

Elvie Renshaw's 1975 Diary



Elder Mark Shattuck September 1975 in the Salt Lake Airport. On the way to his mission in Argentina.

Cast of Characters in Elvie's 1975 Diary

Elvie Renshaw: married to **Louis Renshaw** who died in 1973, **Donna Renshaw:** their daughter.

Rex Marsh married to Donna Renshaw Marsh and children, **Janet Eileen, Elvie Joan, Mary Elaine, John Louis,** and **Donna Kathleen.** Janet married to **David Shattuck** children **Mark, Rick, Douglas** and **Donna.** Joan married to **Miller Gardner,** children **Lorri Annette** (who died in 1962), **Sherman, Janet, Marshall, Sanford, Emily** and **Paula.** Mary married to **Jonathan Tibbets,** children **Julie, Gregory, Joel,** and **Spencer.** John is married to **Ann Twitchell.**

Lorene: a sister who died in 1972, married to **Charles Clayton** who died in 1952; children, **Raymond** and **Mary.** Mary married **Vernon Jorgensen** with son **Lynn.** Raymond married to **Miriam Jensen.**

Sue: a sister who died in 1971; married to **Al Hoglund** who died in 1948. Their children are **Elaine, Bette,** and **Shirley.** **Ernie Vandergrift** married to Elaine Hoglund. **Ray Haddock** married to Bette Hoglund. Shirley married to **Ken Bird.**

Annie: a sister who died in 1973; married to **Bill Andersen** who died in 1969. Their children are **Beverly** who died in 1973, **Glen,** and **Dale.** Glen married to **Irene.** Dale married to **Annie.**

Owen James Bailey: a brother who died in 1969; married to **Lydia Hoglund** who is now married to **Gene Paul.** Owen and Lydia's children are **Mildred, Bobbie, Bill,** and **Jim.**

Violet: a sister living in Cedar City, Utah; married to **Otto Fife;** daughters **Dolores** and **Yvonne.** Dolores is married to **Bevan Jones** with son **Ronny** and daughter **Nadine** and son **Paul.** Yvonne married to **Don Woodlief** with children **Donna, Bruce,** and **Graydon.**

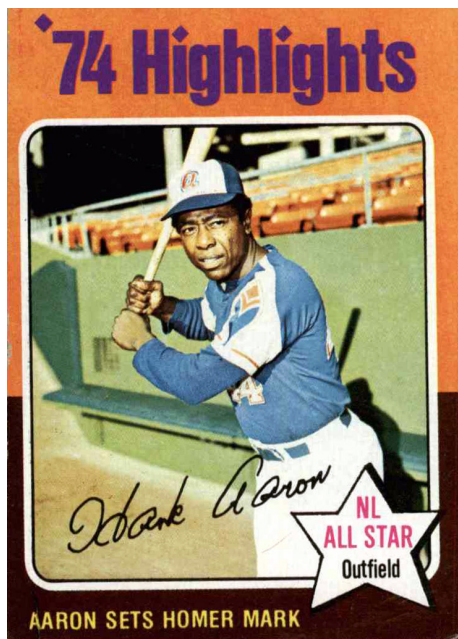
The **Marsh** family: parents **John** who died in 1967 and **Florence** who died in 1974, children **Lewis, Rex, Florence** and **Ruth.**

January 1, Wednesday

"Happy New Year"! 1975. This is my 47th Diary Book. I rested much better last night, the sore spot in my right lung has gone (with the old year, I hope.) I sat up to eat the waffle Donna made for me and I sat here alone to watch the beautiful Tournament of Rose Parade on television, coming from my beloved Pasadena, California. Hank Aaron was the Grand Marshal. I didn't get the Rose Queen's name, sorry about that. Bob Barker, Betty White, and Ted Knight did the narrating. It was a lovely day for the parade and the floats were all gorgeous. I'm sorry my family couldn't watch with me. Donna looked in once in a while, but the poor dears were all very busy trying to get this farm house finished. Donna and Kathy were putting up pretty wallpaper on two walls in Donna's bedroom. Jon T. was helping Rex get the finish coat of plaster on in the kitchen. I felt ill and weak after the parade, so I went to bed for a couple of hours. I'm thankful my men folks were too busy to listen to the Rose Bowl football game all day. Under normal conditions they would have. That is the one thing I dislike about New Years Day. (I'm an imp.) If they could take care of it in a couple of hours it might be okay, but all day? Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl, and etcetera. Of course, if I understood all the rough and tumble maneuvers of the game I presume I'd enjoy it, too. Jon measured off the sections of the baseboard for my little sitting room. After it is stained it can be put around the rug. My family has been so busy all day that they are really tired tonight. I feel weak and weary at the conclusion of this New Year's Day, too. P.S. Jon slept in a sleeping bag on the floor, in my sitting room.

January 2, Thursday

We have a real winter day; big snowflakes are falling. The ground is white, plus, the cars in the yard. The fireplace man is on the job. Jon measured off the baseboard for my bedroom. Donna is staining it. Rex and Kathy went to the store in Overbrook this morning. The falling snow is beautiful. If it keeps coming like this for very long we'll be snowed in on Marshes' Mound. Rex and Kathy stopped at the mailbox on the way home and they got stuck in the ditch. Rex had to walk home to get his tractor to pull them out of the snowy ditch. Kathy brought a lunch snack for me and herself to enjoy about 2:30 (creamed cheese on celery, cold roast beef on half a bun, and a cup of hot chocolate). It tasted good. I put my Christmas cards away and listed them first so I'll know who sent to me in 1974. (I did that yesterday afternoon.) Kathy is coming down with a cold; she says her throat hurts. I'm sorry about that, bless her heart. She has worked so darned hard around this place, painting and papering, and hanging curtains, and etc.



Hank Aaron was the Grand Marshal of the Rose Parade in 1975.



January 3, Friday

The sun is shining on the dazzling white snow this morning and it is beautiful. Kathy has a sore throat but she says she feels better than she did last night. Donna made waffles for her family. I wasn't feeling very well, so I didn't indulge in the goodies. I got up at nine; I'm amazed at how weak I feel. I just do not snap back to normal. I had a slight heart attack on Christmas morning; I'm very thankful the pain in my lungs and back has gone. Jon T. nailed the baseboard molding around my rugs. Kathy vacuumed the rugs and dusted the furniture and Donna brought my breakfast. I had orange juice, Cream of Wheat, raisin toast, and a cup of hot milk. Mary phoned from Omaha; the children have colds; they miss Jon and the VW bus. She had to sweep the three or four inches of snow off the side walks around their house. It is twice as much work because they have a corner lot. Jon is doing a wonderful job here, but they need him, too. Donna put a second coat of stain on the doors to my closets this morning. The fireplace man didn't work today; another delay for this farm house. I received a postcard from Violet and also my Social Security check came. Rex's cows broke out of the corn field fence, and a neighbor lady phoned to say she thought the three cows in front of her farm belonged to the Marshes. They did, so Rex and Donna had to get out in the snow and bring the cows back to the farm. Jon and Kathy went to Overbrook to get her car ready for the trip to Chicago in the morning. It needed a little adjustment; Jon took care of it. They also filled the gasoline tank. I had to go to bed for a couple of hours because of feeling so weak this afternoon. Jon hung the folding doors in the front closet in this little suite tonight. It was a tough job as the floor isn't perfectly level, but that man has the know how to get things done in spite of everything. He has surely been a big help!

January 4, Saturday

Kathy coughed so much last night I got up and insisted on her putting a little spot of Vicks Vapor Rub on her tongue. She protested, but I stuck to my guns; I even got some rubbed on her throat. We both got some sleep after that. Donna took my alarm clock so she could wake Kathy at 6 a.m. and get her on her way by 7 a.m. She was all packed and ready to go last night. I gave her some gum to take to the Gardner kiddies, and \$5.00 to help with her needs. She left for Chicago right about seven. I am going to miss her. She phoned from St. Joseph, Missouri, where she picked up her lady teacher friend. I'm glad she'll have company from there to Chicago. Jon cut down a tree for a log to make a mantelpiece for the fireplace in the big living room here. He hung the folding doors to the clothes closet in my bedroom. We'll sure miss him, too. He is leaving for home today. I got eight sticks of gum and a couple of dollars out to give Jon to take with him, but, I couldn't believe my own eyes when I saw him drive away from the farm about 1:40. Well, bless

his heart, he is anxious to get home before dark so Mary can have the car to do her marketing. Donna phoned Mary to let her know that Jon was on his way home. We received a nice, long letter from Joan, airmail. Enclosed were thank you notes from Sherm, Janet, and Marshall. Also, there were colored photos of Janet, Marshall, and Sandy, taken at school. They are adorable. She sent a set of them to me, too. Donna brought me a plate of lunch at 2:45 before she and Rex drove to Overbrook for gasoline, I believe. I didn't think I was hungry, but it sure tasted good (tuna sandwich, potato chips, fruit drink, date-nut bread, and frozen fruit salad). I ate all of it. ☺ ("The Whole Thing!") We were all relieved when Kathy phoned from Gardners' to let us know she was home safely, it was almost 9 p.m. P.S. Joan and Mo have been busy fixing things nice in their home, too. They have an electric train for the boys, and they have a baby puppy, too. It is a happy home. P.S. I got up to listen to the Lawrence Welk program this evening.

January 5, Sunday

We have a cloudy Sabbath Day. The sun did shine through a time or two this morning. Rex and Donna went to Ottawa to our Branch for priesthood and Sunday School and the fast day sacrament service. I'm not well enough to go; I surely feel weak, but I'm so thankful that severe hurt has gone from my chest or lungs. I gave myself a bath and put on my clean garments, but I was so darn weak I got back in bed for a while before I could get my hair combed and myself dressed.

It is very discouraging to be so weak! I would love to go to Sunday School and sacrament meeting, but I just can't make it. The snow is still on the ground, so it must be cold outside; it isn't melting very fast. I'm nice and warm in this dear, little suite. My family came home about 2:45. We ate in here from TV trays. The meat was slow cooked in her crockpot all morning. It was very tender. I ate a little of it, but I do not eat pork very often. Donna read 4 or 5 chapters from my book, (**Ah-one, Ah-two, the story of Lawrence Welk**). I surely enjoyed listening to her read it to me. She has read it all the way through herself. I went to bed for a couple of hours and then got up again and listened to TV with Rex. Donna went to her room to write some letters to her family. I hope to find enough energy to write to Violet soon; I received a postcard from her a few days ago. She isn't at all well, the poor dear.

January 6, Monday

We have a blue sky and sunshine this morning, but there is a lot of snow on the ground. It is melting some. The fireplace man is working today on

the one in the living room. He has finished the one in the basement. I haven't seen it, but Donna says it is beautiful. Rex and Donna drove to Lawrence, Kansas, this morning to have their automobile license renewed and changed from California to Kansas. Donna also took my Social Security check to deposit \$150 in my checking account. I gave her a list of things I need to help me (vitamins and etcetera). They went in the truck. They found a note in the mailbox saying they had a registered package in the post office. Rex went back to Overbrook to get it. The package was the bathroom cabinet that Joan had ordered for them. Rex assembled it this evening. It is a very nice-looking cabinet. Donna read a few more chapters from my Lawrence Welk book to me. I have felt better today; I was able to sit up longer. I hope to get back to my normal self soon.

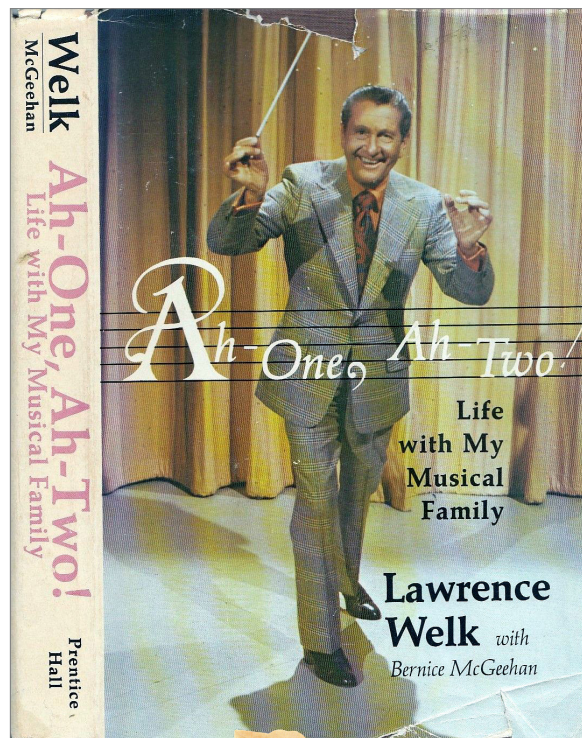
January 7, Tuesday

It's cloudy and looked as if we'd have some rain or snow today. I had a good night's rest. I got up about ten o'clock. Donna brought my breakfast to me, sliced banana, Rice Krispies, raisin toast, and hot milk. I'm much better, but weak. Rex is working with Mr. Palmer, the fireplace man, this morning. He is anxious to get it closed in to help keep the house warmer, plus keep down the high cost of wages for the job. Donna gave her new bathroom cabinet a second coat of stain. They have such a lot to do. I wrote to Violet today. I went to bed this afternoon for an hour until I felt better. I am very weak after being up for a few hours, so the bed rest is necessary. I got

up about six this evening., Donna brought a plate of dinner to me. It was some very tender chicken she had cooked in the crockpot. Mm good! I also had some broccoli and a fruit frozen salad. Rex and I ate from TV trays in my sitting room. He watched television until after the ten o'clock news. Donna kept busy working, staining woodwork etcetera. She looked so tired tonight. I wish she didn't feel she must do so much work. I made out my contribution slip to the Branch President, Richard D. North, tithing 24.44, fast offering, \$2.00, and budget, \$2.00 for a total of \$28.44. I'm weary, good night all. P.S. Jon T. says the fireplace man's name is Peiman, not Palmer as I have it written here and on the next page.

January 8, Wednesday

We have an overcast sky; it looks cold outside, but I'm warm in my nice, little suite. I went to look at the fireplace in Donna's big living room. It is almost finished; the rock work is anyway, and it is very pretty. Mr. Palmer and Rex are working on the wall in back of it. The mantel isn't built yet, or the hearth. I presume it will all be finished by tomorrow. Donna is so



anxious to get the mess of dirt and rocks cleaned up. She took my letters to the mailbox this morning; one to Violet, and my donations check to President North. I have some distress in my heart region this morning and that slows me down. I read from my Lawrence Welk book, and I watched my TV stories for a while. The sun came out this afternoon and cheered our day. Donna brought a ham sandwich and some date-nut bread and 7Up to me this afternoon. Rex moved the dog's house to the front of this house today to keep the little pigs from invading Bobo's space and food bin. They had taken over. I hope they will not come around to the front yard and find Bobo's house and food there.

January 9, Thursday

We have clouds and sunshine this morning. I wrote a little verse in Emily Gardner's birthday card and enclosed some gum and a dollar bill (see January 14). I also wrote a note in Lillian Keller's birthday card; her day is January 12. Donna drove to Overbrook to mail our letters and to buy some stamps. We've had a strong wind this afternoon. I stretched out on my bed this afternoon to get relief from a hurt in my shoulder blade section. It always gives me trouble there when I write for a while. I ate some strawberry yogurt about 3:30 when Donna came home from the post office. She had a nice letter from Marty Strong; she read it to me. They had a lovely Christmas. Donna brought me a plate of good food about 6:30 this evening. We both watched the TV show, "The Waltons." She went to her room to write some thank you notes. I read a few chapters from my new book by Lawrence Welk. I went to bed before 10:30 p.m. I feel weary. Sweet dreams!

January 10, Friday

It was raining when I got up this morning. I went back to bed after turning up the heat. It was after ten o'clock when I got up again. Donna brought me bacon, egg, toast, and a cup of warm milk. The fireplace man didn't come this morning because of rain. They can't work on the roof in the rain. Rex did some finish coats of plaster in some closets and the hall. There is always plenty to do around here. Our rain turned into snow but it melted when it hit the ground. We have a muddy yard. Rex drove his truck to Overbrook this afternoon for something he needs for the job here. I rested on my bed for a little while this afternoon. Donna brought my dinner about 6 p.m. It was clam chowder, toast, milk, and peaches. I got up to eat it and watched television for a while. Donna did some wood staining. She and Rex went

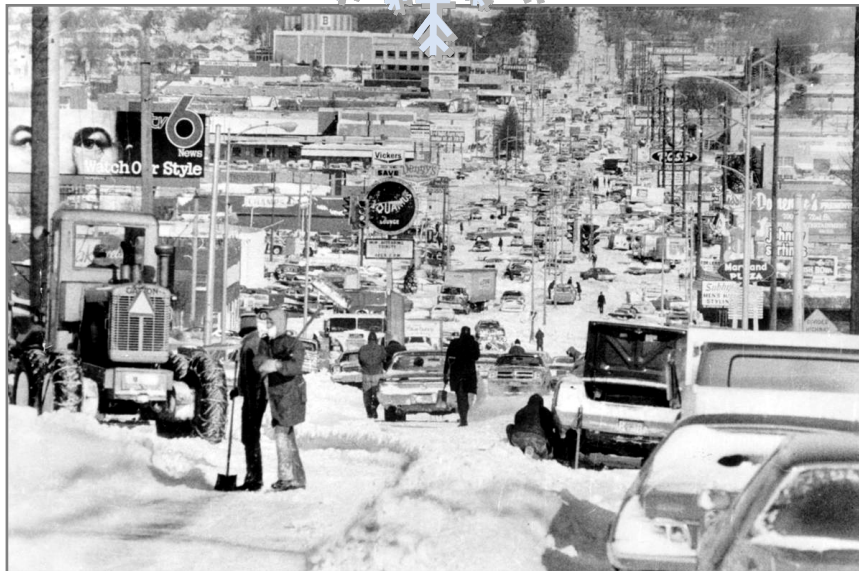
to bed soon after their work, so I had another lonesome evening listening to the wind and Frank Sinatra's howling; the wind was outside, and Mr. Sinatra was on television. I did, however, enjoy Frank Sinatra's program; his guest star was Gene Kelly. I went to bed about 10:30. It must have been bitter cold outside as our water pipes were frozen and I couldn't get any water to wash my face and hands or teeth. Ugh!

January 11, Saturday

We have a bitter cold day or morning! Rex got the water pipes thawed out so we had running water this morning by 9 a.m. The wind blew all night and is still blowing, but we have blue sky and sunshine for which I'm thankful. I think Rex is painting the kitchen walls this morning. Donna brought my brunch about 11:45 today. I wrote a postcard to Blanche Hoglund and one to Ruth and Arnold Pierce. Blanche had a nice letter in her Christmas card and the Pierces enclosed a nice picture of them in their card. I had some colored postcards of the LDS visitor's center; I used them. Rex put up some towel racks and etcetera in their bathroom. Donna drove with Rex to feed the horses and to pick up the mail. Mary and Jon phoned this morning and said that Omaha had a severe storm yesterday; the schools were all

closed because of the snow (lots of it). They are all well and happy and that is what counts, eh? Our TV news this evening said Omaha's storm was the worst ever recorded there. There was lots of property damage and lives lost. We're thankful we heard from Jon and Mary so we know all is well with them. [Note from Mary: "We couldn't drive at all. The roads were impassable. I remember bundling up the kids and pulling them in a sled to the closest grocery store.

The store hadn't opened because the workers couldn't get there, but one fellow finally came while we were standing there and he let us in for a few things we needed. Church was canceled the next day and Jon didn't get back to work until Monday or Tuesday. I found it to be lots of fun!" ☺] Rex went to a priesthood meeting for the stake in Kansas City this evening. Donna watched the "Lawrence Welk" TV show and "All in The Family" with me. Oh, and we watched the "Carol Burnett Show," too. It was wonderful having Donna here with me. I do get very lonesome at times. Rex came in time to hear the TV news. The weatherman says it is going to be cold tonight again. I hope our pipes won't freeze up again. Rex says it isn't that cold. Night all, sweet dreams.



On Jan. 10, 1975, Omaha was crippled by a blizzard, part of a larger storm that suffocated the Midwest in wind and snow and that hurled tornadoes across the southeast.

January 12, Sunday

We have sunshine and blue sky this Sabbath day, but it is cold outside. Rex and Donna went to Ottawa, to the branch priesthood, Sunday School, and Sacrament meeting. I wasn't well enough to go. I got up at ten to give myself a bath, but no water. The pipes are frozen again. I was very discouraged and unhappy, so I got back in bed and stayed there until 12:30 noon. Having no water is sad news for me. I feel very alone and isolated from everything when Rex and Donna are both away from this farm. I gave Donna \$10.00 last evening and asked her to bring home some of Colonel Sanders Kentucky fried chicken and some of his barbecued ribs. She has a bad time trying to cook for us without a stove or a kitchen. I'll rejoice when her kitchen is ready to operate properly. They came home about 2 p.m. She gave me \$5.00 change. She bought some chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, and baked beans and rolls. (They didn't have any ribs today.) But, we had a good dinner here in my little sitting room from TV trays. After, Rex went to the basement to thaw out the frozen pipes so we could have water. We'll be glad when this freezing weather is gone. This afternoon, Rex and Donna got the kitchen cabinets out of boxes into the kitchen ready to be nailed into their proper place tomorrow, when a friend is coming to help Rex put them up. Donna took a little nap on my extra twin bed before she went to help Rex. I read a couple of chapters from my Lawrence Welk book. My eyes get blurry so I can't read very long at a time anymore.

January 13, Monday

It is cold today, but our water pipes didn't freeze up last night. We have sunshine and clouds today. The fireplace man didn't come, so Rex thinks he can finish the top part of the chimney by himself, when he gets around to it. Their friends brought a truck load of hay for Rex this morning and stayed to help Rex install the cabinets in the kitchen. The man is a carpenter; his wife, Marie, came with him. Donna brought her in to see my pretty little suite. She was amazed at learning that I've kept a diary for going on 47 years. I was recording in it when she came in. Donna made waffles for our breakfast before the Westhoffs arrived. They are members of the same LDS branch we are in (the Ottawa Branch). Later this afternoon, Br. and Sr. Carl Nichols and their 4 little children came to get Rex's two big sows, Salome and Petunia, to take them to his farm for breeding. Rex plans on selling the 12 little pigs soon. I hope they won't freeze without their big fat mamas to keep them warm tonight. We have a strong, cold wind today. I'm glad I don't have to go out in the cold wind. Marie Westoff is knitting a wool scarf; she worked on it in my sitting room for a while. The four little Nichols kiddies watched Sesame Street on my television set at 3 p.m. I finished reading my book by Lawrence Welk this evening. I've surely enjoyed it; he ends



Paula G., Emily G., and Spencer Tibbets
Fall of 1974.



it by saying the most pressing need of all, is the need for God! How right he is. Rex watched "Gun Smoke" and Maude" with me tonight and then he went to bed. Donna came in and we watched the Inaugural Ball from the Topeka Civic Auditorium. The Kansas Top Brass were on parade in all their finery. (That's 30 for today.)

January 14, Tuesday

Happy Birthday to Emily Gardner.
*Here's a "Happy Birthday" wish, and then,
here's something more,
The gum to treat your family, and the dollar
for you, because you are four.*

I hope little Emily is well and enjoying her special day. Rex went somewhere to make a bid on a couple of plastering repair jobs. Donna brought my breakfast about 10:45 a.m. Rex was back home about noon time. We have a strong cold wind outside. I can hear it blowing things around. The sun is shining, but there are clouds, also. Rex just brought me some peppermint candy broken from a large candy cane. Mm Good. It's time to listen to my soap box operas now. ☺ My problems fade away after listening to them, do they ever have problems! The fireplace man came while Marshes were away. He came for his tools and a check that Rex left in the garage for him. Donna went with Rex to take the little pigs to someone that Rex is selling them to. I think there are twelve of them. They left here about 4:20 p.m. It was quite a job getting the pigs loaded into his pick-up truck. I felt too weak to take the shower bath I wanted, so I went to bed for a while. Rex and Donna have been away most of today. I was invited to go with them, but it takes too much effort. I feel so weak. The name of the little town they took the pigs to is Perry. They got home at 6:30 p.m. I think they said the man gave them \$20.00 a piece, for the 12 pigs, so \$240.00. That will help with expenses, eh? After the ten o'clock news we all went to bed weary. P.S. I peeled the top of the wart off of my left hand tonight. I hope it will all go away. It has bothered me. Goodnight. P.S. Donna brought three packages of Roloids to me; I've been having some gas trouble.

January 15, Wednesday

We have sunshine and clouds this mid-winter day. Rex and Donna worked at cleaning up the yard. They had a big bonfire and burned a couple of Christmas trees, some paper bags and cartons and etcetera. It looks much better now. Donna brought me some Rice Krispies, a banana, some raisin toast, and a cup of warm milk for my brunch. I had a good night's rest and I feel better today. A lady phoned and wants Rex to do the repair plastering job that he bid on. He has two little jobs of plastering to do now, because of his ad in the paper. Oh, there is such a lot to be done in this home to make it comfortable for Donna's needs. My little suite is very lovely and I stay in it, too. I walk around a little for exercise, but I feel very weak and have to relax in my chair or on my bed most of the time. Today's mail brought a nice, long letter from Lydia Paul. It's always fun to get her letters. Donna read it

to me so we both enjoyed it together. She and Gene had a happy holiday season with family and good food and etcetera. I couldn't record her festive news, but I'm glad they had such a wonderful Christmas. One sad note was that Andrea's grandfather, Br. Moyes, was found dead in his bed on Sunday morning, January 5. He was 83 years old, his wife has been dead for 10 years. He hadn't been ill, it was a wonderful way to go home to the spirit world. The family felt happy for him, too. Donna cooked little frozen chicken pies for our dinner this evening. We watched the "Lucas Tanner" drama on TV and the "Petrocelli Drama" and then a few minutes of the news. We went to bed before 10:30 p.m. This is a tired household!



Julie Tibbets in 1974. Julie is visiting the farm in January 1975.

pretty, little suite to live in. Donna has been busy cleaning up the mess that Rex and Dale left in the kitchen from their carpenter job yesterday. She did some painting or staining and etcetera, too. I've learned that it is true, that old people live in the past a lot. I find myself recalling things to mind that took place in my life many years ago, and it's fun, too. No wonder we relive the past, it is a lot more glamorous than life is now, ha ha! I felt weary and had a little heart distress so I took a pain tablet and went to bed for a while. I felt better later; I got up and enjoyed the beef stew Donna brought to me about 5:30 p.m. John and Ann phoned from Salt Lake City this evening. They've both been ill with the flu but are feeling better now. Rex and Donna painted the walls in the hall tonight. I watched TV programs this evening. Jon and Julie Tibbets came from Omaha tonight about 8:30 p.m. Julie and Donna visited with me and Jon talked with Rex until bedtime. Donna made the couch bed up for Jon in my sitting room. Julie slept in my guest twin bed. She was coughing every few minutes until Donna rubbed her throat and chest with Vicks Vapor Rub and wrapped something around her neck, no more coughing!

January 16, Thursday

We have a lovely, sunny morning but cold. I could hear Rex and Donna working long before I got up. Dale and Marie Westhoff came about 10:45 a.m. Dale is helping Rex get the kitchen cabinets installed. Donna brought my brunch at 11 a.m. (Cream of Wheat, raisin toast, grapefruit, and hot milk). Lucky me, eh? Marie took Donna in her car to the mailbox to mail some letters. Donna wrote a long letter to Kathy; she has a lot of writing to do with all of her children living away from Kansas. Marie brought her knitting in and visited with me for a while. We listened to television while she did her knitting. Donna painted some woodwork while Marie was in here. She fixed lunch for the four of them about noon time. I had eaten my brunch so I wasn't hungry. We received a nice, newsy letter from Janet Shattuck this afternoon thanking Donna for the nice, long letter to her. She mentioned the snow we've had. She said their newspaper had a picture taken of Omaha telling of the worst snow storm there in 33 years. She said that snow can be beautiful, but she'll take her green grass, trees, and flowers any day. Oh Janet! You said it! Me, too. I love California, too, believe me, but I'm thankful for this experience in Kansas, also. I'm glad Rex and Donna are happy here on their farm. The Westoffs went home about 5 p.m. I walked out to the kitchen to see the cabinets they nailed up today. They look very nice. It will be a lovely kitchen and dinette area when it is finished. Rex has a lot of work to do yet in that room. We'll all be glad when the kitchen is finished.

January 17, Friday

I am thankful for a good night's rest and for this, another day. We have an overcast morning; it looks cold outside. Rex went to Topeka to do a little plastering repair job for someone. (I'm wrong again), the repair job was in Overbrook; he went to Topeka after the job was done. He had to buy material for the plastering job tomorrow in some other place. I'm too quick to record before I have all the facts. This diary hobby helps to keep my brain active and that's good, eh? I appreciate this

January 18, Saturday

We have a pleasant morning with sunshine and clouds. Julie got up this morning and climbed in bed with Donna. Rex and Jon went to do the plaster repair job in Wellsville. They'll be late coming home because they are going to a business place in Kansas City, the Venture Department Store, to take inventory for our LDS stake fund. (This is after they finish the plastering job.) Donna and Julie went to the south field to feed the horses. Joan and Kathy phoned from Northbrook. Joan and Mo expect to be here this next weekend. Joan has joined the Weight Watcher's Club. She has lost ten pounds. Kathy is on the diet with Joan. [*Kathy wore a extra big top and weights tied around her waist, so she could show more significant "weight loss."* Ridiculous!] "Good Luck" my darlings, of course you are always beautiful in my eyes. Julie practiced her piano lesson for a little while. I'm glad she is taking piano lessons. She was surprised to find the ponds on this farm are frozen over. Her little rocks didn't splash and make a ripple, they just glided across the ice. She drew pictures and colored them to make a book; she does very well, too. Donna painted the hall a second coat. I dusted the furniture in my two rooms; things really do get dusty here. This afternoon Donna and Julie had a picnic lunch somewhere on the farm near the cornfield where the cows are. They walked to all of the six ponds. They were both tired when they got home at about 5 p.m. Donna gave Julie a bath and shampooed her hair and put it up in curlers, three on each side of her head. She'll sleep on her back to her stomach, ha! She looked cute. We were all in bed when Rex and Jon got home tonight; it was late, the wind was howling, and the rain was pouring. (That's Kansas!)

January 19, Sunday

Rex and Donna took Julie with them to the Ottawa Branch this morning. Jon slept late, he didn't bring his Sunday clothes. I stayed in bed until after Jon got up because he was on the couch bed in my front room, so, it was almost noon before I got up. I took a sponge bath and put clean underwear on. I felt too weak for the shower today. The ground was white with new snow this morning and the wind was still blowing hard. I'm thankful for this nice, warm house I live in. I'm really sorry I'm not feeling well enough to attend church services. I hate to miss Sunday School and Sacrament meeting. The sun got through to us about 1:30, but we still have lots of storm clouds in the sky. Donna and Rex and Julie got home about 2 p.m. She left a pot roast cooking in her crockpot with carrots

and potatoes, so dinner was ready by 2:45 p.m. It tasted good. Our branch visiting teachers came this afternoon, Br. Kenneth Derr and his wife, Maybelle. They visited in my sitting room. Rex and Jon went to Wellsville to work on the plastering job they started yesterday. Br. Derr offered a nice prayer before they left here. Julie and I played guessing games while Donna did the dinner dishes. She entertained Julie later by playing the piano and singing songs. I recorded in the diary and dozed in my chair. We have some black clouds in the sky tonight; it looks like more snow is in store for us. I hope the wind stays away; we've had it all day. Jon and Rex came in tonight to watch "Kojak," "Mannix," and "Candid Camera" on television. Donna made roast beef sandwiches for all of us. She worked, out in the house of confusion, cleaning up the dishes and etcetera. The dishes must be done in the bathroom wash bowl. I don't know how she manages to keep so calm and good natured all of the time.

January 20, Monday

Rex and Jon T. were off to Wellsville to the plastering job this morning by 7 a.m. Julie got up about 8:30 and that ended Grama Donna's sleep in pleasure. ☺ I stayed in bed until almost ten o'clock. Donna made waffles for our breakfast. They tasted good. Julie practiced her piano lesson for a few minutes. She loves to draw pictures and color them and she is artistic. She has made a couple of scrapbooks for herself and they are well done. She's got a little "Ham" in her, too. She likes to entertain us with song and dance or pulling faces. Grama Donna says Julie's face is made of rubber. It amazes me at how well she can imitate the native English woman's brogue. She is 8 years old. Her birthday is October 3. Rex and Jon came home about noon time. They ate lunch; Jon

took a shower, they both got their belongings packed (with Donna's help). They left here for Omaha about 1:10 p.m. The sun was shining but the ground was white with snow. I gave Jon some gum to take to the family and \$2.00 to buy a treat for him and Julie on the way home. I gave Julie a quarter, which pleased her. I'm going to miss her and her papa. Rex and Donna drove into Overbrook this afternoon, to the market and store, for some material he needed. They brought me a letter from Violet. She and Otto have both been ill. Otto had bad sinus trouble. Violet had bronchitis. Bette and Ray took Greg to the Mission Home in Salt Lake City. His mission will be in Brazil. Brad is in school at BYU. The Haddocks called in to see Violet in Cedar City. Donna and I watched television for a while tonight. Rex's leg hurt, so he went to bed early. Good night.



This picture was taken in April of 1975 after the kitchen wallpaper and carpet were installed. In the 1970s putting 100% nylon carpet in the kitchen was a new idea. It was supposed to be easy to clean, easy to wipe up spills, softer on your feet, and lovely to look at. The Marshes tried it out. They decided after living with it for a while that it wasn't such a great idea. But it remained on the kitchen floor.

January 21, Tuesday

Good Morning! We have a hazy sort of day; snow still on the ground so it must be cold out there. Rex was hammering and scraping this morning. He was installing the kitchen stove or ovens. Donna brought my Cream of Wheat, raisin toast, warm milk, and sliced oranges about 10:40 this morning. Rex had to turn off the water while he connected up the kitchen sink. They phoned the rug man to tell him the kitchen is ready for the rug now. It will be so nice to have a workable kitchen again; I shudder to think what Donna has put up with since we moved into this house, trying to cook meals for us! UGH! I couldn't help her any either. I was able to help them financially, for which I am thankful. I heard only one TV story today ("As the World Turns") and then President Ford took over most of the stations for

his press conference. He answered questions. This confused old gal listened, but it's beyond me to understand what is best for our country at this bewildering time. Donna helped me get a shampoo and shower this afternoon. I was worn out after that, so I stretched out on the bed until I felt better; then I got up and put my hair up in pin curls. I had to go back to bed for an hour. Donna fried chicken for our dinner. I got up to eat about 5:45. With the chicken we had mashed potatoes, spinach with lemon juice, fruitcake, and custard pudding. Rex came in to watch television tonight. Donna was still working in the hall doing something? Well, it's time to turn off the lights and go to bed. Good night.

January 22, Wednesday

We had a pleasant, sunny day. I stayed in bed until after ten. Rex and Donna were busy working in the house getting the kitchen ready for the rug man tomorrow. We still have patches of snow on the ground. I was so exhausted when I got the

bobby pins out of my hair and the curls combed and my hair dressed, that I had to rest on my bed until I was able to make my bed and eat the nice brunch Donna brought to me at noon time (sliced oranges, chicken sandwich, and hot chocolate). I enjoyed the TV stories while relaxing in my swivel chair. The hurt in my neck and shoulder blades was severe for a while, but it left and I felt much better, but why so weak? Donna and Rex are so very busy working in the other part of the house. I see very little of them, but I can hear them scraping and hammering and I can smell the paint or stain. Donna pokes her head in once in a while to ask how I am; the answer is always "Just fine." Since Jon T. tied the TV antenna more securely to the house, we have a much better picture and not all the rolling that was so annoying or the noise of banging against the house when the wind was blowing. I got up from my bed rest to eat my dinner this evening at 6:30. Rex and Donna worked all evening to get the kitchen finished so the rug can be laid tomorrow. Oh, it will be wonderful when this house is finished and Rex and Donna can relax and enjoy their lovely home here on Marshes' Mound. Rex came in to hear the news report on TV tonight at 10 p.m. He was tired! We are all weary. Good night!

January 23, Thursday

Today is Lou's birthday anniversary; he was born 85 years ago today. We had more sunshine today and I love it. We have some snow patches on the north side of our house. Rex has been working on connecting up their electric stove. Joan phoned; she will fly to Kansas and meet Mo, they'll stay in a motel tonight because it will be late, but we can expect them here about noon tomorrow. The rug man came and laid the kitchen rug; it looks so pretty. It didn't take him very long either. Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook this afternoon; I enjoyed television. I'm thinking of my darling Lou, Oh, how I miss him. Donna brought a letter to me from Harriet Speirs. It was short, but nice hearing from her. She is happy living in Salt Lake City with her sister LaPriel Bunker; they're both widows. I ate dinner this evening with Donna and Rex in their pretty kitchen, at the table; it was so nice! She cooked dinner on her new electric stove. I'm so happy to see her with that lovely kitchen to work in. She wouldn't let me stay and help with the dishes, because the heaters aren't connected up yet and the room isn't as warm as I keep my place. Rex has had a lot of aches and distress in his leg the past few days, so Donna made an appointment with his doctor to have it checked over. Donna has worked hard today trying to get the dishes in the new cabinets. There is such a lot yet to do to get this home finished, but little by little, they are getting it done. Good night. (I'm a bit blue, but feel blessed indeed.)

January 24, Friday

It is overcast this morning. We had a few rain drops fall. Rex went to finish a plastering repair job in Wellsville. Donna vacuumed and dusted my little suite, plus, brought breakfast to me. Isn't she precious? Her new kitchen looks very pretty with the lace table cloth, bowl of fruit on the table, and cheerful rug on the floor. Now they'll work on the big living room and get it in order. The fireplace is very

pretty; they'll enjoy that front room when it is finished, too. Oh, I'm so anxious to have this place finished. I had Donna bring the vase with the peacock feathers in and put it on my little coffee table, where the bowl of fruit was. Little Jody Tibbets brought the pretty peacock feathers to me from his Grampa Guy Tibbets's farm in California. Joan and Miller came about 1:30 noon. They both looked well, so good to me. Donna fixed a nice lunch for them. I enjoyed half of a deviled egg, but I wasn't hungry enough to eat lunch then. It has been dark and cloudy all day. Joan and Donna drove to Overbrook this afternoon. I rested on my bed. It was very quiet here. I presume Mo was resting too or walking around the farm? Donna and Joan came home near 6 p.m. and cooked dinner for us. We ate in the kitchen, beef steak, potatoes, and gravy, creamed cabbage, and a jelled fruit salad. Rex was late getting home from Wellsville. We'd finished eating when he came about 8 p.m. Donna and Joan cleared up the dishes. The four of them talked about things to do in the farm house. I sat in my little suite and watched TV. I'm no help when it comes to working. I told Donna to pay the \$5.00 we owe for the rent on our bank vault for this year. She is going to put some of their valuable papers in it, too. They all came in to hear the ten o'clock TV news. Joan and Miller slept in the couch bed in my sitting room. Sweet dreams.



Elvie was sad and blue on Louis's birthday, January 23, 1975. She dearly misses her husband and companion of so many years. We also think it is safe to guess that she longs for the simple easy life when he was on earth and they were in the duplex in Cotati, California.

January 25, Saturday

We have a windy morning. Rex went to finish up his job in Wellsville; he left here about 7 a.m. Miller took Donna and Joan to Topeka for material they need for this farm house. They left here about 10:20 a.m. I ate half a grapefruit, raisin toast, and Rice Krispies and milk for my brunch. Donna brought it on a tray before she left this morning. Rex came home about 12:10 and fixed himself some lunch. He visited with me for a short while, too. It's nice to have someone to talk to. I am alone so much of the time (lonesome me, ☹). The folks came home from Topeka at 1:20. Donna said they got everything they went for. I was entertained by a group of black singers and dancers on TV; their crazy antics amaze me. Oh, such contortionists, they twist and wrench! Donna brought me a ham sandwich, some salad, and 7Up this afternoon about 2:30 p.m. Rex borrowed a dolly and he and Mo put the refrigerator in the kitchen. Miller is making a couple of drawers for Donna under her electric stove top. That is wonderful; she needs them. I went out to see the progress they're making. I'm pleased with their efforts. The pretty chandelier will be hanging before long. It is there ready to be hung up when the men can find the time to do it. We've had a strong wind all day. I'm glad to be inside. I rested on my bed a couple of hours this afternoon. I got up to hear the Lawrence Welk TV show from 6 to 7 p.m. Donna brought me a plate of food at 7 p.m. Rex came in to hear the Carol Burnett Show, the others were still working in the house. The chandelier and hall light are connected up and very pretty. The drawers in the kitchen are finished and Mo, with Joan's assistance, papered the hall bathroom.

January 26, Sunday

Welcome, welcome Sabbath morning. We have a cloudy sky. Rex went to his priesthood meeting in Ottawa Branch; he had a lesson to give. Mo finished the wallpapering in the hall bathroom. It really looks pretty. (It is a dainty little blue flower in a light background.) Mo and Joan have done so much to help get this house finished. They are workers for sure. Rex and Donna's children have all worked hard to get this home finished. I'm thankful for all of them and very proud of them, too. They packed their belongings this morning about noon time ready for their trip back to Northbrook, Illinois (near Chicago). We'll miss Joan and Mo a lot. [*Kathy stayed with the Gardner children at home in Illinois.*] They brightened our household. It was about 12:15 when they drove away from here. I wish they lived in Kansas so we could see them more often. We had family prayer before they left. Rex got home before they left. He called on Donna to pray. Rex came in my sitting room to relax and watch television. He was asleep in the chair in a few minutes. He got up later and

stretched out on the couch. Donna was busy staining some wood trim for the bathroom I think. No, wrong again, she was just putting things away and trying to clean up the mess in the house. She says, "No staining today." I prognosticate. I was weary tonight and glad to go to bed. Good night.

January 27, Monday

We have a cloudy sky and a cold day. Rex and Donna left early this morning; they took both cars to go and have them checked for their new car licenses. I think the town was called Burlingame where they went. Donna came home first. Rex went somewhere to do a little job of plastering. I think it was in Stranton. Donna brought a nice breakfast to me of an egg, toast, applesauce, and warm milk. I enjoyed it about noon. Brunch, eh? She stained some molding for the bathroom in the hall. Rex came home about 3 p.m. They both worked in the house. I stayed in my room and relaxed. Donna brought a letter from Dorothy Tibbets; she enclosed a news clipping from Petaluma telling of the sad death of Henry "Hank" Miller, who

died last Monday after a steel H.B. girder crushed him as he was working at a construction site in San Francisco. He used to go to the LDS church in Petaluma when we lived there. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, and daughter Lisa, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller. I'm sorry about this tragic news. The Guy Tibbetses are getting anxious for their Capp Home to be started here on the farm in Overbrook, Kansas. I should answer some letters, but my shoulder blades ache too much for that. Today is John and Ann Marsh's wedding anniversary, two years. I hope they enjoyed the day. Rex's leg was hurting a lot tonight. I felt sorry for him. He got all the pretty handles on Donna's kitchen cupboards this afternoon; another job out of the way, eh? Rex and Donna came in my suite and watched television for a while tonight. We had a very nice, fried fish dinner in Marshes' pretty kitchen at 6 p.m. I enjoyed it very much. Night all and sweet dreams.

January 28, Tuesday

We didn't get the snow last night as the weather man said we might. It is overcast and cold today. Rex went somewhere to do a little plastering repair job this morning. He was back home at noon. Janet Shattuck phoned this morning; she said that she and David are planning on going to the Oakland Temple. They've had their recommends renewed so they can go now, and when Mark goes on his mission later on, they'll be prepared to go through with him, also. Today's mail brought a letter to me from Ethel Newbold. She wrote about her children and grandchildren. Donna and Rex went to Lawrence (I think) on some kind of business. They left here about two o'clock. The sun broke through the clouds a time



Hank Miller was an only child. He was the same age as Kathy.



Guy and Dorothy Tibbets are anxious to move to Kansas to a Capp home by the Marshes.

or two this afternoon and that cheers us up! I went to bed for a while this afternoon. I felt the need to stretch out on my bed. Rex and Donna came home about 5:30 p.m. She had some ham and split pea soup on the stove slowly cooking. We ate about six o'clock. We had toasted English muffins, and a jelled salad with the delicious soup. I helped Donna do the dishes; we all came in my suite and watched television for a couple of hours. We closed the day after the 10 p.m. news. The wind is blowing hard, it sounds mad. The weather reporter says we may have snow tonight, but he said that last night, also, and we didn't get any. P.S. Donna bought a soap tray for my bathroom today. Donna and Rex have their new Kansas automobile licenses now. Yep, no more California tags on their cars.

January 29, Wednesday

It's cold and cloudy this morning but no snow. It's a real pleasure to walk into the Marshes' side of the house now; the lovely rooms look better every day. Rex and Donna are working hard to get them finished. The big living room has its first coat of paint on the walls. The second coat will go on this afternoon. The rug men are expected to come and lay the rug tomorrow. I slept well last night and feel better for it. Janet phoned again this morning. She says that David's IBM Company is sending him to New York in April; she is going with him and they'll call by to see us and the farm house. That is happy news, eh? Rex put the bar table up in the kitchen this afternoon. He also installed the furnace heat in the kitchen. Donna brought brunch to me about 11:50 a.m. egg, bacon, toast, grapefruit, and hot chocolate. She wrote letters and studied the Relief Society lesson she is to give next week, the Spiritual Living Lesson. We had a very nice, fish dinner this evening about 6:30 in Marshes' pretty kitchen. I dried the dishes for Donna. We all watched television tonight "Cannon" and "The Man Hunter," plus the ten o'clock news. Last night we watched the "Benjamin Franklin's Life Story" with Melvyn Douglas. Sorry I made such a mess of my diary book. I get confused with the spelling at times. I'm weary, nighty nite.

January 30, Thursday

We have a cold, frosty day. It seems strange to see the white frost on the ground and on the bare branches of the trees, but no snow. It has been raining lightly all day. The rug men came out to the farm this morning and laid the rugs in the hall and in the living room; now the floors all have lovely carpets on them. It's so nice to walk around in any room and see the pretty rugs and feel their luxury under foot. Rex went to Overbrook to do a little patch job of plastering this afternoon. It didn't take him long to do it. He worked on the heating system this afternoon. He had the electricity turned

off a couple of times for a minute or so. We'll have this house in order soon. The mailman brought Donna's pretty, new, sheer blue curtains for the kitchen and the dining area today. She is very anxious to get them hung up. I think she is going to shorten them a little, too. Donna brought my plate dinner to me this evening on a TV tray, so that I could watch "Truth or Consequence" on television. She and Rex had a lot of things to do in their part of the house tonight, so I enjoyed television programs. It is calm and cold outside. I'm glad the wind isn't howling. Donna took her high backed rocking chair and her pretty, flowered lamp and the little table out of my sitting room into her living room tonight. They will move the couch out when Jon or Mo can help Rex move it.



This lamp is in Mary's home, but in 1975 it was moved from Elvie's suite out to the finished living room on January 30.

January 31, Friday

I spent an awful night of sleeplessness last night. I just could not go to sleep. I went to bed soon after 10:30 p.m. My brain wouldn't relax and let me go into Slumberland. I got fidgets in my legs and I felt nervously tense all over. I heard Rex and Donna moving around about 5:30 a.m. They drove away about seven for Topeka, where Rex had an appointment with his doctor for an x-ray on his leg. It has been causing him a lot of pain lately. I got some sleep after eight this morning, (about an hour's sleep). I haven't felt very well today, I got up at noon when I heard Rex and Donna drive in the yard. The doctor says the bones have knitted all right in Rex's ankle, but he thinks the pin has slipped a little and is causing the pain. He wants Rex to come in to the hospital in a few days and have surgery to remove the pin. He'll be in the hospital a couple of days then he must stay off of his foot for two or three weeks. (Another set-back in his work here on the farm!) Donna bought a couple of valentines for me to send; one to Ethel N. and one to sister Violet. She also bought me a container of Metamucil, \$2.69; it was cheaper this time; the last one cost me \$3.80. Rex and Donna worked all evening in their home. I watched television. I went to bed about 10 p.m. P.S. I did go out in Marshes' side to look at Donna's lovely new curtains hanging up in the living room. She had to shorten them and press them before hanging them. They do look pretty. I'm sorry I couldn't help her do this job, but I'm not up to it now. (I'm not on the ball anymore.) It is a sad situation, eh? Sorry about that.

February 1, Saturday

One month gone already in our New Year, and this one will be even shorter (only 28 days). Well, let's make the best we can of it. I'm so thankful for a good night's sleep. I really needed it after my sleepless night on Thursday night. My sweet Donna brought a nice breakfast to me on a tray; she is

precious. We have the white frost on the ground and trees, but no snow. I have no birthdays to remember in February since my sister Annie checked out, but I do want to send a valentine card to Violet and to Ethel Newbold. I composed a little verse for Ethel's card this morning. She asked me to write her another poem. I have composed a few little tributes to her through the years and she enjoys them, so it's fun to do it for her. I also did a little verse for Violet's card, I owe them both letters but my shoulder blades hurt too much to write today. I'll send a postcard to Violet. Donna says it is bitter cold outside. I like my warm house. ☺ Donna vacuumed and polished the furniture in my little suite today, bless her heart. She works too hard; both she and Rex do, and then there is me. I enjoyed the "Lawrence Welk" TV program as always this evening from 6 to 7 p.m. Donna worked on her pretty, new, sheer blue curtains this evening. She shortened them, pressed them, and hung them. They are surely pretty in her lovely kitchen and dinette, with the blue and green rug. I went out to admire her work before I went to bed. I put my hair up in pin curls. I hope to feel well enough to go to church tomorrow; I haven't been for several weeks.

February 2, Sunday

It was our stake conference this morning in Kansas City, MO. It was icy cold and foggy; we didn't go, but we did go to our sacrament/fast day services this afternoon in the Ottawa Branch at 2:30. It was my first time out of the house for a month or more. I was amazed to see the ice on the trees. I've never seen anything like that. The people here call it an "ice storm." The rain freezes on the branches of the trees. It is beautiful to see; however, it has turned a little warmer and the ice is melting a little. Our yard around the farm house is deep mud. There has been a low fog all day with no sunshine. I enjoyed the fast day services and the fine testimonies of the nice branch members. I even got to my feet and gave thanks for my blessings. Donna bore her testimony, too. Rex administered to the sacrament; he blessed the water. He fasted three meals, I think. Donna cooked a good, fish dinner for us this evening. We had all fasted all day until this evening. Rex and Donna came in to see the "Tribute to Ed Sullivan" on television tonight. It was very entertaining; we saw many old-time movie and TV stars. I enjoyed it very much. It has been a pleasant Sabbath day. I'm so glad I could go to church. Donna came in to say



To Ethel Newbold — Feb. 1st 1975 —

My friend, In fancy I see you, in your dear little place,
working in your garden, with a smile on your face —
petting your cat, gently stroking her fur,
while listening to her contented purr —

You have many fine friends — and they all love you,
I'm glad to be your friend, I love you too —
May the dear Lord "Bless you" all of the way,
And — may we rejoice together some "Happy Day"!

Elvie Renshaw

To Violet Liff — Feb. 1st 1975

Dear ~~Bro~~, I wish you were healthy, happy and very rich,
with-out aches and pains, or that horrible "itch" —

But "Cheer up!" the Lord knows best —

He put us through a rigid test —

We've been miserable — and poor,

So we can learn how to endure —

If all of our wishes did come true,

We may be poor indeed, when life is through!



goodnight; she had a cup of Postum. She said it was her dessert. She is on a diet. No more ice cream or cake. She has lost some weight, too.

February 3, Monday

It is another gloomy looking winter day. Mr. Sun, where have you gone? The ice is melting from the branches of the trees around our farm, so it must be warmer anyway. My Social Security check came in today's mail, prompt as always (\$244.40). Rex and Donna have been busy in their kitchen. He put up shelves in a cupboard and he put a shelf in the closet in my sitting room so Donna can have a place to store pillows and blankets. He put a pole under the big shelf for her to hang some of their clothes on. This home is really shaping up nicely. It is a pleasure to walk through the rooms now. There is a lot to be done in the basement and outside on the house, too. Donna fried chicken for our dinner this evening. She served fried rice and broccoli with it, it was good eating! She is a good cook. Donna painted

the shelf and pole that Rex put up in this front closet. He painted the shelves in the pantry that he made this afternoon in the kitchen. We watched television programs tonight, "Gunsmoke," "Rhoda," and "Medical Center." I feel as weary tonight as if I'd been working along with Rex and Donna today. Good night all, and happy dreams.

February 4, Tuesday

It is cold and foggy again today. I had a very poor night; I just couldn't get to sleep until after seven this morning. Rex drove Donna to Ottawa this morning. She gave the Spiritual Living lesson in Relief Society. I'd love to have been there and heard it, but I wasn't feeling well enough to make the effort. I stayed in bed until almost noon time. Donna cashed my Social Security check of \$244.40. I gave her \$200 to help pay the bills on this farm. She brought the \$44.40 cash to me. I gave her \$25.00 for food, from my cash. Rex put shelves in the two hall closets so now there will be a place for her linens and etcetera. This will be a lovely, convenient home inside if they can do something about the deep mud outside, Ugh! It is horrible. Donna has several of Kathy's lovely, long formal gowns hanging in this front closet and some of her own things, coats, and etcetera. Donna has lost some weight; she can wear some of her clothes she's had hanging up for a year or more. (She is on a diet, no rich desserts for her, but Rex is glad to take care of any surplus desserts around here.) ☺ I love 'em, too, but I do have to be careful or I'm in trouble. We watched television tonight, "Good Times," a comedy, "Barnaby Jones," and others. We heard the TV news at ten o'clock. A cold wind is blowing from the north tonight and it is snowing. Mary phoned tonight; she says Julie has the measles and is feeling miserable; poor little Julie. It is cold in Kansas tonight, but warm in our house.

February 5, Wednesday

Burr! A bitter, cold day here, there is snow on the ground and a wind from the north. I slept well last night and I'm thankful because I really needed it after my sleepless night the night before last. Donna brought me a tuna sandwich and a warm drink of Postum at noontime, with fruitcake for dessert. I'm a lucky, old gal, eh? Donna and Rex have this place looking real nice inside. When the weather clears up and it is warmer they can work on the outside on the rock work and stucco on the house and the cement driveway and etcetera. Donna has unpacked some of her china and got it washed and put up in the new cupboards. They have worked long and hard to get this place finished inside. It is lovely, too. Rex put the pretty, little handles on the doors in my bathroom cabinets this evening. Donna made a meat loaf for our dinner this evening. We enjoyed it with potatoes and vegetables, plus ice cream with hot chocolate pudding over it. Mm good! Donna has unpacked several boxes of my dishes, silverware, and etcetera; she is trying to find a place for it today. We watched television tonight. The wind was blowing hard, it sounded threatening and evil. It surely is really cold outside. I hope our water pipes will not freeze. Night all.

February 6, Thursday

We had sunshine this morning and it was delightful to see after the gloomy cold days we have had lately. Our water pipes at the well froze last night, so we couldn't get any water until Rex worked on it. I do not know just what was the trouble but, we have the water back again. Rex got dressed up and he left here to go to the hospital in Topeka where he will have surgery on his leg tomorrow sometime, to remove the pin from the ankle that he broke last August 20. It is his right ankle. He'll be in the hospital a few days; he says he will be able to drive his car home. He wouldn't let Donna take him to the hospital today. He'll park his car at the hospital garage so he can drive it home after the operation and when he is released. Donna has been busy going through boxes and putting things away. Some of my pretty, hand painted china, my tea set, and chocolate set, brought memories back to me of my wedding day and the lovely gifts, some 61 years ago. I have rejoiced over the beautiful sun today. Rex phoned from the St. Francis Hospital in Topeka this evening. He will have surgery tomorrow at 1 p.m. to have the pin removed from his right ankle. They gave him a bed in the hall. There are no rooms available now. He says he enjoys watching the people come and go. Bruce Hackett came to see Rex and Donna this morning and to see his dog, Bobo. He says he'll take Bobo



A dog that looks like Bobo.

to his home soon, when he gets settled in. *[That month long visit certainly stretched out much longer!]*

February 7, Friday

It is another pretty, sunny day to be thankful for. I love it. Rex phoned from the St. Frances Hospital in Topeka to ask Donna if the man came out to check the well; he did and said everything is okay. He thinks the pipes may have frozen yesterday to cause our trouble; we have water today so all is well with the water well. Rex was going to have the pin removed from his ankle this afternoon at 1 p.m. We hope there were no complications; we haven't heard since the operation. Donna took all of the clothes out of my bedroom closet and painted the pole and woodwork. She did hers, too. I wrote a little verse and a note in Violet's and Ethel Newbold's valentine cards; they are addressed and ready to mail. This evening Donna and I enjoyed a nice plate dinner on TV trays while we watched television. She went back to her work after we'd had dinner. Oh, she has been busy all day doing something or other. It has been a lovely, sunny day. Donna came in again at nine o'clock to see the "Dean Martin Show" when Dean roasted Lucile Ball. It was very entertaining and lots of laughs, ha ha ha! I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Our world seems to be in a lot of trouble everywhere. I'm very thankful for my faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ to help me and mine endure with peace of mind in this troubled world!

February 8, Saturday

Donna came in my room about 10:15 o'clock to tell me Rex had phoned from the hospital to say he can come home but he'll need crutches. She was going in the pickup truck to

the doctor in Overbrook to get the crutches and take them to the St. Francis Hospital. She left here about 11 a.m. I stayed in bed until almost noon; it was a gloomy, cold day. The bed was warm and comfortable. We did have sunshine yesterday. It was snowing big flakes when Donna and Rex drove in the driveway. I was looking out my window. I love to see the big snowflakes falling. The wind wasn't blowing then, so they were beautiful until the wind came and spoiled the gentle fall. Oh, that wind! I don't like it. But a gentle breeze I love. The older I get the more I want calm gentle action around me. I recall in my childhood the "Big Blow" was fun, in fact anything with a lot of action was fun. We surely do change with time. Donna brought a nice letter from Joan; I really enjoyed it. She writes such fun letters. I wish I could record some of it, but no room. Donna brought a plate lunch to me and a hot drink, bless her heart. She and Rex both rested for a while after lunch. He'll have to stay off his feet for a few days. I dozed in my swivel chair while they slept. It is snowing. I later stretched out on my bed for an hour. Donna cooked little beef pot frozen pies for our dinner. We enjoyed them and a delicious apple salad, plus a custard, while we listened to Lawrence Welk on TV. We also watched "All in the Family," "Mary Tyler Moore," and "The Carol Burnett Show." We looked at a lot of food in the commercials so Rex felt the need of a sandwich and a hot Postum drink. (They had a snack.)

February 9, Sunday

We had a cold night; my window had a Jack Frost picture on it, but we were blessed with sunshine this morning. Donna had to get out in the cold and take the pick-up truck to go feed the cows and horses. Rex has to stay off his foot for a few days. He is using crutches to get around, so no one went to church from here today. We hope to be back to normal soon. Donna brought me some Postum, raisin toast, and grapefruit this morning. She is unpacking some of my hand painted gifts which brought back happy memories of bygone years, like the beautiful serving plate that Marie Willis gave me before I was married. She was a dear friend of Aunt Ida D. Strong. Marie had an operation and she needed some help for a few weeks, so I went and she paid me and gave me the lovely hand painted plate, too. It was a pleasant experience for me, helping such a lovely lady. Her husband was nice, also. I was 15 or 16 years old, I presume. I'm 82 years old today. Ha! Rex is cracking black walnuts and they are hard shelled. They came from the trees on this property. It is a job to crack and get the nut meat out, ugh! We ate our nice dinner in Marshes' pretty dinette and kitchen at 3:30 p.m.



Janet and Minnie circa 1965.



Annie Andersen, Elvie thinks of her on her birthday (February 10) and misses letters from her dear sister.

We had roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, and jelled salad. Our dessert was ice cream and cake which Donna doesn't eat now. She is on a diet. It's cold outside; the frost is still on the windows in spite of today's sun. Donna read me an article about Elder Tom Perry. It was indeed interesting and it brought a flood of memories back to me about my life in South Gate, California when we went to the Home Gardens Ward and our old friend, Morris Parry was the bishop. *[We do not know the connection between L. Tom Perry and Bishop Parry.]* We knew him before we were married; he seemed overjoyed to see Lou and me when we walked into his chapel the first time. We were just as surprised and happy to see him.

February 10, Monday

It wasn't as cold last night; we had sunshine and clouds today with some wind, but not as big a blow as yesterday. I had a hard time to get to sleep last night. I was trying to remember names of friends we knew in the Home Garden Ward in South Gate when we lived there many years ago. (Before Donna was going steady with Rex.)

Bishop Morris Parry and his wife Pearl and many others came to mind. My brain was too active for sleep.

Rex and Donna went to Overbrook this morning to the bank, post office, and drug store. Donna picked up my Lanofin Digoxin (heart tablets) for me. It cost \$3.09. She had phoned in the prescription number so they'd be ready for her when she called for them today. She bought twenty-four 1¢ stamps to put on the postcards that Rex had with the 6¢ stamps on them. He used them when he had his aerating business. I put two of them on a dozen of the cards. We'll need twenty-eight more 1¢ stamps for the other fourteen cards. He has paid for the postcards, we may as well make use of them. Donna brought a lovely fried fish dinner to me this evening so I could enjoy watching Bob Barker's "Truth or Consequence" on TV while enjoying my dinner. Later tonight Donna and Rex came in to watch television. Mary phoned tonight to tell us that baby Spencer is in the hospital; he is very sick with the measles. He has a temperature of 104 degrees. We feel so sorry to hear this distressing news. Donna wishes she could be with Mary now when she needs her help. Mary was worn out; she held him in her arms all night last night. Shattuck's little dog, **Minnie**, died and is buried in their lovely backyard. I think she was about 12 years old. They'll miss Minnie. P.S. My sister **Annie** is in my thoughts; February 10 is her birth date. I miss her letters so much.

February 11, Tuesday

We have a cold, frosty day with fog, too. The weatherman said we'd have warmer weather with sunshine today; he goofed again. It was almost noon when I got up. I'm not a sleepy head, but I do love the warm comfort of my dear, little twin bed. Donna is still busy unpacking boxes and finding a place for the things to go. Some of them are my belongings and some of her own (bedding, towels, dishes, and etcetera). Jon T. phoned; Mary is at the hospital with baby Spencer; he is very sick with the measles. Jon is taking care of the children at home. Rex has been working on making a clothes [laundry] shoot for Donna in the hall closet. The horses broke their fence and got out and broke the fence where the cows are so they are all having a wonderful time going all over the farm. Rex and Donna fixed the big gates into the property hoping to keep the animals on the property at least. We all enjoyed television tonight until after the news. I received a pretty valentine card from my sweet Kathleen; she had a nice, little note in it, too, bless her heart. She sent Donna and Rex one also with a nice letter enclosed. We all enjoyed it. She says she'll see us in March, her spring vacation. We are looking forward to her visit believe me! It's time to go to bed now; Donna just gave me a shocking kiss! There is so much static in our new rugs that we get little electric shocks when we walk on them and touch someone or something, like a light switch!

February 12, Wednesday

It was cold and overcast most of today. Rex managed to get his animals back in their proper corrals; the horses first. They followed him in his tractor with hay in the bucket to entice them. The cows, Rebecca and her two black calves, Dolly and Princess, paid us a visit; they came right up to the farm house and looked at Donna and me through the big front window. Rex came in his tractor and led them back to their cornfield (with some grain in the bucket). I took a shower bath this afternoon; Donna rested on my bed until I was out of the shower and dressed. I rested on my bed after my shower. Donna went to frost a cake she had made earlier. She brought my dinner on a TV tray about 6:30. I was watching television. It was almost dark outside. Mary and Jon phoned; they brought little Spencer home from the hospital; he is out of danger but very miserable and fussy. The poor little dear. Joan phoned to ask about things here; Donna told her about little Spencer's illness. Marshes received a letter from Ann and John in a huge envelope with a picture of a pig and a cute notation on it; they also sent a picture of Ann and her new sisters-in law (Janet, Joan, Mary, and Kathleen), all five beautiful girls. P.S. I forgot to mention we had liver and onions for dinner this evening and I enjoyed it. Donna and I listened to a very lovely musical concert. It was a large group of singers with a stringed orchestra, a religious group, singing

in Latin, I presume. Rex slept on the couch through most of it. We all listened to the ten o'clock news. It will be cold tonight, but warmer tomorrow. The ice melted and made a noise as it rolled off the north side of our roof. We still have some patches of snow on the north side of our house on the ground. Sweet dreams.

February 13, Thursday

We have an icy, cold day; the trees are all ice covered and so is everything outside, not snow, but ice. It is all very new to us; the natives call it an ice storm. The weather report said we'd have warmer weather with sunshine today; wrong again! We all slept in later than usual for Marshes, but me? I always stay in bed until I feel like getting up. Marshes had visitors about 11 a.m.; farm neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Gillian, or sounds like that anyway. I got up after they left. Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich, drink of Postum, and a custard for my lunch. I have two lovely



valentines now; one from Kathy and one from Janet. Donna and Rex received some, also. I also received a pretty rose-colored postcard from Violet with a picture of a big yellow and red rose. I'm glad she is feeling better. Donna and I watched a movie on television this evening after dinner. Rex wasn't interested in the love story; it was "Queen of the Stardust Ballroom" with Maureen Stapleton, so he

went to his living room to read. I tightened the buttons on my winter coat and did some work on the button holes while watching TV.

February 14, Friday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest, outside is ice and frost on the trees and shrubs everywhere we look. Rex and Donna drove to Topeka to have the doctor take the stitches out of his leg. It was still dense fog and cold when they came home about one o'clock. I fixed myself something to eat at 12:30. The doctor didn't take the stitches out; he says the incision isn't healed enough so Rex has to go back next week. Our electricity went off at 2:15 this afternoon. Ugh! I hate having it off on a bitter, cold day, on any day for that matter. Anything can happen in Kansas! The electricity came back on at 3 p.m. so that wasn't too upsetting. Donna read to me from her new book that Mary and Jon gave her for Christmas. "God, Family, Country." It is by Ezra



This is the only picture that came to mind that might have been sent to Elvie on February 12, but it is missing Kathy.

Taft Benson about our three great loyalties. I enjoyed it very much. Donna and Rex went to Overbrook this evening about 4:40 p.m. They went to buy a metal platform to stand the little stove on. They want to be prepared in case our electricity is turned off for a long time, that we can have heat in this place. The fireplaces are not finished yet. The icy weather is bitter cold. Oh darn! The electricity was off again at 7:38. Donna and I had just finished the dinner dishes. I was on my way back to my suite. It was pitch black. Donna and Rex located some candles and holders and the little oil lamp that Joan gave them, so we had light, but our heat was off and our water. It was freezing cold outside and foggy. We knew that Jon and Mary and the children were on their way here from Omaha. The house was getting cold, so I went to bed to keep warm. Our family of Tibbetses arrived about 10:30 p.m.

February 15, Saturday

The electricity came back on last night, before midnight, but it went off again early this morning, before daylight. We were without heat and water for several hours. I stayed in bed to keep warm until it came back on about 1:20 p.m. Mary brought a tuna sandwich and some applesauce and a glass of milk to me at noon. Jody and Gregory slept in my extra twin bed, Jon and Mary were in the couch bed in my sitting room. Julie was on a cot somewhere. Baby Spencer was in his crib in Donna's bedroom. The trees and the wires were all heavy with ice, so we have more electricity trouble. Oh, I hope not! It takes such a long time to get the house warm when it gets so cold. Rex and Jon worked most of today putting up the little old-fashioned stove and stove pipes so we can have some heat from it (it burns wood or coal) in case of another emergency. They made a fire in it after they'd finished installing it and it really put out the heat in the kitchen and even the hall. The living room was warm and comfortable, too. It was a hard job and dangerous too as the roof was icy and it was so bitter cold outside. This evening we enjoyed the television programs "Lawrence Welk," "All in the Family," "Mary Tyler Moore," "Bob Newhart," and "Carol Burnett." The little ones had baths and put to bed after 8 p.m. Donna made a delicious applesauce spice cake with black walnuts in it. We had some of it warm tonight. Mm good!

February 16, Sunday

Rex took Mary, Julie, Greg, and Jody to Ottawa to our branch Sunday School and sacrament meeting. Mary and the children went to Primary while Rex was in his priesthood and they all went to Sunday School and later to sacrament service. It snowed for about an hour, big flakes. They are so pretty to see. The ground was white when our family came home at 2 p.m. Donna had dinner ready and we enjoyed a very nice roast beef dinner. Jon and Mary helped Donna move the couch out of my sitting room into her big living room. It was a job to do, but it got done. Rex got back from feeding the horses and cows in time to help move my light rose colored platform rocker into my sitting room. Now, the three of us will have nice, comfortable chairs to sit in while watching television. Jon and Mary got their things together ready for the trip back to Omaha and

home. We surely enjoyed their visit. Rex was mouth for the family prayer we had before our Tibbets family drove away at about 4:45 p.m. Janet Shattuck phoned from San Jose, just in time to talk to Mary before they left for Omaha. Donna made sandwiches for her little family to take with them, plus some other goodies (the cake she made last evening). I gave Mary some gum and M&M's and \$3.00 for a treat of some kind on their way home. We'll miss them, their visit was a pleasure. The three of us enjoyed television tonight, plus the good roast beef sandwiches, Postum, apple nut cake, and a jelled fruit salad. Bless our sweet Donna for serving us. Jon and Mary phoned at 11:15 to let us know they are home safely. It took them longer because of the snow and icy roads. We are relieved to know they are home safely. Sweet dreams. P.S. Greg and Jody made a snowman after dinner. They used black walnuts for eyes, a carrot for a nose, sticks for arms, and he had on an old hat that Grama Donna gave them to use. Cute!

February 17, Monday

There is no mail today, this is a holiday. Our president has dedicated this day to honor of all the U.S. presidents' birthdays. We have a cold, cloudy day. There are long icicles hanging from our eaves, but they are melting and dripping this afternoon. Our electricity went off at 11:40 noon time. That means no heat, no water, no cooking. Oh me! Rex and



This stove heated part of the house when the power was out.

Donna were in the south field mending a fence. I got back in bed when I found the water and heat were not working. I can keep warm in bed. Rex made a fire in the little stove when he and Donna came home at 3 p.m. and it warmed the kitchen up nicely. Donna heated some milk on the top of the little stove and we enjoyed some hot Postum. She had brought me a sandwich and some applesauce before I got up. They went back to the fence mending job. The electricity came on about 4 p.m. and I came back to my easy swivel chair to write in my diary and relax. The Light Company phoned to ask if our electricity was on. I was happy to tell her, "Yes, thank you." Our farm neighbor Mrs. Keller phoned to ask if Rex had been to the well to put the pressure switch on so we can have water again. I told her not yet, but I was sure he would go down soon. He and Donna were working on getting their Chevrolet out of the frozen spot it was in for the past week. I'll be glad to have this cold winter a thing of the past Ugh! ☹ (Don't complain old gal, start counting your many blessings!) Tonight, Rex and Donna came in my sitting room to



Orson Welles at the tribute program on February 17.

watch the special TV program honoring Mr. Orson Welles in a two-hour tribute. Many of the movie stars showed on the screen. Frank Sinatra and Charleston Heston were the host and narrator. The TV weather man says we'll have more snow tonight and tomorrow. I hope the electric wires will not fail us again. It is 10:30 p.m. (Good night!)

February 18, Tuesday

It snowed last night and it's cold and cloudy looking today, but I'm warm in my nice, little suite. It is noon and it is quiet around our farm. I presume Rex is relaxing a little; he should keep off that right leg anyway. The incision is still bleeding a little. He has been out to feed the animals this morning. Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich and a cup of cream of tomato soup for my lunch. What would I do without my daughters' loving care? Rex and Donna went to look at a farm house they heard was for sale, about 2 miles from here. It has 2 or 3 acres; they thought it might be a good place for Guy and Dorothy Tibbets, instead of waiting for Capp Homes to do something about building on this property. The place had been sold, so that's out. Donna made some split pea soup for our dinner this evening. She vacuumed and dusted my rooms this afternoon. I took a walk around in the house and looked out the windows at the winter scenery, white with snow. We have long icicles hanging from our eaves. Even Bobo's little dog house has icicles hanging from its roof and about 2 ½ inches of snow on top of it. Donna and I ate from TV trays this evening while watching television. The split pea and ham soup tasted good with the toasted muffin. We had some delicious lemon pudding for dessert, plus apple nut spiced cake. Mm good. We watched the "Hollywood Squares" TV show, the "Good Times" comedy show and "Mash" tonight. I feel very weary tonight and I welcome the night time so I can go to bed and relax without feeling so guilty about being in bed. I feel the need for lots of bed rest now. P.S. Jon Tibbets phoned this evening to talk to Rex.



February 19, Wednesday

Glory Be! We have sunshine this morning. The ice is melting off of the trees and weeds. The icicles are dripping and I'm delighted to see old Sol again. ☺ Donna went with Rex to see about a plastering job in Eudora this morning; he has an ad in the newspaper for plastering jobs and he gets calls once in a while. I fixed myself a little brunch. I got up at 10:40 a.m. I gave Donna \$10.00 to get a few items for me, stamps, Paper Mate refills, and food for me. I wrote a letter to Lydia Paul this afternoon and I sent her a copy of the poem I composed on October 29 titled "Marshes' Mound." I ate with Donna and Rex this evening at 6 p.m. It was a nice dinner as always. Tonight, we watched television until after the ten o'clock news.

February 20, Thursday

Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook this morning to make a payment on the house and pay other bills. She left a note for me. They were back home before 11 a.m. I got dressed and made my bed. Donna brought lunch to me on a TV tray (tuna sandwich, Postum, lemon pudding, and cookie.) Rex has had the electricity off and on this afternoon. He is working on something. Donna says he is connecting up

the electric ovens. We were sorry to read in the Overbrook Citizen Paper about the fire that destroyed Ron Moore's home. It is believed to have been started by a spark from the family fireplace. Ironically, the chimney of the fireplace was the only structure still standing after the fire was out. The family dog, a Great Dane was trapped and killed in the fire. Mrs. Moore and her 1 ½ year old granddaughter, escaped across the road to the Walt Carter farm house. The Moore home was not far from this property. They have been here to see Rex and Donna. We have sunshine and clouds today. The icicles and snow are melting a little. Donna read a letter to me from Kathy. She had Janet Gardner write some of it, (she told her what to write) because she was unpacking her clothes from a job she'd been on the past three weeks. *[While working at Stratford School Kathy took extra jobs for nights and weekends on occasions.]* She may go to visit Janet S. and then here to see us some time next month. Dave and Janet will go to New York in April. They hope to call on us, also. Exciting, eh? Well, our hazy day is about to close. What tomorrow will bring no one knows. Donna brought my little table in here and took her little end table to her living room to match the one she has out there. I was happy to have my little table, too. It is a better arrangement for both of us. We exchanged lamps, too. The shorter lamp looks better in her living room and the taller one is fine on this end table. Both lamps are mine. P.S. Rex and Donna hung their big mirror up over the couch this afternoon. It looks really nice. Oh, it is a huge mirror. Their home is lovely inside now.

February 21, Friday

Rex and Donna drove to Topeka this morning about eight o'clock to have the doctor take the stitches out of his ankle incision. They took care of some business at the bank in Overbrook and put my savings book in the vault. It has \$10,000 left in it now. We must not draw anymore out now. We had \$16,000 when we came to Kansas. This afternoon Rex drove to Overbrook to see if he could find work of some kind in the convalescent hospital there. They had an ad in the paper for help wanted. Today's mail brought me a letter from Ethel Newbold.

She wrote about her grandchildren and great grandchildren. I enjoy hearing about them. She thanked me for the valentine and the tribute I composed in rhyme to her. We have hazy sunshine, but the clouds are covering the blue very fast this afternoon. It is now 4:20 p.m. Donna forgot to leave the savings

account book in the vault, so it is back in my purse again, minus \$120.71. She also drew out \$100 from our checking account. There are lots of bills to pay on this place. Rex is very anxious to find a job to help them through this difficult period. I ate my dinner from a TV tray while enjoying TV programs. Rex used his tractor with the bucket to bring gravel to our muddy yard to make a walkway to get to the cars without getting stuck in the mud. Donna typed a family letter to her children tonight. She came in here to listen to the ten o'clock news. I listened to the "Johnny Carson Show" for a while before going to bed. Good night.

Moving
to Kansas
and building a
home, took lots of
money!

February 22, Saturday

Mr. George Washington, how do you like having your birthday changed to February 17 by another United States President? My friend Ethel N. thinks it's dreadful. He he! We have a cold winter day; it is snowing big flakes and the fields are white. I'm thankful for my 50 years without the ice and snow, anyway. Donna brought brunch to me at noon, bless her. Rex went out in the storm to see about buying three calves for Miller. He brought them to the farm in a borrowed truck. Now we have six cows on the place. Donna baked a cake in her oven; it is the first one in the new electric oven. I sat in the kitchen while she frosted it with chocolate. Rex was building a wood fire in the little stove. Mary and Jon T. phoned to talk about the home he wants to build for his folks here on this farm; Capp won't be building it after all. Jon has contacted another company to do it for them. Donna was disappointed because they can't go to the branch dinner and program tonight in Ottawa. Rex was going to be Thomas Jefferson in a skit, but this bad weather and snow and icy roads, plus so far to drive, isn't wise. Rex and Donna went out to get some eggs and check the fence where the six cows are corralled. I stay in my warm, little suite. They came in and visited with me for a while. Donna came first and read me a True Love Story from the Reader's Digest. She also read some amusing anecdotes. This evening they went for milk at the dairy. The wind was blowing and it was snowing, burr, bitter cold. We ate our dinner from TV trays this evening while enjoying the "Lawrence Welk Show" and others. Saturday night has good comedy entertainment. The wind is still blowing and I presume it is snowing, too. We lose an hour tonight because of the change to Daylight Savings Time.

February 23, Sunday

I looked out my west window this morning about five o'clock (sun time) and I saw a magnificent sight. A huge orange ball of fire. It was the full moon at the horizon where earth and sky seem to meet. The earth was white with snow and that big orange moon in the dark sky was really sensational. I could hardly believe my own eyes. Rex and Donna went to Ottawa, to priesthood and Sunday School and Sacrament meeting. I stayed in bed and listened to the wind howl. I got up at noon and took a bath. I can't seem to get warm. I'm bundled up in my crocheted shawls. It sure looks cold outside, burr! The folks came home about 2 p.m. and Donna brought me my lunch on a TV tray (melted cheese sandwich, a bowl of hot beef soup, glass of milk, and a dish of peaches). She baked a duck in the electric oven for our dinner this evening. Rex came in this afternoon and read a couple of chapters to me from the Church History Book, Volume II. I enjoyed it very much. Our duck dinner this evening is not our favorite entree, but I'm sure Bobo the dog enjoyed it much better than we did. It has been cold and windy all day. Donna read a story from the Reader's Digest to me this evening about a man that could heal and operate on people vicariously, "Arigo" (The Surgeon of the Rusty Knife). It was in Brazil and a fantastic story in

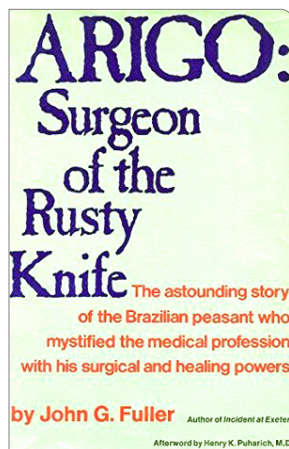
the March 1975 Digest. It was a pleasant Sabbath Day with my beloved family here on Marshes' Mound. John and Ann phoned from Salt Lake and talked to Donna. They wanted to find out how things are going with us, here on the farm.

February 24, Monday

We have another cold, windy, winter day. I'm thankful for my nice warm house and kind children. It is much warmer since Rex taped the two north windows (yesterday) where the cold air was coming in. Donna brought brunch to me at noon, egg, toast, Postum, and peaches. I got up to eat it. I stayed in bed to keep warm until the house could get warm. I was sorry to learn that Rex's big sow, Salome, died. Rex brought her with him to Kansas. He was having her bred at a neighbor's farm. The other sow, Petunia, is still at the farmer's place. We were delighted to see the sunshine this afternoon. The snow is melting and the mud is coming into its own obnoxious view, plus the flies, too. They like the warm sun on my south window. They hibernate somewhere when it is cold and cloudy outside. Donna brought a delicious fish dinner to me about 5:40 p.m.; there was also baked potato, green beans, a jelled salad, hot rolls, and chocolate cookies. It was very nice. One compensation for being elderly, I don't have to do the cooking anymore. Tonight, Donna and Rex came in to watch television with me. It is so nice to have company with me. Sweet dreams.



Salome, the pig in the far back, died at another farm in February. Rebecca's calf and Salome, that came from California, didn't survive very long after the move to Kansas.



February 25, Tuesday

We have some sunshine and a few white clouds in our blue sky today. Donna brought lunch to me at noontime. She and Rex worked outside wrapping tar paper and wire on the south side of the house getting it ready for the stucco job. We received a letter from Bonnie; her daughters are doing well. Leslie is away at school, Holly graduates in June; she is 18 and the baby of the family. Shonnie has two little children. Sherill works from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She has one child. Bonnie and Darrell went to see Violet and Otto. She says Violet looks good. Aunt LaPriel had to put her sister Hattie in a nursing home, she is not doing

well. Bonnie was taking her turn sitting with Aunt Hattie. LaPriel is so good to Hattie, but when she got so ill, she had to put her in the nursing home. I surely hope she won't have to suffer long. In my girlhood days, Hattie and I were almost inseparable. I sat in Donna's living room in front of her big window with the warm sunshine on me. Oh, it was so pleasant in there. That was about 5 p.m. Donna read to me from one of her church history books. She baked a custard pudding in one of her new electric ovens and some little frozen pies in the other oven. I came in my sitting room to eat my beef pie. I think she and Rex had chicken pies; we had our choice. They both came in here after dinner to watch television. We watched "The Good Times Show," "Mash," and "Hawaii Five O." We heard the ten o'clock news. Good night all.

February 26, Wednesday

We have a hazy sunshine today but it isn't windy so I'm pleased about that. Donna brought brunch to me at noon time I ate and enjoyed it while listening to my favorite TV program. (Nice, eh?) Rex worked on the top half of the house on the south side of the home getting it ready for the stucco. Donna assisted where she was needed. This afternoon they went to Overbrook for some groceries and etcetera. I dozed in my swivel chair and I walked around in the house to get some exercise. Rex and Donna came home about 5:15. She prepared dinner for us. The sun has melted most of the snow. We have a lot of mud in the yard now, and it is sticky mud. Donna ate dinner with me this evening from a TV tray. Rex ate late this afternoon, so he wasn't hungry at 6 p.m. We watched television's "Little House on The Prairie," "Lucas Tanner," and the "Petrocell" drama. Our news reporter says we'll have sunshine again tomorrow. I hope so, I'd like to see the snow patches gone and the dreadful mud dried up around this house. I'm going to turn out the lights and go to bed! Good night all It is 10:45 p.m.

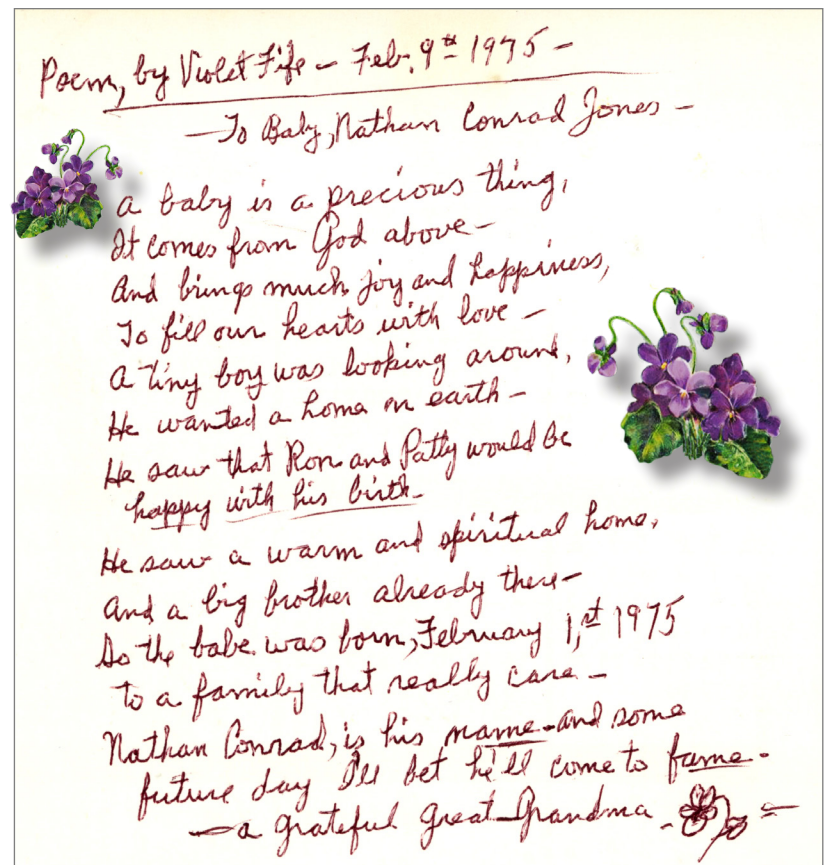
February 27, Thursday

We have another hazy, sunshine day. I presume it is cold outside because we have several patches of snow around the place; it isn't melting very fast. I keep my little suite nice and warm anyway. I received a letter from **Violet**; she enclosed a cute poem she composed to her new great-grandson, Nathan Conrad Jones, born February 1 (7 pounds and 3 ounces). She also enclosed a letter Yvonne sent her. Donna and I enjoyed the letters; Donna read them to me. There was a letter from Kathy, too and we enjoyed it a lot, also. The wind came on very strong this afternoon. I hope the "Big Blow" will dry up the nasty mud around here. Donna brought me a very good drink of whipped lemon juice with an egg in it. Mm good. Today the Church Newspaper had a picture of Miller's brother, Quinn Gardner. He has been named director of the Production Distribution Department of the Church Welfare Services. He was division manager of Frito-Lay of Florida. Donna brought my TV plate to me

at 5:45. I ate my grilled cheese sandwich, tapioca creamed pudding, and cookies, and I drank my Postum while I was watching "Truth or Consequence." Donna took the clothes off my two Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls and washed and ironed them, and dressed the dolls in their clean clothes. They look much better now. We all watched "The Waltons" TV show tonight and the "Dean Martin Show" (roasting Jackie Gleason). It was a fun show, we all enjoyed it. It is bedtime now. Goodnight all. P.S. The wind has let up and I'm glad for that. I hate to hear the howling wind all night.

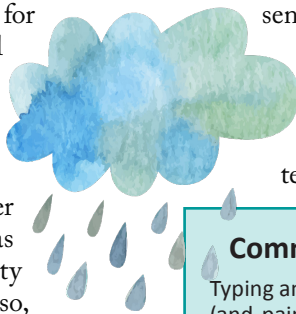
February 28, Friday

I got up at 11:30 this morning. In case you are wondering why I stay in bed so long, here are three reasons: First, I keep warm until my house is warmer. Second, my day isn't so long and lonesome. Third, I only need two meals a day. I eat my breakfast and lunch at noon time. ☺ Smart old gal, eh? Donna worked with Rex in the field most of today. They took down the wire fence in the north field and I think they took it to the south field where the horses are corralled. It has been a pleasant day, cloudy, but calm, and no wind, some sunshine. The snow is about all gone, but the mud is all around our home. A man from the Overbrook Nursing Home phoned to talk to Rex; he said he'd call again on Monday. This evening Donna brought my dinner at 6:15. It was stewed chicken, potatoes and gravy, broccoli, and cream tapioca pudding and chocolate cookies. It was a nice dinner. This evening Rex and Donna didn't come in to watch television with me, so it was a lonesome evening, too. I presume they are reading? My eyes won't let me read very long at a time anymore. They water and blur my vision. A sad situation, eh? Nighty nite.



March 1, Saturday

Well, March came in like a lamb, but the wind was howling this afternoon by 2 p.m. and clouds are covering the blue sky. It looks like March is building up to go out like a lion. We'll see, eh? Donna made a delicious chicken sandwich for my brunch, some Postum, a dish of cooked peaches, plus chocolate cookies. We couldn't get any water today for a few hours. The Kellers had some leak in their pipes, so they turned it off at the well. Rex went to Overbrook for a pump; he thought the pressure was gone. The Kellers didn't let us know they were going to turn off the well. Rex went over to help Mr. Keller fix his pipes; good neighbor, eh? I rode to Overbrook with Rex and Donna in the truck. She bought a couple of gifts for two parties she is invited to; one is tonight. Both she and Rex are invited, in fact I was invited, too, but I didn't feel well enough to go. It is a party and a dance. We shopped in the drug store, also, I bought some Super Plenamens Vitamins with iron. They were on a special, two for one sale. Donna needs iron so I bought them. I bought Scope Mouthwash for myself and some French chocolate mints (Russell Stover Chocolates). Mm good. We went to Bruce Hackett's property for a load of hay. Bruce helped Rex load it. Rex also got some air for the well pump. I've forgotten what he called the little tank he carried the air in. We ate dinner while the "Lawrence Welk" TV program was on. Rex and Donna went to their dancing party tonight. I enjoyed my television programs. And so, goes the first day of March, 1975.



for my comfort. Donna brought a hot, roast beef sandwich, a drink of Postum, and chocolate pudding to me for my brunch. Today's mail brought a postcard from Lydia telling about Harriet's illness. She has taken a turn for the worse. There is no hope for her recovery. I also received a letter from Blanche Hoglund telling about Harriet's illness and her own problems, too. She thinks she is the oldest one in our Strong family alive today. I presume she is? I'm 82, and she is a few years older than I am. My mother was a Strong and her father was a Strong. My Social Security check came today, \$244.40. Donna cashed it at the bank this afternoon. \$200 went for payments on this farm house; she brought the \$44.40 cash to me. I gave her \$20.00 for food. I tried to give her \$25.00, but she said no. If she runs out of money, she'll let me know. Bless them, they are surely having a struggle to build this home. Rex has been cleaning up the trash in the backyard all day. It looks much better, too. He has a big bonfire going. There was a nice letter from Kathy; she sent her folks a check for \$20.00, I think. She is cute; she said, "This check is for interest, my interest in you." ☺ I enjoyed Donna playing her piano yesterday and today, a happy note in my day. We all enjoyed television programs tonight until the ten o'clock news was over. Sweet Dreams

Comments from the editors (Mary & Kathy):

Typing and working on 1974 and 1975 has been very interesting (and painful at times) for us. Seeing it all through our Grama Elvie's eyes is enlightening. Our mother's letters were full of the good things she could tell us. We did not hear of the financial headaches. We did get a hint of them when visiting or asking questions but our mom was not one to complain.

Also, Grama Elvie had to remember how she would not leave Lou when he was sick and she may have wished Donna would do that for her when she was ill. Even when well, Elvie had to spend so much time alone.

Another concern for Elvie must have been seeing her savings dwindle from \$16,000 to \$10,000 in just over a year. The costs for building a home were much higher than our dad imagined. He came to Overbrook with the money from the sale of the Cotati farm of \$40,000 (\$218,199.14 in 2019 dollars). The money went quickly. There were added expenses that he had not had anticipated. The dream of the farm and the reality were proving to be vastly different. There are lessons to be learned for all, but it is up to the individual to decide, what are those lessons?

March 2, Sunday

Rex and Donna got up early and drove to Ottawa to his priesthood, Sunday School, and sacrament meeting. She came in to see if I wanted to go; it was too cold and too much for me. I do hate to miss my church on the sabbath day, but age, plus aching joints, and etcetera have altered my way of life. I got up at noon, took a bath, and got dressed. I put my little house in order. I was writing in my diary when my children came home at 2 pm. They left again for a half hour to take a shower gift to someone. I believe it is for the Ron Moore family, whose home was destroyed by fire last February 20. I'm not sure, however, because she had two shower gifts to buy. She isn't going to this shower, anyway. We have sunshine and clouds today. There are a few patches of snow left where it drifted. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about three o'clock. It was pot roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, and chocolate cake. She read to me from Ezra Taft Benson's book "Man, Home, and Country. It is a very fine book, I enjoyed it. Rex and Donna fasted until after five o'clock. She wouldn't let me fast that long. I fasted from six o'clock last evening until 3 p.m. today. We all listened to television programs tonight. The arthritis or whatever it is in my left arm and shoulder is very painful at times. I feel it in my hands, too, when I try to clench them shut. I hope they will not get crippled and deformed like Annie's dear hands did; they look normal now. I count my blessings.

March 3, Monday

We have a pleasant day, hazy sunshine with clouds in the blue sky. I stayed in bed until my house warmed up enough

March 4, Tuesday

Donna drove to Ottawa this morning to Relief Society. She stayed for the bridal shower after the meeting. She came home about 2:35. Rex went out somewhere in the truck. He came home in time to get dressed to go to Overbrook to the nursing home for his appointment with a Mr. Fisher. Rex applied for a part time job there. He came home at 3:40 p.m. He is going to start training to be an orderly next Monday morning from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We ate our dinner at about four o'clock and then we drove to Ottawa to try and see a man that Rex wants to help do a plastering job; he wasn't home. J.C. Penney's Store closed at five o'clock, so, we were too late to shop there for the white pants and shirt that Rex will need for his new job in the nursing home. He does have one pair of white pants and the shirt in his temple clothes, so

he'll be set okay for Monday anyway. We enjoyed the drive to Ottawa and the ice cream cone Rex bought for us. Mine was mint. Rex and Donna watched the two-hour television program "People's Award Program" with me tonight. It has many of our favorite television and movie actors and actresses on; it was very entertaining. I enjoyed it very much. Our precious Donna made sandwiches and hot Postum for us to enjoy, plus her delicious little chocolate chip brownie-cookie squares. Good night and sweet dreams. It is 11:20 p.m. Oh oh! Late for you old gal.

March 5, Wednesday

We had a cloudy, cold, windy morning, but this afternoon it was sunny and warm. I wrote a postcard to Lydia in answer to her card, telling me about Harriet S. and her serious illness. She says there is no hope for her recovery. She wanted to know if I'd like her to take care of flowers if anything happens to call Hattie home. I told her I'd be happy to have her get flowers for me if, or when, they're needed. Just let me know the cost. Donna took my card to the mailbox this morning. Rex and Donna worked in the backyard most of the day. They moved all of the old junk and it looks very nice now. Rex rotated the sod with his tractor. He wants to sow some kind of grass seeds out there, I think. I have enjoyed the sunshine coming in my windows and also watching Rex and Donna at their work. I answered Blanche's letter with a postcard this evening. Donna fasted all day with the Relief Society sisters in our branch, for a sick sister who is suffering a nervous breakdown. I've forgotten her name. Tonight, we enjoyed the "Bob Hope Special Award Show," introducing new young talent. My left arm and shoulder have given me some trouble today. It is painful to lift anything or move it around. I guess it is arthritis? I'm not happy with it, anyway, but I do have many blessings to be thankful for. One of them is my bed, and I'm on my way to it right now. Good night!

March 6, Thursday

We have a cloudy, cold day with no sunshine. I stayed in bed until after ten o'clock. I could hear Donna's typewriter going, she has lots of letters to write to her children. She brought me some lunch at noontime and then she and Rex drove to some town, Eudora, I think she said. Rex wanted to check on the scaffolding he will need for a plastering job he is going to do there. They were home by 4:15. I had them buy two 3-way light globes for our two table lamps. Rex's friend Ken brought his machine for fertilizing to the farm, and he sprayed the big south field with the product to enrich the soil. Rex was on his tractor rotating part of the south field. Donna did some ironing and going through some of her clothes she can wear now that she has lost weight. I walked around in my rooms and out in Donna's house for some exercise. We all listened to television tonight. We had some sunshine for a while this afternoon, but not for long. It started to rain tonight and we had some lightening and a few loud claps of thunder; one was too close for my comfort. P.S. Donna cooked some spareribs and baked potatoes and broccoli for our dinner. I enjoyed it. It's bed time now, night all.



"It started to rain tonight and we had some lightening and a few loud claps of thunder; one was too close for my comfort."

March 7, Friday

We have a pleasant day with hazy sunshine. Donna left a note for me saying she had gone to Overbrook with Rex. She had washed and dried my pink, crocheted lap robe and my blue afghan. They look so clean and fluffy. My left arm and shoulder are still giving me some pain when I try to lift anything. I'm very thankful I can comb my hair and dress myself without help and make my bed. Donna brought my brunch at noontime. She has worked with Rex today; they brought a couple of loads of gravel from somewhere nearby and unloaded it in front of the house so the cars won't get stuck in that awful mud. We can walk on it too when we go out to the cars. I seldom leave the house because of the cold and the wind, plus the fact that I do not feel very well. I wrote a letter to Bonnie Reynolds; I wanted to write to Violet, too, but just didn't feel well enough. Donna brought a delicious fried chicken dinner to me this evening. She went to bed early after taking a shower bath. It was soon after eight o'clock. They both worked hard today. Rex went to bed early, too. I turned out my lights soon after ten o'clock. Night all.

March 8, Saturday

One week of March is gone already. Donna brought a nice breakfast to me about 10:30 a.m., egg, toast, Postum, and half a grapefruit. She and Rex drove all over the south field in the tractor. She said they were gathering manure to fertilize the garden spot they're going to plant. Donna was driving the tractor. Rex loves to have her with him on all of the farm work if she can go along, and she loves to go with him, too. A farmer I am not, no way! The long, dusty country roads we have to drive to get to where we are going isn't my idea of pleasure, but to each his own, eh? Rex and Donna love it. We have some hazy sunshine; it looks cold outside, but I'm nice and warm in my little suite. "How Sweet it is?" My two farmers came in for their lunch about 1:20 p.m. Donna took my letter to Bonnie to the mailbox this morning. It is almost a mile to our mailbox, too far to walk. This afternoon about 2:10, Rex and Donna went to Ottawa on business of some kind? I think it concerns the home Jon Tibbets plans on building on this farmland. I gave Donna \$10.00 to buy some items I need. They invited me to go with them, but I just didn't feel well enough to make the effort. My left arm and shoulder are painful at times. I tried to answer Violet's letter and I did just that! I enclosed the poem I composed last October 29 (Marshes' Mound). This evening a Mr. and Mrs. Carter and small son came to the farm to ask if their dog was here? It has been here for

two or three days and nights, with our dog, Bobo. They were happy to find their dog and we were glad they came for her. They came in and visited with Marshes. The boy stayed in my house and watched television with me. Rex and Donna watched television tonight for several programs. Donna bought me a liquid rub called T-H-R-U. I'll try it tonight. P.S. Janet phoned from San Jose tonight. She talked to her parents for about half an hour. All is well with them.

March 9, Sunday

Last night I rubbed some T-H-R-U liquid rub on my arm and shoulder for relief from the muscular pain in my left arm, Donna brought it home from the drug store yesterday for me to try. In fact, she came in my bathroom and rubbed it on for me. It really did help a lot. I didn't feel any ache or pain all night. Rex and Donna went to the Ottawa Branch this morning in time for his priesthood, Sunday School and sacrament service. I got up and turned on the heat about ten o'clock. It was snowing outside. I went back to bed until my rooms warmed up. I rubbed more T-H-R-U on my arm and shoulder. It isn't as painful today, it only hurts when I try to lift with it.

It was snowing beautiful, big flakes when Rex and Donna came home about two. If it keeps up like this very long, we'll be snowed in here on the Mound. Ugh! The snow was too much for Bobo; he found shelter in his dog house. He was watching the road for the Marshes return, but he retreated to his dog house. Donna got dinner ready and they came in my living room to eat with me from TV trays. Their side of the house isn't warm enough for me. We had a delicious fried fish dinner, scalloped potatoes with cheese, and green peas. For dessert hot chocolate pudding over chocolate ice cream. It was a good dinner. Rex took his tractor out this late afternoon to go and feed his animals (the horses and cows). Donna is the Relief Society President in our Ottawa Branch. She was set apart after the sacrament service. I pray the dear Lord's blessing upon her. I thought she was too busy with her farm work? We all enjoyed television this evening and a snack that Donna brought to us. Everything is covered in snow tonight, and it is still snowing. Good night!

March 10, Monday

This is Rex's first day to work at the Overbrook nursing home. He had to be on the job at 8 a.m. He will be training to be an orderly. We have about four inches of snow all over this place, but Rex phoned to let Donna know he got there okay. My letter to Violet won't get mailed today as Donna can't get it to the mailbox for the pickup; we're snowed in. I ate my brunch about 11:40. It looks as if the sun is trying to get through to us. It is now 12:15 noon. Donna has had a busy morning. She mixed bread and did some ironing and etcetera. I'm so thankful I can get dressed and comb my hair and look after my personal needs. I am blessed. I dreamed I was with John and Florence Marsh, Charlie and Lorene Clayton, and my husband Lou last night. It was so natural and then strange to wake up and realize that I am the only still here in this life. Oh, oh, it is time for my TV soap operas. We haven't seen the sunshine today and the snow isn't melting. Rex got home at 3:30. He was tired, but happy with his new job. He told us all about his first day's experience. Our house smells so good with Donna's bread baking. We enjoyed some of the delicious, warm bread and butter for our dinner at five o'clock. Mm good!

Elvie's Poem for March 11

*Winter is still with us, that I know
Because our fields are all white with snow.
My calendar says "Spring is on its Way,"
But there are icicles hanging from our house
today.
Donna couldn't use her car even if she wanted
to go—
Because it is frozen here in the snow.
Everything with us is not bad luck,
Rex got to his new job in the pick-up truck.
He was back home again about half past
three,
And reported some interesting experiences
(with his patients) to Donna and me.*

March 11, Tuesday

We received a cute letter from Mary telling about the children, things they do and say. Their Easter vacation starts March 21. They have plans to drive to the farm that night. Jon wants to help Rex on the farm. Mary will drive to Chicago to visit Joan. She will take the children with her. Mary's little Jody wants to be a Grampa like Grampa Rex. Mary told him when he is a grampa, his Grampa Rex will be dead. Little Jody perked up and said, "Can I watch him die?" ha ha! Rex got a big kick out of that! One of Rex's cows got out of the corn field this afternoon, so he had to get it back inside of the fence. This evening Rex and Donna watched television

with me for a couple of hours. We watched "Good Times" a comedy, "M.A.S.H.," "Hawaii Five-O," and "The Billy Graham Crusade" I wrote a note in Melv Renshaw's birthday card and got it ready for Rex to mail in the morning on his way to work. His birthday is March 14. We turned out the lights about 10:40 p.m. P.S. Donna vacuumed my rugs today and dusted the furniture. She had to miss her Relief Society today because of the snow and she is the new president. She was sorry she couldn't be there and I was sorry, too. I'll surely be glad to have this winter weather gone!

March 12, Wednesday

*Our sky is lighter, my hopes are brighter,
Our fields are still white with snow,
The wind is whipping, the icicles are dripping
And I'm all set for my TV Show!*



I heard Rex drive away this morning before daylight to his job in the nursing home in Overbrook. I rested well last night; I got up a couple of times and rubbed BenGay on my left arm and shoulder. It isn't as painful today. Donna brought brunch to me about 11:30. I stay in bed as long as I can. I keep nice and warm in bed and the day doesn't seem so long then. I hope the sun will show up today. It's a bit depressing when we have no sunshine for days at a time. Rex was home from his work by 3:30. The Marshes and myself received some anti-Mormon propaganda pamphlets in today's mail. I read a couple of them. Oh, Satan is sure working overtime. Donna came in this afternoon and read to me from the Reader's Digest, the "Real" Uncle Tom. It was interesting. Tonight we watched "Little House on the Prairie" and "Lucas Tanner" on television. Time for bed. Goodnight.

March 13, Thursday

We have a hazy sunshine today, but the snow is still on the ground and it is cold outside. The icicles aren't even dripping. Donna went out to burn the papers. She brought my lunch about noon. My shoulder and my arm are bothering me, but not as painful as it has been. I can hear Donna's typewriter going; I presume she is typing letters to her children. They write often and she answers them all. Rex came home from

work at 3:30 p.m. He picked up the mail. There was a nice, long letter from Joan. Donna came in and read it to me. Everything is going well with the Miller Gardners. They love to hear news from the Marsh farm. Joan says they all enjoy having Kathy with them in Chicago. We hope to see all of them during their school vacation time. We expect Kathy later this month. There was a letter from Lillian Keller in today's mail. She enclosed a color snapshot of her and Jack. She misses him a lot; she is 83 years old. She says she may go to Salt Lake for the April conference, but Louise is going to Phoenix the 22nd of March, so Lillian isn't sure about her Salt Lake trip. The weather is sunny and warm there; it is lovely in Arizona in the winter time and too hot in the summer. I walk around in my suite for some exercise, I can't hike in this snow, or the mud, when the snow melts. Donna just looked in on me. She is typing her life's story that she started months ago. One of her children [Joan] asked her to do it. Of course, they all want a copy of it. I'll enjoy reading it myself. Donna came in later and read to me what she typed today; she said it was 10 years ago she typed the first story up to date for Joan. Now she has typed the second story up to date. It was indeed interesting. The three of us watched television tonight, "The Waltons," and "Lawman." The weather man says it is going to be cold tonight. Burr. Goodnight, sleep warm.

March 14, Friday

I composed a verse for Violet's birthday card while eating my brunch this morning (see April 1). We have a hazy sunshine today, but it's cold outside. The snow isn't melting very fast and icicles are still hanging from the north side of our house. Donna is typing her life story; she did the first part about 10 years ago, now she is bringing it up to date. I spent some time doing little dance steps in my rooms, while I hummed "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" and "Waltz Me Around Again Willie," and "East Side, West Side All Around the Town." I have to get my leg exercise some way! Rex got home about 4:15 p.m. He stopped to shop at the market before coming home. Donna baked a little, frozen chicken pie for my dinner. She brought it to me before she and Rex left for the Relief Society Birthday Dinner Party about 5:40 p.m. I wasn't feeling well enough to go with them. The party was held in Osawatomie, not far from President North's home. Donna took some food for the dinner. I hope they have a nice time. I watched television until 11:30 and then I went to bed. P.S. The Relief Society party was in the basement of the Methodist Church in Osawatomie.

March 15, Saturday

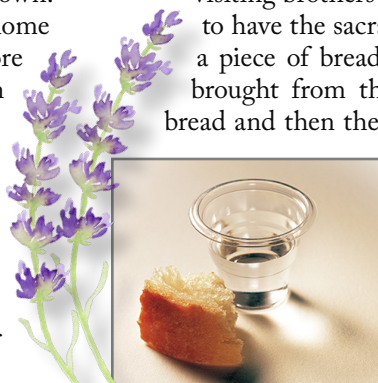
Donna brought breakfast to me about 10:30, before she and Rex left for Br. Westhoff's farm in Paola, where Rex went for a load of hay. Donna visited a branch sister who is ill in the hospital in Paola. They left here at 10:45 a.m. I gave Donna \$5.00 to buy me some Deep Heat Rub and some postage stamps. We have a hazy sky; the sun is trying to get through the clouds. The snow is crusted and not melting. We have long icicles on the north side of the house. Bobo is stretched out in the snow asleep; he looks as comfortable as if he was in a field of clover. He has a nice doghouse, too, with a blanket

on the floor. He keeps his eyes on the road into this farm for the return of Rex's pick-up truck and he springs to life when he sees it coming and he runs down the road to meet it. He's overjoyed to see them back home. (So am I!) I composed a verse for Janet Gardner's birthday card; her day is April 13. It is too soon to mail it, but it is ready. I have to do something to keep my mind off the loneliness of this isolation. I'm most always invited to go with Rex and Donna, but I'm not feeling well enough to go along. I made out a check for my church donations, tithing \$5.00, fast offering \$2.00, \$2.00 budget, and \$1.00 maintenance. I had to wait until the basketball game was over before Lawrence Welk came on. It was a two hour wait! ☹ Carol Burnett came after the Welk's show. She is a talented gal, but after watching the culture and refinement of the Lawrence Welk program, somehow her show seems to me coarse and vulgar. Our world is getting more like that every day. What has happened to modesty anyway? Donna's bathroom looks so pretty with the lovely throw rugs that Joan sent her. They are a beautiful blue. She also sent some lovely blue towels that are a perfect match (bath towels, hand towels, and wash cloths). It was a box full of them. She is precious. (They all are.)

March 16, Sunday

Rex and Donna went to Ottawa this morning in time for his priesthood. Donna had a class to teach in Primary. Rex teaches a class in priesthood. They attended Sunday School and Sacrament meeting. It was two o'clock when they got home. I got up at noon and took a bath. My shoulder and arm feel better, the Deep Heat Rub is helping. It isn't as painful to use my arm now (the left one). We have a cloudy sky, no sunshine, but a lot of the snow has melted now and we have mud. Oh, do we have a muddy yard. (Shoes off before coming in on the nice new rugs.) Donna got our dinner ready and she was just about to serve it when our branch visiting brothers came. Br. Derr asked if I would like to have the sacrament. I said yes, so Donna brought a piece of bread and some water in a little cup he brought from the church. He administered to the bread and then the water and I had the sacrament this Sabbath day. (I'm thankful.) Br. Derr also left a lovely blessing in our home before he left here. I feel like I've been to church and that is a pleasant feeling. Rex and Donna came in my little suite and ate from TV trays to keep me company. Rex starts his night shift at the nursing home

tonight at 10:45. He had a nap for an hour, then fed his animals. Donna did the dishes and then she took a nap. I dozed in my chair. The sun did get through the clouds this evening about 4:45. Rex got up at 5 p.m. and watched TV, "60 minutes." Donna and I listened to some tapes we recorded back in 1948, 27 years ago. Some of them John sent from his mission in Scotland. Rex left for his work at the nursing home about 10:30 tonight. I don't think I've played some of the recordings on the little Sony for over 20 years. It was fun listening to them. P.S. Donna took my tithing and other donations to President North this morning.



Top O' the Mornin' to Ye

FEBRUARY 1975							MARCH 1975							APRIL 1975						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28		30	31						27	28	29	30			

No man is wise enough by himself—Plautus

The green page is in honor of St. Patrick's Day

MARCH 17 MONDAY

76 ↔ 289

8:00 *we have a hazy sunshiny today, a few patches of snow on*
 8:30 *the North side of this house, but it's mostly all mud now*

*Donna took a nap on my extra twin bed.
 I sat in my swivel chair and nodded my head.
 Here I go again, my thoughts come in rhyme
 They keep on doing that from time to time.
 Well, I write 'em as they come to me, in rhyme or not,
 My diary is a hobby, I enjoy it a lot.*

Donna and I ate our dinner from TV trays in my sitting room about 5:30. Rex was

sleeping, he ate later. He watched television tonight until he had to get ready for his night job at the nursing home in Overbrook. He works from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. He looks very nice in his white shirt and pants. Donna and I ate prunes from the package tonight while watching television. Good night and sweet dreams.

March 19, Wednesday

We had a lovely, sunny morning. Oh, what a treat that is! My shoulder and arm are a little better, but still painful when I try to lift it over my head to comb my hair and etcetera. Donna brought me some lunch at noon. She and Rex drove to Overbrook after he got up and had his lunch. He had an appointment with the doctor, I think. They left here after 2 p.m. I gave her a list of things I wanted, mostly medication. (Fun, eh?) I'm surely enjoying this nice, sunny day. The mud is drying out, too. I surely hope winter is over for this season. I'm tired of gloomy days and the ice and snow. Ugh! I did some dance steps around in my little suite to my own humming. ♪ ♪ I've got to keep these old legs limbered up. I can't let them get crippled or stiff, eh? ☺ My dear Lou's picture smiles back at me as I step the "light fantastic," to the tune of "Yes Sir, That's my Baby." Rex and Donna came home about 6:30 p.m. They had been to Ottawa, also. They brought me a box of Kentucky Fried Chicken. (It was a box lunch on sale for \$1.39) Mm good! I enjoyed hearing Donna playing her piano after Rex left for work. I listened to television alone tonight. It's time to go to bed; it has been a lovely, spring like day. I'll take an Arthritis Anacin Pain Formula tablet and rub my shoulder with Deep Heat and hope for the best. Night all!

March 20, Thursday

There are clouds covering our blue sky this morning, but the sun gets through to us once in a while. Donna brought a chicken sandwich, cup of Postum, and a peach and cottage cheese salad for my brunch at noon time. She wrote a dozen or more post-cards to her Relief Society sisters. She took them out to the mailbox, but he had already been with our mail. He has been coming earlier lately. She brought back a letter to me from Violet. It had a letter from Dolores enclosed. Dolores is very busy in Belgium; she writes a very interesting letter. Oh, I'd love to have recorded her news, but no space, however, she and Bevan

March 17, Monday

Top O' the Mornin' to ye! The green ink on this page is in honor of St. Patrick's Day. ☺ We have a hazy sunshine today, there are still a few patches of snow on the north side of this house, but it's mostly all mud now. If this wind keeps up, the mud will dry up. Rex got home from work this morning soon after seven. He slept until afternoon time. Donna drove to Overbrook with Rex this afternoon on some business. I wrote in my diary and listened to television. Marshes received a nice letter from Ernest Oates; he mentioned that some of the ward brothers have passed away, and all four of them were counselors to him when he was the bishop (Ken Bywater, Cecil T. Moore, Jess Dewey, and Harry Lewis). He enclosed a poem I wrote on August 31, 1954, "Eternal Youth." It was in Mother Marsh's papers. I gave it to her over 20 years ago. It was a tribute that I did in honor of a dear old man in Garvanza Ward, a Br. Lewis. He was well along in his eighties. I gave it to his daughter Sr. C. Tanner after Br. Lewis died. I'd forgotten all about it. Ernie also enclosed a news clipping and picture of Otto Fife honored at a Scout Court of Honor in Cedar City. Donna brought me a glass of butter milk and some crackers this afternoon. It tasted good! I rested on my bed for an hour this afternoon. Donna typed a letter, to Joan, I think. Rex worked in the field with his tractor for a while, then he took a nap. Donna brought a nice dinner to me at 6 p.m. She ate here with me; Rex was sleeping. He ate later. We all watched TV until Rex had to leave for his night job in the nursing home in Overbrook about 10:10 p.m.

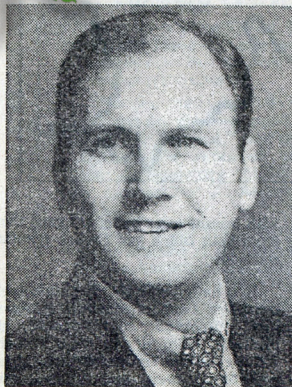
March 18, Tuesday

*Our morning is overcast, not very bright.
 But I slept very well last night.
 Donna went to Relief Society to preside.
 The drive to Ottawa is a long old ride.
 Rex worked all night, now he is sleeping sound.
 The snow has melted, but there is sticky mud all around.
 Later this afternoon the sun came through.
 In the sky we can see a patch of blue.*



Donna read me the letter she received today from Mary. The Tibbetses will arrive here late on Friday from Omaha. Jon will stay here to help Rex on the farm and Saturday morning Mary and the children will drive to Chicago to visit with Joan and family. Our family gets around, eh?

Church Calls Director for Production Unit



Quinn Gardner, division manager of Frito-Lay of Florida, has been named director of the Production-Distribution Department of the Church Welfare Services.

The Presiding Bishopric, which called Brother Gardner, said he will succeed J. W. Child, who recently was named head of the Tax Accounting and Reporting Department of the Church.

Brother Gardner has responsibility for the coordination and direction of Church welfare projects, storehouses, and Deseret Industries.

There are approximately 600 welfare projects operated by branches, wards,

**Quinn Gardner
will head Church
Welfare unit.**

stakes and regions. All major food groups are represented in these projects, including grains, dairy products, fruits, meat and poultry products.

These commodities are drawn upon through bishops' storehouses for use by bishops in administering the welfare program. There are approximately 78 bishops' storehouses and 20 canneries operating in the United States and Canada.

There also are 12 Deseret Industries operating primarily in the western United States, providing jobs to the handicapped and low-cost goods for members of the community.

Brother Gardner is a native of Colorado Springs, Colo., and was born June 15, 1941 to Rollie and Grace Robinson Gardner. He married Donna Hilton, June 1, 1964, in the Salt Lake

Temple, and they are the parents of five children.

He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Brigham Young University. He also was an instructor in the College of Religion at BYU for one year.

He started his professional career as an announcer at two Provo radio stations. Later, he went into sales and sales development with several U.S. corporations.

His latest assignment was with Frito-Lay of Florida, where he was responsible for a successful merger of snack acquisitions in Puerto Rico into U.S. operations.

He has been active in the Church all his life, and has served in two bishoprics, and at present is on the high council of the Ft. Lauderdale Florida Stake. He served in the Uruguay Montevideo Mission.

4 — CHURCH • WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 22, 1975

Quinn Gardner moves his family to Bountiful after accepting the job to work as the director of the Production-Distribution Department of the Church Welfare Services. Quinn and his family moved from Florida to Utah.

are doing a lot of LDS church work over there. Violet says she and Otto enjoyed my poem, Marshes' Mound. They have about 4 inches of snow in Cedar (letter written on the 15th of March). Violet isn't at all well, her blood pressure has gone up again. She enclosed a picture and write up of Mo's brother **Quinn Gardner** from the Church News. We had a copy of it in our paper, too. He is the head of Church Welfare now. Rex is fighting a head cold, but he went to his night work anyway. Donna took a shower bath and went to bed soon after 10 p.m. I doctored my left arm and shoulder for relief from arthritis. I took a tablet and used the rub. I went to bed soon after 10:30 p.m. We did have a nice sunshine all afternoon; the mud is drying up. Oh, happy day! I'm tired of that nasty mud all around our house. Donna has to drive to Kansas City, Missouri, in the morning to her Relief Society stake leadership meeting.

March 21, Friday

It is the first day of spring! ☺ We have sunshine this morning, but it's hazy in a rather gray looking sky. I got up at 10 a.m. and turned my heat up and got in bed again. Donna left early for her leadership meeting in Kansas City. She was going to have company from Ottawa (some Relief Society sisters riding with her). I don't see Rex's truck from my windows. He usually gets home from his night job about 7:30 a.m. Donna left a banana and Rice Krispies, and some milk on a TV tray for me. I got up at 10:30 and put my hair up in pin curls. The pain in my shoulder isn't as severe; I'm very thankful for that. I've wanted to put my hair up for several days, but couldn't because of the pain in my arm. It's very quiet and lonesome around here this day. Well, I have my good old friend, the television. My eyes can't take reading too well now. Rex came home this afternoon about 1 p.m. He'd been to Topeka to see his doctor about his ankle. The doctor said it is all right and he has released Rex. Rex brought a letter from Lydia to me, four pages of fun reading. She writes just like she talks. It is fun to be with her and her letters. She writes about her family and friends. Donna came home about 4:30 and

told me about her interesting day with the stake Relief Society sisters in Kansas City. They had a lovely luncheon and program in honor of the society's birthday. I'm glad she could be with them to celebrate. Lydia says Harriet is hanging on to life; she has many complications, but she knows all of them when they visit her. Everyone in the home loves her because she is so sweet to them. Hattie has always been a sweetheart. I'm so sorry she is suffering so much now. I'd love to visit with her. Donna brought a nice meat and vegetable casserole for my dinner at 5:30 p.m. I had cream tapioca pudding, too. It was good. The Jon Tibbets family arrived tonight about 10:15 p.m. Greg and Jody slept in my extra twin bed. Rex brought my favorite nuts home today, cashews. Mm good.

March 22, Saturday

Mary and the children's visit here seems like a dream. They came late last night and left early this morning about 7 a.m. Jon is staying here to help Rex. Mary is driving to Chicago to visit with Joan and family and sister Kathy for five days; then they are all driving to Kansas to visit with us on the farm. Jon went to help Rex with a stucco job on a building in Eudora, I think. I didn't sleep very soundly last night; my best sleep was after seven this morning when the family drove away. Our Relief Society visiting teachers came this morning, Sr. Jeanne Brooks and Sr. Doris Crider. Donna brought them in my suite to say hello (and report a visit). I was still in bed, 10:30 a.m. ashamed and sorry, but I did need that sleep. Donna brought lunch to me at noon. She was tired and sleepy too so she took a nap this afternoon and she surely was in need of a nap too, she was up late last night and early this morning. She made sandwiches for Mary to take, and baked cookies last evening and made hard boiled eggs, and etc. Mary sent money for the food. I gave Mary several sticks of gum and \$3.00 to buy a treat on their way to Chicago. That precious little Tibbets family is in our thoughts and prayers this day. We're anxious to hear that they arrived at Gardners' home in Northbrook, Illinois (near Chicago). It will be a

long day's drive at best. Donna came in my sitting room this afternoon and sewed on Rex's pants. She mended one pair and turned up the bottoms of the two new white pairs; they were too long. Rex and Jon came home about 5:25 p.m., tired from hard work. Donna cooked a nice dinner, fried fish, baked potatoes, cabbage, and apple nut salad, ice cream and cookie for dessert. Mary phoned from Joan's about 7:30 p.m. We were all happy and relieved to know they had arrived there safely and no trouble at all.

March 23, Sunday

We have a windy morning with hazy sunshine. Rex, Donna, and Jon Tibbets went to Ottawa to church this morning. I got up about ten o'clock, got dressed, combed my hair, and made my bed. Then I went into the kitchen and warmed some milk for myself. I ate a few graham crackers and I washed and dried the breakfast dishes in Donna's sink. I addressed a few Easter cards, one to Hattie Speirs, Ruby Hodges, and Ethel Newbold. They're ready to mail along with Violet's birthday card. I wanted to answer Violet's letter, but my shoulder and arm and back were hurting too much. I wrote notes in each of the cards and that's it for today. The family came home about 2:30 p.m. Donna left a ham in the oven, slow baking. We ate dinner soon after 3 p.m. I went in the kitchen to eat with the others. It was a delicious dinner. I dried the dishes for Donna. We all took a nap this afternoon. We all listened to a special TV program at 5 p.m. about the Watergate tapes and Mr. Nixon's White House propaganda. Jon did some plowing in the corn field, I think. Rex went to his night job shortly after 10 p.m. at the nursing home in Overbrook. The rest of us were all in bed shortly after 10:30. Goodnight and happy dreams!

March 24, Monday

The wind blew hard all night. It sounded like airplanes were flying low, over our farm, or someone was driving the tractor in the field. Sometimes it sounded like a train was pulling into our yard. Oh, I hate that "Big Blow!" It was 5 a.m. before I could get to sleep. It has been windy all day, too. Rex slept a few hours and then he went with Donna to Overbrook to pick up the third toilet (the one they'll put in the basement.) Jon had a busy day plowing in the south field. This afternoon the three of them planted several rows of peas in a garden spot in the field south of the house. I hope the little cottontail rabbits will not get the peas first, like they did in the garden Donna planted last spring. They ate the cabbage as fast as it came up and the carrots, too. I wrote a letter to Violet this afternoon. Rex mailed it tonight on his way to work. I'm weary tonight. I can hear Donna's typewriter going; she has so much correspondence to take care of now with her Relief Society work, her family letters to write, and etcetera. Jon's father, Guy Tibbets, telephoned tonight from California to talk to Jon. Rex left for his night work at the nursing home in Overbrook. Sleep well.

March 25, Tuesday

I had a good night's sleep and I feel much better today. Donna went to Relief Society with a pretty basket of Easter eggs (colored) and the little Easter bunny perched atop it. Jon put some tile squares in the back hall. He left in Rex's pickup truck for Omaha, Nebraska (his home). He has some school business to look after. He left here at 12:30 noon. Donna came home about 1:00; Rex was sleeping. I ate Rice Krispies and milk and graham crackers and applesauce for brunch. I enjoyed my TV stories while eating. We have sunshine and clouds today. It was cold last night; our water pipes in the basement froze up. Rex thawed them out with his blow torch this morning when he got home from work. It has been

quiet and a bit lonely this afternoon. I presume Donna is resting, too. I'm glad the wind isn't blowing today. I wrote to Lillian Keller this afternoon, or I started it, then I finished it tonight. Donna was typing on her life's story for her children. Rex went to his night job at the nursing home from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. (Night all)

March 26, Wednesday

It is overcast and cold today. My arm and shoulder feel a little less painful today. I had a good night's sleep, too, I'm blessed in many ways. I hear Donna's typewriter going so she is working on her life's story, I presume. She brought me a scrambled egg with ham, some toast, and Postum, plus a little dish of tangerine oranges at noon. She is precious. We had one loud clap of thunder this afternoon but no rain so far. It is 4 p.m. now. I presume Rex is sleeping. I can't hear his tractor going. He worked all night

at the nursing home. I answered Lydia Paul's letter this afternoon. I walked and took some dance steps in my little suite for a while this late afternoon, it's leg exercise I need. Rex had his tractor out plowing in his fields for a while this evening. Donna brought a nice plate dinner to me on a TV tray about 6:30 p.m. (meatloaf, potatoes, salad, peaches, and a cookie). Rex and Donna came in and watched television with me tonight until Rex had to leave for his night job. We enjoyed the "Lucas Tanner" drama and "Little House on the Prairie." Donna brought Rex and me a drink of orange juice tonight, then Rex had to leave for his work.

March 27, Thursday

We had a cold, wet morning, it rained all night and this morning. It was 11:40 before I got dressed. Donna brought a nice lunch to me at noon. Rex and Donna went to Ottawa at 2 p.m. on business of some kind. I gave Donna money to buy postage stamps for us. They mailed Lydia's letter for me. Joan phoned from Chicago, before Donna left, they have decided to leave Chicago a day later because it is snowing. They hope the weather will be better by Saturday (so do we). The Marshes came home this evening after 6 p.m. Rex had



*Young Harriet "Hattie" Strong Speirs,
in March 1975 she was very ill
and in a rest home.*

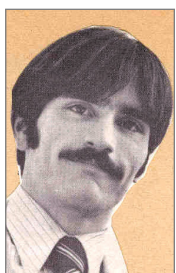
done his visiting teaching for the branch. Donna shopped for groceries and etcetera. Rex and Donna expect Jon Tibbets some time late tonight or in the early morning hours. I ate my dinner while listening to the “Truth of Consequences” program at 6:30 p.m. Rex and Donna came in to watch television with me, we enjoyed the “Perry Como Show” with guests Pat Boone and his family, and Bob Newhart. We also watched “The Hope Diamond Show.” It was raining hard this evening. I watched the “Johnny Carson Show” for a while after Rex and Donna left my room. They left after the ten o’clock news report. Good night.

March 28, Friday

I could hear it raining in the night; it was snowing when I looked out my window this morning. I had a poor night’s sleep; my arm and shoulder were giving me trouble. I heard Jon Tibbets drive in the yard about two this morning (from Omaha). I got up about 3 a.m. and took an Anacin tablet and rubbed BenGay on my arm and shoulder. I felt better and was able to get some sleep about 4 am. Rex and Jon were disappointed they couldn’t go to Eudora and put the finish coat of stucco on the building they stuccoed last Saturday. It was too stormy to do the job. Donna just informed me that they haven’t finished all of the first coat of stucco on that job, so that is what they wanted to do today. I get things misconstrued some times. Sorry about that! Rex didn’t work at the nursing home last night, but he went there this afternoon to help some of the nurses with a Bible Study session for the elderly folks. (That is what I understood Donna to say, anyway.) Jon took a nap this afternoon; he drove from Omaha last night. It’s too wet and muddy outside to do any work. I received a pretty Easter card from Violet and Otto. John and Ann phoned from Salt Lake this evening. They went to George Brown’s wedding reception last night in Utah. This is his second marriage, the first one lasted 15 months. There is a baby from that marriage. We’re so glad George and Kathy didn’t marry each other. The folks came in to hear the television program, “The Greatest Story Ever Told,” on the life of Jesus Christ. It was colorful and interesting, but not all the truth as we know it to be through the restored gospel. I watched part of the “Johnny Carson Show” after they left. Night all.

March 29, Saturday

March is on its way out. We have an overcast morning, but it’s calm, no blustering wind. Donna made a pot of chili for Jon to take home and something else? He is leaving here soon. He wants to be home when the family arrive from Illinois. Donna says she sent a jelled salad and cookies, too. Mary’s VW bus broke down, so Joan is going to tow Mary’s bus with her station



China hutch that Kathy bought for Donna and wallpaper they put up.

wagon from Chicago to Omaha. I presume Kathy will drive her own car in the caravan. So, we will not have them all here as expected this weekend. I’m a bit disappointed. I’m sorry the Tibbetses’ bus broke down. Jon drove the Marshes’ Chevrolet home today; He left here soon after noontime. Rex and Donna watched television with me, we saw an old “Bonanza” picture. Rex slept this afternoon because he has to work tonight at the nursing home. I dozed in my chair. Today’s mail brought an Easter card and nice note from Bonnie, Darrell, Leslie, and Holly. Nice, eh? I have two pretty cards now; one from Violet and Otto yesterday. Bonnie says that Aunt Harriet is still very ill, but she is alert at times; she responded to my message of love. Because of her pain they keep her sedated a lot. I hope she will not have to suffer a long time. Bonnie says she is anxious to go on to her loved ones over there. I’m not ill and suffering a lot, but I do long for that happy day, too. Donna kept busy all day; she washed the bed linen on my twin beds and they’re made up nice and fresh again. I’m amazed that she can do so much around here. Mary phoned from Omaha tonight at 8:45 p.m. to let her parents know they arrived safely from Chicago. Joan and Kathy will come to the farm tomorrow. I presume they’ll bring some of the children with them. Rex worked tonight at the nursing home.

March 30, Sunday

Happy Easter morning! Our precious children, Joan and her Janet and Marshall and little Paula and Kathy came before Donna left for Sunday School this morning. They left Sandy and Emily with Aunt Mary in Omaha, Nebraska. Rex had a head cold and cough so he stayed home. Kathy had a wonderful surprise for her mom. She brought a very lovely china cabinet or hutch, as they call it, and she put Donna’s pretty china and glass ware in it while Donna was in Sunday School in Ottawa. Some of my pretty wedding gifts are in it, too. *[The extra jobs Kathy took on weekends and evenings was to pay for this hutch for her mother.]* Donna had to conduct the music and lead the singing so she had to go to church. Rex got someone to give his lesson because of his cold, plus, the fact he worked all night at the nursing home. We have a sunny day, but it’s cold outside. Donna and Joan cooked a nice pot roast dinner, mashed potatoes, green peas, a fruit Jello salad, and chocolate cake. I tried to help Janet G. entertain baby Paula while Joan and Donna got the dishes in the dishwasher. Kathy and Joan rested on my twin beds this afternoon and Donna took care of Paula. Janet and Marshall cut and colored things out of colored art paper. Rex slept all afternoon. I dozed in my chair. Janet and Marshall came in this evening at 5:15 to watch television; that ended Kathy’s nap. Because of Kathy’s cold, she slept in Donna’s bed and Donna slept in my room in the other bed. Rex was working at the Overbrook nursing home. It has been a happy Easter Sabbath day for

this household with our beloved children. We missed Janet, Mary, and John and their families, but they were in our thoughts. Good night.

March 31, Monday

I can hear the wind blowing, but the sky is a hazy blue and the sun is shining. Joan and the children and Donna have gone in Joan's station wagon somewhere? Rex and Kathy both have a raspy cough; she rested on my other twin bed after Donna got up and Rex came home from his night job. I took a nice, warm shower and rubbed Deep Heat on my left arm and shoulder; it isn't as painful as it was, but it still hurts. The folks got home at 12:25 noon. They'd been to Topeka to buy some wainscoting and other items. The action starts now and I enjoy hearing it. Kathy got up when the folks came home. Donna brought me a tuna sandwich, cup of Postum, applesauce, and a piece of cake. I watched my TV stories while enjoying my brunch. Joan and Donna put out a washing and drying job. This afternoon, Kathy and Joan papered a wall in the kitchen, (the west wall). It is very pretty and makes such a big difference. It is a lovely dinette and kitchen deal. Donna made cookies and Paula was happy in the highchair, playing with Donna's cupcake tins. Rex took the children for a ride in his tractor with the big bucket on. They love it when he takes them up high in the bucket. A little neighbor farm boy came to play with Marshall; he brought his motorbike with him. Donna and Joan made tacos for our dinner this evening; I even ate one. It sure tasted good and I hope it will digest well. ☺ Baby Paula had a hard time settling down tonight; she really fought to keep awake. Rex went to his night work soon after 10 p.m. Kathy papered the north wall in the kitchen with Joan's help. I went in the kitchen tonight to check on the wallpaper, and the giggling I could hear. I hate to miss the fun. The three of them were having fun helping to fill out Kathy's application for an airline hostess job. Donna was typing in the answers. Kathy wants to fly high for a while. I enjoyed their fun and put in my nickel's worth.

April 1, Tuesday

*Hi! Sister dear, your birthday is near, I'm
writing this verse to say
May your sun shine and you feel fine on your
special day,
I'd love to be there and your happiness share, but this I cannot do.
May this verse convey, what I'm trying to say, Happy Birthday,
and I love you.*

Violet is 70 years old today. We have an overcast day so far, it's 1 p.m. Joan and Paula went to Relief Society with Donna. Kathy took a nap on the other twin bed. My arm and shoulder are not as painful but still hurts, to raise up the arm. My suite smells of BenGay, but I don't mind, I like the wintergreen odor. Rex thinks it's obnoxious. I hope my little sister Violet is well and happy to enjoy her birthday. Kathy went to keep her appointment with the airline company in Overland Park, concerning a hostess job she thinks she like to try. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook to a two for one sale at Rexall Drug. I had them buy a few items for me, vitamins and etcetera. Joan is home with the children. Ha!

The sale at Rexall Drug Store doesn't start until the 3rd, so they couldn't buy anything on the sale. We all listened to television tonight after dinner, all but Donna and Joan. They worked on curtains. Joan shortened the valance on Donna's kitchen or dinette curtain and I think Donna was doing something with the new curtains that Kathy brought for her bedroom. We had a noisy downfall and thunder when I was about to go to bed. It sounded like hail, but I couldn't see if it was rain or hail in the dark. But it was loud. I got into bed and covered up my head. Sweet dreams.

April 2, Wednesday

I had a good night's rest and when I got up this morning it was snowing and the ground was white. Janet and Marshall came in to watch television. They were restless, so the TV helped. Rex was trying to sleep, he worked all night. Donna and Joan took the truck down to the south field to feed the horses. The truck got stuck in a ditch, so they walked back to the house. Rex and Joan went back in the tractor and Rex got the truck out of the ditch. All is well, or was, until baby Paula stood up in her high chair and fell out of it. Wow! Well, she seems to be all right now. Donna brought my lunch to me, bless her. I ate and enjoyed my TV stories. Joan and Donna entertained the children. Joan was drawing pictures with Janet and Marshall. Donna had baby Paula in the kitchen with her and Rex was sleeping; it is 3:45 now. We have some snow falling again. Janet and Marshall came in to watch television. The poor kids, they can't go out in this freezing cold weather. We have icicles along the north side of the house. Kathy came home from Overland Park this afternoon about five o'clock. Miller phoned to talk to Joan, he was in their home in Chicago. Joan phoned Mary and Jon; he is working on their VW bus. It has to have some new parts, the pistons and cylinder, I think. Anyway, he is working on it. I ate dinner with the family at six this evening. We had a nice meatloaf, mashed potatoes, carrots, and a tossed green salad. For dessert we had chocolate pudding and ice cream. Tonight, after the children were asleep in their beds, Kathy, with Joan's help papered the east wall in the kitchen. It really looks lovely. I took my little Sony in and played a tape for them; the one that Donna and John L. played their ukuleles and sang a duet.

April 3, Thursday

The snow is melting and so are the icicles. We have a hazy, blue sky and sunshine. Janet and Marshall came in about 10:30 and watched television for a while. Donna made a melted cheese sandwich for my brunch with a cup of Postum, a dish of yogurt, and two chocolate chip cookies. Joan had just made them; they were still warm. Today's mail brought my Social Security check of \$244.40. I will have \$44.40 out of it and the \$200 will be used for the farm expenses. Kathy papered the south wall in the kitchen. She took a nap on the other twin bed this afternoon, in my bedroom. Joan and children and Donna went to Overbrook this afternoon to shop and to cash my check. They went in Joan's station wagon. I think it is a Cadillac, but not sure. Kathy says it is a Chrysler. [Mary is sure it was an Oldsmobile station wagon.] I just know it is good looking. After Kathy's nap, she went out to finish the wallpaper job in the kitchen. It was about



3:45 p.m. I dozed in my chair. I didn't get much sleep last night; my shoulder was hurting and I couldn't relax until the wee hours before daylight. Rex didn't work tonight, so Donna and Rex had their own bed and Kathy slept in the other twin bed in my room. Joan came in tonight for a while and watched "The Johnny Carson Show" on TV. The kiddies were all in Slumber-land. Hundreds of little orphan children, some just infants, are being flown to New York and San Francisco from the war-torn country of South Vietnam. Many American homes are adopting them into their own homes so they'll have a happy life with loving parents. One big airplane went down and a lot of the dear little children were killed in the tragic accident.

April 4, Friday

We are blessed with more sunshine and blue sky today. There are a few patches of snow on the north side of the house. Joan and Kathy have gone to Lawrence to look for house plants for hanging pots. They took Janet and Marshall. Donna has little Paula here; she is asleep in her crib. Rex isn't feeling very well; he can't seem to shake his chest cold. I didn't rest very well last night because of the pain in my shoulder, but it eased up later and I got to sleep. Donna brought brunch to me at noon. I enjoyed my TV stories, 12:30 to 3 p.m. Today's mail brought a letter from Ruby Hodges, the little dear is almost blind, but she manages to write a few thoughts with the help of a magnifying glass. Oh, I'm so thankful my eye sight is as good as it is. Donna got her house in order while the baby slept, but she has her hands full now. Paula is awake and into everything. I wish I could be more helpful, but I just can't keep up with that little one. I can't lift her anymore, sorry about that. Joan and Kathy and kids came home about 4:45 p.m. They bought several pretty plants and they replanted them in bowls. I have one of the bowls in my sitting room, one is hanging in Marshes' kitchen, the others are in Marshes' house. We had a real nice dinner about 6:30 p.m. We'd just about finished eating when Miller Gardner arrived at the farm. The kids were happy to see Daddy, he ate his dinner and then he phoned Diane Nolen in Littleton, Colorado, and talked about Sherm flying here to Kansas. He'd been visiting the Nolens; they made arrangements for his flight tonight on the eleven o'clock plane. Miller and Joan drove to Kansas City to pick him up at the airport. They got back to the farm about 1:30 or 2 a.m. Donna slept in my other twin bed. P.S. Rex worked at the nursing home tonight.

April 5, Saturday

A Chinese leader, Chiang Kai-shek 86 years old, died today. I heard the Gardners, Mo, Joan, and Sherm drive in the driveway in the wee hours, about 2 a.m. I didn't turn the light on to see what time it was.

Donna had their beds ready for them. She slept in my other twin bed. Kathy and Janet G. slept in Donna's bed, with baby Paula in the crib there. The couch bed was for Joan and Mo. Sherm and Marshall were on a mattress on the floor. Rex got home from his night work about 7:40 a.m. We have a busy household, (all but Grama L.V.). Mo, Marshall, and Sherm, are plowing in the southwest field. Donna, Joan, and Kathy drove to Overbrook to shop for groceries, I presume? Donna brought lunch to me when they got home (a roast beef sandwich, Postum, and peaches). Sherm, Janet, and Marshall came in to talk and visit with me. I surely enjoy these sweet kids. The adults had a lot planned to do before they left for Omaha this evening. Their plans were to put molding trim in the kitchen, around the wallpaper, to plant strawberry plants, and etcetera. I can't keep up with all of their activities, but I try to record as many as I can. My arm and shoulder are still giving me trouble so I'm moving kind of slow (like "old Uncle Joe"). Donna made a cake and fried some chicken. Kathy made chocolate chip cookies. Mo plowed in the field. Me? I rested on my bed for an hour. Joan, Janet, and Marshall went with Rex in the pick-up truck, Sherm was with them too; they went somewhere on the farm. The Gardners decided not to leave for Omaha tonight. They'll leave in the morning they say. Tonight, Mo worked on the molding; he didn't get at it this afternoon; he spent too much time plowing in the fields. Rex went to work at the nursing home in Overbrook tonight. Joan visited with me for a while after the children were down for the night. We'll miss them when they go home to Chicago.

April 6, Sunday

Our Gardner family and Kathy have all left the farm. Mo was the first one; he flew to Nevada and then home. Joan and the children drove to Omaha to pick-up Emily and Sandy at Tibbetses' home. Kathy left about 9:20 this morning, she was going to drive to Chicago. I was sleeping when Joan left, but I was awake to say goodbye to Kathy. I gave her \$5.00. Donna and I listened to the 145th general conference from Salt Lake City this morning on our TV. President Spencer W. Kimball conducted this first session; he gave a nice talk. His first speaker was O. Leslie Stone, assistant to the twelve apostles. He talked about keeping the Sabbath day holy. The Tabernacle choir sang "How Excellent Thy Name." The choir and congregation sang "High on the Mountain Top." Elder David B. Haight asked parents and ward leaders to write to the boys and girls in the U.S. service and the missionaries from our church. Elder Marion D. Hanks spoke on loving kindness, learn to know the Lord. The concluding speaker was Thomas S. Monson of the council of the twelve apostles. He spoke on Eternal life, walk in the narrow way. He told the Joseph Smith story. The Tabernacle



Choir sang, "Praise Ye the Lord." The choir and congregation sang "The Lord is my Shepherd." A brother from Argentina gave the closing prayer. It was a lovely session. I went to Ottawa with Rex and Donna in the pickup truck to the fast day sacrament service. I enjoyed the fine testimonies born. Donna and I both bore our testimonies. Rex gave the closing prayer. We ate our dinner of cold fried chicken, potato salad, and ice cream and cake. We all took naps. We pray the dear Lord to bless our children all traveling this day. Janet and Dave flew to New York today. The children and Joan are driving, Mo is flying, and Kathy driving alone to Chicago. A cottontail rabbit was eating one of the new strawberry plants Donna put out yesterday. Rex took a couple of shots at it but missed; it got away. This evening Donna phoned the Tibbetses' in Omaha. Joan and the children arrived there safely. Kathy left at 9:20 this morning and she phoned this evening from Chicago. It took her 11 hours of driving to arrive at Joan's home. We're happy to know she is safely home.



The rabbits must have been very pleased with the new strawberry plants and being able to avoid the bullets.

April 7, Monday

I doubt if anyone will be able to read my writing; I just tried to read yesterday's page and it is not easy, sorry about that. We have a cloudy, cold day; a little light rain falling. Donna was hanging up some pictures in her house, I could hear the tap tap of the hammer. She or Rex nailed the molding in the hall. She brought my lunch on a TV tray. My left arm and shoulder are still giving me some pain when I move it or lift something. Donna has her house looking lovely, very neat and orderly again, however, we do miss the children and their activities. It is so quiet around here, but it is nice for Rex to sleep. He works all night at the nursing home. I dozed in my swivel chair and I walked around in my little suite to get some exercise. Donna is baking bread; it smells so good. Rex went to his Rotary Club meeting and dinner this evening in Overbrook. He came home to change to his white uniform in time to go to his night job. It was raining lightly when Rex left the farm tonight at 10:15. I'm weary tonight. Good night all!

April 8, Tuesday

I heard Rex drive in the driveway about 7:20 this morning, and I heard Donna drive away about 9:30 this morning. Rex was coming home from his night work and Donna was on her way to her Relief Society in Ottawa. They both had to use the pick-up truck; their Chevrolet car is in Omaha with Jon Tibbets. Donna came home about 1:35. She and Rex went to Overbrook to shop for groceries and some business they had in mind? I ate lunch about noon. Donna left a tray in here with cereal, applesauce, the new bread and cheese. She brought a candy strawberry home to Rex and me. A sister made them for the luncheon in Relief Society this morning. Donna came in and visited with me while Rex was sleeping this afternoon. She said Rex had a special meeting at the nursing home this afternoon, so she left him off there while she did the marketing. When she went to pick Rex up, he had her go in and meet some of the nurses and friends he has there. She said they all spoke well of Rex; they like him very much. Rex is a very likable person and he seems to enjoy his work at the home, too. He doesn't work tonight so he listened to television with me until 11:30 p.m. We heard the ten o'clock news and "Ironsides." Donna was typing when I turned off the television. She was busy all evening putting their part of the house in order. That daughter of mine is surely a worker. I don't know how she manages to do all she does around here? But she keeps her home looking very lovely when she hasn't got a house full of little grandchildren. However, she loves to have them here, in spite of the mess of extra beds, suit cases and etcetera. It is time to go to bed, nighty nite.

April 9, Wednesday

I went to the bathroom about 7:35 this morning. It was foggy outside. I could see Rex's figure out in the north field, hacking away at the big log they are going to use for their fireplace mantel. It looked cold out there; he was bundled up from head to foot. I turned the heat up in my rooms and got back in bed until 10:30 a.m. Donna brought me a nice breakfast, scrambled egg, toast, sliced orange, and hot Postum. The fog had cleared away and the sun was shining by then. I rested much better last night. My arm and shoulder didn't keep me awake for which I am thankful. I can hear Donna working in her kitchen making a cake or cookies, I presume. She worked hard all afternoon vacuuming and cleaning. She brought me a little snack about 3 p.m., a toasted peanut butter sandwich, a warm cup of milk, and two delicious brownie cookie squares. Rex went to Kansas City, Missouri, to pick Janet and David Shattuck up at the airport. Their plane was due in at 4:25 p.m. Donna came in my suite and cleaned it up nicely. She vacuumed; I did the dusting. She cooked a pot roast and it smells so good. I'm glad our weather is pleasant. I hope it will last for a while. I get so tired of the cold, damp days. Rex arrived with Dave and Janet at 7 p.m. Donna had dinner about ready to eat. They both look beautiful to me. We enjoyed Donna's lovely dinner at 7:30. Janet and Dave think the house looks very pretty on the inside. They visited with Rex and Donna until bed time. I watched television in my apartment. Dave and Janet slept in Donna and Rex's bed and Rex and Donna slept on the couch bed in their living room. Rex is going to work in the morning at the nursing home.

April 10, Thursday

It has been overcast and cold all day. I stayed in bed until almost noon. I didn't sleep very well last night. My arm and shoulder gave me some trouble. Rex went to his job this morning. He has been working nights, I don't know why the change to day work? Dave spent most of his day on the tractor plowing in the southwest field. Janet and Donna visited with me for a while. Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich and Postum for my brunch. I watched my TV stories. Donna walked with Janet to the lower field where Dave was working. I presume they took him some lunch. I wanted the sun to shine today, but it hasn't so far. It is after 4 p.m. now. I'm wrong about Rex working at the home today; he did a plastering job in Eudora. He is working tonight at the nursing home. Another correction: Donna and Janet went to tell David to come to the house for lunch, which he did. He went back to the plowing after lunch and again after dinner this evening. He did a lot of plowing. Tonight, we all listened to President Ford's talk to the nation on foreign and national affairs. It was a special TV program that lasted a couple of hours, with all of the top brass comments and etcetera. Rex picked up the mail on his way home this evening. We received a nice letter from Aunt Violet thanking us for the birthday cards, postage stamps, and money. She had a real nice birthday; her grandson Ron and his wife Patty Jones phoned. Jenny and Jack Jones phoned, Yvonne phoned, and many Cedar friends phoned and some brought lovely food to her. She received many nice gifts. I'm so very thankful for her many lovely friends in Cedar. They are indeed wonderful to my dear little "shut in" (sister).

April 11, Friday

Halleluia! We have sunshine today. When I got up, I saw a TV tray with my lunch on it. (A roast beef sandwich, milk, chocolate pudding, and brownie cookies. There was a note written by Janet telling me that she and Donna had gone to Topeka to shop and they'd be home about 2 p.m. I was surprised when they came home at 1:10. Rex was sleeping; he worked at the nursing home all night and he did a plastering job in Eudora yesterday. So, he was one tired man. David was here at home I didn't know he was here in the house, he was so quiet (babysitting me!) This afternoon Rex took the pickup truck to Overbrook for a special meeting with his group at the home. Donna made pumpkin pies. Janet and Dave had a nap and then they went for a long walk. I walked around in my suite and I dozed in my chair. Rex got back with the pickup truck so Dave and Janet took it instead of walking. She had said that they were taking a long walk. The truck is the only transportation on this farm now. The Chevrolet is in Omaha at the Tibbetses'. The refugee orphans, from South Vietnam, are still arriving in America to be adopted in the homes of fine people here. I'm thankful for the dear ones, who are giving them homes. "Let the little children come" (said our beloved Savior). Kathy phoned from Chicago; she didn't get the airline hostess job. She said that Joan and Mo are on their way to Kansas City. We can expect them sometime tomorrow afternoon. We expect the Tibbets family to arrive tonight about 11 p.m. This house has a very pleasant odor. Whatever Donna is cooking smells mm good. It was good, too, we ate about 6 p.m. The family all came in my place and watched TV. The Tibbetses drove up to the house at 9:45 p.m. It was a

happy reunion, all so glad to see each other again. P.S. Janet has been suffering a headache today. She gave Mary's boys each a new shirt and Julie a pretty checked jacket.

April 12, Saturday

We have a lot of white clouds in our blue sky today. The sun is playing "Peek a Boo" with us, now we see it and now we don't. Janet, Dave, Mary, and baby Spencer went to an auction sale this morning somewhere. Jon is painting somewhere on this house. Donna and her grandchildren packed a lunch and went somewhere in the truck to have a picnic lunch. Rex was in bed; he worked all night. Donna made a cake this morning. She brought my lunch to me before they left for their picnic. I feel a little better today; I slept well last night. Joan phoned from Independence, Missouri. They are there on business; Miller's voice is going to be used in a church pageant there soon. They expect to be here sometime this afternoon or evening. Kathy is babysitting for them in Northbrook. I dozed in my chair until I heard the excitement in Donna's kitchen about 1:30. Mo and Joan had arrived; they brought a huge can of popcorn with three different kinds. One section was cheese flavored, one butter, and one caramel coated. I enjoyed some of all sections; it was so fresh and delicious. Mm Mm good. This is one happy family, they love being together and I love them all so very much. I keep my rooms much warmer than the other part of the house, so I stay in my apartment most of the time. Mo has a brand-new Cadillac, two-door car; his company car. It is a pearl gray color. There's lots of going and coming around here. I can't keep my diary record up correctly, but they're having fun and that is what counts, eh? Donna and Joan went to the market in the new Cadillac. Julie, Greg, and Jody fished in one of the ponds. Janet went with Dave on the tractor. Mary, Spencer, and Joan took a walk in the south field. Mo is working on the farm somewhere. Jon painted and worked around the farm. Donna was busy in the house. Then, there is me? I'm the big asset on the farm.



This small self portrait was next to "I'm the big asset on the farm."

April 13, Sunday

Happy Birthday to Janet Elaine Gardner, 12 years old.

Here's to a pretty little girl, on her 12th birthday,

She's beautiful and lovely in every way.

Stay as sweet as you are Janet dear, With a heart full of love, and happy cheer.

We love you darling Janet, and we wish for you,

The best things in life and a Happy Birthday, too.

—Great Grama Elvie



Janet Gardner Fall 1974

We have a rainy Sabbath day. Joan and Mo left the farm this morning on their way to Northbrook, Illinois and home sweet home. Rex came home from his night work, got dressed up and went to priesthood meeting with David S. and Jon T. They took Julie, Greg, and Jody with them to go to Primary. Donna, Mary, baby Spencer, and Janet went later to Sunday School. I was invited to go with them, and I wanted to go with them, but I didn't feel up to it. "The spirit's willing, but the flesh is weak." I got up about 11 a.m. I took a nice, warm shower bath and rubbed my left arm and shoulder with an ointment. The arthritis isn't as painful as it was, but it's no fun. I feel it in the cord of my neck at times. Donna said she'd be later than the others getting home; she had to meet with her Relief Society board after sacrament meeting. The family came about 1:40 p.m. Donna left a couple of chickens stewing; Janet and Mary boned them and made a delicious sauce. Dave made dumplings and cooked them in the chicken gravy. It was a delicious dinner. We ate about 3:30 p.m. Rex was asleep, he and Donna are fasting with the branch today to ask the blessings of the Lord to help them find the right place for our chapel to be built. Rex has to work again tonight. The Jon Tibbetses left in their VW bus about 5:20 pm. It was raining lightly. We waved goodbye to them from my west window. Dave and Janet will fly to San Jose tomorrow sometime. It has been so wonderful having them all with us.

April 14, Monday

It is a gloomy looking morning, and it is raining lightly. Donna came in to ask if I wanted to drive to Kansas City, Missouri, with them, to take Dave and Janet to the airport for their flight to San Francisco. I had 30 minutes to get ready and I was ready, waiting to go. We left the farm soon after ten o'clock. We had a nice drive; it was cloudy but no rain. We got there with 50 minutes before their flight time. We visited with them until time to board their plane. Janet put 25¢ in one of the cute, little TV sets so I could see, "As the World Turns," while waiting. Rex, Donna, and I watched their plane taxi out of sight. We couldn't see them take off in the air. It is about a three hour flight to San Francisco. They expected Ricky to pick them up at the airport and drive them home to San Jose. We drove to a Dairy Queen eating place in Kansas City and ate our lunch. We were all hungry and their hamburgers were delicious. We had French fries, root beer, and malted ice-cream shakes. I felt too full for comfort. Rex drove all but the last few miles home; he was so very sleepy. Donna drove; he slept in the back seat. He worked at the nursing home last night. We got home about 4:20 p.m. Rex and Donna took a nap. I wrote in my diary and dozed in my chair. We stopped to pick up the mail on our way in to the farm; there was nothing for me. Donna got a letter from John and Ann, with the Relief Society pin she had them get for her to give the outgoing president of our Relief Society. Donna is the new president. Rex went to his Rotary Club meeting and dinner, in Overbrook this evening at 6. I took a nap on my bed from 5 to 6 p.m.

April 15, Tuesday

We have hazy sunshine this morning. Rex went to work on a plastering job in Eudora today. Donna went to Ottawa this morning to preside over her Relief Society. I'm alone here in

the farm house. Donna left some waffle batter for me to make myself a waffle. I got up about ten o'clock and put my little house in order, plus did my own grooming. Then, I went in the kitchen and made myself a waffle. Darn it, I keep writing waffel instead of waffle. I left the kitchen nice and neat, like Donna left it. I came back to my own little suite and enjoyed my diary and the TV stories. I'm telling you, when you're 82, "Home Sweet Home" is the place to be. Just wait and see! Bobo the dog, looks lonesome, too. He is watching the road for the Marsh cars to drive in. He'll spring to life when he sees either of them coming. My arm and shoulder are not as painful today. I feel encouraged. Donna came home about 1:45. She had bought herself a dark blue skirt and a white blouse so she can sing with the stake Relief Society sisters chorus next Sunday morning in our stake conference in Kansas City. We both ate some ice cream and pumpkin pie this afternoon for a little snack. Mm good. It is 4:30 pm. I presume Donna is taking a nap, it is very quiet in this house now, no action around the place. Today's mail brought me a letter from Ethel Newbold thanking me for the Easter message I sent her. She wrote about the wonderful testimony her Erskine grandparents told about their trip sailing to America from Scotland in 1852. Three Mormon families were on the ship and a terrible storm arose. The passengers feared any moment would be their last. Her grandparents saw three strangers walk from one end of the ship to the other; only the Mormons saw the men. The storm ceased and the sea was calm. The three men disappeared. The Mormons knew they were the three Nephites. A Sr. Edwards, in Ethel's ward, said her grandparents were on that same ship and saw the three men and they told the same testimony about the three Nephites saving their lives.



April 16, Wednesday

We have a pleasant day with hazy sunshine. I slept fairly well and my arm and shoulder aren't as painful as they were a few days ago. Donna and Rex drove to Lawrence to buy some sand and other items needed to build the back steps. He is working on them this afternoon. Donna bought a few things for me too; (cost about \$5.00) she got my vegetable powder \$1.99, she brought NVP instead of Metamucil, it was \$1.00 cheaper and has the same ingredients in the mixture. Some of the money went for food and other items.

Donna brought a plate lunch to me about 12:35, an egg sandwich and jelled salad, peppermint ice cream, and pound cake. I'm enjoying this lovely spring day. I did a little two-step around in my rooms for leg exercise and to keep awake. This evening Rex and Donna drove to the dairy for some milk. Rex is going to work tonight. This evening Rex had a visit from one of the nurses at the nursing home. He was surprised to see her. She had her two children, a boy and a girl. She is a pleasant person and she has pretty auburn hair like Mother Renshaw's was. Rex went to work and Donna helped me trim my fingernails. She gave me a little pair of folding Safe-T-Snip scissors. They worked very well. I filed my nails after the trimming. Donna slept in her own bed tonight.

Terrarium Gardens

Miss Anderson, the teacher Kathy worked with, liked to make Terrariums. Kathy went to her home and learned to make them, too. They also helped some of their students to make terrariums.



April 17, Thursday

We have a nice day; the sun gets through to us every now and then. There are little patches of blue in the sky. I feel a bit weary today. I couldn't get to sleep at all last night. It was after Rex came home from work about 7:30 before I fell asleep. (A revolting situation, eh?) Donna brought me a nice melted cheese sandwich and cup of warm milk for brunch. She has been typing all morning, letters to her children, I presume. Janet asked her mother to type her a copy of my two poems, "Marshes' Mound" and "Kansas," so she is sending Janet the two poems in her letter. The wind is blowing and the sky is getting darker, are we going to have some rain? It's 1 p.m. now and the sky is blue in the northwest, but dark looking in the southeast. Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook to shop this afternoon. She brought me a nice, long letter from Lydia Paul. She is doing her spring house cleaning, that is a must with that girl. Living 40 years or more in California changed all of that for me. The houses do not get the coal smoke and dirt in California like they do in Salt Lake City. We have electric heat here in Kansas and that is clean, also. I went to bed after hearing the ten o'clock news tonight. Rex is working tonight at the nursing home. Lydia was also working on her Cultural Refinement lesson for Relief Society. It is about Thailand this month. She'll have Spain for next month and that will be the last lesson of this season. She hopes they find someone else to take over next season. Lydia and Gene went to see Harriet S. last Saturday; Lydia says her condition is very bad. She suffers a lot, but she is sweet and patient. Everyone in that hospital loves her, oh, I'd love to visit with her. Lydia says Hattie talked about me several times, recalling our girlhood days together. I surely hope the dear Lord will release her from her suffering soon.

April 18, Friday

I feel much better today. I had a good night's rest. I slept soundly all night. Oh, what a blessing that is. Our sky has been cloudy all day, but no rain. Today's mail brought a postcard from Blanche H. She is very concerned about her sister Harriet's sad condition. Blanche isn't feeling well herself, but she can get around fairly well. Her daughter

Helen has retired after working 40 years for the same company (Occidental). They gave her a big party where about 200 people attended. They also gave her an Oldsmobile car. She received a lot of nice gifts, too. Blanche has 18 great-grandchildren now. She is 84 or 85 years old. Rex went to the Bible class at the nursing home this evening. He gave the lesson on the book of Genesis today. Donna cooked a delicious fish dinner with baked potatoes, broccoli, and a nice custard for dessert. Rex left for his night work at the nursing home about 10:15. The three of us watched television tonight until Rex had to get into his white outfit and go off to work. He looks nice in his white clothes, like the workers in the temple do. The little ivy that Kathy planted in the bottle, has grown enough to get two little ivy leaves out of the neck of the bottle. It grows so slowly I wondered if it would ever make it to the top and out of the bottle, but it did. Our TV weather reporter says it is going to be colder tonight, but will warm up tomorrow and we should have a sunny day on Sunday. It has been overcast most of today; we did see the sun a couple of times

April 19, Saturday

I'm thankful for my good night's rest. I was up and dressed, my bed made, and hair combed before our Relief Society visiting teachers arrived (Jeanne Brooks, and Doris Crider). They visited in my sitting room. It is warmer here. Jeanne gave the lovely message on removing the beam from your eye before you try to help your friend with the mote in his eye. (Good advice.) Jeanne Brooks is Donna's first counselor in Relief Society. Doris Crider sings and plays the guitar. Both of them are recent converts to the church and they are very lovely ladies. They came a long way to visit us here, I'm sure. We are the only Mormons in Overbrook; they live in Ottawa. Donna made tuna sandwiches and Postum for all of us before they left. Rex got up for his lunch about 1:10 p.m. He worked all night. It is a pretty day with sunshine and blue sky and I love that! I made out the check for my church donations, \$10.00. It is ready to take to President North or to mail to him. I wrote a letter to Violet. Donna came in and vacuumed my rugs. It takes me so darn long to write a letter now, this ole gal has slowed down a lot. I owe several letters now, but I'll get them written, I hope. Good night.

April 20, Sunday

It is a lovely Sabbath day, sunny and warm. Donna and Rex left for Kansas City soon after Rex got home from work, shortly after 7 a.m. Donna wore her new dark skirt and white blouse. She sang with the stake singing group of Relief Society sisters. I would like to have gone, but I'm not feeling well enough for the long drive plus the long wait for conference, the choir rehearsal and etcetera, before the conference session starts. I got up about 11 a.m. and I took a shower bath. I had to go to bed for about 20 minutes after my bath. I felt weak and strange and my heart was pumping too hard, but I felt better after relaxing in bed.

I took my time dressing myself and my hair. I made my bed, took my medication, and ate some of the chicken Donna had cooked in the crock pot all night. It was very delicious with some bread and butter. I also ate a small piece of cheesecake. Mm good! One of Rex's black cows jumped the fence and wandered to a neighbor's farm yard today. Rex and Donna had to find her after sacrament meeting this evening and walk her home. It was a long walk. They were both very weary tonight; they went to bed before nine. Janet phoned from San Jose this evening. A lovely, young LDS girl was missing. Her car was found with the keys in it. The ward brethren were all trying to find her; David, Rick, and Doug were with them. The ward people are all very concerned about her. We had a nice sacrament meeting in our Ottawa Branch this evening. The dear members seemed happy to see me out again, and I was surely happy to be at church again, too.

April 21, Monday

Good morning, April 21. We have an overcast sky with a hazy sunshine and it is not as warm as yesterday's spring day was. Rex went to do a plastering job in Eudora. Donna drove to Overbrook to the market for groceries. I got up about 10:30 a.m. My arm and shoulder aren't as painful this morning and I slept well last night. That is a blessing indeed. I ate Rice Krispies, sliced banana, graham crackers, and Postum for brunch. Donna has a very busy morning preparing salad and things for her luncheon party after Relief Society, honoring the past Relief Society president. She has a little gift for her, too, the Relief Society pin. I recorded in my diary and dozed in my swivel chair until time for the soap box opera stories on TV. My sewing, reading, and crocheting days are in the past, the dear old eyes have had it. But I'm thankful I can see as well as I do, yes, indeed. It is 3:40 p.m. and still overcast. Donna brought a plate of good food to me about 5 p.m., split pea and ham soup, bread and butter, peaches, and two delicious cookies. Rex ate his dinner with his Rotary Club friends in Overbrook this evening. He came home in time to drive Donna to Ottawa to Sr. Jeanne Brook's home. She took her food and things to get ready for the party honoring the retiring Relief Society president after the meeting tomorrow morning. They came home about

9:45 p.m. I presume they went to bed; they didn't come in to watch TV. They just popped their heads in my door to say "We are home." I'm going to bed, too. Sweet dreams. P.S. One of Rex's black cows jumped the wire fence again, yes, she can jump that little wire fence. She did it yesterday, too.

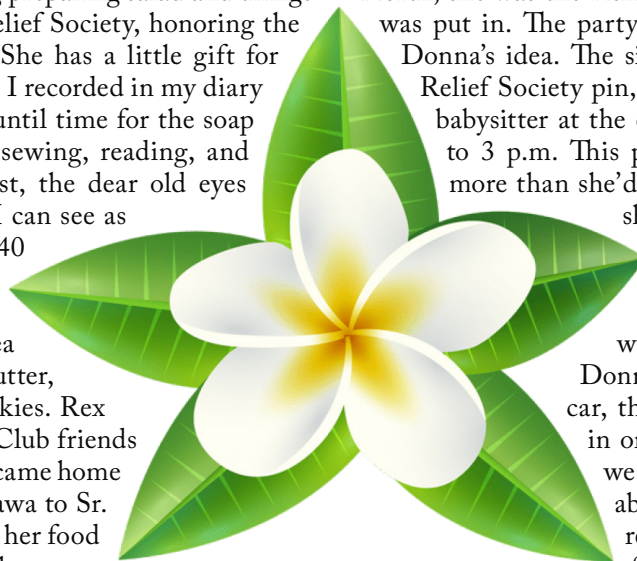
April 22, Tuesday

I've had a long day, but a happy one. Donna and I left home this morning soon after eight o'clock. Rex had gone to Eudora to his plastering job. We drove to Ottawa to Sr. Marlene Ries's home. I sat in the car while Donna carried dishes, flatware, and folding chairs, and etcetera into the Reis house. She was there for 35 or 40 minutes and then we drove to the church where the Relief Society had the visiting teachers report meeting. There was almost 100% present. I enjoyed the meeting. It was Donna's big day presiding and conducting. The little talk she gave about doing things, when we can "get around to it" was enjoyed when she passed out a cute round circle with "TUITT" on it. It was made out of green art paper. It had a typed message on the back. The Relief Society lesson in our following meeting was on "Visiting Thailand, The Land of Smiles." Sr. Ries gave it very well. We all went to the Rieses' home to the nice luncheon in honor of Sr. Delynn North; she was the Relief Society president before Donna was put in. The party was a surprise to her and it was Donna's idea. The sisters gave her a pretty corsage, a Relief Society pin, and a white handbag. They had a babysitter at the church that cost \$7.00 from noon to 3 p.m. This party was lovely, but Donna paid more than she'd planned on in food and cash, but she was pleased with the results I'm sure. She was worn out tonight; she went to bed after Rex left for his night work at 10:15. It was a long day of waiting while Donna got her things packed in the car, the babysitter paid, and the church in order, etcetera. Ken was here when we got home about 4 p.m. to see about planting corn for Rex. Donna read a couple of nice stories to me from the Ensign Magazine while Rex was sleeping. I'm weary, too. Oh hum!

"TUITT"

How many times have you said,
 "I'll do it when I get around to it!"
 Well, now you have one! A "Round Tuitt"
 Let it serve as a reminder for us to
 be about our Father's business.
 President Kimball has asked us to
 LENGTHEN OUR STRIDE.
 Let's be better visiting teachers,
 show our love and concern by doing
 something special for our sisters.
 Let's invite neighbors and friends in
 for an evening and tell them about
 the gospel.
 Let's speak to every stranger in our
 meetings and extend to them our
 friendship.
 Let's set a good example!

Here are both sides of the handout.



April 23, Wednesday

We have a windy, cloudy day with some sunshine at times. Rex and Donna were in the west field when I got up at ten this morning. One of the black cows had to be put back in the grazing area again. She jumped the wire fence like she did on Monday. That cow needs a more substantial fence. I received a thank you letter from my great-granddaughter, Janet Gardner, for the birthday card, poem, \$1.00, and gum. Grama and Grampa Marsh also got one from her; she was really pleased with her lovely white LDS "Three in One," Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price. She has read 4 chapters of the Book of Mormon already. Her name is printed in gold letters on the cover of the book. We have the "W" warning sign on the TV screen. A tornado is threatening danger to parts of Kansas, not our location, I'm glad to say. We have had a strong wind blowing, but it is calming down now at 4:30 p.m. Rex and Donna drove down the road a few miles to see if Rex could see what is wrong with the well pump of his friend, the red headed lady who works at the nursing home where he works. They came home about 5:50 p.m. It wasn't the pump, it was an electric switch in her basement that was off. Rex fixed that and she is happy to have running water in the pies again. Rex dressed up and drove to Ottawa to do his branch home teaching. He has two families to visit. Oh, so far to go to do this job! But, he does it with a smile. He had to work tonight, too, at the nursing home. We had a lot of lightening but the thunder wasn't loud, so I enjoyed the electrical display tonight.

April 24, Thursday

We had some rain in the night and a lot of lightening, but no real close claps of thunder so I was happy. It wasn't too annoying either, not like some of the Big Blows we've had. Our sky is cloudy, but it isn't really cold out. I guess spring is here. Donna brought a nice plate of food (scrambled egg, toast, jam, Postum, and applesauce) to me at noon. I'm sure the lucky, old gal, eh? Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook this afternoon about 2:45 p.m. It rained hard after they'd been gone about 20 minutes, and we had lightning and thunder, too. Ugh! We have a muddy yard again. (Boots or shoes must be removed before stepping on the kitchen rug now.) Donna brought a letter from Dorothy Tibbets to her, for me to read this afternoon when she got home from Overbrook. It was very interesting; she wrote about her work in church and the nursing home there, and her flowers and gardening problems, the bad weather with so much frost for this time of year, and etcetera. Her husband, Guy, has been ill with pneumonia. He is feeling better, but very weak. The sun got through the clouds this late afternoon at 4:20. There was a little patch of blue in the sky to cheer us. This evening I watched the TV show, "Sunshine" at 7 p.m. This week's episode was, "The Angel of Doom." Elizabeth Cheshire, a darling little child actress, as Jill. Later, at nine, Rex and Donna joined me for the special "Dean Martin's Celebrity Roast" of Sammy Davis Jr. He was the man of the hour. He was roasted by Dean and guests Milton Berk, Don Rickles, Norm Crosby, Phyllis Diller, Freddie Prinz, Frank Gorshin, and others. It was a fun show; we all enjoyed it. Mrs. Sammy Davis was the last one to speak before Sammy responded. Rex went to his night job, Donna and I retired to our beds. Goodnight.



Donna made lemon pies and apple turnovers; she also baked bread.

April 25, Friday

Our sky was overcast until about noon, in fact it was foggy early this morning. I looked out my windows and then went back to bed until after ten o'clock. My shoulder and arm are still giving me some trouble, but not as painful as it was. Donna made lemon pies and apple turnovers; she also baked bread. Our house smells so good when she is baking bread and pies. Mm Good. Rex poured the back steps this afternoon. When the cement sets up good, we can do away with the planks and make shift steps into our back door. I'll sure enjoy using them; I didn't feel very secure walking the bouncing planks or the wobbling steps to our back door. Donna brought me a little glass with some pretty little purple violets and some white, tiny daisy like wild flowers. She picked them from the field in front of our house. The green grass (or weeds) are coming up all over the place now. They know when it's spring time even if Mother Nature seems to ignore that fact at times. Donna and Rex took a fresh loaf of bread and some jam to the neighbor boy who gave Rex the wooden boot remover he made for him. Tonight, our branch brethren came to do their visiting, Br. Kenneth Derr and his son Daniel. Donna treated them to lemon pie; I enjoyed some of that delicious pie for my dinner at 6:30 p.m. Rex came in to watch TV with me tonight. We watched "Police Woman," and then he left for his night work about 10:15. The weather report says we can expect some rain tonight. I watched the Johnny Carson Show for a while before going to bed. P.S. Bobo, the dog, got himself into trouble; he didn't know about wet cement and he made a sad mess of Rex's beautiful work. It had to be refinished. Bobo is in the dog house now.

April 26, Saturday

We have a cloudy, windy day, but no rain fall so far. It is now 1:10 p.m. Dolly, one of Rex's black cows, broke out of the pasture this morning. Donna went down to the field and got her back in, but she couldn't fix the fence, so she had to come back and wake Rex up; he worked all night at the nursing home in Overbrook. The wire fence isn't adequate, one cow can jump over it and the fence gets grounded sometimes

and then they can push the wire over. When that happens, all six cows can get out. It's frustrating for the cows, and for Farmer Rex and his wife (and me, the window watcher).

*Oh! The joys of living on a farm,
Far away from the city's harm,
With six big cows, a little wire fence, and no barn,
There's a lot of work here on this farm.
My children are happy here for which I thank the Lord
Being able to help them buy the place, is my reward.*

My arm and shoulder hurt me early this morning, but I managed to find relief and get back to sleep. The pretty, little white flowers Donna brought me, with the violets, closed up for the night and opened up again with day light. Cute, eh? Three little ivy leaves are now out of the bottle neck. I was happy about that. The wind is blowing hard and the sky is still stormy looking at 2:30 p.m. I enjoyed my favorite TV program this evening "The Lawrence Welk Show." We all watched television for a while tonight. There was a "W" weather warning on the screen. Strong winds, electrical storms, and one tornado are expected in parts of Kansas. We can hear the wind and see the lightning but the thunder isn't really loud. Sweet dreams.

April 27, Sunday

It is the Primary program in Omaha Fourth Ward's Sacrament meeting this afternoon. Donna and I drove away from the farm about 6:45 this morning. We picked Rex up at the nursing home in Overbrook about 7:15. He drove the car almost all of the way to Omaha. Donna drove a few miles while Rex stretched out in the back seat. It took about four hours to drive to Mary and Jon's house. Mary was home with Julie, Spencer, and a little boy named Todd. His mother is ill with throat cancer. Todd is the oldest of her three little boys. It is sad. Jon took Greg and Jody to Sunday School. Mary had prepared a lovely dinner which we all enjoyed about one o'clock. She had made potato salad, a jelled salad, and rolls. Jon brought home a big bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken so we had fun eating. For dessert Mary served a delicious frozen pie; they called it the Grasshopper Pie. Mary and Jon had to be to a correlation meeting before church; they took Greg and Todd with them. We took the other children with us later. It was raining lightly but the sky looked stormy and dark. Jon is the ward clerk and Mary is the Primary president. She and her board had a busy evening, but they did a beautiful job with the program. The children all recited their little parts and poems very well and they sang out so well, too. They'd been well trained to sing all of the songs from memory. I was especially pleased with little Greg, he really sang out the words. He has a nice voice, too. Jody sang the songs, too, but he was very interested in a lot of other things going on around him, like some girls in back of him and the seat he had, folded up. He worked it up and down a few times. Julie and Greg both had two parts to give on the program, as they gave the little parts for children that couldn't come. We had some salad, chicken, and rolls when we got home to Tibbetses'. We left for home about 5:30 p.m. It rained and hailed hard on

our way home. It was difficult to see the highway but we did make it home about 10:10. I'm very thankful to home, believe me. Mary phoned just as we walked in the back door. She was concerned about us. P.S. Jody came home on Friday with his pockets full of dirt worms for Grampa Rex's farm. Rex brought them to the farm for his garden. [Note from Mary: I remember this well. Jody went to pre-kindergarten not far from home. This day he walked home in a light rain so there were earthworms everywhere. His little jacket pockets were stuffed with worms. It was rather upsetting to me but funny, too.]

April 28, Monday

I was happy to see the sunshine this morning, it's a nice feeling. Rex went to Eudora to work on his plastering job there. Donna was busy in her house as usual; she did the washing and drying in the basement and brought me some lunch about noon. Donna's neighbor Mrs. Keller phoned to tell her that one of Rex's black cows got out of the pasture yesterday and was in their field most of the day, but she had jumped back over the fence and was back with the other cows when Rex checked them this morning. We have five birthdays of Donna's grandchildren coming up in May, Sherm the 5th, Mark the 11th, Doug the 25th, Jody the 26th and Spencer the 31st. Donna and I went through the birthday cards we have here and we decided the ones we wanted to send. We marked their names in pencil on the envelope so we wouldn't send the same card to the boys or to the same house. I've felt very listless today, my big day yesterday took its toll. Donna cooked a small pot roast today. Its aroma is pleasant. Donna is mailing a birthday card to Elaine Vandergrift; her day is May 3. She signed my name to it, also. (I appreciate that.) Rex came home about 5 p.m. He got dressed up and went to his Rotary Club dinner in Overbrook. Donna brought us each a nice plate dinner here in my sitting room. It was delicious. I got Sherm Gardner's birthday card ready to mail; his day is May 5. Tonight, Rex and Donna watched television with me for a while until he had to get ready to go to his night work at the Overbrook nursing home. He works from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

April 29, Tuesday

Donna drove to Ottawa this morning to her Relief Society homemaking day. Rex got home from his night job and went to bed. I stayed in bed until I heard a car drive in the yard about 11 a.m. It was our mailman. He brought a registered package to Donna Marsh. I put on my robe and went to the door and signed for it. I'm glad I saw him; he was just about to take the package back to the post office. It was LDS garments Donna had ordered for her Relief Society sisters, I think. I got a verse ready for Mark Shattuck's birthday card. He'll be 19 years old on May 11. Donna mailed my card to Sherm Gardner this morning. She bought some medication, (pain pills) for me in the drug store in Ottawa. She got Anacin, Bufferin, and Empirin, she also got me some gum for the children's birthday cards. We have a lovely, sunny day. Oh! I do enjoy a blue sky and a sunny day. We had a special news report flashed on the television in the midst of a program tonight. It was, "The War in South Vietnam has Ended." The communists have taken over and the Vietnamese have surrendered. Over a thousand Americans

are leaving Vietnam. We do have a troubled world. I'm so very thankful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these latter days to help me keep my thoughts in proper balance. Rex went to his night work in the Overbrook nursing home tonight. Goodnight and sweet dreams.

April 30, Wednesday

We didn't get the rain forecast for last night, we have a pleasant day for April's last day in 1975, blue sky and sunshine. Rex and Donna went in the tractor to the west field and fixed the fence again, after they got one of the cows back in the pasture. She found a place where she could get herself out under the live wire and be free to wander about at will. Rex thought she was jumping over the fence, until he saw her go under it this morning, so he fixed it and hopes that will keep her in the pasture with the other five cows. She is the aggressive cow of the six, always looking for a way out! Rex slept, while Donna went to the post office and the bank in Overbrook this afternoon. I had her buy some postage stamps for us, \$2.00 worth. I'm delighted to see that three little ivy leaves have grown out of the bottle neck, at long last. There is about an inch out of the bottle. ☺ My shoulder and arm are not as painful today, but I'm aware of it when I lift my arm up. Wow! Donna and Rex had to get that cow back in the pasture again this evening and she really did jump over the wire this time. She can't be kept in a field with a flimsy little fence like that. Donna brought a nice plate dinner to me about 6 p.m. It was fish sticks, mixed vegetables, and a jelled salad. Dessert was some fresh made cookies. Rex and Donna went for milk this evening. They go to a dairy a few miles from here. Rex went to work for the nursing home in Overbrook tonight.

May 1, Thursday

Happy May Day! It has been a cloudy day, the sun got through to cheer us up a few times. Rex and Donna worked in the southwest field trying to mend the wire fence to keep that darn cow in. She seems to have no trouble jumping over the wire. She must be related to the "Cow that Jumped Over the Moon," eh? I haven't felt very well today, I had diarrhea all morning. I took a spoon full of NVP (Metamucil) powder and it helped the condition. I composed a little verse for Doug's birthday card; his day is May 25. I haven't eaten much today; I had some warm milk and some toast about 10:30 this morning. Donna has tried to talk me into eating something "No Way." It is now 5 p.m. She brought me a bowl of soup about six o'clock. She had some jelled salad and some custard, too. I could eat only half of it. I do feel weak and miserable but hope to be all right tomorrow. Mary phoned this evening to tell her parents that the loan to build here has been approved. They are elated, now they hope to get started on the Tibbetses' home soon (here on this farm property).

This weary old Grama must call it a day.

That is all I can take for the 1st of May.

There'll be no more May polls for me to wind,

But looking back life has been kind.

(Goodnight all)

May 2, Friday

I'm feeling much better today. I had a good night's rest and I was able to eat a little lunch and watch my TV stories. Rex and Donna have been working in the west field this afternoon putting a wire fence up so the cows can have new green grazing, east of their old pasture. I ate a little soup and toast about noon. (Oh, oh, repeating myself, yep, I'm slipping.) I worked on a little verse for Joel Tibbets's birthday card; his day is May 26. He'll be five years old. We've had some sunshine today but for the most part it has been cloudy. My arm and shoulder have not hurt as much today; there is always something to be thankful for, eh? Rex and Donna worked until almost dark; but they did get the fence up and the six cows in their new pasture of green grass to graze on. Donna brought a nice plate dinner to me about 6:20 p.m. (stewed chicken on baking powder biscuits). She went back to help Rex in the field after bringing my dinner to me. They both looked tired tonight; they came in to hear the 10 p.m. news on TV and then they went to bed and so did L.V. We have a lightning and thunder shower tonight. I can hear some rain and a rumbling of thunder, but not too bad. Night night! P.S. The Mo Gardners and the Jon Tibbetses are meeting somewhere between Omaha and Chicago for a happy family camp out. I hope the weather is lovely and they have a wonderful weekend together.



MAY

1

THURSDAY

121 ↔ 244

APRIL 1975							MAY 1975							JUNE 1975							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						

He is a good orator who convinces himself

8:00 Happy May Day It has been a cloudy day, the sun got thru,

8:30 to cheer us up a few times. Rex and Donna worked in the South

9:00 West field, trying to mend the wire fence, to keep that darn cow

9:30 in. She seems to have no trouble jumping over the wire, she must

10:00 be related to the "Cow that jumped over the moon" eh? - I haven't

10:30 felt very well today, I had diarrhoea all morning, and took a

11:00 a spoon full of N.V.P. Metamucil powder and it helped the condition

11:30 I composed a little verse for Doug's birthday card, his day is May 25 =

12:00 I haven't eaten much today, I had some warm milk and some toast -

12:30 abt. 10:30 this a.m. - Donna has tried to talk me into eating something.

1:00 "No Way" it is now 5: P.M. - I she brought me a bowl of soup abt -

1:30 6: o'clock, she had some jelled salad and some custard too, I could eat

2:00 only half of it. I do feel weak and miserable, but hope to be all right

2:30 tomorrow. Mary phoned this evening, to tell her parents that

3:00 the loan to build here, has been approved, they are elated, now

3:30 they hope to get started on the Tibbets home soon (here on

4:00 this farm property) - This weary old Grama must call

4:30 it a day - that's all I can take for the 1st of May - there'll be no

5:00 more May polls for me to wind, but looking back life has been kind -

5:30 (goodnight all)

6:00

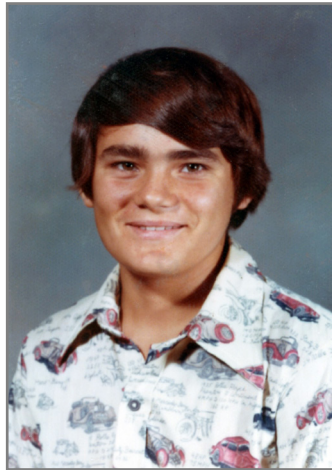
6:30 Circled above are Elvie's May Day basket of flowers & the May Pole.

May 3, Saturday

We have a cloudy sky but some sunshine, too. We had visitors this morning; the Carl Nichols family with four small children, and all of them are live wires (but cute kids). Carl and Dawanna sure have their hands full with these children. Donna baked a cake this morning and they ate all of it but one piece that she kept for Rex's lunch today. He had to be to work at the nursing home today at 3 p.m. to work the three to eleven shift. He left here about 2:15 p.m. Donna rode with him to the mailbox and she walked back home from there. It's a long walk but she wanted to pick up the mail. She brought a nice, long letter from Kathy and my Social Security check. We both enjoyed Kathy's letter, she is a cutie. I can't get my check cashed until Monday. Carl Nichols wants to bring Rex's big sow back home. (Kathy named her Petunia.) She is expecting baby pigs. Carl had Rex's sow Salome, too, but she died at his pig farm. Rex has to get a place for Petunia to have her baby pigs in before he can bring her to the farm. I have all of my May birthday cards ready to mail. I did Spencer's today. It's too soon to mail them, but they are ready with \$1.00, gum, and verse, by L.V. © Spencer's day is May 31. Donna watched television tonight with me. She also baked a cake. We enjoyed the "Lawrence Welk Show," "All in the Family," "The Jeffersons," "Mary Tyler Moore," "Bob Newhart," and "Carol Burnett Show." Good night.

May 4, Sunday

We left the farm about 7:45 this morning to be in time for Rex's priesthood meeting in Ottawa. It was a beautiful, sunny day; the fields are a lovely new spring time green. It was a long session for me with my poor bony back on the hard bench seats in that little chapel. I had to sit through the Primary, a rehearsal for the program they are putting on in Sacrament meeting next Sunday. Then, I sat through the Sunday School session and after that the sacrament fast day services. I was so tired that I staggered a little when I tried to walk to the car. Rex said, "What have you been drinking mom?" Donna had a busy time; she took care of Marlene Ries's little boy so she could conduct the Primary rehearsal; he is a live-wire. She also played piano for Sunday School and sacrament meeting, plus taking care of some Relief Society business, so she had a workout. Rex sat with me in Sunday School and fast meeting. We had two babies blessed today. Our dinner was cooked in the crock pot; slow cooked all night and this morning. We got home about 3 p.m. Rex slept all afternoon, he has to work tonight. After our nice pot roast and vegetables dinner, he slept. I stretched out on my bed, too. I hope Donna took a nap, also. Ha! We didn't either of us get the intended naps. Donna received a phone call saying that Bishop and Sr. Long and Br. and Sr. McQuade, from Topeka Ward were on their way to visit us this afternoon. It was nice of them to come so far to see us and we were very happy to see these nice people again. We had a nice visit. Donna treated them to chocolate cake and milk. It is a good thing that Rex stopped at the dairy for milk on our way home from church. Kathy phoned from Joan's in Northbrook. She told us that Mark S. is flying to Illinois to drive with Kathy to California in a few weeks.



Sherm Gardner Fall of 1974

Happy Birthday

May 5, Monday

*Hurrah! Sherman boy, up on your feet
And give the family a gum chewing treat.
The dollar bill in this card is just for you,
A fifteen-year-old lad needs money, too.
I hope someday you'll have money galore.
Keep us proud of you Sherm, we don't ask for more.
Happy Birthday!*

We have a hazy sunshine this morning with some clouds in the blue. I tried to trim my long toenails, but my feet seem so far away and the scissors were not sharp enough, problems, problems. Donna brought a nice breakfast to me, egg, toast, and Postum, honey and peaches, bless her. I had Donna mail Mark Shattuck's birthday card today, he'll be 19 years old on May 11. They drove to Lawrence this afternoon to take care of the house payment and other business such as cashing my Social Security check and etcetera. I was invited to go with them, but I didn't feel up to another long ride today. I did get a letter written to Lydia Paul and a postcard to Blanche H. Donna brought my dinner to me at 6 p.m. It was fried chicken, green beans, creamed potatoes, milk, bread, and ice cream and a cookie. Rex and Donna both took naps this afternoon while I was writing to Lydia and Blanche. Rex left about 10:10 p.m. for his night work at the Overbrook nursing home. Donna played the piano and did some typing. I relaxed in my swivel chair and watched television until after the ten o'clock news. Weary L.V.

May 6, Tuesday

We have a windy day with some clouds and hazy sunshine. Donna drove to Ottawa to her Relief Society meeting. I'd like to have gone with her but I'm not feeling up to the effort it takes to get up and go. She mailed my letter to Lydia Paul and my postcard to Blanche H. I fixed myself something to eat about 11:45 noon. I had a sliced banana, Rice Krispies, graham crackers, and milk. Donna sang a solo in Relief Society by request from the sister who gave the Spiritual Living lesson. The song was "My Testimony." She has a sweet voice, I heard her rehearsing it at home yesterday. She came home about 2:20 this afternoon. Rex's friend Ken brought his big tractor to the farm; I think they are going to plant some corn. The wheat is up and looks so pretty swaying in the wind. It is higher than most of the neighbor's crops this year. My shoulder and arm still hurt when I lift up my arm, but it isn't as painful as it was last week. Donna looked tired; she took a nap this afternoon. Janet phoned from San Jose; she wants us to fast and pray with them next Thursday when they take Rick to have a consultation with four eye specialists about the cold sore in one of his eyes. I'm very concerned about that sweet lad. I composed a verse for

Donna's birthday card (see June 1). She brought my dinner on a TV tray at 6:30 p.m. President G. Ford was on most of the stations with his Nation's Press Conference, so I listened to him answer the questions that he was asked. Donna and I watched the "M.A.S.H." program after the press conference. Rex was asleep; he is working tonight at the nursing home. It was after nine tonight when I heard the TV news talk about the tornado that struck Omaha about five o'clock today. Dorothy Tibbets and Donna tried to phone Jon and Mary, but the lines were tied up; they had to wait until Mary called them. We were oh so happy to hear from Mary and Jon, later, and to know they are all right. The tornado was too

close for comfort. *[Note from Mary: The storm was terrible. I remember keeping the kids down in the basement for a few hours. There was a laundromat walking distance from us that was leveled. Many buildings near us were damaged. Jon was at work and couldn't get home for a while.]* P.S.

We had a tornado warning on our TV screen this afternoon but nothing came of it.



Westgate Elementary school, one of the many damaged buildings as a result of the May 6, 1975 tornado that hit Omaha.

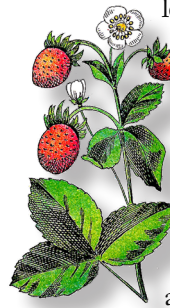
May 7, Wednesday

Marshes expected Ken Huston this morning to come to the farm with his tractor machine and plant their corn, but he didn't come. Donna brought my lunch at noon. This afternoon she went to the market in Overbrook for groceries; Rex was sleeping. We had sunshine this morning but our sky was overcast this afternoon and it was windy. The sun played "peek-a-boo" through the clouds. Rex got his tractor out this afternoon and rotated the field where his corn is going to be planted. Ken came this afternoon about 4:45 and planted Rex's sweet corn for eating. I presume the field corn will be planted later. Donna walked down to watch Ken plant the corn. Rex and his tractor were already there. I can hear the wind, it sounds like a train is going by in the distance. The green fields and trees are beautiful. Now I love to look out my windows and see the beauty out there. Donna baked some macaroni and cheese for dinner. It started to rain hard about 5:30 p.m. Ken and Ila brought Donna and Rex to the house in their car. The storm didn't last long, so Ken and Ila went back to the field to plant the rest of the field corn. Donna invited them to eat dinner with us but Ken was anxious to get the corn planted. Our TV weather had a warning on the

screen for a couple of hours from 7 to 9 p.m. The warning was for a severe electrical storm and a tornado watch in parts of Kansas; Johnson, and Jackson Counties. That is getting too close for my comfort. We had some very dark clouds in the sky but no serious action. All is calm now at 10:30 p.m. Rex has gone to work; Donna just kissed me goodnight and I'm going to bed, too. Sweet Dreams.

May 8, Thursday

It is a lovely, calm spring day. I got dressed in my slack suit and went with Donna for a nature hike in our backyard to see the little lilac shrub Donna is so proud of. It has green leaves on it and is growing nicely. We looked at the strawberry plants; they're coming up nice and some even have some blossoms and some tiny berries on some of them. The little fruit trees that Jon planted are in leaf and look good, too. Donna weeded in her garden this morning where they have potatoes, onions, and peas planted, and they are growing. I watched her from my front window. We have been fasting and praying today with the family, for Ricky Shattuck. He is having a consolation with four eye specialists today about the infected eye that they haven't been able to cure or heal. I fasted from dinner last evening until three today. Then I fixed myself a tuna sandwich and cup of hot water and milk. I wasn't hungry, but I felt weak, so I decided I should eat something. Donna and Rex had gone to Carl Nichols's to pick up his big sow, Petunia, she is expecting baby pigs. Donna took a pan full of frosted cupcakes to Dawanna and the family. The Nicholsons have four kiddies. Donna washed a stack of dishes for Dawanna, the sink and drain board were full of dirty dishes. Rex and Donna had planned on going to Independence, Missouri, this afternoon to take his friend and her children to the Church Visitor's Center, but something came up and she couldn't go. Today's mail brought a postcard from Blanche H. She is very worried over Harriet's sad condition. She says Hattie is dying of cancer. Blanche isn't at all well herself; she says she weighs only 105 pounds. I think Blanche is about three years older than I am so maybe 85 years old? Donna weighed me today, I weigh 120 pounds. She is 131, just right for her, eh? We had a display of lightning tonight. Rex and Donna and I sat out in the garage and watched the fireworks. I was so nice and cool, and the air so fresh. Bobo, the dog, enjoyed the show, too. When it started to rain, we came in. P.S. Rex's sow had her piglets last night; he brought them to the farm this afternoon. She gave birth to ten of them, but only seven of them are alive.



May 9, Friday

When I got up this morning, I saw Rex and Donna in the west field. It was a hazy day but warm and pleasant. I had a sleepless night so I didn't feel too well this morning. Donna brought me some brunch at 12:30, after I was dressed and my hair was combed. But, I'm not up to par. This afternoon Rex and Donna went back to the lower west field. I think they are putting up a wire fence so the cows will have more green pasture to graze on. I was too drowsy to watch TV this afternoon. I dozed in my swivel chair. Donna brought the mail to me. There

was a lovely Mother's Day card to Grandmother, on Mother's Day, from Mary and Jon. Enclosed was an adorable color picture of Spencer, 23 months old. John and Ann sent a Mother's Day card and gift to Donna. She is heart sick because somehow, the gift had been torn out of the envelope, or worked its own way out. It was a larger size Relief Society pin. Donna had asked them to price it for her and they sent it for a Mother's Day gift. Donna phoned the post office, but they can't do anything about it because it wasn't insured or registered. John enclosed a news clipping of the death of Mary Hackett Marsh, 90 years old. She is the mother of our friend, Ray Marsh, in Pasadena. No relation to Rex's family. Rex watched television with me tonight until after the ten o'clock news. Donna was typing some letters, I presume. The weather man says we have a 30% chance of rain tonight. It is all very calm now, but one never knows what to expect in this country, it can change so fast.



Photo of Spencer Tibbets (23 months old) that Elvie received from Mary for Mother's Day.

They left for the picnic about 5:30 p.m. I fixed myself a tuna sandwich and some salad and I enjoyed a dish of the homemade ice cream, too, while listening to the "Lawrence Welk Show." It was very lovely, honoring mothers for Mother's Day. They came home sooner than I expected and watched TV with me. Rex changed into his white uniform and went to work at the nursing home. Donna studied her talk for the program tomorrow. Her subject is, "What is it like to be a grandmother?" I hope I can go to Sunday School.

May 11, Sunday

*Winter has passed and
spring is here,
To life, you've added
another year.
It's your last anniversary
to be a teen,
Dear Mark, be happy,
having fun that's clean.
Keep your family and
friends proud of you
You won't regret it, dear
boy, if you do.
Happy birthday Mark!*



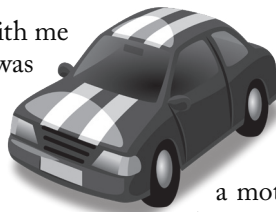
One of the photos taken to be sent in with Mark's mission papers.

May 10, Saturday

We have a hazy sunshine day. I slept much better last night. I got up and took a shower bath about 11:30 this morning. Donna went to the garden spot, south west of the house to help Rex plant something. I think she said tomato plants, not sure. I was so exhausted after my bath I couldn't comb my hair until I had rested in my swivel chair. Ugh! Rex made a freezer full of ice cream to take to the branch picnic party at Forest Park, in Ottawa, this evening. I tasted it. Mm good! I told Donna I wouldn't be going to the picnic with them I don't feel up to it. What a sad sack I am. I received two pretty cards wishing me a happy Mother's Day; one from John and Ann Marsh, the other from my sister Bonnie Reynolds, bless them. Donna made bread today. It was May 7 when Bonnie sent her card to me and she said it was snowing hard in Salt Lake City. Isn't that something? She also said her mother, Elsie, died seven years ago that day, the 7th of May.

*The seasons are changing as time passes by,
Each day brings me closer to the day I will die.*

Oh oh! I'm dozing in my chair again. I better take a walk through the house. Mm, it smells good in our house (bread baking). Donna vacuumed the rugs in my rooms, I dusted the furniture, Rex washed the car, so they'll have a nice clean car to go in, to the church picnic this evening. Donna cooked a beef stew today, also, it is for Sunday dinner tomorrow.



Donna and I drove to Ottawa this morning to Sunday School. Rex worked all night so he was asleep in bed when we left. We had a nice program honoring mothers in Sunday School. One sister told us what being a mother means to her, and Donna's subject was what being a grandmother means to her. She gave an excellent talk, but she always does a good job whenever they call on her. I was very surprised and emotionally touched this morning to find two gifts for me. Donna's lovely note really brought tears, her own dear words of thanks to me. [See note on following page.] She and Rex gave me a pretty light weight beige shade coat. My two coats are for winter weather. I really needed a summer weight coat. I wore it to church this morning. I love it! The other gift was a "what not" shelf to hold my little bric-a-brac, odds and ends. My other "what not" shelf got broken in the moving. Joan bought the shelf and Rex put it together and Donna stained it. My precious children, I am so very fortunate to have them. The Primary children furnished the program in our sacrament meeting. I enjoyed it very much; they did very well, but not as fine a job as Mary's Primary children did with the same program last month in Omaha, on April 27. It was outstanding. Donna's beef stew and Rex's homemade ice cream tasted very delicious at dinner today. We ate about 3 p.m. Donna had some Relief Society business after church, so we were later getting home. President North set apart some of her board. The work day director, I think. Rex went to work tonight at the nursing home. P.S. Janet phoned from San Jose this evening. Mark's girlfriend is visiting them this weekend. Beth and Dick Johnston and Aunt Ida R. Strong called to say hello to Janet. David is the president of the elder's quorum now.

Thank!
you!



Mother, darling, for being the kind of a Mother that you have been to me.

I looked for a Mother's Day card that would say the things that were in my heart, but couldn't find the right one, so I decided to express in my own words my love for you and to thank you for all that you have done for me.

I thank my Heavenly Father every day for you and Dad. I'm so thankful that I was born under the covenant, thankful that you taught me to love my Father in Heaven, that you taught me to talk to him as I would my own Father.

I'm so grateful for the love and concern that you and Dad always showed for me. I'm thankful for the piano lessons and the piano that you gave to me. These things have brought many, many hours of pleasure to me and have given me the opportunity to serve the Lord.

I'm so thankful for the love you have shown to your grandchildren, for all the little extra things you have done for them. You and Dad were a big help many times, in caring for their

needs.

Rex and I are especially grateful to you for consenting to move to Kansas and supporting us with your financial aid. We love you and want to make the rest of your life as happy as is possible and so this Mother's Day remember that you are loved by many children and grandchildren, I should say grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and especially by your daughter,



With our love,
Rex & Donna



May 12, Monday

We have a sunny morning with some clouds in the sky. Joan phoned this morning, Janet had phoned her and Kathy. Janet and Dave think Kathy should sell her Opel car, in as much as it needs so much work done on it. They said they'll fly her and Mark to California. Kathy met a nice young man in Chicago in church, He has dated her and they have enjoyed each other's company. They'll both be going to the Y in Provo this fall. He is home for vacation right now. Donna brought my brunch to me at noon, bless her. I love to hear news about the grandchildren and their families, they are precious ones. Donna gave the "what not" shelf a sanding and another coat of stain today. I received a lovely card to "A Dear Grandma on Mother's Day" from Joan and Miller. She wrote a sweet, little note in it. Joan also sent the lovely "what not" shelf to me. I composed a verse

for Kathy's birthday card (see June 14). Donna brought me a drink of delicious orange juice; she'd whipped it up in the blender, Mm good! Rex is nailing some tar paper and wire on the back part of the house getting it ready for the stucco job. Donna cooked some fried chicken and baked potatoes and green beans for our dinner. I made out a check for \$5.00 to John Marsh and enclosed it in a letter that Donna typed to him and Ann tonight. She asked John to use the money to buy some flowers, from me, and take them to the Salt Lake City Cemetery and put them on Grampa Lou's grave for Memorial Day on May 26. I'd love to put flowers on all of the family graves in that plot, but I can't afford to send any more money at this time. I'm sorry about that. I do love all of them and I'm sure they know I do, but I hope the family there will do something about that. My darling husband didn't have many flowers when he was buried there because we couldn't take his beautiful flowers with us from California on the plane when we took his body to Salt Lake City. Golly, I do mess up this record! P.S. Rex is working all night at the nursing home in Overbrook. *[Each day the diary has a short thought. Today's thought from Montesquieu said, "The less men think, the more they talk." Elvie added a thought next to this thought, "It's better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt."]*



May 13, Tuesday

We have a damp, cloudy day with some light rain. Donna drove to the Westhoff Farm, in Paola this morning. Her Relief Society had planned a nature hike there, but the rain changed that. They had the homemaking lesson and the picnic on the farm porch. She got home about 3:30 p.m. Joan phoned from Illinois this morning with more changes. Mark isn't flying to Chicago after all. Joan is going to tow Kathy's car to Omaha, and Jon T. will work on it. *[Mary asked Jon in 2019 if he remembered working on Kathy's Opel and without hesitation he replied, "Yes, it was a piece of junk!"]* Joan will bring Kathy here to the farm; Mary will have Kathy's car this summer while Jon is working here on the farm. Kathy will fly to San Jose after her visit here. Rex went to a meeting at the nursing home this afternoon. He got back home soon after Donna arrived. There was a letter from Kathy in the mail today. She has the book Rex has been looking all over for. He was glad to know where it is. I made a chicken sandwich for my lunch at noon time. It tasted good. I had hot water, with honey and canned milk in it to drink. Our sky is dark, but it isn't raining now at 4:35 pm. I relaxed in my chair. After dinner this evening, we all enjoyed television for a while. Donna typed a long letter to John and Ann yesterday and got it in the mail today. They phoned from Salt Lake City tonight so she told them everything that she had in the letter, but it was fun to hear their response to her news anyway. Rex left for his night work about 10:15. I wanted to rub some of my new Ben Gay on my aching shoulder and arm, but I couldn't unscrew the darn lid. They sure put them on tight. Oh, I miss my husband at a time like this. I don't have a good grip in my hands. Donna and I both worked on the Anacin lid to get it off yesterday.

May 14, Wednesday

We have a hazy day, clouds and sunshine. I slept fairly well last night, but for some reason I'm not up to par today. Donna brought me a delicious chicken sandwich, some jelled salad, and a drink of Postum about noon time. She is a precious girl, what would I do without her? I'm very thankful I can get up and take care of my personal needs like dressing myself, combing my hair, taking my bath, making my bed, and etcetera. Lots of dear souls in the nursing homes at my age are helpless, I'm 82½ years old. I was delighted to get a letter from Violet this afternoon. She is so prompt in answering. I was becoming concerned about her as I know she isn't well. She and Otto had a wonderful surprise last Saturday May 3 (she wrote on Saturday, May 10), Dolores phoned from Provo. She and Bevan got there late Friday night. Bevan's company sent him to the states from Belgium, and he brought Dody with him. He had business in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Toronto Canada, and New York. They left Richard and Paul with LDS families in Belgium. They visited with Violet and Otto from Saturday night until Tuesday night, three happy days. Bevan went to Zion on a hike with Otto. Dolores stayed with Violet and Violet says that Dody worked herself as usual, trying to help clean the house for her mom. Otto had painted the living room, kitchen, and bathroom before Dody arrived. They visited with Nadine and Chris and with Ron and family, too. Rex and Donna came in my sitting room tonight and watched television with me. Rex didn't go to work tonight, so he'll have a good night's sleep at home. That is nice. Good night and sweet dreams. P.S. U.S. Merchant Ship *[that had been held hostage]* was released from Cambodia Indochina waters today.

May 15, Thursday

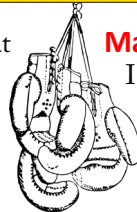
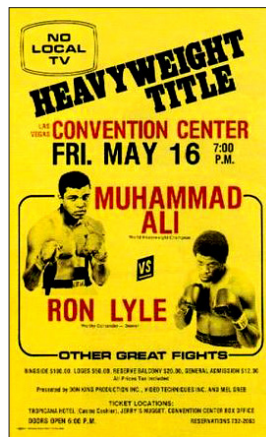
We are enjoying a lovely spring day. I could hear Rex hammering so I know he is working on the house. I saw Donna in the backyard burning the trash. She brought my brunch at noon. I stay in bed late for a couple of reasons. First, it is a pleasant way to shorten my day and second, two meals per day is all I need anyway. Rex was working in the south west field with his tractor. Donna drove to Overbrook for groceries this afternoon. There was no mail for me today. Violet's letter came yesterday; I must answer it soon. I took a walk around in my rooms for exercise. Exciting, eh? I ate dinner with Rex and Donna in their kitchen at 6 p.m. It was a good dinner as always. I came back to watch "Truth or Consequences" at 6:30 p.m. Donna wouldn't let me help her clean up the dishes. It has been a beautiful, sunny day all day. Rex doesn't go to work tonight, so it will be another good night's rest for him. He was out running his tractor tonight until 10:30 p.m. Donna came in to watch TV with me. We enjoyed "The Dean Martin's Celebrity Roast." The man of the hour was Michael Landon.

May 16, Friday

It is another pretty spring day. I had a restless night, I couldn't get to sleep until after six this morning, so I'm not feeling

very energetic this afternoon. I didn't get up until 11 a.m. I made some toast and scrambled an egg for my brunch. Rex was on his tractor in the south west field somewhere. Donna drove to Ottawa to talk to Sr. Annie Hall about her problems. She is a doting mother and can't bring herself to let go of her son; he wants to get married. It is a tale of woe. Donna also called on another Relief Society sister, Frances Bunch. Sr. Bunch sent two lovely purple flowers to me, they were cut from a vine growing in her yard. I'm enjoying their beauty now. She is a dear, little white-haired lady in our branch. She is in her eighties, about my age I presume? Donna went with Rex this afternoon; I think they planted a few more vegetables in the garden. I'm having a dreadful time to stay awake this afternoon. It was Milo they planted this afternoon. Ken came with his planter machine and planted the Milo seeds. I just had to give up and stretch

out on my bed this afternoon. We watched television after dinner this evening. Rex wanted to see the World Heavyweight Championship Special with the champ, Muhammad Ali and Ron Lyle of Denver, Colorado. The fight was in Las Vegas. The fight went eleven rounds. Ron Lyle gave the champ a good workout before the fight was called off. It was not a knock out, but Ali is still the champ. He had bragged he'd have Ron Lyle out before the eighth round, but the man made it eleven rounds and he wanted to go on. Rex went to work tonight at the nursing home. Donna was typing when I went to bed about 10:45 p.m. Good night! (I hope)



May 17, Saturday

I stayed in bed until almost noon today. I had a good night's sleep, too. I made up for not sleeping Thursday night. Donna made a waffle for my lunch; I enjoyed three-quarters of it; I couldn't eat all of it, it was too much for me. I had applesauce and Postum, too. My daughter surely tries to put some fat on my bones. She weighed me, I'd gained a few pounds. I am now 121 pounds. I was 111 pounds when the nurse weighed me in Cotati last time. Donna worked in the basement yesterday evening. She brought some bedding up here to store in this little closet in my sitting room. She really looked tired last night. She works too hard. However, she looked as fresh as a daisy this morning, bless her heart. We have a pretty spring day with sunshine and blue sky. Mary phoned this morning. She'll be coming to the farm sometime soon, while Jon takes a couple of foreign exchange students to see some interesting places in our country, before they go home to Argentina, or where ever? I don't digest all I hear, sorry about that. But I'll be delighted to see Mary and the children and Kathy, too, when she comes. I made out my \$10.00 check to our branch president, Richard North. My donations for May are tithing \$5.00, fast offering \$2.00, budget \$2.00, and building fund, \$1.00. Donna did some cleaning in my bathroom. This evening Rex and Donna went to the dairy for milk. Rex came to watch TV for a while. Donna did some typing; she has a lesson to give in the in-service class in Sunday School tomorrow morning. Rex went to work tonight at the nursing home in Overbrook.

May 18, Sunday

We have a pretty Sabbath day. I'm enjoying it in my nice, little suite. Rex and Donna went to Ottawa to church. They left soon after he got home from work this morning about 7:30. It was too long a day for me to endure; the priesthood for Rex, Primary, then Sunday School, then the sacrament meeting, plus a Relief Society meeting Donna had scheduled after church. It's better for all concerned if I stay home, eh? I presume Rex will sleep in his car most of the time as he worked all night last night. I took a shower bath when I got up at noontime. I put my house and myself in order and after relaxing a while, I went to the kitchen about 2:30 and made a chicken sandwich and cup of hot water with some honey and canned milk in it, for my dinner. I also ate a piece of Donna's good banana cake. One of the neighbor boys came to the back door to ask if they could swim in the pond west of our home. I told him I was sure it would be alright with the Marshes. He went away happy. It was about 3 p.m. then. Donna said last night that she didn't think they could make it home before four today. It is 3:35 now. I did the dishes Donna left in the sink with the ones I used, so her kitchen is neat and clean to come home to. They got home about 4:20 p.m. Janet phoned this evening and talked to Donna. She said Rick's eye is much better. I was happy about that; Janet is looking forward to Kathy's visit with them this summer. Joan phoned tonight also; she talked to Rex and Donna. Kathy had a date last night and today with a young man in their ward; he is home from BYU for vacation this summer. He has red hair, is 27 years old, and will be going back to Provo to school in the fall. Kathy has plans to go to BYU in the fall, too, if she can work in San Jose this summer. Night all. P.S. I wrote a letter to Violet this afternoon.

May 19, Monday

Donna took my letter to Violet and my birthday card to Doug to the mailbox this morning. I got up and dressed about 10:45 this morning. Donna made a melted cheese toast sandwich for my brunch. Rex worked last night, so he was sleeping today. Later today, Donna drove to Overbrook for groceries. She also had some new keys made for the house and the church. She never found the key ring she lost a few weeks ago. I gave her the key ring that Beverly gave me to put her new keys on. It's a little purse with a rain cap in it. I haven't any keys myself, so I do not need the key ring. We have a warm, hazy day, no heat needed in the house today. It was warm all-night last night, too. I cut and filed my fingernails this afternoon. I think Joan is towing Kathy's Opel car to Mary and Jon's home in Omaha today; we hope to see them here on the farm this weekend. Jon will repair Kathy's car (again), he has worked on it several times. We have a wind this afternoon, it looks like it's trying to blow up a storm. Rex's crops do need some rain. This evening I watched the Emmy Award program on Channel 4 for two hours. It was very entertaining I thought. Many television stars and moving picture stars were on it. It is warm tonight; I prefer the cooler nights. Rex has gone to his night work in Overbrook. Donna is ironing in the kitchen; she did a washing this late afternoon.

May 20, Tuesday

I got up this morning about 7:30 and got ready to go to Ottawa with Donna, to Relief Society. It was a hazy day with a strong breeze. We had a warm night, no blankets needed. Donna took a lot of bite size sandwiches and some cookies and a drink of punch to serve after the lesson. We had two visitors from the stake board, Sr. Nielsen and Sr. Allred. Sr. Ruth Hauer gave the Social Relations lesson and it was interesting. Donna really had a busy morning. Sr. Annie Hall wasn't there to play the piano, so President Marsh had to conduct and play for the singing, too. She and her counselors served the nice lunch they prepared. Of course, Donna is the last to leave the church. She has to see that everything is in order and locked up before we can get away. We were too weary and hot to stop in town and shop as we'd planned. I took a nap when I got home. Joan and Kathy (with Sandy, Emily, and Paula) came a few minutes after I got up this afternoon. I went in the kitchen and we had fun hearing about Kathy's latest romance with a young man she met in Chicago a short while ago. His name is Neil Frischknecht (sounds like Freshneck). It is a German name. They had one or two dates, but he has a lot of fun in him and they really enjoyed each other. Too bad they didn't meet sooner. He is 6' 7," has blue eyes and reddish color hair. He is 27 years old and has been on a mission for the LDS Church. He graduated from BYU, but he is going back to the Y for some post graduate work. He is going to be a doctor of some sort. Joan took a nap on my extra twin bed. Paula slept in her crib. Kathy and Donna unpacked Kathy's belongings from Joan's car. We had more fun tonight after the children were asleep, just talking. 'Twas a lot of fun for lonesome old me.



Paula and Emily Gardner in May 1975, on May 20 they are visiting the farm with their mom and brother Sandy.

May 21, Wednesday

Rex went to do a plastering job in Eudora. He left soon after 7 a.m. Joan and her three little ones, Sandy, Emily, and Paula, left for Chicago this morning about 9 a.m. I was asleep, so I didn't see them off, sorry about that. Kathy did get up in time to see them drive away. It was a hazy sunshine, but warm. We didn't turn the heat on in the house. Donna burned the trash after Joan left. She did put up a lunch for Joan to take with her and they ate a good breakfast, too.

Donna brought me some oatmeal, toast, applesauce, and Postum about noon. She stretched out on the other twin bed for 45 minutes while Kathy was writing letters and I was eating and recording in my diary. I enjoyed my TV stories today. I didn't see them yesterday, but one can miss several days and still follow the plot of the story. Donna and Kathy came in to listen to the "Merv Griffin Show." He was interviewing one of the Osmond brothers and his sister. We were interested because they talked about the LDS Church and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and etcetera. Rex came home early, about 5 p.m. He and Kathy went to the lower field to feed the horses and the pigs. It was really a switch to see Kathy driving the tractor and her dad riding in the bucket seat. ☺ Joan phoned tonight about 9 p.m. to let us know they were home safe and sound. We were happy to know she had made that long drive to Chicago without any car trouble or anything very difficult. Of course, Joan and children were very tired. P.S. Kathy made a map of Israel for her dad to use in a talk he'll be giving soon. Sweet dreams.

May 22, Thursday

Our sky is very overcast this morning but it is warm out. Donna, Kathy, and Rex worked in the north garden where the strawberries are growing. They weeded, hoed, and watered. Kathy came in the house and cooked some Cream of Wheat and made toast for my breakfast. I also had a dish of peaches, lucky me! Donna and Kathy showered; Rex was on his tractor plowing then. I took my time to get ready for the day out. We were going to do some shopping, and then take Kathy to the airport in Kansas City. She is flying to Salt Lake City from Kansas City. She has an hour stopover in Denver, changes planes, and then goes on to Salt Lake City. We left the farm about 1 p.m. We shopped in Sears Store in Kansas City. I bought material to cover my little **chair** that goes with my dresser. It cost \$1.39 with the tax. I also bought Kathy a sun hat, a big lacy flop hat. She looks pretty in it. That cost \$2.00 plus tax. I gave her \$5.00 to take with her. We're surely going to miss our sweet Kathy. Rex bought us all an ice cream cone. We stopped at the Nelson Gallery-Atkins Art Museum in Kansas City. We enjoyed seeing the wax man that looks so life like you almost expect him to speak to you. It was time to head for the airport for Kathy's flight. It was scheduled to leave at 5:50 p.m. We got there in time to see her board her plane, but we couldn't wait for it to take off because Rex had to go to work tonight at the nursing home. We stopped at a Dairy Queen eating place on our way home. It was in Kansas City, Missouri. It rained hard in one or two spots on our way home. It had rained a lot in Overbrook, which pleased Rex and Donna, their crops and gardens needed the drink. We arrived home about 8:45. Rex rested a while before he left for work at the nursing home. PS. John and Ann will pick Kathy up at the airport in Salt Lake City about 9 p.m.



This is the little chair Elvie mentions buying fabric for on May 22. It is in Lisa Calkins home now.

May 23, Friday

I had a good night's rest and enjoyed the cooler air. We had some heavy downpour and lightning and thunder after I went to bed, but it didn't upset me. I guess I'm getting used to this noisy Kansas weather, that's good. Donna and I ate our lunch together in the kitchen. We talked about the phone call she received from Annie Hall, and her problems with son Mick. Donna felt she had to go to Ottawa and try to help poor, sick Annie, so she left here about 12:30. Oh, it's a long story diary, but I'll never record it. We have a cloudy sky; I hope Donna doesn't get caught in a bad storm. I can hear the wind howling. Donna thought she'd try to get Annie to go with her to call on a couple of their branch sisters, who are shut-ins. It may help Annie to forget her imaginary problems. (Good luck Donna!) The sun was shining brightly by 4 p.m. I walked around in the house for exercise. I wish we had cement walks outside so I could walk around in the sunshine, but I'm thankful I can walk in the house anyway. I stayed up until Mary and her children arrived at 10:50. We're happy to see them again. Rex is working. Br. Derr came tonight to do his visiting for the branch before Rex left for his night work. Mary phoned from Topeka to let us know they'd be here in about an hour. Donna slept in my other twin bed and gave Mary her bedroom. She had the baby crib up in her room. Paula slept there last week. P.S. Today's mail brought a letter from Blanche H. She isn't well, she weighs only 110 pounds. She worries over her sister Harriet's sad condition. Hattie is dying from cancer. Blanche's children are very good to take her to church and to shop.

May 24, Saturday

I got up and dressed before nine o'clock as we were expecting our Relief Society visiting teachers. Jeanne Brooks and Sr. Doris Crider came this morning at 9:30. We had a nice visit in Donna's living room and the lovely message given by Sr. Brooks. Rex took Mary and the children (all but Spencer), in his pickup truck to Overbrook for groceries this morning. They got home before the Relief Society sisters left. Later, Mary ground some ham-baloney to make a sandwich spread. She used my old meat grinder. She put several

other relishes in it and it looks real good. She and Donna are expecting some friends to call at the farm about noontime. Annie Hall's daughter and family live in Mary's ward in Omaha. Greg and Jody had a swim in the pond west of the house. Julie took little Spencer to the south field to see the horses and the pigs. It was a long walk for Spencer, but he loved it. We have a cloudy sky, but I'm glad it isn't raining so the children can play out. Mary's friends arrived about 2:25 p.m. They have two children, a boy and a girl (Paul and Amy). Their names are Dick and Janet Doi; he is Japanese and he is in the bishopric in Mary's ward. The wife is a

worker in the ward, too. She surely looks like her brother, Mick Hall. They are very nice people. They drove away from here about 3:45 for her Mother's home in Ottawa. Mary was going to take care of the children here, but Annie phoned and said she'd arranged for a sitter at her home for them. It is Mick's graduation from college and home coming for Janet. I surely wish them all a happy reunion. Mary and Donna walked down to watch Greg and Jody swim in the pond. Julie was there, also. Spencer was asleep in the crib. Grama L.V. dozed in her chair. Rex is asleep in his bed. Oh hum.

May 25, Sunday

Happy birthday Douglas Alan, 14 years old.

*Now it's your turn to
celebrate, dear Doug,
I wish I could give you a
great big hug!
But that you know, I cannot
do,
So, I'm sending this
birthday card to you.
Stay as fine as you are, and
keep us proud,
Be happy, have fun, but
choose the right crowd.*



Douglas Shattuck in 1961. In 1975 he is turning 14 years old.

I hope Doug is enjoying his birthday. Rex took Julie, Jody, and Greg to church with him in the VW bus this morning. The children went to Primary while Rex was in priesthood meeting. Donna took me and Mary and Spencer, in her Chevrolet car to Ottawa to Sunday School. Donna played for the Sunday School singing, and the sacrament meeting songs, plus for the solo. A lady sang in sacrament meeting, "The Lord's Prayer." Rex and Mary and myself sat in church with Mary's little boys. Julie sat back of the piano near Grama Donna. I came home in the VW bus with Rex, Mary, and the children. Donna had to stay for a Relief Society business meeting. Rex had to lift me up into Mary's bus. I can't make that high step on my own. Mary made a birthday cake last evening in the form of a USA Rocket for Joel's birthday. It is his birthday tomorrow, but we celebrated it today, while we are all together here on the farm. The little Tibbets kiddies are delighted with a couple of desert or field turtles they picked up on the highway, they got one on the way to church and the other one on the way home from church. The turtles will go to Omaha with them. Mary made sandwiches for our lunch when we got home. The birthday cake and opening of gifts had to wait for Grama Donna to come home to be with us. Rex couldn't stay awake in church this morning; he worked all night last night. I couldn't keep my eyes open this afternoon, so I took a nap. Donna fried chicken for dinner this evening. P.S. Jody had the disappointment of his pretty, new kite getting caught up in the trees, east of the house; Sad, well he tried his luck at fishing in one of the ponds; Greg went with him.

May 26, Monday

Happy Birthday, Joel Andrew Tibbets, 5 years old
*Joel Andrew Tibbets, sakes
alive!*

*Now your birthdays number
to five
You'll have a cake with
candles to blow out,
And nice gifts to open, you
can laugh and shout!
I want you to be happy, too!
So, I'm wishing a happy
birthday for you.
Love, Great Grama Elvie.*



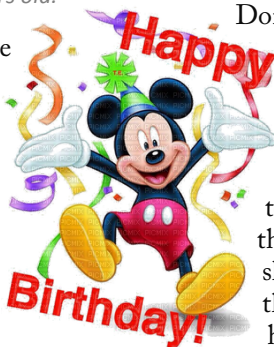
Jody Tibbets, early in 1974.

We celebrated Jody's birthday yesterday afternoon and he had a lot of fun. They're leaving for Omaha and "Home Sweet Home" today. We had a lot of lightning and thunder and wind last night. It blew my door shut, Wow! The noise woke me up and I wondered if our house had been struck with lightning. Donna got up and closed the windows. She turned on the TV to see if we had a warning to go to the basement, but it wasn't that severe, so back to sleep and forget it. We had some rain, too, but not a lot, and no hail. I got up and dressed about ten this morning. We have an overcast morning, but it is calm with no wind.

Donna made waffles for our breakfast. Rex has the tractor going giving his little grandchildren a ride in the big bucket on the tractor and they love that! He has the horses staked out in the south field where there is lots of green for them to graze on. Mary is gathering her belongings together for the trip home to Omaha. They left the farm house at 2:45 p.m. We have a real cloudy sky, but not much wind. Rex offered the prayer at the VW bus before they drove out of the garage. I hate the "goodbyes," but love the arrivals here. It is about a four hour drive from here to Omaha. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray at 6 p.m. I was listening to "Truth or Consequences" on television. Later, Mary phoned about 8:10 to let us know they'd arrived home safely. She was pleased to find two checks in her mail, one was their tax refund and one for the loan on the home they expect to build for Jon's parents here on this property. (All's well that ends well, eh?)

May 27, Tuesday

We have sunshine and clouds today. Rex went to Eudora to work on the plastering he has there. Donna went to Ottawa to her Relief Society meeting. I stayed in bed until eleven. I got dressed in a slack suit, dressed my hair, and made my bed. Then, I went to the kitchen and got myself something to eat (a peanut butter sandwich, a drink of hot water with honey and canned milk in it, and a cookie square. It was about 1:30 when Donna came home. She brought the mail home. There was nothing for me, but she got a big box from Janet and family for her birthday gift and a card from Violet with a very pretty handkerchief enclosed. Mary left



a package here for Donna's birthday, too. Her birthday is June 1, but the rascal opened her packages today. Janet sent some pretty blue flowered towel sets and some lovely blue flowered sheets and slips; it is a beautiful gift. Mary's gift was a very pretty housecoat. John and Ann sent the Relief Society pin to her. So, she has most of her gifts a bit premature, eh? It is clouding up this afternoon, looks like we may get some rain, but one can't predict the weather in Kansas. It's very quiet in our house. I presume Donna is resting (I hope so.) When Rex came home, they went to the lower field to feed the horses and pigs. After dinner they drove to Ottawa on business of some kind, and to call on a branch member, too. I loaned Donna \$10.00 until she can get to the bank tomorrow; it was about 7 p.m. They came home about 10:30 p.m. It was Doris Crider and Frances Bunch they visited. Donna came in the talked to me for a while. Rex went to bed, he worked hard today. Goodnight.

May 28, Wednesday

We had a lot of lightning and thunder in the night and it rained. I had a troubled night's rest, with unpleasant dreams, when I did sleep. Ugh! I didn't get up until almost noon. Rex drove to Eudora but he couldn't work at the plastering job because of the damp day, so he came home. Donna drove to Overbrook to the bank. She brought me my \$10.00 back. We've had a little rain this afternoon, but an overcast sky all day. Donna brought a nice brunch to me at 12:25 noon (toast, egg, Postum, and a sliced orange). Rex slept most of the day; he is going to work all night at the Overbrook nursing home tonight. Donna spent all afternoon typing letters. The big job was the letter to John and Ann; they requested me to give them the birth dates of all of my grandchildren and great grandchildren. Donna came to my rescue; she said she'd type the information from her genealogy records. I was surely happy about that. I find that writing is a big challenge to me now, especially looking up the birth dates of five grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren (the date and the year). My precious Donna took care of it for me and with the help of some of my diaries we got the correct death dates of some of the family, too. (I can't even spell!) I made a mess of my diary record page, sorry about that. The sky is getting very dark; it is only 4:25 p.m., very calm, no wind. We never know what to expect weather wise in Kansas! This evening Donna walked to the mailbox for the mail. I received an invitation to a party for men and women over 60 years of age in our stake on May 31 at the stake center, 1 to 3 p.m. It is a luncheon. Rex received one, also. Donna and Rex received a letter from Florence and Ernest Oates; it was enclosed in a birthday card to Donna.

May 29, Thursday

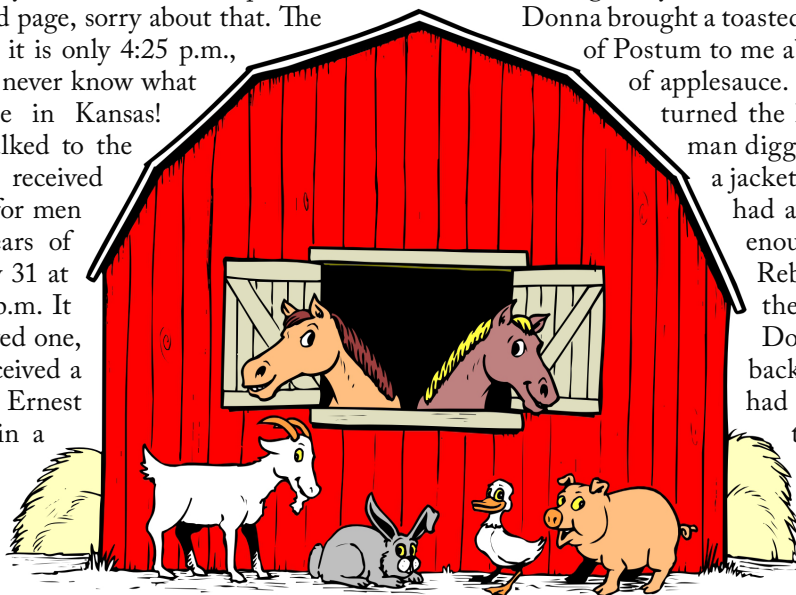
We have a pleasant, but overcast, morning. I heard Rex drive home from

his night work about 7:30. I rested very well last night; I had happy dreams of days gone by. It's always a shock to wake up and realize you are an old lady in your eighties! It is very quiet around our farm house. I presume Rex is asleep. I can't hear Donna's typewriter, so I do not know what she is doing. She came in later, she had been reading; she does a lot of reading. She brought a tuna fish sandwich and cup of Postum and a fruit Jello salad, plus a cookie for my brunch. It is getting darker, we may have some rain today. Rex and Donna went somewhere this afternoon. She left bread baking in her electric oven. She left a note for me to take it out of the oven at 2:50 p.m. A Mr. Brown came to see Rex this afternoon. He'll be back this evening about 7 p.m. He should have phoned before driving all the way out here. Rex and Donna came home about 4:10 p.m. They'd been to Ottawa. Donna had to get her auto license renewed. She came in my place and read me the story of an elderly man, living in the Overbrook nursing home. He wrote it himself of his life. I think he is 87 years old. He wrote it all in long hand and his son typed it and had it printed. The old gentleman and his wife are both at the home, but she is helpless and doesn't know her family now. It is a very touching and interesting story. Donna baked little chicken pot pies for our dinner tonight. Br. Brown came back this evening; his wife was with him. He talked with Rex and Donna talked to Mrs. Brown. They didn't come in the house, and they weren't here long. Rex went to his night work at the nursing home in Overbrook and we went to bed. Sweet dreams.

May 30, Friday

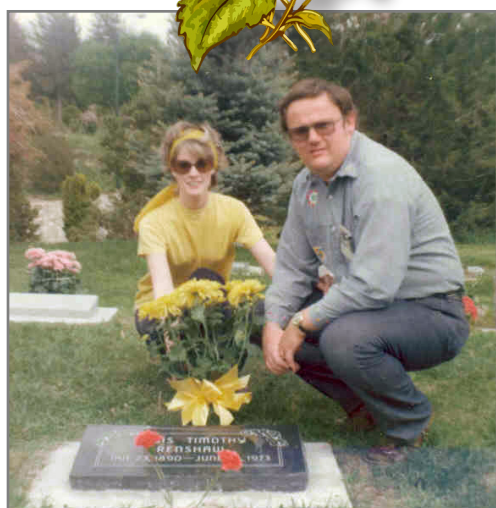
I couldn't get to sleep for a long-time last night. I got up and dressed about 10:30 this morning. It was cloudy and windy. The huge tractor trailer, of W.A. Dunbar and Son, came to the farm this morning and dug the basement for the Tibbetses' home, west of our home. It was interesting to watch that big tractor bucket dig out the dirt and see the big flat yellowish rocks, like came from the basement of this house. Our rock pile has doubled in size already and it isn't all dug out yet. There is only one man on the job.

Donna brought a toasted cheese sandwich and a cup of Postum to me about 11:30 a.m. with a dish of applesauce. It is cooler this morning. I turned the heat up to 75 degrees. The man digging the basement borrowed a jacket from Rex; he was cold. We had a few drops of rain, but not enough to stop the man's work. Rebecca, Rex's cow, got into the tall wheat field. Rex and Donna had to get her out and back in her own field. They also had to move all six cows out of the west field and change the fence, so the man could dig the Tibbetses' basement. The cows are back in their old pasture now. Donna brought a letter to me from Lydia Paul.



Marshes' Mound needs a barn and secure fencing for the farm animals!

She enclosed a newspaper clipping about the death of **Romania Hyde Woolley**. She was 80 years old. She died May 9, of this year, in Heber City. The Hyde family lived in the 10th Ward when I was a girl. Romania and her brother Orson A. Hyde went to the Webster School and to church when we did. She was a noted concert violinist. I was thinking of them a few days ago. Lydia says Harriet S. is still hanging on to life. She doesn't know her family now, the poor dear. Lydia said that Jim went to the cemetery on Memorial Day and there was a lovely, big yellow mum plant on Lou's grave. That is the one John and Ann put there for Donna and me. I sent him \$5.00 to buy flowers to put on Grampa Lou's grave. Lydia and Gene went up before Jim did. P.S. The man didn't get the basement all dug, he is coming back in the morning to finish it. P.S. Donna and Rex picked their first harvest of peas this afternoon, they are good!



Ann and John beside Louis Renshaw's headstone. Kathy was lucky enough to be visiting and was able to go to the cemetery, too. Kathy is wearing the hat that her Grama Elvie bought for her on May 22 for \$2.

Gravesite Rites Eulogize Ex-Utah Violinist, 80

Special to The Tribune
HEBER CITY — Graveside services were conducted Monday in Laie, Oahu, Hawaii, for Romania Hyde Woolley, Honolulu, formerly of Salt Lake City, who died in Heber City May 9, 1975, after a brief illness. She had been visiting her daughter in Heber City.

Mrs. Woolley

Mrs. Woolley, 80, was second violin with the Salt Lake Symphonic Orchestra (now the Utah Symphony) at age 12, and at 13 she was featured soloist on the Orpheum circuit.

Moves to Hawaii

She studied violin in Germany and New York and was a member of the University of Utah Music Department from 1918 to 1920. She moved to Hawaii in 1920 and was concert mistress of the Honolulu Symphony and taught violin for several years.

She was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Native of S.L.

She was born in Salt Lake City Aug. 2, 1894, a daughter of Joseph S. and Jeannette Acord Hyde. She married Ralph Edwin Woolley Dec. 8, 1920, in the Salt Lake LDS

Temple. He died Sept. 15, 1957.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Jay A. (Virginia) Quealy, Heber City; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and three brothers, Jay J. Hyde, Phoenix, Ariz.; Dr. Frank W. Hyde, Green Valley, Ariz.; and Orson A. Hyde, Salt Lake City.



Spencer Tibbets, 3 days old. He is wearing the outfit that the Andersens sent to Mary when Julie was a newborn. On May 31, 1975 Spencer turned 3 years old.



May 31, Saturday

Happy Birthday Spencer Jonathan Tibbets, 2 years old today.

*The cute kitten on your card, with big eyes and bow tie,
Has come to your house to say, "Spencer, Hi"*

*I sent him to tell you, we all love you.
And we are glad that now you are two.*

We have sunshine and white clouds in the blue sky, it is a pretty day. The man came out and finished digging Tibbetses' basement this morning. He was finished by noon. Rex worked all night, but he got on his tractor and cut a lot of the tall weeds in the field back of our house and the west field where the Tibbets home will be. He slept this afternoon. I drove to Overbrook with Donna about 2 p.m. I bought some birthday cards and some eye drops, and some caramel chews. Donna went to the market for groceries. We got four dozen eggs at a farm house about a mile or so from our home. I got Donna's birthday card ready for her day tomorrow with \$15.00 enclosed. I have Kathy's verse in her card, but I will put \$5.00 in it later when I get my Social Security money on June 3. Kathy's birthday is June 14. I've got plenty of time. John and Ann phoned from Salt Lake; they enjoyed Kathy's visit. She is in San Jose with the Shattucks now. Donna got a letter from her this morning and also a letter from Joan in her birthday card to Donna. She enclosed a \$25.00 check to her mom. Oh, they are precious children, none better! I'm so proud of them all. This evening Donna rode on the tractor with Rex to cut some of the tall weeds along the driveway to the highway. She got a bad case of hay fever. Her eyes were almost swollen shut. She looked and felt miserable, the poor dear. She'd better stay away from the weed cutting job. She doctored her eyes with boric acid pads. Rex went to work in the nursing home.



June 1, Sunday

Happy Birthday Donna!

In infancy you needed a lot of loving care,

And Oh, dear Donna, I am so glad I was there.

Some of the happiest days that I know, Are days you needed me to help you grow.

Then came the time when you were grown,

And you moved away to a home of your own.

You had a loving husband and babies, too,

Then your children grew up and they left you.

Years have passed, I'm in need of care my dear,

And Oh, darling Donna, I am so glad you are here.



Donna and Elvie in 1922.

It's cool and cloudy this June 1 day. I wanted to go to church with Donna and Rex, but I didn't feel up to the effort, so I stayed in bed until noon and then I got up and took a shower bath which exhausted me, so I had to rest before I could comb my hair, but, I'm glad to be alive to be here to celebrate Donna's 60th birthday. I'm so very thankful that God sent her to me and my darling Lou (a blessing indeed). Rex and Donna came home about 2:30 p.m. It being fast day we were all ready for our good dinner. Donna had a delicious beef stew in the crock pot and we enjoyed it and some of her homemade bread, toasted. For dessert we had ice cream and cake. I dried dishes and Donna washed them. Her eyes are better, but bloodshot and sore. She rested this afternoon with boric acid pads on her eyes. I enjoyed a restful Sabbath in my swivel chair. Rex was asleep, He worked all night last night. We saw four cottontail rabbits in Donna's strawberry patch; Rex took a shot or two at them and they hopped off in a hurry. That was when we were eating our dinner. Joan phoned tonight; Donna was talking to her when Jon Tibbets came about 10 p.m. Mary sent a lovely birthday cake with the little candles on it. We sang the birthday song to Donna and ate some delicious cake. Donna has heard from all of her children (gifts and phone calls). Jon also brought some avocados and some artichokes. They are precious children and very generous, too, with gifts and money.

June 2, Monday

Rex went to his plastering job in Eudora this morning. Jon went along so he could have the truck; he had a list of things to buy that he needs for his basement. He has the job of lining the basement with cement blocks and etcetera. He shopped around and then came back to the farm. The mailman brought the mail to the house this morning. Donna received a letter from Marty Strong and one from Elaine Vandergrift; one was special delivery. Marty was telling about her cancer operation, removing a breast.

Elaine has been ill, but is feeling better. Both letters were interesting. This afternoon Donna drove to Overbrook to shop. We have a very pretty day with sunshine and blue sky. Jon took the pickup truck to Eudora to pick Rex up from his plastering work. I dozed in my chair. I should be answering letters, but I have tired eyes. I just learned from Donna that it was a special delivery letter from Joan that brought the mailman out to the farm house today. She sent Rex a check for \$300 to have the basement cemented so it can be used by the family for living in when they visit the farm. I surely hope he can find the time to do it now that he has the money to buy the material. Donna cooked the artichokes and barbecued the steaks that Jon brought for dinner tonight. Donna read to me after dinner. We had a severe electrical storm tonight; the sky lit up like daylight all around us for a couple of hours. The "W" sign was on our TV all evening. I hate these turbulent storms here in Kansas, but I try not to get frightened or upset when we have them. I know the dear Lord loves us and will take care of us. It amazes me how such a beautiful, sunny day can turn into this vicious, ugly storm. It is raining now at 10:35 p.m. I'm going to bed. Good night. P.S. John L. paid for the artichokes, the avocados, and the steaks. Jon T. brought them to the farm. Also, Mary phoned this afternoon; she took Spencer to the doctor; he has some spots on his face and in his scalp.

June 3, Tuesday

Rex was called to work last night at the nursing home. He left here in the storm; someone couldn't make it to Overbrook because of the bad storm, so they called Rex to come in to work. The inspector came out to the farm this morning to inspect Jon's basement and to give him the okay to go ahead and cement it and start building the home. Donna went to the mailbox after lunch; she brought my Social Security check to me. I endorsed it so she could cash it for me at the bank in Overbrook this afternoon. She left here in the Chevy car about 2:15 p.m. I think she had to make a house payment, anyway, she brought me home the cash after taking out the \$200 for payment. She also brought my heart tablets from the drug store, that cost \$3.09. Rex and Jon left for Lawrence the same time as Donna left for Overbrook; they went in the pick-up truck to shop for materials that Jon needs to finish his basement walls, and etcetera. We have hazy sunshine today, it is pleasant, but the clouds are up there, so we never know what is in store. Donna wasn't gone long; she came in my suite and read to me from the Reader's Digest. It is always interesting. We had Lima beans and ham for dinner, it tasted good. We also had a jelled salad, a custard pudding with whipped cream on it. P.S. Rex and Jon came home with the pickup truck really loaded with the material they bought. Rex went to work tonight in the Overbrook nursing home. The three of us watched TV for a while tonight (Donna, Jon, and myself). We were all ready to retire for the night after the 10 p.m. news. Nite all and sweet dreams.

June 4, Wednesday

Jon had a busy day. The big tractor came out this morning and dug the trenches to drain the water out of his basement floor and to dig the place where the septic tank was to go. Later the big septic tank arrived and it was buried

in the place prepared for it. Rex and Jon worked, also, to help hurry the work along and to cut the cost. Rex's job on this home was a lot more expensive. We have a cloudy sky, some sunshine at intervals. We had a strong wind all morning and this afternoon until about 4 p.m., then it was calm. Donna brought me some orange juice and little dish of caramel coated grains; a new dry cereal. It is good, like eating candy. Donna fried some chicken and cooked some peas from her garden. We had a very delicious dinner about 6 p.m. with mashed potatoes, good gravy, and a tossed green salad. Mary phoned to talk to Jon and her mother. Little Spencer has an infection in his ear; she took him to the doctor today. The poor little dear is very miserable today. After dinner Rex went to bed and Jon went to the new septic tank to put some water in it. The man told him to do it. They can't cover it up until the inspector comes out to look it over and give his okay on the job. Donna, Jon, and I watched a play on television tonight, plus the ten o'clock new report. Rex phoned in and ask to have someone work in his place tonight. He needed more sleep and he took someone's place last night because they couldn't come to work because of the bad storm. It is warm tonight; no blankets needed. Goodnight.

June 5, Thursday

We didn't get the expected rain last night, (only a few drops of it). Our sky is blue with fluffy white clouds in it this morning. We have a lot of action on the Tibbetses' lot west of us. The big truck with the tractor is here finishing the job of digging the trenches to take care of proper drainage from the basement and etcetera. A big truckload of the cement blocks to line the basement walls arrived this morning. Rex and Jon are out there to supervise and help where they can. Jon is going back home this afternoon. He has a graduating class at the college tomorrow or Saturday. Anyway, their professor must be there for sure. His students would be amazed if they could see all the work he has been doing here on this farm the past few days. (He is a good farmer, too.) Donna got some of our older hand towels together to send to Mary with her family; she can use them. Janet S. sent Donna two sets of pretty towels, so we have some to spare. I had some new ones, too. I dusted the furniture yesterday; things keep fairly clean when there is only one person living in the suite. Donna weeded in her strawberry patch this morning. She brought a hand full of the strawberries in the house. I found one in my applesauce this morning. We've had two nice servings of the lovely peas from her garden already. Donna is out watching the action in the Tibbetses' lot. I'd be there, too, if I could walk better on that uneven ground. It's about all I can do to walk around in the house on these poor old legs. Today's mail brought a letter from Violet and an invitation to Marilyn Clayton and Richard Boulter's wedding reception the 21st of June at her parents' home in Pasadena, California. They'll be married in the Los Angeles Temple. Violet is about the same, pus in her kidneys. I surely wish she felt better; she is cheerful anyway. P.S. Dolores and Bevan have gone back to Belgium after a wonderful trip home to the United States. Jon left for Omaha this evening about 7 p.m.



June 6, Friday

Ruth and Dick Deal phoned here last night; Ruth offered to pay Rex's airplane flight to California, if he will go to their daughter Linda's wedding. She said Florence and Ernie and Lewie and Miriam will be there, so they wanted Rex to be there, too. Rex is going; Donna wants him to go. It will be a nice reunion for the Marsh family. Too bad Donna can't go, also, but that is out. Even if they had the money, she wouldn't leave me alone on this farm. Sorry I have to be here, believe me. I wish I had another daughter as wonderful as my sweet Donna, living in Salt Lake City, so I could be there now. I got up and dressed at 11 a.m. Donna was out in her strawberry patch weeding. A tractor was working in Tibbetses' lot. I presume it is Rex. No, I am wrong, Rex is in bed, it is the trench digger at work. The inspector came out to look the job over this morning about ten o'clock, with his okay the pipes in the trenches and the septic tank can be covered over and the basement cement blocks installed. Little by little we'll have another house on this farm land. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets will be welcome neighbors. We're looking forward to them coming to this farm. We have a pleasant day with blue sky and white clouds. Donna brought a chicken sandwich to me about lunch time (my brunch). I had salad and Postum and a cookie, too. It was time for my soap box operas then. Donna had to leave for her appointment for a permanent wave at 2 p.m. She was home by 5 p.m. She has a nice permanent, but she can dress her hair a lot more becoming to her than Ila can. After our dinner this evening, Rex and Donna went to the dairy for milk. I watched TV, "Treasure Hunt." I went to bed at 11 p.m. P.S. The rose plants that Dorothy Tibbets sent, arrived today. I think Rex and Donna planted them this evening.



Dorothy's bare root roses arrived June 6.

June 7, Saturday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest with no noisy wind or thunder to disturb my slumber. I stayed in bed until eleven this morning. I got myself and my hair dressed and when my bed was made and my prayer said, I was glad to rest in my chair. Donna brought my brunch to me at noontime (toast, egg, Postum, and fruit). They invited me to go with them to Topeka this afternoon. We left the farm about 1:45. I went in Sears Store and Donna and I bought a pretty blue bath towel set; it had white flowers in it; it is a large bath towel, a hand towel, and a wash cloth. It cost almost \$10.00, there was a 20% discount sale today. I sat in a nice chair in the shoe department while Donna shopped in Sears and Woolworth's store; she shopped for me, I couldn't walk around. I felt weak and a bit faint, that is why I do not go shopping anymore, I slow everyone down. I did enjoy watching people, all shapes and colors passed by me. Donna bought a hair net for me, a

triangle net, she bought herself one, also, she also got some mouth wash, Scope, and some Jorgensen's lotion. It was about 5:50 when we got home. Donna cooked some ground beef and made sandwiches for us. She also made a delicious malted milk drink for us, she is precious. Donna's children got together on the phone. They want her to fly to California with Rex. Janet is buying the airplane ticket. Mary and the children will come here to be with me. John L. wants them to fly home by way of Salt Lake City, so he and Ann can see them. Ruth Deal is buying Rex's ticket.



He will sleep this afternoon because he is going to work all night tonight. He went to the nursing home this morning and made arrangements for time off to go to California for Linda Deal's wedding the 21st of June. Ruth Deal's check came in today's mail for Rex's plane flight. Janet S. sent Donna's plane flight money so she can go with Rex. He'll be working nights this week. Donna baked bread and rolls today, our house has a pleasant aroma, mm good! She is taking some rolls to her Relief Society meeting tomorrow morning. Rex's cow Rebecca got through the fence again today. He had to come to get Donna to help get her back in her own field this evening. Becky will let Donna walk up to her, but not Rex, so he needs Donna's help to get her back in the field. I watched television until after the 10 p.m. news tonight. Rex went to his night work and Donna was busy in her kitchen. Good night! P.S. Donna mailed my letters to Violet and Lydia this morning.

June 8, Sunday

♪ "Sweet Sabbath Day of Peace and Rest." ♪ ♪ Rex and Donna went to Ottawa to priesthood for him, Primary for Donna, then, Sunday School, and following that, sacrament and fast day services. Then Donna has a Relief Society business conflagration of some kind. She said it would be four o'clock or later before they'd be home. That is too much for this old gal, so I stayed home and remembered the "good ole days" when I could go to Sunday School in the morning and to sacrament meeting in the evening. (The advantage of living in a city. ☺) At 82½ years, yes, I am set in my ways, you better believe it! At 1 p.m. I went to the kitchen and heated a cup of milk for myself, and I ate a small amount of the new dry cereal Donna bought. It is several different grains, sweetened with honey. [*Sounds like the new cereal is granola.*] It is good, like eating candy. I dozed in my chair for about 40 minutes. I was awake a lot last night, a very active brain kept me awake, now the stupid brain wants to sleep, when I should be writing letters. I made out my church donation check for \$10.00, tithing, \$5.00, fast offering, \$2.00, budget, \$2.00, and building fund, \$1.00. I'll mail it tomorrow with Kathy's birthday card and a letter to Lydia and Gene Paul. Rex and Donna came in and watched the Disneyland TV show; it was a cute story about animals. We had a heavy downpour of rain about seven o'clock, plus lightning and thunder. (Typical Kansas weather, I'm getting used to it, Ugh!) We had a nice roast beef dinner with mashed potatoes and brown gravy and vegetables about 6:30 this evening. Donna brought Rex and me a plate dinner on TV trays, so we could watch television while eating. I wish I felt well enough to be of some help to Donna in the kitchen. My "get-up and go, got up and went." Sorry about that. I got a letter written to Violet and Otto this evening. I hope I'll rest better tonight. Goodnight! P.S. Donna played many of my favorite church hymns this afternoon. I surely enjoyed listening to them.

June 9, Monday

We have lots of fluffy, white clouds in the sky today. It is a warm, pleasant day. Donna went into Overbrook this morning about eight. She went to the post office and to the bank. No mail for me, but yesterday's mail brought a letter from our branch president, Richard D. North. He has decided that my assessment on the stake building fund will be \$3.00 each month. Rex and Donna's assessment is \$6.00 a month. Rex went to Overbrook with Donna this morning.

June 10, Tuesday

There is no sunshine today so far, it is 3:45 p.m. We have had some rain but not a lot. Donna went to Relief Society meeting in Ottawa this morning. It was at Sr. Jeanne Brooks home. They had a guest sister come and demonstrate how to make bread from whole wheat flour. Donna brought a sample home; it was good, (she put some honey in it), but I like Donna's whole wheat bread better and her white rolls and bread, too. She took some white rolls to serve at the luncheon today. It was a pot luck lunch. Rex got up about 2 p.m. He took his pick-up truck and went to the south field to feed the horses and the pigs. He then drove away somewhere to buy a load of hay. Donna came home about 3:45 and Rex came soon after she arrived. My pen ran out of ink; I had to put in a new refill. I think Donna made the reservations for their airplane flight to California while she was in Ottawa today. It got darker and started to rain big drops about 4:40 p.m. We'll have a muddy yard again, but I have lovely thick rugs to walk on. It is very quiet in our house. I presume Rex is asleep and Donna reading or napping, too. Me? I'm dozing in my chair. I can watch the TV program "Truth or Consequence" in 15 minutes. I enjoy it. Donna says that they phoned last night and made their reservations and they'll mail them the tickets, so, she didn't have to stop to make them today. It has been raining all evening. Rex had to drive to his night work in the downpour. He left here at 10:20 p.m. Good night.

June 11, Wednesday

I rested rather well last night for a light sleeper. We have some fantastic looking clouds in the sky today. Being a dreamer, I can see many interesting things afloat up there in the blue. Kansas really has some spectacular cloud formations. Donna went with Rex in the pick-up this morning about eleven. They went to the home that Bruce H. has just sold; he told Rex to come and get the hay in the yard. He can have it if he'll take it away. It was rolled up and ready to move. When they came home, Donna brought a sandwich, some applesauce, and Postum for my brunch. I

enjoyed the sunshine when it got through the clouds to us. Our little neighbor children rode their Honda bikes over this afternoon and visited with Donna and me. They are nice, friendly kids, Jimmy and Carrie Keller. Their parents are Jim and Dolly Keller. Donna washed my blue and white dress suit today and pressed it. She may take it with her on her trip to California. It looks lovely, I hope she will take it. I'm happy to have her use any of my things. I do not go out often enough to wear them myself. Rex is sleeping this afternoon; he'll be working all night tonight. I think I have the hives, I was annoyed with a miserable itch on my left leg, my right elbow, and my hands. Maybe I better not eat any more of our good garden strawberries.

June 12, Thursday

We have a lovely day with blue sky and sunshine. I stayed in bed until 11 a.m. I didn't rest very well last night because of the annoying itching on my left leg and my right elbow, and hands. I do not know what brought it on. It looks like hives, I wonder if the strawberries I've been eating may have caused it. I had Donna buy me a tube of Lanacane today when she was in Overbrook, it cost \$1.59. She brought me a letter from Lydia with a copy of my parents' family group picture. Jim had a friend who made a lot of copies from the old pictures, he got 25 of them for just \$1.00 a piece. She thought Donna would like this copy as she knew I already had one of my own. Donna is pleased. I think our group picture was taken in 1914, when

I was 21 years old and Violet was about 9 years old. Lydia had some made of her own family group, the Hoglunds, too. John and Ann Marsh sent Donna a letter with a set of colored pictures, taken in May. Some of their lot where they are to build a home soon, and some taken in the Salt Lake City Cemetery, by Grampa Lou's grave, with the lovely, big, yellow mum potted plant. They took it up there for me and Donna, the pictures of John, Ann, and Kathy at little Lori's grave, and at Grampa Lou's grave. They said I could keep the cemetery pictures but to send back the one of their lot. I was happy to see the lovely plant with so many pretty flowers on it. I also saw the pink plastic carnations that Lydia and Gene left there. She said she put one or two on each of the family graves there in our plot. (Bless her heart.) Rex got ready in his white uniform for his work at the nursing home tonight. He watched TV until time to leave for work about 10:15. Donna got the beds ready for the Tibbets family to pop into when they arrive from Omaha in the wee hours, one or two o'clock. Donna and I went to bed in my room in the twin beds with tired bodies and busy brains.

June 13, Friday

Hi lucky Friday the 13th! Our busy brains kept us out of Slumberland last night. Donna got up sometime after midnight and made herself a cup of Postum and some toast. She came back to bed for about 30 minutes, when the Tibbets VW bus drove into the yard. I presume it was about 2 a.m. She got up to welcome



Photo from Lydia, the Bailey family in 1914. Left to right Lorene, Susie, Owen A., Owen J., Mary, Annie, Elvie, with Mildred and Violet in front

them; they were soon in their beds and we all settled down to sleep. This morning Mary and Donna and the children went to Topeka to shop for something Mary wanted. I went in the kitchen to fix something to eat. Jon was asleep on the kitchen floor and Rex was asleep on the couch in the living room, so I came back to my own suite and wrote in my diary. I'm not hungry, anyway. Donna said they were going to drop the children off at the swimming pool while they shop. They brought Spencer home, but left Julie, Greg, and Jody in the pool in Overbrook. Mary went back for them later; she bought more things at the market in Overbrook. It really takes a lot of food to feed this family; we expect Joan and family tomorrow. The children came in to watch TV and later, Rex and Jon came in. Rex didn't work tonight, he slept with Donna in their room and Julie slept in my extra twin bed. We could see lightning off and on in the sky north of us. It has been a beautiful, warm day.

June 14, Saturday

Happy birthday to Donna Kathleen Marsh, 24 years old.

Kathy Baby, you've come a long ways

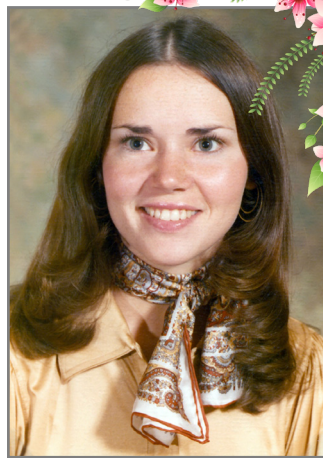
I'm glad to give you a little praise.

I'm aware of your talent and your skills,

And I hope life will bring you many thrills.

May you live a long and happy life, my dear,

To bring to others, happiness and cheer.



Kathy Marsh Fall 1975 at BYU.

I hope Kathy is enjoying her birthday. I am! We have a windy, cloudy day, but it is warm. I took a shower bath before getting dressed. I'm always weak after the shower bath, so I rested in my swivel chair until I felt like combing my silver locks. Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich, sliced banana, and a cup of warm milk to me at lunch time. She and Mary made pizza pie for the family's lunch. I had a taste of the good pie, but I was afraid to make a meal of that rich, spicy food. I am trying hard to keep as well as I can so I won't spoil the vacation fun for Rex and Donna tonight and next Saturday in California. Mary brought her father a lovely two pound box of Chocolates for Father's Day tomorrow. I wrote a letter to Lydia Paul and thanked her for the family group picture she sent to me. I enclosed \$1.00 for the copy. She said that is all it cost. I have one like it in one of the picture albums, so I'll give this one to Donna. We all ate dry cereal this evening as Donna and Mary had to get ready for their trip to Independence, Missouri, to see the church pageant. They took Julie with them. Rex and Donna invited Ila and Ken to go with them. Mary got a young girl to babysit her three boys. She is a neighbor girl on a farm near us; her name is Diane. Jon worked on his property until after dark, then he took Diane

home. Spencer went with him. He got the boys to bed when he came back. Joan phoned this afternoon; she and the family are going to meet Rex and family in Independence, Missouri. They'll get a motel there. They found out they could not come here and go with the family as planned.

June 15, Sunday

It was well after midnight before Rex and the family got home. I was able to relax after I knew they'd arrived. Mary brought Julie in to my extra bed. Ila and Ken didn't go to the pageant after all. My family, bless 'em, got up and off to Sunday School by 9 a.m. I stayed in bed until ten. I was dressed and my hair combed before the Gardners arrived. They didn't go to Sunday School because Joan has an abscessed tooth. It kept her awake all night. They located her old dentist; he put some medication on it. She is going to his office tomorrow to have it drained. Donna left a turkey in the oven cooking. Joan got the potatoes peeled ready to cook. The folks came home about 1:40 p.m. We were eating a delicious (Thanksgiving) dinner at 3 p.m., such happy confusion with the Gardners (all but Sherm who is visiting friends in his old ward here in Kansas) and the Tibbetses! Spencer took a nap on my extra bed. Paula had a nap in the crib. Rex, Donna, and Joan took Mo to the airport in Kansas City, Missouri, and then they went to the stake president's home in Kansas City to have Rex and Donna's temple recommend renewed. Mary got the dinner mess cleared away and the dishes in the dishwasher. The small fries played outside. I dozed in my chair. Getting old does have its compensations, eh? We had cream pies, three kinds, coconut, chocolate, and banana. I chose the chocolate, it was mm good. We also had chocolate cake and ice cream. Rex had a headache and he felt sick to his stomach. He ate later. He slept while we were eating. I'm sorry Rex wasn't here when John phoned at 7 p.m., in fact, I was the only adult here to talk to him. He wanted to say happy Father's Day to his dad. Joan was with her parents, Mary and Janet G. were in the south field looking at the horses and pigs. John said he drove up **Strong's Court** to see where I was born. We had a nice talk.



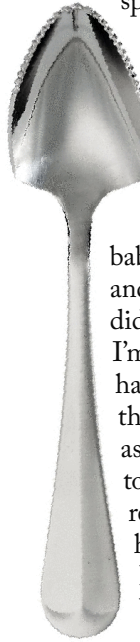
Strong's Court, picture taken by my Grandfather, Francis Bailey, Talmadge Paul, Owens - Dad, holding, Kaito - Mildred, Annie, Elsie & Sue -

June 16, Monday

It was two years ago today that my darling husband passed away. It seems like I miss him more each day. I couldn't get to sleep last night for some reason. One thing, I forgot to pull down the window shades in my room and the moon was so bright it kept me awake. Joan was sleeping nicely in the other twin bed, so I wouldn't get up and pull the shade by her bed in case I'd wake her. Rex went to his plastering job in Eudora. Joan got up early and went to her dentist; he put some medication in her tooth. She has had a miserable toothache ever since she came home. She picked Sherm up at his friend's place; he is here on the farm now. We've had some rather severe electrical storms today. The Jon Tibbetses left in their VW bus for Omaha. Jon has to be there to teach summer school. I received a \$50.00 special payment check from the Treasury Department today; it was a welcome surprise. Mary cashed my \$50.00 check when she went into Overbrook after lunch. I gave Donna \$25.00 of it to help buy food, and I kept \$25.00. It's a nice feeling to have some money in my purse again. Our TV screen has a "W" in the corner to let us know there is a severe weather watch in parts of Kansas. Several tornadoes have been sighted too near for my comfort, but my family does not seem to mind. The children, all but baby Spencer and Paula, walked down to the lower field to where they like to play near the horses and the baby pigs. They have some kind of a fort built there. We had a severe electrical storm and a heavy down pour. The kids ran home, came in soaking wet, but it is a warm rain. I love these adorable kiddies, but I stay in my own rooms most of the time. The noise and confusion seems to send my blood pressure up and the room feels like it is turning around. This dizzy old gal doesn't like that. Three of Rex's cows got out of their pasture. He had to go down in the heavy rain and get them back in. I think Sherm helped him. It is 7:30 now and I think our storm has passed. Joan's jaw isn't as painful this evening.

June 17, Tuesday

I slept very well last night, and I am thankful for that. Oh! Oh! Another dead pen, that makes me feel blue. I need refills for several of my pens, but the red and blue pens are not refillable. My Paper Mate pens can be refilled. I forgot to have Donna get them for me. It was so quiet this morning when I got up that I had to investigate. Joan and Mary and the children had gone to the Wonderful Land of Fun, or some such place, like California's Disneyland for the day. [They went to *Worlds of Fun in Kansas City*.] They left Paula and Spencer home with Donna and Rex. Paula was asleep in the crib and Rex took Spencer to Overbrook with him, the result was a peaceful calm. ☺ We have a lot of clouds in the sky. I surely hope it won't rain and



Joan ordered grapefruit spoons for Donna.

spoil the fun for our family today. I slept through the lightning and thunder last night. I guess I am getting used to this Kansas weather, eh? I didn't even hear Joan get up. She made her bed and got out without waking me. There wasn't any mail for me today, but Donna received the grapefruit spoons that Joan ordered for her, a box of them, I think. Donna got along very well with the two babies, (Paula and Spencer). They each had a nice nap and Rex helped by taking Spencer with him. Donna did some vacuuming and even made some cookies. I'm glad that Joan and Mary and their children are having this happy vacation trip together, here on the farm, in Kansas. Donna got Paula bathed and asleep in her crib, then she took Spencer for a walk to see the pigs and horses. Paula woke up and she really cried hard. I went to her bed and talked to her. I got her to quit crying, in fact she was happy. I stayed with her until Donna and Spencer came back. Rex brought them home in his truck. Some farm neighbors came to see Rex and Donna. Rex brought them in to see my part of the house. I think their name is Alexander, but not sure. Janet S. phoned tonight and talked a long time to her mother, mostly about the mission call Mark is expecting. P.S. Our family really made a day of it. They didn't get home until after dark.

June 18, Wednesday

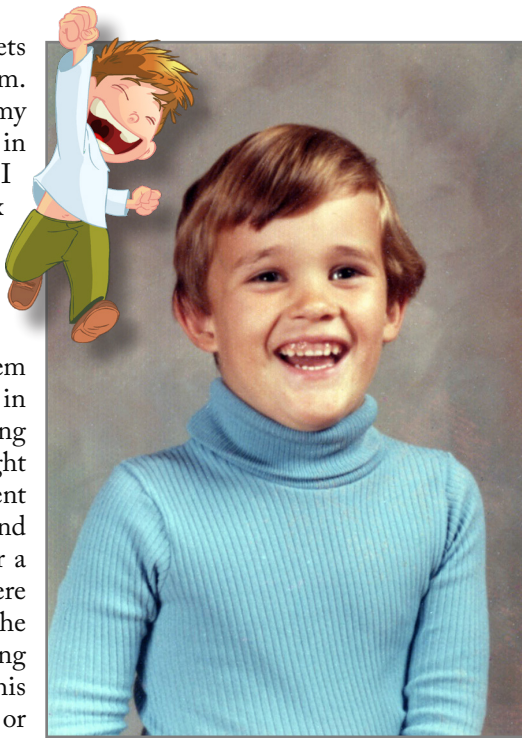
There is no sunshine so far today (3 p.m.), but it is warm outside, so the children can play out. Joan helped Rex string some wire on the cow pasture fence. Mary visited with me while the two little ones were having their naps. Donna went to Overbrook for groceries. Mary took a little nap on my extra twin bed. I was surprised to see Mary driving Rex's big bucket tractor. Joan was in the seat with her. The bucket



was full of Gardner and Tibbets children. They have fun on this farm. ☺ Later, Spencer had a nap on my extra twin bed. I think Paula was in the crib. From my south window I can see that Rex has moved his six cows to the south field where the horses and pigs are. So, all of his animals are down there together now. I presume that is to make it easier for whoever takes care of them while he is away this weekend in California. Spencer had a nice long nap, about two hours. Donna brought my plate dinner about 6 p.m. She went with Joan and family and Mary and children to a park in Overbrook for a picnic. There was a band concert there this evening at eight o'clock in the park. Rex stayed home; he was doing some plowing or something with his tractor. They came home about nine or 9:30. Rex watched television with me for a while after he came in the house. It is amazing how well organized this family is; the kiddies were in their beds very soon after they got home from their outing. Joan and Mary are good mothers. Sherm wasn't here today. He is visiting with some friends from his Shawnee Mission Ward. P.S. Donna just told me the picnic and band concert were in Lawrence, not in Overbrook (excuse me please.) Goodnight.

June 19, Thursday

I was amazed when Donna told me that Joan and her children left this morning about eight, for their long drive to Northbrook, Illinois. I thought they were leaving tomorrow morning. Donna said the children were getting too restless and Joan decided to take them home before they drove her crazy as well as everyone else. So many little ones together for a week is a bit hazardous, but they did manage to keep them out of my rooms most of the time, so I didn't feel any stress. Donna and Rex were getting packed for their flight to San Francisco. They (Donna, Rex, and Jody) left the farm (after we had prayer in my room) about 2 p.m. They drove the Chevrolet car and parked it at the airport so it will be there when they fly home next Wednesday. I gave Donna \$10.00 to help them enjoy their trip. I surely hope they'll have a wonderful trip. I'm sorry I'm not well enough to go with them. Their plane leaves at 4:50 p.m. It will arrive in San Francisco about 6:10 p.m. Janet and Dave will pick them up and take them to San Jose. Mary baked some little pot pies for our dinner this evening. My little great grandchild Julie said to me, "Grama Elvie, we stayed here to take care of you." ☺ So, I'm in good hands, as you can see. Mary and children watched television this evening with me until the time they were to go to bed. Mary put Spencer to bed after his bath at 8:00 p.m. She took a shower bath and went to bed at 8:20; she looked tired. Julie and Greg looked at some of my 1974 Christmas cards, then they went to bed about 8:35. I retired early, also. Donna phoned



Jody Tibbets photo taken in 1974. It is easy to see he is full of fun and energy!

from San Jose to let us know they had arrived there safely. It was after 12:30 here, but 10:30 there. Mary came in to tell me that Mother had phoned and I was awake and happy to know all is well. I wish we could hear from Joan. P.S. I'm sure Kathy was at the airport to meet her parents, too. *[Note from Mary: Grama had a little P.S. on this page that said, "Rex, Donna, and Jody left for the airport in Kansas City." I thought it must be a mistake. However thinking about it I guess they took him to help me out in taking care of Grama. Jody was my busiest little boy who required a lot of attention. I'll bet Janet paid for him to fly and said to me, "If you'll stay with Grama, I will take Jody." I had forgotten this and nothing was said about it in Grama's diary.]*

June 20, Friday

Jon Tibbets arrived here about three o'clock this morning. He came in so quietly, no one heard him. Little

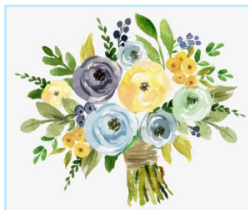
Spencer has a fever this morning. Mary drove to Overbrook to buy some baby aspirin. She took him with her. Jon is working on his lot next door. I can't keep our sweet Joan off my mind, I hope she got home all right. When Mary and Spencer came, she said she took him to the doctor in Overbrook; he checked him and found he had an ear infection. He gave him a shot and some medication. I fixed myself something to eat about noontime. This afternoon Mary took her children to Lone Star Lake for a picnic and swim. Jon worked on his lot all afternoon. Mary left bread in the oven when she went to Overbrook. It is French bread and it looks and smells good. They came back from the lake about 5:15 p.m. Spencer wasn't feeling very well, he was feverish and not very happy. Mary gave him a bath and some baby aspirin and put him in his crib for a nap. I stretched out on my bed to relax for a while when they were away. Mary cooked dinner for us; we ate about six. It was spaghetti, ground beef, green peas from the farm garden, plus a tossed green salad. After dinner, we watched television until about 9 p.m. bed time, and out goes the lights so Julie can go to sleep in my extra bed. It's warm again tonight. Well, at least I am getting to bed earlier. P.S. Jon phoned Shattucks' to ask Rex about something. We were glad to learn that Mark's temple recommend came and he went through the temple today with his parents and grandparents (Rex and Donna). They are expecting his mission call any day.

June 21, Saturday

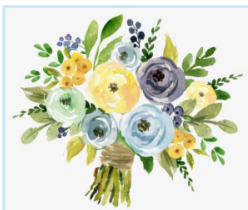
We have a warm, hazy day. Jon took Spencer and Greg with him somewhere this morning. Mary and Julie weeded the strawberry patch. Julie picked a hand full of the red berries. Mary brought my brunch to me at 12:30 noon, egg, toast, Postum, and applesauce. Sweet Mary, I love her. In fact, I love all of them. We're anxious to hear from Joan, I surely enjoyed her visit here last week. Donna,

Rex, Kathy, and Janet and Dave will be in Oakland today to Linda Deal's wedding. I hope they have a wonderful time. It will be a Marsh reunion as well as a wedding. Florence and Ernie, Lewie and Miriam will be there and Rex and Donna with their California children. It should be a happy day for all of them, I hope so anyway. Mary got Spencer asleep in his crib, then she took Julie and Greg to the Overbrook swimming pool. She went to the lumber yard to get some lumber Jon needed. I feel a nice, cool breeze coming in my south window. I hope the wind doesn't get too strong and I'll have to shut the window. One never knows about Kansas weather. This late afternoon the clouds got really dark and we could see lightning and hear thunder. Julie phoned from the Overbrook Pool to tell her mother to come for her and

Greg, because of the electrical display, the pool was closed for the day. I was resting on my bed; Mary came to tell me she was driving to Overbrook to pick up the children. Spencer was still asleep in his crib. She thought she'd be back home before he woke up. He was sitting up, playing with some toys when she got home. I didn't even hear him. It started to rain at 5 p.m. It was a noisy downpour with fireworks, ugh! Kansas is showing her ugly side. Mary came in and put my window down, bless her heart. Our electricity went off and we had no water. I had to miss my "Lawrence Welk" show. I'm disappointed, ☹. The lights were off about two hours and the water off, also, Mary reported it. P.S. Mark received his mission call to Cordoba, Argentina. He goes into the mission home in Salt Lake City on August 16.



Mike and Linda Barbaro being chauffeured by Rex Marsh. Note from Linda: I remember that your parents [Rex and Donna] had the nicest car in the family [actually it was Janet and David's car] and Uncle Rex picked us up for the wedding and drove us to the reception.



June 22, Sunday

Jon went to the well and got the water pressure up so we could have water last night. We were indeed happy to learn of Mark's call to the Argentine mission. It's the same mission the Jon Tibbets served in a few years ago. Mark will go into the Salt Lake City mission home on August 16. Jon went to Argentina in 1961. He was released in 1964. He teaches Spanish in a college in Omaha, Nebraska now. He is also a good farm worker. We had some excitement this morning when Jeff Gale, a neighbor boy, caught a fish in the lower west pond on this farm. It was a catfish, and it weighed 12 ½ pounds, was 29 ½ inches long. That inspired Greg and Julie to try their hand at fishing again. I think that Rex and Donna plan on visiting their old ward in Petaluma today to see dear old friends and go see the Cotati farm that we sold to Gary Adams, it sounds like fun. It'll be a busy day. I presume Ruth will expect some of their time, too, as well as Janet and Kathy. Tomorrow, they'll fly to Salt Lake City to see John and Ann. (I picked up the wrong pen, so, that is way the change in color). Mary cooked a pot roast and some green beans; Mr. Gale gave her a big bag of green beans from his garden and they were so delicious. We had creamed potatoes and brown gravy. We ate about 1:40 p.m. Julie helped Mary clear up the dishes etcetera. Mary wouldn't let me do a thing. Spencer was asleep while we ate. There was no sun today; it looks like our storm isn't over yet. No one went to Sunday School because of the wet mud around here. Jon and Mary and children did walk to the south field to feed the horses, pigs, and cows. I took my bath while they were out hiking. Jon and Mary wanted to get in touch with Mr. Peiman the man who did the fireplace job here. They want to have him come out and finish the job on top of the chimney. Rex ran out of money, so he decided he'd finish the job himself, but he can't get to it with his night work and etcetera I've paid about my all into this home, give us time, we'll make it. ☺ The Tibbetses came in this evening and watched TV with me until 9:20 p.m. Bedtime now. P.S. **Harriet Speirs passed away yesterday** in Salt Lake City in a nursing home, she was 80 years old.

June 23, Monday

Jon took Julie with him to Omaha this morning. He has to teach night school; one of his exchange students will be with Julie while he is at school. Mary has just two children with her this week. Jody is in California with Aunt Janet, so just Spencer and Greg are here on the farm. Mary and her two kiddies went in the truck to Overbrook to mail a package

Harriet Eliza Strong Speirs, 80, 900 Donner Way, an active genealogist and church and civic worker, died in a Salt Lake nursing home Saturday after a long illness.

As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mrs. Speirs spent many years teaching and counseling in church offices. She also spent two years as a stake missionary.



Mrs. Speirs

In 1934, the Mitre Press of London selected Mrs. Speirs as one of the principal women of America for her contributions in genealogical work. She was also a member of the International Genealogical Research Foundation and one of 13 women recognized by the Institute of American Genealogy in Chicago as leading genealogical researchers in the country.

Civic Worker

As a civic worker, Mrs. Speirs was a charter member of the Daughters of the Mormon Battalion organization which raised funds for the Mormon Battalion Monument on the State Capitol grounds. She was also a member of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers and the Utah Republican Women's Organization.

Born Oct. 27, 1894, she was the daughter of William Hill and Clara Ann Bishop Strong. On March 29, 1916, she married Ernest Speirs in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. He died Sept. 28, 1935. She married Andrew Le Roy Bosworth June 7, 1937, and was later divorced. Her former name was restored.

Lists Survivors

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. Blanche S. Hoglund, Long Beach, Calif., and Mrs. Bryan L. (LaPriel) Bunker, Salt Lake City. Also surviving are 19 nephews and nieces.

Funeral services will be Tuesday noon at 260 E. South Temple, where friends may call Monday from 6 to 8 p.m., and Tuesday one hour before services. Burial will be in Salt Lake City Cemetery. The family suggests contributions to the Primary Children's Hospital or the Utah Cancer Society.



to Joan (some shoes she left here). I presume Rex and Donna will fly to Salt Lake City today for a visit with John L. and wife Ann. The plans are to fly home to Kansas tomorrow. We'll be happy to have them home, but their happy vacation will be over and that is sad. We have a cloudy sky, but it is warm. I hope we will not have an electric storm today. Mary took Greg to the Overbrook swimming pool this afternoon while Spencer was asleep in his crib. She came back home and watched TV with me until Spencer woke up. Then Mary and Spencer went to pick Greg up at the pool. I had her buy a few items we need, so I could get my \$20.00 bill broken. I need some cash on hand. She bought some bananas and canned milk. Mary is driving Rex's pick-up truck. The pool closes at 5 p.m. We ate our dinner of green beans, meat patties, creamed potatoes, and strawberry sherbet about six o'clock. Mary and her little boys watched television with me until about 9 p.m. It's warm tonight and calm, no wind or thunder. Mary and her little boys are sleeping in Rex and Donna's room tonight. I'm alone in my suite. Mary treated to cashew nuts and little gum drops tonight, mm good. P.S. Harriet Speirs passed away and Rex and Donna went to her viewing at Pearce Mortuary tonight in Salt Lake. They saw lots of relatives there. I'm glad Harriet has been released from her sick body!

June 24, Tuesday

We have a warm overcast morning. Greg and Spencer came in my room about 9 a.m. Greg's job was to get the trash out of my plastic basket in the bathroom. Spencer's purpose was to keep me awake. The cute little rebel got a curler out of my hair. Mary was busy cleaning up the house and garage. She rescued me when she found baby Spencer by my bed side. I got up and dressed and ate the cereal, orange juice, and toast that Mary brought to me. I enjoyed my TV stories while Mary went to Overbrook, to the drug store for medication for Spencer. She took both children and she left Greg off at the swimming pool in Overbrook. She left him there until almost 5 p.m. That is when the pool closes. Spencer had a nice, long nap. Mary made a meatloaf for dinner this evening and she watched television with me for an hour or so before she went to pick up Greg. Rex and Donna drove in the driveway this evening about 5:20. Mary and children came a few minutes later. We sat around the kitchen table and listened to Donna tell us about their wonderful visit in California and in Salt Lake City. It was second best to being there. It was fun hearing about friends in Petaluma and family in San Jose and Oakland. I'm very glad they had this

lovely vacation and have returned home safely to us. I had a blind stagger spell this evening, but it didn't last long. Mr. Gale wants Rex to milk his cows this weekend while they are on vacation for a few days. We had a nice dinner about six o'clock; baked potatoes with sour cream, meatloaf, green beans, and tapioca cream pudding, and a chocolate mint. Donna brought the mints to Mary and me and she brought licorice strands to the children. It was cloudy but warm today. Donna brought me a package of Planter's dry roasted peanuts, from her flight. Greg and I enjoyed the peanuts tonight while watching TV.

June 25, Wednesday

I'm grateful for a good night's rest. Our sky is overcast, no sunshine, but it is warm outside. Donna brought my brunch this morning (sliced banana, dry cereal, toast, and Postum). It is very calm outside, but in this country one never knows what is about to break loose. Donna and Mary took the boys with them to Overbrook to the bank at 2:30. Rex went to Eudora to his plastering job this morning. We had some rain about noon, but it didn't last long. I enjoyed the TV stories. Donna's girls Janet and Kathy bought her a lovely coat dress to wear to Linda's wedding. She showed it to me this morning. It is very pretty; a beige background with pretty flowers in it. They left Greg at the swimming pool in Overbrook at noon, but it started to thunder and rain about 2:30 p.m. so the pool closed and Greg phoned for his mother to come for him, and she did. The storm passed quickly and not too violent for comfort this time. However, it didn't cool off our house any. The evening was very clear and nice. I went with Donna and Mary and the two little boys (Greg and Spencer) to a band concert in Lawrence, in the park.

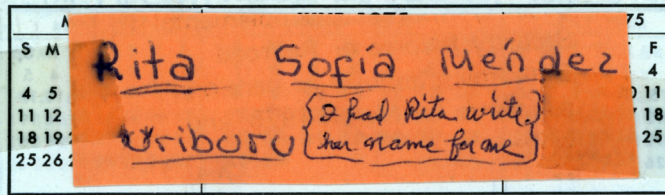
Rex Stayed home and watched television. I surely enjoyed the lovely park and the fine band concert. There were lots of people there, young couples with children. Mary and Donna brought folding chairs for us to sit on (the comforts of home, eh?) Our little boys had a wonderful time playing on the grass making friends with other children. Spencer was flying his glider across the driveway from the bandstand and crowds. He found his way to us when it was getting dark. Mary brought the car to our location so, I didn't have so far to walk. It was indeed a very pleasant evening; it's the first time I've been out in weeks. I'm tired, but happy. P.S. A big dog lifted his leg and wet all over the back of my folding chair and my blue wool afghan in the park. ☺

June 26, Thursday

I had a miserable night; I couldn't relax my poor, tired body or my weary brain. It was daylight before I found that peaceful Slumberland. Donna brought a tuna fish sandwich, a drink of milk, some grapes, and strawberries for my brunch about noontime. Rex went to his plastering job in Eudora. Mary took Greg to the swimming pool in Overbrook and left him there for a couple of hours. Donna washed and dried my big wool afghan this morning, a darn dog wet all over it in the park last night. Mary brought the mail home to us. I received a letter from Lydia Paul and one from Violet Fife. Both of them enclosed newspaper clippings, telling of the passing away of Harriet Strong Speirs. It was a nice long article, too, listing her many activities and a lovely picture of her. We are all very thankful that she has been released from her dreadful illness of cancer. I love Harriet, she was very much a part of my childhood and girlhood days. I have happy memories of my life with her. Lydia bought flowers

for us (herself and Gene, Donna and me, and Violet and Otto). I phoned Violet and told her I was going to send her \$2.50 with my \$2.50. I'll mail Lydia the \$5.00. I told Violet it was my pleasure and she is not to send me any money. Oh, it was good to hear her dear voice again. She and Otto are both feeling miserable. I surely hope they'll feel better soon. I'll try to write to Lydia tomorrow. I'm too weary today. Mary came in this evening and dusted my furniture this evening. I'm very thankful that Donna and Rex went to Harriet's viewing in Salt Lake while they were there. They said she looked lovely and they were happy to see many relatives and friends, too.

<p>MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR HARRIET ELIZA STRONG SPEIRS</p> <p>BORN October 27, 1894—Salt Lake City, Utah</p> <p>DIED June 21, 1975—Salt Lake City, Utah</p> <p>Daughter of William Hill and Clara Ann Bishop Strong Wife of Ernest Speirs</p> <p>FUNERAL SERVICES Tuesday, June 24, 1975 - 12 Noon Larkin Mortuary Chapel</p> <p>PALLBEARERS Lewis G. Strong Darrel Reynolds Wayne Davies Alden Wardell Newell Young Lee Heugly</p> <p>INTERMENT Salt Lake City Cemetery</p> <p>Funeral Directors LARKIN MORTUARY—Salt Lake City, Utah</p>	<p>MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR HARRIET ELIZA STRONG SPEIRS</p> <p>OFFICIATINGBishop Waldo L. Macey</p> <p>FAMILY PRAYERGary L. Bunker</p> <p>PRELUDE MUSICThelma Ryser</p> <p>INVOCATIONRoland G. Kaiser</p> <p>SPEAKERBishop William S. Hoglund</p> <p>SPEAKERGeorge Cannon Young</p> <p>VOCAL SELECTIONHulbert Keddington "The Lord Is My Shepherd" acc. by Thelma Ryser</p> <p>REMARKSBishop Waldo L. Macey</p> <p>VOCAL SELECTIONHulbert Keddington "The Lord's Prayer" acc. by Thelma Ryser</p> <p>BENEDICTIONPatriarch George L. Nelson</p> <p>DEDICATION OF GRAVEB. Allen Bunker</p>
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This orange paper was taped to the top of June 27.

June 27, Friday

We have a warm, overcast day. Jon Tibbets and Julie and the young lady exchange student from Argentina arrived at the farm from Omaha about two this morning. I was sound asleep, I didn't hear them come in. Mary was in my other twin bed. She got up when they arrived. Donna got up, also. My sleepless night Wednesday night surely put me out, but good, last night. Donna brought me some warm milk, a dish of dry cereal, a banana, and some chocolate ice milk for brunch at 12:30 noon. Rex worked half a day in Eudora plastering. Mary took Rita to Topeka this afternoon to shop. I gave them \$10.00 to buy some yarn to match my little swivel chair. Rita is going to crochet some arm pads to cover up the worn spots on the arms of the chair. Rita is a charming young lady and she seems really happy to do this crocheting for me. They took Greg and Julie to the Overbrook pond to swim while they went to shop in Topeka. Donna has a sore toe; Jon operated on it this morning and let the pus out of the blister. Donna then soaked it in Epsom salts and it isn't as painful now. Spencer slept in his crib and Jon worked in his basement on the cement blocks to line the walls. I made out a \$5.00 check to send to Lydia for Harriet Speirs's funeral flowers, \$2.50 for me and Donna, and \$2.50 for Violet. I insisted on paying Violet's share, too. I didn't get my letter written because I talked to Rita and Greg, Julie, and Spencer. Donna and Mary picked green beans from the garden here. Mrs. Keller and her two children came over for a visit this afternoon. Rita went with Rex and Jon to the Gale home to milk the cows (they are on vacation). Rita crochets really fast; she got one arm cover done before we ate dinner. Donna cooked a lovely beef roast, some baked potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, with custard, and a chocolate cake. Janet gave the nice, big, beef roast to Donna from her freezer. P.S. Br. Derr came to do his home teaching this evening. He left a nice blessing in our home.

June 28, Saturday

It's a warm cloudy morning. I finished Lydia's letter and enclosed a \$5.00 check for flowers for Harriet's grave. Rita has the arm covers finished and on the arms of the swivel chair. She is now crocheting the piece for the back of the chair; she is precious, we are really enjoying her visit. She reminds me of Margaret and Betty Renshaw, lovely, dark

eyes and hair and suntan skin. Our Relief Society visiting teachers came this morning, Sr. Jeanne Brooks, and Sr. Doris Crider. Sr. Brooks gave the lovely message on the blessings that Relief Society can bring into our lives. It came from a talk by President Christian Sanders. Mary made a waffle for my brunch. Rex took my letter to mail; I think he was on his way to Lawrence, to shop. Later this afternoon Donna took Julie and Greg to the swimming pool in Overbrook. She also got some gas in her car. Mary made herself a pretty dress and Rita crocheted. Jon was driving the tractor, Rex was sleeping in the basement where it is cooler; he works again tonight. Donna's new Relief Society Song Book came today. She tried some of the songs out this afternoon with Spencer sitting on the piano bench with her. I have a feeling she didn't have much success with her attempts this time. ☺ Mary and Rita went to the pool for Julie and Greg. We have a lot of action going now, but I enjoyed a nice nap while the kiddies were away and Spencer was asleep. It has been hot again today and it is too warm tonight for comfort. We have our windows all open to get any breeze that comes in. The big electric fan is going in the living room. Donna's infected toe is hurting her a lot. Problems, problems!

June 29, Sunday

It was warm all night and is today, too, but the sky is overcast. Rex and Jon went to their priesthood meeting and they took Julie and Greg to Primary. Mary and Rita took Spencer with them in time for Sunday School. Donna's infected toe was too painful for her shoe, so she stayed home with me. Rita wore one of Mary's dresses; she didn't bring a dress with her. Rex came home early; he brought Julie with him. Donna soaked her foot in Epsom salts water. She will go to a doctor tomorrow if it isn't better. She baked a ham and made salad and cake this morning. There are two bird's nests under the eaves of my south window. I can see the mother birds flying back and forth all day feeding the baby birds. They sure do a lot of chirping when the food arrives, it is interesting. Mary and children came home about 1:40 p.m. We



"There are two bird's nests under the eaves of my south window. I can see the mother birds flying back and forth all day feeding the baby birds. They sure do a lot of chirping when the food arrives, it is interesting."

had our baked ham dinner at 2 p.m. The family all tried to take a nap, or at least relax for a while. So, it was a quiet, restful Sabbath afternoon on the Marshes' farm. Action is in full sway at 5:30 p.m. and it is sticky hot, too. Rex froze the ice cream that Mary mixed this afternoon. It was delicious. This evening our little friend from Argentina, Rita Sofia, came in and talked to me, she speaks English very well. She was crocheting the cover for the back of my swivel chair. I read a few poems I'd composed to her and she seemed impressed. ☺ She is a lovely girl. She asked me to write a little verse to her in her autograph book. I said I would think about it later, when there wasn't so much activity going on around me. My brain has to have peace and quiet to compose anything.

Rita

June 30 - 1975 -

Rita Sofia, from Argentina, You have a special way
of bringing Sunshine in a home, when the day is gray -
We, on the Marsh Farm, will hate to see you go -
We'll miss you, little friend, and your radiant glow -
When we see the crocheted covers, on the little swivel chair -
We will be reminded of you - and the bond of love we share -
May the blessings of the dear Lord, always be with you -
and - help you to accomplish, all you plan to do -
Granma Elvie Renshaw -

like this. I sit in my swivel chair and swelter, or stretch out on my bed for a nap and swelter. This evening Donna brought me some fried chicken and mashed potatoes, Jello, and cream. They ate a snack while they were in Ottawa this afternoon. Donna went with Rex this evening to milk the neighbors cows. It is really quiet around this farm since the Tibbetses and Rita left yesterday. I don't know which is worse, the lonesomeness or the confusion? Donna and Rex picked some green beans and four or five tomatoes from their own garden tonight. They listened to "Barnaby Jones" and the ten o'clock news on TV with me. It is hot again tonight, a sticky heat. [Kansas heat and humidity is awful without air conditioning. A tough time for the folks on Marshes' Mound!]

June 30, Monday

I got up at seven o'clock and composed a little verse to Rita Sofia, our little friend from Argentina. The lines were running through my mind, so I got up and wrote them down. I cannot compose when someone is talking or in the room in action. I'm not that gifted. Mary took Donna to the doctor in Overbrook this morning at 9:30. The doctor cleaned some of the dead skin off the infected toe and gave her a shot of penicillin and some medication to take, too. He told her to keep on soaking it in Epsom salts water and it should heal up soon. Rita brought her autograph book for me to write my little verse in. Donna also wrote in it. Rita took a picture of our four generations, myself, Donna, Mary, and Julie. Mary is getting her things packed for the trip to Omaha and "Home Sweet Home." We will surely miss our precious Mary and her dear family. They left the farm about 12:30 noontime. Mary was driving the VW bus and Rita was in the front seat with her. Jon and the children were in the rear of the bus. Donna and I waved bye to them. It is hot again today, but overcast until later this afternoon when the sun got through the clouds about 3 p.m. Donna soaked her foot in my living room, while we watched the TV stories until three o'clock. Then I stretched out on my bed for a while. Oh hum! Donna brought my dinner about 7:30 p.m. (fried fish, potatoes, green beans, and sliced peaches). It is hot again tonight. We had a special TV program tonight called "America on the Move." It was a patriotic program and was two hours long. (It was a 4th of July special.) It was very good. I received a letter from Ethel Newbold, she enclosed the memorial services program for Harriet Speirs. Ethel is a lovely person, I must write to her. P.S. We had a lot of little bugs flying around my lamp tonight I had to use the bug spray to get rid of them. Ugh!

July 1, Tuesday

July is here already! Half of 1975 is in the past now. We have a little breeze and overcast sky this morning, but I presume it will be another hot day. Donna brought me a melted cheese sandwich, some applesauce, and Postum for lunch. I answered Ethel Newbold's letter this morning. Donna mailed it for me this afternoon when she and Rex went out to so some visiting of members in our Ottawa Branch. Donna put my electric fan in my south window to give me a cooling breeze; it is really a hot, humid day. I feel weak on days

July 2, Wednesday

It was a warm night and it's a hazy sun with an overcast sky. It doesn't seem as hot as it was at noon yesterday. I gave myself a sponge off and put on clean underwear. Donna wrote to John, Janet, and Kathy. She drove to the mailbox with her letters. I hear her typewriter, so I presume she is writing a note in Florence Oates's birthday card. Donna and I have been upset because a poor, little bird has fallen into the stove pipe. We can hear it scratching around inside but we do not know how to go about taking the stove pipe apart. We know it must be covered in black soot because some soot is on the little stove from the scratching. We'll have to wait for Rex to get home to do something about it. Donna and I worked for an hour or so to untangle some yarn, and roll it into a ball. Oh, what a mess it was in. Donna sewed the crocheted covers (that Rita Sofia made for my swivel chair) fast to the chair so they will not come off now when someone sits in the chair. I tried to crochet a little cover for my other swivel chair, but I just can't see well enough to do it. I had to give up because I was really getting nervous and I can't afford that. I'm sorry, too, just a year ago I crocheted my big, blue afghan, correction, it was two years ago. I was 80 years old, I'm 82 ½ now. My eyes aren't as keen as they were then. I am thankful for my eyesight, I must not strain them any more than I can help. Donna and I watched "Little House on the Prairie" and "Lucas Tanner." Rex took the stove pipe apart and he found two little birds. They flew away when he took them outside. It was a happy ending! (Amazing!) P.S. My electric fan is cooling off my two rooms again tonight.

July 3, Thursday

Today is my payday and I got a \$20.00 raise. It is an automatic increase authorized by the law based on the rise in the cost of living. I had Donna deposit the \$20.00 to my checking account, \$200 went for payments on this farm house, and I gave Donna \$20.00 to help buy our food. Rex worked half a day in Eudora plastering. It is hot and humid again today. Donna mailed Marshall's birthday card for me; I enclosed a \$1.00 bill and six sticks of gum. His day is July 6. I sent it airmail. Donna vacuum cleaned my rooms and dusted furniture and changed my bed sheets and slip today. The mail brought a nice letter from Violet, she isn't at all well, I'm concerned about her. She said my phone call was the

highlight of her day last Thursday. I surely enjoyed hearing her voice, too. I have Sandy's birthday card and verse ready to mail, but it's too early, so I'll wait a few days. His day is July 14. Donna brought me a glass of eggnog this afternoon. Oh, it was delicious and cold. She is really precious! She made an appointment for me to have a permanent wave next Wednesday at ten in the morning, in Ila's Beauty Shop in Overbrook. I surely hope I'll feel better than I do today. This evening we watched a special 4th of July program on television. Many of the favorite TV stars entertained us. Donna made up the couch bed for Jon Tibbets. She expects he will arrive about 2 a.m. It is another hot night; Rex went to his night job in the nursing home. I rode to the mailbox with Donna this evening and we drove down to see the horses. We watched the fire flies, too.

July 4, Friday

Happy Holiday America! Jon Tibbets arrived early this morning about 2 a.m. We are enjoying a nice breeze right now at 1:35 p.m. Rex and Jon are installing an air conditioning system in the north window of Donna's kitchen. I was listening to my TV stories until the power was turned off by Rex or Jon. I had a disappointment yesterday when I noticed that the sunflower plants around our home had been sprayed and were dropped over and dying. The beautiful state flower of Kansas will not bloom on our farm this summer. It is nice and cool in Marshes' kitchen. I can even feel the cooler air in the hall. Donna turned on the electric fan in my sitting room, so I'm not suffering from the heat like I did yesterday. I had a nap this afternoon. A couple of men came to the farm this afternoon with their big tractor; they cut Rex's hay and got it into bales. Rex, Jon, and Donna stacked as many bales as they could get into the little barn in the lower south field. They got 55 bales in. The other bales are still in the field south of our house. After dinner this evening Jon and Donna gathered up some bales in the pickup truck to store away in neighbor Gales' big barn. I think they took three loads. They'll work at it again tomorrow. I was amazed to learn that Rex got 230 bales of hay from that field. I listened to a special TV program this evening on the signing of our Declaration of Independence and of George Washington and his men crossing the Delaware. Oh, they really had many hardships to endure. Rex went to his night work in the Overbrook nursing home tonight. Sorry about this messy looking page, but that's the way it is.

July 5, Saturday

I feel better after a good night's rest. We have a lovely, clear day, but it is warm. Jon went somewhere in Kathy's little Opel car this morning. Donna brought my lunch (a tuna sandwich, Postum, custard, and cookie). A young man drove to the farm this morning. I think they called him Norman. Jon and Donna loaded the truck last night with 40 bales of hay. It is ready to take to Gales' big barn. When Rex got up and Jon came home, they took the load of hay to Gales'. We do have a breeze blowing this afternoon, in fact, it is more than a breeze. Mr. Wind, the Big Blow, is back on the job. I managed to close my south windows half way so it isn't blowing papers around anymore. Donna is working out in the south field garden. She'll help Rex and Jon when they

come back for another load of hay. They must get it in the barn before we have a rain storm. Today's mail brought me an announcement of the birth of Sandy and Sharon Perkins' baby boy; his name is Brian Daniel. He was born June 3, weight 7 pounds 13 ounces. He has red hair. I composed a little verse to baby and sent \$2.00 for his mission fund. I wrote a note to Sharon, too. Here is the verse I wrote:

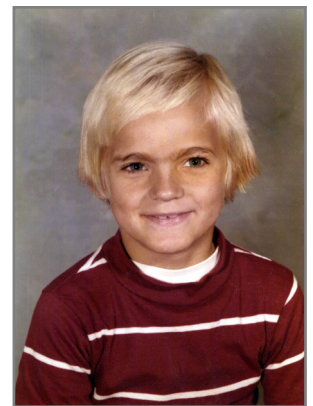
*Welcome little Brian Daniel Perkins, news of your arrival was received with joy!
We're delighted to add to our Family Tree,
a cute little red headed boy,
You came to a wonderful family, parents
and grandparents, too,
They'll teach you things in this life,
that will bring Happiness to you.
From Great, great, Aunt Elvie
P.S. The money is for your missionary
fund. July 5, 1975*



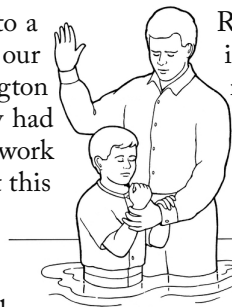
Donna and Jon dug up some potatoes from the garden. We ate from TV trays this evening in my place, so we could watch "The Lawrence Welk Show." It was excellent as always. The bales of hay are all in the storage barn at Gales'. So, let it rain! Someone was coming to cut and bale some straw for Rex, I presume he came this afternoon. Rex has gone to his night job. Jon has gone to bed; I'm going to bed. Donna is in the shower bath. Goodnight!

July 6, Sunday

*Happy birthday Marshall, it's
your turn to be glad!
You can be baptized now, you
lucky lad.
We wish you happiness all year
long
And, we'll sing for you the
birthday song.*



Marshall Gardner Fall 1974



Rex and Jon left early in time for priesthood meeting. The men came home before noon, Rex had worked all night and he had to have his sleep. Jon took care of feeding the animals on the farm. I presume Donna stayed for the sacrament services; she had her Chevrolet. Rex and Jon had Kathy's Opel car. The sky is overcast, but

it is warm outside. I try to stay as cool and calm as possible in my own little rooms. I wrote a letter to Blanche Hoglund this afternoon. Now, I'll try and answer Violet's letter. Writing letters is a hardship for me now because of my poor aching shoulders and neck, but I did write her a letter in spite of the aching bones. I tried to relax on my bed but I couldn't unwind. I went out and talked to Donna for a while. Jon drove over to neighbor Gales' farm this afternoon and helped him get his bales of hay stored away in the big barn. The Darby boys were helping, also. Mrs. Mary Gale fed the men a nice supper after they'd got the hay put away. I hope Kathy and David are feeling better today. They were

both down with the flu bug when Janet phoned yesterday. Janet had it first. Jon came home this evening after they'd finished loading neighbor Gales' hay into his barn (440 bales). He looked tired. Rex slept all afternoon; he went to his work in Overbrook tonight. P.S. I enjoyed an FBI movie on TV tonight. Loraine Day was in it. It is bed time now.

July 7, Monday

We have an overcast, warm day. I have the electric fan going in my south window. Jon got up early and worked on his lot. A man and his tractor came out to help Jon with some kind of special work. Rex was helping, too, I think. Rex had to go to a meeting at 2 p.m. for the son of Doris Crider, who has gotten himself into some trouble and was arrested. Rex wanted Donna to go with him, so she went. Jon left for Omaha about 1:20 this afternoon. I'm alone with my diary and my TV stories. Donna went into Overbrook this morning; she mailed my letters and bought a few items I needed (for \$5.79). Now, she is with Rex on this business of helping someone in trouble. Rex has been appointed the boy's parole officer. We received a little thank you note from Marilyn Clayton and husband, Richard Boulter, for the wedding gift (a blue and white towel set.) They are living in Provo. Donna went to the field west of here to help Rex gather up the bales of straw left after the wheat harvest was in. I don't know much about farming. They both rested for a couple of hours before going to work in the field with the straw bales. I stretched out on my bed, too. Rex didn't have to work tonight; he went to bed after hearing the ten o'clock news on TV. It is warm again tonight. Donna was vacuuming her rugs at ten o'clock tonight. She has been with Rex out in the fields most of today, and went to Garnett with him, also. No time for house work until tonight. Our neighbor Mrs. Mary Gale and two children called to see us this afternoon. The O'Rears are coming tomorrow evening for dinner with Rex and Donna. Night all. P.S. I'm weary tonight and Donna looks tired, too. I wish I could help her more than I do.

July 8, Tuesday

I forgot to mention that Donna bought a cute little tractor yesterday and sent it to Spencer, with Jon. He'll be delighted with it. Janet said that Jody is having a wonderful time in San Jose with Shattucks and he is a very good little boy, too. Donna went to her Relief Society Homemaking meeting this morning. I fixed myself something to eat about noon. Rex went to a meeting in Overbrook about 1 p.m. Donna came home about 2:50. She brought Sr. Mary O'Rear home with her. Br. Emmett O'Rear came a few minutes later. They visited with me for a while and then Rex came. He and Emmett went out to look the

farm over and the tractor and equipment. Mary and Donna went to the kitchen to fry chicken for dinner, I think? Today's mail brought a letter from Kathy to me; she was sick in bed with a bad cold, the flu, I presume. Rick got it first, then Janet was down with it, now David and Kathy are sick. She says she likes her work and she has saved \$422 so far. She hopes to save that much more before time to go to BYU this coming fall. I surely hope she is well by now and back to work.

July 9, Wednesday

We have a hazy sunshine today, but it is really warm. I got up at 7:40 a.m., took a bath, and got ready to go to Overbrook for my appointment at Ila's Beauty Shop at ten. I dreaded having this shampoo and permanent, but it wasn't too strenuous. It was nice and cool in Ila's salon. The permanent wave was \$12.50 plus 50¢ tip. I was her only customer, so there was no waiting and we were back home by 1:30 p.m. Donna shopped at the market, too. I enjoyed a chicken sandwich and a glass of cold milk and a piece of apple pie for lunch. Donna went with Rex to take his young pigs to the market, six or seven of them. We hope the man can find a buyer for them; Rex needs the money. I wore one of Donna's short sleeve top blouses with my red slacks this morning. My long-sleeved top was too warm on a day like this. My white top wasn't clean; I've been wearing it all week. I stretched out on my bed to relax at 4:30 p.m. Mary and the children came about five o'clock. Our farm house came to life! Action! Donna had dinner ready for them by 5:40. I was not hungry enough to eat, so I watched TV's "Truth or Consequences" program at 6 p.m. It is cooling off some, the sky is clouded over. No sunshine. I surely welcome the cooler air. Joan Gardner and family drove in our driveway about 7:40 this evening. Now, we have a lot of happy action on this place! The kitchen is the popular place. Gardners brought their cute, little dog.

The dog and **Paula** will stay here while the rest of the family make the trip to California via Colorado and Utah. The Gardners' dog's name is Holly. Little Paula was really tired; she fell asleep after her dinner, just as soon as she was in the crib. Joan and her family, all but Paula, will leave early in the morning with Mary and her VW bus.

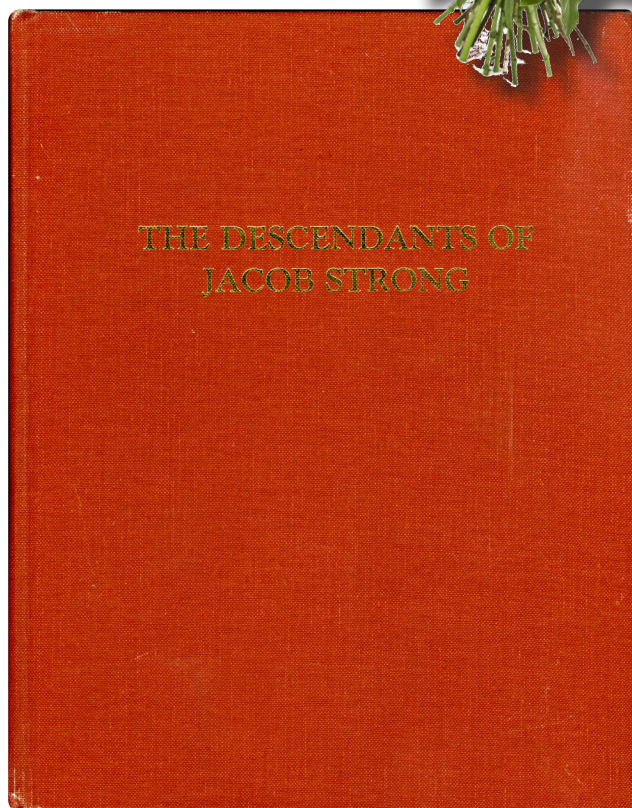
July 10, Thursday

Little Paula slept very soundly until almost ten o'clock this morning. She was all smiles and so cute this morning. We really enjoyed this adorable little one. I hope she'll be as happy all week, and we hope that Joan can relax and enjoy her visit in Colorado, Utah, and California. We'll be thinking of them and praying for their safety on the trip. Mary will drive her VW

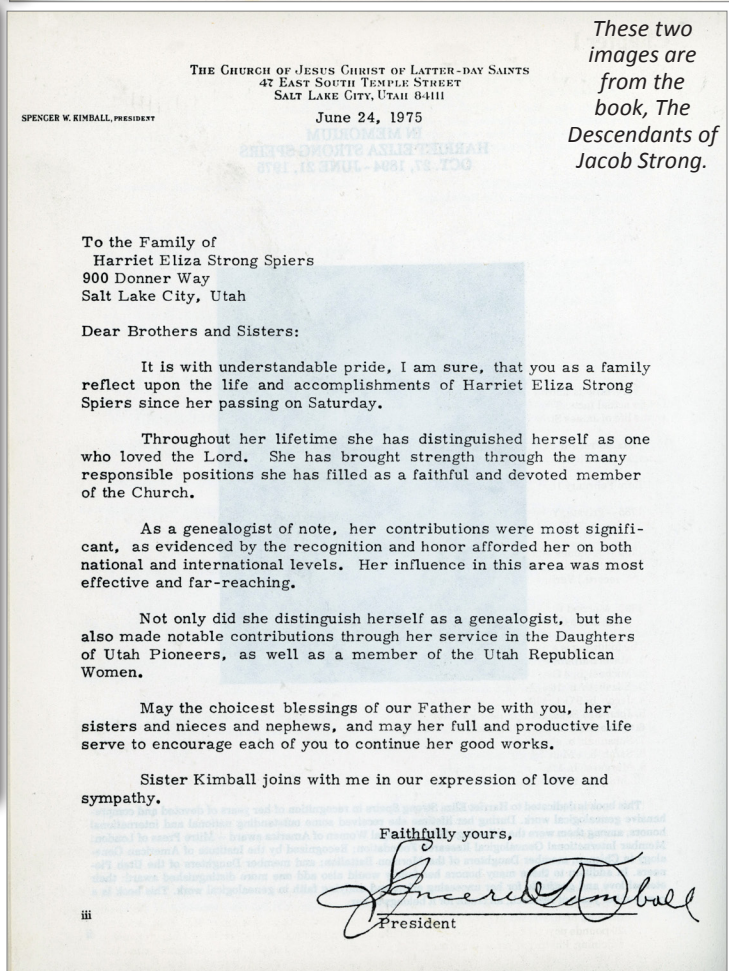
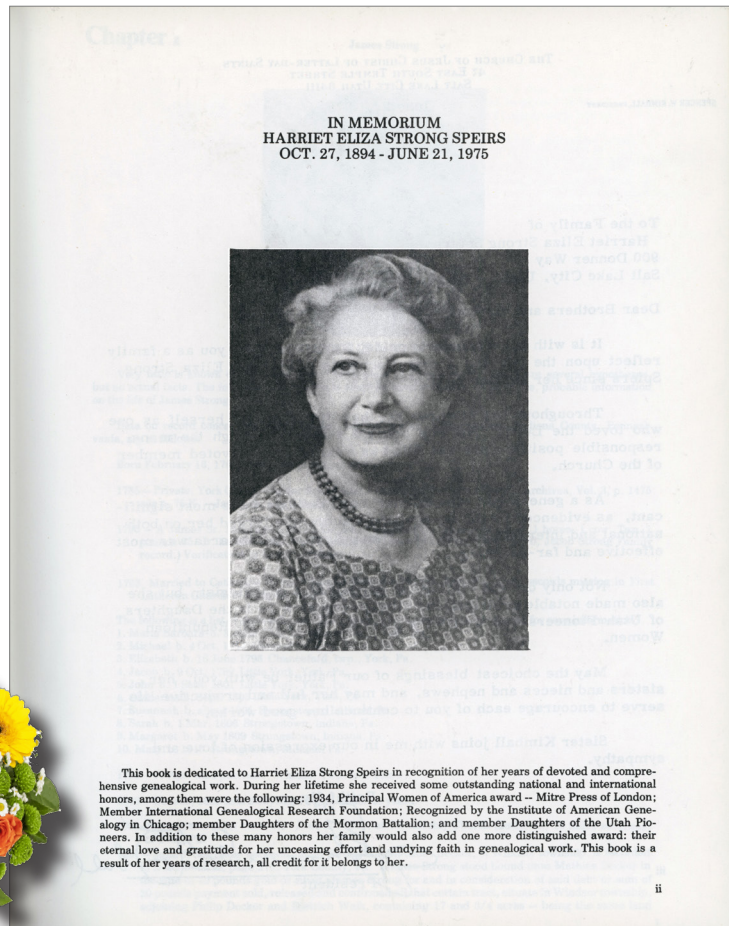


Paula came to stay at the farm while her mom and siblings drove to Denver, Utah, and San Jose.

bus and Joan her Cadillac, and they will try to stay together; it won't be easy. It hasn't been as hot today. Donna and baby Paula drove to the mailbox this morning to put some letters in the box and Paula went out with Grama Donna to burn the papers. I haven't heard her cry at all today. She went down in her crib for a nap after her lunch. Donna came in and read a nice, long letter from Kathy to Mary, that Mary left here. Kathy told about her visits to Petaluma, old friends, and etcetera. She is arranging the flowers for her friend, Roberta's wedding reception next month. Today's mail brought me a lovely letter from LaPriel Bunker. She enclosed a service memorial and a copy of the Tribune paper's notice of Harriet's passing. Violet and Lydia each sent me a copy, also. LaPriel is a very sweet girl, much like her sister Harriet. President Spencer W. Kimball sent a letter to LaPriel mentioning the life of her sister Harriet, a life of service for others, both the living and the dead. LaPriel was thrilled with the tribute paid to Harriet by the President of our church; it was indeed an honor. Rex and Donna took Paula with them in the tractor. They brought Donna's straw hat home full of green onions and beans from their garden. This evening they took Paula with them to get some milk. P.S. Gardners little dog, Holly, got lonesome and cried to come in the back door. Her chain wouldn't let her inside very far.



Harriet Strong Speirs was an avid genealogist. She gathered much of the information that was printed in this book before her death in 1975. It is dedicated to her and all the hard work she did to help make the book a reality. LaPriel, her sister, received this letter from the prophet President Spencer W. Kimball. It was to honor Harriet's life of service for others, both the living and the dead.



These two images are from the book, *The Descendants of Jacob Strong*.

July 11, Friday

I made out my donation check to President North last night; \$5.00 tithing, \$2.00 budget, \$2.00 fast offering, and \$3.00 building fund. We have a much cooler day with some wind from the northwest. Jon Tibbets arrived from Omaha in the wee hours this morning. I got up about 10:30; Donna and little Paula were in back of the house burning papers. Gardners' cute, little dog, Holly, was trying her best to join them, but her chain wasn't long enough. She was protesting her disapproval loudly. I got myself dressed and my hair combed, my bed made, and I went to the kitchen to fix something to eat (dry cereal, milk, and sliced banana). Donna baked some chocolate cookies. She brought a couple of them to me while they were still warm, mm good. Jon is working on his basement next door, west of us. I'm surely thankful for the cooler weather. Paula is talking rather well, she is a cutie. We're enjoying her. I presume Rex is sleeping; he worked all night. **Penny's big cement mixer** came this afternoon and poured the cement in Jon Tibbets's basement. The man got lost trying to find this place, but he got here all right after a few phone calls. Donna and Paula walked over to watch the procedure and to take a snapshot of it. That wasn't easy as she had to hold on to little Paula, too. All I could do was look out my window and wish I could help Donna with Paula. I can't walk on this lumpy, rocky, farm land. Donna drove into Overbrook to the bank and to a farm house for eggs. She took Paula with her. I didn't feel well enough to go. I had a blind stagger eye spell for a while. (Woe is me.) I enjoyed my television, especially "The Tonight Show" with Red Skelton and Johnny Carson.



Penny's Concrete out of Lawrence Kansas came out on July 11.

July 12, Saturday

It is much cooler this morning and I'm pleased about that. Little Paula is happy and very active; she keeps Grama Donna busy. I had my brunch at noontime; Donna made a waffle for me, and sliced some banana, and made Postum, bless her. Jon T. is busy with his basement, cement blocks, and etcetera. Rex is sleeping; he worked last night at the nursing home. Donna took Paula with her to the mailbox and to a neighbor's home to see about getting a young girl to babysit for her next Tuesday when she has a Relief Society meeting to go to. I wrote a letter to LaPriel Bunker this afternoon in answer to her letter to me. Right now, Paula is asleep and Rex also and Donna is weeding in the strawberry patch at 3:40 p.m. Jon is still working on the cement blocks,

in his basement next door. Me? I'm dozing here in my swivel chair. This evening I enjoyed my favorite TV program "The Lawrence Welk Show," it was especially good tonight. The music was from Disney movies. Little Paula's busy hands broke my yellow, plastic, letter holder. Well, we've had it long enough, eh? Donna gave her a bath and she went to bed like a little angel, about 9 p.m. It is Kathy's friend, Roberta R.'s wedding reception in California and a big day for Kathy. She had the responsibility of arranging and buying all of the flowers for the reception hall. I'm sure it will look beautiful and so will Kathy, and of course the lovely bride, too. My family is all in bed, sooo, I'll close my diary and turn out the lights and go to bed. Night all and sweet dreams.

July 13, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome, Sabbath Morning." ♪ It was much cooler last night; I pulled up the blanket to keep comfortable. I got up about 8 a.m. and bathed and got myself ready for Sunday School. Donna got little Paula and herself ready. Rex and Jon left earlier for priesthood meeting. Paula was a live wire this morning in church, but her Grampa Rex took her outside for a walk so we could enjoy the last half of the lesson. In the sacrament meeting following Sunday School, somehow the two speakers failed to show up. So, Br. Creighton called speakers from the congregation. You guessed right. Donna Marsh was one of them, so Grampa Marsh took Paula for another walk so she wouldn't cry for "Mama" as she now calls Donna. I came home with Rex, Jon, and Paula. Donna had a Relief Society meeting after church. She didn't get home until almost 4 p.m. but Rex got little Paula fed and into bed. She went to sleep pronto. I washed up the dishes that Rex, Jon, and I used and then I put on my light robe and took a much-needed nap. Donna served us a delicious fried chicken dinner with new potatoes and creamed peas and green beans (from her garden). We ate about 6 p.m. We were happy to receive a phone call from San Jose to let us know the Gardners and Tibbetses arrived safely and all is well. Donna and Rex are out walking with Paula; she'll be ready to go to bed when they bring her in. I have the birthday cards ready to mail to Bonnie Reynolds and Lydia Paul. After Paula was in her bed tonight, we three watched TV's "60 Minutes" program. That's it for today. Night all.

July 14, Monday

Happy birthday Sandy Gardner, 6 years old today.

*Smile and be happy
today Sandy dear,
Because your birthday, at
last, is here.
And when you smile, we
smile, too.
And wish a happy birthday
to you.*

Love, Grama Elvie

I could hear the activity on this farm long before I got up. Rex drove away to his plastering job in



Sandy Gardner in 1974.

Eudora. A big truck brought a load of sand to Jon's property. Later, Jon left for Omaha. He has to teach school there tonight. Donna came in to get the papers from my plastic trash box. Little Paula ran to my bed to say "Hi" to me; she chatted on and on in her own baby lingo. She knew what she was saying, but I didn't. She ended by saying "OK" and I agreed it was OK. She is a cutie. Donna took my cards to Bonnie and Lydia to the mailbox about noon, in time for the pickup. Paula was asleep in her crib. It's a cloudy day but it is warm. I went out to visit with Donna and Paula for a while at 4:20 p.m. I'm trying to fight sleep, I don't like to feel so sluggish. We enjoyed watching little Paula until she became very restless, then Donna took her for a walk down the road a ways. Grampa Rex came along and he brought them home in the truck. After dinner this evening they took Paula with them to the dairy for milk. She'll be ready for her sleep when they get home. Rex came in tonight to watch "Medical Center" on TV. Donna gave Paula her bath and she's asleep in her crib. She looks so sweet when Donna brings her in to say goodnight to me. I get a kiss from the little doll.

July 15, Tuesday

Donna left before nine o'clock for Ottawa to meet some of her Relief Society board at Sr. McKay's home. She is an elderly lady and can't get around very well. The sisters are cleaning her house today. Donna paid a young girl in this location to come here and babysit Paula. Her name is Diane. Rex is home today; he is cutting tall weeds with his tractor. They were growing along the driveway in front of the house. I got up about 10:30 a.m., got dressed and put my house in order. Then I went to the kitchen to fix myself something to eat. Paula was sure keeping Diane busy, but she was getting along nicely with our baby Paula. I took my little wicker basket out for Paula to pull Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls in. That entertained her for a while. I let her have a little crocheted doily to cover over the dolls. My TV was busy with the lift off of USA Apollo space craft. I watched it for an hour until it was in orbit. It is going to join with the Soviet Space Craft. It is the first launch with the Soviet space craft. Well, I must say, "It is all over my head." ☺ Donna came home about 3:30 p.m. Rex whipped some orange juice and gave me some; he took Paula on the tractor with him to cut some weeds. Donna went to pay her sitter, Diane. Oh, Donna looked tired. I hope Sr. McKay is happy with her clean house. I know James Fletcher, one of the men in charge of the space-craft program; he was our Sunday School teacher in Pasadena a few years ago. He was mentioned on TV today. I wiped the dishes for Donna when she came home from Diane's. I stretched out on my bed for an hour. It is warm today. Tonight, after little Paula was asleep, Rex and I watched TV. Donna was in her place reading; I think from a book that Jon left here for her to read. It is 10:30 P.M. I'm on my way to bed. Rex and Donna have gone to bed. Night all.



Young Bonnie Jean Bailey, Elvie's half sister. In 1975 Bonnie celebrated her 51st birthday.

July 16, Wednesday

Happy Birthday Bonnie Jean.

All the way from Kansas to you,

We send out love and best wishes, too.

You hold a special place Bonnie dear,

May you find happiness all through the year.

I could hear a lot of activity on this farm about ten o'clock this morning. A big truck brought a load of sand. Rex had it dumped in the backyard. Then a big load of gravel and a load of fine sand was dumped. I presume that Rex is getting ready to stucco the house. The fine sand is for the basement floor before he has the cement poured on it. I ate my brunch in the kitchen about 11:30 a.m. Donna made toast and Postum and cooked an egg. I had a half of a grapefruit, also. We have a warm day with a light south wind with humid air, which is typical

of Kansas. I turned on my electric fan to help cool my rooms. After Paula was asleep, Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook today. A man and tractor worked on Jon's property for an hour or so. It looked to me like he was covering over the dug-up trenches. Of course, I do not know, I just surmise. I'm very thankful for my windows, because I do not walk around outside on this bumpy farmland. Mr. Warren came to borrow Rex's hay rack. Little Paula had a hard time getting settled tonight; she really gave out with a shrill piercing cry. Every other night she has gone to sleep without any fuss. Something upset her tonight. It is a warm night, I had the electric fan going until I went to bed at 11:15. Rex went to his night work at the nursing home in Overbrook. Goodnight!

July 17, Thursday

This afternoon we watched on television the rendezvous in space of the American and the Soviet Apollo space craft, a first in our world history. It was successful; my diary hasn't room for details, but it's over my head anyway. Little Paula slept well last night after she once got relaxed. She is full of energy today. She keeps her Grama Donna on the go. Today's mail brought a letter to me from Blanche H. She wants me to return her announcement of Harriet's passing and the memorial program that she sent to me. Donna received a letter from Ann and John and one from Joan and Kathy. She read them to me. I'm thankful for their letters, it is the next best to seeing them in person. Donna brought me a delicious cold drink (chocolate eggnog). Mm good! Little Paula can open my door now, she "pops in" every few minutes and Donna is after her pronto. I have a lot of interesting items on my little desk table that are "no, no's" to her, but she's so quick she can work havoc in a short time if not watched. But she is a cutie for sure. I answered Blanche's letter and enclosed the memorial service program plus the news clipping she wanted. Me thinks that baby Paula is giving Grama Donna a workout this afternoon. She is so very active and on the go every minute she's awake, (but she is adorable). Donna gave her a bath and she went to bed like

a little doll soon after 7 p.m. I tried to watch “The Waltons” on television but I couldn’t get a good picture, but the radio [audio] sound was clear, so I listened to the story. It was a rerun as they all are now. Rex has a head cold, but he went to his night work anyway. P.S. Correction, Rex is asleep on the living room floor, I presume Donna is asleep in her room.

July 18, Friday

Jon Tibbets arrived at the farm early this morning in the wee hours. Little Paula woke me about 8 a.m. this morning when she popped up at my bedside, bright eyed, and with a lot of her special baby lingo. Her Grama Donna tied a sock on my door knob so she can’t open my door and I relaxed until 10:30 and then I got up and dressed. We have a cloudy day with a strong wind blowing. It is a bit cooler, too. Jon is working in his basement next door. I ate a banana, sliced in dry cereal, plus some Postum for my brunch. Little Paula climbed up to the bar table and put her little hand on a hot burner on the electric stove. It was off, but hot enough to burn her little fingers. She has three little blisters on her fingers. Donna is heartsick about it and the poor baby is unhappy, too. The episode put an end to Grampa Rex’s slumber; he worked last night. Well, she didn’t cry very long anyway. Grama Donna put some medication on and she wrapped the little hand up so it felt much better. She went for a walk with Donna. We had a nice dinner this evening, new potatoes, browned in oven, fried fish, green peas, from the farm garden, cabbage slaw, and custard pudding. Jon worked until too dark to see well. Rex went to his night work in the nursing home in Overbrook. I’ve had a little, sharp pain in my heart location a few times today and last night, but I didn’t mention it to anyone, but my diary. Rex’s head cold is much better today. Sweet dreams.

July 19, Saturday

*Happy birthday Lydia,
We feel fortunate to have
someone like you,
To wish a happy birthday to.
May you be blessed with
good health Lydia dear,
and find happiness all
through the year.*

We have a cloudy sky this morning. It is warm, but calm, no wind blowing, just a little breeze and I like that! Little Paula has had her lunch and is about ready for her nap. It is noontime and she’s had a busy morning. I think Jon is working in the basement of the Tibbetses’ home. I presume Rex is sleeping; he worked all night, I’m slowed down, with a few heart pains, but they don’t last long. I’ve got to keep going while our baby is here. I cannot add to Donna’s responsibility at this time, so help me. Donna brought me a melted cheese sandwich, some Postum, cottage cheese, and orange Jello for my brunch. Paula is asleep. Rex and Jon are eating lunch and talking over their problems; it is about 1:15 p.m. I’m thankful for my swivel chair and the comforts of my little apartment, for my precious Donna and her tender care



Lydia and Gene Paul in 1970.

of me. I am blessed indeed. Mo Gardner phoned; he is in Kansas, with his three children, Sherm, Janet, and Marshall and three scouts. They’re on their way to Overbrook. Rex and Donna took Paula to Ottawa this afternoon to get the water filters he had ordered. I gave \$10.00 to help buy food for our company. I went to bed for a while to ease the heart pain. We had a loud electric storm about 3 p.m. with a heavy downpour of rain. Jon couldn’t work in his basement; he went to Ottawa with Rex and Donna and Paula. Joan phoned from San Jose when our storm was raging. She wants Mo to call her when he gets here. Donna invited me to ride to Ottawa with them. I didn’t feel well enough to go. Paula was delighted to see Janet and Marshall and Daddy when she came home from Ottawa. They were happy, also, P.S. The cloud formation in the sky south of us is just fantastic.

July 20, Sunday

Last night we listened to the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant on TV. Janet Gardner slept in my other twin bed. Mo’s boy scouts pitched their tents outside and slept out there. I think Marshall slept out with them. Early Sunday morning, July 20, the electrical storm and downpour brought the boys in the house, they moved into the basement with their sleeping bags. Janet slept through all of the loud claps of thunder and down pour. She was really tired from the long drive all night to get to the farm from the mountains. She got up and made her bed this morning. I stayed in bed until 10:45 a.m. Rex and Jon went to priesthood meeting in Ottawa. Donna and Paula went to Sunday School. Mo and his children Sherm, Janet, and Marshall, and three Boy Scouts, left the farm about noon. I watched them drive away. I think they all had some cereal and milk, plus shower baths before leaving here. If they ate anything, they sure left the kitchen nice and clean; no dishes to wash, the bathroom was in order, too. Mo left a note and some money on the table for Marshes. Their visit was a pleasure for us, too, but so short; just an overnight stop. Donna left a pot roast slow cooking on top of the stove. They

got home about 1:45.

Jon brought a picture his Spanish students made of him. It is really good. I could see the resemblance in this unique work of art. They had it nicely framed, too. Donna fed little Paula and got her down for her nap. Rex took her for a long walk during Sunday School. Donna played



Picture Jon’s students gave him.

the piano. This afternoon Br. Derr brought our new visiting brothers to the farm to show them how to get here. They are brothers, Paul and John Dokos. Br. Derr gave the message and Paul Dokos gave the blessing on our home. They're nice, young men. Paula slept until six this evening. She was tired from the long walk this morning. Another bird was caught in our stove pipe, it got in yesterday. The poor little bird. I wish we had a wire screen over that pipe. It flew out into the kitchen when Rex opened the stove door. He caught it and took it outside to happy freedom. We turned off the TV at 10 p.m. tonight. It was hot even at that hour.

July 21, Monday

It's a hazy day and warm and we have a quiet household. Jon is on his way back to Omaha. He teaches night school in the college there. Rex went to Eudora to his plastering job. Baby Paula is asleep in her crib. Donna took her to Overbrook this morning and she walked around town with Grama Donna to take care of the house payment, to go to the bank, and etcetera. So, she was ready for her nap after lunch. Donna looked tired; I talked her into resting on the couch while Paula was sleeping. I ate dry cereal, banana, a cup of milk, and graham crackers for my brunch. I listened to the TV stories in my place. I'm feeling fairly well. I put my electric fan on to cool off my sitting room. Donna came in later to watch TV with me. Paula woke up; we enjoyed her for a while until she got restless and wanted to "go out." Donna drove to the mailbox and took her along. She brought me a nice, long letter from Lydia and enclosed there were three family group pictures of the Owen A. Bailey family. Donna wanted four of them, but three is all Lydia had on hand. Lydia's letter was fun reading, telling about her family and their activities. Donna and baby Paula walked along the driveway this evening, about five, to meet Rex coming home from Eudora. They drove back home in the truck with him. After dinner, and Paula's bath, she was happy to get into her crib and go to sleep, no fuss at all, and, with that sweet little thumb in her mouth Slumberland isn't far away. Night all and happy dreams.

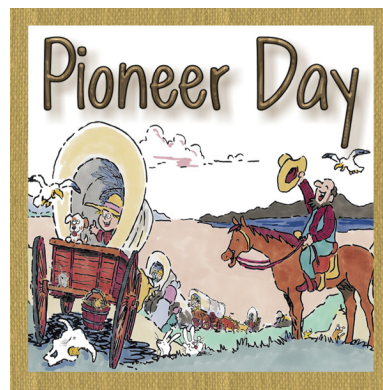
July 22, Tuesday

I was surprised to learn that Joan (with Emily, Sandy, and Donna S.) had arrived this morning about seven o'clock. We didn't expect them until later this afternoon or evening, but Joan drove all night (while the children slept.) Donna Shattuck came with Aunt Joan. She wanted to see the farm here and then go to Illinois and see her cousin, Janet Gardner. She has looked the farm over, and now she is anxious to move on. Donna fixed a melted cheese sandwich and a cup of warm milk for my lunch. I ate some fruit Jello salad, also. Donna was busy making sandwiches for her grandchildren, too. It is fun to have Joan and the kiddies here again. Paula is happy to see her mama, too. It's another warm day; I have my electric fan going to circulate the air in my living room. I visited with Joan and Donna, and with Donna Shattuck in the Marshes' house. The small fries were in and out. Rex put the screen door on the back door so they can get a little more fresh air. Little Emily put on a fashion show with the outgrown clothes her cousin Donna Shattuck gave her. She has two big bags full of cute clothes that Donna S. has out

grown. Donna cooked a delicious fish dinner this evening which we all enjoyed. The family watched television in my place this evening. Rex went to his night work in the nursing home tonight about 10:15. Sweet Dreams

July 23, Wednesday

I got up to see Joan and family drive away this morning about ten o'clock. We all knelt down by my bed and Donna offered a sweet prayer for their safety home to Northbrook. We are thankful for their visit with us. They took Holly, their dog, home, too. It is a car full of action, believe me. We'll miss them, especially baby Paula, because we've had her a couple of weeks while Joan, Emily, and Sandy visited in San Jose with Janet and family. Donna Shattuck is with the Gardners on her way to Illinois; she is anxious to see her cousin Janet. I composed a little verse for Rex's birthday card; his day is July 29. It's a hot, hazy day, I have my electric fan going. Donna is working hard to clean up this house. She is expecting the Joe Allens to visit any day now. She is wiping off little finger marks and taking the baby crib to the basement, washing windows, and etcetera, etcetera. Rex has been putting the water filters in our house to clean up the drinking water from our well. It has been sorta' brown in the bowls lately. I cut and filed my fingernails this afternoon; it used to be a routine job, but now it is a major operation for me. I have a big lump on my right elbow from an insect bite of some sort. It itches like heck. I hope that all is going well for Joan and her car full. She should be getting close to home by now, it is 8:15 p.m. and she expected to be home about nine o'clock tonight. We have storm clouds in the south of us. I hope it doesn't mean an electrical storm! I wish we could have a gentle rain, like we enjoyed in California. Joe and Jeanne Allen arrived at the farm tonight about 9:40 p.m. Donna was expecting them about Friday. Surprise! They drove from Denver today. P.S. I had a nice visit with the Allens in Donna's kitchen tonight. Rex went to his night work.



July 24, Thursday

I'd like to be in Salt Lake City today and join in the Pioneer Day celebrations, (if I was younger). The Joe Allens left this morning after Rex got home. He took them for a tour around the farm. They ate some breakfast and went on their way. Jeanne gave Donna a couple of pretty pot holders she made; she gave me a pretty, little flowered pillow, blue and white. (She made it.) It looks nice on my white bed spread. They left some seedless grapes from California. Donna received a phone call from her counselor, Jeanne Brooks. A sister in the branch had to go to the hospital and needed someone to take care of her 12-year-old daughter. They couldn't find anyone in Ottawa to take the child, so Donna drove all the way to her home in Ottawa and brought her to the farm. She'll

sleep in my other twin bed. She is a nice little girl; her name is Teresa Adkinson. She watched television with me for a while. It is lonesome for her on this farm, I'm sure. Rex shut the water off again this afternoon while putting the other water filter on. We have a windy hazy afternoon and it is warm. I tried to help keep our little guest, Teresa Adkinson, entertained with my picture albums and the television. I know it is lonesome for her on this farm with no young people around. Donna took her on a tour of the farm this afternoon. Rex was asleep, so we try to be quiet. He went to his night work again tonight. We are expecting Jon Tibbets in the wee hours so Donna has a bed ready for him. John L. Marsh phoned from Salt Lake tonight; he said it was hot in Salt Lake today. He drove a big float in the parade this morning. It was the KSL float; (he works for KSL). Bruce Brown phoned tonight from Provo, I think? He and his wife want to call on Marshes on August 5. I presume the Bruce Browns will be here when John and Ann Marsh are here.

July 25, Friday

We do have company on this Kansas farm! Donna took little Teresa Adkinson with her to Overbrook this morning. She had to mail letters to each of her girls with a family group picture of my mother and father and their children. I think it was taken in 1914 before I got married. Anyway, Lydia had a friend make several copies from the original copy at the low cost of \$1.00 each. Donna wanted a copy for her five children, but Lydia only had four of them left, so Donna sent them to the girls. She also sent a letter to Lydia with the money enclosed. Jon arrived early this morning, about 2 a.m. I fixed my brunch and ate it in the kitchen. Jon came in for his lunch later this afternoon. He came in here to say hello to me. Rex got up and I think they ate together and then Rex went to help Jon with his basement work. Donna kept Teresa entertained, helping her make cookies; I took a nap. Teresa says they made eight dozen peanut butter cookies, a double batch. Well, they'll take some of them on their picnic tomorrow. I'd like to go with them, but I'm not feeling well enough for hikes and crowds and etcetera. Mostly, I do not want to hamper their fun. I've had my happy times, Now, I'm paying the waiting game. Donna walked me over to see Jon's basement; he and Rex were cementing the cement blocks; they're working on the fourth tier now. It is a big job, but they are doing a lovely job. Teresa was in the basement carrying the blocks over to Rex and Jon. I sat in the garage for a while when we got back. It was a beautiful evening with a gorgeous, orange sunset. Teresa entertained me with her cute cheerleader routines, some of her own making.

July 26, Saturday

Rex and Donna and Teresa Adkinson left the farm this morning about 7:45 for a wonderful day with our branch. They were going from church in a chartered bus to visit the LDS Church historical sites, at Far West, Adam Andi Ahman, **Liberty Jail**, and etcetera. Oh, I do wish I had felt better so I could have gone with them. That is one tour I'd love to have been on with them. However, I'm indeed thankful they went and I hope they have a lovely time. Donna left potato salad and other food in her refrigerator for Jon Tibbets and me. He is working in his basement

lining the walls with cement blocks. He is working on the fourth tier now. We have a hot day with hazy sunshine. I had a blind stagger spell at 2:30 p.m., but it didn't last long. They're miserable while they are with me. Another little bird got down inside our kitchen stove pipe, sorry, but I can't help you little, unhappy friend. I read from the new Church News paper for a while, but my eyes blur and get heavy, so reading is out. I can still wiggle my toes, but I prefer to sit and doze. Oh, lonesome me. I did have the fun of cleaning up the dishes in the kitchen sink after eating my dinner about 2 p.m. I enjoyed my favorite TV program at 6 p.m., "The Lawrence Welk Show." He had a special Jerome Kearn program; it was lovely. Our family came home about 8:40 this evening. They had a real nice picnic and tour. I was eating some grain cereal with milk and graham crackers when they arrived. Jon fixed his own meal earlier. Neighbor Gale and his children came by and talked to Jon. It was really warm tonight at 10 p.m.

July 27, Sunday

My family went to church this morning before 9 a.m. Teresa Adkinson took her suitcase; she is going to stay with her grandmother in Ottawa a day or two. Her mother may come home from the hospital tomorrow. She is a nice little girl and we've enjoyed her visit here but, it is a long way for Donna to go to take her home so it's better she be in Ottawa when her mother is home. She left her old Levi shorts on my cedar chest. It seems like everyone leaves something. I did the dishes Donna didn't have time to do this morning. I didn't feel well enough for the long sessions in church this morning, so it is a day of rest for me at home. We have another bird caught in our stove pipe; it sure makes a racket, but nothing I can do about it. The old shorts that Teresa left here are corduroy and not Levi; I just looked them over. It's another hot day, I went back to bed for an hour after I did the dishes, then I took a shower bath and more rest, until I felt like combing my hair, however, I was well groomed when my family got home, ha ha! They got here about 2 p.m. We had a Swiss steak dinner soon after they got home. Donna left it in the electric cooking pan on low; it was delicious and tender. Rex and Jon went over to put more cement blocks in the Tibbetses' basement. Donna put the dishes in her dishwasher. I came to my suite to rest. Later, Rex drove to



Liberty Jail

Ottawa to do his home visiting for the branch. It was very hot this afternoon, breathing was a little difficult for me. I put my electric fan on; it helps a little. I think Donna is taking a nap. It is Beverly Andersen's birth date, she is in our thoughts so often, we all miss her, but we know she is happy with family and friends in the Spirit World. P.S. Jon got the bird out of the stove; it flew into the living room; he caught it and freed it.

July 28, Monday

It was warm all night and we're in for another hot day. We expected our Relief Society visiting teachers this morning but they didn't come. Jon worked in his basement a few hours and then he left for Omaha about noon. He teaches night school. We received an invitation to the wedding reception of Holly Reynolds and David West, in Salt Lake City on August 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Cottonwood Condominium Club House. They'll be married in the Salt Lake Temple. There was a nice photo of the couple in the invitation, also. I wish them happiness always. Ken Huston came to the farm this evening to talk to Rex about the bugs that are eating into his crop of milo grain. It is costly to have it sprayed. Donna went with Rex over to Ken's farm at 6 p.m. to talk it over. They went out later to some place to see about having the work done. Rex had to go to his night work again tonight. I'm thankful for a little breeze tonight. Donna and I are alone. I composed some verses for my family birthdays coming up in August (John L., Jon T., and Janet S.). It's Rex's day tomorrow. Sweet dreams.

July 29, Tuesday—Rex's 62nd birthday

*Hi! Ho! And Rub a dub dub,
Welcome to the Social Security Club.
A farmer on a land full of rocks,
Plowing through a life of hard knocks
Keep plowing, I'm rootin' for
you,
And wishing you a happy
birthday, too.*



Our Relief Society visiting teachers came this morning about 9:45. They came all the way from Ottawa, bless their dear hearts. It was Sr. Frances Bunch's first visit to our farm. She is 81 years old and will be 82 the 10th of August. She has pretty white hair. I'll be 83 in December, so I'm almost a year older than she is. Sr. Jeanne Brooks, the other sister, is a counselor to Donna in the Relief Society. She is a very lovely person, too. Donna made a banana nut cake for Rex's birthday. Donna and Rex drove away at 2 p.m. to shop in Topeka for gifts for Rex and a gift for

Holly's wedding, cards, and etcetera. It is hot again today; we had a strong wind from the south this evening about five. The sky is cloudy, it looks like it is pouring rain south of here. I hope Rex and Donna arrive before the storm gets here. These windows are a problem for me; they're hard to open and shut. ☹ It is humid and hot. Ugh! Later: the storm didn't come here and the wind calmed down. Rex and Donna got home about 7 p.m. They ate out, and she fixed a plate for me here. She bought a nice, white shirt for me to give Rex and a pretty, green dress shirt with a tie to match for her gift to him. She got all the birthday cards for those whose birthdays are in August. She also got the wedding gift for Holly Reynolds from us; a very nice walnut finish pepper mill and salt shaker set. It was on sale for \$5.00. The full price was over \$7.00. She got a set for her and Rex to send to Mo's brother (Kim) and bride. I wasn't invited to their reception.

July 30, Wednesday

It was so quiet around this farm that I stayed in bed until almost noon. I found a note from Donna when I got up. It read, "I've gone with Rex to Garnett, to Doris Crider's son's trial. It is at 10 a.m., be back shortly after noontime. I went to drive, as Rex was tired from working all night." It was warm all night, no cover needed. We're in for another hot day. It was almost two o'clock before Rex and Donna got home; he went to bed and she brought a plate lunch to me. We both watched television shows while I ate. I presume they ate something before coming home. We have hazy sunshine this afternoon. I stretched out on my bed for an hour this evening about 5 p.m., but it was too warm for comfort so I got up and put on the electric fan. Rex and Donna walked over to Jon T.'s basement to see what they can do to help him. Donna said she'd paint the cement blocks tomorrow with black paint before they put the fill in soil around the outside.



Rex Marsh celebrated his 62nd birthday in 1975.
Sixty-two was the age you could collect full Social Security benefits.

Sorry, I can't help, but no way! I'm doing well to keep myself able to navigate on my own strength. It is a black tar paint they use on the outside of the blocks. Rex painted several of them this evening, then he had to get cleaned up in his white uniform ready for his night shift. This dreadful heat sure brings a lot of little, flying insects in our home. Good night, this hot ole gal is going to turn out the light and go to bed.

July 31, Thursday

We managed through another warm night; I'm thankful I rested as well as I did. Donna got up early and she and Rex painted the tar on Jon's basement, outside wall. Rex went to bed when they'd finished. Donna washed the light fixtures in both her place and mine. She also polished the little stove in her kitchen. She got her fingernails and hands stained with the black stuff. It'll take some scrubbing to get her hands clean. Ugh! We ate a melted cheese sandwich and some applesauce and drank some 7Up for lunch. The mailman drove to the farm house with our mail; he had a package from Joan. She sent the blue toilet seat cover to match the rugs in Donna's bathroom. Rex received a birthday card and letter from Marty and Wayne Strong and a letter from Kathy and from Joan. Donna read the letters to me. I love the dear letters our sweet children write home to Rex and Donna and Grama Elvie. This afternoon Rex and Donna drove to the post office to mail some letters and the two wedding gifts (the salt and pepper mill sets). One is for Holly Reynolds and David West, the other for Mo Gardner's brother Kim and wife. I went in the Marshes' side to get cooled off with the air conditioning in their kitchen. Someone gave them a box of little, red, marble tomatoes and some beets from their garden. We enjoyed them for dinner this evening. Rex turned the water off in the house this evening while he worked on the filtering job. It is really warm again tonight. I'll welcome the cooler weather believe me! I have three welts on the back of my neck; I presume they are spider bites. They sure itch and irritate whatever they are. Goodbye July.

August 1, Friday

August is here, hot and dry. Rex went to his plastering job in Eudora. Jon T. arrived this morning about 3 a.m. I heard him drive in, but he was so quiet when he got in the house; he was in bed and the light off in no time. We received a happy surprise about noontime when John and Ann arrived at the farm. They both look wonderful. Right now, they've gone over to see Jon in his basement work next door. When Rex came home, he took them for a tour of the farm, across the south field to see the horses and the cows. Donna drove into Overbrook to do some grocery shopping and to take something Jon wants repaired, I do not know what. I visited

in the kitchen with John, Ann, and Rex. Also, Jon T. for an hour or so while Donna was in Overbrook. The air conditioner was on and it was almost too cool for me, but the others enjoyed it very much. I enjoyed being with them and listening to them but my metabolism is low, so hot is too hot, and cold is too cold for my comfort. You'll understand when you are 82 years old, almost 83. Donna came home about 5 p.m. in time to get dinner ready for the family. She fried chicken and we enjoyed a good dinner. We also had little new potatoes in cream sauce and green peas, a tossed salad and banana nut cake. After dinner, the three men went over to the Tibbetses' basement project. Donna and Ann went to the dairy for milk. I watched television in my room. Later tonight, they all came in and watched the TV news report and "The Tonight Show." McLean Stevenson was the guest host.

August 2, Saturday

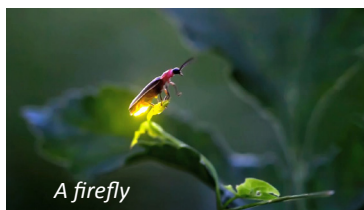
We have a nice, cool breeze this morning; I appreciate it. Donna brought my brunch, egg, toast and honey, sliced banana, and milk. Mr. Brown came with his tractor and worked on Jon's basement back fill job. John L. went to Overbrook for a haircut. Ann did some embroidering on a shirt they are giving to Rex. Donna had a big disappointment this morning. Her nice dress, (white with green dots) came out of the washer spotted and discolored. The white was beige looking. Jon thinks the hot water tank needs cleaning out. Rex went to Garnett, to the jail house, to take Doris Crider's son home. I understand that **Rex has been appointed to be the boy's parole officer.** John L. brought the mail to the farm. I received a cut, little thank you note from Sharon Perkins, written in the name of her infant son, Brian, in answer to the little note I sent to him. I also received a nice letter from Blanche. She is lonesome and talks about going home to her family and friends in the Spirit World. Her daughter Darlene is going to take her to visit LaPriel in Salt Lake for a while. Blanche lives in Long Beach. I broke my favorite hair barrette today. Well, I guess I've had it long enough, eh? Donna brought me a plate dinner of baked ham, scalloped potatoes, rolls, and a jelled salad. I enjoyed it while watching "The Lawrence Welk Show" on TV. Donna and Ann watched with me. They ate earlier with the men about 5:30. John and Ann have been intrigued with the **fireflies**; like me, they had never seen them before coming to Kansas. Rex and Donna and I watched them last summer, also. They are very interesting little insects.

August 3, Sunday

♪ "Thanks for the Sabbath Day." ♪ ♪ My family went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting; the men went earlier



Rex was a parole officer for Doris Crider's son. They must have had a lack of parole officers in Overbrook!



A firefly

to priesthood. With my annoying problems, I didn't feel that it was wise for me to go, so, I'm home with thanksgiving in my heart that my children are in church. There's a very pleasant breeze this morning and hazy sunshine. I expect my family home soon; it is 2:10 p.m. now. I went through some old letters and mementos this morning, "among my souvenirs." They brought back memories. I dried the dishes Donna had draining in the sink and put them in the cupboard. Now, I play the waiting game in my swivel chair. They are later, because it is fast day and testimony meeting. John, Ann, and Jon T. came first at 2:20 p.m. Rex and Donna came at 2:45. Our dinner was on the table ready to eat. Ann and John got the salads and baked ham, cheese, pickles, and tomatoes out of the refrigerator that Donna had prepared last night for dinner today. Donna and Ann did the dishes. I sat at the table and enjoyed hearing my children tell of their experiences in work and play. It was almost 5 p.m. when I came back to my own apartment. Rex is sleeping on the living room floor. He has to work again tonight. Jon is over in his basement with the cement block job. John L. is digging a trench out to the electric light meter. Donna is out with him. I presume that Ann is resting. We all watched television tonight for a while. Donna slept in my other twin bed. Ann and John had her bed and Jon T. on the couch in the living room. Rex is working all night at the nursing home in Overbrook. P.S. It was payday today, my Social Security check came, \$264.50. Rex's first Social Security check came today, too, for \$228.10.

August 4, Monday

Today is John Louis's birthday, he is 30 years old.

Dear Grandson,

Upon your toes boy, and shout Hurrah!

It's time to celebrate your special day.

It comes around only once each year,

So, try to be happy and full of cheer.

This little verse is to say, "I love you,"

And to wish you a Happy Birthday," too.

It is Dave and Janet's wedding anniversary today. I hope they will have a happy day. I'm sorry I didn't send them a card, time has a way of slipping away from me now, sorry about that. But Donna sent them a card and put my name on it, too. Jon T. left for Omaha about noon time. He teaches night school there tonight. Rex, Donna, John L., and Ann went to Overbrook to the bank to deposit our Social Security checks and to bring me some cash; I put \$5.00 in John's birthday card when they brought my cash home. Rex signed up to have his Social Security check sent directly to the bank, to be deposited in his checking account. He thinks it's a good idea for me to sign up, also. He brought home the paper form for me to sign up if I want to. I presume I will. John and Ann watched television with me this afternoon. Donna was busy in her kitchen frosting the brownie cake she made for John's birthday. It has been warm today again, and very humid. My forehead and neck are wet. Donna came in tonight and vacuumed my rugs and dusted the furniture. I helped dust



John in May of 1975.

some of the furniture, but I'm slow and I get short of breath with any extra action (woe is me). But, nevertheless, I am blessed indeed. We enjoyed John's birthday dinner of tacos and the delicious food to fill in them, the whole works. We sang the birthday song and he opened his gifts, and etcetera.

August 5, Tuesday

We have another warm, hazy day. Bruce and wife didn't come this morning as expected. I think their last name is Brown, but I'm not sure. Rex and John L. took the pipe lines out to the light meter in the trenches that they dug a couple of days ago. Then they took the dog, Bobo, to a veterinarian somewhere. The poor dog has something wrong with his ear. The doctor gave him about three shots for different diseases, the cost was \$17.50. While they were away, the electrical power truck drove in the yard. The man looked the meter job over and the house power situation over, and said it looked okay. Rex and John wanted to ask a few questions, but they were not here. Later, Ann went with Rex and John to Overbrook to the post office and the market. Donna picked a big dishpan full of cob corn this morning, I think Ann helped her, too. They took the husks off and par cooked it, blanched it, and put it in the freezer for later use. Donna took a nap on my other twin bed. I dozed in my chair until 3:40 p.m. We had dinner about 6:30; we had a pot roast, potatoes, gravy, green peas, cake, and ice cream. We watched TV tonight. Donna and John drove to Ken Huston's house to borrow a tester for the power in my television. I've forgotten what John called the thing to test the power (stupid old gal). Well, the Browns didn't come today. We went to bed after the ten o'clock news.

August 6, Wednesday

Bruce Brown phoned this morning about two o'clock. He said his big truck broke down and he had to have some repair work done, but he was in Kansas and he thought he would be here in about 2 ½ hours. They arrived about five o'clock this morning in the big Ryder moving van. Bruce and Rae Ann and baby boy are moving from Salt Lake City to Washington D.C. in the huge one-way, drive it yourself van. Donna had the couch bed made up for them. Rex slept on the floor in my living room. Donna slept in my other twin bed and John and Ann in Donna and Rex's bed. The big K.C.P.L. [*Kansas City Power and Light*] truck came out at 11 a.m. and put the second meter in. There were three men working on it. One of the men went to the basement to look at the light box. Rex says it is connected up to the live wire the wrong way. He had to phone the light company this afternoon so they'll have to come out again. Oh, why couldn't it be done right? The Browns' little year-old boy is a darling baby. Rae Ann is expecting another baby in the fall. They are a nice, young couple. Bruce used to date Kathy a few years ago. [*Bruce's family was also from Petaluma and knew the Marshes there.*] Donna, Rex, John, and Ann drove to Independence, Missouri, this morning to visit the Mormon Visitors Center and other church historical sites at Farr West. They arrived home about 3 p.m. The Bruce Browns rested most of the day because they drove all night last night. Tonight, they visited with the Marshes and enjoyed the nice dinner Donna cooked for her family.

August 7, Thursday

*The most industrious professor I know,
Day or night, you'll find him on the go.
If teaching in college or plowing the field,
His ambition never seems to yield.
Take time out and have some special cheer,
Your birthday comes, just once a year!
Happy Birthday! Grama Elvie.*

The Browns drove away from the farm this morning about seven o'clock, on their way to Washington D.C. where they'll make their home. They are driving a big Ryder moving van. The big K.C.P.L. truck came out again this morning. Both Rex and John L. were here, so I presume the electrical problem is solved. Ann and John went to the "Worlds of Fun" place here in Kansas.

I hope they have a fun day. Today's mail brought a letter from my sister Violet. She is not at all well, she still has lots of pain. I am really concerned over her condition, kidney pus and heart trouble and etcetera. Her grandson Bruce, is visiting with her. He is 14 years old now. She's expecting Yvonne and Don and the rest of the kids to come soon. LaPriel Bunker came to visit Violet; her son Douglas and his four children came to go through the Narrows. Brad Haddock called on his way to California from Provo. Violet says that Jerry Haddock and family and Bette and Ray H. are going to move to San Diego. Jerry and Ray will work together there. Rex and Donna went out to the hayfield to do something. (I watched TV.) I looked out the window and saw them on the tractor pulling a farm trailer of some sort. Later this afternoon I went with Rex and Donna to Lawrence. They bought Jon Tibbets a nice, blue shirt and some bullets for his gun in the M. Ward's Store. I got out a time or two, but I gave Donna my list of things I needed and she did the leg work for me. I spent \$20.00 on medication, stationery, a box of birthday cards, and etcetera. We had a fish sandwich at McDonalds and chocolate malts from the Peter Pan Ice Cream Store. We got home about 9:15, tired but well fed. Rex had to get showered and ready for his night work in Overbrook at the nursing home. John L. and Ann are really making a day of it; they are not home yet at 9:30 p.m. Good night. P.S. I bought some nail clippers for \$1.25. I hope they'll work alright.

August 8, Friday

John and Ann got home last night before 10 p.m. When I got up today, they'd gone to Topeka to go to the Channel 13 radio station. John had made the appointment for them to go through the place. He told them he worked for KSL in Salt Lake City. Rex was asleep in my living room on the air mattress on the floor. Jon Tibbets arrived this morning from Omaha in the wee hours some time. He was working in his basement job next door. When I got up, Donna had a baking deal going; cakes and cookies and a birthday cake for Jon. His day was yesterday. She made a banana nut cake for Sr. Bunch's birthday on August 10, too. Joan phoned from home, they



Jonathan Tibbets 1980.



couldn't get away as soon as they'd expected, so it'll be late tonight when they arrive, after midnight, Donna thinks. It's a cloudy but warm day. John and Ann came home from Topeka about 4 p.m. He bought a needle for my Magnavox player, \$4.97. I gave him \$5.00. It was surely nice of him to get it for me. We enjoyed some lovely music this late afternoon. Jon Tibbets's friends from Irvine came to the farm this evening. They have two little boys. They ate dinner with us. Donna had cooked a pan of macaroni and cheese and some vegetables. Their name is Smith, a nice, young couple. The two little boys are live wires, but cute. The Smiths slept in the basement. We're expecting Joan and family tonight, so Donna had the couch ready for them.

August 9, Saturday

The Mo Gardners and their two cars arrived at the farm about five o'clock this morning. Donna and John and Ann got up to welcome them and the family went to bed. Donna Shattuck and Janet Gardner came in to my bed this morning about nine o'clock and talked with me. They are two sweet little girls, both 12 years old. Donna will be 13 in November, Janet turned 12 years old on April 13. Donna has been visiting with the Gardners in Northbrook, Illinois. John and Ann packed their belongings this morning and Joan and Mo drove away with their two cars, at the same time Ann and John did, about 10:30 a.m. I got up to see them all on their way to Salt Lake City, Utah, where they'll meet Janet and Kathy. I think Mark is going into the mission home now. The Mo Gardners are there for Kim Gardner's wedding. We have Emily and Paula Gardner and their two dogs, Holly and the new puppy, here on the farm with us. Donna and Emily went to Overbrook to the market. Emily's daddy gave her some money and she was anxious to spend some of it. The Smith family are still with us; they have their tent set up in the basement. He is helping Jon T. with the cement blocks in his basement next door. They have two little boys. It is cooler this morning. I'm thankful for that. Paula is asleep in her crib and Rex is asleep in his bed. He worked all night in the nursing home. I feel a bit rugged today. I didn't rest very well last night because of confusion and emotional strain, and etcetera. I stretched out on my bed for an hour or so. Little Emily and Paula came in to see me this afternoon. They are adorable children; sorry I feel so miserable. I'd love to entertain them. Emily fell asleep in my swivel chair and her Grampa Rex carried her to my other twin bed. Donna has a backache.

August 10, Sunday

We had a troubled night; little Emily woke up in the wee hours and got out of her bed crying. She climbed in bed with me and I managed to calm her down. She went to sleep, but her nervous little body was turning, and her legs and arms were on the move until I had to get out of bed. I was going to get in the other twin bed, but she woke up, so

I took her to the toilet. I suggested she get back in her own bed; that was a big mistake. She ran out of my place into the dark hall into Marshes,. I had to go after her. No way could I talk her into coming back. Donna and Rex heard me; they ended up by having her sleep between them. I was so upset that I couldn't get to sleep for a long time. Jon's friends the Smiths left with their two little boys this morning on their way to Missouri. Jon and Rex went to priesthood. Donna took Emily and Paula later, in time for Sunday School. Rex and Jon came home about 12:30 noon. They brought the kiddies home with them and fed them their dinner and they ate, also. Rex is very good at helping that way. Donna had some Relief Society business to take care of, so she was later coming home. I was going to wait for her, but when it got to 3:30 p.m. I decided I'd better eat a bite of something. I didn't feel hungry, but very strange and weak, so I found a chicken wing in the refrigerator and I ate that with a slice of bread and a glass of milk. I had a small piece of chocolate cake for dessert. I felt better, so I washed and dried the dirty dishes on the table and in the sink. Donna came about 4 p.m. just as I was finishing my job in the kitchen. She fixed herself a sandwich and ate. She looked weary, but her two little granddaughters Emily and Paula kept her on her toes all afternoon. I've enjoyed my lovely, big tabernacle choir recordings all morning and this afternoon on my Magnavox player. Jon worked on Kathy's green Opel car this afternoon and evening; Rex was helping him. Donna had a struggle getting Emily and Paula to relax and go to sleep tonight.

August 11, Monday

I wasn't ready to retire last night at 10:30, but my family was, so I turned off the TV, and the houselights to oblige. I had a good nap this afternoon for an hour or more because of my restless night last night. Our Relief Society visiting teachers, Jeanne Brooks and Frances Bunch came this morning at 9:35 a.m. Bless their dear hearts, they come all the way from Ottawa to our farm in Overbrook. We enjoyed their visit and lovely message. Sr. Bunch turned 81 years old yesterday. Donna took a little birthday cake to her when she went to Sunday School yesterday. We have a pleasant breeze this morning, but it looks like we're in for another hot day. Donna's two little grandchildren Emily and Paula surely keep her on the go. Jon and Rex have been working again on Kathy's Opel car, getting it in good running condition for her trip to Provo in September. Jon left the farm this afternoon for Omaha. He teaches night school there tonight. Rex got his basement ready to have half of it poured with cement this afternoon. He can do only half at a time, because of all the furniture stored down there. The big Penney's mixer

came about 4:15 p.m. and poured the cement mix through the basement windows on the north side of the basement in three loads, through the three windows. Donna and the grandchildren Emily and Paula sat on the steps going down to the basement. I watched from the kitchen windows. Rex has the big job of leveling the cement floor. I wish he had some help, he'll be tired tonight. It has been a hot day and we are all a bit worn by the heat. Goodnight!

August 12, Tuesday

Donna left here this morning soon after nine. She went to her Relief Society home service meeting and luncheon in Ottawa. Rex did a beautiful job of taking care of the two little Gardner kiddies Emily and Paula. I went in the kitchen to fix something to eat about 11 a.m. It was so quiet that I thought Rex had taken the children for a walk, but I found out that Paula was asleep in her crib and Emily was playing with something on the living room floor. Grampa Rex was asleep on the couch. I ate dry grain cereal, some graham crackers and milk. Then I washed and dried the dishes in the kitchen sink. Donna came home in time for Rex to go



Paula and Emily in May of 1975. In August they are staying with their grandparents on the farm.

to his meeting at the nursing home. Donna has a cold in her throat and neck gland's. I sure hope she'll get it checked soon. Rex was back home by 3:30 p.m., hungry. I'm trying to keep cool and collected. We have a cloudy sky, but warm nevertheless. Our little ones are very active with lots of squabbling and squealing this afternoon. All is quiet now, they are in bed asleep like little angels after their bath. Donna, Rex, and I listened to the ten o'clock news; we have a 50% chance of rain. I surely hope we get it. P.S. 'Tis said, there is no word to rhyme with orange. The thought fairly makes me

cringe, how about strange, arrange, change, or range. Mr. Longfellow wrote, "The night is beginning to lower," in his famous poem, "The Children's Hour." Perfect rhyming? No! but beautiful to hear. It's a rhythm that is delightful to the ear. Orange, cringe, arrange, strange, change and "Home on the Range. Good night all.

August 13, Wednesday

We have a pleasant morning after the nice rain we had in the night. Rex and Donna took the little girls with them this morning. They were going to Garnet on business. Doris Crider's son is back in jail. He can't keep out of trouble. Rex was appointed to be his parole officer, so he had to investigate. I fixed myself some brunch (a sandwich and some warm milk). It is getting warmer, it is 3 p.m. now. Rex and Donna will be coming soon. Doris Crider phoned this morning soon after Rex and Donna left. I played with

words to rhyme with orange (see bottom of entry on August 12). I was glad to have my family come home about 3:15. Rex turned on the air coolers in their kitchen and living room. It made my apartment much more comfortable. Paula had a nap and Emily played quietly in the house. Well, there's action going on now, at 5:50 p.m. Paula is up and going strong, the cutie. We have a cloudy sky, I hope we'll get some more rain. The farmers are hoping for rain. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about 6:30 p.m. I was watching television. Tonight, I went to Donna's living room and we sat in the dark and watched Mother Nature display her fireworks, with lightening all over the sky. The thunder was rumbling all around, but not too loud. It was raining lightly. Rex has to go to work tonight at the nursing home in Overbrook. I hope he will not encounter a severe storm. Our lights went off for a few seconds. I'd better get myself ready for bed while I have lights, eh?

August 14, Thursday

Happy Birthday to Janet Eileen Shattuck, 39 years old today.

*You are in our thoughts, Janet dear,
May your day be full of happy cheer,
When you are happy, we're happy,
too,
So "Happy Birthday" darling to you.
Grama Elvie*

Mary and her children and Kathy drove all night and they arrived at the farm house about 9 a.m. or shortly after, so we have a household of active, happy children and two very tired adults. Mary and Kathy stretched out on my twin beds, I sat in my swivel chair. Donna had a busy time in the kitchen clearing up the breakfast mess and trying to keep order among the little ones. Greg and Jody went fishing in one of the ponds on the farm. Rex worked all night so, he is sleeping now I presume. The best way for me to help, is to keep out of the way, right, eh? It's amazing how well Donna manages to keep things under control. She took a car full of children to the market in Overbrook this morning about eleven. All is quiet here. Mary, Kathy, Spencer, and Rex are asleep, and me? I'm dozing in my chair. It is cloudy and cool, I like that. Greg and Jody caught a fish about 7 inches long. They came to the house excited to have someone get it off the hook. I was the only one here awake, and I made a brave try to get the darn hook out of the slimy fishes mouth. My very first time to attempt such a job. Ugh! We gave up and the boys put the poor fish in a jar of water in the garage. They took off the muddy boots and came in the house to play. They went out to try again to get the hook out of the fish's mouth. Jody got a knife and cut off the fish's head, but the hook is still in the mouth. Donna and her car full came about one o'clock. She made sandwiches for the children. I took refuge in my own apartment. Mary was up by then. (Joel is 5, Greg is 7.) P.S. Mary played an LDS

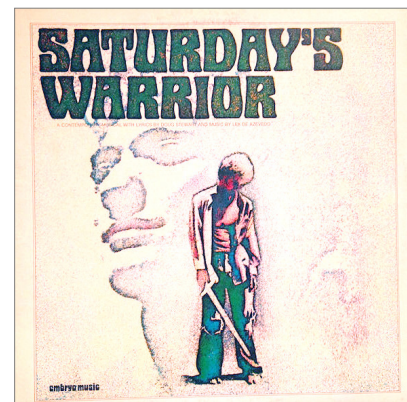


Janet Shattuck in 1973.

recording of a young couple, before they came to Earth to live, how they made plans to find each other and get married here, it was an interesting love story. [*Saturday's Warrior* ⇒]

August 15, Friday

I heard Jon Tibbets drive in the yard about 1:30 this morning. The little Tibbets kiddies were happy to see their Papa again this morning when they woke up. They've been in California,



visiting Aunt Janet in San Jose, for a few weeks. Jon has been in Kansas and Omaha working here on his basement and teaching night school in Omaha. Kathy was glad to have her Opel car again; she took Mary and the children (all but Julie) to Lyndon, or some such name. Anyway, Mary got a ticket for speeding on her way here on Wednesday night, so she had to go and talk to the judge. They came home about 3 p.m. It'll cost Mary \$16.00. Kathy went swimming with the children in the Overbrook pool this afternoon. She is delighted to have her little, green Opel car to drive again. Donna and little Paula came in my room and enjoyed a lovely Guy Lombardo medley with me on my Magnavox player. Rex and

Jon T. are working outside on something. Donna baked a chicken with rice and mushrooms. Spencer is sleeping in his crib. Donna brought me a glass of cold lemonade. She looks weary. Mary took a nap this afternoon, she doesn't feel up to par right now; she is pregnant. I do enjoy seeing these dear children, the Tibbetses and Gardners. They've played outside in the sand that Rex had brought to the farm for his cement work. It kept them happy and out from under foot in this busy household. Everyone is on the go, but me. Sorry about that, but my get up and go, got up and went.

August 16, Saturday

We have an overcast sky this morning, but it's warm. Marshes have the air conditioner on to keep the house cool. Donna made French toast for the family for breakfast. Later she brought me a tray with some, also. Little Paula sure loves her Aunt Kathy, she follows her around; she brought her little blanket in our room this morning and climbed in bed with Kathy. We had some excitement about 12:45 when a fire broke out in the south field, down by the cows and horses. Rex and Jon got in the truck and turned the hose water on it. Mary and Kathy went down, also. Donna called

the fire department in case they could not control it, but they got it out alright. Jon thinks the electric wire fence may have started the fire. The electric wire fences have always bothered my peace of mind, but that doesn't count. ☺ Rex has them all over the place. Donna phoned to let the fire department know that the fire was out, but they were on their way, so Rex told them he was sorry they had bothered them. I'm so thankful I wasn't here alone when it happened. Julie T. was the first one to notice the fire and smoke in the south field. Donna cooked a nice, beef roast dinner for her family; they ate and then Mary and her VW bus drove away, about 2:25 p.m. She took Emily Gardner with her, too. Precious Mary with a house full of action, for her to manage. Little Paula is with us; she hangs on to her Aunt Kathy. Jon stayed here to work on the home he is building for his parents. He hopes to have it ready for them to move into by Thanksgiving time. That will take some doing. I gave Mary \$4.00 to treat them, on their way home to Omaha. It is quiet around this place this evening. I miss the children's shouting and running around the place. Donna and Kathy went to Kansas City, Missouri for stake leadership meeting this evening. Mary phoned tonight from Omaha to let Jon know they arrived home safely. She wanted to ask him about the air conditioning, how to turn it on. P.S. Donna and Kathy and Paula visited with me for a while this afternoon. Rex was sleeping because he works tonight.

August 17, Sunday

Donna and Kathy came home last night about 10 p.m. Kathy said it was a very interesting session. The subject was "Single Adults" and she said, "Mother took her single adult with her." ☺ None of my family went to Kansas City for the stake conference this morning, but we all went to Ottawa to our branch sacrament meeting at 2:30 p.m. The cost of gasoline is high and we can't afford the long drives to Missouri and to Ottawa, too. I paid for the gas today, \$10.00. It was hot in church this afternoon, a huge fan was blowing the air around, but they do not have air conditioning in this chapel that we are renting from the Seventh Day Adventist Church. We had a small turnout this afternoon, because of the stake conference this morning, I presume. We had a short meeting; President North was the only speaker. I was glad to have the sacrament. Rex bought us all an Eskimo Pie on our way home, it was nice and refreshing. Donna had a good dinner ready in the crock pot. Kathy helped Jon T. for a while this evening. The family came in my apartment tonight and watched "60 Minutes" on the television. It is an interesting program. I do enjoy it when they come in my living room to visit with me. We had a lightening display and a little rain, but no loud thunder. There was a nice, cool breeze coming in the south windows. Kathy was going through some of her papers and discarding some things. She

had a lot of funny cartoons, that I think John and Ann sent to her. Anyway, we had a good laugh over them. I took a shower bath this morning before getting dressed. I think Mark Shattuck goes into the mission home in Salt Lake tomorrow. Janet and David will be there also to see him in the home okay. Sweet dreams.

August 18, Monday

Kathy went over to help Jon T. with his basement block wall. She says, "cement work is not her specialty." When Rex went to work with Jon, Kathy came home. I said, "did you get fired?" She said, "No, I quit." ☺ I ate some dry cereal and banana and graham crackers with milk in Donna's kitchen while she was ironing this morning. I made out a check for my church donations to President North or to LDS Church. I mailed it to President North (\$22.00). Donna and Kathy took Paula with them to Overbrook to the bank and the market. Kathy got her check and cashed it. Rex and Donna received a wedding announcement for Jeanne Marie Badger and Philip Terribilini's wedding. It will be August 28 at the LDS Institute of Religion in Santa Rosa. They will be married in the Oakland Temple. Little Paula went in her crib for a nap when they got home about 3:10 p.m. Kathy has been going through boxes she had stored here, to see what to leave here and what to take with her to Provo next month. She left a little night light on my dresser; it is a cute, little boy and girl kissing lamp. She left a pretty, little wash bowl and kitchen set in my bathroom on the lavatory top. She is getting her things boxed and it's a big problem, especially with little Paula's inquisitive interest in the whole project. Ha ha! Donna walked me over to the Tibbets lot this evening as the sun was about to go down in the west (a gorgeous sight). Kathy brought a couple of folding chairs for us to sit on. It was very interesting to watch the team work. Rex mixing cement, Jon taking the big bucket on the tractor with cement in to the north wall of the basement where Kathy was helping Jon cement the blocks together. The three dogs, Bobo, Holly, and Happy are in the midst of the action. I really enjoyed it. Donna and I came back to the house before dark tonight. Paula was asleep in her crib. Our well went dry tonight, no water!

August 19, Tuesday

We were all very disturbed last night when **our well went dry**. The water has been discolored lately, but Rex didn't realize that it was getting so low. We have been using a lot of water, lots of company, showers, baths, washing machine, dishwasher, and the fire that broke out in the south field, that took a lot of water, too. We have a little water this morning, but it is so muddy looking. I couldn't get to sleep last night until after daylight. Kathy had a very restless night, too. She got up and packed some of her clothes and then she went in the kitchen to read or write. She made up her mind to drive to





The windmill on the farm was used for pumping water long before the Gardners and Marshes bought the property. The well had been converted to an electric pump and the windmill wasn't functioning in the 1970s. It might have been nice to have it working along with the electric pump when the power was out? Running out of water was a shock to everyone!

Omaha today and take a few things Mary had left here and then, she'll leave tomorrow, I presume, for Salt Lake City and Provo. She wants to find work and an apartment to live in, and to sign up for her classes at BYU. It was a depressing day for her and for us. We hate to have her go alone. Her little Opel car was packed to capacity. Her daddy gave her a nice blessing before she left and some oil for the car. I slipped her \$15.00 to help on her trip, a ten-dollar bill for her five-dollar bill. I wish it could have been a lot more, but I'm a bit low on cash now myself. It clouded up and rained a little soon after Kathy left here. Jon drew a map for Kathy, directing her the best way to Omaha. Joan phoned from John's house in Salt Lake City; she and Mo will be coming for Emily and Paula in a few days, after Kim Gardner's wedding on the 22nd or 23rd. Emily is in Omaha with Mary and family now. Donna made waffles for the family this morning. I ate a small one about 10:45. Paula called for Kathy when she woke up. She'll miss Aunt Kathy, but she is happy with Grama Donna, too. Rex went to his night work in Overbrook tonight. P.S. I was right the first time, Kathy went to get something Mary had of hers and she also took a package to Mary from here.

August 20, Wednesday

I had a good night's sleep, for which I am very thankful. We have a pleasant day, but warm. Kathy forgot to take her pillow and her wristwatch, so Donna will mail them to her. Jon talked to Mary; she said Kathy will be leaving Omaha this morning on her way to Utah. Her Opel car worked perfect, from here to Omaha. We pray it will keep on going as well, for her long trip to Salt Lake City and Provo. Our thoughts are of her today, bless her heart. Jon is hard at work on his basement project. Rex is sleeping, he worked last night. Donna is giving Paula her lunch and then she'll go in her crib for a nap, we hope. Donna made a tuna fish sandwich for my lunch. I had applesauce and milk and a piece of applesauce cake. Rex got up and helped Jon with his job. Donna drove to Overbrook to pay some bills and shop. I listened to my TV stories. Paula woke up before Donna got home, but Rex came in and he took her out of her crib. When Donna came, she had a letter for me from Ethel Newbold. The poor dear had another bad fall on August 6 and had to have ten stitches in her scalp at the LDS Hospital. She was in downtown in Salt Lake City and the wind blew her hat off. She stooped to pick it up and she lost her balance, the poor dear. Our well went dry again today. Rex and Jon siphoned water from one of the ponds into the well. Rex learned later the cause of the well trouble. After watering the horses, a couple of days ago, the water hose was tossed to the ground and they forgot to turn off the tap, so the water has been running all that time, day and night. We hope our water problem is solved once and for all. Kathy left Mary's place and forgot to take the clean clothes she had washed and something else? Mary sent them to John in Salt Lake (Parcel Post). Well, I'm not the only member of this family to have a lapse of memory, eh?

August 21, Thursday

We have a pleasant morning with a nice breeze, but it will be another hot day, so says the weather man. I can hear little Paula giving Grama Donna a "run around" problem. It is about time for her nap, 11:30 a.m. Jon T. is busy with the tractor on his basement job. I presume Rex is asleep, he worked all night. I wonder where Kathy is now? She left Omaha yesterday on her way to Salt Lake City. I'll be happy to learn she is there okay. This seems to be a life full of anxiety. The phone just rang and it was Kathy, she got in Salt Lake, at John and Ann's house, about 3 a.m. this morning; she drove all night. *[Kathy remembers the last couple of hours were very hard to stay awake but she didn't want to spend the money or take the time to stop. She felt her guardian angel was helping her stay awake.]* Joan was still at John's so Kathy got to see her before she and Mo left for Kim's wedding. We'll have peace of mind for a spell; Kathy is in Salt Lake and there is water in our well. ☺ I listened to the TV stories and then dozed in my chair. Donna made a frozen salad, baked a cake, and made some macaroons cookies. The cookies will go in the salad, so it is not made yet. Donna talked about making it so I presumed she had made it. (Sorry.) Paula is awake now and busy as ever. We are all saying "no, no" don't touch. She would much rather have the untouchables than the things we give her to play with (he he) but she is a cutie. Donna cooked Lima beans and ham for dinner this evening.

It tasted good to me. Rex went to Overbrook to his night work. We are all weary, go, good night!

August 22, Friday

I was blessed with a good night's rest and had some sweet memory dreams. We have a hazy day and a pleasant breeze. Rex is asleep. Donna took Paula with her to Lawrence. She was going to mail Kathy's pillow and some letters and take care of some other business, plus some shopping at the market. I'm sorry I'm not able to take care of baby Paula but I'm doing well to take care of this old gal, L.V. I made myself a tuna fish sandwich (one slice of bread). I ate a small dish of applesauce and I warmed a cup of milk. I cleaned up the dishes in the sink and put them away. I was ready to relax in my swivel chair by then. This summer has been hot, but not vicious weather, like we have had here in Kansas in the past. Our breeze is turning into a wind now (it is 12:15 noon). Jon is working on his basement job next door. Donna took him a big thermos bottle of something cold to drink before she left. I saw her and little Paula trudging across the west field to take it to him. Donna came home about 1:30. She fed Paula and put her down for a nap. Then, she came in and read a letter from Lydia and one from the Joe Allens to me. Rex and Jon came in later and drank ice cold lemonade. Paula was up and we all enjoyed the cold drink. I helped Donna do the dishes. Joan phoned, we're expecting her tomorrow, I think. She is coming for Emily and Paula. Mary will be coming also to bring Emily here. A load of sand came for Jon's basement project this evening about 5 p.m. We had a nice dinner this evening, chicken and noodle soup, a lime Jello salad, hot biscuits, and cake. Donna gave Paula a bath and let her play in the water for about 15 minutes. Lydia said in her letter that LaPriel gave a luncheon while Blanche and Darlene were visiting. She had Doris, Bonnie, Lydia, Elias', three girls and Elaine at the Sky Room of the Hotel

Utah. She also said that Edna and George Lambert's son died in Hawaii recently from a heart attack. His name was Aldous. He was about 60 years old. *[Photo of Aldous's mother below.]*

August 23, Saturday

We have another hot day, but there is a nice breeze and it is coming in my south windows. Donna took little Paula to the dairy with her to get some milk this morning. The baby has kept Grama Donna on the go all morning. Oh, she is a busy one. Jon has been driving the tractor all morning, working on his basement job. I have several letters to answer, but they'll have to wait until I feel better. I fixed myself a sandwich and a cup of warm milk at noon. Donna is preparing a big pot of food for her family; she expects to have 19 here this evening with the Gardners and the Tibbetses and us here. Rex went to work at 7 a.m. today. He is working seven to three. That is better than the night work. He will get a good night's sleep if they'll let him work this day shift. It is better for all concerned. I prevailed upon this old gal to dust the furniture in my apartment; it is a major project for me. Paula is having a struggle to go to sleep and she is tired. (So is Grama Donna.) It is 1:05 p.m. now. We expect Mary and the children anytime now. Later: it is now 3:15 and our Tibbets children have arrived, a happy family delighted to see their Papa Jon again. Emily was so happy to see her baby sister, Paula, and vice versa. Paula calls her "Embyl." Joan and family are on the way here. "Happy days are here again." The kitchen is the popular room in this house. Rex came home a few minutes after Mary and children arrived. Donna drove to Overbrook for a few items she needed. I think Paula was with her. Mary and children went to look at the basement Jon is working on. Donna invited me to go to Overbrook with her, but I'm not up to the effort, sad, eh? The Mo Gardners arrived about 8 p.m. Richard Gardner was with them. Paula and Emily were happy to see Joan and



In 1975 Elvie lives in Kansas, Harriet died in June, Rhoda lives in Salt Lake City, Susie died in 1971, Annie died in 1973, Edna lives in Salt Lake City, but her son died in December of 1974.



Elvie Bailey, Harriet Strong, Rhoda Fuller, Susie Bailey, Annie Bailey, Edna Donelson, cousins, sisters, and dear friends.

Mo. Donna gave everyone a nice dinner. Richard left with Sherm, Marshall, and Janet tonight about 10:40 p.m. P.S. Sherm got my TV picture working well. I'm happy to have my television working okay now. Sherm has the know how!

August 24, Sunday

We have a windy Sabbath morning and a busy one around this farm. Everyone is getting ready to go somewhere, but me. Rex and Donna left early; she had to play for Sunday School and I presume for sacrament meeting, too. Annie Hall couldn't be there today. The Jon Tibbetses drove away soon after 8 a.m., too, on their way to Omaha. The Gardners left before 10 a.m. on their way to Northbrook, Illinois. I had a miserable night; gas pains disturbed my rest. I got up this morning to say goodbye to our Tibbetses and Gardners (bless 'em). I gave Joan and Mary each \$2.00 to buy the little kiddies something to nibble on while driving. I was out of gum and almost out of money, so that is the best I could do. The girls left the kitchen neat; I did a few dishes that were in the sink. Joan left a \$20.00 bill on the table, under the center piece. The note said, "Thanks for everything." They are thoughtful children. It will be quiet around this place now. We'll miss Paula, especially because we had her a couple of weeks. Emily was with Mary and her family in Omaha. We had her a few days before Mary took her. I enjoyed listening to some beloved Mormon hymns this afternoon while eating my dinner from a TV tray. Donna took a nap this afternoon, she looked tired. I think Rex is sleeping, also. The wind is still blowing strong. We do need some rain. Our fine neighbor Ralph Gale and son brought Donna some tomatoes and potatoes from his garden. She was pleased. I was very sorry to learn of Rick Shattuck's accident last Friday in Salt Lake while jumping on a trampoline. He fell off and broke his arm. It is in a cast now. Mark is in the mission home in Salt Lake. The wind is still blowing and it is too warm for comfort, even now at 10:40 p.m. Good night. P.S. We are back to the three of us tonight. We miss them, but we are glad to relax, also.

August 25, Monday

Happy birthday to Doris Davies.

Doris dear, you are often in my thoughts, I am very fond of you.

You were an adorable child, you're a lovely lady, too.

I hope your birthday is pleasant, free from doubts or fears,

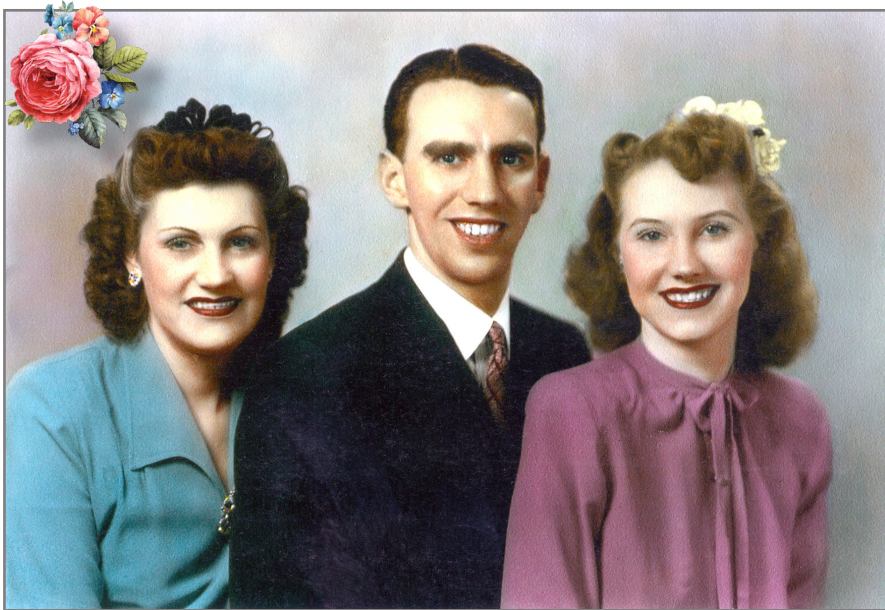
May you live long and celebrate many more happy years.

Donna was typing when I went to bed last night. I was wrong in yesterday's diary record. Donna led the singing, she didn't play for it. Annie Hall played the piano. It was Jeanne Bickerstaff that was sick and couldn't lead the singing, she had a miscarriage. Sorry I get things wrong. We have a cloudy morning with a feeling of rain in the air. We've had a little mist. Donna is very busy getting bedding and

other things put away to make her house look normal again for her Relief Society Social tomorrow, here in her home. It is a meeting with her board, not a social, but she is serving them a nice luncheon. They'll be making plans for the coming Relief Society season. Donna stewed three chickens today. I helped her bone them tonight. She is going to make a chicken salad in the morning. She has really worked hard all day getting her house spotless, the baby finger marks off the walls and windows. She shampooed the kitchen rug and vacuumed the other rugs. She even went out to the mailbox and cut the weeds down around it, and the big stone gate. I don't see where she gets her vigorous energy. I'm exhausted just watching her. Rex cleaned the garage and mowed some weeds along the driveway. He also fixed the mailbox post, it was about to fall over. I did help with the dishes this evening. I'm sorry I can't do more to help, but I do have my problems, sorry about that. ☹ We've had a little rain this evening, but not much, we need more, but not tomorrow!

August 26, Tuesday

It was cooler last night, I rested much better. Donna's Relief Society Board arrived about 10:30 this morning. They had their meeting to plan for the season's work and then she served them a lovely chicken salad luncheon. I stayed in my room; Donna brought some dry cereal, graham crackers, and milk to me before they had all arrived this morning. There were seven sisters and one small child. Donna took my Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls out for the baby to play with. After the meeting most of the sisters came in to say hello to me. I was invited to eat lunch with them, but I wasn't hungry then at 12:30 noon. Donna's hot rolls smelled so good. Rex came and ate his lunch and then he took a nap; he is working tonight at the Overbrook nursing home. I went to the kitchen and dried the dishes for Donna; she was really tired. She took off her pretty, long dress and put on her night gown to relax and have a nap. The phone got her up a couple of times. I hope it doesn't ring again. Donna read to me a letter from John and Ann, and one from Kathy.



Doris Strong Davies, Lewis Garrett Strong, and half sister, Bonnie Jean Bailey circa 1944. They have the same mother, Elsie Garrett Strong Bailey. Bonnie is half sister to Elvie, too.

After, we did the company dishes. Ann enclosed some snapshots in color of their new home in Salt Lake City. She wants them back after we've seen them. It is a nice-looking little home. I'm happy for them. After Donna had a little nap, she and I enjoyed some chicken salad, olives, pickled beets, tomatoes, her delicious rolls and some of her frozen dessert. Mm good! I sat in Marshes' living room for over an hour and looked out the window. Donna was outside picking up cement sacks and papers over on the Tibbets lot and burning them in her incinerator. Rex went to work tonight, 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. It is bed time for me, good night.

August 27, Wednesday

We have a cloudy sky with hazy sunshine. Donna fixed a nice brunch for me; an egg, toasted roll, fruit, and Postum. Rex got up about noon; he and Donna drove to Garnett to talk to Doris Crider's son Jim. He is in jail there. Doris wanted Rex to talk to him. I was invited to drive to Garnett with them but I didn't want to go anywhere, feeling as I do, weak and weary. It is more comfortable here at home, thank you. I couldn't get into the mood to answer letters (sorry about that). I sat in the kitchen this early evening and talked with Donna while she did some ironing. A few years ago, I would have enjoyed doing the ironing but now the ironing board and the iron seem to weigh ten pounds more than they did before. Donna and I ate our dinner from our TV trays in my room at six. Rex was sleeping; he ate later. We all watched television tonight. Donna brought a pan of hot Epsom salt water for me to soak my left hand to try and get the swelling to subside. Some kind of an insect bit me last night. I presume it was a spider, but not sure. We have all kinds of bugs and insects on this farm. We had some lightening tonight and some wind. The **Osage Orange** trees at the east of our house are very pretty in full foliage with the big, yellow balls of orange like growth on them. Too bad they are not good to eat. We enjoyed a nice, cool breeze tonight., I'm so thankful for the relief from that hot spell. It has been a hot summer.



Osage Orange trees

August 28, Thursday

We have rain this morning and we do need it. I'm surely enjoying the cooler weather; there is a feeling of fall in the air, I love it! Our hot summer took its toll on me. My hand is much better today. The swelling has gone down a lot; that mosquito or spider bite is under control. Rex was up before daylight; he took a shower and went to work at the nursing home in Overbrook, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. I got up at 9:30,

dressed and combed my hair, made my bed, and went to the kitchen for breakfast. I had Special K Cereal, applesauce and toast. Donna spent her morning answering letters. She wrote a note in Rick's get-well card; he has a broken arm from a trampoline jump. I wrote a letter to Violet this morning. I relaxed for an hour and watched television until my shoulders and chest felt better, then I started a letter to Lydia Paul. Rex came home from work about 3:15 p.m. I did get my letter written, so I'm glad to have it ready to mail with Violet's letter. Jon and Jody Tibbets arrived this evening from Omaha, about eight o'clock. Jon said it rained most of the way here. Jody decided he wanted to sleep in my other twin bed instead of on the couch bed with his father in Marshes' living room. I turned off the television so he could go to sleep. It was ten o'clock, time for me to go to bed anyway.

August 29, Friday

We have a pretty morning after our electric shower last night. I slept late because of the rather restless night. Rex went to work at 6:45 this morning. Little Jody slept in my other twin bed. Because of the wind and rain, Donna had to come in and close our windows. I think she had a restless night, too. She drove to Overbrook and mailed our letters. Jon and little son Jody spent the morning over in the Tibbetses' basement project. The dog, Bobo, was back and forth at will. Donna made a waffle for me when she came home from Overbrook. Rex came home from work at 3:15 p.m. He says he will be working days now. That pleases Donna, it is hard to keep quiet with the housework and etcetera, when someone is trying to sleep all day. This afternoon Donna brought a letter from Kathy to read to me. She has found a part time job, and a place to stay in Orem, Utah. She has also made some arrangement with a loan company for a student loan, to carry her through the college term. She was happy to find that she knew one of the girls in her housing apartment, Carolyn Dunn. *[Carolyn was in the same apartment with Kathy. Carolyn was Marie Dunn Smith's older sister who was Kathy's friend from San Rafael.]* It isn't in Provo, but Orem is nearby. I surely hope everything will work out well for our precious Kathy. Jody slept in the living room with his Papa Jon tonight, so I listened to the ten o'clock news on television. It is very warm tonight, not even a breeze. I hope we sleep better tonight.

August 30, Saturday

We have fluffy, white clouds in our blue sky this morning. Rex went to work at 6:45 a.m. I slept well last night and that's a real blessing. I ate some dry cereal, half a grapefruit, and drank milk for my lunch at noon. Donna has been busy all morning washing, cleaning, baking, and ironing. No wonder her back aches. Little Jody was in and out between his father's work on the basement next door and Grama Donna's work over here. He feels at loose ends without any children to play with. I'm sorry I can't find the energy to entertain him. This hot summer has taken a toll from me. Donna made a delicious looking carrot and pineapple cake to take to her neighbors the Gales. Ralph has been so generous with tomatoes and potatoes and vegetables from their garden. The cake is a big, round one, with a hole in

the center [*Bundt cake*]. It is like an Angel food cake only much larger. Jody thinks we should keep it here. ☺ It does look and smell good. Donna vacuumed in my suite this afternoon. She went to Overbrook with Jon and Jody; they met Rex when he got off work. He had the truck and Jon got some cement he needed. I was glad to get a letter written to Blanche in time for Donna to take it to mail in Overbrook. They left here about 2:30 p.m. Rex gets off at three o'clock. Donna put icing on the carrot spice cake and took it to the Gales' home. Mary Gale was happy to receive it, she had company visiting for a week (her parents and a sister). She gave Donna another bag of their beautiful tomatoes, so happiness all around, eh? I took a shower bath and went to bed. Donna sat in my living room and read just in case I needed her. I got along alright. Night all.

August 31, Sunday

It is a hazy Sabbath morning. My family all went to church (Jon, Jody, Rex and Donna). I stayed in bed and rested. I'm not well enough to make the effort to get up and go but I enjoyed the peaceful rest with thanksgiving in my heart that my family are all in church and they love the gospel of Jesus Christ as much as I do, and as my parents and grandparents did before me. Donna left some beef cooking in the crock pot. They arrived home about 2:15 p.m. She had a nice dinner on the table very soon after. Donna and I were doing the dishes when the visiting brothers came, Paul and John Dokos. Rex was asleep, but Donna woke him. Jon and Jody had gone out for a hike to the pond or somewhere. After our brothers left, Rex went to do his branch visiting. He had a bowl full of ice cream to fortify him first. I played some lovely Mormon Hymns on the Magnavox and relaxed. This evening we all watched the "60 minutes" program on television about the way our schools are being conducted now, the change in text books and etcetera. It is amazing, no wonder our young people are confused about what is right and what is wrong. The parents are confused, also. I watched the Jerry Lewis Marathon endurance program for the Multiple Sclerosis fund. It was going all night and tomorrow too until they collected their goal. I turned it off before ten o'clock. I'm weary and hot. Good night. Correction, it is the Jerry Lewis telethon, not marathon.

September 1, Monday

Donna made a beef sandwich for my brunch. She had baked a cake and done a washing before I got up. This afternoon she brought my dear, old treadle sewing machine out of my clothes closet. It is a Triumph, a wedding gift to me from my parents. Mary and Kathy both want it, but I told Mary a few years ago when she asked if I'd let her have it, that I would give it to her when I gave up housekeeping. She has a place to display the old relic in her home now. Donna cleaned out all of the drawers and polished the sewing machine, ready for Jon to take with him to Omaha. It brings back old memories. We have a hot September 1 (Labor Day). The family is enjoying some cold watermelon in the kitchen now at 3:35 p.m. I find that fruit doesn't agree too well with me, so I eat very little of it. The Jerry Lewis telethon was going strong when I turned Channel 13 on at noon today, but channel 5 had my stories going so I didn't miss them.

Donna baked potatoes and fried chicken for our dinner this evening. Jody has 4 or 5 little crayfish he got from one of the ponds. They resemble a small lobster. He is taking them in a jar of water to Omaha with him this evening. They left the farm about 7:30 tonight with the old Triumph treadle sewing machine my parents gave me for a wedding gift, 61 years ago. Joan phoned this evening to wish us a happy Labor Day holiday. All is well with them.



Treadle sewing machine that Elvie gave to Mary in 1975. Mary displayed it in her home for over forty years. Her son Chris worked on it and got it running again. Mary gave it to her oldest granddaughter, Emily Arnott, a few years ago. It is now displayed in her home, pictured above.

September 2, Tuesday

We have a warm, windy day with hazy, humid weather. Donna fixed a melted cheese sandwich and some sliced peaches and milk for my breakfast and lunch at noontime. I repeat words in writing as well as in talking, oh me! Rex was a little later getting home; he stopped at the market before coming home. I didn't rest very well last night, so I'm not feeling very well today, but of course that is nothing new, eh? Donna typed some notes to her Relief Society board and a birthday card to an elderly gentleman in our branch. He is 85 years old. His name has slipped my mind, come to think of it, he is not a member of the LDS Church, but his daughter is. I do not know either of them. I went out in Donna's living room where the air conditioning is going. It is nice and cool there. Rex was sleeping in the swivel chair. I was sitting on the couch. Donna came and sat beside me; we looked through the lovely, new "Family Home Evening" book. It is really wonderful for families to study and play the games and etcetera. We noticed what we thought was a little stick of wood on the heater. Donna thought that Jody had left it there; she walked over to pick it up and it hopped down on the carpet; it was a little toad. She wasn't about



to pick it up, but she put her wire strainer over it, until Rex could take it outside. We do have some interesting, little creatures that get into this farm house, ugh! [*The range of the Plain's leopard frog is throughout Kansas.*]

September 3, Wednesday

I'm very thankful for a good night's sleep, and I was amazed to see the time, 11:45, when I awoke this morning. I got up and dressed, combed my silver locks, made my bed, said my prayer, and went to the kitchen for my brunch. Donna made some toast for me; I ate some grain cereal and milk and applesauce. Donna brought the mail from the box. I received a notice from the Kansas State Bank, in Overbrook. It said my Social Security check of \$264.50 was deposited to my checking account. Donna was surprised that their Social Security check was in the mailbox and not in the bank as they had requested. She went to the bank after lunch and took care of it. I had her draw out \$240 from my checking account; the \$200 is for payments on this farm, and \$40.00 in cash for my needs this month. Rex stopped for a haircut after work, so he was later getting home today. We have another humid, hot day. The two air conditioners are going all day to cool off this house. Donna brought me a cup of cold lemonade about 3:30 p.m. She is a very thoughtful darling; I'm fortunate indeed, to have her. This hot weather takes its toll from me. Of course, the years do have a lot to do with it, too. The old gal, ain't what she used to be, ha ha! The old swivel chair has got me. Jon and Mary phoned tonight to ask Rex about something. We watched TV programs tonight. Hal Holbrook starred as President Abraham Lincoln in an interesting story. We heard 15 minutes of the ten o'clock news and then turned off the lights and retired for the night. Sweet dreams. P.S. Rex had to fix a flat tire before coming home this afternoon after his hair cut.

September 4, Thursday

I slept well last night, but oh, the crazy dreams, they were fantastic. We have another hot, hazy, humid day. Rex went to his job in Overbrook this morning. Donna fixed me some toast, an egg, glass of milk, and a dish of fruit for my brunch. I watched the soap box operas on television, while I was eating. Oh, do they ever have problems! Donna baked a big batch of chocolate chip cookies to fill the jar she bought for a gift for someone in our branch. It is Sr. Westhoff's daughter; it is a wedding gift. She brought a cookie to me. Mm good! Rex came home from work about 3:15 p.m. They ate some watermelon; Donna invited me to have some with them, but I had a little gas problem, so I declined the kind offer. The distress is in my heart location, not painful, but a little ache at times if I move around. Well, I wrote too soon, Donna brought me a little piece of the heart of the melon; it was so sweet and cold, I surely did enjoy eating it, and I feel fine. She came in my apartment later and read some short stories to me. Rex was sleeping. I went to Marshes' kitchen this evening for a nice fish dinner. Mary and Jon phoned while we were having dinner; she said it rained hard all day in Omaha. She and Jon are going to pick a lot of tomatoes tomorrow; she wants Donna to help her get them bottled for both families. Rex and Donna want me to go with them in the truck tomorrow afternoon and stay overnight in Omaha. She doesn't want to leave me here alone, and I dread the long ride, plus being away from my own bedroom. Problems, eh? Tomorrow is another day, eh? P.S. Rex and Donna watched television with me tonight until after the ten o'clock news. Good night!

September 5, Friday

It rained off and on last night; it is cloudy and cool today. I had a fairly good night with many frustrating dreams. I'm glad the weather is cooler. Donna made some Cream of Wheat and toast for my brunch. She wants me to go to Omaha with her and Rex this afternoon, so I'll make the effort to get ready. She brought a letter from Janet with a picture of Doug and his boyfriend on their unicycle bikes. It was in their local newspaper. The kids can really ride them and perform, too. Donna made some tuna fish sandwiches and cupcakes for us to take for lunch on our trip, also a pan full for the Tibbets family to enjoy. We left the farm house about 3:45 this afternoon. Neighbor Ralph Gale is going to feed Rex's cows and horses while he is away. We stopped in Topeka to shop. Rex bought a cement tamper for \$23.00 with tax. I let them write the check on my account book. I'll be glad to pay for the tamper. Rex bought chocolate malts to enjoy with our lunch or after it. The Tibbets family gave us a royal welcome tonight, about 9 p.m. The children had been waiting all evening for us to arrive. I drank a warm glass of milk and ate a small piece of Mary's delicious grasshopper pie. It is a frozen dessert with a crushed cookie crust, mint flavor, green color, chocolate chips in it and whipped cream. I can't imagine why it's called grasshopper pie, but it is sure good. We were tired from the long hot drive in the pickup truck. So, the beds felt good. Sweet, little Julie gave up her pretty room and four poster bed for me to enjoy. Mary and Jon insisted on Rex and Donna sleeping in their room with the king-sized bed. Julie slept on the couch in the living room and all the others went upstairs to beds. Night all.

September 6, Saturday

Rex, Donna, Mary, and Jon got started on the boxes of tomatoes that the Tibbets family had picked yesterday from a farm a few miles from their home. They canned **69 quart bottles of tomatoes** in about four hours. This afternoon Rex and Jon went to the farm and picked another bushel of tomatoes. Mary will put them up later. Rex and Jon loaded the big bathtub, with shower, into the pickup truck. Jon is going to install it in the basement of the house he is building for his parents next door to us here on Marshes'



Mound. This evening Jon and Mary took us out to dinner and a tour of the district where the violent tornado struck Omaha a few weeks ago. It was only a few miles from their home. Oh, what a disaster of such sudden misfortune. I'm so very thankful our dear children were not in the path of that whirling cloud of calamity. Now for a happy thought, our dinner in the fabulous Plank House Restaurant at 8736 W. Dodge Road in Omaha. Jon and Rex ordered the steak dinner, Donna and I had lamb chops. We all had baked potato. In fact, we only ordered four dinners; I could not eat much, so I was well fed with one chop and a part of potato and a bowl of soup. It was fun eating in this pretty place by candlelight. Oh, the cost was high, nothing less than \$6.00 on that menu. Jon wouldn't allow me to pay the tip. Mary left a young boy, about 14 or 15, with her children this evening. They love to have him babysit. I think he is LDS. I gave each of the children a 25¢ piece before we left to come home about 8:30 p.m. Little Spencer wanted to come to Overbrook with us, he was in tears. [Marshall Gardner was baptized today. See pictures by September 13.]

September 7, Sunday

We have a pleasant Sabbath day, a bit windy, but that is Kansas. Rex and Donna went to church this morning; she took the glass jar of cookies to someone in the branch. We didn't get home from Omaha until about 12:45 a.m., it was almost 1 a.m. I was too exhausted to get up and go anywhere this morning. I stayed in bed until 12:15 noon. I needed to rest after my two days of traveling around. Rex and Donna came home about 2:45 p.m. She brought a hot roast beef sandwich to me at 3 p.m. It is fast day and she and Rex are fasting the 24 hours, so they'll eat later. She didn't want me to fast that long and I didn't feel hungry, but I felt weak or gaunt. Our church teaches that small children and old people shouldn't go on the long fast. Rex and Donna slept a couple of hours this afternoon and they needed the rest, too, and fasting isn't as tedious if you are asleep. We stopped at the mailbox last night on our way in to the farm and there was an announcement of the arrival of a baby girl, to Ann and Dick Webster. Her name is Karri Lynn and she was born August 28. She weighed 9 pounds and 8 ounces. Ann had to have her C-section. She says the baby is a doll and looks like Dick. She has lots of dark hair. Elaine is helping Ann and everyone is okay. I'm happy for them, we'll send the baby a gift soon.

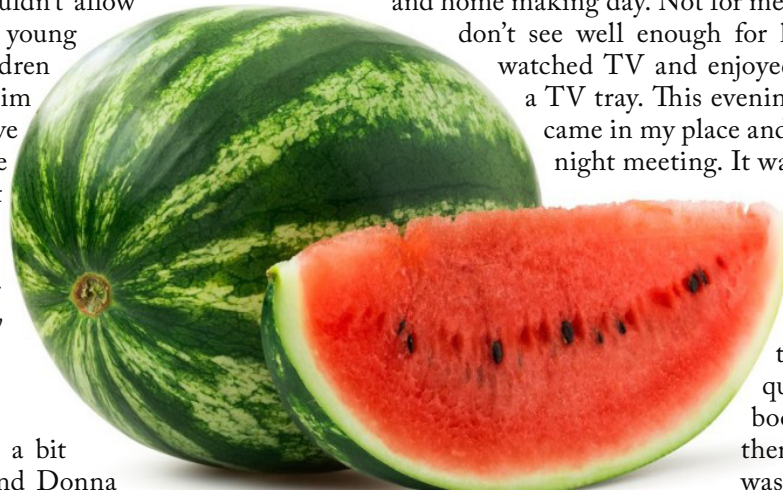
A verse to baby:

*We're glad to add you, little Karri Lynn to
our family tree,*

*You're a lucky little girl to belong to the Richard
Webster Family.*

We're delighted to know darling, at last you are here.

*May you always be blessed with happiness, precious little
dear.*



September 8, Monday

We have an overcast day and a nice breeze. I'm glad it is cooler. Donna brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, some toast, and milk, with a dish of apricots and a cookie for my brunch. Rex went to work this morning before daylight, about 6:30. He came home at 3:15. He had some watermelon and went to bed on the couch. I ate a little melon with Rex and Donna. I composed a little verse to Ann and Dick Webster's baby girl. (See September 7, bottom of page.) Donna thought she'd get a letter from Kathy, but not today. She baked potatoes for dinner. It has been a quiet day around here, sorta' a sleep day. Tomorrow will be a busy day for Donna, she has a Relief Society luncheon and home making day. Not for me anymore, my eyes don't see well enough for handcraft work. I watched TV and enjoyed my dinner from a TV tray. This evening Rex and Donna came in my place and we had our home night meeting. It was very interesting.

Rex and Donna took turns at reading from the lovely Home Evening Manual; they asked the questions in the book; we discussed them. The subject was, "The Light and Dark of our World." Our refreshments, **watermelon**. (I didn't eat any.) It is calm and warm tonight, no wind, but it is cloudy. Good night.

September 9, Tuesday

I heard Rex up this morning getting ready to go to work in the Overbrook nursing home. He left here about 6:15 a.m.; it was not daylight yet. I had a little smarting hurt in the back of my head last night. It disturbed my sleep until I got up in the wee hours and brushed my hair and took out some bobby pins. I didn't hear Donna leave this morning for her Relief Society in Ottawa. I slept until almost 10:30. I got dressed and put my house in order and then went to the kitchen and made a tuna fish sandwich and a cup of hot water with honey and canned milk in it (my brunch). I watched my TV stories and enjoyed the cool breeze coming through the south windows. Donna did some shopping before coming home. Rex got home at 3:25. I was enjoying a recording of "Great Strauss Waltzes," by the Vienna Concert Orchestra. Kurt Richter is the conductor. It was about 4:45 when Donna came home. She bought a darling, little dress to send to Ann Webster's new baby girl. It was on sale, marked down from \$5.88 to \$3.88, with tax, it was \$4.00 even. It's white, with blue gingham trim and embroidered in colored thread the words, "Little Angel." Donna also bought four packages of pads for me, so I got back \$1.00, out of my \$10.00. Donna bought the nice card to send with the baby gift. She'll pay for the mailing, too. I'm very thankful to have her do my shopping, believe me!

September 10, Wednesday

We have a cloudy sky and it did rain for a few minutes about 1 p.m. It is a bit cooler, but pleasant. Donna made a chicken sandwich for my brunch at noon, and some Postum, and sliced peaches. At 3 p.m. she brought me a glass of lime Kool-Aid. She walked to the mailbox with her letter to Ann Webster, congratulating them for the baby girl and to tell them she was mailing a little gift for baby Karri Lynn. She gift wrapped the darling little dress and got it ready to mail Parcel Post. Rex worked today at the nursing home, 6:45 to 3 p.m. Donna baked a cake this afternoon; our house smells good. She keeps so busy all the time (then, there is me). This evening, Donna sat on the floor and went through all of our recordings on the music stand and separated my records from hers. We put hers on the television shelf; (the stand the TV sits on). They were packed too tight on the Magnavox rack and it was too hard to find the one we wanted to play. It is much better this way. We all watched television tonight. Donna was busy cutting out Betty Crocker coupons; she has a sack full to do. The Relief Society sisters have collected them to get some stainless flatware for the Society. It is a tedious job, but she is doing it while listening to television. Sorry I can't help her; my eyes and hands will not respond as they used to. My fingers are getting sore and stiff. But I can still count my many blessings, yes, indeed.

September 11, Thursday

We had a rather wild night with lightening, thunder, and rain. Rex came in my rooms and shut the windows down. I stayed in bed until eleven this morning. I could see Rex and Donna from my west window; they were over at the Tibbetses' basement wall. It started to rain, so they both came home. I ate some dry cereal with sliced banana and milk, and graham crackers in the kitchen, then I watched the TV stories for entertainment in my own apartment. It is getting darker, looks like more rain is in store. Rex didn't work today; he went for the mail and we had a letter from Violet and one from Joan. Donna read them both to me. Joan's children are in school, all but the two little girls, Emily and Paula. Violet has had a lot of family stop by to say hello, Glen and Irene and Bev, on their way to take Bev to BYU, Ray and Miriam and Janet who had been to visit Marilyn and husband in Provo, Ruth and Arnold Peirce, on their way to Salt Lake. Arnold and Otto gave Violet a blessing. Arnold has been a bishop of our LDS Church twice; he is a fine man. I can hear Donna's typewriter going, so she is busy with letters or Relief Society work. I've been listening to lovely records. Rex is doing some cement work in his basement. We have a dark sky and a strong wind this afternoon. It is 4:20 p.m. Donna went out to help Rex get the cement down the shoot into the basement. She ended up by getting in the basement to level the cement that Rex sent down the shoot. What next? I'm listening to a very lovely Guy Lombardo medley, on my player. It has turned a lot cooler this afternoon. My crocheted lap robe feels good.

September 12, Friday

We have blue sky and sunshine this morning. Donna went to Overbrook to the market. I gave her a \$20.00 bill to help with the food and to buy some gum for me to have for the kiddies birthday cards. She brought \$15.00 back to me, I

thought she'd spend \$10.00 or more. I want to help; I did make her take a couple of dollars more anyway. I'm enjoying my blue afghan around my legs today. I like this cooler weather. I fixed my own brunch at noon; tomato soup and crackers, banana, and a small piece of cake. Rex is working on the Tibbetses' basement wall. A big truck came this morning with cement blocks for Jon's basement job. Donna watched the TV stories for a while with me; she was cutting out Betty Crocker coupons for their Relief Society's flatware. Today's mail brought a letter from Ann and John. Their home is almost ready for them to move into; they're a happy couple. They drove down to Provo last weekend, to see Kathy and to take a few things to her that she'd left in Salt Lake. They said her apartment is nice. Kathy typed a long, carbon copy, family letter. It was interesting, and we are glad to know she is happy there with school, church, and many nice friends. She has had a few dates and fun times. She sees friends she knows from all over, Chicago, Fremont, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, and etcetera. She likes her part time work in Castleton's Department Store. Donna vacuumed my rugs and dusted my furniture this afternoon (precious daughter). Our Tibbets boys arrived in Jon's little, new, blue gray VW car this evening about 5:45 o'clock. Jody and Spencer came with their daddy and they came in to say hello to me. Jon stopped at his place next door. Rex has been working over there today. P.S. The men hitched the pony "Little Rascal" up to the pony cart and Jon rode in the cart this evening. A first time for all.

Location of Homes for Kathy—Birth to BYU.

1. Sierra Madre (Sierra Madre Blvd.)
2. Monrovia (Norumbega)
3. Snowcrest (Oateses' cabin)
4. Mt. Baldy (home)
5. Petaluma (Apartment on D Street)
6. Penngrove (Apartment over Terribilini's garage)
7. Penngrove (Terribilini's rental house)
8. Petaluma (Magnolia Lane)
9. Petaluma (2004 Chapman Lane)
10. San Rafael (75 Knight Drive)
11. Terra Linda (424 Miller Creek Road)
12. Fremont (4677 Porter Street)
13. BYU (Heritage Halls)
14. Petaluma (Apartment)
15. Cotati (121 Highland Ave)
16. Cotati (William's rental house)
17. Overbrook, KS (the farm but just a visit)
18. Northbrook, IL (Lived with Gardners)
19. San Jose (Lived with Shattucks)
20. BYU (Apartment in Orem)



With all the moves, Kathy had many friends from many places at BYU. The trick was to remember names and keep it all straight in her mind. Later in 1975 she meets someone she saw but didn't know at BYU in 1971. This someone proves to be very important!

September 13, Saturday

We are enjoying a pleasant morning; it is cloudy and cool. Rex and Jon are working on the Tibbetses' garage foundation, next door. Jody and Spencer were with them for a while. Later, Jody talked Grama Donna into going fishing in the pond with them. They caught a fish, but it broke the line and got away with the hook and bait. (Poor fish!) I ate some dry cereal and milk with sliced banana and graham crackers in my room, from a TV tray. Donna gave the children their lunch when they came home at noon time. Jody was pleased with some tiny sea shells he picked up. He is the explorer type, always searching and thoroughly examining everything he finds. Julie and Greg are singing in a church program in Omaha. I presume it's a Primary program, as Mary is the Primary President there. This afternoon finds me dozing in my swivel chair, I'm a weak and sluggish old gal, sorry about that. Donna brought a letter from Joan for me to read. Marshall was baptized on Saturday, September 6 and confirmed on Sunday; Miller gave him a beautiful blessing. After church they took pictures of their kids in a park. They had ice cream after the picture taking and that was a big hit! Their ward picked 100 boxes of tomatoes on Monday night. It was a welfare project and a family night project, too. Miller, Sherm, and Janet helped pick. Joan was the babysitter. Donna went over to see how Rex and Jon are doing with their job next door. Jody and Spencer are having a very happy time over there, playing in the sand pile. It's a pretty afternoon, not too hot, which is nice for the men to work over there. Donna baked a custard and some chocolate chip cookie squares today. She asked me to go for a walk outside with her, but I'm not feeling up to par. I ate a little watermelon that she brought to me. It was sweet and cold, I enjoyed it. I walked out by the car at 4:30 this afternoon and enjoyed the lovely sunshine and the fresh air for a few minutes. It is a lovely day. Jon and his two boys left for Omaha this evening about eight o'clock. I clipped and filed my fingernails today. I also wrote a check for my church donations, \$12.00. Good night.

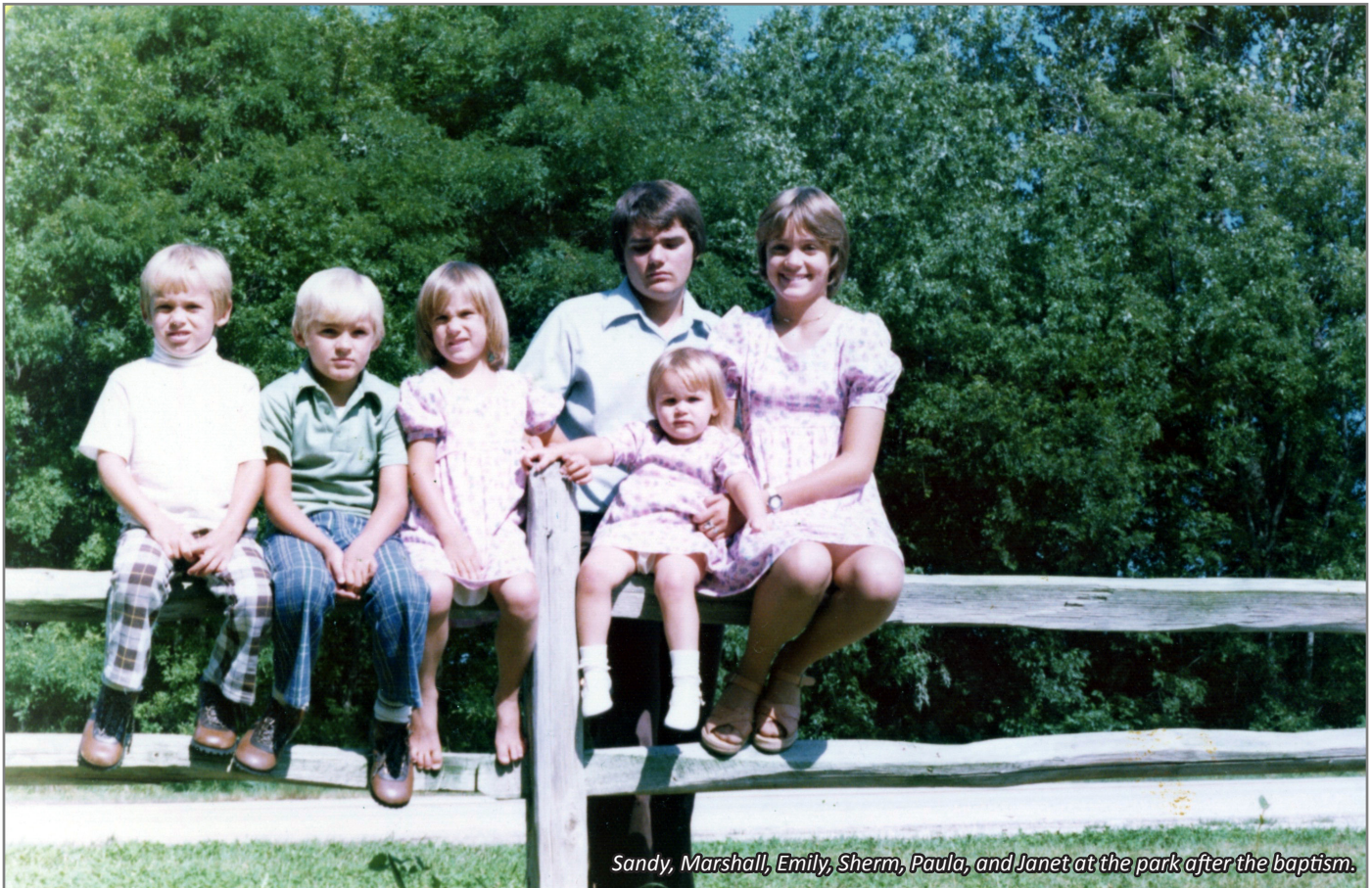
September 14, Sunday

It is cool and cloudy this Sabbath morning. Rex went to work early this morning at the nursing home. He works from 6:45 to 3 p.m. Donna went to church alone in Ottawa. This is a long session for her with Sunday School, sacrament meeting, and then some Relief Society business after church. It'll be after 3 p.m. before she gets home. I stayed in bed until eleven. I wanted to get up at noon, but I couldn't stay in bed any longer. I put my little suite in order and myself, too. I went to the kitchen and drank a cup of hot water, with milk and honey in it. I ate a few spoons full of sweetened grain cereal. And I cleaned up

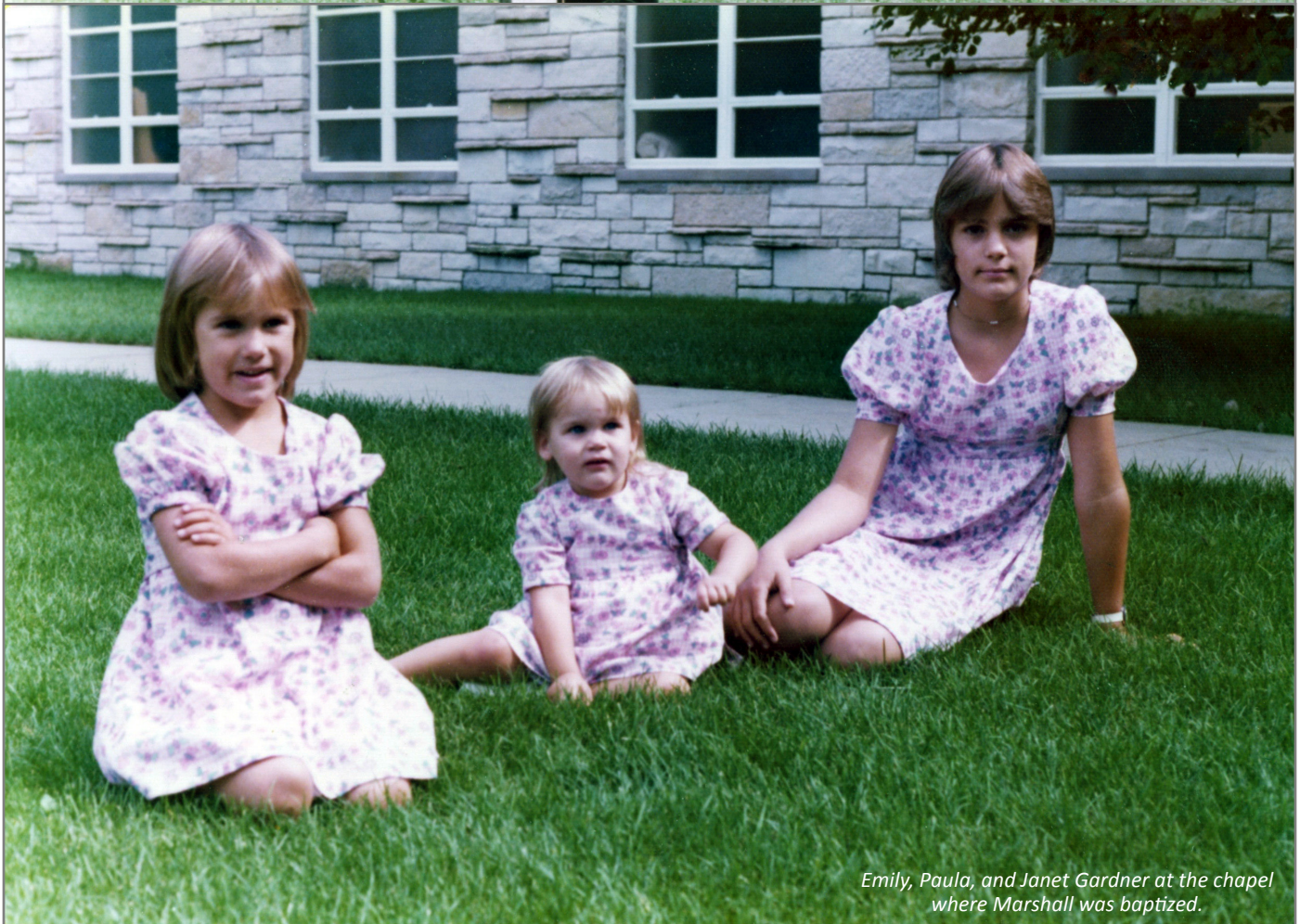


Marshall was baptized by his dad, Mo Gardner, on September 6. The Marshes and Elvie read about it in a letter that arrived Sept. 13.





Sandy, Marshall, Emily, Sherm, Paula, and Janet at the park after the baptism.



Emily, Paula, and Janet Gardner at the chapel where Marshall was baptized.

my little mess and came back to my rooms. It is warmer here, and I have my lovely records to listen to. I put on "Beloved Mormon Hymns," my Sabbath day of rest. The dog, Bobo, is out in the driveway watching for Rex and Donna to come. We both play the waiting game. There's some angry looking clouds; I hope Donna doesn't have to drive home from Ottawa in a vicious Kansas downpour. Rex came home about 3:20 and Donna arrived about 4:10. We had a little rain, but not much. I'm happy to have my family back home. It seems such a long, lonesome day when I'm here alone. Rex wasn't feeling well tonight; he was having trouble with diarrhea and nausea. He went to bed early. I hope he rests well. He is scheduled for work in the morning, 7 to 3. Donna and I ate from TV trays and watched television this evening until the ten o'clock news was over.

September 15, Monday

It is cool and cloudy this day, but no rain. Donna walked to the mailbox to put some letters in the box for the mailman to pick up. Rex came home about 3:20 p.m. He brought a letter from Kathy; it was addressed to, "The Neatest Mom and Dad and Grama, in Overbrook. Route 1, Box 136A and etcetera. Oh, she is unique. She is busy with her work and school classes and dates. She seems happy and enjoying her life in Provo, Utah. Her classes are History, Book of Mormon, Design Techniques (Drafting), Blueprints, Art and Design, Interior Design, and Special Ed (for the handicapped). She says the time goes by so fast. She is dating with four nice young men, but nothing is serious, just good friends. Donna brought an egg sandwich, sliced peaches, and some milk for my brunch. I enjoyed eating and listening to the TV stories. It is now 4:30 p.m.; no sunshine so far today, but it is better than the hot days we had in July and August. Rex feels better tonight; He and Donna watched television with me tonight. We watched, "Rhoda," "All in the Family," and "Maude." We had our Home Evening first, from the Home Evening book, and the Doctrine and Covenants book. Rex and Donna took turns reading. I enjoyed it very much, answering some of the questions and discussing the subject with them. Another day has passed, it is time to turn out the lights and go to bed. Sweet Dreams. P.S. We ate our evening meal from TV trays in here while watching television.



Lou and Elvie in front of the honeysuckle on the Chapman Lane house in Petaluma. On September 16, 1975 Elvie and Lou would have celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary.

September 16, Tuesday

Today is my 61st wedding anniversary. I had some restless hours last night, but I made up for it this morning in the early morning slumber. I didn't get up until 11:10 a.m. Donna brought a tray of lunch to me before she left for Ottawa to do her Relief Society visiting teaching. She had some shopping to do, also. Rex came home from his work about 3:20 p.m. Our day is gloomy looking, almost foggy, but no moisture so far. Kathy phoned from Provo this morning before Donna left. She had just received Donna's nice, long, typed letter to the family. She is enjoying her many friends and activities in Provo. She said it was fun to help

paint the big Y on the mountain side in Provo. The BYU students paint the Y once a year to keep it white and clear to see up there. My darling husband and I were married in the Salt Lake Temple 61 years ago today. We had a happy life together for 59 years and about 4 years of delightful courtship before marriage. (I have been blessed indeed.) I'm looking forward to being reunited with him again. Donna came home about four o'clock. She brought me a box of chocolate covered Thin Mints (Brachs). She kissed me and said "Happy wedding anniversary, Mother." I was surprised she remembered, I didn't mention it to her. (My favorite candy and my favorite daughter! ☺) Rex and Donna ate dinner in my apartment this evening from TV trays to help me celebrate my 61st wedding anniversary. Donna baked us each an individual chicken pie. We had a salad and some creamed corn, too, and chocolate mints for dessert, and TV for entertainment. Good night and sweet dreams.



Kathy helped to paint the Y in September 1975. Climbing the mountain to paint the Y was more interesting than homework.

September 17, Wednesday

We had a cloudy, cool morning, but the sun came out bright this afternoon. I didn't sleep very well last night until the wee hours this morning. I got up at eleven this morning. Donna and Rex went over to work on the Tibbetses' basement and garage. The cement block walls, the finishing work of cementing them together (the last row of blocks.) The place is about ready for the carpenters to put up the frame work of the house. The lumber will come out the end of this week I'm told. Donna cut down some tall sunflower plants so I can see them at work over there. The yellow petals are falling from the pretty sunflowers now. The plants will be turning brown next. Rex went to the mailbox; there was a letter for me from **Blanche** Hoglund. She says she is struggling to keep well until the Lord calls her home. Long Beach hasn't seen the sun for eight days; she is longing for the sunshine. Her children are good to take her to church and out for dinner.

The phone just rang, it was a man that wanted to talk to Rex about the boys to help unload the lumber for Tibbetses' house this weekend. I took my little bell and walked out in the yard to get Rex and Donna's attention. I had to yell loud and ring the bell hard, because Rex had the cement mixer going, but I did manage to make them hear. Donna took me over to have a look at the basement and the garage and cement block walls. Then she walked me back to the house. The experience was a bit exciting, but I enjoyed the outing out in the sunshine. I was glad to get back in my swivel chair. We all watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news was over. Night all.

September 18, Thursday

After a good night's rest, I'm feeling much better. We have a cloudy day, but it is pleasant. Rex and Donna worked all morning on the cement block walls, over on the Tibbetses' property. She came home about noon time and made a sandwich for my lunch and brought some Jello, some milk, and cookies. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook for gasoline; it took about 40 minutes. Then, they worked on Tibbetses' project next door again. I watched the TV stories that I'm interested in. Rex and Donna finished the cement capping job just in time before the down pour at 5:45 this evening. We have a noisy electrical display going on, it is a few minutes to six o'clock. Boy! That was a loud clap of thunder. Our lights went off, but came back on. Will I ever get used to this vicious Kansas weather? I did stretch out on my bed for an hour or so about 4 p.m. to relax my backache. The three of us watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news. I am enjoying the chocolate covered thin mints that Donna brought to me on Tuesday, September 16, my wedding anniversary date, 61 years ago.

September 19, Friday

Donna left this morning about nine o'clock to go to Kansas City to the Relief Society leadership meeting. She went in the truck as far as Stucky's Restaurant on Highway 35,

where she met some other sisters and went with them to the meeting, in their car. The nursing home phoned Rex and asked him to come to work today at 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. He was sleeping on the couch when I went out to get my brunch at noon time. I fixed myself some dry cereal and a warm drink of hot water with honey and canned milk in it. I ate some Graham crackers, too. Rex left in the Chevrolet car about 2:15; Donna arrived home about 3:40 p.m. It was overcast and cool until almost noontime. We had some rain last night, but it was sunny and bright all afternoon. We are glad of that because we are expecting the Jon Tibbets family here this evening from Omaha. We hope it will be nice weather while they are here. Donna stretched out on my other twin bed for a while; she was tired from the long drive to Missouri and back, plus all of her activities. I wish I could be of help to her, but taking care of my own needs is a problem to me. Our little Tibbets children, the three boys, have colds. Donna and Mary put mustard plasters on Spencer and Jody. They

kept them out of my rooms for fear I may get the virus. I'm sorry about that. Mary had the virus first. I'm glad she is feeling better now. Jon slept in my extra twin bed; he wants to get up at daylight and he needs his sleep. The boys coughing keeps him awake. Good night, I hope I don't snore. P.S. Rex came home about 11:30 p.m. P.S. The dentist pulled out four of Greg's front baby teeth. He's got a toothless smile now. Ha ha!

September 20, Saturday

Jon got up before it was daylight. The huge President Homes cut lumber truck arrived on the farm before seven o'clock this morning. The four or five boys were here by 7 a.m. to help unload the material for his parents' home. It took about five hours of hard work to get that big truck unloaded. It drove away from the farm at 12:20 noontime. Rex worked at the nursing home in Overbrook today (6:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.). He saw the huge truck on his way out of the property and he phoned home to ask if it got here alright? Greg watched television for an hour or so, while I was in bed this morning. Poor, little fellow has a hacking cough. It is now 1:25 p.m. all is quiet. Mary and Spencer are asleep in Donna's room. Julie and Greg are playing out in the sunshine. Jody is in the kitchen with Donna. Donna brought my brunch to me on a tray at noon (beef stew, hot biscuit, sliced banana, and milk). I'm thankful for this pretty day and my dear family. It's a sleepy day for me, all I seem to want to do is doze in my chair (zzz sleepy head with a slight backache). I dressed in my blue and white polka dot slack suit today. I did walk about the house for exercise and played some happy records on my player. After dinner this evening the little Tibbets family got ready to go home to Omaha. They drove away about 7:37 p.m. The children were ready for bed because they'll be asleep with four hours of driving (and they'll be carried to their beds asleep). Rex went to bed soon after eight o'clock, he has to work tomorrow at the nursing home in Overbrook. Donna had the miserable job of cleaning up the kitchen and living



Sisters Harriet and Blanche Strong.

room after the Tibbetses left tonight. Sorry I wasn't able to help, she wouldn't let me dry the dishes for her. We received a nice letter from Lydia Paul today, she has a lot of health problems, too. Lydia said that Gary Strong's wife, Elaine, is ill and Gary is very concerned over her condition. I surely hope she feels better now.

September 21, Sunday

I had a dreadful time trying to sleep last night. I couldn't relax my weary brain or body. It was sometime after Rex left for work this morning, about 6:30, before I went to sleep. I told Donna I was going to stay in bed until she came home from church, about 2:30 or 3 p.m., but by 11 a.m. I was too restless to stay in bed so I got up and dressed, combed my hair, put some powder and rouge on my white face, made my bed, and said my prayer. I took my NVP medication, plus vitamins, and a warm glass of milk, and went back to my swivel chair. And wouldn't you know it, I'm so sleepy I can hardly keep my eyes open. I doze in my chair, but on my bed all night, no slumber. A revolting situation. I played a record of "Sing Along With Mitch," that helped the situation. Donna came home about 3:15 and she fixed some beef stew and a tossed green salad. We drank milk and ate toast. We had chocolate mints for dessert. We ate from TV trays here, while enjoying music on my player. Rex phoned from work about 3:30; they asked him to work an extra shift from 3 to 11. He is happy to have the extra work. I gave Donna \$15.00 to help buy some groceries we need here. This inflated world is a problem for us and everyone. Our nice neighbor Ralph Gale brought Donna another sack of his delicious garden grown tomatoes. They are so good. This evening we had company, Doris Crider and Bonnie Adkinson from our branch. We had a nice visit with these dear sisters, and Doris told us the story of her life and how she joined the church. It was as interesting as any Soap Box Opera I ever listened to on TV. Donna made a little snack for them, chicken noodle soup and toast, ice cream and cookies. They left here about 9:30.

September 22, Monday

We have a beautiful, sunny morning. Our Relief Society visiting teachers came this morning before ten o'clock. I heard Donna talking to them so I got my robe and slippers on and my hair combed and went in Donna's living room to visit with Sr. Jeanne Brooks and Bonnie Adkinson. They are lovely ladies. We're surprised and disappointed that the carpenters haven't arrived yet to start building the framework on the Tibbetses' house while we have this lovely weather to do it. I'm very thankful for the good night's sleep I had last night; a blessing indeed. Donna is playing her piano; I always enjoy listening to her play. We got Joan's birthday card ready to mail with a \$10.00 check enclosed, plus my verse to her. (See September 29.) Rex came home about 3:20 p.m. I presume that Donna walked to the mailbox. She rode back to the house with Rex on his way home from work. She brought a nice, long letter from Joan Gardner and read it to me. Millie had been to Salt Lake and Kathy came from Provo, so the four of them, John and Ann, Mo and Kathy went out to dinner somewhere and had a fun time together. Joan sent a check to

Marshes for payment on their property here. We enjoyed our home evening in my living room tonight. Donna gave the lesson from the Family Home Evening book and Rex read about the seven last plagues, from Revelations in the Bible.

September 23, Tuesday

We have a pretty morning. I had a good night's rest and all is well. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook to shop. Mary phoned to say that the carpenters expect to be here tomorrow to start work on Tibbetses' home. Donna brought my brunch at noon. Two of the branch sisters came to practice a duet with Donna (Jeanne Bickerstaff and Donna Story). Sr. Story brought her small daughter with her. I watched my TV stories 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Donna listened to some of them. The Carl Nichols family are moving into another home; Carl asked Donna if she'd bring some Relief Society sisters on Wednesday to help his wife Dawanna do some cleaning. So, it is arranged that they will meet in the morning at eight o'clock and go to the Nicholoses' home. Ha ha, there is compensation for being too old to work. I think Donna Marsh is the busiest sister in the whole branch, yet she finds time to help others with their house work; it is amazing. Rex did some work in his basement this afternoon. He didn't feel very well today, he had a headache and an upset stomach. We all watched television tonight for a couple of hours, until after the ten o'clock news. Another attempt was made on the life of our United States President Ford. A woman about 45 years old, Sarah Moore, tried to take a shot at him in a crowd in San Francisco. She missed and she was carried away and is now in jail. Oh, what is this world coming to? It is dreadful.

September 24, Wednesday

Donna came to my bed this morning to tell me that Rex was going with her, to Carl and Dawanna Nicholoses' home to help them with the cleaning job. The Nichols are moving into another house. Jeanne Brook was going with them, too. Something caused Iris Kluber to not go along; I think she was ill. So, Rex decided he'd go and do what he could to help. I think Westphalia, Kansas is the place. Rex had something of Carl's to return so they went in the pickup truck. We have a hazy day. The carpenters for Tibbetses' house didn't come this morning as expected. I took a bath and dressed in my blue and white polka dot slack suit. I made a tuna sandwich, and hot water and honey drink and some applesauce for my brunch at noon time. I enjoyed eating while watching the soap box TV stories. Rex and Donna came home at 3:30 p.m. She brought the mail home. There was a nice long letter from Kathy, a letter from Violet, with one from Shirley Bird enclosed, and a pretty, little greeting card to me from Jeanne Brooks with a sweet little note written in it. Donna read all of them to Rex and me. I surely enjoyed them. Rex fell asleep before she was finished; they had been scraping wallpaper off the walls to get ready for the new paper and they were both tired. Donna fixed lunch for them. Violet says the fall color is in the trees and it is beautiful there. Charlie Clayton's sister lives in Cedar City (**Luella Hansen**). She and Violet visit via phone, often. Violet's last kidney test was the worst yet. Her blood pressure is too high, and her heart beats too fast, and etcetera. I'm so concerned about her. Shirley



Luella Hansen in 1973.

Bird is the first counselor in their Stake Relief Society. She's had several talks and lessons to give, busy gal. She is going to conference in Salt Lake City in October. She is a sweet girl, I love her. Rex and Donna did some cement work in their basement this evening about five o'clock to 6:30.

September 25, Thursday

We have a pleasant day, some clouds in the blue sky. I'm enjoying the cooler weather. Rex has been driving his tractor all morning cutting the weeds and grass around the place. Mary phoned to say the carpenters are on their way, somewhere in Nebraska, and should arrive here by four o'clock. They have come from Minnesota where the Presidents Home company is located. Joan phoned from Illinois she just wanted to talk to her mom. She has decided not to go to Washington D.C. with Mo this weekend, as they had planned. He'll go alone, it is a business trip and he wanted her to go with him, but it's complicated to pay someone to take care of the family and etcetera. Donna had a lot of Relief Society notes to write up today. She did some cleaning, too. She is the busy one around this house. She drove to Overbrook this afternoon to the post office and the market. Rex was asleep on the living room floor when she left about 4 p.m. but he got up and moved the fence to give his six cows some greener pasture. At long last the four carpenters arrived this evening, about 5:45 p.m. They came in a big camper like truck. Se we'll have action on the Tibbetses' house tomorrow, I presume. I got Julie Tibbets's birthday card ready to mail (her day is October 3). I composed a little verse to her and enclosed a \$1 bill and some gum. The carpenters went out in their little car to eat somewhere, I presume. The big camper they left here near the Tibbetses' place. They came back about 10:40. Good night and happy dreams.

September 26, Friday

The carpenters are going great; they have the sub floor almost down in the Tibbetses' house next door. It is noon time. Rex went to work early, in Overbrook, at the nursing home. Donna wrote a letter to Kathy and she fixed a melted cheese sandwich and a cup of hot chocolate for me at brunch time, 12:20 noon. She was up early and put her pretty house in order. She is expecting her friends the Leavitts from Petaluma today. I don't know them. Donna tells me their names are **Clair and Joanne Leavitt**. (Leave it to me to misspell, see what I mean?) We're enjoying a lovely, sunny

afternoon, but not hot. I'm spending my time resting in my swivel chair and going to my west window to watch the four carpenters at work on the Tibbetses' house. Donna came in a time or two and watched them at work, also. She has a pot roast cooking and our house smells mm good! She stretched out on my extra twin bed for a little rest. I don't know how she can do all of the things she does in a day. Their friends the Leavitts arrived this evening. Their two small boys and the missionary son, and Clair Leavitt's mother came, also.



Joanne and Clair Leavitt, image from Family Search.

Excerpt from Joanne Leavitt's life story on Family Search:

After Clair graduated from the "Y" in August he entered graduate school to work on his masters. By the time January rolled around a job offer came through in California so we accepted the job offer and moved to Northern California to a town called Petaluma. It is forty miles north of San Francisco. Here we were to spend the next three and a half years of our lives. This was to be a choice experience in our lives. We met some wonderful people in the Petaluma Ward. Friends whom we still correspond with, send Christmas cards to and visit with occasionally. [Written by Joanne in 1975.]

They'd been to Independence to get their missionary. They had eaten their dinner, but they did eat some tapioca pudding and chocolate brownie cookies. We visited in my house and in Marshes' until almost 10 p.m. The grandmother, Mrs. Leavitt, slept in my other twin bed. The missionary boy slept on the couch bed. I think his name is Matt. He is a tall handsome boy, about 21 years old. I enjoyed a nice visit with Mrs. Leavitt. I presume she is in her late 60ties [*She was 72 years old*]. She is a nice-looking lady with dark hair and is pleasant to talk to.

September 27, Saturday

I got up about 8:30 a.m. to say goodbye to the nice Leavitt family. Donna cooked a nice bacon and egg breakfast for them. They left here about 9:20 a.m. on their way to Missouri, to see the LDS Church Historical spots. Then they will head for their home in Idaho. They are nice people, we enjoyed their visit. Clair L. was Rex's ward clerk twelve years ago, when Rex was bishop in Petaluma. They have been in Idaho some 12 years. The Tibbetses' place looks more like a house now. The carpenters have two walls up and closed in. I can't see through the studs now, but I can see the doors and windows. They're going right along, it amazes me. Donna walked out to the mailbox to mail a letter to Kathy; it takes about 20 minutes to walk there, and back. When John and Ann phoned last night, he said that Kathy was bringing one of her boyfriends to Salt Lake to meet him and Ann. The four of them will have dinner out and a fun visit. John's new home is almost ready to move into. I think it is in Granger, a suburb adjacent to Salt Lake City. Donna climbed up on the rock pile in our yard and took a picture of the Tibbetses' house. Jon T. asked her to take pictures of the place on the carpenters progress with their work on it. She got a very good picture today. I got a birthday card ready to mail to Paula Gardner. Her day is October 11, so I'll hold it a few days longer. Donna and I watched the "Lawrence Welk Show" while eating our hot roast beef sandwiches at 6 p.m. Rex was

asleep. We watched "Mary Tyler Moore," "Bob Newhart," and "The Carol Burnett Show," also. We thought "The Carol Burnett Show" was a waste of time tonight. She is talented, but her shows are not up to par now. They are too vulgar and coarse for me. She was my favorite comic once.

September 28, Sunday

We have a pleasant Sabbath, but it is cloudy this morning. Rex worked a double shift today at the Overbrook nursing home, from 6:45 a.m. to 11 p.m. He'll be one tired farmer tomorrow. Donna went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting and she went to visit a sister who is ill, in a hospital or rest home in Ottawa, so she was later than usual getting home. I stayed in bed as long as I could and then I put my house in order and made L.V. look as presentable as possible, which isn't easy! He he! Donna came home at 3 p.m. It was Sr. Lucy McKay that she went to visit after church. It is getting darker and looks like we are in for a downpour. I got Rick Shattuck's birthday card and verse ready to mail. His day is October 20, so I'll hold it here a while. We got some rain but it didn't last long. Donna and I ate dinner from TV trays about 3:30 p.m. We had a good, tossed, green salad for her and cottage cheese and tomatoes for me, and a hot roast beef sandwich and ice cream and chocolate cake for dessert. It tasted good. After cleaning up the dishes, Donna took a nap on my other twin bed. I composed birthday verses and recorded in my diary. I dozed in my chair. Tonight, Donna did some typing for her Relief Society Social next Tuesday (the program, I think). The carpenters took the day off, no action over there. Donna brought me a nice snack tonight about 8 p.m. (salad, toast, cheese, and a cup of hot chocolate). I watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news. Good night. P.S. The Relief Society Fall social next Tuesday is honoring the visiting teachers, with a luncheon and program.

September 29, Monday

Happy birthday to Joan. She is 37 years today.

Joan Darling,

*With you, on my family tree, my heart
is filled with pride.*

*How to tell you this, in words, I'm
trying hard to decide.*

*Well, I'm going to stop looking for
words, they're not adequate anyway,*

*So, I'll just say, Joan, we all love
you, and wish you a very Happy
Birthday.*

It was a bit overcast this morning, but sunny and bright this afternoon. The four carpenters are busy on the Tibbetses' house. The roof is on the house and the walls on the garage now at 3 p.m. Rex took a picture of the building progress this morning. I hope Joan is enjoying her birthday. I took a walk in the sunshine with Donna, to look at the Tibbetses' house. It is really going up fast now. Oh, what a beautiful day. I rode into Overbrook with Rex and Donna in their

pickup truck. These country roads with the chuck holes really make me appreciate the cement or blacktop highways, when we come to them. Rex filled the truck's gas tank and did some shopping in the market. On our way back to the farm, he stopped at Ralph and Mary Gales' home. We drove to the back field to look at the huge aluminum pig pen he is renovating. I think Rex is going to help Ralph with the cement floor next Wednesday. Tonight, we had our Home Evening here in my place; I really enjoy them. Donna gave the lovely thoughts from our Family Home Evening book. Rex gave the reading in the Bible about the seven last plagues, continued from last Monday night. It is found in Revelations, chapters 10 to 16, I think. Rex is our dessert man. He had a Dr. Pepper ice cream float. Donna and I didn't want any dessert.

September 30, Tuesday

We have a drastic change in the weather from the beautiful, sunny day yesterday to lightning and thunder and a down pour of rain, last night and today. Donna drove away from here with her hot rolls, china dishes, table cloth and center piece, flatware, and etcetera, in the pick-up truck, in the rain, to our church house in Ottawa. It was the fall social honoring the visiting teachers with a luncheon and program. I'm so sorry I'm not able to be of help when she needs help, however, I am glad I can take care of my own personal needs so she is free to go and come. Rex was driving his tractor in the rain this morning taking care of his cows and horses, I presume. Later, he dressed up and drove to Overbrook, to a meeting in the nursing home. He left here about 1:45 p.m. I had a spell of blind staggers that lasted about 20 minutes. Donna came home about 3:25 p.m. She was weary, but pleased with the nice luncheon and program. It was raining lightly. The carpenters haven't worked on the Tibbetses'

house, because of the rain today. Rex brought a cup of hot chocolate to me this afternoon about five. We all enjoyed watching television programs tonight until after the ten o'clock news. Good night and sweet dreams. Goodbye September.

October 1, Wednesday

We have a blue sky and sunshine today, but it sure is muddy underfoot. The carpenters are working inside of the Tibbetses' house today. Rex has been busy with the windows in his basement, fitting and cementing. Donna has written several letters and notes; we're out of stamps, so she'll have to make a trip to the post office to mail them. She brought me a plate of lunch at noontime (sliced peaches, toast, orange juice, and Cream of Wheat). Donna drove to the post office this afternoon and to the drugstore, to get my heart tablets. I gave her \$5.00. My heart tablets cost \$3.09 and the stamps are \$2.00. She paid for the three packages of gum she brought to me. I taped seven sticks of gum in Paula's birthday card



Joan Gardner and Kathy Marsh in 1971 at the Safeway parking lot in San Francisco. On September 29, 1975 Joan celebrated her 37th birthday.

and six in Rick Shattuck's card, plus a dollar bill in each card. Paula's day is October 11, and Rick's day is October 20. It's too soon to mail them, but they are ready. We have a lot of fluffy, white clouds in the blue sky this afternoon. I surely hope we will not have more rain and mud this weekend when our Tibbets family will be here. The carpenters got in a good day's work on the Tibbetses' house today. They'll be through and on their way soon, I presume. Donna tried to talk me into taking a walk in the sunshine, but I felt too miserable to make the effort. My swivel chair was more inviting, sorry about that. Donna fried chicken for dinner this evening. I walked around in my rooms for some exercise. We all watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news. I watched the Johnny Carson "Tonight Show" for a while; it was a special two-hour show reviewing the best of his talent in the past 14 years. They showed little parts of the tapes. I enjoyed a half hour of it but I wouldn't stay up long enough to see it all. Too late!

October 2, Thursday

Another lovely day, Rex went to his work in the nursing home, in Overbrook, he left about 6:45 this morning. The four carpenters drove away from here about nine o'clock. Donna and I watched them go, in the two cars, one a huge camper truck and the smaller run about truck. Donna took a picture of the Tibbetses' house and sent it to Dorothy Tibbets. Mary phoned and said they would be here late Friday night, so we will celebrate little Julie's birthday on Saturday instead of tomorrow, as planned. Donna walked to her mailbox to mail her letters. It's a long walk, it takes about 25 minutes but, she seems to enjoy doing it., Rex and Donna say they love this country living. (I endure it, ☺ but I do love this nice, little suite they fixed so lovely for my comfort.) Donna made me a sandwich and a cup of Postum for my brunch at noon. She changed the sheets and slip on my bed and washed both white chenille bed-spreads for the twin beds. They look very fluffy and pretty now. Donna and I received a nice, little thank you note from Ann and Dick Webster for the gift we sent for her new baby, Karri Lynn. She said the little dress is just darling, she also liked the little verse I composed to baby. We are sorry to learn that Ann has some kind of a palsy condition in her face. One side of it is paralyzed. I hope and pray she will recover from it very soon. Rex and Donna went somewhere tonight after dinner. She said they'd be back in an hour or so. I watched "The Waltons" and a special program "Fear on Trial." Rex and Donna came home about 10 p.m. They had been to a horse auction that Rex wanted to listen to.



Julie Tibbets and Diana Gandy Halloween 1975.

October 3, Friday

Happy birthday to Julie Tibbets, 9 years old.

My diary book says on October 3, you'll be 9 years old!

May your day be filled to the brim with all the happiness it can hold.

There'll be a birthday cake with candles, all of them burning bright.

And pretty wrapped gifts to open, to your heart's delight.

Keep smiling, little Julie dear, and have fun in your play,

We, here on Marshes' Mound wish you, a Happy Birthday!

It is a lovely, sunny day. Donna walked to the mailbox this morning to mail some letters. She brought my brunch at noon (an egg, some toast, a cup of Postum, and sliced peaches). Later Donna drove to the mailbox to pick up the mail. She had a letter from Rita Sofia Mendez Uribero, our friend from Argentina. She was an exchange student in the college that Professor Jon Tibbets teaches at, in Omaha, last June. Rita enclosed a picture she took of me, Donna, Mary, and Julie (four generations), and it is very good. When Rex came home from work at 3:15 p.m. he and Donna drove to Overbrook to the bank to cash their Social Security check and take care of mine, also. For some reason their check came to the farm mailbox again, but mine went to the bank to be deposited in my checking account. They had their request in the bank two weeks before I mailed mine in to them. They hope to get it straightened out today. Rex put a spotlight on the Tibbetses' home tonight so Jon and Mary and children would get a thrill when they drove in the long lane up to the homes on Marshes' Mound. I think they arrived about 9:30 p.m. They all walked over to have a look at the new house. I watched from my west window. It was interesting to see their oil lamp light and the flash lights and their shadows crossing the field to the house. P.S. Julie was pleased with her birthday decorations and the cake. She opened one gift, a pretty nightgown she wore tonight, her mother bought it.

October 4, Saturday

Rex blew up several colored balloons last night and Donna decorated the chandelier with them to please Julie when she arrived. It really pleased her to see the big card Donna had made with "Happy Birthday Julie" on it and the cake and candles, and balloons and etcetera. I played some records and wrote in my diary tonight. Donna and Rex visited with Mary and Jon and the children. Julie slept in my other twin bed. I went out and visited with the grownups when Julie was asleep. We have another lovely fall day with blue skies. Rex and Jon went over to help neighbor Ralph Gale with the cement job on his huge pig pen. Donna and Mary drove over to Gales' about noon; I presume they took their men a cold drink? Julie was down by the horses, Greg and Jody were fishing; they caught only one fish, but they did get some frogs.

Donna brought the mail in from the mailbox. We received a wedding announcement of Jeanne Nelson and Michael Hall, the 24th of October in the Los Angeles Temple. There was a letter from Joan thanking us for her birthday gift of a \$10.00 check. She liked my little poem tribute to her, also. They hope to be here at Thanksgiving time, exciting, eh? Mary brought some of her records for me to play. I enjoyed the Osmond Brothers (when they were children) and the "Songs for LDS Children." They are both nice recordings, I love to hear children sing. We had a lovely cooked dinner of pot roast, mashed potatoes, peas and mushrooms, a jelled salad and birthday cake and ice cream. We sang the birthday song to Julie. Mary, Donna, and Julie carried the big fiberglass rolls into the Tibbetses' place in case of wet weather. Jon and Rex worked on the shingles of the house. We watched television tonight until after "The Carol Burnett Show." Night all. P.S. Yesterday Donna bought nine pair of half socks for \$1.00, cream lotion two for \$2.29, and vitamin E tablets two for \$7.69 on the Rexall Drug sale.

October 5, Sunday

It is General Conference today in Salt Lake City. Donna and Mary got up to listen to the first session of the 145th General Conference. I heard the spoken words, but I didn't get up to see the speakers; it was 7 a.m. Julie got up about 7:30 a.m. Rex had a double shift of work at the nursing home today. He worked 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. President Spencer Kimball conducted the session. It was a good session as always. Donna took Julie with her to the fast day sacrament service. Jon worked on the Tibbets house top, putting on shingles. He had his two boys Greg and Jody up there on the roof watching him. Spencer was asleep in his crib. It was almost 2 p.m. when I looked at him, Mary was busy most of the morning in the kitchen. She brought me a tuna sandwich, some jelled salad, and some warm milk. The family plans to eat dinner about 4 p.m., and Mary and her mom think I shouldn't fast that long. I never feel hungry; however, I do feel very weak if I don't eat a little. I don't need very much food now. I've been playing some of Mary's records and I'm enjoying them a lot. Mary phoned the Darby boys and they are coming over to help Jon shingle his house. I'm glad because he needs help; he has such a little time to work on the place. David and Mark Darby are good workers. We ate our dinner at four o'clock. We had chicken with rice, green peas and green beans, jelled salad, and custard with applesauce cake. Donna and Mary went over to the Tibbetses' to watch Jon and the Darby boys at work. Julie and the boys climbed up on the rock pile for fun and action. I played Mary's records and rested in my swivel chair here. I did dry the dishes and Donna washed them before they went next door. The Jon Tibbets family left for Omaha this evening about 7:15 p.m. Donna and I watched them drive away.

October 6, Monday

It was really hectic last night before our Tibbetses left for Omaha. Spencer fell out of the back of the VW bus and got a nasty bump on his little forehead. Papa spanked the boys for going out to the bus before they were told to get in. They were clean and ready for bed. It is very quiet here today and we miss them. We have a lovely, sunny day. Donna took my

birthday card to Paula Gardner to mail it. She brought my brunch to me at noontime, a tuna sandwich, cup of Postum, and custard. I paced up and down in my room for exercise. It was very quiet in the Marshes' side. I thought they were resting because Rex worked a double shift yesterday and Donna had a busy day; they both could use a day of rest, so I stayed in my rooms. I haven't an outside door and cement walks, so I pretend my nice, green rug is the pretty grass in a lovely park, wishful thinking, eh? Donna ran across the news clipping of Mary and Vernon Jorgensen's wedding, some 33 years ago. She is mailing it to them in a pretty card of congratulations. They will be a surprise to them. Mary left her records here for us to play. I have been enjoying them, too. Donna received a letter from Sr. Frances Bunch, she is now visiting some of her family in Miami Florida. I think she is about my age, in her eighties anyway Donna was ironing this afternoon when I thought she was resting, what a gall! I owe some letters, but can't get into the mood somehow. My neck and shoulders ache from writing one little page in my diary, plus a verse or two for my children's birthday cards and then I'm sunk. I doze in my swivel chair. We had our home evening tonight in my place. I enjoyed it very much. Donna gave the lesson from the Family Home Evening book, and she read from Revelations in the Bible, The Book of Life, and etcetera. P.S. I answered Violet's letter before going to bed.



October 7, Tuesday

Congratulations, Rex and Donna, Happy Anniversary, too. Forty years together, has brought rich experiences to you. You've known happiness and joy and you've shed some tears, May the dear Lord bless you both, together here, for many years.

Donna went to her Relief Society meeting in Ottawa this morning. She read the lovely lesson to me last night, because I do not feel it is wise for me to go to the meetings now. I do appreciate her reading the lesson to me. Rex worked all morning on his basement windows getting them fit in securely, before winter sets in. I made out a check for \$10.00 to put in the anniversary card for my children's 40th wedding anniversary. Rex brought the two horses to the north field to graze today. He left them here all night. Rex and Donna went to the dairy for milk this evening. Tonight, we all watched television and celebrated their wedding anniversary. Rex enjoyed a bowl of ice cream. Donna and I didn't indulge; I ate custard and cake with my dinner at six o'clock. Donna and Rex phoned Kathy this morning, it was their treat to themselves on their anniversary. Kathy is happy at BYU, all is well. Mary phoned this evening to wish her parents a happy wedding anniversary. This late afternoon Rex Gilland brought his combine harvester machine and cut Rex's field corn harvest. He got about 170 bushels of corn, to be stored in the big bin.

October 8, Wednesday

Donna left a note saying she and Rex were going into Overbrook for groceries; they'd be home by noon. They came about 11:45. We have a windy day, but pleasant to look at from my window. Donna brought a tuna sandwich, a cup of Postum, and some sliced bananas for my brunch. She also brought a little paper cup full of cashew nuts (a special treat). Rex and Donna spent the afternoon bringing fiberglass rolls up from the basement and taking them up a ladder to the attic. They were left over from this house's material for insulation. Placed in the attic they will help keep this house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. And, they were taking up too much space in the basement, so it will be another miserable job done. Sorry I can't help them, I get myself weary just watching Donna climb up and down that ladder, taking the big rolls up to Rex so he can place them in the attic. I answered Blanche Hoglund's September 13 little letter with a postcard. I'm not well enough to write long letters, but I do want to keep in touch. Donna is cooking some beef steak; it smells so good. I'm not really hungry, but it smells mm good! I went to the kitchen to eat with them when dinner was ready at six o'clock. The three of us watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news. Donna is fighting a head cold; Rex's cold is some better, but he is coughing a lot. I wanted to finish Lydia's letter, but I was too weary tonight after the TV was turned off. Better luck tomorrow. Good night.

October 9, Thursday

We have enjoyed a lovely clear fall day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna is fighting a miserable cold, but it didn't stop her from working hard all day. She and Rex were moving things around in their basement, putting up shelves and storing their bottled tomatoes and applesauce and other things, like getting the window frames cemented securely. I walked half way down the basement steps to look at the shelves, the windows, and the clean-up job. Donna helped me as they have no rail to hold on to. They even moved their big, old sofa into the basement. Donna brought my TV tray dinner at 6 p.m. I ate while watching the "Concentration Show" and "Truth or Consequences" on TV. Today's mail brought a lovely anniversary card from John and Ann with a \$10.00 check enclosed. There was a nice, long letter from Kathy. She is having a wonderful time at BYU, lots of new boyfriends interested in her. She writes happy letters that are fun to read. There was a nice letter from Mark Shattuck; he is happy with his mission work, too. So, all is well. "Happy Days are Here Again." Rex came in to listen to the ten o'clock news. Donna is feeling miserable with her cold; she went to bed after doctoring herself; she didn't come in because of her nasty cold. She looked sick. I surely hope she has a good night's rest and feels much better tomorrow. She has worked hard all day. She should have been resting and getting over her cold. Mary and Jon gave Donna and Rex a large can of dry cereal

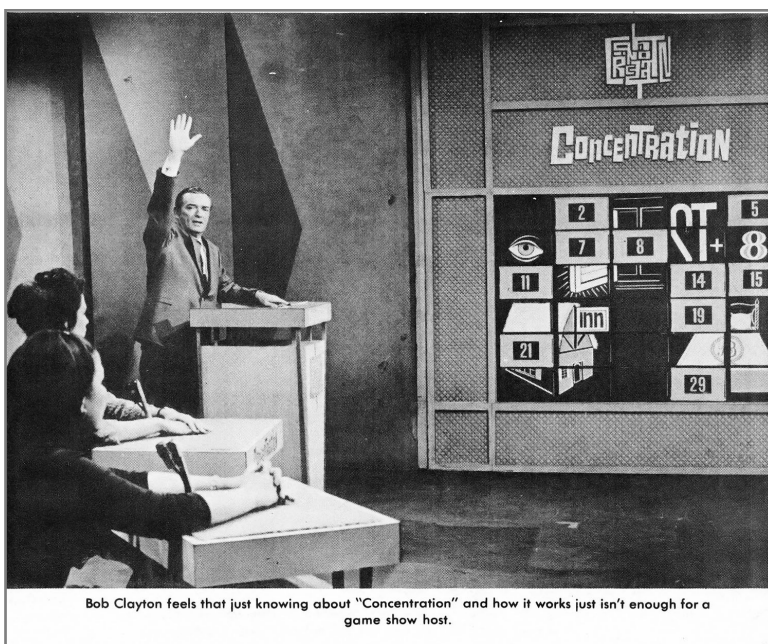
about 3 years ago. It is in a sealed can. It has rolled oats, wheat, and other grains, with cashew nuts, raisins, and sweetened with honey. She brought me some of it in a cup to nibble on this afternoon. It is mm good; it is like eating candy, I like it. I'm glad she decided to open it. Night all.

October 10, Friday

Rex and Donna drove to the mailbox in the pickup truck to mail our letters. We have a beautiful fall day; this is a pretty time of the year. The green leaves are turning to red and gold and the sky is blue with fluffy clouds. Donna says she feels better, but she is uncomfortable with her cold; it is in her chest now. She brought an egg, toast, Postum, and sliced banana for my brunch. I ate while watching the TV stories, aren't I lucky? Donna came in later and watched with me. This is a happy weekend for the Mo Gardners and the Jon Tibbetses. They are spending the time camping out. They will meet in the **Honey Creek State Park** in Iowa and have a fun time together. Donna talked with Mary on the phone this morning. Mary had made a big bowl of chili and beans to take with

her. I hope they have a very happy time together. The Gardners live in Northbrook, Illinois, and the Tibbets in Omaha, Nebraska. They love to get together. I made out my church donation check for \$12.00 to mail to President North. Rex left early to get his hair cut before he went to work at the nursing home. He works from 3 p.m. this afternoon until 11 p.m. tonight. I should shampoo my hair, but I'd rather doze in my

swivel chair. My furniture needs dusting, too, but with my eyes closed it is out of view. Donna and I ate dinner from TV trays while watching television this evening at 6 p.m. We watched "Truth or consequences" and "Big Eddie." Donna went to bed after the ten o'clock news. I watched television for a half hour and then went off to bed. Sweet dreams, I hope.



Bob Clayton feels that just knowing about "Concentration" and how it works just isn't enough for a game show host.

October 11, Saturday

*It's your birthday little Paula Grace,
pretty baby, with a darling pixie face!
Just two years old, but goodness knows,
you keep the whole family on their toes.
You may not know what it's all about, but
you know how to squeal and shout!
Have fun sweetie, doing your thing,
and happiness October 11 will bring.
Happy birthday from Grama Elvie*

We have a lovely fall day, calm and clear. Rex went to work before daylight. I heard him drive away about 6:30. He'll be off work at 3 p.m. today. Donna drove to the mailbox to mail our letters in time for the pick-up. She brought some food to me on a TV tray at noontime (sliced banana, toast, Postum, and cereal). Oh, she is precious. She looks better and says she feels fine, but she is still coughing. I'm enjoying one of Mary's lovely records on my player, "A Mighty Fortress" by the Tabernacle Choir. It's so thrilling to hear our beautiful hymns in my own house. Donna came in and enjoyed some of the records this afternoon. Rex came home about 3:25. He took a nap on their living room floor. Donna vacuumed my rugs before Rex got home. I hope it is as nice a day in Iowa or where our children, the Gardners and the Tibbetses, are camping out. I walked outside this afternoon with Donna to enjoy the sunshine. We sat in the garage for a while. Donna has been going through some of her dad's things. She brought the book to me of LDS hymns that Lou's choir members gave to him. They all signed their names in it. There was also a note that he had written in concerning the proper way to lead a choir or a congregation. Rex will work tomorrow at the nursing home, Donna will go to church in Ottawa alone. "I'm sorry about that."

October 12, Sunday

The wind is howling like mad outside. That "Big Blow" can sure whistle a mournful cry. Well, I'm inside and thankful that I am. This frail old body couldn't stand upright out there. Rex went to work early this morning before day light. Donna drove to Ottawa in the pick-up truck to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. She had some Relief Society business after church, so it she may not get home until after 4 p.m. (A long day!) I fixed myself a little dry cereal and some warm milk. I wiped the dishes that Donna had draining in the sink. We have a bright sun, and blue sky, but oh, that darn wind! It blew the front door open and I couldn't get it locked tight. I took the glass grape picture off the wall as it was getting a bang-up treatment from the wind. I was glad when Rex came and got the door closed tightly. He came about 3:20 p.m. I enjoyed my beloved Mormon hymns on

Paula Gardner 2 years old wearing the same dress her three sisters (Lorri, Janet, and Emily) also wore for their two year photos.

the record player. It is 4:15 and Donna isn't home yet. The wind is still blowing from the south. I didn't feel well enough to take my shower bath, as planned today. Donna came about 4:30; she looked windblown and weary, but cheerful as ever. She had our dinner ready by 5:30 p.m. She brought my plate to me, because I was listening to a lovely recording of hymns, by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. She ate with Rex when he came back from feeding the animals. We all watched television for a while after dinner. Rex went to bed soon after 8:30 p.m. Donna went about nine o'clock. Kathy

phoned from Provo tonight and Janet phoned from San Jose this morning. They love to keep in touch with their mom and dad. Night all, and happy dreams. P.S. Kathy wants Donna's velvet formal jacket to wear on a special date, so Rex and Donna wrapped it ready to mail.



Kathy wanted this velvet jacket sent to her at BYU for a special date. This photo is from 1969. George Brown and Kathy Marsh ready to go to Kathy's senior prom.

October 13, Monday

The wind is still howling; we have a hazy day with lots of clouds. Donna drove into Overbrook for some groceries. She made a big pot of chili when she got home; she also made cookies. It is the Relief Society luncheon day tomorrow. I am on the committee with Donna and someone else. I gave \$2.00 for my share; she wouldn't take anymore. I will not be there, I'm sure. This morning I took a shower bath before getting dressed. Donna made some Cream of Wheat cereal, some toast, and Postum for me at noon time. I enjoyed the soap box operas on TV while eating. Rex went to work before it was daylight this morning. He was home about 3:20 p.m. There was no mail today as it is Columbus Day. Donna can't mail her velvet jacket to Kathy, it is all ready to go. Rex gave that pretty black velvet jacket to Donna many years ago. I presume she was about Kathy's age? They are pleased that Kathy wants to wear it. It looks like new. Donna has kept it in a plastic bag and Kathy has worn it on special dates before. The wind has been blowing all day. At 5 p.m. Rex took the tractor over to the Tibbetses' house. Donna went over to help him move the scaffolding from the front to the back of the house so they can do the shingling on the other part of the roof, not Donna and Rex, but Jon and Rex when Jon comes again. I presume he will come this coming weekend. I have surely felt my weakness today. I have no energy. I just sat in my swivel chair and snoozed. It is so darn stupid. My subconscious mind is working over time in my dreams and I'm working like mad. All last night, when I was asleep, I was washing walls and woodwork or cleaning up some dirty mess, ugh!



Spring

*In California 'tis the first day of spring,
My soul is filled with delight
While I listen to the birds as they sing
And view the Glorious sight.*

*The sun streams through my window pane,
A bird hops upon my window sill
Too feed from the scattered seeds
I've tossed there at my will.*

*The dewy violets and the daffodils
Proclaim that winter's past,
A fragrance in the air that thrills
Reveals that spring has come at last.*

*Sweet blossoms on the fruit trees,
A colorful beauty to behold,
Dainty petals falling in the breeze
As God's wondrous miracles unfold.*

*I hear the lawn mower of my neighbor
As he cuts the new green grass,
In the garden folks now labor,
We see them everywhere as we pass.*

*Bees gather sweet nectar from here and there,
Pretty butterflies flutter about in the sun,
Children dance and play without a care,
For Spring time heralds the summer's fun.*

*New life is evident, renewed hope is given,
As we hail the lovely spring.
Earth seems much nearer Heaven,
Like the birds, we whistle and sing.*

*Oh glorious spring time, I now rejoice
In the promise that you bring,
And gratefully I raise my voice
To say, "Thank you, dear God, for the spring."*

Written by Elvie March 21, 1950



October 14, Tuesday

The wind blew shingles and sticks on Rex last night and he got a nasty cut on his nose and the side of his face. He came home a bloody mess and mad as h---. Well this is another day; the wind has calmed down and Rex is back over there working again. Donna has gone to Ottawa to her Relief Society luncheon day with her pan of chili and beans and the cookies. I'm on the committee to serve, but I'm not well enough to go. I gave Donna \$2.00; she wouldn't take anymore. We have a cloudy day but warm. It rained for a while this afternoon and we had lightning and thunder, too. Rex went to a meeting at the nursing home this afternoon. Donna came about 3:45. She said they had a nice luncheon with stake visitors there. She brought the items I wanted (Scope mouthwash and Visine eye drops and gum for "trick or treat") but I doubt if we have anyone come out to the farm here; we didn't have anyone last year. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook for some groceries this afternoon in the pick-up truck. They invited me to go but I didn't feel up to it. I received a letter from Ethel Newbold today. She sent a letter I wrote to her in March of 1950. I titled it "Spring." Ethel thought my family should have it. That was thoughtful of her. I enjoyed reading my composition too; I thought it was good, also. ☺, ha ha! My new bank checks arrived, they say Elvie Renshaw and Donna Marsh. Donna also bought a couple of boxes of note stationery for me, 47¢ a box. P.S. Ethel said Melv Renshaw came to see her; he had been operated on for a stomach ulcer. He said part of his stomach was removed. I'm sorry he has been ill, poor man.

October 15, Wednesday

Our Relief Society visiting teachers came this morning about ten o'clock (Sr. Jeanne Brooks and Sr. Bonnie Adkinson), two lovely ladies. We enjoyed them and their nice message on "Loving Service." Donna gave them a glass of milk and she had cookies, also, but the milk was all they wanted. Rex was nailing shingles on the Tibbetses' house; it is not as windy today, but it is much cooler. Donna brought me one of

the big balls that grow on the Osage trees, east of our house. They are about the size of a large grapefruit. They are heavy and have a bumpy surface. It looks like little rose buds all over it. Donna cut one in half so I could see inside of it. There are a lot of seeds and a sticky milk like substance inside. It was very unique, and I wonder why Mother Nature goes to so much elaborate work to produce something so useless to the world. Our trees were loaded down with them; the wind surely brought them down yesterday. It could be a fatal disaster to be hit on the head with one of them, ouch! Donna and I nibbled on some honey sweet grains with nuts and raisins, it is good eating. I enjoyed listening to some of my stereo records played on the Magnavox player this afternoon. The blue sky and sunshine is a pleasure, too. Rex and Donna went down in the south field to try and locate a couple of the black cows that got out of the pasture. They broke the wire fence down yesterday evening. Rex thought they may come back but they didn't so he'll have to look for them. The wire fence isn't adequate, but it takes money to put up a good fence, money and time. Rex has neither or very little to spare now. P.S. They couldn't find the cows, but Donna came back with her new panty hose full of holes from walking miles in the brush.



Gardening: The fruit of the Osage orange tree has many odd reputed uses

Saturday, September 2, 2000

By Jeanie Parker

They look like green brains, lying in clusters along roadsides, from September through December.

In southwestern Pennsylvania, they're commonly called "monkey balls," but in other regions, this peculiar fruit and the trees from which they fall are known as hedge apples, bowwood, bois d'arc (French for "wood of the bow"), bodark, geelhout, mock orange, horse apple, naranjo chino, wild orange and yellow-wood.

The tree's official name is Osage orange. In Latin, it's *Maclura pomifera*, a member of the mulberry family named for American geologist William Maclure. In hedges, the tree usually grows no more than 20 feet high, but out in the open, it may grow as high as the national champion Osage orange tree, a 350- to 400-year-old beauty in Red Hill, Va. It's 54 feet high with a crown of 90 feet.

You won't find any like that around here. In fact, you see fewer every year as they die or are cut down. Charlotte Tancin, librarian and senior research scholar at Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation of Carnegie Mellon University, was unsure why the Osage orange had fallen upon hard times. But her call to fellow botanists over the Internet turned up lots of information and history on this odd plant.

Osage orange fruit, which has a fruity, citric fragrance, is inedible to humans, but squirrels seem to love it. The fruit has caused the death of quite a few cows and other livestock that try to swallow one whole. They lodge in the esophagus and block the digestive track.

Some people are allergic and develop a rash if they touch the milky, white sap, which has been used as a glue and lacquer.

Besides the distinctive fruit and orange-yellow wood, Osage orange trees are known for their long, tire-flattening thorns. The male trees produce the pollen, and the female trees produce the fruit. Botanists are working on development of a male, thornless variety, for more friendly, modern landscaping.

Even though you can't eat them, Osage oranges have many uses. Locally, the fruit can be found at flea markets, on sale for as much as \$2 a piece. In Iowa, Osage oranges are sold in supermarkets.

Why would people spend money on inedible, green, wrinkled fruit? Many swear that Osage oranges chase away all manner of bugs from a house. They set them in cupboards and behind furniture as natural exterminators. The fruit and wood of the Osage orange tree does contain tetrahydroxystilbene, an anti-fungicide that may deter insects.

Perhaps this chemical is what gives this dense wood its resistance to rot. It's an excellent wood for fence posts and is perfect for ship masts.

Because the wood of the Osage orange is strong, flexible and takes on a nice finish when polished, Native Americans used it for war clubs and bows.

Although Osage orange trees can be found throughout the Eastern states, they aren't native to our area. They were first found growing in the home of the Native American Osage tribe and the Osage Mountains in the south-central United States. There, in the warmer climate, Osage oranges actually turn orange, looking less like green brains and more like their citrus namesake.

One reason this nonnative is so common in Western Pennsylvania is that it was the original barbed wire fence. Pioneer farmers planted hedges of the thorny trees, which served as excellent windbreaks and barriers to keep cattle in (or out, depending on whose cattle they were). An Osage orange hedge was considered "horse-high, bull-strong, and pig-tight," according to historian Paul Landacre in "A Natural History of Western Pennsylvania."

Osage orange was widely planted throughout the Midwest during the mid-19th century. The plant even had its own Johnny Appleseed, two of them, actually. John A. Wright and Professor Jonathan B. Turner traveled throughout the Midwest, spreading the good news about Osage orange hedges, according to Lloyd Lewis, author of "John Wright, Prophet of the Prairies."

In 1874, barbed wire was invented, and Osage orange declined in popularity. A recent Yellow Pages survey of Pittsburgh area nurseries found no Osage orange trees. Many no longer even recognized this variety of tree. Even a call to the Burpee Seed Company came up empty.

One Pittsburgh nurseryman said the Osage orange is now considered a nuisance, especially in urban areas. The fruit is messy and the thorns are long, so most landscapers avoid it.

But Osage oranges do have their fans. A good source of information on the Internet is <http://hedgeapple.com>, a Web site devoted to the Osage orange tree, with links to other related sites, including nurseries that sell Osage orange seedlings for 50 cents to \$1.50 each. But, according to the Pittsburgh GardenPlace, you can grow one of these interesting trees yourself, for free.

Osage orange trees can be propagated from root cuttings or summer branch cuttings, dipped in a rooting agent such as Rootone, and planted in sand, kept either under mist in a greenhouse, or in a cold frame in your own backyard.

Another possibility can be found on the hedge apple Web site. Jeff Goodwin, a Massachusetts high school biology teacher, planted Osage orange trees with his students. He let the fruit rot and picked out the seeds. Then, he put the seeds in the freezer for three months to simulate winter. He planted the seeds in his school's greenhouse, and most of the seeds grew.

So try your hand at growing Osage oranges. With luck, your children or grandchildren will one day discover one more use for monkey balls -- street bowling.

<http://old.post-gazette.com/magazine/20000902monkeyballs6.asp>

October 16, Thursday

It's a beautiful day for us to enjoy. No wind, or rain, or foul weather to annoy. When the sky is blue and the sun is bright, it somehow makes the world seem right. I enjoyed a tuna sandwich, a cup of hot chocolate, and sliced banana for my lunch at 12:30 noon, thanks to Donna. She has been cleaning out the garage (with Rex's help). A huge truck brought some material to the Tibbetses' house this morning. Rex went over to tell the man where to put it. I presume it's in the house or garage. I can't see anything new in the yard. Donna said she and Rex were going to the dairy for milk this afternoon. Mary phoned and said Jon was bringing Spencer with him tomorrow if it was alright with Donna. (It surely is!) So, we'll have some extra action this weekend with our baby boy on the prowl, but we'll love having him and his Papa here. I received a postcard from Blanche H. She thinks she sent a picture of her sister LaPriel to me, in her last letter and wanted me to send it back to her after we'd seen it. The poor dear is mistaken. She did not send the picture to me; she didn't even mention it in her letter. I got the letter out and reread it to make sure, so I'll have to write and let her know I haven't got LaPriel's picture. I think Blanche is 85 years old or will be on December 12. I'll be 83 years old on December 5. Memory plays tricks at that age, but Donna knows that there was no picture of LaPriel in Blanche's letter. She read it, too. Rex went to bed soon after nine o'clock, he has to get up early in the morning and go to his job at the nursing home in Overbrook. He'll work from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Good night.

October 17, Friday

I heard Rex drive away before daylight this morning. I got up about ten o'clock; I put myself and my house in order and then I wrote to Blanche Hoglund to let her know that I do not have the picture of LaPriel. She thinks she sent it to me in her letter of September 13. I answered it on October 8, but I didn't know anything about a picture of LaPriel. I surely hope that Blanche can locate it among her belongings in her apartment in Long Beach. I also answered Ethel Newbold's letter, thanking her for the letter and poem that I sent to her 25 years ago. She says my family should have it. I titled the poem "Spring." I composed it on the first day of spring. It brought back many happy memories to me. Donna has been going through her dad's personal belongings, his books, and notes, and etcetera. She has cleaned up his dresser drawers. Mary is going to take his dresser to her home for her nursery room. Well, I've had a day of fond memories. It is a pretty fall day, too. Rex brought some cashew nuts home and I'm surely enjoying them. Today's mail brought a nice letter from Violet with one from Yvonne enclosed. Donna read them both to Rex and me. We enjoyed them. Violet had a cute Halloween poem (see October 31). Jon Tibbets and small son Spencer arrived at the farm about 4:25 this afternoon. Rex gave Spencer a ride on the tractor with him down to feed the horses and he loved that! Jon and one of the Darby boys worked a couple of hours nailing shingles on the back part of the roof. Donna and I walked out in the sunshine this evening at five o'clock. She cooked a nice dinner for us and we ate at 6 p.m. We all watched television tonight for a while.

October 18, Saturday

I can't let your birthday go by dear friend, without sending my love and best wishes, too.

I trust October 18 will find you feeling well and happy and your sky will be blue.

You will be surrounded by friends who dearly love you, I know,

And dear Ethel may your special day have a radiant happy glow.

May the good Lord bless you dear one, with happiness all of the way,

I am wishing for you, dear Ethel, a very happy birthday.



Young Ethel Erskine

We have a beautiful, sunny day. Donna has her little grandson Spencer to look after while his Papa Jon is busy shingling the Tibbetses' house next door. She brought a tuna fish sandwich, sliced bananas, Postum, and a cookie to me at noon time. She got Spencer to sleep this afternoon by taking a nap, too, and it was good for her. Rex went to work at the nursing home in Overbrook this morning seven to three in the afternoon. I entertained myself by composing a poem or jingle. The subject was my Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. How about that?



Drawing by Julie Tibbets that was taped to the back of Elvie's poem. It was dated November 2, 1975.



Raggedy Ann and raggedy Andy,
Setting opposite me in my boudoir chair -
with red yarn hair and black button eyes,
You just set there and stare . . .
With a red nose and a grin on your face
Stretching from ear to ear -
And-embroidered on your clothes,
"I love you Grama dear" -
There's a little music-box inside of you.
We wind it up with a little key,
It plays pretty little tunes that please,
Lonely old people like me -
The children love you, but treat you rough!
Tossing you all over the place -
But, you always come up again,
With that same grin on your face
I think there is a lesson here forme!
When my life doesn't seem just right -
Tomorrow will bring the Sunshine
And- I will see the light
Grama Elvie - Oct. 18th 1975

October 18 continued: This afternoon I walked out in the sunshine with Donna. We sat in the garage for a while before I came in. Donna made some lemonade and gave me a cup full. She took the pitcher full to Jon. I'm sure it gets hot for him working on that roof in the sun. I wrote a little verse for Otto Fife's birthday card (see November 1). I also wrote a verse for Mo Gardner's card, (see November 4). Jon and Spencer left for home, at 7:20 this evening. Well, they come and they go, and we love them so. I wish they didn't live so far away. We hope things will change and they'll move nearer to us someday. Goodnight.

October 19, Sunday

Our Sabbath day is sunny and beautiful, a bit chilly, but my little house is warm and comfortable. Rex and Donna left about nine o'clock for Sunday School and sacrament meeting in Ottawa, where our branch is located. I'd love to be with them, but I have problems and I'm better off at home, that I know. I didn't get up and dressed until noon. I do have my lovely records with the beautiful Mormon hymns to listen to and I can have my own sweet Sabbath day of rest and worship. I have Otto Fife and Mo Gardner's birthday cards addressed and ready to mail, but I'll hold them a few days. Otto's day is November 1 and Mo's is November 4. Ralph Gale came about the time Rex and Donna arrived home, 3:45 p.m. He and Rex decided to leave Rex's two cows with his for a week, so Rex can get his fence fixed. David and Mark Darby came to see if they could help Jon today, but Jon isn't here today. Rex went horseback riding on one of the Darby horses, fun! The nursing home phoned Rex; they want him to come to work tonight at 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. tomorrow, so he took a nap this afternoon. He listened to the football game earlier on TV. I went in Donna's living room; she read to me from the Reader's Digest. She also played some sweet old songs for me on her piano. We both listened to a nice TV story about a kind-hearted priest, taking care of a lot of poor orphan children in Mexico. It was sad, but heartwarming and it is a true story. The priest was an American. Donna brought a warm cup of milk and some graham crackers to me tonight. She is a darling.

October 20, Monday

Happy Birthday to Rick Shattuck.
*Hi Rick, and congratulations, too.
 The magic age of 18 has come to you.
 Now you have to manhood grown,
 Boy! You'll soon be on your own.
 But with the fine training you have had,
 You will come out on top, dear lad.*

We are enjoying another lovely, sunny day with a feeling of fall in the air. I'm happy to have the cooler weather; we had a hot summer. It was almost noontime when I got up. I can save on food and furnace heat when I stay in my nice, warm bed until noon. Donna drove to Overbrook this morning to pay some bills; she bought



Myrtle and Melvin Leavitt are Clair Leavitt's parents. See September 26. Myrtle stayed in Elvie's extra twin bed during their visit. Image from Family Search.

me some Lanacane medication and got change for my \$10.00 bill, so that I had some dollar bills, I enclosed two in Miller's birthday card and two in Otto's card. Donna made a waffle, Postum, and a sliced banana for my lunch. This afternoon she came in and read a letter from Dorothy Tibbets, thanking her for the snapshots of their house here in Kansas. They are getting ready for the move here and anxious about it.

Guy is selling some of his birds; Dorothy is giving many of her flower plants away, and etcetera. Donna also had a thank you note from Myrtle Leavitt [Clair Leavitt's mother] for her overnight visit a few weeks ago. She slept in my other twin bed. Rex went to work at the nursing home today at 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Donna walked down to the south field to feed the horses. (The battery is dead in the Chevy and Rex took the pickup truck to work. It was September 26 that the Leavitts stayed overnight. I looked it up in the diary.

October 21, Tuesday

Donna went in the pickup truck this morning to Ottawa to her Relief Society meeting. Rex did a few jobs around the farm. Donna brought me some lunch and then we three drove to Topeka. Rex bought the wire he needs for our house.

We went to the shopping mall and looked in Sears store and the Woolworth's Store. I bought some items in Woolworth's; a new diary book for 1976, it cost \$2.33 and is brown. I bought two boxes of greeting cards for \$1.00, a bag of gum for 89¢. Rex bought us a cold drink. I had orange soda, they had Dr. Pepper. Rex also bought some peanuts and chocolate mints for our treat. They got some bread and sweet rolls, too. It was about 5:15 when we got home. I enjoyed the outing, but I was really glad to get home and relax. It amazes me how tired I can get. I wanted to answer Violet's letter, but I'm too weary. I did, however, compose a little response to her Halloween poem (see October 31). Donna went over to help Rex get the tar paper that the wind blew loose last night from the Tibbetses' house. They made it secure with planks of wood nailed on the roof. The wind in this country is abominable. John and Ann phoned this evening; they had been to Cedar City to



Rick Shattuck in front of Shattucks' house in 1975.

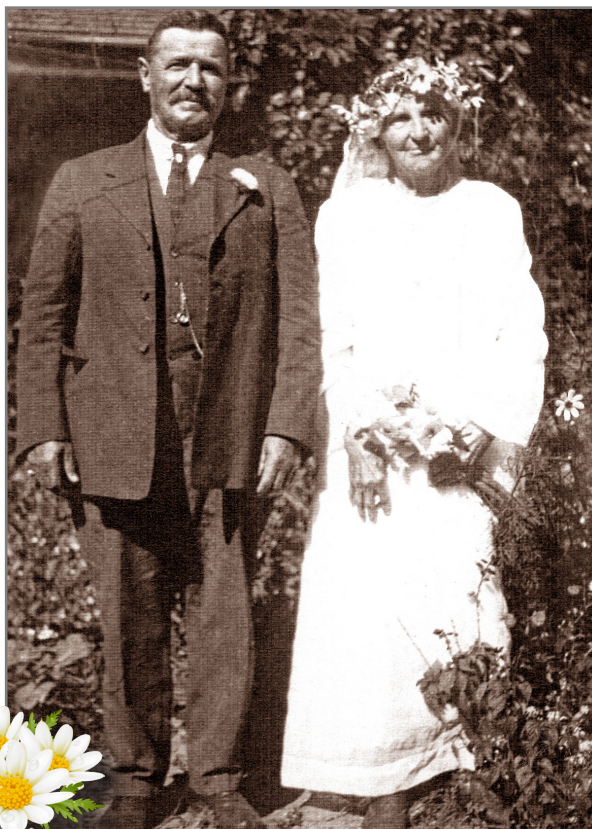
see Ann's grandmother and they called in Fife's to say hello to Aunt Violet. They were surprised to find Aunt Florence and Uncle Ernie Oates visiting there. He said they had a real nice visit and he said Aunt Violet looked good. He thinks she has a cute sense of humor. I'll agree to that!

October 22, Wednesday

We have a cloudy, windy day. The wind blew a big 2x4 plank off of Tibbetses' roof. Rex put it there yesterday to hold the tar paper from blowing off the part that isn't shingled yet. It blew the ladder down, too. That wind plays havoc. Donna brought a nice lunch to me at noon. She is so good to her old mother, bless her heart. I wrote to Violet this afternoon, but it was too late for the pickup today. Maybe someone can mail it tomorrow? I watched the TV stories today; I didn't see them Monday or Tuesday. I was busy writing and resting my eyes and etcetera. I enjoyed my lovely music on the Magnavox player. Donna and Rex worked hard this afternoon. The Darby boys helped them move the things out of Tibbetses' garage into the house, because Mr. Brown is coming in the morning to do the back fill in job in the garage and to dig a trench for the light wires to the light pole. They came home real tired.

October 23, Thursday

We have more wind and clouds again today. I presume we'll get some rain one of these days. Mr. Brown came with his big tractor to do some back filling in of Tibbetses' garage and to dig a trench to the light pole. He cut the phone wire when he dug the trench, so our phone is dead. Mrs. Brown brought Mr. Brown's lunch to him and she said she'd report our telephone out of order. Donna walked to the mailbox with Violet's letter. Bobo the dog tagged along; he runs ahead and takes side trips on the way. Rex went to work early at the nursing home today, he worked 7 to 3 p.m. today. He brings the mail from our mailbox to us. Rex found some telephone wire and he connected our phone this afternoon, so it is working again. Mary phoned this evening; she asked Donna if it would be alright for her to send Jody and Spencer with Papa Jon this weekend. She has a Primary program and Julie and Greg are singing in it. Of course, Grama Donna will be happy to have her two small grandsons here. I'll enjoy them, also. Donna was doing some genealogy work and she found that Grampa Green [*Theophilus James Green*] and wife [*Annie Amanda Scrivens*] were sealed together on hers and Rex's wedding



Theophilus James Green and Annie Amanda Scrivens on their temple sealing day. On Family Search they were sealed September 23, 1923. Annie died in 1926 and Theophilus James died in 1941. He was present for Rex and Donna's wedding in the Salt Lake Temple in 1935 and Elvie was proxy for Annie but only to seal Florence Green Marsh to her parents.

day, October 7, 1935 in the Salt Lake Temple. She was surprised and couldn't recall Grampa Green being there with us. I couldn't recollect him being there either, so I got my diary books all out, until I found the 1935 diary and sure enough, Grampa Green was with us and I stood proxy for Grama Green in sealing her to her husband. [*This actually isn't correct. Here is what the 1935 diary says for Rex and Donna's wedding day: "Grandpa Green went through to be sealed to Florence, I stood for Mrs. Green."*] Florence Marsh was sealed to her parents, also. Donna helped me get the books all back in the cedar chest (1929 to 1975 diaries). P.S. My bed was covered with my scrapbooks and the diary books today. I was glad to have Donna's help in getting them back in the cedar chest. Donna kept her own diary book she wrote in 1930.

October 24, Friday

Rex went to work early this morning before daylight. Donna walked to the mailbox with her letters and cards. She had a happy memory experience reading through an old diary she wrote in 1930. I had it in my cedar chest. Donna came back from the mailbox with a letter from Kathy on a big unique card. The mail came early so her letters didn't get there in time for pickup. Kathy is enjoying herself; she is a happy girl. It was a fun letter to hear. Donna also had a nice letter from Joan with three lovely, colored pictures of her children enclosed and they are beautiful, too. The telephone company came this morning and checked on the wire that was cut yesterday. I enjoyed my lunch while watching the TV stories. Rex came home at 3:30. Donna drove to the bank in Overbrook when he came with the pickup truck. The battery in the Chevy car is dead. It needs a new battery. Rex couldn't recharge it. Rex went with Donna; they left here at 4 p.m. I was invited to go with them, but I declined their kind invitation. Donna brought me a delicious, cold drink of chocolate milk, mm good. I'm listening to some very lovely recordings on my Magnavox player. Donna and I ate our dinner this evening in my room from TV trays. Rex was asleep; he ate later while watching "The Bob Hope Special" a two-hour TV program with stars from the past 25 years. Many of them are in the Spirit World now. We all enjoyed the program. Jon Tibbets and his little boys, Jody and Spencer, came tonight shortly after nine o'clock. I have a sore spot in the right side of my neck; it has hurt to turn my head at times, yesterday and today. But it is not bad. Good night and happy dreams.

October 25, Saturday

We're blessed with another lovely day; there was frost this morning, but my little house was warm and cozy. Rex and Jon are on the roof of the Tibbetses' house trying to finish the shingling job. I'm glad the wind isn't blowing. Jody and Spencer played on Rex's tractor and had fun in the sunshine over there. Donna brought my lunch to me at noon. Jody picked some pretty wild flowers for Grama Donna. She took the two little boys for a walk to the mailbox and that is a long walk. It took twice as long today because of the time it took to look at grasshoppers, bugs, toads, turtles, and etcetera. The dog, Bobo, went along, too. He took a lot of side trips on the way. Coming back, they stopped at the Darby home and Mr. Darby let the boys pet his big raccoon, (a tamed pet). The raccoon was afraid of Bobo, so he had to be sent away. Our little boys love to come to the farm. It will be even more fun when Grampa and Grandma Tibbets are living in the new house next door. This afternoon Jon and Rex drove to Overbrook for lumber. Donna took Jody to the pond for fishing or some other fun for him. Spencer was asleep here in the house. I composed a little verse for Donna Shattuck's card (see November 15). Jody caught three fish, fairly good size. He was delighted, but coming home across the field, Donna got her leg cut by some barb wire. She really cut into a varicose vein and she bled and had a time to stop that strong flow of blood; it was a hemorrhage for a while. I was really frightened when I saw all that blood on the bathroom floor, but Donna was calm. I put a Band-Aid on the cut when the blood stopped flowing. She had blood in her shoes, and clothes. I felt ill, but she went on about her work. (Oh, that girl!) Rex went to work tonight about 10:20 p.m. Jody had an upset stomach tonight, I hope he isn't going to be ill.

October 26, Sunday

♪ Oh, What a Beautiful Morning ♪
♪. It would be perfect if that wind wasn't blowing. Rex worked all night, then he drove Donna and the two little grandsons to Ottawa to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. Jon Tibbets is on the roof of his house trying to finish the shingling job before we have storms. I had some severe pains in my shoulder blade location and I felt weak and light headed, but I'm feeling much better now. It is 1:20 p.m. The family came home from Ottawa about 2:30 p.m. Donna left a pot roast on cooking slow. She cooked potatoes and broccoli. We ate dinner about 3:30. Rex watched the football game on TV with his dinner on a tray, while we ate in the kitchen. Grampa Rex and Spencer took a nap after dinner. I dried the dinner dishes. Jon T. was putting things in order at his house; moving some material into the garage, or house, in case of bad weather which is inevitable. He is surely glad he has

finished the shingling job. That is a tough job, especially in the wind. Jon and his boys Jody and Spencer left the farm for home, in Omaha, about 6:30 p.m. Kathy phoned tonight after Donna and Rex had gone to bed. It was after 10:40 p.m. but they got up and talked with their happy girl. She and a special boyfriend [*no idea who this was, obviously not that special*], had been to St. George. They had another young couple with them. They all went through the LDS temple there before it is dedicated again, after the renovating. It has been closed for a few months. Kathy and her girlfriend slept on the couch in Aunt Florence's home. The two boys went to a motel. Florence had company, about fifteen old Garvanza Ward friends were there visiting her and Ernest. I watched President Kennedy's "Missiles in Cuba" 2-hour program tonight. Daylight Savings time change at 2 a.m. Clocks set back an hour.

October 27, Monday

We have a change in our weather; it is cold and cloudy today. It is quiet without our little Jody and Spencer shouting and running around. Rex is doing some hammering on this place. I don't know what he is doing. Donna brought some lunch to me at noontime. Marshes had company about two o'clock. It was a couple from the Ottawa Branch, Br. and Sr. Ryan. Donna and Rex brought them in to see my little place and to meet me. They are building a fireplace and wanted some pretty rocks like we have on this farm. They took a load of them in their truck. There was no mail today because it is Veteran's Day. I composed some birthday verses this afternoon. I have one ready for Donna Shattuck, she'll be 13 on November 15. I have a verse for Ann Marsh's card, her day is November 26, and Mary Tibbets's verse is ready; her day is November 28. This old Grama has fun playing with words to make them rhyme. Rex had to go to work at the Overbrook nursing home this afternoon, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. We didn't have our home evening as usual. I missed it. Donna had some work to do for her Relief Society meeting in the morning. I watched television.

October 28, Tuesday

*Another birthday has rolled around,
You're secure with both feet on the
ground.
May your day be pleasant, the sky be
blue,
And may success always come to you.*

[Proof that success came to David pictured here. ⇄] Happy birthday to David Shattuck today. It is cloudy and cold this morning. Donna drove to Ottawa to her Relief Society meeting. I can hear Rex hammering, so he is working on this house, outside, I think. I am taking care of myself and I got my bed made.



INVENTORS PAID—IBM employees Ulo Vahtra, left, advisory engineer, and M. David Shattuck, advisory scientist, have received a \$75,000 invention award for discovery of the photoconductive material used in IBM copying machines. Both San Jose residents, they accepted their check during a corporate recognition dinner in New York.

I wasn't feeling hungry, so I didn't go out to the kitchen for food. I'll have a sandwich when Donna comes. My swivel chair is most inviting right now, and the TV stories entertain me. Donna came home about 3:15 p.m. I was making myself a tuna fish sandwich and a cup of Postum. Donna did her visiting teaching before coming home. She also called in the hospital to see Sr. McKay. She brought home some mending to do for Sr. McKay. Donna brought some chocolate ice cream and a cookie for my dessert. She came in later and read a letter from Janet. They had been to Los Angeles to see Mark off for his mission to Argentina. They saw Phillis Diller at the airport and talked to her. She gave them a picture of herself and she had her friend take a picture of her with the Shattuck kids. It was blurred because the friend didn't know how to use the Shattucks' camera very well. That is too bad. It has been cold and cloudy all day, but I keep comfortable in my little suite. Our branch visiting brothers came tonight, Paul and John Dokas. I went in Marshes' side to visit with them. They are nice, young men, neither are married. John gave a nice prayer to bless our home and us, before they left.



Janet and Dave drove to Los Angeles to see Mark before he boarded his flight to Argentina. John and Kathy went to the Salt Lake airport to see Mark before he boarded the flight to LA.



Mark boarding the plane to Los Angeles circled below.



October 29, Wednesday

We have a lovely sunny day. Rex went to work early this morning before daylight. Donna walked to the mailbox with some letters for pick-up. I watched her and the dog, Bobo, walk down the roadway to the mailbox; the dog was running ahead and back to her and taking side trips, too. Donna made a melted cheese sandwich and some Postum for my brunch. She had applesauce and a cookie for dessert. I ate and watched the TV stories. I can hear Donna's typewriter, so she is writing letters or doing some Relief Society work. Rex came home about 3:25 p.m. Donna brought me a little glass of chocolate flavored eggnog drink; it was cold and refreshing. I selected the birthday cards for Donna S., Ann M., and Mary T. this afternoon from the boxes Donna and I bought to have here when we need a birthday card. It surely is handy to have them in the house when we want them. It is very quiet in our house now at 5 p.m. I presume Rex and Donna are both asleep. I'll doze in my swivel chair with the pillows at my back. Zzzz. Tonight, we all watched a special program on TV on the function of the heart and lungs in keeping the other organs of the body healthy. It was very interesting.

October 30, Thursday

It is another lovely day, pretty to look at, but a bit chilly. Well, I'm nice and warm in my little place. Rex went to his work in Overbrook early this morning before daylight. Donna brought my lunch to me at noontime (egg, toast, Postum, and applesauce). I got three more birthday cards ready to mail (Ann Marsh, Donna Shattuck and Mary Tibbets). Their birthdays are all in November. I'll hold them until it is time to mail them. Rex got home about 3:30 today. He drove the Chevy car today, after he put the battery from the pickup truck in the car. He put the truck's battery back in the truck this afternoon. (Confused, eh? Me, too.) Joan phoned today and had a nice long talk with her mother. She said she and son Sherm had a long heart to heart talk and now have a better understanding of their problems. She said, "Sherm is a good boy, and I love him very much." She also said the family may come to Kansas for Thanksgiving, exciting, eh? I wish they lived in Kansas and the Tibbetses, also. We are expecting Jon and Mary and the kiddies this weekend. Rex and Donna watched television with me tonight. The special "Dick Van Dyke Show" was entertaining. We went to bed after the ten o'clock news.

*It was Halloween, the night was dark,
coyotes howled, and the dogs barked.
Black cats ran in front of our path, ghosts
and goblins sat and laughed.
Skeletons rattled their bones with glee,
everyone laughed, but me.
I was afraid, I'll tell you, I abhor scary
things,
Then I thought of the fun Trick or Treat
always brings. (By Violet Fife)*

*If a black cat crosses your path, ghosts and
goblins laugh at you,
If the night is dark, don't be afraid, just
thumb your nose and say "Boo Hoo"
If coyotes howl, dogs bark, and skeletons
rattle their bones in the street,
On Halloween be happy, remember the
fun that comes with "Trick or Treat."
(by Elvie Renshaw)*



October 31, Friday

Happy Halloween, BOO! We had sunshine this morning, but by noon it was cloudy and that annoying wind came. I don't like that Big Blow! Rex and Donna have been pouring the top coat of cement in one half of the basement this morning. He mixes and pours, she levels it. She took off her boots to come and fix a sandwich for me at noon. Sorry I have to take her away from her work. I put my hair up in pin curls this morning for the first time since I had my permanent on July 9. I rode to Lyndon, Kansas, with Rex and Donna this afternoon, to the light and power company. Rex bought a meter box for the Tibbets place. Rex bought us each a chocolate milkshake, mm good. Donna and I shared one. We stopped for gas and water on the way home. The car was heating up and wouldn't start up again for a while until

Rex put his booster charger to it. We got home about five o'clock. We had a few Trick or Treat Halloween guests (three visits, two girls each time). Some parent brought them. We didn't expect anyone way out here! I'm glad we had the sticks of gum on hand. The Jon Tibbets family are on their way to Overbrook this Halloween night, after they do the trick or treat fun in Omaha. P.S. I gave myself a bath before going to bed tonight.

November 1, Saturday

*Hi Otto! Another birthday has rolled around,
And you still have two feet on the ground.
So, stand up boy, and give three cheers!
You'll be good for a lot of years.
Please have yourself a little treat,
Some peanuts, popcorn, or something sweet. ☺*



Violet and Otto in 1927.

Our Tibbets family arrived last night about 12:30 midnight. Grama Donna brought little Julie in to my other twin bed. She slept very quietly all night. She was bright eyed and happy this morning and told me about their trick or treat fun last night, and the costumes Mama made for them. She went to Marshes' side for breakfast and action with the family there. I stayed in bed until after ten o'clock. I dressed in my robe and slippers, combed my hair, made my bed, said my prayer, and then I went out in the kitchen. Mary had a

pretty, pink quilt she'd made, it is tied with pink yarn. It is a crib quilt for her expected infant. She was pressing some material to make another crib quilt. [The second quilt she was making was blue, but she sure hoped she would need the pink one. ☺] The little Tibbets boys came from the fishing pond with three fish, fairly good size, too. They were excited. Rex is

working in his basement. Jon is working over at his house. I'm glad we have a nice, sunny day for the children to play outside. They love to play out. I relax here in my swivel chair and enjoy listening to them shout and play while listening to my lovely records on the player. Julie went with her papa to Overbrook. Spencer is asleep; his mama is resting, also. Greg and Jody are playing outside somewhere. Donna stretched out on the other twin bed, but not for long. She was interrupted. I enjoyed the "Lawrence Welk" program at six o'clock this evening while eating my dinner on a TV tray. I watched television all evening with some members of the family. Rex and Jon were working in the basement here. Jody slept in my other twin bed tonight; Julie is in Donna's side. P.S. I received a letter from Blanche H., and one from Violet Fife. They both had interesting news.

November 2, Sunday

Our stake conference was this morning in Kansas City, but none of us went. We have an overcast morning, but it is warm enough for the children to play outside. They are all playing in the big sand pile in the back, building something with sand and water. It looks like (from my window) like it's a fort with walls. Anyway, they're happy. Donna and Mary are cooking the turkey Mary bought. Janet phoned last evening; she received a letter from Mark's mission president, written in Spanish. Janet had it translated. He wanted them to know Mark had arrived and he has been sent to Uriburo, in Argentina. That is where Rita Sofia Mendez lives; she was an exchange student in Jon Tibbets's college. She visited in Janet and Dave's home last summer. She hoped Mark would come to her town. Donna just informed me the town is Tucuman, Argentina. The Uriburo is part of Rita's name. I stand corrected. Mm that turkey smells good. Mary and Donna decided to make a quilt for Kathy from the material she gave Mary. It will make a very pretty quilt; it has darling little girls in the print. Kathy was going to make a dress for herself out of it, but changed her mind and gave it to Mary. She'll be surprised to have a quilt at Christmas out of the material. We ate our delicious turkey dinner at 12:30 noon. Donna put the dishes in the dishwasher. Rex, Donna, Mary, and her children (all but Spencer) went to sacrament meeting in Ottawa. They left here about 1:30 p.m. Jon had some work on the Tibbets place so he couldn't go. Spencer cried for a while when he heard the VW bus drive away, but I talked to him and he did go to sleep. Donna played the piano or organ for the singing. (Annie Hall is visiting in California for her son Michael's wedding.) We all enjoyed a turkey sandwich on one of Donna's good rolls. The Jon Tibbets family left for Omaha and home, about seven o'clock this evening.

November 3, Monday

Donna and Rex went to the bank in Overbrook this morning to take care of our Social Security checks. She brought

\$40.00 in cash to me. She paid some bills and etcetera. She brought my lunch at noontime. The mailman came to the house with a package, but I couldn't get to the back door in time so he left a note in the mailbox saying there is a package in the post office for Marshes. I rode to Overbrook with Donna this afternoon to pick up the package. It was some LDS garments Donna had ordered for a sister in the branch. We stopped at the supply company to have a metal pipe sawed in half, and threaded, for Jon's electrical needs. I bought some ice milk [*ice cream made from milk instead of cream*], carrots, and dry cereal at the market. Donna did the leg work; I stayed in the car. We have some fantastic cloud formations in the sky today. Donna brought a dish of cashew nuts in for me to nibble on; they are my favorite nuts. Rex's neighbor Rex Gillian called by to see him this afternoon. Donna washed and pressed Sr. McKay's dress and she got her sewing machine out to take the seams in a little. Sr. McKay thinks they are too wide. The poor Relief Society president, here is a job she doesn't relish! And I'm no help either; I'm sorry about that. I can't even spell correctly anymore; my diary is a mess. We watched television this evening for a while and then we had our home evening. Donna read from the Bible, the last Book of Revelation, and she gave the nice message from our church's Home Evening Book. Rex opened our meeting with prayer and I closed with the prayer. I do enjoy our Home Evening programs. P.S. Donna read the Relief Society lesson to me tonight; it is a lovely lesson. I'm sorry I don't feel well enough to go with her. The Relief Society lesson for tomorrow, is on "The God Head." Good night.



Joan, Mo, Sherm, and Janet Gardner in 1975.
Mo's birthday is November 4.

November 4, Tuesday

*Congratulations to you,
Miller dear,
You've made it through
another year.
It's your turn to celebrate
big boy,
So, stand up and shout,
"Aho!"
Birthdays will come and
they will go,
But for us, there'll only be
one Mo!
Happy Birthday*

Rex went to work this morning; he left the farm about 6:30 a.m. in the pick-up truck. Donna left in the Chevy sedan about 9 a.m. to drive to Ottawa

to her Relief Society meeting. I got up about 10:40 a.m. to a cold, cloudy day, but nice and warm in my little suite.

*I got dressed and combed my hair,
I made my bed and said my prayer.
I went to the kitchen for something to eat,
And brought it back to enjoy in my suite.
I listened to soap box operas on T.V.
Donna came home about 20 minutes to three.*



*Rex came home about the usual time,
Have you noticed my last few lines are in rhyme?*

Donna said the Relief Society lesson was very interesting. It was on "The God Head." I'd love to have been there, but it's so far to drive and I have problems with that church and the steps and etcetera. Donna bought the sanitary pads I wanted, cost was \$5.03. She ate her lunch in my place and told me about the nice meeting and told me that Jeanne Brooks sent her love to me. She always does, she is a dear. We ate our dinner from TV trays in my place so we could watch television. I started a letter to Violet late this afternoon and I finished it tonight after Rex and Donna went to their place to retire. Night all.

November 5, Wednesday

We have a foggy morning; it is noon now and still foggy. Donna drove to our mailbox to get the letters in it before the mail pick up. She mailed my letter to Violet. A couple came with their pick-up truck to get some of the pretty, flat rocks from the rock pile in this yard. They are friends of Rex and Donna from the Ottawa Branch (Br. and Sr. Ryan). Rex went to his work in Overbrook, at the nursing home this morning, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sun was shining and the fog lifted by three o'clock this afternoon. Donna has been busy cleaning windows, lamp shades, mirrors, and bathroom fixtures in her place and mine. She also did some vacuuming and ironing. Oh, where does she get all that energy? I feel exhausted just watching her work. I started to answer Blanche Hoglund's letter. I hope I can finish it today. Later I did get that letter finished, thank goodness. This evening we ate our delicious fried chicken dinner in here, from our TV trays, while we watched television programs. Donna did the dishes, but Rex stayed until after the ten o'clock news. I watched the "Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson for a short time and then I went to bed. P.S. We had a little shower of rain and some lightning and thunder this evening, but it didn't last long. We need some rain. Good night.

November 6, Thursday

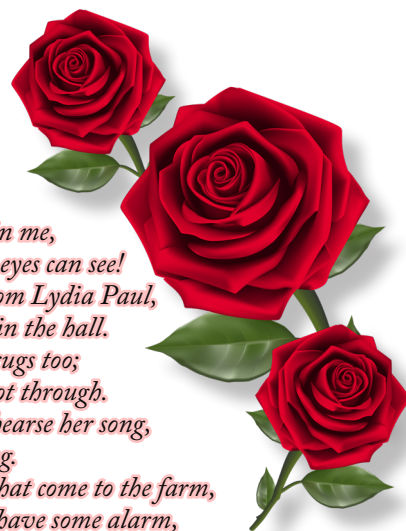
It was cool and cloudy this morning, but some sunshine this afternoon. Donna took my letter to Blanche H. to our mailbox in time for pickup. She went back later, but there was no mail for anyone here today. She brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, some toast, a glass of milk, and a half of grapefruit at noon. I had a poor night's sleep; it was almost daylight before I fell asleep, so I slept late today. Rex was working on the fireplace chimney today. Donna was helping him pick up some of the pretty, flat rocks from the rock pile in the backyard. I hope they can use their two fireplaces this winter; one in the basement and one in their living room upstairs. There is so much that needs doing and so little time to do it before Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday time. Rex also put in the back stops and mud scraper. This evening the three of us ate our dinner from TV trays in my rooms, while watching television. We watched "Hollywood Squares" and "The Waltons." We had chili and crackers, milk, and chocolate pudding with cream on it. Rex has to go to work tomorrow at the nursing home from six o'clock to two o'clock, so he took a shower and went to bed early. Donna cut a greenish gold washcloth in half and

sewed them to the arms of my swivel chair where they had worn threadbare. It is a perfect match in color. I'm happy to have the bare spots covered. She is a precious daughter. We enjoyed television tonight until after the ten o'clock news. P.S. I thought Rex had gone to bed, but he came in his pajamas and watched a nice "True Story" about a military cadet in a college trial. It starred the actor known as "John Boy" in the Waltons [Richard Thomas]. It was a good story. [Movie was called "The Silence" made in 1975. A cadet at West Point is subjected to "internal exile", which means that other students refuse to talk to him or acknowledge his existence, after he is accused of violating the school's code of honor.]

November 7, Friday

It is a beautiful morning, sky is blue with some sunshine, too. It's such a nice way to start a day, the world seems good, just as it should.

*From this pen of mine,
Words fall in rhyme.
My Donna, so sweet,
Brings me good food to eat.
When my heart feels glad,
Old age isn't so bad.
The soap box operas entertain me,
I'm so very thankful my old eyes can see!
Donna read me my letter from Lydia Paul,
Then she vacuumed the rug in the hall.
She came in to vacuum my rugs too;
I walked around until she got through.
Sr. Donna Story came to rehearse her song,
But she wasn't here very long.
Bobo is snapping at people that come to the farm,
And it is causing Donna to have some alarm,
For fear he'll do them some harm.*



The urge to rhyme is over. ☺ Rex came home about 2:20 p.m. I can hear some hammering so he is busy I presume. I hear Donna with the pots and pans in her kitchen. We are expecting Jon T. with Julie and Spencer tonight some time. We have a lovely orange sunset this evening. We watched television tonight and thought about Jon and his two children on their way here from Omaha. Rex and Donna stayed with me until after the ten o'clock newscast. I watched the "Johnny Carson Show" for a while and then I retired. I didn't get to sleep until after the Tibbetses arrived and Julie was tucked in my other twin bed. I presume it was about 1 a.m., but I couldn't see the time.

November 8, Saturday

It was so quiet this morning I knew I was alone in the house. I could see Jon over at the Tibbetses' house. I got up and dressed and then Rex and Donna drove in the yard. They had Julie and Spencer with them. They'd been to Overbrook for some supplies needed for the work on Tibbetses' place, or here? We had plenty of action after Spencer and Julie arrived. Julie had her hand wrapped up; she had a black and blue finger nail. I presume the car door shut on her hand, ouch! I know that hurts. Donna brought my breakfast, an egg and toast with Postum. It was 12:30 noontime, so it was lunch. She said that little Spencer shut the back door of this house on Julie's hand, of

course by accident. Joan phoned from Illinois; she had talked to Kathy and she said there is a new man in Kathy's life and she is excited over him. He is LDS, a returned missionary and the athletic type; she has been jogging with him. His name is Richard Lloyd George. She is always coming up with a George, eh? I'm glad Kathy is enjoying herself, bless her heart! Rex is doing some plumbing work, so our water was shut off from 3:20 p.m. until 4:20 p.m. Everyone is busy but me, my get up and go got up and went. However, I'm doing alright at the ripe old age of 83. Over 30 years ago, the doctor told Lou I couldn't live longer than six months. I'd been in bed with heart problems for four months, and here I am in Kansas, 83 years old next month and I'm able to take care of my own personal needs. I'm blessed indeed. I rode to our mailbox with Donna and Julie, for the mail. There was nothing but bills and business matters, but I enjoyed the ride out. We drove over to the Tibbetses' house, also. I composed a little verse for Greg Tibbets's birthday card (see December 21). Rex, Jon, Julie, and Spencer went with Ralph Gale to round up their cows. We watched favorite programs tonight, "Lawrence Welk" and others.



Richard Lloyd George

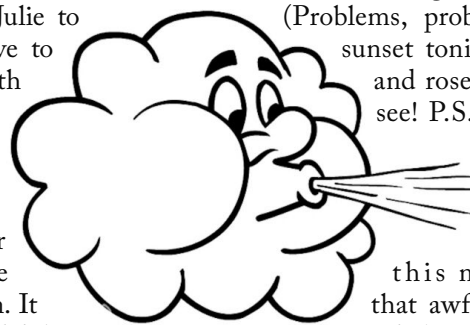
November 9, Sunday

We had overcast sky this morning. Donna took Julie to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. They drove to Ottawa in Jon's VW car. Spencer stayed here with his Papa and Grampa. We had a strong wind from the northeast. Rex and Jon worked over on the Tibbetses' place. Little Spencer was in and out at will. I fixed myself some dry cereal about noon. The men brought Spencer here about 12:30. They ate their lunch and Jon put his little son down for a nap. The sky got darker and we had a heavy downpour of rain. It sounded like there was some hail in it, however, it didn't last more than 30 minutes. Rex had his pony, Little Rascal, staked out in Tibbetses' yard, so he took it back to the south field. I washed the dishes we used, so Donna will have a clean sink. She said she had a lot of Relief Society business after church, so she wouldn't get home until after four o'clock. She took a picnic lunch for Julie and herself. Rex and Jon are working over here in the basement now. They work at both homes, wherever the need is at the time. I'm enjoying my lovely Mormon Hymns, by the Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir and played on my Magnavox player. I save them for my Sabbath day reverence to my Father in Heaven. I saw Bobo catch and kill a little cottontail rabbit. The incident wasn't funny, I felt sorry for the little bunny, but we don't want them here on the farm, because the little creatures can do a lot of harm. One reason why the bunny must go, they eat our vegetables as soon as they grow out of the ground, and they nibbled on the bark of our little fruit trees, so some of them died when the weather began to freeze. We had a very nice roast beef dinner at 5 p.m. Jon, Julie, and Spencer left for Omaha at six o'clock. Mary phoned a few minutes after they left. P.S. We watched

television tonight for an hour or so, then we went to bed. The wind is still blowing hard. (Why do I repeat words? It's stupid.)

November 10, Monday

Dear Ones, the morning is calm and bright, the sky is blue. My world seems alright and I hope yours does, too. Rex came home from his work in Overbrook at the nursing home about 3:20 p.m. He and Donna invited me to drive with them to Lawrence this late afternoon. Rex looked in a couple of used car lots for a little VW car or a small car, but he couldn't find what he wanted. He took us to the Woolworth's Store. Donna went in with me to look at the hair clips or barrettes, some kind of an ornamental clip for my hair. They didn't have the style I wanted. We walked to Weaver's Department Store, a couple of doors from Woolworth. I bought a pretty, silver, Riviera hair jewelry clip, it cost \$2.59 with the tax. It isn't just what I wanted, but it is the best I could find and shopping around isn't my cup of tea anymore. I was glad to get back in the car. I bought a half gallon of ice cream to bring home. Rex went in the store for me. Three of Rex's cows broke through the fence and are out in some farmer's yard. Rex went out to look around tonight, but he couldn't locate them. He needs some fences strong enough to hold them in the pasture. They've broken down the wire fence too many times. He can't look for them in the morning because he has to go to work at the nursing home.



(Problems, problems!) We had a beautiful sunset tonight; the clouds were orange and rose colored, Oh, so gorgeous to see! P.S. Excuse please, I can't write or spell right anymore.

November 11, Tuesday

We have the "Big Blow" this morning. Oh, I do not like that awful wind, but the sky is blue and the sun is shining, that I do like. Rex went to his work at the nursing home this morning about 6:30. He drove the Chevy. Donna left for her Relief Society in Ottawa about nine o'clock. She drove the pick-up truck because the car is hard to start and needs a lot of work done on it. That takes money, which is scarce around this farm. I got up at 10:30 a.m., turned up the heat, and dressed in my warm robe and slippers. I dressed my hair and said my prayer and then I went to the kitchen to fix a lunch or brunch for myself. I fixed a tuna fish sandwich, some Postum, and a small piece of chocolate cake. By 1:30 the wind was calmer, but still there was a breeze blowing. Rex came home at 3:30; I was dozing in my swivel chair. Donna came at 3:35, so we are three again. It is lonesome when I'm the only one at home. Rex took the pick-up truck and went to look for his three black heifers. They are really Mo's animals. Rex has Rebecca and her two black heifers. They stay in the pasture most of the time. Rex located the three cows in with Ralph Gales' herd again, so he'll need help to bring them back here again. They think the field is greener in Gales' pasture, and I presume they are right;

it won't be long before they get turned into hamburgers and pot roasts anyway. There was a letter from Violet in today's mail. She told about a visit they had from Harold Sadler. He has lost two wives by death and he has a third one now, but it isn't a happy marriage. He talked for 2 ½ hours; Violet was worn out. We all knew his first wife, Jane Cobabe; she was killed by a train about 40 years ago. [⇒]

November 12, Wednesday

It is windy again today. Rex turned the water off this morning while he was connecting up the bathroom and shower fixtures. I stayed in bed until the water was back on and I could use my bathroom. It was 11:30 and he was working in his basement. Now we have three workable toilets, showers, and etcetera in this house. We'll need them when our crowd arrives at Thanksgiving time. Donna drove to the mailbox with her letter to Kathy. We all enjoyed Kathy's letter yesterday and the letter Violet wrote. They both have a cute sense of humor. Janet phoned this afternoon and talked to Donna for a long time. She'll have a nice big phone bill, but it was nice hearing about Mark and his experience in his mission field. He has already seen Rita Sofia Mendez Uriburu, the exchange student from Argentina. She visited with the Shattucks in California last June. Mark has an appointment to give her the first gospel lesson. Rick's infected eye is showing improvement and they feel encouraged about that. Rex and Donna drove to a little town called Olathe. They invited me to go with them, but I didn't feel up to it this afternoon. It is cold and windy today; my house is warm and comfortable. I dozed in my swivel chair; Old Man Winter is not far away. Many of the states have already had his snow and ice treatment, burr, I dread it. But we'll take one day at a time and the spring will come again. It was Carbondale that Rex and Donna went to, not Olathe. They were not interested or impressed with what they found there. The old Chevy is still with them. We watched T.V. and ate from the trays this evening. Good night.

November 13, Thursday

I heard Rex leave for his work in Overbrook this morning before daylight. I rested fairly well last night. I do have some peculiar dreams, weird indeed. It is good to wake up. Donna drove to the mailbox this morning in time to put her letters in the box before pick-up time. She brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, toast, Postum, and sliced peaches

October 1, 1933

Donna came home about 12:30 last night. An awful accident occurred while on the treasure hunt. Jane Cobabe Sadler [*Jane Harriett Cobabe, 20 years old*] was killed by a train while looking for a clue. Donna didn't tell us about it until this morning. Jane and Harold were in the same car Donna was in, so Donna and the others spent their evening in the police station answering questions. The party turned into a terrible tragedy. Nothing has ever upset our ward like this has. It made us all feel sick. Everyone is down hearted in Garvanza, it's an awful shock. Poor Harold [*Jane's husband, Harold Roy Sadler, 30 years old*] hasn't a cent or her folks, either. The Bishop started a collection to pay for her funeral expenses and by night they'd taken in over \$73, good people.



Above is the diary entry telling of Jane's death. Below image from Family Search of Jane and Harold when they were dating in 1929.

for lunch at 12:30 noon. I enjoyed my TV stories while eating. The big, electric truck came today and worked on the wires for the Tibbetses' house. I watched them at work by the light pole, riding up and down on the big bucket on the tractor, it was very interesting. It is sunny today, but cold. Donna read a cute letter from Kathy. She plans on spending Thanksgiving in California with Janet and family and she hopes to be here with us for Christmas. I hope she can make it okay; we'd love to have her here. The holiday season will be with us soon, exciting isn't it! ☺ Later this afternoon the telephone man came in his truck and put the phone wires underground to the Tibbetses' place, so they can have their telephone connected anytime they are ready for it. Nice, eh? Donna received a letter from Rita Sofia, from Argentina. She was so glad to see Mark Shattuck in her home town. She is anxious for Donna to write; however, Donna mailed her a letter just yesterday. I tried to read the Church Newspaper that came today, but my eyes watered and blurred my vision, so I just had to put the paper aside after looking at the pictures. I have problems enough with my diary writing, ugh! I ate from a TV tray at 6 p.m. Rex and Donna ate at five o'clock; I wasn't hungry then. They watched "The Waltons" TV program with me later. They went to bed early, before nine o'clock. I stayed up longer, until ten o'clock. Good night.

November 14, Friday

Rex had the water off for a while this morning while he worked in the basement. I got up earlier than usual because we were expecting our Relief Society visiting teachers, Jeanne Brooks and Bonnie Atkinson. Donna gave them some hot chocolate to drink; we enjoyed their visit and the lovely message on "The God Head." Donna brought a toasted peanut butter sandwich and some milk and custard to me later, before she and Rex left for Topeka to get some material needed for their home. It is a beautiful day, but cold. I'm thankful for my nice, warm house. I was invited to go to Topeka with Rex and Donna, but no way! I don't care to go riding on the long, country, dirt roads, feeling the way I do. Sorry about that. It is cold outside, too; Donna says they're going for a metal lath and groceries. They left here about 11:40. I washed my few dishes, wrote in diary, and watched the TV stories I like best, and I wrote to Violet. Donna and Rex came home at 4:30 p.m. She had a Thanksgiving card and letter from Florence Oates. They are

going to Irene's home in Tempe, Arizona for Thanksgiving, all of their children will be there, too, all of them but Keith and Mitch, they are in the service, I presume. Jon and Mary and children arrived about 5:30 this evening; all happy and feeling fine but Julie. She has a sore throat and a slight fever. Mary has Kathy's quilt top ready to tie; it is really pretty with the red and white squares between the cute print squares. Donna cooked a meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, and cabbage for our dinner this evening. I ate mine from a tray in my room; the table was full of food and family. I'm better off in the calm of my room, at my age. I get frustrated when I'm in the action, but I love them.



November 15, Saturday

*Donna, this day you've
waited for, I'll wager
So, kick up your heels and
shout, I'm a teenager!
Have fun and be happy,
keep clean and sweet,
And you'll enjoy life better
each new day you greet.
Love, Great Grama Elvie*

The elders and boys from Jon's ward in Omaha arrived this morning soon after eight o'clock and they are busy helping Jon put the siding on his house. They came in two cars. Donna and Mary fed them some hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls that they made last evening. The men left Omaha about four this morning, (that's brotherly love, for sure)! Julie isn't well, so they're keeping her in bed this morning, much against her will. Donna brought some dry grain cereal, milk, and a hot cinnamon roll for my breakfast. (Lucky old gal, eh?) A water pipe broke in our backyard; we had no water until Rex got it fixed. I'm glad he was here to fix it. Jon and Rex needed the tractor today, but something broke on it and they're disappointed. (Life, the hard way, in Kansas.) It's their choice, not mine. It is a beautiful day, sunny and bright. The boys are on the rock pile building something. Even little Spencer is up on the top of the pile. I've been watching them out my bedroom window. Everyone is busy but me. Well, my brain is busy recalling and recording. Julie came in at 12:45 to watch Sesame Street, but it was almost over. She didn't stay long, she said she was going back to bed. Her temperature was 104 degrees. She looked miserable. The six men and two boys came in with Jon to eat lunch at 1:20. It was a busy kitchen with the Tibbets kids and Rex, too. I'm very thankful for my own room. Donna had a little nap this

afternoon on my extra twin bed. Mary rested in Donna's house. P.S. Rex took Spencer with him this early evening to move his three cows, to glean in the Milo field. (I don't know how that grain is spelled.) Mary and Jon took their family home tonight about eight o'clock. Rex and Donna watched television with me until 9:30 p.m.

November 16, Sunday

We have a lovely, sunny Sabbath day. Rex couldn't get the Chevy car started this morning, so he took the pick-up truck to work. Donna couldn't go to Sunday School; she has a miserable cold in her throat and head, plus the fact of no transportation. We both stayed in bed until noon. She needed

the rest. I stayed in bed to keep warm and to save on heat and food. Donna brought some oatmeal cereal, toast, Postum, and sliced banana for our brunch from TV trays in my apartment. She read the lovely message by President Alvin R. Dyer, given at a missionary conference in Oslo, March 18, 1961 the title, "For What Purpose." It was very interesting, why were we born white and some are colored. [This talk has incorrect doctrine, it supports old ways of thinking that were **never** correct.] I had the advantage over many, because my parents and grandparents understood and taught me for what purpose I'm here. Donna phoned Jeanne Brooks this morning to let her know she couldn't come



Donna Shattuck and Julie Tibbets during the summer of 1974.

to Sunday School. Annie Hall is back from California so she can play for the singing. Rex came home from work about 3:20 p.m. We had a quiet afternoon and evening. I was troubled with a few aches and problems adjacent to old age; but I didn't complain to my family. We all retired soon after 9 p.m. Rex has the early shift in the morning tomorrow. Donna has to take Rex to work in the morning because she needs the pick-up truck, the car will not start. Problems!

November 17, Monday

Donna drove Rex to his work this morning before it was daylight. She took a book to read until it was time for the bank to open, so she could draw some money out of my account to buy a little VW car, from a young couple they know about. I do not know the details yet, but the Chevy car will not run now and they must have a car that uses less gasoline, too. She took \$500.00 from my account plus the interest from the \$10,000. It was a little over \$200. Now they

can pay cash for the VW car. I'm glad I can help them in this hour of drastic need. Donna insists they'll start paying it back in January. I'll manage alright without it. The Olathe Equipment Company truck with a big tractor came to the farm this morning and took Rex's tractor away to have it repaired. It is amazing how things keep breaking down on this farm. Donna went to Overbrook to pick Rex up at the nursing home at 3 p.m. They brought the mail in, and there was a pretty Thanksgiving greeting card and a beautiful 5x7 inch photo of Kathy. It is adorable, she surely is a beauty. I'm delighted because Donna put the photo in the gilt frame that I had Kathy's younger picture in, and it is here on my little beverage table for me to enjoy. We are disappointed that she isn't coming home for Christmas. She is scheduled to work all through the holiday season. It'll be her first Christmas away from home. She is sad about it, also. She expects to spend Thanksgiving with Janet and family in San Jose, California. Kathy is going to BYU part time now. Donna came in and read the Relief Society lessons for tomorrow, to me. I enjoyed both of them; one is for the young mothers, the other is for the older mothers and grandmothers. We had a pretty, orange rose sunset tonight.



Kathy Marsh taken at BYU for the yearbook. This is the photo that came in the mail November 17.

November 18, Tuesday

It is a pretty morning, blue sky and sunny. Donna drove the pickup truck to Ottawa to her Relief Society meeting. Rex worked in his basement; he had the water turned off

for a while. I fixed myself something to eat, dry cereal and warm drink. I watched the TV stories; I'm very thankful for television. Donna came home about 1:40 p.m. They ate lunch and then went to Topeka to take care of the business of buying the little VW car. I was invited to go with them, but I didn't feel up to the effort needed. They left here about 2:10 p.m. They didn't get very far; the pickup stalled and wouldn't start again. Someone in a blue VW car brought them home. Rex got the Chevy car running after a little work and they drove away in it about 3 p.m. I'm here wondering what is going to break down next? The tractor, the water pipe, both cars, the cow's fences have all caused problems for Rex. Soooo, I'm wondering? Well, I do have our beautiful picture of Kathleen on my table to look at anyway. The sky has clouded over this afternoon. There is no sunshine now, at 4:15 p.m. It was almost dark when Rex drove in with the VW bug. Donna was driving the Chevy home; it stalled, and Rex went back to help her, but the pickup stalled, so a neighbor farmer, towed both crippled cars home for them. The VW car is working alright, I hope. The neighbor worked with the pickup truck and Rex's help. I think they did get it started. Donna and I watched a special three-hour TV program, "That's Entertainment." Many TV and movie stars were featured. It was very spectacular. We both enjoyed it a lot. I'd like to mention the stars, but there are too many and I'm too weary. It is eleven o'clock now, so goodnight

November 19, Wednesday

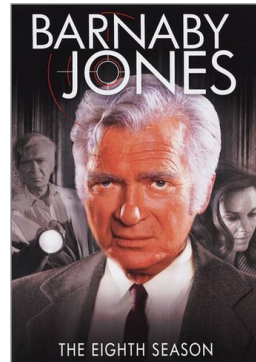
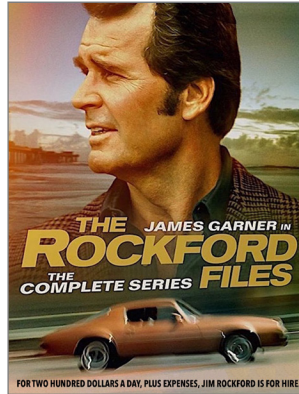
It rained in the night and was damp and overcast this morning. Rex and Donna worked around the place. They had a big bonfire in the incinerator out in back burning up the rubbish. Donna brought me a tuna fish sandwich, some applesauce, orange juice, and Postum at noon. She and Rex went in their VW car to Lawrence (I think) to have the ownership papers changed into their name. It got dark and rained this afternoon about 2:45 p.m. There is a "W" warning sign on Channel 13. The report is for heavy storms, rain, snow, and hail in parts of Kansas, also a tornado watch in parts of the state, but so far, we haven't had any strong wind or storm. It is 3:45. I'll be glad to have my family back home in the little, red VW car. They came about 4 p.m. Donna brought three letters in for me to read. One was from Mark S.; he is enjoying his mission in Argentina. It was a cute letter; he is a fine young man. The other two letters were from Joan telling about their holiday plans in the first letter, the second note was written after she had talked to her parents via phone. Rex told her they may come to see her at Christmas. That really turned her on, me too! It's raining hard now at 4:30. It's so dark outside; it seems more like six o'clock. Mother Nature in Kansas, is temperamental, has sudden changes, one never knows what to expect next. The storm passed. I enjoyed watching the "Tony Orlando" show tonight with his special guest Freddie Prinz, star of "Chico and The Man." It was a very entertaining program. I've always wanted to see Tony and Freddie on the same program; they look so much alike. Rex is still hammering in the house somewhere? The basement, I presume. There is so much to do before the Guy Tibbetses arrive.

November 20, Thursday

It was cold and cloudy and wet and windy this morning. It has rained a lot in the night. I took a shower before getting dressed this morning. Donna checked in on me several times to make sure I was alright. I'm sorry to be so much trouble to her. She brought a lunch to me. Later she and Rex came in and moved my chair and table desk over near the heater. Donna thought I'd be more comfortable near the heater and I presume she is right. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook this afternoon to take Joan's check to the bank. The wind is howling this afternoon; it looks cold outside. We'll be seeing the snow flying any day now. Donna bought some Thanksgiving greeting cards to send to family. She brought a cute card for me to send to Kathy, "To a Sweet Granddaughter." I'm glad she did. We all miss our beautiful Kathleen. I looked out my window a few minutes ago and it was snowing. If this big flurry keeps up all night, we'll have white fields in the morning. It is 4:10 now. Rex and Donna are working in the basement. I got Kathy's Thanksgiving card ready to mail. I wrote a note in it and taped some gum and put a \$1.00 bill in it. Rex and Donna went for milk at the dairy this evening. We all watched the Dean Martin celebrity roast tonight at 9 p.m. The guest of honor was Valerie Harper. It was very entertaining; some of the guest speakers were Phyllis Diller, Shelly Winters, Nancy Walker, Nippy Russell, Jack Albertson, Rich Little, and others. Our weather report says it may freeze tonight; it has turned much colder.

November 21, Friday

Today's diary page has a "thought" printed on it; it says, "Too much rest becomes a pain," (Homer). "You're right, I know! Ha ha." We have a cold, cloudy day. I'm glad I have a nice warm house to stay in. Donna drove to Ottawa in the red VW car, then, she went with Jeanne Brooks, in her big car, to Kansas City, Missouri, to the Relief Society leadership meeting. Rex was busy around here getting a long table made to accommodate 20 people, in the basement, for the Thanksgiving Day dinner. It is all very frustrating for this old gal to comprehend, but they are young enough to take care of the problems involved, I presume. It must be real cold outside. Rex's nose is very red. He is wearing a heavy jacket and a cap with ear pads on it. I put the dishes away that Donna had left to drain. I washed and dried the ones I used and some Rex had used. It was cold in her kitchen; I was glad to get back in my suite. Jon and Spencer came from Omaha this evening. Donna got here about the same time, 5:40 p.m. She had a letter in a Thanksgiving greeting card from Janet and she read it to me. She is expecting John and Ann and Kathy for Thanksgiving dinner. She said she cooked a turkey last Sunday to make sure she hadn't forgotten how. She was pleased with the results; it was delicious. I went through a couple of stationery boxes and discarded a lot of letters that I had saved a long time. I have to do it once in a while or I'm overcrowded with them. Rex and Donna came



in tonight and watched the "Rockford Files," "Barnaby Jones," and the ten o'clock news. Jon and Spencer went to bed early. We are all a bit weary. Good night.

November 22, Saturday

I'm thankful for this bright, sunny morning and a good night's rest. I got up at nine o'clock, sponged myself, got dressed, combed my hair, and said my prayer. I sat in my swivel chair until I felt better able to go to the kitchen. I could hear the action there; Grama Donna and her little Spencer. Papa Jon is working over at the Tibbetses' house. Every one works around our house but old L.V. She is a privileged character of eighty-three. Rex took the red VW car to his work at the nursing home this morning because Jon needed the pick-up truck. Donna was going to drive Jon's little VW car to take me to Overbrook for my appointment at Ila Huston's beauty shop at noon, but it wouldn't start. We ended up taking the pickup truck. We arrived 15 minutes early but I didn't have long to wait. Donna and Spencer went shopping for a few items she needed, then they came back and waited for me to get out from under the dryer. I showed Ila how

I dressed my hair and with her help we did the job. Ila gave Spencer a hand full of licorice candy and treated Donna and me to some, too; it was good. She charged me \$2.00; I gave her a tip of 25¢ which is all the change I had at the time. I gave Donna money to buy a half gallon of chocolate ice cream and half a gallon of vanilla and some cottage cheese and bananas. We were back home by two o'clock. Jon got his little VW car to work okay. He has been working on the peacock pen that he is building for his father's birds. Donna brought me a little snack to eat. Spencer took a nap after his lunch. Rex came home about 3:20 from work. I stretched out on my bed for a couple of hours. I got up to listen to my favorite TV show; the "Lawrence Welk" program and the good shows that follow. Jon and Spencer left for Omaha and "home sweet home" about seven o'clock. Rex and I watched "The Carol Burnett Show" tonight.

November 23, Sunday

Rex left for work this morning, before it was daylight to his job in Overbrook. Donna left shortly before ten o'clock to drive to Sunday School in Ottawa. We have a sunny morning but there are lots of clouds in the blue sky. I stayed in bed until 10:45 a.m. I save on the heat and the food that a way. ☺ I rested fairly well last night and I'm thankful for this lovely Sabbath day. The wind is howling, but I'm getting used to the Kansas weather. (About time, eh?) I ate a sliced banana and some dry cereal about noon. I washed and dried a few dishes in the sink and then I listened to some beloved Mormon hymns sung by the Tabernacle Choir. It is my way of worshiping since I can't be in church. Donna was home about 2:30 and Rex came about 3:20 p.m. Rex ate and got ready for his bus trip to Salt Lake City. I drove with them to Topeka to the bus terminal, where Rex was going to catch the bus. We stopped in Sears Store on the way, for Donna to

buy a box of washing powder. I sat in the car while they went in Sears. This was my first ride in the little red VW car. I sat in the front with Rex going, and Donna sat in back. We left him off at the bus station and then Donna drove home. It was nice getting out for a drive. The little bug is very comfortable, too. Mary phoned soon after we arrived home. A little later Rex phoned to see if we got home safely. He was waiting for his bus to leave for Salt Lake City. He will see John and Ann and Kathy tomorrow evening when he arrives in Salt Lake City. The Tibbetses' big van is loaded and waiting for Rex to drive it to Kansas. John drove it from California to Utah. The Guy Tibbetses are on their way here.

November 24, Monday

Donna drove to Overbrook to the bank to deposit a check of Joan's or Jon's? I get confused on what she tells me sometimes. She went early, before 8 a.m. We have sunshine and clouds and it is a bit windy. It's cold outside. Rex will arrive in Salt Lake City this evening. The Guy Tibbetses' van load of furniture and etcetera are already there waiting for Rex to bring them to Kansas. He expects to start for Kansas tonight sometime. He said he'd sleep on the bus today so he can drive all night. Donna has worked in the basement all day. She helped me down the stairs so I could see how nice they have fixed it up for Tibbetses to use until they can get into their own house. It really looks nice; I was amazed at all the things Rex and Donna have done down there to make it livable. The big, long table that Rex made is there to accommodate twenty people for Thanksgiving dinner. She has it covered with white sheets on it. The beds are made up ready (two double beds, and two bunk beds.) Donna is hanging nice, little curtains at the windows; they are some I had in my home in Pasadena. The Guy Tibbetses are on their way, they may come tonight or tomorrow. I received a nice letter from Blanche Hoglund. The Rex Marshes received one from Rita Sofia Uriburu, the girl from Argentina. Donna read them both to me. She came in later and vacuumed my rugs; I dusted the furniture. She has worked hard all day and she feels miserable, too. She is suffering from sinus problems and cold sores in her mouth. She looks tired and I'm no help. I feel very weak.

November 25, Tuesday

When I got up at 10:30 this morning, I was surprised to see snow on the ground and more coming down. Donna was in Ottawa to her Relief Society meeting. Rex is on his way back from Salt Lake City with the Guy Tibbetses' big van load of furniture. We are expecting the Guy Tibbetses to arrive on the farm at any time now. I was relieved when Donna came home about two o'clock. It was snowing; she said she drove about 25 miles an hour all the way because of the snow. Joan left Omaha at 9 a.m.; she arrived here about 2:30. She was slowed down because of the bad roads. We all



Elvie and Donna with the red VW that Elvie bought.

enjoyed some warm Postum and a peanut butter sandwich in my living room. We talked about the Bailey and Strong family genealogy. Joan told about Marshall taking some of it to school and how pleased his teacher was with his records of genealogy with family pictures and data. It is still snowing now at 4 p.m. Joan and Donna have gone to the south field to feed the horses, and to Overbrook to shop for the Thanksgiving dinner, and to pick up Rex's pay check at the nursing home. They went in Joan's car. I surely hope that the Guy Tibbetses haven't run into any serious trouble

driving here, or Rex either, with their van load of furniture. It was almost eight o'clock when Joan and Donna came home. I was surely relieved to have them back home again. It was snowing all the way. They went to Lawrence to do their marketing. They spent almost \$100 [\$536 in 2022 dollars] to get the Thanksgiving food. This is inflation like our country has never known.

November 26, Wednesday

Happy Birthday to dear Ann Marsh.

*Glory Be, another year is
added to your age!
Still beautiful, like "the girl
in the gilded cage."
Of course, not sold, for an old
man's gold"
You're in this family "to have
and to hold."
May your day be happy and
full of cheer,
And, may the happiness last
all through the year.*



Ann and John Marsh, their wedding day in 1973.

Our farm is white with snow. Mo and the children (Sherm, Janet, and Marshall) arrived in the night sometime. Rex and the Tibbetses' load pulled in this morning and we are relieved and happy to know they are all here safely. Donna and Joan are busy in the kitchen getting food prepared for the big dinner, they are making pies, rolls, turkey, and etcetera. Rex and Sherm brought Guy Tibbets's birds in from the van to Rex's basement. It is a busy household. Dorothy Tibbets phoned; they'll be here sometime today. This record keeping is keeping L.V. as calm as she can be and doing nothing to help these overworked dear ones. Well, I do stay out of their way the best I can. Rex's pick-up truck is stalled down the road. Sherm started out in Joan's car to go the south field to feed the horses; the car is stalled in a snow bank, half way there. It is snowing now at 3 p.m. It is now 6:45. Our men, Rex, Mo, and Sherm got the cars going and back here in the yard. They even got the big van, full of Tibbetses' belongings moved into our backyard so that the Guy Tibbetses can drive into the yard when they arrive. Donna

made a delicious beef stew and served it on rice this evening. She and Joan cooked one of the turkeys today. Dorothy T. phoned again tonight; she says it'll be tomorrow afternoon before they can reach Overbrook. Tonight, Mo, Marshall, and Janet watched television with me. Rex was very tired and went to bed early. He has to work tomorrow.

November 27, Thursday

Rex left for the Overbrook nursing home before daylight. I heard him drive away in the red VW bug (car, excuse please). I opened my eyes and saw two dark shadows outlined at my bedroom window. It was Donna and Joan watching to see if Rex made it out of the deep snow to the road ahead all right. (He did.) I doubt if my family went back to bed. I think they started to work. I got up about 9:30 a.m.; that is early for me. I rested fairly well last night. I can't understand why I feel so weak now? Correction, it was Joan's car that Rex took this morning, not the VW. I thought for sure that I was right, but Donna said it's Joan's car. We were all relieved and happy when the Jon Tibbetses drove into the

yard about 11:15 a.m. with the three youngest Gardner children. We have a house full of action now. Donna and I ate breakfast in my place from TV trays. We'd just started when the Tibbetses came. Miller fit and nailed the baseboard molding in the hallway for Donna. Her sons in law are all fine men and good workers, too. Jon and the men helped Jon move the **peahens** out of the basement to the Tibbetses' place this afternoon. They were causing an unpleasant odor in the basement. The small birds are okay, they can stay. Donna sprayed with the house deodorant. I've been playing happy songs on the record player, there is nothing on TV but football, and I can do without that. Mo and Jon are too busy working to watch the games. Dorothy T. phoned; they were a few miles from here, stuck in the snow and a ditch they couldn't get out of, so Jon, Mo, and Sherm went in one of the cars here to help bring them here. Guy had been ill most of the trip and Dorothy's sister Marian had injured her back and she was in pain with her back. It was a rough trip. P.S. Twenty of us ate the delicious Thanksgiving dinner at the long table Rex made in the basement for this special occasion. We had turkey and all the trimmings. We had the delicious dinner at the long table Rex made in their basement, on Thanksgiving Day. Sherm helped me down the stairs. Tonight, Marian White, Julie, Greg, and Janet Gardner watched "The Waltons" on TV.



A Peahen, not sure where the peacocks were located, maybe they got moved with the Peahens.



Thanksgiving 1975 in the basement—Donna, Mary, Elvie at the far end of the table in the dark, Mo hunched over his plate, Joan standing, Jon, and Spencer Tibbets looking at Rex who was likely taking the picture.

November 28, Friday

Happy birthday, Mary Marsh Tibbets, 33 years old.

Yesterday we gave thanks for the harvest of the year,

Today, we give thanks because we have you, Mary dear,

You have charming ways and a sweet personality,

We are lucky to have you on our family tree.



We have hazy sunshine this morning. The men moved the big Ryder's van over to the Tibbetses' house and unloaded it. Marian White got up first; she looks better. She slept well, no back pain. Donna rubbed some BenGay on her back and it seemed to help. I ate my breakfast from a TV tray as usual. Joan and Mary drove to Overbrook town. They came in my room to wish Mary a happy birthday.

We sang the birthday song to her. She opened her gifts, pictures from Janet, money from me, and Donna and Joan, to buy the robe of her choice. She got a box of pretty, little decorated goodies from Aunt Marian White. Joan and Mo plan on leaving for Chicago this afternoon. Marian stretched out on the twin bed this afternoon. I'm relaxing in my swivel chair. We have activity all over the place. I didn't listen to my TV stories so that Marian could sleep. I surely hope her back will be better soon. Dorothy and Guy came in to see

my nice, little suite, then Guy went down stairs to his bed, he is a poor, sick man. Marian got up and ate some lunch and then she went back to bed about three o'clock. Greg and Jody came in to watch Sesame Street on TV this afternoon. The Mo Gardners left for Northbrook, Illinois this afternoon at about 4 p.m. Joan drove her car and Mo drove his car. P.S. Jon returned the big van to Lawrence this evening and Rex and Donna drove to Lawrence there to bring him home.

November 29, Saturday

It is windy and cloudy with some rain this morning. The Tibbets children came in my apartment at nine o'clock to watch the cartoons on television. Marian got up and went to the kitchen for breakfast; I got up at ten. Guy, **Dorothy, and Marian** took a walk to the Tibbetses' house. Donna brought breakfast to me. Mary came in and pinned the edges of the beautiful red and white tied quilt they've made to give Kathy for Christmas.

It surely is pretty. Donna is going to do the hand sewing on the edges later. Jon and his mother drove to Overbrook about noon time. Marian was going, too, but her injured back hurt, so she went back to bed with a heating pad next to her spine. I wrote in my diary and thought of my darling Lou and his sweet tender kiss. I love to sit in my swivel chair and just reminisce. Rex phoned to ask about the weather. There had been a very bad storm in Overbrook, so he was concerned about his family here on the farm. The storm passed us by with just a few drops of rain. The snow has all melted and it is warmer, too. The children are all coughing some and Mary tries to keep them out of my place the best she can. Spencer is taking his nap and the other kiddies are watching the little black and white TV set in the Marshes' side (by request), Mary took them out of here. The well water pressure is down and we have no water. *[Welcome to Kansas, Guy and Dorothy? A big group for Thanksgiving certainly put extra stress on the well.]* Jon is working to get some water from the pond into the well so we'll have water. It is raining hard now, at three o'clock, maybe that will help fill up the pond? Donna and Mary and some of the children went to get milk at the dairy, in that downpour!

November 30, Sunday

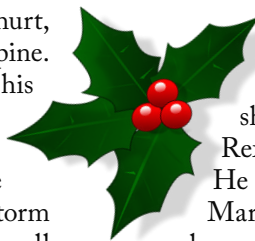
Welcome Sabbath morning. The wind blew hard last night and something was banging against the house, but in spite of it, I managed to sleep fairly well. Marian was a bit discouraged this morning. She is in such pain with her injured back when she tries to move about. Mary and her Jody and Spencer have miserable colds. Rex and Donna took Julie and Greg



Dorothy with her mother, Geraldine White, and baby sister, Marian, circa 1911.

to Sunday School and sacrament meeting in Ottawa. It is really cold outside this morning, but the sun is shining. We had a nice dinner when the folks came from church. Marian ate in here with me from a TV tray. Dorothy T. came in after dinner and visited with us. Our branch visiting brothers came this afternoon (Paul and John Dokos). They came in here and had a nice prayer before leaving. This will be their last visit here; they have been given a new district in the branch. Marian took some pictures of the Jon Tibbets children. Jon and Mary packed their belongings and children into the VW bus and left the farm at seven o'clock, for Omaha. It'll take about five hours to drive home, so they should be home about midnight. Mary was feeling miserable with a head cold. The little boys have coughs, too. Julie and Papa are okay. Marian says her back feels much better; she thinks she may go home on the bus tomorrow. Dorothy telephoned her daughter, Delphia, in Canada, and Marian phoned a friend in

Wichita, Kansas. She plans on staying overnight with her.



December 1, Monday

December comes in cloudy, cold, and windy, burr. Marian is packing her suitcase; she'll be on her way to Wichita, Kansas today. Rex went to work at six o'clock this morning. He came home about 2:20 p.m. and he took Marian White to her bus in Topeka. (She is a very pleasant person, I enjoyed her company.) Donna and

Dorothy went in the VW with Rex and Marian to take her to the bus. I'm told it is a 3-hour drive from Topeka to Wichita. Mary forgot to take her little television home, so Rex is enjoying it in his living room tonight. Donna came in my suite and watched TV with me while she worked on the pretty quilt that they are giving Kathy for Christmas. It's red and white with cute, little girls in the squares and gingham red and while checked squares, and a ▲▲▲▲▲ pointed edge of the checked gingham. The back is red and it is tied with white yarn. It is such a pretty quilt; Donna was sewing the red back to the quilt. I'd loved to have helped her, but my eyes blur and I can't see well enough to sew. Mary made a big Christmas stocking out of the red and white checked material for Kathy. Donna is going to fill it to send with the quilt. Kathy can't come home for Christmas. It'll be her first Christmas away from home. We'll surely miss her. I received a nice, long letter from Lydia, enclosed in a lovely birthday card from her and Gene. Mary and family left a little gift and card for me. I'll open it on my birthday, December 5. Good night, I'm weary.

December 2, Tuesday

Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went to Ottawa to Relief Society this morning. Guy T. and Rex are home. We have a very lovely morning. I can see Rex in the south field taking care of his animals. By the time I was sponged off, and my hair combed, and make up applied, I was too exhausted to go the kitchen and fix something to eat, so I rested in my swivel chair until I felt better. (Poor old gal, eh?) The hurt in my neck and shoulders was severe for a while. Donna and Dorothy came home about 2:30 p.m. Donna brought a turkey sandwich and a glass of milk to me on a TV tray. Later, about four o'clock, Rex and Donna drove into Overbrook to the post office to get a change of address form for Dorothy to fill out, so the post office will release the Social Security checks and pension check and letters they are holding there for her. She didn't notify the post office in Petaluma of her change of address to Overbrook, Kansas. They can't send her mail to her without the proper change of address form sent to them. So, she'll have to wait for her mail for a week or longer. (Too bad.) The sun was shining in my south window so bright this afternoon that I pinned my green silk scarf up to the curtains to take the bright glare out of the room. I must buy a pair of blinds or shades for the windows in my front room. Donna bought some Scope mouth wash and a box of 25 cute Christmas cards for me when she was in Ottawa this morning.

December 3, Wednesday

Today is pay day for me, my check of \$264.50 was sent to the bank for me. We have a lovely, sunny day. I'm not feeling very well; I have a sore throat and head cold. It gave me a little trouble in the night and today, but I'm doctoring and trying to keep it from my lungs. I've been very fortunate, this is the first cold I've had in a long time. Donna's cold seems to have returned before she was really over it; I am concerned about her. Rex and Donna took Dorothy to the bank in Overbrook this morning. She took care of her business. Guy took a walk in the sunshine; I see them come and go from my west window. Rex and Donna went to Lawrence, Kansas, after they brought Dorothy home. Donna bought our Christmas stamps today. I told her to buy \$10.00 worth out of the

cash she had for me from my Social Security check. She bought me some cold pills and medication items I needed when she was in Lawrence this afternoon. Today's mail brought a beautiful birthday card from Violet and Otto with \$2.00 enclosed. There was a cute poem tribute and a newspaper clipping from the Deseret News, with a good picture of "The Unsinkable Sheriff," Otto Fife. [See article by December 20.] It had a very fine write up about Otto and his activities. I surely enjoyed reading it; he has become famous in Utah; I'm proud of him. Donna brought me a lemon, cut in half, before she left. It helps relieve the sore throat hurt. I spend most of my day in bed.

December 4, Thursday

I was awake all night with my head and throat misery. I stayed in bed all day and started the cold pills and other medication. I ate no food, just juices and liquids. Rex brought the mail to me. There were several pretty birthday cards and Donna read them to me. I was too ill to record in my diary, so, I'm confused as to what did happen, but I was sick, believe me.

Poor old L.V. is sick in bed;


A miserable cold in her old gray head.

December 5, Friday

Today is my 83rd birthday. I do not recall ever being so ill on my birthday. I am writing this on December 6, I'm trying to recall the lovely greeting cards and nice gifts but, I'm still not well enough to sit up long. My grandchildren sent cards and little gifts, bless their hearts. Bonnie Reynolds enclosed two lovely colored snapshots of her daughter Holly's wedding day (August 8, 1975). She is Mrs. Dave

West now. I received a lovely card and letter from Lydia and Gene Paul, Joan and Mo and children sent gifts and cards. Ethel Newbold sent a nice card. Janet phoned from San Jose, and John from Salt Lake. Oh, they are all so wonderful.

I love them dearly. The lovely house slippers (bone shade) that Rex and Donna gave me are too small; she'll change them. Kathy's pretty card said there is a package in the mail. Rex and Donna drove away tonight in a heavy downpour of rain, in their little VW car. They went all the way to Kansas City, Missouri, to the stake Relief Society Christmas party. She

How about that! — by Violet Fife — 1975 —
You've reached the age of 83 — of all the Bailey girls
Now, there's just you and little old me —
I'd like to write a verse to Elvie, my sister dear,
And tell her that my love grows greater every year —
When I find two words that will rhyme
I quickly put them into a line —
Then I realize I'm not so smart,
Cause you, dear sister, are master of the art —
I think of all the many things you've done for me
All thru my seventy years —
My heart is full of love and my eyes are full of tears,
I hope you'll be repaid for all the love you've given —
When you reach those "pearly gates" awaiting
You in Heaven —  —

had the beautiful quilt, that Mary and family and Donna and family made, to send to Kathy for Christmas. It was on display with a lot of other pretty Relief Society things and Donna was anxious to get it home so she can mail it to Kathy. Donna was sorry I couldn't go to this nice party. Dorothy Tibbets brought some fruit juices to me. They are all so kind and thoughtful; I'm sorry to be so much trouble for them.

December 6, Saturday

I felt better this morning but I'm not "out of the woods yet." I got up about 4 p.m. and wrote in my diary. Jon Tibbets brought little Spencer with him today. Grandma Dorothy went with them, in Rex's pick-up truck, for some lumber needed on their home. Oh, I'm going back to bed, sorry about that.

December 7, Sunday

I thought for sure I'd feel well enough to get up and dressed, but not so. My throat isn't sore and my sinuses are a lot better, too, but my lungs are infected and the coughing to get that heavy mucous up is very weakening and makes my spine hurt. Donna ran across a lovely thank you note, with a \$20.00 bill in it. Donna has talked to Joan a couple of times, via phone, and she has written to her but she didn't find the note and money until today. We both shed tears over that sweet Joan; she is precious. All of Donna's children are precious. Little Spencer came in with Donna this morning to bring me some Cream of Wheat and grape juice. He is a cutie. Donna wrote to Violet and Lydia to answer their nice letters and to thank them for the lovely birthday greetings to me. I told her I'd give her a dollar bill if she'd write for me. It will be well worth it. She laughed and said she would not take the money; me thinks I can persuade her. I've been up about half an hour and it's back to bed. Rex and Jon are going to give me a blessing before Jon goes to Omaha this evening.

December 8, Monday

Donna brought a nice breakfast to me before she and Rex left to go Christmas shopping in Topeka. I got up (the first time in 3 or 4 days), and sat in my chair to eat, but I'm on my way back to bed, it is 9:30 a.m. I've got to be well for the big holiday. ☺ Dorothy brought me a glass of grape juice at 1:20 p.m. Donna and Rex came home about 3 p.m. She had a cute card from Kathy to me. I got up to eat a little food and Donna wrote out the Christmas checks for me to send my grandchildren; I signed them. I am sending \$20.00 to Shattucks, Gardners, and Tibbetses, and \$10.00 to John and Ann and to Kathy. They are all ready to mail. I put ten Christmas stamps in Violet's Christmas Card. I was ready to go back to bed, and I did, 5:35 p.m.

December 9, Tuesday

Dorothy took Guy to his appointment in Overbrook, (with the only doctor there) at eight o'clock this morning. Donna went to her Relief Society meeting in Ottawa. Rex brought my

breakfast to me at 11 a.m., bless him. I had a miserable night with the strangling cough that upsets my whole system. I stayed in bed all day until 4:30 p.m. Our first Christmas card came today from Lillian Keller. Rex's tractor came today, he was happy to have it back from the repair shop. The calendar came today, that Donna had made up for Joan and Mo, 1976; it has the nice picture of their six children on it. The picture was blown up from a cute snapshot. I'm very thankful for my precious family and so sorry to be a worry to them.

December 10, Wednesday

We have a sunny day, I got up to eat breakfast in my chair. I got through the night fairly well, but I'm not as well as I had hoped to be. Donna is coughing hard, too. She called the doctor in Overbrook and made an appointment for me to see him at four o'clock today. Donna changed the bedding on my twin beds today and she vacuumed my rugs and dusted the furniture. We left home (when Rex came from work), for the Overbrook Community Clinic. Dr. James L. Ruble, the doctor, didn't keep us waiting long. I was weighed by the nurse (125 pounds). Dr. Ruble made a few tests and ask some questions, then he left. The nurse came in and gave me an injection of something, Penicillin, I presume. He wrote out a couple of prescriptions and left the room before the nurse came to give me the shot in my hip.

December 11, Thursday

I feel that there is some improvement in my condition. I stayed in bed all day. Rex brought a capsule and a glass of water to me. I'm to take one capsule every six hours. He was on his way to work, six o'clock in the morning. Donna took care of my medication all day. I got up at six o'clock this evening and ate my dinner sitting in my chair. I feel too sick to recall or record anything today, sorry about that.

December 12, Friday

It's Blanche Hoglund's birthday today, she is 85. I hope she is well enough to enjoy it. I'm sorry I didn't mail her a card, but I was too ill to sit up and write anyway. I'm improving slowly; I stayed in bed all day until five o'clock this evening. Rex and Donna have been busy all day. She brought my pills, and cough medication to me on schedule, plus my meals, too, bless her dear heart. The Church News, announced the passing of two of our General Authorities, **Elder Hugh B. Brown and Elder Elray Christiansen**. They both died on December 2. Elder Christiansen was 78, and Elder Brown was 92 years old. I sat up until almost midnight watching television with Rex and Donna. I was feeling better; I took my pill and got ready for bed and sweet dreams, I hope.

December 13, Saturday

It is cloudy and windy this morning. I got up to eat my brunch this morning in my sitting room. Dorothy is doing some painting over in her house, doors, I think? Everyone works around our house, but you know who? This world has no place for a drone. ♪ ♪ I addressed a birthday card to little



Elder Hugh B. Brown



Elder Elray Christiansen both of these good men died on December 2, 1975.

Gregory Stewart Tibbets; he'll be 8 years old on the 21st of December. I forgot I had a verse ready to send, so he'll have two verses in my book. ☺ Jon and Spencer Tibbets arrived this late afternoon to the farm. I went back to bed at about three o'clock. Rex and Jon and the Darby boys helped get Rex's three black cows back into the Marsh pasture this evening. Jon and Spencer went back to Omaha tonight. He came to get his chain saw, I think. This sick old gal, can't keep up with the family activities. I went to bed at nine o'clock. Donna went to the Christmas party for the nursing home tonight, in a restaurant near Overbrook tonight. She wore my long formal; she looked lovely, I hope she enjoys herself.

December 14, Sunday

We had a strong wind most of the night and a lot of lightning and thunder. The wind is still howling; it looks cold and cloudy outside. Donna brought a tray with dry cereal and sliced banana, toast, and milk, for me. Rex went to priesthood earlier in his little car. Donna went with Dorothy in her car. I enjoyed sitting up for a while in my swivel chair. I presume that Guy Tibbets is downstairs resting. I went back to bed at 10:30 a.m. My lung congestion is healing, but, so very slowly. This virus bug has really taken the sap out of me and I had so little to begin with. ☺ Donna left a note to remind me to take my pill capsule, with a full glass of water at noon. Bless her heart. This was her late day, a lot of Relief Society business to take care of after church. Rex came home with Dorothy about 2 p.m. Donna had the dinner all cooked in the crock pot (roast beef, onions, potatoes, and carrots). Rex brought a TV tray to me and I enjoyed some of the good food, too. I'm very thankful for my children's tender care. I sat up in my swivel chair for a while with a blanket wrapped around me. We've had no sunshine this Sabbath day, but the beloved Mormon Tabernacle Choir hymns have cheered my soul.

December 15, Monday

I'm feeling much better, we have a very lovely day. Donna, Dorothy, and Guy went to Topeka this morning to do some Christmas shopping. Dorothy was going to buy shoes for the Tibbets children, but she decided to give Mary the money and let her buy the shoes for them. Mary will have the children there to try them on. But Guy got new shoes for himself. I went back to bed after the folks left, for a couple of hours. I ate a snack about two o'clock and watched TV for a while. The pretty Christmas cards are arriving every day and I'm enjoying them, too. I got up to eat my TV dinner about six o'clock and I stayed up in my swivel chair until 10:10 p.m., I was tired and glad to go back to bed. I hope tomorrow will find me feeling a lot better. Donna baked rolls and cookies this afternoon; I presume she is taking some to Relief Society tomorrow. Weary me, oh hum.

December 16, Tuesday

Donna got me up to eat breakfast at 8:30 this morning so I'd get my cough medicine on schedule. Three times a day,

how about that! She looked very pretty in my jumper dress. I'm so glad she can wear my clothes; I have no use for them the way I feel. I enjoyed sitting up for a while this morning. It is such a pretty day. Donna came home about 2 p.m. I got up to eat the tuna fish sandwich, applesauce, brown beans, and milk she brought to me. I was hungry and it tasted good. Yep! I'm feeling better. Kathy's package came today, a set of darling little hand towels with Santa's cheerful face on each towel. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Donna changed my Daniel Green comfy house slippers for a larger size, she got a pretty light blue and I wore them all afternoon. The little Holly Hobby doll that Donna wanted to put in Kathy's Christmas stocking came today, too late to mail with the big package, but Donna mailed it off today. Now Kathy will have another fun package to open, eh? I got up this evening to eat my dinner about 5:40 p.m. Donna got my silver pom pom Christmas tree up from the basement and I helped her get the branches assembled on the tree trunk. It looks pretty with the pink and silver decorations on it. Donna worked hard to get it trimmed and the color wheel on it. I watched the Johnny Carson show tonight for a while. Weary me, good night.

December 17, Wednesday

We have a very lovely morning with blue sky and sunshine. I stayed in bed until noon. My chest congestion has healed. I rested much better last night. Donna drove to the mailbox with a lot of Christmas cards. I think Rex went to work early this morning at the Overbrook nursing home. I've been too ill to send greeting cards; bless my darling Donna for bringing the Spirit of Christmas into this house this season. Oh oh! I wrote too soon; the pick-up truck wouldn't start so she couldn't drive to the mailbox. Rex brought the

mail when he came this afternoon. I received several nice Christmas cards with nice notes enclosed. Donna read them all to me (Blanche H., Bette and Ray H., Helen Obremski, and others). They are all in my pretty Christmas Card jardinière that I made a few years ago. I'm just not well enough to stay up all day. Oh, what would I do without my precious daughter to help me through the long day?



December 18, Thursday

I rested fairly well last night. I stayed in bed until almost noon. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at noon time, (egg and toast and Postum). The mailman came to the farm today; he had a couple of packages for Marshes from Kathy, plus a darling picture of her. She is a beauty! Janet phoned from San Jose and Joan phoned from Chicago. Donna is busy typing Christmas cards and notes. I don't know how she does everything? I can sit up for an hour or so, then I'm ready for bed. I'm so darn slow getting back on my feet again.

December 19, Friday

Donna made pancakes for the family this morning. I enjoyed some for my brunch at noon time. I am feeling better this

morning. We have a lovely day. A brother from our Ottawa Branch came to the farm this morning to help Rex do some electrical work over in the Tibbetses' house. His name is Br. Ryan. Donna brought a hand full of Christmas cards in that the mailman brought to the door, because of a package. She opened and read all of the cards to me. Our little home looks very festive with the little, silver pom pom tree and decorations and pretty gifts under the tree. I walked out twice to look at and enjoy the gay decorations. Whoopee! Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook this afternoon; I went back to my bed about 4 p.m. and relaxed while listening to lovely Christmas records on my Magnavox player. Donna sat in the platform rocker and changed the records. I got up at six o'clock this evening to eat my dinner from a TV tray. Good night all and sweet dreams.

December 20, Saturday

Donna brought me some toast, hot chocolate, prunes, and orange juice on a tray, before she left with Rex for Lawrence, Kansas this morning at eleven o'clock. He went to buy spark plugs for his pickup truck and Donna was going to do a little Christmas shopping. I rested fairly well last night. We have a lot of clouds in the blue sky and it is windy, so we may expect most any turbulent weather (that's Kansas). I have received 2 or 3 Deseret news clippings of "**The Unsinkable Sheriff**," the former Iron County Sheriff, Otto Fife. It is a nice tribute to Otto with a very good picture of him, too. We're all proud of him and his career as a lawman. I haven't felt very well today, I think it is a blood pressure condition. I went to bed; Donna brought me some orange juice to drink with my garlic and parsley tablet. She and Rex went to a

He's the 'unsinkable sheriff'

Otto Fife has outwitted con artists, floods

By Rose Mary Pedersen
Deseret News staff writer

CEDAR CITY — Otto Fife, the sheriff who once befriended a safe cracker, settles back in his easy chair and starts reminiscing.

Martinez was one of the slickest criminals around — a real artist. He could open a safe in six-and-a-half minutes flat.

"We caught up with him here in Cedar and put him in jail."

"After a while, I got to thinking that he ought to do something good in his life. So I talked him into speaking to a group of young boys I'd organized — kids in my Junior Sheriff Program."

"He gave 'em a great talk. Told 'em how he'd destroyed his own life by taking drugs and stealing."

"You should have seen those kids. It did more to keep them on the right track than a thousand lectures!"

Otto Fife, former Iron County sheriff, has a hundred stories to spin about his days as a lawman.

He says there was some good in every criminal he met.

Some even became his friends while they sat it out behind bars. And usually he tried to convince them to mend their ways.

"There was this escape artist who passed through," Mr. Fife recalls with his eyes twinkling. "He'd sprung people for Al Capone and was a pretty tough customer."

"We caught up with him and I said, 'Gene, you're crazy to waste your life this way. With your know-how you could be one of the greatest locksmiths in the business.'"

"Why don't you go straight?"

"Well, Gene went to the pen for a while, and I lost track of him until some colleagues of mine came back from a peace officers' convention and told me they'd seen him."

"He was a changed man. And he'd told them to tell me hello — and thanks."

It's easy to see why even the biggest

of the big-time con men often listened to Otto Fife, who now is 75 years young.

With his ageless wit and wisdom, he could charm the birds right out of the trees!

It gets his dander up, though, if somebody asks why he didn't choose to be a lawman in one of the big cities where exciting things happen.

That's when he points out that being a county sheriff in Southern Utah was anything but dull then, and is just as lively now.

During his term of office he served from 1958 to 1966) he had his share of close calls, spine-tingling mysteries, high-speed chases and encounters with what he calls "psycho-ceramics" (crackpots).

Sometimes he misses it all even though he certainly isn't spending his retirement in that old rocking chair (He's driving the mail truck to Zion Canyon three days a week.)

"I liked police work," he explains. "My Dad was a sheriff, so was my brother, Lew. I guess you could say an interest in law enforcement runs in the family."

Mr. Fife — who worked his way up to county sheriff by being a shepherd, store-keeper, school teacher, miner, elk-trapper wrangler, guide, highway patrolman and Cedar City chief of police — has some very strong ideas

about law enforcement, too.

"Today's laws often handcuff the police," he points out. "Justice has almost gone overboard in protecting the criminal."

Yet he still admires modern lawmen more than the sheriffs who were around in the days when the West was young.

"Back then it was simple. Nowadays it's scientific. You have to gather evidence, prove everything. It's a big challenge."

Of course Otto Fife thrives on challenges.

That's why he's been through the rugged Zion Canyon Narrows not once but 52 times!

If a flash flood comes down the Virgin River the going can be treacherous.

And once Mr. Fife was leading a party through the narrow passage when a flood roared in, tossing huge boulders around like toothpicks.

For a while it was thought that

everyone had been drowned.

But the unsinkable sheriff and his party fortunately had anticipated trouble in time; headed for higher ground, and emerged from the canyon safe and sound.

"I'd been told before that I was all wet, but that time it was really true," grins Mr. Fife.

Boy Scouts don't think he's "all wet" however. Throughout the intermountain west his fame has spread. And they idolize him.

"I've been in the scouting program for 57 years and have the Silver Beaver Award," the former Iron County lawman says. "I'm just as proud of it as the badge I once wore."

In fact, Otto Fife has loaned his shiny sheriff's badge to somebody and doesn't even have it around to show off these days.

But he has a whole storehouse of happy memories — shining brightly



Otto Fife, former Iron County sheriff, reflects on his career as a lawman.

Deseret News photo by Arlene Braithwaite

Article that Elvie received a few times from different family members. This copy is from the Deseret News through [news.Google.com/](https://news.google.com/).

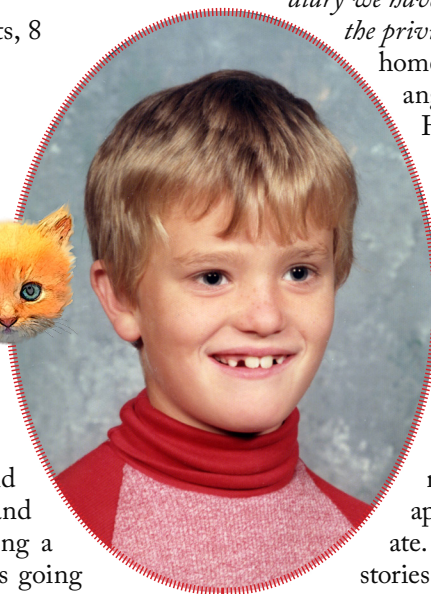
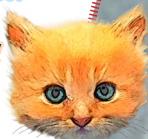
Christmas Party at the nursing home this evening. She left some lunch for me. I tried to eat some of it, but didn't do too well. Donna played Christmas carols at the nursing home for a while and she helped Rex with some of the old folks. She came home early because she was worried about me. I was very sorry to worry her; she went back later for Rex. We watched TV programs and then closed up house after the ten o'clock news. Weary old gal, L.V. Sweet Dreams.

December 21, Sunday

Happy Birthday, Gregory Stewart Tibbets, 8 years old today.

*Wow, 8 years old and you can be baptized!
Then, new interests will be realized
Have fun, we'll all be thinking of you
And wishing you a happy birthday, too.*

*The kitten on your card was surprised
When I told her you can be baptized.
Her big blue-green eyes opened wide
With happiness she couldn't hide.
Like the yellow kitten we're happy, too,
And we'll sing the birthday song for you.*



Gregory Tibbets third grade picture.

Donna phoned Kathy this morning and had a happy chat with her. She came in and told me all about it. Our Kathy is having a lot of fun dating nice young men. She is going to Salt Lake City to spend Sunday with John and Ann Marsh in their new home. She had to cancel a date to go to John and Ann's. Donna put on some lovely Christmas carols and brought a nice breakfast to me; Cream of Wheat, Postum, grapefruit, and toast before she and Dorothy Tibbets left for Sunday School in Ottawa. Rex went before 8 a.m. to get the Christmas program ready. I went back to bed about 11 a.m. Guy Tibbets is fixing something for his birds in the basement. I can hear him tapping. I feel better than I did yesterday. I stayed in bed until Donna and Dorothy came home from church, about 2:15 p.m. It is a bright, sunny afternoon. It is too bright for the back of my head; I sure wish I had the shades up. I think Donna bought them, but Rex can't find time to put them up. Rex made a fire in the little kitchen stove and it was nice and warm for our lovely dinner. We had chicken, Stovetop dressing, green beans, slaw, creamed potatoes and tapioca pudding, and etcetera. I surely enjoyed eating with Rex and Donna. Dorothy fixed dinner for herself and Guy in the basement. Donna invited them to eat with us, but Dorothy had her dinner planned. They are nice neighbors.

December 22, Monday

Donna drove to Ottawa to do her Relief Society visiting teaching this morning; she baked bread before she left. She was up at 5 a.m. Rex went to his work at the nursing home at 7 a.m. I stayed in bed until noon. I had a confused night's rest. I took a bath (sponge bath) at noon. I was so exhausted after my bath I went back to bed until Donna came about 1:30. She brought the Christmas cards and read them all to me. I really enjoyed the lovely cards and the nice letters

enclosed. The cute poem tribute from Dolores Jones to me was a special treat. The Bevan Joneses are living in Belgium. Donna brought a nice lunch which I got up for, so I could eat from my TV tray. What would I do without my precious Donna? Ruby Hodges is in a rest home in Pasadena; the dear, little soul, she hasn't got a Donna. I'm so very thankful that Donna has her beloved children to help her through her old age. *[Her children would have loved the chance to help her but she got to graduate early. Reading all the things she did in the diary we have more of an understanding why she was given the privilege to graduate at 72 years old.]* Rex brought

home a pretty little, fluffy, white Christmas angel that one of the workers made for Donna. He also had some homemade candy another lady made for him. Christmas is a happy season, eh? I went to bed before the ten o'clock news, Good night.

December 23, Tuesday

I rested fairly well last night but I had some strange troubled dreams. Old men aren't the only ones that dream; I surely do, ugh! I got up and into my robe and slippers at 11 a.m. Donna brought my brunch about noon (Cream of Wheat, toast, Postum and applesauce). I watched the TV stories and ate. The sweet Christmas spirit enters into the stories and makes them more enjoyable. Donna and Dorothy drove to Overbrook to buy food for the Christmas dinner in Omaha. I'm praying that I'll feel well enough to go along and

not spoil the holiday fun for my family. I walked around in the house this afternoon for exercise. Later Donna brought a pretty, little gift from our bank; it is a glass bowl, with a darling nativity scene inside and has a little oil wick light burning. She left it here for me to enjoy. Rex and Donna went to the dairy for milk and cream tonight. I put my hair up in pin curls and the operation almost put me down. Was I ever exhausted! Donna helped me get into bed. She rubbed my aching shoulders with BenGay and it helped a lot. Goodnight!

December 24, Wednesday

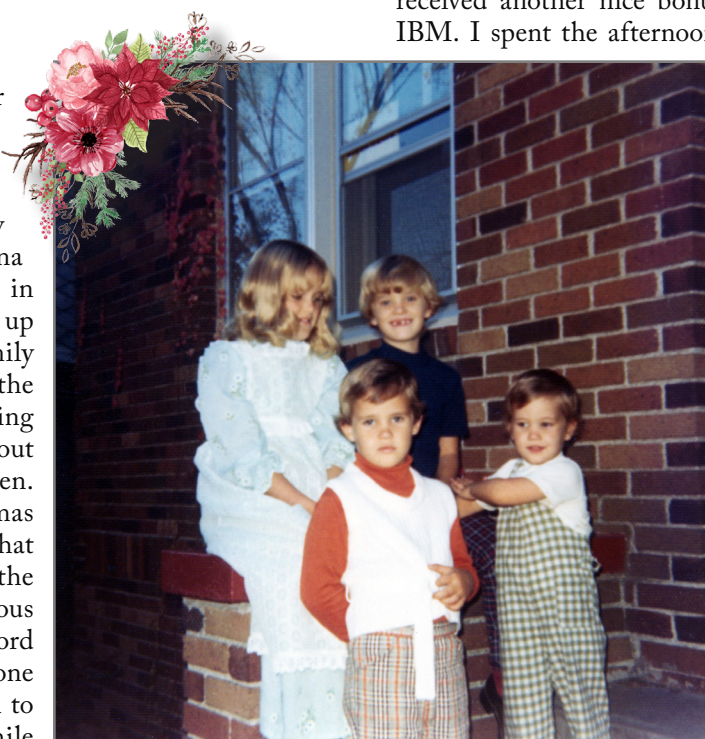
It is Christmas Eve day. I'm indeed thankful for a good night's rest. Donna brought my brunch about noon time (Wheaties, toast, milk, grapefruit, and grape juice). Lucky me, eh? Donna drove the pickup truck to go get some eggs and to leave a Christmas greeting in the mailbox with \$2.00 and a thank you note for the mailman, signed Rex and Donna Marsh and Grama Elvie. She has been busy all morning baking pumpkin pies and I don't know what all. She even came in here and cleaned my bathroom and vacuumed my rugs. Rex went to work at the nursing home early this morning. He is expected home about two o'clock. I combed my curls and got dressed in red slacks and a white top with colored flowers in it. What a gay, old great Grama L.V. is! Donna helped get my little train case packed and I sat in the chair to relax and wait. Rex got home before 2 p.m.; he is taking care of his animals; we'll be on our way to Omaha in the Guy Tibbetses' station wagon soon. Merry Christmas to all. We left the farm house about 2:30 p.m. Bobo, our dog,

looked forlorn as we drove away. It was cold and damp, but not raining or snowing. We had a pleasant 4½ hour drive to the Jon Tibbetses' home in Omaha. We stopped for gasoline a couple of times. I rode in the front with Rex and Donna, Rex drove all the way. Guy and Dorothy sat in the back seat. We were tired but happy to arrive at Jon and Mary's home about 7 p.m. Mary had a delicious stew, hot and ready to eat. It was made of vegetables, beans, with meat, and it really tasted good to me and to all of us. Jon had some extra-large sausage links like a huge hot dog. I ate a small piece, too rich for my blood. We enjoyed a joyful time with the little ones. Rex bought barbecued potato chips and Dr. Pepper drinks in-route today.

December 25, Thursday

Merry Christmas! Our precious little Tibbets children sang for us last night. They all sing well; it's a joy to hear them. Mary played the piano and Donna played some. I rested well in Julie's nice bed. We all got up this morning for the family prayer about 7 a.m. Then the children took turns opening their gifts and passing out packages to the adults to open. It is a very merry Christmas and I am indeed thankful that I was able to be part of the celebration in this precious home. I wish I could record all the joys of this day, but one page? No way! I went back to bed for a couple of hours while Donna and Mary cooked the delicious Christmas dinner.

We ate about 1:30 p.m. The turkey was so tender and everything so good. Donna and Mary did the cleaning up job, bless their hearts. I got dressed for the trip home and my little case packed. We left the Jon Tibbetses' home about four o'clock. It was still foggy and damp, but not wet. I had my lovely gifts from my darling family, oh, I love them. I have stationery and stamps from the Shattucks and Tibbetses, pretty, gold, glass bathroom set from Gardners. I get so very confused with all the lovely gifts and I can't recall who gave me what? But they were all generous. The precious calendar that Kathy gave, plus other things. The lovely slack suit was from Donna and Rex. I started out with this green pen and so help me, I'll stick with it, but I'm not too pleased with it. Sorry about that. Donna shelled peanuts for Rex on the way home. Bobo was delighted to see us drive home tonight and very happy with the turkey bones. We arrived here about 8 p.m. We made a couple of stops for gasoline. We had a turkey sandwich at home and hot Postum. P.S. Rex was disappointed that he couldn't bring home the rocking chair that Mary and Jon did for him. They did a beautiful job on it. It didn't fit in the Tibbetses' station wagon.



The Tibbets children in 1974. At Christmas time Elvie and grandparents enjoyed the holiday with the Tibbetses family.

December 26, Friday

I was surely surprised to look out my bathroom window and see the ground covered with snow, and it was still snowing. Oh, how thankful I was that it came today and not yesterday while we were driving home from Omaha. Rex had a nice fire in the little stove this morning and I enjoyed eating breakfast with Donna in her kitchen. Rex had gone to Overbrook for some lumber for the Tibbetses' house. Donna phoned John and Ann and Kathy last night in Salt Lake City. I said hello and thanked them for the gifts. This morning, after eating, she phoned Janet in San Jose and we both talked to our sweet Janet. They had a nice Christmas, too. Dave received another nice bonus dividend from his company, IBM. I spent the afternoon recording the past three days

in my diary book. This 1975 book is almost finished (me too ☺). Rex started a big bonfire in the south field this late afternoon burning up some old, dead tree branches. It looked pretty from here. I can still see some burning embers tonight, but Rex says it is safe. The ground is wet all around it. The snow is all over the north side of the house, no melting this cold day. The three of us ate our dinner in my living room this evening and watched television. I had some stomach distress again this evening. Too much rich food, old dear! I took a couple of antacids tablets for relief. I sat here and watched my Rex boy enjoying his Christmas chocolates, one after another; it's amazing. (He'll be

reaching for Tums before this day is over.) I ate one little chocolate square mint and it was all I could manage, but I surely enjoyed it. We went to bed soon after the ten o'clock news. There were lots of tragic car accidents reported, so many people driving home from the holiday celebrations.

December 27, Saturday

It is freezing cold outside, so Donna says and it looks cold. The ground on the north side of our house is still white with snow, but it has melted a lot on the south side. However, I'm comfy, warm here in my pretty little suite. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at noon time. She is precious. Rex is working over in the Tibbetses' house. I can hear him hammering. Donna hung up the adorable calendar that Kathy gave me. She put it on the east wall near my swivel chair where I can see it every day. (Aren't I the lucky, old gal?) Ah, the sunshine broke through about 1 p.m. I heard the Jon Tibbetses' car drive into the yard about 1:30, then, the excited happy voice of little Spencer. We'll have plenty of activity now and I enjoy it, too. Jon brought Julie and Spencer; they came in to say hello to me at 2:15, then Spencer took a nap in the crib that Donna

had put up for him. Donna brought me a cold glass of apple juice, Mm good. Later she came in with the mail and read the Christmas greeting cards and messages of love to us. She also read a few articles from the Church Newspaper. Julie was with Donna and I really enjoyed their visit. I felt the need for a nap this afternoon so I went to bed for an hour. I combed my hair and refreshed myself to enjoy the beautiful New Year's program put on by Lawrence Welk. I felt homesick for Pasadena. It was all about the New Year's Rose parade. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray so I could eat and enjoy the television at the same time. Julie came in for the custard dessert. We had a very delicious meal of fried chicken, yams, corn, and scalloped potatoes. The Carol Burnett Show was a rerun. I'm weary, goodnight.

December 28, Sunday

♪ Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning. ♪ ♪ We have a cold, wintry morning; still lots of snow on the north side of the house. Julie slept in my other twin bed; she was up and out into Grama Donna's side of the house about 7 a.m. I heard a car leave the farm before daylight. I presume it was Rex going to the nursing home in Overbrook. Donna took the children to Sunday School in Ottawa. I think Grandma Dorothy went, also. Donna left a tray with some graham crackers, an orange, and a glass of milk on it for me. I got up at eleven o'clock and enjoyed it. I'm thankful for my many blessings, yes, indeed. The family came home from Church about 2 p.m. I'm always happy to have them back

home safely. I did get my beds made and I cleaned a lot of rubbish out of my handbag, but I was still in my robe and slippers (sorry about that). I was too weak to have myself well-groomed and the swivel chair felt too comfortable for me to get up and move around. (Poor ole L.V.) Donna and the children ate about 2:45, but I wasn't hungry enough to join them. Jon ate with them, he is working on the Tibbetses' house today. His father, Guy, worked with him this afternoon. I was disturbed to learn that Donna was going to drive to Missouri tomorrow to work in a Jello factory to earn money for our branch. She has to leave here at six in the morning. Rex told Donna he did not want her to drive to the Jello factory on the ice-covered roads, so she called Br. Creighton and told him. He was, of course, disappointed. I was so relieved when I heard that she wasn't going to drive that long distance. Donna brought a sandwich and Jello salad for a snack tonight. It is time to go to bed, Julie is in bed, at 9:30. Goodnight.

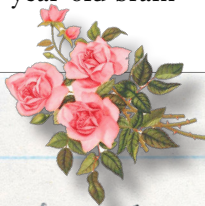
December 29, Monday

It snowed a little last night and we have a few flurries of snow this morning. I can hear little Spencer singing, oh, he has a sweet voice (he is a cutie). All of Mary's children have nice voices; I love to hear them sing. Julie was a little bit restless last night. She talked in her sleep and she managed to get on top of her covers, but I struggled to get them out from under her. She is a talented little girl; she made a cute Christmas tree decoration out of Christmas paper, like the ones I made some 20 years ago, just from looking at



Tibbetses' house as it looked in 2015. Mary and Kathy went to visit the farm and took photos.

mine. She is artistic for sure. She drew a couple of pictures for me yesterday, one of a big, fat man; she named him Tubby. The other picture she traced her hand and drew rings on the fingers and a bracelet on the wrist and long colored finger nails. I recall doing that when I was a child her age. Br. Dokos and son Paul, came to call on us this afternoon. I went in Donna's side to visit with them. Rex came home from work soon after 4 p.m. He was later than usual, he said he stopped to play a game of checkers. The children spent some time downstairs, with Grandma Dorothy. Guy is working over in his house with Jon today. Donna received a cute letter from her grandson, Elder Mark Shattuck. He says it is hard to get the Christmas spirit there in Argentina, where it is summer time now, the temperature is 103 degrees. He wants me to write a poem for him and I'm anxious to do it. Julie asked for one for her, too. I hope to do it tomorrow. This 83-year-old brain doesn't function as well as it once did. ☺



December 30, Tuesday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest. We have a very lovely, sunny day. I got up before ten o'clock. Donna brought me a tray of food (Cream of Wheat, toast, applesauce, juice, and milk). I spent my morning composing a poem for Julie, by request. It seemed to please her very much. She is 9 years old. After little Spencer went down for his nap, Donna and Dorothy took Julie with them to the market. I had some chest pains so I went to bed for a while. I put a copy of Julie's poem in back of this diary in the envelope. We're all broke, and waiting for a pay day. I went out in the kitchen to eat dinner with my family this evening. They came in my room later to watch television, "Joe and Sons" and "M*A*S*H" Rex and Donna put the new shades up to my south windows. I really do appreciate that. The bright glare was bad on my head and neck. I can lower the shades and enjoy my swivel chair now. I started a poem to my great grandson, Mark Shattuck, but I didn't finish it. Better luck tomorrow. Donna came in and

Dec. 30-1975-

To Julie, with the light brown hair and big blue eyes
In a beauty contest, she'd win a prize -

She has a sunny nature, bubbling with charm -

She's visiting her grandparents, on their Overbrook farm -

Julie's Papa has work on the Tibbets house to do -

He brought her with him - and little Spencer too -

Julie is artistic, she makes her own creations -

She drew pictures and made Christmas decorations -

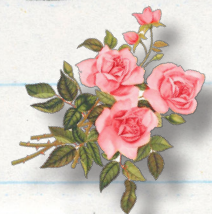
Julie and her three brothers, all love to sing & play -

Together, they make the air with sweet music ring -

Your Great Granma Elvie, now 83 years old, Julie dear,

Wrote this to say, "we love you" and wish you,

"A Happy New Year"! -



visited with me tonight. Rex went to bed early. He has to be at work early in the morning, 6:45, I think. Jon and his father, Guy, have been working together the past few days in the Tibbetses' house and they are happy with the results. Today is my dear nephew Dale Owen Andersen's birthday. I surely hope he is enjoying his day with his family. I think of Dale and Glen and their families often. I love all of them. My family watched television with me tonight for a while. I enjoy having them with me. This diary book is almost finished. Time marches on, eh?

December 31, Wednesday

We have a cold, cloudy morning, but by noon the sun was making an effort to get through the clouds. There is lots of activity in Donna's part of the house. I finished Mark Shattuck's requested poem, bless his heart. I hope he'll enjoy it. I enjoyed doing it for him. Donna is going to type it for me. She will answer his lovely letter and enclose the poem. She was very helpful with her suggestions about Mark's poem, I'm thankful for that. I need all the help I can get now. Composing poetry at 83 is somewhat of

a challenge for me. I'm surely enjoying the shades Rex put up to my windows on the south side of my suite. I'm thankful to be alive and to thank God for blessings of 1975. Tomorrow we start a brand-New Year and we'll wake up to find 1976 is here. I enjoyed a nice dinner this evening in Donna's kitchen. She invited the Guy Tibbets, too. We had spaghetti with meat sauce and green salad and delicious caramel-nut cake. It was a pleasant evening, but all too weary to sit up and watch the old year out and the New Year in.

*Out here on Marshes' Mound,
There'll be no celebration sound,
But in the cities, where there's lots of lights and cheer,
They'll welcome in the Happy New Year.*

I'll close this little red diary book of 1975 and tomorrow I'll start on my new book, 1976. Life has been very good to me. I've reached the age of 83. I'm thankful for my many blessings. Good bye, 1975. P.S. I had a wonderful shower bath tonight; Donna adjusted the spray for me. I never could get it to work right myself.

To Elder Mark Shattuck

*Mark, your name is first on my "Family Tree"
Because you made a great-grandmother out of me!
Your Mom phoned from the hospital and I shouted
with joy
When she said, "Grama I have a baby boy!"
We drove up to Mt. Baldy with the news about you,
And your Marsh grandparents shouted for joy, too.
You were a handsome, happy, dark-eyed child,
But not one they'd call "sweet and mild"
You got into lots of mischief, that I know,
But what fun it was to watch you grow.
Then came the day you made us feel so proud,
A handsome young man "standing out" in a crowd,
Active in your priesthood and other activities, too,
No finer young man to be found than you!
You were called on a mission to the Argentina land,
Eagerly you accepted in a manner that was grand.
We pray every day the Lord will take care of your
needs
While you proselyte there sowing the gospel seeds.
We haven't a doubt Elder Mark Shattuck will
become
Argentina's best missionary, on top, Number One!
As the old year goes out and the new years come in
With peace of mind you are bound to win.
There are lots of good things in store for you
When you serve the Lord, as we know you do.*

December 31, 1975

Below is the Gardner's Christmas card from 1975.

