

**HISTORY OF THE MARRIAGE OF
AGNES SARAH NOTT and EVAN TIMOTHY**

Agnes Sarah Nott Timothy began her married life by moving in with Evan at his home on Dooley Court. Their home soon became a boarding house for all relatives who came to Salt Lake for any reason, ie. medical care, temple work, run away from home, vacations, etc. Evan's sister Esther came to Salt Lake to study at McCunes Music School. Then Telintha came to attend 6th grade at Wasatch School. Lew, wife Inez, and baby Lois lived with Evan and Agnes, as well as Presley (who was single and attending the University of Utah in the day and working at night at the Oregon Short Line Railroad Yard). Inez gave birth to Paul on 19 March 1924 and three months later Agnes gave birth to Son Stanley on July 1st. Just before Stanley was born Presley left on a mission. But Agnes was still disenchanted with Evan's relatives camping at their house and gave an ultimatum to clear out or she would leave. Lew and Inez left, but returned one hour later to announce they rented a house directly across the street!

Tragically, Evan's sister Telintha was raped at age 15 and gave birth to a baby girl born dead six months later. The baby was buried in the yard at Heber Timothy's home under a tree and Telintha and Esther were then sent to live with Evan and Agnes. Esther got a job at Scram Johnson's Drug Store and Lew and Inez soon moved to California where Lew worked as a plasterer.

Bruce was born prematurely at home on 23 November 1925. He was so small, his first "crib" was a bread pan!

In 1927, Evan and Agnes (still with Esther and Telintha) moved to a new home a few houses south of 11th Ward at 147 South 10th East.

Gerry was born on 16 March 1928 at Holy Cross Hospital. At that time Agnes' sister Alta (who was paralyzed on one side from a stroke) had been taken to the Mental Hospital at Provo because she could not care for her small baby. When Agnes learned of this, she went to Provo and brought Alta home. (The baby was with her husband's mother) Alta stayed for about one year, at which time her husband discovered she wasn't at the hospital. He was furious and said Agnes had no right to remove her sister and he had her returned to Provo.

Sisters Telintha and Esther returned to Roosevelt as father Heber was ill with cancer. At last Evan and Agnes were alone with their children! Hard times came during these depression times and their home was foreclosed upon. They had to move to a small house on Hawthorne Court between 5th & 6th South and 7th and 8th East. Soon President Roosevelt was offering loans at low interest with no downpayment and Evan was able to purchase a home at 812 East 5th South.

Prior to moving in, they hired men to clean the hardwood floors with gasoline. Warm ashes from the fireplace ignited the whole living room. Three-year-old Gerry was standing near the archway leading to the dining room and was licked by the flames. Workmen grabbed her to safety, but Agnes came running to assist in killing the fire, kicked over a pan of gas, and was instantly ablaze. Her legs were badly burned. Doctors recommended amputation, but she refused and remained in bed for six months, after which she had to learn to walk all over again. (Since the family had no wheelchair, occasionally they would place Agnes in a big baby buggy so she could leave the bedroom.) From then on Agnes always wore hosiery to cover her scars. (She started ballroom dancing with Purrington Studios to strengthen her leg muscles and performed in public a lot.) She needed help, so a friend, Mrs. Johns, came daily. From this time on the Timothys always had hired women to perform housework and tend the children.

Joan was born on February 8, 1933 at Holy Cross Hospital. She had a leak in her heart and was fragile, so wasn't allowed to cry. Evan's father Heber died a month later on 10 March 1933. The family and new baby Joan drove to Roosevelt for the funeral through deep snow. On their return they were stranded and had to be dug out of the snow (all the while worrying about the possibility of freezing to death!)

On January 6, 1934, Agnes' sister Alta was found in a tub scalded to death at the hospital at Provo. Agnes and grandmother Sarah Nott were distraught and two weeks later Grandmother Nott died of heart failure. She left her piano and a bequest to Agnes. Evan traded the piano and some cash to purchase a grand piano and had carpenters come to make repairs to the house. Evan had the unfinished basement made into a "ballroom with stage" on one side and an apartment with kitchen & bedrooms on the other. He gave piano recitals for his students in the ballroom. At this time brother Lynn and wife Hazel came to occupy the basement apartment and were residing there when daughter Opal Jean was born in 1935.

At this time Agnes also began giving piano lessons. Evan's cousin, Marie Singleton, lived with them while attending the University of Utah. (She cleaned their house for room and board) A young homeless man (Dick Bond) also came to live with the Timothys, fixing cars and performing yard work in exchange for room and board.

Presley had returned from Chicago and owned Home Lumber Company in Roosevelt. He drove a truck weekly to Salt Lake for supplies and stayed overnight at Evan's home for several years. Brother Lew had finally settled in Maeser and owned Maeser Lumber Company and also stayed at Evan's home when picking up lumber supplies in Salt Lake City.

On 9 February 1936, son Stanley died of a mastoid infection. (He had suffered for two years with recurrent earaches, with no penicillin to cure the infections.) All of his school class attended his funeral, filling the balcony at 10th Ward. This outstanding child could recite the Gettysburg Address at age three and had read all 50 books of the Harvard Classics at the time of his death at age 12.

In the summer of 1936 Agnes took some of her remaining inheritance and Gerry, Joan and she took a train trip to Denver, Colorado. They stayed with a friend of Evan's, Mrs. Bills. After two weeks, Evan and Bruce drove their Model A Ford to join them. They visited the mountain cabin of the Bradfords (Evan's former deceased fiance's family). They returned to Salt Lake with Bruce, Gerry and Joan in the rumble seat!

All his life, Evan displayed tenacity, was a hard worker, and had a high intellect. To the end of his life, he never stopped learning. He read books as he ate and never wasted a moment. Even on a ride in the car, he was quizzing his children out of question and answer books so they could learn as they drove. Sometimes he would sing two or three notes as they drove along and let the children guess the correct interval. Or he would have them sing an augmented sixth or a diminished fifth. The kids thought these were wonderful games. Little did they suspect he was cleverly developing their musical ear!

On the day after Christmas in 1936 the family drove the Model A Ford to Southern California to purchase a new Willys automobile. (Zions National Park Tunnel had just been finished and they were among the first to visit). They also saw the Rose Parade. Afterward Agnes and Evan were in two cars and were forcibly separated in the heavy traffic of the freeway. After several hectic never-to-be-forgotten hours, they found each other again.

Next summer while on a visit with sister Esther, Evan admired her accordian so much that he bought one for himself and each of the children. They began performing at churches, parties, and reunions and Evan thereafter taught far more accordian lessons than the piano. Additionally, with his love of learning and desire to be outstanding, he provided his children with instruction in not only piano and accordian, but they were tutored in dancing, dramatic art, and even Spanish! Entertaining others soon became a way of life and the family performed at Sacrament meetings, MIA's, reunions, vaudeville shows, weddings, parties and funerals. During WW II they entertained at various army and air force bases and at the USO's before thousands of servicemen.

Evan loved traveling and whenever possible brought as many nieces and nephews as he could on family trips. The family would rent a cabin at Bear Lake, Idaho or Como Springs (near Morgan) where they could swim, roller skate, and attend evening dances.

They vacationed at Zions, Bryce, & Yellowstone National Parks. They fished at Fish Lake and in the Provo River. Once while camping near Flaming Gorge, Evan began dancing and hollaring, all the while swatting away at his pants. The family was trying to decide whether he was in the throes of epilepsy or St. Vitas Dance, when a dead mouse dropped from his pant leg!

A true eccentric, Evan loved to tell the "made-up" story that he was a half-blood Ute Indian because once while traveling near Gusher he had an auto wreck and an Indian came along and gave him a transfusion, making him part Indian for life. He knew a few Ute phrases and loved to spout them off whenever he was close to an Indian. They were always astonished!

When Joan was small, Evan built a flat-roofed double garage with stairs leading to the fenced roof. Joan immediately dubbed it her private playhouse, but allowed the family to sleep up there on warm summer nights. And, of course, Evan used this opportunity to teach the children all about the constellations and Roman and Greek myths. Sleeping under the stars became a real treat.

When the children did well on their practicing, they were rewarded with a soft ice cream cone from Coon Chicken Inn or change from daddy's big pockets.

The family would visit Roosevelt each summer. The nieces and nephews loved Uncle Evan because he always brought each of them a silver dollar and a sack of candy.

On March 29, 1938, another daughter, Sandra Jean (Sandy), was born at Holy Cross Hospital. It was a difficult birth and the baby suffered from water on the brain. (She never sat up, walked, or talked.) After being cared for at home for four years, her condition worsened and she was taken to a home for infirm children. (During that period, it should be stated that Evan and Agnes' marriage was under a great strain and arguments and fighting began in earnest.) Sandy lived one more year and finally died of pneumonia on December 5, 1943. This sweet-natured, happy little girl added much happiness to the home and many hours were spent coaxing her to laugh and inventing new games to entertain her. Many thought Sandy was a tragedy to the family, but all of us knew she was a definite plus!

World War II began in 1941. Gasoline and tires were rationed and this affected Evan's profession since he taught his students in their homes. In order to obtain ration books to keep supplied with gasoline and tires, he purchased several old model cars. Agnes got a job at Remington Arms Plant making bullets and then worked at Ogden Arsenal for the Navy.

In 1942 Evan's mother Esther Elizabeth died of a stroke in Roosevelt. At this time, Evan's sister Esther and her three children moved from Roosevelt to a home at 633 S. Harmony Court in Salt Lake -- the first time Evan had any of his family living nearby for many years.

For about 10 years, Evan went to his brother-in-law's home to play cards with Don, Uncle Harry and Alvin Wollshleger one night a week. He often accompanied Alvin, who played the violin. They were in great demand to play at funerals throughout the valley.

Evan was a Seventy in the LDS Church and was a Stake Missionary for about 10 years. He never missed a sacrament meeting either in his own ward or when performing for other meetings. His music performance was always outstanding, but less admired was his propensity to go to sleep during the church service and loudly snore! Additionally, should the urge to sneeze overtake him, he never fought nature and the sneeze was something astounding to hear! Life's embarrassing moments!

He had a thick head of black hair which never changed color up to the time of his death. He gained weight while he was fairly young and remained overweight until the last year of his life. He was proud of a beautiful set of teeth and put great emphasis on dental hygiene. Once daughter Gerry, during her teens, came home from a date way late and had to sneak in the house. Evan awoke and shouted, "Gerry, is that you coming home so late?" Gerry (in the bathroom) told him she had forgotten to brush her teeth and got up to do so. He bought it hook, line, and sinker and praised her for months for taking such good care of her teeth!

Agnes was an attractive woman who put a lot of care into her appearance. She always wanted to be seen neatly dressed and well groomed. She had brown hair (which she sometimes hennaed to a red tint). She loved hats, capes, fur coats and jewelery. She was very good at math and played a mean game of cards. She was extremely religious and liked to attend wards where General Authorities were speaking. She was trained in the dramatic arts and could recite from memory many classic poems. She had a beautiful singing voice, appearing in many Salt Lake Opera Company productions. She sang in the early Temple Square Choir and Swanee Singers, a Frederick Davis group popular in the Valley. She became a proficient dancer through her lessons at Purrington Dance Studios and did exhibition ballroom dancing with her teacher. Over the years several dance studios rented Evan's basement ballroom to give lessons and recitals. They owned one of the early Victrola record players and radio and the Timothys held many dance parties in the ballroom as well.

In September 1944, Bruce was drafted and left for Camp Roberts, California. He received a short basic training and was shipped to the South Pacific to fight the Japanese. At this time the Timothys had a big fight (this marriage was no longer made in heaven) and Evan broke the front door down. Agnes obtained a restraining order and thereafter Evan had to remain in the basement and eat meals out. On 22 January 1945 they were divorced. Evan was given the downstairs furniture and mirrors and the family car. Agnes received the upstairs furniture and the house. Joan and Gerry were to remain at the house and live with Agnes.

Evan obtained a small apartment on the Avenues and later bought a trailer in which he lived on 13th South near the Jordan River.

1945 was a historic year. On April 12th Franklin Roosevelt died; then on April 30th Adolph Hitler committed suicide. V.E. day on May 8th ended the war in Europe. Then Paul Timothy (Lew's son) was killed on June 20th at Okinawa. On August 6th and August 9th the first atomic bombs were dropped by the U.S. on Japan bringing an end of World War II on August 14th.

Gerry's scoliosis had been progressing and doctors determined that a back fusion was needed. She entered the hospital the morning of the day the war ended. Every church bell gonged, the railroad trains blew their whistles, every car horn in the city was blasting and the celebration was on. You could hear this cacaphony everywhere in the city. Hospitalized, Gerry wanted to join in the fun, so doctors released her for the evening to dance on Main Street with the happy soldiers, sailors and thousands of others!

Agnes was working at the Ogden Arsenal and would go to the hospital every night to see Gerry after her operation, not returning home until about 8:00 p.m. Evan came to visit Gerry during the day. She was released on December 24th in a body cast from her neck to her ankle, which wasn't removed until the next April.

In 1946 Agnes was laid off in a personnel reduction and hard times for the family began. Gerry began work in April at Royal Crystal Salt Co. In August Bruce was released from the army and returned home. He got a job at the Redwood Road Arms Plant and soon thereafter worked for the V.A. Regional Office.

Evan was dating the mother of one of his students, Tiny Preece, and on March 5, 1947 they married at Elko, Nevada. He moved to her home near Emerson Avenue and McClelland Street. (She had one teen daughter remaining at home.) He took a great interest in Tiny's large yard and purchased several hundred rose bushes and evergreens as well as thousands of tulips and other Spring bulbs. His main interest over the next several years was gardening.

On June 18, 1948, Gerry married Eugene Rex Smith. Then Bruce married Rhea Gwendolyn Willden on March 5, 1949 in Elko, Nevada. That left Joan and Agnes alone at the house on 5th South without an adequate income. Agnes planned to sell the house, and was greatly upset when sparks from the fireplace caught the roof shingles on fire. Shortly thereafter she sold the house and Agnes and Joan took a trip to California; then leased at Kimball Apartments on Main Street between 1st North and North Temple. Agnes met Edward Elias Mansfield at the adult dances she attended and started dating. (He was a traveling salesman making his own shampoo.) They married on August 18, 1949 at Eklo, Nevada and Joan went to live with Gerry and Gene at 1375 South 10th East. Agnes thereafter traveled with Ed until he became ill. During this year two grandchildren were born: Jolyn Smith and Robert Bruce Timothy. Evan frequently visited his two daughters (just two blocks away) and enjoyed his grandchildren immensely.

Joan moved from Gerry's in the Spring of 1950 and started attending the U. of U. that Fall. Michael Timothy Smith was born (October 30). Bruce also was attending the U. of U. Gerry gave birth to Kent on March 26, 1952, husband Gene graduated from the U of U, and their family moved to Castro Valley, California. Bruce and his family also moved to San Bernadino, California, but only for about 8 months. In December, Joan accepted a job in San Francisco and was close enough to visit Gerry on weekends.

On March 14, 1953, granddaughter Robyn was born to Bruce and Rhea; then shortly thereafter Gerry gave birth to a baby, Susan, who lived only two hours. Evan and his wife Tiny came to California for a graveside service. In December of 1953, Gerry & family, together with Joan and her fiance (Blaine Cameron), returned to Salt Lake. Gerry and Joan remember being shocked at the appearance of Evan. He had lost about 50 lbs. and seemed gaunt and ill.

In May of 1954, Gerry & Gene were divorced and in July of that same year Joan moved to Washington, D.C. and started work at the Selective Service System. Gerry moved with her children to 553 South 5th East and Evan would come for breakfast every morning after giving four or five music lessons (always leaving one or two silver dollars under his plate for the cook). At that time Evan had trouble with his legs and was obviously in pain. Gerry tried to make him go to a doctor but he refused (He had never seen a physician since his Army days and hated medical treatment of any sort. In August, while with Gerry, he became seriously ill, but still refused to be hospitalized. Several days later he went into a diabetic coma and died on September 22, 1954 at the V.A. Hospital, only 54 years of age.

At that time he was actively teaching about 100 students in piano and accordion. Those students were divided between Bruce and Gerry and they both were amazed that he could have taught so many at once because they had trouble keeping up with just 50 each! Additionally, he had been selling several accordions a month. It should be noted that after his funeral services, many came forward to tell the family of Evan's generosity. One family indicated that Evan, while teaching, discovered they didn't have indoor plumbing and he paid to have it installed. Another couple spoke of Evan's giving them money to make needed repairs to their house. He never told of, nor wanted credit, for his assistance to others...just felt it was right to give help when help was needed.

In the first several years of her marriage to Ed Mansfield, Agnes traveled with him and lived in a small trailer. Then he became ill and they rented a small apartment in Provo. Ed died there on July 19, 1960. Afterwards Agnes moved back to Salt Lake and lived in a duplex near 9th South & West Temple. Gerry was living in Vernal, but would come to Salt Lake and stay with her. In 1962 she moved to an apartment on 3rd South and 2nd East, followed by a duplex in 1968 at 6th Avenue & E Street, her last home.

In 1980 she suffered a heart attack, and her health over the following years slowly deteriorated. Then in 1987 the circulation problems she had experienced for years since being burned were aggravated from a fall and after an operation the doctors considered amputation of one leg. She quietly died the next day, 9 July 1987, at age 86.