

Tucson Ariz 85719

Aug 28, 1985

Dear family member.

Much happens, - much to last, as one becomes old - enough - to be - "remembering" - "when" - !

The people - who "choose" to become our friends, can have - a powerful - affect upon our lives!

Our parents, - had been "friendshipped" - by their Mormon neighbors, - and "visited" - by the friendly - Mormon - elders - working in the area!

Our parents, - decided - to become "Mormons".

The famous Melvin J. Ballard was President of the Northwestern States Mission!!

(There) - his - missionary - "crew" - "went", - "there", he - ^{would} - "succeed" - If not - "sooner" - a "little later", he was "sure - to be - "on hand"!

Pres. Ballard - came - to "preach" - the Baptismal sermon! A "picnic" had been - planned near the top of old Beehive Mt. - in a beautiful pine grove - near a little lake!

I was six years old, - and - sat - on the ground with - other - youngsters -

As the famous "visitors" - stood before us, - and began to "sing", - I began to "feel" - this man - was truly - the "greatest" I had ever, - come to - "know", - and - then, - the beautiful - "talk" - or "sermon"!

For our parents, - this was the "beginning" - of a beautiful friendship!

This wonderful man, had in his heart, such a love - for people - and how he ever found the time, - to do all the things, which, he did, no one will ever know!

2/1
Our parents, - moved their family and "things" from the "Beehive" - to Wenatchee Wash.

Melvin J. Ballard came to Wenatchee, to help - the missionaries - ! People hated Mormons, and would not - "rent" a "suitable" - building - for a "meeting" - !

Melvin J. Ballard "accepted," - an old - warehouse which had been used for "storing hay - and grain, - an "earthen" - floor - - (no floor) !

Our parents - "attended" - and - took us along! As they - "observed" - this "situation," - they make a "decision," - and, at "close" - of the "meeting," they told - their "famous friend," - that he should "use their home," - for a "meeting - place" !

He "came," - and I remember, - and mother - said to him, - "you can have, - either, the - "living room," or - the - "kitchen" - !"

Now, - that, - old fashioned kitchen, was, - a "big" room - - and its - "floor space" - very "useable" ! - - This "decision," came "quickly," - and he said, "I'll take the kitchen" !

The people who came - were really "interested" and, ~~the~~ meeting "closed" - at "time," - they "remained," - and, he "preached," - until - he had to leave, - for that "early" - morning train, leaving for Portland !

Missionary boys ^{now} also - frequent "visitors," - and mother had a "beautiful organ" - a "gift" - from her father. Mother could - play it - very well! She had musical training in the east!

There came, a missionary boy - with a - "musical talent" and the "musical training" to go with -

He - "stopped by," - "frequently" - to "play" this "beautiful" - organ!

It - was - like - "something" from "another world"; - this young man, - was a "genius" and his "love," - for music - inspired him to a "perfection"!

We were - all - so - "fascinated," - that, - "he had" "taken ^{us} ~~his~~ with him," on his "trip," - to - "another world."

Our mother said, - that, - he - did not live - a "long while" - after "returning" - to his home - after, his "mission," - but, - I don't remember, the "cause" - of his death!

The - "offer" - of the "work" - in Dee Oregon, "took us," - from - our close "associations" with these "missionary" - friends, and their famous leader, and "Missionary" Melvin J. Boland!

Our parents, - must - have "missed," all this "friendly" - "interest," - and "moral support!"

They, ~~had~~ enjoyed - these "friendships" so much! After moving to Dee Oregon, - the - "talk" - of - the "news" - in the newspaper - was, - of German - "sub" - a "boat" - that could "travel" - under water!

The "big news" - was of - "some one" - who was a V. I. P. in Austria had been shot - and, - there were "war" plans, and, - "talk" of U. S. "involvement!"

I - think, - "conditions" - "ripened" - at a "rather" "rapid pace!" - I do not "remember" - just how it was, - with us, - at the "time" of - "entry" - into the war, - but, - we were - in Onaska - at the time "~~of~~" - of the war - - & when our father had to go - for a "physical" - "just in" case!

(Our big family, - if they - didn't - "call him in"!) The "responsibility" - "to keep the mill running" -!