

A SHORT HISTORY OF ERMA SHAW STAPLES

I, Erma Staples, was born on October 19, 1913, in Pleasant View, Weber County, Utah, the second eldest daughter of John R. Shaw and Josephine Cottam Shaw.

I was named after my father's sister, who died in infancy.

My great grandparents on my father's side and my great grandparents on my mother's side were all converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and came to Utah to be close to the church headquarters.

My ancestors were sent north to Pleasant View to help settle that area. The Cottam family was sent to Snowville.

I owe these great grandparents and grandparents so much as they experienced many trials and suffered much tribulation. They have left me a rich heritage for which I am very proud.

When I was a small child, my parents moved to Promontory, Utah. My father had a homestead there. If he would farm this ground and build a home on it, then after so many years, he would be issued a title to this land.

We stayed there until I was five or six years old. Because the ground was not productive (too much salt) and school was so far away, we returned home to Pleasant View. I lived there until I married Grant Staples, at which time, we moved to Eden, in Ogden Valley.

I have seen many marvelous changes in my life time from the horse and buggy days, when we had no electricity to the invention of the automobile, the airplane, and all of the high technology that we have today.

We did not have indoor plumbing until I moved into our first home that Grant and I struggled to pay for. We also had our first telephone in this home.

When I was small and growing up, our family was very poor. Indeed, all of our friends were also poor, so we never felt different or isolated from them.

We helped on the farm by hoeing, thinning, and topping beets. We also tramped hay and helped to put the hay in the barn.

We had fun and happy days while growing up. My biggest treat was taking eggs to the grocery store and exchanging the eggs for candy and treats.

As I grew older, I worked as a housekeeper for Mr. and Mrs. Joe Raposo who lived on North Street in Ogden.

I then worked at Intermountain Knitting Mills as an inspector.

My final job before I married was working in J.J. Newberry Company as manager of the soda foundation and fast food department.

I loved school and always achieved good grades. I graduated from Weber High School in 1931.

It was here that I met Grant Staples. I have always felt that I knew him somewhere before we met in school.

We dated for eighteen months and were married on July 20, 1933. We will celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary this year.

Marrying Grant was the best thing that ever happened to me. We worked together to buy our first home and Grant was always looking towards the future.

We accumulated land and our first home in 1940. Then as

ground became available, we continued to buy more property about two miles northwest of our first home.

It was difficult to pay for this property and we went without a lot while doing so. Even though we made many sacrifices at the time, now our retirement years are filled with security, for which I am thankful.

We have always worked in the church and we always took our children to church meetings with us. We never just sent them to church by themselves.

I held leadership positions in the Primary, Mutual, and Relief Society. I served as a teacher in most of the church organizations.

Our ward was small. I feel like I received the many opportunities that I had because we had few people to fill the positions that the church needed. Sometimes, we held two positions in the church at once.

We have been blessed with three beautiful children. Max was born on April 4, 1938. Connie was born on May 20, 1942. Dee was born on April 23, 1946. They have been our pride and our joy. It has been a marvelous experience to see them grow and develop and to take on responsibility during their lives.

Max has five children, Connie has two girls, and Dee was blessed with five girls. Connie helped raise two boys of her husband, Taylor Merrill, so in all, we have fourteen grandchildren. I must say that we are very proud of each one of them. We are expecting our first great grandchild in November.

Max is employed as a chemical engineer at Phillips Petroleum. Connie teaches school and Dee is a building contractor in the

Davis County area.

To watch our children and grandchildren grow and develop has been a wonderful experience for us. My happiest days are when I can spend my time with our children and grandchildren.

At times, we have had our ups and our downs, but I must say that life has been very rewarding to me.

I have been blessed so many times in my life and I have felt the spirit of our Heavenly Father with me.

I have a testimony of the gospel and my prayers and wishes are that our children and grandchildren will continue to help build God's Kingdom here upon this earth.

I am thankful for my good brother and for my six sisters and I love and appreciate them very much.