

A Few Thoughts of My Life as Requested by My Two Daughters.

BY NORMA LOUISE FELT

Norma Louise Felt Hunter Gray Martin & Burt -- Born In Springville, Utah March 12, 1897.

I was the sixth child of David P. Felt and Adeline Spiers, Felt. All the first children (5) were born in Provo. Father owned a Store and Printing Co. and his brother Harry was a partner. My earliest recollection after we moved to Springville was when my sister Vera took me riding in a baby-buggy, it had a hole in the bottom and I had to sit so to miss it. The kids called me "skinny" and it made ^{Vera} vera mad. The reason I was skinny was because I had Measles and whooping cough when 5 months old and nearly died. Dad now owned a Store in Springville, he had it going pretty good when he was called to go on a Mission to the Southern States for 2 years. His mother had instigated the Call. It left the family living on meager rations as Vernon, the oldest had the responsibility of working, but somehow we managed to get food.

When Dad returned he bought a Newspaper Publishing Co. in Farmington, the Argus Daily. We moved to Salt Lake on 9th North and 2nd West. Dad and my brother drove to Farmington with the horse and buggy, or took the Bamberger RR. Dad had passes to Lagoon and it was a happy as well as an all day event to go to Lagoon. I remember getting a marble stuck in my throat, my mother dangled me by my feet over the porch railing and jolted it out, so saved my life. Time to start School, the Washington and had to walk a mile to get there. On a snowy blizzard day coming home from school I got blown in a snow-drift and couldn't get out, I could hardly breath, but some-how I knew my mother would miss me and find me so I waited, she came and pulled me out just in time, so she saved my life again. Another hazard event was when it was reported a train wreck near our home. They said it spilled Chocolate Bars all over the ground. My brothers went to find some, I followed, un-be-known to anyone. It was getting dark now and I got lost. I fell in an open sewer ditch, so smelly and I was emerged up to my arm-pits. I held on to the bank frantically, and again knew my mother would find me. Several neighbors were out with lanterns looking for me, but it was my dear mother who found me and dragged me out. I was glad to get home and into a tub of hot water in the kitchen. Then in the night a sad thing happened, my mother became very sick, they called the doctor, which was Dr. Mary Silver, my father's mother. She said it was a mis-carry and she put the two baby twins in a 2 quart jar of alcohol. When I looked at them I felt a pang of remorse, "my fault." I had caused it by getting lost the night before.

My father and mother took me to San Francisco to the World Fair in 1915. He got passes representing the Press Association. It was a great experience, I climbed up to the tower)

of the Tower Of Jewells, an exhibit covered with 2 inch sparkling jewels. I was the first female who had done it so they presented me with a Jewel as a souvenir.

At 16 I had my first visit to the dentist. Only one cavity. At that time I contacted Chicken Pox. My cousin Glenna was the only one with whom I could associate as she had had the Pox. How glad I was to have her company. We had started dating a little by then and had 'boy talk'. Soon I was up and around again and I was glad to see one of the boys I really liked, Fred Camomile, 4 years older than I. He took me to a Party and when we came home we sat on the porch and he told me how much he had missed me and he realized he was in love with me and wanted me to marry him. My father was laying in the hammock on the porch and over-heard Fred. He jumped up and told him I was too young and he had better not come and see me any more until I grew older. I felt terrible, but later on I was glad he

made me with. My early childhood recalls a very close association with my family, Renee and I were almost inseperable, preferred our association with each other to the neighbor.s. and my brothers were very good to us, I tried to please Vera, when I did something she approved of she called me "her prescious pride" This I strived for. We had a horse and went riding on him at times.

Father build us a play-house and we made a piano out of a 5 gal oil can which we treasured very much. We got a phone in our home, the first I had every heard of and every time it rang we ran in the house to see if it was Dad, it was a real novelty.

I had a girlfriend named Pearl Smith. One day we were near a construction camp and saw a tent pitched there, printed on it was Smith & Adams, Pearl told me it was here's as her name was Smith so we pulled it down and dragged it to her house. We had a scare when a police man came later to claim it.

On my 10th Birthday mother told me to invite some friends to a party, well I decided to get up in class, rather than send invitations and invited the whole school room to come. They all came 40 or more and when we got home my mother was frantic. She only had punch. and cookies for about 10, but we had fun anyway.

Father started a Job Printing Office in the Felt Bldg. in Salt Lake so we decided to move closer in Town, and get away from trouble we had in North Salt Lake.

The time came now to move away to another house, 8th So. 1st West. Mother had a great many heart-aches to leave behind. We also had happy memories. Our friends were ^{many and} great to have to separate from, we loved the Ward, Dad had been the Choir Leader and had featured us in the highlights of many events. Mother had been in the St. Marks Hospital a long time and memories of coming in to see her on the way home from School to pick up goodies she had saved for us from her lunch. But now we are in a new neighborhood, the 4th Ward. We soon made new friends. One friend I made was the boy who delivered fresh fruit and vegetables to us two or three times a week. Mother sent me out to pick them out as he always gave me an extra measure. His name was Morris Warshaw, (the big Grand Central Market King at this time) He took me dancing and other places. He met my neighbor at the Ward Dance, Inez Williams, She was going with Ed Burt (who later on turned out to marry me) My Dad didn't approve of my going with a Jew, and I guess is the reason we broke up. My oldest brother Vernon passed away leaving Gladys and Billy, it was a very sad occasion. I decided to look for work. I went to Auerbach Dept. Store. I was hired, only for the Summer as I had to return to Jr. High School. I was put in the Hosiery Dept. I gave it all I had and it turned out I led in sales for the 2 months, and Mr. Auerbach asked me if I would like to work in the Office. I told him I had to return to School. He contacted my Dad and told him he would assure him I could learn more in the Office than I could in School. My Dad consented, (but only for one year) then back to school. I was given the assignment of auditing all the Sales-Checks, and other menial jobs. I worked fairley hard, but did have time in evenings for a date now and then. Glenne, my cousin had a boy-friend, Leigh Lambert who came in the office to see me once in awhile. He asked me to go out, but out of loyalty to Glenne I refused. He said he would teach me Short-Hand if he could come to the house evenings. I agreed. He was my teacher for a short time and I learned a great deal, but couldn't type. So Dad arranged to send me to Salt Lake Business College to further study Shorthand and Typing, also Book-keeping. I met Harold Shap^r there, he was my beau, also I (Leigh and I won a special award for fancy dancing at Salt-Air, we were called Green Beelies.) went with Leigh as now Glenne had another boy friend. / Leigh was called in the Army, He asked me to semi-engaged by accepting a Ruby Ring. I did, and regreted to see him leave. I soon started going with Morris Groo who I met at Business College. They gave a test in School for a Job at Wasatch Motor Supplies, Stenos were scarce and they didn't want to wait for graduation time. I passed the highest, they said and left school for the Job. I liked the work, but for some reason I found a better paying job at Keigh-O-Brien Dept. Store,

They were introducing a new method of Book-keeping; a Machine Book-keeping which I was to learn to operate. It was very complicated, but interesting. I was too tired in the evenings to go but much. Ont particular evening, however, my cousin Adeline persuaded me to go to a dinner dance the Intermountain-Electric Company was giving. She was a steno there and had 4 tickets. She and Bill and His Brother Malcolm I was under the impressi n Malcolm was engaged to Lillian Riley who was out of town and I was to go in her place. We had a very good time, when Mac continued to date me I was surprised and told him I was also engaged, we thought it O K as we had that much in common and continued going out. He was then called in the War. He broke up with Lillian and proposed to me, so I accepted the diamond ring. We corresponded regularly as also I did with Leigh Lambert. Morris was taking me out very often, I wondered why he didn't get in the War, I thought he was a weakling, but I guess not, as of today he is still hale and hearty.

Morris told me of a Company who just purchased the new Book-keeping Machine, The Tyng Warehouse, just 2 blocks from my mother's home. I applied for the work and was hired to open the accounts with the new machine. They later bought another machine and hired another girl who I trained into the work.

Now the time came for Mac to return home, the Armistise was signed. It was a great day, my mother-in-law to be went down Main Street beating a dish-pan and hollering "Mac is coming home!" An epidemic of Flu struck 2/3 rds of the City, our office was nearly empty and I had to operate by myself. I didn't get it somehow. Morris came taking me out and I told him Mac was coming back. It was a great day to see him and I was glad I was wearing his ring again. But on the night I left the Deseret Gym both Mac and Morris were standing there to meet me. Mac said "If you go with him you will never see me again." I had to think fast. Well we were married June 25, 1919 in the Temple, the marriage ceremony by President Penrose. We had a lovely reception at my mother's home, jack-o-lanterns strung all along the path, I guess all the Ward came and it was lovely. Mac had a car and we drove to the Newhouse Hotel where we stayed. Tin cans on the car and a group of people came up to our room, I don't know how they found us, but they stayd nearly all night. The next morning we left for Bear-Lake. Adeline and Bill went with us, they had gotten married a year earlier. We had

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to stay over night in a Hotel in Brigham City as we couldn't make it all the way to Bear Lake where we had cabins reserved. When I took my turn driving I heard people cry out "Oh look, a girl driving. It was a 1918 Ford, our pride and joy. Mac won an electric Fan in a swimming race. It was good to have.

When we returned home we found an Apartment on 9th So. near State. It was \$15.00 a month and they gave us the first month free as Mac painted it all through, 4 rooms. I had arranged to have Mac hired as Warehousman at Tyng 's where I was working, and lucky for us as work was scarce. I was a poor house-keeper and had a lot to learn about cooking, Mac said I was spoiled. I worked as long as I could, then on May 1, 1920 Don was born. I kept busy in the Ward teaching Sunday School and I took walks to my mothers home quite often.

Later on I got a call from Keigh-Brien Co to come and help them out in an emergency for awhile on the Book-keeping Machine. I did, and found I was expecting another baby. I worked for them until a week before Maxine was born on Oct. 1, 1922. Don was now talking and looked at his little sister, "She is wite tute," he said.

We had a chance to buy a home at 1027 E. 6th So. from Lionel Gray, (later he became my husband) The payments were only \$25.00 A month. It was on Christmas Day that Mac came in with a truck he borrowed from Tyngs and said we should move while he could get the truck. I hated to tear the Christmas Tree down so soon and it was a job to pack so fast. We made it and the house was very old. Mac had to tear out all the floors and he put hard wood floors in the 2 front rooms, replaced all the windows and built a new kitchen. He had made all the baby furniture, cradle, wardrobe swings and other things. Very handy. We bought 50 chickens, had a vegetable garden and it kept me pretty busy. Then a sad experience came upon us. Don became very sick. He was ordered to the Hospital and operated on for Peritonitis when, we learned later it was really Pneumonia he had. Mac drove me down to my mother's home and nearly every day I walked from there to the St. Marks Hospital to see Don who was in there for 4 months. But he was taken by death.

Mac was offered a Job as Surveyer for the Virgin River Bridge, we moved to an Apt. in Spanish Fork for 2 months. It was good to get away, like a nice vacation. Mac tried to cheer me up, he came home with a beautiful hat for me, he put it on and I took his picture, it made me laugh again. We returned back to our home and it was good to get back. He was now offered a Job as the Smelter, he used a slide-rule to measure the density of the smoke. Then on Dec. 10, 1924 Leone was born. Snow was 4 ft. deep and the doctor couldn't get there in time, but I had a good nurse a beautiful 5 pound baby like a do

We were invited to Los Angeles, Cal. to visit Mac's Brother Don who was living there. It was real exciting getting ready to go. My mother had agreed to take care of the babies, Renee was going to help her. When we got down there Maxine wouldn't get out of the car. She was determined to go with us, she said "I'm going too," (It was a blessing to have Maxine with me, the way it turned out.) Mac took very sick the second day out, right on the desert. He was in such pain our friends said we must get a doctor. I had to drive the dust was about 4 inches thick, no Freeways then, and I made it to Barstow. The doctor said we could send him back to the Hospital, but it was too late, he passed away. He had paratenitis and poisin struck his heart. I came back on the Train and shipped his body, it was very sad. I sold the car down there and our friends went on. Alice and Don came there to help me.

I moved in my mother's home and sold my home. All my furniture was stored in the attic of Dad's home and later a fire struck them and burned all I had.

Later on I found there was need of an operator for a Book-keeping Machine at the Machine Maytag Washing^gCo. on 2nd So. and State. They hired me, we had 3/^{bookkeeping}machines there. I met Archie Hunter there, I jokingly said, "Oh, if I marry you I won't even have to change my name." I went with him for awhile. Also others. My mother and Renee took care of my children. Charley, Renee's husband gave them a good religious foundation.

They had an office in Portland, Oregon and decided to try the new Book-keeping machines They gave we 3 book-keepers a test, I seemed to pass the highest, they gave me a pin, "Most Consciencious." and a \$35.00 raise if I would go to Portland. I hesitated, I didn't like to leave my children, but was persuaded.

Well the time came to leave, I bought a new '28 Chrysler and I drove 3 other girls up with me who were also transferred up there. It was a lovely office, a big window by my desk overlooking Salmon St. We had a day off to find a place to stay. We were fortunate to find a home, Mrs. Dade who had just lost her husband and agreed to take us all 4 in. She packed lunches for us and had good meals. I drove the girls to work. I had to find a place to park, and just on the corner from the office I found it. As a hobby Loal Sherrod was managing it. He~~xx~~ told me after a few days that I could Park free because I was LDS as he was also. But he started taking me out. I learned he had inherited a beautiful home in Oregon City, overlooking a Golf Course, which he also owned from his Mother who had passed away. I was there many times and he taught me to golf. He then made me a full set of Golf Clubs with

my name engraved on each Club. and L,(I learned later was for Love.) He said he would like to have me bring my children up there and marry him, he would make pros out of them.

I ~~was also~~ was also going with Cecil Larson, a fellow 6 years younger than me, I met him at Church. He was an accountant at the Rail Road Office. He came to my rescue on my Books, I had much night work at the office to get the system set up. He made the complications less effort for me. Later after about 6 months Cecil proposed to me. I was so homesick to see my girls that I said yes. I would go to Salt Lake and get my girls. I had no trouble getting passengers as it was April Conference. I resigned my Job. I left all my things up there and when I got home who should I find but Cecil, he had come down on his RR pass. We went to the Tabernacle to Conference, and as I sat there I knew I couldn't go thru with it, I had to have more time to think. He said he would drive back with me, but I still had to think. He wanted me to be sealed to him, that posed a problem. He returned back to his job. He expressed my trunk and things back to me in S.

When I was at my mother's home thinking, Lionel Gray came down. He had been very good to my children and they were very fond of him, he said he would like to have me for his wife and take care of me. I had to think as there was a great difference in our ages.

I found an opening for me at the Maytag office again. My mother came in to see me on one particular day and had walked up from her home, feeling good. She told me she would feel good about it if I would consent to marry Lionel and have security. I remembered it as she went to the Hospital the next day and had an operation. She couldn't pull through she passed away March 10, 1931.

On April 30th I married Lionel and moved in to his Apartment House on Capital Hill. It was beautiful for me. He had a housekeeper come twice ^{a week} to clean and bake. I had very little to do, now resigned from my job. I under-took short story writing. I just lost myself in it. I taught Primary and wrote a play for them and produced it. I put Maxine in the lead part, but was criticized for putting my own child in the lead. I quit teaching and took Sunday School work. I now owned Black-Rock and Sunset Beach and had a lovely cabin at each resort. It kept me busy going back and forth, also a Summer Home in Emigratoon Canyon where we drove to quite often. We also had a ranch in Bingham. We went there on business often and sometime they would offer us a good meal, goat cheese and chicken. But not so good, they had lots of flies. My dear sister Vera and family moved to Seattle and came to bid us good-bye. it was a sad occasion to see them drive away I felt their loss many years.

My father had re-married, we took them out riding very often. He seemed to enjoy it; we had a Birthday Party for him at my cabin at Sunset Beach, had most all the family (his last Birthday) / ^{Aug. 7th} And then on Christmas we had the family at my apartment for a big dinner, we had 17 there. And the next month Jan. 22, 1957 He passed away in a Hospital, I asked "Dad how do you feel,?" Fine he said then stopped breathing.

I took a course in Photographic Painting and was busy making a little profit painting, along with my short story writing. All I sent in, however, were sent back for further re-writing, checked with green pencil which I learned to hate.

In 1939 I went to the World Fair in Chicago, a great experience, but got very lonesome for my girls. I phoned home and Leone answered, "Oh I thought you had called to see how the cats were doing." Leone said the girls fed him on watermelons most of the time.

Now after 10 years of a wonderful life with Lionel he suddenly took a massive stroke and could not speak. It was very sad to have him pass away. ^{He had} ^{one was} ^{he many projects going at} Black-Rock where he was planning on expanding it to a Road-Side Rock House Hotel. About \$6,000 was lost as I couldn't go on with it. ^{he was} As an Attorney I was able to do much of his book work and some un-completed cases were pending, I had to take fees in produce some of the time. I had enjoyed going to witness his Court Cases, especially when he won.

I now had a room for rent, one of my widow friends brought her gentleman friend up to see about renting it, He took it, Jack Martin. He sent me love notes and put them under my door. I felt quite flattered, he was 10 years younger than me. I assepted his proposal and was married only 5 months later.

Maxine was now married to Wayne, we had a reception in the home, it was during another war and Wayne had to leave.

We went to Seattle, had a good time and when we were nearing home I wondered which tenant ~~xxx xxxk was xxxxxx~~ in the Army. ~~xx xx~~ would come and complain. It was all 5 of them something breaking down too often and Jack was not inclined to fix and repair as Lionel had been. So we decided to sell the Apartment and buy a home. This we did and moved to 14= Wilson Ave. Shortly after we were settled Jack was drafted in the Army. He told me to pack up and be prepared to join him as soon as he knew where he would be sent. And to our surprise it was New Orleans where I was to go, and the same place Wayne and Maxine were the same Camp, Camp Polk La. I arranged to leave and take Leone with me. I got Audrey Boyd to stay and take care of my house. (she was a dear friend from Capitol Hill) Leone and I went to New Orleans on the train.

It was a great experience in New Orleans, we found a place to board where Maxine was ^{living} so we were all together. On week-ends we went out together, sight seeing etc. and to the French quarters. Shortly after I was settled I was subpoenaed to testify in Court over my property in Salt Lake. I returned by Train and left Leone there. Many greedy men were trying to steal my property by fraud. The judge said, "Do you own this Property?" I said "Yes I certainly do!" He closed the case and gave me clear title to all of it. I went back to New Orleans and it was not long before time for Jack to be released. ^{was there 6 months.} We went back to Wilson Ave. Then Leone wanted to marry Gordon who was in Macon Georgia. I wanted her to wait as she was only 13. She was determined; she flew down there in an Army Plane and I was very worried, was married there just 11 months after Maxine's marriage.

Jack was a changed man, he started stealing from me and was very disagreeable, accusing me of stepping out, etc. So I divorced him after 2½ years of marriage. He tried to get my property, but I had been smart and had him sign a Quit-Claim to all when I married him. That saved it for me. Later on I learned he had joined the Merchant Marines and went down with the Ship, we were friends and I forgave him.

Now comes Ed Burt into the picture. I had known him for a long time as he was a friend of Helen Vaughn who brought him to our home many times when on Capitol Hill. He associated with us on many social functions. Ed had just returned from the Army also, he had been in Mississippi. He took me out occasionally. Then I decided I wanted to get closer to Town so bought a house on D. St. and Maxine moved in on Wilson Ave. I moved up there when Ed came in to the picture again. I was going with Herb Steed and was very serious. Also another one Frank Kay. I didn't know what to do so I went up to Seattle and talked it over with Arthur and Vera. After my story Arthur advised me to take Ed, comparing him to David of the Bible, the forgotten man as Ed had nothing and the others did. We were married on Dec. 20, 1947. Went to Las Vegas on a Money-Moon. He was working as Sales Manager for Frank Hines.

Maxine and Wayne came and stayed with us. Denny was born now, my first grand-child. and a year later Dana-Lee was born to Leone & Gordon, my 2nd grand-child. ^{and later on}

I worked in the 20th Ward, was Secretary/and also 2nd Counselor during ^{Relief Soc.} the time there. Ed was President of Elders of and then Counselor of Sunday School. We went to the Temple and he got his endowments, but I couldn't be sealed to him as I was already sealed. We went to the Los Angeles Temple dedication and met President Mc Kay there.

I worked for Utah Auto Dealer's Assn. had my desk at the State Capitol Bldg. for a few years.

I decided to buy the corner house on 1st Ave. next door to my house on D. St. Had it re-modeled and I liked it so well we moved in and sold the other one. It was quite an old Duplex but very comfortable.

As a member of the Apartment House Association we were able to take many Tours they sponsored. I was also Secretary. ^{Apt. House Ass'n.} Among the trips were one to the Black Hills of So. Dakota, one to Mexico which was very delightful and educational, touring the ancient ruins I climbed to the top of The Pyramid Of The Sun, and never have felt closer to heaven. We stayed in Appacco for a few days and other exciting places. My friend and partner, Fay Draper, decided to take some trips in her car, later on and invited me to join her. One we went to Mesa Verda to Durango N. M and took the Narrow Gage Railroad to Silverton. Another to the Historical Pageant Southern States, Vermont where the Prophet was born, Hill Cammorah, The Sacred Grove, Carthage Jail and Nauvoo, crossing the Mississippi River to Montrose. We toured Washington D. C. and the Smithsonian Institute. We took a Tour to the New York World's Fair, up to Canada viewing Niagra Falls under colored lights. On up to Montreal, Quebec. Another trip to Victoria, British Columbia, by Boat. Then by Bus we went to Lake Louise, Banff, Watterton Lake and Jasper National Park. We took several trips to California, and to the World Fair in Seattle.

The most memorable trip was to Europe for 3 months, we went over on the Queen Elizabeth, came back on the Queen Mary, now both discarded. We visited all the historical places and it would be a story in itself to tell all. The same year Ed and I took a trip to the Hawaiian Islands. We went over from Los Angeles, where we left our car, by Boat, and flew back by United Air Lines. We took in all the Islands. We were gone all thru September.

I took a course in Nutritional Science and Dietetics and received my Diploma, I was able to give valuable information pertaining to health, to my friends and others.

I decided to buy a cute new house in Rose Park, on American Beauty Drive, we moved there and rented the Duplex. When I moved I had to give up my position as Secretary, of 5 years and was presented with a pin "Charity Never Fails" which I treasured. I started teaching primary in Rose Park Ward and we were both quite active, but it only lasted a year when we had to sell the house ^{in Rose Park} and move back to D. St as we were having trouble with the tenants there. Things became very un-pleasant now for me and I had a nervous break-down, my first real illness, as I remember since the chicken pox.

I wanted to get away so sold the house and moved to the Ambassador Apartments on 5th E. It was a lovely apt. but quite expensive, so after 13 months we moved to a duplex on Green St.

St near 27th So. A cute place and desirable being near my sister Renee's home. We soon became active in the Nibley Park, we were both Sunday School Greeters for 2 years, other activities, as Ed was now a High Priest we were kept pretty busy. We lived there for 5 years. Ed was a avid Golfer and one day as he was playing he was stricken on the Course and went to a doctor who sent him to the Hospital with Terminal Cancer. Maxine was instrumental in getting him in the Veteran's Hospital after learning he was eligible, it saved many hundreds of dollars doctor and Hospital bills for me. He passed away on Marth 25, his 72nd Birthday.

I will always be grateful to my 2 daughters and my dear sister Renee for their kindness and consideration for me, I can never repay them. Maxine didn't want me to be there alone so she invited me to move in with her in her lovely home. Scott came with a truck, Kent helping him and they moved all my furniture, making me an attractive Apt. withthem. Leone, also Renee invited me to stay with them as long as I wished, and I visit them as often as I feel I can.

Maxine has 5 lovely children, Leone has 7 lovely children. I have 3 great-grandchild-
2 were lost by premature birth.