

# TO MY CHILDREN

## Journal of



# Mary Phyllis Fisher Davies

Prepared by  
Sara Jean Davies Anderson

JOURNAL OF MARY PHYLLIS FISHER DAVIES  
Born –January 28, 1902 at Magrath, Alberta, Canada  
Died – August 9, 1980 at Cardston, Alberta, Canada

[After her passing, mother's journal came into my possession for a short time. I photocopied it. Now on July 10th, 2005 I am going to copy it into the computer for future generations to read.] Some of it is missing and/or mixed up but I will record it and you can piece it together in whatever way you like. It is still interesting.] Sara Anderson, daughter of Phyllis.

1927. August 25<sup>th</sup>

I have decided to write the story of my life as it happens each day even if it is only a few words. I will call this my memory book and put into it the little sayings and pretty things the children do so I can remember how happy they made me and how lovely they really are, so I can remember them when I get old. I don't want to forget them.

They have all been sick, except Sara, with tonsillitis. They are so sick I wish I could have taken them to the doctor to have them examined. But they are all feeling better now for which I am very grateful. The Lord has blessed them in answer to our prayers. He has always been so good to me. I know that he has heard our prayers and healed them. Ren's tonsillitis or sore throat turned to quinsy and he has been so sick for the last few days. But he is better now for which I am so grateful to my Father in Heaven.

Our first home was in Ren's father's house in HillSpring. We had the large front room and a bedroom. Nell, Ren's sister, lived in the kitchen and upstairs of the house. Ren had put pretty blue linoleum on the floor and with the gifts we were given, and the stove and table and cupboard, our home was nice and comfortable.

We lived there until Anne and Tom were born. Then we moved to the Davies farm on the Kootney River.

We lived there until after Lore was born, then Ren sold the farm and bought the Joe Dudley farm, south of HillSpring. Ren was able to make a number of large payments on the farm. Then depression hit. There was no rain, nor hay for the horses and cows. Most of them died during the winter. That spring, all the land on the Cochrane came up for sale for taxes. Ren had paid his payments but had not been able to pay the taxes.

Ren sold his team of horses for \$90.00. Since we had no hay nor grain and needing flour and groceries and a few bills to pay he decided that was what he should do. It took most of the money. We were expected to get off the farm but we had no place to go. Ren thought he'd have to fix up the granary to live in with what he had left. I told him that I knew if he would pay his tithing something would turn up. He did so.

That day after paying his tithing he learned that Olson's were moving to their farm and so he went back and asked them if they would rent part of their house. They had refused him before but he felt impressed to go back and they told him yes that if he'd fix up the fences around the place he could have it, for they felt it was better to rent it than to let it be empty. When the girls left for the summer vacation, we moved in.

So we got the house without paying too much cash as Ren had poles from the mountains to build the fence. It was a testimony to us that the Lord would help and bless us if we paid our tithing. A few days after we moved into Olson's home, Billy Myers, who lived just across the road from

us, and Tom and Lore, went down to Grandfather Fisher's lake. It was just through the next fence and over the hill. They were only gone a few minutes when I decided I should go look for them. I thought they had gone over to Myers and so put the baby to bed before I went. About half an hour after I went out I saw them coming from Father's field. They were helping Lore along. I could hear him crying. I hurried toward them and Lore cried out, "I've lost my new shoes." He was dripping wet. They had gone out on the lake in a large raft they found near the edge. My brother Bob was driving some cows in the field and saw them out on the raft. He went out to get them. The water was over the horses back. Lore had fallen in the lake but somehow Tom and Bill [six years old] had caught him and pulled him back on the raft. His shoes came off in the water. It was a cold day. I put Lore in a tub of good warm water and then into bed. He was soon all right. I felt very grateful to the Lord for his goodness to us.

When we moved to Cardston I was asked to take part in the church. I was in the stake Primary and taught the theology lessons in Relief Society. They had asked me to take part in the Little Theater. John Smith was in charge of it. A Mrs. Hanes from Calgary was the judge and she chose me to take the leading part over the other contestants.

We went to Calgary and put it on. It was a wonderful trip. We stayed in a big hotel. I was pretty green. It was the first time I had ever stayed in a hotel. Our play came in 6th place out of the eleven.

Ren was trying so hard to make a living and was so discouraged. He has had little work. I resigned from the Primary and the Relief Society. I felt that I should look after my family. Ren had sold most of his horses during the winter. In May, Ren was able to get a job as construction man on the road in Waterton on the Relief Camp. He came home on Sundays. The children milked and watered two cows and we took care of a large garden. It was a good garden but would have been better if I could have watered it more.

Ren stayed until the last of Oct. That gave us a good living all winter and it was a happy winter. Ren was called to be the President of the YM Mutual. He has been real interested in the work. He has been to parties and meetings almost every night and has read a lot of good books from the library. The library has been a joy to the children too.

Tom is such a good reader. He seems to have a new book every week and I am amazed at the way he can read. If he can't get a word he spells it out to me and I tell him what it is. His teacher says he is a marvelous reader and he gets such good marks in his work. I haven't been out much this winter. I am expecting a baby in about two months. In the early winter I was so sick I could hardly keep anything on my stomach and my legs are so sore and swollen. But it has been a peaceful winter in spite of the cold long one, 40 degrees below a great deal of the time.

We have had little sickness since last fall. In October the children all had the measles. Ren was in the Mountains and I was alone.....

When Anne was blessed she did look so lovely. I was sitting in the choir seats and Ren came over and got her to take her to the stand. When he picked her up every one around me said, "Oh isn't she sweet". One lady told me after meeting that she was the sweetest baby she had seen in Hill Spring and was dressed so prettily. It made me very happy. I had spent a lot of time crocheting and knitting her clothes. She was such a smart baby. At 19 months she called herself 'Daddy's Wheetheart.' Anne was born 26 December 1926. She was not blessed until 6

February 1927. It was so cold and stormy that year.

Tom was born 9<sup>th</sup> of February, 1928 in the Cardston Hospital.

He always asks his father if he'll sleep with him tonight and his father can't refuse even when he doesn't like to sleep in Tom's bed. He stays there till Tom's asleep.

Tom has always called me "mother" not "mama" like the other children do. When he was about 3 years old, my mother gave me a plant for Mother's Day. The next day Tom brought some dandelion heads that he had picked, "Here's for your birthday, Mother," he said. We were living on the farm by the river and the hills were covered with dandelions. He was such a sweet little fellow. Tom loved his father so much.

One day I had kissed the children goodnight and tucked them in their beds.

Anne who had just started to school said, "I love you Mother a thousand dollars."

Lore who was then a baby said, "I luf her fifteen"

Anne laughed and said, "Oh, I love her a hundred thousand"

Then Lore asked Tom how much he loved her and he said, "I love her as much as I love Daddy." I knew that meant a lot.

On Mother Day May 14, 1933 when Tom and Anne were in the youngest class in Sunday school, Sister Nelly Harker was their teacher and she asked me to teach them a poem to say together on Mother's day. That day they stood in front of their father for he was the superintendent and Anne said:

I know a lovely lady,  
Her name is Mrs. Brown.  
She's the dearest one in all the world  
And lives right in our town.  
She works and cooks and sews for us  
Just more than any other,  
Some people call her Mrs. Brown  
But we just call her Mother.

Tom said:

I know the dearest man.  
His name is Mr. Brown.  
He's the kindest man in all the world  
And never lets us down.  
He jumps and romps and plays with us,

Together:

We have such fun together.  
Some people call him Mr. Brown,  
But we just call him Father.

They did it so good and spoke loud enough for all to hear. I was so proud, and praying for them. The Lord answered our prayers so many times.

Sister Harker gave each of them a paper doll, a girl for Anne and a boy for Tom. She said what good children they were in Sunday school and how she enjoyed teaching them and that they had the best attendance of all the children.

When Tom was just a little fellow he thought there was no one in the world just like his father. He would follow him around all day and loved to go for a ride with him. He liked his father almost as much as he disliked vegetables. I would tell him stories about Daniel and his three brothers growing big and strong and getting fat and he said. "Yes but I'd sure like to be like Daddy." Ren was so thin in those days.

One night while we were living on the Farm by the Cochran River a sudden gust of wind blew the window open in the kitchen. I laid the baby, Lore, on the bed, picked up the light and hurried into the kitchen. Tom began to cry with fright, but Anne said, "Don't cry darling. Heavenly Father will take care of you." Anne always looked after her brothers and sisters and was such a little woman even when she was just a little girl.

[Some pages are mixed up or missing]

.....and I cooked for his crew. Tom was such a good baby. He lay in his crib most of the summer so he was 18 months before he walked.

1929, October 1<sup>st</sup> When Lore was born we were living on the farm up on the river. One morning early October 1, 1929 I told Ren that he must get up and take me to Cardston to the hospital quickly for the baby was coming. We had an old one seated Chev car. I was big with child and knew that my deliverance was nigh. I held Tom on my lap and Anne sat in the seat between us. As we neared the Indian School [St. Paul's] the car stopped and Ren couldn't start it. We were really frightened for I felt the baby might be born any minute. I was in such pain. Ren said a prayer that it would start. And when he tried again, it started right off. We left the children at his mother's but just as we reached the foot of the Hospital hill it stopped again. Since it was not far from there to the hospital Ren helped me walk it and shortly after I reached there Lore was born. Ren had the car towed to the garage and found that part of the distributor was gone. The fellow at the garage said he couldn't see how the car had possible gone without it. On the way home Ren found the part of the distributor not far from where the car had stopped at the Indian School. God had blessed us in such a miraculous way. The nurses called our baby Lore, "Diplomacy"

One evening I was hurriedly preparing supper for my three children who were hungry and closely watching me. Thinking to divert their attention I said, "If you'll sit down I'll tell you a story about the 3 bears. Anne and Tom climbed eagerly into their chairs for they loved the story of The Three Bears. Even little Lore's eyes grew wide with interest. I managed to finish the story just as I put the three bowls on the table and I said," The big bowl is for Anne and the middle size bowl is for Tom and the little bowl is for Lore."

"Oh," Anne said. "Let's play we are the three bears and go out for a walk while the soup gets cold."

Tom who was always ready to do what Anne said was all enthused, but Lore began eating his soup and Anne and Tom couldn't get him to stop. Finally Anne said," Mother we want to play bears but Lore won't play". Thinking the soup did look too hot I said, "Why don't you play Lore?" to which he indignantly replied, "I am playing. I'm Goldilocks."

That winter we moved into a room of Henry Buhler's home. While we were living there the church house in HillSpring burnt down. I remember standing one morning with my two

children outside the house and watching it burn. It was then I realized what the church house had meant to me. The ward used N.E.Tanner's machine shed for holding meetings in until the beautiful new church house was built. It still stands today.

That next spring we sold the farm up on the river and bought Devere Dudley's farm 1 1/2 miles south of HillSpring so we could have some irrigated land and where it would not be so far to go to town and to church.

1930. March - Cardston

The children have all had the flu. They all have colds and are still weak. It makes me so worried. It has been such windy, cold weather and there is so much pneumonia going around. Ren is worried and anxious. He has not had any work since October except a few loads of wood. We do not know if there will be Relief Work at the mountains this year and we are wondering if we had not better move back to HillSpring and rent a farm. It is expensive to pay lights and water and rent. We have sold most everything, cows and horses. We must do something.

1930. April

Mother has been in Calgary for a month. Emma has been very sick since her baby was born. Poor mother has had her trials this winter. In March Mother brought Erva into Cardston and she was married to Ron Burnham at Mrs. Burnham's. Pres. Card married them. It nearly broke Mother's heart. She felt that she had failed Erva. Oh what a responsibility children are! We never know what is in store for us. Oh if I could only be more patient and persevering in teaching ours. Sometimes I wonder if I am worthy of such beautiful choice spirits to take care of.

As I took the children to bed tonight Lore said. "I love you Mother, You are the best mother in the world." If I could only be as good as they think I am. They are such a joy and comfort to me even though they do drive me almost to distraction at times. Oh I do love them so much!

Ren was able to rent a piece of land from Pres. Wood and so we moved to Hill Spring. We rented George Gibb's house down by Harkers. It was one large room and the boys slept on the rafts in the attic. I planted a large garden and Ren was able to get some cows.

December 4 1931 Danny was born. That winter he got pneumonia. It was a bitter cold and windy winter. A number of persons had died with it. Our house was cold and drafty and Danny had such a terrible cough for a three month old baby. I was so worried about him. Ren administered to him and he gradually got better and I knew the Lord had made him well.

On March 31 1933 Sara was born. She was a beautiful baby, so plump and sweet and smiled whenever you spoke to her.

1933. June, Before Sara was born I was very miserable. I could hardly walk around. I had also a bad cough. I wanted to be washed and anointed and prayed for this. We had no way of bringing the Ladies out to the farm except in the wagon and it was such cold weather for us to go into Hill Spring and take the children. Ren thought it was foolish to do so. I told him if he'd tend the children I'd drive over to Mother's. So on Tuesday, a little over 2 weeks before Sara was born, Mother and Sister Allred washed and anointed me and Father sealed the anointing and

gave me such a lovely blessing. He said that because of the faith I had in this principal revealed from Heaven that I would receive a special blessing. When Sara was born the Doctor said that it was a miracle she had lived. A few minutes longer and she would have smothered, and I knew the Lord had blessed me.

1933. June 25<sup>th</sup>

It is Sunday and I am not very well, so did not go to Sunday school with the others. Tom and Ann and Sara and Danny and Lore are asleep. [Lore wanted to be called Junior. He says, "Call me Ginger Momma," but I keep forgetting. ]

Little Danny wants me to hold him all the time. It's hard on him to have another baby in the home. He is so big to carry around because of the pain I still have in my side. Sara is surely growing. She has the sweetest smile.

Lore went to Sunday school. Tom and Ann brought him home, and then they went back to meeting on Queen, a little horse that Dad got for them. They would ride it all the time if they could. They are just like little men and women. I can hardly believe they are big enough to go by themselves.

1933. September

We have been living on the farm Ren got from Jo Dudley. Tomorrow is quite a memorable day in my life. My own little daughter Anne, my comfort I call her, starts to school. Undeen Caldwell is to be her teacher. She prayed tonight that she would get there on time. Tomorrow she starts on life's pathway. She is no longer my baby girl, my little helper. She will make new friends and will have new cares and responsibilities. May God bless and keep her as sweet and precious and lovely and good as she is today.

1933. November

Anne is coming along nicely in school, Mrs. Caldwell says.

Ren sold our horse, Kisser, and got flour. He traded some logs to the miners for coal. We had a very bad storm. The lake was frozen over. We didn't have any coal or wood. We were very concerned about it. In answer to our prayer, Ren was able to haul a few loads of beets for Golden Allred and got enough coal to last us until Ren was able to sell two loads of logs from the mountains.

The weather is warm now. Sara has a bad cold and infatigo. I am teaching the Theology lesson in Relief Society this year. I hope I can keep it up. The lessons are so good.

Ren bought Danny a little wagon and he'd play he was a horse pulling the wagon.

1934. April 25<sup>th</sup>

It has been nearly a year since I wrote in my journal. Such a lot has happened since then. Last spring we moved into the two north rooms of Olson's house in Hill Spring. The girls, Edna and Billy, lived in the other part and went to school. They are such nice girls. I learned to think so much of them.

Ren worked on the irrigation ditches on the road at Waterton Park, and put up hay so we managed to get along. That year we had the best garden we have ever had.

About the 2nd week in October, Tom and Anne went to Cardston to stay with their grandmother Davies and go to school. Ren had rented a house near his folks but the children would stay at

Grandmother Davies until Ren could get away [he was working at the Waterton Park on the road] to move us in. [Olsens wanted their house for the winter and there were no houses to rent in HillSpring]. Bless their little hearts, they were so brave. They could see how I hated to have them go in all alone. It was Tom's first year. He was just starting to school and everything would be new and strange although he did know his teacher a little -Norma Smith [Woolf]. We told them it would only be for a few days. We would soon move in. Ren took them in the wagon and went with them to school the first morning. Then he went up to the Lakes to work and it was nearly three weeks before we got moved.

The children came home for two weeks for Thanksgiving. Ada who was working in Cardston at Coopers, got a way out and she brought them with her. I was so glad to see them. They said when they went back to grandma's after school that first day they lost their way and couldn't find Grandma's house. Ren's folks lived about a mile from the school so it was quite a walk for them. They asked a girl if she knew where Grandma Davies lived. It happened to be Ruth Wynder, their cousin, and she took them home to Grandma's

It was a long 3 weeks for me before Ren was able to get off to move us into the house.

1934 was during the depression years. Grain was only worth 32 cents a bushel. It was impossible to make a living and our payments on the farm. Ren got what work he could. He worked on irrigation ditches, put up hay, and worked on roads in order to get a living for us. So in the spring of 1934 we turned back the farm to Devere Dudley and moved into the two north rooms of Alie Olsen's house in Hill Spring. Ren worked on the road at Waterton Park.

That year I had the best garden I have ever had.

1935. Cardston. The summer that followed I raised a big garden and milked two cows while Ren worked at Waterton. In the winter he was made MIA president of the 1st ward and I worked on the Primary board and taught theology lesson in Relief Society.

At Christmas time we all got on the train and went to HillSpring for Ren had hauled wood which he traded to the store for toys and Christmas things and we had a lovely time. Anne knew there was no Santa Claus for the first time. Some of the girls told her at school. Anne and Tom have done pretty well this winter in school in spite of the fact they were out so much with measles and chicken pox.

Lore started school that fall. He was just 5 years old when he started and being out so much because of sickness, [measles and whooping cough and then chicken pox], school was very hard for him. He didn't suck his thumb in school, but Norma his teacher, said he was very nervous. Then he got the flu during the cold weather and was out a couple of weeks so we decided not to send him back. Norma thought it would be better to start him again next year. He just turned 6 in Oct and is so young.

April 1936. Hill Spring

Ren was able to rent a piece of land from Pres. Wood and so we moved to Hill Spring. We rented George Gibbs house down by Harkers. It was one large room and the boys slept on the rafters in the attic. I planted a large garden and Ren was able to get some cows.

May 30, 1936

Ellen was born on May 30th, 1936. She was such a tiny mite. I shall never forget the day we

came out for the first time. I came with Mr. Redford in the mail truck. I held Sara on my lap. We went around by Mt. View. I was so tired. I can still close my eyes when I think of it and feel tired. After Ellen was born I came back home on the train. It was another tiring ride. Ren and the children met me at the train.

My Sister Ethel had taken care of the children while I was at the hospital. Ren had hired Lenora for the rest of the month for which I was very grateful.

When Ellen was a month old I had three teeth pulled. They had been causing me a lot of trouble. My blood was so thin they bled and bled. Father and Ren administered to me but we couldn't get them to stop bleeding. Ren phoned the Doctor and he said to wash my mouth with strong alum water and we got it stopped. But I was so weak and tired I just didn't have any milk. Ellen had been premature and I couldn't get her to take a bottle. She would cry when I tried to put it in her mouth. She weighed just about the same when she was six months as when she was three so I had to wean her from the breast and starve her into taking the bottle. She didn't like milk very much and has been so tiny always. The children just about loved her to death.

My big ambition right now is to get Sara and Danny and Lore to stop sucking their thumbs. When Sara was 4 years old, not long after Ellen was born, I said to Sara, "Why don't you stop sucking your thumb?" and she said "I wish I was like other girls and didn't suck my thumb." I said, "Sara you could stop sucking it, if you just make up your mind you'd never suck it again and then you'd be like other girls." And she said, "Mother I'll never suck my thumb again." And she never did. Every day I gave her and Danny a penny and they went to the store and bought a penny gum. They chewed it day and night. It was harder for Danny but when he saw Sara had really stopped he stopped too. It was not so with Lore. He just didn't want gum or candy or the penny. He'd rather have his thumb.

1937 Ren got a second hand truck [he sold his horses] and for a number of years he did general trucking, hauling grain, hay, coal, poles, lumber etc. He went up into the mountains and got poles and had them sawed at the mill and we began building on the old church house foundation. Laverne Davies supervised the work and Ren hauled coal and lumber and grain to pay him. The Elders helped a day and put up the siding. The kitchen was soon plastered and finished and we moved into it on Thanksgiving Day. I was so thankful to have a home of our own once again.

We finished the house a little at a time during the next few years.

1940

A year ago Ren traded a cow for a piano. Some of the higher notes do not play. It looks good though. It is an old grand piano and the girls are taking lessons from Mrs. Peterson. It says in my patriarchal blessing that the music and fine words of my children will drive the spirit of the adversary from our home. It looked like for so long they were not going to play and sing. So I was so proud of them on Tuesday at the festival.

Ren is such a good father. He is so good to the children. He always sees that they do what they are told to do.

Frank was born on Feb. 12, 1941

I wanted so much to have a fine big baby. Ellen had been so tiny. Father administered to me

before I went to the hospital and said that the Lord would bless me with the desires of my heart and I said in my heart I wanted a fine big healthy baby who will grow up to serve the Lord. The Lord answered my prayer.

1941. February 12<sup>th</sup>, Frankie was born. He was a fine big husky baby. I had lots of milk and he grew so fast and was well and strong. Now he is the largest boy in his Sunday school class. He is learning to say a poem next Sunday in Sunday school. He has been such a happy little man.

This year Anne had pneumonia and was in the hospital for several weeks. But the Lord heard our prayers and her lungs were healed.

1942. On October 2, 1942, about 20 months after Frank's birth, Lloyd was born. When he was 5 months old he got the mumps. He had such a hard time to nurse. For about two months I could hardly get him to eat anything. He was nervous and tiny. He is still not very large but is wiry and a bright little fellow.

Tom gave such a good talk in church today.

Mrs. Peterson had a musical festival on Tuesday for her music students. All of her children took part. Ellen played two pieces. Anne played 'Hanging Gardens and the Last Rose of Summer.' Sara played two of her pieces. I do hope they will be able to go on with their music.

It was just a year ago this summer our old dog that we had for about ten years was run over by a car just in front of the house. The children felt terrible about it especially Danny for they had been such good friends. Old Bus had always been so kind and gentle with the children. They love to throw sticks and hear him bark as he hobbled after them. He was too old and crippled to run fast but he would bring the sticks back to them in his mouth. This was Danny's favorite pastime. He'd throw sticks, and old Bus always brought them back to him, until he was tired, then he would lay his head against the old dog with one arm around his neck while he sucked away at his little thumb and he fell asleep.

Some one had started to dig a cellar at the end of our lot and when Ren came home from the mountains next day to spend Sunday with us he put Old Bus' remains in that hole and covered it up. At the first shovel full of dirt Danny came in crying. I tried to comfort him. I told him that every one went to heaven when they died, that Bus would be happy up there. He seemed to feel better. But that afternoon when I returned from Relief Society I found Danny asleep by the cellar. When I lifted him up in my arms he began to cry. He didn't want me to take him in the house for he wanted to stay there and see old Bus go up to Heaven. I went in the house and got some pennies and Ann took him to the store to buy something: a toy of some kind that he could play with. She got a ball and bat. But it was a long time before Dan liked to play ball.

In the year 1945 when the war broke out Ren had very little work. He was tired and discouraged. He had tried so hard to build us a home and give us the things we needed, working day and night getting out logs and shoveling grain and coal. He went to Pincher Creek with some of the other fellows from Hill Spring to join up. They were paying good wages in the army. But they would not let him because he has high blood pressure and chronic kidney trouble. I am so very thankful he could not go. He had been working so hard hauling coal and props. The doctor told him that unless he stopped lifting heavy things his back would give way and he would be an invalid. So he sold the truck and bought 8 cows with the money and started

milking cows. He also got a small truck and began hauling the milk to the cheese factory in Glenwood, a job he has held for the last 3 years. He has bought a piece of pasture land. He gradually built up the herd and went into the dairy business.

So we have had a comfortable living and a good warm home which is such a blessing. When I think of the millions of people starving in the war stricken countries I am very thankful we live in this beautiful land. We are so blessed.

Lore was a big boy, 12 years old when he went on his first scout trip. He didn't suck his thumb but at night he did when he was asleep. He was so afraid he'd suck his thumb and the boys would see him that he asked us to pray for him. We did pray for him and he says that was the last time he sucked his thumb at all.

Six years ago we moved from George Gibb's house into a home of our own. Ren went up into the mountains with his truck that he bought the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we moved back to Hill Spring and got out logs and had them sawed at the mill and began building on the old church foundation. Levern Davies worked on the house and Ren hauled lumber and coal and grain for him and paid him part cash to work on our house. Roy Allred and the Elders came and helped a day putting up the siding. At last the frame was up and the kitchen plastered and we moved in. We were so happy to be in a house of our own. We finished the house a little at a time and it is now quite comfortable. At Christmas time we painted and calcimined it and it looks so nice. We had a big tree and a lovely Christmas.

1945. In July Tom graduated from High School at the age of 17 having skipped a grade in elementary school. That fall he went to Edmonton to University. He was so young and had never been to a city before. It was so hard for me to see him go. He has done so well. Two years ago he won a \$23 wrist watch for his good record in the Priesthood quorum in HillSpring. I was very happy. When he was home at Easter he bore such a beautiful testimony in Sacrament meeting. I was so happy and grateful.

Lore and Danny are such fine boys too. They have each won priesthood awards.

1946. On June 23 Lore got kicked by a horse. He was driving some horses and one of them kicked his leg. It was a bad cut and the Doctor put sulfa salve on it. When the Doctor removed the bandage, the sulfa had eaten into his leg and Lore had to stay in the hospital for treatment. The Lord heard our prayers and he gradually got better.

Anne graduated from High School in the summer and in October she went to Edmonton to University. No one but a mother knows how hard it is to see her children leave home for the first time.

1947. On July 17, Lore and Dan left with the hundredth boy scouts troop and their scoutmasters from southern Alberta to attend the Centennial Celebration in Salt Lake City, and to march in the parade of four thousand scouts. It was quite an experience for the two of them.

In the fall Anne began teaching school at Spring Ridge, 15 miles north of HillSpring.

From September 1947 to July 1948 Tom became principal of the Jefferson School and was assistant Scoutmaster. In 1948-49 he taught in Mountain View and became scoutmaster there.

The war has been such a terrible thing yet we have hardly felt it. It stopped just in time. Tom would have been 18 in February. Johnny Davies is still in the occupation forces in Japan.

1949. In July Tom was called by the Alberta Stake YMMIA to go as assistant scout master to Ottawa with the boy Scouts of Southern Alberta to attend the Scout Jamboree.

Last September Anne attended the Garbett's Business College and graduated with honors. In July of 1949 Anne was sent by the college to a special summer course in Calgary. Then in September 1949 she began teaching at the Garbetts Business College.

1950. On October 14, Anne was operated on at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary for a blister on her hip, a very technical operation. Father and I took her to Calgary. It was a much more serious operation than they thought, but her grandfather Fisher had given her such a lovely blessing and her father and brothers administered to her before she left. The Doctors marveled at the way it healed. She was able to return home after two weeks, and when she was well she went to work as secretary for Bryant Stringham.

1950. Lore graduated from High School and in October he attended the University in Calgary, majoring in Industrial Arts. During the first summer he worked from Calgary insulating houses. The next summer he took a position as an immigration officer at Old Chief Highway then returned in the fall to the university where he took 3 years of education. He has been to two summer schools. One more and he will have his bachelor's degree. Lore was not home much only for visits after he went away to school. I missed him very much and was happy when he came to Bow Island to work and help build the town hall the last summer before he got married. Lore taught in Barnwell and then in Magrath.

August, 1950. I am now 51 years old. I am President of the Primary and a Relief Society Visiting teacher and am enjoying good health. Once a week Ren and I square dance as we belong to the Hill Spring Square Dance Club "The Merry Mixers"

1951. Sara graduated from high School and that fall attended the university in Calgary in a one year's program where she obtained her Bachelor of Education. She taught first in Jefferson, then at Glenwood, followed by Picture Butte. In her church jobs she taught Primary in Jefferson, Recreation Director in Glenwood and Drama in PB.

Tom received his Bachelor of Education degree in Aug 1951. He taught school at Jefferson and Mountain View. The next three years he was the Principal at Hill Spring and helped us in sending the others away to school and Anne on a mission, and in other ways.

1951. On October 8, Anne went on a mission to the Northern California mission. Father and I took her to Salt Lake City. Aunt Lynn, who was going to Eastern Canada on a mission, went with us, as did Beth Pitcher. We attended conference before leaving for home and Ann entered the mission home. She spent eleven months of her mission in Medford, Oregon doing missionary work and the last eight as secretary in the Home in San Fransisco. President Gardener spoke highly of her work. Anne returned home from her mission April 16, 1953, a few days before Dan left for his mission. She got a ride home with Hollands from Cardston.

They wouldn't take any thing for her ride home so she gave the one hundred dollars to Dan. She went to Lethbridge and worked for a Lumber Co. and sent us money to help Dan on his mission.

1952. On February 26, .....played with the Hill Spring boys in Salt Lake in the All Church Men's Tournament.

1953. Dan left Hill Spring on April 21, 1953, with Joe Dudley who was going to Salt Lake. He entered the mission school April 22, where he spent a week before leaving for his mission in Southern California. Dan spent most of his time in the Imperial Valley. He found the Spanish language hard to learn but the Lord blessed him and he filled an honorable mission.

In June Tom received a call to go on a mission to Samoa. He was to be in the mission Home in Salt Lake City on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. About the middle of July he caught his hand in the power takeoff on the tractor. It was a terrible experience. His fingers were badly cut and the pointer finger was broken in 2 places and the chord was cut. They fixed it up at the hospital the best they could. Doctor Benny washed it and put it into a cast. But when they took it out of the cast in two weeks, it was full of infection. It had got into the bone and they were afraid his finger would have to be taken off. But we soaked and poltised it and fasted and prayed all during the month of August. Tom did so want it to get well so he could go on his mission when the boat sailed. It began to heal slowly but when he went to Salt Lake September 2 with Uncle Dave and Aunt Ethel who had come up for a visit, his hand was still in a cast. The doctor in Salt Lake at the mission home examined it and said the officials would never let him go as long as it had infection in it. For some reason the boat departure was postponed for two weeks and by that time Tom's hand was healed. Tom said in his letter, "The boat was postponed just for me but they didn't know it.

Veryle has received his degree in Agriculture. He is taking Anne and Blair to Provo where Blair is going to school.

1953. It has been a very wet spring. It is now the 10th of June and only a little grain has been planted, about 7 %. The land has been too wet to go on. President Brewerton has called a Stake fast and prayer day tomorrow for weather conditions, that we might reap and harvest our crops. We have rented the west part of Jo Dudley's farm for the past two years. But the first year the crops were snowed under and last year was also a poor year. We were hoping to do better this year. We are depending on our cows entirely for a living and are anxious to get land of our own. Dan is on a mission in the Southern California mission. He is in Calexico, a city of 15,000 people right on the Mexican boarder. Just over the boarder is Mexicali. Part of the time he spends in Mexicali and the other half in Colexico. He left Tuesday morning April 21, and arrived in Salt Lake at noon in time to enter the mission school where he spent a week before going to his mission.

It was just a week before Dan left when Anne returned home from her mission. She arrived home April 16 from the Northern California Mission. We had not expected her to be released until the 18th but Hollands from Cardston were in San Fransisco where they had gone to see their son married, and called at the mission home to see if Anne could go home with them. President Gardner had just returned from General Conference with the intention of asking Anne to stay longer. But he told her she must go. She had offered to stay longer before he left for conference but he said "No" she had done her share.

When Pres. Brewerton spoke at Dan's testimonial he said that Dan had felt that he couldn't leave until Anne returned and it looked providential that Anne was home even before she had received her release. Tom gave him \$100.00. The church gave him \$90.00. He has some saved of his own and with the money Anne had given him, he had what he needed to get into the field and last a month.

Anne spent about 11 months of her mission in Medford, Oregon, doing missionary work and the next 8 months in the mission home doing secretarial work. President Gardner seemed to think a lot of her and she made many friends.

1953. September 6<sup>th</sup>

Tom has been gone nearly a week now. He left in August 1953, on a Monday morning. He went with Uncle Dave and Aunt Ethel Jeppson and little Dwight. It was quite miraculous the way they came up from Salt Lake City just in time to take him back with them. They didn't know that Tom would be leaving for his mission the very day they had planned to leave. He was to enter the mission school in SLC Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock September 2. He will be there a week, then he will go to Los Angeles on the 11 of September and on to Calexico to see Dan for a day [250 miles] back to LA and then sail for Samoa on the 15th.

Sunday August 30, 1953, the Elders quorum had a testimonial for Tom. There was such a large crowd present especially since no children under 16 were present due to the Polio ban. Uncle Dave, Uncle Glen and Grant Caldwell were the speakers. They each spoke of "What a fine boy he was" and had always been and Uncle Glen spoke of the spiritual gifts telling him to cultivate them in the mission field. Orvilla Smith sang 'When It Comes to the End of a Perfect Day. Sara and Ellen sang 'In the Garden', Tom gave such a sweet humble talk. Father and I spoke a few words and Grandpa offered the closing prayer.

The last month was such a trying one for Tom and the rest of us. About the middle of July, Tom was out to Joe Dudley's alone when he caught his hand in the power take off that connects the tractor and mower. He was trying to fix the belt while the engine was on. It was new and kept sticking. There was a grease gun in the seat and he pried his hand loose with that and rode home on the tractor. Father was there and he and I rushed him to Cardston. His fingers were badly cut. The pointer finger was broken in two places and the chord was cut. They sewed it up and put it in a cast. It took about 2 hours to wash and clean it and fix it up. He stayed in the hospital for 4 days. He was in such pain and weak from shock and lose of blood. For the last month he has been here alone with me most of the time. We have soaked his fingers in hot water and put poultices on them as they had infection in them. In two weeks Dr Benny took off the cast and it was so full of pus it hadn't even started to heal. When Tom left to go on his mission the sore was almost well and he had an ex-ray of it and the doctor thought it was healing. He told him it would be three weeks before it could come out of the cast. They put it back in a cast with just the sore exposed. It was quite a job soaking it without getting the cast wet. He is to have it ex-rayed in SLC before he leaves. Oh if it could be healed before he leaves on the boat. I know the Lord can heal it. Father and Lore administered to him just before he left. Grandpa and Lynn Woolf administered to him in the hospital and we have fasted and prayed for him. If we are worthy, I am sure He will make it well in time for him to sail for Samoa and no complications will set in. This has been Tom and mine and all our constant prayer for the last 6 weeks.

Dan has a car to drive now. He had to travel so far in the burning hot sun. The district President asked him if he and his companion had a car. They said "No" so he wrote to the President of the Southern California mission telling him that they needed a car. The Pres. wrote to them and said that some one had just donated a car, a 1940 Dodge to the church and for Dan and his

companion to come to Los Angeles and get it. They rode there in cattle cars and were able to drive back in the car. I'm sure the Lord is watching over him to inspire some one to give the church a car. He and his companion are the only missionaries left in the Imperial Valley now, where there were many, over a 100, only a short time ago. Because of the shortage of missionaries they are the only ones there now. We enjoyed reading his letters. I am sure he is having many interesting experiences.

Father, Sara, Lore, Aunt Lynn, and Uncle Ivan have gone to Peace River to look for land. We need land and it is impossible to get land here. We are renting Joe Dudley's farm now for \$100.00 a month. This is taken out of our milk check and as our milk is our living and it doesn't leave us much to live on, we don't know how long we can make it. We are hoping to find something satisfactory up north.

Today it has been 80 degrees which has been quite a change after the cold stormy weather of last week.

1953. September 10th

Today Lore packed his things and went to Barnwell where he will begin teaching school on Monday. Sara Jean goes to Glenwood to teach. I have been in bed most of the week with a bad back, and Lloyd has not been well all week, but Lore and father administered to us last night and we are better today. Sara has been doing the work but is anxious to prepare for her school. Lore has been 3 years training at the university and now has his senior certificate and will teach for the first time at Barnwell.

Sara went to Calgary to normal school and has been teaching for the past year at Jefferson. This year she is at Glenwood. She plays the piano and sings. This summer as well as the last two summers she has been working in the Cahoon store at Waterton Lakes.

Ellen is taking grade 12, and Lloyd and Frank are taking grades 6 and 7.

Anne is working as secretary for a wholesale Lumber Co. at Lethbridge. She is the Stake Bee hive Keeper. Tom is on his way to Samoa for his mission. Dan is in Southern California. The Lord has indeed blessed us.

I have been to Salt Lake quite a number of times. I first went down when Dave and Ethel moved to Utah. Ren took the truck and their furniture down.

1953. September 14<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday I went to Primary preparation meeting. Ren took me into Cardston early so he could go to Raymond and see if he could get a job in the sugar factory.

I have been Primary president for 3 years now, since August 1950.

1953. September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Tom wrote and said that Apostle Mark E Peterson set him apart for his mission and promised him with health and strength on his mission. I sent him some of Great Grandfather Davies names so he can do a little research in the temple.

Father has been cutting the oats the last two days and the little boys, Frank and Lloyd, have been helping him.

Tom's boat didn't arrive on the 28th so he went to see Dan. Dan was so glad to see him and

Tom was glad to see Dan. He said they had prayer together before he left and Dan offered such a lovely prayer and had such a sweet spirit although he was worried and discouraged because he couldn't learn the language. Dan had been in California five months. Tom was still waiting for his boat to arrive when he wrote and hoped he'd soon be on his way because of hotel expenses, etc.

We had a nice Thanksgiving. Sara, Anne, Lore and Lynn were home. Father and the boys threshed on Monday. Frank Wills was helping them so had dinner with us on Thanksgiving. Bill Smith, Dick Smith, Frank Will, Beverly Frank, and Dean McMurray had dinner at our house today because they were still threshing. They finished on our place tonight.

It is now October 14 and the days are just like summer. About 2 weeks ago we had a little skiff of snow and rain and that is all the stormy weather we have had this fall. I have never seen such ideal fall weather for harvesting. We had a much better crop than we ever expected since we got it in so late. We grew a wonderful hay crop and garden. The Lord certainly answered our prayers and has blessed the people with crops and ideal growing weather.

1953. Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

This last week I have been suffering with a backache. On Wednesday after Primary I went to bed and have been there ever since. On Thursday Father came over and he and Ren administered to me. I hope the blessing they asked for me will be granted and I will soon be well again.

We have not heard from Tom or Dan this last week. Tom should be in Samoa by now.

Lore sent us a big box of tomatoes, which he got for the picking in Barnwell. Sara put some of them up yesterday.

The children went to Lois Wynder's reception last night.

1953. Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

We received a letter from Tom. His boat had landed at a little Island of Tahiti to unload cargo. There were 6 missionaries on the boat. Three of them went to Samoa and two to New Zealand, and one to Australia. They had been two weeks on the ocean and he had been sick only one day.

1954. January 24<sup>th</sup>

It has been some time since I wrote in my diary. Christmas is past. We had a lovely Christmas of course. Tom and Dan were not here but all the rest of the children were home and Grandpa and Grandma Fisher had dinner with us. Father and I bought a present for each one and they each bought a present for each other so it made a big Christmas. We sent Tom parcels the first of December but he had not received them the last letter we received. I hope it is not lost. We also sent two hundred and sixty dollars of his money from his Teachers Remittance fund. I sent him a box of books too. Some were old textbooks, story books and church books-80 pounds of them. I sent them to Salt Lake. Danny Bates from Cardston was going to Samoa and said he would try to take them with him. I do hope he is able to do so because Tom says they are in such need of textbooks. The Samoan children have never owned a textbook. Their lessons are taught by the Samoan teacher through recitation. The teacher recites a line then the children recite it. The school is long and open he says. It's almost as hard to make himself heard as understood.

It is very hot there now. Their summer holidays commenced in January. Tom has been made Supervising Elder of the Pesego district. He is having such a hard time learning the language

and seemed so homesick and discouraged in his last letter. I do hope the Lord will bless him. He and his companion, who has just been in the field a week so he can't say one word of Samoan, are visiting the different branches. They went to one place where he thought they were to hold Relief Society. The Elders rang the bell [they have no clocks] and the women gathered at the appointed places. There was no lesson. They sang, prayed, and sang again. Then Tom said he spoke a few words. He said in two minutes all the Samoan words he knew. They sang again and dismissed the meeting. He is trying hard and is such a good boy I know the Lord will bless him.

Danny has been made Senior Companion. Both he and Tom have been well. Danny sent us some pictures to hang on the wall that one of the investigators gave him.

For two weeks now it has been very cold, 45, 22 and 35 degrees below during some nights and days with snow falling off and on. There is about 2 feet of snow. We have had no church because they are building a new scout room and the Relief Society Room on the west and it is open and too cold to heat the building.

This year the brothers and sisters have drawn names for Christmas and instead of giving presents to each other they decided to send small gifts to the missionaries, Tom and Dan.

Anne must be doing pretty good work. They gave her a bonus of \$50.00 for a Christmas present. She was home 3 days at Christmas time and 3 at New Years. Lore was home a week. We are all well. Plenty to eat, wear, and coal. We are surely blessed.

Ellen is growing up. This year she is chorister for the MIA. Also chorister for the junior Sunday school and Recreation leader at school

1954. February 14<sup>th</sup>

Today is our wedding anniversary. Father and I have been married for 28 years. We got such a nice letter from Dan. He said, "May the Lord bless the two dearest people in the world on their 28th wedding anniversary" and expressed thanks and appreciation for what we had done for him.

1954. May 29<sup>th</sup>

Ren is now in Bow Island. We have bought land there and he is building fences etc. He has 110 acres of crop in. We have wanted land for some time. The last 3 years we have rented Joe Dudley's farm but we feel that we should be paying on our own land instead of paying such a high rent. Just what we will do about moving we haven't yet decided. Ren and Lynn bought 160 acres together putting one thousand dollars as down payment and six thousand dollars altogether, which makes one thousand per year for the next 5 years.

1954. June

Ellen graduated from High School June 30, 1954. That year I wrote in my diary, "Ellen has grown to be such a lovely girl." This year Ellen was the only girl in grade 12 along with 6 or 7 boys. Mr. Grant Smith said at the graduation exercises that although Ellen was the only girl she was always a perfect lady. These past two years she has been chorister of the Junior Sunday school, chorister in the MIA, also speech director in the MIA and sings in the choir. Ellen has taken the heavy parts in the MIA plays. She gave such.....

Lore is engaged to Moira Blackmore. He is going to be married in August.

Tonight is Ellen's graduation program. She is graduating from High School. Mr. Sellinger thinks she should wear her formal. I made her a little white dress but I am afraid she is disappointed in it so she may wear her old formal.

Ren sold 10 % of the cows and all the calves to plant the crop and get moved to Bow Island. Sunday May 16th 1954 I was released from the Primary. I went in as the President of the Primary in August 1950. I have enjoyed the work, the association with the officers and teachers and also the children so very much. I am going to miss them. The teachers who have worked with me during this time are: Hazel Leishman, Norma Allred, Iona Jackson, Marr Draper, Kathleen Hawthorn, Lucille Stringham, Edna Draper, Jacquetta Gibb, Edna Caldwell, Margaret Leishman, Norma Woolf, Mabel Hull, Fontella MacDonell, Jean Wynder, Ruby Garner, and Verda Wynder.

1954. August 10<sup>th</sup>

The summer is almost over.

It is Thanksgiving Day tomorrow and the children are home. Lore is in Magrath where he is teaching industrial arts to High School and Literature to grade 9.

Sara is in Pitcher Butte where she is teaching grade 4 and boarding with Margery Stringham. Ellen is in Lethbridge where she is taking a business course and is staying with Anne and Beth and Bernice Pitcher. They have rented a house for the winter and it is lovely there.

Anne is still working for the Mercury Lumber Sales Co. at 509 5th St. South.

Sara is engaged to Ted Anderson and Ellen to Veryle Leavitt. They both have beautiful wedding rings. Ted was here for dinner but Veryle is in Provo going to school. They are talking of having a double wedding in June.

Lore broke his engagement to Moira. He didn't tell us why.

We were going to move to Bow Island but the contractors didn't come to move us so now it is fall and Dad has decided to move the barn this fall then try to move the house next spring. It will take \$1000 to move the house. We can borrow the money from the home improvement but decided that now the crop is up it would be better to wait until spring rather than to start making payments what with Ellen at school and the boys on missions. We don't want to go into any more debts if we can help it.

Fred Brook's testimonial is tonight. He is going to Samoa on a mission.

Frank has been made assistant chorister in the Sunday school. He is young but does it well for a boy of 15 years old.

1955. On the third of February Sara was married to Thomas Edward Anderson in the Alberta Temple. They went to live in Lethbridge.

1955. On the thirteenth of April 1955 Ellen was married to Veryle Leavitt in the Alberta Temple and they moved to Coutts.

1955. On the 15 of June 1955 Anne was married to Richard Blair Murray and they were married in the Alberta Temple and made their first home in Lethbridge.

1955. On the 17 of August 1955 Lore was married to Barbara Jean Harker in the Alberta temple and taught school in Magrath.

1955. On the fifteenth of April 1955 we moved to Bow Island. Joe Dudley sold his land that we

had been renting, so Ren and Lynn purchased one hundred acres three miles north of Bow Island. We first rented in Bow Island but Ren bought the old Catholic manse and we moved it to the farm in November 1958.

1955. February

Sara was married on the 3rd day of February to Thomas Edward Anderson, son of Lawrence Anderson of Cardston, at the Cardston Temple Thursday morning by Pres. Willard Smith. It was a lovely ceremony. Pres. Smith said it was not just by chance they had been brought together. The Lord had had his hand in it and was pleased with Ted because of his desire to live the gospel and had given him a lovely bride.

That morning we couldn't get the car started. It had snowed the day before. It had never acted that way before being a new car, having only been driven a few months. Ren tried to get Youngs [the garage men] but they were not up. It was getting late so we all knelt down and father prayed we would get there in time. He went out and the car started right off. Ren and my father spoke in the opening meeting. Ren said how proud and happy he was to have had 5 of his children go to the temple up to this time.

Ted's parents were on the sidewalk waiting to wish them much joy. President Smith in the meeting had said how pleased he was with those who wished to be married in the temple even though their parents couldn't be there. But it was a little sad I felt that they had missed it. They came out with us and we had a nice dinner. The reception went off so well. I surely felt it was in answer to my prayer and the prayers of all of us that it would be nice. Anne had borrowed 5 beautiful baskets of artificial flowers from Lethbridge. She had bought real foliage and they were arranged beautifully on the stage. The cake was in the center with baskets of flowers all around it. Iona Jackson decorated the cake for me [for nothing.] with white crocheting on tables, piano and organ. We had tables along the north and south side and card tables through the middle. Sister Skipworth loaned me some artificial flowers and I bought 4 dozen at Eatons so we had lots of flowers. Aunt Loila gave me a large fern so we had flowers on each table. The bride's table was on the north and the gifts were arranged at the back. Bryant Stringham Beth's husband was master of Ceremonies. He did it so nicely. The program consisted of Prayer by father -FP Fisher, Trio by Romona Leishman, Laurel Merrill and Rachel Lenz. Shirley Green from Glenwood gave a reading. Decon Pitcher from Picture Butte sang a solo. Fay Gibb Johnson of Cardston gave a reading, organ solo by Aunt Holly and Gary Fisher, a solo recording of "I Dream of Jeanne" by Dan who had sent it from Calexico where he is on his mission and the Toast to the bride by Addison Greene of Glenwood. The Relief Society dished up the food. On each table was a colored marshmallow with a white lifesaver in it and gold glitter on the lifesaver making it look like a wedding ring. On the plate was a square of orange ice-cream, a cupcake, a piece of date crumble and a small sugar cookie with a cherry on top, and a favor cup with nuts and mints. I had several people tell me it was the loveliest wedding they had ever been to. Ted and Sally went to Great Falls that night, came home on Sunday and had dinner and then took their car full of gifts to Picture Butte where Sally is still teaching school. She starts back on Monday. Monday night they came with his boss' truck and got the rest of their things and the chrome table and chairs we gave them, a big easy chair and stool of green plush Lore gave them, and an end table they got. We followed them as far as Lethbridge. It was snowing and the roads were quite slick.

At Lethbridge we took back the flowers Anne had borrowed, and then went to the square dance. The proceeds went for the crippled children's coach. The Dance club of HillSpring was asked to come. We took Margaret and Leo Leishman with us to Lethbridge.

While we were at the dance Anne came and called us out and told us Blair Murray had asked her to marry him. It was the second time I had seen him. He was at Sara's wedding reception. He went on a mission to South Africa and was there when Veryle Leavitt was there. We had a nice time at the dance.

This week I have been making quilts tops for Ellen. She is going to be married soon. She is still going to school at Garbetts College and is staying with Anne in Lethbridge. They have such a nice home. Ellen hopes to be though College by April.

Ren and I took Brother and Sister Pitcher to Lethbridge last fall to night conference. Anne and Ellen, Beth and Bernice put on a little skit on the MIA theme, "Seek Ye Out of the Best Books, Words of Knowledge." After the skit, Anne and Ellen sang a song. It was very lovely. I was so proud of them.

Today Frankie was voted on as being of age and worthy to be made a priest. He is to be ordained next Sunday. The Bishop said he had been a good deacon.

The boys are still in the mission field. Dan is still in Calexico where he was stationed nearly 2 years ago. He said in his last letter he and his companion were baptizing two of their converts. He expects to be there until next October. Tom was supervising Elder over the Pesega District, then the Sauniatu district. He made preparations for President McKay's visit to Sauniatu. But he is now back in the school at Pesega where he was the first few months after he got there. Lore has been teaching at Magrath since September. He is teaching Industrial Arts. He is playing with the Magrath Rockets. Last summer he worked at the Immigration Office at Old Chief Highway.

Lloyd and Frank are doing most of the chores. Ren is working in the post office because Ivan Workman has been in Calgary for the past few weeks taking treatments on his back. We have sold most of the cows to keep going.

1955. April 21<sup>st</sup>

Well, we are now settled in Bow Island. Father rented Packard's house until we can get ours moved. We are living in the upper part and are going to rent the basement suite. It is a very pretty house with gas stove and range, pretty paper in the living room and bedrooms and a lovely bathroom, and built-in cupboards. It does look so nice now the curtains are up. It has a nice wash room in the basement with hot and cold water. Father brought the furniture down in the truck and Lore drove Lloyd and me down in the car last Friday. Lore was home for the Easter Holidays.

Ellen was married on Wednesday, April 12th in the temple at Cardston in the morning session. Lore and Bernice Pitcher decorated the house until we got home. It was just beautiful. Father bought roses for the main table and 3 baskets of artificial flowers with green foliage on the stage. Bertha Gregson and Aunt Holly arranged the basket of flowers as Uncle Dewey and Aunt Ethel had their golden wedding the next night and used our decorations. Ellen and Veryle had made hearts and cuppies and Bernice and Lore had draped strips of paper on the windows and stage. It was lovely and the program was nice. Ellen looked beautiful. Ray Leavitt from Leavitt was master of ceremonies. He gave a lot of good jokes. There was a song by Bernice and Beth Pitcher, and a song by Liny Perry from Edmonton [one of the bridesmaids who Ellen had roomed with during the summer when she was working at the Lakes.] Shirley Payne was a bridesmaid too. Ben Olson, Georgiana Caldwell's husband, was bestman. Georgiana played the wedding march. There was also a duet by Bob Foster and wife, two solos by Veryle's cousins, a duet by Bishop Leavitt and his wife, a trio by Ramona Leishman, Rachel Lenz and Laurel

Merrill, reading by Veryle's 14 year old cousin, and a reading by Sara with Aunt Holly playing which was so nice, the loveliest thing on the program I thought. They got away out the north door without being cheveraded. There were over 250 people present and she received a lot of lovely gifts.

Ren has been asked to be ward clerk and ward teacher in Bow Island.

The little boys have started to school. Lloyd's teacher smokes in the room. There is only one Mormon in his room and she is a girl.

There are a hundred members in the ward and a nice clean place to meet. On Tuesday I went to Relief Society. Sunday night we went to Medicine Hat and saw the lovely new church there. They had asked Bow Island to put the program on so we went along and took Brother Hopkins who sang a solo in the meeting. At present Father is at a bishopric meeting. The boys just returned from scout meeting. It is not the same as at home. Oh, can we teach them here, as we should? It is a great worry to me.

1955. July 3<sup>rd</sup>

It has been over 2 months since I have written in my diary. A lot has happened since then.

Anne was married in the temple on Wednesday morning 15th of June 1955. Brother Heber J Matkin married them for time and eternity. My Father, F.P.Fisher and Harold Murray, Blair's brother were witnesses. My Father, Anne's grandfather, spoke then Blair's mother said a few words. She said that if Blair was as good to Anne as he had always been to her she would be happy. Anne looked beautiful in her white dress and veil and seemed so happy. Blair is such a fine young man. May they always be as happy as they are now. I prayed for a long time that Anne would find a good husband as she is now 28 years old and Blair is certainly all I could have prayed for. He is good and kind and understanding. May God bless them both!

We went to Lethbridge to make preparations for the wedding and stayed at Anne's and Bernice and Beth's. They were very good to us.

On Tuesday evening we all went to the stake house and put up a main table and one for the gifts. There was a beautiful picture of the temple across the back of the stage. We arranged baskets of spring flowers on the stage, lilacs and yellow tulips. Aunt Lynn brought a big tub of yellow tulips from Wrentham with her. They looked nice with the lilacs and the cake on the stage. Aunt Holly and Uncle Glen and Gary, Lorraine and Frank and Hazel Leishman and Brother and Sister Hull, Mother and Father, Orrin and Loila all came from Hill Spring making about 200 people present. She seemed happy about the gifts. I made her a satin quilt and his mother gave them quilts so she got plenty of bedding. My Mother and Father gave her a blanket. She got a beautiful plush chair. Father and Lore, Ted and Sara, Ellen and Veryle gave them a lovely chrome table and chair set. Aunt Lynn gave her lamps. She got other lights, pillowcases, table cloths etc. Ted was master of ceremony. The program consisted of:

Piano solo by Gary Fisher

Reading by Ellen

Song by Beth Pitcher

Reading by Nellie Harker

Piano and accordion duet by Jeanine Harker and boy friend.

Song by Harold Murray's little daughter, niece of Blair.

Toast to the bride by George Hull

Song by Frank and Lloyd, 'A Dreamer's Holiday' they changed the words to 'a happy

honeymoon.' Aunt Holly played for them. Then Frank sang. [The master of ceremonies, Ted, said his number wasn't on the program] but Frank dedicated his number to Anne and his mother. He sang Melody of Love. They cut the cake and left. Anne had a pretty pink dress and carried her white short coat.

Lore, Barbara, Ted, Sara, Ellen Veyhle and father took the gifts to Anne's house in their cars. Anne and Blair returned to the house later and found merry makers had been there, broken eggs in the bath tub, bedding in the refrigerator, scattered confetti. It took them a week to get rid of it. They came to see us Sunday and Monday. Blair was going back to work the next day and Ann the next week.

Lore and Barbara came to see us Friday night. They took our car and Lore took Barbara to Edmonton where she is going to summer school. They are to be married 17 of August. She went to the temple for her endowments June 30. Lore has not been yet but has promised her he will go this month so they can be married in the temple in Aug.

Frank is chorister in MIA and Sunday school. Father is councilor in the MIA. Jay Atwood is president. I am teaching the Trekkers, a Relief Society visiting teacher and a Social Science leader. Father and Frank and Barry Pratt are ward teachers. So we are kept busy.

On the 1st of July we went to the celebration here. It consisted of a parade, races, and ball games.

Father planted about 70 acres of wheat, 25 of oats, 20 of barley and 15 of beans. At present we need water but they are growing good.

I went to see Anne for a few minutes between Relief Society stake meetings at Lethbridge but they had gone to Magrath. Her home looked nice and clean what I could see of it through the window on the porch. Ellen is working and looks thin and tired. My heart goes out to her. I know it isn't easy for her, trying to keep a house and working. It is all so new to her.

Tom said in his last letter, "This has been an eventful year."

We are looking forward to fall when Dan will be coming home.

Today Nelva Harker was released from the President of the Primary so I don't know whether I will be teaching or not. Brother Harker asked me to be Drama Director of the MIA.

In Dan's last letter he said he was being moved from San Diego where he has labored since April. We haven't heard from him since.

1956. January 26<sup>th</sup>

I received this telegram from Lethbridge

Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo Davies

Bow Island

Born January 25, 1956

Weight 7 Pounds

It's a boy!!! Doing fine! Named Edward Eric Anderson

Ted

Two days later this telegram arrived on my birthday, January 28th

Provo, Utah January 27, 1956

Richard Jeremy 5 pounds 13 1/2 ounces.

Boy born at Utah Valley Hospital, January 27, 2PM. Mother and son doing fine!  
Only one but nice enough for two.  
Love from three.  
Veryle

March the 7th this one

Baby Girl born March 5th, 11 PM.  
Barbara is well as can be expected.  
Baby nine weeks early, in incubator.  
Fifty- fifty chance. Lore

Yesterday after Primary I went to Lethbridge with Evan Harker to visit Anne who is in the hospital with her new baby... He stopped in Barnwell to do some business. It was fifteen minutes to 8 when I got to Sara's [hospital hours close at 8 PM.] She drove me to the hospital and we got there just at eight but we found Anne sitting up in the waiting room with Blair and his mother. She says she feels fine. We went to see the baby in the nursery through the large glass windows. He is a lovely baby, dark hair.

Sara's baby has grown so since I came the day she left the hospital and stayed with her for a week and a half. He weighs nearly 12 pounds now, has big dark blue eyes and is just a darling baby, so fat and sweet.

Lore and Barbara came to Sara's. They had thought the visiting hours closed at 8:30 so were too late to see Anne. They said their little baby had gained 3 oz. She weighed 3 lbs. and so many oz. when she was born, then she lost 5 oz. after but had gained 3 oz this past week and the Doctor thought she would live unless she caught cold. Barbara pumps the milk from her breast and then feeds it to the baby.

1956. March 18<sup>th</sup>

What an eventful year this has been. I should have been writing in my book every day. One day in September some one knocked at the door and when I opened it Dan was standing there. He had on a new sport shirt and gray trousers, no luggage. He arrived at Lethbridge the night before, stayed at Anne's, and then hitched a ride to Bow Island. I could hardly stop crying I was so glad to see him. It was good to feel that he had been able to complete his mission successfully. He stopped in Salt Lake at Ethel Jeppsons for two days hoping to see Ellen before he came on home but she didn't get there. He passed her on the way. She and Veryle went down to Provo where Veryle is attending BYU.

Dan went to work on the Magrath Canning Experimental Farm and helped send money to Tom for his mission.

Anne had helped keep Dan on his mission until he got home and then Dan sent money to Tom. Ren was able to get up his grain. He had been haying and working to help keep Dan and Tom during the summer months. Then Dan got a job in the sugar factory until the middle of December and was able to get him a few clothes that he was badly in need of his best suit having faded so in the Calxico sun. He is such a grand boy. He played ball with Tabor MMen and they won and went to Salt Lake. He saw Ellen for the first time in 3 years. They just returned about a week ago. I have not seen him since.

1955. In September Dan arrived in Bow Island from his mission. I was so surprised and happy to see him. In the spring he worked for Fooks and Milne Architects in Lethbridge. That fall he

worked in the sugar factory in Taber. In the winter he went to work on a cattle farm in Warner. It was at Warner he met his future wife, Alma.

1956. May 6<sup>th</sup>

On the 16th of April we received a telegram from Tom saying he would be in Hawaii on his flight home from his mission, and could we wire some money to him there? The church paid his way home but he would need some warm clothes when he reached Vancouver. When we received his letter late in March saying he was coming home, Father cabled him \$40.00, and Dan had sent him \$35.00 but he didn't receive it before he left so we decided we should meet him in Vancouver. Father sent him a telegram on the boat that we would meet him. I put up enough lunch to last us 4 days. We started on Saturday morning at 6 AM, April 21. Frank, Lloyd, Father and I picked up Aunt Dora Coleman at Fort McLeod. It was snowing in Lethbridge when we left for McLeod but was beautiful all the way back to Lethbridge where it was snowing again.

We had a lovely trip. We reached Spokane about 6 PM Saturday. Edyth my sister gave us supper and then Curly Woolf and Laurie and Chuck Harker came over. Laurie took us and showed us their beautiful new home.

We listened to television and spent a lovely evening. The boys slept at Curly's and we slept at Edyth's. Mary and Bobby are sweet children. Edyth and Lynn have such a nice home. It was lovely visiting them.

We started for Vancouver early Sunday morning. Everything was so beautiful and green at Winachee. The fruit trees were all in blossom so up and down the valley was pink and white and gold. We reached Carols at 4 o'clock Sunday. Carol and Janet and Carol Anne were all that were home. Ren phoned to Vancouver to find out the time the boat docked and they said 10 PM that night. We got into the car, took Carol with us and continued our journey. We reached Vancouver at 8 o'clock. Dan helped Aunt Dora get on a boat for Vancouver Island. She was going to see Fay, her daughter and stay for awhile. At the immigration office they told us the boat would dock but the passengers couldn't get off until the next morning.

Tom landed in Vancouver the evening of April 22, 1956 but could not get off the boat until morning. We stayed and watched the boat come in. It was a beautiful sight with the boat all lit up and the ocean and the lights of the city in the background. I didn't dream it could be so large. The wind blew cold off the ocean but we couldn't leave. It took about 1 hour to dock after we first saw it come into sight. Then we got two rooms in a motel. Carol and I slept in one bed and the two boys in the other and father on the cot. We had a good rest. Tom didn't get off the boat until about ten that morning. He hadn't changed, just thinner, and he had a crew cut, which doesn't suit him very well. We were so glad to see him.

Father, Frank, and Lloyd and I were there when he was finally let off the boat.

I shall never forget what a thrilling trip we had or how glad we were to see Tom after two and a half years. I received a letter from President Snow, Tom's mission President, telling us of the fine work he had done as Supervising Elder and then as the Principal of the School at Pesega. It was 12 o'clock before he got his trunks and all checked off the boat. We only stopped at Carol's long enough to eat a bowl of soup and reached Edyth's in Spokane that night at 11PM. She had beds ready for us. The next night we reached Anne's about 6PM. Sara and Ted and Dan came over to Anne's and we had supper together. We were very tired but happy when we reached home about midnight.

We brought Sara and her baby home with us and we enjoyed visiting the next week. Then on Sunday we all went to Cardston for Tom to report his mission. Sara fixed the lunch for us to

take. Dan and Ted went also. Anne didn't go because it was storming.

Tom gave a wonderful talk. He told about President McKay's visit to Samoa, the first time a President had been there, and how they called him Prophet McKay instead of President and how the missionaries taught the people to live and work as well as the gospel. The missionaries were building chapels and showing the people how and they were doing the work. Tom said he spent most of his time in the school.

Last Sunday May 6th Anne, Blair, Sara, Ted, Dan, Tom, and I went to Magrath to see Lore bless his baby girl. She was just 9 weeks old. She is a little roly poly doll weighing 8 pounds. Lore named her Barbara Jean and gave her a lovely blessing. Father and Barbara's father [the two grandfathers'] helped hold her. After meeting we all went to Barbara and Lore's and had a lovely dinner. Frank and Lloyd stayed home so they could attend their meetings.

Tom took Dan's car on Monday and went to find him a job in Calgary or Edmonton.

Dee Jeppson was killed April 4. Father was in HillSpring tearing down the house when the folks received word so Father phoned to me and told me he thought I should go. Lore, who was helping Father with the house, came and got me and took me to Lethbridge and Glen and Father and Mother met me there and we went to Salt Lake. We had a pleasant trip. It was good to visit with the folks. We arrived at Ethel's at about 5 o'clock Friday evening April 6. Ethel was in bed. The shock had been too much for her. Father and Glen administered to her and she felt better. She got up and had supper. Carol and Fanny and Gloria Fisher [can't remember her married name] were there too.

Tom went to work in Calgary in the town office. Then he taught school in Lethbridge for a year then went to University in Provo and received his master's degree in science and is now working for his Doctor's Degree.

1958. January 16<sup>th</sup>, Bow Island

Got up at 5:30, bathed and got ready to go to Cardston with Ren and Bro. Pratt. Went through a session at the temple and did endowments for Susanna Allen.

Madge Low told me when I was getting my name that they were holding a funeral for Jody Lenz at 2 o'clock in Cardston. So Ren and I went to the funeral. The HillSpring choir was singing and there was a big crowd from HillSpring there. I got to thinking of all the things people had done for me and I couldn't stop crying. I enjoyed Bishop George Hull's talk so much. Kay helped Donna and her two oldest children in, and the family. Edna, Roy, and Jimmy Lenz were there. Brother Matkin [dentist], who is now living in Lethbridge, talked also. It was a lovely funeral. We then went out to HillSpring and spent an hour with Mother and Father. We got back to Cardston just as the temple was letting out. We picked up Bro. Pratt and returned home.

1958. January 17<sup>th</sup>

Today I went to Relief Society. We had a lesson on Hamlet, 'Shakespeare in our Lives'. I did a little sewing. Father is downstairs listening to the new Television we got for Christmas. Frank, Lloyd and Dan have gone to basketball practice. Dan is the coach for the Gershaw school team. They played ball last week and Frank sprained his ankle but it is better now. Father has a sore back. He and the boys loaded a carload of potatoes today and it is very sore tonight.

1958. On June 26, 1958 Dan was married to Alma May Eagleson in the Alberta Temple by Pres. Archibald. The witnesses were Father and Tom Davies. Alma had been to the temple two

weeks before. She came to the temple with people from Warner and we met her there. After the wedding we all went to Magrath to Lore and Barbara's for dinner. Mr. and Mrs. Eagleson were there. Mr. Eagleson is not a member of the church. Alma's brother, Wilbur and his wife Evelyn and their two children were there also. We had such a lovely dinner. Then we all went to Lethbridge to the reception. The house was decorated with flowers. They had pictures taken of the wedding by a hired stenographer.

Denny Steed gave a reading and Frank sang a song. Tom was master of ceremonies. The bridesmaid was Jackie Boomer and best man was Lore. It was the largest crowd I have seen at a wedding. Mr. Eagleson had put on a turkey supper sponsored by the Relief Society in Lethbridge.

Alma is such a lovely girl. Dan met her in Warner where he went to work for a Mr. Conrad on a farm and cattle ranch. Dan helped his father on the farm the first fall after he returned from his mission. In October he went to work in the sugar factory. After it closed in December he went to Lethbridge and worked for the architects, Fooks and Milne but left there in the spring to work out in the open at Warner for nearly a year. In the fall he brought the cattle he had earned, home. Dan's father went in with him on a quarter section of land bought from Mr. Halpen. He would not sell the land to Dan until his father went in with him. Dan sold his cows and paid \$1000 down. Then in June he worked for Propane Driving and farmed in his spare time.

Dan and Alma have now a beautiful little girl, Carol Dawn, nearly seven months old. She is so plump and sweet, smiles whenever Grandma talks to her. Dan loves them both so much. Alma is very patient and kind to Dan. She has taught music lessons ever since she was married. They are living in a 3- room house in Bow Island. He teaches a Sunday school class. Lloyd, Bobby Crawford, Ren Atwood, Norman Westergreen and Dan and Alma are in the Mutual.

1959. Frank is taking grade twelve and Lloyd is in grade eleven. They go to school on the bus. Frank has been chorister of the Sunday school ever since he was thirteen years old. He sang in the music festival in Taber and was second place in his entry. He also came second in the MIA speech festival in Lethbridge in 1959. Lloyd is our champion ball player. He is small but moves quickly. It is so fun to watch him play.

1959. October

Father and I went down with Mr. Hamilton and his wife in their car to general conference. They were so thoughtful and kind to us. We had so many stops to make before we got on the road to Salt Lake. One of these stops was at the CHEC in Lethbridge while Max reported an accident about 4 miles west of Grassy Lake. A car and truck had collided. The back of the car was all mashed in and another car with a long trailer had taken to the ditch.

In Great Falls they took us around the city and out to the falls. It was a wonderful sight to see. Brother Hamilton took us along the great Missouri River for several miles to a smelting plant. The lights were placed in tiers about a yard or two apart all up the side of the hill and their reflection on the patches of ice in the river was beautiful. Indeed it was a sight to see as we followed the river along. We came to the great springs from which Great Falls gets its supply of water. The water was so clear you could see the foliage growing in the bottom. A little farther on we came to the great formation of rock over which the water fell to form the Great Falls. On a plaque we read Lewis and Clark's description of the falls. Here they had to leave the river and travel over land. The course of the river has now been changed.

Max then took us back to a hotel that we had passed in the main part of the city. It was

warm and quiet and clean. We got two rooms with baths and had a good night's rest. We woke at 5 and Father filled the tub with water and got in. I was afraid there wouldn't be any warm water left for me but there was. At 15 to 6 we were on our way again. A heavy fog lay over the city. We couldn't see very far ahead of us. A few miles out of Great Falls we suddenly rode out of the fog and the sun was shining on the fields and snow covered hills.

Somehow in the fog, we missed the right turn that took us to Helena. We had gone miles before we realized we were not on our way to Helena. Father had promised to watch the gas tank and see that we didn't run out of gas. But it was nearly empty before he noticed and we found ourselves on a lonely road 21 miles from the nearest town. Sister Hamilton started to laugh. She said she was thinking how queer Max would look walking down the road for gas. He'd have to put on his three suits to keep himself warm. But we reached the little town of Harlo with still a gallon of gas in the car.

After a good breakfast of ham and eggs and hot cakes we are now on our way to Livingston. The country is filled with hills and valleys dotted with trees. It is all fenced in. We just passed a large herd of Angus cattle and a ways back we saw a herd of sheep. We stopped at Livingston just long enough for me to go to the rest room and are now entering the Mountains. The fir trees are hanging with snow and the sun shining on them is beautiful. Entering Bozeman we read the sign 'Fifteen hundred friendly people and two sore heads, the city of the Montana State College. We have just passed over the Snake River Bridge, and are now going through the town of Lorenzo. Getting off the trail is getting to be a habit.

Dad gets so interested in his stories he forgets to watch or we become so interested in looking at the sights of cities and gorgeous colors of the foliage that we miss the signs and get off the road. We are in the heart of the potato country. There are great potato pits everywhere. Max thinks we should get our winter supply.

We just had a delicious dinner at the Rainbow Cafe in Idaho Falls and are again on the way.

It is now Friday morning. We are on our way to conference, Father, Brother Hamilton and I [Roxy stayed with her Sister today]. It has been a happy, interesting trip. Ren drove for awhile after we left Idaho Falls. There has been hoarfrost on the leaves and the rock formation, mountains and streams of water are so beautiful. As we neared Brigham City, we noticed how places of businesses had been established since we were here 2 years ago. At Brigham we stopped at a Dairy Queen and got some ice cream. Father ordered a banana split and so I said I'd like the same. But it was too rich for me. I wished Lloyd was along to finish it up for me but father took over. It was dark before we reached Salt Lake. We sang and enjoyed the scenery along the way.

When we reached Provo we didn't know how to get to the university. We asked some men on the side walk and they told us just go this way, keep to the right, you can't miss it. Bro. Hamilton said that was a favorite saying of the English. Many a time he's asked his way while in the army in England. They'd give a hurried direction and then say "You can't possible miss it."

But we couldn't find our way to the Y where Ellen lived. We kept traveling around the dormitories. Finally we asked a boy. But it was his first year there and he couldn't tell us but he got us a map. But we had to ask another boy on a bike before we found it. It was 11 o'clock before we reached Ellen's but she was not asleep and was expecting us. Everything was so nice and clean.

Bro. Hamilton called for us this morning. We have just passed Lehi where my Mother was born. Father is going to the building Committee this morning to try and get permission to build a church in Bow Island. After three days of glorious inspiration listening to the church leaders,

and Ren and Max being successful in getting the go ahead permission on our church house, we are now travelling toward home.

When we arrived at Anne's we found Blair's mother was staying there. She too had come up with people attending conference. We enjoyed visiting with all of them and with Tom who was staying for conference. Ren and I attended conference Friday and Saturday, then I stayed at Anne's and we listened to conference on TV.

Tom took Anne and I on Friday night to attend a music festival put on by the university. It was a wonderful experience, to hear the different groups singing songs they had made up words to, and acting out the songs as they sang. There were hundreds of beautiful voices in the final chorus.

Then Tom took me to Salt Lake to join Ren and Bro. Hamilton to return home.

Date ?

.....left for home to do chores. I stayed in Magrath and Lore and Barbara and children took me to HillSpring to see my Father. Father wrote to Lore and asked him to bring me up to see him if he could because he was expecting Ada and Eddy and Ethel for Christmas. I had not seen him since October conference in Salt Lake City and I did want to see him. He lives alone in the old home since Mother died. He keeps it so nice and clean and just loves to have the children come home to see him. We have all tried to get him to come and visit us for awhile but he has his cows and chickens and wants to be independent.

Ada and her family were there. Eddy and Ethel didn't come. LeRoy, Ada's stepson, has just returned from his mission. He was there and Bill, Ada's husband and Billy and Barbara and Loraine Terry Hartley with her husband and 5 children. Father had a houseful for Christmas.

.....baby soon, had prepared for us. I phoned to Ellen at Provo and told her I was there and she said they would come over the next morning. Lorraine, my Brother Frank's wife, and I stayed at Neff's all night. Lorraine was there to attend conference.

The funeral was held that day at 2 o'clock. Reece Allred told of their life in HillSpring. The singing was beautiful and Dave's Bishop gave a lovely tribute to them. There were loads of flowers.

Ellen came at noon and that night we went to Provo. Her baby is so sweet and she has a dear little 3 roomed home to live in, bathroom, lovely cupboards, gas stove. She is a sweet little mother. Veryl looks thin and she is too. The baby is nice and plump, and is a happy baby. It was so good to see her.

I hadn't seen her since September and it was the first time I had seen Jerry. We hoped she would come home at Christmas but it was best for her not to travel so far the Doctor thought. The rest of the children were all here except Tom at Christmas time and we had a happy Christmas.

1960. Saturday January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Two years have passed since I wrote in my diary. I have been reading through it and it is so interesting to me. It brings back things of the past. I wish I had written oftener through the years.

I will go back to Christmas Day. We got up early. Father and Frank and Lloyd and I looked at the gifts we had given each other and the ones Aunt Lynn had left on Christmas Eve. She and Dora had come down 2 days before so we had a nice visit with them. They left to spend

Christmas with Leatha and Aunt Dora's oldest daughter.

Lynn gave Ren and the boys an electric razor, shaving lotion and cream and a pair of sheets for me. Father and the boys gave me some blankets and a new dress. We gave father pants and a sweater. Lloyd got a suit, Frank a book of Remembrance and pajamas. After the chores were done we left for Magath to have dinner with Lore and Barbara and their three children, Bobby, Lorianne and Dana Lynn. It was a beautiful day and we had a happy ride together. Sara and Ted, Ricky and Wendy and the baby Doran, were already there, also Tom. He had come from Provo where he is teaching school at the BYU and working for his Doctor's degree. It was so good to see him. We had a lovely dinner and then opened the gifts we had given to each other. Sally had arranged them on the table and they looked beautiful and gay. I got aprons, tablecloth, garments, slip, a table ornament [a squirrel made by Wendy], a rubber flower mat and ironing sheet. My children are all so good to me. Ren and the boys got shirts, ties and socks. I am telling all this because it may be different the next years to come. Dan and Alma went to Warner to her parent's home.

1960. January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Tonight Ren and the boys, Frank and Lloyd, went to Lethbridge to the stake youth program put on by the Presidency of the church. Frank was chosen to speak on the subject "Shall the Youth of Zion Falter". Father said he spoke so well. He and Lloyd also sang in the boys and girls choir. At nine o'clock, President McKay spoke to the youth over the air. Father said it was a wonderful program. It is a cold blizzard night but they made it home without any mishap. About a month ago Frankie spoke in Lethbridge at the speech contest. There were nine contestants. He tied for second place and so he was chosen along with some of the other contestants to speak at their special youth program.

I have been to Salt Lake quite a number of times. The first time was when Ethel and Dave Jeppson moved to Salt Lake in 1942. Ren took their furniture down for them in his brand new truck. Ethel and Dave, and their children, Dee, Carol, Fanny and Dwight, went too. It was during the war. Dave blew out one of his tires and they couldn't buy one. You had to have priority to get a tire. But the garage loaned him one and he had to send it back when he got to Brigham where he had rented a pretty little house with fruit trees around it. That was the first time I had seen grapes growing, or cherry trees or orchards of any kind.

We went down again when Anne went on her mission. Father traded our car in on a new station wagon and Lynn and Beth Pitcher went with us. Lynn was going on a mission to Eastern Canada and Beth wanted to attend conference. After attending the conference we left Anne in Salt Lake to attend the school in the mission home and left for Canada.

The branch Presidency, Brother and Sister Atwood, Brother and Sister Pratt and Ren and I, all went to conference in Bro. Atwood's car.

I went again with Glen and Father and Mother in Glen's car when Dee Jeppson died, Another time was when Ren and I and Sara and Lloyd and Brother Pratt went down to conference. Ren was in the branch Presidency and Brother Atwood asked him to go down and see about getting started on a new church house for Bow Island.

.....We saw Frank and his family, also Orrin and family. We had a nice visit with them for a few hours. Then Lore took me to Lethbridge and I went home with Tom who had come to Lethbridge to the dance. Tom left for Provo the next afternoon at 6. I felt I had not visited with

him enough. He brought us all a lovely gift and it was so good of him to come home for Christmas.

Tom will be 32 in February. He has not married yet. After he returned from his mission he taught school in Lethbridge for a year then went to Provo. And in the fall of 1957 he got his masters degree and now is working for his Doctors degree. He received his bachelor's degree in Edmonton. He taught school and saved the money and put himself through 3 years of university. He also saved enough to keep himself part of his mission. He has a strong testimony of the gospel and is a good worker in the church. Last year he was councilor in the Bishopric in one of the University wards and the next year he was superintendent of the Sunday school.

1960. Jan 10<sup>th</sup> [MY TESTIMONY]

Today as I sit writing and pondering over my married life, I realize how the Lord has blessed me. Since that day we were sealed in the temple the Lord has blessed our union with 8 wonderful children, 2 daughters-in-law, 3 sons-in-law and 12 grandchildren, all of who are very dear and precious to me. My patriarchal blessing says, "Some of the noble spirits of the last dispensation shall be sent to the earth through you, so prepare yourself as did the mother of the Savior that thou mayest give life and succor to noble men and women." This blessing has been my greatest desire and although I have fallen short in so many ways of being the kind of mother I should have been, I am very proud of my children and their accomplishments. But the thing that makes me happiest of all is that they all hold important positions in the Priesthood and in the organization of the church. Some day I hope to get a calendar of all the positions they have held and the service they have given in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I am happy that my husband is a High Priest and a councilor in the Branch Presidency and that I too have had the privilege of serving in this glorious gospel. That we may all continue to do so and prove valiant to the end is my constant prayer.

Phyllis F. Davies

It has been quite a mild winter so far.

Frank and Lloyd went with the MIA boys to Lethbridge to play basketball. Lloyd didn't get to play because he and Bobby Crawford were fooling and Bob tripped Lloyd and he fell off the stage and cut his head just above the eye. Dan, who is their coach, took him to the doctor and he had some stitches put in it.

At 2:30 Sister Wilson and I went to the St Andrews United Church. Being the President of the Relief Society I was asked to come to help prepare for a special prayer to be held for The March for Peace. The program was all outlined by the women's Interchurch Counsel of Canada. And as there were not enough parts for all the churches, I said we would like to just listen since we hadn't been to their meetings before. They served lunch and gave us pop instead of tea.

It is so hard for me to remember people and get acquainted here.

Ellen said in her letter that she was expecting a new baby in June.

Tonight I am going to Relief Society. We hold our meetings at 8 o'clock. Sister Helen Atwood and Elizabeth Taylor are my councilors. Sister Wilson is the secretary, Alma the organist, and Arminta Anderson the chorister. The class leaders are Fon Hogg, Pearl Crawford, and Roxy Hamilton. [Joanne Bullock was the second councilor until they moved to Taber but they are now back running the Red and White Store.]

1960. February 19<sup>th</sup>

Tonight Ren, Frank, Lloyd and I went up to Lethbridge with Bob Reeder and his son Dan to play the final game in the Lethbridge Stake Basketball game. They played in the stake house with the Lethbridge third ward. The Bow Island Juniors team won 42 to 49, the Friday before. They had played the first game of the finals. It was a two game series with points counting. Our boys were really playing ball and beat them by 39 points.

Next week they will play either Cardston or Claresholm. Bow Island will play the winner and the team that wins goes to Salt Lake.

Well the boys didn't go to Cardston. Lethbridge third ward protested the game on the grounds that Frank was too old. David Hogg, who was the Bow Island coach, had asked the stake if it would be all right for Frank to play since he was only a month too old and they needed him in order to make a team, and the Stake told Dave to go ahead and use Frank. But the protest was so severe that the Stake said that Bow Island should play another game without Frank and the team that beat should play off with Cardston who was the winner of the Alberta Cardston Stake. Our boys were so confused and felt that it wasn't fair and they got beat by a few points. We all felt that our boys hadn't done their best.

1961. January 22<sup>nd</sup>

It has been nearly a year since I last wrote in my book. In the spring of the year Dan quit the propane company and he and Alma and Carol Dawn came out to live with us. They moved into the two south rooms. Frank was taking grade 12 and Lloyd needed to work hard at his schooling having stayed out the year before. They got some more cows on shares [20cows] and it was surely a busy spring trying to put in the crops and milking 30 cows. They had to buy hay and it was scarce so by fall they had turned the cows back. On July the first, Dan and Alma and I went to HillSpring to the 50th centennial celebration. There was over 100 visitors present, people who had lived there. They had a barbecue and it was indeed a wonderful celebration, especially when we were able to see Father and Edyth and her family, Ada and Emma and Orrin and Frank and their families.

When we returned home our crops and garden had been hailed on. The crops came back but just a month later we were hailed out again. The grain except for one small patch was completely destroyed. We harvested only a few bushels of wheat. But we were able to harvest some hay, and the beets which were a great deal of extra work, went for 19 ton to the acres. Ren borrowed some money and bought a few more cows and Dan went back to work for Propane for the winter. The garden came back and so we had lots of carrots, corn, and beans and put up lots of tomatoes. The Lord blessed us with plenty to eat and with a good warm home. We built a reservoir and pumped the water into the house with Lynn's help. Dan and Alma and Ellen put in a hot water heater into the house so we have hot and cold water now installed for Christmas.

On August 30, Kathryn Marie was born to Dan and Alma. She had dark hair and dark eyes. Alma gives lesson after school and I help take care of the children. They are such sweet babies. I enjoy them very much, although I get tired at times and it makes more work having the people who come to take the lessons here. Alma is always so kind and pleasant. She is such a sweet girl.

We had such a lovely Christmas. Tom and Frank were home from Provo and Lynn was here also. Vaughn Taylor and his wife had planned to visit their family in Edmonton but her daughter had a new baby and had gone to the hospital so I asked them to come for dinner. They

are such lovely people.

Monday night Ellen and Veryl, Jerry, Kenny and Connie Sue and Lore, Barbara, Bobby, Lorianne, and Dana Lynn came and stayed all night. Sara, Ted, Ricky, Wendy and Doran came on Tuesday and we had another turkey dinner. They brought such lovely presents for us all.

It was so good to have Tom and Frank home for a week. Tom was in the university hospital for some time this fall and is still under Doctor's care. They thought that it was the muscles of his leg that had been hurt at first, but found out by sending a graft of his skin to Washington that he had contacted a terrible disease while on his mission in Samoa. The germ had lain dormant in his leg for 4 years. This fall it began to destroy the nerve cells halfway up in his leg before the Doctors in Salt Lake found out what it was. They are giving him some pills that they say will kill the germ in a year and hope to restore life to his leg in another year. He limps and it is painful at times. On New Year's Day his stomach was bothering him. He said the doctor told him if this happened again to come to him for it might be the pills that were causing it.

On Tues the 3rd of January Ren and I took Tom to Lethbridge to meet the people he was going back with. We haven't heard from him since then. Franky went back on New Year's Day. He had to be back to school by the third.

It has been so hard for Frank to be away from home for the first time, and with Tom sick. They have both prayed earnestly about it. Tom said he fasted for three days and Frank and the boys had administered to him. Tom said it was such a comfort to have Frank there with him. Frank for some years has wanted to go to Provo to school. Last fall we didn't have the money to send him but Lynn gave him money for his tuition and Tom put the \$500 deposit he needed down and told him to come. Frank had received over \$100 for his 4- H Calf Club so he was able to go. He is enjoying his courses in Animal Husbandry and in music. He sang with the university choir in the Sunday evening session of Conference in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. He said it was wonderful to sit so near to President McKay and to sing in the choir.

On Sunday Christmas Day December 25, 1960 we met in the church house for the first time. It is not completely finished but was lovely to be in. Tom and Frank and Barry Pratt, who is attending school in Taber, spoke in the afternoon meeting. They bore such lovely testimonies. Oh may God bless them both with health and strength!

In the Sunday school, Brother Taylor presented some new song books that Max and Roxy Hamilton sent to the branch. They moved to Salt Lake last fall and are doing very well. Max is working in a news office in Salt Lake City.

Anne and her family are living in Edmonton. They returned from Provo last fall. It was sometime before Blair was able to get work. He is now doing research work for the Government. They came down in November and we had a nice visit with them.

Lore went to summer school and received his Bachelor of Education in August 1960. Tom hopes to get his Doctors Degree in Science this spring. He is now doing research work.

1961. January 28<sup>th</sup>

Today is my 59th birthday. Yesterday I received a letter from Tom and Frank for which I was very grateful. Tom said that his stomach was all right now. That his leg was about the same but he was able to get around on it pretty good. He was still a bit worried about people getting the infection from him, so he was going to talk to the Stake President about it and ask his advice. He was going to the green and gold ball that was being held in their ward that night. Tom is a councilor in the Bishopric. Frankie said he was getting along all right. He is expecting to write his exams this next week for the first semester.

Sara phoned yesterday. Ricky was on TV in the Georgia Birthday Program. Ricky's birthday is just before mine.

Barbara phoned this morning to wish me a Happy Birthday. I received a letter from Anne, Linda and Davy wishing me a Happy Birthday. This morning Alma and Carol, Kathy and Dan gave me a lovely broach. I have wanted one to hold my dress up around my neck. The dresses are all so low. Father came and brought me home from Primary at 3:30 so it has been a happy day.

Tonight Lloyd kissed me and said he loved me.

Dear Mother and Father,

We are having our 8<sup>th</sup> birthday party in our class Wed. afternoon the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. Because 8 years is the age for being members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, it is the first important birthday of our lives.

Will you celebrate with us and help us eat our eight-candle cake?

Sincerely yours,

Frankie and his friends,

Frankie dear, you have always been an obedient son and such a joy and help to us. [Frankie I found this letter among my papers today so I'll paste it in my book.

This is a letter Frank wrote December 31, 1962 while on his mission. I found it among the cards and papers.

Dear Folks,

Well this is the last day of 1962 and another year is about to begin bringing with it new hopes and new resolutions and determinations. I hope this year that you will have the things you need to make life happy and the necessities of life that make it comfortable.

I received your Christmas presents, the shirt, cake, and candy. Thank you very much for everything. We had a very nice Christmas. The people have been very good to us.

Elder Grappmayer's brother had a bad accident not too far from Hawthorne on their way home from Utah where they had been for Christmas. No one was killed but his little 7 year old was hurt really badly so we went to see them at the hospital Christmas Eve. She has been released from the hospital now. So this has been an eventful Christmas for me. In some ways it seems like someone in the family was hurt and because of this it seems to have been a long drawn out Christmas season.

We are in Reno today. I went down to get a new extension of stay in USA for six months. I got that taken care of. It has been almost one year now.

Everything is fine with me. I have plenty of money. \$200 should last through September. I will write and tell you when I need more.

I love you very much.

Frank

1962. I sent Frank's letter to Loyd to read.

1963. July

Today Lloyd was working in the field cultivating the beets. I was busy in the house and hadn't noticed the dark clouds that had come up from the west. He came running into the house and said, "Mother let us have prayer. It looks like hail." So we knelt down together and prayed that the Lord would protect our crops from the destroying elements. We each took a turn praying. Then we went outside. Everything was so still and hot we could hardly breathe and I have never

seen such a dark sky overhead. It surely looked like hail. As we stood there looking into the sky we saw a large white cloud roll up quickly from the northwest and travel across the sky through the dark cloud. The wind had changed from the east to the west. Then it began to blow and large drops of rain began to fall. It came down with such furry, just like a cloud burst. There was some hail in but it turned to water as it hit the ground. We felt that a miracle had been performed right before our eyes and that God had heard our prayers. The hail had turned to rain. To the south and west and east of us the hail completely wiped out some of the farms. Jay Atwoods and Allyn got the worst of it. But Jess and Dan Atwood and Wayne Anderson were also damaged.

Lloyd wants to go on a mission this fall and unless we can have a good crop we will be unable to send him. We have sold all our cows except a few head to keep Frank in the mission and are depending on a crop to send Lloyd. So far our crops have been protected and are growing fast. We are hoping and praying that we will have a good harvest.

We had a good crop of hay and fair crop of beets, about 600 tons at 20 dollars a ton so far. We haven't as yet received all our payment for the beets. I received \$600 from Father's inheritance. We have used part of it to send Lloyd on his mission and will keep the rest in case of an emergency in order to keep him in the field.

Dan, Sara, and Ellen have helped in keeping Frank there. Also Lynn has sent him money for which we are grateful. Tom has helped since he got his job a year ago when he went to Edmonton to work.

1963. I am sitting at the table looking out of the west window. There is a herd of about 50 antelope just beyond the trees. They drifted in with the first big snowstorm. We have had so much snow. It has drifted up against the fences leaving parts of the land quite bare. The antelopes are feeding on the beet tops. They scratch them up with their feet out of the snow. When something frightens them they run swiftly and gracefully over the snow and up the drifts and over the fences into another field. Never in my life have I seen so many wild things, peasants by the hundreds, beautiful little white rabbits and snow birds. As we went to Lethbridge they were all along the side of the road. They didn't even move. Many are dying from want of feed.

Lloyd sent us a tape recording at Christmas wishing us a Happy Christmas. Also it had on it the testimony of a young girl who they had been teaching. She said that her parents had not yet given their consent to her being baptized but they, the missionaries, and she were praying that they would do so.

1964. January 5<sup>th</sup>

Years have gone by since I last wrote in this book. Oh why have I been so neglectful? Things go so quickly from my mind that now it is hard to recall past happenings. On January 1962 Frank entered the mission home in Salt Lake City and was set apart by..... , to go to the Northern California mission. We are looking forward to his release at the end of this month. On the 2 of December our youngest son, Lloyd, entered the mission home in Salt Lake City. There he was set apart by Anton R Ivan to fill a mission in Australia. In San Francisco, he was met by Frank. Lloyd said in his letter he, "saw Frank, which I was very happy for. He and his companion took three of us to see the Oakland temple. I was very proud of him and for the wonderful example he has always set for me."

Father bought a new car and we took Lloyd to the mission home. We visited Jack and stayed with Mary and Lawrence overnight.

On December 22, Father and I left Bow Island and went to Edmonton. It was warm. A Chinook wind was blowing making the snow soft and muddy but was wonderful after the 2 weeks of cold weather, 32 below, we have been having. We had a wonderful Christmas. Anne is such a good housekeeper. The children are so sweet. They have a lovely home. A beautiful tree and a lovely Christmas dinner made our stay enjoyable. Lynda and Noel gave us their bed to sleep in and they slept in sleeping bags in the bunk bed. Davy is such a little man now and Harold has such a sweet smile. Ada invited us all, Anne and family, Tom, Father and me, on the 26th to her house for a turkey supper. Barbara and Billy and their father were there. Barbara is 18 and has a job. Billy plays basketball in the church.

On Friday Father and I went to Tom's apartment and visited him. I cooked supper for them. Tom took us to see the place where he is doing research for the Canada Chemical Co. He has been doing research work on rayon. He seems to be enjoying his work. That is, he says it is the easiest job he has ever had. He is worried about his hair receding. He works in the Stake MIA as recreation councilor and as Priest teacher in his ward.

Erva and Ron came up to see us for an evening. On Sunday we went to church with them.

On Monday we left for Calgary. We visited Ivan, Ren's brother. It was the first time we had seen him since his operation. He looked pretty good. Then we went to Nanton and had a nice visit with Lore and Barbara.

On New Year's Sara and Ellen and families, and Tom came. Barbara had prepared a lovely turkey dinner for us. She had a lovely table, beautifully set. There were 22 of us who sat down to dinner. We had such a great Christmas holiday.

When we returned home we found letters from Lloyd and Frank. Such wonderful letters full of missionary spirit. Frank said he had had a wonderful Christmas and had received some Christmas cards and letters, "from people I have seen come into the church. It is so rewarding to hear from them and once again feel of their wonderful spirits. It is really a Christmas joy and I love every one of these people. We have had real good success this month and this has been a real blessing and joy. I received your package of candy and cake and card with your money gift in it. That is the best kind. Frank"

Lloyd's letters were full of interesting things about the people. He is working hard to learn the lessons and has given some of them. They have been working with the young people and one boy wants to join the church if only they can get the consent of the parents. He said "Pray for me that I will be a good missionary." He is working in the branch and doing missionary work with the indifferent members. I do pray for his success. He sent us such a beautiful Christmas card.

In September 1963 the branch was made into a ward. Ren was released as councilor and I was released as the Relief Society President. Edyth Wilson was made the President and I was asked to be the literature teacher in R.S. I also teach the 6 and 7 year old in Sunday school. 10 Children: Franklin, Brian Pratt, LaVern and Donna Southerton, Denna and Karen Still, J Clark, Cheryl Allen, Terri Fleckinger, Mar Atwood. I also teach a Beehive class, Louise Crawford, her little friend, Brenda and Carol Southerton. Donna Malenski was in the class but she moved with her family to Grassy Lake. I am also a R.S. visiting teacher. So I have all that I can do. It keeps me busy studying. I enjoy teaching only it seems hard for me to remember things now. It was hard for Ren to take me to do my Relief Society work in the spring and fall when he was trying to do the farming so I know it was right to have a change. It has put new life into the branch. Brother Taylor and Carol Southerton are the councilors to the bishop.

Dan and Alma are getting their home fixed up little by little. They are so good to us. Alma is expecting her 4th child in the spring.

Ellen and Anne are also expecting in April. Anne is 38 now and her leg bothers her. We have 19 grand children: Bobby, Lorianne, Dana Lynn, Calli, Wendy, Ricky, Doran, Gary, Clay, Jerry, Renny, and Connie, Davy, Lynda, Noel, Harold, Carol, Kathy, and Danny. Lore has 4 girls, Sara, one girl and 3 boys, Ellen, 3 boys, and one girl, Anne has 2 boys and 2 girls, Dan has 2 girls and 1 boy. They are all beautiful children.

Bow Island, Alberta  
December 27, 1964

[There was no heading]

This Sunday we didn't have any meetings. Pieprasses are away for Christmas. The road between Berdette and Bow Island has been blocked yesterday and today. By going around by Simpsons we were able to get to Dan's. We brought Carol and Kathy back with us to stay for the night. Tom and Rae were coming down to spend the day with us but Father phoned and told them not to come because of the weather. Yesterday we couldn't even see the barn for blowing snow. The snow is dry and it is cold.

On Monday the 21st Father took me up to Lethbridge to see if I could help in preparing for the wedding. He came home to do chores and to bring Dan and Alma back with him. Frank was to be married at the 8 o'clock session on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the temple. I stayed with the children and Sara helped with the decorating. Tuesday night Father phoned and said that he couldn't possibly come to the wedding because of the blocked roads. It was 32 below with a 50 mile an hour wind. It was calm and cold in Lethbridge so Frank and Fay went up to Cardston Tuesday night. Aunt Lynn phoned and invited them to come and stay at their house because it was beginning to blow. So they went. The next morning Ted took Sara and I up. We made it through all right. Tom and Rae were there. Fay's stepmother and stepfather and her sister and husband were there too.

We had a lovely ceremony. Frank and Fay both looked so grand. Fay had a beautiful wedding dress and Frank wore a new black suite and shirt. It was so peaceful and happy. We all had dinner at the temple and arrived back at Lethbridge safely.

The reception was nice too. Lore and Barbara were there. David Pratt, who Frank had asked to be his best man, phoned that he couldn't get there so Lore and Tom stood in the line. Tom was best man and Lore took Father's place. The decorations were beautiful with Christmas tree and trimmings. The food was very good and everything was lovely. Only about 30 couples came due to the bad road conditions and blowing snow and cold weather and possibly because it was so close to Christmas.

Frank and Fay stayed in their apartment that night. We all went down to help take the gifts and wish them well. On the 24th they went to Edmonton, [the highway was cleared by then] to spend their honeymoon and have Christmas dinner at a friend of Fay's. They are coming back to Lethbridge today.

Father phoned to me on Christmas Eve saying that the snow plow had gone through and he had the car going. He said he was tired, having shoveled snow most of the day so he would come up to Lethbridge the next morning. He was there by 8 o'clock to see Sara's children open their presents. Tom and Rae and Lore and his family came for dinner so we had a lovely Christmas. We left for home about 4 o'clock. Lore left for Magrath and Tom and Rae stayed at Rae's folks. We got home safely for it didn't start drifting until about 10 AM the next morning. Tom had to

be back to work Tuesday morning so they will leave for home tomorrow. Sara, Lore and Ellen and their families will be down for New Year's Day, weather permitting.

All in all we had a lovely wedding and Christmas and the Lord's protecting care was over us. Anne and family phoned just after we arrived home to wish us Christmas cheer. Ellen also phoned Christmas Eve and said she was sorry she couldn't be at the wedding.

Aunt Lynn gave me a card with \$10 in it to give to you.

February 15, 1964

This week has been warmer and the snow has melted some during the day but it freezes at night, making the road icy. Yesterday we had large sessions at the temple. 183 people were in the last session. Father and I took the double part in the morning session.

In the afternoon Dan and Alma and children came to see us and we were so happy to see them. We went to Curtis Crawford's reception. He was married at the temple. It was a valentine theme and was very lovely.

1964. February 17<sup>th</sup>

Today Father and I attended Sunday school and Meetings and had a lovely quiet Sabbath Day. I need to write my life all over again. Some of it is so dim it can hardly be read.

1965. December

Not long before Christmas Father and I went to Calgary and met Lloyd at the airport and brought him home. You can't imagine the joy it brings to a mother to have her son return home after completing an honorable mission unless you have experienced it. They are so clean and fine and have gained such a strong testimony of the gospel.

We had taken him down to Salt Lake, father and I and Judy Sheppard, who went with us, to go to school at BYU, and now at last he was home again. But at the end of January he left for Provo to attend university, his second year at the Y. Uncle Lawrence Leavitt gave him a job in his Yankee Lunch drive-in. Brice was managing it so Lloyd lived with them and worked to pay his way through school. He didn't come home that summer but stayed and worked and took some summer courses in order to make up his year's credits. The next year he sold insurance and worked on the university farm and with what money we could send him was able to complete his third year. When he returned home in May he brought Jane Cripps with him for a visit. They were married July 27, 1967.

The spring of 1966 after Lloyd left for the "Y" Father turned over his share of the land on which Dan was living to him, and Father worked the quarter. But his back hurt so badly and since the boys were not interested in farming the land, we decided to sell the farm and move to Leavitt. In April 1966 Veryle had offered Father a job on his ranch. Veryle was teaching school and needed some one to look after his cattle while he was away. We lived in their trailer until June then Veryle took his family and went to Provo to get some of his credits he needed to teach in Canada. We lived in their home while they were gone.

1966. May

Last night we came back to Bow Island and found out that the government could advance the money to Kase Strike to buy our place. This was the last time we stayed there all night. May 26 Ren and I returned to our trailer home in Leavitt. We saw Sara as we came through Lethbridge. They are fixing up their basement. It is going to be lovely.

Tuesday, May 27

Went to Relief Society at Leavitt. Planted a garden with Ellen and at night Father and I went to the temple and attended a session.

Wednesday, Ellen went to Beazer with the Stake Primary Officers. She is the Alberta Stake chorister. Went to the 8 o'clock temple session

Thursday Ren is helping Veryl build a chicken coop. Attended night session at the temple.

Friday, we expected Tom and Rae to be at the temple but they didn't come. Frank and Fay were there. They said they had found an apartment for \$125 a month and were going to move out of the basement suit.

Saturday we went to Cardston where Ren met Joyce Holliday to plan for a Davies reunion.

1966. May 22<sup>nd</sup>

We had ward conference in Bow Island today. It was good to see everyone. Jan Atwood was home from his mission and bore his testimony. After meeting, we left Bow Island to go to Provo to see Lloyd, and do some genealogy research that Ren has wanted to do. We stopped for the night at Boulder, warmed up our supper in a pretty kitchenette, slept well. We were on the road by 7 o'clock. Had lunch at Dillon. Got to Mary's at 9 PM. Had lunch in their drive in. Went to Provo and saw Lloyd, visited with Jack and family, stayed there all night, saw Jack's horse up in the mountains and Johnny's new home. Went to Leon's and looked up genealogy, had dinner there, then went to Kerns and had a nice visit with Neff and Erma where we stayed all night. On Friday we went to Salt Lake City to the genealogical library. Didn't seem to do much. Then we went back to Provo and picked up Lloyd, at Brice's where he is staying and went 70 miles to Emery to visit Ethel and Dave on the ranch. We enjoyed our visit with them. They are planning to sell and move. We left Ethel's the next morning and went to Orem to visit Ren's Aunt Flora. Then we went to Fillmore and Hinckley. It was a wonderful trip especially to be with Lloyd again. We had a lovely supper at Brice's and met his family.

We stayed at Mary and Lawrence's that night and returned home at 5 the next day.

In August we bought us a home in Cardston and moved into it. We wanted to be close to the temple and here we could attend often.

Lore spent two weeks of his vacation remodeling the house and building cupboards for us for which we will always be grateful to him. Then he went to Provo to finish his credits and get his masters degree. He did very well for his marks were among the top three students. Lore has such a keen intellect, above average, as his blessing says, but he works hard too.

When they came back, Lore bought a farm in Welling and is teaching at the Junior College in Lethbridge. They have fixed up the old house that was on the farm. It has been a lot of hard work. He is on the Stake High Council and they are all enjoying the church activities in Welling. The girls go to school on the bus to Magrath. I am so proud of him and his lovely wife and family.

1967. ,

It was evening in June of 1967 that Lloyd phoned from Provo to his Father and me and said, "Jane and I have decided to get married."

Father said, "Who is Jane?"

Jane was his dancing pardoner at BYU where Lloyd was in charge of the square dancing group.

They had gone to Las Vegas a number of times and other places to perform. But he had not mentioned Jane who is from Las Vegas. When Lloyd came home the first of June he brought Jane and little Barbara, Lore's daughter, with him. [Lore had been attending the university also that year getting his bachelor degree.]

Jane is a very lovely girl. She stayed with us for a week, and then returned to Las Vegas where her parents live. Her parents are LDS but inactive and her father said that Jane couldn't marry a Mormon. Lloyd said he would not get married unless they could be married in the temple. Finally her father said she could get married if they could have a wedding there as well. Jane's Bishop in Las Vegas made the arrangements.

On July 27 Lloyd and Jane Cripps were married in the Cardston Alberta Temple.

Jane made her wedding gown and the dress for her sister who was to be the Bride's maid. We decided to have a reception and invite all the children and grandchildren and the people from Bow Island who Lloyd knew. About 80 people came. Everything was lovely. Fay, Rae, and Anne made dainty squares and cookies. Ellen made and decorated the wedding cake. We had punch, rolls, and turkey-ala-king, green salads and nuts and candy. We decorated with lots of fresh flowers. Sister Matkin gave me a big bouquet of roses from her garden and we bought baskets of flowers to put on the stage.

The program was the best I have ever heard at a reception.

Ted was the master of ceremonies. He was so good.

Blair offered a lovely prayer and blessing on the food.

Dan and Frank sang.

Barbara and Lore's girl sang.

Sister Atwood whistled The Nightingale Song.

Sara's family sang and acted out "The Lonely Little Goat Herder.

Linda Stringam played a couple of piano pieces.

They all took pictures both in the morning after the temple ceremony and in the evening after the reception. After it was over Jane and Lloyd left for Las Vegas. The next morning Blair and Anne took us to Las Vegas to attend the wedding there. It was all very lovely but seemed such a farce after having seen the temple marriage. There were mostly LDS people at the wedding, the bishop and teachers who had taught Jane in MIA and Primary and Sunday school, and members of the ward that Jane and her grandmother went to.

The morning after the reception we went to California and saw Nell, Ren's sister and visited her children there for a day. It was a long hot trip home till Blair bought an air cooler to go in his car. And although we were tired we enjoyed the trip very much together.

1967. October 9<sup>th</sup>

Today is Thanksgiving Day. I have so many things to be thankful for.

This morning father and I went to Lethbridge. Lore and Barbara had invited us to dinner and what a feast we had, turkey, pumpkin pie with all the trimmings. Sara and Ellen and their families were there also. I have so many lovely grandchildren and a wonderful family, a comfortable home and a good husband, the privilege of officiating in the temple and working in the church.

This summer has been such an eventful one. It began with the big snow storm in April. Roads were blocked. The snowdrifts were higher than a car along the road when it was finally possible to get the snowplow through. Many of the cattle died standing up the snow came down so fast. It was the first of June before the ground was in good enough condition to start planting. But by

then the weather was so warm, not much wind. Everything grew so fast that people have had good crops and gardens. I have put up a deep freeze full of vegetables and fruit for Lloyd and Frank and our own use. .

The past week I have been tending Ellen's children at Leavitt. Ellen and Sara both went to conference and sang with the Relief Society singing mothers at Relief Society conference and also one day of the general conference. It was a wonderful experience for them.

Lloyd and Frank are both in Provo BYU going to school. Lloyd and Jane have bought them a trailer house and they are both working. Lloyd works part time and goes to school part time. Fay is also working while Frank goes to school. They have saved up some money and borrowed some in order to get an education. For the past 2 years Fay has been going to school and got her degree this summer.

Father's back is not so good. He over did himself putting up hay and helping on the ranch. But he is better than he was. We hope he will soon be able to get around without so much pain. One thing he needs is lots of rest.

1969. January 5th

Frank called us on the phone from Provo and told us Lloyd had a baby girl born that morning. Lloyd had gone over to Franks to tell them so they called us up. Lloyd spoke to us. He is grateful it was all over and they had an eight-pound baby girl. They named her Janene Arlean. I would like to write a little more about Christmas.

Last year Ellen and Veryle put on the dinner and took charge of the program. This year Sara and Ted paid for the dinner and took charge of the program. They both did such a wonderful job and everything was so nice. The program, decorations, and dinner were all lovely. We do appreciate this and hope that we can continue to have lovely Christmases.

This week we received a letter from Frank and Lloyd. They finished their semesters and Lloyd has moved his trailer to Logan where he is going to teach part time at the Utah State University and take subjects toward getting a Masters degree. Frank has 3 out of his 5 subjects toward his Bachelor degree.

We are so grateful for our families taking part in the church. They all have jobs. Tom is Bishop of the Edmonton ward he lives in. He was put in December. Lore is in the High Council in the Taylor Stake. Sara was put in as Primary President of her ward in Lethbridge in September. Ellen is still the Stake Primary Chorister. She also teaches the literature lesson in Relief Society. Dan is councilor to Bishop Piepgrass in Bow Island. Blair was at the Temple Saturday. He is Scoutmaster in his ward. Frank is a ward teacher and Lloyd a councilor to the Presidency. Jane is Relief Society chorister. Veryle teaches the young marrieds in Sunday school. Barbara is working in the MIA.

Ellen is expecting in March and is not very well. She has a bad cold.

This past month I did 17 endowments besides doing my assignments in the temple

1969. January 13<sup>th</sup>

Each New Year's Day I resolve to write down things as they happen. This year I resolve to do better.

Frank returned from his mission February 3, 1964. Father and Lynn met him at the station.

Lynn had living quarters in part of our big house. I was afraid I'd start to cry like I did when Dan returned. It was so good to have him home again. He gave such a wonderful talk on Sunday. He had been grateful that he had been able to baptize some 75 people into the church. That he had been called to go to such a fruitful field of labor.

It was so lonesome for him during the winter after he returned from his mission. In the spring and summer he worked hard in the field. Father's back was bad and Frank had to do most of the lifting. Frank planned to go to Provo for another year at University but the crop was not in and father couldn't do the work alone. Frank went to Calgary to see if he could get into the School of Technology, but they were filled up and he couldn't get the subjects he wanted. When he came back he brought Fay with him and announced that they were engaged.

Fay was teaching school in Lethbridge. We knew that he had met her at the stake dances in Lethbridge and had gone out with her a few times, before he went to Provo and that he had been to see her during the summer but the wedding plans came as quite a shock to us. Frank was able to get a job through Glen Steed with the government in the Irrigation Experimental Department. We had made it a matter of prayer and fasting and the Lord has certainly blessed him in getting a good job. Our neighbor John Egan had offered to sell father his farm for \$30,000. But after going over it carefully, Frank decided they couldn't make enough to live on and pay the payments. So he decided to get a job and together they would save enough to go to school. They wanted to get married in December, which they did and about a year later had a lovely baby boy. But the Doctor told Fay she must not have any more children because of her back so when Frank was transferred to Edmonton Fay went back to school and got her degree and now they are in Provo. Frank is taking his third year of University, majoring in agronomy and Fay teaches school to help support them. The Lord has surely blessed them. They have so much faith and courage. We are so proud of them.

It has been nearly a month since I wrote in this book and I was going to write once a week. Each week so many things happen that bring one joy; and happiness, so many important things I want to remember. Like today, when Ellen's family came to dinner after Stake conference. Jerry and Ken and Clay sang in the boy's chorus under the direction of Luella Smith. They furnished the music for the entire conference. Brother Sacklie recited the story of the Prophet Joseph Smith's first vision as told by the Prophet up to the part where the Father and Son appeared. Then the boys in their white shirts sang "Oh How lovely was the Morning". It was beautiful. So many wonderful talks were given.

We had such a lovely Christmas this year. Each Christmas is such a special one. Sara and her family came to see us and had dinner with us. Then on the 26th we went to Lethbridge and had our family Christmas party in their recreation hall. There were only 32 out of the 49. Ellen's little Indian girl Miriam who is staying with them [in the replacement program of the church] made up the thirty-second.

Neither Tom nor Anne came from Edmonton and Frank and Lloyd were in Provo. The weather has been the coldest that we have had for many years. The snow was piled on top of the houses two feet deep in places and the fur trees at the temple were weighed down with snow that did not blow off until the second week in February. This past week the weather is warmer with Chinook winds coming over the Mountains. Lloyd and Jane phoned on Christmas Day. Barbara and Lore came to see us New Years as did Ellen and her family. We finished up the big Turkey Father had bought for Christmas.

This year the children all sent lovely cards and letters on my birthday. I stood them up on the

table and it looked like a beautiful flower garden. And this after the many beautiful gifts we received for Christmas. My family is so good to me.

1969. March 31<sup>st</sup>

We received a letter from Janene Davies written by her father Lloyd

Dear Grandpa and Grandma,

Happy Birthday Grandpa.

I hope you have a very special day. We love you and want the best for you and hope you have a very special day.

Mom and Dad say that I am growing like a weed. I'm not though. I'm just becoming a big girl. My birthday is next Saturday. I'll be three months old then. I weigh about 13 pounds and I am 2 feet high.

The weather here has been so nice the past week. All the snow has melted except a little on the mountains.

My Aunt Darlene is here, going to school with Daddy. We are having a good time. Dad says he likes school and is doing pretty well. We are fine. Must go. Goodbye for now Love. Janene, and Lloyd.

1969. May 10<sup>th</sup>

Everything is showing signs of spring. Father cut the grass yesterday with the electric lawn mower Frank and Anne and families gave us for Christmas. We are going to plant the garden tomorrow. Lore and family came to see us after church today. The children are growing so big. Barbara is taller than I am and Jimmy is sure a big husky boy. He can walk now and is such a happy little fellow. Dana did the dishes for me. They are a lovely family. Lore is finding it hard to get things done on the farm.

Ellen's baby was born in April. They named her Katurah Marie. She is so tiny and sweet. She weighed 4 1/2 pounds. Ellen went home in a few days but the Doctor kept the baby in the hospital until it gained 5 1/2 pounds.

Lloyd and Jane's baby was blessed. Lloyd has been made the ward clerk and Jane says he is sure busy now. She said he likes the school and she is enjoying having her sister Darlene there. She is going to the Y. I am happy Lloyd is working in the church.

Anne and Blair and their family came down on April 4th and spent the Easter with us. We were so happy to see them. Their children are growing too.

Dan is working in Lethbridge for Commercial Feeders. Alma is staying in Bow Island so the children can finish school. We haven't seen Dan since he started work. They hope to send little Dale to the school for retarded children. I do hope and pray things will work out for them all right.

Anne said that she was going to tend Tom and Rae's children while they went to convention in the East. We have not heard from them since they were here the last of February. Tom and Rae brought the children and stayed overnight and went to the temple session on Saturday and home that night. It was the first time we had seen the baby. He is such a fine big boy and is such a good baby. He sleeps all night and most of the day. So it is not so hard on her. Megan is getting to be such a sweet little girl. She has lost her baby look and ways and Teddy is such a husky little fellow and talks and talks. He says most every thing now.

We are expecting Frank and Fay at the end of this month. They are coming for the summer when school is out. Fay said in the lovely Easter card they sent that they are expecting a baby

this year. So our family is growing. We have now 32 beautiful grandchildren. The world grows wickeder every day it seems. May God protect my family from evil is my prayer each day.

1969. May 15<sup>th</sup>

Today we finished planting the garden. It was such a beautiful day.

May 16<sup>th</sup>

Father and I went to a boy's chorus put on by the Stake. Luella Smith was the conductor. There were over 70 boys in the chorus from 7 years to 14. Clay and Jerry sang in it. The program lasted for an hour. It was marvelous. They sang dawn in the Valley, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, and many other beautiful songs.

Last night about 9 o'clock, we heard a knock at the door. Ren opened it and there was Bob and Muriel Fisher. We were so surprised and happy to see them. It was so good to hear about their family and that Ethel was better and able to do her work in her home and garden and to help Dave in the office although she is not right well and is still taking pills to deaden the electrons in her system. We talked until eleven o'clock. Then their son Teddy and his wife Lillian came. They were married last summer at the LDS chapel in Medicine Hat, where Lillian lived, and where she joined the church. They have just been married a year now. They stayed all night and in the morning we all went to the temple and saw Lillian and Ted sealed. When we got back home Erva and Ron and his wife Shirley and my brother Frank Fisher were there. We had a lovely visit for an hour then they left for home. Erva went to the Lakes where Ron's children were being tended by some of their friends.

1969. July 20<sup>th</sup>

Man on the Moon. The Moon Walk.

As I write this I am listening to the TV. At 9:30 eastern daylight time the astronauts will land on the moon. Some are saying that it is the greatest day in History. That by 2020 we will be going to Mars. That if this world is to be destroyed by wars we will be able to live on Mars. We know that there is water on Mars. We don't know if there are people on Mars. Thousands of people are gathered around the TV stations. A man is coming to display an astronaut space suit. It weights more than a man. He is now taking off the oxygen pack, and the helmet. The space suit takes 30 minutes to take off. It is a wonder they move at all. Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong is about to step out on the moon. Our TV is not good enough to see much. They have now landed on the moon and are coming down the ladder. They sink down into the soft material. They put up flags and plaques. They took pictures, sample of rock, and sand. They are the first tourists on the moon. The desert is very beautiful. They feel light and it is easy to walk around. President Nixon is speaking by telephone from the White House to the astronauts. "We are proud of what you have done for you are bringing the heavens to the earth." They answer, "We feel honored in being here. It is quite plain and is surely a great accomplishment in scientific achievement.

1969. July

This month has been an eventful one for our family. Ellen invited all the family to come to their ranch for a family outing. Sara and her children came in their camper. Anne and Tom bought large tents so they all slept out. Anne came on Monday. She drove her car down and Blair brought some scouts in their big car. He and Davy went to the lakes for a scout outing. Anne and the other children stayed at our place and we went up to Ellen's Wednesday morning.

Barbara and Alma and Sara and families arrived soon after. By 10 AM we were at the Leavitt church ready to practice the family program which was to be put on for the public on Friday night. The children had learned the songs before they came. At noon we all went back to Ellen's. They had cleared out their big new garage and set up tables for a kitchen. Everyone had brought most of their own food and we had plenty of warmed up casseroles for dinner. Tom and Rae and family came Wednesday night. The program went off just as it was planned and it was surely enjoyed by all of us.

Ruth Jensen and Elizabeth Smith took my place at the temple [traded days with me] and then father and I went to the temple at 5 o'clock in the evening so didn't get to the practices but were there for the evening program on Friday night. It started promptly at 7:30 and was the best program I have ever seen.

Lawrence and Mary Leavitt were there. Dora and Lynn and the Shields, [Alma's folks] and their friend, and some of the people from Leavitt were there. Sara's sisters-in-laws, Jean and Sharon, and their families also came and seemed to enjoy it very much. To me it was marvelous. The decorations, costumes, dancing, and music were something I shall never forget. All our family was there except Frank and Lloyd and families, and Lore.

1969. Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>

We all went to the Lake for the Thomas Davies Reunion. There was a good crowd. Aunt Ethel Wynder and her girls and their families were there. Mary and Lawrence Leavitt and some of Dora's and all of mine made it. Frank and Fay came Saturday morning and Frank showed the genealogy work that Leon had done. It is wonderful.

I feel most of the family were tired and anxious to get home when it was over. Frank and Fay and Anne's family stayed with us over night and went to church the next day. We had all the strawberries they could eat from our garden while the family was here. I picked gallons of strawberries and have put up enough for father and me for the winter. It will be a lovely week to look back at with pleasure for the rest of my life.

1969. July 19<sup>th</sup>

After the two Saturday sessions we went to the Woolford Park to the Gibb Reunion. Sara and Ellen were there with their children. They took part on the program. Sara and Ellen sang the song "Homing" that they sang in our program. It is so beautiful, Wendy gave a reading with actions and Jerry and Ken played on their instruments.

The Gibbs are working on Hannah Gibb's genealogy now.

1969. September 20<sup>th</sup>

These past two months have been eventful ones. On August 2, 1969 we held the Franklin Pierce Fisher Reunion. It was a very successful day. Legrand and most of his family were there. Bob, Muriel and John and Margaret, Ada, Edyth and family, Erma, Jim and Morgan, Neff's boys, and family were there also. Ellen went to a convention at Calgary so was not there. Sara, Dan, and Lore and families and most of the other Fisher families were represented.

On Sunday morning we help a testimonial. Such beautiful testimonies were born. Carol's family spoke of their love for their mother. I enjoyed Jim's [Neff's boy] testimony. He said the day his father died he was cleaning the church for his father. [Neff was a caretaker of their church in Kearnes]. Jim said he was fasting and very much concerned about his father who had had a stroke. After praying for his father he sat down on the bench to rest for a minute. He said the most peaceful feeling came over him and he felt that my Father and Mother, his

grandparents, were there in the room. The next day when Neff died he knew that Father and Mother had come to take his father back with them. Perhaps the reason I enjoyed Jim's testimony so much was that I had a similar experience on the February 22, 1967. The day Ren and I were set apart to work in the temple. We had received a letter signed by President McKay saying that we had been called to work in the temple. You would think I would be very happy about it. Instead I felt very surprised and worried. I felt that I was not qualified. I am so absent minded and so forgetful. I can not remember people's names and make so many mistakes in the things I do and say. The past year Ren and I had been going to the temple nearly every temple day. Ren had been asked to come as often as he could to work at the veil and I was just getting so I could go there without being worried I would.....[this next page is missing.]

Frank and Fay came too in their truck from Edmonton. Fay stayed with us for a few days then went to visit her mother. Frank has been working for the government since he returned from school in March and left for Provo last Wednesday. Fay is 7 months along and is expecting in November. They went in the truck with their belongings in the back. They are very brave. Frank will get his Bachelor's degree this year, he hopes.

Lloyd is working for his master degree. Jane is expecting about Christmas time. They are all so brave and fine. May God bless them. Janene and Jane had colds when they came and I was in bed with a cold and flu for a couple of days. Fay and Jane looked after things. Still have a cold and do not feel very good.

On Wednesday Sara came. She said Alma had her baby Sunday September 13, a big baby girl. On Friday I received a letter from Marcia Egelson Shields. She is staying at Dan's. She said she had no trouble caring for Dale. That he was a good little boy. She said the baby was born at 4:50 Monday morning.

It is raining today. It looks like fall is here. We have a few carrots and potatoes to get in yet.

1969. November 5<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, November the second, Father and I went to Lethbridge to attend the meeting and Sunday school with Dan and Alma. Dan is the councilor in the Sunday school. Dan blessed the baby, and named her after her two grandmothers, Mary-Lou and Marcia. She is such a lovely baby and looked so pretty dressed all in pink with her dark hair.

We came home right after church. Ren went to Priesthood meeting and then we all went over to Lynn's and had a lovely turkey dinner. It was Mary's birthday. Mary and Lawrence, and Ivan, Ethel, Louise, Dora, Ren and I were there to wish her a happy birthday. Her new home is so lovely and the dinner was excellent.

Mary and Lawrence left for a trip to Hawaii the next day.

I was put in as a visiting teacher October 1969. My partner is Mary Williams. Last year I was unable to attend Relief Society because of my temple work. But this year we are having it on Monday.

Monday we received a call from Frank saying that they have a fine big baby boy. We have been worried about Fay and praying for her and were happy to hear that both were doing fine. He was born on November 3, 1969.

Sara and Ted were here on Monday for dinner. They went to Ted's cousin's funeral after.

I received a letter from my sister Ethel. She is helping Dave in the office part of each day. They have opened a new office in Billingham and she is feeling much better.

We have surely been blessed this fall.

We are so grateful that Rae is better and for the little new grandson and granddaughter.

.....Sara and family gave me a new warm dress. It is green with large leaves. They gave Father money for a new hat. Lore's family gave me a lovely cake pan. Tom gave us a \$20.00 bill, Anne, bottles of jelly. Blair has been out of work. He quit his job to sell insurance and he doesn't make much on it. But he is now working for Lynn Rice. He has been trying to get a job in Lethbridge where they can be near his mother as she is getting feeble.

Dan and family gave me a writing kit. Ellen, some cream for my face and also they gave us one hundred pounds of sugar for storage. Frank gave us an electric carving knife, Lloyd and Jane some melmac dishes. Our family always gives us so much! We had a wonderful Christmas. This year I made up 14 pounds of chocolates. I made eight pounds of it for Ellen. She furnished the chocolate for 10 pounds of the amount I made. So we gave chocolates and a book of Mother's life and a jigsaw puzzle to each of the family. Frank and Lloyd didn't come home this year. We missed them. Sara, Dan and Lore were here for dinner. We had an enjoyable time together.

On the 27 we had a big party at the Welling chapel. Barbara and Lore were in charge and it was all so lovely. The programs get better every year, I think.

The weather has been beautiful, just a little skiff of snow and not cold. Yesterday we went to Lethbridge. Sara went with us to buy a hat for Father. We couldn't find one Father liked. They all have such small brims. Sara is so good to us. We visited at Dan's home. Lore and his family were there too. The children are growing up and are such fine boys and girls. I am so proud of them.

Tom and Rae came down on the 27<sup>th</sup> and stayed over Sunday. We enjoyed their visit so much. They have three lovely children. Megan is such a big little girl for 4 and Teddy is such a sturdy little fellow. He said to me, "My Father loves me."

1969. December 4<sup>th</sup>

Today, Father and I went to Lethbridge to a surprise party for Dan on his thirty-eighth birthday. He was really surprised. Sara and Lore's families were there. Alma had prepared such a lovely supper and a beautiful chocolate cake with 38 candles on it. She had such an interesting game. Sara had helped her. She wrote a question on a slip of paper, wrapped it in cellophane paper for each one. The questions were so interesting. One of them was, "Mother, what did we always do the week before Christmas?" I couldn't answer that so she said, "Calcimine the house. We had coal stoves and what I wanted most was a clean house so at Christmas time Ren would buy some calcimine and paint. In the spring and fall I'd go over the walls with water and so by Christmas they were badly in need of a new coat of calcimine again.

There was a question for each one that made it very interesting. The children ate down stairs and everything was so nice and clean in their new home.

Father has been working at the genealogical library and has found the record of his great grandparents that they have been searching for so long. His name is William. Father was pleased when he learned that Frank had named their baby William after his great great grandfather.

1970. August

It has been a busy month. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of July Lloyd and Jane came home with their two babies,

Janene and Denise. Lloyd had finished his schooling. He spent most of his time here finishing his thesis. Then he returned. He was gone two weeks. Last week he returned and helped Blair for two days get up his potatoes. Jane and the children stayed with us. I enjoyed having them so much. It was so nice getting to know Lloyd and Jane's children.

I have put up a lot of vegetables.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September Jane and Lloyd will go to Perdue in Indiana to the university where he will get his doctor's degree in Agriculture Economics.

1970. June 10<sup>th</sup>

So many things have happened since I last wrote in my book. It has been a lovely mild winter. The storms came in March so it was the 24<sup>th</sup> of May before we got our garden planted. But we have had warm weather for June. It was 92 degrees one day this week and things have come up. In late March Frank phoned and said that Fay was going to be operated on for kidney trouble and that the doctors thought she would have to have one kidney removed. She had so much trouble with the caesarian incision after Billy was born in November. They had been waiting for the infection to leave before she was operated on again and she has been in a lot of pain. The doctor said she must have one month at least of complete rest after the operation. So during the last week of March and the first week of April when the temple was closed during general conference Father and I went down to Provo to get the children while Fay was operated on. We stayed there for two weeks. The operation was not as serious as they had supposed and they didn't have to take out the kidney. But they removed a large stone that had lodged in the kidney tube. We took the children to the hospital to see their mother before we left to bring them home. I enjoyed visiting with Frank and the children and Fay while she was there at the hospital very much but was tired when I got home.

I was very glad that Sara and Mrs. Baxter, Fay's stepmother, took turns in taking care of Bill, and Barbara and Sara took turns in taking care of Boyd. Boyd was here with me over the one week end and I enjoyed him so much I felt like time had turned back and I once more had my little boy Frank. Boyd is such a fine little fellow. He seems more than 4 years old. He is a smart little fellow. Billy is a lovely baby too and has such a sweet smile and a good baby too. He was sick the last week I was here with a bad cold and I didn't get much sleep. For when I woke it was hard for me to go back to sleep.

Sara came up one day and cut out the new white temple dress she is making me but she didn't get it finished. Sara has been so busy and so have I. While we were at conference Anne and Blair moved into our house. They brought part of their things and stored them in the garage and granary. Blair has not had any work since Christmas and was unable to get a job in Edmonton. Work is very scarce now. So they sold their home and decided to come to Lethbridge and try to get work. They had fasted and prayed in March that they might be able to sell their home. That evening, a man phoned and said he had seen their ad in the paper and would like to look at the house. He said he had to be back to work the next day and would like to come right over. He came and paid cash for what they asked for. So Blair went to Magrath and bought 50 acres of land and is planting a potato garden and is going to buy a cow and some chickens. He has built a large trailer house for them to live in until they can build a home. They stayed here for six weeks until they had the place built enough to move in. They are planting 12 acres of land into potatoes. They hope to be finished this week. Anne rode back and forth taking the children to school and helping Blair during the day. Some days when I was not at the temple, Scotty and

Larry stayed with me. They are such good obedient little fellows and I enjoyed them very much. I do hope and pray that things will work out for them and that they will be able to build themselves a new home by winter. Davy is such a nice boy, so anxious to help and make a success of the farm. They all seem happy and feel that God has heard their prayers and blessed them.

1970. June

This past week Lawrence and Mary Leavitt have been here. Lawrence came up to the dedication of the plaque he had made in memory of his Aunt, Mrs. Sanbacker, who did so much in nursing and caring for the sick when he was a boy. The plaque was set upon the Leavitt church house grounds. The services were lovely. Lawrence and others told many stories of going to care for the sick in the blizzards and how the Lord answered their prayers. Lawrence is not feeling very well since his operation.

1970. October

It has been 46 years today since Father and I were married and it has been a lovely day. All the children and grandchildren were here except Lloyd and his family. Frank and Family and Tom and family came down and went to the temple in the morning and at 6 o'clock all the rest of the family except Connie was there and she had the flu. Ellen furnished the turkey and Sara a lovely wedding cake. There were potatoes, gravy, salads and everything that goes with a big turkey dinner. Sara was in charge of the program and it was such a happy program.

Prelude music by Wendy

Opening prayer by Blair

Song by everyone accompanied by Wendy on the piano.

Then came a most interesting game. Each one was given a genealogy tree with little men to stick on it. "I am the granddaughter or grandson of Ren and Phyllis Davies. My father..." then they stuck the little men on their father whose name was on the tree.

Then each grandchild was given a slip on which was written a question to ask some of my family. Kathy's question to me was, "Where did you first meet grandpa?"

Grandma "When I was just 8 years old my father bought some land on the Cochrane Ranch where Hill Spring now is and we moved there in April 1910. About this time Ren moved to Hill Spring with his parents. He was 3 years older than I was and was one of the 'big' boys. It was not until he came home from his mission from Easter Canada that I went out with him and about 2 years after we were married. We had 8 wonderful children. We now have 35 grandchildren." Then Grandpa finished off for me by saying "Mother's grandfather gave her a patriarchal blessing when she was a girl and it says that as she obeyed her parents, her children would obey her.

Sally told how Grandma Fisher had sent her wedding ring to her when she went away to school in Calgary. Ann's boys, Larry and Scott, sang for us "Good Morning Merry Sunshine." Tom was asked what he remembered. He told about Dan when he was showing off his gun. He thought it was empty and discharged it and it made a hole in the plaster in the ceiling of the kitchen. The shell came down and fell in Anne's plate. She was still eating at the table. Dan had finished his and had sat down to try out the gun father bought the boys for Christmas. Dan was so shocked he didn't want to touch it after that.

Anne told how we had an outside toilet at the end of the lot. We didn't have one in the house and whenever the dishes were to be done, Sara would get a book and disappear. But Anne knew where to find her.

Rae showed a locket with a picture of her and Tom when they were 12 years old. She told how her Uncle Paulson had said he knew grandmother before she was married. She had beautiful hair and was a wonderful actress and was very sweet and nice.

“Where did you meet grandma, Grandpa?”

“Well I always felt so sorry for your grandmother because her father wouldn’t let her go to dances or parties at the Lakes that I asked her to marry me.

Callie said, “What are your memories of Christmas grandpa?” He told her how one year he went into the mountains for a tree. He was hauling timber from the mountains at that time and decided to get a tree to take home for our Christmas. There was a round hole under the tree and all around it was brown. He put his shovel into the snow and lifted it up and there was a big bear asleep all covered over with the snow except for that one hole where he was breathing through. He didn’t get that tree!!

Sara said that when she was little we always went to Grandma Fisher’s or Grandma Davies’ for dinner and that it was always her job when she got older to trim the tree.

Blair played a record on his record player for the closing.

After the program it was getting late so everyone gathered up their things and went home.

Fay and Rae gave me some lovely bowls for an anniversary gift.

1970. December 25<sup>th</sup>

Frank and Fay came from Edmonton to spend Christmas with us. They arrived on the 23. Fay hung up all the stockings and filled them with little gifts she bought during the year at sales. In mine was a small bottle of hand lotion, a small box of candies and a shoe brush. The stockings were full. And for our Christmas gifts she brought beautiful white curtains for all 8 windows on the east of our big room which you can open by just pulling a string instead of blinds that are wearing out. They also gave us some beautiful covers for our chair and couch. Fay needed a new dress but instead she bought the curtains and covers for us. She said she thought we needed them worse than she needed a Christmas dress. She went to a party for all the old people in the ward in Edmonton before coming down and would have liked a new dress. We all had fun on Christmas morning opening the presents. They gave father a lovely shirt. I got a sweater from Tom and Rae to wear in the temple with a lovely new white dress. Dan gave us a card saying ‘bon voyage to England’. Veryle and Ellen gave me a picture album, also frozen meat for the winter, and a few days before Christmas they all came to see us and brought us a lovely tree. Lore gave us \$35 on the car he got from us. We had told him that he didn’t need to pay it but he gave it to us for a Christmas present. Father got three shirts, something he really needed and I gave him a pair of pants. Frank and Fay gave him a box of candy and Lynn, a jigsaw puzzle. Lynn also gave us eight beautiful tumblers.

Jimmy had the measles and Katura the flu so we had a quiet day with Frank and Fay, Billy and Boyd.

Yesterday father and I went to Lethbridge. Frank and Fay came to Sara’s on Wednesday.

Billy was sick with the Red measles so Frank took their furniture to Edmonton and stored it in Tom’s garage until they can find a place to live. Boyd went with his father. He just wouldn’t let his father out of his sight. Frank took the trailer he had hired back as far as Coultts the next day and Boyd went with him. They are not going back to Provo. Yesterday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, when Father and I arrived they were there at Sara’s. Dan and family were also there. It was Gary’s birthday so Sara had invited us to come to dinner and see Gary baptized. They had a lovely service. One of the High Council spoke to the children. He told them about his great grandfather John Watts who was the first person to be baptized in England. He was baptized by Heber C. Kimball in the

river and how eager he was to be baptized. Gary was baptized by his father. Afterwards they took pictures. It was a lovely day.

Tonight Anne and family came over from Magrath and picked up some things they needed. They seem happy.

Frank left from Lethbridge this afternoon to go to Edmonton as he has to be to work tomorrow.

We have been busy at the temple the last month. We had others work for us the week we were away so we worked back for them. During the later part of February and the first week in March, Father and I rode back and forth from Lethbridge part time to look after Sara's children. Sara and Ted went to Las Vegas and the border of Mexico. I got people to take my place part of the time so I could be in Lethbridge at night.

I have been to the temple most all the time these past months.

In June I go Tuesdays at 12:30 at noon and stay for the night session. Wednesday I go at 5 PM and stay for the night session. Thursday I go at 7 in the morning and stay all day for all sessions. And I only have to go two Saturdays this month. So I will have more time to look after the garden and do other things I need to do to catch up.

I am also a visiting teacher. I missed going one month.

I do enjoy working in the temple. The Lord has blessed me so much and I hope and pray that I will be able to do my work there in a pleasing way.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> we went to Raymond and attended the baptismal service of Callee Ruth. She was baptized by her father. I am so proud of my grandchildren.

Ellen's children come to our house quite often. They stay all night when they have a ball game or music lessons. They are such good children.

1970. December 31<sup>st</sup>

This will be the last time I will write in my diary this year. We had a lovely Christmas. I always get so many presents. Father bought a radio. I have missed music in our home so much this year. Although we have the TV channel 7, the music is so loud and wild we hardly ever turn it on. Then we miss getting the news as it is given on the radio.

1971. January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Again it is the beginning of another year. Everyone was home for our Christmas party and get together but Tom and Lloyd and their families. Tom had some marriages to perform and other church work and Lloyd is far away at Lafayette Indiana to attend the Perdue University in an effort to get his Doctor's degree. His wife and 2 little girls Janene and Denise are with him. This year the party was held on the 26<sup>th</sup>, Anne's birthday at the church House in Lethbridge. Dan and Alma were in charge of the dinner and Ellen took charge of the recreation. They had a basketball game. The men played against the boys and girls. Frank played with the young people. Jerry, Kenny, Ricky, Davy, Wendy, Barbara, Lorianne, Linda, Noel, Clay, Doran, Harold and Frank with Boyd stationed on the corner. The men were Dan, Veryle, Ted, Blair, and Lore. The men beat but the boys and girls put up a good fight.

Then they square danced which everyone joined in and enjoyed, and games afterward. The program was taken from the 1970 Home Evening manual. Veryle gave the reading from the 2 chapter of Luke and each family sang a Christmas carol. The singing was so beautiful and

Veryle read it so nicely. The parcels under the tree were lovelier than ever before. Most of the families are buying a few gifts each month for Christmas at the sales in order to meet the Christmas expenses.

The turkey for the Christmas dinner was furnished by Frank and Fay this year. It was indeed a lovely time together.

We missed having Lloyd and Tom and their families for Christmas. But Lloyd is good at writing and when he doesn't, Jane does. They were able to get a loan of \$2000 from the government and decided to borrow another \$1000 next year and finish his doctorate. We do hope that all will be for the best. Each year he has received a scholarship from the government for good marks and he said in his last letter if he could keep up his marks they would have enough to put them through. Jane said in her letter that they had a lovely Christmas, the best they had ever had. Lloyd thanked us for the phone call. He said that it just made his Christmas perfect. [It was Frank who paid for the phone bill.] I do hope the Lord will bless Lloyd that he will be able to get a lovely home of his own as he wants to so much and for his goodness to us. Lloyd's letters are always full of what the children are doing. Janene is saying words and Denise can talk, and can say what she wants, and dress herself and tie her shoes, and is enjoying the things she got for Christmas. She says Janene and Denise play good together now. She thanked us for the gifts we sent.

We got a nice letter from Rae thanking us for the chocolates and gifts we sent. She said how much they enjoy their new home. They have a cat that the children are enjoying. I am sure enjoying the sweater they sent, and father likes his shirt. Everyone is wearing colored shirts now and he was pleased with the three he got. Of course he wears his white ones to the temple.

1971. January 4<sup>th</sup>

Today Sara and Ricky and Gary came to see us. Sara had given me some material for a dress at Christmas so she sewed it up for me. Now I will have dresses to last me for the temple for sometime. She gave me one last fall when we stayed with their children while she and Ted went on a trip to Mexico. They had dinner with us and it was nice to have them here.

Tomorrow we go back to work at the temple. Father and I have the double part again this month.

1971. January 31<sup>st</sup>

Today after church we went down to Lore's. They had a lovely supper prepared for us. We had been fasting all day for Boyd who goes into the hospital tomorrow for an operation. Anne and her family were there. It is Harold's birthday today so they had the dinner for both of us. We had an enjoyable time together.

1971. Feb 6<sup>th</sup>

It has been a busy week at the temple. Sara and Ted were there on Wednesday. It was chinooking and the water was running down the streets just like spring. We haven't heard how Boyd is but perhaps they will not know until it heals. This is the third he has had on his little penis to straighten it.

1971. March 7<sup>th</sup>

This week we had a lovely experience at the temple. Brother and Sister Gideon Van Tonder were there. They live on a large plantation in Cambodia in beautiful Central Africa. They are new converts to the church, of nearly 2 years. For 27 years they searched for the true church.

They often entertained ministers traveling through their country both Catholic and Protestant. None of them interpreted the scriptures the same. Neither did they interpret them as they were given in the Bible. When Mr. Van Tonder would ask the ministers about it, they would tell him that he had an unbelieving spirit. He realized that it had been nearly 2000 years since Christ had organized his church on the earth and he wondered why the Lord did not speak to them and tell them what to do.

They gave up smoking and drinking and dancing and tried to live according to Christ's teaching. They prayed that the Lord would help them find the true church.

One day while they were visiting a friend Mr. Van Tonder saw a Book of Mormon. He picked it up. He had never seen a Mormon before. He had heard that their head quarters were in Salt Lake City but all that he had heard about them was negative. His friend told him that the Book of Mormon had been given to him by an acquaintance but he had not read it and if Mr. Van Tonder would like to read it he could do so. He never knew before that there were Mormons in Africa. So he took it home. He didn't read far when he rushed to his wife and said, "No man could have written this book. It is from God." So together they read the book. One day while praying he had an impression.....

1971. April 1<sup>st</sup>

It is Sunday evening. Today Father spoke in sacrament meeting and reported the conference briefly. He gave a lovely talk and bore his testimony that he knew President Smith was a Prophet of God and that he and those who had spoken at conference had spoken under the inspiration of our Father in Heaven.

Sara and her family were there. Ted's family was having their family gathering today also.

1971. April 2<sup>nd</sup>

In the morning at 4 AM Fay came and picked Father and I up and we started on our way to the 141 conference. [She had stayed that night at her mother's after a long drive from Edmonton all alone.] Then she drove us in their car to Magrath and we picked up Fay's sisters Lynn and Wilma. Before we started we had prayer and asked the Lord to protect us from accident and to bless our families while we were gone. They are such a jolly group of girls, so congenial and kind and thoughtful of each other. When we decided to eat some breakfast, I brought out the bread and butter, and discovered I had left the chicken in the fridge. I could have cried if it would have done any good. But we made out all right. Wilma had bought a bag of cabbage and celery and oranges for her lunch, as she is dieting and decided this was a good time to lose the 30 pounds she is trying to loose. She had lost 90 pounds in the past few months and they were so happy about that. They each had their stories to tell. Fay had had a hard two weeks with three emergencies. Boyd had a sliver in his eye lid and it scratched the eye and was so red and swollen she had to take him to the doctor to get it out. Bill fell down and cut a big gash in his tongue and had to go to the Doctor for treatments. And then Boyd got a big bump on his head when he got up to go to the bathroom in the night and it bled so they took him to the hospital. It is a beautiful morning. We are now passing through the mountains, and one of them said, "Look at the mountain goats." But as we drew near the mountain it was just a herd of cows. How they all laughed. The rocks are so rugged and beautiful in color and the pine trees are growing right out of the rocks.

Fay recited a twister about three toads and they contested to see who could learn it first. Wilma won.

We stopped at Twin Bridges for gas and Lynn bought some oranges and bananas which we ate

along with some cookies, for lunch.

I had the words of the theme song 'Let There be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with Me' that we are going to sing at the Ren Davies Reunion the last of July. Wilma knew the music and taught it to all of us.

We are passing along between the mountains and the snow along the side is 8 feet high in some places. The mountains look like huge snow drifts.

We sang some old fashioned songs, Kat-t-y was one of them. The girls have lovely voices and Wilma is a good leader.

At Idaho Falls we left the highway and got out and saw the falls, and drove around the temple. We passed a car just out of Idaho that had had an accident. The car was smashed in, the door was open and we could see a woman on the floor. The police were there and an ambulance had just driven up. The girls began singing to take their minds off the accident. They talked of the wedding for their younger married sister who is being married in June.

Ren and Fay took turns driving.

We went on about a mile. Fay was driving. It was on a narrow road and a big transport was ahead of us and a small car in front. Suddenly a car came dashing around the transport. Fay went for the ditch bank. We would have been hit if she hadn't. It all happened so quickly. The Lord has blessed us so far.

Fay bought some hamburgers and the girls bought fruit and we had lunch.

We are now passing the border from Idaho into Utah. The grass is turning green. There is still a little snow on the tops of the mountains. The fields are green with fall grain and the trees are budding out.

I have enjoyed hearing all of Father's old stories. He has one to tell for everything and some how I never tire of hearing them. At 6 o'clock we arrived at Sandra and Leonard Harding's home in Ogden where Fay had arranged for us to stay the night. Father and I had planned to go to a motel but they insisted we stay and had beds for all of us. They were so nice to us. They gave us breakfast and insisted we come back and stay on Wednesday on our way home.

Saturday morning the girls and I went to conference. We arrived at the tabernacle at 8 o'clock. Fay's sister from Toronto was there and they were so happy to see each other. Fay had phoned and made reservations at a hotel where they could all be together. Fay had saved money to take her sisters to conference. Fay loaned us the car and Father and I went to Mary and Lawrence's place in

Mary and Lawrence seemed happy to have us. They have such a beautiful home. On Sunday we visited with them and listened to conference on their TV. On Monday we took Mary and went to the genealogical building in Salt Lake. I wrote out Davies, Rogers, Berringtons, and Millington's names from the St. Chad's register in Shrewsbury, the part Father could not get in Cardston. Fay and her sisters were there doing work also on their lines. Mary bought us in on Tuesday and in the morning I attended Conference and father again went to the library. We both attended the last session. It was the most glorious conference. President Joseph F. Smith spoke first and last, and I felt that he was indeed a prophet of God and that each one of the apostles who spoke were inspired. The music by the choir and the Primary children was glorious. We had a good trip home. We were tired but very happy and thankful that we had been able to attend the conference and for our safe journey and for the lovely time we had had.

1971. April 8<sup>th</sup>

It was six o'clock in the evening when we arrived home from conference and Father went to the temple as he had a part to take in the next session. But I went to the hospital. Just after we got

in the house the matron at the hospital phoned and said that Orrin, my brother, was very sick and they did not expect him to last until morning. When I got to the hospital Ada and Loila were there. He was gasping for breath. He is so thin and looked like he was dying but he spoke to me in a whisper and said he would like to be administered to again in the morning. Loila said he had been administered to before they brought him in that morning so I went back to his room and told him I would like to pray for him. I was alone with him in the room. I prayed to our Father in Heaven that if his time had not come to die that he would bless him that he would get well. I prayed that the pain would leave him and that he would be able to sleep. But if the time had come for him to go that he would be able to go peacefully. When I finished he thanked me and said everything will be all right now. And he turned over and soon went to sleep.

There was a big crowd gathered in the hall, Edyth, Lynn, Ada, Frank and Lorraine, and Loila's brothers and sister. When the nurse went in to see Orrin she came back and said he seemed to be much better and was resting so she thought that we should leave as visiting hours were over. The doctor had told Loila to send for the family if they wanted to see their dad alive. The next day when Ren and I went to the hospital Orrin's children were there. Orrin was having air pumped into his lungs. They had collapsed. So we didn't stay long. Orrin has been suffering for sometime with asthma and emphysema

And the nurse said that his lungs were slowly deteriorating. He almost chokes to death until they pump air into his lungs. I do hope the Lord will bless him.

Later

Orrin is fine. He goes for a walk each day and looks after his garden.

1971. April 9<sup>th</sup>

This morning I arose at 4:30, did my washing, made a cake and buns and a roast of ham, and two salads to take to our family get together. I was all ready by noon. Father had hired the old church in Beazer that is being used for reunions and church parties. Lore, Sara, Ellen, Dan, Anne and Fay [Frank and Tom didn't get here until evening] and their families were all there. We had a lovely pot luck lunch. Everyone was hungry and they enjoyed the meal. Then the older children roller skated in the hall. The little children rolled their eggs down the hill behind the church. We practiced and sang the songs we are going to sing at our family reunion program in July. It was a happy family get-together on Good Friday.

On Saturday morning Tom, Frank, Fay, Father and I went to the temple.

1971. April 18<sup>th</sup>

This has been a busy week. I have been to the temple 5 days this week, Tuesday all day, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 to 10:30 PM. Then there were two special sessions for the Grand Coulee Stake, Friday from 5 to 10 PM and Saturday morning from 6 to 12 AM, besides the regular Saturday sessions. I do enjoy working in the temple and only hope I can be well in mind and body that I might continue to do so for another five and one half years. It was 4 years last February since we were set apart.

Today, Sunday, Lore phoned and said they were coming up to dinner and would bring the roast. We had a lovely dinner and had a nice visit with them for a few hours. They have such a lovely family with such beautiful girls.

Last night Ren and I went to the hospital to see Orrin. He seemed to be feeling so much better and looks better. On Friday Sister Stringham and I went visiting teaching. We only found five ladies at home out of the eight but we had a nice time together visiting the sisters. Sister

Stringham brings her car and picks me up. I am forever grateful to her. She is so nice to me.

1971. August 28<sup>th</sup>

It has been over four months since I wrote in my diary. I wonder why. So many things have happened since then. June and July were very busy months at the temple with so many tourists visiting. Then on Fridays we worked at the Bureau of Information and had the privilege of telling many people about the temple. Together, with that and with working in the garden they were busy months.

Ren wanted to go to England and do some genealogical research so we didn't work at the information building during August this year. But we didn't go to England either. We didn't get our passports in time but by writing he was able to find out that the information he wanted was not recorded so he didn't need to go.

On the twenty eighth, the twenty ninth, and the thirtieth we held our family get together on the creek at Ellen and Veryle's ranch. Tom, Frank and Lloyd were not there, but it was all lovely and we did have a happy time together, swimming, and eating, playing games and etc. We also practiced for our program which was to take place on the last night. Each family put on a skit about "My Father's occupations" and I thought it was the best program yet. The family all sang together "Let There be Peace on Earth", "Don't let the Rain Come Down" and other songs. They sang one of my favorites "In my Grandmother's Garden". The little children sang 'Rub –a –dub-dub'. There were 52 people who came to hear our program so we were pleased. After the program we had a big bone fire with toasted marshmallows and hot dogs. Frank Fisher and family, Lawrence and Mary and the Shields were there. Also Queena Leavitt and her husband came.

Frank and Fay were here the week before to Diana Baxter's [Fay's step sister] wedding so didn't make it to the reunion. Rae is expecting in November so they didn't make it and Lloyd was in Indiana, Layfeyette at school. We missed them all. But we have had a happy month's holiday. We went up to Edmonton for a week and had a lovely visit with Tom and Frank and their families. Fay took us to see the gardens at the government building and we had an enjoyable time together. We also went to the hospital to see Boyd who was operated on for the seventh time. He is such a brave little fellow and so patient. We have not heard whether or not it was successful. But we do hope all will be well with him.

Since coming home I have been putting up fruit and vegetables and doing some cleaning. Mary and Lawrence were here for the first week in August. Then Marilyn and her husband and girls were here for a few days. Yesterday Bob and Teddy and Muriel were here to see us for a little while. They came up to get some information at the genealogical library. Muriel is working on her lines. Bob said Ethel is not well. This past week we visited Sara for a day and went to Hill Spring to see Orrin. He has been very sick. The Doctors thought he could not make it, but he looks good and says he is fine now.

1971. August 29<sup>th</sup>

Today Father and I went to stake conference. It was the first conference since the new stake Presidency was put in. There were many new changes made in the stake and wards. Veryle was made 1<sup>st</sup> councilor in the Leavitt Bishopric. President Fred Spackman was made President with Brother Matkin and Bro. Robert Low as councilors. The talks were so good.

1971. September 13<sup>th</sup>

Frank and Fay went to the temple and went through 2 sessions. Frank was promoted in his job and got an increase in wages. Tom was able to sell his home and buy a lovely new home. They were so happy. The one he had was up stairs and a number of families lived there. Lloyd sold his place where they were living and got a much better home too. I went to the temple. I was going to take the book I was writing in and copy the things I had written in it and put it into this pretty new book Ren my husband gave to me but I'm not sure I can do it.

I hope my boys are as kind as their father is to me. Everyone knows Ren and calls him Brother Davies. I'm so glad of that. He works in the temple. It is such a nice place to work. I worked for 8 years in the temple. Then I had trouble with my heart as a result of rheumatic fever, so I resigned working and officiating in the temple. But I still love to go so Ren takes me with him once a week and I go through 2 sessions and have dinner with him most of the time. Today we came home after dinner and Ren has been in bed since so I am being quiet. I've been crocheting but I can't find my crochet hook. It is not in the machine drawer as I thought but I'll get a book and read. I do not know but think he goes back to the temple and he needs his rest. In Ren's blessing the patriarch gave him some years ago it says 'Given under the hands of John F Anderson Patriarch, a blessing, son of Thomas and Mary Ann Davies. In the authority of the Holy Priesthood I lay my hands on your head and in the name of our Savior seal upon you your Patriarchal blessing and blessed shall you be in as much as you continue to walk uprightly before the Lord. You have a bright future before you.

I decided to go to the doctor for a check up. He said I would have to go to see a specialist next Tuesday. I also went to the Relief Society opening party. There was a large crowd. Evelyn Hendry, Sister Joyce Gregson, and Sister Atwood are in the new presidency.

We are home from the temple this week as it is General Conference. Tom phoned saying that Rae is to have an operation on Wednesday for a growth on her uterus. We pray the Lord will bless her.

Got a letter from Jane saying they arrived home safely, they enjoyed their trip and that Lloyd was at school working with a Professor. She was back at work as a receptionist at the girl's lab. She says the work is easy and she can't stand being shut up at home all day so Lloyd tends the baby from 4 to 11 and does his studying.

1971. Oct 30<sup>th</sup>

We got up early this morning and were at the temple by 6AM. It is the priesthood session on the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month in order to get the men endowments equal with the women so the sealing can be done for them. As usual we had quite a number of women from long distances there so this time we had 2 washing and anointing sessions for the women instead of letting them go through the session. We were kept busy.

We had dinner at the temple and then went to Myrtle Olsen's funeral. When Myrtle was a young woman she came to live at our house and helped mother. She would tell us stories and sing with us and I loved her very much. She married Bud Olsen but he did not take much interest in the church and smoked and drank. She had 3 children. He got a divorce on the grounds of desertion and took 2 of the children. The baby, Eloise, was born afterward. Myrtle love and raised Eloise who became such a good Latter Day Saint like her mother. For 4 years

Myrtle has lived in the hospital. She had a stroke. We have been praying for her and were happy she has been taken home to God. Her three children were there at the funeral. Mary and Lawrence were here yesterday for dinner.

1972. January 19<sup>th</sup>

It has been a long time since I wrote in my diary. This past month has been snowy and windy. The drifts are so high. They are right up to the roof at the back of our house and over the fence. It has been snowing again today.

Last night Dan was here. He went up to Leavitts to get some hay but couldn't get at the hay because of the drifts. He stayed here all night and this morning father gave him some chains for his car and he was able to make it all right. He got the hay and then sang at a funeral at 2 pm. He has been singing and Alma playing at the funeral home at different times. They get \$12.00 each time he sings. We have heard quite often people say how lovely they play and sing together.

I must say a little about Christmas. Ellen's baby was born December ?. She went home from the hospital in time for Christmas. We had invited Anne and her family and we had a dinner and a happy day together. Father got a goose and it was delicious. It is the first Christmas goose we have ever had. While we were at Bow Island Frank killed some wild geese and we enjoyed them but the home grown ones are more tender.

We got so many lovely presents, father and I. Our children give us such lovely gifts.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> we had the family get together. Everyone was there but Tom and Lloyd and Frank and their families. Frank came down the week before for a wedding of Fay's step sister so they felt they could not come again. They are trying to save to buy them a home. That is Frank wants to build it himself. He has been taking a night course on building homes. So they had Christmas with Tom and Rae. Rae's baby was born on ?, and they didn't want to bring the baby and Rae so far from home because of the cold weather. They phoned us on Christmas Day. We phoned to Lloyd and Jane. They said they had a lovely Christmas.

There were 40 of us at the party. Anne and Father were in charge of the family get together this year and we had a lovely dinner and program. Brother Shields was the Santa Clause and gave out the gifts.

It was all very nice. I tried to help but am no good at doing anything like that any more. Father and I gave each of the children a little gift. We had hoped to give each one of our families the Deseret News church section this year but our trip to Salt Lake along with the car accident which took \$500.00 took all our savings so that we were not able to do so. But Lynn took father and my picture and we put it in a card for each of them.

1972. January 22<sup>nd</sup>

Yesterday Ellen brought the baby over to stay with us while she went to the ball game. Her boys were playing. The baby is surely a sweet little fellow. He looks like Jerry did. We were happy to have him as we surely haven't seen much of anyone of the families since Christmas.

1972. January 28<sup>th</sup>

It is my birthday today. I got cards and letters from Dan, Tom and Frank, and Ellen phoned and wished me a happy birthday. I got a nice letter from Lloyd, cards from Jane with Janene and Denise' little hands drawn on a paper. Sara sent me a pretty pair of house

slippers and each of her children sent a note. My children are all so good to me. Ren gave me a pair of warm gloves.

1972. February 3<sup>rd</sup>

I am home early from the temple this morning. The weather is not quite so cold but the snow is piled up so high. We had pretty good attendance Tuesday and Wednesday for the first time since before Christmas. We have done 25 endowments this month. I do not have to go until five tonight so have been reading the Bible. I started at the firs and am trying to read it all through for the first time this year. I am really enjoying. I have got as far as Second Kings.

1972. Feb 6<sup>th</sup>

Anne and Blair and the children all came to see us about 4 0'clock this afternoon. It was so good to see some of the family again. They are all so happy about getting a home in Magrath. It is just what they had planned to build. But it has no basement in it as they wanted. It's also an old house but has been fixed quite nicely. It has carpet on the floor, wall paper on the walls, 4 bedrooms, a dining room, a living room and kitchen, bath and utility room. Blair had planned to build a house on the farm, but he used the money they got from the house in Edmonton to buy lumber to build grain bins and machinery.

Lynda has not been happy about living on the farm so they were able to borrow money to make a down payment on a home. On Friday Blair was laid off from his job. So they still have problems. But maybe it will work out. They are moving and getting things fixed up.

Ellen came on Friday evening and went to a stake MIA meeting. Connie came with her and stayed with us. We had a nice visit.

1972. February 17<sup>th</sup>

Today is Relief Society. I am going to pick up Sister Kapskos. She has moved into her beautiful home that she has been building through the year so she could move into it when her children were ready to take over the farm. We went visiting teaching last Thursday and Sister Kapskos is now on our beat. She has been sick and feels very lonely in Cardston.

1972. February 18<sup>th</sup>

Ted Fisher, Bob's boy, died last Monday February 10<sup>th</sup>. On Friday we went to Medicine Hat to his funeral. It was lovely. The Bishop spoke and told about the problems Ted had been having and of his faithfulness in paying his tithing and his desire to live the gospel. His wife, Lillian, joined the church before they were married. A year after they were married they came to the temple and were sealed for eternity. Then they were in an accident and her knee was crushed. After she got out of the hospital she went home to her folks. They were bitter against the church and angry because Lillian had married Ted. She told him she was getting a divorce. Ted has been working at the airport for a number of years after school and working his way through. He went to the airport and got a plane and went for a ride. He ran out of gas and crashed near the airport. They did not open the casket. Lillian and her family were not at the funeral. But the house was full, with mostly young people. His Elder's Quorum President also spoke. The Bishop read a poem that Margie had written. It was lovely. When she was a little girl about 4 years old she would say to Teddy, "You can't go and play ball. Mother said you were to tend me", [Muriel always worked] and he said all right I'll stay" and if he had a candy she'd say 'Give it to me Teddy', and he always would. He was always so kind and thoughtful of me". The President said Ted had faults but who has not. Then he told a story that Ted's mother had

told him that morning, of a time when Ted was about 16 and was playing ball with the boys. They were so involved in the game that Ted missed the bus home. Some of the boys wanted him to stay all night but he said no his mother would worry about him and he must go home. So he walked the 20 miles home. It was almost morning and his feet were sore and swollen when he got there. Ted was always obedient. The Bishop also said that Ted had lived up to the sacred covenants he had made. Ted had saved enough money to pay for the plane, and he was sure that Grandpa Fisher was there with Ted and would be with him to help him perform the work he was called to do.

1972. March 15<sup>th</sup>

Planted my tomatoes in cans. Went to the temple in the evening. We went to Anne's and saw their new home. It is a lovely big home. Then we went on to Lore's and visited them for an hour.

1972. March 23<sup>rd</sup>

It is Sunday morning. There has been 25 inches of snow fall since yesterday morning. When we left to go to the temple yesterday morning at 6 AM., it was just beginning to snow. It continued to fall all day and all night and is still snowing. The bishop, Don Shaw phoned and said there would be no meetings today. The snow has drifted until the fences are drifted over in places. But we have had two weeks of lovely spring weather for which I am thankful. The drifts which were as high as the roof of our house in the back had almost melted away and the peonies and mums were coming up and the grass beginning to show green spots. So it gave us a lovely change after a white winter.

I do hope it will be good for Easter because we are expecting Tom and Rae. We haven't seen them since the baby was born in November. It was in August when we were up there since we last saw them. We heard from Rae's mother that they were coming down. We do hope it will clear up and they will be able to do so.

1972. April 3<sup>rd</sup>

It is Ren's birthday. Sara invited us down to dinner and to go to the show with them. It cost Ted \$12. to take us all to the show. The main feature was a Walt Disney "A Bluebird on my Shoulder" and it was just beautiful. We all enjoyed it so much. We had a lovely turkey dinner after.

Lynn gave Ren a nice white shirt and we visited her in the evening. She also gave Ren a lovely picture she and drawn and painted herself.

1972. April 4<sup>th</sup>

Today was a busy day at the temple. We take the double part on Wednesday in the second session and have done so for some months now. Brother Archibald and his wife went to conference and Ren is looking after his responsibilities at the temple. He does a good job of it too. Anne and Blair came to the 8 o'clock session.

We had another snow storm last week. The drifts were almost as high as they were before but today they have gone down and the water is running everywhere.

1972. April 9<sup>th</sup>

Today Barbara and Lore and their family were here. They came in time for our meeting and had dinner with us after. They haven't been to see us since before Christmas, The weather has been

so uncertain, cold and so much snow. It was surely good to have them here. They are all growing up. Barbara and Lorianne are no longer little girls and Dana too is changing. They are sweet and beautiful girls, all of them. Jimmy is a quiet little fellow but is getting to be a little show-off. I'm afraid with 5 sisters he has to be.

1972. April 10<sup>th</sup>

It is snowing again today, had to dry my clothes in the house. It is time for Relief Society so must go.

?

Frank and Fay were down again to the temple this month. They brought another couple they have activated. Dan and Alma were here also with some of their friends who are going through for the first time. Neither Frank nor Tom is coming down for Christmas. Fay and Rae are having their folks up there. We will miss them this Christmas.

1972. May 21<sup>st</sup>

Last night Frank and Fay and Boyd and Billy came at about 10:30 at night. They had with them a couple they had been fellowshipping who had joined the church a year ago. This morning Father had the privilege of sealing them and their 6 month old baby at the temple. The couple left for home right afterwards.

We went with Frank and Fay up to the Lakes and had lunch in their trailer house that Frank has built on his truck. He has made it so that 8 can sleep in it, the two boys and Frank and Fay and Father and me and two others. He wants us to come up this summer and go up north with them on a trip. We didn't stay all night at the Lake. Fay's sister Lynn and her family were there also. They all came down and had Sunday dinner with us and went to church.

1972. May 27<sup>th</sup>

Barbara and the children came to see us today. They brought me a lovely nightgown for a Mother's day gift. The girls are growing up to be such lovely young ladies. We listened to the Walt Disney show. Lore didn't come. He had fallen asleep at home on the coach so Barbara brought the children out for a ride so they would not wake him. They left to go to a fireside at Magrath.

Lawrence and Mary are here. We had dinner with them at Lynn's. Lawrence's step mother is not expected to live so they came up to see her at the hospital.

I wrote a letter to Lloyd and Jane in answer to Lloyd's letter. They are enjoying their new home and sent a picture of their 3 month old baby, Michael Lloyd. He is a lovely big boy.

1972. November 19<sup>th</sup>

We went to Sunday school and meeting today. We had dinner with Lynn and Dora, turkey and all the trimmings and plum pudding for dessert. Lawrence and Mary visited us last night. They came up to see Lawrence's sister who is in Lethbridge Hospital. She cannot walk. And to get their teeth fixed. They think the dentists do a better job and it is cheaper here than in the States. They are going home tomorrow.

I just wrote a letter to Tom and Rae and Family. We haven't seen them for a long time.

1972. December 9<sup>th</sup>

This morning Gail Southerton was married by Ren in the temple. I took her to the Brides Room and helped her dress and put on her veil. I then took the company down to the large sealing room. It was all very lovely. Gail and Carol are lovely girls. Nearly 6 month ago Father married Carol to a Johnson. He is a fine boy. Carol and her husband stayed all night at our house.

Father went early to the temple [6 am] so Carol and Ila came and picked me up at 7 o'clock. Gail met her young man at BYU and Carol at Rexburg. It is wonderful they have both been able to get good LDS boys living as they did in Bow Island where there are no Mormon boys. So many have moved away and only a few families have move in. Now there is only 90 members altogether. Dan is going to sing at the reception.

We are enjoying our new Temple Presidency, President Elmo E Fletcher, Hector Baines second counselor and President J Golden Snow, first counselor. President and Sister Jenson have gone to the States to visit with their family until spring. Their wives are LaRue Karen Fletcher, Eunice Lybbert and Phoebe Bernice Bennion

Dad and I went to the LDS Book Store here and bought over \$82. worth of books to give to our different families. It doesn't seem much but I've got them all wrapped ready for Christmas. We sent Lloyds to him and also cards to my brothers and sister. They will be early for once. It is snowing again today.

1972. December 27<sup>th</sup>

Another Christmas has rolled around, and my heart is filled with gratitude for my wonderful family. We had a lovely Christmas day. So many gifts! Anne made a lovely crotched scarf of blue yarn for me. I just love it. Tom and Rae and the children gave us their pictures and some lovely sheets and pillow cases. Lore gave us \$25.00 to be used when we go to England. Ren so wants to do some genealogy research over there and has been saving all he could so we could both go. Dan and his family gave us a lovely family picture, a jigsaw puzzle and a bottle of cologne. Sara and family gave me a new white dress for the temple and purse for Dad. Ellen and her family gave us a green artificial tree and a plastic bowl to store things in the deep freeze. Frank and Fay and Family gave us a lovely bath room set, a rug and toilet cover, apron, towels, and pot holders. Lloyd and Jane gave us 8 towels and for father 6 shirts. Lynn gave us a New Testament commentary. Anne gave us a book called the Keys of the Kingdom.

So you can see it pays to have a large family. Ren gave me hair spray, gloves and garments. Dan and his family came for Christmas dinner and Lore and Barbara and family came over in the evening.

Yesterday the 26<sup>th</sup> we went to Welling for our Christmas get together. Frank, Tom, and Lloyd were not there but it was a nice crowd anyway. Lynn and her friends, the Mardens were there also. They came for the program but got there in time for dinner. We were late getting the dinner on this year. After dinner the older boys and girls went to a ball game that some of the boys were playing in. The program was not quite as good as usual but the little children all did their parts so nicely. Ellen had made little dolls and they put on a little play. It was really good and funny. Jimmy gave a poem, Kathy and Carol played a duet on the flute and French horn. Sara's children, Doran and Gary did a marching action song. It was all done so cute. Blair's leg was in a cast and his leg seemed to hurt. Anne and Barbara took charge of the dinner. It was lovely. Anne was tired. She works so hard. She has taken a job at an office in Magrath. With that and her home, she seemed not very well. But they had a lovely dinner. Alma and Sara were put in charge of it for next year.

Lynn has been living in an apartment house in Lethbridge this winter but came up for the Christmas week. She sleeps here at night but goes home during the day. She has been washing and baking and getting ready to leave after the New Year.

The children are all growing up so fast. Ricky, Jerry and Barbara will soon be 17 years old. The weather has been so lovely these last two weeks. The big storms and cold weather we had the first of the month of December and last of November left us with Chinooks and warm weather. The snow has almost melted away except for the drifts that were so high. Father is working on the jigsaw puzzle so I will help him. On Friday, Ellen and her family are coming for dinner. Anne and her family are coming Sunday and Lore on New Years.

January 1, 1973

It is New Years Day. Anne and Lore and families were here for dinner. It was a windy day. The snow was blowing in drifts around the house. We had turkey and lemon pie and salad dressing, potatoes, gravy and candy and nuts. But I'm not good at handling such a big crowd any more. There were 18 of us. Ellen and Veryle and their family were here for Sunday dinner, New Years Eve. It was much better to have one family at a time I think.

1973. January 11<sup>th</sup>

This week Father put an ad in the paper, "House for Sale" and yesterday he sold our house to Garry Reamsbottom. His wife is from Salt Lake and he was from Grassy Lake or near Bow Island. They sent the land title to the Land title office to be checked and we will be able to get the money as soon as it returns from Edmonton.

Lynn has been living in Lethbridge at an apartment house since fall. She feels that she cannot stay in her home alone and she can't have anyone to live with her because she is just not able to wait on them. Dora was living with her but in December she went to Ileens in Laten to stay with her. At Christmas time Lynn gave her piano to her sister in law Sister Quenna Marsdon and other things to her friend. She said she wanted Ren to have her place if he wanted it but if he didn't she was going to sell it to someone else so we put our house up for sell and quite a number had called to see about it before we sold it. We have asked Lynn to come and live with us.

On Monday Blair and Anne came over. They told us that Lynda was going to be married on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February to a Thompson boy in Magrath. They felt that if they objected she would do it anyway so perhaps it would be for the best. The boy is about 20 years old and has a job. We do pray that things will work out for them.

1973. January 21<sup>st</sup>

On Monday January 24, many of the children Dan, Lore, Veryle, Ted, Sara, Barbara, and Wendy came to help us move. Teddy, Jerry and Doran were here to help too. They had 2 trucks, Lore's and Veryle's. The women packed and the men carried and took the things to our new home that we bought and paid Aunt Lynn for. It will be a nice place for us. For a while I felt that she would be sorry she sold the home that she had put so much time and effort into, but she has made up her mind that it is better for her to get an apartment in a house where there are other people living. She is afraid to stay alone any more and so we are grateful to her for selling it to us when we are sure she could have got more money for it if she had sold it elsewhere. Father is going to try to fix up the basement and buy us a davenport and chair as Lynn is taking her things from the front room. Aunt Dora also has her things here. We have put both their

things in the one bedroom and garage.

The past two weeks I have been teaching a class of 10 year old girls in Sunday school. Their teacher resigned and the Sunday school president Brother Gallup asked me to take them for awhile until the Bishop appointed some one as their teacher. They are sweet girls. But I am not very well and it is hard for me to remember names. I am so forgetful.

1973. January 26<sup>th</sup>

It is Sunday. When we got home from meeting today Ted and Sara and Rickie, Wendy and Doran were here. They had brought meat and salad and a lovely dessert of cake with cherries and cream to put on top. I had the vegetables all ready so we had a lovely dinner. They also gave me a lovely family book. The one I am using has not a back on it so I'll put these things I have written in it so it will stay together and look like a book instead of just having rings in it. After I die, if she wants it she can have it.

On the snow drift Gary had written in big letters, 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GRANDMA'. It will probably be there on the 28<sup>th</sup> when my birthday really is unless it storms and covers it up. I can see it every time I look out of the window. I am so grateful for my family and grand children. They are all so kind and thoughtful of me. Sara teaches school and is president of the Stake Relief Society. They held the first meeting on Saturday. And she said she was so frightened but she said it went off all right. I am so proud of her. I know the Lord will bless her because she puts her trust in Him and works hard.

I just can't remember things anymore. I have to ask Ren so many questions. It makes him so out of patience with me. The doctor said that the blood was not being pumped to my or hands or feet as it should be, because of my heart. My feet are so numb and my hands go so black when they get cold. Sometimes when I'm in a hurry or excited about things my mind goes blank and I don't even remember what I am doing for a minute, until I relax. Oh I don't want to loose my memory or get worse than I am. I am too forgetful and always have been. I can't remember the things I read. In my blessing it says, "I'll be called to go on a mission", and it can never be in this life. I am trying to read all I can. I have read the Bible, the Pearl of Great Price and I am now reading the Book of Mormon again. I read the life of the Prophet Joseph Smith. But I can not remember what I read. What is the good? Perhaps I can after I leave this life but I am afraid not. I have put it off too late although I have read them all before during the past years.

Rickie has been called to go on a mission. He has to be in Salt Lake on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March. He will not be able to finish his school term but as he says he can go back and finish it when he gets home and then specialize in one thing for a profession as he would had to have done had he not been called. By the time he gets back he'll know more about what he wants to do for his vocation in life. So he is happy he is going now. He seems so young. But he is a fine boy. The prophet Joseph was young when he began his mission too.

1973. January 27<sup>th</sup>

This evening Dan and his family came to see us and to wish me a happy birthday. They brought me a lovely birthday cake. Katura Leavitt brought a little cake she had made also. They also brought me a lovely vase with beautiful pink carnations and yellow bells and foliage. It is such a lovely bouquet. I am sure it must have cost a lot. There are 14 carnations and a cluster of bells. I wish I had a picture of it so I could always remember how beautiful it is. I love them all so much. Dan has always been so good to me and obedient. I often feel that I have not told him enough how grateful and proud I am of him and his lovely wife and family. I do pray that the Lord will bless them for their kindness to his old mother.

February 11, 1973

This morning early, Frank and Fay and Boyd and Billy left for home. They came from Edmonton on Friday night to Linda's wedding. Tom and Rae came also. Tom and his family stayed at Rae's mother's on Friday night but they were all here on Saturday. It was good to see the boys and their families. The children are growing so fast. Saturday evening the grown ups all went to Barbara and Lore's for a get together and we had a nice time reminiscing and a lovely pot lunch. Tom and family went back to Lethbridge but Frank and his family brought Father and I home. They left for home early so they could attend their church. Frank is choir leader and is doing an excellent job, Fay said.

1993. August

Father and I were the speakers in Sacrament meeting this week. Dad gave such a wonderful talk on our trip to England. I enjoyed it for it brought back to me so many things we had done that I had forgotten. Father told how the Lord had helped him in getting the information on the Cooper line he has been looking for.

We went to a Baptist Church that our friends attended and there we were able to get the names of a number of the Cooper men. We went out behind the church and were looking at the headstones which had been laid down to make a path between the church and the graves. We were standing on these stones looking at the church when Sister Martin looked down and said "Look Ren, isn't that the Cooper you were looking for?" and sure enough it gave the names of some of the Cooper wives he had been looking for, Mary Cooper etc,. We surely felt that we had found them in answer to the prayers said for us and in answer to our own. People told him how much they enjoyed his talk. That it showed how it could be done if you put forth the effort. His talk was very good. I am amazed with the talk and the way he gives his lesson and the things he is able to do. Every one seems to know and like him and he knows every one. While I can't remember anyone's name even. He gets so tired of my asking him where this is and who that is. But for a man who is so very impatient with people who makes mistakes he has always helped me when I needed his help.

The Lord also helped me to remember the things I had prepared to say. Perhaps I should write my talk as I feel that it is probably the last talk I will ever give again before such a large audience.

My talk given in Church August 14, 1973

My dear Brothers and Sisters, I feel very frightened standing before such a large audience as you can see. When Bishop Shaw asked us to speak today he suggested that we might tell you about our trip to England. But I think I will leave that for my husband to tell.

I would like to tell you about a trip we took about 2 years ago to Salt Lake City. My husband had been asked to be a sealer in the temple so I went with him to have the President of our church President Joseph Fielding Smith to set him apart for this very sacred calling of the Priesthood in the temple. When I went into President Smith's office I felt some what like I do now, a bit frightened. President Smith was sitting alone at this desk. He seemed very weak. We went over and shook hands with him and when he spoke to us and laid his hand upon my husbands' head and gave him the power to seal on earth as in Heaven I wondered how any one could doubt that he was a prophet of God. I have lived to see and hear 6 presidents in my time and as I have listened to them speak the still small voice bore testimony to me that they were Prophets of God.

In the year 1830, a member of the church by the name of Hiram Page claimed to have a stone by which he could have revelations for the church. This was very confusing because some of the revelations Hiram Page received were entirely opposite to what the Prophet said had been revealed to him. At this time the Lord gave the revelation found in the 28<sup>th</sup> section of the Doctrine and Covenants. The 2<sup>nd</sup> verse reads “Behold verily I say unto thee. No one shall receive commandments and revelation in this church excepting my servant Joseph Smith Jr. for he receiveth them even as Moses.”

Then Oliver Cowdery was told that he was to go to Hiram page in secret and in a kind way tell him that the things he had received from the stone were not of God but of the devil.

[The rest of this talk was unavailable]

1973. October 12<sup>th</sup>

Father took me to Cardston early this morning. Sara phoned and asked me to come down and stay over night and she'd help me make a new dress. She had bought me the material for our fortieth anniversary. So I had a nice visit and we made the dress. Father came for me at noon on Saturday and we went with Dan and Alma to see the farm he had purchased near Picture Butte. He seems pleased that he has a last got a piece of land. He has had his cows in Leavitt where he and Lore and Veryle have rented some land for pasture but he wanted a piece of land of his own where he can take Dale out of the city. He will sell his house and build him one on this farm. I do hope it will work out all right for them. Land is hard to buy. It will mean they will have to go 7 miles to school and church. Of course the bus will pick the children up for school. There are farms all around them and a good road to his farm.

1973. October 15<sup>th</sup>

Last night Sunday evening, Dan, Alma, Sara, Ted, Anne, Blair, Lore, Barbara, Ellen and Veryle came over to wish us a Happy 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It seemed so good to have them all together with us again. They bought ice cream, squares and punch. We had a lovely lunch. We played the game Question and Answers about the church books, the Book of Mormon, Bible, and The D and C. We enjoyed the game and the lunch and being together for 3 hours. They gave us a year's subscription for the Ensign. Our children are so good to us. How I pray the Lord will bless them with the blessings they need in caring for their children. They are such good children and so good to us.

Edith and Lynn Woolf came over. They came to go to the temple on Saturday and were staying with Andrew and Norma Woolf overnight. Little Sara was with them.

Frank phoned and wished us a Happy Anniversary and said he wished they could be here too. They have moved out of the apartment to a house where they will be by themselves.

1973. October 24<sup>th</sup>

Today I have been reading Mother and Father's journal. Oh! What wonderful people they were. When Mother wrote in her diary she wrote just the things briefly that she had done each day. So I thought I'd try to do it that way too for often things happen and I don't seem to find time to write them

Today Father left early for the temple so I slept in. About 2 0'clock Sister Able and her niece came to see me. They brought a bottle of fruit. Ellen also came in for a little visit. The boys were playing ball so she ran in to see me. I felt tired so I had an hours sleep. It has been a lovely peaceful day. I must go to bed in order to be at the temple tomorrow. Father just came

home from the temple. He goes every day as he is a supervisor and looks after the new ones. The women all just go 2 half days now. We have so many workers. Sister Fletcher thinks that every one who is worthy should have an opportunity to work in the temple for a while.

1973. October 30<sup>th</sup>

Well October will soon be gone. It snowed a little one day but we have had a lovely fall. Connie was here at noon. I fixed dinner for us. Father goes all three days and on all Saturdays and Fridays. I go Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings now and on the first Saturday of the month. I went to two sessions on Wednesday of last week and have decided to go each Wednesday and do names for the dead. My Patriarchal blessing says for me to continue to be a Savior on Mount Zion and that to me means to do work for the dead.

Lloyd is still in Lafayette. He started writing his finale examination today. If he passes them he will write his thesis. Oh we do hope and pray that he will make them. It has been a long hard struggle going to school and working to get his Doctor's degree. He has a job waiting for him if he can get his exams, and will be going to Ottawa on a government job.

I got up early, did my washing and ironing, then went to Relief Society. Connie came from school and had dinner with us. Tomorrow is temple day.

This summer during August Rickie stayed with us. He was working with Ted's brother, Craig Watson, building houses. He is such a fine boy. He is working and saving his money to go to university and on a mission when he is called. Sara insisted on giving me a dress for Rickie's board. We have enjoyed having him here and did not want him to pay board. So Sara gave me the dress to pay for his board and keep.

Father and I have been reading out of my diary and some of the faith promoting experiences in our lives. How the Lord has blessed us in caring for our family and in times of sickness and need and in sending our children to school and missions.

1973. September 13<sup>th</sup>

There was a little frost last night. I have been busy putting up vegetables and fruit for winter. Ren has made us a nice little room in the basement for our year supply and I am very grateful for it has been worrying me for some time. We brought cherries with us from Salt Lake when we went to the Davies reunion and I have used up all the bottles I have. The fridge is full of vegetables so we are all set for this year. Everything is so expensive now. Connie was here for dinner. She often comes over at noon. She is such a sweet girl. I enjoy having her come.

1973. November

Sister Blanch Low fell on the sidewalk and broke her glasses and cut and bruised her head so I went over to visit her this morning. I took her some fruit and squares. Ellen brought us some apples when they went to B.C. I sewed and ironed yesterday and then went to Relief Society. We had a lovely lesson given by Sister Gregson and Bertha Gregson. They showed some films that they had taken in Italy. It was very lovely. I must get ready to go to the temple.

1973. November 4<sup>th</sup>

I had a lovely surprise when I received a letter from Teddy. We hadn't heard from them since we were up to Edmonton in August. He said they might be coming down in 2 weeks. He is a good writer and so matter of fact and such a kind, obedient boy. I pray that all my grandchildren

will learn obedience and grow to be good men and women. Ren has a bad cough and was sick so he didn't go to the temple yesterday. He is a good honorable husband as my patriarchal blessing says he would be. I love him so much and am so grateful for him. If only I wasn't so forgetful lately. I can't remember where I put things etc. I am such a trial to him.

1973. November 14<sup>th</sup>

It is Wednesday and I do not work at the temple today. I work on Tuesdays from five to ten and Thursday mornings from seven to four and the First Saturday of the month. This is all I go to the temple now. It is quite different from two or three whole days. Sister Fletcher has brought in fifty new workers so she is trying to make it so everyone will only have to work one half a day. Then they can go through sessions the other days and take names through.

I made a doily for a Christmas gift, then went in the afternoon and saw Sister Harker. She is ninety eight years old and Brother Harker has been ill. I hardly knew him he is so thin. I took them some cookies and had a nice visit with them.

I also went to see Antris. She has been so nice to me. I have not felt very good at the temple lately. Every thing I do seems to annoy Sister Fletcher. She said I tried to do more than my share. I don't know how to please her.

A letter from Frank and Fay

November 19, 1973

Dear Mom and Dad Davies,

Hi. What else do you say to your parents when you haven't written for months? We have missed our weekends we used to be able to spend with you

Rae phoned and mentioned that she told you about our "Castle" alias "Barn". Our new address is

11902-123 St. and the phone is the same 455-2070

Frank and I have been really busy trying to make our new home habitable. So far we have done the following

1. Put in a new toilet [Frank broke it trying to stop a leak]
2. Stopped at least 20 leaks –replaced old pipe
3. Wallpapered the front porch, kitchen and bathroom
4. Tiled the bathroom
5. Put a new floor in the bathroom
6. Put new linoleum in the bathroom'
7. Built new front steps
8. Patched the fence.
9. And the list of things we still have to do is at least that long again, but we really have had fun and the kids are really happy here. Frank even has his own den, which has a lock on it. How would you like that, Dad?

I am writing to let you know that we miss you and so we are coming to visit you, probably the week between Christmas and New Years if that is O.K. with you. Frank is never sure we are coming until we get there, but those are the plans to date.

Also, we have Lloyd's and Jane's present here but no address to send it to. Would you please send us their address, so that we can send them their gift before Christmas? Thanks. If you forget, I'll phone in a week or so. We love you folks and miss you very much. We hope you have a very special Christmas.

Love Frank, Fay and Boys

P.S. Boyd will be baptized a week from this Saturday and we are all very happy about that.

1973. November 22<sup>nd</sup>

Had a lovely morning at the temple but came home early because I didn't feel well. Have infection again because of my gall bladder. As I did not have to go this afternoon I rested and read. Father has just returned from the temple so must go to bed as it is late.

1973. December 13<sup>th</sup>

This morning at about 6:30 Leatha phoned and said that Vard Coleman had died during the night and asked Ren to go with her to tell Dora who is now living with Lynn in the Citizen's Home. It is seven o'clock now and I must be on my way to the temple. But first of all I must call Ken. He missed the bus so he came and slept here last night. We were happy to see him as it has been a long time since he was here.

1973. December

Washed, and ironed today. Then I went to Vard Coleman's funeral. He died from a heart attack last Friday. The house was full. Dora Coleman was there. Hazel took it very calmly. Perhaps she was still a bit shocked. He seemed well and it was such a shock to them. He has three fine looking sons. Two of them are married.

Dan and Alma were here for a little while last night. Dan had been up to see his cows. He moved them from Leavitt to a place near Welling.

1073. Christmas What a lovely Christmas we had! Tom and Rae gave us an apron and tablecloth both with stitching around the edge in white and orange check.

Anne – a lovely white pot for flowers

Lore – a box of hankies and the Doctrine and Covenants Commentary

Dan – a book called Homespun Ideals

Sara – Book, white material for temple dress, shirt for Father

Ellen- pink nylon pillow cases

Frank- plastic table cloth, socks, needles

Ruth – dish towel

Frank and Fay and their two boys, Boyd and Bill, came on the day before Christmas and as they were tired we had supper and then sent the children to bed. It was 9 o'clock before the children woke up on Christmas Day. We had a turkey dinner and enjoyed being together.

December 26 we went to Lethbridge for our family party. We had such a lovely dinner and program, and ball games. It was one of the best we have ever had. We were reminded this might be the last one we would have where everyone would be there as the older children might be on missions or away at school in the future. Some of the program was a recording of the first get together we had.

Doran and Carol were the announcers and it was the best prepared program we have had. Of course the children are getting older. All the older ones can play instruments and sing. I am so proud of my family. We number 59 in all. Sara and Alma were in charge this year. Ted stood right by her side in all they did.

1974. March 3<sup>rd</sup>

We have had such a wonderful winter. The snow melts nearly every day and it has seemed like early spring instead of winter. I only go to the temple one day now. That is Thursday from 7 AM to 5 at night. Last week I went to 2 sessions on Tuesday and 3 on Wednesday morning and

took names for the dead. I will try to do so every week now. We have so many workers now that every one goes just half a day so it is not too tiring. I love to work in the temple very much. Today was testimony meeting. We have such a large ward. The chapel in the stake house is always full and they always have the front benches filled in the recreation room. Ken stayed here last night. He went to Raymond to play basket ball. The Cardston team won. Jerry came for him at seven o'clock. I am so grateful for my grandchildren. They all attend sacrament and are such fine boys and girls. Oh if they can only keep themselves pure and clean. I am reading the book 'The Keys of the Kingdom' by apostle S.W. Sill. I also read my Relief Society lesson 'think kindly of others'.

1974. March 7, Saturday

This has been a surprising day. Erva, Ada, Edyth, and Frank came to visit me. We had a lovely afternoon together. Erva's sister-in-law Thelma Burnham Jacob's funeral was yesterday at Lethbridge. Erva got Frank Fisher, my brother to bring her to Cardston to see Sister Burnham and to see me. Erva lives in Burnham B.C. Edyth came with her husband and little girls to Ada's daughter at Pincher Creek. She had heard that Erva was here so she came over with Edyth and Lynn. Erva had to go right back because she teaches school.

Sister Harker has had two deaths in the last two weeks. Leon Harker died in a fire. They had just bought them a new trailer home. His wife went over to see her mother and while she was gone Leon died in a fire that burnt his trailer house to the ground during the night. Ren thinks that Leon was drunk and perhaps had been smoking which may have caused the fire. And then Thelma died from cancer a few days after. It has been a terrible shock for Sister Harker. She is nearing her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. She does her own work and it is marvelous the way she is able to get around and remember people and so on.

Ren and I are going to Utah on Monday. He wants to do some more research. He is taking Lynn and Dora down with him to visit Mary and Laurence and I'm going along too. I will be able to go to conference while he is working at the library. Father doesn't want to leave me here alone, he says. I hope I won't be in the way and we will have a good trip. Sara Leavitt and Eda Wood are taking my place at the temple. We always have to get a substitute when we are away. Emma is coming to live here. Frank said she sold their home. I do hope things will work out for them.

1974. January 13<sup>th</sup>

Aunt Mabel Gibb died yesterday. She has always been so good to me. I used to help her quite often when I was a girl and she would sew a dress for me or pay me for working for her. She was a lovely seamstress and house keeper. She has been living in the citizen's home for some years now since Uncle Frank, her husband, died. When I have gone to visit her she has been glad to see me. Glen Fisher said he was sending flowers for the funeral and taking the money out of the our father's estate. The family decided to use the little that was left for flowers and to send to missionaries etc. Things Father wanted to do all his life.

I have felt so very tired and discouraged today. I know I shouldn't feel that way I have so many blessings.

1974. January 16<sup>th</sup>

I went to Aunt Mabel's funeral today. There was a large crowd. All her family was there, 7 boys and 2 girls: Stan, Raocoe, Bruce, Dean, Dorothy, Wayne, Burt, Glen, Inez  
The program went as follows

Opening remarks – Bishop Bryce Cahoon  
Opening Hymn- Oh My Father – sung by the Hill Spring choir  
Invocation- Dean Gibb  
Biography- Stanly S. Gibb  
Organ solo- Bernarr Harris –Inez’s husband  
Speaker-Bryan Smith  
Hymn- Abide with Me by a trio, Iris and etc.

It was lovely. Her grandsons were the pallbearers. She was buried in Hill Spring. Uncle Frank Gibb’s grave is there. For years Aunt Mabel lived just across the fence from us. It is so hard for me to remember people’s names now. I don’t know my relatives when I see them. I thought I knew Aunt Mabel and Uncle Frank’s family so well that I’d never forget them. I am only 72 this month on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. Aunt Mabel had a good memory and she would have been 90 years old March 12, 1974. What shall I be like if I live that long?

1974. April 6<sup>th</sup>

Ren and I and Lynn went to Salt Lake to conference. We went early so that Ren could do some research. We went to the genealogical building and looked for his relatives trying to connect his line. We stayed at Mary and Lawrence’s. They were so kind to us. We had a lovely visit with them on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On April 6<sup>th</sup> we listened to conference at their home. They have a nice big T.V. I wished we could have gone to the tabernacle one day to listen but it was so crowded. It was so quiet and peaceful at Mary’s you heard every word and felt the spirit of the conference just as if you had been there. We listened to President Kimball’s talk at the solemn assembly. He has such a humble sweet spirit. He is the 12th President of the church. All the general authorities were sustained as men holding various priesthood callings. The twelve apostles all stood and voted to sustain President Kimball as President. Then President Eldon Tanner took charge of the voting of the high priests, elders, seventies, and deacons. They were seated in their different groups and then the general membership voted. It was a very solemn and impressive ceremony and many eyes were moist when the voting was unanimous. Then we all sang ‘We Thank Thee Oh God for a Prophet’. Although the weather was cold and snowing outside, everything was so peaceful inside when President Tanner said, “All is unanimous.” After the voting was over President Kimball took charge of all three sessions. He is so humble. His voice was so clear and carried well. It was indeed a solemn assembly. Elder Thomas S Monson of the council of the twelve apostles spoke first then N. Eldon Tanner, then President Kimball. President Kimball spoke on the solemn assemblies that have been held since the Prophet Joseph was first sustained. He spoke of his gratitude for the sustaining vote of the people. He is a man who puts his trust in God. It was a wonderful conference. I enjoyed every session so much and am so grateful for the privilege of going to Salt Lake.

1974. April 14<sup>th</sup>

It is Easter Sunday. This morning at 8 o’clock we, Father and I, went to Leavitt to hear their early Easter Morning Concert. It was beautiful. Ellen and Connie were in the choir and Ellen sang in a trio. It was all so lovely. It was conducted by Brother Cahoon and made all who were there feel the importance of Easter. The house was full with relatives from Cardston and other places. I didn’t feel very well, was dizzy, but I was happy to be there. I came home and went to bed but feel better this evening. Ellen is such a wonderful mother and does so much in the church.

1974. April 27<sup>th</sup>

It is Saturday morning and I am home alone. Ren went to the temple at 6 o'clock. I don't know what time it is. The clocks are stopped and the fires are out and a big blizzard is raging. The windows are covered with snow, and the snow has piled up on the front step until I can not open the door or even see out. This is the worst storm I have seen this year. They will be praying at the temple that the weather will be moderate, so that those people who are there will be able to return in safety. I have seen storms like this come up while we were in the temple and by the time the sessions were out it would be calm and the roads blown clear in answer to the prayers of those that were there.

Last night Veryl and Ellen and Connie came and visited with me for a while. They had been to a supper and so they came and visited with me after. We listened to the T.V. for awhile. I do enjoy having them come.

Aunt Lynn came and visited for a while yesterday. She brought us a dish of soy beans. We were told they were rich in vitamins in Relief Society this month so she fixed them with onions and celery. They are a small cream colored bean and do not get soft. It is like chewing nuts. But like Ren said, "If you were really hungry they might taste all right.

I have been writing to Tom and Rae and family. They have a new baby girl. Tom phoned and told us it was born on the 20<sup>th</sup>. They were happy it was a girl and that Rae was all right.

I am glad our cooking stove is gas. I've turned on the oven and all the lids so it is nice and warm by the fire. I do not feel very well lately. I have that sick dizzy feeling in the top of my stomach.

It must be nearly noon. It is still snowing and blowing. We must have two or three feet of snow. I can not open either the front door or the back. The snow has piled against the doors and I can't get out. I have never seen that happen before in my life. I can hardly believe it. It must be warming up a little for the snow is melting on the windows so I can at least see out a little.

The snow melts as it touches the window and rolls down.

Father is home and kicked the snow away from the door enough so he could get in. The snow is so wet and heavy. He is all out of breath and covered with snow.

1974. May 1<sup>st</sup>

The snow has nearly gone except the drifts, and the grass looks green and clean. I have been sick in bed the last two days but feel better today. I am home alone. Ren is at the temple so I have been reading. I hope I will be able to go to the temple tomorrow as Thursday morning is my day. Last week I went on Tuesday for Sister Low but she is home now. I am reading the Bible and got as far as 2 Kings. We haven't heard from Lloyd for some time. I hope all is well with him.

1974. May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Went to the temple and am on booths this month. I had a good day. This is the first time for sometime that I have been on booths and I enjoyed it very much and I'll be there for this whole month on my day Thursday.

I have been having some strange dreams lately. I dreamed I died and went to heaven. Mother and Father were there and they were glad to see me. I helped them in their home. It seemed there were lots to do but I was so lonesome I could hardly stand it and then Ren came and I was so happy to see him. I guess it would be lonesome up in heaven without your husband and your children.

We are still working in the temple and I am glad that we have something worth while to do. I am very grateful for my husband and love him more than anything else in the world. We have a lovely home. I enjoy going to the temple. Lynn has moved into an apartment house. I hope she will like it there. I often feel that we should not have sold our place. I think sometimes maybe she thought that we were going to live with her. But Father said that not under any circumstances would we have done that.

1974. May 13<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday was Mother's Day. We went to Sara and Ted's in Lethbridge and to church with them. After church we went to her house and had a lovely lunch. Lynda and her husband were there. Sara had invited Anne but they didn't come. Ricky had his girlfriend and Ted's Sister Freeda and her husband Mickey Kovac were there and we had such a lovely lunch. Then they brought in a large box and opened it and it was an organ that my family had bought for me. Alma had asked all the family to help to buy it for me. I've wanted an organ or piano. There are so many times when Ren's at the temple and the days seem long without my family or anyone to talk to. It isn't what I had wanted as it has only a few keys and then you play the base part with chord buttons but maybe if I am able to play it I'll enjoy it very much. I've tried to play all my life and haven't been able to do so and maybe this is just what I need, music without having to learn to play with both hands. I can't seem to remember anything lately and sometimes it worries me so. I'm glad that I have had 7 years at the temple so that I don't feel afraid there as yet. The Lord helps me and I enjoy it. At first I worked every day. But since President Fletcher came we have only worked from seven or eight to eleven in the morning. I only work from seven to five on Thursday now. I am going to try and go though every week for the dead on Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Friday May 3 I went to Sara's and she made me a pretty new dress. She gave me the material for my birthday. It is a pretty blue with a tiny white flower in it. Father bought me a nice new coat. It was on sale. It was a \$60.00 coat and it is very nice. My family is so good to me. I am so thankful for my husband. He helps me so much. Wendy gave me a drawing of a little boy and girl that she drew. I have hung it in my room. I haven't been feeling very well and my feet are so sore and swollen. By night I can hardly walk.

I went to see Doctor Van Orman. He said that it was my heart that was causing my legs to swell and I must go to the hospital. So I have been there a week. I am now home again. I got so tired of staying in bed. But I feel so weak I can't sit up for very long.

I have been trying to write a letter to Noel but didn't get it finished. I am so tired I must try to lie down and go to sleep. Father is playing the organ. He is going to be a better player than I am. He is sure enjoying it. Am tired!

1974. May 30<sup>th</sup>

It has been a little over 7 years since Ren and I were set apart to be temple workers on February 2, 1967. It has been such a glorious experience for me and I have been so grateful to my Father in Heaven for the Holy Ghost who has prompted me and helped me in my work. I am grateful too for the lovely workers who have helped me when I have needed help. I remember how frightened I was when I was first called, but the Lord has blessed me always and I have enjoyed the work so much. I do thank my Father in Heaven for the help he has given me.

1974. June

I am often not very well. This past week I have been in the hospital. I went to Doctor Van

Orman thinking I had the flu. I had such a pain in the top of my stomach and felt so dizzy and sick. But he said it was my heart not the flu and so I went to the hospital for a week and have to take pills for my heart now every day. A Sister Iris or Inez Davis was in the room with me. She was feeling much better than I and waited on me and was very helpful. They live between Leavitt and Mt. View. I enjoyed her company very much. I do not think her husband is a member of the church. I came home on Friday.

Last night Emma and Jack and their daughter Mary Marjorie Sheppard Decker were here and stayed all night. We were so happy to see them. Emma and Jack have their trailer house here now. It is up by the new LDS chapel on the south Hill. They sold their home in Edmonton and came to Cardston to live where they can go to the temple. They bought them a trailer house to live in. Mary [Marjorie] came up from Salt Lake to help them move.

1974. June 5<sup>th</sup>

Today Emma, Jack and Mary Sheppard Decker came to see how I was getting along. I am better but still feel weak. Oh I do want to get well. I do not want to be an invalid or have a bad heart for the rest of my life.

The Sheppards are all settled in their trailer house now. It is covered with beautiful carpet and it is lovely. I hope they will enjoy it there.

Tom and Rae asked Father to come up and help bless their new baby girl. She has a lot of dark hair and a little square face, and blue eyes. They named her Karen Diane.

We arrived at Frank and Fay's on Saturday night. They have a nice home. The next day I stayed in bed I was so tired. Frank and Fay and Father went to Sunday school. I stayed in bed till noon. Then we went to Tom's and went to church with them. Tom and Frank and Father and the bishopric stood in the circle. Tom named the baby. We had a lovely dinner afterwards. Fay, Frank and their children were there. Rae's mother and aunt were there also.

Fay and Frank went home afterwards but we stayed at Rae's all night. At noon on Monday we came home. I have been in bed most of the time since. I have missed going to the temple. But Sister Fletcher got some one to take my place for tomorrow so I will not go until next Thursday. They have lots of workers now and their policy is that the workers go for one day only. I did not feel like going today. Still have a pain in my heart on top of my stomach and a weak feeling. I do not feel able to go to the temple and do washing and anointings as yet. If I do not feel better soon perhaps I will have to resign. It is not easy to get people to take your place, nor is it fair not to find some one. So it is such a worry if you are not able to go. I have enjoyed working in the temple so much. It was 7 years ago last February since we were set apart. I was set apart to be a worker by President Archibald on February 22, 1967. I do not know what is best to do. Right now I am too tired to think about it so must stop writing and lie down.

1974. Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>

Sister Stringham was just here to see me. She brought some fresh fruit to eat with my cookies. Yesterday Sister Harker and her husband, Heber came to see me and brought some cookies. Sister Shaw came to see me also. Sister Low brought cookies over too. So I have had people to see me. I guess my family came last week.

We didn't tell anyone we were going when we left the hospital. The Doctor said to just rest and not over do it. Father said, "Let's go up and see Frank and Tom and their families. "He made a bed in the back seat and I lay down and slept most of the way going and coming back.

I think I must have a touch of flu because I have been so weak and dizzy and sick since we got home. Mary Sheppard came and stayed here while we were gone. They didn't have any heat in the trailer. Only a little cook stove. So Mary came and stayed and she had the flu Emma said. I didn't know this and she had slept in our bed. Anyway I do hope I will feel better soon. I know now that we should not have gone up to Edmonton even though I didn't do much. I felt awfully tired when we got home and was sick the next day. I still feel weak and sick.

Today I cleaned the fridge. The freezer part was so frozen I could hardly get the door to open and it needs defrosting badly. I played the organ for a little while and had a good sleep. Father worries about me and thinks I am lying down too much. He thinks it is that that makes me feel so weak. I only know that I don't feel very good and want to sleep. Things are getting so pretty and green outside now. We had a little rain yesterday. The garden is growing. Everything is up but the potatoes. I have some tomato plants and will put them out on Monday. They are not very good ones, they are so small.

Father wanted to see the boys so he went to Lethbridge when he came home from the temple. Sara sent me a beautiful bouquet of lilacs. They give off an aroma that smells so nice. I must read the Sunday school lesson for tomorrow. We are taking the Old Testament so I have been reading the Bible this year.

1974. June 8<sup>th</sup>

I didn't go this morning to Sunday school because I felt so weak. I am waiting for Father to come and take me to church. I will rest awhile.

Lore and Dan and their families came to see us. We were so happy to have them spend the afternoon here. Carol is going away to school at the BYU. Oh I do hope and pray she will be a good girl. Somehow I have failed in helping my grandchildren. They are such good children and I pray they will stay clean and pure. There is so much temptation in the world today.

Dad and I just drove out to Veryle's. He is not very well. His hand that he got caught in the machine is full of infection. It is good he has two boys to help him and Jerry takes over and Ken, Ren and Clay are big enough to help.

We got a letter from Noel. She is such a beautiful writer and expresses her desire to do what is right. Oh how I wish we could help her. We pray for her and all our grandchildren and hope they will do what is right. I am going to do my teaching today. Sister Stringham comes and gets me and we visit Ramona Spackman, Jutta Vander Heide, Sommerfeldt, June Parks, Lorna Hatch, and Shirley Paulson. Most of them work so we do not get to see them in one day.

Our topics for this year have been,

'Committing Ourselves to Live a Life of Righteousness.'

'Committing Ourselves to Helping Others'

'To Live Righteously Through Prayer'

'To Live Righteously Through Searching the Scriptures'

'Seeking after Excellence in this Life by attending Sacrament meetings, through Service and Committing Ourselves to Not Judge our Fellowmen'

1974. Wednesday July 17<sup>th</sup>

On Friday and Saturday we will be having our Ren Davies Reunion so I have been cooking cakes and buns today as I will be going to the temple tomorrow.

The Reunion will be on Ellen and Veryle's farm down by the creek as we have had before. It is lovely weather and there is a pond and trees and they have been fixing it up by pulling weeds and tall grass. They are also fixing a barbeque for Friday night.

Fay is expecting soon and Rae is not too strong since the baby was born so she doesn't want to bring her little baby so far. I hope it will be a successful day.

1974. July

Ren and I decided to go to Ottawa to see Lloyd and his family. We left home July 28 and went to Edmonton. We stayed at Tom and Rae's and had a nice visit with them. The next day we left our car in Edmonton and got on a plane and flew to Ottawa in Eastern Canada, where Lloyd is working for the government. Jane took us to see the Government buildings and the office where Lloyd works. She also took us to see the Art Gallery, which was interesting. One day she took us to see the changing of the guards. The guards were dressed in their red uniforms with tall black hats. They paraded in front of the Parliament building with their guns on their shoulders. They lifted their feet high when they marched and stood so erect. As they moved their guns from shoulder to shoulder they fired into the air. There was a large crowd around the fence to see them. Then they marched with their guns at their side and on their shoulders. It made me dizzy so I went and sat in the car for a little while before the parade was over.

One day Jane took us to the Art Gallery. It was surely a beautiful place with pictures all around the walls. There were old and new paintings and drawings of the Great World Painters.

On Sunday they took us to Sunday school and meeting. They have a lovely new church. We stayed for a week and we had a lovely time. Lloyd and Jane came back with us and drove their new car. Father and I, Lloyd, Jane, Janene, Denise and Michael rode in their car. We passed acres of beans and corn as we drove along the road.

Ottawa looks a lot like England with large brick and lumber houses, small lawns, trees and flowers, and large steeple churches. Most of the houses are painted white.

Lloyd took us to see the Kirkland temple, on our way home. It is owned by the Reorganized Church. A Mrs. and Mr. Davis were in charge there. They took us through the temple. It has been well cared for. The woodwork, and the doors and window are carved so beautifully out of wood. They regard it as a sacred place. They do not hold church there. They are waiting for Christ to come to His temple. They have a church across the road. And they said they are ancestors of the Prophet Joseph Smith.

Last night we stayed at some friends of Lloyd and Jane's, Dan and Elsie Peterson. Jane phoned and asked them if we could stay with them that evening. They have a lovely new home. He takes old homes, repairs them and rents or sells them. They treated us so very nice.

We are on our way home again. We are still passing fields of corn and beans. The corn stock is used for the cows in the winter Lloyd said. Behind the houses are cows feeding on the green grass in the pastures.

I have never seen such tall trees before. I can easily see how people could get into the trees and bushes and never find their way out. All ready I am tired of seeing beans and corn. I'd like to see some green grass for a change. But I do love the trees. There are many kinds of trees I have never seen before.

1974. August

Sometimes I feel so sorry I resigned from the temple but yesterday a lady I know well [I can't remember her name] said she was working now in the temple and she seemed so happy. I said to myself, "It was right you resigned to give others an opportunity to work there."

I was an officiator at the temple for 8 years. I was the receptionist during the morning, ate dinner, did 12 names in ordinance work, then did 40 sealings, walked home and had a nap. I went back at night, did ordinance work and 3 times at the veils. This was my usual days work while working at the temple.

1974. September 1<sup>st</sup>

During the night there was a frost. The tops of the tomato vines and squash and potatoes, beans and cucumbers are all frozen. It was quite cold yesterday but we didn't even think of it freezing. I do not know if the vegetables will continue to grow. It has surely been a cold summer and the vegetables have not done as well as usual.

I went to see Sister Kapsos. She has had an operation and I am her visiting Relief Society teacher. She seemed glad to see me and is feeling better.

On Sunday Barbara invited us to dinner. I was glad I didn't have to cook and we had such a lovely peaceful time. I appreciated it so much. I sometimes feel that the blood is not getting to my feet and brain. They feel so numb all the time and I can't remember things very good. Oh I don't want to get old.

I have been to the temple since eight o'clock this morning and must go to bed. Connie was just here and borrowed our Christmas tree for a program they are putting on.

1974. September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Saturday I went at 7 o'clock to the temple. I got home at 1:30, cleaned the house, made a cake, and phoned and asked Ellen to come to dinner tomorrow but Clay is sick. She said they would come some other time.

1974. Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

Today I went back to the temple after a month's vacation. It was good to be there. I had feared to make mistakes after so long a vacation but all went well and I enjoyed my day very much.

There was not a very large crowd.

We had a lovely vacation. We went to Edmonton, stayed at Tom and Rae's. They are always so nice to us. Fay is expecting a baby and is not at all well. We stayed a day and overnight then we went on the train to Lafayette Ottawa and visited Lloyd and Jane and their sweet little children, Janene and Denise and Michael. Michael has such a sweet smile and is such a happy little boy and the girls are so sweet. Jane was so kind to us. They have a lovely church house. Lloyd is the MIA president of their branch. We enjoyed our visit so much. We went to see the Government buildings one day where Lloyd works. Lloyd is such a smart man. I am very proud of him and his wife and family.

Lloyd brought us home in their car. We went to Palmyra and stayed there a day. We saw the sacred grove, Joseph's Home and the jail. It was all very interesting listening to the stories told by those who take charge and the tourist guides of the many tourists who go there. It was a choice experience for us.

Jane and Lloyd stayed with us for a week and visited the family. Lloyd also fixed our light at the front door in the hall. It makes our front room much lighter. I was so very tired Jane took over and did most of the work and then they went to Edmonton for a couple of days before they left for home. We have not heard from them. I am sure it was a long trip back for them. I was very tired but feel some better now. We miss them and the children. I must do some writing to them.

September 10, 1974

Went to the Doctors and had a heart test today.

Leatha's husband, Bob Wright, died yesterday. He was working in the garden, came in and told his wife to phone the doctor and they took him to the hospital as he was very sick. An hour later

he died in the hospital with a heart attack. They buried him in Cardston cemetery. Emma and I made the lunch. My girls helped me. We had casseroles and green salads, pickles and cake and punch. Sister Sommerfeldt and councilors served it for us at the stake house. They had the casseroles heated and the tables set when we got there. There were about 50 people for lunch. Edyth and Lynn and Bob were there. So we thought I'd better go to the Doctor for a heart check up. The doctor told me to come in every two weeks. I am taking heart pills. Jane's children had spilled some of her pills into my pills so the doctor helped me sort them out. He said to keep taking them and come and see him every two weeks.

1974. November

Here is a list of our children [Ren and Phyllis']

Mary Anne -6 children, the youngest is Scott who was born June 8. Anne works from 9 to 5 at night as a secretary in the town office.

Thomas Glen – 5 children. He is over the science department in the university in Edmonton. He is also councilor to the stake president.

Lorenzo Snow Davies -6 children, 5 beautiful girls and one boy. He teaches school in Magrath.

Daniel P Davies -5 children, works on the farm, sings at many funerals. He is such a beautiful singer.

Sara Anderson -4 children, president of the Stake Relief Society in Lethbridge.

Ellen Leavitt -9 children, sings in the choir, teaches in Primary, leads singing in the Relief Society

Frank Davies -3 children a new baby boy born on October 2, 1974, in charge of missionary work. Both he and Fay are doing a wonderful job. He brings new converts to the temple.

M Lloyd Davies -3 children, and is councilor to branch president in Ottawa.

We have 8 children, 8 in-laws all are married making 16 in all  
40 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren

1974. October 22<sup>nd</sup>

It is Sunday morning. There was frost again last night, but a lovely day. I prepared for dinner and walked to Sunday school. Brother Hall was not there so I was asked to supervise the class. I took charge, attended Sacrament meeting and then went with Ren to a meeting at the temple. President N. E. Tanner and Sara were there and gave lovely talks on the sacredness of the temple, being polite and kind and helpful. President Heber Jensen and Matron Hattie Jensen were released after four years and Elmo Fletcher and his wife and Hector Baines and his wife Bernice were sustained. President and Sister Snow were made first councilor instead of second as he has been. It was surely a lovely spiritual meeting.

President Tanner said he had been councilor for 3 presidents, President McKay, J.F. Smith and now President Lee. He said that he had seen a change in each of them when the Keys of the

Priesthood fell upon them. They became truly men of God and inspiration.

Father and I have spent a quiet evening together listening to the Walt Disney show, reading and talking about the happenings of the day.

1974. October 14<sup>th</sup>

It is our wedding anniversary. We have been married forty seven years. It was a lovely day. In the evening our children came, all except Tom, Frank and Lloyd and their wives, who are so far away. There were 12 of us here. The girls brought such a lovely lunch, chicken, salads, rolls, tomatoes, pickles and a marsh mellow dessert. It was all so lovely. Then we played rook, or games with the rook cards. We talked and sang and had a lovely evening together. It was truly a special anniversary. My children are so good to us. Oh may our Father in Heaven bless them and help them to live good lives and may they ever serve him and keep his commandments.

1974. November 13<sup>th</sup>

It has been a month since I have written. We got a call from Lloyd this week saying he has been offered a job by one of the professors at the university who is now working for the Government. He asked the school for Lloyd to help him. It is along the lines he has been studying, agriculture economics. Lloyd has just got his thesis to write so thinks he can do it later for his doctor's degree. He will get \$700.00 a month. He phoned to ask Dad what he thought about it and Dad said he thought it would be good for him to take it. We are hoping and praying he will be able to make good and that it will work out for them all right.

I went to Relief Society to help quilt, had a nice lunch and a lesson on table manners. I enjoyed it very much.

Everyone is getting ready for Christmas. I don't know where to start. We can't buy presents for all. Everything is so expensive now that war is on.

1974. December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Noel's baby was buried this morning in the Magrath cemetery. Father and I went to the funeral. Dan sang 'Not Now But in the Coming Years, Some Day We'll Understand'. Calvin Alston gave a lovely talk. He read from the scriptures what has been said about those who die young before they are accountable. They will be free of all sins and Satan has not power to tempt little children until they are accountable and baptized at 8 years of age. They will go to the Celestial Kingdom and they will come forth in the morning of the first resurrection just as they are laid down. The mother if she lives worthy will raise it to maturity in the millennium.

Ellen and Veryle and Barbara and her girls were there. We went to Anne's after the funeral and had a lovely lunch furnished and served by the Relief Society. It was a peaceful funeral.

Anne has taken care of the baby while Noel went back to school and has mothered her. She wouldn't eat so Anne took her to the hospital and she died the next day or two. I am not sure just how long it was there.

Oh if Noel will only learn well her lesson and live a righteous life, the Lord will bless her and forgive her. I'm sure she will for she is a sweet girl and so young. She is now only 15 years old this month. She was born December 25, 1959. Her baby was four months old. It was born July 4, 1974 and buried December 2, 1974. It was a lovely baby all dressed in pink with a pretty pink jacket and bonnet. She was so plump and sweet. There were so many of her girl friends that came to the house, and funeral. Father [Ren] offered the grave side prayer.

1974. December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Today I went to Relief Society. It is the first time I have been since the temple was opened after the summer holidays. My day at the temple was on Thursday and that has been Relief Society day in our ward for sometime. It starts at 9:30 Thursday morning. I have been going to work at the temple at 8 o'clock on Thursday morning and so couldn't go to both. They have asked me to do sealings on Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock now though so I can go to the temple on Wednesday and to Relief Society on Thursday morning. I have been released as a worker. I would like to go on Tuesday also to the temple and do initiatory work and go through a couple of sessions if I can. I will have to see how it works out. At present the sessions are for the men only.

I did my washing this morning, have one batch in the dryer.

Father comes home after the 2 o'clock session. He gets off in the afternoon and sleeps then goes back at 5 o'clock all three days. He comes home after the 8 o'clock session starts at night.

I don't suppose I'll be able to make out the things I have written in this diary when I have forgotten them. Oh dear, I'm getting old and forgetful and my way of writing things is not very clear.

? 1974

I have been working in the temple for a number of years, 3 I think. But I got sick and President Spackman, my doctor, said he thought working in the temple was too stressful for me.

So I no longer work at the temple.

Connie came over and visited me. I was so pleased to have her come. She is such a sweet girl. She stayed until Ren came home from the temple.

#### Other Memories of My Life

Looking through some old papers I found a poem I had made up. Since it is the only one I ever wrote I'll write it in my book.

#### Hill Spring

What memories the Hill brings back to me  
When we climbed to the top in the early spring  
And looked down over the valley so green.  
T'was like looking at the Golden windows  
So beautiful it seemed.

As we gazed in awe at the familiar scene,  
Dotted with flowers and lakes and streams  
And the trees in leaf and the grass so green.  
And there was the church and school  
And homes of loved ones and friends.  
And away in the distance  
What majesty the mountains lend.

And then we see the crocuses are in bloom.

How beautiful to us they seem.  
All else is forgotten as we gather  
The flowers to take home.

Then in the summer how we enjoyed  
Going on a picnic and eating at the spring.  
And then in the canal for our daily swim.

In the winter what fun skiing and  
Coasting down the hill would bring,  
But the most precious memories of all  
Are those of our loved ones and friends and kin.

1975. January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Anne and her family all but Lynda and her husband and baby were here yesterday for New Year's dinner. The turkey Father bought was nice and we had a lovely dinner. They stayed and visited with us until evening and they went away happy, I thought. Of course Noel is not very happy. I do pray that the Lord will bless her. I am glad she is going back to school. I think she misses her baby so much. She is very quiet and sad. I hope that she will do what is right and that the Lord will bless and guide her. I know she will find happiness if she serves him and keeps his commandments from now on.

1975. January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Father has gone to the temple and I'm alone. I will be glad when the men get their work caught up with the women but that will not be until February, they say, even if they do as many as they have been doing this past month.

Judy Sheppard, Emma's girl, is to be married in the temple Saturday January 4, 1975 to Stanley David Burton. He lives in Salmon Arms B.C. Judy was staying with Erva and teaching school when she met him there.

1975. January 5<sup>th</sup>

Judy's husband is tall and big build, large face and not very good looking but friendly and nice. They had a lovely reception at their ward church. There was not as many there as they had hoped but Christmas is such a busy time. The people from Emma's ward didn't come because Emma and Jack have not been here very long. President Jensen and Hatty and Sister Baines were there. The program was nice, put on by the family. Mary's family is very talented. It was a lovely family gathering. Sara, Dan and Lore were there from our family. Things are so dear we decided to go together and buy something. We each put in \$5.00. Sara bought a set of nice sheet and pillow cases. They cost \$20.00. They were not fancy. You can hardly believe things cost so much. You can't buy anything for less than \$5.00 so she didn't get as many gifts as she hoped. I'm glad my family is all married and hope in the next few years when my grandchildren begin to marry things will be different, not so costly.

Today is Sunday and I have been in bed with the flu all day. Well I'm glad that Christmas is over and I hope this miserable cold I have will soon leave me. Father went to Sunday school and meeting alone and I stayed in bed as he told me to. I didn't feel like getting up, too dizzy and weak. I feel better tonight, only my heart keeps pumping away so fast. I hope by morning

it will be rested. The doctor said I must be very careful and never get tired. The trip to Edmonton, having Anne and family here for New Years, then the wedding I guess was too much. I hope I will feel better tomorrow.

I am reading the Pearl of Great Price. But just can't remember what I have read even when I take notes. I do hope that when I die my mind will be quickened and I can remember some of the things I have read. My patriarchal blessing says I shall be called to preach the gospel to the nations of the earth. I'll be 73 on January 28, 1975 so I may have another 10 years to go, who knows.

Must rest now. My feet are so numb. The blood is not being pumped to my hands and feet as it should be, Dr Roy Spackman says, and that is what makes them numb.

Will lie down for awhile. Father is asleep on the cot. He came home from church, warmed over things left from supper. He is so good to me and takes such good care of me. I really believe he doesn't want me to die. I said to him, "If I die you can get you a new wife. I wouldn't want you to life alone." But he always says he doesn't want another wife. I love him so much and hope when I go to heaven he will soon come too for it would be terrible to be without him. It couldn't be in heaven if he were not there.

1975. January 28<sup>th</sup>

Well I am 73 years old today. I hope I can do my visiting teaching today. I have been going with Sister Stringham, but she has asked to be released. She doesn't like to drive when the roads are slippery and covered with snow in the wintertime. So I am going to go with Sister Claudia Roberts. Her phone number is 653 3010. Today at 2 o'clock we will go teaching to Rowena R Spackman, Jutta Vander Hiede, Vickie Sommerfeldt, June Parks, Lorna Hatch, and Shirley Paulson. I hope we find some of them at home. We haven't been finding anyone home lately. They must all work....Well we went teaching. Sister Roberts came and picked me up. We went to every house but no one was at home. They all work. I hoped she'd want to go at night but she doesn't.

Connie came over and had dinner with me. Father was not going to the temple this afternoon. We had a pleasant afternoon together listing to the radio. I worked on some dish towels I am making out of some sacks. Father brought me ten one hundred pound sacks. I needed dish towels so bad I was grateful for them.

I was born January 28' 1902 at my Father and Mother home in Magrath. There were no hospitals at that time I do not think. Their doctor was the Lord working through the Priesthood, who went among the Saints healing them when they were sick, in Jesus name. The women who were called midwives were all the doctors they had. They would wait on the mother and the babies who were being born. They had no way of putting the mother to sleep  
Today is my birthday. I was born January 28, 1902. It is now January 1975. No one remembered.

It is hard for me to keep track of birthdays. Father went to the temple. I am home alone. I feel frightened but I must not say that or Ren will have to stop going to the temple. I guess I should go to bed before he comes home but I hate to be in bed all alone in the house. I can always hear so many things, people walking around down in the basement, cars driving up.

The doctor said that Dora Davies Coleman, Ren's sister, wouldn't last long. It was a surprise. She has been living at the Citizen's home. There are so many old people there who are mentally sick. I think that it would be very hard on her. I hope I never have to go there but I shouldn't say that. I'm sure it would be better than living all alone. Some of Dora's children were coming on the train tonight and Ren went to see how Dora was and if her family got there. I don't know

just how long he will be. He didn't say but I think he said he wouldn't be very long. He went to the hospital this morning. I went with him but Dora didn't seem to know anyone. She didn't speak to us anyway. She seemed to be in a stupor. I think she had been put to sleep. The doctor had them send for her family. Some of them will be here tonight. She was a lovely woman. I can't seem to keep a Book of Remembrance. It always falls apart. I can never find a good pen to write with. Maybe a pencil is best.

1975. February 6<sup>th</sup>

It is now the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. Time goes fast when it comes to writing in my memory book. I forget what happened from one day to another. This week Connie and Ellen came to see me. Connie came and had dinner one day. Her mother doesn't think she should come over as often as she has been doing. She wants her to take her lunch and stay at the school. She worries about her when she leaves the school at noon and comes here alone, and I guess it is best to stay at the school. There is so much evil in the world today it isn't safe for a girl to go walking around alone even in the day time. I will miss her so.

Father has just come home from the temple. He usually comes home after the afternoon session gets off and has a little nap. I'm glad to have him here even if most of the time he spends sleeping. It has been blowing and the snow has been drifting today. We already have a good sized drift on the west. I see the paper boy is coming up the walk and father is just leaving for the temple. He was late coming today so Father will have to read it when he gets home tonight. I'm reading the book, 'A Marvelous Work and a Wonder'. I read but cannot remember what I read. What good will it do me when I go on that mission my blessing talks about. I play the organ a little everyday at least I try to.

The men are the only ones who go to the temple now. The women are so far ahead of the men that they have asked the women to stay home. It has been over a month since the women have been able to take endowment names.

1975. February 13<sup>th</sup>

Last night we went to Lethbridge. Lloyd had phoned from Ottawa and said he was being sent to this district by the government so we went to Lethbridge to meet him. He said he would be there on the 9 o'clock plane. But he didn't arrive until 10:15 so we sat in the station for a couple of hours. We were very happy when he arrived. When we came home it was snowing a little but it was nice and warm in the car. We arrived home just in time for supper. Lloyd helped me with the dishes.

Today he went back to Lethbridge to do the work he was sent to do.

Ellen, Connie, and Sherrie and Anne and Blair came over. Ren phoned to all the family and told them to come in today or tomorrow. Lloyd is going back on Saturday. It was so good to see him. I miss him more than any of my children. When we moved from Hill Spring to Bow Island Lloyd and Frank were just little boys and they were all we had, the others had all married. In a few years Dan came home from his mission. He married and came to Bow Island. We had moved to Bow Island in 55. In 1966 both Lloyd and Frank decided they didn't want to stay on the farm. They wanted to go where they could carry on in their different fields. So Ren and I moved back to Cardston where we could go to the temple and help Veryl and Ellen. We bought a place in Cardston and went to the temple that winter. In the spring we were asked to be officiators, a position Ren still holds. Last year I resigned because of my heart condition. This evening Anne and Blair came over. Lloyd, Ren and I had a nice visit with them.

It is late and I am very tired. I made cookies and cooked supper and Father and Lloyd are in bed. I must close for tonight.

1975. February 19<sup>th</sup>

The Lord is so good to me. He hears and answers my prayers. I lost my crochet hook and couldn't find it. I have been crocheting a table cloth for Sara. I gave it to her for Christmas but it was just too small to fit her table so I decided to make it a little larger. Then I lost my hook and here it is the last of February and I haven't got it finished. Every night when I go to crotchet I remember the hook is lost. Why don't I remember and get Ren to get me one when he goes down town? I forget, so last night I knelt down and prayed again that I could find it. We have a little piece of linoleum on the stand where the phone is and I thought, "What makes that linoleum stick up so? That tack has come out of the corner where it was tacked down." When I felt it I could feel something was under it. So I pulled it up and there was my hook. Sometimes I think how has the Lord or my guardian angel time to answer such a prayer even if I have been looking for it almost a week with a prayer in my heart that I could find it.

As it is Friday and not temple today, I'll crochet while Ren reads. I often ask him to read to me but that is something he won't do. He says he can't read out loud and get what he's reading. Yesterday Ethel Wynder, Ren's oldest sister, was buried. She had been bedridden for some time. Her daughter has been living with her. She was 91 years old. It was such a blessing they all felt that at last she could pass away. We couldn't get any live flowers but the artificial ones looked lovely. They make them so close to the real thing, even to the feel.

1975. February 27<sup>th</sup>

Today I went to the temple and went through a couple of sessions. I enjoyed it very much but when I came back down I couldn't find my booth. Some one hurried and told Sister Fletcher and she came to help me. I would have found it all right. I felt very cross at the person who told her. It didn't take me long to find it. I don't want to be a bother so I guess I won't be able to go any more. Father says that's what the workers are there for, to help people who can't remember.

1975. February 28<sup>th</sup>

It is Friday so Ren is home from the temple all day. He spends most of his time reading and sleeping. I am sure that it is good for him after four and sometimes five days at the temple. Friday is a special day for groups who live far away and bring enough people to make up the session. Of course it's announced before Friday so that anyone can come who wants to on Friday.

I wish I had not quit the temple. Even if the doctor had said I must be very careful and lie down whenever I was tired. I was very tired at the temple but perhaps I should not have quite and the Lord would have blessed me, I do not know. It doesn't hurt me to go to the temple and go through a couple of sessions. It is not like doing washing and anointing and being on my feet most of the time. Oh, dear, I have made many mistakes in my life and perhaps that was one of them.

Another reason I resigned was because my patriarchal blessing says, "You will be a Savior on Mt Zion and many will rise to call you blessed." It doesn't say anything about being a worker in the temple and I think being a worker you are there to help those who come to work, which is different than going through to do work for the dead which I want to do.

Another reason was that I had been a worker from February 22, 1967, eight years.

Another reason I quit was because I forget and when Sister Fletcher gives us a dozen things to

do I can't remember half of them, and I seem to be making mistakes which I felt was not right. So I decided that it would be better to come and go through for the dead instead of working. Then if I make mistakes it is up to the workers to help me.

Another reason is my patriarchal blessing tells me to be a Savior on Mount Zion that means I think, doing work for the dead. Working at the temple, I am doing work for the living. When I do session I can go when I feel able to go not because it is my duty to be there.

Sister Fletcher told us the day she was made President that she was told that she was called for 3 years and at the end of that time they were to resign. I felt that the leaders of the church felt it was not right just because they were made the President that they should stay in for years, a life time as they have been doing in the past but that other should have an opportunity to serve.

### March

This morning I decided I would go to the temple. When I got up I just felt sick and my heart was beating so fast I decided maybe I shouldn't go.

Yesterday I went to Bill Smith's funeral. He died In the Old Folks home. It was a big funeral, all of Hill Spring was there and many of the old folks from the home. Many nice things were said about him. The kind of things he did for others. Bill Smith was one of the very first to settle on the Cochrane Ranch. They were good faithful people in working in the church, kind and considerate to others. They buried him at Hill Spring but we did not go out to the graveyard. I don't know if I'm able to go to the temple or not. But this morning I don't feel able so I'll stay home. But if I wait until I feel good I might not go at all. I can read or crochet or play the organ, wash, iron, clean house, cook or eat. Last Sunday I was trying to sing and decided that if I was to be able to sing I'd have to keep singing because I sounded so terrible.

Sara and Ted are going to Salt Lake to take Rickie down to be set apart and go on his mission. They want Father to go down and bring the car back as Ted has a business assignment to go to. They don't know what to do with me. I hope I can just stay home. But Father thinks I might burn the house down. I'm so forgetful. Oh if my Father in Heaven will only help me to do the things I should.

### 1975. March

Last night Anne, Blair and Noel came over to see us for a little visit. Noel is such a beautiful girl. She is going to school now. She left her baby with Lynda. We had a nice visit. Oh I pray that the Lord will bless Noel that some day she will have a home of her own and that she will live as she should, that she may have a happy life.

The snow still covers the ground and the drifts go right over the fences. I don't remember seeing this much snow before at this time of the year.

This poem was written by my mother to her husband, my father. I love the poem because it expresses my feeling for my husband and as I am not good at expressing my feelings of gratitude to him, I am writing it in my book.

To my Husband, who has been all this poem expresses by Sarah Gibb Fisher  
His love is like a great warm coat  
That keeps out the winter weather.  
It folds me round with its comfort dear,  
Though the storms of life may gather.

Though my heart may weep it still is warm

And trusting plans the morrow.  
For the great coat of his love protects  
And heals my every sorrow

His love is like the sunshine warm,  
And the best of my nature keeps blooming,  
For it's easy to smile and be sweet and true,  
When the sun of life keeps wooing!

His smile brings back a smile in return,  
His praises crush dead repining,  
And my soul climbs up to heights each day.  
It keeps my sun ever shining.

I wanted to have this read at Ren's funeral but he says he does not want it read there. I do not want it read there either because it is Mother's poem not mine.

My husband has been so good to me. I have always come first. He has worked so hard to put the children through school and to give them an education and to give me things I need in the home. Many times he has gone without the machinery and things he needed, for the children and me. It was in Hill Spring that we raised our family and as I look back over my life I am so very grateful to the many people who helped me in teaching them in school and in church, in times of sorrow and in times of need. For their kindness to us, may God bless them.

Oh I am just not one to help others. I think I'll go see some one. But I just can't make myself. At times I am so lonesome. I miss Connie. She has not been to see me for so long. She would come and have dinner with me, but hasn't been lately.

1975. March 6<sup>th</sup>

Connie is here. She came after school. They had a day in the gym playing basket ball and when she got home she was so tired she lay down on the cot and went to sleep. It is now 4:30 and she is still asleep.

For the first time in years I am reading a novel. Ren stopped at the library to get him a book so I got one by Gene Stratton Porter, Her Father's Daughter. I've been reading most of the day. That's the way I've always been, can't stop reading when it is interesting until I'm finished. I haven't read one of her books for years. I have always liked her stories. There is something so clean and uplifting about them. Such lovely girls she depicts.

1975. March 9<sup>th</sup>

It is snowing and the drifts are nearly as high as the fence. Father had gone to Priesthood meeting. I had hoped he would take the car then come and get me for Sunday school but I could see he didn't want to. I stay here alone so much that when I can't go I wish I could. I think I can make it all right though. I am going to try.

Later.

I enjoyed the Sunday school and meeting and fine talks that were given and for the Sunday school lesson. We are studying Jesus' life and they are lessons I truly enjoy. Our Savior has given us so much and set a marvelous example for us to pattern our lives after. Brother Bevins, our first Bishop when we moved here gave a lovely talk.

Rickie is leaving for his mission this week. He is going to Paris, France. I hate to think of him

going to such a wicked place. But I know the Lord will protect him if we pray for him and if he puts his trust in the Lord. Ren is going down with them. Sara has asked him to go to help him drive back. She doesn't want to stay and come back alone. But Dad doesn't want me to stay alone even though I want to so I guess I will go too. He phoned and asked Mary and Lawrence Leavitt if we could stay with them.

1975. March 14<sup>th</sup> Anne came to see me. Blair came to a meeting so Anne and I looked at our album and had a nice morning together thinking of the times when she was a girl. My memory grows dimmer every day but she could remember so many of the pictures and when they were taken.

1975. March 23<sup>rd</sup>

We had such a lovely trip. The weather was lovely and the trees covered with yellow and red. It was beautiful traveling between the mountains. They were topped with snow with the sun shining on them. Ren and Sara and Rickie took turns driving.

Rickie's girl friend was with us. She is a very down-to-earth girl. She is planning and saving to go on a mission next year, she says. I felt that they were just good friends. Sara was so worried by her coming to Lethbridge. After the missionaries are set apart they are not supposed to go out with girl friends and Sara was quite concerned. Helen just sent them word she was on her way to visit with them and would like to go back with them when they took Rickie to the MTC. Sara didn't leave them alone for more than five minutes at a time and wouldn't let them even put their arms around each other. They were both good about it. When they took Helen to her home she grabbed her suitcase and ran into her home and didn't even look back.

Mary and Lawrence were so good to Ren and me. Sara wouldn't stay at Mary's. She went to the hotel with Helen Catzmann, Rickie's girlfriend. We stayed at a hotel going down. They stayed at a friend of Sara's while we were in Salt Lake. We got up early and came back in one day.

1975. March 24<sup>th</sup>

I am sick in bed. I don't know if it is my heart or the flu. I have been taking my pills lately every day. The flu is going around. I am not sick at the stomach though nor do I have a sore throat. Just that same dizzy feeling and it is hard for me to breath and the same pounding of the heart. I think it is just another heart sickness.

Emma and Jack came over to see us but we haven't been back to see them.

It is Monday and Father is home from the temple. He has been waiting on me all day. He got breakfast and went down town and bought apples and grapefruit, grapes and oranges and waited on me. He is so good to me.

Have finished my story, 'Her Father's Daughter'. Enjoyed it very much just as I did when I was young.

Last week I went to the temple for a couple of sessions. I had hoped to go again this week.

Washed on Monday and in the night I couldn't sleep, felt so sick and dizzy.

I went to see the doctor some time ago and he told me that at one time two of my heart valves had leaked and gristle had grown over them, and that the 3<sup>rd</sup> valve was now leaking. I guess the trip was too hard on me for I'm back in bed again. The doctor said I must have lots of rest and when ever I got tired I must lie down. I'll be all right tomorrow, I hope.

I did enjoy the trip down and staying with Lawrence and Mary. They are such wonderful

people. They never say an unkind word about anyone or criticize each other. Oh please help me not to say unkind things, but to look for the good in everything the rest of my life. They took us to their motel that Brice is in charge of for dinner one night. Lawrence still owns a number of motels. It is strange to me that he has not given the one Brice works in to him as most Fathers would do. Lawrence and Mary have the old folk's pension and a beautiful home. But perhaps Lawrence looks after the upkeep of the building which is better for Brice.

1975. March 25<sup>th</sup>

Father has gone to the temple. I am still in bed, just didn't feel like getting up. Just one of my heart sicknesses I guess. I feel better today, just overdoing it.

Father and I have been counting our posterity. We have 8 children plus the two of us, makes ten.

Anne and Blair have 6 children

Tom and Rae have 5

Lore and Barbara have 6

Sara and Ted have 4

Dan and Alma have 5

Ellen and Veryle have 9

Frank and Fay have 3

Lloyd and Jane have 3

This makes 41 grandchildren. Lynda has 2 children and Noel had one that died at three months and was buried in Magrath, making 3 great grandchildren.

1975. March 26<sup>th</sup>

Again I am still in bed. I feel too sick to get around. I got up, got myself some breakfast and could hardly wait to get back in bed again. I was going to crotchet on the table cloth I am making for Sara, but it makes me feel so sick to concentrate on it for more than a few minutes.

1975. March 28<sup>th</sup>

Still feel a bit weak but am tired of lying in bed so I am up for awhile at least.

It is Easter Sunday. I had one of my heart sicknesses again and have been in bed for a few days.

This morning I read the chapters in the Bible of the crucifixion of the Savior, and his

resurrection on Easter morning. His authors have given something a little different in each of

their books. It is interesting to read them all. I have enjoyed the day very much and feel near to

my Savior and my love for him even if I didn't hear the Easter program as I would have liked.

Today Jess and Ellen Atwood came to see us. They came up to go to the temple and came to see

how I was doing. They have been such good friends to us ever since we lived in Bow Island.

She looked so nice, not as old as I thought she was when she lived in Bow Island. I had such a

nice visit with them. I loved her so much.

1975. April 3<sup>rd</sup>

It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, Ren's birthday and I have been sick in bed for a few days.

I have been trying to crotchet a table cloth for Sara. She asked me to a number of years ago. I'd

try working on it for a week and then I got sick, I can never make it as large as she wanted it. It

has already been a long time since I first started on it so it will be worn out by the time it is

finished. Today Father said if I wanted to we would buy her one and give it to her. We could

do that. In fact it has been 2 years since I started when we were in England. It isn't even one half big enough. Her table cloth has worn out and she needs a new one. None of the children have phoned to wish Father a happy birthday. I should have reminded them. They all remembered mine. I'm sure it is my fault. I must do something to remind them of his. He never forgets mine.

Emma phoned. Her and Jack just returned from Grand Prairie. They went up to see Betty. Judy was there so they had a visit with their two daughters. They were worried about going because of the snow but the roads were good she said and they had no trouble.

I wish I could describe our place on the west. The snow has piled in drifts and is up as high as Shaw's fence between our lots and theirs. You can walk over the fence and across their back yard on the snow drifts. Also on the other side, the snow is up to the top about 4 feet high. It has been melting a little today but the forecast for tomorrow is for more snow. Of course the trees and bushes hold the snow and make a beautiful picture. We hope that April will bring warmer weather.

1975. April 4<sup>th</sup>

Last night Ellen and Veryle, Connie, Kirby, Katura and Sherese came over. They brought ice cream and visited with us for awhile. I was glad and it made Dad feel so good to have them come.

It has been snowing all night and Father has been out making a path to the sidewalk. It is still snowing so I guess it won't be long until the path will need sweeping again.

This morning Sara phoned. It was nice to hear from them.

I still don't feel very good. I'll be glad when we can get out in the sunshine. But we have had such a mild lovely winter we cannot complain.

I have the most wonderful family, children and grandchildren, in the world and am so grateful for them all. May the Lord continue to bless them, especially Rickie who is now in the mission field.

1975. April 7<sup>th</sup>

I still feel dizzy so I will go back to bed for awhile.

I still don't feel very good. I did a little ironing and I am tired. I go to bed early and get up late. It is still snowing. The drifts at the back of the house are six feet high. They go over the fence. Never have I seen so much snow for a long time, if ever. Ren walked down town. Lynn saw him and made him take her car to come home in. Something is wrong with ours. It needs fixing. So we have her car here. Ren did the washing and ironing today. He is good to help me. Alma and Dan and Kathy came up to see how I was and they brought us a pie for Father's birthday gift. They were not able to come on his birthday.

Lloyd is coming to Saskatoon on government business today. We hope we can get to see him. There is so much snow. He said he might be going from there to Edmonton. He was not sure. I feel dizzy so will go to bed.

1975. April 8<sup>th</sup>

I'll put a few more words in my diary today. It is snowing again. Never have I seen so much snow at this time of year. You surely cannot see very far. If it warms up all at once and melts we'll be washed away. The roofs of the houses are covered with snow. The cars are almost covered over.

I surely haven't been to the temple much this year. Father still goes Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and sometimes on Fridays whenever there are sessions. I wonder how Lloyd made out and where he is now.

1975. April 10<sup>th</sup>

I am reading a *Marvelous Work and a Wonder* by LeGrand Richards.

Oh if I could only throw off this sick feeling and get out in the fresh air. It must have snowed all night and is still snowing.

Ren went down town a couple of days ago. He called in to see Lynn. She insisted that he bring her car back. She doesn't like to have it there. She has rented two rooms in the hotel. So he brought it here and left it in our driveway and this morning it is covered over with snow, just the glass window is sticking out at the top. Will it never stop snowing I wonder? The snow plows are kept busy going up and down the streets, keeping the roads open.

1975. April 13<sup>th</sup>

It is a beautiful Sabbath morning. The sun is shining and the snow is melting on the road where they have been cleared off. But the snow drifts are high. Dad has not cleared our sidewalk yet. I know his back is bad but the children have had quite a climb over our snow drifts this morning. He dug a path from the door to the street. I did want to go to the temple but decided it was not wise. I feel so weak and groggy. I do hope and pray I will soon be better.

I miss so much not going to the temple. It has been such a wonderful experience to be able to work there for eight years. Now I go and do work for the dead.

I hope I can feel better so I can go to Sunday school and meeting and Relief Society. We don't really appreciate going until you can't go. I have always loved to go to the meetings and to conference. I have been quite a few times to Salt Lake to conference for which I am grateful. This morning I have been reading the church news about the April conference, 1975. Four new Assistances to the Twelve were set apart to work in leadership position throughout the world. The church is growing in numbers and in leadership.

1975. April 14<sup>th</sup>

Last night Anne, Blair and Noel came over and spent the evening with us. It was so good they came. I didn't feel good enough to go to Sunday school or church and was glad to see and talk to them. The Lord is so good to me to give me such a good family and in-laws and grandchildren. I am proud of them all. Some of them have made mistakes. I pray the Lord will bless them and keep the younger ones on the right path. Noel left her baby with Lynda. Noel is such a beautiful girl. I hope the Lord will bless her.

1975. June 12<sup>th</sup>

Ren came home from the temple and asked if I'd like to ride down with him to Lethbridge. He has broken his glasses and has to have a new glass put in one of the eyes. So we went to Lethbridge. We found that Dan was in the hospital. He was rounding up the cows for the fellow he works for and one of them turned and kicked him in the stomach and so when he passed water it was bloody. He didn't know how long he would have to be there but it will be until his urine is no longer bloody. I do hope it will heal properly.

I helped Sara quilt for awhile and then we had supper, came home and went to bed.

1975. June 13<sup>th</sup>

Well, it is morning. Father went to the temple. It is now 7 o'clock. I am going to go to the temple to the 10 o'clock session. Father thinks it is too much for me to go through the sessions but I want to go. It is the getting there and getting dressed that makes me tired, not sitting in the session for when I'm home that is what I do, sit and read. Father got Sara to get some wool for me to crochet a cover for the couch. So I have been making it.

Well if I go to one session I must get ready now. Perhaps I'll write a little more tonight. I go one morning, do sealings, go through a session and come home at noon. I usually feel very tired.

1975. June

Today I went to the temple and went into Brother Alma Wylie's sealing room and acted as proxy for the mothers who are having their work for the dead done. Then I went to one session and came home. I think I should go oftener and do work for the dead. Maybe a session every day would not hurt me. If I have heart trouble, I'll die of it someday anyway and I think I should do all I can before I go.

It is evening. I am home alone. Father has gone to the temple. I must go too. I feel lately that all I live for is my self.

Perhaps I should go and have a check up from the doctor. He told me once to come every week but when I went the last time he acted as if he didn't even know me. He never tells me anything. That is Doctor Spackman. When I went to my doctor, Doctor Van Orman he told me he knew nothing about the heart. He knew that there was something wrong but didn't know anything about it and he told me to go to Dr. Spackman because he was a heart specialist. So I did. He told me before that two of the main valves had leaked and gristle had grown over them, and that now another was leaking. But it must be better or I would have heard.

Dr. Van Orman thought going to the temple might be too much of a strain on my heart, but it isn't. I love to go. It doesn't worry me like it used to. If I make a mistake then it's the workers place to help me. I know the ceremonies all right so it doesn't worry me to go through nor to sit in the sessions. I love them and the spirit that is there.

1975. June 16<sup>th</sup>

This morning Father and I went to Lethbridge. We had a lovely dinner with Sara, Ted and family. Of course Rickie was not there but they said he seemed to be enjoying his mission. After dinner we went with Sara and Ted to the last session of Education Week at the Lethbridge Stake house. Sister Janene Morgan Payne B.A. and Wilfred Griggs from BYU were the speakers. I enjoyed their talks very much and I am sure that BYU is a wonderful place to go to get an education and to partake of the spirit of great LDS teachers. They told us faith promoting experiences in their lives and talked of the subjects they teach. Bro. Griggs spoke on ancient history and archeology. Sister Payne spoke on the Joy of Being a Woman. She is just beautiful herself and spoke on beauty for keeps. She said beauty of the soul is shown by what we do for others in our lives. I felt that I had done very little for others. She talked of Jesus and what he did to help others do what was right and of his sacrifice for us. She also told the story of Zacharias and how the angel told him that his wife should have a child and he would go before and make ready for the coming of our Savior and of the messenger Gabriel's visit to Mary and said that the child should be called the Son of God. She spoke of Christ's love for us and his atoning sacrifice. She said we too must spend our lives doing good for other. It makes me feel how selfish I am. I just sit at home and do nothing for others. I remember how mother visited

her neighbors and was always doing something for them. Oh why can't I? I'm afraid to visit my neighbors. I think they don't like me. I always say the wrong thing.

1975. July 2<sup>nd</sup>

I have needed something to do this winter after resigning as a worker in the temple. So Father gave her the money to buy some yarn for me to make a cover for my couch. It is 4 rows of black wool, 4 rows of white, 4 of tan and 4 of orange. I work on it every day but it is a lot of crocheting. I'd like to get it finished. The old cover I have was wool and I washed it and it doesn't look nice. I hate to have no cloth on the couch because it will get dirty and it can't be cleaned.

Aunt Lynn thinks it foolish to make it, that I should read more and I think so too only I can't remember what I have read. I have finished reading the Pearl of Great Price and A Marvelous Work and A Wonder. I finished reading the New Testament this last winter. We also studied it in Sunday school this year. Oh if I'd study it. I have tried to but, I don't remember what I've read from one day to another. I have to put a mark in the book to find where I'm at. Oh sometimes I feel so worried about it. I don't want my mind to go before my heart. There's lots worse things than a heart that doesn't pump the blood as it should to the hands and feet as the Doctor says mine doesn't do. It's not being able to remember. If my heart would only pump the blood to my brain I'd be satisfied and happy. My feet feel numb and my hands go as black as the stove when they are cold, but that's nothing if it will only pump it to my brain.

The garden is up and looks good. It is better than most of the gardens I've seen. Father has gone to the temple. He told me he'd phone when it was time to move the sprinkler. It should be soon. I'll change it then read from the book 'The Keys of the Kingdom' that I'm trying to read now. It is by Stirling W. Sill and is interesting. It was given to us by Blair and Ann, Christmas 1972. I'm reading it again.

Barbara and Lore went to the temple this evening. They came over after the session. I was in bed but I put on my house coat and visited with them for a few minutes before they left for home. I feel too tired. I hope I'll be able to sleep. I am doing nothing now in the church so I must go to the temple as often as I can. I'll try to go again tomorrow.

My afghan is nearly finished now. Everyone who comes says how pretty it is.

1975, July 5<sup>th</sup>

It is Saturday July 5. Father is mowing the lawn. It is a big job, front and back.

Been working on my afghan and then I cleaned a little for Sunday. We took a little ride in the car up to Jack and Emma's but they were not home. She said she was going to visit Judy and so they are there I guess. Anyway the house was locked.

I have been working on my afghan this afternoon. I'd like to get it finished but then I'd have nothing to do. Yes I could read. That is what I need to do more than anything. I need to study the gospel but I am not good at that. I wish I was like Father who can read something from the bible or church books and tell what he has read. I never could do that and now it gets harder than ever for me to remember. But I'll be glad when the afghan is finished and I'll try to read the church books we have.

1975. July 6<sup>th</sup>

It is Sunday evening. This morning Ren went to Priesthood meeting as usual at fifteen minutes to twelve. I left home and went to the church for Sunday school and meeting. Glen was called to give the closing prayer in church. They are in our ward now. They have moved into their

home just across the road from us. They bought Alma Sommerfeldt's home who have moved to B.C. They left as soon as school let out. His wife Delecta Sommerfeldt has been our Relief Society President since we moved to Cardston and she has done so much for me. She has been a lovely president and a good neighbor since we moved here. We will miss her. Of course it's nice to have Glen and Holly to take their place. That means I have a sister and two brothers here now. Orrin lives here also. That makes four of us living in Cardston, Orrin, Glen, Emma and me. Now Ada's husband is dead perhaps she will move here also. But Ada has the theatre to look after in Pincher Creek. Her daughter and her husband and children live in the top part of Ada's home. They also have a part of the theatre job.

Oh I'm so forgetful lately. I get so worried. I just can't seem to remember anything lately. After meeting we had dinner. Then this evening we went down to Dan's. He is working for Joe Keeler tending his cattle. They have a nice home there on the place. The man he works for lives in Raymond now. The children will go to school on the bus this fall at Magrath.

It is late. I must go to bed.

Joe Keller asked Little Danny boy if he'd like to work for him too and Dan said yes he would. He told Danny he'd give him \$100.00 a month.

I picked some flowers from my garden and put on the kitchen table but ever little while I see an ant crawling up the wall so I'll have to throw them away before going to bed.

1975. July 7<sup>th</sup>

Been working on my afghan. It has taken a long time. I wanted to finish it but I am so slow.

1975. July 8<sup>th</sup>

Glen came over this morning and brought us some strawberries for breakfast. We had strawberries and cream. Ren read to me this afternoon while I was crocheting the afghan. I enjoyed it so much I wish he'd do it more often but he hates to read out loud.

1975. July 14<sup>th</sup>

Ren is mowing the lawn. It is such a big job. I should help him but it is such hard work for me. It is such a big lawn, front and back.

I washed this morning, ironed this afternoon, and am tired. So I'll do a few rounds on my cover for the couch. It is so big and heavy. I crocheted it with course wool. I hope it will be what I want. I do need a cover for it but is so very heavy. I don't know. Ren has finished mowing and is getting ice cream and root beer from the fridge. He has fixed me a root beer float but he doesn't want anything to eat. It is too hot he says.

1975. July 14<sup>th</sup>

Taber Alta.

A Tribute to "Ren" and Phyllis Davies on your 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

We recall with pleasure our welcome to the Bow Island ward in 1964 by all the members there, among them of course the Davies Family. As we worked together in the ward the bonds of friendship increased. We learned more of the knowledge of the gospel as they expressed their testimonies of the truthfulness of it and we knew of their worth.

Many times we have said that the best part of moving is that in another area we meet so many wonderful people and this was our experience when moving to Bow Island.

Now as we meet with Bro. and Sis. Davies on our visits to the temple or elsewhere, it is like

meeting some of our family especially as we seemed to be one big happy family in the Bow Island ward and since we also have left the Bow Island area.

May our Heavenly Father's choicest blessings ever be with you and your fine family in the coming years.

Sincerely

Ellys and Helen Piepgrass and family

1975. July 15<sup>th</sup>

Ren has gone to the temple. I just finished eating some breakfast. I have finished my afghan and it is on the couch. I think it looks pretty, orange, tan, white and black, 8rows of each color. I am quite pleased with it. It looks like Glen and Holly have company. Some of his children come every day it seems. He's building onto his house, a room and patio. They all want to help.

The garden is coming good. I go to the temple Wednesday and Thursday morning doing sealings for the first session and go through the second session. I should go all three days but I have been having quite a lot of pain lately so I will rest today.

Lloyd phoned this morning. They want us to come out and stay with the children while Jane goes to the hospital. She is expecting soon. I hate to think of traveling so far but would like to stay with them while she is in the hospital. Right now I have a pain in my back. I can hardly sit down. I hope it will soon get better. Maybe I sit too long crocheting. But I don't like to stand on my feet either. Oh dear, I am getting old. It's bad enough to have white hair but back aches are painful.

Everything is so beautiful and green. I have such a beautiful view of the creek from my window. All spring I have been watching a little robin build its nest in the big tree on the south of our house. The tree is so tall. There are 5 trees just in front of Shaw's place. This one stands in front of our lot. I hear the town is going to cut down all these big trees along the side walk and plant new ones as they have done in Lethbridge.

I must make my bed, wash dishes etc.

1975. July

I went to the temple this morning. It makes me sick to kneel at the alter and so when I got through with the ten names I went and lay down on the cot in the rest room. Edyth Wood came up to me and told me that I shouldn't do it any more than what I was able to.

Perhaps she is right. It makes me feel sick to kneel that long. Oh dear, I can't do anything in the church anymore. Is it because I give up to quickly? But I'm still going to go as long as I can and takes names.

1975. July

Went to the temple this morning and went through a session. I was supposed to do sealings but when I got there I forgot and went and got my name instead of going up to the sealing room. I enjoyed the session but now I have done something so wrong. I guess they won't want me for sealings any more. Ren was very angry at me I know. Oh dear I get so confused and mixed up lately. I don't know what to do at times.

1975. July

Bob Fisher is here to see Orrin. I am sitting up waiting for him. I am working on my chair

cover. Perhaps he may stay at Orrin's. I asked him to come to my house to stay all night but he didn't come by 11:30 so I went to bed.

Well the chair cover and the chesterfield cover are finished. They look pretty on the chair and chesterfield, I think. Sara bought some yarn and started me on it. I have enjoyed crocheting it. Doran was here for dinner. He is helping Glen on his house. Glen bought Alma Sommerfeldt's house and had been building a bedroom on to it. They took out the partition to the rooms and made a large sitting room. The ones Sommerfeldts had were so small. It will be nice when they get finished, I'm sure.

Orrin went to the temple this morning. He went to see Glen then he came over here so I went with him to Emma's. He is going home in the morning maybe.

1975. July 26<sup>th</sup>

Ren brought home his things from the temple this evening. The temple is closed now for two weeks. It has been a hot day today. Doran came in for a few minutes. He said they were quitting because it is so hot. They have been working on the roof most of the day. So he went home early.

Everything is so beautiful and green. I have a very good garden. I haven't any vegetables left in my deep freeze. So I hope to get a lot this year put up. Then next year I won't run out like I did this year. It's nice to have plenty of vegetables. I'm just not used to buying them. In fact if we don't put them up we just don't have them during the winter. Ren doesn't like vegetables that well. As long as we have potatoes that's all the vegetables he wants. It is 6 o'clock but still hot. We are not used to hot weather even if it is the 26<sup>th</sup> of July.

I am reading 'Jesus the Christ' again. It is such a wonderful book. I am going to read the New Testament along with it as I go.

1975. July 25<sup>th</sup>

I got my pages mixed up again. My book is so full the pages fall out.

This afternoon we went down to Magrath. Barbara, Lore's wife was asked by her Bishop to get up a musical number for their Sacrament meeting. So she asked all the girls, our granddaughters, to sing the song they did at our family party. It was very nice. The girls knew the words so they had no books and it was just beautiful. The girls were Carol, Kathy, Wendy, Noel, Barbara, Lorianne, Dana, Connie, Callie, and Sherie. Alma played for them and to me it was just like angels singing. We came home right after meeting and had supper and now Father is in bed. I am tired too and so will go to bed. I didn't go to Sunday school. I couldn't remember the time it started. Oh, I am getting so forgetful I don't know what to do. Must go to bed! Tomorrow Father and I must finish the garden. We went to Lethbridge Saturday afternoon and got some tomatoes plants and cabbage plants.

1975. July 27<sup>th</sup>

This morning I couldn't find my pills. I keep them in the little drawer in my dresser. They weren't there and I couldn't find them. Ren was cross as usual but finally he found them. For some reason I had taken them into the kitchen and put them in the little cupboard where I put tacks and etc. How I came to put them there, goodness knows. I guess I took them into the kitchen to get water to swallow them with. I am getting so forgetful. I am an awful trouble to Ren. He has such a good memory. He just can't understand how a person could take pills from the bedroom and put them into the kitchen cupboard and not remember. Oh dear, I'm tired.

Maybe the thing for me to do is to go to bed and stay there all day. It is so hot I hate to even think of walking a block let alone 3 blocks. But I hate so to miss Sunday school and meeting. I finished my afghan and it looks nice. I also finished a cover for the chair that matches the afghan. It has taken me a long time to finish them but they look nice. It is time for Sunday school. I will go.

I often go to write in my diary and can't find a pen. So I take Ren's and he doesn't like that. So he gave me this red pen so I won't use his. I can't say I like red pens much but I guess it won't matter. No one else will see it but me. In fact, I'm the only one who will be able to make it out. This week Ada was here, and was admiring my fern. She said, "How can you do it? I guess you get it from Father. I can't make things grow." And Ren said, "Yes she has the green thumb." I thought what does that mean? All I do is water them. Then I thought, "You know, when I look at my flowers, I know when they need water. I'll just look at them and say to myself, they need water." And no matter what I'm doing I take the few seconds it takes to water my flowers. That is just a habit I've formed. I don't say I'll water my plants when I get this finished, I go and water them right then. It only takes a second. I must lie down. My heart is beating so fast I can hardly breathe. I guess it is because it is so hot. I just don't feel able to walk to church. I should have told Ren to come for me, but he thinks there is nothing wrong with me. It is just my imagination. Maybe it is. I don't know at times. One minute I feel like I can hardly breath and the next I feel all right. Why, I don't know.

1975. August 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Our Family Reunion

This past week has been such a lovely time for us. We left Cardston and went to Red Deer on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July for "The Ren Davies Family Reunion." There were 43 of our own family and grandchildren and 1 great Grandson. Sally and Lloyd and families, David, and Lynda, and Tom's baby, and Carol Dawn, making 8, were not there.

We came back on the 2 day of August. It was a lovely experience. We camped out. Ren and I slept in the back of Ellen and Veryle's trailer. They had a large tent they set up for them and the boys slept outside. We had a nice time together, a program around the fireside at night and lots of food.

We came home on Saturday so that we could all go to church on Sunday.

I must get my washing started as there is a big one and I am tired after the outing and long ride. Glen is building on to the house he bought from Sommerfeldt just across the road from us. They are making a look-out-tower so that Holly can look out over the creek and town. It is going to be nice. They are also making a bedroom and play room for their family when they come to see them.

I must find out how many grandchildren we have now. Sara and Ted didn't come because the Andersons were having a reunion on the same day. Sara had not heard when ours was to be when they decided to have an Anderson Reunion for the first time.

Lynn came over. I did something I don't usually do. I usually go about my work when she comes because I know that she wants to talk to Ren. But I felt tired and was waiting for the clothes to dry so I could iron so I just sat there and she kept saying, "Why is she sitting there?" I could see she wanted me to go but for some reason I just sat there. Surely I had a right to sit there in my own house. But I probably won't do it again if that is the way she wants it.

1975. August 6<sup>th</sup>

Ren and I are on our way to Creston BC to get some fruit. We have been driving through trees and hills for miles and miles. As much as I love hills and trees I have decided I wouldn't want to live here. To feel so shut in would be terrible. We have enjoyed our trip and seeing this beautiful country. The lakes and streams are beautiful too. The water looks so blue shaded by the trees. Most of the trees are evergreen and pine and spruce. The roads are not as good as the Alberta roads. I guess the snow piled in among the trees in winter would make it harder to keep them so. It cost more to make mountain roads Dad says.

We stopped at a garage, went to the rest room and Father got us a big milk shake. It was nice and cool. It has started to blow which makes it good to travel for the sixth of August. It is such a hot day. I'm surprised to see so many houses all along the way. They are permanent residences, coal miner, lumber workers etc. We have just stopped at a camp fruit stand. It's in a house with open front built onto the house they live in. They say it is too early for peaches. This year they are late in ripening. Creston is about the size of Cardston. Just stopped at an orchard and the fruit is not ripe. The man said it is late this year. We got 3 boxes of peaches. I think they will ripen soon. Ren bought a dozen cobs of fresh corn. The boxes are apple boxes so they are much bigger than the peach boxes we have. It doesn't pay us to come for them but Father wanted something to do and the temple is not open for another week. It was a lovely trip together.

We stopped at Yack and went to the rest room. Ren bought hamburgers and pop for lunch. We are going to stop at the first camp ground for dinner. The longest train I ever saw, it is red, passed under the bridge we just went over.

Lynn came over last night. I think she wanted Ren to invite her to go with us. I asked him why he didn't and he said it was too far. She'd get tired and say mean things and he just wasn't going to take her. So we had such a nice time together. The lakes and trees are so beautiful. It has been such a lovely drive. We left home at 8 o'clock, got to Creston at noon and now we are on our way home. We are now passing the out skirts of Cranbrook. It is about the size of Cardston. It is 73 miles to the boarder of Alberta. It is now 5 o'clock. We are still in Mountains until we get to Pincher Creek. It looks like we are going to run into another high mountain. Beautiful, beautiful! Trees so thick you can not see where they end. There are many trailers and campers along the way and some lovely homes. Large truck loads of lumber we have just passed. I never saw so many trailers before, all going west. We are now going through the tunnel again.

It's three hours yet before we'll be home if all goes well. We're now driving along the edge of the river. It is a beautiful drive. It looks like we'd run into a high mountain this close. It looks green except the peaks.

I'm tired. Next time we'll take 2 days and bring our bedding and sleep out. We are now entering Fernie, 40 miles to the boarder.

It will be 50 years ago this October since we were married. We were married Oct. 14, 1925.

1975. August 7<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday Father and I went to Creston in BC and got some peaches to put up. We went early in the morning and came home last night. We got some apricots too. Today I was so tired I'll put up the peaches tomorrow. We had such a nice time. It is such a beautiful ride through the

mountains. I have been tired today. Oh dear I am getting old. I'm so grateful for Father. He is so good to answer my questions. He has to remind me so often of the things I have promised to do, and what to do. His mind is as clear and bright as it was about 50 years ago. I'm so grateful he has such a keen mind. I don't know what I'd do if he didn't.

1975. August 13<sup>th</sup>

This morning we drove down to Magrath and saw Ann. Lore and Barbara and family were not home. They must be taking an outing too. We visited with Anne for a little while and then came home. David is going on a mission this fall. He has been asked to prepare to go. I must go to bed. I forget things so often. I think I should have more sleep. David is going to Halifax on his mission, Anne said. They are calling the Canadian boys to go on their mission to Eastern Canada it seems.

1975. August 18<sup>th</sup>

It has been a lovely Sunday. Father went to Priesthood meeting. For the first time I was late for Sunday school. Ren had saved me a seat on the stand where the old folks have to sit. But I sat down at the back of the hall with the young adult group until the classes went to their different rooms. Then I went up on the stage. I felt embarrassed and hope I won't be late again. I looked at the clock and thought, "Oh I've lots of time to fix things for dinner" But the next time I looked it was almost 10 o'clock. I hurried but they were just starting to sing the first song so I sat down at the back. We came home after meeting, had dinner then Dora came over for awhile. I played the piano and read and then went to bed.

1975. August 19<sup>th</sup>

[I think this was written on the way home from a visit with Lloyd and Jane in Toronto. Did they go twice?]

..... City Mac Comb[don't know how it is spelt.] But it is a large city. We are just passing through it. The houses are big brick houses. We are now passing over a large bridge. Now everywhere you look you see huge trees and brush of every kind and houses built back in the trees with corn fields near by. Then pasture land where cows are grazing.

We are now in Carthage and are going to see the jail where the prophet was killed. There is a large college, university, hospital and large homes here.

It is now 6 o'clock. We just came out of the Carthage jail. The guide took us through and showed us the room where the prophet was killed, also rooms that showed the kitchen, living room, and the prophet's room. The furniture is supposed to be from the Smith home. The guide, who is a member of the Reorganized church, told us the story of the prophet Joseph Smith, how he was killed and about his family. The guide said that only about 40 % of those who go through are not LDS. It surely touched our hearts as we realized more fully his suffering and death.

We are now driving along the river. The trees along the road are just like a forest. We have entered a parking place by the river and are going to put up the tent and stay for the night. The children are so tired and Michael is crying so we must stop and rest for the night.

1975. Noon, August 20<sup>th</sup>

We have been driving all morning and are now in Nauvoo. We have been to the Joseph Smith home and heard the story of the First Vision. Also we visited the Brigham Young home. They

are furnished with chairs, tables, beds, cooking tinsels as in their time if not the original, which I'm sure some of the furnishings are.

It is interesting to see the fireplaces, cooking material, drapes etc. of that day.

As we listened to the story of the people following the leadership of Brigham Young it made me feel very sad that Joseph Smith's own people, family I should say, had not the courage to leave Nauvoo and come west with the Saints.

We are now going along the Nauvoo River. It is now a pleasure resort with boats going up and down it. The trees along the road are just like driving through a forest.

We have entered a park along the river and will perhaps put up the tent and stay for the night. Michael is crying. So it is time for a rest. They, Michael, Janene and Denise have been very good to have driven so long.

Well we arrived home safely but very tired, so tired that I think Satan just took over or I don't know what caused it to happen. The next morning Jane was washing the breakfast dishes for me. A knock came at the front door. I opened it and a woman I had never seen before walked into the house. She walked right past me and into the kitchen and sat down but the stove right behind Jane who was still washing dishes in the sink. Her hair looked like it had never been combed that morning. She said, "How can you stand to have company when you have just returned from such... [the rest of this story is lost].

1975. August 22<sup>nd</sup>

We just returned from Edmonton. We went up on Wednesday to listen to the Salt Lake Tabernacle choir. Tom asked us to come if we could. He is the first councilor in the Stake Presidency and had asked the Tabernacle Choir to come and sing in Edmonton. Each family was asked to invite some non-member family to go with them as a missionary project. They rented a large pavilion. Tom and Rae were in charge of it. The main seats in the hall were filled and most of the balconies so they had a large crowd. They had sold more tickets for the second night so Tom felt that it would be able to pay all the expenses and have some left over. There were between 40 and 50 male singers and more than 50 women singers. It was just wonderful. They surely had an interested audience. They applauded and seemed to enjoy it very much. They surely are a marvelous choir and they looked so beautiful with the ladies in long white dresses and the men in black suits. It was something one could never forget. The audience gave a long clap after each song. The first songs were classic numbers. Then they sang great sacred songs by well known composers, then they sang songs from our hymns and popular songs and the last song was 'Oh Canada'. I never heard it sung so beautifully before.

I shall never forget it if my memory lets me.

The choir was going to Calgary to sing the third night.

We stayed at Tom and Rae's that night and came home this morning. We took with us three granddaughters, Connie [Ellen's girl] Kathy [Dan's girl] and Callie [Lore's girl] as they were all about the same age. Father asked Noel also as she is nearly their age but she was tending Lynda's baby while Lynda and her husband were on a vacation.

We had such a nice visit with Tom and Rae and family. The girls all went to Fays to stay the night.

1975. August 23<sup>rd</sup>

I went to the temple today. Wednesday August 23, 1975. I did proxy work, sealing husbands to wives and children to parents. Then I went through a session and took a name through. Already I have forgotten her name but I guess it's put down on the records. I came home and picked

some peas and put them in the fridge in bags. Father stays for the afternoon. He comes home after the 2 o'clock session gets on its way. He has now gone back to the temple and will not be home until about 8:30 when the last session gets off. Sometimes I feel that my life is rather worthless. I want to go and see people but just can't make myself. I think, "Oh they don't come to see me so they don't want me to come see them." Oh help me, help me! I'm so lonely at times. What shall I do? I must go to the temple more often. But I always feel so tired. I have been going Wednesday mornings doing sealings during the first session, and then going through the next in the morning. Then on Thursday mornings I go through the 2 sessions. On Saturday and Friday nights the sessions are usually so big I don't think I should go then.

1975. August 24<sup>th</sup>

It was stake conference this morning. The house was full and overflowing, seventeen or eighteen hundred people. Ellen sat on the first bench of the choir seats. The Leavitt ward and Mountain View choirs combined and furnished the music. They sang beautifully.

President Spackman was the first speaker. He gave such a fine talk encouraging us to live the gospel and to be missionaries and fellowship our neighbors. After the session we came home, had dinner and then went to our ward sacrament meeting. There was a large crowd. Some young people going on missions were the main speakers.

Afterwards Lloyd phoned and I spoke to him for a minute. He said they were all well. They named the baby Nadeen Maureen. They have bought them a new home which they are very happy about, thirty nine thousand dollars. They live right in the city of Ottawa, not far from his work at the government buildings, and where they lived before. I'm so glad that they were able to get a home. Now they can pay on it with the money they paid for rent and I'm sure having a home of their own gives them a feeling of security.

Father has gone to bed so I will go too as I am tired and must wash tomorrow.

I'm sure my writing this is all useless but perhaps to read it over as the days go by will give me joy.

1975. August 25<sup>th</sup>

It is Monday. Gary Anderson is here. He came up with his mother. She is at a Relief Society meeting for all the Alberta Stakes. She is President of the Lethbridge Stake Relief Society. Robert D Hales, Assistant to the Twelve Apostles was at our Stake Conference yesterday and was the main speaker. He is meeting with the Stake Relief Society Presidents today. Gary came up with his mother. He has been looking at Father's pictures and they have been talking together. Now Gary is playing the organ. His mother, Sara, has been giving him music lessons and he plays pretty good.

It rained in the night. Ann was coming up to get some peas but I hope she doesn't come until tomorrow as it is so wet.

1975. August 27<sup>th</sup>

I went to the temple today and did Proxy for the dead and then went through a session, came home, picked peas and then Ren came home at 5 o'clock as usual and we rode down to Anne's and took her the peas. We only stayed a little while and talked to them then came home. Ren went to the temple. I played the organ and read a little from Jesus

The Christ by the Apostle Talmage and went to bed. This morning there is no water. They are cleaning the pipes. It rained last night and the water was so muddy.

I picked a bucket of peas and took them to Sister Steed for she has company.

After reading this over I think I must destroy it before I die. So many things I have written are just the way I have felt when I have written them. Things I never should have written down, just forgotten them.

I will never learn to play the piano now. I'm just too dumb and have always been but I do enjoy sitting down at the organ and playing and singing the songs out of the song book. I enjoy it so much. Father is at the temple. He goes every day the temple is open. He looks after the new ones. When there are no new ones he can come home while they go through the session. He usually comes home about 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

1975. August 28<sup>th</sup>

I was home alone all day. Father just came home from the temple. After this I must fix something extra nice for his supper as they do not have supper at the temple now. We have things I could cook but he always says all he wants is some bread and milk or something like that. Some fruit is good between 7:30 and 8 o'clock.

1975. August 29<sup>th</sup>

It has been nice today. It is Friday and Father has been home all day but he just sits and reads most of the time. But that is better than being alone all day. He always goes down for the mail and gets the groceries which make it nice for me. I just tell him the things we have to have and he gets the meat or whatever he wants to eat, like cookies or ice cream. Shopping is not one of my worries for which I'm grateful.

We have a good garden and a larger one because father worked up all that had been plowed this year. So we have lots of peas, potatoes, cabbage, corn, and lettuce. I planted some little white beans. They came up good but are not good to eat. The skins are like leather, so I'll just have to let them get ripe and have little white beans to eat next year. I'll try to remember to get some green beans as they are nice for a change from the peas.

Sara is making me a new dress. She is going to have a calling reception for us on our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. All I want is my children to come and Father says that's all he wants too. But Sara has other ideas and it looks like that is what it will be.

It is a lovely day but everything is so green. It looks like spring instead of fall. Everything is so green.

Glen has added a porch to his house. He's still working away at it. It surely looks nice now. He'll be painting it soon I guess.

Sister Roberts is coming to get me to go Relief Society teaching tonight. This will be the first time I have been teaching at night.

For the first time everyone was home. Sister Roberts does not like to go at night because she has a large family, 9 children and some of them are small. Her youngest is 2 years old. The older ones are in their teens. She comes and takes me in her car to do our teaching. Ours sisters all live in the west part of town. The ladies we go visiting teaching are Freda Thomas, Marg Dudley, Cathy Selk, Thelma Merrill, Don Merrill's wife, and Nattie Brown.

1975. Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

We went to Sara's today. Sara is making me a new dress and wanted me to come and try it on. The girls are going to have a calling reception October 14. It will be 50 years that day since Ren and I were married. Neither one of us wants a calling reception. We would rather have it our

own family and our relatives but it will probably be that anyway. Since we have been to Cardston we just haven't had any real friends. Of course those who work in the temple we have enjoyed being with but no one comes to see us except out home teachers and Relief Society teachers. But then it is our fault because we don't go to see them. Father has gone to bed. He goes to Priesthood meeting in the morning then we have Sunday school at 10 and meeting at 12. It lets out at 2. Then after we have dinner, we rest and read most of the day. I must go to bed now. I am tired.

1975. September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Just went out and picked the apples that have fallen on the ground. Ren came and so we picked all of them because it forecasted storm and frost. So I have a boxful of little green apples. I suppose I must wait until they ripen before putting them up. It's the first time we have ever picked apples off our own trees. Father has gone to the temple so I am home alone tonight as usual. I'd like to go to the temple but I can no longer remember what I do there.

1975. October 8<sup>th</sup>

Ren is at the temple. I am home alone. I just sit and do nothing. I must study the gospel and so I'll be prepared to go on a mission when I leave here. My patriarchal blessing says I'll be called to go on a mission. I've always felt that it would be after I died. They do not call people on missions after they are as old as I am.

1975. October 9<sup>th</sup>

Today Connie came over and visited with me. It was so nice to have her instead of being alone. She is such a sweet girl. She stayed with me until Ren came home from the temple. So Ren and I took her home. I said I know how little boys and girls want to go home when it gets dark so we took her home.

Sunday, Ren took me to Sunday school. He had to stay for a meeting so he gave me the keys and I came home. It is such a lovely warm day even if it is October. So I am home alone.

I went to two sessions in the temple today and I was tired so Ren said come on and get into the truck and I'll take you home. He did, and then he went back to the meeting they were holding for the workers at the temple. It is such a lovely evening so I came home alone and enjoyed it. [This page was very mixed up with repetitions and Sunday school and temple on the same day. SA]

I'll do what Ren said to do. I'll just go to bed. Then when he comes he'll eat some meat and bread and come to bed. I guess he'll sleep in his own bed and not wake me up. So I'd better take off my dress and coat and go to bed. I've left food on the table so he can have a snack and then come to bed.

1975. October 20<sup>th</sup>

This morning Ren took Lloyd and Jane and their children to Calgary to meet the plane so they can go to their home in Ottawa. Denise is starting school this year. They'll have 2 children at school now.

1975. December 29<sup>th</sup>

Its Christmas morning. Father and I are all alone. But someone will be calling on us soon. My children are so good to me. We are going to Sally's for dinner. We have so many gifts from my

family and my children and their families. Cake from Glen and Holly  
My husband Ren gave me a pretty new dress, house coat from Sara.  
I keep repeating myself. I seem so tired most of the time lately especially at night.  
Ren is going to Utah this week end. He wants to see the graves of his family. The last time he  
was there the graves of the dead relatives were not very plain and so he wants to go again. I  
don't want to stay home alone. I am getting afraid to go to the temple alone. I can't remember  
people and am afraid I'll make mistakes.

1976. January 15<sup>th</sup>

Ren came home from the temple early.

Today Emma and Jack and Orrin came over to see me. My brothers and sisters have all been so  
good to me. I must do more for them. It gives one such a happy feeling to know that your  
family love and remember you. They have always been so kind to me.

Through the years I have been writing down the things I have done each day. But dropped the  
book and now I don't think I can even put it together again. The sheets are all mixed up now. I  
will just write down some of the things I remember.

Oct 4, 1974 Noel phoned and told us that she was having her baby blessed tomorrow  
and said she would like her grandfather to bless it.

Oct 21, 1974 Sara and Connie Steed came to see me for a while. Connie and Sara are  
good friends. Sara invited us to come to her house for dinner on Sunday as it is our  
wedding anniversary.

October 21, 1974 Narvin Coleman, Dora's grandson, and his girl friend were here this  
morning. He wanted Ren to marry them in the temple. She asked me if I would go  
through the session with her so I did.

Ren performed the ceremony. He does it so beautifully. He is so sincere and does it so  
nicely. I am so proud of him. He told them to live close to our Father in Heaven, to pray  
to him together. He quoted Jesus when he said, "Draw near to me and I will be near to  
you." Make him your guide in all things.

Then he told the story of President McKay. One of the apostles went to see Pres. McKay  
at his office. He was told that he was in his room and for him to go in. So he did. The  
apostle found President McKay on his knees praying. He was chuckling to himself.

When he was through praying he looked up and said to his visitor, "I just heard a funny  
experience and I wanted to tell the Lord about it". Ren said we should always take the  
Lord into our confidence in all we do.

After the session I went with Leatha up to Hazel Coleman's. She had prepared a lovely  
breakfast for those who were at the wedding.

1976. March

We had such a lovely Christmas and so many presents from our children and brothers and  
sisters. My husband had asked Sara to get a nice dress for me. It is a beautiful blue with pink  
flower clusters. This is the first boughten dress I remember having for a long time. It is so  
pretty. I hope it looks all right on me. I am getting so old and ugly. I can hardly believe it's me  
when I look in the glass. I must look in the mirror more often Father says because some times  
my collar is turned down under the neck or it's not pulled right around the waist and it  
embarrasses him. I am almost afraid to go to the temple. Oh dear, why does a person have to  
get old and ugly and foolish in their ways?

Ren's brain is as bright as it was when he began working in the temple. He is alert to everything

that goes on. Oh if my children will just be like Dad instead of me.

Sara and family were here for Christmas. They gave me a beautiful housecoat. It is warm and pretty.

Erva is here in Cardston. She is staying at Harkers. She came to help them. Brother Harker is in bed and Sister Harker is not able to do the work either. This evening Erva came over. Ren was here and he asked her questions about her trip to the Holy Land and she told us all about it. It was very interesting but Father says there are lots of places he'd like to go before going to the Holy Land. He wants to do work for his dead relatives but he says he can't get anything from Salt Lake here. So he wants to go back to England. Erva lives in Vernon BC. Her son Ron is about 40 years old, about the same age as Sally but I can't think of Sally as being 40.

I want to record one of my favorite songs which I sang as a girl. I often sang it at people's request and at funerals, etc.

Verse 1

I went to the garden alone  
While the dew was still on the roses.  
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,  
The son of God discloses.

Chorus And he walked with me  
And he talked with me  
And he tells me I am his own.  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.

Verse 2 He speaks and the sound of his voice  
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,  
And the melody that it brings to me  
With in my heart is ringing.

Chorus

Verse 3 I stay in the garden alone  
Though the dew around me is falling.  
He bids me go through the sound of woe.  
His voice to me is calling.

Chorus

My Father learned to play the piano a little. He woke us, his children, up in the morning by singing 'Before You Left Your Room This Morning, Did You Think to Pray?' He would play with one finger on the organ and sing loudly so we could all hear. I'm sure the message was placed deep in the hearts of his children 'Before you left your room this morning, did you think to Pray?'

My father's mother, your grandfather and grandmother, Peirce and Sarah Fisher learned this poem together and my mother taught it to me.

What God Hath Promised.

God hath not promised skies always blue,  
Flowers strewn on the pathway

All our days through.  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow,  
Peace with out pain.

But God hath promised  
Strength for the day,  
Rest for the laborer,  
Light for the way,  
Grace for the trials,  
Help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy,  
Undying love.

My son Tom was asked to speak at his Grandfather Fisher's funeral. He said that Grandfather had left us a glorious heritage. "We know your example is worthy of our following," he said. "And I would like to ask all of his grandchildren this day to pledge with me to follow his example".

This letter was written to my grandchildren

Cardston Alberta  
November 22, 1975

Dear Barbara, Lorianne and Wendy,  
Just another month and it will be Christmas. Will you be coming home? We miss our girls, Barbara and Wendy and Lorianne. We want you to know that we love you and are so proud of you and our boys, Rickie, David and Jerry in the mission field and you girls who are going to school preparing for your missions in life. I know you have been taught to do what is right and to put your trust in the Lord and to pray to him for his protecting care. We want you to know we are praying for you too. Grandpa just came home. He has been to the temple all day. He enjoys his work there. I'm glad he is doing such a wonderful work. But I find myself alone most of the day and am very lonesome at times. It has been such a windy day. The snow is blowing and piling up in drifts. The roofs of the houses are covered with snow. Just out of our front window there is a big tree. The branches are just cover with little snowbirds. They have come from the north hoping to find warmer weather I guess. For their sakes I wish it would stop snowing. Grandpa has a record he is playing.

Dear Lord, kind and gracious Lord,  
I pray that Thou wilt look down on all I love today  
The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
Who then shall I fear?  
The Lord is my strength, then why shall I be afraid  
To love one more dearly every day,  
To help a wondering child along his way,  
This is my prayer.

Love Grandma Davies

1976. April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Father and I are going down to Magrath as soon as he comes home from the temple. That will be at about 2 o'clock when the afternoon session gets on its way.

Noel is having her baby. When he left this morning he said he thought we should go to Magrath when he gets home. I am ready to go but he has not come home yet.

1976. June 26<sup>th</sup>

I am home alone. Ren has gone to the temple. I cry nearly every day because I resigned from the temple. Ren doesn't want me to go to the temple. He is afraid I'll say something that would hurt him or make him ashamed of me and embarrass him. He is going to England. He says to get his genealogy. He went last year but was unable to find much. The people are all so nice to him I think that is another reason he wants to go. So he's asked his grandson to drop in occasionally and see how their grandmother is. He doesn't seem to understand that they don't want to look after funny old ladies any more that he does.

Yesterday I had such a lovely surprise. Carol and Ronnie came over and invited me to go to the temple visiting center and listen to the films they have there. I had heard the one they put on but it was interesting to hear it again and the girls enjoyed it so much. I was so grateful they had taken me even if I didn't get to visit with them much. It was nice to enjoy the play again and to be with them.

My book has fallen and gone to pieces so I might as well burn it up.

1976. November 26<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday Barbara, Lore's oldest child, and our first granddaughter went to the temple for her endowments for the first time. She is planning to be married to Steve Zobell in the temple on December 30, 1976. She is our first granddaughter to go through the temple. Ren thought it would be nice for her to go through the first time in my new white dress. "It just fit her and she looked beautiful," Ren, her grandfather said.

Ren has been such a faithful worker in the temple for nearly 10 years, since February 1967.

This morning Ren read to me the story of his life that he has written. I enjoyed hearing it very much. Perhaps I should write the story of my life but I'm afraid it is too late.

I worked in the temple, going with him for 8 years and enjoyed it so much, but I'm getting old and forgetful and could not work in there now. Doctor Spackman told me that he thought I should resign because of my heart. He felt that the Lord would not want me to work in the temple now because of my health. Now I sit alone daily doing nothing so perhaps it is time to write my life's history and tell all my children and grandchildren how much I love them. I especially want to tell my husband that I love him so much for his good care and the help he gives me during my forgetfulness and the loving care through all the years of our married life. I can no longer see to write. I have broken my glasses. Ren has put my pills on a glass on the table where I can't help but see them. He takes such good care of me. His memory is so clear and bright even if he is older than I am. I must make the bed and do the dishes we used last night and are still in the sink. He tells me to leave it alone because I'll do something wrong. Oh dear I am such a trial to him. Oh if I could only remember. What shall I do? No matter what it is I do it is wrong. I'm so tired.

I'm home alone. Ren is at the temple anxious that people bring names to do. It looks like the people will have to bring their own names and Ren has run out of names. So I have to stay home alone. I can't go to the sessions. The sessions are so crowded.

1977. January 28<sup>th</sup>

It has been such a lovely day, my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. This evening my family, that are not too far away, came to visit us to wish me a happy birthday. We had such a lovely time together. Anne and Ellen and Sara and their husbands, Blair, Veryle and Ted came with their families. Lore and his wife, Barbara and their family came too. They all brought cake or cookies and we had ice cream and cake. They put on a nice program for me. It made me feel so happy as if I was a little girl again at my birthday party. They say as you get older you get childish. But it was not childish to my children, I know. They love me and are so good to me.

Ren has gone to the temple so I'll just sit down and write about the lovely birthday party we had on my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. It doesn't seem that long since I was a little girl and going down to Grandpa Fisher's lake. He had a lake on his farm which was over the hill where we lived. We children loved to go down to the lake and wade along the edge of it. One time our baby brother Neff, went running out into the lake too far and fell down. He probably would have drowned had not my grandpa come on his big horse and got him out. It was an experience in my life I shall never forget for I felt it was in answer to my fervent prayer.

I had many other experiences in my life when the Lord has heard my prayers and blessed me. When I was 18 or so years old the doctor told me because of the condition of my heart I should not have any children. But my patriarchal blessing told me that some of the choice spirits would be sent to the earth through me so I knew in my heart that I would have a family. Today I am proud of my family. Tom is a member of the presidency in stake. Sara is in the stake presidency in the Relief Society in her stake. We had 5 children go on long term missions and all of my children are working in the church for which I am very thankful. I am grateful too for my grandchildren and pray that their children will bring to them the joy mine have brought to me. I feel that they will.

I sometimes feel that I have not done what I could have done. For 8 years I worked as an officiator in the temple. Then my doctor told me that he felt the temple was too hard on my heart so I resigned. I often felt that if I had just put my trust and faith in the Lord I might have still been there. But now when I go to the temple the doctor still says do not over do it, to sit down when you are tired. Had I gone on working in the church my heart might have been better now. I guess I'll never know. But please dear Father in Heaven help me to do the thing you would have me do.

Ren came home from the temple. It made a lovely birthday for me. Glen and Holly, and Emma and Jack came over and wished me a happy birthday.

Today I have felt tired. Before Ren left for the temple he said he felt I should stay in bed most of the day so I have had a good rest. My head has been aching and so I have been glad to stay in bed. But I must get up and eat some breakfast and take my pills Ren left on the table for me to take or he'll say again, "It looks like I'll have to stay home and take care of you." I don't want that so I'll get up and get my breakfast before he comes.

Ren came home, fixed me some dinner leftovers from last night and he is laying down. I'm trying to be very quiet so as not to wake him. I'll write a little more in my diary book.

My arm is covered with spots where I have scratched the skin. My skin is so dry. It itches so and I just have to scratch it. It takes off the skin and looks terrible. Ren is so cross at me for scratching it but I just can't help it. Before I realize it, I'm scratching again.

For ten years now Ren has been a worker in the temple. At times I am very lonely for he spends most of his time there. Last night we had a big storm. Never before have I seen it lightening as

it did that I can remember. I was sitting eating my supper when a feeling came over me that I must move. I was sitting by the kitchen window so I got up. The outside front door had come partly open. I was going to shut it but I fell against the corner of the kitchen wall that leads to the bedroom and bathroom. I made a big cut in my head. When Ren came home about 5 o'clock he took me to the doctor. Doctor Spackman put ten stitches in my head. It has been very sore but it is feeling a little better now.

Last night Ellen and her family came over to wish me a Happy Birthday. They brought us a lovely lunch and a birthday cake and ice cream which we ate as we visited.

The Lord has been so good to me. He has had his watch care over me so many times. When my first baby Anne was born, the doctor said I must not have any more because of a bad heart. But my patriarchal blessing promised me that I would have a large family who would love to serve the Lord. So I knew the Lord would care for me as he had so many times. I had eight wonderful children, 3 girls and 5 boys. They are all working in the church and I am so grateful for the good lives they live, and for their families.

1977. January 31<sup>st</sup>

Ren did not go to the temple this morning so he got up early and got breakfast. When I got up it was all ready for us. He is so good to me. Yesterday we went to Sunday school and to meeting. Then Emma and Jack came over in the evening and we had a nice visit with them. My brothers and sisters and my children are very good to me. I have such respect for them and appreciate their kindness to me.

Anne sent me a beautiful pair of pillow cases for my birthday. On the card she sent, it said it was from all 'my' children.

This morning early, one of Dora's nephews came over to see if he could get some of Ren's genealogy. He has been copying from Ren's book all morning. I stayed in bed. Then Ren came in and took me down to get some envelopes. When we returned the fellow was still here. Ren finally told him he could take his book and copy what he wanted.

1977. March 18<sup>th</sup>

I have tried to keep an account of my life but find it is all mixed up now. It is impossible to put it together again.

Today being Sunday, Father and I went to Sunday school and meeting. Father still goes to the temple every day as he is a worker there. They have also asked him to go to the library and work for an afternoon. But there again I'm useless and he would take me with him but I find I don't remember the books and so I'm no good there. My life is useless. I try to keep my home clean. Ren does the washing. He's afraid I'll do something wrong. I'm afraid of the washer so he is afraid I'll do something to break the washing machine or not know how to turn it off or if something went wrong I wouldn't know what to do. So he washes the clothes. I iron them and put them away. He eats his meals at the temple for six days out of the week so I live a very useless life. Once in a while I go to the temple. But I bother him when I go. He's afraid I'll make mistakes and I'm afraid I will too and it embarrasses him so. I no longer want to go. I don't seem to know how to make friends. If I go to visit someone they seem to think I want something. I'm just old and useless.

Ren works hard in the morning from 6 o'clock on. He goes to the temple and it is 8 o'clock after the last session gets on its way at night before he comes home and sometimes it is not until the last session gets out at night until he get home. He has been set apart as a sealer and he is in charge of a lot of marriages. It seems to me most every one wants Brother Davies to marry

them. Ren always remembers names and can call them by their first name. So he does a great deal of marriages and sealings. In fact the president and counselors interview those going through for the first time but Ren is the one who helps them get ready and shows them the place to go etc.

I sit here doing nothing. My life is so useless and I'm tired but I'm sure the Lord would not want me to act this way. So I'll just say thy will be done and pray that I do what is right. I'll try to be more kind to others. So good night! Ren is home and wants to read and I'm tired and doing nothing so will go to bed.

I have a lovely home, 16 children counting husbands and 3 great grandchildren. I am so blessed. "Thank you dear Father in Heaven, for all my blessing and for my children and grandchildren."

1977. March 31<sup>st</sup>

All my life I have had a desire to write the story of my life. Now I am old and my memory is failing me. I can't remember what has happened from one day to the next and it makes me feel so lost and discouraged. I have been home alone most of the day. Father went to the temple early this morning. A few minutes ago he came home to see how I was. He will not be able to come home until after the 8 o'clock session gets on its way.

Sometime ago I bought me a scribbler and decided to write some of the things that happened each day but now I can't find it. Well if I write down what happened today then I can remember it if I read it tomorrow.

The newsboy just brought us the newspaper. It says on it that it is April 1, 1977. The ground is covered with snow at the back of the house. The snow drifts are up over the fence but the sun is shining a little and goes down in the west.

For 8 years I was a temple worker. But I've got a bad heart and the doctor who is the President of our stake, told me he thought that the Lord would not want me to work in the temple with a heart like I had and so it was his advice that I quit working there. I thought I would go to the temple and take names for the dead but now he says it is too much for me. So I just sit at home and wait to die.

Lloyd and Jane were here to see us this past week with their baby girl. But Jane got very tired waiting on all of us and they left for home this morning. I wanted them to go and visit Sara and Anne and Frank and Lore but the roads are not very good. Anyway they left for home instead. I am very sorry but she was not happy here. They all think a great deal of Father but he was at the temple most of the time so their visit here was not a very happy one for which I am very sorry. Jane made me a beautiful tied quilt while she was here. It is the first one I ever had that was tied. It is very pretty. Ren gave her the money to buy the material so we'd have something to do. Father made our garage into a beautiful family room so we had two quilts on, one for her and one for me while she was here. I do hope and pray that they will make it home all right. Winter is not a good time to travel. I feel tired so I will lie down for a while until Father comes home.

1977. April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Today is Ren's birthday. I didn't even wish him a happy birthday. We went to Sunday school. Ren is now at Priesthood meeting. It was testimony meeting today. I wanted to bear my testimony but just could not get the courage. I was thinking of the many blessings I have had. The mike was past along the benches for people to speak into and bear their testimonies, but I did not have the courage to do so.

I'm sure the Lord was not pleased with me. I will write down some of the blessings I have had

that I thought of as I sat there thinking.

When I was about six years old or maybe younger, I went to Sunday school with my Father, Franklin Peirce Fisher. My grandmother Fisher, Father's mother, sent me a beautiful scarf and muff. When I was going home I sat down on a rock near the road and took off my scarf and muff. When I got home mother..... [lost manuscript]

1977. Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Father and I are in London in a motel. We went to the library and got a few names on the Cooper line. His mother's mother was a Cooper and he has been trying to get people's names on his mother's line. But it was so long ago. My grandfather Gibb, mother's father was a shoemaker in London.

Ren's great grandmother and great grandfather lived in Kent.

Ren and I are now in Kent, England. We are staying in a hotel called Seven Oaks.

Ren says John Lye Gibb, my mother's father and mother came from England but I'm ashamed to say I do not know where in England. Kent is a beautiful place. There are trees and flowers every where. Everything is so beautiful and green.

We went to look at the graves here but could not find any Gibbs. Ren found some Cooper graves that he thought were relatives of his mother's people, the Coopers. I do not know in what part of England the Gibbs were buried, so I can do nothing.

1977. June 10<sup>th</sup> Last evening Ellen came and took me to Barbara's shower. She got a lot of lovely gifts. Ellen, Sara and Anne were there of our family. They played games and visited. Ren gave Ellen the money so we gave Barbara a lovely glass pitcher and glasses.

June 11, 1977

Ren has asked two of our grandsons to come and do the baptisms for his dead relatives.

June 20, 1977

I am alone. I have been looking through the paper to see what date it is. Father's Day was yesterday I think. We went down to Anne's, the children were there, and had a lovely lunch with them. Then we had a practice for the family reunion.

Oh my memory is so terrible. I can't even remember the things I have done during the day by night time. I have to ask Ren and he helps me but it is so hard on him. He has such a good memory. He says I don't even try to remember and it makes him out of patience when I ask him questions. So I must try harder to remember for his sake as well as my own. Tonight I am very tired. We visited the family for awhile, Anne, Sara, Ellen, Lore and Dan.

1977. Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>

Ren went to the temple this morning. Today has been a lovely day. Ren took me to see Dan this afternoon and we had a lovely visit.

Ren is now working on his genealogy so I'll wash supper dishes and go to bed. Ren is reading so I won't disturb him. Oh if I could only do some thing worth while.

1977. Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> .

I have my suitcase ready to go to the temple. Ren was going to take me to the six o'clock session. But he called me from the temple and said it was such a big session he thought I had better come some other day.

I tried to get Anne on the phone but they didn't answer so I guess they are not at home. Anyway I guess I had better get a book and read. I read so little lately and I am so forgetful and tired most of the time.

Glen lives just across the road from us and he brought me a lovely dish of raspberries. He is so kind and thoughtful of me.

June 30, 1977

Today two of my grandsons came to see me, Danny and .....

Cardston, Alberta  
Monday July 4, 1977

Dear Dan

Father came home from the temple and as he often does he turned on the tape recording of you singing 'How Great Thou Art'. You will never know the joy it has given us to listen to you sing, even if it is only on tape. I always say, "He sings so beautifully," and Ren says, "He does it with all his heart in it." It brings such a feeling of love into our home. Father works so hard in the temple from early morning to evening. But when he turns on the tape and listens to you sing he feels rested and can then go to bed.

So darling Dan you can never know how much your tape means to us. We feel that you are the most beautiful singer in the world. I hope your children will sing so when you are old you can turn on the tape and listen to your children's voices. Then you will understand what joy and relaxation it brings to you after a hard day of work.

I wonder if I'll send this. Father will say you don't need to send him a letter. We just saw him yesterday, etc. and so we did. So I will go and get some of the weeds out of the garden. That will please him.

1977. Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup>

I am alone. Jack and his wife just left to go home. Vanetta died some years ago and he married again. His new wife has a number of children of her own, some of who are married and she has some young children who are not married. They came up to the Davies Reunion. It is to be held at Waterton Lakes this week end.

I must get my ironing finished before Ren gets here. Every day I pray that the Lord will help me remember things. I will say them over and over but in a few minutes I have forgotten. I must write things down like he tells me to do because in a few minutes I can't remember what he told me. Hundred of times I would kneel down and pray and then it would come to me but now I feel I can't ask God every few minutes, that he doesn't have time to answer me when I forget. I try so hard to remember things but I'm getting old and tired. I must pray that my mind will be made well and that I can remember things. Ren does not want me to go to the temple any more and so I guess I must stop going for I am so much bother for the workers. They have so many to look after. But they are always so kind to me and help me when I forget the name. They ask me if I remember the name and they whisper it to me.

1977. Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

When I woke up this morning Ren was gone and I was alone in the house. So I will get a book and read in bed for I feel so tired and alone after having so many here. The house seems so empty. It has been so wonderful to see Tom, Rae, Frank and Fay, from Edmonton, Dan and Alma, and Anne and Blair.

Father often takes me for a ride and we go and see Alma, or Anne or Ellen or Sara, the ones near us. Alma and Ann are in Magrath, Ellen is in Leavitt and Sara is in Lethbrige. They come to see us when they can but Lloyd and Jane are so far away in the Far East where Lloyd works for the government of Canada that we don't see them too often.

Today is Sunday. I enjoyed the testimonies that were born by so many people. We have a big ward and I don't know the names of the people as I did in Hill Spring or Bow Island. It is hard for me to remember names. In Hill Spring and Bow Island I knew every one. Yesterday it was just like being in conference there were so many people at our sacrament meeting. Many bore their testimonies who I didn't know.

1977. Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

This morning my brother, Glen, brought me a lovely dish of raspberries. He is good to me. The eye specialist phoned to Father and said it was time for him to come and have another eye test. He went and is now lying down in bed so I'll just creep back into bed beside him. I changed my mind. I'm afraid he'll wake and he needs to sleep, so I'll lie down on the couch till he wakes up.

1977. Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

Father left for the temple early this morning. He said he'd come home at noon and take me over. He just came home. He is going to a funeral he says so I will go with him. One of the temple workers died. He has worked there for a long time. The man had a large family.

1977. July 20<sup>th</sup>

Last night I went to the temple and went through 2 sessions and took 2 names. One was Mary Cooper and the other was Anne Cooper. They were names Father had put in. They are his relatives now dead. Well, I thought, they are good familiar names.

The girls made up a family program and Father wants to put it on for the public. Elizabeth Davies is taking charge of it. She had been asked to put on a program in mutual too. We have been going to Magrath to practice. Elizabeth is Dale Davies' wife. He has been dead for some years. I don't remember the date the program is. Anyway it is just Ren and my family putting it on.

My sister Ada was at the temple and went through a session. When I got my clothes on and went down Ada was gone. So I came home alone. Ren left early this morning for the temple. He is so afraid I'll make mistakes I feel I don't want to go when he's there.

1977. July 22<sup>nd</sup>

Ren left early as usual and went to the temple. It is now twenty minutes to eleven so he'll be home soon. He said he'd be home at noon.

I have been trying to write a little in my book because I'm getting so I can't remember what happened even yesterday. It seems to me my memory gets worse every day. I often wish one of my girls lived near me so I could run over and help them instead of just sitting and doing

nothing. This is a gloomy way to start out the day.

Ellen went by this morning and told Ren that they were selling boxes of peaches. Last year we didn't get any peaches at all to put up so we went down town and looked everywhere but we couldn't find any. Ren thinks it is early yet for peaches. I hope we can get some. I put up some apricots last year. We still have some left. Neither Ren nor I like apricots very much so I had hoped we could get peaches this year.

The girls are coming. I don't know how many. Ren told them we had lots of peas and to come and get them. They are not very filled out as yet I think but I guess he will give them to the first one here. There are not enough peas for them all anyway.

Ren had an early dinner. He doesn't eat breakfast so he has one big meal on the days he goes to the temple. Today he came home and went down town to get some raspberries and cream for our dinner. They are ripe enough to put up now.

I'll try to put my pages away. I dropped it and they are mixed up. I should have numbered the pages. The only way I ever learn is through experience it seems. I'm so dumb. I don't suppose I can ever put it back together but I'll try. Some of them have dates on the pages.

Today Ren and I and Ren's sister Lynn went for a ride and visited Ann in Magrath and her family, Sara and her family in Lethbridge and Lore and his family in Magrath.

Tom and Frank, Fay and Rae gave us a little camper to put behind the truck. They put a carpet and seats in it and it is sure nice. The seats are covered with carpet too. Ren has put it at the back of the house till we need it.

1977. August 10<sup>th</sup>

Ren just came home from the temple. He went early this morning and the time is two o'clock. He helped to get the afternoon session on its way and is now sound asleep. The temple is hard work but if he quits what is there for him to do? I know how useless I felt my life was when I stopped working there. I resolved when I stopped I would go to the temple ever day and take a name through and Father says, "There's a big crowd. You had better not go." It will be just as big tomorrow and so he'll say again "you'd better not go," so I get discouraged and just stay home. One of the workers said to me the last time I went, "You should be home with your husband when he's home." so I just use that for an excuse to stay at home as I'm always tired at noon and lay down while Ren sleeps. So I grow lazier every day. My skin is so dry and hard. I scratch myself and I make scars on my skin. It is terrible! Oh, I wish I would stop that dirty habit of scratching but I don't have enough will power to stop.

1977. August Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>

Ren went to the temple early this morning but came home at noon. He is now sleeping. I lay down too and had a little sleep. But I decided I had been sleeping long enough and should read a while. It was Ren's turn to come home. They take turns working at the temple I think. I'll start going to the 2 o'clock session. That would be better than at night I think. I went last week to the 6 o'clock. Ren went with me. It was not his turn to work.

1977. August 22<sup>nd</sup>

It is raining. The sky is so dark. It is thundering and lightning. Father is here and I am glad. It has been a long time since I have seen the lightening and thundering as it is tonight. Now the lights have gone out. The sky is so dark. The lightening seemed to hit the house there was such a big crashing sound. Ren doesn't seem upset. He hasn't taken his eyes off the book he's writing in. He's going to do temple work for the names he got in England.

1977. August 24<sup>th</sup> This morning Ren didn't have to go to the temple so he took me out to Leavitt to see Ellen. But she was not there. They had gone to Cardston to do some shopping and to get some lumber to put on the outside of their new home. Some of the boys are going out to Leavitt to help on their new house. They didn't phone to Ren about coming thinking he would be at the temple I guess, not knowing he had got some one to take his place today so he could go and help on the house as he wanted to. It is quite a mix-up. I don't know if Ren will go out again or not. Right now he is writing some names that he got while in England. It is a beautiful day and I had a nice ride with Ren up to Leavitt. The grass is so green and the trees are all dressed in their leaves with a gentle wind blowing them softly. We went to see Ellen's new house they are building a new hose on the top of the hill on their place.

1977. August 24<sup>th</sup>  
Today's newspaper says it is August 24.  
Veryl and Ellen and family gave me such a beautiful valentine on Mother's day, wishing me a happy mother's day. David and his wife gave me a lovely book.  
Today Ren took me down to Sara's. We had such a lovely dinner. Wendy and her tiny baby Kyle, and her husband Rudy Durieux were there. The baby was blessed in church today. He is a big baby. They asked Ren to help christen the baby.  
Ren went to the temple this morning. He said he'd be home at 8 o'clock if he was not needed. It is now ten minutes to 8 but he has not come home as yet. I went to the temple last night. It has been a long time since I went through a session. I enjoyed it very much. I hope it will help me to go more often. I get so confused at times. The clock says it is 8 o'clock. The sun is in the west so it must be evening, but am not sure. Oh what shall I do? I get so confused what shall I do? Oh I can't be alone. I go crazy.

The last newspaper says it is June 28  
Ren has gone to work at the temple. I wondered if I should go. I never know what to do. I went over by myself one day and he seemed to think it was good. I must have left my temple clothes at the temple so now I don't know what to do.

As I look out my window I can see so many houses all up the walk. There is hundreds of homes right up to the top of the East Hill. Cardston has grown to be a large city since we came here. There are so many flowers and trees. Our President Kimball has asked us to plant trees and flowers and make our gardens beautiful outside as well as the inside beautiful.

1977. August 25<sup>th</sup>  
Today I went to the temple and had dinner with Ren. I have enjoyed going to the temple so much. I would have liked to gone to the afternoon session but I felt very tired so came home.

This is a song I learned and sang when I was a girl. Mother taught it to me.  
Two little children, a boy and a girl were playing one day on the sand.  
They built them a house of pretty sea shells with no tools but their own little hands.  
At last it was finished, the work was well done.

And two little hearts were made glad.  
When the boy just for fun, gave a kick and then ran, and down fell the house on the sand.

The girl for a moment stood shocked and surprised and tears to her pretty eyes came.  
“I’ll never forgive him,” she sobbingly cried. “Oh how could my Jack be so mean?”  
Years passed away and Jack went to war. But he never forgot his little playmate. And so  
when the war was over Jack came back again,  
And soon they were married and built them a house, one to last forever.

I loved to have mother tell me stories or read to me before going to bed. She would tell me stories or sing to me. I often would say, “Sing it again”. She would sing the song about the two little children playing in the sand. She could sing beautifully and she would sing to me and tell me stories while I helped her with the dishes or when she’d curl my hair. I had lots of hair and it was curly and she’d make it into long curls until I got in grade eight at school. When we marched into the school some of the boys would take hold of my long curls and pull down, then let go of them. I’d feel so bad. I remember one of the girls would put her arm around me and say, “Don’t cry. They think your curls are pretty. That’s why they pull down on them. It’s not because they don’t like you. It’s because they think they are pretty.” But I often went home from school crying so mother said, “I’ll braid your hair like the other girls so I had two braids with a ribbon on the braids.

1977. August 27<sup>th</sup>

It is a lovely fall day. The leaves on the trees are bowing down with the wind for it is a windy morning. Today Anne and Blair come over to say hello. They had been to a temple session. This afternoon Ren took me to the 2 o’clock session. I enjoyed it very much. We were asked to sit at the front as Adam and Eve. The Lord helped me so I got through all right, and I enjoyed the session very much.

Father brought me home and is now working on his genealogy work. I wish I could do something about mine but I’m not very smart and know nothing about getting names. I wish I could just remember to go and take a name through more often.

Father is now writing out some names he got in England. I helped to copy them when we were over there. I should have got names of my own, Gibbs, Fisher and Neffs, but I tried that once and got the wrong Gibb.

I try to play the piano but don’t get very far. Oh why don’t I do more good for others.

I am reading from the Book of Mormon and enjoying it.

Tuesday August 30, 1977 the paper says. It seems it is hard for me to remember the days. I put the dates on the calendar but I soon get it mixed up and can’t remember what day was yesterday.

So I don’t know what day it is today. Oh if I could only remember dates and people’s names!

David is here. He has come to do farm work and is interested in a girl that lives here. Norma Hull’s daughter, Ren thinks it is. The Hulls have moved from Hill Spring to Cardston. They live by the graveyard in Cardston. His girl lived in Hill Spring when we did. David seems to be a fine boy. I hope he gets a good wife and a good job when he’s ready to get married and it might not be very long until he is. I do hope he will have a fine girl. By that I mean a good LDS girl who will be a good wife and mother for his children. I know he will. I’m tired.

I must get some supper on the table. Ren likes a bite before coming to bed.

1977. September 18<sup>th</sup>

It was Sunday. Sara invited us to come down and have dinner with them. Rickie has returned from his mission and was released today. We had such a lovely meeting. Rickie bore a nice testimony. Sara invited his girlfriend to dinner, Michele Foggin. She seems a sweet girl. After dinner Dad came home. He is now working on his genealogy names that I helped him with when we were in England.

It is a beautiful fall day. The leaves are turning yellow and brown and falling from the trees. I enjoyed the church and dinner and the lovely ride with Dad. Rickie's girl was nice to us and Sara has such a lovely home and family. Wendy is a sweet girl and a good help to her mother. I am tired now. I'm getting to be so useless and can't remember things, which is so hard on Ren. He helps me too and is good to me but I do wish and must try not to ask him so many questions. It is hard on him. He has such a good memory and he is good to help me only it is hard on his nerves when I ask him so many questions. He says I can remember what I want to remember. I pray the Lord will help me.

1977. September

It is Sunday. Ren and I went to Magrath for the afternoon meeting. David is home from his mission. He went to Eastern Canada. He gave a nice talk and told how the Lord had blessed him in his labors there and how he had enjoyed his mission. He told some stories of those who they contacted and when they prayed to the Lord and asked their contacts to, they gained a testimony of the gospel. The ones they were teaching when they prayed about gained a testimony that the Church of Jesus Christ was the church they should join. His talk was very sincere and there was a lovely spirit there.

On our way home I was nervous and kept picking a little brown scale on my hand. It annoys Ren so. My skin is so dry. The doctor gave me some medicine but it didn't help. It seems to make it itchy. Oh why can't I stop such a bad habit? I am going to try but I say that and it's such a habit I have formed I do it with out thinking. Ren is so disgusted with me and I don't blame him.

?

Today Ellen came to see us. She had Kirby with her. Ellen and Father were talking about his genealogy and Kirby fell asleep in the rocking chair. He is a darling little fellow. He is smart for his age. All of Ellen's children are kind and thoughtful of each other. Father got Ellen to help him a little with his genealogy so she stayed and went through his book with him. I am ashamed I don't know more about my family.

Today is the eleventh day of November. It is Armistice Day. Ren is not going to the temple today as the temple is closed today.

On Wednesday I went to the temple. Ada was there. When I got through the session I looked for her but she was gone. I phoned Lorraine Hartley's and she said that Ada was there. Father is reading about his trip to England, I think he's planning to go again. Anyway he reads it over to himself every day or two. I went with him one time but it makes me so sick to ride on boats and trains and he is concerned about me. I am wondering if I am a nuisance to the people we are staying with. Well I try to help but they don't want me to as they keep having to tell me what to do. So I am a nuisance I think. It is such a hard trip going over and coming back. I enjoyed visiting with Lloyd and Jane. Jane likes to cook so I do the dishes and cleaning. Father wants to go back to England. He reads about the trip he's written down. Ellen and some

of the others want to go with him so I'll just stay home and tend the children. I don't feel able to go on a long trip and I get so sick riding on the plane. And his grandchildren or children would love to go. Ren has put his trip on tape and he reads it over every day or two. He tells how nice they were to him. In fact they were so nice to him I felt out of place.

1978. January

I'm making a quilt. My grandchildren are at the age, a number of them, where they are getting married so I'm trying to make quilts for their wedding gifts. I've finished one and am now working on another one. It gives me something to do. I'm alone so much now. It is the first time in my life I have had nothing to do not even a Relief Society teacher. Now I don't even go to the temple much. I'm beginning to make mistakes. I thought I'd be able to go to the temple as long as I lived, but I'm getting so forgetful now I'm getting afraid to go.

I am 77 years old this month, January 28. I must get the dishes done. I'll work on my quilt for awhile. I can read and crochet. I must not act so gloomy. "The ground is covered with snow and its cold outside. March is just around the corner so it will soon be coming spring.

Cardston, Alberta, Can.  
January 28, 1978

Dear Sister Erva,

Thank you so much for the beautiful card. It was good to hear from you. Ren came home from the temple and then went down for the mail. When he got home he handed me your card and gave me a kiss. I think it was your card that reminded him that it was my birthday today. My children are coming tomorrow to have a party for their mother's birthday. So I will celebrate my birthday both today and tomorrow.

I was so happy to hear from you, all the way from Arizona. Ada has bought her a home in Cardston. She has been called to be a worker in the temple. She is going to take in boarders, people who come to the temple and want a place to stay overnight. Of course the people who come to the temple get their meals at the temple so it will be just right now that she has been called to work there too. She has been staying with Lorraine her daughter but now has bought a house of her own. There are lots of old homes in Cardston. People come here so they can go to the temple, for example, Ren and me. Ren has worked 20 years in the temple but he keeps going. I quite when I had worked 10 years. One day while I was at the temple I had 10 people say to me, "I would love to work in the temple." So I decided to resign and give some one else a chance. Ren still works there. His mind is so clear he can tell you everyone who lives in Cardston and the little towns around. Now I go with him once or twice during the week and take a name through.

1978. February 16<sup>th</sup>

Home alone. Jerry came over and visited with me a while. He was going to a ball game with the Leavitt and Cardston wards. He has been home from his mission for some time. But they still call on him as they did before he left to go on his mission to play and referee the ball games. Ren is at the temple. He spends most of his time there. He got into the car and came home to see if I was all right but it is now 9:30 and he hasn't come home. I'm no longer a part of his life. Dear husband, as long as you come home at night I'll be happy. Sometimes it seems so lonely when you're away. But I want you to go on working at the temple for I know you will not be happy if you have nothing to do.

1978. March 7<sup>th</sup>

I have been looking at the newspapers and that seems to be the last one as near as I can tell. I have been reading the Church News. It says that in United States there are nearly 3 million girls who smoke regularly.

1978. March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ren and I went up and saw Ada's new home. It is very lovely. We enjoyed our visit and seeing her home.

Ren and Lynn are going to see Mary. At first I asked him to take me too but now I feel it would be good for him to go without me. He's always so worried that I'll do something wrong. It would be good for him to go. Only he won't leave me alone.

1978. April 12<sup>th</sup>

This afternoon a car drove up to our house. My brother Frank Fisher and his wife Muriel came into the house to see us. Muriel came up to see her folks and now they were on their way home. Her father has been sick and now is dead and buried. I was so surprised to see them. I couldn't even remember Muriel's name. It has been snowing the last 2 days and is still snowing so they were in a hurry to get back across the line to their children. I didn't even ask them about their family. I don't even know how many children they have. He asked me how my health was. I told him I was well. Then I told him what my doctor said to me when I went to get a check up this week. I go to have a check up every week. President Spackman is my doctor and he said I was a mystery to him for I should have died years ago. I said to him, "President Spackman, when my children and grandchildren kneel before going to bed, they all pray for their grandma. I have 40 grandchildren and they will all be praying for me tonight. So it may be a long time yet before I pass away."

1978. April 29<sup>th</sup>

I went with Ren to do sealings today. It made me feel that the parents and children were really there. I wish I could remember how many children were sealed to their parents. I felt that they were all there, parents and children. I didn't feel that they were little children but grown up children like I am. I stood proxy for the mother and some of the children. I wish I could always have that sweet feeling in my home as we did there.

Ren took me down to dinner with him and I had such a lovely day. When we came home he rested a little while and then went back to work.

It is now 8 o'clock at night. Hope Ren will be home soon for I know he was tired as I was when he went back for it was him who did the talking and arranging or the set-ups of mother, father and child. And I still feel tired. He is a wonderful temple worker. He knows everyone and everyone seems to remember him. He helps them and tells them what and how to do things. He has a nice way of telling them. He also remembers the ones he works for and who work for him. He has such a wonderful memory. He helps to get all the people coming for the first time whether it is for a wedding, sealing or just taking a name through for their endowments. He has cultivated his memory. If any one in the temple wants to know about workers and those coming in, he knows something about who they are. I'm sure having a big family of his own, plus 40 grandchildren and more great grandchildren and now we are getting great great grandchildren, helps.

I can't keep track of them but I never did have a very good memory.

1978. Friday April 14<sup>th</sup> is the day on the news paper. But I'm not sure this is the last paper. Oh I have such a time to remember what day it is Ren tells me to do things but unless I write it down I can remember what it was. He tries so hard to be patient with me. No one could be more kind and patient as he is with me. I ask him the day and he tells me. He is the most patient man in the world. I love him so much and am so grateful for his kindness to me in helping me to remember.

1978. Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>

Ren and I are at home alone. He is reading the newspaper as he does every evening. He just came home from seeing Lynn in the hospital. Ren and I went down to see her earlier and bought her a new night gown. She is about eighty years old, 83 I think. She surely has a good memory for being as old as she is.

Ren often says to me you don't try to remember. I'll make up my mind I'll remember this or that and keep saying it over and over again the things he tells me to do but when I stop saying it I can't remember it. No matter how I try I can't remember. He gets so cross at me. I just say "all right". It doesn't help when I am all upset. I am not going to make myself sick trying to remember things.

Nobody wants me. I must be such a terrible person. I can't remember anything. I am such a trial. My sister won't have me. Ada took me up to her home but she brought me back. I don't know what to do. I'm such an awful person. Nobody wants me. Oh how can I be better? Lynn, Ren's sister wants to come and live with Ren but she doesn't want me. My children say it is Dad's place to look after me. My brothers and sister say it is not their place to look after me. It is Ren's place or his children's, to look after me. Kathy came over to visit me and Ren came and sent her home because it was getting late. She came to stay with us but he sent her back to Shields where her sister works. I feel so bad. I thought if she was here she could remember for me the things he says to do or not to do but he sent her home. Oh he says "she can remember when she wants to remember." I am so tired and discouraged.

Ren bought me a pretty new dress to wear. I'm not sure if I'm to go to the temple this morning or not. It seems to me before he left he said there was not temple sessions today.

Yes I'm sure that is what he said.

1978. April 29<sup>th</sup>

Ren and I have been alone most of the day so about 4pm he said lets go for a ride and see some of the children. They'll be home from school now. So we went to Ann and Blair's. One of the children was sick and asked us to pray for her. She had been administered to by her father and the ward teacher so Ren said we would remember her in our prayers tonight. I won't say anything about it or he'll say you pray and they want him to. He holds the priesthood and works in the temple.

Today is May 12, 1978 it says in the paper. I think it is the last one.

Ren goes to the temple early. He got out of bed without waking me, so he was not here when I finally woke up. He said he would be home at noon. It is now 8:30.

I played the piano for a little while but I don't think I'll ever be able to play, only to entertain myself. But I love to play the hymns and sing them.

The little girl who delivers the paper brought our paper, The Lethbridge Herald

Ren came home from the temple and is reading the paper now. He has to go back this evening he says. I think I'll go for a little walk. Maybe I'll walk over and visit Ada for a few minutes but she is such a busy person. If I only had one daughter or son who lived near me I'd be glad. Ellen comes in when she goes to take music lessons for a few minutes.

Just now I saw two little boys that looked like Tom's. One was on a bicycle. A bigger boy came up and stopped him and made him get off the bike. Then he got on it and drove off. Now they have gone. I don't know if it was Tom's little boys or not.

1978. Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

Ren and I got up this morning and had breakfast. Then he went back to bed. I have washed the dishes and made the bed and wiped up the floor. Ren is still asleep. I want to be quiet so he can sleep for he gets up early and comes home so late when he's at the temple all day. He needs rest so I'll write a little in my book and read until he wakes up. He looks so tired when he comes home at night.

Tom and Rae, and Megan and her children came to see us and stayed all night. Megan has two children, a girl and a boy. She is expecting another little one. She asked me and Father to pray for her. She is very large. They have gone home now.

Father came home from the temple and lay down and is now sound asleep.

Ren has been such a good father. I guess I have been jealous of him because the children always went to him. He gave them money and advice and the things they wanted. But then I had nothing to give but love and they didn't need or want that. My life has been such a failure. Is it because I think more of myself than of them? If so how can I show my love for others more and be a better wife and mother? Please help me dear Father is my prayer.

1978. May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Ren has laid down on the cot in the front room and is sound asleep. He got up and put some clothes in the washer. I don't know what to do. It is Saturday May 23, 1978

It has started to snow. It is coming down in the largest flakes I have ever seen. The trees and ground are all covered with snow. I have never seen the snow come down as fast as it is this morning at this time of the year. As I look out across the creek and on the tops of the houses there is snow everywhere. As far as you can see there is snow. The snow is so still coming down.

Ren came home last night and took me to the temple. I went and did sealings then I went to a session, then he brought me home.

1978. Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

Ren has gone to the temple. It is Relief Society today this morning at 9 o'clock I think but I'm not sure about it and I hate to ask people because I can't remember. I think that is what Ren said. I must have the courage to go over. Oh it is so hard to be at home alone but lately Ren has been taking me to the temple. I'm not sure if it was yesterday or today. Oh, if I only had a daughter near me, but I haven't. Oh if I only had someone to take me.

Ren phoned to me from the temple. He said it would be 8 o'clock before he would be able to come home.

We got a letter from Tom Davies. It was so nice of him to write to us and say he was coming down.

1978. October 13<sup>th</sup>

I thought I'd like to go to the temple center. They have such good little plays, also singing and poems. I enjoy it so much. I came home and fixed me some dinner. I told them I'd come back but now I'm not sure whether they are open now. I don't know what hours they are open. I have decided to read the Bible. My marker is at the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter so I'll read some more. Ren was going to read it with me but he likes to read it himself so I'll read it by myself since I'm alone wondering what to do. I turn on the TV but I just don't like the TV and I soon turn it off. I like to read the Bible better.

1978.

It was October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1925 when we were married so it is our anniversary today. We have been married 53 years now. To me it has been happy years. Ren my husband has always put me first. Today he put a rail on the steps for me. I have wanted them for some time. They are a lovely gold. It feels so nice to come up the steps. He is such a good husband. Lynn came over this afternoon and said how lovely the rails look on the steps. They do look nice. Ren has done such a lovely job. It is Sunday evening.

This morning, Ren and I went to Sunday school and then he stayed to priesthood meeting. There was a large crowd at Sacrament meeting. It was Fast and Testimony meeting and a lot of people bore their testimonies. I counted 20. It is sure different here than in Bow island. Nearly everyone bore their testimony there. Here there are so many people who stand up to bear their testimonies, so many who I hardly know.

1978. Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday we went to Hill Spring, Ren and I, to Bertha Gibbs funeral. It was held in the new chapel. The old chapel is used for recreational games I guess and parties etc, Many lovely things were said about Bertha. Things like she's always willing to teach a class in Sunday school or Relief Society, doing what she was asked to do and so on. After the burial I went with Ada and found Mother and Father's graves. I thought I'd like to be buried there but Ren says he wants to be buried in Cardston where his folks are buried. So I suppose I'll want to be buried where he is. So many of the people in Hill Spring I have forgotten. Ada, Emma and I looked up Mother and Father's graves and a little stillborn baby who is buried in the Hill Spring cemetery. Anyway it is a baby's grave. We don't know where Jim and Neff's graves are. Jim was swimming at the Lakes. I don't remember about his death but that he drowned. I went to Neff's funeral and to his wife's, Erma Skipworth Fisher. I just asked Ren about Jim and Neff and where they were buried. He said they were buried in Hill Spring. He always helps me when I ask him things I can't remember if he can. I pray that God will bless him for putting up with me, a person who can't remember things from one day or minute to another. I know it wasn't easy for him to have a wife who has lost her memory. The Lord will bless him I pray, for his kindness. I asked him how he could keep answering my questions and he says, "Because I love you darling". If he loves me until I die and helps me to remember, I pray that the Lord will bless him for his help and love and kindness, a person who can't remember anything 10 minutes after it has happened.

Today Ren took me for a ride. It was such a lovely day and we visited Anne, Sara, Barbara, Alma and their children. It was a bout an hour and on half drive and we visited with our

children and grandchildren. I should take a treat for the children. When Lynn goes she always does. But Ren says, "If it's the candy they want when he comes to see his children and grandchildren then he isn't going, If Lynn wants to that's all right with me but I'm not taking things to them. They soon get so they say what did you bring us?"

I enjoyed our visit. We only stayed a little while. Anne had a lovely dinner for us so we went to church with them.

When Ren left to go to the temple he told me to come over. But I couldn't find my purse and I didn't have my recommend. He took my suitcase with him. It had my purse and my recommend in it. So I was all upset. He brought me home and left for the temple and so I spent the day hating myself. I read the Ensign and President Kimball asked us to be missionaries and fellowship our neighbors.

1978. October 29<sup>th</sup>

Ren took me up to Edmonton on the 29 of October. Then Ren went to England and Fay brought me home. She stayed a night and then went home. Sara came and stayed with me a week.

Then she took me home and I stayed at her house. Now she is here at our home. Ren is still in England and Sara is still here. Her family is coming up today and they are going to Waterton Lakes. Everyone is so good to me.

Carol Dawn was at the church as I came out of the door. She came up to me and said, "Come and get into the car grandma and I'll take you home," [she works for her grandmother Mrs. Shields] and she brought me home. Carol Dawn has always been such a sweet granddaughter. When she sees me she always comes up and puts her arm around me.

I did something I shouldn't have done. Ren didn't come home from the temple. I sat waiting for him to come. It seemed so long since I had been alone I decided I would walk up and see Ada for awhile. I put on the table a note telling Ren but he was angry with me and went to the temple this morning without telling me.

1978. October 31<sup>st</sup>

Today Jesse and Helen Atwood came to see me. They had been to the temple. It has been such a long time since I have seen them. They were good friends of ours and such lovely people.

Jess was the president and Helen his wife worked in the Relief Society.

Ren was Jesse' councilor for a number of years or I should say all the time we were in Bow Island. I worked in the Primary and was a councilor in the Relief Society. I also taught a class of girls in MIA.

My prayer each morning is "Help me to do all I can to do the things you would have me do."

My children are so proud of their father for the work he has done in the temple. They all love their father and are so proud of him. When they want advice he helps them. He loves his children and is proud of them. I am proud of them too. The Lord has blessed me. Ren is often tired and says I guess I should resign, but I say to him I'm afraid you will be sorry if you have nothing to do. And so I pray that the Lord will bless him. He comes home from the temple after the 2 o'clock session gets on its way and sleeps and by 6 o'clock he is feeling fine and goes back to the temple again. He comes home about 8. By morning he is rested and ready to go to the temple again. But he is getting tired I think and perhaps needs a rest for awhile. Working at the temple is not easy. And he is very tired when he comes home late at night. But I am afraid he would be more so with nothing to do.

I must change my clothes and fix dinner for Ren.

1978. November 7<sup>th</sup>

I have heart trouble. Three heart valves are leaking and I have to go for a check up every week and the doctor told Ren that I am not able to work in the temple or go to the temple so he goes and I stay home most of the time.

1978. November 28<sup>th</sup>

It is evening. Ren and I read the Book of Mormon together for awhile. We started to read Alma chapter 45 through 47. I enjoy so much reading together. Ren is now reading another book. He doesn't like to read his story books to me so I'll have to get me one of my own. Ren's stories are cowboy stories

1978. November 30<sup>th</sup>

Last night Tom came and stayed with us. He brought a friend who brought him down from Edmonton and they stayed all night. They had breakfast then both went to the temple so I am home alone. I will read a while.

1978. December 10<sup>th</sup>

Jerry and his wife Gloria came to see us and stayed for supper. We enjoyed their visit. They make you feel so good. They are so grateful for each other and for friends and relatives.

Dear Little MIA Maid with your tears and fears.  
You have many years before maturity.  
May you be happy and as sweet as you are today.  
This I humbly pray.

This evening Sara came over and stayed with Ren and me. We had such a nice visit with her. It was Ted's sister's birthday so he went to see her and Sara came to see Ren and me. She had her daughter Wendy's baby with her while she and her husband went to visit Ted's sister. They came over after and talked awhile and then they went home.

Ren said when he left for the temple he would be home at about 8 but he is not home. It is too dark for me to see. This morning I went to the temple. I went through a session and took a name. Then I went to dinner with Ren. We had a lovely dinner with fresh warm rolls, potatoes, gravy and green beans and pie. It was all very good but it cost \$3.00 for me. Dad gets his free as he works there.

Ren took me down to the doctor's for a check up. I told him I was fine but he said the doctor says I must have a check up because my blood gets too thick and is not getting to my heart as it should. What is it that makes blood? Is it food? He says I am to eat no meat, no sugar or rich food. Surely I don't need to eat meat or sugar if that is what is affecting my heart.

1978. December 3<sup>rd</sup>

My visiting teachers, Rose Williams and Margaret Woolford came visiting and wished me a happy Christmas.

1978. December 12<sup>th</sup>

Ellen and Jerry, who has just returned from his mission, came by. They had the baby with them, Kerry Lance I think they called him. They have just left.

1979. January Relief Society is at 9:30 on Thursday morning.

Sunday school starts at 11:30

Sacrament meeting starts at 4:30

Margaret Smith, now Margaret Woolford came over in her car and took me to Relief Society.

Oh I appreciated her coming to get me. I wish I could do something to repay her but now I don't know what day Relief Society is on. We had a good lesson and I enjoyed it very much.

We had a lunch after. Then Margaret brought me home.

We no longer go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward. It's 5<sup>th</sup> ward now.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday I go with Ren to the temple. I go through 2 sessions and go down to dinner as soon as I get out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> session.

I am so grateful for the many opportunities I have had to serve in the church and for the 8 years I worked in the temple. I must go to bed now and not disturb Ren. He doesn't have much time to sit down and read and that has always been the joy of his life.

[THE FOLLOWING ARE FROM MOTHER'S JOURNAL WHEN SHE BEGAN REMINISCING ABOUT HER CHILDHOOD. BECAUSE THE JOURNAL WAS DROPPED AND THE PAGES MIXED THE ITEMS MAY NOT BE IN SEQUENCE].

I remember going to a birthday party at Cleo Jensen's home when I was about 6 and what a beautiful house they had with carpets on the floor.

I remember going to Stake conference with Father and Mother at Raymond. We went to Brother Allen's home I think it was, for dinner. He and Father worked together in the Religion class, a class for the children once a week in school. I had such a good time. The girls asked me to stay all night. Their Father was going to Magrath the next day and I could go home with him.

Mother and Father said I could stay if I wanted to and I said I did, but when Mother and the other children Orrin and Glen, were ready to go I started to cry because I wanted to go home too. Then there was the time we had a contest in school to see who could tell the best story. Mother taught me the story of Queen Victoria and I won the prize. And then the Christmas program put on by the school. This was an important day of my life for all the girls in grade one wore long skirts and a shawl around their shoulders and we sang "Once I was a lassie, a lassie etc.

I loved my Sunday school teacher, Brother Fletcher. He taught us a song about Jenny taking a walk. He would ask who would like to be Jenny this morning. I think I always held up my hand to be Jenny because I liked to act it out so well.

When I was 8 years old beginning my second year in school we moved to Hill Spring. There was not school that year for me but the next year we held school in the Garinger Hotel. Orrilla Woolf Tanner was my teacher. I seemed to have forgotten all I was taught in school for it seemed so hard for me. Orrilla Tanner was strict and I felt I hated school and my teacher. But some years later Sister Tanner taught my first Mutual class and I learned to love her very much. I used to go to her house and visit her. Once she gave me a song from a magazine she had. Mother was going to have a baby soon so grandpa came up to see us and he taught me the song with the piano by ear. That week the baby was born and I sang the song in MIA "Little Baby Girly. I still remember it.

I remember when Father bought home our first piano. It was second hand and he traded a cow or horse for it. I took a few lessons from Leo Comb but never really learned to play although at one time I could play the hymns pretty well.

When I was 14 I was assistant teacher in the kindergarten class, a job I held for many years. It was that year that I had rheumatic fever, and stayed out of school for a number of years. I was secretary of the Primary during that time. When I was 18 my father wanted to send me on a mission but President Wood said I was too young and that I should go back to school. So I took grades eight, nine and ten, then I stayed home and helped mother. She was having a new baby.

When I was a girl mother told me this story. She said that before I was born she went with Aunt Jehzell Merkley in their Democrat to Cardston to attend a Mutual convention. They didn't have cars in those days. Marion was a baby then. When they got out of their meetings it was pouring down and by the time they reached the St. Mary's river the water was running over the bridge and it seemed to be rocking. They were afraid to cross but Aunt Jehzell was anxious to get home to her baby. So they prayed together that the Lord would help them to get across safely and they did. As they looked back from on top of the hill, they could see the bridge moving down the river.

I remember when Glen was lost. One Sunday morning when Father and Orrin and I returned from Sunday school, mother was looking for Glen. He had gone out to look at the little calf tied by the barn. This was just before Emma was born so Mother was not feeling very well and she lay down for a few minutes. When she went out to find Glen he was gone. Father hurried out to find him. Mother had Orrin and I kneel down and she prayed that no harm would come to Glen and that we would be able to find him. I remember how worried they were. It was 3 hours before one of the members who lived about a mile away on returning from Sunday school found Glen walking along the road near their home. They asked him his name and he said, "Glen". He had been crying and his face was dirty. He didn't know his last name but when the man asked him who washed his face he said, "Phyllis." The lady knew who I was because I went to Primary and Sunday school. "So after they had dinner they brought him home. By this time every one in Magrath was out looking for him along the creek and everywhere. I remember how grateful and happy we were when they drew up to our house in their buggy with Glen in it. He had told them I was his big sister and the lady happened to be my Primary teacher.

I remember when Emma was born. It was in July and Orrin and Glen and I had the whopping cough. We couldn't go in the bed room where mother and the baby were. So we would go and stand by the bedroom window and mother or father would hold her up for us to see. She seemed so beautiful to me.

I remember when we had the measles, a neighbor boy; Boyd Ririe brought us a box of animal cookies. It was the first I had ever seen and how pleased we were.

I remember that one Christmas Grandma Fisher sent me a beautiful white muff and scarf. I loved them so much. One day coming home from Sunday school I lost the scarf. I didn't know it was gone until the boy brought them to our house and said he had found them by the bridge when he was going home from Sunday school.

I remember the time some boys got into our strawberry patch and I told father and he hurried to catch them but they got away. That seemed an exciting time.

At that time I thought we had the most beautiful home in the world. Mother had a dresser made

of boxes with pretty curtains around it. Father had white washed the house inside and out and we had trees and flowers and a nice garden.

.....my Father, Franklin Pierce Fisher named it Sara and we children went with Father to the grave yard and Father buried her. The boys helped to cover the coffin. Mother's next baby was Jim and he grew to manhood. I gave this talk at a party given at Aunt Mable Gibb's home. I think it was when mother resigned as president and Aunt Mabel was made president of Relief Society in her place.

'When Aunt Ethel asked me to give a tribute today to my mother I thought that I should give her life for that in itself is a tribute to her for her life has been one of service, not only to her family and brothers and sisters but to those in need. When they were in need they came to her for advice. Aunt Ada, Uncle Lynn, Aunt Ethel, Smilly, Aunt Belle Merrill and other came to see my mother and she would listen to them and help them. When Aunt Ada [?] was going to have a baby before she was married, and Uncle Lynn when he was excommunicated from the church both came for advice and help, she was there for them. Sister Brooks, Edna Draper and many others came to my mother and she would listen to them and give them advice. When I think of my mother I think of unselfishness personified. This is exemplified by the large family she had. Out of the 14 children she had, 12 are now living. One died at birth and was named Sara. Mother nearly died at that time. Sara was a large beautiful baby girl. Father brought her home and Aunt Ethel and Aunt Belle, Mother's sister dressed her and put her into a little coffin Uncle John Merrill made for her. Father took all of the children and we went out to the cemetery and buried the baby. We would have so liked to have kept her. She was so sweet. The other son Jim grew to manhood. He drowned while swimming in Lake Linnet in Waterton. She has now 24 children counting the in-laws and 59 grandchildren. She was proud of all her children's accomplishments in school and in the things they did in church. It was hard for her when Carol was married and left home to go so far away. It must have been a great trial too when I was sick with rheumatic fever, but she waited on me, cared for me and prayed for me. She had so many to care for but was never cross.

Orrin was such a good faithful boy to help at home. He always stayed out of school in the spring and fall to help Father on the farm. How he made his grades with such good marks I could never understand. When he went on his mission to Tonga, I remember how mother cried as he left with Father to go on the train to Salt Lake City. Aunt Ethel was there and tried to comfort her but she said, "He has never been away from home in his life. He has worked so hard and been such a good faithful and obedient boy I can hardly bear to let him go so far away." She was so proud of him when he returned and went to agriculture school in Raymond completing a two years course in one year.

Glen worked out and earned enough money to go to Agriculture College in Claresholm. Mother was happy to hear that he was chosen to go to Eastern Canada to represent the school. He had just enough money to pay his board and expenses and get him there. I remember mother said to him, "Don't you think you should pay your tithing on the money you have earned?" He said, "If I do I won't have enough money for school. But she said, "I think the Lord will bless you so you will be able to get along all right if you do." So he paid his tithing. The next day some of the neighbors were going to Claresholm and offered to give him a ride so he didn't have the expense of going on the train. Mother felt that the Lord had blessed him immediately for being obedient.

She was happy when Glen was made MIA president and bishop of the ward and for his work in the mission field.

She was pleased when Emma won the MIA speech contest and went to Salt Lake City and came out in second place, and that she was able to teach school in Hill Spring and to be the primary president.

I was just 12 years old when Carol was born on the night of the 25 of December 1914. She was Mother and Father's ninth child. The day before Christmas stands out in my memory. I knew that mother wasn't feeling well, yet she worked so hard to get things ready for Christmas. They had asked the Robins to come and spend Christmas with us. The Robins had not been in this country long and missed old England. So mother did want things to be nice for them. I know that in the afternoon mother had sent Father to get Doctor McCarthy and so on the Christmas Eve I didn't sleep very well. I must have gone to sleep for I remember Father coming down the stairs and telling us to be quiet, that mother was sleeping and that we had a baby sister. And for us all to get dressed quietly and come down stairs and see what Santa had brought us. Then we could go in to see mother and the new baby. I was more anxious to see mother and the baby than to see my gift. One day when I was in the temple a lady came up to me and said, "I understand you were a Fisher. Were you Carol's Sister?" When I said yes she told me she had worked in the Relief Society with Carol and that she was the loveliest person she had ever met. She was just too good for this old world so the Lord took her home.

I remember when Jim was born how sick mother was. I was 15 years old and did the work and cared for her. I remember one afternoon I went into the front room where her bed was and she took my hands in hers and cried. My hands were bleeding and were always chapped and cracked from putting them in the water so much. She said, "I can't stand to have you work so hard". I remember I put my arms around her and cried too and said, "Oh mother, I don't care about my hands or the work, all I want is for you to get well. I couldn't stand it if you should die."

Mother said, "I won't die darling. The Lord will bless me and I'll get well."

She had what they called milk fever and so couldn't nurse the baby. I'd take Jim over to Sister Olsen's who had a baby and lots of milk and she nursed him. Dear Mother had so many trials but she always put her trust in the Lord.

I remember one day going into her bedroom and she was crying. It was when Father was the Bishop of the ward. When I asked her what the matter was she said, "Oh the house is so dirty and full of flies and next week the Stake Presidency and officers will be here and I can't stand to have them come to this dirty house. I wanted Father to do some painting and papering and fix the wire doors up a little but he doesn't care how it looks." And then she said, "But as a Bishop he has so much to do and is so busy I must not complain."

A letter from Franklin Peirce Fisher to his daughter Phyllis,

Hill Spring  
January 2, 1959

Our lovely Daughter,

Phyllis, 57 years ago you came to our humble home, a perfect gift direct from Heaven. You brought with you love, peace and happiness such as we had never before known. You have always been our pride and joy. As you grew older you loved your dollies and little babies that came to our happy home. You were such a help to dear Mother when she was tired and weary and needed your help so much. Now the years have come and gone. Your lovely daughters are in homes of their own and your stalwart sons have grown to noble manhood and may many more fruitful years lie before you. May they be as rewarding as the past and may each day and year bring greater joy, peace and security and may your last days be your happiest ones. That your home fires will continue to burn with the radiance of faith and hope and charity and may it always be a Holy Place in which your loved ones returning from a mission or a foreign land may find safety.

With all my love and blessings  
Father

One of my grandchildren wrote me this letter.

Dear Grandma,

Here is a little thought I thought you would enjoy. I sure did.

A Parable on the Power of the Lord.

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints; other times there was only one.

During the low periods of my life I could see only one set of footprints so I said, "You promised me Lord, that you would walk with me always. Why, when I needed you the most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."