

Felt Family Log

As recorded by Martha Afton Harris Felt

4 October 1977 to 9 Dec 1979

Compiled by Julie Jordan and Edited by Paul Felt Jr

Felt Family Log.

There are others that were started years ago and I can only hope I can continue this log over the remaining years

Maintained by Martha Afton Harris Felt

When we moved to Provo, friends of Paul's from his BYU days invited us to a gathering after a basketball game at their home. It was a special evening and one of the guests asked Shirley Paxman about the journal she kept. She told us she kept a loose leaf on the table by her bed. She wrote some thoughts about the day. I copied her and put a loose-leaf on the table in our room and planned to write in it each day. Thus was born the Felt Family Log.

I have been reading some of these logs the last few days. Memories have come back and it has been a wonderful time remembering. I want each of you who pick this book up to read it to know it is an overview of the life of two people; the life of Paul and Afton Felt. There is much that isn't written. It would be impossible to write every detail. There are things I want you to know. I know the gospel is as true. If no other thoughts from this log are remembered I want you to know this. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was called by his father to come to the Earth on a special mission. He came to Mary, his mother, his Father being our Heavenly Father.

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October 4, 1977

John's Birthday. They have moved to Salt Lake. We have missed them so. I hear the children coming over to the Clarks and I start for the door thinking, "The children are here." Then I remember they won't be dropping in like they always have. We know it is better for them to be in Salt Lake for it gives John so much more time with his family.

I'm glad I have been able to untie the apron strings with the married children, but do hope some of the family stay in Provo. It is now our hope that Yvonne can stay with Eastern Airlines for a while so Dad and I can do a little flying to visit our scattered children. We are so proud of each of them. Our life dream has been to raise them so the church was an important part of their lives. And to this point each seem to have a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel. How blessed we are.

Ron's letter yesterday was a inspiration to us and proved to be a great help today

in working with a district at the MTC (the name of the LTM has been changed to the Missionary Training Center, because all the missionaries are now coming for training). We had a district of missionaries that had much contention and problems. We met with them for over an hour and seemed to be getting nowhere with them. Paul had Ron's letter in his pocket and pulled it out to read it to them. Here is the last letter he would be writing home before his release. He bore testimony to the importance of the work, of the joys in seeing the changes that come into the lives of others when they understood the message. He said that this is the Garden of Eden, for in this period of my life I have been able to have my entire life centered around teaching the gospel and into prayer to my Heavenly Father. It was beautiful and it touched each of these elders and the tone of the meeting turned and they were able to work on the problems they were fighting. They suggested closing with a testimony meeting and each committed to be better.

We have definite word that Ron will arrive home October 8th, and will be able to stop in Houston to spend 3 hours with Marilynn and Steve. They have been so great to send him money each month of his mission, even when they were here and Steve was in school, they sent him \$10.00 per month. Since he has been working, they have sent more. I know with a new home and all the expenses, it hasn't been easy and they must have gone without to do it. It has meant so much to us and to Ron. I'm glad he was able to arrange things so he could stop there. We are making preparations for his homecoming and all anxious for his return.

October 7, 1977

Tom has been playing football and got hurt. He complained of his back hurting and as I watched him mow the lawn I could see he was in pain. I made him an appointment with Dr. Kezerian to be checked. Paul was in the Salt Lake Hospital undergoing tests. I was pulled as to how I could take Tom and also be at the hospital when Paul was coming to after these hard tests. I met Tom and was with him for the first of the visits with the doctor. When they started to X-ray him, I explained and left to drive to Salt Lake. Tom has some damage to his spine and an old injury to his pelvis had some new injury. He felt bad to have the doctor tell him that if he continued to play football he would have permanent damage and back trouble and could be with him for all of his life. This was a blow. He had dreamed of playing and having Ron watch him.

We were disappointed in the coach. He spent time before the appointment telling tom that he hoped we weren't taking him to a quack. Then after the visit spent time telling him what a great doctor Dr. Kezerian was. When Tom told him he couldn't play, then he tore him down and said it was just because he didn't like sports. It wouldn't hurt him to play, etc, etc. We had to step in and tell Tom it was not any longer his decision, it was now ours and our feeling were for his health now and in the future. We appreciate he accepting this and doing what we asked.

October 8, 1977

Ron really had a Homecoming. It was a special day for all of us. Bob and Drue came from Roy, Edythe and Fred were here from Oregon and we all went to John and Jackie's for dinner before going to the airport. His plane didn't arrive until 9:30 pm.

Mildred and Charlie were in town and joined us. So there was quite a gathering there to welcome Elder Ron home. Would the airport ever be the same after 24 of us? He looked great and everyone was smiling from ear to ear. It was a thrill to watch him step off the plane, and wonder who to greet first. His father decided this for him and told everyone his mother gets to greet him first. I was thrilled to be able to put my arms around him and hug him. The pride in my heart was full and tears were hard to control. How grateful I am for the missionary system in our church. What a wonderful opportunity our young men and women have, to give the Lord another type of tithing, to serve him and to give him these two years. In turn the Lord blesses them abundantly, and the families are so blessed while they serve. I know it is the Lord's work.

May 30, 1978 - Letter from Afton to Paul

My dearest Paul,

I have just written to Yvonne and Lamar and suggested that Yvonne and the children fly out here when Marilyn is at home and that we would pay her return trip ticket for the Mother's Day gift. If this isn't possible I have told her I will come back there. So in a week maybe I can tell you what our plans will be.

All is well here at home. Tammy had an eventful day yesterday. As you know she wants to go on this survival camp and is determined to earn the money to go. She has been pushing some of the girls to have fund raising drives to help with the expenses. So yesterday they decided to have a bake sale and asked me if I would bake cinnamon rolls. (I was smart and did in exchange for a promise of a window washing job in exchange for the rolls.) As it turned out it was just two of them who showed up to help bake the rolls, Tammy and Pam Flagg. We bake and they wrapped them all pretty and went out and sold them. They made \$13.60 so figured they made \$6.00 each and tithing on the money. As they were out selling their rolls someone asked them if one of them wouldn't like to buy a bike he was selling for \$30.00. Tammy rode it around and wanted it so bad, but told them she would like to wait until her brother Tom got off work so he could check it out for her. So she went to Mother's with me, so she could go pick up Tom with me to tell him about it. As soon as we arrived home they headed over to their house, but not before she had worried for several hours on how she would pay for it. She had enough money except \$5.00. And she had this set aside for tithing. She debated if she should use her tithing money, so she could pay for it. At this point I told her we would pay the last \$5.00. So she is one excited girl, with a really nice bike. She will put hers up for sell and see if she can get a few dollars for it from someone who can fix it up. Now when it stops raining I have two girls lined up and paid for to wash the living room and playroom windows.

Dr. Lee finally called and wanted me to send the signed earnest money agreement and a check. I have asked for 8 acres. So he will walk over the land and mail a map to me to show what he would suggest. Then he will be in Salt Lake next week and I will drive in to meet him or he will come here. I wouldn't have sent the signed agreement to him without the money in someone's hands down there. I hope my handling of it this way doesn't upset you, but I felt we he could have really taken us if I had done this his way.

I love you and have missed you, but am so happy that you could take this trip.
Love, Afton

June 9, 1978

President Pinegar read this statement from the first presidency: This is not only a historic day in this dispensation, but is a holy historic day in history for not since Cain have this group of our father's kingdom had the priesthood.

We met today with some of the General Authorities and they related some of their experiences. A week ago yesterday when they have their fast meeting the 1st Thursday of every month, (this is their fast day as a body of General Authorities) as they were concluding their meeting they meet in the First Presidency's room. Along the wall are 3 paintings of the Savior. One of the crucifixion, one of the resurrection and one of the Savior meeting with the 11 disciples and sending them to all the world. Another wall has pictures of all the presidents. They met in Temple clothes. They change clothes and go into another room where they later have lunch. They use the same table that the Prophet Joseph Smith used. (cleaning lady threw it out, President Lee reserved it.)

All general authorities were called in fasting and went to the bedside of Bro. Stayley to discuss it with him. Brother Peterson was away. He was called and discussed it with him and he wept for joy. Pres. Kimball has gone to the Lord for many months and he said "The Lord our God has spoken." I am confident my brethren, that if these my brethren were here.. I would go to them and embrace them and they would bear witness that the Lord God has spoken.

In meeting every general authority bore testimony when the prophet made that statement we turned and looked at the former prophets and we had the assurance that they looked upon them and smiled.

Bro Anderson said I have sat in this room and heard them say it was not the will of the Lord at that time for them to have the Priesthood. Now I hear witnesses that we have a prophet today and he has expressed the will of the Lord that the blacks should have the priesthood. (Expressions of Rex Pinegar calling his who is a mission president. "Oh President have you heard yet, have you heard?" Am I worthy to stand? I pray to God that I am worthy to stand and not fall. Pray to the Lord. Thank Him for His love.

This is a story of a colored couple in Holland. Story of Brother Fleming, Salt Lake. He took another colored man to the temple ground and went to the side of the temple and bore his testimony and put his hand on the side of the temple and took the brother's hand and rubbed it and said, "One day we will feel the inside of this temple. People all over the world are rejoicing."

Oh how we ought to rejoice. I bear my solemn witness that each of us examine our lives and see what we are doing right and do more of it, and see what we are not doing. Everyone can have for himself the witness that this is true.

June 13 to June 23, 1978

With Paul being in the presidency of the Language Training mission as a councilor to President Max Pinegar, we enjoy some special privileges and blessings. Often on Tuesday evenings we enjoy a lovely dinner with a general authority and this week they have all of the new mission presidents and their wives here for 4 days of intensive training before they leave for their assignments. Paul has been invited to attend all of it and I have been to some select meetings and dinners.

Letter to the family from Afton dated June 20, 1978

Dear Family,

I have so much to share this morning, rather than writing so many letters, I will make carbon (copies) and send to each of you.

We received a letter from Paul and Margaret with news I want to share with each of you. I will quote from it. "We are excited to be able to let you know our Robert has graduated from the program and is now completely off medication. All of the hard work has paid off. We now have a healthy normal 10 year old. Robert has been marvelous and we are so proud of him. He has been so dedicated and worked so hard on this strenuous program."

Paul has started his own real estate company and is very busy getting it underway. Margaret is studying music and when Paul was here he said she really does well.

When Marilyn and Steve receive this they will well know of what I want to tell you about next. Tammy left yesterday to fly to Houston to spend a week with them and they will meet us at Lake Powell for a family vacation.

Many things have been happening to us, as each of you know over the years we have been having a dream of when we sell some land, and suddenly the when is here and we sold some land; a 150 acres in Leeds, Utah and funny as it sounds this past week we have been having someone contact us each day about land. My head has been swimming and I can't believe it happens this way. Last night before home evening, Dad met with a man who answered an ad I had put in the paper: For trade, 1976 Ford Truck for down payment on small home. We had two calls in response to the ad and one is a close friend of John's. Well, Dad met him and bought a trailer home in Hurricane, Utah (near Leeds and St. George) that is a permanent set trailer with two rooms built on to it, on a nice sized piece of land to trade for the truck, and olds, and a Chevy we have. We will have a balance to pay, but he also took 3 of our 4 lots we have in Leeds on it. We will drive down this weekend to see what we have bought. But knowing this man and John really knows him well, we are excited, even buying sight unseen. So now when any of you want a vacation near Zion's Park, 1-½ hours from Lake Powell or Bryce Canyon, or a honeymoon cottage, we have the place to go. We had planned on building something down this way on some of our land as soon as a deal went through. This past week we have 2 more people interested in other pieces. It is hard to believe, after writing and dreaming so long. Oh the thing that really surprised all of us, was that Dad also bought a boat on the deal. Can you imagine the Felts with a boat? It may need work on it, but it runs. Ron, you are not to let this boat get you excited, for make every minute of your time count as a missionary, and you can see and dream about it in plenty of time when the mission is over.

Larry is managing a Jiffy Lube shop on 2nd West across from Sears. Tom is working for him, it is down in business. They have hired Larry to build it and get it making some money. He has Tom working for him and it is already doing better after the 2 weeks he has had it.

The best news I had to tell all of you is the miracle with Robert. Paul had given him a blessing and at the time no one could see how it could ever come to pass, but it has. Sunday in our Sunday School class the teacher asked if we experience miracles today. I wanted to stand and call that indeed we do, for we had just had one. There has been many prayers and much faith in his behalf, and much hard, hard work and dedication, but

the Lord has really blessed them. How wonderful and how grateful we are and we will all be the first to acknowledge where this blessing came from and give our thanks for it.

Mildred and Charlie are here with their two little boys, the new baby Bill is beautiful and Chaska is darling and a typical 2 year old. We are thrilled over them both.

Dad had a special Father's Day and appreciated hearing from all of you. We are so proud of you, and want each of you to know.

June 25, 1978

This Sunday morning as I took out my journal to write in it, I have decided it was time to begin another. I will include a few items I had set in to insert in it, but found it would not hold anymore pages.

So this morning I will begin a new one. I believe there are now 6 or 7 journals or what I began to call the Felt Family Log. If anyone should pick any of these up, they may call them a scrapbook with a few memories written in them. The children have enjoyed going back in them to get their personal histories up to date. How grateful we are that I have written a few of these down, for if I had not, they would never have been remembered.

As Paul and I review and look back over the past 35 years of our marriage it hardly seems possible. It sounds so long, and have passed so quickly and beautifully. We have shared such great happiness and joy. They have been rich full years and I still thrill at seeing him enter a room, or to catch his eye as we sometimes do as we are in the temple.

How exciting and wonderful to love someone as completely as I love him, and to know that he has this same love for me.

Our children, each one has been so important in this life we have shared. We have been so blessed with the spirits the Lord sent to us. Each is a very special spirit. Each has now or is in the process of knowing for themselves of the gospel truths.

Paul has a special sense and has a close relationship with each of the children. They can talk to him and know he will listen. It is fun to watch them and thrilling to see his deep interest in each of them.

We now have almost half of our family married; Paul, John, Yvonne, Marilynn, and Mildred. Each have chosen a fine husband or wife and their families reflect this. We are proud of each of these daughters and son-in-laws and are deeply grateful that they too possess strong testimonies of the gospel.

Sunday June 25, 1978

Our plans for a family vacation have been changed a little, for we find that you need to rent a houseboat almost a year in advance. When we went in to reserve one this was the news we received. A year ago when we were there, they showed us many that could be had, but I guess this year is a good year for Lake Powell.

We have traded 3 of our lots in Leeds and 3 cars on a small home in Hurricane, Utah, to say it right, would be to say a Trailer home. It has 2 bedrooms, one full bath and a half bath, a kitchen and living room. They have started to add on a storage room and an extra bedroom. These are all closed in but need paneling or plasterboard on the inside, but can be used as is for now. We will likely make this our base and will be within two

hours of the Lake, 20 minutes from Zion park, and an hour and half from Bryce Canyon.

About 2 1/2 hours to Grand Canyon, and 18 minutes from St George. We are excited about this little home, and feel it will be a fun place to go, and should save anyone who wants a Honeymoon a lot of money. There is no landscaping around it, on a lot 100 by about 80 triangle shape. To reach it you have to go down a long lane from main street. So we won't have to worry over who will water the grass and keep it mowed. Dad and I were there Friday afternoon and stayed there with the couple we are buying from, and are looking forward to taking the family down this week. Jessie and Kathleen will go down ahead of us on Tuesday and we will go on Thursday right after Dad's class.

Larry is managing the Jiffy Lube, and has Tom working for him. . It's wonderful for Tom to have such a good job, and to be learning so much about cars, and Larry says he's a very good worker.

Jessie and Larry went with the Young adults on an overnight trip and I couldn't help but think how things have changed. When Yvonne was that age this would be unheard of, but the girls go off to one area and the boys to another. If the younger children hadn't been on a Stake, BYU Sponsored Survival, one would have had a hard time convincing us, but it was a Stake Youth Conference and they have been educating us for a year getting it ready. With Larry going along gave us more assurance, for he is so straight.

We have been involved in a Mission Presidents Seminar, that was held at the L.T.M. 72 new Presidents and their wives, and at one time or the other most of the general authorities that are in the area were here. We had lunch with them one day and a lovely dinner on Friday at the Church office building. We sat at the table with Ezra Taft Benson and Sister Benson. It was very, very special to be included in this group, we felt honored to be involved. I believe Dad was very relieved, for there has been so much additional responsibility with it being held here.

The Missionaries who are being called on English speaking missions will be coming here for one month to learn all the discussions before they go into the field. So it will be a busy place, and the name will be changed to the Missionary Training Center. There is a piolet group of English Speakers in now and by October, all of the Missionaries will come here for a training period. Sound exciting to know Day 1 when they arrive in the field they will be trained teachers.

Tom gave a 2 1/2 minute talk in Sunday School this morning and did well. We have really missed Tammy but know she is having a great time just being with Marilyn.

Here is a quote I like from a meeting at the LTM. "We must feel and know that Heavenly Father knows what is best for us and let Him know we are ready to do his bidding."

June 13 to June 23, 1978

With Paul being in the presidency of the Language Training Training mission as a councilor to President Max Pinegar, we enjoy some special priviledges and blessings. Often on tuesday evenings we we enjoy a lovely dinner with a general authority and this week they have all of the new mission presidents and their wives here for 4 days of intensive training before they leave for their assignments. Paul has been invited to attend all of it and I have been to some select meetings and dinners.

June 9, 1978

We went down to Mildred and Charlie's ward and little Bill was blessed. He is a beautiful baby and seems to be such a good baby. This day was the first time we have had anything to eat at their home. One time at a home evening we had ice cream cones but other than that, this is the only time. Our relationship is a little strained, for they haven't forgiven me for scolding Mildred a year ago. I have written two letters asking her to forgive me, but as yet she hasn't seen in her heart to do so. I have been heart sick over this and will have to try harder to develop a better relationship with them. I feel when I am alone with her things are fine, but when Charlie is around it becomes strained. I now debate if I should bring it up again or just let it go.

June 21, 1978

John and Jackie are all moved to Salt Lake, and Jackie will be left with all the unpacking and getting settled while John goes to New York on business. He will fly out tonight so he can be there first thing in the morning to take care of his business. We shall miss them, but know it is good for them, and especially for John not to make the long drive each day. I'm already missing them for each Sunday evening they usually drop by to visit. We have so enjoyed the children and will miss the closeness we have had with them.

I envy those who have all of their children right around them. Ours will be scattered all over the U.S. and even the world with Paul and Margaret in Australia, and we haven't seen their two boys.

Changes are being made at the L.T.M. The English speaking missionaries will all be coming here for one month in October, and we are sure there will be many changes made at that time. It will be interesting to see what part Paul will have to play in the new set up. The name will be changed to the Missionary Training Center and will be a really large unit with all of the missionaries coming here to be trained.

It has been a wonderful privilege to be involved in this, and in my heart I hope Paul will still be, but we will accept and know that whatever happens will be right and there will be another calling where he is needed if he should be released.

President Pinegar has been so very ill and had to have a kidney removed, so won't be back for a month anyway, so I wouldn't believe if there were changes to be made they would be done before he can return. We have enjoyed so many wonderful blessings from being involved there.

In another week, Kathleen and Tammy will be on their way to girl's camp. Kathleen as a 5th year counselor and Tammy President of her group. There has been much work and planning go into it. Tammy has been planning food and all the ingredients that they need to take to fix the different meals. It is a good experience for them both.

I must settle down and get the history of Mother and Dad finished.

July 14, 1978

It has been a busy time and I haven't taken time to make an entry, each day has gone by so quickly.

We left Provo to meet the family at Lake Powell on the 29th of June. We took the younger children down with us. Larry didn't feel he could be away because of this new job and the responsibility he had there. We are pleased with our little Hurricane home and feel it will be nice to have to go to rest and visit the parks from. It really seems too good to be true, for we never dreamed that we could have a second little home.

While we were there and just as Marilyn and Steve arrived, Dad told everyone that there was an announcement to be made, so everyone gathered around and Jessie told them that she was engaged to be married, to Kevin Ludlow. There was a lot of excitement and questions and a lot of surprised people. We had all seen it coming, for it has been very evident that she was in love, she has been so bubbling, so happy and he has been here all the time, when he hasn't been at work. They just hadn't expected the word so soon. We are very pleased over her choice, he is a fine young man and seems to fit into the family so easily. He is a returned missionary and they plan to be married in the temple. Another great big plus in his favor is that he is from Provo. Maybe we will have someone around, but at least they will come to Provo, to visit both parents so maybe we will get to see them once a year. For the present he is still in school and so they will be here for another two years anyway. We are so happy for her.

The night she got engaged she woke Kathleen up and they talked until the early morning hours. Then they came for him to ask us for her hand and we gave our approval. I'm sure he had his doubts for a few minutes if this was what he wanted for a mother and father-in-law, for he had been growing a beard for a week and we both expressed concern over this and he agreed to shave it off. I'm sure it was hard for him to give it up. He said he had always wanted to see what he looked like and then Jessie was right there encouraging him to grow it too. When he was shaving it off, his mother wanted him to also shave his mustache off. He told her that Brother Felt had a big one so he didn't have to shave his and she believed him. She'll be surprised when she meets Dad to see him clean shaven.

Everyone thought the announcement was that Marilyn was expecting. How happy everyone would be for them if this were the case.

We had a wonderful time at Lake Powell with the family. John and Jackie had their boat and the camper and everyone but Dad and I got up on water skis. We were content to have a boat ride. It was a fun time and we want to reserve a house boat for next year, and have all the family meet us there. We plan to try to set it up now, so everyone can plan a year in advance and have it an annual affair.

Sunday, July 16, 1978

This past week has again been busy and eventful. Tom returned home from a scout trip where he went along as an assistant to Smith Broadbent and Verl Tidwell. It proved to be a special experience for him and he even complete his first aid merit badge, so he can now be a first class scout. He has almost enough merit badges for one or two ranks higher, but this first aid has held him up. I felt I could help him with it, but he didn't feel the same way, but we are both pleased to have him complete it.

Larry turned 23 years old on Thursday and the only celebrating we did was for Dad and I to take him out to dinner. The birthday cake sat untouched until Friday afternoon when we had the family over for dinner. This was an evening that Marilyn and Steve planned to be here and I cooked a turkey dinner for everyone. They left early

Saturday morning for the long drive to Houston, Texas. It was wonderful to see them and to see Marilyn looking so good. She had put on a little weight and looked really good. They so want children, and she is under doctor's care. She asked Dad to give her a blessing, and it was a blessing to both of them and it seemed apparent that she will be able to have children from the blessing. It seems so sad that a person who wants them so bad can't get them and all of the people who get pregnant and don't want them and so many who won't have them. We hope before long that they will be able to call and tell us some news.

August 27, 1978

It has been a month since I have taken the time to make an entry in my Journal. I have been using every free moment to gather information on the family of my Grandparents, William Jasper Harris Jr. and Jessie Lena Frackelton. The Smith Family are going to publish a book on the family of Hyrum Smith, and I feel a responsibility to be sure all of this line is included. It has been so good in so many ways, and many blessings have come from it. I have visited cousins that I haven't heard from in years and it is good to renew their friendships.

Jessie has been undecided and is questioning if she is ready for marriage and so the date has not been set and she has taken off her diamond. Kevin is real patient and seems willing to wait for her to make UP her mind. They are fasting and have been together all day today, so we can't feel that she doesn't love him. We will support her on what she decides to do. Marriage is an important step and she should be sure it is what she wants. It is so good to get the doubts out before marriage, it is heart breaking to have it happen after.

The past two weeks have been two weeks of great worry. Dad went to the Doctor for his yearly examination and he had to go to the hospital for more tests. They found, after a treadmill test that he has some heart blockage, and needs more tests. They have put him on digitalis each morning and given him Nitroglycerin to carry in his pocket if he has an attack. We were in Salt Lake on Thursday to have the car serviced and in the ZCMI Shopping center he got so dizzy and I talked him into taking one of his Nitroglycerin pills and they stopped the dizziness, but caused his head to feel like it would burst. Then again in the evening he started to have another, and I took him to the Hospital Emergency Ward. They tested him and immediately gave him oxygen and it stopped the dizzy spell. I won't be surprised if they have us keep oxygen handy for this purpose.

We will be going into Salt Lake to a heart Specialist on Friday. Dr. Ernest Wilkinson, son of the former President of BYU. We feel good about this appointment, but realize that we must have a Doctor here so we can get help, right now when we need it.

Mildred and Charlie have been here for the summer. I feel like things are better between us. Her boys are darling and we are so happy that she has them. She is a good mother and wife. She seems very much in love with Charlie. As a mother-in-law it seems he could treat her better but she is happy and that is the main thing. He is a fine man and some day will be a leader of his people, and he will have a wife that will support him and be so proud of him in all he does.

He already holds a great leadership position as District President at Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Thursday, September 7, 1978 Letter to Yvonne

Dearest Yvonne,

Your Letter arrived and I've been praying for the wisdom to be able to answer it in a manner that may become comfort to you.

This morning as I sat at the breakfast table, worried and thinking of three people who are very dear and cherished by me, I was given the answer I was seeking.

I sat reflecting your letter, and I too was asking why, when there are so many in the world today refusing to have children and so many seeking to destroy the little life... the answer came to me, not as a voice but as a very definite thought. "Yvonne is being an example, for she lives in the world, around those who don't want families, who agree with the world. She is seeking to find ways that she can have children, she is needed to show there are those who have this strong desire and will go the extra mile, to bring life.

It is hard for you to be and see so much and so many who don't want them to be able to get pregnant. And you are wanting a baby so bad and not to be able to have one.

I know there is a purpose in this trial you are experiencing, for we are told that we can receive revelation for ourselves and our families. This morning I feel I received it.

Stay close to the Lord, enjoy the beautiful children you have and get medical help. Take the 30% to 50% and have your tubes repaired. Marilyn is with a doctor that is treating her for infection in the tubes, ask your Doctor about this. There is also a fertility drug you could be given. If you don't get help from one Doctor try another. Many Doctors will not understand you, for most women are coming to prevent, but again you are being called to show there are couples who desire and want children, you will help them find a way.

I will check more into a Doctor in Salt Lake who replaces the tubes. The same lady who told me about him, told me a niece, who has adopted a baby from So America. They have cleared the way with the Embassies of both countries to let unwanted babies come into the U.S. She said the airplane fares and the adoption papers run close to \$2,000. for you would have to go down there to get the baby.

Dad is in the Hospital this morning, in fact he entered last night for some very hard testing; an angiogram. I will be relieved when this test is over, it is a difficult one and sometimes there is a reaction to the dye that is used. With his being allergic to penicillin it worries me.

Thursday. Dad has had the test and from the results at this moment it doesn't look like it is heart trouble. This is a great relief, now testing will continue to find what is causing the dizziness and the difficult breathing and the tightness in his chest. He is in the best of hands and we are so grateful to have him there. The Salt Lake clinic has specialists in each field, and already 3 have been called in to conduct the tests.

Friday..... More tests today, these weren't so hard and they will need more tomorrow, but are narrowing it down to Bronchial trouble, or hyenal hernia. More tests tomorrow.

One thing he is having a forced rest, which he needed very much. It can't be complete rest for the tests are hard and the one Thursday left him with such a headache, that complete rest was impossible.

How grateful I am for good Doctors. I wish I could go through it instead of him. It is hard to see the one you love have to suffer.

Saturday, September 9, 1978

Paul was released from the hospital, the L.D.S. Hospital in Salt Lake City. The night nurse had not done the charts and he was given breakfast that fouled up the testing they were to do today. He will have to return to Dr. Wildenson's office on Tuesday to have the tests done.

He felt so well, we did a little shopping and he felt he had been let out of prison, to get out of the hospital bed and room into the sunshine. He stayed in the car while I did a little grocery shopping. When I came out, he complained that his eyes hurt and then that he could not see. We drove to the Emergency Room at the hospital, but decided to return home and called Dr. Hales, who had taken care of his eyes years ago. He found that the blood artery behind the eye was restricted, giving us the first clue that might help the doctors find what is causing his dizziness and light headedness. Sunday he felt quite well and attended Sacrament meeting at the L.T.M. and went to take his classes. After an hour he knew he couldn't and arranged for a substituted and came home. The doctor gave him a different medication to take and he stayed in bed all day.

I drove to Salt Lake to meet with the Stat Engineer about our well permit at Big Bend. It looks like we have lost it and will have to request another hearing about it. If we aren't successful we will have to get a lawyer and take it to court. We need this water to make the land worth anything.

I have been driving to Salt Lake each day and the car almost knows the way to go. It will be such a relief if the doctors can just find what is causing Paul's problem. He hasn't been ill and when he has to lay on the bed, I know he is sick.

Jessie left this letter for us on Friday, September 14, 1978

Dear Mom,

Thanks so much for helping me on my dress today. I came home and saw that you sewed my ruffle. Oh, thanks!! I appreciate and love you so much!! I'm so thankful for your patience and understanding you've had throughout my life. As I'm about to get married, I often think of the past and hope that when I have children and begin to raise a family, I will be able to raise them as you and dad have. You have both done a fantastic job.

*I'm just leaving to go to Tom's game with Cory and Ron. I love you, Jessie
P.S. I love you too Dad!*

Sunday September 17, 1978

Last night Tammy, Jessie and Kathleen went with me up to the L.T.M. where we listened to the prophet speak to all the women in the church at a Women's Fireside. We were thrilled to be able to attend this historic meeting, none of us can ever say we didn't know the Church's Stand on these issues. President Kimball spoke plainly and clearly on each of them.

Today Sunday, we are leaving for L.D.S Hospital for Dad to enter for more tests. They found no heart condition when he was there a week ago, but a hernia at the diaphragm. He continues to have the dizziness and a week ago yesterday, he went completely blind in his left eye the right one was fuzzy. When it cleared he said it was like a curtain lifting.

He will now go in for an angiogram on the head. We understand it is also a difficult test, if they find a blood clot, and it is in a place they can remove it they will operate, if not they will know what they have to treat and will try to dissolve it. I am sending you this note after the test and will add on to it what the results are. I will drive back and forth from Salt Lake. John and Jackie have wanted me to come and stay there, but the responsibility here helps me and I will come home each night. President Pinegar gave him a beautiful blessing and Larry assisted. It has been a great comfort to me, I must have the faith to see its fulfillment of the blessing.

Yesterday we had a wonderful visit with Steve's Mother, Cheryl. Steve's sister drove her to Provo and they stopped in to see us. She is still in much pain and has difficulty in walking, but her spirits were so good, and she is really encouraged to be accepted by a Doctor Hess at the Salt Lake Clinic who will do a hip replacement for her. The one drawback is that he is booked ahead for 6 weeks. After what she has suffered she isn't worrying about the time, just grateful to be able to look forward to some help. We are so happy that she can maybe be free of some of this pain. My letter goes on and on. I will write an addition to it as soon as I can give you some other word. Love Mom.

I am working on and trying to complete the Harris Family History. It has been rewarding. I feel so grateful to have been able to get some of the information I have found. I had a date set for my parent's wedding anniversary, now I do have their part completed I will aim for Christmas to have it complete. I think this will make a wonderful present for our children and for my brothers and sisters. I am excited about and want to spend every minute on it, but can't so get what I can do a little at a time.

December 1978

The month of December has been a fun month, as we ready everything for Christmas. Sometimes in the hurry and rush we tend to forget what it is really all about.

Kathleen is singing with the choir and they are giving concerts. They are singing of the Christ child and the many meanings of this, the Christmas season. In the nation today there is a group that are trying to prevent the singing of carols in the schools. This group have indeed lost all understanding of why Christmas came about. We will hope that Utah can fight off this trend and let us have the freedom we now enjoy.

Yvonne tells us that in the Chicago area they cannot have any reference to the Christ child in the schools. The carols they could sing were Jolly Old Saint Nicholas and carols like it.

This has proved to be a lonely time for Marilyn and Steve. She had planned to come home for the holidays, but a malfunction of their dishwasher caused them to have damage to their apartment and to their neighbor's apartment. The insurance paid only a part of it and it has caused them great expense for the repairs. So they stayed in Houston.

We had a special Christmas Eve. LaVerne and Jean came and brought Mother for an early dinner and visit. We took her downstairs and opened her gifts and got some pictures of her on the video tape. She was content to stay quite a while and all of our family started gathering for our annual Christmas Eve together.

We invited a couple that are here from Argentina to spend the evening with us. John and Jackie came from Salt Lake with Jodie, Jennifer, and Mark. We had a special time together. Santa dropped in and surprised the little ones. (Elder Tutua had been Santa the night before and came to surprise our grandchildren.) We had gifts for each of them

and had our dinner this evening. It was a special time for all of us.

Christmas evening, being on a Sunday made it very special. The program at the church set the tone. To be able to attend church and the special feelings of the Sabbath day made it an experience for us. There were no rushing around on last minute shopping when everything was done and ready the night before. I want to try to have this each year. All day was a quiet peaceful readiness. A very special day.

The day of Christmas was one of fun and family time together. It was more relaxing than normal for me. We had the leftovers from Christmas Eve so I didn't have to spend the morning in the kitchen.

Yvonne and Lamar arrived on Wednesday the 27th with Becky and David. What fun to see them and have them here. Home was a gathering place and it proved to be like a family reunion for all of us. All of the children went to the ski slopes, rented skis for a week (those who didn't already have skis). Lamar came home and collapsed on the kitchen floor. His knee gave way on him. He finally went to the emergency room to have it checked and came home to give it some rest. His vacation proved to be a rest for him. It was quite a painful rest, I'm afraid. He complained so little that I don't think any of us realized the pain he was in.

Kevin got him to go to his doctor with him. Dr. Pratley could see it was more serious than it was thought to be, and encouraged him to go to a doctor as soon as he got home. He even called and made an appointment with the doctor for him.

For church we had our son-in-law on crutches and another one to be on them also. Kevin had broken his leg skiing just before the holidays. Jessie had been up with him but came home early. He had a bad break and had to be in the hospital for several days.

New Year's Day 1979

We spent a quiet evening at home with Yvonne, Becky and David playing Bingo and watching TV. Dad hadn't been feeling very well over the holiday, so we didn't stay up to watch the New Year come in. We left Yvonne and Lamar in front of the TV and turned in. They were too tired and didn't stay up long.

Ron started calling the two little girls Miss Wonderful and Miss. They were most pleased and we all started calling them this. It was rewarding to see these two families play together the long hours they were together and not have any quarreling, crying or any unhappy moments. We are indeed proud of our grandchildren, as well as each of our children.

Jessie had made plans to go to Winter Semester at the College of BYU, Hawaii. It has sounded glamorous and exciting. Since she didn't know if she was ready for marriage, it sounded like a good idea to us. We took her to the plane on Tuesday, January 2nd. She would fly to L.A. and meet her group there for her flight to Hawaii. She was excited and very scared. If we had said don't go, or if Kevin had said it, I believe she would have stayed home. Her flight took off with a very frightened girl.

The next day we returned to the airport to take Yvonne and Lamar to catch their plane. Lamar was on crutches and had to manage the long walk down to the concourse to his boarding station. Yvonne had ordered a wheel chair, but one was not there for him. We had to leave them in the main part of the airport, for Larry was waiting in town, and

had a date he had to get back to. It was hard to see them go. He we wished they lived closer and we could visit them more often. With Yvonne's new employment we will be able to have one free flight a year, so may be able to fly there and have them fly home once a year and get to see them a little more often.

She went to work part time for Eastern Airlines as a telephone reservationist. She took extensive schooling to learn to operate the computers. The side benefits will be great. We appreciate them extending the free flights to the parents.

While they were here we had a special fast and Dad gave her a blessing. They so want more children. The doctors have told her that her fallopian tubes have collapsed. With this condition the chances of her being able to get pregnant are very very slim. As they completed Yvonne's blessing, it was beautiful. Dad mentioned those that were here and that were unseen. I felt so strongly that Grandma and Grandpa Felt were nearby. It was a sweet peaceful feeling and assurance. I'm sure Yvonne will have more children.

Lamar asked for a blessing and received a beautiful one. I feel sure that this blessing helped him to be receptive to going to the doctor and getting more help on the leg he injured skiing.

Paul asked Bob if he could give him a blessing. It has been one year since Bob has had a drink and he and Drue are going to AA and attending church every Sunday. The bishop has talked to them about going to the temple. How excited we all will be when they are ready to go to the temple. We know no one can drag you there, but they can help you along the way. Bob knows this and now for the first time they both seem to want it and are working for it. The rejoicing that will go on here on Earth and in heaven will be great. They are both so very special, and have such happiness together, we look forward to the day.

January 4, 1979

The grandchildren were here and Ron had taken pictures of everyone. He was anxious to develop them. Jennifer is his shadow. She followed him into the dark room. He invited her to stay, but explained that it would be dark. She decided she would go out. He closed the door and took the film out and unrolled it. The door quickly opened and Jennifer called, "Peek a boo!" The film quickly turned white. Ron learned a lesson in child behavior. Don't tell them not to do something, for that is what they will do. He will start again to get pictures of everyone. Only Yvonne and Lamar have gone home taking Becky and David with them.

January 6, 1979

LaVerne had a birthday openhouse for Mother. her birthday was yesterday, but she decided to have it today, Saturday, so some of the men could come. We had expected Uncle Earl and Aunt Edna down. There was a snow storm all morning so that must have stopped them. The point of the mountain can be very bad. But it turned out really nice and was a specail time for the family. Mother so enjoyed it.

I had to smile as we took her home. She was so grateful to get in her warm house and said, "oh, I am so glad for the warm house. You know, all LaVerne and Jean have to keep their house warm is that fireplace."

LaVerne always has a fire going so she thinks it is their only heat. It was a very nice day.

Paul came home late. He and Larry had been to Hurricane.

January 11, 1979

I have been preparing my lesson for Relief Society next Monday. I teach the mother education classes. This month I will be giving it on the evening hours.

As I have just outlined the lesson and prepared it, I took my books to our room. I noticed on the shelf an old home evening manual, 1966. I opened it to a page and saw a poem I remembered as a fourth grade student. I have often wished I could remember all the words to it. It was in a book my parents had called, "Shell Happy Time Hour." I copy the poem here:

Wouldn't this old world be better,
If the folks we meet would say --
"I know something good about you!"
And treat us just that way?
Wouldn't it be fine and dandy
If each handclasp, fond and true,
Carried with it this assurance—
"I know something good about you!"
Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If the good that's in us all
Were the only thing about us
That folks bothered to recall?
Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If we praised the good we see?
For there's such a lot of goodness
In the worst of you and me!
Wouldn't it be nice to practice
That fine way of thinking, too?
You know something good about me,
I know something good about you.

Author Unknown

January 11, 1979

Received a beautiful letter from Mildred today. She seems very happy, but does have many trials with Charlie's family moving in on them. I wish sometimes she would forgive me for the night I scolded her. I have written two letters a year and two months ago, but she never expressed any forgiveness. When she was here last summer, all seemed well, but it is here in my heart and hard. It has caused some feelings in the family. I wish so that I had held my tongue. Too bad we can't recall words.

The family will give up their gift exchange. It isn't working and seems to be a hardship on Paul and Margaret and Mildred and Charlie. It is too bad that it is always John and Jackie whose names they have for they always do so much for everyone. It will

likely be an exchange between Yvonne, Marilyn and John's families. It has worked so well between my brothers and sisters but doesn't seem to work with our children.

January 13, 1979

I find I have a very sore knee. Several thoughts have run through my mind. Hoping that more are the cause. I really felt it after being to the spa last Friday.

Home Evening tonight. We will have Julie and John Ray over for dinner and the evening (some of the children of Paul's missionary companion in 1937).

Jessie has been so lonesome and homesick. I hope she gets into the college life there and enjoys it. We think this has been a good experience for her. It isn't as glamorous as Hawaii sounds. The island is small and it has been raining a lot.

January 21, 1979

Still have a sore knee. I keep thinking it will soon go away. We were in a fireside and heard Paul Dunn speak at the MTC. The missionaries were so excited and he spoke for 1-1/2 hours and held them spell bound every minute.

He was so gracious and signed their scriptures and shook their hands. This took another 1-1/2 hours so he was leaving Provo to drive to Salt Lake about 10:30 pm, leaving 1900 happy, excited missionaries. There was a warmth and sincerity about him that was felt by all.

January 22, 1979

Mother is doing well. She has a sweet spirit and is so grateful to be in her own home. How blessed we are with the apartments to be able to have the girls to help out with her so she can be there in her own home.

LaVerne's health is not good and it seems I'm always coming up with something, so we are very happy to have the upstairs apartments for help for her.

January 25, 1979

Kathleen broke her finger playing church basketball. They play to win and looks like they are as rough as boys.

January 29, 1979

Paul's birthday. He has always insisted we wait and celebrate together. This year we pulled a fast one on him and had a special home evening for him. He seemed most pleased. Marilyn and Steve called. They had packers at their home all day and tomorrow they will be moving all the furniture out and be on their way to Dallas. They are really lucky. Their company bought their home and hire the movers to move them so they don't have the personal expense and worries about moving. We are happy for them.

Dad has promised this summer we can go to Dallas and see them.

Letter from Tammy, January 29, 1979

Dad,

I would like to write you a letter of appreciation. Dad, I love you so much. And I do appreciate all you do for me. Dad, you are a great father and head of our family. What a family we have! Boy, how I love each member so much. I am so grateful to be in a big family. I love to tell people that there are 12 children in my family. Dad, thank you for your kindness and generosity you show to each of us (your kids).

I love you.

Tammy

January 30, 1979

Paul has become sick of seeing me hobble around and yesterday made me an appointment with the doctor. X-rays showed no breaks so it is a separation of the cartilage. I am on crutches and must stay off the leg. We hope it will heal by complete rest. If not, I will have the operation that Lamar had. Mine is not as serious as hi. He was in such extreme pain. Mine gives a lot of pain when I stand on it after sitting or laying down. I haven't bent my knee for it pains them. I hope to see him on Friday and hope there is some improvement by then. We shall just have to wait and see. I can see where the steps are very difficult. I went down today on crutches to finish my washing. Very difficult to climb back up but I'm sure I will learn.

This takes me back to 18-1/2 years ago the last 3 months I was expecting Kathleen. I was on crutches. Our bedroom was upstairs. I slid up and down the stairs on my bottom but it creates problems in standing back up.

January 31, 1979

Paul has become sick of seeing me hobble around and yesterday made me an appointment with the doctor. Xrays showed no breaks so it is a separation of the cartilage. I am on crutches and must stay off the leg. We hope it will heal by complete rest. If not, I will have the operation that Lamar had.

February 1, 1979

Birthday for mom. Strange how exciting everyone's birthday is except your own. Just yesterday I was 55 years old and now because of one day I am 56 years old. I feel like the song, "Sun Rise, Sunset. I don't feel any older, when did they?" When I stop to realize I have a son who is 34 years old, I have to know time is flying for me too.

The family planned the dinner. So I didn't have to prepare anything. They went out and got fried chicken from a new place in town; Churibes Fried Chicken. It was very good, and fun to be with the family. Paul and I both said how much nicer it was to be there with them than just the two of us out to dinner.

It was a special day. As I was getting ready for bed there were the two notes, from Tammy, set out for us to find. How special! It made it even a better day, and as I reread it today and over the years, this day will be remembered as very special.

Letter from Tammy on her mother's birthday, February 1, 1979

Dear Mom,

Happy Birthday! This small note is to tell you how much I appreciate you. I could never express all the love I have for you and dad. If there is a person in this world I would like to follow their example and be like them it would be my mother. What a woman you are. I could never count your good qualities... Radiant, helpful, caring, kind. If ever you need someone, you are always there. I love you, mom. Oh, how I appreciate you all you do for me. I am trying to shape my life as you have done, so I can be more like you. Mom, thank you for all your kind acts of caring. Mom, I love you!!!

Love your daughter, Tammy

Letter from Paul on Afton's Birthday, February 1st, 1979

Dear Afton,

Another year another birthday, another year of pure joy. Each year brings another treasure of memories. Just think dear, there is no end to these passing years. You make them Heaven for me and all the family. I love you. Paul

Letter from Becky, February 10, 1979

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

I am writing this letter to you to tell you how much I miss you. Right now I am sick with strep throat, and it isn't very fun. Before I started to write this letter I was reading one of the Judy Blume books you gave me. I really like it.

In school we are putting together some of our favorite things. In mine I put the invitation to Donny's wedding, a picture of Donny and Marie, and the Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing book, and a picture of me in Hansel and Gretel. Also in school we are decorating T-shirts and pillow cases.

I love you!

Becky

P.S. Here's a little Valentine made just for you!

February 21, 1979

Here it is, the last week in February already. The month has gone quickly by. I have been on crutches and have been for almost 4 weeks. I am able to be around the home without them, but have to use them outside. I decided a week ago I was through with them and walked the whole week, only to go to the doctor and was told I should be able to walk without a limp, and no pain before I discard them. So now I am using one on the left side as a protection of the leg.

Kathleen left on Monday morning, February 19th, with the choir on a tour of the San Francisco area. She has had many opportunities. This one should prove to be a fun trip for her.

She was in a tournament at BYU last Friday and Saturday in Extemp Speak. She broke in her rounds so entered the finals, but didn't break there. We can see a lot of growth and leadership qualities in her. She is an excellent student and loves to be involved.

February 22, 1979

We have been wanted to be, as a family, special guests at an unveiling of the Monument to the Eternal Family. They have asked for a few pages on our lives and our children. The theme being: What we have done as a family and how it can strengthen other families. A little booklet is to be published. The original, along with a picture will be put in a box in the Monument to be opened in 20 years.

February 23, 1979

I have been reviewing some thoughts I had for the above entry, but have lost all confidence in my ability to write anything. I had given Paul a stack of papers on our history. He was going over them and prepared a final draft for printing. He dictated the history, but it is HIS history. Not any of mine. Here I am ready to print the Harris Family history. Funny how the things that are important to one, have no special meaning to the other. I think it should include some of the fun times with the family. Like the cold and snow in Edmonton and the fun it was to bundle the girls up in a blanket and pull them on a sleigh. That we had tied a cardboard box on the sleigh. The sun would shine and give the false impression of being warm. With the blankets around them, they were warm and loved to go out for a ride on the sleigh.

I had kept notes and a diary in a small notebook and wrote my impressions of entering Canada. I would have liked to include these.

My history will come from these logs. If anyone ever wants or desires to read them. Rather than cause any conflict or hurt, I shall leave it as Paul has written it. But feel as it is, I am not a complete person. I am just a footnote. An example of my church calls as a historical note: I taught Sunday School in Logan 19th ward. When we moved to Salt Lake I taught Primary for 1 year and then was Primary President for 1-½ years at the Kenwood Ward.

Our move to Edmonton was a challenge to us. We had to get a map and search to find where we were moving to. In Edmonton we purchased a large home. We rented the upstairs and we lived on the ground floor and the children had rooms in the basement.

We had a young man from the Institute that helped us with the work in building rooms in the basement because the water table was high. We had to build the floor up 4 or 6 inches. He always arrived at dinner time and was glad to get a meal along with the work. This was the case for so long, we finally invited him to move in and live with us. We had moved into the upstairs bedroom and finished the basement into an apartment.

One of the girls going to the University and attending the Institute, LaVeeda, had been raised on whole wheat bread and cereals. She was getting board and room, but was starving for wheat. She made a habit of dropping in for some whole wheat bread. She could eat a loaf at a time. She asked if she could live with us and share the room with Yvonne, so we now had two boarders. Not planned, but they were both delightful people. A Bishop from Southern Alberta came to attend school to complete his education. He had been farming and knew he could care for his family better if he completed his degree. Lervae Cocoon arrived in Edmonton with his car piled high with bottled fruit, bottle chicken and vegetables, but no money. As he looked for a room to rent, everyone wanted the money in advance and he couldn't find one. So he came to share the room with Bob Cromary and brought his groceries in. We now had 3 boarders.

One working for his board and room, one paying us \$50.00 a month and one paying with his home canned groceries. Lervae, the Bishop, had left his wife and 4 children in Cardston, Alberta. He could see the need in the home and would often wax the hardwood floors for me. He was so grateful to have a place to live, he would give me help with the work. This was a boon to me. I was the Primary President. Because of the distance members had to travel, Primary was held at noon on Saturday.

We also had a home Primary, out about 15 miles. Later in the mission field I was grateful for my knowledge of Home Primaries, for we started this program and met some success on the Reservation with them.

The two years in Edmonton were rich full years for us. We loved the people and the Country and will treasure our experiences there.

March 7, 1979

Much excitement. Marilynn and Steve called. They are going to get a baby boy. They went in for an interview at Social Services and came out knowing their baby was born and they could pick him up on March 15th. Each of us here at home are so excited. Seems like a dream come true. They have waited and prayed for him and now they are being blessed. How lucky and blessed is he. To come into their home where there is an abundance of love and a home he will always know he is loved.

Yvonne called shortly after Marilynn. So the news spread like wildfire. Each of us is so grateful.

March 8, 1979

One of Tammy's friends, Pam Fogg, came in with her. We shared how excited we are (for Marilynn). She asked how old he was. Six weeks when they get him. She said, "I was 7 days old when my parents got me."

She could see our joy and excitement and we shared that was how her parents felt.

I have been to the temple and have put Marilynn and Steve's names in the prayer roll, and also put baby Forsyth.

As I sat there in the temple I thought of the mother who gave him life. I am grateful to her, that she made the choice to have this baby. So many girls are getting abortions, denying the child life, and denying couples like Marilynn and Steve the privilege of being parents.

I hope she has been able to have good help; that she can now go forth and build a good life for herself, knowing that she has done the right thing. She is giving him the gift of a special love. We will call Marilynn and Steve and talk to them after the baby arrives.

The Lord continues to pour out blessings on us and our family.

March 14, 1979

Kathleen came home from school and opened a letter from BYU, to find she has a scholarship. A dean's scholarship to BYU. How proud we are. She has worked hard and excelled in many areas. She is a charter member of the Provo High Honor Society.

March 17, 1979

We pick up Paul Jr. and his 8 year old son, Gerrit at the airport this evening at 10:12 pm. It is wonderful that Paul can come home each year for Conferences and to have him bring one of his sons is an extra bonus. We haven't seen Gerrit. We are looking forward to getting to know him.

Sunday, March 18, 1979

We stopped at John and Jackie's on the way to the airport. We had dinner with them. Being St. Patrick's day the children were all wearing green and quickly started to look for ours. John took a ribbon from Jodie's hair and pinned it on my jacket. Jennifer wasn't about to accept that as wearing green. They are darling children. How grateful we are that they live close.

John and Jackie are so good to us. They are so generous with what they have. John has some credit at a business man's exchange and has given us what we want to use. So next week we will get the car much needed repairs and a lot of dry cleaning done.

We picked Paul and Gerrit up at the airport. Gerrit is a beautiful boy, smiling and happy to be here with his dad. His teacher was a bit upset with his being out of school 3 weeks. This seems strange, for here if a child has an opportunity to travel the schools look to it as an education too.

April 1, 1979

It hardly seems possible that April is here already. We have been enjoying a wonderful visit with Paul Jr. and Gerrit. He has been delightful. Such a happy little spirit. He has fallen in love with Tom and his motorbike. He has decided he will stay here and live with us. We have taken him to the mountains twice to play in the snow. He marvels that it is just like water.

It snowed during the night, only enough for a small cover on the ground. Gerrit was disappointed for he couldn't make a snowman. Too bad there wasn't more. We did get a pan full by scraping the top of the car. He cherished it and tucked it behind the bushes for his private snow falls. What disappointment when he went out the next day and found a pan of water.

Kathleen took him to a show with her friends. Tom took him someplace each day. Ron fussed over him and took him for treats. Tammy took him to the X Center. He felt it would be more fun to stay here than to return home. His dad said, "OK. I'll get Grandma to take you down so you can go to school." It wasn't long and he came to me and said, "I would stay here, but my mum would miss me."

General Conference was a very special treat. We enjoyed it as a family today. Yesterday both Paul and Paul Jr. were there in Salt Lake. the rest of us enjoyed it here at home. Paul Jr. was still in Salt Lake today, but John and Jackie and children came to listen to it with us. We love to have them come.

John helped relieve the girl's minds and has taken them, Kathleen, and Tammy to Salt Lake with him. They will go to the airport early tomorrow morning. John arrives then he will help them get on a plane for Hawaii. They have been in tears over the weekend. The past 2 months they have lived and breathed plans for this trip. Each has

saved enough money to buy their own tickets. \$302.00 and about \$150.00 to spend.

Paul Jr. and Gerrit left for Los Angeles with Mary and Lamar McKay. They are going to Disneyland for 2 days. It has been wonderful that he has been able to return home each year for Conference. One of the blessings of being Stake President is that we can see great growth in him and feel as he does that he was meant to go there to live. He has had a great opportunity to serve. We are very proud of him.

April 2, 1979

Kathleen and Tammy were able to fly out of Salt Lake to San Francisco where they were on preferred standby. We called them at 11 pm. They had arrived and really had some experiences. They are excited to be with Jessie.

I have been working all day by the side of a tile layer who is putting marble slabs in our 2 bathrooms. I told him I would hire out as his helper.

I felt I needed to be near the phone in case the girls called. I was relieved when the clock had passed 4 pm. They were to call between 2-4 pm California time to tell me if they didn't get on the plane. No call, so we knew they were on their way. It was good to talk to them and have it confirmed. we had a girl from

The house was quiet for a short while. This weekend has been very busy. Billy Bob's son has been here and Paul Jr. and Gerrit; and after all were on their way we had a girl from Holbrook drop in to spend the night. Sometimes I feel we are the inn. I can't turn anyone away, but get weary.

Our children are delightful to have and we love to have them come. It seems we always get others at the same time and it is sometimes hard to spread one's self thin to take care of all.

April 3, 1979

I've settled down and finally got the little overview in and the activities for the family, for the American Family Movement. It will be put in a box and sealed for 20 years. Then the box will be opened and a follow up will be done on each of the eleven families. We sent the family pictures taken in 1976 by Doug Martin in with it. I wonder if I will be around in 20 years when they open the box and the histories are read. Paul wrote most of it. I just added one page of things I felt were important.

April 7, 1979

I have spent 2 days working on the flea market to raise money for the American Family Monument. I found I was in charge of the clothing section. Paul was unhappy about it. I have been preparing my Relief Society lesson on acting, not reacting. I had to catch myself when he was unhappy when dinner was not ready on Saturday night. I believe this is the only night I haven't had a dinner cooked since I don't know when, and he was unhappy. I believe, as much as anything, I had been gone all day and Saturday is usually a day we have together. He was feeling neglected, and he had been. Sometimes you can't please everyone and I had accepted and told I would help so felt I must.

April 8, 1979

Now we are beginning to worry how the girls will get home. United Airlines had said no flights till April 9th so we were confident the strike would be over. They may have to get home the same way they got there, but it might be even harder, taking chances on standby.

April 9, 1979

My Relief Society lesson went well. I had my doubts before I went. I was so tired and depressed. I guess this was the devil trying to get me down and prevent me from having the spirit. Thank goodness the Lord has given us the key; to call on him in prayer. I know he listens and answers our prayer. He did mine as he has so many times. I have been so blessed.

April 10, 1979

Drove to Pleasant Grove to attend the services for Jean Paulson's sister Lucille, who died very suddenly.

April 15, 1979

Received a letter from Kathleen and Tammy. They have a flight home on April the 18th. I have been able to arrange a flight from LA at 6:10 am so they will spend the night in the LA airport.

They have called and are having a wonderful time. We are so pleased that these 3 girls are such good friends and love to be together.

It has been quite an experience for Kathleen and Tammy to have. Tammy will have to work hard on school work when she returns to catch up. It will be interesting to see what her grades are after missing that much.

April 19, 1979

I drove into Salt Lake to pick up Tammy and Kathleen. They are excited, bubbly and happy and brown. They had such a wonderful time with Jessie. It was fun driving back with them in the car, with both talking as fast as they could and sharing events of the past 2-1/2 weeks. Since they left we have had second thoughts about letting them go but now I can see what a rich experience it was for them and am glad they could go. Getting them back home safely is such a relief.

April 20, 1979

Larry graduated from BYU today with a major in English. How proud we are of him. He has set a steady course and has stuck to it.

A few weeks ago he just about gave up graduation, for he was offended in 2 books he was required to read. He felt he would be better not to graduate than to pollute his mind. That is a hard one to give counsel on. His father visited with him at length and

a solution was reached. His grades have been high and he has filled a mission and paid his own expenses. This is a great day. At 23 years old he is quite an accomplishment. He has a sweet spirit and is very sensitive. We are very proud of him and in all the things he does.

We came home from Larry's graduation to have company come. How grateful I was for a pot of soup I had planned to leave for the family.

Paul and I left on our way to California to pick up Jessie. We drove to Hurricane and stayed overnight.

April 21, 1979

We arose early at 3 am and started for Fontana, California. We arrived there much earlier than we had planned so drove around and saw the little town and had lunch and a rest before going to Ken and Eleanor's. It is wonderful to see them and how happy they are. For the first time we could visit Ken and really enjoy it. His wife is darling, vibrant and beautiful. She is so in love with him, and he with her. Their children are darling and it is wonderful to see Ken so happy.

As I saw them I feel he has needed children. He is a responsible father and husband, proud of his family. How Mother and Dad Felt would have loved to see him like he is.

April 23, 1979

We are in Hurricane. After a busy Sunday and a long long drive. I don't like to drive like this and feel I won't go in a car for another long trip. I hope I have the good sense to remember.

It is wonderful to have Jessie with us. She came to Ken's late Saturday night. We had gone to bed and she jumped on the bed and loved us. How special she is. We picked her up at her friends on Sunday afternoon and drove another friend to Carmeno, her home, and extra 4 hours on our trip. But they had been so good to her. We enjoyed the drive home and visit with her when she was awake.

Dad took care of business in Hurricane and Jessie and I went into St. George and arrived home Tuesday at noon, in time for Jessie and Kathleen to take off to Salt Lake for Mary Greer's Rerp.

Larry is getting ready to make a quick trip to Hurricane.

May 10, 1979

Tammy and Tom both tried out for the Acapella choir. We were thrilled that both made it. It will give them an experience of music enjoyment that will bring them pleasure all of their life. They came to kidnap them. Lucky that Tammy hadn't crawled into bed yet. She was in her robe. Tom hadn't come from work yet, so they had to make a second trip to the Felt home to get him. They are both excited.

May 12, 1979

Marilynn flew in from Dallas with her little son, Troy. She is so happy and he is just beautiful. He knows he is loved and is such a good baby. We are so happy that she

could come and bring him. This is her first Mother's Day. We are happy she will be able to spend it with us.

I've been putting all my efforts and time in getting the history complete. It looks wonderful sitting all done.

May 13, 1979

I have been planning on this for many years. Seems like a dream I never really thought would come true. The History is complete. I have 10 copies, including pictures all bound. Another 10 with only 4 pictures, but the histories of four generations are there. This is my gift to my parents and grandparents. My thank you for my life, my heritage, the many great blessings I have received because of them. I hope the history will have some meaning to my brothers and sisters. Sometime over the years I feel sure it will. I hope it will make grandparents and aunts and uncles more real to my children.

We all gathered here at the Felt Home for a Mother's Day pot luck dinner in our yard. It was rewarding to have family members come from so far to join us. Mary and Bob, Doug and Norma and family came from California. Our cousins Ellen King and George and Deck Hoyes came from Idaho. In all we had 55 members of Mother's family here. It was a very very special day for all of us.

We all went together and purchased a chair for mother. She seemed pleased. This was her day. She sat in the chair during the program and enjoyed everything. We had time to visit and relax. For me it was a very special day. I gave my brothers and sisters copies of the histories.

May 15, 1979

As I visited mother she has kept telling me what a nice party we had Sunday. She was remembering the people there and happy she got to see them all. Marilynn went with me. Sunday there were so many there she hadn't really recognized Marilynn. (She had come from Texas.) Today she knew who she was and was so pleased about Troy.

Marilynn and Steve have been so special to mother. Each week she has received a letter from one of them. So we were delighted when she recognized her and they had a good visit.

May 20, 1979

Seminary graduation. Kathleen was one of the speakers. She gave a beautiful talk and looked beautiful. We are very proud of her accomplishments.

Tammy is an artist. She had to do 10 hours of painting for her art class to make up for the time she spent in Hawaii. Tammy was invited to join Sub-Dib, but she decided to decline. She feels she has so many things she wants to do. We are happy with her decision.

Kathleen's Seminary Graduation, May 1979 – Kathleen gave this talk at her Seminary Graduation

There was an old man walking at eventide. He came to a chasm deep and wide, and he stopped to build a bridge across this dangerous flood filled chasm. When asked why he stopped and built this bridge, he answered that following him was an

inexperienced youth and the bridge was being built for him. The old man obviously had a great love for this youth but I wonder if the young man was really strengthened by the construction of this bridge. The young man following behind might have received greater strength if he had been permitted to build his own bridge. The youth could have gained more real strength if the old man had stopped and posted a sign by the chasm which could have read:

This is a deep and wide chasm.
The water in it conceals rapids and dangers.
It is not safe to swim across.
You'd better build a bridge.
Here is a hammer, nails, and an ax and saw.
Material is in the woods to the right.
Get to it son and build yourself a safe bridge.

Too often one makes no progress when things are done for him, but he must do things for himself and learn from these experiences.

Yesterday my friends and I went hiking and we decided we wanted to hike on to see the top of the waterfalls in order to see the true beauty of them. If I would have had a quick and easy way to the top or even a nice blazed trail I know I wouldn't have appreciated it like I did when I had to struggle and really work to get the opportunity to see this waterfall.

In Seminary the past four years I've had seminary teachers who would let me build my own bridge but while building this bridge always be by my side in order to make sure I'd gain the most from each experience. I've really noticed this concert this year in seminary we've been taught to read our scriptures but not to just read them, to also pray and ponder over them. I remember Brother Pocaro telling us at the first of the year that we were in there to learn and gain a testimony of the Book of Mormon. So we were taught and had many discussions. It would have been impossible for him to say, "Well, since you've read your scriptures, here's a testimony for you." No, they would say as Moroni 10: 3-5.

I recently had an experience when I was having a trial and while discussing things with my Seminary teacher and struggling to know how to handle the situation, I felt like for a short while, He had given me the right answer. But when thinking about it I realized I had found the right answer and it was through his questions and concern that I had found the answer. I was given the opportunity to search within myself for the answer and make progression with this experience. He more or less posted a sign and let me build my own bridge.

Seminary has been a great experience and it always felt so nice to be able to walk over to seminary and relax without all the pressures that come with high school and have and opportunity during the school day to learn about the gospel. While reading over my journal I read what I had written about seminary many months ago and I feel it expresses my feelings. "I love my seminary class! It is so neat and I feel the spirit everyday. I go out of there wanting so much to be good and do good."

Testimony: There have been so many times in my life when I've wondered how I was ever going to accomplish the task I was supposed to do. But with the wisdom of my parents knowing that it was one of those steps I had to make, I was able to conquer it with the surety of their love and support.

June 1, 1979

Our 36th anniversary. It hardly seems possible. The promise Brother Lee gave us when we were married is certainly true. Each year has got even better. I always wonder how this is possible, but it is. We are grateful for the many many blessings we have been given.

Time has passed too quickly. We have been so blessed. It seems like it was yesterday. Membership in the LDS church has given us strength and guidelines. Without them I would be afraid to raise a family today. WE are able to have the best of everything for us and for our children, because the Lord has seen fit to restore the church at the time we are on the earth. Paul has been the ideal husband. I love him so very much and am proud to be his wife, to share life now.

June 17, 1979 – Father's Day

Today started off with an exciting telephone call from Yvonne and Lamar from Georgia. They are going to take the baby daughter of Lamar's brother. She is seven months old. Her mother is ill and unable to care for her. Yvonne and Lamar are excited to get her. They told dad the Becky is so happy she can't believe it. The baby was going to be placed in a home, so there is a possibility that they may get to adopt her. It will give Yvonne the baby she wants so bad and what a wonderful blessing for this little girl to go into their home.

Marilynn and Steve also called Dad at 6 am. In fact, he had just hung up from talking to one of them when the other one called. We are so happy for Marilyn and Steve, that they have their little son, Troy. He has brought so much happiness to them. We all fell in love with him when Marilyn had him home. His is such a happy good baby. Yvonne won't be blessed this way, for her little girl has been neglected, and will need much love and assurance. It seems somewhat of a miracle that Marilyn is expecting. Seems that they just had to wait for Troy to come to the earth another way. As soon as he was with the parents the Lord wanted him to have, He is allowing them to have children the natural way. How happy they are. He knows of their love for he is so content. We are so grateful for the two little spirits that the Lord has sent to our daughters.

Today is Father's day. Dad hasn't had anything special done for him. He has been to the MTC since a little after 6 this morning. It is now 6 pm and he still isn't home. It seems a wise move they have made in the new president to give him full time counselors. Seems it is a full time job. So for the past 4-1/2 years, Paul has had two full time jobs. He has loved the call and has loved working with President Pinegar. It has kept hi close to missionary work, which he loves.

Sunday, June 24, 1979

The Felt Family presented the sacrament meeting in our ward today. It was a busy day for Dad and I for we had been to the last mission conference at the MTC. Each of us spoke there and then came to the ward. This was a very special day. As a family, we were joining Yvonne and Lamar in a special fast for their new little daughter, Gianna. Each of the family members were deeply concerned and all joined in the fast. Jodie also

joined with us. John and Jackie were away on a buying trip and the children were here with us. They arrived in time for meeting.

We had talked to the children and planned for the meeting, but our fondest dreams could not have prepared us for the spirit and the talks they gave. I shed tears as each child spoke and shared family experiences. What a thrill to hear each of them express the appreciation and the love they have for each family member.

Jessie spoke on the unity and how we all cared enough for each other to fast and pray for them. She brought out the fact that when the need is there, each is willing to give and support the others. She expressed how that Tammy and Kathleen were not just her sisters, but were her best friends. She told of their love and appreciation for dad interviews and how they gave her strength and great love for her father. Tammy told how the daddy dates got started. Yvonne was having a daddy daughter date in Primary and Dad had to be out of town. He felt so bad at missing it, he took her out for a special evening just the two of them. Each of the other children then wanted a daddy daughter date. So a tradition had begun. He made it a point to take each child out once a month. Then Jessie and Kathleen learned if they invited the other one to go along on their date, they could get in on two of them. Tammy also expressed her love for her father and told that when we were in the mission field, Dad was interviewing his missionaries once each month. He started giving his children the personal interviews. Tammy told how the interview began and ended with prayer and because of this closeness with her father she could know and understand how our Heavenly Father loves us and hears and answers our prayers. It is special to have these memories.

Jessie's talk (in her own hand):

Pure hearts in a pure home are always in whispering distance of heaven. The family is the basic unit of the church, all the organizations and the programs of the church are centered around the gospel and it's doctrine to help strengthen and build the family.

The home is the first and most effective for children to learn the lessons of life, truth, honor, virtue, self-control, the value of education, honest work, and the purpose and privilege of life. Nothing can take the place of the home in rearing and teaching children. My parents have done many things in bringing us up which have helped us to learn and become a close family. We work together as a family instead of individually to help accomplish the needs of one another. When there is a special need, we unite our faith and prayers and fast for each other. Every morning as a family we read the scriptures and have family prayer and in the evenings we all get together and have a prayer.

FHE in our family is a must. Every Monday night the family gets together and has a lesson or an activity. I remember while we were in the mission we hardly ever saw dad because he was always traveling but he seemed to always make time to be with the family on Monday night.

Tammy's talk (in her own hand):

Daddy dates began in our house about 22 years ago. The primary was having their daddy-daughter date activity. My sister, Yvonne, was broken hearted when she found out that my dad was going to be out of town. My dad could see what a

disappointment this was to her. So he made a date with her and took her out to have a fun evening. Soon all of the other kids wanted their turn to have a date. Kathleen and Jessie figured that if they invited each other to their dates that they would have 2 dates a month.

The Daddy Dates was a beginning of a close relationship with our father. He would fill our dreams and needs and we came to know each other very well. This time together built a closeness between us. We knew of his love for us and knew we could go to him and he would listen and help us.

When we were in the mission field Dad started having a more formal interview with us all. As he would interview the

UNFINISHED!

ANOTHER WRITING OF THE SACRAMENT MEETING PROGRAM FROM AFTON:

...Jessie said that Kathleen and Tammy were not just her sisters but were her best friends.

Kathleen spoke on the importance of genealogy and the keeping of family histories. She told some stories from the family history and said when we think we are being tough, we should reread and be thankful for all our blessings. She mentioned that she had the opportunity to type up her grandparent's history and it gave her a great insight and respect for them. She said how proud she was of them, and for the service they gave the community. She said there had been countless times when the family have been there to help her when she had something she was trying to accomplish.

Tom came through with flying colors. He started off with them saying we have in the kitchen, "A family that prays together stays together." He told us that we pray in our home, but he would like to change these words a little and say a family that plays together stays together. He told of our family vacations and the closeness of the family and how much fun it is just being together; how in this way he has really come to know his brothers and sisters. He told of the experience of our trip to Pandallette, when we hit the cow. That Dad was unable to apply the brakes and we hit it at such force that the cow went onto the roof and on the trunk and walked away. He related it to the fact that we always have prayer before we start on a trip and we were blessed. (An interesting note to this: Yvonne was not at home when we went with Dad on this speaking engagement. About the time of the accident she became so worried about us and was calling all over to locate us.) Three weeks before a car had hit a cow in the same area and all in the car had been killed because the driver had quickly applied his brakes and the cow went through the windshield. The car that saw us hit came expecting to see us all dead but were surprised to see the only injury was Kathleen having a cut on her lip.

Ron talked and told of the support the family gave him on the mission; the letters he received and the love he felt from home. He told of some of the family traditions and the opportunity where we had special times together. He mentioned Christmas and the excitement he felt last Christmas after being away for the two years. I had combined all of the Christmas candles we have collected over the years on one tray with holly leaves and had it on the table for the Christmas breakfast. He mentioned this and the fun of seeing what everyone got. The meaning of the love he had for his parents and brothers and sisters. How he appreciated the opportunity of working and living with Larry.

John was the next speaker and time was running fast. I was afraid they would tell us they were sorry we would have to close the meeting before hearing from John and Dad.

John told of his love and pride in the family. Two of the experiences he mentioned hit tender places in my heart. He shared an experience that happened about 2 years ago in Lorado, Texas. He had been there looking over a possible store location and was driving along the road when he saw 2 missionaries on bicycles pumping along the same road. He stopped the car and got out to talk to them. After visiting them for a few minutes one Elder said, "I know you from some place." John asked him where he was from and it was in the middle eastern state where John had never been. John said, "Maybe you've seen me out to the mall when you were in the MTC." The Elder said no, he hadn't ever gone out to the mall. Then the Elder said, "What did you say your name was?" When John told him Felt he said, "That's it! That's where I have known you. Is your dad President Felt? I knew I had heard your voice before. You sound just like him." He had remembered Dad from the LMT. John then told the audience that he can't even get away from Dad's influence in a little border town or Lorado, Texas.

He then told of a missionary experience, when he got his second companion. He couldn't inspire the Elder and they were not doing the work. John fasted and prayed wondering what to do. As he closed his fast on a late Friday evening, he felt the answer come to him. He presented it to the Elder in the morning and they agreed to work on this plan. He told of receiving a letter from Dad the following Monday. Dad told him that he had come home from a trip on Friday evening to find me on my knees praying for I shared with him I had deep concern over John. Dad joined me in prayer and then took time to write a letter to John telling him of our concern. John was touched as were we, when we each heard of the other's feelings.

Dad was the closing speaker and bore testimony that the home can be a heaven on earth. He shared the meaning of the gospel and for the many who had influenced each of the children.

Mildred offered the closing prayer. She just opened and then became so choked up she had to gain composure before she could continue. She later expressed gratitude to me for being a member of the family.

Larry's opening prayer set the tone and the meeting carried in the same sweet manner.

Jodie, Mark and Jennifer sang the song, "*Where is Heaven.*" It touched everyone's hearts. The words of this song is so beautiful and their sweet voices caused many to shed a few tears. They were joining me. I shed many tears in the meeting, tears of joy, for these our children. How proud Paul and I are of each of them, and to hear each say I know the Gospel is true, was joy in itself. The only thing that would have made the meeting complete would have been to have Paul Ernest, Yvonne and Marilyn there. I wanted the people to know each of them, so in my remarks I told them about the three children that weren't at the meeting, about their children and their accomplishments.

July 5, 1979

For the past 3 days we have been with John and Jackie on a house boat on Lake

Powell. The beauty and splendor of the inlets we went into cannot be described. We visited as we rode through them and we remarked: This should be one of the 7 wonders of the World. The deep canyon cliffs jutting high into the sky, straight as if they had been chiseled off. The colors were spectacular. The stripes on the rocks are not what you normally see. These were running up and down the rocks from the top to the water with many colors from dark blacks and browns to pale pinks. It was breathtaking. I think this has been the most relaxing vacation we have taken. Being confined to the house boat and John's boat made it so our life centered on the water. Water is so relaxing and soothing that we all enjoyed it.

The children all had a ball water skiing. John is so patient and kind, wanting everyone to have a good time. It looks fun and exciting. Tammy was thrilled to be able to get up on the water skis this trip. She was able to ski alone or double.

The first morning out, dad and I took the little kids and climbed a big rock that we were parked by. It was fun. Jodie, Mark and Jennifer gathered beautiful rocks until they had their shirts as full as they could of rock. Dad went down ahead of us. When we arrived at the house boat we found Jackie there alone. I handed the children to her from the rocks and then grabbed the side of the boat planning to climb in. I found I would push the boat away from the rock and did not have the strength in my arms to pull myself up. I went around the boat on a bumper holding on for dear life trying to find a place I could climb aboard. But try as I may I couldn't get on. Jackie and Jodie threw the little life raft that Mark floated in the bay with. I managed to hang on the side of the boat and get myself in the raft. I felt safe and comfortable. I could now laugh about it, but I'm afraid I just about gave Jackie a nervous breakdown. I worked myself up to the back of the boat where there looked like a small step, but still didn't have the strength in my arms to pull up on the boat. I found I could push myself over toward the rock and get my hands on it. I finally managed to get back on the rock. I was praying all the time and feel I was blessed to get back on the rock.

Later, as the children all dived off the top of the house boat into the deep water, time to climb aboard was interesting to me. For more of them could get on the houseboat without Dad pulling them on. It was good for me to see. I had felt so dumb when I couldn't get aboard myself.

When they were out boating and two boats were out, Kathleen was standing waiting for a chance to try on the water skis. John kept telling her to wait, that this was not the right place. He turned suddenly and she screamed as she fell in. Jessie and Golden Tunenell (he is 16 and we took him along) jumped in the water from the other boat to get her. It turned out beautiful. She was not hurt and she had 2 rescuers who jumped in to help her. We were proud of Jessie and Golden and appreciated their willingness.

Sunday, July 8, 1979

Dad was to be released last Sunday from the MTC. They have asked him to stay on for a few weeks until President Joe Christiansen can get a new counselor. He was looking forward to a few weeks, but it is much better this way. He is so restless when he doesn't have a busy life. He wants to be in the car and just drive, drive, nowhere special, just to be going.

Sunday, the 1st of July, we were invited to come to a BYU Stake to see President Pace. He invited Dad to be an alternate High Councilman to be over the missionary training program. They know of our upcoming trip to Israel in January. So Dad accepted. But a little disappointment not to be used in our own stake. We've been married 36 years and gone to the same ward not more than 7-1/2 of these years.

As a family, we have been invited to speak to a Youth Conference next Friday evening, July 13th. Roger Felt from Layton, a long time special friend and second cousin to Paul called us. We have just presented the program in Sacrament Meeting so everyone is excited to do it again.

July 13, 1979

O'Larry's birthday. WE had planned to be speaking to a youth conference tonight. But after they looked closer at their plans and opportunities to keep the youth happy for tow days on the banks of Utah Lake, they changed their plans. How wise they were. They didn't plan on any boating. There isn't anything there, unless you boat. The lake is too polluted to swim in. So Larry and Ron didn't come in. We had just been with them overnight in Hurricane. Gave them both some new shoes for their birthdays.

They are doing a great job on the house in Hurricane. Our V.A. loan didn't go because we wouldn't write a letter saying it was our primary home. It seems little things constantly come up to test your honesty. We need the loan. This question arose. But how grateful I am that Dad was not even tempted. He was angry at the banker for suggesting it, for he, the banker, has known all the time it was a second home.

The boys are fixing up the trailer so we can sell it. Paul was able to arrange for a loan from Walker Bank to carry us until we sell the trailer home there.

July 17, 1979

We have been given a special opportunity being at the Language Training Mission. It is a big job for Paul, but the side benefits are great. We are able to have dinner with General Authorities and their wives on Tuesday evenings, then go into a devotional and hear them speak.

This has been one of those special chapters in our lives; to get to visit them in this small gathering. To feel the beautiful spirit that surrounds them and to hear them share some of their personal lives.

At the Mission President Seminar that we were able to be involved in I loved the expression Brother Assey made in regards to his wife. He said, "My Colleen knows the scriptures as well as any woman I have ever known." His words, "My Colleen" were what touched me.

We were invited into Salt Lake at the Church Office Building to have dinner with the General Authorities and the new mission Presidents and their wives. We were honored to be seated next to Sterling W. Sill. I have loved the sermonettes he has given over the radio for years and it was a special opportunity to be able to tell him personally.

Also at our table, a round table across from us was Le Grande Richards. He looked around the table and said, "I'm Le Grande Richards, who are you?" looking directly at Paul. Paul introduced himself and reminded Brother Richards they had

worked together on the Indian Committee, to which Brother Richards put his hand up on his head and said, "Oh sure, I know you Paul, but you've changed the color of your hair."

This dinner was a special experience for us. Another of the benefits that came because of Paul's call at the LTM.

We found this (letter) on our bed the day Tammy left to go to girl's camp. July 1978

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thank you for all you do for me. I love you so much. I feel like I am the luckiest person in the world to have parents like you who are so kind and always wanting to help. Thanx for all the help you gave me when I was getting ready for camp.

I LOVE YOU. Tammy

July 20, 1979

We have been down to one child all week. Jessie has been the only one at home. It has been lonesome without the others. Tom has been to a debate clinic in California. Kathleen and Tammy have been to girl's camp. Kathleen was there as an assistant director for our ward and Tammy as a Junior Counselor to another ward. Report come back from our ward President Sister Todd, of how much Kathleen was appreciated by the camp director.

Jessie had heart break Friday, July 20th as she was coming up 9th East just above the school. She ran into the car ahead of her. Lucky for her the other driver was not injured, nor was she, but Ron's car that she was driving had much injury. The grill, bumper, and lights. She has been so worried about the car. It's too bad. I am so grateful she was injured and knows the car can be replaced, but bodies can't. I feel she had someone watching over her.

July 21, 1979

Tom has finished up his debate clinic and has arrived in Hurricane after driving all night. Paul talked to him on the phone and they plan to have Ron take them boating in Southern Utah. Their plans were changed because of a heavy rain storm and they started home. Paul Myers, whose car they were in, and Chris Jenson had been driving and were tired. Good man Tom, who doesn't have a driver's license offered to drive. He was at the wheel and about Fillmore he fell asleep and ran Paul Myers VW Bug into a sign post. Lucky for all of them it was a post and not another car or truck head on. The bumper of the car is ruined and the front fender. Again we are grateful that they were not injured. Falling asleep is so often the cause of serious accidents. So Tom has come home with a mountain of debt; a grateful boy that it was not more serious.

Kathleen and Tammy arrived home from camp. The first thing they did was run to get into a warm shower. They have had such fun. We are grateful for the program of the church that gives them leadership opportunities.

My cousin, Grace Harris Fullmer died Friday, July 20, 1979 in Twin Falls. I have felt so close to Grace. She has been like a sister to us. Her mother died when she was about 8 years old and she spent most of her growing up years in our home. My mother was really the only mother she has known. After she married and was having children,

she felt she couldn't have her baby unless Aunt Ellen was with her. One time Mother decided she had plenty of help and said Grace was crying for Aunt Ellen and couldn't have the baby until she arrived. Mother rushed to her home and was again with Grace as she had her baby.

I so wanted to go to Twin Falls for the services, but LaVerne was leaving here today (Sunday) at 2 pm and not returning until Tuesday afternoon. I felt I couldn't be gone that long.

We are expecting our son Paul Jr. this next week. We don't know the reason for the visit but delighted he is coming.

Dad has been at the MTC since 7 am this morning. It has been a demanding call, but a very rewarding one as he works with the branch presidents and missionaries. As I have mentioned earlier it has many great fringe benefits. The new president, Joe Christianson has asked him to stay until he gets a new full time counselor. I'm sure President is glad to have Paul and President Bunker there to help him in the many things they have had to handle.

I'm working on a committee to raise money for the American Family Movement. Hope somehow we can raise the balance of the money needed to pay for it. This assignment has come from being selected as one of the finalists for the Utah County Fund. It has been a good experience for me. I have given service to the church, but not much to the community. So I guess it is time I did.

July 24, 1979

The celebration of the Pioneers coming into the Utah Valley. There was a big parade in Salt Lake. I watched it with my mother at her home on TV. It was a quiet day for us. Jessie was the only one at home and either Paul or I stayed close to the telephone, for we were expecting a call from our son Paul Ernest who has come into San Francisco from Perth, Australia.

July 25, 1979

Paul Ernest called this morning. He will be coming into Salt Lake this afternoon. We will pick him up at the airport and plan to take him up to John and Jackie's to see them before coming home to Provo.

July 26, 1979

A business associate of Paul Ernest's is here with him from Perth, Australia. Rod Hukker. They are checking out possibilities of opening a travel agency in Perth, centering around tours aimed for returned missionaries. They also came with opals and diamonds to sell. Rod had been to South Africa before coming here to purchase diamonds. I believe they thought John would purchase them. When visiting John they found he could purchase the diamonds 10% cheaper than they can sell it.

July 27, 1979

Jackie and children were here overnight. John is in New York on business. It was like Grand Central Station all night. Jackie and children were asleep in the den.

Paul Ernest and Rod Hukker in the boy's room. The girls in their room and Tom in the play room. Larry and Ron had planned to come in on Saturday morning, but about 12:30 am Larry arrived from Southern Utah. He picked up some cushions from the play room furniture and went up to the storage room to sleep. About 1:30 am Ron and his friend, Lynn Hall, came in from Southern Utah. We had them get a sleeping bag and they stretched out on the play room floor. Tom moved to the living room sofa. We wondered if we would ever be able to go to sleep. It wasn't long, and the house settled down.

Fourteen around the table for breakfast. Surprising that we still had a stack of hot cakes left over when all had their fill. Seemed most of my day was spent preparing food. I guess this is the mother's role when there are many mouths to feed.

Just as we were preparing for bed, Dad mentioned that he felt Cory Olson was wanting to talk with him. With so many around it was impossible and he said he was being like my father was, not too anxious to visit him for he knows the purpose. We like Cory and can see that Jessie would be happy with him. It will be interesting to see what happens. She has been dreaming of the trip to Israel with the family. Now there is a great possibility that she won't be going. If she chooses not to go and to be married, we will give her our blessings, at the present time he has told her he will wait. But then Kevin was going to wait for her to have her semester in Hawaii. She could tell by the few letters and few calls she got from him things were cooling. Then she began to feel the same way. We shall just have to wait to see what the time between now and January brings. I've asked her not to plan a wedding during the Christmas holidays. The will be busy enough without that.

They had a lovely dinner at the Sky Room at BYU to honor President Pinegar and Lynn and Paul and Gary Bunker. All were released with a vote of thanks. Those who attended were the Missionary Committee and their wives. It was a lovely afternoon and is always a thrill to be in the presence of so many General Authorities and their wives. President Christianson has asked both Paul and Gary to stay on as his counselors; for how long we don't know.

Paul had received a call from President Pace to be a High Counselor in the BYU 10th Stake; to be in the Stake Mission Presidency. Only through this call did we find out they want Paul to stay at the Missionary Training Center until December. He has taken on a demanding teaching schedule, preparing for Israel. We wonder how he will be able to do it all.

Wednesday, August 1st, 1979

We held a family home evening last Monday evening. Paul Jr. and his friend, Rod Hukker were with us. Also Mildred and Charlie and their two boys, Chaska and Bill. Paul Jr. has wanted pictures of Charlie all dressed up in his Indian Dancing outfit. So Charlie dressed up and posed for many pictures.

Just as I was getting the final items ready for dinner, I heard a news cast of a close friend being killed by a fall from a horse. Bud Nelson from Cedar City. We were in a study group with them when we lived in Cedar City. His wife Mary May and I were best friends. In fact, of all the friends I made there she is the special one to me. He was a horseman from almost the time he could walk and ran a large ranch. The horse had slipped in the muddy ground on a ravine and had landed on him. He was killed instantly.

I have talked with her and will visit the next time I go South.

Paul Jr. left for L.A. last night. I drove him into the airport. This day seems rather sad for we were to be flying out to the Smith Family Reunion being held at Nauvoo, Illinois the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th. Yvonne had got us free passes for she works at Eastern Airlines. Paul arrived and we didn't know how long he would be here or any plans. In fact he left his business partner here at our home for a week.

We have returned the passes to Yvonne and will hope we will be able to use them. Seems we cannot make plans ahead. They just don't work out.

I drove Paul's partner, Rod Hucker, into Salt Lake for there was a bus strike on. I invited mother to go for a ride and she was up and ready to go. She is so pleased over any little kindness. It is wonderful for her and for us that she has her home.

August 11, 1979

A week has passed. Seems all I have done all week is talk on the phone trying to get ladies to help with donations to the Family Monument. We are having a program on Friday, August 17th and are selling tickets. If they won't buy a ticket we are asking for a donation for the Monument. They first planned if every family in Utah County donated \$1.00 it would be paid for. They have \$15,000 to go. I hope there are that many families in Provo and Orem area. It may even out for those who don't donate and the ones who buy the \$5.00 family pass.

It has proved to be a big job. I had declined to be chairman but seem to be it anyways. Three women have just called and quit, leaving two of us, and the general chairman of the county that has really worked hard on it.

Our boys, Larry and Ron are building a home in Hurricane Utah and living in our trailer home there. Seems a waste for us to pay \$150.00 a month for that place for we haven't been able to get down there. Paul has been down last week and feels he needs to spend time there this week. Seems he would rather travel alone now the boys are there. I guess I slow him down, for I can't go at his long hard hours. He drives hard and long, rushing to get everything done. I won't be able to go this week because of this program I'm working on. I guess it is just as well I keep myself out of the home and building ideas. I seem to suggest things that aren't wanted. I believe I shall just let Paul and the boys do it as they like. Rather than have conflict.

It was Mission Conference at the MTC today. Paul spoke and did very well. President Christiansen has many strengths and is doing a great job. It isn't easy to follow someone like President Pinegar. He was such a great man.

August 19, 1979

Sunday mornings seem to be the main time I settle down to write in my journal. The house is busy from morning till night with so many coming and going. We seem to be a stopping off place for everyone. One of Kathleen's friends from Holbrook was with us over Friday night.

Sunday morning seems to be the only time I have to settle down for a few minutes to myself to write my thoughts.

We have had much company and next week will have more. Being in Provo and

so close to campus people don't realize how many come.

Tom is going out for football and is excited. I wish I were. He has had the cracked pelvis bone and it worries me. But I guess I have to stop being a protective mother.

Yvonne and family are going to visit Marilyn and Steve next week. I would so like to go but it looks like Dad will be released from the MTC in September and he doesn't feel he can be away then. So I guess we'll stay home. I could go without him but I will do this in November when Marilyn's baby arrives.

Ron's birthday. Seems the past 22 years have passed so quickly and so much has happened. We are grateful for the joy he has brought into our lives. His birth was an assurance that we were to have more children, for at the time it didn't look like he would be born and the doctors told me I couldn't carry any more children. In a priesthood blessing given me when it looked like I was losing him at 6 months I was told all would be well and if I had the children the Lord had for us I would have no more problems. This blessing has come to pass. Ron was born normally. He lived and four other children have come to us. Normal, strong, healthy. We count our blessings and are so proud of each of them.

Ron is in Southern Utah. We hope this is a happy day for him. We are very proud of him.

The past month has been so busy working on the program for the Family Monument. It seemed to fly. As far as attendance to the program was concerned, everything went wrong. The article didn't get in the paper until the night of the program. I'm sure many were reading about it as the program was going on. Looks like we will have made about \$1000.00 for it, which isn't much when you consider the hours of work and conversing we did. We tried to call at every house in Provo, but know there were many that were missed.

It was a good experience for me. Disappointing when I called so many of my friends to help and was turned down so many times.

It's over. The program itself was great. Too bad there were so few to hear it.

September 5, 1979

Paul was released from the MTC in Conference today. It was sad to know this part of our lives was coming to an end. It has given us both many special activities and blessings.

September 16, 1979

Yesterday was a special day. we got up early and rushed to get ready for the unveiling of the Family Monument on the grounds of the County Square. They had all of the family members that had been nominated for family of the year sit together on some grandstand seats.

The program was beautiful and the unveiling very touching. I was proud and grateful that I had a small part in raising funds for it. At the time I was canvassing and working to get a program, there were times that I wished that I had just gone out and got a job, then donated money to it. But as I sat there and listened and felt the beautiful spirit there, I was proud for the little I had done toward it.

It will stand on this ground as a perfect monument to the American Family. Dr. Virginia Cutler who conceived the idea said she felt that Utah County was the center of the world for outstanding families. It has been an honor to have been among the 11 families from Utah County, and I shall look and be proud of this beautiful piece of art that we now have in Provo, because of Virginia and her associates.

After lunch we went to the BYU game against Weber State. It wasn't much of a contest. In the evening the girls and I went to hear the Women's Conference at the Marriot Center. It was inspiring. President Kimball was in the hospital so Sister Kimball read his talk for him.

Sister Cannon talked of what kind of women will our granddaughters be. She told of when her children were little she was tying up the pig tails, bows and sashes, and now they are growing up they are tying up the bathroom, the car and the purse string. I couldn't help to identify. How true this is. They grow up so quickly. She also told us to not be weary of doing good. She told of Mary's song in Luke. Also that Jesus was born as the scriptures had foretold. Often children point the way. She said to look to tomorrow. Think of tomorrow today. A girl is the only thing God has created that can become a woman. We need to know and understand ourselves.

Sister Shumway told us that a woman does not need to stay in her house to be in her home. We should have proper standards and opportunities for service. She told a story of a young mother who came up to Sister Kimball when she was at a conference with her husband. The girl said, "Oh Sister Kimball, you are so beautiful and organized and peaceful. My husband tells me that is how I should be too." Sister Kimball put her arm around her and told her to never mind. "Do the best that you can. I wasn't that way at your age either." We must choose which leader to follow.

The Lord lives. He cares and lets us show him that we do too and reach out and grow and develop into women he would want us to be.

Sister Barbara Smith said a woman is to walk beside the men. Not in front, not in back and they were to walk together. We as women should realize that homemaking is in reality the most important job in the world. All others are second to it. She suggested we grow spiritually by studying the scriptures each day. God know the importance of women.

President Tanner said the challenges of women are great. A mother to consider was Mary, the mother of Jesus. You can become a great woman. A Latter Day Saint Woman. Go and seek motivation.

October 11, 1979

It has been so long since I have taken time to write. As I look at the date of the last entry, it has been almost a month.

Mother, Ellen P. Harris, was out with me in the afternoon of Friday, September 14th. We drove to the store and to A&W for a root beer. She seemed a little tired when we got home, but this was not unusual. At 3:30 in the afternoon the girls helping us with her called me and I went down and stayed with her. As the afternoon and evening wore on her temperature went from 98 degrees to 103.6. She was burning up but her hands seemed cold.

From this event it has been necessary to give her 24 hour care. Each of us;

LaVerne, Lola and I took turns. Mary arrived a week ago and has been staying longer shifts.

Lola, LaVerne and Mary have been out visiting rest homes. They knew my feelings about a rest home. I have been against it. So no one had said anything to me. Then each in their own way began to put pressure on me. I believe Leonard would have gone with me, but I have made the mistake of giving in to them. So mother was moved to the Central Utah Rest Home. I could not be there when they took her in.

I don't know when I have experienced such a difficult week. I have felt I have betrayed her, for she has had a fear of a rest home. She has not been able to understand people who have children putting their parents in a home.

I believe I have been through worse than if she had died for I feel I have let her down. I have shed so many tears and been so upset that my family could not understand me. If it had been Mary who had gone apart, all would have understood.

Then when I told my children over the decision, Tammy, a very mature 16 year old said, "But Mother, you know she doesn't want that!" I knew, for so many times she had told me just that. But as Paul told me, you can't fight your family. If we had not been going to Israel for 6 months I would not have allowed it. I should have been more diligent in finding help for her.

October 14, 1979

It is going to be a beautiful day.

Just had a call from Steve with the news that Marilyn had a baby girl last night at 1:08 am. She weighed 4 pounds, 6 ounces. She had a good doctor that watched her carefully. The baby had a strong heart and he was saying it is a boy. As he kept monitoring the heart and the contractions the heart began to slow down. She was hemorrhaging for she had lost her water 10 days ago. He took her to surgery and did a C section. The baby is an 8 month baby and is fully developed. Steve said she looks like a Felt baby with little fat cheeks.

How grateful we are to our Heavenly Father for her and for Marilyn. Steve kept thanking us for our prayers. We are so grateful for the opportunity we have of being able to put names in the temple and having so many others join us in prayer.

As we were in the temple on Friday morning, both of us in the prayer circle, I felt a peace that I would be well. Along with the worry of Marilyn I've had the worry of mother, not being able to accept putting her in a rest home. This morning I can see the wisdom of all of it, for without her being there I wouldn't be able to go to Marilyn. The Lord moves in a mysterious way. His wonders to perform. How grateful I am for the knowledge I have of Him and that He lives.

October 20, 1979

This has been a busy week. We are preparing for Jessie's wedding. She has been making the bridesmaid's dresses and trying to work and date. Suddenly things are piling up on her.

I'm going to set everything else aside and help her to be ready. There is so much still to do on her dress. This has been a major project. She saw the dress in the store for \$550.00. So we bought material and she's made her own pattern and the dress. It is

beautiful! There has been so much hand work. All the lace has had to be cut out then hand sewed. It is the kind of a dress every girl dreams of having. I hope that Kathleen and Tammy will want to wear it too.

The bridesmaid dresses have been a difficult pattern and we have ended up taking them all apart and starting the tops over again. They have turned out beautiful.

Our hall at the church has been a worry to me about the decorations. We have decided to let Provo Craft and Novelty come in and do all of the decorating. They will also come in and take all the decorations down.

I had planned to have the cookies made and brought at BYU and now I find they do not make the Cherry Chews anymore. We need some pink cookies. So I guess the answer is for me to get busy and do some baking.

Jessie has always wanted to have a banana drink at her wedding. So I have made batches of the drink and 24 bottles of a lemon lime drink to mix with it.

When news of Stephanie's birth to Marilyn and Steve came, my first thoughts were to get on the plane and run to Dallas. Jessie was so sweet, she told me to go and she would finish things up for the wedding. As it worked out, the baby had to stay at the hospital and Marilyn had to stay a few extra days and we talked on the phone and I would go when the baby was to come home. Thanks to Yvonne, we had a free flight with the airlines.

We have been so proud of Jessie and Cory. They are determined to be worthy of the temple marriage. He brings her home at 10 or 10:30 each night. We are so proud and grateful.

October 26, 1979

The morning began early at 6 am when Jessie, Dad and I had breakfast together. She was nervous and frightened. It was a special time for us as we had her for the last time alone before her marriage.

The marriage was beautiful in the Salt Lake Temple. As Dad and I sat and waited in one of the sealing rooms, we remembered the feeling we too had, when we were in this same temple for our marriage.

Jessie looked radiant and Cory was all smiles. The ceremony was beautiful. Cory's two grandmothers and one grandfather were there. They were so proud. As we were getting the things ready to take Jessie up to the sealing room, one of the temple workers asked me if this was my first daughter to be married. When I told her this was our 6th temple marriage and the 8th child to be endowed, she put her arm around me and said, "You are to be complemented." How proud I was, how grateful I am, and feel so blessed.

They took pictures out on the temple grounds and we had a lovely luncheon at the Lion House. Cory's father hosted the wedding breakfast. It was such a nice place to hold the breakfast. The reception was beautiful. So many friends came and this is always so rewarding.

It was a beautiful day from early morning to late at night. I'm sure a day that will always be special in their lives.

November 1, 1979

Jessie's birthday and she is on her honeymoon.

I flew to Dallas on Thursday after the wedding to be with Marilyn. It worked out so well, for they were able to bring the baby home on Saturday and I was so glad to be there to help then. Little Troy is so darling and such a happy baby. He sure knows that he is loved. When Steve walks into the house Troy's eyes light up and off he goes to be with his dad. Steve is such a good father and husband. I was glad to be in their home and feel the love between them and the thrill it is for them to have this little girl. They feel they had to wait for Troy's birth before they could have other children. I feel he will always know and feel the great love and pride they have for him. He is indeed a lucky little boy, and they are so blessed to have him. Two children in one year, 8-1/2 months apart.

Tammy was nominated and taken in to the National Honor Society at Provo High School. Dad attended the meeting with her. How proud we are of this accomplishment. November 2, 1979 should be an important day for her. At this time her grade point average is 3.9.

Tom had an exciting day on November 3. He was in a debate tournament and he and Jordan Kimball won the 1st place award. They got a big trophy, that they will share. How exciting this was for all of us. At last, Tom is finding his is smart and can do whatever he wants to do.

I returned home from Dallas. It took all day to travel by air. My flights were from Dallas to Atlanta, to St. Louis then to Salt Lake. I had seven hours in St. Louis airport and read the book, Exodus. I was so happy to finally arrive in the Salt Lake airport and see Paul waiting for me. How good it is to be home. I walked in and the girls had the house so clean, everything was shining.

November 7, 1979

LETTER FROM YVONNE

Dear Mom and Dad,

Once I started writing this I felt like I could go on and on. I sure would like a copy of this family history. I'd love to read what the others wrote. Becky has been asked to be Gretel in the play Hansel and Gretel. The boy playing Hansel is one year older than Becky and has hair the same color. I sure wish you both could be here to see her in the play.

Eastern Airlines is going to start flying to SLC in December. I was so excited when I heard this news! I want you both to plan a trip out here as soon as we can do it.

My earliest childhood memory is being pulled in a cardboard box over the snow by my mother and father. I was about five years old at the time and my family was living in Canada.

I also have memories of a very pretty, young, dark haired mother reading stories to us. One story I remember was "Old Yeller". It was a long story and she would read a little bit each night.

When I was about seven I was traveling with my family from Provo to Cedar City. We were on a freeway and my father was going about 60 miles an hour. I thought I was

opening the car window to throw my gum out and instead I opened the car door. I remember wildly grabbing at my sister Marilyn. She was four years younger than me and she always wanted to follow me everywhere I went. But, this was one time she didn't want to follow me! I received a cut in the back of my head and gravel burns all over my body. I was in a lot of pain and I remember the burning sensation even today. I asked my family to pray for me and ask Heavenly Father to make the pain go away. I had no doubt whatsoever that Heavenly Father would answer the prayer. As soon as my family began praying the pain left me. It started at my head and swept down the rest of my body. I'll never forget that feeling. I received a testimony at a young age that Heavenly Father answers prayers!

Sunday, November 25, 1979

Tammy and I gave the lesson to her MIA laurel class. We chose to give it on journals.

Tammy reviewed an article we have on journal writing, and did an excellent job. You know she was well prepared. Everything was outlined and in order.

She told of the importance of writing your testimony in your journal and she read in her own journal the first testimony she had written down when she was 13 years old. Then each year she read her testimony. In doing so she could see, and each of us there could see how her strength had become stronger and how each year she could, with more conviction in bearing testimony, that the gospel was true.

What a thrill for me to sit and hear her. Had I not already been sold on keeping a journal I would have wanted to run home and start one.

My part was simple. I used my Felt Family Logs to read them little stories of Tammy, Jessie, Kathleen and Ron. Little things that would have been forgotten if I had not written them down.

November 26, 1979

This has been a very hard week for Paul. He has the pressure of so many new preparations and a block class of graduate students in Old Testament. He hasn't taught this class for so many years and now to have a class that moves so fast. He is getting snowed under.

On top of all this, this year of all years is the time for the student evaluations. He has always had such high evaluations, now he is worried about them. The pressure of the extra class for Israel orientation and the pressure of so much new preparation is getting to him.

To add to it is the pressure of getting the Hurricane home completed. This has caused us to have some of our first major differences. I must back off, for I can see he has all the worries he can take without my complaints. Each tells me it is my home, but when I offer an idea or opinion of what I would like it is brushed aside and said it cannot be done, or won't be done. I must leave it alone. I can see Paul has all he can handle.

November 27, 1979

We are excited Tammy may be able to get college credit for her classes in Israel. Up to 8 hours, which will be good. She will also be getting high school credit. I hope it can be arranged for Tom to get it. How I hope this trip abroad will help him discover and develop a study habit that he can excel. He has the brains, only he needs to learn that he does. His grade point may be too low for the credit, but we shall try anyway.

I feel so good about my mother. LaVerne is beginning to feel as I do and now wants to bring her home. We have found girls to help out with her. All seems to be working out so well.

I have been keeping her name in the temple and feel we are feeling the blessings of the faith and prayers of the many who attend the temple. If all goes well, we will bring her home on December 8th or 9th. It will make it a busy time for me for I will be responsible for her until we leave for Israel. LaVerne and Jean are going to California for the holidays. How thrilled I am she can again be at home, for she has had a fear of rest homes and never wanted to be in one. I wish she could be blessed and sleep away. She is ready to go and after she gets home she will be so appreciative to be there and to be in her own bed. I'm sure that one of these nights our father, John E will come and take her with him. If this happens while I am away I will be able to accept it, for I believe I did my mourning when we had to take her to the rest home. I went to pieces and could not accept it. It has been hard to accept, so I feel now that in part I have realized what it will mean if she passes while I am away the next six months. I plan to write her a letter and include in it her history. If she should pass away while we are gone there would be something from me for the family to share.

December 9, 1979

LaVerne, Jean, Paul and I went to the rest home to check mother out. We had taken so many things over Jean and Paul had much to carry out. It is wonderful that she can be at home. I would have loved to have had a camera to take a picture of her when Christie Lamp came in to see her. Mother called out with joy and smiled all over. How wonderful to have her in her own home.

Robert and Leonard are very unhappy with us, but they don't have her care. I will care for her until we leave then LaVerne will have it. I know this is worrying her. She found 3 good girls to help out, so we feel grateful to her.

Uncle Ruche died last Sunday evening. His services were held on Thursday, December 8th. Very nice. Reed Harris, his son, gave a beautiful tribute to his father. I was very touched as each of his children came to me and told me how often he said, "Of all the grandchildren, Afton was like their mother." Jessie L. Harris; what a beautiful tribute. There is no one I would rather be more like than her.

Tom has been doing well in Dehote. I believe he is finding he has a brain and that he can use it to good advantage. We have two beautiful trophies he has won.

On a minute's notice today, Paul's class in Sunday School has cancelled out so Tom will give a talk and Tammy the Sacrament talk.