I bought some delicious chocolate covered cookies, with coconut inside, (more like candy). Pearl had tasted them at a friend's house and she said, "Oh, we must try them." (60¢ a dozen.) Ha ha! Number one on the list of what not to eat, ha ha! We came in the house and ate ice cream and cookies. Oh me! Well, I did eat peaches instead of ice cream; I only had two nice dishes of ice cream in the freezer and peaches are better for me. Oh yes, our diet? We start that tomorrow, ha ha! Lou took Pearl and Ruby home this evening to Hodges. We enjoyed our nice little home and the TV as usual tonight.

September 2, Thursday

It was another bright sunny morning. Lou got out quietly without waking me. He ate his breakfast out somewhere. He likes to eat out at times. I rested much better last night, and am feeling much better today. I was so shaky and weak yesterday. Donna went to Singing Mother's practice for the stake Singing Mothers. She took Kathy with her. Joan had a baby-sitting job. Mary and Johnny walked up to the canyon to Howard's home. Janet fixed a lunch to take up to Rex, Warnie, Johnny, and Mary at Howard's. Rex, Warnie, and Harry are still working on the new plastic swimming pool at Howard's. They think it will be finished in a few days. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold. I talked to Janet on the phone this morning and this afternoon I talked to Donna for a minute. She was just about to leave the house to go out with Clarice Tanner, to visit the new families who just moved into our ward and invite the sisters to come to Relief Society and to church. I decided to vacuum the bedrooms today then it will not be so much to do tomorrow. This Grama can't seem to work as fast or as hard as she once could, ah me! But I am thankful I can still do my own work. That is indeed a blessing when one can't afford to have it done, eh? I have always enjoyed working anyway, when not ill, but it is not a happy situation if one feels weak and sickly, which has been my experience many times. This evening after dinner Lou worked in the yard. He dug up around the flowers, and tied the hydrangea shrub up off the ground. It has surely grown a lot this year, and had some very lovely blossoms on. They were a delicate rose, and so large. I think the blossoms would measure 8 to 10 inches across. I enjoyed the beautiful evening, in the moonlight, in our swing. We do enjoy the patio cabaña these warm summer nights, listening to the crickets sing. Grandma Lowe's little grandson, Michael, is visiting her for a few days at Edgecomb's. He looks to be about 12 years old. The other little brother will come when this one goes back home to Duarte, I think they live there? His toy airplane flew up in the tree, between our lots. Lou got it down for him with a long stick. The lad brought his new music portfolio over to show us; he takes trumpet lessons and he plays quite well. He is a very nice little fellow. We enjoyed the TV tonight, after it got too chilly to stay outside for my comfort. It was still warm for Lou. It felt good to me also, but I must be careful always.

September 3, Friday

It wasn't as hot today and that was a relief. I cleaned the two front rooms good today, vacuumed everything I could. I did the bedrooms yesterday. I phoned Donna, Janet said mother wasn't busy and she called her in from the backyard, where she was burning papers. Oh dear! I could have called again. Mary went to clean her shoes with black polish, she had an accident and it spilt on her white skirt and the floor. It came up off the floor okay; I hope it'll come out of the skirt as well. Never a dull moment at my Marshes' eh? Mr.

Lowe came for Michael this afternoon, on his way from work. He is a milk truck driver. I'll miss Mike, he is a nice lad and I enjoy seeing a child next door for a change. It is so quiet over there as a rule. I love to see and hear children at play. I talked to Annie on the phone; she had been pickling some figs that Viola Sorenson gave her from her trees. She says they are delicious. I told her I'd know when I tasted them for myself! Viola Sorenson's husband is very ill with cancer of the liver, poor man. Johnny and Mary have traded bedrooms, she has moved her dresser and clothes back in the house and he has moved his things out to the little garage house. Joan has the bedroom in the little house and Johnny has the front room. They have plenty of bedrooms now, five of them with the little rear house. I wish they didn't have to sell that nice home, but I guess they will. Lou phoned and invited me to eat dinner out with him, nice eh? He took a bath and cleaned up; we went to town to the Crown Cafeteria and had a very nice dinner. I bought One-A-Day Vitamins and a tube of Rex-Salvine from the Owl Drug Store before eating.



We drove out to Sierra Madre to see our children. They were all eating dinner in the little breakfast nook; the seven of them fill it up well. Joan washed the dishes, I didn't see anyone dry then, guess they drain dry, eh? Johnny and Mary were excited over the roller skate derby the neighborhood kids were holding next door at Kirk's place, on the big cement patio. They invited us to come and watch. Donna, Janet, Kathy, Grampa Lou, and I went over to watch. I'll admit it was breathtaking. I expected one of the kids to get hurt any minute. Johnny started the race off. Mary kept score. They are the only kids without roller skates. Theirs got rusted out in the weather. The kids had white tee shirts on with a big number painted on the back and their name in front. I believe there were five girls and five boys. The girls had the most points when we left. I do not know how it finished up. They even had a program for us to look at. (The fun of childhood, eh?) Lou and I brought Donna and Kathy home with us tonight to see the Lawrence Welk TV program. Rex was asleep on his bed, he came for Donna and Kathy about 9:30 p.m. He brought Johnny and Mary. Janet and Warnie came to watch TV and visit. Warnie was tired; he had been working with Stan Koontz on a landscaping job; he fell asleep on the floor.

September 4, Saturday

I cooked a nice breakfast for Lou; he helped Mr. Lowe fix a little stool that Mrs. Lowe had made a pretty needlepoint cover or top for. It is a blue background, with pink roses and green leaves, and is very pretty. The screws they had for it were a little too long. Lou went to the Shopping Bag Market near us for our groceries, while I defrosted the icebox and did dishes and made beds. I had my bath and was dressed and hair combed before he got home. He worked in the yard, I helped some; I transplanted some

geraniums. Lou took out the old ones and dug the ground up for me. I couldn't do all I wanted to do because my heart was hurting a lot, and my legs were trembling, darn it anyway. I wish I didn't get these weak spells every time I tried to do a little work. I talked to Donna on the phone; she was trying to help Johnny with his talk for the Jr. Sunday School program tomorrow. Mary was at Warnick's babysitting. Judy Warnick had gone to a matinee, so Sr. Warnick had to have someone stay with the baby while she and Carl went out. Rex worked up at Howard's on the swimming pool. Donna received a letter from Mary Hill. She is still in the East with her son Paul. Our neighbors the Barnes came home this afternoon from their beach vacation of about a week or ten days. Mr. Edgecomb and a friend left this morning about four o'clock for a camping trip. Lou brought some canned soft drinks home with the groceries today, cherry, lemon, ginger ale, and root beer. He is having a wonderful time trying them out. I like ginger ale the best, but I do not indulge in any of the soda drinks very much; they give me gas distress. Lou enjoyed a nap this afternoon. I rested on the couch for an hour but didn't fall asleep. I recited poems to entertain myself, not out loud but in my mind, so as not to disturb Lou's slumbers. Florence Marsh phoned this evening, she'd been trying for 10 or 15 minutes to get Rex's home on the phone, "buzz, buzz." I tried until I finally got Donna; she said they'd be home so I called Marshes back. But by that time John wasn't in the mood to drive to Sierra Madre. He said he'd fill Rex's gas tank if they'd go down to see them. I called Donna, she said Rex was not home from work yet, at 7:30 p.m. Janet had a babysitting job, Joan was out to a show with her girlfriend. I relayed the message to Florence that Rex wasn't home. She said to tell Donna to save the phone call money, that they'd come out another time. Donna had told me to tell her they'd call them when Rex got home. Well, it gave me a chance to talk to Florence and to Donna a few times. I guess I'm a bit lonely like the Marshes, looking for something to do. Eh? Oateses are away in Hawaii.

September 5, Sunday

It was sunny and bright when we got up this morning, but the fog rolled in about nine o'clock. It was real cool and foggy when Lou took me to Sunday School; he took the day off, he had his car washed this morning then took a ride up in the mountains while I was in church. We had a nice lesson in



The text from this ad is reprinted below. Truth in advertising?

How soon is too soon?

Not soon enough. Laboratory tests over the last few years have proven that babies who start drinking soda during that early formative period have a much higher chance of gaining acceptance and "fitting in" during those awkward pre-teen and teen years. So, do yourself a favor. Do your child a favor. Start them on a strict regimen of sodas and other sugary carbonated beverages right now, for a lifetime of guaranteed happiness.

—The Soda Pop Board of America

Text from the ad, at the top of the page.



Garden spider like the one in the Howard's yard.

My Daddy wasn't in the mood for church today, we spent the evening at home with TV programs.

September 6, Monday

We had a little fog again this morning but the sun was shining by 10:00 a.m. I cooked a nice breakfast for Lou and myself (eggs, bacon, potatoes, and toast). We both did some yard work; Lou did the work, me the suggesting. We took out two old and overgrown geranium plants, along the south

our class. I was glad Don Rowberry was back to give it; he is a splendid teacher. We had several out of town visitors this morning. I was happy to see the Ellsworth's back. I hope they can find a home in our ward. We all love Bishop Jim and family. I invited Mary to come home to eat with us today. I fried a chicken before going to Sunday School. Joan was home with a cold this morning. Mary and I looked at my scrapbooks after dinner, while Grampa had his nap. We didn't even turn on the TV. It's not that way when Johnny is here, ha ha; bless his heart. This afternoon we went up to look at the new swimming pool at Harry and Mary Howard's place. We stopped at Donna's to pick up Johnny. It is going to be a very beautiful spot to swim up in the mountains, overlooking the city. Harry says it will be finished by next Thursday or Friday. I know the kids can hardly wait. Mary Howard invited Johnny and Mary up to spend a week with her two children, David and Bonny, before school starts, they are excited about it. A boy from Las Flores Ward phoned to ask Joan to go to church tonight in our ward, with him, and then stay for the stake fireside after. Max Skousen is the speaker. The boy's name is Bob; don't know his last name. Janet and Joan went to chorus practice this afternoon. Their chorus is singing in our stake conference next Sunday night. Donna will sing in the morning session with the Singing Mothers. I guess Joan should have stayed home all day but she didn't. I hope her cold will not get worse. I gave Mary the money to buy some Merthiolate for Joan to swab on her throat. Bill Raddatz came to Donna's house this late afternoon to practice his solos; Donna played for him to sing in the Pasadena Ward, which kept her from going to her own ward. Rex took the family to church. Joan went with Bob. Janet with Warnie, I guess. Yvonne Fife came to church in our ward tonight with Doug Jones. Sorry I wasn't there to see her. Johnny and Mary showed us their interesting friends in the canyon; a cute monkey, I've forgotten her name, she has a cage by the roadside. There is a huge garden spider at Howard's. I had to see that, also. They throw insects in his web.

fence in the front yard, and put in two rose bushes, that the ivy was choking out, in the backyard, along south fence. I hope the rose bushes will do all right now. Lou took weeds out of hanging baskets and put some peat moss in. He dug around the fuchsias, in the hanging baskets; they have been very pretty this summer and still are. Lou and I watched a big garden spider on our clotheslines this morning. It was so interesting to see him take the little piece of grass I'd thrown into his web and untangle it from the web and drop it. The spider wasn't nearly as large as the one at Howard's yesterday, and not the bright yellow markings that that one had. The body of the one at Howard's was an inch long with its legs spread out the thing looked two inches long. It is wonderful to see how that spider will wrap a bee, or large insect up in a little white package to keep it for his food storage. Well, I just cannot have a big garden spider spinning webs along my clotheslines, sorry Mr. Spider; you'll have to go. Lou took care of him for me. I tried to phone Dolores and Yvonne this morning, but no answer. I guess they are out celebrating the holiday. We wanted to go over and see them for a short visit. After lunch Lou fixed a loose fixture on our bathtub faucet, before lunch we went to Gordon's Venetian blind shop for me to look at some linoleum that Lou thinks he wants to put in our kitchen, back porch, and bathroom. It is pretty, a spatter pattern, light cream background with many colors spattered in it. I think it will look pretty and bright. I wrote a postcard to Violet, I'm so sorry for her with both girls out here in California. I know she is dreadfully lonesome in the desert home in Beryl, Utah. Otto loves the desert, but not Violet, she is like me. We need to see flowers, grass, and trees to keep us happy; homes and people, too. Donna said Joan was feeling miserable with a head cold. Peter Brown phoned and invited her to go to a show with him tonight. Her recovery was amazing, ha ha! I could tell by her voice she had a cold, poor kid. Well she used nose drops and rested in bed most of the day, so she could go out this evening. Peter's boyfriend had a new motorcycle at his house today. The Marshes were surprised to see Mrs. Brown, Peter's mother, take a ride on it, with one of the boys. Rex worked up at Howard's today. This evening Lou and I took a nice ride out to Pomona. We saw hundreds of new homes going up in the towns out that way. I have never seen so much building before. We ate a nice dinner in a lovely little restaurant in Claremont. It was a beautiful evening for a drive. This evening Rex and Donna went to Ovena Mayo's to eat ice cream and some of Ovena's birthday cake. I think the children went with them. Janet and Warnie went to a wedding reception this afternoon; one of their friends in La Canada, I think.

September 7, Tuesday

I talked to Annie on the phone this morning. She said they went to Glen and Irene's yesterday in Van Nuys, and had a

picnic lunch with them. Lorene was out to Mary's home, she went out a few days ago, to be with Lynn on his birthday. He is nine years old, I'm not sure of the date. Andersons brought Lorene home with them yesterday afternoon. Last evening they took Lorene to the Highland Park Theater; Bevan,



Warnie Mueller and Janet Marsh break up in September 1954. This photo was taken in 1953 during happier times.

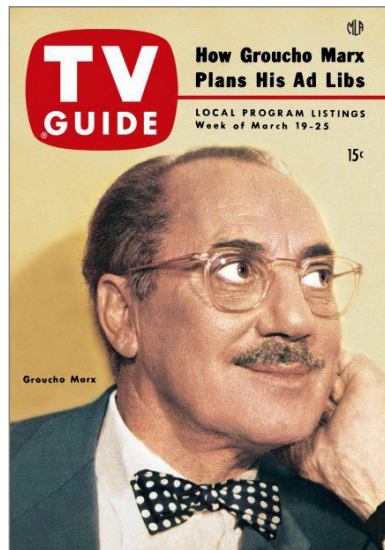
Dody, Doug, and Yvonne went with them. Annie said they had a lot of fun; the show was very good. I phoned Donna this morning; she was rushing to her Relief Society board meeting. She phoned me this afternoon. Mary and Johnny have gone up to the Howard's for two days. Joan was making fudge to take to the opening program at Mutual tonight. Janet had been to Bullock's Pasadena Store to apply for work, with no luck. I was very much surprised to learn that Janet and Warnie had quarreled bitterly and she has given him back his engagement ring. I'm afraid they are not meant for each other. They are not as happy as engaged couples should be. I wish that boy could find another girl he could love and trust. True love cannot exist where there is jealousy and mistrust. He wants to get married and he hasn't even got a steady job.

They are not prepared for the responsibility of marriage, either one of them. (Both sweet kids.) I hope they'll get out of this awful dilemma they are in and have peace of mind. I want happiness for them both. I washed the baseboard and floors in the bathroom, kitchen, and back porch with "Spic and Span." The linoleum brightened up so nice. I've about talked Lou out of putting the new spatter linoleum down; this covering is in good condition. I guess we are just tired of the faded cooking marble pattern and want something fresh and more colorful, eh? My sweet Daddy likes a change in things. I think it is wonderful he keeps me and seems to be really in love with me after these many years. It will be forty years next week, September 16, since we were wed. He's been a good husband, the best. I was very tired this evening, the extra work today is taking its toll. I did try to be careful. I did a few feet of the washing and then would lie down until I felt like starting again. I can't do much of anything without over taxing my heart it seems.

September 8, Wednesday

We are enjoying very lovely weather, bright and clear, not too hot. Lou took care of his own breakfast and lunch; I got up at nine o'clock. I was awake but resting. I wasn't feeling well enough to do the washing so I took things easy today. Our holiday Monday has thrown the week out of balance for me. Today seems like Tuesday, and here it is, the middle of the week already. This week will be gone before we know it. They got in some extra work at the shop today. Lou called Beverly Andersen in to help. She worked four hours this morning. She goes on her night job at Cannon Electric Company this

evening at 5 p.m., I think. Janet is entertaining her club girlfriends tonight at home. Joan is sick in bed with a cold. Donna put a mustard plaster on her chest last night. Mary and Johnny went to Primary this morning with Mary Howard and children. They went back up to Howard's for another day and night. Rex is still at Howard's working on the swimming pool. Donna phoned to invite Daddy and me to go with her and Rex to see the Groucho Marx TV program in Hollywood tonight. Rex has four tickets, nice eh?



TV Guide from 1954 with Groucho Marx on the cover.

I talked to Annie on the phone; Glen is quitting his work with Dick Johnston this weekend and is going back to P.C.C. I hope Janet will decide to go back for the course she signed up for at P.C.C. (dental assistant). We received an invitation to Billy Bailey's wedding reception today. He is going to be married next Saturday evening, September 18, to Miss Earlene [Ramona] Cahoon. I hope they'll be very happy. I'd like to go to the wedding reception. This evening I cut all the roses we had, and took them up to Janet to pretty up the house for her club guests tonight. We took Rex and Donna in our car to Hollywood. We all enjoyed the TV live program; Groucho Marx is quite a character in person, a lot of his jokes are cut out of the television transcription and it's just as well, ha ha! He does get a bit raw. Rex treated to eats at Fisher's on the way home. Harry Howard gave Rex the tickets to the show tonight. We came near to having an accident when we turned to go to Fisher's. Lou almost went head on into a high curb that he didn't see, until Rex yelled stop!

September 9, Thursday

I stayed in bed until 9 a.m. I was awake, but resting. I felt fine when I got up; I decided to go uptown and buy a wedding gift for Billy Bailey and bride. I phoned Donna and she was just about to leave the house for her Singing Mother's rehearsal. Clarice Tanner took her. Janet took a taxi up to Howard's to get her daddy's car. She went out to look for work; there were some ads in the paper she was following up on. Joan was moving her clothes in the house from the little rear house and looking them over for school. Johnny and Mary were up to Howard's. Rex was working up there on the, almost finished, swimming pool. Mrs. Snyder phoned and talked for some time; she wants Lou to do some carpenter work for her. She lives in the house we thought of buying. Joan said she heard that Warnie M. was going to BYU in Provo this winter. I think that is an excellent idea. I phoned Lou to tell him I was going uptown. He told me to make it later so I could come home with him at 4:45. I bought a pretty rose-colored rayon tablecloth and six napkins in the Broadway Store in Pasadena for \$5.53 on

sale. I had the store send it to the bride and groom in Salt Lake City. I bought the few other little items I needed. I saw a cute rose velvet hat for only \$2.95, so I bought it. I have a weakness for hats, yet I seldom wear one. Oh me! I still had too much time to kill before time for Lou. I can't walk around and look like I once could, so I went in the Strand Theater, near Broadway Store, and enjoyed a very pretty colored picture, "Three Coins in a Fountain." I



came out a few minutes before time to meet Lou at the Broadway Store as planned. I was rested and felt good. I was really sorry when Lou told me that Donna and the girls came to our house to play the chorus festival recording for me; so sorry I missed it and my family. I would not have gone to town if I'd known they were coming here. Janet went to the employment agency to see about dental assistant work. She was interviewed by one of

Dr. Cowen's dentists this afternoon. I guess he thought her too young and inexperienced. Donna phoned this evening to tell us that the Taylors have raised the needed cash to buy her home, \$4,000 down. So they will put the place in escrow in the morning. She says she'll take me and children to the beach after. Annie phoned this evening, she said Br. John Kingston was hurt in an auto accident a few days ago. Bill and Br. Gough had called to see him this evening on their way home from work. He has a broken knee.

September 10, Friday

The sun was shining beautifully, but we couldn't see it very clearly, for the dreadful smog, which has almost ruined our lovely Southern California. I feel so unhappy about this dreadful smog. Rex and Donna had to be at the escrow place, here in Pasadena this morning at 10:30 a.m. I did a small washing; I was finished and cleaned up by 11 a.m. Janet and Joan fixed a lovely picnic lunch for us to take with us to the Huntington Beach. Mary Howard made a large thermos of ice-cold lemonade. The girls made deviled eggs and sandwiches. We had potato chips, carrot sticks, and some of Donna's delicious Tollhouse cookies. Mary Howard took candy and gum. Janet came for me at noon; she and Joan did not go with us. Mary H. and her children, Bonnie and David, Donna, and her three youngest, and I, went. Rex worked up at Howard's on the swimming pool. We enjoyed the afternoon on the lovely clean beach. I paid the 50¢ to take our car full into the park at beach. I rented a large beach umbrella for 75¢. Mary and Donna paid \$2.00 for the plastic surfboards. The children had such a wonderful time on them. Little Kathy loved the ocean, too. Mary Marsh and Bonny Howard held her hands and she had a swell time. She sat on the sand and played with

her bucket and sand spade. Donna and Mary Howard got their feet wet, but Grama Elvie sat under the shade of the umbrella and enjoyed watching the younger folks have fun. (Isn't that just like a grandmother?) Our picnic lunch surely tasted delicious out in that ocean breeze. It was wonderful to be away from that dreadful, eye smarting smog! We got hungry so we ate before the children came out of the water. They went back in, after they'd eaten their lunch. We left the beach about 4:40 p.m. We sang songs on our way home and ate some of Mary Howard's nice candy. It's the first time I've been to the beach to sit on the blankets, on sand, and eat a picnic lunch in several years, and believe me, I enjoyed it. I got home at 6 p.m. and got something for my darling Lou to eat. I received a letter from Violet; she is surely lonesome out in Beryl, Utah. There is no one to talk to all day.

September 11, Saturday

Lou went to the Venetian blind shop this morning at 7:30 o'clock, to do some painting and get work ready for Monday's job. He phoned Mrs. Snyder to let her know he couldn't come to her place to talk over the carpenter job this morning as planned. I did my ironing, mostly Lou's shirts. He came home for lunch, cut our lawns and watered. After lunch, he took a nap. I dusted up in the house. Clarice Tanner phoned and we had a nice visit. She gave me a few suggestions about Louise Willard, to use in her queen tribute, when I get around to composing it. Donna phoned this afternoon to tell us they were putting the plastic envelope in the swimming pool, in case we wanted to go up and watch. Lou went up to see. Marshes came up to Donna's. John and Florence took Donna up to see the finishing touches put on this, the first plastic swimming pool Harry and Rex have built. Mary Howard came down earlier to get all of Donna's children so they could watch the man put the plastic envelope in the pool and then the water. Donna stayed to wait for the Marshes, who had phoned that they were coming up. Well, I missed the excitement, but what'll you bet I'm the only one of the entire group, which has recorded the event eh? Ha ha! This afternoon Rex and Donna took Mary to town to buy her some new shoes for school. Last night Rex and Donna and Janet went to the Oateses' ranch to talk things over, about sending Janet to BYU in Provo. Elaine Oates says she can live in her apartment with her and the girls. Oh I hope Janet will be able to go, and change her environment, for LDS girls and boy friends. Rex and Donna went to look at some houses for rent this afternoon, also. They looked at one on South Euclid Avenue for \$90 per month. It has three bedrooms, very small, but other rooms large and roomy. She phoned tonight and wanted us to go look at it, we said we'd see it tomorrow afternoon; there is no yard for Kathy to play in. The owner lives in the rear house. Oh, I surely hope they'll find someplace where they can be happy and enjoy living. Oh dear, I feel so many emotions lately, it keeps me upset and in a turmoil; so many changes are taking place in my little Marsh family; selling their home, looking for a place to rent, Janet and Warnie troubles (breaking the engagement), Janet's plans to go to Utah to BYU, change of school for the children, moving out of the ward, talk of building in Murray, Utah. Why oh why must they be so entwined around my poor heart. I know they do not need

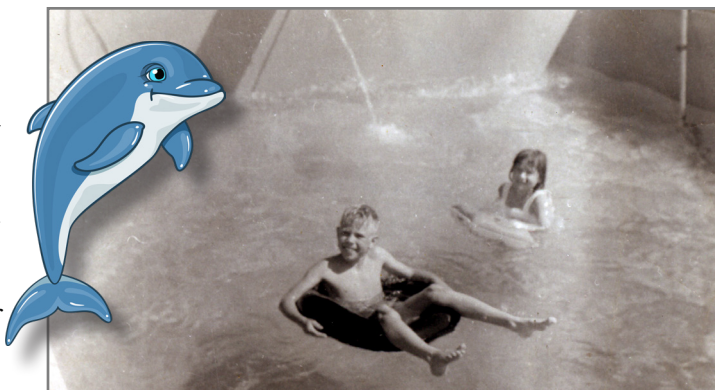
me for their happiness, yet they are such a big part of my life. God bless them, and my darling Lou, too. Another change in the Marsh household; Rex has gone into the swimming pool business. I can't seem to absorb it all.

September 12, Sunday

The smog wasn't as thick today, for which I'm thankful. We had a very large turnout to the morning session of conference. It was a lovely meeting, no visitors from Salt Lake City. The Singing Mothers of the stake sang two lovely numbers. Donna and Dolores sang with them. The talks were good; returned missionaries Odell Bird, from South Pasadena Ward, gave an excellent report, with lots of good humor in it. Harold Smith, from our ward, was released a year ago, but went to BYU in Provo, so couldn't report in conference until now. I enjoyed this session a lot. Ovena Mayo sat with Lou and me. I talked to Yvonne and Dolores after the meeting. They both looked very pretty today. I also talked to Donna. Joan stayed at the Oateses' last night and went to Garvanza Ward Sunday School. Janet has a sore throat; she stayed home to rest. She is in the chorus tonight. Warnie Mueller was to conference; Donna spoke to him, I didn't see him. Lou and I ate a chicken-pie dinner at Fisher's eating place after conference.



The Howard's swimming pool was filled in the fall of 1954. Above are David and Bonny Howard with friend Buddy Steel.



We saw Br. and Sr. Major and three boys eating there, also. Lou went to see Mrs. Snyder about a carpenter job she wants him to do. He walked over. I talked to Janet on the phone. She was expecting Elaine Oates and a boyfriend to come and take her for a ride this afternoon. I told her to swab her throat before going out. Do you think she will? Huh? Ha ha! Well, I tried anyway. Rex and Donna were out looking at houses for rent. Lou took his usual nap when he got back from Snyder's home. I rested on the couch. Lou was watching a rootin', tootin' cowboy movie on the television this late afternoon. I fixed a sandwich and potato chips and a glass of milk, on the little TV tray, so he could eat and enjoy the picture at the same time. We went to the evening session of conference. It was very nice; the program was given by the stake M.I.A. The Weeks family presented the narration, and young folks gave lovely talks. The stake M.I.A. chorus sang four lovely numbers. Janet and Joan sang in the chorus. Jack Jelta took Janet to the conference this evening and brought her home. Joan went with two other boys from our stake. She introduced us to them at her home after the conference tonight, and then they all left for a fireside chat for the stake young folks at someone's home, Joan Thatcher's I think. Madge Fowler has been stake president of Relief Society for ten years and was released today in the afternoon session. A Sr. Nebeker was put in her place. I do not know her. I'll bet Madge is happy to be released. We went to Donna's home after conference; they came a short time later. They saw a house in Azusa, \$75.00 a month rent; think they'd like to move into this nice new home. Donna played the beautiful M.I.A. chorus festival recordings for us tonight; the numbers are really grand. Jack Jelta came in with Janet and enjoyed them with us. He and Janet sang in the chorus in Hollywood Bowl last month.

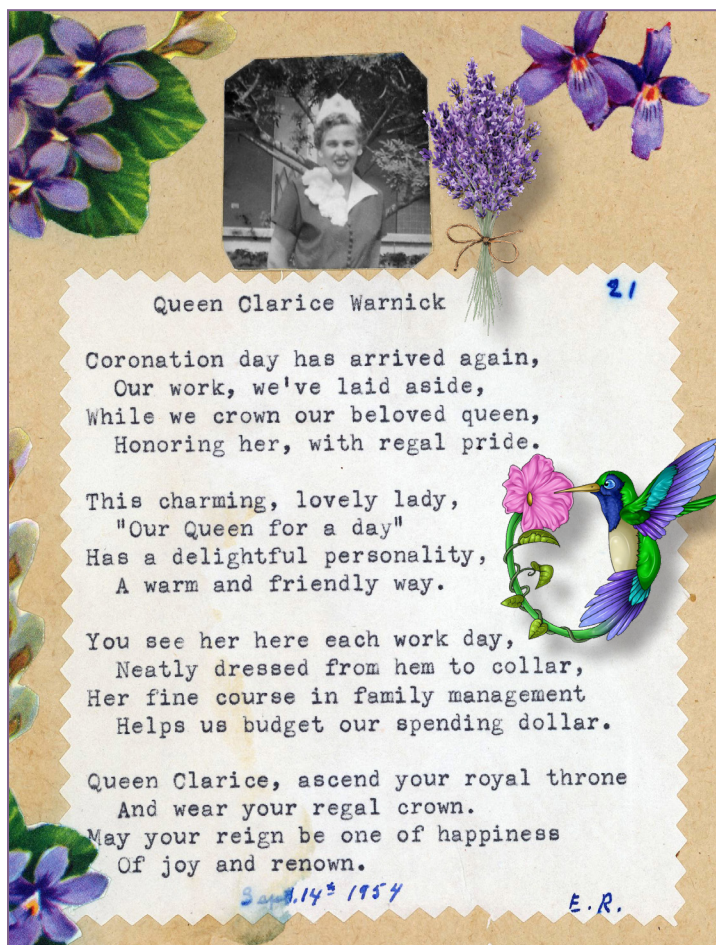
September 13, Monday

I just couldn't get to sleep last night; it was 5:30 a.m. when I asked Lou the time. I heard him up in the bathroom. I had not been to sleep; I had pains in my head. They were not severe, but annoying. My poor tired brain was full of thoughts, ah me! I was glad for daytime this day. My precious Lou got his own breakfast and lunch up. He left \$25.00 for me to give Janet, to help her buy some of the things she needs to go to BYU. I phoned to let Donna know the money was here. Elaine Oates took Janet to town in her car. They came here for the money. My head has bothered me today, on my left side, near the ear. I don't know if it's a cold in my ear, or my face, or if it is caused from the bone structure of my face on left side, which has a little sunken place like a big dimple. It developed a year or so ago. Eh? Well, I'll keep my worries about this to myself. My dear ones have their own troubles, eh? I wrote a letter to Violet Fife and one to Lydia Bailey. Rex and Donna looked at some houses for rent again tonight. Oh, I wish they could find something not too far away from us. Of course I want them here in this ward, but whatever for their best good and happiness is what I'm looking for, too. Janet phoned this evening, to tell Grampa "thank you" for the money and to tell me what she bought with the money. She got everything at Bullock's Store and she did okay. I was surprised she could do as well; pajamas, slip, black wool sweater, two bras, and etcetera. I am weary tonight, my heart has hurt

off and on, but my mind feels more at ease. I hope I can sleep tonight. Dale Andersen has a job after school; he will be a play instructor for a school in Los Angeles, not very far from his P.C.C. in Pasadena (The Multnomah School). Mary and Joan started back to school this morning; Joan to P.C.C. and Mary to John Marshall. Johnny will go back to Sierra Madre School on Wednesday morning.

September 14, Tuesday

I had a wonderful night's rest last night, for which I'm so thankful. Bonna Gordon came for me this morning at 9:45. Marie Doezie and Bessie, the babysitter, were in her car. I quilted on the big quilt that we started last workday. We had a lovely lunch served by our Relief Society board at noon. Johnny came today with Donna. Janet was at home with Kathy, I missed our baby today, but she has a head cold so Janet took care of her at home. Alice Schulthes phoned this morning and invited Lou and me to Garvanza Ward tonight. They're having a program and history of the ward, and are inviting as many of the old charter members as they can locate. We crowned Clarice Warnick "Queen for a Day" in our Relief Society. I read her poem tribute as usual. Johnny went in line with me to get our lunch, buffet style. Sr. Madge Fowler, our released stake Relief Society president, brought the new stake Relief Society president to our meeting and luncheon, Sr. Nebeker. She is a very lovely person. Madge is helping her to become acquainted with the stake work. It's a big job for a little lady with a family of small children. I feel sorry for her; she is a dear. Clarice Warnick was going to leave before lunch because her boy David is not well at home, so



Donna had to tell her she was to be our queen, so that she'd be sure to stay. I had four other's ready, but Clarice was the only one there for the crowning. She is the 21st queen. We had a small attendance today. Donna brought me home about 2:20 p.m. Donna says she and Rex found a house they'd like to rent in our ward, near the John Marshall School. I do hope the lady will let them have it at \$100 per month. Janet is leaving for Provo, Utah on Thursday morning with John Hunter and some other BYU Students. John Hunter is driving. Janet had two girl friends visiting her this afternoon, Judy and? I do not know their names. My sister Sue phoned from Andersen's this evening. She was in Highland Park to go to the Garvanza Ward program tonight. I was very disappointed that I could not attend also, but I just couldn't talk my husband into the mood of taking me to Highland Park tonight. Donna talked to me on the phone tonight; they had been to Monrovia to look at a house for rent. She said they like it and told the landlady they would take it. I guess the other one is rented that they looked at in our ward. The house in Monrovia has three bedrooms; one is very large with two clothes closets in. It only has one toilet. They'll surely miss that extra ½ bath, (toilet and shower and bowl). We received a wedding invitation to Sharen Strong's [Sharen Petty Strong] wedding October 2. She is Clint's [and Tottie's] daughter. She is marrying James Leroy Hathaway in the LDS church at Compton.

September 15, Wednesday

Lou got away again this morning without waking me up, he is so quiet, the dear man. I changed the sheets and slips on our beds and then did the washing. I put sheet blankets on Lou's bed; he says his summer sheets feel like ice these cold nights. I'm still enjoying the feel of sheets. I'll be glad to change about next month, I guess. Donna talked to me on the phone this morning. She had taken Rex to his work, with Pa and Lewie Marsh this morning and stopped at the LDS Deseret Industries to buy an old trunk for Janet to put the things in she has to take to BYU in Provo, Utah. She leaves in the morning early. Donna and Janet came here later, about noon, left Kathy with me while they went to town to buy some things Janet has to have in Utah; sheets, slips, towels, and new shoes. I'm not sure what they bought? Donna did say she was taking her green stamp books to buy some of the sheets or slips. I gave Kathy her lunch. We both enjoyed poached eggs and toast and peaches. I played with her on the living room floor. We made rooms for the plastic toys with the old curtain rings. All of my grandchildren have had fun playing with the curtain rings. She brought her doll with her, and she had the one I keep here for her, (one of Joan's old dolls). She talks so darn cute to the dolls. We played ball also, rolling the two balls I have, back and forth to each other. I



Lou and Elvie in 1945. In 1954 they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary by going out to dinner at Gwinn's.

tried to talk her into a nap on Grampa's bed, nothing doing, until she heard her mother and Janet drive in to the driveway, and then she flew to Grampa's bed, for the nap, so she could stay here longer. (She is a cutie.) Janet and Donna had a tuna sandwich and tomatoes, and potato chips. Rye bread was all I had, until the Helms Bakery man came later, but they enjoyed the rye and tuna, peaches and cookies for dessert. Donna didn't eat dessert. They went home; Janet had a purse in the shoe store being repaired. The strap was broken. Donna picked baby Kathy up on her way to Marshes to pick Rex up. Florence Marsh invited Donna and Rex and Kathy to eat dinner with them tonight. Donna phoned to have us phone Joan and tell her that they would not be home to dinner. She (Joan), was to fix only one package of the frozen fish for her and the other children. Donna had left a note telling her to cook both packages when she thought they'd be home to eat with them. We tried several times to get the children but no answer. Later we learned that Janet and Joan were over to Brown's house across the street. Peter Brown played their M.I.A. Festival chorus records on his nice record player. He played them over the loud speaker later. They could hear them all over the neighborhood. Janet packed her clothes this afternoon. Her application for BYU arrived this morning. She filled it out this evening. Warnie Mueller and Bob Perry came to say "goodbye" to Janet this evening. She is leaving at 4 a.m. tomorrow.

September 16, Thursday

Today is our wedding anniversary, forty years ago today Lou and I were married in the Salt Lake Temple. Beverly phoned from the Venetian blind shop to wish us a happy anniversary, nice, eh? Janet left at four o'clock this morning, with John Hunter, Richard Jensen, Dee Austin, and Marilyn Ashton. The five of them were in John's car, on their way to Provo, Utah to attend BYU College. They had a nice prayer in Janet's home before leaving; Rex was the mouth. (God bless all of them.) I spent two hours burning up flower and plant cuttings that Lou had drying in the yard. I can only do a few in our little incinerator at a time. I did my ironing after lunch. I phoned Donna, she told me about the young folks leaving for Utah. They had quite a time getting the last suitcase in the car and ended up putting it in the back seat with them. Lou gave Janet our big suitcase; we'll have to buy another for our trip, next month. The express man came out to Donna's this morning for her trunk and a big suitcase. Lou gave Donna \$8.00 to pay for expressing Janet's trunk and case to Utah. Annie phoned this afternoon, she had been to her club meeting at Anna Horrick's home. They have fun; they receive gifts from secret pals and etcetera, and enjoy a nice lunch. I guess I'm a strange character; I have never been interested in sewing clubs or

book clubs and etcetera. I wonder why? Maybe it's because I do not like to entertain and worry about what to serve the gals, eh? But I guess if I was well, and could do all these things, I'd be doing it too, eh? This evening Lou and I dressed up and ate a very nice dinner in Gwinn's Restaurant. We had a delicious rich brown beef stew, with vegetables in and a green salad and hot rolls. We had pie for dessert and it was extra good. We drove out to Donna's after eating; she was getting ready to go to her correlation meeting. Rex worked with his father and Lewie again today. He came home later than usual; they had poured cement at Peerless Pump Company. He ate at Marshes. Joan helped Peter Brown wash his pretty red car after school; he lives across the street from Joan. Rex took the children out to Monrovia this evening to pay a month's rent on the house they will move into next week. He picked Donna up at church later and they drove to Oateses' to have a talk with Elaine Oates. She leaves tonight for Provo, Utah. Our little Janet arrived this afternoon around 4 p.m. John Hunter sent a telegram to his folks, and Sr. Hunter notified the parents of the other kids with him. We're happy to learn they arrived okay. Janet and Marilyn A. will stay in Elaine's apartment tonight. Elaine will be there tomorrow morning. Ed and Myrtle Robinson are taking Elaine and their daughter Sandra to BYU. Warnie Mueller phoned to talk to Donna, (dear unhappy boy). Lou took Janet's express slip to go in the morning to pay for shipping. Tonight Lou and I went to Los Angeles to the Colonial Ballroom, at Venice and Flower Street, to watch the old time dancers; he waltzed once with a good dancer.

September 17, Friday

I enjoyed watching the old folks dance the old time dances last night. The music was good. I'd loved to have had fun along with them, but asthma, heart pains and not knowing how to do them prevented my participation in the most of them, ha ha! I tried to get Lou to go out on the floor and have fun, but he said he'd rather watch with me. He did enjoy a lovely waltz with a little lady in red; her hair was white as were most of the dancers. I think most of them are 70 or 80 years old. I felt rather young, but they can dance and they love it. There were a few young people but not many. We have heard so much about that ballroom, and old time dancing, over the television, we decided to go look in on them. It was fun, but I'd prefer a good show. Daddy says we'll take in a show next anniversary, ha ha! I talked to Donna on the phone this morning. She is taking care of the little Meier girl, Carol, while Ruth is at the Deseret Industries, with our ward Relief Society sisters today. Little Carol is Kathy's age, (three years old). They were having a lot of fun, playing nicely most of the time. A time or two Mama had to settle a dispute, ha ha! I noticed that the Broadway Store had a one-day sale today



on ceramics, planters, and figurines, regularly \$3.95 for \$1.00 each. I went up to see if I could find something we could send to Sharen Strong for a wedding gift. I got there soon after noon and there were only one or two left of the flamingo bird I liked, with the planter bowl to match. So I bought the set, (bowl and flamingo, but I did not send it to Sharen). I didn't think it looked enough for us to send, as I wanted Donna and Rex's name on the gift card, too. They had colorful roosters and hens, a cockatoo, too too birds and coo lovebirds, but I didn't want any of them. I bought a nice glass basket, for fruit or flowers. It is very pretty I think and a nice big one. I had the store mail it to Clint Strong's address in Compton California, to Sharen. I hope they'll like it, (the bride and groom). I didn't stay uptown very long; the Broadway Store was the only place I went. Rex paid one month's rent, \$108.00 on the Monrovia house. Donna says they'll move into it on

Saturday the 25 (one week from tomorrow). I wonder how my little Janet is making out in Provo? And if Elaine Oates arrived this morning as expected? Janet will be happy to have Elaine with her, I'm sure. This is Elaine's senior year, so she can show Janet the way around. Joan had a date with Peter Brown tonight; he took her to a show. Our new ward teacher came this evening, Br. Claron Oakley. His partner couldn't come, (the young Nickels boy). We enjoyed Br. Oakley's fine message on "service." He said he thought of Donna and Bishop Summerhays when he was preparing the message, (reading it over). He was shocked to learn that Donna was going to move out of our ward. Joan phoned us at 9:45 tonight, she and Peter Brown were at the Hastings Theater, and they had won \$100.00 Joan tried to get her mother on the phone but no answer, so she had to tell someone the good news. We're delighted too!

September 18, Saturday

Lou gave the yard a good watering while I did up the morning work. We went to the market and then over to Simpson's Garden Town Nursery, to buy some Chlordane Spray to get rid of the garden pests. Lou sprayed the plants and lawns and hedges (all good). The ants and insects were becoming a nuisance again and we got rid of them last year with the Chlordane Spray. Donna phoned to ask if baby Kathy could stay with us while she went to town with Joan to help her buy some clothes with her half of the winnings yesterday, \$50.00. I was happy to have our little Kathy. Johnny, Mary, and a little girlfriend, one of the Bush or Kirk's, I'm not sure which, were with them today. Donna left the children off at the picture show in East Pasadena, not far from our house, The Uptown Theater. We had a struggle to convince Kathy that she was going to stay here, she wanted to go to the show with the others, but after I told her that her mother was going to buy Joan a dress and they'd be back soon, she stopped crying. She was good as could be; she said she was hungry at 5 p.m., so I

gave her cottage cheese, a poached egg, toast, and some peaches. Joan couldn't find a dress she wanted in the Pasadena Bullock's Store, so they went to the shoe stores in Pasadena and she bought two pair of shoes. She says she'll shop for clothes on Monday after school. Lou enjoyed his nap on the patio swing this afternoon. I entertained little Kathy. Donna came for her about 5 p.m. She had to come back later to get the children from the show. When Kathy was leaving, Donna said to her, tell Grama "thank you," and she said to me, "Thank you Grama, for the very nice breakfast." Ha ha! (Breakfast at 5 p.m.) She is a cutie. I talked Lou into taking me to the State Theater to see Audrey Hepburn in "Young Wives Tale," so many people have told me she looks like Donna. I wanted to see for myself. Well yes, she resembles her a little. It was a silly picture though but we did enjoy the other picture, the "Conquest of Everest." It was very interesting and in Technicolor. Darn that show house, it was so blasted cold and breezy. I shivered and so did Lou and others. We moved to another seat, but it was just as cold. I was glad to get outside and warm up. I took a hot bath and some lemon's to ward off the cold I felt in my nose and throat. Ah me!

September 19, Sunday

It was sunny and hot this morning, when we went to Sunday School, but almost chilly in our lovely new chapel. I phoned and invited our Marsh family to eat dinner with us today. Rex answered the phone this morning. He said they'd be happy to come. I cooked a pot roast this morning, before Sunday School. I left it in a very low oven. It was nice and tender when we got home. We had canned corn and frozen Lima beans and a green salad and some potatoes warmed in the meat juice, peaches, and date nut bread for dessert. Lou washed all the dishes. Donna dried most of them. Mary and Joan took a walk to the market; they bought a chocolate milk shake or malt. Johnny watched TV. I put the food away, and then we, all but Johnny, rode over to Monrovia to look at the house they have rented. They will move into it next Saturday. It is a nice place, but not as nice, or convenient as the home they now live in and have sold. (Rent is \$108 per month.) Many of our



Kathy stays with Grama Elvie on September 18 and thanks her for the nice breakfast (dinner).

ward folks feel badly about them moving out of this ward, but no one feels as depressed as I do, I know. Clarice Tanner will be the new Relief Society President in Donna's place. She'll be a very good president, too. She hasn't any children or husband to worry over. She is free to come and go at will and she is a wonderful person. I'm happy over the bishop's choice. Donna was an excellent president, she'll be missed, but she had by far too much to do, with her family to look after, too. I'm thankful she has been relieved of this pressing work. They brought us home and picked up Johnny and went on home. We have invited them to eat with us next Sunday also, as they will be in an upset state from the move the day before. Donna says she wrote to Janet and sent her some money. Joan told about winning the \$100, she and Peter Brown. I missed my little Janet today, I wonder where and what she ate?

I'll bet she is having a wonderful time. I hope so. Lou and I went to church tonight. We had a nice meeting as usual. Johnny sat with us. Joan Thatcher played two lovely piano solos. Br. Eldon L. Ord was our interesting speaker. His lovely wife sat next to me. I talked to Br. and Sr. Ord before

church and invited her to sit with us. She had five children and the eldest girl is in BYU this fall. (Like Donna's family, eh?) The Ord's live in Bishop Fred Pack's ward; I believe, it is the Covina Ward, but not sure. Donna was released from her Relief Society work in church tonight with a vote of thanks. Bishop Summerhays paid her a nice tribute. Clarice Tanner was voted in as president. Marva DeHaan, first counselor and Jeannie Brinton second counselor. I do hope that Bonna Gordon will remain the secretary. Joan brought Jerry Warnick, Nancy Higgins, and Gary Little home from church tonight to share her two tamales, but Donna helped out when she arrived. She made a green salad and heated some weenies, so the young folks went to their fireside chat well fed. They had ice cream, also. The fireside was at the Jensen home. Joan gave a very fine inspirational talk in Sunday School this morning. I was proud of her she looked so pretty in her pink dress.



Pictured above are Clarice and her son Bill Tanner. Clarice Lewis was born June 2, 1900. In 1917 she married John Edgar Cole Marley. In 1922 she married Carl H. Tanner. Carl died in 1950. They had one son that we know of named Charles Dean "Bill" Tanner. He was born in 1923. This is most of the information that is available on Family Search. Mary and Kathy Marsh remember Clarice as being single and without children. But we obviously didn't have the full story. And we still don't have the full story!

September 20, Monday

It was a bright, sunny, fall morning; I loved it. I got up in time to put Lou's lunch up for a change, then,

I gave the flowers and lawns a good drink. I phoned Donna; Mary is home from school with a head cold. Donna took Rex to his work this morning so she could have the car today. I think he is still working with his father and Lewie. Donna had an appointment with the doctor to take Joan for an exam this afternoon. She has stomach pains and doesn't have a good appetite. She will go without breakfast and lunch if not watched. I'm afraid my Joan eats too much candy. Oh dear, it seems there is always something to upset my peace of mind these precious grandchildren of mine with their health problems and etcetera. Donna phoned about noon to read the first letter from Janet. She wrote the day she arrived in Provo. They drove through to Utah without stopping, only for gas. Sr. [Clair] Hunter had made sandwiches and cookies, so they didn't have to get out for eats. Dee Austin's aunt, in Provo, Utah had prepared a lovely dinner for the young folks; they went to their apartment and cleaned up first, then went to eat the dinner. Janet says she helped with the dishes, ha ha! (So Mother will know she has remembered her best manners.) They were all tired so went to their own apartments. The boys said they'd call for the girls the next day to help them get enrolled, or started in college. Janet was expecting cousin Elaine the next day. Marilyn Ashton slept with Janet the first night. Janet says it was strange to be there, but wonderful. I received a nice letter from Violet. She is anxiously waiting for the Andersens to arrive at her home in Beryl. She is so very lonesome without Yvonne. This evening we drove to Highland Park to Claytons. Ray took Lorene out to Van Nuys this afternoon. Miriam and children went, also. Lorene is going to help a young mother for a week or so; she just came from the hospital with a new baby. She has a little two-year-old boy also, and it was too much for her. Lorene will go from her house to Beth's home to stay with the children, while Beth and Dick (Johnston) go to Salt Lake City. Aunt Ida and Aunt Florence Smith will come back with them. Miriam had the Daughter's of



Joan Marsh in 1954 in front of the Sierra Madre home.

Joan's Heartache

Because Kathy was so young the move to Monrovia meant nothing much to her. John was nine years old so still in a flexible age even though he was probably not excited to move. Mary had just graduated from Sierra Madre School so she was set for a change in school anyway. Janet had just left for BYU and was happy with her new exciting life. Rex was tired of the worry of high taxes and being house poor. Donna was always willing to follow Rex. Maybe she was a little relieved to be giving up a very busy calling with her big family to care for? That leaves Joan as the one who suffered the most heartache over this move. She had friends galore, was active in school, loved the ward and friends at church, and she loved everything about living in Sierra Madre. And now with Janet at BYU there would be more room in the house.

In 2012 before Joan's death she and Kathy worked together on the life story of their dad, Rex Marsh. During this time the topic of moving from the Sierra Madre home came up several times. Joan was 74 years old and it was still a little painful for her to talk about and remember that time in her life. It is easy to see why Joan was losing weight and suffering in September of 1954.

Utah Pioneer Club to her home for lunch today. Annie had too much to do to attend their meeting this time. I said hello to Miriam then rode with Ray and Lou to Andersen's. Ray stopped at a house, Miller, I think he said the name was.

He got a portable radio, and then they took

me to Andersen's.

I had a nice visit with Dale, Annie, and Bill, while Lou went with Ray to Garvanza Ward to measure for black boards or visual aid boards. Dale entertained us with the clarinet. He is taking lessons at school. He plays his saxophone much better, but the teacher wants him to learn the clarinet first. We had fun with his off-key notes. Dale made a nice iced grape juice drink for Lou and me. He surely is a sweet kid. I wish all of our young teenage boys were as fine as he is. The girl that wins his love will be lucky indeed. It was Dale's first day working after school as play director at Multnomah School in Los Angeles. He enjoyed it very much. Beverly was working at Cannon Electric Company tonight, bless her heart. She shut her thumb in her car door and blacked it up on Saturday morning, I believe it was? I mailed my old neighbor, Mrs. Scott, a birthday card.

September 21, Tuesday

I surely enjoyed my visit with Annie and family last night. We didn't turn on the television; it was like old times, talking and laughing over days gone by. It was nice having Dale home, too. I recited a couple of poems for them, "Old Clay House," and one of my own compositions, "Eternal Life." We had home night with the Andersens, sorry Beverly was at work. I phoned Donna this morning and was happy to learn that Mary felt better and had gone to school. Joan went to school, also. She ate a good breakfast. I was happy to learn that the doctor said nothing

was wrong with Joan, if she'll eat her breakfast and lunch and get more sleep. She has lost 11 pounds. The doctor says she is low in iron; he gave her some pills to take. I'm sure it is all caused from an emotional upset our sweet Joan is going through, thinking of moving away from Sierra Madre and friends, and the P.C.C. School. She'll have to transfer to the Monrovia High School and she dreads the very thoughts of it. Bless her dear heart. I hope she'll love it over at the new school and home in Monrovia. Grama Elvie has lost some sleep over this move too, but not weight, (worse luck). I wrote a letter to Violet and picture postcard to Ethel Newbold. I mailed a birthday card to Sue with \$2.00 in; I sent it to Aunt Ida's home, because Sue will be in Salt Lake City on her birthday, September 26. It falls on Sunday this year, so I sent it early to arrive Friday or Saturday. Nora Williamson came for me at two o'clock this afternoon. We did our Relief Society visiting and had a nice visit in all but three homes, where they were not in. We found seven of our ten families at home today, nice eh? I phoned in our report to Margaret W. and Bonna Gordon. Carolyn Thatcher and husband John, and small daughter, Joyce, are leaving at three o'clock in the morning to take daughter Joan, to BYU in Provo, Utah. This is Joan's second year at BYU. Almost everyone on our district talked of their disappointment at Donna's release from our ward Relief Society presidency. They all said she was a wonderful president, and they think it is dreadful that the family is going to move out of our ward and so do I. I talked to Donna on the phone this afternoon; she said that Mary and her little school friend, Cynthia Elliott were eating dinner out somewhere this evening, with Mrs. Elliott. They would bring her home after dinner. Joan had walked up in Sierra Madre town to look at dresses to see if she could find something she liked; I'm glad she found her wallet with all her money in, on the wall at the corner of their street, where she had put it while talking to a girl friend last evening. She ran back later and lucky girl, it was there, with the money still in it that she won at the theater last Friday night. Donna said that Johnny went to a boy friends after school to see his pet snake, of all things, ugh! Rex worked with his folks again today. He went to Arnold Stephens after work, to put a finishing coat of plaster on their bedroom. The corks that I sent for from Breatheasy Company, in Seattle, Washington, came in the mail today. Half of them are too small. I mailed Aunt Ray a birthday card today.

September 22, Wednesday

Elaine and Ernie Vandergrift are leaving this morning to take Ann back to college at BYU in Provo. Sue is going with them; she'll stay at Aunt Ida's and come back with Beth and Dick after conference. I believe Aunt Ida and Aunt Florence Smith are coming back to California with Dick and Beth, too. Sue was going to go with the Johnston's, but is leaving with Ernie and Elaine earlier now, so she'll have longer to visit in Salt Lake City. The Vandergrift's will return as soon as they get Ann settled in her apartment. I was delighted to get some new corks for my asthma Breatheasy nebulizer. I had to send to Seattle, Washington, to the company for them. I just cannot buy them anywhere here. Shirley Bird phoned



The sign on the building says Stadium Lunch. From the Brick Oven's website: Over 50 Years of Brick Oven History—Brick Oven has been serving Utah families for as long as most people can remember. Back in 1956, Stadium Lunch, a corner cafe, was converted into one of Utah's first pizza parlors.

me last night, from Dolores Joneses' home. She wanted Janet's address in Provo. She said her mother wanted to see Janet on her way to Salt Lake City. I gave her that silly address that Janet sent us, (Stadium Lunch, Provo, Utah.) It is a strange one; Shirley thought I was teasing her when I told her what it was. I had to explain that the apartment the girls rent is owned by the people who have the Stadium Lunch, in front of their apartments. I'm sorry I did not have the house number to give Sue. I hope she'll find Janet okay. I wonder how my little Janet is adjusting her life, to all the changes coming to her so suddenly, eh? It seems we are all facing adjustments lately. Joan had to give up her school and church friends, also Mary and Johnny, moving to Monrovia; they are not very happy about it now. I will have to go Sundays without seeing my precious Marsh children in our ward,

which has been one of my dearest pleasures. I won't be able to phone Donna without paying a toll. Many adjustments for Donna to make also, but I'm sure some will bring her relief from problems that have worried her and Rex. May the Good Lord bless all of us to find happiness. Warnie is having his adjustments to make,, too. I hope he'll come out okay. I'm so thankful that Janet is at BYU. My Lou is having a rugged time of it, while Bill is on vacation in Hawaii for three weeks. He works later and goes in earlier. He hates to do the outside work, installing the blinds, and etcetera. Gordon is working to help out the best he can. Beverly is kept busy at Gordon's shop mornings and her night work at Cannon Electric Company. Donna took care of Alicebeth Ashby's two little children today; she went somewhere this morning, then in the afternoon she went to do canning for our church welfare. Donna phoned about noon to read me a letter from Janet. She sent an address that makes sense this time, 817 North 150 East, Provo Utah. She said the four girls are living in the apartment, Elaine Oates, her girlfriend (I don't know her name) [Jo], Sandra Robinson, and Janet Marsh. I was glad I didn't have Janet's letter sealed, as I was able to answer some of her questions about her trunk and etcetera. I was glad to have the new address. I sent a dollar bill in my letter; I'll try to send a



Elaine Oates, Janet Marsh, Sandra Robinson (Ed & Myrtle's daughter), and Jo, roommates at BYU.

little spending money when I write to her. Janet said the little apartment was very dirty when they went in, but they've cleaned it up nicely. She went up to Murray to see the Strongs; it gave them a big surprise. They didn't know she was going to BYU. She didn't say who drove her up to Aunt Marty's place. I do not think she went on the train or bus, she didn't have the money to spare, I'm sure. I composed a queen tribute to Louise Willard this afternoon. I have four queen tributes or poems ready for Donna to type. I wish I didn't have to bother her with it; she has such a lot to do at home. Shirley and Kenny Bird took their pet dog over to Dolores and Bevan Joneses' home last evening; she said their yard isn't large enough for that big dog to roam around in. An invitation came today for our opening social and luncheon in Relief Society next Tuesday. Lou was on his job a few minutes after six o'clock this morning. I put his lunch up last night and left it in the icebox.



Janet Marsh at BYU.

September 23, Thursday

I put Lou's lunch up last night again, left it in the icebox for him. I'll be glad when Bill S. is back from his vacation trip to Hawaii so Lou will not have to go out on the truck and try to keep up the shop work, too. Gordon has been working in the shop also, he isn't used to it either now, and he has been worn out, cause he isn't well. I tried to phone Clarice Tanner twice today, she called me last night. Lou answered; I was watering flowers in the yard, he said he'd call me but she said she'd phone me this morning. She didn't call and I couldn't get her. She is a busy person. Donna wanted to go to the Singing Mother's practice this morning but she wasn't feeling well and she had too much work to do. It's a shame I can't be there to help her pack dishes and books for the move to Monrovia. I feel badly about it. I did my washing this morning; it wasn't very large, but I had to lie down for an hour after. I'd cleaned up the kitchen and bathroom, oh why can't I be healthy and strong so I could go out to Sierra Madre on the bus and give my Donna that needed lift? She stayed at Alicebeth Ashby's home until after 11 p.m. last night with the children. She took them home, gave them a bath and put them to bed, then waited until Alicebeth got home from canning. I received a postcard from Lydia saying Billy and bride received our wedding gift (table cloth and napkins), and they loved it. She said Annie's gift came that afternoon, but the newlyweds were away on their honeymoon and had not seen it yet. I believe it was a lovely towel set, but not sure. I wanted to go out to help Donna tonight but she had to attend a Primary banquet for Mary's group at church this evening. Mary is a Seagull Girl; she'll be graduating from Primary into Mutual in November. Tonight they gave each of the girls a little silver souvenir pin, (with 25 on it). This is the 25th year of Home Builders, in the Primary organization. Joan talked to a young LDS boy that lives in Monrovia. He goes to PCC School and offered to drive Joan to school every day. He lives on the same street that she will move to on Saturday. Well, that started things all over for poor little frustrated Joan. She can't understand why her parents will not consent to her staying at PCC where her friends all are. Maybe she will understand some time, bless her dear heart! Oh, I hope she'll be happy about the change soon.

September 24, Friday

It is another lovely sunny fall day. If only something could be done about the dreadful smog, which is surely detrimental to us and our beautiful southland. I was delighted to receive a letter from our sweet little granddaughter, Janet, from Provo. She said it was beautiful there and she loved it. The weather had been grand up until the evening she wrote on Wednesday the 22nd. It was raining "cats and dogs" says she. The other girls were out, but Janet says it was her first chance to relax and write letters. She'd shampooed her hair and put it up in pin curls. She said, "you should hear it thunder." Glad I couldn't hear it, I always hated lightening and thunder. Earthquakes have never frightened me as much. Janet had been taking tests since Monday to place her in the college program. She said they weren't bad, some were kind of fun. I do hope she'll enjoy her year at BYU. She didn't mention if her trunks and the money arrived, I guess she'll let Mother know. I phoned to read Janet's letter to Donna. She said Joan got a letter from Janet, but she would let Joan open it first. Beverly phoned to check on Donna's phone number. I invited her to eat dinner with us Sunday but she may be out to Irene's. Irene is staying overnight with Beverly tonight. Bev is taking her home tomorrow. David and baby Jimmy are with Irene. I vacuumed and ironed today. Florence Marsh phoned; she is sick with a dreadful head cold. Her voice wasn't at all natural. She wanted to have Rex and family to dinner Sunday, but is too ill. I told her I had invited them to come here to dinner and she was glad to hear that, as they'll be in a mess at the new place in Monrovia, from the moving in on Saturday. Donna is suffering with her back and so is her daddy. I went to the drug store this evening on my way to Sierra Madre and bought a tube of Bengay to take to Donna; Rex will rub her back with it tonight. I hope it will be better then. I'm going to give Lou's back a good rubbing with some Bengay tonight, too. Clarice Tanner took Donna to Monrovia this afternoon, after leadership meeting so Donna could sign for the water to be turned on and to check on the lights. The gas man turned on the gas today. Clarice is a darling to help Donna out this way. She has always been grand to take Donna places. Rex has to take his car everyday unless Donna takes him to work, so she can use the car. Rex went to night school; Lou and I drove out to Donna's. We packed her best

dishes and glassware. Lou washed everything first. We dried and packed it, each piece wrapped in paper, (a job)! Joan and Peter Brown went to the fair in his "cool" red convertible. The Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona is in its final week. Donna looked tired tonight, I'll be glad when she is moved and settled. She gave me some Relief Society queen pictures to put in the Relief Society scrapbook. Lydia S., Donna M., Clarice T., Addie S., Joan S., and Clarice W. There was also a group picture of her presidency with new counselor Marva DeHaan. The Andersens left for Beryl, Utah this evening. I phoned Annie to wish her a happy voyage. Glen is driving his car; he is taking his little son Gilbert. Annie and Bill are going. Irene is expecting a baby in a few months and the doctor didn't think she should make this trip.

September 25, Saturday

This was moving day for the Marshes. Harry Howard came with his truck and helped them move. The station wagon came in handy to take the small stuff over to the new place. Lou took our car somewhere to have the spark plugs cleaned and some adjustments made this morning. Something was causing a rattling sound. He had that fixed; some little device had broken causing the rattle. Something to do with the throttle, I believe? It cost about \$8.00 to have the work done this morning. We drove up to Donna's after our lunch. Rex and Harry had the piano loaded and the big couch, oh, a lot of pieces. I was amazed at all they had on that truck. Rex's station wagon was filled up, too. Lou drove the station wagon; Rex and Harry went on the truck. It

was real warm today. Donna had a washing out, I brought the things in from the lines, folded them, and put them in the clothes hamper. I brought the pieces home to iron, so I could do them for Donna. I'm not able to help with heavy work, but I'm happy to iron. Lou helped take things over. I cooked ground beef for sandwiches, for Johnny, Mary, and Kathy from meat they had there. Johnny went to the market at the corner to get some mayonnaise and mustard for us, as they'd taken Donna's to the other place. Oh, this moving job is something! Lou rested a while on one bed, left in the little rear house, while I fed the children. (We'd eaten at home.) I felt sorry that Joan, Rex, and Donna were not there to eat; they were in Monrovia. It was 3 p.m. then. This evening Lou and I came home to eat, and then we took the ironing board we had stored in our garage over to Donna, to the new place. Joan had a date to go to the Shrine Auditorium with a school boyfriend; he and another boy called for her this evening. Oh, what a mess the poor girl was in, she didn't expect them until 7:30

and they arrived at 7 p.m. She was desperately trying to pull her bed mattress out of the living room doorway, when they came in the front door. Well, they had to wait for her to get cleaned up and make the other girl wait for all of them. She had to pass through the living room to get to the bathroom. Anyway, she is a good sport. She had 'em laughing about it. I do not think Rex and Donna will live in this place any longer than they have to; the rent is too high for this inconvenient house, \$108.00. I took some paper cups; they'd had chocolate malts in, out to the backyard to the incinerator. Boy, what a rocky path that is, not gravel or pebbles, but stones. I wonder if they had a flood there? I helped Donna make up the beds; little Kathy wasn't long getting to sleep in her crib. Joan, Mary, and Johnny slept on mattresses and springs on the floor. The bedsteads were still at the Sierra Madre home. Oh Donna darling, if you ever do type this diary for me, you'll be in line for a gold medal, surely no one but you would ever have this loving patience to try it. (God bless you dear.) *[Reading this was a tender moment for Mary and Kathy. They are both working on all the diaries. They love reading, typing, and thinking about all the things Grama Elvie wrote.]* The address of the Monrovia house is 353 Norumbega Drive. I dampened down Donna's ironing before going to bed and made a Jello salad. We turned the clocks back an hour.

September 26, Sunday

We turned our clocks back an hour last night and gained back the hour we lost to day light savings time this spring. I got up at six o'clock this morning and did Donna's ironing.

I couldn't whip through it as fast as she can; it has been a long time since I had little dresses or blouses and skirts to iron. I cooked the nice leg of lamb Grampa bought for our dinner. Mary Hill phoned to let us know she is back home from her trip to the East. She wasn't going to Sunday School because everything she wears needed pressing. She spent two days in Salt Lake City, on her way home; she loved the sweet peaceful spirit in the temple grounds. It is "out of this world" she said. Yes, I love it there, also. I wish I could go there and meditate myself again; I wonder why I didn't do it when I lived in Salt Lake? We took it for granted, eh? Lou went to look at a house for sale that he read about in the paper this morning. It's an old home on Coolie Avenue for \$9,000. It was old! Rex and Donna went to look it over a short time ago she says. Lou was such a help today; we had dinner ready at one o'clock as planned. Johnny



Kathy riding her tricycle at the new house at 353 Norumbega Drive, Monrovia. No sadness for Kathy as long as she is with her family and has her tricycle to ride.

phoned from the Sierra Madre place, he and Kathy came over with Rex to get a few more things. Rex took some of the seventies books to church. Our Marsh children came about 1:20 p.m., a little late, but forgiven. We ate as soon as they arrived. Everyone seemed to enjoy the dinner. I wonder what our little Janet is doing in Utah today? I put food away while Lou washed dishes and Donna dried them. Joan relaxed on my bed reading from my 1953 diary; she said she'd dry the dishes when they were ready but we didn't call her. Nice for her, eh? Harry Howard went over to the Sierra Madre place with his truck and helped Rex take the remaining pieces of furniture to Monrovia. (Nice man.) Joan, Kathy, and Donna went with Rex to the house. Mary and Johnny stayed here to watch TV. Grampa and Grama enjoyed naps. I bought Mary and Johnny an ice cream bar, on a stick, from the musical ice cream truck man when he came by the house this afternoon. The folks came back about 5 p.m. I insisted on them eating something before they left. We put the food out in the kitchen and they served selves. I waited to eat later with Lou. I'm sorry we didn't attend church at all today, I hate to miss out like that, but it was a happy day with my beloved children. It isn't often any of us miss church on Sundays. I was so tired tonight I went to bed shortly past nine o'clock and that is unusual for me. Mary lost one of her new school shoes in the moving, I hope they locate it.

September 27, Monday

I got up to help Lou this morning; I put up his lunch. He cooked his breakfast. I got ready to go uptown to buy Joan's birthday gift, but I decided I'd phone Nash's Department Store first, to see if they had the white cardigan sweater she wants (the Wondermere make). I'm glad I phoned, cause they didn't have it in white. I phoned Bullock's Pasadena Store, they do not open on Monday until 1 p.m. I phoned Field's Ladies Shop, they carry that sweater but didn't have a size 40 in white. She said she'd phone their other store in North Hollywood and let me know if she could get it for me. She called back and said she could, and told me she'd have it in their store by 6:30 p.m. today. No use going uptown so I took my hat off and worked on the Relief Society scrapbook. I put the queen's pictures in that Donna gave me on Friday night. Donna phoned from the Sierra Madre house, she said she got the three children started in their new school this morning. Joan at 8 a.m. in Monrovia High, Johnny next, she got him registered and found out that it was not the right school for him. He was to go to the new Wild Rose School, so Donna took him there. She was happy to find it isn't nearly so far as the school she took him to first. Then she got Mary registered in her school, Clifton Junior High. They all have to ride a school bus to get to different schools. Donna said she did my typing last night while Rex listened to Jack Benny

on the radio; bless her. I didn't expect she'd do it until she was more settled. They put the dining room table up in their kitchen, plenty of room for it there. They left the kitchen table in the old place for Rex to use to paint the kitchen with. He promised the Taylors he'd paint the kitchen and back porch if they bought the house. He plans to do it tomorrow. Donna will have the car to take her to the opening party and luncheon in East Pasadena Relief Society; her last time to attend our ward Relief Society, unless she moves back or comes for something special. Florence Marsh phoned, John wanted to let Rex know he could work a couple of days for them, but we had no way of getting in touch with Rex. I took a chance on the old phone number, but he had left Sierra Madre. After dinner this evening, Lou drove our car to town to get Joan's birthday gift. Ann, the lady manager, was upset because her husband had forgotten to bring the sweater from their North Hollywood Store. I was disappointed. Ann promised to take it to Lou's work on Wednesday afternoon, for him to bring it home. I think they will get it to the Venetian blind shop okay. They were very sorry about the slip up. Lou and I looked in Mather's Store at their luggage sale. It was too much money for us. We let Janet have our big suitcase. Warnie Mueller phoned this evening; he wanted Janet's phone number in Utah. I couldn't give it to him. He said he was going out to talk to Marshes tonight. I felt upset and sorry for him. I couldn't find Janet's letter, but I was glad I didn't, cause Rex would be hurt if I had given Warnie her phone number. Warnie says he'll never give Janet up in his heart. Bob Perry called to visit with Joan last night in the new place in Monrovia. Lou bought chocolates tonight; they surely looked tempting, but I didn't eat any, I wasn't feeling very well.



*John, Donna, Warnie Mueller, and Mary at the Norumbega house.
Warnie is heart sick over Janet being gone.*

September 28, Tuesday

Lou had some extra time this morning. He watered the back lawn and flowers and also the front lawn. All I had to take care of were the hanging baskets, nice eh? We are used to getting up earlier for day light savings time, so we had extra time. I bought two rolls of Mystic Mending Tape last evening. I mended the Relief Society Scrapbook box. I had already used one roll on it months ago. The poor old box was falling apart. It looks much better now. It should, with three rolls of mending tape on it; it cost me 50¢ a roll. I used gray, same color as the box. I worked on the book yesterday, pasted in more queen pictures and flowers. Clarice Tanner, thoughtful sweet person that she is, called Louise Anderson on the phone and made arrangements for Louise to pick me up and take me to the Relief Society opening social today. Bonna Gordon had to go at nine o'clock this morning to help with the luncheon. I didn't have to be there until 12:30. Louise phoned this morning to tell me she'd come for me at noon. Nice people, my friends, eh? LaDorna Perine was with Louise when she came for me, they had their children, (the youngest ones). We had a very fine attendance out for the opening social. It was very lovely; the tables were decorated so pretty, in the autumn motif. Each sister received a little "Pattern for Living" favor. *[The pattern that Elvie pasted in the Relief Society scrapbook is on the following page.]* The luncheon was delicious; we had a nice program after the luncheon while still at the banquet tables. President Tanner introduced her board, and the class leaders, Sisters McDonnel, Brinton, and Timothy. They each gave a short preview of their years work. Sr. Lorraine Major sang a vocal solo. Sr. Lorene Alder played a violin selection and Sr. Helen Hinckley Jones read an interesting story. Sr. Madge Fowler concluded the program by giving one of her own compositions, "God's Garden," which she dedicated to our past president, Donna Marsh. Rex came to church for Donna, he had the station wagon full of fruit bottles and other boxes from the basement, to take to Monrovia. Rex and Donna brought me home. When I was going in towards the house, Kathy said, "Goodbye, my little Gran Mudder." She's a cutie. Rex didn't get started with the painting today. Joan's friend Richard Berger came here this afternoon and gave me a birthday card to take out to Joan for him. He said, "Mrs. Renshaw, do you remember me?" I surely did. He is a very handsome looking lad. I'm so sorry about Beverly's car. It'll cost her over a hundred dollars to have whatever is wrong fixed, she works so hard, then this comes. A typhoon fury leaves tragic trail in Japan, a litter of wreckage of ships capsized, 1,000 lives lost. Hokkaido, Japan, hundreds

of bodies in sunken ferry Toya Mira. Many of our American boys lost in the dreadful typhoon. Warnie says Janet has written twice to him. So she is still thinking of him.



President Donna Marsh was released September 19, 1954 as she was moving into Monrovia Ward. Sister Clarice Tanner, her first counselor, was sustained as the new President. She selected Sister Jeanne Brinton as her second counselor.

The East Pasadena Ward Relief Society Opening Social was held September 28, 1954. A delicious luncheon was served and a delightful program enjoyed. The tables were beautifully decorated in an autumn motif, and each sister received a little "Pattern for Living" favor.

President Tanner introduced her board, and the teachers, Sisters McDonnell, Brinton, and Timothy gave a short preview of their years work. Sister Lorraine Major sang a vocal solo, Sister LoRene Alder played a violin selection, and Sister Helen Hinckley Jones read an interesting story. Sister Madge Fowler concluded the program by giving one of her own compositions, God's Garden, which she dedicated to our past president, Donna Marsh.

PATTERN FOR LIVING

PRICELESS

L.D.S. STYLE
ALL SIZES



For Free Demonstration and Help Come to
East Pasadena Ward Relief Society

Above is the front of "Pattern for Living" envelope. The back side of the envelope is below, it had a "shopping list" on the back. Inside was the pattern and directions. Elvie put all these things in the Relief Society scrapbook.



Pattern for Living

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Step 1 — Select only GENUINE materials. Time spent on cheap imitations is wasted.
- Step 2 — When cutting, stay on the straight and narrow path. Don't attempt short cuts, or travel on the bias.
- Step 3 — SEAM ALLOWANCE should be wide. Baste garment together with Tolerance, and try on before final stitching for any small adjustments that may be necessary.
- Step 4 — PRESS with the warmth of Friendliness to eliminate creases of Loneliness and Neglect.
- Step 5 — Fasten your garment with the Knowledge of Truth, Sincerity of Purpose and an Understanding of the Gospel.
- Step 6 — WEAR proudly and with dignity for all occasions.

IMPORTANT:

When you follow in this order you will complete your garment with ease, to fit right, to look right, and to be admired by all.

Pattern for Living— L.D.S. Style . . . All Sizes

MATERIAL REQUIRED:

Faith, Love, Charity, Prayer, Desire, Obedience, Reverence, and Intelligence.



NOTIONS NEEDED:

Elasticity, Variety, Sense of Humor, Interfacing of Forbearance, Lip-Zipper, Back Bone Stiffening, Forgiveness.

MEASUREMENTS:

How wide is your understanding?
How long is your patience?
How deep is your love?



September 29, Wednesday

Our Joan is sweet sixteen today, bless her heart. We gave her a white wool cardigan sweater, her folks gave her a white wool slip over, same make, and they gave her a gold bead necklace, too. Grama Marsh gave her hose and \$1.00. It has been cooler today, but clear, a bit overcast this morning. Joan's school in Monrovia let them out today at noon, nice to close up early on her birthday, eh? Joan came to Pasadena to the PCC School to see her friends there. She phoned me from the school to tell me Donna wanted us to come out to eat dinner with them tonight at 6 p.m. Joan had some friends bring her here from PCC so we could take her to Monrovia with us. Ann, the manager of Field's Sport Shop for Ladies, took Joan's white cardigan sweater over to the Venetian blind shop this afternoon. Lou brought it home this evening. I was happy to receive a nice letter from Janet, she sent a thank you letter, with a stamped envelope for me to write Aunt Sue's address on and mail it to her for Janet. Sue sent some lovely stationery with the Vandergrifts in Provo, when they called to see Janet. So I phoned Bette Haddock to see if Sue was sick and couldn't go. Bette says she must have been in Salt Lake City and the Vandergrifts were on their way back to California when they saw Janet. Bette is expecting her mother home next Monday. I gave Joan my white drop earrings; she thought they were pretty. I seldom wear that style. Donna had a very delicious dinner ready for us; roast, creamed potatoes, carrots, and fruit Jello salad. Rex made some ice cream in the new freezer he bought. It was real good. I took Janet's letter out for her family to read. Joan's and



Donna & Joan Marsh and Donna Kay Strong taken on the Marsh family vacation to Utah in August of 1954. Donna is honored in East Pasadena Relief Society on September 28, 1954. Joan turned 16 years old on September 29, 1954.



Mary's new bed springs and mattresses are very nice; the beds look so comfortable and high, I like the pretty brown bed spreads too, chenille. John and Kathy are happy with the bedsprings and mattresses from Janet's and Joan's beds, on their bunk beds. Kathy's baby crib is now in the garage stored away. Joan met some girls at the new school; they live near her. They came to Donna's tonight at 8 p.m. and took Joan to the basketball game in East Pasadena Ward or stake center. I hope they are nice girls and she will enjoy her friendship with them. I hope they are careful drivers, too! Lou played Rex's mouth organ after dinner and it was amusing to watch Kathy dance to the music. Rex went to his night school class, for contractors, in Los Angeles, after dinner. The garbage disposal wouldn't work at Donna's house, a company dinner and she had to wrap everything in newspaper for the garbage can, (the old way,) isn't that luck in reverse, eh? After the dishes were cleared, the baby asleep in bed, and Mary and Johnny's homework for school done, Donna typed some articles for me to put in the Relief Society scrapbook. Mary and Johnny were playing a game quietly, on Mary's bed, a spin game I think? (Sweet kiddies). Janet sent me her schedule for school; she is taking Religion, Health, Gym, Shorthand, English, and Courtship and Marriage.



This is some of
Eloise Brooks's
artwork, honoring
Joan's birthday.

September 30, Thursday

John and Florence Marsh left his morning for Utah, with Lewie and Miriam in John's car. Florence phoned to say bye bye. They were ready and waiting for Miriam and Lewie to phone. Here we are in the last day of September. Oh where does the time get to so quickly? I intended to work on the Relief Society scrapbook today, but I didn't get started. I wrote letters; one to Janet and to Eloise Brooks and a birthday card to Yvonne Fife. I was out of stamps, so had to walk the five blocks to the post office and back home. By then, my day was shot. I wrote in the diary for Tuesday and Wednesday. Lou gave me a dollar to send in Janet's letter for him. I sent \$2.00 in Yvonne's birthday card. I think she will leave for Beryl, Utah tomorrow evening, to spend her birthday with Violet and Otto. I hope her card is delivered tomorrow at Dody's before Yvonne leaves for Beryl. Andersens are going to bring Yvonne back to California with them on Sunday. Donna phoned today from the Sierra Madre house. She and Rex were over there cleaning up a bit and watering the lawns. Rex got the kitchen ready for painting and I guess he started the job of painting, too. Little Kathy wanted to talk to me on the phone. Both Donna and Rex stopped their work to watch and listen to her; she went on and on, it was so cute. She was telling me about the people who were going to move into her house. Daddy was going to paint the kitchen "ellow," not Johnny and Mary's room, just the kitchen and back porch. Donna says her little hand was just going as fast as her tongue; she is precious. Clarice Tanner stopped by to say hello to Donna when she saw their station wagon there. Mrs. Kirk told Donna they missed them a lot; the Kirk children said, "Oh, I wish the Marshes had not moved away from here." We all feel it, eh? I sent my poem; "Eternal Youth," to Eloise B. Lou is working hard while Bill S. is on vacation. He worked this evening until 8 p.m. I had to discard the tickets I bought weeks ago, from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to see Australia, by Arthur Connor, at the John Marshall Junior High School Auditorium. The tickets cost me, \$1.00 each, bye bye \$2.00. Lou was making some shades or blinds for our neighbor Mr. Edgecomb to hang in the new little house he built this past summer. He is renting it for a year. I worked on the Relief Society scrapbook this evening while waiting for Lou to come home. I pasted the articles that Donna typed for me last night, into the book. Our ward visiting teachers came and I enjoyed their message on "service" very much. I was sorry Lou wasn't home to greet them, too. Br. William Ashton and young Dale Williamson are our teachers. Ephra Doezie phoned to tell Lou she was going to Salt



Elaine Oates and Janet Marsh. Florence Marsh saw two of her granddaughters in Provo during October 1954.

Lake City to conference and couldn't play for him in Sunday School. She was so happy and excited about it; she is driving there with some young folks from Pasadena Ward. The conference is going to be televised; our ward will see it on TV instead of holding Sunday School. Beverly's car is repaired, but the cost will keep her paying for weeks. It is almost \$200 with the interest from the bank loan. Darn it! Why did her car have to break down!

October 1, Friday

I enjoy this nice cool weather; Lou went to work about six o'clock this morning. I got up at 8 a.m. I decided to let the washing go until Monday but I did wash out a few of Lou's seersucker work shirts by hand, very little ironing to them. Beverly phoned from the shop, she had a minute to spare, she said she knew

I missed my morning visits with Donna, so she called to say hello. Isn't she a darling thoughtful niece, eh? We all love her so much. A young man student is working at the shop after school, with Lou and Beverly. She is teaching him how to do the job. I watered the lawns and flowers and hanging baskets this morning, and then I came in and worked on the queen's tributes, (folders). Lou had to take three or four of Mr. Edgecomb's window shades back to the shop, the measurements were wrong somehow? The people are moving into the little house that Mr. Edgecomb built; they have brought some of their belongings today. I guess Rex painted in the kitchen of the Sierra Madre house today. I surely miss my telephone calls to Donna each day. I will not have much to write about in the diary if I do not know what my little

Marshes are doing. Lou was tired this evening. I'll be glad when Bill S. gets back from his vacation. Lou says he is going to work tomorrow, to get the blinds ready for Beverly to work on Monday. I guess Glen Anderson and his passengers are headed for Cedar City, where they'll pick up Yvonne and take her out to Beryl. She is leaving on the bus this evening. Oh no, the Andersens will leave tomorrow morning, not tonight. I remember hearing Yvonne said she'd have

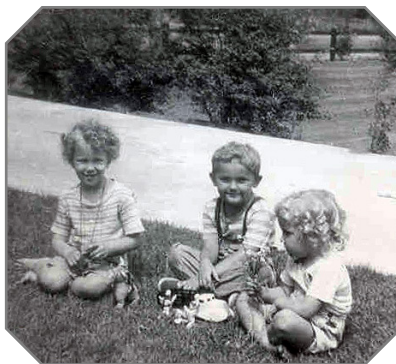
time to visit some of her friends in Cedar on Saturday, before her mother arrived there from Salt Lake City with the Andersens. Glen, Gilbert, Annie, Bill, and Violet have been visiting in Salt Lake City, at May Keddington's home. Andersens will bring Yvonne back to California.

October 2, Saturday

Lou worked at the Venetian blind shop eight hours today, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Today is Sharon Strong's wedding day, she was married to James Leroy Hathaway in the LDS Chapel in Compton, 500 North Acacia Street, at 8 p.m. I was surprised when



John and Mary Marsh on left at a birthday party at the Kirk's house. The Marsh family is missed.



Caroline and Marilyn Kirk with Johnny Marsh circa 1950.

the mailman brought Yvonne's birthday card back to me stamped, "no such address on this street." I phoned Dolores to check. I had written the apartment number 1009 Lotus Avenue, their new house is 6825 Lotus Avenue. Dody says she always gets the mail addressed to the old number, but the mailman didn't know the name Fife. I should have put c/o Jones, (now they tell me). I was disappointed cause I wanted Yvonne to have the money to take with her, well, they say, "You can't take it with you" and it looks like they're right, eh? Ha ha! Yvonne left last evening on the bus to spend the weekend with her folks for her birthday. Dody said they had a real exciting time trying to cash Yvonne's check; the bus company wouldn't take a check, the bus was due in a few minutes. Dody and Yvonne and little Nadine did some fast moving from market to bank, but they made it, one minute before the bus arrived. It left for Utah as soon as the passengers boarded it. I had a busy day, cleaned up the house and out in the patio cabaña. This evening Lou and I drove out to Compton to the Latter-day Saints church to witness the marriage of Clint and Tottie Strong's daughter Sharen. She was a very lovely bride, in white lace. Little sister Susie was a very pretty bridesmaid with the other pretty young girls. The groom is a handsome big fellow. Tottie and the groom's mother were dressed alike in dusty rose lace gowns and small fitted hats or bonnets, cute. Clint and Jim's father wore white formal coats, dark trousers. The flowers were lovely and the wedding cake high and beautiful. Lou and I didn't stay for the refreshments, cake and punch. We visited with the family for a few minutes, Ellen Scott, her sons and daughters, Donna and children, and daughters-in-law. We talked to Frank and Thelma and their daughter Naomi, Nora and Bert McKay and son Bruce, Blanche Hoglund, Helen Obremski and husband. I was the only one from our family. Annie, Sue, and Violet are in Utah. Lorene is in Van Nuys taking care of Beth's kiddies while she and Dick are in Salt Lake City. Lou and I were hungry tonight when we got home

from Compton. We cooked bacon and ate bacon and tomato sandwiches. Lou had an egg in his, too.

October 3, Sunday

It was indeed a thrill to sit in our own living room, in comfortable upholstered chairs, and watch the morning session of conference, in Salt Lake City, Utah. We could hear as clearly as if we'd been there, and see the speakers even more clearly than we would have in that great throng of persons assembled in general conference there this morning. I just couldn't help but thank God for the wonderful and marvelous age we live in. President David O. McKay conducted, Stephen L. Richards, gave a lovely talk on missionary work. I can't give names of all the speakers, but all were inspiring talks. The choir sang beautifully as always. We did not hold a Sunday School in East Pasadena Ward this morning. The officers arranged to have a big television set installed for the ward folks to listen to the conference from nine o'clock this morning until 11 a.m. We decided to watch on our own set, in special comfort. (I was in robe and slippers.) Lou and I ate a nice dinner at Bob's place, and then we rode out to Monrovia to see our children. Donna had some very pretty white curtains with red trim up in her kitchen, the half curtains, top and bottom of window. They looked very pretty. She had three letters from Janet which we enjoyed reading. Janet sent Joan a pretty white leather wide belt and a very pretty card. Donna bought Mary a pretty blue jumper dress on Saturday night, with a very pretty white nylon blouse. She wore it to Sunday School in Monrovia this morning. Joan didn't go to Sunday School, all of them went but her. Joan heard that Warnie Mueller went to conference with some of the LDS boys, he'll see Janet I'm sure. Janet was chosen one of the college freshman girls, to march for the ball games, 34 girls chosen out of 400 girls that tried out before the judges. They are called the Cougarettes. Lou and I took Sr. Mary Hill to church tonight. We had a nice meeting, but oh, I do



The Cougarettes Janet is circled in red.

miss my children. They always looked so pretty in their best togs, and I will not have the happy pleasure of seeing them now. I'm sure Mary was pretty today in her new blue jumper dress. Her eyes are such a lovely blue. Andersens are expected home from their trip to Utah this evening. Beverly went out to Irene's to meet them there and bring them home. Yvonne Fife is with them. Dolores is going to pick her up from Andersen's in Highland Park tonight. Dr. Don Anderson gave Lou a \$20.00 check for carpenter work he did for him. Donna's neighbor invited her to come over tomorrow morning at 9:30 for coffee. Donna told her she doesn't drink coffee, she said, "I'll make tea." (No tea.) Well, she'll make Postum if Donna will come, ha ha. Lou bought two banquet tickets for \$5.00 each. It goes on our budget. He gave one ticket to Mary Hill and the other to Lillian Neal. We'll be away.

October 4, Monday

It was a real fall morning, the Yule log felt good burning. It was sunny and warm by noon, so we didn't need the gas heat then. I did my washing this morning, and put flowers in the new queen tribute folders this afternoon. I've just about used up all of my birthday and greeting cards, cutting flowers out for the queen tribute poem folders. Annie phoned this morning to report she was back home. They had a wonderful visit in Salt Lake City; saw all of the folks. I was surprised to learn that Bonnie is expecting a baby in January. I hope this one is a boy, but her two little girls are very sweet and another darling little girl will be wonderful, I'm sure. They spent a nice evening with Elsie, had dinner with Bonnie, and family and went up to Owen and Lydia's several times. They went to Brigham City to a chicken dinner with Ida, Sue, Diana, and I guess Dick and Beth? Not sure who all went. They had a nice dinner at Jensen's and May Keddington's; they all stayed in May's home. She was grand to them; she slept next door at her brother John's home and let them have her home. Violet cooked a nice birthday dinner for Yvonne and the folks on Saturday evening, after they arrived in Beryl. She had a birthday cake and all, because they had to leave early Sunday. Irene had a nice dinner for them on Sunday evening; she made a cake, heart shape, and decorated it pretty. So Yvonne had two nice dinners, with birthday cake, candles, and etcetera. Dolores went to Andersen's Sunday night to pick Yvonne up and take her home with her. Ronnie was with her in his pajamas. Well, I'm glad they're back home safe and sound. I think Sue was expected to arrive this evening with Beth and Dick, and Aunt Ida, and Florence Smith. Lou was so tired tonight; he went to bed at eight o'clock. I'll be glad when Bill S. is home from his vacation and Lou doesn't have to work as hard. I bought six pillowslips in Nash's Department Store tonight and had them send them out to Donna and Rex for a wedding anniversary gift (October 7). After work this evening Lou went to Dr. Anderson's home and cut a door off so it would shut over the rug. He took me to town after dinner at 6 p.m. Lou bought oil at Sears Store while I looked at hats in a new hat store on Los Robles Street. I didn't buy any. One of Donna's new neighbors invited her to her house this morning to have coffee; she had Postum for Donna.



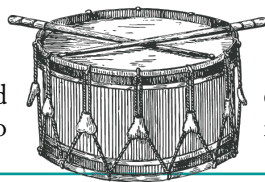
This was given on October 12, while Elvie was on vacation.

Elvie has just about used all the flowers from her greeting cards for the Queen papers, the Relief Society scrapbook, and her scrapbooks. Lots of careful cutting went into these projects! Kathy's job of finding flowers on line and pasting them in Elvie's on line diaries is so much easier.

October 5, Tuesday

Bart was in the shop yesterday to see Gordon and Lou. Gordon told him to come back to work, if he will. Bart is out of work at Palmdale now, so he may come back? If he does, Beverly will not be needed as often. I'm surely glad she has her night job at Cannon Electric Company. Gordon would like to get Bart back as he knows how to do everything in the business. Lou likes Bart a lot too, but he also likes to give Bev the extra work. He enjoys having Beverly around the place. We all enjoy having that gal around, eh? Bonna Gordon came for me this morning at 9:15. Bessie, the baby sitter, and Marie Doezie went to church with us. We had a large attendance out. I enjoyed Sr. Margaret Waugaman's teacher's topic, "God Watches Over all His Children." President Clarice Tanner did a splendid job of conducting; she greeted me with a kiss this morning, bless her heart. She knows how much I miss Donna. In fact several ladies said they missed Donna such a lot today. The theology lesson, on Alma and Amulek, was

beautifully given by the second counselor, Jeannie Brinton. She is an excellent teacher. We all hope she will continue on with the lessons. We prayed for Kenneth Major, Loraine's little boy; he is in the hospital with poliomyelitis. We were all upset to learn of his illness. I surely hope he will get over this dreadful disease without ill effects. Florence Marsh phoned to tell me they saw Janet, Elaine, and Sandra R. and Jo? She said the girls look well and are happy. Florence Oates phoned later, she had a letter from Elaine, and she wants Donna to phone her. Warnie Mueller phoned to tell me he saw Janet; he took her out Friday night in Provo and up to Salt Lake City to the Strong's on Sunday. The children were home, parents out. Janet and Warnie went to the afternoon session of conference, had excellent seats, near President McKay. Warnie had a long talk with Janet, and he feels different now. He says he has no hope of her love for him, but he isn't as heartsick as at first. He is going to be baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ, before going into the army. He seems anxious now, to get into the army. He thinks Provo and Salt Lake City are beautiful. He'd love to live there. He said he was going to ride out to Marshes tonight. Rex and Donna came here tonight. We were delighted to see them. I'm sorry Warnie missed them, but he came here and talked to Donna. She told him she wanted to be present the night he is baptized and that seemed to please him. My heart hurts for him, but I'm glad he isn't as upset as he was. He seems calm and more grownup. I'm so happy he is joining the church before going into the army. I hope he and Janet will find happiness in this troubled world. Chocolate mints were the only treat I had for my family. Sr. Rosa Clawson gave Johnny's Blazer kit to me in Relief Society. I was glad he came tonight and got it. Joan came here after Mutual in East Pasadena Ward. Mary Wride drove her here. Joan feels badly about leaving East Pasadena. Donna typed for four hours today on my 1929 diary, a tremendous job to undertake! 25 years of diaries and this, 1929, is the first book!



Drum Roll... (See the end of October 5)

Mary inserted a drum roll message here while typing this part about Donna starting to type the diaries. Seems appropriate to add a little info box here. Donna started typing in October of 1946. Over many years she typed twenty years in triplicate with onion skin paper and carbon paper on a manual typewriter and later an electric typewriter. (Hard to imagine how difficult that would be for those who now use computers!)

Around 2010 Joan started reading all the diaries in preparation for writing her own life story. She was captivated and carried into the past reading the diaries. Joan talked about her experience with such glowing reviews that Kathy and Mary also wanted to read the diaries. Kathy started reading and was inspired to want to add photos to the diaries and to even start keeping her own journal. Joan was delighted about redoing the diaries and offered help and encouragement as Kathy started the task. Joan died in 2012 as they were just getting a good start on the project.

Kathy realized after adding photos to a few of the early years, that reformatting the text and adding photos would be a much better way to share the diaries. Kathy retyped and formatted the first ten years from 1929 to 1939. Mary started reading and wanted to help, too. So far [2016] Mary has typed from 1940 to 1954 and part of 1955, while Kathy continues to format the diaries. So when Grama Elvie mentions the tremendous job to undertake in 1954 with 25 years done, the drum roll certainly needs to be inserted here! Then Grama Elvie didn't stop until she had fifty and a half years done. Elvie would also be happy that her diary writing finally inspired two of her descendants to keep a journal. Kathy Marsh Calkins and Julie Tibbets Greenman owe thanks to dear Grama Elvie for her record keeping inspiration.

gave me some in the hospital years ago, and I'll never forget the dreadful night I put in then. I shampooed my hair; I'm tempted to cut the stuff off, every time I wash it. Then I remember the time I had keeping the back in curls and I keep it long, so I can dress it neat and orderly. Oh me, why couldn't my hair be naturally curly, like Ann Vandergrift's beautiful hair? Lorene arrived home yesterday morning with Dick Johnston, on his way to work. He phoned later today, to ask about Beth's set of keys to the house. Lorene had them in her purse. She stayed at their home while Beth and Dick were in Salt Lake City. She mailed the keys to them today. Aunt Ida and Aunt Sue came back with them. Florence Smith is coming to California with one of her sons; they'll go to San Francisco first. Beth thought maybe Aunt Florence would come to California with them. I left the Relief Society Scrapbook with President Tanner; also, the ladies want to see their queen pictures. I'm sorry I will not be there to see our next queen crowned, I wonder who it will be? I left eight tributes all fixed in flower folders, for Clarice Tanner and her board to choose from. Lou worked an hour overtime this evening. He says he is going in at six o'clock in the morning. He even had Beverly running the paint

machine today. They could surely have used Bart this past three weeks while Bill S. was on vacation in Hawaii, and Beverly, too. Gordon offered Bart his old job back; he was disappointed today, because Bart hadn't phoned or come in to say he'd come back to work. I guess Bart is looking around first, he hasn't forgotten the slack weeks, when he or someone had to take days off because of no work in the shop, eh? Bart is a good man in Gordon's business. Lou likes him a lot, too. Donna says the neighbor lady had four ladies over for coffee (or Postum), last Monday morning. Nice friendly neighbors, eh? Sue phoned last night; Lou talked to her about our trip on October 9. I talked to Lorene on the phone last evening about the trip we have planned for October 9.

October 7, Thursday

Today is Rex and Donna's

wedding anniversary. They were married nineteen years ago today, in the Salt Lake Temple. Daddy and I had Nash's Department Store send six pillowslips out to their new home in Monrovia. I hope they arrived in time. We bought them last Monday night. The clerk said they would go out the next day, but they didn't because Donna was here Tuesday night and she didn't mention it. Rex called by this morning

October 6, Wednesday

I put Lou's lunch up last night, left it in the icebox. He always fixes his own breakfast, isn't he precious, eh? I had a dreadful time getting to sleep last night again, I wonder why? So many things come into my poor brain when I lie awake hours. I will not take sleeping pills anyway. The doctor

to borrow a drop cloth from Lou. He says he has a house to paint for someone. That man surely has variety in his work; plastering, cement work, building swimming pools, and now, house painting. It was one of the precious October bright blue days, no smog! I love it like this. I wrapped a gift to send Ethel Newbold for her birthday on October 18. I'll be on vacation somewhere then, so I told her in yesterday's letter, I was sending it ahead of time. It is a white organdy half apron, trimmed in black and white very small checks. I think it is very pretty, I hope she'll like it. Florence Marsh phoned to see if I had the Ellsworth's new address, sorry I haven't. Nell Ellsworth has an infant girl, I was happy to learn that it was a girl; they now have two girls and three boys. Florence had a congratulation card she wants to mail to Nell and Jim. I talked to Annie on the phone; she and Bernie were getting a queen tribute ready for one of their Relief Society ladies. They are down to the last two poems I sent, so I told her I'd mail the four last ones I composed. I use them for ladies in our ward, and then they change names and sometimes the verses around and use them for Garvanza sisters. I hope these sisters don't get together with their special tributes, ha ha! I have composed some for Garvanza when I know the lady, like I did for Miriam Clayton, Lorene Clayton, Florence Oates, Irma Carlson, Elizabeth B., and maybe one or two others. I answered Janet's letter and sent another \$1.00 for little spending treat. I picked all the roses we had out in bloom this evening and we took them out to Donna. Joan was babysitting a few doors down the street, where Donna went for Postum and cake on Monday morning. Donna and children had gone to take Mary to Monrovia Ward to the Primary banquet for Home Builders, 25th year. She attended the one in East Pasadena Ward on September 23. Rex had been painting Clarice Tanner's house on the outside. I took Janet's letter for them to read. Rex and Donna thanked us for the pillowslips. We visited for a while; I wiped dishes for Donna. Clarice T. sent half a cake over to Marshes with Rex. Lou enjoyed a piece. I resisted the temptation as usual. We all rode over to the Sierra Madre house to see the pretty yellow paint job Rex has done in the kitchen. He painted in the back porch tonight. We left Donna and children at the Sierra Madre house tonight. It seemed so natural to see her and the two little ones standing on the front porch waving goodbye to us. Oh me and my silly emotions! A letter came from our dear little Janet this morning. She thanked us for the \$1.00 and told about Warnie visiting her and taking her to Salt Lake City to conference. When I was writing to Janet this morning about Warnie, I had to remove my eyeglasses several times to dry 'em. P.S. I did not have gray hair nineteen years ago today, when Rex and Donna got married.

October 8, Friday

I was thrilled when my Johnny lad phoned this afternoon to say, "It's in" meaning their phone was in and he gave me the new number; EL9-3082. I phoned to give the number to Grama Marsh. Joan has some new girlfriends, sisters,

down the street about a block and half. One of the girls was going to bring her home from Mutual Wednesday night and Joan was going to stay at her house all night. But it seems a rehearsal kept them out too late, so Rex and



Elvie comments, "We have Mary, Johnny, and Kathy to see through this astonishing teenage period!"

Donna brought Joan home to sleep instead. Do you remember that rehearsal Joanie? Ah, my precious teenagers and all of their many activities. We have Mary, Johnny, and Kathy to see through this astonishing teenage period! God bless Donna and Rex, with wisdom and patience to help pull them through to safety. Lou went to work early this morning. He didn't eat breakfast, got something out for a change. I put his lunch up last night; I've been leaving it in the icebox lately for him. Isn't he a dear? Not many like my precious Lou. I walked to the post office on the Avenue and mailed Ethel Newbold's birthday gift and bought 2¢ stamps for postcards I may want to send on my trip. I took the bus to town, sat with a pretty young girl; she is lovely, like my Janet and

Joanie are. We waited for the bus together in front of the post office and talked all the way to town. She hadn't lived in Pasadena long, she wanted to go to 951 Green Street; I told her where to get off the bus, by the Colorado store numbers, then told her to walk one block south to Green Street. She was going to see about work. She'd graduated from high school. When we passed PCC School, she said, "Gee, I wish I could go on to college there, it looks like such a lovely school." She was dark and beautiful. I got off the bus at Los Robles and went in Broadway and looked at hats and prices then went across the street to 24 South Los Robles where the new hat store opened up a few weeks ago, The Normandy Millinery Club. They haven't a hat in the store over \$2.99 and believe me; they have the best-looking hats, all colors and kinds. I was delighted with the pretty blue velvet hat I bought, trimmed with little rhinestones and blue veil. It is a soft shade, almost a turquoise. I found the same shade of blue in gloves, in Penney's Store, for only \$1.69. I bought me three pair of nylon hose in Sears, and then came home happy and tired. I wore my new hat and gloves home. I had my black faille suit on, and I felt elegant. I brought my coral velvet hat home in the bag. I have a weakness for pretty hats, yet I seldom go places to wear 'em. It doesn't take much to make this grandmother happy, eh? Lou cut and watered our lawns tonight and drained oil from the car, then put new oil in. Sue phoned; she says she'll come in tonight and stay with Lorene, so we can pick them up in the morning for the vacation trip. I phoned Miriam; she'll tell Lorene when she comes home from wherever she was working today. There is something about the excitement of packing for a trip that causes my heart pains to come more severe, but I'm saying nothing about it to Lou. He gets nervous and excited, too, when getting the car and yard in order. Aren't we nuts? Ha ha! I'll be okay, I'm sure. I defrosted the icebox tonight. Joan will be happy to have the phone in, I know. Peter Brown called at their house this afternoon. I hope he took our sweet Joan out somewhere nice tonight.

October 9, Saturday

We got up at 5 a.m. I was awake at 2 a.m. but rested until five o'clock. We left for Highland Park at 6:10 a.m. Papa was ready to leave before, but not Mama, so we didn't arrive at Lorene's on time. It was 6:25. Sue and Lorene were waiting. We were on our way by 6:30 a.m. We enjoyed riding in the beautiful morning and visiting with my sisters; we have a lot of talking to catch up on when we get together. We stopped in Palm Springs for breakfast and I was amazed at its growth. I was there twenty-five years ago or so. We ate at Piccadilly Jr. Fountain Service. It is the date harvest time; we enjoyed driving by and looking at the many miles of date palm trees, with the dates tied up in bags hanging from the trees. It was the first time Lorene has seen them growing in the date gardens. This was after leaving Palm Springs. We stopped in Blyth, for gas service and called next door to see Dr. Bryant Reese and his wife Donna. They made us very welcome. Donna wanted to make sandwiches but we wouldn't let her. I went in the office first, Donna didn't know me. She had her pencil and pad in her hand to make the appointment. When I said her name, she recognized me. She came out and insisted on all of us going in the house. Bryant wasn't busy at that moment so we had a nice visit with them both. (He is a dentist.) She served apple cider, cookies, and chocolates. Their youngest child was home, a beautiful little girl about four years old, I believe, looks like the Knightons. Bryant showed pictures he'd taken in color; we looked at them through his little viewer. Phoenix, Arizona was our next stop. We found a motel not far from Keller's home for Lorene and Sue. It was the "Near Town Motel." Lou phoned Jack from the motel, he said Lillian was in San Francisco with Shirley. She had taken the children up there to get them started in school three weeks ago. Shirley was ill so she stayed. Jack insisted we stay at the house. We went over and washed up and then Jack took us with Lorene and Sue out to a lovely dinner at the Hotel Desert Hill, a beautiful place with delicious food. Jack is a generous dear. He drove us in his lovely new Oldsmobile to see the new offices his company has recently moved into. We went through the place; it is surely nice and modern. We left the girls off at their motel after seeing the Western Machinery Company's new factory. We came home with Jack, and slept in the front bedroom.

October 10, Sunday

We had a good nights rest; Jack made oatmeal mush and some toast. He wanted to cook bacon and eggs but we would not have it. I enjoyed the mush and cream. We went for Lorene and Sue in time for the ten o'clock Sunday School. Lillian and Mary Stead belong to the First Ward and they start at eight o'clock, too early we thought. We decided to attend the Seventh Ward in the same chapel. We found out after we got there the Seventh Ward started at 11 a.m. We waited to see Mary Stead come out of her

Sunday School. I walked up to her and she thought I was one of the sisters in her ward who she thinks I look like. She knew Lou and the girls when she saw them; she kept apologizing to me, for not knowing me. She told me a month ago, that there was a lady in her ward that looked just like me. Lillian has mentioned the same thing to me. The lady wasn't out today so I didn't see her, sorry! We drove Mary over to her son Harold's home; they had invited her to dinner, after their Sunday School was over, they'd pick her up at her apartment and bring her home they told her. Well, we changed things by taking her to Harold's before they left for Sunday School. We all went back for the eleven o'clock Sunday School in the Seventh Ward. None of the men wear coats in Phoenix at Sunday Meetings; just nice white shirts and pretty ties, and they look lovely. I wish our men folks would do the same in our hot summer time. Harold's wife, Zelma, is a very fine person; she made us welcome and they insisted that we go home with them after Sunday School to eat dinner. It made Mary very happy, too. We enjoyed the Sunday School; we took Mary to her apartment after Sunday School. She wanted us to see her little apartment. It is real nice. Zelma and Harold had dinner ready when we arrived with Mary Stead. It was a delicious dinner. Two young men were there



Near-Town Motel in Phoenix, Arizona.

also, one is her son-in-law; his wife is in the hospital with a baby daughter. They are all thrilled about the new baby. They are real young grandparents, 35 years old. Zelma was married before, when she was 15 years old. She and Harold are very happy; he adopted her daughter. I believe she is 18 years old. Harold and Zelma are thinking of adopting two or three young children, pre-school age. They'd like to get them from the same family so they'd be brothers and sisters for real. They have just finished remodeling their home. It is a lovely home. Harold has a very good job in Phoenix. Lou phoned Louise Pearce, his niece, from Stead's. He told her we'd be over to see her. Louise has been ill with a cold, but

was much better today. We left Stead's at 4 p.m. after a very happy time with them. We went to see Louise and family. Little Diana is cute, eight years old, but not much larger than when we last saw her. She'll be tiny, like her Grandma Lillian Keller, I guess. Louise and Dick's little son is about 2½ years old I think? He is a handsome child, with large dark eyes. Steve is his name. Louise and Diana served us some punch and Toll House cookies. Dick made the punch and Diana the cookies before we got there. Dick's older boy was visiting his aunt, Dick's sister, so we didn't see him. Jack Keller stewed two chickens today and cooked noodles and vegetables. He expected us to come and eat dinner with him. We were surely well fed this day. Lou talked to him on Louise's phone; we ate with Jack this evening. He is surely one fine fellow. We were sorry to miss seeing Lillian but maybe it is a good thing she didn't have to worry about us. Jack called her on the phone

in San Francisco and he and Louis talked to her. Lorene, Lou, and I did up the dishes while Jack and Sue visited in the living room. We took the girls to their motel, and then came back and enjoyed listening to Jack play their lovely electric Hammond organ. It has been a very wonderful day spent with our friends and relatives.

October 11, Monday

Jack and I had a nice visit this morning while Lou went to get Lorene and Sue and take them to a restaurant near Jack's home, for their breakfast. We ate with Jack, oatmeal and toast and grapefruit. Lorene and Sue walked over to Jack's house after eating, and we left about 9 a.m. from Jack's place. The drive to Prescott, Arizona is very pretty. We arrived in Prescott about noon. We parked the car across the street from a pretty little park and walked around the town a little. We ate a grilled cheese sandwich in a drug store, drank a chocolate milk shake. Sue bought a small box of Saylor's good chocolates, which we all enjoyed. We called by Jo Allen's home but she wasn't there. We went to Hillside Avenue to see Willmia Robinson; she was surprised and pleased to see us, she looked well. She was busy bleaching out some feed sacks for dishtowels. We had a nice visit with her for an hour or so, then on our way again. The next stop was the ghost town of Jerome, Arizona. It is really interesting and unique, is in the tops of the mountains, built on hillsides. The drive through Oak Creek Canyon was beautiful. The colors were even lovelier than the first time I went through it, bright red and gold autumn leaves this time. This evening we stopped in Flagstaff, at the El Rancho Motor Motel. We had a nice little cottage in the rear. There were twin beds in Lorene and Sue's room and a large double bed in our room with a bathroom between. The air here is cold and clear. We went to the Grand Canyon Café here for our dinner; it was nice. We walked around a little but it was too chilly for me to enjoy being out. We all wrote postcards before going to bed. (All but Lou.)

October 12, Tuesday

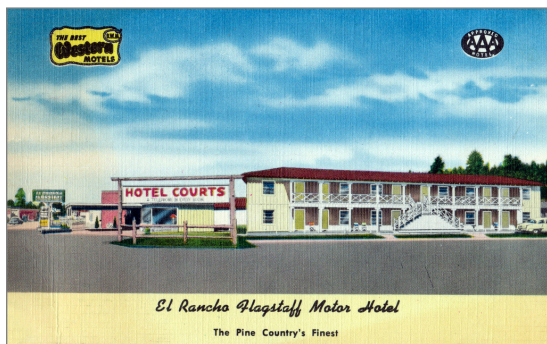
Gee, it was cold last night, even Sue felt chilly. I was glad I had Lou to cuddle up to. Poor Lorene was cold all night alone in her twin bed. We

couldn't make the gas wall furnace work this morning. I guess they haven't turned it on this season, darn 'em. Lorene slept with her robe on and coat over her; one blanket isn't enough for this time of the year, darn 'em again. Sue is surely warm blooded; she walked around without her coat, while Lorene and I wore ours. We ate our breakfast at the Monte Vista coffee shop in Flagstaff. We parked in front of the post office, which came in handy to mail our cards. This is a pretty little town, up in the mountains; sky is so blue, the pine trees so tall and pretty. We left Flagstaff at 9 a.m. We stopped at the Yavapai Observation Station at South rim of Grand Canyon; we bought some souvenirs here, and enjoyed

the wonderful beauty of the Grand Canyon for an hour and half at this point. Lorene paid \$1.00 to enter the canyon. Lorene insisted she pay the toll to enter the canyon, and sister Sue made Lou take \$10.00 to help pay for gas. We didn't want them, either one, to pay on the gas. They took care of their own eats, and sleeping needs. They are independent gals for sure, but we do have fun together, bless 'em. The drive to the north rim of the canyon was lovely. The Painted Desert with its beauty, colorful mounds, in shades of blue, gray green, white rose, and lavender and the Navajo Indian huts, the vermillion cliffs, etcetera. We stopped at the Marble Canyon Café to eat lunch but found the kitchen was closed for the season; we settled for a drink of 7Up at the counter in the place. We rested a short while. The unique rock building for "Men," and "Woman," in the rear of the café, was filthy indeed. Lou talked with a man here, he was on his way to deer hunt, the season opens in the morning. He is a neighbor of Dick and Louise Pearce. We left without the lunch we'd stopped for; now it is 3:30 p.m. and no lunch this day, eh? It was surely a beautiful drive through the Kaibab Forest. We saw many graceful deer in the forest and I felt badly every time I'd think of their fate in the morning, when all the men we passed, every few minutes, wearing red caps and jackets, were in that forest to kill these dear little animals. We saw a few larger deer with antlers. We arrived at the north rim of the canyon just as the sun was setting and had a very beautiful view of the canyon there. The big lodge was closed, but we ate dinner in the cafeteria a mile north



Painted Desert in Arizona



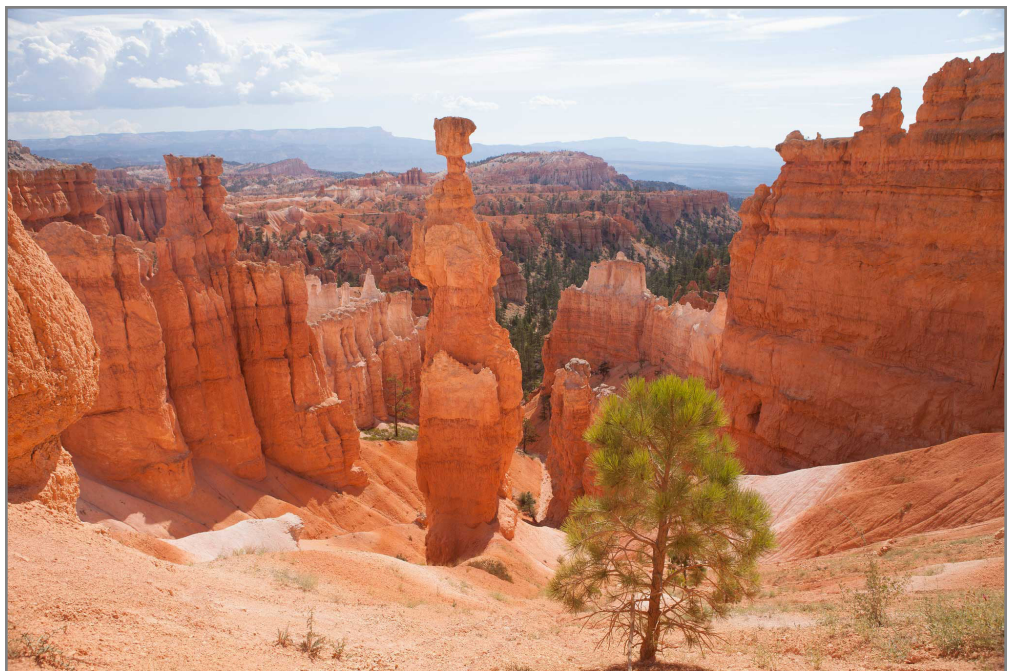
El Rancho Flagstaff Motor Hotel
The Pine Country's Finest

of the lodge. We got the last cabin they had, one room, with two big beds in and a bathroom. We didn't want to drive back down the canyon, in the dark, all tired, and hundreds of hunters waiting for day to break. Lou turned the beds around to fit our needs, so we could get out from each side, in case we wanted bathroom service. We had a lot of fun laughing and talking. Some of them took a shower, but I was too cold for that tonight, but it wasn't bad. We had a nice gas heater so we kept comfortable and we all slept warm tonight. They had two wool blankets for each bed. Our cramped quarters brought about some fun, anyway. It cost \$8.00 for the cabin.

October 13, Wednesday

We rested, but not much sleep for any of us. Lorene and Sue's bed was low in the middle; they tried to stay on the edges, but I could hear sighs and Lorene would softly lament that the darn ridge of the bed was uncomfortable. Sue was up on the edge of her side of the bed a few times, wishing for her own bed, or for morning at least; sitting up rubbing her feet. It was too cold for me to sit up, so I suffered in silence so as not to disturb Lou, but oh, did you ever try to lay still with the fidgets? It can't be done, believe me. We took one last look at the canyon this morning with the morning sun shining on it, such wonderful inspiring grandeur. The drive back down the Kaibab Forest was thrilling in the morning sunshine. I was amazed to see some deer left near enough for us to see, with the hundreds of red caps out after them. We ate a good breakfast in Kanab, Utah, a pretty little town with a nice restaurant called The Peaches Trail's End. We were all thrilled with the drive into Bryce Canyon, I do believe it is the most exciting to me, of any of the wonderful canyons I've visited; my third time to behold Bryce Canyon and it is just as thrilling as the first time. Oh! My very imaginative brain can see so many wonderful things in that canyon. They seem to come into life as I view the beauty of it. It was Sue's first time to see Bryce Canyon; she was thrilled, also. We didn't have to pay the \$1.00 to enter the canyon; the toll office was closed up for the winter season, nice for us, eh? We stopped in Hatch, Utah for a sandwich and drink. It is a small farming town. Oh, how we are enjoying the clear blue skies with no smog. We stopped at a Pontiac shop in Cedar City. Lou wanted to see what was wrong with the ammeter in his car; nothing much, is cost \$1.05 to set the voltage up. Lorene, Sue, and I shopped in Cedar's new Woolworth Store, while Lou was in the Pontiac garage. I bought some jellied fruit slices. Lorene bought caramel marshmallow squares. Sue just looked around the store; she bought the candy at the other stops. We arrived at the Cross Roads in Beryl, Utah, at Otto's store at 4 p.m. He directed us to their home on the road north, about 2½ miles. Violet had

been expecting us to arrive most anytime, but didn't know what day. I was delighted to see her colorful little house; it is fixed up inside real pretty. She looked pretty and well, too. Everything would be fine for her, if only she was not all alone in that desert. Otto works at the store long hours. She has no neighbors, that is, not close to her. Otto has the only phone in the valley. He called by to take Lou with him to deliver a phone message to a man about four miles from the store, a neighbor, ha ha! This evening Lou invited all of us to go to the store and have our dinner in the café there. We had a very nice dinner that Floss Fife cooked and some of her very delicious pie and then when Lou asked the waitress to give him the check, she said there was "no charge." We were embarrassed and insisted on paying for our dinner, but Floss wouldn't have it. Floss is Wilford's wife and they and Otto run the store. Lou ended up by making each of them take a dollar, for a beer, he said. We surely wouldn't have invited ourselves to eat in their café if we'd known they'd not let us pay for the food! I believe Violet called the waitress Myrt, she is a nice young woman. We went back to Violet's and visited. Otto worked until 8 p.m. The Indians, working for farmers in Beryl, go to the Fife's store when they get paid, and they have a wonderful time spending money for things they have no use for, the squaws buy permanent wave packages and bobby pins; one gal trimmed her velvet dress with the bobby pins, all around the hems and etcetera. They are very interesting to watch. They handle everything, but buy one article at a time and pay for it, which makes a lot of extra work for the one waiting on them. Otto has a lot of patience, so he gets along fine with them. We had a nice time visiting, telling amusing stories. Otto told some of his pet stories, which caused a lot of fun. Lou and I slept on the new Simmons Beauty Rest couch, which opens up into a lovely bed. Violet gave me her flashlight to see my way to the bathroom in the night. I didn't want to turn on any lights. I was afraid I'd knock over a table lamp near our bed. Lorene and Sue slept in Violet and Otto's room. And Violet and Otto were in Yvonne's cute room.



Bryce Canyon

October 14, Thursday

Otto left for work this morning before six o'clock. The vegetable man was going to be at the store at 6 a.m. We all had a good nights rest, the best sleep I've had on this trip. The floor furnace in the hall keeps this little house nice and cozy. It was cold outside all day, but nice and warm in the little house in the desert. It seems strange to look out the windows and see nothing but sagebrush everywhere. Otto calls it his lawn, he said to Lou, "Don't drive on the lawn with your car." He he! After breakfast Lou drove down to Fife's Store; he washed dishes to help Floss out. She was busy serving customers. We had a nice breakfast, bacon, eggs, potatoes, toast, and grapefruit, here, before Lou went to the store. I cooked the eggs and bacon. Sue washed the dishes, we dried 'em and Violet put things away and prepared the dinner. She cooked a huge rump roast, some banana squash; she roasted potatoes in the meat pan, and made a delicious fruit salad. Lou went to the store at 4 p.m. for Otto. We enjoyed a very lovely dinner. Otto visited for an hour, and then went back to work. Lou brought ice cream and grapes and milk this morning. We had so much dinner we didn't have room for dessert. We had a nice visit this day with sisters and Lou. Nothing else to do, but we enjoyed it. I wanted to take Violet for a drive or a show, but it was a long way to go and Lou was so tired of driving he needed the rest. Otto came home about 8 p.m. Otto brought root beer and bananas. We all enjoyed root beer floats. We had a very pleasant evening discussing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Lorene and Otto are better learned on the subject than the rest of us. It was very interesting to hear them. Otto read from the Doctrine and Covenants, Lorene explained the things we asked about. Otto was impressed with the clear understanding Lorene has of our gospel; she is serving a stake mission now. I wish I were as well prepared with answers as she is.

October 15, Friday

Otto left at 5 a.m. to go duck hunting; it was dark, so I put the flash light on, for him to find his way through our crowded quarters, with the bed down in the living room. We got up at a few minutes to seven o'clock, made Postum and ate sweet rolls. Violet wanted to cook eggs and bacon for us, but we wouldn't let her. Lou offered to take Violet into Cedar City, so she wouldn't be alone all day, but she said she would not let him drive those 38 miles out of his way to take her. Violet gave us a sack of pine nuts to divide between the



Sue, Elvie, and Lorene Bailey in 1894. Sixty years later in 1954 the three sisters were traveling together with Lou.

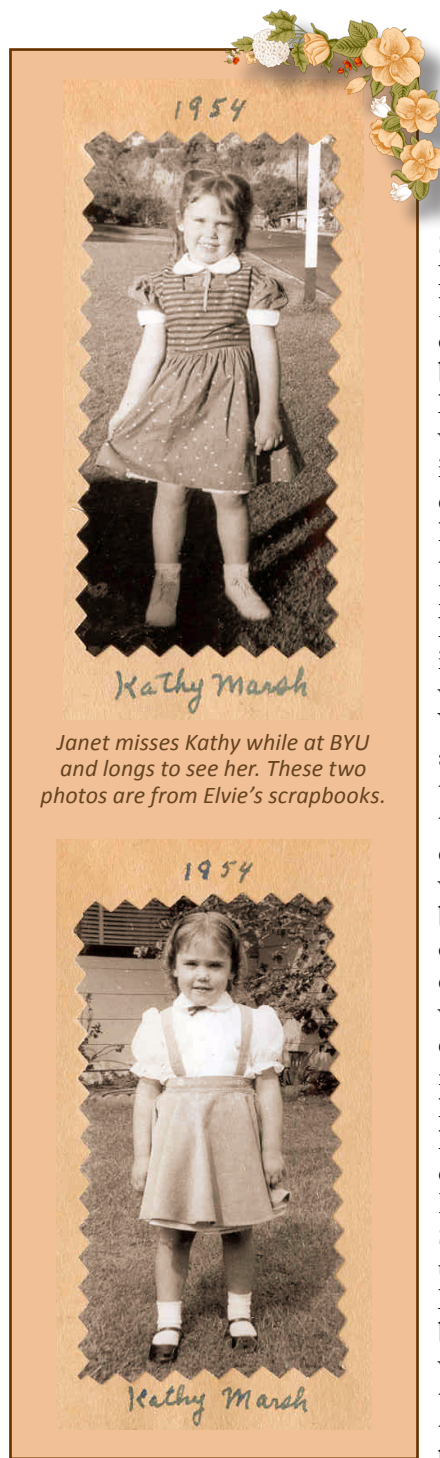
three of us. We girls each gave Violet \$2.00 and Lou gave her \$4.00. She wasn't going to take it, but we insisted. We want her to come down at Christmas time and she can't save Christmas money in Beryl like she could in Cedar, taking care of little Susie. She cried, we cried, and we all laughed. It was hard to leave her there so alone. When Lou put his money in her apron pocket, he said, "Here is some more cry money, go ahead, enjoy yourself." We laughed and cried. The water froze up in our car last night; we drove as far as Otto's store. The steam was coming out of the radiator, it was surely boiling up; good thing we were there, near the water tap and not in the desert. It was okay after Lou had filled it with water; our car didn't use much more than a cup of water all the way, so he knew something was wrong for sure. Lou tried

to buy gasoline at three different stations on our way out of Beryl; all were closed up. We couldn't understand because it was not too early, after 8 a.m. We were all a bit concerned that we may be caught without gas in the middle of the desert; we had to stop at one point, for road construction, trucks at work. They'd let a dozen cars through one way, then hold that line until cars coming the other way got through. Lou talked to a driver of a big Conoco Oil truck, held up in our line, he said he'd keep back of us in case we did need oil before we could reach the Conoco station a few miles away. We made it all right. The station was in Utah, just before we crossed the state line into Arizona. We stopped in Mesquite for a drink and the restroom. We enjoyed our dinner at the next stop, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at "Sill's Drive In." I had a piece of custard pie for dessert; it wasn't the best I've ever eaten, but good. It was noon by our watches, we turned them back to 11 a.m. We picked up the hour here that we lost on the way to Utah. It was warm here, but not uncomfortable, Sue thought it was too warm, but that gal can't take warm weather too well. She was comfortable when Lorene and I were chilly. We gals ate chicken; "chicken a la king," Lou had ham, eggs, potatoes, and hot cakes. What a man, he hadn't had his breakfast he said, (but he did). We came home the direction of Palmdale; it is a short cut to Burbank. The smog was dreadful in the San Fernando Valley; we hated to come back to it. Utah, Arizona, and Nevada were so free from smog with beautiful clear air. We left Sue off in Burbank at 6 p.m. Jerry was playing football in the front yard. He carried Sue's suitcases in the house; he is a sweet kid. Lorene and I divided the pine nuts Violet gave us, in thirds, the best we could while driving, so Sue

could have hers. We took Lorene home to Highland Park. We were here at home in Pasadena at 7 p.m., tired, but happy to be home in our own little place, and thankful for a very lovely vacation trip. I phoned Donna's; Joan answered. She was home alone, she was going out somewhere with Peter Brown. Rex, Donna, and the three children had gone to the East Pasadena Ward to take Warnie's white shirt and etcetera. Warnie was baptized last Monday night in a special service for him and Mary Wride's boyfriend. Rex baptized Warnie and confirmed him a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. George Wride took care of the other young man. I do not know his name. Donna took Warnie's wet clothes home, after the baptism. I don't think his father and stepmother know he is a member of our church yet? Warnie was playing basketball tonight and hurt his ankle. It was swollen badly. Donna said, "I hope it isn't broken." He was going to have an x-ray taken. Rex and family went to Oateses' from East Pasadena Ward to see Ernie Junior. He is home for a 20-day furlough. I phoned Oateses; Rex answered and said they would call in to see us on the way home. Ernie Oates has been in Japan for a long time. They did not get to see him; he and Irene had gone out somewhere. Florence O. invited them over to eat dinner on Sunday; they can see him then. I gave the children the little souvenirs I brought them from the Grand Canyon; a bright scarf and penny bank to Kathy, Indian silver bracelet to Mary, box of different kinds of canyon ore for Johnny, and finger nail files with canyon picture in Mother of Pearl on the handle to Joan and Donna.

October 16, Saturday

We had a box full of mail and papers last evening when we arrived home. There was a letter from Eloise Brooks, she said my poem, "Eternal Youth," was by far the best thing I have done, in her opinion, nice, eh? I'm glad she liked it. There was a nice letter from Janet thanking us for the \$1.00. I try to send her a little spending money when I write, bless her heart. She said it was her turn to cook for the girls that week; the night she wrote, she served them salmon patties, baked potatoes, spinach, and a Jello salad. Elaine Oates's boyfriends gave them some ducks and Janet was going to cook them, with Elaine's help, on Wednesday night. I hope the girls like duck better than I do. The duck-hunting season is open in Utah now. It was one of the girl's birthday the day she wrote; Jo's, she was 20 years old. She is from Montana. Janet says she is a very sweet girl. The three girls in the apartment gave her some rhinestone



Janet misses Kathy while at BYU and longs to see her. These two photos are from Elvie's scrapbooks.

earrings. Janet had received a letter from Joan's friend, Peter Brown. Janet misses little sister Kathy a lot, and longs to see her. There was a letter from my cousin, Hazel Anderson. She wrote to thank me for sending Aunt Ray a birthday card. She was 88 years old and she is a darling. I've always loved Aunt Ray and Uncle Frank. Hazel had an accident; she tripped on a rug and fractured her hip, she had to be in bed for four weeks. I was sorry to learn that bad news, also that Uncle Will was in the hospital with pneumonia; he is in a bad way, he has been for along time; I do feel sorry too for dear little Esther, she has a hard time finding a home that will take care of Uncle Will in his condition. He has lost control of bowels and kidneys. It is truly sad. I surely enjoyed sleeping in my own bed last night. I'm sure Lou was glad to have his good bed again, too. We rest much better alone now. I cooked a nice breakfast for Lou, he took our car to have it washed after breakfast, and then he did some yard work. Mr. Lowe did a good job of watering it for us. I was amazed to see many of our mums in bloom; they are lovely, too. I spent most of today writing the vacation notes in my diary. Lou enjoyed a nap after lunch; he went to the market for our groceries this evening. I made out a list of things we needed. Lou brought a sirloin steak and he fried it for our dinner; first one we've had in a long, long time. I still like lamb chops better. Donna and Rex went to the East Pasadena Ward budget banquet, \$5.00 a plate. They bought one ticket and used one of the tickets that Lou bought. Mary Hill had the other ticket we bought, but she couldn't go tonight because she was moving from her trailer court over to Rosemead somewhere. She gave the ticket to someone else, Lillian Neal, I believe. Some man phoned to talk to Lou about the uranium stock he bought to let

him know that the certificates would be issued soon. Al Rowbotham asked him to talk to Lou. I guess Daddy was anxious to know, eh? Folks here tell us the smog was awful this past week. I'm glad we missed it.

October 17, Sunday

No Sunday School for us today, Lou informed me that he is still on his vacation. I hate to miss my Sunday School, but I am glad to rest up from the long driving. Florence Oates phoned this morning and invited us to come to her home for dinner today. It was real nice of her; Lou answered her call and he told her he thought she had too many with her brothers and their families, too. I phoned Florence when I got out of the bathtub, I told her we would come over this afternoon and

see Ernie Jr., but we'd eat dinner here as I'd already prepared to fry a chicken. I had defrosted it. Clarice Tanner phoned to say she wanted to get in touch with Donna about the Singing Mother's rehearsal this evening at 5 p.m. She had called her house but no answer. She thought they were here. I gave her Florence's phone number. We enjoyed our nice dinner at home; Lou took his beauty rest. We went to Oateses' about 2:30 p.m. Lewie and Miriam had left before we arrived; we were happy to see the Oates family and Grandma Oates, Florence and John Marsh, Irene's fiancé, Ray Cattani, and the big attraction, our boy home from Japan, Ernie Jr. He is truly a fine looking boy and a very nice person. No wonder they are so proud of him. I hope our Johnny boy will be like him when he is a man. Ernie Jr. was trying to study this afternoon; he was the speaker in Garvanza Ward tonight. I should liked to have gone over there to hear him, but we wanted to hear the Singing Mother's sing tonight in the La Canada Ward. Rex made a freezer full of ice cream in his new freezer; they took it to the Oateses'. Lou and I enjoyed a dish of this delicious home made ice cream and a piece of Florence's banana nut cake, mmm good! I wish Lou and I had taken our coats with us, he was in a white sport shirt without a tie, but we went anyway. We sat on the back seat. Jack Jones sat with us. Jennie and Dolores Jones sang in the chorus. Yvonne and Doug and Bevan sat together. Kathy was in the nursery. Mary and Johnny sat with us, but Johnny got restless and went out to get a drink and didn't come back in. I guess he went to the nursery or looked the place over. I did see him through the glass a time or two. We had a very happy reunion after church with the Joneses, Yvonne, Ed and Myrtle Robinson and small son. It's the first time I've seen their baby. Their teenage daughter, Linda, came over to speak to us; she is a cutie. George and Helen Holden and son Jack and new bride talked with us. They all live in this ward. Everyone seemed to be glad to see us, I'm glad we went. It was a splendid meeting. Basil Gough was the speaker and also two young people. The Singing Mother's sang, three or four beautiful numbers. Rex took several of the ladies home in his station wagon. Joan stayed at Oateses' and went to church with Diane in Garvanza. I believe she went to the fireside after; someone took her home. I do not know who it was. Br. Alvin Rowbotham was released from the superintendency of our Sunday School in church this evening and Br. Richards, (I think his name is Franklin) was put in Al's place.

October 18, Monday

Today is another pretty bright blue day; a nice breeze dried my washing quickly, even the little throw rugs. I was very tired after work was finished so I went to bed for an hour. Clarice Tanner phoned and invited me to be a guest of her Relief Society Board at a luncheon next Thursday at 1 p.m. in honor of Donna, the past president. It is going to be a surprise on Donna at the Hillcrest Restaurant. They are giving her a nice gift. Bonna Gordon phoned to tell me she'd be a few minutes earlier to pick me up in the morning for Relief Society. She asked me for suggestions of what to buy for Donna. I wasn't any help, I told her anything she selected would make Donna very happy. I mailed a picture postcard to Violet. I think of her every day, out in that lonely desert home with no one to talk to. Otto goes early to work and doesn't get home until

after eight o'clock in the evening. There is nowhere to go, no one to talk to. Her little house is fixed up darling, but oh, the lonely life. I couldn't take it for long. It is different for Otto, he talks to people in the store all day, and he is busy working. On his days off, he goes fishing or hunting. Violet says the highlight in her day is the time the mailman comes, about 2 p.m. Well, I'll do my best to see that he has something



The highlight of Violet's day was when the mailman came.



to leave in that old mail box. I know Yvonne and Dolores are good to write their mother, too. I talked to Annie on the phone, she says she phoned Hazel Anderson and found out that she is getting around

now, with the help of a cane. Uncle Will has been moved to another home, I hope he'll be able to stay there and his condition will improve, poor man. Donna phoned, she has to pay a toll to call me now, so we can't call as often. Joan came in to Sierra Madre this afternoon with a friend of hers from Monrovia. This girl works after school from 5 to 8 p.m. at Gwinn's Restaurant, on Colorado Street not far from us. Joan phoned to tell me she was coming in on the Sierra Madre bus at 5:30 p.m. to stay with us until time to go to Gwinn's to meet her friend and drive back home to Monrovia. The girl lives near Joan. I cooked lamb chops, cause I know Joan likes them as much as I do. It was nice having her here to eat with us. She helped me do the dishes, and then Grampa walked with her to Gwinn's Restaurant. He brought some peanut butter home. We forgot to buy it on Saturday. Warnie Mueller called in to see us tonight. He doesn't know yet if his ankle is fractured. The doctor will let him know after seeing the x-ray. His foot is swollen and black and blue, but he is walking on it anyway. Bob Perry was with Warnie, but he stayed out in the car. He came to see if Joan was here, she had left 30 minutes before. I wonder if they went to the restaurant to look for her? Shirley Bird wrote a dear little note, which came today, thanking us for taking her mother on the trip with us. She said that she and the other sisters surely appreciate the nice things we do to bring happiness to her mother. Isn't that sweet, eh? They are lovely girls, all of them.

October 19, Tuesday

October is truly a beautiful month, such bright blue weather, not too hot or too cold. If only we could keep the dreadful smog from coming to mar the precious beauty and air. Bonna Gordon came for me about 9:40 this morning. Marie Doezie and Bessie, the baby sitter were in the car with her. Bonna took a bouquet of very lovely roses, a beautiful pink shade, mostly buds just opening up. They looked like hothouse roses; they were arranged in the bowl. Marie D. had them, and the water kept spilling in her lap. She had a time to keep herself dry, much to our amusement. It's quite a trick to carry a bowl of water in a moving car. Bonna was sorry she hadn't poured the water out first. We had a nice attendance of sisters this morning. I hope they'll keep coming all season.

Faye Timothy's lesson, in literature, on Thomas Carlyle, was beautifully given. Marva DeHaan conducted. I still miss my sweet Donna such a lot; also baby Kathy. It just doesn't seem right not to see little Kathy after the meeting. Nora Williamson said she would come for me about 1:30 p.m. to do our visiting for Relief Society. It was 3 p.m. before she came; she did phone and tell me she had been detained. The rug cleaner man was trying to remove two or three yellow spots that showed up in the rug after he'd cleaned it for her the other day. He hasn't got them out yet. We found all but two of our families at home today. We have ten in our district, counting Nora and me. It was 5 p.m. when we finished this evening. Lou was asleep on the cabaña swing. I was very tired this evening, felt so very exhausted for some reason. I was happy when Lou said, "Let's not cook a dinner, we'll eat cold food, whatever we can find in the icebox." He helped me get it on the table. Isn't he precious?" We enjoyed home and TV tonight. I've crowded so much into the pages of last week, I have left over space today, sorry Donna, I could have written larger and not between lines had I thought sooner.

October 20, Wednesday

I might as well use this space up, I'll need some extra lines somewhere later, I'm sure. [*Elvie started writing on October 19.*] Lou got up an hour earlier this morning and watered the backyard, flowers, and lawns. I cooked his breakfast and put up his lunch. I phoned Donna this morning at nine o'clock. She was getting ready to go to Relief Society in Monrovia. A sister living out near her was calling for her. Donna has been put in as organist, in the Monrovia Ward Relief Society. Lou said that Pearl Redborg had a heart attack last week. I was sorry to learn that she had this trouble. Gordon says she feels much better now. Gordon hired a man, Doug, and his sister, Florence, (I believe her name is) to help them out, while Lou was on his vacation. Beverly worked there half a day, too. She works nights at Cannon Electric Company. I wrote a letter to my little Janet this morning and sent her a dollar, for spending money. Donna said they haven't got their money out of escrow, for the Sierra Madre house yet. Gosh! It has been a long time settling that deal. I know Rex and Donna need it, too. Rex is plastering for the Peerless Pump Company today. He has been painting Clarice Tanner's house the past few days. I mailed another postcard to Violet and wrote a note to Hazel Anderson. She has a fractured hip, poor dear. Uncle Will Bailey is in a bad condition, also. I did my ironing this afternoon after dinner. I read to Louis, from my 1930 diary book. It took us back to many things we'd experienced and forgotten all about. Lou raked the fallen leaves from our front lawn and parking. They come and go, and life goes on. Interesting, isn't it, eh? I have a

very pretty bouquet of mums in my living room, the first I've cut this season. I wish I could take some to Donna. Lou was tired out after raking up the leaves. We enjoyed TV as usual.

October 21, Thursday

Lou got up quietly and out of the house this morning, without waking me. I guess he wanted to eat breakfast at Bob's place, or somewhere? He likes to have hotcakes out, sometimes. It's a treat once in a while, if one doesn't have to do it always, eh? He knows it is a special treat for me to sleep later, too. I got up at 8 a.m. Annie phoned and told me of a strange coincidence; Bill was going over a load of things brought into the Deseret Industries and he ran across a painting, an ocean scene. The artist's name was inscribed at the bottom of the painting and it was A.E. Strong; it's one of Uncle Art Strong's water colored paintings. Billy tenderly carried it home to Annie. I was telling Donna about it this afternoon and to my horror and embarrassment, I found it was she who sent it, along with a lot of other pictures she'd had in her basement, which Rex would not have hung up in the new house when they moved in to it. He wouldn't have nail holes in the new plastered walls. Donna remembered it was with the other things in the basement, which they had to get rid of in this move to Monrovia. There is no basement to store in now. I think Uncle Art gave it to her for a wedding

gift; are we embarrassed? Ha ha! At first I thought, "I'll never reveal the dreadful secret to Annie," but it's too darn good to keep. Donna said, "I love Uncle Art, Mother, but Rex doesn't like pictures hung on our walls." But if she'd thought in time, she'd have hunted it out and given it to me. Ha ha! Dear Uncle Art, we all love you and your painting is back in the family again. Melba Kunz came for me at 12:40 noon; we picked Marie Doezie up at her home and went to the Hill Crest Restaurant, where we met Clarice Tanner and the members of her Relief Society Board, for a luncheon in honor of our past president, Donna Marsh. It was a surprise on Donna. Rex brought her there. He told her he was taking her out to lunch to celebrate their wedding anniversary, which they couldn't celebrate on the 7th because of moving and etcetera. We had a lovely luncheon; Melba Kunz and I were guests of the board, with Donna, the guest of honor. They gave her a very lovely gift, a white nylon slip and a pink nylon nightgown.

We had a nice time, in a little corner of the lovely dining room to ourselves. Sr. Summers had a beautiful floral and fruit centerpiece with pink dahlias and purple grapes. The Summers own the restaurant. Rex and Kathy waited here at my house. Clarice Tanner took Donna to her home. Rex went there for her, and he brought me the three copies of my 1929 diary all typed. (Two carbon copies.) Donna typed it; bless her. Joan made raisin toast last night, they enjoyed it and some pine nuts I brought from Beryl, Utah. Rex and family



Clarice Tanner,
Donna Marsh, Marva
DeHaan, and Bonna
Gordon 1954.

went to the Oateses' this evening. Florence and Ernie Jr. are going to Provo to see Elaine and Janet. Donna brought the box of beautiful rose pattern china from Oateses'. She showed me the platter tonight when they came here.

October 22, Friday

For a wonder I was up first this morning. I cooked a nice breakfast for Lou and put up his lunch. Ovena Mayo phoned to tell me that Irene Ziegler's funeral was today at noon. She and Donna were going if I'd take care of Kathy. (I would.) She called back a few minutes later and said Clarice Tanner was going to take care of Kathy and I was going to go to the funeral with them. She came for me at 11:40 a.m. The funeral was at Turner and Stevens Chapel. I didn't know poor Irene was dead, she had been ill a long time, but I didn't know she'd passed away until Ovena phoned. I was glad I went, as there weren't many out to the funeral. I do not think many of our ward folks knew about it. Clarice had a meeting of some kind at the East Pasadena Ward center; it was Relief Society leadership meeting, I believe. Anyway, Kathy was hoisted over the nursery fence to Bessie the baby sitter, until Clarice could get her after the meeting. Ovena took Donna to Clarice's for Kathy after the funeral, then home. In the meantime, Rex was going mad trying to locate Donna. She had to sign some papers before he could get his

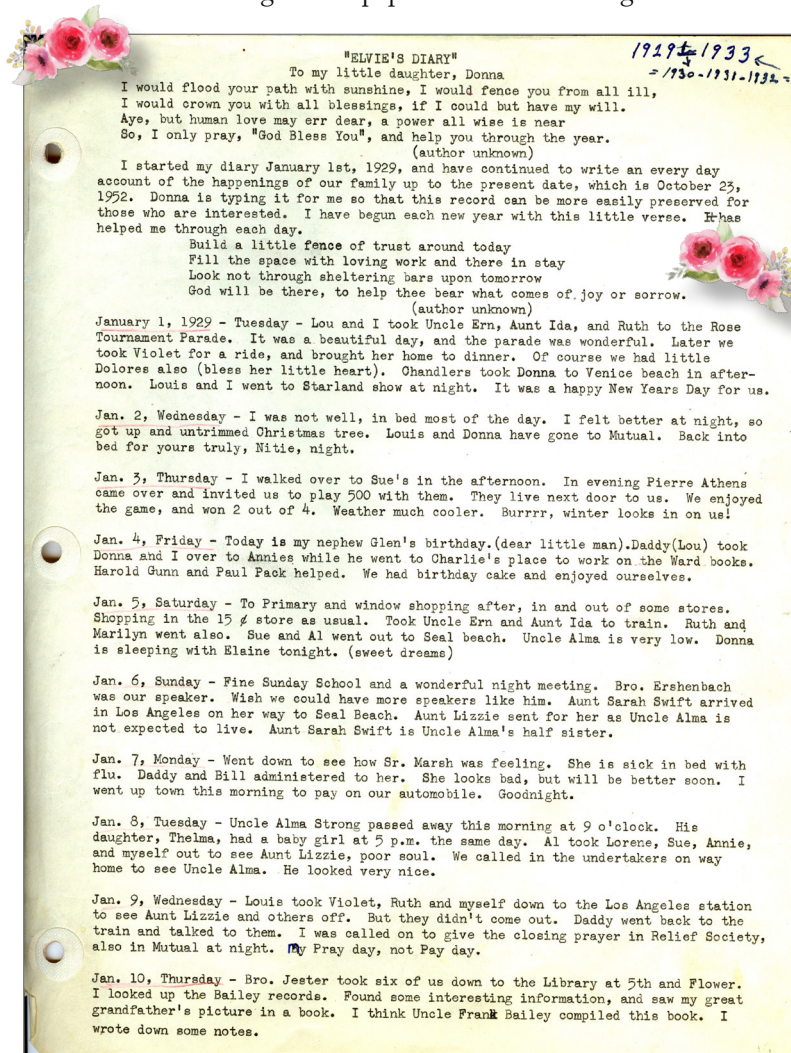
money out of escrow. Well, to make that long story short, they got papers signed (the bank was open this evening), so all is well that ends well. They'll have a field day tomorrow settling accounts. Irene Ziegler passed away on October 18. I came home on the bus after the funeral; I bought three loose-leaf folders in Kress, for my typed diary. We ate a nice dinner in Gwinn's Restaurant, and then bought the week's groceries at Shopping Bag market.

October 23, Saturday

My 1929 typed diary is in the new folders now. Warnie M. phoned this morning to tell me that the BYU ball game was to be televised at 12:55 noon. Janet would be seen with the Cougarettes. Of course we knew it, and were waiting for the Marsh family to come and eat lunch with us and watch the TV football game between the BYU and Montana Universities. It was the first ballgame I've watched with interest, over TV. But our little Janet was there, and Elaine Oates; we surely got a thrill out of seeing the cute Cougarettes do their march drills and oh, how we all tried to get inside the set when they showed the girls up close enough to recognize them. We all shouted at once when we saw Janet. It was over in a second, but we got a good picture of her and we were all excited and a bit emotional. I noticed tears in Donna's eyes, I couldn't keep my tears back either. I believe her Daddy Rex felt a lump in his throat, too. It made us all homesick for our little Janet. We saw a shot of Elaine Oates, in a float on the field, also. It was an interesting game, score 19 to 7 in favor of Brigham Young University. The Cougarettes put on a good show with formation drills and etcetera. I baked a ham this morning and we enjoyed it for lunch, with yams and Lima beans and hot rolls, pineapple and cottage cheese salad, and ice cream. Rex left after the first half of the game; he went to do some more painting on Clarice Tanner's home. Donna took him there, and then the family went home to Monrovia later when he came for them. Donna had to make two pumpkin pies to take to their club dinner party tonight. I'm not sure where she said it was going to be? Ovena Mayo's, I think. Joan had a date tonight, to go to a show in Hollywood, with Burt Brooks, an Arcadia Ward boy. I hope she has a nice time. I believe it is her first date with this boy. Rex and Donna have paid up the bills they were so anxious to settle. He got rid of a lot of money today, but they said it's a grand feeling to be square with the world again. They paid Daddy all they owed him, \$700. Donna bought some clothes for Mary and Kathy this morning. I received a nice letter from my little lonely desert sister, Violet. When I think of Donna and children moving to Utah, I think of Violet, and then I am ashamed of my unhappy thoughts. At least, I'll not be alone in a vast desert. All I want is happiness for Donna and her family, even at the cost of my own, if needs be. I learned it was a house warming party at Ovena's; they gave them a gift.

October 24, Sunday

I'm glad I have the three typed copies of my 1929 diary all fixed in loose-leaf folders now, with little gummed ring reinforcements on every page. It was a job, but I



First page of the typed 1929 diary. Typed in triplicate by Donna, and gummed rings on each side of holes placed by Elvie in October 1954.

enjoyed doing it. Hilda Botting phoned this morning and wanted us to pick her up on Colorado Boulevard and San Gabriel Avenue, where she would get off her bus. She has been visiting her family in Canada the past three months. It is nice to have her back again. We couldn't go in the rear entrance to Sunday School this morning because of a stake genealogical conference, in the large recreation hall. Our new Sunday School superintendent, Br. Richards, took charge this morning. It seemed strange without Al Rowbotham on the stand. We all missed him; he is a fine person. Br. Richards will do a good job, also. We had several out of town visitors in Sunday School this morning. Br. Don Rowberry always gives an interesting lesson. I had to wait 30 minutes for Lou, after Sunday School. He had a Sunday School local board meeting. We ate our dinner in Bob's eating place, on East Colorado in Pasadena. We took a ride to Andersen's in Highland Park. Annie had dinner all ready. They were expecting Glen and family who arrived a few minutes later. We didn't stay long as the house was about full. It was nice seeing Glen, Irene, and the sweet boys; all are good-looking kids. I do hope the infant they're expecting will be a girl. Lou enjoyed his beauty nap, while I read from my 1931 diary. Glen said he had to give a conference report in his ward in Van Nuys tonight, so they couldn't stay long. We wanted to come back to our ward, because of Charles Gordon's farewell testimonial this evening. Donna wanted to come to it also, but the bishop in Monrovia Ward asked them to be in attendance to hear their recommends [records] read and stand up when their names were called. Warnie came up to me after Sunday School to show me his certificate of membership in the LDS church. He is so proud of it, bless his heart. He said he saw Janet on TV yesterday, in the football game in Provo, when the Cougarettes did their drill. Mary and Harry Howard told us at church tonight that Donna sang with the Singing Mother's in our stake center this afternoon, for the second session of genealogical convention. The children stayed up at Howard's while she was at church singing. We went to church early because Br. Richards asked Lou to greet the people as they came in the chapel tonight. It is the Sunday School's turn to greet the saints this month. There was a nice crowd out for Charles Gordon's [Charles Nibley Gordon, Bonna's son] farewell program. The program was lovely, his Aunt Kathleen Gordon Wenzel sang two lovely numbers, and there were remarks by Robert Perine, Claron Oakley, Robert L. Gordon [Robert Lashbrook Gordon, his father] and Bishop Summerhays, then a lovely response by Charles Gordon. I was happy to see Br. and Sr. Nibley out to the farewell program last night; Bonna Gordon was a Nibley, he is her cousin.

October 25, Monday

It was a beautiful fall day, no smog, a nice breeze kept it away from our lovely Pasadena today. Lou took his check and the check Rex paid him, to the Mutual Savings at noon

today, to put it in our account. He also put some money in the checking account, in Bank of America. Bill S. paid our light, water, and gas bill for Lou, to save him time. He is out on the truck and can take care of it for Lou. I did my washing and watered lawns and flowers. I can't keep the dreadful thoughts of Donna and family moving to Murray, Utah out of my mind. How will I ever live through that heart break, eh? Well, why cross the bridge before I get to it, eh? I received a nice letter from Will and Flora Taylor today from Liberty, Missouri. They are enjoying their mission. Clarice Tanner phoned this evening and asked me to read my poem, "Eternal Youth" in Relief Society tomorrow, nice of her, eh?

October 26, Tuesday

Bonna Gordon came for me at 9:40 this morning. Marie Doezie was with her. We had a very good attendance in Relief Society. Sr. Clarice Tanner called on me to read my poem "Eternal Youth," before the lesson. They seemed to enjoy it. I had several nice compliments after the meeting. We had two stake board members, a Sr. Meeks, and Sr. Calverson, at least that is what the names sounded like to me. Sr. Calverson told me she'd love to have a copy of the poem, so I gave her the copy I had with me. Phyllis McDonnell gave a very interesting lesson in Social Science. It was on the basic principles and the preamble to our constitution of the United States. Phyllis is an excellent teacher. Rex left Donna and Kathy here this afternoon while he went somewhere to look over a plastering job he is going to bid on. We had a nice visit, but too short of course. Donna said that she left home with Rex this morning before nine o'clock; they went to Los Angeles to look in used car lots for a truck for his work. He found one he



A restored 1945 Chevy truck. It is doubtful that Rex's truck was in this great of condition in 1954.

liked, and paid \$10.00 on it. It's a '45 Chevrolet; he also went to see about a plastering job somewhere. Donna says Rex's father is buying a brand new truck for their cement business. Florence Marsh phoned while Donna was here; she talked to her. Florence was out when Rex, Donna, and Kathy called at their home about noon today. They left a note for her, so she phoned here. Donna made some cookies for Janet last evening and mailed them to her this morning for Halloween. Joan is taking her

written test for an auto license after school today. She is anxious to get her license to drive. When Rex came, they left. Beth Sundstrom phoned me this afternoon, and asked me to read my poem, "Eternal Youth," to her over the phone, I read a line at a time, she took it down in short hand. She is a very lovely person, I'm so glad she likes my poem. I parted with \$3.50 after Relief Society, to Sr. Ethel Burk and Pat Rowbotham for two boxes of Christmas cards, \$1.25 each, and a storybook, \$1.00, for Kathy for Christmas. They are selling them for our Relief Society fund. I wrote a letter to Sue, and one to Violet this afternoon and sent my poem as I'd promised to do. Bless my Donna for typing them for me. I'd hate to write them all out in long hand for the

people I've given this poem to. It was a busy day; I even got my ironing done. I was tired tonight, but we never go out nights anymore, thanks to our TV.

October 27, Wednesday

Ethel Burk phoned this morning to tell me how much she enjoyed my poem "Eternal Youth," in Relief Society yesterday. She asked if she could have a copy of it. I told her I'd mail her a copy and I did. I also mailed a copy to Faye Timothy, she asked me for one yesterday. Ethel said she'd type a few extra copies for some of the ladies that asked for them yesterday. That is nice of her, I hate to ask Donna to do more for me; I only have one copy left now, that she did for me the other day. She did about ten copies for me then. I'll bet she is sick of that poem by now. Donna phoned this morning to see if I'd like to ride to Los Angeles with her, Rex, and Kathy. (I would love it.) They came for me after lunchtime; Rex drove

the station wagon to the auto sales lot in Los Angeles, where he paid cash for the '45 Chevrolet truck he is going to use for his plastering jobs. They wanted \$400, but for cash Rex got it for \$382.00, I believe he said. Well anyway, I'm glad it is paid for. Rex took the truck and went to see about a job somewhere. Donna brought the station wagon and Kathy and me back to Pasadena. She had \$20 to buy herself a new dress or something. We parked in Broadway Store parking lot. She bought a pretty gray, two-piece suit dress; it has a small red and black pattern in it. It is very pretty; she looks real nice in it. She wore it so she could

buy a hat to go nicely with it. I took her to the new hat store across the street, where I bought my blue velvet hat I like so well. She bought a cute black hat for \$2.99, no hat over that price in the store. And they are all good looking hats, too. She bought two nice bags also, a black and a blue bag for \$1.99 each, (faillie silk bags). The seventies quorum gave Rex a dinner party tonight; he and Donna were guests of honor, because of his release from their quorum when he moved to Monrovia. Donna bought some lamb chops for the children to enjoy at home tonight. This outing today was an unexpected pleasure for me. Kathy was very good today, not one bit of trouble. I put a dime in the slot for her

Two Cars!

After 19 years of marriage and five children, Rex and Donna now have two vehicles. This must have been a great milestone in the Marsh family! Almost as grand as Christmas.



What a pleasure to have two vehicles for one family.

to ride the little horses in Woolworth's Store, a mechanical contrivance, she enjoyed a lot. I bought Donna and myself each a Max Factor "Crème Puff Compact," \$1.25 each.

October 28, Thursday

Oh how we love a beautiful clear blue sky like today, no smog at all. It has been lovely for the past few days, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could be rid of that dreadful smog forever, eh? I spent an hour in the yard this morning. I gave my nice little neighbor Mrs. Lowe a pretty bouquet of mums. She loves flowers; she and her dear old husband keep the Edgecomb's yard looking very nice. They are Mrs. Edgecomb's parents and they spend their time between this place and their son's home, in Duarte. I cut a nice fresh bouquet of mums for our house. I've had one in the living room a week now, and it is still pretty. I just love chrysanthemums. Annie has some beautiful mums again this year. Hers are always gorgeous. She spends a lot of time budding and working with them. I do the best I can with the limited strength allotted to me. Lou does the digging always. I received a nice letter from Ethel Newbold thanking me for the birthday gift, (organdy apron). Also a nice letter from Mary Stead, telling how much she enjoyed our visiting with them in Phoenix, on October 10. We



Lucille Evans, maid of honor to Elaine Hoglund. Wedding was 20 years ago.

surely enjoyed it, too. I've been living in the past lately, as I'm reading in my old diary book, 1931. Donna has the 1930 diary; she is going to type it for me like she did my 1929 diary. Bless her heart. Annie phoned and read me an article in their Highland Park newspaper, where it says, "20 years ago today." It was the announcement of Elaine and Ernie's wedding, just as it was printed 20 years ago. Annie was going to mail it to Elaine. Paul Solem is very ill, not expected to live, Gordon said.

October 29, Friday

Ethel N. sent us a pretty Thanksgiving Day card. Gee, she is almost a month premature. That girlie sends 'em early, eh? I've been reading in my 1931 diary; have forgotten some of the things we did then. It surely takes me back to old friends and memories that I'd forgotten all about. I wrote a postcard to Violet Fife and one to Janet M. They both owe

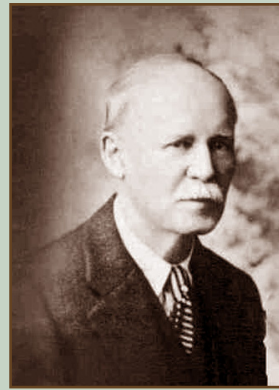
The Relationship Between Lou and Lutie

Ruby Hodges and Lutie Solem were sisters. Lutie and Ruby were Lou Renshaw's cousins. Lutie was married to Paul Solem and Ruby was married to Lou's boss at the Venetian shop, Gordon Hodges. Louis's father, John Renshaw, and Lutie and Ruby's father, Timothy Renshaw, were brothers.

Although the sisters were about twenty months apart in age they were both baptized September 5, 1903. This baptism took place in Salt Lake City where they were raised. Lutie was almost 9 years old and Ruby was 10 years old.

From the diaries we gather that neither one of them remained active in the Mormon church. When Paul died Lutie called Lou, seemingly because he was a family member and she knew he was active in the church. Lutie probably knew that Lou would have contacts with his ward members who would be able to help with the funeral.

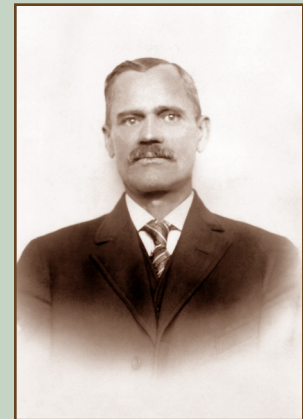
Paul and Lutie's son who spoke at the funeral was not baptized until after his death. His wife, that Elvie mentions in Idaho, was baptized when she was almost 9 years old.



↑ Timothy Olorenshaw older brother to John Renshaw.

John Renshaw ⇨

Lutie and Ruby's father was Timothy and Lou's father was John. John dropped the "Olo" part of his last name.



me letters, but they are in my thoughts and I love them. I had a nice visit with Annie on the phone this morning. I asked her if she remembered when she and Lorene came to South Gate to visit Ruth and me on June 5, 1931. They came down on the bus; Lou and Donna met them at the end of the car line. She had forgotten, but recalled it. It was a Strong's meeting at Ruth C.'s home. I was very sorry to learn from Annie that Grace Hill is in the hospital very ill, from a cancer operation; she had a breast removed and cancer taken from her arm, also. Oh that dreadful cancer! Lou phoned at 1:35 and wanted Bishop Summerhay's phone number. Lutie [*Lutie Violo Olorenshaw*] had phoned that her husband, Paul Solem [*Paul Gerhart Solem*], had just passed away. She wanted Gordon, but he was out just then. Lou was trying to help her get in touch with a member of our bishopric. I think it's a blessing that Paul has been released from his long illness. Lou sent Dr. Harold Kratzer over to talk to Lutie. Bishop Summerhays is in Mesa, Arizona on a temple excursion. I think Donna gave the teacher's topic in Relief Society today at stake leadership meeting.

October 30, Saturday

Lou went uptown this morning to have a few little things taken care of on his Pontiac car. He stopped off somewhere, to look at the new 1955 Oldsmobile. He had a ride in one and came home all fired up with the "comfort and beauty" of the Oldsmobile. Oh how he'd like to turn in the Pontiac for an Oldsmobile. Ah me! I'm keeping my fingers crossed, he he! When my Lou wants a new car, he'll maneuver some way to get it. Lutie Solem phoned while Lou was away. She wanted to talk to him about music for Paul's funeral. We called at her home at 11:30 a.m. on our way to Boy's

Market. No one was at home; we called in on the way back and found them home. Lutie, her son Paul, daughter Betty and nephew Claude Renshaw were there. Lou said he'd take care of the music. They think they'd like to have, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" and "How Gentle God's Commands" sung. Lou phoned Madge Fowler when we got home but she is going to work on the election board on Tuesday. The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Lou phoned Lydia Smith; she said she'd play the organ at the funeral. She wondered why the funeral wasn't at Turner and Stevens Mortuary, where her husband is working? Most of our LDS folks are sent there. Lou told her he suggested them, but Gordon said they would send Paul to Ives and Warren Mortuary, where they sent Clarence Renshaw. The family was well satisfied with their work and price. Lou phoned Donna, told her we'd be out to talk over the songs with her. They said they thought a duet would be nice. Donna had to go to Sierra Madre to take Mary to her friend's home; she is going to stay all night with Carol Colvin. Rex worked for Clarice Warnick's sister today. Johnny played the accordion for us this afternoon. He did very well for one lesson; I was amazed. John and Florence Marsh came while we were there at Donna's. Grandma Marsh brought some candy to the children for Halloween. Joan and Peter Brown were out hunting jack rabbits, out near Palm Springs. Joan took the lunch for both. She had a date to go to a show tonight with a nice looking young man; he came this afternoon to meet Donna and met all of us, the grandparents, too. His name is Ted Vlasis. Johnny was excited about getting his Halloween costume sewed; some of the seams had come unsewn. He had worn it just once. Donna bought it new last week. Beverly was going to Mary Jorgensen's in Van Nuys today

and put new tape and cord on her Venetian blinds for her. Isn't she precious! Donna will take care of the funeral songs for Lou. I served about 26 little Halloween guests tonight. I enjoy the cute little costumed kiddies. I had a painful heart struggle for a short time tonight.

October 31, Sunday

We took Mary Hill and Hilda Botting to Sunday School this morning. Hilda came on the bus, to Colorado and San Gabriel where we picked her up. I felt sorry for her this morning, she was feeling very depressed. Her landlord has raised her rent from \$48.00 to \$60.00 for a very small apartment. I cooked our small leg of lamb in a slow oven while we were in Sunday School. It was done to perfection when we got home. I was sorry that I didn't insist on Donna bringing the family over to eat today. I did invite them, but she said, "not this time." She thought they'd been too often lately. I do love to have them over to eat with us. Lou enjoyed a nap after dinner. I enjoyed reading from my 1931 diary. Ray Clayton phoned, while Lou was asleep, and I had Lou call him later. He talked to Ray in the Garvanza chapel tonight, about Venetian blinds for the nursery room; I believe it is. Beverly brought Annie and Lorene over this afternoon. They'd been to the shop for Annie to see how the blue tape that she sewed on the white tape looked on the Venetian blinds. Gordon had Annie do the sewing. I cut Lorene a nice bouquet of mums. We had fun reading from the 1929 diary. I let Lorene and Annie take a copy of that year home to read. Donna typed it for me. I phoned Donna before the folks came; she said they had 50 little Halloween guests last night. Rex had to rush to the store for fresh supplies. Johnny and a boy friend went out around their block. Little Kathy wanted to "twick or tweet" so Donna fixed our baby up like a little tramp, and Rex went with her to a few neighbor's houses. She went to the door by her own tiny self, while Daddy stood by in the darkness. Oh, aren't these little ones precious? Lou and I went to Highland Park Ward tonight, to hear Ernest Oates Jr. and Richard Holden give their talks. Both boys gave a splendid talk, most interesting. Ernie took us to Japan and Dick took us to Germany, with their wonderful experiences. Florence and Ernest Oates, and George and Helen H., the proud parents, were in attendance. Also, Dick's sweet wife and her mother were there. Ernie spoke a little Japanese, John and Florence Marsh were bursting with pride also, and I don't blame 'em. I was happy to visit Bishop Lewis Marsh's ward too, another grand boy. We received a very warm welcome from old friends in both wards, Highland Park where we attended at 5 p.m. and Garvanza Ward as they came to church. It was a happy occasion for us. We saw my precious sisters, Lorene and Annie, with Bill, Dale, Beverly, and Ray from Garvanza. I love them all so much. Florence Marsh invited us to their home for lunch after church. We had a very lovely visit with them and a delicious lunch, chicken sandwiches, hot chocolate, cake and ice cream. This is surely the end of a perfect day. I believe Rex and Donna went to a fireside

chat meeting, after church in their ward, to hear Br. Glen Skousen speak. Beverly went to the Highland Park Ward tonight. Sorry we had to miss Richard Barbieri's farewell testimonial in our ward tonight. Lou gave his donation this morning cause we couldn't go tonight. He is going to Western States Mission.

November 1, Monday

November already? Ah me! Where did 1954 get to anyway? I'm still enjoying memories of the wonderful welcome we received from our dear old friends in Highland Park last night at church. I'd like to mention all of their names, but space will not permit. I forgot to tell Lou it was the insurance man's day, darn it. Half of my allowance is missing now, \$5.53! I was delighted to hear Florence Oates tell us about Janet and Elaine last night. They just got back from seeing them. She says Janet is doing very well, bless her heart. I'd surely love to see her. I received a nice letter from Janet this morning. She wrote that she did not care for the duck dinner, tasted like liver to her. (Those are my sentiments, too.) She has a date with a young man from San Marino, California; his name is Jon Lareen; he is taking her out to eat and to a show in Salt Lake City. That was Thursday, October 28. I hope she had a nice time. She received some cookies from Donna and they were delicious, but she said they had company when she opened them, and they went in a short time. Sandra Robinson had two boyfriends, and they loved Donna's homemade cookies too, ha ha! I wrote letters to the Taylors, in Liberty, Missouri, to Ethel N., Violet Fife, Mary Stead, Lillian Keller, and to my little Janet in Provo, Utah. Lutie phoned, Bishop Summerhays was there; he talked to Lou. He wanted someone to open or close with prayer at the funeral tomorrow. Lou felt he would rather have someone else do it, so he phoned Br. Burk and he said he'd be happy to do it (and he would)! I'm glad it is all settled. Clarice Tanner phoned me for Donna, she took a cake over to Lutie's home today. They seemed real pleased. Donna is taking a Jello salad in the morning and I'll take a casserole (baked dish) of fish and macaroni and cheese, I think. Lou and I fixed our election ballots ready for voting tomorrow. For the most part we agree, ha ha! Clarice Tanner told me that Nora Williamson is in the hospital for a gall bladder operation; I'll have to get someone else to go Relief Society visiting with me this month. I hope Nora gets along all right; she is a lovely person.

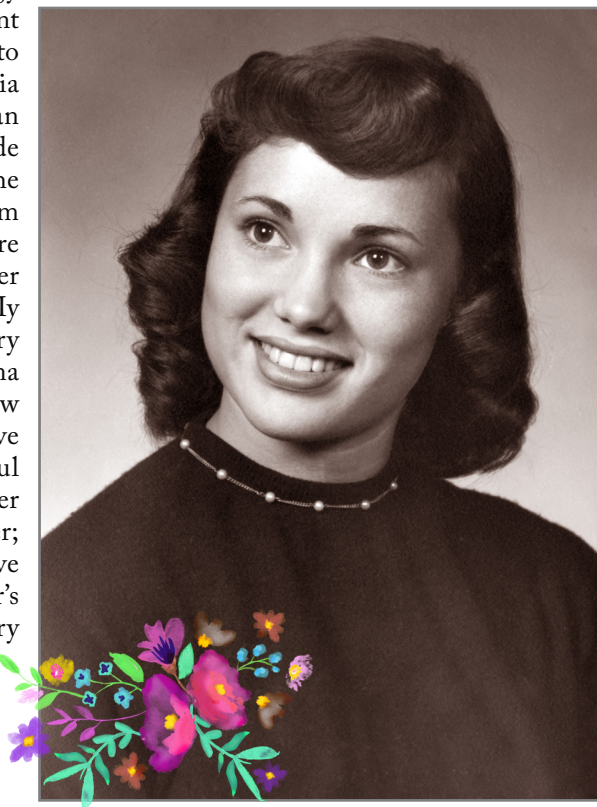
November 2, Tuesday

Today is Election Day and Paul Solem's funeral. Lou went to work an hour earlier this morning. He took his good clothes to dress for the funeral; he came back for me at 9:40 a.m. I made a baked casserole of macaroni, cheese, and tuna fish, early today. We took it to Lutie's home. Donna made a nice big fruit salad (Jello) and took it to Pearl Redborg's house for her to take to Lutie's for her. Donna picked up Sr. Arlene Miller in Monrovia and they took Kathy to the East Pasadena Ward where she stayed in



the nursery with Bessie, the babysitter, until Clarice was ready to leave after the meeting. Clarice took Kathy home and Donna called there for her after the funeral. Clarice Tanner is surely a precious dear to do this for Donna. I was very sorry to miss Relief Society, and Jean Brinton's wonderful lesson in Theology today. Donna and Sr. Miller went to the Ives and Warren Chapel to go over their songs with Sr. Lydia Smith. Lydia played the organ for them to sing, also the prelude and postlude organ music. She was a dear to take time out from her work to do this. Friends are wonderful eh? Sr. Arlene Miller sang a solo, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." It was very lovely; she has a nice voice. Donna and Arlene sang a duet, "How Gentle God's Commands." I love that song. They did a beautiful job of it, too. Dr. Harold Kratzer opened the services with prayer; Paul Solem, son of deceased, gave a splendid talk on his father's life and character that was very interesting. He mentioned that his father was born in Illinois. Paul is a fine young man; he has a lovely wife and four children in Idaho. Bishop Summerhays conducted and gave a lovely talk. We all love our bishop.

Br. Hyrum Burk closed with prayer. It was nice of him to come when Lou asked him; he gave such a lovely prayer. Lou was a pallbearer with Claude Renshaw and others in the family or friends. Lou invited Bishop Summerhays to ride to the Oakdale Cemetery with us; it was a long slow drive all the way to Glendora. Betty Solem's home is in Glendora. Bishop S. dedicated the grave. Donna drove her station wagon to the cemetery. Arlene Miller drove with her. Daddy bought Donna five gallons of gas on the way back; she was running low. He would have filled the car if it had been a gas station he had a card for, but he too was low on cash today. Ha ha! Ruby Hodges phoned me from Lutie's to ask Lou and me to come over to lunch. I told her I was eating; Lou had gone back to work. He took Bishop to his car at Ives and Warren. Donna bought a sandwich for Arlene before taking her home. Donna phoned me from Clarice Tanner's. I talked to Kathy on the phone from there; she is a cutie! Pearl Redborg phoned later, to tell me how much they enjoyed our salad and casserole and the cake. I'm glad they did. The plasters union got a job for Rex to do today. I surely hope he'll find work enough to keep him busy. Ray Clayton has started the building on his lot, south of house. He has a load of lumber there, and they're digging up the ground for the foundation to build a duplex house I believe. Donna and I exchanged Janet's letters at the funeral. I surely enjoyed her letters to Donna and family. She is having a wonderful time, I'm sure.



Janet Marsh at BYU in 1954.

November 3, Wednesday

I'm glad Janet is happy in Provo, at the BYU College. I enjoyed her letter telling of the nice times she is having. It was written to her mother, and one to Mary. The date with Jon Larsen "was fun," he took her to eat at the Coon

Chicken Inn, (they ate steak) he bought her a "darling fluffy, white, stuffed kitten, with blue eyes and pink ears, cost \$5.95. She told him not to buy it, cause it would cost a fortune. He said she was worth a fortune, yes, it must have been fun, eh? I'm sure she likes Jon now, and he drives a '54 Mercury! Ha ha! She had a date with Dan Kirkham from South Pasadena Ward, more fun, eh? She went to Lagoon, with Dalton Overstreet, one of the football players, to a game there on Saturday, October 30. They were having their homecoming dance at night, and oh joy! Another date next Friday with Jon Larsen, "ain't we got fun!" I do hope the other Marsh children can know joy like this, when they are graduated from high school. I love them all so very much and I have no money to send them to college, but I can hope and pray, eh?" Beverly took some of Annie's sample Christmas cards to the Venetian blind shop today, for the girl working there to see. Her

name is Florence. I talked to Bev about the cards, told her I'd see them soon and order some. Ray Clayton is starting to build; he sent a load of topsoil to Annie. She wanted it to put around her flowers. Because of her little white fence, the man, Rod, had to dump it in the driveway yesterday. Annie wore herself out trying to get it moved before Beverly and Dale came home with their cars. She has been tired today, 'twas too much for her. Good thing I didn't have to move it, eh? I washed all the windows and mirrors inside our house today. It was about too much for me. I had a struggle with heart pains several times for a little job like that. It makes me disgusted. Annie phoned this evening to tell me that Viola Sorenson's husband passed away this afternoon at 2:45 p.m. The poor man has been ill a long time. He had cancer. I'm glad he has been released from his dreadful suffering. His funeral will be held Saturday in Garvanza Ward chapel at 1 p.m. I hope I can go. I wonder what Donna and family are doing this day? I called her twice yesterday or Monday. I've got to watch that darned phone bill. *[Elvie's home was seven miles from Donna's home in Monrovia. But in those times it was a long distance phone call.]*

November 4, Thursday

It was a bright sunny day; my washing was all dry by noon. I phoned Donna this afternoon; she and Kathy had been to the Singing Mother's rehearsal. She took some young mothers from Monrovia Ward in her station wagon this morning.

Rex has worked a few days, plastering with some Mexican fellows; the union got him the job. They are nice fellows he says. I hope he'll keep busy; it takes a lot of money to keep a family of seven and to pay \$108 rent, and keep Janet in the BYU College. Donna says that Mary and Johnny both like their accordion lessons, they'll play in the band at the next lesson. I phoned Beth Sundstrom to ask about the slips she mailed me for the homes in our Relief Society district. I wasn't sure about the number of chapters to read in Alma, in the Book of Mormon, couldn't tell if it was chapters or some verses in the chapters. Beth phoned Donna, she referred her to Sr. Cotterell, and we got it cleared up. Donna gave the teacher's topic in the stake Leadership meeting last time; I think it was last Friday. She was a substitute. Clarice Tanner phoned this evening and asked me to be one of the greeters at the chapel doors on Sunday evening, at our Relief Society conference and to pass out the programs, etcetera. Lillian Neal and Lavelle Scott will help. It's a nice little job I'll be happy to do. Lou and I received a nice little thank you note from Mary Jorgensen for the help Lou gave her with the cord and tape for her Venetian blinds. Beverly did the job on Saturday. We enjoyed our nice little home and the TV tonight.

November 5, Friday

I finished reading through my 1931 diary this morning, checking it for Donna to type. She is doing the 1930 now. It surely takes me back to things I'd forgotten, some of which I was glad to forget, of course many happy recollections too, and a lot of chuckles. It was a beautiful clear day, no smog. How we love it this way, eh? Donna bought some pillowslips to embroider for the Monrovia Ward Relief Society bazaar. She got them several days ago. I can't keep up with her as well now, that I have to pay a toll to phone. The things my Marshes do now slip by me, and are not recorded as they used to be. I felt rather well today, did some ironing and vacuuming in the same day, how about that! Lou and I enjoyed our nice little home and TV this evening. We watched our favorite band, Lawrence Welk.



how to find the time? I have the white ones in a little green bowl; oh they look pretty. Mums last longer than other cut flowers and I love 'em. Donna phoned after they got back from shopping, she bought Kathy and Johnny some shoes. Rex has finished the plastering job he was working on with the Mexican fellows. They said they might call him to work again soon. Br. Kunz sent him to see about a small plastering job. This morning Rex went to work on the patio job he is doing for Al and Zona Strong; she is Clarice Warnick's sister. Donna says they may go out to Covina to look at some of the new homes out there. They have a small down payment and small monthly payments, four bedroom homes. That is what Lou and I wanted them to do when they moved. Rex has been plastering in some of these new homes, so they have interested him. Lou and I went to Highland Park at 1 p.m. to Albert Sorenson's funeral (Viola's husband). He died of cancer, he'd been ill for a long time. We met many old friends; the service was very nice. Bishop K. Bywater, Bishop E. Oates, and Bishop J. Thompson all spoke well. Uncle Bill Andersen opened with prayer, Br. Brewer closed. A young man sang two lovely solos, and faithful Erma Carlson was at the organ as always. Lou and I sat with Grant Carlson. Mary Jorgensen brought Aunt Sue Hoglund to the funeral. We went to the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Andersen's car. Beverly drove us. Dale was a pallbearer. Miriam Clayton helped the ward sisters serve dinner to the Sorenson family after the funeral. Miriam C. and Viola S. are cousins. Dale drove our car to Boy's Market, shopping for dinner. Lou, Annie, and

I went. Bill stayed home with Miriam's little girls, Marilyn and Carol. Ray brought them to Andersen's because he had to leave for his work. Beverly left for her job at Cannon Electric this evening; the girls at Cannon's were having a potluck lunch tonight. Bev had to take pickles. Dale fried some cornmeal tortillas. Annie fixed the chili and green salad to go in them. We enjoyed eating them. Dale brought Aunt Lorene up at 6:30 and we all went to see a picture show in Eagle Rock. We saw two pretty colored pictures, "A Man with a Million" and "Seven Brides." Lorene worked today. Dale went to a baptismal service tonight. I bought a cherry pie at Boy's, but we had too much to eat, so I left it for them to eat tomorrow. We had a delicious frozen dessert tonight.

November 6, Saturday

Lou took our car this morning to have it washed, \$1.00. He was back in a few minutes with the car pretty and clean. For that price, I can't see why he ever goes to all that work and mess of washing it himself? I phoned Donna's house, she and the children were shopping in Monrovia. Joan answered the phone; she had a very special date last night with Phil McCartney. They went to the ball game at Monrovia Duarte High School to see Alhambra High play against Monrovia. Alhambra won, darn it. Lou prettied up our yard this morning; he keeps it looking nice. I have some very lovely bouquets of white and yellow mums in the house. I'd love to take some to Al's and Charlie's graves, but



November 7, Sunday

It was a lovely clear day. Warnie Mueller sat with me in Sunday School, until we separated for class work. He came to see me this afternoon and we had a nice long talk; he showed me a picture of his new girlfriend, Bonnie, I think her name is. She is a very beautiful girl with blue eyes. We took Hilda Botting to Sunday School, also picked up Mary Hill and her daughter, Molly, at their trailer court at Blanche Street and Rosemead Boulevard. We had a very nice Sunday School, and fast meeting. A young woman, Sr. Heap, was confirmed a member of the church and

her baby was blessed this morning, too. I talked to Sr. Heap after church. I told her she reminded me of Donna. She said, "That is the nicest compliment I have ever had." She said Donna is one of the finest ladies she has ever met. Nice, eh? Donna? *[Elvie is writing with the idea that Donna will read and type this year some day. Although Donna didn't type this year we are sure the compliment was delivered another way.]* Lou and I ate a very nice dinner in Fisher's Restaurant. We came home and he enjoyed his nap while I visited with Warnie. We had a very lovely program in church tonight. It was our Relief Society conference. I helped greet folks at the doors; we gave them a pretty program of autumn flowers on the front cover. The talks were very well given by sisters; President Clarice Tanner, Jeanne Brinton, Madge Fowler and Bishop Summerhays. There was a vocal solo by Edna Neighbor and a ladies chorus of Relief Society sisters that was excellent. There was the sustaining of officers by Bonna Gordon and the invocation by Marva DeHaan, benediction by Clarice Warnick. The music director was Ovena Mayo with Iona Cottam at the organ. Joan Marsh and Jerry Griffin came to our meeting tonight; they came after I'd left the door. They'd been to have something to eat and they went with our young people to the fireside chat in Las Flores Ward after church, to hear Wendell Noble speak. Joan took some cookies. Lou and I drove out to Monrovia after church; we got there before Donna got home from her Relief Society conference. She is the organist there. Kathy was asleep. Mary and I got her undressed and ready for bed. She woke up and sat on my lap enjoying the gum I gave her. She fell asleep on the way home from Covina this late afternoon. They went to look at the new houses going up in Covina; the smog was heavy out there, so Rex lost interest in the place then. He still longs to move to Utah, in the Rocky Mountains. Donna says their conference was very lovely, too. She insisted on us eating a bit of lunch with them, which we enjoyed very much. Joan and Jerry Griffin came just as we were about to leave. Janet phoned, person to person, for Donna, left an exchange number to



call. Joan was the only one home. Janet was just lonesome to hear their voices. She talked to all of them, but Kathy, as she was asleep. Janet will come home for Thanksgiving. We are all anxious to see our girl again. Johnny said, "Grama, shall I hug and kiss Janet when she comes?" I said, "Do you want to," and he said, "Yes." Sweet eh? I bought a box of greeting cards from Annie yesterday for \$1.00 and forty Christmas cards for \$1.39. She'll have our name engraved on the Christmas cards. I brought the other cards home.

November 8, Monday

We are promised rain in the south lands tonight. It has been nice and warm, but some clouds today. I got our furnace ready to use; the pilot is on now. I vacuumed the lint and dust out of the furnace and grate. I talked to Annie on the phone, she told me that Audrey Tacey's sister, Lavona Undahel's, funeral was in the Forest Lawn Cemetery at the Church of the Recessional at 10:30 this morning. Annie was sorry she couldn't go, but Dale had put an ad in the Highland Park paper to try and sell his saxophone. He is taking lessons on the clarinet, he is using Yvonne's clarinet and likes it okay. Mary and Johnny played the accordion for Grampa and me last night; they are coming along nicely. Bishop K. Bywater told me last Saturday, at Al Sorenson's graveside, that Bishop Overlade used my poem on the flyleaf of their ward book, at the dedication of their new chapel, last month. The same poem was used in the Garvanza book. Ken said he brought a book home from Lancaster, from Bishop Overlade's ward for me. Nice and thoughtful of him, eh? I always felt that Br. Norgren's name should have been signed to that poem, not mine. He made some changes in it, when he had it printed in the Garvanza book. I do love Bishop Overlade and I am pleased he used the poem in his lovely book. I made a nice brown gravy stew for dinner. Our bishop announced on Sunday morning that Verl *[Jesse]* Tucker and Ruth Teague *[Ruth Madsen]* were away on their

EAST PASADENA WARD	
RELIEF SOCIETY CONFERENCE	
Bishop Richard S. Summerhays Presiding	
Clarice Tanner Conducting	
November 7, 1954	
PROGRAM	
Prelude Music	Relief Society Organist
Song "When Upon Life's Billows".....	Page 202 Congregation
Invocation	Marva DeHaan
Sustaining of Officers, Class Leaders and Visiting Teachers	Bonna Gordon
Greetings and Report	Clarice Tanner
Vocal Solo	"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" Edna Neighbor
Talk	"Our Spiritual Blessings" Jeanne Brinton
Talk.....	"The Relief Societies Part in Bringing Spiritual Blessings" Madge Fowler
Ladies Chorus	"Thanks Be To God"
Talk.....	Bishop Summerhays
Song.....	"We Thank Thee, O God, For A Prophet"Page 196 Congregation
Benediction	Clarice Warnick
Postlude Music.....	Relief Society Organist
Chorus Director - Ovena Mayo	
Organist - Iona Cottam	

(1954 - USA)

YOU ARE YEARS AHEAD WITH

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A red
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for the
Marshes.
They
bought a
Magnavox
TV

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Every Magnavox, regardless of price, is built up to the highest standard of quality. The low price. The lowest priced model has the same built-in quality as all other models. All Magnavox full-transformer chassis with extraordinary picture power and greater tube complement, plus just a few Extra Values that assure you of the world's finest TV sight and sound performance. Yet, you actually pay less for Magnavox quality! Magnavox builds most of its own precision parts from the factory to only a few, carefully selected fine dealers in each city, thus eliminating on to you in the form of low prices, extra value features and fine-furniture cabinetry.



The VIDEOGRAMA 21, U101LC with Magnosphere "300" Chassis.
This stunning furniture piece, finished in beautiful mahogany, blond or provincial cherry, incorporates all of the quality "300" Chassis features with Automatic Picture Tube, Chromatic Picture Filter and a 12" High-Fidelity Speaker for thrilling sound realism. Here truly is television sight and sound superiority.



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Specially designed by Magnavox for Chromatic, Sharpest Pictures . . . maximum Dependability, plus Quality, Design and Construction . . . and Rock-of-Gibraltar Picture Stability!

- 12,000 VOLTS OF PICTURE POWER •
- SUPER-POWERED 21-TUBE CHASSIS •
- LARGE EXTENDED-RANGE SPEAKERS •
- MAGNAVOX CASCADE VHF TUNER •
- TELEBRIC VHF CLICK TUNER •
- MAGNAVOX AUTOMATIC FREQUENCY CONTROL •
- INTERFERENCE REJECTOR •
- 41.25 MEGACYCLE IF AMPLIFIER •
- IMPROVED MAGNAVOX CIRCUITRY •



FIRST AND ONLY CHROMATIC OPTICAL FILTER
for a warm color-tone which brings you beautiful pictures, a striking illusion of dimension. Increases contrast between all gradations of light and dark hues, adding realistic "depth" and prevents ambient room lights from washing out the picture.
SOUND SLANTED UP—GLARE SLANTED DOWN
Both the picture tube and the optical anti-glare Chromatic Filter screen are slanted downward in most models to direct annoying glare and reflections. Speakers are slanted up in most models to give "ear level" direction to famed Magnavox tone.



TWO MAGNAVOX HIGH-FIDELITY SPEAKERS
In most console models, a 12" High-Fidelity plus a coaxially-mounted 5" High-Frequency Speaker equipped with sound diffusers for best distribution of tone provide the finest high-fidelity sound reproduction in television.



10-WATT HIGH-FIDELITY AMPLIFIER
The most powerful sound system in television. The separate, two-stage audio amplifier delivers 10-watts of undistorted push-pull sound power which, when combined with the 12" plus 5" speakers, provides high-fidelity performance unmatched by any other TV.

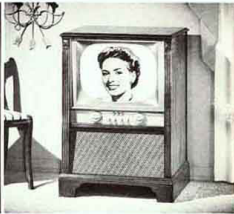
John remembers the TV was blond wood with the speaker in front.

Deluxe Fine-Furniture Consoles with Chromatic Optical Filter, 2 High-Fidelity Speakers and 10-Watts Audio Power

Bigger Than Life 2



The PLAYHOUSE 21, U127L, with Magnosphere "300" Chassis.
This popular fine-furniture deluxe console of smart, contemporary design



The EMPIRE 21, U122L, with Magnosphere "300" Chassis.
The Empire brings you life-sized, glare-free pictures. Chromatic Filter is



The COSMOPOLITAN 21, U122L, with Magnosphere "300" Chassis.
Unique design makes this blend with contemporary



honeymoon. I was glad to hear they had married. They've been keeping company for many years. I phoned Dolores to read Violet's letter to her. A dreadful thing happened to the lovely new stake house that Violet's stake is building. Vandals got in it and ruined the beautiful new tile floor and put paint on the walls and big chapel doors. They poured gasoline on the new tile floors. It is really shocking. Whatever prompts such awful destruction? I guess it was in Cedar City or near by. Rex and Donna bought a television set this evening, a Magnavox. They'll have it installed tomorrow.

November 9, Tuesday

Bonna Gordon and Marie Doezie came for me at 9:35 this morning. We had a large turn out for Relief Society workday, fifty-one sisters. I was very happy to see Donna and Kathy walk in. They surely brought good to me. Everyone was happy to have Donna come to visit with us. She brought the luncheon set that she is embroidering for our Relief Society Bazaar, to work on. I quilted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with time out to crown the "Queen for a Day" and eat the delicious lunch. I read queen Iona Cottam's poem tribute. I believe she was really surprised. She was a lovely queen with the golden crown on her head and a pretty corsage on her dress. Her gift was a lovely box of Christmas wrappings. Donna said Rex didn't work yesterday or today. He went out to look for work. She said they spent home night with the family last evening, looking for a television in Monrovia stores. They bought a Magnavox set,

which the man was to install for them today. Rex stayed home to wait for it to come. Ovena Mayo invited Lou and I to a Sunday School dinner party next Thursday night at 7:30 p.m., honoring Al Rowbotham. He has been released from the Sunday School superintendent's job. The party will be at church. I heard her inviting Donna and Rex to come. I hope they'll come. Kathy told me she is going to have a "TB" picture show in her own house, cute baby. Lou sold his Mountain Fuel stock, twenty shares, for \$24 3/8 a share. His check came in the mail this morning. \$479.46. The commission came to \$7.88 plus 16¢ tax. We enjoyed our home as usual with TV programs. I'll bet my little Marsh family is enjoying their television, too.

23.

Queen Iona Cottam

The hour has arrived to crown our Queen,
Her majesty is seated now with you.
Within the lines of this little rhyme,
You'll find a hidden clue.

A charming brunette, she'll wear the crown,
A versatile queen, of many talents,
A lovely lady, with composure and grace,
And activities, well in balance.

You'll find her here on work days,
Diligently doing her bit,
Sewing or working in the kitchen,
Or, teaching someone to knit.

She plays the piano for us to sing,
In winter, spring, and autumn,
By now, you know our queen will be
The delectable Iona Cottam.

Queen Iona, the crown awaits you,
Ascend your royal throne,
We honor and pay tribute to you,
One of the finest queens known.
E.B.R.

Nov 9 1954

November 10, Wednesday

Our sky looks like we may get rain today. Donna phoned this morning and said they enjoyed their new television last night. Johnny is home from school today with sore neck glands, I wondered if it was a case of TVitis? Ha ha! But Donna says the glands are a little swollen, so our boy has a legitimate alibi, eh? I was happy to hear that Rex was working for Br. Kunz again; I hope he'll be kept busy for a long time. Christmas is on its way. Donna wants to surprise Janet with the TV set. I'm glad she told me or I would have mentioned it in her letter next time I wrote to her. Donna and I are invited to an apron shower for East Pasadena Ward Relief Society bazaar on November 17 at Elvenia Summer's home. I answered Violet's letter, my heart acted up today, so my legs felt weak. I sent get-well cards to Nora Williamson and Mary Howard. I walked to the post office and 15¢ Store and bought stamps and Thanksgiving Day greeting cards. I sent one to Ethel N., Eloise B., Will and Flora T., and the Marshes. They send us one every year. I'm glad I remembered in time this year. We already have one from Ethel Newbold, that girlie sends 'em early eh?" Donna took Mary and Johnny to their accordion lesson this evening. They played in the band after the lesson. She came here to bring Mary. I helped Donna embroider some French knots in the pillowslips she is giving to her Relief Society in Monrovia Ward for their bazaar. Kathy was home with Rex. Joan went to Mutual in Monrovia Ward. Peter Brown met her there after Mutual. Joan invited Peter to go with her to the coed dance at school tonight. Joan didn't know she had to have a guest permit for Peter. They went to a show instead. It was raining tonight when Donna and Johnny left to go home. Mary stayed all night with me. We are going uptown tomorrow to buy her a birthday gift.

November 11, Thursday

Today is Armistice Day and children are out of school. Lou went to work without waking Mary or me. We got up at 8:15 a.m. I cooked a bacon and egg breakfast, hot chocolate, and raisin toast. Donna left Kathy home with Joan today. Rex took Johnny out somewhere with him. Donna came here after her Singing Mother's practice. She ate lunch with Mary and me. We had cream of tomato soup, toast, and milk with date nut loaf. We went to town in the light rain. Donna parked her station wagon in the Sears parking lot two blocks from the store. Oh my! There was a lot of traffic in town. Green Street is being torn up; it made it difficult for drivers to get through the narrow street. We had to wait through three green light signals, cause we couldn't move ahead. The cars on the cross street couldn't move ahead, it was a mess. Sears Roebuck was the only store we shopped in, we found what we wanted there. Donna had to go to the office and have a correction made on their bill; they'd overcharged them \$23.00. I bought a pretty blue and gray plaid full pleated skirt for Mary and a white Orlon slip-on sweater for her birthday gift, from Grampa and me. (Oh yes, and a bra.) Donna bought a cute jumper dress and a very pretty part



An apron Shower was held November 17.

wool plaid dress with green trim for Mary's birthday. She bought Johnny a black rain coat and cap. Donna got rid of \$30.00 in Sears, and me about \$9.50. They had sales on most everything today. I was glad it cleared up this evening for us to go to church to the Sunday School dinner party, honoring Al and Pat Rowbotham. The chicken pies were delicious, lots of chicken in the little pies, a good green salad, hot rolls and green peas then pumpkin pie with whipped cream. The tables were beautiful, autumn flowers and horn of plenty.

Ethel Burk had charge of the tables. Mary Dawn Cuff composed a song we all sang. It was in a little program at each table; a verse to Al R., Pat R., Glen C., Rex M., Norman G., Harold K., Franklin R. our new superintendent, and his counselors. Audrey Fuller led us in a game; paper and pencil, at the table. Lydia Smith played piano solo. Ovena Mayo had charge of the excellent dinner. We had a nice time were home about 10 p.m. The program was called "The Last Squint?" It rained all night and off and on today. Kathy went with Rex and Johnny to the zoo.

November 12, Friday

It rained again last night, it looked like rain most of today, but it didn't come down in Pasadena. I phoned Donna, she said her washing was dry and in off the lines by 1 p.m. She said that Rex took Johnny and Kathy to the Griffith Park Zoo yesterday, while we were uptown shopping. Rex's eye looks better; he got some plaster in it a few days ago. It looked so very red and sore last night. Donna fixed some boric acid, which is helping to clear it up. I walked up to Colorado Street after the work was done. I bought two clothes pin aprons and some embroidery floss and clothes pins, three dozen, some dish cloths and eight little plain white dessert dishes in the LaManda Park Store. I spent the afternoon embroidering one of the aprons. I'm disappointed in the material; it isn't as heavy as I thought it was. The aprons are for Donna and I to take to the Relief Society apron shower next Wednesday night. I was delighted to receive a letter from Janet. She says her friend Jon Larson did live in the Las Flores Ward and he knows Bevan and Dolores. His family has now moved to Salt Lake City. He took Janet to meet them on Friday evening November 5, and then he and Janet went to dinner and a show in Salt Lake City. She says he is a nice boy. On November 7 some football players came to dinner. Janet says they supplied the deer steaks and she enjoyed eating them. Glad she likes deer meat (not me), she says they are having pheasant for dinner the day she wrote on Monday, November 8. I hope she enjoyed the pheasant also, I've heard it is delicious, never tasted it.

November 13, Saturday

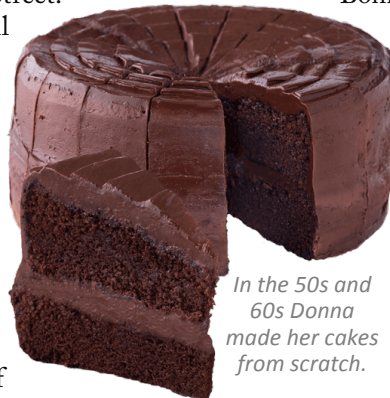
I got up first for a change and had Lou's breakfast all cooked before waking him. He had a headache in the night and didn't feel very well, but he went down to Mrs. Snyder's place after eating, to cut off a door for her, so it will pass over the rug. I was still in my robe when he returned. (Slow, that's me!) He'd been to Fuller's for paint to do our living room woodwork.

We do not like the blue green we have in there, with the light rose paper. Lou took care of several small carpenter jobs for Mrs. Snyder. She paid him \$2.00. *[Using an inflation calculator would be worth \$17.70 in 2016. Sounds like she got a very good deal.]* I went uptown while Lou painted the white under coat in the living room, he'll do the light rose pink next Saturday, I guess. I bought two cute little children's aprons, in Grants Store for 79¢ each. Donna and I will give them, with the clothespin apron that I'm embroidering for the Relief Society Bazaar apron shower next Wednesday night. Joan went out tonight, on a double date, with Bruce LeMarr and his girl friend, Joan, and Neil Coleman. They went to Griffith Observatory. They were too late for the lecture; they went to see Cinerama, had eats after the show. She got home in the wee small hours, oh oh! Lou took the glass French doors off that were between our dinette and living room. We never shut them, so why have them in the room opened. We like it better with them off. More room too!

November 14, Sunday

I phoned to invite Donna and family to come and eat with us today. Rex answered; he said Donna was cooking a roast and preparing dinner. Their friend Helen Bogden, was coming to eat with them. He invited us to come. I told him we'd come in the afternoon, after we'd had dinner here. Rex wanted us to look at a small home he was thinking of buying. We went to Sunday School as usual. We picked Hilda Botting up at the bus line, on Colorado Street.

We took her to Sunday School. Mary Hill phoned to say that she would not go this morning so we didn't call for her. I enjoyed the Sunday School as I always do. Melba Kunz greeted our class this morning, Ethel Burk has laryngitis, so couldn't do her usual job. Lou enjoyed his nap after dinner. We went to Monrovia about 3 p.m. Donna and family were just eating their dessert, homemade ice cream. Rex made it and we enjoyed some with them, and was it ever good! Mmmmmm. Lou had some of Donna's delicious chocolate cake, too. I just looked at its beauty and wished there was no such thing as asthma. Ha ha! We went in our car to look at the house on Jasmine Avenue. Mary and Johnny stayed home with Kathy. Joan, Donna, Rex, Helen B., and Lou and I went. The location is fine, but the house is old and too small for comfort, for their family. It has three very small bedrooms, a small living and dining room. I do not think they will take it. The price is okay, a little less than \$7,000. It isn't worth that as far as the house is concerned, but the lot is very nice. Lou and I went to the Monrovia Ward with Donna, Rex, and Kathy. Helen B. went home. Johnny and Mary stayed home; Mary had earache. We enjoyed their new television before church. Neil Coleman took Joan to church tonight. The Monrovia people are nice and friendly. We enjoyed the meeting a lot. Dr. and Sr. Hall are in Monrovia Ward. It was nice seeing them again. Lou and I enjoyed our lunch and TV at home tonight. Warnie M. phoned and was very happy because Bishop Summerhays called him in his office to tell him he will ordain him to the priesthood next Sunday. I was glad



In the 50s and 60s Donna made her cakes from scratch.

for him. He is going to San Diego on Sunday afternoon for three days before going into the army.

November 15, Monday

I did my washing, it was not a good drying day, but I finished drying heavy pieces in the house. Lorene phoned this afternoon and we had a nice phone visit. She had been babysitting this morning. She goes every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday to the same home, 9 a.m. to about noon. She takes care of two little boys; one is 2½ years old the other is 5½ months old. I wrote a letter to Janet and sent her a dollar bill. I'd surely love to see our little girl; I hope she can come home at Thanksgiving time if someone that is a good dependable driver and person is coming to California for this holiday. I'm sure she can come at Christmas time if not this month, anyway. I was very sorry to learn that June Johnson's infant son *[Richard Glenn Johnson]* died two hours after he was born on Sunday afternoon. It was a breech birth. He was blessed and named before he passed away. The funeral is tomorrow afternoon. Lou changed the green Venetian blind slats in my bedroom to an off white, which looks so much better with my blue wallpaper.

Novembers 16, Tuesday

'Twas clear and cool today, things look so much brighter after one nice rain last night and the one we had last Thursday. Trees have been washed and they look so pretty and clean.

Bonna Gordon came for me at 9:35 this morning.

Marie Doezie was with her. We had a very lovely Relief Society meeting and a nice attendance, to hear Faye Timothy give her beautiful lesson in Literature. It was on John Ruskin. Faye makes her characters live. Our sisters are all busy planning for our bazaar on December 3. I took a package to Melba Kunz for the surprise package booth; it was a brand new blouse that Donna had leftover from the last Relief Society bazaar, (blue with colored dots in). I had intended to do my ironing this afternoon, and finish the embroidery work on the clothespin apron for the apron shower, for Relief Society tomorrow night. But Madge Fowler phoned that she could take me out to do my Relief Society visiting this afternoon. My regular partner, Nora Williamson, was operated on; and isn't well enough to go this time. I was happy to have Madge go, bless her heart; she is so busy. She has done her own visiting and one or two other districts already. Clarice Tanner is busy every minute also, but she said she'd go with me next week, if Madge couldn't go. Well, I'm glad it is done and I did enjoy going with Madge. She is a very lovely person. She was our stake Relief Society president for ten years. Madge and I both bought a little booklet from LaDorna Perine. Her brother Lloyd Larson wrote the book, it's titled, "Eight." It takes the first four principles of the gospel, explains to children approaching baptism of "eight" years old. The book is illustrated by Robert Perine. I arrived home the same time as Lou did this evening. LaDorna Perine was surely surprised to learn that Glen Andersen and Vernon Jorgensen are my nephews; she went to the same art school with them. Bob Perine went there, also.

November 17, Wednesday

Annie phoned last night to tell me that Glen was in the Van Nuys Hospital; he has been suffering with an abscess, near the rectum, for several days. Dr. Lewis, the doctor who operated on Lorene, operated on Glen at 7 p.m. last night. We have a mix up in our block teachers here. We have had two sets of teachers for the past three months; Br. Ashton and the young Williamson boy, and Br. Oakley and partner. Br. Nickels came with Br. Oakley last night. We are fortunate aren't we? Annie says Anna Jensen passed away in Salt Lake City last month. She was a school teacher in Salt Lake for many years. It was a bright sunny morning, so pretty. Annie phoned again this morning to tell me that Irene phoned her to say that Glen was on the operating table one hour and ten minutes. The doctor removed some hemorrhoids as well as the abscess. The nurse told Irene that Glen had a painful night; he feels a little better this morning. The doctor has to remove a few more hemorrhoids when Glen is over the bleeding. I wish it could have been taken care of yesterday, poor man. My poor Lou suffered with leg cramps again last night. I wish I knew what to do to stop him from having those dreadful things. I forgot to mention yesterday, that Hollywood's beloved old actor, Lionel Barrymore died of a heart attack yesterday, at age of 76. He has been in ill health many years, but was active in show business to the end. Donna phoned from Arcadia this evening, where she had taken Mary and John for their accordion lessons. She said after the band practice she will take them home and then come for me. She arrived a few minutes to nine. We got over to the Relief Society apron shower just as they were about to auction off the old hats the sisters brought, all wrapped. It was fun. I got a funny little purple felt hat for \$1.00. Lydia Smith got my lavender summer hat. She looked pretty in it. Her dress was the same shade. Donna and Phyllis McDonnell pooled their money and bought one hat between them, ha ha! It is all a donation to the Relief Society cause. There were lots of pretty aprons, and a nice crowd out. We had a good time. They served strawberry punch and sponge cake with whipped cream.



Actor Lionel
Barrymore
died November 16.

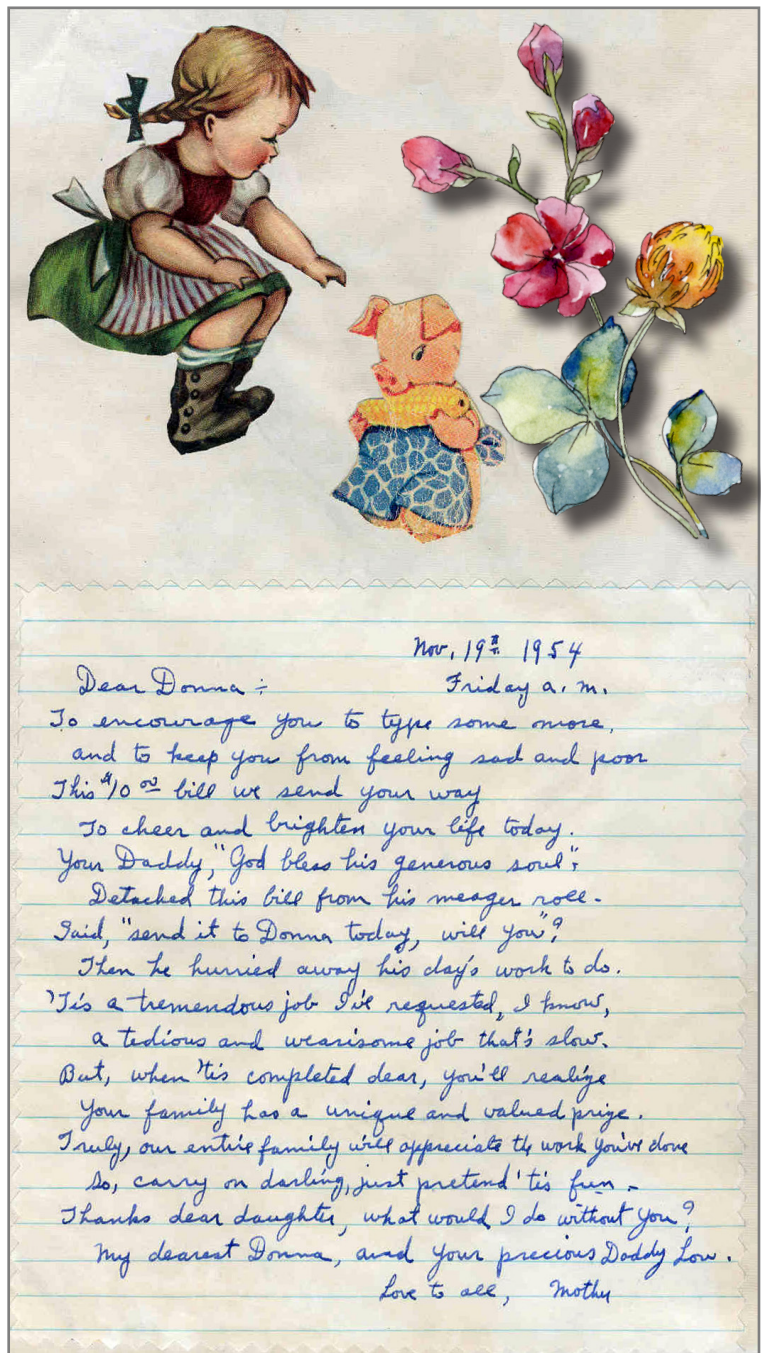
November 18, Thursday

Today was a lovely clear day. My sweetheart Lou got up this morning without waking me; he was so quiet. He ate his breakfast in town. Lunch also, (isn't he a dear?) I called Annie to ask about Glen and she said she talked to him on the phone in the hospital. He was feeling much better. The doctor said he may let him go home tomorrow, but he'll have to take it easy for a week. I'm glad he doesn't have to have more surgery done, as expected. Annie went to her ladies club at Florence Marsh's this afternoon. I spent a quiet day by myself, working on my scrapbook. Donna brought a nice fat letter from Janet last night, for me to read. I wish I had it here now, so I could write some

of her happy experiences down. Warnie had phoned her; she had been out to several nice places. She has found someone who is coming to California for Thanksgiving; she may come with him or her. Thrilling, eh? We are all so anxious to see her again. Donna said Rex worked out in Compton yesterday. It is a long tiresome drive after plastering walls all day, poor man.

November 19, Friday

Lou got up early; a leg cramp got him out of bed. He was eating his breakfast when I came out at 7 a.m. bless him. I put up his lunch. It was a beautiful, clear, sunny day with no smog. Lou gave me \$10.00 to send to Donna, to help encourage her to keep on with the job of typing my diaries. I know it is a big tiresome job for her. I wrote a little note, in rhyme to Donna and mailed the \$10.00 bill. Here is the rhyme:



Nov. 19th 1954
Friday a. m.
Dear Donna:
To encourage you to type some more,
and to keep you from feeling sad and poor
This \$10.00 bill we send your way
To cheer and brighten your life today.
Your Daddy, "God bless his generous soul"
Detached this bill from his meager roll.
Said, "send it to Donna today, will you?"
Then he hurried away his day's work to do.
'Tis a tremendous job I've requested, I know,
a tedious and wearisome job that's slow.
But, when 'tis completed dear, you'll realize
Your family has a unique and valued prize.
Truly, our entire family will appreciate the work you've done
So, carry on darling, just pretend 'tis fun -
Thanks dear daughter, what would I do without you?
My dearest Donna, and your precious Daddy Lou.
Love to all, Mother

Oh me! What a poet writing grandmother I turned out to be, eh? Joan went to a drive-in theater tonight with friend Peter Brown. Glen Andersen has to stay in the hospital a few days longer. The doctor didn't release him as expected today. We received letters from Violet F. and Lillian K. today. We spent a pleasant evening at home.

November 20, Saturday

Lou went to the shop today at 8 a.m. The fan got broken on the paint blower a few days ago and he had to take the blower down, so Gordon can send it out to be fixed. I hope it will not be away long, because I know it isn't good for Lou to inhale the paint mist from the spray gun. Lou took our living room blinds to the shop to paint the tilt rails and bottom rails. We're changing the color to off white, the same color as the blind slats will be. We had soft blue green woodwork, and blinds before. We are going to have the woodwork match the light rose pink in our wallpaper now. I think it will be pretty. Donna phoned to tell me the \$10.00 bill and note in rhyme came, and to thank us; Daddy for the money, me for the poem, which she said was "cute," she said they got a nice letter from Janet this morning and a picture of herself and the three girls she lives with in front of their little apartment. Janet is leaving Provo next Wednesday after school for California, to spend Thanksgiving with her folks out here. One of the sidepieces on Lou's eyeglasses broke, so he had to take it to the oculist to have a new wire and new ear pads put on the glasses today. I raked the leaves of our front lawn this morning. I had to come in the house once and lie on the bed until my heart action was all right to carry on again. Lou finished the parking lawn job of raking when he got home. Our elm trees have a lot more leaves to come down yet, the front lawn is a mess while they're falling. Lou was all fired up with desire to buy a brand new 1955 Pontiac automobile; he has been looking at them and had a ride in one. He coaxed me to go with him this afternoon and "just look at them." I weakened, I wanted him to paint some more in the living room, but no use, he is in the mood to look at cars today. They are lovely.

We decided on the color, a lovely blue and light gray two tone, now it is up to the management to see if they'll give Lou the \$1,500 he insists on for our Pontiac. It looks like new now, I'm very happy with it, but not my daddy, he wants a brand new one. We were over in Monrovia at the Pontiac place, so we went to see Donna and family. We read Janet's letter and saw the picture. I brought Donna's clothes in from the lines for her. Mary and Johnny's two little chickens are growing up so fast; they have a lot of feathers already. The kids won the baby chicks at the school carnival a few weeks ago. We went with Rex, Donna, Kathy, Mary, and Johnny to look at the house they want to rent on Alta Vista Street in Monrovia. It is a very nice looking place, much nicer than

the one they are in now and it is \$25.00 cheaper. I like it a lot.

November 21, Sunday

It was hot yesterday and again today, a real summer day and nice and clear, too. Br. Cole gave the Sunday School lesson in our class today. Br. Don Rowberry was out of town. We took Hilda B. and Mary H. to Sunday School as usual. Mary's daughter, Molly, has been very ill with a kidney infection. She is 21 years old. I thought she was about 15 years old; I was surely surprised when Mary told me Molly's age. Bishop Summerhays ordained Warnie Mueller to the priesthood this morning; a deacon, Warnie was very happy about it. He is going into the U.S. Army in the morning; bless his heart. I hope he'll make out okay. He is a nice fellow. We had a cold lunch as Lou didn't have much time for dinner. It was the Sunday School convention, he took the Doezie girls, Lydia Smith, and Miriam Summerhays in his car, and they had to go all the way to the Vermont Ward in Los Angeles. The organists and choristers of the stakes met there. Other departments met in other wards. I had a nice quiet afternoon, at home. I phoned to ask about Glen Andersen. Dale answered and said his folks had gone to Van Nuys Hospital to see Glen. I was surprised to learn that Glen was still in the hospital. The doctor felt he would be better off, to stay a few more days in the hospital. Glen's insurance covers his doctor and hospital bill, which is wonderful. I believe the telephone company pays his wages while he is ill also, if I understood Annie right? Lou got home about 5 p.m. from his convention. I had the fried chicken dinner ready and we

enjoyed it. Daddy felt he had sat in church long enough for one day, so we didn't attend church tonight. I hate to miss sacrament meetings, I wanted to hear Reed Williamson sing and Br. Robert Austin's talk, but I enjoyed "home sweet home" with Papa instead.

November 22, Monday

Madge Fowler came for me this morning at 9:35. We had eight ladies out to quilt; Sr. Willard, Sr. Strang, Sr. Romig, Sr. Stephens, Sr.

Fowler, Sr. Waugaman, Melba Kunz, and myself. We finished one large quilt for the bazaar and got a good start on a crib quilt. Melba Kunz brought me home about 4 p.m. I went with Melba to take her little boy to his dancing lesson, before she brought me home. This was the little dark lad. Br. Kunz took the other two little fellows to the doctor for some kind of a check up. They are surely cute little boys. I phoned Donna this afternoon; she said Rex talked to their landlady yesterday and told her they were going to move on December 4, so he paid a half-month's rent. Mrs. Warren phoned Donna and told her they were moving out of their home to Oceanside on Thanksgiving Day so she could move in her place anytime after that. I'm glad they found this nice place on Alta Vista Avenue. It



Restored 1955 Pontiac, Lou has his eye on a new one in November 20, 1954.

is \$25.00 cheaper and a much nicer home and location. I was really tired when I got home this afternoon; I went to bed until Lou got home for his dinner about five o'clock. I was glad I had that good chicken stew prepared for dinner. Florence Oates phoned this evening and invited us to eat Thanksgiving dinner with them, as usual. It is a tradition of long standing now; we have eaten with the Marsh family on Thanksgiving Day for about 28 years I believe. It's a wonderful and happy experience, with John and Florence Marsh and their families. I'm taking the candied yams and the cranberries, like I've done for several years. Lou painted the woodwork around our fireplace this evening. We like this lovely soft shade of rose so much better, it is perfect with our wall paper. It's a very nice looking mantel, I think. I'll be glad when the room is all finished. Warnie Mueller went into the army today. I've been thinking of him. I hope good will come out of his experience, he is a nice boy.

November 23, Tuesday

Bonna Gordon came for me as always, bless her heart. I was amazed to find so many sisters out, so near the Thanksgiving Day, with cooking and preparing for the big day. Maybe they're as fortunate as I am, eh? It was well worth their while to come out to hear Phyllis McDonnell give her very interesting lesson in Social Science on "The Constitution of the United States." She is an excellent teacher. I bought another box of Christmas cards from Ethel Burk for the Relief Society fund, for \$1.30. I have all of my cards now; I got some engraved ones from Annie, my sister. Gee, I'd like to talk to Donna, but it cost money to call her on the phone now. I haven't any news, just wanted to chat about her and the kiddies. I talked to her yesterday. Our little Janet will be leaving Provo tomorrow after school if all goes well, for her visit with folks over the holidays. Helen Palmer brought me home from Relief Society. Bonna Gordon had a meeting after Relief Society. Helen called in Melba Kunz's to leave some articles for the grab bag booth for the bazaar. I sat in the car and looked at the Christmas cards I bought. I thought they were extra nice ones. I got them cheaper because the box was broken. They are religious cards; I like them better. The printing is lovely in gold. They are for my sisters and our Strong's Family organization and my brother and family, bless 'em. After dinner this evening Lou and I went to Monrovia to the Pontiac place, to talk to Lou's friend, Sid. The best he can do is give Lou \$1,200 on our car, for a new one. I think we will keep the one we have. (Diary, between you and me, I'm happy, cause I'd much rather clear [pay off] my home.) Our car is like new; I love it. Of course we called in to see Donna and family and took them some

chocolates and mums. We stopped in the market for yams and cranberries; five cans. Johnny and Mary were taking their accordion lessons. I went with Donna to pick them up; we heard Mary and Johnny each play a solo. I'm amazed at how

well they are playing. Joan had taken some of her girlfriends to their school club in Rex's little pick up truck. She got her driver's license about ten days ago, bless her heart. Donna bought a pint of ice cream for Rex and Lou, cones for the kids. Annie phoned tonight to tell me that Ralph Shaffer's father was struck down by an auto yesterday, at York Boulevard and Avenue 51. He died this afternoon. So sorry to learn this sad news.

November 24, Wednesday

I've had Janet on my mind all day; she is leaving Provo this afternoon, to drive home for Thanksgiving. Clarice Tanner phoned; we had a nice visit. She is surely a busy lady being president of Relief Society is a big job for sure. I was so very sorry to learn that Ethel Burk lost her purse, with over a \$100 in it yesterday. Part of it was Relief Society money. She thinks she left it on the bumper of her car, while putting the Christmas cards and etcetera (belonging to the society), in back of her car. I hope and pray she'll find it, that some honest soul will return it to her. I

brought the diary typing that Donna had done for me, the 1930 diary, home last night, (three months). I put it in the folder with the 1929 diary. My neighbor Mrs. Edgecomb brought the little gummed reinforcement rings home from the 15¢ Store for me. I had a large washing, but it was a beautiful day. They dried in short time. Lou took care of Kathy tonight while Donna, Mary, Johnny, and I went to Hollywood to see the radio show, NBC Dennis Day Show. Jack Benny and Margaret Truman were the guest stars. Rex went to the studio from work. The doors closed at 7 p.m., we had to leave our place at 5:15 p.m. because the traffic is bad that time of day. Donna's Ford station wagon stalled while on the busy freeway for a minute or two, oh! what a place to stall. Other car horns were honking at us; it was embarrassing to say the least. Rex had a place in the line on the street when we arrived. We enjoyed the show very much. Margaret Truman is smaller and much better looking than she is on TV. The Taylors that bought Rex's home gave him five tickets to the show. I met them and a number of their friends after the show. They are nice looking people. Mr. Taylor is an agent for the Nutrilite Health people. They sponsor the Dennis Day Show. We were back home by 9 p.m. Kathy and Grampa got along just fine. She ate three dishes of canned peaches, ha ha! She loves peaches. Joan had a date to go to a show with a young man; he picked her up after Mutual.



Marlin Ralph Shaffer and son, Ralph, Elvie taught Ralph in Sunday School when he was a little boy. Marlin died November 23, 1954.

November 25, Thursday—Thanksgiving Day

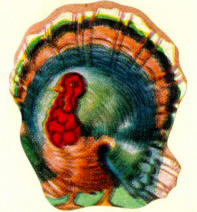
This was truly a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. I had a happy surprise this morning, when I was awakened shortly before 7 a.m. by my precious grandchildren; Janet, Joan, Mary, and little Kathy. They got the back door key from the cabaña and came in. Janet arrived from Provo, Utah at three o'clock this morning. They had talked at home; no one could sleep after she arrived. I was delighted to see her; she looks so well and pretty. I cooked breakfast for them. The girls helped with the table and toast and etcetera. It was fun. Little Johnny was home asleep. Joan washed the dishes before they went home. I had Joan phone to tell Donna they were going to eat with us. Lou painted two doors in the living room this morning. I candied the yams and watered the flowers before going to the Oateses' to the big turkey dinner. Elaine and her little Japanese friend, Dodo (Dorothy) Kuwada, came from Provo this morning, also, in another car. Janet came in Cal Andersen's car with Drew Day, Richard Jensen and two other girls. Twenty-six of us ate dinner at Oateses' at 2 p.m. We had a wonderful feast. Ernie Jr. came from his camp. Eddie Wells lives at Oateses' and all of the Marsh family but Ruth and her family were there. Ernie called on me to ask the blessing on the food. I also gave my poem of Thanksgiving at the table. Joan and Diane did the dishes. We had a lovely song feast after dinner; Donna played the piano. I took a walk over to the lake to watch the children feed bread to the ducks. Kathy got so close to the edge of the lake she made Grama nervous. Oh me! What a fussbudget I turned out to be! Some young folks called to visit, John and Christen Ellsworth and two young friends. Clifford Olmstead came and one or two others. We had young folks coming and going, most of them enjoyed some homemade ice cream. Rex made a freezer full

and John one. It was sure good. The younger Marshes had fun horseback riding. Our Johnny boy gave us a scare; he went with Ernie Jr. to visit a friend and coming back, the horse John was on, ran so fast that Johnny wasn't able to hold him back and he fell off the horse. The horse came home without John. Ernie Jr. was on the other horse. Well, John wasn't hurt, so all is well, but he got a scare for sure. Sandra Robinson and Drew Day came this afternoon. Janet, Elaine, and Dodo went for a drive with them. Janet and Elaine took a ride in Rex's station wagon earlier. Joan and Diane took a short drive in Rex's car, also. Irene O. and fiancé, Ray Cattani, have set their wedding date for February 16, 1955. I enjoyed so much seeing all these lovely young men and women today. It seems such a short time ago when we had several little babies at the Thanksgiving Day festivities, now they are grown ups. Soon they'll be married and have families of their own, time marches on. Our little Kathy, the baby of the family there today, should sleep well tonight. She has been awake and going strong since six o'clock this morning when Janet woke her up. Keith Burns came to Oateses' tonight, to take Joan out to the dance. She introduced him to me in the kitchen. Lou and I were doing dishes. He is a nice looking lad. I hope they have a lot of fun. Janet was too tired to go out tonight, only ½ hour of sleep in 24 hours. Diane had a date come to the house. Florence Marsh phoned after she got home to ask if we got in the dense fog on our way home. They had a dreadful time seeing to drive home. We did not have any trouble, (no fog). They had the same trouble last year. Florence M. was happy because Ruth and Dick had phoned to tell them they want them to come up to Oakland for Christmas. They are sending the train fare. I read Eloise Brooks's letter to the folks today. Twenty-eight years with the Marshes on this day.

- Thanksgiving Day -



The pilgrims thanked God for their harvest - In the year sixteen twenty one -
 'Twas the first "Thanksgiving Day" in our country - and their battles had only begun -
 They rendered thanks for the corn of that harvest - and wild-fowl prepared for the feast -
 Expressing gratitude for His divine mercies - To that little Puritan band in the East -
 And again, we give thanks for the harvest - In this year nineteen forty eight -
 Are we as grateful now, for our blessings as they, - with hearts free from greed and hate?
 Recall how they toiled and they struggled - Then, their very lives to maintain -
 Still rejoicing they gave "Thanksgiving" - as they feasted the golden grain -
 Our board, with linens, silver, china, and candles - will have a festive and fancy dress -
 With place cards around for everyone - and favors for happy foolishness -
 So bountiful now, will our tables be spread - On this our "Thanksgiving Day".
 But, will we remember to humbly pray - As did they, on that first "Thanksgiving Day" -



By - Elvie O. Renshaw

November 9th 1948 -



November 26, Friday

I truly had a happy day yesterday with the Marsh family. The young ladies are all so pretty and sweet. It is refreshing to look at them and listen to their cute expressions. Robin and Florence's girls and our girls are all lovely to look at and lovely girls, too. I thought of my own sisters and brother and their precious young folks, all adorable, and wondered how they spent the day? (Bless their hearts.) I must not forget to mention Ernie Oates Jr., a good-looking wonderful lad, also. We are blessed with fine young people to carry on for us. All Lou would take for his lunch today was two apples. He said he ate too darn much yesterday. He he! I guess we all did. I phoned my sisters this morning to see how they spent the Thanksgiving Day. Lorene ate roast chicken with Miriam, Ray, and the girls. I talked to Miriam and Lorene; they had a lovely dinner and a happy day. I could hear the carpenters hammering on the new duplex house Ray is building. They are putting the roof on today. Sr. Jorgensen cooked a nice big turkey, made pumpkin pies, and took her family out to Mary and Vernon's home to enjoy the Thanksgiving dinner with them. Nice eh? Don Lee J. won said turkey. Dolores and Yvonne and family went home to eat with Violet and Otto in Beryl. I'm sure they had a happy reunion. Sue and her family all ate dinner at Elaine and Ernie's home; Ann stayed in Utah, she went up to spend the holidays with Aunt Lydia and Uncle Owen. I'm sure they had a happy day. I'd surely loved to have looked in on all of the precious relatives. I wonder if Aunt Ida is still at Beth's? Annie cooked a turkey and pies and they all went to Van Nuys to eat with Glen, Irene, and family. Glen is home from the hospital. He ate dinner from the couch near the table. We are all blessed indeed. Donna took Mary and Johnny up to Howard's to spend the day. Donna went to Singing Mother's rehearsal this morning. I phoned and Joan said Donna would come to take me to Mr. Shaffer's funeral after singing practice. (Phone call tolls, today, oh oh! To Sue and Donna.) Br. Shaffer had a very nice funeral. Bishop Bywater conducted and said a few words about his friendship with the Shaffer's; Clara S. lived with his family when he was a small boy. Bishop Allred gave a nice talk. Bessie Hansen's granddaughter sang two lovely solos; she is Wanda's daughter and looks a lot like her mother. We took Lorene home from the funeral after taking Annie home; we took Florence Marsh to the bus line. I brought my 1929 diary in folders from Annie and Lorene so I can add the three months of 1930 that Donna has typed for me. Marlin R. Shaffer Sr. was a native of Pennsylvania. He passed away November 23, 1954. The service was in the Garvanza Ward. LDS Church. Interment: Forest Lawn Cemetery. I brought my engraved Christmas cards home from Annie's. Donna ordered two boxes from her, 40 in a box, for \$1.39 a box. I gave a nice bouquet of white mums to Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Edgecomb yesterday and took one to Florence Oates. They are all gone now, but were surely beautiful. I saved the big white ones to take to Oateses.



November 27, Saturday

There was a heavy fog when we got up this morning; it did not all clear away at any time today. Of course the smog was mixed up in it later today. Lou read about Mather's rug sale in the paper this morning. We decided to have a look but it was just a way of getting people to come in. The sale price rugs were not worth putting down. We have a very good rug on our living room floor, but we thought if we could buy a new wall to wall covering, we'd let Donna have our living room rug and little dinette rug to lay in the house she is moving into on December 4. We couldn't pay the price they want for a nice looking rug. We went to the Superior Furniture Store and priced their rugs, and then we went to Monrovia, after eating a sandwich at home. We bought a new beige shade rayon lampshade in Kress for \$3.00 before coming from Pasadena town. It looks better in our living room; on the little table lamp than the red one we had there. At Bill's rug place in Monrovia, we found a nice 100% wool rug in rose beige, a large leaf pattern for \$7.95 a yard. It will cost \$300 to do our living room, dinette, and hall. We brought a sample piece home to try with the drapes and furniture. We are thinking it over?? I believe it will look nice if we decide we can pay the price. It would help Donna get a rug on her floor. Our rug is in excellent condition, but we'd like wall to wall. Mary Marsh phoned this morning from Howard's to invite Grampa and me to dinner tonight. She said her mother is cooking her birthday dinner tonight so Janet will have time to enjoy it with the family. She is leaving tomorrow for BYU college in Provo, Utah. It is stake conference tomorrow; they all want to go to the morning session. I wrapped Mary's birthday gifts, a blue and gray pleated wool skirt and a white nylon slip-on sweater. Lou raked the leaves up and took a nap before going out to Donna's. I wrote in my diary. I guess Johnny and Mary stayed overnight last night with the Howards. We bought a pot roast on our way over to Donna's tonight in Monrovia. We have invited Donna and the family to eat dinner with us tomorrow. Bonny Howard came home with Mary today to celebrate her birthday and stay overnight. Donna cooked a leg of lamb for our dinner. We ate about 6 p.m. It was a delicious dinner. Mary opened her gifts after we sang Happy Birthday to her. She blew the lights out of her twelve candles. Her cake was a chocolate fudge cake, mmmmm good. Kathy had to open one of Mary's gifts, so her sweet sister Mary let her have the happy experience. Mary had on the pretty dress her mother bought her, green and red plaid, with a green velvet yoke. She looked very pretty in it. Bonny gave her clothes for her little Vogue dolls. Janet and Joan gave her a red purse and bra. Grama Marsh gave her nylon panties and a \$1.00 bill. It's her birthday tomorrow, but the celebration was tonight. Joan went out to a show or somewhere with Peter Brown tonight. Janet had a date with Sam?, Peter's boyfriend. I hope all four had a happy evening. The fog was very dense in spots coming home. I was glad to get here safe and sound. I hope my girls will not have trouble with the fog on their way home. We had many accidents yesterday caused from the smog and fog mix.

November 28, Sunday

Our Mary's birthday is today, she is 12 years old. She will be attending Mutual now and graduating from Primary. They grow up so fast. Janet received a letter and stamp picture from Warnie in his army uniform; he is in training camp at Fort Ord. We celebrated Mary's birthday yesterday with a family birthday party at her home. I cooked a pot roast this morning and left it in a very low oven, with carrots, onions, and potatoes in a roaster pan with the meat, while we attended stake conference. We took Hilda Botting, Mary Hill, and her daughter Molly to stake conference with us this morning. We had excellent seats, front and center, in the huge recreation hall. The best seats in the building, I believe. The chapel was filled when we arrived, but I prefer the seats we occupied. We had a lovely session this morning. Elder Sterling Sill and Elder Garf were our visitors from Salt Lake City, both good speakers. Rex couldn't attend conference today; he had a small plastering job to do for Erva Miller. He was going to do it yesterday, but couldn't get through with his other job. Donna and the children came home to eat dinner with us. It was grand to have Janet with them again. We looked for her to come, with such eagerness; the time has gone so quickly.

In a few short hours she'll be on her way back to Provo. I just couldn't keep Donna out of the dishpan today. Joan and I dried them. I was sorry Rex couldn't be with us today. I bought the apple pie for him and Mary. Well, she enjoyed her pie and ice cream. The other children do not like apple pie. Donna, Daddy, and I do anyway. They had ice cream. I'm a little concerned about the sore inside of Janet's mouth. She went to see Dr. Don Anderson, the dentist, yesterday. She said he doesn't know what is causing it. He thinks it'll clear up okay, but if it doesn't she'll see the doctor or dentist at BYU she says. The folks left early to go home and pick Rex up. He went with them to La Canada where Janet was to meet the other kids going to Provo. Richard Jensen rode to La Canada with them. I'd like to have gone to conference again tonight, but my Daddy Lou wasn't in the mood, so we stayed home. It was ward conference today, in the Highland Park Ward. Bishop Lewis Marsh had a busy day, eh? It was his first ward conference as bishop. I hope he enjoyed the experience, bless his heart.

November 29, Monday

Donna phoned this morning to tell me that Janet phoned from Provo about 8:15 to let her know they had arrived there



John Marsh, Florrie & Bob Strong, Mary Marsh in Murray, Utah. This photo is from the trip to Utah earlier this year. On November 27, Mary celebrated her birthday with the family a day early so Janet could be there.



Mary loved her dolls.

safe and sound. She said they ran into lots of snow in route and had to put the chains on the car tires. There wasn't any snow in Provo. We are all relieved to know they made the trip without trouble. Rex and Donna took Janet and Richard Jensen out to La Canada yesterday afternoon, where they met the other young folks. Br. Day, Drew's father, said a prayer in their home before they left for their journey.

The parents of these young people going to Provo, all knelt in prayer with them. I think that is a very nice way to start out on a trip. I always feel better if we've asked God to watch over us when we go away for our vacation trips. Lou phoned to tell me he had arranged to borrow

a furniture dolly to help move Rex's furniture next Saturday. Florence Marsh phoned to tell me she had bought a red felt skirt for Mary's Christmas. It has a black felt girl and a fountain, with three coins in it, on the side. It sounds real cute, I'll buy the full ruffled half skirt to go with it, I guess, (petticoat). We grandma's get together eh? Florence says she thinks John will be glad to let Rex use his new truck to move in. That will be nice if he can. I had a nice visit with Ethel Burk over the phone. I was sorry to learn that she has not had anyone come to return the purse she lost a week ago with over \$100 dollars in it. I recited two

poems that she gave me some time ago to her over the phone today, from memory. She was surprised and impressed. She says she is coming to visit me after Christmas. Florence Marsh said they had a very lovely ward conference yesterday. She said Bishop Marsh gave an excellent talk. Elaine Oates arrived in Provo safely, with friends in another car. I'm sure Sandra Robinson got back there okay, too. We're happy to know our sweet girls arrived safely.

November 30, Tuesday

Bonna Gordon and Marie Doezie came for me this morning as usual. I quilted from 10 a.m. until about 3:30 p.m. We had a wonderful attendance out, for this extra workday. The ladies all are working fast to finish up the bazaar sewing and talking so fast, it reminded me of bees around the hive. We took our own sandwich. The Relief Society Board served punch and potato chips. They also made extra sandwiches for ladies that didn't remember to bring their lunch. I'm sure President Clarice Tanner and her board will be happy to have this bazaar over with. (We all will.) I had to rest this afternoon to have strength to cook dinner for us this evening. Lou phoned Mr. Bills, the rug man, in Monrovia. He said he'd come to our house this evening with some

samples for us to look at. We do not think we'd be satisfied with the beige rug that we brought a sample of home, with our drapes and furniture. It is too lifeless. We want a little color, we've decided. I had dinner ready, and we ate as soon as Lou got here at 4:45 p.m. We waited all evening, but Mr. Bills didn't show up. Now my man is provoked and he is going to look elsewhere. Br. Bills is an LDS man, he sold Rex the rugs he put in the house he sold in Sierra Madre. We met him in Monrovia Ward the other Sunday night. (Sorry Br. Bills, but you didn't keep your word.) Donna phoned as to what page it was she left off, typing my diary. She was typing some more today. I brought the first three months of 1930 home to put in the folder with the 1929 diary. Johnny was home from school yesterday with a cold, but he went to school today. Rex moved some things from the garage, to the Alta Vista place yesterday, he came home from work because of rain, so decided to start moving. The house they're moving from is rented and the people want to move in on Saturday, the day Donna and Rex move out! Turmoil and jumble, eh? Moving house is dreadful, I wish I could be of more help to Donna. Annie phoned, we talked about what to serve for the Strong's meeting at Sue's next Saturday night. Poor Sue, I guess she'll have a housecleaning, if it needs it or not! Her home always looks lovely but it must be "so so" for company, ha! Annie, bless her heart, is worrying about what we shall serve the family as Sue will be busy cleaning house, oh me!

December 1, Wednesday

Goodness me! Where has this year gone to? Lou phoned to tell me Gordon says he thinks he can get us a nice discount on rugs, if we go to Los Angeles, to one or two places that he gave Lou the names of. Lou phoned Mr. Bills and told him what Gordon said. If we can't do any better, we'll go back over to Bill's Rug Company again. It was a sunny day. My washing dried nicely. The weatherman promised rain for today, but I'm glad it didn't come. Lou phoned later this afternoon and asked me to meet him at the Wright Carpet Store in Pasadena, 22 South Oakland, near Sears Store, at 4:35 p.m. I got there 30 minutes early. I was surprised to learn that they only carried the cotton rugs and the man made floor coverings such as viscose rayon yarns and etcetera. We were looking for wool. But when Lou arrived he was impressed with the looks of the material, it is luxurious looking. The two salesmen tried their best to tell us it will outwear wool and be better in every way; sounds good. We brought two samples home; a pretty green and a rose. I wish I could be sure it will hold up and wear like they testify it will do. We would like to put the rose carpet wall to wall in the living



Mary, Kathy, Joan, and John Marsh on the back step of the Norumbega house. The Marsh family did not stay long in this home.

room, dinette, and hall. It is pretty; thick and rich looking. It is \$6.75 per yard laid, with the pad and a tack-less strip. That is about \$100 cheaper than the wool carpet we were considering at Bill's store, and a lot better looking; but will it hold up as well? They insist it will wear a lot better. Florence Marsh phoned to say that John had said that Rex could use his new truck to move in, if he wanted to borrow it. I phoned Donna, and she said she'd tell Rex, but she said that Rex had decided he was going to use his little truck and not bother anyone this time.

(The hard way, eh?) Before Lou and I went to bed tonight, we decided we would not put down the viscose carpeting. Just pressing my heels or even my thumb, into the sample, it left a flat place until we'd work it up again. We wouldn't want every footprint to show up like that. What to do?

December 2, Thursday

I talked to Dolores on the phone this afternoon before writing to Violet. She told me all about the wonderful visit they had in Utah with Violet and Otto for the three days of Thanksgiving holidays. The men folks fished and hunted; in fact Dolores went hunting with Bevan once. Violet cooked fried chicken this Thanksgiving, (by request). They all visited friends and relatives in Cedar City. Yvonne's boyfriend, Gordon, was happy to have her home where he could be with her. A dear friend passed away in Cedar, while they were home, died of a brain tumor. She leaves some small children, it is sad. I've forgotten her name. I talked to Annie on the phone, made plans for our refreshments out to Sue's next Saturday night at the Strong's meeting. She was on her way to a Relief Society board meeting out to Mary Cutler's home in Glendale, I think. Isabel T. was coming to pick Annie up. Isabel was serving the luncheon in Mary's home, because Cutler's home is larger. I walked all over our LaManda Park shopping district, in the rug stores. After pricing them, I was about discouraged. I came back to a little rug store almost in my own neighborhood, 2608 East Colorado and found just the shade of rose I was looking for, in wool and nylon, a high low pattern. I think it is lovely. The owner gave us a good price; it is a lovely Willton rug. We need 40 yards for wall to wall covering. He said he would let us have it, laid with pad and tackles strip for \$350. It is by far the best price we've been offered. It is the Apramian Rug Company, owned by father and son. The son came to measure our rooms, (living room, dinette, and hall). I cooked three pounds of red beans today and will bake 'em tomorrow for the bazaar. My chest and heart region hurt for a long time after I got into bed tonight. (I've over done it again, eh?)

December 3, Friday

Tonight is our Relief Society Bazaar. I baked beans for the dinner. I sat on the floor and blanket-stitched one end of the dinette rug; the other three sides were bound okay. I knew it would need fixing before going to our little Marshes for the workout. I also sewed a strip of loose padding to the rug pad. I'm sorry we had to have this rain today, because of the bazaar, but it will do a wonderful lot of good for our south land. I vacuumed and cleaned the rug and pad so it will be clean for Donna. I received two pretty birthday cards, one from Florence Marsh and a card with a nice letter in from Lydia and Owen. They are really pleased with their new little daughter-in-law (Bill's wife). They've always loved Bob's wife, Betty. (Now, Jimmy lad, see if you can do as well.) Rex is driving all the way to Palmdale to work, what that poor man has to do to feed a family, eh? The plasterer's union sent him up there. Br. Kunz hasn't much work until January, and then he'll need Rex again. We took our baked beans to the church tonight at 5:30 p.m. The Relief Society sisters have worked hard all day; the big recreation hall looked lovely. There were tables in the center, and handicraft for sale on the sides. The dinner was good, dipped roast beef sandwiches, beans and cabbage slaw, and hot dogs for those who preferred them. There was pie, cake, or ice cream for dessert. Mary and Johnny wanted the hot dogs; Lou, Donna, and I the dinner. Lou paid for our eats, nice eh? He also bought me a pair of pillowslips, \$1.95, and some dishcloths for 30¢. We spent some money in the grab bag booth; it was fun opening the boxes to see what you had. Mary got several nice little articles for 25¢ each. Johnny got some real cute plastic toys, from the children's 10¢ grab bag. They'll please Kathy in her Christmas stocking. Joan went out with her friend Chuck. Johnny rode home with us, I brought my bean pan, but I forgot the big glass top, darn it! I phoned the church; Br. Burk said he'd take care of it for me. It was raining hard when we came home. Donna took the rugs home in her station wagon tonight. Rex and Kathy stayed home tonight. Chuck's car was in an accident while Joan and he were out tonight; a car rammed into the rear of his car when he had to stop for a car in front of him, too bad. But I'm so thankful no one was injured.

December 4, Saturday

Rex had planned on taking the beds over to the new house last night, and they were going to sleep over there, but it was raining too hard. It would get the bedding wet. Lou went to Monrovia this morning; he took two dollies, one for moving the piano and one for the big pieces of furniture. He and Rex moved all of their belongings in Rex's truck and the station wagon. Rex and Donna had taken a lot of things over in the past several evenings. The people were



Rex moved all the furniture with his small truck and the station wagon.

waiting with their big van full, to move into the house Rex was moving out of on Norumbega Drive. Lou gave me \$25.00 to buy me a new dress for my birthday. I went uptown this morning and found a pretty purple with a gray trim, a two-piece dress. The skirt is full, permanent pleated, the cost \$24.95 (\$25.82 with tax). I got it in Webber's Half Size Store. It looks like soft wool, but is an Orlon material, size 16½. I didn't want to pay that price, but I didn't like the cheaper dresses on me today, somehow. I didn't stay long uptown; I bought two cute carved wooden little knick-knacks to take to our Strong's meeting tonight, for the Christmas party. (A little old fashioned carriage with horse and driver.) I thought them so cute, I bought myself and Donna one, for our "what not" shelves. We had a very nice time at the Strong's meeting tonight at Bette and Sue's home in Burbank. Beth J. played a Christmas medley; we sang the songs we knew, as she played them. It was very pretty. I recited three poems by request, The Christmas Spirit, Al Hoglund's birthday poem, and my Silly Rhyme. Bette and Miriam got the Ritz Crackers prepared with creamed cheese and the salads ready to serve while we were singing. Annie's salads were delicious; a set salad, with grated cheese and fruit juices, bless her heart. She made all three salads; her fruit punch was extra nice, too. I'm sorry Rex and Donna couldn't come, she would have enjoyed it anyway. I thought Elaine V. looked very stunning tonight; she is a pretty gal. My relatives all look good to me. Our young women are all nice to look at. I was sorry Dolores didn't phone to say they would go, she wanted to go, she said, but didn't think she could arrange to go. We drew numbers for the gifts and had fun opening them. The young folks, Sharon and Mike V. and Jerry H. passed our gifts out to us. I wore my new birthday dress. It was Clint Strong's birthday yesterday and Bette's little boy Bradley will be one year old tomorrow, on my birthday. We sang the "Happy Birthday" song for the three of us, nice eh? 'Twas my darling Lou's idea, bless him. My gift was a nice big dishtowel with yellow blanket stitch edge. (Annie took it to the party.) Lou's gift was a cute little planter; a Chinaman pulling a cart, with a green plant in it, it is darling. The society gave me \$3.00 to pay for cards I send to family at times, from the Society.



December 5, Sunday

Today is my birthday; I am 62 years old. What do you know; I made it again, ha ha! Lou had to take today off, to paint the woodwork in the living room and dinette. We want to have it all ready before the rug man comes to lay the rugs next Wednesday morning. I hate to miss Sunday School but had to this morning, (sorry). I called Hilda B. and Mary H. yesterday, so they could make other arrangements. Mary H. is sick with the flu; her daughter Molly is in the hospital with pneumonia. I'm so sorry about Molly. She had a sick spell with a kidney infection a few weeks ago and she has not completely recovered from that. Joan had a date with Peter Brown last night; she went to his house today to listen to some of Pete's new records. Donna received a letter from Warnie M. yesterday. He is sick at Camp Ord, with a bad cold, I'm sorry about that, poor boy. She also got a letter from Janet; she hasn't had time to

answer either one of them yet. She's too busy getting settled in the new place. Lou took me out to a very nice dinner at the Crown Cafeteria, about 2:40 p.m. I didn't eat breakfast, 'twas fast day. I was hungry so I had the turkey dinner. It was very good. Lou ate the veal T-bone; they serve excellent food there. Donna phoned about 4:30 p.m. to see why we didn't come out last night or today. She forgot it was the Strong's meeting in Burbank last night. We waited for Andersens to come today, before we left for Donna's place.

Andersens went to a wedding anniversary in La Canada first. It was a Golden Wedding, a Br. and Sr. Peter Larson in Garvanza Ward. The reception was at their son's home in La Canada. I was concerned about Annie when she arrived, she was not feeling very well. Her head felt strange, and she felt dizzy, like she was walking sideways. She didn't look very well. I gave her some Anacin tablets. We served the Andersens root beer floats, and cookies. Annie wouldn't have any. Glen, Irene, little Jimmy, Aunt Lorene, Bill, Annie, and Beverly came, about 4:30 p.m. Beverly gave me a very pretty fan shaped flower vase, in yellow and brown shades, bless her heart. She knew I wanted a fan shaped vase, so she looked for days until she located one for me. Lorene and Annie gave me two pair of LDS garments, which I was delighted to get, also. I had ordered some from Annie's Relief Society supply. I'll get the others after Christmas, nice, eh? Sue gave me a very pretty rose birthday card last night, with \$2.00 in it. It will come in handy for sure. I got a very pretty birthday card from Irene and Glen and my lovely purple and gray dress, from my darling husband. Our front rooms look so strange without the rugs; we'll appreciate them when we get them. I was delighted with Donna's house, it is so much nicer than the place they moved from. I was amazed to find the house in order like it was, as if they'd been in it a week or so. We took some ice cream and cookies and root beer out to Donna's. We had a roast beef sandwich with them, then the dessert we took out. They sang "Happy Birthday" to me and I opened my gifts from them with my baby Kathy very near by. I received a very pretty white nylon slip from Donna and Rex and two lovely pair of nylon hose from the children. I had a very lovely birthday, but sorry to miss church.

December 6, Monday

Dolores Jones phoned this morning before eight o'clock. She had just noticed the date. She had promised her mother she would see that I got the gift that Violet had sent home with her on my birthday. She said, "Oh, Mother will kill me" ha ha! Well, we won't tell Mother, eh? Dody said she'd bring the gift over when she got things squared off



Annie Andersen in chair, Lou and Elvie standing.
Picture taken in June 1954. On December 5,
Elvie celebrates her 62nd birthday.



Fan shaped vase just like
Beverly gave Elvie for her
birthday.

at home today. She's cute. Frank Bailey wrote a nice letter to Annie asking her to have all of us girls, (girls, get that?) send Uncle Will a birthday card. It's his birthday tomorrow, he will be 84 years old, bless his heart. He hasn't felt well for several months. Frank said that his sister Esther had done a wonderful job of looking after their father for many years and he felt very grateful to her for this. I received a nice birthday card this morning from our Relief Society. I mailed Uncle Will a card, and a get-well card to Betty Ramish. She is in bed with heart trouble. Lou phoned me about 3:30 p.m.

and said he had an awful pain in his right side. I told him to go see a doctor; it upset me. I felt better after praying for him. When Gordon and Ruby came to the shop this afternoon, Lou left and went to see Dr. Charles Wagner, 201 N. El Molino. I talked to Gordon and he told me Lou had gone to the doctor. I was relieved when he came home about 5:40 this evening. The doctor diagnosed the trouble as kidney stones. He gave Lou two shots of something

to dilate the channel so the stones could pass. He told him to go home and rest and drink all of the liquids he could get down. I made some Lipton's onion soup. The pain stopped soon after the doctor had the nurse give the first shot.

Lou was very light headed for some time, but the doctor told him he would feel that way. Donna and Joan came for me about 7 p.m. We had planned to do some Christmas shopping. Lou insisted he was okay and I should go as planned. We went to the Broadway Store; Joan tried on some skirts and sweaters. I bought a skirt

for Joan; gray wool and one just like it for Janet in black wool, \$10.95 each. Joan is sure Janet will love it, cause she, Joan, does. I surely hope so. Well, she can change it after Christmas. Janet is at the BYU College in Provo, Utah. I bought a taffeta and net full half-slip for Mary, red and white print. Donna had two slip-on sweaters and skirts put away for the girls. Lou was feeling fine when we got back home. Donna talked to Mother Florence Marsh on the phone from here. Dolores, Yvonne, Ronnie, and Nadine came this evening before Lou got home. They brought me a birthday gift from Violet, pretty painted pillowslips. The girls are both on diets, so wouldn't eat ice cream or cookies. They brought me a pretty birthday card, sweet gals.

December 7, Tuesday

Lou slept well and insisted he felt fine, so he went to work. I poached some eggs and made toast for him and put up a lunch for him, too. I'm so thankful he is all right today. Bonna Gordon came for me at 9:10 this morning. We had a very nice teacher's message lesson given by Beth Sundstrom, the objective: "The Necessity of Working Out our Own Salvation Here and Now." She is an excellent teacher. Jeannie Brinton's

Theology lesson was wonderful as always, it was on "Missions of Other Sons of Mosiah" from the Book of Mormon. It was a very lovely spiritual feast; the testimonies were very good, too. Most of us got up. We had a large crowd out. I'm happy to see the sisters taking this interest in Relief Society. I found a birthday gift here from Ethel Newbold when I got home, a pretty card and a nice book, "The Doctrine and Covenants and the Future," by Roy W. Doxey. I'm anxious to read it. I see by Ethel's inscription on the flyleaf, that she thinks my birthday is December 8. Now I understand why her birthday gifts to me are a few days late, ha ha! She is so prompt in everything she does as a rule. Florence Marsh phoned to ask about Lou this evening. Annie phoned this morning. Lou phoned Annie this morning to have Beverly come to work tomorrow. I bought a box of very pretty stationary from the Relief Society, left over from the Bazaar. It was \$1.75 at bazaar, and they sold it to me for \$1.00 today, nice eh? I believe I'll give it to Beverly for Christmas. We received a letter from Lillian Keller this morning. She is in San Francisco staying with Shirley's children while Shirley and her new husband, Frederick H. Behrmann, are away on a short honeymoon. We are happy with the good news. Shirley is too young to live a life alone. We wish them all the happiness in the world. Lillian says she'll stay a night or two with us on her way back home, nice eh? I phoned Donna to tell her the good news. The telephone company let them have the same number in this new place. The phone person was there today to connect up their telephone. I took a chance on calling the phone number they had in the last house and Donna answered, nice for all concerned! We cleared the furniture out of the living room before going to bed. It is ready for the rug man in the morning.

December 8, Wednesday

The Apramian rug man was here before nine o'clock. He took our piano and dinette table out on the front porch. He had both rooms cleared out completely before he even started to work on the rugs or pads. It was interesting for me to watch the new method of laying rugs now, with the tackless strip procedure. I'm sure we will enjoy this lovely rose Willton, wall-to-wall carpet. The young man, (Mr. Apramian Jr.) who laid our rug today, looks a lot like Danny Thomas, the television star. I asked him if anyone had told him that he looked like Danny Thomas and he said, "many times." Only last week, his wife and he were in their car in Hollywood, waiting for the signal light to change, when some young girls on that street, pointed him out to their friends and said, "Look, there's Danny Thomas." He really does resemble him, but he knows how to lay rugs real well. Ha ha! He is 21 years old and he asked all about Janet after looking at her picture on the mantel. He thought he had seen her before. (Could be, eh?) We received a letter from Warnie Mueller; he is at Camp Ord. He isn't too happy about it all either, poor kid. I know it is a rugged life, drill and drill, not much time for sleep and etcetera. A letter from Will and Flora with a birthday card to me came today, also. Our furniture is stacked all over the bedrooms and porches. The piano and table



Danny Thomas above.
The carpet installer,
Mr. Apramian, looked just
like Danny Thomas.

are on the front porch at present writing, 3:15 p.m. The rug man is sewing seams in the rug between the living room and dinette. The living room is finished and looks very pretty. It was almost six o'clock before the hall was finished. Lou and I had most of the furniture back in place in the living room. The rug man helped Lou bring the dinette table and the piano in the house. Lou gave him a check for \$300. He paid \$62.25 down when we were at the rug store last Thursday. I'm sure we'll enjoy our lovely new rose rugs.

December 9, Thursday

Donna went to Singing Mother's rehearsal. She left Kathy home with Mary today, as Mary didn't go to school because she wasn't feeling well. Mary came in handy as a babysitter for Mother, eh? We received a nice little note from Shirley Little telling of her marriage tomorrow, to a gentleman by the name of Frederick H. Behrmann. She said they were very much in love, and I can believe that, as Shirley's letter was addressed to our house number, but to Los Angeles, instead of Pasadena. Ha ha! It was delayed a few days, until they located us here. Lou gave me \$10.00 to go buy drapes for our dinette. I wrote to Lillian K. in San Francisco, and to Violet in Beryl, Utah, before going uptown. Lillian is staying with Shirley's children, while Shirley and Fred are honeymooning. I hope they will have a very happy life together. I went to Sears Roebuck Store and bought a pair of pretty green nylon drapes, for \$9.50. When I got home and hung them up in the dinette, I felt ill; they didn't look at all right, made our pretty little dinette look dull and monotonous. They had to go back to the store. I told Lou of my disappointment on the phone. I wanted to go right back to town, but my heart was having a workout, and my legs were weak, so I went to rest on the couch instead. Lou said he'd take me back to Sears this evening when he came from work, and he did. We found another pair with very light background and rose shades of flowers, for \$12.00 a pair. We brought them home but they didn't look good either. I left them to hang all night, but we decided we had to find a pair with a beige background and softer toned shades of rose. I'm discouraged about now. Donna called in to see me after singing practice; she thought the green drapes looked pretty, but not right for our dinette. She'll be amazed to know we must return the second pair, too. Oh me! Well, we forgot our drape troubles for a while tonight; we went

to Al and Pat Rowbotham's beautiful home to a ward potluck dinner. I took three packages frozen peas. Pat baked a ham; it was a delicious dinner. Clarice Tanner made the rolls, she was

going to have the dinner at her home but couldn't get her people out, so she joined our group at Rowbotham's.

Mary and Kathy wonder if this same rose colored carpet is still in the home. The people who bought the home are gone but their son lives alone in the house. The neighbors told us (in 2012) he is a hoarder and there is no room to walk in the house. The same carpet could still be there under all the stuff.



December 10, Friday

We had a very nice time at our potluck dinner party last night at Rowbotham's. We had a delicious dinner, moving pictures and organ music, by Clarice and Carol Warnick. We had the Strongs (she is Clarice's sister), the Robinsons (they moved into our ward a short time ago), Br. and Sr. Peacock are new members, also. She was born in Germany. I didn't rest well; I was looking for drapes all night. I was glad to get uptown and get my money back from Sears Store. They were very nice about it as they didn't have any with beige background and soft rose shades. I found a very pretty pair, in Alpert's Yardstick Store, and only \$10.30 a pair with the tax. They are beige, with soft shades of rose in fruit with green leaves. I went in Gorton's Children's Shop and bought Kathy's Christmas gift, two pair of corduroy play togs, one in red and one in blue, pinafore style. I hope they'll fit my little Kathy okay. I met a very nice lady on the bus; we visited all the way home. She was about my age. We had a wonderful time talking about our grandchildren, he he! I'm happy to report that we are very happy with the drapes we have in our dinette now. The third try was just what we were looking for, we're satisfied at long last.



Finding just the right drapes took three tries. The fabric needed to harmonize with the new carpets and paint for their 250 South Vinedo home.

December 11, Saturday

Lou phoned Bevan Jones this morning and asked him to come over and help him install a light over our kitchen sink. Dolores and Ronnie drove over to bring Bevan. Dody came in to see our new rugs; she said they are beautiful. Bevan went up in the attic to look the situation over, and then he and Lou went up on the avenue to buy the material for the job. I washed the bedroom curtains while they did the electric light job. It didn't take long with Bevan and Lou on the job, and oh, how I'm going to enjoy that nice light over the sink! I will not have to work in my own light now. They put a nice looking fixture up. Bevan is surely a dear to come over and do this for us. We had a fight with him, to make him take a little change for gasoline, \$2.00. He's a sweet fellow. We do have nice young folks in the family for sure. This helpful light cost only about \$7.80. I intended to iron the curtains, but Donna phoned to say she could go to town shopping if I wanted to go, and I did. Rex took Mary, Johnny, Harry Howard, and his children to Palmdale for a ride in the station wagon. Joan and her friend

Chuck brought Donna and Kathy here. Chuck helped Joan paint her bedroom furniture this morning. Joan and Chuck went to town from here. Grampa took care of Kathy; she played with the curtain rings and the plastic toys while he painted in the hall. Lou gave Donna \$25.00 to help with her Christmas shopping. We went to town in our car. We parked the car in Nash's lot, and did most of our shopping in Nash's Store; pajamas and slippers for Janet and Joan, white blouses for Janet, Joan, and Mary. They each had little pleated silk scarfs that Donna bought, tied at the neck before gift-wrapping. I bought Donna a blue rayon dress; it looked real nice on her, only \$10.00. I gave her the other \$5.00 to use for her Christmas. I bought some rope beads for Janet and Joan and two white dress shirts and a tie for Rex. We had a wonderful time trying to carry all the gift wrapped packages, also some typing paper that Donna got from the stationery store across the street. She got a ream or two and it was very heavy. She was glad to get it to her car. We went to Penny's and parked the car. I bought a pair of socks there; we went to Grants toy department. Donna bought table, chairs, crib, doll, dishes, and games. She brought the games home but the furniture she paid down on and will get it next week. I bought a basketball for Johnny. We found company at home when we arrived here. Gordon and Ruby Hodges and Lutie Solem. Lou told them he had eaten, so they would stay, they ate dinner at the Crown Cafeteria. Donna fixed soup and toast for Kathy and me. She phoned Rex and he came for her. I believe Joan was out with Peter Brown tonight. We enjoyed our company; they stayed until 11 p.m. I recited some of my poems for them by request. Lou ate dinner at 11:05 p.m. he he! Joan broke her bracelet at Brown's home a few days ago, Peter fixed it and returned it to her, nice boy, eh?

December 12, Sunday

Hilda Botting phoned to say she couldn't go to Sunday School this morning. She wanted me to pass the programs out for her. We picked up Mary Hill at her trailer court. I had a slight heart spell while giving out the programs at the chapel door, but said nothing to anyone. I was glad to sit down as my legs were shaking, darn it. Silvia Fisher helped me with the programs; she is a cute little red head about 13 years old. We had a lovely Sunday School as always. After dinner, Lou took me out to Monrovia. Joan was in a Christmas musical pageant, at the Monrovia Duarte High School at 2:30 p.m. Lou stayed at Donna's to enjoy a nap. I went with Donna, Mary, and Joan to the school. It was titled, "Gloria," and it was really lovely, so glad I went. We came home after the play, as Beverly was bringing her mother, Irene, David, Gilbert, and baby Jimmy here, from Dolores's home, to see our new rugs. They took Christmas gifts to Dody's home. They were going out to see Donna and the new home, but Donna had to take Mary and Johnny to an appointment with their accordion teacher at 4 p.m. After that the bishop was coming to the house to interview Mary for her graduation from Primary tonight in church. I'd like to have been present when Mary graduated tonight. She'll go to Mutual now; bless her heart. Lou and I went to church tonight, we had a very fine meeting. Rolane Rossiter, George Richards, and Benny Taylor gave the short

inspirational talks and they were all good. Alvin and Leda Duncombe and their two children, Joan and Alvin Paul, all spoke to us; they are a lovely family. The young Major boy (the one that had polio), was graduated from Primary. I think his name is Kenneth. The bishop talked to him nicely, too. After church tonight, Lou and I went over to see Betty Ramish. She was very weak had just had another heart attack. She had one while we were there; it was dreadful. Bishop Summerhays and Lou administered to her.

December 13, Monday

I had a large washing, cause I did not do any last week. It was a lovely day, everything dried beautifully. What do you know! Sister Annie didn't wash this morning. I talked to her on the phone and she said her old washer broke down last week, leaked all over the place. Beverly is buying Annie a new General Electric automatic washer for Christmas. It wasn't to be delivered, until few days before Christmas, but this revolting situation has changed the plans. He he! The new washer was delivered this afternoon, and Annie used it. She had to call the man back to adjust something, because of her water softener, the suds water flooded over on the new linoleum, on the back porch. I'm happy to record that everything is under control and Annie is delighted with her new GE washer. Grama Elvie is delighted with the new light over her kitchen sink, now the dishes will be washed nice and clean, thanks to Bevan and his Uncle Lou. Bonna Gordon phoned tonight to tell me that Melba Kunz would call for me. I phoned to see how Betty Ramish was feeling this morning. Mable Dunn was with her today. She is better, but very weak. Lou phoned Ramish's from the shop also, ah me!

December 14, Tuesday

Bonna Gordon had to go to church early to help prepare for the Relief Society luncheon, which our board served us today. We had a nice program and Faye Timothy's Literature lesson on the poets, Dante Gabriel and Christina Rossetti. Faye's lessons are always delightful. Melba Kunz came for me and she had a big box of her glass serving trays and cups in the car. We picked Marie Doezie and Bessie, the babysitter up. We had two beautiful musical numbers on the program. Sr. Peacock sang a solo; her daughter accompanied her on the piano. Louise Anderson played a lovely piano solo. After

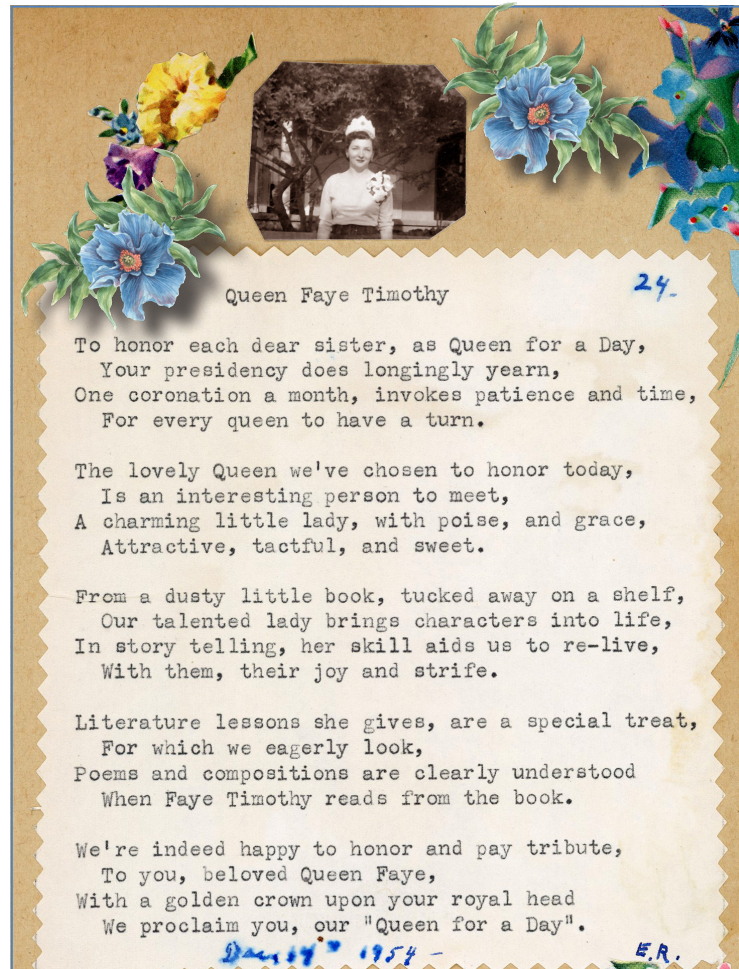
the program, we sang Christmas carols, while our Relief Society board put the finishing touches on our very delicious luncheon. Marva DeHaan's Christmas decorations were just beautiful with Santa, his sleigh, and reindeer in ceramics that she had made herself. She had pine cones and colored balls and green branches from Christmas trees. There is a lot of talent on our board, eh? Sr. Thelma Nebeker, our new stake Relief Society president, was in attendance. She gave a short talk. Our coronation was as usual, just before eating,

in the big banquet hall. I read the queen's tribute, per usual. We crowned the lovely Faye Timothy, she was surprised indeed; she looked lovely. Donna phoned this morning to tell me she couldn't come to our party. Clarice Tanner had phoned her and gave her a special invitation, but she was swamped with work, getting typed copies ready for her Relief Society leadership meeting on Friday and a lot of other pressing jobs to do as always for our Donna, bless her heart. Nora Williamson was sick with a sore throat, and couldn't be with us this morning. I was sorry about that. We had planned to do our visiting teaching this afternoon. I was glad for the time to get Warnie Mueller's letter answered, the poor boy will think I've forgotten him. I also sent a little letter to Janet and a dollar bill for her to buy a sandwich with, on her way

home Saturday from BYU in Provo. God bless our young college students on their trips home. No more Relief Society meetings until next year, January 4, 1955.

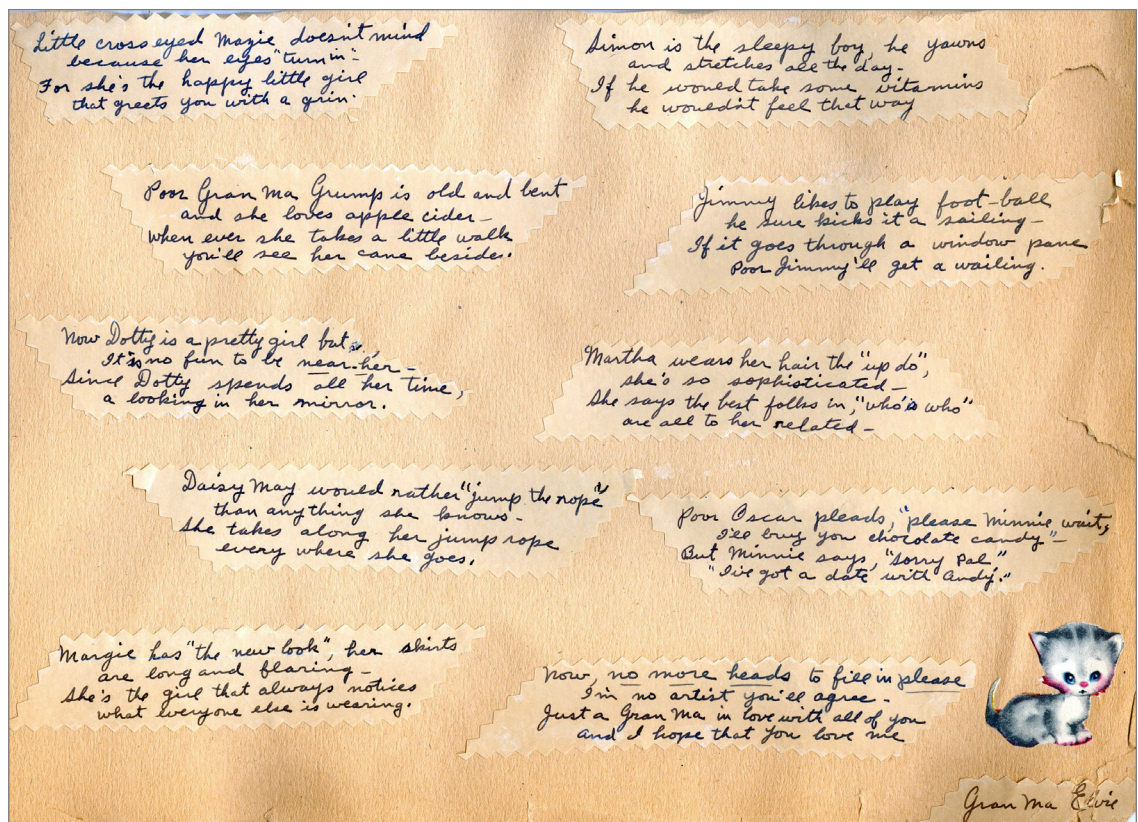
December 15, Wednesday

I phoned Donna this morning to tell her that Beverly brought her Christmas cards to the shop yesterday and Daddy brought them home last night. Aunt Annie ordered them for Donna, two boxes with forty in a box. They had the names engraved on and are nice. Donna was hurrying to get away to Relief Society. Johnny is out of school today; he has a bad cough. Donna put a mustard plaster on him last night. I filled my pen with red ink to address Christmas cards, and now you know why this is red, eh? 'Tis appropriate, anyway at this season; most of us find ourselves "in the red" anyhow, about now. Lou located some old Venetian blinds at the shop. He thought they might fit Joan's bedroom windows. We took the blinds and Donna Christmas cards out to Monrovia after dinner this evening. The blinds didn't fit perfect, but the drapes Joan





is making will cover up the short slats on the sides. Joan's furniture looks nice painted a brown shade. The material she selected for her drapes has shades of brown in it. Mary was in a Christmas program tonight. I was surely glad I went to Monrovia tonight, so I could go with Donna and Mary to the Clifton Junior High School and see that lovely program. The Boy's Glee Club sang three numbers and the Girl's Glee club sang four numbers. Both choruses sang wonderfully well. I was amazed and they looked lovely in white robes, a blue light on them. The tableaux were so beautiful, all white, too. Mary sang with the Girl's Glee Club, they had a chorus of mixed voices, also. Lou stayed at Rex's to watch the Blue Ribbon Bouts and missed a wonderful musical like we saw to watch a couple of men fight! I can't understand!! Lou met me at the school after the program, but we had to go back to Donna's to get Mary's green plaid dress that I'm



going to mend for her. Joan gave me a picture of herself and one of Kathy to put in my scrapbook. I'm going to make a carbon copy of some little pictures I drew for Joan when she was small. I composed a poem to go with the drawings. It is about worn out now. I'll try to restore it for her. Mary and Johnny have had to stop their accordion lessons cause Donna can't afford the new accordions now. I'm sorry because they were doing so well.

December 16, Thursday

Lou went to work early this morning to get his hair cut before work. He phoned me at 9 a.m. and said Lillian was at the bus station in Pasadena. He sent Beverly over for her. Lillian left her bags here and went back to the shop with Beverly so she could visit with Lou and Gordon awhile. I addressed Christmas cards, made a Jello fruit salad and a brown gravy stew. Lou said he'd take us out to dinner tonight, but the stew looked so good he decided to eat home. Lillian came home on the bus, she was dreadfully tired after the walk from the bus and the long wait for it. She went to bed and slept three hours. After dinner we took Lillian to Monrovia to see Donna and family, then to see Pearl and Pawnee. Donna had a meeting at the church tonight. We went to Gordon and Ruby's house from Pearl's place, and spent the evening with Ruby and Gordon. They had invited us over when they knew Lillian was here. Joan went to a concert with Peter Brown and his mother and grandmother tonight. It was in the Philharmonic Auditorium I believe. Johnny has a cold; he was home from school again today. Ruby served us some delicious Van de Kamp's ice cream and cookies. We had a very nice evening with them. Lutie was in Glendora taking care of Betty's kiddies. She talked to Lillian on the phone at Pearl's place. Lillian told Donna, Rex, and us about Shirley's wedding. I do wish her happiness. She was married in a pretty faille silk suit. Ruby gave Lillian a dish of very lovely pink and white camellias. She had it in the dish Lou and I gave her for a housewarming. Lillian is going to take them to Phoenix tomorrow! Our evening paper tells of the awful fire, which destroyed the lovely, one year old, LDS chapel in Baldwin Park. It was Bishop Fred Pack and Bishop Jack West's chapel.

December 17, Friday

Lou had some dreadful leg cramps soon after going to bed last night. I slept with him, and gave Lillian my bed. I got up early, because of the darned fidgets in my legs. I didn't want to disturb Louis, so I got out and dressed in the bathroom, combed my hair and addressed Christmas cards until time for Louis to get up. I cooked a nice breakfast for Lou and Lillian. He took her to the bus about 8 a.m. She had a box of lovely rose and white variegated camellias that she brought from Ruby's place last night. I wonder how they'll hold up on the long hot drive to Phoenix today. We put them on a wet piece of toweling, in a plastic cover and kept them in my icebox last night. I addressed Christmas cards all morning. Nora Williamson came for me at 2:15 p.m. We did our Relief Society visiting and found most of our ladies at home, busy with Yule Tide preparations. Nora gave the message in all but one home, so I enjoyed my visit a lot better, ha ha! I usually give the message. This evening Rex brought Donna, Mary, Johnny, and Kathy here. Lou took Rex, Johnny, and Kathy to the shop to get some wood for their fireplace. He also gave Rex an old Venetian blind they can use in their front bedroom window. Rex put up the blind when he got home, something

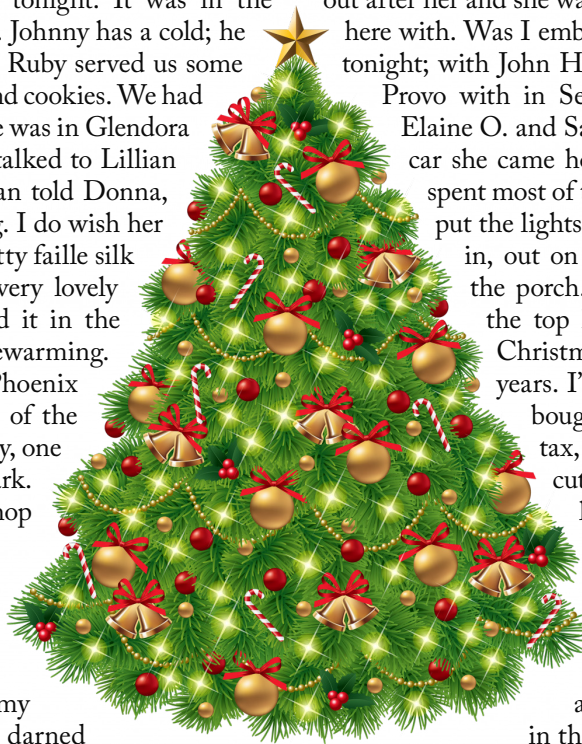
new for him, eh? Lou has always installed the blinds for them. Tonight Joan went with Peter Brown, to his home, to a Christmas party. Peter asked Joan to be hostess at his party, she did. I hope the young folks had a lovely time. Joan is wearing Chuck's [*Chuck Debias*] signet ring on her silver chain. What does that mean, Joan? I'll be happy when Janet arrives safe and sound. I understand she is leaving Provo at four o'clock in the morning with John Hunter and the same kids she went to Provo with last September. A burglar was blamed for the blaze that destroyed the lovely LDS chapel yesterday. How awful can people get?

December 18, Saturday

Johnny phoned this morning and in an excited voice he said, "Grama, she's here," meaning Janet had arrived. It seems that Janet had just driven up. I thought she was in the house and had been there a while, so I asked to speak to her. He flew out after her and she was talking to the young folks she came here with. Was I embarrassed? Oh me! Janet was expected tonight; with John Hunter and the same kids she went to Provo with in September. But she came home with Elaine O. and Sandra R. in Drew Day's car; the same car she came home for Thanksgiving in. Lou and I spent most of this day decorating for Christmas. He put the lights and Christmas wreath with the light in, out on our front porch, a sort of frame for the porch. It is prettier this year than around the top like last year. I decided I wanted a Christmas tree; we haven't had one for several years. I'd given all the decorations away. We bought a tiny silver tip tree for \$1.48 with tax, naturally green. We picked up some cut branches at the tree lot; bought tree lights, balls, tinsel icicles and a pretty top. I made some tiny wrapped packages to wire on the branches like gifts. It is darling, we think, and the house smells so Christmas like with the branches and pine cones around the Yule log and little chapel in the pines. My precious Lou fixed lunch for us, and this evening he went to Bob's place and got us each a Big Bob hamburger sandwich, some French fries and some yummy doughnuts. I was truly tired tonight. I got into bed early. We are anticipating a wonderful day tomorrow, with our beloved friends and family, the Marshes, at John and Florence's. We are told that Bishop Fred Pack and Bishop Jack West are already busy with their ward people, building a new LDS Chapel. We bought a pretty moss green Cannon towel and washcloth to take to Florence and John tomorrow.

December 19, Sunday

It is another beautiful day, clear and sunny. I hope it stays nice while our girls and boys are home for Christmas from BYU College in Provo, Utah. Clarice Tanner phoned me this morning to tell us that Elder Hugh B. Brown was going to speak over the radio, "Church of the Air" from Salt Lake City, Utah. The Tabernacle Choir furnished the beautiful music. I tuned in; it was lovely. I'm so thankful to Clarice



for phoning us. She is such a thoughtful dear. Hilda B. phoned to say she had a ride to Sunday School. Mary Hill was ill from eating potato salad from the market last night, so Lou went to Sunday School alone as I felt the need to take it rather easy this morning. I took my bath, got dressed to go to Marshes and addressed some Christmas cards. I also mended Mary's green wool dress. It was torn in the sleeve. Lou cut some of our lovely red [*pyracantha*] berries to take to the Marshes; we also took our Christmas gift; green towel and washcloth to Florence and John. In return, we received our gift, the traditional, delicious fig pudding. The Marsh family was all there, when we arrived at Hancock Street. Donna and Johnny were in front, looking for us. The dinner was wonderful as always. Baked ham, and a beef roast and everything, with John's delicious homemade ice cream. Florence Oates brought two lovely Van de Kamp's cakes; she was too swamped with other plans to make the cakes. We are a busy people at the Yule Tide season for sure, eh? John and Florence invited us to go to church with them and come back to eat after, bless their generous hearts. But we had promised Hilda B. we would come back to our own ward to hear the choir present, "The Christ Child" by C.B. Hawley. It was beautifully done. Don Rowberry and his choir can be proud of this job. It was grand. The soloists were all good, Edna Neighbor, soprano, Erma Lou Gordon, alto, Herta Peacock, soprano, Loraine Major, soprano, Ronald Bottema, baritone, and Jeffries Brinton, tenor. Donna and family, all but Janet came to our ward tonight. Janet has a cold and she was tired from driving all night. It is grand having Janet home with us, and the other BYU College students here for Christmas vacation. I know Vandergrifts are happy to have Ann, too.

December 20, Monday

Oh such beautiful clear days; a few more and we'll forget we ever had that dreadful smog here in our lovely southland, in California. I did my washing and put up the Christmas card tree. We have so many lovely cards this year as always. I thought I was through addressing cards, but every time the mailman comes someone new has remembered us. I had to buy another box of cards today and some stamps. I love the lovely yuletide greetings from dear friends, old and new. Donna phoned for addresses; she said she was going uptown so would come by for me. We parked in back of Penny's Store. I bought a white shirt with French cuffs with little links in, for Johnny and a bow tie and some socks. I have a basketball for his fun. I got three pair of socks for Kathy to go with her little corduroy toys. I bought a white dress shirt for Lou in Hertel's Department Store. Donna bought a white slip for Mary in Penny's, and a jewel box in Kress Store for Mary. She went to the Broadway Store to get the things she had in layaway for Janet and Joan, while I went to Hertel's. Janet's friend Steve

(I've forgotten his last name) has called to see her twice since she got home. He goes to college in Montana. I addressed nine more cards this evening, (and I thought I was all through with that job)! Donna liked our little tree; she said the house looked very pretty, nice eh? My sweet little neighbor Mrs. Lowe came over to see our Christmas decorations. She thought them nice, too. Her two little grandsons are visiting with her today, while their parents go Christmas shopping. It is nice to hear children at play outside. This is such a quiet neighborhood most of the time.

December 21, Tuesday

Oh 1954, you'll soon be a thing of the past, but I am ever so thankful for you, you have been kind to me and mine. I hope that 1955 will be as kind. I wrapped Christmas gifts this morning, instead of ironing. It was more fun than ironing. Lou wanted me to meet him uptown after work, to buy a gift from him to me. I took his white dress shirt back, to get the one with the French cuffs; he likes them best and I aim to please. We do our exchanging before Christmas, no disappointments that a way, eh? Ha ha! I looked at dresses in the Broadway Store, but didn't see anything I liked well enough to try on in my size 16½. I can always see the dress I'd love in a size 12, ha ha! I looked in Weber's (half size dress shop) and found several my size that I liked. I didn't try any on, as it was time to meet Lou, my beloved husband. We went back to Weber's and he bought a nice two-piece dress for me, navy blue with a little white figure in it. I like it very much. It was \$12.95. We left my wristwatch in the Pasadena Jewelers to be cleaned, \$3.25. I can't have it for two weeks, they're rushed with Christmas business and he says he is doing the job half-price because we bought it there a year ago. Do you believe him diary, eh? \$6.50 to clean a watch works? Maybe so? I know I'll miss my watch like everything anyway. We took Lou's shirt back to Hertel's Store, and exchanged it for one with French cuffs. We bought another one, so he'll have two new dress shirts he can wear his pretty cufflinks with. Lou bought me a pair of shoes in Hertel's, very nice black ones, for \$11.33 with tax. I'm doing all right for Christmas, eh? We bought suspenders and two ties for Lou. I bought some Old Spice Cologne and four nice white handkerchiefs for Lou, while he went to get our car. He had to park it a way over on Oakland Street. I also bought a bag of chocolate bridge

mix for us to enjoy on our way home. Oh, I almost forget one of the best experiences this evening; we ate our dinner in Albert Sheet's confectionery place. We had a grilled cheese sandwich and some pie. We ate after buying the dress. We needed fortifying for our shopping tour. Isn't Christmas fun, eh? (Or is it?) Well, I love to go shopping with my darling Lou at Christmas time; he is a generous soul! Joan had her club social at her home tonight. Peter Brown took Janet to a party somewhere. He asked



Steve Schirm has been calling on Janet Marsh over Christmas break 1954.

Joan, but she couldn't go, nice she has a sister, eh? The Helm's bakery man brought our five pound fruit cake this morning, \$6.50. My Lou had to cut it tonight and he enjoyed it!

December 22, Wednesday

John and Florence Marsh intend to spend Christmas in Oakland, with daughter Ruth and her family. I phoned her this morning to ask her to please talk to her son-in-law, Dr. Deal, about the dreadful leg cramps that Lou suffers with, if he could suggest something to do, to relieve him. I always feel so helpless when he is in agony with the dreadful "Charlie horse" cramps. Florence said she'd talk to Dick, she also phoned her sister-in-law, Alice Marsh, because Rufus Marsh used to have the same trouble and he was relieved permanently a few years ago. Alice Marsh phoned me later, said she'd send one or two tablets of the two-grain quinine that Rufus used to get his relief. We can't buy them without a doctor's prescription, so Florence will ask Dick to prescribe for us. Friends are wonderful, eh? Mrs. Mueller phoned this morning, she said Warnie is coming home from Camp Ord for Christmas. He'll have five days furlough. She wanted Janet's phone number; she said she was going to invite Janet to go with her to meet the airplane. She said that Janet and Joan called to see her yesterday. I learned later, from Donna, that Janet had something else planned. Mrs. Mueller invited her to go with the family to the Country Club party on Thursday night but she had other plans. Warnie arrives at 6 p.m. on Thursday. I surely hope he will have a happy five days at home, bless his heart. I know for sure that our little Janet isn't interested in him now. The old friend, Steve, has taken Warnie's place I guess? I was just finishing my ironing when Donna, Johnny, Mary, and Kathy came. They were on their way to pick up the fourteen pound turkey that Rex won. They wanted me to ride to the poultry farm on Lincoln Avenue with them. I did. We got the bird. Donna had some coupons for free gasoline; Rex gave them to her to fill up the station wagon. Nice, eh? We stopped at our little 15¢ Store and Shopping Bag Market; I needed a few more gift tags. I bought a bottle of Old Spice after-shave lotion, in the drug department to wrap up for Warnie M. I hope he will call to see us. I received a very nice letter from Warnie yesterday, he mentioned it was just a year ago this Christmas Eve, that he and Janet became engaged. He surely would like to take her out on this Christmas Eve, but I feel sure it will not be so.

December 23, Thursday

I vacuumed the rooms, which took me all day. Ethel Newbold phoned this evening from her son Harold's home, in Los Angeles. She came here Tuesday, from Salt Lake City, Utah, to spend Christmas with Harold and family. Lou cut some of our red berries this afternoon when he came from work. They

are extra lovely this year. I wanted to take some to Lorene and Annie this evening. My little Janet has been home almost a week, and she hasn't been over to our house yet, but I was with her on Thanksgiving Day at Oateses'; I do miss my nice telephone chats with Donna everyday. We can't afford that many toll calls now that she lives in Monrovia. It costs to talk with her, so I can't learn what the children are doing for the diary record like I used to do. We have so many lovely Christmas cards, I'm through addressing cards, but will use up the red ink in my pen on diary writing. Gordon gave Lou and Bill S. Christmas cards with \$10.00 a piece in, he gave Beverly \$5.00 in her card. Beverly got off at noon today, she had to go to her Cannon Electric job earlier this afternoon at 2 p.m. Lou, Bill, and Beverly gave Gordon two cartons of Philip Morris Cigarettes for Christmas. After dinner this evening, Lou took my red berries and me to Highland Park. We stopped in Lorene's first but she wasn't home from work. Miriam says she works until 9 p.m. I left some berries on her front porch. I was amazed at how far along the little duplex apartment is that Ray is building is. It has progressed a lot. The men put the first coat of stucco on the place today. They'll be occupied before long, by the looks of things. They are very nice. We had a nice visit with Annie and Bill. We took them some berries and a little gift to put under the tree for Dale and Beverly; socks for Dale, stationery for Bev. Br. and Sr. Silva came for LDS



Bill, Beverly, and Lou gave two cartons of Philip Morris Cigarettes to Gordon for Christmas. This was long before the connection between cancer and cigarettes was known. The bullet points in the ad are as follows:

- *Clean fresh taste after smoking.
- *Full enjoyment of food.
- *Freedom from cigarette cough.
- *Mouth and throat comfort.
- *All day smoking enjoyment.

Almost seems like the company knew smoking caused problems and they were falsely advertising the problems away.

garments while we were there. It was nice seeing them. Dale was at a picture show with his buddies. Beverly was working. The Andersen's tree is beautiful as always. Warnie Mueller came to our house just as we were about to leave for Highland Park. I'm surely glad we didn't miss seeing him. He arrived by airplane, from Camp Ord at 6 p.m. He has a dreadful cold, he says all of the boys at Camp Ord have colds, but they have to keep on drilling just the same. Life is surely rough on the poor boys at Camp Ord. Warnie was going out to call on the Marshes after he left here. He has five days furlough. I saw Dale's picture for the college yearbook, at Annie's. It is very good. Janet went out with Steve S. tonight, he came after Warnie left, which was fine. I don't like Warnie hurt anymore if possible.

December 24, Friday

Lou worked just a half day today. He phoned me to meet him at Boy's Market at noon. We did our shopping there; he bought a lovely, big leg of lamb for our dinner on Sunday. I've invited Donna and family to come to dinner Sunday. Lou bought me a bottle of Breck Shampoo and Breck Cream Rinse, a box of Lady Esther face powder and a Max Factor rouge to add to the other lovely gifts he is giving me for Christmas (my pretty dress and shoes). Lou fried us each a hamburger sandwich for lunch while I was putting the vegetables and groceries away. After his nap, he cleaned the cabaña out nicely. I washed off

the furniture and he dried it. Our patio looks nice again for a change. The furniture surely gets dirty out doors. Donna had a busy day, cooking a turkey, pumpkin pies, making Jello salad, and getting a big dinner ready for all of us to enjoy at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Oates [Lorena Pearl Mahoney, *Ernie's mother*] phoned in response to the shower invitation she and Daisy [Ernie's sister] received from Donna today for Irene Oateses' shower next week. Donna put my phone number on the invitations to save the folks in Los Angeles a toll call. Mrs. Oates says they'll send a gift but don't think they'll be able to come to the shower. Daisy and Sr. Oates are spending Christmas with Ernest and Florence and family as usual. John and Florence Marsh are up in Oakland, California, with Ruth Deal and family. Rex got home from work at 2 p.m. He bought cream and ice and made some delicious ice cream for our dinner. The fragrant aroma in Donna's house was tantalizing. The turkey, a beautiful golden brown, was the center of attraction. We were all underfoot in the kitchen, "Ohing and Ahing," I recall several hands reach out for a tiny sample when the bird was lifted from the roaster to the beautiful new china platter. Donna used her lovely new 12-piece china dinner set, for the very first time today. It looked so pretty on the table. The dinner was delicious; turkey dressing was extra good; one of the best Christmas dinners I ever ate. Grampa Lou offered to wash all the dishes, but that brand new china must have loving care so I washed dishes, (I insisted). Donna took care of the food, the girls dried dishes, and we got them all put away in the top cupboard, not even one chip off, ha ha! We opened our gifts, which was a thrill as always. We had a wonderful lot of nice gifts from the Marshes to us and us to the Marshes, also Grandma and Pa Marsh's gifts to them. Joan had two callers; Peter Brown came first, he gave her a silver bracelet with her name on the front of the silver panel and his on the underside. Chuck DeBias came while Pete was there inside, he brought a very beautiful box of chocolates to the family with a large red satin rose on the top of the lid. Chuck talked to Joan outside for a minute. He wouldn't come in cause he saw Peter's car. It was truly a wonderful Christmas Eve for me with my precious children, all so happy and enjoying their gifts. Janet and Joan liked the rope beads and wool skirts we gave them; Mary was happy with her taffeta half-slip and white blouse we gave her and the pretty red felt skirt Grandma and Grandpa Marsh gave her. Johnny liked his basketball and shirts and tie and socks. Kathy was happy with her book and corduroy togs and socks. Rex

was pleased with his white shirts and ties. Donna liked her red house dress and rayon blue dress-up dress. Grandma and Grandpa Marsh gave the girls three pair of nylon hose and other gifts; blue jeans to Johnny, a darling pink taffeta dress to Kathy and a darling pink sweater with bead trim, a very pretty blouse to Donna and I believe LDS garments to Rex. Oh several other nice gifts too, all of them. Rex bought a very lovely rose shade coat for Donna and a pretty red coat for Joan. The things Santa Claus has for the family will be opened in the morning. It was a joyous Christmas Eve.

December 25, Saturday

It was cold and damp this morning. I cooked a nice breakfast for Lou. Andersens took Lorene with them to Van Nuys this morning early in time to see their little ones open up the Christmas gifts. Lorene to see Mary's children and Andersens to see Glen and Irene's kiddies. They said they'd call in Burbank on the way back home to see Sue and her family. Irene and Glen were coming to Highland Park to eat dinner with Annie and family this afternoon. Lou took me out to Donna's about 11 a.m. to see what Santa left them. Kathy was delighted with her new table and chairs, dishes, doll and cradle, and games. Johnny was happy with his carpenter set, games, and all, Mary, clothes

and games, the badminton set for fun for all, Johnny a bat and ball, the big girls clothes and pretty rhinestone bracelets, so many things I just can't mention all. But everyone was happy. Donna looked pretty in her new red house dress. We left about 1 p.m. Janet was dolling up for a date with Steve Schirm, Joan was pretty in her new red slip on sweater and red and white skirt. Her friend Chuck DeBias was there playing badminton. Johnny had to get up on the house for the birdie once or twice. He and Mary hit it too high. Lou and I enjoyed a nice turkey lunch and pumpkin pie, which Donna insisted we bring home with us last night. I wanted to

call on the folks in Burbank, but my husband hates to drive so far, his arm is bothering him some more. He enjoyed a nice nap while I wrote in the diary. This evening I talked Lou into going to Highland Park to the Park Theater to see Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart in "Sabrina." We went in the show about 5:25 p.m. and enjoyed the pictures very much; one in beautiful color with E. Flynn. Sabrina is a very cute story. Many of our friends and relatives think that Audrey Hepburn resembles Donna. Her eyes are like



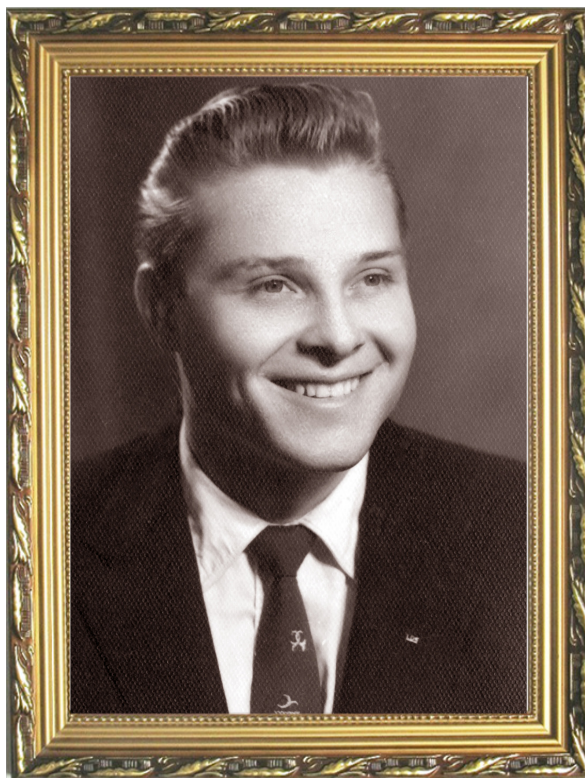
This is the china that Elvie mentions on December 24. Donna had her nephew Ernie Oates Jr. send it to her from Japan. He was service in the military and was able to get the full set and serving pieces for a very reasonable price. The china now belongs to her great granddaughter Julie Tibbets Greenman.



Donna's, same shape with the little slant to them. She is a darling actress. Annie and Beverly came in the theater and sat down in front about 7 p.m. I went down to say hello to them when we were leaving. Beverly phoned the Park Theater for me at 4 p.m. to find out when the picture started, so we wouldn't get in the middle of the picture. We had a bite of lunch after the show at home and enjoyed TV until 11 p.m. 'Twas a very happy Christmas Day.

December 26, Sunday

'Twas cold this day but nice and clear. I left the leg of lamb in a very low oven and went to Sunday School. We picked Sr. Mary Hill up at her trailer court. Hilda Botting phoned to say she was going with friends for a five-day visit so couldn't attend Sunday School this morning. She wanted me to pass the programs out for Sunday School in her place. I did. I looked for Warnie Mueller, cause he said he'd see me in Sunday School. I learned later, from Marshes, that Warnie was sick; his folks had the doctor come and give him a shot of penicillin yesterday. Warnie talked to Janet on the phone. We had a very nice Christmas program in Sunday School. No class work. Loraine Major sang a solo; Nell Ellsworth gave a lovely long reading, "The Birth of Christ," with the story of the innkeeper's wife. We had an organ solo by Lydia Smith. I invited Mary Hill to eat dinner with us, but she was expecting her daughters, Dolly and Molly (twins), to come this afternoon. Dolly is married and has two children. Molly was visiting Dolly over the Christmas vacation. Our family arrived about 1 p.m. from their Sunday School in Monrovia. I believe Mary gave a short talk in Sunday School. (It was either this week or last week?) Kathy was a beautiful doll in her pink taffeta dress and pink beaded sweater that Grandma Marsh gave her. (She made the dress.) Johnny looked handsome with his new white shirt, French cuffs with links and new tie. Mary pretty as a picture with her red felt skirt, with black girl and fountain trim and white blouse and neck scarf. Our big girls were lovely as always. Janet was in her cashmere turquoise sweater set, which was a Christmas gift from Steve Schirm, and the dark gray skirt we gave her. Joan had her gray skirt on, new red beads and black slip on sweater, and new red coat. Donna was pretty as always in her gray suit dress, her beautiful new rose coat. Rex was in his new shirt and tie. They are a beautiful family and Grama Elvie is proud of them. We enjoyed the dinner. Donna made phone calls about the bridal shower she is giving Irene Oates next Wednesday. The girls and I did the dishes. I wanted all of us to ride out to Burbank to see the folks out there but



Dale Andersen gave Elvie a photo of himself for Christmas. Maybe this is the one he gave her.

Donna had a rehearsal at church. She sang with a group in the Christmas program in their ward tonight. I'd like to have heard them, but I was concerned about Sue, she hasn't been well. Lou and I went to Burbank after our company left this evening. Beverly brought Annie, Lorene, and Viola Sorenson over. Ray Clayton, Miriam, and the girls came. We served them fruitcake and fruit punch. The two little girls looked darling, in their new dresses that Aunt Mary Keddington sent them. Everyone looked so pretty in new Christmas togs. Beverly brought us a box of See's Chocolates. Dale sent a photograph of himself; it is really good. I was delighted with it; bless his heart. He is a handsome lad. We arrived in Burbank about 6 p.m. and called to see Elaine and Ernie Vandergrift and family. They have remodeled their home; it is lovely. I'm so happy for them. Ernie has done a beautiful job of paperhanging, laying tile, and carpenter work. I was amazed. The new living room rug is beautiful, a blue green shade of viscous. Ann looked so pretty in an orchid shade Jersey blouse, gray skirt, and orchid rope beads. She was knitting socks for her boyfriend Dick Webster. He was expected to arrive from his home in Oregon tonight, to visit with the Vandergrifts for a week. They were going to pick him up at the bus station at 10 p.m. The family all looked well and happy. There are more lovely looking children in our family, eh? No foolin', they're all good looking. We found Sue in Bette's home taking care of the two little ones while Bishop and Bette were at church. Sue says she feels better. Both little boys have been ill; little Bradley was asleep, but little Rickey was on the couch with Sue. He looked pale and thin. I hope he will soon be his own little, normal, happy self again. Sue insisted on making a delicious ham and rye sandwich for Lou and me. We couldn't talk her out of it, but oh, it did taste good. We also had a good punch fruit drink and some extra good cookies. I'd love to call on all of the sweet nieces and nephews but just can't do it. Lou doesn't feel well enough to drive so far. His arms do ache a lot worse in this cold weather. It surely has turned cold today. I hope it will be a nice day for our sweet little LDS Rose Queen on New Year's Day.

December 27, Monday

Well, it's Monday and back to work for most of us. I put out a washing this morning. Donna took me uptown this afternoon; we parked in Nash's lot and rode in Nash's car to the store where Donna changed Johnny's socks for a larger size. She also bought favors and napkins and a book of games to use at the bridal shower she is giving for Irene Oates. It is next Wednesday night. She changed Johnny's house slippers in Hertel's Store before going to Nash's. All the Christmas cards and tree trimmings are on sale at half

price today, but who has money to spare now? Ha ha! Donna ordered some tiny rolls made up for the shower at Livingston's Bakery on our way home. She wanted to have the heels fixed on her shoes but we ran out of time as usual. We bought a pretty pink towel set, in Nash's Store, for Donna and me to give Irene, the large bath towel, the hand towel, and washcloth. We went over to the East Pasadena church before we left for town. Marva DeHaan and young son met us there. Donna bought the luncheon set that she embroidered for the bazaar for \$2.50. They had it priced at \$3.50 but in as much as it didn't sell at the bazaar, Marva let Donna have it a dollar cheaper. She bought it for her girls to give at the shower. Marva let Donna take two boxes of scrap material, to plan a game for the shower. My! What

a lot of fuss and bother she is going to! I'm getting too old to concern my poor head about such details anymore, I guess, eh? Janet stayed home with Kathy, Joan went to the picture show house in Monrovia to sit in the box office with a girlfriend, and learn how to sell tickets and make change. Joan hopes to take over the job as her friend is quitting soon. I believe it is the Lyric Theater. Johnny and Mary are up to Howard's home, in Sierra Madre Canyon. They stayed there last night. They went to a picture show tonight with the Howard children. My sweet Daddy Lou brought the clothes in from the lines this evening; he is a dear. I hope Janet thought of Donna's clothes on the lines? Otto, Violet, and Yvonne arrived at Dolores's tonight from Beryl.

December 28, Tuesday

We can relax a little now, I hope. Christmas is such a busy time. We have the New Year celebrations ahead of us now. I phoned Dolores this morning and that cute little Ronnie answered. He was thrilled over the "real" watch his grandpa and grandma brought for him. I talked to Violet; she said they arrived last night. The wind we had on Sunday and yesterday made driving a bit difficult. It was a cold wind, too. I'm glad they got here safe and sound. They came here in Wilford Fife's car. I did my ironing and had some mending to do on Lou's underwear, but I just wasn't in the mood for it. There is a fight on to control a forest fire in the mountains near the community of Devore Heights, ten miles northeast of San Bernardino. Violet, Otto, and Yvonne came that way, and could see the huge flames. The thick smoke made driving hazardous. I spent an hour getting all the pencils I could locate and the ones I've kept in a box for years for parties, all sharpened and cleaned up, ready for Donna's games at the shower for Irene Oates tomorrow night. Donna phoned this evening to check on pencils. They are ready my dear. She spent hours at Howard's home today. Mary H. decorated a large box with pink crepe paper and Bonny Howard's pretty pink parasol for Donna to use to put the shower gifts in. Joan went to work at the theater in Monrovia, selling tickets



Marilyn Smuin Rose Queen 1955, she was a member of the Rosemead Ward. Elvie saw the coronation on TV December 28.

this evening until 10 p.m. She was alone on her own tonight. I hope she got along real well. The money will help her if she can stay with the job. Lou and I enjoyed watching the coronation of the lovely Pasadena Rose Queen, Marilyn Smuin, an LDS girl of Rosemead Ward, she and her court of lovely girls. It was the first time the coronation of a Rose Queen has been televised. The coronation was held as usual in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. I was happy to sit at home in my easy chair and watch, not be in the huge crowd at the Civic. The little queen is sweet and lovely. Janet got a ticket yesterday while we were shopping; it was for driving 45 MPH in a 35 MPH zone. She didn't have her license with her. She was driving Chuck D.'s car. I had a visit with Mrs. Mueller yesterday morning on the phone. She said Warnie felt much better yesterday, so the doctor said it would be all right for

him to return to his station at Camp Ord. It was too bad his five-day furlough wasn't more pleasant, eh?

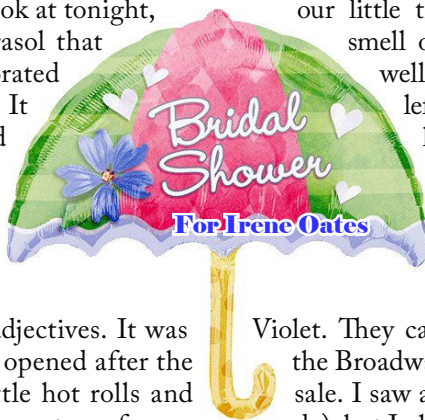
December 29, Wednesday

Dick Johnston phoned me this morning, he tried to get Donna's number but her line was busy. He said Beth was very sorry that she couldn't attend the shower tonight, their ward is having a progressive dinner and one of them is at Beth's house, he said. His daughter Diana is coming if Mary J. or Irene A. is going to drive in from Van Nuys. I phoned Donna, she knew about it because Aunt Sue had phoned her from Burbank. She, Elaine, and Carol Sue hope to come, and if Ann can arrange some entertainment for her boyfriend who is visiting then, she'll come, also. I talked to Joan on the phone, she was very happy over her new job at the theater. She said she took over the work last night, but the girl stood by to see that she did it all right. I thought she was all alone. Chuck DeBias brought her home at 10 p.m. Donna had a busy day preparing salads and etcetera for the shower tonight. I mailed Dale Andersen a birthday card with a dollar bill in it. I hope my sweet nephew has a happy birthday tomorrow. I recall his first few weeks on earth; he was such a darling baby. I enjoyed taking care of him. His poor mama just couldn't seem to get back to normal strength for several weeks after his birth. He will be 20 years old tomorrow. I talked to Annie on the phone; she said Otto, Violet, Yvonne, Dolores, and Bevan went to see the new LDS temple in Los Angeles today, then to the Farmer's Market for lunch. I think they called at the mission house to see cousin LaPriel Bunker and family. Annie has invited Otto and Violet to stay overnight New Year's Eve with them. Lou left our car in the Pontiac place this morning at 8 a.m. to have some work done on it. The oil has been leaking a lot lately. When he phoned me this afternoon, he was toying with the idea of turning our car in on a new 1955 Pontiac. The dealer made him an excellent offer for our car, \$1,300. I'll admit it was tempting to my darling

Lou, but not for me. I'm very happy with our own lovely blue Pontiac. Lou keeps it looking like new always. It is a 1951 model. Donna and her girls, Janet, Joan, and Mary came for me this evening at 7:10 p.m. We went to Oateses'. Alice and Ruf Marsh and daughter, Tim Neal and son Jim Marsh were already there. Mary Jorgensen brought Aunt Sue, Elaine, Carol Sue, and Diana J. in her car. Dolores brought Violet and Yvonne with her. The Joneses took care of Ronnie and Nadine. Bevan and Otto went to a show somewhere. My Lou stayed home and watched TV; it is fight night! Ray Cattani brought his mother and sister. Ray stayed upstairs and did his school work. The other men stayed in the den and watched TV. Donna had some very nice games, which we enjoyed. Miriam Clayton brought Lorene and her mother, Elizabeth Keddington Jensen. We had a lot of fun. Elaine Oates took flash light pictures of the bride to be and her cousins, her mother and Mrs. Cattani. Robin Marsh had on her beautiful turquoise knit dress that Grandma Marsh made for her. She looked lovely. All of our young girls were beautiful to look at tonight, (they always are). The large box and parasol that Mary Howard, Donna, and Janet decorated in pink crepe paper was surely beautiful. It held the gifts or most of them. Irene had a picture taken with the box and parasol and gifts, before she started to open the gifts. We played two cute pencil games, a scrap material game, and a food game. Donna had a love story typed of Irene and Ray's romance and we filled in the adjectives. It was a lot of fun to hear it read. The gifts were opened after the games. Donna's fluff cream salad and little hot rolls and hot chocolate and candy and nuts, in pretty nut cup favors, were enjoyed by all. Irene received a lot of lovely gifts. All of my sisters were at the shower.

December 30, Thursday

It is Dale Andersen's birthday; he is 20 years old. Annie says Dale has decided to go into the army in March. He is anxious to get his two years of service over with, (can't blame him). He has had about two years of the army reserve already, which will help. It was late when I got to bed last night, about 12 midnight. Lou was real quiet this morning so as not to disturb me. He ate his breakfast and lunch in town. He phoned this afternoon and said he went to the Mutual Savings to have the interest added to our account book. He also deposited a few dollars to bring our balance up to \$4,000. I believe we have almost enough to pay off our home, if only my darling doesn't get all fired up again for a new car. He has to battle with that desire every few weeks. Only yesterday the Pontiac dealer had him almost talked into turning our car in for a new Pontiac.



Irene Oates and Ray Cattani

Last Sunday he dreamed up the idea of buying a vacant lot, in Monrovia, back of where Donna lives. I dream of paying off our home. I added some more typed diary pages to the loose-leaf folders. Donna has typed almost a year and a half of my diaries, all of 1929 and half of 1930. I'm destroying the little old diary books as she gets them typed for me. I don't want to keep all the twenty-five books of all sizes and shapes, with my horrible scribbling in them, yet it is, in a way, a family record, which has proven helpful many times, for dates and events, and etcetera. Our Christmas tree looks a bit droopy about now, the balls seem to be getting heavier for some reason. Hold on little Christmas tree, another day or two is all, for your load of Yuletide cheer. I've truly enjoyed our little tree; I love the smell of pine trees as

well as the pretty ornaments. Only one more day left of 1954. It is a little sad, isn't it, he? This has been a very wonderful year, has been so kind to me and mine.

December 31, Friday

Dolores phoned this morning and invited me to go uptown with her and Violet. They came for me about 10:40 a.m. We went to the Broadway Store, where they were having a one-day sale. I saw a lot of things I would like to buy (I always do), but I always find my purse is positively lean, about this time every year. Well, I did buy a little navy blue

felt leaf hat for \$1.00. Violet bought one just like it. They are really cute, have some rhinestones in the leaves. Dolores bought a lovely brown wool skirt for \$12.95 and a very beautiful pink blouse in the Broadway Store; I believe her blouse was \$5.95 or more. I took the gals over to the little Normandy Millinery Club Store, near Broadway. Violet bought a darling black straw hat; she looked so sweet in it. No hat or purse in the store is over \$2.99, isn't that something? And the hats and bags look better to me than the \$8.00 ones across the street in Broadway. I bought a pretty white felt hat, I wanted gray, but they didn't have any gray hats that looked good on me. My Budget Club card is almost full now; my two hats, Donna's hat, her purse, and Violet's hat. I have six credits now; only need four more to get a new hat or purse for free. I treated Violet and Dolores to lunch in Albert Sheet's Store. Otto went

"Destroying the little old diary books"

We wish we could turn back the years long enough to tell Grama please do not destroy the diaries. Several years later Janet suggested to save the books, so we have Janet to thank for the saved books from 1946 through 1979.

out to lunch today with Jack Jones. I guess Yvonne was the elected babysitter today, her boyfriend Gordon, is here from Utah. She and Gordon, Dody and Bevan are going out to the stake New Year's ball tonight in our new stake center. Janet is going out with Steve Schirm to a party at his home. Joan is staying home with the family. Peter and Chuck both wanted to date her, but she is staying home tonight. She had a date with Peter on Christmas night. We invited Violet and Otto out to dinner this evening. Later: Dody's lovely blouse didn't look good on her, she went back to the store and changed it. Yvonne went with her. They brought back a very lovely blouse, a very different style; both girls look pretty in it. Otto went to town with them to have his shoes shined. We picked Violet and Otto up about 5:40 p.m. and took them to Fisher's nice restaurant, where we all enjoyed a lovely dinner. We took them out to Monrovia after eating to see Donna and her family. Their house looked so cheerful, with a huge log burning in the fireplace. Rex brought home a load of cow manure to enrich his backyard for the garden he is going to plant. He got it for the hauling away, from the dairy where he buys his milk. I was delighted to see Joan happy, because she was going out to a show with Chuck D. with the promise to be home

by 12:30 midnight. I hope they make it in the New Year's traffic! Janet was ready and waiting for Steve S. to come. We met Chuck. Donna told Joan and Chuck they could come home at midnight and eat a snack with the family. Joan said "Oh Boy," but how she said it, ha ha! It amused us all. I guess the invitation wasn't too thrilling, eh? That's our Joanie. Br. Claron Oakley came this late afternoon to do his ward teaching, just made it this month, eh? We came home to get my fruit salad and Ritz crackers and creamed cheese and then went to Highland Park to spend the New Year's Eve with Annie, Bill, and Beverly, when she came home from work about 9 p.m. We arranged our chairs in a row to watch television, listening to Lawrence Welk and Spade Coolie's orchestra, also a Western movie. At midnight we all enjoyed a delicious lunch and all kissed each other as the old year departed and the new year entered in. Annie served some baked ham and it was oh, so good. Her pickled figs are wonderful, too. She had rye and French bread and the best pumpkin pie with whipped cream. Mmmmmm. Dale took a little girl from Idaho to the stake dance. Bill Johnson is going to school in Idaho and he wrote to Dale about this little girl; she is visiting in California for Christmas. "Happy New Year!"

HAPPY New Year



Joan in 1954.



Mary in 1954.

