Chapter 4

ALTA NOTT 1921 - 1929

On Sept. 1st, 1921 Alta & I were married in Salt Lake Temple. To add to this date Edgar & Helen were married New York City [on same date].

I found various jobs of short duration & were getting along fine & able to meet our obligations & move to a nice house on 4 or 5 North between lst & 2nd West & it was closer to my work as I had job on O.S.L. Railroad in Bridge & building department. But on Dec. 21 - 1922 my dear wife had a paralytic stroke complete left side of entire body due to high blood pressure was the only cause was the opinion of the several Dr.'s who asked my permission to exam her while in Hospital. What a wonderful Xmas we had to look forward to. My wife was in Hospital 2 months. Our regular Dr. wanted to operate for stomach tumor. A nurse or supervisor told me on the quiet with a solemn promise not to say a word to Dr. not to let him operate as it was a baby & no tumor. I refused Dr. request & he was angry but I told him I could feel life there. We had no idea she was pregnant. The doctor said he had been a doctor for 30 years & he knew a tumor when he saw it. If I wasn't going to go for surgery I could take her home now!

During the short time from Sept. 1920 [1921] that Alta was well & we lived a happy & normal life to Dec. 21, 1922 when she had her stroke. I cannot remember anything except we were happy & our main problem was finding work to meet our obligations & occasional trips she would take to see her Aunt in Morgan, Utah. We did have Agnes her younger sister live with us a short time after she left her Grandmother "Nott" home until she got married.

My folks moved from their little home of so many years, 312 North Temple, so I could bring my wife home as rent was cheaper & it was comfortable but small. I was born in this same house. Too small I found out as I had no bed room or privacy for girl & women I needed. I hired to take care of wife while I worked 2 jobs in summer. RR. & nights at ice company office and they had to sleep on hard couch in living room & consequently they would stay only for very few days & sometimes only one & then I would have to get Helen, Mother, Elsie or stay home from work which jeopardized my job at RR on several occasions.

Our baby was born July 7 - 1923. Beverly Jean was a 7 month baby. Weight was 3 lbs 12 oz she was so tiny & beautiful. I would fix formula every morning before I went to work & kept her in large clothes basket we used for cradle at side of my bed. It hung upon pipe frame I made & would swing back & forth as a cradle rocks & I knew every move she made. She was not doing very well & not digesting her food. My Mother was there one morning when Dr. came & she commented about the condition of baby's stools as baby was

not doing good. Dr. said Baby would not live anyhow. Mother called him crazy & with proper diet would live. Dr. gave me choice of his or Mothers advice. I took Mothers & fired the Dr. We took baby to free baby clinic in town & baby specialist said she was being starved & changed formulas that I had to mix with eye dropper to be exact & from then on our sister-in-law Helen would take Beverly to clinic once every week for sometime & she grew stronger but very small & very beautiful as a picture. I would put her head in my hand & legs over my wrist & give her her bath. She was a great joy & comfort to me & I raised her with little help from outside family to 2 years of age. My folks were along in years & she was then taken care of by various ones in family as I could not keep hired help as wages was low & Alta was getting harder to handle & more demanding & even violent at times. She was now throwing anything she could handle with right hand even at times throwing things at nurses.

Elsie the older sister had several children & lived in little rock house in Bountiful, Utah. But bless her heart she would come & take care of Mother & baby when in emergency & often took Beverly home with her for a while & they had very little for themselves. Helen was a great help & would take Beverly with her family from time to time & we loved her for it. She & Edgar lived near us. My Mother & Dad took care of Beverly as she got older around 5 if my memory serves me to live with them.

Elsie & Arnie raised 9 children of their own & I've seen them have to let one or the other children wear shoes as they did not have enough clothes & shoes for all at the same time. He was a freight trucker at RR. freight docks & always had a little garden for food. Both he & she were small in stature. But all their children grew to be fine LDS members & very active & last time I heard they had 140+ posterity & that was several years ago & at that time not a single death in family. At this writing Feb.-10-1985 she is alive but he died few years ago. He was a great friend to me throughout his life. In April, 1985 I received letter from Ruth (Elise's Daughter) & Elsie is 90 yrs. old & they are debating with family whether to put her in rest home.

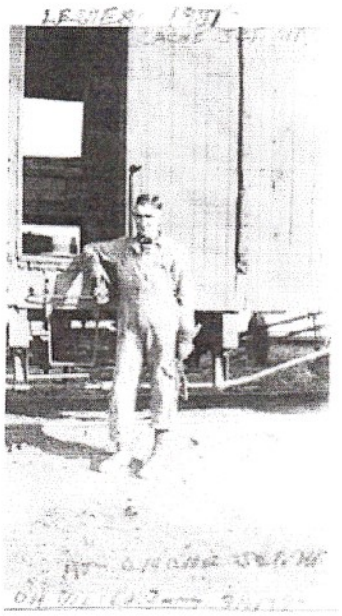
They were a very dear & close family & we loved & visited them often. They were a Godsend to us in later years.

I tried every means I could think of to have Alta taken care of. I would put her in private homes that took care of sick & disabled but they would soon call me to come & get her as they could not handle her & she was too violent & uncontrollable. I tried this many times with the same result & I was cracking up for lack of rest & discouragement & unable to do my work properly. And still under Dr. care I asked what to do & Dr. told me to put her in mental hospital. After many interviews with hospitals and doctors and authorities I was able to put her in State Mental Hospital for so much per month. It was against the feelings of her sister & after a period of time & Agnes was married she said she would take care of her for an amount. So I got Alta out & in a very short time Agnes gave up and Dr. said to put her back in hospital & leave her there & not visit her but very seldom. I would be cracking up myself & do something to take my mind off the problem.

1923 Beverly was blessed by Elder Stanley Tingy & Seventy Andrew Smith son of Joseph F. Smith.

1924 Alta slowly improving at Holy Cross Hospital.

1925 Took Alta to Utah State Hospital in Provo for special treatment for mind. Mental condition worsening according to Dr. & would get worse & more violent & not to come to often to see her as it upset her & made her worse.



My work in water service department on RR. soon qualified me to be a pipe fitter but on a roving gang that lived in bunk cars & had our own cook & dinning car & moved from place to place between Salt Lake City and Pocatello, Idaho where the work was to be done such as water lines sewer & pump lines & pump house repairs for water tanks in depots, section houses etc. Our main headquarters was Cache Junction, Utah where trains stopped for refueling with coal & water & restaurant for passengers to eat. I enjoyed my work as we had a fine foreman Mr. Pippin whose wife was our cook.

Also there lived in Cache a family named Nelson with two daughters. He [Mr. Nelson] also worked for RR. as car repairman. The girls Jennie was divorced & had little girl [Evelyn], Edna was younger & stayed at home mostly & took care of her ill Mother & Jennie's little girl & Jennie was a waitress in restaurant & Edna would work part-time also in restaurant. They were a very friendly family to everyone & some of us & others would go to other small towns around to dances when possible. After a year or two I had a strong feeling of affection for Edna. And we would go together when possible. Though I went with other girls & she went with other boys. But we knew we were falling in love. In a small town there is always lots of gossip true & false. Here I must relate an incident. One night Edna & her Mother & I were playing cards & Mr. Nelson came home very upset. He was a little man & timid & easily pushed around is the only way I know how to describe him. He had been in roundhouse office making report & also there was a man from our crew there talking to Mr. Nelsons foreman & told some stories about my taking advantage of Edna. I excused myself & went to the office. One of our crew had left. I found only one & told him to come outside or tell them he lied or I'd beat it out of him. I drug him out & after a while he said it was not true & apologized. Late that night the other fellow came home & I told him first thing in AM he would along with the first apologize to Mr. Nelson or we would fight it out. He chose the later. So in AM I told Mr. Pippin our foreman what we were going to do & would he care to come & referee. He wished me luck but could not get involved. So Jack & I went to old school house & though it took some time he begged to quit & would apologize. About noon the District. Super came to inspect our outfit & out of 5 men 3 had black eyes. He asked how come our foreman said he didn't know

anything about it or we could have lost our jobs but it stopped a lot of gossip for awhile. Mr. Pippin left our gang for another job & Mr. Foster from Pocatello took over & his wife & they were completely different, demanding & swell headed. We had a number of disputes as I was lead man & his wife tried to run the gang & did to a certain extent but I wouldn't go for her orders which didn't help at all.

Jennie Nelson Fredricksen was our cook on outfit for quite some time while Mr. Pippin was foreman as his wife gave up the job for a rest & Jennie was cooking when Mr. Foster took over as foreman. We were paying so much per meal & Mrs. Foster got greedy & decided she wanted that money. One instance she gave us creamed pea's for dinner there was quit a bit left over so she put it on table for breakfast, dinner & supper. I told her we were tired of them. She said they would be on table until they were gone so I picked up dish walked to the door & threw them out - of course that made us good friends. The foreman & I didn't get along at all after that.

I went to work on Water Service gang in Southern part of Utah as a temporary repairman. Foreman [was] called Goldie, loud mouth & lots of trouble with his wife as she was hot for me & another fellow on gang & we paid her no attention. He came in one morning a cursing us after a dispute with his wife. He called us S.B's & I told him no one cursed me like that & apologize or else. He said he would not apologize & what could I do about it. So I proceeded to show him, though he was big he was all mouth & I was laying it into him. The fellow jump on my back but I swung around & threw him out of car through door onto ground. Foreman's wife saw him fly out door & he hollered. She came running to see what was going on & I was beating his face in. She asked why the fight & was told. He was about out & she hollered apologize you damn fool before he kills you. He said I apologize. I apologized. He fired me & I had to return to Salt Lake & give my report. The telegraph operator where we were stationed wired all operators ahead to Salt Lake of Goldie getting a beating for cursing his men. There was a group of men some more & less to wave to me & wish me luck at hearing. My hearing was brief. Supervisor said go back & say you're sorry though he has been asking for it a long time or I can only say you resigned on your record. I was going to Calif. anyhow so I would go on my way. He wished me luck & congratulations.

Edna & I had planned on getting married when possible & I knew I would have to leave the state. So, I took off for California in 1929 to look for work.