

In grandma's personal history, she shared the sentiments of Nephi of old saying, "I was born into a home where I was accepted, loved, had security and there was understanding, and guidance. I had a happy family life."

Born to Percy Groom and Adella Rosalia Short Groom, she was the youngest of 5 children. The daughter of an early saint from England, and the great granddaughter of expelled saints of Nauvoo who made the westward trek to Salt Lake City, she had a rich heritage and a strong testimony of the gospel.

Grandma had fond memories of her childhood. She wrote of a special Christmas memory where under the Christmas tree she found a new doll sitting in an ivory painted wicker buggy that she had previously discussed with Santa Clause. As she played with it every day she remembered the bolts on the handle always coming loose and having to be fixed repeatedly. A sign of how she loved to play with that doll and buggy.

In the summertime, when it wasn't necessary to store wood, Grandma was able to use the shed as a playhouse. She cleaned the floorboards, swept the spider webs from the ceiling and placed a homemade braided rug on the floor. Her dad cut an opening in the wall to allow light into the shed. On more than one occasion, after a rainstorm, so much rain would come into the shed she would have to let the playhouse air out in the hot summer sun before she could play again.

Grandma enjoyed going on summer trips with her family to places such as Yellowstone and Swan Valley for her brothers to fish. Her father however was not an avid fisherman so he and grandma would walk and hike together on the trails around the area. She enjoyed simply being in the outdoors with her father.

Once out of high school Grandma attended Ricks College. During the winter, when the roads were bad, she lived in the dorm, when springtime came around she moved back home and drove her father's car to and from school each day. She enjoyed going to the Romance Theater with girlfriends, playing in the Ricks College band and studying for her classes.

Grandma met Eldon Hinckley, or grandpa, through a mutual friend in the Ricks College Band. He asked her to the spring formal. Grandma was excited for the dance as her mother had bought her a brand new yellow lace dress for the occasion. The night of the dance arrived and grandma was anxiously awaiting Grandpa's arrival. Low and behold grandpa pulled up to the house in a dirty old miserable pick up truck that he borrowed from his brother-in-law. Apparently grandpa's parents were out of

town and the family car wouldn't start. Well grandma weighed her options...go to the dance in the pick-up or don't go at all. All of us here today are thankful she decided to climb into that pick-up, even if it didn't exactly compliment her new dress. From that night forward their relationship blossomed and June 30th, 1942 they were married in the Logan Utah Temple for time and all eternity.

The next 10 years of her life were typical of the 1940's. Grandpa served in both World War II and the Korean War while Grandma cared for 3 young children, Elsyne, Kent and Layne. Grandma would gather her small children on her lap to read the letters that came from grandpa. The family moved many times during those years: from Rigby to California to Chicago to Rigby to Washington and back to Rigby. Anyone who has raised a toddler, or several, would have admiration for what Grandma accomplished during those years. Grandpa said that in each of the moves they made, whether for work or military assignments, she always gave him her full support.

Jennilyn and then Richard were born as grandpa began his career as a postal inspector. Soon grandpa's job took the family to the mission field including Escanaba Michigan, and Rockford and DesPlaines, Illinois. It was difficult for grandma to leave her home in Rigby but she was always a positive example to her children by making many good friends and becoming involved in her church callings. Her service in the church included Counselor in the Relief Society Presidency, Counselor in the Stake Primary Presidency, Merry Miss Teacher, and Scout Master for Guide Patrol. She participated in a variety of fundraising events and even dressed up as a pioneer for a July 24th celebration. The family often had to drive as many as 50 to 80 miles one way to meet with the nearest branch. They did this for over 3 years. Grandma would bring a small pack of Ritz crackers for each child to snack on. And on occasion the family would stop for an ice cream cone on the return trip, vanilla was Grandma's favorite. They also participated regularly in Sacrament Meeting programs such as the time they were asked to sing the hymn "Let us oft speak kind words to each other" while Grandma accompanied them on the piano.

Another common occurrence for the family was long road trips between the mid-west and Idaho in the '53 Hudson with no air conditioning. Grandma would sit in the back seat with a towel over her lap making sandwiches of wonderbread, bologna and cheese and peeling oranges. Grandpa would barely stop the car long enough to refuel. You can imagine the long, hot drive with 5 children and the patience that grandma and grandpa must have prayed for. The special treat of the trip was stopping for breakfast at a local café. But you better not order hash browns...growing up in Idaho grandma couldn't bear the thought of paying such a high price for potatoes.

After many years in the mission field, and after their children were grown, Grandma and Grandpa decided to build their retirement home in Highland, Utah where they have lived the years loving and supporting their family.

Grandma was caring and nurturing. She was a help because she loved to be not because she had to be. She was a blessing to everyone who knew her. She would often read books to us, plan fun activities during our visits such as sledding or hiking Mt. Timpanogas. And she was always sure that our stomachs were full, although in this area her English roots would shine through because “a little salt was pretty spicy.” She always remembered our birthdays and every year, if she wasn’t at your birthday party, you would find a special card with a sweet note in the mail. Grandma had a way of fixing your “owies” better than your own mother. And she made taking medicine bearable by crushing the pill and adding sugar water.

Grandma was well organized and kept her home in order. Even when the family lived in Escanaba Michigan and no one wanted to rent a house to a family of 5 children. Grandma made the best of the home they were eventually able to rent by keeping it clean and clutter-free. This habit also carried over to her personal hygiene. At any given time you could find a nail file, dental floss, lotion and chapstick in grandma’s purse and boy did they each get a lot of use.

Grandma loved spending time with her family. From the trips to Rigby in the ’53 Hudson to floating the river in the “Hinky Dinky” she was a good sport because it meant time with her family. Or at least most of the family, we won’t mention the time we left Jennilyn at the Dairy Queen and didn’t realize it until the Dairy Queen manager called. Each year on these camping trips Grandpa would buy some new mattress or air pad for Grandma to sleep on. The big discussion each morning was whether or not the new purchase adequately provided for Grandma’s comfort. He wanted to make her happy. Holidays were a special occasion with Grandma. Christmas Eve would find the house filled with family and Christmas morning we would awake to the smell of Grandma’s special Christmas casserole and her tasty tea ring.

Grandma had a sweet sense of humor. As a young man Layne decided to play a joke on his mom by sneaking up behind her while she was at the sink washing dishes and asked her to turn around. When she turned around he was holding an old snakeskin he had found in the backyard. Grandma, in her terror, took the cast iron frying pan she was washing and bonked him over the head with it. Many years later in life we were trying to get a picture of grandma and grandpa with 4 of their 1-year-old great-grandchildren. As you can imagine the kids were climbing all over, crying, fighting and generally causing chaos. Grandma, however, found humor in the situation as she laughed a pure gut laugh until tears were coming down her cheeks.

Grandma was a genuine, soft-spoken woman, who didn't care much for being the center of attention. She seemed to express her thoughts in an understated way rather than being too talkative.

She was a spiritual example to her children. Grandma was often seen by her children in a quiet place praying. She believed in the power of prayer and that taught her family more than any amount of preaching would have. She had an appreciation and understanding of her divine nature and focused her life upon raising a valiant family. She and Grandpa always attended baptisms, blessings, ordinations and other occasions of church ordinances to express their support and love for the choices their family members were making.

Finally, and most importantly, it was always evident that grandpa loved grandma. Her children knew that dad loved their mother and he wouldn't allow the least unkind thing to be said to her. Her grandchildren witnessed this same love and devotion as her physical body aged and grandpa continued to take such good care of her.

Grandma and grandpa are wonderful examples of faithfulness to temple covenants in order to have an eternal family. And how grateful we are for that. We love you grandma. We'll miss you. Thank you for the life you lead and the legacy you have left behind.