

# Elvie Renshaw's

## 1978 Diary



*Elvie and great grandson  
Christopher Alan Tibbets born May 3, 1978.*

## Cast of Characters in Elvie's 1978 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, Brian,** and baby **Christopher** to arrive this year. Kathy 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.**

## January 1, Sunday

*It's a new year, and a new diary, too.  
1977 we'll have happy memories of you.  
1978 We welcome you to come in  
And help us, this New Year to begin.  
With our hearts full of love, faith, and cheer,  
We look forward to happy New Year. (EBR)*



It is New Year's Day; I spent my day in bed with a miserable cold. We expected Jon Tibbets to come today, but he had some trouble with his car so he didn't make it, and Julie will sleep in my extra twin bed again tonight. This year we are celebrating two New Year's days, today and tomorrow. Tonight, we watched the special Guy Lombardo program. Guy died on November 5, but his brother Victor took over in Guy's place to lead the Royal Canadians. I felt too miserable to stay up and see the old year out and the New Year in, but they were "whooping it up" in New York when I went to bed at 11 p.m. Julie Tibbets started her first diary book today. "Happy New Year, 1978." [The 1978 Journal Julie started is missing but she started one in 1979, too. It is pictured on this page.]

## January 2, Monday

Good morning America! I stayed in bed until almost noon time. It was foggy this morning, but sunny and bright this afternoon. I did get up for a couple of hours to see the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, Parade. Former President Gerald R. Ford was the Grand Marshal of this 89th annual Rose Parade. I'm sorry I wasn't feeling better, so I could enjoy it more. Donna wasn't feeling very well either. Oh, what a way to start the new year, but I'll have to look for that silver lining on the sunny side of the street. ☺ Back to bed for this ♪ "Little, Old Lady from Pasadena" ♪ ♪ at 5 p.m. I got up about 6:30 p.m. to eat my dinner. We do have a troubled world. I'm concerned about it, but there is nothing I can do but believe on the dear Lord Jesus Christ myself and try to help others to do the same. Good night all.

## January 3, Tuesday

I did rest better last night for which I am very thankful indeed. It has been overcast and cold today, but no rain. Jonathan Tibbets took his children home to Weeping Water this morning so they can go to school. He left Spencer here with us; he isn't old enough to go to school. Mary and baby Brian are in San Jose, California visiting with Janet and Dave.

Donna and I feel better today. I managed to sit up in my big chair for half of the day. I'll be glad when I feel normal again. Back to bed for now. Goodnight all.

## January 4, Wednesday

I did rest fairly well last night; I got up about noon time, too sick to enjoy being up. Donna's cold isn't much better. I ate the sandwich and drank Postum she brought to me. I had to go back to my bed. I'm a very sick old gal, 85 years of age. Good night.

## January 5, Thursday

I did the head work before the handwork this morning. I have felt so darn miserable I almost lost a day. Is this the 4th or the 5th of January? I am a confused gal. And the TV stories are no help at all! Today's mail brought a letter from the Eugene Pauls (Lydia and Gene). She always writes a fun reading letter. We also got a letter from Roland and Donna Renshaw. I'm too ill to stay up. Good night.

## January 6, Friday

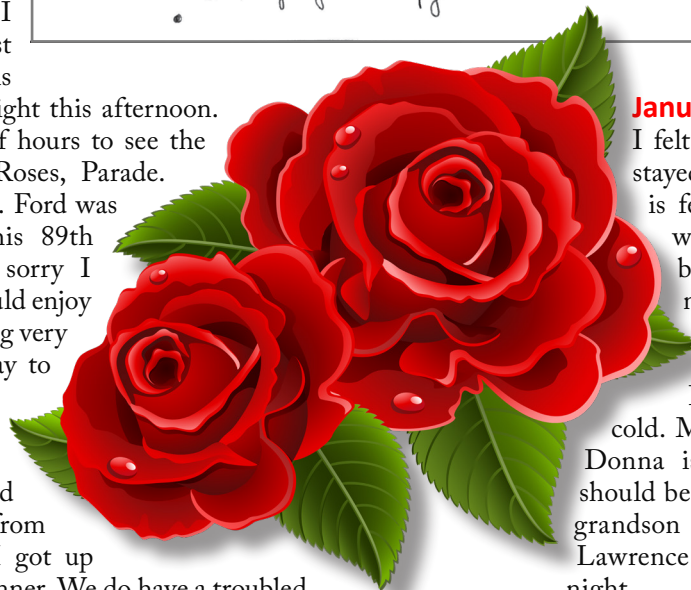
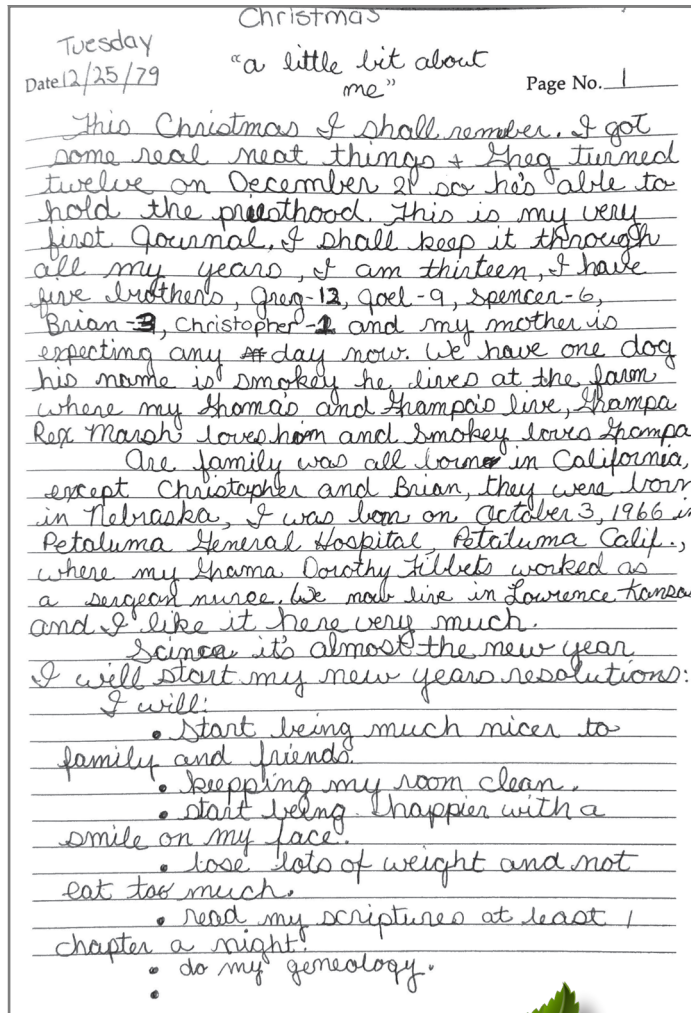
I felt too miserable to get up today. I stayed in bed until 6 p.m. I think Donna is feeling a little better. I sat up to watch television for a while tonight; back to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Sweet Dreams.

## January 7, Saturday

I'm still battling this miserable cold. Most of my day was spent in bed. Donna is feeling some better, but she should be in bed too; but there is her little grandson Spencer. I got up to hear "The Lawrence Welk Show" at 6 p.m. Good night.

## January 8—12, Sunday—Thursday

Ill [All Elvie wrote each day was "ill."]



**January 13, Friday**

Senator Hubert Humphrey died today at 66 years of age.

**January 14, Saturday**

I got up at noontime and gave myself a bath. Donna changed my bed sheets. I went to bed until time for "The Lawrence Welk Show" at 6 p.m. I enjoyed the TV snack Donna brought me. Happy birthday to **Emily Gardner**, 7 years old. I'm too ill to sit up long.



*Emily Gardner in the fall of 1978. On January 14 Emily turned 7 years old.*

**January 15, Sunday**

I was in bed most of the day. I sat up to eat the nice dinner Donna cooked (6 p.m.). Good night.

**January 16, Monday**

Sick old Grama Elvie.

**January 17, Tuesday**

I was in bed most of the day.

**January 18, Wednesday**

I sat up for a little while.

**January 19, Thursday**

I feel some better; I sat up to eat.



*Brian Tibbets*

**January 20, Friday**

I sat up to eat my brunch at 1 p.m. I had a dizzy spell, so back to bed I got up at 6 p.m. I enjoyed the nice fire in Marshes' fireplace tonight. I didn't feel like eating dinner tonight but, I had a drink of hot Jello. Today was a cold day. Good night.

**January 21, Saturday**

I wrote a \$10.00 check for my church donations today. It has been snowing most of the day. Donna vacuumed my rooms and dusted, dear girl! I'm feeling ill, good night.

**January 22, Sunday**

It is cold and snowing today. Donna didn't go to Sunday School. I sat up for a while but felt too miserable to stay up long. I did play some lovely LDS records on my Magnavox player. Later, I went out to enjoy the fire burning in the fireplace. I wish I felt better, but I'm glad Donna is feeling better. Good night.

**January 23, Monday**

The ground is white with snow. The trees are all covered in ice. Donna and Dorothy T. went to shop in Overbrook this morning. I got up to eat my lunch about 12:30 noon. I listened to my TV stories until I felt ill, so back to bed. It's my darling Lou's birthday date today. This evening Donna read several chapters to me from **Norma Zimmer's** book.



*Louis Renshaw would have been 88 years old on January 23, 1978.*

P.S. **Lou would be 88 years old if he was alive.** Good night, I'm a weary, old gal.

**January 24, Tuesday**

There was no Relief Society because of the winter storms. I got up at noon and ate my brunch, then back to bed, not feeling well. I got up again about

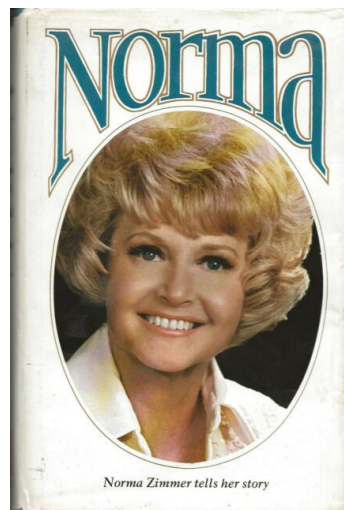
six o'clock and watched TV programs. I enjoyed the Kraft 75th Anniversary Special with many stars on it. I didn't eat dinner this evening (upset stomach). It is **Brian Louis Tibbets's** birthday today. I hope the little fellow is happy on his 2nd anniversary. We love you little darling; we're all thinking of you. We wish you a happy birthday and lots of gifts, too. Good night.

**January 25, Wednesday**

It is cold and snowing this morning, but it was sunny and bright this afternoon. I sat up to eat my brunch at 1 p.m. Then I went back to bed at 4:30 p.m., feeling weak. Donna and Rex went out to do their visiting teaching this evening. She left a tray of food for me; some nice beef stew that she made today and some jelled salad. She also made a cherry pie, but I was afraid to eat any of it. (And I love it, a sad situation!) Sweet dreams.

**January 26, Thursday**

We have a cold wind, but sunshine, and I love the sunshine. ☺ It was a very cold night; I was thankful for the electric blanket. I got up at noon time to eat my brunch and to watch TV. Later, Donna read a few chapters to me from the Norma Zimmer book. Rex came home from work at 4:45 p.m. I went back to bed feeling weak. Donna and Rex went to a party at the nursing home tonight and I watched "Barnaby Jones" and the ten o'clock news report. Good night.



*Norma Zimmer was the "Champaign Lady" on Lawrence Welk's Show.*

### January 27, Friday

It was cold last night but I was comfortable with my electric blanket on. I was happy to see the blue sky and sunshine this morning. I got up at noon time. It is cold in spite of the sunny sky; the snow isn't melting. I went back to bed after 4 p.m. Donna read a few chapters from the Norma Zimmer book to me before I went back to bed. She read some more this evening. I do enjoy hearing her read to me. Good night.

### January 28, Saturday

Rex went to Independence, Missouri, today to work on the Jello project for our Church Welfare Program. Donna would have gone with him, but she wouldn't leave me alone all day when I'm feeling so miserable. I'm really sorry about that. Joan phoned Donna; she is doing some genealogy work and is trying to find out more about her great grandmother Renshaw's line. We really haven't very much on her line. Joan says she'll write to Salt Lake City. Mary phoned; they'd like to visit us, but the cold winter weather makes traveling very dangerous. John and Ann phoned from California; it is cold and wet there. We have a sunny, blue sky, but the snow isn't melting on the ground. Donna finished the Norma Zimmer book. I love to have her read to me. I'm still very weak and can't stay up long, but I'm indeed thankful I am not in severe pain; I am blessed. Donna and Rex went to Topeka this evening to shop; they left here about 5:30 p.m. and said they'd be home about 9 pm. She left some food on a TV tray for me. Rex looks nice in his new dark blue work uniform. I paid Donna \$2.63 for the items she brought me from town (Scope, and tums, etcetera). Good night.

### January 29, Sunday

We have an overcast, cold day. Rex and Donna went to Sunday School and church. I stayed in bed until one o'clock noontime. Donna left some food on a tray for me, dry cereal, milk, crackers, and etcetera. The sun got through the clouds about 3 p.m. It cheered up my depression. I love sunshine. (We all do.) I wish I felt stronger so I could dance around my room for exercise, but at 85 years of age, I presume my dancing days are over. It is a sad situation, old dear. Well, I'm glad I can get up and dress and comb my hair and make my bed and say my prayer and relax in my chair. This evening I went to the Marshes' side and enjoyed the nice fire in their fireplace while I ate my dinner from a TV tray. Rex came in here to watch "The Carol Burnette Show" and have a good sleep in the big reclining chair. ☺ We all went to bed after the ten o'clock newscast. Good night.

### January 30, Monday

Donna Story came here this morning to rehearse with Donna for her solo, and to do her visiting teaching. She and my Donna came to my bedside to give me

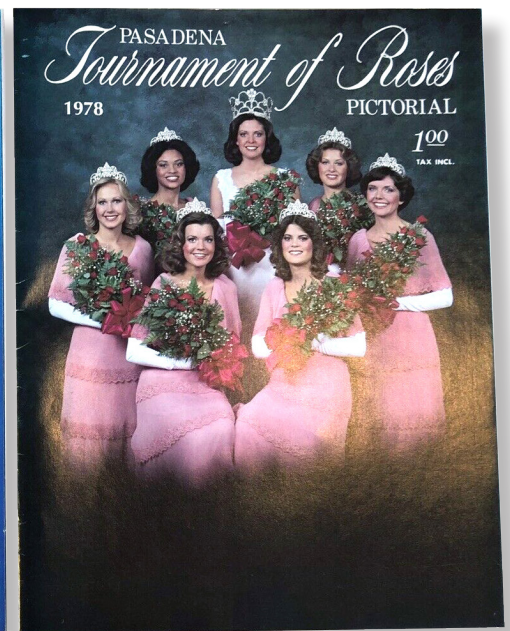
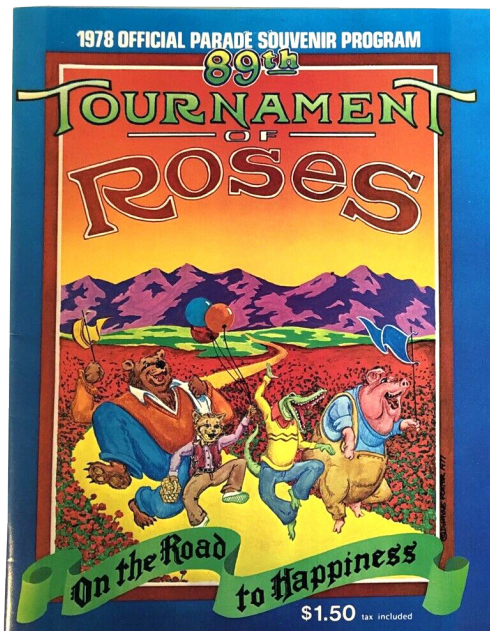
the message. Later this afternoon, Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went out to do their Relief Society visiting. I sat in my chair to eat my brunch. I'm still very weak, but happy I'm not in pain. I got up again at 6 p.m. and ate my dinner while watching TV. Rex came in to watch television this evening while Donna went to a neighborhood Tupperware party. Good night.

### January 31, Tuesday

We have an overcast day. Donna didn't go to Relief Society; she had a busy day getting ready for her company dinner party this evening at six o'clock. A mother with her two children, a boy and girl, are coming. The woman works where Rex works. I sat for about 4 hours after my brunch. Donna invited me to eat with them this evening, but I didn't feel well enough to join them. My branch visiting teachers, Nadine and Raymond Ryan, came this evening at 7:30 p.m. They are nice people; I enjoyed their visit. Donna brought my dessert after they left, ice cream with chocolate pudding. The dinner was very nice, too. I ate it about six o'clock before their guests arrived. Tonight Rex and Donna brought their dinner guests to meet me (Mrs. White and her two lovely children, a girl and boy). I enjoyed their visit. We enjoyed some records on my Magnavox player. Good night.

### February 1, Wednesday

We have a cold winter day. It snowed some more last night. A big van came to the farm this morning with President Rex Marshes' new desk and chair for the chapel that our branch will meet in now. Rex will take it to the church in Paola tonight. I ate my brunch about one o'clock while listening to the TV stories. I visited in Marshes' side for a while. Donna treated me to some M&M chocolate covered peanuts. She and Rex went out this evening; she left a TV tray with some food on for me. She gave me some pictures to look at of the Rose Parade in Pasadena on January 1, 1978. John L. and Ann sent them. I rested for a while on my bed. I'm very thankful for my bed rest. I'm a weary, old gal. Good night.



John and Ann sent some pictures of the 89th Rose Parade to Elvie.

### February 2, Thursday

Glory be! We have sunshine today, but it is cold outside; the snow isn't melting at all. I got up at noontime and ate the brunch that my darling Donna brought to me. I went back to bed at 4 p.m. and got up at 6 p.m. Donna answered letters for me; she wrote to Violet and to Lydia. Isn't she precious? I'm feeling too weak to sit up long. Good night.

### February 3, Friday

Donna brought a TV tray with some food on for me. She went to help clean up Sr. Ruby Hanley's house in Ottawa. I got up at noon time. I rested fairly well last night, but I still feel weak. We have a cloudy day; the snow looks crusty and frozen. "Baby, it's cold outside." I'm happy to be inside looking out. ☺ The sun broke through the clouds at two o'clock. Rex came home about 3 pm. He was surprised that Donna wasn't here; he left for somewhere. Donna came home at 4 p.m. She was tired and anxious to get into the bathtub! She said it was a very dirty house. Ruby is a large woman and is in her seventies Donna keeps my pretty, little place nice and clean. I am blessed indeed, but oh, so homesick and lonesome. It is amazing how long the days seem now. Donna and Rex drove to Topeka this afternoon to shop for some work clothes for Rex. He looks nice in his new, dark uniforms. Good night.



Kathy Calkins in front of house Mark and Kathy put an offer on in December 1977. They moved into their first house on February 1, 1978. Their first house (900 square feet, two bedrooms, and one bath).

### February 4, Saturday

*The snow is frozen on the ground; there is a chill in the air.*

*The sky is cloudy and the trees are bare.*

*As this new day I start,*

*I'll try to keep a cheerful heart.*

*February 4 comes only once a year,*

*So, I greet it with a cheer!*

*If today is gloomy, that's alright,*

*Tomorrow may be sunny and bright.*

*The dark days with rain or snow,*

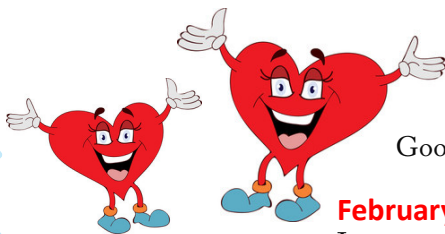
*Make us appreciate the days*

*When the sky is blue and the sun is aglow.*

*I feel weak and can't sit up long in my chair,*

*But I'm thankful to know my good bed is there.*

Rex went to stake conference tonight. Good night.



### February 5, Sunday

It's our stake conference today. Donna and Rex went and they had a pleasant surprise when Jerry Cartwright and his wife were there. Jerry was called on to open with prayer. Donna and Rex lost no time talking to Jerry and Dorothy after the meeting. She says they have nine children; some married. Jerry looks like his father Clarence C. Donna says

she will write to Ruth and tell her about seeing her son Jerry and wife. His hair is gray. Donna fixed a nice lunch for the two of us about 3 p.m. We ate in here from TV trays. Rex fasted until tonight. He took his new desk and chair and some other furniture to the new church chapel. Donna didn't want to leave me alone all day or she'd have gone with Rex. I'm sorry about that. Kathy phoned from Santa Clara, California and gave Donna her new address, **756 Malarin Avenue**, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Donna was happy to be here for her call. We have a hazy day; the snow isn't melting, so it's cold outside. Good night.

### February 6, Monday

We have a cold, cloudy day. I stayed in bed until noontime. Donna brought my brunch to me on a tray. I was weak and back in bed by 4 p.m. I got up at six o'clock for dinner. It was a nice fish dinner that Donna cooked. Rex and Donna watched television with me this evening. Sorry, but I feel weary. Good night.

### February 7, Tuesday

It was snowing this morning; I stayed in bed until noon. I had a troubled night's rest with dreadful dreams. I'm surely glad dreams are only dreams. I went to bed this afternoon for a couple of hours and I got up again about 6 p.m. I am weak and I don't stay up long at a time. There is not much to record when I feel so weak. Our country is having a severe winter everywhere. Good night!

### February 8, Wednesday

It's another cold winter day; the snow is frozen hard, no melting, no sunshine. I got up at noon and ate the nice brunch Donna brought me (egg, toast, sliced orange, and a drink of hot malted milk). I went back to bed at 4 p.m.

Rex and Donna went to Ottawa this afternoon. I got up at 6 p.m. and ate the food Donna left for me. Rex and Donna came home tonight at ten o'clock. Good night.

**February 9, Thursday**

It is a cold, cloudy winter day. Our fields are covered with snow. The sun did get through the clouds for a while this afternoon. Donna came in and read Florrie's letter to me about Hannah Helman's visit to the Strongs in Salt Lake City recently. John L. Marsh phoned this morning from Pasadena; it was raining there. It has been a severe winter everywhere in our country. I got up at 1 p.m. and went back to bed about 4 p.m.; I'm not feeling very well today. Good night.

**February 10, Friday**

It is cold and overcast today. The snow is not melting. Donna took the pickup truck out this morning and then she couldn't get it back in the yard, so she had to leave it in the roadway near the house. Its wheels spin around in the snow and can't make it up the little hill into the yard. Rex will have to get the tractor out when he comes home. "Problems, problems." Tonight, Rex went to Osawatomie to stay with Br. Ron Martin all night; he is very ill and his wife, Dr. Linda Martin, couldn't be home with him. I was not feeling well, so I went back to bed after eating my brunch. Good night.

**February 11, Saturday**

We have another cold winter day; it is difficult to keep a cheerful heart, but believe me, I am making an effort to do just that. I am blessed with a darling daughter and her husband and this pretty home to live in, so I will have a cheerful heart, and trust in the dear Lord for help. I stayed in bed until Donna got home from Overbrook about 1 p.m. Rex was very tired when he came home this morning. He is asleep on the couch. Donna is resting on her bed and this old Grama L.V. is going back to bed very soon. I've been listening to lovely recordings on my Magnavox player. Oh, I am thankful for this lovely music. Tonight, Rex came in here and had a good nap in my reclining chair. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. There is more snow coming our way. Good night.

**February 12, Sunday**

Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln. Rex and Donna left early this morning for Sunday School and church. Donna left some dry cereal, crackers, milk, and Jello on a TV tray for me. I had a poor night's sleep, so I stayed in bed until almost 1 p.m. I do not feel very well; it is a gloomy day with a drizzling rain. Later this afternoon it was snowing big flakes. I'm weak and going back to bed soon. Good night!

**February 13, Monday**

We really have winter weather today; it snowed all night and today. We have deep snow; Rex couldn't get out to his work.

JANUARY 1978	FEBRUARY 1978	MARCH 1978	FEBRUARY
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	13
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	MONDAY
8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Holiday (Lincoln)
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	
29 30 31	26 27 28	26 27 28 29 30 31	

*I am nothing, but truth is everything—Lincoln*

*= Snowed Donna =*

8:00 *we really have winter weather today, it*

8:30 *snowed all night and today we have*

9:00 *deep snow, Rex couldn't get out to his work,*

9:30 *we are snowed in = my north window*

10:00 *is iced half way up, ugh! I'm surely tired of*

10:30 *winter and Kansas = this 85 year old gal*

11:00 *is homesick for my own generation =*

11:30 *I'm glad Donna thinks it is beautiful here,*

12:00 *it is her home -*

12:30

1:00 *"Happy Holiday!"*

1:30

2:00

2:30

3:00

3:30

4:00

4:30 *"good night!"*

5:00

5:30

6:00

*Elvie has had it with Kansas. See her mad face above.*

We are snowed in! My north window is iced halfway up. Ugh! I'm surely tired of winter and Kansas! This 85-year-old gal is homesick for my own generation. I'm glad Donna thinks it is beautiful here, it is her home. Happy holiday. Good night.



*"I'm glad Donna thinks it is beautiful here, it is her home." [Donna learned early in her marriage to bloom where she was planted!]*

## February 14, Tuesday

Happy Valentine's Day. Our cars were snowed in this morning, but Rex walked through the snow to his work at the Manor Nursing Home in Overbrook. [*Something got lost in this story. It was a 30 minute drive to Overbrook. It is unlikely that Rex walked to work.*] We were delighted to see the county snow plow coming in our drive roadway to open up the road for cars to come in and go out. That is really a comfort to know we can drive out to the highway. Donna brought me a pretty valentine and a jar full of M&M chocolates. I improvised my own valentine card for her and Rex and enclosed \$5.00 in it. The sun was shining in a pretty, blue sky this afternoon to cheer our hearts. ☺ Donna walked to the mailbox this afternoon. I walked around in my rooms for exercise. I surely hope we'll have several sunny days to melt this deep snow. Today's mail brought a letter from Violet Fife, a letter from Lydia Paul, and one from Ruth Pierce, and my bank statement. A picture of Lydia and Gene Paul was enclosed in Lydia's letter. Gene surely resembles his mother's side of the family (the Strongs), Uncle Ern Strong and the others. Good night.



*Gene and Lydia Paul, Gene's mother is Julia Paul who is a sister to Elvie's mother, Mary Elizabeth Strong Bailey. Gene favors the Strong side of the family. Elvie's brother, Owen, was Lydia's first husband. Owen and Gene were first cousins.*

## February 15, Wednesday

We have had a hazy sunshine today, but lots of snow on the ground and it isn't melting at all. I didn't rest very well last night, so I stayed in bed until noontime. Donna was busy all morning cleaning in her side of the house. She did some cleaning in here, too. I enjoyed the nice brunch Donna brought to me. Janet left her home tonight, and went by airplane, to Joan's home in Naperville, Illinois. She is going to take care of Joan's children for a few days while Joan and Mo go on a trip to **Acapulco**. Good night.

## February 16, Thursday

The sun was shining brightly this morning; it was beautiful outside. The trees were all covered with ice and there is deep snow on the ground. It was all very lovely to behold, but it is freezing cold outside. I'm happy to stay inside and look out. ☺ Janet phoned from Joan's home; she enjoyed her plane

flight to Gardners' home in Illinois. At 5:30 p.m. Donna and Rex took the red VW car and the pickup truck out of the yard. He was in the truck. I think the VW car needs some repairs. I surely hope they make it to town all alright, and back to the farm (and me). The snow is deep. I will sure welcome the spring time. I hope this is my last winter. ☺ They made it home by 6:45 p.m. and all is well. I stayed up until after the news report at 10 p.m. Good night.



*Above are three photos from Joan and Mo's trip to Acapulco.*



### February 17, Friday

We have a pretty, blue sky and sunshine, but lots of snow on the ground and it is freezing cold outside. I stayed in bed until noon. I enjoyed the nice brunch Donna brought to me on a TV tray. I watched the television stories and later I listened to some lovely recordings played on my Magnavox player. Donna is playing her piano, so we have a cheerful home in spite of the cold winter out there. ☺ Later, Donna told me to come to her living room and enjoy the sunshine coming in her big south window. It was pleasant and I enjoyed my visit with her. She was going through a box of music keeping the pieces she wanted to use and etcetera. Rex came home about 5 p.m. Donna read her letter from Shirley Little Robinson to me. Rex took Donna with him to town. I think they went to get their VW car. Tonight, Rex went out again somewhere. I can't keep up with all of their activities. Good night.

### February 18, Saturday

Donna and Rex went to town this morning for groceries. She brought me some Scope, Visine, and Tums (\$4.60). I got up about 1 p.m. Donna Story came to rehearse her solo; the whole family came so I had a room full of children off and on (bye bye M&M's). ☺ It was two o'clock or after before they left, so my brunch was later than usual, almost 2:45 p.m. We have a sunny blue sky, but lots of snow on the ground. It is still too cold to melt any. Little Becky Story brought a homemade valentine to me with a cute verse she composed. She enclosed a postcard of the Manti LDS Temple. She is a sweet, little girl; I'm glad she likes me. I had a miserable blind stagger spell this afternoon, but I'm thankful it didn't last long. I enjoyed listening to Donna play the piano. I went back to bed for a couple of hours this afternoon. I got up at six o'clock to hear "The Lawrence Welk Show" on TV. It is my favorite. Good night all.

### February 19, Sunday

I went to bed last night with a troubled brain and I didn't get any sleep until after daylight this morning. Rex and Donna left for church early. She brought me a TV tray with dry cereal, milk, crackers, peanut butter, and Jello. I got up and dressed in robe and slippers at noon. I combed my hair, said a prayer, and ate my brunch. I'm not feeling very well; loss of sleep, I presume. We have a pretty, blue sky and sunshine today, but it is cold and the snow isn't melting. The trees were very beautiful early this morning when I went to the bathroom; they were covered with ice. The snow is beautiful to look at, but me? I'll take the ♪ ♪ ♪ "Good Old Summer Time." ♪ ♪ Rex and Donna got home tonight at 6:40 p.m. They had been gone 12 hours. Oh, I've never been so lonesome in my life, but I'm happy they are doing church work. I'm weary. P.S. President Marsh gave me my donation receipts from Ottawa Branch, for December

and January, \$20.00. Good night. [*President Marsh had to stay after church to get the tithing and etcetera recorded.*]

### February 20, Monday

It is snowing and blowing; another cold winter day. I'm glad to be here in my nice, warm home. Donna came to my bed and read a letter from Louise Pearce. She is working on Grandma Renshaw's line, the Moore side, at Donna's request. Golly, if this snowing keeps up, we'll be snowed in again. I am so tired of this show. Ugh! I made out the church donation slip for my February donation, \$10.00. I went to bed early, not feeling well. Good night.

### February 21, Tuesday

The sky is blue and sunny, but we have lots of snow on the ground. It is freezing cold outside. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray about 1:15 p.m. I listened to the TV stories and enjoyed the sunshine. Donna put another blanket on my bed at my request. I don't want to keep the electric blanket on all night because the light bill is so darned high, so the extra blanket should help keep me warm without the electric blanket turned on. [*The home was an all electric home.*] Donna came in here this afternoon at 4 p.m. and read the assignment she has been given in Relief Society on teaching and preparing young people for a happy marriage. It was very good advice. I do appreciate her reading the fine lessons to me. I went through a box of old letters and discarded most of them. I hate to do that, but they do pile up and I haven't the space for them, so that is why the clean-up job. Goodnight.

### February 22, Wednesday

I had a rather troubled night's rest. I stayed in bed until almost one o'clock. It is a cold, wintry day We did get some bright sunshine later this afternoon. The snow is starting to melt a little; I'm tired of the snow. I want to see green fields again. Donna brought a nice brunch to me. She's so precious. She answered Lydia's and Violet's letters for me, bless her heart. I don't feel well enough to sit up and write letters; this one little page in my diary is all I can cope with now. My 85 years have taken their toll. Donna spent her afternoon cleaning out old Church Newspapers and etcetera. I insisted on Donna taking \$20.00 to help pay on the light bill. I watched "The Gong Show" tonight on TV, also "Grizzly Adams." Good night.

### February 23, Thursday

We have sunshine and blue sky today. It is slowly melting the snow. I love the feeling of Spring in the air. I enjoyed the nice brunch Donna brought to me on a TV tray at 1:30 p.m. I ate while listening to the television stories. I'm thankful for the entertainment I have with my TV and my Magnavox record player. I love listening to lovely recordings. It is very



Dan Haggerty on the Grizzly Adams TV show.

quiet around here; I presume that Donna is writing letters? I went to bed for a couple of hours this afternoon. I got up at 6 p.m. and ate my dinner while watching television. Rex and Donna drove to the Manor Nursing Home this evening about 7 p.m. I think he forgot his eye glasses, so they went for them. I'm feeling weary, so I'll say goodnight!

### February 24, Friday

I stayed in bed until noon today. We have a nice, sunny day and the snow is melting a little. I'll be so glad when it has all melted. I'm very anxious for green fields. I can hear Donna's vacuum, so she is cleaning her rooms. She brought me a nice brunch at 1 p.m. I enjoyed eating while watching the television stories. Sorry, I'm not well enough to do my own cleaning or to help Donna do hers. I went back to bed for a while this afternoon. I got up at six o'clock to eat my dinner and watch "Cross Wits" and other TV programs. Weary Grama Elvie, Good night.

### February 25, Saturday

Donna went to Paola this morning to help clean up the church building. She left some food for me on a TV tray. I got up at 12:30 noon. I had a fairly good night's sleep. We have hazy sunshine today. There is still lots of snow on the ground. I'm really tired of snow, ugh! Donna bought me some jelly beans, and some Scope. She came home about 1:35 p.m. I even repeat myself in writing! Janet phoned from Joan's home and Mary phoned from her home. Donna has had several phone calls today. I'm not sure what they are all about. Janet is going home tomorrow; David is ill and she is anxious to go to him. Joan and Miller will be home tonight. I hope they had a happy vacation. I sat up to see "The Lawrence Welk Show" and the ten o'clock news. Donna watched part of it with me. I think Rex was in bed. I know I am tired! Good night.

### February 26, Sunday

We have a cold, wintry looking day. There is a lot of snow on the ground; it is too cold outside to melt. Rex and Donna left early this morning to go to Paola to church. She left some food on a TV tray for me. I had a restless night so I stayed in bed until noon time. Yesterday and today seem such long, lonesome days. They are busy days for Rex and Donna, so they pass quickly for them. When I was their age, the days all seemed too short. It sure makes a difference, too, when you're 85 and feeling blue. I played some lovely recordings to cheer me up. Rex and Donna came home about 3 p.m. and they left soon after to go to a wedding reception at the Manor Home, I think? Rex said it is a "Golden Wedding" reception. I enjoyed watching four cute,

little, bushy tailed squirrels frolicking around in the branches of our leafless trees, back of the house this afternoon. It looked like fun. Br. Raymond Ryan and Br. Melvin Toye came to do their visiting teaching here and to the Guy Tibbetses' home this evening. Good night.

### February 27, Monday

It is cold and cloudy again today. I got up at noon and ate some Cream of Wheat cereal and sliced bananas and toast. Evelyn Toye came to rehearse with Donna; she brought her two children, Michelle and Mark. They each brought me a little homemade gift (paper drawings). I gave them some jelly beans. ☺ I enjoyed the TV programs and the good food. I dozed in my chair and then stretched out in my bed. There is no sunshine so far today, 4 p.m. I got up at six o'clock this evening and ate the nice dinner that Donna brought to me on a TV tray. Later tonight Rex and Donna came in here for Home Evening. Rex read from the Pearl of Great Price, the story of Enoch. Donna brought a bowl of buttered popcorn. It surely tasted good. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

### February 28, Tuesday

Our last day of February is gloomy and cold with frozen snow on the ground. Donna came in here and vacuumed my rooms and dusted them. I stayed in bed to keep out of her way. She brought my brunch later and I enjoyed the TV stories while eating. I surely have a precious daughter.

It is now almost four o'clock and no sunshine yet. Well, cheer-up, the sun may shine tomorrow; spring is on its way! ☺ I went back to bed about 4 p.m. and got up again at six o'clock and watched TV's "Cross Wits" game show and other programs. Donna served my dinner on a TV tray. She ate in here with me from her TV tray. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. P.S. I enjoyed Donna's lovely fire burning in their fireplace this evening for a while before going to bed. Good night.

### March 1, Wednesday

We have another cold, cloudy day. The snow is not melting very fast. I didn't rest very well last night so I didn't get up until noon time. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray. She ate in here, also. Later, she read a few interesting articles to me from the Ensign magazine. This evening Donna brought a **letter from Jack Renshaw**, in answer to her letter to Uncle Melvin Renshaw. Jack says his father isn't well enough to write, so he answered for him, however, Mel doesn't have any more information about Grandma's line that Donna already has. So, she was disappointed.



*Sarah Renshaw was Lou's mother. She was fostered/adopted by a couple in Salt Lake when she was very young. Her grandchildren worked for years to find her birth parents. It wasn't until October 2015 that a professional genealogist found her birth parents. We feel this was an answer to MANY prayers and great concern on the part of Sarah Renshaw's descendants. The letter from Jack Renshaw that arrived on March 1 was in answer to Donna's letter requesting more information about Sarah Renshaw.*

Rex and Donna went to Mutual tonight; she served me a nice dinner on a TV tray before going. I played some nice recordings on my Magnavox player and I listened to the ten o'clock news report. Rex and Donna came home about 10 p.m. It was snowing lightly she said. Good night.

### March 2, Thursday

Winter is here in full force. I presume it snowed all night as everything is covered with the white stuff. It has been snowing nearly all day. March came in "Like a Lion" (I hope it will go out "Like a Lamb")! I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought my brunch at 1 p.m. (scrambled egg, toast, fruit, and a hot drink). I couldn't sleep well last night and I feel weak and strange today. I know I am blessed a lot for my age (over 85). I have outlived all my family so far. I do want to go to my spirit home and be with my own generation there, but I must wait for my call, eh? Rex couldn't drive his car in to the farm, so he left it in a neighbor's yard, near the big highway and the neighbor's girl brought him to the farm on her horse. She has a nice big horse. Donna and I watched them coming in the deep snow. Rex is learning about life in the country, miles from the highway, in the dead of winter. I'm a shut in and I'll keep it that way. This kind of weather is not my cup of tea. Good night.

### March 3, Friday

I've had my **Grandmother Strong** in my mind today; March 3 is her birth date. She played a very important part in my youthful years. I am looking forward to seeing her again. We have a pretty, blue sky and sunshine today, but lots of snow on the ground and it is not melting very fast. It is really cold for March weather; the wind is blowing the snow in drifts. Guy Tibbets has been out shoveling the snow off his car and around it. Donna brought a lot of magazines in here and went through them for pictures she needed to make a poster that she wants to use in teaching a class on the benefits of a happy married life (through temple marriage and etcetera). She made a very good-looking poster with pictures of our church presidents and their wives. The Kansas State Bank sent my receipt for \$298, deposited to my checking account, which is now \$525.68. It was my Social Security check for March. I am tired, so good night all. P.S. Our news report tonight says this is the coldest day ever recorded in March here in Kansas.

### March 4, Saturday

We have a lovely, blue sky and bright sunshine, but it is freezing cold outside with lots of snow on the ground. It isn't

melting at all. Donna and Rex drove to Overbrook town to do their grocery shopping; they did some for Dorothy Tibbets, also. I got up at noon, dressed in my robe and slippers, combed my hair, made my bed and said my prayer. Then I relaxed in my swivel chair. Donna brought me my brunch. I played lovely records while eating my lunch. Later Donna read to me the Relief Society lesson on the coming of "The Last Days" as seen by the Prophet Nephi. I always enjoy her reading to me. The snow is a dazzling white in this glorious sunlight. This evening Rex came in for his nap in my reclining chair; he goes to sleep watching TV. ☺ John L. Marsh phoned from Pasadena this evening; he said it is raining there. Good night.

### March 5, Sunday

Rex and Donna left early this morning for church. She left a TV tray with food on for me. I got up at 12:30 and enjoyed my lunch about 1:45. We have a pretty, blue sky with bright sunshine, but lots of snow on the ground. It must be freezing cold outside as the snow isn't melting. It looks like it has a frozen crust on top of it. We're tired of the snow and we'll be happy to see green fields again. It has seemed like a long, lonesome Sabbath day, but I am thankful for my many blessings. The snow will go and the grass will show. ☺ Rex and Donna came home at 3:15 p.m. He said it is warmer outside now, about 40 degrees, and

the snow is melting a little, nice, eh? They were both hungry after their long fast. They came in here to watch television. They watched "The Alice Show" and "The Carol Burnett Show." I had a very bad dizzy spell this afternoon. My eyes couldn't focus; I was seeing double. I was glad Donna was here to help me to bed. It was a dreadful experience, but it passed away (and I didn't). ☹ I got up again about 6 p.m. and felt fine. I ate a light snack and watched television until after the ten o'clock news. I'm feeling weary and weak. Good night.

### March 6, Monday

*I'd love to raise my window shades and  
view a different scene,  
Like our fields covered in a lovely green.  
I'm sick and tired of that frozen snow out  
there,  
And the trees are all cold and bare.  
March is not a winter month! We think  
of it as spring,  
And here we see the ice and snow.  
Oh, I wish it would go, so spring could  
show.*

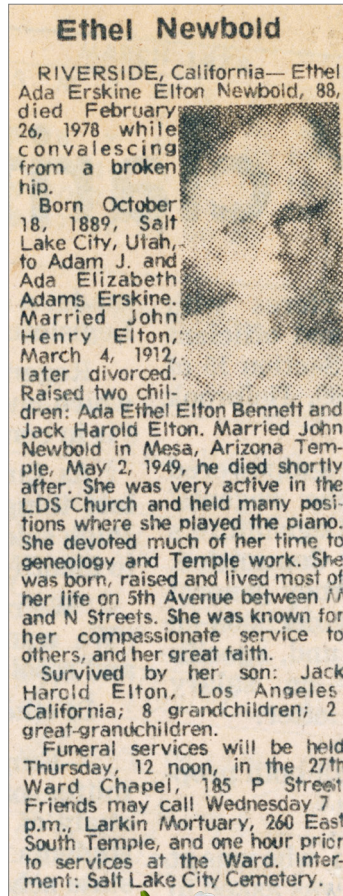
Donna and Rex had company to dinner this evening. Judy White and her two children (a boy and a girl). I excused myself from eating with the family. I didn't feel up to it. I've had some dizzy spells lately and I feel better here in my own place. I watched TV and went to bed when I felt I was ready to go. Good night.



*Grandmother Elizabeth Strong lived next door to Elvie when she was growing up. After Elvie's mother, Mary Elizabeth, had a stroke, Grandmother Strong played a key roll in helping with the raising of the Bailey children. As Elvie is longing to "graduate" she is looking forward to seeing loved ones who have already departed.*

### March 7, Tuesday

I rested much better last night; I stayed in bed until 12:30 noon. That's how I save on heat and food. We still have cold winter weather with lots of snow on the ground. Like the bear, I feel like hibernating until the winter is over. Donna brought a nice lunch to me and she answered Ethel Newbold's letter for me. Isn't she precious? I have never been as tired of looking at snow; I long for spring. Today's mail brought a letter from my sister Violet; she enclosed a newspaper clipping of the passing of Ethel Newbold! So, we will not mail the letter Donna wrote for me. Ethel was 88 years old; she died in Riverside, California on February 26, 1978. Well, I know she is happy and well now. I'm happy for her. Yvonne's daughter Donna, was hit by a car, in Provo, and she has a broken leg. She'll be in a cast for a few months. Don and Yvonne are going to BYU to check on Donna's condition. I'm very sorry for them. My prayers are with all of them. My chest and my shoulder blades hurt tonight, so I'm going to bed. Good night.



and yellow shades. She has excellent taste. I am enjoying Donna's piano playing now at 4:35 p.m. She invited me to come to her living room and hear her play the old-time songs. I did, and I surely did enjoy hearing her play the good old songs we all love to sing. Tonight Rex and Donna watched television in here with me until time to say good night and go to bed. Sweet dreams!

### March 10, Friday

We are blessed with another pleasant day; the snow is melting. Another day or two like this and it will all be melted (that I like). I'm tired of snow and cold weather. Donna wrote a letter to Violet for me. She came to my bed and read it to me. She told Aunt Violet all about Ethel Newbold and our friendship. Violet sent us the news clipping of Ethel's passing. We had a letter all ready to mail to her, but of course we did not mail it. Donna walked to the mailbox to mail her letters. She brought my lunch to me about one o'clock. Joan phoned this afternoon; she decided not to go to San Francisco with Mo. She didn't want to leave the kids. I read several chapters from The Book of Mormon this evening. Rex and Donna watched TV tonight. We got a thrill out of John Marsh's name at the end of the "Husbands, Wives, and Lovers" program. He was the stage manager. Good night.



**JOHN MARSH**  
Stage Manager

KTLA TELEVISION  
5800 SUNSET BLVD.  
HOLLYWOOD, CA 90028  
(213) 469-3181

RESIDENCE  
355 S. LOS ROBLES NO. 339  
PASADENA, CA 91101  
(213) 795-8279

### March 8, Wednesday

We have a lovely, blue sky and sunshine today. It cheers our hearts. The snow is melting this afternoon, but there is a lot of it yet to melt. Donna said she'd answer Violet's letter for me. I have trouble writing and reading now; my dear old eyes water and blur my vision. I'm so thankful for my precious Donna's help. We have more problems! Marshes' little VW car conked out this morning and had to be towed home. The pickup truck is the only transportation Marshes have now. Donna went to pick Rex up this afternoon at his work I presume. I can't keep up with all the activities on this farm. I am glad it is warmer and the snow is melting. I sat up this evening to watch television. I was really weary after the ten o'clock news report. Bad weather reports came to us from all over our country. Good night.

### March 9, Thursday

Happy Day! We have more lovely sunshine and blue sky and the snow is melting. We have a lot to melt out there. I surely hope we don't have any more snow this season. Donna brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray at noon time. She walked to the mailbox this afternoon; she brought a nice letter from Kathy and Mark and read it to me. Kathy writes a cute letter; it is next best to a visit with her. She enclosed a sample of the wallpaper she put on their kitchen walls; it is very pretty in brown



we've seen the last snow fall this season. "Come on Spring!" Donna came in and talked to me this afternoon. We had fun remembering her girl's old boy friends, (Warnie, M., Chuck D., Paul B., and George B.). We are so thankful for David S., Miller G., Jon T., and Mark C. We even talked about my funeral; it was fun, too. Kathy told Donna she'd like to take care of the floral arrangements for my funeral, bless her heart. I'm so very thankful for the love we have for each other in this family. Donna brought a letter from Mary with cute pictures of Brian enclosed. I enjoyed reading it. She also brought some food on a TV tray before she and Rex left this evening for a branch social of some kind. I hope they enjoy the evening. I'll be happy with my "Lawrence Welk" program and the TV snack. I will also watch Telly Savalas, as Kojak. Good night.

On March 11 Elvie and Donna remember what might have been and how thankful things turned out differently. Left to right: Warnie, Chuck, Paul, and George.



### March 12, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ Rex and Donna left early this morning for church; she left some food on a TV tray for me. I got up at noon, put on my robe and slippers, dressed my hair, made my bed, and said my prayer. Our morning was foggy, but it cleared away and we had a sunny day. I enjoyed my lunch, thanks to Donna dear, and I also had some sweet music to cheer me. The snow has almost melted away and it is warmer today. ☺

*The day seems so long and I'm lonesome, too,  
But I try to feel cheerful and not so blue.  
I miss Sunday School and church, I'd love to be there,  
But at 85, I feel the need of my bed and my chair.  
I'm tired of living here, but after all,  
I must wait for my Father in Heaven's call.*

Donna brought me an invitation to the Ottawa Relief Society birthday party on March 17, 6:30 p.m. at the Paola Mason's Hall, 101 E Miami. It says, wear your country clothes, it is a "Hee Haw" party. It sounds like fun; I hope Rex and Donna can go and enjoy the fun. My "fun days" are over in this life, but I'll have happy days again, I know! Good night!

### March 13, Monday

Donna looked very pretty when she kissed me goodbye this morning on her way to the Relief Society stake board meeting at the stake center. She'll be gone most of the day, in and out of meetings, and other business she must take care of. She left some food for me on a TV tray. I do wish she didn't have me to worry about, too. Oh, it is a dark gloomy looking day. I need the light on to write and read at 1:30 p.m. I ate my lunch. It is getting lighter; the sun is trying to break through the dark clouds. It is now 2:35 p.m. It is now 4 p.m. and the sun didn't make it through the dark clouds. I wanted to take a shower bath, but I felt so faint and weak. I went back to my swivel chair. Oh, I wish I could feel stronger. I long to be with

my own generation in the spirit world and being old and weak and lonesome isn't pleasant. Believe this old lady! It's a sad situation, but I'm counting my blessings. The snow is melting and we have a lot of mud around the place. I dream of the homes I've enjoyed with cement sidewalks and roads, green grass and flowers, and neighbors to talk to. That's happiness for me. I'm so very thankful for my precious daughter, Donna, and her lovely family. My cup runneth over! Good night.

### March 14, Tuesday

I had a fairly good night's sleep. I stayed in bed until almost noontime. Donna fixed the shower bath for me and I enjoyed a good bath. She put clean sheets and slip on my bed so we'll enjoy a nice, fresh bed tonight, too. I don't know why I say "we" when it's only me. ☺ The snow is slowly melting; we haven't had any sunshine today. Rex has ordered two loads of gravel for the drive into the farm, but they are waiting until the mud dries up before they bring the gravel in the drive way. I gave \$100 to help pay for the gravel. I think Rex will pay \$100, also. It surely is needed here in our long driveway to the farm house. So many things are needed here, but it takes time to pioneer and that is what they are doing for sure. Sr. Story didn't come to rehearse her solo with Donna; she was afraid of getting her car stuck in the mud in our long driveway. We all watched television in my place tonight until after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

### March 15, Wednesday

We have a cloudy, cold day so far, it is 1:45 p.m. The snow has melted some, but we still have patches of it on the farm and lots of mud! Ugh! It was almost daylight before I dropped off to sleep. I did get some sleep this morning, so I'm feeling fine now. I enjoyed the snack Donna brought to me on the TV tray. Oh! The bright sunshine broke through the dark clouds at 2:35. My heart is cheered; I love it. Donna brought a letter from Lydia Paul to me; she read it to me. Her letters are always fun to read. She also brought a letter and some genealogy sheets from Charles and Marie Renshaw. Their Lori is 21 years old and is married to a colored boy! It upset

#### Follow the Rule

**BOYD K. PACKER** of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles  
January 14, 1977 • Devotional

...We've always counseled in the Church for our Mexican members to marry Mexicans, our Japanese members to marry Japanese, our Caucasians to marry Caucasians, our Polynesian members to marry Polynesians. The counsel has been wise. You may say again, "Well, I know of exceptions." I do, too, and they've been very successful marriages. I know some of them. You might even say, "I can show you local Church leaders or perhaps even general leaders who have married out of their race." I say, "Yes—exceptions." Then I would remind you of that Relief Society woman's near-scriptural statement, "We'd like to follow the rule first, and then we'll take care of the exceptions." ...Plan, young people, to marry into your own race. This counsel is good, and I hope our branch presidents are listening and paying attention. The counsel is good....

*Above are excerpts from a Devotional given at BYU in 1977. These are the teachings that were very prevalent during this time and way beyond. Lori Renshaw marrying a person of color would have been quite a shock for parents, Charlie and Marie Renshaw.*

them, but they say he is a fine young man and they are very much in love. Rex and Donna went to Mutual tonight. She brought me a TV snack before they left. I really enjoyed the Billy Graham crusade on TV tonight. It was after 10 p.m. when Rex and Donna came home tonight. Donna came in and watched television for a while with me. Good night.

**March 16, Thursday**

We've had a change of weather moods today; some pretty, big snowflakes fell this morning, then the sun came out brightly and we saw the pretty, blue sky. Donna walked to our mailbox while it was snowing; she had some letters to mail. She enjoyed the big, beautiful snowflakes. She said it wasn't very cold outside today. Spring is just around the corner. I composed a poem about "Spring," in 1950.

Donna typed it and some others for me a few days ago. She is playing the piano now and I enjoy her lovely music. She filled my little glass jar with M&M candies, Mm good! They don't make pens that can spell correctly! ☺ The sun is shining brightly in the west and it is snowing. The weather seems as confused as I am. Tonight Rex and Donna went to a play in a theater somewhere. I don't recall what they had to say about it; my memory isn't what it used to be. They came home about 11 p.m. They enjoyed the play, it was "South Pacific." Good night!

**March 17, Friday**

"The Top of the Morning to Ye on this St. Patrick's Day!" We are blessed with a sunny, blue sky. I hope the snow will all melt today; I'm tired of it. Donna came in and

read the letter she had written to Charlie and Marie Renshaw. He asked her to tell him what we could remember about his father, Babe Renshaw. Babe was a very nice young boy and we all loved him. It was fun recalling our happy memories of Babe (or Ralph) Renshaw. He played the piano after just a few lessons. He had a real talent; he'd hear the music a few times and then he played it. [Babe Renshaw's

*cousin Donna Renshaw Marsh also played by ear.]* He was an excellent dancer, too.

Sorry I can't record some of his many talents but I don't have the space on this little page. Rex and Donna left here soon after 5 p.m. She left a TV dinner in the oven for me.

*Ralph Renshaw was the youngest of Louis Renshaw's brothers. On the left is a page from Elvie's scrapbook.*

She looked very pretty. I hope they enjoy their evening out. It's the Relief Society birthday party at the church building. I ate my dinner about 6 p.m. It was a turkey TV dinner and I enjoyed it. Donna says it was a fun party tonight. I think she read my "Silly Rhyme" and Rex was in a skit where he and another man got a cream pie in their faces. Goodnight.



### March 18, Saturday

*Our sky is cloudy, but we have sunshine, too.  
The wind is blowing, it makes me feel a bit blue.  
I know I am blessed a lot, that is true,  
So, I'll try to smile and be cheerful, too.*

Donna left early this morning for her Relief Society board meeting. She had a lesson to give. She left some food on a TV tray for me. Rex had a busy morning here on the farm. He had three loads of gravel to spread on the driveway into the farm house. The wind is howling and I see little tumble weeds fly by my window every few minutes. We have a lot of wind here in Kansas. I am thankful for the nice music I hear on my Magnavox player. Donna came home at 2:40 p.m. and Rex was waiting, ready, to drive to his work in the pickup truck. The truck is their only transportation. The snow has almost all melted now. Donna says Rex went to do church business today and not to his nursing home job as I thought. I have trouble trying to keep things correct, sorry. Rex drove the Chevy car home tonight that he'd like to buy. We went out to look at it. It is a nice-looking car; I loaned them the money to pay for it. \$400. Good night.

### March 19, Sunday

Rex and Donna left early this morning to go to church in Paola. I presume they drove their Chevy car as Rex drove it home last night. We have a sunny day and I'm happy to see the snow is nearly all melted now; there are just a few small patches left. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna left some food for me on a TV tray. Sunday is always a long, lonesome day for me. Rex and Donna are gone most of the day, but I'm glad they are in church and I'm thankful for the music I enjoy played on my Magnavox player. The Marshes came home about 4:45 p.m. Janet Shattuck phoned about five o'clock with her news; she has been called by her bishop to be the Relief Society president in her ward. It was a real shock for her, but she'll do a good job; we know that for sure. I'm very proud of my grandchildren. Donna put some cashew nuts in my candy jar. I'm enjoying them with the M&M candies. ☺ Our branch name has been changed from the Ottawa Branch to the Paola Branch. Donna lost her wallet out of her purse today. She felt sure it was in Paola at the church building, so the three of us drove all the way to Paola this evening and sure enough, it was on the floor near the piano bench. They took me through the building; it is a very nice place. President Rex Marsh has a nice office with a lovely, new desk.

### March 20, Monday

Jeanne Bickerstaff came to the farm this morning to rehearse some music with Donna. She brought some of her little children. Her car wouldn't start when she tried to go home. Donna borrowed Tibbetses' car to take her home. I gave Donna \$2.00 to put some gas in the car. We have some hazy sunshine. I had a miserable blind stagger spell this morning. It left me feeling weak. Donna brought a tuna sandwich and applesauce and hot chocolate to me before



*Donna, Elvie, and Lou Renshaw in 1929. In 1978 Elvie is living with a very busy Donna and Lou has graduated. Donna is a dear to Elvie but Elvie still longs for a change of scenery and to graduate, too.*

she left to take Jeanne and Kiddies home. This afternoon Donna paid me back the \$2.00. I told her it was a gift, but she insisted I take it. I had the TV stories on and then later, some lovely music played on my Magnavox player. We enjoyed a pleasant Home Evening. P.S. The Bickerstaffs came for their car this evening. Good night.

### March 21, Tuesday

Today is the first day of spring! We have a pretty, blue sky and sunshine. I slept very well last night, so I am feeling much better today. Donna asked me what I wanted for my brunch; I surprised her by saying, "popcorn," and she surprised me by bringing me some popped corn and a roast beef sandwich, applesauce, and hot chocolate drink. We looked through my picture albums for pictures of Aunt Sue and Uncle Albin Hoglund. Elaine asked Donna if we had any of her mother and father in their younger years. We found a few and she sent them to Elaine. Donna walked to our mailbox to put her letters in it. Our mailbox is about a mile from the house. [*A bit of a stretch, it was more like 1/3 of a mile.*] Donna enjoys the walk on a nice day like today. I love to see the blue sky and sunshine. I mailed a birthday card to Violet with \$3.00 enclosed. It was to wish them a "Happy Easter Day," also. She sent us a pretty Easter card. We didn't buy any Easter cards. Tonight, I watched television while Rex slept in my reclining chair. I think Donna was writing or reading. Good night.

### March 22, Wednesday

I got up at noon; I rested fairly well last night. We have a pleasant day with hazy sunshine. Donna brought my brunch on a TV tray (a sandwich, sliced bananas, and hot milk). I watched the TV stories while eating. Donna came in at 4 p.m. and read a letter from Kathy and one from Joan. They were interesting. I can't record their news, but Kathy is excited about the trip to Hawaii that they plan on taking soon. Donna and Rex left here about 4:30 p.m. Rex was going to have a doctor's examination for his work and then they were going to Paola for Mutual. It'll be late when they

get home tonight. Donna left a pot of hot stew on the stove for me to help myself tonight. I feel weak and ill, poor old girl! Why can't I go? And I don't mean with them! ☺ I did eat some stew and crackers and cherry cheesecake at six o'clock. It was a long, lonesome evening; I was glad to go to bed. Good night!

### March 23, Thursday

We had lightning, thunder, and rain last night, but I rested fairly well in spite of it. Today has been cloudy with some rain and no sunshine. I watched the television stories while eating the nice lunch Donna brought to me. She came in and ate her lunch with me. This afternoon I walked around in my rooms for exercise and I enjoyed some nice records on my Magnavox player. Donna came in and read a nice letter from Ann and John Marsh. They enclosed some pictures of themselves and Mary and her children in color. A very good-looking family, eh? They also sent the Pasadena Stake Messenger, and the Advocate Newspaper. There is a picture of Newell Washburn and wife, Felicia (old friends), in it. My eyes blur and I can't read very long at a time, or write either, but I am so thankful to have eyesight at my age (over 85). I am blessed indeed. Good night.

### March 24, Friday

We were surprised to wake up this morning to see the ground covered with fresh snow, and it was snowing big flakes. A winter day on this Good Friday, before Easter Sunday. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray about 1 p.m. Later, she came in and read to me from The Reader's Digest, a very fine article about the LDS Family Life. I surely enjoyed hearing it, and she also read from a "Bishop's Note Book" that John sent to his father. It was very amusing! I enjoyed the Donny and Marie Show and "Cross Wits," "Name That Tune," and "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" with Danny Kays as Mr. Sassafras. Grama L.V. is weary. Good night.

### March 25, Saturday

The snow is still with us; it's cold and wintry looking outside, but the icicles are dripping so it isn't freezing cold. I presume that spring comes late in Kansas every year. As I recall, spring time in my life time has been very delightful with many pretty flowers and lovely, new green grass and blossoms on the fruit trees. Here in Kansas, everything is different. Donna brought a TV tray with my lunch before she and Rex drove away to the city. I think she said they are getting a new car battery and they are going to call on a few of the branch members so they'll be gone most of the day. I'm enjoying some very lovely music played on my stereo Magnavox. Thank the dear Lord for sweet music! I walked to the kitchen and took my TV tray. I put the dishes away that Donna left in the sink to drain. I sat in her living room by the big window and tried to convince myself that tomorrow is really "Easter Day." As far as one could see, there is lots of snow on the ground and 3-foot icicles are hanging from the eaves of this house. The trees are all dead looking, not a green leaf on them, and it's "Easter Time??" Oh, this 85-year-old gal is homesick! I have fun with my pen anyway. ☺ Good night.



### March 26, Sunday

*A Happy Easter Sunday to you, my dear ones.  
The sky is blue and the sun is bright, but as I look around,  
I see icicles on the house and snow on the ground.  
The trees are dead looking and bare, no green to be seen anywhere.  
But it is Easter and Jesus Christ did rise from the tomb.  
We will have no Easter gloom this Happy day,  
The sun will shine it away.*

Rex and Donna left me a nice lunch, also a lovely Easter card and some chocolate mints. I fixed an Easter card for them and enclosed \$20.00. I have a pretty Easter card from Bonnie and Darrell Reynolds. Sorry, I didn't send any Easter cards this year. Poor old lady isn't with it anymore. Ha ha! Rex came in and played some lovely music on his little player machine; he later took a nap in his room. Donna came and gave me the talk she gave in church today on "The Resurrection." I surely enjoyed hearing it. She took a nap on my extra twin bed later. The snow is melting away from our farm land; I'm glad to see it go, I'm tired of the snow. Marshes had some company tonight, Judy White and Tammy and Donny. Good night.

### March 27, Monday

Our day is sunny blue, the snow is almost melted now. I was blessed with a good night's rest, and I welcome this lovely day; I got up at noon. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray about one o'clock. I ate while watching the television stories. Janet phoned this afternoon; she was sustained in church yesterday as the ward Relief Society president; she is overwhelmed with all of it, but she bore her testimony in church yesterday, bless her heart. She'll be a good president I'm sure. The water main broke in Overbrook today and they were without water until it was repaired. We had plenty of



water from our well. Rex and Donna came in here tonight and watched television with me until ten o'clock; we watched "M\*A\*S\*H" and a special CBS program with lots of TV stars in it; too many to mention, but I enjoyed it. Good night.

### March 28, Tuesday

Good morning! We have a blue sky and sunshine today to greet us. I had a night of crazy, mixed up dreams, but I did sleep anyway. I was up and dressed in a robe and slippers and my hair combed high upon my head. Donna drove to the mailbox with some letters; I watched her go in the red VW. She brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray when she came home. I was watching Dorothy Tibbets walking in her yard looking at some little, green sprouts coming up and she stepped in a rut and fell over. I couldn't call Donna because she'd gone to the mailbox. But Dorothy got up and brushed herself off and seemed to be alright; she didn't limp. But she lost interest in the green sprouts and went in her house and "shame on me," I laughed. There is something funny about a fall (if no one is hurt). I've had a fall or two and I laughed so hard I couldn't get up. I apologize for this pen; it just can't draw good pictures. ☺ We enjoyed the special television shows tonight on CBS. Good night!

### March 29, Wednesday

It is another pleasant day, sunny and warm. Donna had a busy morning cleaning her place and mine. She brought her vacuum over here and gave my rooms a good cleaning. She fixed the shower for me so I could have a nice bath. She changed the sheets and pillow slip on my bed, too, bless her dear heart. What would I do without her? I watched the television stories while eating the nice lunch she brought to me. She ate her lunch in here, too. Rex (and I think) Guy Tibbets moved the big gas tank up from the south field to the driveway leading to the house. The gasoline company is happy about the move, too. Donna got a letter from Salt Lake City telling her they were enclosing a copy of her parents' marriage certificate, but they forgot to enclose it. Frustrating! Tonight, Rex and Donna went to Mutual in Paola. They came home about 11 p.m. I read through our **Golden Wedding Anniversary** album and had some happy memories, but a very sad feeling, too, because our only grandson, John L. Marsh, was in Germany at the time and couldn't be with us. Donna read his lovely letter to me tonight. In fact, he taped it and Donna typed it for our album. Oh, it is almost midnight! Good night!

### March 30, Thursday

Glory Be! I didn't wake up until 12:30 noon today. It seems that my best sleep comes after daylight. This old gal is off her schedule for sure! We have a pleasant day, "spring has arrived" and I can see some green grass in the south field. I like that! Donna turned up the cuffs

of my pretty, blue slacks. I'll try them on before she sews them up. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went to Overbrook this afternoon; they were going to have the car washed and make some calls. I enjoyed the nice lunch Donna brought to me before she left. This evening Rex and Donna insisted I drive with them to Overbrook. They wanted to have the car washed again; it wasn't clean enough to please them. Donna and I sat in the car while Rex gave it a good wash with suds first and then clear water. We drove home with a nice clean car. I enjoyed television tonight. Good night!

### March 31, Friday

We have a nice, sunny day, but it is windy. I was blessed with a good night's rest and I feel better today. Donna brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray; I ate while watching the television stories. Donna went somewhere; I can't recall where. I think it was Pomona. She went out again this afternoon; she invited me to go with her, but I didn't feel well enough to go. I guess the "old rocking chair has got me." I felt better this afternoon and I tried on my new blue slacks and flowered top suit. They fit well and Rex and Donna said I looked pretty. ☺ It was my birthday gift from Joan Gardner and the family, but today is the first time I've tried it on. I watched CBS "On the Air," "Tonight Only," "We're Getting Personal" with Senator Jack Kennedy, "Hogan's Heroes," "Gomer Pyle," and others. Rex and Donna went out to get their stalled, little VW car home. Good night.



On March 29 Elvie reminisced and looked through her Golden Wedding book.

### April 1, Saturday

♪ Happy Birthday, Dear Violet! ♪ ♪ I hope she is feeling well to enjoy her birthday. It's a pretty spring day here. We left home about 7:30 this morning and drove to Jon and Mary Tibbetses' home in Weeping Water, Nebraska. It is about a 4-hour drive; so, we got there about 11:30. We had a sandwich and a drink of ginger ale enroute. A "Happy Welcome" greeted us upon arrival. Joan and Mo and their children, and Mary and Jon and their children; never a dull moment from there on, believe me! It was almost overwhelming for this 85-year-old great grandmother. Dear little Julie gave up her lovely bedroom for my comfort and I was tired, so I didn't stay up too long. Mary, Joan, and Donna cooked a nice dinner; they fed the children first and then we ate. Donna, Joan, and Mary and their husbands talked. I was too weary to stay up, so goodnight! P.S. The children were all in bed. I think a couple of the boys slept out in the tent they put up. It was a bit windy. My poor brain is a bit foggy. Sweet dreams.



### April 2, Sunday

It is much cooler today; we listened to General Conference, of the LDS church this morning, coming from Salt Lake City. President Kimball gave an excellent talk and Elder Marvin J. Ashton, also. The Tabernacle Choir sang two beautiful hymns. Then we left Mary's home and the three cars drove to Murray, Nebraska, to the frozen lockers to get the meat for Miller and Rex to take home with them for their freezers. We kissed good bye at the lockers in Murray (Mo and Joan with their four little ones, Sherm and Janet did not come to Mary's this time). So, the Gardners headed for Illinois, we left for Kansas, and the Tibbetses for Weeping Water. It was about 4:30 p.m. when we drove in our driveway this evening. I, for one, was worn out. I had a bad start this morning with dysentery, so I went to bed for a few hours. Rex and Donna had some company this evening; a lady and her two children; Rex knows them from the nursing home where he works. I think they ate dinner with them? My poor head is confused I do not remember what happened just a few hours ago. I'm so tired. Good night.

### April 3, Monday

We have an overcast sky today, but no rain so far. It is now 3 p.m. Donna went to the bank this morning and took care of our business there. She made the house payment and etcetera. She brought \$40.00 home to me. I got up about noon time; Donna brought me a nice lunch on a TV tray. I enjoyed watching the soap opera shows while eating my good lunch. Donna brought a pretty birthday card for us

to send to Janet Elaine Gardner, my granddaughter, and Donna's daughter. Oh dear, I mean my great granddaughter and Donna's granddaughter. See how confused my poor old brain can get? Our news reporter said that actor John Wayne had open heart surgery today. This evening we had an electric display that lit up the whole sky. Rex went outside to watch the display. He loves to be outside and see the lightning and hear the thunder. It is surely not my favorite pastime. I'm concerned about Donna; she isn't feeling very well today. She has a touch of dysentery and stomach upset. She went to bed early after taking some medication. Good night!

### April 4, Tuesday

I was happy when Donna said she feels much better this morning. I got the "darn bug" and I had some distress with the dysentery misery; it slowed me down a lot. We do have a pleasant day with blue sky and sunshine. It helps cheer our household. I have heard some action around our farm, but I felt too weak to investigate. Rex came in this evening to watch television, but he was asleep in a few minutes. Donna was practicing her piano pieces for some programs she is helping with soon. Donna and Rex watched television with me tonight until ten o'clock. We were all weary, so we went to bed. Good night.

### April 5, Wednesday

Rex got up early to go with the supervisors, from work, to visit several on the nursing homes in Kansas and see how they are managed. He took my alarm clock so he could get up about 6 a.m. Donna brought the clock to me later this morning. I stayed in bed all day because I was sick with the misery of diarrhea and was up and down most of the night, like I was yesterday, but I got relief this afternoon, so I got up at 6 p.m. and ate a little lunch Donna left for me on a TV tray. I watched television while eating. I'm thankful to feel much better. Donna and Rex went to Mutual tonight in Paola; she said they'd be home about ten o'clock. I can hear thunder; I do hope the rain will hold off until Rex and Donna get home. I enjoyed "The Country Music Show" on Channel 4 this evening from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. It was very nice. Rex and Donna had a young girl stay overnight here; her parents were out of town. Goodnight!

### April 6, Thursday

I rested much better last night and I'm feeling some better today. We have a lovely day. Donna brought some lunch on a TV tray to me. Rex took the young girl home this morning. Our electricity was off for an hour this morning. I wonder why on this calm, lovely day? I see Dorothy working in her front yard, I'm glad she's feeling better. Donna is still upset with dysentery misery, but she did come in and read a few chapters from the Ensign magazine. I appreciate her reading to me, bless her heart. We all went to bed by 9 pm. Good night.

### April 7, Friday

We have an overcast sky and the weather report says we may have rain today. I had a fairly good night's rest and I do feel better. I'm very thankful that Donna is feeling a lot better, too. I got a birthday card ready to mail to my great-

granddaughter Janet Gardner. She will be 15 years old on April 13. We didn't get the rain today or tonight; it has been pleasant all day, about 70 degrees. Rex and Donna watched television with me this evening. I think Rex went to the nursing home tonight to do the floors, while the old folks were in their beds. Donna and I went to bed soon after nine o'clock. Good night.

### April 8, Saturday

It is a pretty morning with blue sky and sunshine, but a bit windy. I rested fairly well last night. I got up about 11:30 a.m. Donna brought me some lunch of cold cereal, toast, fruit, and a hot drink of Postum. She went to Overbrook to shop this morning; she brought me some Pepto-Bismol, Scope, and Metamucil. She takes good care of her old mom. ☺ It is a busy weekend for her and Rex; they are going and coming every day. I just can't recall everything she tells me. My brain is getting old along with my body. At 85, I'm only half alive, ☺ It amazes me how well I remember things that happened in my younger years, but I can't recall the things I heard or did a few days ago. Well, I'm not alone in this, all old people seem to get a big confused at times. My little diary helps me a lot. Donna is out somewhere, but Rex is asleep in his room, (in case I need him, Donna said). That's a good one; I'm so anxious to be with my loved ones in the spirit world, but I have to wait for my call. Donna and Rex left here about 5:45 p.m. to go to their branch social; it is beyond Paola. She left a TV dinner in the oven for me. It'll be ready at 6 p.m. I'm so sorry she has to worry about my food, too! She had to take a lot of food and punch with her. I didn't feel well enough to go with them. It's too far for me to go. They came home about 10:30 p.m. She brought me some 7Up to drink. It sure tasted good. Good night!

### April 9, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ We have an overcast sky; the sun is trying to get through to Earth. Well, there is "Sunshine in my Heart." Rex and Donna left early this morning for a busy day at church. She left me some food on a TV tray. I got up at noon and enjoyed my sandwich, fruit, and Jello drink, and custard pudding. I'm very thankful they can go to church and be active in my beloved LDS church. I miss it, but I'm not well enough to drive so far and stay so long. You'll know what I mean if you live to be 85 and a half years old. It takes an hour to drive to church and an hour to drive back home again. In my childhood days we could walk to church in the old 10th Ward in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was one block from our house; oh, happy days! Here it's about [*1/3 of a*] mile to our mailbox! ☺ I watched Dorothy working in her flower gardens, bless her heart. She'll have flowers in Kansas, too. The sun did make it through the clouds this afternoon and we had a lovely, bright day. I enjoyed some beautiful music on my Magnavox player. I walked around the house for some exercise; it's a lonesome life at times, but it can't last forever, eh? Rex and Donna came home about 3:40 p.m. They were tired and hungry, but Donna took care of their needs. I sat in their living room for a change. Good night!

### April 10, Monday

It rained last night and we have an overcast sky today. Donna brought a TV tray with two sandwiches, some fruit, and hot drink for me. I got up at noon. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went to Ottawa to buy some crutches for Guy to use. I enjoyed the TV stories and my comfortable swivel chair. I received a letter from Violet today; she enclosed the obituary notice of the death of Marvel Pearl Donelson McClellan. She was 76 years old, she is the daughter of John and Effie Donelson; She weighed 1 pound at birth; that is why they named her "Marvel," because she lived and no one thought she would make it, but she did. Donna said that Guy Tibbets wanted only one crutch, so Dorothy bought just one for him. I hope he'll enjoy using it. Good night.



### My Mother

My mother was a tiny lady—4'3" and about 90 lbs. She was premature and they didn't think she would live at one pound. They put her in a shoe box and placed it on the oven door for weeks until she was too big and they knew she would live. She never learned to drive, but would take my younger sister Bobby and I to town in Salt Lake on the trolley or bus. We would go shopping and then have lunch at Auerbach's tearoom and then go to the afternoon matinée. What fun and special memories.

By Rae McClellan Jacobsen

*Story found on Family Search about Marvel McClellan.*

### April 11, Tuesday

It was cold last night; I was comfortable with the electric blanket turned on. We have a nice day with blue sky and sunshine. I got up at noon and enjoyed the scrambled egg, bacon, toast, fruit, and hot chocolate that Donna brought to me on a TV tray. I listened to President Carter's news conference on television. They surely asked him a lot of questions, but he came up with an answer on the spot. I enjoy listening to him; I think we have a smart president. Donna walked up to the mailbox this afternoon; it takes about 15 minutes each way. There were no letters today, just some bills, I presume. Rex and Donna are going somewhere this evening; I can't recall where she said they were going? L.V.'s memory isn't as keen as it used to be. But I keep happy thoughts, anyway. Rex and Donna and their friends are going to the dance festival tonight. I think they ate dinner here with Rex and Donna before they left? The mother works where Rex is working at the nursing home. She has a girl and a boy; they are nice people. They came in to say hello to me. Donna said they'd be late coming home tonight as they are driving a long way to Kansas City, Missouri, I think, but not sure. But I am sure I won't wait up for them. Good night!

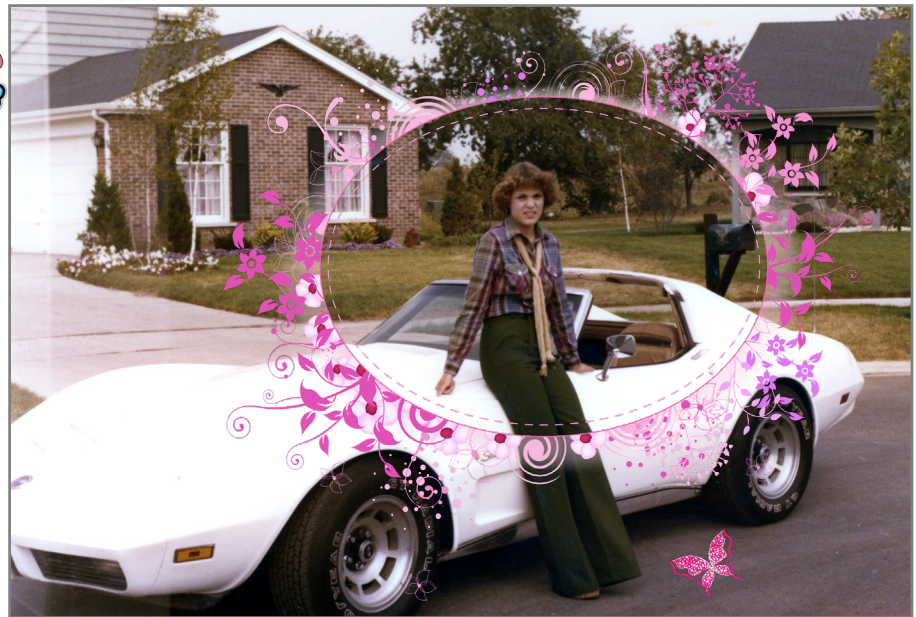
### April 12, Wednesday

We have a pleasant day, sunny and calm. I rested well last night, so all is well! I got up at noon and made myself look presentable, I made my bed, combed my hair, and said my prayer. Donna brought a nice lunch on a TV tray. I enjoyed the television stories while eating. Donna

walked to the mailbox this afternoon; she took Tibbetses' mail to them. There were no letters for us, just bills! Donna came in this afternoon and listened to some nice records on my Magnavox player. Tonight, Rex and Donna took their little friend, Tammy, to Mutual to the dance festival rehearsal. There is always something going on to take them out somewhere. This old lady commutes from the bed to the swivel chair, exciting life, isn't it? I've surely learned a lot about being lonesome and homesick, but I know I am blessed in many ways and I do count my blessings. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray before she left this evening about 5:30 p.m. to go to Mutual. I presume they will be late getting home tonight, they have so far to go. Good night.

#### April 13, Thursday

Happy birthday to Janet Elaine Gardner, she is 15 years old today. I hope she has a happy day all the way. We have another pretty day with clear, blue sky and sunshine. Donna went to Overbrook for medication for Guy and Dorothy Tibbets; they are both a bit under par today. I'm so very thankful I feel as well as I do. I'm blessed indeed. Donna brought a nice lunch to me and I enjoyed it while listening to the television stories. This afternoon I enjoyed some lovely records on my Magnavox player. I do love the sweet music. Donna brought my dinner about 6 p.m. She and Rex left here to go to choir practice at 6:45 this evening. I spent my evening listening to good music and the television. Rex and Donna came home about 10:30 p.m. Good night.



Janet Gardner with the neighbor's Corvette in 1978. April 13, 1978 was her 15th birthday.

#### April 14, Friday

We have an overcast sky but no rain so far. It is now 4 p.m. Donna walked to the mailbox this afternoon; I think she drove to Overbrook Town this morning. She brought a nice lunch to me about 1 p.m. I listened to the TV stories while eating my lunch. Kansas is very slow in showing signs of spring. The trees are still bare and there is very little green grass to see in the fields on this farm. I do miss the lovely weather in California and in Utah, too. I am happy because Rex and Donna love their home here in Overbrook, Kansas. I want their happiness more than anything I can think of. I went to bed after the ten o'clock TV news. Good night.

#### April 15, Saturday

It is cloudy this morning. Donna left a note to say they had gone into Overbrook to run some errands for the Tibbetses and to shop for groceries for themselves. She thought they'd be home by 12:30 noon; it was 1 p.m. when they came. She had her hair shampooed and dressed in Dot's Beauty Shop. She looked pretty. It is raining now, 1:15 p.m. It is a gloomy looking day. I'm glad they got home before the heavy rains came. She brought my lunch,

a chicken sandwich, a salad, and a hot drink of milk. The stake is having a ward choir festival this evening; our choir is going to sing one number, "The Seer." They sang it for our branch conference. All combined choirs have five numbers to perform, under the direction of Br. Gaylin Thomas. Donna put some lovely records on my Magnavox player and I'm enjoying them now. It is 2:15 p.m. The rain has stopped; it didn't last long. I hope that Rex and Donna will enjoy their evening out. The program will be at the stake center chapel, I think. I watched "The Mrs. America Pageant" tonight, coming from Las Vegas. The host was Bobby Van. The winner of Mrs. America Pageant was Mrs. Alaska, Cindy Roberts. They were all beautiful. I wouldn't want to be a judge! Good night.

#### April 16, Sunday

We have an overcast day, but no rain so far. It is now 3:15 p.m. Donna left some food for me on a TV tray (dry cereal, milk, Ritz Crackers, peanut butter, Jello drink, and an orange). I wasn't feeling very well, I stayed in bed until one o'clock. Oh, such a dark, gloomy day, so I let the "Sunshine In my Heart." I ate my lunch and enjoyed some nice music on my Magnavox player. I'm surely enjoying the lovely geranium plant that Donna put on my little table. It has three large blossoms on it; they're pink. This evening, Donna brought in some tomato soup, toast, and cottage cheese with pears, for us to eat. It was nice having her eat in here with me. Rex was out mending the fence to keep his cow in and to see why our water isn't coming to the house this afternoon. Problems! Good night.

#### April 17, Monday

I didn't get up until about noon. It was a cloudy day; we did see the sunshine once or twice but not for long. I wrote a letter to Violet; I thanked her for enclosing the notice of Marvel McClellan's death. She was 76 years old. I hadn't thought of Marvel for many years. The television and the Magnavox records kept me entertained nicely today. Donna

brought my lunch on a TV tray at noon time, bless her dear heart. She is busy every day going and doing good where ever she is. Good night.

### April 18, Tuesday

Good morning! It rained last night and we had some wind and rain today. The sky is angry looking and the wind is blowing. Donna and Dorothy went to town to buy the other crutch for Guy. He decided he needs both crutches. The sun is trying to get through the clouds; I watched the television stories while eating the nice lunch that Donna brought to me. I sat in my swivel chair and listened to the television all afternoon. Donna and Rex were on the farm doing something, I can't recall what she said they were going to do. In fact, I do not hear all she says and I hate to ask her to repeat it. The U.S. Senators voted today to turn the Panama Canal back to Panama. The news report says they are dancing in the streets of Panama tonight. Happy days are here again. I stayed up until after the ten o'clock news report. Donna went to bed about 9 p.m. Good night.

### April 19, Wednesday

The wind blew hard all night and today, so I couldn't get to sleep very well. Donna came in about 10:30 this morning and said she was going to take Dorothy Tibbets to her doctor in Overbrook, I think. Both of the Tibbetses are feeling miserable and Dorothy made an appointment to see him; she wanted Donna to drive the car for her. This afternoon Donna made a meatloaf and the house smells good. We had some bright sunshine this afternoon. I'm always happy to see the sunny sky after a dark day. We still have a strong wind. It is 5 p.m. now. I pasted a couple of news clippings in my scrapbook today. Rex and Donna went to Mutual tonight. They'll be late getting home; they have so far to go. It was 10:50 when they came home. They had Tammy White with them; she stayed overnight in Marshes' side. Her mother works at the nursing home where Rex works. Good night.

### April 20, Thursday

We've had a pleasant day, a bit windy, but sunny! I enjoyed the nice lunch Donna brought to me while watching television at noontime. I went through a box of old letters; it took a long time to read them, but it was fun. I tossed them in the waste basket after reading them. Donna and I ate our dinner from TV trays in here this evening. Donna did some of Dorothy's laundry today. Tonight, Donna and Rex came in here and watched television with me. We turned it off after the ten o'clock news report. L.V. is weary tonight. Eighty-five years and five months; these are not the best years of my life. Good night.

### April 21, Friday

It is a pleasant day; Donna says it is warm outside. The Guy Tibbetses are feeling a little better today. I got up at noon and ate the nice lunch that Donna brought to me on a TV tray. I listened to the television stories while eating. Later, this afternoon, Donna brought her vacuum in and cleaned my rugs and the bathroom. I made out my donation slip for the church; a ten-dollar check (Tithing \$5.00, fast offering \$1.00, budget \$2.00, and maintenance \$2.00). Jon Tibbets

and his boys arrived this evening about six o'clock. They were all excited and happy to be here with Grama Donna and Grampa Rex. Donna walked to the mailbox this late afternoon; she had a letter from Kathy and Mark when she came home; she read it to me. Kathy enclosed the floor plan of their new home; she is happy with their home. The Jon Tibbetses were in bed soon after 9 p.m. They are leaving for home about four in the morning. Donna took my alarm clock to wake them up early. Rex listened to the ten o'clock news report with me on my television set. Good night.



*Mark and Kathy at their new home. As part of the sales contract, the sellers painted the house tan with dark brown trim before the Calkinses moved in.*

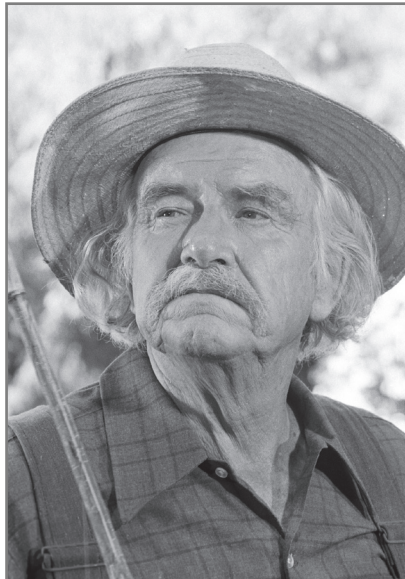
### April 22, Saturday

We have a hazy sunshine today; it is trying to get through the clouds. Donna and Rex left early this morning; they have a busy day at the Mormon Visitors Center, 937 West Walnut Street, Independence, Missouri. It is a special ceremony marking the official opening of the 22 historic paintings, depicting famous events in the history of the early west, by pioneer artist, C. C. A. Christensen. Elder Mark E. Peterson, of the council of the twelve apostles, will preside. Rex and Donna are singing in the special choir, too. This evening is stake conference, so they will not be home before 10 p.m. They'll be gone all day tomorrow, too. They'll be two long, lonesome days for this old gal. Well, I'll have to count my many blessings again; that will help. I am blessed a lot and I am happy that my children are active in church work. Dorothy Tibbets came over to check on me to see if

I was alright; I enjoyed her visit. She left before it started to rain. Guy wasn't feeling very well, so she had to get back to him, too. My television entertained me this evening. I watched my favorite program, "The Lawrence Welk Show." Rex and Donna came home about 10 p.m. tired, but happy from their long day of church activities. Good night.

### April 23, Sunday

We have a windy day with hazy sunshine. Rex and Donna left early for church. She left some food on a TV tray for me. I stayed in bed until noontime. I made my bed, dressed my hair, said my prayer, and ate my nice lunch. The old wind is howling around the place. But I'm trying to keep a smile on my face. We have the "Big Blow." I can do without it; however, I love a gentle breeze blowing in the trees. Donna said we have a new presidency in our stake. President Kay Christensen is new and his first counselor is a Br. Allred, second counselor is President Boyac. President Christianson Sanders, who was released is now the new patriarch. One of his counselors, who was released is Mo's cousin, Keith Williams. I was shocked to hear over the television news report this evening that actor **Will Geer**, of the *Waltons* TV program, died this afternoon, from a heart attack, and this old lady lives on? John L. Marsh telephoned this evening and talked to his father from California. All is well with John and Ann. P.S. Dorothy Tibbets visited with me for almost two hours this afternoon. I heard all about her boy, Jon, and her daughter, Delphia. It is a long story that I've heard her tell before. Guy phoned for her to come home. Good night.



Will Geer

### April 24, Monday

I got up at noon to a cloudy day and it was windy, too. Donna and Dorothy had been to Overbrook to shop. Donna brought a nice lunch on a TV tray to me. I presume that Rex's black cow is still in the corral of a neighbor. She got out of Marshes' corral yesterday. The weeds are coming up green and some of the trees have new green leaves on them. Spring is slow arriving in Kansas this year. I do love to see the pretty green plants and grass. Donna walked up to our mailbox at four o'clock to mail some letters. It takes about 20 minutes each way, or a little less. I dozed in my chair. Donna brought me a nice, long letter from Lydia; she read it to me. Her letters are always fun to hear; she writes in detail. I surely enjoy her letters. She mentioned Owen and their happy days together; I loved that. Donna went with Rex this evening to help him get their cow back in her own corral. Good night.

### April 25, Tuesday

I rested better last night, but I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray. I enjoyed eating and listening to the television stories. Donna came in to hear the press conference, with President Carter, on my television set at 2 p.m. It was interesting. It is amazing all

the questions they asked him, but he had an answer for all of them. I like his pleasant smile. We have a lovely, sunny day, but it is a bit windy. Mary phoned this afternoon; she was going to Primary; I think. Anyway, she said it was on her way to the hospital in case her baby decided to arrive early. Good night.

### April 26, Wednesday

We have a pleasant day with hazy sunshine. Donna changed the sheets and pillow slip on my bed this morning, or noon time. I took a shower bath. Donna washed the two white chenille bedspreads from my twin beds, they look so fluffy and pretty now. Rex brought two young girls home to have dinner with them. They are cousins and very pretty, too. Rex and Donna will take them to Mutual tonight, I presume. The cousins names are Tammie and Karla. They ate about 5:20 p.m. Donna brought a tray of food to me before they left this evening. I had a nice fish dinner, with baked potato, peas, and chocolate pudding with whipped cream. Mm good! I watched television for two hours tonight. It was the NBC Special of Former President Gerald Ford, what he would like to do or see done to build U.S. leadership in the world, to help resolve our problems. Good night.

### April 27, Thursday

It is cloudy today; we see the sunshine once in a while, but not for long. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray. I presume that Rex took the two young girl cousins home, to go to school this morning. Donna came in to give me the visiting teachers message this afternoon. She also went over to visit Dorothy Tibbets. I received a nice letter from Violet Fife; the poor dear has her troubles with aches in her shoulders and back. Otto had been to Provo to the Silver Beaver Award meeting and banquet. Violet was invited, but she didn't feel well enough to go. She wrote this:

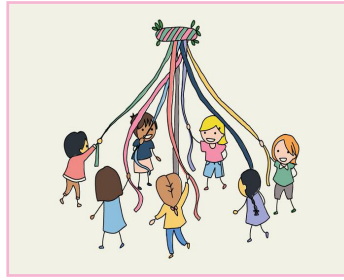
*"There once was a girl named Kitty,  
When she got dolled up, she was pretty,  
She would sing all day, but couldn't carry  
a tune,  
And everyone said, Oh, what a pity!"*  
Sweet dreams.



### April 28, Friday

We had some lightening last night, but I didn't hear any thunder or rain. I didn't sleep very well until almost daylight. There were troubled thoughts in my poor, old brain. Donna had been to Overbrook twice this morning, before I got up. She had her hair dressed and she looked pretty. She took Dorothy to get some medication for herself and Guy on the second trip. Donna baked a ham this morning; the house had a delicious aroma! I got a birthday card ready to mail to Sherm Gardner, his birthday is May 5. He'll be 18 years old; I think. I enclosed a dollar bill and a verse to him. I try to remember all of my 16 great-grandchildren the same. I

enjoyed the ham sandwich that Donna brought for my lunch, plus a hot drink of milk and some fruit. It has been cloudy all day, but no rain so far, at 4 p.m. I also got Mark Shattuck's birthday card ready to mail. His birthday is May 11. He'll be 22 years old. This lad made a great grandmother out of me. Bless his heart, he is indeed a fine young man. I love all of them and I'm very proud of each one. Good night.



### May 1, Monday

A happy May Day to you! It was overcast and cold this morning, but sunny and bright this afternoon. Did you ever wind up a Maypole? I did, way back in my childhood days. It was fun to dance around the maypole and wind it up. Then, to turn around and unwind it. We had a little song we used to sing while dancing around the

maypole, but I've forgotten the words. I was only six years old and I'm almost eighty-six now.

*"Time marches on and I should be long gone."  
But I'm still here trying to "be of good cheer."*

I thank the dear Lord for my precious daughter Donna and her lovely family; they are all very kind to me. I watched a television movie tonight, "Kill Me If You Can." It was the story of the Los Angeles notorious "red light bandit," Carl Chessman in 1948. He was played by Alan Alda. It was a two-hour show. It was not a happy story, but I like Alan Alda so I watched it. I saw it once several years ago, so I knew what to expect. Good night and sweet dreams.

### May 2, Tuesday

We had another overcast day but the sunshine did cheer our hearts a few times. I didn't get any sleep last night, oh, it was a long, long night. I dozed off to sleep after daylight this morning. I feel about half alive today, and I look it, too. Donna brought some cereal, toast, hot milk, and some fruit for my lunch at one o'clock noontime. She went to the bank in Overbrook this afternoon to take care of the house payment. She brought \$40.00 to me from my Social Security check. I'm so thankful to have her to take care of my banking business for me. Donna and Rex are both on diets to lose weight for their trip coming up in July. This evening I watched Henry Fonda in the movie, "Home to Stay." It was a cute story about a spirited grandpa and two spunky teenagers on a wild and wonderful fight to save him from an old age home. Good night.

### April 29, Saturday

It is overcast again today. The sun breaks through the clouds now and then, but not for long. Donna and Rex left early; they'll be gone all day. She left a note telling me there is a plate of food in the fridge for my evening meal. She said they'd be late getting home tonight. I think they have gone to the Mormon Visitors Center in Independence, Missouri, where the pioneer art exhibit is on display. C.C.A. Christensen is the artist. Donna took a big bowl of potato salad with her. They have so many activities I just can't remember them all. In fact, I do not hear as well now and I hate to ask her to repeat everything. She is soft spoken anyway. My hearing was keen too at her age (63 years old). I'm over 85 and should be "over the hill" by now. Dorothy Tibbets came over to see me this afternoon. She said that it is Raytown where Donna and Rex went, to the dance festival. I do get things mixed up. Dorothy brought me a very pretty bouquet of wild flowers she had picked in our fields (verbena). She visited until Guy phoned for her to come home. I washed my few dishes. The verbena is indeed lovely; they look like they were cultivated flowers. Tonight, I watched the Miss USA Beauty Pageant; Bob Barker was the host. The program was coming live from Charleston, South Carolina. Miss Hawaii won the pageant for beauty. Her name was Judi Andersen, I think. There was too much confusion to be sure.

### April 30, Sunday

It is Daylight Savings time we "Spring" ahead an hour this morning. It is a cloudy, cold day. Donna and Rex left early for Sunday School and church meetings. She left a note for me saying she had left a plate of food in the refrigerator for my lunch. She said she'd be home as soon as possible. I got up at noon and ate my nice lunch (a ham sandwich, potato salad, deviled egg, olives, and applesauce). Dorothy Tibbets came over for a few minutes; she had a pumpkin pie baking so she didn't stay long. It is so thoughtful of her to look in on me; I do appreciate it. I had to have my lamp on to see to write. Mother Nature is trying to save on daylight, too. ☺ I was surprised when Donna and Rex came home at 2:20 this afternoon, I didn't expect them before nine or ten tonight. I got birthday cards addressed to four of my great grandsons and enclosed a note and \$1.00 bill in each (Mark S., Doug S. Jody T. and Spencer T.). They all have birthdays in May. I sent Sherm's card earlier; his day is the 5th of May.



Christopher Alan Tibbets born May 3.

### May 3, Wednesday

Oh, there must be a silver lining to the clouds. We've had so many dark, gloomy days the past several days, but I did have a good night's sleep, for which I am thankful. Donna brought my lunch about 12:30 noontime, the dear girl. She and Dorothy Tibbets have been working in their gardens in front of the house this afternoon. I do not know if it is a flower or vegetable garden yet. I'll be interested in the results. I listened to some lovely records played on my Magnavox player this afternoon. I feel very weak for some reason. Donna came in to tell me that Mary had a baby boy this afternoon. He weighed a little over eight pounds. His name will be Christopher Alan. Julie didn't get her sister, but the Tibbets boys

are adorable, too. Donna came in tonight and listened to television with me. Rex was out on some church business. P.S. It is Elaine Vandergrift's birthday anniversary today. I hope she is enjoying her day. Good night.

**May 4, Thursday**

It is another dark, overcast sky today, but no rain. I got up at noon and ate the nice lunch that Donna brought to me. She went to town with Dorothy Tibbets to have a painting framed. One of Dorothy's relatives painted the picture for her but she didn't get a frame for it. Now, they are coming to visit her, so she wanted to have the painting framed and hung up before they arrived. So, it is now hanging on the Tibbetses' wall. Donna bought some vitamin C tablets and some stamps for me. I played some records on my Magnavox player. Rex came in for a nap and to listen to the music. He likes to relax in the reclining chair here. Donna and Dorothy bought a darling, little infant suit with a little cap and some shoes for Mary's new baby, Christopher Alan. She brought them to show me; she had a real cute card, too. She signed my name to it, also, nice, eh? Kathy telephoned tonight; she was on the phone with Donna so long, that Rex got concerned; he left here to investigate. I was a bit anxious, too, but all is well. Kathy had a lot to talk about and Mark's company takes care of the phone bills, I think. ☺ Good night.

*I dozed in my chair with  
nothing to do,  
But to wish that I was  
with my Lou.  
It's calm and quiet here,  
"Home on the Range."  
There is no wind howling  
for a welcome change.  
I know what I will do  
To keep from feeling  
homesick and blue,  
I'll play some happy records  
on my stereo!  
And that will cheer me  
up, I know.*



Lou and Elvie

Donna and Rex left for Weeping Water, Nebraska, this evening about 6:30 p.m., so I'll be alone tonight. She said they'd be home about noon time tomorrow. They are bringing Spencer and Brian home with them. Donna left a tray of food for me before they left. Good night.

**May 6, Saturday**

Mother Nature put on a display last night of lightning and thunder and heavy down pour of rain. I was alone here on the farm; Donna and Rex went to Weeping Water, Nebraska, to see Mary's new baby boy, Christopher. They stayed overnight and they are bringing Spencer and Brian back with them. She thought they'd be home at noontime, but it is 3:30 now, and dark. I expect another downpour any minute. ☹ I hope they are not having car trouble or something. Glory be! I think I hear a car coming, yes, it is them. We had some lively action for a while in here; the little boys are full of vigor, but Grama Donna keeps them in her part of the house most of the time. They are cute kiddies. I received a letter from cousin Blanche Hoglund. She lives in Long Beach, California. She is 88 years old and she is a bit confused in her thinking. She addressed it me, but she was telling someone else all about me, writing to LaPriel part of the time and to me some of the time. Bless her heart. I'm getting there fast myself; I'm over 85 years now. Donna says she will have the children in bed early tonight. They are tired and so is she. Rex went to bed early, I think. Donna and I watched television until after the ten o'clock news report. There is more rain in store. Good night.



Girl friends with Sherm and Janet Gardner in 1978. Sherm celebrates his 18th birthday May 5, 1978.

**May 5, Friday**

Happy birthday Sherman Gardner, 18 years old! I hope Sherm is enjoying his birthday. We have another cloudy day with hazy sunshine at times. I got up at noon time and ate the lunch Donna brought to me. She has been busy all morning typing some branch records for President Rex Marsh. She had an appointment with her dentist this afternoon.

happy birthday Sherm!



### May 7, Sunday

Donna and Rex took Spencer and Brian to church with them this morning. It has been overcast most of today; it rained last night and maybe a little shower or two today? I sat in my swivel chair most of the day and I couldn't tell if it was lightly raining or not. It was gloomy enough. I haven't seen any sunshine today. It was about three o'clock when they came home. Grampa and Grama were worn out, but the little boys were full of vim and vigor. I got up and dressed and put my house in order. I was expecting Dorothy Tibbets to bring her sister Sylvia and husband over to meet me; she said she would. But they left the farm without coming over. It was the Marshes' and Tibbetses' kids they were interested in and they didn't get home until after 3 p.m. However, they did pass each other enroute, so they got to see Donna and Rex, and Spencer and Brian anyway. They parked their cars and visited. Donna and the little grandsons came in to visit with me for a while. Spencer was over with his Tibbets grandparents part of the time. Rex was asleep in his room. Donna was really tired and she took a nap on my extra twin bed. When Rex got up, he took care of the boys while Donna had a nap. This little old lady dozed in her chair. Good night.

### May 8, Monday

Oh, happy day, we have a blue sky and sunshine today. What a pleasant change from so many dark and gloomy days. It surely helps to keep the sunshine in your heart! Donna's two little grandchildren keep her on her toes, but they are precious, too. They come in here once in a while, but not for very long at a time; Donna sees to that. Rex and Donna brought their big lamp in here for safe keeping. [Hoping to avoid another broken globe.] My other pen ran out of ink so I'll need a refill before I use it again. I did a little scrapbook work this afternoon; I pasted a picture of the Jim Bailey family and one of the Mo Gardner family in my book. Donna has a cold in her throat, laryngitis, she can't talk very well, and she looks miserable, too. I'm concerned about her. I surely wish I was well enough to look after her

two little grandsons, Brian and Spencer. But the best I can manage is to take care of L.V.'s needs. ☺ Good night.


### May 9, Tuesday

I was delighted to see the sunshine again today. We do have a lot of fluffy clouds in the blue sky, so we'll have another pretty sunset tonight again. It was beautiful last evening. Donna is feeling better today; the laryngitis has almost left her throat. I got up at noon and ate the nice lunch Donna brought to me. Donna put the baby down for his nap after his lunch. She took a short nap, too. Spencer went over to Grandma Tibbets's and he played out in the sunshine for a while; he came in and out of my place a few times. My back is giving me some distress today, up in the shoulder blades. It hurts a lot, but I do not want to go back to bed. Believe this old gal, being 85 and a half is not a fun age for L.V. But I can count my many blessings, yes, indeed. Donna felt very miserable this evening; she went to bed before eight o'clock. Rex took care of Spencer; I think the baby was in bed. Rex listened to television with me, the 10 p.m. news report. Good night.

### May 10, Wednesday

We have a pleasant day but cloudy with some wind. Spencer and Brian came to my bed to say "Good morning." Such happy little faces, like sunshine on a cloudy day. I was relieved to see that Donna feels some better. I'll be glad when she is over that cold. Today's mail brought a **cute announcement card from Mary** and Jon Tibbets about their brand-new baby boy. His name is Christopher Alan, born May 3, 1978. He weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces. Mary was pleased with our gift (diapers and a little suit with cap). I also received a pretty Mother's Day card ("For a Wonderful Grandma") from Kathy and Mark Calkins. They live in Santa Clara, California. I enjoyed the TV stories while eating the nice lunch Donna brought to me on a TV tray. Donna is cooking something that smells good (bread or rolls?). It was chicken she was cooking and I surely enjoyed eating some of it. This evening I

A brand-new Son...



Christopher 3½ months

...a brand-new world of love.

His name is Christopher Alan

and he was born May 3rd, 1978

He weighed 8lb. 2oz. at birth.

His parents are Mary and  
Jonathan

Birth announcement that arrived May 10, 1978.  
The photo inserted was added later.

watched “The Dean Martin Television Special” (roasting program). James Stewart was the subject. Lots of stars make it interesting. Rex was out to church meetings. It was after 10 p.m. before he came home. Good night.

### May 11, Thursday

Happy birthday to Mark David Shattuck, 22 years old. I slept well last night. Donna said there was lightning and thunder and rain in the night. I didn't hear anything. How is that for sound sleeping? I got up at noon and ate the nice lunch Donna brought to me. We have a cloudy sky with some sunshine and blue sky, but the news report says there is a thunder storm headed our way this evening. Donna's two little boys keep her on her toes; she looks weary, but her cold is some better. Donna received a lovely Mother's Day card from Kathy and Mark. Kathy is very busy making lovely flower arrangements for Mother's Day; she works in a florist shop. She wrote a very sweet letter in her mother's card. She had my name on her card, too, bless her heart. A Sr. Judith Rauber came to talk with President Marsh tonight. Her daughter Leslie visited with me while her mother talked to President Marsh. Donna was getting her two little boys, Spencer and Brian, to bed. Later this evening Donna talked to Mary on the phone. Mary is having a painful time trying to nurse her baby; she has a gathered breast and sore nipples, she also has a cold, the poor dear little mother. [Gathered breast is a now obsolete term for breast abscess.] Donna is still coughing. We had a lot of weather warnings on TV tonight. There were tornadoes and thunder storms in Kansas. Good night.

### May 12, Friday

I had a sleepless night so I haven't felt very normal today. It hasn't been a very pleasant day; we had dark clouds, wind, and rain and etcetera. I got up at noon and ate the lunch that Donna brought to me. She is a precious daughter. Today's mail brought a beautiful Mother's Day card from Mary and Jonathan Tibbets. “For Our Grandmother on Mother's Day.” There was a lovely message enclosed. I feel so happy to have such wonderful grandchildren and I dearly love all of them. I also received a copy of our marriage license and a copy of the application for a license to get married. Donna wrote to Salt Lake for them. This evening Rex and Donna went to a branch social; she brought my dinner on a TV tray before they left. Dorothy had the two little boys at her home until time for them to go to bed. She brought them over here and put them to bed in the basement. She stayed with them until they were both asleep. I hope they stay asleep all night! Our sky is clear tonight. The stars are twinkling, so we hope for a nice day tomorrow. Rex and Donna came home about midnight. She said it was a nice party, it was a dance that the young people

enjoyed a lot. Donna looked very pretty; she wore my long, black formal gown with the bright colors in the skirt. The top is black. Good night.

### May 13, Saturday

Welcome lovely sunshine! And thanks for a good night's sleep, a blessing indeed. Donna is feeling better too; I'm so thankful for that! Her two little grandsons Brian and Spencer keep her busy and she gets weary before the day is over. I'm sorry I can't help her with the little ones but at my age, 85 ½, I'm doing well to take care of myself the best I can. Today's mail brought a statement from my bank and a lovely Mother's Day greeting from Bonnie and Darrell Reynolds. I didn't send any Mother's Day cards, sorry. Rex gave Donna a beautiful plant with three lovely purple flowers on it. I've forgotten the name of the plant. They gave me a beautiful bouquet of artificial flowers in a pretty jar; they look so real, white daisies with red rose buds. I love it and I do not have to water it! ☺ Donna brought an airmail letter from Elder Rick Shattuck, from Australia. He is enjoying his mission very much. He is a fine, young man; we're all proud of him. Donna put some M&Ms in my candy jar. After Donna put the boys in bed and they were asleep, she watched television with me until Rex came home from his meetings. They heard the ten o'clock news with me and then we all went to bed. Good night.



### May 14, Sunday

I wish a happy day to all mothers; I've had my own dear mother in my thoughts. I long to see her again. My little table is full of pretty Mother's Day cards and the lovely basket full of lovely flowers that Donna and Rex gave to me. I gave Donna \$10.00 to help with the food. I had to insist she take it. Donna took Dorothy Tibbets and me to the sacrament meeting in Lawrence this evening. It was a long drive, but a lovely day and we enjoyed it. They had a nice Mother's Day program; we enjoyed it and every mother received a little potted plant in bloom (Chrysanthemums). Mine and Donna's were white and Dorothy's had red flowers. It was surely nice of Rex to look after the little boys so Donna could take us this afternoon. After the ten o'clock news on television tonight I went to bed. I'm very thankful for a happy Mother's Day. Good night!

**Mother**

*Mother! the word that means so much,  
Our very heart strings it seems to touch.  
It calls the sweetest face to mind,  
That ever graced our human kind.  
She may be dark, or she may be fair,  
It matters not what shade her hair.  
Streaked with silver or shining with gold,  
Our love for Mother will never grow cold.  
She's the dearest friend we have on earth;  
There are few who equal a Mother's worth.  
And when from Mother we are called to part  
We know real aching of the heart.*

—Elvie Renshaw.



Elvie's mother, Mary Elizabeth Strong Bailey, pictured above with poem that Elvie wrote.



### May 15, Monday

We have a lovely, warm, sunny day. Donna took the little boys, Spencer and Brian, with her to town this morning for some business she had to take care of. I stayed in

bed until noon as usual. If I get up early, the day seems so much longer and Donna feels she must cook breakfast for me, so I stay in my nice, little bed as long as I can. I'm enjoying my lovely Mother's Day gift of flowers and happy memories of a lovely Mother's Day with beautiful cards and etcetera. Our little boys have had fun playing in the sand pile; I enjoyed watching them from my window. There isn't much of a pile, but there is some sand. The Rex Marshes received a cute baby card, "It's a Boy!" from proud parents, Miriam and John Youngberg. I put my pretty Mother's Day cards away this evening. I surely am enjoying the lovely jar of flowers that Donna and Rex gave me.

### May 16, Tuesday

It looks like we'll have another lovely day. I could hear Donna and her two little boys, but I stayed in bed to keep out of the way. I got up about noon time. Donna brought some food on a TV tray for me. She was dressed to go out with Donna Story, to a "Sing Along" program somewhere. Dorothy is looking after Spencer and Brian for Donna. I think the baby is asleep in his crib or bed, but Spencer doesn't take naps in the day time now. Donna came home at 4 p.m. She said the old folks enjoyed the "Sing Along" very much. I didn't know it was to an old folks home. Donna went somewhere this afternoon. I listened to some lovely music played on my Magnavox player. I'm so thankful for my nice records and the player. Our family gave it to us on our Golden Wedding Anniversary [*in 1964*]. Good night.

### May 17, Wednesday

It is a hazy day but warm and pleasant. I didn't get any sleep until after it was daylight this morning. I surely dread the long, sleepless nights. I feel so darn sluggish in the day time and I doze in my swivel chair. Rex said that Mary would arrive today, but somehow her plans were changed, so we are expecting her tomorrow. Donna is not well; she has that nasty cough. I'm very concerned about her. She brought my lunch on a TV tray. I watched the stories on television while eating the nice lunch. Joan phoned this afternoon and Donna had a nice visit with her. It is now 5 p.m. Donna brought me a glass of 7Up and it surely hit the spot. I enjoyed some nice music on my Magnavox player this afternoon. Tonight, I had fun listening to the "Dean Martin Roast" of George Burns, and I saw part of "The Johnny Carson Show." Good night.

### May 18, Thursday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest and for a lovely day; I got up at noon. Mary Tibbets and her friend Betty and Mary's infant, Christopher (Oh such a big name for such a tiny little



*Chris in December of 1978.*

boy) arrived about one o'clock noon. Mary looks beautiful as always, her baby is a darling, too. I held him in my arms for a short time. I believe he is my 17th great grandchild. Donna cooked a good dinner and I went to the dinette to eat with the family. Rex was working. Mary and the children went over to see Dorothy and Guy Tibbets. I came home here and played some lovely music on my Magnavox player. Spencer brought me a pretty Iris flower from Grandma Tibbets's garden. Mary and Betty left here with Spencer and Brian about five o'clock; a happy, little car full. I waved "bye bye" from the window. Donna went to bed with a miserable cold; I hope she'll see a doctor tomorrow; she looks sick. I'm very concerned about her. I borrowed Rex's nail clippers to trim my finger and toe nails. I can do the finger nails nicely, but my feet are too far away from me now. They are a problem! Good night from a weary, old mother, L.V.

### May 19, Friday

I rested fairly well last night; we had a little thunder shower during the night, but it didn't last long. I heard Donna coughing. Oh, I wish she could get well. We do need her in this household. She has an appointment to see her doctor this evening when Rex is home to take her to the office. I'm concerned because we live so far from any help. It is not my idea of "happiness." ☹ Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray about 1:30 p.m. I think she has been in bed most of the day; she looks ill. She will go to Osawatomie to see Dr. Linda Martin this evening. I enjoyed some lovely music played on my Magnavox player this afternoon. I had entertainment on the television this evening. We have a pretty, sunny sky this afternoon. It is 5:45 p.m. now; I'll go to the kitchen and fix a little snack for myself to enjoy while watching television this evening. They surely have some weird programs on TV now. Donna and Rex came home at 8:40 tonight. The doctor gave her a shot and some medication. She looked ill and she went right to bed. I hope she feels better tomorrow. Good night.

### May 20, Saturday

We had a heavy downpour of rain in the night with lots of lightning, but not loud thunder. I stayed in bed until almost 1 p.m. I think Donna feels a little better; her lungs are not as tightly congested, but she is not well. She needs a lot of rest. I feel ill when my Donna isn't well. We have a cloudy sky, but with some sunshine off and on. Donna brought me a nice lunch on a TV tray, bless her dear heart. I wish I was with my darling Lou and my family now. I do not want to be a burden to Donna and Rex, but I am. Well, I'm thankful I am able to help with the financing of their

home anyway. There is always something to be thankful for, so I count my blessings. I listened to some pretty music on my Magnavox player this afternoon. Donna was in her bed enjoying the music, too, I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report on TV tonight. Good night.

### May 21, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome, Sabbath Morning." ♪

♪ We had some rain in the night. It has been overcast today but no rain so far. It is 2:15 p.m. now. Donna is typing letters; Rex is taking care of his church business. Donna isn't feeling well enough to go out to church. She is coughing some, but not as much as she did Friday and Saturday. She brought me some lunch at noon time. I played records on my Magnavox player all afternoon and enjoyed them. Rex slept in my reclining chair after his lunch. He went out again after 5 p.m., more church business, I presume. Donna brought me some food about 6:30 this evening. I went to bed after 10:00 p.m. I am a concerned, old mother; I do wish Donna felt well again. Good night.



### May 22, Monday

We have an overcast day, but it's warm outside, so they say. I slept fairly well and I'm feeling much better. I think Donna feels better, too; but she still has her problem of perspiring. She says her hair and head feels wet and hot, so I know she has a fever. Oh, I do hope and pray she will be well soon. We are blessed with some bright sunshine this afternoon and it cheers this old Grandma Elvie a lot. I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player; I do enjoy hearing these beautiful recordings. This evening I watched television's "Little House on the Prairie." I feel weary. Good night.



Doug Shattuck in 1977.

### May 23, Tuesday

We have been asked by our church and others to not use our televisions today. It is in protest against the vulgar programs they have been showing. I surely hope this protest will help to clean up the TV programs. I'm fed up with the trash they have been showing. I surely would love to listen to [watch] decent clean spoken and respectable programs again. Donna came in this afternoon and played Tibbet's records of "Mormon Heritage" on my Magnavox player. I really enjoyed the lovely story of the Mormon's move to the Salt Lake Valley; it was thrilling. Donna brought Rex's little radio in and played some nice music while we ate our dinner together. We had ham and little navy beans and a salad of apples, raisins, and walnuts. The sky is getting dark and angry looking. ☹️ The radio says a thunder storm is on its way. Well, it isn't the first one! Good night.



### May 24, Wednesday

Our thunder storm didn't amount to a lot of concern last night; I had a fairly good night's rest. We have an overcast morning, but the sun is shining brightly this afternoon. Rex bought a package of Tums and some vitamin E for me today. Donna brought her letters from Joan and Kathy to read to me. They are both very active and they write interesting letters. I was glad to get the refill for my Paper Mate pen. I enjoyed listening to the television programs today, while eating my nice lunch. We didn't watch TV yesterday, as requested by our church. I had to put on a light weight robe today; the other one was too warm for a summer day. I listened to television until after the 10 p.m. news. Rex and Donna were here with me. Donna read several fine articles from the Ensign magazine to me this afternoon. I do enjoy having her read to me. My poor, old eyes water and blur my vision when I try to read for a few minutes. I am indeed thankful for eyesight as good as it is, for my age of 85½ years. I'm weary now. Good night!

### May 25, Thursday

Happy birthday to Douglas Alan Shattuck, 17 years old today. We have a hazy sunshine this day, but it is warm. The "Good Old Summer Time" is here, today anyway. Donna brought a nice lunch to me about 1 p.m. and I listened to television while eating. Donna ate her salad with me and we both enjoyed TV. Later this afternoon, I listened to President Jimmy Carter's press conference. It is always amazing to me how he has an answer for all the many questions that are asked of him. There is not a hesitation; he knows what he is talking about. Tonight, I watched "The Bing Crosby Story, his Life and Legend," with many stars in it. In fact, there were 19 of them. It was a two-hour TV program and I enjoyed it very much. Good night.

### May 26, Friday

I didn't sleep well last night, so I'm not up to par today. Donna and Dorothy Tibbets went out to do their Relief Society visiting this morning. I stayed in bed until noon time. It is warm and pleasant looking outside. Donna brought a nice lunch to me about one o'clock. I listened to the TV stories while eating. Today's mail brought a wedding invitation for Gregory Lewis Haddock and Susan Lynn Upham's wedding reception on Saturday, June 17, 1978. They will be married in the Los Angeles LDS Temple. Gregory is the son of Ray M. and Bette Haddock. They are a nice-looking couple. Donna and Rex spent the evening with me until after the ten o'clock news on television. It is time to go to bed, so good night. P.S. Happy birthday to Joel Andrew Tibbets, he turned 8 today.

### May 27, Saturday

I rested much better last night. Rex made a trip or two to Overbrook town to buy the material needed to build his front porch. He did some digging last evening and this morning. I told him I would buy the material needed, but he charged it. Well, that is the best way to have “good credit” I know, and it is important, too. Donna went with him this last trip. I took the electric blanket off from my bed this morning. The sheet and bedspread is all I have on it now. “The Good Old Summer Time” is with us now. Wow! I should feel like having a “ball” but I’m homesick, that’s all. Yep, homesick, that’s all. This 85-year-old gal wants to be with her husband and pal. A sad situation, eh?

### May 28, Sunday

We have a pleasant Sabbath with hazy sunshine. I had a good night’s rest and I stayed in bed until noon. Rex and Donna left early for Sunday School and church meetings. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. I see Guy and Dorothy Tibbets out pulling weeds out of their garden. Their iris flowers are really lovely. I have a beautiful bouquet of them on my television. I’ve never seen such large iris and so many different shades, they are very colorful and I love ‘em. Dorothy is the “flower gal” she knows how to make them grow. I loved to work in my flower garden a way back when, but now, I feel only half alive at the old age of eighty-five. When I get on my knees to say my prayer, it is a real struggle to get up and hobble to my chair. My digging days are over now; I rest in my field of clover. ☺ I got Donna’s birthday card ready for her day on June 1. I enclosed \$20.00, plus a verse I composed. Rex and Donna came home about 4:30 p.m. She came in here and read to me from the Church Ensign Magazine. I do love to have her read to me. We listened to the ten o’clock news report on TV. It’s bed time. Good night.

### May 29, Monday— Memorial Day

Happy holiday! We had bright sunshine early this morning but it was overcast most of the day. I had a sponge bath and put clean underwear on when I got up at noon. Donna brought some lunch to me about one o’clock. I listened to the TV stories while eating. Rex was on his tractor cutting down the tall weeds in front of our house and in back of it. I like to look out and fancy we have a nice green lawn out there. “Make Believe” is a fun game for me sometimes. Mary talked to Donna via phone. I’m not sure who called who, but she is still having trouble with her abscessed breast and nursing her infant, the poor darling. We are praying for her. Tonight, I watched a special Bicentennial concert by the Mormon Youth Symphony and



Spencer, Greg, Brian, Joel, and Julie in March 1978. Joel turned 8 on May 26 and Spencer turned 5 on May 31.

Chorus. It included Aaron Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait” and “America the Beautiful.” Oh, I’m sorry, that program was on Tuesday night at 9 p.m. I get all mixed up at times. Tonight, was a special three-hour tribute to Bob Hope on his birthday and it had lots of stars on the program. Bob was 75 years old.

### May 30, Tuesday

I didn’t sleep very well last night so I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray at 1 p.m. I watched the television stories while eating. The month of May is almost over, just one more day. It has been a pleasant day; Donna says it is warm outside. I’m very comfortable here in the house, with the television and the lovely music played on the Magnavox player. I manage very nicely to keep entertained. I got Donna’s birthday card ready for her day on June 1. I think Donna and Dorothy went to town today. It is very quiet around our house. I presume I’m alone in the house. I wish I could put some pretty flowers on my darling husband’s grave, but, “no can do.” Well, he knows I love him dearly, I’m sure. Donna brought me a pretty birthday card to send to Kathy on her day, June 14. I appreciate her shopping for me. I can’t do it anymore for myself. Rex and Donna were going to go out tonight, but they changed their minds and stayed home. Our branch visiting teachers came tonight, Br. and Sr. Ryan (Raymond and Nadine). She is the Relief Society president of our branch. They are very nice people, in fact, they are all friendly people in Kansas, I think. Good night.

### May 31, Wednesday

Happy birthday Spencer Jonathan Tibbets, 5 years old today.

*May your day be happy and full of cheer,  
Enough to last all through the year.*



I slept much better last night; we had an electrical storm before daylight with some loud claps of thunder. Our sky is overcast today but it is pleasant and warm. I got Kathy’s birthday card ready to mail later; her day is June 14. I enclosed some gum and \$5.00, plus a little verse. It’s Donna’s birthday tomorrow. Our birthdays come and go and every day we older grow. Here I am pushing 86. I’ll be 86 in December, how about that? Donna brought a nice dinner to me about 5:45 p.m. I couldn’t eat all of it, I’m sorry, but I’m not hungry. We may get some more rain; it is getting dark looking out. The wind is blowing the trees rather vigorously. Rex and Donna went out this evening to do some visiting teaching; I surely hope they will make it home before the storm arrives. I watched “The David Frost Show” and the “Dean Martin Special.” Betty White was roasted

by her husband, Allen Ludden, and other stars. Rex and Donna watched part of the show when they came home. We went to bed after the ten o'clock news tonight. P.S. There is a Weather Watch Warning on our TV tonight. Sweet dreams.

### June 1, Thursday

Dear Donna,

Since the day of your birth,

You have brought happiness here on Earth.

As your mother, I bless the day

The dear Lord sent you our way.

May your day be full of happy  
cheers,

That will linger all through the  
years.

Everyone loves you, especially  
me,

Have a happy 63rd anniversary.

We had some rain last night and it is an overcast day today. Janet phoned from San Jose this morning to wish her mother a happy birthday. I think she sent her some money, too. Joan phoned from Naperville, Illinois. Mary phoned her last night. Donna came in to thank me for the card, poem, and money I gave her. John and Ann sent a pretty card and a love message, too. Rex took Donna out to dinner and a show tonight; they invited me to go with them, but I wanted them to celebrate without me. Donna brought some food on a TV tray for me. I spent my evening with television.

*I've found out at the age of 85 ½,*

*TV is the best way to have a good laugh.*

*When you're all alone and feelin' blue,*

*Turn on the tube set, it will entertain lonesome you.*

Good night.

### June 2, Friday

It rained in the night and some this morning. It is overcast now at noon time. Donna went to Overbrook to shop for groceries. She brought a nice lunch for me on a TV tray. I ate and watched the television stories. This afternoon, Donna did some shopping for me (some hand lotions, face cream, Lady Esther face powder, sponges, and two boxes of cute birthday cards. She brought \$40.00 from my Social Security check after taking care of the house payment and etcetera. She also bought a large bottle of Scope Mouthwash for me. She takes good care of me. We have a hazy sunshine this afternoon. Donna and Rex planted some small tomato plants this afternoon. I hope they grow well, we all like tomatoes. I enjoyed some nice music on my Magnavox player this afternoon. I watched "C.P.O. Sharkey" (Don Rickles), and "Chico and the Man," and "Rockford Files" on TV. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Good night.



Donna Marsh in 1972. Elvie writes a poem for her 63rd birthday on June 1, 1978.



### June 3, Saturday

It has been overcast today, but pleasant. I stayed in bed until noon. I didn't sleep very well last night. I had a busy brain and a nervous body. Donna brought a nice lunch to me about 1 p.m. I ate and listened to some lovely music on my Magnavox player. The Marshes had company from our branch. I think Donna said it was the Pattersons, Ed and Eula (not sure). Anyway, they came to demonstrate a water purifier. They left a small machine with Rex and Donna to try out. Our water doesn't taste very good. Donna brought me a small glass of something like 7Up. I like it, but it will be nice to have some pure water to drink again. Tonight, I watched the TV Special of the life of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt's married life in their early years. It was very interesting. I went to bed after the 10 p.m. news. P.S. I put my hair up in pin curls first and I was exhausted. Oh, tired, old me, with chest pains and pain in my spine and etcetera. Good night.

### June 4, Sunday

I am thankful for a good night's rest and for this lovely Sabbath day. Donna and Rex left early for Sunday School and church activities. She left some food for me on a TV tray. I got up at noon. It was a pleasure to dress my curly hair today. I'm glad I struggled to put it up. It was worth the pay. ☺ I hope to have a smile, with love in my eyes, and not a smirk, which true love denies. I played some lovely LDS records on my Magnavox; this is my own Sabbath day worship. It is a long day for me, but it won't last forever. Rex and Donna came home about 3:30 p.m. It is a long drive to church and back to the farm. They were hungry and tired. They had fasted since yesterday afternoon. Donna will not let me fast; she says that children and the elderly people are excused from the long fast. ☺ Our lives are in reverse now; she tells me what to do. Good night.

### June 5, Monday

It is a pleasant day, sunny with no wind. I had a good night's rest. I stayed in bed until noon. I got up and put my house in order and myself. Mary and family arrived about one o'clock, a happy, little family. Jon and Mary and Donna came in here to visit me and the children were in and out. After Mary nursed her infant, she put him on my extra bed for his nap. I watched television this evening, a special program called "Our Town." It is the story of everyday life in a small New Hampshire town. It was a 2-hour show. It was very interesting; it was a fantasy. Julie came in this evening and read from my 1978 diary book. Mary and Donna were busy getting the little ones to bed. I presume we are all a bit weary this night. Good night!

## June 6, Tuesday

We have a hazy sunshine this morning. I'm thankful for a good night's rest. I can hear a lot of activity in Marshes' side of the house with the little Tibbets children on the go. Donna brought me a chicken sandwich and a drink of hot milk with honey in it. Bless her heart; she has hay fever; she'd been out in the field with her little boys this morning. Jon is next door helping his parents do something in their home. Both houses need a lot of work on before they are finished. Mary took the children somewhere to have a swim. Donna got baby Chris to sleep. I hope she took a nap, also, she looked so tired. I played some music on my Magnavox player and dozed in my chair. Rex brought the kids home from their swim; Mary had come home to nurse her infant son. We've had a cloudy day with some sunshine. Mary Twitchell sent Marshes a letter; she enclosed a nice picture of Otto Fife and two other men in the newspaper. They were given honorary degrees at Southern Utah State College. Otto was recognized as "Master of the Zion Narrows 17-mile hike," which ends in Zions National Park. Otto has done the hike 58 times, often as a guide for state or national dignitaries; his first hike was in 1925. He was 77 years old when he made the trek last year. Tonight, Mary, Donna, and the children visited with me for a while; I loved having them. Good night.

## June 7, Wednesday

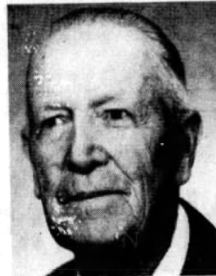
We welcome a nice, sunny day. Donna left a nice lunch for me on a TV tray before she left with Mary and the children for a picnic lunch at Lone Star Lake at 1 p.m. I was surprised that Julie didn't go with them; she was disappointed when she learned they'd gone without her. She left my room in tears. I presume she was with the girl friend at her home when they left here. I can't keep up with all of the action around here, but I hate to see anyone unhappy. Julie wouldn't stay with me and I don't blame her. I wouldn't either if I were in her place. I'm out of all the fun action now. Oh, I do wish I could go to my own generation soon. Correction, they did not take a picnic lunch as I thought. They just took a drive to Lone Star



Glade Peterson

David A. Dolowitz

## Three will receive S USC honorary degrees



Otto Fife

CEDAR CITY—Widely varied backgrounds mark the three recipients of honorary degrees this year at Southern Utah State College.

Receiving the awards will be Dr. David A. Dolowitz, formerly of Salt Lake City and now living in Toquerville, Washington County; Otto Fife, Cedar City; and Glade Peterson, Salt Lake City.

The honorary doctorates will be presented at commencement exercises June 2 beginning at 9 a.m. on the upper campus quadrangle.

"These three men have each made significant contributions to society, but each in a very different manner. Each has distinguished himself, and we at S USC are proud to recognize their contributions and to honor them," Royden C. Braithwaite, S USC president, said.

Dolowitz is president of the Allergy, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic of Utah, Inc., and clinical professor of surgery and adjunct professor of speech pathology and audiology at the University of Utah.

He is editor of the journal for the American Society of Ophthalmologic and Otolarygologic Allergy and a member of the executive committee of the American Audiology Society. He is a prolific researcher and writer.

He was born in New York City November 3, 1913. He received a baccalaureate degree from Johns Hopkins University and an M.D. degree from Yale Medical School. His clinical practice and academic positions have been at Johns Hopkins, the University of Utah, and the University of Tennessee.

Dolowitz married the former Emma Katz. They are actively involved in many civic enterprises.

Otto Fife is perhaps best known as the recognized master of the Zion Narrows, a spectacular 17-mile hike which ends in Zion National Park. Fife has made the hike 58 times, often as a guide for state or national dignitaries; he first made the hike in 1925. He was 77 years old when he last made the trek last year.

It was while he was in Switzerland on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that Fife deepened his love for the outdoors. During his stay there he used his mountain climbing skills to conquer the Matterhorn, the Dent de Midi, and the Leon de Argenlie.

He was born in Cedar City November 1, 1900, and attended S USC (then known as the Branch Agricultural College) and the University of Utah. He married Violate Bailey. They have two daughters, eight grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Glade Peterson, a native of Fairview, Sanpete County, is the only Utahn to have had an international operatic career. He is now general director of the Utah Opera Company, which he hopes to make a state-wide professional organization to emphasize operatic productivity in the state.

After a struggling early career and a boost by a performance with Maurice Abravanel and the Utah Symphony Orchestra, he traveled to Italy for training, accompanied by his wife and two children. While in Europe he was offered a three year contract as leading tenor of the Zurich Opera House. He made his debut in Zurich in November of 1960.

He remained in Zurich until his recent return to Utah. During his 15 years in Zurich he traveled and performed in the major opera houses of the world, including the New York Metropolitan Opera. In his 15th season he sang over 700 performances in some 45 different roles.

Lake. Well, Julie didn't miss a picnic lunch anyway. Grama L.V. gets things mixed up, sorry. Donna brought a glass of lemonade to me this afternoon; it was refreshing. Donna brought a letter from Kathy with a lot of nice pictures of her and Mark and their new home in Santa Clara, California. Guy Tibbets sent a pretty, little bouquet of flowers to me, honeysuckle. This evening Mary and baby Chris and Donna and Rex went to the fireside chat in Kansas City, Kansas. The children were with Grandma Tibbets, but they came over here and played with the greeting cards in my place. P.S. Mary's baby was adorable in his tiny suit and cap. He is a cutie. Julie helped take care of Brian. Good night. P.S. Today was a long, lonesome day, but it did come to an end. ☺

## June 8, Thursday

It has been a pleasant day, not windy. My family here have been in and out of the farm at times. I don't keep up with the action around here. Julie, Gregory, and Jody played with my old greeting cards, stacking them as high as they could. It always amazes me how high they can build them up before they come tumbling down, and it does keep the kids entertained for a long time. I think that Jon T. has almost finished painting his parents' house. He has been very busy working over there every day. The children play in the basement here a lot of the time. Donna just brought an announcement of the marriage of Wayne and Marty Strong's daughter Penny to Rand Farnley. It will be the 20th of June, 1978. They are indeed a handsome couple; Their picture is in color. They will be married in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. Penny is beautiful. My family went to the park for a picnic dinner this evening. I had some distress in my heart so I stayed home with my nice records playing. Donna brought my dinner on a TV tray. I'm a lot more comfortable at home now. ☺ It was Pomona Lake where the family had their picnic tonight. Good night.

## June 9, Friday

The Jon Tibbets family left for home about noon time. I got up to wave goodbye to them. They forgot to take the baby's little doll and sleeper chair or bed, so Donna went in the truck to try

and take it to them, but she missed them and had to bring the things home. Janet phoned here with some startling news. She said **President Kimball made the announcement that all worthy male church members can hold the priesthood.** That makes it possible for the colored members to enter into the temple. I'm happy for them. Joan phoned to tell Donna the news, but she'd heard it from Janet. I presume the telephone wires are hot with the news today. It makes me feel like the end is near. I hope it is for me anyway. ☺ I hear Donna vacuuming her rugs. I presume they have some extra dust this weekend, but it was fun having the precious Tibbets kids here. This evening I gave Donna \$7.00 to help with the wedding invitations she had received with my name on too (Penny Strong and Gregory Haddock's weddings). I'm weary tonight. Sweet dreams.

**June 10,  
Saturday**

It is a pretty day, the sky is blue, the trees and fields are green. There is a breeze waving the branches of the trees. Donna went to town this morning and bought herself some medication for hay fever. I surely hope it will clear up the miserable condition. She and Rex bought the material for the front porch; the cost was \$120.34. I gave them the check; it will be wonderful to have a nice front porch so we can use the front door. I had a darned old dizzy spell at lunch time. It surely made me feel upset and weak. Donna took a nap this afternoon.

# EXTRA!



## The Universe

Call in news tips to 374-1211 Ext. 3630; other calls Ext. 2957 Provo, Utah Vol. 31 No. 159A Friday, June 9, 1978

# BLACKS GET PRIESTHOOD

## God reveals new policy to LDS Prophet

Worthy black men in the LDS Church will be eligible to receive the priesthood, the First Presidency announced today.

A letter sent to church leaders said God has revealed a change in the policy which has been in effect since the early days of the 148-year-old church. Blacks of African descent have been denied the priesthood. The church has given no official reason for the denial.

The following is the complete text of the press release and letter.

"The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints today released the attached letter addressed to general and local officers of the church throughout the world. The letter was signed by President Spencer W. Kimball, world leader of more than 4 million Mormons, and his two counselors in the First Presidency, President N. Eldon Tanner, first counselor and President Marion G. Romney, second counselor.

"Dear brethren:

"As we have witnessed the expansion of the work of the Lord over the earth, we have been grateful that people of many nations have responded to the message of the restored gospel, and have joined the church in ever increasing numbers. This in turn, has inspired us with the desire to extend to every worthy member of the church all of the privileges and blessings which the gospel affords.

"Aware of the promises made by the prophets and presidents of the church who have preceded us that at sometime, in God's eternal plan, all of our brethren who are worthy may receive the priesthood, and witnessing the faithfulness of those from whom the priesthood

(Cont. on p. 3)



President Spencer W. Kimball faces the Washington press corps in 1976. He told newsmen at that time only the Lord knew when blacks would receive the priesthood.

I sat in my swivel chair and dozed. Donna melted a lot of soap scraps to make some bars they can use. She came in here later and put some nice records on my Magnavox player, so I enjoyed the lovely music. I'm blessed indeed with Donna for a daughter. This evening Donna and Rex went to an elders' social, an out of doors party in a branch member's home. Donna took a jelled fruit salad. They left here at 5:30 p.m. She brought a TV tray to me with tomato soup, crackers, and fruit salad, plus custard and cookies.



© I watched “The Lawrence Welk Show,” “McNamara’s Band,” “Love Boat,” and “Fantasy Island” television shows. I went to bed after the ten o’clock news. Good night.

### June 11, Sunday

I had a sleepless night; I thought I was tired enough to sleep forever. I got up at noon time and did the best I could to make myself look pretty. I ate the lunch Donna left for me on a TV tray. She and Rex have so far to drive to church, I presume they left the farm about 7 a.m. I’m very thankful they are active in church work. Rex is the branch president; Donna was the Relief Society president, but I think she is the music director now. We have wind this morning. The trees in back look like they are mad and are having one h--- of an argument. Oh me, and my crazy old imagination. I create images (mental pictures) in my mind. It is fun and entertains me. I was surprised to see Rex and Donna come home before 3 p.m. It was only 2:30 p.m. I listened to lovely records played on my Magnavox player this afternoon and dozed in my chair. Donna took a nap on her bed. Later I gave up and stretched out on my bed. Rex went to the nursing home on this “Day of Rest.” Tonight, I watched the second annual “Circus of the Stars” where Hollywood’s finest risk their famous hides in the event of the year. We went to bed after the ten o’clock news report. Good night.

### June 12, Monday

We are blessed with a lovely, sunny day and a nice breeze. I slept well last night; I got up at noon time and listened to the television stories while eating the nice lunch Donna brought to me on a TV tray. She brought me some popcorn later, and I enjoyed that, also. Today’s mail brought a letter from Violet with a picture of Otto in the newspaper. It’s the same one that Mary Twitchell sent to Donna on June 6. Rex and Donna went to town this afternoon. I listened to lovely music played on my Magnavox player. I’m very thankful for the beautiful music I have. I do ♪ “Count My Many Blessings” ♪ ♪. This evening I watched “The Cross Wits Game” on TV and “Hollywood Squares,” “Little House on the Prairie,” and the Johnny Carson show. It’s time to say good night!

### June 13, Tuesday

It is a lovely, sunny day. Donna went with Donna Story to rehearse. I do not understand what it is all about, but I know it is important work. Donna left a tray of food for me. I got up at noontime and enjoyed the TV stories while eating my lunch. Donna read from the Church News to me this afternoon. Rex came home about 5 p.m. They have a busy, happy life. I am happy for them. Many changes are taking place in our world today, but we were told it would

come to pass in the Latter-days, so, be of good cheer, “All is well.” Correction: It was Kansas City where Donna went with Donna Story to rehearse this morning. Oh, I’m sorry I get so mixed up, but you’ll know when you are 85½ years old, the brain is getting old, too. Rex and Donna came in my place tonight and listened to television. They went home at 10 p.m. Good night.

### June 14, Wednesday

*We love you Kathy dear,  
We wish you were here!  
We’re glad that Mark is there with you,  
We know he loves you, too.*



*Kathy Calkins in front of their newly painted home.*

Donna phoned Kathy this morning to wish her a happy birthday. She said she received our cards and money. Donna brought lunch to me about noontime. She walked to the mailbox later, no letters for anyone. Rex went to “Worlds of Fun” with the Mutual today. Donna would have been with him if I wasn’t here. Sorry about that, but I am here. I wish she had gone with him. Oh, I do so long to go to my loved ones in the Spirit World. We have a lovely, sunny day. If we had some cement walks, I’d be tempted to walk around outside. But rocks and ruts are not for 85½ year old people to stroll around on. Donna just brought me a cold drink of pure water. Mm good! She came in later and read to me from “The Reader’s Digest.” I surely enjoyed listening to the cute stories she read to me. Good night.

### June 15, Thursday

We have a sunny day with a nice breeze blowing the trees about. The pretty, green branches look like they are nodding to each other and having a fun time. Today’s mail brought a wedding announcement of the marriage of Jim and Gini Andersen. He is the son of Glen and Irene Andersen. They are a good-looking couple; the picture is in color. Marshes received one, also. I presume we’ll send money to them.

Gini's last name was Reynertson. They were married in the Los Angeles Temple. Tonight, Rex had a council meeting in Paola. Donna watched television programs with me. We saw "Hawaii Five-O," "Barnaby Jones," and Johnny Carson in the "Tonight Show." Good night.

### June 16, Friday

I'm still here! And so is that old wind; we are all tired of it, "The Big Blow Hard." We have a cloudy sky; the sun is playing "Peek a Boo." Donna brought a pan of water and gave my feet a bath because I have an appointment with the foot doctor this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. We left here about three o'clock as she had a little shopping to do first. She bought a Father's Day gift for Rex (a pretty T-shirt). It was hot out, but nice and cool in the car with the air conditioning on. I enjoyed the drive and I'm thankful to have my two big toe nails clipped and filed. It cost me \$12.00. This evening Rex and Donna took Judy White and her children with them to see the pageant "Mormons and Miracles." I think it was in Independence, Missouri. I'm glad to be here in my nice, cool home. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news, weary, but happy. My dear Lou died 5 years ago today. Good night.

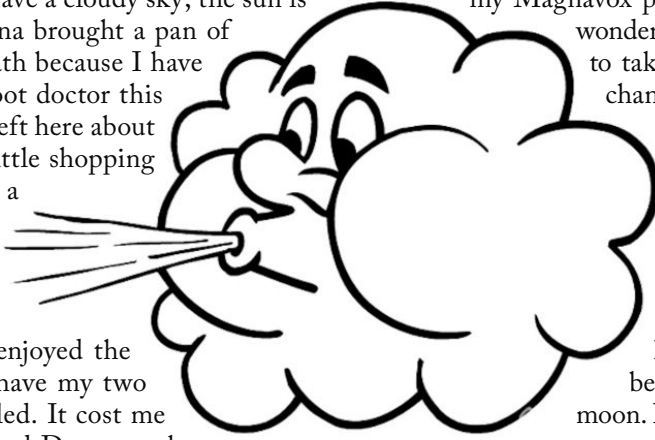
### June 17, Saturday

The "Big Blow" is still with us. Donna read me her letter from Irene Cattani and Ray. They are indeed an active family. Dr. Ray Cattani is a professor in the college in Tempe, Arizona. If my memory serves me well? It seems the older I get, the more I forget. "A revolting situation!" Donna walked to our mailbox, a long hike. She brought a nice letter from John and Ann. I enjoyed hearing it. Of course, Ann wrote it. They are having fun fixing their new home to suit them, Rex has some meetings to attend; he left early I presume. I'm enjoying nice music on my Magnavox player. Rex hopes we'll have a nice rain; his garden needs watering. This evening Donna drove to town to shop. She took my \$10.00 bill to have it changed for two fives, so I can put a \$5.00 bill in a wedding card, for Jim and Gini Andersen's gift. I think Donna and Rex received six wedding invitations. Wow! June is the month for brides and grooms. Rex and Donna took a tank full of water to the Manor Nursing Home this evening. Rex phoned a few minutes ago to ask if Donna had left the farm yet? She'd been gone about 10 or 15 minutes. It is time for "The Lawrence Welk Show" now, 6 p.m. The Missouri Pageant (Mormons and Miracles) radiates the enthusiasm of Gaylin Thomas, it's producer and director. He is going to sing tomorrow and he asked Donna to play for him. Good night. PS. Donna vacuumed my rooms and dusted this afternoon. It rained today at 6:30 p.m.

### June 18, Sunday

We had a severe lightning and thunder storm last evening about 7 p.m. The electricity went off and we were without

lights for a long time. Donna brought a couple of lighted candles in here. I had my flash light, so we managed to grin and bear it. Ah, the power came on again at 8:12 p.m. We welcome the Sabbath morning; it is a cool, pleasant day with no wind. Donna left some food for me on a TV tray, before she and Rex left for church. I stayed in bed until noon. I enjoyed my lunch. After putting myself and house in order I washed my few dishes and played some lovely records on my Magnavox player, LDS Hymns. I played Mary's wonderful record "Heritage," she forgot to take it with her and I'm glad I had the chance to hear it again. Rex and Donna came home from church about 3:30 p.m., tired and hungry. Kathy and Mark phoned to wish Rex "Happy Father's Day. Tonight, Rex and Donna took a walk around the farm. Later, they took me for a drive to Overbrook to the nursing home where Rex works. It was a very beautiful evening, oh, such a big, bright moon. I really enjoyed the drive. Good night.



### June 19 Monday

I am thankful for a good night's rest. I got up at noon and ate the lunch Donna brought to me. She is very thoughtful of my needs, bless her heart. I did a little scrapbook work; pasted some pictures in it. My shoulders pain when I try to do any writing or pasting things in my book. This evening Donna and Rex went to Overbrook to get their truck; she invited me to go with them, but I didn't feel up to it today. I'm going to stretch out on my bed for a while. I got up at 6 p.m. to eat the snack Donna brought to me. She came in here and ate her sandwich and salad with me. We listened to television until after the ten o'clock news report. The weather reporter says we'll have some rain tonight or tomorrow. I feel weary, so good night all.

### June 20, Tuesday

We had a wild night of bad weather. We had lightning, thunder, and hail. It was horrible. I really hate the violent weather we have at times here in Kansas. It is calm and pleasant this morning so all is well. Donna went to a rehearsal in Kansas City this morning. She came home in time to fix some lunch for me. Later this afternoon she went to do some shopping in the city, to buy herself some new shoes. I enjoyed the TV stories and my nice, little home. I took a nap on my bed. Donna and Rex came home about 6 p.m. Donna showed me her pretty, new, white shoes and girdle and etcetera. I watched TV programs tonight until bed time at 10:30 p.m. Good night.

### June 21, Tuesday

We were blessed with a peaceful, calm night. I really enjoyed it even if I didn't sleep too sound. Donna brought a nice lunch to me about 12:45 noon time. She talked to Mary via telephone and Mary said they had some wild weather on Monday night, too. They went to their tiny basement until it was over. They live in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Oh, I wish we were all back in Utah or California where

the weather is good most of the time. I can hear Donna's typewriter, so she is busy answering letters or something. It is a pretty, sunny day and that cheers me a lot. Donna and Rex are going to Paola this evening, to Mutual. A bird flew down our chimney and was in the stove. Rex and Donna are trying to get it out or have it fly back up the chimney. I can hear them working on the problem. It is still in the chimney but they had to leave it there; it was time to go to Mutual. Donna brought a TV tray to me before they left here with some fried chicken, bread and butter, and fruit with Nabisco's Cookies. I had the television on until after the ten o'clock news. Good night.

### June 22, Thursday

I had a good night's rest. I got up about noon and ate the nice lunch that Donna brought to me. Teresa Adkinson stayed over night with the Marshes. She slept on their couch bed. Donna showed her how to make bread and rolls this morning. She brought one of her sweet rolls for me to eat about 2:30 p.m. I enjoyed it. She is a very nice, young girl; her mother, Bonnie Adkinson came for her this evening about 5:30 p.m. They came in here to visit with me. Our TV has a "W" warning on the screen, it says severe thunder showers are in our location. I hate them. I went to Donna's living room to visit with Donna and the Adkinsons for a while. They ate dinner with Marshes. I was too full to eat anything; however, Donna brought a tray to me. I ate a little, but very little of the nice dinner. Rex brought me some Pepto Bismol and some Tums. He also brought me some cashew nuts. I paid him for them. Donna and I watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.



*Elder Rick Shattuck on the right with his companion in Australia.*

### June 23, Friday

We have a warm day, I'm glad to keep cool in the house. The thunder storm we expected last night didn't show up in this part of Kansas and that's okay with me! The sky is cloudy and there is a "W" weather warning on our TV screen so we may get some rough weather later today. Donna Story came this morning to do her Relief Society visiting teaching and to rehearse with Donna Marsh. Today's mail brought a nice, long letter from Lydia Paul. The circulation in her right hand and arm is bad; no feeling in it most of the time. She writes a fun letter, in spite of her aches and pains. Of course, I haven't room to record it all, but Donna and I do enjoy reading her humorous epistles. Donna brought me some Lima beans and ham this evening before she and Rex went out to do some branch visiting. I went to bed after hearing the ten o'clock news report. Good night all.

### June 24, Saturday

Donna left some food on a TV tray and later Rex brought some milk for the dry cereal. She left a note saying she'd be home after 2 p.m. So, I was surprised when she came soon after 1 p.m. She had been to a meeting in Paola, I think. Donna brought a large plastic jar of caramel corn. Oh, it is good. I love the caramel popcorn, in fact, any kind of popcorn. It was Topeka, not Paola, where Donna went to shop this morning. She came in and showed me the things she bought for her trip in July and part of June (a bathing suit, robe, cap, slippers, stockings, and etcetera). She is excited about her vacation. I hope it will be wonderful for all. Donna brought a letter from Kathy and Mark and one from **Rick Shattuck from his mission in Australia**. She read them to me. They are busy, happy people. Rex went out this evening; he looked really nice in his new, brown outfit. I think he had a special meeting of some kind. I can't recall all they tell me. Donna came in here and sewed the hem up in her new dress. Well, it is my bed time, so good night!

### June 25, Sunday

We have a pretty Sabbath morning. A nice breeze is blowing in the trees. It looks to me like they are having a friendly conversation, nodding their approval to what is going on in the neighborhood. Rex and Donna left early for church activities. She left a TV tray with food on for me (sandwiches, applesauce, Jello drink, plus caramel popcorn). This old pen can't write or spell very well. ☺ I presume it is hot outside, but I manage to keep cool in my nice, little house. Marshes went to a wedding this afternoon; the bride is a daughter of a woman who works with Rex at the Manor Nursing Home. I stretched out on my bed for an hour or so. My stomach felt upset. I got up at 6 p.m. and ate a little food Donna brought to me. I am feeling better. The TV wasn't working well tonight,

so Donna came in and read to me from her book, "The Coming of the Lord." I surely enjoyed her reading. I do get tired of the TV programs. Good night!

### June 26, Monday

Donna left early this morning. She put some lunch on a TV tray for me. I watched television stories while eating my lunch. We have an angry looking sky. The news report said there is a thunder storm headed our way. I surely hope that Rex and Donna will make it home safely before the storm breaks. Rex just came in; he isn't with Donna. He said it was raining hard in Ottawa. I surely hope this thunder storm will by-pass us. Rex said Donna went to Kansas City with Donna Story to shop. Rex went outside to work in the yard at 5 p.m. I enjoyed some nice records on my Magnavox player. Donna got her costume in Independence, from the pageant costume company. I am ashamed of the mistakes I keep making in this little, old diary, but I've been keeping a daily record for going on 50 years. I am 85½ years old, so excuse me please. Good night.

### June 27 Tuesday

Donna went to Relief Society this morning; it is homemaking day. She'll have lunch there in Paola.

*My teeth are clean and white;*

*They soaked in Efferdent all night.*

*My lunch I found on a TV tray.*

*I always do when Donna goes away. ☺*

*I stayed in bed until noon to shorten the hours.*

*Our sky is cloudy; we may have thunder showers.*

*Okay, I'll weather them through somehow.*

*I always do manage to.*

*It is now 4:10 p.m. and the sky is clear.*

*The sun is shining to bring us cheer.*

*Donna read from her book, "The Coming of the Lord."*

*I love to listen to her read His word.*

*Later she cleaned my bathroom and noticed there*

*In my waste paper box, A lot of silver hair.*

*Yep, I cut it off; it was too long.*

*I hope I wasn't wrong; my scissors were handy; I saw them there*

*And clip clip, off came my silver hair.*

*Well, it looks the same when it is dressed,*

*So, the cutting job was all for the best.*

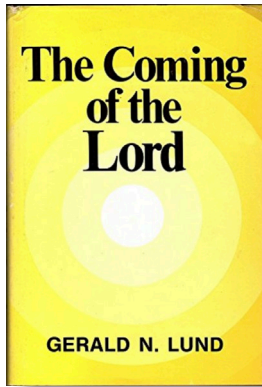
*For this day enough has been said,*

*I'm weary now and I'm going to bed.*

Good night.

### June 28, Wednesday

We have a cloudy day. Donna went to have a permanent wave this morning. I hope she'll be very happy with it. I had one last November 9, it cost \$12.50. I presume they cost a lot more now? The phone rang a short time ago, but they hung up before I could answer it, I'm sorry, but I can't run fast like Rex and Donna do when they are in here and it rings. Donna came home about 1:30 p.m. She looked pretty with her nice hair dress; she brought a TV tray to me with sandwiches, fruit, and a hot drink. I enjoyed eating with her in here.



Later she came in and read from her book, "The Coming of the Lord," by Gerald N. Lund. It was very interesting; I surely do enjoy hearing her read to me. This afternoon is bright and sunny; a little breeze is blowing in the trees. I listened to some lovely records played on my Magnavox player. I turned the TV on later this evening. Donna and Rex came home about 10:20 p.m. I'm glad they are home. She is excited about her trip to Nauvoo, Illinois, in the morning.

### June 29, Thursday

Donna looked pretty when she came in to kiss me good bye this morning about seven o'clock.

She was about to leave for her trip to Nauvoo, Illinois. She is coming home on Saturday evening. It will be lonesome without her, but Rex will be home part of the time and he is very good to look after my needs. I surely hope Donna will have a wonderful time. I wish I was well enough to be with her, but at 85½ years of age. I'm fortunate to get around as well as I do. I think Donna went in a bus with the other Relief Society sisters. I presume Rex took her to the bus. It is hot again today, but I manage to keep my cool. Rex



Bob Crane in "Hogan's Heroes."

put the air conditioner on this evening and it cooled the house off nicely. I was thankful for that blessing. Rex baked a couple of TV dinners for us this evening; chicken for me, and something else for him. I didn't ask what it was. I ate half of my dinner; I never can eat all of it. He left some of his dinner, too. Tonight's news report said **Bob Crane** was murdered this afternoon in Arizona. I didn't get the details. He was a fine actor. What is going on in our world? I know for sure this old gal is weary of it all. Good night.

### June 30, Friday

I hope Donna is enjoying her vacation in Nauvoo, Illinois; we expect her home tomorrow. Rex left a TV tray with food on for me, bless his heart. He takes good care of me. He put the cooler on when he came home this afternoon, so it is pleasant in here now at 4 p.m. Dorothy Tibbets came over this afternoon and brought me a lovely gladiola flower; it is yellow, and a very large blossom. Wasn't that nice and thoughtful of her? I have had some distress in my left shoulder blade and my heart region at times today. At my age, 85½, I presume one may expect some problems, eh? I have the pleasure of listening to lovely music played on my Magnavox player. I listened to TV's "Hogan's Heroes." It was strange to realize that the star, Bob Crane, was murdered yesterday. Rex went to the Manor Nursing Home tonight to take care of the floors while the people are out of the halls. Good night.

### July 1, Saturday

July is here again, I didn't think I'd make it, but here I am. Rex brought me a sandwich and some Postum to drink. He has taken very good care of me while Donna has been away in Nauvoo, Illinois, for a few days. Rex has gone to pick her up in Overbrook. It is now five past 1 p.m. It is going to be another hot day, but I manage to keep cool in the house. There is a nice breeze in the trees. I can see the lovely, green branches nodding as if they are having a friendly chat. It is now five o'clock. I expected Donna would be here by 2 or 3 p.m. It has been a long lonesome day for me! But I should be used to it by now. I've been homesick so many times here in Kansas, but cheer up old dear, your "Happy Day" will come. I am blessed with my dear children here and they are very thoughtful of my needs. It was after 7 p.m. before Rex and Donna came home. I was getting nervous, but they were late because Donna's suitcase was sent on the wrong bus and they spent a lot of time trying to locate it. I'm listening to TV and trying to write in my diary at the same time. I surely mix up my thoughts and my writing! It is time to go to bed. Good night.



### July 2, Sunday

I rested fairly good last night; Donna had to use my comb and brush this morning as hers is in her lost suit case in some other city. I wonder why these big buses can't take better care of people's luggage? They cause a lot of trouble for folks by mixing up their luggage that way. I hope Donna will locate her suitcase soon. She left a tray of food for me before she and Rex went to Sunday School and sacrament meeting this morning. I got up at noon; it was about 1:30 p.m. before I ate my lunch. I made my bed, dressed my hair, and said my prayer before eating. It's going to be another hot July day. **Donna came in this afternoon and told me about her trip to Nauvoo.** It was very interesting, almost like being there with her. Joan and Mary phoned tonight from Joan's home. They are having a happy vacation together. Good night.



*Above are President Spencer Kimball and wife Camilla on June 29, 1978. Sister Kimball dressed in period costume on the occasion of the dedication of the Relief Society Monument to Women in Nauvoo, Illinois. Donna traveled to Nauvoo to attend the dedication of the Monument to Women Memorial Garden. On the first day she was one of the 2,500 women who visited the gardens.*

### Monument to Women Memorial Garden

Monument to Women Memorial Garden is a statuary monument in Nauvoo, Illinois, owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The monument is a two-acre garden with twelve statues depicting traditional women's roles....

Dedicatory services started on June 27, 1978, the anniversary of the death of Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum Smith. Nearly 7,200 Latter-day Saint women gathered on this date to attend the services. News reporters covered the services and interviewed the sculptors and church leaders. The services started with remarks by President Kimball and President Smith at an invitation-only dinner banquet. Banquet guests toured the garden and attended a performance of "Because of Elizabeth."

Spencer W. Kimball dedicated the monument in ceremonies on June 28–30. On the first day of these ceremonies, around 2,500 women attended the dedicatory services in a large, yellow-striped tent. Kimball addressed these women and offered a dedicatory prayer. Bethine C. Church read a letter from United States first lady Rosalynn Carter. On the second day of dedication, Bruce R. McConkie spoke on receiving revelation and having faith. Ezra Taft Benson encouraged «the elect women of the kingdom of God» to be «wives and mothers of Zion.» Janath R. Cannon compared the memorial gardens to the Garden of Eden and the Garden of Gethsemane, and Marian R. Boyer praised the monuments two sculptors.

—Wikipedia

### July 3, Monday

We have another hot day, but the house keeps fairly cool and I stay in the house. ☺ Donna went to Overbrook this morning to make the house payment and bring me back \$40.00 from my Social Security check. Donna brought a nice letter from Marty and Wayne Strong for me to read. They have their problems, too, but for the most part, things have worked out well for them and their children. Donna read to me from her little book, "Emma Smith Tells Her Own Story," as seen by Erwin E. Wirkus. Later, Donna went with Rex to get their car from the work shop. Tonight, Donna read again from her book about Emma Smith, in fact, she finished it. I surely enjoyed hearing the heartwarming experiences in her life. It is now 11:45 p.m., almost midnight. This weary, old Grama is going to bed. Good night.

### July 4, Tuesday

Happy Holiday! I had a very restless night; I couldn't get to sleep until after daylight this morning. I haven't felt normal all day, but I put a smile on my face and I was glad I belonged to the human race. We have a very pleasant day, sunny and calm with no wind. Donna brought me a nice lunch at one o'clock. She had a little American flag in the sandwich. It looked so cute stuck in the sandwich. We were relieved when Sr. Snedden phoned to tell Donna she had located Donna's suitcase and her pillow and blanket. She was sending them to Donna's bus station. She is the stake Relief Society president. Isn't it nice to have such wonderful friends? This evening Rex and Donna decided it would be nice to get me out of the house for a drive; so, they came back for me and insisted I go for a drive with them. It was a beautiful evening with such a pretty sunset We drove to the Lone Star Lake and all around the lake. It was a lovely drive. Good night

### July 5, Wednesday

The fireworks are over for another year. I didn't get up until one o'clock today. I was not celebrating all night either like many people did. This weary, old body felt the need of rest. We have a pretty sky with lots of fluffy, white clouds in it; there is a gentle breeze blowing in the trees. Donna is busy typing letters; she is writing to Violet for me, bless her heart. My shoulder blades pain when I write. It is pleasant in the house with the cooler on, but I presume it is hot outside. Rex just came home from work; it is 4:20 pm. This evening they went to a correlation meeting. Donna left some food on a tray for me. I enjoyed my Magnavox recorded music and later the television. I am glad that Donna got her suitcase and blanket back all right. Good night.

### July 6, Thursday

I had a good night's rest and we are enjoying a very nice day. Our television screen has a "W" warning of bad thunder weather in the Overbrook location, but so far it is calm here at 4 p.m. I surely hope it will by-pass us. Donna came in and she read to me from the Ensign magazine until Rex came home at 5 p.m. Our weather is still calm, no wind, however, the sky is stormy looking so we may get some rain and we do need it, too. Donna brought me a glass of cold lemonade, Mm good! Rex went to bed soon after nine o'clock tonight. Donna and I watched television until 10:30 p.m. It is warm again tonight; I hope we will sleep well. Good night!

### July 7, Friday

My night was a bit restless, too warm for comfort. I got up at noon and ate the nice lunch Donna brought to me. We have a hazy day; the sun is playing "Peek a Boo" with the clouds. I watched the television stories; they help me to forget my own problems. ☺ Kansas weather is a

new experience for me. Utah and California are cooler at night time. But we are here in the hot place. Donna vacuum cleaned her house today. She says she'll do mine tomorrow. This evening, Donna read to me from her Ensign magazine. I surely enjoy her reading to me. I turned the TV on to listen to the 10 p.m. news. Donna went to bed at ten o'clock. Good night.

### July 8, Saturday

We have a pleasant day, a bit too warm for comfort. Donna and Rex both worked in the yard this morning. She was digging up weeds, he was cutting them down with his tractor. I stayed in bed until noon; I'm not feeling very well today. I ate the nice lunch Donna brought to me; she is very thoughtful of my needs. I wish I wasn't a care for her to worry about, but I am. I want so very much to be released from my tired, old body, but wishing doesn't make it so. Rex had some business to take care of this afternoon. Donna rode to the mailbox with him and she walked back home. There were no letters, just a couple of bills. (There are always bills to pay.) Donna read to me from her book "The Coming of the Lord." I do enjoy listening to her read from our church books. I dozed in my chair this evening while she prepared our dinner. It is almost time for "The Lawrence Welk Show." I always enjoy that lovely program from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; it is my favorite. This evening, Donna got on the tractor and had fun mowing the weeds in our yard. Good night.

### July 9, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ Donna left some food for me on a TV tray before she and Rex left for Sunday School and church meetings. I got up at noon; we have a cloudy day so far, but warm. I ate my lunch and wrote in my diary book. Donna and Rex came home about 3 p.m. tired and hungry. They ate their dinner. A big wasp gave me some trouble until I gave him a big swat when he lit on the south window. I flushed him down the toilet. I relaxed on my bed for a while this afternoon. Donna took a nap, too. She and Rex went to a fireside this evening in the stake center. They took Judy White and her two children with them. I think one of the Osmond brothers was going to be at the fireside tonight. Donna brought a roast beef sandwich and drink of hot Jello to me before they left here about 6 p.m. I'm going to bed now, it is 10:45 p.m. Rex and Donna are not home yet. They did come home before I got to sleep. Donna came in and told me about the lovely fireside meeting. Mrs. Osmond was one of the speakers. Donna said she gave a wonderful talk and testimony of her faith in the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. I wish I could have heard her testimony; I'm sure she is a lovely person. Good night!

*Poor little old L.V., now past 85,  
Why, oh why am I still alive?  
I long to be with my loved ones who  
have gone on before,  
But my Father in Heaven's wishes, I  
must not ignore.  
He'll let me know when it's time to go,  
Oh, that will be a happy day,  
I will try to be cheerful here, While I  
stay. [Poem from July 7.]*



### July 10, Monday

I slept fairly well last night. We have a cloudy sky, but no rain so far; it is 4 p.m. now. Donna brought a lunch to me at noon time. I ate and enjoyed my lunch and the television stories, too. Donna watered her garden and walked to the mailbox. I gave myself a nice sponge bath before getting dressed this morning. I felt too weak to dress my hair, so I relaxed in my swivel chair for a while before I did the hair job. I think it is a little cooler today; it is pleasant in the house anyway. Our news report this evening says that John D. Rockefeller the 3rd was killed in an accident this afternoon. They didn't have the details. The three of us watched television tonight; "The Mary Tyler Moore" comedy and the news report. It is cooler tonight, I'm thankful for that. Good night.

### July 11, Tuesday

We have another cloudy, warm day. Donna left a TV tray with food on for my lunch. She went to Relief Society meeting this morning. I got up about 11:45, cleansed my face and combed my hair, made my bed and said my prayer. I ate my lunch and watched the television stories. Rex and Donna came home about 4:40 p.m. He started the cooler and it helped to make it more comfortable in my place. We had a severe thunder storm this evening. I was with Donna and Rex in their place. Oh, I hate such loud thunder storms and wind. The downpour was needed, but why is Mother Nature so mad here in Kansas? Well, the noisy thunder storm did pass and all is well. Donna came in and read to me until bed time. I'm very thankful for my sweet daughter.



Sanford "Sandy" Gardner fall of 1978.  
Sandy's birthday is July 14.

### July 12, Wednesday

We had a peaceful night's rest. Donna went to town this morning; she left a note to tell me she took my checkbook to buy some things for me to wear on the trip. She thought she'd be home by two o'clock. She left some food on a TV tray for my lunch. We have a cloudy sky. Donna came home about 3 p.m.; she had really been busy shopping. She had bought several nice things for me; a lovely night gown and robe, a slack suit, some Scope, Pepto-Bismol, and etcetera. All of it cost about \$75.00. Mary and the children arrived about four o'clock. Her baby is adorable; he has grown a lot and is so sweet. They were all hot and tired. Julie, Brian, and the baby are the only ones that came with Mary this trip. I visited with the Marshes and Tibbetses this evening until bedtime. Good night.

### July 13, Thursday

Julie was up and out of my bedroom soon after eight o'clock; she slept in my extra twin bed. I stayed in bed until noon. We had a little rain, but it didn't last long. Mary went house hunting this morning but didn't find anything. (Better luck next time.) Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. The sun came out this afternoon about 4 p.m. Donna and Mary

went to pick Rex up in Mary's car, I think. Donna invited me to go, but I didn't feel like making the effort. (My get up and go got up and went.) Julie is in the house; she's very quiet drawing pictures, I presume. She is artistic. The family came home with Rex at 4:30 p.m. I can hear some activity now. ☺ I was happy to find my black Paper Mate pen this afternoon. It was in the hem of my robe. ☺ Donna cooked a lovely dinner for the family. They invited me to eat with them, but I felt too weak so Donna brought a TV tray to me, bless her heart. I visited with Mary and Donna in Marshes' kitchen this evening. Donna's new seersucker dress looks pretty on her. Mary helped her make it. I'm sure they had fun doing it. Mary finished Jon's knicker shorts to wear on the camping trip. Good night.

### July 14, Friday

Mary, Julie, and baby Chris left this morning for "Home Sweet Home" in Weeping Water, Nebraska. Mary left little Brian here, with Grama Donna (and me). ☺ I was surprised they left early without coming in here. I had some money and gum out for them to take with them. Sorry about that. Mary phoned from her home later to let Donna know they arrived home safely and had a pleasant trip. Donna and Brian had a nap this afternoon. I listened to television and dozed in my chair. I tried on my new night gown and robe. The robe is about four inches too long. Donna is going to turn up the hem for me. What would I do without her? Little Brian is a live wire, he keeps his Grama Donna on the go. P.S. Happy birthday to Sandy Gardner. Good night.



### July 15, Saturday

Mary phoned to tell Donna that Jon will not come here as planned today, but he'll be here tomorrow sometime. So, she'll take little Brian to Sunday School with her in the morning. "Ain't we got fun?" He is about 2½ years old, I presume. I do not go to church; it is too far away for me and President Marsh is always the last one to leave the place, so I'm better off here at home. We have a lovely, sunny day; I presume it is warm outside. With the cooler going in the hallway, it is cool in the house, almost too cool for old L.V. so, I closed my door. I enjoyed my favorite television program this evening at six o'clock ("The Lawrence Welk Show"). Donna and little Brian came in and listened with me. Later, Rex came to hear the 10 p.m. news report. We went to our beds after the news report. Good night.

### July 16, Sunday

Donna and Rex took little Brian Tibbets to Sunday School with them today. We have a nice Sabbath day. I got up about noon time and put my little house and myself in order. I ate the lunch Donna left for me on a TV tray, and I played some

lovely music by the Tabernacle Choir from Salt Lake City, while living through some happy memories. The family came home about 3:45 p.m. We have some activity going now, plus the cooler is going. Jon Tibbets arrived this evening with the pickup truck loaded with his belongings. He had Spencer with him. It was cute to see how happy Spencer and little brother Brian were to see each other. Rex and Jon unloaded the truck. Donna prepared a nice dinner. I was invited to eat with them, but I wasn't feeling very well, so I declined. Donna brought some food on a tray to me. The Tibbetses left the farm for home about 9 p.m. They arrived home in Weeping Water, Nebraska, about one o'clock Monday morning. P.S. Happy birthday to Bonnie Jean Reynolds. Good night.

### July 17, Monday

We enjoyed a calm, pleasant night's rest. I stayed in bed until noon time. It was very quiet with the children gone. I'm not a sound sleeper anymore, but I am thankful to be free from pain. Many dear, old people my age (85½) are crippled and in pain. So, I count my many blessings. Donna vacuumed her rugs and mine today. She is precious, and plans for the summer vacation have her busy now. I feel confused with all of it. ☹️ I want to be released from this tired, old body and join the happy spirits that have gone on before me. Rex and Donna should have this dear, little home to themselves, to go and come at will, without being concerned about me. It has been another hot July day. I got interested in a movie with James Cagney and Barbara Stanwick, "These Wilder Years." It was a two hours show and it kept me up late. Good night.

### July 18, Tuesday

I got up at noon to another warm day. Donna brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray. I ate, while listening to the television stories. Today's mail brought a letter from Violet. She isn't feeling well. I am concerned about her; however, she still has her cute sense of humor and writes a "fun to read" letter. They are having a parade in Cedar City on July 24, and they asked Otto to be the Grand Marshal and sit on the leading float. Donna came in this evening and said she was going to bed in the basement. It was only 8:30 p.m. I turned off the TV set about nine o'clock. Good night.

### July 19, Wednesday

I rested fairly well last night. We had some thunder, but very little rain. Today has been hazy sunshine. I got up at noon and ate the lunch Donna brought to me. This afternoon, Donna shampooed my hair and combed it. She started to put it up in curlers, but a lady came from the garage, I think? I managed to finish the pin curl job. My swivel chair really felt good after the hair job. I can hear Dorothy Tibbets talking to Donna in the kitchen. They have a lot to talk about; they share the Tibbetses grandchildren. It is 4:30 p.m.;

Rex just came home. I listened to recordings on my Magnavox player this afternoon. This evening, Rex and Donna went to Mutual. I had the television on. It is very warm again tonight and I am weary. P.S. Happy birthday to Lydia Paul.

### July 20, Thursday

We have another hot July day. I got up at noon time. I took the pin curls out of my hair and wow! What a curly head of hair. I did the best I could to comb through the tangled mess. I ate the nice lunch that Donna brought to me on a TV tray. Later, she brought the big genealogy chart she had made to show her grandchildren their relationship from Jacob Strong, James T. Strong, Mary E. Strong Bailey, Elvie B. Renshaw, and Donna Renshaw Marsh. I am indeed proud of my heritage, a wonderful birthright. Good night.

### July 21, Friday

It's another hot day. I took a bath at noon when I got up. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray. Later, she came in and packed my suitcase for the trip tomorrow. Rex is anxious to get an early start, 5 a.m. It is too bad they must be burdened with me. I am sorry about that! But, that's how it is. I changed the things I had in my black purse to the light handbag I am taking with me on the trip. Rex has decided he wants to leave here at midnight, so I went to bed about eight o'clock, but my old brain was on fire with crazy thoughts about the trip. I just couldn't go to sleep. Oh, for the happy days of childhood when we could drop off to the wonderful Slumberland dreams. I got up about 11 p.m. and cut and filed my finger nails and watched the clock. Oh, it surely moves slow this time of the night, 11:40 p.m. I presume we'll be on our way to Denver in about 20 minutes. Rex isn't up yet? And it is 12:15 midnight. Here I am sitting in my chair. It isn't fun to play the waiting game at my age. ☹️ Good night.

### July 22, Saturday

We are on our way to St George, Utah from Overbrook, Kansas. It is a three days drive with two nights in motels on the way. I will not record this trip; I'm not taking my diary book along. It's vacation time. P.S. I had the joy of seeing my sister Violet twice. She looked so pretty. I wish she felt as well as she looks.

### July 23—26, Sunday— Wednesday

Vacation time, no record keeping. My vacation from record keeping!

### July 27, Thursday

I have Beverly Andersen in my thoughts today. It is her birthday anniversary. I think of Beverly and her parents a lot.

### July 28, Friday

I'm on vacation; no diary records for a while. Ain't we got fun?

### The Marsh Family Vacation to Lake Powell

Earlier in 1978 Elvie mentioned that the family had summer plans that she was not thrilled about. We believe she was talking about this vacation.

John went with Ann's family to Lake Powell in April of 1973. They loved it and John wanted to share this kind of vacation with his family. Since 1973 John had talked up getting together as a family for a houseboat trip to Lake Powell. After five years of talking it finally happened.

Being on a houseboat would have been too hard on Elvie so she stayed with Florence and Ernie Oates in St. George. When the family returned we had a birthday party in a park for Rex. The following pages are photographs that Kathy took and made a scrapbook for each family. Elvie may not have enjoyed the vacation but most of the family members loved it. Some loved it enough to return many times for the same fun.



# Lake Powell EXTRAVAGANZA!!!



Captain (Rex) Marsh



The following pages (with blue background) are copied from a scrapbook Kathy Calkins made in 1978.



Captain Newlywed (John L. Marsh)



*Brian and Grama Donna in the mess hall.*



*Mary holding Chris and a book next to Jonathan.*



*John and Ann, the instigators of the family vacation to Lake Powell.*



*Grampa Rex "At Ease."*

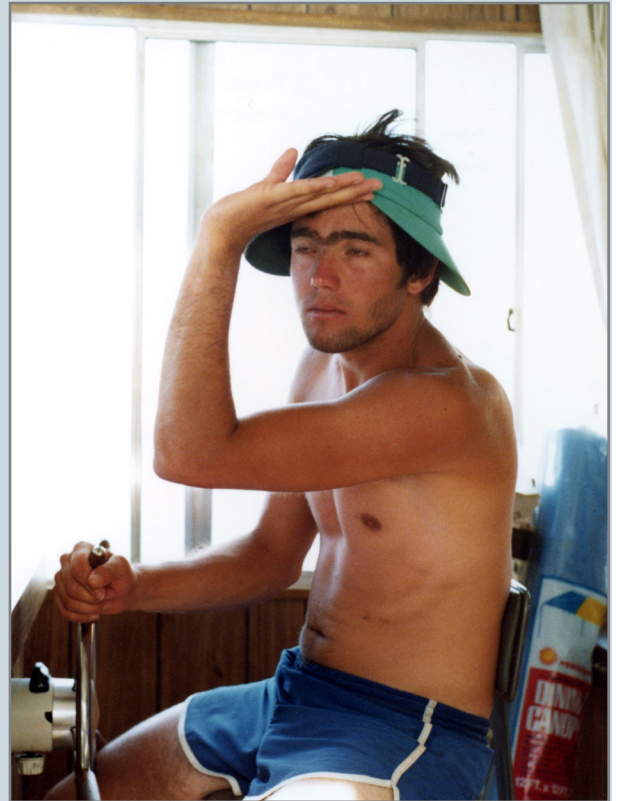


*Janet holding Chris. Shattucks' boat in background.*



*Joan, Mo, and Janet Gardner*

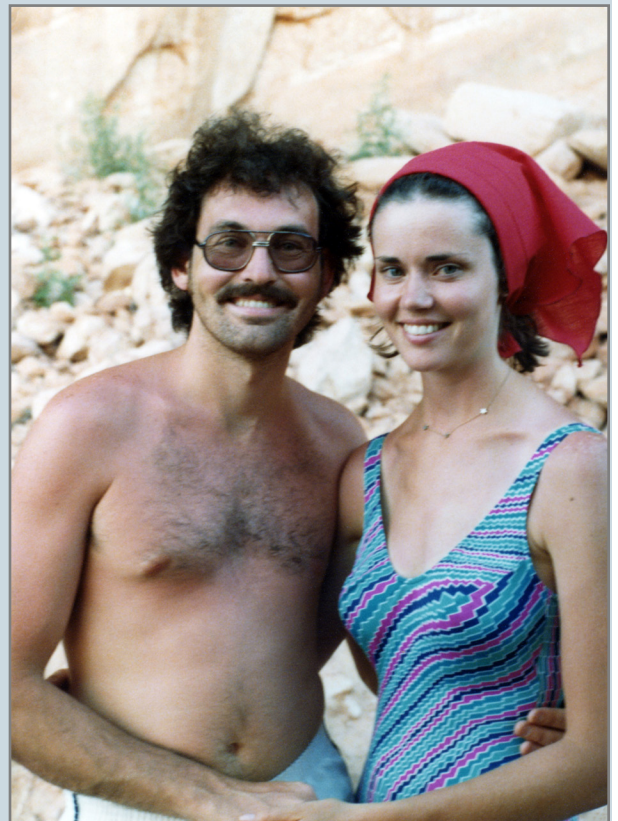
Our family reunion was held the week of July 24th in 1978. Mother and Dad drove from Overbrook, Kansas. Grama Elvie came along as far as St. George, Utah. Grama preferred dining out and dancing to water skiing. The Shattucks came from their home in San Jose, California. The Gardners drove their van from Naperville, Illinois. The Tibbetses came from Weeping Water, Nebraska. John and Ann left their home and pool in Azusa, California. Mark and Kathy drove from Santa Clara, California.



*Captain Courageous (Mark Shattuck).*



*David Shattuck and his boat that we called "the orange float."*



*Mark and Kathy Calkins*



*Sherm midair with Mark Shattuck starting to jump.*

## **COWABUNGA!**



*Mark Calkins and Mark Shattuck, "Now for our exclusive interview."*



*Julie, Emily, Joel, and part of Spencer*



*Spencer, Paula, and Emily play in the sand.*



*Jody Tibbets learning to water ski, made easy.*



*Brian and Julie watching Jon and Mo set up the tent.*



*Mark Calkins kayaking with Sandy, Jody, Marshall and Greg in the water.*



*Captain Greg Tibbets*

Here are some of the activities that all or part of us got involved in:

- Learning to water ski
- Water skiing
- Floating
- Motor boating
- Swimming
- Relaxing
- Cliff jumping
- Flower collecting
- Home evening
- C.B.-ing
- Sunning
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Laughing
- Conversation
- Sightseeing
- Sand Castle making
- Rock rolling
- Watching rock rollers
- Eating
- Kayak maneuvering



*Sitting in front,  
Spencer, Brian,  
and Sandy. Bottom  
row of the tower,  
Doug, Sherm, and  
Mark. Next row,  
Marshall and  
Greg. Jody on top.*



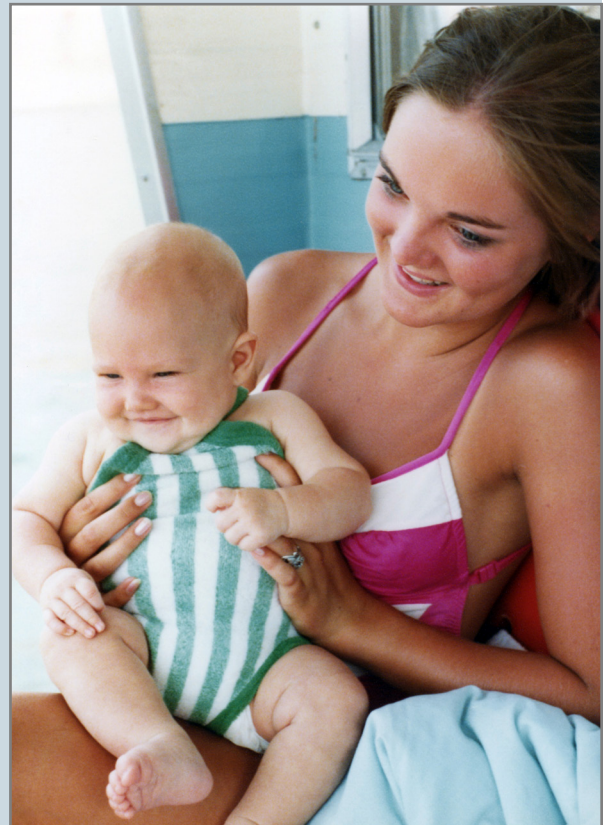
*Spencer and Paula  
on the left*



*Five darling girls,  
Paula, Emily,  
Janet, Donna,  
and Julie. Posed  
by Aunt Kathy.*



*Donna holding  
Christopher on  
right.*





*Brian Tibbets*



*Kathy, Spencer, Doug, and Julie*



*Spencer, Emily, Kathy, Julie, Janet with Doug and Janet sitting in front.*





*Emily, Jody, Sandy, Paula, and Spencer on the front of the boat. Joan, David, and Janet are inside the boat.*



*Mark Shattuck*



*John, Joan, Mo, Marshall, and Jon relax.*

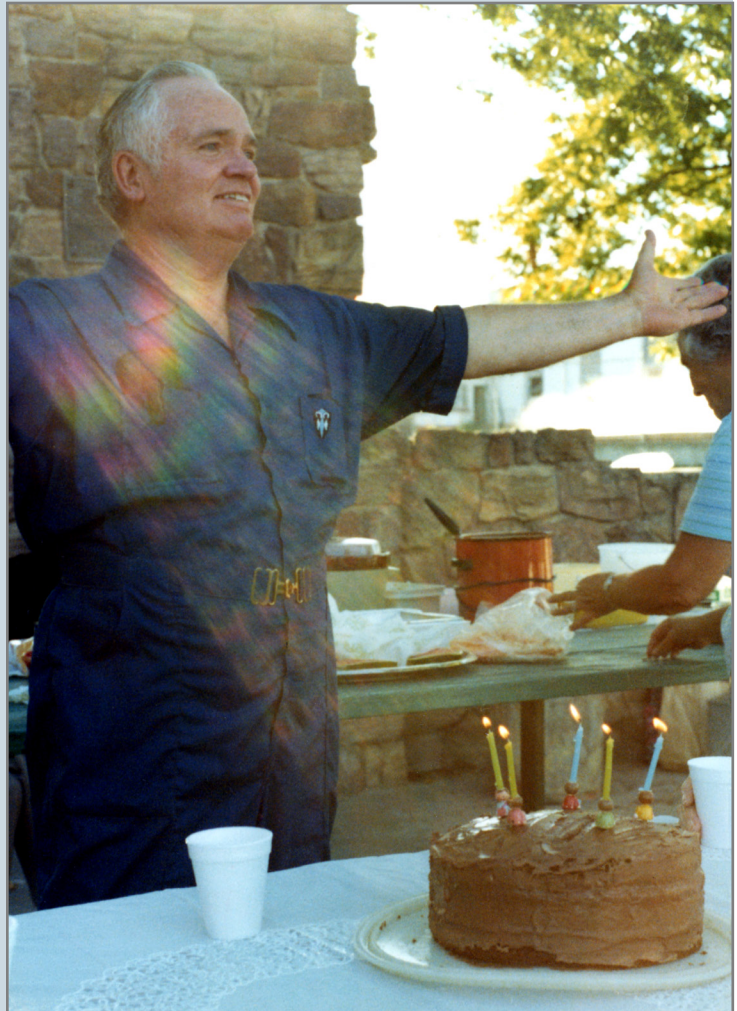


*This mask was purchased at a stop in Barstow by the Shattucks. Mark Shattuck wore it on the trip intermittently as he popped his head out of the top of the camper. It caused an uproar among the caravan (John and Ann in their car, David in the camper, Janet in her car, Mark and Kathy in their car). He also got some startled looks from passing motorists. Above Sherm turned into the wounded man and Julie caught him with a rope.*



*Donna holding Christopher with Marshall and Julie behind.*

The reunion was carefully planned to include the birthday of our patriarch, President Rex Marsh! We had a grand celebration. None of the trimming were spared (crepe paper streamers, cake, games, sparklers, songs, and presents). In all it was a delight.



*Even the sun sent it's good wishes to Rex!*

### **July 29, Saturday**

Today is Rex's birthday anniversary. We celebrated in the St. George Park, in Utah. Several old friends live there now. We had a happy reunion in Florence and Ernest Oates's home and we met some dear, old friends in the park this afternoon, Melba and Fay Kunz, Venda and John Berkelson, Erma and Grant Carlson, Myrtle and Ed Robinson, and others. I gave Rex a birthday card with \$20.00 enclosed. P.S. It was indeed a special joy to see my own beloved grandchildren today. John and Ann, David and Janet, Kathy and Mark. We missed Joan and Mo, and Mary and John, but Sherm and Marshall were there. I get confused, please excuse if I've got things mixed up.



*Aunt Ruth cuts up the watermelon.*



*Elvie Renshaw in the Oateses' home.*



*Aunt Florence, Uncle Ernie, Elvie, and Janet, in the background part of Donna Marsh, Lewis, unknown, part of Donna Shattuck.*



*David Shattuck with his maternal grandparents, Hazel and James Spendlove.*



*Lewie and Rex Marsh, unknown lady, and Ernie Oates.*



*The original "Marsh kids" Ruth, Rex, Florence, and Lewis.*



*Aunt Ruth and the strange old man (Sherm).*



*Standing: Kathy, Janet, Mark, Donna, John, Sherm, and Rex. In front Ann, Donna, Elvie, and Mark. The Shattucks' camper is on the right in back.*



*Elvie's grandchildren and great grandchildren find fun on the seesaws.*



*Faye and Melba Kunz and Elvie Renshaw*



*Four generations Donna, Janet, Donna, and Elvie.*



*John Berkelson, Rex Marsh, Venda Berkelson, Donna Marsh, Erma Carlson, Faye Kunz, Elvie Renshaw, Melba Kunz, unknown*



*Bill Green, Florence Oates, four unknown, Lewie Marsh, unknown*



*Strong men, Mark Calkins, John Marsh, Mark Shattuck, and Sherm Gardner.*



*Rex Marsh and his Uncle Bill Green chat.*



*Rex and Donna Marsh, Ernie and Florence Oates, Ruth Deal, Lewie and Miriam Marsh*



*Julie, Spencer, Emily, and Paula on the houseboat.*



This page concludes the scrapbooks that Kathy Calkins made for each of her siblings and her parents. The last page was finished on September 4, 1978 on Labor Day. It was a labor of love and thankfully it documents the week vacation since Elvie didn't attend. She was ready to graduate, not to work hard at her diary.



*Kathy Kayaks, Janet puts suntan lotion on Doug.*



*Mark Calkins climbs aboard.*



*Kathy Calkins put this photo at the end of each book.*

### July 30, Sunday

I went to Sunday School with the family in St. George. I rested this afternoon while the Oateses and Marshes went to sacrament meeting. I'm weary from the long hours of driving in the car; I should say riding, not driving.

### July 31, Monday

We are on our way home to Overbrook, Kansas. It is a three day's trip with two nights in motels. This poor, old 85½ year old gal really gets weary and confused with all of this daytime traveling. I'm three days and two nights away from "Home Sweet Home."

### August 1, Tuesday

We are on our way home, tired and weary.



### August 2, Wednesday

We are on our way home to Overbrook, Kansas. I was thankful for the clouds today. It gets so hot when the sun shines on me from the door windows and the back window. Rex stops to get cold drinks for us all and I enjoy that. Correction: We arrived home yesterday. I surely do get myself confused. Donna went to town this afternoon to take care of business, house payment and etcetera. I've been recording from memory and you can see my memory isn't up to par! Sorry about that. Good night.

### August 3, Thursday

I got up about noon time and I do feel better after the nice bed rest Donna brought a nice lunch on a TV tray for me. Donna and Rex took both cars out of the farm this afternoon so they could leave one to be worked on. They came home in the pickup truck. It has been a lonesome day, but I'm used to being alone. Rex came in to watch television this evening. Donna turned up the cuffs of Rex's gray pants this evening. Good night.

### August 4, Friday

The Rex Marshes left here this morning early; she left a note telling me they'd be gone all day. The note said she had made some sandwiches and salad for me and it is in the refrigerator. She also left some fruit and dry cereal on a TV tray for my brunch. Bless her heart, she is very thoughtful of my needs. It has been a long day for me, oh, lonesome me! It is now 10:25 p.m. I went to bed but I couldn't get to sleep until after Rex and Donna came home about one o'clock this morning. The place they went is called "Worlds of Fun." Thirty-five thousand people were there today. Good night.

### August 5, Saturday

I got up about noon time. Rex and Donna had been to the market; she brought a package of **Crunch n' Munch** for me. It is my favorite goodie. (Buttery toffee on popcorn with peanuts.) Mm good! I sure love to crunch and munch it! I think



Rex and Donna are getting the basement apartment ready for Mary and family to move into. I know there is a lot of activity around here. Everyone works around our house but poor old L.V. Being 85½ years old does have compensations, eh? We have a very pretty day with blue sky and fluffy, white clouds and a nice breeze. I should be glad I'm alive, but I'm so anxious to go and let Donna and Rex have their freedom from me. Donna came in here and hemmed up a dress from the box of clothes she brought home. Linda Crowley sent it to Donna. Rex cut the grass in back of the house and in front of it; he was on his tractor. Donna came in my place tonight and read her Spiritual Living Relief Society lesson to me, on "Love." It was indeed a lovely lessons. I do appreciate her reading to me. Good night.

### August 6, Sunday

♪ "Welcome, Welcome, Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ We have a pretty day with blue sky and fluffy white clouds in it. Donna and Rex left early for Sunday School and sacrament meeting. It is fast day today. I got up about 11:35, dressed and combed my hair, made my bed, and said my prayer. Donna left a note saying there is a chicken sandwich and some custard pudding in the refrigerator for me. I enjoyed my lunch about one o'clock. I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player, Mormon Hymns, by the Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir. I do enjoy hearing them. I washed my few dishes and sat in my chair to wait, for what? Did you ever play the waiting game? It's no fun, believe me. Rex and Donna came home about four o'clock, tired, hot, and hungry, but not lonesome; that is my misery. ☹ Pope Paul 6th died this afternoon. This evening Rex and Donna came in my place to hear the ten o'clock TV news. We are all tired and ready for a good night's rest. Sweet dreams.

### August 7, Monday

We have a hazy morning. I got up at noon and ate my lunch that Donna brought to me. I had a miserable spell of blind staggers this afternoon. It slowed me down for a while. Donna wrote a letter to Violet and Otto; she wanted me to write a little note in it and I did. It is Jonathan Tibbets's birthday today. I sent a birthday card to him with a verse and \$5.00 enclosed. Good night.

### August 8, Tuesday

It is another pretty day here in Overbrook, Kansas. I'm surely enjoying the lovely bouquet of yellow and white flowers that Donna brought to me a couple of days ago. They are still fresh looking. I listened to the television stories while eating my lunch about 1 p.m. Donna has been busy all-day typing letters to family members for them to send her their pedigree charts so she can have their lineage line of descent correct for the "Book of Remembrance" record. This late afternoon she and Rex went to town to get



their car that they left in a repair shop. It is another hot day. I'm comfortable in the house. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

### August 9, Wednesday

Donna and Dorothy went to the post office this morning. Donna bought some postage stamps for me; I gave her \$5.00. The new stamps are very pretty with red and yellow roses. They are 15¢ a stamp now! A few years back we could mail a letter with a 3¢ stamp and now it costs 15¢ to mail a letter. Our TV news is about the funeral of Pope Paul the 6th. I got weary of listening to the pomp and ceremony of it on all stations. He was no doubt a good man, but he didn't have the true faith. The Church of Jesus Christ is restored to the earth in our day. I'm so thankful for my membership in the true Church of Jesus Christ! Donna called Aunt Violet this evening and Dolores was there, so she was happy to talk to her about her lineage. She didn't mail the letter she had written to Dody. No need to mail it now she had talked to her. Good night.

### August 10, Thursday

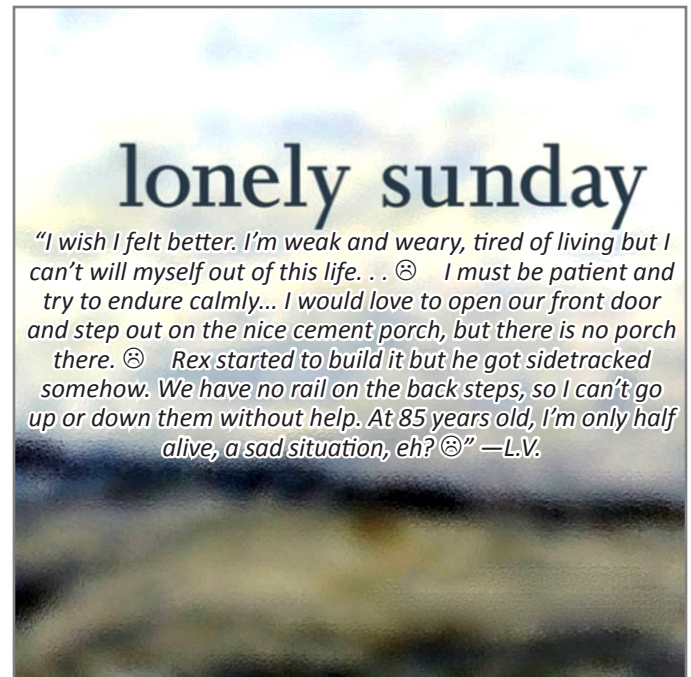
We have a warm, cloudy day. I got up about noon time. Donna brought a nice lunch to me on a TV tray. I ate and listened to the TV stories. Rex and Donna want to have their little, red VW car repaired and cleaned up. They will borrow the money from me and pay it back by the month. I'm glad I can help them financially. I wish I felt better. I'm weak and weary, tired of living but I can't will myself out of this life. ☹ I must be patient and try to endure calmly. Donna is cleaning up the basement apartment for Mary and family to move into. I would love to open our front door and step out on the nice cement porch, but there is no porch there. ☹ Rex started to build it but he got sidetracked somehow. We have no rail on the back steps, so I can't go up or down them without help. At 85 years old, I'm only half alive, a sad situation, eh? ☹ Donna received a nice, long letter from Lydia Paul that she read to me. I enjoyed her Hoglund sense of humor, it was a fun letter to read. Good night.

### August 11, Friday

It's a hazy morning with no sunshine to cheer our feelings. Donna has been busy getting her place ready for the Jon Tibbets family to move into. Dorothy took Guy to the doctor for a chest x-ray. I think Donna said Dorothy was going to have an x-ray, too, but not sure. At this point I'm not sure of anything. I see some pretty flowers growing up among the weeds next door. I believe they are zinnias. They are pretty and colorful. Donna pulled up a lot of the tall weeds so I can see the flowers. I feel weak today; I was glad to flop into my swivel chair after combing my hair, making my bed, and saying my prayer. It is cool and pleasant in the house, but they say it is hot outside. I washed my few dishes and watched TV and dozed in my chair. Jeanne Brooks and her mother and a gentleman friend called on Marshes this afternoon. Donna had me go out to her living room to visit with them. I enjoyed their visit; they are very nice friendly people. It's too bad Rex missed seeing them. They couldn't wait any longer., He came a few minutes after they left. Good night.

### August 12, Saturday

Donna went to an open house in Paola today. She hopes someone will come, time will tell, eh? I know I'll be here, and lonesome as usual. The little invitation read, "Meet the Mormons" at our Open House on Saturday, August 12, 1978 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge. I hope they will have a lot of interested people come to their open house. I listened to lovely music on my Magnavox player, while I ate my lunch that Donna brought to me on a TV tray before they left home. Oh, I wish she didn't have me to worry about. It's too bad, but nevertheless, I'm here so that's it! Sorry to be a burden to anyone. I am thankful for my darling Donna's kind, thoughtful care of my needs. She will be blessed for it, I know. It is now 10:15 p.m. I'm home alone and will be going to bed soon. Good night.



### August 13, Sunday

Donna and Rex left early for Sunday School and church. She left some food on a TV tray for me. Someone with a car and a big camper car pulled in our backyard this morning before noon. I presume it is Dorothy's brother and his wife; she was expecting them. I put myself and my house in order and ate my lunch. We have a very pleasant day so far, but our news report says it will be a hot one. I hope to keep cool in the house. I went to the kitchen and washed a few dishes after my lunch. I was glad to flop into my swivel chair. Oh me, how weak I do feel, ugh! My poor, old shoulder blades ache; it is hard to relax. It's time to count your many blessings, old dear. However, Sunday is longer than any other day for me. I can remember when it went too fast. Dorothy T. brought her brother and his wife over to meet us this evening. His name is Maurice White. I can't recall her first name [*Grace*]. Doug Shattuck and Greg Tibbets arrived tonight about 10:10 p.m. from Weeping Water, Nebraska. They came for Rex's truck to help them move, or maybe it was to bring a load of things here? Confused old L.V. Good night.

### August 14, Monday

We have a cloudy day, but it's hot. Dorothy T.'s brother and wife drove their camper and car away this morning. Doug S. and Greg T. took Rex's truck to Nebraska to help move Mary and Jon Tibbets to the farm. These are busy, exciting days for Donna and Rex. Poor old Grama Elvie is still here on the "waiting list," waiting for what? You name it. Donna brought me a package of Crunch n' Munch popcorn and peanuts, mm good. Our electric power is off; it has been for an hour or more. Our power was off about three hours. Donna cleaned the basement and then she worked upstairs. She had some company coming for dinner this evening so she had a busy day. It was a woman and her son. She works at the nursing home where Rex works. I ate dinner with them and after dinner, Donna played the piano and they sang many old-time songs. I knew all of them and I sang them in my mind. I really enjoyed hearing them sing. Good night. *[Elvie forgot to mention John's birthday on August 4 and now Janet's birthday on the 14th. Remembering dates is getting too hard for her.]*

### August 15, Tuesday

We had an electric shower last night; it rained hard for a few minutes. We have a very nice day. Donna has been busy all day cleaning up in the basement. She is expecting Mary this evening about 5 p.m. I had a miserable spell of blind staggers this afternoon; it lasted longer than usual. Mary and Doug Shattuck and the little ones, Brian and Chris, arrived soon after 5 p.m. They had a truck load of things for the basement. Donna had a nice dinner ready about 6 p.m. I just didn't feel hungry enough to eat with them, but I did go out and sit in the big rocker and enjoyed talking and listening to them talk. Julie phoned from Weeping Water, Nebraska this afternoon to talk to her mother (Mary). She was a bit upset because Papa had told her to clean up the house. Mary told her to do what Papa told her to do. Julie, did you think Mama would tell you to tell Papa you didn't have to do it? We live and learn, Julie dear. Good night.

### August 16, Wednesday

I had a good night's rest for which I'm very thankful. It is a pleasant day, nice and cool in the house anyway. And I stay in the house. Mary T. and Doug S. left early this morning for Weeping Water, Nebraska. Little Brian is here with Grama Donna (and me). Mary had to take little Chris with her because she has to nurse him. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray at noon time. I watched the television stories while eating. Little Brian Tibbets has kept Grama Donna on her toes today. He is a cutie. He loves to visit me, too, as long as I have the little candy jar full. It was about 80 degrees today, not bad. Of course, it is much cooler in the house. Tonight, Donna and little grandson Brian visited me and we listened to television and to Brian. He enjoyed his trips to the candy jar. "The Elvis Presley



*Elvis Presley during his last tour in 1977.*

Story" has had the TV news alive today. *[Elvis died one year ago today on August 16, 1977. Elvie was not a fan and didn't care to have her normal shows preempted with The Elvis Presley Story.]* Rex came home about 10:40 p.m. Good night.

### August 17, Thursday

I got up about noon time and ate the nice lunch that Donna brought me on a TV tray. We have a blue sky with some white fluffy clouds in it. Little Brian Tibbets came in a few times, but his Grama Donna came for him and she kept him in her place for the most part. I listened to President Carter's news conference. It was interesting; he answered all of their questions without any hesitation. It was a special news report. Later, Rex came in to watch TV while he ate his dinner from a TV tray. Mary phoned this evening; she talked to little Brian and he felt a little homesick. Mary said they are packed and ready to move to the farm in Overbrook, Kansas. They'll live in the basement here. Oh, happy days! Good night.

### August 18, Friday

I stayed in bed until 11:30 a.m. Donna kept little Brian out of my rooms so I could relax. He keeps her on her toes for sure. We have another hot day, but I stay in the house and keep cool. Dorothy T. went to the laundromat to do her washing. I enjoyed the nice lunch that Donna brought to me and I watched the television stories. She did some shopping for me while she was out. She got some candy corn, some medication, and etcetera. She also bought me my favorite Crunch 'n Munch (buttery popcorn with toffee and peanuts). It is so good. I kept dozing in my chair so I decided to stretch out on my bed about 4:15 p.m. Rex had to go to a baptism tonight. Donna and little Brian came in to visit me and watch television. Rex came home at 9 p.m. I was shocked to hear that Jerry Warnick died today at the age of 40. The Jon Tibbetses arrived at 11:15 tonight. We had expected them at 9 p.m. so we were relieved when they did come. Doug Shattuck was with them. Oh, happy day. Good night.



*The Carl and Clarice Warnick family's Christmas card, circa 1950. In 1978 their oldest son (circled above) died three days before his 41st birthday. They were dear friends and members of the East Pasadena Ward from long ago. Photo from Family Search.*

## August 19, Saturday

We have a lot of activity around this farm. Today the Jon Tibbets family is moving into the basement apartment. The big U-Haul van was here. I kept out of the way because I couldn't help anyway. (Sorry about that.) Julie T. slept in my extra twin bed last night. She was up early and out to the Marshes' side. I got up and made her bed. I walked around my rooms and then I went back to bed. It will take a few days for Mary and Jon to put their home in order I presume, but they will have it nice before long. Mary found a place to store the furniture they will not need here. Donna took a nap this afternoon; she looked really tired. I dozed in my swivel chair. It's a nice, sunny day, but warm outside, I presume. My place is comfortable. This evening Donna brought a lot of pictures they took when they were at Lake Powell in July for me to see. I was at Florence Oates's home in St George, Utah and Ruth Deal was there, too. Good night. It is our stake conference today. President Rex Marsh and Donna will be away most of today.

## August 20, Sunday

It is our stake conference today. President Rex Marsh and Donna will be away most of today. Mary and her little ones are here in their basement home. Julie slept in my extra twin bed; she got up about 9:30 a.m. Donna left food on a TV tray for me, Rice Krispies, graham crackers, and etcetera. Jon T. and Doug S. have gone to Nebraska to bring another load of their belongings to the farm. We have a nice, clear day and it's cooler, too. I put my house in order (made the two beds). I combed my hair; said my prayer and I'll eat my lunch soon. This long, lonesome day is about over now. It is 8:30 p.m. Donna and Rex came home a short time ago. She fixed dinner for them. Mary has been busy putting her house in order. John L. phoned tonight; he'd been doing some visiting teaching and he said he visited someone who said she had a cousin who lived in Petaluma, California. He asked who it was, and she said, "Donna Marsh." He said "Donna Marsh is my mother!" It was Betty Matthews, Lutie Renshaw's daughter. It's a small world, eh? We are expecting Joan Gardner tomorrow. She and Mo are in a motel in Kansas City tonight. We do have some exciting anticipations, eh? It is bed time. Good night.

## August 21, Monday

Julie was up and out of my extra twin bed about 9:30 a.m. We have a pleasant day; it is cool in my place anyway. I saw Mary's VW bus drive away from the farm. I saw Donna burning trash and watering her little trees. Little Brian was tagging along. Jon T. couldn't locate his best shoes, so he



Melvin Renshaw died August 12, 1978. Elvie is still waiting to graduate.

### John M. Renshaw

John Melvin Renshaw, 84, died August 12, 1978 in a local hospital.

Born March 14, 1894, Star, Wyoming, to John and Sarah Ann Moore Renshaw. Married Margaret Ann Jones, May 21, 1917, Evanston, Wyoming. Mrs. Renshaw died August 30, 1970. High Priest, LDS Church, Veteran World War I.

Survivors: two sons: Jack R., Salt Lake City; Kenneth M., San Mateo, California; 8 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; sister: Lillian Keller, Phoenix, Arizona. Funeral services Wednesday, 11 a.m., Larkin Mortuary, 260 East South Temple, where friends may call Tuesday 6-8 p.m. and Thursday one hour prior to services. Interment: Salt Lake City Cemetery.

wore Rex's to go meet the "Chairman of the Board," Mo Gardner. Joan arrived; I haven't seen her yet. She went to town with Mary in her VW bus. Ain't we got fun? Donna brought a nice lunch to me a tuna sandwich, beans, fruit, chocolate cookie, and a hot drink. I received a letter from Violet. She enclosed a clipping from her paper of the passing of J. Melvin Renshaw. He died August 12. I was really surprised as no one had written from the Renshaw family to tell us about it. Mel was 84 years old. I'm sure he is happy to be with loved ones in the Spirit World. Joan read Violet's letter to me. My eyes water and blur my vision. It was wonderful seeing Joan again. She is a darling girl, so full of life. Donna brought me a package of Crunch n' Munch popcorn and peanuts. Mm good! This evening I went to Marshes' place and Mo showed slides of their mountain camp out, very pretty country. Julie slept in my extra bed again tonight. I said goodbye to Joan and Mo. They'll be leaving here in the morning. Good night.

## August 22, Tuesday

Donna went to Relief Society's work day meeting this morning. She left a note to tell me my lunch was on a plate in the fridge. I got up before noon and put on my robe and slippers. I can hear the activity of the Tibbets children down in their basement home. I put my place and myself in order and ate my lunch while watching the TV stories. We have a hot, hazy day, but it's comfortable in here. I'm glad to stay in the house, out of the heat. Donna came in for a visit; she had baby Chris, he is such a darling babe. Jon Tibbets's sister, Delphia, is visiting Dorothy and Guy Tibbets next door. Donna put the cooler on this afternoon and it

helped a lot to cool me off. Rex found the keys that Donna lost today, on the drive into the farm, so they are happy. This evening she went to Kansas City, Missouri, with him. She left some food on a TV tray for me. She said they may go to a movie after their meeting. So, they'll be late getting home. Well, this is "Your Day," so enjoy it while you may. Time passes quickly you know. So, go ahead and enjoy the show. As for me? Oh, I'll just sit here and munch and doze in my rocking chair and remember the days when I was dancing around without a care. Mary and baby Chris and Julie came in to visit me tonight. Sweet dreams.

## August 23, Wednesday

We have another warm day, but it's cool in the house. Donna just brought me a poster with a nice picture of President Spencer W. Kimball. He will be in Kansas City, Missouri on Saturday, September 2, to speak to the people at the 10-stake fireside. There are 10,000 seats, so, "Bring

a Friend.” Jon’s sister, Delphia, went with Mary and Jon T. to clean up the house in Weeping Water, Nebraska. They want to leave it nice and clean. Donna brought a nice lunch to me at 1 p.m. I watched the TV stories while eating. Later, I played lovely recordings on my Magnavox player. Julie came in a couple of times to visit with me. She enjoyed some of my Crunch n’ Munch popcorn with peanuts and toffee in it. She seemed a little lonesome today; I’m sure she misses her friends. It can be lonesome here in this out-of-the-way-place. School will start soon and then she’ll have lots of friends. Donna brought a nice dinner to me at 6 p.m. She and President Rex Marsh went to Mutual meetings this evening. Donna has charge of the music. I wanted to answer Violet’s letter today, but I didn’t feel well enough, sorry. We had a lot of noisy activity around here for a while; Julie couldn’t calm her bothers very well (Spencer and Brian). Rex and Donna came home about 11 p.m. All was quiet by then. Weary old L.V. is going to bed. Good night.

### August 24, Thursday

It’s warm again today. I was blessed with a good night’s rest. I got up about 11:30 a.m. Donna brought my lunch at 12:45; I ate it and watched the TV stories. Donna has been peeling peaches with Mary in the basement and cooking them in quart bottles in a big pan of boiling water. I went to the kitchen for a cold drink of water and I saw them cooking. It has been very quiet in my place with the family all in the basement. I wrote a letter to Violet this afternoon. This evening we all went to Marshes’ living room to see some slides Rex had and a movie that he had. It was very good. I think it was an LDS movie. We had a program; the Tibbets children sang for us and Julie and Greg played the piano. Donna popped some corn to treat us. The Guy Tibbetses and daughter, Delphia came. It was a happy Home Evening. I came home in time for the ten o’clock news. Good night.

### August 25, Friday

Donna came in about 11 a.m. to tell me that Donna Story was here to do her Relief Society visiting so I got up and dressed and went to Marshes’ side to hear the message. I gave Sr. Story \$1.00 to pay for the Relief Society Book of the Courses of Study, for 1978 and 1979. It’s a nice book with many lovely, colored pictures in it. Little Ruth Story was very active and little Brian Tibbets kept up with her. We kept Julie on her toes running in my place and Donna’s to check on the little ones. This afternoon, about 5 p.m., Donna and Mary and some of the kids drove away to shop in the Overbrook market. They went to the City of Topeka, I presume, to shop for school things for the children. School starts next Monday. They made two trips, one about two and the other just now at five o’clock. Delphia flew by airplane back to her home in Canada. Jon T. took her to the airport. Well, they come and they go,

but I am stationary. Donna vacuumed and dusted my place today. Isn’t she precious? Mary and her children visited with me this evening and enjoyed television and the candy mints that I had Donna bring home today. Good night.

### August 26, Saturday

I slept fairly well last night; we have a cloudy morning. I can hear the activity going on in the basement apartment. The “happy” Jon Tibbets family are living there now. I got up about 11:30 a.m. I felt weak and faint, but after relaxing in my chair a while, I was okay. I hope it will be cooler outside today; it looks cooler. I am comfortable in my house. Donna brought my nice lunch to me at noon time. I’m indeed fortunate to have her for my daughter, but, I do not want to be a burden to her. This afternoon we had a downpour of rain but it didn’t last long. Donna came in and read to me from the church Ensign magazine. I surely do enjoy her reading to me. Jody and Greg brought a big garden spider in a glass jar to show us. Ugh! They took it back to its web because it is very valuable to the farm (they told us), to eat the insects and bugs that eat the vegetables in our gardens. ☺ That’s our nature boys. We all watched television in my place tonight. The light power went off a few times, but not for long. We had a noisy thunder shower, but it passed after a heavy downpour. That’s Kansas weather, I’m getting used to it, also. Good night.

### August 27, Sunday

♪ “Welcome, Welcome, Sabbath Morning.” ♪♪ My family are all in church and I’d love to be there with them, but it is too far to go and too much for this weak, old grandmother to undertake at my time of life, ( 85½ years old). By the time I dress, comb my hair, make my bed, and say my prayer, I’m ready to flop into my chair. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. I enjoyed the new Kellogg’s **Graham Crackos**,



a ready sweetened crunchy cereal; it is really good. I wrote a check for my church donations, \$10.00 to give to President Rex Marsh. I hope I’ve done everything okay. This poor, old brain of mine gets confused at times. In fact, I never was too good with arithmetic problems. Mary and family came home about 2:20 p.m. Donna and Rex will come later. Mary said she was

going to the basement to feed her “starving children.” Rex and Donna came home about 5 p.m. I listened to some lovely records on my Magnavox player (Mormon Hymns). We all watched TV in here tonight; the kids were stretched out on the floor. Good night.

### August 28, Monday

It’s a hazy, lazy, day. I got up at 11:30 a.m. I dressed and made my bed, combed my hair, and said my prayer. Donna brought a roast beef sandwich and some applesauce and hot drink. I enjoyed my good lunch plus the TV stories.

*It is very quiet around our place today.  
I presume the family is away somewhere?  
I think we have a county fair?  
My family may all be there.  
Anyway, I am lonesome, but not feeling blue.  
I can always find something to do.  
I have my lovely records to play  
And music helps to keep the blues away.  
It is 4 p.m. now and the sun is shining bright.  
It may be hot outside, but in the house it's a cool delight.*



Donna was taking a nap on her bed; the phone rang and she got up to answer it. I'm not alone like I said. Our children started school this morning, now, I know why it has been so quiet around the place. I get confused eh? Julie and Greg came in to watch television with me this evening. We saw "Little House on the Prairie." Good night.

### August 29, Tuesday

We have another sunny, warm day. The children went to school. Donna took Brian to the market with her, I think. I'm not sure, but he hasn't been in here. I had Donna buy some jelly beans for my candy jar. The kids finished the mints I had in it. I got up to my lunch at noon; Donna brought it to me on a TV tray. This afternoon, little Brian came in several times to get a jelly bean. It is now 4 p.m. I presume the older kids are home from school; I can hear activity in the Marshes' side. Donna just came in and told me Mary's company had arrived. They are staying overnight (a couple with two children, I think). I wish them all a happy visit. I do get things confused, but I tell it as I see it and at 85½ years of age, I don't always get a clear picture of everything that is going on here. This evening, Donna brought a little chicken pie for my dinner. I ate half of it. Spencer and his little friend used my bathroom, so Donna kept after them to see they were out before she and Rex went to do their church visiting this evening. I have my little place to myself this evening for a change. My family are all busy doing their thing. Tonight, Mary and her friends, the Smiths, visited with me in here until 10:30 p.m. Good night.

### August 30, Wednesday

Mary's friends the Smiths left here this morning before I was up. I didn't rest very well last night because of acid indigestion, but I feel better today. I got up about 10:45 and put my house and myself in order. Then I ate some lunch that Donna brought on a TV tray to me. I ate some dry Graham cracker cereal and some applesauce and toast with peanut butter on it. I enjoyed eating while watching the TV stories. Little Brian was in and out of my jar of jelly beans, until his mama put a stop to it and Grama L.V. moved the temptation away to a higher place. Donna came in and read to me from the church Ensign magazine. She

read the story of Alvin Smith's life. He was such a devoted, fine, young man; he died a very young man but left his mark on the world. Donna received a letter from Lydia Paul. We both enjoyed reading it. Good night.

### August 31, Thursday

I had a good night's rest; we have a very nice day. Donna and Mary went to Lawrence this morning to have baby Christopher's picture taken and Mary took Spencer to school. [He was in Kindergarten and went half day to school.] I ate the nice lunch that Donna brought to me. I watched the TV stories while eating. Donna bought me a package of Crunch 'n Munch (toffee popcorn). It is mm good. My television has "network trouble" so the program is interrupted. Brian came in here a few times, but Grama Donna came after him and relieved me from a little boy's inquisitive curiosity. Jon T. is in Omaha on business; he'll be in New York on Tuesday I'm told. The family came in here tonight to watch TV. We turned the set off after the ten o'clock news report. There is good weather expected for the next three days. The farmers want rain. Good night.

### September 1, Friday

This 1st day of September is a nice, clear fall day. I enjoyed a good night's rest and I got up about 11 a.m. I tried to stay in bed until noon, but I couldn't. Donna brought me some dry cereal and a sliced banana and toast. I ate and watched the television programs. Later, Donna brought a letter from Susan Andersen and read it to me. She wrote a nice letter telling about her family. She also enclosed a couple of Family Record Sheets that Donna had requested. Little Brian Tibbets made several visits into my place to eat popcorn or jelly beans. His mother took him down to their basement apartment. I enjoyed a peaceful afternoon. I can hear the typewriter going; I presume it is Donna at work. It is 4 p.m. now. The kids will be



*Brian Tibbets two and one half years old.  
On September 1, 1978 he went for a hike to  
find his older brothers.*

home from school soon and we'll have activity then. Julie is practicing her piano lesson now. Little 2½ year old Brian took a long hike to the south field to find his brothers. Mary and Donna got in the car and went to find him. That little one worries this old great grandmother when he goes away on his own like that. Donna fried chicken for dinner this evening. Correction; she made a meatloaf. I thought she was frying chicken. Our visiting branch teachers came this evening, Jack and Donna Story and their little Ruthie. Oh, she's a busy one! Good night.

### September 2, Saturday

I didn't sleep well last night so I'm not up to par today. We have a hazy day, but the trees tell me the wind is blowing. Donna brought me a package of Cheetos (cheese flavored snacks), they are good! While I was in the bathroom little Brian took them outside, but Grama Donna brought them back to me.

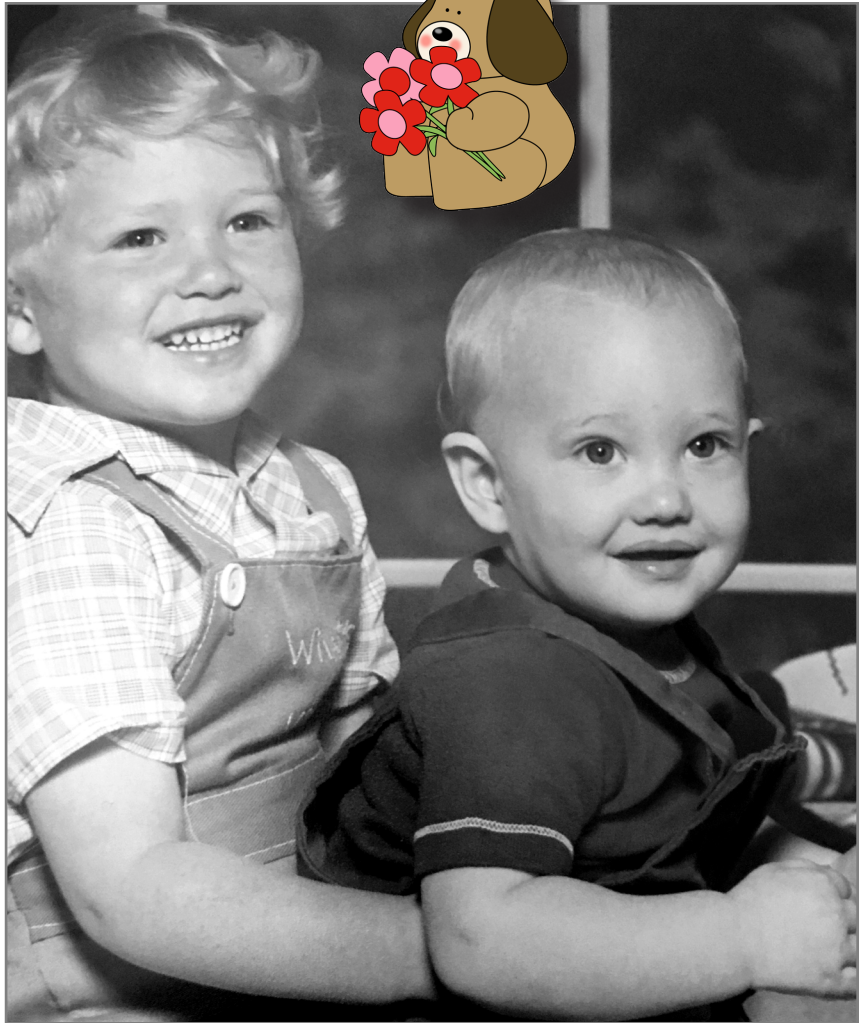
☺ Little hands are busy, eh? Mary sent the pictures of little Brian and Baby Chris to me. They are adorable; the baby is 3 months old and Brian is 2½ years old. Donna is expecting Florence and Ernest Oates and [their daughter] Elaine W. to visit them sometime this month, not sure when. Rex is driving his tractor around, cutting down weeds I presume. We have no TV stories to entertain me on Saturday, so it is a long day for L.V. Donna is taking care of our house payment today, with my Social Security check. Rex took a nap this afternoon and got up at 3:30 p.m. Donna and Rex and Mary and Jon went to hear President Kimball in Kansas City. (Dorothy T. is taking care of Mary's two little boys. The big boys are visiting neighbor boys.) It's in a big auditorium where they'll hear President Kimball. Donna said they'll be late; it is a long drive. She left some food for me on a TV tray. I watched television until after the ten o'clock news report. It has been a long, lonesome day for me. Good night.

### September 3, Sunday

♪“Welcome, Welcome, Sabbath Morning.”♪♪  
My family went to Sunday School; I wish I felt well enough to go with them. Donna left me a note saying my sandwich was in the fridge and she'd try to hurry home so I won't be so lonesome today. I ate my nice lunch about 1 p.m. I enjoyed some lovely recordings played on my Magnavox player. I'm so thankful for my lovely music. We have a pretty day with a lovely, blue sky. Mary and family came home about 2:15. They were tired, hot, and hungry, but she took care of that. She is a dear girl and a wonderful mother (pretty too). Rex and Donna came later; she is taking a nap now. I dozed in my chair until I gave up and stretched out on the bed at 4 p.m. I presume that Rex is asleep, too. This evening, I went to the Marshes' side and visited with them. They were eating watermelon. It was fun to see and hear them enjoying being together. ♪ “There is Beauty All Around, when There's Love at Home.” ♪♪

### September 4, Monday

Donna says it is hot and sticky outside, but I'm cool and comfortable here in the house. I watched the Jerry Lewis Telethon TV program. Donna and Mary went to Lawrence to shop. The three boys came in here to watch TV (Greg, Jody, and Spencer). The little ones went with Mary and Donna. The boys played with my basket of greeting cards and watched TV. They left here at 2:20 p.m. to go to their basement home I presume. I enjoyed my Magnavox music; I got tired of the telethon on TV. I glued a few things in my scrapbook after a struggle to get the glue twist cap to work. Donna came to my rescue. I'm a frustrated, old gal. This evening, my family went to the lake; they invited me to go, but I didn't feel well enough. They came home in about an hour cause it started to rain. Good night.



*Brian and Chris Tibbets, Chris is 18 months. The photo that Elvie mentions on September 2, 1978 is missing/unavailable.*

### September 5, Tuesday

We have another hot day, but it is pleasant in the house. Donna brought a nice lunch to me. Mary took Spencer to school. She brought a nice plastic bucket of delicious caramel popcorn to me. Little Brian surely enjoyed eating some of it with me. They all know Grama L.V.'s weakness for popcorn. Donna brought baby Chris in here to visit me; he is adorable. Rex and Donna came in here and watched television with me later. Donna cooked a good fish dinner for us this evening. The three of us ate from TV trays. We watched “Roots” on television in my place tonight. It's the second time I have seen it; it is an exciting production. It will be continued tomorrow. I enjoyed “The Mary Tyler Moore Show” at 10:30 p.m. Donna rented a rug cleaning machine and she cleaned her rugs tonight. Good night.

### September 6, Wednesday

It is another hot day, but pleasant in the house. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray. I enjoyed the television stories while eating. I can hear the typewriter, so I presume Donna is writing something. I took a bath this morning before getting dressed and my garments have been washed and dried already. Donna is on the job alright! Mary and the two little ones came in to visit. Donna was here for a while, too; she brought her vacuum cleaner in and cleaned

my rugs this afternoon. Rex got a crowbar and opened my windows so Donna could clean the window sills. Lucky me, eh? We watched television tonight; the boys were on the floor with pillows under their heads. I treated to caramel popcorn. Good night.

### September 7, Thursday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest. I stayed in bed until 11 a.m. and then I dressed myself, combed my hair, and said my prayer. Of course, I made my bed, too. We have another warm day; the sky is a pretty blue. Donna brought a nice lunch to me, bless her dear heart. What would I do without her? I feel so very weak now. I must endure, I know, but I do long to go. Today's mail brought a letter from Violet Fife. She said Dody is safely back in Belgium and Ray and Miriam's daughter Carol is happy because her husband asked Ray to baptize him into the LDS

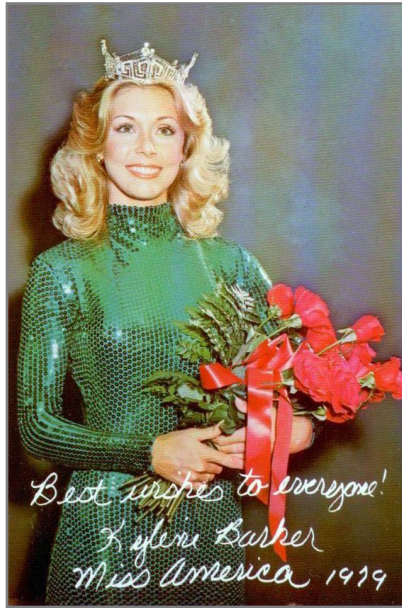
Church. Otto was the Grand Marshal at the Iron County Fair. He rode a horse with silver strappings in the parade. Mary brought me a plastic bowl of hot, buttered popcorn; Mm good. Our company, the Ernest Oateses and daughter Elaine Woolley, arrived this afternoon about 4:20 p.m. They all look well and happy. I ate dinner with them at 6 p.m. in Marshes' place. Donna cooked a delicious, baked ham dinner. It was a happy reunion. I surely enjoyed myself with this lovable family. Rex took them to see Lake Pomona after dinner. Tonight, they played a game around the kitchen table with little disks and numbers. Elaine slept in my extra twin bed. Good night.

### September 8, Friday

We didn't rest very well last night. Elaine had a hard time to go to sleep, so she had the light on in the little bed lamp until the wee hours this morning. She was reading a paperback book; it must have been a good story. I could hear her giggle once in a while. I can't sleep soundly, especially when the light is on. Our Oates family left the farm soon after 9:30 this morning. Elaine left her cute, little, red nightgown in my bathroom, sorry about that. Our guests nearly always leave something. However, we did enjoy their visit a lot. We have a hot day outside, but I stay inside. Little Brian T. has been in several times this afternoon for popcorn. I fill the little, plastic bottle cap for him; it is snack time and we both enjoy doing it. I watched television and enjoyed some lovely records played on my Magnavox player. Jon Tibbets is back home; Mary picked him up at the airport this afternoon. All is well. Good night.

### September 9, Saturday

It is cooler and cloudy this morning. Donna went to the market in town, Mary and little ones went with her. They brought me a plastic bag of Kraft caramels and a box of Crunch 'n Munch popcorn. Aren't they precious? I do love my children; they are so very thoughtful and kind to this old Grama L.V. I didn't sleep well last night; I had trouble



Pageant for Miss America 1979 was held September 9, 1978.

breathing so I'm not up to par today. I ate some Cream of Wheat for lunch and I played some lovely music on my Magnavox player and dozed in my swivel chair. The Tibbets boys are playing on the rock hill; it looks like fun. ☺ Donna Story came to rehearse some songs with Donna M. The kids have all paid me a visit to get their treat of Kraft caramels. I stretched out on my bed for a rest this afternoon. It has been quiet here; I can hear some music in the basement that sounds happy. I got up in time to hear "The Lawrence Welk Show" on TV at 6 p.m. Later, I watched "The Miss America Pageant." They are all beautiful girls, and all gave talented performances. The winner is Miss Virginia, Betty? I didn't get the last name, there was too much noise. And I don't give a damn either. ☺ I was entertained. Good night.

### September 10, Sunday

It was overcast this morning but we have bright sunshine this afternoon. My family all went to Sunday School; I'd love to be there with them, but this old 85-year-old (and 9 months) Grandma can't travel that far and stay that long now. Donna left a TV tray with a dry cereal, fruit, and Jello drink, plus a note saying the milk was in the fridge in a pitcher. I got up soon after 11 a.m. and put my house and self in order. I said my prayer and ate my lunch and relaxed in my chair. I washed my few dishes and walked around the house for exercise. This late afternoon, Rex came in to watch the ball game on TV. He fell asleep in the reclining chair. Donna came in and she dozed in my swivel chair. I had a miserable blind stagger spell, so no sleep for me at this time. It's too warm for comfort anyway. Oh, I wish I could open that big front door and step out on a nice cement porch, but there is no porch there. I need a rail on the back steps, too, frustrating, eh? Well, they'll have it all done some fine day. Tonight, I wrote a little note in Mark Calkins's birthday card. I gave Donna \$5.00 to put in it. She is sending \$10.00 I think, but just one card. The birthday cards I have here are for children. I think we are all a bit weary. Good night.

### September 11, Monday

We had a warm, cloudy morning, but it was sunny this afternoon. I rested fairly well last night. I got up soon after 11 a.m. and put myself and house in order. I ate the brunch that Donna brought me on a TV tray, and I enjoyed the television stories while eating. Little Brian T. came in a few times to ask for caramels; his mama put a stop to that fun and took him to their basement apartment. Later this afternoon, Mary and Jon went to see a doctor to get a shot for Jon's hay fever and a baby shot for their little Chris. I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player and dozed in my chair. It is warm at 5 p.m.; I'm perspiring. Donna brought me a cold drink of 7Up, mm good. Janet S. sent the lovely books that Donna and Mary are giving to Julie for her birthday, October 3. They are the Book of Mormon and the

Bible. They are a lovely brown, with her name printed in gold letters. Aunt Janet bought the lovely covers for her two books. Oh, what a beautiful gift, eh? The three of us listened to television tonight until after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

### September 12, Tuesday

We have a warm, hazy morning. Donna left a TV tray with food on for me. I got up about eleven o'clock and put my house and myself in order and ate my brunch. It is very quiet around here; I don't know where everyone is. Of course, the kids are in school. I slept well last night and that is a blessing. Donna always tells me where she is going, but darn me, I don't remember. You'll understand when you are my age (almost 86 years old). It is 2:12 now and Donna just arrived home. It was a Relief Society board meeting she'd been to. Later, she brought a lovely picture album that Kathy sent, with pictures they took while on their vacation to Lake Powell in July. It is really very lovely with her cute typed comments about each picture. ☺ Grampa Lou used to say, "She's a smart cookie," and I agree. This evening the family went to see an LDS play. They left the baby and little Brian off with friends. I can't recall where? I hope they enjoy the play. I had graham crackers and milk for my evening snack while enjoying lovely music on my Magnavox player. I enjoyed television tonight. Good night.



*The book that Kathy made for her parents arrived on September 12.*

### September 13, Wednesday

We have a blue sky with lots of white clouds in it. Donna took Spencer to school. Mary, Jon, and Rex went to Nebraska on business to get the dump truck and etcetera. I ate the brunch that Donna brought to me. It is another hot day. I listened to the television stories and later, I enjoyed some lovely records played on my Magnavox player. This evening, Donna had to play for some church activity, Mutual, I presume. Julie was taking care of her little brothers in their basement apartment until Mary and Jon got home. We had a little rain today, but it didn't last long; we need some more. Well, we did get a lot more rain tonight about 7:30 p.m. We had a severe electrical display. I had to turn my television off; our lights went off, but not for long. I had my flashlight handy. Oh, I do NOT enjoy the noisy display Mother Nature puts on here in Kansas. I'm concerned about Donna driving home in this dreadful weather, too. I was so relieved when she did come home. Good night.

### September 14, Thursday

I didn't rest very well last night; the bad thunder storm was upsetting. This morning Donna Story and her little Ruth

came. It was calm and pleasant this morning. I enjoyed her message. Rex relaxed in my reclining chair this afternoon; he slept through the news report as usual. ☺ Donna brought baby Chris in to visit. I think Mary was in Primary. Rex brought the baby's swinging chair in here but he was unhappy in it, so Donna took him to her place to feed him. There was a dreadful flood in Little Rock, Arkansas last night. Many homes were lost and some lives, too. Tonight, Donna and Mary and baby Chris visited with me until about 11 p.m. I surely enjoyed their visit. Good night.

### September 15, Friday

I rested better last night in spite of the loud thunder storm. We have a pleasant day today; it is sunny and bright. Donna brought some Roloids for me to try. She also brought a new dry cereal for me to try. It is a graham cracker cereal and I like it very much. It is quiet with the kids in school. I enjoyed listening to the television stories. Our electricity was off this afternoon so we had no TV programs, but we do have daylight to be thankful for. It is more frustrating when it is night time. I wonder what is wrong now? We have no stormy weather. It is 4:20 p.m. The light power came on at 4:50 p.m. Tonight, I went to Marshes' side and enjoyed the lovely music and the lovely girls;

Donna and her daughter Mary entertained me while Rex was in my place watching the heavy weight crown against Muhammad and Leon Spinks. Muhammad is the winner. I do not enjoy the fights. I love the music. I feel weary so, good night.

### September 16 Saturday

It is a windy day with an overcast sky. I was awake most of the night; I got up at 11:30 a.m. Donna made some Cream of Wheat cereal for my brunch. Bless her heart, I wish I wasn't so much trouble to her but she is thoughtful of my needs. I feel very weak this morning. Oh, why can't I go? My 85 years and 9 months are enough of this life for me. I long to be with my own generation. I think Mary's boys all had a haircut this morning. I haven't seen them, but I heard someone say they look nice with the new short haircut. I hear a lot of activity in Grama Donna's place. She brought Chris in here for a while; he's such an adorable baby, all smiles. However, he does have a little head cold today, so he's not as happy as usual. There is a special program for women this evening in Lawrence, I think. Donna and Mary want me to go, but I'll have to feel a lot better than I do now at 2:15 p.m. I went to Donna's place while she vacuumed my rooms this afternoon. Mary read a book on "Why I Came to Earth." The answer is to learn "How to Love Everyone." Yes, love is the key word. ♪ "There is Beauty All Around, when There's



Love at Home.” ♪♪ Donna and Mary came home tonight at 11 p.m. She said it was a wonderful program; she took notes and she’ll tell me more tomorrow. Good night.

### September 17, Sunday

We have an overcast Sabbath morning. I’m thankful for a good night’s rest. Donna left a TV tray with my brunch on and a note saying that the milk is in the fridge. I got up at 11:30 a.m., got dressed and combed my hair, but I had to relax in my chair before I could make my bed and say my prayer. Oh, this weak feeling is frustrating! I am glad my family are all in church anyway. The Tibbetses came home about 2:45 p.m. They went to their basement home; tired and hungry I presume. Sunday is a long day, especially for lonesome me. ☹

### September 18, Monday

I couldn’t rest very well because I had a sore throat last night. I got up several times to doctor it. I do feel some better today. I’m still doctoring my sore throat. It is another hot day. I got up about 11:30 and ate my brunch. I tried to stay up, but I felt too miserable so I went to bed about 4:45.

### September 19, Tuesday

Too ill to get dressed.

### September 20 through 23, Wednesday—Saturday

Ill [*Ill was all that was written on these dates.*]

### September 24, Sunday

My family all went to church early, I am feeling much better, I even felt hungry enough to get up and eat the nice sandwich Donna left for me. I tried to get the hairnet untangled from one of my little combs, but I gave up and cut the d--- thing off. Bye bye hair net. Mary and family came home about 2:45 p.m. tired and hungry, but oh, they look good to me. I went back to bed about 3 p.m. feeling very weak.

### September 25, Monday

Ill

### September 26, Tuesday

Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. I got up about 11:30 a.m. I had a fairly good night’s rest. I dressed in my robe and slippers, combed my hair, made my bed, and said my prayer. Donna went to Relief Society. I’m not sure about Mary. I know her boys have had haircuts. Baby Chris fell asleep on my floor. Little Brian looks cute with his short haircut. We listened to the TV stories and at six o’clock, we watched the “Cross Wits” game on TV. Good night.

### September 27, Wednesday

We have a pretty, sunny day today. I stayed in bed until noon. I put clean garments on this morning after I’d washed myself the best I could. I had to relax in my chair before I could make my bed and comb my hair. This old pen is as

confused as I am. Rex bought me some Vicks cough drops, but he got the wild cherry flavor. I expected the green Vicks that I’m used to.

### September 28, Thursday

Donna was up early preparing food and putting the house in order. She is expecting the Shattucks, Meredith and Maxine, from San Jose, California. I got up about 11:30 a.m. and ate the nice lunch Donna brought to me. It’s a lovely, sunny day. The Shattucks arrived here about 1:45 p.m. They came in my place to say hello to me. They both look fine. Donna gave them some lunch. Jody Tibbets came in and visited with me; he couldn’t go to school today because he had an asthma attack last night, the poor little fellow. Mary brought me a box of Russell Stover chocolate covered mint patties. Mm good, but too rich for poor old Elvie, so I took them to the Marshes’ side where Rex and his grandchildren would take care of them. Donna cooked a nice chicken casserole dinner this evening I ate with the family and enjoyed it. Rex took the Shattucks and Donna for a drive to one of the lakes while it was daylight. I was invited to go, but I was too tired. I enjoyed lovely music on my Magnavox player. Good night.

### September 29, Friday

The Shattucks, Maxine and Meredith, left this morning early for Denver. I said goodbye to them last night. Donna left a note saying she had gone to the doctor with Mary to have Jody’s shot for asthma; they left Spencer off at school, too. She left my lunch on a TV tray. She was home at 12:45 noon and brought me a warm drink for lunch. Pope John Paul 1st, died today from a heart attack. Greg got his new eyeglasses today; he looks nice in them. He says he can see very well now. We had a severe thunder storm this afternoon. Rex disconnected my television. Mother Nature puts on a display for sure here in Kansas. Rex says he enjoys all of it. I detest it. Well, he’s stuck with it, I hope I can escape soon. ☺ Good night.

### September 30, Saturday

We have had a calm, pleasant day. I’m glad for that. I surely do not enjoy the violent weather we had yesterday. I’ve felt weak and so I have relaxed in my chair most of today. Donna had a little touch of diarrhea; I surely hopes she’ll feel better soon. Dorothy Tibbets has one or two brothers visiting with her. Their last name is White. Edger Bergen passed away today. I watched “The Lawrence Welk Show” this evening (my favorite). I found out it is only one brother visiting Dorothy. Greg and Jody Tibbets have had fun with my **magnifying glass** outside today. Tomorrow, we start recording the October news as we see it. ☺ Mary finished Donna’s dress, it is pretty and Donna looks really nice in it. Good night.



*“Greg and Jody Tibbets have had fun with my magnifying glass outside today.”*

### October 1, Sunday

My family came in my place this morning to listen to the General Conference session coming from Salt Lake City over television. I got up to enjoy it with them. Isn’t it wonderful we can bring these beautiful words of wisdom

into our own homes, via television; to hear and to see the prophet of God! It is fast day in our home for all, but the very old and the very young and the nursing mother. I am 85 years and 9 months old. So, Donna brought some lunch to me. Spencer Kimball, our prophet, looks well. I surely enjoyed his talk. My family went to church this afternoon; they left here about 3:20 p.m. I'm alone, but happy they are busy with the Lord's work. I'd be with them if I felt stronger. I got Julie Tibbets's birthday card ready for her day on October 3. It is also my own father's birthday, too. It's my bedtime. Good night.

### October 2, Monday

I got up about noon and ate the food that Donna had left for me on the TV tray. Today's mail brought an announcement of the retirement dinner for Roland Renshaw, Chief of Police, of Los Altos, California. It is on Friday, October 13, 1978. The cost for Roland Renshaw's night, including dinner is \$17.00 each. Good night.

### October 3, Tuesday

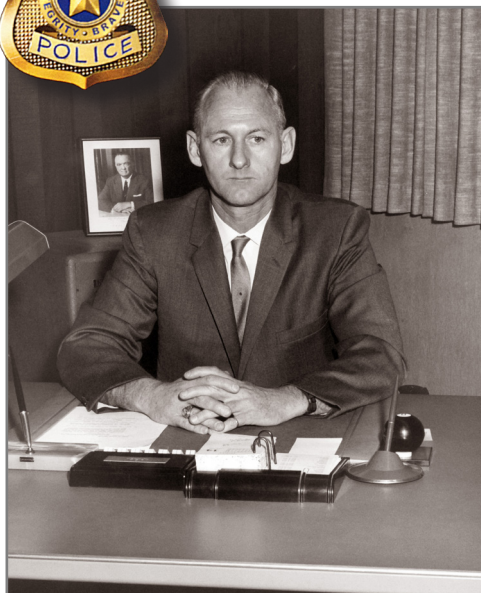
Happy Birthday to Julie Tibbets, she is 12 years old today. We have a nice, sunny day; it's a little windy. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. I ate it at noon time. We received an announcement yesterday from Roland Renshaw, Chief of Police of Los Altos; he is retiring. I'm not feeling very well today. I enjoyed a nice visit from Mary and baby and Donna this afternoon. They went to Relief Society this morning. I haven't felt very well today, so I have relaxed in my chair most of the day. Mary had a birthday dinner for Julie in their basement home at six o'clock. I wasn't well enough to go up or down the stairs. They brought some dinner on a TV tray to me, and I enjoyed eating it. Good night.

### October 4, Wednesday

Donna went to Relief Society with Mary. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna went to town to shop for groceries. I put my house in order and myself. I watched the TV programs while eating the lunch Donna brought to me. We had a severe thunder storm tonight; I had Donna turn off my television. This Kansas weather is so very unpredictable; I am frustrated by it. I was happy to have Mary and Donna visit with me tonight after the children were in bed.

### October 5, Thursday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest. We have a cool, hazy morning. I got up at 11 a.m. Donna and Rex came in after I was in bed last night; I went to bed early.



Younger Roland Renshaw, in 1978 he is getting ready to retire.

They looked through some pictures to find a baby picture of Rex for a fun program where he works. It is a bit chilly; I put on a warmer robe this morning. I got a birthday card ready to send to Paula Grace Gardner; she'll be 5 years old on October 11. I enclosed some sticks of gum and a \$1.00 bill. I have 17 great grandchildren and I try to remember them all on their birthdays. Mary went to Primary today, and Relief Society, too, I think? Rex's friend Judy White, and her son, (sorry I've forgotten his name, and I'm not sure of White either.) [Elvie lost her train of thought and didn't finish this topic.] This poor old brain of mine can't remember details anymore, but we all enjoyed a Debbie Reynolds

movie tonight that Rex played on the machine he rented. It was a cute movie. She is an adorable actress. I came back home about 9:45 p.m. I was weary and ready to retire. Good night.

### October 6, Friday

Donna and Mary went to Topeka to shop for grocery bargains this morning. They left about 8:30 a.m. and came home about 12:30 noon. I was eating my lunch that Donna left me on a TV tray (a sandwich and Jello drink) when they came home. They bought stamps, napkins, Metamucil, and Visine for me, \$8.95. Donna turned up the heat in my place; I've been cold, and it feels much more comfortable now. I had a miserable dizzy spell this afternoon. I surely do not enjoy them. I went to bed and left Rex asleep in the reclining chair. Good night.

### October 7, Saturday

I'm glad for a good night's rest. I got up at noon time and ate my lunch. Donna came in later with Mary's baby, Chris. He got restless, so she took him to Mary. Later, Donna came in and sewed the hem in her new dress that Mary made for her. It is pretty. Mary sewed the little hooks and eyes on the back of the neck. We had some nice records playing. It is now 3:15 p.m. Donna is asleep in my reclining chair. Mary has gone to her children in their basement home. It is a beautiful fall day. My family left home about five o'clock. I hope they enjoy the evening. Julie is taking care of Brian over at Tibbetses'. Donna left a TV dinner in her oven for me. She said to go get it at 6 p.m. I did, and brought it in here to eat. I ate half of the dinner. I watched "The Lawrence Welk Show" and others, until weary and time to retire. Today is Rex and Donna's wedding anniversary, 43 years. The branch gave them a beautiful tablecloth and eight napkins. I had a bad fall this evening, a black out. Good night.



Rex and Donna Marsh circa 1971 at the San Francisco Airport. On October 7 they had been married 43 years.

### October 8, Sunday

My fall last night surely upset me; I stayed in bed all day.

### October 9, Monday

I was too miserable to get up today.

### October 10, Tuesday

My family was gone most of the day; Donna went to her Relief Society. I was too miserable to get up and record, sorry. I did get up and sit in my chair this afternoon for a while. Donna and Mary visited with me.

### October 11, Wednesday

Happy birthday to Paula Grace Gardner. She is 5 years old today. I got up twice today to eat and to sit in my chair. I feel better for which I am thankful. Mary and baby Chris and Grama Donna came in to visit. I didn't stay up long, weary, old lady. Good night.

### October 12, Thursday

I had a fair night's rest. I got up at 11 a.m. and combed my hair. Donna brought my lunch at noon. I got up to eat it. She decided I should have a bath, so she helped me take a bath. I must admit, she did most of the work, bless her dear heart. But I am surely thankful for a nice bath. I was glad to get into bed after that exercise. I got up again about 4 p.m. Donna walked with me to the chair. I never walk alone now after the two bad falls I had. Old people do fall and get broken hips and etcetera. Thank goodness I have no broken bones from my falls. I am 85 years and 9 months old. Good night.

### October 13, Friday

I got up at noon and ate my lunch. I'm not feeling very well. I went back to bed until 6 p.m. I got up and ate my dinner. Donna and Rex went out on church business. Mary had her hair cut this afternoon; it looks nice. Julie sat with me this evening; she walked with me to my bed about 8:30 p.m. Weary old L.V., good night.

### October 14, Saturday

I rested fairly well last night; I'm thankful for my blessings. We have a pleasant day, a blue sky with some clouds in it. Mary came in to look at my scrapbooks. I think she used one or two for her lesson in Primary or? I can't keep up with them, but I'm glad if my books help. I know Mary brought home a walker for me to use for a month. I'll try it and see if I like it. I got up this evening to listen to "The Lawrence Welk Show." I've rented the walker for a month at a cost of \$8.30. Good night.



*Younger Elvie with one of her scrapbooks.*

### October 15, Sunday

"Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." ♪ ♪ ♪ I'm very thankful for a good night's rest and for the walker stand to help me move about in my rooms. I am blessed indeed. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. I got up at noon and dressed in a robe and slippers and with the walker's help, I managed to walk around my place very well. My family left early for church; they have so far to drive. It means, however, that they are away from home on Sundays for a long day, and it is long day for L.V., too. So, I count my many blessings, one by one. Donna and Rex came home about 4:30 p.m. She put some nice records on the player for me, some lovely hymns. Good night.

### October 16, Monday

I rested fairly well last night. We have a lovely, sunny morning I got up about 11:30 am. I dressed in my robe and slippers. I'm thankful for the walker stand to help me move about in my rooms. I am blessed indeed. Donna brought some lunch on a TV tray about 12:30 noon. I enjoyed eating it and listening to nice music on my Magnavox player. This afternoon, Donna and Mary looked through a box of pictures; I helped until I got weary. They are trying to sort them out to the family they belong to. It was a big job, but Donna wants each family to have their own pictures. She hopes to make a nice book for each family. Rex came in to hear the television news (and sleep through it). He was in my reclining chair. Good night.

### October 17, Tuesday

We have a pleasant day, sunny with a feeling of fall in the air. I slept fairly well last night. I got up about 11:30. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me. I presume that she and Mary went to Relief Society? I understand that there is no school today because of a teacher's convention. This old gal isn't hip to what is going on. Sorry, I'm wrong, there is school today. Mary came home about 3:40 p.m. Then she and Donna went to town for groceries. I'm alone with my thoughts. I am very thankful I have the walker to help me get around my place. I do enjoy the lovely music on my Magnavox player. I am blessed and I do count my blessings. I enjoyed a visit from Donna and Mary's baby, Chris, before Mary came home about 3:40 p.m. Good night.

### October 18, Wednesday

It is another nice day. I got up about noon. Donna changed the sheets and pillow slip on my bed. I walked around my place with the walker's help. I ate the Cream of Wheat lunch Donna brought to me. Mary is making Halloween costumes for her little children. Everyone is busy doing something but me. This 85 and 9 months old grandmother is anxious to move on to the next life, but how

do I manage that? This evening, Donna read to me from the Reader's Digest. I enjoy hearing her read to me. I do get weary of television. Good night.

### October 19, Thursday

I rested well last night. We have a lovely day. I got up at noon and ate the nice lunch Donna brought to me. Donna and Mary and baby visited with me for a while today. I have enjoyed some lovely records played on my Magnavox player. Mary is busy making Halloween costumes for her children. Oh, such a busy family, all but me. ☺ I'm thankful I have the walker to help me get around my place, yes, I am pleased. Good night.

### October 20, Friday

Happy Birthday to Richard Meredith Shattuck. He is 21 years old today. Donna signed my name to the card she sent. I'll give her a couple of dollars. I can't remember birthdays as well as I used to but after all, I'm getting too old to remember much of anything. We are blessed with a lovely, calm, sunny day. I'm enjoying beautiful music on my Magnavox player and the nice lunch Donna brought on a TV tray. My family visited with me off and on today. Good night.

### October 21, Saturday

We have a windy day with lots of clouds in the blue sky. I rested well last night. I got up at 11:30 a.m. and dressed myself and my hair. With the help of the walker, I manage to get around alright. Donna left my lunch on a television tray. It is quiet around our farm, so they are away somewhere, I wonder where? They came home about 2 p.m. They'd been shopping. (Rex and Jon are working.) Donna bought a new light globe for my stand lamp; it's a 3-way light. I'm happy to have it. I didn't like the one bright light all the time. Good night.

### October 22, Sunday

It is cloudy today; the weather report says a storm is headed our way. I couldn't rest very well last night, so I do not feel up to par this day. My family is all in church. I'm thankful for that and I wish I could be there with them. Donna left some food for me on a TV tray. I got up at 11:30, combed my hair, powdered my face, said my prayer, and ate my lunch. I listened to lovely music played on my Magnavox player. I walked around my rooms for exercise, of course with the help of the walker. I feel weary, so I'll say good night.



Janet and Marshall Gardner fall 1978.



Sherm Gardner fall 1978.

### October 23, Monday

I rested better last night. We have a pleasant day. Donna brought a nice lunch to me; she looks tired. I do hope I'm not a burden to her; she is a wonderful daughter to me. I wish I could go, but I am here, and wishful thinking gets me nowhere. I enjoyed some lovely records played on my Magnavox player. I'm very thankful for the beautiful music. Good night.

### October 24, Tuesday

We have a pretty, sunny day. I'm thankful for a good night's rest. I got up about noon. I dressed myself and my hair. I ate the nice lunch Donna left on the TV tray for me. It was almost 2 p.m. when she came home from Relief Society. She said they had only five sisters out to their meeting. Most of the branch sisters go to the Sunday Relief Society meeting. Mary came home before Donna, but she took her little ones to the basement to feed them and get them down for their naps. It is cooler; we have a feeling of fall in the air. Living to be really old isn't half as much fun as I expected. ☺ This afternoon, Donna went to Kansas City with Rex. Mary and the children are home. It has been a long, lonesome day for L.V.; I dozed in my chair and I walked around the rooms in my place with the walker's help. I enjoyed music on the Magnavox player. Donna and Mary and baby came in to visit me this evening or, I should say, tonight. Julie also visited me for a while before the folks came home. It is 10:45 p.m. and I'm going to bed. Good night.

### October 25, Wednesday

We have a cool, cloudy day. Donna and Mary went grocery shopping. Julie took care of baby Chris; she brought him in to visit with me for a while until he got restless (sleepy I presume). I ate the lunch Donna left for me on a TV tray. I listened to pretty music played on my Magnavox player. It was about 2 p.m. when they (Donna and Mary) came home. I do not feel very well myself today, but at my age, 85, almost 86, I'm doing okay. ☺ Donna is expecting Joan to come here this evening. It will be a happy reunion. Today's mail brought a letter from Violet. She says it is cold and feels like winter

is on its way. Dody is teaching a seminary class and she is taking French lessons. They don't know when they can move back to USA. Jim and Andrea and their six children came to see her. It was all over town that Otto had died! It

was another ex-sheriff that had died. Ha! I'll bet Otto had a lot of fun with that announcement. ☺ Good night.

### October 26, Thursday

It is a beautiful, sunny, bright October day. I'm thankful for a good night's rest. I got up at noon and ate the lunch that Donna brought to me. She is a darling daughter. I thank the dear Lord for her. Our Relief Society visiting teacher came (Sr. Donna Story). I went to Donna's place to hear her message and I stayed to hear her rehearse a lovely solo with Donna Marsh. Oh, so many Donnas! It is now 2:30 p.m. and I'm back home and listening to lovely records played on my Magnavox player. The kids came in to show me their Halloween costumes at 4 p.m. Julie was Betsy Ross, Jody was Raggedy Andy, they looked cute and happy. I think they were on their way to a Primary party. Joan's children were happy and welcome visitors. I love seeing them all happy. Joan, Donna, Mary, and baby visited with me tonight. Joan and the children will leave for home early in the morning, so I said my goodbyes to them tonight. Their home is in Naperville, Illinois. Good night.

### October 27, Friday

Joan and family left our farm early this morning. They said goodbye to me last night. I had some troubled dreams so I didn't rest very well last night. I got up at noon today feeling a bit sluggish. I hope and pray that Joan and children have an enjoyable trip back home. I gave Janet \$1.00 to buy them a cold drink or a sweet treat on the way. We surely enjoyed their visit here with us. Donna brought me a turkey sandwich for my lunch at 1 p.m. and some warm milk and honey, bless her heart. I hope I'm not a burden to her. I'm so very thankful for her. The folks went somewhere, I've forgotten where, but the boys, Greg, Jody, and Spencer came in my place to watch television until 10 p.m. I was too weary to listen to the news report at ten o'clock, so I went to bed. Good night.

### October 28, Saturday

We have a bright, sunny day. I rested fairly well last night. I got up at noon and ate the lunch that Donna brought to me. My family have been busy going and coming. I can't recall where or why, but as long as they are well and happy, I'm happy for them. I listened to some lovely records played on my Magnavox stereo player and I walked around my place with the help of the walker stand. Some of my family came in to say hello and to visit with me. I enjoyed that. Donna read to me from the Church News. They are all thoughtful and kind to this old Grama Elvie. I love all of them. It will be Daylight Savings time tomorrow. Good night.

### October 29, Sunday

It is Daylight Savings time. At ten o'clock last night we turned our clocks back to nine o'clock. We have a pretty, sunny day, but it is windy. My family is all in church. I wish I could be there with them, I do miss Sunday School and church, but at my age, almost 86 years old, I am better off at home. I got up about noon and made my bed, combed my hair, and said my prayer. Donna left my lunch on a TV tray. I ate it about 1 p.m. Mary and family came home about 2:15 p.m. She came in to say "We're home." She had a hungry family to feed so she went to their basement home to feed them. Rex and Donna came later, about four o'clock. I went out in their place with my walker for a visit and exercise, then I came home where I can keep warmer. Good night.

### October 30, Monday

Today is sunny and calm. I slept fairly well last night and I got up about noon today. Donna had been to town on some business about their car, I think. She brought a scrambled egg, toast, Postum, and fruit cocktail for my lunch. I walked around my rooms, with the help of the walker, to get some exercise, which I need. I ate my lunch and watched the TV stories until I got tired of them and their problems, so I turned the TV off. I like it to be quiet and live through some happy memories. Mary has a head cold today; she isn't feeling very well. Her baby was miserable yesterday with a cold in his head. Donna received a letter from Lydia Paul; she read it to me. It was fun to hear six pages of Lydia's life experiences. Sorry I haven't the space to record it. Doris and Lydia and Bonnie still enjoy going to lunch once in a while; that is nice. I'm weary so I'll say goodnight.

### October 31, Tuesday

Happy Halloween! We have a pretty, blue sky with fluffy, white clouds in it. Donna left early for her Relief Society and other activities. I can't keep track of all she does. I got up at noon. Mary brought my lunch to me and then she went to town or somewhere. [Mary was taking Spencer to afternoon kindergarten.] It is very quiet around here. This old gal has learned what it is to be lonesome. But I am blessed and I do thank the dear Lord for my blessings. Good bye October.

### November 1, Wednesday

Happy Birthday to Otto R. Fife. I'm very sorry I didn't get a card in the mail to Otto. I'm sure slipping. I hope he'll understand. I feel so weak and old. I do hope Otto is enjoying his day. I've had a couple of faint spells today. The television makes me nervous, so I don't



have it on very long at a time. Believe me, getting old is no fun. I long to be with my own generation. We have had a pretty day and a very beautiful sunset this afternoon. I've enjoyed lovely records played on my Magnavox player. For exercise I have walked around with the help of my walker stand. Exciting life, eh? Donna made a big poster for the lesson she gave yesterday. It was a lot of work, but very helpful and interesting. She and Rex have gone to a Mutual meeting, I think? She said she'd be late getting home, but Mary is home and she'll check on me once in a while. Jon T. looked in to see how things are with me. He said Mary and the baby have miserable colds. The baby has pink eye, too. I'm so sorry about their problems. Good night.

### November 2, Thursday

It is a very pleasant day with blue sky and sunshine. I'm thankful for a good night's rest. I got up about 12:30 noon and after dressing and combing my hair and saying my prayer, I ate the lunch that Donna brought on a TV tray. She is precious. Later this afternoon, Donna brought the baby in here. He is feeling much better. His infected pinkeye looks almost normal. The doctor gave Mary some eye drops to use. I believe this is Primary day. Mary went to pick the children up from school and I presume she went to Primary with them. I enjoyed some lovely records played on my Magnavox player. I'm so very thankful for lovely music. This evening Donna brought my dinner about 6 p.m. She came in and visited with me for a while; we watched television. I went to bed about 9:30 p.m., weary, old L.V. Good night.

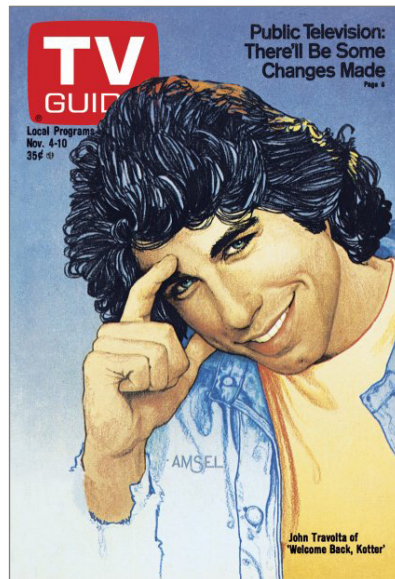
### November 3, Friday

It has been a cloudy day, but no rain so far. It is 5:15 now. Mary and Julie and the two little ones went to Nebraska. They'll be away a few days. I understand Julie has a party or a social to attend. I do not remember very well what they told me, but I hope it will be fun anyway. Dorothy Tibbets brought me a nice bouquet of flowers from her garden; bachelor's buttons and etcetera. People are nice to this old gal and I do feel blessed indeed. I watched television this evening until I got weary. I went to bed about nine o'clock. Good night.

### November 4, Saturday

I rested fairly well last night. I got up about noon time. We have a pretty day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna walked to the mailbox this morning. Later she went with Rex to get their pickup truck, I think. It's quiet here with Mary and her two little ones and Julie away in Nebraska. Donna brought a nice lunch to me about 12:40 noon. This afternoon she took me to Overbrook; she bought a rail for our back porch at the lumber store. It was really hot for November, 83 degrees. I stayed in the car; she did her grocery shopping at the market. I was glad to get back home where it was cooler, but I did enjoy the outing. Donna brought me a cold drink

of orange juice when we got home. Mm good. Rex has a lot of church business to take care of today; I presume he'll be late getting home. Good night.



### November 5, Sunday

It is our stake conference today. The sacrament meeting started at 4:30 p.m. Donna and Rex left early this morning. She wrote a note saying they should be home by 7 p.m. She left some food on a TV tray for me. I stayed in bed until 12:30 noon. Jon Tibbets and family came home about 1:40 pm. He came in to check on me a couple of times or more. I walked around my rooms with the help of the walker stand. I get my exercise; which I know I need. Greg has been in a time or two to look at my **TV Guide**, but it has been a long, lonesome day. I am glad my family can enjoy the conference. I do miss church. One month from today, I'll be 86 years old. How about that, eh? Good night.

### November 6, Monday

It rained last night so our driveway is not dusty now. It has been cooler and cloudy today. I rested fairly well last night. I got up about noon time. Donna brought a nice lunch to me. Rex put the railing up on our back steps. I'll surely appreciate having that rail to help me go down and come up the steps when I do go out. Good night.

### November 7, Tuesday

Today is Election day. Donna left a tray with my lunch on before she went to her Relief Society meeting. I got up at noon and put my house and myself in order. I ate my lunch and watched television and later I listened to lovely records played on my Magnavox player. Donna came in this afternoon and took a nap on my extra twin bed. I feel weak and strange this afternoon. Oh, I wish I could be released from this tired, old body. I do not want to burden my family here. Donna gave the Spiritual Living lesson in Relief Society today. Rex came home from work about 4:45 pm. Mary looked in on me a couple of times. Rex and Donna went to vote this evening about 5 p.m. They watched the election returns with me until we got weary of it all. I got ready for bed about 9 p.m. Good night.

### November 8, Wednesday

Mary and baby went to Relief Society this morning. Donna brought my lunch in to me about 12:30 noon. She took Spencer to school and then she went to the dentist and to the bank. She made the house payment and took care of other business. I can hear the wind howling. The leaves are nearly all off of the trees. Mary and baby came in to check on me. She looked so pretty; her baby is adorable, too. It is now 2:10 pm. I think I'll walk out and look at the new rail that Rex put up to the back-porch steps. It was sunny bright in Donna's front room and I sat in the sunshine until it got too hot for my comfort, so I came back to my own place where it is much cooler. I did enjoy the nice visit with Mary

and baby and Donna when she came. She brought \$40.00 from my Social Security check. Mary didn't feel like going all the way to the bank, so I loaned her \$20.00. She'll go to the bank tomorrow. Rex was busy with church business all evening and tonight; it was after 10:30 before he got home. Good night.

### November 9, Thursday

Rex was miserable with an abscessed tooth all night. He had to have it pulled out to get relief. Mary and the children went to Primary after school today I got up at noon and ate the lunch Donna brought me on a TV tray. We have a pretty, blue sky; a sunny, bright day for November. Donna and Mary and her two little ones visited with me until time to go to Primary this afternoon. Julie has been asked to have a leading part in the high school's play (Amahl and the Night Visitors). I think that is right, that is how is sounded to me. This evening Mary and Jon and family are having dinner with Bishop and Sr. Rytting. I hope they'll have a fun time. [*The Tibbeteses' home in Lawrence is being built. Bishop Rytting was their bishop in Lawrence.*] Norman Rockwell died today; he was a well-known artist; he was 84 years old. Donna spent the evening in here taking pictures out of my old picture album. The Tibbets family came home about 8:15 pm. I went to bed about 9:30. Good night.



Normal Rockwell (February 3, 1894 – November 8, 1978) was an American author, painter, and illustrator. His works have a broad, popular appeal in the United States for their reflection of American culture. Rockwell is most famous for the cover illustrations of everyday life he created for *The Saturday Evening Post* magazine over nearly five decades. —Wikipedia

### November 10, Friday

I had a good night's rest for which I'm very thankful; I got up at noon time dressed in a robe and slippers and ate the nice lunch that Donna brought to me. Donna brought baby Chris in here and we watched TV programs until the baby got sleepy; then she took him out. I enjoyed some nice music played on my Magnavox player. Mary took Spencer to school. Rex is feeling much better; he went to work at the nursing home. I had a dizzy spell that upset me this afternoon. I'm getting old, eh? Mary paid me back the \$20.00 I loaned her yesterday. Donna and Rex went shopping tonight. I think they bought the gutter for this house. Rex is not feeling

well, he looked miserable when they came home at 9:40. He went to bed. Donna thinks he has the flu. Good night.

### November 11, Saturday

Rex is very miserable with the flu. He is on the couch in their living room. The baby isn't feeling well either. Oh, I do hope and pray they'll all feel well soon. We have a cool, cloudy day with no sunshine so far. It is 1:15 p.m. now. Donna brought her vacuum cleaner in here; she put clean sheets and slip on my bed. She brought my lunch to me, bless her dear heart. What would we do without her? Someone is driving the tractor outside. I see that it is Jon T., he is picking up rocks to fill in the front porch. Rex must feel better; he is outside helping to put the rocks in the porch [*for the foundation*]. I walked out in the Marshes' side to watch Mary and her children play a number game around the table. Spencer is too young to play, so he just watches. He came in my place for a short visit. I enjoyed some records played on my Magnavox player. It's still cloudy at 3:15 p.m. Donna and the baby visited with me for a while this evening. I went to bed about 9 p.m. Good night.

### November 12, Sunday

We have a dark, gloomy Sabbath day. I stayed in bed until 12:30 noon. Donna left a TV tray with dry cereal, milk, banana, and a Jello drink for my lunch. It was raining really hard while I was eating about 1:30 p.m. I do hope the rain will let up so the family can get home safely. I presume they all went to church. It is very quiet here. It is 2:10 pm. I heard a car drive in so someone is home. I can hear children cry, hungry kids, I'm sure. This evening I went to Marshes' to enjoy the bright fire Rex had burning in the fireplace. Rex played a tape of the talk President Kimball gave to the convention of LDS sisters; it was really a very inspiring talk. I enjoyed it so much. Our young folks were playing a game on Donna's kitchen table.

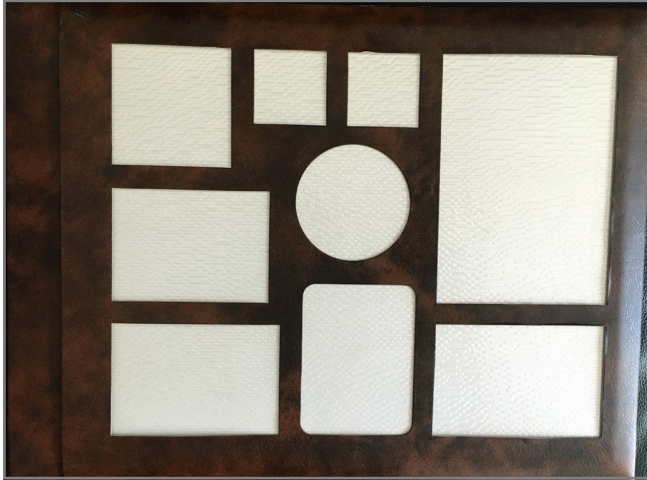
### November 13, Monday

The kids are home from school today because of a water shortage. I wonder what that is about? Happy kids. We have had a beautiful day with blue sky and sunshine. Donna took me to my appointment to have a checkup with Dr. James Ruble. I felt weak and weary when the nurses and the doctor got through with me. I came home with prescribed medication to take before my meals. This evening I went to the kitchen and watched Mary, Jon, and Donna play the numbers game. Donna is going to try and get me a walker that I can keep here. She is taking the one I've been using, back so I'll be without it until she comes home tomorrow afternoon. I took my capsules before going to bed. Rex came home about 11:10 p.m. Good night.

### November 14, Tuesday

I stayed in bed until 1:30, until Donna came home with a walker for me. I'm afraid to walk without the support of a walker now. Poor, old Grama Elvie; I'll be 86 years old on December 5. I had one bad fall and I can't risk another fall. Too many elderly people have broken hips or bones because of their falls. So, I'm glad for the walker that Donna brought to me today. She got this one through Medicare. I sent the

rented one back and we hope to have our money refunded later. Donna showed me the lovely picture albums she bought her children for Christmas. She has a big job to get all of the pictures she wants for each one; she is taking some out of my old album that is falling apart. After the children were in bed tonight the parents played the numbers game. I stayed in my own place and watched television for a while. I went to bed about ten o'clock. Good night.



*Donna bought five of these scrapbooks for Christmas in 1978 to give one to each of her children.*

### **November 15, Wednesday**

Today was cool and cloudy in the morning but we did have some sunshine this afternoon. My family has been going and coming today. They are very busy; I can't keep up with them. I enjoyed the nice lunch that Donna brought me on a TV tray. Wednesday is a busy day for Rex; he works all day and is out late because of Mutual meetings and church business. I watched the television stories and later I played some lovely records on my Magnavox player. Exciting life, eh? However, I know I am blessed. Happy birthday today to Donna Shattuck. She is 16 years old. Good night.

### **November 16, Thursday**

Thursday was cloudy and we had some rain in the night and today. I didn't rest very well last night, so I haven't felt up to par. Mary and baby and Donna came in this afternoon to visit with me and to watch television. It is Primary day today; Mary went with her children to Lawrence for Primary. I had to turn my stand lamp on to see to write this afternoon at 2:45 p.m. I like the sunshine, but I do try to keep the "Sunshine in my Heart" regardless of the gloomy day. I am indeed thankful for my daughter, Donna, and her loving care. Rex had a nice fire burning in the fireplace this evening and I went out to their living room to enjoy it with them.

### **November 17, Friday**

We have another cloudy sky; a gloomy day like yesterday, but I have "Sunshine in my Heart." I got up at noon. Donna brought me a nice lunch (chicken sandwich and hot drink of milk and some fruit). I watched television while eating. Mary went to see her doctor; she has a sinus infection. He gave her some medication for it. Donna came in my place and sorted pictures for her children's Christmas albums. The sun came out this late afternoon and we had a beautiful sunset. I listened to lovely music played on my Magnavox player, and I walked around my rooms for exercise. Of course, I had my walker for support. Tonight, we watched Elizabeth Taylor in "Return Engagement." It wasn't love, it wasn't friendship, but it changed two lives forever. The stars were Joseph Bottoms and Elizabeth Taylor. It was very interesting. Good night.

### **November 18, Saturday**

We are blessed with a pretty, blue sky and sunshine today. I rested fairly well last night. I got up at noon and put my house and myself in order and I ate the lunch Donna had left for me on a TV tray. It is now 1:15 p.m. My family are all away somewhere, not a sound anywhere. I played some lovely music on my Magnavox player and I thought about my loved ones that have gone on to their life in the Spirit

World. I long to be with them. I feel so useless here; but I try to be cheerful and appreciate the blessings of dear ones here. Donna came home at 3:30 from her Relief Society leadership meeting at the stake center in Kansas City, Missouri. She looked so pretty and happy and I'm pleased to know she is enjoying her busy life here. I will be 86 years old on December 5 and I feel so useless. Good night.

### **November 19, Sunday**

I had troubled dreams last night so I didn't rest very well. I got up at noon time but I didn't feel ready to "face life" so I went back to bed until 1 p.m. I dressed in my robe and slippers, made my bed, combed my hair, and said my prayer. I ate the lunch Donna left for me on a TV tray. Mary and her children came home about 2:30 p.m. She looked in to see how I was doing, then she went to her basement home to feed her hungry family. We have a dark, cloudy day, but no rain so far. It is now 3:10 p.m. Rex and Donna

just came home; she said Jon had a nice fire going in the fireplace. She invited me to come in her place and enjoy the bright fire burning, so I did. Donna popped corn and we all enjoyed eating it. She also gave me a package of Crunch 'n Munch popcorn with toffee and peanuts in it. Mm good. Good night.



*Donna Shattuck in 1977.*



### November 20, Monday

We have a cloudy, cold day; it looks like it may start snowing any minute. I got up at noon and put my house in order and myself. Donna brought my lunch in on a TV tray (egg, toast, fruit, and hot milk). She is very thoughtful of my needs. Mary and family were invited to a Cub Scout family night in Overbrook. Donna kept the baby here. Dorothy Tibbets came over to take care of the baby while Donna went to get some milk. I presume Rex was with her. I watched "The Greatest Heroes of the Bible" on TV tonight. It was the story of Noah, Joshua, the Battle of Jericho, and the story of Moses in Egypt. It is 10:43 p.m. I'm weary, good night.

### November 21, Tuesday

We had our first snow of the year today; it was pretty big flakes falling down about noon time, but it didn't last long. It was a reminder that Old Man Winter isn't far away. Donna went to Relief Society this morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. She was back home about 1 p.m. I was eating my TV lunch when she arrived. It is dark and gloomy now at 3:50 p.m. Donna is asleep in my reclining chair. All is quiet here. The kids will be home from school before long and we'll have some action then. ☺ Mary brought a shoe box full of little mementos or tokens she had made for her class. I guess they are favors. Later Donna brought Mary's baby in and he entertained us with adorable smiles and cute baby ways. It is almost dark at five o'clock now. I turned on my stand lamp. I watched television's "Cross Wits Game" tonight while eating my dinner at 6 pm.

### November 22, Wednesday

It has been another cold, cloudy day with no sunshine. We had some rain, but not much. I expected to see it snowing any minute, but no snow! I stayed in bed until noon. I ate my lunch about 1 p.m. Donna and Mary have been out in their cars, on business. I can't recall where they went. I think Mary took Spencer to school. I know they have been busy making pies, cakes, rolls, and etcetera for our Thanksgiving dinner tomorrow. This poor, old gal can't recall all of their busy activities. This evening Donna brought a letter from Janet S. and Joan G. enclosed in their pretty Thanksgiving cards and one of them enclosed a newspaper clipping with a picture of Otto R. Fife, Master of the Narrows, and artful spinner of yarns. The 78-year-old Cedar City native has led countless trips through the Zion's Narrows in his colorful years. Tomorrow is the big Thanksgiving Day dinner, your day to brown and cut up Mr. Turkey. Good night.

### November 23, Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving Day! We have a very pretty day with blue sky and sunshine. I got up and dressed at noon. Donna came in this morning and vacuumed and dusted my rooms. Our guests, the Bennetts, from Otoe, Nebraska arrived about 2 p.m. They are a friendly, happy family. Donna and Mary served our delicious dinner about 3:30 p.m. The turkey was tender and so yummy good!

Happy Thanksgiving Day



We had all of the traditional foods. After the dinner, we were all stuffed, but the turkey was the stuffed one, before dinner. ☺ We had two tables full, one in the living room and one in the kitchen. I sat at the table in the kitchen with Rex and Donna and Julie and some of the kids. Donna made the delicious ice cream and Mary froze it. I had a bad dizzy spell this evening; the room seemed to be whirling around. Ugh! Too much rich food for this old gal. Good night.

### November 24, Friday

We had a pleasant day with no snow or rain and we enjoyed some sunshine. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought a nice lunch to me of turkey, hot gravy, and carrot cake. People are busy doing their Christmas shopping now. Donna brought five cute Christmas cards for me to send my money gifts to Janet, Joan, Mary, John, and Kathy for their family gifts from me. Mary's friends, the Bennetts, are enjoying their visit here on the farm. Donna and Rex brought their friends, Doris ?, and her daughter and little grandson in to see me. They used to live in our branch, but they moved away. They came back for a visit. They are nice people. Tonight, I went to Donna's place to enjoy the family and their fireplace. Mary's friend Betty Bennett and family are visiting her here. Good night.

### November 25, Saturday

It is a cold, wet day, raining. Rex can't work on the front porch as planned. He and Donna drove to Lawrence for some things they needed. I got my Christmas cards ready to mail, with the checks, to my five grandchildren, for their family gifts from me. \$25 to the ones with children, and \$20.00 to John and Ann and to Kathy and Mark. One of the Bennett girls came in my place to have a shower bath. She was in the bathroom so long I forgot she was there. Donna brought my lunch and my dinner to me on a TV tray. This evening I enjoyed "The Lawrence Welk Show;" it is always a good program. I'm weary, so good night.

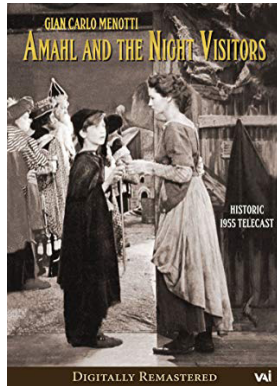
### November 26, Sunday

We have another cold, wet day, but my family went to Sunday School. I got up about noon and I ate the lunch that Donna left for me on a TV tray. Betty Bennett couldn't go to church as planned; her husband phoned to say that he was coming to take them home. Her youngest girl was sick, too, so Mary had to go without Betty. Mr. Bennett had a wheel come off of his car on the way to the farm and that slowed him down. Rex and Donna brought company home for dinner. It was a woman and her son. She works with Rex at the nursing home. I think her name is Judy White. Donna's timer didn't come on as expected, so the ham wasn't ready, but she had some turkey to warm up. Betty Bennett turned the oven on, but she didn't notice soon enough. Mary received a cute gift, a flower vase in the shape of a high-topped shoe, in many colors. Donna came in this evening and addressed Christmas cards and wrote checks for me to send my five grandchildren; \$25.00 to Janet, Joan, and

Mary, and \$20.00 to John and Ann and Kathy and Mark, to shop now for their families gifts from me. Good night.

### November 27, Monday

We had a little snow this early morning, but it melted fast. I got up at noon and ate my lunch. I had an appointment to see Dr. James Ruble at 2:30 p.m. Donna and I went in the pick-up truck to Overbrook. The nurse and doctor checked me over; I don't have to go back. I paid the \$8.00 and I'm happy; I feel better. We drove to Julie's school and waited about ten minutes for her to come out, then we took her to the High School where she is rehearsing for a play for Christmas (**Amahl and the Night Visitors**, where she has the lead). Donna went in the school to make sure someone would bring her home after the rehearsal. I was glad to relax in my chair when we got home. It's a bumpy ride in the old truck on our country roads. Donna and I watched the television program "Little House on the Prairie" this evening. Good night!



### November 28, Tuesday

Happy Birthday to Mary, she is 36 years old. We have sunshine and blue sky today, but it is windy. Donna went to Relief Society. She came home about 1 pm. I got up at noon. We ate our lunch together in my place. She brought my Christmas stamps home (\$10.00). I addressed cards to Otto and Violet and enclosed some Christmas stamps. I wrote a note in Lillian Keller's card. Mary did a lot of her Christmas shopping; she left the bags in my place for safe keeping. Rex and Donna went to the city to get the tray for my walker and something Rex had ordered. She thought they'd be home by 7 p.m. She left some food on a tray for me. Donna brought the new tray home this evening and it is installed on my walker now. Mary, baby, and Julie, visited with me this evening. We watched television programs until Donna came home about 8:35 p.m. Good night.



Mary and Jon Tibbets circa 1977.

### November 29, Wednesday

We are blessed with another lovely day. My family have been busy going and coming. Donna brought my lunch on a TV tray at noon time. Someone took Spencer to his school. I enjoyed the television stories and later some lovely music on my Magnavox player. I got some exercise walking around in my rooms with the help of my walker. Donna has been working on her Christmas books and I think Mary went to Julie's school to take her to the high school to rehearse for a play she is in. Little Brian came in

here with a lot of questions and with busy, little hands, but Grama Donna came to my rescue and took him with her. ☺ I watched television tonight until after the ten o'clock news. Good night.

### November 30, Thursday

It is a sunny day, with a lovely, blue sky. Mary took Spencer to school and she had her hair cut. I got up at noon and put my house in order and myself. I enjoyed the nice lunch that Donna brought to me on a TV tray. Later, I took my walker to the Marshes' side and I enjoyed the sunshine coming through their lovely, big window. Donna read from the Church News about the prophets our church has had to guide us in the revealed word of God. I do enjoy having her read to me. Especially from our church materials. I'm so thankful to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. My heart is filled with love for all of God's children here on Earth. I received a pretty invitation to the annual stake Relief Society Christmas social. It is called "The Christmas Music Box." It's on Friday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. and that is tomorrow! Good night.

### December 1, Friday

I tried to "set my house in order." We have a cloudy, cold day but it isn't a wet day. We got dressed in our best, long formal, gowns and drove to Kansas City, Missouri, to the Christmas "Music Box" social. It was a lovely program arranged by the Kansas City, Missouri, stake Relief Society. The Christmas decorations were beautiful with many exquisite displays by the wards and branches in the stake. I was delighted when Jerry Cartwright, my cousin Ruth's handsome boy, came to greet me. He brought his sweet wife over to meet me. He said his mother will be so happy to learn that he talked with me. He said he was going to phone her when he got home. I am very glad that Donna and Rex insisted that I go to this lovely program with them. Good night.

### December 2, Saturday

It is a damp, cloudy day, but Donna and Mary took the children with them Christmas shopping. I think Dorothy Tibbets has baby Chris. Rex and Jon T. have been sawing up logs with Rex's new power saw. I washed my lunch dishes. It is so dark and gloomy I have to have my lamp on to see to write. It is 3 p.m. I enjoyed some pretty Christmas music played on my Magnavox player. Correction: The children are not with Mary and Donna because Jody and Spencer have been in and out of my place off and on all afternoon. They're having fun I hope, but they are noisy! It has been foggy and dark all day. I have the light on to see to write. I hear a car coming; I hope it is Donna and Mary. It is 5 p.m. and these boys should calm down! Grama Elvie can't seem to do much about it, but I love them and want them to be happy. Today's mail brought me a birthday card with a nice letter

enclosed, from Lydia and Gene Paul. She is busy crocheting Christmas socks and hats with a scarf attached for their grandchildren. She is always busy. It is ten p.m. Donna is in bed and I'm on my way to bed. Good night.

### December 3, Sunday

"Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning."♪♪♪ My family is all in church; I wish I could be with them, also, but this 86-year-old Grama Elvie isn't up to the long trips now, and they do have a long drive to the church or branch. We have some snow on the ground and it is snowing lightly now at 1:30 p.m. I often think of my home in Salt Lake City; we lived a block away from the church (the 10th Ward meeting house) and the Webster School house. I love my memories; it is true that old people do dwell on their memories. ☺ Oh happy day, the sun broke through the clouds; I love the cheerful sun. We watched television programs this evening until bed time after the ten o'clock news report. Good night.

### December 4, Monday

We had a real fairyland this morning; the trees and bushes were covered with ice, and the sun shining brightly made everything sparkle and twinkle and glitter. It was beautiful while it lasted but the sun soon melted old Jack Frost, so the trees and bushes looked bare and unadorned. However, I love the sunshine, too. ☺ I walked around my rooms with my walker for exercise. I ate my lunch while listening to the television stories. Later, I enjoyed lovely music on my Magnavox player. Donna came in and read to me from the Church News. I enjoyed that very much. Rex came to hear the newscast and he slept in my recliner chair through the whole thing, as usual. ☺ Good night

### December 5, Tuesday

My half-sister, Bonnie Jean Reynolds, phoned from Salt Lake City this morning to wish me a happy birthday. Wasn't that thoughtful of her? "Whoop-tee-doo" I am 86 years old today. Donna brought a gift in from her and Rex; it was wrapped up so pretty. It was a lovely, white night gown, with some pink and blue flowers and pink satin ribbon at the neckline. The material is a soft flannel. She also had the 1979 Year Book or Diary Book gift wrapped, too. Julie came in to wish me a Happy Birthday; she had her baby brother, Chris, in her arms. It is gloomy looking outside; we've had some sunshine once in a while, and some snowflakes, too, at times. It is almost dark by 5:30 p.m. now. I need my stand lamp on to see to write in the diary. Violet and Otto Fife phoned from Cedar City, Utah, to wish me a happy birthday and Lydia phoned from Salt Lake City this afternoon, too. Donna made a delicious birthday cake frosted with whipped cream. She had lighted candles on it and they sang the birthday song to me. I opened my gifts (rosebud soaps in a pretty jar, a can of Old-Fashioned Toasties Peanut Butter,



*Elvie and her comments about her birthday: "Whoop-tee-doo I am 86 years old today." She was happy to be here but would have been much happier to graduate.*

with coconut and candy mix, hand lotion, and cute little trinkets the children made). It was a happy birthday with my dear children. They sang many old-time songs for my pleasure. Correction – Mary made the cake with whipped cream. Good night.

### December 6, Wednesday

I'm thankful for a good night's rest. We have a cloudy day; it looks cold outside, but no rain or snow so far. It is 5 p.m. and I have the light on to see to write. I got up at noontime and ate the lunch that Donna or Mary brought on a TV tray to my room for me, bless them, they are thoughtful of me and my needs. They have been in and out, someone took Spencer to school. Jody didn't go to school today because he has a little cold in his throat. He came in here and watched the TV stories with me. After he left, I turned off the television and played some nice records on my Magnavox player. There was no mail for me today except the TV Guide. I have my pretty birthday cards on display again today. I'll put them away tomorrow. My poor shoulder blades sure hurt when I try to write for very long, but one can't write without stooping over. It is a sad situation, eh? Mary and Greg did some Christmas shopping while Julie was rehearsing for her school program. They have their big shopping bags parked in back of my chair, so "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas."♪♪♪ I do love the beautiful Yuletide music our TV is playing now. Good night.

### December 7, Thursday

We have a cold winter day with about an inch of snow frozen on the ice-cold ground. I stayed in bed until noon. Donna brought my lunch to me. It is snowing lightly. Grampa Rex took Julie to her school this morning; the school bus brought her to our stone gates this afternoon. She walked home from there. It was freezing cold and her face was red and her feet were cold when she came in. She was in a warm coat with a hood, but it's a long walk from our big gates to the house. Donna and baby Chris visited with me for a while until Julie came to take care of her brother so Grama Donna could go to the kitchen to prepare dinner for her company this evening (the Rosses). Mary had car trouble coming home, a flat tire, I think, so she was held up. Oh, these long country roads are a challenge, believe me! I love the city life. ☺ David and Susan Ross came in to see my place this evening. They said it is very nice, and I agree. Good night.

### December 8, Friday

We have bright sunshine this morning to cheer our hearts, but the snow isn't melting so I know it is freezing cold outside. I got up at noon, but I felt light headed and weak, so I went back to bed for a while. Mary brought my Digoxin Tablets (one a day except Sunday) home from Topping Drug. The cost was \$3.50. Donna has been working on her Christmas books for her children. She brought Janet's in to show me; it is

very lovely. I ate Cream of Wheat for lunch. This afternoon I listened to Christmas records on my Magnavox player. The sun was so bright from my south windows, I pulled the shades down. Today's mail brought a Christmas card from Violet and Otto, it is my first one, and I got a birthday card from Bonnie and Darrell Reynolds. Later, Donna and Mary brought a birthday card with a very pretty blue and white triangle scarf. It was made in France (Saks Fifth Avenue). It was from Kathy and Mark Calkins. Lucky me, eh? Tonight, Rex and Donna went to a Primary officers and teachers dinner party in Ottawa. Mary and baby visited with me for a while. We watched television until the baby got restless, so she took him to bed. I went to bed after the ten o'clock news. Good night.

### December 9, Saturday

We have bright sunshine in a pretty, blue sky, but it is freezing cold out there. The snow isn't melting at all. I watched someone, Donna or Mary, burning papers. They were bundled up with a coat and hood, I couldn't see their face. I stayed in my nice, warm bed until noon. Donna brought my lunch to me about 1 p.m. I had dressed and combed my hair, made my bed, and said my prayer. So, I was ready to enjoy my lunch in my swivel chair. It is too cold for the children to play outside, but I can hear them shouting and playing in the basement inside. I will be glad when the winter time is over. As a kid, I loved the snow, but now I prefer looking at clover. ☺ This evening I watched television until I got weary and I went to bed about 9:30 p.m. Good night.

### December 10, Sunday

It is a pretty day with blue sky and sunshine, but the snow isn't melting, so it must be freezing cold again today. My family all went to church. Donna left a TV tray with food on for me (dry cereal, banana, Jello drink, and milk). I got up at noon time and dressed in my warm robe and slippers. I combed my hair, made my bed, and said my prayer. I enjoyed lovely Christmas records played on my Magnavox player while eating. Donna and Rex came home about 3 p.m. I think that Mary and family came about 2:30 pm. I could hear them go down to their basement apartment to eat. Donna said that she and Rex were hungry, so I'm sure the Tibbets kids were hungry, too.

Donna brought me a beautiful, potted plant; a poinsettia with 4 or 5 lovely, big flowers in bloom and a pretty Christmas card saying, "Peace and Joy to You at Christmas Time and always, from The Relief Society Sisters. Oh, they are kind and thoughtful dear sisters, I do appreciate their love. Donna had a nap in my reclining chair this afternoon and I dozed in my chair. It is dark by 5:30 p.m. now. Donna brought a roast beef sandwich and Postum drink about 6 p.m. Poor, old L.V. is a nuisance! Good night.



*"Peace and Joy to  
You at Christmas  
Time and Always."*

### December 11, Monday

We have enjoyed a pretty, blue sky and sunshine today, but it has been cold because the snow isn't melting. I'm nice and warm here in the house. I surely am enjoying my beautiful poinsettia plant with its lovely, big red flowers and gold paper wrap and the big, red bow. I got up at noontime and I watched the television programs while eating the lunch Donna brought to me. Later, I played some lovely recordings on my Magnavox player. My family has been in and out, doing Christmas shopping. I gave Mary \$10.00 to buy a gift for me to give to Donna and Rex for Christmas. She got a fur lined hood for Donna, and a box of Russel Stover Chocolates for Rex. Good night.

### December 12, Tuesday

It is a bright, sunny day, but it is cold and windy, too. I rested fairly well last night, but I stayed in bed until noon. Donna left some food on a TV tray for me before she went to Relief Society. I ate and listened to the stories on television. Later, I enjoyed lovely music from my Magnavox player. It is the Christmas season, so TV has a lot of Merry Christmas music. It's a wonderful time of the year. This 86-year-old Grandma Elvie is enjoying it. ☺ My children, Donna and the Tibbetses, came in a few times to check on me, but they are busy with Christmas shopping and other activities. This evening I went to enjoy the fire in Marshes' fireplace. Rex has a nice mantel over the fireplace now. Good night.



*Jody, Brian, Jon, Spencer, and Greg Tibbets with the Marshes' fireplace and new mantel in the background.*

### December 13, Wednesday

We have another bright, sunny day without the wind. The snow is almost melted; I do love the pretty, blue sky. Donna left my lunch on a TV tray (a tuna sandwich, Jello drink, a piece of caramel coconut cake, and a banana). It is very quiet here at 2:30 p.m. I presume the kids are in school and Donna and Mary and baby are Christmas shopping? For exercise I am going to wash my few dishes. It was about 3:30 this afternoon when Donna and Mary and the children came home. They were pleased because they had almost finished their Christmas shopping. Tonight, Mary gift-wrapped the gifts that I'm

giving her family, and I signed the cards, so little by little we are getting the gifts wrapped in pretty Christmas paper. I enjoyed Rex's fireplace this evening for a while. I came back here and enjoyed "The Johnny Carson Show" for a while. Ann Margret and Joan Rivers entertained us. ☺ Good night.

### December 14, Thursday

The "Big Blow" is with us today. I see tumbling tumble weeds fly passed my windows and I can hear the old wind howling through the trees. Julie and her Grama Donna are intrigued because the baby chicks are trying to peck their way out of their shells. We have sunshine and a pretty, blue sky. Julie isn't feeling well today, so she didn't go to school. I gave myself a haircut this afternoon. It was too long for my convenience. I had a faint spell which slowed me down a lot. We had some excitement this afternoon when Rex's incubator started hatching a baby chick. The whole family watched the little chick peck its way out of the shell. It's hard to believe that fluffy yellow chick came from that little egg shell! It's an amazing world. Donna told me tonight that our dear old friend Jeanne Allen died today. I am sorry to hear this sad news. Good night.

### December 15, Friday

Julie is feeling better; she went to school today. I got up at noon time. Mary came in this afternoon and wrapped her gifts to put under the big tree in the Marshes' living room. So, I've been entertained with family and television programs with Tiny Tim's joyful, happy Christmas. I think Donna has her books ready to mail to her children; their family picture albums, a beautiful gift, they'll all enjoy for years. Good night.



*This is the book Donna did for Kathy and Mark, Christmas 1978.*

### December 16, Saturday

We have problems this morning, our electricity is off and on. I presume the strong wind is the cause, but we have no heat without the electricity. Well, that's life in Kansas. I'm thankful for my blue, crocheted shawl and pink lap robe. Donna brought my lunch at 12:30, a sandwich and fruit. Mary came in and gift wrapped her children's Christmas gifts so I was entertained. Jon T. come about 1:15 p.m. He

has diarrhea troubles, the poor man. I went to Donna's kitchen to get warm. She has the little wood stove burning. It is cold in here. Today's mail brought a Christmas card from Darrell and Bonnie Reynolds. Joan phoned from her home in Naperville, Illinois; they are all well and happy. Donna and Mary talked to Joan. Donna received a thank you note from Elmer and Thelma Strong for the family records she mailed to them. He turned them over to Florie Fullmer, who is taking care of all the books for the Strong Family society. Elmer's home is at 943 South 9th East in Salt Lake City. Tonight, Donna went to the Christmas social to hear her little Tibbets family sing on the program; she and Rex said they did very well. Good night. *[This social would have been in the Tibbetses' new ward in Lawrence, Kansas.]*

### December 17, Sunday

This has indeed been a day of rest for me. I didn't get up until noon time. I put myself and my bedroom in order and then I ate the nice lunch Donna had left for me on a TV tray. Mary started out for church this morning, but the baby vomited all over her and himself, so, she came back in the house. The others left without them. We've had very little sunshine today. It has been cold and calm with no wind, rain, or snow but it is winter and this old L.V. likes to be warm and comfortable. Donna and Rex came home about 4:45 p.m. She looked tired; she couldn't sleep well last night; her brain was too busy with thoughts of things to do before Christmas. I'll be glad when the Yule Tide holidays are all over and we are back to normal living. It has been fun and exciting at times, especially when we think of seeing Kathy and Mark. Good night.

### December 18, Monday

Today has been cold and cloudy, but no rain, snow, or wind. I stayed in bed until Donna and Mary came home about 1 p.m. They took Spencer to school and did some shopping. I rolled up half of my hair in pin curls, but I had to rest for a couple of hours before I could do the other half. It's a sad situation, but when you are 86 years old, you will understand. I think Rex has six baby chicks hatched out of their eggs now. They are very lively little, yellow balls in their incubator home. Julie is very interested in them. Mary came in here later this afternoon and wrapped some of her Christmas gifts. Good night.

### December 19, Tuesday

We have a hazy sunshine today, but it is much warmer outside they tell me. Donna and Rex took someone to the airport this morning. She left a TV tray for me; I got up at noon. Mary and baby Chris came in here this afternoon. She finished wrapping her Christmas gifts and put my house in order. I walked around with my walker for exercise. Rex and Donna came home about 3:30 p.m., tired from the long drive. I received a pretty card from cousin Ruby Hodges wishing us joy at Christmas. Donna is expecting company; they phoned to say they are on their way. I got a birthday card ready for Gregory Tibbets, his birthday is the 21st of December. He'll be 11 years old. Judy White and

Gail? came about 5:30 p.m. Rex was putting the Christmas lights up on the house. Donna brought her company in to meet me and see my place. Donna brought me a sandwich and hot drink (Postum, I think) about 6:30 p.m. I watched the movie "The Millionaire" tonight. I listened to the ten o'clock news tonight. Good night.

### December 20, Wednesday

This was an exciting day for our Julie Tibbets. In fact, for the whole family. The program "Amahl and the Night Visitors" was put on tonight at the high school [*Santa Fe High School*]. We all went to see Julie as Amahl, a crippled boy 12 years old. She was the star of the whole show. We were all proud of her. Rex had gone to the airport to pick up Kathy and Mark Calkins; he brought them to the high school and they did get to see Julie in the last half of the show. I had a busy day; I had my hair shampooed and set and dried. I didn't think I'd ever see the day I'd let them tease my hair that way. But now, somehow, I didn't care. They tease me, why not my hair? So, they teased and sprayed. My hair was piled up high; it felt like fine wire, and I knew why. ☺ Tonight, Rex and Donna insisted that Kathy and Mark sleep in their bedroom while here. They made their own bed in my sitting room on the floor. They had a good mattress; it is standing up back of my chair. You'd be amazed to see all of the stuff that is stashed in back of my chair! Good night.



Kathy and Mark Calkins on the land at the Marshes' Mound.

### December 21, Thursday

Happy Birthday to Gregory Tibbets. He is 11 years old today. It is a pretty day with blue sky and sunshine but it is cold outside. I got dressed and went to the kitchen to enjoy the family action there. Kathy was cleaning the pantry shelves. The results? A big bag of discarded junk. Mark was on an inspection tour of the farm with the Tibbets kids. Donna made sandwiches and hot chocolate drinks for lunch. I ate with the family in the kitchen. Oh, it is wonderful to have Kathy and Mark here with us this Yule Tide season. They are a beautiful couple; a pleasure to see. Our electricity has turned off and on a few times this afternoon. Later, I learned that Rex was working on the line in the basement. This evening the family went to a school program. They came home about 9 p.m. Mark and Kathy

said that I was lucky I stayed home. ☺ I got in on the big birthday surprise this afternoon; Donna brought Gregory's bicycle in my place and then she told him to come to Grama Elvie's house to find his best Happy Birthday gift. He was really overjoyed to see that bright, new bicycle. Good night.

### December 22, Friday

It has been much warmer today and there is a sunny, blue sky. My family has been away most of the day trying to buy a picture frame. I'm not sure what they are shopping for; if I could walk and feel secure without my walker, I'd be with them on this beautiful day. (Wishful thinking, eh?) This dear old 86-year-old L.V. is happy to sit home and recall "The Good Old Days."

*They say, "We live in the past" and I think that is true,  
But what else is there for us to do?*

*Our memories are a blessed retreat*

*And with a happy heart, a new day we greet.*



Donna brought in a hand full of Christmas cards; she was too busy to stop and open them, but she said I could open them and read the messages in them. I enjoyed doing just that. ☺ Kathy looked so lovely in her pretty, new, brown dress; I think she made it herself, but I'm not sure. The family drove around the [*Kansas*] city to see the pretty Christmas lights. They parked and walked around and etcetera. Good night.



Mary in front of their under construction home in Lawrence.

### December 23, Saturday

The family went to see the home that Jon and Mary are going to buy in Lawrence, and to do some last-minute Christmas shopping. Grama Donna stayed home with baby Chris, and me. She vacuumed my rugs. The Marsh kids came home about 2:30 p.m. and Kathy wrapped gifts for Mary to help her get ready. The greeting cards are coming in. Tomorrow is Christmas Eve! I'm going to Marshes' side to see the action there; gift wrapping and laughing and talking, all at once. I'm sorry that Donna isn't feeling well, she has some dysentery or diarrhea trouble. She is resting on my extra bed now at 4:30 p.m. Rex is going to be Santa Claus at the Manor Nursing Home tonight. The Tibbets kids have all gone to see Santa Claus; will they recognize their grandfather in his red Santa suit? Ho! Ho! Ho! Little 2 year old Brian said to Santa Claus, "You are my Grampa Rex." Ha ha, you can't fool the kids. Good night.



*Rex Marsh as Santa at the Manor Nursing Home. Jody looks knowingly at the camera.*

with us was the best gift of all! A Merry Christmas indeed. I went back to bed about nine o'clock and I stayed in bed until noon time. Donna brought a nice lunch to me. "Love at Home." 🎵 🎵 🎵 It was indeed a Merry Christmas. Good night.



*Spencer, Brian, and Chris on Christmas Eve.*

**December 24, Sunday**

"Welcome, Welcome Sabbath Morning." 🎵 🎵 🎵 And welcome Christmas Eve day. My family all went to Sunday School. I would love to have gone with them, but they have such a long drive and it is freezing cold, too. This old, 86 years old Grandmother is much better off at "Home Sweet Home." ☺ We have a lovely, blue sky and bright sunshine, but it is cold outside. I ate the dry cereal and milk that Donna left on a TV tray about 1:30 p.m. The Jon Tibbets Family came home about 2:15 pm. I presume that Rex and Donna and Mark and Kathy are eating out in a nice restaurant, however, we are invited to a duck dinner this afternoon at Dorothy Tibbets's home, so on second thought, they are not eating out anywhere until they go to dinner at Guy and Dorothy's house about 4 p.m. I'm invited with the family, too. We really had a delicious dinner with the Guy Tibbetses. I didn't know duck tasted so good. Dorothy's table was loaded with goodies. Kathy and Mark walked with me to the Tibbetses' home next door. Good night.



*Rex, Chris, and Donna with Christmas gifts.*



*Chris and Mary Christmas morning.*

**December 25, Monday**

Merry Christmas! We all got up before seven o'clock this morning to see what Santa left the children. Oh, the Tibbets kids were delighted and shouted out with joy. When they saw their toys and gifts, we all had gifts to open. Rex, Donna, and Mary and family gave me a lovely sweater-coat and a huge can of popcorn. I can't record all of the nice gifts, but to me, having Mark and Kathy here

### December 26, Tuesday

Donna went with Kathy and Mark this morning to look the town over. He wanted to see the St. Luke Hospital, where he was born and other landmarks of his childhood here. I had a fairly good night's rest. I stayed in bed until noon. Mary brought a nice lunch to me, a turkey sandwich, Jello and fruit salad, and a hot milk and honey drink. I spent most of the day watching television programs. Rex came home about 4 p.m. He hung the faulty window shade that fell down in my hands again today. Ugh! I went to the Marsh side this evening and visited with my family. I enjoy seeing them having fun playing their number games around the table. Good night.



Mark in front of St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. Of note, Kathy was born in St. Luke's Hospital in Pasadena, California.

days before taking them to the airport. Mary and Jon went to the matinée to see "Superman." They took their family, all but the baby. He was here with Grama Donna. I watched television while eating my lunch. It has been an overcast cold, day. Good night.

### December 29, Friday

It was another freezing cold day. Donna spent the day cleaning her house after the house full of family she has had the past two weeks. I got up about noon time and ate my lunch. This afternoon I was entertained with the TV stories. I was happy to have Donna home today. She and Rex were going to a matinée, but they

### December 27, Wednesday

It is cloudy this morning but calm, not much wind. Donna went to the market to shop for company dinner. Joan phoned to say she is on her way to the farm. She is coming to take Kathy and Mark to the airport tomorrow, I think? I do not remember all they tell me, but you'll understand when you are 86 years old ☺ Mark isn't feeling well today; he has dysentery problems. He is in bed now, 2 p.m. I'm very thankful I feel as well as I do. I am blessed indeed. Later, Joan said she is going to take Mark and Kathy to her home for a visit before taking them to the airport to fly home. Joan is beautiful and so is her daughter Janet. Grama Elvie is very proud of her children. Good night.



Elvie holds her great grandson Christopher Alan Tibbets.

### December 28, Thursday

Our house is almost back to normal. The three of us are alone again. Joan and her car full drove away from the farm about noontime. She is taking Kathy and Mark to Naperville, Illinois, to visit with them for a few



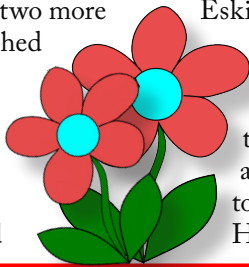
decided it was too cold to go out. We have only two more days left in 1978. Donna came in here and watched television with me for a while this evening. Good night.

### December 30, Saturday

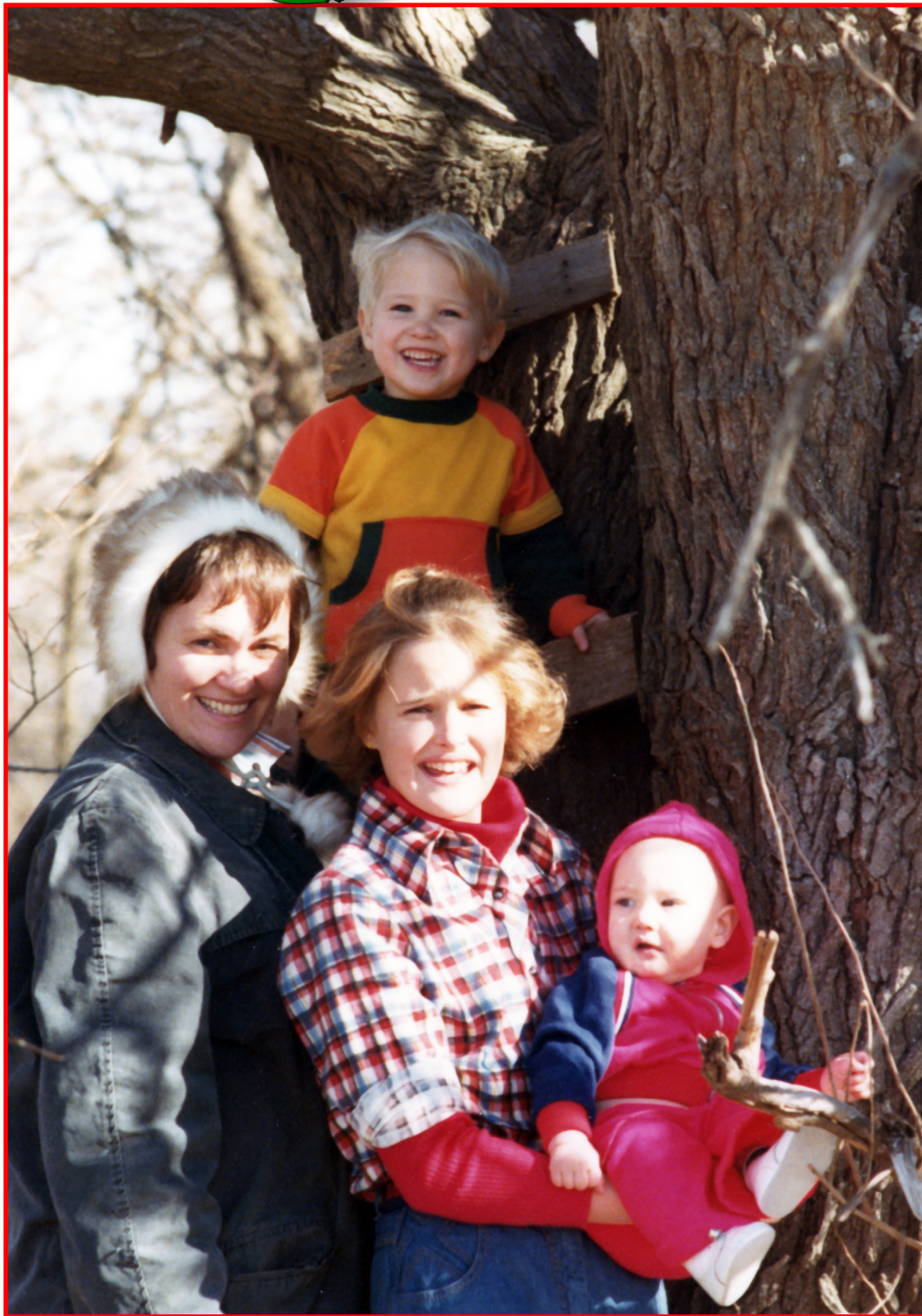
It is a typical winter day. I presume it snowed all night; we have a lot on the ground and it is falling now, 2:20 p.m. The big, white flakes are so beautiful to see. I am very thankful Joan and her car full got away before this snow storm came. Donna had an appointment to have her hair shampooed and dressed, but she couldn't go in this weather. I am comfortable here in my nice, warm "Home Sweet Home," enjoying lovely music played on my Magnavox player. This evening, Rex and Donna went to a party at the Manor Nursing Home where Rex works. The storm has subsided; we have a clear sky with bright stars and moonlight, but it is cold outside I'm told. I enjoyed "The Lawrence Welk Show" tonight. It is always a good show. Good night.

### December 31, Sunday

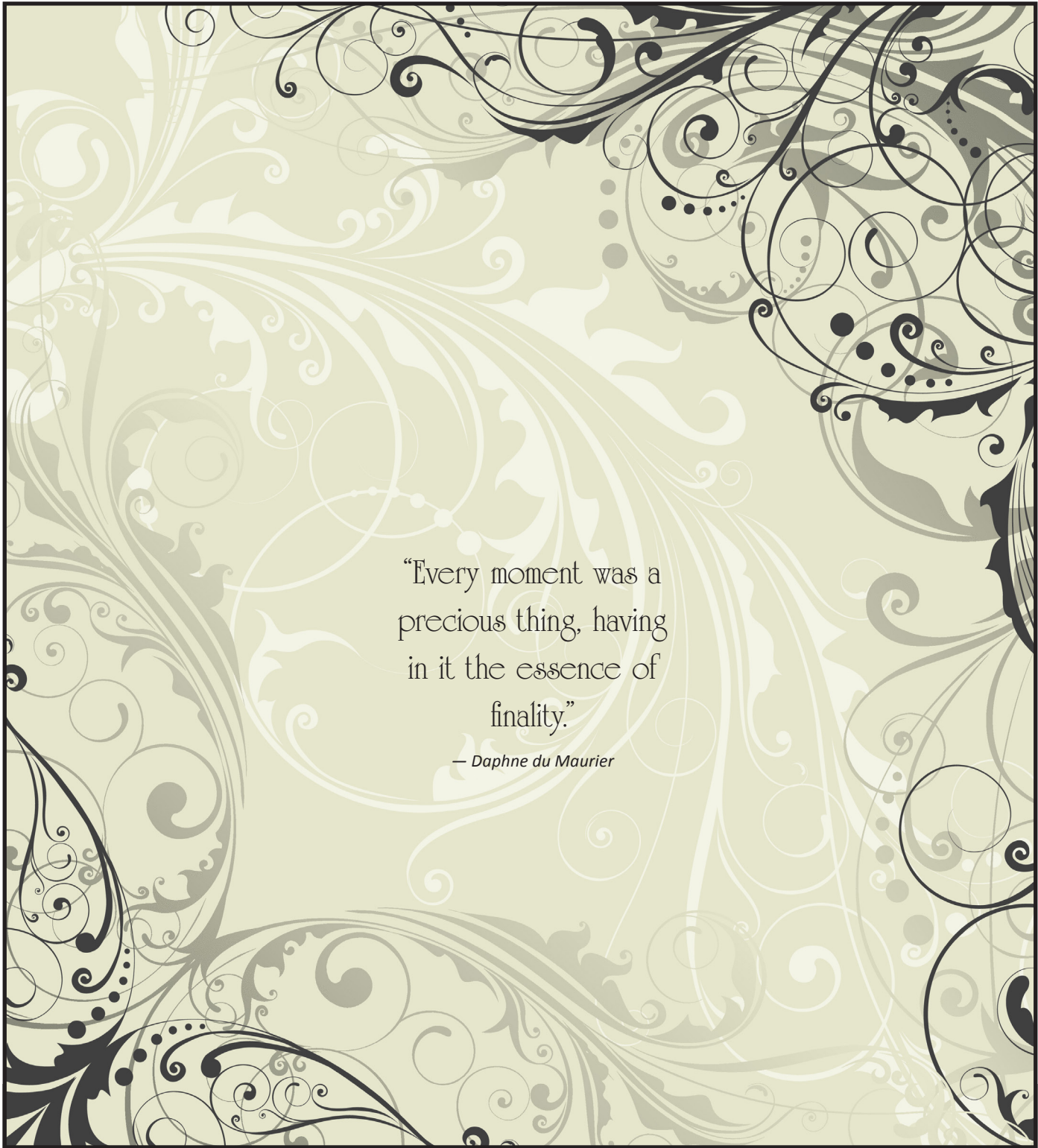
We have winter today. It snowed all night and all day; no one went to church from this farm today; we are snowed in. Rex built a nice fire in the fireplace and the little stove in the kitchen, so it is warm and comfortable in the house. The Tibbets kids bundled up like



Eskimos and went out, but they were soon back in the house to get warm. Our windows are frosted over half way up, a pretty picture. This evening about 5 p.m., Rex took his car out to see if he can drive to the highway. I will be glad to have the blue sky and sunshine back again. We'll start a New Year tomorrow, so, dark clouds show your sunny side, and a Happy New Year in 1979.



Mary and three of her children, Brian, Julie, and Chris. Taken by Kathy in December 1978.



“Every moment was a  
precious thing, having  
in it the essence of  
finality.”

— *Daphne du Maurier*

1978 is Elvie Renshaw's second to last diary.