

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR CLARA MAY YOUNG SPEIRS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1963

EDWARD EREKSON CONDUCTING

REMARKS: Edward Erikson:

My brothers and sisters and friends, the hour has come when we are to  
services for Aunt Clara May Young Speirs.

Clara May Young Speirs, 93, Los Angeles, died of causes incident to  
Friday, 2:30 A.M. in Los Angeles. Born April 5, 1870, Richville, Morgan  
Utah, to Lorenzo Dow and Hannah Ida Hewitt Young. Married to Thomas Speirs,  
July 27, 1887, in Salt Lake City. He died 1927. Member of the Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter-day Saints. Former resident of Vernal, Utah. Lived in Los  
Angeles for 38 years. Survivors: son, daughters, Mrs. Clara S. Thornberry, Mrs.  
Thelma Stevens, Mrs. Theda Rice, all of Los Angeles; Kenneth of Vernal; 10 grand-  
children, 22 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild.

The services will continue from this point with the opening prayer to be  
given by Ward McCarty.

OPENING PRAYER--Ward McCarty

Our Righteous and Eternal Father, we have assembled here this day to pay our  
final hour of love and respect to one of Thy choice handmaidens whom Thou hast  
called home, even Aunt Clara May Young Speirs. And we pray while we are thus  
assembled that Thy spirit will be with us that we may have a period of retrospect  
where we may seek the golden truths of friendships, love, kindness and respect of  
Aunt Clara's life, that we might treasure them in our hearts, that we might,  
through this, find sincere and great values in life and so pattern our own course  
that from this day on in our later days we might use them in Thy service and in  
the service of our families and our fellowmen.

We thank Thee for this good mother, this good daughter and this good grand-  
mother. We thank Thee, Father, for the tremendous courage and fortitude and hope  
and faith and joy that she had. We thank Thee for her strength, for her family.  
We thank Thee for her motherhood, for her kindness and compassion, because we  
know in the parched land where she was called to labor with her helpmate that it  
was a rugged life and was not easy. We know many times she denied herself things  
that she wanted that her tiny children might have the best there was. We are  
grateful for her kindness, her love, for the spirit that she radiated among her  
friends, her children, her relatives and all those who knew her.

We pray that those things that are said this day may be from the hearts of  
those who speak them, that they might bring hope and comfort, that they might  
bring knowledge and truth to all those who hear. Bless those who take part. Bless  
the children with Thy spirit and comfort, and particularly we would ask that Thou  
wilt bless the grandchildren, great-grandchildren that they might have joy and  
comfort in the life, precepts and examples that Aunt Clara gave them through her  
life. We humbly ask these blessings in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
AMEN.

SPEAKER: Edward J. Young

My brothers and sisters and relatives. Most of you who are here today are

Clara Y. Speirs

VERNAL - Clara May Young Speirs, 93, died Aug. 29 in Los Angeles, Calif., of natural causes. Born Richville, Tooele County, Utah, April 5, 1870, daughter of Lorenzo Dow and Hannah Ida Hewitt Young. Married Thomas Speirs in 1887 in Salt Lake City. He died Feb. 11, 1927. Early settler of Ashley Valley lived in Los Angeles since 1922. Survivors: daughter and son, Mrs. Clara Thornberry, Mrs. Thelma Stevens, Los Angeles; Mrs. Cecelia (Naida) Rice, Alhambra, Calif.; Kenneth, Vernal; 10 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Services were held in Los Angeles Saturday. Additional services at 260 E. South Temple Tuesday noon.



relatives, and I am very grateful for the opportunity I have of saying a few words at this service today honoring our dear Aunt Clara.

TO ONE DEAD

DEAREST, the poets sing of bud and blossom springing from  
the dust of the beloved dead, white roses from the unrespiring  
bosom, the green of ivy around a hidden head;  
Beauty--material beauty--from dead flesh that once was beautiful!  
Who could find ease in pretty words? What of the complex mesh  
Of soul and intellect--what blooms from these?

Life is a Spirit moving on the hills, Whence? Ah, who knows?  
And shall we ask the sod what quickened it? Question the  
Daffodils How move the urging finger tips of God?  
Music is not in wood or brass or strings,  
But in the Master's touch from which it springs.

(The New Outlook, Toronto)

I Can't remember the time when I haven't known Aunt Clara. I always loved her because she was sweet, she was kind, she was considerate, she was proud but not high, and that trait followed her throughout life, and we are grateful today that we have had the privilege of knowing her and knowing that she has spent so many years here upon this earth.

I was just noticing this morning in looking over Grandfather Young's history that he was born in October, 1807 and died November 21, 1895. That is a span of 88 years. Aunt Clara lived 93 years and 21 days. That makes a span of something over 181 years that we have been a prominent family in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and in the State of Utah, and I am proud of the record of Grandfather Young and what he did and what he accomplished in his life. Even though he was at times in bad health and his life seemed to be ebbing away in a number of instances, and especially one that I want to call to your attention today because maybe some of you did not know Grandfather. His mother died of consumption or what they termed lung fever, when he was a young man, but he outgrew a lot of this, though occasionally he had very sick spells. In this particular instance he lay at death's door; his father came to the door and looked at him, tears streaming down his face because he could see death written on his son's face. He went in search of the Prophet Joseph Smith and found him and told him that Lorenzo his son was near death and would he come immediately? The Prophet said "I have another engagement and cannot come, but you go to brother Hyrum and tell Hyrum to select 13 men of good standing in the church and take them to your home to administer to Lorenzo. The Prophet told him to tell Hyrum that they should first kneel as a unit and then would designate one to anoint the oil and another to seal the anointing, and then he said "After that divide into threes and take turns, one anointing, one administering, and continue in this manner until he is better," and that is just what happened. They followed the instructions of the Prophet and he was soon able to walk out of the house, even though he had been at death's door.

I note in his diary many times that he was grateful for the testimony that he had and his love of the Prophet because of the things that had happened to him. He went through many trials and tribulations. He followed his brother Brigham and he followed the Prophet through all the persecutions and yet never denied his testimony.

Grandfather had four wives. Aunt Persis had ten children; Aunt Harriet had two, both of whom died in infancy. Aunt Hannah had five. Grandmother Young had five, two died in infancy, an adopted daughter whom she raised. Aunt Annie had three. They had step children by Aunt Harriet, five, but his actual children numbered 26, so that he had a good posterity and that meant much labor, much work, a lot to feed, clothe and house and they were a wonderful family.

I think I have known every one of Grandfather's sons and daughters with the exception of brother Brigham Willard and I don't remember having seen him; he died while on a mission in New Zealand in 1884. Through that family we have a posterity here today and there are still a lot of people who are descendants of that worthy pair. God bless his name. God bless his posterity because they are still members today.

I speak of these things because of the relatives, and in particular this family of Aunt Clara, a wonderful mother, what a wonderful life she has lived! Most of Grandfather Young's families moved to Vernal; I don't remember how many of them, I think there was six or eight, and there they raised their families. Aunt Clara as a young girl was attached to Aunt Josephine and lived with her and she had a fine man as a prospective husband in Uncle Tom Speirs, and what a fine family they have, all of them here today to honor their mother--wonderful!

Uncle Tom and Aunt Clara moved to Vernal in the early days. I don't remember just what year, but soon after they were married, however. He worked for Uncle Charles Carter with the sheep and ranch, and for my father with the sheep and the ranch. One of the outstanding things I remember about Uncle Tom was that he was a good baseball player and he always pitched. They used to say he was so slow that he couldn't pitch a ball but he was right there just the same. At the time Uncle Tom was living with us we had a team, one was a large old sorrel stallion that we called "Seal," and Uncle Tom was plowing in our garden one time. Seal was awful lazy and I was trying to help Uncle Tom keep him going, hitting him with clods. Uncle Tom picked up a clod and it turned out to be a rock and that rock didn't do anything but hit me right on the head. I had a lump for a long time.

Uncle Tom and Aunt Clara lived in Maeser. She was not too proud to live in a log house with a dirt roof and some of her children were born there, and then with hard work and toil they were able to build a nice home in which they reared their family and I know from the experiences that Aunt Clara had with her boys and girls that she was grateful, and we are grateful that she has lived this long, but we regret that in the last years she has not had good health and has not been able to recognize her family in her later years.

So today we mourn, in a way, her passing, but I am lead to this article I love to read that I think is wonderful:

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says "There! She's gone!"

Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living weight to the place of destina-

tion. Her diminished size is in me, not in her; and just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There! She's gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes! and welcome her. - and such is dying.

I believe Aunt Clara had a wonderful testimony of this Gospel and I believe her life speaks of that testimony. I had some other things I wanted to say but I see I have taken too much time, but we are glad to be here today; we are glad to mingle our voices with those of KENNETH, MARY, CLARA and Thelma. God bless them. May they always remember and cherish the teachings of their Mother, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

VOCAL DUET "Not Now But In the Coming Years"

Arion and Helen Erikson  
accompanied by Arilyn Erikson

REMARKS: William S. Erikson

As cousins, which most of us are, and loved ones, we meet in a spirit of gratefulness today. We have so much for which we can be thankful. Thankful, as Uncle Eddie has told us of the heritage which is ours. Most grateful that Aunt Clara has lived a full life and has left her blessing; grateful that in the fulfillment of that life and the time of suffering has not been lengthened. Grateful that she might go home, knowing that her life has been lived well and that her influence for good will continue with us as long as we remember.

I used to have some little girls--they are big ones now--and they often said "Dad, how was it in the old days?" Well, I couldn't tell them much about the old days but I always enjoyed associating with those who could. I remember some of those of whom Uncle Ed has spoken, who are going to welcome Aunt Clara. Uncle John R. Young I remember vividly. I remember the stories of his experiences. I remember my own Grandfather and I remember one day I said to him "Grandpa, how was it then?" and he said "Well, son, there were some great goings-on in those days," and so we look back on the past and the experiences of men and women whom we knew, and these people loved and gave us much to bless our lives continually.

I remember the wonderful sense of humor that Aunt Clara had, her buoyant spirit. I remember her telling of going to Salt Lake and getting a new set of teeth and losing them and they had to go back and get another set. I remember what a hearty laugh she had as she told about it. I remember her telling of one time about an experience when she lived on Harvard Avenue. She said "One time we were going on the bus and Brother Crabree was the conductor. You know, I paid him with a quarter as I thought and he saw that it was a \$5.00 gold piece and he gave me back the change." And she was so pleased to think that he had been honest with her. Isn't it fine that we can link the past with lives of people?

I am also thinking of the life in Vernal--those trials, and wonder if we could have done the same as they did if we had to. Aunt Clara loved all her relatives and I don't know of a family I have ever seen that was more affectionate than the Young family. I can just see Uncle Charlie now when anyone came he gave them a resounding kiss and a big hug and this was true of Uncle Frank and all of them. They loved not only their family but the community--they loved Vernal. How many miles would one of these people travel just to greet and carry their affection and greeting to people from Vernal! Vernal is a small town and it is today. As one person said "It is small enough that everybody knows your business but it is large enough that they know about everything going on there." It was my



privilege on several occasions to go with Mother and Aunt Clara as they called on people. Friends throughout the years, their lives crossed seldom but the joys they had in the association they had with each other is a remarkable thing.

Now in addition to the people and the times of the church, we also have the blessing of wonderful books, and books can be a source of great strength to us, even as persons associations can be. Uncle Eddie has quoted from Grandpa Young's diary and journal. I remember Brother McCarty at one time saying in an opening prayer that it was a real joy to go to bed with Grandpa Frank and Uncle John R. Young. He meant, of course, with books because he could go over their lives with them. And that is the way with books, the books that we have now. Now our knowledge isn't just limited to books; they play an important part in the foundation of our lives, upon which we act as intelligent people and if we were to do away with the books we have I am sure we would feel impoverished. If we didn't have the Bible with the great truths set forth, we would indeed be poor. We can't any of us go back and actually live with Jesus and walk along the byways and highways and get the dust and dirt and dryness of that area. We can't ride on the way with him. These things are impossible, but as we take the printed word we get the thoughts that He lived and we can take those thoughts and use them in our lives. For you see, the inspiration which He had didn't die when He died. These thoughts, this inspiration lives on and we can feel the inspiration of His spirit today as we consider His messages and His life.

Now it just so happens that the Father who arranged for our birth that we might be born to mortal fathers and mortal mothers, it just happens that He planted in within each and everyone of us a consciousness of a power greater than our own, that continues with us, and continues to speak to our souls throughout our lives. And isn't it a wonderful thing that this awareness of the Divine contribution can be in our lives to help us interpret the words of Jesus to help us in our lives?

I am thinking today of some words that Jesus spoke and some words that were spoken by the angels. Jesus gathered a group of people, Paul tells us, where there were 500 of them, for when he wrote to the Corinthians concerning the after life, the resurrection, he said "The Savior had appeared to the women at the tomb, on the resurrection morn. He appeared to the Eleven as they were in the upper room; He appeared to Peter and others and even to 500 who had assembled, and many of those are now living to bear witness of this gift, and least of all as one born out of his time He appeared to me at noonday and I saw and recognized Him," And that was Paul's testimony. Well, these 500 brethren were gathered on a mountain and Jesus was there and He told them each to return to Jerusalem, and then as they gazed upon him as he was received up into Heaven, and straightway two men in white clothing spoke to them and said "This same Jesus whom ye have seen go into Heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven." Then the Twelve went back to Jerusalem and there they received the blessings which empowered them to go forth and teach the Gospel, and one of the things they had forever after, as the scripture says "was great joy!" The scriptures say "At first they were frightened, but when they received the gift of the Holy Ghost they had great joy" and so they received the great message--that he lives, and as Jesus lives, so each of us shall live, and the day will come when each of us, even as Aunt Clara, will stand before our Father. Now, He may have cause to say angry words to us, but I am sure that with the great love that He has to give, those angry words won't need to be spoken because we will know that because of the mission of Jesus we

are going to be able to receive the blessing of forgiveness if we place ourselves in harmony with His law, and we are going to be able to receive forgiveness of our mistakes for He says "I will remember them no more."

Now He didn't promise that we would not remember our mistakes, but He promises that He would not remember them and that is good enough for me. If He can blot out our mistakes that we can stand before Him and receive His blessings, that will indeed be a joyous occasion.

Now Jesus Lives! I leave that witness with you who are here today and He has witnessed it in His life too as He said "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me." With these holy promises in our hearts we need have no fear for the future of this wonderful mother and wonderful mother. She loved the Lord and she taught her children to love Him, and I am sure that she will be received and our gracious and loving Heavenly Father will accept her mission with joy because His joy is "to bring to pass Eternal Life"--a life of glory for each and everyone of us!

I am grateful for my membership in the human family. I am grateful for my kinship with this great Young family, and I appreciate the worth of character which I see exemplified. I appreciate the courage, the cheerfulness and generosity of those whom I have known and I pay tribute to this noble woman, Aunt Clara Speirs, and I should like to say to those children of Aunt Clara, the promises of God are valid, they are true, and I bear my witness that we may know, even as Paul knew, that Jesus lives, that these things I have spoken are indeed true, and I bear witness of these things in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

VOCAL DUET: "Abide With Me, 'Tis Eventide"

Arion and Helen Erekson

Accompanied by Arilyn Erekson

REMARKS: Edward Erekson

On behalf of the family I wish to express appreciation to those who have helped in any way throughout the hours of sorrow and distress. To those who have participated in these services, the speakers, those who have offered prayers, the music that has added sweet tones to this service and all that has been done, we express sincere appreciation. The dedicatory prayer will be offered by Harold Speirs after we go to the place of interment. The closing prayer will be offered by Dallas Young.

CLOSING PRAYER: Dallas Young

Our Father in Heaven, we extend our thanks to Thee for the privilege we have of meeting here today to pay our last respects to Aunt Clara who was always a devoted and loving wife and mother. We are grateful for the treasured memories that gather about the life of Aunt Clara. We are thankful for all her deeds of kindness, her love so freely given to others. We pray that we my forever remember the rich experiences that have been ours because of our association with her. May we bless her memory by reminding ourselves that our departed are not dead, so long as they are remembered. May we remember that she was always kind and generous to all with whom she came in contact and she was loved most by those who knew her best. May her children and grandchildren find solace in the fact that they have been privileged to have a long association with her, whose love has contributed so much to their lives.

Grant that we may be worthy of her examples, be worthy of her love, that when our time comes we may be worthy to join our Maker as was she. Grant us peace and all understanding, we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.