

## Chapter 5

### EDNA MAE NELSON & CALIFORNIA 1929 - 1930

I arrived in Los Angeles not knowing any one so I would go up & down streets in industrial area's & go in & ask for a job of any kind. I was very discouraged but got a job in the McKesson Robbins Drug Warehouse loading & unloading trucks & stacking boxes of drugs etc. I was thankful for the job but I hated the job with a passion. So decided to go to night school & take up welding & blueprint reading. I had to take 2 different street cars from school to my apt. a tiny kitchenette & bedroom in a home turned into two story cheap but neat apt. house 65 steps from street to front porch then 6 steps to the hallway & about 10 steps to 2nd floor & my apt.

After saving & skimping I had a little money saved as Edna & I had agreed to my going away for year & she take care of her Mother who was not in the best of health. She would go with different boys & I with girls whomever we chose & if we still felt in love as we did she would come to Calif. & we would get married as I needed a wife & Beverly needed a Mother. And as long as I kept up payment to hospital in Provo they would never bother me was the legal advice I got.

While standing in passenger loading zone waiting for streetcar to come after school. A streetcar was just pulling into zone & a rush of students bumped me & knocked me so close to car that the steps hit my shin & knocked me down. As I got up the car pulled away. My leg was numb but not too painful but had a large bump on side of leg above the knee. I rubbed & rubbed to get circulation & pushed the bump down to my knee & it went right into place I found out later. Not knowing my leg was broken I hopped on the next car to L. A. by then leg swell up tight. I got off at transfer point & hopped to curb & drugstore & called ambulance & they took me to the General Hospital after twisting my foot to make sure leg or knee was broken. At hospital another Dr. twisted my feet for same purpose they took me in for x-ray & another Dr. was going to twist my foot but I warned him I would kick him with my good foot. So he took x-ray & found I had set my knee perfectly & all they had to do was put cast from hip all way down foot. After 2 weeks was released to go to my little apt. In meantime I saw a boy we used to play with in Salt Lake working down [the] street. He was married & had car & picked me up at hospital & brought me to my apt location. I hopped up the above number of steps on foot & crutch. I did that every time I left apt. as I had to shop for food. The streetcar group sent a representative to hospital to interview me & he said streetcar company would pay all bills & give me a easy job until I was able to work & wrote it down & I signed same. I later went to car company to ask for job & they wouldn't do one thing as I had no witnesses on the paper I signed so I had no claim. No income. And County Hospital did not sent me a bill.

In the mean time Edna's mother died & she would have to stay home & take care of her father for quite awhile. As we had made previous agreement about stepping out I felt I would lose her for sure but I had nothing to offer her either & my heart dropped out of me as

my money was about gone to pay for Alta & rent & food. But land lady told me I could stay rent free because I helped her so much cleaning up until I could work again.

In March, 1930 I received a letter she & her Dad were coming down. I told her to wait a little while until I could go to work but she came. I had \$10.00 & a broken leg & we knew no one to help us. As I look back my heart swells with pride & love at my wonderful wife & what she sacrificed for me & it brings tears to my eyes as I write this down after these many years. I do not tell or show how much I love her as I should.

My broken leg taught me many things not to trust anyone unless you are sure & then to put it [in] writing. I told the streetcar company man who told me I had no witnesses somehow I would get even. Later some months we saw a streetcar deliberately run into a stalled car with boys in it in L.A. We gave boys our name later a man came & wanted to know what I saw I asked who he represented - car company, I said plenty & it was deliberate. He turned & went away.



On March 15 - 1930 We three [Edna, her Father & I] took train to Mexicalli [Mexico] where & Edna & I were married & returned the same day. It has been raining & the mud was slick & my crutch would slide away ever so often. That was our honeymoon. We rented or they rented a room for Mr. Nelson to sleep in as I had no money. But we were together & thankful & happy. My wife got a job at Kress 5 & 10 store for \$ .15 a hour. Her Dad very soon returned home & Jennie look after him & soon he was married to a lovely widow with a farm.

The doctor said I would always have a stiff knee when well. When 6 weeks were up & time for cast to come off the Dr. went on 2 weeks vacation & no other Dr. would remove cast off leg so wife & I got a hack saw blade & cut cast from top to bottom & took it off, leg sure looked a mess. While she was working I would put toes against wall & rock back & forth in a rocking chair most all day to limber knee. At night I would put a pillow over iron bed railing & my knee on pillow & one pillow over my face & wife would pump my leg up & down like a pump handle & she did it well as she had had lots of experience with pump handles in her day. I have never had any trouble with that knee to this day 1985. It is much better than my left knee which is bad from arthritis. from my work but no complaints on it. Soon after cast removed & leg stronger I went back to drug warehouse & got my job back by hiding crutch behind a door but the loads & boxes were heavy & after several days they laid me off as my leg couldn't stand it. I was happy they fired me from that job. I hated every day I went to work there for some reason but thankful that I had a job.