

BRIEF LIFE SKETCH of DOROTHY SMITH CLARK

Jan 31st, 1975

In the pioneer community of Snowflake, Ariz. Apr 26, 1911, I made my debut as the second child in the family of Hyrum and June A. Bushman Smith. Grandmother Emma Larson Smith, born of Swedish handcart pioneers, was the licensed midwife who attended me and chose my name. Grandfather Jesse H. Smith, one of the town's founders, was an accountant by trade and for many years president of Snowflake stake.

My father, eldest of his mother's nine children, and a stake patriarch from age twenty-seven, taught school in the Snowflake State Academy. Mother, ^{one of eleven children} ~~being trained in Logan~~, was one of the first ^{active} kindergarten teachers in the area. She also taught piano and was ~~active~~ in dramatics.

Grandfather John Bushman, a long-time Bishop, was also an Arizona pioneer ^{too} who ^{helped settle} ~~lived in~~ Joseph City, a farmer and stock-raiser. Grandmother Lois Angeline Smith, a noted singer, was the cultured daughter of Dr. John Smith, an Alabama convert.

My parents decided on Canada as a place to raise their family after changing their careers to study chiropractic (in Iowa and Illinois.) Their ^{decision to go north} ~~was~~ influenced partly by missionaries and ^{family} cousins from the ^{Canadian} southwest.

Lethbridge, the business ^{hub} center of southern Alberta, became my beloved prairie home and the birthplace of the last four in my parents' family of seven. Latter-Day-Saints were in a minority in this city of many churches and though I was usually the lone Mormon in my school classes, I had many fine friends both in and out of the church.

During the nine years my father served as a Bishop (after my Tenth year) our home became increasingly a festive place, for mother loved to entertain and there were plenty of excuses, as she too, was a busy leader and teacher of youth in ward ^{organization} ~~and stake~~.

Childhood activities included ⁱⁿ ~~backyard~~ swinging, high climb-tree ^{house +} ing, playing house, acrobatics, creative dancing, games and kite-flying with my brothers, ^{tree climbing} ~~and~~ fishing.

A most exciting adventure for a ten-year-old was my three-day train trip to Chicago and my six-month stay there to care for baby sister, Lois during my mother's post-graduate and

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Private lessons in ^{2.} piano ^{were} started at age nine and art instruction at eleven or twelve, after state fair prizes ^{in drawing & painting} were won as a sixth-grader.

A happy experience in connection with music studies was traveling with an entertainment troupe ^{group from our Music Conservatory} to surrounding towns where I performed ^{at age 11} in both music and dance.

Teen hobbies and activities were related to all the sports as well as to the creative arts. Hiking, swimming, ^{including} softball, basketball, high jump, tennis, ice-skating, plus horse-back riding during several summer vacations at a cousin's ranch near the U.S. border. ^{Half-bred} Painting and redecorating our home was a fun project I especially relished as my mother's helper. Mother's creative talents were much in demand, and I recall many groups coming to our home to learn all the popular crafts of the day.

When a six-months mission was made possible for father by mother taking over his office work, I left school at 16 to care for the home and younger children. Art studies by correspondence were provided and I helped illustrate two High School yearbooks and sold original Christmas cards.

My first-remembered visits with close kin came at age seventeen when I accompanied mother and her three youngest children on an extended trip to the southwest, spending Christmas with Grandmother Smith in the home where I was born. The personal ^{Arizona} contacts made that winter and spring developed into rich and lasting relationships - ^{and} memories ^{for which} I will ever be grateful for.

In Dec. of my eighteenth year came an answer to prayer for financial help ^{as well as} an unexpected opportunity to "cash-in" on my parents' monetary investments ^{in my future}. ^{Family} At their suggestion, I bravely answered a "male-help-wanted" ad that had appeared ^{to my surprise} for a week in the local newspaper. I got the job ^{and was promptly put to work} when I was retained to work the rest of the day and was offered to remove my coat because I hadn't bothered to wear my ^{long dress}. I thoroughly enjoyed my one-month job as a sign writer and copy-checker in the advertising department of the city's largest store, and was glad to be able to help in the support of our first family missionaries, my ^{elder brother} Marvin, ^{on his E. Can. mission} my elder bro Marvin ^{Tr. Eaton Co.,}

Besides the many involvements my brothers and I had in ward activities, we added ^{in our home} to these many pleasant evenings at jazz 'jam' sessions with friends, playing piano with guitars, banjos and ukuleles added. I even enjoyed ^{serenading} myself with 'uke' or guitar accompaniment.

The coulees, a hilly canyon leading down to the river bed west of town was a favorite picnic grounds with big old cottonwoods, ^{while} the artificial lake near our home, east of town, provided swimming, boating, and along with two city rinks, ice skating in winter.

By Sept. 1930 we had moved to Salt Lake City where we could have the advantage of University training ^{in an LDS environment} without leaving home. Here we had the pleasure of meeting again many relatives and old friends, among them, our former Con. neighbors, the Hugh B. Browns.

I was able to continue art and music studies in Utah ¹⁹³⁰⁻³¹ as well as attend the University (during 1931-32).

^{It was} ~~that~~ I met my future husband Ellsworth M. Clark, in Capitol Hill ward ^{there} where we were both active ^{during} MIA drama and dance activities. While he was in Colorado on a short term mission, ^{2 yrs later} I kept busy in my decorator's job at the S.H. Kress store, doing temple work, and in activities of a girls' Con. Club. This employment, incidentally, came at a very opportune time. It provided not only financial aid ^{for my parents} and ^{helping with my own marriage preparations} for marriage, and most ^{also} important, making ^{possible} a mission for Ellsworth. Following our temple wedding, I learned to love my Idaho homes where valuable experiences awaited the next eleven years. Adjustments were necessary at times when some of our homes lacked running water, refrigeration or even electricity. At least I could better appreciate ^{some of} the trials of my ^{forebears}.

Our first child, Norman, was born in Salt Lake City when we visited Ellsworth's folks ^{when we lived} in late May 1935. Robert, Renee, Dorothy Jean and Charles were born in Victor, Parker and St. Anthony. ^{Idaho}

The summer of 1936, we were ^{vacationed} favored with a long stay at Cumorah Farm, near Palmyra, N.Y. with my parents. Lois, who had been with us for ^{my senior high} the school year, ^{returned with} accompanied us. It was thrilling to see the first pageant presented at the Hill, which was co-authored by my brother Oliver, an Eastern States missionary. I was able to help with publicity posters. Our 15 mos. Norman was used in a covered wagon sequence of a pioneer panorama presented ^{one} another evening at the Hill.

A visit to New York City and Wash. D.C. was arranged for us when mother offered to care for our baby.

In May of 1945 we moved into our large home in S.L.C. Here in the next ten years Mary Anne, John, Richard and David joined our family.

Their daddy was home very little due to his extra work as a floral designer and his responsibilities as ward clerk.

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But, Because I have always been happier at home than in public, I never seemed to mind the long hours of child-raising. Besides, all our babies had perfect dispositions and grew up with very few illnesses or accidents. I couldn't have asked for a more ^{challenging} colorful or rewarding career.

College ^{training} and missionary service have come into most of our children's lives and all, to date, have married in the Temple. David, the youngest, now serves in the Korea, Seoul mission.

Church positions through the years have included work in music departments, teaching and executive experiences in Primary and MIA, publicity (poster) work for all auxiliaries, visiting teaching for R. Soc., ward and stake genealogy committee work, and most challenging of all, offering our home to help in the Church's Indian Student Placement Program. The rewards for foster-parenting were multiplied ^{to his people} when our Navajo son, Cody Black, fulfilled a mission in the South West, and later married ^{in the temple} a fine Lamanite ^{girl Linda Abetta} church member. Most of his brothers and sisters are now ^{Navajo} active Latter-Day Saints and one of these has also been a missionary, also lived in LDS foster homes.

We cared for a second Navajo teenager for one year, and served as stake Lamanite assistants for two years. A surprise coronary attack slowed me down briefly in Nov. 1972 at age 61.

We were fortunate to have, for several alternate years, the gentle, stabilizing influence of ^{my} Grandfather Hyram Smith in our home. This was especially valuable in the absence of our busy father. Its worth can never be fully measured. ^{Pop. husband}

At the beginning of 1975 we are returning to unfinished tasks of completing family records and histories, helping in family research and entertaining ourselves with ^{gardening} ^{reading} penning and writing hobbies. A flight to New Zealand ^{Calif.} to visit Robert, and family ^{Renée} was a thrilling event, dimming a busy life with few vacations.

Besides the Gospel's influence, the three great blessings in my life have been these: Parents who exemplified lasting values and understood our needs, a devoted and co-operative husband, and obedient and responsive offspring.

Seeing our children achieve in their various activities at home, in the church and in their chosen vocations is a source of continuing satisfaction, bringing more riches than we ever dreamed possible.

1987 Apr - Our posterity now numbers 57 gr 5 gr -
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distrib. to all of our families.
JB reunions - Jos City 69, Gr Canyon, Lehi SLC.
JNS - SLC, Snowflake.
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