

**PERSONAL HISTORY
OF
BARBARA ASCENTHA MATILDA LARSEN HUBBARD**

(as told to Karen Bernson Johnson, her granddaughter)

I was born in 1897 in Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah. I was born in the home of my parents, and a midwife helped my mother at the time of birth. Her name was Mrs. Kaiser, and there wasn't a doctor in Brigham at the time that I know of now. I heard that there was a doctor, and I've heard his name but I don't remember it, but anyway it was a very old-fashioned time.

I was blessed in Brigham in the First Ward Church.

But the first thing I remember of all in my home -- I must've been about 2½ or 3 years old and my mother and father had come home from a trip to Ogden or some place. They came in and it was dark in the house, but my father had made a little cradle and I was standing up in this cradle and they had brought a little black dog just about as big as a little tiny -- just a little pup really -- and he ran under this cradle and I stood up on a slat railing, and they were afraid that I was going to fall out, but I remember that because of the dog, and that's the first thing I really remember.

And, of course, we all lived in a kitchen -- there was a stove and a table in the center of the floor; and, as I remember it, half of the kitchen floor had a homemade carpet on it and the

other part had a piece of linoleum under the stove and the wash basin that stood on a stand. At first we had the slop pail there because there was no indoor plumbing at all at that time, and there was a water heater on the edge of the stove and it was my brother's job, the one just older than I, Orville, to fill that reservoir with water every night. You know that had to be filled so that there was warm water.

I don't know what else to tell you, but anyway, then we had a nice home life, I think. I had five brothers, but only 4 of them alive at the time, and then Merlin was born when I was about - he was 3 years younger than I. Leo was the oldest one in the family, and the second one was Henry who died when he was about 4 or 5 years old. Then there was Ira and then Orville. Orville was the one that was about 4½ years older than I; and, of course, I was his charge to take care of always. I just loved him and he just loved me, but you know he just taught me to play like a little boy, that was all. Then Merlin was the baby in the family.

I remember when I was about 5 or 6 years old we had a picket fence in front of our place -- a high picket fence which stood about 4 feet high, I guess; and of course it had this board ridge around it, so I got up and walked on that. I had a pretty new dress on that Mother had just made -- I don't know what kind of material it was but it was trimmed in pink satin, and I climbed up on this and walked along on this picket fence and fell. It

caught the dress and tore the beautiful dress, and Mother said (I'll never forget.), "I waited all these years for a girl and then I got you."

(Karen) Tell me about your name.

Okay, I was blessed Barbara Ascentha Matilda Larsen, but the story was told, whether it's true or not, that the man that was supposed to bless me forgot the name Hortense, and Mother was going to call me Hortense. It was just as well that he forgot it.

(Karen) When were you baptized?

I was baptized in a big creek that came out of the canyon; it was almost like a small river that came down Box Elder Canyon at this time and it divided into 3 streams. One stream served the north side of Brigham and the whole area you see out there -- the farms and all. Then there was the one that came down past the Tabernacle on Second South and turned over to Third there on Main Street -- and the other, the third stream, was directly through the cemetery -- cemetery that's there now, but that was just a wild jungle of willows and sagebrush and wild shrubs of all different kinds. The road ran along the mountain that led out the south part of the town right around the edge of the mountain there. Main Street came down from the canyon on Second South there in Brigham. So it was quite different. One of those streams was about 6 feet across, and then it must have been 2½ or 3 feet deep. That creek ran through the cemetery, and

that was called the county water, and then the city water was a smaller stream. These 2 streams ran side by side, and, of course, that was a gorgeous place to play when we were little.

We used to get reprimanded and get switched for going up there, Indians used to come and camp there all the time, and gypsies went all through the area at this time when we were little, and of course, Mother was frightened to death to have us around the gypsies, but I watched the Indians up there and they'd build a shelter and sometimes they'd stay for weeks at a time there. Sometimes they built shelters and camped back of our barn on Third East there in Brigham.

Part of the reason why Mother was so worried about us was because Father would go up to Montana to shear sheep, leaving Mother to run the farm and watch and care for all the children. One thing about Mother was that she really was pioneer stock to be able to take care of an entire farm and still be able to watch and care for all of her children.

I also remember when Father used to rock both Merlin and myself in a rocking chair and sing us Indian songs. We always had family prayers each night and every morning whether Father was home or not.

Anyway, I was baptized in this creek, this big creek, early in the morning, and my father was on a mission at the time. Uncle Ira, my brother Ira, was the mainstay in the family at the time and helped Mother. He drove the surrey or the white-top, or

whatever you'd call it, the buggy, up to the creek and they had a big quilt wrapped around me and Bishop McMaster baptized me. I remember it was very, very cold and that when they dunked me I cried.

(Karen) And then who confirmed you?

I don't know.

(Karen) How did they do it -- I mean was it in church or what?

Well, they confirmed us in church just like they do now. They didn't have any fonts to baptize in, only creeks or ponds or anywhere the water was deep enough to cover a person. So that was how it was. And they wrapped the quilt around me and took me home.

(Karen) What about your schooling?

The school -- Brigham was divided into four Wards, and I lived in the First Ward. Each Ward had a school house and the school didn't amount to too much, I can tell you. I went to the old rock school house on First East and there were 3 divisions or 3 rooms in this building. I went there to the 1st and 2nd grade was all. Afterwards we went down to the Central School which was built; that was straight west across the road from the Tabernacle -- the old Central School -- and that was a very, very pretentious place we thought at the time. We children used to sneak away from the Ward school and go down to see the students march down the stairs, because they came down marching in order and we thought that was grand.

(Karen) Didn't they pull curtains across for the different rooms?

No. We were all in one big room. I taught school where there was 3 grades in one room and 54 students, if you can imagine that, in one room for one year. I went to school through the 2nd grade at the Ward school and then I went down to Central School. I don't remember anything very thrilling about my school life -- only that I missed most of the year that I was in the 4th grade in school. I was sick.

(Karen) Why?

I don't know what was wrong. I guess I had one thing after another and I missed school nearly all year, and I was very upset about it. Evelyn, my cousin, came in and stayed at Grandmother Larsen's, too, at that time while I was still in school so that she was there during school season for about 3 years. Her father was a foreman on the railroad and used to build bridges and station houses and all kinds of things for the railroad so they had their home right in the train cars. Aunt Mary cooked for quite a few station hands or people that were working for Uncle Will -- sometimes as many as 20 of them would be working for him at one time. But she was out there with her husband (Uncle Will), and Uncle Will was one of the finest men you will ever know. He was just a wonderful man. So Evelyn, who is about 2 years younger than I, attended school and lived at Grandmother Larsen's. After my mother died and I went to live

with Grandmother Larsen, Evelyn slept on a cot in the kitchen and I had to sleep with Grandmother because there really wasn't room, but Grandmother extended her love to everyone. Evelyn and I became very good friends and played together well. We are still close.

(Karen) How old were you when your mother died?

I was 8 years old when Mother died.

(Karen) How did she die?

Well, she had pleurisy pneumonia but I've always thought that she had a miscarriage too and then the pleurisy pneumonia started after that. The doctor gave her too many pills of some kind for the pain and it put her to sleep, and she slept for 2 or 3 days and she never wakened. Then they brought the doctor, Dr. Ed. Rich, from Ogden up there and he stayed there in the house and took care of Mother for quite a few hours. By night she had come to, but was irrational and didn't recognize any of us. She called to Ira and said, "Now you be sure and stir those potatoes so they don't get burnt." You see he was supposed to be preparing dinner when she had gone to sleep that night, and this was about 3 days afterwards. Also before she died she did an interesting thing. Mother had been very close to my Father's brother James. He had died not too long before. Well, after Mother had come to she looked up to the ceiling a few moments and then said, "James, I'll soon be there." She died about 9:00 that night.

(Karen) Then did you stay at home or what happened?

No. They moved me immediately down to my Grandmother's, and the saddest thing of all was that they didn't take little Merlin, and he'd just barely turned 6 years old. He was hardly more than a baby at the time. I went to Grandmother Larsen's. It's her picture that I have in there on that frame. She was a dear person. She was the one that walked all the way across the plains. She had 10 children.

(Karen) When did your dad remarry?

I couldn't tell you the year. It was about 2½ or 3 years after Mother died. He met Aunt Julia through a missionary that was on a mission when he was, and they came home on the same boat. This missionary was from Norway and had been on a mission in Norway and my father was coming from Denmark when they met and went on the same boat. So you see how travel has changed in that length of time. That was in 1905.

(Karen) How old were you when he went on his mission?

Well, he was only gone about a year and a half -- almost 2 years. And they had him come home because of family problems. Leo, my oldest brother, was always in trouble. He must have left in either 1903 or 1904. I was either 6 or 7 because he was on his mission when I was baptized at 8 years old.

(Karen) Who took care of your brothers?

They lived with my father and no one really took care of them, even though he had housekeeps. They were all supposed to

be looking after Merlin, who was only 6 years old. He was left alone a great deal of the time and was often frightened. I remember nights when he came to Grandmother's after dark and crawled into bed with me because no one was at home and he was afraid and sometimes cold.

(Karen) Who did you live with after your dad came home or when he married Aunt Julia?

I lived with my Grandmother Larsen and I kept living with her. He never asked me to come home to live. After my mother died, I lived at Grandmother Larsen's house; she was 66 years old when I first moved into her little house. I stayed with her until I was about 15. Aunt Ann (Grandmother's daughter) lived there too. She was married for a short while but returned to Grandmother's when her marriage went bad. Aunt Ann was a very sharp tongued person -- I guess she was frustrated and disappointed with much of her life. They were very strict with me, but Grandmother was always loving and caring. She was refined -- very particular and clean. I'm grateful to her for her insistence on the importance of education and for the refinement she taught -- little things like always insisting on a clean butter dish and a fresh tablecloth for meals, no matter how little food we had. Each morning she rubbed stove black (used for the old wood burning ranges) into the toes of my shoes so I wouldn't look scuffed and not cared for. She maintained that no one could see what was in your stomach, but they could see how

you looked. I lived with Grandmother Larsen for 7 years until I finished my first year in high school, and then I went home to live and I lived there and stayed home most of the time until I got married.

(Karen) Do you remember any specific incident while you lived at your Grandmother's?

Well, I must've been about 9 years old. I guess I'd been living at Grandmother's for a little while, but anyway she had sent me to Primary and I got up on the corner from her house and I was very unhappy and I wasn't going to go to Primary because my hair was slicked down in little hair ribbons and I just wasn't going to go and I stood up there crying and my father happened to come along and saw me and asked me what was the matter. I told him I had to go to Primary and I wasn't going to go. And he laughed. And I'm sure I must've looked kind of silly to him too. He seemed to understand anyway, so he took me downtown and bought me wide hair ribbons so I could have a big bow in several different colors so that I could have bows on each side of my head. You see, Grandmother used to put lard on her hands and rub it across my hair and then press it on either side of my head and then comb it to make it nice and slick because my hair was very very fine and soft. But anyway I got the big bows. Then afterwards she started to let me comb my own hair and they got me a little glass that I could set on the table and so as little as I was, I combed my own hair from then on.

(Karen) When did you meet Grandpa?

My first year in high school, I'd just turned 15 years old.

(Karen) How did you meet him?

I met him down in Willard -- they used to have a Homecoming Day in Willard, and on this Homecoming Day they displayed their agricultural products, I don't know whether they had quilts or what they had, but it was called a Homecoming Day, and all the town met there on the school square where there was a program and lunch and a dance at night. Meryl Stratten, that's a girl with whom I was so friendly when I was in about the 7th and 8th grades in school, (I went with her a lot until she quit school right after we started our first year in high school and she tried to get me to quit school also and I wouldn't). But anyway, we went to Homecoming Day. Aunt Claire Christensen, who was my father's sister, and her husband chaperoned us down to this Homecoming -- Meryl and I -- and they took the lunch and went down to the little picnic and they had Elwood and baby Rex at this time. This Elwood Christensen is Maxine Hanks' father. Maxine Hanks is Marion D. Hanks' wife. My cousin Elwood is her father. The power company had their building right at the mouth of Willard Canyon, and so there was a group of us who walked up to the plant to watch. It was just the thing to do -- to watch this power plant in action. While walking up to this power plant, I walked along with a group which included Milt Hubbard,

your great
^ Grandpa Hubbard's half-brother's son. (I had met Milt Hubbard at a high school spring dance and then he had taken me to the Graduation Dance.) While we were walking up to the power plant, Lester came along with another group. That's the first time I had been introduced to Lester. Long afterwards, in fact, just before he died, he told me that he decided at that moment that he was going to go with me. The meeting was in August, six weeks before high school started. I was entering as a freshman and he was a junior. He had been at school at the BYU for two years before this. That was at the same time as Althea and Charlie (his brother and sister) were attending. Before this I had hardly gone out with any fellows at all because we didn't date early, and we had to be chaperoned when we did go out. One afternoon I was putting books on a bookshelf in the high school hallway when one of the books slipped down the back of the shelves and I don't know what it was I used but I expostulated (swore) -- that tells you how wild I was at that time. Lester came and picked up the book for me and talked to me and then he asked me for a date and that's when I started to go with him.

(Karen) Where did you go on your first date?

I don't know -- I guess it must have been the high school dance or something, basketball game or something like that.

(Karen) How often did you see him?

Oh, quite often. Every day at school.

(Karen) You went to the same high school?

Oh yes. He'd been to BYU to school for 2 years when was about 13 or 14 years old and he went there 2 years at high school and he hated it, and so then his family kept him out to work on the farm because Charlie, who was older, was sent back to the "Y". Charlie was the oldest in the family so he was the one that got sent back, even though he wasn't making good grades. He went back and Lester stayed home and worked on the farm, and I guess Lester just got so fed up that he said that he didn't care where he went, he was going to go to school, so he came up and registered at Box Elder in 1912. He was 20 years old.

(Karen) How much older was he than you?

5 years and 2 months.

(Karen) I remember you always told me about how you used to ride on the horse or something with him or he used to ride his horse up and you'd be sitting on the fence and you talked to him.

No, he used to come up in a buggy -- Lester never rode a horse. There was another fellow that used to come up when I lived at Grandmother Larsen's -- this was James Hall -- but he used to ride his horse and just come up and ride around to show off. There wasn't very much amusement of any kind to go to ever; there was occasionally a dance, a church dance, but for years there was nothing else and then they built the academy in about 1910 and that was built by William Christensen's father -- the one who started ballet at the university, and they built the

academy. My Aunt Ann who lived at Grandmother Larsen's earned money playing at the academy all the time and she played for the orchestra there every Saturday night and she used to work in the music store; Christensen's had a jewelry store and a music store; they used to sell sheet music and had to have somebody play the sheet music for people before they would buy it. There were no radios, there was nothing. The store finally had a phonograph with a horn and a round disc; it later would play some of the tunes, but was very, very rusty and made a lot of scratching noise, but that's what the first record player of any kind was like; I guess I must've been close to 20 years old before real records and record players in a cabinet were available. The phonographs ran by winding the machine and they had been popular for several years, 5 or 6 years, before the electric ones came in. They came in a nice fancy box, and I know we had one of those at home.

(Karen) Did you also have electricity?

Oh, no, not when I was a little girl. I remember when the lights were first put in our house; we had coal oil lamps that stood over the wash basin and by the stove that lighted that area. We had another lamp on a shelf by the table. The lamps were always up somewhere where they wouldn't get knocked over. It was called a lamp shelf.

(Karen) You didn't have indoor plumbing either?

No, no, I should say not. For a while they didn't even have water taps that came into people's houses, for I don't know how many years. I don't remember when they didn't have water that came to an outside hydrant. This hydrant would freeze up in the winter time, and we'd wrap it with burlap and all kinds of wool stuff at night, and then we'd always have water in the house that could be heated. Someone would have to pour that over the top of this hydrant to get the hydrant so it would work the next morning because of the cold.

(Karen) Tell me again about when you took the chickens.

Well, that was in high school days as I was a growing girl. I was just being fresh. We formed a group, a club; I don't know what our name was now, but these girls were all 1 year ahead of me in school when I was in the 7th grade in school, ~~and~~ we went down to the old 2nd Ward School for the 7th and 8th grades. They asked me to join their club; it was just like it is now -- they formed their little clubs and we tried to get something to identify us. When we got in high school, we wore blouses alike on a late spring day. The chicken fry was a planned prank. A group of kids would all get together, and the fellows went and got the chickens. Word got around that I was supposed to bring a pound of butter and a frying pan, so that's what I got, and we were to meet over back at the old mill. This old mill was at the mouth of Box Elder Canyon Creek there by the reservoir hill, where there was just a huge, roaring creek about

2 or 3 feet deep. We would all meet back of this old mill at a certain time; we girls didn't know where the chickens came from or anything, but the boys brought the chickens. We were in the midst of frying the chickens over a roaring bonfire when the police came and flashed their big light around. We all scattered but the boys tried to douse the fire and get rid of the chickens. A fellow by the name of Orville Wallace grabbed me by the arm, and I took my frying pan and we started to run up the canyon, and we were on the opposite side of the creek, so we waded that creek and got soaking wet. And then the next day we went to school. Of course, I didn't tell anybody at home. The next day at school while we were in class, the principal of the school came and read out our names and told us to come out of the room; so we left our classes and they had us all meet down at Lyle Eddy's home, a druggist in Brigham who was married to one of the girls' older sister. We had a very, very big consultation in telling what we had done and about the whole thing, and they charged us each so much for these registered chickens. The boys had stolen registered chickens from Mr. Thompson's chicken coop. Thompson was a high school history teacher. That was the year I was either a sophomore or a junior -- I'm not sure because Lester was at school when I was a freshman and a sophomore and he was my main boyfriend, although I went out with other people too, but you know he lived in a different town, so there were a lot of parties that just came up, you know how they would -- nothing planned or anything.

(Karen) Tell about -- was it your father that did the
woodwork?

That's my grandfather, Grandfather Larsen, husband of my
grandmother with whom I lived. He also did much of the fine
woodwork in the Logan Temple. Until the temple was remodeled
just recently, there was a plaque telling about it in the Logan
Temple, but I don't know what's happened to the plaque. He also
did much of the woodwork in the Tabernacle in Brigham that's now
standing as a historical landmark. It was build in the 1890's.

(Karen) Tell me about your courtship with Grandpa --
when you started getting serious.

Oh, I was serious right from the start. I never could
see anybody else.

(Karen) Tell about when he went in the army.

Oh, well, that was tragic. They had a draft and
everybody had to register. The ones going to school didn't
enlist right away. Numbers for eligible men were drawn at
random, and they just had to go. Lester's name was the fifth one
drawn in Box Elder County.

(Karen) Did he take a picture of you with him?

Well, he carried two pictures of me through the war and
I didn't know it, but he still had them in his possession right
up to his dying day.

(Karen) And then what happened when he got home from the
war?

Well, we got married soon afterward.

(Karen) How soon?

Well, he came home about the last part of July and we were married the 24th of September.

(Karen) Where were you married?

In the Salt Lake Temple.

(Karen) Do you remember who married you?

No.

(Karen) Tell me what the day was like.

I met Lester at the Temple at 8:00 in the morning and we went in about 8:00 and got out about 4:30 in the afternoon.

(Karen) Did you get your endowments and then you were married the same day?

Everything, all at once.

(Karen) And then what happened after you got out of the Temple at 4:30?

We caught the bus and went up to Althea's, who lived in Salt Lake, and she had a dinner for us. Grandpa Hubbard was there and Aunt Julia and my father and Althea's husband, Stewart, and then Lester and I. Althea was Lester's only sister.

(Karen) Where did she live?

For years she lived down here on 12th East and 5th South over here just off 5th South on the west side of the street. Althea's been dead for about 10 years or more.

(Karen) Where did you spend your wedding night?

Down at the Newhouse Hotel. That is the reason why it was sad for me to see it torn down.

(Karen) And then did you guys go on a honeymoon?

No, dear darling, we didn't go on a honeymoon. We were so doggone poor that we didn't even think about honeymoons or anything else. We stayed down here in Salt Lake, a couple, three days and I don't know what we did. We just fooled around and I don't know if we went up to school or what. Lester was coming to school in late September.

(Karen) Where was your first house?

We lived in the Richmond Apartments that was across from the Lafayette School where the big office building of the Church is now -- on that corner; and it was 4 or 5 stories, like an apartment hotel -- just a one-room apartment. There was a small kitchenette -- like a kitchen and then this living room with pull-out bed in the only big closet, it pulled out of the closet.

(Karen) How much was it?

About \$50 a month. That was way too much for us to be paying at that time, because money was at rock bottom.

(Karen) That was during the depression though, wasn't it?

Yes, just after the First World War, well 1919, but you see they had the first depression in 1921 when many banks went broke.

(Karen) So you got married September 24, 1919. What happened after you and Grandpa got married? He was in school, right?

Yes, he went to school and I stayed there. I wanted to get a job and he wouldn't let me get a job. He said he didn't marry me to have people say that I married him for me to support him in school. He wouldn't think of it. That was the way people felt at that time. Women didn't work, and about the only kind of jobs women could do would be housework, restaurant work, or teaching school. I could've substituted teaching down here at the time, but he wouldn't think of it. I had signed a contract to teach up in Box Elder County, and they were going to have me be a principal and put me way out in the county, so I turned my contract in because neither of us wanted to be separated.

(Karen) What school was he going to?

The University, and then he went back in September and finished his required work in March -- that was after being in the war two years. And when he was overseas he went to the University of Sorbonne -- applied through the Army because he was in the draft army, and he transferred from the draft army as a replacement in the regular army. After the armistice was signed, he was in the army and was sent into Germany, and so he could've been kept for a whole year but his father wrote that he needed him on the farm and Lester applied for a release from the army because the war was over, and he also applied for school at the

University of Paris and he got the assignment. He went to Paris and he was in Sorbonne University, Paris from then until June and this was about the first of February.

(Karen) What degree did he get?

He got a superior certificate in French, and then he came home in about the end of July, 1919 and then we were married the 24th of September that year, and we came down to the school right after we were married. I don't remember even going back home. I think we just found this apartment and got our things and came back down to go to school. He finished school around the 15th of March that year -- that was when winter quarter was over -- he received a B.A. degree in English, then we went back to Willard where Lester's father let Lester run a certain area farm that he owned. Lester planted potatoes and beets and worked like a beaver that summer. Then he applied for a teaching job. We had a chance to go to Spanish Fork, but he had really considered signing the contract -- I'm not sure that he didn't sign the contract, and then cancelled it and turned it in, because he got this offer to go to Idaho for about \$300 more a year. That was really big money at that time, because things were so low. We went up to Montpelier, Idaho where he was head of the English department in the Montpelier High School; it was just a small high school. Aunt Gene was born there that first year, on February 1, 1921.

(Karen) And how long did you live in Montpelier?

Well, we were there for 2 winters, that was all, and then we left and went to Ogden. And then Lester taught in Ogden High School; we stayed there 2 years, and your mother was born the first year we were in Ogden, on December 28, 1922. We left Ogden the first part of June in 1924 and went to Chicago, and so I took your mother, Neva, who was only about a year and a half old at that time and Aunt Gene who was three.

(Karen) What do you remember most about Chicago? Was that where the fire was?

Yes, that was when we were in a fire. Well, the alarms went and you could see the sparks way above the building just around the corner from where we lived. Many of the buildings were frame, you see, or part frame and brick, and some of them were stone, but very few. There were a great many frame buildings and it was out on the south side right near the University of Chicago. At that time that part of Chicago was all white and I guess the black or the colored area extended only as far as 52nd Street, but where we lived it was all white. The fire was just around the corner in an apartment building and we could see big fans or big pieces of boards flying through the air when we stood there by the window and watched the firemen who kept water pouring on the building we were in. There were 3 floors in the building we were in, but we were on the first floor. The water just poured on the windows, and they kept it that way, and the firemen came in and told us to pile everything

that we could into a sheet on the floor, so they could move us out in a hurry, and we'd still have something to use with these little children.

(Karen) When did you climb across the ironing board? Didn't you have to climb across the ironing board?

Oh, no. It was a very narrow street -- almost like an alleyway. People escaped from the Blackstone Apartments across an ironing board. That was half a block away.

(Karen) What else do you remember about Chicago?

Oh, nothing, just about how we lived. We had 2 little rooms. The first year during the summer it was very difficult to find a place to live because we had children and nobody wanted to take them into their buildings if the apartments were nice. I wanted to have a private bathroom -- there were places available, real tenements where you shared a bath with about a dozen people; but we tried to find something that would be a little bit private; so Lester found this place with the bathroom in the basement. We had a trap door in the kitchen that we pulled up with a wing to lift the door. The stairs went down so that we had to go down backwards to the basement. There was the tub and the toilet down there, and so every time I had to take the children, we had to go down the trap door. But we lived there that summer. Then the corner apartment on the same floor was available so we moved into that. That apartment was 2 rooms with a big folding door between the 2 rooms; there was 1 closet and in

the one end of the one room was a sink and a very small stove. I used to bathe the children in the sink because our private bathroom was clear down a long hall, but anyway that was part of our apartment and we paid \$90 a month for it.

(Karen) Where did you go after Chicago?

We came to Salt Lake in the Fall of 1925 in September.

(Karen) And where'd you move then?

Over here on M Street, just off South Temple about half a block. We lived there 1 year before Lester went to Chicago to school the next summer again in June.

(Karen) Did you go with him?

No, I stayed at M Street and then the people that owned the house had the house cleaned and they dug the plaster off the large kitchen wall and repaired the plaster which was falling off in places and fixed it all up. After I finished cleaning that up, just when Lester came home, the people told us that we'd have to move because they were going to occupy the house themselves to be here and work in the Temple. So then we lived in the corner house, a duplex on Douglas and 6th South and we lived there for, I guess, about a year, then we moved over on Fenway Avenue -- that's straight west of the Douglas School. That was a new street that had just opened and all those houses were new. We rented a house that was on the south side, the second house from the top on the south side of that street. Our good friends Dr. and Mrs. Dewey Clark and their two boys lived east of us. We

lived there 2 years and then we left and went to Chicago again. That was in 1929 in June. Probably our hardest childhood years with Neva and Gene were the years on Fenway Avenue. During those years the girls were sick constantly and always consecutively, so the quarantine signs were seldom off from our house. Lester lived at Grandma Hubbard's and often she came and lived with me to help with the sick children. Neva was always frail and sickly as a young child; she had rheumatic fever twice, once in the fourth grade and then a reoccurrence when we rented on Douglas Street before building our house. The girls had chicken pox, mumps and German measles alternately, and Neva had small pox and Gene had scarlet fever. These were terrible diseases then before antibiotics. We had to bind down Neva's arms so she wouldn't scratch and be terribly scarred. Grandmother and I kept her piled with cocoa butter night and day so she escaped without scarring. Apparently she caught small pox from the baby sitter ~~Lavin~~ Lavin Mecham, a girl in her early twenties who lived across the street. I remember asking her one night what the few blisters were on her forehead, but she said she was fine and not sick. The doctor hadn't vaccinated Neva because she had been so sickly that winter and needed a few weeks to gain strength. We never knew where Gene was exposed to Scarlet Fever. She had it very severely with liver complications, which made her turn copper-colored instead of red, and she was completely paralyzed for three days. The serum they gave Neva to protect her made her

swell up so she was almost as sick as Gene was. Anyway, we made it through these sieges. The girls played together and had a great deal of fun as they recuperated. Daddy visited with us on the phone or by talking to us through the window; it was lonesome, but the little visiting helped when we were so worried about the children.

(Karen) Tell me about when you lived in Chicago the second time.

We rented an apartment from the University of Chicago -- they had apartments that they rented to their graduated students. So Dr. and Mrs. Weight came back to Chicago to medical school; they had been our friends here in Salt Lake before we went to Chicago, and they asked us to let them live with us and I said no. But anyway, they came back there to school and came to our house and just stayed. They stayed all summer. That summer the ruling was made in the English Department that students had to publish their own thesis when they finished their degrees. Lester was to the point that he had done a lot of work, so that he wouldn't have to do too much more besides writing his thesis, but we didn't have the money to publish. Then he got this opportunity to teach a course at the University of California; so he transferred and we left Chicago in August and we went out to Berkeley and stayed there 3 and a half years.

(Karen) What do you remember about California?

When we arrived, I thought we were going to have one of the worst thunderstorms that anybody had ever had, because I hadn't been in Berkeley before, or in northern California, and it was just as cloudy and cruel as it could be, but it was just fog; this was late August. We didn't know the fog just came in every afternoon at about 4:00 and just settled over the whole place until it was as cold and dark as winter. You could hardly see through it part of the time and this went on for about 2 or 3 weeks. Right after we got in Berkeley I became ill and I went to the hospital; the doctors were going to operate on me, and I said no. If I was going to be operated on, I was going back home to Salt Lake and so we decided not to. It was a gall bladder attack. I dieted and I got along all right. We signed up for a half of a duplex that wasn't bad looking; it was kind of a cute little rustic place. It was one large room and it had a fireplace in it and the woodwork was dark. An open stairway came down into this living room and then just east of the living room was the kitchen, quite a large kitchen with a table and, of course, we had a funny kind of stove and sink and some open shelves. That's all that was in it, but this open stairway led up to the bathroom and a very large bedroom that covered one half of the top floor of the house. Behind the bedroom was an outside screened porch that could be used only part of the year because it was just too cold and too damp. The wind would swoop down this stairway and right down the chimney and up the stairway --

it was really the coldest house. We used to sit at night and burn wood in the fireplace and put a blanket in a big chair -- we had two wicker chairs -- and sit in our bathrobes and my big quilt to do our studying. I signed a lease for this place for a year because I thought the rent was so cheap and everything was so nice -- I didn't know you had to be on the south side of the house in Berkeley -- either that or have steam heat. Then at the end of the year we moved to a steam heated apartment. That was right in the heart of the depression so the whole building was almost empty except for 3 or 4 apartments in 112 room building we moved into. In this apartment the heat was on in the morning and would run for about an hour and then off until 5:00 in the afternoon when it was heated a little bit again for the evening when people were supposed to be home. And other times you just lived without heat. And it was cold. But we used to have fun.

(Karen) What did you used to do?

We went to the library about twice a week, we walked to the library at night -- the 2 children and I, and Lester would sit and study. Then we'd come home and read, read, read or play games or sewed or crocheted. The children made paper dolls. We'd go to the park sometimes and I'd take some sandwiches and sometimes we'd come home and eat our sandwiches afterwards but we used to go over to the park and just play with tennis balls and the tennis rackets. That was our chief sport. Several times during the year we went on the ferry to San Francisco to the

Golden Gate Park and Fleishakker Park and that was fun. We used to take all day. About the last two years we were in Berkeley Julia and Thelma Anderson, who had been friends since I was a young girl, used to visit. They lived in Oakland near Lake Merritt. Because Thelma had a car, we went on two or three trips around the Bay area with her (Carmel and Mount Diablo). It was really fun. Thelma worked for Thompson Advertising Company. She supported her mother and her two brothers, David and Wilford. We had some very, very pleasant times with them. So it was lots of fun. We came home in the fall of 1932. Lester's contract began at the end of July or beginning of August. When we came home, he was just so worn out that he said, "I just can't work any longer." Then the bank where we borrowed \$1,000 to tie us over that summer went broke and no money was available. We had \$11 and not another penny, and this happened the day before Lester took his big final examination. I was helping him with reading note cards and he was answering the questions. We were working that way together the day we got word that the bank had gone broke. At first you almost felt panicky and then I said, "Well, we can't let this ruin our lives, we've got to get through with the exam; and after we get through this exam, then we'll start to figure out where we can get our next meals from." So we sat down and finished the studying and then he took his exam the next morning. After the exam was over and he had passed with flying colors, then we started to figure out how we were going to

finance our way. So then one of the professors who had been supervising his writing his thesis loaned him \$50. That saved us right at that moment. We borrowed on our life insurance to pay the premiums and it was really something. We stayed on in Berkeley and then came home in about the end of July or first of August, about in August it was, because it was just before school began. And then we rented a house down here on the corner of 11th East and 4th South on the west side of the street. And we lived there from September until the following April. And the house over at 424 Douglas stood open all winter and I tried to rent this house from the owner before I moved down on 11th East but she wouldn't budge a nickel on the rent so finally I rented the other one, a new six-room house with hard-wood floors, and it was nice. The the owner of the vacant 424 Douglas kept calling me and lowering the rent. When she came down from \$50 to \$27.50, I thought that was an awful lot of money to be saving so we moved on Douglas Street in April. Before we had been in the house many months, she started to raise the rent and she kept raising the rent on us. There had been a fire in the building in this house and they hadn't repaired the flooring underneath -- they hadn't braced it and fixed it right at all -- so in the middle of a night our bed went down, the legs bounced down and went right through the floor and broke the half-burned brace and everything underneath. We finally got the broken floor fixed but we never did get the floor painted. We bought a rug to cover the entire

floor. One thing after another occurred: the furnace had to be cleaned or repaired; the gas company turned the furnace off, because the owner had vented the gas water heater to the same flue as the furnace. So then we moved out in June 1932 and we moved out here in a little place on Konita Court and stayed just over the summer months while Lester started building this house.

(Karen) When did you move into here?

In 1936 in September, and it wasn't finished when we moved in - they had to finish the floors and finish the painting and papering and a lot of things -- it took about a month or two before it was really liveable around here. And I'm still here.

(Karen) How did you feel when your first daughter got married -- when Gene got married?

I was just lost, just completely lost, and I think Neva was too. You know they've been close sisters and shared a room together and your mother, Neva, depended on Gene really too much, maybe, in a way. When she was in her early teens, I used to take her to town to buy dresses and things and then I'd get downtown and Neva would say, "Well, I'll go home and ask Gene." Then the next day we'd go back and get the same thing, yet Gene used to buy some of the most outlandish things when she chose her things. As they grew older, their interests and personalities differed, but we were always a close family.

(Karen) Tell about what Grandpa did to Aunt Gene about clothes.

It was one Sunday morning, she used to leave her things just all over and never hang them up, and so he hung her underwear up on the chandelier in the dining room. When Gene and a boyfriend came home there were her things hanging from the chandelier. She picked up her room much better after that.

(Karen) Well, tell me about after Mom was married and Aunt Gene were married. What did you and Grandpa do?

Well, we got along after they were married. We were lonely. We could hardly eat for a few days, but Lester used to come home for lunch then a lot of the time, and I always aimed to be here except maybe once or twice a month when I went to a club that lasted until about 5 in the afternoon, but I was always home in the evening when Lester came and I always had dinner ready. I just figured that was my part, so we always had dinner at a certain time, and it would hardly vary a half hour. And then at night we studied; but Lester and I used to belong to groups and we went out to lectures and concerts and a lot of things like that and used to go on little trips with people, other couples that were in the same class that we were -- they were alone too. Every Sunday Lester would say, "All right, get yourself going and we'll go someplace," and so we'd leave. We'd just go out and ride someplace, maybe eat dinner away. And then we usually came home about 4:30 or 5:00 in later years because the children used to come over. Gene used to almost always come home on Sunday afternoon and bring her little children, and for years your

mother did too. Sometimes we used to go out to your house too. But we were lonely, but you have to learn to adjust, and we had a long time adjusting because we were together about 40 years after they were married. It was a long time.

(Karen) Tell me how you and Grandpa collected the songs for his book?

Lester was always interested in folklore because it was the background for all early English literature. But the thing that really sparked his interest was his mother's singing. Grandma Hubbard had a very sharp mind and quick wit, so her memory was amazing, even when she became very old. She died in 1948 before you were born, Karen. She sang a great deal at home and entertained herself with singing when she was alone. She was very pleased to sing and have Lester record her songs. She sang the majority of the songs in his book for him and she was past eighty years old.

(Karen) What kinds of songs did she sing?

All kinds, mostly about pioneer life. Some of the songs were very devout and others were not pro-Mormon a bit. Some were in ballad style and some showed the early pioneers had senses of humor, even though their lives were often very hard.

(Karen) How long did he collect these songs?

Oh, a long time, even before 1950 he had started. Many students who knew he was interested in old songs brought him copies of songs their grandparents and great grandparents had

taught them. Then during at least two summers we traveled all over the state, visiting people in little towns. Some of them told us about others who sang, and we hunted for them and made friends. Often they were reluctant to sing at first; but as soon as they heard themselves recorded, they seemed so pleased and would sing and sing.

(Karen) What towns do you remember?

Most of the people were in the little towns although we collected quite a few songs in Ogden and Cedar City, Richfield and Moab. But we also visited Parawan, Kanab, Kanosh and Orderville. We made trips to Blanding, Monticello, Hurricane, Milford and Vernal and into Idaho to see some people who had originally lived in Willard and into Nevada, too.

You might be interested in knowing that we visited President Lee's second wife Frieda several times. I think her name was Frieda Jensen then; she was a supervisor in Granite School District at that time, and she took care of an old man, her stepfather, I think. He sang many songs for us.

(Karen) Who was the oldest person you recorded?

A Mr. Jeppson, from Hurricane, he was 93 years old and remembered lots of songs. He is on the Centennial record that was made from the recorder discs before Grandpa's death.

(Karen) Did Grandpa lecture about the songs he had collected during the Centennial years?

Oh, yes. For several years, 1947, 1948 and 1949, he represented the University by giving Centennial lectures all around the state, as well as giving many in Salt Lake City for different groups. He spoke on Utah writers and their literature, besides the talks on his folklore collection. I usually went with him.

His book was completed and published in 1960, just before he had his first major heart attack on March 1st. He was able to go back to teaching only for one month that year, and then he retired in July. Did you know Gene drew the illustrations for the book?

It's too bad his health was so bad for the next year because he couldn't speak on his book to promote it at all, even though he was invited to give lectures many times. He had back surgery the following year too; it had given him a great deal of trouble for a long time; I think lifting that heavy recorder into and out of the car so much aggravated the back problem a great deal.

Our lives had to change a lot after Grandpa's health was so limited. But he was willing to adapt and lived within the limitations of his heart condition and restricted walking would allow. Lester and I used to go out walking every day. As Lester's heart condition worsened, our walks shortened down to just the length of the block, and later, just to the corner and back. We shared lots of good years together. He lived 16 years after his first serious heart attack.

(Karen) What are some of your favorite things that you remember about your grandchildren?

Oh, I just adored all of them. They were always so cute.

(Karen) Is there any of them that you remember that was funny or really cute?

The children used to come over here and play and then they built houses and I let them have rugs and all the old quilts and blankets. They took them out here on the lawn and they'd have picnics and punch or water or anything that there was around, and you'd play and roll out there. And then we used to put out the quilts at night on that slope, but we'd sit out there and watch the stars and the moon and talked and we'd just lie out there until about 10:00 at night and then we'd all come in and you slept on the floor or any place that we could in the summertime. We also used to have fun playing "Fish" with the cards. The grandchildren also used to come and spend the night. They always wanted spaghetti for dinner and pancakes for breakfast. At the time your father was interning or something at the hospital in Louisville, Kentucky at the time when Annette was born and so Neva came back here, and they stayed here until Annette was several months old when they moved down to a lady's place down on Driggs Avenue between 6th and 7th East. And they lived there just over the winter, and then they came back here and stayed with us again until they could find another place. It

was right after the war and after the depression and things were pretty hard, so then your family stayed here with us again until your father was finished with his internship and they found a place over on 8th South. That was where Leslie was born. And then your folks moved out on 18th East.

(Karen) Remember, you told Mom one time when you were a little girl or something and you woke up and you saw your mother.

I don't know whether it was a dream or what, but I had been very unhappy and been crying and I used to go up and sit in the raspberry patch because we had these thick rows of raspberries running through the whole lot where Grandmother lived, I don't know what really had happened; you know there were so many little things after they go. They don't seem great to you, but anyway I had gone to bed and I slept with my grandmother always in the wintertime or when it was cool weather; and when it wasn't, she made a little bed on the floor right under the window there so that we'd both keep cool. But anyway, I'd been unhappy that day and I hadn't been sleeping very well and this was in the morning in the twilight like -- you know, just getting light and Mother came walking in the bedroom and I don't know whether I was asleep, half-asleep or whether I dreamed it or anything, but she came over and went to sit down on a chair near the bed beside me and I just reached out to touch her and she disappeared. But ~~to~~ it's still vivid to me.

(Karen) Do you remember any other really special experiences that you had?

I don't know. I have just always lived life as it -- taken things as they come. I don't think of anything being special or unspecial or anything. I've gone through very trying times as everybody has in their life, but I will say this for Grandpa Hubbard -- your grandfather Lester -- he always stood up for me, always. He was really a dear that way. We had our little problems but we worked them out together. The periods when Grandmother Hubbard (Sally) was so infirm and had to have constant care and when Althea was so very jealous and ugly, were difficult ones for us to live through, but Lester and I met our problems and solved them together. The feature of my life that is most outstanding is "loving." We loved each other from the first to our last day together and will continue to do so in the next life. We loved your mother, Neva, and Aunt Gene and all of you grandchildren. You helped sustain us and provide purpose and excitement as we got older and were restricted in what we could do. Now the darling great grandchildren provide great joy in my life. We want you to remember always how much we love each of you. You are all very dear.