

The Memoirs of

Bernard Elden Knapp

Letter to Thelma Knapp

May 1983

Johnson
719 Cypress St
Pocatello, Idaho



Trip to Randolph

Bernard Knapp

1157 East 640 South

Provo, Utah

84601

Dear Thelma,

Hi! How are you? I wondered when we had our spring vacation if maybe Dee and his family would have gone up to visit with you. I hope they did and that you were able to have a good visit.

Our boys went on a scout hike into the southern Utah desert. They took lunches and back packs and I guess they did get plenty of hiking out of it. They didn't get back until about 1:30 a. m. Sunday. We went to Ogden to hear one of Louise's nephews report his mission. He had been in Louisiana. We had a good visit with some of her family. None of the Idaho folks came down however. When school lets out our boys are going with the scout master on a river floating trip. down the Green River I believe. I don't think it will be the Colorado. The news down here isn't so great for some of the people in this county. They've lost their homes with the huge mud slide and the lake here is higher than it's been for years and years and will probably raise a lot more when the warm weather comes and the snow starts melting in the higher mountains.

Well did you get some of the barley green to try yet.? I think Lisa will plan to stay in Idaho thru the 1st part of June to attend her ward or stake girl's camp. I'm glad she can have a nice time while she's there.

We've gone to SLC twice in about 4 days to have Joseph and Shaun ~~aditionx~~ audition for a television commercial by an advertising agency there. They seemed pretty pleased with the kids. The last time we took all the younger ones except Ruth. The kids really liked it. They enjoy showing off. Can you believe they might get paid for it.? Brother! We might not be able to live with them.

I had a letter from Ann . She told me a few things that she had been able to remember of Island Park. She had a nice trip to Alaska sounded like. She is certainly excited about her horses isn't she? She's always been able to get enthusiastic about the things she does. If I could do that with my paintings I guess I would get ~~some intni~~ something done.

I'm sending you a copy of some of the things I've written up. You realize I wasn't very old at the time and so I may have made some mistakes trying to recall what happened that many years ago. So I've typed it double-spaced to allow some room for notes and comments. I'd appreciate anything you can add or suggest that needs to be. If you find any errors or missinformation, make a correction and notes on it too. I'd appreciate it. If you could return it to me sometime, or even keep it until I come up there sometime, then we could discuss it and make some corrections and changes or additions that we might find. Eventually I would really like to get it retyped by a good typist so ~~thw~~ it won't be full of so many mistakes as you see it has. Thanks Thel,
Love Bernie

While in the 3rd grade at Emerson school I was in Mrs. Petersen's room. Our classroom was the south east room on the first floor. The windows faced east onto the playground. At the school there was an A room and a B room for each grade. Whether there was actually a differentiation as to how well students read and progressed in their work or whether the status of the family determined which room the students were in I never knew. I did know that some students that came to school from the country by bus were in both rooms. The students in the b rooms did represent a larger percentage of those from the east end and that did include the majority of poor, really poor, families represented. No doubt among the A rooms there were students that normally may have gone ahead in school work at a faster pace but I doubt the separation held to IQ but social-economic. New students often started in the B and later were changed to the A. A little bit of snobbishness resulted but no fighting between kids from the rooms for the reasons mentioned above that I know of. The A room kids were largely living west of Emerson Ave. also. This area was built up without many vacant lots. Whereas the north east part of Idaho Falls consisted of scattered houses over an area of many blocks mostly vacant and all gravel roads. ^{and paved streets and sidewalks}

This was not always the case however, one family had twins, Richard and Margaret Wasley. They were older than the others in our class. They had been held back one year at least. Their father was a local banker. They were non-mormons. They were always in the B room. Colleen Christensen and Alene Armstrong were in the B room but before they got out of the 6th grade they were transferred into the A room. I don't remember any students being transferred from the A room to the B room.

In this year Mrs. Petersen started a reading contest. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes were awarded to the students that read the most library books during the school year. The contest terminated before school was out because the awards were given out before I left school. I won 2nd place. Louise Thomas got 1st place. We got a pencil set and crayons in boxes. Hers had many more colors and was a larger box than mine. Kids always come up to you after something like that and say, How do you do it? Louise read several more books than I did. I always felt that she selected a lot of easy to read books however. One time when I gave a book report ~~in~~ after using some very short books with little reading compared with pictures Mrs. Petersen told me not to use any more such books. I knew that Louise had used many books similar to those and I felt

it was somewhat unfair to tell me that, especially when I had read such books as Bambi and some other large books. The librarian had told me when I checked out Bambi that it was too advanced for a third grader and that I should get another book. But I took it home anyway and read it. It did take a while. I did check out one other book that year that was a big book and thick. It had almost no pictures and was hard to read. The plot or story was a difficult one and I renewed it several times. But I lost interest. It seems now that it was a story about dolls. I just got too bored with it and never did finish it and so it didn't count. I don't remember ~~that~~^{the} number of books I reported on but it was quite a few. I often walked to the library daily, going after school with other friends from the school. Sometimes mother would meet me at school and we'd go together. At the library she went upstairs and I went downstairs to where the children's books were kept. I often passed Louise on the way and sometimes we'd walk together, that is she would be with some other girls and I would be with some other kids that were also living in our end of town. Louise lived up the street from us in the 600 block.

I read lots of stories about dogs and farm animals. There was a series like Prince of Cloverdale Farm. etc. Al called me a book worm. He may have felt I should not spend so much time reading under a kerosine light. We must have had a drop cord placed in the house very soon after we moved in however. Barney was an electrician and he would have wired the house. ^{I think -} Electricity went past the house in the alley. Al said I always had my nose in a book. Sometimes Al would go over a list of words for a spelling quiz in one of his classes and I remember one time mother read the words to him to spell and I quickly came up with the spelling of a word like (succeeded) before Al could spit it out. That surprised him. He was a little chagrined at the time. But I was elated and enjoyed the looks of pride and what praise I got from the folks. I didn't get to show off too much. Al was really good to me. ^{d Once} One he had me on the bed and was tickling me. I repoded by uttering some vocabulary that just was not acceptable in our house. Dad got after Al for causing it. I know Al felt bad and that I had over-reacted. He used to take me alot of places on his bike. More than once he pedalled me to Reno Park (Tautphaus) now. We'd see the monkeys and other animals. The bears were the favorite attraction. And they had deer and elk and buffalo. ^{For} Several years we were among the Easter crowds visiting the park.

I don't actually remember when David South was born. The earliest recollection I have of David was one time and it seems like the fall of the year in their house in Island Park. I was there with Dad and I was left to tend him. He was in a bassinet in the kitchen. Dad had gone to the barn to chore and left me there with him. He started to cry. He had gotten a piece of paper in his mouth somehow and I couldn't get it out and he wouldn't stop crying. I was about on the verge of crying myself when Dad came back. I will never forget Dad's large hands and fingers. But this time he put a large finger or two into David's mouth and got the piece of paper that had stuck to the roof of his mouth. I hadn't been able to figure out how to get it out. I was sure relieved to see Dad show up ^{from} ~~form~~ the barn.

Just before Thelma was going to have her first baby, Mother arranged to go to Randolph, Utah to be with her. It was arranged that I could get out of school early that year to go with her.

We left by train and went to Pocatello where we were met at the train by Warren Tonks. He took us in his car to their home. They had a small boy named Jess Warren, Named after Jessie Hammond, Zara's father. She was mother's oldest sister Elizabeth's (Aunt Finnie) oldest daughter. We stayed there over night and then were taken to the railroad to continue our journey. We went ~~to~~ the Bear Lake country. Somewhere along the line, maybe Soda Spings we got on to a rail car that was called the Galloping Goose. At least growing up we saw one occasionally around the railroad yards in I. F. and at Rexburg which was one car with round windows and that is what we called it. We rode the last part of the way on it. We went through Montpelier, and Paris. At Paris we made connections with a mail carrier to ride over to Randolph.

I remember going through the Bear Lake country there were places where there was water up to the right-o-way on both sides ~~it~~ ^{it} seemed for miles like this. Ducks flew up continuously as the train putted along. I never knew there was so much water or so many ducks.

While sitting on a train in the Pocatello rail yard I had for the first time that dizzying feeling of having trains along close on each side and one moved and you couldn't tell if you were moving or the others were moving.

Elmer Snowball, Thelma's husband had made arrangements for us to catch this ride. ^{with the mail man.} He may have had a pickup, I can't remember, except it seems we rode all three in the front seat. He took us to Randolph. I don't recall the Bear Lake on this trip. Maybe the ^weather was cloudy and we couldn't see out well.

Elmer didn't have a car. I don't think his folks had one either. We arrived before the baby was born. ^k I don't remember how long after we arrived that Shirley Ann was born. There was some talk about which doctor Thelma wanted. There was an old Doc Ray, it seems. Maybe he had delivered Elmer. He had been around for a long time anyway. And there must have been a new comer that some felt inclined to believe was more modern and clean, etc.

Thelma was attended by a nurse, Winnefred Rex. Later after I married I met her. Everyone just called her Winnie. She married Ross Andrus, a cousin of Louise and lived in Kamas, Utah. She remembered Thelma and probably was with her when Danny was born also. ^{a different nurse for Dan} Ross was a fine person, bishop at least once maybe twice. ^{of the same word.} He died suddenly of heart attack at age 60. He was notably generous. He let me use his truck to haul corral poles to our place in Edgemont from the Mill Creek area above Kamas.

There was a small grainary behind their house. The house sat on a corner facing east. It was kiddie-cornered from Elmer's folks place. IF you walked a block east you came to the highway. At that corner on the east was a city park running north fronting the highway. ~~A~~ There were some corrals and chutes there for the rodeos and celebrations. In the next block and on the east of the highway was the Rich county court house. Across the street they showed movies each Saturday. I went to at least one motion picture show there. Between the Snowballs and the highway there was a government trapper. He sometimes had a coyote chained to a post back from the road along side his drive-way. *Elmer's cousin*

North in the next block was the Wilson's place. They had a daughter, Jennie and Woodrow their son was older. Neither were married. Woody had been hurt maybe in a rodeo accident, but anyway it seems a horse had fallen on him and he probably wore a brace on his back. He was quite stiff in the back and had to ride a gentle horse. He used a brown saddle horse that belonged to Elmer. The horse may have been named Bud. ^{he was what they call an @udgeral} Wilson's owned a store in town like a confectionary, they sold comic books and other items. Maybe it was a drugstore. It seems they had another store next to that one. I bought a book while I was there that I kept for many years. It was the first episode of Red Ryder and Little Beaver. It was in a little-big book series. The author was Fred Harmon, A sort of cowboy artist. He became financially independent and abandoned the Red Ryder enterprise but not before it was nationally syndicated and became a motion picture serial as well, making him famous and wealthy.

in news paper funny strips

She lived
in a house
next door
to the store
with her mom,
Sherman, &
other school
teachers.
boarded there
also

Jack
Jerry
Debbie
Jimmy Elsie
drowned
when he was
2 yrs old

Upstairs in a house near the store or above the store perhaps was an apartment where Elmer's first wife, Althea, lived with their son, Sherman. I met and played with him but don't know that I ever saw her, maybe once. The kids in Randolph were still in school so I was pretty much of a loner most of the day. I did play with some kids after school and on Saturdays. I don't recall attending any church meetings but it seemed like to the south of their house there was a field and on the next corner lived a bishop. Probably Rex. Elmer once told of an old bishop in Randolph that never put shoes on his horses. They were often sore-footed and he'd say, If the Lord had wanted shoes on 'em he'd borned 'em with shoes on.

From where they lived you could see the school house on the hill west of town. It was a barren sagebrush place all around it. You could see the kids coming from the school toward town in the afternoon when it let out. Elmer had a brother ^{Sydney} that lived east of the park. ~~And~~ ^{He} had several boys. Some near my age. Barney had a sister Elgie who also lived on the same block and I did play there sometimes. There may have been a younger girl than myself named Betty. She had married again and her husband was named Norris. So this girl was Betty Norris and the older kids, Elaine and Bob were Tate. Bob was near my age. Later he worked in Island Park for Barney first, and then for Charley. Elaine married a boy from I.F., Warren Bybee and he also worked for Charley South, I used to go there and ride calves with the Snowball kids. Once I decided I was not going to get thrown off so I put my arms around the calf's neck and locked my hands. Well I got tossed but I held on and next thing I knew the calf was on top and I was still hanging on except I was being stepped on every jump. So I was glad to finally let loose. Of course, I never tried that again.

Because I was always so excited about horses Thelma wanted to please me and wanted to have me ride. But Elmer had some arrangement where the Wilsons used his saddle horse, so they arranged that I could go with Woody on the horse. Woody rode about every day out east of the town to their place where they had some white faced cows. He may have taken some black and white Holstein cattle out in the mornings and brought them back in the evening. I can't remember if he milked or not. So I'd go over to Woody's place and ride behind him on the saddle skirt. After we got to the ranch he'd sometimes have to tend water or fence or do something in the field and I'd get to ride the horse around. I loved that of course. ~~He~~ ^{Woody} never went faster than a walk because of his back

I guess.

One day I remember trying to head a cow but it crossed a slough or canal near the wire gate at the end of the lane and I didn't dare take the horse into the water after it. I don't think that Woody did either. Cattle can handle a lot more mud and bog than a horse it seems.

When we'd go to the Wilsons home which was a really nice home Woody and Jenny always put on a show. They'd scuffle all around the house and make a lot of noise. Thelma told of how they loved to show off like that whenever there was company. One time I went to their place where they had a large barn with a loft behind their house to watch Elmer shear their sheep. They had a few head of black faces. He sheared them by hand. He usually went off during the shearing season and sheared in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and even Montana. He'd be gone several months early in the year. That may be why he wasn't around all the time we were staying in Randolph.

Elmer had a younger brother, Wally who was in the Navy. He came home on leave occasionally. He was there part of the time while we were. I spent a lot of time around the Snowballs. One time I was sliding down a small loose hay stack in their ^{barn} back yard and slid off and landed on the seat of my pants in a fresh cow-pie. He helped me by having me slide around in some straw in the yard before going home.

One time Woody told me of a Halloween trick played on Mr. Snowball. He also told me not to tell them he told me. Mr. Snowball drove a team of white horses and on one particular year some kids in the community painted the horses green. There was no way that the paint could be removed and he just had to wait until the horses shed their hair or it wore off. Woody supposed he was suspect anyway perhaps but he didn't want me to let them know he told me. I don't know that he told me he was in on it but if I told, that he told me, they might suspect him more than ever I suppose.

Mr. Snowball had pigs. They were the big white ones. ^{I'd always seen red pigs.} Maybe ~~Poland china~~ ^{club} breed. He used to go to the creamery along the highway south of town and get whey in barrels and haul back to feed his pigs. I went along on his wagon on several trips. He plowed a field just behind and along side Elmer's house. He brought the team into the field through their backyard. He hired me to walk along side the horse that was down in the furrow and he gave me a stick and I would hit the old horse across the ribs about every so many steps just to keep him up on the double tree. It got to be a boring job and one day to just change the routine I suppose I jabbed the horse with the end of the stick rather than bringing it down over his ribs. Mr. Snowball immediately warned me not to do that else the horse might kick. I was glad when that job ended. It was drugg-

they wrote
Alice, Mrs
Snowball
name on
one horse
and Frank
on the other
horse

ery. He used a box breaching harness. It was the first of that type I'd been around. South's harnesses were always the Yankee breaching type. (that's with a crupper)

While in Randolph I saw the strangest colored horses I had ever seen. I never even saw them around the auction yards in I.F. They were spotted like pintos but the colors were white and then the darker color was also a light almost gray. The trapper may have ridden one and if so I saw it about every day when I would ride past his place ^{the trapper} behind Woody on the saddle skirts or ~~he~~ maybe occasionally rode past on the way to the hills.

Mother helped me gather some willows and made a bow and some arrows. I spent time shooting on Thelma's lawn at targets made out of cardboard most likely. One day I moved a slab on the shed behind their house. It was a shed battled with slabs. It may have been a grainary originally. The board made a squeeking noise. Finally I kept playing with it to hear the squeeks coming out of it and a bat fell out and onto the ground. I thought it was the ugliest thing I'd ever seen. I caught it in a ^{tin} can and put a piece of screen over the front of the can. Thelma was afraid of the thing because she had heard that they sometimes got into people's hair and tangled up in it. I don't know how we disposed of it unless it just stayed in the can and maybe died.

Well the purpose of the trip so far I've neglected to tell. The baby came and all must have gone well. It was a little girl and if I haven't given her much attention so far in this write-up as her uncle in the third grade, she got attention from the Snowballs. She was the first girl born to a Snowball family for several generations. Mr. Snowball was elated. Elmer was elated and so were the rest of the family and I'm sure they all rushed in to see if what they had heard was really true. It was a girl! I don't know if we stayed until Shirley Ann was blessed or ~~not~~. *She was a month old when you left*

^{it} One time when we were there we went for a car ride to Woodruff. I guess ~~it~~ was a rival town for the schools in sports. I don't know if Elmer borrowed a car and took us or if some relative may have taken a car and gave us a ride. I don't know why we went there unless just a chance to go sight seeing sometime while we were there.

When we left Randolph we went to Cokeville, Wyo. Whether we went there with the mail man or one of Elmer's brothers maybe took us I don't recall. In Cokeville we stayed in a restaurant which was run by Elmer's older brother I believe. He and his wife were kind to us and final when the time came to catch the train we boarded it and returned to I.F. There used to be a place called Cache Junction. It doesn't seem like I hear the name used any more. It perhaps was associated with the railroad more than anything else and when the passenger service discontinued it faded from use.

A Later trip to Randolph with Dad in his car.

There was a time once that the folks went to Logan in our Chevy to attend the temple. It may have been that the folks did some family names they had researched in the temple. Al and I went and did some baptisms for the dead. I remember that mother told me a lot about how nice the temple was. It was quiet and sacred and that one could get a feeling of peace there and I certainly went there expecting to feel something special and wonderful. I didn't have any experience there that was special to carry over in my life. It did seem a very quiet and peaceful place. There was a certain amount of awe because of what she had done to prepare me for going. *There was a peaceful feeling.*

The thing that I remember mostly about the experience was the lack of respect shown by some local Logan boys. They were brought to the temple to also do some baptisms and they sneaked out a door from inside the temple and left so they would not have to participate. I couldn't hardly imagine kids doing such a thing.

We drove up through Logan Canyon. We saw Bear Lake and there was a lot of talk of the color of the water. We passed some of the little towns, like Garden City and Laketown. I was aware that there were some resorts along the way. I remember sort of that there was a lot of barren country and saw the red colored rock and soil along the road where it winds through the hills on the way to Randolph. I remember the ranches along the road as you drop out of the sagebrush hill country and come into Randolph from the north, ^{the} ranches gates and the mail boxes out along the highway.

We visited Thelma. I don't recall if Elmer was there. I can't remember anything about seeing the Wilsons or the Snowballs. I'm sure that the folks would have met them. It seems that Danny would have been a little boy by this time and that's about all I remember of this trip.

On the way home we must have stopped at the soda springs and had a drink of the mineral water. I didn't care for it. Dad drank some and seemed to like it. It was a big deal anyway. Then it seems that it was associated with a sort of small knoll and a ~~pa~~ place for tourists to park their cars.

I'm sure that we must have stopped at the dam where Dad had worked. At the time it was built it was called Alexandria. Maybe Grandpa Hale worked there for a little while also once. Dad told of an experience while he was there where in an argument perhaps over a card game a man shot another man and then just walked away from the camp and over a hill and disappeared. No one went after him, ^{at} least at the time. He didn't stay to collect his wages or anything. Dad worked as a ~~foreman~~ foreman or crew leader anyway of somekind while he was employed there. They probably lived in tents and the folks (family all except me) must have been in Smithfield at the ~~time~~ time.

May 5, '83

Dear Bernie & Louise

Well I got a copy of this letter you sent to me. I'm going to get the other one out and send it soon about Island Park. I called Rex Hale tonight. He just got back from Arizona. He & his wife go down there in the winter because of his health. He has had two heart attacks so his Dr. suggest he go to Arizona for the winter to get out of the snow. He said he stayed at a place in Pravo last night where they parked there 5th wheeler. He said they are going to Coeur d'Alene in June 9-10-11. for a (get together) with people that travel around the country in trailers & that sort of thing. I told him I may be there at the same time. Shirley's boy Dan is getting married on

The 11th of June if Dee and
Sharon want to drive me to
Coeur d'Alene, well I started the
add in the paper for my house
but I haven't had a phone call
yet I'm wishing I'd placed it
with a realtor instead of wast-
ing this whole month with an
add. The main big industry
B. E. is closing down and
moving out that will put
500 people out of work so some
of those homes will be on the
market this fall or earlier I wanted
to get ahead of them, I think this
lawyer that advised me to try
30 days gave me bad advice, well
see. Mike has been pretty sick this
week with a virus he had to miss
some work, he found out that
they are going to put a insulin
pump in him so he will have to
go to the Hospital in Idaho Falls
for about 4 days that's where
the Dr is that is treating

him he is a specialist in
Dialectics so they will teach
him how to change the ~~needle~~
needle and keep him under
observance while they regulate
or what ever they do - I told
Rex about Zara. have you
heard from Melva lately? I
feel sorry for her it would be
tough to be the last one in
the family. I guess Aunt Rosella
had a stroke it left her partially
blind. I told him about Ken
passing away he hadn't heard
well I'm glad the little boys are
doing Commercials wish I could
see them I saw ~~for~~ Lisa
a few weeks back she gave
me a picture of her self. I guess
m' Jean moved she's expecting
(Tracy) ^{Shirley's girl} said in the lobby where
she worked in California, the day.

of the earth quake was full
of scatterd glass she said her
equilibrium was all hay wire
and it made her sick to her
stomach she said others said
it made them sick also she
said she was looking for some-
thing to dive under that it
was pretty scary she works
at San Jose - will Claudia

Should be 92 if I'm not mistaken
on the 11th 7 may. you know
once I get to Coeur d'Alene, in
a way it will be a relief but
I bet it will be quite a adjustment
to go thru oh well, I don't have
a choice well I better close for
now - I'll write again soon Thel
PS this Sunday may 8th Mary came
yesterday and advised me on placing
my house with a realtor yesterday
she sat in on my signing with
him it was very help full
she understood things more than
I did I was grateful love Thel