

Marie's Sketch of her childhood

This photo is mom at the age of about two and a half, standing in the farm yard of the family place in Naples. I discovered from Harold that mom was in fact born while the family lived in Naples, which is the same as Vernal for practical purposes, not in Rainbow so my memory is wrong that the family lived in Rainbow when she was born. Her own defective memory helped me there. The outbuildings in the back ground are not much different than they were when I lived in the garage that would have been about where mom is standing in this photo.

Following is Mom's brief history that she wrote in Dec. 1959. I found it in July 2002 when I was rummaging through dad's papers, hand-written in pen and pencil on pages torn from a small spiral notebook. It was apparently a class assignment for a genealogy class she and dad took together then. When I transcribed it, I left question marks where she put them.



"I am writing this at the age of 36 and therefore mention the things that must have impressed me as a child as they have remained in my memory.

Moved to Rainbow Utah, a gilsonite mining camp, at age of 2. My first memory is of moving from a four family apartment house across the street to a single family house. I felt I played a large part in the moving. I carried the huge kettle across to the new house! I was 4 years old - oh, how important small things are to a child.

Rainbow was a small mining town about ?? Families lived there. The only water we had to use was hauled by train and stored in a large tank. Everyone had to carry their water from a hydrant in the center of town.

Father was the mail carrier. He went with horses and wagon four miles each way to Watson to get the mail. In late summer we would go 75 miles to Vernal, Utah for dental care. At that time they didn't give blood transfusions. This was the big event of the year. The first time I remember making this trip I was six years old. I had to have a tooth pulled. It was done in the morning and late in the evening it was still bleeding. The dentist was called and came to the house and packed it to stop the bleeding. Mother and Karl stayed up until midnight to see how I was. It had stopped so mother came to bed with me that she might know if there was a change. In the morning when she woke up, it was bleeding again and had been for some time. I was very weak and they called Dr. Christy. I was kept in bed for what seemed a long time.

The first day I was let go outside, Mother carried me out and set me on a log to watch the boys, Delroy, Grant, Leo and Ray herd the cows. I fell off the log and broke my left arm. Uncle Abe (Albert G. Goodrich) and mother took me to the doctor to have it set. My arm was still in the sling, but out of the cast when I came down with the mumps.

A few weeks later we went back to Rainbow to start school. It was a one-room school, with one teacher. 9 pupils in the first to eighth grade. I was the only one in the first grade and went for three days and became ill again so the doctor had me stay in Vernal with Bessie, Pearl, able and Leo. Pearl, Mable and Leo were going to school and Bessie was taking care of me. The doctor let me go back home to the family in January.

On June 22, 1931, I remember going to Vernal, Uintah Stake, Utah and being baptized by Charles E. Oaks.

The next fall I started school in the same little one-room school and completed the first grade. The next year the school was closed down as there were not enough students to make it worth while. Mother taught Grant and me at



Figure 2 ~5 years

home.

Due to the school problem and work being very slow, we moved back to Vernal and lived in Naples Ward. This was the first time I had an opportunity to attend Primary and Sunday School.

I remember going to Vernal First Ward for Stake primary graduation exercises. We all said the 13 Articles of Faith and I remember how difficult it was to learn them.

After three years of Beehive work I graduated as an Honor Bee.

I enjoyed school. As I recall, I did not miss a day until the 5th Grade.

A little before Thanksgiving I started having fainting spells and was taken out of school for the rest of the year. I was much relieved when I was promoted with my friends.

My First Grade teacher was Clara Perry, Second Grade was mother at home, Third Grade was Media Walker, Fourth was Clara Pope (I think this teacher made the greatest impression on me of any I ever had. She was my Sunday School Teacher then and the following year also.), Fifth Grade was Ruth Goodrich. She gave us art lessons that I enjoyed. I was good at it she said.

Sixth Grade Jacob Lybbert was the teacher. He spent much of the time talking about geology as that was his hobby. It was of interest to me as when we lived in Rainbow Dr. Earl Doubles (get his title) had been collection fossils and let all of the young folks help him."



Figure 3 ~11 years - in front

Mom's Best Friends

The Goodrich family lived all over Naples like the Merrells did so they knew each other well. Mom's best friends were both Goodrich girls. Her best friends were Grace the sister who was younger than she, and Lenore was her same age. I asked what they did when they played. She said they would go pick fruit and take it to the lawn to eat, or jump rope or any thing they thought to do. Sometimes when their parents approved Lenore and mom would be allowed to borrow bicycles so they could go "up town", a big event for farm girls. She said they'd borrow their brothers' bicycles and drive in alone but they took back streets to avoid "all the traffic." They didn't take any money so just went to have something to do and to look around. She had another Goodrich girl friend, Venna who "was the bishop's daughter" so sometimes there were three Goodrich girls with mom.