

The Life History of Donna B. Williams Collett

I was born on November 9, 1926, in Vernal, Utah, at my Grandpa and Grandma William's house, and they lived up on the curve going to Maeser at 500 North between 700 and 800 West. Mrs. Pack was the nurse and came and helped with my birth. I was tiny and the first to be born in our family of six children. Everyone was so excited, because I was the first grandchild born on both sides of my grandparents, and so it was a real special event for both the Williams and Belcher families! The "B" in my name, Donna B. Williams, stands for "Belcher."

My mother, Hilda Ardis Belcher, was 23 years old at the time of my birth, and my father, Roland Hana Williams, farmed and was 28 years old. They had animals and gardens and farmed, while moving to several different places while I was young, and they did the things they needed to do for us to exist.

One of the first places we lived in Vernal was by the current golf course near the McNeil's. We also lived at the Cabel Ranch, east of Vernal in a big brick house, where Uncle Warren and Aunt Daisy Belcher lived upstairs. It was a big ranch and had a large two-story house that we lived in.

Uncle Woody came out once to help us on the farm in Vernal and Daddy's sister's boy, _____, came to help one summer also.

As a very young child, my responsibility was to gather the eggs and help my dad on the farm. I even had a horse of my own named "Jelly Bean!" I'd go out in the pasture on horse back at a very early age and gather the cows, and then they would be milked in the corral. My father and mother worked real hard on the farm. One day, mama asked me to holler at the kids to come in for supper and I said, "You sons of bitches, get down here!" I had picked up bad language from my William's cousin, _____. Mama came out of the kitchen and grabbed me and I learned a lesson! We continued to live on the Cabel Ranch for some time and then we moved to Roosevelt.

When we moved to Roosevelt, I was about five years old and mother's cousin, Jean Johnson, helped with the move. In her big trailer, they had mother's electric washer and her bottled fruit was put in the inside of the tub of the washing machine. We were riding along on the road to Roosevelt and we looked out the back window of the car and the trailer had come off! We went back and the trailer had tipped up against a great big rock and most of the jars of fruit were broken. I remember my mother sitting on a rock and crying and feeling so broken hearted, because of all of the things that had happened and they were such treasures to her in those days. We lived in almost a shack and had to go haul our water from a spring just north of our house quite a ways. We had a gulch nearby, but it was full of alkali, and we didn't have any electricity, and we couldn't use the washer in Roosevelt for years, because of not having it. Mama would wash our clothes on a washboard in a tin tub, and we'd plunge the clothes with the plunger. I worked with my dad outside more than I did in the house with my mother. We hauled hay and rode horses and milked cows, and he and I would have a lot of fun together. Marita helped mama in the house with the household chores and meals.

One year Aunt Cora, mother's sister, and Uncle Jimmy Ward came out from Salt Lake City to see us in Roosevelt. Uncle Jimmy was a city dude, but he wanted to go with us to milk the cows. He got on the wrong side of the cow and it kicked him! Of course, I knew which side to get on and I thought I was pretty smart! We lived on the Pole Line Road, and it was three miles southwest of Roosevelt on Highway 40. Part of that house still exists today and has been built into part of the garage.

My father would go to the Uintah Mountains above Vernal to get timber for our home he was building. He was a very hard worker and worked a lot with Billie Colton, especially over the water situation there. Dad went up on the mountain every winter and mama would make food and cakes and we'd spend a week at a time getting logs to build our house in Roosevelt. On the 4th of July, we'd take a big picnic and go up on the mountain also. We went to Moon Lake once, but we never went very far. Dad bought a 1936 black Ford pick-up truck and he built a big rack on top of it. We really enjoyed the truck and he sold cattle and horses and this is how he made a living.

Dad had a bunch of calves he penned up and he went to get a man to brand them. He left the branding iron to get hot, while he was up getting the man. My brothers and sisters and I took the branding iron and went to the pen of pigs and branded all those pigs, and they just squealed and squealed!

I helped my dad more than anything bale and chop hay. I guess I was supposed to be a boy and my father needed the help. We had some Shetland Ponies and one horse was a quarter Shetland and this was Jelly Bean, and they were so "balky." My dad would just whip and whip them and they would just stand and stand and not move! I'd feel so sorry for those horses. We had workhorses that pulled the mulling machine, wagons, and plows. He'd plow our fields of corn and work all day long and part of the night. He always had big beautiful gardens and I helped him along with the cultivator and horse and would slop the pigs also. We learned how to weed gardens and we'd have water grass in those gardens and we'd get on our knees and work with our fingers and hands to pull it out. Dad's garden rows were a block long, and we'd get 2-1/2 cents a row! We'd go into Timothy's Lumber Store and buy an all day sucker with our pennies, and oh, how we loved Jaw Breakers!

We had a sheep dog that would help herd the cows and one day, dad was mowing, and our dog got in the mowing machine and some of his feet were cut off. I never have forgotten the day this happened and the dog laying in the corner of the inside of our house and bleeding. My dad did have to shoot him.

I was a very cooperative child, because I'd milk the cows and then I'd go and separate it and I'd take the cows up to pasture on my horse. One day, Joleen and I were herding the cows across Highway 40 and the horse shied and Joleen, just 4 years old, fell off. A stick ran right in her ear and it was really bleeding, so I picked her up and ran all the way home, which was a good mile, carrying her in my arms to mama.

We had good neighbors, the Patry's, Allred's, and the Benson families, and on Sunday, we'd play with the neighborhood kids. We didn't go to Church very often at that time on Sunday. Eventually, mama had Primary at our home during the week in Roosevelt. That is one of my favorite and most fondest memories. We'd play on a big wagon wheel that dad had built with a large pedestal across it and boards to make it like a merry go round.

Grandma Belcher came to visit while we lived in Roosevelt, and she brought me some gifts and she was so thrilled with an ivy plant I gave to her. They lived in Salt Lake City and it might as well have been a thousand miles away, because traveling was so difficult in those days, and we didn't get to see each other very often.

One family of neighbors lived down by the gulch below us and they were Greeks. Every Easter they'd bring us a loaf of bread with a whole Easter egg in the center of it.

The Allred's had sons the same age as me, and one day, we were all ice skating on the frozen gulch and one of them fell and it caused a brain hemorrhage and he eventually died.

We'd play on our big merry go round and also play baseball, and Annie high over and we'd do it all on Sunday, because we went to school and then worked afterwards all during the week. A bus picked us up on Highway 40 and we walked about a mile to catch it.

One day, my dad went to town to get me some shoes to help me work with him. They were Boy Scout Shoes, in other words, boy's work shoes!

When we were waiting for the bus one morning for school, Billy Patry ran out in the road and it was so snowy that day, and a big snow plow was coming down the road and came along and his head went right into the headlight and killed him. His mother is still alive and living in Roosevelt.

Dacey or Darcey Emmert lived close to the school and was a good friend to my mother. Her folks would always save us their Sunday newspaper, so we could have the funnies. Most of the neighborhood kids were boys, and I was a "tom boy" and got along well with all of them! The Patry's were our closest neighbors and also the Buchanan's. The Allred's lost a child and they had one girl and the rest were boys.

We always had good meals, and had plenty of meat and milk from the cows. Dad was very strict about our table manners, and we didn't reach across the table nor were we allowed to put our elbows on the table. Once he hit me on the back of my hand with his table knife, reminding me how to mind my manners at the table and be polite.

My mother would bottle peaches from peddlers, corn, beets, and string beans, and most of our food was from the garden. We would eat the peas right out of the garden, and mother worked so hard. I turned the separator for the milk to make cream and butter, and we'd take it to town and sell it about every other day. Dad built a big icehouse and put saw dust on the floor and in the winter he'd cut and bring it back, probably from the gulch to store and preserve our food. We didn't have electric refrigerators then, so we stored potatoes and other garden vegetables in a cellar down in the ground. Dad built it down by the irrigation ditch, and one night it flooded and our dining room table and the precious things mother had brought from Vernal and had stored, were flooded. It was so devastating to mama, and they had put their important papers in a bottle; like the taxes, title to property and etc., and when it flooded, they were so afraid it had ruined all their important documents, but it didn't. The cellar drained and dried out and dad fixed it so it wouldn't happen again. Dad didn't keep the papers in the house, because he was afraid the house might burn down.

Mama sewed for us, but we didn't have very many dresses, just one or maybe two a piece. Aunt Elva, daddy's sister, would send me some of my cousin Shirley's clothes who was a little bit older than me. I remember she gave me a two-piece suit which was a light teal color wool and I was so thrilled to have it and any of her clothes. I wore bib overalls and Boy Scout Shoes, when I rode the horse and milked the cows and fed the pigs and chickens and gathered the eggs! I loved to herd the cows so much and to ride my horse.

One time I had some pennies in a jar and I lost them, and I looked that whole place over and never did find them. We didn't have a store nearby, but there was one in Roosevelt and we also hauled our water from there once a week. Once in a while, I would get to go with my dad to Timothy's Store and one day, a man wanted to buy me a sack of candy and I wanted it so bad, but I didn't hardly have the nerve to

accept it, but I finally did and it was hard tack candy. Sometimes we'd go to Hovey to pick cherries on Sunday and we'd peddle them in Vernal, and daddy would knock on the doors of some of the Indians in Duchesne and Roosevelt on the reservation also.

When mama and dad were first married, dad had a nightmare one night and he thought he was driving horses, and he took one of these great big dictionaries or bible and threw it and hit the wall and made a hole! It just about scared mama to death in the middle of the night! Mama always thought dad's nightmares were connected to the horses. He got pretty mean with them sometimes, but they minded him. Marita had nightmares and sometimes she'd put her shoes up in the kitchen cupboards in the bowls.

Mr. Shaw was our music teacher and directed our chorus, and we'd go to different schools to sing and I really enjoyed participating. Mr. Shaw would throw chalk at the boys to make them shut up and to get their attention! We traveled to Price to sing one day, and as we traveled on the bus home, I got off at the wrong spot. It was after dark and I was clear up to Ioka Road and as I got out, I realized it wasn't where I should be. I ran all the way home probably several miles, and I was really scared. The bus driver should have known where I was to be dropped off, but I will never forget that experience. You could see the highway from our place in Roosevelt and often we could see Indians go up and down that same road in their wagons and daddy would always warn us about them. There would always be a lot of bottles all along the road like Vanilla and Lemon Extract Bottles and they would drink them for the alcohol! They wouldn't let the Indians purchase regular liquor, so they'd buy the extract and drink it. There were lots of gypsies also and so that night I was horrified, because of the traveling wagons and I ran all the way and it seemed like such a long distance home.

Miss Moffett was quite a character and was quite tall and came into class one day, while we were making lots of noise and said, 'I can't trust you kids any more than I can pull a Bull by the Tail!' and it sure made an impression on us. Dicey or Darcey Emmert taught school in Roosevelt and she was Bob's favorite teacher and a good friend of our mama. We pulled a few pranks, but I can't remember what they were. I liked school and I enjoyed music classes. Sometimes we took sack lunches and later we had boxes to carry our lunches to school and we usually had meat sandwiches. I remember one student always had peanut butter and honey Sandwiches, and we didn't even know what peanut butter was at our house. They served hot lunches at Roosevelt Elementary and we'd line up and get them, and they were three cents for either a bowl of soup, chili or rice and that was it! Just one thing!

We had a brother and sister who were school bullies, Leo & Mildred Monks. Every day the Monks would take my lunch money away from me as I got off the bus. I didn't even dare tell my mama and dad! They would threaten me, if I wouldn't give it to them. I knew that dad would really take care of it, if he knew! They finally stopped taking my money.

In school, the teacher used the blackboard and we'd copy our answers down on paper with _____ . At that time, they used the Hectograph Duplicating Machine to make copies and this was accomplished with a jelly substance. The school would use paddleboards on the boys to punish them. Sometimes, students would stand in the corner facing the wall for punishment. I never had to, but a lot of the boys did. We ice skated a lot in the gulch down by our place and I loved it, and the gulch went right through our corral. We had neighborhood bikes to ride, and we enjoyed the big wheel that turned around in our yard. We had the Pledge of Allegiance at school in each classroom daily. I feel it has taught us to appreciate America, and if we hadn't done that what would we have done to recognize the flag and to know about it and love it as so many of us do today!

While we were living in Roosevelt, one day I went to Uncle Warren's and stayed with them for a week in Vernal on a Sunday and my dad had a heart attack and died! I was only 12 years old and to think I was gone and not there at home! My dad dying while I was gone from home was almost more than I could stand or bear. Dad had gone to Ioka which was above Roosevelt on Sunday to take some horses, and this was the first time I had ever been away from home, which was suppose to be a treat for me. From then on, I didn't ever want to be away from home, and it has had a great affect on me.

My dad had blue eyes and was a fairly large light blonde man. He usually wore bib overalls and he was such a hard worker. He would pitch hay up onto the hay wagon and the water would be just running off of his face. Dad was very strict with all of his animals and he had to break his own horses and he loved them so much and they were his favorite thing on the farm. He took good care of us and he was very good to mama. They had problems just like any other people, because life was working hard in those days and just trying to survive and take care of your family.

I'd stay after school and roller skate to Primary in Roosevelt on a paved road, when I was around 10 or 11 years old. It was three miles from school to our house, and eventually, mama had Primary at our house for the neighborhood kids and we'd really look forward to it once a week. We'd sing songs like "Little Purple Pansies." At this time, I began going to Church on Sunday, and was baptized at eight years of age by Heber T. Hall.

We had kerosene lamps, big tall Aladdin Lamps. The power lines were put in 19__ and we had Grandma and Grandpa Belcher's phonograph and we'd just love to wind it and listen to the music. We had two records and would play them over and over like "My Wild Irish Rose." I broke the spring and tried to fix it, but couldn't.

One of the things I remember the most is when I went to Grandma and Grandpa Belcher's home for Christmas one year. I was probably 11 years old and dad built sides on the truck and put hot rocks in the back of it and all of the older kids got to ride in the back. My Aunt June, Hazle and Dixie Belcher were so special, because they could sing and we had so much fun being together. I loved plants and to watch them grow. When we went out to Salt Lake for Christmas, I took Grandma Belcher a little ivy plant and she was so thrilled. She'd tell me she called me her "Little Donna" when I was very young. Barbara Ann Bingham and Robert Hanna Williams were my father's parents and Edward Harvey and Cora Myrtle Johnson Belcher were my mother's parents.

One of the craziest things I ever did was to go down to the big gulch nearby and I'd take a bottle with a lid on it and catch big black widow spiders out of the walls of the gulch and collect them. I'd bring them home and get the eggs which were a white ball and about as big as the end of your finger and I'd put them in bottles and watch them hatch. There are dozens and dozens of spiders in one egg! I'd do this for entertainment, and it was just something to do. We had a chicken coop down near the gulch and when I'd go and gather the eggs, I'd end up down in the gulch gathering spider eggs. I hated spiders so bad! My mother would get mad and see that I killed them by burning them up. This is about the time when they found out exactly what black widow spiders were. Grandma wrote us about them from Salt Lake City.

There are so many more things in the schools today to help our young people progress. There have been so many changes in the world with technology. We'd take three or four classes in high school and now they have so many technical things and different ways for students to learn. The world moves in such a fast pace now that we need to have more types of education. We didn't have all the extra days

off during the school year and we stayed more hours at school each day. Now the students leave school at 1:00 or 2:30 p.m. of a day. They are always going on sport trips on the buses and they seem to have more days out of school than we would have when I was attending school. I know they have to make things up at school when they miss to travel, but it is certainly different today and for the better of education for our young people. We didn't have any communication to know what was going on in the world. What we didn't know didn't hurt us! Now we know too much, and it keeps us all stressed and worried, if we let it.

After daddy died, we moved back to Vernal. My mother wanted to further her education and get a degree in teaching. She attended the University of Utah in Salt Lake City before they were married. After we arrived in Vernal, the first house we moved into was Grandpa Lycurgus Johnson's old house and we stayed in the back, and there was a Creamery in the front. We had our 1936 Ford Truck and mama took correspondence classes so she could get her degree and re-new her teaching certificate through Brigham Young University and she would stay up all night studying. She worked at Newton Brothers, sewing rawhide on saddles until her fingers bled, and she worked at Uncle Warren's Stand.

The next house we lived in was across the street from the Vernal Temple and it was owned by David Witmer. It was a flat top house with stucco and was close to the schools. It was a difficult home to heat in the winters that were so cold back then. Sometimes it would get 40 below zero and the houses weren't built like they are now. Our neighbors, the Willey's, would always give us milk, and we'd go over and help her milk the cow.

Next we moved to a house on Vernal Avenue by the Board of Education and it was kiddy corner from the Vernal 2nd Ward Chapel. It was right in the center of Vernal, and it eventually caught on fire and was caused by a faulty chimney. I was with my friend, Marion Mueller, and we were looking at jewelry together at Sather's Jewelry Store. We heard the siren and went out and looked and could see it was my house on fire. It was in January and we moved in with Uncle Warren, until we could find another place to rent. I don't think we all stayed there, because he didn't have a house big enough for all of us along with his large family.

We took care of all of our homes we rented, and we were so grateful for them. Eventually, mama rented and bought Dr. Rich's house on 7th West and we lived there a long time. We all attended junior and senior high schools from that house and I lived there when I met Carl. While we lived there, Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, and we heard it on a radio that Grandma Belcher gave to us. Bob was called up in the draft to the Army and Larry went into the Navy later. Mama felt so bad that her two sons were going off to war. Larry was stationed in California and eventually; Bob was stationed in Germany for some time. Mama felt like they were her stand-byes to lean on and she thought they shouldn't have been called up. Somehow, we made it through it all.

We had a good family life and mama worked a lot of long hours. She eventually taught at the Vernal Elementary School, but she'd have to keep taking correspondence classes to re-new her certificate and again, she'd stay up and study all night. We all had lots of friends and mama was always so proud of us. We had a lot of extended families and people we knew from living there before. I worked at the pig stand for Uncle Warren at night. Mama would go to dances at the Church and at the Imperial Hall. She and Sarah Richins would sell tickets there. Some of us worked at the bowling alley and some at the cafes. Marita and I cleaned someone's house every Saturday, and I always did Bessy Swain and Ella Cook's houses.

My best friend was my cousin, Marion Miller, on the William's side and Ella Beth Weeks. We'd do things together in the afternoons or on the weekends. We'd attend Church and we always took care of the Sacrament bread for each Sunday for the Vernal 2nd Ward Chapel, and it was the ward Grandpa Belcher had been in the Bishopric in the earlier years.

I am the oldest and then Marita, Bob, Joleen, Larry and Dale. Larry looks the most like dad and the William's side of the family. We have a photo of dad with a hat on behind Grandma and Grandpa Belcher's house in Vernal and it reminds me so much of Larry. There have been lots of redheads in our family; Aunt Dixie had Jeanine, mama had Bob, Aunt Cora had Nile Brent, Aunt Hazle had Wade, and Uncle Warren had Lana and Curg. The red hair comes from the Elizabeth Jane Perkins side of the family, Grandpa Belcher's mother.

I always thought I was daddy's favorite and that Marita was mama's favorite! Marita always stayed in the house and helped mama and I'd work with dad out on the farm.

In Vernal, I would babysit on Main Street and then when I could get a job, I got one at Uncle Warren's Restaurant and then at the bowling alley. This all helped buy the things we needed. I remember at one time I had three pairs of shoes and I thought that was so wonderful, and I'd take really good care of them. I had to take more responsibility as the oldest in the family. We also did ironing for people and babysat many children. I always felt lucky I could work and have jobs. I probably made one dollar a night, if I was lucky. I remember tending Tom Candles family, because they had a set of triplets and a set of twins and I'd help his wife and was paid about \$20.00 a month. I especially helped on the weekends, because she really had her hands full! I started working at the Vernal Express Office, while I was in high school. I'd proof read the articles and would help make copies of posters and letterheads. Bill Wallace lived across from us and ran the Express Office. I sure felt lucky to have that job. We always had two or three jobs at the same time, not just one!

I was in the Pep Club in high school and we all had bright red suits, and the school colors were red and white. My friends were also in the Pep Club and we'd have lots of fun together. Mama always managed to buy us a yearbook and that was a lot of money then. Marita and I were close, because we were close in age. We each had our own responsibilities at home and took care of them. Sometimes we'd ride with a man who drove the Mill Truck and we'd go to visit with Aunt Cora in Salt Lake City once in a while. We hadn't been around much, but we'd go with him and he wouldn't charge us anything.

We had a horse in a pasture for a while, but we didn't hang on to any of our horses after dad died. When we first moved back to Vernal, we'd go way below Vernal to Hatch's pasture and milk our cow, and we'd all take turns.

I was always proud of my mother, because I thought she was so special. She was so dedicated to her family and worked so hard. It was very sad when she sewed saddles; she made good money and kept this job for a long time to support us. Her fingers would be bandaged up all of the time. She stayed up half of the night studying to re-new her Teaching Certificate constantly on 7th West. We never felt sorry for ourselves like we could have done, but we all worked hard and mama saw that we had everything we really needed and we appreciated it. We all belonged to different clubs in the school and participated in everything.

We'd celebrate birthdays with mama baking a cake and she'd buy ice cream. She always went the extra mile and made things nice for us. When I would need to go to the dentist, who was Dr. Hansen in

Roosevelt, I just couldn't handle it and one day they had to pull some baby teeth, because they were preventing other teeth from coming in. My brothers and sisters would say, Donna cried at the Dentist!!!! We would always go and see Uncle Clarence Johnson and he stayed at the Shamrock Hotel in Roosevelt. Every time he'd see us, he'd go buy us an ice cream cone. Aunt Ada and Lorraine were in Hollywood, California, at the time.

One summer, Dale, at the age of 17 years, went to Wyoming to work in the oil fields. He was to be in his last year at Uintah High School in Vernal. Dale was driving along with two other men riding in the back seat and he went to sleep and was killed instantly. It just about devastated all of us. They had been working the night shift on an oil rig and were on their way home to Vernal. They were up in Wyoming and the other men should have been driving, because they were much older than my brother, Dale. It took a toll on mama and on all of us. She just couldn't imagine that her son could be taken, especially since she had lost her husband and had been left with six small young children. The funeral was in Vernal 1st Ward Chapel and was one of the biggest ever held. We had lots of friends and many cared about us all so much. She was married to Allen Faulkner at that time and he caused her heartache and happiness too. She never got over his death, you just never get over the death of a child, and he was such a choice spirit.

Dale was kind and such a cute kid and so happy all of the time and so likeable. He learned to work hard and he was different than the rest of us. He was fine featured and wasn't real tall, but such a darling handsome young man. His best friend has painted so many pictures and is such a fine artist in Vernal, _____ . Dale would always have a crowd of boys from the high school playing basketball behind the house at the basketball anchor, because he had so many good friends and was so well liked. Death is not easy to get over.

I had lots of girl friends during school, but never dated much. I went to the proms and lots of the dances, but most of the boys were gone off to war.

I was just as scared to give a report at school, as I am now to stand in front of a group. Sometimes we had to take parts in school and even parts in skits and plays at Primary I enjoyed participating. I remember having a "Charlie Horse" in my leg and I didn't hardly dare move. We were sitting down and listening to a Christmas Program in Primary and I had my legs crossed and I just about died before I could get up and I didn't dare say anything.

When it snowed, we'd walk right over the fences and school went on, it never closed. I took Seminary and was in the Pep Club and I was part of the staff for the high school newspaper.

I learned hard work from my mother and father and it's sad today that so many don't learn to work hard. I have learned that you have to make the best of every situation and work. We need to have drive and be diligent and not give up. My parents had stick-to-a-tive-ness and I think I have been that way and, because of this I have learned you can do anything you make up your mind to. Carl lost his father when he was really young, and I lost my father while young also, and if we hadn't been taught to work, we wouldn't have done as much as we have and been successful with our family.

I attended Vernal Jr. High School, in the Uintah School District and my grades were average. I enjoyed Music and Homemaking, which was cooking and sewing. I think it gave me a desire to learn these skills, and I sewed through the years making some of my children clothes. I didn't have as much confidence as I should have in my sewing, but I've sewn quite a few costumes for my kids. We hardly ever rode the bus in Vernal, as we were close by and able to walk. I babysat often to earn money. I

wanted to be a wife and mother when I grew up, but I would think how my mother was left alone early and it would give me a second thought. We wore sweaters and skirts and had to be home at a certain time. Most of the time, mother wouldn't even be home, because she worked long hours. We would participate in road shows in the ward. We would take turns going on trips to Salt Lake City or Long Beach, California, to stay with Grandma and Grandpa Belcher. Marion Miller's dad, Snell Miller, wrapped me up a birthday present once and gave me a \$20.00 bill and I thought it was so wonderful. Marion's grandmother, Aunt Lucy Miller, was dad's cousin.

On 7th West, our home had shag carpet and it had a big fireplace. I attended Uintah High School in Vernal. Isabelle Batty who taught Drama was my favorite teacher, and Apostle Dallin Oak's mother, _____, was also my teacher. She taught English and History and was an outstanding woman and very intelligent. I was so anxious to learn to drive and would drive daddy's old 1936 pick-up truck. I loved to drive it and mom would let me take it and I would go on some of the side roads and take friends. I was probably 14 years old, when I began driving the ole pick-up and oh, how I loved it! I loved to play tricks on people when I was young. Uncle Warren Belcher was always playing tricks on people.

My first date was Paul Calder and we attended the prom and I was probably a senior in high school. If I went on a date, I would go with someone older than I and not boys at school. We had twice as many girls as we had boys, because of the war, and so many of our young men had enlisted in the military. Some didn't even graduate from high school. There were 42 in my graduating class.

One time, Grandma Belcher was at home with mama and Carl had come home on leave, and I had been working in Salt Lake City and they made me call him to let him know I was back home. I think they fell in love with him before I did. I was always taught that you didn't call boys! I guess I did call him and they certainly thought I should. They knew about his parents and his background. I had a couple of proposals, but I didn't date a lot. So many young men were in the military, but I went with a fellow in Vernal 3rd Ward and his mother was a widow also and I think this is why we got along so well. My brothers and sisters had a fit, because he was older than I was and he worked in the oil fields and they thought he was awful; he wasn't awful, but he was too much older than I was.

When we had Thanksgiving, we always had chicken, we never did have any turkeys we raised. We had geese and chicken. We'd have yams, dressing (the family recipe with bread, carrots, celery, onions, potatoes and all the spices) and all the trimmings to make a wonderful dinner.

When we were growing up, dad bought us a part Shetland Pony, when I was 8 or 9 years old. We called him Jelly Bean and he brought it on our porch on Christmas morning for us, and I think it was the most wonderful Christmas! We always had a good Christmas and one time, Santa Claus brought these nice Cedar Chests and what a treat for us! She always planned ahead and we always received so much more than we ever expected. She always loved Christmas and we always like to decorate her trees. We usually would go and buy a tree and we would string popcorn and we had nice Christmas decorations and tinsel. I believed in Santa Claus for quite awhile, but I was always peeking and would catch on and mama would say, "Don't you tell any of the rest of the kids!" She would hide stuff and I'd find it, like the candy and other things. We always had a good Christmas and mama always gave us so many presents. We always received a doll, when we were growing up.

At Easter time, we colored eggs and sometimes would go to the park. We'd always get something for mother for Mother's Day. I don't remember having Father's Day when dad was alive. Holidays

brought us together as a family and I enjoyed the togetherness. We'd go up to Uintah Canyon on the 4th of July. Because we worked so hard, I looked forward to the holidays. Dad would go to Oray to sell cherries to the Indians and so he could get away from his every day work on the farm.

While I was working and managing the Vernal Bowling Alley, I met Carl, while he was home on leave from Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1945. I was the "high scoring lady" and he was the "high scoring man" for the week, so we got together! I worked for Dr. Stevens, the dentist, and he was the one who owned the building, and he smoked a great big ole cigar. I would set pins and one time, Dale went to sleep in the pit and they had locked up for the night and it scared mama half to death. We all worked there setting pins.

Any way, Carl was a Staff Sergeant in the Air Force Military and I a senior at Uintah High School. Carl would walk in the fall time five miles to my home and then walk back to his home in Maeser, where his mother lived, because there was no transportation. He'd do this every night and I thought he was so handsome, especially in his Air Force uniform! Well, we met at the bowling alley as I said, and we're still challenging each other in bowling! We both bowled 197 the day before yesterday! We have enjoyed bowling together all of our married life. We went pheasant hunting one day together and they had dances in homes and one night we attended one up in Dry Fork and I met a lot of people there that I had never known before and had a good time. When I met Carl, he was a good dancer and we enjoyed to dance. He had another young girl who was trying to get him too! She really had a crush on Carl and she was younger than I was also. Carl had a two week furlough and most of our time was spent just being together. We'd spend the evening just talking and visiting and we attended a few movies, because we didn't have a car.

He returned to Indiana and we wrote letters for a long time and I have them some place. They gave a crew of men to Carl to disassemble B-24's and he was about two months there. The war ended while he was stationed there and then he went to Denver, Colorado, and was discharged from the US Military, October 27, 1945. Carl returned home to Maeser to work in the timber. It was about 30 below zero and they about froze to death. They cut line props and fence poles. They worked in a place called Little Alaska and they lived in a small trailer and would stay two weeks at a time, before they'd come back into Vernal.

After Carl went back to Indiana, I went to Salt Lake City and worked for the National Dollar Clothing Store. Carl was so bashful and when he asked me to marry him, I was so surprised and shocked. I thought it was wonderful he even wanted to marry me. I answered right away! There were only two words to answer back in and I thought I really loved him. I was so dazed that he expressed that he loved me and I had just graduated from high school the summer before the day of December 12, 1945. Carl and I went together to Sather's Jewelry Store, just below the bowling alley, and selected an engagement ring. We decided to get married in the spring, May 25, 1946. We were married at mama's house on 7th West, we weren't married in the temple and so we had the wedding there. I worked at the Vernal Express Office and Krin Ticey _____ was the Society Editor and she wrote it up. Bishop Harvey MacKee of Maeser 2nd Ward married us and then we had a dance at the Maeser Chapel afterwards. I had a long white wedding dress we bought in Salt Lake City. In the evening, we stayed at a motel in Vernal on 5th West owned by the Hendersons for our first night.

Shortly, we went up to the timber to work. We were in a boarded up tent and I cooked for four men, Howard Collett, Gene MacLane, Boyd Rolf and Carl. We stayed there all summer long and then came

back and lived in Carl's mother's home. Carl then went to work in the Castle Peak Mines, twenty-five miles southwest of Myton. We lived in a trashy motel in Roosevelt for four or five months. I didn't want Carl to work any longer in the mines, because of the danger, and so we went back up and worked in the timber again. They were having a big rodeo in Vernal in the fall and so Clyde and his brother Howard stayed up there and they made themselves boards and logs to build three houses for each other. In other words, they used Aaron MacLane's Saw Mill, while they were at the rodeo. Carl gave his mother a dollar for his inheritance for land in Maeser.

While we were living with his mother, I got pregnant with Craig and I was healthy, except for morning sickness for the first three months. Dr. Hansen was my doctor at that time, and Craig was born the 10th of March 1948 in the Vernal Hospital. I stayed for five days and everything went well and we thought he was the most beautiful baby we had ever seen! It was almost a dream having Craig, I just couldn't believe it! Carl would make remarks like the baby would be the ugliest baby, before he was born, and I was always in such suspense while I was pregnant, but he was a beautiful boy! Craig was loaded with dark hair and I was so thrilled. I nursed him and he did well, and he weighed about 7-1/2 lbs and seemed very healthy. He was named Craig Williams Collett, because he was conceived in Craig, Colorado!

Craig began having Asthma at about 12 months and we felt he had inherited Asthma from Carl's father, because he died with it, and so we were very concerned every time he'd get a cold. Lots of nights I would call in the middle of the night and have someone come and check him. We did have medication for him, but not like they do now. I would put things in water and would steam him and it would add moisture to the air. There was a stove in the front living room and also in the kitchen, and it was so hard and I was very scared, because the cold winter seemed to make the Asthma worse. It lasted until he was about four or five years old, and he hasn't had any since that time.

We met a couple who were selling cookware by the name of Alfred and Zelda Rogers and so we sold it around Roosevelt for awhile and then in Mesa, Arizona, to get Craig away from the cold winter climate to see if we could get him well. The Asthma lasted quite a while and scared us to death. We had stayed in Carl's mother, Ethel Wynn's (Winnie) house off and on, but it didn't have a central heating system nor was it insulated properly. We spent quite a bit of time in Mesa, because Carl's sister, Edith, lived there. We got pretty hungry though, because Mesa was mostly rich people and we couldn't seem to get into their homes. We borrowed \$50.00 to return to Vernal and began over again.

At this time, Carl worked for the IGA Store for three years for Garth Batty, my brother-in-law, and it was owned by Don Batty, his father. Eventually, Garth and Carl purchased a Phillips 66 Gas Station and ran it from 1950 through 1957. During this time, Carl began building our home in Maeser and the foundation was made out of cinder blocks and he was able to build most of it himself in about a three year period of time. We lived in three rooms in the new house, bath, kitchen and a bedroom for a good year. The next fall, Randy was born and she was also a beautiful baby and she had lots of dark hair! I liked the name of Randy, because it was a boy or girl's name and was popular at that time. Randy and Craig are about one and a half years apart. I nursed her also, but stopped quicker with her, but I loved to rock and feed them. I didn't have any health problems nor did Randy. Carl planted a big vegetable garden of corn, potatoes, radishes, peas, squash, cantaloupe, tomatoes and just everything you can think of and he also planted an orchard with 100 Apple Trees outlined with Apricot and Plum Trees. Today it only has ten Apple Trees remaining.

I remember when television first came and was black and white and Carl's mother had one and

she lived right next to us in Maeser. We were able to get one right after that and all I can remember is that I couldn't keep the kids away from it! There were lots of cartoons and Roy Rogers and Saturday's I couldn't get the kids to do a thing!

The Phillips 66 Gas Station was across the road from a Conoco Station, and the owner of the Conoco was Harmon Sowards. He talked to Carl and asked him if he would manage a station up at Flaming Gorge, because the Flaming Gorge Dam was going to be built and Harmon Sowards was the Distributor for Continental Oil. Carl decided he'd go to Flaming Gorge and start up a new station, because there wasn't anything there at the time. He had to go through Maybelle, Colorado, and across the Green River to get up there.

Carl was in Dutch John five years, traveling back and forth two or three times a week to Vernal. I remained with the family in Maeser and the children were all busy attending school and participating in many activities in Vernal. Once in awhile, he'd come home in the middle of the week, but usually he was just home on Saturday and Sundays. Some nights he'd spend all night traveling to Vernal and he'd go clear around through Maybelle, Colorado, to arrive home. We'd watch every night for lights coming down the mountain and be so excited at his arrival. The roads weren't like they are now. He'd go clear over through Trout Creek and over all these dug ways and it was always a worry waiting for him to come home, especially because he was alone.

I want to tell about each one of our children. **Craig Williams** was our first child and he was born on March 10, 1948, in Vernal, Utah. He had dark curly hair and brown eyes. (Donna: Tell something about Craig as a baby (what/who he looked like and any cute story. Information incomplete)

Craig married Sandra Lynn Keefer and their marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple on June 19, 1970. At the time they were going together, Sandy wasn't a member of the Church, but Craig baptized her and then they were married later. Craig attended Brigham Young University and received a good education and degree in Business Management. He's been a hard worker all of his life and is now a Bishop in Dutch John. He served a fine mission to Austria, and is now Water Master on the Canal that comes down and feeds all the grasslands, the Acres, and the Pines, and the Lodge areas. Before we sold, we built a half-million dollar filtering system which the State of Utah required for our springs, which is used for our drinking water and he takes care of it. He's President of the School Board and so he has a lot of responsibility at Flaming Gorge. They are the parents of seven children.

Our daughter, **Randy**, was born on October 5, 1949, in Vernal and was a _____ baby. (Please tell something about Randy that is significant as a young child. Information incomplete.)

After high school, she attended beauty college and after she graduated, she worked for several years as a Hair Stylist. She met Jay Barney Cornaby who was working for the Fish and Game Department in Dutch John. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on March 20, 1969, and then Jay completed college and began teaching school in Spanish Fork. He will retire in another two years or so. Randy was a daughter who wanted to have a large family and they were only able to have two girls. She has substituted at an elementary school for 20 years in Spanish Fork, and now she is tending grandchildren she loves so much!

Carl Ray was born on May 1, 1952 in Vernal, and was our first blonde child who didn't have a lot of black hair! He looked more like my side of the family than Carl's. He was another good, healthy, beautiful baby! I nursed all three of our oldest children. We wanted to name him after his father and he

has been the least like his father than any of our children, but we thought Ray went well with Carl and we liked it. Carl Ray was a very hyper child and would never sit still and has remained like this throughout his adult life. He was always moving and always running and jumping! I remember we bought him a pair of chaps and a toy gun, when he was about 5 years old, and he thought that was the greatest thing in the world! (Please tell a story about him in the young years. Information incomplete.)

When we took the Flaming Gorge Lodge over, he learned how to cook and so we put him over the kitchens. When he cooked, he cooked on the run and he's cooked for 30 years or more! He could put out more meals in five minutes than the regular cook could do in 30! He's been very successful and has three little Indian curio shops. Two are in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and one is in Vernal. He lives in Maeser and is married to Wanda Wardell and they have three children. Carl Ray and Wanda were married on January 6, 1973 in Rangely, Colorado, and it was later solemnized in the Vernal Utah Temple on April 30, 2009.

Terell was our next child born and this was on April 26, 1955, in Vernal. He was a healthy handsome baby and had a lot of dark hair and brown eyes. Terell was another new name out, and when he was born, our Doctor Seager's name was Terrell, but we spelled our son's name different. Terell doesn't have a middle name, but we felt it went well with Collett.

Terell ran down to Grandma Collett's one day without any clothes on, when he was about 3 or 4 years old. In those days, the women wore these great big bloomers under their dresses and they were long and came down just above the knees. So Grandma got Terell and put a pair of her bloomers on him and used a safety pin to hold them up. I can remember Terell coming back home with those bloomers on him along with his cowboy hat!

I bottle fed Terell, because I was such a busy mother, and I think I couldn't get enough milk to nurse him like I had the other children. I gave him formula just like the modern way of doing things now and all of my children wore cloth diapers. Terell just recently took the metal clothesline poles down this past winter here in Maeser where we now live, after all of these years. I had about five lines and kept them lined with flannel diapers at least three days a week! What a relief to have plastic-paper diapers for all of my grandchildren! (Tracy and Guy may have had paper and plastic diapers, I'm not sure.) Terell married Sheryl Lorna Long on February 24, 1977 in the Salt Lake Temple.

When Terell left the Flaming Gorge Lodge, he bought himself a great big dump truck along with pulling another dumpster, and he's hauling gravel now in Vernal and is very successful! He's on his second backhoe and he's bought a home on 35 acres. Terell and Sheryl have nine children, and they have had two children come and live in their home and after two years, they decided to adopt these beautiful young boys.

I gave birth to our daughter, **Donetta**, on October 12, 1956, in Vernal, when Terell was barely two years old. My friend, Iris Campbell, came to our home in Maeser and we tied a beautiful satin quilt for her. Donetta was dark and had curly hair and was just a delight. She was probably our most beautiful child when she was a baby. She always hated her curly hair, when she was young and growing up, but she still has beautiful hair and has inherited it from my mother's side of the family, the Johnson's!

Donetta was a very active child and I dressed her in the best she could be dressed in, because of her beautiful long curly hair. She was probably quite spoiled, because everyone wanted to hold and love her! I guess I felt if one of the children was named after Carl, I ought to have someone named after me! I

liked Donetta, because it was somewhat like Donna and it was another new name I had heard and liked. We spelled Donetta just like it sounds and we didn't give her a middle name. She received lots of attention from her older sister, Randy, and brothers. Randy was always good and motherly to Donetta and they've always been really close, because they are our only two daughters. In fact, Randy is Donetta's second mother!

Donetta has been a very healthy child and young woman and is the mother of five children. She married Herold Lee Egbert, from Preston, Idaho, on January 22, 1982, in the Logan Temple, and they have five children. Herold is Assistant Manager at K-Mart. Donetta is very dedicated to her family and they are her whole life and she wants the very best for them, because she's a good mother. They're doing great and live in Maeser. She and Harold were married in the Manti Temple and they're all very active in Church activities. They do very well, because of Donetta's ability to keep them all motivated. She's a wonderful cook and can put on the biggest and best meals, you could ever imagine! She has been a wonderful daughter all of her life and she loves the Lord and the gospel.

Tracy Lynn was born in Vernal on March 20, 1963, and was blonde and had blue eyes. He was born about five years after his sister, Donetta, and so she was kind of a big sister to him. He was one of our children who was prone to accidents. I believe he broke his arm a couple of times, and one day, he was riding with his sister, Randy, in the van and a door came open, while they were driving along and he flew out the door and rolled, skinning himself all over. Another time, he was riding on the handlebars of a bicycle our youngest boy was peddling and he ran off the road and rolled again and skinned himself all over and this was all in Dutch John.

Once Carl was running the lawn mower outside and he left and went inside the house to visit with a friend and pretty soon we heard a yell. Tracy had tried to clean the grass out from under the lawn mower, while it was running! He cut one of his fingers off and we rushed him to the hospital in Vernal. He has one finger pinned, so it'll be straight and another one's still missing!

Tracy worked in the kitchen at Flaming Gorge and attended Brigham Young University. He served a successful mission to Los Angeles, California, and it's the "melting pot" of the world and about 80 different languages are spoken in that area. Tracy had my Aunt June Belcher Roberts he could visit for district or zone meals, while serving there.

Tracy married Susan Reay from Tucson, Arizona, on April 24, 1986, in the Salt Lake Temple and they are the parents of four children. Susan's family owned a chain of grocery stores called Ray's Ranch Stores and he began managing some of them. Eventually, his in-laws sold the stores and went into the Mini-Mart business. They have 16 of them and two grocery stores remain, and Tracy is still managing the grocery stores.

Our last child was born on May 9, 1964, and was named **Guy Sylvanus**, because he was the last guy! They used to say, "The first the worst, the second the same, the last the best of all the game!" His middle name was Carl's father's first name. Our last child was my biggest baby and he weighed over 11 pounds! He's dark complexioned and a handsome, good-looking young man and a joy in our family, because he's always been so very thoughtful. (Donna, tell a childhood story if possible. Information incomplete.)

Guy is our tallest child and is 6'4". He's grown in stature now, but when he reached his height, he was only 150 pounds and nothing, but a beanpole! He is our jabber-box and talks continually and

socializes and loves people! We can blame all of our dark-eyed and dark-haired children on their handsome dark father. On the Stringham side of the family, possibly in the 1700's, way back just after America was colonized, one of Carl's ancestors married an Indian girl. It probably was a Seminole, because this is where all the Seminoles were at that time on the eastern shores of America, but it is all hearsay.

Guy served a very successful mission in the Philippines and Carl and I were very fortunate to be able to travel and bring him home. They let him take two weeks to return, so we enjoyed a tour along with touring the countries of Australia and New Zealand. After he returned, he worked for us in the store at Flaming Gorge, and then he decided to go to Raleigh, North Carolina, to visit a returned sister missionary from his mission by the name of Demetrice Lynn Chapman. Dee came back with him to the gorge and worked for us and then they decided to get married on October 9, 1986, in the Manti Temple. Dee is a lovely North Carolina girl and they have settled in Maeser. Guy was really an asset to us in the store, because he was an expert at merchandising. He kept our stores stocked and going well and did a wonderful job. Guy has been going to college through the program at Utah State University at Logan to receive a 4-year degree and is currently working for the State of Utah, Division of Child & Family Services.

We have always felt like we had beautiful healthy children! They've all been good examples and successful in their schooling and married lives and in everything they've accomplished throughout the years and most importantly, loved the gospel!

Once in awhile, we'd get to go up to Dutch John and be with Carl on weekends or take friends who had come to see us from out of town or sometimes, we'd take them up to visit him during the week. While living in Maeser, we had a big apple orchard and we had lots of parties and family reunions. We just loved to have our Stringham and Collett Family Reunions on our property.

We had a few horses and gardens and a cow to milk. The children did it for a while and then we just got lazy and decided to buy all our milk, butter, and dairy goods. Our children went to Maeser Elementary School and then attended Vernal Junior High and Uintah High Schools in Vernal. We always had our meals around the table together and I always insisted they eat enough to have a good, healthy breakfast and other meals also. I prepared everything from Hot Cakes to Muffins and French Toast for breakfasts. I always tried to cook healthy meals, and of course, we ate prepared cereal, but not to the extreme.

We had a special dinner on Sunday, because Carl would come home for the weekends from Dutch John, thank goodness! I'd usually serve Roast Beef or a nice casserole or just a more lovely meal. I've always prepared good evening meals, when we had family still living at home. At school in Vernal, they had hot lunches, which were quite good, and the children always enjoyed them. They hardly ever took sack lunches to school like many students. We always had enough money to pay for their hot lunches, so they could eat a good healthy lunch at school.

All of our children had lots of friends and it seemed like we had many extra neighborhood children around our home daily as they were growing up. Edna, Carl's sister, had children about the same ages as our children and she had one just older than Craig. Sometimes there were so many friends, I'd have to ask them to go home, because I couldn't get my kids to participate in the things they should be doing. We expected our children to do their homework and also some work around our home and yard like weeding the vegetable and big flower gardens.

Carl built a big sand pile under an Apple Tree and put a big hexagon border around it. I couldn't keep Terell from going out in the road sometimes and into the irrigation ditch. So I'd put a rope around his suspenders and put him in the sand box to keep him out of the road and from being mischievous and getting hurt. We always had a lot of kids around and everyone had fun in the sand pile and small swimming pool and often they'd also go swimming down at the canal near the Hackings.

When Carl was home, we always work together, but he remained up at the Gorge for five years prior to our joining him, and so I was at home alone pretty much raising the children and taking care of concerns and the challenges of the day. We attended Church, but we didn't have Family Home Evenings. I remember in Church, Leo Hacking, a cousin of Carl's, was one of our Bishops. I would take our children to Church every Sunday and one day he said, "If I could have kids as cute as all of yours, I'd have had hundreds!" He thought Donetta was such a cute baby! Everyone would pass her around at Church and take turns holding her.

(Donna: Please tell about your move and some of the important things that took place and the feelings you had and any of the feelings of the move for the children, while you made the change to Dutch John) (Information incomplete.)

We rented out our Maeser home, after we moved to Flaming Gorge to live. The renters had moved out and we were having a little porch on the backside of the house built, while we were in Spanish Fork visiting our daughter, Randy and family. Our neighbor telephoned us and said, "Your house is on fire!" We discovered that while our contractor was building the porch, he moved the water heater, which was gas, and we had a floor furnace and when it was on, it blew the roof off of the house!

(Donna: Please tell how you felt and any more story about the house burning down.) (Information incomplete.)

Preparing meals together and eating around a table as families, help keep families together. If you can't have your meals together, there's not much togetherness! When you cook together, the children can learn how to cook and my daughters are both wonderful cooks and our sons are also. Some of the favorite meals the children enjoyed while growing up were: (Information incomplete.)

When I joined Carl in Dutch John, I became the chief cook in the little drive-in. Carl thought I put out the best food in the whole world! I worked there until we purchased the Lodge in 1971. I worked in the store for a while at Flaming Gorge. Eventually, I became the truck driver and would go to Vernal twice a week to take our money and put it in the bank and bring back whatever was needed. I remember one trip, when I was returning from Vernal, I got a little sleepy and ran off the road into a guard post and just missed a great big hole by inches! It made a dent in the side of the truck where I hit the post.

Every week I made out orders for all of the groceries. We'd go to shows and order items in Denver, Colorado, and also Salt Lake City. I'd order hats, caps, shirts, sweatshirts and novelty items to sell to the public as souvenirs from Flaming Gorge and it was a lot of fun for me! We had a lot of different employees working for us at the store. We have met a lot of wonderful people who have worked for us and also hundreds of people who have just come up there to enjoy the beauty of the Flaming Gorge area. It was always good to associate with new people and we miss this part of the business greatly.

I was dedicated to go to Vernal and bring back the things that were needed. I would go through the orders and make sure everything was correct and I did this job for 20 years! We came to the point

where all of our distributors were bringing the milk and the groceries and everything we needed directly to us, so my job came to a close, and I became a housewife, a gardener, and a fix-it-up person and everything else up on the hill where we had our home by the lodge.

I have designed and built three homes and knew exactly how I wanted things. Max Pedersen (Peterson?) built our first home near the Lodge. We also had a basement, because it was on the side of the hill and we dug into the rock to build it. We had an upstairs and it was such a beautiful home. I started out with a beautiful Rose Garden in the back, before we built a patio. We couldn't keep the deer out of it, even after we built a 6' fence, so we didn't raise any more roses after that. I had many kinds of flowers growing around the out side of the house and enjoyed keeping them up. We had a little garden at the side where we raised squash and cucumbers and other vegetables.

Believe it or not, we have worked hard, but we still took time off! We flew into Mexico City on a tour with my sister, Marita and her husband, Garth. We spent a couple of weeks just touring around and going to _____ and on down. We've been to Hawaii several times and one was for our grandson, _____'s wedding.

(Donna: Please talk about some of the things you did on your Hawaiian trips..... like attending the temple or the Polynesian Cultural Center and how you felt about it?) (Information incomplete.)

We flew into the Philippines to pick up Guy from serving his mission and enjoyed it so much. We traveled back to North Carolina several times and were fortunate enough to go through the Washington Temple. We traveled on to the middle of our country and then came back through the northern part. (Donna: Please tell anything else about your travels during these trips like points of interest or activities you and Carl did along the way, arrowhead hunting or going bowling or whatever you might have done.) (Information incomplete.)

We had quite an experience when we came into a snowstorm in the Dakotas on that trip. The highway was blocked off, but there was another road open, so we decided to take this road and we hit a great big snow drift and got stuck in it. The wind was blowing 90 miles an hour and it was 30 Degrees below zero. Carl happened to have a pair of long handles, so he stripped and put them on and put a lot of other clothes on the top and put the chains on and we still couldn't get out. Finally, a man came along with a four-wheeler and pulled us out.

We went to Cody, Wyoming, several times and to Yellowstone Park two or three times. (Donna: Who would you go with (caravan?) and what did you do..... cook your meals or eat out or sights you visited, etc.) (Information incomplete.)

One year, we took a 15 day tour up into the edge of Canada and down along the West Coast with Carl's cousin, Asell Hall and his wife, _____, and it rained every day! (What did you visit and enjoy about the trip?) (Information incomplete.)

We traveled to Alaska for the second time last year on a 14-day tour with 8 of our friends and it was 7 days on the Inland Passage and 7 days on the ground and enjoyed it. Our first trip to Alaska was about 15 years ago. Four of us had trailers and we took two months. We toured up into the Yukon and all over Alaska and around and back through Canada and it was so enjoyable. Carl likes to fish for King Salmon, but the others were Halibut fisherman, so he stayed along the river and fished for a couple of weeks and caught Salmon and had to turn them all lose back into the river. Probably the biggest one Carl

has ever caught was about 65 pounds! He did go out into the ocean, because you could keep those fish. He caught one that was 37 pounds and the group enjoyed eating it. Carl's been a fisherman all of his life and he's taught me everything I know about fishing!

On May 28, _____, Carl was operated on for heart surgery. On the 10th of June, all of his friends and family and grandchildren danced and sang to celebrate his 70th Birthday! He really wasn't in very good shape, because of recuperating from surgery. We had a large meal of _____ on our patio in back of our house in Flaming Gorge and Carl gave a little speech and it was a great occasion to be together. (Donna: Want to add any other information about this gathering?) (Information incomplete.)

When I had my 70th Birthday, my children thought so much of me, they each gave me 10 Red Roses, which totaled 70! We all got together and had a wonderful time and had a dinner at our home. I love each one of them so much!

I think our two most special traditions in our family are our Easter Egg hunt and our Christmas Eve Shrimp Dinner and we've had them over 25 years! The reason we began doing this was, because the grandchildren would get antsy, and they wanted to be sneaking in all the closets to find Christmas presents at home. We decided as a family to have our Christmas Eve Shrimp Dinner and this year we had 45 out of 65 of us at the house! The roads were so bad and some couldn't travel, because of the dangers. Jay and Randy, sent us a huge plastic Snowman 8'4" in height with lights and it goes clear up to the eaves of our home. We put it out in front in the snow, and we took a beautiful photo with all of the grandchildren around it! It takes about half a day to get all of the Shrimp ready for our family Christmas gathering and we purchase 15 pounds of big Blue Shrimp from IGA and it runs a little over \$200.00. We take the shells off and de-vein them and flour and put them in a batter to deep-fry. I have a special recipe for the batter and our children all love Shrimp, except, Jay, Randy's husband, is the only one who doesn't and we have something for him to enjoy as the main course.

Everyone brings salads and we always have a special dessert. We had Sour Cream Potatoes this past Christmas and they're so good with Shrimp. The children all open Christmas presents after they do a "Alive" Nativity of the birth of our Savior. They love dressing up in costumes and we sing songs together as a family and love it. Every year the older grandchildren graduate from doing the Nativity and the younger ones come into it with great anticipation. We did it at the Lodge for years and now we do it at our home in Maeser, and we usually stay together until around midnight. Everyone brings gifts to put under the tree, and then we all open our own the next morning, and we go around to all of our children's homes on Christmas day to visit and enjoy the excitement of giving. This has been our Collett Family Tradition for many, many years and we love it!

We have a special place up at the Gorge for our Easter Egg hunt as a family. There is a little canyon, where we build a fire in a pit, we built for ourselves years ago. We go down a canyon and there are big beautiful rocks and we hide the eggs. The grandchildren just love to climb those rocks and look for the eggs. We begin by having all of the children go up to the road and then we have the youngest 10 or 20 come down first to hunt. I have different prizes for all ages, so I segregate them and put numbers in the plastic eggs from the youngest grandchildren to the older ones and afterwards they receive the prizes. We have our picnic and meal of "roasting AWeiners," and everyone brings salads and desserts and we all just enjoy the tradition and time together. They haven't had much snow at the Lodge this year, so it might be fine for us to have our hunt again this year in our traditional spot. If there is a problem, we'll have it in our orchard at our home where we now live. Everyone enjoys and loves to be together for

Easter! We did have it inside, because it snowed... but, only once!

We've always served the public on our main holidays at the Gorge, and have had to always have everything stocked extra well. July 4th and 24th have always been busy holidays and we learned to be prepared ahead on everything! We never have celebrated these two holidays as a family, because we were taking care of the public and our businesses. We've always taken a few days off the following week, and would go out on the lake or do something as a family later.

I will begin with Craig & Sandy's seven children and our first grandchild is **Jenette Francis Collett**, who was born on May 11, 1971, in Provo, Utah, and was _____ (coloring). She married Cory Lamb on March 3, 1990, in Dutch John, Utah, and they have two beautiful children, Skyler Cory and Haylee Collette. Jeanette is a very beautiful young woman inside and out. (Donna has she attended any college?) _____. She has a beautiful spirit and can do anything she makes her mind up to do. She's very knowledgeable about the scriptures and things that pertain to life. Cory is an excellent mechanic and has a good job. Any time anyone has a little problem, they know they can take it down to Cory, and he can deal with it and take care of them. Jenette has brown eyes and natural curly hair, like her father. She's a wonderful mother to her children and a good wife to Cory. She's very kind and she loves music and has sung a lot and also leads and is so talented. She's very creative and can use her imagination when it comes to sewing and decorating.

Christopher Rene Collett was born on February 27, 1973, in Provo, Utah, and has (coloring, etc.) _____. Chris just graduated from the Police Academy in Salt Lake City and took part in helping patrol the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. He's been a jailer in Manila for years where they reside, and helped in law enforcement. Chris married Janalee McGee on May 13, 1995, in Greendale, Utah, and they were later sealed on May 14, 1996 in the Provo Temple. They are the parents of Rebecca Paige, Carles Spencer, and Aspen Sydnie.

Danielle was born on July 28, 1974, in Vernal, Utah and is some what timid. She's got beautiful blue eyes and a beautiful sweet personality and has natural curly hair. She married Timothy Kinder on October 8, 1994, in Dutch John, Utah. (Donna: Did Danielle attend any college?) (Information incomplete.)

She's had some health problems these last few years with Multiple Sclerosis, but she still takes care of her two beautiful children and her husband. Danielle and her husband, Tim, live in Green River, Wyoming, and her husband is a distributor for Kraft Food Company. He travels all over the area delivering product to the cafes and stores. They are the parents of Cortney Lynn and Ashley Michelle.

Camille was born on January 19, 1977, in Vernal, Utah, with (coloring, etc.) _____ and is the next in line and she's quite an individual and very special to us. (Donna: Please mention any college?) (Information incomplete.)

She knows how to take responsibility and does well with her own family and was married to Kevin D. Clegg on June 11, 1996, in the Salt Lake Temple. He is employed as (or college) _____. She's very dedicated to education and raising their children Emma Brooke and Ethan Hunter in the right way.

Maretta Collett was born April 5, 1980, in Vernal, Utah, and she just graduated from Weber State University in Ogden, and she's just an outstanding young woman and has had many boyfriends, but hasn't

tied herself down yet! She's the darkest one in her family and really is a pretty young woman!

Chelsey Lynn Collett was born on June 1, 1982, in Vernal, Utah. She is finishing college at Weber State University in Ogden, and she is very dark with beautiful long hair, at least the last time I saw her! She's very talented and has a beautiful personality!

Vanessa Collett was born on May 7, 1986, in Vernal, Utah, and she is (Donna: her coloring/etc.) _____. She is a senior at Manila High School this year. She loves sports and is very active in all the school activities. She's been a cheerleader and loves to play basketball.

The next two grandchildren are from our daughter, Randy and her husband, Jay Cornaby.

Carla Cornaby was born on June 3, 1971, in Vernal, Utah, and she looks like _____ and was married to Mike Nixon on December 14, 1991, in the Salt Lake Temple. They have two beautiful children, Michael Jay and Caitlyn Marie and live in Spanish Fork, not far from her parents. She attended _____ University, and she's very athletic and a very intelligent individual who loves sports (does she work?) (Information incomplete.) and so does her husband, Mike who is an attorney. The children are a delight to be around, because they're so happy all of the time. They have a lovely home in Spanish Fork and we were able to visit with them at Christmas time. They took us down through the park where all the Christmas lights were and we played games and enjoyed it so much.

Tiffany Cornaby was born on June 1, 1975, in Payson, Utah, and she has the _____ looks and coloring and she lives in Salem, not far from her folks also. She attended _____ University and she's married to Rhett Finch and they have a little daughter named Isabelle and they adore her! Tiffany teaches Drill Team and Physical Education at Spanish Fork High School and is a beautiful young woman. She's done a lot of dancing and takes good care of herself and is very special.

Carl Ray and Wanda have three children and I will begin with their firstborn.

Gabriel Ray Collett was born on August 18, 1973, in Vernal, Utah. He's blue-eyed and looks more like his mother's side of the family. He lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, and was married to Misty Carlson on _____ in _____, and they have one darling son named Parker Ray. Gabe works in construction and frames houses, and they seem to have a very happy life together. Gabe is a real likable young man and hard worker and he and Misty make a wonderful couple!

Candance Collett was born on February 22, 1977, in Vernal, Utah and she looks like _____. She's very talented and works for a bank in Lehi and is a very brilliant young woman. She married David Lewis Archibald on January 23, 1998, in the American Fork Temple, and he works in the banking business also. They have a baby son named Colton and he's darling!

Justin R. Collett is the youngest and he was born in Vernal, Utah, on February 7, 1981. He has a slender build, blond hair, and blue eyes. He is currently serving a mission in Des Moines, Iowa, and is doing a wonderful job as a full time missionary! He likes everyone and everyone likes him and so this makes him very likeable! He's not as outgoing as some of our grandchildren, and so I suppose he gets it from his Grandpa Collett! We are so very proud of him and that he's doing so well on his mission.

Next are Terell and Sheryl's nine children and I will begin with the oldest.

Tera Collett was born on July 7, 1976, in Vernal, Utah, and she's got dark eyes and a cute quiet

personality and she has the cutest grin! She talks with her eyes and she was married to Brad Preece on August 25, 2001, in Vernal, Utah. Tera's a special mother to her little daughter, Madeline Stokes, who was born on _____, and she and Brad are doing very well and are wonderful together. (Has Tera had any college _____. He is employed as _____, and they live in _____.

Terrell Jr. Collett (or T.J.) was born on May 9, 1978, in Vernal, Utah, and he's blonde and blue-eyed and has curly hair and a wonderful personality. T.J. loves Team Roping and horses. Terrell's family have always had horses to work with and so T. J. has done just that and travels a lot to rodeos. He's got a special grin like his sister, Tara, and he talks with his eyes also!

Tasha Collett was born in Vernal, Utah, on February 20, 1981, and she's an adorable grand daughter. (coloring/eyes/hair, etc.) _____ and any college? _____. She is special to us along with being a very good mother to her little daughter, MaKaylee and was married to _____ Batty on _____.
in _____. He is employed as _____. They reside in _____.

Tyson Charles Collett is kind of the *Aromeo*" of the family! He's darn good looking and is 6'5" and 250 pounds! He was born on April 9, 1983, in Vernal, Utah, and favors _____ in his looks. Tyson isn't too outgoing, but when you get to know him, he's got a cute personality! He's not as noisy as the rest of us, I guess, but he likes machinery and he's beginning to take Mechanics at Snow College in Ephraim. He loves Wave Runners and Snowmobiles and all this kind of stuff, so he's had to learn how to work and take care of them, and because of this, has decided to become a Mechanic.

Trevor Carl Collett is the "wrestler" of the family, and he's a husky young man! He was born in Vernal, Utah, on October 17, 1985, and we are proud of his interest and how well he does in wrestling. He's only a sophomore and has been involved in state wrestling tournaments already.

Taylor Norman Collett was born on May 30, 1988, in Vernal, Utah, and is a sweetheart and has had to deal with some health problems. He has _____, but still attends school and participates in all of the activities. He favors the side of the family and is _____. He always has a smile and a love for all of us and he's Grandma Collett's special boy! (Donna: Does Taylor have any hobbies or activities he does well in that you could write a few lines.) (Information incomplete)

Tenille Collett was born on December 9, 1989, in Vernal, Utah. We call her "*dimples*" part of the time, because she's got the cutest dimples, and she's blue-eyed and looks like her mother. She's her own self and a special spirit.

Bradley and Dustin Collett are two darling young boys and they came recently to Terrell and Sheryl by adoption. They had them for several years as foster children, and they have fit into the family extremely well. Everyone is so happy with them as part of their family. They both love school and each other and they're just outstanding young boys. They look a lot alike and their hair is cut just the same!

Donetta and Harold Egbert's five children are next and I will begin with their oldest.

Herald Conner Egbert was born on February 20, 1983, in Logan, Utah. Conner is on a mission currently in Mexico City, but previously had been attending Snow College in Ephraim. He is serious, and

yet he likes to have fun! Everything he does is important and of value, and he is a handsome 6'6" young man and has brown eyes and dark hair. We are so proud of him!

Carly Egbert was born in Logan, Utah, on July 4, 1984, and is a small, petite young woman, and is a senior this year at Uintah High School in Vernal. She's a beautiful Violin player and plays with the Utah Youth Symphony and also has played some with the adult Utah Symphony. She's very dedicated to her education and she also teaches Violin Lessons. She's very special in all she does, and will go along way in obtaining and achieving her goals!

Ryan Kimball Egbert was born on November 2, 1985, in Logan, Utah. He favors _____ and is currently almost 6'4" and is a very good looking young man who has brown eyes like his brother, Conner. He's a socialite and the girls like him and Ahe enjoys the girls and they have a lot of fun!" They all play basketball and go to dances and activities together.

Kadie Dawn Egbert was born on August 21, 1987, in Logan, Utah. She favors _____ and has _____. Kadie loves basketball and is a good player and is determined to do her best in everything she does and she does do things so well. She likes to help in her home and enjoys helping her mother. She likes school, but she loves her sports best of all and we love her, too!

Kelsey Egbert was born on April 23, 1990, in Vernal, Utah, and she has lots of dark hair and big black eyes. She is just so cute and is the youngest and is almost 12 years old. She loves to dance and participate in her dance class programs. She was born with a Aclip" hip and she's had surgery on it several times and is doing quite well.

Tracy and Susan have four children in their family and live in Tucson, Arizona.

Elliot Elise Collett was born in Provo, Utah, on August 17, 1988, is the oldest child, and is a lovely, tall, beautiful, blonde grand daughter. She is a very talented writer and has already written some children's books and is a good student.

Mason Mackay Collett was born in Tucson, Arizona, on July 17, 1990, and he looks like _____ and has _____. He loves sports and is a good-looking young man, and he especially loves basketball and is a fine grandson.

Alexa Lynn Collett was born on January 3, 1992, in Tucson, Arizona, and she has lots of personality and just loves everyone and everything and is so very lovable herself! She favors _____ and has _____.

Zachary Alexander Collett was born in Tucson, Arizona, on June 10, 1996, and he is our little darling, because he's always happy and doing his part in playing games in the family. Zachary looks like _____ and has _____. He likes all sports his mom and dad have helped him to love. All of the children are very healthy and active in school and in play.

Guy and Dee have four beautiful children and I will begin with the oldest.

Sylvanna "Anna" Collett was born on July 26, 1988, in Raleigh, North Carolina, and she is the oldest and has dark hair and eyes. She has a combination of her mother and dad's eyes and hair and she is tall and beautiful. She loves music and her goal is to practice the piano and achieve her goals some day. Anna also loves to participate in choruses.

Samantha Collett was born in Vernal, Utah, on April 4, 1991, and is dark and full of life and always wants to help everyone and do her part in keeping their home happy.

Carlton Sylvanus Collett was born on April 9, 1993, and is the youngest and he has brown eyes and is a real little gentleman! He's very serious about his Cub Scouting and he loves the gospel and his Primary and Sunday School classes. He loves school and is a very sharp student!

Maranda Collett was born in Vernal, Utah, on February 10, 1999, and is dark complicated with big, black eyes and dark hair. She also is one who keeps the family alive by just doing something different all of the time! She's a delight to be around and she's just really special.

My Favorites. . . .

Pets: During my life, I have been around horses and I have loved them and I think we've had quite a few favorite pets. I know when I was a girl, I loved to ride horses and I loved to herd cows on horses to go round up the cows. Dad bought us a horse, we called **Jelly Bean** and we'd love to ride him. **I just always loved to have horses!** After we were married, we had several horses we would ride, but we never kept any of them very long, because we were moving around quite a lot. When we were younger, we had **dogs** that helped herd the cows and would go out and round up the cows with us in Roosevelt.

Our kids have always had a pet dog. **Puddles** would ride in the back of Carl's truck, when he had pick-up trucks. Our daughter, Donetta, had a black dog named **Frisky** and we learned to love and put up with him, because she was such a dog lover! She's always had dogs at home and she's still got dogs! Frisky was just a pup when he arrived at our home and we had him for 14 years. We moved up to the Lodge at the gorge while we still had Frisky. On July 4th, we'd set off a lot of fireworks out in the field and he would be scared to death! One night, it just broke everyone's heart, when Frisky took off down the road scared and was hit and killed by a car. I said, "Well, dogs are either a headache or heartache!" We've had our experiences and most have been really good for the family.

Music: Last night I sat and watched Bing Crosby sing some songs and it brought back so many fond memories. He was a wonderful singer and I thought a lot of him. I have liked all kinds of **music** and I especially like **Classical** and **Country Western Music**. I have always liked to listen to music on the radio and have had music on in the house for years. I have even liked Gene Autry and have loved the music of Roy Rogers. I have always enjoyed good music and especially our hymns at Church, and the older I get, the more hymns have special meaning to me. When I was in the Primary Presidency many years ago, **I am a Child of God** was published.

Sports: I've always liked **basketball** more than any other sport! I never have really cared for football. Carl loved football and he can watch it for hours and hours and enjoy every minute of it. I have just never felt I had time to sit and watch it, but I do like basketball! My brothers played basketball and my children have all played basketball and I really do enjoy watching the **Utah Jazz!** I also enjoy watching baseball and always try to watch the World Series, when I have time.

When we were kids, we would **Ice Skate** at a pond in east Vernal. We lived up on the other end, but we always enjoyed doing this activity, especially at night. I remember, when we had a pick-up truck,

our mother would put us all in the back and we'd go to **Doc's Beach**, where they had a **Roller Skating Rink**. This was the highlight of our young lives, getting to Roller Skate with everyone and they would have music playing and we loved it as kids.

Friends: I had quite a few **friends** when I was young, and some of my earliest were neighbors I went to school with, in Roosevelt and there were lots of kids our age. We would get together and play with the Benson, Lisonbee, Allred and the Buchanan families. Some of my **best friends** I've had for many years have been Beth Sweatfield and Velda Wilkins. We had lots of friends we could ask to help us or that we would include in our family activities. I've had a lot of good neighbors and one we thought a lot of was Louise and Theron Peterson who lived below us in Maeser. We thought a lot of them, because they were more of our type of family. They enjoyed what we liked to do, and we enjoyed what they liked to do, so we did a lot together and especially going to the mountains.

Dancing: Carl and I would go square dancing and some of our friends would also go together with us. **Carl's always been a good dancer and he taught me how to dance!** We did all types of dancing and were the Dance Directors in Maeser 2nd Ward. We had floor shows every winter and would practice and do everything from waltzing to square dancing. I think the most fun of all was the square dancing we did and enjoyed. We didn't perform our square dancing, but we got together on certain nights and danced with a group of friends. I had a special dress made once, and I don't know whatever happened to it. I think about it every so often and it had a real pretty long black skirt with a lot of little flowers and rick rack on it. I guess it must have been in the attic when our house caught on fire but Carl and I have really enjoyed dancing together!

When we were first married, we would go to Victory Park to the dances and it was between Roosevelt and Vernal. Carl was always such a good dancer and we gave dance lessons a lot in Maeser for the Gold and Green Balls. Carl taught most of them and I assisted him. We went to Club 40 a few times, and they had a band out there on the Colorado/Utah border, when they first opened. We'd go with different couples and dance and have a good time. We did most of our dancing at the Chapel, when we put on the floorshows, and trained the teenagers for dance festivals.

Clothes: I've always liked nice **clothes** and have been happy to get a new dress or outfit all during my life once in a while. I try to keep somewhat up-to-date on the style of my clothes. I've never had a lot of clothes, but I've sure had plenty. I've always liked **blue** and think I look better in it, because **I have blue eyes!** I've always had a lot of black clothes, because I like wearing black and still do and yes, I like to have clothes! I always notice other people's clothes and how they dress. I don't know, but for some reason I've just always done this. As far as keeping up with the styles and buying lots of these fancy, frivolous things, I've never had that desire.

Flowers: I've always loved **flowers** and I don't know that I have a favorite. When I was a young girl in Roosevelt, I'd go find rocks along the creek bottom and make circles so I could plant some flowers in our yard. About the only flowers there were to plant were **Zinnias**. I planted a lot of **Cosmos** and

Marigolds, also. I'd pile the dirt inside the circles of rocks and then I'd plant flowers in them. I have always loved flowers and have attributed it to my Grandmother Cora Myrtle Belcher.

When I was really young, we went to Salt Lake City, and I took Grandma Belcher a little small live plant. I remember in Roosevelt, we didn't have the kind of heat we have in houses now with furnaces. I remember I put my plants in the window sill and one night they froze right through the window and the little ivy plant Grandma Belcher gave to me died. We had a big hedge of Cosmos I helped to plant along our garden at the side of our home, and again I would make circles of rocks and put Zinnias and Marigolds in them. They were the main two I planted, and were very hardy and colorful flowers. They probably wouldn't look like anything today, but I was proud of them.

Food: I love to prepare a good rounded meal, where you have meat or protein and I like **Chicken** and **Roast Beef** as well as anything for favorite meat. Carl has brought a lot of Deer and Elk home for the freezer through the years, and we've eaten a lot of wild meat. I just like good food and we love **Shrimp** also. I enjoy good **salads** a lot and there is nothing like **Chocolate Cake** and **Chocolate Pudding**. I have had it all of my adult life and I do like chocolate! In fact, I think I was born liking chocolate! We didn't even know what chocolate was, when I was growing up!

Games: We love to play **Pinochle** and have played lots of games over the years. We also love to **Bowl** and that's my favorite game! I enjoy table games and like the competition and the relaxation. It just gets your mind off everything else, when you concentrate on a game and have fun and socialize with others.

Car: Our **White Cadillac** was my favorite and it was a big car. We sold it to Philip Hall's daughter and her husband across the street, because she wanted it. We've had Pontiacs and I liked the blue one we had and gave to Guy and Dee, when they were first married and living in North Carolina. But the big white Cadillac... I enjoyed! It had white leather seats to match the outside and it was such a nice car to drive.

Candy Bar: **Snickers** is my favorite candy bar and the last couple of months, I haven't been craving chocolate like I have other times in my life... isn't that funny? But I do just love chocolate and I remember sneaking into mama's ice box and sneaking some of her Christmas candy she had put away down under the bottom shelf and I would take some for myself. She'd buy these Old-Fashioned Chocolates for Christmas, and I would sneak a few out, but not too many! **Oh, how I love chocolate!** We always order a lot of See's Chocolate for Christmas and give our families each a box and have done this for years. I've always liked **fruitcake**, but don't have it very often any more. I would make it usually during the holidays and have made lots of them! Our children do not enjoy it like I used to. I think the reason I like it so well is, because my mother would always bake them during the holidays and it was wonderful. We didn't have all this competition in the candies and desserts like we do now. I used a good family recipe.

Perfume: Years ago, I used **Evening in Paris Cologne**. I don't know whether they even make it any longer, but now I usually just use **Skin Cologne**.

Season: My favorite season of the year is **springtime!** The grass starts getting green and the flowers start coming up and I just love springtime. Seems like you're more full of energy and you want to get out and plant flowers and have gardens. It's such a beautiful time of year to me and I like Christmas and fall. I just like them all, but I think in the spring time, you become rejuvenated from going through the winter. I just want to do all of these things and especially plant flowers!

Vegetables: I like **all vegetables** and even spinach and good string beans, peas, and corn. Corn isn't considered a vegetable, it's a grain and tomatoes are fruit, and I love tomatoes! I enjoy everything!

Fruits: **Apples** and **Oranges** are my favorite fruits. I eat bananas for breakfast and enjoy many different fruits and know it's good for me.

Restaurants: I was telling Carl last night, "We like **Mexican** and **Chinese** food!" There was a chinese restaurant in Rock Springs and we'd drive clear up there just to have chinese food. It was the most wonderful chinese food we've ever had any where, but the owner died and it was closed up. There are so many restaurants nowadays. I worked for Uncle Warren, when I was a young girl and I even like Hot Dogs! (Donna: Any additions about working for Uncle Warren) (Information incomplete.)

Day: I think the most favorite day of my life was when **Carl and I went to the Salt Lake Temple and had our family sealed to us on April 30, 1962.** My mother and Carl's mother went with us to the temple and Carl and I each had our own endowments and had our current five children sealed to us on this special day! Our mothers were both still alive and a few friends were also with us. I think the thing I thought was real nice was a friend of mine who lived in our ward made Donetta the cutest little white dress for our temple sealing. I always appreciated it and Donetta looked just like a doll! It was just an extra special day and was definitely different, because we had never been there before, but we did prepare ourselves and took our whole family to be sealed for time and all eternity.

Jam: I love apricots and so I believe **Apricot Jam** is my favorite! I've always eaten a lot of **bread**, because I like it and so we buy a Multi-Grain Brown Bread that is so good and has so much flavor. I've baked bread and rolls a lot during my life, and so **I love rolls** too! I've made a lot of rolls and bread, but not as much as I could have done through the years, because I never felt like I had enough time.

Soup: I have a way of making **Minestrone Soup** and I like it and it's so healthy to eat! I make it quite often, and I love **Potato Soup!** Carl and I both love Clam Chowder, but there is nothing like good ole Potato Soup and there are so many ways you can prepare it. I don't have any recipes, but you can always figure out how to fix it. I like good Chili and just good ole White Beans, because I was raised on foods like this and so that's why I love them!

Soda Pop: **Diet Pepsi** is my favorite soda pop and I also like **Root Beer** and we have made it a few times! I've worked in drive-ins and drug stores where they have had soda fountains, and I just like carbonated drinks, but not all of them. I liked Cherry Cokes really well and grew up on them, but I like Diet Pepsi now and I even like good **Lemonade!**

Modern Convenience: My mother had an electric washer, when we moved to Roosevelt, but we didn't have any electricity for a long time, so we couldn't use it. It was one of the first Maytag Washers ever made, and it had 4 long narrow legs and wasn't deep like the ones we have now. (Donna: Explain more about this Maytag Washer..... if it had a wringer or swished the clothes around) (Information incomplete.) Before the washer, we would use a plunger and heat the water and then put it in a big round tin tub. We'd plunge the white clothes first, up and down and up and down, with soap in it. (Donna: What kind of soap?) (Information incomplete.) We'd do the whites and then the light-colored clothes and then the dark clothes all in the same water and then wring them out. (Donna: by hand???) (Information incomplete.) I think my washer is the best thing that ever happened for all of us. I remember washing clothes on a washboard so I think the **washer** is probably the greatest invention, especially if you had or have a big family. I'll tell you, that washing clothes on the scrub board wasn't easy, but mama always managed. (Donna: Do you want to describe how you did it on the washboard and hanging clothes out or whatever?) (Information incomplete.)

Ice Cream: My favorite ice cream is **Chocolate Ice Cream**, of course! I've learned to like Vanilla, because you can put fresh strawberries on it and Carl like's strawberries, so that's what we eat the majority of the time!

Books: I've not been as much of a reader as I should have been during my life time, but I never felt like I had time to read. I've always liked **poetry** and a lot of authors and I don't know that I have a favorite.

School Subjects: When I went to school, we had Homemaking, but I liked Music and History. In those days, History was really important to know and you learned so much, because we didn't have television, like today. There were so many things to learn about and I enjoyed Geography also. As I get older, I appreciate Geography and History even more! (Donna: did you like homemaking or tell anything about it while in school like if you learned to sew and what you sewed for the first time or if you cooked in homemaking and what were the first things you cooked and how you felt about it and where you learned your homemaking skills.... from home with mother? or by trial and error?) (Information incomplete.)

Home: My favorite **home** was on **7th West in Vernal** and it was owned by Dr. Rich when mama bought it. It was more of a home than any we ever had and was a big home and had plenty of room for all of us and I remember it probably better than the others. I loved the house on the Cable Ranch, where we lived when I was a little girl. It was a big, huge brick home, but I don't remember enough about it. It's the one Uncle Warren and Aunt Daisy lived in the upstairs. In those days, they were one of the nicer homes. We

also lived in some real sad places, too.

Artist: We had a fellow in Vernal, _____, who was a good friend of Dale and Boyd's, and he's a beautiful **artist** and very talented. He's done a lot of good work and my daughter-in-law, Wanda and her mother, Dawna Wardell are good artists also. Greg Olson is a very good artist and I've got a few of his paintings in my home.

Traveling: We've enjoyed **traveling** and flying on airplanes several times. When our son, Guy, was released from his mission in the Philippines, we picked him up and he traveled with us. We traveled to New Zealand and toured and then we stopped in Australia. We flew from place to place and it was so beautiful to see and visit. We enjoyed the Philippine's, because Guy knew so much about the people and the country.

I used to think, when I traveled to visit Grandma and Grandpa Belcher, in Long Beach, California, that it was the most beautiful place on the earth. Vernal just looked awful when I would get back, and I have never forgotten how bad I thought Vernal looked back then. It was so green and lush where they had their home on 308 Colorado Place in Long Beach. Grandpa Belcher had Red Poinsettias clear up to the eaves of their house and it made quite an impression on me in my youth. I was the first one to get to go and visit them. We took turns through the years, and I remember watching Aunt June, Aunt Dixie and Aunt Hazel make Badminton Birds. They would sit for hours each day making them, and I learned how to make them also. I loved to listen to grandma play the piano, because we never had a piano in our home and so I never learned to play. I was only 12 years old, and I can remember how delighted I was to hear my three aunts sing and grandma play the piano, and it was wonderful!

When I traveled by bus to California, Mama sent me along with other Vernal people who were traveling on the bus also, so they could help me know where to get off. I remember one thing that was the saddest part about my trip. I'd just started my very first period as a 12 year old girl, as I traveled down, and I didn't tell anyone about it the whole visit and I don't know what I did, but I will never forget.

Clubs: All during my life, I have belonged to quite a few **groups** or **clubs**. We have "Relief Society" and I have always been active in it, and I belonged to the "Be Natural Club" in Maeser, after we were married and I was the one who named it! We had all these clubs and now I belong to the "Progressive Arts Club" and it's a good club for LDS women in Vernal. I will never forget when we had a club, how we would get together once a month with our husbands and have a social. Currently, at Progressive Arts, we have speakers come in and talk to us and we do different activities like _____. I've helped at voting booths for the Republican/Democrat parties in Dutch John at election time, but that's about all I've ever done in politics. I belonged to the "Chamber of Commerce" in Dutch John and did a few things for that organization. I helped with the walk way in downtown Vernal and the things we have displayed for Lycurgus Johnson.

Lipstick: My favorite **lipstick** was anything I could afford, but now I use **Mary Kay's** and it's my favorite!

When I was growing up, I had pimples and now, I'm getting wrinkles! I don't use a lot of makeup, but I would think my aunts looked so beautiful, because they wore makeup and I liked how they made themselves up. In California, people wore a lot more makeup, than in our small town of Vernal or Maeser. I do wear makeup, but I have never gone to the extreme.

Park: When we lived in our home behind Uncle Warren's, 7-11 Café there was a park nearby where the courthouse is now located and I'd take my brothers and sisters along with Uncle Warren & Aunt Daisy's children and tend them at the **Vernal Park**. We didn't have any lawn at our house and it was just gravel all over the area, and so that's probably the reason I enjoyed going to the grass at the park. The park had a Gazebo and the kids could play on the lawn. There were CC guys working in Vernal and mama would always warn us, "Don't let any of those guys get around you kids!"

Museum: I think our **Vernal Museum** would naturally be my favorite, and we have enjoyed going through many museums off and on throughout our life. We've been to Alaska and to many other museums, but my favorite is still in Vernal. We've got all the Dinosaur petrified bones and it's just home, I guess. They've got a lot of Indian artifacts and things like this also and it just ties in with the Dinosaur Monument in Vernal. I think the most "far out" museum was in Alaska where they had big White Polar Bears.

Furniture: I don't really have a favorite piece of furniture, but **I love our bedroom set** and we've had it a long time! It's a good bedroom set, but not an heirloom.

Jewelry: My **Wedding Rings** are probably my favorite piece of jewelry, because my husband bought and gave them to me and they're not heirlooms, but again, they are my favorites! I think I have a lot of nice **jewelry**, because Carl has always given me lovely jewelry and I'll probably give it to my daughters and daughter-in laws some day. Some of my children might want this and some might want that, but nowadays, kids don't really care about their parent's personal things that are valuable's to us. People use to have big fancy couches, tables and chairs and they were special made and heirlooms to be handed down, but I don't have anything like this to leave for my children.

Ancestor: My **Grandma Myrtle Belcher** is probably my favorite **ancestor**, because I knew her better than any one else and I stayed with them one summer in Long Beach, California. She would come and visit us, and I can remember her giving herself Insulin shots for her Sugar Diabetes. She would hold her arm and pinch it and give the shots every day, and it would come with almost every breakfast meal. It just amazed me and they almost hurt me every time she did it! I couldn't stand needles, because every so often at school, they would give shots or vaccinations. Grandma would just hold her arm up and put it on the table and punch that needle right in, and then rub it afterwards. I thought, ABoy, she's pretty tough to do that!" She was my only grandma, really. I was born in Grandma William's house, but never did get to really know her well. (Donna: Do you want to explain why and some things about Grandma Williams?)

(Information incomplete.)

My father, Roland Hanna Williams, and mother, Hilda Ardis Belcher, met at a dance and I know she attended college at the University of Utah. I think she was teaching school in Maeser, when it was first built and where she first began her teaching career. She would ride a horse and my father would come to meet her. She taught 1st and 2nd Grades throughout most of her life. Sometimes, my father would take my mother on a horse to Maeser School and would bring her home at night after school. The reason they rode a horse was that the school was in a swamp area, and so the horse helped them get through the area and up to the schoolhouse. My Dad courted her during this time. I remember David Hall telling me they would hide behind the building, and so they could see daddy kiss mama good-bye, when she'd leave. They were a beautiful couple and mama was a beautiful person. I think they went to Gusher and were married by a Justice of the Peace. Earlier, mama taught school in Gusher and this is where they went on their honeymoon and stayed in a little hotel which was a long time ago!

It depends on where I was growing up, as to whether or not we participated in Church. After we'd been in Vernal awhile, we moved in the house kitty corner across from the Vernal 2nd Ward Chapel, where Grandpa Belcher was in the Bishopric. We'd furnish the bread each week for Sacrament, and mama would see it was taken to the Church. Mama always worked in the Church and we attended Mutual or MIA and there were always activities and that's where I started going to Church. I went to Primary and Sunday School in Roosevelt a few times, but I can't remember who I went with, but one day, I had to give a 2 ½ minute talk in the chapel, and I also remember giving a little teeny poem. We had Primary after school, and we'd go to a member's house. Mama had Primary in our home some of the time in Roosevelt, and we'd learn to sing songs and do fun activities. It was lovely and we always looked forward to it. Some of the neighborhood kids always came over.

As far as giving advice to my posterity, well, as long as they follow the teachings of our Church and of Jesus Christ, I'm sure they will be extremely blessed! I feel like it's brought blessings into my life and it'll bring blessings into their lives by following the examples of their forefathers as well as the example of Jesus Christ and his teachings. They will be helped through their trials and tribulations and I've had a lot of little instances in my life that have brought me closer to God. Blessings happen every day, but we don't write them down and many times we don't remember. Acknowledge blessings when they happen, and be extremely grateful.

I feel I was born of goodly parents and goodly ancestors and this was a blessing in its self. I know I need to carry on and live like they would have wanted me to live. I expect my family to live like I've lived, and live close to the Lord and to the teachings of the gospel and to the Church, and teach their children to do the same thing. My religion gives me peace of mind. If we didn't have the gospel, I don't know what our life would have been like. **"Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you!"**

We were Stake Missionaries for two years in Dutch John. We were responsible and had a part in seven baptisms, of which out of the seven, there is only one who became really active in the Church. The rest, of course, we don't know, because they left the area and moved somewhere else. I think we did a good job, and were involved in meeting people and knowing about their feelings. We were only supposed to serve one year, and we ended up serving two years, so this must tell you how much we enjoyed this assignment!

My first largest responsibility in the Church was to be the President of the Maeser 2nd Ward

Primary in 19____. It was the biggest Primary in our stake and also in the whole Uintah Basin, and I felt it was an honor! I was so surprised they'd call me and so I knew it was a blessing in my life. We had to go around and help get the teachers. Lawrence Adams was in the Bishopric and he's the one who was over the Primary and he called me to be the new president. Those were wonderful years and we worked hard and saw growth in a lot of those beautiful children!

The Cub Scouting Program was introduced and added to the Primary program at the time I was president. We had a good Primary and a lot of good dedicated teachers. We held most of our planning and preparation meetings at my counselor, Leona McConkie's house, because she didn't have any children at the time, and she was such a good woman to work with. Alice Hawkes (Fox?) was my other Primary Counselor and Irma Merkeley was my Primary Secretary and was she efficient! Most of these people were older than I was, but they were wonderful responsible people. I suppose that's the reason they called me, because all of my kids were Primary age!

This is the year the song **I Am a Child of God** was written. We were in Salt Lake City for the Primary General Conference and they had all these children come from behind the pipes at the organ in the Tabernacle singing, "I Am a Child of God" and it was so beautiful! I have never forgotten this occasion. We had a difficult time getting out to conferences, but we did get out to some. Once we were snow bound in Strawberry and couldn't get through and we slid off the road. They were wonderful conferences and I enjoyed working with these women, but I've taught Primary classes also and have worked in Junior Sunday School.

I was on the Relief Society Stake Board, part of the time, and I've been a Visiting Teacher for years. I think Visiting Teaching is one of the most important tools in the Church, as far as getting out and visiting with in-active members and even some non-members and letting them hear some of the beautiful lessons that are written so well for our needs. I think it is very important to have the Visiting and Home Teaching Programs and I know that if the members will take care of these responsibilities, they can do more good than any other methods in the Church. It can also bring a lot of blessings to both sides.

Carl and I were Dance Directors in the MIA, and we helped prepare floorshows and dance festivals. We always had an annual Gold and Green Ball, and prepared dancers to do a floor show at this event and they were generally formal floorshows. We've enjoyed a lot of different types of dancing like the Waltz, Fox Trot, and Square Dancing. We loved to Square Dance and Louisa Hacking may have been President of the MIA, when we were Dance Directors. During this time, I was pregnant with Donetta, so Sadie McConkie, who was an in-active member, came and helped Carl with dancing and helped teach the youth how to dance.

If you've ever been in the Relief Society, you've taken meals into people's homes and through the years, I've done lots! In the community here in Vernal, Dutch John and Manila, we have belonged to the Chamber of Commerce, and we have helped with a few community events and services.

Don't you just **love all of our Prophets?** At the time they're in, they're always so special, and I think **President Hinckley** is just about as **superb** as can be! **David O. McKay** was President of the Church, when I was working in Primary and he was just like almost a God to me.

During the early days of the Church, and its persecutions, I think if I knew the Church was true, like I do now, I'd have gone right along, working and doing my best, to get to our destination and to do whatever was needed. **I think I've had some of the challenges almost like the pioneers did in the**

early years of my life! We had horses to haul our water and cows to milk, and cattle to feed. We had gardens to plow and to plant and grow our food. You know, I think I'd have done a lot of the same things, when I was younger and growing up! It wasn't an easy life.

Today it's so much different and there are so many improvements, I think. Really, we've improved our way of living and the new modern sciences have done so many wonderful things. A lot of it hasn't taught people to really get in and work as hard for something, or to have stick-to-it-tive-ness, and to endure to the end! **My early years, made me stronger, and more determined to be able to accomplish more, and adapt myself to things that were difficult.** We can conquer anything we make our minds up to do, and today, everything is easy. I'd like my children to have had all the experiences I have had. I do have fine sons and daughters and they've had their challenges also, but the challenges I have had, I wouldn't trade them for the world!

General Conference is about the only place I've really ever seen our **prophets**, and I've never personally met any one of them. I did see President David O. McKay at one of our local conferences once, and President Hinckley has attended conferences in Vernal.

We have had **Family Home Evenings** with our family, but we didn't have Family Night, when I was growing up. I think anyone, who has been dedicated to having Family Home Evenings, has bettered the lives of their family. We always worked long hours and late into the night, at least Carl did, and we never had Family Home Evenings as much as we should have had as a family. The last few years, we have been involved, in more of these gatherings, than we did when our children were growing up, and I have learned it is so important. It can be so special to a family to get together to learn from each other and discuss things as a family. Our prophet tells us that if we will follow this program, it will help unite families together.

I purchased a **Family Home Evening Book** recently, and it has a lot of games you can play and it has scripture searching you can do. It also has so many ideas and covers so many different subjects that are important in family life. There are so many activities, sports, and other places for children and parents to be, that it's getting more difficult continually to have Family Home Evening. I think a family is really blessed, if they're dedicated every week to gathering and having Family Home Evenings. The Church designates Monday, but sometimes you can have it on Sunday afternoons, if your Church is in the morning, or vice versa, just to be together and organize a Family Home Evening. **We really need to have togetherness in the family!** This will help more than anything I know of. We had Seminary in Vernal and all of our children attended.

In this year of **2002**, I'd like to accomplish my **Life History!** I've thought about it before, because I just haven't been dedicated to keeping a diary or journal. In the end, it's very important to have it, so that posterity will know their ancestors and perhaps why they are like they are. I want to re-dedicate myself to going to the **temple** more often. Every year I think, we'll go more often! When we return home from St. George, and still having a temple right in our yard, we still don't go as often as we should! I do know it's important to set a date and mark the calendar. I've said that Tuesday is a good day and we should have this time set aside and be dedicated and attend regularly. Sometimes I get nervous, when I get around people, and it worries me. Almost every time we go to the temple, they ask Carl and me to be witnesses, and I get nervous, but we do it anyhow.

I thought **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** was a real special leader for our nation. He just

seemed like he knew how to do anything, and he was a war hero. He had confidence in the United States, and he had confidence in himself carrying out all of his responsibilities and the assignments he wanted people to do. We **vote** every year and it's important to do our part as American citizens. You can't complain about your leaders, if you don't vote! We have always voted and I've helped count votes up at the gorge many times. We have a small flag, but we're going to get a larger one before long. The Boy Scouts in our ward have just started setting up flags on every holiday in our cul-de-sac, and we pay to have them do this service. **It just thrills me, when I see our flag!**

For Carl's birthday this year, I'm going to have a flagpole put up behind the corner of our home in Maeser. By the back fence, there's a cement driveway, and I'm going to have a small pole put in to fly our **American Flag**. I've been thinking about this for a long time, and this is the year I'll get my sons to do it!

I'm glad I've lived in this time, because we have been able to see so much progress that has come about through so many years. What you learned as a child, you can see what was in the past and you can see what used to be in the future that has come to pass. It has been such a blessing to be born in the United States of America! There's just no other place I'd want to be, and **I'm so glad to be an American**, I really am! It's definitely a great blessing, and I think the Lord put us where we're at for a purpose. We have wonderful leaders here in the Church which is near us, and we're in the best country in the world!

One of the things I enjoy is **fishing!** Carl taught me and it's been such a relaxing sport for me. This is what we do in the summer time in Vernal and we go fishing at our cabin at Brownie Lake. We just made a pledge the other day, that this summer we're going to go fishing at some of the places Carl and I used to fish, when we were first married. Carl would work so hard up at the mountain, until about two o'clock in the afternoon, and then we'd go fishing together. We haven't had the time to do the things we have really wanted to do. Carl's guided on the river and we have fished the river together. **I'm dying to get back up to the gorge and just go down the river!** I haven't been on the river for two years, and its things like this, that we take for granted and we miss it!

I've done a lot of **crocheting** and enjoy it. My Grandmother Belcher taught me how to crochet, and I don't do anything fancy, but I just enjoy it. I've made mostly Afghans, and that's all I've ever done. I've crocheted 30 of them, and I still like what I do better than fancy ones. It's just so relaxing and I can do them when I'm riding in the car. This is the reason I like it, I don't feel like I'm wasting my time. I can't just sit and do nothing!

I use to love to go **shopping**, but I don't do much anymore, because the older I get, the fussier I seem to be. If you've ever had to earn your own money, you're also more careful how you spend it. When our youth earn their own money, they are more conscientious and more careful with their spending. When it's just handed to us, there is a good chance, we'll just throw it away, **easy come, easy go!** I think everyone needs to learn to work for their money, and then perhaps, they will appreciate and use it more wisely. **I love to give gifts**, and I don't give half as much as I'd like to give. Carl always says, "You don't need to do that!" But, I just like to, so I do!

Years ago, we took a bunch of kids down to a parade in Vernal, and we put them in a raft on a trailer. We had little **parades** on the 4th and 24th of July in Dutch John, but nothing big. Carl's got a 1939 Chevy in his garage, and every year I think, I'll take it out and ride in the Vernal parade, maybe next year! He hasn't had a license for so long, a license would cost us a fortune, because the value of the Chevy keeps

on going up.

Our current **home** in Vernal is on the very spot Carl was born. Our bedroom is almost exactly where Carl was born in his mother's bedroom and it's not too big and it's not too little. We like it, because it brings back so many memories for us. When Craig was younger, he helped tear down Carl's mother's home. Our other house was up on the other corner and it burned down and we had it removed. This past winter, Terell dug up all the foundation. Lots of memories, the same neighborhood and everything, and it's nice and most of all, we like it! We loved our **home** up at the gorge, and we had a beautiful view. You could see out over the mountains, and we just loved the house its self and the wildlife that would come around and eat all of our flowers!

One of my hobbies and love has been hunting **arrowheads** with Carl and it's been so relaxing. Even when my **Arthritis** was so bad, I would take Darvon and could still go out and hunt and get the exercise. When I was working all the time, it was so relaxing and we'd go all around Dutch John and up around the cabin. We have hunted and hiked many places and it's been wonderful to get good relaxation in for ourselves.

I have a **Hummingbird Collection** and they are in a cameo that is about the size of my Grandfather Clock, and it's in our bedroom now. I have purchased a lot of the birds in gift shops, mostly in Vernal, and I have had them a long time. If any of the kids find one they think I don't have, they get it for me and other people have given them to me also.

We've had a lot of **variety** in our life and we have been so blessed with a beautiful family, and life has been very good to us. I just can't believe it's been so good! There have been hard times, but if we didn't have hard times, we wouldn't appreciate our life. Our general **health** as a family has been good and for this I am grateful. My health has been pretty good all of my life, except for my Arthritis. Mama had her breast taken off in _____, because of cancer and we went to Salt Lake City to be with her at that time. She had Alzheimers and died not long after her diagnosis at the age of 76 years in Roosevelt. My father died early at the age of 41 years of a Heart Attack, when he and our mother were starting out their life in Roosevelt together.

I've always been more **organized** than now. I had to be organized and be careful about scheduling things, when I was raising our large family. I'm still organized to a certain extent, but now we can just do things when and if we want to, even like my housework!

I feel it's very important to be on time! There's nothing more disgusting than people who are never on time. When Carl had his own business up at the gorge, he never was late a minute. I mean, he'd go at six o'clock in the morning or it wouldn't make any difference what time it was, he was always on time and that's the way I've always been. Some people's lives are not this way.

I love people! Carl's never been very outgoing, but he's a lot more than he used to be. Carl could be happy alone all of the time. I want my posterity to be **caring** about other people. I think most of them are caring especially to their own individual families. We should be caring and show it by our **service** and **love** for them. Some of them are so generous that it's just unreal! Some people don't give a *snap* about people, and they don't even know their neighbors, but I've always enjoyed people.

When I wake up each morning, I have to be sure I'm on the right day! Time goes by so fast, and you say, "Well now, I've got this many more days in the week. I've already gone through this many days

and have I done everything I was planning on doing this week?” Planning is so important! I was more organized than now, and when we were up at the gorge, I was definitely organized during that period of my life!

I don't really have any **regrets** about my life. I would like to have had an education and attended college, but I never had the chance or opportunity to do it. I think I'd have had more confidence in myself, if I'd have had more than just my high school education. Just knowing I have a **good husband**, who has provided well for us, gives me **contentment** and **peace of mind**. The **gospel** also gives me peace of mind, and if I didn't have it, I don't know what my life would have been like. I'm so grateful for the sacrifice of our forefathers and ancestors and what they have done for me. I have tried to be a loving grandmother and have done the best I have been able to do to raise my family. My children are all wonderful parents and I'm so grateful for the good times we've had together as a family and hope we will keep on having those good times. I hope they will always be grateful for the gospel in their lives and always do what is right.

Our **50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration** was given by our sons and daughters. It was held at the Church in Dutch John in the amusement hall and they had a live dance band. Randy made a beautiful wedding cake and there were lovely refreshments served and everything was decorated beautifully. They sent out announcements and invitations to many friends and family, and so many came from Vernal and Manila and other places from all around. It was such a delight to see so many people and even some, who we didn't think even hardly knew us. The night of the party, it poured down rain, and yet so many people came from Vernal through all of the terrible storm. The children all gave tributes to Carl and me and the grandchildren served us, and we danced and had a wonderful evening together as a family!

There have been many changes throughout my life and many through medicine and technology, which have helped people to live longer and also people with health challenges. There are many different surgeries that can be done now and they have an easier way for women to have their babies. It's almost a miracle what they can do now!

Disciplining children has changed from spanking to letting them have their own way. They can do right or wrong or whatever they want now. Dating has changed along with commitment between married couples. We can travel in airplanes and be at our destination within a couple of hours where it used to take a couple of weeks.

In days gone by, we knew our neighbors. We kept in contact with our neighbors, and we helped each other. Now we hardly know our neighbors, especially in crowded cities, people don't even know their neighbor's names, but this has been going on for years in the cities. We were always blessed to be able to live out from town, where we could have close neighbors to even depend on for help. Nowadays, people don't even know if their neighbor's dead or alive!

Education has done wonders. There's so many more things to learn about and I mean the books and the teachers and the scholars and the colleges have done wonderful in education for our youth nowadays. Our televisions have done a lot of good and they've probably done a little harm too. Televisions have a way of getting your education right into your living room. There is all kinds of entertainment and sports. That game with the Jazz last night was something else from Salt Lake City!

Communication has done the most for us. We get to listen to our Prophet over radio, television, and satellites. We have music we can enjoy and there's a lot of educational instructions on television.

Yes, communication has probably done the most advancements for mankind.

We talk more open about our health, and we have doctors that have studied and know how to cure people better than ever before. It gets to be more scientific all the time, by using wonderful equipment to take our MRI's, sonograms, and all these things to check out possible problems with our health. Anyhow, science has done wonderful things for this generation. That's the reason we live longer now than we did many years ago, and this is because of things that have come to pass in the last 75 years, while I've been on this earth!

Fashion has changed a dozen times. Everything we see on television is sleazy and skimpy clothing for the women. It's just a lot different than it used to be, and we'd feel fortunate if we had two outfits to wear! Now we all have so many clothes that we don't even know where to hang them. It's definitely a different world than when I was younger!

I don't know whether marriage has changed or not. The way people live together, without marriage is what is sad. In the Church, we have a lot of people still getting married in the temples and keeping the commandments and living the right kind of lives of trust and commitment. So many people all over the world feel it's nothing to get a divorce. Just get married and be married a couple of years or a little while and get a divorce! It's just very common nowadays. Years back, why if you got a divorce or anything, it was almost a disgrace! Now it's just like taking a drink of water almost, with some people. Some people have as high as two, three, four and five marriages in a lifetime. In the early years, couples had to depend on each other! Therefore, they treated each other with respect and they were more compatible with each other and they got along better, because they depended on each other and usually had to physically work hard. Now, it's just a whole different ball game! They each have to all have their own way and their own things. There's just a lot more **selfishness**. That's what causes so many of these divorces that were almost unheard of years back, when I was growing up.

Women's rights have changed from staying home and caring and cooking for their family to working in offices and advancing to high places. Now women are having careers and all of the things that go with it along with the ways of the world. For a lot of people, having a family is a second thought! It used to be that having a family was the most important thing you could do, and to be able to raise a family in righteousness, or at least try to.

Dear family,

I want all of you to know that I love the Gospel of Jesus Christ and have a testimony of His teachings. I can hardly imagine what my life would have been like had I not been born of goodly parents and ancestors! When I was very young and lived in Roosevelt, my mother held Primary in our home for her family and some of the neighborhood kids. This is where I first learned to sing the song "Jesus Wants Me For a Sunbeam!" I was taught about His teachings and example there in our home.

I've always tried to follow His example by the way I have lived and raised my family. Without His teachings, I can hardly imagine what our lives would have been like. I love each and every one of you. I am proud of the beautiful lives you are living serving your Father in Heaven. We have a living Prophet, and may God bless you all!

Love,

Mom/Grandma (March 2002)