

Elvie Renshaw's
1977 Diary



Elvie and Donna Renshaw in 1929, the year Elvie started keeping a daily diary.

Cast of Characters in Elvie's 1977 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, Spencer,** and **Brian.** Kathy is married to **Mark Calkins.**

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.**

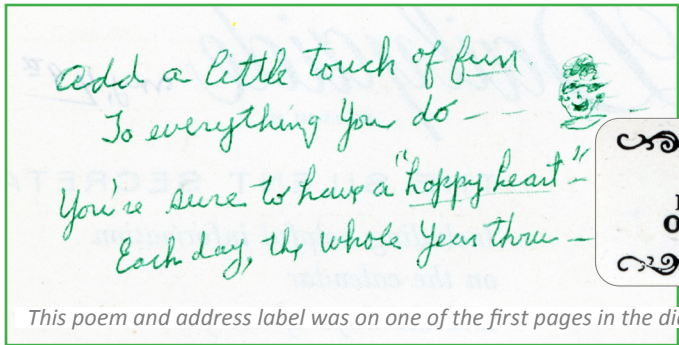
Sue: a sister who died in 1971; married to **Al Hoglund** who died in 1948. Their children are **Elaine, Bette,** and **Shirley.** **Ernie Vandergrift** married to Elaine Hoglund. **Ray Haddock** married to Bette Hoglund. Shirley married to **Ken Bird.**

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.**

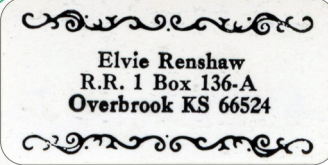


This poem and address label was on one of the first pages in the diary.

jelly beans. He is such a cute talker. I finished my calendar poem this evening. Good night.

January 3, Monday

Our fields are still white with snow and some on the bare tree branches. It has been cold and overcast all day. I expected to see it snowing any minute, but it didn't. Donna brought me a scrambled egg, some toast, Postum, and



applesauce, at noon. I enjoyed listening to the TV stories while eating my nice lunch. Donna put my Christmas decorations away for another year. My pretty, little suite is back to normal; the big holidays are over for a year. And I'm glad they are. Everyone seems more relaxed now. My

January 1, Saturday—The time to be happy is now!

Welcome little New Year, 1977. This is my 49th diary book. We stayed up last night until after midnight to see the "Old Year Out" and the "New Year In." I got up this morning to see the 88th Tournament of Roses Parade coming on television from Pasadena, California. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans were the Grand Marshals. The Rose Queen was Diane Ramaker. The hosts were Bob Barker, David Groh, Loretta Swit, and Esther Rolle. The theme was "The Good Life." There were 61 floats and 22 bands. I really enjoyed this wonderful parade, in color, on my TV set and seeing my beloved Pasadena, California. Donna watched it on the black and white set while she untrimmed the little silver pom pom Christmas tree. Little Spencer was with her. Rex went to work before it was daylight; he came home at 3:30 p.m. Resolutions I didn't make, so I haven't any to break. I closed my 1976 diary record. Donna made out the check for the house payment for \$187.00 to Evans Products Investments and one for \$53.00 for cash. My Social Security check is in the bank today, I presume (\$281.40). Donna will take care of the business on Monday and bring me some cash. The first day of our new year has come to a close. It was a happy day for me and my loved ones, too, I hope. I wish all of the people in our world could know "Peace of Mind" and "All is Well." I am very tired and weary tonight so I'll turn out the lights and go to bed. Sweet dreams.



Diane Ramaker 1977 Rose Queen

bank deposit receipt came in today's mail, \$281.40. Donna didn't go to town today. We received a nice, little thank you note from Donna and Roland Renshaw for our Christmas greetings to them. They have moved back into their home after living in a condominium house for a year. They're glad they didn't sell their home. They have a nice vegetable garden and they are raising rabbits, earthworms, and all sorts of interesting things. So, they can appreciate their lovely home now. Charlie and Elaine both expect to be grandparents in the spring. Donna and Roland are going to the east coast in July. They may stop in to see us. I hope so. Sweet dreams.

January 4, Tuesday

It snowed again last night and this morning. Rex went to work in the pickup truck. He phoned to tell Donna not to drive to Relief Society today. The roads are too dangerous. She phoned some of the Relief Society board and they decided to cancel the meeting today. The schools were closed in Paola because of the bad weather. It looks like we have about six inches of snow on the ground now. Dorothy put on her boots and walked to the mailbox to mail some letters. She was afraid to drive her car in the snow and ice. Little Spencer hates to be shut in the house all day and he gave Grama Donna a few rough times with his tantalizing. He was happy a few times when he could come in here for jelly beans. He is a cute, little fellow, but full of energy. I have felt a bit light headed today, dizzy a few times. So, I stayed near my chair all day. I made out a check for \$24.00 for my December and January church donations. Tonight, Donna came and read to me from the Reader's Digest. I do enjoy having her read to me; it is so much better than listening to some of the jazz we have on television now days. We did hear the ten o'clock news report on TV before we both went to bed. Good night.

January 2, Sunday

I looked out my bathroom window this morning and the fields were white with snow. I got back in bed and covered my head. ☺ My family had gone to Ottawa to Sunday School and church. Donna left a tray for me with some dry cereal (oats), milk, and applesauce on it. I got up and dressed; combed my hair and made my bed. I said my prayer and then I ate my lunch and enjoyed it. That oats cereal, sweetened with honey and nuts and dates, is really good. Rex, Donna, and Spencer came home about 2 p.m. The action was on again. I had fun composing my calendar rhyme. This evening I went to the Marshes' living room to enjoy the fireplace and watch television's "60 minutes" and other TV programs. Donna brought me a snack on a tray, in her house this evening. I ate and watched TV, "Kojak" and "Delvecchio." I listened to the ten o'clock news report in my room. Little Spencer was in and out a few times today for

January 5, Wednesday

It is cloudy and freezing cold this morning. The snow isn't melting at all, but this is winter, eh? Rex went to work before daylight this morning. Donna brought lunch to me at noontime. She let Spencer in a couple of times for jelly

beans that I keep in a jar for him. Rex brought the mail home when he came about 3:30. There was a nice letter to Donna from Mary Jorgensen. Her three sons were all home for Christmas. Randy came from college in Lawrence, Kansas, Ken is a senior in UCLA, and Lynn works on the railroad. Mary works at St. Joseph's Hospital as a head nurse. She teaches one night a week at the community college. She is working for her master's degree. Vern is the artist for TV's "Concentration." They are a professional family, eh? I'm proud of them, too. Donna received a letter from her friend Rita, from Argentina. She is the exchange student that came to America to Jon Tibbets's college. She visited our home and she knitted a cover for the arms and back of one of my swivel chairs. Donna came into my suite this evening and read from the January Ensign magazine for about an hour. I surely enjoyed that. Spencer was entertained with the television in Marshes' apartment. He watched Sesame Street and others. Good night.



Spencer Tibbets 23 months old loved to sing and play. He preferred not to be trapped inside on snowy days.



January 7, Friday

Our fields are white with snow; we have sunshine and a blue sky, but the air is cold, so the snow isn't melting.

Donna brought brunch to me at 12:30 noon. I enjoyed watching the TV stories while eating, fun, eh? Rex came home from work about 3:45 p.m. I think he brought a tank load of water to the well. I opened my chocolate French mints yesterday and enjoyed a couple. Rex came in this afternoon and ate some. He went to the south field to feed the animals and to cut some logs for the fireplace. Guy Tibbets may have gone down to help Rex with the firewood. I did some scrapbook work; I pasted Chris and Sue Jones's wedding picture in the book and pictures of Donna, Bruce, and Graydon Woodlief, also. Donna brought me a newspaper picture of Overbrook Town, in white. Our little town is covered in snow. It is pretty, but I want no part of it. Sunny California is my idea of beauty. Rex and Donna and Spencer came in my place this evening and watched the game "Name That Tune" on television. We played a sing

along record on the Magnavox to please Spencer. He loves to sing along when he knows the songs. He has a sweet voice and sings well for a 3 1/2-year-old boy. It is 9:30 now, I'm tired, so I think I'll go to bed. P.S. Donna read a cute letter from Kathy and Mark to me this evening. They are very happy and busy in California. Good night all.

January 6, Thursday

We have a lot of fresh snow on the ground and trees.

Winter is here for sure. We were blessed with some sunshine this afternoon but the snow isn't melting at all. Today's mail brought a letter from Violet. She is not at all well. The doctor sent a sample of her urine somewhere for a culture test of it. He told Violet and Otto there is nothing he can do to cure her kidney condition. The medication he gave her helps to stabilize the condition; her heart and blood pressure are also helped with the medication. She is in a bad way, but it's amazing how cheerful she is, in spite of it. Some of their ward members came and brought food, bread, cookies, T-bone steaks, beef roast, hamburger, and lamb chops, plus homemade candy. Oh, they are wonderful to Otto and Violet. I'm thankful for these dear people. Violet enclosed a letter from cousin Ruth Paul Nutt and one from Yvonne and Don Woodlief. Donna and I enjoyed reading all three letters. Sorry I can't record their contents, too, but there is no way on this little page. I spent \$7.00 today for drug store items that Donna bought for me. I got a jar of Vick's VapoRub, a jar of Mentholatum, some vitamin E tablets, and a birthday card for Emily Gardner. Her day is January 14. She'll be 6 years old. Donna came in to hear the ten o'clock news with me. Rex was in bed asleep and little Spencer was, also. Good night!

January 8, Saturday

I was happy to see the sunshine this afternoon, but it is cold outside with lots of snow on the fields around us. It is a real winter scene, ugh! Well, I will grin and bear it, it won't last forever, eh? I got Emily Gardner's birthday card, with gum and dollar in it, ready to mail and a birthday card for Lillian Keller ready to go. Donna vacuumed my rugs, cleaned the bathroom, and dusted the furniture this afternoon. Spencer played with the old Christmas cards on the floor building what he called houses out of them, like Greg and Jody used to do. He is a cute, little fellow. I showed him through one of my picture albums; he liked that. My Paper Mate pen ran out of ink. I was glad I got a new refill in my Christmas stocking, so I'm in business again. I enjoyed my nice, clean suite this evening dozing in my easy chair and counting my blessings. Rex stopped at the market before coming home

from work. He got home about 4:30 p.m. Donna drove out a ways to see if he was stalled in the little VW car. These snow-covered roads are a problem. I'm a so called "shut in" and glad of it. Now the truck and the VW are both stalled in the snow banks. Rex and Donna and little Spencer had to walk home from the pond where the truck is in a snow drift. He hopes he can get his tractor to run so he can get his cars home. I'm trying to be calm, but my feelings are troubled. We left California for this??? (Rex and a neighbor farmer helped Rex get the VW out of the snow bank in to his yard until tomorrow.) P.S. I think it is the Merrills' yard that Rex's VW is in tonight. We had a snowy picture on TV tonight, but the sound was good. I'm very weary, I turned off the lights soon after 9 p.m. Good night.

January 9, Sunday

Rex and Donna are snowed in and can't get to church. Rex was to be the speaker in church, but the roads are not cleared off and Rex's truck and VW car are snowed in. (It is a sad situation!) Rex put more tape around the windows in our house to help keep the cold air out. After living in California for some 53 years, it is hard for me to adjust to this freezing cold weather, but I'm staying inside where it is warm. He put the tape around the windows last evening and more this morning. It's a bitter cold day; the wind is blowing and the snow is snowing. I tried to hibernate and stay in bed until the winter is over, but I couldn't stay undercover that long. However, I did manage to stay in bed until one o'clock. Rex's VW car is in neighbor Merrills' yard, snowed in. His pick-up truck is in a snow drift ditch somewhere on the road to the farm house. Rex got his tractor going so he cut some old logs to have firewood for the fireplaces for Tibbetses' and our house. Guy Tibbets may have helped him. Donna brought a nice dinner to me about three o'clock (baked potato, yam, meatloaf, green beans, toast, a slice of date-nut bread, and a raisin roll.) So, I'm doing okay, eh? I played some beautiful Mormon hymns on my Magnavox player and watched the snow whirling outside in the wind. Burr! Jack Story drove over to the farm in his big truck to help Rex get his pick-up truck out of the snow drift ditch. So, Rex's truck is back in our yard tonight. I watched a special program on TV tonight called "That's Entertainment." It was very entertaining.

January 10, Monday

It was delightful to see the sunshine this morning, but I know it is cold outside; the snow isn't melting. I took a bath in Donna's bathroom this morning. It is much warmer in her bathroom because it is an inside room without a window. It's amazing how much colder the window makes in freezing cold weather. Donna brought a nice lunch to me at 12:30 noon. Rex went to work early this morning in the pickup truck. We're glad he made it without trouble. Dorothy Tibbets's car looks like it is frozen to the spot with the

snow on top and the icicles hanging from the fenders. Little Spencer went over to visit with his Tibbets grandparents this afternoon. I wrapped up in my shawl and silk quilt and dozed in my chair while enjoying some nice music on my Magnavox player. I spent my evening alone, watching a two-hour program on television, "The Circus of the Stars." I think Donna was typing some letters to her girls. Rex went to bed early. Our weather report this evening was for colder weather and snow in our location. Donna came in tonight and listened to the ten o'clock news cast on TV. We are both weary, so goodnight and happy dreams.

January 11, Tuesday

President North gave Donna permission to cancel the Relief Society meeting again today, because of the bitter cold weather and the dangerous driving on the icy, snowy roads. We have blue sky and sunshine today, but freezing cold so the snow doesn't seem to melt at all. Donna brought lunch to me and then she and Rex went out in their pickup truck to see if they could bring their VW car home from Merrill's yard. I think Spencer is with Grama Dorothy next door. Guy is upset because two of his very rare tropical parrots have died because of exposure to the freezing cold weather. He wishes he hadn't left California. (Me too!) Rex and Donna brought the little VW car home so all is well. Spencer is back home; I can hear the activity in Marshes' side. Donna brought a dish of peanuts, in the shells, to me this afternoon. She came in later and visited with me for a while. I surely enjoy having her come and talk to me. I do get very lonesome. Rex is sawing up logs for the fireplace. Winter will pass, it always does. I've lived through some 84 winters and many of them have been fun, too (when I was young). Tonight, I went to Marshes' living room to enjoy the lovely fire in their fireplace. We watched "Kojak" and the ten o'clock news and then I came home and went to bed. Good night.



Two of Guy's parrots died from the cold in Kansas. They moved to the real paradise which is not California OR Kansas.

January 12, Wednesday

Happy birthday to Lillian Keller, she is 85 years old today. We have lovely sunshine today, but the snow is not melting, it is freezing out there. I slept fairly well last night; I had some troubled dreams with my sweetheart Lou in. Rex and Donna took Spencer with them to Lawrence this afternoon. They invited me to go with them, but I didn't feel well enough to make the effort. It was cloudy and stormy looking this afternoon. Donna brought hot-cakes, syrup, and Postum to me at noontime. I enjoyed eating while watching the TV stories. I am thankful for my television; it helps to keep me from getting too lonesome. Donna and Spencer tried to make a snowman this morning but the snow was too fluffy or dry to hold together. Donna bought a cute birthday card for a one year old for me to send to Brian Louis Tibbets. His day is January 24. I composed a little verse for his card. It is ready to mail with a dollar and some gum in it. I'll have to

hold it a few days. It is too early to mail now. I wrote a letter to Lydia Paul and Gene. Rex will mail it in the morning on his way to work. We can't use our mailbox; it is covered over with the snow from the snow plow. It happened when the snow plow came along the highway to clear the road. Rex and Donna can't even see it, so they have to bring our mail from the post office in Overbrook. The wind is blowing hard now at 10:45 p.m. I do not like the "Big Blow." Goodnight.

January 13 Thursday

This has been a cold, overcast day. I expected to see it snowing any minute, but not so far and it is four o'clock now. Donna brought a melted cheese sandwich to me at 12:30 noon. Rex had to take the pickup truck to work this early morning. The little VW car is stalled in the snow in front of our house. Donna has been baking and cleaning in her side of the house today. Spencer came in for jelly beans this morning. He is a cute, little fellow. Donna said that last night when he went to bed he said, "I wish I could go to sleep in my mama's house." It is the first time he has felt a little homesick. Mary told Donna, via phone, that they sure miss Spencer. The roads are too dangerous to travel right now to come for him. I'm glad to stay in the house. I wrote a letter to Violet and Otto this evening. Donna came in tonight and we listened to the television. I heard [*watched*] all of "The Waltons" and "Hawaii Five O." Donna heard part of them. We did hear all of the ten o'clock news report together. We had a nice visit. Rex was in bed. He went to work so early he was tired. It isn't as freezing cold tonight. Good night.

January 14, Friday

Happy birthday to Emily Gardner, she is 6 years old today.

The cutie on your card, dressed in pink

Has a note of love, and here's what I think,

Emily will be 6 years old the 14th of January,

And, I want you to feel joyful and Merry.



Our trees on this place have a look of fairyland this morning. The branches are covered with ice and the snow is on the ground; "Baby It's Cold Outside." But I am inside looking out, I like it best that way. ☺. It was overcast until late this afternoon when the sun came out bright; this melted some of the ice on the trees, but there is a lot of snow on the ground still. I sewed a button on my sheer, flowered robe and sewed up a seam in it this afternoon. Rex took Spencer with him in the pick-up truck to get some water for the well. The TV news reporter said we have more snow and freezing weather headed our way. Burr! I have been a little light headed today, it is a confusing feeling, with a slight headache. I walked around in my suite to help my blood to circulate better. Donna brought my dinner at 6 p.m. I ate and enjoyed television and my good food. Donna came in later and saw the "Sonny and Cher Show" with Don Knotts and Debbie Reynolds, as special guests. Little Spencer looks so sweet and clean when he comes in to kiss me goodnight before he goes to bed every

night (after his bath). He is adorable. Joan phoned tonight and talked to Donna for about 30 minutes. Emily was happy with our birthday cards and the money, gum, gifts, and etcetera. It is cold and there is lots of snow in Illinois, too. We went to bed at 10:30 pm. Spencer has a cough tonight.

January 15, Saturday

It is another cold, cloudy, winter day, but pleasant in the house. I didn't sleep very well last night, so I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a nice lunch to me about one o'clock. She is a darling. I put a couple of very lovely records on the Magnavox player. They were both Mantovani records, one was "Big Hits from Broadway and Hollywood" and the other one "American Waltzes." No voices, just orchestra. I enjoyed them so very much. Little Spencer thought I should change to his favorite record, a "sing a long" record. He loves to sing along with "It's a Grand Old Flag," "Daisy, Daisy," and "I've Been Working on the Railroad," and etcetera. He walked over, in the snow, to Grandma Tibbets's house to take her the mail that Rex brought home last night. Rex picks up our mail at the post office now, while our mailboxes are covered over with snow. Donna went over to Tibbetses' with Spencer. He came back home a little later; he said Grandma T. was sewing on her machine and Grandpa was asleep. The poor little kid misses his brothers to play with, I'm sure. The sun got through the clouds about four o'clock this afternoon, but it was not for long; this is a winter day. Burr. I went out to Marshes' living room and enjoyed the fireplace. Donna brought a TV tray to me with a beef sandwich, some milk, and tapioca pudding on it. I came home to watch "The Lawrence Welk Show," the "Mary Tyler Moore Show," and "The Bob Newhart Show." Donna and Spencer watched the L. Welk show with me and then she gave him his bath and put him to bed. Good night. P.S. Donna and I listened to the ten o'clock news report on TV tonight. There is more freezing weather and snow expected. We also watched the "Carol Burnette Show."

January 16, Sunday

We are blessed with a blue sky and sunshine, but it is freezing cold outside. Winter is here, our fields are white with snow. I stayed in bed as long as I could this morning. Donna brought me a TV tray of food about 1:30 p.m. She gave Spencer his lunch and took him to visit his grandparents, the Tibbetses, then she rested on my extra twin bed and enjoyed the lovely music I was playing on the Magnavox player. I wish she could have rested longer, but her little grandson was knocking at the back door; he can't open it by himself. The roads are too dangerous for Donna to drive all the way to church alone. Rex had to work at the nursing home today. This has been the most severe winter here, in many years. When Rex came home, he took Donna and Spencer with him to get a tank of water for the well. I watched television for a while and then I played some lovely Mormon hymns on my record player. I'm so thankful for my lovely LDS hymns. My folks came home about 5:15 and Donna got the dinner ready. She left it cooking in the oven slowly. I ate with the family about six o'clock. We had a delicious leg of lamb dinner with lemon pie for dessert. Mm good! I watched "60 Minutes" and "Rhoda" on Marshes'

TV set and then I came to my suite and listened to “Phyllis.” It was a waste of time; I wish I had played my lovely records instead. Franklin said, “Employ time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure.” Good night.

January 17, Monday

We had a cold, overcast morning, the sun got through to us about 12:30 noon, but it is freezing cold outside. The snow isn't melting, our little walking paths are icy. Spencer (bundled up) went over to visit with Grandma Tibbets. Donna watched from my bedroom west window. She said he was slipping, but didn't fall down. Later this afternoon it started to snow; Donna was disappointed because of her Relief Society meeting tomorrow. She is the president and she has had to miss several times this winter, because of the snow and ice on the roads making driving too dangerous in the freezing cold weather. It looks very much like it may snow all night. I played some of my beautiful records on the Magnavox player this afternoon. They help keep me feeling cheerful. I can have hope in my heart listening to the LDS Hymns by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; I love these lovely recordings. I am blessed indeed. Rex went to get some milk at a dairy farm in our location. I changed a \$5.00 bill for him so he'd have the right change to leave at the dairy. I watched TV's “Little House on The Prairie,” “Maude,” and the news at ten p.m. “Intelligence, Secret Service, **Theodore Sorenson**,” and etcetera was the big news. I didn't understand it, so the Intelligence will have to deal with it the best they can. I'm tired of the whole thing. Good night.

January 18, Tuesday

Winter is predominate here on our farm; we have some fresh snow. The wind, last night, blew drifts of snow upon our roadway so that Rex couldn't get to his work in the nursing home, until he had taken his tractor to shovel the snow off the road way to the highway. Donna had to miss her Relief Society meeting again today because we are snowed in. It's so freezing cold the snow and ice can't melt. It has been a severe winter everywhere this year. Rex brought our mail home from the post office this afternoon. I received a letter from Violet, one from Ethel Newbold, and a postcard from Blanche Hogle. Donna read them all to me. Violet enclosed a couple of news clippings; the death of Kathy Affleck Rich, 76 years old. She was a neighbor when I was a girl. The other clipping was the death of Blossom

Ness Gray, 72 years old; another neighbor when we lived in the Bailey home on East 4th South in Salt Lake City, so many years ago.

*Now, I sit here in my swivel chair
And rub my eyes and nose
And rock to and fro and doze.
I can't run about anymore,
You'll understand when you're 84.*

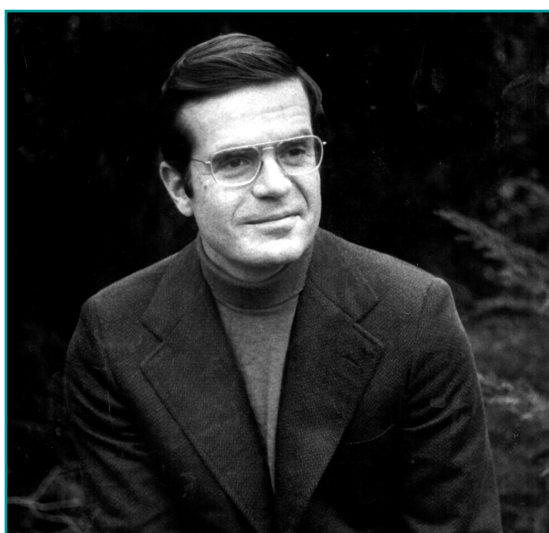


I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player tonight; Donna came in and enjoyed the music with me. She telephoned Mary tonight to tell her about the snow and ice in the roads here, but Mary isn't coming tomorrow as planned. She and Betty, her friend, are coming Thursday morning if the weather is better. They're coming in Betty's car and going back home the same day. Mary is coming to get Spencer.

January 19, Wednesday

It snowed again last night and was snowing this morning; our roads are covered over. If this condition keeps up, Mary cannot get to our home tomorrow. Rex left his pickup truck at some neighbor's farm; he was going to walk to it this morning so he'd have a way to get to his job in Overbrook at the nursing home. We are snowed in! The sun came out this afternoon but it is freezing cold outside, so the snow isn't melting. Donna brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal about 1 p.m. and applesauce and hot milk. I watched the television stories and ate my brunch. Donna is about at her “wit's end” trying to keep her little grandson Spencer, happy and entertained. He is so full of energy; he misses his mama and papa and brother and sister. We'll all feel happy to see the end of this dreadful winter. Donna is trying to help Rex get the truck out of a snow drift in the road to the house. She'll be at the wheel of the truck and Rex on the tractor. Oh, it is frustrating. Spencer is listening to a story on the television in Marshes' living room. Guy Tibbets is out on the road shoveling snow. I watched from my west bedroom window. I was happy to see them bring the truck home. It is calm and clear now at 5:30 p.m. I surely

hope our roadway will keep open for Rex to get in and out of tomorrow and for Mary and Betty to get in to the farm all right. My new TV guide came in the mail today. It is a big day tomorrow for our country. The Inaugural honoring President Elect Jimmy Carter, and Vice President Elect Walter Mondale.



Theodore Sorenson in the early 1970s.

Theodore Chaikin Sorenson (May 8, 1928 – October 31, 2010) was an American lawyer, writer, and presidential adviser. He was a speech writer for President John F. Kennedy, as well as one of his closest advisers. President Kennedy once called him his “intellectual blood bank.”

. . . During 1977, Jimmy Carter nominated Sorenson as Director of Central Intelligence (CIA), but the nomination was withdrawn before a Senate vote. Sorenson's help with explaining Ted Kennedy's Chappaquiddick incident was cited as a factor of Senate opposition to his nomination as CIA director. Sorenson in his autobiography attributed the loss of Senate approval for his nomination for CIA director to his conscientious objector status as a youth, his two failed marriages, and his writing an affidavit in defense of releasing the Pentagon Papers.

—Wikipedia

January 20, Thursday

Today is the presidential inauguration for President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale. They were sworn in office this morning. Jimmy Carter is the 39th president of the United States. I watched the Inaugural Parade along Pennsylvania Avenue, it lasted about 90 minutes. This is a historical day for the USA. Mary Tibbets and baby Brian and friend Betty Bennett and her little girl Tiffany arrived this morning about 11 a.m. from Weeping Water, Nebraska. They had no trouble getting in to the farm. The snow was cleared off the road way with Rex's tractor and shovel. We have a beautiful, sunny day and it is not as cold. The snow did thaw off the house top, but there is a lot on the ground. I ate dinner with the family in Marshes' side, it was a good dinner. Donna worked hard yesterday preparing for it. Spencer and Tiffany sat in my platform rocker to watch "Sesame Street" on TV. We visited in Marshes' house. Guy and Dorothy Tibbets were there. I came in here and I was surprised to find little Tiffany had fallen asleep. It was surely a cute picture to see them both in the big chair. Spencer was watching the show, and she was asleep. We should have had a picture of them. Mary and Betty took the children home about 5:20 p.m. Little Brian slept most of his time here. Rex went with Donna soon after Mary and Betty left to take dinner to the Story family. Donna Story just came home from the hospital with a new baby. Donna Marsh is the Relief Society President of our Ottawa Branch. P.S. President Carter and his wife walked with family and friends from the Capital Building to the White House.

January 21, Friday

We had an overcast morning and a sunny afternoon. Donna and Dorothy went to Overbrook this morning. She got my heart tablets for me, \$3.61, and some Vick's cough drops and a get-well card to send to Julie Tibbets. She is having her tonsils taken out tomorrow or Monday? I'm feeling much better today. I slept well last night. Rex tried to talk me into taking a ride with him and Donna this afternoon to see the snow. I told him I could see all the snow I wanted to see by looking out my windows, and I'm tired of it. I think I hate the snow. I long for green grass and trees and pretty flowers. This has been a bitter cold winter. I've had enough of it! "So what?" Says, Mother Nature. Rex had a big bonfire going down near our pond; he was burning up some dead branches and etcetera. It looked pretty with the white snow all around the place. I walked and danced around in my rooms for exercise today. Yes, I danced! And that is something to see.

An eighty-four year old doll, "tripping the light fantastic." Add a little touch of fun to everything you do, you are sure to have a happy heart each day the whole year through.



Ginger Rogers & Fred Astaire in "Tripping the Light Fantastic." On January 21 Elvie was also "tripping."

January 22, Saturday

I had a good night's rest which is a blessing indeed. We have a pleasant day with no wind. The sunshine got through the clouds this afternoon about 1 p.m. It was a hazy looking day. Donna left a TV tray with dry cereal and some fruit and milk on it. She had a Relief Society meeting somewhere, a leadership meeting, I presume. I heard Rex and his tractor and his truck going in or out of this yard all morning. I enjoyed some delightful music played on my Magnavox player. Rex came in to check on me about 2:10 p.m. Our fields are still white with snow; it isn't melting because it is too cold out there. But, I'm warm, here in my sweet, little suite. ☺ Donna came home about 3:30 this afternoon. She was tired from the long day to Kansas City. Rex and Guy took the chain saw to have it sharpened, and Rex was going to stop at the milk dairy for milk. I gave him \$5.00 to help buy whatever we need. Donna rested on my other twin bed for a while. I dozed in my chair. I enjoyed "The Lawrence Welk Show," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "All in the Family," and "The Carol Burnett Show" tonight (all by myself). Donna brought a lovely dinner to me at 6 p.m. She ate in my place with me from a TV tray. She watched Lawrence Welk with me, then I was alone for the others. Good night.

January 23, Sunday

Today is Louis's birthday. I hope he is enjoying it. He was born 87 years ago today. It snowed most of the night I presume; anyway, we are snow bound. I'm sorry Donna couldn't get out to Sunday School and church. She was scheduled to give a talk in church, and they do need her, but the snow and ice made it too dangerous to get out on these country roads, miles from help. Donna cooked a beef roast this morning. We had our dinner at the table in her place. She had a fire in the little stove and the fireplace, too. It was warm and comfortable and delightful to be with her; she had some lovely Mormon Hymns playing on my Magnavox player, so we enjoyed the Sabbath day here at home. Rex went to work this morning; he phoned to let Donna know he had arrived there okay. He had some slipping and sliding, but he made it there alright. I helped Donna do the dishes, then I came to my suite and enjoyed some lovely Mormon Hymns on my Magnavox player, and I got a get-well card ready to mail to Julie Tibbets; she is going to have her tonsils out soon. Later, Donna came in and read some cute articles from The Reader's Digest. We surely had a beautiful sunset this evening; the blue sky with orange and pink clouds in it, was exquisite. I enjoyed television tonight "Rhoda," "Phyllis," "Switch," "Delvecchio," and the ten o'clock news. Night all.

January 24, Monday

Happy Birthday to Brian Louis Tibbets, he is one year old today.

Whoop T. Do and Glory Be!

It's your first anniversary.

You don't know what it's all about,

But you can laugh and you can shout!

Have lots of fun with your bright new toy,

We all love you, baby boy!



Rex went to work early this morning before daylight. We have a very pleasant day with blue sky and sunshine and no wind. Donna and Dorothy went out to do their Relief Society visiting teaching this morning. Donna left me a TV tray with sandwiches, potato chips, Jello fruit salad, and cooked peaches, and Postum for my brunch. I ate and watched the TV stories. Donna came home about 2:30 p.m. She read the mail to me. We had a letter from Joan and a cute letter from Sandy, thanking us for the Christmas gifts. He taped some money in it, about 40¢, I think (cute little fellow). Donna also read this week's Relief Society lesson to me from her new magazine. The lesson is on cleaning up your home and yard. I wrote this little verse on Julie's get-well card. She is having her tonsils out soon.

*Sure, your throat is real sore,
And it hurts to swallow,
But cheer-up, you'll feel fine
In the days that follow.
You'll be growing up well and happy,
Julie Tibbets, little dear,
And we'll be watching as you grow
More beautiful every year.*



The snow is thawing a little, but there is a lot of it on our fields yet. Winter is very much with us. Donna also read a letter from Janet Shattuck; she talked about selling their lovely home and building a larger home on their property nearby. They want more room outside as well as inside. Good night.

January 25, Tuesday

Donna wrote a check for \$5.00 to pay for my bank deposit vault, for another year. Rex is taking it to the bank this morning. Donna and Dorothy went to Relief Society this morning. She left a tray of food for me; I ate and enjoyed the television stories at 12:30 noon. Donna came home about 2 p.m. We have a pretty day with sunshine and blue sky. There is lots of snow still on the ground. The cat that has been around here for a few weeks has adopted herself to our home. She is at the back door trying to get in every time the door is opened. Donna fed her milk and table scraps, but she will not have her in the house to sharpen her claws on the furniture. Donna had a box of empty food cans on her freezer to take out to the can box. She went in the garage and was surprised to see a little opossum in the box. He played dead when she got near him and she wasn't about to go any nearer to him. I went out to the back porch to have a look at him; it is the first live opossum I have seen. Rex came home about 5 p.m. He got the little animal out of the can box, but it ran to a corner of the garage and hid back of some lumber there, so it is still with us in our garage. ☺ I watched television tonight until bed time. I'm weary, goodnight. P.S. Donna listened to the ten o'clock news with me. She feels like she is coming down with a cold. I surely hope not! P.S. Mary phoned to tell Donna that Julie was operated on yesterday; she had her tonsils out in the morning yesterday.



Donna found an opossum in a box in the garage.

January 26, Wednesday

We have a hazy sunshine today; it looks cold outside with the snow-covered fields. Rex went to work this morning before daylight. I stayed in bed until almost noon. Donna brought a roast beef sandwich, some canned peaches, and hot Postum for my brunch at 12:30 noon. I ate and watched my TV stories for entertainment. Rex stopped at the drug store to pick up the prescriptions that Dorothy Tibbets had phoned in for him to bring to her. Donna baked bread this afternoon; it smells good! She also wrote some letters. She keeps busy, and then there is me, taking life EZ, here in my swivel chair, listening to sweet music floating on the air waves.

*Well, that is something to be thankful for.
I want to relax now that I'm eighty-four.
I'm trying to be cheerful and act my best,
In spite of the hurt in my shoulders, my arms, and chest.*



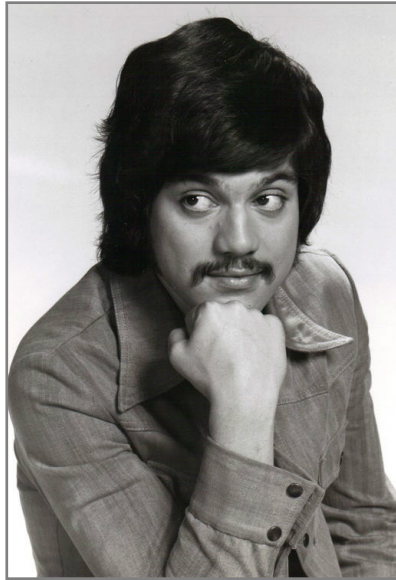
Donna received a letter from Mary; she wrote it on Monday the 24th while at the hospital when Julie was in surgery. I'm amazed at all the activity in Mary's life! She and her friend Betty are having a food sale, oh, the rolls, pies, cakes, and food they are making. [Betty and Mary made food for a farm auction in Weeping Water and split the profits.] I surely hope it is a big success. It makes my old head swim just thinking about it. Donna tried to phone Mary this evening to check on Julie, but there was no answer, so they must be at friend Betty's house, and Julie must be feeling well enough go out, eh?

January 27, Thursday

Happy Wedding Anniversary to John and Ann Marsh. They were married four years ago today. Donna reminded me of it last evening. Time surely flies quickly. It snowed a little last night but we had sunshine today. I had a very pleasant dream last night with my darling Lou in it; we were both young and happy. It was a let-down to wake up and realize I am an old woman, 84 years old. Donna went to a baby shower for Donna Story's new infant at Ray and Nadine Ryan's home in Spring Hill, Kansas. She and Rex were invited to have dinner with the Ryans and Rex and Ray will visit while the shower is going on. Donna phoned Mary's house and talked to Julie. She is feeling much better. She was pleased with our get-well cards. The snow isn't melting, so it must be cold outside, but the sunshine looks cheerful. I presume we'll have another month of winter here in Kansas, ugh! And we left California for this place! (Enough said!) Rex brought a letter from Kathy in today's mail. Donna read it to me; she writes a cute letter, almost like hearing her talk. She enclosed an article from the church library; it was written by the wife of George Pace. He teaches at the "Y." It was very interesting. Donna brought a tray of food to me before they left here about 5:30 p.m. I ate about 6 p.m. while watching television. Donna came in tonight when they came home and told me about the dinner at Ryans' and that the shower was in a home nearby, at John and Judith Rauber's home. I get confused, sorry. Anyway, I'm glad they are home with me. ☺

January 28, Friday

We sure had a "Big Blow" all night; the wind sounded like it was trying to "Huff and puff and blow our house in." I got very little sleep, so I stayed in bed until after 11:30. Rex and Donna went with Guy and Dorothy, in their car. I think they went to Ottawa and to Lawrence on some business and to shop. My windows are frosted, so it must be very cold outside in spite of the sunshine. Guy bought a new chain saw (\$200), so he can cut up the lumber



Freddie Prinze was 22 when he died.

to burn in the stove and fireplace. I went in Donna and Rex's place this evening to enjoy the big logs burning brightly in the fire place. Rex had a fire in the basement fireplace, too, and in the little stove in the kitchen, also. It was warm and pleasant there. I watched television and ate a snack with Donna and Rex from TV trays. The six o'clock news told a shocking story about one of my favorite TV stars, Freddie Prinze, the young actor in "Chico and the Man," shooting himself in the head because his wife is divorcing him; he is in a very critical condition. I'm very sorry about this sad story. The news also said this is the coldest winter in Kansas to be recorded, and I believe it. Burr!

January 29, Saturday

The sun is shining through my south window on my pretty, soft, green rug,

And cheering this old heart of mine and making me feel warm and snug.

I can't see the frozen ice and snow out there all around.

I'm looking up at the pretty, blue sky where it seems like "Heaven is Bound."

I'm counting my many blessings, such as a good night's rest and a sunny day,

And I'm asking the dear Lord to help us through life all the way.

My lovely daughter Donna, to us, was Heaven sent.

Her life of service to others is happily spent.

She is baking bread today and it smells so good.

She is taking a loaf to the missionaries,

Along with some other food.

I answered Violet's letter; I intended to write to Ethel Newbold, too, but I had a blind stagger spell and it spoiled my good intentions. So, I'll try again later. Donna listened to the "Lawrence Welk" TV program and the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" with me this evening. We enjoyed our TV snack at the same time in here. Rex ate his dinner about 5:30. The six o'clock news said that the TV actor Freddie Prinze died this morning from the gun shot to his brain. It is too bad that we have so many poor mixed up people in the world, isn't it? He had so much going for him, too. If he

had only known the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he'd be alive and happy today.

Freddie Prinze wanted to be dead,

So, he shot himself in the head.

He was being divorced by his pretty wife

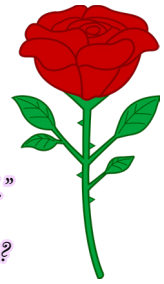
And he wanted no more of life.

That is what our newscaster said,

He wanted no more of life and wanted to be dead."

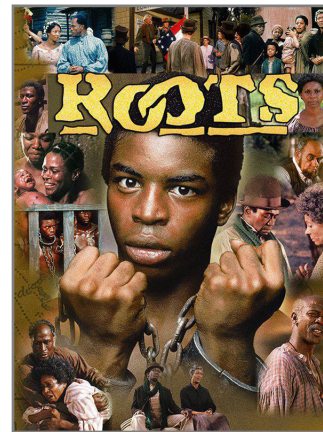
The beautiful roses all have thorns that prick,

Life is what you make it. Why get mad and kick?



January 30, Sunday

We have a beautiful, sunny, blue sky, but it is cold outside. The snow is not melting. Rex and Donna went to Sunday School and the sacrament meeting that followed. Donna left a tray of food for me of Wheaties, milk, a banana, and Postum. I stayed in bed until noon. I'd love to be in church with my family, but I'm not feeling well enough to make the effort anymore. My problems you may understand when you are eighty-four. Rex and Donna came home about 3:10 p.m. Our church has called a special fast day for next Sunday, February 6, to fast and pray for hunger, cold, and drought, trials which are threatening the world today. I will be happy to join in the special fast and I will continue to pray each day as always. I answered Ethel Newbold's letter and Blanche Hognlund's letter. Janet Shattuck phoned today. Donna and Rex had a nice visit, via phone. Donna came in to tell me all about it. Janet had talked to Joan on the phone. Kathy and Mark had been to see Janet and David; they



are still in California. Janet says David looks 10 years younger with his mustache shaved off. He is enjoying his stake mission. I watched the final triumph freedom TV story, "Roots," telling how a black family struggles for freedom, starring Lloyd Bridges, George S. Brown, Olivia Cole, Burl Ives, and Ben Vereen. It is an inspiring story of faith and hope. I feel weary, goodnight.

January 31, Monday

Donna came to my bed at about ten a.m. to tell me that President Richard North was here to visit with us, so, I got up and put on my blue, plush robe and my slippers, combed my hair, powdered my face and went to Donna's place to greet our branch president. He is such a nice young man, very handsome, and he has a lovely wife and children. We enjoyed our visit with him. It is a pretty, sunny day, but cold. The snow isn't melting very fast. Dorothy and Guy went to Overbrook this morning, so they missed President North. Donna brought me a tray of brunch about noontime. I enjoyed it (Cream of Wheat, toast, sliced bananas, and Postum). I also had a pleasant afternoon listening to the television stories. Oh, do they have problems! I realize my life is very uncomplicated. Donna came in this late afternoon and read the Relief Society lesson for tomorrow,

to me. I surely enjoyed the lovely lesson on “How to Have a Happy Family Life.” Tonight, I watched the “American Music Awards,” the people’s choice of Pop, Rock, Soul, and Country music. Donna was making notes for her Relief Society assignment in tomorrow’s lesson “What is my Responsibility as a Daughter, as a Mother, and as a Grandmother?” I’d love to be there and hear her response to that subject. It’ll be worth listening to I’m sure.

February 1, Tuesday

Today starts the shortest month of our year. We have hazy sunshine, with clouds in the blue. Donna went to Relief Society; she left a TV tray with some food on it for me. I stayed in bed until almost noon. I could hear Rex and his tractor and the chain saw cutting up the trees he’d cut down for the fireplace and little stove. I ate my brunch and listened to the TV stories. Donna came home about 2 p.m. They had a nice Relief Society meeting, but only ten sisters came out today. There is still ice and snow on the roads and it is cold outside. I’m happy to have my nice, warm home to stay in and I do just that. I haven’t felt too sharp today, my head feels a bit sluggish since I had a dizzy spell a while ago. I watched the “Golden Globe” awards program on television this evening for 90 minutes. Harry Belafonte was the host for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association’s 34th Annual Awards. There were a lot of TV stars and one weary old gal.... so, good night. Love is a way of smiling with your heart.

February 2, Wednesday

Today is Groundhog Day; the little groundhog didn’t see his shadow today. We have a cold, gloomy looking day so far; it is now 1:05 p.m. Rex and Donna went to Lawrence and to Topeka this morning. They left here about 9:30. She took my bank checkbook to take care of some business. We are going to use the interest from my savings to pay some taxes on this property. I do not understand everything about it, but I’m glad I can help. She said they’d be home about one o’clock, it is 1:30 now. It was after 2:30 before they got home. I was nervous because the television kept telling of accidents caused by the poor vision, and ice and snow, making the roads dangerous to travel on. It has been a very strange day, like the clouds are surrounding us on all sides. I was surely glad to have Donna and Rex drive in the yard. Donna brought \$40.00 cash to me from my account. I gave her \$5.00 to pay for my garlic and parsley pills. I received the mail deposit receipt from the Kansas State Bank. After Donna made the house payment and taxes, my checking account is \$144.65. I went to the Marsh side to enjoy the fireplace burning brightly and to watch TV. Donna brought me a delicious eggnog (nice and cold). We watched “Animal World.” I came home later and watched the show “Good Times” and “The Jackson’s Variety Show;” Carroll O’Connor was the guest star. I listened to President Jimmy Carter’s “Fire Side Chat” tonight. I feel that he is a good man and wants to help our country the best way possible. (Today was payday, \$281.40, my Social Security check.)

February 3, Thursday

I couldn’t get to sleep last night until almost daylight. I had a hurt in my lower back; it was painful to turn over in bed.



A letter from Violet brightened Elvie’s day on February 3.

I heard Rex leave for work early this morning. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought me my brunch about 12:30 noon. We have a very pretty day; it is sunny and bright, but cold. There is lots of snow still on the ground. Today’s mail brought a letter from Violet. She enclosed a cute poem she composed to “Fathers and Daughters.” Otto is M.C. at the Fathers and Daughters banquet for Rotary on April 1, and he asked Violet to compose a poem for him to read on the program. It is really nice; she surely has a talent with words. Otto was M.C. for the special Scout meeting on January 29. Violet isn’t at all well, she has had several fainting spells or black outs. She says, “they are scary.” This afternoon Donna brought the little Church newspaper in and she read several very interesting articles to me about the growth of the LDS Church among the Spanish speaking people in Mexico. Their fine testimonies are inspiring. The article says if it keeps growing as fast as they have done, that in a few years the church will have more Spanish speaking people than it has English. Isn’t that something? Donna cooked a good steak dinner. I went to the kitchen to eat with Rex and Donna this evening. She wouldn’t let me help with the dishes; she sent me to my apartment to enjoy TV. I watched “Hawaii Five-O” and “Barnaby Jones.” Mary T. phoned tonight and told Donna about the food sale they had. She said it was a lot of work, for the profit. ☺

February 4, Friday

We are blessed with a lovely, sunny day with lots of snow still on the ground, but I’m looking at the blue sky and anticipating the Spring Time. Rex brought me a package of cashew nuts (my favorite nuts), wasn’t that nice and thoughtful of him? Donna brought me a glass with some chocolate flavored eggnog in it. They are so kind to this old mama. I received a nice letter from Lydia Paul; She enclosed a picture of herself in color. She had on her new coat; it is blue with a big light gray or white fur collar and cuffs. It is very pretty. She was standing by their pretty Christmas tree. She looked sober for her; she is always smiling, but it is a lovely picture. She writes a fun letter to read. She fell about two weeks ago and strained her shoulder muscle and bumped her head. Her letter makes it sound almost like fun. That’s our gal! It was six pages of happy reading. Donna

and I ate our dinner this evening in my place on TV trays. Rex was asleep. We watched one of the last TV programs that Freddie Prinze made, "Chico and the Man." He shot himself in the head on January 28. I enjoyed watching "The American Bandstand's 25th Anniversary" special program before going to bed. Good night.

February 5, Saturday

This 5th day of February brought a blue sky and sunshine to cheer our hearts, but we have snow and ice on the ground. I received a pedigree chart, on the Bailey line, from Mrs. Childs, correcting one of the records she had in her book that she sent to me. Donna wrote a thank you note for me; I gave her \$1.00 to put in the note, to help pay for her trouble of sending us the correct record; I appreciated that. Donna is keeping our genealogy records now. I heard Rex drive away before it was daylight this morning. We have two cats in our garage now, looking for a handout. One of them, sneaks in every chance it gets, but Donna puts it out again. She doesn't want her upholstery or furniture clawed to shreds. Rex came home from work about 3:45 p.m. Donna cooked a pot of beef stew today. She and Rex went with Guy and Dorothy Tibbets this evening to Kansas City, Missouri, in Tibbetses' car to a special meeting. It was our stake conference tonight. I was invited to go, but I didn't feel well enough to make the effort for that long drive. I played some nice records on my Magnavox player. They left here about five o'clock. Donna left the hot stew in the pan so I could eat when I felt like it. She brought the tray in my room with bread and butter and custard on it. I'll dish up my beef stew later. I wasn't ready for food at five o'clock. I never feel hungry anymore, I wish I did. It is so nice to eat when you feel hungry, eh? I ate at 6:30; the stew was nice and warm. I was entertained with the television programs all evening. Rex and Donna and the Tibbetses came home about 10:15 p.m. Donna said it was a nice conference session.



Yvonne and Don Woodlief, Yvonne made a green shawl for Violet. Violet sent the blue shawl that Yvonne made earlier to Elvie.

February 6, Sunday

Our church called for a special fast and prayer day today through the entire church to pray for relief from the hunger, cold, and drought conditions that are facing us if this weather keeps on like it is all over our country. I got up at noon on this lovely Sabbath day. I made myself presentable and had a nice prayer by my bedside. Donna brought the letter of thank you to Mrs. Child, for the correct pedigree sheet she sent to me. Donna also read to me from the Book of Mormon, 3rd Nephi, before she left for sacrament meeting. She also brought some dry oat cereal, because she didn't think I should fast until this evening. Bless her dear heart. She is so thoughtful of me. She left with Guy and Dorothy Tibbets about 1:10 pm. I played some lovely records by the

Mormon Tabernacle Choir for my Sabbath pleasure. Rex is working today; he came home about 3:40 p.m. He read an article in today's newspaper about the problem of an electricity shortage coming soon. It sounds so frightening. Donna arrived home about 4:20 p.m. She broke her long fast; she heated up the beef stew. I answered Violet's letter this afternoon after I had taken a nap in my chair. I answered Lydia's letter, too. Donna brought me some beef stew and chocolate cake and milk at 6:30 p.m. Donna came in tonight to tell me that John L. Marsh phoned from Salt Lake to tell Donna that Marty Strong phoned to tell him that Pat's little boy died today. He thinks he was about 2 years old, but not sure. Marty was very sad to lose her little grandson, it is sad.

February 7, Monday

We have a lovely, sunny day, but still lots of snow on the ground. It is cold outside. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 1 p.m. I watched the soapbox operas on television while eating. The problems in their stories intrigue me and make my life seem very tranquil. I received a big surprise in today's mail. It was a large package from Violet. It isn't my birthday or Christmas?? Donna helped me open it and

there we found a very pretty crocheted cape or shawl, in turquoise blue. It has a point in the back and long fringe all around the edge. It is beautiful. I went to Donna's place to ask her to help me get Violet on the phone, but she was outside helping Rex get a fire started to burn up the brush from the trees he had cut down. They were having a hard time to get it going. I was amazed to see them building a bonfire so near the house! Before, they have burned way out in the field somewhere. I did talk to Otto and Violet via telephoned this afternoon, about 4:45 p.m. It was so good to hear their voices; they sounded like they were in the next room. Violet said that Yvonne crocheted the lovely cape/shawl and sent it to her a year ago, then she sent her another one this year in green. So, she sent the blue one to me. I sure do mix up my words. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook to shop. I gave her \$20.00 to help buy some things for our year's supply.

Donna brought me a nice fried fish dinner this evening. We had chocolate chip ice cream for dessert. Good night.

February 8, Tuesday

Donna left for her Relief Society meeting this morning. She brought a TV tray in my front room with some food on for me (cold oat cereal, milk, half a grapefruit and bread and butter. Rex has been working around the farm. It is a nice, sunny day, but the snow isn't melting very fast because of cold weather. I think some plumbing broke at Tibbetses' place and Rex has been trying to help Guy get the pipes cleaned out or something? Donna came home about 3:30 p.m. She bought four cute valentines; I wanted

to send Violet and Ethel Newbold one. She also brought me a piece of lemon cake from the Relief Society luncheon; it was delicious. It was more like a square cookie, with lemon filling. I'm surely enjoying the beautiful, blue, crocheted shawl-cape that Violet sent to me. Yvonne crocheted it and I think of them both every time I put it around my shoulders, bless them. I addressed a valentine to Violet and one to Ethel Newbold. Rex and Donna went to the dairy for milk this evening. I enjoyed the dish of beef stew that Donna brought to me this evening. She came in and ate with me. Rex ate earlier. Tonight, I watched TV programs; Dean Martin's Roast of Angie Dickenson "Police Woman," and the ten o'clock news on channel 4, and part of the channel 4's "Johnny Carson" program. This weary old great-grandmother is going to bed. Good night.

February 9, Wednesday

We have a nice, sunny day. Donna went to her Relief Society board meeting this morning. She left a TV tray for me with food on for my brunch. I ate and watched the TV stories. Donna came home at 3 p.m.; her meeting was at Linda Troutman's home in the town of Osawatomie. It is much warmer today; the snow is melting. Another day or two like this and our fields will be brown again. We need some rain to bring out the green. Rex and Guy Tibbets are trying to figure out what to do about the plumbing problem over there. They wonder if it is the septic tank? Donna is playing her piano now, 5:45 p.m. I always enjoy hearing her play the piano. I wish I could play the keys like that. My new TV Guide book came in today's mail. It is so nice to have them come every week now, thanks to my children, Donna and Rex. The cartoon picture on the front page is of Telly and George Savalas. Donna read me a letter she received today from an LDS lady friend, about her age. I forgot her name. She moved away from the branch here. Her children are all married and raising families. She misses Donna, (everyone loves Donna). I had a very pleasant evening tonight talking with Donna. We shut the television off and just visited. Rex was in bed; he has to go to work early in the morning. It is so pleasant to just talk to her; she came in to tell me that Janet had phoned from San Jose to tell her that Mark had phoned from his mission in Argentina. She was so thrilled to talk to him. He'll be home in August. (All is well with him.)



John, Kathy, Donna, and Mary at the piano circa 1964. In 1977 Donna plays piano and Elvie enjoys listening to her play.



Donna playing the piano in Snow Crest cabin 1956.

February 10, Thursday

Today is the anniversary of my sister Annie's birthday and she is in my thoughts; I love her so much. She was only 14 months younger than I am. (I'm 84 years old.) We have a lovely sunny day; the sky is such a pretty blue. The snow is melting and there is a feeling of spring in the air "Tra La." Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at 12:30 noon (scrambled egg, toast, Postum, and a sliced orange). I ate while listening to the TV soap box operas. Today's mail brought a nice letter from Violet. She says the weather is beautiful; more like the bright blue October sky. But they do need some rain, like we do here. Our letters passed in the mail; we both wrote on February 6. I phoned her on February 7, to thank her for the crocheted shawl and I sent her a valentine on February 8. So, today's letter, I will not need to answer. Donna has been busy, as always. I heard her vacuum cleaner going this morning while I was in bed. This afternoon she is working on a few thoughts that Janet asked her to help her on with a talk she has to give in church soon. Tonight, I watched the special "People's Choice Awards" program. Dick Van Dyke was the host, Army Archard was the co-host. Donna watched television with me tonight for a while. We went to bed after the ten o'clock news cast. I feel very weary tonight; my bed sounds good to me. Good night!

February 11, Friday

We had a foggy morning and an overcast day, but it was warmer; the snow is melting fast. Dorothy Tibbets walked to the mailbox to mail some letters. The mailman had already been, so she brought the mail home. There was a letter from Ann and John Marsh. Ann wrote it at school; she is teaching school. She said John had vacuumed cleaned the house and changed the furniture around and cooked dinner that weekend. She was really pleased, nice man, eh? Donna brought my TV brunch to me, Cream of Wheat, toast, milk, jelly, and applesauce. I didn't go to sleep last night until almost daylight; it was after I heard Rex drive away to his work about six this morning. I had gas pains in my stomach and the back of my head hurt most of the night, so I couldn't sleep. But I keep dozing in my chair this afternoon. Rex and Donna walked to the south field to feed the animals this afternoon, about 4:15, when he came home from work. Donna fried chicken and baked potatoes and yams for dinner this evening. She came in and read to me from the little



Receptionist says her job gives satisfaction



She isn't called a "know-it-all" but Inis B. Stanton does usually have the answer to any question that is asked about the Church Office Building.

She knows where every department is located and is often able to give out information where certain employes work without consulting the directory.

Inis is the receptionist in the main lobby and it's her job to greet and direct visitors, give information where offices are located and keep the building's directory updated.

"To know all the employes would be quite a feat since there's about 2,000 of them," she said. "But I am able to match the names of a lot of people with the departments where they work, although I don't know them personally."

Her contact with the employes doesn't end with the directory's pages, however. "I'm a great people watcher," she said. "I study people — I observe them because I'm fascinated by them. I'm discovering that a lot can be said about an individual by the way he walks.

"I like people. It's really an ego booster to work here and get to know so many people. Conference is a highlight because I love seeing members come in from all over the world. The building seems to just come alive.

"On the day of the Regional Representative's meeting, the whole lobby is filled with General Authorities and Regional Representatives of the Twelve.

There's such a spirit in here that I could almost cry for joy.

"I feel grateful. I think of the members of the Church in remote areas that would give almost anything to have a glimpse of a General Authority and I sit here and see them all just about every day."

Inis feels a deep responsibility for her position. "This is not just an ordinary receptionist job," she said. "There are many people who walk into this building whose only contact with the Church is what they see in Salt Lake City, on Temple Square and in the Church Office Building.

"The first impression is so important. I want to treat each person as though he or she is someone special, because each one is."

She goes out of her way to assist people, even in ways that aren't required through her job. Visitors often ask for information about motel accommodations, restaurants and directions to various locations in the city.

When she encounters people who are somewhat depressed or despondent she reaches out to help them.

One nonmember waited in the lobby, a woman from California, one day for her husband to come with their car. She told Inis that she had accepted the gospel 20 years before but that her husband did not want her to join the Church.

The couple's son had gone on a mission, but the husband

still insisted that his wife not be baptized. Inis talked with her about faith and courage and gave the woman her address before she left.

"I received three or four letters from her and I answered them. A year and a half ago, she wrote and said that she had been baptized," Inis said. "She's teaching a Sunday School class and is so happy. She is praying that her husband will join the Church. Her faith is so touching. It's really something to meet someone like that and feel a strong kinship with her."

As cultural refinement instructor in the Relief Society of the Mountain View Ward, Salt Lake Hillside Stake, Inis feels doubly rewarded in her job.

"It's really meaningful to meet people from the countries that we're studying in Relief Society," she said. "One young couple from Brazil came to my desk one day. They had been married for five years and had come to the temple to be sealed.

"The woman couldn't speak a word of English and the man could speak just a little. I felt a spirit like I had never felt before. When the man told me they were from Brazil, I extended my hand toward them.

"The woman took it in both her hands and squeezed it a couple of times. I felt a strong feeling of love for a person I couldn't say one word to. We had a communication of the spirit and felt the warmth of the gospel."

She said that her job also



Photo by Gerald Silver

Inis Stanton develops 'kinship' with tourists, visitors.

gives her an opportunity to do some missionary work. "Nonmembers often come into the building and just hang around, either to kill time while they wait for someone or because they don't have anything else to do," she said.

"They usually ask something about the building, then they'll ask some general questions about the Church. I start talking to them and end up bearing my testimony to them.

I've given away many copies of the Book of Mormon. I can just sense that some people are really seeking for something."

On her desk, facing her, is a hand-written reminder, "Be charitable." Applying this motto, Inis strives each day to bring some happiness and delight into the life of each person who passes her desk in the main lobby as she reaches out to them with a smile and friendly greeting.

Church News. There is a nice picture and article of **Inis B. Stanton** in it. She is the receptionist in the main lobby of the Church Office Building. The article says Inis answers questions asked about the Church Office Building; she says her job gives her "Much satisfaction." Tonight, Donna read me the notes she had typed for helping Janet with the talk she is giving in church; in fact, the entire family will give a little talk the same Sunday, before Rick leaves for his mission. She also read me the talk she has worked on for the Relief Society birthday program in March. I love to hear her fine thoughts.

February 12, Saturday

Happy birthday, Mr. Lincoln, where ever you are. We have a very pleasant day with blue sky and sunshine with a few patches of snow on the ground. Donna left a tray of food for my brunch. She drove to Ottawa this morning to pick up the two missionary boys and bring them to Overbrook. She brought them home and gave them some lunch. She brought them in my suite to meet me. They are both tall,



Etching of Abraham Lincoln that Elvie and Lou won at a dance (Waltz) contest in 1941.

handsome, young men. Donna took them to introduce them to some of the Overbrook people with the hope they will find someone interested in hearing about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These fine, young missionary boys are anxious to tell them about it. Oh, I'm so very thankful that I was born and raised in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I love this wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ. Donna brought today's mail; we both received pretty valentines from the Tibbets family, bless their hearts. I only sent two valentines, one to Violet and one to Ethel N. Donna received a letter from her grandson, Elder Mark Shattuck, from Argentina. He sent his love to me and his card, with the Articulos De Fe in Spanish (Articles of Faith). He is enjoying his mission very much. I'm so proud of him and all of my great-grandchildren. Rick S. will be leaving for his mission to Australia, soon, I think. Janet will have three of her family on missions at the same time. Elder Mark, Elder Richard, and Elder David Shattuck. Dave is on a stake mission. Our neighbors Bill and Mary Jo Merrill and son David (6 years old) came to dinner this evening. The two missionary boys, Elder Walpole and Elder Stoddart

ate with us, also. After dinner they gave the Merrills the first lesson in the gospel. They gave them a Book of Mormon and some missionary tracts to read. Rex and Donna took the missionaries home to Ottawa, Kansas, later.

February 13, Sunday

Rex and Donna took a lunch with them this morning so they can stay after Sunday School and attend sacrament meeting. She left a lunch for me on a TV tray, a roast beef bun sandwich, potato chips, olives, a banana and a chocolate drink. I enjoyed eating it about 1 p.m. We have a hazy sunshine with lots of clouds in the sky. The snow is almost gone. I can see a patch or two out along the drive way. Dorothy Tibbets's car drove away about 11 a.m. I presume they went to sacrament meeting. They came home later, about two o'clock. Dorothy came over to check on me about 2:30 p.m. She said she knew it was a long day for me with Rex and Donna gone since 9 a.m. this morning, and they won't be home until about 4 p.m. It was very thoughtful of Dorothy; I appreciate her visit. She brought me a piece of chocolate pie; I had eaten the chocolate cake Donna had on my tray, so Dorothy put the pie in the refrigerator to eat later. I intended to take a bath this afternoon, but my get up and go, got up and went! So, I listened to some Mormon Hymns on my Magnavox player instead. Rex and Donna came home at 4:10 p.m. They had attended seven meetings between them; a long day for all, but a happy Sabbath day of worship. I had a TV snack this evening in front of the fireplace and we watched television. It was a special of scenes from the 48 Academy Award winning best pictures, war movies, musicals, social dramas, and comedies. John L. phoned from Salt Lake City tonight about 10 p.m. to wish his parents a happy Valentine's Day tomorrow (and his Grama Elvie). Goodnight to all.

February 14, Monday

*My heart is filled to overflow,
With love for everyone I know.
Love is not just for Valentine's Day.
We have it in our hearts all the way.*

I found a box of chocolate mints and a pretty valentine on my food tray this noon from Donna and Rex. I wrote a little love note on the pretty valentine I had for them, and I fixed a little box with half of the mints I had from their box. So, I had a valentine from me, to them, ready when they got back home from their business in town (paying part of their property taxes and shopping). She brought me a large box of Metamucil, and a big bottle of Scope mouthwash and a plastic bag of gum for my great grandchildren. So, I'm in business now. I hit the jackpot in the mail department, too. I got a cute valentine from Kathy and Mark, with a nice note of love in it; they are sweet kids, and a letter from Yvonne with a letter from Dolores enclosed and a letter from Ethel Newbold. They were all interesting reading. Donna came in this afternoon and read the Relief Society lesson for tomorrow to me. I surely enjoyed it. I'm a lucky old gal to have so many nice things happen to me, eh? Yes,

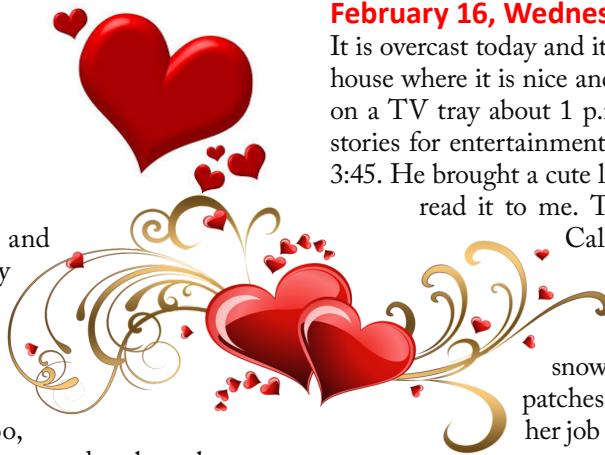
indeed! Tonight, I watched the conclusion of the TV story "How the West Was Won." It was two hours long. It was interesting with a happy ending. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Sweet dreams.

February 15, Tuesday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest, plus a lovely, sunny day. We have only a couple of snow patches I can see on the property. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me; she went to Relief Society. I think Rex went to work at the nursing home early this morning. He came home about 3:30 this afternoon. There wasn't any mail for us today. Donna looks much better this afternoon. The miserable cold sores on her mouth have almost healed up. I'm glad it isn't freezing cold outside like it was in December and January. I am very thankful to have my pretty little suite to stay in because that is just what I do (stay in). I made out the check for my church donations for February for \$12.00. Donna came in and rested on my other twin bed for a while. Rex was sleeping on the couch. We are expecting Jon Tibbets and Spencer any minute. Jon is coming to look over the septic tank problem at his parents' house next door and to get some tools he needs from his father. I understand that Jon and a friend are going to butcher a beef and cut it up for their food supply. Little Spencer was delighted to be here, he didn't want to go home when his father came for him. He was having a ball dancing and singing and playing his imaginary instruments. He is a cute little, ham entertainer. It was a short visit and they were on their way back home to Weeping Water, Nebraska. This evening I wrote to Yvonne W. and to Violet F. Donna came in and listened to the ten o'clock news with me tonight. Goodnight.

February 16, Wednesday

It is overcast today and it looks cold outside, but I stay in the house where it is nice and warm. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 1 p.m. I ate and watched the television stories for entertainment. Rex came home from work about 3:45. He brought a cute letter from Kathy and Mark. Donna read it to me. They wish Donna and Rex lived in California. Kathy has jobs picked out for Rex and Donna. I wish we were all living in California, too. (Wishful thinking, eh?) The snow has melted, all but one or two little patches here on this property. Kathy enjoys her job in the flower shop. She made several pretty arrangements for Valentine's Day. She wishes she could make one for her mother, but the many miles apart...no way! I'm trying to keep some sunshine in my heart, but it isn't easy on a gloomy day like today. Golly! I didn't dream I'd end my days in Kansas! My Kansas State Bank statement of account came today with canceled checks, about 25 of them. I checked them over, oh, it is amazing to see them all together, (December, January, and February). ♪ "That's where my money goes." ♪ I'm thankful I can be helpful, rather than having to ask for financial help from my children. That would really hurt. I do need their love and I know I have that, bless their hearts. Donna and Rex came in and watched "The Grizzly Adams" on TV. It was very interesting.



February 17, Thursday

Today is sunny and warmer; we still have a patch or two of snow on the side of the drive way. Rex got home from work about 3:30. Donna brought my brunch about one o'clock. I watched television and ate scrambled egg, toast, and hot chocolate. Later this afternoon, Donna brought a glass of buttermilk to me; she drank one, also. We visited until Rex drove in the driveway at 3:30 p.m. She left to greet him. I'm enjoying my valentine of French chocolate mints, one or two a day; they are so delicious, but a bit rich for me. Things are looking better; spring is on its way. The long cold winter will be over soon. I'd like to think it is my last one, but what is to be, will be. I must count my blessings and be patient. Donna went to the lower fields with Rex this afternoon to help him cut wood for the fireplace and stove. I walked around in my "sweet little suite" for exercise and later I dozed in my chair, exciting, eh? When Donna came home, she said they were getting the wood for the Tibbetses' place. Guy has been sick for a couple of days and couldn't get any wood cut. I had some lovely records playing this afternoon while I was walking around. I do love the beautiful music from my Magnavox player. It was a gift from our children on our golden wedding anniversary. Tonight, Donna watched the "Barnaby Jones" drama on television with me, and the ten o'clock news. We went to bed after the news. Good night.

February 18, Friday

We have hazy sunshine today with lots of clouds in the blue sky. I slept fairly well last night and soundly after daylight, so I stayed in bed until noon. Donna made some Cream of Wheat cereal and toast for my brunch. I enjoyed the television stories while eating it. The Church News was the only mail we got today. Donna read several articles from it to me this afternoon. She brought her lovely "Book of Remembrance" in to show me how well filled it is now with the family tree pedigree charts. She has been working for many hours to get it in order. Rex and Donna went to a farewell dinner this evening in honor of the Nichols family who are moving away from our branch. The dinner is in Lane, Kansas, in a Methodist church building. Donna brought a TV tray with food for me before they left. She took some French bread she made and two cherry pies that Dorothy made to the farewell dinner. Guy wasn't well, so Dorothy wouldn't go without him. I watched television until Rex and Donna came home about 10:30. They came in and watched the

"Johnny Carson Show" with me. We enjoyed some 7Up drink that Donna brought in. Lawrence Welk, Robert Klein, and Maggie Kuhn were the guest entertainers on "The Tonight Show" I surely enjoyed having company to watch the show tonight. Time to go to bed.

February 19, Saturday

It is cloudy and windy this morning. I stayed in bed until noon, because I couldn't sleep until almost daylight.

Donna went to Overbrook to shop this morning. Rex had his tractor with the shovel, in the south field where the cow and horse are. He is digging up the manure and making a manure pile. The animals are having a gay time running back and forth, kicking up their hind legs; I was amused. Donna brought my brunch on the TV tray, dry cereal, milk, toast, Postum, and prunes, nice, eh? She put two lovely records on the Magnavox player and I was happy listening to Mantovani waltzes, so lovely. The sun is playing "Peek a Boo" through the clouds. This afternoon

Donna and Dorothy went to Baldwin City to do their Relief Society visiting teaching. Dorothy made a dress for Donna Story's new infant. She has four little girls, no boys. They left here about 3:40 p.m. I enjoyed the lovely music on my player and tried to be content with my loneliness. It can't last forever. There are some fantastic looking clouds in the sky now at 4 p.m. We should have a pretty sunset this evening. We do have exquisite sunsets here in Kansas. Donna came in my suite and vacuum cleaned and dusted it. She cleaned the bathroom; I didn't even help dust. I just didn't feel well enough, but I gave her \$10.00. She wasn't going to take it but I insisted, so she had to take it. She cooked a delicious fish filet for our dinner. I watched "All in the Family" and the special Grammy Award Show, the 19th annual award, hosted by Andy Williams. P.S. **Andy Devine** died today of lung infection. He was 72 years old. He was a comic with a gravelly voice.



Elvie has two more winters ahead of her before she gets to depart.

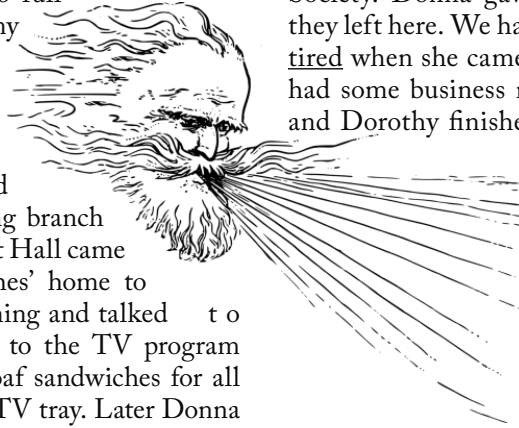


Andy Devine

February 20, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ We have a sunny sky with pretty white clouds. Rex and Donna went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. She left a couple of notes for me, to tell me to put the meat loaf in the oven at noon. She said the oven was all set to go on and bake; she had some vegetables and a casserole in the oven, too. I was concerned because the oven did not go on, but she said it would. She was surprised when she came home about two o'clock; the oven was cold. She had forgotten to set the time clock. I do not understand her complicated stove so I couldn't

do anything. They brought the two full-time missionaries home for dinner. She got the oven going and then she made a big green tossed salad and the elders ate and broke their fast. The baked food was ready a few minutes later. Donna made tomato soup for me. We enjoyed hot buttered French bread with the first course. I was too full for a second course, so I came to my room. Elders Walpole and Stoddart ate and enjoyed it. They are such nice young men. I enjoyed lovely hymns played on my Magnavox player. I took a bath before getting dressed this morning. All is well. Our visiting branch teachers, Br. Jack Story and Br. Earnest Hall came this afternoon. I went in the Marshes' home to visit with them. I stayed there all evening and talked to the missionary boys. We all listened to the TV program "Sixty Minutes." Donna made meatloaf sandwiches for all of us tonight. I ate in my suite from a TV tray. Later Donna came in and read the Relief Society lesson for tomorrow on New Zealand, and its people. It is a beautiful country and people. P.S. The elders stayed at the farm tonight.



February 21, Monday

Happy Birthday Mr. Washington, where ever you are. It's a pleasant day, sunny and clear. Donna took the two missionary boys to Overbrook this morning and left them there to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people they visit. She left the little VW car with them. They'll pick Rex up after his work at the nursing home at 3:30. Donna came home in the pickup truck. The drug store lady, Mrs. Topping is coming to dinner this evening at 5 p.m., to meet the missionaries. So, Donna has a busy day, as usual, baking and etcetera. I enjoyed lovely music played on my Magnavox player. These beautiful recordings are a comfort to me. The boys came home with Rex this afternoon and Donna had the lovely fried chicken dinner ready by five o'clock when Mrs. Topping arrived. I ate with the family and company. Mrs. Topping is a very charming person; I enjoyed her visit a lot. After dinner we went in the living room and the elders gave the first gospel discussion to Mrs. Topping. I was surely glad that Rex was there to help. Elders Walpole and Stoddart need a lot more study before they are capable of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to anyone! They're fine young men, but not prepared for their mission. Rex is a good missionary. Tonight, I watched the "Dean Martin Comedy Roast" of Gabriel Kaplan. Rex came in and listened to most of it with me. P.S. Mrs. Topping brought some French chocolate mints and some chocolate covered nuts and raisins from the drug store tonight. P.S. Rex had a talk with the missionary boys tonight after they came home from seeing Bruce Hackett. They do need his help!



The elders came to dinner, gave a lesson, slept overnight, had breakfast with the Marshes. Rex had a talk with the elders to give them some missionary guidance.

February 22, Tuesday

I heard Rex drive away to his work this morning before daylight. Donna and Dorothy took the missionary boys (Elders Walpole and Stoddart) to Ottawa with them this morning when they left in Dorothy's car to go to Relief Society. Donna gave the elders a good breakfast before they left here. We have a windy, hazy day. Donna looked so tired when she came home about 3:30 this afternoon. She had some business meetings after Relief Society and she and Dorothy finished their visiting teaching. I suggested she take a nap for an hour or two, she really needed it. Oh, I hate that noisy wind, it sounds so mad at this world. It's an awful "**Big Blow.**" My soul longs for the calm climate of California. I enjoyed the brunch Donna left on a TV tray for me, she is precious. I do "count my many blessings." I read through my book of poems today. It is titled "Beginnings." Donna gave it to me September 1973. It is by Carol Lynn Pearson and the poems are precious and short. She is a native of Utah, was born in Salt Lake City and is LDS. I listened to the television show "M*A*S*H" and later to some lovely recordings on my Magnavox player. The wind is still blowing hard tonight. I'm weary. Goodnight. P.S. Donna read from the Reader's Digest to me tonight. I enjoyed that a lot!

February 23, Wednesday

We had lightning and thunder, wind and rain last night; it made going to sleep difficult. It rained really hard early this morning when Rex had to leave for work about 6 a.m. It has been dark and damp all day with some light drizzles off and on. I watched the television stories and ate the nice brunch that Donna brought on a TV tray to me at 12:30 noon. Rex was later getting home this afternoon, he stopped for a haircut. He had a letter from Blanche H. and one from Ethel N. for me. Donna read them to me; my eyes felt tired. Blanche says she is getting tired of living in this world and wants to go on to the next life; I understand how she feels. She is 87 or 88 years old, but she counts her blessings every day. She has some grandsons on missions. Her son Bill's wife is very ill in the hospital. Helen's son, Jimmy, is home from his mission. He is going to finish his last year of college and will marry a girl from BYU, I think. Ethel N. thanked me for the valentine I sent her. I think she is about 87 years old. Donna says it is snowing outside, she noticed it about 6 p.m. It didn't last long; I wish it would rain. Donna came in later tonight and listened to the ten o'clock news with me. She said that Joan phoned to say their plans had changed. They will not bring the two little girls tomorrow, but she will telephone later and let Donna know when to meet them at the airport.

February 24, Thursday

Last night was a sleepless one for me. I could not go to sleep at all before seven this morning. I did have a few short naps after that. I wasn't in pain; I just couldn't relax my nervous body or brain. The wind blew all night like it was upset, too. We had some rain, but not enough to do much good. Donna brought some "Cream of Wheat" and toast and hot chocolate and prunes for my brunch. It has been windy all day, but the sun was bright in a clear, blue sky this afternoon. Donna came in to bring my TV Guide for February 26 to March 4. She read several cute cliché literary expressions that we both enjoyed. I think Kathy sent them to her. Rex's black cow, Princess, broke out of her corral in the south field this morning. Guy Tibbets and Donna got her back in and Guy mended the fence. I was entertained this evening with the television programs "Barnaby Jones" and "Hawaii Five-O." Rex and Donna came in and visited with me tonight. We talked about our dinner on Monday when Mrs. Topping, the drug store owner, came and the two missionaries, Elder Walpole and Elder Stoddart ate with us. It was an evening we'll remember a long time. Enough said, ☺. Good night, I'm a weary great grama.

February 25, Friday

I am so very thankful for a good night's sleep, oh, that is indeed a blessing. I found a note this morning from Donna; she said that Mary wanted her and Rex to come as early as possible to help wrap some meat for the freezer. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. She said that Dorothy Tibbets will bring my dinner this evening and she will sleep over here tonight. Donna will not let me be alone all night. I told her I'd be all right, but she asked Dorothy to stay here. I'm sorry to be a problem for Donna, but that is how it is. I surely hope it will not be for long. The note says there is milk and fruit and ice cream in the refrigerator. They expect to be home early tomorrow evening. I presume they'll have Joan's two little girls, Emily and Paula with



Lou and Elvie talked about a Hawaiian vacation, but it wasn't ever mentioned in her diaries. I wonder if it was Lou's idea?

them. Joan and Mo are going to Hawaii for two weeks. I hope they have a wonderful vacation in the islands. Lou and I talked of a trip to Hawaii once, and we saved for it, but when we could afford the trip, we didn't feel well enough to go. Our get up and go, got up and went. Ha ha. It wasn't important anymore. Dorothy brought a fried chicken TV dinner, nice and hot, for my dinner at six o'clock this evening. I'm sorry to be a trouble to Dorothy and Donna, but they are so nice about it. Donna left a couple of dinners with Dorothy for

me. I could eat only half of tonight's dinner. I put half of it in the refrigerator. I watched television tonight until bed time. Dorothy came about 9:30; she went to bed in Donna's room. Good night all.

February 26, Saturday

I was blessed with another good night's sleep. I didn't hear Dorothy get up or go home; she was very quiet. I always hear Rex and Donna moving about when they get up. I

stayed in my warm bed until almost noon. I looked out my bathroom window and saw the big flakes of snow coming down and a light coat of the white snow on the ground. I felt like a cross old bear; I wanted to hibernate until the winter was over. I surely hope we do not get snowed in so Rex and Donna can't get home tonight. I wish the snow would turn to rain. Well, I'll look for that ♪ "Silver Lining." ♪ I went to the kitchen and heated some milk for my brunch and I confiscated a couple of Donna's delicious cookie squares. I ate some Quaker Oates and wheat cereal with milk and applesauce. I'm well fed until this evening. In fact, the mere thought of food seems to irritate me. I'm a queer old gal, eh?

*With a blue bow in my hair, I sit and doze in my chair
For exercise I walk around in my room
And pretend the sun is shining and I can forget the gloom.
So, with the naps in my chair, and my walks
And lovely music from my Magnavox,
The lonesome day is gone and night comes on.*

This afternoon we had some hazy sunshine; the snow stopped falling and all is well. Dorothy brought a hot roast beef TV dinner to me at 6 p.m. She made a lovely custard for me, too. Rex and Donna came home with **Paula Gardner and Spencer Tibbets** about 6:30 p.m. The action is on! Donna fed her family and gave the children a bath. She read some stories to them and got them tucked in bed on the couch bed. Rex was in bed. Donna listened to the ten o'clock news with me.



Spencer Tibbets and Paula Gardner in June 1976. Eight months later they are having fun at Grama Donna's house.

February 27, Sunday

Rex went to work this morning before daylight. I heard him drive away. I slept fairly well last night. I didn't hear Donna's car leave this morning. She left a TV tray with dry cereal and milk and orange juice. She also left a note saying she'd be home by 2 p.m. if I wanted to wait for a warm dinner. I got up about noon and took my own sweet time, getting myself looking neat and clean. I took my Metamucil

in some orange juice, also my vitamin tablets. Donna and the children came about 1:45 p.m. and the house came to exuberant life. We have a pretty day with Sunshine in a blue sky. Donna said the kiddies sang "Happy Birthday" to anyone they thought of all the way home. When they pounced in here, it was "Happy Birthday, Dear Doughnut." I presume they ran out of people to sing to. I put a couple of lovely LDS records on my player. Rex came in to enjoy the hymns; he was soon asleep in the chair. He slept for an hour while the music was going. He has to go back to work all night. He went to bed after the music stopped playing. The little ones popped in and we had some action in here until Grama Donna came and took them to her place. She tried to keep them entertained until Rex had his rest. I took a walk around my rooms for exercise and then turned on the television. Later Donna came in and read the Relief Society lesson for Tuesday, March 1. She also read the visiting teachers message to me. I really do appreciate her kind of thoughtfulness; I love to hear the lovely lessons in the magazine. Good night. P.S. Donna brought me a drink of 7Up tonight.

February 28, Monday

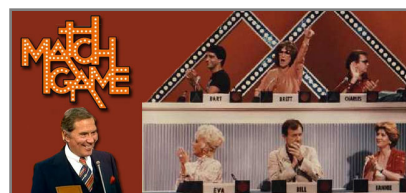
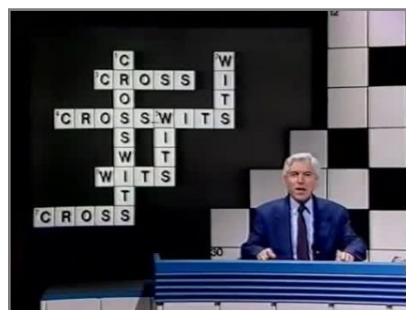
The last day of February is very pleasant, more like a spring day. It was nice and quiet around here this morning. I learned why later; Donna took the children to the store in Overbrook. The action was going full force when they arrived home about noon time. Donna cooked an egg and some bacon and toast and Postum for my brunch. I ate while listening to the TV stories "As the World Turns," "The Guiding Light," and "This, Another World." After hearing their problems, my life seems sublime. ☺ Rex worked all night at the Manor Nursing Home in Overbrook. My little swivel chair is broken. I hope Rex can fix it; he likes to sit in it. But it can't hold his weight up now. Donna received a cute letter from Kathy; she and Mark are still in California. She'd like her parents to move back to California. She likes her work in the Flower Shop. Kathy is very artistic, so making pretty floral arrangements would be fun for her. Paula and Spencer gave us a lot of disturbance while Donna was trying to read Kathy's letter to me. Grama Donna had to calm them down before we could go on with the letter. They are full of energy, those two! It is 10:40 p.m. Donna came in to kiss me good night. She'll be going to Relief Society in the morning. I'm so very sorry I can't take care of little Paula and Spencer for her. The two little tots are too much for the 84-year-old great-grandmother. It is all I can do to get myself up and dressed, my hair dressed and bed made. By then I am ready to flop into my swivel chair. Goodnight!

March 1, Tuesday

"Friends are like flowers; you can't have too many."

Donna took her two grandchildren Paula Gardner and Spencer Tibbets to Relief Society with her this morning. I think Dorothy Tibbets went, also. We had an overcast sky; the sun got through to us a few times. I stayed in bed until noon, thus I can save on heat and food and my heart tells me the bed rest is good. Donna and the children came home about 1:45. She brought me a roast beef sandwich, hot

chocolate, applesauce, and pound cake. Spencer took a nap after his lunch, but Paula was very much awake. Donna came in here and mended some of Paula's dresses and sewed the buttons on her own coat. I surely wish I had something to entertain my active, little great grandchildren when they're in here. They are too young to enjoy television. Paula is 3 years old and Spencer is 3 years old. Spencer will watch "Sesame Street," but it doesn't hold Paula's interest. Donna reads children's stories to them and they like that. My poor eyes water and blur my vision, so I do very little reading. Donna brought a TV snack to me about 6 p.m. I ate while watching television's "Cross Wits" game "The Match Game," and "The



Chicago Symphony Orchestra." Rex came home this late afternoon feeling very miserable with a bad cold; he went to bed. Oh, I surely hope he'll feel better soon and that Donna will be immune to his cold (me, too, and the children too). Donna and I listened to the ten o'clock news report on TV tonight and she read the article in the TV

Guide about Martha Raye back in television after many years. Sweet dreams.

March 2, Wednesday

I'm doing alright in the bed rest department. It was almost 1 p.m. when I got up on this dark, rainy day. I heard Rex drive away before daylight this morning, to his job in Overbrook. He has a head cold. Little Spencer Tibbets feels miserable this morning with a cough and sniffles. I surely hope that Paula Gardner doesn't get the cold. Donna brought some Cream of Wheat Cereal, toast, hot milk, and applesauce for my brunch. It sounds like Marshes' television is working again. Paula put it out of commission last evening. Rex has been working on it this afternoon. My mail deposit receipt arrived from the Kansas State Bank this afternoon. Donna will take care of the house payment and other business tomorrow. Oh, what a gloomy, dark day. I'll have to find some sunshine in my heart. Donna kept Spencer out of my place today because of his cold. Paula came in a few times, but not for long; Donna came for her. It has been a long afternoon. I ate my dinner about 6:15 p.m. from a TV tray. Donna and I listened to the "Dean Martin Comedy Roast" at nine this evening. Ted Knight was "The Man of the Hour." We enjoyed the fun. Rex came in later and listened to the ten o'clock news report with us. P.S. My new TV guide book came today. It is for March 5 to 11. Goodnight.

March 3, Thursday

We have a cloudy sky; the sun manages to get through to us once in a while. Little Spencer has a fever of 103 degrees and he is sick to his stomach, poor little fellow. Paula feels

fine, I surely hope she can stay well, and me, too. Rex and Donna have both had the cold. Donna went to the bank in Overbrook and took care of the business for us. She brought \$40.00 to me from my Social Security check. Rex took care of the two children here. Donna made a ham sandwich and some Postum for my brunch. I ate and watched the TV soap box opera stories in my favorite swivel chair. The “little lady” swivel chair is broken; I’m sorry about that. It made a loud pop when Rex sat in it a few days ago. I hope he can fix it when he is feeling better. He is resting today because he is going to work all night at the nursing home. We had some wind and a little rain last night, but it has been calm today. We do need more rain. Donna’s two little grandchildren keep her busy trying to entertain them. I wish I felt well enough to help her, but “No Way,” sorry. I enjoyed a couple of western records on the Magnavox player this afternoon. I’m so very thankful for the lovely music. The television entertained me this evening with the “Barnaby Jones Show” and “The Johnny Carson Show.” Rex and Donna listened to the ten o’clock news report with me. Rex worked at the nursing home tonight. Donna feels miserable with a cold in her throat and head. I’m weary, so good night.

March 4, Friday

We have had an overcast sky with some sunshine, but not much; however, it has been a pleasant day. Rex worked all night, but he tried to take care of the two little ones so Donna could stay in bed. She is ill with her miserable cold. Spencer feels better. I got up at noon; Donna brought a TV tray with cold grain cereal, hot Postum, toast, milk, and applesauce for my brunch. Rex took the children with him to the dairy for milk. Donna went back to bed. Rex brought me a dish with some M&M Chocolates and some cashew nuts in (thoughtful, eh)? Bless him. I was entertained with my TV stories and later some lovely records played on my Magnavox player. Yes, I am blessed indeed. Dorothy made some chili and gave Donna some for our dinner. She also made chocolate square cookies and gave Donna a pan full of them. She is a nice neighbor, eh? Donna went to bed after getting her little grandchildren in bed tonight. She really looks ill; I’m so concerned about her. Oh, I hope and pray she’ll feel better tomorrow. I feel so helpless to do anything for her, but pray. I know that at 84 years of age I’m not feeling very well myself. I’d love to help my Donna, but the best I can do is take care of my own personal needs, the best way I can (worried Mom). Goodnight. [Note from Mary: Emily was left at Tibbets’ house while Mo and Joan were in Hawaii. Emily was more of a handful than Paula.]

March 5, Saturday

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny. I wasn’t feeling very bright or sunny. I had a miserable time for a while with diarrhea, and a little feeling of nausea. I went

to Marshes’ side to see how Donna was? She said she felt better, she was reading stories to her two grandchildren Paula and Spencer. She isn’t well; she should be in bed. I went back to bed until noontime. I felt much better. Dorothy took Spencer to her house for a while to relieve Donna; when he came home, she had Paula go over to her house so they helped with the little ones. Paula drew some pictures at Tibbetses’. She came in to show me. They are adorable kiddies, but a bit too much for sick adults to cope with. Donna brought a tuna sandwich and a glass of warm milk and a cookie for my brunch. It is sad that she has me to wait on too; I’m sorry about that. Rex came home from work about 3:30. He said he’d take care of the children while she went to bed. I’m so glad she can relax for a while. I know she feels miserable. I received a nice ‘fun reading’ letter from Lydia, with a lovely picture of her and Gene enclosed. He looks a lot like Uncle Alvin and Uncle Ern, and she has her sweet smile and pretty hair. They are a happy looking couple. I’m delighted to have the picture. I hope to feel well enough to answer it soon. I was stricken with an attack of diarrhea and nausea tonight. Oh, what a miserable mess. I had to change my garments and nightgown. I took some Metamucil and went to bed. (Unhappy me!)

March 6, Sunday

I rested fairly well last night but this morning I had another dreadful attack of diarrhea and nausea; another change of garments and night gown and clean up job for one sick, old gal. I stayed in bed all day until six o’clock tonight. Our home teachers came this afternoon, Br. Jack Story and Ernie Hall. Rex and Br. Story gave me a blessing and I felt better. I’m thankful for the blessing of the priesthood. Donna took Spencer and Paula to church with her this morning. They came home about 1:30 p.m. Rex worked from about 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donna made a cup of thin Cream of Wheat so I could drink it. This evening she brought a cup of beef broth for me to drink. I went back to bed at 7:30 p.m., a weary, old lady. Night all.

March 7, Monday

Donna had a restless night; she couldn’t get much sleep because of coughing. I had a comfortable night with no pain or distress of nausea or diarrhea, but I feel weak. Donna brought a cup of thin “Cream of Wheat” for me to drink at noontime. Little Spencer and Paula kept Grama Donna busy all morning. She put them down for their naps after their lunch. I got up at 12:45 noon and sat in my swivel chair to watch the TV stories. I went back to bed after 3:30 p.m. I feel weak, but much better. I can hear the action again in Donna’s place. The children are awake and going strong. I wish I could be of help to Donna, but the precious little ones are too much for this 84-year-old grandmother. (I’m sorry about that.) I got up at 6 p.m. and drank some tomato soup and ate some tapioca cream pudding, which my sweet Donna brought to me. I enjoyed television tonight, especially the Vienna Philharmonic



Rex brought M&M chocolates and nuts to Elvie March 4.

Concert on channel 11 at 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. I'm back to bed and very thankful for my bed. Good night. P.S. Donna watched the last half of the concert with me. Mary phoned and they made plans to meet her halfway with the children so Joan and Mo can pick up their little girls at Mary's home tomorrow afternoon. Donna looks weary; she isn't sleeping very well because of her awful cough.

March 8, Tuesday

Donna and the children, Spencer T. and Paula G., left the farm house before nine o'clock this morning to go to Relief Society. I know she is feeling miserable with that cough and sinus trouble, but she felt that she had to go as she is the president and she was on the luncheon committee. I am thankful for a fairly good night's rest. I stayed in bed until one o'clock. I didn't want to eat, and I could save on heat in my nice, warm bed. Donna and children came home about 1:30 p.m. She brought me a cup of warm Jello to drink and a little tapioca cream pudding. I do feel much better, but very weak. Donna washed the children's clothes last night, so everything was clean to pack for home. They were excited to be on their way when they came in to say goodbye to me about 1:50 p.m. They were going to pick Rex up at work and he would go with them on the drive half way to Weeping Water, Nebraska, to meet Mary. Joan and Mo will drive to Mary's home from the airport to pick up their little girls, Emily and Paula, tonight or tomorrow, I'm not sure. They have just returned from a visit to Hawaii. I hope they enjoyed their visit to the islands. I went back to bed about 4:30 p.m. I wanted to answer letters, but wasn't feeling up to it. We have a sunny day, but a strong wind is blowing; I do not like the "Big Blow" that they have so much of in Kansas. Mary is having fun driving Gardner's big Cadillac car; she had it today when she met Rex and Donna. She will pick Joan and Mo up at the airport when they arrive. Donna went to bed early. Oh, I do hope she will rest well and feel better tomorrow. I listened to Part 6 of "The Strauss Family." It was beautiful music and people. Good night.

March 9, Wednesday

Donna and Rex are still battling their colds. We do have a lovely spring like day with some wind, but not the "Big Blow." I rested fairly well last night; I got up at noon time and ate a scrambled egg, a piece of toast, some Postum, and a half a cooked peach. (Donna brought it to me.) It's the first solid food I have had since last Saturday. I have been so darn weak, I decided I had better listen to Donna and eat some solid food. Mary phoned this morning and talked to Rex; it may have been last night. I get confused. Anyway, Mo and Joan are at Mary and Jon's home. They will be taking their little girls

home to Naperville, Illinois today. **Joan told Rex they had a wonderful visit in Hawaii;** the Islands are beautiful. They also had a fun visit in San Jose, California, with Janet and Dave and family, and Kathy and Mark. I'm very glad they could have this happy vacation. I'm sure Emily and Paula were delighted to see their mama and papa again, and vice versa. Donna has been able to rest and take care of her miserable cold today. I'm thankful for that, too. It is 4:30 p.m. I'm going back to bed for an hour or so. ♪ "Happy Days are Here Again."♪ I got up at 6 p.m. feeling better. Donna brought a tray with my food on (cream of potato soup, toast, and Gerber's strained cherry, vanilla pudding, and some 7Up.) (Correction, it was crackers and not toast). Donna came in to hear the ten o'clock news with me. We are having some disorderly riots in Washington D.C. There is serious public disturbance, shooting in the streets, and in the Capital Building. Some hostages are being held. It is surely a troubled world, here in our beloved United States.



Mo and Joan Gardner with Peg and Arch Madsen (the boss), in Hawaii.



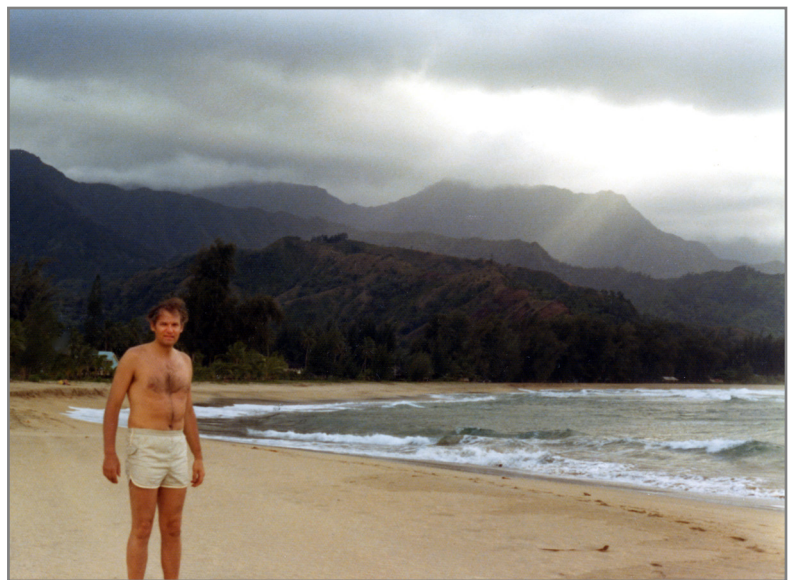
Mo Gardner with Walt Lockman from KMBZ Kansas City. They were playing that day in a strong gale as you can see by their hair.



Blaine Whipple, Diane Whipple, unknown, Joan Gardner, Mo Gardner, Louise Bybee, and Don Bybee in Hawaii March 1977. The Gardners, Whipples and Bybees were close company friends. The wives Joan, Diane and Louise were great friends.

March 10, Thursday

It is cloudy and windy today. I had some crazy dreams, as usual, last night. Our beautiful Kathy was mixed up in some of my dreams. Donna brought me some lunch at 12:45 noon. I ate while watching the television soap box operas. It is amazing the problems they have. But it helps to pass the time for me and I realize I'm almost problem free. Our state Capital in Washington D.C. is still having public disturbances, riots, and they are holding hostages. There are serious troubles. (What is it coming to?) This afternoon Rex and Donna went to Ottawa to fill out Donna's Social Security forms; she'll be 62 years old on June 1. They called to see Sr. Frances Bunch; she is very ill in her home, in a hospital bed. Her daughter is taking care of her. I'm so sorry for them. I received a very lovely get-well card from our home teachers, Br. Jack Story and Ernie Hall; wasn't that thoughtful? Donna brought my dinner about 6 p.m. It was some delicious homemade beef stew and chocolate pudding. I went to bed for an hour from 5 to 6 p.m. I watched TV programs this evening (Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gormé, "The Tony Randall Show," plus, "The Tonight Show, with Johnny Carson"). Donna watched part of the programs with me tonight. Good night.



Mo on the beach in Hawaii.

March 11, Friday

We had some rain last night and this morning, but this afternoon the sun was shining. We do have a lot of stormy looking clouds in the sky. Donna brought me a tray of food about 12:45 o'clock. It is very quiet in her place; I hope she is resting. Her cough keeps her awake a lot at nights. I'll

be happy when she is healed from her cold and Rex, too. I have some letters to answer, but the sky is getting dark and gloomy. It looks like more rain is in store. I'm feeling dark and gloomy, too. It seems that two or three hours sitting up is my limit, since my bout with the stomach flu (sorry). But I am thankful for my bed. Donna brought in a letter from John and Ann and one from Florence Oates to read to me. Both letters had some genealogy in them. Bonnie Reynolds had gotten in touch with John and Ann; he let her have some genealogy from the book Donna sent him. I'm glad our young people are interested in the family genealogy. My active days are over now. I felt better after my bed rest this afternoon. I got up at 6 p.m. Donna brought me a tray with some of her good beef stew and some custard pudding, and milk. I watched television while eating. It was "**The Donny and Marie Show.**" The guests were Lorne Greene, Ruth Buzzi, and Robert Hegyes. Later tonight I turned on "The Sonny and Cher Show." Donna came in and read to me from the March Ensign. I surely do appreciate her thoughtfulness. I love to hear the beautiful church stories. I am blessed indeed.



Donny and Marie Show, above is a photo from one of the 1977 shows.

March 12, Saturday

We had some rain last night and light drizzles today. Rex went to work at the nursing home in Overbrook early this morning before daylight. I heard him walking around and I saw his car lights when he drove away. I had a sleepless night; my brain and body could not relax. It was after seven o'clock this morning before I fell asleep, and then it was just short naps. I couldn't unwind. I got up at noon and ate the brunch Donna brought to me (a sandwich, Postum, and applesauce). She is vacuuming her apartment now at 2:30 p.m. Her cold is much better, but she isn't back to her normal self yet, and she has some problems with the lessons in Relief Society. One sister said she couldn't give her lesson. Donna asked someone else to give it and then a few days later, the regular teacher phoned and said that she will give the lesson. It is very confusing for Donna; she is so dependable herself. If she says she'll do something, you can depend on her. I answered Lydia's letter this afternoon and I did some scrapbook work. I put Gene and Lydia Paul's pictures in my book. We had a nice downpour of rain this afternoon. Donna served a nice, cooked dinner about six o'clock while we enjoyed "The Lawrence Welk Show" on TV. Guy Tibbets took sick and had to go to the hospital; he thought he'd suffered a heart attack. Dorothy asked Rex to drive them to the hospital in Ottawa. They came back later and brought Guy home with them. The doctor checked him over and gave him some medication to take. He thinks it is a virus and not a heart attack. Rex glued my broken chair and put a clamp on it, so it is tipped over to dry. Good night.



March 13, Sunday

It is a pretty Sabbath day with blue sky and sunny. Donna left a tray of food for me (a cup of Jello to drink, some chicken flavored crackers, peanut butter and custard). I ate at noontime. I slept very well last night so I feel much better today. I think Rex worked this morning at the nursing home. So, Donna went alone to church; she said she'll be late getting home from church. This is her busy day; she has Sunday School and Primary, and sacrament meeting, plus Relief Society business. Dorothy couldn't go today because Guy isn't feeling well. I wrote to Blanche Hoglund. Donna came home about 3:30 this afternoon and Rex came from work shortly after she arrived. Mary phoned this afternoon about 4:25. She was happy because she had two councilors to help her in the ward Relief Society work. We all wish we could be in Janet and David's ward today, to their sacrament meeting. The Shattuck family are all on the program to speak. Rick will be leaving for the mission home in Salt Lake City in a few days. He is going on a mission to Australia. Mary was also pleased because she met an old neighbor, from Mt. Baldy, in her ward today, a Br. Eaton, I think? *[Mary doesn't remember this event but she does fondly remember Jim Eaton and the Mt. Baldy days. Jim taught Mary how to drive his VW and he would let her drive down the hill to seminary every school morning.]* They had fun remembering the Mt. Baldy days. Tonight, Donna and I watched "The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt in the White House Years." It was a very interesting show; it took three hours! Donna brought me a drink of 7Up tonight, nice! Goodnight.

March 14, Monday

We're blessed with a pretty spring day. I had a good night's rest, another blessing. Donna brought lunch to me at noontime, egg, toast, cooked peaches, and Postum. I ate while watching the TV stories. Donna changed the sheets and slip on my bed this morning. Then she tried on some of my dresses and we decided she looked nice in them. She has grown into them and outgrown her dresses. My dresses are size 14½, hers are size 14, a bit too snug now. She made my dresses a little shorter, I'm glad she can use them. She'll wash them and enjoy them, I hope. Donna received a nice letter from Marty Strong; she enclosed the memorial services program of the funeral of her daughter Pat's 14-year-old boy, Todd Howell. He died from an automobile accident. He was a handsome boy; he looked like his mother. It is very sad. He died on February 1 in Provo, Utah. He was born in Blackfoot, Idaho, February 21, 1962. There is so much heartache in this life, but all will be beautiful some sweet day. Donna brought me a delicious drink of chocolate eggnog this afternoon. Rex made it when he came home this afternoon. Rex and Donna went to the south field to feed the animals this evening. I walked around in my place for exercise. They invited me to drive to the dairy with them to buy some milk, but I didn't

feel well enough to go. Donna brought me a little dish of her beef stew about 6:30 p.m. She and Rex ate chili; it is too rich for me, and it gives me gas. I enjoyed some lovely records played on my Magnavox player tonight. I get tired of the trash on television at times. I'm a weary, old Grama tonight. Sweet dreams.

March 15, Tuesday

Donna left a tray of food for me when she went to her Relief Society in Ottawa this morning. It has been a nice spring like 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 Vazine Eye Drops and some Modess napkins, amount was \$4.61. Donna came home about 1:45 p.m. This afternoon Donna wrote a nice letter of condolence 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 the 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, Wednesday

We have a hazy sunshine day, but it is calm this morning, not windy. Donna and Rex left here soon after 8 a.m. to drive halfway to meet Mary and bring her two little ones here to the farm. Donna will take care of them while Mary and her friend Betty go to Salt Lake City to go through the temple with Janet and David and Rick before Rick leaves for his mission to Australia. Kathy may be with them, too, I'm not sure. Donna left a TV tray with some sandwiches and a drink for me. She is very thoughtful of my needs. They came home about 1:35 p.m. with the children. They are darling kiddies and baby Brian can walk now. He looks so cute, but he gets into everything. I'm so glad Donna feels better; she was miserable with her cold last week. I made out a check for my church donations, \$12.00 for March. I also got Violet's birthday card and note ready to mail with \$3.00 enclosed. I'll hold it for a few days. After dinner this evening. Donna came in and read from the church Ensign magazine. I surely enjoyed the cute stories of a young girl writing to her mother all through her college days. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets are both half sick with their colds, so

Spencer and little brother can't go to visit them. I'm tired and weak, so my bed looks good to me. Good night.



FEBRUARY 1977	MARCH 1977	APRIL 1977
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

MARCH 17 THURSDAY
76 <-> 289

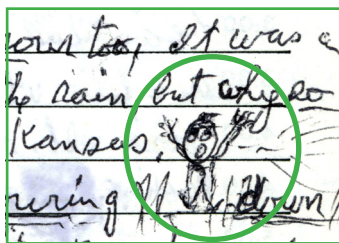
No man is wise enough by himself—Plautus

8:00 "Happy St. Patrick's day, in case you don't recognize my artwork, it is a shamrock, in tribute to the Irish"

8:30 "Top O' the morning to ye"

March 17, Thursday

"Top O' the morning to ye." Happy St. Patrick's Day. In case you don't recognize my artwork, it is a shamrock in tribute to the Irish. Donna brought a lovely, wooden serving tray to show me that Joan brought to her from Hawaii. Joan left it with Mary and she gave it to Donna yesterday. We have a cloudy, windy day with some sunshine off and on. I can hear the children's outcry with a happy shout, or with anger; anyway, there is action in Marshes' side of the house. Donna brought a roast beef sandwich, some Postum, and a dish of peaches, and some little cookies for my brunch. I got dark and started to rain about 4:30 p.m. We had some lightening and thunder, too. Rex came home from work in the storm. Donna and the children came in for a short visit, but Spencer was too energetic for her to talk to me, so she took them out again. I dozed in my chair. We had some hail in the heavy downpour, too. It was a bit exciting for a while. We do need the rain, but why so violent! That's the way we do it in Kansas! [See Elvie's drawing in green circle.] Rex came in to visit while it was pouring down. He is happy to have the water filling his ponds and helping the green to grow for the animals to graze on. Donna brought the Church newspaper in to show me that Gerald Ray Haddock is the new bishop of the Encinitas Ward in Carlsbad, California. We are all happy to add another bishop to the family tree, Albin Hoglund, Bill Hoglund, Rex Marsh, and Jerry Haddock. Bill Andersen was Al's first counselor and Charlie Clayton was his ward clerk. Guy and Dorothy Tibbets are not feeling any better today. I'm sorry for them.



March 18, Friday

Our Relief Society is celebrating its birthday this evening in a church in Osawatomie, where President North lives. Donna has been busy baking rolls and bread to take to the birthday dinner. She has arranged to have two young girls take care of the children in their home. I'm sorry I'm not able to do it for Donna; I feel so helpless. She brought a sandwich, Postum, applesauce, and a cookie for my brunch about 1 p.m. Little Brian had a nap. Spencer tried to take a nap (with Donna) but he couldn't go to sleep. I had trouble getting to sleep last night. It was seven o'clock this morning

before I could go to sleep, so I stayed in bed until almost one o'clock. I watched television for a couple of hours. We have a pretty spring like day. The nice rain storm is bringing out the green in the fields around here. It looks very beautiful to me. The trees will be getting their green leaves in a few weeks, too. I love the spring time. Rex came home from work about 3:30 p.m. Brian's nap is over; I can hear him crying and Spencer is laughing. I sit here without a care peacefully dozing in my swivel chair. Donna looked very pretty in my pink flowered Shelton stroller dress. I'm glad she can wear it. She wore my coat with the mink collar, too. They drove away from the farm with the children at 5:10 p.m. I'm on my own again. Donna put a TV dinner in the oven to bake for me. I shut the oven off in a half hour. I'm not hungry, but she insists I eat well. I'm glad it's a pretty evening for the Relief Society birthday party dinner. I hope they have a wonderful party. Dorothy T. came over with a letter she wants Rex to mail for her.

March 19, Saturday

I didn't get to bed until almost 1 a.m. I was concerned about Donna and Rex and the children (Spencer and Brian). It was after midnight before they came. It is a long drive where ever anyone has to go from this out of the way place. I try not to worry and I manage fairly well to keep my cool. I'm very thankful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is a comfort indeed. I stayed in bed this morning until almost 1 p.m. Oh, it's a wonderful way to pass a gloomy Saturday. The sun did get through to us about 3:30 p.m. but we have a lot of angry looking clouds in the sky. Donna brought me a ham sandwich, some pickled vegetable salad, a piece of the Relief Society's birthday cake, and Postum. She and baby Brian came in to visit while I ate. He is adorable, but now that he can walk, he gets into everything, so, he keeps Grama Donna busy. John L. Marsh phoned from Salt Lake City; he said they are having a lot of fun with Mary and her friend Betty, and Janet and Dave and family there. They'd been through the Provo temple with Rick and they thought of going to Park City to see Wayne Strong in his melodrama play. They'll have fun together. I'm happy for them. Jon T. is with the other children at home in Weeping Water, Nebraska. They're in school on weekdays. Rex came home from work about 3:30 p.m. There is a strong wind blowing now at 4:20 p.m. I'm getting used to the "Big Blow," but I don't like it. I listened to the "Lawrence Welk Show" on TV and to **Mary Tyler Moore's last TV show**. I hate to see her go. I've always enjoyed her programs. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news, a tired, weak, old Grama Elvie. Good night.

March 20, Sunday

We have a pleasant Sabbath morning. Rex had to go to work before daylight. I heard him drive away. Donna went

to Sunday School and church; she took Spencer and baby Brian with her. She borrowed a car seat for baby from one of her neighbors. I got up at noon time and took a bath. I was glad to flop into my easy chair when I got dressed and my hair combed and my bed made and my prayer said. I listened to a couple of lovely records of "God Bless America" played on my Magnavox player. I feel blessed indeed. Donna and the children came home about 1:45 p.m. She gave the children their lunch and put the baby in his crib for a nap. Spencer went over to visit Grama and Grampa Tibbets. Donna fixed a ham sandwich and a vegetable salad for us. She ate in here with me, from our TV trays. I enjoyed her company, plus the lunch. We had lovely records playing Mormon Hymns, wasn't that nice? I went in the Marshes' side tonight and watched television with Rex and Donna. We watched "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" with Judy Garland. She was such a darling actress. The show was two hours long. I have seen it before and I got weary of listening to it. Little Spencer was scared, he would cover his eyes or ears at times, but he didn't want the set turned off, so we saw it through to the bitter end. Good night!

March 21, Monday

We had a slight rain this morning. Mary phoned from Hayes, Kansas, she and friend Betty drove all night long, from Salt Lake City, Utah. They are coming here to pick up Spencer and Brian. I got up and made myself presentable. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray. The girls arrived about 2:30 p.m. They were tired, but looked happy. The children were delighted to see their mama and she them. We all went in the Marshes' living room to hear the girls tell about their lovely visit in Salt Lake City with John, Ann, Janet, David, and family from San Jose, California. They went through the Provo temple with Janet, Dave, and Rick. I think they went through the Salt Lake Temple, too. They went to Park City to see Wayne Strong and his daughters in a little melodrama play. They had a wonderful time. They saw Rick Shattuck off to his mission to Australia. Donna

gave Mary and Betty and the children some lunch. Donna had the children's clothes clean and packed. Mary went over to say hello to the Tibbetses and then they got in Betty's car and drove away from the farm about 3:45. They have a 4-hour drive from here to home in Weeping Water, Nebraska. I gave Mary a package of gum and a small box of candy corn to take for the kiddies. The sun came out bright this afternoon, so things are looking good! I enjoyed the quiet, peaceful nap in my swivel chair this afternoon. Rex was working with his tractor outside. I hope Donna was resting; she looked weary after Mary and the children left. It was nice seeing Mary again. I'm glad she came for the kiddies so I could see her sweet face. She looked so pretty. She and Jon have beautiful children, too. Rex and Donna came



A photo from the last Mary Tyler Show in 1977.

in my place tonight to have Home Evening. We had a lesson on the Book of Mormon. I enjoyed it very much. Later, I watched the TV tribute to Betty Davis. Good night.

March 22, Tuesday

Donna went to her Relief Society meeting in Ottawa, Kansas this morning. Rex was working here on the farm. I got up at noon; I had a fairly good night's rest. Rex brought my lunch on a TV tray (roast beef sandwich, applesauce, and hot chocolate. Later, he brought a huge package in a pasteboard or cardboard box with my name on it. He opened it and there was a record player and the plastic container with the records for a "Talking Book Program." Rex played the first record of the novel enclosed. It took about an hour and a



lot of concentration to understand the plot. I do not need this entertainment and I haven't the room for the extra player and records. Donna said she would send it back. I'm not that lonesome, dear daughter. I wish I didn't worry her so much. Donna brought a couple of beautiful, **yellow daffodils** in a pretty vase to me. Spring is here. It is a lovely, sunny afternoon, too. I took a nap in my swivel chair. I hope that Donna is resting, also. It has been very quiet around the farm this afternoon. It is 6 p.m. now. I turned on TV's "Cross Wit" game. Donna brought my dinner to me on a TV tray; I enjoyed eating while watching "Laverne and Shirley" on TV. Donna went to

bed soon after eight o'clock. I watched television; I've had a dull feeling in the top of my head, not painful, but it makes me feel sluggish. I watched the TV movie "Family," tonight. It was interesting. Good night.

March 23, Wednesday

This is a lovely spring like day. I got up at noon time. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray. It was a tuna sandwich, Postum, and applesauce. The Guy Tibbetses are unhappy; they have trouble with their plumbing again and can't use the bathroom and there is water in their basement, (problems galore). Donna brought me a nice, cold drink of 7Up when she came home from shopping in Overbrook today. Guy T. was anxious for Rex to come home from work this afternoon so he can help him fix their plumbing problems. I'd like to walk around in the lovely sunshine, but we have no cement walks or driveway here. The uneven, bumpy ground is not safe for this 84-year-old gal to tackle alone. Sure, Donna would gladly help, but she is so busy all the time. I won't ask her to walk around with me. I do get exercise walking around in our nice house. Rex and Guy went to town somewhere to rent something (a Rotor Rooter line or something, to try to clean out the pipes. I'm sorry for Rex; he is tired and should be able to relax after his day of work. He left before daylight this morning. **Well, life is not a bowl of cherries; every cherry has a pit, eh?** Rex and Donna went to bed before nine



"Well, life is not a bowl of cherries; every cherry has a pit, eh?"

o'clock tonight. I watched the television programs until after the ten o'clock news. Sleep soundly!

March 24, Thursday

It is a cloudy day and some wind, not much sunshine. Donna brought my brunch about one o'clock. I ate and enjoyed television's soapbox operas. Oh, the tragic problems they endure on the TV shows, makes my little problems fade away into oblivion. Ha! There was someone working on the plumbing problem at Tibbetses' house today. When Rex came from work, he went over to help Guy with the pipe line. It is getting darker (5 p.m.). It looks like we'll have a rain storm. No mail today, except the Church newspaper. It has a picture on the front page of the Sao Paulo Temple in Brazil. President Marion G. Romney is pictured cementing the cornerstone in place. It is about one third finished. It is scheduled for completion in 1978. President Jimmy Carter invited our LDS President Spencer W. Kimball, and Elders Gunn McKay and James Santini to visit with him in the oval office of the White House in Washington D.C. BYU Professor, Dr. Peter Crawley, wins the Fourth Annual Commissioner's Research Fellowship Award. I knew him when he was a little boy in our ward in Garvanza. Donna went to bed about 8 p.m. I was watching "Hawaii Five-O" on television, so I stayed up later. I watched "Barnaby Jones," too. I am a weary, old Grama Elvie. Good night.

March 25, Friday

March 25 is a pretty spring day. Donna went to the dentist in Overbrook. She broke a piece off of one of her back molars. The doctor says it needs a gold crown on it; the cost is \$125, ugh! I think, well, I know they can't afford it, so I will pay for it, it must be done. Donna and I ate our lunch together here from trays. We had tuna sandwiches, 7Up, applesauce, and cookies. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets are feeling better; they drove to Overbrook this afternoon to shop. The top of my head still feels strange, a bit heavy or sluggish. This evening Donna and I ate some of her beef stew and chocolate pudding with cream. Later, I went to Marshes' side to watch the "Bob Hope Special," a tribute to the old Vaudeville programs that were so popular about 40 years ago. It was entertaining, brought back some old memories. My pretty, yellow daffodils look as fresh as they did when Donna brought them to me last Tuesday; I love them. Donna received a nice,

long letter from Joan today; she read it to me. Everything is fine with our Gardner Family. She wishes we'd come and visit with them in Naperville, Illinois. It takes money and time which we haven't got! But we are thankful for Joan's interesting letters. It is now 9:45 p.m. I'm going to turn out the lights and go to bed. "Sweet Dreams."

March 26, Saturday

Today is stormy looking, like we'll have rain any minute. Donna ate lunch with me at 1 p.m. She

brought her vacuum in later and cleaned my apartment. This is the kind of day we must work on, "Sunshine in the Heart," and it isn't easy on a gloomy day like this is. Ugh! ☹ I gave Donna \$10.00 for the cleaning job. I had to insist on her taking it. I'm not well enough to do it myself anymore, poor old lady, 84. I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player. It is a comfort to me. Donna and I each sent a birthday card to Violet; I enclosed \$3.00 and she enclosed \$2.00. Violet's birthday is April 1. Donna received a letter from Rita Sofia Uruburo of Argentina. She is the girl exchange student that knitted the arm and back covers for my little swivel chair in 1975. She likes to keep in touch with her nice friends in America. She wants Donna to send pictures of the family and the house. It is 4:35 p.m. and still gloomy, but no rain yet. I took a walk around the house for exercise. It feels good to sit down again.

This evening Donna brought me some Lima beans and ham and crackers and a jelled fruit salad. Later, Rex and Donna went with Guy and Dorothy Tibbets to Topeka to pick up their daughter, Delphia, at the airport about 9 p.m. I listened to "The Carol Burnett Show" and the "Easter Seals Telethon." I was the last one to go to bed tonight and the last one to get up this morning. How about that? Woe is me, weary old L.V. Good night.

March 27, Sunday

We had a few drops of rain this morning. It is another gloomy looking day. Rex and Donna went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. She left a note saying they'd be home about 1:30 p.m. I had a poor night's rest, with very little sleep. I've had some heart distress this morning and it slows me down. I drank the mug of warm Jello that Donna left for me. I'll feel better soon. Rex and Donna came home at 2:10 p.m. She said the Primary children were on the program in church today and it was good. I love to see the children on the program. I hope to see and hear them again some sweet day. I enjoyed some lovely Mormon Hymns, played on my Magnavox player, while my family was enjoying church. It is still a gloomy looking day, but no rain. We need more rain, too. Donna cooked a very delicious Swiss steak dinner. I went to the dining table to eat with her and Rex about 2:40. We had potatoes and gravy, vegetables and salad. For dessert we had hot chocolate pudding over ice cream. Donna wouldn't let me help with the clean-up job. I was glad to get back to my swivel chair and relax. Later, I played some nice records on the Magnavox player. We had some hazy sunshine about 4:15 p.m. Rex says Delphia is going back

home on Thursday. She isn't staying long this visit. Donna has a backache this evening; she looks weary. She went to bed soon after 8:30 p.m. I stayed up to hear the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

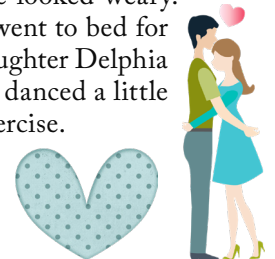
March 28, Monday

It was almost 1 p.m. when I got up today; I didn't rest very well last night so I stayed in bed as long as I could on this miserable, wet day. It has been raining most of the day. Donna had a poor night's rest, too; her back hurt and she took a chill. She was up and down a lot, so she is trying to get some rest today. Rex started out for Overbrook in the little VW car, but it conked out somewhere along the country road and he had to walk back to the farm in the rain and get his pickup truck and wife to help him get the VW back to the farm. We'll try not to complain; we do need the rain. But why can't it rain all night and let our days be bright? Life isn't a "Bowl of Cherries," each cherry has a pit and I'm lucky that I can sit in my easy chair and write my bit! Eh? The wind and the rain play a strange refrain. Donna said that Rex was on his way back from Overbrook when the little car broke down, so he did reach his goal anyway. I enjoyed the "Perry Como's Music from Hollywood" show on television tonight. His special guests stars were Sandy Duncan, Shirley Jones, Hal Linden, and Henry Mancini. I also watched "The 49th Annual Academy (Oscar) Awards" program. Donna's back is giving her trouble so she went to bed before nine o'clock. Rex rubbed her back with some of my ointment. Good night and sweet slumber!

March 29, Tuesday

Donna had to drive Rex to work early this morning so she could have the pickup truck to take her to Ottawa to her Relief Society meeting. Their little, red WV car is broken down, here in the yard. She left a tray with food on for me (bread and peanut butter, fruit, and chocolate drink). We had no sunshine until after 4 p.m. today, even then, it was hazy. We must create our own "Sunshine in our Hearts Today." I dozed in my chair this hazy day, it helped to pass the time away. Donna went to Overbrook to pick Rex up after his work; she looked weary. Her back is still hurting her. She went to bed for a while. The Guy Tibbetses and daughter Delphia went out in their car somewhere. I danced a little two step around in my suite for exercise.

*Oh, my darling husband Lou,
I really long to be with you.
Some sweet day, I wonder when?
You'll hold me in your arms again.*



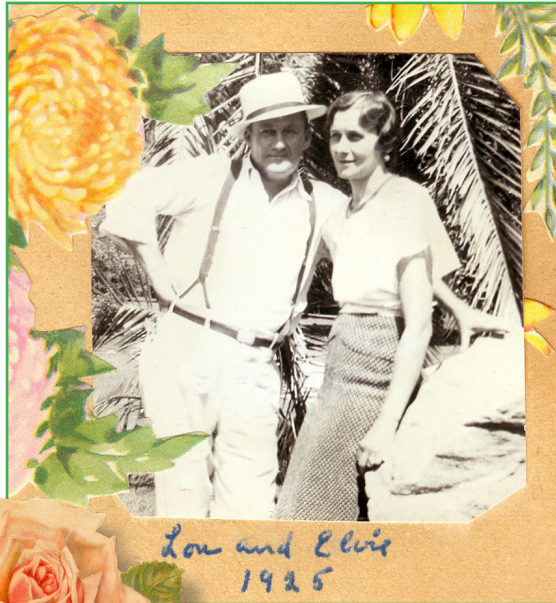
Donna visited with me tonight for a while. Rex went to bed because he has to go to work very early in the morning, like he did this morning. I stayed up to hear the "Johnny Carson TV Show" after Donna left for bed. *This lonely old gal is going to bed, Down on the pillow I'll lay my head. I'll wrap myself up in my covers tight, And hope I'll sleep very well tonight!* Happy dreams.

March 30, Wednesday

I'm very thankful for a good night's rest. We have had a lot of wind and clouds today, but the sun came out in all its glory late this afternoon. Rex went to work before daylight; I heard him moving around in the house and I heard his car drive away and saw the lights from it when he drove past my south window. Donna brought my brunch of Spam sandwich, Postum, and fruit on a TV tray at 1 p.m. I enjoyed the television stories while eating. Later, Donna brought the mail. There was a cute letter from Kathy. Donna read it to me; she told about the David Shattuck family night in their sacrament meeting before Rick left on his mission. She said they all gave fine talks; she was proud to be related to them. Kathy does write nice letters; sorry I can't record all of it. There was also a letter from Lydia Paul; she and Gene had been to the cemetery and put a pretty plant on Owen's grave for his birthday on March 28. They planted it in a hole. The wind was blowing hard; she doesn't like the "Big Blow" any better than I do. Lydia has to have an x-ray on her throat to see what is causing the feeling like there is something caught in her throat, and it is making her voice sound hoarse. (It is sorta sexy, she says.) I surely hope it isn't serious trouble for her. I watched the new variety show, "3 Girls 3;" they did impersonations of Diana Ross, Helen Reddy and Barbara Streisand. They do have talent I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report tonight. Good night.

March 31, Thursday

We have a lovely, blue sky and sunshine today. Rex is working a



"Oh, my darling husband, Lou, I really long to be with you."

Longing for Lou, but waiting patiently in Kansas.



double shift today, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. He'll be really tired when he gets home tonight. Donna walked to the mailbox to mail some letters this morning. She wanted to do her Relief Society visiting this morning, but Dorothy Tibbets doesn't feel well enough to go; she is Donna's partner. Donna's back is still hurting her, but she would go, if she only had the transportation. Rex has the pickup truck and the VW is out of commission now. The Tibbetses took their daughter, Delphia, to the airport in Topeka this morning early. She is on her way home again. I did not see her this visit; she was here only a few days. Donna brought my brunch about 12:30 noon. I watched

the TV stories while eating. John L. Marsh phoned from Salt Lake City this morning. He says that all is well with them. He said the Osmond Brothers are going to build a big studio in Orem, Utah. He thinks he'd like to work there. He is working for KSL in Salt Lake City now. It is a good job, but he thinks the Orem job would pay more. It is pleasant not to have the "Big Blow" of wind today. I appreciate that. Donna walked to the mailbox late this afternoon. She brought a letter from Violet to me. She had enclosed a newspaper clipping and pictures of **Elder Alvin R. Dyer's** passing away at age 74 years. He was married to May Elizabeth Jackson in the Salt Lake Temple in 1926. Violet was one of May's bridesmaids.



April 1, Friday

Keep a little rainbow in your heart each day, and you'll feel happy all the way. Happy birthday Violet dear. We had hazy sunshine this morning and rain this afternoon, with some lightning and thunder. I watched television

Elder Alvin R. Dyer, 74, of the First Quorum of Seventy, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died at his home early Sunday.

Elder Dyer, who had been a general authority of the church since 1958 and once served as a counselor in the First Presidency, had been in ill health since suffering a stroke in 1972.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square.

Friends may call Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Larkin Mortuary, 280 E. South Temple.

Elder Dyer, who was called as an Assistant to the Twelve in October, 1968, became a member of the First Quorum of Seventy on Oct. 1, 1976, when all Assistants to the Twelve were reassigned to that quorum.

In April 1968, he was appointed a counselor to President David O. McKay in the First Presidency, where he served for nearly two years until the death of President McKay.

Six months prior to joining the First Presidency he was ordained an apostle, but did not serve as a member of the Council of the Twelve.

This service as an apostle without being a member of the Twelve was unusual, but has occurred several times in the history of the church.

Elder Dyer was named managing director of the church historian's department in January, 1972, when a reorganization of that division took place.

A largely self-taught man, he had an extensive background in the field of religious history and was the author of many books, including "The Refiner's Fire," dealing with church historical events around Independence, Mo., and "This Age of Confusion," a history of world religions.

Elder Dyer suffered a series of strokes in the spring of 1972. From that time until his death his

See ELDER on A-6



Elder and Sister Dyer during 1958 October conference.

Elder Alvin Dyer dies in S.L. at 74

seem to get interested in it, sorry about that. I have enough entertainment with my television and my lovely records played on my Magnavox player, plus, my diary recording. I'm glad Donna can relax while listening to her book reading machine. I hope her backache will heal so she'll feel well. I owe some letters, but my eyes blur when they are under the strain of reading or writing now.

I am past the age of 84,

And nothing seems to function right anymore.

I tried to watch television tonight, but because of the wind and the rain, I couldn't get a good picture. It got on my nerves, so I shut the set off about 8:35 p.m. Donna and Rex went to bed before nine o'clock and I turned off my lights soon after 9 p.m. (No April fool fun for me anymore.) Good night.



April 2, Saturday

It is a cloudy day. Rex and Donna left the farmhouse soon after noon, on their way to Mary and Jon's home in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Rex was driving the pickup truck and towing the little, red VW car. Donna was in the VW to guide it. I watched them drive away. They said they'd be back tonight after midnight, but I managed to talk them into staying overnight and come home in the morning. I said I would be alright alone here. Donna left my dinner in the refrigerator and my lunch on a TV tray in my room. What more could I want? It has been cloudy all day, but there is sunshine in my heart. I walked around my rooms for exercise; I went to the kitchen for my dinner. Donna had left it in the refrigerator on a plate. Dorothy Tibbets came over about 7 p.m. to check on me. She told Donna she would do it. I had enjoyed my favorite TV programs, "The Lawrence Welk Show" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and others. "The Best of the Carol Burnett Show" was on from 8:30 to 10 p.m. It's time to say "goodnight."

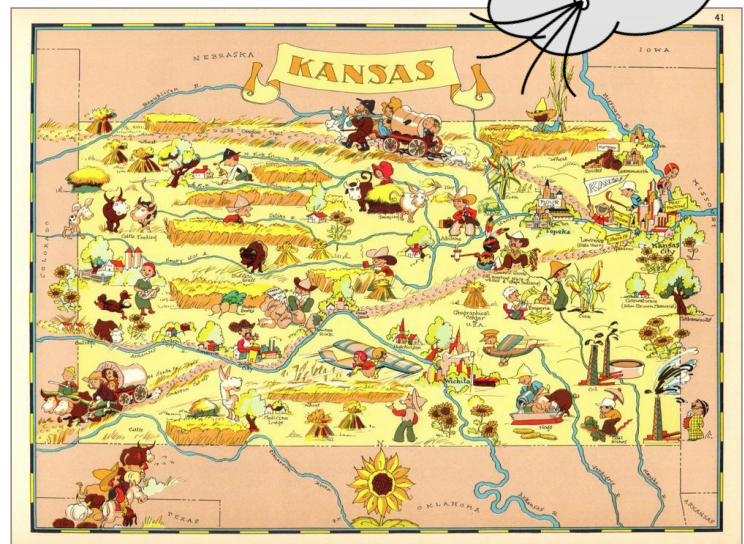
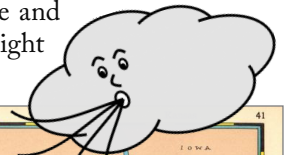
April 3, Sunday

We have a hazy Sabbath day; I had a fairly good night's sleep. I presume that old people do not sleep as well as in their younger years. I know I don't. Rex and Donna came home from Weeping Water, Nebraska about noon time. Dorothy came a few minutes before Donna came. She and Guy were on their way to church. She didn't think about conference in Salt Lake City and no Sunday School in our wards and branches, so that we could watch a session of the conference on television. Too bad Dorothy didn't think of the general conference in Salt Lake City. She said she and Guy would go for a drive in as much as they were dressed to go out. I didn't feel well enough to get up at 8:30 this morning, or any morning. The house is too cold and the bed is warm. At my age, 84, the blood doesn't circulate too well and I want to be comfortable. My Social Security check went to the bank, \$281.40. My checking account balance is \$200.19. I'll make out a check for my church donation. It is getting really cloudy; it looks like we may get some rain after all. Donna brought a cute birthday card for me to send to Janet Elaine Gardner. She'll be 14 years old on April 13. The card is ready to mail with gum, \$1.00 bill, and my verse in it. My shoulder blades

really hurt (Poor Old L.V.) I took a heart tablet and it helped relieve the pain. Donna and I watched the three-hour TV movie of "Jesus of Nazareth" tonight. Robert Powell played Jesus Christ. It was a colorful production indeed. It will be concluded next week at this same time. Goodnight! P.S. It is raining now, 10:45 p.m. Rex had indigestion tonight, he ate some of my Tums.

April 4, Monday

We had some rain last night; I can see a little puddle of rain in the backyard. It is cloudy and looks like we may get more rain soon, it is 12:15 noon right now. Donna just came in to ask what I'd like for brunch. She is so thoughtful of my needs. I never seem to feel hungry, but the scrambled egg, toast, and hot chocolate drink tasted good. I hope to answer some letters today. I answered Lydia's letter, but I'm too weary to write any more. Donna ate lunch in here with me. Today's mail brought a nice long letter from Blanche H. She lives in Long Beach, California (lucky gal). She gets out a lot to eat, to visit, and to church. She is 87 years old. I've been expecting it to rain all day. Our cat is expecting kittens; our cow is expecting a calf and our horse is expecting Farmer Rex to bring him some hay. ☺ Well, what do ye know? The sun got through to us this evening at 5:30. Donna brought a fried chicken dinner to me at six o'clock; it was delicious. Mmm good. I ate while watching television, "Hollywood Squares" and "Little House on the Prairie." I can hear the wind blowing, this is a windy state. I do not like the "Big Blow." It sounds so mad, like it wants to blow us away. But I'm getting used to it and I exercise more faith and that's good. Kansas is a real challenge for me, but Rex and Donna seem to be happy here and that is what I want mostly. Goodnight and happy slumber.



Overbrook, Kansas was a real challenge for Elvie!

April 5, Tuesday

We have sunshine and clouds this day and the wind is blowing. Donna went to her Relief Society meeting. She left me a tray of food. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold. I haven't felt very well. I've been kinda lightheaded. I had a memory lapse a time or two. I was going to answer Blanche's letter, too, but didn't feel up to it, tomorrow, maybe. It is very quiet

here. I hope Donna is resting; she received another church assignment today to give a talk or lesson? I've forgotten what it is, but they keep her busy. Rex received a note from a young man he set apart in the priesthood a few years ago. He wanted Rex to trace his priesthood line for him to use in his own records. Rex doesn't remember this young man; he has set young men apart many times, but he was happy to trace his priesthood back for the young man's record. Rex is "outstanding in his field" wishing he had a barn for the animals; an outside privy would be an asset for him, also. ☺ This evening I watched the Oral Roberts' TV Break Through '77 Show, with Tennessee Ernie Ford as a guest star and also Richard Roberts; they sing very well together. Sweet dreams.

April 6, Wednesdas

I had a good night's rest and I feel much better today. Donna made some Cream of Wheat cereal for my brunch, plus toast, Postum, and applesauce. (Lucky me!) We have a pretty spring day, it is a bit windy, but not the "Big Blow," so it is pleasant. Today's mail brought a real cute letter from my sweet little great grandchild Donna Shattuck. She had typed it and did a good job, too. She wants me to send her one of my poems. She is taking piano lessons from a lady in their ward; she says she is nice, but the one bad thing is Donna doesn't like to practice. She says she loves to play, but hates to practice, Typical, eh? I'm sorry, but I didn't feel like answering Blanche's letter today. Donna Shattuck will be 15 years old on November 15. They grow up so fast. This evening Rex and Donna are talking to the young people of the stake, in Paola, Kansas. Her subject if "Choosing the Right Mate, Courtship and etcetera." His is "The Plan of Salvation." I'd like to be there to hear them. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray at six o'clock. I entertained myself with television programs. "Good Times," "Loves Me, Loves Me Not" and a movie drama, "Something for Joey." Rex and Donna came home from Paola about 10:30 p.m. Donna came in to say goodnight, she stayed to watch some of the "Tonight Show." (Phyllis Diller was on it; she is a riot for sure. Ha ha!) Good night.

Spring

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Written by Elvie March 21, 1950

*Poem that Elvie sent to Donna Shattuck
on April 7, 1977.*



April 7, Thursday

We have a beautiful spring day. Donna says it is lovely and warm outside. I wrote a letter to my great Granddaughter Donna Shattuck, and enclosed the poems she requested. I sent her the one I call "Spring." I composed it in the spring of 1950. I also sent the little one I call Eternal Youth. I also wrote a letter to Blanche H. in answer to her letter to me. Writing letters make me feel so weary now. Donna came in and ate brunch with me at one o'clock. Later this afternoon she brought the mail in. I received a lovely Easter card from Kathy and Mark with a nice note in it, also some pictures they took at Christmas time. They are indeed a good-looking couple. She wants us to send the pictures back after we've seen them. Donna says she'll take care of that for me. I must relax now, my shoulder blades and chest hurt when I write too long. I walked around in the house to get some exercise. If we had some sidewalks or a driveway of cement, I'd attempt to go out, but there isn't a rail for the back-porch steps either and this old gal can't risk a fall. I know Donna would be glad to help me, but I know she is busy typing or studying for a talk, or something important. I won't add to her activities anymore that I can help myself. Tonight, I watched the "People's Command Performance" for 1977 on television with George Burns and Bernadette Peters hosting the all-star extravaganza. It was entertaining. I'm weary tonight, as usual. Good night.

April 8, Friday

Good Friday is a beautiful spring day. Donna and Rex have been working in their garden and yard. They went to the market in Overbrook to shop for groceries. I watched the television stories. Donna brought my brunch to me at 12:30 noon (a tuna sandwich, Postum, and applesauce). She is so kind to me, I must keep cheerful and try to be patient to the end. "Counting my blessings" always helps. It is time to take a walk around the sweet, little suite, for exercise. I enjoyed my Magnavox player with the record of Skitch Henderson and his orchestra playing, and Spencer's favorite record, with the old time "fun to sing" songs. He can sing most of them, especially "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Daisy, Daisy" and etcetera. Donna took me for a walk in the lovely sunshine this afternoon. We walked out to look at their

garden. The rows of little green pea plants are coming up nicely and some bean plants, too, I think. Also, some kind of a vegetable. It looks good. I saw Guy and Dorothy Tibbets planting something this morning. They looked like rose trees or bushes to me. Well, give them time and they will have this place looking good. Rex and Donna went to bed about 8:30 p.m. I turned off the TV at 9:10 p.m. It wasn't long before I was in my bed, too. Goodnight.

April 9, Saturday

We are enjoying another lovely spring morning with sunshine and blue sky. It is windy but not too bad, it's the "Big Blow" that annoys me. Donna changed the sheets and slip on my bed this morning. She brought some Cream of Wheat cereal, toast, Postum, and fruit for my brunch. Aren't I the lucky old mom? Rex and his tractor are working outside. I hear them. Everyone works around our house but me, (old L.V.). Rex is moving the hill of top soil from the front of the house and placing it around the house near the foundation.

Donna put a record on my Magnavox player; it was the Story of Joseph Smith, the prophet, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, titled "Heritage," with songs and scenes from the Mormon Epoch. I enjoyed three of the recordings when our electricity went off; that was at 3:10 p.m. Donna had a ham in the oven baking. She was also vacuum cleaning, frustrating, eh? Dorothy was cooking spare ribs. The electricity came on at 3:45, so it was only off about 35 minutes. All is well. The bread is baking and the ham is, also. Donna made some potato salad and then she walked out in the field to talk to Rex. I walked around in the house for a little exercise. Donna brought my dinner at six o'clock. The potato salad and ham tasted good, also the chocolate pudding with cream. I enjoyed the Saturday night TV programs ("Lawrence Welk," "Carol Burnett," and "Mary T. Moore" and etcetera). Good night.

April 10, Sunday

Happy Easter to my children, Donna and Rex:

*May you enjoy the happiness
That Easter always brings,
The gladness of the spring time,
The promise of lovely things.
You have my best wishes and
You'll always have my love.
May you always have the happiness
You are so deserving of.*

We have hazy sunshine this Easter Sunday and it is windy. Donna drove Rex to work before daylight so she could have the truck to go to church; she had a talk to give in sacrament meeting. Her subject was

"The Atonement and Death of Christ" (the Resurrection, and etcetera). She used my little poem, "Eternal Youth" in her talk; I felt honored. Our branch president, Richard D. North, came to see me this afternoon. He mentioned Donna's fine talk and said he liked my poem. He was on his way to Denver, Colorado, on a business trip. President North and Rex administered the bread and water and served the sacrament to me. Donna gave President North some lunch before he left. He came here from church; he said he'd buy some lunch on his way, but she insisted on fixing something for him and he sure enjoyed it. Donna took a nap on my extra twin bed and Rex slept on his bed. I dozed in my chair and played lovely music on my Magnavox player. Donna and Rex gave me a lovely Easter card and a package of M&M chocolates. I made my own Easter card and verse for them and I enclosed \$5.00 in it. Kathy and Mark sent me a lovely Easter card. I went to Marshes' side of the house to watch the conclusion of Jesus of Nazareth program.

April 11, Monday

We have a windy day and it blew all night. I rested fairly well. Donna brought brunch to me at 12:30 noon. I listened to the TV soapbox operas while eating. Our cat had her kittens this morning in a little corner of the garage, behind some storage boxes. Donna doesn't know how many yet, she saw two of them. The horse got loose from the anchor Rex had tied to his rope and he was having a wonderful time running all over the fields. Donna was afraid he'd get out of



Below is the poem Elvie sent to Donna Shattuck. Also, Donna M. used the poem in her sacrament meeting talk.

Eternal Youth

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

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

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

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

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

Elvie Renshaw—August 31, 1954

the big gates, so she walked to them and waited for Rex to come from work and tie the horse up in the field, where he'd be safe. Today's mail brought a postcard from Lydia Paul. She said that the x-rays on her throat didn't show any growth or tumor. He gave her some antibiotics and he is watching to see if anything develops. She hasn't any pain, it is just a feeling like something is stuck in her throat. Her voice gets hoarse; I'm glad she is under a doctor's care. Donna brought a nice dinner of fish sticks, baked potato, green beans, and angel food cake with chocolate icing. She ate in here with me; Rex ate earlier. I watched "The Critics Circle Awards Special." It was a two hour show live from Hollywood, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.; it was very entertaining. Donna watched the last half of it with me. We shut the TV off after the ten o'clock news report. We're both weary and glad to retire for the night. Sweet dreams. P.S. Donna counted five baby kittens; she took me out to the garage to see them. They are so tiny.

April 12, Tuesday

Today is pleasant, there is a little wind, but not the "Big Blow." Donna left a tray of food for me, plus a note saying she'd be home about 2:30 or 3 p.m. It's her Relief Society's homemaking day. We used to call it "workday" and believe me it was a work day. I often quilted from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon. The sisters do not quilt like that now; they tie a few crib quilts, but that is about all the quilting they do. However, they make cute, little clothes for children and many clever handicrafts they do, also. When Rex came home, he brought two of the baby kittens in to show me. I held one of them; they are so cute and tiny. Dorothy wants Rex to drown all five of them, poor little babies. I don't know what Rex will do about them. I notice the moths are showing up now that the weather is warmer. I do not hesitate to spray them or any insect I find in my house, so we do what we think is necessary. I'm glad the baby kittens are not my problem. Donna ate dinner in here with me this evening, some of her good beef stew, some toast, cooked pears, and a chocolate mint cookie. This evening Rex and Donna drove to the dairy for some milk. I watched television until I got weary of it. Good night.

April 13, Wednesday

Happy birthday, Janet Elaine Gardner, 14 years old.

*Oh me! Another year has passed
And my darling you grow up so fast
Enjoy each day of your "fourteen"
And keep yourself sweet and clean.
Add a touch of fun to all you do,
And you'll be happy all year through.*



Janet and Paula Gardner 1977.

thanked us for the birthday cards and money. She said that May Jackson [Dyer] worked with her in Hall's Department store in California; then May moved back to Utah. [Then] Violet went with the M-Men and the Gleaner girls to sing in the tabernacle. May and Alvin got married while Violet was there [Utah] and she asked Violet to be one of her bridesmaids. Elder Alvin R. Dyer died in March at the age of 72 years. Otto gave Violet a necklace with a turquoise pendant on it; she says it is very pretty. She received lots of gifts, not room to record here. But she had a happy birthday!

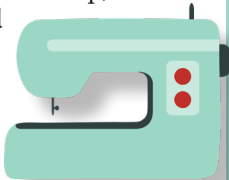
April 14, Thursday

We have enjoyed a very nice day, sorta hazy sunshine, but not much wind. Donna brought a tray of food for my brunch (sandwich, fruit, and Postum). She and Dorothy went out in Dorothy's car and did their Relief Society visiting. I

haven't felt very keen minded today; I didn't get to sleep last night until it was getting daylight. My body and brain just couldn't relax. However, I did get some sleep this morning. I'm glad I can stay in bed as long as I feel like it, and I can doze in my swivel chair, too. The world is making changes every day as the mystery of it all unfolds. As time goes on, the young will become the old. It's the plan of life and it's a good one, too. If we'll trust the Dear Lord, He'll see us through. I did a little scrapbook work this afternoon. I pasted a news clipping picture of **Ann Marsh teaching** in her classroom in Utah. I watched "The Amazing Howard Hughes" dramatic special tonight from 8 to 10 p.m. on Channel 5. Oh, what a weird character that man was. It takes all kinds, eh? Donna went to bed before 9 p.m. She really looked tired. I'm weary, too. Good night. P.S. Our cat has moved her kittens one by one, out of the garage to the wide overhang of the house, to one of the vents in the eaves. They're all tucked away up there where no one can pick them up and handle them [or drown them]. Cute, eh?

April 15, Friday

It is another overcast day, but it is calm and pleasant, too. The "Big Blow" is missing. I really made up for my lost sleep on Wednesday night. I slept very well last night and this morning until noon. That is a blessing indeed. Donna brought my brunch to me about 1 p.m. It is now 3:10 p.m. and it is gloomy and getting darker by the minute. Oh oh! It is pouring rain now. It will be beneficial for our ponds and property and the well. Our heavy downpour didn't last very long, but it is still stormy looking, so we may get some more, I hope so. There was no mail for me today. Donna says they got a couple of bills. I noticed Guy and Dorothy Tibbets working in their flower garden this afternoon. This evening, Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray, a melted cheese sandwich and split pea soup, and ice cream. I watched television until after the ten o'clock news. This weary old gal is going to bed. Good night.



April 16, Saturday

We have hazy sunshine today and some rain clouds in the sky. I slept fairly well last night and this morning. Donna said



AT WORK . . . Valley junior high home economics students find new equipment and pleasant surroundings in school addition.

GRANGER. A new addition to the homemaking department here at Valley junior high is now being used to accommodate an ever-increasing enrollment and interest in functions of the department.

Home Ec. teachers **Ann Marsh** and Sally Thomas noted that the addition includes three new rooms, a large kitchen with eight cooking stations and demonstration units. Also, a large homemaking room for class activities and other demonstration units are part of the enlarged facilities.

The sewing and clothing rooms have 24 new sewing machines that are all built in, a pantry for food storage and large office space.

The addition will expand the teaching capacity to three teachers instead of two for projected increased enrollment next year.

All of the clothing and homemaking rooms are now carpeted and have individual storage areas for the students' working supplies.

Newspaper article with Ann Marsh teaching a Home Economics, a class with sewing and cooking sections.

Ann is circled in red. Elvie put the article in her scrapbook April 14.

she had a restless night; her brain was too busy with her Relief Society responsibilities and other problems. She walked to the mailbox to mail some letters about noontime. Rex went to work early this morning. Donna brought my brunch about 1 p.m. Dorothy and Guy Tibbets brought our mail; there was a letter to me from Ethel Newbold. She enclosed a picture of herself taken last Christmas, by her Christmas tree. I think she is about 86 or 87 years old. She has had some bad falls so her son and wife don't want her to walk outside alone. She has arthritis in her feet, ankles, knees, legs, arms, and hands. She has fallen down in the house a few times too and hurt herself. I haven't room to record her family news, but she has a very lovely family. I was happy to locate the newspaper clippings of Elder Alvin R. Dyer's death and write up of his active life with pictures of him and his lovely wife May Jackson Dyer. Violet was a bridesmaid to May when she married

Alvin. Donna took a little nap on my extra twin bed this afternoon. I really enjoyed Donna reading to me from the Church newspaper later. She read some of the fine talks given at the general conference in Salt Lake this April. It is our stake conference tonight and tomorrow in Kansas City, Missouri. Rex and Donna are going to the opening session tonight. They got home tonight at 10:30 p.m. Donna said it was a lovely session. Elder Delbert L. Stapley was scheduled to preside, but he took sick, so Elder James M. Paramore came in his place. Goodnight. P.S. I visited with Donna and Rex tonight and enjoyed some 7Up drink. I did some scrapbook work today.

April 17, Sunday

Rex had to go to work early this morning so he couldn't go to stake conference. Donna had no transportation so she couldn't go. She cooked some chicken and noodle soup and I enjoyed some of it for my brunch at 1 p.m. She also had a nice jelled salad and some caramel frosted cake. Guy and Dorothy took Donna to sacrament meeting this afternoon in the Ottawa Branch at 2 p.m. They left here about 1:45. We have a lot of dark clouds in the sky. I can see some rain drops on my south window. We are having a heavy downpour right now at 2:50 p.m. I can hear the thunder, too. I hope it will pass before the folks come home from church. Will I ever get used to Kansas and her violent storms? I have lived in Salt Lake City, Cedar City, St. George, and California, but in all of my 84½ years I've never seen such angry weather. What is it so d--- mad about? Rex came home about 3:30 p.m.; the storm had passed. He had a lady with him who works at the nursing home with Rex. He brought her in to see my apartment and to meet me. She is interested in horses; he took her to see his horse. She left her car at the big gates, so Rex took her back to her car and she went home. Donna came in and we listened to some recordings played on my Magnavox player. Later Donna brought a ham sandwich and some 7Up, some salad and a piece of cake for me to enjoy. I watched television until time to retire after the 10:00 p.m. news report.

April 18, Monday

We had some rain in the night and a shower or two today with very little sunshine. I'm thankful for a good night's sleep. Donna moved the furniture around in her bedroom. I like the new arrangement very well. She also framed some of her family pictures and hung them up in her living room and the hall. I gave her my lovely picture of our prophet, Spencer W. Kimball. She put it in a frame and hung it in her living room. We ate our lunch together in here from TV trays. Rex went to work early this morning.

I watched the television stories from one o'clock until 3:30 p.m. I walked around in my room for exercise. Dorothy brought the mail to us; there was a nice letter from Kathy and Mark. She enclosed several pictures for us to look at and send back to her. She is so beautiful and we do miss her so very much. Donna and I spent an hour or more looking through my picture albums for a picture of Mary and Jon on their wedding day, but I didn't have one. However, we had a wonderful and emotional time looking at pictures of Janet, Joan, Mary, John, and Kathy when they were babies and little children. (Memories!) Donna found a picture she liked better of President Spencer Kimball so she gave mine back to me. I have a full set of them again, from Joseph Smith, our first president, down to Spencer Kimball. We have a black cloud overhead; it looks like another downpour is coming our way. I spent my evening watching Danny Kaye and Sandy Duncan in "The Pinocchio Musical Special." It was entertaining.



On April 18 Elvie and Donna looked through scrapbooks for a wedding photo of Mary and Jon. They didn't find that but enjoyed looking at photos of Janet, Joan, Mary, John, and Kathy.

April 19, Tuesday

Oh darn. I had another sleepless night. It was after seven o'clock this morning before I fell into Slumberland. I dozed off for short naps until 11 a.m. and then I got up and took a bath. The effort exhausted me so much I had to get back in bed for a half hour before I could comb my hair and kneel to say my prayer. Donna left a tray of food for me (crackers, peanut butter, applesauce, and a Jello drink) before she left with Dorothy Tibbets for Relief Society in Ottawa. Rex went to work about 5:30 a.m. I felt better after eating my brunch, but I fell asleep while watching the television stories, so I missed a lot of their exciting problems, and that's okay by me. I have some problems of my own today. The sun came out this late afternoon. Our sky had been overcast most of the day. It has been very quiet around our farm today. Donna just came in for my trash papers. She has been planting some little plants; flowers, I think. Her vegetables are up about two inches now; the fields look green and pretty, too. I'm going to get a little exercise now walking around the house. It is 5:15 p.m. Later, Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray. It was a ground beef patty, fried yam, squash, and a delicious, hot bread and fruit pudding with cream on it. Mmm good! Joan telephoned this evening from Naperville. She said that Sherm had a fun visit in Salt Lake City with Uncle John and Aunt Ann. It was his school's spring vacation. Rex decided he wanted to keep the talking machine that Donna ordered for me, so that I could listen to books read, because my eyes won't let me read for long. I wasn't interested in it, sorry.

April 20, Wednesday

Rex and Donna took me to the Western Auto Store in Overbrook this afternoon to look at a reclining chair on sale for \$99.00. It was marked down from \$150. It is a brown and gold plaid in a tweed fabric; it was very comfortable, so I bought it. The cost with tax, was \$102.99. They are going to bring it out on Saturday if it isn't raining. It was raining when we left the house and we had a heavy downpour when we were in the store. It was the first time I have left the house in several weeks. I enjoyed the outing, rain and all. Donna and Rex had a busy evening. Donna had to play for the road show; she went to Jack Story's home in Baldwin City and he took her where she had to go. Rex went on to his meeting in Kansas City. He picked Donna up at Jack's home later. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray this evening before they left. Today's mail brought a nice, long letter from Lydia. I was relieved to learn that the x-rays on her throat showed that there is no tumor or cancer. I'm so happy about that. Lydia's letters are always fun letters to read. Her son Jim



is a counselor in the Sunday School superintendency. She was expecting her daughter Mick that night (April 17). Wendie is graduating from nursing school on Friday. I'm sorry I can't record all of her family news, but I do love to hear about all of her lovely children's activities. I do hope it doesn't rain and spoil the branch road show tonight. Oh, correction, it was just a rehearsal for the road show tonight. The real show will be on next Saturday evening. I get things mixed up, sorry. Rex and Donna came home about 10:50 p.m. Good night. P.S. We enjoyed a chocolate mint ice cream pie, coming home today. Mmm good!

April 21, Thursday

I was blessed with a good night's sleep for which I am thankful indeed. Rex and Donna worked in the yard along the driveway, cleaning out trash and weeds. It started to rain so they came indoors. She brought my brunch about 1 p.m. We have had a gloomy, wet afternoon with a drizzling rain. Rex measured my doorway and a couple of the big chairs I have in here. He is a bit concerned about my reclining chair that is coming on Saturday. Will it be too wide for the hall and doorway? I've been a little concerned about it myself. We'll wait and see, eh? It's been a lazy day around here. It is too wet to work outside and nothing urgent to be done inside, so we relaxed and that is good for Rex and Donna. Me? Oh, I relax every day. You'll understand, I am sure, when you've reached the age of 84. My TV Guide came in today's mail. I wrote a letter to Violet this late afternoon. Tonight, I watched television programs, "The Frank Sinatra Music Special." His guest stars were Tony Bennett, Natalie Cole, John Denver, Loretta Lynn, Dean Martin, Robert Merrill, and Leslie Uggums; it was a nice program. I turned the set off after the ten o'clock news report. This weary, old lady is glad to turn out the lights and go to bed. Goodnight. P.S. I read in the Church News that Sr. Mildred T. Pettit died April 9 at age 81. She had had several strokes. She composed the song, "I Am A Child of God." She was a lovely lady.

I Am A Child of God
Naomi Ward Randall
Mildred Tanner Pettit

1 5
I am a child of God, and he has sent me here, has giv-en me an
6
earth-ly home with pa-rents kind and dear. Lead me, guide me,
10
walk be-side me, Help me find the way. Teach me all that
14
I must do to live with him some-day.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "I Am A Child of God". It features a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, with measure numbers 1, 5, 6, 10, and 14 indicated. The score is enclosed in a pink border.

April 22, Friday

We have an overcast day. I had a good night's rest. Donna brought a scrambled egg, toast, and a hot drink for my brunch at 12:30 noon. Rex went to work early this morning. Donna shampooed my hair and put it up in her curlers after I had eaten brunch. I am fortunate indeed to have such a thoughtful, kind daughter. I enjoyed the TV stories this afternoon while my hair dried. We were surprised to have my reclining chair arrive today instead of tomorrow; so, I'm enjoying it now. It was a problem to get it through the door, into my room, but Rex and the young man who brought it managed to get it in after Rex took the door out of the frame. The rose chair was put in Donna's living room for now. It may go to the basement later. Donna received a letter from Joan; she told about the fun visit Sherm had in Salt Lake City on Easter vacation time, with his Uncle John and Aunt Ann Marsh. I get disgusted with some of the trash shown on television these days. It's a happy relief when Donna comes in and reads to me from some of our church books or papers. Good night and sweet dreams.

April 23, Saturday

We have a hazy sunshine today. Donna left a tray with some food on for me. She also left a note saying that Jeanne Bickerstaff came for her at ten this morning and she would be gone most of the day rehearsing for the road show tonight. So, I'll be alone, but I'm used to that. By the time I got dressed in my slack suit and dressed my hair, I was too exhausted to make my bed and say my prayer until I had rested for a while in my new chair. I had more food than I could eat for my brunch, so I'll eat the rest of it this evening. My eyes water and blur my vision making it very difficult for me to write letters, or to read anything. However, I am blessed to have eye sight as good as it is at my age, and I count my many blessings. Rex came home at 2:40 p.m. He read a letter from Kathy. She told about Pam's baby boy (Pam is Kathy's sister-in-law) he weighed over 8 pounds. He was born the new "nature way" with no pain and no hospital. No kidding? Well, they've come a long way since my babies were born in 1915, eh? I wrote a letter to Lydia and Eugene Paul this afternoon. Donna made a pot of beef stew so we'd have something good to eat this evening, while she is away. Rex heated it up this evening. He went out somewhere. I served myself a little of the stew at 7 p.m.; I enjoyed it. It was a long day for Donna; it was well after midnight before she came home. I had a little night light on so she came in to kiss me goodnight and like a little kid I felt better. It has been a long day for me, too. P.S. We set our clocks ahead an hour tonight, so at 10 pm. I set my clocks to 11 p.m.

April 24, Sunday

We have a pleasant Sabbath day; it is a bit windy, but I'm not out in the "Big Blow." Donna took Rex to work before daylight, so she could have the pickup truck to go to church. She didn't have to use it because Guy and Dorothy took her

with them in their car. Oh, I do mess up my diary page! But I keep right on recording in spite of it. I have to do something to keep my brain occupied Donna was home at 2 p.m. but she had to go for Rex in the truck. He was waiting for her. There is a slow leak in one of the tires; I sure hope it holds up okay. It did, and they are back home now. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold. My letters are all answered and it's a nice feeling. Our visiting branch brothers came this afternoon; Br. Jack Story and Br. Ernest Hall. I went in Marshes' side to visit with them. Later, Donna came in my place and read to me about the exciting life of Charles A. Lindberg, the famous flier. This evening I enjoyed some of Donna's good beef stew. She went to bed before nine o'clock this evening. I was watching television. She was up before daylight; I got up at noontime. I got weary of television, so I played some lovely music on my Magnavox player. I played "Beloved Mormon Hymns" by the Tabernacle Choir. It was a very relaxing, happy way to end the Sabbath Day. Good night.

April 25, Monday

Today is overcast with lots of clouds in the sky. Rex went to his work early this morning so Donna is home without transportation. She brought my brunch on a TV tray at 12:30 noon. I watched the TV soapbox operas while eating. I'm enjoying my new big plaid chair, too. I presume that Donna is doing some cleaning in her part of the house; I think I hear the vacuum. Later, Donna brought a couple of letters to me; one from Blanche H. and one from my cousin, Richard S. Best, from Ogden, Utah. He is writing a history of his mother's life and he wants me to give him some information on her early life. I was just a child when **Aunt Ettie** [*she is a younger sister of Elvie's mother, Mary*] and Uncle Ed Best were married so I can't know very much about her early life, but I'll do the best I can. Aunt Ettie asked me to compose a poem of the memories I had of her parents and their old home and the children. I also composed a poem of Aunt Ettie's visit to California. I can send that to Richard Best, that is the best I can do. I watched television until time to go to bed. A weary, old great grandmother says, goodnight.

April 26, Tuesday

Another pleasant day, with hazy sunshine. Rex worked around the farm today. Dorothy and Donna went to Relief Society. She left me some food on a TV tray. I had television on while I ate brunch and then I spent a couple of hours looking through my 1939 diary to see if I could find when Aunt Ettie Best came to visit us in California. No luck so far. I have a bad time trying to read because my tear ducts blur my vision and it is a strain on my poor nerves, it is a revolting situation, eh? I went to bed to try and relax about 4:30 p.m. I fell asleep until almost 7 p.m. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray, fish sticks, potatoes, and mixed vegetables and chocolate ice cream for dessert, nice, eh? Rex and Donna planted some more vegetable seeds in their garden this afternoon. Well, I'm glad someone can work



Young Ettie Strong



Excerpt from Richard Best's book about his Mother Ettie Strong Best

Mother, loved by all her fellow men and especially by her family, was very generous and gave of herself to her children and friends. Mother always looked on the bright side of life and would say, "Every cloud must have a silver lining." Life was not a bed of roses for her at time, but the knowledge of the gospel gave her courage to go on.

Her children were always clean and well kept and the home was orderly and clean. How well I remember my assignments of scrubbing the wood floors and helping with the dishes as well as tending my younger brothers and sisters.

We were taught to work with our hands as well as our minds. We made valentines of white paper and pasted on cut-out decorations under mother's supervision and direction.

The beautiful sunsets as seen from the west kitchen window were viewed and mother could tell us what she could see and then have us use our imaginations to tell her what we could see. This was fun and to this day I can view the clouds and see things and shapes in them.

Father always had chickens, a cow, and a garden to provide mother with food for the large family as it grew from one to eleven children. Our food was always well prepared, and I can now taste some of her delicious dishes. God bless my dear Mother.

Nothing was wasted in our home. Mother would trade eggs for hamburger, sending one of the children to make the exchange at the city store. At times father was out of work and pickings were pretty thin and the family's income was limited, but we never went hungry. At times like these we had mother's delicious bread, milk, and fruit which mother put up by the hundreds of quarts. Father helped mother peel and cook the fruit for bottling.

With a large family it seemed that we caught most of the common childhood diseases and at one time we were quarantined twice during the year. That following year I had to repeat the seventh grade in school. Sickness was a real trial for mother along with her household duties. During the time I had typhoid fever, mother was my loving nurse and I am sure I was a cause for worry as I nearly died at this time.

Once a neighboring sister had a baby that she could not give the required nursing, so mother would walk about a mile and nurse the child twice a day for his survival. This again showed her love for her fellow men. The baby's mother was in poor health at this time.

At one time father brought home two pointer pups. During the night they broke out of their pen and riddled mother's clothes line, tearing sheets to threads along with other clothes. Mother had made two large, stuffed dolls for the children and the stuffing was strewn all over the yard. Mother cried and I felt so sorry for her that I could have cried myself.

We had not means of transportation but by "shanks ponies." The distance to church was two miles to and from, or a total of four miles. If we attended Sunday School and sacrament meeting it was eight miles. Many fine talks were a part of our walks and we had a choice association with brothers, sisters, and parents. We shared what we had and were a blessed family even if we were not flush with the worldly goods. We were taught to be honest, loving and industrious and to be on our own.

Sour pickles and cottage cheese were one of our homemade items of food which Mother always prepared for us. Joseph haunted the sour pickle barrel before they were completely cured. Churning butter was also a part of our family life. This was sometimes a laborious task when the cream would not form into butter. The sweet taste of homemade butter is something to talk about.

Mother sang in the Tenth Ward choir for several years. Some of her best loved songs were, "O My Father" and "The Last Rose of Summer."

In later years, mother sold Christmas cards. She did this so she could make a little money to buy presents for her children and grandchildren. She had to walk miles to do this because she had no transportation. She enjoyed it, however, because of her association with others. Mother's legs gave her trouble during her life, but this did not stop her from going strong to her last days on this earth. Many times she would go without things for herself so that she could provide for her family.

The flower garden was always a part of mother's life and she enjoyed working in the evenings when it was cool. She had a beautiful rose garden and each rose bush was started from a slip that she put under a bottle jar and gave it tender care to get it started.

Mother made many trips to Salt Lake to visit her sister, Julia Paul, and to do temple work for her kindred dead. This gave her a change and a rest from her duties, especially when her health became poor. My Aunt Julia was a very generous person in helping others out when help was needed. My Uncle Joseph was a fine man and we loved him, also.

In later years the old home on the east bench in Springville was sold and a new home was built closer to town. Father, Ted, and Uncle Henry built the home. My parents lived here until they passed away.

This information was taken from a book of "Genealogy, Histories and Pictures of RICHARD STRONG BEST Family Lines" compiled by BETTY BROWN BEST ALLRED (daughter of RICHARD).

This story was found on Family Search.

around here. Donna and I spent an hour or more tonight looking through my diaries. I was looking in 1937 and Donna looked in 1940. I found what we were searching for in my 1937 diary, October 19, when Aunt Ettie Best came to visit us in California. So, we'll have something to write about when we answer Richard Best's letter.

April 27, Wednesday

Donna was disappointed this morning when she went to the dentist to have the gold crown put on her tooth. She has to go back next Friday because her gold crown wasn't there as expected. That's too bad. We have a lovely spring day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna made hot cakes for my brunch and some Postum; I had a sliced banana, too. I watched the TV stories while eating. The only mail I received today was my TV Guide. Donna and Rex worked in the field south of the house mending the fence to keep the horse corralled. I think they call him Yankee. The black cow, Princess, stays in the corral very well, but the horse is always finding a way out and he is not welcome in Dorothy Tibbets's precious flower garden or the Marshes' vegetable garden, no way! This has been such a long afternoon for

me. I wish I could get out and work in the garden or the house, but I feel too weak to walk around in the house, it's a revolting situation. I went to the Marshes' side to eat and watch TV. Later, Donna came in my place and read to me from the Reader's Digest Condensed book. We retired soon after ten o'clock tonight. Good night.

April 28, Thursday

We have another hazy sunshine day, but it is pleasant with no strong wind. Donna brought a sandwich (one quarter sandwich) with tuna, and another quarter sandwich with peanut butter, and some Postum and a sliced banana for my brunch. I watched my TV stories while eating. Donna typed my poems "Aunt Ettie's Visit" and "Memories" to send to Richard Best. She is working on answering his letter for me. He wants some information about his mother's family history; it is too much for me now. I was only a child when Aunt Ettie got married to Edgar Best, so I can't recall just where their first little cottage was and etcetera. Aunt Ettie came to visit us in California, on October 19, 1937. She asked me to compose a poem about my memories of her parents' home, when I was a child. So, I did it for her. I also composed the one about her visit to California. We'll send them to Richard Best. Donna didn't get very far with her letter to Richard; Rex came home and wanted her with him plowing up the fields south west of home. He's bound to make a farmer out of her, too. Rex Gilliland is disking part of Rex's property today; he will plant soybeans in it later. Rex Gilliland and Guy Tibbets helped Rex M. load his horse, Yankee, in the horse trailer to take him to the auction this evening. Donna came home worn out after seeing the dreadful struggle they were having to get the horse into the trailer. Donna finished her letter to Richard Best and she read it to me, bless her dear heart. Good night.

April 29, Friday

I'm thankful for a good night's sleep, a blessing indeed. It was warm last night, I had to take off a blanket. It's warm today, but it is overcast with a bit of hazy sunshine. I think Rex went to work early this morning. Donna brought my brunch at 12:30 noon. I watched the TV stories while eating. Rex came home soon after 2 p.m.; he brought the \$5.00 he borrowed from me yesterday. I told him to keep it for food, but he wouldn't. Donna watered her vegetable garden this morning. This afternoon she went to the dentist for her gold crown. (It looks like the "gold" has gone to her head. ☺) Mary phoned this morning; she is expecting a visit from Janet and Dave. They may all visit us here, also. It will be nice to see them again. I watched Guy and Dorothy Tibbets work in their flower garden today. I will enjoy their pretty flowers, too. Our fields are a pretty green now and the green leaves are coming on the trees. I love that, also. I got a birthday card ready to mail to Sherman Gardner; he'll be 17 years old on May 5. Donna bought several birthday cards today. We have five grandchildren in May with birthdays. I wrote a letter to Blanche Hoglund this evening. Donna came in my place tonight and



"Aunt Ettie's Visit"

We often think of you, dear Aunt Ettie,
And your trip to the Golden West,
How you came out here for a visit
And to have a needed rest.



We recall your delicious puddings,
And apple dumplings, too,
But a smile, we can not suppress
When we think of rest, and you.

Remember the big stores on Broadway,
Strolling in and out with Sue?
Riding up and down the escalators,
Enjoying a new thrill or two?

Then gliding along on the highways
In Lorene and Charlie's car,
And stopping to purchase walnuts
With nothing your joy to mar.

One fine afternoon to the beach we went,
Annie's Beverly drove us there.
You gazed with awe, the ocean cast a spell,
It wasn't long, and your feet were bare.

You were wading along the old ocean shore
Just as if it had been your habit.
Another time, Rex drove us out to the beach
And we enjoyed a lunch of fried rabbit.

Do you recall a desire, an orange to pluck,
Where the golden fruit hung from the tree?
How Lou parked his car there by the grove,
"Here's your chance, take it quick," said he.

Approaching the tree with pounding heart
You pulled at the first one in sight
With the coveted orange held tight in your hand
We again sped along in the night.

The man in the moon upon us shed his light
And the orange could clearly be seen
To our amazement and mirth, we found,
The prize you held was still green.

It seems the old "hoo-doo" was following us,
For at dinner that night I recall
Chicken was served, and in this old bird,
Our teeth couldn't penetrate at all.

Remember the beautiful ferns in the dale,
Where the wild strawberries grew?
You tasted the berries just for fun,
Beverly and Elaine were with you, too.

Little Ann used to call you "Aunt Betty"
When you left she missed you so,
Baby Janet loved your hop, hop, song,
We all hated to have you go.

It seemed that Mother was nearer,
While you visited with us here,
It was the same when Aunt Julia came,
You're both to us, very dear.

We'll always remember your visit,
Enjoyed every minute of your stay.
We're hoping for a message saying,
You'll come again some day.

*This is the poem that Elvie wrote for Ettie
in 1937. In 1977 Donna typed it and mailed it to
Ettie's son Richard Best.*

read from the Reader's Digest Condensed Book again. She finished the cute story she started on Wednesday night. Rex went to bed about 8:30 p.m., Donna went to bed about 9 p.m. I stayed up for the ten o'clock news report.

April 30, Saturday

"April Showers" last night and today, to bring forth the "May Flowers." I enjoyed the nice lunch that Donna brought to me about one o'clock. She put two lovely recordings on my Magnavox player. She came in and listened with me; she had some Postum and a banana. We had happy memories of little Spencer; he loved to sing and dance to these records; he is such a cutie. Oh oh, the three-way globe in my stand light just blew out. I'll have to find a new globe for the lamp. I need more light to write in my diary on a gloomy day like this is. Donna put a 100-watt globe in the lamp until I can buy the three way when someone goes into town. The sun broke through the clouds this afternoon and it isn't raining, so we may have a pretty May Day tomorrow. Rex and Donna drove to the south field to check on their cow and found out she had a lively little bull calf running around after his mother and having a wonderful time. He must have been born in the rain last night or this morning. It's amazing! He is all black like his mother, Princess. I think that is what they call her. This evening Rex and Donna went to the high priest's dinner. I think she said it was in Overland Park, Kansas, or some such name. She looked very pretty in my formal, long dress and mink cape. She brought a dinner tray to me before they left. It was more food than I could eat. Later Donna came in to say good night. She said they had a lovely dinner and a nice time, it was 10:30. P.S. Ralph Gale's cows broke out of their pasture and came to our farm tonight about seven of them. Guy phoned Ralph and he came for them before any damage was done to the gardens here.

May 1, Sunday

Happy May Day.

*A little thoughtfulness goes a long, long way.
I wish everyone happiness, this lovely May day!*

Rex starts his two weeks' vacation today. I'm glad he could take Donna to church this morning. Oh, I do wish they were free to go and come at will without concern about me! Donna won't leave me here alone for long, and I'm not well enough to travel all over with them. It's a sad situation, but we are stuck with it, eh? Our visiting branch brethren came this late afternoon, Br. Ernest Hall and Br. Jack Story, who brought his little daughter Melissa S. I went in Marshes' side to visit with them. Melissa enjoyed pounding on the piano, so they didn't stay long. However, Melissa gave Donna and me a pretty, white iris flower. She took one to Dorothy, also. Donna brought a nice dinner to me about 6:30 p.m. I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player. Donna enjoyed some of them with me. Later tonight, we watched

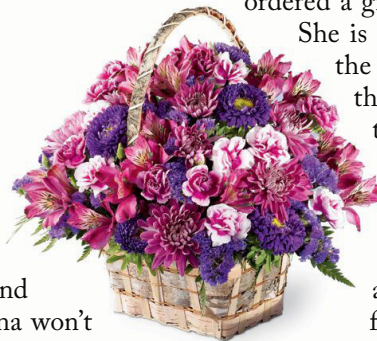
television. It was the "Upstairs, Downstairs" cast trying to raise money for public television who operate without paid sponsors. That would be nice, but I didn't rush to the phone to pledge my check. Good night.

May 2, Monday

Guy and Dorothy T. went with Rex and Donna this afternoon in Marshes' pick-up truck. Donna went to the bank to take care of my account; she made the house payment of \$187.00 and cashed a \$53.00 check. My checking balance is \$66.60. She brought \$40.00 cash to me. Dorothy bought some flower plants for her garden and Donna and Rex bought some vegetable plants for their garden. Donna brought me a little dish of M&M chocolate covered peanuts. I surely enjoyed them for a change. Donna says it is nice and warm outside. I walked around in the house for my exercise. We haven't a rail on our back-porch steps, and there are no cement walks in our yard, so I can't walk around outside on that uneven ground, with ruts of dried mud and etcetera. I watched them plant their little plants from my north window. Tonight, John L. phoned from Salt Lake City. He is investigating a job in California. He will make more money if he takes it. Time will tell, eh? I'm going to turn out the lights and go to bed. It is 10:30 p.m. A weary mom says good night. P.S. Donna washed her kitchen rug tonight; it looks so bright and new. It is blue with colored flowers in it.

May 3, Tuesday

Happy birthday, Elaine Vandergrift. We have hazy sunshine today. Donna left a tray with food on for my brunch before she went to her Relief Society this morning. She came home about 2:30 p.m. I went out to see her pretty blue flowered rug after she had cleaned it and to see her new blue, round tablecloth, with the wide lace on the edge. She ordered a green tablecloth, but they sent a blue cloth. She is glad they did now, it looks so pretty with the blue rug. I went with Rex and Donna in the pickup truck this afternoon to Overbrook town. They mailed some letters and bought a book of stamps at the post office. They bought a few items at the drug store. Rex did the leg work; we stayed in the car. He bought something at the market and then he bought several sacks of cement for the stucco work on their home. He did some stuccoing this morning before we went to Overbrook. It was hot today, 80 degrees outside. I was glad to get in the cool house. I forgot to say that they took the rug cleaning machine back to the store today. That was the main reason for going to town. Tonight, Donna came in my place and read the last half of Alvin Dyer's writings to the missionaries (why they are sent on their missions and what they should know). It was indeed good advice, I enjoyed it so very much. Good night. P.S. I gave Donna \$20.00 to help with our food supply. The inflation on food is something awful!



May 4, Wednesday

We have some cloudy and windy weather today, in fact, there has been a warning on our television as to some tornado activity in our location, in parts of Missouri and Kansas. But, thank goodness, the "Big Blow" did not come to Overbrook, Kansas. We had a heavy downpour early this morning and some rain until about noon, so Rex couldn't do much stuccoing on his house. The sun was shining brightly this afternoon. This inflation of food is really startling. Today's mail brought a little thank you note from my sweet, little great granddaughter Janet Gardner thanking me for the birthday card and money. She sent one to her grandparents, the Marshes, also. My TV Guide came today, too. Donna put a couple of nice records on my Magnavox player and I enjoyed listening to them while I reclined in my big chair. Rex and Donna brought my rose platform rocker in my place and they took my big swivel chair out of here into their living room. Now they have my two big chairs that match each other in their place and they look much better together. Donna is expecting Janet and Dave and Mary and children this weekend. I watched television on Marshes' TV tonight and I ate a sandwich and salad there, also. Our weather is calm tonight, no wind or lightening and thunder. I went to bed about 10:30 p.m. Good night.

May 5, Thursday

Happy birthday Sherman Gardner, 17 years old.

*Hooray! You're 17 years old today,
And I wish you a very happy
birthday.*

We have a busy household today. Rex is stuccoing the house and it is a big job without any help. Donna watered their vegetable garden and cleaned up the yard a little; then she went to Overbrook town to shop for groceries. Dorothy and Guy went out in their car somewhere. I gave myself a bath before I got dressed this morning. I was too exhausted to dress my hair until I had rested in my big chair for a while. Today's mail brought a lovely card from Bonnie and Darrell. It says, "We're thinking of you, have a happy Mother's Day." Donna brought me a cold drink of 7Up when she came home for shopping. She said it is very warm outside. The cat and her five kittens are still up in the eaves of our house. I heard a kitten meowing in the night last night. Rex wants them out of that wide hangover on this house, but how to get them out, is the problem. Donna gave my rooms a good cleaning this afternoon. She had me relax in my reclining chair, with my feet up, while she vacuumed the rugs. Tonight, we have more storm warnings of tornadoes and electrical storms with huge hail stones. I

hope it doesn't come our way. I miss California and Utah, my beloved old homes. Night all.

May 6, Friday

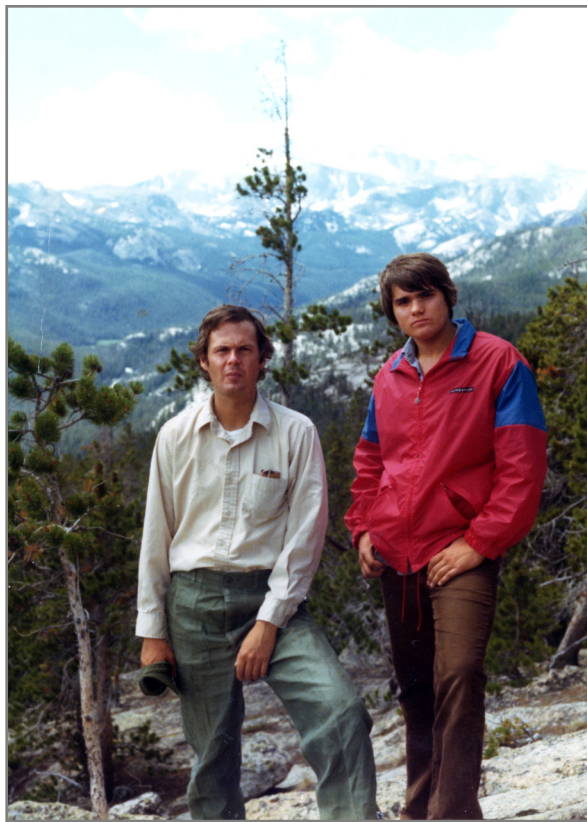
I'm very thankful for a good night's rest. I was eating my brunch when Mary's VW bus drove in our driveway about noontime. Janet and David were with them. We had some exciting and happy greetings. Donna had lunch ready for them. I sat in the kitchen and enjoyed listening to and looking at, their beautiful, happy faces. Later the little boys came in my place and spent an hour or so playing with my battery charged toy lion, and the basket of greeting cards. Bruce Hackett came to hear more about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so David, Janet, and Rex had a missionary meeting. Dave gave the first lesson to Bruce. Donna had the baby and Julie with her in the basement. Mary was in the meeting, also. Mary's children were delighted with the five baby kittens; The mama cat was not too happy with the children's visit, however. Spencer gave my swivel chair a workout around and around. I went to Marshes' side to visit with the family this evening. I ate dinner with them. Donna cooked a lovely roast beef meal. It was fun being with my beloved children again. Mary and children will leave early in the morning for "Home Sweet Home,"

in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Janet and Dave will stay a day or two longer and then fly home to San Jose, California. David's ankle has pained him a lot today. His foot is in a plaster cast. He sprained it in a roller-skating accident several days ago. Julie slept in my extra twin bed.

May 7, Saturday

Mary came in my bedroom before it was daylight this morning to get Julie up so they could get an early start for home. Donna made some roast beef sandwiches for them to eat on the way. They didn't stop for breakfast here. Rex and Donna took Dave and Janet for a drive in our countryside this morning in Rex's pickup truck. That is the only transportation we have now until the VW is fixed. Jon T. is working on it. Rex took Janet and Dave over to see Bruce Hackett's new home. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray, a roast beef sandwich,

Postum, and applesauce and cake. Later, I went to Donna's side and visited with them while they ate lunch. I took my little picture album to show Janet some cute pictures of her mother when she was a baby a year old. We sat on the couch and looked at the pictures. Donna was busy in her kitchen doing dishes and preparing food. Janet did her washing this afternoon in the basement. Mary phoned about ten o'clock to say they were home safe and sound this morning. All is



Uncle Sherman Gardner and Sherm Gardner summer 1977.

well. Janet brought the little, white kitten in this evening. It is so cute, a fluffy little snow ball. I think Janet would like to take it home with her, but it is too young to leave the mother cat now. We enjoyed TV in the Marshes' side, Lawrence Welk, Mary Tyler Moore, and Carol Burnett.

May 8, Sunday

Today is Mother's Day. Janet and Dave went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting with Rex and Donna in the pickup truck. I found a lovely Mother's Day gift on the TV tray this morning. It was a lovely Mother's Day booklet, a box of Russell Stover's Green mint squares, with jelled centers, and three packages of pretty "Send a Note" stationery from Donna and Rex. Donna brought me a bouquet of five big, beautiful carnations from the Sunday School for a Mother's Day gift. There was a mix-up about Dave and Janet's airplane tickets; he was on the phone for some time trying to get it straightened out. Donna had a delicious dinner about 2 p.m. (potato salad, baked ham, etcetera). Janet decided to take the little, **white kitten** with her on the plane if they'll let her. Rex took Dave and Janet to Topeka to their airport. They left here about 3:45 p.m. Mary and Janet gave Donna a \$25.00 check for Mother's Day. John phoned from Salt Lake City. Joan wrote to say there is a package in the mail for Donna and Grama L.V. It has been a very happy Mother's Day here for us. Rex and Donna's children sent \$25.00 a piece to help pay for the repair job on the VW car; Jon Tibbets is doing the work. Rex came home about 6:30 p.m. He said Janet paid \$30.00 for a plane ticket for the little, white kitten's flight with them to San Jose, California. Isn't that something? Well, she wanted it. Kathy phoned about 6:35 this evening, so Rex told her Janet is on her way home (of course Dave, too). We surely enjoyed their visit here with us. They are a beautiful couple; we love them and their children. Good night.

May 9, Monday

It is a pleasant spring day. Donna brought my brunch to me on a TV tray before she and Rex drove to Overbrook to do some shopping. We are getting ready for our trip to Joan and Mo's home in Naperville, Illinois. Rex wants to leave before daylight in the morning. Today's mail brought a package for Donna and one for me, for Mother's Day gifts from Joan and Mo. Mine is a beautiful, blue traveling robe with pretty flowers in it. Donna put the hem up for me. (I love it.) Donna's gift is a lovely, bone colored handbag; oh, it is pretty. We got lovely greeting cards from Mark and Kathy, too, also from Joan and Miller. I'm so thankful for my darling grandchildren. They are all kind and thoughtful to us and to each other. I tried on several slack suits this afternoon; some of Donna's and some my own. What to wear on the trip? Donna has put on too much weight to wear her dark suits

now. Problems, eh? I watched America's Junior Miss Pageant on television. Michael Landon was the host. Miss Arkansas, USA won. I'm sorry I didn't get her name with all the joyful shouting going on. Good night.

May 10, Tuesday

We left the farm at 6:30 this morning and drove for three hours through beautiful, green country. We stopped at a nice, little rest place near Pattonsburg, Missouri, for breakfast which Donna brought from home. Oh, it was cold here; the wind was darn cold. I was bundled up in blankets and a shawl. We stopped for gasoline in Iowa, 12.9 gallons, \$12.10. at 11 a.m. We stopped for the restroom at 12:15 noon. Later we stopped for gasoline and paid \$7.25 for 12.8 gallons. We stopped for lunch about 2:35. We had a nice lunch in the sunshine in a pleasant area in Iowa. We stopped for gas in ___? *[Elvie's writing is illegible here and then Donna finished writing the rest of today for her.]* We crossed the wide Mississippi River and enjoyed the beautiful, little town of Port Byron. We rode for miles on a new toll road. We arrived at Joan's about 6:30 p.m. She had just arrived home with sacks and sacks of groceries, \$80.00 worth. She prepared a good dinner and then had to run to school for Marshall's program. Donna fed me and the kids at home. Miller got home from Texas in time to go to the program with Joan. Rex started on the patio and he and Sherm worked until dark and then had supper. Joan has a beautiful home. We sat around the kitchen table talking until about 11 p.m. Sherm's girlfriend Dina was here for dinner. She is a pretty little girl. Joan had a bed in her little den prepared for me on the bottom floor next to a bathroom. I feel a little sore in my throat. Oh oh, I've got to stay well.

May 11, Wednesday

I stayed in bed all day today, because my throat was sore; it felt much better by evening. We had a busy household around here. Marshall stayed home from school to help Grampa Rex dig out the patio space. Joan was digging and Sherm, too. This afternoon Joan went to Primary. Donna spent most of her day in the kitchen feeding the kids and doing their dishes. I'm thankful for a good bed. I really needed this day's rest, believe me. My family have had an active day working, laughing, and talking. I miss out on a lot eh? Joan's home is very lovely. Good night all. P.S. Happy Birthday to Mark David Shattuck, 21 years old (still on his mission in Argentina.)

May 12, Thursday

The cement mixer came this morning and poured the cement in the patio. Rex is working on it now. I got up and put on a robe and slippers and combed my hair and came to the table to eat breakfast (scrambled egg, toast, and hot



milk). Joan's visiting teachers from Relief Society came while I was eating. Later Joan and Donna went shopping for a slacks top for Donna, they took Emily and Paula with them. Rex worked most of the day on the patio finish job. I put on clean underwear and my slack suit ready to go see Chicago. Sherm and his boyfriend came and fixed some lunch for themselves. Donna bought a pretty, light slacks top with flowers in it, and also some very pretty material to make a top for herself. This evening Rex drove Mo's Oldsmobile car to Chicago. The three of us went and it was a beautiful drive to Lake Michigan and I enjoyed the lovely drive along the lake. It was so beautiful this lovely evening. We saw the city lights when we came home. It was fun driving in Gardners' lovely car, too. We had an ice cream treat on our way home. We had a nice visit with Joan and the children tonight. We'll be on our way back to Kansas tomorrow. Goodnight.

May 13, Friday

We had breakfast in Joan's home. Donna made French toast for the children, Rex, and herself. I ate some dry cereal. Joan drove the children to school. We left for our trip home about 9 a.m. We ate lunch in Madison, Wisconsin, at noon. We had a hot dog and a chocolate malt. We stopped for a cold drink in Mt. Horeb and then on to Ames, Iowa. This is very pretty country with lots of green fields with wheat or corn growing and has lovely trees. It seems strange to me to not see any mountains at all. I was born and raised in Salt Lake City where we had the beautiful mountains all around our valley home. I'm very thankful that I could make this vacation trip and see the lovely cities we've been in from Kansas to Illinois and back, it is a wonderful trip for this 84½ year old gal. However, I got so tired and worn out at the long, hot, bumpy ride in the old pick up truck. I wondered if I'd make it, but so far so good.

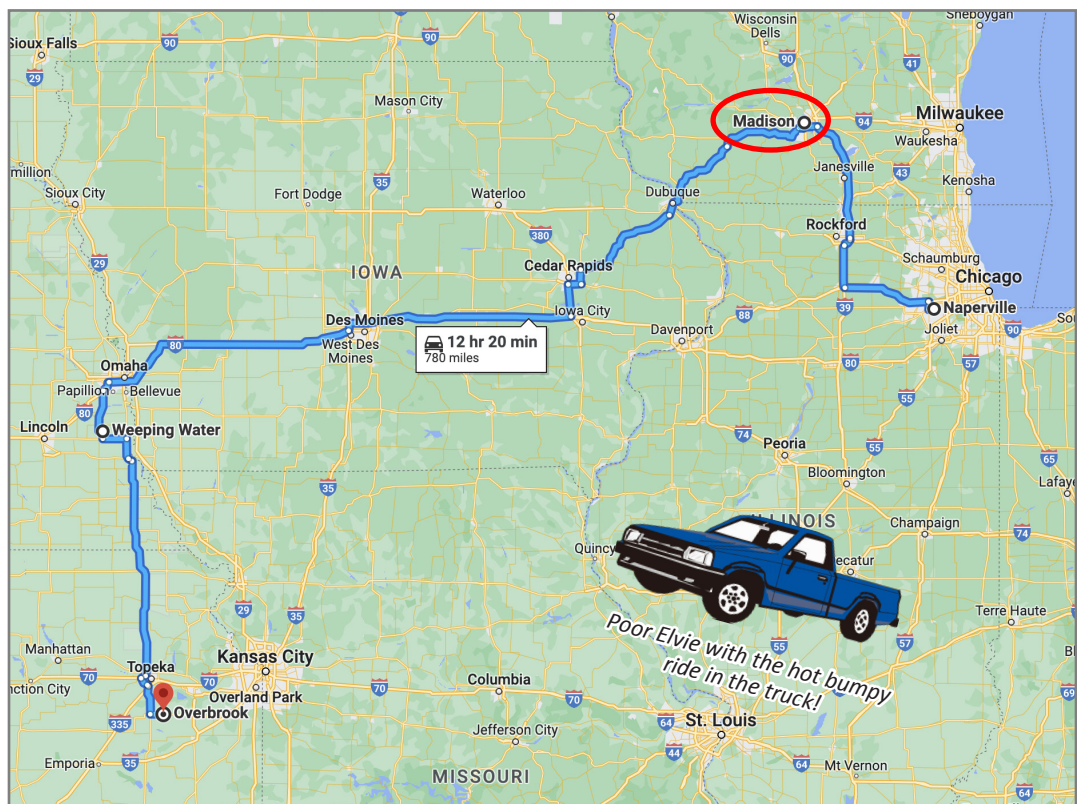
May 14, Saturday

We had a good night's rest in the Ames Motor Lodge, the cost was \$16.48. We left the motel about 6:30 this morning and drove about 3 hours before stopping for breakfast. Rex and Donna bought food at Al's Super Market along the way to Omaha. I wanted to buy the food, but they wouldn't let me. We arrived at Mary and Jon's home in Weeping Water, Nebraska. The children were delighted to see us and Jon gave us a warm welcome. Mary wasn't home, she and friend Betty had gone to a Primary leadership

meeting somewhere. I rested for an hour or so on Julie's bed. It was about noontime when we got there. Mary came home about 2 p.m. Donna fed baby Brian and Jon put him in his bed and Rex took the babysitter home. Mary wanted to cook dinner for us, but we were anxious to be on our way home. She did give us a good ham sandwich, some salad and milk. We made a few stops for gas and refreshments along the way. It was a long, hot ride from Weeping Water, Nebraska to Overbrook, Kansas. Oh, it felt good to come in our nice, cool, clean house. I went to bed for an hour and then I got up and ate a snack that Donna fixed for me. "There's no place like home." I had a lot of mail including a letter from Blanche H., one from Lillian K., one from Violet F., my bank statement, and a package from John and Ann. It was pretty, crocheted hot plate mats. Goodnight.

May 15, Sunday

I found a lot of mail waiting for me when I got home, but I'm too weary to answer it now. Donna and Rex went to Sunday School; I stayed in bed until after 2 p.m. Dorothy T. came to tell me that Rex phoned to say Donna had some Relief Society business to take care of and they'd be late getting home. There was some chicken cooked in the oven and for me to eat some of it and some other food in the refrigerator. I fixed myself something about 3 p.m. and brought it in my room on a TV tray. I was just finishing my eating when they got home about 4 p.m. I am feeling better, but weak from the long drive home yesterday. The swelling has gone down in my ankles; I'll be alright after I've rested a few days. This afternoon Donna took a nap on my extra twin bed and I stretched out on my bed for a couple of hours. I got up at 7:45 p.m. Donna brought a nice, little snack on a TV tray at

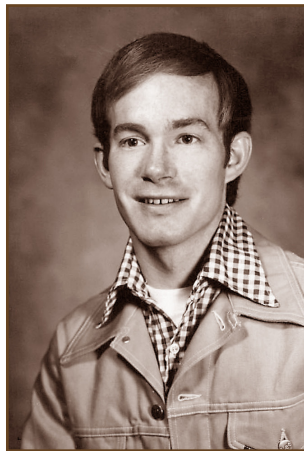


Map showing travel times for 2023. Not sure why they drove north to Madison (circled in red) because it seems out of the way in the drive to Omaha.

8 p.m. I wasn't expecting to eat again today, but when it is placed before me and looks so inviting, I can't resist. Bless my darling Donna. I went to bed soon after the ten o'clock news, a tired, old lady. Good night.

May 16 Monday

We had some activity last night with lightning and thunder and rain. However, I slept fairly well. I got up at 10:30 a.m. I thought I would address some birthday cards and answer a letter or two, but it was a miserable day with electrical storms. I felt weak and nervous. It takes me a long time to get rested up after a long trip in the pickup truck. Donna brought a scrambled egg and toast for my brunch. I listened to the TV stories while eating. I have five great grand children's birthdays in May, so I got some ready to mail with the \$1.00 in and gum enclosed. I got three done, Doug Shattuck, Joel Tibbets, and Spencer Tibbets. I felt the need to go back to bed until Donna came to tell me dinner was ready at 7 p.m. I stayed in the Marshes' side and watched some television programs with Donna. Rex had the fights going on my TV. I can do without them very well. We had a fantastic cloud formation this evening. Rex, Donna, and myself were fascinated with its beauty. There is a storm headed for somewhere? Donna came in my place and read the Relief Society lesson for tomorrow. I appreciate hearing the lovely lesson. Tonight, we had our home evening in my place. Rex and Donna both took turns reading from the Book of Mormon. We enjoyed television later. Good night.



Brad Haddock in 1975.

May 17, Tuesday

Donna got up early and took Rex to work so she could have the pickup truck to go to Relief Society. We had some rain in the night so Dorothy wouldn't drive her car on the muddy country roads (too nervous). I made out the check for my church donation, \$12.00, and I answered Blanche Hogle's letter. I felt weak, so I went to bed for a couple of hours this afternoon. I felt better this evening and I watched television while eating the nice dinner Donna brought to me about 6:30 p.m. I surely hope to feel well enough tomorrow to answer Violet's and Lillian K.'s letters. My chest pain and shoulder blades hurt me too much for me to write anymore today. Donna said they had a nice Relief Society meeting this morning. I miss my church meetings, but I'm thankful my family will go to church and help build up the Kingdom of God here on earth. Good night.



May 18, Wednesday

We have a pleasant day with sunshine and it is not windy. Donna says it is hot outside this afternoon, but it is nice and cool in my house. I slept fairly well last night and I can't understand why I feel so weak and strange today. I

couldn't answer Violet's and Lillian's letters as planned, sorry about that. I had to go back to bed for an hour or so. Our neighbor Rex Gilliland is planting soy beans in the Rex Marsh field west of the house. I got up and watched television this evening while eating my dinner. I feel better, but weak. Rex is out on his tractor somewhere, watching Rex Gilliland I presume. Donna and I watched television for a while tonight. We watched "Charlie's Angels." I went to bed soon after nine o'clock. We had a few drops of rain this evening and a promise of more. Donna had a fried fish on my tray this evening. It looked like a trout. I ate half of it, 'twas good. Good night from a weary, old gal.

May 19, Thursday

I got up about 10 a.m. We have a cloudy day, with a few showers, lightning and thunder. I wrote a letter to Violet and Otto. Donna phoned my prescription for heart tablets to Topping Drug Store, and Rex picked them up after work. I gave him the \$5.00 last night. They cost \$3.61. Today's mail brought me a nice, long letter from **Brad Haddock**. He is in Salt Lake City going to the U of U. He is a fine young man. It was nice to hear about his family and their activities and his school and etcetera. I hope I'll feel well enough to answer it soon. The sun got through to us a few times between showers. One letter a day is about all I can manage because of the hurt in my chest and shoulder blades when I write. I do the best I can. I stretched out on my bed for a couple of hours this afternoon. Donna brought my dinner at six o'clock so I got up to eat. We had a severe electrical storm about 7:30 this evening,

so we turned off the television. It is raining hard now at 7:40 p.m. My lamp has flickered a few times, I sure hope the electricity doesn't go off. **Oh, this Kansas country has the violent weather.** I try to keep my cool. ☺ I took my flashlight and went to Marshes' living room to watch the electric display that Mother Nature was putting on. We sat in the dark room and enjoyed it.

Well, Rex loved it. I like the more gentle storms that Kansas doesn't know how to produce. ☺

May 20, Friday

We had some rain last night. I had a good night's rest. We have a pleasant morning. I got up at 10:30 a.m. Donna brought some Cream of Wheat cereal, toast, and applesauce for my brunch at noon. Rex is doing a little wiring job for Bruce Hackett this morning. Donna has had a busy morning, as usual. I could hear the vacuum going. My eyes water and blur my vision, so it is difficult for me to read or write for long. It is a revolting situation! I watched the TV stories. Donna went with Rex this afternoon for a drive somewhere, I don't know where. We have a hazy day with clouds and sunshine. I answered Lillian Keller's letter this afternoon. Donna brought a nice dinner to me about

6:30 p.m. (fried fish). She listened to television with me until almost 10:00 p.m. Rex went to bed before nine o'clock. I shut the TV set off after the ten o'clock news. The weather reports more rain for us tonight. Good night.

May 21, Saturday

Rex took Donna to her leadership meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, this morning. She left me a TV tray with some food on (dry cereal, fruit, milk, Postum, and toast, also some graham crackers, and Chicken Flavored Biscuits which I didn't open). We had some rain last night and it is cloudy and windy this morning. It looks like more storm is headed our way. One never knows what to expect in this country. Oh, I miss California's gentle weather. Mother Nature seems mad at the whole world most of the time here. But, I'm getting used to it. I took a nap on my bed this afternoon. It was a lonesome Grama L.V. I was glad when Donna and Rex came home this evening. John L. phoned from Salt lake City; he is going to Southern California to investigate a job. He thinks they may move to California. John talked to Janet S. via phone; she says the baby kitten has a happy home there with them. One of her little dogs is mothering the baby kitten and all is well. Mary phoned; little Brian has been quite ill with the **chicken pox**, but he is feeling better now. I received a nice letter from Lydia Paul. It was fun reading as always. She is a busy little person. Her daughter-in-law, Andrea, and she were on a committee to serve a Relief Society luncheon, in fact, they were in charge of the whole thing. She sent Donna a recipe for an egg soufflé. Donna was happy to have it. Lydia isn't feeling very well. I wish she would slow down a little, but she won't. I'm weary, good night.

May 22, Sunday

I think Donna took Rex to work this morning early so she could have the truck to drive to church. I'll be glad when they have their little VW car back. Jon T. is working on it. The transportation on this farm is bad. We had some rain last night. Donna has charge of the music department in church, while Annie Hall and husband are in California visiting their son and wife. Donna left a tray of food for me as she'd be late getting home. She'll pick Rex up after his work at



Kathy and Mark 1977

2 p.m. I think. We've had some rain with lightning and thunder this afternoon. I saw the Guy Tibbetses drive away about ten o'clock, going to church, I presume. It's real quiet around this farm today. I put a couple of records on the Magnavox player and enjoyed the lovely Mormon Hymns; that is my way of bringing the Sabbath day into my home. It is my church at home. Donna came in and enjoyed the music while she ate her lunch about three o'clock. She read to me from the Reader's Digest, an interesting article about the life of a beaver; how he builds his dams and etcetera.

May 23, Monday

We have an overcast morning. Donna brought a tray of food to me this noontime. Later, Donna and Dorothy went out to do their visiting teaching. I took the blankets off my bed this morning. I got so tired of making the bed with them on every morning when I do not need them now. It is much easier to make my bed without the two big blankets on. Of course, they are very welcome when we have cold weather. I watched the TV stories and relaxed in my big chair. The sunshine came out brightly this afternoon and it was warm outside, I'm sure. But, I keep my cool in the house. I took a nap this afternoon on my bed. Donna came home about 4:15; she brought a letter from Ethel Newbold to me and she read it to me. Poor Ethel isn't feeling at all well; she's even worse off than I am. She has a lot of



Brian and Spencer Tibbets with chicken pox.

pain and I do not. Donna received a beautiful **picture of Kathy and Mark** in color, it is lovely. They are indeed a handsome couple. She said it is for Mother's Day and Father's Day. We were eating dinner this evening about 6:55 when the electricity went off, so we couldn't hear the television; it was daylight so we didn't need the lights then. It was dark before the lights came back on, so Donna brought an oil lamp and a candle for my rooms. She had the same in their apartment. We were happy to have the lights back on again about 9 p.m. Donna and Rex came in my place to have our Home Night. She read the Relief Society lesson to us and a few chapters from the Book of Mormon. I surely enjoyed our Home Evening with Donna and Rex tonight.

May 24, Tuesday

Donna looked very pretty this morning when she left for Relief Society. She had her long-flowered dress on and some pink flowers in her hair. She is on the program this morning. It is something about women's place in the world. I'd love to be there to hear her give it. She always

does a beautiful job of everything she is assigned to do. My Relief Society days are in the past now. I do well to get from my bed to my chair. Donna left a tray of food for me. I got up at eleven o'clock. It is pouring rain now at 12:45 noon. I hope the storm has passed before Donna has to drive home. Kansas weather is unpredictable! One never knows what to expect. Yes, I am home sick. So what? I'm too old to adjust to this place, but I'm glad my children are happy here. It is their home. The rain had passed before Donna drove in the farm. The storm was ahead of her all the way, and that is wonderful. It was calm and sunny when she drove away at 3:45 p.m. to pick Rex up at the Manor Home after his work. Rex received a big Certificate of Achievement Award today saying he has successfully completed a 74-hour state approved medication aids training course for Kansas adult facilities. The date on it is March 29, 1977. We're proud of him. Donna ate a TV snack with me this evening. We watched television together for a while. Good night.

May 25, Wednesday

Happy Birthday Doug Shattuck, 16 years old today.

*I'm wishing you all the joy a day can bring,
A happy life, with the best of everything.*



Doug, Donna, and Mark Shattuck August 1977.
On May 25 Doug turned 16 years old.

We have a pleasant day, sunny without wind. Donna brought me half a grapefruit and some Cream of Wheat and toast and milk for brunch. She changed the sheets and slip on my bed and washed the white bed spreads, from the twin beds. They look so fluffy and white now. She cleaned my suite and vacuumed the rugs. It warmed up today. Donna and Rex say, "It's hot," but I manage to keep my cool by not moving about working as they do. My TV Guide was our only mail today. Donna's hay fever is not causing her much trouble today. She'd better not try to pull up anymore of the tall weeds. She did pull some little weeds from their vegetable garden this morning. I answered Lydia Paul's letter this evening. Rex and Donna worked in their vegetable garden this evening. I took a shower bath tonight so I'd have clean underwear and nightgown to get into my nice, clean bedsheets tonight. I'm weary, good night.

May 26, Thursday

Happy birthday, Jody Tibbets. He is 7 years old today:

*We hope your birthday will be full of good cheer,
Because we all love you, Jody dear.*



Jody Tibbets

I didn't rest very well last night. I was fidgety and uneasy in body and mind. I dozed in my chair while listening to the TV stories this afternoon. Rex did some stuccoing on

the house this morning. He and Donna drove to the bank in Overbrook this afternoon. It is warm outside, but I keep fairly cool in the house. We had a surprise lightening and thunder storm about 3:30 this afternoon. I hope Donna and Rex make it home before the downpour. It seems so strange to hear a loud clap of thunder and not have a downpour of rain! Well, that's Kansas! Donna came in and read Joan's letter to me when they got back from Overbrook Town. Joan said they are enjoying the nice patio Rex made for them; they have had several nice picnics on the tables out there. They have ordered the lawn sod, so it will be pretty and green all around the home soon. They do have a lovely home there in Naperville, Illinois. It is not far from Chicago. I answered Ethel Newbold's letter this afternoon and it's nice to have my mail all answered. Tonight at 9 p.m. Rex and Donna took the tractor to tow their pickup truck to Lawrence to have a flat tire repair. The transportation on this farm is abominable! Goodnight. I surely hope I can go to sleep and forget the problems troubling me. P.S. I played a couple of lovely records on my Magnavox player tonight to get my nerves calm.

May 27, Friday

I was mistaken in yesterday's record; it was the tractor that had the flat tire, not the pickup truck, so Rex didn't tow the truck as I thought. I'm sorry I get so mixed up. Donna rested a while on my extra twin bed this morning. She has suffered from hay fever the past few days. I know she feels miserable. Rex has been working for Bruce Hackett by Lake Pomona. He has his tractor working with him. Donna took Rex's lunch to him this morning. It rained hard for a few minutes about 10:30 a.m. but it was sunny and warm all afternoon. Donna came in and read the interesting articles from the Church News to me. I surely enjoy having her read to me. She brought a nice dinner to me about six o'clock. It was some fried steak and cob corn and custard with Jello and cream. I watched television tonight. It was too warm for comfort tonight. Donna put up one of the windows in my living room and it helped cool us off a little. She watched television with me until after the ten o'clock news. We are weary, so good night.

May 28, Saturday

We had a very turbulent night of lightning and thunder and heavy downpour. I even had a visit from a beautiful young lady, an apparition or ghost; she stood by my bed and smiled down at me. She was in white. I wasn't afraid and there was a sweet peace of mind in my room after she left. I wonder what it's all about? Rex went to work in the downpour early this morning to work in the nursing home in Overbrook. Donna walked to the mailbox to mail some letters. Later this afternoon, she brought a letter from

Florence and Ernest Oates, and one from John Little, and read them to me. There is a new baby, too. I can't remember all I hear, so this record isn't as complete as I'd like it to be. I'm sorry about that. I rested on my bed this afternoon until time for the "Lawrence Welk" program on TV at 6 p.m. Donna watched television with me tonight until the news at ten o'clock. Rex went to bed before nine o'clock. P.S. I had a strange spell this afternoon; the room seemed to be whirling around. It didn't last long. All is well. Good night.

May 29, Sunday

We had lightning and thunder and rain last night, but it is calm today and overcast. Donna left a TV tray with fruit and dry cereal on for me. I rested well last night. I got up about 10:30 a.m. and made this old gal look as nice as possible.

*I made my bed, combed my hair, said my prayer,
And relaxed in my big chair.
I ate some food and it tasted good. Donna is thoughtful and sweet,
But she always dishes up more than I can eat.
Have you noticed I play with words to make 'em rhyme?
It's a pleasant way to pass away the time.
When I'm lonesome with no one to talk to,
Then I will invent something to do.
So, I make use of the golden touch.
My 84½ years has taught me much;
Try to add some fun in all you do,
And you'll find happiness all life through.*



I played some beloved Mormon Hymns on my Magnavox player to have my own "church at home." I'm not well enough to dress up and go to the meeting house with Donna and Rex. Donna ate her lunch in here, then she rested on my extra twin bed. Rex had dinner at the Manor Home. This afternoon, he had his tractor working in the fields and on the road. I played some lovely waltzes on the Magnavox player while Donna was resting on my extra bed and I was in my big chair. I love the beautiful waltzes. (Sweet memories.)

May 30, Monday—Memorial Day

*I saw a vision of exquisite beauty standing beside
my bed.
She was smiling sweetly down at me and not a
word was said.
I closed my eyes to blot out the lovely lady,
I didn't know what to say and I found myself
mumbling "pretty lady please go away."
'Twas almost daylight, I looked and the sweet
vision wasn't there,
But my room was full of a peaceful feeling
everywhere.*

Last night's weather report said we would have a lovely day today, but it was a noisy downpour of rain and lightning and thunder instead; Mother Nature was sure on a rampage. We've had several noisy storms today. Donna has been busy baking goodies for her Relief Society Social tomorrow. It's the last meeting until the fall. Mary phoned and talked to Rex and Donna. Jon is working on Rex's VW car. Donna



brought a fried chicken dinner to me this evening with a baked potato, a salad, and a vegetable and cream pudding. I watched television programs tonight until bed time. I wish I could have put some flowers on my loved one's graves in Salt Lake City Cemetery today. I wonder if it was raining there like it is here? I watched "The Jeffersons," "Sonny and Cher," "Maude," and others. Glen Campbell and Don Knotts were the guests on the "Sonny and Cher" show. Good night.

May 31, Tuesday

Happy birthday Spencer J. Tibbets, four years old today:

*Little fellow how fast you grow!
There are now four candles on your cake to
blow.*

*Have a happy day, we want you to,
Because you know we all love you.*



Donna left a tray of food for me before she went to Relief Society. We have a pleasant day with hazy sunshine and no wind. It seems cooler to me; I put an extra cover on my bed in the wee hours. I enjoyed the chicken sandwich that Donna left for me in her refrigerator. She is very thoughtful of my needs. I watched the TV stories today; they make my problems seem very small indeed. Donna picked Rex up at the nursing home about 3 p.m.



Spencer Tibbets in 1977.

They had a very nice luncheon in one of the sisters' homes in Paola, I think. Donna looked tired; she had to take Rex to work before daylight so she could use the pickup truck. Dorothy Tibbets was sick and couldn't go today, but she sent her salad and chips anyway. Donna took chocolate cupcakes and something else, too. This is the last meeting until fall, so Donna can relax for a while. Today's mail brought a letter from Joan to Donna and one from Violet to me. Donna read them both to me. Violet wrote about her trip to Chicago a few years ago. I forgot I had a cousin living in Chicago (Ruth Paul Nutt) until Violet reminded me. Violet and Otto went to Ruth's home, but she wasn't home at the time. That was too bad. P.S. I wrote a check for \$25.00 to put in my little birthday gift to Donna (some cute stationery). I wrapped it this evening.

June 1, Wednesday

Happy Birthday Donna! [62 years old]
*Darling you make me feel so glad,
 You are the best daughter a mother ever
 had.
 You're so thoughtful and kind in all you do,
 I'm so thankful the dear Lord sent us you.*

I wrapped a package of "Send a Note" stationery and my birthday card with \$25.00 enclosed for Donna's gift, last evening. I gave it to her this morning when she came in to check on me and leave me a note saying she and Rex were going to Ottawa to check on Donna's Social Security Check. She said they'd be home about lunch time. Donna was pleased with her gift from me. Janet Shattuck phoned from San Jose this morning to wish her mom a happy birthday. The children all gave \$25.00 to help repair Rex's VW car. Rex bought a pretty Timex wrist-watch for Donna's birthday gift. I'm glad it is a pretty day. I love to see the golden sun shining on the pretty trees, out my window. Our sky did cloud up this late afternoon and the wind was blowing. On my June calendar it says, "A little love is good for growing things!" How true! Where there is love, the whole world sings. Rex plowed up the south field and he and Donna planted some vegetable seeds down there this afternoon, until it started to rain. The downpour didn't last very long. We listened to television until bedtime. Good night.



Mary and Donna Marsh in 1943. In 1977 Donna was now old enough to collect Social Security.



June 2, Thursday

Donna went to the bank and took care of my Social Security check. She made the payment on our house and brought \$40.00 to me. My checking account balance is now \$226.09. I'm thankful to have her to take care of this business for me. Rex stuccoed the front of our house this morning and then he took Donna to see a branch sister, living in Garnett, Kansas. This sister and her children need food, so Donna is going to buy her a supply. Donna is the branch Relief Society President. President North will reimburse Donna when he comes home from a business trip. We have a lovely, sunny day. This afternoon Donna and I took a nap on my twin beds. At 6:20 she brought my dinner to me on a TV tray (creamed tuna on toast, tomatoes, asparagus, sliced banana, and chocolate cake). Nice, eh? John Marsh phoned from Salt Lake tonight; they'll be moving to California soon, where John will work at his new job for KTLA television and people there in Hollywood, ABC Network. The three of us listened to the ten o'clock news, then we turned off the set and went to bed. Good night.

June 3, Friday

Rex took his tractor this morning to do a job in Overbrook, it was a cement cover for a well, I think. Donna went in the pickup truck to bring Rex home for lunch. She made ham sandwiches for our lunch. When she was taking Rex back to his job, they saw Jon Tibbets and his boys on their way to this farm. So, Donna brought the boys here in their VW bus and Jon went with Rex in the pickup truck to Rex's job. Mary and Julie will drive here tomorrow in their car. So, we'll have action the next few days. Donna just brought baby Brian in to see me. I was surprised he was here, too. Mary wanted to shampoo her rugs before she comes here, so she was happy to have all of the boys away from home while she cleaned the rugs. I don't blame her. Spencer and Jody came in my place and played with my greeting cards and the battery-controlled lion (and ate candy corn) for a while. It has been a lovely, sunny day. One of the boys enjoyed some peas from Marshes' garden. It is very quiet right now at 5:30 p.m. The baby must be taking a nap and the others are outdoors. I see some cows in the field north of us; that is unusual. There are seldom ever any animals there. All three boys came in my place this evening and had fun with the greeting cards and the walking lion. Later they picked peas for dinner tomorrow. Jody came in my place tonight at 9:30 p.m. and played with the walking lion. I feel weary, so I'm going to say goodnight. P.S. I have enjoyed my little great grandsons today. Sorry I have to make so many corrections. I also meant to mention that Jon T. is a counselor in their branch presidency now.

June 4, Saturday

I'm thankful for a fairly good night's rest. We have a nice day so far, calm and sunny. I think Donna's little grandsons are giving her a rough time, trying to keep them all four entertained and happy, and out of my place so I can sleep late. They're up early and going strong. Donna brought my brunch at noon on a TV tray. She fed the children and got the baby to sleep in the basement, then she went to Overbrook to shop. She took the Tibbets boys to Overbrook to swim in the pool. She will pick them up later. Rex and Jon T. drove half way to meet Mary and Julie. Rex brought Julie back to Overbrook and Jon went home with Mary. They have a meeting tomorrow, as Jon is the first counselor to their branch president. I presume they'll come to this farm on Monday? I haven't felt very well, so I'm taking it easy today, as usual. Donna brought me a chocolate ice cream cone this afternoon, about 3:10 p.m.; it was refreshing. It is warm today. Donna helped me to recline in my chair with my feet up,

so I could relax in comfort. I am blessed indeed with my wonderful daughter. Donna took Brian and Spencer with her to Overbrook this afternoon to pick up Greg and Jody at the swimming pool about 5 p.m. I walked around in the house to get some exercise. We watched "The Lawrence Welk Show" on TV from 6 to 7 p.m., we also watched "Mary Tyler Moore," "Bob Newhart," "All in the Family," "Alice," "Carol Burnett," and the ten o'clock news report. It is hot in the house tonight. We are all very weary. Good night.

June 5, Sunday [Mark and Kathy's 1st anniversary.]

It was warm all night. Julie slept without a cover. I had the sheet over me; I slept fairly well. Rex had to work today at the nursing home. Donna took Julie, Greg, Jody, and Spencer to Sunday School and Grandma Dorothy took baby Brian to sacrament meeting later. Donna drove Mary's VW bus. I don't think Donna got much sleep; the baby cried for an hour or more in the night, but they all went to church, bless 'em. Donna and the children came home about 2 p.m. looking hot. She said it was 90 degrees outside. The baby's face looked so red, but he gave me a big smile. I enjoyed the dry cereal and milk and tangerine fruit and graham crackers that Donna left on a TV tray for me Donna fed the children hot dogs and ice cream, I think. That is what she said she was going to give them but she may have changed her mind when they got home from Church. I'm feeling the heat in my little suite this afternoon at 2:35 p.m. I dread the hot weather. I played lovely records on my Magnavox player this afternoon. Rex put an air conditioning box in his bedroom window this afternoon. It really helped to cool the house off nicely. Joan gave it to her folks. After dinner this evening, Rex took the children for a ride in the pick up truck. I think Donna and baby Brian went with them. I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player and then I watched television until the ten o'clock news was over. Julie went to bed about 9:30 p.m. I got in bed about 10:30 p.m. Good night.

June 6, Monday

We have a pleasant day. Donna had a busy morning with her little grandchildren. She made pancakes for them and she made a couple of pancakes for me later for my brunch, from the batter that was left over. Julie went to Overbrook with her Grandma Dorothy. I can hear the vacuum going so I presume Donna is cleaning her rugs. They are expecting Jon and Mary to arrive sometime today. I learned later that the boys went to town with Dorothy, too. Mary and Jon passed them on their way here about 3 p.m. Mary came in to say "hello" to me; she looks lovely. Today's mail brought a letter to Donna and me from Richard Best (Aunt Ettie's boy).



This is the same photo as one that Richard Best sent.



He enclosed some pictures that he wants us to identify. One is a picture of **Susie, Elvie, and Lorene Bailey**, three little girls. I think I was 2½ or 3 years old. One was a baby picture of Ramona Strong. I think the other baby picture is one of Uncle Ern and Aunt Ida Strong's babies. It looks like Wayne did when he was a baby. The lady is a relative of Grandma Strong, a Swaner; I do not remember her, but Grandma was a Swaner before she married James T. Strong. Donna will answer Richard's letter, bless her dear heart! I know I'm not up to doing the job. The Tibbets children were delighted to see their puppy dog today. Mary and Jon brought him with them. Julie is going to sleep at Grandma Dorothy Tibbets's house tonight. I watched "Gun Smoke" tonight and Johnny Carson's "Tonight Show." His guest host was George Carlin. I'm weary, good night.

June 7, Tuesday

We have a pretty day. Mary brought my brunch to me at noon, Cream of Wheat, toast, applesauce, and milk. It is a busy household here, but it amazes me how well organized they are. Of course, they do have Grandma Dorothy's place next door to spend some time. Julie slept there last night. The kitchen is the busy place here. It is cool in my suite. Rex and Donna went to take a supply of food to a sister in Garnett, Kansas. I think they took the children with them. Donna brought me a package of Juicy Fruit Gum (ten in the plastic bag) for 98¢. Now, I'm ready for the birthday cards for my great grandchildren. I always enclose a \$1.00 bill and some gum in their cards. Spencer fell asleep in my rose platform rocker this afternoon while I was playing his favorite sing along "Fun at Home" record on my Magnavox player. This evening we all sat out in the garage and watched the fire flies in the field and the trees. Spencer sang a song for us "I want to be a Deacon." He has a very nice voice and he sang out nice and loud. We came in the house about 9:30 p.m. We went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Julie slept in my extra twin bed. Mary and Donna did some sewing today on Donna's slack suits.

June 8, Wednesday

Rex went to work at Manor Nursing Home this morning. Jon Tibbets has been working at the Tibbetses' home. Donna and Mary went to Overbrook to grocery shop. They took Spencer and Brian with them. Some black cow got in our front yard this morning. Julie was quite concerned about it; she tried to keep it out of Grandma Dorothy's flower garden and Grama Donna's vegetable garden. Mary brought my lunch (sandwich, Postum, and fruit). Julie visited with me this afternoon. She looked through one of my old picture albums. I haven't felt very well today; I have some stomach

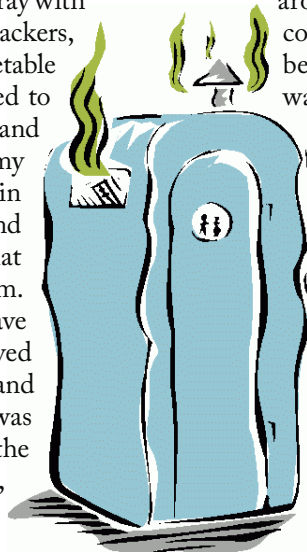
cramps, plus diarrhea, it is a miserable feeling. But, I'm thankful for a pretty day; the boys are happy to play outside. Julie picked peas with her mother until something stung her hand, a bee or??) She came in to nurse the hurt. Donna picked some peas, too. We've had several nice servings of peas from the garden here; they are so good. We watched television and played records on the Magnavox player.

June 9, Thursday

We have a pleasant day, not too hot. I rested fairly well. Julie got up about 9:30 this morning. I stayed in bed until eleven o'clock. Donna brought my brunch at noontime, rice, milk, toast, applesauce, and Postum. I watched the TV stories to pass the time, but they get a bit boring sometimes. Spencer and Jody came in for gum, they asked for some to take to Julie and Greg. I watched the little boys playing in the sand pile with their puppy dog. Julie came to get her belongings about 4:15 p.m. She said they are leaving for home this evening. I was surprised because I understood they'd be here until Saturday. Julie said their branch is having a celebration of some kind and they want to be home for it. Jon is a counselor in their branch presidency. He feels he and Mary should be there. Mary is the Relief Society president, plus she has several other church jobs. I don't know how she manages them all. They left here about 5:45 p.m. in the VW bus. They left their little Opel here for Rex and Donna to drive. I ate my dinner while watching television. I saw "The Cross Wits Game" and "The Gong Show." It is quiet around here this evening. Donna is getting the pillows and blankets put away and her big lamp back in her living room. We are back to normal again. We'll miss the Tibbetses. Donna and Rex came in my suite tonight to watch television, we watched "Barnaby Jones" and the news at 10 p.m. Good night. P.S. Rex and Donna went out in the garage to cool off and watch the fire flies tonight about 10:15 p.m. Our cat came home after Tibbetses took their dog home.

June 10, Friday

It is a pleasant morning, a bit windy, but that is Kansas. Rex and Donna went somewhere in the pickup truck. They were going to see Bruce Hackett on some business. They left here close to noontime. Bruce phoned to see if they were coming. I told him they had left already. Donna left a TV tray with food on for me of cold cereal, milk, graham crackers, and fruit. She and Rex worked in their vegetable garden a while before they went away. I listened to some of the TV stories, but I get tired of them and their problems, so I turned 'em off and wrote in my diary. I watched a brown and white cow grazing in the field north of our home. The grass is tall and green there. We don't often see animals in that field. Rex and Donna came home about 4:15 p.m. They were hot and upset with the job Bruce gave them to do. He wanted a **portable toilet** moved from his property. It was full of stinking dung and some of it spilled over into the truck after it was unloaded, Rex went to a car wash and sent the truck through the soap wash a couple of times, even then, they thought they could smell it. Well, the hot sun will take care of that. I had a



good laugh over their dilemma. I wrote a letter to Violet and Otto. I received a letter from Ethel Newbold. This evening I watched television in Donna and Rex's place and ate my dinner there from a TV tray. I came back to my place about 7:45 p.m. Donna watched TV for a while. We heard the ten o'clock news report. Good night. P.S. I rested on my bed for an hour after I answered Violet's letter today. The pain in my shoulders was severe.

June 11, Saturday

It is comfortable in my suite, but Donna says it is really hot outside. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about noon time. I watched a silly movie while eating. I'm not feeling very well and the movie was no help. Rex came home from work about 2:30 p.m. and then he worked at installing another air cooler in the house. Donna typed several letters today. She brought in a letter from Marty Strong and read it to me. Marty is a lovely person; she and her sister Frankie are not at all alike. I saw Frankie do things that Marty would never do. ☺ Our cat and her three kittens have moved back in the garage now that the Tibbetses' dog has gone home. Kathy phoned from California this morning, she was just a bit homesick to hear Mother Donna's voice, I presume. I know Donna misses her Kathy a lot, and so do I. It is pleasant in the house with the two coolers going. I walked outside with Rex this evening about 5:45. Oh, it was hot! I was glad to come back in the house. I enjoyed all the Saturday night shows on television "Lawrence Welk," "Mary Tyler Moore," "Bob Newhart," "All in the Family," "Alice," and "Carol Burnett." I'm really weary tonight. Good night.

June 12, Sunday

Donna left a TV tray with dry cereal, milk, graham crackers, peanut butter, and cooked peaches. I had a very poor night's rest; my head felt strange; my eyes gave me a lot of trouble with the blind staggers. One would clear out and another would start; I've never had it like that before. It was miserable and the darn lightning and thunder didn't help any either. I got up at 12 noon and gave myself a bath. I had just put on my clean garments and gown when, WOW, the room seemed to be whirling around. I managed to hang on to the door until I could get to my bed. Well, this is not one of my best days. I didn't tell Donna I had a bad night, I wanted her to enjoy her busy day. She had so many things to take care of at church today. I'm glad Rex could be with her today. They came home about 4:45 p.m. They'd been to the hospital to see Sr. Frances Bunch; she is very ill. I think she is about my age. I've had Kathy's birthday card several days, but I forgot to get it ready to mail. Her day is Tuesday, June 14. I'm sorry; I wish Donna had reminded me. It will be a day or two late, but she'll understand and the \$5.00 and gum will please her. Donna invited me to watch television with them this evening, but I felt ill, so I stretched out on my bed. I felt better when I got up to eat this evening about 7 p.m. Donna and Rex visited with me for a while. I

played a lovely record of The Mormon Tabernacle Choir's Greatest Hits for my entertainment tonight. Good night.

June 13, Monday

Rex got busy stuccoing the west side of our house this morning. I could hear him plastering it on. I believe the cement paint goes on next. I got up at noon. Donna fixed a nice brunch for me and then she and Rex drove to Overbrook. He had a meeting at the Manor Nursing Home; Donna did her grocery shopping. They returned home about 3:25 p.m. Donna brought me a nice cold drink of berry soda pop. I feel better today after a good night's rest. There was no mail today for anyone here. I didn't expect any; I haven't answered my letters. I haven't felt well enough, sorry, but writing is a hardship now. However, I do want to keep in touch with family and friends. Donna cracked a lot of walnuts this afternoon. I used to do that for her, but there was I, reclined in my big chair with my feet up, wishing I could be just a pleasant memory for my darling Donna. ☺ But it doesn't work out that way, does it? I have so many blessing to be thankful for. I must be patient I know; however, I do dread all the activities my precious family have dreamed up for their entertainment this summer. I feel so exhausted after making my bed and combing my hair. It is all I can do to walk to my chair. That is why I dread this summer and what my dear family have planned for me. I'm too weary for all that excitement. Good night.

June 14, Tuesday

Happy birthday, Kathy! 26 years old today.
*Keep a little rainbow in your heart each day
And you'll be happy all the way.* ☺

We have a nice day. I rested fairly well last night. Donna brought my brunch at noontime. She and Rex phoned Kathy to wish her happy birthday. All is well with our children in California. Donna phoned Jeanne Brooks this morning to tell her Relief Society is over until next fall. Jeanne just came home from a vacation trip; she phoned Donna yesterday but Donna wasn't home. I wanted to answer Blanche H. and Ethel Newbold's letters this afternoon, but I'm not feeling well enough. My head feels dizzy and strange at times so I just sat in my big chair and dozed. I can hear Donna typing. It is nice and cool in my suite. I'm thankful for that. Donna and some of her Relief Society sisters took a dinner to a sister that came home from the hospital with a new baby today. I think she lives in Ottawa. They are recent converts to the church. Rex went with Donna; they left here about 4 p.m. I gave Donna \$5.00 to buy some items for me. Dorothy T. was going with Donna, but she fell and hurt her leg. She was taking some lumber to the basement when she fell. I'm sorry about her accident. I am glad Rex was home to go with Donna. I watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

June 15, Wednesday

Donna answered Richard Best's letter for me and she came in and read it to me this morning. In fact, he wrote it to both of us. I'm just not up to locating all the material he wants, but Donna did the best she could. She gave him Aunt Ida R. Strong's address, and Beth Johnston's. We presume Aunt Ida may be able to give Richard some of the Strong Family pictures and papers that he is seeking. When Violet told him that I kept a daily journal, he thought I was keeping a Family History. It is far from that! This little diary is just a record of the things that come into my life each day; the things we do, the news we hear, and etcetera. It is a pleasant hobby for me, but not a history of my relatives. I'm not that ambitious, ha ha! Rex came in to visit me after work. He looks nice in his white uniform; he says it is really hot outside, but nice and cool here in the house. Thanks to the air coolers that Joan gave Rex and Donna. I'm sorry I do not feel well enough to answer my letters. I owe Blanche H. and Ethel N. I took a rest on my bed this late afternoon until Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray about 6:30 p.m. Bless her dear heart, I surely wish she didn't have me here to worry about. Another day has come to an end. Why can't I? ☺ Good night.

June 16, Thursday

My dear husband died four years ago today. We have a pleasant day; it is nice and cool in the house with the air coolers going. Donna brought a nice brunch to my room. I watched television while eating. Later, I walked around in the house for exercise. Rex was sleeping in his bed; he went to work early this morning. Donna did her washing and drying in the basement. The cat and her three kittens have moved to the back porch, in front of the door. They have to be pushed out of the way every time anyone goes in or out of the door. It's annoying, me thinks. They will be evicted soon. This evening Rex and Donna went to Overbrook to the Coop Market for a special dinner. She brought a nice dinner to me on a TV tray before they left. I ate while watching television. It is a beautiful, sunny evening. When the folks came home tonight, Donna came in to tell me what a nice time they had tonight with good food and a program. The ladies received a little paring knife. Rex got a bonus check of \$20.00 or \$25.00 dollars, I think. Donna talked about their plans for tomorrow and Saturday. They're going to Weeping Water, Nebraska to take Jon Tibbets's Opel car to him. They'll bring their own VW bug home on Saturday. Rex showed me how to turn on the big cooler in his room if I need it tomorrow. I'll be alone here. I hope I feel better tomorrow. Donna asked Dorothy T. to check in on me tomorrow. ☺ Good night.



Mark and Kathy Calkins Fall 1977.

June 17, Friday

Donna came in to kiss me goodbye this morning about seven o'clock. She left a TV tray with dry cereal, milk, applesauce,

peanut butter, and graham crackers. I rested fairly well last night. I stayed in bed until noon. We have a gloomy day with lightning and thunder showers, but I'm glad it is cooler. I didn't need to turn on the electric cooler. Oh, I feel so lonesome. If I could only read or write without the hurt in my chest and shoulders, but, I can "Count my many blessings: and that is something to be thankful for, eh?" ☺ I enjoyed television while eating my brunch at 1 p.m. I rested on my bed this late afternoon. I got up at 6 p.m. Dorothy Tibbets brought a fried chicken TV dinner to me, cooked and ready to eat about 6:30 p.m. It was good, but I could eat only half of it, so I'll have another meal out of it tomorrow. The sun got through the dark clouds late this afternoon. I watched television this evening until the 10 p.m. news. I welcomed the night time so I could go to bed. I'm not as homesick and lonesome when I'm in bed, where I can go to sleep and forget my problems. Go ahead and smile, but I do have my frustrations, never the less. I hope Donna and Rex are having a very happy visit with Mary and family in Nebraska. Sweet dreams.

June 18, Saturday

We had a noisy, stormy night with lightning, thunder, and a downpour of rain and some hail I presume. It sounded like hail anyway. Yes, it sounded like h---. ☺ I rested fairly well



Delphia and Jon Tibbets. On June 18 Dorothy came to visit Elvie and talked about when her children were young.

in spite of the turmoil. I stayed in bed until noon. It is overcast and cool and I like that. I don't have to turn on the air coolers. I rested in my big chair after I made my bed and combed my hair. When my heart action calmed down, I was going to the kitchen to fix something to eat, but Dorothy Tibbets came in and talked for an hour, so, I couldn't go to the kitchen until later. She told me about her **children Jon and Delphia** when they were living at home. It was very interesting. I appreciate her visit; she is a nice person. She answered the phone a couple of times. Mary was on the line once and Annie Hall the other time. I

made the attempt to answer the phone yesterday, but three or four rings isn't long enough for me to get there. They'd hang up just as I got there. That is frustrating. I did heat some milk about 3 p.m. and I ate half a grapefruit, so with the graham crackers and warm milk I had my dinner, 3:30 p.m. It is now four o'clock and cloudy; it looks like more rain is on the way. I hope Donna and Rex make it home before the storm arrives. The older I get the longer the days seem. The folks arrived about 4:12 p.m. They brought several letters in with them. Donna read them to me. I got a letter from **Dale Andersen; he is now in their stake presidency.** His daughter Marilyn is going to BYU in August. My letter to Brad Haddock was returned to me. It says, "Not at that address."

June 19, Sunday

We have an overcast sky, but a pleasant day. I got up at noon time. Rex, Donna, and Julie came home about 2:20 from church. I went to eat dinner with the family about three o'clock. We had a very nice roast beef dinner. Julie ate dinner with Grandma and Grandpa Tibbets and then came over here and ate with us and enjoyed it, too. Well, she did help Donna clear up the table and do the dishes. I was excused to come to my suite and relax in my chair. I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player. Donna and Julie came in later this afternoon and Donna read from her "Life's Story" record. Julie had requested Grama Donna to read it to her. I enjoyed hearing it very much, too. Joan asked Donna to write the story of her life for her some time ago. I'm glad she did. The children have a copy of it in their lovely Books of Remembrance that Donna gave them last Christmas. I played some nice sing along records this evening after Donna and Julie left. I listened to television tonight. Donna, Rex, and Julie shelled peas that Rex picked from their garden. Donna plans to freeze some of them. She came in here to hear the ten o'clock news with me. We went to bed after the news report. Good night.

June 20, Monday

I was blessed with a good night's rest. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a roast beef sandwich, some Postum, and some fig bars for my brunch with a small glass of cranberry juice. I enjoyed eating and watching the television stories. We have a pleasant day. I wrote a letter to Dale Andersen; Donna sent him the Family Group Sheet he asked for. She vacuumed my rugs. I took a nap on my bed this afternoon until six o'clock. I ate my dinner from a TV tray and watched television. Tonight Donna and Julie came in my place and we had our "Home Evening." We played guessing games after

Donna had given a very interesting lesson on the Book of Mormon. We all enjoyed our evening together. I'm sorry Rex couldn't be with us; he had a busy afternoon with Guy Tibbets trying to locate a back window for their car. He got home late and he was tired. I turned out my lights after listening to the ten o'clock news report. The weather report says there is a thunder storm headed our way. I saw the lightning all around us. Good night.

June 21, Tuesday

I got very little sleep last night; it was a very noisy night with lightning and thunder and some heavy downpour of rain and hail. I wasn't afraid, but it was noisy. I got some sleep about daylight. I stayed in bed until noontime. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 1 p.m. I enjoyed eating and watching the television

UPLAND CALIFORNIA STAKE

Seth Claud Baker was sustained as president of the Upland California Stake May 22, replacing Thomas D. Harper.

Dale Owen Andersen and Donald Glen Haslam were sustained as counselors.

Elder Carlos Asay of the First Quorum of the Seventy presided at the stake conference. He was assisted by Julius B. Papa, Regional Representative.

Pres. Baker, 44, was born in Bicknell, Utah, and is married to the former Anna D. Taylor. A dentist, he served as a bishop's counselor, bishop, Sunday School superintendent and high counselor.

Pres. Andersen, 42, was born in Los Angeles, Calif. He is married to the former Annette M. Hubbert. His past positions include counselor in two bishoprics, elders quorum president, YMMIA president and ward executive secretary. He is a teacher in the Chaffey Union High School District.

Pres. Haslam, 35, was born in Provo, Utah, and is married to the former Susan A. Rounds. An attorney, he was an elders quorum president, bishop's counselor and bishop.

stories, "As the World Turns" and "Guiding Light." Donna took Dorothy Tibbets to Overbrook this morning to pay her taxes, I think? Rex was working for Bruce Hackett today. Julie came in to visit with me this afternoon. She is a cutie. There is a weather warning on our TV screen; it says, "A severe electrical storm is headed our way." Well, that's Kansas. It arrived between 3 and 4 p.m. and it was vicious. We had lightning and thunder and cloud burst rain and wind. I went in Marshes' place and watched the dreadful storm rage upon our house. In my 84 years, I've never seen anything more violent, but our house stood the furious attack. Darn me, I can't even record correctly anymore. ☹ [A few errors while writing.] We had a nice gentle rain this afternoon. Oh, why can't it be like this all the time. I watched television for a while before going to bed. I hope I will feel better tomorrow. Good night.

June 22, Wednesday

I rested much better last night. I stayed in bed until noon today. Donna brought brunch to me and I ate while listening to the TV stories. Rex is working around the farm today. Donna brought a **letter from Lydia Paul** to me and Donna read it to me. Lydia says she is 75 years old and she is beginning to feel her age. Well, you wouldn't know it, to read her letter. She is the same fun-loving girl I've known these many years. Her daughter, Mildred, was 55 years old on June 15. She said Jim was 39 in May. He is her youngest. She enjoys Andrea's children a lot, they live near Lydia and Gene. She is proud of Jim's family. Bill and Jessie haven't any children of their own. He had some by his first wife. They are all doing well. I wrote a letter to Blanche Hoglund this afternoon and later, I wrote to Ethel Newbold. I ate my dinner with Donna, Rex, and Julie this evening in Donna's dinette. Rex and Donna drove to the dairy tonight to get some milk, I presume. Julie went with them. I went to bed after hearing the ten o'clock news. More rain is forecast. I hope we don't have the noisy thunder and wind with it. Good night and happy dreams.

June 23, Thursday

We had some rain in the night, but not a lot of lightning and thunder or wind. I was glad of that. I slept fairly well and I stayed in bed until noon. I was comfortable and Donna didn't have to be bothered cooking a breakfast for me. ☺ It rained hard about noontime. I ate dry cereal, toast, milk, and peaches. Donna typed some letters this morning. Julie came in to visit with me. She seemed a bit restless today. Later this afternoon Donna and Julie walked to our mailbox to mail the letters. It is about a mile hike. I

watched them as far as I could see them going. I'd like to have been with them, but my hiking days are over. From my bed to my chair is the limit for me. A correction, Donna went to pick up the mail; she brought a nice letter from Joan and read it to me. They are enjoying the patio Rex made, eating out there and even sleeping the kids out on it. The green sod is growing nicely all around it. Joan and Miller have a lovely home in Naperville, Illinois. Donna and Rex received a wedding invitation, also, I do not know the couple. I ate dinner with the Marshes this evening. I came back here at 8:30 p.m. to give Julie some stationery. It is getting very dark; it looks like a storm is going to break loose any minute. Rex and Donna drove to the south field about 8:30. Good night.

June 24, Friday

I got up at noon and enjoyed the egg and toast and Postum and fruit that Donna brought for my brunch. Rex worked for Bruce Hackett this morning. This afternoon he took Guy Tibbets to Topeka to have the window put in the back of his car. Julie spent the day, or most of it, over with Grandma Dorothy. She came home about 4:10 p.m. with a pretty beige shade skirt that Grandma Dorothy had made for her. It has little yellow dots in it. Julie was very pleased with her new skirt. It looks nice and fits

well. Her Grandma Dorothy is a fine seamstress. I enjoyed a nice, quiet visit with Donna this afternoon. Later, Julie came in and wrote a letter to Rita Sofia Mendez Uruburo, of Argentina. She came to the states as an exchange student at Professor Jon Tibbets's school in 1975. She keeps in touch with the Tibbets family and Donna. In fact, she wrote one letter to me. Today's mail brought a cute thank you note from Kathy for the birthday card and money I sent to her. This evening I ate dinner with the family in Marshes' side. Donna cooked a delicious steak dinner. I came back here to listen to the "Name That Tune" program on television. Donna and Julie listened to the last part of it with me. Then they went to Marshes' side; their TV has a better picture than mine has. Good night all.

June 25, Saturday

We have an overcast sky, but it is calm and cool. Donna says it is hot outside, but my little place is comfortable. I'm glad the wind isn't blowing. I do not like that "Big Blow." Rex worked for Bruce Hackett this morning. He came home for lunch about 2 p.m. He brought a letter to me from Bette and her son Brad Haddock. My letter had not reached them yet. I sent the letter that was returned to me. I presume they have it by now. Rick and his wife, Val, are living in Oceanside with their two children, Nicky and



Katie. Greg is working but may go back to college. Jerry is the bishop of the Encinitas Ward; he loves his job and is loved by all. Suzy has a boyfriend and he keeps her happy. I enjoyed both letters. Donna and Julie have been busy making cakes and cookies and frosting them. I gave Donna a list of things I need and \$10.00 to pay for them. Mary phoned while Donna was away, but Donna called her when she came home. The cooler kept the house comfortable. Julie brought my items to me when they returned home (Tums, Paper-mate refills, and Mentholatum). Rex brought his record player machine in and let me hear a record about buying property, with proper investigation. Interesting but I am not buying any property. Julie took a shower bath in my bathroom tonight. Good night

June 26, Sunday

It is a hazy day, but calm and pleasant. I didn't rest very well last night; a fidgety body and a busy brain was my problem. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a TV tray with dry cereal and milk and a Jello drink on it. Rex, Donna, and Julie went to church about 8:45 this morning. The Guy Tibbetses drove away a little later, but they came home first. Donna and Rex stopped at the hospital to see Sr. Frances Bunch. She is very ill; she didn't know they were there; she was in a coma. I hope she'll be released from her sick body soon; she is about my age. She had a stroke a few months ago. Oh, it would be wonderful to just shut my eyes and go to sleep and wake up young and happy in the Spirit World, eh? I put the new refills in my Paper Mate pens so I'm in business again. Donna told me that President Richard D. North of our branch and his family are moving to Salt Lake City soon, so we'll have a new branch president. They will miss him and his sweet wife, DeLynn, and their four lovely children. I spent the evening with Donna and Julie. We spent time watching television and then Donna played a lot of lovely LDS Hymns and she and Julie sang them for me. Oh, I surely did enjoy that. It reminded me of when Mary used to sing with Donna. Julie has a sweet voice. Donna sang the alto and Julie the soprano. I joined in with a little contralto, very quiet, so they couldn't hear.

June 27, Monday

Donna went to Kansas City Missouri this morning to buy **Frances Bunch's** burial clothes. She passed away this morning. The clothing cost was \$40.00 Her body is in the Robinson Mortuary in Ottawa, 525 North Main. They want Donna to come and dress her this evening at 6 p.m. Dorothy Tibbets will help Donna. I

received a nice letter from Dale Andersen; he wants some family records. Donna will answer his letter when she gets Sr. Bunch's funeral over with. Oh, she has a lot on her mind right now! I also received a letter from Ethel Newbold; she forgot she wrote to me because this is a duplicate of the letter she sent before. (You're slipping, dearie), me, too. Donna came in my place this afternoon and gave me the Relief Society message. I appreciate her lovely message. She pressed Sr. Bunch's burial clothes before going to dress her body. Rex took Julie to play with a little girl in the neighborhood. We have a lovely, sunny day. Donna left our dinner cooking in the oven (chicken and rice). I wish I felt hungry. I never feel hungry anymore. It's so much more fun to eat when you are hungry.

June 28, Tuesday

We had a severe electrical storm this morning about ten o'clock. It came with a heavy downpour of rain. Donna left a TV tray of food for me. She went to Louisburg to her Relief Society Home Economics class and luncheon [*Homemaking meeting*]. It was in Sr. Linda Bosworth's home. I presume Julie went with her and Dorothy T., too? Rex was working on the farm somewhere, I think. I didn't see him. He came home soon after Donna came this afternoon, about 3:30 p.m. Donna brought some lovely, big, red tomatoes, a nice head of cabbage, and some little pickling cucumbers from their garden this afternoon. We have had several delicious servings of green **peas from the garden**, too. Donna was tired when she got home; she took a nap on my extra twin bed. I dozed in my big chair. I feel very weak this afternoon. Donna didn't get much of a nap; she was called to the phone two or three times, about the funeral for Sr. Frances Bunch on Thursday. She will sing and play the piano. I think a trio of sisters are going to sing and Rex will be a speaker. I stretched out on my bed; I can relax nicely with nothing on my mind. Ha ha! Donna came to tell me dinner was ready about 5:45 p.m. We had cabbage and tomatoes from the garden here and some zucchini squash that a neighbor gave Donna. Dorothy Tibbets brought me a lovely bouquet of flowers, in a pretty vase. They are flowers from her garden They are **red and white phlox** with green leaves. Julie kissed me goodbye, she is leaving for home early in the morning.



Peas from the garden were delicious.



FRANCES ELIZABETH BUNCH

Sister Frances Elizabeth Bunch was born August 10, 1894, at Miltonvale, Cloud County,

Kansas. Her parents were Joshua Shephard and Ella Jane Cole Shephard. Her maternal grandparents were John Cole and Elizabeth Everetts. Uniquely, her father, Joshua, and his two brothers, Leon and Frank, all married sisters, Ella, Frances and Nell, respectively. She had one brother, Arthur Shephard, who passed away April 14, 1969.

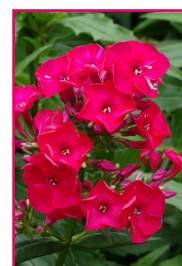
She was married March 12, 1912 to Oscar Calvin Bunch at Medford, Oklahoma. She bore four children, David Edward, Joshua Calvin, James Leroy and Thelma Louise. David, James and Thelma all live in the Ottawa area and Joshua, Calvin as he is known by his family, lives in Gates County, North Carolina.

Sister Bunch was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on October 6, 1963, and received her temple endowments and was sealed to her deceased husband on September 30, 1964.

Continued on next page.



Red and White Phlox like Dorothy brought to Elvie.



Continued from previous page.

She was called from earthly existence on June 27, 1977, and was buried along-side of her husband in the Pond Creek Cemetery in Pond Creek, Oklahoma.

Sister Bunch believed and lived by the Words of the Wise King Benjamin of the Book of Mormon who said, "...when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." Hers was faithful service to the end. She asked for little and gave a lot.

She lost her husband in 1944 when she was but 50 years old. Her two youngest children, 17 and 10, were still at home. The two older ones were in the service and the country was at war. It was an exceedingly trying time. With no work experience except on the farm where she had spent all her life, she was faced with the problem of having to go to work to support herself and young children. She first worked in a grocery store in Jefferson, Oklahoma, and then when James joined the navy she moved with Thelma to San Diego, California. There she worked in a restaurant as a salad maker for more than a year. She then moved to Ottawa, Kansas to be near her own parents who were growing old and she thought might need her help.

In 1950, she gained another son when Thelma married Harlan Miller. She indeed thought of him as a son and loved him for his kindness and thoughtfulness. Sister Bunch became employed by the Ransom Memorial Hospital as a nurses aid. It was this work which she loved most of all, helping people. She never lost an opportunity to try to sell the nursing profession to young people. She loved the work and those she worked with. If there was any one person she would like to single-out and say thank you to, it would very likely be Dr. Lofgreen, who she had known for so long. Who for many years, and to the very end, had been her doctor.

She loved her children, their families, her grandchildren and their children. She never failed to give a good report of them. She loved her brother, Arthur, Skinny as he was known. She never quite forgave herself for not being home when he became ill and suddenly died before she could return.

Life had been harsh but also good and rewarding to Sister Bunch. She lived during a time of great scientific exploration and achievement. The invention of the first automobile to man's exploration of the moon and spaceship travel. Sister Bunch had three sons in the service during World War II and the Korean War, all returned and retired from the Navy. No serious illnesses, accidents or mishaps in the lives of her grandchildren. She, herself, lived in relatively good health for the most part of her life. She was able to travel throughout the country to visit her relatives and friends whenever she wished.

She was converted to the Gospel as taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She made the Church a part of her life and found solace and comfort there. She taught by precept and example in the service of her Heavenly Father. Sister Bunch believed life on earth but an instant in eternity, that she lived with her Father in Heaven and would return to Him upon her death, to be again with her family who passed on before her.

The above is an address given at the funeral of Frances Elizabeth Bunch by her son Joshua Calvin Bunch, according to her granddaughter, Donita Jean Zundel (née Bunch). Found on Family Search.



June 29, Wednesday

The Guy Tibbetses and Julie left this morning early to drive to Weeping Water, Nebraska, to take Julie home and to see Jon and Mary's home. I didn't hear them drive away; it was before daylight, I think. Julie stayed over at Tibbetses' last night; she said goodbye to us last night. We'll miss her. Rex went to work on some neighbor's well. Donna drove

to Overbrook to shop for groceries. I had her buy some vitamins for me (One-A-Day with iron and Vitamin C). Donna received a letter from Kathy today. She read it to me. Kathy and Mark are very happy. She writes such cute letters; they are fun reading. I had some chest pains today; they make me feel weak. I stay close to my big chair and my bed. Sorry I'm not well enough to answer my letters. This one little page in my diary is the limit for me. Donna put a nice potted plant in my south window this morning. I enjoy looking at it. I have my bottle of ivy there, also. It's a nice place for plants when we don't have the furnace heat on. I am also enjoying the lovely flower arrangement of red and white Phlox that Dorothy brought to me. They hold up very well for cut flowers. We watched television this evening in the Marshes' side of the home. We ate from TV trays while looking at TV programs. I came home and went to bed after the ten o'clock news. I am a weary, old great Grama, 84½ years old. Goodnight.

June 30, Thursday

I had a very restless night last night; I could not relax and go to sleep. I stayed in bed until noon, but I couldn't sleep, only a few short naps. This morning I feel weak and upset, but there is a smile on my face. Donna and Rex left here about noontime. She took some food to the Bunch home in Ottawa (potato salad and a pickled bean salad). She left a plate with my brunch on it in the refrigerator and I enjoyed listening to the TV stories while eating my nice brunch. I have had some chest pains and in my shoulder blades, too; it slowed me down. The Guy Tibbetses came home from Nebraska this afternoon about 1:30, I think. She brought something in Donna's kitchen, but she didn't come in here. Frances Bunch's funeral was at 2 p.m. and Donna had to play the piano and sing with some Relief Society sisters, too. Rex was the speaker. I'd like to have been there, but I'm not well enough to go. Donna said that Rex gave a fine talk; I knew he would. I also know the sisters sang well, too. The family gave Donna a beautiful, big bouquet of red gladiolas to let her know they appreciate all she did to help them with their mother's funeral. (Buying the burial clothes, dressing her in them, and etcetera.) I hope that Donna can relax now. P.S. The flowers are huge white carnation with the red gladiolas, oh so pretty. I watched television with the Marshes tonight. We're a weary threesome. Good night.

July 1, Friday

I was blessed with a wonderful night's sleep, so I'm feeling much better today. We have a very lovely, sunny day. I ate my brunch about 1:30 from my TV tray. "Glory Be" it's pay day. My Social Security check arrived at the bank for \$298.00. Donna made out the check for the house payment of \$187.00 and cash for \$53.00. She'll go to the bank tomorrow. She just came in to tell me she is going today because the bank will be closed tomorrow because of the holiday weekend. She invited me to ride to Overbrook with her, but "No thanks." I feel better here near my big chair and my bed. We received a raise in the Social Security check, it was \$281.40 and now \$298, so, that is \$16.60 more! ☺ Donna brought \$40 cash to me, two \$20.00 bills.

I gave her the \$10.00 I had left from last pay day to help buy food (ain't we got fun)? Donna and I each wrote a note to Marshall G. on our birthday cards. She sent money, I sent \$1.00 and some gum. His day is July 6. Florence Oates is July 7. We have several in July; I must get Sandy Gardner's card ready to mail, too, his day is the 14th of July. Donna read to me from the little Church newspaper tonight. I surely enjoy having her read to me. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

July 2, Saturday

It was raining when I got up at ten o'clock this morning, so I got back in bed until 11:30 a.m.; it was still raining. A man was going to cut and bail Rex's hay today, but he couldn't work in the rain (a disappointment for them). Rex is working at the nursing home today. A neighbor's cows got in our fields this morning; they were Ralph Gales. Donna couldn't reach him by phone so she had to drive to the Gale home to let him know. He came and herded them home. Donna brought my brunch, a sandwich, cottage cheese, Postum, and cantaloupe. I rested fairly well last night, but I have a few problems today, so I'm not feeling well. I can expect this at my age; (84 years and 7 months). I got Sandy Gardner's birthday card ready to mail with a \$1.00 bill and some gum in it. His day is July 14. It is too soon to mail, but it is ready. I hope I don't forget to mail it. Donna and Rex are fasting until tomorrow afternoon, but she brought a plate of food to me about 6 p.m. I enjoyed my television programs tonight; they are my favorites, "The Lawrence Welk Show," "Mary Tyler Moore," "All in the Family," and the comedy, "Alice." I took a shower bath. I was so fatigued I could hardly make it to bed. Good night.

July 3, Sunday

We have a lovely, sunny Sabbath day. I'm very thankful for a good night's rest, plus a lovely rest this morning. I'd love to be in church, but I'm not well enough. However, I am very happy that my family are all active in church work. I'm proud of all of them. Rex and Donna came home at 2:20 p.m. She looked so pretty in her blue dress that I think Mary made for her, or Dorothy Tibbets? My poor old brain doesn't remember too well. I went to the Marshes' to eat a nice dinner about 2:30 p.m. They had fasted since lunch yesterday. I fasted since my snack last evening. We had potato salad, cold fried chicken, jelled fruit salad, and etcetera. It was a nice dinner to break our fast. Our branch president, Richard D. North, and family, will be moving soon to Salt Lake City, so there will be some changes made in this branch. One of Rex's neighbors came this afternoon to cut and bale the brome grass in his south field. He cut it today; he'll bale it Monday if it isn't raining. He does the work and Rex gives him half of the crop. Rex doesn't have the tractor to do the job. It takes a lot of money to buy the proper equipment to run a farm like this one; it is so big. Donna brought me a little snack at 6:30 p.m. of graham crackers, warm milk, and salad. I wasn't hungry, but she said I needed it. ☺ She is so

thoughtful of my needs. Donna read to me tonight from the Reader's Digest. I enjoyed her reading. Good night.



July 4, Monday

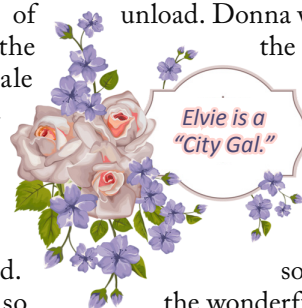
Happy holiday! We have a pretty day. Rex and Donna went to a friend's home in Paola, I think, to pick apples this morning. They were told they could have all the apples they could pick. They came home with a bushel of lovely, big apples and some plums and cucumbers. Donna will cook and bottle the fruit and make pickles with the cucumbers. She pulled weeds from her vegetable garden this

afternoon. Rex worked with his tractor in front of the house. He cut down the tall sunflowers that were growing on the pile of top soil and he leveled the soil in the yard so we can see the south field very well now. We expected the man to come this morning to bale the brome grass that he cut yesterday. It was later this afternoon when he arrived with the tractor and baling machine. I went in Marshes' living room and watched the man bale the brome grass and dump the bales in the south field. It was indeed the most interesting farm activity I have yet seen; better than watching television. Donna has a nice big window to look out on the south field. I missed not seeing any fireworks; I think it is the first 4th of July I haven't seen any fireworks, not one. Last year we had our own celebration with the little Tibbets family, out in the garage while Jon T. set the fireworks in the drive way. When I was a child, my father always set off our fireworks.

July 5, Tuesday

It is another pretty day, rather warm out of doors, but the air coolers keep the inside comfortable and I stay inside. Rex went to work on the well job he has been working on. Donna brought my brunch to me about 1 p.m. Later she brought a letter from Ricky Shattuck from his mission in Australia. He surely writes a nice letter. It is wintertime in Australia and he says it is freezing cold, but he is enjoying his mission. Mark Shattuck is expected home from his mission to Argentina soon. In fact, he may be home now? They are fine young men, we're all proud of them. Donna is busy in her basement kitchen bottling apples and pickling cucumbers. Last evening, Donna drove the tractor, pulling the big box truck, while Rex loaded it with bales of hay or brome grass. It is in the south field ready to go to the little, red barn, I presume. I watch from my window and wonder? This evening I sat in Marshes' living room and watched Rex and Donna take the load of baled hay to the south field to unload. Donna was driving the tractor and Rex was loading

the bales on. Another man came and loaded bales on his truck. Another tractor was working in the lower field. I sat there until it got too dark to see. These farmers sure work late. It is interesting, but a farm life is not for me. No way! I'm a city gal, it's my way of life! However, I am thankful some people like to farm so we can enjoy all the wonderful vegetables, grains, and fruits.



July 6, Wednesday

Happy birthday, Marshall Gardner, 10 years old today!

*The little boy on your card,
With a sling shot and a kite
And a blue bird on his cap,
Thinks you are all right (and
so do I)!*

Rex and Donna went to Topeka this morning to buy some founce plastering material, \$75.00 and to make the house payment of \$187.00 and other business. My checking account balance is \$47.09 now. It fluxes from payday to payday according to the family needs.

Donna has been working in the basement bottling apples or making cucumber pickles. Rex was working at the well job. This afternoon at 4:25 Donna brought me a cold drink of cranberry juice. Mm good. Rex and Donna are both taking naps now. He is asleep on the living room floor. She is asleep on her bed. Me? Oh, I doze in my big chair. My shoulder blades and chest hurt again today. I gave up and stretched out on my bed, too. I got up to eat at 6 p.m. when Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray. Tonight, I was home alone; Rex and Donna were out taking care of something. I'm not sure? I watched television until after the ten o'clock news. Time to turn out the lights and go to bed. P.S. Rex and Donna stacked the bales of hay that they couldn't get in the little barn, in their garage, in case it might rain. Good night.

July 7, Thursday

Donna took some lemonade to Rex about noontime. He is working on the well job. She also shopped in the market in Overbrook. It was a lovely, sunny morning, but it clouded up this afternoon. We may get some rain later. I had a good night's rest and this morning, also. It was almost noon when I got up. Donna brought me a ham sandwich, some applesauce, and milk. I enjoyed the TV stories while eating. Janet Shattuck phoned this afternoon from San Jose, California. She says it is quiet there. Donna is at BYU summer school. Rick is on his mission in Australia, Mark is still on his mission in Argentina. Doug was with friends somewhere. Mary and her family are visiting with Joan and her family in Naperville, Illinois. Jon Tibbets is at home in Weeping Water, Nebraska. He is teaching night school, I believe. I've had a little distress today with my chest and shoulder blade, pain! Donna says the two kittens are having fun climbing all over the bales of hay in the garage. Dorothy Tibbets came this morning to write down Donna's recipe for cucumber pickles. We had a severe electrical storm this late afternoon and evening. I ate dinner with Rex and Donna



Marshall Gardner Naperville in 1977.

at 6:30. Later they came in my place and watched television until after the ten o'clock news. It was raining when I went to bed at 10:45. Our fields are a lovely green now. Good night.

July 8, Friday

We have a hazy sunshine today. I had a little lightning bug or firefly in my room last night. The tiny insect with its bright light kept me entertained for some time, until he decided to turn out his light and go to sleep. I got up about noontime today. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray, dear daughter, what would I do without her? Rex was called to go to work this afternoon at the Manor Nursing Home in Overbrook. I do not feel very well; my shoulder blades and chest hurt and I am weak. I hit the jackpot in the letter department today. I got letters from Ethel Newbold, Violet Fife, Blanche Hoglund, and

Lydia Paul. Donna read them all to me. I do love hearing from these dear ones, but answering them is a problem. I rested on my bed for a while this afternoon. I got up to eat my dinner this evening about 6 p.m. I enjoyed a very lovely concert of American Music, taped in London, featuring Leonard Bernstein conducting the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. I do love good music! Sweet dreams.

July 9, Saturday

I had a fairly good night's rest and I stayed in bed until noon this morning. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray before she went to take Rex his lunch. She said Rex had some problems before he started to work. He had to fix a flat tire and his post hole digger was cracked, so he had to have it welded before he could use it. I presume he is still having problems; he came back home with Donna at 1:30 p.m. I heard him making phone calls about parts he needed and etcetera. Donna brought a letter to me from Yvonne Woodlief. She had enclosed a letter from Dody, from Brussels. She is having a wonderful experience going from place to place over in Europe. I wish I could record it all, but not room on one little diary page, sorry. But, I'm happy for Dody and Bevan and family. Violet wants me to return the letter to her after I've read it. Donna read a letter from Marty Strong; they are getting a lot out of living, too. Rex took Donna away again; he keeps her busy taking him places to and from his tractor jobs. If I only felt better, I could write a letter. However, I did manage a little note to Violet so I could return Dody's and Yvonne's letters to her. Donna mailed it for me on her way to Kansas City to take inventory in a store, to earn some funds for our branch. Rex went with her. She left some food on a tray for me. I'm going to bed for a while. I got up at 6 p.m. to hear the "Lawrence Welk Show" and eat my dinner that Donna left on the tray. Dorothy came to visit me this evening; she brought a little loaf of zucchini bread. She stayed an hour or so. I enjoyed her visit.

July 10, Sunday

Rex and Donna came home very late last night from the inventory job in Kansas City. I think it was after 2 a.m. I went to bed after hearing the ten o'clock news report, but I couldn't relax. I was awake all night. Yesterday seemed like the longest day of my life; I was so lonesome. Donna was with Rex helping him all day and night, too. I was glad to have Dorothy T. come in and visit for a while. Donna brought a tray of food for me before they left for Sunday School. I got up at noon; I dressed in my robe and slippers, combed my hair, made my bed and said my prayer, and made it to my big easy chair. I feel very weak, but thankful I have no pain. I felt much better after eating my brunch of dry cereal, graham crackers, milk, and fruit. All is well. I washed my few dishes. Donna came in and ate her salad here, so I had company to talk to. I see we have some bales of hay in the west field now. I hope it doesn't rain on them. We do have some clouds in the sky. Rex has a flat tire on the truck. There is always something to frustrate him. I spent this evening with Donna and Rex watching their television. We ate a snack from TV trays. Donna baked some cinnamon buns; they smelled so good. She invited me to eat one, but I was too full. Rex enjoyed one anyway. My back hurts, I'm going to bed; it is 10:30 p.m. Goodnight!

July 11, Monday

Donna went with Rex to get his license permit for something this morning. I rested a lot better last night. We had a heavy downpour of rain with lightning and thunder early this morning. I stayed in bed until almost noon time. Donna brought my brunch about one o'clock; she brought raisin bread toast, Cream of Wheat cereal, and a sliced banana. Can you believe that one little loaf of raisin bread cost 95¢? Almost a \$1.00 for a loaf of bread. Inflation is here for sure. I can remember when 5¢ could buy a loaf of bread. It is about 5¢ a slice of bread now. We could send a letter for 5¢ when I was a girl and now it costs 13¢. I got birthday cards ready to mail to Bonnie Reynolds and Lydia Paul. Bonnie's day is July 16 and Lydia's is July 19. This evening, Rex and Donna went to an open house party in Osawatomie, Kansas, in honor of President Richard North and his wife, Delynn. They are moving to Salt Lake City, Utah. So, we'll have some changes here in our branch. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray before they left this evening. I watched television's "Little House on the Prairie," "Maude," and "Sonny and Cher." I stayed up until Rex and Donna came home at 11:20 p.m. P.S. A man and a woman brought Rex's tractor home this evening; she left the bill with me and said that the key is in the tractor. She said, "This is a hard place to find."

July 12, Tuesday

It is a cloudy day, but hot outside, so they say. Donna had a busy morning canning sweet corn and she blanched some for freezing on the cobs. I got up about 11:45 noon. I was feeling weak, my back and chest hurt at times. Not painful, just a dull ache, but it slows me down. I rested fairly well last night. Rex went to Osawatomie to help President North load

the big moving van for their move to Salt Lake City. He came home about 3:45 p.m. I enjoyed one of Donna's delicious cinnamon buns for brunch, mm good! It is 4:30 p.m. and still cloudy but no rain so far. I went in Marshes' living room and enjoyed looking out their big window. Donna drove to the dairy for milk this afternoon. She invited me to go with her, but I didn't feel well enough to dress. I live in my robe and slippers. Rex worked for a long time to get his grass cutter attached to the tractor. He sharpened the blades today, I think. Guy Tibbets came over and helped Rex get it going so he is ready to do some mowing tomorrow. I watched television with Rex and Donna tonight until after the ten o'clock news. Good night.



"Rex did some mowing in the fields until he received a phone call from President North who was moving his family and furniture when he lost the two tires off his trailer. He was dragging it until another motorist told him, so he phoned Rex to come and help him locate tires."

July 13, Wednesday

We are enjoying a lovely, sunny day. Rex did some mowing in the fields until he received a phone call from President North who was moving his family and furniture when he lost the two tires off his trailer. He was dragging it until another motorist told him, so he phoned Rex to come and help him locate tires. It was a bad start for the Norths on their way to Salt Lake City. Later, Rex phoned Donna and wanted her to come and help look for the two tires. Maybe the wheels came off too? I just sit home and wonder. It is after 4 p.m. now. The Norths had a big truck load of their belongings, not a moving van like I said yesterday. I presume the trailer was attached to the truck. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray before she left here. I walked around in the house for a little exercise and I cleaned my diamond ring. Donna came home about 5 p.m. President North is on his way to Salt Lake City with his load of furniture. His wife will leave in a few days with the children. Donna looked tired; she had to sit by Norths' truck for a long time. It was locked so she couldn't get inside of it. Rex was helping President North look for his lost tires. At 8:40 this evening Rex and Donna drove to Topeka to buy some burial clothes for a man in our branch. I do not know his name. We had network difficulty a couple of times tonight and we couldn't have TV. We learned later that New York City had a black out caused by lightning. Donna and Rex got home about 11:15. I was watching the "Johnny Carson Show."

During the blackout in NYC July 13—14 millions were stranded in buildings, disrupting communications, slowing fire fighting, encouraging looting, and evoking grim memories of the great 1965 blackout.



July 14, Thursday

Happy birthday to Sanford Alan Gardner, 8 years old.

*Like the little boy on your card,
I'm sittin' and thinkin' of you.
And I'm wishing for you, Sandy,
A Happy Birthday, too.*

We have a lovely, sunny day so far. I didn't get to sleep until almost daylight so I didn't get up until about 11 a.m. Donna left some food on a TV tray for my brunch, before she went to have her permanent wave. I put my hair up in pin curls this morning. I had to rest in my easy chair after half of it was up, before I could do the other half. It is frustrating to feel so weak. Today's mail brought a letter to Marshes and me. It seems the young members of the Jacob Strong's family are trying to reorganize the Jacob Strong Family General Society. They want us to send \$5.00 a family to help. One of the Marshes' neighbors picked up the bales of hay in their field; they were glad to have them move them. Rex had no place to store any more bales. Rex and Donna went to bed about 10 p.m. Rex watched "Hawaii Five O" with me before he said good night.



Sanford Gardner Naperville in 1977.

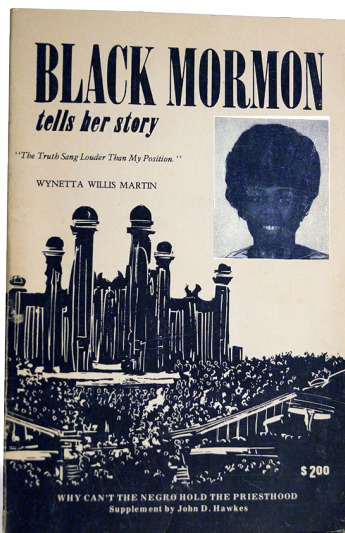
July 15, Friday

I couldn't get to sleep until almost daylight last night, so I made up for it by staying in bed until noon. I had a head full of curls after I took the pin curls down; it was too curly to dress, so I let it stay in curls in the back of my head. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at noon. Later she vacuumed my rugs, dusted furniture, and cleaned the bathroom. I went to her living room and looked at the lovely view from their big window. It has been cloudy this afternoon. We may have some rain this afternoon or tonight. Rex has worked for a friend today. Donna talked to Mary, via phone. She was happy to know that Mary and children were home safely from their visit with Joan and family in Naperville, Illinois. Mary said they had a lovely visit with Joan and family. I watched TV until after the ten o'clock news, and half of the "Johnny Carson Show." Good night.

July 16, Saturday

Happy Birthday to Bonnie Jean Bailey Reynolds.

*I'm thinking of you, Bonnie dear,
July 16 is almost here.
Keep that sweet smile all the way,
And you'll have a happy birthday.
I love you, from your sister, Elvie.*



I wrote this verse on her birthday card. I hope she is enjoying her birthday. I rested fairly well last night, but oh, the crazy dreams. I was glad to wake up and find I was dreaming! (Oh, the confusion!) Rex came home about 3 p.m. He'd been digging with his tractor and post hole digger. He took a nap while listening to a record on his talking and playing machine. I wrote in my diary and dozed in my big chair. I think Donna managed a nap, also. It was very quiet around here. I decided to stretch out on my bed, too. Later, Rex and Donna left here about five o'clock this evening. He had a priesthood meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. After the meeting they went to the stake president's home to have their temple recommends renewed. Donna left a plate dinner for me in the refrigerator. I got up and listened to the "Lawrence Welk" TV show while eating, at 6 p.m. I enjoyed the "Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "Bob Newhart Show," "All in the Family," and I ended up with The Miss Universe Beauty Pageant. Bob Barker was a co-host with Helen O'Connell. It was an evening of pleasant entertainment. It was coming live from Santo Domingo. Miss Universe was from Trinidad. I didn't get her name. They were all beautiful girls.

July 17, Sunday

"Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ ♪ We have a hazy sunshine in an overcast sky. Donna left a drink of Jello for me. She has our dinner cooking in the oven; it smells good. I presume that the Guy Tibbettses have gone to church, also, their car isn't in the yard. I rested fairly well last night and I feel better this morning. I miss church, but I'll go again someday. That will be a "Happy Day." I went in the Marsh side to eat dinner with Rex and Donna about 3:15 p.m., it was a very nice dinner. Rex has been called to take President North's place, as the branch president. He was feeling a bit emotional. I know he'll do a good job of presiding over the branch. It is a big responsibility, but he can take care of it alright. Donna wouldn't let me help her do the dishes, she didn't have to twist my arm to send me back to my easy chair. ☺ I played some lovely Mormon Hymns on my Magnavox player. Donna read me the story of a colored woman that joined the Mormon Church. She is now a member of the Tabernacle Choir; she has a lovely voice. She is a sweet looking person. Her name is **Wynetta Willis Martin**. I listened to the "60 Minutes" TV program on Marshes' television. Ernest and Florence Oates phoned this evening; they are on a tour and are in Kansas, but not Overbrook. They were in Manhattan, Kansas which is a two-hour drive from here. Rex and Donna went to Manhattan to see them. They left about 7:45 p.m. She gave me a tray of food.

July 18, Monday

It was after midnight when Rex and Donna came home from their visit with Florence and Ernest Oates in Manhattan, Kansas. She came in my room and told me how surprised and happy Florence was to see her brother Rex and Donna, too. The Oateses are on an LDS Church tour. I was awake so she talked to me. Rex came home for lunch today about 1:30 p.m. He and Donna took their little VW car to a garage somewhere to have an oil leak fixed. They came home in the truck. Donna drove to their mailbox this morning to mail some letters; I watched her drive the little VW car there and back, before they took it to the garage. I feel strange and weak again today. I stretched out on my bed at four o'clock. I could hear Donna's typewriter going. I got up at 6 p.m. Rex and Donna spent some time weeding in their vegetable garden this evening. Dorothy Tibbets brought two very beautiful pink rose buds, about half way open. Oh, they are so perfect, not a blemish on them. It's amazing to see such beauty growing in these fields of weeds. Donna brought it in here for me to enjoy and believe me, I am! Rex and Donna came in tonight to hear the ten o'clock news report on my television. Our country is suffering from a heat wave from coast to coast. A hot L.V. says goodnight.

July 19, Tuesday

Happy Birthday to Lydia Paul.

*Hi Lydia! You are in my thoughts today,
July 19th is on its way.*

*May it bring many happy cheers,
That will linger through the years.*

Happy birthday and my love, too, sister Elvie



I wrote this on her birthday card. I had a miserable night; I couldn't get to sleep at all. It started out wrong; I found a spider in my bed when I turned down the bed spread. Ugh! I gave it a swat and took it in a tissue to the toilet. I saw a big black hard-shelled bug on the rug, so I gave it a swat and put it in the toilet with the big black spider. After I was in bed, in the dark room, a crazy little firefly or lightning bug, made my life very miserable by flashing its light around my pillow and head. I tried to swat it, but I missed. I turned on the little lamp on the night stand and the lightning bug disappeared. It was almost 5 a.m. then; I'd had no sleep all night. I did get to sleep after daylight. I stayed in bed until almost noontime. Donna brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray about 1:20 p.m. She pulled some weeds out of their vegetable garden this morning. Donna read a cute letter to me from Elder Mark Shattuck from his mission in Argentina. This evening Donna drove to Rex's job to take something; I can't keep up with them. They do have their VW car back from the oil leak repair job. I have felt only half alive today; too bad I couldn't



Marshes' home in December of 1981. In 1977 Rex is starting to put the stucco on the house.

cross over the line. ☺ My pink rose buds have opened into full bloom. They are so lovely, thanks to Dorothy T. Good night.

July 20, Wednesday

Rex and Donna were out early this morning. He put a coat of color stucco (buff shade) on the south and west side of the house. They had a big bathtub to mix the stucco in. I walked outside to see how it looked. They both helped me walk to the front of the house to get a better look. It really looks pretty. [Finally after four years the house is getting some stucco

on the front.] They'll have a beautiful home here when it is finished with the rock work and the big front porch. Oh, it was hot outside. I don't know how they can work out in that dreadful heat. It is nice and cool in the house with the air coolers working. Rex expects to do the other half of the house in the morning. I am thankful for my big easy chair and the cool air. I had a strange spell this noontime when I was combing my hair. I felt dizzy and weak; I could see double for a few minutes. I hung on to the tile wash bowl until I felt better and could walk to my chair. Later this afternoon Donna brought me a cold drink of 7Up. I wanted to answer some letters today, but no way, feeling as I do. Donna found my Paper Mate pen on the floor in back of my end table. I was happy to have it back again. We all watched television until after the ten o'clock news report. My big, pink rose is still lovely. Good night.

July 21, Thursday

Donna brought me a bottle of Scope Mouthwash and a roll of white paper toweling from town this morning. I was glad to get my \$20.00 bill changed, too. I feel better today after a good night's rest. Rex was working for Bruce Hackett today; he came home for lunch. Donna brought me some lunch on a TV tray, a tuna sandwich, some cottage cheese, tomato, fruit, and Postum. I'm so very thankful for my lovely daughter. She went out this afternoon to do her Relief Society visiting. She brought some body lotion for me. I use a lot of lotion; my skin is so dry. Dorothy Tibbets went with her. They gave me the lesson on "Patriotism, Devotion to One's Country" before they left here. So, I've had my Relief Society visitors! ☺ Today's mail brought a letter from my sister Violet Fife. She isn't feeling at all well, the poor dear. Otto is still hiking in the Cedar Mountains. He took a group of scouts from Salt Lake City, through the Narrows on Wednesday and Thursday. Violet is always worried until he is back out of the mountains again. I walked around in the house for exercise this afternoon. I feel weak and not up to par, but I try to be cheerful in spite of my feelings. Donna came in tonight and read some cute articles from the Reader's Digest. I do appreciate her doing that; I get tired of the TV programs. There is too much fighting! Good night and sweet dreams.

July 22, Friday

We didn't get the promised rain, but our sky is cloudy. Maybe we'll get some rain today? Donna drove to Overbrook to shop this morning. I got up before ten o'clock hoping to answer some letters. I wrote to Lydia Paul. Donna and Rex and myself received a wedding invitation in today's mail, "In Celebration of Life Before God and Nature." It is for the marriage of Laura Lynn Hack and Vern Lynn Jorgensen, on Saturday, the 20th of August, 1977 at four o'clock in the afternoon at Christ the King, Lutheran Church, 1317 West 86th Street in Bloomington, Minnesota. There is a reception and dance at seven o'clock, Knights of Columbus, Marian Hall, 1114 West 79th Street, Bloomington Minnesota. It was worded so differently that I wrote it in my diary. Vern is my sister Lorene's grandson, Mary's boy. I hope they'll be very happy. I'm sorry it wasn't an LDS wedding. I took a nap from 4 to 5 p.m. I felt much better after the rest. Donna brought a nice dinner on a TV tray to me at 6 p.m. I enjoyed eating and watching television. This evening, Donna and Rex went out to do his visiting teaching. I wrote a letter to Ethel Newbold this evening. That makes two letters I've answered today. I'm proud of myself. Writing letters is difficult for me now. Good night at 10:40 p.m.



Rex and Donna Marsh in 1967, in 1977 Rex is ordained branch president of the Ottawa Branch.

July 23, Saturday

I rested fairly well last night. I got up at ten o'clock this morning. We have an overcast day with hazy sunshine. I answered Blanche Høglund's letter this morning. Donna brought a tray of food to me before she went for Rex. She is now vacuuming her rugs. It is 1:25 p.m. now. Donna gift wrapped a darling baby outfit for a sister in the branch who has a new baby. She made a beautiful package of it. I think they are having a baby shower for the sister. I am out of action, and I don't hear too well, so I make some mistakes in recording. Well, what the heck! It is my diary, who cares anyway? [Joan, Mary, and Kathy care! The diaries have given them a much greater appreciation for all Elvie, Donna, and Rex went through.] It gives me something to do and helps keep my mind busy. Our branch visiting teachers came this afternoon; Ernie and Annie Hall. They said it was hot outside, but nice and cool in our house. We have two air coolers going. I answered Violet's letter this afternoon. It is a nice feeling to have my letters all answered. I wrote two yesterday and two today. Our farm neighbor told Donna she had a box of cucumbers ready if she'd come and get them, so Donna went to the Turner home for them this afternoon. She plans

to pickle them. We watched television until after the ten o'clock news. Good night. P.S. Saturday night has some of my favorite TV programs ("L. Welk," "Mary T. Moore," "Bob Newhart," and "All in the Family" and others.)

July 24, Sunday

This is a big day in Utah, it is Pioneer Day. I have celebrated many happy 24th of July days in my beloved Salt Lake City, Utah, when I lived there many years ago. "Thanks for the memories." ♪ ♪ ♪ I am 84 years and 7 months old, so I have a lot of memories. **This is President Rex Marsh's first Sunday to preside over the Ottawa Branch.** I'm sorry I wasn't well enough to be there. I'll miss out on a lot of interesting events now, but that's the way of life, eh? I can still count my many blessings. President Rex Marsh and wife Donna came home about 2:45 p.m., all smiles, but hot! Rex was set apart in church today by stake President Christian Sanders. A brother in the branch who has been ill for a long time (in fact, his wife had Donna get his temple clothes to bury him in). He felt so well, he came to church today, but I guess it was too much for him;

he passed out a couple of times and had to be taken home. He is not an old man; they have three or four small children. I think the last name is Martin. They are new in the branch. Rex and Donna took naps after their dinner. I listened to LDS Hymns on my Magnavox player. This evening, Donna pickled some cucumbers in the basement. Rex and one of his counselors went to see Br. Martin tonight. Good night.

July 25, Monday

I had a rather restless night, so I stayed in bed until noon. It is very quiet in this house. I presume Donna and Rex are away somewhere? It is overcast but warm. We didn't get the rain we expected last night. I went to the kitchen to find something to eat. I put some dry cereal, some milk, and graham crackers on a tray and came back here. Rex and Donna had been to Ottawa to pick up the records and papers that President North left for the new branch president, Rex Marsh. They took care of some other business, too. Donna added raisin toast and some fruit to my lunch. I watched the TV stories while eating. The little Church newspaper had an article about Dale Owen Andersen and Donald Glen Haslam being sustained as counselors in the Upland California Stake presidency, on May 22. [See article by June 18, 1977.] Dale is 42, was born in Los Angeles, California. He married Annette Hubbert. He has been counselor in two bishoprics, an Elders' quorum president, YMMIA President, ward executive secretary and a teacher in Chaffey Union High School District. My nephew

is a busy man, I'm proud of him. Good night all. [Note from Mary: When Mary graduated from High School in 1960, there was not a ward in Upland. The closest ward was in Ontario. But in 1977, 17 years later there is an Upland Stake.]

July 26, Tuesday

Donna left this morning about 8:25. She went to her once a month Relief Society Homemaking and luncheon meeting in Paola. She looked very pretty in her new flowered top jacket (green leaves and rose-pink flowers). She has new green slacks to match. She left a note telling me my plate of lunch was in the refrigerator. Rex made a delicious eggnog drink for me. (I'm a lucky old gal, eh?) It has been cloudy all day. We had a light rain shower. I enjoyed watching the television stories while eating my lunch. Donna came home about 2:45 p.m. It is very quiet; I presume they are both resting. Rex may be working on the farm, now it has stopped raining. I dozed in my chair. I did stretch out on my bed for an hour. I got up at six o'clock to watch the "Cross Wits" game and eat my dinner that Donna brought to me. She watched television with me tonight until after the news report at 10 p.m. Good night.

July 27, Wednesday

Rex went to work before daylight this morning, at the nursing home. He came home at 2:30 this afternoon. Donna worked in the yard pulling weeds and burning trash. Donna brought brunch to me at 12:30 noon (Cream of Wheat cereal, raisin toast, fruit, and Postum.) I enjoyed the TV stories while eating. The sun got through to us this afternoon about 2:45. It isn't as hot today; we didn't have the air coolers on all day until late this afternoon. I composed a little verse for Rex's birthday card; his day is July 29. I put \$6.00 in the card. I watched from my window. Rex and Donna are working with the tractor; she was driving and he was picking up the flat rocks and putting them in the big bucket on the tractor. They went to cut down the weeds around the house, but must get the big rocks out before they can mow the tall weeds down. Tonight, Donna and I watched the movie drama "When the Legends Die" on my television. It is the story of an orphaned Ute Indian boy whose love for horses leads to his exploration as a rodeo rider. It was filmed in Colorado and New Mexico. It was two hours long but interesting. We turned the TV off after hearing the news. There are lots of problems, fires and floods and etcetera. Good night. P.S. Joan phoned tonight and talked to her parents.

July 28, Thursday

Our sky is still overcast, but no rain. I'm thankful for a good night's rest; I got up at noontime. Donna and Dorothy drove to

Ottawa to shop. I gave her some money to buy me some birthday cards. We have three in our family in August, John L. Marsh on the 4th, Jon Tibbets on the 7th, and Janet Shattuck the 14th. Donna worked hard all morning pulling weeds out of her vegetable garden. She works so hard outside and inside. She brought my brunch on a TV tray before she left to go to Ottawa. Rex came home from work shortly before Donna got home. She came home about 3:20. She bought Rex some nice-looking work pants and a bath brush on a long handle for his birthday tomorrow. Later, Donna came in and read to me from our Church newspaper. I enjoyed listening to her read, it is a special treat for me. When I try to read my eyes water and blur, so I can't read well. I stretched out on my bed from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. to ease the hurt in my back. We have bright sunshine this late afternoon. I ate my dinner from a TV tray at 6:30 p.m. Rex and Donna went to visit someone in the branch; they left here at 7:15 p.m. I listened to television all evening. It keeps me from feeling so lonesome here. Good night.

July 29, Friday

*Dear Rex, May July 29 find you well and happy,
And full of good cheers.
And may you celebrate lots of happy birthdays
For many successful and happy years.
My love, Mom Elvie*



I got up about noontime; we have a pleasant day. There are some white clouds in the pretty, blue sky. Donna received a phone call from **Roland and Donna Renshaw**. They were about a half hour's drive from this farm. Donna told them how to get here. She had been with Rex helping him this morning work on a job he was doing for Bruce Hackett. She was splattered with paint from painting a fence, so she had to hurry and get lunch for Rex and me and cleanup herself and the house before the Renshaws arrived in their big camper car home. Donna and Roland both look well and happy. We were glad to see them. I really enjoyed their visit in here with me. I had a nice talk with Donna first, and then Roland came and talked with me while Donna R. was in the kitchen with Donna M. Later, Roland went to the basement to take a nap and the two Donnas went to Overbrook to shop. I stretched out for an hour or so on my bed. We celebrated Rex's birthday at dinner this evening. Donna cooked a nice roast beef meal and a chocolate birthday cake which we enjoyed with ice cream. It was nice to have Roland and Donna Renshaw here with us. I went out to look through their lovely mobile home. It is really pretty inside. Good night.



Donna and Roland Renshaw

July 30, Saturday

I got up to see Roland and Donna Renshaw leave our farm in their "House on Wheels." They drove away about 9:25 this morning. I surely

enjoyed their visit here; they are very nice people, I love them. The Jon Tibbets family drove in our driveway last night about 12:30 p.m. Donna and Mary brought Spencer in to sleep in my extra twin bed. He had a slight temperature and dreamed a big monster was after him. Grama Donna heard us talking; she gave him some cold milk and an aspirin tablet. She got in bed with him until he fell asleep. He slept well all night and was happy this morning. Janet S. phoned from San Jose, California. They are expecting Mark home from his mission in a few days. Mary and Janet had a nice, long visit on the phone. Our branch is having a celebration of some kind, with a picnic this evening. Donna has been making some potato salad or something, to take to the picnic. I've been dozing in my chair. I got up earlier than usual today. Donna made ice cream and Rex froze it. Donna looks so tired; she has really had a work out today. The Tibbets boys, and the girl they brought with them (Julie's friend), spent a couple of hours playing on my bedroom floor with my walking lion and the greeting cards. It is amazing how tall they can build the cards up. Then they have the lion walk into the structure and knock them all down. My family left the farm this evening to go to the church picnic about 4:30. They had a little shopping to do first. They left a plate of dinner for me in the refrigerator. P.S. The picnic was in Paola. They came home at ten o'clock tonight. P.S. Jon T. and I watched TV tonight until they came home from the picnic.

July 31, Sunday

"Welcome, Welcome, Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ ♪ Rex and Donna, Mary and children went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. Donna left me a TV tray with dry cereal, milk, and a banana on it. I enjoyed eating it at noontime. I watched Guy and son Jon put some big strips of siding on their house (measure, cut, and nail). It will be a nice looking home when they are finished. I feel weak and wobbly today. I don't know why? I rested fairly well last night. Spencer slept well in my extra twin bed. I presume at my age (84 years, 7 months) I'm doing very well, eh? Yes, I can count my many blessings and I do! My family came home a few minutes to 2 p.m. Julie's girlfriend Lisa Bennett of Otoe, Nebraska came in to visit with me. She is a nice girl. I played some beloved Mormon Hymns on my Magnavox player. I do love them. Donna cooked a big turkey dinner. I think she baked the turkey last night, anyway, it was a delicious dinner. It was like a big Thanksgiving Day dinner with all the trimmings. She wouldn't let me help with the dishes either. I took a rest on my bed this afternoon. It seems to be a must now. This evening we had a happy sing along feast,

with Donna at the piano and Mary and family singing. I surely enjoyed that. President Rex Marsh was out visiting a branch member. Good night and sweet dreams.

August 1, Monday

I got up this morning at 9:30 a.m. so I could write a verse in John L.'s birthday card. It has to be mailed today; his day is the 4th. Donna made hot cakes for the family. I enjoyed one of them. We have a lot of action going on outside. Jon and Rex are doing some cement work on the Tibbets place. I enclosed four dollar bills in John's card; it was all the money I had, but tomorrow is my payday and I'll be in business again. ☺ Mary and Jon are leaving for home today; he has to teach school tonight and Mary has charge of the food booth in their little community fair. She is leaving her baby, Brian, here with Grama Donna so we'll have a little action

here, too. Mary came in to say goodbye about one o'clock. I was surprised to learn later that Julie didn't go home with the family, so she is here with baby brother, Brian. I wonder why she changed her mind? She was so anxious to go to the fair in their community. I went to Donna's side this evening and she fixed a hot turkey sandwich for me, with salad and etcetera. I ate at the bar in her kitchen. I watched television for a while and then I came to my own place to my big easy chair. I had a painful backache and I'm not feeling very well tonight. I played some lovely, old songs on my Magnavox player and



Donna Marsh in the Overbrook kitchen circa 1979. Donna spent a lot of time in the kitchen preparing meals for church functions, visiting family, neighbors, and of course Rex and Elvie.



enjoyed them so very much. Donna and the children, Julie and Brian, went to the basement while Donna made some cucumber pickles. Rex worked late. Donna slept in the basement tonight with Julie and baby Brian.

August 2, Tuesday

We have a nice, sunny day. I rested fairly well last night. Donna brought brunch to me, a tuna fish sandwich, jelled salad, applesauce, and nut loaf bread. She left baby Brian asleep in his crib in the basement while she went to shop in Overbrook. Julie was visiting a girlfriend in the neighborhood. I saw them riding horseback around our house. "Happy childhood days!" Donna took care of some business in Overbrook; she made the house payment and bought a few items for me. She brought \$40.00 to me from my Social Security check, \$298. My checking account is now \$103.09. The house payment was \$187. She bought vitamin E capsules, \$2.59 plus tax, gum, three packages, 53¢, and Scotch tape, \$3.52. The baby slept while Donna was away. Later, she brought him in to visit me. He is such a darling baby, he had fun with my little, yellow bird in the cage. It hops around when we wind up the key of the music box. He also had fun watching the dolls, Raggedy Ann and Andy

dance to the little tunes they play when we'd wind them up. It took two Gramas to entertain the little fellow. ☺ I stretched out on my bed for an hour after they left. I got up at 6 p.m. to eat the snack plate that Donna brought to me. Later this evening Julie, Brian, and Donna watched television with me until the baby got sleepy and then they took him to his bed in the basement. Good night.

August 3, Wednesday

It is overcast this morning with a hazy sunshine at times. I got up at eleven o'clock after a good night's rest. Baby Brian keeps Grama Donna busy, but he is a cutie. Donna drove to the mailbox to mail some letters; she mailed my birthday card to Jon Tibbets. His day is August 7. Donna made a ham sandwich for my brunch and some potato salad, tomato, and chocolate cake. Rex took Julie to her home in Weeping Water, Nebraska this morning. He is looking over the plastering job that he is going to do for Jon so he'll know how much material to take with him to do the job. Donna didn't get much sleep last night, so she took a nap in the basement while the baby was sleeping. I rested on my bed for an hour or so this late afternoon. I got up to eat the dinner Donna brought me at 6 p.m. It was liver and onions, a jelled salad, some tomatoes, and a piece of chocolate cake. I enjoyed eating and watching television. Tonight, Donna, baby Brian, and Rex watched television with me. The baby got sleepy so Donna put him in his crib in the basement. She came back when he was asleep. We turned the TV off after the ten o'clock news report. Donna is sleeping in the basement while the baby is there. I'm weary, too. Good night!

August 4, Thursday

Happy Birthday John Louis Marsh!
*Congratulations dear Grandson John.
 Glory be! How time marches on.
 I hope you are well, and time will prove,
 Going to California was a "lucky move."
 Give my love to your sweet little wife,
 I wish you happiness all of your life.
 I love you, Grama Elvie*

We had a lot of lightning and thunder last night and some rain; but it didn't last long enough. It was a heavy downpour for a few minutes. I couldn't get to sleep until after daylight this morning so I didn't get up before noontime. Donna brought my brunch at 12:30 p.m. I watched the TV stories and ate my food. I went to bed later this afternoon and felt much better when I got up at 5:45. Little Brian was in and out to visit me several



Brian Tibbets 1977 with Chicken Pox just about faded. In August of 1977 it took two Gramas to keep up with Brian.

times, until Donna blocked my doorway with my swivel chair so he couldn't come in. The little fellow was frustrated by that move but my little, orange bird, in the ivy-covered gold cage, was saved from destruction. It is a cute little music box that plays, "Oh What a Beautiful Morning." Joan sent it to Lou and me several years ago. It should be hanging up, but in my suite, there is no wood to put a hook into, they are all plastered walls. So, it sits on the window ledge, very handy for little folks to reach. ☺

August 5, Friday

I rested much better last night. Donna took Brian with her about noontime to pick Rex up and to do a little grocery shopping. I still feel the hurt in my left hip when I move around. I wonder what it's all about? Rex is doing some tractor work for a farmer neighbor. He came home for lunch. Donna brought my brunch to me about 1:40 noon. I ate while watching the television programs. Baby Brian took his nap in the basement this afternoon. We had some rain in the night and we have a hazy sunshine today. I took an Empirim tablet about 4 p.m. and went to bed to relieve the pain in my left hip; it helped a lot. I could walk without the pain when I got up at 6 p.m. Donna brought my dinner about 6:30 p.m. It was a fried chicken dinner, Mm good! I enjoyed television, I watched "Sanford and Son," "Chico and the Man," and "The Rockford Files." Rex looks so strange with his one black eye. A male patient got out of control at the Manor Nursing Home, where Rex works and he gave Rex a big punch in his eye. It is a sad sight to see on Rex's smiling face, ha ha! Donna and baby Brian came to visit me this evening for a little while. Oh, he is a busy little fellow. I think he is frustrated with all of the "no no's in Grama Elvie's house. Donna came back after she put Brian to bed in his crib. He was asleep and all is well. Good night.

August 6, Saturday

I was blessed with a good night's sleep. The pain in my left hip went away. We have an overcast day with hazy sunshine at times. I got up about 11 a.m. I washed my face and hands and combed my hair, made my bed and said my prayer. Then I sat in my big reclining chair. Exciting, eh? Donna brought a chicken sandwich and jelled salad brunch to me. She also brought some tomatoes and cottage cheese and caramel nut cake, nice, eh? She is thoughtful of my needs. Yes indeed, I'm a lucky old gal to have her for a daughter. Baby Brian came in and out of my place a few times. He is a cutie, but very inquisitive about everything he can get his little hands on. Grama Donna blocks my doorway with my swivel chair so he can't get in here. I have a



lot of little boxes and papers on the floor, under my end table. It's a fun place for the baby, but a "no no," from my point of view. I enjoyed the TV programs tonight, "L. Welk," "Mary T. Moore," "Bob Newhart," and "All in the Family." Rex came in with his black eye to watch "Switch." I'm weary, good night. P.S. I received three letters this afternoon; one from Violet, one from Lydia Paul and one from Ethel E. Newbold. I surely enjoyed all of them.

August 7, Sunday

Happy birthday to Jon Tibbets (35 years old).

August the 7th is almost here,

It comes only once a year.

But it is your own special day,

So, enjoy it Jon, all the way.

May your day be full of happy cheers

That will linger through the years.

I slept fairly well last night. I had some weird dreams that disturbed my otherwise peaceful slumber. Donna left a Jello drink and some graham crackers on a TV tray for me. I enjoyed my snack about 11:30 a.m. Donna and baby Brian went to Sunday School with Dorothy Tibbets. Guy T. is home working on the house. President Rexall Marsh, and his black and blue eye, went to church earlier to preside over the branch. We have hazy sunshine this morning. It is comfortable in the house. Rex brought a young couple home with him. Their name is Stevens; he is the son of President Stevens of the other stake we used to live in. They are expecting a baby. Donna brought them in to see me. She invited me to eat dinner with them, but I was not hungry enough to eat. I played some nice music on my Magnavox player and rested on my bed. I got up at 6 p.m. and listened to the television, while eating the snack Donna had prepared for me. After the baby was asleep, and Rex's company was gone, they came in my place to watch television. We watched a drama called "Yesterday's Child." It didn't hold my interest very well. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Good night, weary me, L.V.

August 8, Monday

We have a pleasant day, hazy sunshine. It is warm outside, but not in our house. I'm comfortable. Donna took the baby to Overbrook with her this morning to shop. She got him to sleep after his lunch. I didn't get to see the little fellow this morning, but he came in this afternoon, all smiles and ready for action. He can sure find the "no no's" in a flash. But, Grama Donna is on her toes too and Baby Brian is taken out of here under protest. I got Janet Shattuck's birthday card ready to mail this afternoon. I enclosed three-dollar bills for her birthday on August 14.

I felt better today so I didn't go to bed this afternoon. I played some records on my Magnavox player and I listened to television, "The Cross Wits Game," "Hollywood Squares," and "Little House on the Prairie." Donna pickled some cucumbers in her basement this evening. She made "bread and butter pickles," and they smelled so good. After baby Brian was asleep tonight, Donna visited with me. We enjoyed television. We had a severe storm warning on the TV, but it passed us by. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report tonight. Good night.



Professor Jon Tibbets teaching Spanish.

August 9, Tuesday

It is another hazy day; Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. She and baby Brian went to the lake where Rex is working, to take him his lunch. We have another "hot" day, but it is pleasant in the house; I'm thankful for that. I enjoyed the TV stories while eating my brunch. Today's mail had a wedding invitation for Rex and Donna Marsh from Provo, Utah. It was for the reception of Wendie Sue Olson and William Douglas Day, on Friday the 26th of August, 1977. At 674 Augusta Drive, Moraga, California. This nice-looking couple were married in the LDS Oakland Temple. She is the daughter of Vernon and Mildred B. Olson. My name was not on the envelope. I took a nap on my bed this afternoon. I got up at 6 p.m. to eat the dinner Donna prepared for me and to enjoy the "Cross Wits Game" on television. I have felt the heat this afternoon, more than before. Donna talked me into going outside and watching the daylight turn into darkness tonight. There was a fire burning south of us; Rex drove down to investigate. He said some farmer was burning the dry brush off of his property, nothing to be alarmed about. I had some insect bites on my hands and arms to annoy me;

the d--- mosquitoes! It is much cooler in the house. The two kittens wanted up on our laps, or to walk around our legs. It is too hot for that, so we came in the cool house. Good night.

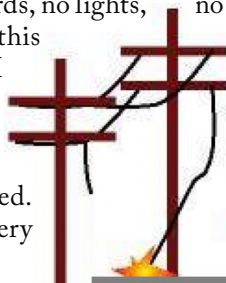
August 10, Wednesday

It seems cooler to me today, but Donna said it is hot outside. With the air conditioner on in the house, it is nice and cool here, I think. Donna blocked my door with the back of my swivel chair so baby Brian couldn't get in here. He played in the hallway with kitchen utensils. He was having fun with the slam bang of pots and pans. I stretched out on my bed this afternoon for a while. I didn't sleep very well last night, so I felt the need of some bed rest. Donna brought my brunch at noontime and my dinner at 6 p.m. It is now 8:05 p.m. Baby Brian has had his bath and is in his crib crying himself to sleep. Donna will stay with him until he falls asleep. Rex is working at the Manor Nursing Home tonight. I can't hear any crying now, so I presume he is about in slumber land. I'll miss that little fellow; Rex and Donna are taking him home tomorrow. Our house smells good, Donna made some more **bread and butter pickles** this afternoon. I watched television until bed time. Good night.



August 11, Thursday

Rex and Donna took baby Brian home this morning. She left a TV tray with some food on for me and a note saying my dinner is in the refrigerator. They will be late getting home tonight as they may not leave Weeping Water, Nebraska, until after midnight. She said, "Go to bed and don't worry." Dorothy Tibbets came over this afternoon and visited with me for an hour or so. We have a pleasant day with blue sky and sunshine. I listened to television and to some nice music on my Magnavox player to help me through this long, lonesome day. It was so nice of Dorothy to come and talk to me. She is a lovely person. I dozed in my big reclining chair and walked around in my place. I try to be happy and keep a smile on my face. Lonesome old me, poor weary L.V. ☹️ The electricity went off at 6:15 this evening. I have the flashlight on my end table in case I need it. We have daylight now, it is about 6:50 p.m. (between the dark and the daylight.) Night is coming on. I can't see any lights on anywhere so I presume it is general. I went to the kitchen for the dinner plate Donna left for me (sandwich, salad, custard, and cake. No television, no Magnavox records, no lights, no nothin! I went to bed at eight o'clock this evening, so I could have some daylight to see to get ready for bed. It is all so very frustrating to this old Grama. Goodnight!



**Power
Outage**

*Elvie was all alone and without TV,
Magnavox, or lights.*

August 12, Friday

Good morning! I welcomed the daylight this morning. It was indeed a troublesome night. The electricity was off all night. Donna tried to telephone me about 1 a.m., but I couldn't go in the dark night to answer the phone, and it was dark. I couldn't get the darn flashlight to turn on; by the time I did get a light, the phone had stopped ringing.

I was sure it was Donna phoning to let me know they couldn't get home tonight. I felt sure all was well with them, but I just couldn't get to sleep. I had my little bed lamp on so I'd know when the electricity came on. It was about 4:45 a.m. I was glad it came on before Rex and Donna got here. I think it was about 10:00 this morning when they arrived. She said they couldn't find a gas station open, so they stayed overnight in a motel in some little town. This morning Donna went to Overbrook to shop. She bought a pretty wedding card to send to Wendie Sue Olson and William Douglas Day. They'll be married in the Oakland Temple. She is the daughter of Vernon and Mildred Olson. I gave Donna \$5.00 to put in the card. The 26th of August is their wedding day. Our news reports this evening say the weather will be cooler; that sounds good to me. We have that good "odor" in the house again tonight. Donna put up some more butter pickles and made bread. The aroma is really pungent. Good night. P.S. Jon Tibbets and a young man arrived this morning; they've been working on the Tibbetses' home today.

August 13, Saturday

And a happy Saturday to you, too! I was blessed with a good night's rest. I thought I was young and beautiful, ☺️ old dreamer, he he! We have a hazy sunshine today. Donna says it is very pleasant outside, with a nice, cool breeze. The Guy Tibbetses' home is looking good. They have painted the house a nice buff shade, the trim is light ivory. Jon and his young friend are working over there. They came yesterday morning. They stayed over there. Donna brought me a nice brunch (sandwich, salad, and drink). I surely wish she didn't have me to worry about, but she has! She is a darling daughter; I love her and do not want to be a burden to her. I answered Ethel Newbold's letter this afternoon. Donna did some vacuum cleaning this afternoon. She dusted and moved some pictures in my living room; it looks better. After my dinner this evening, I wrote a letter to Lydia and Gene Paul. I hope to answer Violet's letter tomorrow. I enjoyed my yellow cotton robe this afternoon. It is much cooler than the pretty rayon or nylon robe I've been wearing. Joan sent it to me on Mother's Day. My family have gone to bed, so I'll turn out the lights and go to bed. Good night and sweet dreams. (I'm tired.)

August 14, Sunday

Happy Birthday, to Janet E. Shattuck, she is 41 years old today.

*May your day be happy and full of good cheer,
That will linger all through the coming year!*



Yes, we have our beautiful Janet in our thoughts; we hope she is enjoying her birthday. I'm sure she is, with her son Mark

home from his mission to Argentina. Donna left me a tray of food and a note asking me to put the meatloaf in the oven at 2:30 p.m. This is their long day; they won't be home until 4 p.m. I've had trouble with heart fibrillations this morning, and they really slow me down. [*Atrial fibrillation is a quivering or irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) that can lead to blood clots, stroke, heart failure and other heart-related complications.*] It is a pleasant day; we do have some clouds in the blue sky. Later: it is 3 p.m. now, our sky is dark. I can hear thunder. We do need some rain, but not the lightning and thunder; I can do nicely without that. The meatloaf is baking and all is well. The folks came home about 3:30 p.m. They had company with them, the Dale C. Westhoffs, they folks stayed for dinner. I learned it is not conference today, but they had a special meeting of some kind (missionary, I think). I wrote a letter to Violet. I didn't feel well enough to join them for dinner today. I'm sorry about that. Marie came in to visit with me. President Rex was visiting some branch members. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

August 15, Monday

It was warm last night but I rested fairly well. I got up about 11:45 a.m. Donna had already worked for several hours in the gardens. She weeded and she picked cucumbers, tomatoes, and summer squash. She prepared the summer squash for the freezer. She is making sweet pickles and bread and butter pickles out of the cucumbers. She cooked some Cream of Wheat and made raisin toast for my brunch. She is so good to me, but I do worry about being a burden to her. I long to be with my own generation, so Donna and Rex can go and come as they please, without a thought of me alone here. Our house has that sweet, pungent pickle aroma again today. I like it. They tell me it is hot outside, but I manage to "keep my cool" here in the house. Rex and Donna came in my place this evening and we enjoyed our "Home Evening" Rex called on me to open with prayer; he then gave the lesson from "The Family Home Evening Book." Our subject was "Happiness through Faith in Jesus Christ." We had a pleasant discussion asking and answering questions. I enjoyed our home evening very much. "Now the day is ending, and night is coming on." ♪♪ Good night.

August 16, Tuesday

We had some lightning and thunder and rain in the night; it is overcast and cooler this morning. I rested fairly well last night. Donna made hot cakes for Rex and herself; she had some batter left over, so she made a hot

cake for my brunch at noon time. Rex and Donna went out to do their visiting teaching this afternoon. Donna couldn't get in her bathroom to get ready; for some reason the lock slipped and she couldn't get the door open, so she had to use my bathroom and make up and etcetera. It is still overcast this afternoon; it is nice and cool in the house. Rex and Donna came home about 6 p.m. I walked around in the house for exercise. Donna brought my mail in; I got my TV Guide and my Kansas State Bank interest notice, \$155.09 deposited to my checking account. Nice, eh? Elvis Presley died today at the age of 42 years. He died of an irregular heartbeat. They gave him a special tribute on television this evening. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

August 17, Wednesday

I had a restless night with some crazy, disturbing dreams. I stayed in bed until almost noontime. Donna brought brunch to me about 12:50 noon. She had been to Overbrook to shop; she bought some Scope Mouthwash and some cleansing tissues for me. I gave her \$5.00; she'll get some stamps when she can go to the post office. Donna's new Relief Society counselors will be first Nadine Ryan, second Evelyn Toye. Donna was given an assignment for Saturday, August 20, to give a two-minute talk on "Some person who has influenced my life." She typed her talk this morning and read it to me this afternoon. It was very lovely and brought tears to my eyes. She paid a beautiful tribute to me, her mother! I am indeed blessed to have her for my daughter. Rex and Donna went

to the lower fields this afternoon at 5 p.m. I think she said they were going to pick cucumbers, but not sure. They are expecting Mary and the children tonight sometime. They arrived about 8:40 p.m. Mary brought Jody, Julie, and Brian. She stopped at Sears Roebuck and Company to buy the children's school clothes. She spent \$80 on them; blue jeans, shirts, socks, shoes, etcetera. She had two big bags full of clothes to show us. It was exciting for a while, then, they went over to see Grandma and Grandpa Tibbets. They'll be going home in the morning. Baby Brian will stay here until Mary and Jon and the older children come home from their back pack trip. I played some nice records on the Magnavox tonight. Mary and Donna came in my place tonight and visited for a while. I surely enjoyed having them come and talk to me; I do get so lonesome. Mary is leaving early in the morning for home. Julie and Jody will go with her, but Brian is staying with Donna. President Rex went to Mutual tonight.



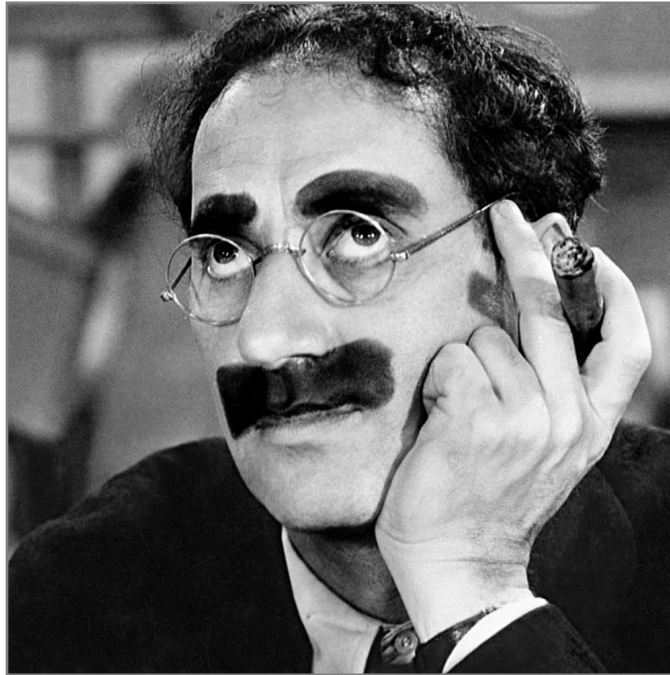
Elvie and Donna Renshaw in November 10, 1929. On August 17, 1977 Donna typed her talk and read it to her mother. The topic was, "some person who has influenced my life." Donna wrote about her mother.

August 18, Thursday

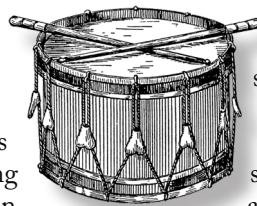
Mary took Julie and Jody home this morning; she left baby Brian with Grama Donna until they come back from their back pack trip in Wyoming with other family members. Kathy and Mark will meet them there. I hope they have a fun time together. We have an overcast sky and it is cooler; we all enjoy that! Donna brought my brunch to me about 1 p.m. Baby Brian came in to see me; Grama Donna was with him. He is such a cutie. He took his nap in the basement this afternoon. Donna made bread and butter pickles again today. She is busy doing something all day. I walk around in my two rooms for exercise and write in my diary and doze in my chair, exciting, eh? I presume Rex worked somewhere today; he is staying all night with a branch member, a Br. Martin, who is very ill. President Marsh is doing this good deed, so Sr. Martin can get a night's rest. Our news report says Hubert Humphrey is ill with cancer; a bladder tumor. I'm sorry to learn this sad news. I was surprised to receive two letters from Blanche Hogleund this afternoon. She wrote one to me and the other to "Dear Harriet," but she addressed them both to me. I'll send the one back to her. We get confused, eh? The Marshes and I received a nice thank you letter from Roland and Donna Renshaw for the nice visit they had with us here in Kansas, on July 29.

August 19, Friday

I couldn't sleep very well last night so I was thankful for the good sleep. I got up this morning about noon. Rex sat up last night with a sick man, Br. Martin, so his wife could get a night's rest. It was very thoughtful of President Marsh. Little Brian has a head cold; his nose is running and he has sneezed some. I hope Grama Donna won't catch his cold (or Grama L.V.) or Grampa Rex. I wrote a letter to Blanche Hogleund and enclosed the letter she sent to me by mistake. She meant to send it to her friend, Harriet. Blanche is 87 or 88 years old. We do get confused in our old age, eh? Rex and Donna took Brian with them to Topeka to shop this afternoon. I hope Donna can find the dress she likes at the Sears sale. I'm sorry I'm not well enough to take care of Brian for Donna.



Groucho Marx died August 19, 1977.



meeting. She is giving a talk on the program. Her subject is, "Who has influenced my life the most." She paid me a lovely tribute in her talk. She read it to me last Wednesday. Bless her dear heart. I'm so thankful for her love, she surely made our home a happy one; her Daddy Lou and I are proud of her.

Donna wore her new blue and white dress today. It really looks pretty on her. I'm sorry I'm not well enough to go to church with them. Dorothy Tibbets is in Marshes', waiting for the baby to have his nap. I feel weak and strange. My heart beat is irregular, more than usual. So, what the heck? It is still beating, ha ha. I stretched out on my bed for an hour. I got up to hear "Lawrence Welk" on the TV at six o'clock. I also got myself a snack from the kitchen. Dorothy took Brian to her house; she brought him home later and put him to bed in his crib. I presume she stayed in the basement with the baby. Rex and Donna came home about 10:50 p.m.

Dorothy and Guy Tibbets are not feeling up to it either. Rex, Donna, and Brian left here about 5 p.m. "Good luck!" Donna brought a letter from Wayne and Marty Strong for me to read. It was very interesting. Donna and Brian came in this evening to tell me Joan had phoned; she and the family are coming to visit us in a few days. Exciting, eh? We expect them next Wednesday. Donna brought her two pretty, new dresses in to show me; one is a lovely blue, with pink and white flowers in it, the other is a dark blue with white leaves in the pattern. I'm sure she'll look lovely in them. One is a size 12 and the other a size 14. Good night. P.S. **Groucho Marx** died tonight; he was 86 years old.

August 20, Saturday

I stayed up last night until eleven o'clock. I was listening to the 1977 Drum Corps International Championship Special. 10,000 participants were from the United States and Canada, all drum and bugle corps champions. Gene and Helen Rayburn were the hosts. It is our stake conference today and tomorrow. Donna brought me a nice, hot roast beef TV dinner at 1 p.m. She fed baby Brian and got him to sleep. Dorothy Tibbets will look in on him this afternoon while Donna is in Kansas City, Missouri, at the regional Relief Society

August 21, Sunday

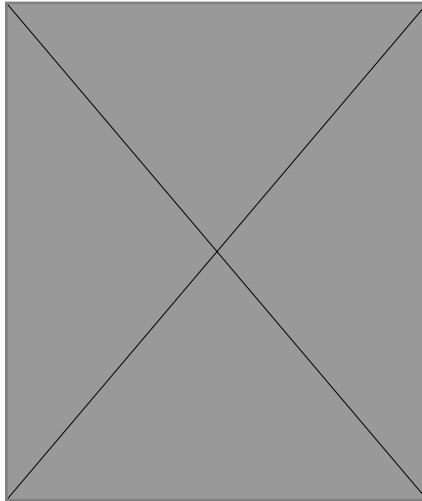
Donna left me a tray of food (dry cereal, fruit, and graham crackers, and Jello drink). I stayed in bed until noon. Dorothy Tibbets and little Brian came in to check on me about noontime. She brought the baby home for his nap. Rex and Donna left early to attend the stake conference in Kansas City. They'll be gone all day; some friends have invited them to have dinner with them. I've forgotten their names. It amazes me how well I remember the things that happened years ago, but I can't remember what I was told yesterday. Confusing, eh? My heart beat is still irregular; it surely slows down my activities. Wipe that smile off your face; when you are almost 85 years old, you'll understand my frustrations! We have an overcast sky with some hazy sunshine. Dorothy took baby Brian back to her house after his nap. It was 2:50 p.m. I took my dishes back to the kitchen and put them in the cupboard. I washed them in my bathroom. I sat in Marshes' living room and enjoyed the pretty view from their big window. I came back here at 3 p.m. and relaxed in my big chair to wait. What the heck am I waiting for? Ha ha. Donna and Brian came in this evening while "Rhoda" was on TV. Later Rex and Donna took both cars to the little VW garage, for some repair work; it is a leak, I think. They took Brian; they will all come home in the pickup truck. Good night.

August 22, Monday

Donna and Dorothy T. took little Brian with them this morning to shop in Overbrook. They bought groceries and a book of stamps for me. I had a fairly good night's rest, my irregular heartbeat caused me some concern. It would beat twice, and then skip a beat. It made me feel a bit strange. I stayed in bed until noontime. Donna brought a sandwich and custard and a hot drink and fruit for my brunch. Correction: It was Rex that brought the food to me. Donna prepared it. I watched the television stories while eating. Donna and baby Brian came to visit me for a short time; he is such a busy little fellow and there are so many "no no's" in my place that Grama Donna had to take him out. I'm sorry, because I do get so lonesome. But our year and a half old Brian wants to handle everything he sees. (Adorable, busy baby!) Donna watched "The Little House on the Prairie" with me. She had Brian in her lap. He'd had his bath and was wrapped in a bath towel. I turned off the TV set when Donna left to put baby to bed. We were having a rather severe lightning and thunder storm, so I wasn't comfortable with the TV on. Oh, I hate these noisy, violent storms we have in Kansas. Rex invited me to go out in the garage and watch the lightning with him. No thanks! ☺ We had a unique home evening tonight by candle light. We had two candles and two oil lamps. Donna read with the help of my flash light. Our lights came on again about 12:30 midnight.

August 23, Tuesday

This is Donna's big day at Relief Society. We used to call it "work day" with a luncheon. I've forgotten what they call it now, Homemaking? Rex took care of baby Brian today; He also brought my brunch to me at one o'clock. He is a nice son-in-law, eh? It is cloudy and cool, but no rain. We had a special news report at 1:30 p.m. It was President Jimmy Carter's news conference and very interesting. Donna came home about 2:30; I was surprised. I thought she'd be much later, but I'm always glad to see her back home. Donna and Rex took Brian with them to get their little VW car from the repair job shop this evening about five o'clock. The three of us watched the Opera Theater, on Channel 11 tonight. It was a return of "La Traviata" and was two hours long. It was lovely, it went from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. We went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Good night, I'm weary. P.S. Our news report said that Sebastian Cabot died.



Sebastian Cabot died August 23, 1977.

August 24, Wednesday

I rested fairly well last night. It was overcast and cool this morning. I stayed in bed until almost noon. Donna brought brunch to me about one o'clock p.m. Baby Brian was having a nap in his crib, in the basement. I enjoyed the TV stories while eating my nice lunch. Joan phoned and said she didn't get started as early as she expected, so they'll be late arriving here, about midnight I presume. It is 4 p.m. now and Donna is taking baby Brian with her to shop in Overbrook. Dorothy Tibbets went to the beauty shop in Overbrook this morning to have a permanent wave. My heart action is more normal today. I feel some better. I walked around in my room for exercise and stretched out on my bed to relax after. I got up at 6 p.m. and ate my dinner and watched television. I watched "Tales of the Unexpected," a far-out story, but entertaining. Donna brought a glass of cold ginger ale to me tonight about ten p.m. It was good! Surprise! Our Gardner family arrived soon after 11 p.m. I was still up, so I was happy to join in the family reunion. Rex was in bed; he didn't get up, but Donna was there to welcome them and give them a sandwich and a drink of milk and get them all bedded down. They all look well and happy. Janet is a very pretty young lady. Sherm didn't come; he was busy at home in church work, I assume. Good night and sweet dreams.



August 25, Thursday

It is cloudy and cool this morning. Donna took Rex's lunch to him about noon time. It is very quiet around here at 1 p.m. Joan and the children are out somewhere I presume. Donna brought my brunch when she came home. Marshall and Sandy came in here and asked to see Grampa Lou's violin. I got it out of my closet. The



Joan, Emily, and Paula visit the farm in August of 1977.

little sisters, Emily and Paula, came in, too, so they were all interested in the violin and its' case. Joan came to the rescue and put the violin away and took the children out to the Marshes' side. ☺ I enjoy seeing all of them but I feel so weak and exhausted most of the time that I can't take the excitement of children for long. (A sad situation, eh?) I'll bet baby Brian is delighted to see his little cousins. Donna is trying to pickle cucumbers and can apples and cook for the family. I don't know how she does it all! Joan is really tired from that long, hot drive from Naperville, Illinois. She took a nap this afternoon. It is wonderful to see our dear Joan and the children again, too. I went to the basement tonight and watched Joan and Donna bottle some cucumber pickles. It was so nice to be with them and the children where I could see the action. It was 10:40 when we came upstairs tonight. My heart action was more stable after resting a while in my big chair. Joan visited with me for a while. Good night.

August 26, Friday

We have a hazy morning. I rested well last night and this morning. Donna and her little Gardner grandchildren brought my lunch to me. ☺ Joan took her children to play at Star Lake today after lunch time. Janet stayed home with Mary's baby, Brian, in the basement until he was asleep. I hope Donna is resting while the children are away; she looks so tired. I walked to Marshes' side this afternoon. Janet had baby Brian in her arms showing him pictures in a big book. Donna was burning the papers in the incinerator outside; it was 3:40 p.m. I played some "sing along" records on my Magnavox player this afternoon for my entertainment. We have a local fair at the fairgrounds in our location somewhere?



I think Joan took the children to the fair after they'd been to the lake. They are full of energy and there is nothing here on this farm to interest and entertain them. I stretched out on my bed for an hour this evening from 5 to 6 p.m. I got up to watch, "Crossword" or the wits game on TV. Joan took the children to see the parade in Overbrook tonight; it was coming from the fair, I think? We had a lovely musical here in Marshes' house tonight. It started with Rex and Donna in duets. Later Joan joined them. Oh, I did enjoy this beautiful music, the lovely anthems and hymns. I sang along in my heart. Grama Donna played some Primary songs for the children's pleasure. Good night.

August 27, Saturday

Joan and her family went to Star Lake again this afternoon about 1:40 p.m. Baby Brian is having his nap. Grama Elvie just finished her nice brunch. We have a windy day, but it's clear and sunny. Rex came home for his lunch. Joan's children had fun with the water hose in the sand pile all morning. I enjoyed their activities from my bathroom window. I recall when this old 84½ year old great grandma was a little, happy child, too.

Donna has been very busy all day, as always. She and Joan made sweet pickles for Joan to take home. I think they made applesauce, too, not sure. I know everyone is busy doing something (everyone but me). I'm just the record keeper, so watch your step, he he! Our sky is cloudy this afternoon, the sun is playing "Peek a Boo" with the clouds. There is no rain yet. Joan came in this evening; she said they left the Star Lake and went to Pomona Lake where there is a nice beach. She said they went to Pomona Lake yesterday, too; they had more fun there. I presume they visited the fair, too. John and Ann Marsh phoned from Pasadena this evening. He seems to enjoy his work in California. Ann is going to teach school there; she starts on Monday. The Gardner children came in my place tonight and played with my basket of greeting cards and the toy lion. It walks by the help of batteries. They were entertained for an hour or more, building up the card structures and having the lion walk into them. We had some lightning and thunder tonight, plus rain. Good night.

August 28, Sunday

I didn't get to sleep last night; the wind kept blowing something bang bang against my house. I got a couple of hours sleep this morning. I stayed in bed until one o'clock this afternoon. Joan and the children and President Rex Marsh and Donna, all went to Sunday School and to sacrament meeting. They got home shortly after 2 p.m. Donna left a "Shake and Bake barbecue Chicken" in the

oven. It was delicious. I surely enjoyed my nice TV tray dinner about 2:40 p.m. The potato salad was very good too and the cookies that Joan made; everything was sooo good. Oh, it is so quiet with all of them gone; we are back to the three of us. I hope Donna can enjoy a much-needed rest now. It is a four-hour drive from here to Mary's home in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Joan and family took baby Brian home to Mary this afternoon about 4:15 p.m., or 4:30. I get confused with all of the activities going on around me. There'll be a house full when Joan and family arrive. We had a lot of rain last night and it is cloudy and cooler today, which is nice. I gave Janet a package of gum (7 sticks) to treat the family on the way to Nebraska. Janet is a beautiful young lady, I enjoyed all of the Gardner children. We missed Sherm; he couldn't come this time. He is home with Miller. Rex, Donna, Joan, and Donna Story sang in sacrament meeting this afternoon. I know the quartet was lovely I heard my family rehearsing last Friday night; it was beautiful. Good night.



"I just do not feel "at home" in Kansas, but I am thankful that Rex and Donna love it here." -LV

August 29, Monday

A good night's rest is a blessing and I'm thankful for it. Donna had a busy morning as always. She brought my brunch on a TV tray about 1 p.m. I ate it and watched the TV stories for entertainment. Oh, do they ever have their problems! Life is a breeze for us compared to their troubles. Ha ha! This afternoon Rex and Donna went to Topeka, Kansas to look for a new suit for Rex. His children sent the money for his birthday a month ago and said it was to buy a new suit. They thought he'd look nice in brown. I think he would, too. There is a darn mosquito trying to make a landing on my face; he has already got me twice on the forehead above my left eye and on my wrist. I'd sure like to get him in one big hand clap! Whack! Rex and Donna came about 5:45 p.m. She had a very pretty tie and handkerchief in brown shades. They bought him a nice, brown suit. They'll pick it up on Thursday after the pant cuffs are finished. She bought me some Metamucil, the large size. I walked around in the house for exercise. This evening I ate my dinner from the TV tray that Donna brought to me. Later, Donna brought me a glass of cranberry juice to drink. We had our Home Evening in here tonight. Rex read the message from the home evening book. Donna has a little cold in her throat so he read. We had a very pleasant evening. Good night.



August 30, Tuesday

It is a hazy day with a strong breeze. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 1 p.m. I have some mosquito bites on my face near my eyes. I look like I have a black eye. For someone who never goes outside,

how come I get these mosquito bites? Of course, the little insects do get in the house. ☹ Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went to Pomona to do their visiting teaching this afternoon and they came home about 3 p.m. The sun was bright in a blue sky this afternoon. I entertained myself with television and I walked around in the house for exercise. I have an exciting life, eh? I visited with Donna for a while in her living room; we read from the little Church newspaper. Rex came home from work about 5:15 p.m. Donna went back to her kitchen work. I came here to my place and put some medication on my swollen mosquito bites. Marshes' friends from the branch, Mel and Evelyn Toye, and their two children, a little girl and boy, came to the farm house tonight. Mel is a television technician. He worked on my set for an hour or so. I have a nice picture in color now. "The Johnny Carson Show" was very entertaining tonight. Donna gave Mel \$10.00 for the job. I'll give it back to her on my payday. Good night.

August 31, Wednesday

We have a pleasant day, not too hot, with a cloudy sky. I slept fairly well last night. I was up a few times and walked around in my rooms, but I went back to bed until noon. **I just do not feel "at home" in Kansas**, but I am thankful that Rex and Donna love it here. I presume this will be their home for the rest of their lives. Why not, if they are happy here. It isn't easy to pull up one's roots when they are in their eighties. I am 84½ years old and I long to be with my own generation. Donna is busy typing; I can hear her typewriter. She has a lot of correspondence to take care of. I really enjoyed my television today; I have a good, clear picture in color. Tonight, Rex and Donna went out to do their visiting teaching and their home teaching. I watched television as usual. P.S. Rex and Donna picked more cucumbers and squash from their garden. Farewell August 1977. Good night. P.S. Our electricity was off again today for a short while.

September 1, Thursday

We had a thunder storm last night and a downpour of rain. It is cloudy today, but not raining. Donna left a TV tray with cereal and fruit on for me. She also wrote a note saying she should be home by 1 p.m. She came home about 1:30 p.m. She had been to Wellsville to a meeting; Relief Society business, I presume. Donna went to Overbrook to shop this afternoon. It was my Social Security payday. Donna made the house payment and did other business, too. She brought me some cash (\$40.00). There was a special report on TV today. Ethel Waters died today at age 80. I watched the "Dinah" TV show; her guests were, Lucille Ball, James Coburn and James Garner. Later Donna came in and we watched "The Waltons" on television. President Marsh

went out on church business somewhere this evening. Donna went to the kitchen to do her dishes. I watched "Hawaii Five-O" on TV. I also had a short nap on my bed from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

September 2, Friday

I was blessed with a good night's sleep. I was young and having fun. It's a shock to wake up and realize I'm an old lady, almost 85 years old. Donna brought brunch to me on a TV tray at 12:30 noon. Kathy phoned her parents this morning from California. She was excited because she and Mark are going to fly to Hawaii. His company is sending him to the islands on business and Kathy is going with him to enjoy beautiful Hawaii. Rex and Donna put their little VW car in the repair shop this afternoon. I dozed in my chair this afternoon with the television on. I've seen Rex do that many times. I didn't think I'd ever do that; but today, I did it! I have a correction to make; it was yesterday they put the VW car in the repair shop. Today they bought a tire for the truck. I just can't keep up with their activities very well. Rex and Donna came in my suite tonight and listened to television until the ten o'clock news report was over. We have a weather warning, a "W" on our TV screen. Rex says it is north of us and will not give us any trouble. Good night!

September 3, Saturday

It was a peaceful night, no violent thunder storms in our location. I got up about 10:30 this morning. I raised the window shades in my south windows; it was overcast. I was having a blind stagger spell, so I got back in bed and fell asleep. I didn't wake up until noon. Donna was so quiet I thought she'd gone somewhere. Rex came home in the pickup truck about 12:45 noon for his lunch. Saturday is always a lonesome day for me now. There are no television stories to entertain me, a sad situation, eh? Boo hoo! I want to go home! ☹ Rex had a flat tire on the brand-new tire he bought for the pickup truck and that is really sad, eh? Donna brought a nice lunch to me after Rex left; he wasn't here long. I enjoyed some lovely records on my Magnavox player while eating. Donna read Joan's letter to me. Baby Brian was delighted to see his family in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Joan took him home from here. I got Mark Calkins' birthday card ready to mail; I enclosed \$3.00. He will be in Hawaii on his birthday and Kathy with him. His day is September 15. His company [Texas Instruments] sent him to the islands on business and Kathy is excited about the trip, too. Donna came in this afternoon and vacuum cleaned my place and cleaned my bathroom, too. She is so very precious. I saw a turtle walking in our backyard today, it was about the size of a big cantaloupe, cut in half. I saw it twice or there are two of them? They are interesting, little creatures.

September 4, Sunday

We have a wet Sabbath day, it is raining. Donna left some graham crackers and a cup of hot Jello on a TV tray for me. She left early, before nine o'clock. This is fast Sunday; it is a bit longer than other Sunday meetings. If Rex isn't working, he is with Donna. Dorothy Tibbets burned her hand with some hot grease yesterday, so I presume she didn't go to church today. Her car is in their yard. I haven't felt very well

today; my heart beat is irregular and it causes me to feel weak and strange. Rex and Donna came home at 1:40 p.m. She had dinner on the table by 2:30 p.m. The pot roast was nice and tender, cooking in the crockpot all morning with potatoes. I didn't even help Donna do the dishes, I'm, sorry about that, but I felt strange and weak. Rex went to work at the Manor Nursing Home at 3 p.m. We had some hazy sunshine late this afternoon, but no more rain today. Donna came in here and read from the church Ensign about the translation of the Book of Mormon. I do appreciate her reading to me; my eyes water and blur my vision so I can't read well now. In fact, I don't do anything well anymore. Sorry about that.

September 5, Monday

*Through "labor" we come into the world
And through "labor" we struggle through.
"Three Cheers" for honest labor.
Without it, what would we do?*



(It is Labor Day today.) We have an overcast sky this morning, but it is peaceful with no wind or rain so far. It is 12:10 noon now. My household is very quiet; I wonder if Donna is home. I was blessed with a good night's rest; it is indeed a blessing. I took it for granted in my younger years. We live and learn, eh? Donna came in a few minutes ago; she'd been looking through her talks to send Mary the one she gave on temple marriage some time ago. Mary has been asked to talk on that subject soon. I'm glad Donna saves her talks; she gives such fine talks. She puts a lot of thought into them. Janet Shattuck phoned Donna from California. She had happy news about their lovely vacation trip to Bryce's Canyon and etcetera. Rex came home from work about 3:15 this afternoon. Later, he and Donna drove to Topeka to pick up his new brown suit. The sun came out bright this afternoon. I rested on my bed this afternoon. Oh, lonesome me.

*Did you ever feel home sick and blue?
I hope you never do. ☹
I miss my darling Lou
And my parents and family, too.
My little diary is a friend;
It will be with me to the end.
I'll try to be cheerful; I know I ought'er.
I'm thankful for my precious daughter,
And her dear family, too.
So, I'll be happy not blue.*



September 6, Tuesday

We have a pleasant day with some clouds in our blue sky. I rested fairly well last night with some weird dreams. I got up about 11:30 a.m. Donna left a TV tray with graham crackers and a hot Jello drink on for me, plus a note saying she'd be home about 1:30 p.m. She was a little later, it was after 2 p.m. but I didn't feel hungry enough to eat the sandwich she wanted to make for me. She's been to her Relief Society meeting. Rex had been helping a friend do some work. He came home soon after Donna came. They brought me a glass of homemade apple juice; it was delicious. They both took naps this afternoon; they looked tired. And lonesome old me? I walked around in my place for exercise

and played some nice records on my Magnavox player and relaxed on my bed. Exciting, eh? I got up at 6 p.m. and went back to television and a snack to eat. A young lady that used to work at the Manor Home where Rex works, came to the farm this evening to rehearse some songs. Her name is Marcia Atchison. Rex invited her to sing in church next Sunday. Donna will play for her. I enjoyed listening to her solos, but best of all I enjoyed the lovely duets that Rex and Donna sang for me after Marcia left. We heard the ten o'clock news report and then I came home and went to bed. Good night.

September 7, Wednesday

It is another nice, calm day with hazy sunshine, but it is warm, even in the house. Donna picked a lot more cucumbers from her garden; they sure had a bumper crop of cucumbers and squash this season, lots of tomatoes, too. A few minutes ago, Rex brought a huge watermelon in to show me! I enjoyed the nice brunch that Donna brought to me while I watched the television stories. I walked around in the house for exercise and I took a rest on my bed. I got up at 6 p.m. to eat dinner and enjoy TV. President Rex went to Mutual tonight. Donna watched television with me. We watched "The Waltons" and then she went to the basement to pickle some cucumbers. I have a sore in my mouth which has been bothering me for several days. I'm hoping to heal it with some medication I have. Donna brought a newsletter from the Jacob Strong Family Organization. Frances Strong Helman was a guest from Pennsylvania. They'd like members to send pictures and records to Lewis W. Strong, or to Florie S. Fullmer. Good night. P.S. Rex stepped on a big, black cricket in my house tonight. Ugh! I don't want them in my house. I wonder how such big insects get in the house?



Frances Strong Helman was a guest at the Jacob Strong Family Organization meeting in Salt Lake City in 1977.

September 8, Thursday

We have a pleasant day. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna had company, Jeanne Bickerstaff and Donna Story came to rehearse for a church program. I think there were some children with them. Donna gave them some lunch. She brought me a sandwich and a drink of Ovaltine for my brunch after they left. I enjoyed the television stories while eating my nice brunch. I had a spell of blind staggers this afternoon. The darn things annoy me and make my head feel strange. I'm tired of living, but trying to be cheerful while waiting for my "blessed call." This afternoon I relaxed on my bed for an hour. I got up at 6 p.m. and ate the food Donna brought to me while I enjoyed the "Cross Wits Game" on television and "The Billy Graham Crusade Program." Rex and Donna went to Garnett tonight to visit some branch members. Our news report tonight says that Alf Landon will be 90 years old tomorrow. He was the governor of Kansas. Good night.

September 9, Friday

I stayed in bed until noon; it helps to pass my time away in a pleasant manner. At my age there is nothing much I can do anyway. My eyes won't let me read or write very long at a time. Today's mail brought a nice letter from Kathy and Mark; she sent a lot of nice pictures in color that they took when on their backpack trip. They had a fun time with Mary and Jon and children. [See photos below and on following page.] I got a letter from Violet and one from Yvonne Woodlief. She enclosed Dolores's letter from Belgium telling about their trip to Jerusalem, The Mount of Olives, and etcetera. It was very interesting. Yvonne sent a news clipping of her son Bruce D. Woodlief, 16 years old. He is a nice-looking lad. He received his Eagle Scout award on May 15, at the



Spencer, Mary, Julie, Jon with a fish.



Mark, Julie, Doug S., Joel, Mary, Greg, Jon, and Spencer surrounding the fire.



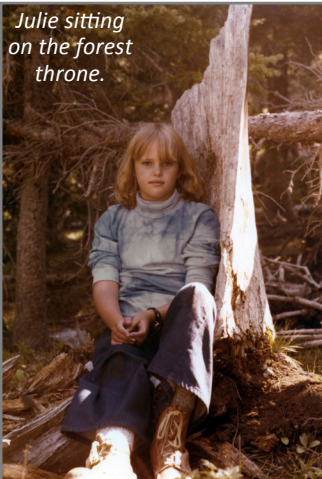
Mark, Kathy, and Joel in the Unitas Mountains August 1977.



Kathy Calkins and nephew Spencer Tibbets. Mary and Kathy did have fun on this trip but it must not have been that much fun because this was the first and last backpack trip they went on.



Doug Shattuck, Joel, Greg, Julie, and Spencer Tibbets



Julie sitting on the forest throne.



Laundry time

LDS stake house (Beaverton High School). Our young people are all doing very well, I'm proud of all of them. I wrote a postcard to Yvonne and a letter to Violet. Tonight, I watched the "Miss Black America Pageant;" It was different, but entertaining. There are many beautiful, black girls, too. The winner was Miss Indiana, Mary Lee Grisley. I'm not sure of her last name, but it sounded like Grisley. Good night.

September 10, Saturday

There is a feeling of fall in the air, however, it is a very beautiful, sunny day. Donna walked to our mailbox; she mailed my letter to Violet and a postcard to Yvonne. There was no mail for any one here today. We've had Kathy and Mark in our thoughts; they are flying to Hawaii today. I hope they have a wonderful time. Donna took Dorothy Tibbets's mail to her. Saturday seems longer to me because there are no television stories to listen to. Well, I do have my lovely records to play on my Magnavox player. There is always something to be thankful for, eh? So, I count my blessings. Rex came home for lunch; he is working in the neighborhood I presume. I took a walk in the yard with Donna this afternoon. It was sunny and warm. The two kittens followed us everywhere we went. We walked over to look at Donna's lovely flower garden, it has some azaleas, asters, dahlias, and etcetera, and we walked over to see Dorothy Tibbets's pretty flower garden, too. Oh, the darn grasshoppers were everywhere hopping all around us, ugh! The pretty sunflowers are starting to droop; they'll be gone soon. They are the state flower for Kansas. Donna vacuumed my rugs and cleaned the bathroom and dusted. I sat in her living room while she labored for me. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook to shop this evening. I gave her \$10.00 to buy a few items I wanted. I watched the "Miss America Pageant" on TV tonight; Miss Ohio, Susan Perkins, won Miss America. P.S. The Ernie Halls came to talk to President Rex Marsh this evening; they want to go to the temple.

September 11, Sunday

It is an overcast Sabbath day, but pleasant. I had some happy dreams of younger years last night, with my family and friends, and that is always nice. But it is a shock to wake up and find I'm an octogenarian, almost 85 years old. I enjoyed the brunch that Donna left on a TV tray for me with dry cereal, cream, Jello drink, and graham crackers. Rex looks really well in his new **brown suit**. He put it on last night and came in to show me. It is a nice-looking suit and man! I presume he wore it to church today. I'm so thankful for "The Church of Jesus Christ" and that my children are all active workers in it. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is precious to me and mine. Rex and Donna came home at 3:45 p.m. He looked so nice in the new, brown suit and she was pretty in her new, dark blue and white dress. They were hungry so they ate something. I was not hungry enough to eat with them. Our afternoon is bright and sunny. I am enjoying some lovely hymns, by our Mormon Tabernacle Choir, played on my Magnavox player. It is my way of worship, the next best thing to going

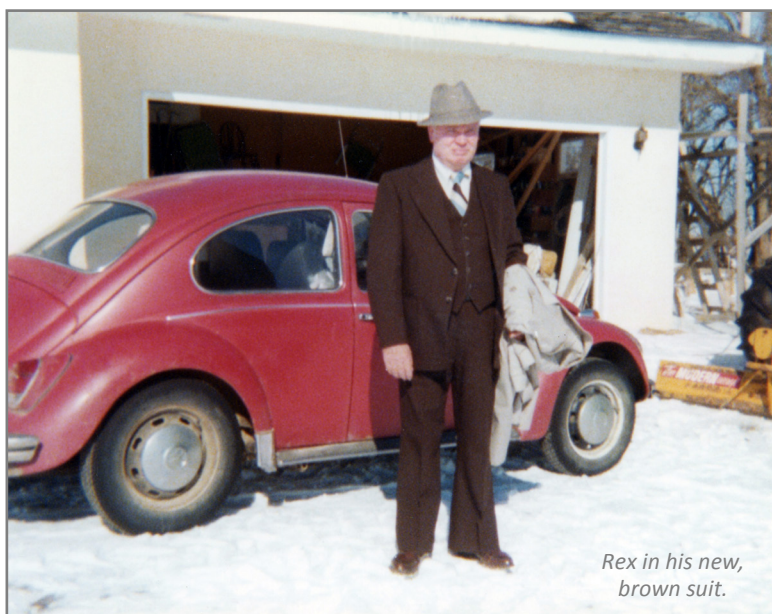
to church. This evening President Marsh went to call on a branch member who is ill; I think the name is Martin, but I'm not sure. Donna came in here and read the Relief Society lesson to me. I do really appreciate her reading the lessons, because I can't go with her to Relief Society. Two girls that work with Rex at the rest home came to the house this evening. He wasn't home, so Donna took them through the house.

September 12, Monday

Donna coughed a lot last night, so I know she didn't rest very well. I couldn't get to sleep until almost daylight. I had a nervous body that wouldn't relax. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a nice brunch to me on a TV tray. I enjoyed the television stories while eating. We have a storm warning "W" on our screen. I hope it will not come to our area. Rex had to fix a flat tire on the pickup truck before he could drive to work today. It's a bad luck deal when he is dressed in his clean, white uniform. Donna worked on some pretty, little folders for the Relief Society sisters tomorrow. Some of the sisters made the cute covers and Donna typed the message and glued it in the folders. They are round and they open and shut. We had a severe lightning and thunder storm tonight about 9 p.m., and then a heavy downpour of rain and hail. Rex phoned from the nursing home in Overbrook. He told Donna to unplug the television until the storm passed, she did. The thunder is loud now at 9:40 p.m. I hate violent weather and we sure do have it in Kansas, ugh! Donna just brought me one of the pretty, blue and gold folders; the Circle of a Woman's Influence. The Relief Society fall social will be September 30, at the Citizens State Bank in Paola, (upstairs). A chili supper will be served. Joan phoned from her home in Illinois; she was worried about us after hearing of the bad floods in Kansas. We are okay.

September 13, Tuesday

It is Rosh Hashanah Day. Good morning! We had some rain in the night and a little drizzle this morning. Donna and Dorothy went to Ottawa to Relief Society in Dorothy's



Rex in his new, brown suit.

car. It was the luncheon day. Dorothy was on the committee to help with the food. I think she gave the lesson, too? Donna left a TV tray with some food for my brunch. I was blessed with a good night's rest and a comfortable rest, until I got up at noon. I enjoyed the TV stories while eating my lunch. Donna came home about 2:40 p.m. The sun came out bright this afternoon, but we have some clouds, too. Rex came home from work about 3:45 p.m. Donna came in and we watched television's "My Three Sons." She brought the package of cashew nuts Rex bought and we ate them all up while watching the cute TV program. Oh oh! Rex won't be happy about that. (Sorry!) I hope he ate some of the nuts before he went back to work. ☺ Donna has a miserable cold in her head and throat. She doctored herself up good tonight and went to bed early. I am very concerned about her. I surely hope she will feel better tomorrow. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news on television. Good night.

September 14, Wednesday

I rested fairly well last night. I was concerned about Donna; she felt so miserable when she went to bed. I got up at noon after getting dressed and combing my hair. I put my house in order and then I went in Marshes' side of the house. Donna was asleep in bed; it was 1 p.m. She had been up earlier to get Rex's breakfast and went back to bed after he left for work. I tried to talk her into staying in bed, but she insisted on getting up to bring me my brunch. She brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal and toast and fruit and a cup of Ovaltine. She spent the rest of the day in bed. Oh, I hope and pray she'll be well soon. I don't know how the darn mosquitoes get in my place, but the little blood suckers sure find me and leave big red welts on my poor, old body, ugh! Donna brought a



nice snack for us to enjoy from our TV trays this evening, in my place. Our television tells of the dreadful destruction caused by the downpour and floods in Kansas. I'm so thankful it wasn't in our location. Rex went to Paola tonight to Mutual. It was in the Elmore's home. Donna and I watched television tonight (Johnny Carson and guests). Rex joined us when he came home from Mutual. We turned off the TV set at 11:20 p.m. Good night.

September 15, Thursday

Happy birthday to Mark Calkins. "I hope your birthday is as nice as you are." **Mark and Kathy are in Hawaii today**; I'm sure they will enjoy his birthday there in the beautiful islands of Hawaii. Donna is feeling better today, but not well yet. She made a sandwich for my brunch and a cup of hot Ovaltine and sliced banana. She came in here and ate with me. She had a

tossed salad. Rex is working at the neighbor's barn today. We have a cloudy, cool day; my wool shawl feels good around my shoulders. I enjoyed the television stories and I walked around my rooms for exercise. Donna turned my thermostats up to 70 degrees this morning; later this afternoon I turned them back to 60 degrees. I relaxed in my big chair this afternoon. This evening the three of us watched, "The Waltons" on my television, and then they left to go and move their refrigerator out and try to find why it isn't working right. I kept on enjoying television here "Hawaii Five-O" and others.

September 16, Friday

We had an overcast, cool morning, but the afternoon was sunny and bright. I couldn't get to sleep last night for some reason, but this early morning I slept well. Donna coughed a lot last night. I was concerned about her miserable cold. However, she looked much better today and said she feels a lot better, too, I'm pleased about that. Donna changed the sheets and slip on my bed and she put a blanket on it; I helped her make it up. The weather is cooler and the blanket will feel good, I'm sure. I watched the television stories while enjoying the nice brunch Donna brought to me on a TV tray. We had some lightning and thunder with a heavy downpour of rain last night. Donna called Topping's Drug Store in Overbrook and ordered a refill of my heart pills. I gave her \$5.00 to give to Rex to pick them up for me on his way home from work today. John L. Marsh phoned from California. He wanted to know if the family was all right. He'd been listening to the news reports about the bad storms and floods in Kansas. We do have some

turbulent storms here, but so far, no damage to our property like some people in Kansas are experiencing now, with the dreadful floods and etcetera. I'm weary. Good night. P.S. Today is my wedding anniversary day; September 16, 1914, 63 years!

Constitution (Citizenship) Day

Constitution Day is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia. -Wikipedia



September 17, Saturday

Today is Citizenship Day. Donna and Dorothy T. left this morning for their Relief Society leadership meeting in Kansas City, Missouri (the stake center). She left a TV tray with some food on for me. I got up about eleven o'clock, but I didn't feel well so I went back to bed until 1 p.m. Rex came in to check on me; he wondered if I was okay? Yep, I was. ☺ There was a letter from Kathy and Mark; they are in the Hawaiian Islands having a wonderful visit. She said, "Oh, it is heavenly here." They are staying at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel on the 12th floor, room 1206 (two floors from the top). She paints a beautiful word picture of the lovely islands. It sounds like Paradise to me. Rex brought my heart tablets home from Topping Drug Store. The cost was \$3.50. He left \$1.50 and the sales slip on my TV tray, (nice boy). We have a pleasant fall day. Rex's cows got out of their pasture this morning and Guy T. helped him get them back in and the fence mended. Rex left for some church business in Kansas City about 2:30 p.m. Donna arrived home about 3:15 p.m. She came in my place and put Mark and Kathy's wedding

pictures in the nice, little album she bought from George Brown. He took the pictures, all in color. It is a lovely wedding album. I got Joan Gardner's birthday card ready to mail; I enclosed \$3.00. Her day is September 29. Donna rested on my extra twin bed this afternoon. We watched TV tonight. Good night!



Mark and Kathy in Hawaii.

September 18, Sunday

Oh! I'm so confused over Donna's electric oven. She said it was all fixed to turn on at noon and all I had to do was put the pan of chicken in the oven

at noon. I went out at noon but the oven was not on. I can't see well enough to read or understand what to do? Then, the oven light came on and I was delighted. I put the chicken pan in the oven but there was no heat? I went out again later and the heat was on in the upper oven. Oh, happy me. ☺ Our food was going to bake! The light was on in the lower oven but it wasn't heating and I wasn't about to push any little knobs to try and turn off the light in the lower oven. It is too complicated for this old gal, with poor eyesight. I am thankful for eyesight at my age, almost 85 years old. I can smell the barbecued chicken and it sure smells good. Rex and Donna came home about 2:40 p.m. and we had our good dinner soon after they arrived. It was a baked dinner with potatoes and summer squash and chicken. Donna wouldn't let me help with the dishes, sweet daughter, eh? I played some lovely records of the Mormon Tabernacle choir on my Magnavox. Rex's cow and her bull calf are in the neighbor's pasture. He'll need help to get them back in their own place. There will be a bull to mate with Rex's cow for a while. Moo Moo. Rex had Donna do some typing for him tonight. They came in here to listen to the ten o'clock news report. We also watched "The World of Disney" before the news. P.S. A little girl was interviewed by President Marsh for her baptism recommend.

Earth Day Crossword Puzzle

Across

4. We have flowers, fruits, vegetables and other _____ in our garden.
5. We live on planet _____.
6. Reduce, Reuse, _____ the Earth.

Down

1. We need to _____ and take care of the Earth.
2. Dogs and cats are types of _____.
3. Plants, trees and birds are a part of _____.
7. The _____ is so bright I have to wear dark glasses.

Words: animals sun plants Earth love nature save recycle

What would helped pass the time for Elvie?



September 19, Monday

Donna had an appointment to see the doctor in Overbrook this morning. She came in here before she left. I stayed in bed until noon. My bed was made and my hair combed, "lookin' good" as best I could, when Donna came home. The doctor gave her a shot of medication to clear up the congestion in her head and chest. The doctor said the swelling on her face was caused by a bite from an insect. He gave her an ointment to use on it. She paid the doctor \$30.00; I think. I gave her \$20.00 to help out and I gave Rex a check for \$100 to buy the gravel for our drive way up to the farm house.

*Well, I'm still here, and wondering why I have to live when I want to die!
Be patient L.V. old dear,
There must be a good reason why you're here! ☺*



We have a pretty fall day with blue sky and sunshine. It brings cheer to this heart of mine. Oh, I hope Donna feels better tomorrow; she looks miserable tonight. She phoned and made arrangements for her counselors to take care of Relief Society tomorrow. You know she is sick when she stays home from Relief Society. I'm feeling a bit low myself tonight, so, I'm going to bed and forgetting my little problems, too. P.S. We received a thank you note from Laura and Vern from Redlands, California, for the \$5.00 we sent for a wedding gift. I just noticed their last name is Jorgensen (Mary and Vernon's boy and wife). Good night.

and sad free time? Crossword puzzles may have bothered her eyes, sewing wasn't a favorite past-time when her vision was good, and needle work was also too difficult because of her eyes. Even writing in her diary was now harder. Details that she carefully recorded in years past, are now skipped, but it seems that her diary and creating poems are still her main distractions. Elvie would have enjoyed more time with her beloved daughter and grandchildren, but Donna was so busy and grandchildren were far away and busy with great-grandchildren. It is no wonder she longed to be with Lou and "her generation." Only reason that is obvious to granddaughter Kathy in 2022 is that she was keeping a record that even today we are happy to read.

September 20, Tuesday

I didn't rest very well last night. I could hear Donna coughing a lot. I was very concerned about her; she looked so ill when she went to bed last night, but she looked a lot better this morning and she said she felt much better, too. Our prayers are answered. Dorothy Tibbets took some messages to Relief Society for Donna. We have a dark and cloudy day with some lightning and thunder, but no rain so far; it is 2:45 p.m. I'm expecting a downpour any minute. We just had a loud clap of thunder. I'm glad Dorothy made it home before the downpour if we have one! It looks like the sun is breaking through the clouds. It is getting lighter; we had a few drops of rain. Tonight, our branch visiting teachers came. I went in Marshes' side to visit with them. They are Br. Raymond Ryan and Br. Mel Toye. I enjoyed their visit very much. I watched "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson and guests. A night owl, this old gal, eh? Good night.

September 21, Wednesday

I stayed in bed until almost noon. We had hazy sunshine this morning; it was nice and cool. My blue, wool shawl felt comfortable. Donna says she slept well; she does look better, too. She brought me a scrambled egg, toast, applesauce, and a cup of Ovaltine for my brunch. I enjoyed my television stories while eating. We have a weather warning on TV, there is a violent thunder storm with strong winds in our location. I can see the black looking clouds in the sky. I surely hope they pass us by! Rex came home from his job at the barn house about 5:25 p.m. He ate his dinner and then got ready to go to Mutual in Paola. The storm must have bypassed us. The sun is bright and the sky is blue at 5:30 p.m. There is no wind, but a nice breeze is blowing in the trees. I like Kansas when it's calm, like now, but when Mother Nature gets mad? Wow! Donna brought my evening snack to me at 6 p.m. We watched television and ate our food. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Good night!

September 22, Thursday

Today is Yom Kippur Day, autumn begins today, also. We have a hazy sunshine this afternoon. Donna walked to the mailbox about noon time. She made some Cream of Wheat cereal for my brunch when she got back. I felt lightheaded when I got up, sort of dizzy. My right hand was numb, it was an effort to get my hair combed and my bed made. I was glad to relax in my big chair. Donna went somewhere with Rex. They go and come, but I can't keep up with their activities. Janet Shattuck phoned this afternoon with happy news. David was ordained a Seventy, after their stake conference on September 11. The stake president ordained him. David's father, Meredith, his brother-in-law, Bishop Fred Matis, and his Uncle Rex Spendlove stood in the circle. We are happy

for David and proud of him, too. This evening we watched television until after the ten o'clock news. Good night.

September 23, Friday

I rested fairly well last night; we had an overcast sky this morning, but it was sunny this afternoon. I had another blind stagger spell today, I wonder why? I feel better today than I did yesterday. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 12:45 noon. I ate while listening to the television stories. Donna showed me the cute birthday card, bought by Rex, to send to Joan; her day is September 29. I mailed a card to her a few days ago. We had a "W" storm warning on our television screen most of today, but a little thunder and some rain was all we had here. The big storm bypassed us, thank goodness. They do have some bad storms here in Kansas. Something here makes Mother Nature mad and it's not nice to make Mother Nature mad! Donna received a phone call this afternoon from the Martins. Br. Martin has been ill a long time; his wife is a doctor. She works in the hospital days and she has a sick man that keeps her awake all night. Now, she is ill and someone has to take care of her two little children; a girl about three and the baby a year and a half old. Donna called everyone she could think of in the location of the Martins' home, in Olathe, but no one could take the children. So, Rex and Donna are bringing them here to the farm in the morning. Problems, problems! P.S. Osawatomie is where the children live, not Olathe.

September 24, Saturday

Donna left some food on a TV tray with a note saying, "We have gone to pick up the children; we expect to be home about 1 p.m." I think it was Olathe, Kansas, where they went to pick up the children; I'm not sure. I was eating my brunch when they came home about 1:20 p.m. Correction, Donna says their home is in Osawatomie, not Olathe. (I can sure mess things up, eh?) Both children are still in diapers, (disposable ones). Today's mail brought a nice, long letter from Lydia Paul. She enclosed a picture of her and Gene; they look very happy. She told all about her lovely time in California, to her granddaughter Wendie's wedding. Lydia paints a lovely picture with words. She said they had "wall to wall people." She wrote in detail and I enjoyed reading it. I wish I could record the elegant affair that Micky gave for Wendie, but the letter is eight pages long, on this one little page? No way! Gene didn't go to California with Lydia; she said she was glad to get back home to him. Donna read for an hour to me from the new October Ensign this afternoon. I surely enjoyed that! Donna has been busy all day with her two baby girls; they are pretty



Susie Hoglund, Kristie Olson, Lydia Bailey, Wendie Olson in Southern California in 1970. In 1977 the family gathers for Wendie Olson's wedding.

little cuties, but they need a lot of care, too, and I'm no help at all. She gave them a bath and put them in bed. She'll take them to Sunday School in the morning. Rex came home from his work at the Manor Nursing home at 11:15 tonight. We're all weary, so goodnight!

September 25, Sunday

"Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ ♪ I rested well last night for which I am thankful. Donna and Rex took the two little Martin girls to Sunday School; in fact, they are babies. One is almost 3 years old, the other about a year and a half. I surely hope their mother is feeling better and she can locate a housekeeper soon. The father is very ill; he keeps falling down with some kind of a seizure. There are so many problems in our world, eh? The folks came home about 1:45 p.m. I'll bet the little ones gave Donna a workout; she looked tired to me. She isn't over her cough either. Rex had to go to work this afternoon. Donna left a roast cooking in the crockpot. She brought me a hot beef sandwich for my brunch. It tasted delicious; I had cooked peaches and some cake, too. The children took naps after their lunch. Donna tried to rest on my extra twin bed; I relaxed for an hour on my bed. I walked around in the house for exercise. Tonight, after Donna got the baby girl to sleep in her crib in the basement, she came in here with the other little girl and visited with me. We watched the special show with Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, "That's Entertainment." It was a long show 7 to 10 p.m. There were lots of stars included in it (the old-time stars; Judy Garland, Cyd Charisse, Frank Sinatra, Eleanor Powell, Maurice Chevalier, Bing Crosby, Nelson Eddy, Jeanette MacDonald, Hermione Gingold, and others). I enjoyed the show.



September 26, Monday

Today is **American Indian Day**, How! Donna took little Ronda Martin with her this morning to town. Rex took care of Carrie Martin; baby Carrie and Rex both enjoyed naps. I stayed in bed until 11:40 a.m. Donna brought a nice letter from John L. Marsh and wife Ann, from Pasadena, California. In fact, Ann typed the letter. They enclosed two cute pictures of Kathy and Mark holding baby Ryan. They were taken on the day the baby was blessed. I think he is Ann's nephew? (But not sure) [Ryan's mother is Pam Proctor, who is Mark Calkins's sister.] I was sorry to learn that Janice Alder and Almira Doezie are divorced. Ann also enclosed a program of the Pasadena 1st Ward, August 14. John and Ann were the speakers of the evening. That is my old ward, I noticed some familiar names on the program. It is peaceful and quiet this afternoon. The Martin babies must be having their naps? I watched the television stories while eating the nice brunch Donna brought to me. We have a pretty fall day.

I wanted to answer Lydia's letter, but my head felt strange, so I relaxed in my chair. (Sorry)

It seems that I spend my days commuting from my bed to my chair,

*And for exercise to help me feel neat,
I trip "the light fantastic" through my suite.*

Thank goodness for television programs and sweet music played on my Magnavox,

It keeps me from going out and throwing rocks.

Woe is me, lonesome old L.V. Goodnight.



September 27, Tuesday

We are enjoying a very pretty fall day; the sky is so blue. Donna took the two Martin baby girls to Relief Society with her this morning, Ronda and Carrie. I presume they gave her some problems, she looked tired when she came home. She is still coughing. I sure wish she could shake that cough. She fed the children and got them down for their naps. Then she brought a roast beef sandwich, applesauce, and Ovaltine drink for my brunch. The poor dear, it seems she is always doing for others. I'm glad that Mr. Martin is feeling well again and Mrs. Martin wants her baby girls home. They'll go home tomorrow. Mr. Martin is hopelessly ill; it is too bad he can't be released from his sick body, for all concerned. He is a problem.

I regret that I can't help Donna with the children,

But I feel about half alive

And I'm almost eighty-five!

My heart can't pump enough blood to my brain

So, I guess this feeling will remain.

Sad, but true,

There is nothing much I can do,

But try to be cheerful all the way,

And there will come a brighter day!

Good night.



Elvie is looking forward to a brighter day when she will greet loved ones who have already graduated.

September 28, Wednesday

Today is cloudy and cool, but no rain so far. It is now almost 4 p.m. and is very quiet. I didn't hear Marshes' car drive away, but I did hear Donna cough just now, so I know she is home. I have had the television on most of the afternoon and I can't hear them when the TV is going. Donna told me last evening that they are taking the little Martin girls home to their mother, in Osawatomie today. I think I can hear their little voices, so they're still here now. Donna just came in and said they are waiting for Rex to come

from work and then they'll take the children home. Kansas has some strange sounding names for her cities and towns, but most everything about Kansas is strange to me! Rex and Donna drove away in their little VW car to take the children home at 5 p.m. She left a pot of hot chicken broth for me to serve myself when I felt like eating. I'm a lucky old gal to have such a sweet and thoughtful daughter. We have had no sunshine today, but there is sunshine in my heart. Good night.

September 29, Thursday

Happy birthday to Joan Gardner, she is 39 years old today!

Have a happy birthday Joan, we're all thinking of you dear.

We love you so very much, and we wish that you were here!

It has been a cool, cloudy day, but not much rain, just a drizzle once in a while. Donna fixed a sandwich and a hot drink and fruit for my brunch at noon. Dorothy Tibbets brought a pretty, little wild flower; I think she called it a "Bluebonnet." Donna brought it to me in a pretty, little, glass vase. They are having a branch party with a chili dinner tomorrow evening. Donna is going to make some chili in the morning. She and Rex went somewhere this evening to make preparations for the celebration. I think she said they were going to Paola. I seem to have trouble remembering what they tell me and hearing what they say. It is a sad situation that I deplore! But you'll understand when you are well past eighty-four. Rex and Donna left here at 5:25 p.m. She brought my dinner on a TV tray. I ate at 6 p.m. while watching television's "Cross Wits" game. It will be Julie's birthday on October 3. I got her a birthday card ready to mail tomorrow. I enclosed a \$1.00 bill and I taped 3 dimes in it, too, because I was out of gum. I told her that her dimes would buy her some. ☺ Rex and Donna are both still coughing. I surely hope they'll feel well soon. Good night!



A Bluebonnet flower.

September 30, Friday

We have had a pleasant day so far, but a cloudy sky. I am concerned about Donna; she has a slight temperature and she perspires a lot and is still coughing. I worry, because she is going out this evening to her Relief Society Chili dinner in Paola. She has the program all worked out in her mind as she is president of our branch Relief Society. She made chili and baked bread to take with her. I know why she feels she must go, but I can't help being very concerned about her going out, feeling miserable. I'm glad that Rex will be with her. He came home from his work at 4:10 this afternoon. Donna brought me a TV tray with some cold cereal and crackers on for my snack this evening. She also brought the Church News for me to look through. Rex came in to show me how nice he looks



Julie Tibbets 1977.

in the reversible side of his new, brown suit. Yes, President Marsh, you do look very nice. I hope they both enjoy the chili dinner party. Donna looked lovely, too. They left here about 4:45 p.m.

October 1, Saturday

"A loving deed, like sunshine, brightens my day." Our first day in October is cloudy and cool. I'm feeling low because my Donna is ill; her cold has finally put her to bed. Rex rubbed her chest and back with BenGay ointment and gave her some aspirin. He made toast and a hot drink of Ovaltine for me, plus some applesauce. So, his loving deed was sunshine for me on this gloomy day. I had a good night's rest for which I am thankful, too. I had a miserable blind stagger spell this morning and it slowed me down. I'm so tired of living and fearful of not dying! I washed my few dishes in my bathroom. Rex is out on his tractor somewhere on the place. Woe is me, poor, lonesome, homesick, old L.V. For exercise I waltzed around my place trying to look cheerful with a smile on my face. I watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news report. The Carol Burnett Show, with guest stars, Steve Lawrence, Dick Van Dyke, Tim Conway and Vicki Lawrence entertained me for 60 minutes. Good night.

October 2, Sunday

I couldn't sleep very well last night I was so concerned over Donna. I could hear her coughing and I knew she wasn't resting very well. She wasn't well enough to go to Sunday School and church and when she misses church on Sunday, she is ill. Rex went to church. It was almost one o'clock when I got up today. I wanted to fast and pray for Donna. At two o'clock Donna came in my place with a half of a grapefruit for each of us. We ate and enjoyed it, then she brought me a hot drink of Ovaltine and two little peanut butter sandwiches and that ended my fast. She went back to bed; I dozed in my big chair. I really feel upset when Donna is ill. We have hazy sunshine today; it is a pleasant fall day. I walked around in my rooms and I sat in the other chair for a change; it rocks and I enjoyed that. Donna was in bed all afternoon.

Oh, I hope she'll be well soon. Rex brought me a ham sandwich and a drink of Ovaltine this evening. He watched television with me tonight until after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

October 3, Monday

Happy Birthday to Julie Tibbets, she is 11 years old today. I slept fairly well last night; Donna coughed some and she is coughing a lot this morning. I'll be so relieved when she is over her cold and back to normal. Dorothy Tibbets is out in her yard pulling and cutting down the tall weeds. Donna brought \$50.00 to me from my Social Security check of \$298. Rex took care of the business this morning as Donna wasn't well enough to go out. He made the house payment and etcetera. We have a pretty

fall day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray, cold cereal, toast, applesauce, and hot Ovaltine drink. Oh, it hurts me to hear Donna cough, and me so helpless to do anything for her. In my younger years I would have had some mustard plasters on her back and chest, but from my bed to my chair is about the best I can manage now. However, I do pray for her night and day. I have the faith that our dear Lord will heal her. I heard some good news today; Donna says that she is going to be released from her Relief Society job as president next Sunday. She'll have more time to take care of her own needs then. It is my father's birthday date today and Yvonne Woodlief's, too, so three in our family with little Julie. I do hope she is having fun. Good night.

October 4, Tuesday

Donna stayed home from Relief Society because of her cough, but Dorothy Tibbets went; she brought me a card with a lovely picture of Jesus, "Christ the Sure Foundation." Donna read me a nice, long letter from Kathy and Mark telling about their lovely visit to Hawaii. She painted a pretty word picture of the beautiful islands. I received a nice letter from Violet; she sent the news clipping of Bruce Woodlief and the picture, back to me as she has one herself. I got a birthday card with \$1.00 bill enclosed ready to mail to Paula Gardner. Her day is the 11th of October. She'll be 4 years old then. I mounted some pictures in my scrapbook this afternoon. Donna came in and read from the Church News to me. I always enjoy her reading to me, but it makes her cough to read a lot now. I'll be so thankful when her cold is all healed. Donna and I watched television tonight, "M*A*S*H," "One Day at a Time," and the "Lou Grant" drama. Time to go to bed. Goodnight.

October 5, Wednesday

I had a very poor night's rest. I just couldn't go to sleep. I was not in pain, just restless. That brain of mine was over active; I couldn't turn it off and I tried, believe me! By daylight we were having a severe lightning and thunder storm with a heavy downpour of rain, and our electricity was off for a few hours, and so was the water. I stayed in bed until one o'clock when the lights came on. Rex went to the well and turned the water pressure on. Life here in Kansas is very frustrating for this "Little, old lady from Pasadena." Beautiful California, and we came to Kansas! Rex and Donna seem happy here and I am very glad about that. But it isn't easy for folks in their eighties to pull up their roots and start over again. We are having another heavy

downpour of rain now. It is 4:30 p.m. and it is so dark and gloomy looking. Come on old gal, put a smile on your face. The sun will shine again, "tomorrow." I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player and I watched an opera on television, "The Marriage of Figaro." Donna enjoyed it with me until Rex came home about 10:15 p.m. He was out on church business, I think. It is 10:30 now; I'm going to bed and hope I can sleep. P.S. Rex bought a 10-pack of Juicy Fruit Gum for me; it was 89¢. I'm glad he remembered as I have some children's birthdays coming up this month.

October 6, Thursday

Oh, happy day! I had a wonderful night's rest and I'm thankful for it after Wednesday's gloomy day, because of no sleep the night before that. We have an overcast day, but no rain so far at 4 p.m. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about one o'clock. Today's mail brought my TV Guide and a nice, little thank you note from Joan Gardner for her birthday card, poem, and money. She had a nice birthday. Miller took her to dinner in the evening. She is hoping they can come here for Thanksgiving. It depends on the weather and if Miller can take the time to come. I also hope they can come. Donna rested on my extra twin bed this afternoon for an hour. She isn't feeling well; Rex made an appointment to take her to Dr. Martin, a lady doctor, this evening. I surely hope she can help Donna get back to her normal well-being. I am concerned about her. We had Dr. Martin's two little girls, Ronda and Carrie here with us last month for a few days

while the doctor was ill. Rex and Donna left here about 6:30 p.m. for Dr. Martin's home. I think it is in Osawatomie, Kansas. It was about ten o'clock when they came home. Good night.

October 7, Friday

Happy Anniversary, Donna and Rex.

*May my good wishes for you all
come true,*

*Because no one deserves them
more than you.*

Today is their 42nd wedding anniversary. John and Ann phoned from Pasadena, California to wish them a happy day. They received a card and a \$5.00 check from Kathy and Mark and a lovely card from John and Ann. I gave them a little card and enclosed \$10.00. So, happy day. Oh, I do wish Donna felt better; the doctor told her she must rest a few days, she gave her an iron shot and took some blood to test it. We had some rain in the night;

we have hazy sunshine today. It is very quiet here; I hope Donna is resting in her bed. She must overcome this anemia condition. I watched the TV shows "Donny and Marie"



Rex and Donna Marsh wedding portrait from 1935. In 1977 they celebrated their 42nd anniversary.

and “Black Market Baby.” After the ten o’clock news I went to bed. Good night. Oh, lonesome me. I’ve never been in such a quiet household.

October 8, Saturday

My troubled thoughts last night kept me awake at times. I’m so concerned about Donna and her anemia condition. Oh, she must get well! We all need her strength of spirit and faith. She had a poor night’s rest with a sick stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. I got up at 12:30 noon; Rex brought some cream of tomato soup and toast and milk for my brunch. He said Donna was sick in bed. He went back to work. I don’t want to be a burden to my children; I do help them financially I know, but they’ll have my money when I go, so why must I live so long? ♪ ♪ “I’m tired of living and feared of (NOT) dying.” ♪ ♪ I know what I must do, keep a smile on my face and the dear Lord will help me through. We have a pleasant day with sunshine and a strong breeze blowing the trees. Donna came in here this evening to listen to the “Lawrence Welk Show” on my television. Rex saw part of it. Donna felt weak, so she went to bed before the “Carol Burnett Show,” but I enjoyed it, it was co-starring Dick Van Dyke, Vicki Lawrence, and Tim Conway. I went to bed after the 10 p.m. news. Good night. P.S. Rex brought some M&M chocolate covered peanuts and candies for our dessert this evening. I enjoyed some of them. Donna ate with me in here. I think she made the Spam sandwiches. I know I enjoyed my snack.

October 9, Sunday

We have a lovely day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna wasn’t well enough to go to Sunday School. Rex went, but he forgot his eye glasses, so Donna sent them with Dorothy Tibbets later. I stayed in bed until after noon. Donna was resting, too. We ate our brunch together in here. (A sandwich and tomato soup.) She feels a little better; she must rest and get back to normal. We all need her. I think she is being released from her job as Relief society president today. She really wanted to go to church. I’m sorry she wasn’t well enough to go. The doctor says she is anemic. Rex came home about 3:45 p.m. He brought a box of Kentucky Fried Chicken, with the rolls and slaw and potatoes and gravy. We ate together from TV trays, in my place. It was good food and precious company. Rex went out on some church business this afternoon. He left some more M&M chocolate covered peanuts for us to enjoy, and we did! Mm good. We watched “All in the Family” and “Alice” and “Kojak.” Good night.

Ol’ Man River

Ol’ man river
That ol’ man river
He don’t say nothing
But he must know
something
Cause he just keeps rolling
He keeps rolling along
Rollin’ along
He don’t plant tators
He don’t plant cotton
Them that plants ‘em is
soon forgotten
But ol’ man river
He keeps rolling along
You and me
We sweat and strain
Body all aching
And wracked with pain
Tote that barge
Lift that bale
Get a little drunk
And you land in jail
I gets weary
Sick of trying
I’m tired of living
Feared of dying
But ol’ man river
He’s rolling along
—Showboat (1936).

Elvie mentions a line of the lyrics from Ol’ Man River on October 8. She inserted an extra word (not). She had a very strong belief in afterlife and was looking forward to joining her husband, sisters, brother, parents, and so many other dear ones.



“Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.”

October 10, Monday—Columbus Day

Oh, what a change in the weather today. It is such a wet, gloomy day; we had thunder and rain in the night, too. I got up at noon and took a bath. Donna changed the sheets and slip on my bed and put an electric blanket on. It feels like Old Man Winter is just around the corner, Glory Be, sad news for me! I love sunshine and a blue sky. One load of gravel was dumped on our road to the farm, but the truck broke, so it will have to be repaired before we can have anymore. Rex and Guy T. worked to spread the gravel. I hope they can get it all in shape before the snow comes. I dread winter in Kansas. I had hoped to miss out on winter of 1977. I got a birthday card ready to mail to Ethel Newbold. Her day is October 18. I wrote a letter to Violet Fife. The sun got through the clouds to us this evening for a short time. We had a beautiful sunset, rose pink clouds. I watched television until bed time. Good night!

October 11, Tuesday

Happy birthday to Paula Grace Gardner, 4 years old!

Have fun on your birthday, we hope you do, Remember we are all thinking, my dear, of you!

Donna went to Relief Society this morning; she left my lunch on a TV tray, a cup of hot Jello and a dish of applesauce with a note saying she had made a roast beef sandwich for me and it was in the refrigerator. Rex brought me a drink of hot chocolate, nice eh? Donna came home about 2:30 p.m. She said she enjoyed the sewing and the nice luncheon, and it was a treat not to have the responsibility of presiding and conducting. She brought one of the cute favors home; a little, yellow yarn doll, with a candy lollypop head. The card said, “Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves” (J.M. Barrie). Donna also had another letter from Ethel Newbold for me; dear faithful old friend, she is almost blind, yet she writes to me! I’m mailing her birthday card tomorrow; her day is the 18th of October. My television entertained me until bed time. Good night!

October 12, Wednesday

We have a pleasant day with hazy sunshine. Donna left a note for me; she left some Cream of Wheat on the stove, slowly cooking. She had gone to take some lunch to Annie and Ernie Hall in Ottawa. She was going to do some shopping and she expected to be home about 2 p.m. Rex came home for his lunch while I was dishing up my cereal. He fixed his own lunch; he wasn’t here long. Donna bought some birthday cards for me and some lotion. I was glad to get the one dollar bills, change from my \$10.00. I

do appreciate Donna shopping for me. I can't get out to do it for myself now. I'm glad Donna feels better. I hope she doesn't over do it again. I got M. David Shattuck's birthday card ready to mail later. I enclosed \$2.00. I also have Richard Shattuck's card ready to mail later. I enclosed \$2.00 in his. His day is October 20. David's day is the 28th of October. The Ernie Halls were not at home so Donna brought the food back home. Halls had gone to the hospital to have Annie's wrist reset, a painful operation. I'm sorry about her broken wrist. Donna came in here and read to me for an hour or more from the Reader's Digest. I surely enjoyed that tonight! Good night.

October 13, Thursday

We are enjoying sunshine and a blue sky. Rex Gilliland is harvesting his soybean crop today on Marshes' property. They'll receive a percentage of it. I listened to the television stories while eating the nice brunch Donna brought to me at one o'clock. At 4 p.m. I waltzed around in my suite for exercise and to keep myself awake. I think Donna is writing letters to her children. This evening, about five o'clock, Donna brought me a lovely bouquet of lavender dahlias, with large blossoms, about 5 inches across. They are just beautiful and there is a daisy like flower in the bouquet. Sorry I don't recall its name, but I'm enjoying it. Donna brought me a nice, cold drink of cranberry juice this afternoon. She drank one with me. Dorothy Tibbets is sick today with stomach pains. Donna brought her washing home to do; she also cooked a nice pot roast dinner for the Tibbets. Guy Tibbets drove his car to Overbrook today; he seldom drives the car if Dorothy is along. Donna says the other flower in my bouquet is a cosmos daisy. It is a pretty purple shade. I watched TV programs tonight; "The Waltons," "Barnaby Jones," and the ten o'clock news. Good night.



Bing Crosby died on October 14, 1977.

October 14, Friday

Bing Crosby died today at the age of 73, in Spain. So, the beloved ole crooner has passed on. We have a very lovely fall day with a sunny, blue sky. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 1 p.m. I enjoyed the television stories while eating my nice food. Later I danced around in my pretty, little suite for exercise. Exhausted, I flopped into my big chair to recuperate and doze. Our evening news said that Bing Crosby was playing golf when he died from a heart attack. Donna and Rex went to see Donna Story in Baldwin City tonight; she brought my dinner on a TV tray at 6:30. It wasn't Donna

Story's home they went to, but for some entertainment in some hall in Baldwin City. They left here at 7 p.m. I hope they enjoy the evening's outing. They came home about 10:30 tonight. Donna said it was a lovely program; I'm glad she enjoyed it. I presume Rex did, also. Good night.

October 15, Saturday

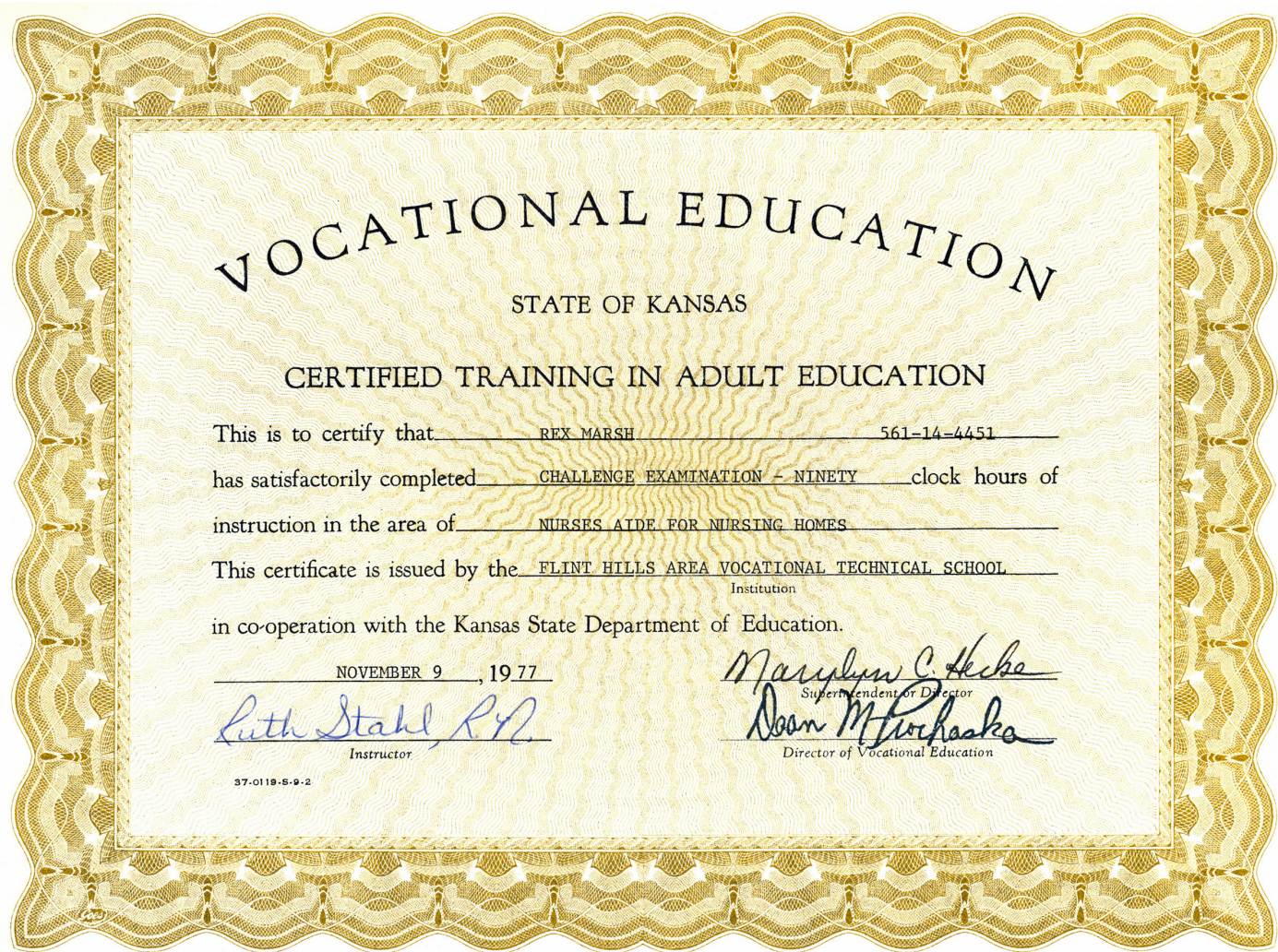
Sunshine and a pretty, blue sky greets us this Saturday morning. However, we have a wind blowing the tree branches vigorously around. Rex came home for his lunch at 1:30 today. I got up at 11:30 am., but went back to bed because of a dizzy feeling. Ah me! I got up about 12:40 feeling much better. Donna brought a nice brunch to me later. I played some nice records on my Magnavox player and I enjoyed eating and the lovely recordings. Later this afternoon, Donna came in and vacuumed my suite and cleaned the bathroom. I went to her living room and sat in her swivel chair. I read Kathy's letter again telling about the fun time she and Mark had in Hawaii, the first part of October. We ended our day with "The Carol Burnett Show;" she had guest stars Nancy Dussault, singer, and Dick Van Dyke. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Good night!

October 16, Sunday

I'm surely lost without my little old alarm clock. Donna dropped it yesterday and that finished it for good. It wasn't working very well anyway. My electric clock is in my living room so I have to get out of bed and go in there to see the time. Donna left a note asking me to put the chicken in the oven at noon. I couldn't relax without the clock to let me know the time. Well, I was up and down, but I got the chicken in the oven a little past noon. I felt strange and light headed; my right hand was numb, or asleep. Well, it passed and I was able to make my bed and comb my hair and say my prayer, so all is well (happy Sabbath day). Rex and Donna came home at 3:15 p.m. She looked pretty in her blue dress with the pink flowers in it. We have a lovely fall day, clean and bright. I ate chicken dinner in the kitchen with Rex and Donna about 3:40 p.m. (mm good). My lovely recordings of beloved Mormon hymns entertained me this evening. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

October 17, Monday

I rested fairly well last night. We have a pretty, blue sky and sunshine today. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray at noon time (12:30 p.m.) It was scrambled egg, toast, hot chocolate, and a dish of sliced bananas and cream. I enjoyed the TV stories while eating. Today's mail brought me two letters; one from Violet Fife, and one from Bonnie Jean Reynolds. Violet's letter said Ernie Vandergrift has cataracts on both eyes and will have to be operated on. I'm sorry to learn about his problems. Their daughter Ann has gall-bladder trouble and must have surgery, that's a worry, too. Bonnie writes about the beautiful colored autumn leaves in Salt Lake. I remember them myself. Bonnie is expecting two grandchildren; Sherrill is expecting her second child; her little boy is 4 years old. Bonnie has six grandchildren. Holly has two babies, one year and three



The certificate that Rex received for the Nurse's Aid; he passed with flying colors.

days apart. Shonnie has two children. Bonnie wants to write a little history of our father and she'd like me to write down a few memories about dad when he was young. I have the memories, but writing them down now is a hardship; my eyes blur and my shoulders pain when I try to write a letter. I'll make an effort and hope for the best. At age 85, I feel only half alive. Donna came in and read the Relief Society lesson to me tonight. I do appreciate her doing that for me. Good night.

October 18, Tuesday

I hope Ethel Newbold feels well enough to enjoy a happy birthday today. We have another pretty fall day. Donna went to Relief Society this morning. I presume Rex is working somewhere. It is very quiet around here. I got up about 11:45 a.m. feeling weak and glad to relax in my big chair. I didn't turn the TV on; I wanted to answer Violet's and Bonnie's letters; but the darn blind staggers came and I couldn't write. Donna wanted me to go with her for a ride to the big barn home where Rex is working a few miles away, so I got dressed in my purple slack suit and went with her in the little VW car. I was glad to get off the bumpy, country roads and ride on the pavement roads. It is the first time I've been out of the house for several weeks. I enjoyed being out.

Rex took us through the big barn home that he is plastering and remodeling for the young couple. While in the house, I had a fainting feeling and about passed out, but Donna and Rex held on to me until it passed and I could see to walk to the car. Rex drove us home and then he went back to the barn home in his truck. It was a relief to relax in my big chair. I think Donna took a nap, too. For some reason we have no water in our taps tonight. Rex and Guy T. went to the well, but they couldn't get the pressure working so we'll have to wait until tomorrow. Rex did haul some home for our use. It is bedtime, good night.

October 19, Wednesday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest. Our water was off all night; something went wrong with our well, so we had no water in our taps. Rex did haul some to the house for our use. Rex and Guy T. have been working on the problem, but haven't solved it yet. They have had our electricity off and on all day, too. **Rex passed the test he was given at the nursing home and he passed with flying colors.** He is now a male hospital attendant or orderly (nurse's aide). They are happy to have him at the Manor Home. I wrote a letter to Violet. I'll try to answer Bonnie's tomorrow. I played some lovely recordings on my Magnavox player tonight. Good night.

October 20, Thursday

We have another pleasant day with blue sky and sunshine. Rex and Guy T. couldn't fix the well, so they had to buy a new pump. We are happy to have the water back in our taps again. Rex and Donna drove to Topeka this morning to shop. She left some food on a TV tray for me. The folks brought me some M&M's peanuts and some chocolate covered mints. Rex bought Donna a nice pair of blue house slippers. I spent most of my afternoon writing my memories of my father, when he was a young man. It is things he and my mother told me when I was a child. Bonnie wants to write a little history of Dad when he was young. I hope I can help her. Dad was a young man when I was born, almost 85 years ago. Oh, I forgot to mention that Rex and Donna bought me a new windup alarm clock today, also. Now when our electricity goes off, we can still have the correct time. I didn't feel well enough to write the letter to Bonnie Jean today; I'll have to finish my memory notes first. Donna says she will type my letter to Bonnie when I've finished the notes. Good night.

October 21, Friday

October is a beautiful month. The sky is such a lovely blue and the sunshine is so bright. The leaves are turning yellow, gold, and red. I wish I felt better to enjoy all of the beauty. I had some dizzy spells; at times the room seemed to be whirling around. I had to shut my eyes to keep from getting sick to my stomach. It is Dorothy Tibbets's birthday today. I think Donna took a cake over to her. Janet Shattuck phoned Donna this afternoon and they had a nice visit via phone. I think that Kathy phoned this morning or last evening, too. My memory isn't what is used to be. ☺ Oh, weary old me; I'm going to bed. Good night. P.S. I can hear Donna's typewriter going, so she is busy.

October 22, Saturday

We had thunder and rain in the night; it is wet and gloomy this morning. I stayed in bed until noon. It's some change from yesterday's beautiful day. Donna drove to Baldwin City this morning to rehearse with Donna Story; she is singing in church tomorrow. President Rex Marsh asked her to be on the program. I got dressed in my slack suit and went with Donna to take Rex his dinner this late afternoon at the barn house where he was working. On our way back, we stopped at the market in Overbrook. I stayed in the car while Donna shopped. She brought a TV tray of food to me while I watched "The Lawrence Welk Show." Rex and Donna watched the "Carol Burnett Show" with me tonight from 9 to 10 p.m. It's time this old gal went to bed, so good night.

October 23, Sunday

We have a gloomy, wet Sabbath day. Rex and Donna went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting; she

left a tray with some food on for me, a cup of hot lemon Jello, some Jif Peanut Butter and some Town House Oval Crackers. I got up at noon and enjoyed the snack. Rex and Donna came home about 2 p.m. She had dinner ready by three o'clock. I went out in their dinette to eat with them. It was a nice crockpot dinner with meat, potatoes, onions and carrots. It has rained all day, but there is sunshine in our hearts. I played some lovely recordings on my Magnavox player this afternoon. Donna wouldn't let me help her with the dishes. Our branch home teachers came, Br. Mel Toye and Raymond Roan. I went in Marshes' side to visit with them this evening.

October 24, Monday

Today is Veteran's Day. Donna went to Overbrook this morning and she was surprised to find the bank and post office closed because of the holiday. We mailed our birthday cards to M. David Shattuck today. We had some rain in the night and this morning. It has been cloudy today and it looks like more rain is in store for us. Well, it'll make our fields nice and green and I'll enjoy that. The leaves are turning yellow gold and falling from the trees. Winter is on its way and I dread that. I can hear Donna's typewriter, so she is busy. Donna brought the longer desk board to me this afternoon. It is one that reaches across my big chair arms. Oh, it is so nice to be able to write and not have to stoop over. I'm going to enjoy this new desk board. She stained and varnished it a few days ago, so I'm in business now. Bless my children, she and Rex do all they can to make me comfortable. I got Otto Fife's birthday card ready to mail tomorrow. His day is November 1. Donna and I listened to the lovely tribute to Bing Crosby tonight. It was a program to celebrate his 50 years in show business. It was indeed a shock to the whole country to learn of Bing's sudden death from a heart attack. He was in Spain playing golf when he died on October 14, on a Friday. One of his sons brought his body home.

October 25, Tuesday

It is a pleasant day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna went to Relief Society. I didn't sleep very well last night so I stayed in bed until noon today. I clipped and filed my fingernails this morning. I had a miserable dizzy spell so I closed my eyes until I felt better. These crazy spells leave me feeling weak. The leaves are turning yellow on our trees; I can see them falling in the breeze. Donna came home about 2:30. She brought some lunch to me on a TV tray. She said they had a lovely meeting and luncheon. Dorothy didn't go, but she had about twelve handbags for Donna to take to the sisters; a bag to carry their books and papers in I presume? I cut and filed my toe nails later today. It is amazing how far away one's feet seem when you are 84 years old. I used to go to a chiropodist when we lived in the city and have him

*I'm trying to look cheerful with a smile
on my face,
All the while wishing I was in another
place.
In a few weeks I'll be eighty-five
And I feel only half alive.
I know the spirit in this old body wants
to be set free,
So, I can be the same young "happy
me."
But be patient, I must,
In God, I will trust.
He is my dearest friend,
He will be with me to the end.*



*The above poem was written as part of
October 23 recordings for the day. Elvie was so
good at putting on a cheerful smile that Donna
probably didn't know how lonely
and sad Elvie felt.*

file the big, thick toe nails thinner. We are miles away from a foot doctor now, so my feet are neglected, sorry about that! It is just one of my little problems. This evening Donna typed my letter to Bonnie Jean. She wanted to know about our father when he was young, as I remembered him. Bonnie is writing a little history about Dad when he was a young father. Rex had his eyes tested today for new glasses. Good night.

October 26, Wednesday

We are blessed with another lovely autumn day. I enjoyed a good night's rest and the nice brunch that Donna brought to me at noontime. Rex and Donna left here about 2:30 p.m. to drive to see Br. Dokos. He fell and broke his hip, so he is in the hospital. I presume he is in Fontana, where his home is. They also called on a few other branch members. This evening they were going to Mutual so it will be late when they arrive home tonight. It will be a long day for this old, weary gal. Donna left a pot of stew on the stove. She said it was good and hot and I am to eat some of it when I feel like eating. I ate some at 6:30 this evening and I enjoyed it. Good night.

October 27, Thursday

We have a beautiful autumn day. Donna took me for a drive to Baldwin City to see the lovely red and gold autumn leaves in that lovely city. They have a lot of maple trees in Baldwin City. I was delighted with the beautiful colored leaves and the lovely homes in that fantastic city. Donna bought some milk at the market in Baldwin. We mailed my birthday card to Otto Fife on our way out of the big gates. His day is November 1. On our way home there was some mail for us; I got a letter from Lydia Paul. She enclosed a colored picture of their lovely rose tree, with beautiful big roses on it. She said she heard that Blanche Hoglund fell and broke her hip. She is in a hospital in Long Beach. I'm so sorry for dear Blanche. Good night.



Maple trees in Kansas like the ones Elvie saw on October 27.

October 28, Friday

Happy birthday to David Shattuck. I hope Dave is enjoying his birthday. I rested fairly well last night. We have a cloudy, cool morning; it looks like we may get some rain. Donna did her visiting teaching this morning. She and Rex ate some soup for their lunch. She cooked some Cream of Wheat cereal for me. I wrote a note to Blanche Hoglund in the get-well card we are mailing to her. The poor dear is in a hospital in Long Beach, California, with a broken hip. I'm so sorry for her. Today's Church News has a nice picture of my former Bishop in Pasadena; Orlin C. Munns. He has been sustained as president of the new Pasadena, California Stake, replacing President Cree Kofford. Claron L. Oakley and David E. Sorensen are counselors. Donna read a nice, long letter from Kathy and Mark Calkins to me. It was addressed to Mom and Dad and Grama. She writes a cute letter that is fun reading. Sorry I can't record it. Tonight, I

went to Donna's side of the house to watch "The Bob Hope Special" with Bing Crosby. Bing died October 14 while the program was still in production. Donna's TV had a better picture than mine did. Good night.

October 29, Saturday

It was really foggy when I first got up about 8 a.m. but the sunshine came through the clouds by noon and we have a pretty day. Guy Tibbets is painting the eaves on the front of his house and Dorothy is holding the big ladder steady. They'll have their pretty little home finished someday. Donna took some lunch to Rex. I presume he is working on the barn home. She said she'd be back home by one o'clock to bring me my brunch. I notice that Donna took the big window plant out of my place. I'm glad she did; it wasn't doing at all well. I think it is root bound. There were dead leaves on it every day. Later Donna came in and vacuumed my rugs and dusted the furniture and cleaned the bathroom. I went to her apartment and enjoyed the sunny front room while she cleaned my place. (Aren't I the lucky one?) She came in after she finished my cleaning and she read a couple of the conference talks from the Ensign to me. I surely did enjoy her reading the lovely conference talks to me. My eyes water and blur my vision, so I can't read very well anymore. Rex came home about four o'clock; he took a nap and then they left to go on a hay ride with the branch members. I'm thankful this long day is over at last. Good night. P.S. Donna and Rex said they had fun on the hayride.



October 30, Sunday

It is time to set clocks back an hour (fall back). We have a rainy Sabbath day. Rex and Donna went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting. She left me a TV tray with half a grapefruit, some dry cereal, and milk on, plus a note to put the chicken in the oven at 1 p.m. Mission accomplished! I got a birthday card ready to mail to Miller Gardner; his day is November 4. I enclosed \$2.00 and some gum for his kiddies. I had to put two stamps on the envelope; the gum makes it too heavy for one stamp. (Ain't we got fun.) Rex and Donna came home at three o'clock; they had an interesting meeting. President Sanders and President Christensen were present. James Creighton was released. President Rex Marsh's first counselor is Dale C. Westhoff, and his second counselor is David Bosworth. Donna read the Relief Society lesson, also the visiting teacher's message to me this evening. Our chicken dinner with stove top stuffing was very delicious today. Donna started the branch choir today. She has been put in charge of the choir. President Rex did some visiting with his branch members tonight. Donna read to me from

the Ensign. Later she brought a chicken sandwich and some 7Up drink to me. Good night.

October 31, Monday

Happy Halloween! We have a pretty day, sunny and bright. I do not feel very well; my body is weak and I had a miserable dizzy spell with the blind staggers. My hair needs shampooing; Donna is going to make an appointment for me to have it taken care of. I think I'll have it cut short and curled. I received a letter from Violet; she asked if I remembered Uncle Henry and Aunt Susie? They died before I was born. I do remember Uncle Jim and Aunt Harriet, (he called her "Hun" and so did we). Their children were Hazel, Clive, and Louie. Clive took me to a picture show once. I answered Violet's letter this afternoon; how about that for being prompt? I telephoned Violet tonight; it was fun talking to her via phone. She was busy answering "Trick or Treat" guests, she said they had already served some fifty children and it was only 7:30 in Cedar City. We didn't have one come to our door, but Violet sure laughed when I told her that we were eating our Baby Ruth Bars and enjoying our own "Trick or Treat" goodies. ☺ The kids can't get out to this farm.



Ad from 1951 for Baby Ruth candy bars. On Halloween Elvie and the Marshes treated themselves to Baby Ruth bars because no trick or treaters come.

November 1, Tuesday

Happy birthday to Otto Fife. He is 77 years old today. I mailed Otto's card a few days ago. My November calendar starts out with this nice thought, "Thankfulness brings joy to the heart," and it is so true. Donna left a cup of warm Jello and some crackers on a TV tray with a note saying she'd be home about 1:30 to fix my lunch. I am thankful for my wonderful daughter. I had a dreadful nightmare last night; I made such a noise that Donna came in to see what was wrong with me. I was glad she woke me up from that awful dream! I haven't felt very well this morning. I am weak and dizzy. The room seemed to whirl around at times. We had some rain last night and this morning but she went to Relief Society. It was a light drizzle, not a heavy down pour. Rex and Donna left here about 2:45 p.m. I think they went to get Rex's new eye glasses. They said they'd be home as soon as they can tonight. I watched TV programs. Rex and Donna came home about 7:45 p.m. She brought me a sandwich, some applesauce, and Ovaltine drink. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.



November 2, Wednesday

It is payday; my Social Security check went to the bank, \$298.00. Donna went to the bank and took care of the house payment, \$187.00 plus she got cash for \$53.00. She brought \$40 to me. My checking account balance is \$335.18. I'm so glad I have Donna to take care of my money now. She took Rex's lunch to the barn house at noon. She bought some

Scope mouthwash and Scotch tape for me. Rex phoned; he was ready to come home about 3:15, so she went to get him. I watched some TV stories on the Marshes' television. My colored TV wasn't working well. Donna treated me to a couple of Tootsie Rolls, and a glass of apple juice. Nice, eh? We have a gloomy looking day with a drizzle of rain. It is now 4 p.m. I can hear Donna typing; she types most of her letters. I sat here and dozed. Exciting, eh? Later Donna said she had typed a pedigree sheet for Violet and a note to let her know some of the things she was puzzled about in our family tree. Donna and Rex have gone to get their car, the little VW, I think. I'm listening to some lovely recordings on my Magnavox player. Donna brought the pickup truck home and Rex drove to Paola for Mutual. Good night!

November 3, Thursday

It is a cloudy day; the sun gets through to us once in a while. Donna has been out a couple of times; she took Rex his lunch and she got some gasoline for him and etcetera. I can't keep up on their activities. I wanted to take a bath this morning but I felt too weak and a bit dizzy. I can't afford to fall and break my hip like poor Blanche Hoglund did. I surely hope she is getting along all right, she is 87 or 88 years old. I'll be 85 on December 5. My television

is out of order; I surely miss it, but Donna's is okay. I think I'll go to her apartment and watch TV. I enjoyed the television in Donna's suite until 4:45 and then I came back here and got some exercise two-stepping around in my rooms, and writing in my diary. We have sunshine in our hearts, in spite of this gloomy day. Donna is playing her piano; it sounds cheerful, too. If you add some fun to everything you do, you'll have a happy heart your whole life through. Try it, it works. I was very sorry to hear over the news report this evening that Guy Lombardo is seriously ill in a hospital in Houston, Texas.

November 4, Friday

Happy birthday to Miller Gardner. I wrote his card and mailed it on October 30. I hope he is enjoying his day. We have a lovely, sunny day. I took a shower bath when I got up. It's amazing to me that that little effort can make me feel so darn weak! My heart was skipping every other beat for a while. Donna brought me some nice, hot Cream of Wheat cereal, raisin toast, applesauce and a cup of Ovaltine. I felt much better after eating. Rex and Donna took my television set to a repair shop this morning. Rex went to work this afternoon about 2:15. Donna rode to the mailbox with Rex and she walked home. There was no mail for me. (I wasn't expecting any.) I am listening to one of Guy Lombardo's beautiful records on my Magnavox player, it is lovely. I do hope he is feeling better; the news report last evening said Guy is ill in a hospital in Houston, Texas. I went to Donna's place this evening to eat my dinner and watch TV. We expected the Jon Tibbets family about 7 p.m. but

it was after eight o'clock when the "happy family" arrived. It is always fun to see them. Donna kept the beef stew hot so they were all well fed. They went over to say hello to Grandma Dorothy Tibbets. They slept here at the Marshes'. I felt very weary, so I went to bed at ten o'clock. Good night.

November 5, Saturday

Oh, what a night I had! It was after six this morning before I fell asleep. My nerves couldn't seem to relax for some reason. I stayed in bed until noon time. Rex was asleep on my front room floor when I got up. He got home from work about midnight. The little Tibbets family was up and going strong in Marshes' house early, so he came over here for quiet. I went to his place to eat my brunch and visit with the children. I enjoyed watching them build strange looking contraptions with toothpicks and plastic packing material. It was a gloomy looking day so they played inside with my greeting cards and the toy lion, too. Later Jon popped some milo corn for their fun eating. I ate some, too. Baby Brian was in and out a time or two and he is adorable, but very inquisitive. Julie made a house and had a fun time decorating it with the white plastic stuff. I love to watch them at play. They are all good looking and sweet kiddies. Mary looks very pretty, too, and Jon is a fine-looking man, also. I'm proud of them all. I played some of my recordings on the Magnavox player this afternoon while the children were in Grama Donna's place. I always enjoy the lovely music. I went to the Marshes' side at 6 p.m. to listen to "The Lawrence Welk Show" on their television set. There was plenty of action on the show and in our house, too, ha ha! I didn't stay to see all of the "Charlie Brown Show." From two-year-old Brian, up the ladder to 85-year-old Great Grama L.V. we had confusion. Good night. P.S. Guy Lombardo died tonight.

November 6, Sunday

Our Sabbath day is gloomy looking like it may rain any minute, but there is "Sunshine in my Heart" because my children are all in church, where I'd love to be, too. I'm so thankful for the good night's rest I had last night. Little Spencer Tibbets slept in my extra twin bed; he is a sound sleeper like I was at his age. It is a blessing of youth that we take for granted. I'll be 85 years old in a month, on December 5.

*By the time I get dressed in my robe and slippers,
Wash my face, comb my hair,
Make my bed and say my prayer,
I'm ready to flop into my big easy chair.
Relaxing in my chair is neat,
When my heart is skipping every other beat.*



Guy Lombardo died on November 6, 1977.
He was 75 years old.

when they left earlier for sacrament meeting. Later they said good bye to me and the Guy Tibbetses, about 3:35 p.m. They drove away from the farm about 4 p.m. I watched until the VW bus was out of sight. They go and they come, but they'll be back in three weeks for Thanksgiving Day and more fun. I offered up a special prayer for their safe arrival home to Weeping Water, Nebraska. I was indeed sorry to hear over the news report tonight that Guy Lombardo died last night.

November 7, Monday

It is another overcast day so far, no rain yet at 3:30. I stayed in bed until after twelve o'clock noon. It seems like I sleep better after 6 a.m. I ate my brunch in Donna's side while watching my stories on her TV. My television is still in the repair shop. I got a birthday card ready to mail to my great granddaughter Donna Shattuck. I gave Donna Marsh \$10.00 to pay for the cute birthday cards she bought for me and to buy some stamps and food. She rested on my extra twin bed for a while this afternoon. I dozed in my big chair; "ain't we got fun?" Rex took a nap on their front room floor before he went back to work after lunch. Today's mail brought a letter to me from Ethel Newbold, bless her heart. She is almost blind, yet she writes to me. Rex and Donna came in my place this evening for Home Night. He played some nice records on his little player. They were recorded by the LDS Church. (It was good advice, as always.) Oh oh! Correction, we had home night in the Marshes' side of the house. I was listening to their television earlier. My TV set is still in the repair shop. Goodnight.

November 8, Tuesday

Donna went to Relief Society this morning. She left me some food on a TV tray with a note saying she'd be home about 2:30 p.m. It is raining hard right now at 2:30. I surely hope she can make it home without trouble. I went to the kitchen and washed my few brunch dishes and a few in her sink (very few). I do wish our house was near the highway. I dread that long drive to the farm house in this weather. Well, Donna made it home all right at 2:40 p.m. (I'm a happy mom!) She bought some stamps for me. I surely enjoyed listening to Donna read from the little Church News that came in the mail today. Zion is growing in spite of all the wickedness in this world today. I gave President Rex Marsh my church offerings of \$8.00 (tithing \$5.00, fast offering \$1.00, and \$1.00 each to budget and building fund). Later Donna came and read from the Ensign magazine to me. She is precious, I'm so very thankful for her. Good night.

November 9, Wednesday

It rained most of the night. I couldn't get to sleep until early this morning. I had a busy brain and it wouldn't let me sleep. I was thankful it was not raining this morning. Donna came in about 8:30 and said I'd better get up and get dressed to go to have my hair shampooed and cut and curled. My appointment was for 10:30 at Dot's Beauty Shop in Overbrook. It cost



\$12.50. There was a cold north wind a blowing and it was cold. I wouldn't be surprised to see snow all around tomorrow. I'm glad it didn't come today. Dot gave me a nice permanent; I got very tired before I was through, but for the most part I enjoyed it. I had her cut my hair short. I am tired of combs and hair pins and the effort to dress the long hair. I think I'll enjoy it short. Donna stayed with me all the while. She did some shopping in the Overbrook Market and Topping Drug Store. I waited in the car. We ate some lunch when we got home about 2 p.m. It was 1:30 when we left the beauty shop. Dorothy Tibbets left her blue jacket at Dot's Beauty Shop last month; she forgot where she left it. Donna brought it home to her today. She was glad to have it. I went to bed after lunch. I was really tired. It was dark at 6 p.m., I thought it was night until I realized I was still in my slacks. I got up and went in Marshes' side to watch "Cross Wits" game on their TV set. Mine is still in the repair shop, \$\$\$ ugh! Good night.

November 10, Thursday

I was surprised and delighted to see a blue sky and sunshine this morning instead of the snow I had expected because it was so cold yesterday. Donna and Rex left the farm about noon time. They were going to call on a couple of the branch members who are ill. Then she said they were going to pay their taxes in Lawrence, I think. I do not always hear correctly, but she left a note to say there was a tuna fish sandwich and Jello and cream and apple juice for me in the refrigerator. A banana was on the sink and cake on top of the fridge, and soup to warm up. Lots of food, no need to go hungry. "Glory be" me hungry? I haven't felt hungry for a long time, but I did enjoy the sandwich and half of the banana and a cup of hot water with honey and canned milk in it. I was not too happy with a dizzy spell but it didn't last long. Rex and Donna came home about 6:30 tonight. It is dark by 6 p.m. now. They had a letter from Violet for me. She said that Otto had a nice birthday and he thanked me for the card and money. It was cold; they had an inch of snow that morning (November 6). Violet was happy with the genealogy sheet of the Strong Family that Donna sent her, I enjoyed television in Donna's place until bed time. Good night.

November 11, Friday

We are blessed with another pretty day. I do love the blue sky and sunshine.

The pretty leaves have fallen from our trees.

The branches look naked and bare.

Winter comes only once a year

And I try not to care.



Janet Shattuck phoned this morning. She said David had been in the hospital because of a kidney stone. They gave him medication and he is back home feeling much better. The cute and talented twin sisters from Cedar City are visiting in San Jose. Mark and his boyfriend are showing them around San Francisco and etcetera. Rick is on his mission; he dated the girls a time or two with Mark in Cedar City, I think. Donna went to the barn home for Rex at noon time and brought him here for his lunch and then took him back to work about 3 p.m. Joan phoned from Illinois; they are coming here for

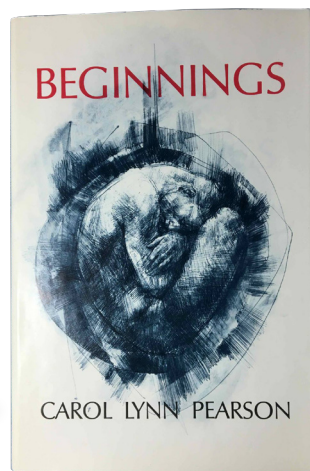
Thanksgiving. Mary and family will be here, too. I think that makes twenty of us all told. "To Grandmother's House We Go." Oh, happy day. It will be a lot of work for Donna, but she has a very happy smile on her face. I wish I could help. My bank statement of interest came today, \$155.09 deposited to my checking account, nice, eh? This evening I enjoyed television in Marshes' side. Oh, I've never seen such colorful sunsets as they have here in Kansas. I'm weary, good night!

November 12, Saturday

We have more of the same lovely, blue sky and sunshine. Rex and Donna and neighbors had a roundup of their cows this morning. Rex's cow and the neighbors bull are now corralled in Marshes' field. Rex hopes to breed his cow. It was cold last night. I think I saw some frost on the ground this morning but I was nice and warm with my electric blanket on. Donna brought brunch to me about 1 p.m. (bacon and egg, toast, applesauce, and a hot drink). I enjoyed some lovely music on my Magnavox player while eating. I do love a sunny day, too. It is my friend Clifton Manlove's birthday today. I wonder if he is still alive? He was a few years older than me; I think. [Elvie didn't know that Clifton died in 1974.] That was in beautiful Pasadena, "a lot of water under the bridge since then." I loved his sweet wife, Laura. She died while we were living in Pasadena. Like all old people, I do reminisce, at eighty-five what else is there to do? My precious eyes can't see well enough to read or write for very long at a time. But I am blessed a lot anyway. I enjoyed television in Donna's place tonight. Rex is working at the Manor Nursing Home until eleven o'clock tonight. I had been in bed about a half hour when I heard him drive in our drive way. Good night!

November 13, Sunday

It is a beautiful Sabbath day. Donna brought a TV tray to my suite with some food on, cold cereal, milk, graham crackers, and orange juice. She said she'd be home about three o'clock today. They are having a choir rehearsal after church. I'm moving rather slowly today; I've had some faint feelings and I can't afford to fall and break something. I went to the kitchen and washed my few dishes and the few in the sink. Rex and Donna came home about 3:20 p.m. She fixed them some lunch; I wasn't hungry enough to join with them. I read some beautiful poems by Carol Lynn Pearson in her book, "Beginnings." Donna gave it to me in September of 1973. She has a paper on "Women's Lib," she read it to me; it is frightening what some groups of women are doing to destroy family life, so that the women can be free to go as they please and their children will be placed in a home. A sad state of affairs! I'm so very thankful for my membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the wonderful hope it gives to me and my loved ones for family life eternally. Dorothy Tibbets isn't feeling well, I'm sorry about that. Donna took some soup over to her. We have had the most beautiful sunsets the past few days. Oh, they are gorgeous and fantastic. Sweet dreams.



November 14, Monday

We have hazy sunshine today. Donna was in the south field helping Rex and a neighbor mend some fences to keep the cows from getting out again. I rested very well last night which is a blessing indeed. I got up and dressed in my robe and slippers about noon time. I did the best I could to make the old gal look pretty. ☺ It is not easy, ha ha! Donna brought my brunch about 1 p.m., a tuna fish sandwich, 7Up drink, jelled salad, and cookies and fruit. I listened to some lovely recordings played on my Magnavox player while eating. Donna went to Overbrook town with Rex at 2:35. My record is playing, "Have you Ever Felt Lonely, Have you Ever Felt Blue," yes, I have! In fact, I'm a little homesick right now. Boo Hoo, ☹ I long to be with my parents and brothers and sisters of my own generation and my darling husband, Louis, I wonder if he misses me? Enough of this, I am here, in Kansas and very much alive. In a few more days, I'll be eighty-five. With a smile on my face, I can't be blue, try it, it will do the same for you. I wrote a letter to Violet and Otto this afternoon. We enjoyed our home evening tonight in Marshes' side. Rex presided, he called on me to open with prayer. He talked and read from Cleon Skousen's book. Later, Donna read her Relief Society lessons to me and Rex popped popcorn for our pleasure. I do enjoy popped corn, mmm good. Good night.

"My record is playing, "Have you Ever Felt Lonely, Have you Ever Felt Blue," yes, I have! In fact, I'm a little homesick right now. Boo Hoo, ☹ I long to be with my parents and brothers and sisters of my own generation and my darling husband, Louis, I wonder if he misses me?" —LV

November 15, Tuesday

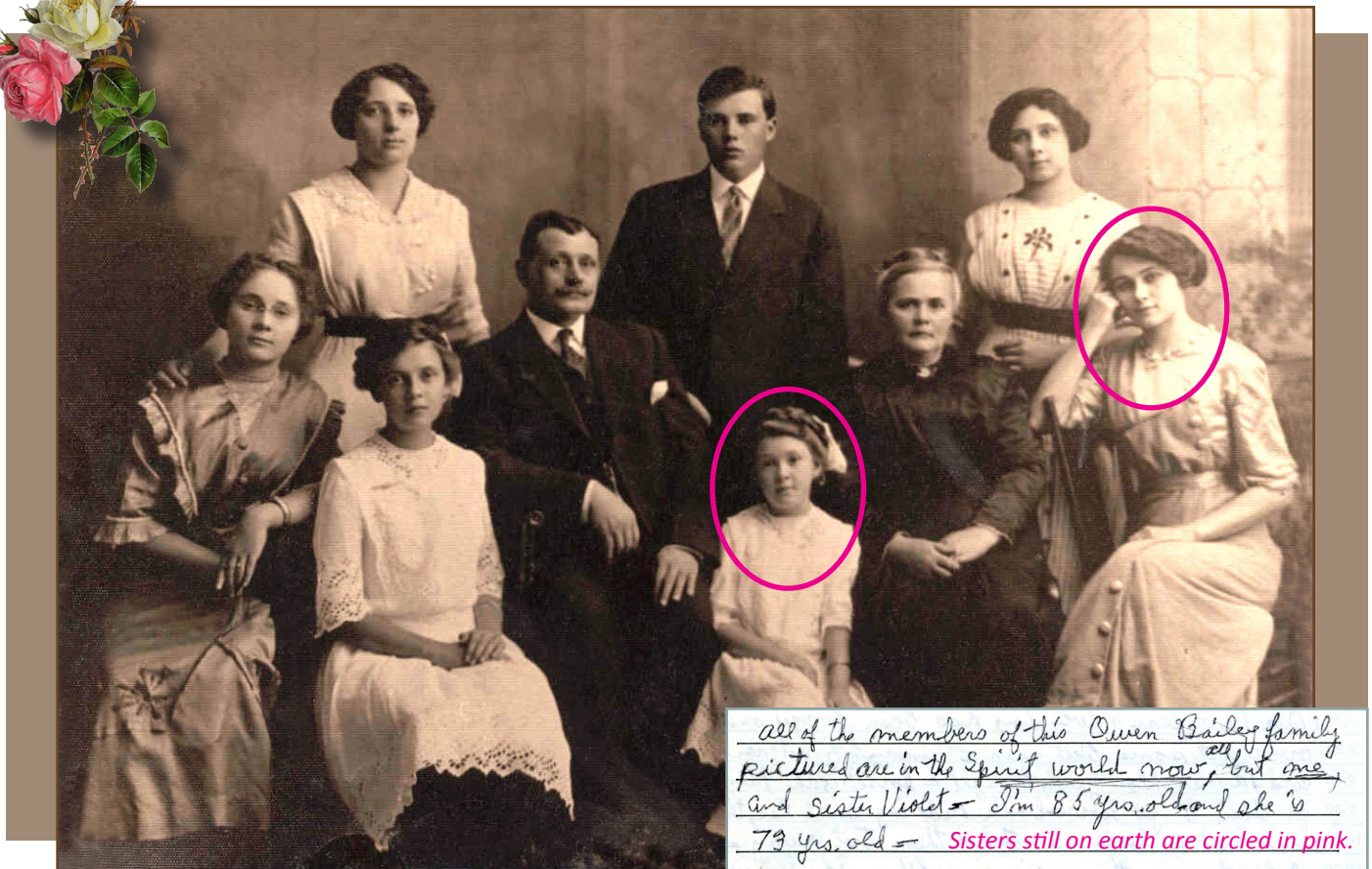
Happy Birthday to Donna Shattuck, she is 15 years old today. Our day is pleasant but with hazy sunshine. Donna went to Relief Society; she left a TV tray with food on for me (cold cereal, milk, graham crackers, peanut butter, and orange juice). I got up at 11:45 a.m. I did what I could to make myself look presentable. Rex came home for lunch about one o'clock; Donna came about 2:15 p.m. She came in to check on me. I didn't see Rex, but I could hear him.

*I'm still among the living, but feeling about half alive.
That is how things seem when you are eighty-five*



Elvie and Lou above. Below Elvie's family.

Donna brought me a bowl of popcorn that Rex popped last evening. I'm enjoying it. My TV set is ready to come home. Donna says they'll bring it this afternoon when they go to town. It cost \$71.13. I hope it will work all right this time; I gave Donna my checkbook to write a check for the repair job. I have a beautiful picture in color now. I surely hope it will last a long time. I surely enjoyed it tonight. Rex and Donna put Lou's double bed up in the basement so there will be plenty of beds ready for the holiday company. It is a lot of work, but happy anticipation, too. Good night.





*Standing: Mary Elizabeth, James T., John Albert, Julia Ann
Sitting: Arthur Ephraim, James William, Elizabeth Cathrine Svane, Ernest James
In front on the floor: Ettie Irene, Alvin Charles, Clarence Thomas*

November 16, Wednesday

We had an overcast morning, but it was sunny and bright this afternoon. It was so nice to have a clear picture in pretty color on my television today, to watch while eating my brunch at noontime. I feel fairly well after my good night's rest. Donna has been busy today getting her home nice and fresh for the Thanksgiving celebration here. She will have 20 or more for dinner. (The Gardners and the Tibbetses) She washed and hung clean curtains up to her nice clean windows. I wish I was able to help her with the work, but I'm not, and I'm sorry about that, too. Donna received a letter from Florie; she enclosed a Family Group picture of Grampa and Grandma Strong. (James T. Strong and Elizabeth Catherine Svane Strong, and their nine children.) It is just precious. [Pictured above.] I recall we had the enlarged picture like it in our home when I was a child. Oh, that was a long time ago; I'll be 85 in a few days. "Glory Be," old L.V. ☺ I presume that Rex went to Mutual tonight. Donna is busy working in the basement, getting it ready for her company on thanksgiving. Good night.

November 17, Thursday

I didn't sleep very well last night, so I'm not feeling up to par this Thursday. I surely hope I'll be better next Thursday, the big Thanksgiving holiday. Donna said she had a poor night's rest, too, but that I can understand with all she has on her mind to do before the Gardners and Tibbetses arrive. She has been cleaning and cooking and working to make the place look festive for her family to enjoy next week. She drove to Overbrook for some groceries. Today's mail brought us a letter from Violet. She said it was a beautiful Indian Summer day in Cedar City. She had received a letter from a cousin, Florie Fullmer (she didn't know she had a cousin Florie Fullmer) but she is secretary of the Jacob Strong Family organization in Salt Lake City, Utah. She thanked Violet for the \$5.00 contribution she had sent. Richard Best sent it for Violet and she said she'd give him the money. Florie sent us a family group picture of Grandpa and Grandma Strong's family. (See yesterday's page.) We have another very lovely sunset this evening. I'm going to enjoy it now. A lady friend that works where Rex works, at

the nursing home, came to eat dinner with us this evening. Her name is Pat Good; she is a very charming lady; we enjoyed her visit. Good night.

November 18 Friday

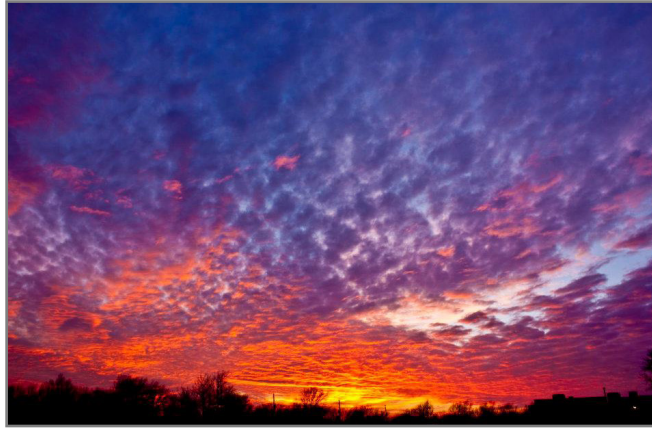
Donna left a note this morning; she said she was going to Baldwin City to see Donna Story and she would be home about noon time. I stayed in bed until almost noon. It is cold and cloudy today. Donna came about 12:45 p.m. She had bought four packages of cute Christmas cards, 20 cards to a box in two of them and 18 cards in the other two packages, for a total of 76 cards. The cost for them was \$3.56, not bad, eh? They were on sale. I enjoyed watching the television stories while eating the lunch Donna brought to me on a TV tray. How lucky can you get, eh? It is nice to be here in my pretty, warm suite. It looks gloomy and cold outside. I answered Violet's letter this afternoon. Donna Story and her husband Jack and two children came to Donna's home to rehearse a solo or two and to do her visiting teaching. Her baby girl is a darling, little babe, about a year and a half old. I think they have five children. I sat up until 11:30 to watch "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" on TV. It was a good, cute show. Good night!

November 19, Saturday

We have a gloomy looking day, windy, cold, and cloudy. I'm glad to be inside looking out on a day like this. Donna didn't sleep well last night so she is taking a nap now. I hope she is sleeping. It is 1:15 p.m. I rested fairly well last night. Kathy telephoned this morning; she and Mark are buying a home in California; I presume in Santa Clara. She said it is an old home but they like it and they are tired of paying rent. They want to have equity in something. I enjoyed the nice lunch Donna brought to me. Now I hope to address some Christmas cards to my grandchildren. Oh, that darn wind is howling, it sounds weird. I addressed cards to my grandchildren and enclosed checks for their family spending fun. I sent \$20.00 to Janet, Joan, and Mary, and \$10.00 to John and Kathy for a total of \$80.00. We enjoyed the Saturday night television shows. Donna and Rex watched some with me. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Good night.

November 20, Sunday

I expected to see snow on the ground this morning, but it was a lovely, sunny Sabbath morning. The news report last night said it might snow before morning, well, I'm glad it didn't because Rex and Donna went to church early and they had a long drive. I got up at eleven o'clock and made myself look presentable (I thought so, anyway). We can't expect too much for an 85-year-old gal. It has been a long, lonesome day. Rex and Donna came home about 4:15. It was the branch conference today. I enjoyed the food Donna left on a TV tray while I played some of my lovely records



*Elvie isn't a fan of the weather in Kansas
but she does like the sunset there.*

on the Magnavox player. I wrote a \$30.00 check to put in Rex and Donna's Christmas card. My family checks are all ready in the Christmas cards for mailing. Rex went to another meeting this evening after he'd had a short nap. Donna came in here and read to me from the Church News. Later, we watched television. There was a very **beautiful sunset** this evening about 5:30 p.m. Good night.

November 21, Monday

We have enjoyed a pleasant day, cloudy, but some sunshine, too. Rex and Donna went to Overbrook to shop for groceries. They left about nine o'clock, I think. Donna bought some Christmas stamps for me and some candy corn. I gave her \$5.00 for stamps and 69¢, plus tax, for the candy corn. My little great grandchildren like to visit here with me and eat the candy corn, and I like to see them happy. I took a shower bath before I got dressed this morning. Donna brought me some Cream of Wheat cereal, toast, hot drink, and half of a grape fruit from my brunch. I enjoyed watching the television programs while eating. Donna came in this evening and played some recording by the composer Brahms. They are studying him in Relief Society tomorrow; his famous "Lullaby" is so very beautiful. I watched the TV programs at 6 p.m. ("Cross Wits" and "Little House on the Prairie," "Ruth Gordon," and "Columbo"). Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray at 6:30 p.m. It tasted good (beef stew and salad, fruit, and chocolate cake). Good night.

November 22, Tuesday

Donna went to her Relief Society this morning. It is another nice day with some clouds, but sunshine for most of the day. Rex was hammering in the basement. He said he got the big long table put together for the crowd on Thanksgiving Day. They expect 20 or more for dinner. Rex brought me a bowl of beef stew and some toast about noontime. I watched my TV stories while eating. Donna came home about 2 p.m. She brought her lunch in here to eat about 2:45 p.m. so she could watch television with me. I enjoyed a little tuna fish sandwich and a piece of her delicious chocolate cake with her. "Ain't we got fun"! Rex went to work at the Manor Nursing Home in Overbrook. He left here shortly after 2 p.m. There was no mail for me today, but I wasn't expecting any. We had another pretty sunset this evening. Kansas does have fantastic sunsets. I stood by my south window and marveled at the beauty of the sunset this evening about 5:30 until almost six o'clock. It is dark by 6 p.m. here in this country of Kansas. At six o'clock I like to watch "Cross Wits" on TV. Our branch visiting teachers came this evening and I went in Donna's place to visit with them (Raymond and Nadine Ryan). Tonight, I walked downstairs to the basement with Donna to see how pretty the big long table looks. Donna had it all set up for the Thanksgiving dinner. Good night.

November 23, Wednesday

I had a restless night; I got up at four o'clock and took the bobby pins out of my hair and combed it to see if that would help me relax. It did, I was able to go to sleep for a few peaceful hours. We have a lovely, clear day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna brought me a TV tray with cold cereal, raisin toast, applesauce, and a hot drink about one o'clock. I enjoyed the television stories while eating. Joan phoned; they are on their way here from Naperville, Illinois, and expect to arrive about nine o'clock tonight. We expect Jon and Mary and children this afternoon sometime, from Weeping Water, Nebraska. Donna has been very busy cooking and getting ready for the family Thanksgiving Day dinner tomorrow. I surely do wish I could help, but I feel too weak with this irregular heart action of mine. Mary, Jon, and the children arrived tonight about six o'clock. We had happy greetings. The Mo Gardners came about 8:15 p.m. and there was more excitement and joyful greetings. Happy Days, eh? Good night.

November 24, Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving Day. The two little great grandchildren slept very quiet in my extra twin bed last night. I didn't hear a sound out of them. (It was Emily and Paula Gardner, I think.) I'm not sure. They were out of bed by nine o'clock. I stayed in bed until 11 a.m. We have a very pleasant day with sunshine and blue sky. Donna got up at six o'clock to get the two turkeys in the oven. She and her two daughters Joan and Mary had our delicious Thanksgiving dinner on the long table in the basement by two o'clock and some 20 of us sat down to eat. Rex was at one end of the table and myself at the other end. He asked the blessing on the food and the family. The Guy Tibbetses ate with us. We had the traditional big dinner and it was Mm good! Kathy and Mark phoned this morning and Janet and Dave phoned tonight. John L. and Ann phoned, also. My television has been going all day; our men folks like to watch the football games. I enjoyed the bright fire burning in the fireplace in the basement and visited with Donna, Joan, and Mary. The kids were coming in and out. It has been a very happy day for all of us. I tried not to overeat, but I'm afraid I failed. © Good night.

November 25, Friday

We have a very pretty day, but it is cold outside. I didn't get up until eleven o'clock. There was a lot of action in the Marshes' side however, with the Gardners and Tibbetses up and going strong. Donna brought me a hot turkey sandwich; it tasted good with the nice gravy on it. The men folks spent this morning cutting down trees for the fireplace; the logs

burn brightly. This afternoon the Gardners and the Tibbets went to Olathe to visit old friends the Thomases'. The kids had fun this morning building a fireplace in the rock pile west of our house. I enjoy looking out my windows at their play, but I do not want to be outside in that cold! Their noses look so red and they come running in the house to get warm. My television stations are all football games, so I'm not enjoying TV, but I have had some lovely records played on my Magnavox player. I got Mary Marsh Tibbets's birthday card ready for her with six sticks of gum and \$3.00 in it. I hit the jackpot with mail today; a nice, little thank you letter from Donna Shattuck for the birthday card, money and gum that I sent to her. I received a letter from Violet Fife. She enclosed a letter from Ruth Paul Nutt. She says she is a great grandmother now. She also enclosed a letter from her Dody girl and a news clipping of **Elmer and Thelma Strong's Golden wedding**. [*Elmer was Clarence Strong's son. Clarence was Elvie's uncle.*] I got a nice letter

from Lydia Paul; they have a lot of snow on the ground. She was thinking of Owen; she mentioned him several times in her letter. Good night.

November 26, Saturday

Donna said we had a few snow flurries this morning, but they didn't last long. It is cloudy and cold but the sun is trying to get through the clouds. It is now 1 p.m. Donna is resting and Mary fixed my brunch; a turkey sandwich, hot chocolate, Jello, and applesauce. The Miller Gardners left for home about eight o'clock this morning. We'll miss them, it was so nice to have them here with us. I hope they have a pleasant trip back to Naperville, Illinois. Our next big day will be

Christmas, a month from yesterday. It is very quiet in the Marshes' house; I wonder where the little Tibbetses are? It looks too cold for comfort outside. I have my heat up to 75 degrees and I'm not warm. My hands are so cold I'm having trouble to write. I had a nice treat when Greg brought me a bowl of popcorn. Donna had popped it for the family. It surely tasted good. I love buttered, hot popcorn, Mm good. Julie came in to visit for a while and Jody came later. This evening the Jon Tibbetses went to eat dinner next door with Jon's parents. Tonight, Mary put Spencer in my extra twin bed about 9 p.m. He went to sleep without fussing at all. I watched "The Carol Burnette Show" and the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

November 27, Sunday

We had some snow on the ground in patches, but the sun came out sunny bright and it didn't last long. My family all went to Sunday School; Spencer fell out of bed once last night, but Grama Donna got him back in the bed. I



*Thelma and Elmer Strong at their 50th wedding anniversary.
Image from Family Search.*

heard him moving about a lot; I got up just in time to stop another “fall out of bed.” My family has just arrived home, it is 1:50 p.m. Donna said the Tibbets children sang in sacrament meeting, “I Am A Child of God.” She said it sounded so cute. They do have nice voices. I would have loved to have been there, however, they did sing it for me after our dinner here. We celebrated Mary’s birthday today. Donna had a nice dinner and a delicious birthday cake. We sang the birthday song to her and she opened our cards with money in. They left the farm about 3:30 p.m. We’ll surely miss them. I’m glad they have a pleasant day to start their trips. I hope it will be nice weather all the way home to Weeping Water, Nebraska. Donna is left with a lot of dishes to clean up, but she won’t let me help and I do not insist. I’m weak and weary, from the happy excitement of this day. Peace and quiet I can enjoy! Good night.



Tibbets family on June 5, 1976. On November 27, in 1977 the children sang in sacrament meeting, “I Am a Child of God.”

November 28, Monday

Happy birthday to Mary Marsh Tibbets. We celebrated her day yesterday when she was here. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets did their visiting teaching this morning. It is cloudy and cold outside. We still have some snow patches on the north side of the house. Rex feels miserable this morning; he has diarrhea, the poor man. Donna came home about 1:30 p.m. She brought me a sandwich and a hot drink. I had a good night’s rest and I feel fairly well today. This afternoon Rex and Donna drove to Overbrook. I played several lovely records on my Magnavox player; some were Christmas numbers. This cold weather and the television programs with the Christmas Santas and decorations, bring the big holiday season near. I love the holiday Yuletide music; it cheers my old heart. It is dark before 6 p.m. now; we have to turn on the lights about five o’clock. In fact, I had my lamp on at four o’clock today. There was no sunshine at all today. Rex and Donna came in my place this evening for Home Night. Donna opened with a lovely prayer and Rex presided and conducted our little meeting. He used the chart he had made to give the lesson in church on “The Three Degrees of Glory.” It was very interesting. Mary phoned from Weeping Water, Nebraska. They had a pleasant trip home. Good night.

November 29, Tuesday

I stayed in bed until almost noon. I couldn’t sleep last night until it was getting daylight. We have a cold, overcast day. The sun has gotten through to us a few times. Donna went to Relief Society this morning. She left a sandwich, Jello drink, and a salad on a TV tray for me. I ate while listening to the television stories. Donna went to Overbrook this afternoon; she mailed my Christmas cards to the family with my gift checks enclosed (see November 19). Our late afternoon was bright and sunny. ☺ Rex and Donna visited with me for a while this evening. Rex isn’t feeling very well; he is not over the miserable diarrhea yet. Donna stayed longer, bless her heart. I’m afraid that I bored her with some of my amateur poems, but she is kind to listen to me and I need to talk to someone once in a while. I went to bed after the ten o’clock news report. The weather man says we may have snow tonight. P.S. Donna mailed a box to Mary today, with the clothes her children left here. It seems they always leave something and Donna has to mail it to them. Good night.

November 30, Wednesday

I’m glad to report that I had a good night’s sleep and that is a blessing! I got up this morning soon after 11:30 a.m. Donna brought a nice brunch to me about noontime. We have an overcast, cold day, but no snow or rain so far. It is 4:35 now. The TV Guide was my only mail today. It is very quiet around here. I know Donna worked hard all morning cleaning, washing, ironing, and mending in the basement. I think Rex is working at the Manor Home in Overbrook, 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Donna changed the sheets and slips on my twin beds this morning. She is a worker, that one. And then there is me, old L.V. John L. used to call me, “The little, old lady from Pasadena” and he was right. I lived in Pasadena for about 40 years and I loved it, too. I got a Christmas card ready to mail to my sister Violet; I enclosed some Christmas stamps. This evening, Donna came in here and we enjoyed the “Bing Crosby’s Merrie Olde Christmas” show, with the Crosby Family, and the Trinity Boys’ Choir. The special guest star was David Bowie, plus Twiggy, Ron Moody, and Stanley Baxter. We watched other programs, also. Good night.



December 1, Thursday

We now enter into the last month of 1977. Oh, how fast time flies by. I’m thankful for a good night’s rest and this lovely, sunny day. I received as pretty birthday card from Lydia and Gene Paul. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about one o’clock. I addressed a Christmas card to Lydia and Gene Paul and wrote a note in it to thank them for my birthday card. This evening Rex started teaching his class in Paola, I think. It is on temple marriage and etcetera. Donna and I watched the “All Star Tribute to Elizabeth Taylor,” with Robert Blake, Debby Bonne, Tom Drake, Michael Caine, Frank Gorshin, Monty Hall, Bob Hope, Rock Hudson, Roddy McDowell, Paul Newman, and Rowan and Martin. We also enjoyed the Billy Graham crusade special, “What Does It Mean to be Saved?” It came from the Cincinnati’s Riverfront Coliseum. It was very interesting. Good night.

December 2, Friday

I rested fairly well last night; I stayed in bed until noon. It was so nice and warm in my bed and after all, what do I have to get up for? We were blessed with a pleasant day. Donna took care of the house payment this morning. She brought me \$5.00 worth of Christmas stamps and \$40.00 in cash from my Social Security Check of \$298.00. The house payment is \$187.00. My check balance is now \$367.14. I received a very pretty birthday card from Janet, David, and the children. I love my pretty cards and my children. I enjoyed the nice brunch Donna brought to me while I watched the TV stories.

Christmas Party



Tonight, Rex and Donna went to the branch Christmas party.

I was invited to go with them, but I did not feel up to the effort it takes to get ready to go anywhere. You'll understand when you are 85 and feeling half alive. Donna looked very lovely in her pretty, formal gown. I hope they both enjoy the party.

December 3, Saturday

I couldn't turn off my brain last night, so I had a poor night's sleep, but the old body rested. I didn't get up until 12:30 noon. We have a nice day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna brought the mail to me; I received three lovely birthday cards. One was from Julie, Greg, Jody, Spencer, and Brian Tibbets (bless 'em). One was from Violet and Otto with \$3.00 enclosed. I always feel so guilty at having a birthday so near Christmas. I know my dear ones need their money for Christmas. I also received a lovely birthday card from Mary and Jonathan Tibbets with a sweet thank you note inside for the Christmas check I sent to them. I love my family very much, but I am not able to go out and shop and mail their gifts, so I send checks and so they can do the shopping. ☺ Donna thinks that it is a good idea, too, so, she is sending money for them to buy what they want this time, I think. I wrote a letter to Violet and Otto thanking them for the lovely birthday card and \$3.00 enclosed in it. I watched TV programs tonight "The Jeffersons," "Maude," and a comedy with Eva Gabor in it. Good night.

December 4, Sunday

"Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ I stayed in bed until noon. Rex and Donna left early for Sunday School and church. She left some food on a TV tray for me. She also left me a note saying they'd be gone all day, and that there was a sandwich for me in the refrigerator with the other food and to please help myself to it. She is very kind and thoughtful of my needs, and I try so hard not to be lonesome and blue. I should get used to being alone by now. ☹ Eh? I am enjoying the lovely Christmas recordings played on my Magnavox player. Thank the dear Lord for beautiful music. I love my pretty birthday cards, too. They are all standing up on my little table where I can see them. Nice, eh? Good night.

December 5, Monday



Violet phoned from Cedar City to wish me a happy birthday, 85 years old. My calendar says December 5 is the Jewish holiday "Hanukkah." How about that? I'll be celebrating my 85th birthday on the same day the Jewish people celebrate "Hanukkah." Glory be! And Hoop-tee-doo, step aside, I'm coming through! It is snowing and looks cold outside. Donna cooked a delicious fried chicken dinner for my birthday. I ate in the kitchen dinette with her and Rex. They sang the birthday song ♪ ♪ and cut the cake. Oh, it was good! It has lemon filling and whipped cream, so yummy! They had several nice gifts for me to open; a pretty, pink nightgown, The Book of Mormon in large print, chocolate covered mints, a calendar for 1978, Compound W, a Hallmark 1978 date book, and several pretty birthday cards. There was a lovely card with a letter and a picture of [their new] bedroom furniture from John and Ann Marsh. There was a letter from Lillian Keller. Shirley's son Fred is on a mission in Germany. Jack's brother Paul Keller died in his sleep in Oklahoma. Walter Keller is the only Keller brother living and he is 90 years old and almost blind. It was wonderful talking to Violet and Otto today. I surely appreciated them telephoning me on my birthday. I do love my family. I made out a \$10.00 check for my church donations in December to give to President Rex Marsh. Good night!

December 6, Tuesday

Donna went to Relief Society this morning. Rex worked all night, so he slept late today. I stayed in bed until noon, it is a nice way to keep warm and save on a meal. We have had a cold, hazy day with very little sunshine until later this afternoon. Rex and Donna drove to Lawrence this afternoon; she fixed my brunch about 1:30 p.m. I received a lovely birthday card from my sweet half-sister, Bonnie Jean Reynolds. **She wrote such a nice note in it about our dad, saying how lucky we were to have such a wonderful father, and how much she loved him and missed him.** I shed a tear because I also love him and think of him a lot, too. I know he loved his children and was good to all of us. I know he loved his Bonnie and I do, too. I put my pretty birthday cards away this evening, eight of them. I love them, but my birthday is over. This evening I went to Marshes' side to have Home Evening with them. Rex had a bright fire burning in the fireplace. It looked so cheerful and felt so good. Donna opened our meeting with prayer and Rex gave a fine talk on the priesthood function in our church. He and Donna took turns reading from a little booklet, some interesting accounts of people who had died and came back to life again. They all had interesting experiences. Good night.



Bonnie Jean in 1930 with her father Owen A. Bailey, who was also Elvie's dad.

December 7, Wednesday

Good morning! We have a pleasant day; it was overcast and cold this morning but, sunshine and a pretty blue sky this afternoon. However, it must be cold outside; the snow on the north side of the house isn't melting. Donna brought a nice brunch to me about one o'clock, on a TV tray. She had been out with Rex to Overbrook and to Lawrence, I think. Rex got some wood to burn in the fireplace; he took some to Guy and Dorothy Tibbets, too. I received a surprise package from Joan Gardner and family, a birthday gift. It is a very pretty slack suit. The top has pretty, blue, yellow, and pink flowers in it and the slacks are a lovely blue. It is so pretty. My precious Joan, bless her heart. Oh, I am a lucky Grandma. I love all of my darling children. Oh, I must get busy on Christmas cards and thank you notes. Ugh! I wrote thank you notes in several Christmas cards to my family who sent birthday cards to me. I'll do the card to Joan and family next, thanking them for the very lovely slack suit Joan sent to me. Good night.

December 8, Thursday

We have a cold, snowy day. I enjoyed the nice brunch Donna brought to me about 1 p.m. It is windy this afternoon and surely looks cold outside. I'm glad to be inside looking out. I had a shower bath and put on clean underwear. I tried on the pretty slack suit that Joan sent for my birthday; the top is just right, but I think the pants are a bit too snug. Donna says she'll go to Sears and change them for a larger size. They came from a Sears store. I also tried on my pink nightgown that Donna and Rex gave me. It fits all right and is so pretty. Joan phoned from Illinois to see if the package arrived okay, so Donna told her. I said the slack suit is beautiful and I did tell her so. I hope we can get the same shade of blue slacks. I dread Kansas in the winter, but glad I can be comfortable in my nice house. I sent a thank you note in Joan's Christmas card and I wrote a letter to Lillian Keller and enclosed it in her Christmas card. It is snowing now, almost 5 p.m. Old Man Winter has arrived. Rex and Donna received a Christmas card from Juti Marsh; she said her Grandpa Chandler passed away last Monday and Grandma Chandler is living with them now. I received a Christmas card from Violet and Otto and a letter from Joan with cute pictures of Marshall, Sanford, and Emily enclosed. I got a birthday card from Ethel Newbold with a letter enclosed. I enjoyed my television for a while and then went to bed. Good night.

December 9, Friday

We have a pleasant day, but it's cold. I can tell because the snow isn't melting on the north side of the house. Rex and Donna went to Topeka this morning. She left some food for me on a TV tray. They came home about 2:30 p.m. She got a larger size slack, in the same pretty shade of blue. They are nicer with a zipper front and I like that, so easy to put on. The mail brought me a pretty Christmas card from Mel and Evelyn Toye. Donna brought me some goodies to enjoy (chocolates with lots of nuts) homemade candy. (Mm good, I didn't intend to eat 'em all up, but I did!) Oh, I'll need the larger size in everything if I keep this up. I have sent several Christmas cards. Donna is putting my name on some of the cards she sends so I will not have to write so many this year. I just can't keep up with traditions anymore I'm now 85 years old and I'm tired of trying to keep up. We had a very beautiful sunset this evening. I watched from my windows, for a long time. I do love beautiful pictures that nature paints for us. I enjoyed some lovely music on my Magnavox player and some television. I went to the Marshes' side to enjoy the lovely fire in their fireplace and to visit with them tonight. It's bedtime and I'm weary. Good night.

December 10, Saturday

It's cold, but we have a pretty, blue sky with sunshine. Donna and Rex were in the south field when I got up. I think they were getting wood for the fireplace. They took some to Dorothy Tibbets, too. Donna brought me a sandwich, fruit, and a hot drink of Ovaltine for brunch at 1 p.m. I wrote a note in Blanche Hoglund's Christmas card to wish her a happy birthday, too. Her birthday is December 12. I hope she is well enough to enjoy the holidays and her birthday. The poor dear fell and broke her hip a few weeks ago. Rex says there will be no Sunday School on Christmas, but he wants me to go to church in the afternoon with them. (I'll see how I feel on December 25, eh?) No ice and snow for this old gal. Donna took Rex to work about 2:10 p.m. She mailed my cards with hers. She will go back and pick Rex up about five o'clock; she will take his suit and they'll go to the Christmas party. These are busy, happy days (for some). My darling Lou and I had many busy, happy days, too. The Manor Nursing Home gave the Christmas party tonight for the workers. They rented a hall in Overbrook, I think. Rex and Donna came home soon after 11 p.m. I was watching a good movie, "The Barefoot Contessa." I stayed up late to see it through. I believe it is the first time I've done that. Mary Tibbets phoned about 9:30. I was in the kitchen so I answered. We had a nice visit. She said she'd phone her mother tomorrow or Monday. Sweet dreams.



December 11, Sunday

Today is cold and cloudy. Rex and Donna left early for church; she fixed a TV tray with some fruit, cold cereal, milk, and Jello drink for me. I got up at noon time and enjoyed my brunch. It looks so cold outside; the snow isn't melting very fast. I can see patches of snow all around the place. I didn't realize that an eighty-five-year-old gal could feel so lonesome and blue. Come out of it L.V., get some sunshine in your heart. Start counting your blessings. Oh, that'll do it, now I feel better. I played some lovely music on my Magnavox player. Donna and Rex came home at 3:30 p.m. They looked cold and said it was cold outside. I'm glad to be inside and just looking out. This evening, Donna and Rex visited with me; we watched television until after the ten o'clock news. This weary, old lady is going to bed. Good night.

December 12, Monday

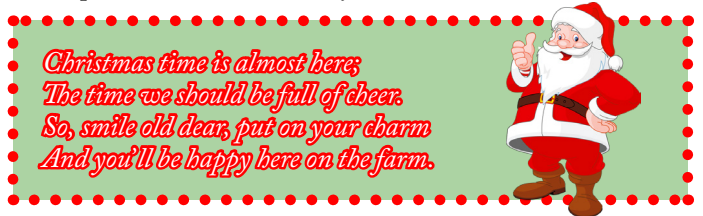
The snow has melted and it is a little warmer, but no sunshine so far today; it is 3:15 now. Donna brought the mail to me; I received two Christmas cards, one from Helen Obremski and one from Rex and Donna Marsh. They are sending the TV Guide to me for another year. (Nice, eh?) I also received a scroll with papers and pictures from Richard Best. He wants family pictures and papers for his family record. I'm not able to do the research that he needs. (Richard, dear boy, when you are 85 years old, you'll understand.) Donna said she'd help me with his letter. What would I do without her? My poor brain feels so befuddled at times. I have received a few Christmas cards and I surely do enjoy looking at them. I have sent some, but not like I used to send. Donna puts my name on her cards to family and friends we both know. She is precious. We watched the "Cross Wits Game" on TV this evening and "Hollywood Squares," too, and then "Wild Kingdom." I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. P.S. I hope Blanche Hoglund is enjoying her birthday today.

December 13, Tuesday

Donna and Dorothy T. went to Relief Society this morning. Donna left a TV tray of food for me. I got up about noon time and enjoyed my brunch. We have a blue sky and sunshine for a nice change. I love sunshine. I had a blind stagger spell this morning that slowed me down some, but I'm used to them. A man is helping Guy Tibbets put the garage door on his place. Donna came home about 3:15. She had a cute, little paper house with homemade candy in it, plus a nice Christmas poem. I enjoyed some of the candy. I got Gregory Tibbets's birthday card ready to mail. His day is December 21. He'll be 10 years old. I taped some gum (7 sticks) and wrote a verse to him and enclosed \$1.00. I put two stamps on the envelope because of the gum. Our stamps are now 13¢ each. This evening, Rex and Donna watched television with me from 6 to 8 p.m. We all ate dinner from TV trays in here, fun, eh? Donna Story came to the house to rehearse her solo with Donna Marsh. Her three little girls came in and out of my place all evening. Baby Ruth was a problem, she wanted to turn the buttons of my television. It was frustrating to say the least! Rex came to my rescue and took her out. Good night.

December 14, Wednesday

We have had a pleasant day with some sunshine. I stayed in bed until noontime. Rex worked at the barn home today. Donna and I went through several of my picture albums to find pictures that Richard Best wanted for his family history book. I didn't want to take them out of my book, but I did it to help him with his book. I'm sure he will have a fine "Family Record." Donna is answering his letter. He asked for a picture of me to put with the poems I wrote for his mother, "Aunt Ettie." I'd like to see his book when he has finished it. He is young and ambitious and it should be a fine piece of work. I'm weary and old, 85, how about that?



We had a pleasant evening with good music and a nice Home Evening in Marshes' side with a bright fire burning in their fireplace. One of the Story children left their hair brush in my place last evening. Too bad I didn't notice it before they left here last night. Good night.

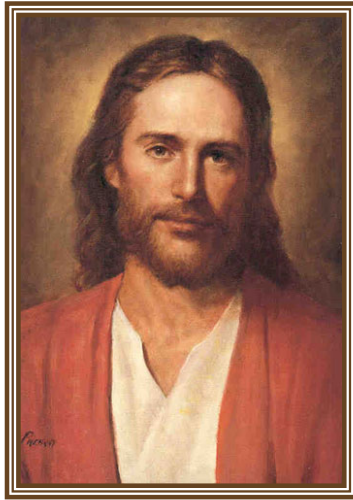
December 15, Thursday

Donna did her visiting teaching this morning. She took some Christmas goodies to each family. I presume that Dorothy Tibbets went with her. I stayed in bed until noon time. We have a lovely, blue sky and pretty sunshine. It is warmer, too, I like that. Donna brought a nice lunch to me, a sandwich, fruit, and a hot drink of Ovaltine. Lucky old me, Grama Elvie. Today's mail brought a letter from Violet. She wrote it December 10. She asked if I remembered Leo and Irene Palmer of Cedar City. I do, Irene is in the hospital in Salt Lake; she was operated on for cancer. Otto's friend Lanell is suffering from cancer, too. I'm sorry for these nice people. Violet is anxious to hear from Richard Best about the pictures of the Strong family group that he promised her. Yvonne's daughter, Donna, was with the Otto Fifes for Thanksgiving and Art's wife, Hilda, also. Violet thanked me for the Christmas stamps in her card. We enjoyed television tonight. We watched "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson and the 10 p.m. news. Good night.

December 16, Friday

Rex worked this morning plastering his house, the finishing coat. Donna was outside helping him. She brought some brunch to me about 1 p.m. (a chicken sandwich, sliced bananas, and hot Ovaltine). I received two Christmas cards from Salt Lake City, Utah. One was from Lydia and Gene Paul and the other from President Richard North and family, and I got a card from Ken and Shirley Bird from Mojave, California. Donna opened the Christmas box from John and Ann so she can put the pretty packages under her tree. She brought me a smoked beef stick from the box. It was Lowry's Old Fashioned Smoked Flavored Beef. A little of that goes a long way with me. Ugh! Rex and Donna drove to Topeka this afternoon to shop. They left here about 4 p.m. It is getting dark by 4:30 now. I'm

fighting a lonesome, homesick feeling. Cheer up, old dear, the sun will shine again tomorrow. I played some lovely recordings on my Magnavox player this afternoon. Donna and Rex came home at 5:25 p.m. They didn't go to Topeka, but bought a Christmas tree in Overbrook and came home. She says they'll go to Topeka in a few days to shop. Well, we all change our minds at times, eh? Rex made a stand for the tree and he and Donna trimmed it. They invited me to help trim it, "No thanks." They did a beautiful job. I went out in the living room to enjoy it when they'd finished. "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. ♪ ♪ ♪ Good night.



Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace

December 17, Saturday

Several of the elders from our branch came out to the farm this morning to cut wood for the Guy Tibbetses, and I presume the Marshes, too. Dorothy Tibbets is sick, but Guy brought over some ground beef and etcetera, and Donna made a big pot of chili to feed the men. They ate over here at noon time. Rex made a nice fire in his fireplace this afternoon. He came here and took me out to the living room to enjoy the nice logs burning brightly in the fireplace, and to see the pretty Christmas tree. Rex had to go to some church meeting this afternoon in the stake center in Kansas City, Missouri. He drove Donna to our mailbox for the mail first. She took Tibbetses' mail to them. I had a cute Christmas card from Ethel Newbold; a picture of "The Little Drummer Boy," Pa-Rum-Pum-Pum. Donna got several nice Christmas cards from friends and relatives. She took a nap on her couch. I came here and dozed in my big, reclining chair while listening to Christmas music. I love the beautiful Yule Tide music. Donna brought my big, red candle and the Christmas Wreath out today. She is making my place look festive, too. Rex came home about 10 p.m. They both listened to the ten o'clock news with me. P.S. There were nine men to eat chili today. Good night.

December 18, Sunday

Donna went to Sunday School and church with Dorothy Tibbets in the Tibbetses' car. I presume Guy T. is with them. I think President Rex Marsh left earlier in his truck. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. Rex gave me a typed copy of the nice Christmas message each member of our branch will receive today

from the branch presidency, to commemorate the birth of our Savior and Redeemer, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and etcetera. We have blue sky and bright sunshine this afternoon. Our Christmas message wished all of us "A Joyous Holiday." I played lovely Christmas music on my Magnavox player this afternoon. Rex and Donna came home together in the pick-up truck about 4 pm. They were hungry so she fixed them something to eat. I wasn't ready for food yet. Dorothy drove her car home about 2:40 p.m. The Jack Story family came in to present me with a pretty glass jar with a candle in it and some holly on the outside. Wasn't that nice of them? They are a lovely family. Jack and Donna and four little girls, Rebecca, Beth, Melissa, and Ruth. I went in the Marshes' apartment to visit with the branch visiting brothers this evening, Br. Raymond Ryan and Br. Melvin Toye. Tonight, Donna popped some popcorn and brought a little bowlful to me. I ate all of it and surely enjoyed it. Good night.

December 19, Monday

I rested very well last night and I'm very thankful for that. It is cloudy and cold today, but comfortable in the house. I didn't get up until noon. Donna brought a nice brunch to me on a TV tray. She drove to the mailbox about 1 p.m. and came back with a lot of Christmas cards for Marshes, Tibbetses, and even I got four cards. The Mo Gardner's card has a darling picture of the six children. I got a pretty Christmas card from Ken and Donna Renshaw and family, a card from Ruby Hodges, and a Christmas card from Bonnie and Darrell Reynolds. Donna read to me from the Church newspaper this afternoon. I surely enjoyed her reading. Later, I read a few chapters from my Book of Mormon; I love to read from this beloved book, but my eyes water and blur my vision,



Marshall, Janet, Sanford, Sherm, Paula, and Emily Gardner, Christmas picture from 1977.

so I can't read very long at a time. Donna and I watched the "Tonight Show" on TV tonight. Debbie Reynolds, Kenny Rogers, and Pete Barquette were on it. It was entertaining. I am a fan of Debbie Reynolds. She's a cutie. Good night.

December 20, Tuesday

We had some snow flurries this morning and some bright sunshine this afternoon. Donna and Dorothy went to Relief Society. She brought a lot of Christmas cards home; we had fun reading them and their lovely messages. I received a lovely card from the Jim Bailey family with a beautiful picture of them in color, Jim, Andrea, and Margaret, Jimmy, Alan, Jeff, and Mary. I was delighted with this beautiful family picture. I also received a nice Christmas card and letter from Blanche Hoglund. She is feeling better, but not well. She has been in the hospital three times this year. Dorothy T. forgot to take the cookies she made for Relief Society, so she brought them over here. I enjoyed two of them for my lunch. Rex and Donna drove to Lawrence this afternoon to do some Christmas shopping. I enjoyed lovely Christmas music and dozed in my chair.

*A lonesome old gal is what I am,
But I try to look cheerful if I can
For Donna, time flies by too quick,
For me, time drags so slow, it makes me sick.
Well, I do play with words to make 'em rhyme,
And that helps to pass away the time.*



Jim and Andrea Bailey with their children Christmas picture 1977.



December 21, Wednesday

Happy birthday to Gregory Stewart Tibbets, 10 years old. Donna helped Rex cut some wood for the fireplace, (or gather wood) this morning. We have a pretty day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray at noontime. It must be cold outside, the little snow we do have isn't melting in spite of the sunshine. The news report says today is the first day of winter. How about that? I hope our 10-year-old boy Greg is enjoying his birthday. This afternoon Rex went to Paola on church business, (Primary and Mutual). Donna brought a handful of Christmas cards from the mailbox this afternoon. I received cards from Lillian K., she is in Los Altos, California for Christmas with Shirley. I received a card from Mark and Kathy and one from Dick, Beth, and Aunt Ida Strong. She is 89 years old and is feeling fairly well. A card came from Elaine and Lewie Strong. This evening I went in Marshes' side to enjoy the bright fire in the



Gregory Tibbets 1977

fireplace and the pretty Christmas tree, and best of all my lovely daughter Donna's company. Rex was away to some church meetings. Good night.

December 22, Thursday

It is windy and overcast this morning and cold, but I'm warm in my nice, little suite. Donna brought a nice lunch to me at 12:30 p.m. Sr. Nadine Ryan came to the farm about 1:30 p.m.; she brought a Christmas box to me from the Relief Society of our branch. It was full of goodies (crackers, soups, cookies, candy, and etcetera). It is in a big shoe box covered in gold paper with red ribbon, ties, and bow. It is very pretty and I am overwhelmed with emotions; people are so very nice to me. Rex and Donna went with Sr. Ryan to do some visiting or Christmas shopping. I'm not sure. I can't remember all they tell me. Donna came in with the mail this afternoon. She had

a package for me from Kathy and Mark (a belated birthday gift) and some Christmas gifts. I opened the box and took out the birthday gift. It is a 1978 calendar. It's very pretty and has large numbers I can read with ease. I'm happy with it and the nice picture for each month. Donna put the Christmas gifts under the tree. ☺ Kathy's card is cute, it's in the bowl with all of my cards. Donna had a handful of Christmas cards; we enjoyed reading all of them. This is a wonderful time of the year, eh? Rex is in Paola on church business. We listened to the special TV program from Salt Lake City, from the Tabernacle, by the beautiful, big tabernacle organ, and LDS young people outside playing in the snow. But the thrill came when we saw John's name on the list of workers; he was the stage manager of the production.

December 23, Friday

A beautiful, sunny day greeted us this morning. I got up in time for lunch, which Donna brought to me on a TV tray. ☺ Later she came in with her vacuum cleaner and cleaned my suite. I went to the Marshes' side to be out of her way. I enjoyed looking through some of her Christmas cards; she and Rex received so many and my name was on several of them. Donna had the Pasadena "Star News" paper; it came in a package that John and Ann sent. (They live in Pasadena now.) I felt a little homesick when I saw the Star News. That is the paper that Lou and I took when we lived there. President Rex Marsh has been attending his tithing settlement in Paola, where our new chapel will be in January. Donna made three pans of cinnamon rolls today; they make

the house smell good. She is taking some to a couple of our neighbors. They're lucky to have Donna for a neighbor, eh? I sure am happy to have her for my daughter.

December 24, Saturday

Today is Christmas Eve. We have a very nice day with blue sky and sunshine. We've had some wind and it's cold outside, but I stay inside. I think Rex has been cutting wood for the fireplace. I went to the Marshes' side this afternoon to enjoy the nice fire burning there. President Rex Marsh came in and we had my tithing settlement for the year. I paid \$40.00 for tithing, \$15.00 for fast offering, \$15.00 for budget, \$22.00 for the building fund for a total contribution of \$92.00. We had our big Christmas dinner this afternoon, we had baked ham, and it was delicious. We had potato and cheese dish, the salads, and everything festive. After dinner, we watched "The Lawrence Welk Show" in my rooms. It was very lovely with the Welk's people's families on display for the Christmas program. Some of them were on the program. I do love to see the dear little children on the Welk's Christmas show. We went back to the Marshes' side to open our gifts that were under the beautiful tree. We all received lots of gifts, I couldn't begin to record them all, but we had a lot of fun. A very Merry Christmas for all. Good night.

December 25, Sunday

A Merry Christmas to all! We have a beautiful day for the Sabbath and Christmas today. I got up at 8:30, took a shower bath and got myself ready to go to church with Rex and Donna. We didn't have Sunday School this day, but we had a nice Christmas program in sacrament meeting. President Marsh presided and conducted. Donna Marsh played for all the musical numbers. The two talks were very well given; I enjoyed all of it. The people are friendly and seemed glad to see me out again. Rex had to go to work soon after we came home. He didn't have much time. Donna and I ate from TV trays in here after Rex left. Kathy and Mark phoned from California. They're going to pick up Mary and baby Brian at the airport this evening. Jon T. will bring the other children here after they see Mary and Brian off on the airplane. **Charlie Chaplin** died today, at the age of 88. He was in Switzerland. Jon Tibbets and his children came tonight about 8:30 p.m. after seeing Mary and baby Brian off on the airplane on their way to San Francisco. Mary is going to visit her sisters Janet and Kathy in San Jose. Mary sent the leftover food from their Christmas dinner, so we enjoyed turkey sandwiches, cranberries, salad, rolls, and etcetera. There were lots of goodies from Mary's kitchen. We also enjoyed visiting with Jon and the children. We miss Mary and little Brian, but they'll have a happy reunion with



Charlie Chaplin died on Christmas Day in 1977. Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin KBE was an English comic actor, filmmaker, and composer who rose to fame in the era of silent film. He became a worldwide icon through his screen persona, "The Tramp," and is considered one of the most important figures in the history of the film industry. -Wikipedia

the Shattucks and Kathy and Mark in San Jose. Julie slept in my extra twin bed tonight. Good night all.

December 26, Monday

Christmas is over for another year and New Year's Day is coming up next. We have a very lovely day, sunny and bright. I presume it is cold outside. Julie was up and out to Grama Donna's side about 7:30 this morning. I stayed in bed until 10:30. I got dressed and went to Marshes' side to eat my brunch about noon time. Grampa Rex assembled the game toy in the basement so the children could play with it there. It is a busy household over there; Grama Donna is kept busy making sandwiches of turkey or ham. I took my Relief Society box of food to Donna's; there was some food in it that needed to be put in the refrigerator. Jon left for Weeping Water early this morning; he has some work to do there. Rex went to work at the Manor Nursing Home this afternoon. Jody Tibbets came in and talked to me for about 30 minutes. He is a cute, little fellow. I gave him a Kraft caramel and he left. Then Spencer came in for a caramel. He didn't stay long; it was evident what he wanted. He came over to my little chair and looked at the jar of Kraft caramels, and he was on his way as soon as I gave him some. ☺ I love the little Tibbets kiddies. I love all of my precious great grandchildren. Julie took the heating pad to bed tonight; she said it felt good. It wasn't cold in here but the boys had one in their bed, so Julie wanted one. She had it on low. The boys are sleeping in the basement. Good night!

December 27, Tuesday

We have another lovely, sunny day, cold, but sunny. Donna made Julie's bed this morning; I made mine. She brought my brunch at noontime; it was pancakes and some Postum. Mm good! I'm a lucky, old gal, eh? Julie was up and over to Marshes' side by nine o'clock. The other Tibbets kids were in and out of my place this morning. This afternoon they went to help gather wood for the fireplace. I composed a little verse to write in my new 1978 diary (that Santa gave me). Today's mail brought a Season's Greeting card and a nice note from Mary and Vern Jorgensen; Donna received one, too. Lynn is married and living in Redlands. Mary says she is a lovely young lady. Randy and Ken are not married. Mary is happy to have a daughter-in-law. I hope she can have some grandchildren, too. Tonight, we watched television until bedtime. Donna got the little Tibbets boys to bed in the basement, then she joined Julie and me. Good night and sweet dreams! ☺

December 28, Wednesday

Our year, 1977, is on its way out. The New Year will soon be here. We have a very nice, sunny day. Donna was busy this morning cooking breakfast for her little

Tibbets grandchildren. I didn't get up until almost noontime. She asked what I wanted for my lunch and I surprised her by saying **popcorn**. ☺ Yes, I wanted popcorn, so she popped corn for me and I surely enjoyed it. She had other food on the tray, too. Later, Donna brought the mail in and read it to me. There was a letter from Marty and Wayne Strong, a letter from Shirley Little, too. She enclosed a nice letter from her son Fred, from his mission, and a letter with a picture of the David Howards. Donna took lunch to Rex. Greg and Jody went hunting with their new bee guns Spencer was with Donna. I think Julie was with Grandma Dorothy. At 4 p.m. Donna drove to the barn house to take something to Rex. Spencer and Julie went with her. Greg and Jody were out playing somewhere on the farm. Correction: Julie isn't with Donna; she just came in here. There was a nice picture of Wayne and Marty Strong's family, children and grandchildren, and one or two great grandchildren. It is a lovely looking group (on their card). I listened to President Jimmy Carter's news conference on TV tonight at 7 p.m. Julie came in to go to bed about 9:30 p.m. She watched TV with me for a short time. Good night.



couple of "Happy New Year" cards for me. She used her thumb prints to make a mouse on one card, and on the other. I taped them up on my lamp shade to celebrate the coming of the New Year, 1978. Jody came in to visit with me. I gave him the candy head from the little, yellow yarn doll that I have had on my lamp shade. His eyes have told me he wanted it many times. I cut a cute head from a card and pasted it on the yarn body. I like it much better and it doesn't tempt the little boys now. Grandma Dorothy invited the Tibbets children to her house for dinner at six o'clock this evening so Donna will have a little rest; She has been playing songs they can sing and I enjoy hearing their sweet voices. We listened to some television shows tonight until after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

December 29, Thursday

This 29th day in December is sunny and bright, but cold outside. Julie was awake and out of bed by eight o'clock. I stayed in bed until 11 a.m. I presume the Tibbets boys are playing in the basement. It is quiet anyway. ☺ Julie got a kick out of reading from my diary book yesterday. She is starting her first diary in January. I will start my 50th diary book in January. How about that? I have written 49 books by hand, 365 pages each. We had a surprise visitor about noon time. Brad Haddock called to say hello. He is such a friendly, nice, young man. We enjoyed hearing the family news. His parents, Bette and Ray, are moving from Upland, California, soon, to Riverside, California, to be near Gerald and family I presume. Donna brought a nice lunch on TV trays in here so we could eat while visiting with Brad. He didn't stay long, he had a boyfriend waiting in Overbrook for him, but it was nice of Brad to come out to the farm to see us. Julie went with some neighbors to spend the day with their girl. They brought Julie home about 5:15 p.m.

December 30, Friday

It was foggy this morning, but we had a sunny sky this afternoon. Julie spent some time this morning making a

Inside page of the 1978 Diary that Santa brought to Elvie.

December 31, Saturday

Our New Year's Eve day has been foggy and overcast with some light rain at times, but not real cold. A neighbor girl brought a horse to the farm for Julie to go horseback riding with her. They each had a horse. I watched them trot away. I love to see them enjoying life. I had a very happy childhood, too, in fact, I've had a very nice life all of my 85 years, which I am thankful for. Julie brought her friend in here to meet me; she is a very nice little girl. Julie wanted me to read some of my poems to them, I did, and a few of the ones I had memorized. The child's mother came for her about 3:45 p.m. I presume she brought them both here after the horse

back ride. The girl's name is Brooke Blackwelder. This is my last page in 1977 diary book. We watched the New Year's Eve program with Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians; it was conducted by Victor Lombardo, a special tribute to the late Guy Lombardo. It was called New Year's Eve with the Royal Canadians. Guy Lombardo died November the 5th of this year. We saw the old year out and the New Year in, on television, from New York City. It was 11 p.m. here, but midnight in New York. My wish for the world is, a very Happy New Year! And gratitude for the blessings of 1977. Donna has a miserable cold. I'm sorry about that. Good night all. P.S. I'll start recording in my 50th diary book tomorrow.



The photo above was in the back of Elvie's 1977 diary.

Poor little old lady, with silver gray hair
Setting in her big reclining chair -
Trying to look pleasant the live long days
But, wishing that she could just pass away!

As 1977 comes to a close Elvie is missing all her family that have gone on before her. She wonders why she has to wait so long to go.