

# HELEN LELA VALANTINE STAY

## MY STORY

### MY CHILDHOOD

I was born January 1, 1924, in Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, at the General Hospital. My parents were Vernon Wilson Valantine and Ruby Potter Valantine. I was the second child in our family, my sister Lora Virginia being born on December 10, 1921, in Cedar City, Utah. They named me Helen Lela Valantine. They said I had hair that stuck out all over my head, and was an easygoing baby.

At the time of my birth, my parents had been in Los Angeles only nine months, Dad having come from Utah in search of work, and having found a job as a Meter Reader for the Department of Water and Power for the city of Los Angeles. They had bought a lot on a hillside in a canyon in the foothills in the northeast part of the city, and Dad had dug out a level place to put up a tent. The tent had a board floor and the walls were boarded up to a height of four feet. The furniture consisted of a double bed, two cribs, a kitchen table and four chairs, a washbowl, and a stove. Later, Daddy dug a cess-pool, added a little room off to the side, and installed a toilet.

I remember sitting with Lora on the top of a black trunk in our tent, watching the rain outside. Since our canyon road wasn't paved, the water rushed down it like a muddy brown river. Sometimes the tent leaked, and Mother put pans all over to catch the drips. Mother often sang us to sleep, and how we loved to hear her sing to us, often begging her to "sing just one more". Singing was a big part of our life, and I have always loved to sing.

Salaries were low in those days, prices were high, and we were quite poor, although we always had enough to eat. I can remember many suppers (our evening meal) that consisted of only a glass of milk with an apple or dates cut up in it, and we thought that was a perfectly fine supper. We ate a lot of oranges, apples, and vegetables, because they were cheap and because they were healthy for us. We rarely had meat because it was too expensive. We always ate whole wheat bread because Mother wanted us to be healthy.

Dad managed to pay for the lot the tent was on after a few years, and borrowed \$500 to get materials to build a house. We rented a house nearby and lived there for three months while Dad put up the framework for our house practically alone,

working from early until late, digging out dirt, hauling lumber, setting foundations, and so on as well as doing his regular job. The house seemed like a palace to us, with a front room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, and a half-screened room for storage and washing, and eventually a two-car garage, although we never had a car.

We thought it was so fancy to have a built-in bathtub. Before, we had always bathed in a portable, round, tin tub. Mother planted fruit trees, bushes, flowers, vines, and other things to beautify our little lot. Since we were in the hills, we saw lots of quail, lizards, and spiders.

## CHILDHOOD ADVENTURES

Sometimes Mother would take us "downtown", into the center of Los Angeles. We would walk down the winding canyon road about a mile to the streetcar tracks. There we would take the "W" streetcar to town, about a 45-minute ride. I liked to watch the different houses, the hills, the railroad yards, and all of the exciting things in the "outside" world as we rushed along. We would sometimes get to ride on the "Angel Flight", a cable-car going up and down a steep hill downtown. It cost a penny to ride it each way, and was very exciting. Then Mother would shop at a big market downtown, and we would each have a bag or two of groceries to carry back home.

At Christmas time, Mother would take us downtown on the streetcar, and we would look in all of the big department store windows which were all decorated with beautiful Christmas scenes, with mechanical people and animals that would move in all sorts of interesting ways. Then we would go in the stores to the toy section and ooh and aah at all of the marvelous and exciting toys. We could never afford them, but just looking at them was exciting enough.

There weren't many other children living nearby in the canyon, so we usually played alone. We liked to gather black walnuts from the trees growing on the hills around us and crack them with stones and eat them. We would also go exploring on the hills and save our "treasures" of broken colored glass, pretty rocks, or wild flowers. Mother would often take us to a nearby park to play while she did her mending. This park was about three blocks past the streetcar tracks, along Figueroa Avenue. It was named Sycamore Grove for the beautiful sycamore trees that grew there. The park had a natural spring which bubbled out into a little stream, which was dammed up to make a children's wading pool, and on to make a goldfish pond. On the banks of the stream grew clumps of bamboo in which to play house or hide-and-seek. There were also swings and teeter-totters. Many a happy day was spent running and playing in the park.

## MORE CHILDHOOD ADVENTURES

Another park we liked was Westlake Park, which was far away and involved a long streetcar ride. There we would occasionally rent a rowboat and row around on the lake for an hour or two, or rent canoes and do the same. Another park we liked to go to was called Lincoln Park--another long streetcar ride. They had a zoo there, and we enjoyed going to see the animals, and once saw a lot of crocodiles and alligators at an alligator farm. We lived at 463 Museum Drive. At the foot of the canyon was the Southwest Museum, which we visited frequently. It was full of Indian artifacts, and was very interesting. We especially liked the Indian costumes decorated with dyed porcupine quills, and the large teepee made out of skins. Once we went to see the "Casa de Adobe", an old Spanish house, which was only a few miles away. Sometimes if a relative or friend with a car came over, we might get to go to the beach, which we loved to do. We would usually go to Venice or Santa Monica, two beaches popular in those days.

We spent two summers at Venice Beach, renting little houses near the sand, usually while Dad was doing some building on the house that couldn't be done with us living there. At the beach, we would make elaborate sand castles, dance in seaweed hula skirts; walk out on the pier to see all the rides, eating places, and games of chance (we learned early in life how crooked those games really are!). Sometimes if we had enough money, we would ride on the bamboo slide, the roller coaster, or go to the Fun House. But the most fun of all was swimming and jumping in the waves for hours, and lying in the sun.

## CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Mother always dressed us very nicely out of remnants and other inexpensive materials. She would make our clothes and they were always very pretty. I remember one Sunday dress of yellow lace over a satin slip, with ruffles and a satin belt with little flowers on it. Another I remember was two shades of light blue satin with a little pink satin flower on it. Another was a purple flowered print on a white background, bound in purple bias tape with a matching jacket. I was always so happy with my pretty clothes.

The school we went to, Mt. Washington, was on the top of the hill about two or three miles up the hill from our house. We thought it was a tedious walk to get there and would dilly and dally on the way. We could get to school two ways: by climbing the hill behind our house to a winding road and following it to the top of the hills to the school, or by going up our street to its end about a mile, then climbing up a steep path to the school. We usually took the latter route as it was shorter, but muddy when it rained, and was covered with poison oak bushes which gave us several cases of the rash.

I always liked school, and I always did well in my classes since Mother always read to us every day and helped us at home. At school, there were two grades in the same classroom, so it was easy to listen to what the older grade was learning and to learn it also. Because of this, I skipped the last half of the first, second, third, and fifth grades. And because of that, I finished the sixth grade when I was ten years old; Junior High when I was thirteen; and High School when I was sixteen years old.

## CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES

We took tap-dancing and piano lessons when we were young. Mother would sew for the teacher to pay for our dancing lessons. I liked the dancing, but hated to practice the piano, so of course didn't learn much and had to quit. Mother's lack of time to sew, or money to spend, soon ended the dancing lessons.

I was baptized when I was eight years old, and always wanted to be good, although I usually wasn't and teased my little brothers all the time. I thank my dearest Mother for taking us to Church when it was so far away and hard to get to without a car, and with lots of little children to bring along in later years. The ward house we went to (Garvanza Ward, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) was a rented building about five miles away. We could walk the mile and a half to the park, take a bus, then walk another block or two to the building, or we could walk the mile to the streetcar and walk farther when we got off at the other end. We did it both ways.

We liked to go swimming in the summer time. There was a city pool about five miles from our house. It cost 5 cents to swim, and a few cents for the streetcar, so usually we would go on the streetcar. Sometimes if we didn't have enough money, we would walk home. It seemed to be a long ways! But we would pass interesting sights: a doll hospital; a home like a large play house, for midgets; and once we were given a ride by an old lady in an electric car that looked like an old-fashioned carriage. We always loved to swim and became quite proficient at it. It was always my favorite sport.

## A NEW BROTHER

When I was four years old, Mother, Lora, and I went to Salt Lake City, Utah by train—a big adventure in our lives—to stay until the new baby was born. He was a boy, Vernon Edwin Valentine, whom we called “Ted”, born September 3, 1928. We stayed with Mother's sister, Aunt Lenore and her husband Clayton. Aunt Lenore took us to visit the ice cream factory where she worked, and they gave us each an ice-cream bar, which really impressed us! Our mother's mother, Grandma

Olive Potter also lived with Aunt Lenore, and I remember her as being a sweet, thin woman with grayish-red hair, who never got angry with us even when we were naughty.

On the way back to California, we stopped in Beaver, Utah, to visit my father's parents, Grandma and Grandpa Valentine. They lived on a small farm and had cows, chickens, and other animals, as well as an outhouse, the first I had ever seen or used. I didn't like it at all! Grandma was a sweet, tall, stocky woman with gray hair, who had to walk with a crutch because of a hip operation. Grandpa was a small, wiry man who scared me because he looked and sounded gruff, although I'm sure he was very nice also. Then back to our little canyon home. Daddy was very proud of his new little son. He was always very thoughtful of Mother in one way, always giving her presents for every occasion. Every Valentine's Day, or Easter, or Mother's Day, or her birthday, he would give some present or bring home a sack of chocolate, or a box of See's chocolates, English toffee, or pecan rolls. He would knock on the door, leave the candy, then run, and we would run after him after racing to the door, and try to catch him and give him a kiss. He always kissed her goodbye and hello. Although he loved Mother and us very much, Daddy was sometimes sarcastic and angry, which made Mother very sad, and made us somewhat scared of him.

#### ANOTHER NEW BROTHER

Another little brother came into our home on April 12, 1930, named Roy Russell. We stayed in California this time, and Mother had a lady come in to tend us. We loved our little brothers and often tended them, although as I said, I also teased them, much to my discredit. Ted had beautiful brown eyes and light brown hair, which became wavy when he grew older. He always had a ready smile and a twinkle in his eyes. Roy had beautiful blue eyes and curly dark brown hair and little chubby cheeks. He was peaceful and easy-going.

#### MORE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Some neighbors, named the Seiferts, lived across the street in a little shack. Mr. Seifert always had some sort of a car, some of them long and elegant, and others more commonplace. Since those were the days of liquor prohibition, and they liked to drink, they had a "still" in their yard, hidden away, although we never realized it when we were little. It was raided once by the revenuers. Mr. Seifert gave us rides in his cars, showed us the intricate 3-D pictures he carved out of wood, and played the concertina for us, singing plaintive songs like "If I had the wings of an angel, over these prison walls I would fly." Mrs. Seifert sometimes brought us little presents, and they were nice to us.

Sometimes we would make miniature-golf courses on the hillside, and play it with a tennis racket and tennis ball, since we didn't have any golf equipment. It was kind of hard to keep the balls from always rolling down the hill, but it was fun. We got roller skates one Christmas, but it was also hard to skate on the hill, since we would go too fast downwards and it was hard to go uphill. We always went barefoot in the summer, unless we were going somewhere, and loved to feel the soft dirt on our feet as we played on the hills.

### NATURAL DISASTERS

The weather in my younger years was truly beautiful: bright blue skies, sunny warm days, dark nights which showed off myriads of brilliant stars, including a very clear Milky Way, and smog was unheard of. It rained, sometimes hailed, and one winter it even snowed an inch or two. After several days of hard rain, we had a bad flood in 1932 or so, and the rains softened the dirt hill in back of the house. It seemed strange to wake up and see it still dark because the windows were buried in mud. Dad worked frantically night and day to dig it out before it crushed the house. He then put up cement retaining walls, cement stairways, and a cement patio with a built-in wading pool and sand box. It was a terrific amount of backbreaking work to do. Daddy was always a very careful and thorough workman. Everything he did or built will probably last a hundred years or more.

The next year, 1933, Los Angeles had a terrible earthquake, centered in Long Beach. The earth roared and shook and I was terrified. Daddy was home from work, and ran to shut off the gas and electricity. Our little frame house suffered no damage, for which we were thankful, but many parts of the city had severe damage and several lives were lost.

### A NEW LITTLE SISTER; NEW HOME

We went to Salt Lake again where a little sister was born on February 19, 1934, named Saralyn. Mother wanted to be there to be near her mother and sisters, and to have someone to watch us while she was in the hospital. Saralyn had blond hair, and was sweet and loving. But now our family was too large for our little two-bedroom home in the canyon, so we moved up into Highland Park, about four blocks from the place where we went to church. The folks bought a large, old two-story frame house for \$2500, at 229 So. Ave. 60. It had a front room, large hall, dining room/family room, a kitchen, pantry, half-bath, large front porch, and a side porch downstairs. Upstairs, it had three bedrooms and a bathroom. It had a large yard, garage (still no car), and a beautiful magnolia tree and palm tree in the front yard. We loved that big old house.

### OLD-FASHIONED APPLIANCES

There were many things that hadn't been invented when I was young, or that we didn't own. We had an icebox, not a refrigerator. The ice had to be brought in by an "ice-man" every few days. He would chip a block of ice off of the huge blocks in his truck, grab it with huge tongs, sling it onto his leather shoulder pad, bring it into the kitchen, then chip off little pieces until it fit into the ice-box. The ice would melt and drip into a flat pan at the bottom of the icebox and would have to be emptied periodically or water would run all over the room. We didn't get a refrigerator until I was about fourteen years old.

My first nine years, we didn't have a washing machine, and scrubbed our clothes by hand on a scrubbing board, which in our case was a metal-covered board with ridges in it. Later, the family bought a washing machine which had an electric wringer on it, to wring the water out of the clothes. We would wash the clothes in the washer, then wring them into the first rinse water, then wring them into a second rinse water, then wring them into a basket that we would take outside, and then hang the clothes on a clothesline. Once I got my hand caught in the wringer and smashed the tendons in it.

## INVENTIONS

Zipper hadn't been invented, or anything made of plastic, or any synthetic fabrics such as nylon, acrilan, or polyester; no frozen food or freezers, or packaged mixes, or plastic wraps, or aluminum wraps. There were no microwave ovens, televisions, VCRs, jet airplanes, rockets, or helicopters. The atom hadn't been split, no one ever dreamed of going to the moon or beyond; there were no stereos, videos, tape recorders, CDs, lasers, no calculators or computers, e-mail, or internet. There were no dishwashers, or mixers, clothes dryers or garbage disposals, no garage-door openers, or crock-pots or video games; no electric can-openers or car phones. But we had a happy childhood and didn't seem to miss such things.

There were things that had been invented which our family never had for lack of money: a car, telephone (the family got one after I was married), a radio (although we got one when I was nine years old) or a daily paper. We did have a nice wind-up record player which wasn't electric. You would hand-crank a big spring, and the record would play until it ran down, then you would have to crank it up again. The phone was black and hung on the wall, and you had to share the line with other people you didn't know. The earpiece hung on a cord and you could put it up to your ear, but the mouthpiece was part of the phone on the wall, so you had to stand next to it to talk into it. No one ever dreamed of cell phones!

I first heard of television when I was a teenager and took my little brothers and sisters to downtown Los Angeles to see the movie "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" when it first came out. They had a TV in a room off the theater lobby for

people to see. It took up about half the room, with only a little screen—black and white. They said that someday everyone would have one in their homes. I thought, “Why would anyone want that in their house?” Little did I know!

## TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER

I was so blessed to have such a wonderful mother. She had to do things the hard way, without modern conveniences. Yet she gave us so many advantages—taking us so many places so we could have varied experiences, reading to us and helping us learn to read, teaching us to love music, feeding us healthy food, teaching us to be self-sufficient and how to live frugally, and most importantly, taking us to church and teaching us the gospel of Jesus Christ, and giving us her great love unconditionally. Thank you, my dear, dear Mother!

## TEENAGE YEARS

### JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

I started school at Luther Burbank Junior High School in Highland Park—a beautiful school with a nice principal. I loved those school years! I graduated from there in 1937 when I was 13 years old. We had some nice neighbors, a family with a girl Lora’s age, and they became bosom buddies. That summer the family went to Snowflake, Arizona for a vacation. We stayed with Mother’s sister Pearl who was living there, and later stayed in a little house in Lakeside, Arizona. We had a cousin Dece who was Lora’s age, and they were so nice to us. We had a lovely summer riding horses, going on hayrides, wiener and corn roasts, and other enjoyable country activities. There was a group of young people who all went together to these activities. We had a wonderful summer, and hated to come home again.

### HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

I went to Benjamin Franklin High School that fall. It was about a mile and a half from our house, and we usually walked to school. I enjoyed high school and the football games and the fun. I was elected treasurer of the Senior Class and enjoyed working with the other school officers. My best friends were smart girls and lots of fun to be with. I took college preparatory classes.

I usually wore dresses or skirts and blouses to school, with bobby-sox (socks with the top turned down into a cuff) and shoes. I didn’t own a pair of silk stockings (nylon wasn’t invented yet) until I was in college and earned enough money to buy a pair. We would wear them with garter-belts since there were no such things as



pantihose. I had some slacks, but girls never wore them to school. My clothes were usually cast-offs from other people or were made from remnants of cloth Mother would buy. I had a cotton-yarn lightweight sweater which buttoned down the front, and I remember being cold a lot of the time in the winter.

There wasn't much peer pressure to do bad things. Most of the school kids didn't drink or smoke, and none of us had even heard of drugs. The small group who smoked were looked down on, at least by all of the people I knew and went around with. There were no other church members in my class, so these were just the average students who felt that way.

## BOYS AND WORK

Since we didn't have a phone, the only way a boy could ask us out was to do it face to face, either at school or at our house. My folks didn't get a phone until after I was married. The boys we went with just came and picked us up. If they didn't have a car, we went on the streetcar. Since our family never had a car, going on the streetcar seemed perfectly normal to us. I wasn't particularly popular in High School, but had some dates. We would go to the movies (they were decent in those days), or to a roller-skating rink, and once a boy took me to an ice-skating rink. We would go bike riding, or play baseball in the park (a group of us from church). A girl in my class invited me to join a group of them from her church at a get-together every Friday night at her folks' house. That was lots of fun and I was able to meet lots of other people. We would play games, talk, and have refreshments.

I worked at whatever job I could get during those years. I would baby sit (25 cents an evening, including doing dishes, folding laundry, straightening the house, and feeding and caring for the children and putting them to bed), and I was happy to get the work. I worked at Kresses on Saturdays and earned 25 cents an hour which was \$2.00 a day, from which they deducted 4 cents for social security. The summer I was 15 years old, I got a job as a Mother's Helper at \$20 a month with a Jewish family who lived near Beverly Hills. I would help care for the children, clean the house, wash and hang the clothes, and do the dishes. I bought myself some clothes with the money I earned.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

I loved to go to church, Primary, and Mutual (Mutual Improvement Association) for those age 12 and on up. We had many Primary productions where we would sing and dress like flowers or some such (Primary was held on Saturday in those days). MIA met every Tuesday night, and we had lessons, and almost every weekend, a dance. I liked speech and drama work. They often put on plays, and I

loved to be in them. Sometimes one of our teachers, usually a Sunday School teacher, would take us on outings. They often took us to the Fun House on the Venice Beach pier, and a time or two to the mountains nearby. During my Mutual years, the church built its own meetinghouse off York Blvd., at about Ave. 53. We would have to walk about two miles or take the streetcar to get there.

## COLLEGE YEARS

I started to Los Angeles City College the fall of 1940. Lora and I would walk three blocks, take the streetcar downtown, then transfer to another streetcar, then walk another five blocks on the other end—it took about an hour or so. From time to time, we would pay to ride with other students who would drive. I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher so took those kinds of classes. It was fun going to college, learning new things and meeting new people.

I worked as a typist for a teacher under the National Youth Administration (NYA), a government program to help college students earn money to go to school. I was allowed to earn \$14.00 a month (50 cents an hour), which I used to pay my expenses. Since tuition was only \$6.00 a semester, I was able to get by on what I earned, especially since we lived and ate at home.

I was voted into the college's social women's club, joined the "Future Teachers of America" club, and joined the "Lambda Delta Sigma" (LDS) club. The latter was the church sponsored fraternity/sorority, chapters of which were located at most of the colleges and universities in southern California. We would have meetings once a week, with religious lessons, and have lots of social activities, often with the other schools. Most of my friends and family met their mates through the Lambda Delta Sigma. It was sort of like BYU in that way. In those days, no one I knew went to BYU—we were all too poor. We never could have afforded the tuition there nor have afforded to live away from home.

I took swimming and archery while at college for my Physical Education classes, and enjoyed both of those sports. In May, 1942, a group of school officials chose five girls to reign over the Open House festivities at the school, and I was amazed to be chosen Queen. It was quite exciting.

## I MEET JESSE

In the summer of 1941, July 3, 4, and 5<sup>th</sup>, the Lambda Delta Sigmas of all the colleges in southern California held a joint mountain party at Barton Flats in the San Bernardino Mountains. There was a lodge with kitchen facilities, and a campground with cots on which we slept out under the stars. We had chaperones from among the parents of those attending. Lora and I went, and were awakened

early the first morning by this fellow who came driving into camp with some more kids, honking his horn and yelling “Hi!” to everybody. “Boy”, I thought, “I wonder who he is, waking us all up so early in the morning!” Little did I know he would soon become my husband.

His name was Jesse Eldred Stay, and he was there with the group from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). We sort of started walking around together at mealtimes and on hikes, and he asked if he could take me home on the last day. But I had told another boy who wasn't there that he could take me home. Jesse asked if he could wait with me while the other boy came, and we decided to hike up a nearby hill. It was steep and Jesse gave me his hand to help me up. When we got to the top, he didn't let go of my hand. I thought, “Hmmm! This is getting interesting!”

Jesse had an engaging smile and a wonderful personality. When we came back down, almost everyone had gone, so we decided to go too. On the way down the mountain, we met the other boy coming up, so regretfully we parted, and I continued home with the other boy. Without a phone and living so far apart, I thought that probably Jesse and I would never meet again. But that night I went to a pay phone to call Jesse to see if I had left my purse in his car, and he asked me for a date, to go see the movie “Fantasia”. From then on, we went together almost every week, and Jesse kept asking me out. We went to fun places, like beach parties, concerts at the Hollywood Bowl, swimming, Lambda Delta Sigma parties, and an occasional show.

## THE WAR BEGINS

Jesse had joined the Air Force to learn to fly before we had met, so he left for flight training in Texas and Oklahoma in November of 1941. On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor in Hawaii was bombed by the Japanese, and the United States declared war on Japan and Germany, and World War II began. The California government thought we were also in danger of attack by the Japanese along the coast so all of the important places in the city were covered with barrage balloons. Those were big balloons about half the size of blimps so that enemy airplanes couldn't fly too low if they wanted to bomb us. Searchlights were also placed at strategic places, and every plane that flew over was targeted by the lights until they passed out of the area.

Every night was a blackout. In other words, all of the street lights were turned off and no light could show from your windows. It was pretty scary being out at night in all of that darkness. Both of my parents were “Air Raid Wardens” or “Block Wardens”. They were responsible for seeing that no light shone from anyone's

window, and to report any suspicious activity. They would have to go around the block every evening checking on that. They wore metal helmets and identifying arm bands.

## WARTIME LIFE

There were “air raid warnings” every so often when unidentified planes or submarines would be detected off the coast. There were sirens placed everywhere that would go off when a warning came. Once I was on my way to college, and the warning went off. It must have been a serious warning because all of the streetcars and busses quit running, and the people were supposed to stay inside. There was apparently a real threat of a Japanese intrusion of some sort. After the war we learned that several times Japanese submarines had been detected off the coast.

Each family was issued a ration book, with coupons for various items: gasoline, shoes, and foods like sugar, butter or margarine, meat, and various other items. The food rationing didn't bother us, but there wasn't enough gasoline to go anywhere. I had enough coupons for gasoline to either make one trip to church each week, or drive to the market to buy groceries each week. I usually chose the latter, to have a car to carry the food home in. Shoes were also a problem for my little brothers since they wore them out so quickly and didn't have enough coupons to replace them, so I gave them my coupons since I had enough shoes.

There were no new cars, refrigerators, stoves, washers, car tires, or anything like that. They weren't being made. All of those kinds of materials were being sent to help the war effort. If you wanted any of those things, or if something broke, you either had to buy a used item or do without. Everyone was also urged to plant a “Victory Garden”. Mother planted a large garden in the back yard, and we all helped care for it. People were asked to give blood, save scrap metal and turn it in, and be frugal. People were asked to buy war bonds and war stamps. We tried to do all of those things and to be good citizens.

It was very rare to see a young man between the ages of 18 and 30 or so. They had all been drafted into the military. Families who had sons or daughters in the military service would hang a silk fringed rectangle in their windows, with a blue (?) star on it. Jesse's Mother had one in her window. If the service person were killed, they hung a gold star in the window. It was sad to see how many gold stars began to show up.

## OUR WEDDING

Jesse was in flight training for nine months, and during that time I went with other boys and became quite fond of one of them, a returned missionary going to USC,

whom I considered marrying. I wondered which to choose: Jesse or Claude, for they were both wonderful young men. I fasted and prayed to be guided in which one to choose. So when Jesse came home July 5, 1942, with his newly won wings and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant bars, I knew he was the one for me, and we were married eight days later, on July 13, 1942.

We had wanted to be married in the Temple in Salt Lake City (there were no temples in California at that time), but because of the war, Jesse only had a week's leave, so we were married in the lounge of the Huntington Park Stake House by Jesse's Bishop, with both of our families there. Since Jesse was to be stationed in Salt Lake City for his first assignment, we had planned to be married in the Temple there as soon as it opened after being closed for summer vacation. However, he was transferred before it opened, so we didn't get to have our marriage sealed in the Temple until Jesse returned from overseas. We then had that beautiful ceremony done on March 22, 1945, in the Salt Lake Temple.

Our wedding was lovely. Jesse's brother Carroll had brought big bouquets of flowers for the decorations, and also flowers for the others and my wedding bouquet. It consisted of several large gorgeous gardenias, satin bows, orange blossoms, and centered with a large delicate orchid. It smelled heavenly! I wore a beautiful white satin wedding gown with a fitted bodice, sweetheart neckline, and lace designs on the full skirt. My headpiece was of orange blossoms on a full veil. Lora was my Matron of Honor, wearing a blue lace dress and holding a bouquet of red roses. Jesse was dressed in his uniform (during the war he was not allowed to wear civilian clothes), and Howard Hopper (his best friend) was his Best Man.

After the wedding and reception, we went to the Biltmore Hotel for a one-night honeymoon, then on to Salt Lake City by train. We stayed at the Hotel Utah, then with some of Jesse's aunts and cousins who were so hospitable to us. We palled around with one of Jesse's friends from cadets and his wife, another recently married couple, Bob and Pat Shaw.

## ASSIGNMENTS

In about two weeks, we were sent to Walla Walla, Washington, to an airbase there. We had a little basement apartment, and continued to have fun with Bob and Pat. We would go on picnics and drives. We also went to the church branch there. After a month, we were sent to Ephrata, Washington for another month. It was in a dry, deserty location. Jesse had to stay at the base, and I slept on a rented couch in a home, later renting a bedroom. Then we were sent to Sioux City, Iowa for a month. There we rented an apartment on the third floor, and I discovered I was pregnant. The food odors drifting up from the other apartments made me feel sick, but we got by.

## JESSE GOES OVERSEAS

Then Jesse was sent overseas, and I went back home to stay with my parents, who were so good to take me in and welcome me. He couldn't tell me where he was going for security reasons, so we worked out a code. If he was going into the Pacific war area, he would mention San Francisco in his post card. If he was going to the European war area, he would mention New York. He mentioned San Francisco, so I knew he was going to the Pacific area. When he arrived, and was able to write to me, I learned that he was in Hawaii.

Jesse was overseas for two and one-half years, and it was a long, lonesome time, even being with my dear family. But all of my friends were in the same situation, which seemed to help. I stayed active in the church with many callings, and that helped also. I was activity counselor in the MIA, dance director, speech director, Junior Girls (15-year olds) teacher, and Stake speech director. The whole family was so good to me while I was home waiting for Jesse, and I will never forget how kind they were to both Sharon and me. During that time, Jesse's Dad died of diabetes and heart trouble, but he wasn't allowed to come home from the war for the funeral.

I wrote to Jesse every day, and he did the same to me, whenever he could. They would censor the letters if they felt anything was said that would help the enemy in some way. I hated to have anything Jesse said cut out of his letters. It was also a little embarrassing to know that someone was reading our romantic exchanges. My great regret is that I threw the letters away once after the war when we were moving, and we were told we had too much weight for the Air Force movers to move us, and had to get rid of some things. If I had it to do over, I would throw a chair away and save the letters. They were so precious to me.

## SHARON IS BORN

On May 15, 1943, our dear little beautiful daughter, Sharon Lee Stay was born. She was 22 months old before she saw her Daddy. We sent him a telegram saying she was born, but he didn't get it until three days later. It was the most wonderful thing in all the world to have a baby daughter, and I was so elated and happy. Sharon had black hair when she was born, which soon lightened to white blond towhead when she was about nine months old, and she had beautiful soft little blond curls all over her head. I had so much fun with her, and Mother was so good to help me care for her. Sharon learned to talk quite fluently while still quite young. She tended to get some words backwards though, and would call a sidewalk "walkside", and a grasshopper, "hop grasser", and spaghetti, "busgetti". She also loved to sing, and we would sing all sorts of songs together.

The last nine months before Jesse came home, I moved into a big house we rented in Highland Park, with two other girls from our ward, Peggy and Muerline. Muerline's husband had been killed in a training flight, and she had a little boy Sharon's age. Peggy's husband was also overseas as a pilot, and later, unfortunately, was also killed in a plane crash. They were wonderful girls and friends and wonderful roommates. I felt lucky to get to know them and be with them.

During this time, I bought a car, a used car. After we got the tires patched up and a few repairs made, it was a very nice car. I had to teach myself to drive, so I would go out at night when the traffic wasn't thick, and drive around the block, making right turns, until I had mastered that. Then I would go around making left turns until I had mastered that. Then I would drive to Mutual. Finally, I felt like I was good enough that I could pass the driver's test and get a driver's license, so I drove over to Glendale where the tests were given, and got my license. It was good to have a car, but since gasoline was rationed, you couldn't go very far on what they gave you. There were no automatic shifts in cars in those days, so part of learning to drive was learning to shift gears and start out without jerking.

### **JESSE COMES HOME**

During these years, Jesse was participating in bombing raids on Japanese-held islands in the Pacific, being based at Hawaii, Funafuti, and later on, Guam. Many of his companions were killed or lost at sea, but he wasn't wounded and returned home to us safely on March 11, 1945, now a Major. He was sent to a 2-week processing center, then sent to an airbase at Tonopah, Nevada. I remember that we left California on the day President Franklin D. Roosevelt died.

Tonopah was a little mining town in the deserts of Nevada, and housing was non-existent. We rented a little converted coal-shack for \$60 a month (a lot of money in those days), which was just one room barely big enough for a double bed on which all three of us slept. We had to pay to rent a shower each time we wanted one at the local hotel, and we had to eat all of our meals in restaurants, since we had no way to cook in our shack. But it was worth it to be with Jesse again and resume our life together.

Shortly after this, Jesse was sent to War College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, so we moved there. We rented a bedroom in a family's house and had kitchen and bath privileges. We spent a happy month there, then were sent back to Tonopah. Jesse went there to try to get us a decent place to live, while I took Sharon and went to Los Angeles to stay with the folks again while he was arranging a place.

## SHARON GETS POLIO

While we were in Los Angeles, Sharon contracted polio (infantile paralysis), which paralyzes people. We rushed her to the hospital, where she had to stay for two weeks, which was awful for her and for us, since they would only let us visit once a week for 10 minutes. Thanks to the blessings of the Lord, she wasn't paralyzed and was able to come home to us. Because she still had to have treatments every week, we had to stay in the Los Angeles area, and Jesse was transferred to the Ontario Air Base, California. Sharon developed weakness in her right leg in a few months, and had to go back into the hospital for more treatments. She then had to wear corrective shoes for a couple of years, but eventually seemed to be fine.

We bought a house trailer and put it up in the folks' back yard. Jesse was then transferred to Kingman, Arizona, but was able to get back to Los Angeles every so often. After a few months, he was transferred to Riverside Air Base in California, so we sold the trailer and bought a two-bedroom house in Riverside for \$10,000. However, our time there was short-lived as Jesse had the opportunity to finish school at UCLA, where he had gone to school for two years before the war. We sold our house in Riverside, and bought a house in Westchester, California, for \$12,500, on Airline Ave. It had a front room, kitchen, laundry room, two bedrooms, and a huge yard. We were very happy there.

## RANDY IS BORN

At this time, a new little son was born to us, Randall William Stay, born June 17, 1946, in Los Angeles, California. He also had blond wavy hair, blue-green eyes, and fat little cheeks. How overjoyed and excited we were to now have a little son, as well as our darling Sharon. Randy adored his father, and tried to stand just like him, leaning against the wall and crossing his leg. He loved metal pipes of all kinds, and Jesse gave him some he could screw together and unscrew, which he even liked to take to bed with him. Randy loved to climb and we would find him precariously perching in some spot he had climbed to and couldn't get down from. His hair turned white blonde, and he was a towhead until he grew up.

During our time in Westchester, we lived in a wonderful ward (Inglewood Ward) and made many fine friends. Jesse was made a counselor in the Elder's Quorum. After two years, Jesse received his BS degree from UCLA in Industrial Management, and since he was still in the Air Force, was transferred to Washington D.C. to the Pentagon.



## LINDA IS BORN

But before we left, while Jesse was taking his finals at UCLA, on February 2, 1948, our third child was born, our beautiful little Linda Jean Stay. She was born in a fancy hotel that had been converted into a military hospital in Pasadena, California, near the Rose Bowl. Linda had blondish-brown hair and blue-green eyes, and has been such a joy to us. Linda was very self-sufficient and liked to keep things neat. While very little, she would fold her clothes to put them in her drawers. She liked to change clothes and would sometimes change two or three times a day. She was very sweet and agreeable. How happy we were! How proud we were of our three precious children!

## VIRGINIA

We sold our house in California and rented a house in Arlington, Virginia, about a ten-minute drive from the Pentagon. We had a wonderful ward there also, the Arlington Ward, and many special friends. The ward was constructing a building to meet in and was trying to raise money to finish paying for it, and the Bishop asked everyone to give all they could. So we gave all of the money we had, which was \$500, to help pay for it. It was what we had left after selling the house, buying a new car, and making the trip East. We felt good being able to help pay for the new ward. We always loved Arlington Ward. I was the dance chairman in the ward, and we put on some wonderful dances. Jesse was the scoutmaster.

Our house in Arlington (1402 No. Adams) had a front room, kitchen, side porch room with lots of windows, a bathroom, and a large hall. Upstairs were 3 bedrooms and a bathroom. The house had a fantastic yard for birds, and we were always being visited by cardinals, bluebirds, blue jays, catbirds, cowbirds, woodpeckers, flickers, thrushes, orioles, painted buntings, cedar waxwings, thrashers, scarlet tannagers, goldfinches, hummingbirds, warblers, robins, and other colorful, beautiful birds. We were always running into the house to find the bird book to see what a new bird was called. We also had many lovely bushes and trees—a huge 10-foot tall rose bush with white roses all over it; a maple tree that would go gorgeous shades of red every fall, dogwood trees that would bloom with white and pink blossoms every spring, and other beautiful bushes and trees around us.

We had very nice, friendly neighbors, and had a happy time there. I would often drive Jesse to work at the Pentagon—a short ten-minute drive—and stop on the way back to let Randy watch the drawbridges raise and lower as the boats went by on the river. Sharon went to first and second grades there.

The weather in Virginia was very hot and humid in the summer, and often snowed

in the winter. Sometimes there would be ice storms, where everything would get coated with ice, and the roads would be so slick no one could walk or drive on them. Once, during one of these ice storms, while Jesse was on a flying assignment out of the state for a few days, I had a miscarriage. I stayed all day on the couch and six-year old Sharon took care of Randy and Linda as best she could, but I still lost the baby. It made me feel very sad.

## JUDI IS BORN

On December 15, 1950, our fourth child was born, our beautiful little Judith Ann Stay, at Bolling Air Force Base hospital, Washington, D.C. She was coming in such a hurry that Jesse drove right up on the lawn of the hospital to get us closer. Judi had golden hair and blue-green eyes. We were elated and overjoyed to have another little girl. I always hoped that maybe she was the little one whom I had miscarried, who was given another chance to come to earth. Judi loved to wander and explore, and once pushed her little doll buggy all the way downtown while I searched frantically for her. While I was in the hospital with Judi, Jesse was made a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force.

While we had lived in California, we had enjoyed going to the beach nearby, visiting our families, and going to church affairs. In Virginia, we enjoyed touring the beautiful attractions in and near our nation's capital, such as the Capitol building, visiting the Senate and House of Representatives, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Washington Monument, the Arlington Military Cemetery and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the White House, and Mt. Vernon, plus enjoying the Ward activities and getting together with our friends. We also managed a trip back to California, driving, at least once a year to visit our families.

## WE MOVE TO PROVO

That spring, we were transferred to Provo, Utah, where Jesse was to start the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at Brigham Young University (BYU). We arrived in May, 1951, and rented a little house for a couple of months, then moved into another rented house with a nice landlord, Stan Cox. We had the upstairs floor of a large house, at 945 N. 50 E, with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Students rented the apartments downstairs.

Sharon and Randy were baptized in Provo, in a baptismal building near the center of town, which has since been torn down. They went to school, first at Joaquin Elementary, then at the BYU teacher-trainer elementary school on lower campus, which has since been discontinued. Linda attended kindergarten there also.

I worked in PTA most of the time we were in Provo, as a room-mother, safety

chairman, and vice-president. It was nice doing what I could to help the schools. I was also president of the Newcomer's Club, part of the BYU Women's Club, for one term. We made many fine friends in these organizations. I taught Primary and led the singing in our ward, and Jesse was in the Bishopric. We first attended the 4<sup>th</sup> ward, but then our ward built a new chapel called University/Park Ward.

### LARRY IS BORN

While we were in Provo, another beautiful little son was born to us, named Laurence Richard Stay, born June 10, 1953, at Tooele, Utah, in a military hospital there. Larry had white-blond hair and beautiful sparkling blue eyes and was always smiling and happy. All of the children were delighted to have a little brother, especially Randy! Larry liked to pretend that he was Superman, and had a little cape to wear. He would scare me jumping off of tall places to try to fly. Larry was a joy to us!

My brother Roy lived with us for a year while he was going to BYU, and it was so wonderful having him with us. He was so good natured and fun to be with. I don't know how he stood it though, since he did all of the dishes every night! He played the violin and bought other musical instruments to learn to play.

### GREG IS BORN

During our four years in Provo, another beautiful little son was born to us, named Gregory Alan Stay, born on May 4, 1955, at Utah Valley Hospital, in Provo, Utah. Greg had curly blondish-brown hair and blue-green eyes and chubby cheeks. He liked to follow Larry around and tried to do whatever Larry was doing. He was happy and peaceful. Can you imagine our joy and excitement and fulfillment at now having these two more wonderful sons come into our family? With three girls and three boys, we felt exceedingly blessed.

We had many happy times while we lived in Provo. We had picnics in the canyon, climbed to Timpanogos Cave, took drives in the mountains, went to Utah Lake, and had get-togethers with friends. A group of us got together every week or two at somebody's house, and each couple presented whatever program they wanted. They were fun times.

### **ALABAMA AND NEBRASKA**

#### ALABAMA

Now our Air Force assignment in Provo was up, and we were transferred to Montgomery, Alabama, while Jesse went to Command and Staff School at the Air Base there. We rented a little house, and had our first battles with cockroaches, a true pest if there ever was one! We were just about two blocks from the church

branch's little meeting-house, which made it nice for us. They didn't have an MIA, so we started one with the Branch President's permission. By driving around and picking up the girls, we ended up having a large Bee-Hive class for Sharon, which I taught and enjoyed. I also taught Randy's class, the Blazers, in Primary. Linda was baptized while we were there, in our little chapel. We had to lift up the one-step-high stage to fill the baptismal font which was below it.

## NEBRASKA

After nine months in Alabama, we were transferred to Lincoln, Nebraska. We bought a lovely brick house there for \$17,000, at 1801 East Manor Drive. It had a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, and a den upstairs, with an unfinished, walkout basement. Jesse finished off some of the basement, and put in a bedroom, bathroom, and a family room. We also got our first "second car" there, a heavy old car which Jesse drove to work, since the Air Base was across the city from where we lived. Oftentimes it wouldn't start, and he would have to let it roll down the hills to try to get it started.

There was a nice church branch in Lincoln, and we enjoyed the activities. As well as having local and Air Force members, there were many who taught at or were students at the University of Nebraska. I taught MIA, then taught Primary and was a counselor, then later, was a counselor in the District Primary. Our District meetings were held in Omaha, and we traveled even into other states to visit our branches. Judi was baptized in a nice font at the chapel, and Randy received the Aaronic Priesthood there.

Sharon graduated from Junior High School in Lincoln, and was Valedictorian of her class. We were so proud of her! Sharon had a good friend there whose father was also in the military. There were lots of young people the ages of Randy and Linda in our neighborhood, and they had good times together. Judi had two little friends her age, Larry had a good friend up the street a ways, and Greg was good friends with the little girl next door.

## LIFE IN LINCOLN

Jesse had to be gone a lot while we lived in Nebraska. He often had to be on "alert"—ready to take off instantly in armed bombers in case we were attacked by Russia. Their group had the motto "Peace is our profession", meaning, that by always being ready to defend our country with strength, it kept the peace, because enemies were afraid to attack us. The world situation was very tense in those years and the Air Force wanted to be ready. Jesse went to "survival school" in the wilds of Nevada a couple of times, to learn to survive in case he ever crashed in enemy territory. He also spent a couple of months in Kansas learning to fly B47's. They

were jet bombers. So the rest of us were alone a lot of the time. But the children were always good and we were as happy as we could be without Jesse.

The weather in Nebraska was very violent. In the summer there would be terrible all-night thunder and lightening storms, as well as tornado alerts. We saw several tornados passing in the distance, and many were the nights I would carry the children sleeping upstairs down into the basement to spend the night for safety's sake. In the winter the temperature often dropped below zero, and the snow was heavy. The wind blew a lot and caused large drifts. The school busses wouldn't come when the snow was too deep or when it was icy, but the children were still expected to be at school. I spent many scary moments trying to drive them in snow storms, and spent many hours digging snow off of our driveway to get the car out of the garage. Sharon usually walked home from Junior High School, a long walk, and arrived home with frosty face and frozen legs.

### MY DAD DIES

Mother, Dad, and Roy came back to visit us while we were in Lincoln, and Dad checked into the Veteran's Hospital there to have some tests done, since he had not been feeling well. There they discovered he had a fast-growing cancer of the bladder. They operated, scraped out his bladder, and removed a kidney. It was to no avail though, and in a couple of months, he returned to Los Angeles to the Veteran's Hospital there, and died a month later, on April 29, 1958. I went home to Los Angeles on the bus for the funeral, and Jesse took off work and cared for the children in Lincoln. It was a sad time to see Dad suffer so and then die.

### BACK TO ALABAMA

We were in Nebraska from the summer of 1956 to the summer of 1959, and then we were transferred back to Montgomery, Alabama, so Jesse could go to the War College there. So we sold our beautiful little house, and started out again. This time we were able to rent a house on the Air Base, which made it very convenient for Jesse to get to work. It was also very nice for the children, with bowling lessons, free movies every Saturday morning, two swimming pools, warm, lovely weather, and lots of nearby friends. We lived in a large converted barracks with cheap rent, which we liked. While we were there, Jesse was promoted to a full Colonel in the Air Force.

We had a fun branch there and lots of good friends, most of them also military. We would have parties and get-togethers and go to the lake nearby. One Easter vacation, we all went down to Florida, rented house-trailers there on the shores of a lake, and had a fun vacation. In Montgomery, we went into town to church, to

the same little branch we had gone to before, though they were raising money for another chapel. Again I was called to teach in Primary. In fact, from the time I started teaching Primary in Utah in 1951, I never stopped teaching or holding some office in Primary for about 45 years.

## **SPAIN**

### **WE GO TO SPAIN**

After our ten months in Alabama were up, we were given orders to go to Spain, to an airbase near Madrid, called Torrejon de Ardoz. We had thought we were going to be stationed in Turkey, and had seen slides of it, had bought a water heater to use there, and had tried to learn Turkish from language records. But then our orders were changed, so we sold the water heater (we should have kept it for use in Spain!), but we didn't have time to learn any Spanish.

Our plane was to take off from McGuire Airbase in New Jersey, so we took a slow trip up the East coast seeing the sights along the way. We went down into middle Florida, saw Silver Springs and the Okefenokee Swamp, and then stopped in Washington D.C. and saw the sights there again. We then stopped in New York and saw the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, and drove up the Hudson River to see the Palisades. Then we took off for Spain on July 13, 1960, on our 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

Spain was beautiful. The sky was so blue and clear, and Madrid was a beautiful city of elegant buildings, parks, wide streets, and statues. We were met at the airport by Art and Emmy Paul, a wonderful couple. Art would be working for Jesse. They took us to an apartment-hotel they had rented for us, while we looked for a place to live. We were on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. Randy, Linda and Judi would gather in the lobby there to play board games and such with other young people, and Larry and Greg would play outside in the dirt with other children, making little roads, hills, and so on. Sharon just sort of watched out for all of them. That part of the city was just being built up, with lots of new apartment buildings under construction.

### **A PLACE TO LIVE**

It took us a long time and a lot of searching to find a place to live. Most of Madrid was made up of apartment buildings or row houses. I didn't want to live in either of these type of places with a large family. We looked at all sorts of large houses in the outlying areas. One was a large house and had a huge ballroom, with a small stage and an alcove for an orchestra to play on. But it was too far out of town, with no means of transportation, to be practical. Another house had many huge rooms

and was on a large estate. We were tempted to take that one, but then learned that the water supply was practically non-existent, and so that was out. The row houses were about one room wide and five stories tall, with the kitchens in the basement and the eating rooms on the main floors. That didn't seem to be very practical either. Some of the houses were too small for us.

After about two months of searching, a friend took me to see a house. It was large, old, with a Spanish-tile roof, ceramic tile floors, and an enormous yard which stretched from the street in front of the house to the street behind. It was exactly what I wanted and was only two blocks from the large apartment building that the Americans had rented to hold elementary school in, church in, and to house the Base Exchange and Commissary. It was also close to the Metro (subway) and the bus and trolley lines, so it would be easy for us to get around when we didn't have the car. Also, the house was about six blocks from the American Theater, so the children could walk to see the movies. We rented it right away!

#### THE HOUSE AND YARD

The house had a foyer, dining room, front room, family room, kitchen, and half-bath downstairs, and four bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs. Our bedroom had a little balcony, covered with beautifully-flowering vines that also screened the porch below. Outside, and away from the house, was a little maid's house with a room and bath, with a wash house on one end of it. There was also a garage, although we didn't keep our car in it.

The back yard had a grape arbor, a smokehouse, an old garage, plus lots of trees. But the most interesting thing for us was a large cemented pond in the back yard. We filled it with water every summer and used it for a swimming pool. It was really fun for the children. The whole yard was surrounded by a high, thick wall, with broken bottles embedded in the top of the back wall to keep out intruders.

We had some wonderful Easter-egg hunts in that back yard. The children would color and decorate the eggs, then we would take turns hiding them. There were such wonderful hiding places that we could never remember where we had hidden all of them, and would find them ages later, all rotten and smelly. The children also had fun climbing in the trees. But once Randy fell out of one and severely broke his arm, and another time Larry fell out of one and was unconscious for a minute or two.

#### LACK OF WATER, HEAT, AND SCREENS

Although the house was really great for us, it also had its problems. The lack of

water was the worst problem, and it was dirty and full of bugs. We had to fill huge jugs with water at the Base Exchange (BX) and carry them home to use. But after nine months or so, the Landlord got us on the city water system, and then we had a plentiful supply of good water.

Another problem was the lack of a decent water heater. The one in the house was small and ran on electricity, which took forever to heat a small quantity of water. So we heated a lot of pans of water on the stove for bathing, and washed a lot of dishes in cold water. There was no natural gas supply to the house, so we had to find a source of bottled butane, and order it often for our kitchen stove (all this in halting Spanish, of course).

The furnace was another problem. It was too small and inefficient. I was usually cold all winter and wore lots of warm underwear. After we converted the furnace from coal to kerosene, Jesse would climb up on the roof with a can of kerosene and pour it down the chimney to clean it out. It would catch on fire, explode, and blow smoke and soot out of the top of the chimney. It was a wonder we didn't blow ourselves up!

But in spite of the problems, it was a wonderful "homey" house, and was cool and delightful during the hot summers, because of its thick walls. Because there were no screens on the windows though, we had to hire a carpenter to make some for us. We also hired him to teach Randy carpentry, which Randy seemed to enjoy.

## NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

We had some nice Spanish neighbors, although we couldn't converse with them very well, not being fluent enough in Spanish. Randy was good friends with their oldest boy, Angel, and they spent a lot of time together. Larry and Greg played a lot with the Spanish children, and also with some English/Spanish boys who lived nearby. Their mother, Nancy Ochoa, was a good friend. Judi and Linda had lots of American friends, and Sharon had a Spanish boyfriend. Art and Emmy Paul were very good friends and wonderful people. They had four sons. Von and Dahnell Freeman from our church branch were also good friends, and had three boys.

## CHURCH

We had a nice but small church branch. I again taught Primary and led the singing, taught in MIA, taught in Sunday School, and was the District Primary President (included the Spain-Morocco-Azores serviceman's groups) for awhile. One of Judi's friends who came to Primary and MIA with her joined the church. Both Larry and Greg were baptized in Spain, in the baptismal font at the military chapel on the Air Base. We had a lot of fun Church parties, often on New Year's Eve.



The adults would meet at the Generalissimo building (where we held church), or at someone's house and play games until midnight, then have some sort of food and hilarity. Sometimes we would have mountain parties and play in the snow, or go see some tourist sight together.

## SCHOOL

Judi, Larry, and Greg all went to school at the Generalissimo Building, about two blocks from our house. Linda went on a school bus to Junior High at Royal Oaks, an American housing community about a 20-minute drive out of town. Randy and Sharon went on a school bus out to the Air Base at Torrejon, about an hour's drive, to go to High School there.

Sharon finished her Senior year of High School there, then went back to the United States to spend two years at BYU, coming back to Spain the first summer. Sharon had been active in clubs and in drama, and had been in various plays at school. She received a \$200 scholarship from the PTA at graduation, which really helped out on her college expenses. On their Senior trip, the class visited the sights in southern Spain, and had a wonderful graduation party on Graduation night. First they had the graduation, then a school dance. Then they got on school busses and went to the American movie theater and went to a movie. Then the busses brought them to our house, where the PTA served them a breakfast of pancakes, hot chocolate, and orange juice, and they had activities until morning, when the busses took them back to school to receive their diplomas, then on home.

## MAIDS

We had two ladies come in every day to help with the housework, Lola and Angelita. But after a year, we got two sisters to live there full time in the maid's house, Juanita and Carmen. They were all great. But then we got two unsatisfactory ladies who came in, whom I had to fire. Then we got two lovely girls, who were so nice and were a wonderful help, Pili and Angelines. They seemed like part of our family.

## JESSE'S MOTHER DIES

After being in Spain a few months, we got a telegram saying Jesse's Mother had died of diabetes, but the funeral was being held the day we got the wire. Jesse's Mother was a most wonderful woman, and I felt very blessed to have had her for a mother-in-law. Before she died, she made each of the children a quilt, which they really loved and used until the quilts wore out.

## TIM IS BORN

The most important thing that happened to us while we were in Spain was the birth of our seventh child and fourth son, Timothy Val Stay. He was born at the hospital on the Air Base on June 3, 1961, which was in the community called Torrejon de Ardoz. He had white blond hair and beautiful blue-green eyes. Again we were delighted and overjoyed to have another beautiful little son join our family! He has always been such a source of joy and satisfaction to us and is a real peacemaker. We called him "Timo", pronounced "Teemo", which is Spanish for Tim. The day Timo and I came home from the hospital was the day Sharon graduated from High School.

Randy was active in Scouting in Spain, going on many campouts and having many adventures. He was chosen to be in the Order of the Arrow, and also received his Eagle Badge there. We were very proud of him. Linda had a special girl friend, and went interesting places with her and her family. Judi was active in the pre-teen club, and got to be in a Spanish movie.

## SPANISH CULTURE

Spain seemed so different to us: the people dressed very conservatively, often totally in black. People dressed up to go to town, ladies in dresses, men in suits and ties. The women never wore slacks, and jeans hadn't arrived in Spanish life yet. Almost all of the people had dark hair, fair skins, dark eyes, and were short in stature. They were always very nice to us, and were dignified and proud. In the summer you would see whole families out walking until late at night. You would see ladies sitting on chairs or stools out on the dirt knitting, knitting. Every vacant lot or field was just dirt—no vegetation.

There were lots of donkey-pulled carts, lots of dirt roads. There were herds of sheep walking through the streets, grazing on vacant land that seemed to have no foliage for them. There were people coming through the streets selling pottery, sharpening knives, mending cane chairs, selling eggs. There were beggars coming to the door or accosting you on the street corners. There were gypsies begging, some pulling around calliopes or music boxes and playing for money. There were groups of college boys who wore Medieval costumes with capes from whose shoulders hung colorful streamers. They would go around and serenade with mandolins, guitars, and singing, and were called "Tunas".

There were people selling hot-roasted chestnuts and churros (sort of a doughnut made in a long spiral) on the streets also. There were carnivals and fairs set up in the vacant lots. There were no supermarkets, just separate shops for fruits and vegetables, bread (their bread was so good!), meat, delicatessen items, fish, etc.

Their food was all very good and tasty. We did most of our staples shopping at the Commissary, but bought fruit, vegetables, meat, and fish locally.

## SPANISH LESSONS

The military offered Dependents Spanish lessons at the Generalissimo Building, so I went to them; Jesse had Spanish lessons at the Air Base; and we also had teachers come to the house. A young man named Eduardo came for about six months, and later a young lady named Gloria came. We finally learned enough Spanish to get by—usually talking in just the present tense—but I was never very fluent in it and always had an American accent. The children had Spanish classes in school and became quite adept at speaking it.

## EASTER VACATIONS

The children had a week off from school for Easter vacation, so we decided to tour a bit. One year, the children and I (Jesse had to work) took a driving and camping trip through southern Spain. We first went to Granada, to see the beautiful Alhambra, a Moorish palace with gorgeous arches, intricately carved plaster walls, lovely fountains, patios, and gardens. Then we went through the winding mountainous road to the tip of Spain and Gibraltar. We climbed up the Rock of Gibraltar, and saw the monkeys that live there. Later we went to Malaga and Rota, and played in the ocean for an hour or so. But it was cold and cloudy or rainy most of the time. We went past Sevilla and on to Cordoba, where we stopped and looked at the old Moorish arches there—several hundred of them, all red and white striped. We passed through many narrow streets where the whitewashed walls of the houses had flower vases and bird cages hanging on them, and inside the gates you could see glimpses of beautiful patios and fountains. It was a lovely trip.

Another Easter vacation, the older children and I went on a driving, camping trip to Portugal. We went to Lisbon and saw the long, sloping park and the monuments along the shore. We saw people working in the fields in typical costumes, and women carrying things on their heads, and washing their clothes in the streams. We went to Nazare on the sea coast where all of the people wore wool plaids. The men wore knickers of one plaid, and shirts of another. The women wore gathered wool plaid skirts, with ten or so full petticoats beneath them. They had brightly painted boats which were pulled up onto the sand by oxen. They were mainly fishermen, and it was so picturesque and unspoiled. We camped in many exotic places: along a river, on the top of a mountain near a young men's school, in a park, and other nice places. We bought some pottery and a large carved wooden spoon. We passed Avila, the old walled city in Spain on our way back to Madrid.

## OTHER TRIPS

Another time, Jesse and I were invited to a celebration at Oviedo, in northern Spain. We took along Linda and Judi to watch Timo, who was still too young to be left with the maids. There they had a big parade, with all sorts of folk dancers from all over Spain, and a few floats. We also went to a bull fight and opera while there, and bought some wooden shoes typical of that region.

Once Judi, her friend, and I drove to Valencia, where we saw lots of rice growing in the fields, and passed through lots of dry mountainous country. I can't remember why more of the family wasn't with us.

We saw most of the interesting tourist attractions in and around Madrid: the Palace, the Prado Art Museum, the bull fights, flamenco dancing, the Valley of the Fallen (the Civil War Memorial), and the Escorial, which was a huge palace-tomb built by one of the Holy Roman Emperors who ruled most of Europe. We also took trips to Toledo and Segovia. Toledo is an ancient city with ruins from both the Romans and Moors. There they make beautiful objects of blackened steel and gold. Segovia has a huge old Roman aqueduct which is still in very good condition, and still carries water. It also has a castle once owned by Ferdinand and Isabella, which is very beautiful and breathtaking.

## GENERAL AUTHORITIES

We were blessed to have many visits from General Authorities while we were in Madrid, since Jesse was the District President. Once Elder Spencer Kimball, then a member of the Council of the Twelve, and Sister Kimball visited Madrid. He spoke to our branch, and the next day we drove them around to see Toledo and Segovia. That evening, many of the branch members met us, and we went to a Flamenco performance. Before entering, Pres. Kimball said, "Please don't take me into a place that an Apostle of the Lord shouldn't go". We assured him that it was a clean and decent show, which it was. It was such a privilege to be in their company.

Another time, Elder and Sister N. Eldon Tanner, he being also a member of the Council of the Twelve, came to our home during one of their visits, and Judi did a flamenco dance for them in a pretty little flamenco dress I had made for her. It was wonderful to have them there! Another day, Elder Tanner and Jesse went downtown to the Foreign Ministry offices to inquire about what the Church had to do to gain legal status in Spain. The Minister they talked to had known Elder Tanner in Canada and had great respect for him, so he listened to them and promised to find out what could be done. We later received a letter from Elder Tanner saying that they had sent him a letter saying that the Church could do

nothing legally in Spain, since “Spain had a Concordat with the Holy See not to allow error to enter Spain”. So that was discouraging.

Later, Elder and Sister Mark Petersen came to our branch to talk at a District Conference.

It was special being with such great people.

## MUSIC AND DANCE

All of the girls and I took flamenco dancing lessons. Judi also took violin lessons, Linda cello lessons, Sharon piano lessons, and for a little while, the boys took piano lessons also. Randy played in the band at school, but had his clarinet stolen. Later, with another one, he became very good on the clarinet and saxophone, and played in the band in high school and in their special jazz band. Sharon always did well on the piano, and one summer while we were in Alabama, used all of her earnings from baby sitting and went to a music camp in Colorado, going by bus both ways. We have always enjoyed listening to her play. Judi did well on the piano and violin and played for our branch meetings in Virginia, but stopped taking lessons while in high school. Larry, Greg, and Timo all played the trumpet in school bands, but stopped taking lessons when they were young. Timo learned to play the piano somewhat, and was able to play for church meetings on his mission.

## TRAVELS THROUGH EUROPE

While living in Spain, we traveled throughout Europe two different summers, visiting France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, western Austria, Italy, and Switzerland. We bought a tent which slept all of us, and cots and sleeping bags, and a luggage trailer, and stayed in campgrounds throughout Europe. The camps were very primitive, but very cheap in those days, and we never spent more than \$3.00 a night for the ten of us (my dear mother went along too). There was practically no traffic, compared to today, and parking and driving were much easier. We had lots of fun adventures together and saw many beautiful sights—all of the usual tourist sights. The first summer we took Timo along, who was only six weeks old, but the second summer we left him with the maids. The rest of the family went along both summers.

## VIRGINIA AGAIN

## SHARON MARRIES

Finally our three wonderful years in Spain were over, and we flew back to the United States in the summer of 1963. Since Jesse was to be stationed at the

Pentagon again, we bought a new house in Woodbridge, Virginia, at 763 Roanoke St., but it wasn't finished being built yet. We bought a house trailer that would sleep all of us, then drove out to BYU in Utah to pick up Sharon who was finishing her second year there and to meet her fiance Keith Brown. Then we went to Los Angeles and stayed with Mother all summer until Sharon's wedding to Keith in the Los Angeles Temple on September 3, 1963. Keith's aunts gave them a gorgeous reception and buffet, and a beautiful wedding cake. One of them let us hold the reception at her elegant home. It was surely a lovely affair and Keith is such a fine young man.

Sharon and Keith have had nine beautiful children, and have had two foster Navajo children for various years. Sadly, their dear little Melanie died of Sudden Crib Death when she was three months old, and their dear son Danny took his own life when he was twenty years old, filling our hearts with sadness. For several years Keith taught physics at Cal Poly University in Pomona, California, and now works for a company as a physicist, being world-renowned in his field. They now live in Alta Loma in a lovely home there. Sharon graduated from BYU, has had many stories and articles published, paints, has written musical plays, has won cooking and recipe contests, is always helping other people, and has many other talents and skills.

## LIFE IN VIRGINIA

After Sharon's wedding, we went back to Virginia, and spent the next five years there. We had a really nice house with a front room, dining room, kitchen, and three bedrooms and two baths upstairs; and downstairs were two bedrooms, a family room with a raised-hearth fireplace and a walk-out door, and a bath. The bedrooms were rather small, but the house fit our needs. Outside were many of the beauties of the Virginia countryside. We had a large yard, and bought a huge on-the-ground swimming pool, which we really enjoyed. From our dining room walk-out door, we could see the beautiful woodlands, which were flowering in the spring; green, green in the summer; and all shades of red, magenta, coral, wine, orange, yellow, tan, and brown in the fall. It was a beautiful house and setting and I always loved it. It cost \$20,500 at 4 and one-half percent interest—a bargain even in those days.

We lived at the bottom of a small hill, and when it would snow in the winter, all of the children from the neighborhood would sled down the hill. It was a lot of fun. You could also slide down the hill in our back yard. Lots of times the road leading out of the subdivision would turn icy, and it was very treacherous going down it in a car. I was afraid that I would crash into something or somebody on the ice, but fortunately, never did.

Once, while Jesse was on a short trip to Vietnam, we were snowed in for four days. Since we had plenty of wood for the fireplace and I had just marketed and had plenty of food, it turned out to be an exciting adventure. However, Timo played out in the snow for so long that his feet got frostbitten and we had to slowly thaw them out. Fortunately no permanent damage was done. I kept the fire going day and night for the four days and it felt good to come in from the snow and sit by the fire.

## ACTIVITIES IN VIRGINIA

We again enjoyed seeing the tourist sights in Washington D.C., especially the different museums of the Smithsonian. We would often meet Jesse for our Family Home Evenings at the park near there after he got off work at the Pentagon. We would have a picnic dinner, then go as a family to visit the museums. We also had many happy vacations at the Atlantic Ocean, at the Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland beaches. We had a wide canoe that Jesse and Randy had built, and often went boating on a nearby lake, on a nearby river, or took it to the beaches to ride through the surf.

Larry and Greg were active in Scouting while we were in Virginia, taking many long hikes along the Appalachian and canal trails, and having campouts. Larry earned his Eagle Badge there, and we were really proud of his accomplishments. Both boys received the Aaronic Priesthood while there. Jesse got a Master's Degree at George Washington University by going to night school.

## RANDY; JOBS

Randy graduated from High School, went to BYU for a year, and then went on a two and a half year mission for the Church to Central America. He was a wonderful missionary, and we enjoyed and treasured his interesting letters. We surely missed him, and each of the children as they left. During the summers, Randy worked on various jobs: reconstructing an old mill, filling up trucks with gravel at a gravel yard, and building houses, often narrowly escaping accidents at all of these jobs.

Linda worked as a baby sitter, house cleaner, life guard, and secretary. Judi worked as a baby sitter. Larry delivered newspapers early every morning, and sold doughnuts door to door twice a week. All of the children have always been conscientious, hard workers, dependable and reliable. While Randy was on his mission I worked as a pre-school and kindergarten teacher at a private school. I had 28-30 children for four hours every day and got \$150 a month, but it helped out the budget. Timo went to school there with me, but had a different teacher. I was grateful that I had a job where I didn't have to leave Timo at home alone with

a baby sitter, but could have him with me.

## CHURCH IN VIRGINIA

Jesse was made the Branch President of our Woodbridge Branch, and I taught in most of the organizations, as well as being one of the counselors and song leader in Primary. We first met in a rented one-room building. Later we met in a military building on the Marine Base at Quantico, about 19 miles south of Woodbridge, so we had a lot of driving to do. Besides the family, we also picked up others to take them, so we always had a full car. The only nice thing about driving was the opportunity to drive through the beautiful woodlands, which was very soul-satisfying, seeing so much beauty surrounding us. We could also see the Potomac River which flowed along near the highway—so beautiful, wide, and peaceful.

Later on, the branch rented a house in Woodbridge, and held all of our church meetings there, which was much more convenient. However, I still used to fill the car with children to take to Primary (held on a weekday after school hours, in those days). I was thankful that we were never hit by other cars during the icy winter months. We went to the Mt. Vernon Ward House or to rented auditoriums for our Stake meetings.

One of the church callings I really enjoyed was that of teaching the Guide Patrol boys (11 year olds) in Primary. We were to give them their Tenderfoot Scouting as part of Primary, so we had to take lots of five-mile hikes and do other things in the woods. Virginia was such a beautiful place to hike. We were about a twenty minute drive from Prince William Park—a large County park and woodlands, filled with trees, undergrowth, streams, hanging bridges, and countless cool, shaded trails. We spent many happy hours hiking there. A few times the Branch members camped there over the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, and that was a lot of fun.

## LINDA, JUDI, AND SHARON

Linda and Judi had many honors in High School. Linda was on the Student Council and was voted Miss Woodbridge High School and Best Leader. Judi was on the Student Council and was voted Homecoming Queen. They were both active in school affairs. Judi also played the piano for church meetings and for Primary, and taught in Primary. Linda would always have a nice dinner ready for us when we got home tired and hungry.

Sharon and her little Becky came to visit us in Virginia in the summer of 1967. While she was there, she and the other children gave us a wonderful 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party! They wrote clever skits, poems, songs, and made a most beautiful cake and fancy meal for us. It was so lovely and so touching that it filled



my heart with joy.

## OPERATION

A little while after that, I had an appendicitis attack and had my appendix removed at the Ft. Belvoir hospital which was about 30 minutes away by car. Since the appendix had been gangrenous, infection developed at the incision site, and it had to be reopened and drained. Finally it healed and I was so glad to get out of that hospital and to get home! All of that time, Linda was fixing the meals and keeping the house and family going as best she could, while working at the same time. It was a hard time for everybody.

## NEW HAPPENINGS

After Randy finished his mission in Central America, he returned to BYU to take a Mechanical Engineering course. Linda graduated from High School, and also went off to BYU. At the end of her second year there, she came home engaged to Darrel Danielson, a fine young man. Judi also graduated from High School in Virginia. They all did well in their school work, and we were proud of their accomplishments.

## **RETIREMENT; HAWAII**

### WE MOVE AGAIN

Jesse decided to retire from the Air Force then, at my urging, and accepted a job as Administrative Assistant for Public Affairs to President Cook of the Church College of Hawaii, now called BYU Hawaii, at Laie, Oahu. So we sold our beautiful home in Virginia, sold our house trailer, and Judi, Larry, Greg, Timo, and I headed west to stay in Los Angeles with Mother again for awhile. Jesse, Randy, and Linda stayed in Virginia to work and to move us. While we were in the Air Force, they always had movers come and pack and move our belongings, a wonderful service! But often, items were lost or stolen. Once we had a whole swing set missing, other times bicycles, sofa cushions, and such things. That part was frustrating. But now Jesse was leaving the Air Force, we would have to do our own moving!

Later on that summer, the family all met together again in Provo for Linda's wedding. Some of us stayed with Sharon and Keith in their student housing, and some of us stayed with Jesse's brother and his wife, Aden and Alice, who lived in Draper, and were always so good to welcome us in. Keith was just finishing his Doctorate at BYU, and it must have been very hard on him having us there at such

a difficult time.

## LINDA MARRIES

On August 22, 1968, Linda and Darrel were married in the Salt Lake Temple. We felt sad that they wouldn't let us take any pictures on the Temple grounds. Fortunately, that has now changed! Their reception was held that evening at the BYU Wilkinson Center Skyroom, where Darrel worked while going to school. It was a lovely reception and beautiful surroundings. Darrel is such a very fine young man and is a talented piano player and basketball player. They stayed on in Provo after their marriage while Darrel continued on at BYU and Linda worked.

Linda and Darrel now have eight beautiful children: four girls and four boys. Darrel graduated from the University of Las Vegas where he had gone to work for Western Airlines, and also got an MBA. He became the financial officer for many airlines: Western, Flying Tigers, Delta, and Federal Express.. They lived in California in Huntington Beach and Torrance, and then in Tennessee. They now live in Orem in a beautiful large home, where he is the financial officer for a telemarketing company. Darrel has been a bishop three times, and a Stake President twice; Linda has been Stake Young Woman's President twice, and held several other callings. They are faithful and good, always doing kind deeds for others. Linda went to correspondence school at BYU, and has now graduated with honors.

Randy and Judi both stayed in Provo after the wedding to attend BYU; Keith graduated and he and Sharon moved to California for Keith to teach there, and Larry, Greg, Timo, Jesse, and I went to Hawaii.

## HAWAII, TROPICAL PARADISE

Laie, on the island of Oahu in Hawaii was another beautiful place to live. Our house at 55447 Naniloa Loop was right across the street from the grounds of the college, and we could look out of our window and see the green grass, masses of flowers, coconut palms, blue sky, puffy white clouds, and strangely-jagged mountain peaks covered with dark green vegetation. On drives, we would see the beautiful ocean, waving sugar-cane stalks, and endless rows of pineapple plants. The weather was warm, sometimes hot, but with sea breezes and lots of rain. The roads and fields would fill with water one or two feet deep before the rain would drain off.

We were only two blocks from the ocean at Clissold's Beach, and Timo was baptized there by Jesse when he turned eight years old. The waves were small, and the water was usually warm. But there were rocks and coral, stinging jellyfish and

blue-bubbles to watch out for. Larry got badly stung by a blue-bubble once, and later, Judi did also. The younger children in Laie usually went barefoot to school, as did Timo. He wore shorts and short-sleeved shirts, and was in the second grade. Greg and Larry both went to Kuhuku High, which combined Junior and Senior High Schools.

## FAUNA AND FLORA

There were some strange animals that lived in Hawaii. They had toads that were very large and seemed to be very dumb; just sitting there when someone would pass by and not try to hop out of the way. There were also hundreds of snails that would grow to large sizes. We would have the children gather them for us and try to get rid of them, but there were always more out in the yard. There were also lots of lizards that liked to live in kitchens and in church houses. They would crawl across the ceiling and sometimes drop down onto the table and into our food. Or they would crawl across the back wall in church during the meetings. There were strange spiders also—pretty, and supposedly not dangerous—but we didn't try to find out. And there were the usual mosquitos and cockroaches.

The flowers were amazing. You could go outside all year long and pick fresh flowers off of the hibiscus or plumeria bushes. Every Sunday there was a freshly-picked bouquet on the pulpit. The wards had a tradition there of singing "Aloha Oe" and draping people who were leaving with several leis. It was a very beautiful custom.

## CHURCH IN HAWAII

We were in a ward where the people were primarily Polynesian: Hawaiian, Samoan, Tahitian, Tongan, Maori, Fijian, and mixtures of those with Orientals and other nationalities. The reason they lived there is because most of them worked at the Polynesian Cultural Center and represented their various cultures at the center. They had the most beautiful singing voices one could imagine, and could sing all the parts in harmony, almost by instinct. They were faithful, spiritual, and kind and friendly.

I taught in the Primary, and Jesse was the Scoutmaster. He and the boys had many interesting adventures, hiking in the hills and camping on the little island off Laie, and often living off the land to an extent. Lots of foods grew wild in Hawaii, such as coconuts, breadfruit, guavas, and other fruits. There were all sorts of seafood in the ocean, out a ways.

## ACTIVITIES

I decided to go back to college to try to graduate, so took classes at the Church College of Hawaii. We were near the Polynesian Cultural Center, and we were

able to see the programs and presentations a few times, and were always thrilled at the singing and dancing of the various cultures. We were also near the beautiful Temple, and were able to go there often. Jesse was called to be an Ordinance Worker there.

We saw many of the tourist attractions while we were in Hawaii. We visited the Dole Pineapple factory, a sugar-cane factory, the Bishop Museum, the Palace, the blow-hole, the sunken battleship tour at Pearl Harbor, and so on. We enjoyed wearing Muu-muus and Aloha shirts, and got used to “sticky” rice. We enjoyed swimming in the ocean and walking around the area. Randy and Judi came home for Christmas from BYU in Provo, and again in the summer. It was so good being together with them again. They both got jobs, dated, and enjoyed being there.

## **BACK TO PROVO**

It was getting to be expensive bringing the children back from Utah to Hawaii and back again, and I was beginning to long to be back on the mainland. So when Jesse was offered a job by Judge Whittaker to be his assistant at the BYU Motion Picture Studio, he accepted.

In September, 1969, we moved back to Provo. We bought an old brick house there, with a large pretty yard, at 411 E. 3050 N. and moved in. It was an interesting house of several levels: large bedroom, bath, and storage room in the basement (we later built another bedroom and bath down there); family room and laundry on the ground floor; kitchen, dining area, front room, two bedrooms, and a bath on the main floor; and a large bedroom and bath on the second floor. From our back windows, we had a wonderful view of the beautiful and majestic Mt. Timpanogos, and from our front yard, we could see the beautiful mountains on the East.

Jesse worked as an assistant to Judge until he retired, then Jesse became head of the Studio. They made many fine religious and educational films and filmstrips during our years in Provo. Again I went back to college—this time to BYU. Through the years I managed to get my BS degree, then a Masters of Library Science Degree. I learned many useful and interesting things.

## **CHILDREN’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Larry, Greg, and Timo graduated from High School in Provo: from Provo High and Timpview High. They all did well in school and we were always so proud of their many accomplishments. Sharon, Randy, Linda, Judi, Larry, Greg, and Tim all graduated from BYU, and Larry, Greg, and Tim (he preferred to be called that

in college), all got Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees: Larry at Columbia University in New York City; Greg at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, and Tim at BYU.

Larry, Greg, and Timo all played the trumpet and were in their bands at school. We enjoyed hearing them play. Greg and Tim earned their Eagle badges in Scouting there and received the Order of the Arrow. Larry and Greg both went on missions to the Paraguay/Uruguay mission, and Tim went on a mission to Portugal, serving the Lord Jesus Christ and converting many people.

They have all worked at many different jobs earning their way through school. Larry worked as a salesman for a men's clothing store; Greg worked as a roofer, air-conditioner installer, and apartment house manager; Tim worked as a Portuguese teacher and steel company worker, and they held several other jobs. They have always been dependable, hard workers, and have always been commended by their bosses.

During the Vietnam War, Randy received a low draft number and knew that he would be drafted, so joined the Army to be sent to helicopter training as a pilot, but instead was sent to Korea with the Engineers. We really hated his having to go, but were grateful that he wasn't sent to Vietnam where his life would have been in danger. Randy was in the Army for more than one and a half years, but was able to return home in November, 1971. It was so good to have him back with us again!

## JUDI MARRIES

In the winter of 1970, Judi met Doug Moore, who had just returned from a mission to Bolivia. They began going together and on May 26, 1971, were married in the Manti Temple, with a reception back in Provo. It was a lovely affair, and Doug is such a fine young man. Judi and Doug now have six children: three boys and three girls.

Doug graduated from BYU, was an Army Officer for two years on the East coast. They then moved to California where Doug went to law school. He graduated, passed the Bar on his very first try, and started a law partnership in Alta Loma. Judi went to medical school, graduated, and is now successfully practicing Osteopathic medicine at her office. They moved to Provo and built a beautiful new home on the hillside on Y mountain, with a gorgeous view! Doug taught Business Law at the Y for a few years, and Judi has co-written a book with Marie Osmond.

## VACATION TRIPS

We took some interesting trips while we lived in Provo. Once we went to Arches National Park and camped and hiked among the huge red rock arches there. They were probably the most overwhelming natural formations I have ever seen and are just beautiful. On that trip, we also visited Goblin Valley, filled with strange dirt formations that look like goblins. Another time, we visited the Grand Canyon, Zions, and Bryce National Parks. They are so unbelievable and overwhelming—huge slabs of rocks, beautiful streams, lacy red formations, little grottoes, and so on. Another time we went to Yellowstone and saw the geysers, boiling water pools, bubbling mud pots, huge waterfalls, bears, beautiful trees and streams and forests. We enjoyed the camping as well as the sights.

One summer we (Tim, his friend Kevin, Jesse, and I) took a trip back East. We visited Mt. Rushmore, with the Presidents' faces carved in the mountains, visited a cave there with its formations, and saw the Black Hills. Along our way, we saw a building made out of corn cobs, and a famous drug store. We saw all the church sights around Nauvoo. Then we went up to Michigan and had a nice visit with Randy and Becky for awhile; then on into Canada until we reached Niagara Falls—a breathtaking and impressive sight. From there, we went to Lexington and Concord, where the Revolutionary War started, Plymouth Rock where the Pilgrims landed, and on to Boston and its historic sights. Then down to Philadelphia to see all of the historic places there, and on down to New York and seeing its tourist attractions. Somewhere in there we went to visit Judi and Doug who were living in New Jersey and had a nice visit with them. Then on to Washington D.C. and the attractions there. We drove past our old house in Virginia, and down to Williamsburg, Virginia. Coming back, we stopped at Palmyra and saw the church sites there. It was a wonderful trip.

## RANDY MARRIES

In the summer of 1972, Randy met Becky Holt who was attending summer school at BYU, and they were married in the Salt Lake Temple on January 2, 1973. They had a beautiful reception in Salt Lake City, and an Open House at our Provo home another evening. Becky is a lovely young lady. She is a talented seamstress and has made all sorts of beautiful clothing and items for their home. She has studied Hebrew and written many thought-provoking articles on Judaism's similarities to Mormonism. She graduated with highest honors from Oberlin College.

Randy and Becky have six dear and beautiful children: four boys and two girls. They are always doing nice things for other people, fixing their cars or appliances, sewing for them, and so on. Randy graduated from BYU as a Mechanical Engineer, and got a job with Ford Motor Company, living in Michigan and now in Amherst, Ohio. They have a large lovely home there. Randy has made many

additions and improvements to it. Both Randy and Becky have had to have their backs operated on. Randy is presently Bishop of their ward.

## HAPPENINGS

We had a lot of company the years that we lived in Provo. Rob, Ross, and Randy Brunson all lived with us for various periods of time while they were going to BYU; Mother visited us often (but not often enough nor for long enough periods of time to suit us), both Jesse's and my brothers and sisters and their families visited us from time to time. It was always so good to have them come, as it got lonely living so far from our loved ones.

I was usually able to go and help out when new babies came into the world at our children's homes, or when they wanted to go on little trips. It was a way we could help out, and a way we could get acquainted with and be with our grandchildren who have always lived so far away. We also went to southern California every chance we got, staying first with Mother or Lora, and later, as our girls got homes there, with them. I used to travel by bus, or would drive, but later I took the plane—much preferable! Sometimes the children and grandchildren would come to visit and that was always a wonderful treat. I always yearned to live closer to them, so we could see each other more.

## LARRY MARRIES

Before he had gone on his mission, Larry had gone with Joyce Cutler. Three days before he returned home, she also went on a Spanish-speaking mission. When she returned, Larry and Joyce were married in a beautiful ceremony in the Provo Temple, and they had a lovely reception that evening. Joyce is such a beautiful person and is also an excellent seamstress. She has made all sorts of lovely clothes, curtains and drapes, and covered furniture. She has made gorgeous stained-glass art work for her home and for others. She has hooked rugs and makes exquisite quilts.

Larry and Joyce are so hospitable and their home is always a warm and friendly place to be. They are always helping everybody out—tending children, fixing cars, and doing countless other nice things for people. Larry graduated from BYU, got his MBA at Columbia University in New York, and became a banker for Chase-Manhattan Bank. They lived in Colombia, Puerto Rico, Miami, and New Jersey. Then Larry went to work for the Church in their financial department, and they now live in Salt Lake City. Larry and Joyce have seven wonderful and beautiful children. But sadly, while they were in Miami, their beloved little two-year old Dalen was drowned in their swimming pool, a terrible time for all of us.

## CHURCH CALLINGS

Jesse was made the Explorer Adviser in our ward when we moved to Provo, then was made Bishop of a BYU Ward, and later Stake President of a BYU Stake. Then he was called to serve on the General Board of the Sunday School, then as our Ward's High Priest Group Leader (Edgemont 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, Edgemont South Stake). I taught in Primary; taught Spiritual Living, Cultural Refinement, and Homemaking in Relief Society (classes they had in those days), was the Education Counselor for awhile; and served as the Meetinghouse Librarian.

I worked at Penney's Department Store for awhile in the boys department. I enjoyed the work, but didn't like having to work at night or on Saturdays, since I wanted to be home with the family, so I quit. Then I worked at the Provo Public Library for two and a half years. But I had started going to BYU and it was too hard to work, go to school, and tend to a family at the same time, so I quit there. I enjoyed the work though.

## GREG MARRIES

Before he went on his mission, Greg had gone with Jennifer Haines, and after he came home, they were married on August 19, 1976. They had a beautiful reception that evening. Jennifer is also such a lovely, talented person. She is an excellent seamstress and has made all sorts of beautiful clothes and items for their homes—drapes, and so on. They are always doing nice things for other people and helping out the less fortunate in all sorts of ways.

Greg and Jennifer now have six wonderful children: three boys and three girls. Greg graduated from BYU, got his MBA at the University of Utah, and became an auditor and tax accountant for Marathon and Amoco Oil Companies; main tax person for Air Liquide, and is now a main tax person for a large eastern grocery store group. They have lived in Ohio, Jakarta, Indonesia, Texas, and are now living in Virginia.

## CARS AND PETS

For most of our married life we have had Ford station wagons, the only cars big enough to carry our family (this was before the days of vans). We had two cars in Nebraska, one in Spain, two again in Virginia, and a bunch in Utah, so the children would have something to drive. We had the station wagon, green and red Volkswagen bugs, Ford Pinto hatchback, Ford Granada sedan, Ford Escort small station wagon, and a Honda small station wagon. They all died of old age or were given as wedding gifts to the children.



Timo had two puppies in Provo, but the first one got distemper and died, and the second was run over by a car and killed. We then got Melissa, a small black female many-breed dog, and we had her about thirteen years. She barked too much, but otherwise was a loving, loyal, and faithful good dog. She had a litter of four pups, then we had her spayed. We had had a dog named Poky the first time we lived in Provo, a cat while we were in Alabama, a dog named Tigre in Spain, and various parakeets and fish.

## TIM

During his senior year in high school, Tim was one of the chairmen of the School Spirit Committee. They organized many interesting events. Once they constructed a huge “T” for Timpview High out of hundreds of dyed and sewn-together sheets. It was so large that they had to have a helicopter drop it on the face of the mountain near Timpview High where it was displayed. It was larger than the “Y” on Y-mountain! It was just fantastic! Tim was also on the Student Council, a member of Boy’s State, and President of Order of the Arrow.

We went over to Portugal to meet Tim when he finished his mission and to tour Europe together. We joined him in Lisbon and were able to meet his Mission President and some of his converts—wonderful people. We rented a car and toured through Portugal, Spain, France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and England, camping all the way. We had a wonderful trip and enjoyed being together. In England, we enjoyed seeing many of the places both my family and Jesse’s had come from, which was a special treat.

We also enjoyed seeing all the beautiful art and architecture of Europe again, as well as seeing the gorgeous scenery and interesting sights there. We were so disappointed, though, to find that the house we had lived in when Tim was born had been torn down, and they were building apartment buildings there. I had really wanted Tim to see that house and yard.

## JESSE RETIRES FROM BYU

In September 1983, Jesse retired from work at Brigham Young University (BYU) and was honored at a farewell party for those retiring. Linda and Darrel had moved from their home in Huntington Beach, at 8882 Bainford Drive, and we decided to buy it from them. It had five bedrooms, three baths, a three-car garage, a front room, family room, and kitchen. We fixed up the Provo house and moved on New Year’s Day, 1984, to begin life in California. We put our Provo house up for sale, but it didn’t sell until August of that year.

## OUR MISSION

## CALLED ON A MISSION

About this time, Jesse was called to be a Mission President, and we found out in April that it was to be of the Rosario, Argentina Mission. We started attending the Spanish Branch whenever we could, so as to try to remember our Spanish language a little. We gave and lent our furniture and food storage to our three girls in California, let them use the cars, and rented out the house. We had a lovely four-day Seminar at the Missionary Training Center (MTC) in Provo, then left, with Tim, for Argentina. We had to get physical exams, shots, passports, photos, visas, police clearance, and so forth to go.

We traveled half the day and all night on Aerolineas Argentinas, and arrived in Buenos Aires the next morning. Then we slept most of the day in a hotel there, and left for Rosario the next morning. We were met at the airport by President Baroni, the outgoing President, and some of the office staff. After giving us some nice meals and some instructions at the Mission Home, he and his family left for their home, and we were on our own.

The Mission Home was a beautiful, large two-story English style home, situated on a large, beautiful lot, with the Mission Office on the same lot. There was also a small house a little behind the office that the office staff lived in. It was convenient being close to the office so that Jesse could come to the house for lunch or other things he needed, but it was also inconvenient because of the lack of privacy. The bus stopped at our corner, so we had good transportation. I would usually take the bus to the market to buy food, or to go to town, or we would take it to go to church.

## MY DUTIES

My main task was to feed and house the incoming and outgoing dearly-beloved missionaries. Each month, during a certain week, the missionaries would arrive from the MTCs (from the one at Provo and from the one at Buenos Aires). The missionaries who had finished their missions would leave to go back to their homes. Those arriving would have lunch, go to bed for awhile, then have a large welcoming dinner and testimony meeting. The next day they would have breakfast, go to the office for instructions, interviews, and their area assignments, and then leave, either before or after lunch, depending on when their bus left.

Those departing to go to their homes would arrive either before or after lunch, depending on their bus schedules, have their interviews and instructions, have a large farewell dinner and testimony meeting, and leave the next day, either before or after lunch. So for about a week, the house would be full of missionaries, either

going or coming, needing to eat three times a day, and have their other needs met. We had to have clean sheets on the beds, clean bathrooms, and a clean house.

## GETTING THE WORK DONE

Fortunately, I was provided with a maid to help, Maria, who would work two or three hours every morning. The maid and I would make the beds, she would do the cleaning, and I would put out the towels and soaps. I did all the laundry of the towels and tablecloths (the Mission Home had a washer and dryer), but we sent the sheets out to a laundry. Because we didn't have any children there with us, we were able to sleep the missionaries in the house. We had five bedrooms and three baths that they could use, and we had our own bedroom and bath also.

## FOOD

The Latin missionaries that came had more limited food tastes than the Anglo missionaries, and I had to learn to cook the foods they would eat. The typical big meal consisted of Milanaise (a piece of beef, pounded, breaded, and fried or baked, with tomato sauce and cheese melted on top of it), mashed potatoes (no gravy because the Latins did not like it), cooked ravioli in cream and parmesan cheese, tomato and lettuce salad with vinegar and oil dressing, fruit salad, and ice cream for dessert. Sometimes I would also make a chicken and bread-stuffing casserole.

For lunch I would serve sandwiches or empanadas (little dough pies made in a crescent shape and filled with meat, potatoes, hard-boiled eggs, raisins, and spices), fruit, dessert, and punch. For breakfast I would have scrambled eggs, bacon, toast, fruit, the only two available cold cereals (corn flakes and rice krispies), and milk. We also had the delicious Argentine bread, and sometimes a bakery cake/pudding dessert.

I did most of the cooking for these meals, the shopping for the food for them, and the cleaning up after. It was harder than cooking in the States because there were no frozen foods in our markets, no canned soups, no mixes, and many other foods were not available. We did have good fresh fruits and meats.

## VISITORS TO THE MISSION HOME

We had many General Authorities come to visit or to stay. That was a real privilege to be in their company and to feel of their sweet spirits. We had Elders Maxwell, Oaks, Faust, Tuttle, Fyans, Call, Osborne, Muren, and their wives come. We also had the Paraguayan Mission Presidents, President and Sister Anderson, and President and Sister Whetten, and Stake Presidents Fernandez and Ramirez

and their wives come. What a wonderful experience to be with them! We also had many sick missionaries stay at the Mission Home. I think that was one thing that surprised me about the mission was the number of sick missionaries there always were. Since many of them had to live in very primitive conditions, it was understandable though.

## MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION

The missionaries were organized into small groups called Districts and into larger groups called Zones. We had eight zones in our mission, which stretched about 1000 miles north and south and about 500 miles east and west. Every six weeks we would spend a week or ten days going around the mission area having Zone Conferences. At these conferences, we would all meet in one of the chapels, have talks by Jesse, by the Assistants (missionaries who were leaders and worked with Jesse in the office), and by me, all in Spanish, of course. Then every missionary would bear his or her testimony, which were always very faith-promoting.

Then we would have lunch. When we first arrived they were having the local Relief Societies provide the lunches, but we didn't think that was fair, so we had each zone provide their own lunch, which worked out better. Then Jesse would interview each missionary. The rest of them would visit, play sports, write letters, read, or other such activities. This was considered to be their Preparation Day for that week.

## MISSION TRAVEL

It was interesting traveling about our mission area and seeing the way people lived. There were miles and miles of uninhabited land there. The land was very flat, with many wide, wide rivers, and in one of the provinces, hundreds of small lakes. Our part of Argentina was called "The Wet Pampas". There were large areas of wild palm groves, of scrubby, prickly bushes, of farmland, of sugar-cane fields, of cotton fields, of huge ant hills. There were an unbelievable number of beautiful and colorful birds, most of which were unknown to us.

In the north, closer to the Equator, there were fields of tea and hierba mate (from which their national drink is made—like a tea), and even farther north, jungles. There were little villages with lots of people riding bicycles, and one story flat-roofed houses. There were farm houses on the sugar-cane fields, which had mud walls and thatched roofs and beautiful flowering trees in the yard. There were collections of shacks all built together with cardboard walls and tin roofs, sad to see. When we would be traveling at dusk, there would be gorgeous sunsets. There was a series of beautiful waterfalls in the far north of the mission, called Iguazu Falls, which we were able to visit.

## CHURCH CALLINGS

I taught Primary in our local Ward, Fisherton Ward, when I was finally able to understand and speak Spanish—after about nine or ten months. I also led the singing in Primary. I went Visiting Teaching with a wonderful sister, Sis. Formaggio. We would walk over the fields and drive over unpaved roads to find our sisters, who usually lived in little cement-block houses with stained white-washed walls and sometimes just dirt floors. The more active members usually had nicer houses—interesting!

## MISSIONARIES AND CONVERTS

We seemed to have the most missionary success in the north provinces, with more converts joining and new chapels being built. The people in the outlying areas there were eager for the gospel, but our area presidency wanted us to build up the established centers to be stronger before branching out. We also had lots of success in the government-owned apartment buildings, and it was soul-satisfying to see the wonderful new converts come into the church and change their lives. .

Many of our missionaries were new converts themselves, only being in the church for about a year or so, as well as many of the district and ward leaders. Their conversion stories were very faith-promoting, and they were wonderful, humble, good people.

About a third of the people in our area were of Italian descent, the children or grandchildren of the immigrants. There were also groups from other European or East European countries, and about a third of the people were of Spanish ancestry, often intermarried with Indians. I could write many more pages about our mission, but anyone who wants to know more can read the letters I wrote home during that period. It was truly a wonderful experience.

We enjoyed so much having Tim with us for a couple of months at the start of our mission. He helped me so much in finding my way around and in knowing what to do. Tim left us in August, 1984, to return to BYU. He took a nice bus trip through northern Argentina and Brazil, visiting some of his former missionary companions, and sight-seeing.

## TIM MARRIES

On April 19, 1986, Tim married Dalita Romrell, whom he had known before her mission to Japan. They married in the Manti Temple, with all of the family but us present. That evening, they had a beautiful reception, from the reports of it.

Although we were very sad at not being able to be at the wedding, we were very happy that he was marrying such a wonderful young woman. She is a gourmet cook and is very accomplished, has friends everywhere, and is so hospitable to all who come.

Dalita and Tim now have six beautiful children: five girls and one boy. They both graduated from BYU: Tim in Civil Engineering and Dalita in Counseling. Tim went on to receive an MBA from the Y also. After graduation, Tim worked as a civil engineer building luxury hotels on the island of Guam. They then returned to the States and he worked at a phone-answering/calling business, later becoming its owner. He also began other businesses in which he is now involved. They have a beautiful big home in Orem.

## **HOME AGAIN; TEMPLE PRESIDENCY CALLING**

### **WE FINISH OUR MISSION AND COME HOME**

We arrived back from our mission in July, 1987, and had a wonderful family reunion, first with Larry's family in Florida, then later here in Huntington Beach, except for Greg and family who were in Indonesia. We have had some great family reunions with our children and grandchildren through the years. We gathered at Linda's house, at our house in Provo, at our Huntington Beach house other times, at a group of cabins Keith's family owns by Zions Park in Utah, and the last few years, renting a motel so there will be room for all of us to sleep, with Tim and Judi sharing their beautiful homes with us also.

At our reunions, we went to parks, the beach, the fun center, water parks, amusement parks, to the canyon, rode horses, and so on. The parents and children also displayed many beautiful talents and presented songs and skits they had written. Counting Jesse and me, all of the children and their spouses (14 all together), grandchildren and their spouses (48 grandchildren and 24 spouses), and 41 great-grandchildren, there are 129 of us! Is that amazing, or what? What a fabulous group!

### **BACK IN OUR HOUSE**

When we returned home, we began to refurnish the house, with everything from couches to beds, and began to redecorate it. Jesse painted most of the rooms, we put in new carpeting, new doors, new bathroom cabinets, new sinks, new kitchen cabinet fronts, and wallpapered a bedroom. We had to replace the furnace, put new drapes in the downstairs rooms, and Jesse has repaired many things. Of course,

this has to be redone every few years or so.

## CHURCH CALLINGS

When we returned to our ward, I was called to be the Relief Society secretary. Then Jesse and I were called to help out with the Single Adult over age 30 Stake program. Then I was called to be a Primary teacher, and later, with Jesse to work in the Spanish Branch in the Stake. I taught the older children and was the song leader. Then we were called to be Ordinance Workers in the Los Angeles Temple. We served one week a month, and lived in the Temple apartments while there. Since Lora and Conrad served the same week we did, we would drive down and back together, and that was such a special treat for us and really nice.

It has always been a source of joy and satisfaction to us that our children are active in the church. Among our sons and sons-in-law have been Stake Presidents, members of Stake Presidencies, High Councilmen, Bishops, members of bishoprics, High Priest group leaders, Sunday School teachers, Priesthood leaders and teachers, Young Men's Presidents and teachers, Scoutmasters, and Home Teachers.

Among our daughters and daughters-in-law have been Relief Society Presidents, members of Presidencies, Homemaking (Enrichment) Day leaders, mini-class leaders, teachers, Primary Presidents and members of Presidencies, teachers, song leaders, Nursery leaders, Young Women's Presidents and members of Presidencies, teachers, Sunday School teachers, Den Mothers, and Visiting Teachers. Many in the family have served missions in various parts of the world, representing our Lord Jesus Christ. What a wonderful record of service to Heavenly Father and to his children on the earth.

## OUR FIFTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY PARTY

We had a most wonderful, awesome fiftieth wedding anniversary. Since Jenny Danielson was getting married about the same time, we decided to combine our receptions. I've often felt guilty since then, thinking that wasn't really fair to Jenny and Shawn. All of the children were here, and most of the grandchildren, as well as my brothers and sisters and spouses. We held the receptions in the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Ward House building.

The children gave us a most beautiful and elegant Grandfather's clock, they gave me a gorgeous corsage, they provided a beautiful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sheet cake, and many other kindnesses. Tim had sent out beautiful invitations with the announcement of our wedding and wedding pictures on it. He also put many of our slides on TV tape, so we were able to enjoy seeing them. We had wonderful

programs and remembrances, and all in all, it was a wonderful few days with the party being the exciting climax. What kind, considerate, and generous children we have! We will never forget that lovely occasion!

## OUR TEMPLE YEARS

In the summer of 1995, Jesse received a phone call from President Faust asking him to be second counselor to President Glen Walker who was to be the new Temple President of the Los Angeles Temple. It was a three year calling. Of course Jesse agreed. As his wife, I was to be the second assistant to the Matron of the Temple, who was President Walker's wife, Willa Rae. The other counselor was Brent Richards, the other assistant his wife Rita. That was such a great privilege to work with two such outstanding women, and three such outstanding men. They all taught me so much.

We started our service the end of August, 1995 and ended October 31, 1998, and had a wonderful, spiritual three plus years. We rented a two-bedroom house that the church owned which was right through the fence from the Temple. We would serve a seven-hour shift at a time, from 6-1 or from 1-8. I would either work with the Receptionists (300 or so of them), or the lesson leaders of the Ordinance Workers (about 500 or so of them). There would be three prayer meetings for the Receptionists each day, and three also for the Ordinance Workers, at which lessons and instructions were given, and we were expected to give little thoughts at the prayer meetings held during our shifts.

## OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

We went through the lessons in the Receptionists and Ordinance Workers lesson books to shorten them, to make them more to the point, and to add new instructions. We would do the paper work necessary when new Workers or Receptionists were called. We would train the Workers and Receptionists to handle the people receiving their new endowments, and those who were being married and sealed. That included caring for the wedding gown, flowers, accompanying the guests to the proper rooms, and other such responsibilities. We would help arrange the tables in the President's dining room or Cafeteria when there were special guests dining with us. So most of our responsibilities were administrative in nature.

We, the Matron and her assistants, were also given the opportunity to give the instructive talk to the women receiving their own endowments, which helped us to see more clearly the wonderful plan of Salvation our Father has for us. Those were always sweet, treasured times. It was always a special privilege to be in the Temple when it was quiet, early in the morning or late at night, and to experience



the peaceful, holy feeling that was there. One could sense the presence of Heavenly Beings in that sacred place.

## THE SKIPPERS

Since we were at the Temple house all week, and only came home Saturday afternoons and left again Monday afternoons to go back, we needed someone in the house to watch over it. Our dear granddaughter Laurie Danielson Skipper and her husband Rommyn, and their baby Kaisey, came to live with us. We are so grateful to them for this great service, and for putting up with us for those three years, which was very difficult for them, I'm sure. While they were here, they had another little child, a son McKay. We loved those beautiful little children!

## CALLING ENDS

Finally our three years and two months were ended, and we moved back home. We had most of the rooms repainted, as well as the outside of the house. We still need to have the family room and kitchen area redone. We had the side fence replaced with a cinder-block wall, and the garage door replaced. Jesse was called back into the High Council, and I was called to be a Visiting Teaching supervisor and a special friend visitor to some of the widows in the ward. Jesse still serves as a Sealer in the Temple, serving Wednesday afternoon and evenings, and every other Saturday day. He really enjoys that work! Jesse has just been called as a Patriarch of the Huntington Beach Stake (our Stake).

## HEALTH

Jesse had heart problems so had a pacemaker put in, which has had to be replaced in January of 2001. He also had a small stroke which necessitated having his left Carotid artery cleaned out. He has had some skin cancers removed, and one required a skin graft. We are surely grateful for the skill and training of the Doctors and for the inventors who have invented such marvelous machines to help maintain people's health and well-being, all through the power of our Heavenly Father.

## TRIPS

We have taken some great trips. Recently we went on a trip with Larry's and Tim's families, camping and traveling in Tim's motor home to visit the Church History sites clear back to New York. What a marvelous trip! We saw many of the places our ancestors had lived in Nauvoo and Far West, and that was really neat! How good and generous Tim and Dalita were to take us along in their motor home! Another great trip was to Spain with Sharon. We visited the regular tourist

sights in central and southern Spain, but two things were special. One, we were able to attend the Madrid Temple, and the other, we were able to see the ancestral home and lands of one of our ancestors, Fernan Lopez de Ayala and his wife from the 1300's. That was a special treat!

## **WORLD EVENTS**

On September 11, 2001, we were awakened by an early morning phone call from Lora, saying that the awful things were happening on the east coast of the US. We hurriedly turned on the television, and saw that terrorists had hijacked 4 passenger airplanes full of people and crashed two of them into the World Trade Towers in New York City, which resulted in both towers imploding and crashing into the ground. Another plane they had crashed into the Pentagon building, cutting a huge hole in it; and the fourth one crashed into the ground in Pennsylvania. We later heard that the passengers on board the Penn. plane had managed to fight the hijackers and made them crash the plane where it wouldn't kill hundreds of other people. They were real heroes! Over 5000 people died in those awful acts of terrorism. It was later learned that some fanatic Arabian muslim terrorists had done this terrible deed. President Bush declared war on the terrorists who were headquartered in Afghanistan, but who have cells in the countries all over the world. Who knows how this will all end? We know that the world is full of wickedness, and that we must all repent to have the blessings of the Lord to guide us and protect us. May we as a family be righteous, and faithful in keeping the commandments of Heavenly Father.

## **MY TESTIMONY AND BELIEFS**

I feel grateful to have been born a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and to be a daughter of my Heavenly Father. I believe that God, the Eternal Father, is all powerful, all knowing, all righteous, and everything else good and wonderful. I believe that He is the father of our Spirits, and knows and loves each one of us. I am grateful for the Plan of Salvation that He gave to us, and I believe that He has given us every aid and guidance to help us to be able to return to Him and to live in His presence. I know that He wants only the best for us in our lives.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Savior and Redeemer; that He atoned for our sins with His great personal sacrifice, and that He was resurrected from the dead to reign in righteousness and glory. I believe that He was the creator of this world under the direction of our Father in Heaven, and is the Head of our Church here

upon the earth. I believe in His great love for us, and that He knows us by name, and wants us to repent and to be obedient to His great example and His teachings so that we might return to live with our Heavenly Father some day. I love Him and want to be worthy of His great love and sacrifice, although I often fall short.

I am grateful for the Holy Ghost. I have felt His presence many times testifying to my Spirit that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that everything good that I am learning, reading, and hearing about Jesus Christ and His gospel is true. I feel that the Holy Ghost has kept me and our family safe from possible harm as He has touched our hearts with the still, small voice, warning us to stay away from danger, evil and temptation.

I am grateful for the gift of prayer, and I know that God hears and answers prayers. He has answered many of mine countless times, not always as I may have wanted, but always for my best good, as I have later come to realize. Our family has been blessed with blessings of health and safety too numerous to even remember, through prayers of faith. I know that prayer brings enlightenment, comfort, solace, and peace. What a wonderful gift prayer is to us!

I am grateful for the Scriptures: The Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. I love the Book of Mormon, and know that it contains the word of God and is another testament of Jesus Christ, our beloved Savior. It has given us information that is important to our Salvation.

I am grateful for the prophets who have written our beautiful books of scripture, and many who have given their lives and well-being to proclaim the word of God to the world. I am grateful for our present-day Prophet, for the Council of the Twelve, for the Seventy, for our Stake and Ward leaders, and for all of those who are leading us in truth and righteousness and serving the Kingdom of God in whatever capacity. I know that if we follow the righteous counsel of the prophets, we will find happiness in this life and eternal life in the life to come.

I am grateful for the missionaries and for the missionary program. All of our sons and sons-in law have served missions, and two of our daughters-in-law. At this time, 14 of our grand-children are serving or have served missions! We've had our family missionaries in Central America, Uruguay, Paraguay, Portugal, Canada, Bolivia, Peru, New Mexico Spanish-speaking, Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Russia, Czech Republic and Slovakia, South Africa, California Spanish speaking, Colorado Spanish speaking, and India. We've pretty much covered the world! And still more to come. I am grateful for my ancestors who listened to the missionaries and joined the Church, often under difficult circumstances and at great sacrifice, that we might enjoy the blessings of the gospel today.

I know that the Temple is the House of the Lord on the earth today and is a place of peace, beauty, and blessings. To go to the Temple is the crowning blessing that we can receive on the earth, and is worthy of our best efforts to attain it. I know that the sacred covenants that we make there and the holy garments that we wear will give us protection from the evils of the world if we honor them.

I believe in all of the words of the Articles of Faith of the church, and I feel the truths of these statements in my life. Many will try, my dear family, to lure you away from the church, with vile writings and statements. Just continue to pray fervently, read the scriptures intently, keep the commandments, attend your church meetings, pay your tithing and offerings, and I feel that any doubts will leave you and your testimony will be strong.

I believe in the law of tithing. We, Jesse and I, have ALWAYS paid our tithing, even when we weren't sure we would make it through the month, and I know that the Lord has poured out His blessings upon us as He promised He would. *I personally believe that we will always have enough to eat and a place to live if we faithfully pay our tithing.*

I am grateful for the gift of repentance and forgiveness. I believe that if we have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and repent of the things we have done wrong, and try to live righteously, and forgive others, that He will forgive us. What a great and marvelous gift is this!

I testify to these great truths in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, Amen.

## OTHER BELIEFS AND OPINIONS

### DATING AND MARRIAGE

I think that the more alike a young man and woman are, the happier they will be in marriage. If they have similar goals, ideals, religious feelings, educational aims, and family interests, the less often conflicts will arise to divide them. The more alike their backgrounds are, the fewer points of difference there will be during marriage. I think that they should be firm in their religious convictions and commitments to our church and not let their spouse, if the spouse is less active or less devoted to the church, determine how active or faithful they will be. I think that each partner should always keep themselves as attractive as possible.

I think that all young men and women should get married to someone of the opposite sex, if they have the opportunity and find someone they love. I think that marriage is ordained of God and is sacred and should take place in our holy Temples. I think that there should be love, consideration, loyalty, kindness, honesty, and sharing between married couples, and never any suggestion of belittling or unfaithfulness on the part of either partner. Selfishness and self-centeredness are destructive to marriage. Each partner should be careful with the money and possessions to avoid excess debt.

## CHILDREN

I believe that couples should have children if possible. Teach your children to love the Lord, be obedient to the commandments, and build strong testimonies. Teach them to be prayerful, to read the Scriptures, to pay their tithing. Teach by example, but also by telling, talking together, and by doing together. Go as a family together to Church every Sunday, to Stake Conferences, and other meetings where the family will be strengthened spiritually. Make sure your Family Home Evenings have gospel study as part of the evening. Show and tell your children that you love and cherish them, and let them know how important they are to you. Start teaching them while they are babies since their brains are so active, and give them many opportunities to have different experiences.

I have a theory about teaching children to read. First of all, of course, is to read to them often. Then, when they are learning to read, give them easy books to read. If it is easy for them, they will begin to enjoy reading. When they have mastered learning to read, and enjoy reading, then they are ready to advance to harder books. I don't think they should be unduly challenged until reading is fun for them, and they have mastered the basics of reading. Otherwise, they might never enjoy reading.

## MUSIC, ART, NATURE

We are very lucky to live in a time when good music and art are so readily available. If you want your children to grow to appreciate good music, listen to it in your home and in other places. Have a piano or keyboard and other instruments and give the children lessons. Visit art museums, have books in your home, have art supplies of every type available for them to use, if possible. Sing in your homes, sing the hymns at church, enjoy these wonderful gifts we have been blessed with in our lives.

Enjoy nature—go camping if possible. Take good care of the environment by cleaning up, not wasting natural resources, and replenishing wherever possible. Enjoy the beauties of nature that our Heavenly Father has given us.

## EATING AND FOOD

I think, that to be healthy, everybody should eat at least one fruit, preferably two or more, every day. Oranges are really good for you—also apples. Vegetables are also good for you and two or more of them should be eaten every day—orange colored, green leafy, and others. Whole grains should be eaten, and milk drunk every day. I think that when parents neglect to feed their families in a healthy manner, that in a generation or two, children start being born with problems, because of the lack of necessary and important nutrients.

## FAULTS AS A MOTHER

Though I have had many faults as a mother, I always loved my children with all of my heart and soul, and tried to care for them and teach them the best that I knew how. I apologize to each of them for anything harsh I may have done to them in their innocent and precious childhood. They have always been the source of my greatest joy and satisfaction.

## WAR AND FREEDOM

I think everybody agrees that war is terrible and to be avoided if at all possible. However, when our freedoms are challenged, it may be necessary. (I have never fought in a war, nor been in an area of fighting or battle, so I may not have the right to give my opinion.) But many of our scriptures tell us that freedom is precious and worth fighting for. I am proud that my father, who was an electrical engineer during the fighting in France in WWI, and my husband, who was a bomber pilot in the central Pacific in WWII, and my son, who was a civil engineer in Korea during the Vietnam War, all risked their lives to keep our country safe and to help free other countries.

There has been a lot of discussion about the dropping of the atom bombs on Japan during WWII. In my opinion, it was a necessary evil. Japan started the war—the United States didn't. Japan could have surrendered, and the bombs would not have been dropped on their country. They had vowed, and had shown by their actions, that they would fight to the last man if there were an invasion, which would have entailed killing many of them, and many of our soldiers. Their military was cruel and treated prisoners and non-Japanese civilians in a most sadistic and barbaric manner. The atom bombs killed many innocent civilians, it is true, but was one of their lives more precious than the life of my innocent husband, who may have been killed in an invasion, and who had no aggressive tendencies, and only wanted

to protect his family and country from Japanese military aggression?

## MOVING

Moving every year or two was hard, but looking back on it, I'm grateful to have had the experience of getting to know people and places in different parts of the country and the world.

## BLESSINGS

I decided to add a paragraph about our blessings of health and safety. We have had so many wonderful and miraculous blessings of health through the power of the Lord and the laying on of hands. So I will just give a couple of examples. One that stands out is of Judi, who suffered so from a bad back in her young married years, that she moved and stood like an old lady, bent over, often unable to care for her little children. Through the power of the priesthood, Doug gave her a most wonderful blessing of health, and she was able to resume her normal posture and activities—a miraculous blessing!

We have had so many experiences with the car, traveling here or there, that when it seems to quit, or have awful things happen to it, it will be right at a city or place where we can get it repaired! Often times, these would have been life-threatening occurrences if they would have happened in areas where we could not get the car repaired. We know that the Lord has had a hand in our safety, in his unnumbered and overwhelming blessings to us and our family.

This, then, is my history, as of January, 2002. I am now 78 years old. I have had a happy and fulfilling life. I am grateful for all of my many blessings: membership in the Church of Jesus Christ, my beloved husband, wonderful children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and their spouses, the beauties of nature, art, music, my brothers and sisters and their spouses, my parents and ancestors, the comfortable circumstances in which we live, our country, and friends. What more could anyone ask for?