

5 August 1944

Dear Betty,

I may have to finish this with a pencil but I can type a little faster than I can write and I have a few minutes spare time so here goes.

There is so much to tell and it has been told so many times that it is getting a little shop worn. Of course I enjoy telling it for it was the most perfect 3 weeks I have ever known. As I told so many others, I will give you some of the highlights. Any questions you may have can come later. Don't mind asking anything you have on your mind.

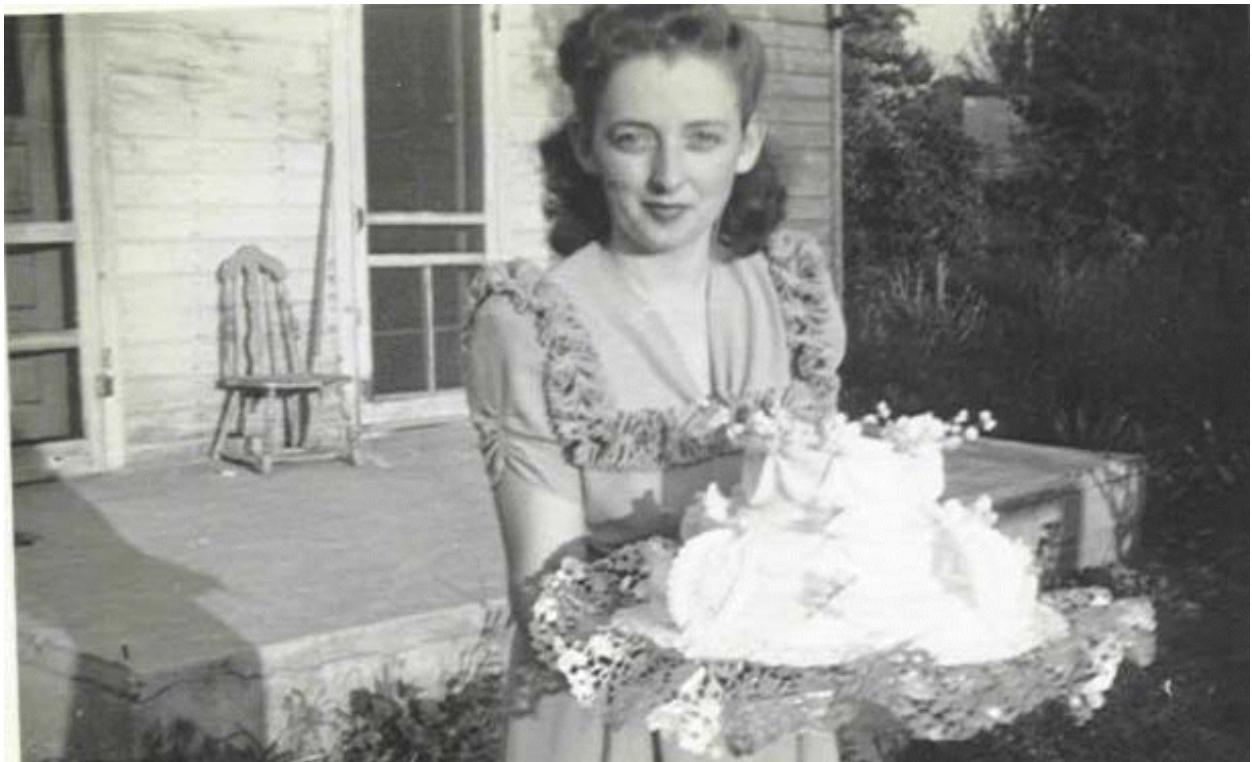
The trip out wasn't so nice for trains were awfully crowded and I didn't have time to get reservations but I was lucky enough to get a seat all the way. From Chicago to Salt Lake they were wonderful seats too. I arrived on Saturday. Theron met me, and the first day was just spent meeting his family and getting cleaned up etc. Then Sunday things got started and things kept happening the whole time I was there. The amazing thing about it was that we only sat back and took things as they came. We made no plans for hardly anything yet it turned out to be one of the most memorable times either of us had ever experienced. Our final decision was made very much as the first step I told you of. After Sunday School we had a great long talk with Theron's Bishop and he gave us some wonderful advice. Nothing to solve the immediate question except to suggest at the end of the interview, that we fast all one day and perhaps that would help solve matters. Sunday afternoon I met people and we went to 2 evening meetings at different wards. Elder Teerlink was giving his homecoming at one and another companion was playing the organ at another and Theron wanted to hear them. At one meeting we saw Chloe Hodge. Afterwards we went to a fireside and then to a returned missionary meeting. So we did pretty good for ourselves huh? But it was fun and I met so many people.

On Monday we took the Bishop's advice and fasted the entire day. We played some tennis, picked some cherries, went over to his brother's house. He's in the Air Corp but he has his wife and 3 children at home and Margaret, his wife is wonderful. She was a real sister from the beginning. In the afternoon I called up Lois and later on we went over to her house for a sorta long visit. It was swell seeing her. Then that night we had family prayer with the family. Theron's mother and father were wonderful to me too. Particularly about this. After they had gone to bed we made our decision. We talked til late and slept late the next day. This was a mistake cause after we told his parents we decided to be married the next day and there was so much to do. Margaret and Mother Smith sorta took charge tho' and we nothing to worry about. Of course we had to run around getting our blood test, examination, Temple recommend, license, have announcements printed, making telephone calls. Just in time, Theron called Roy Howell and he came down from Blackfoot, Idaho to be Best Man. I wore Margaret's dress, long, white. I really felt like a bride.

We had pictures made and perhaps you'll see them some day. Putting it mildly tho' Betty - The Temple was wonderful. Nothing as I expected but oh how much different it makes you feel about your marriage. I will be as glad when you and Mark can go. It will probably be after the war and I will be living out there - so be sure to let me know when you are coming so I can go through with you.

The following day mother Smith had planned a reception for us. It couldn't be after the wedding because it wasn't over til 9:00. (We went in at 5:00 pm) and she had her hands full as well. Anyway Theron has as many relatives as I and by the time lots of his friends and several missionary companions were called there was a house full. I never met so many people in my life. Never could I remember who was who. We just had to marvel at it all. We made our plans so quickly and intended it to be only a small affair but by the time this one and that one had done something it had turned out to be a wedding we can remember always.

Mother Smith came in with a big 3 tier cake for a surprise. Everyone was so swell. Some of his relatives gave us a wool blanket, another a complete set of dishes, service for 6, a missionary companion gave us a set of 18 glasses including 6 fruit juice, 6 cocktail & 6 water. We got 8 sheets and 9 pr of pillow cases, 2 full size table cloths, towels, silver salt and pepper shaker, casserole and other odds and ends. So you see I have a hope chest, just like that. It was almost like a miracle and both of us



couldn't get over it all. Everything seemed to be in our favor the entire time. And things turned out so perfectly that it almost scared us.

Roy and Norma had driven down from Blackfoot and they persuaded us at the last 15 minutes that we should to back with them. So tossing our things together away we went. It was a wonderful drive up. I just love the mountains. We spend one night at the Howells and met Roy's family. His mother was so nice. We had lots of fun talking about Nahunta . Then we went up to Boise to Theron's sister's. She is married and her husband is in the Army. They have an apartment there and are so happy.

We spent 2 days there and came back to Blackfoot in time for the 4th of July. We celebrated by going to a Rodeo and boy was it fun. All the Indians from a nearby reservation were in town. I mean I really got my eyes full. That night, all of us, Roy, Norma, Theron & I went dancing. Oh, we had such a nice time. Two days later we went back to Salt Lake. One night we went to a returned missionary picnic, part of reunion for missionaries from the East Central States. I saw so many familiar faces. Old missionaries. President Jensen & his family was there. They were so good to us. Invited us to their house for dinner. But we didn't get time to go. Remember President Tew? He was there too. (I made a rhyme!) Lisa, your Aunt and Uncle, Dorothy & LaRue Carter was there. It was lots of fun.

We went swimming in the Great Salt Lake and had a picnic down there. Everyday was full. The last Saturday we went to a night club with 2 other couples and you know how I love to dance. So I was in my glory. Theron is a good dancer.

On Sunday we went out to Grantsville and Tooele to visit some relatives. Just short visits to lots of homes. We had to be at Tooele by 2 pm for Theron had been assigned to speak at a meeting there. His Uncle was Bishop there and lo' and behold he called on me too. I had been assigned to speak that night at Theron's ward in Salt Lake so we had to be back there at 6:30. Then after the meeting the Bishop and family had us over to his house for supper. They were so nice. The next 2 days we took fairly easy and I left on Wednesday. So ended the most nearly perfect 2 weeks here ever known. I'm out of breath from all this writing. I only gave you the highlights but details can come later. Theron is in Camp Roberts, Calif. for his Basic. We write each day, so you see I'm kept busy.

You should have gathered from all this that I was very happy even if it was for only a short time and even if it did seem like a very insensible thing to do. I'm sure I'll never regret the step we made. Of course we are only living on dreams and plans, but when I think of how much we would have missed if we hadn't been married, I shake my head and think how glad I am. And how blessed we were in so many ways.

Now I want to hear all about you and Mark. I haven't heard a thing since he left. And more about your job.

Tell Helen and Wilma hello and let Helen read this. I may not get around to telling it all again on paper.

Love always,

Neva