

THE JOURNAL OF
General Field West

I started to write this journal on
April 18th. 1977.

We were encouraged to do so by our
Prophet, Seer and Revelator, President
Spencer W Kimball. I was also
encouraged and prodded by some of our
children, to start a journal.

I am the third child of Curtis
Andrew West and Iona Larson and
was born on May 25th 1913.

The order of my brothers and sisters
birth is as follows.

Melba, Clifford, myself, Lloyd,
La Von, Russell, Donna, Eva, who died
at about six months of age, ~~Larry~~ Ellen and
Janice.

I was born in Raymond Alberta
and have spent ~~my~~ my entire life, up to
the present time, in Canada; with one
exception. Between the ages of 2 and 3 yrs
I moved to Sandy, Utah, with the family,
for about one year. My father was born
in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and had
relatives in Sandy.

My childhood was to me uneventful
although I was a good student in ~~at~~
school, and successfully completed

grades V & VI in one year and completed High School with a first class certificate.

As to my spiritual life, my progression as a child and youth was about zero, as my parents although members, were inactive. Never the less, I was baptised but was not ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood and became inactive in the church.

As a child in public school, I was a marble player of considerable skill and received some acclaim in that field. What this actually accomplished was to wear out the knees of my pants. I can remember my mother was kept busy sewing patches over the holes, at which she was very neat and efficient.

Growing up as a child, I can remember that the necessities of life were very hard to come by, as my father was a wage earner, and the family was large. In those days things were very different than now. Rolled oats played a very prominent part in our diet, to make mush

in the mornings, then many times what was left over was spread out in a pan, cut in squares and warmed up for dinner.

Sometimes mother would make what we kids called "Lumpy Dick" which consisted of flour and water, cooked in an open kettle, and served with cinnamon and sugar and milk.

We always had a cow to milk and a good garden, also meat in the winter, and the family seemed to thrive and grow strong physically.

As time went on, I can remember my Dad taught the family how to work, and the necessity of work. Melba, Cliff and I used to stock grain and do sugar beet work. I became a good "beet thinner" at the age of 12 yrs. and from then on, became a good hand at any labor, and also a good hand with horses.

I would like to relate one story at this time, about an experience with mules. Dad had a team of mules that he had traded for, from my uncle "Sean Larson" or Sean loaned him.

At the time, Dad had rented a farm about six miles north-west of Raymond "Leslie Palmers." Dad and I were going to the river "St Marys River" to dig coal the next day. So on this day I was to pick up another team of mules from Beans place. I went into Raymond from the farm with the large team of mules "Bill + Slim" with a beet box on an iron wheeled wagon, to pick up a load of beet tailings from the sugar factory, for pig feed. I loaded up about 1 1/2 tons of tailings and went out to get the other team of mules from the "Larson Place" which was just 1/2 mile out of town north of Raymond. We put the new team of mules "on the wheel," with Bill + Slim on lead, and I started for the farm. The new team had not been worked for a long time and so were full of life and hard to control.

By this time it was dark and after going a couple of miles on the road north of Temple hill, the mules had broken into a gallop.

my arms felt like they were being pulled from their sockets.

At this point, the road curved around a small lake, and the night being very dark, I couldn't see the lake, and so held them on a straight line and they plunged into the water. How we ever got through the lake I will never know, as the bottom was soft mud. But due to the speed that we hit the lake, we did go through and onto the road on the other side. The mules were a sorry sight, with mud on their legs and bellies. I arrived at the farm about 10.30 at night and drove up close to the farm house. Dad came out to see what was happening as he could hear the mules puffing and blowing. - At the time of this adventure I was 17 years of age.

The following year, Dad rented a farm north-east of Raymond and as I had finished high school that year, he and I lived on the farm and done the work, while the rest of the family lived in town.

The next couple of years I remained on this farm during summer & fall and had many experiences. A few away horses that seemed to have been taught to run away; on one occasion I nearly lost my life in a runaway with six horses on a double disk with the seat on the front section ^{disc}. During the runaway I couldn't stay on the seat any longer, so fell forward onto the six horse eveners. My shoes were cut with the disc pans and it was a miracle that I wasn't pulled under. But outside of a few injuries, I was O.K.

The year I turned twenty, the farm was sold, and during that year I had been courting a girl; June Hall, who had been staying in Raymond with her brother, Edwin & Alice and wife Hazel. That same year we were married in Taber Dec. 22nd. 1933. At that time you were required to be 21 yrs. of age or have parents consent, so since my parents were in Raymond, and in those days

"my wife's name"

travel was a large problem, we decided we didn't want to wait. To get married I put 21 yrs. as my age on the marriage license and the same mistake appears on the marriage certificate, in place of the 50 yrs old that I actually was.

At this time something must be said about the "depression years" In the spring of 1934 I left home in a rented house in Raymond, and went to work for a farmer for \$30.00 a month and board. We found out that we could not pay our expenses and keep even, so in that fall, when the farmer offered to increase the wages to \$35.00 per month, I refused and decided to go threshing instead, which paid \$2 to \$3 per day. I also made a promise to myself never to work for a farmer again! The wages they could afford to pay, was not sufficient for a living for a couple, even without children to support.

That same fall I went to work for Canadian Sugar Factories, for a short time. This Company paid the best wages around the country (75 cents per hr.), and from that time forth made it a point

to work "campaign" for Canadian Sugar Factories every fall, and was very thankful for the opportunity.

The next spring, I went to work on a road crew that built the "Chief Mountain Highway" from Waterton Lake's Highway to the U.S.A. border.

In 1936 the Picture Butte Sugar Factory was being built, so we moved over to Picture Butte for about 8 months, then back to Raymond for the Sugar Campaign that fall.

About that time I became interested in Carpenter work by associating with Dave B Watson who was learning the trade at that time.

The next few years, working for C.S.F. during Sugar Campaign, and carpenter work in summer. I was able to support the family. I might say that there were still months in the winter when there was no work to be had and many people were hard pressed to get.

sufficient food and other requirements.

During one of these winters I was fortunate enough to get a job on a hay baler, that was baling up stacks of hay contract. Each member of the crew received 10 cents a ton for every ton baled. Then each one of us had to do our own collecting from the farmer or owner. This was one of the hardest jobs I ever remember doing, (as the weather) was very cold. Some days I would be so tired when I arrived home that I would lie down before supper, and fail to get up to eat when the meal was ready.

On a very good day we could bale 20 to 25 tons, which gave us \$2.00 to \$2.50 per day wages, which we considered very good in those days.

At this time, I would like to write about my good wife June. I can remember that she always had a job in the primary, and was a good attender at church. She also took the children to Primary and Church. She was very patient and persevering in trying

to get me interested in the Gospel. Looking back on those years I can see that June was a large factor in me finally gaining a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and becoming active in the church.

At this time I would like to tell about our children.

Our first born Darrelle was born on Aug. 18th 1934.

Next La Rita born Aug 2nd 1938.

Next Richard born March 19th 1942.

Next Sandra born Apr 28th 1946

Next Mark born Nov 27th 1949.

Sometime in the 1950's June and I started going to Adult Baroque Pktd. firesides, and after much time had passed, and many good teachers had done their best; I finally became convinced that the Gospel was true and that Joseph Smith was indeed a Prophet of God.

June and I went to the Cardston Temple on May 19th 1959 and took

"Our Children"
"I became active in the church."

"Genealogy work done"

out our endowments, and were married for eternity. A short time later we had Sandra and Mark sealed to us and later on, Darrell LaFite and Richard are not sealed to us at this date. Jan. 12th 1979.

Family units are important. Family Reunions are important. We must stay close to one another and help each other. I have the conviction that each one of us have the responsibility of keeping in touch with our kin, and doing genealogy work.

On Aug. 9th 1977, sons and daughters of Curtis and Jona West, that were worthy of temple recommends, went to the Temple at Cardston and ~~did~~ our parents Temple work and six of us children were sealed to them. Myself, Lavon, Donna, Eva, who had died at 8 months of age, Allen and Janice.

The following day Aug. 10-77 we had a Curtis West family reunion at the Provincial Park north of Taber.

Sunday Jan. 29, 1978

It might be interesting to note what happened on this day, as a typical Sunday.

June got up at 8 A.M. and brought me a pill to ward off bladder infection, a wet wash cloth and towel, and then breakfast.

While June was preparing food to be cooked, usually in our heavy "dutch oven", I transferred from bed to wheel chair and went to the bathroom to do the morning chores. These consist of shaving, brush teeth with salt and soda, which I have used for many many years, and gargle with listerine.

On week days, while doing these things, I drink two glasses of water as a start for flushing my kidneys, but on Sunday abstain from drinking extra water until after church.

Then back to bed to commence dressing to be ready to leave for Sunday School by 10 A.M.

We gave two Neighbor ladies a ride to the Chapel and arrived there at 10:10 A.M.

at 10:15 A.M. went to Sunday School prayer meeting and then Sunday School at 10:30 A.M., and taught a class of 12 & 13 year olds, and then to Sacrament meeting at 11:30 A.M.

This Sunday, the program was a missionary report from Gordon Lawler who had just returned from a mission in California.

There are not many programs that are more worthwhile and spiritual than a missionary report. The parents are so proud and rightly so; The ranks of Sacrament meeting are swelled with relatives and friends, who are so proud of them and show it. And the ward members also feel that they have a share in the trials, activities and successes of this fine young man.

after Sacrament Mtg. 12:35 P.M. June and I stay for choir practise till 1 P.M. and then home to dinner.

What are the worthwhile things in life? Sometimes we lose track of the important things, because of the material things of this world; and because of the life patterns and habits we set for ourselves.

Everyone should think seriously of the reasons for life on this earth and why we are here.

Let us be humble and teachable and seekers after the truth, in all things.

Written Oct. 12th 1979.

To leave the writing of a journal till your later years has many disadvantages, as it is hard to put things in sequence. From now on, I will title and date, the events of my life, to be more understandable to the readers in the future.

"Key to reading"

Written "Oct 13. 1979"

"Car accident on July 24, 1970"

On this date, June & I, and June's sister Dean Burbank, also one of ~~my~~^{our} grand daughters; Shauna Bullock, were traveling by car for Montreal. At this time

Ra Rita and her husband Don Attwood and family were living there. We were a few miles beyond Dickinson, North Dakota U.S.A. when we were involved in an accident.

The car rolled and although the other three were not seriously hurt, my back was broken among other injuries, which resulted in me being paralyzed from the waist down.

I was very close to death. The doctors had given up on me, and our family had been notified that I could not possibly live. But due to the efforts of June and Dean, although they were in hospital beds, they found out that there were two elders in the area. I was administered to and I am sure that this saved my life.

All of our children gathered in Dickinson as quickly as possible.

I'm afraid that I did not realize what was taking place at the time, but later on, thinking of my family and their love and

concern, and efforts to be there with their parents, gives us much joy and comfort.

May our Heavenly Father bless us that we will be examples to our children and grand children and be able to influence them to improve their testimonies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As I look out the window and see the wonders of this creation, my spirit speaks to me, the natural man, and my testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel as contained in the Standard works of the Church, wells up within me. I know that I will stand before the judgement bar of God and have the opportunity of seeing my parents and ancestors. Also will I be able to see and welcome my family and their families ~~in~~ in the way of the Gospel, which allows me to be a Patriarch to my families in that great plan of Eternal Life.

Written July 22, 1980.

17.

I neglected to tell about how I got back home after the car accident of July 24, 1970.

June and I stayed in the hospital in Dickinson, North Dakota for two weeks before we were able to come back to Alberta.

This was accomplished by our daughter-in-law, Hays Doyle West, the wife of our son Richard. Her parents had an airplane. They (Jim and Marian Doyle) flew to Dickinson and picked us up and brought us back to Lethbridge and I was taken to the St. Michael's Hospital. They had to load me in the plane on a stretcher as I had to remain on my back and be perfectly still for another two weeks after I came to St. Mike's. I don't remember much of the trip, but we will be ever grateful to Hays and her parents for this kind deed.

I remained in St. Mike's Hospital until Dec and then went to the Lethbridge Auxiliary Hospital until March and finally home to Picture Butte.

During the time I remained in the hospitals, June stayed at Darselli and Kain's home in Lethbridge which was close enough to both hospitals that she could walk there. I June spent much time with me every day which I appreciated very much.

Sunday Jan 18, 1991

This question was put before us during our High Priest's lesson

"What would you write for your families in your journal if you knew that you had only one more day to live?"

We were then given 5 minutes to write the answer down on paper

My first feeling was of sadness and regret that I had not written more in this journal before

Thinking about this question makes me feel that I had better re-dedicate my thoughts and actions to writing some of my life history, before it is too late. Who knows how much time we have left?

I would want my families to know when and how I became active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

I would want my families to be able to read about my parents, all the good things they taught us, their children.

I would like my last words to express my love for my wife and family, our entire family. And finally to express my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in the certainty of eternal life and my Testimony that the Gospel is true.

"Church Activity"

In 1959 I was ordained an Elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints. A great change in my life then commenced to take place.

I became interested in doing service, not only in the church, but also in the community, and served on the Raymond Town Council from 1959 until 1964. During that time, three different mayors were serving; Alma Hancock, Godfrey Holmes, and Alma G. Evans.

In July of 1964 we moved to Picture Butte. The reason we moved to Picture Butte was because the Sugar Factory at Raymond was closed down after completion of the 1963 Sugar Campaign. In 1964 I continued working for the Sugar Company at the Picture Butte Sugar Factory.

The work in the church in Raymond

- Young Mens Mutual
- Assistant Scout Master (State Missionary let apart by J. Golden Snow July 31 of 1960)
- Ward Clerk
- Secretary of Elders Quorum.
- After moving to Picture Butte in (on June 30th, 1964)
 - 2nd Councillor in the Bishopric
 - Scout Master for a considerable time
 - Adult Aaronic Priesthood - Adviser & Teacher
 - Sunday school teacher
 - Church Magazine and Church News representative.
 - Chairman of Ward Finance Committee
 - Chairman of Ward Budget Committee

"Building Our Home"
 written Feb 18/80

In 1963 we knew that we were going to move from Raymond to Picture Butte.

We started plans to build our home in "The Butte" We started building in the spring of 1963 going from Raymond to Picture Butte on weekends and during my summer holidays. With the help of June and the children we finished our home by June 30th 1964.

Through the years I had become quite efficient in Carpentry as I was Factory Carpenter many years for the Sugar Company. Due to this we didn't have to hire much help building the house.

We did hire contractors to form and pour the basement and later on some stucco work, also some dry-walking.

We felt good in being able to accomplish building our home, doing most of the work ourselves.

Makes you stop and ponder; what are the worthwhile and uplifting and character building things in life?

written 15 Jan 1982. "Planning to Move"

The Alberta Government has a program of building apartments for Senior Citizens in towns and cities in Alberta.

They are building one in the Town of Picture Butte. (16 apartments) One of these apartments is designed especially for physical handicapped people.

We have decided that since the responsibility of running our home; lawns, garden, up keep, shoveling snow, etc. has become a worry to us, we want to rent the handicap apartment. The apartment building should be finished in February or March, so it wont be long till moving time.

Jan 1982²

"Family Reunions"

Since we have had organized April and June West family reunions, we have grown closer than ever to our families. Also our family members have become closer to each other.

This summer in July we are planning a Reunion at Kelowna B.C. This was decided on by a vote of the family. The vote was influenced by the fact that one of our families Don and Lois Rite Attwood happens to be living at Kelowna.

We are all very enthused about the location as Kelowna is a very beautiful place in summer.

Jason Attwood, our grandson, is going to be baptised by his Uncle Kirk Bullock at the time of the Reunion and asked me to confirm him a member of the church. We are really looking forward to this event.

July 3, 1982

We went to Kelowna as planned and had a wonderful reunion and Jason Attwood baptism and confirmation was accomplished as planned.

We moved Apr 2, 1982.

On March 15th 1982 we sold our home and began packing to move to an apartment called Fiyarhi Manor.

We sold most of our furniture to the people that bought the house, most of the remainder we gave to our families.

On April 2nd 1982 we moved into our apartment. We are very happy here as it is much easier to accomplish the work of every day living.

We are in the apartment that was built for disabled persons, which is a bit larger than the others.

The apartment is on the ground level, so Kim moved the hoist that was at the home we sold, to his home in Rethbridge. Now when we go there to visit I can get in and out of the house without help. We appreciate very much, Kize and Darcelle inviting me to their home to stay while June is in the hospital or on trips etc. For me it is a home away from home. They are so kind and loving to me.

We have made friends with the other folks in the apartment building, and spend many hours in the "Community Room" with them doing jigsaw puzzles, visiting, suppers, etc.
More details on the apartment on (Page 22)

Our 50th Wedding Anniversary Party.

Oct. 8th 1983. We decided it would be more practical to have our party in the fall rather than the actual date of Dec. 22nd 1983.

One of the reasons was that travel is much easier and safer in Oct than in December, and so much easier for our families to come here for this occasion.

The party was a very joyful happy occasion for us. 45 out of a possible 48 of our family members were able to be there, and after relatives and friends were counted, the total was 215 people.

The program was very well organized with the majority of the members coming from the family.

The following day, we had our Thanksgiving dinner, and most of our family was here for that. We have a "Large Community room" in our apartment building, which has several tables and chairs etc. which we used for the occasion.

The Golden Anniversary Party and family dinner combined to make a weekend in our lives that we will always remember with joy and thanksgiving in our hearts.

Written in Jan 1934.

"Building our home in Raymond in 1939."

After renting three different places over a period of six years; we decided to build a house, to get away from renting.

At that time we were living in a basement apartment.

I had been at the Sugar Factory in the fall and early winter for about four "Sugar Campaigns" and decided that we would try and get building materials on credit. At the Raymond Merchantile Lumber yard, which was owned by Heber Allen. He said he would allow us up to three hundred dollars credit. We decided to go ahead and build a two room cottage.

I think the Town of Raymond gave us a lot for one dollar.

By the fall of 1939 I had partly completed the two rooms and we moved in, without having the ceiling closed in, and spent the winter that way as we had used up our credit.

Of course under this condition most of the heat escaped through the roof and so we used much more coal to try and keep warm.

The following summer we were able to close in the ceiling with "ten test" pressed paper about 5/8 inch thick, which we thought was really wonderful.

We lived in those two rooms until 1946. I was in the navy during the 2nd world war for 22 months and returned home in March 1946. In 1946 & 47, I built an addition to the house of (18' x 24') and a year or two later, added to the kitchen and built a back entrance. This gave us a fairly comfortable home consisting of; front room, three bedrooms, bath room and larger kitchen.

Having to skimp on materials, the house was not constructed very well, poor concrete foundation not deep in the ground, 2" x 6" floor joist, poorly insulated, etc. But it was where we lived until 1964 and it served its purpose very well.

On moving to Picture Butte in June 1964, we sold our property in Raymond and moved into a home that was much more modern, and well constructed. We were in somewhat better shape financially and so used better quality and heavier framing materials, etc throughout the house.

More details about our new home in Picture Butte, are given on (Page 20.)

Written April 24, 1985

A successful way to pay tithing
 As I have always been a wage earner, I have found that the best way to pay tithes and offerings was on a monthly basis. This enables a family to budget for the month and gives them a better idea of what they can afford for their living expenses.

After a few years of paying in this manner, I decided it would be more practical to pay tithes and offerings a month in advance, and found that this worked out wonderfully well.

Following this practice, when December comes along, as you have already paid December's tithing, tithing settlement does not become a burden.

It was always a good feeling to have the Ward budget paid for in advance so that our contributions could be used for the months utility bills of the Chapel.

I have a testimony of the blessings received from paying a full tithe and can truthfully say that we have had no financial problems since I became active in the Church.

May your tithing and Heavenly Father will bless you with the ability to tell the difference between "wants and needs" and the ability to make the right choices.

December, 1984.

It was very pleasing to June & I when both Richard and Mark told us they were going to put our Christmas gifts of money into saving accounts.

President Kimble has said many times, that we should be thrifty and set aside all we possibly can for an emergency fund to be used in times of dire need.

Written in 1985

I have had many opportunities to name and bless our grandchildren and great grandchildren and have born my testimony on most of those occasions. Also have confirmed many of them members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Heavenly Father has blessed me with vitality and strength beyond measure since the car accident which happened nearly fifteen years ago.

July 1985

On July 1st, as usual, we went to Raymond to watch the parade and visit our friends and relatives that gather there on this occasion.

The parade was very good, also as we were waiting for it to start, many friends passing by stopped to visit which is always very enjoyable. Donna came by with some of her family and so watched the parade with us. She had seen Larry and family before that and after seeing us, she went and got them to come over where we were, so we had quite a large representation of the West family in one place. On the spur of the moment, we all decided it would be a good idea to have a West Reunion. And so, after Donna had made a lot of phone calls, we all met on July 3rd in Kethbridge, at Henderson Lake Park. We are sure that everyone enjoyed this gathering very much, as we hadn't had a reunion for a few years.

Due to the fact that the Sugar Factory in Taber will not be having a "Sugar Campaign" this fall; Allen and Gabe were going to Vancouver for Allen to work in B.C. sugar

(over)

Refinery. The date they had to go was July 6th, so that was a good reason to call a reunion on such short notice.

We felt the Reunion was a huge success as over 100 people were there. All of Curt and Fona's family were there except Melba and Le Von who live in ~~R~~ Portland, Oregon, so it was not possible for them to come on such short notice.

Written Aug 6, 1985

A new church building for Picture Butte

Work is progressing very nicely on our new chapel. The completion date was set for Sept 30th of this year, and now looks like it will be finished near that date. The entire building is on ground level, which will be much more convenient for all the elderly ward members and especially for me, and those good brethren who helped me up the stairs every Sunday.

Hopefully, the entire Ward will be more determined to ungleter our stride in the various programs of the church; especially missionary work. Having more room it would be nice to increase our ward membership.

The building program throughout the Church has increased dramatically, the past few years. Six Temples were completed in 1984, with 6 more ~~planned~~ expected to be finished in 1985, and 7 more in 1986. Also many Chapels and other church building are being built. The work of the Lord is being speeded up. The time of the second coming of the Savior is fast approaching. Each one of us has unfinished goals to reach. Let us be reminded

that the time is short, and see if we can accomplish some of the things that are important, that we often think about, but haven't yet succeeded in doing.

Heavenly Father has blessed us with vitality and strength. Wouldn't it be rewarding if we could channel more of that strength towards building up the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

Written Oct. 18, 1985
 "Our New Stake"

On Sept 29, 1985, a new Stake was formed, which takes in the Picture Butte Ward.

The new Stake is the Fort Macleod Alberta Stake, with Hilda Yarnes Peasner as Stake President, Dennis Lloyd Tolley 1st Councillor and Joseph Takahashi 2nd Councillor, who is our doctor here in Picture Butte. President Peasner and Councillor Tolley both live in Fort Macleod.

The Fort Macleod Alberta Stake consists of the two Fort Macleod wards, the Clarendon Ward, the Pincher Creek Ward, The Crowsnest Pass Branch and the Brocket Branch, all taken from the Dethbridge Alberta Stake; and the Picture Butte Ward, the Champion ward and the Diamond City Ward, taken from the Kethbridge Alberta East Stake.

The membership of the Church of Jesus Christ, is steadily increasing. We feel that organizing this new Stake will stimulate missionary work.

We pray that Heavenly Father will bless all the members in this new Stake to work together in love and unity in doing this great work.

Written Nov-14, 1945.

"Our New-Chapel"

We expect that we will be moving into our new-chapel for church on Sunday Nov. 17th. We are really looking forward to the move.

The building program of the Church is moving forward by leaps and bounds. Just one more sign that the second coming of the Savior is very near.

We are very blessed to have been born in this 'the last dispensation' when all of these wonderful things are taking place.

My prayers that all who read in this journal will be inspired to improve their lives and renew their determination to live the Gospel more fully.

Written July 29, 1986

We had our Larson Reunion at Henderson Lake Park (Kethbridge) on June 28th 1986, and had a very enjoyable time.

Hilda Larson brought some updated Larson genealogy to give to those attending.

Erik Low, Alice Litchfield Dow's son was voted in as the new President, replacing Richard Larson.

The next Larson Reunion is to held in 2 years time, the last Saturday in June of 1988. at this same location.

Written August 7, 1986
Family Reunion

We went to Waterton Lakes Park on Aug 2nd 1986, for our 15th and June West Reunion, which was a three day reunion.

We rented the Northland Lodge for three days, which supplied bedrooms for most of our families, and the Community Hall for two days, so that we could have meals together and a program. Our families had the reunion well organized, we all had a wonderful time. Out of a possible 50 we had 47 people there, which we considered an excellent attendance.

Written Aug 22, 1986

Temple Marriage:

Our grand daughter, Linda Bullock,
was married to Ronald Papp
on March the 15th. 1986 in the LDS
Temple.

June and I were there to enjoy
that very happy spiritual occasion.

We were also at the Temple for the
marriage of our grand daughter, Shauna
Bullock, to John Chymboruk, married
March 25th 1978.

We also attended the Temple
Marriage of our grand daughter Diane
Bullock to Kelly Smith Aug. 29, 1981.

Written Sept 9, 1986

Wedding of Debbie & Joe

On Aug 8th June and I went to Kelowna, B.C. to be there at the wedding of our grand daughter, Debbie Attwood, which took place Aug 9th 1986. She married Joe Paquette

The wedding reception took place later on that evening

Also in attendance were our daughter Marselle and husband Kim Bullock, and our son Richard and wife Fray.

Don and La Rita had both wedding and reception very well organized, and everyone had a very lovely time.

June and I stayed an additional three days to visit, getting better acquainted with our new grandson in law.

Written Sept 11, 1986

The Reunion of the progeny of Curtis and
Sona West held August 20 and 21st, 1986

One day about two months before
the Reunion, my sister Norma was here
to visit us, and we decided to phone Melba
Pickett, another sister, and tell her that
we wanted to come to Portland where Melba
and another sister La Von Pickett lives, for
a family reunion. The basic reason
for going there was that Melba has some
health problems that would not allow her
to travel very well.

To make a long story short, they talked
it over and decided that they could make
~~up~~ the trip up here easier than I could
go to Portland. This plan was carried out
and so all my brothers and sisters and
their wives and husbands ~~to~~ came here
to Fijami Manor Apartments, Picture Butte,
Alberta, where June and I live. This took
place on August 20th, 1986.

This apartment building has a large
recreation area, that has tables, etc., to handle
20 people very comfortably. They all came
here before noon and left about 8:30 P.M., so
we had two meals and really took advantage of
the time for visiting. (continued) page 43.

We did have one disappointment in that Allan Shaw, my sister Janice's husband, who is a bishop, had to take charge of a funeral, so we didn't see him ~~at~~ until the next day.

On the second day Aug 21, we had a reunion for all the progeny of Dad and Mother at Barnwell, where Norma and husband Lloyd Erickson lives. They had reserved the Barnwell Park and rented the Community Hall there and had things organized very well.

133 people was the count at this reunion and we all had a very enjoyable time.

We really appreciated seeing Melba & John and LaVon and George, as we had not seen Melba and John for 12 years, and LaVon & George for about 7 years.

Family Reunions are important. When I think of the ages of my older sister and brother and my age, I get a feeling of peace and contentment in seeing them all again.

at the present time Melba is 77.
Cliff 75 and I am 73.

Excuse the writing, but trying to write while laying in bed, is difficult, especially on this side as the book is harder to hold.

Written Jan 8, 1987

For several years now, we have had a family get-together just before Christmas for program, gift exchanges, etc. This used to be held at Kim and Marselles, but since we have moved into Piyami Manor apts, we have been having them here, as we have a large recreation area here that can accommodate all our family very well.

On Dec. 23rd 1986 all family members possible gathered here, which totaled 42 persons in all. Don and Rita and their family couldn't make it this year. Also not getting here was our grand daughter Donna and husband Roger from Fort Meade, as their truck let them down.

It's a great blessing for all when we can get together on such occasions as these, and as parents we are thankful for the love and consideration that each one has for us and for each other.

For the past several years we have been going to Kim and Marselles on Christmas Eve, staying over night, coming back home Christmas day after dinner. We really look forward to and appreciate this.

Written July 9, 1987

On June 16th 1987, our daughter La Rita Attwood came to Lethbridge from Kelowna for the purpose of taking out her endowments and to be sealed to her. This was accomplished on Wednesday, June 17th 1987. La Rita's husband, Donald Attwood, although not a member of the church is a choice spirit and has always supported La Rita in her church activities throughout the years, going to church with her most of the time. Also Don has taken part in many sport programs of the church, both playing and coaching.

We feel that Don will become a member in the not too distant future.

Our oldest daughter, Marselle Bullock was a great help. She took over transportation duties and stayed with La Rita to encourage and help her. The following day, Marselle took La Rita back to the Temple for two sessions, which I am sure they both enjoyed and will be long remembered.

On Saturday, June 27, 1987, our granddaughter Sheila Papp, had Rebecca sealed to her and husband Ronald Papp. June and I ~~was~~ were there to enjoy that spiritual occasion.

40.

Written Oct 19, 1987.

For the past few years I have been corresponding with my three aunts on my dad's side of the family. During this time we have grown to love and appreciate them much more.

Thelma Nelson is the youngest of the three, being born November 29, 1908. She is very prompt in answering letters.

Gladys Christiansen, was born May 20, 1906

Opal Warston was born Oct. 6, 1902.

so they are all getting along in years.

Thelma and Gladys are widows, and Opal's husband Jim is still living, but they are all having health problems at the present time. They are all active in the church and Thelma works in the Logan Temple. Gladys and Opal find it very difficult to write, but Thelma is good to let us know how they are doing.

All three aunts live in the U.S.A. Dad was the only one to settle in Canada.

As of this date, the Curtis + Dona West progeny is approx. 300

June and I have 3 more great grandchildren added to our count and one more due this month, which would be a total of 16 great grandchildren for us.

Written Dec. 28, 1987

We had our Christmas get-together on Dec 26th this year as it was the most convenient time, for the families to come.

The weather has been really good all the month of Dec., so no travel problems developed for anyone. The total count was the same as last year 42 people counting June and I.

In January of 1987 Sandra and Allan and family moved from Calgary to Vancouver and couldn't make it this year.

Then none of Don & Rita's family was here as their two families, Kevan & Nancy and Debbie & Joe went to Kelowna for Christmas to be with Don & Rita.

During the year of 1987, ^{we} had an increase in our great grandchildren count.

Debbie & Joe Paquette a daughter, Brittany Alexandra
 Brian & Debbie Bullock a son Taylor James
 Sheila & Ron Papp a daughter Sarah Lynn
 Diane & Kelly Smith a son Spencer James.
 So our potential for larger family reunions gets greater as time goes on.

Written May 27, 1988.

General Information

In April, June went to the Hospital in Picture Butte on account of a sore back. She was there for 19 days and came home around May 9th. During the 19 days I stayed with Kim and Barcella, coming out here each day to see June. She was treated for a torn muscle and x-rays also showed 2 worn discs in vertebrae, so we are not completely sure which it was. She has been home now for about 3 weeks and is gradually improving.

I guess we can expect some ill health as I was 45 yrs old May 25 and June will be 76 on June 1st, but we have both been blessed with vitality and strength, and give thanks to Heavenly Father every day for our many blessings.

July 22/88 The Larson Reunion was held on June 25, 1988 at Henderson Lake Park. We had an enjoyable afternoon visiting people that we don't see very often. Dean Larson is the last one living of Mother's brothers and sister. The West Family had a fairly good representation, although we missed seeing my sister Donna and husband Lloyd Erickson, who were on ~~on~~ a mission in Washington D.C. working at the temple. Their 18 month mission is about half completed at this date.

I had also baptised Kevan, proper name Donald Kevan Attwood, when we went to Montreal during our holiday in 1968.

Kevan's baptismal date was July 28, 1968

Kevan was born 24 Aug. 1959

Written Aug 4, 1988

The first & June west. reunion was held July 30, 31, and August 1st. 1988.

On Saturday July 30 we were at the Indian Battle Park, Lethbridge during the afternoon, and evening, having supper there. We reserved a shelter there in case of rain, but the weather was beautiful, nice and warm.

We had about 45 there out of a possible 56. Sandra & Allan & family couldn't make it from Vancouver. Also Bebbie & Joe Faquette from Vancouver were not able to be here. As time goes on and the families become more scattered to other localities, it does make it more difficult for all to gather together. Also Brad Attwood from Kelowna couldn't make it.

On Sunday July 31st. I had the pleasure of naming & blessing our great-grandson Tanner Reid Attwood, son of Kevan & Nancy Attwood, at the Chapel here in Picture Bay. 18 were there from our families for this happy occasion. Tanner was born April 7th 1988. In the afternoon Sunday, we all gathered at the Coakhurst Community Hall which had rented for this occasion. In the evening we had supper and a program which was very enjoyable.

Then on August 1st. 'all who could make it, went to Kim & Barille's for breakfast, and also many of us stayed for dinner.

Family Reunions are important and wonderful.

51
Written Dec. 27, 1988

On Dec 17 we gathered at the [unclear] for our annual Christmas get together. We have been married 55 years on Dec 22, 1933, so when we gathered for our Christmas party on the 17th, we celebrated our 55th Wedding Anniversary at the same time.

Our daughter Sandra Kadke came by air from Vancouver, but Alton and the 4 children were not able to come.

Also our daughter La Rita Attwood came by air from Kelowna and again Don and all the others of the Attwood family couldn't be here.

Jan 4/89
Due to the fact that we were celebrating our Anniversary it was decided to have just the adults, and children over 12 yrs, but we still had 30 people here all told.

In Oct 1968 I had a bad kidney infection that lasted for two weeks and a specialist in Lethbridge said there was some damage to the kidneys. Since that time I have noticed that the kidneys have not been quite ~~so~~ up to par, but are still doing an efficient job.

Heavenly Father has continued to bless me ~~me~~ during the more than 18 years I have been a paraplegic, and we will be forever grateful for the health and strength we do have, which allows us to remain active in the Church.

Written Feb 10, 1989. World War #2.

On account of the fact that the Canadian Government was conscripting married men into the Army; and knowing that my call could come in the very near future; I decided that I wanted to be in active service, so I volunteered to join the Canadian Navy.

I joined the Navy on May 8th, 1944. and was demobilized on March 1st, 1946.

I joined up in Calgary and took basic training till July 16th and then got an agricultural leave from July 17 to Aug 20, 1944, then went to Winnipeg to finish basic training, going to Cornwallis Nova Scotia Oct 23rd. Cornwallis was a very large Naval base. I stayed there until May 23, 1945. and then went to Halifax N.S. on May 24. and for about 4 months I was living at a place on Bedford Basin (about 5 miles from Halifax) where ships came in to test their anti-mine equipment. There was only 2 men stationed there when I arrived ~~th~~ and this was the place I put on some weight, about 20 lbs as one of the men was a "leading hand" cook.

On Sept 12, 1945 I was transferred to my 1st ship called the "Scatarie", a harbor patrol craft with a crew of 21 men. We would be on patrol in the Halifax harbour for 48 hrs and then had 48 hrs. off duty. The ship had twin diesel engines for power and I was a stoker mechanic. I had to run the engine room for ~~an~~ eight hours each day we were on patrol. (over)

53
I had taken a 6 week course before that, while in Cornwallis, on gasoline engines so I did know a little bit, but it was interesting work. to say the least.

On Nov. 25 we sailed to Shelburne Nova Scotia and the ship was decommissioned there that same day and we went back to Halifax.

On the 26th of Nov. I was drafted to a German submarine that had been captured, and was in Halifax Harbour, and there was a maintenance crew on board to keep it in running order, and I became one of that crew. There was many very interesting things on the sub. and I enjoyed the short time I was on board.

On Jan 19, 1946 I was drafted back to Peregrine Naval Base in Halifax to await discharge.

On Feb 3, I had a medical examination etc. and discharge papers made out and was drafted to Winnipeg, to wait for my papers to come from Halifax. I was very excited and happy to finally be on the last lap of the road home and you can imagine the great disappointment when, as day by day the papers never arrived in Winnipeg. I finally insisted that I have another discharge routine and on March 1st they agreed to my request. It wasn't but a few minutes after I finished that routine my papers arrived from Halifax. They had been misplaced, such is life some times.

Needless to say, I was extremely happy to be back home with the wife and family.
Excuse the writing. It is quite difficult while on your back in bed.