

Elvie Renshaw's
1976 Diary



Julie, Donna, Janet, Kathy, Mark, Vera, Don, Donna, Rex, Janet, and David in Shattucks' backyard on June 5, 1976.

Cast of Characters in Elvie's 1976 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,** and a baby to be born this year. John is married to **Ann Twitchell.** Kathy will marry **Mark Calkins** this year.

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, Thursday

Happy New Year, 1976. This is my 48th diary book. I got up at 9:30 to watch the Tournament of Roses Parade on television, coming from my beloved Pasadena, California at 10 a.m. our time. It was indeed beautiful; it is the 87th Rose Parade. Kate Smith was the Grand Marshal of the parade. The two narrators were Bob Barker and Bonnie Franklin. It took two hours to see from start to finish. The first float was a huge birthday cake made with flowers. It is America's 200th birthday. **Anne Elizabeth Martin**, an 18 years old Pasadena City College student, is the 87th queen of the Rose Parade. The floats were all fantastic; they seem to get more beautiful each year. It was a lovely day in Pasadena. It was pleasant here, too. I was surprised to see the LDS Church had a lovely float in the parade. It is the first time they've entered. It was titled, Family Life and Eternal Marriage. I was thrilled with it. My precious Donna typed three copies of the poem I did for Mark. She is going to send one to Janet, one to Mark, and I have a copy. She was a big help with suggestions for Mark's poem, I appreciate that, believe me. Grandma Dorothy made Julie a very pretty, little dress today. Donna baked a goose (or maybe it was two geese). I had no idea that geese tasted so good. We had Dorothy and Guy for our New Year's dinner, too, and we start this new year out with high hopes and thanksgiving. My little calendar, for January, reads, "What happiness fills every room, of a house where there is love in bloom," So true! Have a Happy New Year everyone.

January 2, Friday

My pretty, little suite is back to normal. My precious Donna took all of the Christmas decorations out, she untrimmed the tree and got her place back to normal, too. The big holiday celebrations are over for another year and I for one, am glad. Rex received a phone call about midnight last night, asking him to come to work this morning early at the nursing home. We have a hazy sunshine this morning. Donna brought my brunch at noon, a melted cheese sandwich, salad, Postum, and tomato juice. Today's mail brought a Christmas card with a letter and news clipping of Leona Thomson's son Dick in it. He was one of my favorite boys when I was a Sunday School teacher, about 30 years ago. Richard is now Vice President for Operations of H.M. Gousha Company [road maps, atlases, books] in San Jose. He is a nice-looking man with a family of his own now. Leona is a dear friend, but I'm not well enough to write letters. The diary is my limit. Leona said Nellie Imson is very ill in the hospital, from a massive heart attack. Br. Ernest Nordstrom has a broken hip. I'm sorry to learn of my friends' misery. I hope things will be better for them in 1976. Jon is going to take the children back to Omaha this evening. They are packing

their things. It was about 4:25 when they drove away from the farm. Grama Donna gave Julie \$2.00 to buy hamburger sandwiches on their way home. She was overjoyed with the \$2.00. They should be home by nine o'clock. I ate dinner with Rex and Donna tonight about 6:30 p.m. It was very quiet after all the holiday celebrations we've had and with the children's activities and the big dinners and etcetera. It's a nice quiet "peace of mind" feeling, but we love having them with us, too.



Anne Elizabeth Martin and her court for the Rose Parade.

January 3, Saturday

We have a lovely, sunny morning, but it is cold. Donna brought some dry cereal, "Alpen" with raisins and nuts in. She also had a banana and orange juice on the tray, and some graham crackers. She took Rex to work at the nursing home at eight o'clock so she could use the little VW car to go to Lawrence and exchange the dress she got for Christmas; it was too small, I think. She changed my sheets and slip before leaving. It was 11:45 when I watched her drive away. I ate brunch and

wrote in diary. It's payday for me, but being Saturday, the bank isn't open in Overbrook, so I'll have to wait until Monday when Donna can take care of our business. I've got 15 pennies in my purse. ☺ She was back home by 1:30 p.m., she got a very pretty pants suit in exchange. She had a long interesting letter from Kathy, I surely enjoyed hearing it. She told about her Christmas gifts and all, she loves the quilt Donna and Mary made for her. She writes like she talks; her vibrant personality is evident. We miss our lovely girl. I wrote a postcard to Leona Thomson thanking her for the letter and clipping of son Dick. Donna went to pick Rex up at work in Overbrook about 3 p.m. I walked out in Donna's kitchen while she was cleaning my place, vacuuming and dusting. She had a few dishes in her sink and I enjoyed washing and drying them. Dorothy had her hair shampooed and dressed at Ila's Beauty Shop this afternoon. Everyone says it is very cold out today. It is warm and nice inside. Rex and Donna watched television with me tonight for a while. I enjoy most of the TV programs on Saturday night, starting with my favorite, "The Lawrence Welk Show." Good night all.

January 4, Sunday

We have a pretty Sabbath day. Sorry I don't feel well enough to take the long drive to our branch in Ottawa, but I am very thankful my family goes. Rex went early to his priesthood meeting. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went later for Sunday School. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna left a tray with food for me (Wheaties, milk, a banana, and orange juice). I didn't eat anything; I wanted to fast until dinner. I did take my medication with the orange juice. At the age of 83 I have special needs you see. I enjoyed some beloved Mormon

Hymns, by the Tabernacle Choir played on my player. The folks came about 2:25 p.m. Donna expected to have some potatoes baked, but for some reason her oven didn't turn on (the result, cold potatoes). But she made creamed tuna fish and served it over toast, with sliced, hard-boiled eggs on top. We enjoyed a nice dinner about 3 p.m. Dorothy's daughter Delphia phoned to talk to her. I think she lives in Canada. Donna wouldn't let me help with the dishes, and she didn't have to twist my arm either, to send me home to relax in my swivel chair. Donna said the three of them bore their testimonies in fast meeting (Rex, Donna, and Dorothy). They brought the sweet spirit home. I watched television this evening; I saw the "Swiss Family Robinson" story. Donna answered letters; she wanted to fix a snack for me this evening, but I couldn't eat a thing, and my stomach didn't feel right (neither do I). ☺ Rex is going to work early in the morning. Donna is going to drive him to work so she can use the little VW car tomorrow. I went to bed before 9 p.m. Good night all.

January 5, Monday

We have hazy sunshine today. I had a good night's rest for which I am thankful. Donna brought a tray with Cream of Wheat, milk, orange juice, and toast for my brunch. The mailman brought a package to Dorothy Tibbets and a letter to Marshes and me from John and Ann Marsh. There was a lovely photo of Ann, in color, enclosed. She is very pretty. Donna put it in a little frame and left it here on my little coffee table for me to enjoy, and I am. Ann is a very lovely girl. I enjoyed her nice letter, too. I'm glad John married our lovely Ann. Sr. Donna Story came to rehearse a solo she is singing in Relief Society tomorrow; she has a lovely voice. Her small daughter visited with me while they rehearsed. She enjoyed the television in here. Donna drove to the bank to take care of our Social Security checks and pay some house payments. She brought \$40.00 in cash to me. It's a good feeling to have some money in my purse again. Donna picked Rex up at the nursing home about 3 p.m. She made a meat loaf and baked some potatoes this afternoon for our dinner. We have some storm clouds in the south part of the sky; it looks like more rain or snow is in store for us. Well, it's that time of year, eh? Donna read a letter from Marty and Wayne Strong this afternoon. He was operated on for double hernias in December, but in spite of their problems, they both wrote cheerful letters, (sweet kids). We had a gorgeous sunset tonight; the clouds looked like they were on fire, oh, so beautiful! I watched television in my place alone. I presume Donna is getting ready for her Relief Society in the morning. Rex has his own television in black and white. Mary and

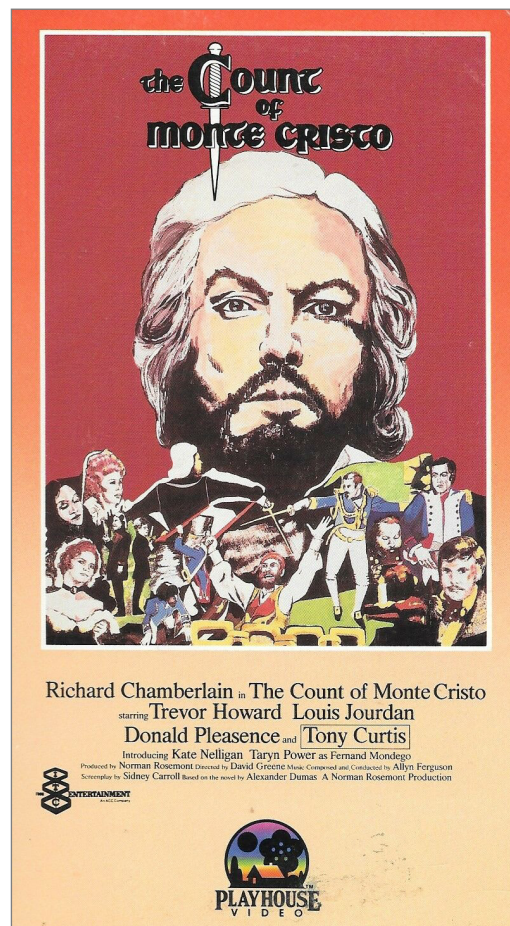
Jon gave it to him; she has a new color TV. P.S. Donna did some mending this afternoon.

January 6, Tuesday

Donna and Dorothy went to Relief Society this morning. I had a distressful morning with diarrhea. I had some five or six loose movements within the hour. I took some medication to help get it under control. I went to the kitchen at noon and heated some milk. I ate a mashed banana, some graham crackers, and the warm milk, then I felt better. Donna brought a letter to me from Ethel Newbold. She feels well and enjoyed a happy holiday season with family and friends. I'm happy for her. I wrote a little birthday verse for Emily Gardner's card; her day is January 14. I put a dollar and some gum in it and it's ready to mail. I also got a note written in Lillian Keller's birthday card. It is ready to mail; her day is the 12th of January. Donna wrote a note in her card, also. I ate dinner in the kitchen with Donna and Rex. I ate very little because I wasn't feeling well. I went to bed about nine o'clock. This hasn't been one of my best days. Better luck tomorrow.

January 7, Wednesday

I felt a bit disappointed this morning; I'm having more problems with diarrhea. We have a bitter, cold day with some new snow on the ground, but the sun is shining. I went out in the kitchen for my Cream of Wheat. Donna had a fire going in the stove and it was nice and warm. Donna's water pipes are frozen in the kitchen; she can't do the dishes. When Rex came home from work this afternoon, he used his blow torch to get the frozen pipes thawed out. I ate dinner this evening in the nice, warm kitchen. Donna made some good beef stew. Today's mail brought a cute thank you note from my dear, little great grandchild Janet Gardner. She said her mother bought a pretty blouse for her Christmas gift from me, with some of the money I sent. She wore it to church Sunday and she likes it. She is so cute. Donna read a letter she got from grandson Marshall Gardner. It was a thank-you note to all of us for Christmas; he is a cutie, too. Joan wrote a letter, also, and it is almost like a visit with her. She writes fun letters. Tonight, Rex and Donna came in to watch "Little House on The Prairie," Donna mended Rex's garments while watching. They stayed to watch Richard Chamberlain and Taryn Power, in "**The Count of Monte Cristo**," It was a two-hour movie that we have all seen before, but a long time ago. It was interesting and colorful. Good night and sweet slumber.



January 8, Thursday

I had a good night's rest and I felt much better today. I went to the kitchen for my brunch about 11:45 noon. There was a nice fire burning in the little stove. Rex fixed a leak in my shower and a few other jobs around the house. He connected his television antenna aerial line to the one in the basement, so I don't have the overhead wire in my room now. Everything is back in order. I have a good picture on my TV, too. Donna, Rex, and Dorothy T. went to Overbrook to do some shopping and take care of some business this afternoon. I think they stopped at the dairy for milk, too. It is a beautiful, sunny day, but very cold outside. The snow isn't melting. Donna bought a little wool cap and gloves for Emily Gardner's birthday. She gift wrapped it and mailed it while in Overbrook. She brought me a glass of tomato juice and some soda crackers when she came home about 4:15. I ate dinner in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. We had rib roast, yams, potatoes, and chocolate ice milk (ice cream) for dessert. I helped Donna with the dishes then I came to my place and watched television. Donna and Rex joined me later. Jon Tibbets phoned from Omaha tonight. He asked his mother to come to his home when Mary has to go to the hospital next week to have her baby. Dorothy is happy to go. Jon will come for her. Guy will eat with the Marshes. I'm happy that Dorothy will be with Mary's children. It is time to turn out the lights and go to bed.

January 9 Friday

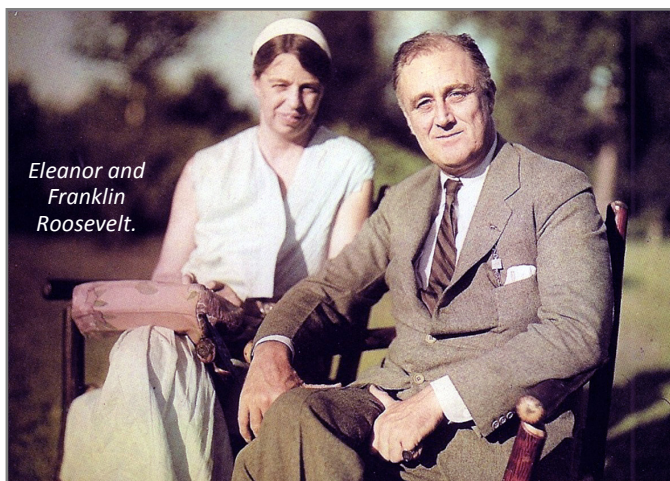
We have another lovely, sunny morning, but it is freezing cold outside. My bedroom window has a pretty frosted picture on it. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray, (melted cheese sandwich, sliced banana, hot milk, and date nut cake). She bundled up good and drove to the south field to help Rex mend fences for the cow pasture. I'll be glad when this freezing weather is over. Burr. (And we left our beautiful California home???) My blue pen ran out of ink, so I had to make the change. Well, life is full of changes, eh? I enjoyed the television (soap box operas) in my nice, warm room while Donna was helping Rex in the south field, in the freezing cold. I have a compensation for being old, I can stay in the warm house, lucky me, age 83. I stretched out on my bed for an hour this afternoon. Donna brought my TV tray dinner about 5:45 p.m. It was meat, potatoes, yams, green beans, and ice milk for dessert. This evening we enjoyed television for a while and then Donna read to me from the church magazine, "The Ensign." I really do enjoy her reading to me from our church books or whatever. I get tired of the trash we listen to on TV most of the time. Of course, some programs are excellent, I'll admit. Donna's reading tonight was about our Lamanite brothers and sisters and it was very interesting. Rex was listening to his TV in their living room. I was in bed about 10 p.m. Goodnight all.

January 10, Saturday

We have a hazy sunshine this morning; it looks cold out there. It wasn't as cold last night as it was on Thursday and Friday nights. I had to take the extra blanket off my bed. It took me a long time to fall asleep and I'm not feeling very well this morning. I still have bowel problems! I got up to eat the Cream of Wheat and toast and sliced bananas Donna brought to me about 11:45. She also brought some scalded milk. Oh, I do thank my Father in Heaven for Donna's tender care of my needs. Joan phoned from Illinois; they will not come to Overbrook, Kansas this weekend as expected. But they hope to be here next Saturday. It may be better weather a week from now and not so freezing cold. I sat up in my swivel chair for an hour, but I felt so miserable I went back to bed, (sorry about that ☹). Rex says there's a lot of the old people in the nursing home in Overbrook, where he works, suffering from the same diarrhea problems I have. (Did he carry a germ home?) I haven't been anywhere. We had a gorgeous sunset this evening. I got up in time to watch "The Lawrence Welk Show" on TV. Donna came in and enjoyed it with me. She brought some good beef stew to me on a TV tray. I felt better, so I stayed up and enjoyed the television programs. Saturday night has some good shows for fun entertainment. Back to bed soon after 10 p.m. I hope to sleep well. Night all. P.S. Donna polished my furniture this afternoon.

January 11, Sunday

We have a beautiful, blue sky with sunshine on this Sabbath Day. Donna left a tray with Wheaties, milk, honey, and a banana for me before she and Dorothy Tibbets drove away to go to Sunday School in Ottawa. I slept well last night and I'm feeling better this morning. Rex had to work at the nursing home in Overbrook today. I had my own devotional hour listening to my beloved Mormon Hymns played on my Magnavox players. Sweet Sabbath, day of rest. Donna came home about 2:30 p.m., she was hungry. She brought a TV tray in with a snack on it. I wasn't ready to eat, but we both enjoyed the lovely music played on my Magnavox player while she ate. Rex came home about 3:30 p.m.; he ate dinner at the nursing home. Cake and milk was all he wanted. Donna said she was going to take a nap. Rex was going to watch the fights on his TV. I was weary, so I stretched out on my bed. Oh Hum! I got up about 5:45 and ate the vegetable soup and crackers Donna brought on the TV tray. She and Rex watched the



Eleanor and
Franklin
Roosevelt.

television program of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn with me. Donna stayed to watch the story of **Eleanor and Franklin Delano Roosevelt**, (a two-hour story of their lives). It was very interesting to me and to Donna, but not Rex. He went to his own TV with more action in it. (Knock 'em down and drag 'em out, stuff.) [Rex was also a Republican and likely didn't want to watch a show about F.D.R. and his Democratic ways.] Good night. Sweet Slumber.

January 12, Monday

Happy Birthday to Lillian Keller. I hope she enjoys her birthday with loved ones around to cheer her. We sent her a card and letter enclosed. I rested fairly well last night and I feel about the same, "fairly well" today. Donna brought me an egg and toast and scalded milk for my brunch about noon. [*Scalded milk probably was to put Elvie's fears to rest about milk that had not been pasteurized.*] Sr. Donna Story and little daughter Melissa came to rehearse the songs Sr. Story is going to sing at the nursing home this afternoon. They'll eat lunch before going to the home. Rex is working in the Tibbetses' house this morning doing some plumbing. I think Guy is helping, too. Rex is going to the nursing home with the ladies. Donna is going to play for the "Sing Along" at the home. And me? Oh, I'll be watching the soap box operas on TV if I can sit up that long. The family came home about 3:20. Sr. Story's car was here. Donna gave Melissa some cake and she went over a song or two with Sr. Story before they left for home. Rex came in and visited with me. He told me about the program at the nursing home. That was nice of him. It isn't as cold out today; our temperature was 40 degrees at the highest point this afternoon. Donna visited with me after Sr. Story left; we had a nice talk. I surely do enjoy it when my precious Donna can come in and visit with lonesome me. At eight o'clock tonight Donna came in and watched the second part of "The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Story." It was two hours to the end. It was indeed interesting, but I was very weary by 10 p.m. P.S. I wore my blue, plush robe today. It was a bit too warm a time or two, especially when I ate in the kitchen with Donna and Rex. There was a hot fire burning in the little stove back of me.

January 13, Tuesday

Donna and Dorothy T. went to Relief Society this morning; she left a tray with Wheaties, toast, honey, and milk on for me. We had some snow in the night, but it will melt with this bright sunshine. Donna brought Dorothy home about 2:30 p.m. and shortly after she went to the Overbrook nursing home to pick Rex up. She drove him to work this morning before daylight so she could use the car today. Later, Donna went out to get eggs from a farm nearby. I took a nap on my bed. I got up at 5:30 p.m. to eat dinner in the kitchen with Rex and Donna. She said the Relief Society sisters served a lovely luncheon today; she was sorry I wasn't with her and Dorothy. I'm glad to stay home and relax now. I've had my day, and I look back with gratitude. I look ahead with trust and faith. I watched television alone tonight until 9:30 p.m. P.S. We have a few patches of snow on the north side of our house. The sun can't get to them. January is almost half gone already. Time marches on, eh?



Otto and Violet Fife

January 14, Wednesday

*Oh, my goodness sakes alive,
Little Emily Gardner has
turned five!
The puppies on your card
dressed up so gay,
Want to wish you a
fun birthday.
We love you darling
and we're wishing
you,
A very happy birthday, too.*



Emily Gardner fall of 1976.

I rested fairly well last night. We have blue sky and sunshine this morning but it is cold outside. Old Man Winter is very much with us. We have snow patches on the north of the house where the sun can't reach. I could see Donna's breath when she went out to burn the papers this morning. I'm glad to stay in my warm house. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 11:45. It was Cream of Wheat, scalded milk, and toast. I'm careful what I eat, while I'm having this bowel trouble. There seems to be a lot of it in Overbrook; Rex says the nursing home has a lot of it there. I haven't been out anywhere, so the germ was brought to me! It is miserable; I'm thankful for my medication. Our Relief Society visiting teachers came this afternoon, Sr. Jeanne Brooks and Sr. Jeanne Bickerstaff. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets came in my suite to hear the lovely message and to visit with them. So, the three families, (Marsh, Tibbets, and Renshaw) are taken care of in one visit. I enjoyed it very much. They are happy sisters. Donna treated them to cake or something before they left her place. They left a lovely blessing in our home. Jeanne Bickerstaff prayed. Rex brought the mail this afternoon. I had a letter from Violet, with a lovely colored snapshot **picture of Otto and Violet** enclosed. Oh, it really thrilled me. I enjoyed her cute letter, too, telling about Santa coming to their house and how she knows there is a Santa. This brother has been playing Santa for 35 years, his wife made his Santa suit. I also got a nice, long, fun letter from Lydia. They had a lovely Christmas, too. Donna gave me a roll of my name and address stickers tabs for the letters I write. She says it is a late Christmas gift.

January 15, Thursday

Our sky is overcast and it's cold outdoors, but I have my nice, warm suite to enjoy. Donna brought brunch to me at 11:35 a.m. She's precious. Rex worked over in the Tibbetses' house this morning. Jon Tibbets phoned this morning; Mary had been to her doctor today. Today was the day he gave her for the baby's arrival, but he says she isn't ready yet, so she is back home and Jon is not coming to the farm

this weekend as expected. He'll stay with Mary. I'll be glad when that baby is here, we all will. Donna and Dorothy went out this afternoon to do Relief Society visiting and to take Sr. McKay her two dresses. Dorothy put side pockets in them and Donna washed and pressed them. Sr. McKay is in a private rest home. I put Violet and Otto's picture in a little gilt frame where I can enjoy looking at them. They are a handsome looking couple. [See previous page.] I went in the kitchen this evening to eat dinner with Rex and Donna. They had a nice fire burning in the little stove. She wouldn't let me help do the dishes, so I came back here and watched television ("Hawaii Five-O" and "Barnaby Jones"). Rex and Donna watched part of the programs. We have some dark, stormy looking clouds this evening. Rex went to bed about nine o'clock. He has to get up at 5 a.m. to go to work in the Overbrook nursing home. Donna had some letters to write. I went to bed about 10:30 p.m. Good night.

January 16, Friday

Good morning! We have a blue sky and sunshine this morning, but it's cold out there. There are some snow patches north of our house. Rex went to work at the nursing home before daylight. Donna left here about 8:15 to drive to Kansas City, Missouri, to the stake Relief Society leadership meeting. Jeanne Brooks went with her from Ottawa on. Donna left some food on a tray for me, scalded milk, bran-flakes, bread and butter, and yogurt. I was afraid to eat the bran-flakes; my problem isn't cleared up yet. I went to the kitchen and got some peanut butter for my bread. So, I ate my brunch at 11 a.m. I took my tray to the kitchen; put clean dishes in the cupboard. I'm hoping to enjoy this new day with trust and faith. Jon Tibbets and boys, Jody and Spencer, arrived at the farm about 12:45 noon. The boys came in my place for a little while and then they went to the Tibbetses' house with Papa. They are cute, little fellows. Rex came home about 3:15, he made a chocolate milk shake and brought a glass of it to me. I'm sure the little boys enjoyed some, also. Rex and Donna and the boys went to the dairy for milk this afternoon. I gave myself a bath while they went for milk. I stretched out on my bed after the bath. Donna cooked a nice dinner this evening; she had the Guy Tibbetses upstairs for dinner with them. I didn't feel very well, so I stayed here and ate a snack from a TV tray that Donna brought in to me. Spencer was in his crib soon after his dinner. Jody and Donna visited with me for a while. Joan and Mo are expected tomorrow evening. I presume some of the children will be with them. P.S. It was fun hearing about Jody's day at school when he was "Star" for the day. His entire family participated in the program. Wish I could record all of it.

January 17, Saturday

There is no pretty, blue sky for us this morning; it is cold and cloudy. Donna brought me Cream of Wheat, toast, and hot milk at 11:40 this morning. I didn't rest very well last night, my back (near my shoulders) and my chest hurt, rather severely, for a while. It made me restless and nervous. But the dear Lord answered my prayers and I got relief. Our little Tibbets boys are full of pep and action this morning. Donna and Dorothy took them to Overbrook to

buy groceries at the market. (It is peaceful here, ☺.) Joan and Mo have changed their plans, they are going to Omaha first to see Mary and Jon. They'll stay there overnight and go to Sunday School with them. They said they'd arrive here on Sunday evening about six o'clock. Jon and Jody will leave here this afternoon. **Spencer** is staying on the farm with his grandparents. I gave Donna \$10.00 to help buy food. The price of everything, especially food, is extremely high. What is it all coming to? Donna and I received a long letter from Blanche Hoglund telling about her family. She is now a great, great, grandmother; her daughter Dorothy is a great grandmother. Like me, Blanche is longing to be with our own generation in the spirit world, but we have to wait until we're called. I think Blanche is 85 years old. Jon and son Jody left for Omaha this evening about eight o'clock. They left little Spencer here with Donna. Rex went with Jon to the dairy for milk. Jon wanted to take some home with him. I enjoyed the "Lawrence Welk Show" at 6 p.m., while I ate my dinner from a TV tray. It was a special program celebrating the Centennial anniversary of band music. Donna gave Spencer his bath and got him ready for bed. She brought him in to say good night to me. Oh, he is adorable, a beautiful child. Sweet dreams.



Elvie Renshaw and Spencer Tibbets June 5, 1976
in the Shattucks' backyard.

January 18, Sunday

Welcome Sabbath morning. We have blue sky and sunshine. Rex went to his priesthood meeting. Donna and Dorothy took little Spencer to Sunday School later. It was almost noon before I got up. I did rest much better last night. Donna left some milk and Wheaties on a tray for me and some cherry yogurt, also. Rex brought Spencer home so Donna and Dorothy could enjoy the sacrament meeting after Sunday School. I took my tray to the kitchen and Spencer saw the yogurt carton. He was delighted to get up in his highchair and eat the cherry yogurt and I was happy to see him so pleased. He is a cutie. Donna and Dorothy came home about 2 p.m. I owe four letters, but do not feel

up to writing them. (Woe is me.) Donna brought my dinner on a tray about 6 p.m. She fed Spencer, too. The Gardners arrived about 8 p.m. and she fed them. We had a lot of happy action with Spencer and the four little cousins, Marshall, Sandy, Emily, and Paula. Sherm and Janet did not come this time. I went to Marshes' to see our happy guests. It's good to see them again, but I'm glad I can retreat to my own suite, "How Sweet It Is" ha ha. I presume they're glad I do retreat, too. ☺ Donna has blankets and pillows all over her house tonight. Well, happy dreams.

January 19, Monday

It was snowing when I looked out my bathroom window at nine o'clock. I went back to bed until eleven o'clock. I could hear a lot of activity in the Marsh side of the house. Mo and Joan took Paula with them into Overbrook to see about having their three steer butchered and processed for storage. Later, Mo drove to Kansas City to the airport to meet someone and take care of business for his company, KSL, in Salt Lake City. Donna brought my brunch about 11:45, tuna sandwich, salad, and hot Postum. It tasted good. The sun was shining by noon, but there are lots of storm clouds in the sky, also. Paula went to sleep in the crib and Donna brought Spencer in to have a nap on my extra twin bed, bless his heart. He went to sleep like an angel, and I was able to have the television on, too. I saw Marshall and Sandy tramping off on the farm with their BB guns, hunting! Hunting what? I don't know! Spencer slept over an hour, almost two. Donna brought a nice, long letter from Kathy for me to read this afternoon. She is having a lot of fun dating nice, young men from BYU. Her cute sense of humor makes her letters fun reading. We are thankful she is happy there, but we do miss her. I can hear Spencer singing and Grama Donna playing. Oh, he has a sweet voice and he loves to sing. I went to the Marshes' living room to see and hear little Spencer perform and he really is a cute performer. Joan took the two restless little ones (Spencer and Paula) for a walk to the south field to see the horses and cows. She gave them a ride in the pony cart. I listened to **President Ford's "State of the Union"** address tonight. After it was over, I took my box of chocolate square mints, to the Marshes' place and treated the family to them. I haven't had any of them yet, because I've been too ill, but they are my favorite! P.S. Joan and Mo came in my room with some cake and milk to listen to the ten o'clock news with me. I surely enjoyed their company.

January 20, Tuesday

Donna and Dorothy took Spencer to Relief Society this morning.

Joan was busy packing clothes and bedding for their trip back to Chicago. That is a big job with four children and two adults. She did a washing, too. Miller was talking to a man that came to talk about the proper fertilizer for enriching this soil. Rex had called him, but he had to work this morning so he asked Mo to talk to the man. I talked to Joan while she packed. I took my Russell Stover French mints out to treat them before they left the farm. I ate one myself, it's the first I've had since I was so ill in December. The Gardners drove away from the house at 12:20 noon. They went to the south field to see the horses and cows before they left the farm on their way home to Chicago. It was about 12:30 noon. We have a lovely, sunny day for them to travel. Donna and Spencer and Dorothy came home about 1:35 and Rex came from work at 3:30. Great Grama L.V. entertains herself keeping tabs on the family activities with her diary record. ☺ Fun, eh? Well, I have to do something! It's peaceful and quiet with Spencer asleep and our little Gardners gone (almost too quiet). Donna took Spencer into Overbrook this evening to the market. Later, the Marshes went to the dairy for milk and took Spencer. Donna brought me a plate of creamed, beef gravy over toast and jelled salad before they went for the milk. Rex has to go to work early in the morning, so he went to bed before 10 p.m. Donna brought blankets and pillows back to store in my front room closet, and her big two-globe lamp is now back in its place. We're getting back to normal again. Good night all.



President Ford's "State of the Union" address January 19, 1976.

January 21, Wednesday

Donna went to Relief Society board meeting at a sister's home in Osawatomie. They'll have a luncheon, too. Little Spencer stayed home with Grandma Dorothy Tibbets. We have a pretty, blue sky with a few white clouds and sunshine. I had a fairly good night's rest but I had some crazy dreams. Ugh! I went to the kitchen at noon to heat some milk and make some toast for myself. Dorothy gave Spencer his lunch and put him down for his nap about 1:30 p.m.; then she went over to work in her house. I listened to the TV stories. Rex came home from work about 3:30 p.m. He made himself a big chocolate milk shake. It was almost five o'clock when Donna got home. She made several visits to some sisters that don't get out to the Relief Society meetings very often. Rex took Spencer with him in his pickup truck, to Overbrook to get some food for the cows and horses. Donna brought me some tomato soup and soda crackers this evening about 5:30, and a fruit and cottage cheese Jello salad. I have Mary on my mind; she has gone over the due date. I surely hope that infant comes soon. Tonight, little Spencer was sick to his stomach and vomited all over Donna's robe and shoes, and the two Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. It was a dreadful mess. Rex came in my place to wash it up from the floor. Donna changed Spencer's clothes and her own, too. He looked a little pale, but he was happy and seemed to feel fine. He did vomit once, after he went to bed, but they were prepared with a towel and pan, so no mess to clean up. I surely hope he feels alright tomorrow. Good night.

January 22, Thursday

Our little Spencer slept well and feels happy and full of action this morning. I could hear him singing and Grama Donna playing the piano, as he went through his repertoire of songs. It is amazing how many songs he knows, and how well he sings them out, all the way from Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star all the way to "It's a Grand Old Flag." He has such a sweet voice, too. I sent a \$5.00 check to Kathy with this little note attached:

Kathy, I'm sorry this check isn't for a lot more, But, "darn it" dearie, I am among the poor. Sending a few nickels to you makes me glad, When your purse is so empty, I feel sad.

Donna wrote a nice letter to her and enclosed my check and note. I still haven't answered Violet's letter, to thank her for the lovely colored snapshot of her and Otto. My chest and back hurts when I write for a few minutes. Woe is me. Donna and I watched a special show on TV tonight. It was the "Mary Tyler Moore Special," a song and dance extravaganza. It was a fantastic musical, with a wildness that we didn't care for. We were disappointed in the whole thing. Mary is refreshing and cute, in her regular daytime show. We didn't like to see her change our nice image of her sweet personality.



Elder Mark Calkins in 1973 while on his mission in the Germany Düsseldorf Mission.

January 23, Friday

My darling Louis would be 86 years old today if he was here. Kathy telephoned this morning and had a nice visit with her mother. Donna said she was very happy with a new boyfriend by the name of Mark David? [First mention of David Mark Calkins, although they went on a first date right before Thanksgiving 1975.] She said they have a lot of fun together. He is a returned missionary now going to BYU. She thinks he is going to San Jose, California, with her this weekend to visit with Janet

and family. Dorothy Tibbets made some cookies and baked them in Donna's oven this morning. I had one for my brunch. They are a brown sugar square, with nuts in. It was good. We have had a lovely, sunny day, more like spring time than winter. Spencer played out in the sand pile for a long time. He took a nap this afternoon. Rex worked at the nursing home from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., I think. Donna wrote to Kathy and to Mary this morning. We are expecting news of Mary's infant's arrival any minute She is overdue now. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about 5:45 p.m. I enjoyed eating while watching television. Little Spencer came in to kiss me good night. He looked adorable, fresh from his bath; he is such a cutie. I sat up to watch the "Johnny Carson Show" on TV tonight because he had some interesting animals on the show, a red fox, a huge snake, and a big elephant. It was almost midnight before I got to bed. So, what! I can sleep in as late as I feel the need to in the morning.



Newborn Brian Tibbets.

January 24, Saturday

Top news today. **Mary gave birth to a baby boy** this early morning at 3:25. He weighed 8 pounds and 7 ounces. Jon phoned from Omaha this morning about 7:30 a.m. Rex talked to him. Later, Rex phoned to tell Kathy, but Jon had already phoned her so we presume he phoned Joan and Janet, too. Jon is coming to Overbrook tomorrow to get his mother Dorothy and take her home to Omaha so she can take care of the children

and be there to help Mary when she comes from the hospital with her baby. Both Donna and Spencer have a problem today with the miserable stomach flu virus. Donna didn't get much sleep last night, she got the bug from Spencer; he vomited all over her last Wednesday night. His bowels (yesterday and today) are bothering him. Donna says Jon is taking Spencer home tomorrow, too. Mary is homesick to see him; she will come home from the hospital on Monday with the new baby. Jon says he looks like Spencer. Well, he'll be a handsome boy if he does look like his brother (any of them). I watched the "Carol Burnette Show" on TV tonight.



Kathy Fall 1975.

I enjoyed part of it, but some of it is too vulgar and ridiculous, she does have a talent, I'm sorry to see her waste it.

January 25, Sunday

I was surprised to see the ground white with snow and snow falling when I got up at nine o'clock. I went back to bed. Ugh! Jon Tibbets arrived with his children in their VW bus about 11 a.m. There was great rejoicing when the children saw their little brother Spencer. They had really missed him. He loved all of the attention, too. Jon brought Donna's rocking chair that he and Mary had renewed for her. He also brought the little potbellied stove for the Tibbetses' house. Dorothy and Spencer were packed ready to go. It was snowing big flakes and the wind was swirling them in every direction. It was very pretty to see. They drove away in the snow at noon. Spencer was happy to be going home to see his new baby brother. Mary and baby will go home tomorrow. It is quiet here with just the three of us, Donna, myself, and Guy Tibbets on the farm. Rex is working at the nursing home. Donna sent some frosted cupcakes and some apples to Omaha and Dorothy took a bag of her walnuts. Glory be, if this snowing keeps up much longer, we'll be snowed in, here on Marshes' Mound. (We left California for this?) Julie says the new baby's name will be Brian Louis Tibbets, (or Bryan). I answered Lydia's letter today, so I have one for Violet and one for Lydia ready to mail. Writing letters is hard for me; it makes my shoulders and my chest hurt. Donna cooked a nice pot roast dinner for us this evening (Rex, Guy T., Donna, and me). Guy, Donna, and Rex talked to Dorothy this evening; they got home in time for Jon to go and have the free steak "Parents Dinner" at the hospital with Mary. She'll be going home tomorrow, I presume. Rex and Donna came in to watch "Kojak" with me on TV. Then they went to bed at 9:15 p.m. Goodnight.



January 26, Monday

We have a blue sky and sunshine this morning, but it is cold outside and there is lots of snow on the ground. There are icicles hanging from the house and even from Dorothy's car, parked on the north side of the house. Guy Tibbets and Rex went to the south field to fix a ramp and put sides up on the pickup truck to take two or three steer to the slaughter house to be butchered and processed for freezing. I believe they are Miller Gardner's cows? Donna said Rex may sell one of his cows for cash. Donna brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, toast, milk, and applesauce for brunch. She was expecting Donna Story to come to help

make plans for a Relief Society program. She was coming about eleven, but it is noon now and she isn't here. My letters didn't get mailed this morning. Oh! I can't get used to living miles away from the city. I love the hustle and bustle of the city life. My children think this is the life. Rex decided to wait another week before taking the cows to be processed. Donna baked bread this morning. She makes real good bread. Mrs. Story and her little girl Melissa came, and Melissa visited in here with me while her mother and Donna talked. Later this afternoon, Rex and Donna drove to Lawrence to do some shopping. I had her get a few items for me, too. They came home at 5:20. Rex bought me a can of cashew nuts, my favorites. Wasn't that nice of him. He bought himself one also and ate them on his way home. Donna bought a cute Valentine for me to send Kathy and one for her to send, also. She bought my other items with my money (mouth wash, hand lotion, and a paper towel roll). Donna came in tonight and read the Relief Society lesson on the countries of Asia; or the orient, China, Japan, and etcetera. It was very interesting and thoughtful of her because I can't go to the Relief Society meeting any more. Happy dreams.

January 27, Tuesday

We're blessed with another pretty day, but still lots of snow on the north side of the house. Donna brought a tray with food for me before she left for Ottawa this morning for her Relief Society meeting. I presume she left the farm about 9 a.m. I didn't hear her drive away. Rex went to his job at the nursing home early this morning. I did hear him drive away. I'm not alone on the farm; I can hear Guy Tibbets moving about downstairs and in and out of the house. He surely misses Dorothy. She is in Omaha helping Mary with the new baby and the other children. Julie, Greg, and Jody go to school, but Spencer is home and they're very much aware of that fact, I'm sure! ☺ Donna came home hungry about 2:20. She had a cute valentine for me to send to Violet (she thinks of everything). When Rex came later, he brought my heart tablets from Topping's Drug Store, cost \$3.09. Donna phoned in the order yesterday. I paid Rex \$3.00. He wouldn't take the 9¢. I had only 25¢ in my coin purse. ☺ I went to Donna's kitchen for a nice pork chop dinner this evening. Guy Tibbets ate with us. Donna tried two or three times to phone John and Ann in Salt Lake City this evening to congratulate them on their wedding anniversary, but she got no answer. They may be celebrating with dinner out and a show, I hope so. Tonight, Donna came in and read to me from one of John Louis's books, "Outstanding Stories of the General Authorities, of the LDS Church," She read some from Elder Matthew Cowley and some from President Paul H. Dunn. The book was a gift to John from Helen Brockbank. I surely enjoy listening to Donna read from our wonderful church books. P.S. Mary went home from the hospital today, not yesterday as expected.

January 28, Wednesday

We have a lot of snow on the ground in spite of the blue sky and sunshine today. It is too cold outside to melt the snow. Rex went to work at the nursing home this morning,

before daylight. Donna wrote some notes and letters and she drove the pickup truck to the mailbox in time for the pick-up. When she came back, she made a melted cheese sandwich and some Postum for my brunch. I also had some jelled fruit salad and a cookie. Lucky me, eh? Rex came home about 3 p.m. He came in to say hello and to eat one of my French mints. Guy Tibbets got a letter from Dorothy; he surely is anxious for her to come back to the farm. The poor man is lost without her. ☹ Donna made some beef stew for dinner and a coconut cream pie. I ate with her in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. She had Guy Tibbets's place set, but he said he wasn't hungry and didn't want to eat. Rex was doing his branch visiting with his partner, so he ate later (just some cream pie as he had eaten a hamburger sandwich before coming home). Donna phoned John and Ann in Salt Lake this evening; they went to the temple, in Provo, yesterday and then out to dinner with Kathy. Then they called to see Kathy's boyfriend, Mark David at his apartment. John says he is a fine young man, they are pleasantly impressed with him. Night all.

January 29, Thursday

It is another lovely, sunny morning. We still have some snow patches where the sun can't get at them. Guy sure misses Dorothy, but he feels better this morning. He had a nice talk with Donna; they are expecting Jon and Dorothy to bring Spencer back with them tomorrow or Saturday. Donna fixed an egg sandwich for my brunch, and applesauce and hot milk and a cookie. I enjoyed watching my soap box opera stories on TV today. Rex brought a letter from Kathy when he came home from work this afternoon. Our girl is so much in love with her new boyfriend, Mark David. Everything about him is just perfect. He told her he loved her, oh the happy bliss. I hope and pray it will work out right for both of them. She is so very anxious for her parents to meet him. They plan on driving to San Jose about February 6 or 7, to visit with Janet and family. Too bad we do not live in California now, eh? Instead we are here on the planes of Overbrook, Kansas, so far away from everything and everyone. It isn't a "fun place" to spend a vacation, I know, but we'd love to have Kathy and Mark visit here with us. There are only two more days left in January, then we'll have the shortest month of February. After February, Old Man Winter will have to March away. ☺ I went out in the kitchen to eat dinner with Rex, Donna, and Guy Tibbets, about 5:30. We had beef stew and hot bread and a jelled salad, with chocolate ice cream for dessert. Tonight, Rex and Donna came in to watch "Hawaii Five-O," "The Waltons," and "Barnaby Jones" with me. Good night.

January 30, Friday

We had an overcast morning but the sun broke through to us this afternoon. Donna brought some Cream of Wheat cereal, applesauce, toast, and milk at noon. Rex and Guy Tibbets worked over in the Tibbetses' house this morning. Donna drove to the mailbox about two o'clock. She brought a letter to Guy from Dorothy and a wedding invitation to Marshes and Tibbets, from Anne Brockbank, with a nice picture of the bride and groom in the invitation. They are a nice-looking couple. The only mail I got was a notice from

the Kansas State Bank, to let me know I owe \$5.00 for another year on my safe Deposit Box. Ugh! Well, I'll have to pay it. Donna was busy cleaning in her house; she found her comb and brush that little Melissa Story had dropped down the back of the couch a few days ago when Donna was rehearsing with Sr. Story. That couch is hard to move, but Donna wanted to vacuum in back of it today, so she found her lost comb and brush. I walked around in my rooms and out in the Marsh side for exercise this afternoon. Donna fried chicken for dinner this evening. Oh, she is the busy one. She vacuumed my rugs and dusted the furniture too.

*I just sat there and felt guilty,
Poor old L.V. at eighty-three,
Lost her zest, with a pain in her chest,
'Tis sad, but true, hope it doesn't
happen to you.*



83

Donna read to me for about an hour from John's book that she read from last Tuesday night. It was parts of speeches by Elders Joseph Anderson, Marvin J. Ashton, and Ezra Taft Benson. We listened to the television ten o'clock news, also. P.S. Jon Tibbets phoned to say that they were planning on coming this evening but it started to snow this afternoon in Omaha. So, they would wait until tomorrow to see how the weather is. If it is a nice day, they'll all come tomorrow and stay overnight. We're excited to see the new baby boy.

January 31, Saturday

My writing is so awful now. I doubt if anyone will be able to read it, but I keep on recording in the little diary anyway. It is a habit of many years; some 48 books by this old gal. The weather report last night said we may have some snow during the night, but we didn't and the sun is shining in a blue sky this morning. I took a bath this morning, but I felt weak so the robe and slippers are back on again instead of the slack suit. Donna changed the sheets and slip on my bed and brought my brunch (a chicken sandwich, Postum, and warm rice pudding). Mm good! We're expecting the Jon Tibbets family to arrive any minute, we are so anxious to see the new member, Brian Louis Tibbets, born on January 24. I wrote a letter to Blanche Hoglund this afternoon. It is now 3 p.m. and the Tibbetses haven't arrived yet. They did come about 3:30 p.m. I held the precious new baby for about 30 minutes. He is a lovely infant, just one week old. They say he looks like Spencer, but I can't see it. Maybe when he is a little older, he will look more like Spencer. You can't tell much about a week-old baby. Spencer was really happy to come back to the farm; he gave me a big hug and kiss. They are all cute kiddies. I'm glad it is a nice day. This little Brian Louis is my 16th great grandchild, how about that? I enjoyed the "Lawrence Welk Show," at 6 p.m. Some of the family watched it part of the time with me. Mary's infant slept on my other twin bed all afternoon and part of this evening Mary and Donna went to Overbrook to shop at the food market. The baby slept all the time they were gone. Spencer had a nap, also. Donna and Mary watched "The Carol Burnett Show" with me tonight. Jody slept in my other twin bed tonight. Good night and sweet dreams. Z Z Z



February 1, Sunday

Rex and Donna left the farm this morning about 8:15 to go to the stake conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The Jon Tibbetses left for their home in Omaha about 9:25 a.m. Mary and her baby came to my bed to say goodbye, and we'll see you again in about three weeks. It was cold and windy, but not wet, with snow or rain. I stayed in bed until noon to keep warm and to save on heat and food. I dressed my hair and went to the kitchen to find myself something to eat. I made some toast and fixed a tray with a chicken wing, some milk, fruit juice, and rice pudding to bring to my apartment, where it was warmer. I did the dishes in Donna's sink and put them in the cupboard when I had eaten my lunch. We have a strong wind today and all night. Guy Tibbets called it a hurricane wind, oh me! He will learn about the "Big Blow" before he is through with this Overbrook farm home, I know. Guy said Dorothy isn't feeling well today; I'm sorry about that. Donna and Rex got home about 5 p.m. It was a long day of traveling from city to city for their meetings. I enjoyed some of my lovely Mormon hymns by the Tabernacle Choir on my Magnavox this afternoon. Donna brought me a bowl of tomato soup and some toast this evening and later tonight she came in and read to me from the book, "Outstanding Stories by the General Authorities of the Church," She read from the writings of Elder Paul Dunn. I do enjoy these wonderful reading sessions from the LDS Church books. It is so much nicer than listening to the trash we have on television entertainment programs most of the time. She read for two hours. It's time to turn out the lights and go to bed.

February 2, Monday

It was a hazy morning with a strong wind. Guy and Dorothy went somewhere in their car. Rex was in the south field trying to get Mo's cows used to going up the ramp to eat in his truck, so he'll have no trouble getting them into the truck when he wants to take them to the market on Wednesday. Donna brought a tuna sandwich, cottage cheese, Postum, and rice pudding for my lunch at noon time. The dog "Bobo" stands in the yard and watches Rex drive away. If Rex goes west to the highway, Bobo comes back to the house and waits for him to return; but if Rex turns to go to the south field, where the animals are, that dog is gone like a shot, across the field and he is there when Rex gets out of the truck. Donna and I get a laugh out of watching the dog; he is a smart one. The television stories entertained me this afternoon. The wind stopped blowing and it was sunny and calm. I like that. Donna brought a letter from Kathy and read it to me. She thanked us for the money we sent and my little poem. We sent \$7.00. Kathy is still happy, on cloud nine, with her new boyfriend Mark David. I ate my dinner with Rex and Donna in the kitchen. She had a delicious homemade chicken pie with yams and green beans and chocolate ice cream for dessert. I watched the TV programs, "Rhoda" and "Phyllis" and "All in the Family" tonight. We all went to bed about 10 p.m. Donna has to take Rex to work in the morning at 6 a.m., so she can have the little red VW to drive to her Relief Society in Ottawa. Oh, the miles they drive to get anywhere! Good night all.

February 3, Tuesday

Donna took Rex to work at six this morning, so she could have the VW car to go to her Relief Society meeting in Ottawa. She brought a TV tray with some food on for me to eat when I got up. Dorothy Tibbets didn't go with Donna to Relief Society this morning. She and Guy went out in their car somewhere. The telephone company truck and man, came to the house about noon today. He said, the Marsh phone was reported out of order. I didn't know about it. Anyway, I had him come in and work on the line. He seemed to have some trouble locating the problem. He said he'd have to go downstairs, so I had him knock on the door to let Guy and Dorothy know he was coming down. He found the trouble; it was a line leading to the phone in Rex and Donna's bedroom. He disconnected it and said if they wanted that extra phone, they'll have to let the phone company connect it for them. Donna went to the nursing home after her meeting to pick Rex up. They got home about three o'clock.



When is the wedding?

Mary phoned from Omaha, she had talked to Janet, via phone, from San Jose. They decided if Kathy and Mark David are going to get married, that August is a better time for the family to get together in California, than in May when Kathy wanted it. We have a pretty, sunny day.

Rex and I received a notice from the Kansas State Bank that our Social Security checks were deposited in the bank, \$264.50 to my account, and \$228.90 to Rex's account. Donna brought me a nice dinner on a TV tray while I was watching a television program. Rex went to bed before 9 p.m. Donna typed a letter to Mary and added a copy of my poem to Elder Mark Shattuck. She said she'd like a copy of it.

February 4, Wednesday

It is cold and overcast this morning. Rex walked to the south field at five this morning to get his pickup truck to drive to work so Donna could have the little VW car to go to Overbrook and take care of business there. Dorothy had some business in Overbrook, too, so she invited Donna to go in her car. So, Donna didn't need her little car after all. We were expecting our Relief Society visiting teachers this morning, but they phoned to say they couldn't come as planned. They will be here Friday instead. So, Donna went to Overbrook this morning. She was back home by 10 a.m. She brought my eye drops (Visine) and she took care of my Social Security check. She paid the \$5.00 for another year's rent on our bank locker and bought a book of the new 13¢ stamps; 23 stamps for \$2.99. She brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, toast, cooked peaches, and Postum for brunch. I enjoyed listening to her play the piano while I was recording in my diary at noon time. She is precious, I'm so very thankful she was sent to Lou and me. I think the sun is about to break through the overcast sky, it seems a little lighter. Donna bought some valentines to send to her children, she said she'd add my name. I bought two last week, one for Violet and one for Kathy. I received a letter

from Violet today. She enclosed a letter from Dolores, and a note from her granddaughter Patty, and an invitation to the 50th wedding "open house" reception of Joe and Kate Hoglund. I was happy to hear of Joe and Kate H. I have wondered about them at times. We had liver and onions for dinner and it tasted good, too. I thought I didn't like liver, but this was really good tonight.

February 5, Thursday

Old Man Winter has put on another show, our fields are again white with snow. Janet phoned this morning from San Jose with the exciting news that it is snowing there today, in "Sunny California" where the sky is almost always blue. What is this old world coming to? Well, I'll stay in my house out of the freeze and enjoy my sandwich of melted cheese. Donna and Dorothy couldn't go to the city as planned today because of the snow and ice on the roads. I think they'd planned to do some Relief Society visiting teaching and Dorothy was going to have her car license changed from California to Kansas. Guy Tibbets fell out of bed last night; his back has hurt worse today. Rex came home from work about 3:20 p.m. I ate dinner in the kitchen with Rex and Donna this evening (meat patty, mixed vegetables, and salad). Miller wants to take Joan with him to Hawaii in March. They want Donna to fly to Chicago and be with their family for a week or ten days. They'll pay her plane fare both ways. Donna is anxious to do this for Joan and Mo. I surely hope she can go. Rex says it's fine with him, "Chin up old gal, you can manage all right without her." I wrote a page to Violet inside of the valentine card I'm sending her. I sent a verse in Kathy's valentine plus \$2.00. They will be mailed tomorrow My shoulder blades hurt from the little writing I've done tonight. Oh, woe is me!

February 6, Friday

Our sky was overcast until about 1 p.m. We have a nice sunny afternoon. Donna brought a TV tray at noon time with an egg (over easy), toast, hot chocolate, and cooked peaches. Our fields are still white with yesterday's snow. It is too cold to melt much of it. Donna took our valentines to the farm mailbox in time for the pickup. I clipped my toenails and filed them this afternoon. Oh, what a job! It is amazing how far away my feet seem now. It isn't easy to cross my knee when I am eighty-three. Donna brought Dorothy Tibbets in my place with one of her picture albums. She wanted me to see a photo of **Dorothy with her friends in nurses training.** She said she was about 26 or 27 years old. She was a beautiful looking young woman. I thought she looked about 20 years old (very lovely). Rex brought a letter from Kathy; she was feeling very depressed; nothing seemed to be going right for her. The darling is



Dorothy White trained as an R.N.

trying to work her way through college and the money just doesn't go nearly far enough to see her through. Without peace of mind she finds she can't study properly and etcetera. Bless her heart, I'd love to help her. I'm a bit tied up with this farm, but I'll have to take a second look and see if I can do something to help Kathy, too. I stayed up to see the "Johnny Carson Show" and I didn't get to bed until after midnight. Oh, what a "night hawk," Woe is me.

February 7, Saturday

The wind is howling, it's the Big Blow sound. The sun is shining, but there's snow on the ground. I stayed in bed until noon. I'll be glad when Winter is gone and it is June! Donna brought me a nice lunch at 1:30 p.m. My daughter is really a gem.

My blue pen ran out of ink so I've changed to black.

It will keep me on the right track.

Donna is expecting some friends for an overnight stay.

She has cleaned and cooked and baked today.

I'm no help anymore, I just sit here and groan.

Let's face it, I'm just a drone.

Rex has gone to the airport to pick up Ken and Geri,

The reunion there, I'm sure, will be merry.

I wish I was dressed up neat and pretty

And my brain felt sharp and witty,

But my blue robe and slippers it will have to be.

After all, they are not coming to see me.

The snow has melted from the trees

And the wind has calmed to just a breeze.

I just zippered up Donna's long flowered dress,

And she looks very pretty to greet her guests.

My words seem to fall into line,

And make a stupid little rhyme.

Maybe it's just as well,

Why try to break the spell?



Donna served a nice roast beef dinner to the Sorensons and the Guy Tibbetses. I wanted to stay in my room and enjoy the "Lawrence Welk Show" on TV. She brought my dinner on a TV tray. Tonight, Donna came and invited me to join them in her living room for a visit with Ken and Geri Sorenson. I went, and I enjoyed a nice visit with these lovely people. Their home is in Logan, Utah now. She says they love Logan. It is a beautiful little town. I agree with her. Rex looked real tired tonight; he worked at the nursing home last night and he hasn't slept today.

February 8, Sunday

It is a sunny Sabbath morning. Rex and Ken Sorensen went to priesthood meeting in the red VW car at 8 a.m. Donna and Geri went to Sunday School with Dorothy Tibbets in her car about ten. I got up at 10:30 this morning. I put myself and house in order and then I went to the kitchen to find something to eat. I ate part of a cinnamon roll. Donna made them yesterday morning and they are delicious. I drank a cup of warm chocolate that was in a quart jar and I had a small glass of orange juice with my vitamins. Not bad, eh? I'm glad my family is in church. I'd be there, too, if I felt well enough. I do have over 20 years of church going before most of you were born anyway. Smug, eh? If you reach the age of

eighty-three, maybe you'll be smug like me. Donna insisted I come to the table and eat something with them. Dorothy ate with us, but Guy didn't feel well enough. Donna's chicken casserole was delicious and her hot rolls and bean salad, plus cake, pie, and ice cream. Rex and Donna drove away from the farm with the Sorensons at 3:30 p.m. to take them to the airport in Topeka, where they will fly to Kansas City and then change planes for the flight home to Logan, Utah. They are really nice people; we have enjoyed their visit very much. Dorothy's daughter, Delphia, phoned from Canada while we were eating, she and her husband plan on visiting Dorothy and Guy this summer in June or July. Dorothy hopes to be living in her own home next door then. The snow is melting fast in the sunshine today. I took a nap for an hour this afternoon. My family came home about 6:20 p.m. Donna made a beef sandwich for me. John and Ann Marsh, and also Kathy, phoned from Salt Lake tonight. Kathy and Mark are leaving for San Jose next Thursday. P.S. Our news reports a tragic earthquake in Guatemala. Thousands of deaths are reported. A troubled world, eh?

February 9, Monday

It is another sunny day. Most of the snow has melted, only a few patches on the north side of the house. Donna went to the Kansas State Bank this morning and took care of the business of drawing out \$100 from my savings account to send to Kathy. It cost about \$2.00 to send a money order, (special delivery and registered) to Kathy, in Orem, Utah. Donna wrote or typed a letter to send with the money and telling Kathy to budget the money and be careful as we can't send anymore big checks. She and Rex sent her \$50.00 the other day. The interest on my savings was \$79.38. My balance now is, \$9,505.95. I had \$16,000 when I came to Kansas. I really cannot draw on that savings again; it frightens me to see it get down below \$10,000. Donna brought a nice lunch to me at noon. I enjoyed some TV stories while eating. Rex has been working over in the Tibbetses' house today. He did some cement work. Donna brought a letter to me from Ethel Newbold. She sent some of the letters and poetry that I sent to her years ago. She is cleaning other papers and getting her house in order for that day when she'll be called home. She can't bring herself to destroy my letters and poems, so she sends them to me. I enjoyed reading them, but they'll not be "among my souvenirs," Ethel had another bad fall on February 2, in her home this time. She fell into her book case and got some broken glass in her back. A neighbor took her to the LDS Hospital to have sixteen stitches taken in her back. She said she went to the book case to get some stationery to write to me! The poor dear. I'll have to write to her; I think she is about 85 years old. She was Lou's first

steady girlfriend and she is a lovely person. P.S. Another big earthquake was reported in Guatemala this evening. Thousands are dead.

February 10, Tuesday

It is my sweet sister **Annie's birthday** today; I've had her in my thoughts. Oh, how I miss my sisters! Rex went to work early this morning before daylight. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went to Ottawa to Relief Society in Dorothy's car. Something is wrong with Rex's little VW car; it won't run. I went to the kitchen about 10:30 and heated myself some milk. I brought some Rice Krispies and a banana to my room on a tray with the milk to eat my brunch. I put the few dishes that were draining in the sink up in the cupboard. I came back here to enjoy the TV stories. Oh, do they have problems! They make my life seem calm. We have sunshine and clouds in our sky this morning. The snow has all melted away. Rex and Donna came home about the same time this afternoon, at 3 p.m. or so. They left soon after to take the VW car to a garage in Centropolis. They got it started by pushing it down the road with the pick-up truck. In case they have to leave it in the garage, they'll have the truck to come home in. I started a letter to Ethel Newbold this afternoon.

Rex and Donna came back about 4:30 p.m. They brought the little VW back; it was a broken wire and was replaced in a few minutes. It only cost \$2.00. Everybody is happy. We had a nice dinner in the kitchen about 5:30 p.m. I finished Ethel's letter this evening. Rex and Donna came in to watch television with me tonight for a while. They left after the news at 10 p.m. I watched the "Johnny Carson Show" for a while after they left. Good night all.

February 11, Wednesday

We have a pretty, sunny morning. I didn't sleep well last night, it was daylight before I fell asleep. I wasn't in any pain, just couldn't sleep, so I spent the night thinking of some of my happy girlhood days, before I met Louis T. I was in love with the "boy next door;" he was 8 years older than me, but we all loved Reese Perkins. I have fond memories of the sweet concern for the Bailey girls this fine young man always displayed (especially to me). ☺ Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich, a cup of Postum, and cooked pears for my brunch at noon. Rex's truck is parked in our backyard with a black cow in it. Tonight, Rex is taking the cow to Overbrook's slaughter house to be butchered and processed for Joan's freezer. Donna mailed my letter to Ethel Newbold this morning. We didn't have any letters in today's mail. Rex and Donna took the cow, in the pickup truck to Overbrook this early evening. They left here about 4 p.m. I think they



Elvie remembers Annie Andersen on her birthday and many other days!

were going to stop at a farmer's place, on their way to pick up a pig to take to the slaughter house, also. Joan phoned from her home in Northbrook, Illinois. She said if I would consider coming with Donna in March to her place, she and Mo would drive to Overbrook and take us to Illinois in their big car, the Cad. (Time will tell, eh?) Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about 5:30. It was beef stew, a salad, milk, and cake with a sweet sauce over it. She went to the Mutual Road Show tonight to help out with the program. She has been sewing an edge around a pretty pink crib quilt for one of the sisters in the branch. She has also worked on a Family Home Evening board game for Mary's children. It looks like fun.

February 12, Thursday

I got up at nine this morning because we had one of our Relief Society visiting sisters and her little girl here (Sr. Donna Story and Melissa). She expected to meet Sr. Jeanne Brooks here at ten o'clock. Donna gave the Storys something to eat; they had to leave before Sr. Brooks and Sr. Jeanne Bickerstaff arrived. This is a first in my life, to have Relief Society sisters come in two shifts (and three sisters), plus their energetic little girls. Ha ha! I enjoyed the nice message given by Sr. Brooks. Dorothy Tibbets was with us, also. Dorothy and Jeanne B. worked on hemming the pink crib quilt for a young mother in Relief Society, while Donna and Jeanne Bickerstaff rehearsed for a program of some sort. I came to my rooms to see what the little girl found so interesting in here. The sisters all came in here to have prayer before they left. I enjoyed that lovely prayer by Sr. Brooks. Donna went to the mailbox with a letter to mail. I wonder if the mailman will come on Lincoln's birthday? Donna and Dorothy have been baking cookies all morning, too. Donna brought my lunch about 12:30 (a tuna sandwich, Postum, and cooked peaches, and red bean salad).

I stretched out on my bed for a couple of hours this afternoon and I went sound asleep. I got up at 6 p.m.; **Concentration** was on TV and I enjoy it. This evening Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray; good beef stew, a salad, some milk, and one of Dorothy's fresh apple sauce cookies. Mm good! P.S. Send all birthday greetings to Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Ha ha. Donna surely had a busy morning; she even shampooed Donna Story's hair and put it up in curlers.



February 13, Friday

We have a lovely day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna vacuumed my rugs after she brought my brunch of Rice Krispies and milk with sliced bananas. She and Dorothy went to Overbrook to shop this afternoon. I asked Donna to buy me a couple of Paper Mate refills for my pens. She could find only one, 69¢, so I'll have to have her look again sometime. I had a hard time getting this one to write. I was about to give up when it started to function properly. I forgot to mention yesterday that I enjoyed a lovely TV program last night; all the band numbers were the John Phillip Sousa Band numbers, and I loved them. Donna fried chicken for our dinner this evening. I went in the kitchen to eat with her and Rex. We had a good dinner; for dessert we had chocolate pie with whipped cream on, mm good! Donna wouldn't let me help with the dishes, so I came to my place and enjoyed the TV programs. I watched the Danny Thomas show where he plays "Dr. Bedford" and "The Rockford Files." Rex phoned Janet in San Jose; she said that Kathy and Mark arrived there this morning about 4 a.m. They rested for a few hours and then they went to San Francisco. Tomorrow they'll spend with Janet and Dave. Janet says she likes Mark David's looks and she thinks he is a fine young man. Dorothy T. phoned Jon and Mary this afternoon; they will not come to the farm this weekend as expected. The baby has had a little cold and Jon has some business in Omaha, so they'll come next weekend instead.



February 14, Saturday

*It is the time when little Dan Cupids,
With hearts and flowers, are found on
display.*

*It's the time to say "I love you" and
I wish you a happy Valentine's day.*



Donna left early this morning with her baked pies and etcetera, to go to the Penney's Store in Osawatomie, where the Relief Society is having a sale on baked foods. She thought she'd be home by noon time. I found a beautiful valentine card and a little box of Russell Stover chocolate covered mint patties in my chair when I got up this morning. It was from Donna and Rex, wasn't that a nice surprise? I had to make my own valentine and verse, (above) and I enclosed \$5.00. She'll find it on her kitchen table when she comes home. Kathy made her cute valentines, too. I also made out a \$12.00 check to the LDS Church for my donations, \$5.00 tithing, \$2.00 fast offering, \$2.00 budget, and \$3.00 building fund. So, you can see it's been a busy morning for little old me. I went to the kitchen at one o'clock and made some hot chocolate, a peanut butter sandwich, and a dish of cooked peaches for my brunch. Rex came in at 2 p.m. to check on me; he was on his way to town and wondered

if I wanted him to bring anything. The answer was, "No, thanks," Donna came home about 2:10 p.m., soon after Rex left. She was tired and hungry, but pleased because they sold almost everything and they made for \$70.00. [*In 2019 dollars \$70 would be \$321.*] She brought some cookies home, they took some cake or something to President North's home. He is the manager of the Penney's Store in Osawatomie. Donna was pleased with my homemade valentine and the \$5.00. I went through my box of pens and pencils and discarded all that wouldn't write (a hand full). Why keep 'em? Eh? Rex brought Donna a beautiful big valentine and some spray cologne. P.S. A warm wind is blowing from the south; it may bring some rain and our dry land needs the rain. Donna went to help Rex do something in the Tibbetses' house this evening about 5:30.

February 15, Sunday

Donna and I watched the "Carol Burnett Show" last night until she got disgusted with them taking the Lord's name in vain. It makes me feel sick, too. Carol has a talent, but she gets too vulgar at times, so we shut off the television. Rex went to work before daylight this morning, to the Overbrook nursing home. Donna and Dorothy left here about 9:30 for Sunday School in Ottawa. I went to the kitchen and heated myself some milk and I made a peanut butter sandwich and put some Rice Krispies in a bowl and half a banana. I came in my warm rooms to enjoy eating my brunch. It is a lovely, sunny Sabbath day. We didn't get the rain the weather man promised us last night. Donna looked so pretty in her light flowered dress when she left this morning. I wish I felt better so I could be with her in church, but I am thankful that I can get up and take care of myself, a blessing indeed. I washed my few dishes and put the ones Donna left draining up in the cupboard, so her kitchen is in order again. I took a bath. After I got out of the shower, I felt so fatigued, I had to rest on my bed for an hour. I'm getting worse, but I keep on recording my log. I am listening to some beloved Mormon Hymns on my Magnavox player. It is my way of Sabbath day worshiping. The Rex Marshes and the Guy Tibbetses are next door at the Tibbetses' place (4:30 p.m.). Janet phoned from San Jose; she said **Kathy and Mark** went to Sunday School; they're having a happy visit with Janet and family. Janet likes Mark very well; she thinks they are planning to get married this summer. Janet is going to see a doctor tomorrow; she thinks she has pneumonia. That is why she didn't go to Sunday School

with Kathy and friend Mark. Donna ate dinner in here with me tonight. We had a hot hamburger sandwich, salad, and hot chocolate. Rex ate from a tray in front of his TV set.

February 16, Monday

They are having big Washington's birthday sales all over in the department stores today. (By George, I couldn't care less!) I had a hard time getting to sleep last night, it was early morning when I found Slumberland. I heard Rex leave for work before daylight. I got up at 11 a.m. Donna drove to Overbrook with Dorothy for her second load of material needed for their house (rock lath). Jeanne Brooks phoned to talk to Donna; she said she'd call back later. Donna warmed

up the chicken and rice casserole and we ate some for lunch. We have a strong wind and a cloudy sky this morning but later this afternoon, the sun was shining and the wind was calmer. I could hear some hammering in the house. Donna said it is Rex, taking the long table (that he made for our Thanksgiving dinner last November) apart so they can use the lumber over in the Tibbetses' house. Jeanne Brooks phoned again; she is very depressed and wants to talk to Donna and Rex. They went to Ottawa this afternoon about 4:25 to try and comfort her. Donna and



Kathy Marsh and nephew Rick Shattuck during February 1976 trip.



Kathy Marsh and Mark Calkins in the Shattucks' backyard February 1976.

Rex have helped her before; they are an excellent example of how to have a happy marriage. I'm sure Jeanne will feel better when she has talked to Rex and Donna. Oh, this poor, shaky, old hand, I can hardly read my own writing, but I feel a need to keep a daily record. Donna came in my place tonight and read several cute articles from the church "Ensign" and from the "Reader's Digest," I really do appreciate the time she spends with me to read from these fine magazines. Some were cute humor stories we all enjoy reading. Good night.

February 17, Tuesday

We have another lovely summer like day. Donna and Dorothy went to Relief Society this morning; Donna took the pretty, little green plant from my end table for her center piece on the table. I was so sound asleep, I didn't hear her come in. I had a good night's rest for which I am thankful. I put my house in order. I made my bed, combed my hair, and powdered my face, and then I went to the kitchen and made a cup of hot chocolate and a tuna sandwich. I brought it in here to eat. I can hear the wind blowing and I'm glad to be inside. I did my dishes; I'm glad I'm able to serve myself and save Donna that trouble. Rex brought the mail to me this afternoon when he came from work. There was a nice letter from cousin Blanche Hoglund. She lives in Long Beach, California. She wrote about her family and their activities, it was very interesting. Her son Bill Hoglund is an LDS bishop and she says he is so much like his Uncle Albin (Bishop Hoglund) was when he was an active living person. The other letter was from Lydia B. Paul. Her letters are always fun reading. She made heart shaped cakes for all of their grandchildren. They had their choice of white or chocolate cakes. Lydia uses Duncan Hines [cake] mixture. Donna read the letters to me. She had a thank you letter from the Ken Sorensens; there is a package in the mail. P.S. Lydia sent a golden wedding poem, by Alice Chase, in her letter. It was very lovely. Rex brought a dish of my favorite nuts with the mail (cashew nuts). He went to the Tibbetses' house to work on the plumbing. Donna took a nap on my extra twin bed. I relaxed in my swivel chair. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray before she left this evening for the Road Show program. President Ford had a TV news conference this evening. I listened, he was on all the channels. I also watched the "Marcus Welby, MD" show tonight. (I'm alone and lonesome.)

February 18, Wednesday

*I'm sitting here in my swivel chair
Enjoying a day that is sunny and fair.
Donna brought my brunch about noon.
The wind was humming the "Kansas tune,"
It isn't that noisy, "Big Blow" I can hear,
But I have a feeling that it is near.
Weather wise we don't know what to expect to
next,
But I'll keep calm and try not to get vexed.*



Donna didn't get home from the road show rehearsal last night until 11:30 p.m. I thought she'd be home soon after nine, so I was really concerned about her, knowing she was alone to drive the long, dark country roads. It took some time



Mark Calkins and Kathy Marsh in Shattucks' backyard
on February 13, 1976.

to calm my nerves, so I could relax and sleep. She says she'll be late again tonight and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. At least I'll know what to expect. Rex will be with her tonight; they have to leave the farm about 5:30 this evening. Donna brought a happy letter from Kathy. Mark told her he loves her and wants to marry her, so they're making plans. The gift package came from Ken and Jerry Sorenson. It is a lovely pocket camera, with a roll of colored film. Rex and Donna are pleased with it. Dorothy phoned to see what the doctor said about Mary and her baby, and one or two of the boys. They have a lot of medication to take. Mary must go back to the doctor in a few days; she has an infection in her breast, but it is alright to nurse the baby. They all had bad colds. The flu is rampant again. Donna brought a fried chicken dinner to me at five o'clock this evening, just before they drove away for the Mutual Road Show rehearsal. They'll be late getting home tonight, but I'm glad Rex will be with her. I ate a couple of my valentine mints for dessert; they are good! I enjoyed television tonight, it keeps me entertained, so I'm not so lonesome. [As the Relief Society president it may seem odd Donna was also helping with the roadshow. However it is likely that she was the only accompanist in the small branch, and they needed piano accompaniment for the roadshow.]

February 19, Thursday

We are surely having a mild February compared to last year. It's a lovely spring like day again today. I got up about 11 a.m. I had a fairly good night's rest; I made my bed and made myself look as nice as possible. I said my prayer and went to the kitchen and prepared my brunch (a tuna fish sandwich, hot chocolate, and I ate a mint patty for dessert.) Donna walked to the mailbox with some letters; it takes about 22 minutes to walk both ways. Rex went to the Overbrook nursing home job early this morning. Donna says she doesn't have to go to the road show rehearsal tonight. That is nice, I'll enjoy having her home with me. The dog, Bobo, went to the mailbox with

Donna. I watched them go down the path, Bobo running ahead, then back to her and taking side trips along the way. He got side tracked coming back and she came to the farm alone. Marshes received a letter from Janet Shattuck. She enclosed five lovely pictures in color, that she had taken of Kathy and her boyfriend, David Mark C. [Photos on previous pages.] They are indeed a handsome couple and they look so delightfully happy. He goes by the name of Mark instead of David. Janet and family like him very much and she says we will like him, also. I'll love him if he makes our beautiful Kathy happy. His last name is Calkins. Rex received a phone call to come to work tonight at eleven. He went to bed for a couple of hours, 8 to 10 p.m. Donna came in here and watched television with me, we saw "The Waltons" and "The People's Choice Awards." She went to put Rex's lunch up at 9:30 p.m. He left here about 10:15 p.m. We watched "The Johnny Carson Tonight Show" for a while and then we went to bed. Happy dreams.

February 20, Thursday

It is overcast today I didn't get up until 11:40 a.m. I found a tray with my lunch on it and a little note saying that Donna and Dorothy had gone to Ottawa to do their Relief Society visiting. I made my bed and combed my hair, said my prayer, and enjoyed my chicken sandwich, half a grapefruit, and milk (thanks to Donna). I had a faint spell like I was going to pass out, but it didn't last long, so all is well. Donna came home about 1:45. They had a flat tire coming home on the country roads. She was saved a long walk when a couple of men drove by and changed the tire for her and Dorothy, happy day, eh? Donna brought a letter from Ruth Deal for me to read. Ruth says they plan on a stopover in Kansas on their way to New York. She gave her flight number and day, April 21, 9:22 p.m. so that Rex can pick them up at the airport. Rex and Donna drove to Topeka to buy some tires for the car this afternoon. I did a few dishes in Donna's sink and walked around in the house for some exercise. I was glad to relax again in my swivel chair; I feel very weak today. The sun did try to get through the clouds at 4:40 this afternoon, but the clouds covered back over by 5 p.m. My eyes can't take reading for more than a few minutes anymore and the days seem so long and lonesome. However, I know I am blessed and I'm thankful for everything. Rex and Donna came home at 6 p.m. They bought a couple of tires for the VW car at Sears, I think? They charged them. Rex bought Donna a nice pair of shoes. She brought my dinner on a TV tray at 6:30. P.S. Dorothy T. received a phone call tonight from her sister; she told her



Snowy blizzard or green grass and flowers? It was not hard to guess which Elvie liked best.



that her mother passed away. She is 92 years old. Dorothy phoned her son Jon T. to let him know about it. I think the sister lives in North Carolina. It was 9:30 when she phoned. Jon said little Spencer is very sick, his temperature is 104 degrees.

February 21, Saturday

I could hear the wind in the night, a strong north wind. By 10 a.m. it was a vicious wind, sounded like it was trying to blow our house off the mound. I turned up my heat and then got back in bed. Donna and Dorothy went to Overbrook in Dorothy's car. Donna shopped at the market; Dorothy had her hair shampooed and dressed at Ila's Beauty Shop. Rex brought Donna home in his car. Dorothy came later in her own car. **The wind brought rain, which turned into snow and we had a blizzard.** Donna

thought it was "beautiful," I guess it was in a violent way, but at my age, I rather have it not so furious. I like to see the big flakes of snow falling gently to the ground. (Shhh, don't tell my kids, but I'd love to look out and see the green grass and flowers I left in California. (Wishful thinking, eh?) Donna brought a nice brunch to me about noon time of Cream of Wheat, toast, sliced orange, and applesauce. She is precious! Our fields are turning white; it looks cold out there. I surely hope little Spencer is feeling better today and Mary, too. I wish Donna could be there to help them. Oh oh! The sun peeked through the clouds at 2 p.m. The snow is still falling and that is pretty to see (sunshine and snowing). Well, that is Kansas, anything can happen. Donna drove to the mailbox for the mail. She received a letter from Ann and John; Ann wrote it and enclosed a newspaper clipping with a nice picture of Dr. Ernest Oates (cousin) and an article about him. He is now a professor at BYU in Provo. He is a very handsome man. I'm sure Florence and Ernest are very proud of him. John and Ann are both busy with their church activities and work. I'm glad John sings in the ward choir, he has a very nice voice. The sun was shining and the sky was blue with some clouds when Rex and Donna left here at 4:15 p.m. for the road show. Donna plays the piano for the numbers in the show. She left some soup for me to warm up when I feel hungry. P.S. I saw a huge flock of birds flying southeast about 2 p.m. There must have been hundreds of them. It is amazing how they stay in formation and fly so fast. Well, they know where they're going and why.

February 22, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning," holy Sabbath, day of prayer." ♪ ♪ It is a lovely morning with blue sky and sunshine. My folks are all in church. I presume Rex went

early to priesthood and Donna and Dorothy later for Sunday School and sacrament meeting in Dorothy's car. Donna left a note for me to check the pot roast. It is doing all right on the slow cook burner. I heated myself a cup of warm milk and ate a few chicken flavored crackers. I can hear Guy Tibbets moving about downstairs. I'd sure be in church if I felt better. I am very thankful I can get up and take care of my own needs anyway. I had some faint spells this morning so I stayed in my chair until I felt better. Dorothy came home about 1:30 p.m. I checked the pot roast several times and turned it over a few times. I sat in Marshes' rocking chair and enjoyed the view and the warm sunshine for a couple of hours, from their big, front window. I presume Donna had a lot of Relief Society business to take care of after church. It is 3:10 now. Like George Goble, I say, "Lonesome me," Rex and Donna came home at 3:30 p.m. The pot roast was tender; she got dinner ready quickly. I wish I could have had it all ready to eat, but my cooking days are a "thing of the past," That is for sure! We ate in the kitchen about 4 p.m. It was a really good dinner. I dried the dishes for Donna and I came to my place and listened to lovely music by the Tabernacle Choir in Salt Lake, played on my Magnavox player. Donna came in and read the Book of Memory story that Dorothy Tibbets's mother (Mrs. Geraldine White) wrote about her life and it was indeed interesting. I think she was 75 years old when she wrote it. She was 92 years old when she died, last Friday, the 20th. Donna brought me a roast beef sandwich and a glass of chocolate eggnog tonight. P.S. John L. phoned this evening from Salt Lake. Ann has strep throat. He says Kathy thinks she and Mark Calkins may get married on August 7, but not for sure yet. They have more problems to solve first, bless her heart.



February 23, Monday

We have a sunny, blue sky. I was blessed with a good night's rest. Dorothy brought a load of rock lathe home from Overbrook. Donna helped her unload it at the Tibbetses' house. Donna talked to Mary on the phone, they have all been sick with colds, but are feeling some better. Jon was the last to get it and he isn't so well today. It is cold in Omaha. Donna brought my brunch at noon, a tuna sandwich, Postum, and cooked peaches, aren't I lucky? I can hear the wind playing it's tune on my TV antenna. Donna did some vacuuming in her side this afternoon. I took a walk around my rooms for exercise that I needed. Today's mail brought a happy letter from Kathy. She and Mark Calkins are on "Cloud 9" planning their wedding day for August 7. They didn't want to wait until August but the families can't make plans to be in California before August, so they'll wait until the family can make the necessary

arrangements. Joan is in Illinois, Mary is in Nebraska, and her parents are in Kansas. (Gramma L.V. is in the "State of Confusion," ha ha.) Donna brought my dinner to me on a TV tray and then they went over to work in the Tibbetses' house with Dorothy and Guy. I presume they were nailing up some rock lathe? They came home about 8:30 and had their dinner. I watched television until after the ten o'clock news. Good night all.

February 24, Tuesday

Donna went to Ottawa for her Relief Society meeting. Dorothy Tibbets didn't go with her because she wasn't feeling good. She was having trouble with dizzy spells and she looked ill. She phoned the drug store in Overbrook and gave them the numbers of a prescription she needed filled. She also tried to locate Rex at the nursing home to have him stop at the drug store on his way home for her medication. It is a pretty day, blue sky with white clouds, but a strong wind is blowing. I don't like that "Big Blow," Well, I don't have to be out in it, ☺. I went to the kitchen and warmed up the Cream of Wheat cereal and brought it to my room to eat. I also ate some crackers and a little custard pudding. I watched my TV stories while eating. Donna didn't get home until almost four o'clock. She had several things to do after her meeting. Jeanne Bickerstaff invited her to a jewelry sale party at her home. I can't recall all the things she did before coming home. I took a nap from 4:45 to 5:45 on my bed and then I got up and watched "Concentration" and the "Hollywood Squares" on television. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray a baked potato, pork chop, cooked cabbage, a cupcake, and sliced peaches. Good dinner, eh? But it was too much, as usual. I watched TV alone tonight. I can hear Donna typing a letter to a Relief Society sister who misunderstood the little program Sr. Story used in her lesson on South Africa, today, I think.

February 25, Wednesday

February is almost over and it has been, for the most part, a mild month, and that's something for February. Joan phoned and talked to Donna for a while, about their plans for the summer and etcetera. It is very interesting, but I haven't room to record all, sorry. Donna brought my lunch at noon, scrambled egg, toast, hot chocolate, and fruit. It was overcast until noon and then we had sunshine and a lovely afternoon without the noisy wind and I like that. Rex came home about 3:30 p.m. He and Donna went over to work in the Tibbetses' house. She brought me a cold glass of milk and some cheese snack crackers before she went. (They just hit the spot, mm good.) I walked around the house and dusted my furniture; the exercise is good for me. I surely feel my weakness and I'm glad to sit down again in my swivel chair. We had liver and onions and hash brown potatoes for dinner, with caramel nut cake and fruit Jello salad. Tonight, Kathy and Mark Calkins phoned from Utah. They both talked to Rex and Donna; they are making plans to be married in July or August in the Oakland Temple. They are a very happy couple and we are all happy for them, too. My head is spinning like a top. What will I do? I don't want to be a burden to my family. Well, I'm going to forget it for now and go to bed. Good night and sweet dreams.

February 26, Thursday

Donna brought a tray with my brunch on about noon, before she left with Dorothy Tibbets to drive to Lawrence, where Dorothy is getting her car license. Donna is buying some items for me (Metamucil, "Send a Note" stationery, and candy corn for the Tibbets kiddies when they visit me). We have a pleasant day; it feels almost like spring. Donna brought the mail when she came home about 3 p.m. There was a letter from Violet; she enclosed a **newspaper picture of Lewis Gary Strong**, just a stamp picture that she cut from her paper. He is a salesman for the **Granite Furniture Store**. All of the salesmen had their pictures in the paper. He resembles Elsie's side of the family. I can't see Lew Strong (his father) in him, but he is a lot like his dad in personality, a friendly lovable fellow. I like him very much. Lydia says the Lew Strongs and Bonnie and Darrell Reynolds are on a cruise in the Caribbean. Last year they went to Hawaii and the year before they went to Europe, so, I do have some rich relatives, eh? I'm happy for them. I wouldn't change places with them. I feel rich with my wonderful family and their activity in the church. Violet has some lovely friends in her ward; they bring her food and flowers. One Primary teacher brought eight little 8-year-old children to visit Violet. They had each made her a get-well card. They presented their cards and told Violet their names. They brought some homemade bran muffins and an iced carrot cake. They are so kind to Violet and she feels blessed because of these wonderful friends. I'm very thankful for them, too. Violet said the bran muffins reminded her of me, because I like bran muffins so well.

February 27, Friday

We have a hazy morning, I got up at 10 a.m. Donna and Dorothy had gone to the market in Overbrook in the Tibbetses' car. I flushed my toilet and it sure gave me a fright. Oh, it made a horrible noise and then a lot of muddy water came up in the bowl. I was afraid it was going to overflow, but it didn't. The water faucets in the wash bowl were full of air and they made a noise, too. Poor old Grama Elvie, alone in the house, and a plumber, I am not. Donna made a tuna sandwich and a cup of Postum for my brunch at noon. She and Dorothy are working with Guy in the Tibbetses' house, getting the rock lathe nailed on the walls. Rex said the well is running low and that caused the toilet trouble. They'll have to siphon some water from the pond nearest the well into it. Oh, we really do need a good rain in this country. I stretched out on my bed for an hour, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Donna brought my TV plate to me at 6:15 and then she went back over to work with Rex and the Tibbetses in their house. Jon and Mary and the

children arrived at 8 p.m. I had just finished doing the dishes in Donna's sink. I'm happy to see our dear Tibbets family again. We'll have some action now. Baby Brian is filling out nicely, he is an adorable infant. We watched the Dean Martin "Celebrity Roast," Dean was roasted by his TV guests. Julie slept in my other twin bed tonight. I gave her a Vick's cough drop, she has an annoying cough. I can hear Rex coughing in his room, too. The blankets and pillows are in use again in Donna's living room. Goodnight all.



Photo of Lew Strong sent to Elvie by Violet from a Granite Furniture newspaper ad.



stripped bare from the waist up. (How is that for February?) I had a nice visit with Mary and Donna. I came to my place when they started to feed the boys and men. I have a slight hurt in my heart location today and it makes me feel weak, but I didn't mention it to anyone, it is my problem, eh? Mary and baby visited with me tonight. I wrote a letter to Lydia Paul and I started one to Violet, but didn't finish it. Well, there's another day tomorrow and I hope to feel better. Julie slept in the other twin bed again tonight. I gave her a Vick's cough drop and Donna rubbed her throat with Vicks Vapor Rub. She didn't cough a lot after that. Janet Shattuck phoned today; she is feeling better and she is full of exciting plans for Kathy and Mark's wedding in August (the 7th).

February 29, Sunday

We have a pleasant Sabbath day with hazy sunshine this morning. Donna and Dorothy took the Tibbets children to Sunday School and church in Dorothy's car. Mary and baby stayed here because both have slight colds in their heads. The infant kept Mary awake a good part of the night. Jon is working over in the Tibbetses' house. I got myself a drink of milk and some cheesy crackers from the kitchen. Mary and baby were asleep in the living room, the baby was asleep, but Mary was relaxing (poor dear). I finished the letter I started to Violet last night. Our family came home from church about 2 p.m. Mary was in here talking to me while nursing her

baby I surely enjoy her visits with me. Donna and Mary had dinner on the table about 2:45. Dorothy T. ate with us, but Guy wasn't hungry. It has been cold and cloudy all afternoon. I watched Julie, Jody, and Greg playing with a big cardboard box, sliding down the sand pile on it. Later they tried to make a house out of it but the wind kept blowing it over. They then carried the big thing up on the rock pile, and left it there. It was a big job getting it up the rock pile, but they did, plus they entertained me, their old great grandmother L.V. ☺ Mary was packing their things for the trip back home to Omaha. Jon was doing some last-minute work over in the Tibbetses' house. Little Spencer was heart sick because he couldn't play outside with the other kids. He has a head cold and it was cold and windy outside. I gave him some candy corn and he felt better. I gave Mary some gum and candy corn to take for the kiddies to enjoy on their way home this evening. They left the farm about 5:15 p.m. They should be home by 10 p.m. Rex has a miserable head and chest cold; he seems to be prone to colds. I hope Donna and I won't get it from him. P.S. Our branch visiting brothers came tonight, Br. Ernest Hall and Br. Jack Story. I went in the Marshes' side to visit.

March 1, Monday

We had an overcast, windy forenoon. It's quiet around our farm; no one is here except Donna and me. I made my bed and myself look presentable. Donna brought some Postum and a tuna sandwich and custard for my brunch at noon. Dorothy Tibbets drove to Overbrook for some bird seed. They have a lot of colorful birds in cages in the basement with them. We can hear them in Donna's kitchen chirping their bird sounds. Dorothy forgot to turn off her [head]lights when she came home. Later, I noticed it and told Donna; she went out and shut it off. Dorothy was glad we noticed it. I watched the TV stories this afternoon to pass the time. Donna is always busy doing something around the house. The sun broke through the clouds this afternoon at 3:15 p.m. I stretched out on my bed for an hour, 5 to 6 p.m. Donna brought my TV tray dinner; I enjoyed my vegetable beef stew while watching the television programs. Rex came in later and watched TV with me. Donna came in about 9:30 and read the Relief Society lesson for tomorrow. It is on baptism and I enjoyed it very much. We had a nice discussion about the lesson, answering the questions, and etcetera. Rex went to bed about nine; he has to go to work early in the morning to the Overbrook Manor Nursing Home. He leaves here before daylight to be on the job by 7 a.m. He is an orderly (male hospital attendant). They have two orderlies now. Rex was the only one for a while.



Mark Calkins and Kathy Marsh February 1976 in front of Shattucks' playhouse.

March 2, Tuesday

It looked foggy this morning but by noon we had hazy sunshine. Donna and Dorothy T. went to Relief Society in Tibbetses' car this morning. Guy is working over in their house. I can hear him hammering; he is nailing on rock lathe, I presume? They are anxious to get the place ready for Rex to plaster it. They all work at nailing the rock lathe on. Dorothy and Donna help too when they can. Everybody works in our house but weary old me. You'll know why when you are eighty-three. I went to the kitchen and heated some milk to drink. I ate a few crackers with the milk. Donna and Dorothy came home about 1:30 p.m. They had lunch, I couldn't eat anything, I wasn't hungry then. I took a bath and got my clean underwear on this afternoon. I felt so darn weak I had to lie down for a while. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about 5:25. She and Rex left to rehearse for a program of some kind for the last of March. She said they had to get their singers together. Well, they know what it's all about anyway. I enjoyed my nice dinner and the TV programs, "Concentration" and "Hollywood Squares." Happy Dreams.

March 3, Wednesday

We didn't get snow or rain last night as the weather report predicted. We had a few drops of rain this morning. I had a wonderful night's rest, I slept like a log. (A blessing!) Donna brought brunch to me at 12:30 noon. It got darker this afternoon; I had the light on by 3:45 p.m. to see to write in the diary. Donna and Rex went to Overbrook to the bank to take care of our Social Security checks and to make the payment on this place. She brought me \$40 in cash, so, "I'm in the money." It is drizzling a little rain. We need a good rain; Kansas is parched for need of rain. Donna got in a few groceries I can use while she is in Northbrook, Illinois, with Joan and Mo's children for ten days. Rex is going to drive her to Joan's home. They'll be leaving here early in the morning. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets will be here; they're living in the basement while their house is being built. Donna came in here and vacuumed my rugs and cleaned the bathroom. I did the dusting, so I'm enjoying a clean and sweet, suite. Ha ha! Donna received a letter from **Kathy with a lot of**

colored pictures she took or had taken in California at Janet's place. They are beautiful. Her letter was a happy one of a girl very much in love and ready to marry the man she loves (Mark Calkins). He is as much in love and anxious to marry her. They do not want to wait until August 7 for the convenience of the family; they want to get married in June. I hope they can arrange it for June. Donna came to kiss me goodbye tonight. She didn't want to disturb me so early in the morning to say bye bye.

March 4, Thursday

Rex and Donna left the farm this morning early, about 5 a.m. I didn't hear them go, but she said they wanted to get away by five o'clock so they would have daylight all the way to Joan's home in Northbrook, Illinois. They've never been there before. I've had them in my thoughts and prayers all day. Donna said it would be about an eleven-hour drive. Joan gave them a map to her home to use after they reach Northbrook. I presume they are there now, it is 4:45 pm. I went to the kitchen and made some hot chocolate. I ate cooked peaches, Rice Krispies, and cheese crackers for my brunch at noon; I ate it while I listened to the TV stories. We've had rain and snow and lightening and thunder today. We also had what they call in "Ice Storm." The Osage orange trees were covered with ice. It is pretty to see, but the rain melted the snow and the ice this afternoon. Dorothy Tibbets walked to the mailbox this afternoon. It is a long walk, but she said she enjoyed it. She cooked a nice dinner this evening and brought a tray to me. The sun was shining brightly at 5 p.m., but there are a lot of storm clouds in the sky. Donna phoned from Joan's home about 5:40 p.m. to let us know they had arrived safely. Dorothy brought my tray about 6:15. It had creamed peas, potatoes, and fried fish, and a caramel cream pudding and a glass of milk. Nice eh? (Bless her heart.) I'm thankful for my television to keep me from being too lonesome. It's my first day without Donna's "Good morning," I've got to face ten days of this lonesomeness, but I'll manage it somehow. I am happy Joan and Miller can have this lovely trip to Hawaii, and Donna can be with the children.

March 5, Friday

We have a pleasant day; I didn't get up until 11 a.m. I slept fairly well last night; but I did have some problems with my nerves, plus troubled dreams and etcetera. But that is to be expected at my age. I put my little place in order and myself, too, and then I went to the kitchen to fix myself something to eat. I took a little package of Special K cereal, from the variety pack of cereals Donna bought for me. I got a banana and some cheese crackers and milk and came in my place to eat. Oh yes, I had a small jar of baby custard, too. I am pretending I'm on a lovely vacation myself. I'm good at the game of "Make Believe" if I work at it. Ha ha! I was entertained with the so called "Soap Box Operas" on television. They really have the problems. We were expecting Jon Tibbets to come this afternoon or evening, but Mary phoned at five o'clock and said they had had a bad snow storm all night and all day today, in Omaha. They have deep snow. Julie has a high fever and Spencer is cranky getting over his virus flu, so Jon can't come this weekend as planned. The roads are too bad to travel. I fixed my own dinner this evening. Dorothy and Guy worked over in their house until 6:30 p.m. I told her



Goose Island and Chicago skyline in 1976.

I'd fix something for myself. In fact, I had already started to gather some food together when they came from their house. They looked tired; I'm sure she was relieved when I told her I was preparing my own dinner. I watched television for a couple of hours tonight and then went to bed. Night all.

March 6, Saturday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest and for this pretty, sunny day. I went to the kitchen and fixed a tray of food for my brunch, dry cereal, banana, milk, cheese kisses, and crackers. I ate in my living room. It is warm and cozy here. There is no heat on in the Marsh side, no one home there. Rex and Donna are at Joan's home in Northbrook, Illinois. Donna is taking care of Joan's children while she and Mo are in Hawaii. I expect Rex home tonight or tomorrow. He wanted to see Joan's home and see Chicago so he drove Donna to the Gardners' home last Thursday. I got the birthday cards ready to mail to Melvin Renshaw, and to Mary Jorgensen. Mel's is March 14, and Mary's is March 18. I hope I don't forget to send them, it is too early now. Dorothy brought the mail; I received a letter from Ethel Newbold. She is feeling better, but still has her problems. She is 85 years old or maybe 86. She is a lovely person. She was my Lou's first girlfriend. I'm fond of her. I wrote a letter to Blanche Hoglund. Dorothy made a delicious vegetable and beef stew with some mushrooms in it. She brought some for me to eat at 6:30 this evening. I was listening to the "The Lawrence Welk Show" (my favorite TV program). I also enjoyed the "Mary Tyler Moore" and "Carol Burnett" shows before going to bed. Goodnight.

March 7, Sunday

We have a pleasant day, but we have some hazy sunshine. I had a sleepless night, ugh, I hate them. It was daylight before I could go to sleep, but the sweet dream I had of my darling husband was worth waiting for. He was so kind and thoughtful of my comfort and etcetera. We were at a party somewhere with lots of people. It's almost tragic to wake up and realize I am an old lady and not the lovely young "girl of my dream," I

heard Rex drive in sometime after midnight. I didn't turn on the light to see the clock, but I thought it was after 1 a.m. I could see his car lights before I could hear the car. Rex came in my room at noon. He said they had a nice day on Friday in **Chicago**, the big "Windy City," (Overbrook is the little "Big Blow" town.) Rex said Mo and Joan are leaving for Hawaii this morning. I hope they have a wonderful time in the lovely islands and that Donna enjoys taking care of their home and children. Dorothy went to Sunday School and church; Guy worked in the Tibbetses' house. Rex took care of his animals and then went to sleep on the couch in the living room. It's a long drive from Chicago to our farm, 11 or 12 hours, I presume. This afternoon seemed so long and quiet and so

lonesome. I dozed in my swivel chair. An artist I'm not, but I try, ha ha! This evening Rex baked a frozen TV dinner for me and a frozen chicken pie for him. Mine was a Swanson's fried chicken dinner and his was an individual Banquet pie. I ate one piece of chicken and gave the other two pieces to Rex. For dessert we had some delicious cherry cheese cake that Rex brought with him from Chicago. Mm good! He also brought some chocolate cream pie, but I didn't indulge in any more rich food. I went to bed at 9:30 p.m. Rex has to get up and go to the nursing home job early in the morning, so he went to bed soon after nine o'clock.

March 8, Monday

We have an overcast sky; it looks cold out there, but it is nice and warm in my little suite. I stayed in bed until 11 a.m. I've learned that one doesn't sleep very sound at my age. Oh, the things we take for granted in our youth! I look back on my life with gratitude and I'm looking ahead with trust in the dear Lord to help me through to the end. I heard Rex leave for his work at the nursing home before daylight this morning. He took my letter to Blanche Hoglund to mail it. I appreciate that because it has been ready to mail for two days. I went to the kitchen to get my brunch at noon. I made some hot chocolate, toast, and a little package of corn flakes, I also took a tiny slice of Rex's chocolate cream pie and two cheese kisses and came here to eat and watch the TV stories and eat. (My make-believe vacation is doing alright, eh?) Dorothy went somewhere in her car. I haven't seen Guy today. It is as quiet as a tomb around here without my television going; thank goodness for TV. Rex went over to work in the Tibbetses' house when he came from work. He came home this evening and cooked some frozen dinners for us. I am indeed fortunate to have such a fine son-in-law. I hope that Donna is enjoying her stay in Illinois with Joan's children, and that the Miller Gardners are having a wonderful vacation in Hawaii. I'm alone in my little suite tonight. I presume Rex is in bed and I'm going soon, too, after the ten o'clock news. Good night. P.S. I wish I could be released from this dear old "house of clay," so my children could feel free to go and come as they may. I also long to be free to be with the loved ones who wait for me, where we can go or come as we please with youthful bodies of spirit that can move about with ease.

March 9, Tuesday

Now I know why old people "live in the past," There isn't much in the present to think about; the interesting action is all in the past. When I lay awake most of the night, I find it is a lot more fun to recall happy memories than to reflect on the life of an 83 years old "drone," right, eh? Of course, I do count my many blessings, yes indeed! I went to the kitchen and fixed myself something to eat about noon. I'm entertained with the television stories, oh my, do they ever have problems! My life has been serene compared to theirs. I spent some time reading in my 1974 diary, looking for something Rex asked about. He wanted to know when we sold the little mobile home to a Mr. and Mrs. Stall. It was October 26, 1974. There was a notice in today's Overbrook newspaper of the death of Mr. Stall from a heart ailment. Rex brought it in for me to read. Rex cooked a TV frozen

dinner for us this evening (fish and chips, corn, and a raisin bun). He has been very thoughtful to see that I get a good meal every evening, bless his heart. I watched television programs until after the ten o'clock news tonight. I was glad to see this long day come to a close. The shades of night's darkness are welcome. Somehow it doesn't seem so lonesome when I'm in my bed and I know the night is to relax and find Slumberland, if I can. Good night. P.S. The man's name was Alvin Theodore Stahl. I wrote is as it sounded, Stall.

March 10, Wednesday

We have a pleasant day with hazy sunshine. I slept rather well last night, but I am a light sleeper. The troubled dreams would wake me and after analyzing the crazy things, I'd doze off again. I heard Rex up before daylight getting ready to go to his job at the Overbrook Manor Nursing Home, about 6 a.m. I stayed in bed as usual until 11 a.m. I went to the kitchen and fixed some lunch for myself, dry cereal, toast, fruit, and milk. I enjoyed eating while watching the TV stories. Dorothy went to Overbrook this morning; I talked to her when she came home. There was no mail for me. I hope Donna is enjoying her stay in Northbrook, Illinois, with her grandchildren, while Joan and Mo are in Hawaii. Rex came in to bring me some cashew nuts, some M & M candies, and a drink of cold cran-apple juice when he came home about 3 p.m. Wasn't that thoughtful of him? (Dear man.) This evening, after he came home from working in the Tibbetses' house, he baked a frozen dinner for us (ground steak, brown gravy, potato balls, mixed vegetables, and a little cake pudding). He knows I can only eat one half of the dinner, so he takes half of it out before he brings it to me, and even then, it is ample for me. He watched his own television programs tonight and I mine, here. Donna has been away seven days and it seems like a month to me. Lonesome L.V. But I am glad she can be with her little grandchildren while Mo and Joan are in Hawaii. Bobo is barking at something outside in front of my south window. ♪ "Let's Turn Out the Lights, and go to Bed." ♪ ♪ Happy dreams. [Photo taken in Hawaii by Joan at the PCC.]



March 11, Thursday

A hazy day greeted us this morning. We had some rain this noon time, enough to dampen the ground, but no little puddles in our yard. I went to the kitchen and fixed my lunch. Rex borrowed my Magnavox player and the record "Things Lovely" to take to his Bible class at the nursing home this afternoon. He brought it back about 3:45. He also had a letter from Donna. She is having a busy time with her Gardner grandchildren, while Joan and Mo are in Hawaii. There was a letter from Violet, too. She enclosed a letter from Aunt Ida R. Strong. She is 87 years old and she is confined to a walker to help get around. It is amazing how well she writes and how cheerful she seems. Her weight is just under 90 lbs. She is the same dear Aunt Ida we all love. Rex made a chocolate milkshake, thick with ice cream. He brought a glass for me to drink. My 20 pounds will expand if I keep on drinking and eating the rich sweets that he brings to me. You'd never guess it, but that picture is supposed to be puffed cheeks and a double chin, he he! *[Drawing of a face.]* It started to rain again, this evening about six o'clock. The wind was blowing, too. It sounds kind of wild out there. Rex brought my dinner at 6:30 p.m. It was a frozen TV dinner; half of it is all I can eat, so he takes some out, but it's always too much anyway. It was roast beef and brown gravy and mixed vegetables. He brought ice cream, but I sent it back. I just can't eat so much. About 8:30 tonight, he popped some popcorn and brought it for us to eat while watching TV. He says he has got to put some fat on my bones. ☺

March 12, Friday

We've had very little sunshine this day, but it has been windy. Rex drove into Overbrook to get his hair cut. He came home while I was eating my lunch. He brought a strip of the new bacon, called "Sizzlelean" for me to taste; it is good, I like it. I presume that Dorothy and Guy Tibbets are working in their house next door and Rex, too. It is very quiet over here. I'm indeed thankful for my television to help me through the long hours of my day. Donna left here March 4, a week ago yesterday; it seems like a month to me. ☺ But Rex is very kind and thoughtful. I do appreciate him.

*I walk around in my place
With a smile on my face,
And I sit in my swivel chair and doze
I am blessed goodness knows!
I should answer my letters and fill the gap,
But writing letters always drains my sap.
Oh, darn the wind and the rumbling thunder,
They make me wish I was six feet under,
I have fun rhyming once in a while,
So just read my lines with a little smile.
Cause I'm really not feeling low,
I'm just putting on a little show.*



Dorothy made some chili with beans, Rex didn't want any chili, I didn't think I had better eat it either, so Rex opened a can of chunk-beef stew for our dinner and made some toast. We enjoyed that while watching TV. We had some chocolate ice cream for dessert. Rex has been very thoughtful of my needs. I'm a lucky old gal, eh? Good night.

March 13, Saturday

We have a lovely, sunny day; how nice it is! Dorothy Tibbets drove to Overbrook this morning; I had her bring me a jar of Skippy peanut butter, 75¢, a package of Ritz crackers, 83¢, and a couple of packages of Tums, 59¢ each. It came to \$2.76. I didn't have the penny and she wouldn't take a dime, so I only paid \$2.75. She is a darling. I really enjoyed the peanut butter on my toast this noon. I made



Above President and Sister Spencer W. Kimball with Mo and Joan in Hawaii. The company Mo worked for was owned by the Church. On these special trips the brethren would often attend the meetings. Below that photo is a picture of Mo by pineapple plants.

some Postum, too. Dorothy brought the mail. There was a card from Joan from the islands; they are having a wonderful time. They're treated like royalty and the islands are prettier than she had imagined. I'm happy for them, so glad she could have this lovely trip. The card is a picture of the beautiful Kona Hilton Hotel, where they stayed on the **Big Island of Hawaii**. They

were going to fly to Honolulu for the rest of the week. I was thrilled to receive a lovely letter from our precious missionary boy, Elder Mark Shattuck. He is serving the Lord in Tucuman, Argentina. It is such a sweet letter; it brought tears of love and gratitude to my eyes. He was pleased with the poem I composed for him last December 31, 1975. We do have wonderful young boys and girls in our family. I love all of them. I answered Violet's letter and enclosed Aunt Ida's letter that Violet sent for me to read. She wants to send it to Dolores in Belgium. I made out my church donation check for \$12.00; it is ready to mail. Also, I have a birthday card ready to mail to Mary Jorgensen. Now, to get them mailed, is my problem! Dorothy baked a batch of cookies this afternoon in Donna's oven. Rex surprised me with a delicious T-bone steak dinner tonight about seven o'clock. It was so tender. I ate all of my piece, which was too much. We had brown beans and bread and butter, also. For dessert we had chocolate cake and ice cream. P.S. Rex has been wonderful to keep the kitchen neat and clean, he amazes me! He wouldn't let me help him clean up the mess tonight, how about that?

March 14, Sunday

Happy birthday to Melvin Renshaw today:

*"Something pleasant to think about and to do,
is sending birthday greetings to you," Love L.V.*

Rex said last evening that he was going to take a day of rest tomorrow and not even go to church. He has been working early and late and he is tired. I presume he was called to go to the Overbrook nursing home? Dorothy said she heard him moving about early this morning. His car and Rex are missing this morning.

*I got up at 11 a.m., I made myself and my suite look neat,
Then I went to the kitchen to get something to eat.*

*I heated the Postum left from yesterday,
And got some peanut butter and crackers on my tray.*

*One of Dorothy's sugar cookies I took,
And brought them all back to my own little nook.*

*Here I can reflect on my life and eat with ease,
And also doze in my chair if I please.*

*We have a pleasant Sabbath day,
The sun is shining in a hazy way.*

*There are lots of clouds up there in the blue,
So, Old Sol keeps playing "Peek a Boo,"*

*Dorothy didn't drive to church today,
She felt too tired, I heard her say.*

*I answered Ethel Newbold's letter,
I don't owe anyone now, so I feel better.*



It was after 2:30 before Rex got home and they want him to be on the job again tonight at 11 p.m. He took care of his animals and rested for a few hours. But he brought my dinner at 7 p.m. (Sizzlean, egg, and toast, milk and ice cream). He is a dear. He has done everything he could do for my comfort while Donna is away. She has been gone 11 days today. I think Mo and Joan are expected home this evening. So, we can expect Donna back home in a day or two! We surely have missed her. Rex watched television tonight with me until he had to go to work. It's my bed time. Goodnight and sweet dreams. EBR

March 15, Monday

Donna left a tray of food for me when she went to her Relief Society in Ottawa this morning. It has been a nice springlike day and I had a good night's rest so I do feel much better today. Donna did some shopping for me' she bought a birthday card for me to send to my sister Violet, some Vizine Eye Drops, and some Modess napkins, amount was \$4.61. Donna came home about 1:45 pm. This afternoon Donna wrote a nice letter of condolences to Marty's daughter, Pat Howell. Her 14 year old Todd died from an automobile accident' it was a lovely letter, she read it to me. Todd was a very handsome lad' it is

very sad indeed. Rex has worked around the farm today. I could see his pickup truck in the south field. Donna cooked a nice pot roast dinner for us this afternoon. We ate about 5:30 p.m. I went to Donna's place to watch television with her and Rex tonight. We saw Barnum and Bailey Circus Show, and a new show; I do not think I care to follow up on the new show. I came back here about 10:15. Rex was asleep on the couch. Donna was going to type a letter to Kathy and Mark. I was very weary and anxious to go to bed. Donna and Rex are expecting Mary's Spencer and Brian tomorrow' they're driving half way to meet Mary tomorrow morning. They brought the baby crib up from the basement this afternoon. Mary and her friend Betty are going to Salt Lake City to go through the temple with the Shattucks before Rick leaves on his mission to Australia.

March 16, Tuesday

The snow is melting fast with this lovely, sunny day. I got up at ten o'clock and took a shower bath. After putting my place in order, I went to the kitchen and made a tuna fish sandwich. I heated some milk and sweetened it with honey. Dorothy Tibbets had baked a big batch of sugar cookies in Marshes' oven; they were spread out on the tile drain board. I helped myself to three little cookies and came in my suite to eat my lunch and enjoy the TV stories that I've been listening to for months. Super, eh? [Actually more like years!] Rex came home about 2:30 p.m. He had some business to take care of; he talked to Donna on the phone. She is flying home from Joan's this afternoon. Rex is going to pick her up at the airport in Kansas City, Missouri. He said they'd be home around seven o'clock tonight. It is an hour and a half drive from here to the airport. Rex bought some water pipe that the man needed for the pond he is digging in the southwest field near the well. I did some dusting in Donna's place and picked up some clothes and papers and made the bed so she will not

come home to a messy looking house. I dusted in my own place, also. That was the most action I've had in many weeks; and wow, I was glad to rest before fixing my dinner this evening. I ate Gerber's strained carrots, crackers, peanut butter, and milk. It was almost eight o'clock before Rex and Donna came home. She said they took the long way home and stopped at a drive in for something to eat. I was surely happy to see her home again. I know Rex was glad to have her back, too. Joan sent a can of Hawaiian Macadamia nuts; they are good! They look like little balls. We had a lovely TV program on Channel 11 tonight. It was the Philharmonic Orchestra's tribute to Johann Strauss, and "Dear Love," the story of the courtship of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett. P.S. Donna brought two letters from Kathy for us to read and some pictures of her and Mark Calkins; they are a very handsome couple.



Mark Calkins and Kathy Marsh at the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park February 1976.

March 17, Wednesday

"Top O' the Mornin' to ye," In honor of St. Patrick's Day, I'm using my green pen. We have a very pleasant day with blue sky and sunshine. Oh, it is nice to have Donna home again. She prepared brunch for the two of us and we ate from TV trays in here. We talked about her stay in Illinois with Joan's children, and about the exciting summer ahead with Kathy and Mark's wedding in California in June. Joan and family are coming to the farm for the summer and etcetera. There are lots of plans and problems to iron out. I sewed on a couple of buttons that came off my robe last week. The new pond is finished, ready for the rain to come and fill it up. Donna walked down to look at it this morning; she also inspected the rose garden that Dorothy planted. Rex came home from work about three o'clock. Donna was in the south field feeding and watering the animals. I'm so glad that Donna's piggyback plant is perking up since she watered it. The poor plant was wilted down, because it needed plant food. Dorothy watered it once, but that wasn't enough. I'm sorry I did not notice it. The girls at work pinned a green paper Shamrock on Rex's white shirt today; he wore it home. I watched television until ten o'clock. We went to bed, thankful for a good bed to relax in. "A good night to ye all."

March 18, Thursday

Happy birthday to Mary Jorgensen.

We wish you could walk up to our door,

We'd love to see your sweet smile once more.

We would talk until there was no more to say,

Oh, doesn't that sound like a happy day?

We think of your darling mother, too,

We know how dearly she loved you.



Mary Clayton Jorgensen circa 1944.

We are enjoying a lovely spring like day. Donna and Dorothy went to Ottawa to do their Relief Society visiting teaching this morning. I couldn't sleep last night; my stupid brain would not relax. It is frustrating to say the least. This has been a busy day for Donna; she's been going somewhere most of the day. This afternoon she has a meeting in Ottawa and tonight there is an "Open House Party" for the branch members in Kansas City. Rex is going to drive, so I'm glad of that. Oh oh, correction; they go to the open house first, it's for Relief Society welfare workers in Kansas City. The second meeting tonight in Ottawa is more Relief Society business. I can't fathom the activities of my family, but I'm always here in my own little suite trying to convince myself that my life is complete. Donna opened a can of chunky stew for me to heat up for my evening meal. She and Rex left here about 4:30 p.m. I can hear the wind howling; the "Big Blow" has returned.

*I dozed in my chair, there was nothing else to do,
Until I go to the kitchen and heat up my stew.*

This has been a long, lonesome day. I was glad when it was time to turn out the lights and go to bed. Sweet dreams.

March 19, Friday

Donna and Dorothy Tibbets left this morning soon after nine o'clock to go to the Relief Society leadership meeting in Kansas City. It is a long drive; they went in Donna's little VW car. We have a windy day with hazy sunshine. I slept much better last night. I got up at eleven this morning and put my little place in order (and myself). I went into the kitchen and collected a few things to eat (dry cereal, milk, crackers, peanut butter, and cheese kisses). I brought the tray of food to my place and ate while enjoying the TV stories. Oh, do they ever have problems. Rex has been working in the Tibbetses' house getting it ready for the plastering job. He hopes to start tomorrow when Jon Tibbets is here to help him. Donna Story phoned to talk to Dorothy. I took her message and phone number for Dorothy. Donna and Dorothy came home about 3:15 p.m., hungry and tired. Donna has to go out again tonight for a rehearsal of something or other. I can't keep up with her activities. Rex took her this evening to Ottawa to meet someone, I think she said Donna Story. Rex came home and cooked a frozen TV dinner for me. I went to the kitchen later and did all the dishes in the sink. Our Tibbets family arrived from Omaha about ten o'clock; they were all tired. Donna wasn't home yet. It was after midnight before she came. Julie was asleep in my other twin bed, Greg and Jody were in the bunk beds in the basement. Mary and Rex or Jon, made up the couch bed so they were all taken care of. Baby Brian is so darling. He is getting plump. They change so fast when they are infants.

March 20, Saturday

*We have a lot of fluffy clouds in blue,
So, old Sol is playing peek-a-boo.*

*Rex and Jon are working in the Tibbetses' home,
While all over the fields, the little boys roam.*

*Mary came in to "check on me," (she said),
And I told her I was going to get out of bed.*

She said, "What would you like to eat?"

I said, "A melted cheese sandwich would be a treat,"

So, I washed my face and combed my hair,

Made my bed and said my prayer.

Seated in my swivel chair I was ready to start the day,

Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray.

A toasted cheese sandwich, applesauce, and Postum to drink.

I'm a lucky old Grama, don't you think?

There I go, writing in rhyme again.

It just happens when I pick up my pen.

I can hear a lot of activity in the Marsh side of the house,

But in here, it is as quiet as a mouse.

"Keep out of Grama Elvie's place," the kids are told,

Because she is nervous and she is old.

*I hope they don't remember me as an old "fuddy duddy" who
couldn't stand their play,*

I love them all and wouldn't have it any other way.

I received a nice, long letter from Blanche Hoglund this afternoon. It is very remarkable how she can write a long



letter like she does, at her age; she is 87 years old. I can't compete with her. She has been in the hospital with pneumonia, since she wrote to me before. She said she wanted to die and can't see why she didn't. She said **Nora Strong McKay** passed away and had a lovely LDS funeral service. Mary brought baby Brian in to nurse him; they both fell asleep on the extra twin bed. I dozed in my chair. Julie spent most of her day with Grandma Tibbets; she was making clothes for her Barbie doll. I was popular with the three little Tibbets boys after Donna brought the cheese ball kisses and the chicken biscuits in to me. They sure like to eat them. Well, so do I. Jody seemed to have asthma. I got out my old spray and it gave him relief. It amazed me to realize that I haven't used that spray in about 3 years. P.S. Donna Story and her three girls and a young couple came to the farm tonight. The girls were all over the place while their mother and the couple rehearsed with Donna. Rex and Donna went to the dairy for milk this evening.



Nora and Bert McKay in 1962. Nora Strong McKay died in March 1976. Bert died in November of 1989.

March 21, Sunday

It is the first day of spring, Tra la! It is another day like we had yesterday. My family went to Sunday School in Dorothy Tibbets's car. Rex had to work today at the nursing home. Jon T. stayed home; he and his father were digging and planting something in the Tibbetses' yard. From my window, it looked like bulbs and some rose bushes. Donna left a big pot-roast cooking on low heat. I checked it a couple of times. John M. phoned last night and talked to Donna, Rex, and Mary. He said he and Ann had been to see a doctor for a check up to learn why they don't have a baby? It seems that Ann needs a little adjustment of some sort, but there is a good chance that they will be able to have a baby. They are delighted and so are we. The folks came home at 1:55 p.m. Donna and Mary had a nice dinner on the table by three o'clock. The Guy Tibbetses ate with us. Julie, Greg, and Jody were having fun playing in the sand pile, so they ate after the adults had finished (a nice arrangement, sweet kiddies, eh?) Donna read a story to Spencer so he'd take a little nap. His baby brother, Brian, was sleeping. Mary said he slept all through the sacrament meeting, too. He is a very good baby; he was born January 24. I played some lovely Mormon Tabernacle Choir records this afternoon and thought of my darling husband. He loved them, too. I was crying on the inside and smiling on the outside. Mary and Jon got their car packed for the trip back to Omaha. They left the farm about 5:40 p.m. Little Spencer is staying here for a week; he was asleep when they left, so no tears from him. Jon expects to come back next weekend. Joan phoned; she is very anxious to come and live in the basement until they can buy the home they want in Illinois. P.S. Donna made sandwiches for Mary to take on their trip home. Mary and Jon brought the lovely roast and other food with them from Omaha. Donna sent some cake home with them, too.

March 22, Monday

We had a little excitement this morning when Spencer went missing. He'd been playing in the sand pile. Donna was trying to do some vacuuming. The little fellow went over to see Grandpa Tibbets's peacocks. Donna ran all over calling his name but he didn't answer, so she got in the pickup to drive to the pond then she saw him. Grandpa Tibbets was out looking, too. (This old gal got a bit upset, too.) "All is well." Spencer is in the Tibbetses' car with them now. Donna is rehearsing with Donna Story, her small daughter is with her (Melissa). Donna kept her out, in her place. She told her I was not feeling well (that little girl is aggressive). I appreciate Donna's concern for my "peace of mind." I did donate a little hand full of candy corn to appease the child. This afternoon Rex and Donna took Spencer with them, somewhere. It's a pleasant day, no wind, and I like that. I do get tired of the "Big Blow." Donna received a note from Joan. She says they'll be leaving Northbrook, Illinois in about two weeks. Rex will have to work fast to get the Tibbetses' house plastered so they can move into it and get the basement ready for Joan and family. Marshes received an announcement of the graduation class for Mark Calkins, at BYU. He is Kathy's fiancée. I composed a verse for Janet Gardner's birthday card (see April 13). It was Topeka where the Marshes took Spencer. Rex went for material to plaster Tibbetses' house. Rex sold his supply of corn and grain so they can send Kathy \$200 for her wedding invitations. Spencer had me drawing for him tonight, a horse, an airplane, flowers in a bucket, a butterfly, a Christmas tree, as he called them out to me. I'm no artist but he was satisfied.

March 23, Tuesday

I found a note from Donna to turn off the beef stew when I got up. She and Spencer had gone to Relief Society in Ottawa. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets were helping Rex with the plastering job over in their house; they were mixing the plaster and being the hod carriers, a new experience for Dorothy. I watched Rex mix the plaster and the cement and Dorothy carrying the heavy buckets in to the house this afternoon. Little Spencer was playing around in the yard. Donna took a drink of punch or something to them. Donna brought a letter from Violet to me when she came home from Ottawa. Violet enclosed a letter from Yvonne and one from Shirley Bird. They are all very busy in church work and home activities; it was very interesting reading. I can't record their news in my diary on this one little page. Violet also enclosed a news clipping notice of the passing of an old friend, Rhoda Fuller Meyers. She was 85 years old; she died on March 17. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray at 5:40 p.m. It was a delicious beef and vegetable stew and a custard for dessert. Rex went with Donna this evening to a rehearsal. I presume it is for the Relief Society program. I just can't keep up with all of her rehearsals. Dorothy T. tucked little Spencer in his little bed in Donna and Rex's bedroom; he cried himself to sleep. The wind has been

blowing hard most of today and it is going strong now at 10:40. Donna and Rex just came home from the rehearsal in Ottawa. It is for the Relief Society program next Friday in Paola at the Maple Vista Community Hall. I received a nice invitation, too, but I don't think I will be going.

March 24, Wednesday

We have a calm, hazy morning. Rex said it rained some last night; I didn't hear it. I'm glad the wind has stopped blowing. I could hear it in the night. Donna changed the sheets and pillowslip on my bed this morning while I was combing my hair. She brought a tuna fish sandwich, some applesauce, and a cup of Postum for my brunch at 11:30 a.m. Isn't she a lovely daughter? I enjoyed watching little Spencer trying to climb up on the rock piles. He kept sliding back down. He finally gave up and came to the sand pile near my bathroom window. He managed to climb on top of it and then he sat down and had fun sliding down the pile. He repeated that several times. He is a cutie and he plays very well by himself. Rex is plastering in the Tibbetses' house and Dorothy and Guy are carrying hod for him. Rex sold his old Chevy car to someone for \$100. The money goes to Janet Shattuck to help with Kathy's reception in June. Donna drove to Overbrook to the bank this afternoon to take care of the business at hand. Spencer was asleep in his little bed, on the floor in Donna's bedroom. The Tibbetses and Rex came home to rest this afternoon from the plastering job. Today's mail brought a nice, long letter from Lydia Paul. Her daughter Mick was robbed about a month ago. They took her TV set, typewriter, jewelry, and her king-sized bedspread to carry the things away. Lydia had a bad attack, she thinks was a gall bladder spell. She has an appointment with her doctor. Donna played the piano and **Spencer** sang a lot of songs. He loves to sing and he has a sweet voice. I went in Donna's living room to see and hear him sing. He is a cute little "Ham." We had a lamb chop dinner this evening. (Mm good!) Mary brought the lamb chops with her last weekend. P.S. There was an earthquake felt in St. Louis, Missouri this evening.

March 25, Thursday

It was gloomy looking and damp until after two o'clock, but no rain. The sun broke through the clouds and we had a pleasant afternoon. Donna put Spencer down to have a nap. She went over to help Rex (to carry hod for him) in the Tibbetses' house. Dorothy and Guy were working over there, also. I heard the phone ring; I went to answer it. Donna Story wanted to talk to Donna. I wrote a note for Donna. She came home a few minutes later and called Sr. Story. Donna cooked a big pot of brown beans for the Relief Society dinner tomorrow evening in Paola. I answered Violet's letter and enclosed it in her birthday card. Rex and Donna drove to Paola for a rehearsal for the Relief Society program and dinner tomorrow night. I warmed up the stew that she opened for me for my dinner.

Dorothy took care of little Spencer this evening while Donna and Rex were away. He was a happy little boy until Grandma Dorothy wanted to put him to bed about 8 p.m. He cried real hard. I had all I could do to keep from going into Donna's room to comfort the little fellow. Donna will be gone again tomorrow night. I dread hearing little Spencer cry so hard and so long again. The wind is blowing hard tonight. It gets noisy. I do not like the wind when it is such a "Big Blow." It is hard to get to sleep with all that noise outside.

March 26, Friday

It rained hard for a few minutes this morning, but not enough to do our land much good. We do need the rain. The sun is trying to break through the clouds now at 12:30 noon. Donna cooked some scrambled eggs for Spencer and me at noontime, and toast and hot chocolate. I also had a dish of canned apricots. I put the back of Donna's hair up in curlers, before lunch. She'll be dressed in a Centennial costume tonight at the Relief Society party. I'd love to be there but do not feel



Spencer Tibbets almost 4 years old in 1976.

well enough to make the effort. Donna will have to go early and stay late, so it is better for all concerned if I stay home, eh? She and Rex left here about 4:35 p.m. for Paola, Kansas. I brushed the back of Donna's hair into long ringlets. She did the front part. She looked real pretty. I wish we could have a picture of her in her Centennial costume. Dorothy made the pretty white apron and cap; she also made the red vests for the boys on the program. Donna wore her long-flowered dress and yes, she did look pretty. Grandma Dorothy took care of little Spencer this evening again. I fixed my own dinner. Donna bought a frozen TV dinner for me (fried chicken) but I decided not to bake it this evening. I just put a few crackers, peanut butter, cheese ball kisses, and a glass of milk on my tray, plus a dish of custard, and I came to my room to eat and watch TV. ♪ "Ain't We Got Fun," ♪

Dorothy brought Spencer up to put him to bed; he was very happy and came in to kiss me goodnight. I was glad he didn't cry, but went to his bed okay. I heard him crying later and I went to see why. He was out in the kitchen; he wanted to go potty. I helped him and then I gave him some candy corn and my Raggedy Ann doll. No more crying. ☺ We've had a lot of wind today with very little sunshine. Guy Tibbets is not well; he stayed in bed today. P.S. Jon and Jody Tibbets arrived tonight about 10 p.m. Jon made up the couch bed for himself and Jody.

March 27, Saturday

We have a pretty day. I feel a bit under par, because I didn't rest very well last night. It was after midnight before Rex and Donna got home from the Relief Society birthday program and dinner. She came in and told me what a lovely party it was. She brought home the top decoration from the birthday cake. It was a darling, doll that Helen Creighton made; she also made the beautiful cake. I loved hearing all about the party. Donna gave me one of the programs to

read. It has our “Grand Old Flag” on the cover, in color. Well, you can get the idea anyway, an artist I am not. It must be in the Kansas wind to make it look like that instead of a gentle breeze as it is supposed to be. I was awake when Donna came in and was happy to talk to her. I could have talked all night because I couldn’t sleep, but Donna was tired and needed sleep. I heard Rex get up this morning about four o’clock and heard him drive away. His car lights lit up my rooms. Donna brought a tray with tomato soup, pineapple and cottage cheese, and crackers to me at noon time. She’s been busy cleaning and cooking as usual, but it is so nice to have her home. Little Spencer is taking his nap. I presume Jody is next door with his father. He has outgrown the nap period. Jon is working hard to get the water and lights connected up so his parents can move into their own home next door. I tried to do some scrapbook work, but I didn’t get very far. My eyes feel too weary and they blur. Oh hum! I went to bed after the ten o’clock news tonight. Spencer couldn’t go to sleep this afternoon so he will go to bed early tonight. P.S. I surely enjoyed the “Lawrence Welk” TV program at 6 p.m. We had a nice fried chicken and baked potato dinner this evening at 7 p.m.



Flag that Elvie drew in her diary on March 27.

March 28, Sunday

We have a stormy looking sky; it did rain a little about 1 p.m. but not for long. Donna and Dorothy took Jody and Spencer to Sunday School and sacrament meeting this morning. I had a good night’s sleep last night so I can’t understand why I feel so weak, lightheaded, and strange this morning. Jon is working in the Tibbetses’ house and I presume Guy T. is with him. He was sick yesterday, so he stayed in bed. I hear the children now, so our folks are home from church at 2:15. There is action when they arrive. No more dozing in my chair. Donna fixed dinner for the family, but I wasn’t hungry, so I didn’t eat with them. I had eaten about noon. Jon and Jody Tibbets left for home (Omaha) soon after dinner, about 3:45. Little Spencer tried to take a nap, but I think he couldn’t make it. I could hear him up and shouting several times, however, it is very quiet now, at 5:10 p.m. Bruce Hackett and his wife called on the Marshes just as Donna got home from church. They didn’t come in, they could see that Donna had her hands full with her little grandson. (I didn’t see them.) Rex slept all afternoon. I did a little scrapbook work. Donna brought a tray of food to me about 6:30 p.m. Later she came in and read from John L.’s book, “Outstanding Stories” by general authorities. She read some of the writings of President Spencer W. Kimball’s experiences. It was very interesting. I love to have her read of these good men of God and their families. The book has lovely pictures of them. I’m always happy to turn off the TV to have her read to me from our church books. P.S. Spencer went to bed tonight about 8:30 without a whimper. He was tired.



March 29, Monday

There was a note in my chair from Donna to tell me she and Spencer had gone to Topeka with Rex to get some plaster. They left at 9:20 and would be back in a couple of hours. Spencer was all smiles when he came home; he had enjoyed an ice cream cone and a man gave him some bubble gum. (He was a happy little fellow.) It has been a strange day, a heavy down pour at times, but not for long. It has been gloomy with storm clouds and no sunshine. I had to have the lamp on at 3:40 p.m. to see to write. Donna brought lunch to me at 12:30 noon. I watched the TV stories while eating. Later, Donna brought a letter to me from Brad Haddock, from Provo, Utah. He is going to Boston and New York City this summer and will have a friend with him as far as Lawrence, Kansas. He wants to stop in Overbrook to see us. He wants a map directing him to the farm. He’ll be coming from Lawrence on Highway 59 to Highway 56 and then west to Overbrook. I’ll ask Rex to draw the map. He expects to be here the evening of the 23rd of April. It will be nice to see that sweet boy again. I’m very fond of Brad. We just had another spasmodic downpour of rain; they come and go. There are lots of dark clouds in the sky. I can hear the rumbling of thunder, too. Mother Nature has herself a real ball here in Kansas. I did a little scrapbook work this afternoon. The sun did get through to us for a few minutes about 4:45 p.m.

Donna brought a nice dinner to me at 6:40, some chicken casserole and green beans. Spencer had a bath and then his dinner. He fell asleep soon after he went to bed. P.S. Donna took Rex’s dinner to him this evening. **He was plastering** in the Tibbetses’ house. Donna went over to carry hod for him after Spencer went to sleep. Oh, I remember, she was going to hold the light for Rex to see to work. Guy was the hod carrier.

March 30, Tuesday

Donna and Dorothy took Spencer with them to Relief Society this morning. It was a cloudy morning, but a sunny afternoon. I heard Rex driving around in his tractor. I went to the kitchen and fixed myself something to eat. I dried the dishes Donna had draining in the sink. Donna and Dorothy each took a layer of cake in a round tin, and decorated it in Relief Society. There was a cake decorator there to teach them how to do it. Donna brought her cake in to show me; it was very pretty. I could hear little Spencer laughing and shouting, having fun. Someone was playing with him. Later, he was crying and very unhappy, the fun was over. The life of a little boy, eh? The wind blew hard most of the night, but I slept fairly well in spite of the “Big Blow.” This evening Donna cooked liver and onions; it tasted good. We had creamed corn and green beans. Our branch visiting couple came to the farm this evening to visit us (Ernest and Annie Hall). The Tibbetses came upstairs and I went in Donna’s living room to visit with them. Donna brought Annie Hall in to see my little suite before we had our family visit in Donna and Rex’s place. Annie said my house is very lovely. She and her husband

want to move to California where their son Mike is living now. Donna says the cake decorator was one of the branch sisters, I believe she said Helen Creighton.

March 31, Wednesday

Today is the last day of March and so far, it will be "going out like a lamb." In fact, it has been a pleasant month with no wild weather to speak of. Our Relief Society visiting teachers came this morning about 10:30. I was in bed; Donna came to tell me. I got up and combed my hair, powered my face, and went to Donna's place to visit and hear the lovely message on "Love of the Gospel," Sr. Jeanne Brooks gave the message and Sr. Jeanne Bickerstaff gave the prayer before they left. Dorothy Tibbets came upstairs to join us. These precious sisters come a long way to visit us on this farm. Donna brought my brunch about noon time, it was creamed chicken and peas over toast, a cup of Postum, some canned peaches and a brownie cookie. She is precious, too. Sr. Brooks had a little jar of plum jam; she said it was a Christmas gift for me. Iris (somebody) gave it to her to give to me before she moved away. Somehow it got put on the shelf and forgotten until today. Donna drew a map for Brad Haddock to help him find his way to the farm after he is in Overbrook. I answered his letter to let him know we'll be happy to have him visit us. We expect him the 23rd of April. P.S. Our little Spencer was the center of attraction at times this morning. He sang so cute for the visiting teachers. (He is a cutie!) Grampa Rex took him for a ride on the tractor this afternoon down to see the animals in the south field. We have lots of storm clouds in the sky this evening. Donna typed letters this afternoon; she wrote to Mark Shattuck and others. Donna and Dorothy served dinner this evening, it was spaghetti and tomato sauce with steak and spinach, Jello fruit salads, and cake. P.S. I ate with the family this evening in the kitchen at Marshes'. Rex and Donna listened to television with me tonight until ten o'clock. We were all tired and went to bed. Sweet Dreams. Zzzz

April 1, Thursday

Happy Birthday Violet!

The Bailey sisters have all gone,

except me and you,

And birthday dollars have

diminished to just a precious few.

But keep on smiling and give yourself a little treat,

For you and your handsome husband to eat.

(I enclosed \$3.00.) I enjoyed one "April Fool" jest this morning, so I'm satisfied. I had Donna looking for a package that didn't exist ☺. I took a shower bath and changed to a lighter robe. Donna brought my brunch at noon time, bless her. I hope my sister Violet is well and enjoying her birthday. Rex came home from work about 2 p.m. He took a nap on the couch. It is a lovely, warm, spring day. I went with Donna and Spencer for a drive in the country to buy some eggs. I insisted on paying for them, \$2.00. It is the first time I've been out in several

weeks; I enjoyed it very much. We were in the little red VW car. Spencer noticed a children's slide in the farm yard, so he had a couple of slides down it. We bought four dozen eggs. We had a cold drink of water when we got home (everybody happy)! Donna vacuumed my rooms and washed my bathroom rugs today. There was a big, fat letter from Kathy, full of her happy plans for her June wedding. They're on "Cloud 9," oh joy! This evening Donna baked a Banquet Fried Chicken TV dinner for me. I shared it with Spencer; for our dessert we had hot chocolate pudding over ice cream. Mm good. Donna, Rex, and myself watched TV tonight. We saw "The Waltons," Rex left after that was over. Donna and I watched a frustrating love story. Oh, thank the dear Lord we have the beautiful Gospel of Jesus Christ to help us understand what life is all about.

April 2, Friday

It's so pleasant to pass the hours away looking out my window at the joys of the day. Rex is plastering over in the Tibbetses' house; Guy Tibbets is his hod carrier. Donna took little Spencer to Overbrook with her to get some gas for the [cement] mixer. I went to the kitchen to get something for my brunch, at noon. We have a pleasant day, there is a strong wind, but I stay inside. Joan phoned; she expects to arrive at the farm tomorrow night. This afternoon Donna went to the Tibbetses' house to help get it ready for Dorothy and Guy to move into. She took Spencer with her. I'm alone with my thoughts. Oh, such problems to think about, too, and d--- that wind. Donna looked tired when she and Spencer came home at 5:45 p.m. from cleaning up the rooms that Rex had finished plastering at the Tibbetses' house. I presume Dorothy was working, too. It is surely a lot of hard work for everyone but me. It's my compensation for being eighty-three years of living and working. Donna brought my TV tray dinner about six o'clock. Spencer came in to kiss me good night about 8 p.m. He is an adorable little fellow, he looks so handsome from his bath and has pretty pajamas on



Only Violet and Elvie (circled in blue) are alive in 1976.

and damp, curly hair. He is a darling child. He was a little homesick last night and he told Grama Donna, "I want to see my Mama and Papa and Greg and Jody, and Julie, and my baby Brian." He felt alright and happy tonight. Donna came in this evening and read to me from the "Church News" paper, and from the book "Stories by the General Authorities." She read from the writings of Elder Mark E. Petersen and President Hartman Rector, Jr. I love to have her read the church books to me. Good night! P.S. Little Jody Tibbets was operated on at 8 a.m. today, for a hernia. He'll stay in the hospital overnight.

April 3, Saturday

We have a pleasant day; the wind has subsided and the sky is blue with fluffy, white clouds in it. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets took Spencer with them to Overbrook to shop this morning. Jon Tibbets arrived at the farm soon after we went to bed last night (about 11 p.m.). He is working over in the Tibbetses' house. Rex went to work early this morning. Donna baked bread and she brought me a nice lunch at noontime, (egg, toast, and Postum and orange juice) isn't she precious? Mary phoned from Omaha to let Jon know she brought Jody home from the hospital and he feels fine today. It was not a serious operation, just a small hernia. I'm thankful for my many blessings. I have some chest pain this morning but not bad. I'm alright if I take it easy and that I do. I can hear our lively little Spencer giving his Grama Donna a "merry time;" he is full of action for sure. To help pass the time, I had fun drawing, for Spencer, a little mountain home with a lake. It's a mess, but it entertained us. ☺ Donna took Spencer with her to Overbrook in the pickup truck this afternoon to shop at the market. I gave her \$5.00 to get some candy corn and to help with the groceries. I think Donna took the truck into a garage for a slow leak in one of the tires. She brought my dinner on a TV tray while I was watching "The Lawrence Welk Show" this evening. It was meat loaf, baked potatoes, corn, and Jello salad; it was good! We're expecting Joan and family tonight. Donna was busy all evening getting beds made up for her Gardner family, so I watched the television programs alone. P.S. Spencer likes me to draw pictures for his entertainment, so I did this one of the mountain home and lake.

April 4, Sunday

Today is moving day for the Guy Tibbetses, from Marshes' basement to their own house next door. I couldn't get to sleep last night for a long time; my brain was too busy. Mo and Joan arrived this morning with their children. I think it was between 7 and 8 a.m. We have a pleasant morning, but overcast. We listened to the broadcast on TV of the first session of this April's conference in Salt Lake City. President Spencer W. Kimball conducted. He gave a very fine talk, also. Elder Mark E. Petersen and

others spoke during this conference. Sherm and Uncle Jon Tibbets are moving beds and etcetera to the Tibbetses' house next door. They'll leave the basement home here for Joan and her family. Exciting days ahead, eh? The Gardners look well and happy and good to me. I love them all. Mo is asleep, but Joan and the children are awake and bright eyed. Mo drove all night. I understand it is an 11 or 12 hours drive from Chicago to Overbrook. Anyway, it is a long drive. Donna baked a ham this morning and she or Joan cooked some macaroni and cheese and warmed up some brown beans for our lunch. They feed them as they come and go, about their work or play. Spencer has played out with his cousins most of this day. He is happy to have some children here to play with. After Mo got up, he and Joan took a walk around the farm. A couple of the children joined them (Marshall and Janet, I think). In all of my life I've never seen an exodus as interesting as the one I watched from my bedroom window this afternoon. The Tibbetses, Gardners, and Marshes were a caravan of people, on foot, the adults to the smallest child, all hurrying back and forth carrying boxes and packages, according to their size. Sherm and Janet were on the tractor with the big basket loaded. Little Emily G. amused me most of all. She is, "Miss Declaration of Independence." She would not wear shoes and stockings, so she had to pick her way on that rocky road. The others made two or more trips to her one. ☺ P.S. Joan and Jon carried the beautiful birds in their cages to the new home next door. P.S. Jon Tibbets left the farm, for Omaha, tonight about 9 p.m. He took Emily, Joan, Paula, and Spencer with him.

April 5, Monday

We have sunshine this morning. Mo and Joan got their children started in school this morning, (Sherm, Janet, Marshall, and Sandy). Then, they drove to Lawrence to arrange for water rights and etcetera. Donna burned the paper trash around the place and cleaned up the yard. I'm thankful for a good night's sleep and this lovely day.

Rex is riding about on his tractor. Donna brought a tray for my brunch, with Rice Krispies, milk, orange juice, and cheese ball kisses. It is fun to watch the TV stories while eating. Mo and Joan left for Chicago about one o'clock, with a U Haul trailer in tow. She said she will be back here about Thursday. Sherm didn't start his classes today; he'll begin tomorrow. Donna brought a nice, long letter from Ethel Newbold; she is really cleaning out her "keepsake drawer," She sent three pictures to me that I gave her many years ago. One was of me before my hair turned gray. One was of Louis and me on our Golden Wedding day and one of Janet Marsh when she was the Wisteria Queen in Sierra Madre for the famous Wisteria Vine Festival in 1952. Ethel isn't well, dear old friend, she has a lot of pain and



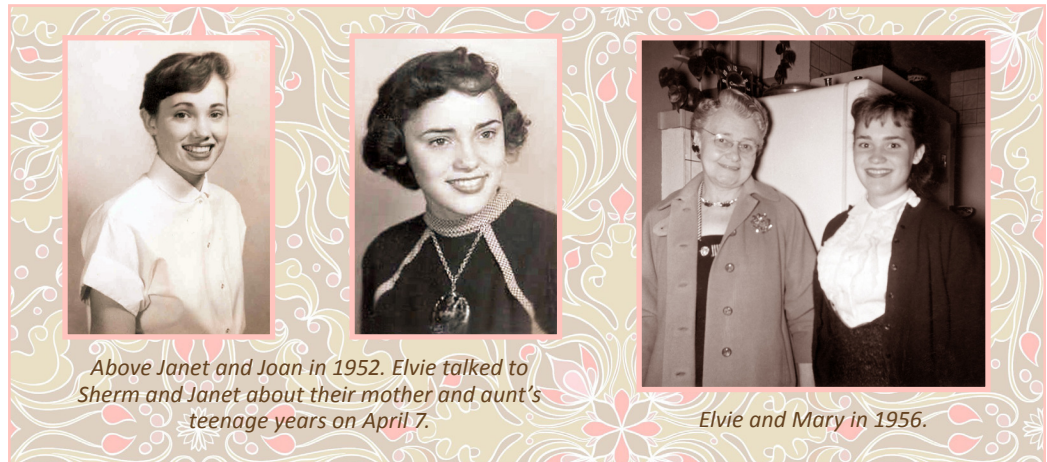
Janet Marsh, the Wisteria Queen in 1952.

problems; I think she is 86 years old. She was Lou's first girlfriend (a lovely person). There's something wrong with Bobo's front paw, he is limping around on three legs. Rex brought his cows and horses up in the field near the house. They are grazing on the new, green grass. Donna brought me a glass of cold buttermilk about 3 p.m. At 6:30 she brought my dinner, a melted cheese sandwich, cream of tomato soup, glass of milk, and ice cream with

hot chocolate pudding over it. I enjoyed it while watching TV. She made tacos for the family. I do not eat them. Donna went to the bank in Overbrook this afternoon and took care of my Social Security check, \$264.50. She made a payment on this home and brought me \$40.00 in cash. My checking balance is \$131.50. (Big deal, eh?) ☺

April 6, Tuesday

The Gardner school kids took a short cut through the north field to the school bus this morning. Donna and Dorothy went to Relief Society. I got up at 11 a.m. We have hazy sunshine and lots of clouds in the sky. I put my little place in order and myself, then I went to the kitchen to get myself something to eat. I brought it in on a tray to my place to eat, Rice Krispies, milk, and Ritz crackers and jam. I enjoyed the TV stories while eating. I'm thankful for television; the problems they all have makes me feel like my life is very serene. ☺ They keep me from getting too lonesome. Donna left her eye glasses in a stationery store in Ottawa this morning, so Rex took us for a ride this afternoon to get her glasses. This morning Donna bought some school supplies for the children; they got home before we did. I had Rex buy a half gallon of ice cream to bring home. It was a warm spring day. Donna and Rex went in the nursing home to see Sr. McKay. I didn't go because I was in my robe and slippers. Sherm didn't come home on the bus with the other kids, he stayed to play golf with a friend; he came home with him later. I enjoyed my drive to Ottawa. Rex wanted to buy me some ice cream (an Eskimo Pie) but I was a little disturbed in my stomach, so he and Donna ate ice cream bars. I was glad to relax in my swivel chair when we got home about 5 p.m. Donna cooked a nice dinner of pot roast, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, peas and carrots, salad, and ice cream. After dinner, Rex and the kids went down to the south field to watch Sherm and one of the Darby boys try to train the pony "Little Rascal" to pull the pony cart. It worked very well for a while until the bit came out of his mouth and the "Rascal" got frightened and gave Sherm a wild ride, which ended up in dumping Sherm in the manure pile. No one was hurt and Sherm had a very hilarious audience, ha ha! Mo phoned tonight and talked to his kids.

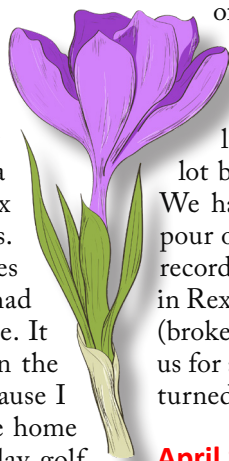


Above Janet and Joan in 1952. Elvie talked to Sherm and Janet about their mother and aunt's teenage years on April 7.

Elvie and Mary in 1956.

April 7, Wednesday

We didn't get the rain last night that our weatherman said we'd have. Our Gardner kids walked through a dry field to their school bus. Our sky is cloudy; the sun is about to break through the clouds. Rex and Donna have been working in their basement getting it ready for pouring the cement in the half that isn't finished. Later, they went to Overbrook to shop and buy some stamps. I gave Donna \$2.00 to get my stamps; we use a lot of stamps. This afternoon I enjoyed a nice visit from my precious great grandchildren Sherm and Janet Gardner. We talked about their **mother Joan and Aunt Janet's and Aunt Mary's teenage days**, their boyfriends, and etcetera. We all went to the kitchen for dinner about 6:15. It was a good meal of leftover food. It's fun to see the young ones enjoy their food so much. Sherm came in my room and played some of his records on my Magnavox player; I insisted on hearing them. He thought I may not like hearing them, but I enjoyed them. They sound a lot better than some of the trash we hear on television. We had some lightning and thunder and a heavy down pour of rain tonight about 8:30 p.m. Sherm left one of his records on while he took Marshall's little boyfriend home in Rex's pickup truck. Donna brought some milk chocolate (broken pieces) in to treat Sherm and me. She visited with us for a while, so it was indeed a pleasant evening for me. I turned the television on for a little while after they left me.



April 8, Thursday

Good morning! Donna came in shortly after nine this morning to tell me that our Relief Society visiting teacher was here (Donna Story and her little daughter Melissa). So, I got up and dressed in my robe and slippers, combed my hair, powdered my face, and went to Donna's. Dorothy Tibbets was there, too. Sr. Jeanne Brooks was coming, but for some reason she didn't arrive. Sr. Story gave the lovely message. I didn't hear it very well, little Melissa was jumping about on the couch beside me and I was trying to keep her quiet, so, I lost the trend of the message, but Dorothy and Donna heard it. (That little one is a live wire for sure!) Well, she is a visitor, and that is a blessing. ☺ Donna and I ate our breakfast together in my place from TV trays. We had Honey Oates, with raisin and dates, cereal, Postum, and bananas for me (grapefruit for Donna). It was raining

lightly this morning. Donna drove the Gardner children to their school bus this morning; the field was too wet to walk through. I got Janet Gardner's birthday card and verse and money and gum ready for her day on April 13. She'll be here on the farm, so I don't have to mail it. I wrote a \$12 check for my church donations, it is ready to mail. Donna brought me some crackers and cheese and buttermilk about 3 p.m. She told me, "It's just a little snack until dinner," Rex brought a letter from Violet to me when he came home from work. She had enclosed a letter from Dolores and one from Ruth Paul, so I had a happy reading time. Donna came in and read them later, so I enjoyed them twice. Sorry I haven't room in my diary to record the news in the letters. I walked around the house for a little exercise this evening. I ate dinner from a TV tray this evening. It was Donna's homemade chicken pie; it was delicious. We had no sunshine today; a few drops of rain fell, but not for long; we do need some rain. P.S. Donna read from the "Church News" paper tonight. I really enjoyed her reading to me.

April 9, Friday

We have hazy sunshine this morning. Donna went with Dorothy Tibbets to Olathe to the pet shop for bird seeds for their many birds. They were going to look for material and a pattern, for Donna's dress, in a pastel shade of pink or ?" to wear to Kathy's wedding in June. Dorothy wants to buy the material and make the dress for Donna, a gift of her appreciation for living in the basement house here, while her home was being finished inside, enough for them to move into it. I fixed myself something to eat about 11 a.m. (dry cereal, milk, crackers, and banana). I'm so thankful I am able to help myself as well as I do; I'm blessed indeed. Donna tells me the material they bought is not for Kathy's wedding, but for a Relief Society program that Donna has coming in May, I presume. It seems I'm always getting things misconstrued. Donna wants a much finer material for the long, formal gown for the wedding. She may buy it ready made. The material they brought today is a light blue. I ate my dinner from a TV tray in my place this evening. I didn't feel very well, so I stayed here and ate alone and watched television. Later this evening, Janet, Marshall, and Sandy came in and watched television. It was the Bible story of David and Jonathan, the Giant, and etcetera. It was a two-hour production. Donna watched the last part of it with us. Sandy fell asleep on the floor; Donna took him downstairs to his bed. Janet got tired and sleepy, so she went to bed, too, but Marshall stayed to the bitter end with Donna and me. He listened to some of the ten o'clock news report, too. He can sleep in late in the morning, there is no school. I sleep in late every morning. ☺

April 10, Saturday

It is a windy morning but we have sunshine and clouds. I got up and dressed in my purple slack suit. I enjoyed watching my great grandchildren, Janet, Marshall, and Sandy Gardner working hard at play on the big rock pile between our house and Tibbetses' house. They were building a fort or something, digging and moving the big, flat rocks. Grama Donna found some old pieces of rugs and they were delighted

with them to use in their "hide-a-way" fort or cave. It's amazing how hard a child will work at make believe play. Donna brought my brunch about noon, egg, toast, Postum, and fruit. Janet phoned from San Jose and had a nice, long visit with Donna, talking over plans for Kathy and Mark's wedding reception. John and Ann and Kathy phoned from Salt Lake City with more plans to talk over.

Then, there is me, poor old L.V.

With her head in a whirl.

Can I make it? What will I do?

Glory be, I wish I knew.

I've got letters to answer,

But they'll have to wait,

Until my poor ole brain can concentrate.

The action on the rock pile has stopped, and it's my hunch,

The kids got tired, so, they came in for lunch.

Elvie's To Do List:

1. *Can I make it?*
2. *What will I do?*
3. *I've got letters to answer!*
4. *Can I concentrate?*
5. *So much to think about!*
6. *With a wedding coming soon.*
7. _____



Joan arrived from Omaha with her little girls, Emily and Paula, about 1:30 this afternoon. More activity to enjoy, eh? With the wind blowing, I do not hear the cars drive in the yard, so I'm not sure of the time they arrived. Donna and Joan made out a long list of groceries they needed for a week's supply. Wow, a lot of food for this big, growing family. I stretched out on my bed for an hour or so this afternoon. I felt much better then. Sherm worked on Rex's Chevy car; he got it running and moved it near the house. He brushed it out and cleaned it up, then he parked it back in the old spot. I was told some time ago, that it was sold, but it's still here? We have a lot of action around here, with all of our Gardners on the place. I enjoyed the "Lawrence Welk Show" and all of the programs tonight (Mary T. Moore, Bob Newhart and Carol Burnett. P.S. Rex was called to go to the nursing home to work tonight.

April 11, Sunday

Our Sabbath morning is overcast and calm, no wind. My family have all gone to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. I saw Joan, Paula, Janet, and Dorothy T. go in Joan's car. The boys must have gone earlier with Donna. I got dressed and did the dishes, or bowls, used for the dry cereal they ate. Donna had some draining; I put them away, too. I brought some Wheaties and the sweet oats cereal, mixed, to my place to eat. Oh, it is quiet around here, but there'll be plenty of action when they are all home again. Donna left a big pot roast cooking on low heat. I rested well last night. I'm so thankful for my blessings. Joan and her family and Dorothy Tibbets came home from church at about 1:45. I presume Donna had Relief Society business to take care of, as usual. Well, we do have some action now. Joan and the children came in to visit me for a while, they are a lovely family. Joan had the potatoes and gravy cooked when Donna got home about 4 p.m. **Sherm has been driving Rex's Chevy** around in the yard. He wants to buy it. He would sure love to have a car of his own. He is giving his mom a rough time; he will be 16 years old on May 5 and he can get a license if he passes the test. Then there is car insurance, gasoline money, and etcetera, etcetera (problems galore). Donna was later getting home; she went to see Sr. McKay; the dear old soul is very ill; she has been moved from the private home to a hospital. She doesn't know anyone now. Sherm mashed the potatoes and helped serve up the dinner. We didn't wait for Donna; the children were too hungry. I dozed in my chair this afternoon. Donna brought a beef sandwich to me with a cup of Postum at eight o'clock. We watched TV for a while.



April 12, Monday

Donna came in this morning to tell me they were going to Topeka to buy doors for the basement apartment (Rex, Donna, Joan, Emily, and Paula). They went in the pickup truck. We have a lovely clear day. I went to the kitchen to fix a sandwich for my lunch. Mary phoned from Omaha to talk to Donna and Joan about a bridal shower that Ann Marsh is giving for Kathy on Saturday, April 17, in Salt Lake City, at 7:30 p.m. She wondered if they wanted to go in with her. She said she'd buy the gift in Omaha. When Donna came home, she had an invite to the shower and I'm invited, too. Donna and Joan phoned Mary and told her to buy the gift; we'd each pay \$5.00. Mary is coming to the farm this weekend. We'll give her



Rex and Donna's VW, Donna Marsh and Sherm Gardner in Northbrook, Illinois before his parents leave for Hawaii in March of 1976. In April, Sherm doesn't have a driver's license yet but he is ready to have a car.



Janet Gardner 1975-76 school photo.

the money then. I got my Easter cards ready to mail; one for Kathy and one for Violet. I wrote a letter in Violet's card but not in Kathy's; I put a couple of dollars in her card. I ate a nice dinner from a TV tray this evening while watching television. Rex spent most of the afternoon in the basement putting the doors on the shower and bathroom and getting the place ready to pour the other half of the cement floor. Joan is going to fix the basement house up real nice and livable. I have felt better today. I'm very thankful for that. Rex and Joan came in this evening to listen to the ten o'clock news Donna was writing letters or notes. We all went to bed soon after the news. Night all. P.S. Sandy's pretty, little, purple wildflowers still look fresh, like little forget me nots, only they aren't blue. He picked them for me yesterday, bless his heart.

April 13, Tuesday

Happy birthday to Janet Gardner.

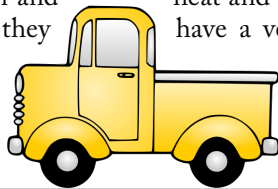
The old cliché, that 13 is unlucky, really can't be true,

Because April 13, brought joy to us, when we heard about you!

Now you are celebrating birthday number 13, Janet dear,

And we hope it is going to be a very happy year.

Donna and Dorothy T. went to Relief Society in Ottawa this morning. Joan took her little girls to Overbrook to buy a few things that Rex needs, (a door lock and etcetera). I fixed myself something to eat about noon. (Dry cereal, milk, and orange juice). Janet isn't going to celebrate her birthday until her daddy can be here in a day or two. She opened a couple of small gifts, my card with \$1.00 and gum in it and another little gift. Oh oh, correction! Joan told me they gave her the two gifts, but she wouldn't open them until her daddy can be here on Saturday. However, Joan did make a chocolate cake for her today and little Emily was smacking her lips over the batter left in the cake bowl. Mm good. Rex is moving some sand from the pile in our backyard under my north window; he is moving it with his tractor, with the big shovel on, to the front of the house, near a window in the basement. Donna and Dorothy came home about 2:30 p.m. Donna had a nap on my other twin bed about 3:30. She looked tired. The older children get home from school about four o'clock. I dozed in my chair. Emily came in to show me her chocolate Easter egg. Paula popped in and out a couple of times, too (cuties, both of them). Emily played with my greeting cards for a long time. Rex brought his foot bath in to soak his feet in Clorox water; he has a little wart on the ball of his right foot, which is causing him a lot of distress when he walks. He puts Vaseline on it after soaking it. P.S. Joan and Sherm and Paula went shopping this evening; they bought Sherm some new pants, and Joan had to turn the bottoms up tonight. Paula was happy because she saw the Easter Bunny in the store. (A girl dressed in a bunny costume.)



April 14, Wednesday

This is an overcast morning and it is windy. I slept fairly well, but for some reason I feel weak this morning. Rex is doing some cement work, I think in the basement. I know his mixer is going. Donna has been helping him. She made some Cream of Wheat cereal for me and toast. I didn't feel well enough to go to the kitchen to fix something for myself. (I'm sorry about that.) It's just one of those days. I'm so thankful for Donna and her loving care. Donna said the cement work that Rex is doing in the basement is under the stairs. He is building it up so he can have the floor poured on Friday, I think. I stretched out on my bed this afternoon from 4 to 5:30 p.m. I saw the Gardner kids coming through the north field from their school bus, at 4 p.m. when I went in to rest on my bed. Little Emily brought me some wild flowers that she picked on the farm



Spencer and Brian Tibbets early in 1976.

and arranged them in a little plastic cup. She brought them in about 3 p.m. They're all cute children, I enjoy them and love them. I received a pretty Easter greeting card with an Easter Lily on the cover and a little note inside. She [Violet] said, "it is sad news about Bonnie," I haven't heard about Bonnie's sad news? She said her mother went through the same ordeal. Oh, I hope Bonnie hasn't got breast cancer. I hope Lydia's Bob is feeling better, he had a heart attack. Tonight, we watched the TV program "The Little House on the Prairie." It was two hours of hardships suffered in Kansas, but Marshall, Emily, and Sandy enjoyed it and I'm glad to please them. Pioneering is for the young people. It is no part of an old person's (in their eighties) life. (Believe me) [Maybe a little too close to Elvie's life on the farm.]

April 15, Thursday

My slumber was disturbed this morning when Penny's huge cement mixer arrived about nine o'clock and started to pour the Ready-Mix Concrete into the other half of our basement floor. They're pouring through a window of the basement on the west side of the house. I've been watching from my bedroom window. Well, it got me up and dressed anyway. I try to stay in bed as long as I can; it makes my long day seem not so long and I can save on the electric heat and one meal. I eat no breakfast. How about that? We have a very overcast sky this morning. Little Emily and Paula are running around outside enjoying the excitement. The older children are in school. I presume Rex is in the basement spreading the concrete around and Donna is helping him. I learned later that even Joan got into the act helping spread the concrete. Donna brought me some lunch at noon, a deviled egg sandwich, applesauce, and Postum. She is precious. I was going to fix my own lunch when little Paula was over her little tantrum in the kitchen. I think she was rebelling at the nap that Mama had in mind for her. The second load of concrete arrived about 12:15 p.m. This has been a busy day for Rex and family. The Jon Tibbets family arrived at the farm this afternoon about 1:25 p.m. in their VW bus. We have a full house of happy people. Little Brian is adorable; he is growing so fast. Donna brought him over to show me. The others had gone over to the Tibbetses' home. Later, Mary came here to read my letters, one from Violet, and one from Lydia. Baby Brian had a nap on my other twin bed. It started to rain about 3:20 p.m., it was an electrical

storm. Julie came in tonight to watch “The Waltons” on TV. My little bathroom night-light burned out, so I had to do without it tonight. I missed it. Janet G. stayed overnight with a girlfriend, Lori. Sherm stayed after school; a girl drove him to the farm about 4:45.

April 16, Friday

My diary says it is “Good Friday,” well it is for sure a windy one. The “Big Blow” is with us again. Donna went to the doctor in Overbrook this morning. She hasn’t been able to sleep because of the pain in her leg and hip and she is tired all the time. He took some blood tests and other tests (\$44 worth), and he gave her some medications. She is to go back next week. I’m glad she went and I’m praying that he will help her to get back to her normal self. I’ve been very concerned over her. I’m no help either, so I pray. She came home about noon and she fixed something for my brunch. I was going to do it myself, but I waited too long. The little ones were crying out there, so I waited for them to be happy before I ventured out. I’m overwhelmed by all of the activities at times. (Poor old L.V., eh?) Donna made me a melted cheese sandwich, some Postum, and Jello fruit salad. I enjoyed eating and watching the TV stories. Donna said that Joan and family were going to the airport to pick Mo up and bring him to the farm. I wrote a letter to Lydia and Gene this afternoon. Julie came in to watch “Charlie Brown” on TV this evening. Donna, Mary, and Rex worked in the basement; they are pleased with the results. It will make a very nice place for the family to live in when they visit the farm here.

mother; she is as happy about Kathy, as Donna is about Mark, nice eh? I paid my \$5.00 to Mary for Kathy’s shower gift (a pretty dress). It cost almost \$20.00, I think, but \$5.00 is all she’d take from me. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray, baked ham, potato salad, and whipped Jello salad, and milk. I enjoyed my food while listening to “The Lawrence Welk Show.” We had some loud thunder this afternoon; I hate that. Tonight, I walked downstairs to the basement with Donna’s help. It is amazing all they have done to make a home in the basement. (Mo, Jon, Joan, Mary, Rex, and Donna all have worked at making a nice home down there.) P.S. Donna brought me a dish of delicious homemade ice cream this evening. Mary made it. Mm good!



Elvie's ticket to the Los Angeles Temple Dedication was signed by President Howard W. Hunter, her stake president in 1956. On April 18 Elder Howard W. Hunter is the visiting authority.

April 17, Saturday

Our morning is cloudy, damp, and windy. It rained in the night, a noisy storm, with lightning and thunder, plus wind. But we were nice and comfortable in our home. Mary and Joan took the children with them in the VW bus to Overbrook to shop. Donna had baby Brian here with her. Rex was asleep; he worked all night at the nursing home. Jon T. turned the water off while he put a water pipe in the basement. Joan will have it looking really nice when she is through fixing it into a home. She has my big (marble-like), round table up. I hope she has the chairs, too. I couldn't see them when I looked from the top of the stairs. It pleases me to see my furniture being used again. Donna brought my brunch at noon, some cream of tomato soup, toast, and a jelled salad. Little Jody brought a dozen hard boiled eggs he had colored for Easter in to show me. I wanted to have some candy Easter eggs for the children, but in the confusion, I didn't get someone to shop for me. Little diary, I'm telling you, this old gal is slipping. 'Tis sad, but true. I answered Blanche Hoglund's letter this afternoon. I hope to answer Ethel Newbold's tomorrow (weary me). Donna received a very nice letter from Mark Calkins's

April 18, Sunday

Happy Easter. I thank our dear Lord for this beautiful Easter Day and for the wonderful hope it brings to our troubled world. It is our stake conference in Kansas City. Donna and Rex left early in their VW car. She looked very pretty in her new light blue dress that Dorothy Tibbets made for her. Rex worked all night, but he wanted to go to conference. **Elder Howard W. Hunter**, from the council of the twelve, was the presiding elder from Salt Lake City. I'd loved to have been there to see and hear him. He lived in our ward in Pasadena and he was our stake president. Mo Gardner and Jon Tibbets and their daughters Janet and Julie went in Mo's car to conference. Mary brought brunch to me at noon (a ham sandwich, jelled salad, sliced banana, and Postum). They're all so good to me; I'm so thankful for them. Mary and Joan stayed home with the little ones and they are full of action, believe me! But my suite is off bounds to them, not by my request, but by their parents' request. I presume that Sherm Gardner went to conference, too. He has been staying in Kansas City with a friend from his old ward the

past few days. It is nice to see the sunshine again. I received a darling Easter card and sweet note from Kathy yesterday. She insists I come to her wedding in California this June. I'd love to be there, time will tell, eh? The cow, Rebecca, was lying down in the south field near the house; little Sandy G. and Jody T. were kneeling by her brushing flies from her face and petting her. It was a cute scene to watch from my front window. Their parents would have loved a picture of them like that. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold. Rex and Donna came home about 4:30 p.m. She said Elder Hunter gave her a hug and he told the audience it was nice to see some dear, old friends there, like the Marshes. Donna fixed some food for me this evening, sweet daughter, eh? The adults took a walk around the farm this afternoon. Rex went back to a special priesthood meeting tonight. *[After working all night!]* Jody picked up a field mouse; it bit his hand. Mary put peroxide on it. P.S. The Jon Tibbets left for home at 7:30 this evening.

April 19, Monday

The children are all home today, no school, so we have lots of activity around here, and L.V. enjoys watching from my windows. Mo and Sherm are on the tractor, with the little kids riding in the big bucket of the tractor. It looks like fun. The kids have their bright colored plastic, plate like disks. They toss them into the air for fun. They call 'em Frisbees, or something like that. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at 12:30 noon. Lucky me, eh? I enjoyed the television stories while eating. Joan drove to Lawrence this afternoon. She bought a few items for me; mouth wash, Vick's rub and etcetera. I gave her \$10.00 so I can have some dollar bills. I received a very pretty Easter card, with a nice note from Bonnie; she wrote the little note on the back of it. She said she got out of the hospital a couple of days ago, but didn't say what her illness was? So, I still don't know. She assumed I had heard all about it. Violet said in her card, "It is sad about Bonnie's operation," but she didn't say what the operation was for? I do hope it wasn't cancer. In fact, she said illness, not operation. Joan didn't get back here until almost eight o'clock. Mo had some ground beef cooked and a vegetable. Joan took over and they ate dinner. It is so darn far to go anyplace to shop out here in Kansas. Oh, I like life in the city, where things are not complicated like they are in our plains, where our people are making trips to the cities, almost every day. I'm bewildered by all of it. Donna came in my place tonight and read tomorrow's Relief Society lesson on "Respect for Ourselves and for Others." It is a beautiful lesson, I enjoyed it so much. Sherm had a phone call from a girlfriend in Kansas City, I think. It is her second long distance call. They talked for about an hour. This is a party line, too. Good night. Off to bed for this old gal, oh hum!

April 20, Tuesday

We had a nice, gentle rain last night and this morning. The fields look greener every day. I'm alone on the farm this morning. Donna has gone to Relief Society, I presume the older Gardner children are in school, and Joan and the little girls have gone to Kansas City to take Miller to the airport. I went to the kitchen and made a tuna sandwich for my lunch, with a glass of milk and a dish of fruit. Joan and little ones came home about 1 p.m. and Donna came about 2:30 p.m. It was still raining lightly. Later, Donna drove to Overbrook for grocery shopping. Dorothy Tibbets's brother came this afternoon. He parked his car in the driveway so Donna couldn't get out to go to Overbrook until he moved it. Rex came from work about three o'clock. We sure have got a muddy yard. Rex drove his tractor with the big bucket on it. He filled it with gravel and sand and dumped it in the yard where the cars have made big mud ruts. Joan had a hard time to get out of the yard with her car when she went to the laundromat this afternoon. The wheels kept spinning around in the mud. The sun broke through the clouds about 4:15 today. Dorothy's brother Lindsay John White is a bachelor, I presume in his sixties. Rex adjusted my TV this evening and I enjoyed a good, clear picture. I had a lot of trouble with it before he came to the rescue. I ate my dinner while enjoying "Concentration" and "Hollywood Squares" on television. Rex's pony, "Little Rascal," got himself tangled up in the rope that Rex had him staked out with and he choked to death. We all felt bad about it. Joan came in and visited for a while tonight. Little Paula followed her mama in, she is a cutie. Donna shampooed her kitchen rug tonight. It's bed time, goodnight. (10:35 p.m.)

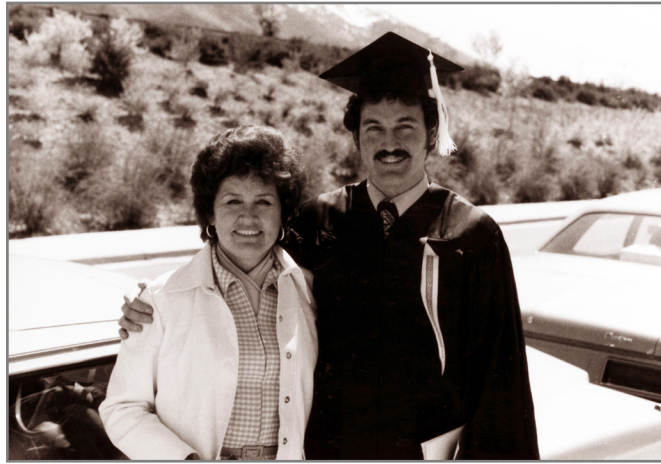
April 21, Wednesday

Donna came in and vacuumed my rugs this morning. We have a sunny morning; the fields look green and pretty. My darling daughter brought my brunch on a TV tray (Cream of Wheat cereal, toast, milk and fruit). The older children are in school and Emily and Paula are with Joan in their basement home. Dorothy's brother and Guy are putting up a television antenna on the Tibbetses' house. The sun is drying up the mud and the children can play outside again. I dusted my furniture this afternoon. Donna washed and pressed her kitchen and dinette curtains and hung them up again. She shampooed the rug last evening; it looks bright and pretty. Joan is getting her basement apartment ship shape, too. Aunt **Ruth Deal** is flying from Europe this evening to see Rex's farm, and of course to visit him and Donna and all of us. Rex drove to the Kansas City Airport this evening to pick her up. I wanted to watch television, but I couldn't get a good picture, just a rolling mess. Ugh.



Ruth Deal in her home on Saroni Drive. In April of 1976 she visited the Overbrook Farm on her way home from Europe.

I'm not a mechanic, that's for sure, so I flipped the darn thing off and looked at one of my picture albums. It was more interesting anyway. Dick called to see if Ruth was here. He hasn't seen her for three weeks, since she went to Europe. She called him when she got here at 11:10 p.m. She is on her way home, but stopped off in Kansas. She looks happy and well fed, ha ha! Donna and Joan looked in one of my picture albums tonight while waiting for Rex and Ruth to come.



Vera and Mark Calkins on Graduation day.

April 22, Thursday

Rex took Ruth for a tour of the farm, later he and Donna took Ruth for a country drive to Lake Pomona; they also took little Emily Gardner with them. Ruth had an appointment to have her hair shampooed and set at 2 p.m. so they left her off at the beauty shop in Overbrook. I fixed my brunch and brought it in here to eat while watching television. It is a hazy, sunshine day, lots of clouds in the blue, the mud is drying up nicely. There was no mail today. I'm glad my letters are all answered; it is a good feeling as writing letters is a challenge for me now. Rex went to Overbrook to get Ruth from the beauty shop about 3:30 p.m. Her hair looked pretty. Rex and anyone in the family that would go with him, went to help plant seeds in a garden plot in the lower field, west of the farm houses. Ruth put on a pair of Rex's coveralls and went, Joan and Sherm and the Gardner kids all went. Donna worked in the kitchen cooking food, making salads, and etcetera to feed her family. I came back in my apartment to doze in my easy chair. "The World Has No Place for a Drone." ♪ ♪ ♪ Joan had her dinner all cooked in the crockpot. Dorothy and her brother Lindsay White were digging a garden this morning. They came home this afternoon with some green plants to put in their garden. I'm the window watcher and record keeper of the activities around the farm. I went to the kitchen at 6:15 this evening to eat dinner with



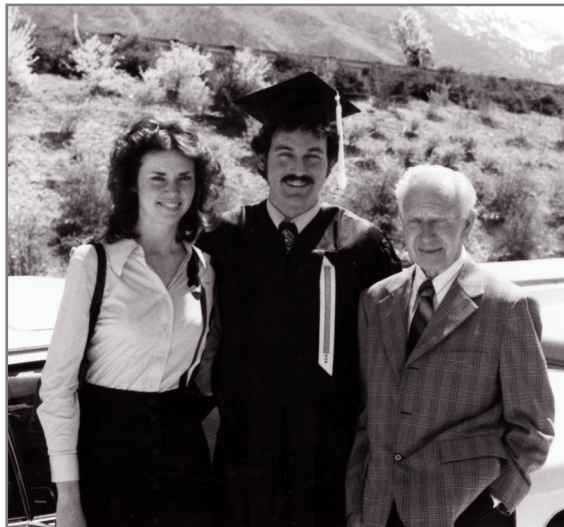
Mark Calkins graduates from BYU April

Donna, Rex, and Ruth Deal. Sherm helped Donna dish it up and he carved the delicious pork roast; he ate with us. Joan fed her family in their basement apartment. The Gardners drove to the airport in Kansas City to pick Miller up. Sherm drove; he has his license recorded now. Janet went to a party, so she didn't go with the family. A girlfriend and her parents picked her up. It rained tonight. It sounded like hail. Joan and Mo came about 9:30, so we have a happy reunion again.

April 23, Friday

Rex and Donna took Ruth Deal to Independence, Missouri to see the LDS Church Center buildings, and then to the airport in Kansas City for her plane flight at noon. She is on her way back home to Oakland, California. Brad Haddock arrived here at the farm about 1:30 p.m. Joan and Mo brought him in to my suite and helped me entertain him until Donna and Rex came about 3:15. She and Joan fixed some lunch for Brad; he is a nice, friendly lad. I'm glad he found this farm all right; he had driven from Provo all night and he was tired. He had a shower and rested on Donna's bed. We received a cute thank you card and note from Kathy for the Easter cards and money we sent to her. **Mark's graduation from BYU** is tonight, I think. His parents will be there from California. Donna came in here to take a nap on my other twin bed. Little Paula kept popping in to talk to Donna, until

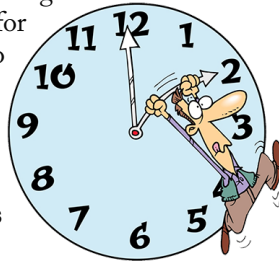
Grampa Rex came to the rescue. I dozed in my chair. Donna stewed a chicken this afternoon; we enjoyed some chicken and gravy with creamed potatoes and broccoli for our dinner this evening. Rex took Brad for a walk around the farm before dinner. Donna, Joan, and Brad visited with me tonight. We talked about family news and Brad's girlfriends. It was fun to listen in. He is an interesting young man. It was nice having him here. He slept on Donna's couch bed. He is going to Boston and New York from here. Brad composes music, plays the piano, and writes poetry and short stories. He is an intelligent person, friendly and happy.



Kathy Marsh, Mark, and Grandfather Frank Calkins.

April 24, Saturday

It rained last night and it's cloudy this morning, and windy. Joan left early to drive Mo to the airport in Kansas City. Brad H. came in about 8:15 a.m. to say goodbye and thanks for the visit with us on the farm. He is on his way to Boston and New York to visit friends he met while on his mission there. Donna brought a nice breakfast to me (egg, toast, hot chocolate, and applesauce) at 10 a.m. She had an appointment to see the doctor in Overbrook. I can hear the children's activity in their basement home under my suite. I welcome the sounds, because Saturday seems more lonesome; there are no television stories to entertain me. My eyes water and I can't read very long at a time. (A sad situation, eh?) But I can always count my many blessings (and I do). Donna was back home by 12:30 p.m. Her report was good. She is cutting down on the medication; the pain has left her leg and back. The thyroid condition is better. She has another appointment in two weeks and then she says she is through paying doctors, it cost her \$17.00 today and \$44.00 for the check up two weeks ago. Rex is doing some plumbing in the basement. I can hear him hammering. There has been no sunshine today so far, it is 1 p.m. I felt a little strange, like I may faint, so I went to bed for a couple of hours. I felt much better when I got up at four o'clock. I took a shower bath and enjoyed the nice dinner Donna brought to me about 5:15. The sun was shining for the first time today. Donna came in to watch "The Lawrence Welk Show." Then we watched the other good comedy shows on Saturday night, too. Donna set my clocks ahead an hour tonight. **Daylight Savings Time** starts tomorrow at 1 a.m.



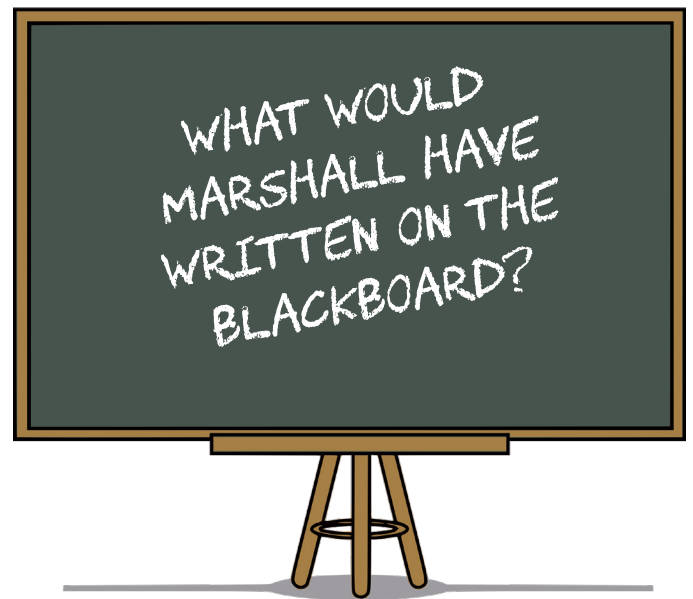
April 25, Sunday

We have started "Daylight Savings Time today." It was a cold, cloudy day, instead of the warm, sunny day the weatherman said we'd have. I got up about eight o'clock and got myself ready for Sunday School. Donna brought me some warm milk and some toast. We went to church in Ottawa, in Joan's car with her and the children. We learned of the passing of Sr. Lucy Lelah McKay. I was happy for her she has been so ill, and I understand she was almost 90 years old. I know it is a happy release for her. President North took me into his office while the Sunday School was in session and interviewed me for a renewal of my temple recommend. He is a very pleasant person to talk with. Joan's little Paula gave her a workout in church today. Marshall and Sandy had a time annoying each other until I got up and sat between them. They'll learn in time, eh? It was as cold when we came home as when we left this morning. Donna fixed two trays and she ate with me in here. Joan cooked for her family and they ate in their basement apartment. Joan took me to Overland Park to President Christian Sanders's home this evening. It is an hour's drive from Overbrook, but the fields and green crops are pretty this time of year, so the drive was pleasant. We arrived at the Sanderses' home on time, a few minutes before six o'clock. The family was at the ward chapel at the end of the street. Church was just letting out; a couple of the children came home and let us in the

house to wait for their parents to come. Sr. Sanders came first, she was happy to see Joan and they had a happy visit. President Sanders came later and interviewed me and gave me my temple recommend.

April 26, Monday

We've had a pleasant day, overcast most of the day, but not windy. I'm glad that Donna feels better this morning. She didn't take the new medication last night, it upset her so much the first time she took it that she phoned the doctor told him of her reaction to the pill. He said, "Don't take any more of them," He said to take them back to the drug store and he'd phone in another prescription for her to pick up and try. We had a surprise visit from our neighbor farmer Ralph Gale's herd of cows. They broke through his wire fence and came to the Marsh farm to visit Rex's cows. It was exciting to watch; Rex, on his tractor and Donna and Joan on foot trying to get that herd of cows back on the road to their own pasture. Ralph was working somewhere and didn't know they had broken out. It is a good thing Rex was home, the cows were in their vegetable garden! Donna drove to Overbrook this afternoon. I presume Joan and two little girls went to pick Sherm up after school. He missed his bus, so she had to go and get him. Joan baked some bread this morning; it smelled so good. Donna brought my TV tray with a nice dinner at six o'clock tonight and read the Relief Society lesson for tomorrow to me. It concerns the study of foreign countries. This one was about the beautiful Fiji Islands. I enjoyed her reading it to me so very much, she is a precious daughter. I cut and filed my finger nails this evening. I'll try to find Slumberland now. Good night. P.S. Joan and family had their Family Night program tonight. It was very interesting to hear Grama Donna tell about it, especially **Marshall's note on the blackboard.** [Do tell, Elvie!]



April 27, Tuesday

We had a few loud claps of thunder in the night and some rain. Today has been the same deal, thunder and showers. Dorothy T. went to Relief Society with Donna in Ottawa. Later Rex and Joan drove to Topeka with the two little girls. Joan bought a little electric stove; Rex will put in the special

wiring so it can be connected up. Rex had an appointment with the doctor in Overbrook this afternoon, then he went to the nursing home to get a young lady that works there with him. Rex and Donna are taking her to Independence, Missouri, to the Mormon Visitors Center. Her name is Silvia. They are trying to interest her in the LDS gospel. He brought her in my suite to let her see how nice it is and to meet me. She is a lovely looking young lady. I can hear the action of the Gardners in our basement apartment; the children are home from school, it is 4:45 p.m. Joan cooked a chicken and rice casserole for dinner tonight; she fixed a TV tray for me. She is a darling, bless her heart. Sherm drove Joan's car out somewhere this evening; I was relieved when I heard him come back in the yard. Joan drove in and out a couple of times. Later tonight, after Paula was asleep, Joan came up to visit with me. She heard the last part of the Dean Martin Roast (of Dennis Weaver). It was funny and entertaining, I enjoyed it a lot. Little Emily missed her mama and she came upstairs in search of her. They went downstairs after the ten o'clock news report. Good night. P.S. Rex and Donna are not home yet, at 11 p.m. Ha! They came home at 11:05 as I finished writing my last line.

April 28, Wednesday

Wow! I had a night of wild dreams. I was glad to wake from them. We have a wet morning with mud puddles all over the yard. I stayed in bed until 11:30. Donna brought me a tuna fish sandwich, Postum, cooked apples, and two cookies before she left to go to Sr. McKay's funeral. She was asked to sing two songs in a duet with Jeanne Bickerstaff. Rex was speaking at the funeral and he dedicated the grave, also. I received a long letter from Lydia Paul telling about Bonnie's operation. She had her left breast removed because of cancer and she had a blood clot in her right arm. The poor dear, it is sad indeed. Glen, Irene, and Beverly Andersen visited the Paul's. **Kathy sent a letter to her parents; we all shed happy tears when we read her precious letter.** She went to the cemetery in Salt Lake; she sat by Lorri's grave a while and then she found Grampa Lou's grave. She sat by his grave and told him she was engaged to Mark Calkins and about her wedding in June and her happiness. She prayed to Father in Heaven to please relay the message to her Grampa Lou, if he didn't hear it. We here, all wept when we read her precious letter. When she came out of the cemetery, she noticed a little old lady working in her yard. She was impressed to stop and help her, so she pulled up to the tall weeds and raked some, too. She was surprised to learn the little old lady was my dear friend, Ethel Newbold and Ethel was delighted to learn she was Donna's daughter. (More tears of joy.) Ethel bought Kathy her highchair when she was born. Isn't that something, that she would be impressed to stop and help a little old lady and to learn that she was an old friend of ours? There was a caravan of covered wagons passing through Overbrook this afternoon. Joan took her children to see it. This was a day of emotional experience for us from the letters we received in the mail this afternoon.

April 29, Thursday

My brain wouldn't relax last night; I just couldn't go to sleep until almost daylight. I heard Rex up and moving about

before he drove away this early morning to his job at the Overbrook nursing home. I never take sleeping pills, or tranquilizers; they only aggravate the condition. Did you ever try to turn off a brain that will not shut off? It is nice to see the sunshine today; the mud will dry up soon if we can have another sunny day like this tomorrow. Donna received a letter from Marty Strong. I enjoyed reading it, but she didn't say "hello" to me, my ego is shattered, ha ha! Donna talked to all of her sweet girls on the phone today. Mary phoned from Omaha and Janet and Kathy talked to her from San



Louis Renshaw 1972



Ethel Erskine's (married name Newbold) high school graduation picture. Being directed to help a little old lady in her yard, Kathy found Grampa Lou's first girlfriend. Kathy then knew her Grampa approved of Mark and the marriage.



Kathy wanted her Grampa Lou to know about her coming marriage to Mark Calkins.

Jose. All are excited about the plans for Kathy's wedding in June. Joan and Donna went to Topeka this afternoon to look for material or formal, long gowns for Donna and me, to wear to Kathy's wedding in June. I was going with them, but I wasn't well enough, sorry. Janet is taking care of her little sisters downstairs. I watched the Gardners from my west window. Sherm was riding one of the Darby horses around the yard. The little brothers and sisters were enjoying their big brother's performance. It was neighbor Forths' horse, not the Darbys'. The young Forth girl rode it over here. She is about Janet's age and is her special friend. Rex came in to watch a TV program with me tonight, "Law of the Land." Donna and Joan came about 9 p.m. They'd walked all over the mall shopping district in Topeka, but couldn't find anything they wanted. However, they bought birthday cards for our five birthdays coming in May, Sherm on the 5th, Mark S. on the 11th, Doug on the 25th, Jody on the 26th, and Spencer on the 31st. Donna brought me ten packages of gum to put in the boys' cards with the \$1.00. "Ain't we got fun," good night, I am weary. P.S. Marty did say "hello" to Aunt Elvie at the bottom of her letter. I didn't notice it until Donna brought the letter to me later. I apologize Martha darling.

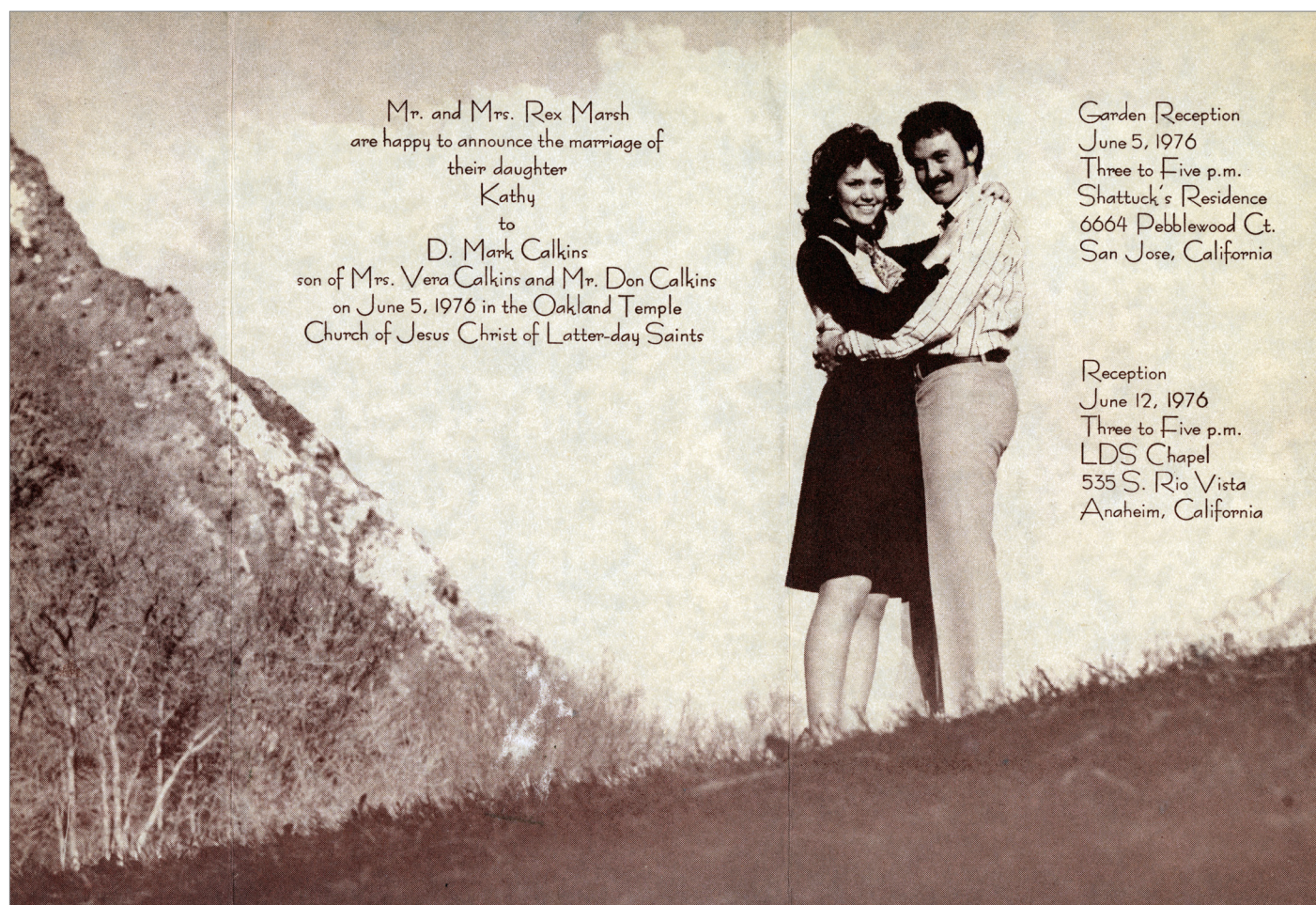
April 30, Friday

Good morning. It is overcast and gloomy looking but I slept well last night and the sun shines in my heart this morning. We still have some mud puddles in the yard. Donna brought a nice breakfast to me on a TV tray (egg, toast, fruit, and hot chocolate). It was raining at 12:30 noon. I composed a

little verse for Sherm's birthday; it is on May 5. We have a hazy sunshine this afternoon. Joan went to the market in Overbrook. I worked on a verse for Mark's birthday. It is May 11, he'll be 20 years old. He is in Argentina on a mission. Donna is going to write a nice birthday letter from us here on the farm, so I won't send a card, but I'll put my little verse to Mark in the letter. We are told not to put money in letters going to Argentina and not to send any packages either. They get opened and lost. Janet and David have the bank take care of Mark's money needs. It is a disappointment that they can't send candy or cookies to Mark, while he is there, but it would never reach him. Donna was busy typing letters and notes all evening. Joan and family are in their basement house. Rex came in to watch TV's "Police Story" with me, also the ten o'clock news; then he went to bed. Donna is still typing; I'm going to bed. Donna said Jon Tibbets may come sometime late tonight and he may bring little Spencer with him. It is 11:40 now; I'm going to my bed. Good night.

May 1, Saturday

And a happy May Day to you! It is a lovely spring day with sunshine and blue sky. Jon Tibbets and small son, Spencer, arrived at the farm about two o'clock this morning. Donna had the couch bed ready for them. Jon, Rex, and Guy are nailing the siding on the west side of the Tibbetses' house now, this morning. It will sure make a difference in the looks of that home. I'll enjoy that. I can't see the ugly black outside of this house and I'm glad of that. I imagine it as finished and lovely to look at. ☺ It is a shock to see when



Drawn to please Spencer, (liked it) May 1st/76



Yes, little Spencer liked the picture, but, he was especially pleased with the story I made-up, as I drew is about our little house up in the mountains, with the big shade-trees and the pine trees the picket-fence and the board-fence, the lake, with a sailboat - a row-boat and a fishermans boat, with the paddle wheel in back - and the Swans swimming & the clouds in the sky and the Sun coming up over the mts - I'm no artist, but, I'm good at making up stories, & -

I do go outside, which isn't often. Donna and Dorothy T. planted some cabbage and broccoli plants in the garden this morning. Joan baked a cake, I fixed a bowl of dry cereal, some milk, and a banana for my brunch at noon. Donna fixed a lunch for the men working on the Tibbetses' house. I turned my calendars to May. (April passed on this year, but poor, old L.V.? She is still here.) I received the lovely wedding announcement and picture of Kathy and Mark Calkins in their invitation to receptions in San Jose, June 5, and in Anaheim, California on June 12. [Invitation on previous page.] It is such a darling picture of them. Kathy's old boyfriend George Brown took the picture. I composed

verses for birthday cards in May. I have five of them. Little Spencer came in tonight and wanted me to draw pictures for him. He wanted a big bear, a tractor, too, and a church and etcetera. Donna came to the rescue and took him away to bed. I wish I was an artist like my nephew Glen Andersen is. Drawing is a challenge for me, but I try and Spencer is pleased with my efforts anyway. Night all. P.S. I drew a house in the mountains and told a story about it. Spencer enjoyed both the story and the drawing, ha ha! [The house in the mountains is pictured above. Mary showed this drawing to Spencer in 2019. He is now 46 years old but he had faint recollections of this drawing and story when he was 3 years old.]

May 2, Sunday

It is cloudy and windy this morning. Little Spencer T. and Paula G. came to my bed this morning at eight o'clock. They were full of happy energy, Wow, were they ever! I had to take my wave clamps out of my hair and put them in their hair. Grama Donna came to my rescue. ☺ I didn't sleep very well last night so I was happy with the peace and quiet after the family went to Sunday School. I stayed in bed until 11:30. I went to the kitchen about 12:30 noon; Rex was in the living room. He talked me into having some of the good vegetable beef stew that Donna had made. He said he had some and it was delicious. He started to dish up some for me; I had to take over, I knew he'd give me three times too much, but it was good. I had some milk and a cookie, too. I'm well fed until this evening or tomorrow. Rex went to priesthood meeting and part of Sunday School and then he came home. He has to work this afternoon. Jon and Spencer Tibbets left for Omaha soon after the folks went to Sunday School. The family came home from church about 2:15. The action is in full force, but I enjoy hearing them in the basement under my suite. They are muffled, which is good. I composed a verse for Spencer's birthday card (see May 31). Donna brought home a beautiful potted plant of purple mums; Sr. McKay's family gave them to her to take to the church in memory of Sr. McKay. I'm enjoying them now, in my suite, for a while. Donna couldn't leave them at church because it isn't our own chapel, but a rented place. I had a very happy experience tonight, Joan and Donna ate a TV tray snack, in my suite at 7:20 p.m. The children were watching TV in the basement. P.S. Sherm popped corn tonight and we all enjoyed some of it. Mm good! We have a frost warning tonight; it has been cold and windy today, but sunny this afternoon.

May 3, Monday

Rex and Donna left this morning about 7 a.m. to go to the Jello factory in Independence, to package Jello to earn money for the Ottawa Branch or the stake? They didn't come home until about 4 p.m. I fixed myself something to eat about noontime. Joan was busy moving things around in her basement apartment, rearranging to make her place look better, or more comfortable. She was tired, so she took a nap while little Paula had her afternoon nap. Emily was lonesome, so she came up here to talk to me. She played with my basket of greeting cards and enjoyed the stick of gum I gave her. She drew pictures in my writing tablet and cut them out with my scissors. I watched the television stories and pasted pictures and newspaper clippings and wedding invitations in my scrapbook. Sherm stayed after school to develop some pictures he took of the covered wagons and cars. Joan had to drive 10 miles to get him at the school. His Mom was annoyed that he didn't come home on the school bus with the other kids. It takes a lot of precious time and gasoline when she has to go get him. Donna brought some of her good beef and vegetable stew for my dinner this evening, about 7:45. Earlier this afternoon she came in and read the Relief Society lesson for tomorrow, to me. It was a beautiful Spiritual Living message from the Book of Mormon. I surely do appreciate her doing that for me. She is so thoughtful.

May 4, Tuesday

We have the "Big Blow" today. I don't like it, but the sunshine is nice. Rex has had the electricity off a few times, so I can't see my TV stories. ☹. He is wiring the basement for Joan's electric stove's connection. I went to the kitchen to fix myself something to eat (cold cereal and milk). Joan and Donna went to Relief Society and took Emily and Paula. They brought the mail home. I got a letter from Violet; it had a beautiful, scented, pink rose with a bud, and smelled like a rose (very lovely stationery). I'm concerned about her, she isn't feeling at all well, but she writes a cheerful letter anyway. Her cute sense of humor pops up in spite of the aches and pains. The spring is beautiful in Cedar; tulips and daffodils are in bloom. She told about Bonnie's surgery and how sorry she felt for her. Bonnie's mother, Elsie, had the same operation a few years ago, cancer of the breast, it consumed her poor body. I know Bonnie is frightened, too, I'm so very sorry for her. Glen, Irene, and Beverly Jean Andersen called to see Violet on their way home from Provo. They went to pick up Beverly from BYU. Violet had a letter from Mary J., she is teaching classes and going to school to get her master's degree in "Public Health." Randy J. graduated from college this year and Kenny will next year. Randy plans on coming to the college in Kansas to further his education in psychology. Mary has worked really hard to put her boys through college. Ray Clayton's Janet, will graduate this year. Her sister Carol is expecting her second baby and Marilyn is expecting her first baby momentarily. Donna brought a hamburger sandwich, Postum, and a piece of chocolate cake with white icing on. Sherm made the frosting and frosted the cake. It was delicious. P.S. I received an invitation to the Kansas City Stake Relief Society "Petticoats of '76" Spring Social. It is on Friday, May 21 at the stake center.

May 5, Wednesday

Happy Birthday to Sherm Gardner, 16 years old today!

How sweet it is, to be as happy as a pup.

Then, your driver's permit gets all "washed up" ☹

It's your birthday, so all problems you forget,

This is no time Sherm, to have a regret.

Shout "Hallelujah," be full of cheer,

And may you find happiness all through the year.



Donna and Sherm April 1976.

It is overcast and windy this morning. Donna took Paula to Overbrook with her this morning to the bank and the market. She brought me \$40.00 from my Social Security check of \$264.50. I insisted on her taking \$10.00 to help pay for the food we eat; she bought a package of candy corn for my treat to the children and she bought Emily a little package of M&Ms candy; Emily gave me some of her M&Ms chocolates. (She's a cutie!) Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at noon time (scrambled egg, toast, Postum, and half a grapefruit). She is precious. I watched the Gardner school

kids go through the north field to get their school bus this morning about 7:30. They'll be coming back home about four o'clock this afternoon. It was activity night in Mutual tonight and Joan took Sherm and Janet to MIA. Donna is downstairs with the little ones. She brought my dinner to me before she went downstairs. I heard them sing, "Happy Birthday" to Sherm when they served the cake before Sherm went to MIA. He came in my suite earlier and I gave him his birthday card with the ten dimes enclosed in the card, in the little money slots. He seemed very pleased with cute monkeys, the dimes, fruit, and gum in the card. I was disappointed in my television tonight. I couldn't get the picture to come, so I shut it off. Another big disappointment was when I bit into one of Donna's frozen brownies cookies, one of my front teeth of my upper plate broke off. It just isn't my day. ☹ P.S. Sherm passed his driver's tests okay. He is delighted with his license.

May 6, Thursday

Coming home from the MIA activity night last night Joan's car gave them some trouble and then it stopped operating. They had to leave it on the highway somewhere. Jeanne Bickerstaff drove them to the farm. Rex and Joan went to get the car this morning and she drove it home on its own power. It was okay after it cooled off. It got too hot last night after the long drive. Donna phoned the dentist in Overbrook, a Dr. Cole. It was his day off, but he told Donna he would repair my dental plate if she'd bring it to him. She took it to him this morning and he put the tooth back in the plate. It cost \$10.00; she gave him a check from my account. I'm so thankful to have my teeth back in my mouth!

Donna brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, some warm milk, some toast, and sliced banana. It rained rather hard in the night, but it is nice and sunny this afternoon. Rex put a railing to the basement stairs; now they'll be much safer to go up and down the stairs. I hope we'll have a railing to our back door steps soon. It is hard for me to walk up or down them without a rail to hold on to. The dog, Bobo, likes to sleep at the bottom of the back steps. I need a rail to hang on to while I try to nudge him with my foot, problems, eh? I made an effort to answer Violet's letter this afternoon and I'm glad I did. My correspondence is answered and it's a nice feeling. Donna brought my dinner about 6:30 p.m. (meatloaf, vegetables, milk, and custard). I'm a very lucky old lady, eh? P.S. Our phone was working all right this morning, so we're back in the business of normal living again. ☺

May 7, Friday

It's overcast this morning, but there is some blue in the sky, so we may have sunshine this afternoon. Joan and her little girls took Donna to Overbrook this morning for her appointment with the doctor. I fixed myself some cold cereal and milk and came in my suite to enjoy it, while watching the soap box operas on TV. They make me feel like my problems are a breeze. My family came about 1 p.m. and ate their lunch. This afternoon the mail brought me a lovely Mother's Day card for Grandmother, from John and Ann Marsh. They sent a lot of snapshots and a letter to Donna and Rex. Little Emily brought ten dimes that her mother got at the bank for me to put in

the birthday card I'm sending to Doug Shattuck for his birthday on May 25. It is a cute card with monkeys and fruit and slots for ten dimes. So, my five great grandsons' cards for May are all ready to mail. Sherm and Mark have theirs, but it's too early to mail Doug's, Jody's, and Spencer's now. I wrote a \$12.00 check to President North with my church donations. It is ready to mail, also. We have lovely sunshine this afternoon and I'm enjoying it and dozing in my chair. Janet Gardner brought her girlfriend Lorri in to see me this afternoon; they are two cuties. We buy eggs from Lorri's mom. Janet wanted to show her the picture I have of Kathy on my little table. They're proud of their beautiful Aunt Kathy and excited over Kathy's coming wedding. In fact, we are all proud and excited. Joan and her children (Sherm, Janet, and Marshall) went to Kansas City to meet Miller and then they ate dinner in town to celebrate Sherm's birthday. Sandy, Emily and Paula stayed here on the farm. Mo drove to Kansas City, (I thought he flew). I mess up my pages a lot, eh? The Jon Tibbets family arrived tonight about 9:30 p.m. Oh, what a happy jubilee! I went down to the basement with Donna. She and Joan and Rex have fixed it up very nice.

May 8, Saturday

We had a lot of happy excitement last night when the Jon Tibbets family arrived about nine o'clock. I even went downstairs and enjoyed the family "jubilee fun." The little cousins were overjoyed to see each other. Mary



embroidered a darling "Granny Reminder" of family birthdays and wedding anniversaries for Donna to hang up to remind her of the special dates in her family. It is precious. Mary and Jon gave me a beautiful, big Mother's Day card with a lovely verse to Grandmother on Mother's Day. I stayed in bed until 11 a.m. this morning. I went to the kitchen and ate my brunch while listening to the family making plans for Kathy and Mark's wedding in June. Rex came home from the auction; he had the mail with him. There was a letter from Kathy, one from Mark C. and one from Mark's mother, Vera. Donna read them to us. [See Kathy's letter on the following page.] Donna had made a lot of cupcakes. Joan made the chocolate frosting and they frosted the cakes. Mo and Joan stayed overnight in a motel last night, the Holiday Inn I think, in Northbrook. Sherm brought Joan's car home. He had Janet and Marshall with him last night. This afternoon Mo and Joan took Sherm to the city to buy him a new jacket and some pants for his birthday. He has a date to take one of his girlfriends to her school prom; she invited Sherm. His parents are going to let him drive their big Cadillac automobile, neat, eh? I presume it is Sherm's first date to drive by himself to take a girl to her prom. (Big deal!) The Jon Tibbetses drove away in their two cars about 6:45 p.m. They took Emily with them. Mary and the children were in the VW bus and Jon in the car his folks gave him. It has been parked in our yard for months. P.S. Sherm came in this evening to show me his new suit and shoes; he looked handsome, all dressed up for his date. He had a pretty flower corsage in a box for the girl to wear. He is a cute kid.

Dear Mom + Everybody,

5-5-76

31 more days!

Hello! I just wrote yesterday morning - but then yesterday afternoon I got a letter from you so here I am again. 😊 Also I forgot to mention that the poka dot material for the girls should be preshrunk - the striped + interfacing does NOT have to be preshrunk.

Mom, thank you for your letter. Also thank you for the \$100! that was really sweet of Mary + Jon. I will write to them. I know they can't afford that. They sure do have good hearts. We will make this amount of money work. Thank you again. I will probably use it for marks or ring. I went biking yesterday. the ~~two~~ ones that are like mark likes are \$150-200 - " But I will find ~~one~~ somewhere for the right price.

Yes, it is real important that I have a physical now!!!!!! No, I'd rather not go to Dr. Deal for that kind of physical. Yuck.

too bad about dress hunting for Grama. it probably would be better to make one just like she wants instead of hunting all over creation for it. I can't believe that the whole crummy Mall didn't have any Vogue patterns. They are hard to make unless you get a fancy one. I use them all the time.

that's neat that Ethel Newbold got me the High chair. By the way when I have kids do I get to use the high chair??? I sent an announcement to Grama has she gotten it yet??

All the cancer + jazz (Aunt Marty, Bonnie Reynolds) is creepy! Hope we don't have that in our immediate family.

Thanks for mailing the Lily of the Valley! we are going to use it for favors. I haven't heard from Penny or Nettie. I think I'll try to call Penny today. I called Aunt Ruth yesterday but she wasn't home - I talked to Uncle Dick - she was out playing Bridge. I think she likes Bridge.....? 😊

About going to the Temple Friday - that depends on when you are getting here + Mark - I don't know yet -

that was cute of Spencer - "Kathy and Matthew's Daddy!" he is such a smart little kid. I'm anxious to see all the kids again. Yes it was hard to pick a picture - that George took - he took 24 + most all of them were good. he didn't charge me a cent! wasn't that nice! I have all the stamps I need - and I sent a check to Mark for his stamps - he is address'ing all his own - isn't that nice!

is Joan's stove hooked up yet? I'd like to see her little home.

Sherm - Happy Belated Birthday! sorry I didn't get a card off to you. Hope you had a great Day.

I bet that film of the Washington Temple was beautiful. It is really in a beautiful setting!! and it's a gorgeous temple after Mark gets a job - then he's going to find an apt.

If you can bring ~~any~~ ^{any} of my things I would appreciate it! - It would like my china + glasses + junk in the trunk + Boxes labeled "Kathy's Treasures" + my records + anything else you have room for. + pictures + lamp - oh I want Grama to have my little lamp - she enjoys it + it's not going to fit in with Mark + ~~my~~ style of furniture. Happy Birthday (a little early) Grama!

well - I better quit + write to Mary.

I LOVE YOU! - me!!

02196
101 20f mas
6664 Feb 1976
to



The Zoo Keepers
The County Zoo
Rt. 1 Box 136-A
Overbrook Kansas
66524

Kathy wrote this letter on a sketch pad and then folded the paper to make an envelope. It was sealed with many stamps of sealing wax. Sadly Kathy's writing/printing has never been great so it is easy to see why she loves using a computer instead of handwriting. Kathy was staying with the Shattucks to get ready for the wedding and working at Cost Plus while waiting for June 5, 1976 to arrive.

May 9, Sunday—Mother's Day

I pin curled my hair last night with the anticipation of going to Sunday School this morning. I decided eight o'clock would be the time to get up. I was awake at 6 until 7:30, looking at the clock every few minutes. Then, darn me, I fell sound asleep and didn't wake up until I heard Donna come in with a Mother's Day gift about 9:15. Well, it was too late for me then, but I was pleased with the very beautiful Mother's Day card and a box of my favorite Russell Stover, chocolate French mints and a can of Planters cashew nuts. I'm blessed indeed with my lovely children. I have more peace of mind at home anyway, but Donna was giving a talk in church today, so I thought I'd make the effort to go. Joan and her family will be there. Rex had to work at the nursing home in Overbrook today. I'm thinking of my own precious mother today. I love her and long to see her again. I was going to the kitchen to get something to eat, but my swivel chair looked so inviting, I flopped into it instead.

*After combing my curls to dress my old gray head,
I was so weak, I almost got back in bed.
Twenty years ago, I thought by now, I'd be long buried!
But I'm planning a trip to California
To see Kathy and Mark married!*



Donna brought me a pretty, white carnation corsage with a rose-colored ribbon bow, a gift to mothers from the Sunday School. She pinned it on me; I feel elegant. My lovely Mother's Day cards are on display. Joan and children brought me a lovely card with a pretty box of scented stationery and a bottle of Jorgensen's Lotion this afternoon. We had a happy visit; Donna and I both opened our chocolate mints and treated the family. She ate dinner with me from a TV tray (chicken and baked potato). She slow cooked it while she was in church. This evening the Darby boys brought one of their horses to the farm and our boys and Mo and Rex had fun horseback riding in the north field. Mo may buy the horse, I'm told.

May 10, Monday

Our morning is overcast, but pleasant. I brought my dry cereal, milk, and sliced banana in here to eat while watching my TV stories. The sun broke through the clouds at 1:15 p.m. Mo left the farm this morning about three o'clock. I heard him drive away. Rex left for work about six o'clock. I didn't turn the light on to see the exact time. Donna has been busy in the kitchen preparing food, and cleaning the house. Today's mail brought a letter to me from Blanche Hoglund. She is feeling better, but she is weak and she lost a lot of weight, she went down to 101 pounds. She is now up to 110 pounds. Helen's first husband's mother is 93 years old; she looks like she is 63. She took Helen and Blanche out to dinner. She gave Helen's children each \$3,000. She has always had a maid and money, nice eh? I haven't got a lot of money, but I have something more precious by far (The Gospel of Jesus Christ). That



Donna wearing her dress for Kathy's wedding.

reminds me of something cute. Mary took little Spencer in the bishop's office with her in Omaha. He looked around and he said, "Where is the gospel, Mama?" Mary said, "what do you mean?" He said, "You know, he is Christina's father." Mary said, "he is the bishop, not the Gospel" ha ha! So little Spencer learned something new; the bishop is not called the gospel. Spencer will be three years old on May 31. It was a beautiful spring afternoon, nice and warm. Donna enticed me to take a little walk in the sunshine. We looked at the little gardens Dorothy and Donna have planted, and we walked over to pet the horse, "Yankee," Sherm and a neighbor girl went horseback riding; Sherm on the horse his dad bought yesterday, and the girl has her own horse. Rex tied white rags on the hot wire fence he put around the south field to keep the cows and horses in their pasture. I sat in the garage for a while. P.S. Little Paula brought little pebbles, in a pan, to me. She is a cutie. The Gardner kids are enjoying the farm. Donna came in this evening and she read the little part she and some other sisters have on a panel, to help them enjoy better conditions at home. It is well done and cute, too. P.S. Do not despair. I can't read my own writing sometimes.

May 11, Tuesday

It is Mark Shattuck's birthday today; he is 20 years old.

*Hi Mark, you'll always get a
high mark, 'tis true,
No matter what you say or do.
School kids want them on their
reports,
Men try for high marks in their
sports,
But you, don't even have to be
clever
To get a "Hi Mark" forever.*



Elder Shattuck on his way to Argentina.

I hope Mark is well and happy to enjoy his birthday in Argentina. He is on a mission for the LDS Church. I'd love to be in Relief Society this morning to hear the lesson and cute panel Donna is on. I think Dorothy T. is giving part of the lesson, too. I miss out on a lot, but I'm not up to the effort it takes to go. I fixed myself some cold cereal and milk at noontime. I came in my suite to eat it and to watch the TV stories. Everything was fine on Channel 13, but when I turned the dial to Channel 4, I couldn't bring the picture into focus; it was maddening, so I turned the darn set off. Ugh. Rex came from work about 2:30 and Donna and Joan came a few minutes later with Paula. Emily is in Omaha with her Aunt Mary. A package came from Kathy, in today's mail. It had the material and pattern for the dresses for her nieces to wear at her wedding reception. There are detailed instructions, too, plus a few snapshots of **Donna Shattuck in her long dress**. I presume Kathy and Janet made it. Mary will make Julie's and Joan will make her two girls' dresses (Janet and Emily). Donna stretched out on my other twin bed for a little while. I dozed in my chair. Joan and Paula

went to their apartment in the basement to rest. Later Rex came in to look for Donna, then Paula and Marshall came in for candy corn. Grama Donna's rest period was over. Rex took his tractor to dig a hole for a neighbor's mailbox. Donna made an appointment for a permanent wave on Wednesday May 19, at noon. I watched a two-hour program on TV tonight. "Chariot of the Gods," It was very interesting. P.S. The mailbox Rex dug a hole for was the one he and the Tibbetses will share together.

May 12, Wednesday

I heard Rex leave for work before daylight this morning. Janet has a light cold; she didn't go to school today she is taking care of Paula so Joan and Donna could go to the city to look for dresses for myself and Donna to wear to Kathy's wedding reception in June. It rained hard soon after Joan and Donna left. Oh, I hope it isn't raining where they are; with Donna's bad backache she can't afford to get wet. I'm very concerned over Donna, she works too hard. I took a bath this morning when I got up at 11 a.m. Then I fixed myself something to eat, cold cereal, milk, and a half of grapefruit. My family is a big puzzle to me. Rex came home in Joan's big car about 3:30 p.m. so, I presume that Donna and Joan have the little red VW. Janet is doing a good job of taking care of Paula. I've hardly heard them all day. It is too muddy and wet to play outside. "Old Sol" did show up at 5 p.m. so, the weather will be nice for Donna and Joan to come home to. It has been a long day for this old "homesick" gal. ☹️ It was about 6 p.m. when they came home from Kansas City; they were both worn out looking in and out of the stores for dresses, but they had no luck. However, they did buy several things, a slack suit for Donna and a dress for Joan, half socks for me, and etcetera. Tonight, Donna and I had our own "Fashion Show," I tried on her new slack suit and the dress. She tried on my new lounging slack suit and my two-piece dress suit. We ended up by her giving me her new slack suit and me giving her my two-piece dress suit. I think the long blue lounging slacks may be nice for Kathy.

May 13, Thursday

We have a cloudy sky, but it is calm and pleasant with no wind. It's the "Big Blow" that irritates me. I got up at ten o'clock. Donna brought a nice brunch to me at 11:30 a.m. (orange juice, egg, toast, and Postum). Little Paula bounced in for some candy corn "in a little cup." She said both "thank you" and "you're welcome" to me. Oh, she is cute. My poor, old face in the mirror this morning caused me to seek for something to make me feel happy. It always works when **I recall the lovely tribute paid to me many years ago, by my old friend, Mr. Houdy.** He was my insurance collector in Pasadena for years. When he was going to retire, he brought the new insurance collector to introduce him and then he said, "This is my last visit here, Mrs. Renshaw, but I want to tell you, in all the years I came

to your door, you gave me a friendly greeting and you looked like a queen. I felt like saying, good morning, your majesty, but I said, "Good morning Mrs. Renshaw," He also said, most of the women open their doors and frown and say, "Oh, it's you." Needless to say, I felt much better recalling the nicest compliment I can remember. Donna went to the bank in Overbrook and had my savings put in a savings account that will earn 7% interest. She drew out enough to take care of our gift to Kathy and Mark, two new \$50.00 bills to go in the little gilt frame she bought for them. Rex had the veterinarian doctor come to the farm this afternoon to take care of his horse, Yankee so he'll be able to have him trained for a good riding horse. (He is not a stallion anymore.) No more horsin' around for you, old boy. Cheer up, look around you, the pasture is green, life is not as bad as it may seem. Donna went to bed at 7:30. Rex rubbed her back with Ben Gay. She took the heating pad. I sure hope she feels better tomorrow. Sherm and Marshall had fun horseback riding this evening. Little Sandy and Paula had a ride, too. I watched them from my north window. Paula rode with Marshall.

May 14, Friday

Our sky is cloudy, but we have sunshine, too. Rex and Donna left for Omaha about nine this morning. Rex is going to do a plastering repair job in Mary's living room ceiling. They'll be gone 2 or 3 days. Joan and family are here in their basement apartment. I went to the kitchen at noon to fix myself something to eat. I fixed a tuna fish sandwich, cooked apples, and hot chocolate. Mary phoned about 12:35 to ask when her folks left for Omaha. I presume they arrived there not long after Mary called. (Joan talked to Mary.) Later Joan and Paula went to meet the children after school; she was going to take them to the barber shop in Overbrook to have their hair cut (the boys). It has been a long, lonesome day. Oh hum! I stretched out on my bed for a couple of hours this afternoon to rest my back. Joan is having a little trouble with her car, so she phoned Mo to talk to him about the car problem. Sandy brought me a little white wild flower from our farm this afternoon, it looks like a morning glory. Joan brought my dinner on a TV tray this evening at 6:30. It was meat-

loaf, creamed cheese sauce over rice, and a jelled salad. It was a nice dinner, bless that Joan! My family is so thoughtful of my needs. I enjoyed the company of three of my great-grandchildren tonight (Janet, Marshall, and Sandy Gardner). They looked through a couple of my picture albums and enjoyed my chocolate mints. They are sweet kids and I had a fun time talking to them. Joan was downstairs with Paula. Janet was expecting a phone call from a girlfriend, so she came upstairs to answer it. She looked at my book while waiting and then the boys came. I was not lonesome tonight. ☺️ P.S. I'm sorry this diary book is so messy, with my dreadful writing and my sad looking works of art. [Note to Elvie: we love your diaries, artwork and most of all you!]



Elvie Queen for a day in East Pasadena Ward many years ago. On May 13 Elvie remembers the kind words that Mr. Houdy said to her.

May 15, Saturday

It was raining when I got up in the night and when I got up this morning it was still raining. It is a gloomy, wet day. There is no school, so Joan had her place full of energetic kids. Grandma Florie Marsh would say, "They are children, not kids," but when I was a child, I played with the kids and I like the word kids. Of course, I love children, too. I presume the only "kids" in England are found among the goats. My dictionary says, "1. Kid, the young of a goat; 2. A child; 3. To humbug or cheat." In this generation the teenagers identify themselves as kids. I'm not kidding, they really do. ☺ Sherm and Janet strummed on the piano for a while. I assume the television is entertaining them now. I can hear it slightly. All seems quiet down below me (3:15). Paula is asleep, I think. It is still raining. Well, our fields will be greener. I hope it's a nice day in Omaha for Donna and Mary's visit, so the children can play outside while Rex is plastering inside on the repair job. I dozed in my chair. The sun broke through the clouds this evening about five o'clock. Sherm is driving around in Rex's tractor, to the south field and back. Joan has been busy vacuuming and cleaning her apartment downstairs. There is a little dry pimple or piece of skin in my left ear. I keep picking at it until I make it sore. Darn it, little things can annoy! Janet and Sherm drove to the mailbox this afternoon. There was nothing for me. It's about time for my favorite TV program, "The Lawrence Welk Show," 6 p.m. Donna phoned, she said she and Rex will be home late tonight. Joan brought a nice dinner to me about 6:15, chicken pie, peas, carrots, and creamed tapioca pudding and candied Rice Krispies. [*Rice Krispies Treats?*] Tonight, I watched the Miss USA Pageant. Sherm adjusted my television set tonight so I had a good picture. Bob Barker was the host. The winner was **Barbara Peterson** of Minnesota, Miss USA of 1976.

May 16, Sunday

"Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪
♪ It is a gloomy, wet looking morning but "There's Sunshine in my Soul." I went to the kitchen to get something to eat at noon time. I presume my family have all gone to church. I'm alone in this house anyway. Rex and Donna arrived home from Omaha last night about midnight. She came in to say goodnight. A car just arrived and I hear children's voices. It was Joan and children. She drove Rex's VW car. Rex and Donna have the truck; they'll be later getting home. Donna has Relief Society business after church. She said she'd be home about four o'clock. Joan came in to say "Hi," She looked nice in her pretty two-piece dress suit; it is new. I enjoyed listening to some beloved Mormon Hymns on my Magnavox player. (My own devotional for the Sabbath.) I told Joan not to bring me any food, I do not want anything before this evening. The sun

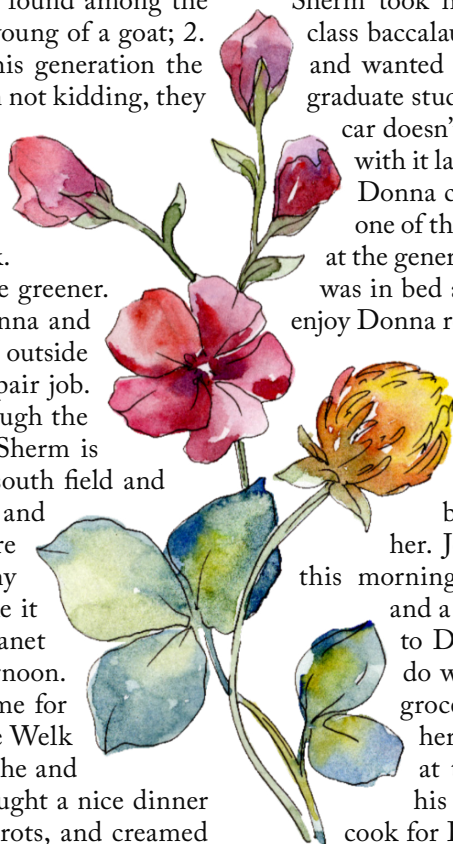
is trying to break through the clouds; we may have a nice day after all. It was five o'clock this evening before Donna and Rex came home. She brought a ground beef sandwich and Postum to me about 6:30 p.m. She ate with me; we watched the "60 Minutes" television program, while eating. Rex and Guy Tibbets were talking in Marshes' house. Joan, Paula, and Marshall came in for a while this evening.

Sherm took his mom's car to the school's graduating class baccalaureate program tonight. Someone phoned and wanted Sherm to come and take pictures of the graduate students for the Year Book. I sure hope Joan's car doesn't stall on him; she has had some problems with it lately. Good night. (9:50 p.m.) P.S. Tonight, Donna came in and read from The Church News, one of the talks President Spencer W. Kimball gave at the general conference in Salt Lake last month. Rex was in bed and Joan and her little ones, also. I surely enjoy Donna reading to me from the church programs.

May 17, Monday

We have sunshine outside this morning, but not in my heart. Donna is not able to get out of bed because of her painful back; it is worse. I'm very concerned about her. Joan took Emily and Paula to the doctor this morning; he gave some medication for Emily and a shot for Paula and she brought some pills to Donna to relax the nerves (a refill). Oh, I do wish everyone felt well. The girl from the grocery store phoned to say that Joan forgot her new mop stick. Joan phoned her father at the nursing home; he will pick it up on his way home. Joan put some beef stew on to cook for Donna's family. I'm very glad that Joan is here; she'll see that Donna gets good care. Later, Rex and Joan drove their cars into town to leave Joan's car for the mechanic to do some work on, so it will be in good condition for the trip to California. Sherm phoned; he went home from school with a friend to help him milk cows on a farm not far from here. They'll bring him home about 7 p.m. Janet Gardner is looking after her little brothers and sisters in the basement apartment. We have mud puddles in the yard, but the sky is blue and the sun bright. The trees are full of pretty green leaves and the fields are green again. It is beautiful to see. This evening

I put some sliced carrots in the stew and some celery. Joan came in time to put the potatoes in. So, we'll eat stew when the vegetables are tender. Mary phoned this evening; Joan talked to her. Bobo, the dog, bit Sandy on the back of his neck. Sandy stumbled over Bobo and he bit him. Joan phoned his owner, Bruce Hackett; he is coming to get the dog. I served Donna a bowl of the stew and some of her good homemade bread with butter. Oh, I hope she will feel much better tomorrow. P.S. Tonight, I watched the 28th Annual Emmy Awards TV program. The hosts were Mary Tyler Moore and John Denver.



Barbara Peterson of Minnesota,
Miss USA of 1976.

May 18, Tuesday

We have a beautiful, clear, blue sky with sunshine and with a little breeze. I got up before nine this morning to look in on Donna; she rested fairly well, but her back is still causing her a lot of trouble. I helped her get something to eat so she didn't have to stoop for a pan or her cooked whole wheat and milk in the refrigerator. She made an appointment to see the doctor this afternoon when Rex is home from work to take her. She went back to bed and so did I. I went to the kitchen again at noon. Donna was a little better, but still couldn't stoop over; I assisted her and I fixed myself something to eat (whole wheat with hot milk and honey and some toast). Donna had toast and a salad. She wrote a note to Marty and Wayne Strong and someone else? I watched the TV stories that I like. Rex came home at 3:30 and he took Donna to the doctor in Overbrook. Dorothy Tibbets came to talk to Joan. I gave Donna a \$20.00 bill to buy me some drug store items; I needed some smaller bills so I had her take the \$20.00. I watched Joan and her children, from Marshes' big front window. They were enjoying the sunshine. Sherm and Marshall and friends were horseback riding, taking turns on the one horse. Even little Paula had a ride in front of someone. I washed a few dishes and I put the ones that had drained dry away in the cupboard. I haven't felt very well this evening; my chest, around the heart region, hurts at times, not painful, just an ache. Ever hear of "heartache?" This old gal has got it. Rex went in the drug store for my Visine eye drops; he got the larger size of 1 fluid oz. for \$2.73. Our branch visiting brethren came this evening, Br. Ernest Hall, and wife, Annie, and Br. Jack Story. I went in Marshes' side to visit with them. Donna was sick in bed; they went in to see her and shake hands. P.S. Rex heated the stew and served Donna and me this evening. She had x-rays taken of her back and some new medication given for her to try. We surely hope she'll get well soon.

May 19, Wednesday

It is a sunny day, but windy. I got up at 9 a.m. and took a bath and got dressed in my new slack suit to go to Overbrook for my permanent wave. I ate some dry cereal with milk. Rex and Joan went to Ottawa to get Joan's car. Donna is feeling better, but her back isn't well yet. She is staying in bed again today. Joan will take me to the beauty shop. My appointment is at noon. Golly, I wish I had natural curly hair. My grandfather Bailey did, but not one of his own children did (sad, but true). I had my hair done at Dot's Beauty Shop in Overbrook. They were very busy (both operators) and I was pleased with their excellent work. Joan and Rex took me to Dot's. They stopped at a supply store for something he wanted before taking me to Dot's. It took a little over three hours to have the permanent and hair dress, but due to a misunderstanding, I had to wait an hour for Joan to come for me. Dot understood Joan to say she'd come for me about 3:15, but Joan was waiting for me to phone her. Dorothy Tibbets came to have her hair shampooed and set. She was under the dryer when Joan came for me. I sat in Joan's car while she washed the country mud off her car at the car wash. She mailed a package for Donna and bought some medication at the drug store and then we came home. Donna got out of bed and put some potatoes in the oven

to bake and then back to bed. Her poor back is giving her a lot of pain. She cooked some frozen broccoli and meat patties later. The Gardners are thinking of buying another good gentle riding horse for the children to ride on the farm. I'm weary and very worried over the painful spasms Donna is suffering with her back. A letter came today from Violet. Lucile Fife is very ill and not expected to live. [*The first wife of Lewis Root Fife, who was Otto's brother.*] P.S. My permanent wave cost \$12.50 plus a 50¢ tip.



Photo of Weavers Department Store in Lawrence, Kansas. This picture is from 1971. Weavers is still open today but the logo was changed in the late 70s to Weaver's. Joan and Elvie went shopping here on May 20.

May 20, Thursday

I got up at eight o'clock and got dressed, ready to go to town with Joan. We left here about 9:30 a.m. and drove to Lawrence in Joan's station wagon. We went to **Weavers Department Store** in the dress department, on the second floor. To our surprise we found two very pretty long dresses, my size (14), on sale for \$16.00 each. They were marked down from \$24.00 and \$27.00. One is a lovely blue and bone white pattern, the other is a pretty green with lace trim and bone in a floral pattern. Joan found a pretty pastel green in size 14 that she brought home for Donna to try on to wear to Kathy's wedding receptions, on sale, also, \$16.00, I think. I bought a pair of bone shade shoes in Weavers, too, that cost \$16.50. I sat in the car while Joan looked for a bone shade bag for me; she also found some bone shade pearl beads for \$2.00, a three-strand necklace, for me to wear with the dresses. We came home tired but happy with our purchases. Donna was pleased with the dress Joan brought for her to try on; she looks lovely in it and she is happy that she doesn't have to have one made for Kathy's wedding. Jeanne Bickerstaff was visiting Donna when we came home. Donna was feeling some better, but she has to rest a lot. Rex took care of Emily and Paula for Joan; he went to the nursing home for his Bible class this afternoon. I rested for a couple of hours and then I went to the kitchen and did the dishes in the sink. Later, I ate some of Donna's good stew. The Gardner family went to the south field this evening to

see the veterinarian artificially breed Joan's cow. Rex rubbed Donna's back with Vicks Vapor Rub. Oh, I hope and pray she'll be well again soon. P.S. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. I'm really weary tonight. Rex bought some homogenized milk from the store. I surely enjoyed it.

May 21, Friday

*We have fluffy clouds up in the blue
And the sun is playing Peek-a-boo.
Donna slept well last night and so did
I,
But her back still hurts a lot, I wonder
why?
She got up to cook me some Cream of
Wheat,*

I just can't keep her off her feet.

Joan and family left here at 3:15 p.m. She had to pick up Janet, Marshall, and Sandy at the school. Sherm didn't go to school today. They are on their way to Omaha. Mo is there, he flew from Chicago; Jon T. picked him up at the airport. Rex went to the market for groceries this afternoon. Donna read a letter from Kathy; she and Janet are snowed under with the wedding plans.

It will not be very long before the 5th of June.

Donna's poor sick back must heal up soon.

I'm enjoying my new permanent hairdo.

Donna put a chicken on the stove to stew

Then she went back to bed to relax some more.

I dozed in my chair, but woke up with a snore.

This old poetic brain of mine

Seems to want to write in rhyme.

It is quiet without the Gardner kids here,

Just a bit too lonesome for me, I fear.

I like to hear them shout and play,

As long as they keep out of my way.

I ate dinner in the kitchen with Rex and Donna tonight,

The creamed chicken on toast tasted (to my fancy) just right.

I wanted to clean up the dishes and send Donna back to bed.

"No Mother, we'll do them together," is what she said.

So, that's the way it had to be,

There aren't many dishes, for just we three.

Well, it's time that I retired, too, so I'll say "Good night to you."



Today Elvie is rhyming while writing.

good. I enjoyed my snack, bless that precious Donna. It is very quiet around here; I presume Rex and Donna are resting now at 3:30 p.m. You can see by this recording that I'm a clock watcher. That is boredom. I rested on my bed a couple of hours, from 4 to 6 p.m. Then I enjoyed the "Lawrence Welk Show" on TV. Donna watched it with me. She made a chicken sandwich and a chocolate milk shake for us to enjoy. I watched, "Jefferson's," "Mary Tyler Moore Show," "Bob Newhart Show," and "Carol Burnett Show," Then I went to bed. Rex rubbed Vicks on Donna's back. Oh, I hope and pray she'll feel better tomorrow. Dear Lord, bless all of us.

May 23, Sunday

It rained hard in the night and thundered loud, but it didn't last very long. I was able to sleep fairly well. Our sky is dark this morning, and it looks like more showers are in store for us. Rex went to church; Donna is still having trouble with her back. Janet phoned from San Jose. Mark Calkins is visiting there this weekend. It is raining hard now!! It is 1 p.m. and there is noisy thunder. I hate that! From my window it looks like some hail is mixed in the downpour. I ate half a grapefruit and a little dry sweet cereal about noon time (in the kitchen). Our storm didn't last long, about fifteen minutes. The dark clouds have moved on and the sun is trying to break through. That is typical of Kansas, if you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes and there will be a change. I can still hear the thunder, but not overhead like it was. It seems strange not being in church on Sunday, but the miles of riding and the inadequate building and with Sacrament meeting after Sunday School, makes it unwise for this 83½ year old soul to go. I am indeed thankful for my many happy years living in the city and I am also happy that Donna and Rex love country life. They've sure got it now. We had a good beef roast dinner and chocolate pudding over ice cream for dessert. Donna put the food away. Rex washed the dishes and I dried them. We all rested this afternoon. It is stormy looking outside with thunder rumbling. Br. and Sr. Jack Story and their three girls came Relief Society visiting this afternoon. Oh, the wild energy the girls display. Another ten minutes and my music box dolls would have been torn apart. They are rough on them. Joan and family arrived home from Omaha about 8:20 p.m. They brought Rex's new suit. It is a nice looking dark suit. Marshall had a new, brown sport suit. P.S. Donna brought a meat sandwich to me about 7 p.m. with a chocolate malt.

May 22, Saturday

Our day is overcast and it looks like we may have some rain. Donna rested well last night, but her back is still giving her problems. Rex has had a busy morning working in the house; he washed several runs of clothes and he vacuumed their bedroom really good and turned the mattress and washed the pad. He took time out to try and cheer up the Tibbetses next door; Dorothy is worried over Guy; he gets so depressed. A man came out to their house this morning and bought the rest of their rare birds. The peacocks are all they have left now. They are all white and rare, too. Donna stretched out on my extra twin bed. Oh, I do hope her back will heal soon. I'm very concerned over her. I'm very thankful that I'm feeling much better. The sun is breaking through the clouds now, at 2:10 p.m. Donna brought me a glass of buttermilk, some Ritz Crackers, and some cheese balls (they are called Bordon's "Cheese Kisses"). They are



May 24, Monday

It rained in the night so there is more mud outside. We have a hazy sunshine this morning. Rex and Joan and the children went to Topeka this morning, in the little red VW car. Joan was going to look for a little suit for Sandy like the one she bought for Marshall last week. Rex was going to buy new shoes to go with his new suit. They are getting ready for Kathy's wedding in June. Donna looks

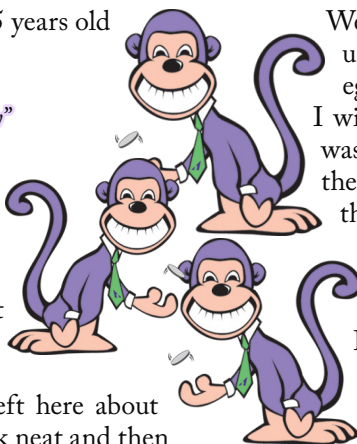
much better; her back is not bothering her like it did a few days ago. She shampooed her hair and put it up in curlers. I glued a patch on the hand of my Raggedy Ann (music box) doll. The little Story girls tore it yesterday. Oh, they were rough on my poor dolls. They pulled out some of their yarn hair and untied all of the ribbon bows. (A sad story, eh?) I had a bad blind staggers spell this afternoon; it lasted longer than usual, 3:30 to 4 p.m. It was very annoying. I walked around in my new bone shade shoes this afternoon. They are very comfortable. Rex and Joan and family came home from Topeka about 4 p.m. They were pleased with their new togs. The darned staggers returned again, so I went to my bed for an hour or so. Donna brought a nice dinner to me at 5:45 p.m., potatoes, gravy, meat from the beef roast, and asparagus from our neighbor Atchinson's garden. It was so tender and delicious. We had ice cream and chocolate pudding for dessert. I'm so thankful Donna is feeling better. She got a letter from Ovena Mayo who invited them to attend the East Pasadena Ward with them when they are in California for Kathy's wedding. It sounds like fun. We all have many dear old friends there. Donna watched television with me tonight for a while. She gets little twinges in her back once in a while. P.S. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Sandy brought me a bouquet of wild flowers picked on our farm. He is a sweet little fellow.

May 25, Tuesday

Happy Birthday to Doug Shattuck, 15 years old today.

*These three little monkeys come to say,
"Instead of the \$1.00 bill, it's dimes today"
But don't you think it is kind of cute,
To find a dime in each piece of fruit?
Ten dimes make a dollar, 'tis true
And that's my "Happy Birthday" to you.*

We have an overcast morning. I got up at 10 a.m. Donna, Joan, and the little girls, and Dorothy T. went to Ottawa for Relief Society. They left here about 9 a.m. I made myself and my suite look neat and then I went to the kitchen for something to eat. I had dry cereal with milk. Donna's back is a lot better, but not healed yet. She still has to be careful or the painful twinges come back again. Instead of listening to the TV stories today, I wrote to Blanche Hoglund and Violet and Otto Fife. I also basted up the hems in my two new long dresses. Donna is going to do the hand sewing because my eyes do not see that well now. Donna did her hem this afternoon. She cut off about 2 inches from her pretty, new green formal. She'll wear it to Kathy's wedding receptions. It is pastel green. Marshall and Sandy had fun this evening flying a kite; they got it high up and it looked like a huge bird. Joan has been working on the dresses for Janet and Emily to wear at Kathy's wedding. Kathy sent the material and pattern. Tonight, Rex came in and watched television with me. We watched, "Switch" Donna was writing or typing notes, I think. I'm very weary tonight, good night. I hope Doug has had a happy birthday.



May 26, Wednesday

Happy Birthday to Jody Tibbets, he is six years old today.

*Dear Jody, this cute, little, brown bear comes to you,
In his mouth, a gift wrapped in pink and blue.*

*We hope you are well and happy Jody dear,
With happiness enough to last all year.*

*Now Joel Andrew Tibbets is six years of age,
I'll record it on my May 26, diary page.*

6



Jody Tibbets and Donna Marsh in 1973. In 1976 Jody turned six years old.

We have a gloomy day, a drizzling rain. I didn't get up until 11 a.m. Donna brought me some breakfast, an egg, toast, Postum, and sliced orange; she is precious. I wish her back was well, but I'm glad she feels better. I was almost out of my heart tablets so Donna phoned the prescription department at Topping Drug Store and they had them ready for Rex to pickup when he took Donna to Overbrook for her permanent wave this afternoon. (They cost \$3.09.) Donna couldn't get an appointment at Dot's Beauty Shop so she went to Ila's Beauty Shop. Dot couldn't take her this week; we'll be on our way to California next week (we hope). Donna mailed my letters to Blanche H. and Violet Fife today. It was raining and someone brought the Gardner kids to the farm from the school bus. Rex went to Ila's for Donna about four o'clock; she looked nice. Donna arranged the front to look more like she likes it. Joan drove to Topeka today in Rex's little VW car. Rex bought tacos for dinner this evening. He and Donna prepared the food to fill the tacos. I ate one with them this evening, it's off my diet, but I took a chance and ate one. Our dessert was root beer floats, Rex's idea, also. Elaine V. invited us to stay at her house while in California. She said she'd cook a dinner for us (Nice of her, eh?)



May 27, Thursday

Our children are out of school for summer vacation. Yesterday was the last day of school until next fall. Donna and Joan went to a neighbor's home (Mrs. Forths) for a friendly breakfast with other neighbors. Our folks drank fruit juice instead of coffee. Donna said they had a very nice time meeting their

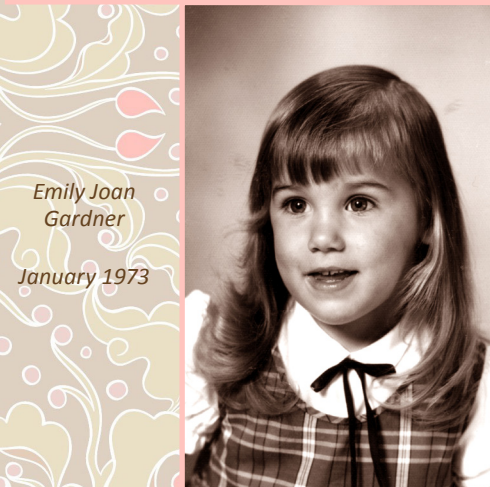
neighbors. Mrs. Forth said she was sorry she didn't think to invite me and Dorothy Tibbets, too. I'm glad I didn't have to say, "No thank you." **Joan came in and brought me a darling picture of her little Paula, 2 years old, taken in the fall of 1975. She has the same little dress on that little Lorri wore when she had her picture taken at 2 years old.** If she had lived, she'd be almost 18 years old. All of Joan's girls have had a picture taken in that same little dress at about 2 years of age, adorable all of them. Sherm found the old name plaques we had hung up in our California Duplex driveway place [Renshaw and Marsh]. He hung them up at the gateway to the farm here. We should have one more with Tibbets on it to help our own friends know where to turn in to find us. I watched my little great grandchildren trying to get their kites up in the air this evening at six o'clock (Marshall, Sandy, and Emily). No wind, so they're not having the thrill of getting the kites to fly high like they did a few days ago. Rex took some friends from the nursing home with him to Independence, Missouri to see the LDS Visitors Center. He hopes to get them interested in our church. Donna would have gone with them, but she has too much to do to get ready for the long trip to California for Kathy's wedding, and her back hasn't healed completely. We had a pretty sunset tonight. P.S. Donna and I ate our dinner from TV trays in here. We had little baked chicken pies. I had a chocolate cup cake. Donna is on a diet to keep her weight down. We both wear size 14 now. We had a pretty sunset tonight.

May 28, Friday

It was a young mother and her three children that Rex took to the LDS Visitor's Center in Independence, Missouri yesterday. They were very interested in the guided tours and what they heard and the lovely paintings they saw. Rex would love to convert them. He is a good missionary for the LDS Church, and Donna is too. Joan has finished



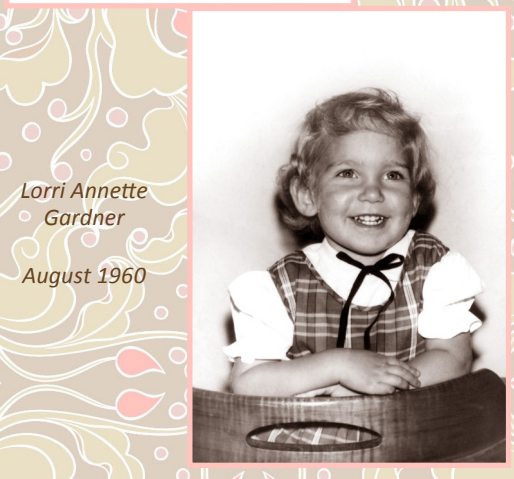
Paula Grace
Gardner
October 1975



Emily Joan
Gardner
January 1973



Janet Elaine
Gardner
April 1965



Lorri Annette
Gardner
August 1960

Emily's dress for her Aunt Kathy's wedding reception. It is real pretty. Now she has to finish Janet's dress, a big job. But they are so pretty; all of the girls will be dressed alike. Kathy picked out the material and the pattern and sent to Joan and Mary to make up for their girls. Joan went to meet Mo last night. They stayed in a motel or hotel and drove to the farm today. Donna and Dorothy T. went to Ottawa this morning to do their Relief Society visiting teaching. Bruce Hackett came for his dog, Bobo, about 11:15 this morning. Rex helped him lift the dog in his station wagon. He didn't take the dog house. Mo G. drove his car in the yard at 11:30 this morning and Joan followed in her car a few minutes later. Little Paula came in to my bedroom about ten o'clock. She was very energetic and gave this old gal a merry time of it. She bounced on my bed, tried to take the wave clamps out of my hair and she dug a seed out of my eye with her little finger. Marshall came and tried to take her out but she was too much for him. He had to grab Kathy's little lamp a couple of times to keep it from being knocked off my stand. Janet came and took Paula back downstairs. All of the Gardner kids were in my room before Paula left (all but Sherm). After they'd gone, I laughed until I felt weak. Ha ha! ☺ Donna gave Paula a bath this evening; she looked adorable when she brought her in to say good night. P.S. Rex has been working with Guy T. at his home today. Donna went to the bank in Overbrook this afternoon with Mo and Sherm. She brought \$40.00 cash from my account, (two \$20 bills) so I'll have money to take with me. She has arranged to take a couple of hundred dollars from my savings account for our motel needs.

May 29, Saturday

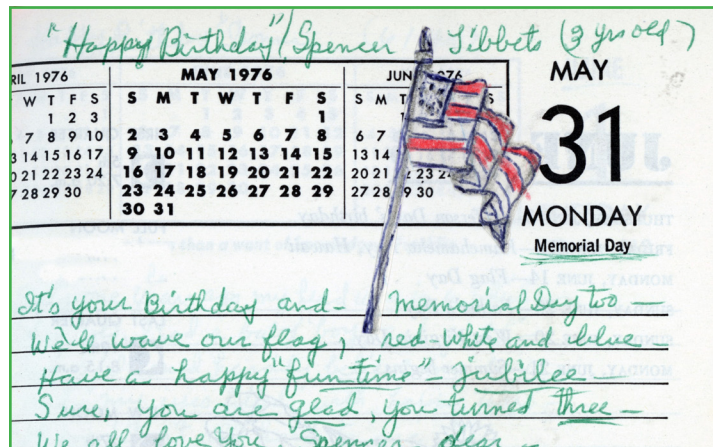
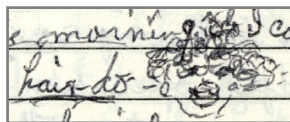
The Mo Gardners left our farm today at 1:35 p.m. Joan, Mo, and Janet came in to say "bye" and "see you at Kathy's wedding." They're going to stop overnight in Colorado Springs at Mo's parent's home. They're going in their station wagon and leaving the Cadillac here. I

folded my two long dresses and my new slack suit and underwear, ready for the suitcase, then I had a prayer for the Mo Gardner's safe arrival in Colorado. Donna brought a nice brunch to me at noon; a nice warm bun, cut in half with tuna fish on one half and deviled egg on the other and a mug of hot chocolate milk. I wish her back was well (and mine, too). Donna washed my flowered robe, my slip, bra, and garments this afternoon. It is hazy sunshine and a mostly gray sky today. It's really quiet with our Gardner family gone. I dozed in my chair and pondered our trip to California. I'll be glad when it is memories instead of anticipations. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook to shop for some things we want to take with us. She had several lipsticks she got on the special sales while she worked at the drug store in Petaluma. She gave me one of them. I had her buy me some facial tissues and a bottle of Vitamin E. She brought me a letter from Bonnie Reynolds. It was really a greeting card, it said "Good Morning," she wrote a note to all of us. The dear girl is having a struggle to get back her strength after her dreadful operation. She is taking therapy at the hospital every day to get the left arm to working normal. It was very thoughtful of her to write and thank us for the get-well card and letter we sent her when she is feeling so miserable and shaky. I hope and pray she'll feel well soon. I have my clothes folded and ready to pack. Good night.

May 30, Sunday

The lightning lit my room up last night, but the thunder was in the distance and the rain gentle, so I had no concern. If only I could shut my brain off when I want to sleep. Rex and Donna went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting and Rex did his visiting teaching after church. Donna left a note telling me they'd be home sometime after 3 p.m. She left a chicken on stewing. I got up at 9:30 and put my hair up in pin curls. I expect the curl to last through the next two weeks, (and me also). ☺ I went to the kitchen and got some dry cereal and milk. I ate it in my place. It looks like it is going to rain again. Donna had turned off the electricity on the chicken; it was done before she left here. I did my few dishes and some in the sink; it is 1 p.m. now. They came home about 3:30 this afternoon. We had chicken and noodles, peas, and carrots for dinner at 4:15. Donna wouldn't let me clean up the dishes; she insisted I get my little overnight case packed with my medication and etcetera. Rex wants to leave in the morning by five o'clock. Mary and family are in Salt Lake with John and Ann now. John wanted Mary to watch him broadcast the tabernacle choir on TV this morning. Donna packed my big suitcase; I packed the overnight case, all but the things I have to use in the morning. I combed my curls out tonight. Wow! I have a **Phillis Diller hairdo**.

I'll have to subdue that kinky mess before my family sees me. I'm sure making a mess of my diary record, but you do not have to read it. As Donna says, "Just toss it!" It has served its purpose. It kept Grama Elvie entertained, eh? [It is doubtful that Donna meant to toss the diaries, but to toss Elvie's concern about writing neatly every day.]



May 31, Monday (Memorial Day)

Happy Birthday Spencer Tibbets, 3 years old today. Rex, Donna, and I left the farm about 5:20 this morning. We stopped in Overbrook at the Manor Home so Rex could get his work schedule, and then we drove until 7:30 a.m. We stopped for gasoline and rest room service, and we ate hard boiled eggs in the car. At 7:50 we came to the Nebraska State Line. ("Bye" Kansas!) This is very pretty country with fields of growing grains, so green and fresh looking. We ate lunch in The Arctic Circle in North Platte, Nebraska. It was 2:15 p.m. but it seemed more like 5 p.m. It is a long drive across the state of Nebraska, miles and miles of sameness, but we did arrive in Cheyenne, Wyoming about 6:30 p.m. Rex gassed the car and got us into a nice, clean motel room with one double bed and a single bed. Donna and Rex went to the store nearby and bought some milk, prunes, and a few other items. We're all tired and we went to bed soon after washing ourselves a bit. Good night.

June 1, Tuesday

Sixty-one years ago, my head was in a whirl
 When told, I had a baby boy and a baby girl,
 Twins! I could hardly believe my ears,
 And my eyes filled with happy tears.
 It wasn't at all hard to see,
 That Daddy was as thrilled as me.
 We both wanted to "Shout for Joy"
 So delighted with our little girl and boy.
 Our son received a blessing and a name,
 And he soon returned from where he came
 We were heartsick, it is true,
 But darling Donna, we had you!
 A lovely personality and sweet smile
 You really made our life worthwhile!



[Joan had a note on this page (June 1) reminding her to save this poem and record it in her history. It is a lovely poem and one to be saved!] We left our motel about 6:30 this morning, after singing Happy Birthday to Donna, and giving her a birthday card with two five-dollar bills in it and the verse I composed for her. Rex got some ice cubes and a car wash; it was a lovely day. We enjoyed the beautiful drive through the Wyoming mountains and pine trees and rolling hills

so lovely and green. We stopped for gasoline near Rawlins, Wyoming, about 9:30 a.m. We ate a snack in the car of boiled eggs, peanuts, minced ham, and fig bars (celebrating Donna's birthday again). I insisted on taking my turn sitting in the back seat. *[We imagine that getting in the back seat of the two door Beetle was not an easy feat for Elvie.]* We stopped about 12:30 noon at a place in the desert called "Little America," Rex bought each of us an ice cream cone. I bought a package of Certs. Their gas was 67¢ a gallon, so we passed that up. We crossed the Utah State Line at 2 p.m. **(Utah we love you.) Oh, such beauty, the land of my birth and Donna's, also.** Rex bought gas in Coalville; it was 2:50 p.m. We arrived at John and Ann's home at 3:45. No one was at home. Rex had a key from the Manor Home, that fit John's front door, so he let us in and moved our suitcases in. Ann came home from teaching school and was surprised to find us there. They have such a pretty, little home. I took a nap while Rex and Donna went to the church distribution center, to get things they wanted for their church work. Ann had an errand to take care of. I felt better after resting; I got up and wrote in my diary. We tried to phone Lydia, Bonnie, and Marty this afternoon but no one was home. We did get to see Bonnie and Darrell; they came over later after I talked to her on the phone. Bless her dear heart. She isn't over the painful shock of her operations yet.

June 2, Wednesday

I had a wonderful night's rest in Ann and John's lovely home (and in good old Salt Lake City). (Blessings indeed.) Doris Davies phoned this morning; she is such a lovely girl. I was sorry we couldn't see each other, but we love each other and it was nice talking to her. We left in the camper after Rex and John got it all ready with the little red VW in tow. It was about noon. Ann brought some tomatoes to the car when we stopped at her school; she left her key ring on the table in the camper so we had to drive back a few blocks to the school to take Ann her car keys and house keys. We stopped again at the market for butter, milk, and soft drinks, and then we were on our way. We ate lunch about 3:15 p.m. at a rest area in the Bonneville Salt Flats. It was fun sitting at the cute, little table in the camper and eating. We had a lot of food to make our own super big bun sandwich. I rested an hour or more on the camper bed. Donna rested on the upper bed in the camper. John was driving and Rex was riding with him in the cab. Rex said he enjoyed a good nap. Next stop, we got ice cubes. Rex eats them to keep



awake. We passed Elko, Wells, and Reno, Nevada. I rode in the cab with Rex and Donna tonight for a few hours while John rested. It's a long, old drive, but it was nice to go to the camper bed and stretch out again. John took his turn at driving and we three rested on the beds. Rex in the upper bed, Donna and I on the lower bed. John drove most of the way. He got Rex to take over about 24 miles from San Jose. It was about 5 a.m. in San Jose when we ran into a dead-end street (from what I could hear). John got out and helped Rex get the big camper and the VW car in tow, back on the right street. It was about 6 a.m. when we arrived at the Shattucks' home. They were all asleep.

June 3, Thursday

We had a happy reunion when David came out, then Janet, and Mary. Later the children came. David made hot cakes; I ate one of them. Mm good! I was too tired to comb my hair. Janet gave me a good bed to rest on in Mark's room. I

was cold so Janet brought the little heater in the room. They are all busy (but me). I had to go to bed to rest. (How about that!) The kiddies had fun swimming, oh, it is beautiful here. Their home and yard are so lovely. I love California. Kathy and Julie rode bicycles to a friend's place, to take some pretty, green clippings from Janet's yard to her. She is arranging some floral decorations for Kathy and Mark's reception here at Janet and David's home on Saturday. This afternoon Mark C. brought his mother and her lady friend [actually it was Vera's cousin Leona Hales], to the Shattucks' house to meet Kathy's parents and Grandma Elvie. They are happy, friendly people. I hope they liked us, too. Kathy came a few minutes after Mark and his mother arrived. My brain is still in a haze from riding so long and the excitement of seeing our beloved children, Janet and family and Mary and family. (They are precious, all of them.) The school had a play tonight; Donna and Doug were both in it. Grama Donna and Mother Janet went to see it. I was too weary to go, but I enjoyed seeing the kids dressed for their parts. Rex and Jon T. played a game of pool in Dave's lovely new game room, where Kathy's wedding gifts will be on display. My dear little old stove is there in a place of honor. The drawers have towels, napkins, and etcetera, that Janet may need. It looks like new. It gave me a little emotional thrill to see it again. I cooked on it for many years, that dear little Gaffers and Sattler stove. It is cream colored with light green and black trim. Memories, eh?



Poor image Gaffers and Sattler stove like Elvie's.



June 4, Friday

My family went to the Oakland Temple this morning to go through with Kathy, to get her endowments. The children were taken to a friend's home. I was alone, I thought, until I heard music playing. I got up and found Rick was home. It was a beautiful, sunny morning. Rick enjoyed a swim. The family went to Fentons ice cream parlor after the temple. Rex had to miss out on that fun because Donna had an appointment to have her hair shampooed and

dressed at 2 p.m. in San Jose. I helped Julie T. and Donna S. wrap sticks with rainbow colored crepe paper. We had 18 of them to do. Rex, Mary, and Donna helped finish them. Kathy went somewhere with Mark after going to Fenton's. A neighbor lady sent over a big chocolate cake. I learned later that Kathy and Mark went to San Francisco. It was a busy household around here. Everyone, but me, was working to get ready for the wedding reception here,



and preparing food for the family, Gardners, Tibbetses, Marshes, and me. ☺ I'm trying to keep out of the way best I can. We surely have a house full. Sorry I can't record the many interesting things that happened here today.



Mark and Kathy leaving the Oakland temple after their wedding.

June 5, Saturday

As your "Wedding Bells" ring,
And your dear hearts sing,
May you enjoy being "man and wife"
With happiness all through your life.



It is Kathy and Mark's wedding day. Donna, Rex and Kathy left for the Oakland temple about 6 a.m. I left later, about seven. I rode in the Cadillac with Mary, Jon, Ann, Janet, David, and John L. was our driver. I enjoyed their singing. These young folks have a fun time when they get together. Wish I could record all the things they did. We all met at the temple and it was a beautiful experience in that lovely temple, to witness the marriage of our lovely bride and groom. There were about 46 people there. After the ceremony, we drove to the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, for the wedding breakfast. Mark's father, Don Calkins, paid for the treat. (It was really lunch time.) We ate beef stroganoff and all the trimmings; we were all full. Our beautiful yard with flowers and rainbow sticks and bows, was lovely. The guests started coming about 3 p.m. It was thrilling to see so many relatives together; Roland, Charlie and Ken Renshaw and their wives and children. It was a reunion of the Renshaw kin. There were friends

of the family and Calkins relatives. Kathy's nieces, Donna S., Janet G., Julie T., and Emily G. were dressed in their pretty long rainbow dresses and a flowered head dress. They looked very lovely. George Brown was here to take pictures of the bride and groom and the wedding receiving line. Donna and Rex looked handsome in their new togs. Rex was in a new, dark suit and shoes. Donna was in her lovely pastel green, long dress. Mrs. Calkins wore a blue formal. I wore my pretty, green dress with off white flowers in it and my mink stole. Donna pinned a lovely, yellow orchid corsage on my stole. The family all looked lovely. I was proud of my beautiful family. Sherm, Janet, and Rick helped with the little ones while we were eating at the restaurant. P.S. Spencer fell and cut his forehead and had to have stitches taken at the hospital this afternoon.



Top of the page Mark and Kathy in front of the temple. Above the 94 Aero Squadron Restaurant where the wedding luncheon was held. Below restaurant photo of Mark and Kathy. Donna and Rex at the luncheon. ➡

This was a delicious lunch paid for by Mark's dad, Don Calkins.



Getting ready for the reception Mary, Julie, Debbie L. Janet, Kathy, and Emily. Joan is in the top photo.





Top to bottom:

Kathy with Donna Marsh,
Kathy with Vera Calkins

The Shattuck family, the Gardner family

The Tibbets family, Ann and John.





For this photo above Emily was being shy and avoiding photos, Julie Tibbets, Donna Shattuck, Janet Gardner, Kathy & Mark Calkins, Vera Calkins, Don Calkins, Donna & Rex Marsh, Janet & David Shattuck.



June 6, Sunday

I think our men folks went to their priesthood meeting this morning; Sunday School we missed. It was too much hassle to get so many children and adults all ready for Sunday School. I took a day of rest; I have a little annoying pain in my left ear and neck. Donna and girls made a huge pan full of potato salad and one of fruit, with little marshmallows and whipped cream in. Joan and Mary spent \$80.00 for food this morning. I think it was a little more than that. We have 25 hungry people to feed here. The children and some grownups enjoyed swimming this afternoon. I sat in the sunshine and watched them have fun. Jon Tibbets had to fly back to Omaha to teach school tomorrow. Rex drove him to the airport in San Francisco this afternoon. My family all went to church this evening at 6 p.m. I enjoyed the peaceful quiet and I wrote in my diary book. For some reason, I can't think too well when there is a lot of confusion going on around me; but I love them all. I washed the few dishes in the sink. The folks visited and watched TV later this evening after eating a snack. I do enjoy seeing them have fun. The little, annoying pain in my left ear and neck is still with me, darn it! But I didn't worry my family with my problem. They have enough of their own with all of the children's needs and etcetera. Considering that there are 25 or so living here now, we are getting along wonderfully well. It was midnight before we went to bed. Little Spencer was asleep in my bed and Mary couldn't make her bed until we got off the couch, but we had fun.



Several of the family members went on June 7 went for an outing that included riding the cable cars in San Francisco.

June 7, Monday

I had a good night's rest. We have a lovely, sunny day. My family, all but Mo and Paula, went to the big city, to ride on the Bart Train and go to the beach. Sherm went to school with Rick and they enjoyed swimming this afternoon and I enjoyed watching them. A young man came to get the big trays used at the wedding; I let him in. Mo said it was Fremont they went to, to get on the train. They plan to ride the **Cable Car** in **San Francisco**. Mary said they'd be home about 4 p.m. Donna brought breakfast to me before she left, an egg, toast, milk, and sliced fresh peaches. I did the dishes in the sink twice, the breakfast cereal bowls and later, the lunch dishes. Sherm and Rick and Mo fixed their own meals and I took care of my lunch. Later, I sat in the lovely, big family room and watched Mo, Sherm, and Rick play pool. I also watched them swim and dive. I stayed in that lovely room from two o'clock until 6 p.m. enjoying the lovely yard. I got chilly so I came in my room and turned on the electric heater. The folks came about 6:25 p.m. John and Ann went

to Cotati to spend the night with Kirk and Joann Clark. They had the camper today, so the Tibbetses and Marshes came home in Mary's VW bus. Our folks had sandwiches and ice cream in Oakland this afternoon at Fentons place. Mary's baby seems to have an earache; Grampa Rex rocked him to sleep. We watched television tonight. Good night.

June 8, Tuesday

We have another pretty day. Donna brought my TV tray breakfast in my room. She and Rex went to Oakland to return something to Deals' and to Daily City to return Nettie Clark's dishes to her daughter Penny Scott. Donna took \$10.00 to buy me some Metamucil and garlic and parsley tablets. I spent my day watching the family swim and dive and play pool. They are a noisy, happy group. Rex and Donna are lucky to get away from the confusion. I'm still having trouble with the pain in my face on the left side, near the temple. The girls cooked spaghetti and sauce for the family, but I didn't eat any. I had warm milk and graham crackers this evening about seven. Donna phoned to say they'd be late getting home. Dick and Ruth wanted to take them out to have dinner tonight. The adults here went out to have some Chinese food. They invited me to go with them but I didn't feel well enough. Paula and Spencer were in bed asleep before they left. Sherm and Janet took care of the other kids, and Mary's baby, Brian. They had instructions to put them to bed, some at 8:30 and the older ones at 9 p.m. It worked out fairly well. I was very weary by 8:30 myself, so I went to bed with

the first group at 8:30. ☺ Julie was yelled at by the older boys because she spoiled their game of pool, so she came in my room in tears. Sherm and Rick came in later and took Julie out, so I could go to bed. My head isn't hurting as much as it was a few hours ago, but I couldn't go to sleep until after midnight. Donna came home about midnight. *[Note from Mary: I have a memory of this night; I remember talking hard to Sherm about my nursing four month old baby. How to care for him, diapers, and the like. He assured me that he*

knew what to do!] P.S. Dr. Deal took Rex and Donna to his office last night about 10 p.m. He gave them both a good checkup. Donna's blood pressure is too high!

June 9, Wednesday

Donna brought breakfast to my bed this morning. The kitchen was full of family, so I stayed in bed to keep out of the way. The Gardners left this morning for Salt Lake City and then on to Colorado Springs. Joan came in to say "Bye" to me and said they would see us at the farm in Kansas, in a few weeks. So, we'll have seven or eight less here, eh? I got up to eat the nice breakfast. John and Ann were with us today. They helped fix the tacos we had for dinner. Baby Brian has an infection in his ear, so he hasn't been too happy today. He didn't want to nurse, so Mary had to use the breast pump to get relief. I'm still annoyed with the pains in my head, on the left side near my ear. I took a nap this afternoon. Later, we all visited while Ann, Mary, and John took Kathy's wedding gifts out to pack in the camper to help her get them

to Southern California. Mary got her things together for the trip to Southern California. We'll be leaving in the morning. I've enjoyed our visit here in Janet and Dave's lovely home, with the beautiful yard. It has been cooler today. We have a cloudy sky, but no rain. Donna and I wrote a note on Rick's graduation cards. I put a couple of dollars in my card and Donna put three dollars in her card. He graduates on Friday, the 11th of June. He is such a fine young man; we are all proud of him and all the kids in this family.

June 10, Thursday

We left San Jose soon after 6 a.m. We stopped at a doughnut shop for doughnuts for the group. There were twelve of us in the three cars. Sherm was driving Mary's VW bus, with Mary and the children. John and Ann were in the camper; they had one or two of the Tibbets kiddies. Rex and Donna and myself were in the little red VW bug. We drank milk and ate doughnuts in our cars in the parking lot about 7 a.m. It is a cloudy day; it rained in the night. We stopped in Gilroy for gas and rest room service about eight o'clock. The next stop was in Bakersfield at McDonalds Restaurant. We ate our lunch in that place. I had a fish filet sandwich and a chocolate milk shake. All three cars stopped here for lunch; they all had hamburger buns. John got a ticket for speeding, about noon time. ☹ We arrived in Burbank soon after 2 p.m. Elaine and Ernie gave us all a happy welcome to their lovely home and beautiful gardens. Sherm and Mary left for Irvine where they'll stay overnight with her friends. John and Ann ate dinner here with us, then they went to a session in the Los Angeles Temple. They slept in the camper here, in front of Vandergrifts' house. Elaine's dinner was delicious. I surely enjoyed a nice rest on the good bed Elaine gave me in the room here. We had a lovely visit tonight. I'm weary. Good night.

June 11, Friday

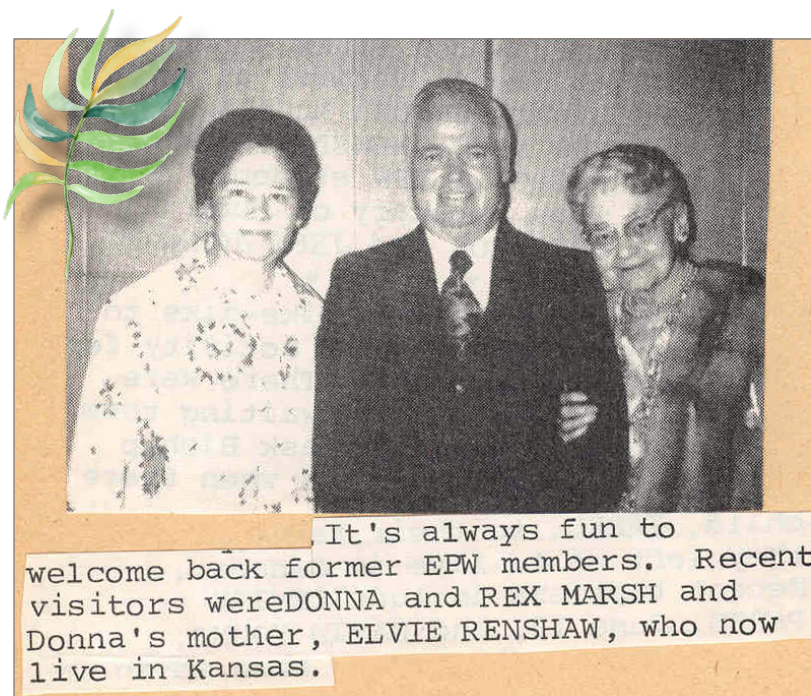
Donna, Rex, John, and Ann went in the red VW bug to meet Mary and Sherm and children at **Disneyland** to spend the day. I stayed in bed until after ten o'clock. Elaine fixed a nice breakfast for me. She had an appointment to have her hair shampooed and curled about noon time. I had a nice visit with Ernie while I was eating. He is a pleasant, friendly person to talk with. Their home is lovely. Annette

Andersen phoned and talked to me. I'll see her and Dale at Kathy's reception tomorrow. I'm looking forward to seeing them. Ann and Dick and family (two girls and two boys) came this afternoon. I was happy to have the nice visit with them. They are a lovely family, very friendly. They waited until after dark to see Donna and family, but they didn't get home until later. ☹ They were tired, but had a happy day with Mary and her children, helping them to have a fun time in Disneyland. Vandergrifts' neighbor had a car accident tonight and had to be taken to the hospital. Ernie went with them (he took them). The car was a mess, a total loss, I'm told. We visited and enjoyed the evening.

June 12, Saturday

Elaine took Donna to the beauty shop this morning and she bought me some Comfort Top Knee-High stockings, for 73¢ each. She is a precious one. She cooked a pancake for my breakfast, in fact, two of them. It is exciting the many family phone calls and visits. Ann and Dick and family came. John and Ann slept in their camper, but they visited in the house. It was a happy reunion. We all went to Anaheim this afternoon for Kathy and Mark's second reception. It was really amazing to me to see so many of our relatives and friends there. Dale and Annette Andersen, Glen and Irene Andersen, Ray and Miriam Clayton and their daughter Marilyn and husband and beautiful baby girl, Mary Jorgensen, Shirley Bird, Florence and Ernie Oates, Lewie and Miriam Marsh, Ed and Myrtle Robinson, Ovena Mayo, and etcetera. My head was in a whirl and still is; I can't recall all of the precious family and friends at this time, but it was indeed a happy get together. Sherm and Mary and children came from where they stayed with friends near Irvine. Shirley B. came to Burbank to stay overnight. She had a bed put up in the room I slept in. Our family went to Mark's mother's home to watch Kathy and Mark open their wedding gifts. Mark was sick with a fever, so Ann Marsh helped her with the gifts and cards. Mark was on the couch under a blanket. We're glad he felt well enough for the reception in the LDS Church today. Many of our people drove a long distance to come to Kathy's reception today. *[Elvie is showing her age. In years past she would have mentioned the food, flowers, and more, in great detail, at each party for Mark and Kathy. Don Calkins's second wife, Julie, did most of the food for the second reception.]*





*Photo taken on June 13 in East Pasadena Ward building.
Published in the East Pasadena Ward LDS newsletter.*

June 13, Sunday

Donna, Elaine, and Shirley Bird went to Sunday School. I got up to eat breakfast with the family. Elaine cooked bacon, eggs, toast, and hot chocolate. It was fun talking to Elaine and Shirley again after so many years of not seeing them. We had a lot to talk about. We left Burbank to drive to the East Pasadena Ward chapel in time for the sacrament meeting about 3 p.m., I think. It was wonderful to see so many of our old friends and they all gave us a warm welcome and said we looked "just the same," I took it as a compliment. ☺ Ovena Mayo had an open house reception in her home from 7 to 9 p.m. for us to visit with the dear, old friends. Rex found a park where we could eat and relax until time to go to Ovena's home. Sherm stayed in the park with Mary's children while we went to the open house. Mary took her baby with her to Mayos'; we had a lovely time greeting our many friends and eating the goodies she had prepared. Sherm brought the children after nine o'clock. He is a wonderful help with helping to drive Mary's VW bus and helping with the children, too. We left Ovena's home about 10 p.m. in our formal dress, me and my long dress and mink stole. We drove all night long in that cramped little VW bug. It is an experience I will not forget. We are on our way to St. George, Utah, to visit Florence and Ernest Oates.

June 14, Monday

"Happy Birthday" to Kathy M. Calkins (25 years old). We arrived at the Oateses' home

about seven this morning. There was no one home, but Mary found a way to get in the house and she let us in. I was glad to change into my slacks and pack my formal clothes in the suitcase, and then I stretched out on the bed in one of the rooms. Florence and Ernie had been out playing golf; they didn't expect us before evening. John and Ann had been there and were on their way to Salt Lake and "home sweet home," They stopped in Cedar to tell Violet we'd call in to say hello. We drove from Oateses' lovely home to Cedar City. Otto and Violet gave us a royal welcome. Violet and I got a bit emotional (tears of joy). The family all came in the house for a few minutes, and then they went to a park or somewhere, so Violet could have a quiet visit with me. It was nice of them; I know they had some watermelon outside, because Otto brought the rinds in the kitchen. I tried to tell Violet all I could remember about Kathy and Mark's two receptions. The time passed too quickly, but we had to be on our way. Rex drove up the beautiful Cedar Mountains to Cedar Breaks. We stopped near the Breaks to eat in a picnic park. We met a lady, Ethel Slack (a clean-up job lady). She knew Violet and Otto. We stayed overnight in a nice motel in Gunnison, Utah. Julie and I slept in a double bed. I enjoyed talking to her. It was a lovely day but we were all tired and anxious to get to bed.



Mark and Kathy Calkins Fall of 1977. She had a very happy 25th birthday.

June 15, Tuesday

We left the motel at ten o'clock this morning. It was a lovely day. We had planned to stay in Richfield, but there were no vacancies, so we drove to Gunnison last night. I almost forgot my cramped and bumpy ride when we drove through the beautiful mountains of California, Utah, and Colorado. They are fantastic in their magnificent grandeur. I could see people, temples, cities, animals, and you name it, in the rocks of the mountains we drove through. I do love the mountains and I do really miss them in the flat planes of Kansas. We made stops for gasoline, restrooms, and picnic lunches along our route. It was always a relief to stretch our legs and walk around. These old bones of mine really ache, ouch! We changed

drivers a few times, too. It was a long drive to Denver, Colorado, and it was late when we arrived. The lights of Denver could be seen for miles before we got there. Sorry, I couldn't take notes in that bumpy cramped little car. I'm trying to write from memory and at this point, it isn't too good (weary me).

June 16, Wednesday

My darling Lou, died three years ago today, June 16, 1973. We had a good night's rest in the Pleasant Valley Motel in Denver. We left there about 6:20 this morning; we ate breakfast at the Tea Pot Shop in Strasburg, Colorado about 7:30. I'm glad I got to stay in Denver. For some reason I wanted to see that lovely city and I wasn't disappointed. It is a long, hot drive from Denver, Colorado to Overbrook, Kansas. My feet were so swollen last night and I felt so very weary. Mary wouldn't let Julie sleep with me, so I had the double bed to myself. Sherm stretched out on the floor and Julie had the bed he was going to have. I'm thankful I did have the bed to myself. My poor, old, aching bones were giving me trouble enough. ☹ That little, red VW bug took us from Kansas to California and back to Kansas. It was almost home when it conked out. Mary brought me home in her VW bus. Rex stayed with his car. Sherm and Donna got a tow-rope and the pick-up truck and they went back to Rex and towed the little, red car to the farm. My own bed and suite looked good to me. Cramped traveling is not for me. Never again I hope! As our John L. would say, "No Way!"

June 17, Thursday

I'm thankful for the good night's rest in my own bed. I got up to eat the breakfast Donna brought to me about 10 a.m. My feet and ankles are still too swollen to get my house slippers on. I tried to write in Diary, but I was too light headed, so I went back to bed. I had a couple of frightening heart spells last night, but they passed away (and I didn't). Joan has her two little girls here, and Mo has Janet, Marshall, and Sandy with him in Northbrook, Illinois. Rex went to work early this morning. Sherm and Mary (and baby Brian) went to Omaha, Nebraska, to help Jon move into their "Church Farm Home," Joan has Mary's children here with her and Grama Donna. Dorothy Tibbets came in my room to say, "hello and how are you?" She said she missed all of us. I stayed in bed all day, just got up to eat. Donna brought a



VW Bug, Elvie, and Donna

nice dinner to me this evening about 6:30, (fish filet, potatoes, salad, and milk). I went back to bed about eight o'clock. Donna is coughing a lot but she is up and going strong. I wish I could be of help to her, but the best way I can help is to stay in bed, I presume. That, I am good at.

an ode to the V.W. Bug

Little Red V.W. Bug, I smile when I look at you -
 You came home and you clonked out too -
 You took us to Calif. and brought us home -
 and you cured me, of the desire to ever roam -
 New parts can't be replaced in this body of mine -
 I must just relax and - "abide my time" -
 It's another story, little Red Bug, with you -
 Some new parts - and again, you're like new -
 Ready to travel the roads, mile after mile -
 With folks cramped up, in your V.W. style -
 Sure, you can go far on a little gasoline -
 But, traveling far in you, is really mean -
 You are noisy, we had to shout to hear what was said -
 And the bouncing & bumping, gave me pains in my head -
 I've got a bruise on my knee, a bluish green -
 From a bump received in your noisy machine -
 The days I spent with you, I'll never forget -
 However, you are still, my children's pet -
 - ERR. June 19th 1976 -

June 18, Friday

I rested better last night, my feet are not as swollen, but I can't get into my house slippers yet. I got up to eat the breakfast Donna brought to me before she left for her Relief Society meeting and social, in Kansas City, Missouri. This is a special event, as the president of the General Board of the Relief Society is going to be there. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went in Joan's car, because the Marshes' little, red VW bug conked out just before we got home on Wednesday night. Rex went to work this morning at the nursing home. He brought my mail to me, a letter from Blanche Hoglund and a birth announcement from Terry and Kristie (Olson) Webb. They have a baby boy, Travis Koi Webb. Blanche is thrilled to be alive for our country's 200th birthday. She mentioned me being a bride's maid for her wedding. She asked if I have a picture of her in her wedding dress. I haven't. At least I don't think I have. I'm too sick

to search anyway. I hear a lot of squabbling and crying today, I presume that Paula and Spencer are not too happy about something. Donna and Dorothy came home about 5:40 p.m. Donna said it was a lovely meeting. President Barbara Smith is a very charming lady; she gave an excellent talk; a Br. Thomas sang two beautiful solos. I stayed in my bed again today, most of the time. The swelling is going down, but is not normal yet. I still can't get my house slippers on. Donna read a happy thank you note from Kathy. She said this birthday was the happiest one she's ever had. I surely hope and pray her happiness will last forever.



General RS President Barbara Smith spoke at the meeting Donna and Dorothy attended June 18.

June 19, Saturday

I rested much better last night; my feet aren't nearly as swollen today. I could get my house slippers on this morning. I stayed in bed until noon. Rex was out driving his tractor. Paula and Spencer were having a squealing tantrum every now and then. Mary is in Omaha with Jon and Sherm (and baby Brian). They are moving to the stake farm house in Nebraska. The little town is called Weeping Water, Nebraska. It is a few miles closer to this farm. I have been in bed most of the time since we got home from our trip Wednesday night. I do feel more normal now. Donna brought a nice lunch to me about one o'clock. I have some letters to answer, but I'm not up to it, sorry about that. It is back to bed for me. I do feel weak and strange. Donna is half sick with a cold, but she is up and working. I wish she could relax, but it seems there is no way. I looked out my front window and smiled when I saw Rex's little, red VW bug. I wrote a little rhyme telling about my trip from Kansas to California and back in that little bug. *[See previous page.]*

June 20, Sunday—Father's Day

It's a lovely Sabbath morning with blue sky and sunshine. Most of my family went to church. Joan and Paula are home with me. I feel much better; my feet are almost normal. I spent three days in bed to get the swelling down. I still feel weak, but I'm glad to be up. Joan is getting her car packed ready to leave for Weeping Water, Nebraska, to take Mary's children and pick up Sherm. Then she'll go to her house in Northbrook, Illinois, to be with Mo and the children for a while. They'll come back to this farm until their home is ready for them to move into. Donna left a pot roast on low heat while she was in church. The potatoes were ready to cook and Joan put them on before Donna and Rex got home with the hungry children. We

were eating a delicious dinner about 3:15 p.m. They were all in Joan's car ready to travel to Weeping Water, Nebraska, to leave the Tibbets children in their new home on the LDS church farm house. They left about 3:40 p.m. This afternoon I went through the old snapshot pictures that Elaine V. gave to Donna and me, of our family. I tried to write the names on the back of them. It's hard to identify some of them. The little ones are now grandparents. I hope I got them right! I went back to bed from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Donna brought me a snack to eat; she ate with me. Rex spent the afternoon cutting down the weeds on the farm around the house. I went back to bed after listening to the ten o'clock news. P.S. I'm thinking of my own dear father; he was a good father. Rex received Father's Day cards, money, plus some phone calls from his family. His children love him, too. Happy Father's Day to all good fathers!

June 21, Monday

We have another pretty day. I got up about 10:30 a.m. and took a shower bath. Donna put clean sheets and *[pillow]*slip on my bed. She washed and dried my underwear and towels and night gown. She went to Overbrook for some groceries and some castor oil for me to rub on the wart on my left hand. I was told by someone in California that castor oil would remove the annoying wart. I'll give it a trial. Rex went to work early this morning. Donna fixed a picnic lunch to take to Independence, Missouri, with them this afternoon. Rex invited a young mother and her two daughters to go with them to see the LDS Visitors Center there. He brought them home with him and brought them in to see my suite. She is a nice-looking woman; the girls look to be about 10 and 12 years old. I think the mother works at the Manor Nursing Home where Rex works. She sure scented my place up with her cigarette smoke. Rex and Donna are trying to do some missionary work with their friends here and that is good. I watched my TV stories today, for the first time since we went to California on May 31 (Memorial Day). I felt weak and lonesome, so I went back to bed about 5 p.m. After so much action around me the past month, it is like a tomb here. I got up about 7 p.m. and fixed myself a plate of food (potato salad, bean salad, Ritz crackers, peaches, and cake). How about that! It was all ready for me in the refrigerator. I watched television and ate my dinner. Rex and Donna came



The Weeping Water farm home where the Tibbetses lived. This photo taken by Julie was taken in 2006.

home soon after 9 p.m. I heard the ten o'clock news and went to bed. Good night. P.S. Donna cleaned my blue kid house slippers today, they look like new, bless her heart.

June 22, Tuesday

We have sunshine and clouds this morning. I slept well last night, so I feel better today. Janet phoned from San Jose. Rick is at BYU in Provo. Mark is on his mission in Argentina. Janet said it seems very quiet there with just Doug and Donna home. Donna is typing thank you notes this morning, to the dear ones who made our trip to California more pleasant. Dorothy's little flower garden is starting to bloom and the flowers look like a little spot of heaven in this vast desert land. [*Kansas is certainly not a desert, but in Elvie's mind it was not a heavenly place.*] I watched my TV stories while eating the dry cereal with milk and some cooked peaches Donna brought to me. I felt strange and weak, so I went back to bed again about 3:40 p.m. I wonder if I'll ever get back to normal? It has been warm today. Donna and I ate a plate lunch in my suite about 6:30 p.m. from TV trays. Rex was sleeping, I think. I made out the check for my church donations, \$12.00. We listened to channel 11, music from Aspen, some of the country's best students and professional musicians get together in the Aspen Music Festival. It was beautiful. I had a painful heart seizure this evening, but I didn't mention it. I chewed one of the green pain pills the doctor gave for me to take in case of pain; it helped. I'm going to bed; it is hot again tonight. Weary me, good night.

June 23, Wednesday

I couldn't get to sleep last night; my poor, old body just couldn't relax until almost daylight. Rex went to work before daylight, he works 6 a.m. until 2 p.m. Donna brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, toast, milk, cooked peaches, and Postum, before she left to go to a neighbor's farm for breakfast with some of the other neighbor ladies, so that they can get better acquainted. I was invited to go, also, but I wasn't well enough. Mrs. Stahel is the neighbor's name. This afternoon, Donna and Dorothy went to visit a couple of new neighbors that moved in to Overbrook farms recently. Donna took them each a loaf of her homemade bread. "Getting to Know You," ♪ ♪ that's my Donna, and friendly neighbor, Dorothy Tibbets. This morning Dorothy brought me a pretty red rose from her garden in the backyard. Donna wasn't gone long, only one lady was home; she was on the tractor helping her husband (Brooks is the family name). They have three boys and all of their names start with a "B," so they'll all be, bee bees. They moved into the Darby home. The other family moved in the Whites' home; I do not know their names, but Donna will go visit them and take something. She says Mrs. Brooks is very nice and friendly (Mr. B. too). Sorry I can't get out and meet the neighbors but I do wish them well, in our neighborhood. It has been cloudy today, it rained a little today and last night, but not a heavy rain. It has been cooler, too. I was told if I'd rub castor oil on my wart, it would go away. I've been doing it for several days, and it looks to me like the darn thing is thriving on the treatment. Donna came in my suite tonight and read to me from our church Ensign magazine. I really do love to have her read to me from our church books. Good night.

June 24, Thursday

Our sky is beautiful blue with lots of fluffy, white clouds in it. I got up at 11 a.m. I had a fairly good night's rest. Donna brought some colored snapshots that Rex took at Kathy's wedding in Oakland on June 5. They are very good. I'm anxious to see the ones that George Brown took, too. Donna brought my brunch at 12:20 noon. I gave her five \$1.00 bills. She'll write the notes and send them, one to Kristie Olson Webb, for the new baby boy "Travis" (\$3.00) and \$2.00 to Louise Pearce's daughter, Shannon Ruth Pearce. She graduated from Prescott High School on May 24. Joan sent 300 pounds of storage wheat to Rex (and Donna) for his Father's Day gift, nice, eh? They brought it home this morning from the post office. Rex was called in to work this afternoon at the Manor Nursing home. Donna had a headache; she took a nap. I relaxed in my swivel chair. Later she brought our dinner on TV trays about 6:30 p.m. We ate and watched television. Donna wasn't feeling very well, her head felt miserable. Her blood pressure is too high. I'm concerned about her. I wish I was well and I could take over the housework and let her rest more. She has, by far, too many outside activities to take care of, also. I'm worried about her. We went to bed soon after nine o'clock.

June 25, Friday

We have a pretty day. Jon and Spencer Tibbets arrived this morning. He said he left poor Mary in a mess with the last load of furniture dumped in the house and he left to come here to help his parents get their place ready for Rex to finish the plastering job inside tomorrow. Jon will carry hod for him. I got up and dressed and combed my hair. I was too weak to make my bed until I rested a few minutes in my chair. (A revolting situation!) Ugh! Donna feels a little better, but her head is still a bit heavy and sluggish feeling. She is taking the medication the doctor prescribed, plus garlic and parsley tablets. I hope she'll feel better soon. I went to the kitchen this evening to eat with Donna, Rex, Jon, and Spencer. I was happy to get three letters answered today; one to Blanche H., one to Bonnie Reynolds, and one to Lydia Paul. I haven't had the television on at all today. It is more important to get my letters written. We were all in bed soon after the ten o'clock news, which I did not listen to. Weary me.

What a big trip to come down from, for Donna and Elvie! All that way in the little bug, seeing so many dear family members, attending Kathy's wedding, attending two parties, and much more certainly took a toll on Donna and Elvie. Donna has to keep going but Elvie takes it very easy to get her strength back. And now life on the farm is extra dull.

June 26, Saturday

Our sun is playing "Peek-a-Boo" with the clouds this morning. I had a good night's rest.

I got dressed in my robe and slippers, combed my hair,

Then I felt so weak I flopped into my chair.

I felt better later, so I made my bed and said my prayer,

Then back again to my swivel chair.

This darn weakness sure gets me down,

But I try to take it with a smile, not a frown.

My diary gives me something to do,

*But there is nothing to report that is new.
I enjoyed hearing Donna play the piano and little Spencer
singing.
His voice is sweet like clear bells ringing.
Rex and Jon are plastering over at the Tibbetses' place.
They'll soon be home to feed their face[s].
Donna brought a plate lunch to me,
So, we are all well fed, you see.*

This afternoon I pasted eleven snap shot pictures of Donna's baby days, childhood days, in a scrapbook. Elaine V. gave them to me when I was there two weeks ago. She was going through boxes and drawers to clean out her place. She had other envelopes marked for the families they are concerned with. I can't do that because I pasted them in albums when I received them. I have about seven picture albums for someone to do something with? Jon and Spencer left the farm about 10:15 tonight on their way to their new home on the stake church welfare Farm in Nebraska. I do not have their new address yet. I sat up late listening to the Emmy Awards for Sports given. I don't care much about the sports they play, but this was different with lots of famous stars to present the awards and some colorful entertainment.

June 27, Sunday

I stayed in bed until almost noon. I thought I was alone in the house until I heard someone moving about. It was Rex; he didn't go to Sunday School with Donna. His plastering job yesterday was too strenuous I presume. I fixed myself some dry cereal (Rice Krispies and Apple Jacks mixed together) and milk. I came in my place to eat it. I enjoyed pasting another page of the snapshot pictures Elaine V. gave me of my family in my scrapbook. They're pictures of Donna's childhood plus a few of her own babies. This afternoon our branch brethren (Ernest Hall and Jack Story) came to visit us. Rex was called to go to work at the Manor Nursing Home this afternoon, so he wasn't home when they came. They left two booklets here, one is for Gardners. It's a special message prepared for the family "Home Night" on our centennial anniversary program. It has some colored photos and pictures. Donna read the first lesson to me; it was very interesting. Rex phoned from the nursing home; he wanted Donna to come at nine o'clock so he could take her blood pressure. She was back home by 10 p.m. Her blood pressure isn't as high as it was, but still too high. Rex works until 11 p.m. Donna and I were in bed soon after 10 p.m. Br. E. Hall left a lovely blessing on this home before they left today. A nice spirit in the home, I enjoy. Good night.

June 28, Monday

I stayed in bed until almost noon, after having a restless night. An active brain, plus a nervous, old body, do not make for sound sleeping. We had a rather severe electrical storm this morning about eight or nine o'clock and it rained hard. It has rained off and on all afternoon; no sunshine today. Donna brought me some dry cereal, toast, sliced banana, and milk for my brunch. She isn't feeling very well; her head is still a bit sluggish from the high blood pressure. I think she is taking a nap this afternoon.

I listened to the TV stories while I pasted the remainder of the snap shots that Elaine V. gave me in my scrapbook. I did one page a day for three days; I'm glad that job is done. My back aches in the shoulders. I'll stretch out on my bed again for relief. I got up at six this evening to watch "Concentration" on television. This evening Donna came in and read some of the fine talks given at the Church Welfare Conference, by H. Burk Peterson. Bishop Victor L. Brown, Elder J. Thomas Fyans, Elder Mark E. Peterson, and Elder Thomas S. Monson. I surely did enjoy listening to her read these wonderful talks. It is so much nicer than [watching] the television. Later, I went in the living room and sat with Donna and watched the fantastic display of Mother Nature's fireworks, with lightning all over the sky. I've never seen anything like it before. We sat in the dark room and watched the sky light up all around. Rex enjoyed it, too, driving home from work at 11 p.m. There were no loud claps of thunder.

June 29, Tuesday

*Well I'm still in the race,
A smile on my face,
The fastest race today,
Is the Human race, I'd say.
I'm in to win, the reward
is mine.
When I reach the end of the
line.*



Elvie may have wished she was near the finish line, especially after this tiring trip, but the human race is not over yet for Elvie.

I couldn't get to sleep until it was almost daylight and that makes me mad. I got up at 11 a.m. Donna and Rex were on the tractor mending fences. Oh, what a mess I do make of my diary writing, I'm sorry about that! I do know how to spell "fastest race," see, I told you. My 83-year-old brain is slow to respond to my will. Donna brought me some dry cereal and milk and a dish of cooked peaches about noon, bless her. She went out again on the tractor with Rex to work at something? I hope she doesn't get too tired. Later this evening they went to a neighbor's farm to buy some milk. I got Marshall Gardner's birthday card ready to mail. (See July 6.) I can't mail it because I'm out of gum. Donna is going to buy some for me tomorrow, then, I'm in business. In the card will be my verse and \$1.00 and the gum. I hope Marshall's birthday will be lots of fun. I'm a weary Grama LV tonight; I went to bed before the ten o'clock news.

June 30, Wednesday

The lovely month of "June Brides" is on its way out. I had a very good night's rest last night and I do appreciate that blessing. We have a sunny day; I love that, too. Donna made some Cream of Wheat for my brunch. She is a dear. Donna received a letter from Aunt Lillian Keller this afternoon. She was at her home in Phoenix, Arizona. She said she was sorry she didn't get to Kathy's wedding. She said that Shirley told her it was a very lovely affair. She was with Louise at the time; Louise was very ill and she still is. Someone broke into Lillian's home and robbed her of a box of silver. She thinks it was the boy that worked for her before she went away. Jack's

brother, Jim [James H.] Keller, died last Friday, after a long illness. His funeral was Wednesday (today). She was sorry she couldn't be in Salt Lake City for Jim's funeral. She fell and hurt her knee; it is painful. Shirley went to Uncle Jim's funeral in Salt Lake City, but Lillian hasn't heard from her about the funeral yet. Ralph and Dorothy were coming to have "Family Home Evening" with Lillian on June 28. She wrote her letter the 28th. Rex and Donna went to Ottawa to do some home visiting this afternoon. She bought some items for me while there. I gave her money to buy gum for the children's birthday cards, and candy corn to treat them when they visit me, plus Tums for me. Our sky is clouding up this evening, but it has been a pretty day. Donna came in my place this evening and watched television with me. We saw a very special program "The Stars and Stripes Show;" Ernie Ford was host. It was in honor of America's 200th birthday. It was a very fine program, we both enjoyed it. P.S. Delphia Tibbets phoned tonight about 9:30, she'll fly here next Tuesday. She gave Donna her flight number. Donna took the flash light and went over to let Dorothy and Guy know she was coming on Tuesday.

July 1, Thursday

It's the first day of July and it is cooler, how about that? I even pulled up a blanket early this morning. We do have a cloudy sky. Donna was in the truck on the road to the farm, cutting weeds along the side of the road she would get out and cut. She looked hot and tired when she came in the house at 12:45 noon. When I saw what she had in the truck, I was amazed. There were big limbs from trees she had cut down; no wonder she was tired. That is sure "manual labor," I can't see how she got the big limbs in the truck by herself? She brought a chicken sandwich, orange juice, custard, and Jello to me at 1 p.m. Later she brought a long letter from Joan for me to read. Joan is enjoying her stay in their home in Northbrook with Mo and the children all there. She may not come back here until August some time. Just so everybody is happy, eh? We have a blue sky and lots of sunshine this afternoon. It is quiet around here; I hope Donna is resting. I'm dozing in my chair at 4:25 p.m. I stretched out on my bed for a while and then I went in Donna's place and helped her shell a big bag of peas for our dinner this evening. We watched television tonight until the ten o'clock news was over. Rex and Donna watched on Joan's TV in the basement apartment. I was in my own suite here, watching. It is time to turn out the lights and go to bed. Good night. P.S. Donna and Rex brought me a box lunch from Kentucky Fried Chicken in Ottawa yesterday. I surely enjoyed it. They ate while they were in Ottawa.

July 2, Friday

We have an overcast sky this morning; it looks like we may get some rain. I watched Dorothy T. and Donna touring their farm land, enjoying a "nature hike" while Rex was putting the finish coat of plaster on one of the Tibbetses' rooms

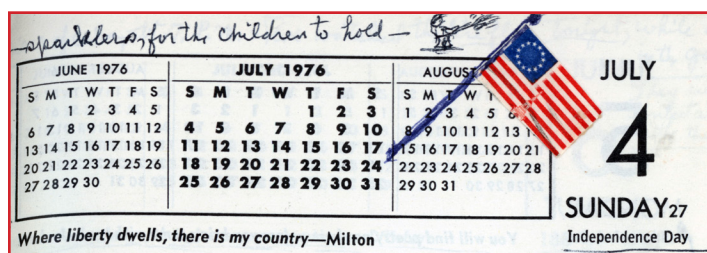
he plastered the other day. Donna scrambled an egg and made some orange juice and toast for my brunch, bless her. She and Dorothy went to town to shop later. I listened to the TV stories and dozed in swivel chair. The sun broke through the clouds a few times this afternoon. It has been a long, lonesome afternoon. I composed a birthday tribute to our country. See July 4. Donna brought \$40.00 in cash to me from my Social Security check. She made our house payment and put \$24.50 in my checking account. I gave her \$10.00 to help on the food bill; I had to insist on her taking it. The house payment is \$187. Donna brought a plate dinner to me on a TV tray about 6:30 p.m. It was creamed peas and new potatoes, cob corn, and beef steak. I tried to enjoy television, but the picture kept rolling so I turned the set off. Rex is trying to get some sleep because he is going to work tonight at 11 p.m. I think Donna said he was going to work a double shift. He'll be really tired when he gets home tomorrow afternoon. I feel weary enough to go to bed now, but it's only 7:55 p.m. It is a nice, warm evening, but there are no cement walks here yet. [*The cement walks never arrived on the farm.*] I can't walk in this bumpy yard without help, so, I'll play some recordings on my Magnavox stereo player. Donna came in and listened for a while with me. Rex slept until time to get ready to go to work at the Manor Nursing home in Overbrook tonight.

July 3, Saturday

Donna and Dorothy T. went to help Donna Story this morning. She is not well; she is expecting a baby this fall. My bank deposit receipt came in the mail today and I was pleased to see I had been given a raise, from the \$264.50 to \$281.40. That is \$16.40 more, Rex and Donna got a raise, too. Happy news, eh? We have an overcast day; it looks like we may have some showers. Donna and Dorothy came home about 1:30 p.m. Donna read a letter from Marty Strong. It was interesting to hear about the activities of the Wayne Strong family; they are all adults now and some with families of their own. Ha! No wonder I am 83½ years old. I composed birthday verses for Bonnie Jean's card and for Lydia Paul's card. Donna brought my TV plate dinner about 6:20 p.m. I was disappointed not to have "The Lawrence Welk Show" on television tonight, but all the stations were broadcasting the Bi-Centennial program, celebrating America's 200th birthday, from all over America. It was very thrilling; Donna and I are both wishing we had a holder to put our big flags in. She thinks we forgot to bring the holders here. We left them on the homes in California. We are patriotic and devoted to our country, but out here, no one can see it anyway. If we were in the city, we'd buy a couple of flag poll holders.

July 4, Sunday

I rested fairly well last night, sorry I don't feel well enough for the long drive to the church and staying for sacrament meeting after Sunday School. My dear Father in Heaven knows and understands why. I went to



the kitchen at 12:30 and heated a cup of milk to drink, with the crackers and peanut butter I ate. I had a faint feeling, but it passed away, (and I didn't). I was glad to get back in my swivel chair. I think Dorothy T. went to church with Donna. I see that my daughter was busy last night; she has a big cake made and two coconut cream pies. She left a beef pot roast on cooking slowly. She is expecting Mary and Jon and the children this afternoon. Rex went to work at the Manor Home nursing place this morning, I think. The Jon Tibbetses arrived at the farm about 5:30. Donna had dinner all ready. Rex had a big flag flying from the front of our house. I was playing my patriotic recordings on my Magnavox stereo player. We enjoyed celebrating our country's **200th birthday**. Guy and Dorothy Tibbets ate dinner with us today. The three boys all have butch haircuts. Little Spencer looks so much older with his pretty baby curls cut off, but he will be cooler and he is happy with the butch cut. Donna and Mary cleaned up the dishes. Baby Brian took a nap. After dark we sat in the garage and watched Jon light the fireworks that they brought for their children's fun. P.S. We had rockets, pinwheels, fire crackers, some pretty displays in color and sparklers for the children to hold.

July 5, Monday

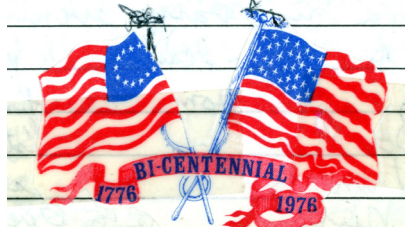
The Jon Tibbets family left for their home in Nebraska this morning about 11:30. Jon had a meeting at 4 p.m. and he teaches night school so they had to go. Julie stayed here on the farm. She wants to be here when her Aunt **Delphia** comes to Grandma Tibbets home tomorrow. Donna brought a delicious lunch to me at noon time, barbecued chicken, brown beans, fruit salad, milk, and cake. I was glad to have the regular TV stories back on schedule. I got a bit weary with so much Bi-Centennial entertainment. ☺ We have an overcast day with some hazy sunshine, but it is nice. I rested on my bed for an hour or so, then I listened to more bi-centennial celebration of television. Donna brought my dinner plate about 6:30 p.m. I watched Julie take our big flag out of the pipe holder that Rex put it in yesterday. She stood up in the bucket on Rex's tractor and he raised her up in the air where she could reach the flag. I think she was thrilled by all of it. (I was.) I wrote the verses that I composed for Bonnie Jean's and Lydia's birthday cards in their cards, ready to mail in a few days. Julie is sleeping in my other twin bed tonight. She is a sweet child; I enjoy talking to her.

July 6, Tuesday

Happy birthday Marshall G. Nine years old today.
*The little kitten on your card, is dropping you a line
 To congratulate you, Marshall, because now you are
 nine.
 Keep happy all day long, we'll sing for you the birthday
 song.*



*Happy birthday to you, my dear country,
 two hundred years old today.
 We're glad to celebrate with you, in this
 very special way,
 TV programs with singing and speeches,
 parades and marching bands playing,
 too,
 Every generation isn't privileged to
 witness this spectacular Bi-Centennial
 view.*



Flags above were taped on July 4's page.

Mountains for a family reunion together. Jim Bailey called to say "hello," Violet says he reminded her so much of Owen (his dad). We also received a thank you note from Kristie and Terry Webb (Mickey's daughter). Dolores's letter was full of her family news. We really enjoyed it. They are coming back to the states this summer and then they'll go back to Belgium. Rex, Donna, Julie, and Dorothy



*Delphia Tibbets McArthur visits
 her parents and brother's family
 in July 1976.*

This morning Donna went to help Donna Story can something, beans, I think. She took Julie with her. She took Rex to work first, at the nursing home, and she had to pick him up after work. They brought the mail home, I received a letter from Violet with one from Dody enclosed, from Belgium. There was also a card from Janet S.; they were spending a fun weekend in Carmel by the crescent shaped Carmel Bay. It is a beautiful place. Violet was involved in the Cedar celebration. The big parade was forming on their corner, so she watched from her couch the happy bang up 4th and 5th celebrations, fun, eh? She had a cold after we saw her and she was quite ill. She was expecting Lavern and family, 32 of them on their way to the Cedar

Tibbets left here about 4 p.m. to drive

to the airport in Kansas City to pick up Dorothy's daughter, Delphia at 6 p.m. Donna showed me how to light her electric oven [meaning how to start an electric oven] to bake a frozen TV dinner for myself this evening. They'll be back home about 8 p.m. I sat outside in the garage for a while after the folks left for the airport. I took the pretty peacock feathers I've had in a vase in my bedroom and put them in a tall, green vase that Donna had in the corner of her fireplace. They look better in the living room; they are really not a bedroom decoration. I hope it's okay with the Marshes. I have Lydia's and Bonnie's birthday cards ready to mail. P.S. I

wasn't hungry enough for the TV dinner, so I ate a tuna fish sandwich, a glass of milk, some custard, and piece of cake about 7 p.m. We watched the fireflies tonight while sitting in the garage. They are very entertaining little things.

July 7, Wednesday

Rex opened the west window in my bedroom so it was cooler last night. It is hard for me to open and to shut. We have to call on Rex to do it for us. Julie and I enjoyed the fresh air last night. Her Aunt Delphia came in with Donna and Julie later this morning

to say "hello" and see my nice, little place. I stayed in bed until almost noon. Donna brought some brunch to me. Jeanne Bickerstaff and her year-old baby boy came to talk to Donna about a program they're planning. I listened to the TV stories while eating my lunch. Rex did the finishing coat of plastering in the Tibbetses' house today. Donna said that Delphia was helping him all she could. She is a friendly, nice-looking person. We have a pretty, sunny afternoon. Julie was going to visit a little girl on a neighbor's farm not far away. I presume she did. I took a nap. Donna says Rex just did the kitchen finish job of plastering, but the big living room will have to wait until next week. It surely takes time, eh?

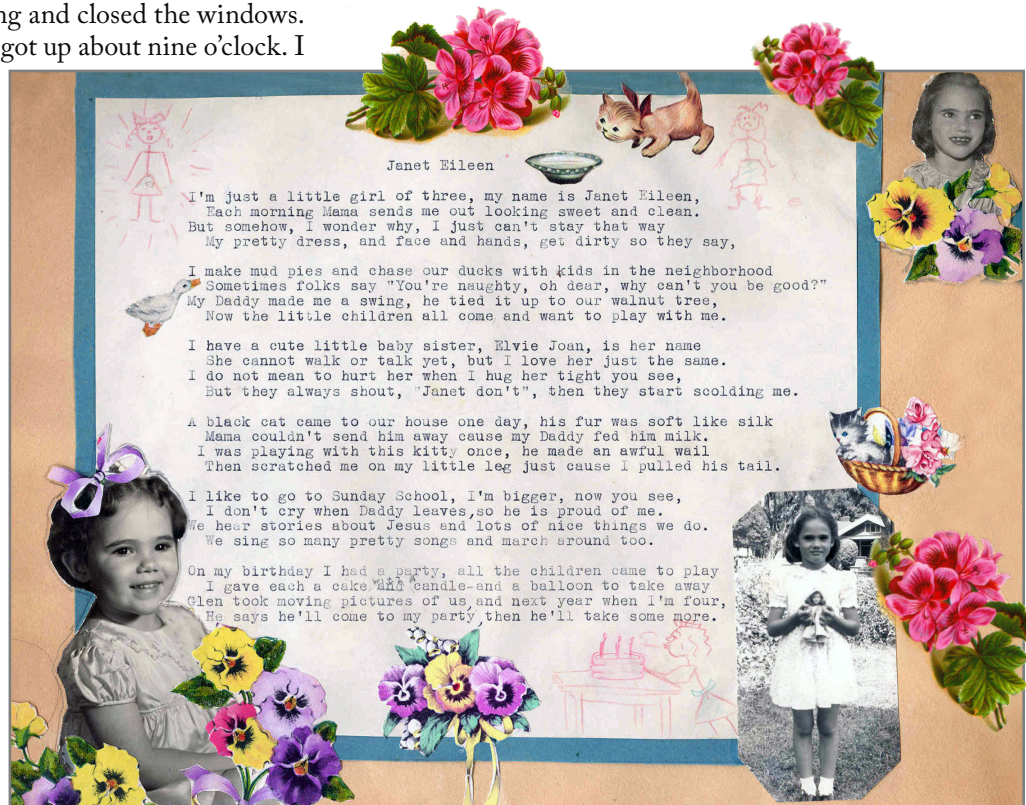
July 8, Thursday

Donna came in early this morning and closed the windows. It was cool and a bit windy. Julie got up about nine o'clock. I got up and folded the quilt that was on her bed. I put it in the closet in my front room. It will not be needed until winter time. The bed is a lot less trouble to make without that quilt on it. I made the bed and pulled down the window shade and got back into my bed, until I felt better. I do not sleep very well some nights, so I stay in bed later than the family to get my rest. I only eat twice a day and shorten my otherwise long, lonesome day. Donna went to Overbrook with the Tibbets family. Julie came home with her little girl friend from the Brooks'es farm. They watched the television in the basement until Donna came home. Donna brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, milk, toast, orange juice, and sliced, fresh peaches before she went to Overbrook. I enjoyed my favorite TV programs and ate my brunch. Julie went to Overbrook this afternoon with Aunt Delphia; she came home with some new hair barrettes and etcetera. Donna bought us each a plastic tube of Dristan Nasal Mist this morning. My nose stopped up last night and gave me a little trouble. This evening I ate dinner with the family in the kitchen; we had roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, cooked cabbage, chocolate chip ice cream, and brownie cookie squares. I went to bed after hearing the ten o'clock news. Julie is in the other twin bed. Good night.

July 9, Friday

We have a pleasant day. Julie got dressed up in one of Grama Donna's old slack suits and went to Grandma Tibbets's house to help Aunt Delphia paint the kitchen. She didn't stay long, she got hungry so she came to Grama Donna for an early lunch at 11:30. I took a shower bath when I got up. Donna gave me a new pair of LDS garments. Janet sent her several pair for her birthday; she said she had an ample

supply so she gave me a pair, nice, eh? She brought a melted cheese sandwich, some milk, and Jello and cream for my lunch. Donna wrote a letter to Aunt Lillian Keller; she read it to me before mailing it. She writes a very nice letter, in fact, she does everything well. I forgot to record yesterday that Grampa Rex took Julie for a horseback ride to the Gale farm. He left Julie there, and she went horseback riding with Jody Gale (a girl). I thought it was Judy, but Julie says it is Jody. Donna went in the car to get Julie in the evening. Tonight, when Julie came in to go to bed, she asked me to read some of the birthday verses I had written for my children's cards. She would ask, what did I write for this one, or that one. She seemed to enjoy hearing them so I obliged. It was after ten o'clock before we went to bed. Sweet dreams.



Maybe this was one of the birthday poems Elvie read to Julie July 9?

July 10, Saturday

It was nearly ten o'clock before Julie got up; that is because she was up late last night. I got my pretty, blue and white lounging slack suit out of the box and started to turn up the legs. They were about four inches too long. Donna took over the job and basted them so I could try them on. They are just right. I ate my brunch at noontime. I had Rick Krispies, milk, and a sliced fresh peach. Oh, that peach was delicious, so sweet and juicy. Donna came in here and hemmed the blue slacks so I can wear them and give my robe a rest. I've been living in it for several weeks. I do not dress up because I have nowhere to go, and I do not feel well enough to go places, anyway. (I'm a sad sack, eh?) Julie had fun sorting the buttons I had in my button bags, and stringing some of them on a cord. I made her a bracelet of pearl buckles and red ribbon. It pleased her. Why do I attempt to sketch things? Abominable, eh? Of course my eyes are not as keen as they were a few years ago. The diary helps to keep my brain active and you do not have to read it, eh? It has served its purpose

for me. Donna pressed my slack suit before hanging it in my closet, she is precious. She went to Overbrook to shop for groceries this afternoon. She brought Joan's nice, long letter for me to read. I enjoyed the letter and the lovely snapshots she had enclosed in her letter, of Kathy and Mark's wedding day, taken at Janet's home in San Jose. We watched the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant from Hong Kong tonight. It was a two-hour TV show. Bob Barker and Helen O'Conner were the MC's. Miss Israel won. They were all beautiful girls. P.S. The Jon Tibbetses arrived about 11:15 tonight.

July 11, Sunday

Mary came in our bedroom this morning about nine o'clock to get Julie up so she could get ready for Sunday School. I'm so thankful my family all go to church on the Sabbath. I'd love to be with them if I felt better. I went to the kitchen and ate a little dry cereal. I washed and dried the cereal bowls the family left on the table. It is a job to get so many little ones ready for Sunday School. I'll be scolded for doing the dishes, but it was my pleasure. I wish I could do more to help around here, but the pain in my shoulder blades is so severe at times I can hardly endure it. I had to close the south window by my swivel chair; the wind was blowing too strong on my head and neck. This Kansas wind is a "pain in the neck." Mary and children came home shortly after 2 p.m. She picked her father up from his work. This is Donna's late day. She has Relief Society business after church. I wore my pretty, blue and white lounging slacks today. Mary invited me to eat dinner with them, but I didn't feel hungry or well enough to be with them. I think the Tibbetses ate with them. Delphia was there when I went to the kitchen earlier. She was talking to her brother Jon. Mary brought me a little snack about four o'clock (baked ham, potatoes, corn, and cake). Later I took my latest scrapbook out for Mary to see the baby pictures I had of her mother in it. This evening Jon and Mary took Delphia to the airport to pick up her husband. Little Spencer had a nap on my extra twin bed. Ross McArthur came in at the airport in Topeka and they went to Kansas City to pick him up. Delphia had him paged and they picked him up on their way back to Overbrook. P.S. Rex and Donna went to get some milk from the dairy near us tonight.

July 12, Monday

Julie, Greg, and Jody went with some neighbor children to a Bible class in someone's home on a farm nearby. Donna went to Donna Story's home in Osawatomie to do her washing and drying this morning, as she is ill. She expects a baby about December. It is warm, but a nice breeze is coming in the windows. Jon T. is helping Rex with the finish coat of plaster in the Tibbetses' living room. Mary took her baby, Brian, and Spencer to Overbrook to do some grocery shopping. I went to the kitchen and ate a helping of Rice Krispies and some Oats (grain mixture). This afternoon Mary helped Dorothy wash windows in the Tibbetses' house. Delphia wants to buy some pull drapes for her mother and get them hung before she goes home to Canada. She wants Jon to get the doors all hung in the house before he has to leave the farm. Dorothy has the tile for her kitchen and the bathrooms, ready to put down. She'll have a nice home over there someday soon, I hope. Donna

brought Mary's adorable baby, Brian, into my place about 4 p.m. Oh, he is a precious little happy soul. The Tibbets children are all good-looking kiddies. We received a nice, long letter from Lydia. She had news about her family and it was fun reading. She still works at the house cleaning job, all year. This afternoon Mary took her children to **Lone Star Lake** where they could all swim. It was after 9:30 p.m. when they came home, happy with their fun at the lake (and they were all hungry). I visited with Donna in her front room this evening until Mary and the children came home. Delphia and her husband, Ross, took a walk this evening down in the south field. They came over to look at Rex's tractor. Jon took the tractor out for a run.



Mary took the kids to Lone Star Lake to swim. Lone Star Park is located approximately 10 miles southwest of the City of Lawrence. The lake was built in the early 1930's by the Civilian Lone Star Lake Park Conservation Corps (CCC).

July 13, Tuesday

Mary went to the city with Dorothy and her daughter Delphia, to buy things for the Tibbetses' home next door, (drapes, rugs, and etcetera). Jon has been working in the Tibbetses' house hanging doors, I think. Donna has all of the Tibbetses' children in her care and she is preparing a dinner for her family, plus the Tibbetses tonight. Sorry, I'm no help; I've had a couple of faint spells that slowed me down considerably. I ate a tuna fish sandwich and drank some ginger ale in the kitchen, at noon time. Jon T. came over for a sandwich, too, at noon. I couldn't even enjoy my TV stories today or yesterday, because of the Democratic Convention on most of the television stations. Gregory has been very happy horseback riding all over the farm. Donna and Rex took all of the children but Julie and baby Brian with them to shop at the grocery store. The baby was asleep and Julie was left in charge of him. Mary came soon after Donna left; she bought a bathing suit for Julie and three pair of half socks (knee high). Mary told me about the rugs and drapes and things that Delphia bought for her parents' home; it will be really nice. The telephone company came today to install the Tibbetses' phone, but they learned that they'll have to wait another two weeks or so before the telephone can be usable. I went in Donna's big front room this afternoon and met Ross MacArthur. He is a very nice person; he and Delphia are indeed happy. Donna made potato salad and barbecued some chicken for dinner. I enjoyed mine from a TV tray.

July 14, Wednesday

Happy birthday to Sandy Gardner, 7 years old.

Dear Sandy, here are two yellow birds perched upon a tree.

They are wishing a happy birthday to you, from me.

My diary says you'll be seven years old my dear,

May you be happy and have fun all through the year.



Sandy Gardner June 5, 1976

It is another hot day, but there is a breeze coming in my windows. Jon, Donna, and Mary brought Jon and Mary's black and white television in my room. They took my colored set to Ottawa, to be repaired. They left it so the mechanic can go over it good. The rolling and the distorted picture was very annoying. Donna brought a nice plate lunch to me at noon time. Lucky me, eh? I enjoyed some of my TV programs until the picture started to flicker like someone was using the electricity, like when shaving, so I turned off the set and played a record on my Magnavox; one that Greg asked to hear. He came in to visit and later Jody came in. I gave them each a stick of gum. Julie was at a girlfriend's home on a farm near our farm. Mary and her two little ones, were asleep in the basement apartment. Donna was taking a nap, also. This hot weather takes the sap out of me. I feel so very weak. I stretched out on my bed this afternoon. I ate dinner in the kitchen; there was lots of action with the little Tibbetses all there. I'd love to have done the dishes, when they all went for a drive to Lake Pomonia for a swim and fun time, but I'm not feeling well enough to do that mess of dishes. Sorry about that. I watched a TV special on the life of the famous artist and composer, Leonardo. It was interesting. Jon Tibbets watched part of it with me when he came home from where he'd been doing some research study. The family came about ten o'clock. They had a fun time. I was happy to have them home again.

July 15, Thursday

We have a cloudy, windy day. Mary went out in her VW bus. I think she took her children to the Bible School. Later they came home with four or five cute baby puppies to show us. I think they are from the Gale Farm. Jon took his sister, Delphia, and her husband, Ross MacArthur, to the airport in Topeka. They are flying back to their home in Canada. It was 12:30 noon. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 12:35, bless her. The Democratic Convention is still messing up my favorite TV shows. After watching that noisy confusion, I'm fit to be tied. We had a downpour of rain about 4:30 p.m. and some lightening and thunder. Mary and Jon took Julie, Spencer, and Brian with them to their home in Nebraska. I haven't got their new address yet, at the stake welfare farm in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Greg and Jody stayed here on the Marsh farm. Mary says she'll come back in a few days. Jon is going on a back pack

in the mountains for a week or so. Mo and his brother and others will be with them. I hope they have a happy vacation in the mountains. Donna brought a frozen turkey dinner to me, after baking it. I could only eat half of it, but I enjoyed it. I never can eat one dinner by myself. Rex and Donna went to the dairy near this farm to get some milk tonight, before dark. The boys went with them, I think.

July 16, Friday

Happy birthday, Bonnie Jean [Reynolds]

Our country had its birthday July 4, celebrating two hundred years.

With programs, parades, and festivities and marching bands and happy cheers.

May your birthday be happy, too, as you celebrate Bonnie dear,

On the sixteenth day of July this bi-centennial year.

Someone took Greg and Jody to Bible School this morning. Donna didn't have her car. Rex was called in to work at the Manor Nursing Home this morning. He thought he'd be home today, but they needed him. I think Donna walked to the mailbox with our letters this morning. A lady brought the boys home, she had some other children, too. She visited with Donna while the boys took the kids to see the sand pile and the rock hill in the yard. I rested after getting dressed and combing my hair and saying my prayer and making my bed. I felt too weak to go to the kitchen for brunch. Oh me. Donna brought a tuna sandwich, sliced peach, and a glass of milk to me. I was glad to listen to some of my TV stories today. The noisy Democratic Convention is off the air at last. We have a sunny day, very pleasant, not too hot! Greg and Jody are enjoying their visit on the farm. Donna brought me a delicious chocolate milkshake this afternoon about 3:45. I think Rex made it when he got home from work? It's his specialty. I ate dinner with the family at 6 p.m. Rex and Donna took the boys to a Primary program somewhere. Donna played the piano for the singing. I washed and dried the dinner dishes while they were gone. Then I watched the Friday night movie on TV. It was a weird one that I didn't care for, a waste of time. P.S. Dorothy T. was upset because her small paint brush is missing. She thinks one of the boys took it.

She was a mad Grandma.



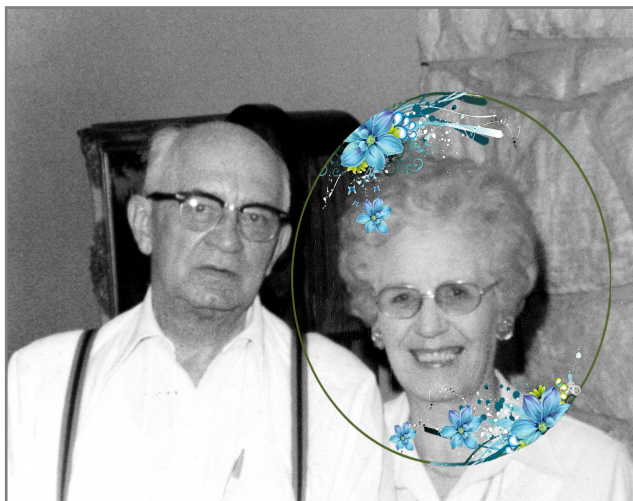
July 17, Saturday

It cooled off a lot last night. I had to pull up another cover. We had some rain and lightning and thunder and more again today. I stayed in bed until noon, to keep comfortable. I could hear Greg and Jody shouting and running around; they can't play outside in the rain. Rex was called in to work. The mailman came to the house this morning with a package of garments for Donna's Relief Society sisters. He also had a cute letter from Kathy Calkins. She and Mark are in Houston, Texas and she loves "being married to Mark." [They were in Houston for three months for Mark's training with Texas Instruments.] Donna read her letter to me. We love knowing she is so happy, too. Donna vacuumed my rugs and cleaned the bathroom. I dusted the furniture.

She and Rex rested a while and then they went to the store in Overbrook for some groceries. They took the boys with them. I stretched out on my bed for an hour. We have hazy sunshine this afternoon. The boys played in the damp sand; it was just right to build a fort. My best pen ran out of ink; I'll have to buy a refill. Kathy and Mark phoned from Houston, Texas. She gave Donna her telephone number and address. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about 6 p.m. (short ribs, corn and carrots, and sliced banana and cream). I enjoyed it while listening to my favorite TV show, "The Lawrence Welk Show" and others, until the ten o'clock news was over. I'm glad they found that bus load of school children and their driver safe, where the kidnappers left them, in a rock quarry somewhere. We don't know the details, but there are three men that the FBI are looking for. P.S. We do not take a newspaper, so the television is all the news I hear.

July 18, Sunday

Yesterday Dorothy brought one of her beautiful orange and yellow gladiolus to Donna. It has nine lovely flowers and three pretty buds on it. Donna brought it in my place and put it on my little table. She said she wanted me to enjoy it. Isn't she sweet? We have a pretty Sabbath day, nice and cool. My family all went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. They got home about 1:50 p.m. I ate a sliced peach and small dish of the natural grain sweet cereal. Donna stewed a chicken this morning early. We enjoyed creamed chicken and noodles for dinner and a green salad and custard and cookies. The man who trained Rex's horse (Yankee), brought him home today. He rode him horseback all over the south field for Rex to see. (It cost \$100 for the job.) After the man left, Rex rode horseback on Yankee; he brought him up to the farm house. Rex will have to ride him every day or two to keep him trained for riding, I presume. Come to think of it, I believe all three of the horses belong to the Gardners. Sherm bought one, and his father, Mo, bought the other two. So, the boys can horseback ride when they come here. I listened to some beloved Mormon hymns this afternoon for my devotional pleasure. I played the records on my Magnavox player. I think the boys are watching television in the basement and Donna and Rex are asleep. Later, the boys came to visit me; they were restless, so I gave them a basket of greeting cards that I received last year. I showed them how to build with them by opening them up and stacking them. They got the idea and amazed me how well they could build a good-looking structure about two feet high and balance it, so as to hold together. The cards entertained them for over an hour. They each had their own structure. Donna made a chocolate milk shake for me this evening. John and Ann Marsh phoned this evening from Salt Lake City and talked to Donna. All is well with



Gene and Lydia Paul

them. Correction, Mo bought only one horse, the third horse belongs to the Darby boys.

July 19, Monday

Happy Birthday to Lydia!

*On the 4th of July, 200 years ago,
our country had a birthday, too,
We celebrated it with happiness,
the way we hope you'll do.
On July 19, your special day, this
bi-centennial year,
We'll all be thinking of you, keep
happy Lydia dear!*

Donna and Rex left this morning with Greg and Jody before daylight on their way to

Nebraska to Tibbetses' new home at the Church Welfare farm in Weeping Water, Nebraska. I went to the kitchen and fixed myself a tuna sandwich, a sliced peach, some milk, and a cookie. I came to my suite to eat it and listen to television. Dorothy Tibbets came over at 2 p.m. to see how I'm doing. That was nice of her. We've had a lot of wind today; it sounds so mournful flowing through the trees. It was a long, lonesome day. I was glad when Rex and Donna came home this evening. She brought a wedding reception invitation for us for Suzanne Elaine Schelling and Christopher Alan Jones's wedding reception in Laguna Beach Ward on Saturday August 7, from 12 noon to 2 o'clock p.m. There isn't a return address on the envelope, so where do we send a gift? Chris is Violet's grandson. Donna went to the south field this evening to help Rex get the horse, Yankee, corralled so he could go for a horseback ride on him. It cost \$75.00 to have him trained, so he could be tame enough to ride. *[Before Elvie said it was \$100 to train the horse. We are sure one of these amounts is right. ☺]* I wrote a note to Violet for the address to send a gift to Chris and Sue Jones. I enclosed a postcard for her to send the address on. Night all.

July 20, Tuesday

We have a pleasant but windy day. Donna left about nine o'clock this morning to take care of her Relief Society business. She was back home at 12:40 noon; it was a presidency meeting. I ate lunch with her in the kitchen. She took Rex to work this morning at 7 a.m., so she could have the car. She went to the nursing home to pick him up this afternoon. Rex brought me a little dish of cashew nuts (they're my favorite.) I added some candy corns to the nuts and I enjoyed eating candy and nuts while listening to television. Mary phoned today; she is expecting Joan and her children today. Sherm is with his father, Mo, and others in the mountains on a ten day backpack trip deep into the mountains. I hope all is going well with them. Jon Tibbets is with them, also. Donna sewed a patch on my sheer flowered robe, she cut some material off of the belt. I've had that pretty robe for many years; I bought it when we lived in Pasadena, it seems ages ago. It has surely given me good service. A lady brought her two daughters to the farm this

evening to go horseback riding on a couple of the horses here. Rex brought the mother in to see through the house and he brought her in to see my suite and to meet me. It turned really warm this afternoon. I'm weary from the heat. I watched television tonight until almost ten o'clock. Our household was all in bed soon after 10 p.m. Goodnight all.

July 21, Wednesday

Donna and Dorothy T. went to Ottawa to do their Relief Society visiting teaching this morning. I got up and dressed at ten o'clock, in case the mailman came to the house, with Kathy's and Mark's wedding pictures. They are in the mail, but we haven't received them. I fixed some dry cereal, milk, and sliced banana for my lunch. It is cloudy and windy again today. I don't mind the clouds, but the wind blows my curtains out of their holders. I like fresh air, but the "Big Blow" I'm annoyed with. Dorothy and Donna were tired when they came home and wanted to take a nap, but Jeanne Bickerstaff and little girls, Rebecca and Rita, were on their way to our farm to do their visiting teaching here. Dorothy came over here so Jeanne could visit her, too, and give the lovely message once. The message was about Church Welfare. Marshes received a check from Joan; Rex took it to the bank to make a payment on this farm property. I think we all took a nap this windy afternoon. (I did.) Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray this evening; she came in and ate with me. Later she and Rex went to the garden to pick green beans, I think. I watched television programs, "Sanford and Son" and "Chico and the Man." I ate some watermelon and drank some ginger ale tonight with Donna and Rex. It is really warm tonight. I hope we can rest well. If the wind isn't blowing and we can have our windows open, it will be nice. I dried the dishes for Donna tonight.

July 22, Thursday

I took a bath before getting dressed this morning about ten o'clock. Rex and Donna had gone to Overbrook to shop, I think, for something needed for his pickup truck repair job. A huge truck came out to the farm with some doors for the Guy Tibbetses' home. The doors that the builder left earlier didn't fit the openings, so Jon couldn't hang them. Guy and Dorothy came home while the man was about to unload the doors. I hope these new ones will fit. I fixed myself some dry cereal and milk and I sliced a half of a banana for my brunch. The mailman came to the house about noon time with two albums of **Kathy and Mark's wedding pictures** in color. Janet sent them to Donna; I think they are all beautiful. George Brown did an excellent job of taking them. Janet has placed an order for a lot of them. I picked out a couple I'd like to have; one of the bride and groom and one of Donna and Rex. **They are all lovely, except the one I'm in.** At my age, I've got all the pictures I can take care of. I stretched out on my bed for a while. Oh, I do feel so weary. Donna brought me a drink of ginger ale before I lay down to relax. I got up at 6 p.m. to eat the plate lunch or dinner that Donna brought to me. She and Rex ate earlier. She watched "The Walton's" with me.

A neighbor and his wife came to our farm this evening. Rex brought them in to see through the house. They came in to see my suite and to meet me. I watched some TV programs tonight, but it was so warm. I do hope the weather will cool off soon. This dreadful heat takes the sap out of me. Donna brought me a cold drink of Hawaiian punch tonight, bless her heart. Good night.

July 23, Friday

I had a rather restless night, so I didn't get up until 11 a.m. Donna drove to Overbrook with Rex to buy some lumber to build a scaffold for a job of stuccoing he has near Paola, Kansas. It is a hot day, but windy, ugh! Donna brought a TV tray to me with cold cereal, milk, sliced banana, and orange juice. I enjoyed the TV stories while eating. Donna drove with Rex, this afternoon, to take the lumber to the job. He loves to have her with him and she loves to go with him, too. I long to be released so they are free to go everywhere without a thought of lonesome me. Oh, how I do want to be with my beloved ones over in the Spirit World. I know I'll be needed and wanted there. Today's mail brought a letter from Elaine Vandergrift and one from Louise Pearce. Donna read them to me. We enjoyed their family news; they were nice letters. Sorry I can't record all they wrote, but I'd need four or five pages to do that. But they are feeling better. Louise has changed her diet and hasn't suffered arthritis pains in her arms and legs for several days. Elaine had two bad falls in her house; she fainted and hurt her back in the first fall and a few days later she fainted in her kitchen and was out for quite a while. She hit her head on a piece of furniture. I am really concerned about ~~Violet~~ Elaine. She shouldn't be alone in the house. Why do I keep calling Elaine, Violet? Oh, I am stupid! It was Violet that fainted and fell twice.



Elvie with the bride and groom. Elvie didn't like this photo of herself but we do.

Elaine had phoned Aunt Violet and she told her about her falls. I had to read the letter over again to find out why I had Violet in mind. Elaine is feeling fine. I fixed myself something to eat tonight about 6:30 p.m. My eyes are not so good anymore; I couldn't stay on the page, ha ha! When you are 83, remember me.

When you are 83,
Remember me.

July 24, Saturday

They are celebrating in dear old Utah today with parades and the works. It is Utah Pioneer Day. I have joined in many of the happy festivities in my girlhood days on Utah Pioneer Day. It is another hot day, but I am thankful for a good night's rest and no wind. I'm alone again today. Donna went with Rex to help him with a scaffold for a stucco job he has on a big house near Paola, Kansas. I wrote a verse in Rex's birthday card (see July 29) and I enclosed \$10.00. That takes care of my birthdays to remember in July. My darling niece Beverly Andersen's day is the 27th of this month, but she is no longer here on this earth. I'll be thinking of her. I hope they celebrate over there in the Spirit World. ☺ I went to the kitchen at 1 p.m. and ate some dry cereal with milk and a sliced banana. Donna left a sink full of dishes draining; I put them away in the cupboard. I came back to my lonesomeness I do not see well enough to sew or read now, but I'm very thankful I can see and hear fairly well for my 83½ years of living. My windows are open wide but there is not a breeze coming my way. I'd love a gentle breeze, but not a "Big Blow" like we had yesterday. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about 6 p.m. I ate and enjoyed my good dinner while listening to "The Lawrence Welk Show" and the other cute shows that follow on Saturday evening. Today's heat has been almost too much for me, I feel miserable tonight. "The Good Old Summer Time," ugh! It is for the birds, they can fly to the shade of the trees, wish I could fly away.

July 25, Sunday

I was surprised when Joan's station wagon drove up, at noon, with her children and Mary and her children, too. I thought they were at church with Rex and Donna in Ottawa, where they said they'd be, but Mary's VW bus conked out somewhere in Nebraska and they had to leave it parked in someone's field. Then the Tibbetses piled into Joan's car and drove here to the farm. *[Ten children and two adults in one car!]* The mothers fed their children some lunch in the basement. Rex was somewhere in his truck, I assumed he was with Donna until he came home. Donna was with Dorothy Tibbets in her car. They came home about 2:15 p.m. Marshall was happy with the wrist watch his parents gave him for his birthday on July 6. Rex was in his truck because he went earlier to priesthood and Donna went later to Sunday School with Dorothy; so, he was in church. Donna brought me some lunch; she offered to help

me downstairs where it is cooler, but I feel better up here out of the (blessed) confusion. However, I do love all of them. The children came in and out of my place for candy corns or gum. That is what Great Grama LV reminds them of (candy and gum). It could be worse, eh? Like, the "Cross old lady," I wouldn't like that. After the children were settled for the night, in their beds in the basement apartment, I went into the kitchen and visited with Joan, Mary, and Donna. Rex came in and out a few times. Later, they went outside to enjoy the night air and to watch the fireflies. I came back to my suite and watched television for a while. Good night.

July 26, Monday

I saw Joan's car drive away this morning about 9:15. I could see it was full of Gardner and Tibbets children. I assumed they were on their way to Mary's home in Weeping Water, Nebraska, and then, I heard baby Brian crying, so I knew Mary wouldn't leave her baby here. Donna said they had gone to a place called, "Worlds of Fun," here in Kansas, for a day of fun. I brought some cold cereal, milk, and orange juice to my suite to eat. It is going to be another hot day. I dread it. I wish we had air conditioning in our house. When it's cold I can put a shawl around me, but this dreadful heat makes me feel weak and ill. Dorothy T. brought the mail from the box today; I had a letter from Violet with one from Dolores enclosed, plus a notice of the passing of my old friend Martha Bingham Sequine. She was 94 years old. *[Her husband had been gone for 20 years.]* She died on July 4 in a local rest home in Fillmore, Utah. She was buried in Fillmore Cemetery *[next to her husband]*. Violet's letter was short; she is feeling a little better after her two bad falls this month. She is expecting a lot of family company, as they are having the Fife family reunion in the Cedar Mountains soon. Dody's letter was mostly about their trip home to the states, from Belgium, to their son Chris's wedding in August. Baby Brian has a temperature of 103 degrees. The little darling has been so good in spite of feeling miserable. Rex went to the drug store for baby aspirin tablets for him. He has slept a lot, but a restless sleep. Donna has held him a lot, too. The girl in the drug store talked Rex into some liquid medication instead of baby aspirin. They

gave him ¼ of a teaspoon of the liquid. Donna said he didn't feel as feverish and she and Rex have taken turns holding the little dear. He did drink some milk this afternoon from his nursing bottle. P.S. It is 11 p.m. and the folks aren't home yet. I'm going to bed.

July 27, Tuesday

This is Beverly Andersen's birth date I hope she is celebrating over there; she loved to celebrate everyone's birthday. I sure do miss her and her parents. Donna went to her Relief Society's once a month meeting, handicraft display, and luncheon. We have a strong wind blowing from the south this afternoon. The Gardners and the Tibbetses left for



Violet, Lorene, Elvie, Annie, and Beverly in 1966. In 1976 Elvie is thinking of Beverly and her birthday.

Weeping Water this morning about ten o'clock. Mo and Jon had phoned and said they were on their way to Weeping Water. They would be there this evening. So, Mary and Joan wanted to be there to greet them when they arrived. I gave Mary a stick of gum for each one of them to enjoy on the trip to Weeping Water. (A chewing good time, eh?) I fixed myself something to eat, cold cereal and milk. I watched television while eating. Donna brought a cold drink of punch to me when she got home this afternoon. It is another hot day; I sit here and perspire and fan myself. Mary phoned from home; she had taken Brian and Julie to a doctor. The baby had a sore throat, and Julie's "sprained arm" had a broken bone in it, so her arm is in a cast now. The break is near her wrist. [Julie had fallen from a horse at the farm and they thought it was a sprain, but it kept hurting.] I stayed in my room and watched television tonight. Donna and Rex sat out in the garage and watched fireflies and lightning until ten o'clock. Donna brought a cold drink of punch to me before going to bed. Well, I've made it through another hot day. Good night.

July 28, Wednesday

Donna left me a note this morning to say she had gone to Lawrence with Rex and should be back home by noon. The wind was so strong last night from my west window. I felt like it was striking out at me. It blew the tie back off one curtain. I got up and managed to lower the storm window to stop the "Big Blow." This Kansas wind is annoying to an elderly person, who loves gentle treatment (weather wise and otherwise). I must try harder not to complain, because, after all, I'm not in pain and my children are kind to me. I'm blessed, I agree. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at one o'clock, egg and toast, milk and peaches. It is hot again today, but not as windy this afternoon. Rex was on his way to Paola in his tractor, he'll need it on the job there. Donna had to drive in the VW bug to bring Rex home from Paola. She wanted me to go with her. We had a little rain, but not enough to do much good. It took Rex four hours or longer, to drive his tractor to Paola to the job. It takes one hour to drive there in his little, red VW bug. Donna and I left here about three hours after Rex left. We caught up with him a few miles from the place. It looked so funny to see him joggling along about 12 miles an hour, with his old straw hat tied on his head, like a bonnet, to keep it from blowing off. We made it to the place alright and found they'd had some excitement there; lightning had struck a big tree near the house and split the tree in half. It was still burning. The Fire Department said to let it burn itself out. They were miles out in the country so the Fire Department couldn't help anyway. P.S. Our drive back from Paola was pleasant, it took an hour and it was cool. I really enjoyed my first outing in weeks. I needed it.

July 29, Thursday

Happy birthday to Rex today, he is 63.

*I'd like to say Happy Birthday son, if I may dear Rex,
Something about the word, "In-law" that somehow tends to vex.
I want to belong to your family, I love your wife and children,
too.*

With all my heart I'm wishing, a happy birthday to you!

I gave Rex his birthday card with this little verse, plus a \$10.00 bill. He was pleased and I received a nice big kiss. Donna went to Overbrook with Rex this morning to get some lumber for his job in Paola. Later they went to buy an air conditioner to put up in the living room to help cool our house off. He installed it about five o'clock this evening and I went out in the living room to enjoy the cool air. It really cooled off the big room but it will take a few hours before I'll be able to feel it in my suite. Donna cooked a nice pot roast dinner, we sang "Happy Birthday" to Rex with the candles burning on his cake. Donna and I had ourselves a time to get through the song with our birthday boy clowning it up with a crazy grin on his face. We ate ice cream and cake and the celebration was over. Joan phoned from Illinois to wish her dad a happy birthday. Rex and Donna took a ride to the Pamonia Lake this evening.

July 30, Friday

Rex drove to Paola with some lumber needed for his job there. I got a birthday card ready to mail to John L. I enclosed a little verse plus \$3.00. His day is August 4. Donna drove to our mailbox with it but the mailman had already been, so it will not go out today, sorry about that. It is another hot day, but my suite is much cooler now with the air conditioner in the Marshes' living room. Donna watched one or two television programs with me. She brought the mail from our box; there were some birthday cards for Rex from his children and a postcard to me from Violet. She sent me Jack and Jenny's address, in Laguna Beach so I could send a wedding gift to Chris Jones and his bride. I wrote and asked her for the address. Donna mended my yellow night gown on her sewing machine. She was going downstairs to mend some garments for Rex. This evening, Br. Jack Story and his little daughter Rebecca, from our branch, came to our farm to visit the Tibbetses and Marshes. I spent this afternoon in Donna's big living room, enjoying the cool air from the conditioner there. Donna and I ate our dinner in the kitchen about 7 p.m. before Rex came home. Rex came a short time before Br. Story and Rebecca arrived. Tonight, Rex and Donna watched colored TV in the basement. I watched TV in my suite from the black and white set. It was a very hot day. My little place was really warm when I went to bed after 11 p.m.



Rex drove the tractor four hours to a job site in Paola the day before his birthday in 1976.

July 31, Saturday

It was too warm to sleep well last night. I had three windows up, but the air was warm. I'd rather have it cold. I can get warm with the blankets. Donna has had a busy morning; she made several jars of pickles from the cucumbers a neighbor gave her, and another neighbor gave her a huge bag of carrots which she processed for the freezer. That is a lot of work; she did it in the basement. I wish I was well enough to help her. The best way I can help now is to keep out of the way. Donna received a wedding invitation to Charlie and Marie Renshaw's daughter's wedding. Also, a long letter from our beautiful bride, Kathy Calkins. Oh, they are so delightfully happy. It is fun to read her cute letters. She is happy with her part time jobs in Texas. We couldn't get the "Lawrence Welk Show" on my TV, so Donna helped me to the basement where we had a beautiful, color picture. I stayed down there and watched several programs, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Rex says my own colored TV set will be back home soon. It needed several new tubes. I'm using Jon and Mary's little black and white set now. Donna received a nice letter from Marty and Wayne Strong; I read it this evening. Dear Marty is having a lot of problems with her own health since her cancer operation a few months ago. Wayne is feeling fine, he is painting his house outside; he keeps it looking nice, plus he has lovely gardens (flowers and vegetables). No wonder Donna's poor legs ache and keep her awake at night, she went up and down the stairs a dozen times this evening while I was downstairs. P.S. I got Janet's birthday card ready to mail. Her birthday is August 14. I enclosed a verse and \$3.00. It is too early to mail yet.

August 1, Sunday

Whoops! There goes another July to join others gone by. What does August have in store? More hot days to be sure. Donna went to church with Dorothy. I thought I was home alone, until I saw Rex asleep on the couch in the living room. I ate some natural oats (honey sweet cereal) and drank a glass of milk. I turned the calendars over to August and I took a shower bath before getting dressed. I slept better last night; it wasn't as hot as the night before and we have hazy sunshine which makes it a little bit cooler today. It is 1 p.m. now. Donna came home about two o'clock. I think she is frying chicken. It sure smells good. I composed a little verse for Jon Tibbets's card; his birthday is August 7. We expected the Tibbets family this afternoon in time for dinner, but they haven't arrived; it is 6:30 now. Donna and I ate from trays in my place. It was a delicious fried chicken dinner, with creamed peas and new potatoes and carrots. We had

fruit Jello with whipped cream for dessert. Joan phoned from her home in Northbrook, about 6:20 this evening. She expected Mary and family would be here. I wonder what is delaying them? Rex is working at the Manor Nursing Home today from 3 to 11 tonight. Our Tibbets family arrived this evening before eight o'clock. They enjoyed Donna's nice dinner. I went out in the kitchen and visited for a while. It was still daylight. The little boys went to one of the ponds to fish. They didn't catch any fish, but they did find some turtles. ☺ Mary and Jon got the children in beds in the basement. Julie slept in my extra twin bed. Goodnight.

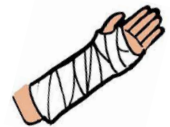


Garfield home with front porch and swing (in red square). Elvie sitting on the porch. In 1976 Elvie had lots of time to swing on the porch, but she was missing the porch and a swing.

August 2, Monday

In my younger years, I was "in the swing" going places and doing things. In all of my homes there was a swing on the porch. But I seldom had time to enjoy a swing. Oh, the changes the years do bring. Now, **I'd love to sit and swing, but there is no porch and there is no swing.** Ha ha! Here is an ode to Julie Tibbets:

*Oh, what a blast,
She fell from a horse and her arm's in a cast.
Great Grandma L.V.*



We had a scare this morning when we couldn't get water for an hour or so. We thought our well had gone dry. Donna and Mary phoned Rex and Jon at their stucco job in Paola. They said they'd come home on their lunch break. Mary phoned them back to tell them we had water, so they didn't have to come home. We have no idea what happened, but we're sure glad to have water again. It is overcast this morning, not too warm. Donna and Mary drove to Overbrook to the bank to make the house payment and take the washing to the laundromat. They took baby Brian and Spencer with them. Julie was in and out of my place. The boys were wandering about the farm. I went to the kitchen to fix myself something to eat (cold cereal and milk). I dried the dishes that were draining in the sink.

Another poor, little bird is caught in the chimney of the kitchen stove and it is making a racket for sure. Sorry I can't release it. Jody came in this late afternoon, he had a little blood; a sucking insect, called a tick, was in the back of his head, in the hair. It's head was in his scalp. Mary couldn't get it out; she sent him to Grandma Dorothy to see if she could take it out? (She is a nurse.) Grampa Guy took it out. It was the fist tick I've ever seen. We are glad it is out of Jody's head. I ate a nice dinner with the children and Mary this evening. Donna served us. P.S. Rex and Jon brought a huge tank of water and put it in the well so we have water. Donna and Mary canned several quarts of peaches today. Mary made some delicious peach pies and I ate a small piece. Mm good! P.S. Jody and Greg released the little bird from the chimney today, Jody picked it out.

August 3, Tuesday

Rex and Jon brought a big tank of water to our well again this morning before they went to their stucco job in Paola. Donna went to a Relief Society business meeting somewhere this morning; I gave her \$20.00 to do a little shopping. We both needed a cotton blouse to wear with our slacks. The long sleeve rayon or nylon are too hot now. She couldn't find white, but she got a yellow blouse for me and blue and white flowered blouse for herself in cotton. She has two pair of blue slacks she can wear with the blouse. It looks really nice on her. Mine is pale yellow, so I can wear it with any blue slacks. They cost less than \$4.00 apiece. I gave Donna \$10.00 to help with our food supply. Mary came in with Donna to visit with me this afternoon; she had her baby, Brian, with her. It wasn't long before all of the kids came in to ask, "What can we do Mama?" They get bored and expect "Mama" to entertain them. Poor Mary, she couldn't relax and visit so she took her little brood out of my place so Donna and I could relax and talk. Donna made out my church donation check for July and August (\$30.00), tithing \$16.00, fast offering \$4.00, budget \$2.00, and building fund \$6.00. That takes care of two months. Mary went to Overbrook this afternoon; I gave her \$20.00 to get some change for me. I need a couple of \$5.00 bills to put in wedding cards. I also had her get me some gum for the children's pleasure. Oh, she forgot the gum. I enjoyed a lovely television program this evening, The Boston Pops Orchestra with Arthur Fiedler conducting. Donna and Mary enjoyed part of it with me, also. I ate a hot dog in a bun for dinner; I hope my stomach can digest it alright. Sweet Dreams.

August 4, Wednesday

Happy Birthday to John Louis Marsh, 31 years.

*I tried to compose a nice verse, but it
didn't turn out so hot,
Believe me, John dear boy, "Hot is what
the weather's got!
What I'm really trying to say,
Is I love you and Happy Birthday!*



Ann and John May 31, 1975. On August 4 John celebrated his 31st birthday.

The rug man came this morning to lay the rugs in the Tibbetses' house. Dorothy isn't feeling well; she has been having dizzy spells today and yesterday. Mary went over to help anyway she could. The children have been in and out of my place; I gave them a stick of gum. Donna made me some toast and Cream of Wheat Cereal for my brunch, and a sliced banana. Donna Story phoned; she has some tomatoes that need canning. She told Donna she could have them if she wanted, so Mary and Donna went for them this morning; they'll can them. Mary brought five packages of gum with the 75¢ I gave her. Now I'm in business again. My little great grand kiddies come in and ask me for gum (seven sticks in a package for 15¢.) Our well water is brownish from adding the tanks of water, so Donna has placed an order for some bottle distilled water, plus the stand, but we have to wait for it. She bought a small bottle, she put in the refrigerator, for us to drink. Nearly all of the farm neighbors buy their drinking water; they can't depend on the wells for clear, clean water always. I gave Donna two \$5.00 bills to put in the wedding day cards, one for Christopher Jones and bride, and one to Charlie Renshaw's daughter and groom. Donna took care of writing the notes and sending the cards, bless her. Mary brought a box full of pictures from Dorothy's house. She wants to mount them in a picture album, so they'll be easy to look at and enjoy. Donna brought my tray this evening with Lima beans and ham, salad, tomatoes, ice cream and cake. Rex and Donna listened to the ten o'clock news with me tonight, there is no rain in store for us.



August 5, Thursday

*I got up and dressed and did my best to make myself look useful.
I combed my hair and said my prayer and took my Metamucil.
I joined my family and Donna said, "You look as fresh as a daisy,
But I thought to myself, "Oh I feel so darn weak and lazy.*

Little Jody is allergic to something here on the farm; his poor face and eyes are swollen dreadfully. Overbrook's only doctor is away on vacation, so Mary made an appointment to see another doctor at three o'clock in Osage City. Jody has had this same problem once or twice before. Grandpa Guy thought it might be poison ivy or poison oak? Whatever it is, it is horrible. He has some lumps on his body that look like hives to me. It came on sudden; he looked alright this morning. Mary and Donna decided to celebrate Jon's birthday this evening, as he will not be here on the 7th. Mary made a banana nut cake; she is going to frost it with whipped cream, as Jon doesn't like frostings made of sugar. I walked to the kitchen at 5 p.m. Jon's cake looks beautiful Mary had just put the whipped cream on it. The doctor said Jody is allergic to something. He says he should take the allergy tests and learn what is causing it. That takes a lot of money and time. The Guy Tibbetses are not coming to dinner here tonight. She doesn't feel well enough; Guy has made some stew for them. Mary will

take them some cake. Donna has been canning tomatoes in the basement all afternoon. I answered Violet's letter this afternoon. We all enjoyed Jon's lovely birthday dinner at 7 p.m. We had pork chops, yellow squash, and green beans. We had some rain last night and lightning and thunder, and a little shower this afternoon but not much. P.S. Jon's birthday cake was delicious; he received several nice gifts of shirts, slacks, garments, and etcetera.

August 6, Friday

It cooled off a lot last night; we had a north wind blowing. It felt good to pull up the extra cover. Julie arranged a face on the bathroom tile top from my earrings and my hair ornaments. She has fun and I enjoy her art work! Donna went with Rex to Overbrook and Topeka this morning to investigate a plastering job. Jon T. has been helping his parents with jobs in their house. Dorothy isn't feeling much better, she is still having dizzy spells. Mary went over to help Jon after she brought my lunch to me (egg, toast, and hot chocolate). Donna came in later with that adorable baby Brian, and his happy smile. I've never seen a baby smile as much as he does, so precious. Little Jody's face looks more normal today, his eyes are not as swollen. It has been cooler today; I haven't suffered from the heat. We've had sunshine, too. I got a birthday card ready for my step-sister, Doris Davies; her day is August 25. I'm very fond of Doris, she is a nice person. It is too early to mail yet, so I'll keep it here a few days. There is a pleasant aroma coming from Marshes' kitchen. What's cooking? It was a beef roast and we ate our lovely dinner about 6 p.m. John and Ann Marsh phoned from Salt Lake City tonight. He wanted to tell Mary that her friends, Linda and Leon Crowley have moved to Salt Lake. Rick Shattuck was visiting with John and Ann from BYU. He talked to Donna and said he wanted to come to visit her at Thanksgiving time. He is a sweet kid. I hope he can come. Good night all, I'm weary. P.S. Mary and Jon took the children home this evening after eating dinner about 6:30. They left Spencer here on the farm with Grama Donna.



Flag that
Elvie drew in
her diary on
August 8.

August 7, Saturday

Happy birthday, Jonathan Tibbets.

*Remembering your birthday, and you, gives me the nicest feeling!
A versatile fine young man as you, is indeed very appealing.*

We celebrated Jon's birthday last Thursday evening while we could all be together here. Donna and Spencer walked over to see how Grama and Grampa Tibbets were feeling. They were both feeling sick and in bed. She is still too dizzy to get up; he has backache and a temperature. A very depressing household. Donna brought a roast beef sandwich to me and some salad and cake. We have a very pleasant day, it is calm, clear, and cool. Rex left for work about 2:25 p.m. He'll work from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Manor Nursing Home in Overbrook. He looks so nice in his white outfit. Spencer came in a few times; **he likes to talk about the picture I drew**⇒ for him and the story I made up as I drew it. Oh, there is a huge black spider on my front window, outside. Ugh! I hope it stays outside; I'm not comfortable with spiders. Spencer entertained himself looking at books in the basement for a

while. Donna was really tired; she had a poor night's rest. So, she took a short nap this afternoon. I dozed in my chair. She came in later and vacuumed my rooms and cleaned the bathroom. I helped do the dusting, but my chest and shoulder blades hurt a lot. I feel discouraged at times. Spencer was full of pep and slowed Grama Donna's progress. She took him with her to take some Jello to the Tibbetses, and also for a ride to see the horses in the lower field.

August 8, Sunday

Donna took Spencer with her to Sunday School and the sacrament meeting that followed; it was her long day, as she had a Relief Society business meeting after church. She took a lunch for little Spencer. It was a long session for the little fellow. Rex had to be at work in the Manor Nursing Home by 2 p.m. so he didn't get to church today. He went over to check on Guy and Dorothy Tibbets before he left for work. Not much change over there, both are feeling miserable. Oh, I do wish they felt better. I am concerned about them. I fixed myself a tuna sandwich, a glass of orange juice, and a piece of cake for my brunch. I enjoyed some lovely music played on my Magnavox player, while I ate and relaxed in my chair. We have a south-east wind today. I wish we could have the rain this farmland needs so badly. My chest and shoulder blades are giving me some discomfort again today; it makes me feel weak and ill at times. However, I am blessed for my age, or, considering my years. I'll be 84 years old in four months. Donna and Spencer came home about 4:10 p.m. and from then on, we have had action. He is full of energy. I gave him some gum and Donna played his favorite record with, "It's a Grand Old Flag" on and he sings it so well. They walked over to see Grama and Grampa Tibbets, then they came home and took a nap. Donna fixed a TV tray for me about 7 p.m.; she ate with me. She woke Spencer up and fed him then played his favorite songs on the piano. He sang along. He cried when she stopped playing to do the dishes. Rex phoned at 8:30 and wanted Donna to come to the Manor Home so he could take her blood pressure. She took Spencer with her. The blood pressure is a little high, she hates to have it taken, it is so painful for her. I know, I hate it, too.



Drawing Elvie did for Spencer in May that he still talked about in August.

August 9, Monday

We had a warm night with some wind. I rested fairly well. Donna took Dorothy Tibbets to her appointment in Overbrook to see the doctor. Donna made the appointment for her this morning. Rex took care of Spencer. Dorothy has a low blood count, causing anemia which causes the dizzy spells and weakness. He prescribed some medication for her. I surely hope she'll feel better now. Donna brought me my plate lunch at 1 p.m., with a bacon and tomato sandwich, applesauce, and milk. I enjoyed it while watching television. Spencer was in a couple of times this morning; this afternoon he is in the basement apartment with Donna. She read stories to him; he got mad when she quit. He gets lonesome and wants to be entertained, but there is work to be done, too. I'm sorry I'm no help. I think Donna canned some tomatoes today. We have a warm, strong breeze from the south this afternoon. Rex went to work at the Manor Nursing Home today from 3 to 11 p.m. Donna and Spencer came in my suite this evening to watch television for a while. Our restless boy needs some toys to play with. I wish we had something to entertain him while we watch television. He isn't interested in that, and I get tired of drawing pictures to keep him happy. He is a cute little talker; I do love him. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Our old world is full of problems. I'm so very thankful for the Gospel of Jesus Christs of Latter-day Saints, to help me and my children endure.

August 10, Tuesday

Donna, Rex, and Spencer went to town this morning in the truck; they came home about noon. She bought a refill Paper Mate pen and some jelly beans for me to have to treat the children when they come. The jelly beans make me think of my sister Lorene; she nearly always had some on hand to treat the kiddies and us. She loved them, too. They cost 69¢ for a 10-ounce bag. The refill pen cost 79¢. So, I owe Donna \$1.48 plus tax. She and Rex have gone to get some water for the well, I presume. I'm writing with the new refill now. We have a strong wind from the south. I hope it will bring some rain to this dry land. I ate Rice Krispies, milk, toast, sliced banana, and fresh peaches. Donna brought a TV tray to me. I ate and watched television, lucky me! It is really hot again today and it takes the sap out of me. Spencer went over to see Grandma Dorothy, this afternoon. Donna says she feels a little better today. Donna mailed my birthday card and money to Janet Shattuck this morning. Her day is August 14. We had a storm warning on TV this evening, saying a severe electrical storm and strong winds were headed our way. The wind blew hard from the north, about 6 p.m. It did cool the hot weather off, but didn't bring the needed rain to our parched farmland. It is 10:30 p.m. and it is calm and warm. Donna put up my windows before she went to bed. I'm going to bed and hope to get some sleep. Good night. P.S. The wind blew Tibbetses' front door shut and they couldn't get it open. He came over to get Rex to help him get the door working again. (I think it was the front door, but not sure.)

August 11, Wednesday

We had some strong wind and some lightning and thunder in the night, but no rain. It is blowing from the south this

morning. I saw little Spencer playing on Rex's tractor this morning. The little fellow gets lonesome without his brothers and sister to play (or fight) with. ☺ It is cloudy and blowing now at 12:30 noon. Donna has been typing Relief Society notes and her little grandson is no help. He wants her to talk to him. I wish I could entertain him, but he is far too active for my worn-out nerves. If I make it to December 5, I'll be 84 years old. Donna made a tuna fish sandwich for my brunch and for Spencer's lunch. I had applesauce and milk, too. We have a TV warning that says there is a severe electrical storm headed our way. It seems cloudy and calm night now at 3:30 p.m. I enjoyed listening to Donna play the piano and Spencer singing. For a little fellow, he has quite a repertoire of songs he can sing and he has a sweet voice. (He is three years old.) They came in to visit me for a short while, but he was so wound up he just couldn't sit still and listen to a pretty record that Donna wanted us to hear, so she took him to the basement apartment where he could unwind a little. Rex phoned from work about 6 p.m. He said they're having a severe electrical storm in Overbrook with a heavy downpour of rain. He thought it was headed our way and was concerned about us. We watched the lightning and heard thunder, but rain? A few big drops on our windowpane was all we got and the storm passed over head. Too bad when we need the rain so much. Donna brought me a cold lemonade tonight; it was good. P.S. Rex brought some split cashew nuts to me tonight. They are my favorite nuts. ☺

August 12, Thursday

We did have a nice downpour of rain in the night. Rex came in to check my windows. We are all thankful for the rain and no wind, lightning, or thunder. I saw Dorothy T. burning papers in the incinerator in our backyard, so I'm glad she is feeling better. She has been ill for a week or so with dizziness. I went to the kitchen and fixed myself some brunch. Donna and Spencer were asleep in the living room. Later, Donna brought a letter from Blanche H. She read it to me. She had a letter from John L. and Ann, too. She read it to me; he had enclosed some pictures of his home and others he had taken. I surely enjoyed both letters; sorry I haven't the space to record them and their news, but, one little page will not do it. Spencer came in for some jelly beans this afternoon about 3:45 p.m. The sun was shining but the sky was cloudy and it is too warm for comfort. Rex received a gift from John and Ann; a lovely book, I do not know the name of the book, but I think it concerns KSL's Broadcasting system. It was autographed for John. Mary phoned and told Donna about the county fair they're having. She and Jon had a booth selling something. The children were having fun going to all the free concessions; they went to a free movie given by some religious order; it was about **Hell, Fire, and Damnation!** The children were invited to go into a room and be saved, by confession, to Jesus Christ. Julie and Greg came out, but little Jody went with the lady to be saved. I think he is 5 years old. It upset Mary a little until she heard her mother laugh and then she laughed, too. Well, little Jody is saved.



August 13, Friday

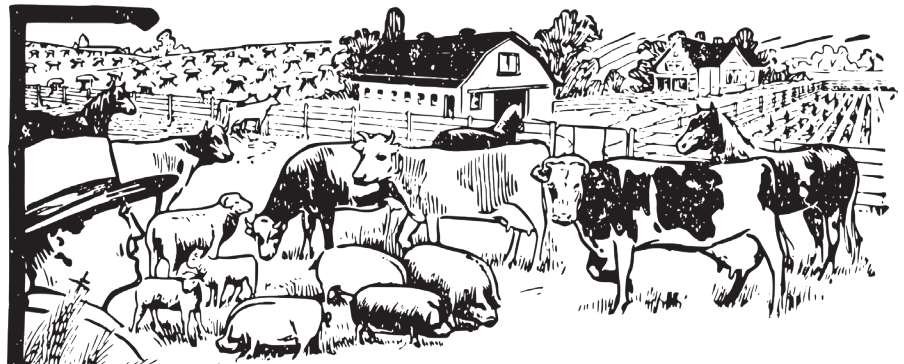
I rested fairly well last night. It was too warm for comfort. It is going to be another hot day. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets went to Overbrook in their car this morning. I'm glad they are well enough to drive out again. Donna's Relief Society counselor, Jeanne Brooks, phoned this morning to tell Donna that her mother is very ill and must go to the hospital. I'm sorry about that. Jeanne is very upset. Her mother is 75 years old; I think. Donna brought my brunch to me at noon, a scrambled egg, toast, milk, and applesauce. Spencer had the same thing for his lunch. The wind is blowing from the south this morning. Our sky is overcast. Rex went over to Tibbetses' to help Guy move his freezer. Donna put clean sheets on my bed this morning. In all my years of living, this is my first home without a front door that opens on to a porch, with no cement sidewalks, or a driveway, or roads, with no lawns or flower gardens. There are no neighbors with rows of pretty homes to see. Yes, it is indeed different for me. Donna calls it "pioneering" and she is right about that. It is a bit late in life for me to try pioneering, eh? Little Spencer keeps Grama Donna on her toes keeping him entertained and out of my suite. I love the little fellow, but he is too much for me to cope with. I do make him happy with jelly beans or candy corn, when he comes in, but his Grama Donna does a good job of keeping him out with her. Something smells good. I think Donna is frying chicken. Rex is working on his stucco job in Paola today. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about 6:30 pm. Mm good! Fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, peas, tomatoes, and custard. I went to bed at 11 p.m.

August 14, Saturday

*Happy birthday to Janet Shattuck, 40 years old.
Whoops! There goes another year, Janet dear,
To join with the other years gone before.
May each year bring success to you and yours,
With "peace of mind" and happiness galore.
We love you, happy birthday.*



I had a hard time getting to sleep last night. I knew Donna couldn't sleep either, because she was in the kitchen with the light on, reading, I presume? It was too warm for comfort; I took a bath before going to bed so I could be nice and clean to get in my fresh sheets that Donna put on my bed yesterday. We have a cloudy day. I can hear thunder, but no rain so far. Donna brought my brunch at noon, a chicken sandwich, orange juice, milk, and a slice of very sweet cantaloupe. It was delicious! I think she bought it this morning in Overbrook. Little Spencer is visiting his grandparents in the Tibbetses' house. I watched him running over to their house. I wore my new yellow blouse today for the first time. It's a light shade of yellow and I like it. Janet is in our thoughts; we hope she is enjoying her birthday. She is a darling girl. August is half



ELVIE'S VIEW OF LIFE ON THE FARM

"In all my years of living, this is my first home without a front door that opens on to a porch, with no cement sidewalks, or a driveway, or roads, with no lawns or flower gardens. There are no neighbors with rows of pretty homes to see. Yes, it is indeed different for me. Donna calls it "pioneering" and she is right about that.

It is a bit late in life for me to try pioneering, eh?" —Elvie

gone already! We'll have the Republican Convention going soon on all of the TV stations and I get bored with so much of it. I can hear Spencer in the basement, I think. I can't make up my mind if he is laughing or crying. Oh, this has been a long, lonesome day for me. I can't see well enough to embroider, or crochet like I used to do, or to read for more than a few minutes. Writing in the diary is different, because I only do a line or two at a time. It's the tear ducts that cause my problem. My eyes keep watering so I cannot see too well when I try to read or sew. Oh, happy day! Kathy did indeed make our day have a happy ending. She drove from Houston, Texas, by herself.

August 15, Sunday

Rex was surprised when he came from work last night and saw Kathy here! We really did receive a surprise last evening when Kathy arrived here at our farm house from Houston, Texas. Her husband, Mark Calkins, is in San Jose with Janet and Dave investigating some work there. Our branch visiting brothers came last evening, Br. Jack Story and Br. Earnest Hall. Br. Story brought his big picture screen and some slides to show us. It was concerning the Bi-centennial program and a picture of the Relief Society birthday cake. Donna, Kathy, and Spencer went to Sunday School and church. Rex stayed home and slept. I stayed in bed until almost noon. Our folks went in Dorothy's car with her. Rex was still in bed at 1 p.m. when I went to the kitchen. He got up soon after, at 1:30 p.m. My left eye is giving some trouble again today. It is itching and is a bit inflamed. Both eyes water a lot. I went to the kitchen to eat dinner with Donna, Kathy, and Spencer about 3 pm. Rex had gone to work at the Manor Nursing Home. We had pork roast, rice that Kathy brought from Texas, cheese sauce, corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, and

chocolate pudding with whipped cream. Spencer got a little out of hand after dinner, so he had to take a (rebellious) nap. Kathy washed the dishes and Donna wiped them. I sat in the big rocker and watched them work. We all took a nap this afternoon. I wore my yellow flowered brooch and earrings today and Spencer wanted to know why I didn't wear the blue set that I've been wearing. There is very little he misses, eh? ☺ This evening Donna and Kathy brought a couple of stacks of plastic buckets and lids for storing food, like rice and other grain. I think Kathy brought some rice from Texas. The buckets were in Dorothy's car. I washed a few dishes tonight while Donna helped Kathy unpack and sent the things she wants to keep. I sat in the garage this evening and watched Kathy unpack some of her boxes. The mice had been in them. The papers they were wrapped in were full of holes. She is putting new wrappings on the things she wants to keep. She moved a trunk and a big fat mouse jumped out. We both moved away as fast as we could, ha ha.

August 16, Monday

My family left this morning about ten o'clock. They went in Kathy's car and were going to Kansas City to shop and to some other city? Rex had to buy material for a job he is doing. They'd been gone only a few minutes when our water was off and the well dry. It is frustrating to this old gal! Guy Tibbets came over to ask if our water was off. He and Dorothy were upset. He drove to the well and came back to report to me, "The well has gone dry," He is sorry they ever left California (me too). I'm sorry I can't wash the dishes in Donna's sink. I gave Kathy \$20.00 to do some shopping for me. I needed to get some change, too. I ate a sliced banana and some dry cereal, some milk, and cranberry juice for my brunch. We have a wind from the south, we do need some rain. It is depressing to see **Guy Tibbets so discouraged**. I'm trying hard to be cheerful, (and it ain't easy.) Ha ha! I enjoyed this evening with the family. I greeted them with Kathy's black wig on my head, we had fun. It was a shock to see this old Grama in that wig! Joan phoned this evening; we may have a visit from her while Kathy is here. We are expecting Mary and family on Wednesday, so we'll have some activity around here. Rex hauled a couple of tanks of water to the well while it was still light, and then we could draw water from the taps again. So, all is well, with the well. Well, well, that is good news, eh?



1946 Aunt Lydia Paul and her daughters, Ruth Nutt, Melba Newhausen, and Elizabeth Burkhardt Newhausen. In August 1976 Ruth got to dance with Lawrence Welk.

August 17, Tuesday

It was warm last night so I was restless and awake a lot, but not in any pain and that is a blessing! It's going to be a hot day. Rex spent the morning hauling tanks of water to the well. Kathy and Spencer went on a trip or two with him. Donna made some hotcakes for my brunch; that is the first pancakes I've had in a long time and I enjoyed them. Later, Donna, Kathy, and Spencer drove to the market to grocery shop in Overbrook. Rex was taking a nap in the living room. Kathy brought me a 6 oz. bottle of Extend Mouthwash. She heard me say I'd like to try it. It cost 97¢ plus tax, nice of her, eh? Today's mail had a letter from Violet. She'd had a lot of family visiting because of the Fife reunion in Cedar. Dolores and her family and Yvonne and her family had been; she was overjoyed to have them. Violet says that Lydia is visiting with her daughter Mick right now. Gene didn't go with her. Donna went to the basement to do some ironing and took Spencer with her. She tried to talk me into going downstairs, too. After our dinner, Rex and Kathy went horseback riding. I came in my hot, little place and listened to "The Boston Pops Orchestra," with Arthur Fiedler conducting. It was a very good program. P.S. Violet's letter said that **Ruth Paul Nutt went to see Lawrence Welk** in person in California. He asked Ruth to dance with him. After the dance, he kissed her; she was thrilled! Ruth is still beautiful at 70 years of age.



Rex Marsh and Jon Tibbets working on Guy and Dorothy's house. August 16, Guy is very unhappy about the lack of water and wishes they had not moved here. Interesting to think that Rex didn't seem to express the same sentiments?

August 18, Wednesday

Good morning! Kathy came to my bed about 9:40 and tempted me with a hot jelly tart she'd made. I told her I'd get up and eat it, but I wanted a cup of hot Postum to go with it. I had a nice, sweet piece of cantaloupe on my tray, also. I'm the lucky one, eh? The jelly tart was delicious. It reminded me of the jelly tarts that John L. made for us when we were in the big camper truck he had a few months ago. Our Relief Society visiting teacher, Sr. Jeanne Bickerstaff, and her two daughters came this morning. Her husband stayed outside and talked to Rex. The little girls were active in investigating things, but Mama gave her message on "Financial Management," it talked about living within our means. They then went to the Marshes' kitchen, for a treat Donna had for them. Jeanne and her girls have pretty dimples. Last night I had a little firefly or lightning bug in my bedroom; it interested me for a while as it streaked across the dark top of my dark room. It went around in circles before it shut off its light. It is very quiet around here this afternoon. I wonder where my family is? Donna brought me a bacon and tomato sandwich and a glass of milk about three o'clock;

it is 3:40 now. I think I'll stretch out on my bed. I had a nice nap; I got up at 6 p.m. Donna had dinner all ready when our Tibbets family arrived about 7 p.m. There was a lot of happy family reunion activity; they were delighted to see Spencer and he was overjoyed to see his family. I was overwhelmed with the whole thing, ha ha! Mary and Jon brought food and beautiful peaches. Dorothy T. came over for a few minutes. Mary gave me an adorable picture of **Brian (6 months old)** in color. It fits in my little holder with the other great grand children's pictures. Mary has the miserable hives, the poor dear.



August 19, Thursday

It seems a bit cooler today. I ate lunch in the kitchen with Donna. Mary and Kathy had gone to Overbrook to shop. Rex and Jon bought a big tank and used it to put water in the well, so we can have water here on the farm. Later, they went to the stucco job in Paola. Mary is suffering with a bad backache, plus the miserable hives. I do wish she felt well. Mary and Kathy did the washing at the laundromat in Overbrook because of our well water shortage. Joan has decided not to come to the farm this summer since we have the water problem. The pretty sunflowers are not blossoming out this August because of no rain. The buds are drying up on the plants. Donna brought me a dish of ice cream to cool off this afternoon. This evening, Kathy and Mary and the children took the truck with the new water tank to get some water for the well. Donna got baby Brian to sleep; it was getting dark, so she took a couple of flashlights to the well. She walked down. Rex and Jon came along before the girls did and she got in their car. I watched from my bedroom window. I got nervous because they were gone so long. I feared something had gone wrong. Oh, the miserable thoughts that one old brain can come up with. Well, all's well that ends well. My family came home to tell that there is more water in the well. Mary and Kathy came to visit with me tonight; I enjoyed that. Julie was here, also. Good night. P.S. The Republican convention has taken over the television stations now and I get tired of that confusion after a while.

August 20, Friday

I sent a birthday card to Doris Davies today. She is my sweet stepsister. Her day is August 25. We have an overcast morning and it is cooler. I enjoy that! Donna and her girls are canning peaches in the basement apartment. I enjoyed the nice brunch that Donna brought to me on a TV tray, egg, toast, orange juice, milk, and sliced peaches. I couldn't get to sleep last night until the wee hours, almost daylight, so I feel a bit dumpy today. I'm glad Mary's back isn't as painful as

it was yesterday. The little Tibbets boys have been playing in the sand pile this morning. Rex and Jon are working in Paola, on the stucco job. This afternoon, Kathy took the Tibbets boys to swim somewhere in Overbrook, I think. Julie didn't go because she has the cast on her left arm and can't go swimming. She came in my suite and ate jelly beans and watched television with me I gave her a stick of gum so she tried to be happy. I watched the crazy "Flint Stones" show, because she wanted it. Ugh! Later she came back in my place and looked through one of my picture albums. Kathy and the Tibbets boys came home from the swim about 5 p.m. and Julie had some activity going again. Donna brought a letter from Janet for me to read. She enclosed a clipping from the Santa Clara Valley newspaper about a man by the name of Elvie Erb who passed away at 54 years of age. His initials

are ERB. I am EBR. Well, he's a dead L.V. ERB, eh? Mark Calkins is with the Shattucks and wishing Kathy was with him. Kathy wishes she was with him, also. We had creamed chicken with peas, carrots, and dumplings for our dinner this evening. It was very good.

August 21, Saturday

Kathy and Donna went to Lawrence, Kansas to shop this morning. Mary and children are home with me. We have an overcast sky and a south wind. Rex had to work at the Manor Nursing Home today from 3 to 11 pm. I am indeed blessed to have such thoughtful grandchildren; I love them. I wish I felt better, so I could help with the work around here, but when I get myself dressed, my hair dressed, and my bed made, I'm so weak, I have to flop into my chair. It's a revolting situation! However, I am 83 years and 8 months old, so, I'm doing alright, I'd say. ☺ I want to answer Violet's letter, but my eyes water and blur my sight. Mary brought her hook rug in and worked on it to keep me company. I read Violet's and Blanche's letters to her. We had a nice visit until the children came to annoy (or bug) Mama with their problems. I gave them jelly beans to calm their frustrations (and mine). Donna and Kathy came home about 3:30 with the big flower pot to replant her fern in. Kathy bought some material and a pattern to make a dress for herself. Donna got some hand lotion for me, Jorgensen's, \$1.29 plus tax. Oh! Correction, Kathy is making the dress for her mother. She says she is leaving early in the morning for her home in Houston, Texas. I did get a letter written to Violet this evening. I feel much better now.

August 22, Sunday

Kathy came in this morning and packed her clothes; my precious family all came to my bed and knelt down to have

family prayer and to ask our Father in Heaven to bless Kathy that she would drive to her home in Houston, Texas, safely. It's a long, lonesome drive; takes about 13 hours. Kathy says that she and Mark will call on us in a month or so on their way to California where they hope to make their home. He is there now, investigating the job. Our well went dry; there was no water earlier this morning. Rex put three tank loads of water in the well and we have water in our taps again. It is a bit muddy looking, but it will clear up. That is life here in Kansas, on Marshes' Mound. We had too much activity this morning for anyone to go to conference, but they'll all go to sacrament meeting this afternoon (all but me). It is too much for me, too far, and complicated. My Father in Heaven understands. He knows I'd love to be in church. I do love the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but the long drive to that inadequate church is not for me. There are two flights of stairs to go down and up to the restroom. (No way!) I have my "Sweet Sabbath Day of Rest" at home with some lovely music by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on my Magnavox player. Donna brought a TV tray with dry cereal, milk, toast, and sliced peaches on. I went to the kitchen later and washed and dried their cereal bowls and fruit dishes. My shoulder blades hurt so bad, I had to sit in my chair for a while before I could finish the dishes. I won't say anything to my children about my pains (only for you, Diary). Mr. Darby came to talk to Rex about a horse Rex wants to sell. He says he will see him later when Rex is home. Donna brought a TV tray with my dinner, about 6:30 this evening (sliced baked ham, potato salad, peach Jello, and pumpkin pie with ice cream on). Donna and Rex went for a tank of water for the well tonight. Mary and her kiddies came in my suite last night and we had a fun time playing a record of old songs, twenty in all, to see how many they knew. I had their names written and I gave each one a check if they could sing any part of the song. Mary knew parts of all of them. Julie got 18, Greg 16, Jody 12, and little Spencer 6. He got tired and temperamental and Mary put him to bed. He really can sing cute for a 3-year-old. They all sing well and enjoyed our music game.

August 23, Monday

Donna and Dorothy did their Relief Society visiting teaching this morning. Mary brought a TV tray lunch to me, bless her heart. We have a hazy sunshine today, but it is warm. Donna and Dorothy came home about 3:45 p.m. I can hear the Tibbets kiddies in their vigorous play. I have a little gas distress in my stomach. I ate a Tums. This hot weather is hard on little old me. Tonight, the Tibbets children came and wanted to play the record game and sing along with the songs they knew. They really love to sing and get points for doing it. I gave each a stick of gum and a jelly bean. Everybody is happy. Good night.

August 24, Tuesday

Donna went to her Relief Society "work meeting" this morning. Mary drove to Overbrook to shop. She brought me a meatloaf sandwich and a cup of Postum for my brunch. Julie stayed in bed until almost ten o'clock. She sat up to hear the ten o'clock news last night. Well, this is vacation time; next month she'll be going to school and "Early to bed, early to rise." Little Jody cut me a bouquet of sunflowers after I told him I thought they were like pretty yellow daisies with big brown centers, and they are the Kansas State Flower, and not a weed. They look lovely in my yellow fan vase. It is a sticky, hot day. I'm so glad that Mary's back is better; she looks much better, too. Rex's friend has had my colored television set for several weeks. I presume he is enjoying it while he checks it over, but I miss it. Jon is working in his parents' home today, laying tile in the hall. Rex's lip is still swollen from the bee sting he got yesterday or Sunday? Mary took her baby to the doctor in Overbrook because of the rash on his little bottom. The doctor told her to boil his diapers as the water is not sterile enough or free from germs. Donna had some distilled bottle water, with the stand, brought to the farm today for drinking. This evening Mary and baby Brian came in to visit me and watch television. Donna came also for a while. Mary watched M*A*S*H with me. Oh, it is a sticky, hot night. Donna and I listened to a lovely orchestra musical program by young people.



Doris Davies, daughter of
Elsie and Lewis Strong. Elsie was
Owen A. Bailey's second wife.

August 25, Wednesday

Happy Birthday to Doris Davies, my step sister.

*Doris Dear, our wishes are the happy kind,
Because we've got you on our mind.
Happy birthday!*

It was too warm last night for my comfort; I couldn't get to sleep until almost daylight. Julie slept well, she made little sounds and she hit the bed with the cast on her arm, but it didn't disturb her sleep. Oh, the blessings of youth. Donna made a couple of pancakes for my brunch at noon. I enjoyed them and the sliced orange, and drink of milk while watching my TV stories. I received a letter from Ethel Newbold; she has sold her home in Salt Lake City and she is living with her son, Harold, and his wife, Margie, in Los Angeles. She couldn't live alone anymore because of the problems she has. She has had several bad falls. I think she is 86 years old. I'm glad she is in the Eltons' lovely home now. Her eyesight and hearing have almost gone. She says she is happy in California. Donna received a nice letter from Joan. I enjoyed reading it. They plan to stay in Illinois instead of coming here as planned. Our well water situation is bad this dry season. Rex and Jon haul tanks of water to the well every day. Oh, we do need some rain. We received a short, cute letter from Kathy. She was at work writing; she said she felt like she had driven around the world before she got home to Houston. It was a long old drag.

from here to her house in Houston. Ovena Mayo sent Donna a copy of the **East Pasadena Ward's, "Times and Seasons,"** July news of the ward family. There was a nice picture of Rex and Donna and me in it. It was taken in June when we were in California for Kathy and Mark's wedding. We had a delicious "Shake and Bake" dinner this evening. P.S. Julie came to look at a couple of my picture albums this afternoon; she was lonesome. Spencer dropped something on his foot this afternoon and split one of his toes to the quick. It was very painful.



August 26, Thursday

We surely enjoyed the lemon cake and whipped cream for dessert last night, after that good chicken, rice, and carrot dinner. Mary came in to get Julie up this morning about ten o'clock. I got up, too. Donna made waffles for breakfast; I ate a small one. Mary and Jon packed their VW bus. It is amazing how much they can pack into the bus before they pack the kiddies in! They drove away from the farm about noontime. They went to a farm nearby, to get five dozen eggs. They were going to leave one dozen in Marshes' mailbox for Donna. I did a little scrapbook work, mounting some pictures while listening to my TV stories. Donna went to the mailbox and Mary had left two dozen eggs there, or maybe it was Rex that brought the eggs home from the mailbox? I'm not sure.

August 27, Friday

It surely seems quiet with just Donna and myself here. We have another hot, windy day. Rex is working a double shift at the Manor Nursing Home today. Donna drove the pickup truck to the mailbox to mail some letters. I ate my brunch in my place at noon time. I slept much better last night with no little sounds from Julie hitting her head on the bed, or her mumbling in her sleep. It isn't that she is noisy, but I'm such a light sleeper; I hear every little thing. Donna spent most of her day cleaning up the basement apartment. I sat in Marshes' living room for a couple of hours and enjoyed the cool air from the air conditioner. A Topeka brother came to the farm this evening, Martin Prescott, or some such name. Rex had Martin's big table power saw and he came for it. Rex has had it here for about a year. Martin told him to keep it here, until he needed it and he'd come for it. It was so stuffy and hot in my suite that I went to the big living room where the air cooler is and I sat on the couch for a couple of hours. They have a lovely view from the big front window, looking over the south field. Tonight, I listened to the TV's Friday Night Movie, until I got disgusted with it and shut it off. It was titled "The Husband's Studio." It is hard to find something worth listening to on television anymore.

Lawrence Welk is the best entertainment show I've found so far. I do enjoy several other TV shows, too, "The Waltons," and "Mary Tyler Moore" and etcetera. I like all of the game shows, too.

August 28, Saturday

Donna left before 9 a.m. to go to a Relief Society business meeting in Kansas City, I think? Rex has been here on the farm. I ate some Ritz Crackers and a glass of milk for my brunch. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets went out in their car somewhere. It has been much cooler this morning and I'm enjoying the relief from the heat. I slept very well last night. Donna came home about two o'clock. She brought me some toast, peaches, and a glass of orange juice. She makes sure I eat something more than crackers and milk, bless her heart. We have a strong west wind this afternoon. It is blowing my curtains out over the extra twin bed. Rex fixed my TV stand so the shelf will stay in the groove. I think he glued it in place. I hope to have my television back soon. I miss my colored TV pictures. Donna rested on her bed for a while after lunch. I received a nice, long letter from Lydia yesterday. She told me about her lovely visit with her daughter Mick and granddaughter Wendie in California. She was there for three weeks and had a wonderful time, but was glad to be back home in "Good Ole Salt Lake" again. Gene didn't go to California with her and she missed him, too. I also got a letter from Ethel Newbold yesterday. [Actually received letter on August 25.] She has sold her old home and is living in California with her son Harold and his wife Margie Elton. She couldn't live alone anymore; she's had some bad falls and had to be taken to the hospital for stitches in her head. I took a nap this afternoon until time to hear "The Lawrence Welk Show," Donna came in to enjoy it with me. Donna cut a lovely bouquet of sunflowers for me this evening. They are very beautiful in my yellow fan vase. I am surely enjoying them.

August 29, Sunday

"Holy Sabbath, day of prayer," I love my Sabbath day; sorry I can't get out to church. But I'm so thankful my dear children can and do. I'm enjoying the pretty, bright yellow sunflowers Donna cut for me yesterday evening. They look so pretty growing all over the rock pile in our yard, where they are safe from the farmer and his tractor and the lady with her snippers. Kansas is proud of her state flower, and I am, too. I slept fairly well last night, but somehow, I feel very weak today. I didn't go to the kitchen for food as usual. This old swivel chair feels good and I'm not at all hungry. It is now 1:45 p.m. Rex and Donna just arrived home from church. She is busy preparing dinner, bless her heart. I went to the kitchen to eat with them about 2:30 p.m. They invited me to ride to Topeka with them this afternoon, to return the air cooler to the store they rented it from. I was tempted, but the weakness I felt made me realize I'd be better off here near my big chair and the bed. Sorry, but that is how it is. They left here at 3:20 p.m. She said they'd be back home in two hours. They drove that long way to find the store was closed and they had to bring the cooler back with them. Rex drove to Mrs. Forth's farm to get the lamb she said Rex could have. She and her daughter drove to the farm, to help Rex get the

lamb in the cow corral. They came in to say hello to Donna and me. Later, I rode with Donna to see the lamb. She made an eggnog and some toast for me when we got home. I ate a half peach and the piece of meatloaf she left at noon at 2:30. It hasn't been as hot today, but warm enough! P.S. Donna fried hamburgers for hers and Rex's sandwiches this evening. I didn't want any of it. I listened to TV for a while tonight.

August 30, Monday

I found a note from Donna in my chair. It read, "We have gone to take the air conditioner back and on an errand to Lawrence. We should be back around noon." I slept late because of a rather restless night. Rex and Donna came home at 11:50 a.m. and brought me something to eat. I enjoyed listening to the TV stories while I ate my lunch. We have an overcast day with wind from the south. I wish it would blow some rainclouds with wind from the south. We received a thank you note from Christopher and Suzanne Jones for their wedding gift from us; they used it to help buy some canisters for their kitchen. Rex was called in to work this afternoon at the Manor Nursing Home. This evening Donna came and read several chapters from the Ensign (church magazine). I enjoyed it so very much. I composed a little rhyme to the sun flower this afternoon. Here it is:

*My Ode to the Sunflower,
Lovely yellow sunflowers, growing
on our rock pile,
Like yellow daises, helping our
world to smile.
You have a big round center, of a
lovely rich brown,
With yellow, golden petals growing
all around.
You grow tall and stately, in a pile
of rocks and sod,
Your seeds were sown by the loving
hand of God.
You are safe there from the tractor
and the clippers, too,
And, I rejoice every time I look at
you. EBR*

I have fun with rhyming words to express my thoughts. It keeps my brain active anyway, and that is essential, eh? I'm glad for the cooler weather. Good night and sweet dreams.

August 31, Tuesday

We have a cool, cloudy morning for our last day of summer. There's a feeling of fall in the air. I like the cooler weather, but I sorta dread the freezing ice and snow season. Donna and Dorothy did their Relief Society visiting teaching this morning while I slept in my bed. Shame on me, old eighty-three, Donna brought my brunch to me, bacon, egg, toast, and Postum. Our wind is blowing from the south, I hope it will bring some rain. Donna brought milk, not Postum, and she

brought me a dish of cooked peaches, too; she is thoughtful of my needs. I watched the TV stories and enjoyed my swivel chair, too. This afternoon Donna vacuumed my rugs, dusted the furniture, cleaned my windows, washed and dried my curtains, and pressed and hung them up. She also washed my twin bed spreads. She is a worker, my darling Donna. I'm so very thankful for her. A lady came to look at the air cooler that Rex had put an ad in the paper to sell; she said she'd go home and measure her window to see if it will fit. I wonder if she'll come back? Tonight, Donna brought a TV tray with some vegetable soup, toast, milk, and chocolate cake before she and Rex went to a friend's home for a missionary meeting. Rex was the speaker. They came home about 9:30 p.m. Donna said it was a pleasant meeting.

*"Bye bye August, you're in the past,
And September, you have arrived at last!
What you have in store for us, time will tell.
We hope the days will come out well."*

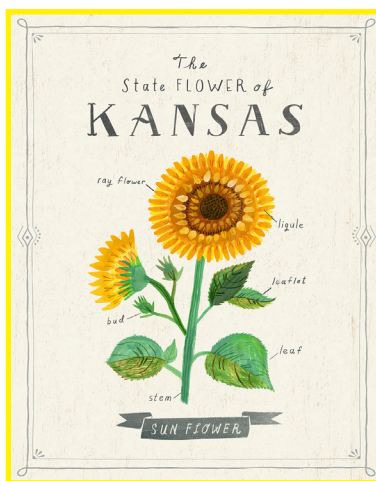
I received a letter from Violet. She enclosed a news clipping announcing the passing of George Lambert. He died August 22 at age 87. He is survived by his wife Edna [Donelson] and sons Norval, Richard, and Karl. P.S. Violet enclosed a letter from granddaughter Patty, and one from Lydia Paul. We enjoyed all three letters.

September 1, Wednesday

We have a cool, cloudy morning again today.

Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich, a dish of peaches, and a cup of Postum for my brunch. I ate and watched TV stories. My little suite looks so pretty and clean. I am indeed fortunate to have Donna to look after my needs; she gave this place a good cleaning yesterday. Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook this afternoon to shop at the market. I received a mail deposit slip from the Kansas State Bank. My Social Security check of \$281.40 has been deposited to my account.

Donna wrote a check for \$187 for our house payment. A young boy came to our door to ask if he could walk through our field to his friend's home. I told him it was okay. He walked through the south field near the trees north of the pasture. Donna bought a book of stamps, some Roloids tablets, and some gum drops for me. I did a little scrapbook work, but my back hurt so much I gave up and stretched out on my bed (a weary old gal). This evening Donna came to tell me dinner was ready. I went to the kitchen to eat with Rex and Donna. We had a nice steak, peas, and little new potatoes, tomatoes and lettuce with dressing, chocolate ice cream, and chocolate cake. (Sounds good, eh? It was.) Donna and Rex went to a neighbor's farm for eggs and for milk this evening. I sat on the couch in Marshes' living room for an hour or more enjoying the lovely view from their big



window. P.S. Rex has hauled several tanks of water to the well today to keep it from going dry. Good night.

September 2, Thursday

Donna left a note in my chair saying she had gone to a presidency meeting in Paola and she should be home around 1 p.m. or 2 p.m. I got up at 11 a.m. and got myself and my suite in order and then I went to the kitchen to get something to eat. We have a pleasant day, a gray blue sky and hazy sunshine. I'm glad to have cooler weather. I brought my tray to my place to eat and watch TV. I ate Rice Krispies, Ritz crackers, peanut butter, and milk. I'm very thankful I can serve myself. Donna came home at 2:20 p.m. She bought a birthday card for me to send to Mark Calkins, his day is September 15. I can hear Donna talking to someone in her kitchen, Dorothy Tibbets, I presume. Rex came home from work at 3:35 p.m. It was very quiet this afternoon. I presume they both rested. I stretched out on my bed for an hour or more to get relief from the pain in my shoulders and the heart location. I went to the kitchen at 6:30 p.m. to eat dinner with Rex and Donna. We had green peas, squash, macaroni and cheese, and chocolate ice cream and cake. Donna wouldn't let me help with the dishes, so I came back to my pillow padded chair and listened to television ("Hawaii Five-O," **"Barnaby Jones,"** and the ten o'clock news report). It is warm tonight; I hope we can rest well. Goodnight.

September 3, Friday

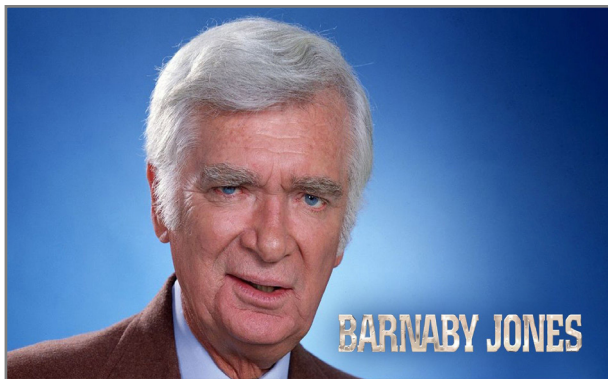
We have a hazy day with a south wind. I rested well last night. Rex went to work at the nursing home this morning. It was dark when he drove away. Donna brought my alarm clock to me at 9:30 a.m. I got up at 11 a.m. and dressed myself and my hair, powdered my face, and said my prayer. Donna made a tuna fish sandwich and some Postum for us both (her lunch, my brunch). Dorothy brought the mail to us today; there was a letter from Joan and one from Kathy. Donna read them to me. It is always fun to hear from our dear children; sorry I can't record them in my little diary page. Kathy sent Donna a stainless-steel scouring pad. She heard her mom say she couldn't buy them here. She is something! I ate dinner in the Marshes' kitchen, with Rex and Donna this evening. She went with Rex to feed the horses and cows, and to get a tank full of water for the well. I watched television after dinner and sat up to watch the "Tonight Show." It was a good program, I enjoyed it. We are expecting Jon Tibbets and Spencer tonight about midnight. Donna has their bed all ready for them. I heard them drive in the yard soon after I went to bed. So, all is well in this household. Goodnight and sweet dreams.

September 4, Saturday

We have a warm, hazy morning, no wind. Jon went with Rex to Paola to work on the stucco job. Donna entertained Spencer. She read stories to him, took him to the south field to see the lamb, and to the mailbox to mail letters. He is visiting Grandma Dorothy now, at 12:30 noon. Donna brought a tuna sandwich and Postum to me for my brunch. Bless her, we keep her busy, eh? She has been looking through my old Relief Society Magazines for interesting articles to use. I had four or five years saved and tied up



Once again Spencer remembered and wanted to talk about the picture Elvie drew for him.



each year. We do not have the Relief Society Magazine anymore; it is all in the church Ensign Magazine. Spencer came to see me when he came from Tibbetses'. He enjoyed the little gum drops I had in a jar for him. And, **he** talked about the picture I drew to entertain him a few months ago. I have it pasted in this diary book in the front. I answered Lydia Paul's letter and Violet Fife's letter this afternoon. Donna played the piano and little, 3-year-old Spencer sang for her; he really has a sweet voice and he loves to sing. I love to

hear him sing, too. Donna talked me into going to the basement at 6 p.m. tonight to watch the Lawrence Welk television show in color, and where it is much cooler. I ate my dinner from a TV tray while down there and I enjoyed a few more television programs in the basement. Rex and Jon came home from Paola about 9:30 tonight; they were tired from a hard day's work. I got interested in the Saturday night movie, starring Elizabeth

Taylor and Eddie Fisher. Silly old me, I sat up to the end, after midnight, but it was a good movie.

September 5, Sunday

Jon and Spencer left for home in Nebraska this morning. Donna and Dorothy went to Sunday School and church in Dorothy's car. Rex was called in to work at the nursing home early this morning. I took a shower bath when I got up about 11:30 a.m. I was so exhausted after the bath, I had to relax before I could comb my hair and make my bed. Donna came home soon after 1:30 p.m. She brought a tray of food to me, (too much as usual). She is fasting all day. She says I'm too old to fast all day. Rex came home soon after three o'clock. Donna read to me from the Ensign magazine about the Book of Mormon study that our Relief Society is working on. I really enjoy it when she reads to me from our church books (or any book). It is sunny and warm today, no wind. I'm thankful for that. The "Big Blow" annoys me. I answered Blanche Hoglund's letter and Ethel Newbold's letter. Our Branch visiting brothers came this afternoon, Brothers Jack Story and Ernest Hall. They left a nice message and a prayer in our home. Donna went with Rex this evening to get some

water for the well. I sat in my chair and fanned myself. Later, I went to the kitchen and fixed a little snack to eat; it was about 7 p.m. Rex and Donna were hauling water to the well. I listened to television until after the ten o'clock news. Good night. P.S. I watched "The Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon" all evening. It was an interesting program and for a wonderful cause, too.

September 6, Monday

It was warm until the wee hours this morning. Then, I got some good sleep. Rex went to work early, before it was daylight. He had to be there at 6 a.m. It is cooler today or seems so. Donna brought a TV tray to me at noontime; she is very thoughtful of my needs. I made out my church donation check for \$12.00 and I got Mark Calkins's birthday card ready to mail. His day is September 15. Donna is typing, I can hear the busy keys going. It is getting too warm for comfort this afternoon. The Jerry Lewis telethon is going strong all day on TV. I'm going to stretch out on my bed for a while. Donna just brought an ice-cold drink of water to me, bless her. Now, for the nap. I got up to eat with Rex and Donna at six o'clock. It was too warm to rest very well anyway. After dinner Donna went with Rex to feed the animals. Donna thinks the cow, Rebecca, is about ready to deliver her calf. Poor Rebecca in this hot weather. I watched the Dick Van Dyke previews of his new variety series this fall. I enjoyed tonight's show. He is a good entertainer. It is now 10:25, Rex and Donna have gone to bed and I'm on my way. Good night. P.S. I wish it was cooler. We did have a little home evening in my place tonight. Rex gave the lesson from the Home Evening manual and Donna read from the Book of Mormon. Rex ate ice cream and cake after the meeting. Donna and I didn't want any dessert.

Mary and Kathy wonder what their parents were thinking by this time. They had been living on the farm for two years, there is no hog business in sight, they struggle for everything including water, and Rex's job was one he could have found in California. But somehow the glass must have still looked half full and not half empty. Maybe Rex focused on the lower property taxes, the chance to live on forty acres, and the adventure of it all?

September 7, Tuesday

It was cool this morning, a pleasant relief. Rex took the truck and tank to put more water in the well. I got up about eleven o'clock. I stay in bed as long as I can to shorten my day and save Donna fixing breakfast for me. She'd be happy to do it, but I don't need three meals a day now. Dorothy has been out in her car a couple of times. You see, I keep track of my neighbor's goings and comings, too. Well, what else is there for me to do for entertainment? Exciting, eh? Some happy day I will be with my own beloved generation. I try to be cheerful and abide my release. I am thankful for the many blessings I do receive. This afternoon is too warm for comfort. I wish I had my own colored television back; I do miss it. Rex's barber friend has had it a long-time, testing tubes and etcetera. I'm wondering why it takes so long? There was a cute letter from Kathy today. Donna read it to me. We hope to see her and Mark in a few weeks, on their way from Houston, Texas, to their new home in

California. The pretty sunflowers are dropping their yellow petals on the pile of rocks. Just the big round centers are left to sway on the stately stocks. It makes me feel a bit sad to see the lovely flowers go. But next summer they'll be back and make another lovely show. Rex brought his cow, Rebecca, up near the house to have her calf, in case she needs help. We hope all will go well with her and her calf. It's a nice feeling to have all of my letters answered. Donna mailed them this morning at the post office. Rex ground wheat this morning and Donna baked some whole wheat bread this afternoon. She brought me a taste of the warm bread; Mm good. Pioneers, eh? P.S. I ate dinner with Rex and Donna this evening, we had fried chicken, Mm good!

September 8, Wednesday

We have a wind from the west this morning. It was warm last night until the early morning here and then it was more comfortable. I rested fairly well, but oh, the crazy dreams I do have. Ugh! The weather report last night said there was a chance of rain today, but no showers so far. It is now 12:15 noon. Donna brought a nice brunch to me, a chicken sandwich, hot chocolate, tapioca pudding, and cake. Lucky old L.V.; I watched the TV stories while eating. It is getting warm so I presume we'll have a hot afternoon. Donna went out in the truck with Rex to get water for the well and other business they took care of. I sat in Marshes' big living room and enjoyed the view of the south field. I also watched Rebecca, the cow, as she ate her hay and chewed her cud and swished flies away with her tail. She is up near the house until her calf is born. Donna baked whole wheat bread again this afternoon. She is freezing as much bread as she can bake while they have Joan's wheat grinder here. The bread is good, too. We ate some for our dinner this evening. We had chili and beans for our dinner with some Jello fruit salad and ice cream and cake. Donna and I watched "The Telephone Jubilee," a two-hour program, with Bing Crosby and Liza Minnelli hosting. It was a variety special, saluting the 100th anniversary of the telephone. We have a strong wind from the north tonight and it is much cooler. Good night, I'm a bit weary.

September 9, Thursday

*I feel lonesome and blue,
With nothing to do,
But sit in my pillow padded chair,
And long to be with my loved ones "over there."
If I could read a book,
Or make something with my
crochet hook,
I could enjoy this quiet repose,
but goodness knows,
I just sit here and doze,
And dream of what used to be.
You'll understand when you are (half
passed) eight three.
Just wait and see!
Writing in rhyme,
Helps pass the time,
It's a silly little quirk,*



*But keeps me from going berserk.
I love my pretty little suite,
It's nice and neat,
But I sit here day after day
And I long to get out and fly away.
You'll see, I will someday.*

We had a downpour of rain in the night, but not for long. It turned cold last night; I had to pull up a cover. We had a north wind blowing. Rex and Donna took the lamb "Early Bird," somewhere early this morning to have it processed for their freezer. Whoops, there goes another Early Bird's, Bah Baa. Donna brought some food on a TV tray for my brunch before she went to help Rex mend some fences on the property. I listened to my TV stories while eating. It was sunny and warm this afternoon and no wind. I'm the only one home; Donna is out with Rex somewhere on the place, watering the fruit trees, I think. We had a special news report tonight of the death of China's great leader, Mao. The subject was, "What of China, after Mao?" Rex had a man come out to the farm this afternoon and shoe the two horses. Now they have good shoes on all of their feet.

September 10, Friday

It was chilly this morning but warmed up this afternoon. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a cup of hot milk to me at 7:30 a.m. I didn't get any sleep last night; I wasn't in pain, but for some reason my nerves were all on edge. My brain wouldn't relax and my body tossed and turned and twisted and twitched, and itched! The milk relaxed my nerves but no sleep came. I feel miserable today. These experiences do come with old age. If you don't like what you read, just turn over the page. Tomorrow is another day. I hope I'll have something more interesting to say. Donna went in the truck with Rex to get a tank full of water for the well; they invited me to go along, but I didn't feel well enough for a bumpy ride. Donna made some good beef stew today. We had some for dinner this evening; it was good. Rex and Donna went to get some milk tonight from a farm nearby. We are expecting Jon Tibbets and his boys Jody and Spencer tonight sometime. Rex's two black cows came up to the field near the house to join Rebecca (Princess and Beauty). Three feet of water from rain fell in the desert, Las Vegas, Nevada. *[In September 1976, the remnants of Kathleen caused flooding in the Charleston and Bonanza underpasses with as much as six feet of water on them, according to a NOAA report. Flooding was particularly bad during the evening commute of Sept. 10, 1976.]* Isn't that something? And we are so in need of rain here. As a rule, Kansas has plenty of rain and the Las Vegas desert gets none. The condition is reversed, eh?

September 11, Saturday

We have a pretty morning; it is nice and cool. I was blessed with a good night's sleep and I do appreciate that. Donna



Dorothy Benham 1977 Miss America

had a restless night; she said she had a busy brain and fidgets in her legs. I know how miserable that is. I had it the night before last. Rex and Jon Tibbets went to Paola early this morning; they hope to finish up the stucco job on the big home today. Little Jody and Spencer are keeping Grama Donna "on her toes." They are full of ideas and action. Grandma Dorothy took them to Overbrook with her this morning. They came in here to say hello to me and ask for a gumdrop. They are cute kids, I enjoy them. Jon T. came home this evening, he ate his dinner and headed home with the boys. Donna had fed the two boys and

given them a bath. Rex is on his way home in his tractor; it will take him about four hours to drive home. They finished the job in Paola and got paid. I presume Jon and his two boys will be almost home in Weeping Water, Nebraska before Rex arrives at the farm here. We couldn't get "The Lawrence Welk Show" in my room tonight, so I went to the basement to see it on the colored TV. Donna was making applesauce down there. I stayed downstairs to see "**The Miss America Pageant.**" It took almost three hours. The girls were all beautiful. Miss Minnesota was crowned Miss America for 1977. I do not recall her name. Rex got home on his tractor at 11:20 p.m. It took five hours to drive here from the job in Paola. Good night, I am weary.

September 12, Sunday

Yesterday, Marshes received a wedding invitation from Lewie and Miriam Marsh for the garden reception of their daughter Terry Griggs and Ron Lunt, the 24th of September. They are being married in the Los Angeles LDS Temple. The Lunt open house is the 13th of September in Salt Lake City. It was a surprise to Rex and Donna; they did not know that Miriam and Lewie had a daughter named Terry. They're a nice-looking couple. I presume the Lewie Marshes adopted this girl? Rex and Donna went to Sunday School early. Dorothy and Guy went later, in time for the sacrament meeting. I was invited to go, but with my problems, I'm better off at home for all concerned. I drank a cup of warm milk and washed the dishes in the sink about 1 p.m. We have a windy, cloudy morning. I surely detest this Kansas wind; it is violent! But, if it would blow some rain our way, I'd appreciate the "Big Blow." We surely do need the water here on this parched farm land. I ate dinner with Rex and Donna about 3:30 p.m. The sun is shining and the wind is now a pleasant breeze. I helped Donna do the dishes and we all rested and did as we pleased. Tonight, Donna watched television with me for a while. We saw the last part of the sweet family story of a boy who took care of his brothers and sisters after their parents died. "And There Were Seven," It was very nice. Donna brought a snack for me to eat about 8 p.m. I wasn't hungry and didn't need the

food, but I ate it. I watched the TV program of "America on Parade," about the cotton gin and other factories.

September 13, Monday

I could see from the reflection in my bathroom window that there was a light in Donna's kitchen in the wee hours of the night, so I knew she wasn't in her bed sleeping. She told me this morning she couldn't sleep, so she got up and read. I had a fairly good night's sleep for which I am thankful. Donna brought me a tray of food about 12:30 (toast, scrambled egg, hot chocolate, and a half of grapefruit). I ate while watching the TV stories, nice, eh? Rex went to work at the Manor Nursing Home in Overbrook; he came home about 3:45 p.m. He left here before it was daylight this morning. Everybody works in our house, but this old gal! It's a special compensation for when you're in your eighties. I'll be 84 in December. We have a hazy sunshine today. Donna has been typing a lot today, but all is quiet now. I presume they are both resting (I am). The cows are resting too in our field near the house. Rebecca's calf should arrive anytime now. I composed a verse for Joan Gardner's birthday card, her day is September 29. Donna brought my dinner on a tray about 6:30 this evening (baked potato, liver and onions, and a vegetable with ice cream and cake for dessert). I watched the Monday Night Movie, "Hercules and the Golden Fleece." Rex went to bed early, but Donna and I had a pleasant Home Evening together in my suite. She gave the lesson from the Home Evening book and from the Book of Mormon. I surely enjoyed our happy time together. Good night.

September 14, Tuesday

Donna put clean sheets and a slip on my bed this morning. I helped her make the bed with fresh linen. Rex went to work at the nursing home this morning before daylight. I sat on my bed and watched him drive away. He came home this afternoon at 3:45. I ate some Rice Krispies and milk about 12:30 noon. It was pleasant this morning but too warm for comfort this afternoon. It has been two months today since Donna and Mary took my colored television set to have the tubes checked; that was July 14. I'm sure wondering why it is such a long time. Rex's barber friend is doing the work. I've got Jon and Mary's black and white set in here. I spent hours looking through my diary to find out when they took it. I ran across some other interesting data; Joan's cow was bred (artificially) on May 20 (it didn't take). I had my permanent wave on May 19. Donna had hers on May 26. Bruce H. came for his dog, Bobo, on May 28. A diary is an interesting hobby, eh? It is warm tonight. I hope we can all rest well. Good night.

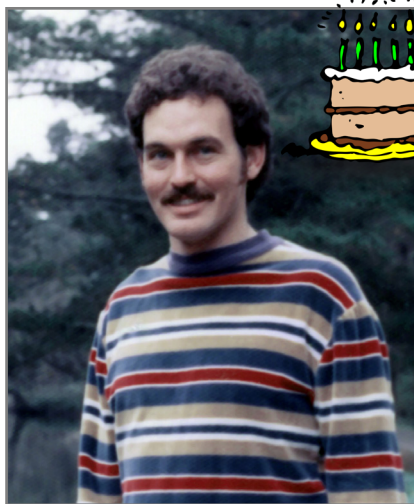
September 15, Wednesday

Today is Mark Calkins's birthday.

Have a happy birthday Mark, we'll be thinking of you.

May you have "peace of mind" and success all the year through,

Have yourselves a special treat, celebrate with something sweet.



Mark Calkins in February 1976.

I enclosed some gum and \$3.00. I hope he is enjoying his day. It was warm last night, but I managed to sleep fairly well. We have an overcast morning, but warm. I presume it'll be hot this afternoon. I stayed in bed until 11 a.m. It is the compensation of being 83 years old. I'll be 84 soon (December 5).

*I'm proud of my years as you can see,
But with my own generation I do long to be.
I'll try to be patient while waiting for my call,
There's nothing I can do about it after all.
What is to be will be, let's face it, L.V.*



Donna came home about 1:45, she had been to a Relief Society preparation meeting. They learned how to make paper roses or flowers. She took Rex to work early this morning so she could have the red VW car to use today. She had to go pick Rex up after his work this afternoon. I managed to fix myself something to eat at lunch time (a tuna sandwich, applesauce, Rice Krispies, and warm milk). I got Joan's birthday card ready to mail; her day is September 29, too soon to mail, but it's ready with eight sticks of gum and \$3.00 in it, plus my own verse. This old gal has fun, eh? Donna brought my dinner at 6:30 this evening on a TV tray. I listened to TV while eating. We finished up Donna's good stew tonight.

September 16, Thursday

My darling husband and I were married in the Salt Lake Temple 62 years ago today. He died three years ago on the 16th of June. I was 16 years old when he told me he loved me and asked me to "go steady" with him. Sixteen seems to be an important number in my life (sweet 16, eh)? I had a happy surprise this morning; Rex and Donna brought my colored television home. Donna wrote a very lovely note to me and she gave me two packages of "Social Notes," twelve in each package. They're so nice for short notes and I don't write long letters anymore. They also had a couple of M&M chocolate candies in the bag to celebrate my anniversary. Lucky old L.V., eh? Rex and Donna did some cleaning up in the backyard. It was a hazy day, but warm. Donna brought a lamb-chop dinner to me about 2:30 p.m., bless her heart. This afternoon I went in the pickup truck with Rex and

Donna to the Westhoff farm in Paola, Kansas, to get a load of hay. While Rex and Dale were loading the truck with hay, Donna and I visited in the house with Marie and her mother-in-law. They are lovely people to talk to. The Westhoffs' in-laws went home and we visited with Marie until Rex had his load of hay on his truck; and it was indeed a load! We found our farm neighbor, Ralph Gale, here when we got home. He helped Rex unload the hay in the south field, which was a big help. Donna brought a sandwich to me and a chocolate milk shake. It was wonderful to have Rex and Donna help celebrate my wedding anniversary, bless my dear children, I love them!

September 17, Friday

We have an overcast morning and it's cooler. Donna had to take Rex to work this morning because the truck had a flat tire. He had to be there at 6 a.m. she went to Overbrook later to shop; she bought some crackers and the creamed cheese I wanted. I ate my brunch while watching the TV stories. I'm surely enjoying my own colored television after so many weeks without it. Donna received a large envelope from Kathy with pages of red construction paper, that Kathy had drawn big apples on for Donna to use in her Relief Society work. She'll type her message on each apple. She asked Kathy to draw an apple for her and that sweet girl drew all of the apples on red paper for her mom, so Donna can type the messages before cutting out the apples, nice, eh? Donna brought me a cold drink of buttermilk at 3:30 p.m. It was good. Donna made ice cream and Rex froze it when he came from work this afternoon. Donna had to go pick him up. Our branch is having a program and dinner this evening in Paola. I didn't feel well enough to go with Rex and Donna. It is a long way to go. I was with them yesterday in Paola.

I am almost 84 and long rides I deplore.

I'm much better off, I must declare,

Here, near my bed and my swivel chair

So, the homemade ice cream I'll have to forgo

My picnic days are over, I know.



Donna left a frozen fried chicken dinner in the oven for me. It was ready to eat at six o'clock. She left a dish of homemade ice cream in the freezer for me, too. They left here about 5:30 p.m. I hope they have a lot of fun in Paola tonight.

September 18, Saturday

Donna went to Kansas City for a Relief Society meeting of some kind this morning. Rex checked in on me before he went to Overbrook to have a tire repaired. He told me that Rebecca the cow, has her calf; it is a bull calf. I presume it was born in the night, or early this morning. I saw it from the big living room window; it can walk. He is bit a wobbly, but can walk. Yankee the horse was over near the fence looking the calf over, too. I fixed myself some brunch of applesauce, crackers with creamed cheese, hot chocolate, and a cookie. September is over half gone now. Donna came home soon after two o'clock. She read a nice letter from Joan to me. It was fun hearing of the activities of the Gardner family. Their new home is coming along nicely; the plaster board will go on soon. The children are happy with their schools and friends, and etcetera. I sat in the living room and watched Becca and her calf for a long time. He would have a name by now if Kathy was here, eh? Rex took his tractor down to dig the silt out of the pond that had the fish in it, because of no rain this year, that nice pond has dried up. A long-legged bird (looks like a little stork) has been eating up the fish as fast



A calf, but not Rebecca's calf.

as he could. It has been hot again this afternoon, and I'm not feeling too well, but I haven't told anyone but you, diary. Donna went down to help Rex with the pond work. The two horses and the two black cows are very interested in the new calf. They keep going over to the fence and looking at Rebecca and her new calf. It is cute to see them. Well, I'm watching, too! Rex got his tractor stuck in the mud in the pond and had to have help to get it out of the deep mire. (An awful job!)

September 19, Sunday

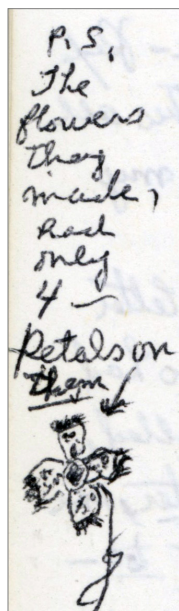
I stayed in bed as long as I could. Donna went to church early; she said Rex wasn't going to Sunday School; he wanted to see a veterinarian doctor about his cow Rebecca. I thought he went to church later with Dorothy and Guy Tibbets, but he didn't come home with them at two. This is another one of Donna's long days. She said she wouldn't be home until about 4 p.m. I fixed myself some brunch about noon and enjoyed some lovely Mormon Hymns on my Magnavox player while eating crackers, cheese, and warm milk. I especially enjoyed the heavy downpour of rain which we need so badly. It was blowing the rain in from the windows on the north. I managed to get them down, but I got my slacks and blouse wet in the effort. The windows are not easy for me to manipulate in this house, but I got the water mopped up from the furniture and I put dry slacks and a blouse on myself, so, all is well. Later I went to the kitchen and cleaned up the dishes Rex left and the ones I used. I also put the dishes away that Donna had draining in the sink. I sat in the living room and watched Rebecca and her calf and the two black cows, Princess and Beauty. We were all interested in the baby calf.

☺ Donna and Rex came home together about 4:10 p.m. They ate a fried chicken lunch between meetings. I composed a birthday verse for Julie Tibbets's card; her day is October 3.

September 20, Monday

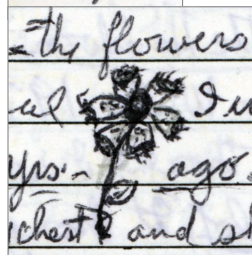
I rested fairly well last night; the wind blew in my west window and it turned much cooler, so I got up and put my silk quilt over my bed. I was nice and comfy then. We surely have a feeling of fall in the air. It is a lot more pleasant than the hot weather was. But Old Man Winter is headed our way and I dread that. Donna had done a washing before I got up. Rex has been hauling water to the well. Donna brought my clothes all ironed this morning, isn't she precious? She also fixed a tray for my brunch at 12:45. Oh, I do not want to be a burden to her. Donna brought the mail in this afternoon. She read a cute letter from Kathy and one from Joan; I do enjoy their letters. She also had a big envelope from Bette Haddock for me. It was a magazine called "Good Old Days Revisited, Winter 1976." She said in her letter she enjoyed it a lot and she thought I would like to look through it, too. I really did enjoy it a lot. It brought back memories of my childhood days. Rick and Val Haddock had a baby girl,

born July 16. They live in Baldy. Greg will be home from his mission to Brazil in January. Brad is back in school at BYU and Susie is a junior in high school. She has her driver's license and she wants her own car now. But, Bette says, "No way, Dearie" problems, problems. I was wrong about Rex hauling water this morning. He went to work at the nursing home before daylight. It was Donna in the truck with the tank that I saw driving away. She was going to the mailbox, not for water. I thought it was Rex. (Excuse me please.) (I tell 'em as I see 'em.)



September 21, Tuesday

I had another one of those sleepless nights. My brain was too active with my problems. Donna and Dorothy had been out and done their Relief Society visiting teaching before I got up this morning. She has gone to Overbrook to shop now. I gave her \$20.00 to get me some change and some Vitamin E. I told her to buy some groceries, too, but she brought all of my change to me. I insisted on her taking \$5.00 anyway. Donna and Dorothy are making some pretty cloth flowers for the Relief Society sisters, a little reminder of their motto, "Bloom Where You're Planted," Donna invited me to go downstairs and watch them make the **flowers**, but I wasn't feeling well enough to go. The flowers are



Flower Elvie added to September 21.

very pretty; made from pretty print material. I used to love to do that kind of art work, a few years ago. But not now, with poor vision and the pain in my chest and shoulders. I feel miserable most of the time. In two months and a few days, I'll be 84 years old. Rex is working on the outside of our house this afternoon. He built a scaffold; he is painting the eaves on the north side of the

building (4:30 p.m.). Everybody works in our house, but you know who! Donna and I had Home Evening tonight. We couldn't have it last night. She gave the lesson from the Home Evening book and read some from the Book of Mormon. We looked through a couple of my old scrap books after our little Home Evening. Rex was listening to a television story downstairs, so we didn't disturb him. We went to bed at 10:30 p.m. We are a weary household.

September 22, Wednesday

I'm thankful for a good night's sleep; that is a blessing. We have a pretty day with a feeling of fall in the air. Donna brought a nice lunch to me about 1 p.m. Rex went to the nursing home for a meeting of some kind. He wasn't gone long. We are expecting Mary and the children this afternoon. They arrived at 2:20 p.m. and the happy action started! Donna brought my mail to me. I hit the jackpot today, three letters. I got one from Violet, one from Lydia, and one from Lillian Keller. Mary read them

all out loud to Donna and me. Violet told about the passing of Arthur Fife. He died Labor Day; he was 89 years old. He had an active life to the end. Lydia's letter told of family activities and was fun reading. Lillian is still going strong from place to place. It is amazing at her age. She is a year or two older than I am and I seldom ever go anywhere (old "stay at home" me)! The Tibbets kids are delighted with the new calf and Rebecca doesn't seem to mind them coming in the pasture to pet the little calf. Donna gave baby Brian a bath; Mary and baby slept all afternoon. I dozed in my chair. I went to the dinette to eat with the family about 6:35 p.m. Julie came to tell me, "dinner is ready," I enjoyed this evening so very much. Mary and her children came in to visit me. They are an adorable family. Little Spencer has learned a new song; he sang it for me. It is called, "I Want to be a Deacon," He has such a sweet voice and he likes to sing, too. I love to hear him sing, in fact all of the children in the Jon Tibbets family sing well. Julie helped her Grandma Dorothy make more flowers for the Relief Society sisters in the basement here, this afternoon. She slept in my extra twin bed tonight.

September 23, Thursday

We have an overcast morning and we had a little rain in the night. Mary says her back feels a little better today. Donna had a busy morning taking care of her little Tibbets grandchildren. She brought some food to me at noontime, bless her heart. She moved my bed and the little night stand nearer to the bathroom, so the extra twin bed can be moved out from the wall. Now anyone can get around to make the bed with ease. I made it this morning and it was indeed a job, so I asked Donna to make the change for me. I felt weak and not well this afternoon so I stretched out on my bed from 4 to 6 p.m. Then I ate dinner with the family about 6:30 p.m. We had sunshine this afternoon and it was warm like summer. Rex went to work before daylight this morning. He was asleep on the living room floor when we ate, too sleepy to eat. Mary and the children listened to the special television show this evening, "Charlie Brown" Grandma Dorothy and Julie made some pretty cloth flowers this afternoon. Julie brought the four she made in to show me. She said I could have one of them (sweet child). She had them in a little, pink vase of mine. She left them on my television until she goes home, so I'm enjoying them. The only thing we could get on television tonight was the debate between President Ford and Governor Carter. I listened for an hour or more, then I turned off the set and went to bed. Bewildered and weary old Grama Elvie. Good night.

September 24, Friday

We are blessed with a pleasant fall day. Julie and I had a good night's rest in our twin beds, she got up about 9 a.m. She made her bed before going to the Marshes' side of the house. Now that Donna has moved it away from the west wall, she can get around it to make it with ease. That is nice. I only have my own bed to make now. ☺ Donna brought a nice lunch to me at 12:30 (tuna sandwich, applesauce, potato chips, and chocolate square cookies, plus a cup of Postum). I watched the TV stories while eating. Rex brought the mail on his



way home from work. He had a letter from my cousin Blanche Hoglund for me. I enjoyed her family news; she is very proud of her grandchildren and her children, and she has good reason to be, they are a fine family. Donna and Mary went to Overbrook to shop. I gave Mary \$1.00 to buy some gumdrops candy and some chewing gum for my treat to the little kiddies when they visit in here. Rex had to separate Rebecca from her calf this afternoon. Both of them are sick and they need special care. I sat in the living room for a couple of hours this afternoon and enjoyed looking out the big window. Donna brought a tray to me, in my room this evening with my dinner. Joan phoned; she and Mo and family will arrive tomorrow to pick up their belongings that are stored here. Kathy phoned; she and Mark will be here tomorrow morning. Mary moved her clothes and cases in on my cedar chest. Donna vacuumed her rugs and dusted her house. She and Rex went to the neighbor's farm for milk tonight. Mary and baby Brian visited with me for a short while tonight. I shut the television off at nine. I get tired of the trash they have on the TV at times. I'm weary, let's call it a day. Good night!

September 25, Saturday

Kathy phoned this morning to say they stayed overnight in Oklahoma City (I think?). Anyway, they will not arrive here until this afternoon about four o'clock. Rex took a lady that works with him at the nursing home to visit the Mormon Visitors Center in Independence, Missouri. Mary slept in my extra twin bed last night; Julie stayed with the Tibbetsses. Rex brought baby Brian in about seven this morning for Mary to nurse him. Rex drove Mary's VW bus to Independence today. It started to rain about 10:30 this morning. Julie made the other twin bed and dusted my furniture while I was in bed (sweet child, eh). Donna vacuumed my rugs. I have several letters to answer but they'll have to wait until I am feeling better. It is dark and gloomy, like we may have more rain. I was up and dressed before ten o'clock this morning, so I'd be presentable for our company. Now, they will not be here until this afternoon. I fear this old gal can't look as fresh as a daisy that long. Correction, Rex got Mary's bus to the south field for gas and then he couldn't start it up again, so he had to walk back to the house and take his little red VW car to the visitors center. I surely hope it works all right. Mary took the pickup truck with the tank to go haul water to the well. I hope it works all right. Becca's calf managed to get in the pasture with her, so they are together again. Mary hauled one load of water to the well. Mr. Merrill hauled a load, so we'll have water. Donna brought my lunch at noon, toast, egg, Postum, cookie, and orange juice. I dried the dishes and Donna washed them. I went in the Marsh kitchen to enjoy the happy family reunion when the Mark Calkines arrived about 3:35. Jon Tibbets arrived about the same time. P.S. It has rained "off and on" all day, a general storm. It was raining in Missouri where Rex was and where Jon was in Nebraska and where Kathy and Mark came from (Oklahoma), it is a much-needed rain.



The Gardners arrived on the farm September 26. Above are Emily, Sandy, Spencer Tibbets, and Paula.

September 26, Sunday

Kathy said she phoned from Oklahoma yesterday morning, but they stayed overnight in Denison, Texas, just out of Dallas. I was in bed and I think most of the family was also when the Mo Gardners drove up shortly after 11 p.m. Mary and Jon were on a big foam mattress in my living room. They had Spencer with them. They jumped up when they heard Mo drive in. The Marshes and Tibbetsses were all ready to greet them. I wanted to join the happy family group reunions, but the heart action told me to stay in bed. I'd had enough excitement for one day. Joan came in to say hello and that she would see me tomorrow. We have a cloudy day; no one went to Sunday School, but Donna, Kathy, and Mark went to sacrament meeting later. Mo, Sherm, and Joan have been busy bringing their belongings (furniture and etcetera) up from the basement and packing it in the U-Haul trailer, to take to their new home in Illinois. Janet G. brought a girlfriend with her from Chicago. Her name is Dawn, I didn't get her last name. She is a sweet, young girl. Little Paula has been in and out a lot this morning. She comes for what she calls "drop candy" (some gum drops that I have to treat the children). I enjoy seeing these cute great grandchildren, but I'm not able to keep up with their noisy activities now (woe is me at 83.) I went out to wave good bye to the Gardner family about 4 p.m. There is something sad about these partings, but of course, they do have to go home. This was only an overnight stop so they could get their belongings and see the family, too. Joan phoned a few minutes after they left to say they had Mark's shoes in their car. Mo thought they were Sherm's shoes, so he put them in the trailer or car. They left them or something? Mark and Kathy drove away to pick them up. They went in Rex's VW car. I think it was a phone booth they left them in. John L. phoned from Salt Lake tonight with the



Above Spencer T., Sandy behind Janet, Marshall, and Emily. Below in the background is Rex and Donna's home ready to be plastered.



sad news that Valerie Terribillini Brough's husband was killed in a helicopter accident today. They have three or four children.

September 27, Monday

Last night Mary slept in my extra twin bed and little Spencer slept on the floor between our beds. Mary got up about seven o'clock and packed her things ready to go home. She got Spencer up and dressed ready to go with her. They drove away from here about 10 a.m. Mary phoned at two to tell Donna she was home safe and sound. Rex drove his VW car to go to Iowa, to help Jon do a plumbing job for someone? Kathy looked through the things she had stored away here

and Mark helped her pack them in their car to take to their home in California. We'll have another parting of the home visit soon. It's always a bit sad to say goodbye, but it is nice to know that they are happy in their own home, too. Donna and I will be here on the farm alone until Rex comes back on Wednesday, but we'll be happy, too. The Guy Tibbetses are next door. I think Kathy and Mark plan to drive to Denver and stay overnight with her cousins Diane and Phil Nolen. They are packed and will leave in the morning. I watched Monday night at the movies on television, "The Teenage Girl That Ran Away from Home." It was a bit risqué but had a nice ending and I had to have something to entertain me.

September 28, Tuesday

My dear ones came to my bed this morning about 7:30 to have family prayer with me before Kathy and Mark left for their trip home to California (Donna, Kathy, and Mark). They knelt by my bed and Mark offered a lovely prayer for their safety on the trip home and a beautiful blessing on this household. I was very happy for the beautiful spirit in our home. I think they plan on stopping over night at Diane and Phil's home in Denver. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets left here in Dorothy's car a few minutes after eight o'clock for the Relief Society fall social. I'm sorry I was not well enough to go. I know it will be very lovely. They've put a lot of work into it with program, decorations, and etcetera. Oh, I must record that Kathy got up about 5 a.m. and took her father's pick-up to get a tank full of water and put it in the well. Isn't she precious? All by herself in the dark. She didn't even take Mark with her. That takes real stamina and endurance that very few young woman have. She got the tank full of water and put it in the well before daylight. I got Julie Tibbets's birthday card ready to mail with \$1.00, gum, and my verse to her enclosed. Her day is October 3. Donna and I ate our dinner together in my place, from TV trays. We had some of the good salad and dessert she brought home from the Relief Society luncheon. We both enjoyed the peace and quiet of this meal together. Donna has cooked and served so many people these past weeks, she was glad to relax and eat a snack with me. Jeanne Brooks sent a pretty bouquet of the cloth flowers home to me. They are very lovely; each table had a little bouquet like this on their table. It was thoughtful of her to send one bouquet to me. She is a dear. P.S. Kathy forgot her wristwatch and a knit blouse. There is always something to send after the visits.

September 29, Wednesday

Happy birthday to Joan, she is 38 years old today:

The 29th day of September, is a happy day to remember.

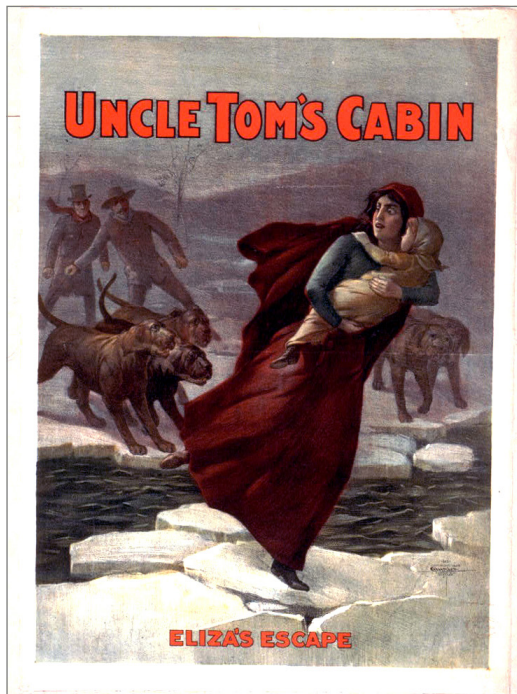
Because, you joined our family and you're on the family tree.

Celebrate and give "three cheers," may you be happy through the years.



Donna and I both had a good night's rest and stayed in our beds as long as we liked this morning. She was up before nine o'clock; I stayed in bed until almost noon. We have a lovely day. We ate our lunch from TV trays in my suite.

It's a special treat for me to have her with me for lunch. Guy and Dorothy Tibbets helped Donna put hot water packs on Rebecca's milk bag. Something is wrong and she can't let the milk down to feed her calf. Donna thinks the calf is getting some milk for her, but we hope she'll be normal soon. Rex is expected home tonight from Iowa. I enjoyed television and my pillow padded chair. I dozed a few times, and I walked around my suite for exercise. If we had cement walks or a drive way, I could walk in the sunshine, but, this rocky bumpy yard is not for me. I don't even have a cane like Guy has to help him. When I see Dorothy picking her way across the yard to our place, **I'm reminded of the story of Eliza crossing the ice in the story of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."** They are years younger than I am. I presume they are somewhere near Donna's age. *[Guy was seven years older than Donna. Dorothy was five years older than Donna. In 1976 Guy was 70 and Dorothy was 68.]* Their son Jonathan is married to Donna's daughter, Mary. I am 22 years older than Donna. I'll be 84 years old December 5. I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player this afternoon. I'm thankful for the beautiful music. Donna listened to the ten o'clock news reporter with me and then we turned off the set. Good night. P.S. Donna and I ate our dinner together here in my suite this evening. Rex didn't get home until later, about nine o'clock.



September 30, Thursday

Donna did her washing this morning and our well went too low to pump water to the house, so she took the truck with the water tank and went for a load of water to put in the tank and bring to the well. She got the well pump started and we had water. She went for another load of water after lunch. Rex went to work before daylight. He came home about 3:30 p.m. This is our last day of September, 1976. It is indeed a beautiful, clear day; the sky is so blue, no clouds, no wind, just a pleasant breeze. Dorothy Tibbets worked in her flower garden pulling weeds and etcetera. I received a slip from the bank to notify me that my Social Security check, of \$281.40 had been deposited. Donna made out the house payment check of \$187 and a \$53.00 check for cash so my bank balance is \$181.96. I am so thankful to have Donna take care of my bookwork for me; it is frustrating for me now. I never was a good mathematician anyway. This is, of course, my checking account, not my savings account. This evening Donna and I ate our dinner from TV trays

in my suite. Rex wasn't hungry, so he didn't eat with us. We watched, "The Waltons" on TV and then she left to fix Rex some dinner. I watched television by myself until the ten o'clock news was over. It's time to turn out the lights and go to bed. Sweet dreams.

October 1, Friday

We have a beautiful, blue sky, "October's Bright Blue Weather," Donna has already put two tanks full of water in the well. She is up and going strong every day. It was almost 11:30 before I got up. I'll love to get out in this lovely sunshine, but I feel so weak. I just stay near my chair and my bed. Dorothy Tibbets worked in her garden for some time this afternoon, getting the tall weeds out. They went out in the car somewhere later. Donna invited me to drive to Overbrook with her this afternoon, but I didn't feel well enough. She took care of my check and bought several items for me on the Rexall two for one sale at Topping Rexall Drug Store. I sat in her living room and enjoyed the cows and horses in the field near the house. Rex fed them some hay and I watched them eat it. The horses wouldn't let the cows have any if they could help it, so the cows moved on to another stack of hay that Rex had tossed to them. It has been a hot afternoon. Donna brought me a cold glass of 7Up this evening. It was refreshing. Tonight's Johnny Carson Show was a special to

celebrate his fourteen years on television. It was a 2-hour show. I watched it until eleven o'clock. It was a fun show but I couldn't stay up that long. Oh, weary me, at 83.

October 2, Saturday

We're blessed with another lovely day. I love the October's bright blue weather. Donna hauled a couple of loads of water to our well this morning. She brought my brunch on a TV tray at 12:30 (egg, toast, applesauce, and hot chocolate). I never feel hungry now; my taste buds do not function properly and food doesn't taste like it used to, but I know I must eat and Donna sees to it that I do. I'm blessed indeed to have a lovely daughter like her. Rex went to his job at the nursing home early this morning before daylight. I heard him drive away. I composed a little verse for Paula Gardner's birthday card. Her birthday is October 11. I took a sponge bath and a witch hazel rub and I felt better. This awful weakness is exasperating. I have several letters to answer, but my eye lids are too heavy to stay open. My shoulders hurt and my chest hurts. It's a weary old L.V. at 83. I'm

blessed a lot, that I know. I'll just take life easy and slow and some "happy day" I'll take off and fly away. Good night.

October 3, Sunday—General Conference

Happy birthday to Julie Tibbets, 10 years old.

Ten years old already! How fast you grow.

Time to celebrate again, with a radiant glow!

*Keep smiling, be happy, Julie dear,
May the happiness last all through the year*

Great Grama L.V.

It is the 146th Semiannual Conference of our LDS Church. Donna turned my TV on at ten o'clock and I listened to the last half of the first session from Friday. President Spencer W. Kimbal was conducting. The speaker was Elder Howard W. Hunter. All of the assistants to the twelve apostles have been released and they are now ordained to the Seventies Quorums. The church is going all out for missionary work. The twelve apostles do not have assistants anymore. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went to church in Dorothy's car this afternoon. They left here about 12:30. I'm not well enough to go. I do feel so very weak. I'm very thankful for all of the lovely Sundays that I did enjoy in my beloved LDS Church through the years. Donna is fasting all day. Rex is working at the nursing home. She brought a tray of food to me; she insists I eat a little something. We have a warm, cloudy day with a noisy strong wind blowing. Oh, I don't like that "Big Blow." I couldn't get to sleep last night until almost daylight, so I stretched out on my bed this afternoon for a couple of hours. Donna took a nap on her bed. Rex was working with his tractor or the pick-up truck. I'm glad the wind has calmed down this evening. I've had my own dear father in mind and Yvonne Woodlief, too. This is their birthday, also. I sat up until after midnight to watch a TV movie called "Paper Moon." It was interesting and good for me.

October 4, Monday

It was warm but comfortable last night. I had a fairly good night's sleep. I stayed in bed until almost noon. Donna took the pickup truck for a couple of tanks full of water for the well. Rex was working on the farm doing something with the tractor. Later, Donna brought a TV tray to me with a tuna fish sandwich, peaches, cottage cheese, and milk. I wrote a letter to Bette Haddock last evening; Donna mailed it for me this morning. She and Rex went somewhere this afternoon to get material they need for the outside finish on this house. They went in the pickup truck, after Rex took the water tank off of it. I had a miserable blind stagger

spell this afternoon. It slowed me down for a while. I stayed in my swivel chair with my eyes shut until my vision was alright again. I think I had gas in my heart region; it hurt in that area. We have a cloudy day; looks like it is going to rain. Well, we do need the rain. I gave Donna \$20.00 to get some change and buy a few items I need. Tonight, Donna came in and the two of us had "Home Evening," She read the lesson from the magazine and from a text book on the Book of Mormon. I surely enjoyed the evening. P.S. Rex fell asleep so he didn't join with us in Home Evening. It rained tonight, a nice down pour with some lighting and thunder, too. Good night. [This poem was written October 4.] ↓



Julie Tibbets, June 5, 1976 at Mark and Kathy's wedding.

October 5, Tuesday

The rain we had last night cooled our weather off; I had to get up in the wee hours and put my silk quilt on my bed. I slept fairly well and I stayed in bed until noon. I was comfortable and warm and I didn't need the heat on. Rex was working in the yard; I could hear his truck at times. He came in at one o'clock and fixed himself some lunch. Donna was in Ottawa at her Relief Society meeting. I presume Dorothy T. was with her. I felt too weak after dressing and combing my hair and making my bed to go to the kitchen to fix myself some brunch. So, I just sat in my swivel chair. Donna came home at 1:20 p.m. and she fixed us both something to eat, lucky me! She and Dorothy T. drove to Overbrook this afternoon to shop. Rex was hauling gravel to the front yard and filling in the mud spots. He leveled it so the cars can drive in without getting stuck in the mud, and they can walk to the cars without stepping in the mud. I answered Violet's letter this afternoon. Donna took a nap on my other twin bed while I was writing to Violet. Later, Donna brought my dinner to me about 6:30. I enjoyed my meal while watching television. Ha! The problems they have in the TV stories make my problems seem like fun, he he! Donna watched TV with me for a while tonight. We turned the set off after

*I want to answer my letters,
"goodness knows,"
But I sit here in my chair and
doze.
My eyes won't stay open, so I
can't see,
You'll understand when you're
eighty-three.
I guess I'll not feel very alert
anymore,
But in two months I'll be
eighty-four!
I can take my bath and comb
my hair,
I can make my bed and walk
(without help) to my swivel
chair.
I'm doing alright, I believe,
I'm thankful for blessings I
receive.*

the ten o'clock news. It rained again tonight, before we went to bed. It was a nice, gentle rainfall; it will do a lot of good!

October 6, Wednesday

I think we had a touch of frost last night. I got up, before daylight, and put the blanket on my bed. I made my bed up this morning with the blanket on; I presume I'll need it every night from now until summer. Rex was working on the front of our house this morning; he painted the eaves and nailed some wire cornice on the wall getting ready to stucco the house. Donna brought some brunch to me at noon (Cream of Wheat, toast, and fruit). I wore my outing flannel robe today; it is warmer and colorful, too. Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook this afternoon for something they needed. We have a cloudy day but no rain yet at 4 p.m. Donna brought a little, hot chicken pie on a TV tray for me to eat. I was writing a letter to Lydia Paul. Donna and Rex were going somewhere. I didn't get where she said. The little pie was hot, so I finished my letter before eating it. When Donna came home, she brought some mint flavored ice cream for my dessert. President Ford and Governor Carter had another television debate tonight. I listened to it, in fact, it was on all of the channels so there was no other choice.

*I felt weak and lonesome and I dozed in my chair,
Wishing I could join my dear ones, "over there,"
I know I am blessed, please don't misunderstand,
My dear ones here, treat me just grand.
I want them to feel happy and free,
Without having to be concerned over me.*

Poem
Elvie
wrote
October
6.



October 7, Thursday

Happy Anniversary to Rex and Donna. They have been married 41 years

*Congratulations and Happy Anniversary, too.
It's 41 years of marriage for the two of you.
May you have happy peace of mind my dears,
And, may it last all through the coming years.*



I wrote this little verse on a "Send a Note" stationery and enclosed \$5.00 for Rex and Donna. It pleased them. Janet phoned from San Jose to wish them a happy anniversary. Mary sent a letter. Donna helped Jeanne Brooks give a bridal shower for one of the Creighton girls. Donna had charge of the games; she put a lot of thought and planning into it. I'm sure they'll have a fun party. I'm sorry I wasn't feeling well enough to go. Rex took Donna to the shower and then he went to a picture show. Donna brought me a TV tray before they left this evening. She takes good care of me and I do appreciate my many blessings. I enjoyed my dinner from the TV tray. I answered Blanche Hoglund's letter this afternoon. I've written one a day the past four days. Lillian Keller's is next and then I'll be caught up; all

five letters answered. Writing letters is really a challenge for me now (weak and weary me). Good night all. P.S. Donna and Rex came home about 11 p.m. She came in and told me about the shower for Sheila Creighton. They all had fun with the games Donna arranged for them. I knew they would with my daughter in charge. She does everything well. The shower was in Jeanne Brooks's home.

October 8, Friday

Donna had hauled two loads of water to the well, before I got up this morning. Dorothy was out in the field cutting down tall weeds. I had a fairly good night's rest. I stay in bed late, because I'm comfortable and I can't do any work, so why get up and worry about it? Oh, it is such a pretty day, the sky is so blue and the weather so cool. Donna brought my brunch about 1 p.m. (toast with chip beef gravy). She turned on the TV so I could listen to the stories while eating, lucky me, eh? I had sliced banana and a chocolate mint for dessert. Rex came home from work about 3:35 p.m. I wrote a letter to Lillian Keller this afternoon. Now, all five of my letters have been answered. It is a wonderful feeling. I can relax and expect some mail. ☺ Donna and Rex came in this evening to enjoy television with me. We watched "The Donny and Marie Osmond Show" and others, too. It is always a pleasure for me to have them come in and watch television with me. John L. Marsh phoned from Salt Lake tonight to wish his parents a happy anniversary (a day late). He said he introduced Rick Shattuck and his boyfriend to twin sisters from his ward and they seem to like each other a lot. They date as often as they can. John says they are lovely girls, but he had no idea they'd become so interested in the boys or the boys in them. Rick and his friend are going to BYU. I think the girls are in high school, not sure. Oh, happy day! I'm glad I'm past that wonderful age. Yes, I am! I had my fun, but wouldn't go back over it if I could.



Younger Donna and Rex Marsh

October 9, Saturday

My family had a half day's work done before I got up. Donna hauled a couple of loads of water to the well. Rex went to work at the nursing home. Donna brought brunch to me at noon time. We were amused to see the farm animals all together enjoying a nap in the sunshine. The four cows are Rebecca and her calf Big Mack, Princess and Blackie (the two black cows), and the two horses (Yankee and Danny). On this big place, here they are in one spot together! Well, that's togetherness for sure. I had a fairly good night's rest which I am indeed thankful for. October is a beautiful month with such a clear, blue sky and bright sunshine, but not too warm for comfort; I love October. If I only felt better so I could go for a walk, but this weakness keeps me close to my bed and my swivel chair.

*I know I am blessed a lot, as I have said before.
In just two months, I'll be eight four.
I'm doing alright, considering my years,
So, Hallelujah, I give three cheers.
Now, to find a comfortable pose
And sit in my chair and doze.*



Donna brought her new Sears Christmas Catalogue in and we enjoyed looking through it. There are lots of nice-looking things, but the prices are high! I'm glad I don't shop anymore. If, I'm still here, the family will get a check and do the family's shopping for me again this year. Smug, eh? Rex and Donna watched television with me tonight for a while. We heard the ten o'clock news, or Rex and I did. Donna went to do her dishes. She served our Sunday dinner this evening. (Pot roast, mashed potatoes, gravy, and peas with lemon meringue pie for dessert!)

October 10, Sunday

It was Donna's long day at church today; she wouldn't be home until four o'clock or after, so she cooked a nice dinner for us last evening, which she served us about 6:30 p.m. Today we'll just have a little snack when we want it. Donna had Relief Society business after church today. Rex went to Sunday School and church with Donna. I had a very poor night's rest. I couldn't go to sleep, my body twitched and itched and my brain wouldn't relax. Woe is me, poor Elvie. I stayed in bed until noon, so I got a little sleep until the wind blew something against my west wall. It made an awful racket. I got up and looked out the window, but I couldn't see anything wrong or out of place. I dressed in a robe and slippers, combed my hair, made my bed and said my prayer. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets came home from church about 2 p.m. Rex waited for Donna to take care of her Relief Society business. I made a slice of toast and put some peanut butter on it. I heated a mug of milk and I brought two cheese ball kisses (the last two), and I came to my room to eat my brunch. I sat here and dozed in my chair.

I'd have given anything to have felt sleepy last night. It just ain't right. It ain't! I can hear my little Grandmother Bailey saying, "Elvie you are murdering the King's English!" (Isn't that a shame?) Donna brought me a roast beef sandwich, a glass of milk, and some lemon pie tonight about 6:35. Mmm good! I think of my darling husband when I eat her delicious lemon pie, it was his favorite. Rex and Donna watched television with me tonight until 9:30. We were all in bed before 10 p.m. Good night.

October 11, Monday—Columbus Day

Happy birthday, Paula Grace Gardner, three years old today:

Dear Paula,

My diary book tells me

On October 11 you will be three!

Have fun dear little Paula Grace,

Keep that cute smile on your pretty face.

We love you and want to tell you so.

May your birthday have a special glow!



Paula Gardner June 1976, October 11 is her third birthday.

I was blessed with a good night's sleep and it is a blessing indeed. After a sleepless night, like Saturday night was, I really do appreciate a good night's sleep. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 12:30. It is another beautiful autumn day. Rex put another coat of white paint on the eaves of this house. He hopes to do the stucco work soon. I made out a check to the LDS church for \$12.00, for my donations. Donna and Rex went to Overbrook this afternoon. I gave her \$5.00 for some items she bought for me, medication to remove an ugly wart from my hand and some Band-Aids. My heart action keeps me feeling weak, so I rest a lot in my pillow padded chair. This evening, Rex and Donna listened to television with me until nine o'clock. We had our Home Evening first. Donna conducted our study of the Book of Mormon, from a text book, (a Book of Mormon Study book). I gave the opening prayer; I do enjoy our Home Evenings.

October 12, Tuesday

I had a good night's rest with some pleasant dreams with my darling Lou in them. Donna went to Relief Society in her little, red VW bug. Dorothy went later in her car. Rex went to work at the nursing home in Overbrook; he left here before daylight this morning. I heard him drive away and saw his car lights as he drove away. They always light up my room. I stayed in bed until almost noon. I put myself and my house in order and then I went to the kitchen and fixed myself something to eat. It was almost three o'clock when Donna came home. Her little car isn't working very well, but it did get her home. Dorothy's car broke down on the highway; she had to leave it in a garage to be repaired. She waited over an hour, on the highway, for Donna to come along in her little, red VW car to bring her home. Dorothy's brother arrived shortly after they got home. Rex came about 3:30 p.m. Donna bought a birthday card for me to send to Rick Shattuck: his day is October 20th. I have the card addressed ready to mail later. I put a \$1.00 bill and some gum in the card. Tonight, Donna phoned the Tibbetses', but Mary wasn't home. She was at a Primary meeting, I think. Donna and Rex talked to Jon about some work he and Rex are going to do. Joan phoned from Northbrook, Illinois. She says they'll be moving into their new home soon and she is happy about that. The school bus will come by for the children then, and Joan won't have to take them to school and wait for them like she has to do now.

October 13, Wednesday

We have another lovely October day. I received a letter from Ethel Newbold; she lives in California now. She sold her old home in Salt Lake City and moved in with her son and his wife in Los Angeles. She is very happy there. Donna brought my brunch at 12:30 noon and I ate and enjoyed the television stories. Donna talked to Mary via phone this morning. She wants Donna and me to come to her home with Rex this weekend while Rex helps Jon with a job he needs help with. This afternoon, Rex and Donna took both the pickup truck and the VW bug to Fontana, to the Doko's Brother's Garage, where they'll leave the VW bug to be overhauled. They both came home in the truck; they left here about 4 p.m. So, I had another long afternoon alone, but I'm thankful for the television. I fixed a snack for myself about 7 p.m. Rex and Donna came soon after 7:30. Donna made hamburger sandwiches for her and Rex. Later they watched television with me. Some was entertaining but most of it was trashy. Donna got disgusted and went to her place to read. Rex stayed until the ten o'clock news was over. I watched the "Tonight Show" with Don Rickles as host tonight. Carroll O'Connor was a guest. It was a fun show.

October 14, Thursday

Donna brought my brunch at 12:30 noon. It is a lovely day; a bit windy, and the leaves are falling fast from the trees. Their branches will be bare before long. Old Man Winter is on his way here, before long, too. Burrrrr, I dread that season. I wrote a note to Ethel Newbold in her birthday card; her day is October 18. Donna took the truck with the tank on to bring a load of water to the well. Rex is running his tractor on the farm somewhere.

*I'm sitting in my chair as quiet as a mouse,
But the wind is banging something against our house!
Well, let it bang, I don't care,
I'm comfortable in my swivel chair. ☺*



Donna had some bad luck; she had to come home without the well water. The horn on the truck, had a short in its wiring and it wouldn't stop blowing out its blast. Rex worked on it and got it working all right again. Donna went for the water later after she brought my dinner to me. I enjoyed "The Waltons" on TV tonight. Donna and Rex watched part of it with me. We also watched some of the debate by President Ford and Governor Carter. It was interesting, both are fine men, I presume? But I'm not voting anymore, so I do not get too excited over the political problems. I've got my own problems to think about. You will understand my attitude a lot more, if you live to be eighty-four.

October 15, Friday

Another pretty fall day. Isn't October a lovely month? I changed the things from my light summer purse to my black hand bag for the fall and winter. Donna brought my brunch to me on a TV tray, about 12:30 noon. I ate and enjoyed the television stories at the same time. I got myself ready for the trip to Weeping Water, Nebraska, this afternoon. Donna brought me a chocolate milkshake at 4 p.m. Rex just arrived from work, so I presume we'll be on our way soon. We received a thank you note from Dale and Leanne Cadwallader for the wedding gift we sent (money). They are living in Provo while Dale finishes his school at BYU. She is Charlie Renshaw's daughter. We left the farm here at 5:15 p.m. We drove a couple of hours and stopped for a snack. Rex bought us hamburger buns and chocolate malts. It was a pleasant trip. The lovely autumn leaves of gold, red, and yellow, were so pretty. We arrived at Jon and Mary's pretty little house in Weeping Water, Nebraska, on the church farm property at 9 p.m. The children had been watching for us to come. One of them shouted "They're here at last." I slept in Julie's nice room and bed. Mary had rented a toilet commode for my use as the only bathroom is upstairs. We were tired but happy to be with the dear little Tibbets family. Good night. P.S. We drove to Weeping Water in Rex's pickup truck A bouncing good time was enjoyed by all. I had two pillows to make me more comfortable.

October 16, Saturday

I had a good night's rest in Julie's double bed and pretty room. Rex and Donna slept on a foam mattress on the living room floor. I slept late and I ate brunch in the kitchen about noontime. Rex and Jon left about 7 a.m. for their job in Iowa. Mary made some buttermilk hotcakes for them before they left. It is very interesting here in the church farm in Weeping Water, Nebraska. I enjoyed looking out the windows. Donna fed baby Brian his breakfast; Mary took Spencer with her to do her grocery shopping. I managed one trip upstairs to the bathroom today. Greg and Jody walked to the library for some books. Donna went with Mary to take the trash papers to the dump. They took baby Brian and Spencer with them. Julie went, also, I think. They picked up the boys on the way so they all went to the dump I had a nice, quiet rest at the house. This evening we all listened to the "Lawrence

Welk" television show and other TV programs. Rex and Jon stayed in Iowa overnight. Donna slept with Mary and Julie in the king-sized bed. Sweet dreams.

October 17, Sunday

Mary took Julie, Greg, and Jody to Sunday School with her. Donna stayed home and took care of baby Brian and little Spencer (and me). It was their branch conference in their Nebraska City Branch. I enjoyed relaxing in the Tibbetses' pretty, little home. Mary brought her friend's four little children home with her (two boys and two girls). We had a house full of action with all of the kids there. However, they did play outside part of the time, but it was too cold to stay out long. The mother came later; her name is Betty Bennett. Mary and Betty are good friends. Mary made caramel coated apples to please the children and they surely did enjoy eating them. She melted Kraft Caramel squares and they are delicious. I had a piece of one apple that Donna cut for me to taste. We watched television programs and ate a snack. "Sweet Sabbath, day of rest," P.S. Rex and Jon came home tonight from Iowa, about nine o'clock, I think.

October 18, Monday

Happy birthday to Ethel Newbold. I mailed her a birthday card with a letter in it. I hope she is enjoying her birthday. I believe she is a year or two older than I am. Ethel was Lou's first girlfriend. She is a lovely person who we've been good friends with for many years. It was snowing when I got up this morning in Weeping Water at the church farm, where Jon and Mary and children live. Rex went with Mary to the laundromat to do the washing. The boys, Greg and Jody, went to school this morning but Julie stayed home because of a sore throat. We left Mary's home about 11 a.m. I gave Julie two quarters (25¢ pieces) and I left one for each of the four boys with Mary. I left a \$5.00 check for Mary to pay for the commode that she rented for me, and I gave her 50¢. So, my coin change was about exhausted. ☺ I really enjoyed my visit with Mary and her sweet family. It was sure slippery trying to walk to the truck in that snow slush, but Rex kept me from falling, bless him. We drove to Holton and stopped at the Dairy Queen, for a sandwich and a chocolate malt. I had a fish sandwich. Rex and Donna ate a hot-dog sandwich. It tasted good. We arrived home about 3:15 p.m. It was drizzling most of the way, but not much rain here at the farm. Tonight, we had our Family Home Evening in my little suite. Rex conducted. Donna gave the prayer and read from the Home Evening book

and from the Book of Mormon. We all participated in the discussion of the lesson. A weary three are we tonight, but happy to be home again.

October 19, Tuesday

Donna went to her Relief Society meeting this morning. It is a cold, damp day with a fine mist, but no rain or snow. The fireplace man came to finish the rock work; Rex helped him. It will be nice to have the two fireplaces burning this winter. They couldn't use them last winter. I stayed in bed until 11:30 this morning. It is a nice way to keep warm and save on the electricity, plus the food. No breakfast needed. ☺ I had some orange juice with my Metamucil and my vitamins. I felt too weak to fix myself something to eat, so I came back to my swivel chair and watched the TV stories. Donna came home about 2 p.m. and brought me some lunch (scrambled egg, toast, applesauce, and Postum). She is my lifesaver, bless her heart. This afternoon Donna drove the truck to town to get some brick Rex needed. It surely looks as if we are going to have an early winter. This is not like October's bright blue weather, that's for sure. Donna made a delicious meat loaf from ground hamburger and she served it this evening with baked potatoes, green peas, peaches, and cookies. Rex came in to watch television but he slept through most of it, poor boy. He worked hard all day. Oh, I call him "boy" and he has 16 grandchildren. (All of them are my great grandchildren!) Rex went to bed about nine o'clock and Donna came in and we watched television for a while. Dorothy Tibbets phoned tonight at 10:15 to tell Donna that we are out of water. So, Rex will have to put the tank on the

truck so he can haul some water to the well tonight. That is life in Kansas, on our farm.

October 20, Wednesday

Happy birthday to Rick Shattuck, 19 years old:

The cute pup on your card has a message in blue

It says, "We all love you!"

You are 19 years old this fall,

Next will come your mission call!



Sandy Gardner and Rick Shattuck in June 1976. Two cute boys who look alike. Rick celebrates his 19th birthday October 20, 1976.

Mr. Pieman, the fireplace man, came again this morning to finish the job. Rex went to the Overbrook nursing home to work; he left here before daylight. He didn't get much sleep last night; he hauled two loads of water to the well, last night, after 10 p.m. Donna couldn't haul any this morning, because Rex had the truck and the tank with him. Their little VW bug is in Fontana at the Dokos Brothers Garage being overhauled. They took it there on October 13. We received a nice letter from Ann's mother, Mary Twitchell, telling about

the passing away of her father, Ronald Jones Dalley, in Cedar City, Utah. He was born August 5, 1889 and he died September 7, 1976. The funeral services were September 11, at 11:00 a.m. in the LDS Second Ward chapel, Cedar City, Utah. I presume Otto knows them. The interment was in the Summit City Cemetery. Mary T. enclosed the program, "In Loving Memory of her Father," He was 87 years old. Rex helped Mr. Pieman with the fireplace job with the pretty yellow-gold flat rock from this property. It is very expensive to buy, but we have a lot of it here in our yard. Nice, eh? Donna hauled a couple of tank loads of water to the well this late afternoon. Tonight, she and Rex drove to a neighbor's farm for some milk. Good night and sweet dreams. P.S. We hope Rick's is enjoying his 19th birthday; he is in Provo at BYU.

October 21, Thursday

Today is Dorothy Tibbets's birthday. Mr. Pieman came again this morning; he didn't get the fireplace

Happy Birthday



Guy and Dorothy Tibbets

finished yesterday. He is a slow worker, but he does a beautiful job. When he'd finished the outside, Donna had him go to the basement and finish the rock work on the hearth there. Donna brought my lunch at 12:30 noon on a TV tray. She ate with me, (a tuna sandwich, Postum, and applesauce. We both enjoyed watching the TV story, "As The World Turns" while we ate. It is a lovely, sunny day with a very blue sky, but a little chilly outside. Donna hauled some water to the well this morning and some more this afternoon. Donna made a birthday cake for Dorothy Tibbets and she took it with the gifts Mary, Jon, and Delphia sent home with us (a set of stainless-steel flatware and some other items, I've forgotten what else). Donna sang the birthday song to her. Dorothy was so happy she cried. She and Guy had both forgotten it was her birthday today. He bought her a nice handbag a couple of weeks ago, for her birthday, but they forgot it was her day today. (Happy Surprise!) As you older grow, it can happen, I know! Donna brought a delicious drink of eggnog to me about four o'clock. 'Twas very refreshing. She is so thoughtful of me and my comfort. Tonight, we watched television until bed time. Good night. P.S. I forgot to mention Joan's letter; they are **moving into their new home** in Illinois. I haven't got her address, but Donna has it. I surely hope they'll be very happy there.

October 22, Friday

I stayed in bed until almost noon. Donna brought lunch to me at 12:30. I enjoyed eating while watching television (the life of ease, eh?) We had an overcast morning, but the sun came out this afternoon. Rex came home from work at 3:30 p.m. He and Donna went to Overbrook to shop and go to the bank a few minutes later. The sun is playing "Peek a Boo" in and out of the clouds now (at 4 p.m.). I walked around in my suite for exercise and listened to some good music on my Magnavox player and dozed in my chair. Exciting, eh? It has seemed like a long, lonesome day to me. Of course, that is because I'm not active now. My eyes can't see well enough to read or sew and my heart action keeps me feeling weak so I just have to take it easy as long as I live, and try to be cheerful. I listened to the debate between our USA President and Governor Carter. It was on all of the TV stations. So, President Ford and Governor Carter's debate was it for television tonight. I got weary of listening to it so I turned out the lights and went to bed. Good night!

October 23, Saturday

I could see the lightening and hear the thunder and the downpour of rain in the night, but I was comfortable in my nice bed. Rex went to work early this morning to the nursing home. Donna brought half of a grapefruit for me to eat at lunch time. She made a nice chicken sandwich and some Postum for me, too. We have a gloomy, cloudy sky today. The sun broke through the clouds a few times this afternoon. Dorothy and Guy drove out this afternoon to go to Overbrook, I presume. She brought Donna's mail to us. There was a letter from Kathy with fourteen lovely wedding pictures of her and Mark's wedding day. They are all beautiful of the bride and groom and their families. Donna was disappointed because George Brown didn't send the little picture album that she paid \$4.00 for, so she wrote him a note asking him to mail it to her. I paid for a couple of the pictures, but I told Donna to keep them in the little album. I hope George mails it to her. Rex came home from work at 3:30 p.m. Donna took the truck out for a tank load of water to put in the well. Rex went



Sandy and Marshall at the foundation of the Naperville house in June of 1976. In October the home is almost finished.

to bed; I dozed in my chair. I was not very comfortable so I stretched out on my bed at 4:20 p.m. (Cloudy skies and heavy eyes.) Oh Hum! After dinner tonight we watched television for a couple of hours and enjoyed the entertainment of our TV programs. Saturday night has especially good programs, ending with the "Carol Burnett Show" with Steve Lawrence as a special guest.



One of the photos that arrived October 23.

October 24, Sunday

Welcome, welcome, Sabbath morning. Rex and Donna went to church in their pickup truck this morning. It was overcast and cold. I stayed in bed until noon. I was warm and comfortable there. Dorothy didn't go to church this morning. Rex and Donna came home about 1:40 p.m. I played some lovely hymns on my Magnavox player. (My sweet hours of worshiping on this Sabbath day.) I went to the kitchen to eat a nice dinner with Rex and Donna about 2:40 p.m. We had pot roast, potatoes, gravy, and mixed vegetables, with chocolate pudding and cream and a caramel cake. I dried the dishes for Donna and then came back to my suite. Rex had a fire burning in their little stove in their kitchen; it felt so good. I listened to more hymns by the Tabernacle Choir on my little record player. It is gloomy and cold today, but we have sunshine in our hearts. I enjoyed television this evening. Today is Al and Sue's wedding anniversary, also Ernie and Elaine's anniversary (42 years today) and I think it is 65 [64] years for Sue and Al. Donna brought a beef sandwich, glass of milk, and a piece of cake to me at 7:40 p.m. I tried to get interested in television tonight but there was nothing worth my time. Donna and Rex went to bed soon after 9 p.m., and I went not long after that. So, good night!



October 25, Monday

We have another cold, cloudy morning. I got up at 9:30 a.m. Donna and Dorothy had gone to do their Relief Society visiting. Rex was working outside in his tractor. He shoveled gravel from the pile in Tibbetses' yard to their driveway, so Dorothy's car will not get stuck in the mud. Rex and Guy also had a big bonfire burning in the field west of us earlier this morning. Donna came home at 11:45. She made a grilled tuna fish sandwich for my lunch. Marshes and Tibbetses built homes miles away from everything they need, so naturally, they use a lot of gasoline which is costly, plus the repair jobs on their cars from the miles of driving on rocks and ruts in the country roads. Donna says Rex is going to sell his cow Rebecca, and her calf, to pay for the repair job on the VW bug. Rex works hard to buy food for the home and material needed to fix the outside of this place. The poor man has more than he can possibly take care of. My Social Security check helps with the house payment each month. This place costs Rex a lot! Mr. Pieman worked slow, but did a beautiful job on the rock work on the fireplace; we are glad it is finished. Donna brought Sr. Jeanne Brooks in to visit with me this afternoon about 3:30 p.m. She is such a delightful person to talk with and so pretty, too. While Donna was out with Dorothy, she bought some cute birthday cards to send to her children. She also bought one for me to send to Donna Shattuck. Her day is November 15, and one to send to Otto Fife, his day is November 1. Jeanne Bickerstaff came later this afternoon to do her Relief Society visiting. She is a happy little sister with such pretty deep dimples. Rex and Donna drove to the dairy this evening for some milk. I got Otto Fife's birthday card ready to mail. Rex and Donna came in to my suite tonight and we listened to the Monday night movie. It was on the life of Amelia Earhart and was very interesting.

Bishop Hoglund Officiates at Daughter's Marriage

Miss Elaine Hoglund, daughter of Bishop and Mrs. A. Hoglund of 354 North Avenue 53, became the bride of Ernest James Vandergrift, son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Vandergrift of 3074 West Avenue 35, Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock at a ceremony performed by the bride's father in the Wee Kirk o' the Heather.

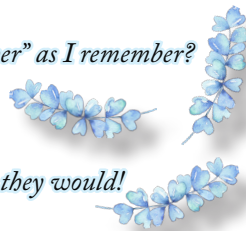
The bride was charming in a gown of white satin with lace yolk and her long halo-fashioned tulle veil was caught at the neck by a spray of orange blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of gardenias and bouvardia. Miss Lucille Evans was her only attendant. She was clad in a gown of green lace over satin with a tiny silver turban with tulle brim. Her bouquet was of talisman roses. Best man was George A. Vandergrift, Jr., who sang "I Love You Truly" preceding the ceremony, accompanied at the organ by Miss Kathleen Saxelvy.

After the ceremony there was a wedding supper at the Rosslyn hotel for 38 guests and later the young couple left to spend a month at Santa Monica. On their return they will establish residence in Highland Park. Both attended Franklin High school.

Elaine and Ernie's wedding announcement from the newspaper in 1934. On Susie and Al's twenty-second anniversary Al married his daughter to Ernest Vandergrift. On October 24, 1976 Al and Susie would have celebrated their 64th anniversary.

October 26, Tuesday

*Oh, where is October's "Bright Blue Weather" as I remember?
The beautiful autumn days of color,
These days are more like bleak November,
Ushering in the ice and snow of December.
The seasons are changing, as the Bible said they would!
I'll try to be cheerful as I know I should.*



I heard a car drive away before daylight; I presume it was Rex going to work at the nursing home. Donna and Dorothy went to Relief Society in Tibbetses' car. I stayed in bed and kept warm until noon. Donna told me that she went alone in the Tibbetses' car. Guy didn't want Dorothy to go away today; he needed some help at home. Donna brought a nice newsy letter from Lydia Paul to me. She enclosed a news clipping with pictures of Alvin J. Paul in it. He passed away October 10, at the age of 79. His funeral was October 13. He was survived by wife, Mable, son Jack, and a daughter Marjorie (who is a nurse). Lydia said, Marjorie is another Beverly Andersen. She never married, but stayed home and took care of her parents Alvin and Mable. They were ill a lot. Lydia said Art Keddington passed away October 21. They had three funerals that week. (Well, people are dying that never died before, eh?) Ha ha! Janet Shattuck phoned this morning about 6:30 our time. She had the happy news that David's company gave him another award of \$10,000 for Dave's inventions. I'm very happy for them. Donna put an electric blanket on my bed tonight. Our weather is cold now.

October 27, Wednesday

Donna helped me with my shower bath this morning. She adjusted the shower spray and heat so that I really did enjoy my shower today. She was going to help me shampoo my hair, but I felt too weak, so we'll work on that another day. I surely enjoyed the warm comfort of the electric blanket last night. It was nice to have less blankets, yet be warm. Donna brought a beef sandwich, some applesauce, and a glass of warm milk for my brunch about 1 p.m. I ate and enjoyed the television stories. Donna talked to Mary via phone this morning. She has her problems, too; both cars gave them some trouble, her washing machine's pump broke and etcetera, etcetera. Donna and I are sending her and Jon \$100.00 from our savings account. Bless their hearts, I wish we could send more. Donna mailed my birthday greetings to Otto Fife today for his birthday on the 1st. Television entertained us this evening until bed time.

October 28, Thursday

We did have some sunshine this morning but we have an overcast sky now at noon. The sun gets through now and then. Rex has been working on the outside of our house doing something? I presume he is getting ready to stucco. Donna brought my brunch to me about 12:30 noontime. (It was ham and Lima beans, toast, applesauce, and hot chocolate.) She and Rex went to Topeka this afternoon; they left here about 2:15 p.m. I enjoyed the TV stories. I went to the kitchen and put the dishes (that Donna left to drain in the sink) up in the cupboards. Rex and Donna came home about six o'clock this evening. Later she brought me a nice bowl

of beef stew, tapioca cream pudding, and cake. Rex bought a bag of "Fun Size" candy bars for the "trick or treater" guests, in case, we have any of them on Halloween (Saturday or Sunday?) Donna brought a Snickers chocolate bar to me this evening. I put it on the little end table until tomorrow. I enjoyed having Rex and Donna watch the television program "The Waltons" with me tonight. Jim Fowler (an animal man) brought some of his animals on the Johnny Carson show; he had a bat, a big vulture bird, an Arctic white wolf, and a laughing Hyena. His guest star was Bob Hope. It was a super show, but so late. I sure wish that show came on earlier.

October 29, Friday

It is cold and overcast again today. I didn't sleep too well last night, so I stayed in bed later this morning. When I got up Donna shampooed my hair at her kitchen sink. She has a nice water spray and it helped a lot to do the job with ease. She even put my hair up in her rollers, bless her heart. She is so very kind and thoughtful of my needs. She brought a nice lunch to me at 12:30 noon. I ate, and enjoyed the TV programs and then I dozed in my swivel chair while Donna made cakes and pies for the Relief Society bake sale tomorrow. Oh, what a busy life she has at age 62. I'm 22 years older than she is; she will be 62 on June 1, 1977, I'll be 84 on December 5, 1976. So, I was about 23 years old when she was born. She is looking forward to age 62 so she can collect her Social Security check like Rex and I do. Rex and Donna watched television with me again tonight after dinner. Because of the coming election for President, most of the TV stations are political and I'm fed up with their talks. "Promises, promises," ugh! I did not register in Kansas, so I'm not voting. I have cast my last vote and it is a relief. I went to bed soon after nine o'clock; I was too weary to wait for the ten o'clock news. Rex and Donna went to bed early, too. They have a big day tomorrow. Good night.

October 30, Saturday

I got up this morning to a cold, miserable day; it had been snowing and it was raining. I went back to bed until 11:30. The rain had stopped, but the sky was dark and cloudy. The sun did get through a time or two. I'm here alone, I hope it is pleasant weather, where Donna is having her bake sale for Relief Society. I think it is in Paola, but not sure. I don't hear too well, and she is soft spoken. I went to the kitchen and got something to eat at noontime (peanut butter on toast, warm milk, and a dish of peaches). I came back to my suite to eat and relax in my swivel chair. It is getting darker, looks like more storm is coming. Donna and Rex came home about 3:15 from the bake sale in Paola; she said they sold out and made \$60.00. It was cold but not stormy, and \$60 was encouraging. Someone had put a barb wire across the opening to Rex's farm gate posts. He had to get out of his truck and remove it before he could drive in. They presume it was some kid's Halloween prank, of "Trick or Treat" fun. Donna bought me a ten pack of Wrigley's gum (Juicy Fruit) for 89¢, a special Halloween bargain. I started a letter to Lydia Paul. I finished it before I went to bed. Donna set my electric clock back an hour tonight, so I'll go to bed at 9:30 instead of 10:30. Good night.



October 31, Sunday

It was very pleasant to wake up to sunshine for a change. Rex went to work early this morning before it was daylight. Donna and Dorothy T. went to Sunday School and church in Dorothy's car. I wore myself out combing through the curls that Donna put in my hair after she shampooed it on Friday. She took the rollers out Friday night, but I didn't comb through the curls until this morning. OUCH! I had to rest in my chair before I could make my bed and say my prayer, but, that's okay, I've got nothing to do but relax all day. "Holy Sabbath, day of rest," and rest is something I do best. I do enjoy listening to our beautiful Mormon hymns on my Magnavox player; it is church for me. There is a lovely message in each hymn. Donna and Dorothy came home about 2:15 p.m. I hadn't been to the kitchen for food; I wasn't hungry. I love this sunny day. Donna and I ate our dinner from TV trays in my suite, we had roast lamb, mashed potatoes, green beans, and pie. I had pumpkin pie that Dorothy made and Donna had lemon pie that she made. It was a good dinner! Rex wasn't hungry when he came home at 3:30 p.m.; he ate at the nursing home. He listened to the ball game on the TV downstairs. I enjoyed some lovely music on my record player and dozed in my chair. Br. Earnest Hall and Br. Jack Story came to visit us this late afternoon. I went in the Marshes' side to visit with our branch brothers. We used to call them ward teachers, but we lived in wards, not branches then.

November 1, Monday

Happy birthday to Otto R. Fife; I wrote this little verse in his card:

*The bright yellow sun on your card
with flowers pink, lavender, and
blue.*

*Has a message of love, dear Otto,
from us to you.*

*Keep making folks feel happy, as you
always do,*

*On November first, we'll be thinking
of you! Happy Birthday.*

I enclosed two \$1.00 bills with Otto's card and this verse. It was cold and cloudy this morning, but sunny this afternoon. Donna brought a beef sandwich, applesauce, and hot chocolate for my lunch. She learned that our Social Security checks would arrive on the first of the month instead of the third. She went to the bank this afternoon and took care of the house payment and brought \$40.00 in cash to me. It is nice to have payday on the first, eh? I received a letter from Blanche Hoglund today. She wrote it on October 28. She says she longs to see Oscar and be with him; with his back straight again, etcetera. She says there are 30 elderly people living in the apartments on the floor she lives on; all women except for two. One man is 88 years old, the other is 90 years old. They need help to get dressed and etcetera. The women take care of themselves. Blanche is 87, I think? She says the weather is warm, 80 to 83 degrees where she is in Long Beach, California. Her sister, LaPriel, is visiting in the Holy Land with twenty Mormon women from Salt Lake City. She expects to be home November 5.



Young Otto Fife

Gay's second son will go on a mission in January. LaPriel is expecting her granddaughter home from her mission in January. Blanche is proud of her family and she has good reason to be. The election is about all we can get on television, so I'm going to bed. I'm not voting anyway. Sweet dreams.

November 2, Tuesday

We have a cloudy sky with intermittent sunshine. Rex went to work before daylight this morning. Donna drove Dorothy's car to Relief Society in Ottawa this morning. Dorothy didn't feel well enough to go today. I went to the kitchen and fixed myself some lunch at noontime (toast, peanut butter, warm milk, and cooked peaches). [Elvie often mentions eating cooked peaches, to clarify, we believe she meant canned peaches.] I listened to the TV stories while eating it. Donna brought the mail home when she came about 2 p.m. She had a letter from Marty Strong. She wrote from the hospital; she had a clot in her lungs that had to be taken care of. There was a letter from Joan and one from Mary. The Gardners are getting settled in their new home in Illinois. Mary had to take Jody to the hospital for some minor accident. That boy is prone to accidents! (Here a stitch, there a stitch!) But he comes back smiling. The Kansas State Bank sent my mail deposit receipt slip to me (for my Social Security check, \$291.40) This evening Rex and Donna drove to the dairy for milk.

I dozed in my chair. Tonight, Donna and I watched the election returns; it was very interesting to watch the big map of the United States light up, one state after another, as the vote returns came in. **If the color was *red, it was a Jimmy Carter state.** If the color was blue, it was a Jerry Ford state. The Southern States were mostly red, for Carter. The mid-west came in blue for Ford. Utah was among the first to light up blue for President Ford. It takes so long for all of the returns to come in and we can't stay up all night, so, we went to bed about eleven o'clock. The race was close, but Jimmy Carter was leading ahead when we turned the TV off.

**In the United States, the color blue has been associated with the liberal Democratic Party since around the 2000 presidential election, when most of the major television networks used the same color scheme for the parties. This makes the United States an exception to the general rule that blue represents conservative parties; the major conservative party in the United States, the Republican Party, uses red. In 2010, the Democratic party unveiled a blue official logo.*

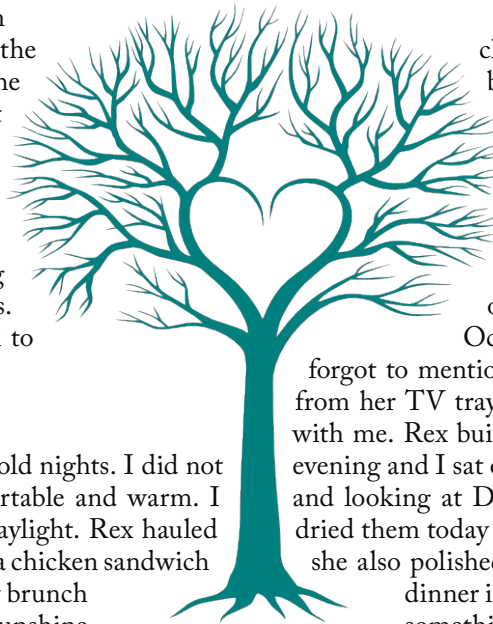


November 3, Wednesday

Donna came in to my bed about nine o'clock to tell me we have a new U.S. President; Mr. Jimmy Carter won the election. President Ford and family will be moving out of the White House in a few weeks. (Heartaches for some, and joy for others, eh?) President Ford congratulated Mr. Carter by phone and by telegram. He wants to help in any way he can to be of service for the good of our country. That's the "American Way" (the best country in the world, eh?) We have a pretty day with sunshine and blue sky. Donna received a cute letter from Kathy; she and Mark love it in California and she wishes we lived there, too. (So do I!) She enclosed a couple of pictures of **Rick Shattuck**; one is for me. He is a handsome lad. Rex had a big truck load of material come this afternoon. It is dumped in our backyard ready to be used to stucco the house. The veterinarian came to take the shoes off of the horses for the winter. It was news to me that the horses keep warmer in the winter's ice and snow without the shoes on. (Live and learn, eh?) Television on all the channels was about the election returns, interviewing people on the street and in the homes. I'm glad it is over so we can get back to normal programs on TV. Good night!



Kathy and Rick February 1976.



Kathy's guess on her future family wasn't too accurate, unless you subtract one girl and one boy. ☺

November 4, Thursday

I appreciate my electric blanket these cold nights. I did not sleep well last night, but I was comfortable and warm. I slept soundly a couple of hours after daylight. Rex hauled some water to the well. Donna brought a chicken sandwich and some hot chocolate to drink for my brunch at 12:30. We have a pretty day with sunshine and blue sky, but it is cold. This afternoon Rex and Donna drove to Ottawa. I believe they were going to look at the fireplace fixtures; the grate of iron framework, the screen, fireplace tools, poker, brush, and shovel. They came home about 3:45 p.m. and brought them home with them. They charged them to their Sears account. Rex will have to cut some logs to burn in the fireplaces. We have one in the basement and one in the living room. They'll be cheerful for the family at Thanksgiving time, eh? Donna came to get me to come and see the new fixtures and I was surprised to see a bright fire already burning in the grate. It looked so cheerful. They brought only one set home with them, but Rex ordered the grate and screen for the basement. I told them I'd pay for the two sets for their Christmas gift. Donna wouldn't take my check now, she said they'll need it later. Donna also brought some Christmas cards home for me and herself. She bought two boxes with envelopes and postcards for Christmas greetings (a nice idea.) I'm sorry I make such a mess of my writing,

but I like to keep a record even if I can't read it later. I watched the "Clark Gable Life Story" and "The Waltons" two hour special alone tonight. P.S. Donna talked of buying the fireplace set at Penney's Store, so I wrote Penney's on the check and they got it at Sears Store, so I messed up the record, sorry.

November 5, Friday

We have a blue sky and sunshine again today, but they tell me it is chilly outside, but pleasant. Rex worked on the outside of the house this morning. Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich, Postum, and a custard for my lunch, with a little Milky Way chocolate bar for dessert. I ate while watching the TV stories, that is fun! Donna hauled a load of water to the well this afternoon, she brought a cute letter from Kathy Calkins. Kathy enclosed a pedigree chart naming her six children, four boys and two girls, their birthdays, and etcetera. (All born two years apart.) She is a cutie and she isn't even pregnant. The new Ensign magazine came today for November. There is a good picture of our boy, John Louis Marsh, at work with his movie camera taking pictures of the Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir at the October general conference last month. I

forgot to mention that Donna ate lunch with me today, from her TV tray. It is so much fun to have her eat here with me. Rex built a fire in the living room fireplace this evening and I sat on the sofa and enjoyed watching the fire and looking at Donna's pretty curtains. She washed and dried them today and hung them up again. This afternoon she also polished her furniture. It looks lovely. I ate my dinner in my place from a TV tray. I tried to find something entertaining on television tonight, but everything was violent and distressing to see, so I gave up and turned out the lights and went to bed. Oh, why can't we have some relaxing, happy programs like we used to have a few years ago? I'm disgusted with the filth they put on TV now days.

November 6, Saturday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest. We have sunshine and clouds in our sky this morning. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray at noontime. It was tuna fish sandwich, hot chocolate, and peaches. She went to Overbrook town with Guy and Dorothy Tibbets about 12:15 noon. I presume Rex took his cow Rebecca and her calf, Big Mac, to the auction or market to sell? He had a frame work on his truck so he could take them today. The mailman came out to Tibbetses' house and honked his horn several times, but no one was home. I went to Donna's back door and out to the driveway to try and catch him so he'd leave the package here, but he didn't hear me call to him. His car was running and I

couldn't run, so he took their package back to the post office. I'm sorry about that. When Donna came, she said the package was for her, from Janet. The slip was in her mailbox telling her there is a package in the post office for her. Isn't it a shame he didn't see me? If only our front porch was on so I could go out the front door. It is too far to the back door and through the garage to the driveway in time. It is frustrating! Donna says Rex took his black cow to sell also; he has no cows now. Joan's black cow is still here. Donna came in this afternoon and vacuum cleaned my rugs and furniture, in fact, she gave my suite a good cleaning. I sat on her couch and enjoyed the pretty view. I insisted on giving her \$5.00 for cleaning my suite. She didn't want to take it, but I was happy to have my place cleaned and it is easy to pay for work I can't do myself.

November 7, Sunday

Donna looked so pretty this morning when she came in at eight o'clock. She was on her way to stake conference with Rex. They went in the pickup truck to Kansas City. They will not be home until after four o'clock, because they are going to our branch sacrament meeting in Ottawa at two o'clock. It will be a long day for them (and for me, too). We have a sunny, blue sky, but it is windy out there. The leaves are falling fast; the trees will be bare soon. Winter is on its way. I went to the kitchen about 1:45 to get a bite to eat. I had a mug of warm milk, a piece of toast with peanut butter, and a cookie, plus my Metamucil and my vitamins. It is fast Sunday; Donna fasted from about 4 p.m. yesterday to after 4 p.m. today. I fasted from about 6:30 p.m. last night until 2 p.m. today. I don't feel hungry, but I do feel weak if I don't eat a little bite of food. Our church leaders say the really young, and the really old are not expected to fast. I'll be 84 years old next month and that is really old, isn't it? Donna had a nice dinner ready about 5 p.m. I went to the kitchen and ate with her and Rex. It was pot roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, green peas, a jelled salad, and chocolate ice cream. I dried the dishes for Donna and was back in my suite by 6 p.m. Donna is browning some stewing beef for her company tomorrow. Rex made a cheerful fire in the fireplace and we all watched, "Gone with the Wind," The conclusion will be tomorrow night. Donna made some hot chocolate for us; they enjoyed it with cookies, but I didn't indulge tonight. I wasn't feeling very well.

November 8, Monday

We had action on the farm early today. Rex was up early getting ready for the cement pouring job in the Tibbetses' basement. I heard the big truck come and the friends cars drive in the yard. I stayed under the warm covers and listened to the sounds and voices of busy workers. Br. Dale Westhoff, brought his wife, Marie, with him; she visited with Donna. Br. Ray Ryan came alone. His wife, Nadine, is on the Relief Society luncheon committee tomorrow, so she stayed home to prepare for it. Donna is on the committee, also. Janet sent some cute pictures for us to look at and



return. They are colored snap shots of her children and their friends in the Road Show. Donna Shattuck is a very pretty girl and Doug is a fine-looking boy. He was 15 years old last May 25. Donna was 13 last November 15. (She'll soon be 14.) Rex fixed the antenna wire, that was flapping against my room in the wind and making an annoying sound. I heard it last night and today. I'm glad it is fixed. Our well ran dry this evening so Rex had to haul water to it. Br. Ryan put the cupboards up in the basement while Br. Westhoff helped Rex with the cement pouring job and then helped with the cabinet work. Donna had them all to lunch at noon. She brought a TV tray to me with some of the good beef stew, jelled salad and tapioca pudding. Marie Westhoff visited with me for a while this afternoon. She is a nice person. Donna bought a TV guide magazine today. Tonight, the three of us watched the conclusion of the TV movie, "Gone with the Wind" starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh. (It was very colorful.) Good night.

November 9, Tuesday

Donna was on the luncheon committee in Relief Society today, so it was a long day for her. She didn't get home until four o'clock. I stayed in bed until almost noon, it's a nice way to keep warm and save on the furnace heat. Donna received a letter from Ann's mother, Mrs. Twitchell. She enclosed a news clipping for the "College Alumni Magazine," from Cedar City. It was titled, "More Personalities," There was a picture of Otto Fife and an article about his active life in Cedar City. She also enclosed a notice of the passing away of Arthur R. Fife, age 89 years, telling of his active life in Cedar City. I didn't feel hungry, or like going to the kitchen to fix myself something to eat, so I watched the television stories instead. Donna was appalled that I hadn't eaten anything and it was after 4 p.m. She brought a TV tray with my dinner on about 4:30. So, I enjoyed an early dinner. She also put a new 3-way globe in my lamp so I can have better light. I wanted to do some scrapbook work this afternoon but I didn't get around to it. We had our Home Evening tonight. Rex called on me to open the meeting with prayer. Donna gave the lesson on how to study the Book of Mormon, and the need to understand its coming forth at this time. It was very interesting. After Donna's lovely lesson, I could not find anything on television worth listening to, so I did some scrapbook work. Eight o'clock was too early for me to retire.

November 10, Wednesday

Today's sky is fantastic, an amazing formation of clouds. They look like a rough storm at sea with curling waves rippling across the sky. One of Donna's neighbors, on a farm in our location, called on her this morning. I believe she said her name is Mrs. Alexander. They had a nice visit. She told Donna she'd be happy to have the Mormon missionaries call and talk to her about the LDS Gospel of Jesus Christ. Donna would like to have more of her neighbors interested in hearing about the gospel, so she can invite the missionaries



out to talk with them. Today's mail brought a nice letter from Mary. She enclosed cute pictures in color of Julie, Greg, Jody, and Spencer. [See above.] She sent two sets. Donna gave me the small sized set. They are good looking children. This evening Donna brought me a package of precious family pictures to look at. Some of them came from Grandma Marsh's collection. I surely enjoyed going through them, while Rex and Donna went to haul water to the well. Donna and I ate our dinner from TV trays in my suite. Tonight, I watched television's Charles Bronson in "Death Wish." It is about a one-man vigilante squad out to wreak the hoodlums who destroyed his wife and daughter. It was interesting. I was alone and lonesome. I tried to find something more cheerful on TV, but I gave up and turned off the set and went to bed.

November 11, Thursday

We enjoyed a pretty autumn day with blue sky and yellow gold leaves falling in the breeze. Today's mail brought a letter from Violet; she talked about their Golden Wedding Anniversary on October 21. I was shocked to think I didn't send them a golden wedding card and some money. Donna felt badly, too. She suggested that we phone Violet, which we did. It was oh, so nice, to hear her dear voice and talk to her. She was happy to hear from us, too. I felt so much better after talking to her. I think we'll send them a golden anniversary card and a little money, too, as soon as we can get to a store to buy the card. Yvonne ordered a wedding cake with a big gold "50" on it; she paid for it when she was home in August. Then, she phoned them on October 21 to have Otto pick up the cake. Violet said it was just beautiful. The children went together and gave their parents an RCA Television set. Now, Otto can watch the sports on one set and Violet her favorite programs on the other set, nice, eh? Chris and Suzie sent \$20.00 in their card and Ruth Nutt sent \$10.00 in their card. They received flowers, plants, chocolates, and cards. I'm

glad someone remembered to congratulate them. Rex and Donna took Joan's horse to the auction this evening to be sold to the highest bidder. It was after ten o'clock before they got home. I do not know what they got for the horse, but they were pleased with the check to send to Joan. Donna left some lamb ribs and potatoes on simmering and some green beans, so I fixed my own dinner at 6 p.m. We all watched the Johnny Carson TV show tonight. Good night.

November 12, Friday

Donna bought a pretty golden wedding card for us to send to Violet and Otto Fife. Their day was October 21. We slipped up on it somehow. I think we'll enclose \$10.00. I got the Fifes' anniversary card ready to mail with the ten dollars in it. I composed this little verse:

*Congratulations, you precious dears,
You've kept your vows these fifty years.
The Golden Wedding is a special prize,
Every married couple cannot realize.
May the dear Lord bless you every day,
And we wish you happiness all the way!*



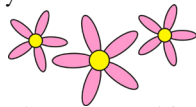
Donna will enclose a little note in it, too, before she mails it. She brought my brunch before she went to Overbrook with Rex. We have a nice day with blue sky and sunshine, but chilly. (It is nice and warm in the house.) Donna and Rex went to town this afternoon about 2:20. She said they were going to shop and they'd be home about 5 or 6 p.m. I listened to the TV stories to keep from being so lonesome. Donna said they did their shopping in Lawrence. She has started her Christmas shopping. She got a pretty, little wool cap and gloves for one of her little girls. She brought a few birthday cards; one for me to send to Ann Marsh, her day is the 26th of November. Donna also bought a pretty, little white sweater for Paula. Rex had a nice fire going in the fireplace tonight. I went out to their living room to enjoy it.

November 13, Saturday

We have enjoyed a pleasant day with sunshine and blue sky, but it is cold outside. Well, I stay inside and keep warm. Donna told me to come in their kitchen and enjoy the warm fire they had burning in the little stove and in the fireplace, too. It was nice and warm in her place. We had a nice discussion about my spiritual experience when she and her twin brother were born, (when my spirit left my body and stood by the hospital table.) She wrote down what I said about that amazing experience. She had it typed a few years ago, but can't find her copy, so we tried to recall it for her family record. I went through one of my albums to see if I had a copy of it, but I didn't have it in that book. I counted sixty tributes to sisters in the Pasadena Wards of "Queen for a Day." I know I composed a hundred or more. I have some in other albums. Donna brought me a glass of cold orange juice tonight, thoughtful dear Donna, eh? I watched television by myself tonight "All in the Family," "Alice," and "The Carol Burnett Show" plus the ten o'clock news. P.S. John L. phoned from Salt Lake City after they read his mother's letter. He would rather phone than write. They are making plans for Thanksgiving. The Dave Shattucks will be with them. Good night all.

November 14, Sunday

I slept very well last night, (a blessing indeed). We have an overcast sky; I know it is cold outside, but I'm cozy and warm in my pretty, little suite. Rex and Donna went to Sunday School and his priesthood early. She took a lunch for them; they'll be gone most of the day. She left a plate lunch in the refrigerator for me (potato salad, fried chicken, olives, buttered bread, and chocolate pudding with cream). She is a precious daughter, isn't she? I took a bath before getting dressed. I combed my hair and said my prayer before eating my nice lunch. After eating, I looked through one of my picture albums; that is always entertaining and it brings back a lot of happy memories. Rex and Donna came home about four o'clock. She visited with me for a while and looked through my red rose picture album. Rex built a nice, big fire in the fireplace and invited us to come in the living room and enjoy it, which we did. He had a war picture on of the World War that General George Patton was active in. I enjoyed the bright logs burning in the fireplace, but I got fed up with the noisy fighting and dreadful swearing of the men. They were all "S. of B's, fighting like h---!" Oh, such language. Not my idea of a Sabbath day program. I came back to my suite, but I couldn't find anything I liked on my color set, so I wrote in my diary and turned out the lights and went to bed.



November 15, Monday

Happy birthday to Donna Shattuck, 14 years old. *The blue-eyed blond in pink, with her Teddy Bear, Has a message to you, from us, she wants to share. 'Tis this, "We all love you and want you to know, You are more lovely, each year you grow!" For 14 years of happy life, we'll give three cheers May that happiness last all through the years.*



Donna Suzanne is 14 years old in 1976.

We are enjoying a lovely, sunny Autumn day. I spent an hour or more going through one of my old picture albums; the brown one. It is so old; it is falling apart. The pages are brown and brittle, but the pictures and clippings are good. I also looked through the precious, little album that Frances Helman made for me many years ago. It brought me many happy memories. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook; she bought eye drops for me and another item or two. I enjoyed the plate lunch Donna brought to me; I watched the TV stories while eating. This afternoon I played with words to entertain myself. I titled it, "L.V.'s Alphabetical Fun Rhyme.

*Come on kid, get Y's, don't shut your
I's,
This is no time to T's, if the old tree
D.K.'s
Stop with the G's, it's a home for the
B's.
The honey you can U's, your mistakes
I'll X-Q's,
The chattering J. likes what he C's
So, open your I's, it's time to get Y's.
Stop your life of E's and go and
plant some P's.*



November 16, Tuesday

We had frost on the ground early this morning. I got back in bed after looking out the bathroom window. Burr. Donna went to her Relief Society meeting in the Ottawa Branch; she left a tray of food for me before she left, bless her. Rex is here working around the place. I can hear his cement mixer going, I presume it is the house stuccoing job. Donna came home about 3 p.m. It is cloudy and cold outside, but I stay inside where it is nice and warm. I walked out to Marshes' living room to see the pretty fire Donna had burning in the fireplace. She had one going in the little stove in the kitchen, too. It is a cold, wintry day. I keep my little suite nice and warm. We had some sunshine for a while this morning, but not for long. Rex got a coat of stucco on the west side of the house, but he couldn't finish because he ran out of the cement. He took the truck to haul some water to the well. Pioneering here in Kansas is not my idea of happiness, but if Rex and Donna are happy here, I'll try to be contented, too. Some sweet day I'll be released to join with my own generation in the spirit world. Oh, happy day! Donna came in my place tonight to tell me about Joan's telephone call. She told Joan she was going to sell Grampa Lou's violin to help pay for cement needed here to do the stucco work. Joan said, "Oh Mother, don't sell Grampa's violin! Let me buy it, I'd love to have it."

A surprise and another big surprise. When Rex saw the violin was out ready to sell, he felt he couldn't part with it. Donna has never heard Rex play the violin in her married life, some 40 years, yet, he wants to keep it? P.S. I had Donna write a check for \$100 to pay for the fireplace fixtures and some cement that Rex needs to do for the stuccoing job on our house. It is my Christmas gift to them. [Brian Tibbets had the violin refinished and reconditioned years later. It now belongs to his daughter Grace and she plays it beautifully.]

November 17, Wednesday

Donna went to Overbrook with Rex this morning to buy the cement so Rex can continue with the house stucco job. We are blessed with a lovely, sunny day. Donna brought my brunch to me about noon time (egg, toast, bacon, fruit, and Postum). I enjoyed the TV stories while eating. Rex spent the afternoon working on the first coat of stuccoing on the house. Joan talked to Donna yesterday about her new church job; she is really "uptight" about it but is making an effort of doing her best to teach the "Gospel Doctrine" class in Sunday School. It is a big challenge for Joan, but we know she'll come through it beautifully. It will be a wonderful experience for our precious Joan, bless her heart. I wrote a birthday verse for Ann Marsh's card; her day is November 26. I enclosed \$3.00. I'm glad John has a lovely wife like Ann. I can hear Rex working on the stuccoing job outside my suite. I'm glad it was a nice day; he'll be tired tonight. He has worked so hard today. Rex came in tonight and watched the television story of Aimee Semple McPherson; it was interesting. [Photo of Aimee on following page.] Donna watched some TV programs with me earlier this evening. I feel weary tonight, so I'll turn out the lights and go to bed. Sweet dreams



Who Was Sister Aimee? The Incredible Story of L.A.'s Famous Evangelical Priest.

<https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/who-was-sister-aimee-the-incredible-story-of-las-famous-evangelical-priest>

November 18, Thursday

I heard Rex up early this morning; I presume he hauled water to the well. It was a sunny morning but cold. I stayed in bed to keep warm and to save on the heat in my suite. Donna brought me a tray of food for my brunch at noon. Rex has worked hard all-day mixing cement and sand and applying it to the house for the first coat of stucco. He'll have two more coats of stucco to put on before it is finished. I made out a check for my church donations for \$12.00, and I wrote the checks for my Christmas gifts to the grandchildren. I sent \$20.00 to the ones with children (Janet, Joan, and Mary), and \$10.00 to John and Ann, and \$10.00 to Kathy and Mark. That all came to \$80.00 and took my checking account down to \$69.45. I'll have to build it back up when my Social Security checks arrive each month. It has been such a lovely, sunny day. Donna took me for a walk around the house so I could see how nice it looks with the first coat of stucco on it. Rex has worked hard to get this stucco on all four sides of the house; it is good to have that black tar paper covered up. He has to put two more coats on. I see I'm repeating myself, please X Q's me. I addressed the Christmas cards I'm sending the checks in. I will not be sending a lot of greeting cards this Yule Tide season. I can't do it anymore; you'll understand when you're 84.

November 19, Friday

We have another pretty fall day. Donna changed the sheets on my bed this morning while I was getting washed and dressed in the bathroom. Rex went to work before daylight to the Overbrook nursing home. I heard him drive away; his car lights lit up my room. I wanted to answer Blanche Hoglund's letter, but I didn't feel like it, so I wrote a postcard to her instead. Donna brought my brunch at noon, Cream of Wheat, applesauce, toast, and hot chocolate, bless her heart. Donna brought her

letter from Louise Pearce in this afternoon and read it to me. She sent Donna a lot of pedigree sheets for Donna to fill in about her family's genealogy. Louise is reaching far out for her records, eh? Donna is anxious to have her four lines done, her parents, and Rex's parents' genealogy, not all of the cousins and etcetera. My dear Rex brought me a treat this afternoon, some M & M candies and some cashew nuts. They were presented with a nice kiss; isn't he a precious son-in-law? Donna went to get a tank full of water for the well this afternoon about 4:30 p.m. It was after 6 p.m. before she came home, it is almost dark by six o'clock; she had to wait a long time to get the water and then to empty it in the well takes time, too. She baked some little, frozen chicken pies after she got home. So, our dinner was late tonight. But I was not hungry, so I didn't mind the wait. Television entertained us. Rex worked until dark at the Tibbetses' house, getting their basement ready to pour the second load of cement next Monday. Donna came in here tonight and went over some of the pedigree sheets Louise Pearce sent to her. It is all bewildering to me now.

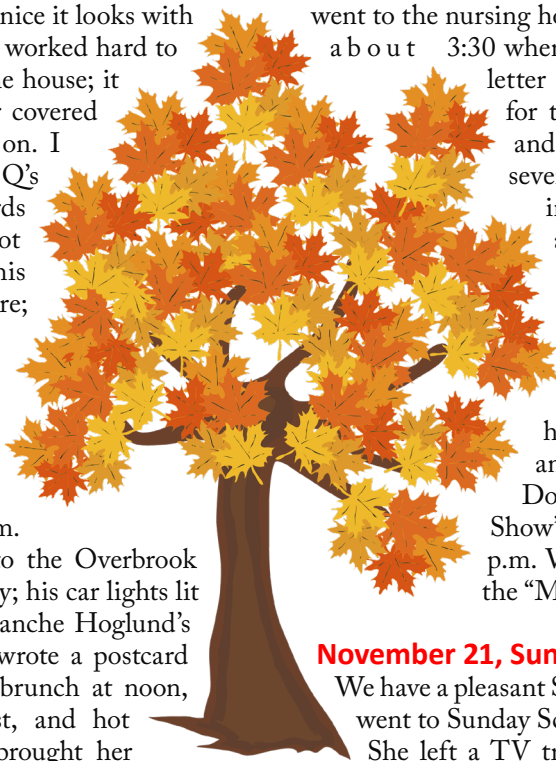
November 20, Saturday

We have sunshine and clouds this morning. I think Donna took Rex to work this morning early so she could have the pickup truck to go to her Relief Society meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. She left a TV tray in my front room with cold cereal, milk, apple sauce, and buttered bread on it. They haven't got their VW bug home yet from Dokos Garage in Fontana, so the truck is their only transportation now. I didn't get up until noon. It is a good way to keep warm without turning on the heat; electricity costs a lot. This is an electric home (cooking, heat, and lights). The snow and ice last winter shut off the electricity a few times and that is a panic. But we have the stove and fireplace to turn to for heat, thank goodness. Oh, you are lucky ones in beautiful California. It has been a long lonesome day for me. Donna went to the nursing home to pick up Rex after work. It was about 3:30 when they came home. Donna brought a

letter from Violet to me. She thanked us for the pretty wedding anniversary card and the \$10.00 we enclosed. Three out of seven couples made the Golden Wedding, in Mother and Father's family. Owen and Lydia were only 4 months away from their Golden anniversary when he died. The Rotary Club of Cedar City gave Otto the honor of naming him "Man of the Year." They'll have a special program in his honor. Otto surely has his picture and name in the newspapers a lot. Donna watched "The Lawrence Welk Show" with me on TV tonight from 6 to 7 p.m. We enjoyed it a lot. Then we watched the "Mary Tyler Moore Show," Good night.

November 21, Sunday

We have a pleasant Sabbath day, but cold. Donna and Rex went to Sunday School and church in the pickup truck. She left a TV tray in my room with some crackers,



cheese, milk, and fruit and a note saying, we'd have dinner about three o'clock, but she thought I might like a snack. I enjoyed the snack at eleven o'clock and I wrote this on her note, "U. R. Y's, I can C that U. R. O so Y's." ☺ I like to play with the alphabet, U can C. I'm a T's. Rex came home driving the pick-up truck and Donna came driving the little, red VW bug. They drove in the yard about 2 p.m. Donna was pleased with the little VW car, she said it performed like new. I presume it has a lot of new parts in it, I think it cost \$123, if I remember correctly. I was really exhausted after my bath this morning. I went to the kitchen to eat dinner with Rex and Donna. It was a lovely roast beef dinner about 3 p.m. I dried the dishes and Donna washed them. We were almost finished when our brethren from the branch came, Br. Ernie Hall and Br. Jack Story. We had a nice visit with them. Then, they went next door to visit with the Tibbetses. Rex had fires burning in the fireplace and in the little stove in the kitchen. They heat the Marshes' side up nicely and the fireplace looks so pretty. I love to sit and look at it burning. Donna came in my suite this evening and read from her book on how to study the Book of Mormon; it was so interesting. I love to have her read to me from our church books. I think John L. gave the book to her.

November 22, Monday

Donna and Dorothy did their visiting teaching for Relief Society this morning. She bought my Christmas stamps today, \$5.00 for forty stamps. They are pretty, two different patterns. She also bought a box of "Cutie Pie" birthday cards, twelve for 59¢, plus tax. They received a pretty Thanksgiving Day card from Florence and Ernest Oates. This is the first time I haven't sent some Thanksgiving cards. I will not send many Christmas cards either. I can't keep up anymore. It is too much of an effort. We had bright sunshine this morning, but this afternoon is cloudy and gloomy looking. The weather report says we may have some snow flurries this evening or tonight. Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich and hot chocolate and pumpkin pie with ice cream on for my brunch about 1 p.m., she is a darling. I wrote a letter to Violet this afternoon and I put the stamps on the Christmas cards I have addressed to my five grandchildren with their Christmas checks enclosed. It is my Christmas gift to them and their families. I sent \$20.00 checks to Janet, Joan, and Mary, and \$10.00 checks to John and Ann, and Kathy and Mark. That came to \$80.00. They do their own shopping. Donna and I ate a nice dinner in my suite tonight at six o'clock. We had meat, potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetables, and raw fruit salad and ice cream. I do enjoy it when she eats in here with me from TV trays. We enjoyed some good concert music on TV. Rex was watching something on the TV set out there that was more to his liking (action). Good night all.



On November 21 the VW runs like new!

November 23, Tuesday

I think Rex went to work early this morning; Donna went to her Relief Society meeting, she left a tray of food for me with a tuna fish sandwich, applesauce, milk, and pumpkin pie. I enjoyed eating while watching the TV (soapbox operas). They have so many problems, my life seems like a breeze. We have a very lovely, sunny day, but it is cold outside they tell me. Rex came home at 3:30. He passed Dorothy's car and waved to her; he didn't know it was Donna with her. He thought it was Guy. Rex made himself a chocolate milkshake;

he visited with me until the phone rang and he went to answer it. I dozed in my chair. Rex took the tractor to the dry pond west of the house to dig out some more dirt before the rains come. Donna brought the change from my \$10.00 bill; I wanted some one-dollar bills. She got five ones and one \$5.00 bill. I got Mary Tibbets's birthday card ready to go, \$3.00 enclosed. Her day is November 28. I gave Donna \$1.00 for the fun of it. She brought me a TV tray with a nice dinner on it about six o'clock; she brought her tray in and ate with me. Rex was working with his tractor in the dry pond. Rex and Donna went to get milk tonight. Later Donna came in and read to me from the Church Ensign magazine. I surely do love it when she reads to me from the Ensign, or any church works of LDS testimony.

November 24, Wednesday

Good Morning! We have a blue sky and sunshine to greet us this day. We had a lot of action on Marshes' Mound this morning. I stayed in my warm bed and listened to the sounds outside. The big cement mixer drove in Tibbetses' yard and poured the second load of cement in the basement. Rex and a couple of branch friends (elders) leveled the cement. So, two thirds is done now. The last third will be poured sometime soon. They poured 1/3 at a time in Tibbetses' basement. Rex and the three men have worked at the Tibbetses' home all day. Our well water has been turned off this afternoon for over an hour because the Merrill family is going off our well water. They have connected up with the local water system and the pipe lines had to be changed, so our water was shut off. Donna took the truck out to haul some water to the well this afternoon. She made a big pot of Chili and beans to feed the men that worked with Rex at Tibbetses' today. Dorothy made a couple of apple pies to help feed them. They ate over here. Donna brought me a little dish of chili and some fruit salad and some apple pie. I enjoyed my lunch. Dorothy's pies were delicious and so was the chili and Donna's fresh French bread. Rex came home from the well; he thought we had water, but we did not. The poor man had to go back after dark and work on the pressure to get it up enough to pump water to the two houses. (Another of the many reasons I like city life!)



November 25, Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving Day! Last night's weather reporter said we'd have a beautiful, warm day today, but it was not so. Our morning was cold and cloudy. The sun did get through the clouds about 1:15. It was in and out of the clouds, but it was cold outside. Donna brought me a cup of Postum and some toast at 1 p.m. She got up at 5 a.m. and stuffed the turkey and put it in the oven to bake. She just told me the big bird is done, 1:30 p.m. She has the potatoes and vegetables ready to cook when the Jon Tibbetses arrive. (She wishes they'd arrive soon.) I dressed in my purple slacks and warm outing flannel jacket top with the bright colored flowers to celebrate the holiday. Donna worked all day yesterday getting ready for today's fun. She has the big long table in the basement all set and the beds made up for Mary and family. Everybody works around our house but her old mom! The wind is blowing hard now at 1:45. Darn the football games on all the TV stations. I can't listen to them all day. The Tibbets family arrived this afternoon about 2 p.m. They were a happy family full of holiday energy. The big Thanksgiving dinner was on the table ready to eat by three o'clock. Rex had a big fire burning in the fireplace in the basement; it was all very festive looking. The dinner was delicious; the turkey was so tender and good. The Marshes made their homemade ice cream and pumpkin and apple pies, oh, so delicious. Our turkey wasn't the only one stuffed this day! Mary's hot rolls were Mm good, too. Mary and Donna and the children came in my suite tonight and watched "The Waltons" and another special TV show with Carol Burnett in it. Rex and Donna called Kathy and Mark tonight. She cooked a turkey and they had friends in to eat. She had a happy day, too.

November 26, Friday

Happy birthday to Ann Marsh.

Ann dear, you are in our thoughts, may your day be full of happy cheer.

And may the happiness of today last all through the coming year.

Keep happy, we love you that way, and please have a happy birthday!



Ann and John January 1973.

We had a loud clap of thunder this morning about 8 a.m. and a heavy downpour for a while. Julie got up and went to Marshes' side; I stayed in bed until 11 a.m. Donna made hot cakes for her family and later she brought me a couple of them; they really tasted good. It's drizzling this afternoon but

not a good rain which the land needs. Mary is sewing on the Christmas stockings she makes and sells to some store near her home. They are really cute and all different. Donna got the children interested in making colored paper chains for the Christmas tree. They came to my suite later and played at building fantastic structures out of my greeting cards saved over from a year or two. It's amazing what they can build up out of them. Rex took Spencer with him to haul water to the well. Later, Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook to shop. I had some distress in my heart region today and my back pained, too, so I chewed one of the green heart tablets and it



Stockings Mary made in 1976.

eased up. Mary and children went over to the Tibbetses' house for a while. It has been cold and damp all day. Jon worked over in the Tibbetses' house all day. We couldn't get a good picture on TV this evening. Donna and Jon tried, even I tried but no luck. But it did work well after the antenna was fixed. P.S. Jon fixed the TV antenna so we got a good picture tonight and we listened to Dean Martin's roast of Red Fox. Mary and Julie cut out little bodies and clothes to sew on the Christmas stockings she is making.

November 27, Saturday

We have a cold winter morning with some snow on the ground. Donna is cooking a roast and a nice dinner. She made a birthday cake for Mary; we are celebrating her birthday today, because she will not be with us on her birthday tomorrow. They are leaving for home this afternoon. Doris Crider and her 17-year-old daughter, Melody, came to talk to Rex; they ate dinner with Marshes and Tibbetses. I had mine on a tray in my suite; I wasn't feeling very well today. It was 2:50 p.m., but I did go out to sing Happy Birthday and to see Mary blow out the lights on her cake. Rex brought me a letter from Lydia Paul. She enclosed a news clipping and picture of the passing of Earl G. Renshaw, 66 years old. He was the son of Lou's cousin Earl Renshaw. He was an accomplished musician; he played the trumpet in John Phillip Sousa's band and other noted bands. At one time he played in Clint Strong's Band. He died November 5. Lydia was getting ready to celebrate the big holiday of Thanksgiving with her family. My children all came in my suite to have family prayer before our children left for their home in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Donna gave a lovely prayer, as she always does. The Tibbetses drove away from here about five o'clock. It is always so quiet after they

leave. It has been bitter cold all day; the snow hasn't melted at all. Donna read Lydia's letter; I enjoyed it the second time, too. She reads out loud for me to hear, also. We listened to the "Lawrence Welk Show" on television this evening at 7 p.m. It is my favorite TV program. The Mary Tyler Moore and Bob Newhart shows were on, too. I watched "The Carol Burnett Show" later. Goodnight. P.S. Rex came to my door at 10:30 p.m. to tell me the Tibbetses got home safely. They phoned as soon as they arrived home. It is a relief to know they got home okay.

November 28, Sunday

Happy birthday to Mary Marsh Tibbets:
*The little cutie, with flowers and a big blue bow,
 Comes to say "We love you" and want you to know,
 We wish you a happy birthday, Mary dear,
 And may the happiness last all through the year.*



We celebrated Mary's birthday yesterday while she was here with us. Donna was sick last night with the stomach flu; she vomited and had diarrhea. Rex was miserable with the same trouble on Friday. I stayed in bed until 12:30 noon because I knew Donna wasn't well. I wanted her to rest; she brought me some toast and Wheaties about 1 p.m. I had a touch of nausea and diarrhea today, but not too bad; Metamucil helps that condition for me. We have a lovely, blue sky with bright sunshine today, but it must be freezing cold outside. The snow patches are not melting at all and it is hard to warm my suite enough for my comfort. I have my sweater on so I am warm enough. Rex and Donna came in this evening to watch television with me. There was a special tribute to Lucille Ball with lots of TV stars on the program. It was very entertaining. They also watched "Kojak" with me. On the ten o'clock news, the reporter announced the passing of the beautiful actress **Rosalind Russell**. She was 63 years old. There was another big explosion in Kansas City, Kansas, today at the Phillips plant. We do not take a newspaper, so I never can get the details or the proper name of the plant and etcetera. Our weather report says it will go below freezing tonight. Good night! I miss my California home!



Rosalind Russell

November 29, Monday

We have clouds in our sky, but the sun is shining. It is very cold outside; the snow patches do not melt. I dread the winter, but it will pass, I'll try to be patient. Donna cooked dinner and she brought me a tray about 12:30 noon. It was ground beef, potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, jelled salad, pie and ice cream. I couldn't eat all of it. She always tries to put some weight on me. Later this afternoon, Donna came in and dusted my furniture. I walked around in my little suite to get some exercise. I gave Donna my five Christmas cards with the gift checks in to mail today to my grandchildren. The checks came to \$80.00. They do their own shopping. Dorothy Tibbets and Donna came in for a short visit this late afternoon. Dorothy had a **cute picture of Jon** when he



Jon Tibbets in high chair.

was a baby, and a picture of Delphia when she was a teen aged schoolgirl, taken with her boyfriend (a sweet looking couple). Rex hauled water to the well this afternoon. It has been cold all day. I kept my sweater on all day. Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich, some jelled salad, milk, and cookies on a tray this evening. She is surely thoughtful of my needs (precious daughter). She was busy tonight getting her material ready for Relief Society in the morning. I watched television by myself and I enjoyed the programs, "Little House on the Prairie" and others.

November 30, Tuesday

You are on your way out, November of 1976. It's a cold day. Donna left a tray with some applesauce, crackers, milk, and orange juice before she went to Relief Society. I think Rex hauled water to the well. He brought me a mug of hot chocolate; oh, I did enjoy that! I was so darned cold; the hot drink was welcome. I bundled up to keep warm in my chair and I watched the TV stories. Boy, do they have problems. (My life is a breeze.) Donna brought the mail home with her; she had a pretty birthday card from Violet and Otto for me with \$3.00 enclosed in it, bless their hearts. Donna received a letter from Linda Deal [Barbaro]. I've forgotten her married name; I enjoyed hearing Linda's letter. Donna did her Relief Society visiting teaching this afternoon to Dorothy T. and me. I enjoyed the lovely message on "Concern for Others." Ruth Deal is a professional bridge player; she goes to the bridge tournaments wherever they are held in her state of California and elsewhere, if possible. I understand she went to Europe for one tournament. Well, to each his own! I've written a daily journal for 48 years and made seven scrapbook albums and composed hundreds of poems and tributes to friends and family. I rejoice in the Gospel of Jesus Christ most of all. I'll be 84 years old next Sunday and I have never played bridge. I presume Ruth would be appalled! Tonight's news report said the grandmother in "Phyllis," the TV show, died this evening; I don't know

her name. She is a little, white-haired lady. A man actor died, also, I didn't get his name, sorry. P.S. I miss my daily newspaper. I was able to reread dates and names of the people in the news when we had the paper.

December 1, Wednesday

December comes to us sunny, bright, and cold. Rex went to work early this morning and came home about 3:30 p.m. Donna brought me an egg, toast, hot chocolate, and cooked pears about 1 p.m.; I ate while watching the TV stories. I haven't felt very well today. I had some diarrhea problems again today. I took an extra dose of

Metamucil and it helped. Donna is busy typing letters and a family record for her children's Book of Remembrance. She is doing it for a Christmas gift. I got Violet's Christmas card with ten Christmas cards enclosed, ready to mail. I got Lydia and Gene's card ready, but I'm going to enclose a little note tomorrow before I seal it. I haven't answered her little letter yet. We had a special Christmas program by the Bing Crosby family. The second half was very lovely; they sang so many lovely, old, beloved Yule Tide songs. The scenery was beautiful, too. Then I watched the "George Burns Special" show. His special guest was Johnny Carson. Donna and Rex took dinner to a neighbor's home this evening. The mother came home from the hospital today. They live in the Darbys' home. Rex and Donna went to bed soon after 9 p.m. I stayed up until after the ten o'clock news. Good night.

December 2, Thursday

We have a sunny blue sky with some fluffy clouds in it. But it is cold outside and it takes time to heat up the house. I didn't sleep very well last night and I felt a bit lightheaded this morning when I got up. I was about to comb my hair and powder my face when I had a dreadful dizzy spell. My vision was distorted, twisted all out of the natural shape; it was frightening. I hung on to the bathroom wash bowl until I could take a few steps to the bed where I could sit down. Well, it did pass and I could see normal again. Donna brought some Cream of Wheat, toast, Postum, and applesauce to me about noon time. I'm so thankful for Donna, I couldn't manage without her. Rex came home from work with a handful of mail for me, with birthday cards and letters enclosed. Kathy and Mark wrote a cute poem tribute to me. *[Silly poem on following page.]* They sent me a real nice 1977 calendar with cute pictures and bits of wisdom on each month of the year. I'm glad to have this Holly's Philosophy Calendar to replace the one Kathy gave me last Christmas. John and Ann sent a cute comic card and a nice letter with some interesting enclosures; There was a note to me from Myron Floren, of the Welk's band. He was in the KSL studio and John asked him to write this note to me, so he did "To Elvie, best wishes, Myron Floren." I have his polka album and his autographed picture he gave to Lou and me soon after our Golden Wedding anniversary. I received a lovely birthday card from Janet and Dave and family. John enclosed clippings and a picture of **Arthur Fife's funeral** and services. He was 89 years old with snow white hair and beard. I wrote a note and enclosed it in Lydia's Christmas card. Rex and Donna drove the truck, after dark, to get a tank full of water for the well. Baby, it's cold outside.

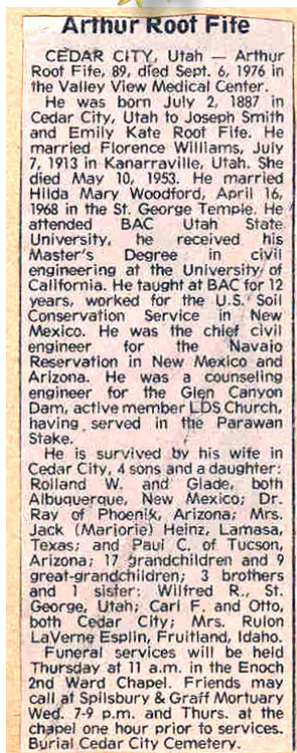
December 3, Friday

We have a hazy, cold morning; I stayed in bed until noon. It's a wonderful way to keep warm and skip one meal. Rex went to work before daylight; he took the pickup truck. Donna went to the bank in Overbrook; she brought me \$40.00 from my Social Security check.

She made the payment on our farm house; my check takes care of that. Donna brought my lunch and then she drove to Ottawa to shop. She got some Metamucil and a few other items for me. She brought a Christmas gift for Rex, a big blue Levi, fleece lined jacket to wear with his Levi pants. I have six beautiful birthday cards, two more came this morning. One was from Lydia and Gene with a nice note enclosed and one from Doris and Wayne Davies with a note written in it. It is so nice to be remembered; I love the cards, and Kathy and Mark's cute poem and calendar. It feels and looks like we may have some snow before long. I think I'll address some Christmas cards. I'm cutting my old list way down. I find at age 84, I just can't keep up anymore. Donna brought my plate dinner this evening at 5:30 p.m. (lamb chop, baked potato, corn and green beans, ice cream, and a cookie). Rex and Donna left here about 6:10 to drive to Kansas City, Missouri, to go to the Relief Society stake social. She wanted me to go with them, but I didn't think I'd be wise to go out in this cold weather. I'm much better off here at home. I wrote a thank you note to Kathy and Mark for the birthday gift of a 1977 calendar and the poem tribute they composed for me. I wrote it on a Christmas card. (Today was pay day, my Social Security check was \$281.40.)

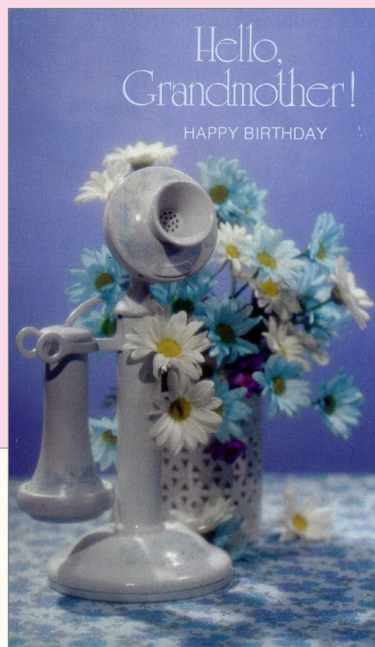
December 4, Saturday

Today's mail brought three pretty birthday cards to me. All had little notes in them; they make me feel so happy. There was one from Bonnie and Darrell, one from Ethel Newbold, and one from my dear friend Nora Williamson, bless her heart. I'm always so surprised she remembers my birthday. I feel rich indeed with such devoted friends as Nora. My precious Donna came in and cleaned my suite, she also brought my birthday gifts. I opened them today because we are having some neighbors for dinner tomorrow and to watch the special TV program "It's Next Week," that is the name of it. The grandchildren gave me a box of French chocolate mints. Donna and Rex gave me some lovely black, leather house slippers, but I can't get them on over my high instep, so she'll change them. I addressed several Christmas cards this afternoon. Rex and Donna took the little, red VW to Overbrook to have it washed this late afternoon. We had a fantastic sunset tonight; oh, it was beautiful. Tomorrow is fast day, so Rex and Donna did not eat dinner this evening. She brought a snack on a TV tray for me (crackers, cheese balls, peanut butter, tuna fish, cooked peaches and a cookie). I enjoyed the television programs tonight, Lawrence Welk, Mary Tyler Moore, and others. I have eleven pretty birthday cards standing up on my television and Magnavox; they're from Rex and Donna, Janet and Dave, Mark and Kathy, Mary and Jon, John and Ann, Violet and Otto, Bonnie and Darrell, Doris and Wayne, Lydia and Gene, Nora Williamson, and Ethel Newbold. P.S. It was the Tibbets family that sent the chocolate mints. I got a bit confused. Please XQs.





Front of
card. ⇒



11-29-76

Dear Grama,
This is for you — — —

Gramas come in many different types,
Some are weasels, others smoke pipes. 😊

Very demanding some Gramas can be,
which brings out the hostility in me.

Other Gramas make cookies galore,
And won't let you rest 'til you eat some more.

But the Best Grama is really sweet
So we've nominated you cause you're so neat!

With your daily writing and poems for all
We hope on your Birthday you'll have a ball!

Grama we love you so we wrote this poem
and we look forward to being together in our Eternal home.

A grandmother as sweet and dear

In every way as you

Is thought of very lovingly

And very often, too

And birthday time's a perfect time

To sort of make that clear

While wishing you with lots of love

A happy day and year!

Love -

Mark + Kathy

Since you always have poems for
everybody we decided to do one for
you.... But we lack the nack
that you have. 😊 BUT WE TRIED!

Hope you have a happy day.

I'll be writting soon - got
to do it soon or you'll wonder
what became of us.

We had a happy thanksgiving.
But wished we could have been
with all of you. However - my
turkey, dressing, rolls + ice cream
turned out yummy and that
was Fun!

Love -
USi

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Back ⇒

84

On December 5, 1976 Elvie reaches her 84th birthday.
She has been mentioning her 84th birthday for several
months now. In years past it was a birthday she never
thought she would see. Elvie would have been happy to
skip turning 84 and go ahead and graduate. However it
wasn't her time to graduate yet.

December 5, Sunday

Happy birthday to me! I made it to 84 years. Rex had to work at the Manor Nursing Home in Overbrook today. He left before daylight. I heard him drive away. I didn't sleep well last night, so I stayed in bed as long as I could this morning. Donna brought a TV tray into my front room with some Wheaties, a banana, some cheese balls, some Ritz Crackers, sugar, and milk. She drove to Sunday School and sacrament meeting in Ottawa. She left a note saying she'd be home about two o'clock. Mrs. Merrill phoned this morning; her little boy is sick, so they can't come to dinner. That is the third family to tell Marshes they can't come today. Rex and Donna wanted a family to come and listen to the special church program called "It's Next Week," on television at seven tonight, but Merrills said they would listen to the TV program. I'm enjoying my lovely birthday cards, eleven of them. It's a sunny day but cold out; the snow patches are not melting very fast. I have recorded the gifts on December 3 and 4. I'm indeed a lucky old grandma to have such a lovely family. ☺ John Louis phoned this evening about 5:15 to wish me a happy birthday (long distance from Salt Lake City, Utah). It made me feel very happy indeed. Rex and Donna took my colored TV set to their living room this evening. They have a family coming to dinner at 6 p.m. and they hope to see the special TV program at 7 p.m. Oh, I hope it will work well; we're anxious to see it, too. Our dinner was delicious. Our guests, Dan and Mell Holmberg, were delightful company and the television set worked nicely; so, the evening was a success. We all enjoyed it. They sang the birthday song to me. The cake was pretty and good. P.S. Donna frosted my birthday cake. The cake was chocolate with marshmallow cream swirled around on top of the chocolate frosting. Mm good. I blew all but one candle out on my cake. I didn't get my wish, that I could blow them all out. ☺

December 6, Monday

We had some snow last night, but not much. It is a nice day, sunny with lots of clouds in the sky. Donna was busy typing the genealogy sheets to put in the beautiful books of memory she bought for each of her children for Christmas. The books have a picture of the temple they were married in. The books are white, the lettering and temples are in gold. They are very lovely. Rex brought the mail in this noon time. I could tell by his red nose and cold hands it was cold outside. Burr! Joan Gardner and family sent me a phonograph record of Robert Merrill singing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, some good, old sing along songs we know and love to sing. She also sent two pair of half socks to wear with my slacks. I'm a lucky old Grandma, yes indeed. Rex and I enjoyed a couple of my chocolate French mints this afternoon. Donna read Kathy's cute letter; she loves her job working in a flower shop in California. Kathy would love working with flowers, she'd be so perfect for arrangements of the needs for holiday decorations and weddings and etcetera. I think I would have liked to work in a flower shop at her age, too. But it is too late now. At the age of 84 I enjoy looking at the beautiful flowers. The old rocking chair has got me.



December 7, Tuesday

Donna left a tray with a tuna fish sandwich, cheese balls, and a banana for my lunch, and a note saying that Rex would make a hot drink for me, which he did when he got home about 11:30 (hot chocolate). They are so good to me, bless them. It was Donna's Relief Society day. I think Rex hauled some water to the well. He had a meeting of some kind to attend this afternoon. They have a busy life. We have a cold, overcast day; it feels like "Old Man Winter" is with us. Burr. Well, I'm nice and warm in my dear, little suite. Donna changed my black house slippers for a pair of beautiful, black brocaded slippers with colored flowers and gold threads. They are a perfect fit and so pretty. Today's mail brought a pretty birthday card from Joan and family with a nice note written in it. Their gift came yesterday; it was a record of Robert Merrill singing with the Salt Lake City Mormon Tabernacle Choir and two pair of half socks. I wrote a thank you note to them this afternoon, also one to Mary and family for the French chocolate mints. I have thanked Mark and Kathy for their gift on December 3, and also Janet for their lovely greetings. I thanked John when he phoned on my birthday. This confused old brain of mine needs a "Memory Shot" if there is such a thing. Ha ha! Donna is busy typing for the Books of Remembrance she is giving their children for Christmas. Rex went to bed soon after 9 p.m. I watched television until after the ten o'clock news. Good night and sweet dreams.

December 8, Wednesday

We have a nice, clear day, but I presume it is cold outside. Donna brought my lunch about noon, a chicken sandwich, hot Postum, jelled salad, and cake. Rex went to work early this morning before daylight; he came home about 3:30 p.m. He brought a Christmas card from Ruby Hodges to me and to Donna and Rex. Donna says she'll send Ruby a card and put my name on it. I have cut my Christmas card list way down this year.

*I just can't keep up anymore.
You'll understand when you are eighty-four.
My eyes water and blur when I write or read.
However, I know I am blessed a lot, indeed.
I watch the TV actors pervert and pose,
Or I sit in my swivel chair and doze.
Donna brought me a small glass of cold 7up; it
tasted good.
I'd do something for her if I only could.
I'll try to be cheerful and not complain,
I'll play a record with a sweet refrain.*



Rex and Donna came in for a while and watched television with me.

December 9, Thursday

Donna left a note in my chair to say the she and Rex had gone to Ottawa and they would be home about noon time. I couldn't sleep very well last night, so I stayed in bed until 11:30. Donna brought me some lunch; she said she had paid \$6.00 to have some copies made of the stories she is putting in the books for her

children's Christmas gifts (Florie Green Marsh's story, Frances William Bailey's story and others). I surely enjoyed hearing them again. Donna isn't feeling very well; she has infection in her bladder and has to run to the bathroom every few minutes. She talked to the doctor on the phone; he prescribed some medication for her. Rex took a urine specimen to him, and was able to bring home the pills for Donna to take (big red pills). She took four of them at first. I really enjoyed hearing the stories of our grandparents' lives. Jacob Strong was the last one; I have heard them all before, but it is always thrilling to hear them again. [*Jacob Strong story below.*] Today's mail brought a lovely Christmas card from Violet and Otto. It is my first one this year. Donna and Rex received one from them, also. Donna received a nice letter from Janet Shattuck and I enjoyed hearing Donna read it. Correction please, Ruby Hodges sent the first Christmas card this season. It came yesterday and I put it with my birthday cards. Donna and I watched a lovely two-hour television program tonight with lots of TV stars singing and dancing. It was a very entertaining performance. It was called "America Salutes Mr. Richard Rogers," I surely enjoyed it; we both did. Good night, it is 10:25 p.m.



Jacob and Sarah Hill Strong

Jacob Strong was born October 9, 1799, York County, Pennsylvania. In the year 1819, his father purchased four hundred acres of land in Indiana County in the same state and moved his family to that part of Pennsylvania. About this time, James Hill and his family moved from the same place to this section of the country. Later the heads of these two families drew cuts to see who should have the honor of naming the town site, which they were about to lay out. James Strong who won, gave the place the name of Strongstown.

Jacob Strong married Sarah Hill, daughter of James Hill, February 28, 1822. Five children were born to them while they were living in this town. During this time Elder Erastus Snow was preaching the gospel in that vicinity and they were converted, baptized and confirmed members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Jacob and Sarah with their family came west to Missouri. Here they joined the Saints on their march Westward. These good people went through all the trials of Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois, where their last two sons were born, James Thomas, born 2 September 1841 and

Hyrum, born 28 September 1845. While they were at Winter Quarters, Jacob was called to enlist in the Mormon Battalion. He was ill at this time and could not go. His eldest son, William, went in his place. He was only eighteen at the time. Jacob and his family arrived in Salt Lake Valley in the year 1849. Here they made their home in the Tenth Ward.

Jacob Strong was a natural genius. He was able to adapt himself to any condition, although he was a farmer by trade. It is reported he arose at daybreak and set a dozen bundles of wheat in shock before he had breakfast. For many, this was considered almost a day's work. There was very little machinery to be had, therefore, the planting, harvesting and threshing of grain was all done by hand. They thrashed the wheat by spreading down a wagon cover and then when the wind blew Great Grandfather Strong would get up on a stool with the milk pan and stand and shake it out; the wheat would fall on the wagon cover and the wind would blow the chaff away. These are some of the conditions they had to endure in the early days.

Flax and Hemp were among the things grown. From these Jacob and Sarah made their own thread and rope. Jacob also made shoes for his children from the boots, which were discarded by the older people. Because there were no nails to be had, he manufactured pegs from maple wood. He also made hinges in the same manner. It has been said that Jacob and Sarah were "the man and woman of the hour" because they were able to master any situation. Nothing seemed impossible to them. They did their own spinning and weaving. They made their own wearing apparel and bedding. As time progressed, the family accumulated a few cows, oxen, and sheep. From the sheep they clipped the wool, washed, dyed, carded and spun it. At the time when the order came for the Saints to move south to Springville, because the approaching army they feared was coming to destroy them, the Strong family did not even have a wagon cover. Sarah then spun the flax and wove it into cloth for this purpose. Later it was used for sheets on the bed.

Just before the move to the South, the Martin Handcart company arrived in Salt Lake in destitute circumstances, having suffered many hardships from heavy snows and cold winter weather. About one hundred and fifty members of this company of six hundred died en route. President Brigham Young allotted a certain number of survivors to each ward to be taken care of during the rest of the winter. Bishop David Pettigrew of the Tenth Ward went to Jacob and Sarah Strong and told them it would be necessary for them to care for one of these families; they readily consented to do so. They both went to the old school house where the people were living for the time being. Upon entering the building, Sarah noticed a woman with two small children aged one and four years, respectively. The woman's feet were badly frozen. She had lost her husband who died on the journey. Jacob and Sarah took them into their home to share what they had with this young mother and children. This woman was Alice Walsh who later became the wife of Jacob Strong by order of Patriarchal marriage. This good man and his wives lived very useful lives and proved themselves equal to all tasks before them. They never complained about trials and sacrifices. They lived to be a good age.

Sarah was a natural nurse and understood the use of herbs with which she made medicine. Much of her time was taken up among the sick. In Nauvoo she cared for an expectant mother who died later in childbirth. Even though she had a small baby of her own, she took the woman's infant and nursed it, weaning her own because it was healthy and strong. After seven months this motherless baby died.

Jacob Strong was the father of ten children; seven children by Sarah and three by Alice Walsh Strong. (It should be noted these three children were subsequently sealed to Mrs. Walsh's first husband). This family enjoyed many pleasures and shared

Continued on next page.

many sorrows together, and at all times had time to help others. In doing so they laid a sound and splendid foundation for their posterity to build on. Jacob Strong died February 18, 1872, at the age of 73 years. His wife Sarah Strong died May 9, 1884, at the age of 78 years.

Sarah was the first Relief Society president of the Tenth Ward, which was organized in 1867. Her name was also on the records of the Relief Society in Nauvoo.

John Walsh, the son of Alice Walsh, has related what a fine, upright, honest, and faithful man Jacob Strong was. He was also very good natured and pleasant to be around.

The sons of Jacob Strong also helped in furthering the settlement of the Utah territory, serving in the army when needed and carrying on the work their father started.

December 10, Friday

I started to clean the finger marks off from my old hand mirror and it fell apart. I've had that old mirror since I was married in 1914. So, I guess, I've had it long enough, eh? My life seems to be falling apart, too. But I know I am blessed with the comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and my beautiful family and their love. Donna came in and read me the last two pages of her life's story, where she told of the arrival of baby Brian and of Kathy and Mark's wedding. It was so lovely, it brought tears to my eyes. Janet is going to type the whole story for each of her sisters and her brother. I do love to have Donna come in and read the stories of our family, written by some of us. I did some, and she did some, and others were written by Aunt Ida R. Strong, Uncle Alvin Strong, and Harriet Strong Speirs and others. They bring back fond memories that tug at the heart. I did some scrapbook work this afternoon. I pasted pictures and paper clippings in my book. The Christmas cards are coming now, we have six, I think. Donna brought my plate dinner on a TV tray at 6 p.m. She and Rex went to Paola, to Dale and Marie Westhoff's home, to a pot and pan demonstration sale (I think, but not sure). It has been cold and cloudy all day. I watched "Sanford and Son" this evening and "Chico and the Man." They're entertaining and keep me from being too lonesome. Rex and Donna came home at 10:50 p.m. It was a soap and detergent party sale. They dislike these affairs, but felt like they had to go.

December 11, Saturday

We have a cold, hazy sunshine this morning. Donna walked to the mailbox, a mile it seems to me. She couldn't get the little, red VW started; she tried it again after she came from the cold walk to the mailbox and it started okay, so she drove it to town to have the points or something adjusted. It is working fine now. Dorothy wanted Donna to drive with her to Overbrook to the market. She brought me a nice lunch and then she went with

Dorothy. I gave her \$5.00 to get a few items for me; Tums and a sandwich spread. Dorothy and Guy cut some wood for their stove or fireplace. We have a lot of Osage orange trees on this farm with a lot of dead wood that Rex and Guy are saving up to burn this winter. Rex went to work early this morning in Overbrook. He is taking a special course in something to do with medicine or the curing of disease. He seems to enjoy his work in the nursing home and the patients all like him. Janet Shattuck phoned Donna this morning; she is happy because David has been called on a stake mission. Rick is expecting his mission call any time now and Mark is on his mission in Argentina. She will have three of her family on missions soon. I'm happy for her and so proud of all of them. I composed a verse for Gregory Tibbets's birthday card (see December 21). I have his card ready to mail later with the dollar bill and sticks of gum enclosed. Donna and Rex had dinner in town tonight with the Manor Home workers; it was a Christmas party. They came home about 10:15 p.m. It was a real elaborate dinner; they each received a gift. Donna got a nice memo folder, with pen and note paper. Rex got a package with a small canned ham and some fancy cheese samples. I enjoyed the television Saturday night shows, Mary Tyler Moore, Bob Newhart, All in the Family, Alice, and Carol Burnett.

December 12, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome, Sabbath Morning" ♪ It is a very pretty day, too, sunshine and a clear blue sky, but cold. I'm nice and warm in my little suite. Donna left some food on a TV tray before she went to Ottawa to church (crackers and cheese, milk, applesauce, peanut butter, and a banana). I ate my brunch about 1 p.m. after I had put my house and myself in order. We have a strong wind blowing. I'm glad I'm not out in it. The sun feels good coming in my south window. I washed my few dishes and relaxed in my swivel chair until I felt well enough to play a couple of lovely records of the Tabernacle Choir hymns. Dorothy came home about 2 p.m. I presume Donna was delayed with Relief Society business. It was 3:15 before she came home. Rex worked at the nursing home today, so he couldn't attend church. Our branch visiting teachers came this afternoon, Br. Ernest Hall and Br. Jack Story. I went in to the Marshes' living room to visit with them and Rex and Donna. Br. Story gave the nice prayer before they left. Donna built a nice fire in the fireplace and I stayed in there to enjoy it and listen to television. Donna brought my TV tray dinner to me in her living room. Our TV news reporter said this evening, that the television actor **Jack Cassidy** died in his home in Hollywood, from a fire! How it got started is not yet known, but there is another career gone up in smoke, eh?

Jack Cassidy Dies In Cigarette-Caused Fire

WEST HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — A smoldering cigarette was singled out today as the possible cause of a fire that took the life of Jack Cassidy, the actor-singer-dancer whose charred body was found Sunday in his top floor apartment.

Cassidy, 49, a star of musicals, movies, television, stage and cabaret for three decades, was so badly burned that he was identified by dental records after a day of anguished uncertainty for his friends and his former wife, Shirley Jones.

The blaze swept the four-story, 33-unit apartment building around 6 a.m. and 100 tenants of the complex in a fashionable section of West Hollywood were evacuated before firemen found Cassidy's body on the living room floor near a couch.

The fire department said exact origin of the fire was unknown but that the apartment was littered with cigarette butts, apparently after a party.

Cassidy's wallet was found on a dresser and his signet ring and a religious bracelet



ON STAGE — The late Jack Cassidy appeared here as recently as Dec. 3. He was a one-night performer at the Ingleside Inn. The performer died Sunday at the age 49. (Photo by Larry Young)

were found on the body. At first, however, the coroner's office could not even determine whether it was a man or woman.

Miss Jones, who met and married Cassidy when they were playing in "Oklahoma," went to the apartment early in the day but did not go upstairs.

"I'm praying it's not him," she said.

Later, when identity was established, she said:

"I'm very sad. What other reaction can anyone have? We were very close."

Cassidy lived alone in the apartment but he often had friends stay overnight. His car was missing but late in the day it was returned by a friend, Mike Tasley, who had borrowed it.

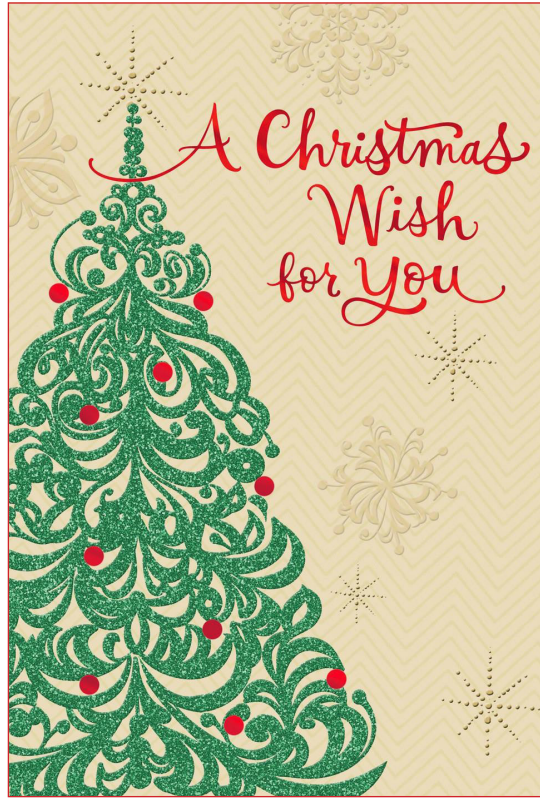
Cassidy recently completed appearances in two new movies. He played the role of John Barrymore in Universal's "W.C. Fields and Me" and in "The Elger Sanction" in which he co-stars as a poisonous and dangerous wit.

December 13, Monday

It is a pretty day, with blue sky and sunshine. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at 12:30 noon. She drove to Ottawa, (I think) to have a few more pages of her family story copied for the books she is sending her five children for Christmas. It is a lot of work she has gone to but oh, what a precious gift these beautiful books will be for her children and their posterity. My telephone bill to Violet on November 11 was \$7.00. Wow! But it was worth it. I gave Donna \$10.00 this morning to pay for my call and to buy or pay for the copies of her book. She is anxious to get the books finished and gift wrapped and in the mail in time for Christmas. Donna brought the mail in to read the Christmas cards to me. Some of them had my name on with the cards to them. I had one from Nora and Glen Williamson with a little note in it, and one from Bonnie and Darrell Reynolds. It is almost dark outside by 5:30 p.m. now. We have to turn the lights on by 4 p.m. if we are reading or writing then. The big holiday isn't far away now. Life has surely changed for me; no Christmas shopping, no gift wrapping, very few cards to send, and very little decorating in my suite. I'm happy I had the money to send my precious grandchildren and let them shop for their families. I have outlived all of my own family except Violet. She is 12 years younger than I am. It's amazing I lived to be 84 years old. ☺ P.S. I watched the "Bob Hope Variety Christmas Show" for ninety minutes and the "Perry Como Variety Special," (Christmas in Austria) with Sid Caesar and others.

December 14, Tuesday

Donna and Rex got up before daylight to work on the "Books of Remembrance that they are sending their children for Christmas. It's a lot of work getting the typed pedigree sheets in the lovely books and gift wrapped, ready to mail today. Donna left a tray of food for me before she went to Relief Society. Rex was home until about 12:15 noon, then he went out somewhere in his best clothes. He looked nice; he said something about a study class, but I'm not sure, I do miss a lot that my busy family are involved in. [Rex taught a Bible study class at the Manor.] Donna came home about 3:25 p.m. She said the family books are not wrapped yet. She wants to do it this afternoon. She has the pages and pedigree sheets all in them. She looked really tired; she had to rest for a while on my other twin bed before she could do anything. Donna brought the mail home. There was a very clever Christmas card from Ruth and Arnold Pierce. They had composed a rhyme using the first letter of their names to start the lines in the poem. It was really cute. I did one for their card, and I also wrote a little note in their card in answer to their nice letter in our card, telling about their move to Paradise, California from Tustin, California.



Poem by Elvie:

*M-erry Christmas to you
A-nd a Happy New Year, too.
R-inging bells fill the air,
S-ounds of joy are everywhere.
H-appiness and good health for you.*

And

*E-very good blessing, too.
L-oving and thoughtful deeds
V-ery special, holiday needs
I-nfinite blessings from above.
E-very good wish, with our love.*

P.S. Ruth's sister Afton, had a stroke about six months ago. It affected her sight and memory. It is so sad.

December 15, Wednesday

Rex took their Christmas packages to mail them at the post office this morning. I think Donna said the postage cost \$7.00. I hope they are all delivered in time (before Christmas). They did not mail the packages to the Jon Tibbets family because they will be here with us for Christmas. We expect them Christmas Eve day. Their pretty gift-wrapped presents are in my front room closet. Today's mail brought two pretty Christmas cards to me with nice notes written in them. One was from LaPriel Bunker and the other from Mary and Jon Tibbets and family. We are enjoying another lovely, clear, sunny day. I'm glad that Donna has her children's gifts wrapped and in the mail. She has worked so hard to get everything ready to mail. I wish I could have been able to help her, but that is all in the past now. I'm sorry to say I'm thankful I can and do help her financially.

*About all I can manage at age 84
Is my own personal needs and nothing more.*



I watched television alone tonight, there were some nice Christmas programs. Opera singer Robert Merrill and others, in song and dance, in "The Mac Davis Variety Christmas Show," I really do enjoy the lovely music ♪ ♪ on television at the Yule Tide Season.

December 16, Thursday

I stayed in bed until almost noon time. Oh my! I wasn't sleeping, but I was comfortable and warm. We have another beautiful, sunny day with a clear, blue sky, but the air is cold, so I'm told. Rex put the Christmas lights up outside on the house; Donna assisted him. I watched from my south window. I ate my brunch while watching the television soap box stories. Donna did some baking and addressed Christmas cards She brought my mail to me. I received two more Christmas cards; one from Ethel Newbold and one from Lydia and Gene Paul. There was sad news in Pauls' card; Gene's brother Hugh died the morning they mailed my card. She said she'd write and tell us more about it later. Hugh is

Ruth's twin brother. I haven't seen Hugh since he was a teen aged lad. He was about 72 or 73 when he died, I presume. [Hugh was 71 when he died.] I seem to be outliving all of my cousins. It isn't my idea. I composed a little rhyme to use on Rex and Donna's Christmas card, I also made my own card for them. I couldn't ask Donna to buy the card I wanted to send to her and Rex, so I made my own card for them. I'm going to put a check for twenty dollars in it. I stayed up until almost midnight listening to the Christmas TV programs. I love them! Rex and Donna took a drive tonight so they could see how their home looked with the colored Christmas lights strung around it. They were pleased.

December 17, Friday

It feels almost like a lovely autumn day, clear, warm, and sunny. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about noontime. She and Dorothy Tibbets went in Donna's little, red VW car to do their Relief Society visiting teaching. They took a paper Christmas plate with some of Donna's cookies to the ladies on their list to visit. She made three or four different kinds of delicious and nicely decorated cookies. I enjoyed some for my lunch. I wrote a check for Rex and Donna's Christmas (\$20.00) and put it in the card I made for them yesterday. I love the Christmas season; they have so many lovely Yule Tide programs on television this time of year. The "Spirit of Christmas" is wonderful! Today's mail brought three cards to me from Doris and Wayne Davies, Gary and Elaine Strong, and Helen Obrenski. Donna had several Christmas cards for her and Rex; some of them included my name. I watched the Christmas special, "Twas The Night Before Christmas"

from Clement Moore's Christmas ballad. I also watched the drama "Young Pioneer's Christmas," about homesteading the rugged Dakota Territory of the 1870's; it was two hours long. Good night, it is almost midnight! P.S. Donna has her talk memorized. She gave it to me from memory (almost).

December 18, Saturday

We have another lovely, sunny, warm day; it is unique for this time of year. Well, the Bible says, "the seasons will change in the last days" are we in the last days? (For me, yes.) But for my children I surely hope not. This I know, I am anxious to go now. I'm eighty-four and I can't work anymore. I long for my own generation. Donna brought some more Christmas cards to read to me; I had a second greeting from Nora Williamson. She forgot she had sent one. I received one from Blanche Hoglund. Donna had several cards to her and Rex and a cute letter from Kathy and Mark. I enjoyed seeing and hearing the notes in all of the cards. Christmas is the Big Day of the year, as it should be, commemorating

the birth of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. Kathy and Mark are going to spend Christmas with Mark's family. Mary and family will be here with us. I wrapped a pretty, flowered box of stationery that I received last December. I put a red ribbon and bow on the gold paper and taped the card I made with the \$20.00 check in on the package, and put it with the gift-wrapped packages in my front closet, so Rex and Donna will have a package to open from me. It has been a long, quiet afternoon for me, I presume that Donna is still addressing Christmas cards or studying for her talk for Sunday School tomorrow. She was asked to talk about giving service and love at Christmas, the Christ-like way of giving. I'd love to hear her talk, I know it will be good, but I'm not well enough to take the long drive to that step climbing church. I feel secure near my swivel chair, my bed, and my bathroom. R U with me? Can U C What I mean? O.K. P.S. Tonight I watched Lucille Ball and Robert Preston in "Mame" on TV.



Donna Marsh in 1972. On December 19, 1976 Donna spoke in church on "Giving freely of yourself in loving service to others." This is a topic that exemplifies Donna's life.

December 19, Sunday

It was cold and overcast this morning until noon; then the sun and blue sky brightened up our day. Donna left a TV tray in my room with Wheaties, milk, brown sugar, and apple sauce on it. I got up at 11:30 a.m. and put on my blue, plush robe and blue house slippers, combed my hair, made my bed and said my prayer. I enjoyed my brunch sitting in my swivel chair. **Donna was on the Christmas program** this morning; the subject was "Giving freely of yourself in loving service to others." She read her talk to me Friday night; it was very lovely. She always does a beautiful job. I'd love to have been there, but not feeling well enough to make the effort. I washed my few dishes and gave myself a sponge bath and clipped and filed my fingernails. Rex and Donna came

home from church about 2:30 p.m. They called on Sister Ruby Hanley, a shut-in like me. I think Donna took her a plate of Christmas cookies; dear sister Ruby sent a little bouquet of homemade cloth flowers to me, bless her heart. Someone had given them to her, but she wanted to send something to me. They are made of red material with tiny white flowers in. Donna and her Relief Society sisters have made some with a different material; I have one of their bouquets, also. Rex and Donna ate about 3 p.m. I wasn't hungry then. I had to put the light on at 2 p.m. It was so dark and cloudy and windy, ugh! Donna said it was really cold outside. She said she got through her talk okay. Rex said it was the highlight of the program. Donna had me come in their living room this evening to enjoy the nice fire in the fireplace; it was so pretty. We watched a special program on TV, "Christmas Around the World," I ate some good beef soup. P.S. I enjoyed the Christmas special with Rex and Donna. I came back to my suite to see "Sixty Minutes" on TV. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news, weary, but happy.

December 20, Monday

We had an overcast, cold morning but a sunny afternoon. Our electricity went off twice this morning. Rex built a nice big fire in the fireplace. I went out to their living room to keep warm and enjoy the fire; there were big logs brightly burning. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray near the fireplace. She has decorated her living room for Christmas. It looks very pretty and festive. The little, silver pom pom tree has red and gold balls on it and Kathy's cute red birds. We do miss Kathy; we wish she and Mark could be with us for the big holiday, but Mary and her family will be here and we are anxious to see them again. Donna brought some Christmas decorations in my place, too. The pretty gift-wrapped gifts are under the tree ready to delight the Tibbets kiddies. The mail brought a lot more Christmas cards, isn't it fun! I got a card from Kenny and Donna Renshaw and one from Glen and Irene Andersen. Several of the Marshes' cards had my name on them, also. Our news reporter said that Chicago's Mayor Dailey died today. Donna came in tonight and read the Relief Society lesson for tomorrow to me. It is a beautiful lesson on "True values in the sisters' lives, making her a useful, and desirable person." She has a short part to give in the lesson tomorrow and it has her concerned, but I know she will do a good job as always. Bless her dear heart, I'm so very proud of her. Good night! (Only 5 days until Christmas!)



December 21, Tuesday

Happy birthday Gregory Stewart Tibbets, nine years old!

*The little boy sitting on the tree top, and
holding on to his toes,
Is listening to the birds singing and
looking smug, because he knows,
You're going to have a birthday soon, and
you'll be nine years old!
Gregory dear, we wish for all the joy and
happiness your nine years can hold.*



Gregory Tibbets 1977

We have a sunny day, Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went to Relief Society. Rex went to his dentist and then to his study class or school. I ate the lunch that Donna left on my TV tray. Donna brought two Christmas gifts to me; a little basket full of goodies (crackers, cheese balls, cookies, candy, Welch's grape juice, and etcetera) from the branch Relief Society. Also a box of food, apple, orange, banana, cookies, and candy from the MIA Young folks in our branch. Isn't that nice of the dear folks in our branch leadership to remember the old shut-ins in this lovely way? I do appreciate their kind thoughtfulness of me. I'll write them a thank you note. Donna drove to Overbrook this afternoon to shop. She is getting some stamps for me. The "Big Day" and our Jon Tibbets family will soon be here, three more days. I wrote a thank you note to the young people of the APYW, or Aaronic priesthood and Young Women, as the MIA used to be called. Donna will take a note to read to her Relief Society board next meeting. I mailed the other note

to Ed and Wendy Kluber, the presidents of the young men and young women. Donna finished typing the life story of Dorothy Tibbets's mother, Mrs. White; she had written it in long hand several years ago. Donna will add it to Mary and Jon's Book of Remembrance. It was surely a huge undertaking to get the books all ready to mail! P.S. Donna looked really tired tonight. I surely hope she can put her typewriter away for a while now. Mary and family will be here on Thursday, instead of Friday. Exciting, eh?

December 22, Wednesday

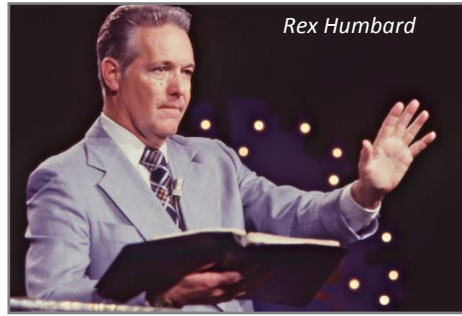
I'm thankful for this lovely, sunny day and for a good night's sleep. Donna and Rex have had a busy morning helping over at the Tibbetses' home. The big cement mixer came out to the farm and poured the last or third section of their basement floor. It will be all set up, ready to use tomorrow, when Jon and family arrive. Donna brought my brunch to me at 1:20 p.m. She has been working in the yard; it is cold outside so she is bundled up and her nose is red. Me? Oh, I'm nice and warm in my little suite. "How sweet it is." Marshes received a lot of Christmas cards again today. I was mentioned on some of them. I got one from Lillian Keller, she wrote a note in it.

She has been visiting in Las Vegas with granddaughter Julie and family. She will spend Christmas with Louise in Chino Valley. She will be 85 years old on January 12, a year older than I am. She surely gets around a lot better than I do. My heart trouble slows me down a lot, but I am blessed abundantly anyway. Tonight, Donna went over to Tibbetses' to help Dorothy tie a quilt. I think it is a crib quilt. I'm wrong, it is large enough for a double bed. It is for Mary and Jon's gift. She made pajamas for the children. Donna was very tired again tonight. She went to bed soon after 9 p.m. P.S. Donna says Dorothy made the pajamas for the four boys, but she made Julie a cute pants suit and top jacket. I went to bed after the ten o'clock newscast. Good night.

December 23, Thursday

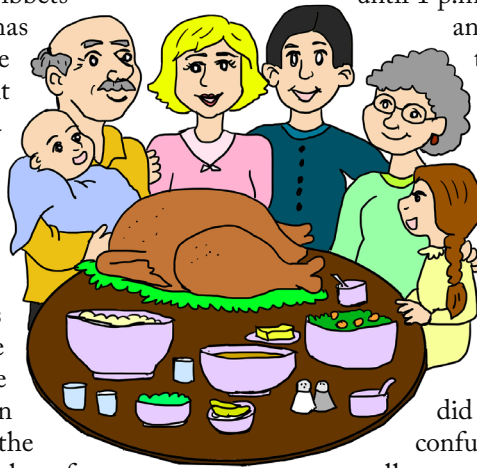
I had one of my miserable, sleepless night's last night. I stayed in bed until noon but I couldn't sleep, only a short nap or two. I wasn't in any pain, just a nervous body that ached a little and twitched and itched, plus a weary brain that wouldn't relax. I haven't felt very well today. Donna feels stiff and sore today because of her hard labor yesterday helping to spread the cement in the Tibbetses' basement while Rex took charge of the pouring. Guy T. worked with Donna in the basement. She brought me some food on a TV tray about 1 p.m. She cleaned her house this morning and came in here and vacuumed my rugs and dusted the furniture. We expected Jon and Mary and the kiddies this afternoon, but Mary phoned this morning to tell Donna they couldn't come until tomorrow. She has too many things to do today to get away. This is a busy time of the year for most people, but at my age and condition, I'm doing well to take care of my personal needs. Donna also changed the sheets on my bed today. Rex and Donna took some Christmas cookies on pretty decorated paper plates to some of their farm neighbors. Some of their neighbors have been here with goodies for the Marshes. I enjoyed some lovely Christmas music on my Magnavox player this afternoon. I

love the Christmas music. Tonight, Donna and Rex went for milk at a farm dairy. They came in here and listened to the special Christmas program, via satellite, from the Holy Land. It was a **Rex Humbard** program. Pat Boone was a guest. It was lovely music P.S. We all went to bed after the ten o'clock news; we were a weary household.



December 24, Friday

It is Christmas Eve Day. It arrived bright and cheerful. I'm feeling much better after a good night's rest. I put my suite and myself in presentable order and ate the nice lunch that Donna brought to me on a TV tray. Our Happy Tibbets family arrived about 2 p.m. loaded with Christmas gifts to put under our pretty Christmas tree. The activity is going strong. The children can hardly wait for tomorrow so they can open their gifts. Donna strung a wire in front of the fireplace to hang up the pretty Christmas stockings that Mary made for each one in the family. She even made one for me! They look colorful hanging there. Rex arrived home from work about 3:30 p.m. Little Brian fell asleep in the big rocking chair while Donna was playing Christmas music. It would have made an adorable picture but there was no film in the camera. Jon had gone to buy some; he is sleeping on the floor now between my twin beds. I ate with the family this evening. Donna and Mary had a nice leg of lamb dinner for us to enjoy. Rex worked this early morning and he went back to work tonight. He left here at 10 p.m. I enjoyed some lovely Christmas music tonight on television, it was "The Special Annual Christmas Festival" at St. Olaf College, in Northfield, Minnesota. There were over 500 students participating with the symphony orchestra. I have surely enjoyed the beautiful music this Yule Tide.



first. Santa had filled them well, especially mine. I found Jergen's Lotion, Lavoris Mouthwash, M&M candies, Life Savers, cashew nuts, Tums, Paper Mate pen refill, and orange marmalade all in my stocking. Rex and Donna also gave me a one year's subscription to the TV Guide, so I'll have the programs for a year. Nice, eh? Kathy and Mark sent some cute stationery (Send A Note). Joan sent a cute ceramic birthday doll for December birthdays and a brass

Christmas ornament in the shape of a thimble with a red flower in it. I received a box of Russell Stover French mints and a box of Fannie May candy, a pretty candy jar, and a 1977 diary book. I went back to bed at 10:30 a.m. and rested until 1 p.m. I got dressed in my red slacks and red and green striped jacket top and ate dinner with the family and Dorothy and Guy T. We had a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The turkey wasn't the only one stuffed at that table. Baby Brian slept while we ate. The children ate first so they played outside while we ate. My sweet grandchildren all gave me nice gifts; Mary did their shopping for them, I get confused at who gave what, but they all remembered me and I do love their gifts. My cup runneth over. Jody bumped his mouth and his gums bled. Julie had an earache, but she got relief with my heating pad so all's well this Christmas day. It has been a Merry Christmas. P.S. Donna phoned Joan this morning; Mary and I talked to her, too. They are all well and happy.

December 26, Sunday

"Oh, How Lovely Was the Morning." Rex went to work in the nursing home in Overbrook this morning. Donna and the Tibbets family went to Ottawa to Sunday School and church. I heard Dorothy's car drive away later, I presume she went to Sacrament meeting. Donna left some dry cereal and milk and applesauce on a tray for me; I ate it at noon time. The big day of Christmas is in the past and the New Year's Day is on its way. It's the way of life and every year brings some changes to all of us. But, if we take it one day at a time and have faith in our Father in Heaven, and love in our hearts, we'll make it through this life okay. I'm so very thankful that my children are active workers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am not an active worker anymore; life has slowed me down now. I am 84 years old. But I can take care of my personal needs for which I am thankful indeed. The folks came home from church about 1:30 p.m. Donna got some dinner ready for them and Mary started to get their things together ready to pack in their car for the trip home to Weeping Water, Nebraska. Spencer is going to stay here with Grama Donna for a while. Julie is going to have her tonsils out and Mary had an appointment with a dermatologist doctor about some sores on her feet. Julie wanted a little



December 25, Saturday

Mary came in our bedroom to wake Julie up about seven this morning so she could see her brothers open their gifts. I put my robe and slippers on and went out to Marshes' living room to watch the fun, also. We all opened our stockings

rhyme to take to school, so I composed this:

*My name is Julie Annette Tibbets, I
am 10 years old,
I live in Weeping Water, Nebraska;
in the winter it is cold.
But I love to see the snowflakes
falling to the ground
I love winter, spring, summer and
fall, each one as they come around.
And you will see, this is a lovely
place to live in,
Do you agree with me?*

P.S. Our Tibbets family drove away from here about 4:15 this afternoon for home. Donna read to me tonight from the new Ensign magazine about temple marriage. I enjoyed it so much.

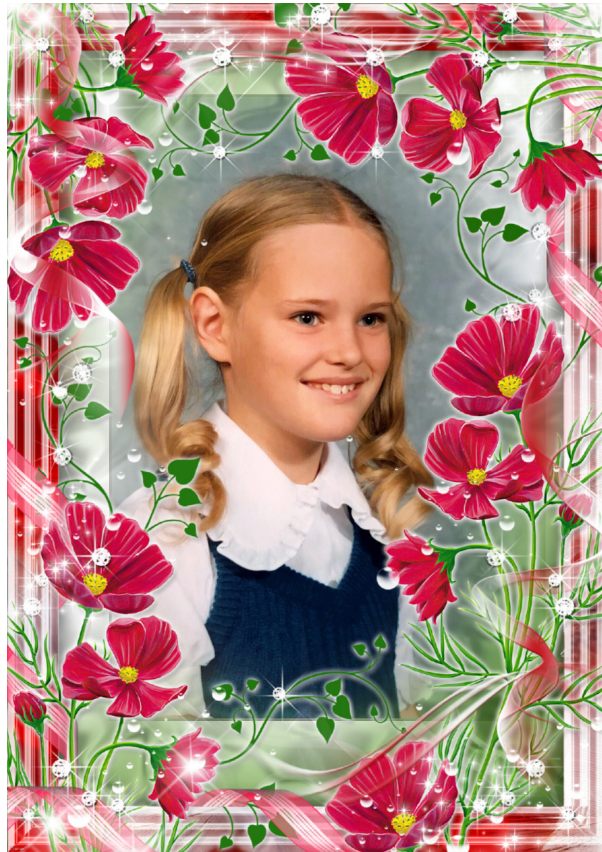
December 27, Monday

We have another sunny day with a blue, cloudless sky. Little Spencer has been a very good boy. He spent part of his day with Grandma Dorothy Tibbets, watching her bake cookies.

Donna had a busy day cleaning up the mess from the children's visit; vacuuming cracker and cake crumbs from her rugs and furniture and getting the place back in order. She brought a turkey sandwich, some salad, and Postum for my lunch. I put my 1976 Christmas cards away, tied with a red ribbon. I sewed a button back on my blue, plush robe and tightened several other buttons on it. I listened to the soapbox operas on television. They are entertaining and after hearing the problems they have to endure, I realize my life is a breeze. ☺ It is almost dark outside now at 5:30 p.m. We had a beautiful sunset again this evening. I love to look at the golden-red sky as that big ball of fire goes down in the south west horizon in December. Donna got Spencer to bed and asleep and then she came in to visit with me. We listened to the ten o'clock news and then we turned off the TV set. We were both tired and ready to call it a day. Good night!

December 28, Tuesday

December is almost over and we still have no snow, but we have lovely blue sky and bright sunshine. Spencer runs over to his Grandma Tibbets's house and back here at will, there is no mud on this farm. Donna brought me a tuna fish sandwich and hot Postum drink at 1 p.m., plus some cooked peaches. Later she brought the mail to me. We received a Christmas card and note to all of us from Don and Yvonne Woodlief. Enclosed we found a picture of each of her teen-aged children. Donna is 18 years old, a lovely looking young lady. She will go to BYU next fall. Bruce is 15½ years old and Graydon is 14½. They are both fine looking lads. They will be in high school next fall and I know that their Grandma Violet is very proud of them all. (Me, too.) We have some storm clouds in the south west sky; we'll have a fantastic



Julie Tibbets

sunset this evening I presume. I went out to the Marshes' living room and enjoyed the fire in the fireplace and the pretty silver tree with red and gold balls on it, plus some red birds that Kathy bought. The wind was blowing hard this evening and it caused my television to distort so badly I turned it off. The electricity went off about 7 p.m. We were in the dark. Donna brought one of her oil lamps in and she lit a couple of candles for me. It was snowing and blowing outside. I decided to go to bed before the house got really cold. I couldn't use the electric blanket so I put an extra quilt over me; I was in bed by 8 p.m. Donna blew the candles out and took her lamp out. The lights came back on about 8:30 or 9. I stayed in bed and Donna turned down my thermostats and the lamp. Good night.

December 29, Wednesday

I couldn't rest very well last night; I had some gas disturbance and the wind was causing a lot of noise outside. Mother Nature had her problems, too. There was some snow on the ground this morning, but not a lot. We had a sunny day, but it was cold. Little Spencer came in to see me and ask for jelly beans. He spent some time with Grandma Dorothy this morning. Donna made a lamb sandwich and Postum and a sliced orange for my brunch. Rex went to work at the Manor Nursing Home in Overbrook early this morning. He came home about 3:30 p.m. I wrote a little thank you note to Yvonne Woodlief for the lovely pictures of her three nice looking teen-aged children. Donna is 18, Bruce is 15½ and Graydon is 14½. Oh, they are growing up so fast. I was delighted to find these lovely colored pictures in the Woodlief's greeting card to us. It seems only a short time ago that Yvonne was just a cute little girl herself. Time marches on! I can't realize that I am 84 years old, glory be, poor old me! Tonight, Rex and Donna took Spencer with them to a pot luck dinner at a neighbor's farm house. I was invited, but I didn't feel like making the effort to dress up and go. Donna took three kinds of food, a real good casserole dish, a jelled salad, and something else? I've forgotten what. They came home about ten o'clock. Donna said they had a nice visit with the neighbors. Spencer had fun with the children. P.S. My TV Guide for January 1 to 7, came in today's mail. It was Donna and Rex's gift to me.

December 30, Thursday

We have a hazy sunshine today, but a real cold day. It took a long time to warm up my two rooms. Rex came in and taped up the two north windows where the ice-cold air was coming in the bottom of the frame. [The stucco on the outside was not

finished so the house was not sealed yet.] Donna brought a tray of lunch to me at noon time. The Dokos family came out to help lay the tile on the Tibbetses' kitchen floor, but it was too cold for the tile to set up right, so they had to stop working on it. They came over here to eat lunch; Donna served some good hot beef stew. The men folks talked with Guy and Rex at Tibbetses' and Ruby and her two daughters Andren and Thekla came over here. Donna brought them in to visit with me. One of the girls (Thekla) entertained Spencer for an hour or so reading to him in Donna's living room where a bright fire was burning in the fireplace. (Thekla is the younger girl.) Andren is going to Ricks College in Idaho; she wants to be a registered nurse. They are nice people; I enjoyed their visit. They couldn't get the Dokos car started this evening so they phoned the Dokos garage in Fontana and someone is coming out to tow it home. My dear Donna is concerned, "Oh, what can I feed them?" She had four or five of them for lunch. Their trip to the farm to work in Tibbetses' house was a failure because of the extreme cold, now this! Here I sit, bundled up like an Eskimo in my swivel chair dreaming of California. Rex brought me a letter from Lydia Paul. She said that Gene has lost three brothers in the past 18 months, Spencer, Alvin, and Hugh.

December 31, Friday

Oh, I am the little New Year, Ho Ho, here I come tripping over the snow, shaking my bells with a merry ring. ♪♪ Please open your door and let me in. You are on your way out 1976. You have been good to me, I wish I could go with you, but I'll welcome the New Year 1977 tomorrow, and go on counting my blessings.

Donna and Rex went to town this morning, but she left a tray of food for me. It is so cold, it takes a while to heat up the house, but I keep comfortable with my shawl and quilt in my swivel chair. I washed and dried my few dishes and then turned on the television. It's a shocking life I'm living, almost everything I touch gives me a little shock. I presume it is because of walking on our pretty, green, nylon rugs. Shocking, eh? Janet phoned from San Jose to wish

us a Happy New Year and to tell us that Rick received his mission call to Australia. Mark is in Argentina on his mission and Papa David is on a stake mission. Three of their family are serving LDS missions. Donna is playing the piano and little Spencer is singing. He is 3½ years old and he has a sweet voice; he surely sings well. I love to listen to them. We celebrated the Old Year out and the New Year in with Guy Lombardo's 48th consecutive New Year's Eve party at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. In my robe and slippers in my swivel chair, I watched the fun on TV. P.S. At midnight I blew my whistle and Donna rang my little crystal bell to usher out the old year and welcome in the New Year.

Oct. 29th 1974

"Marshes' Mound"

Friends, from now on, we will be found -
 In the farmhouse on, "Marshes' Mound" -
 Many of our high hopes were diminished,
 When we had to move into the place unfinished -
 I was spared all unpleasant din
 My room was in order, before I moved in -
 The Marshes will be working in bewildered confusion,
 While I set around in lawished profusion -
 Our sad tale of woe isn't very funny,
 Because, we are running out of money!
 To finish the farmhouse and do it well,
 Our little mobilehouse we had to sell -
 Someday, our farmhouse will be complete,
 Everything in order, "nice and neat" -
 Building this farmhouse has been a test
 May it prove to be a "Haven of Rest"
 To Rex and his family, for many years -
 Calming all their doubts and fears -
 May their crops grow well, in Kansas sod
 And - may they hold fast to "The Iron Rod"
 I'm thankful I was permitted to be around,
 To see the beginning on Marshes' Mound
 By, Elvie Aurelia Renshaw

*add a little touch of fun
 to everything you do -
 you will have a "happy heart"
 Each day the whole year thru -*

Elvie wrote the poem "Marshes' Mound" in 1974 but she also copied it on the last page of 1976.