

## Ethelwynne Stringham Collett

By her Grandson Robert Joseph Raines

Grandma Collett was very special to me. She was always so kind and fun to be with. I can remember playing lots of games while at her home. She had an old book of games and magic tricks that we would get you occasionally so that we could learn new tricks to do on others. We would also get a button from her collection and play "Button Button, Who's Got the Button" for a long time.

It seems like when the weather was good, we were often in her yard playing. We would play "Mother May I" over and over and never got tired of it. It seemed that Grandma knew just what to give you so that as you got closer, it took longer to get very far. And then because the distance was so far, we almost always had someone who forgot to say "Mother May I" and would have to start over. It was such a fun time.

As a boy, I enjoyed climbing on the wooden pole fence behind her house. I would try over and over to be able to walk between poles on the top. I can remember that I finally was able to make it a few poles without falling, but it took lots of practice and failures.

When I was very young, we had telephones without dials. We would pick up the phone and an operator would ask, "Number Please". Our phone number one time was O1R1. I think Craig, Carl Ray and Randy were O1J1 and Grandma was O1J4. Someone was O1J3 but I can't remember all of the numbers that well. We had cousins (Roland and Merlin) that had the number (O1O1NR2). We had such a blast going to Grandmas and calling them. We would pick up the phone and when the operator said "Number Please" we would say "O1O1 inner tube". She would say "What?" and we would repeat "O1O1 inner tube". Again she would say "What?" or "Could you repeat that please?" and then we would say "O1 O 1 N R 2". It was such a blast. We also liked to call over and over and ask "Time Please" to which she would give the correct current time. It was never as fun, when the operators were replaced with a dial tone.

Grandma had a lot of trees to climb near her house. I can remember when I helped Craig and Carl Ray build a tree house high in the tree just at the Southwest corner of the house. Grandma was always afraid that we would fall.

One Christmas, Carnel and I got new wrist rockets. We got where we could shoot them quite well and would go out and try to shoot sparrows and magpies, which were worthless to us. I can remember how sad Grandma was that we would kill anything without any need. She taught us love for animals and God's creations. That has been a big lesson in my life to not waste or kill something, just for the fun of it.

I can remember many late summers and falls, when we would pick the apricots and apples. Then we would peel and cut for days. Sometimes when the weather was good, we would lay sheets on top of the front porch of her home, and there the fruit would dry quickly for storage. Other times they were placed all over in the back bedroom until they dried. In her living room, she had some storage shelves against the wall, where she had all of her bottled food stored. It was covered by some curtains so they looked quite nice.

I can remember her breakfasts. They were always filling, and she wanted you to eat a good breakfast. I can remember her insistence on chewing each bite 20 times. It was very interesting to chew the oatmeal and potato patties twenty times each. There was usually nothing left after a few bites, but you would continue chewing.

I can remember learning some piano, even though I never got very good. I wish now that I had practiced more, but now it seems that I have very little time to do something like that. Instead, I spend my time typing on the computer.

One of my most important lessons in life was next to Grandma's house. There was an old house over the fence on the east which was vacant. To us young boys, it was of no worth. My cousins and I went over to the fence and threw rocks at the house and broke some windows. Not many days later, Dad got a call from the owner of the house, Morgan Merkley. Dad asked if we had been involved and Carnel and I

**both admitted that we were both involved. Since we did not have extra money as a family, and to teach us a lesson, Dad took us over to talk with Morgan. It was agreed that if we would work around his hay stack, chop and rake all the weeds, that that could be our payment back. We agreed. Carnel and I worked hard for what seems weeks, after school, to clean up all the weeds and get them stacked as he wanted us to do. There were lots of tumble weeds and thistles all over in these weeds, which made the job, quite undesirable. At the time, we felt bad because our cousins had their way paid for by their parents. But it taught me a lesson in respecting others property and being responsible for my actions.**

**I was saddened very much, when at the age of 11, Grandma passed away. I can not remember very much of her being sick at all, except just before her death. Mom spent many hours with her the last few weeks, to care for her. She was loved by many, and was such a strong member of the Church. She was a very good example to all of us, of enduring to the end and being Christlike in all she did.**