

# I REMEMBER LILLIE

I REMEMBER LILLIE by Ilah Eames Carpenter

I am the youngest of four brothers and three sisters. Memories of my brothers and sisters are very precious. David the eldest, Sadie, was 20 years older than me and Lillie, was 18 years older. Lillie's birthday was very close to mine. She was 18 on June 6 and I was born two days later on the June 8. She told me many times that she had to stay home from church that day because mother had a little sister and I don't think it made her too happy. My next sister May, was 16 years older than me and then three brothers Ariel, Nathaniel and Leland were born and seven years later I came along. My memories of family are as the little sister and of my brothers and sisters and how they played with me and made over me and they were very precious memories. Because this is to be about Lillie, I will just talk about the girls this morning. My three sisters were very close. I can remember my three sisters when they got together years later sitting on the couch and reminiscing about life on the farm. They had so much fun that I wondered why I came along after, my sisters were born, growing up with those three boys I became such a tomboy.

Our home was two and a half miles north of Preston. We nearly came to live in Rexburg. I had an Aunt Kate Greaves and she and her husband decided to make her home in Preston. When mother and daddy got to Preston, they liked it and built their home right across the street the street from Aunt Kate's home This was two and a half miles outside of Preston. This is where we all grew up and thank goodness the home is still in the family, operated by one of Ariel's sons.

I have no memories of Sadie being at home at all. She married Arthur Tibbets but they had a home in town and I have wonderful memories of spending time, not only at their home in Preston but at their home in Driggs where they moved later on and at their home in Pocatello, Idaho. May married Ray Gledhill. He was a doctor and they moved to Richfield, Utah. I have wonderful memories of spending time in Richfield with my sister May.

Well, the first memories I have of Lillie, I suppose I was about three years old. You know out on the farm, the roads were not too good and in the winter it was muddy and cold and we had to ride in the buggy or in the sleigh. Dad was always anxious for us to have a good education and they felt sorry that they had to live so far out of town. So Lillie was working at the Marrom store in Preston. The Marrom store was one of the really fine stores in Preston. May was going to school so instead of traveling back and forth, she and Lillie rented a little apartment in town. Now this was about two blocks north of town, it used to be Henderson's home. Upstairs the girls rented a couple of rooms and there was a balcony. My first memories of Lillie and May would be when daddy and mother would come in the buggy or in the sleigh and we would come down to bring the girls goodies from the farm. They were usually waiting out on the balcony and I thought that balcony was about the most wonderful thing you could imagine. I remember scrambling up the stairs and we were so glad to see each other and then Lillie would take me down to Marrom's store. I thought that was the most wonderful place, I was fascinated watching her measure off material for the customers at the store.

Each fourth of July, we used to have a big celebration in Preston. There was red white and blue bunting on all the buggies and stores. They had a big program in the Opera House and each store would have a float and they would elect a goddess of liberty. One year my sister Lillie was elected to be the Goddess of Liberty representing Marrom's store. This was about the most important thing that happened in my life as a little girl. I remember there was a hayrack and it was all decorated with bunting and pulled by horses and Lillie and her two attendants sitting on this hayrack and she was all dressed up with a crown on her head and a staff in her hand and a beautiful dress and they paraded down main street and then they went to the opera house and had the program. I was the proudest little sister that you could ever imagine and I dreamed of someday being a goddess of liberty, but that never happened to me.

The next memory I have of Lillie was when she got married. Mother had a reception out on the farm for friends and for the Benson family. I loved Frank, he made a lot out of his little sister. The Bensons were just extra special. Mother Benson was such a pretty woman and the Benson girls were just out of this world, Jenny and Kinney especially. I remember the table in the dining room and of course it was loaded with goodies and in the parlor where all these little tables with all these beautiful gifts on and the gifts that appealed to me most were the beautiful dishes. Old fashioned dishes were really beautiful and Lillie had many of them. I hope her daughters have kept them because they were beautiful. I remember wandering around and getting acquainted with the Bensons and seeing all the beautiful things that were brought to Lillie and Frank that night.

As I remember, Frank and Lillie lived in Whitney after they were married. I can't remember exactly where but I went to visit them quite often and we always went to grandfather and grandmother's farm. I loved that old home. It was just intriguing and the flowers were beautiful. I came to love grandmother Benson, she was a darling. Then I think they moved somewhere in Whitney, I can't just remember where, but they were living there when Gladys was born at our home and of course if there was a baby born on our street, mother and Aunt Kate always came. That night I had to sleep upstairs with Leland while Gladys was coming to town and he would make me run down the stairs every-once-in-a-while and look through the transom to see if the baby had arrived. I wasn't too excited about this baby, she was really making my sister sick and I wasn't very happy about that.

I remember when they lived up the street about two blocks on the old farm and that's where the twins were born. That was about the biggest event that ever happened. I never knew of anyone in our family having twins before. When Lillie had twins, Carmen and Harold, that was just something else again. As time went on and I became a little older, I started to be a babysitter. Lillie and Frank moved down to what they called the Sand Crest farm. That was just a great little farm. I have wonderful memories of being there. The wonderful things they raised especially Frank's watermelons. They were the biggest and the best anywhere. They were grown in a sandy area that had plenty of sunshine. The railroad tracks ran not far from them and I remember the silo's Frank built to store the cattle in. I used to go down and help with the children so I would have children to grow up with. Mother always seemed to be sorry that I did not have children to grow up with. Lillie had me help her which gave me a feeling of being their child. I got to go to the Sand Crest farm real often and I loved it. I remember Gladys telling that I used to get frightened sometimes because the farm was close to the railroad tracks and I was afraid of

tramps. I would wake her up and tell her stories to keep her awake so I wouldn't be frightened. Every Sunday at our home on the farm used to be family day. After church everyone would bring something out to the farm, Frank always brought his great big watermelons. It was just such fun having everyone come home on Sunday. I always looked forward to Sunday.

I remember Lillie being on the board of the Mutual and I was so proud of her, that sounded just something important to be on that board with those lovely women. Many, many times I had the privilege of going to church with her. She had to take Gladys and I came along to babysit. I can see these women sitting around the table in their white blouses with the high collars and the long sleeves and lace and their pretty skirts. I thought they were just about the prettiest woman I had ever seen. Lillie always took her responsibilities very seriously. Whatever she did, she always did it with her whole heart.

She was on the board for many, many years. When June conference came around, I was a lucky gal because I came with her so that I could babysit. My memories of coming to June conference with Lillie were just out of this world. Sometimes we stayed at a hotel, the little hotel just south of the Tribune Building. Of course we always brought food from home. We came on the train at Preston when the train stopped at Brigham, there were always people out selling food there. Strawberries at strawberry time and peaches. Once or twice we stayed at one of Frank's sisters. I think her name was Elise Alder if I remember right. I remember playing out on the front lawn and the perfume of those June roses I will never forget.

Aunt Elise had a cafeteria downtown and that was a fun place. We didn't get to go there for every meal but once Lillie took me to Aunt Elise's cafeteria. I had this big bowl of grape-nuts with sugar and cream on it. I started eating them and the more I ate, the fuller I got. Our family was always taught to clean up their plates and Lillie kept saying, well we can't go, we can't go until you finish your grape-nuts and I can remember I ate and ate grape-nuts until I could hardly stand it. I don't think I had any for many, many years after that.

We used to sometimes go down to Richfield. May was living there then. We would get on the train and go down to Richfield and have a visit with May. Lillie and Frank spent most of their vacations at Bear Lake. They would get in their big white top buggy and pitch a tent and we would stay there for several days and I remember times they took me with them and that was real fun. One night I remember a terrible thunder storm, Frank and Lillie got us all in one tent with their arms around us. When the thunder storm was all over we all went to sleep.

In 1918 when the war was on and my brother Nathaniel was called into the army, the whole family decided they would go up to Yellowstone and have a reunion before Nathaniel had to leave for the service. Lillie was pregnant, I think with Zenda. There were five of sisters-in-law who were pregnant and were all going on this trip, Ariel and Edna and family, Edna was expecting Vita and May and Ray came from Richfield and then an aunt and uncle, Uncle Will Greaves, went with us and then of course Nathaniel, Mother and Dad and Me. When we got to Driggs, we stayed there until Sadie and Arthur met us and then we went on to Yellowstone. Anyway, the thing I remember about this trip was that Lillie was such fun, even though she was pregnant, she was the life of the party. We'd camp, we put the cars around in a circle and put the beds inside and built a big bonfire to keep the bears away which didn't always work, two or three

times the bears came in hunting food. Lillie was the one in my memory that seemed to have the most fun and did the most fun things. When we came back to Driggs going over that big mountain between Driggs and Yellowstone, the cars stalled and we had to have each one pulled up over the mountain. It was really just a great trip.

Frank had this little Ford that didn't have any sides on it and they used to put diapers to dry on the side of the car as they drove along. Frank kept laughing about his tires that had baloney in them. Our tires had to be pumped up but Frank had one up on us, he had these tires with baloney in them so they never had to be blown up. They were just hard rubber of course. That was really a delightful trip for every body and I think there were several snap shots of that trip.

Time went on and Lillie had her troubles -- real, real tragedies, losing her husband and her sons, but you know Lillie was always straight and held her head high and she always had her sense of humor. I was closer to Lillie for many, many years because Sadie and May lived so far away. If I had problems, I went and talked them over with Lillie. We spent many, many hours way into the night talking and she always helped me with the little problems I needed help with. She used to love to dress up. She loved pretty clothes. We would go shopping for hats together, we loved shopping for hats. She always had such a good outlook regardless of the problems that she had. She had great faith, she had great pride in her family. She was so proud of her girls and loved them dearly. I don't think I have known anyone who had such a capacity or love as Lillie did. Lillie loved everyone and let us know it. She didn't keep it a secret, she told us that she loved us.

Lillie had a green thumb too. I can never remember being in her home when there were not plants everywhere. Lillie had financial problems so she sewed for her children. When used clothes were given to her, she dyed and remodeled them. She did everything she could think of to see her children were given an education and brought up in the church the way that she knew how to do it. So these are my memories of Lillie a sweet, proud, straight, lovely person that would be with friends, family and neighbors any time that they needed help.