

The Memoirs of

Bernard Elden Knapp

Letters to
Marjorie Knapp South
1981-84

Mon 30 1781

Dear May,

Hi! How are you? Pretty busy I understand from talking with David recently. Jody called yesterday asking me for verification of some records of mine. So I'm firing them off to her this morning. I appreciate her doing that project. It will be nice to know that the four generation sheets will go in well anticipated. (I guess that's a word!)

Hope things are going well with you. I'm trying to remember and do some of the things you suggested. I've tried to go to the temple twice a week. I don't always go twice each week but I have gone more than twice some weeks. Last week I went on Friday expecting to stay 2 sessions. But I had a little trouble with indigestion and didn't stay the second one. The week before I felt somewhat the same, I stayed and got sick and had to leave the session. They will hold the session up for 3 minutes. I was able to get back in time to finish it but I felt miserable and embarrassed. So last Friday I didn't take a chance. But it is nice to be so close to the temple - drive there in 5-7 minutes. Never have to wait in the chapel more than 20 minutes - usually much less than that.

Hope Susan & Myrna are doing well. We don't get much news - Claudia did write recently to

let me know that she missed the South in Stelling
and with Nicki leaving I guess she'll be ~~for~~ pretty
lonely.

I've gone over 10 times this month to the temple.
I pledged twice a week at the time I got my recommend
interview from the stake presidency here.

The kids seem to be doing pretty well in school.
I don't know what will do when school is out.
We have such an affluent mood. Other families kids
going on ~~river~~ river running trips etc. etc.

Shawn got 1st place in the pinewood derby.
He did it almost all alone. I couldn't go. I was
at work. Justin went with him. I had helped him
paint his car and cut it out of the block of wood.
He sanded it himself. I put some fishing sinkers
in the body for weight. So the whole family was
tickled for him. He has a nice little trophy.

He had just been baptized the preceding week
so he had been an eligible cub scout a few
days only.

Ruth had her birthday on the 22nd and Tim
had his on the 29th.

Dorothy Cook recently visited us while she was
down here visiting a son and a daughter.

Sharon ~~Lee~~ Kellogg called me one day inquiring about
an apartment. I surely hate to help her. Not that I
hate to help Sharon of course but I hate to be an
accomplice - I'd hate to see her get out on her own. I
think she'll regret it. I can't help but to think a great deal of
Dix. This communication deal is surely a tool of Satan
it seems when the wires get crossed.

I'm writing this at school. It's Monday and I had a little work here I had to do this morning. Also I had to stop off and pay the gas bill and the car insurance premiums.

I have to dig up the house payment this week also. I'll have to dip into my savings for that one - It's hard to believe how much our living costs are increasing, and we're being quite frugal.

This past week Loring got news from Nevada that the Las Vegas police raided the place where her friend Jean and Sonnet's bunch are living. They took all the children. Then I

heard her telling Jacky about it and someone else on the phone later. All the small children were returned within a day or so but 3 of the larger ones were being retained for further questioning.

Apparently a complaint was filed on child abuse and maybe molestation. Of course Jean told her side to Louis and so the police are storm troops and naturally all the charges are false - Hope the kids won't be too scared to tell the truth - It's got to be a mess. I wish they could some how show the real character of these men -

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ever - being + all

B Knapp
1157 E 640 So.
Provo, W. 84601



Mayaile Soath
Rt 1 Box 114
Menan,
Idaho 83434

Dear Marj,

Hi! The other day I remembered that I had not included Leora's letter with the last one that I sent so I'll do it today. A few days ago I got started on a little project. I sorted through a box we've accumulated over the yrs. since our kids have come along and took out the photos. Then I stuck them into some albums that I have picked up at the DI store the last couple of years. It was something I'd wanted to do for a long time. I'm not finished yet. I found out some other things too. There were negatives of pictures that were not available in prints. So one of these days when I get ahead a little I'll take those neg. in and get some prints.

One time when Lisa was around 7 or 8 I ~~took~~^{too} took several pictures of her in a long white dress. It was a nice picture. One pose however, was the favorite. She was sitting on the grass and the dress was out in a large circle. She was in the center and it was taken from above at an angle downward. It was really one of those ~~re~~ rare ones that turns out better than most.

Now the tough part. While you were in Michigan, I painted the round disc picture of Mingo. I had a negative of him in black and white and also a slide or two. In order to get better ~~detail detail~~ detail I wanted to get ^{the picture} ~~(the neg.)~~ blown up a little. Also I had a neg. ~~of~~ of my long haired-long-horned cow with a calf. I ~~was~~ wanted to get a larger picture of it also and had anticipated that sometime I would use it in a painting that I had figured out. So I took those two negatives and put them into one of these little celophane envelopes that the photo labs give you. Also I included the single negative of Lisa in the dress ^{neg. are} where it flared out into a circle. I had those together and kept them for ^{2"x2"} a while and then I gave them to M'Jean at your house one time and asked if she ^{square} got around to doing any enlarging would she make a copy of each one for me. Well, you can imagine I almost feel embarrassed to mention this to you. You were not home at the time. M'Jean later said she'd watch for them. She knew they had been placed on a shelf or in a drawer. ^{she never did any enlarging after I saw them} So since then you have come home and she went ^{to her} to SLC and Myrna has gone and Susan has gone and come back and who knows where they might be. Well I mention it so that you will be aware and if you ever find or run across three such negatives you'll be aware of them. The last I remember talking with M'Jean she didn't really know where to look but she knew they would be somewhere in the cabinets. Probably the celophane envelope will be in a regular envelope or one of the Kodak sacks they use at photo shops.

She said when Marj gets home she'll probably go through a bunch of the stuff in the house and she'll run across them - I know they are here -

So I don't want you to feel any responsibility for the fact that I can't put my fingers on those negatives. maybe some time if you're going through some things in your cupboards or what ever you'll be aware of it, if you should run across it. I always figured I'd eventually get an enlargement of the particularly neat pose of Lisa. So I hope some day to run across it. I only have one small 4x4 photo of it so it is too small to take a copy and get any detail.

Not long ago I dropped into the DI store and there were a couple of folders for negative photo albums. So I got them and I have also put some of my negatives into photo albums. so they are filed now. Eventually I'd like to be able to put all the ones I have from the copies from the folks books into negative files and then when someone wanted a certain picture they would be on hand to use.

It is pretty easy to plan all these things but doing them is a bit different, I just went to the dentist here at the school and he referred me to a specialist. He was going to clean my teeth. He cleaned them about 3-4 months ago. They need it again but he claims a ~~speckia~~ specialist needs to see me because of the conditions of my gums, and he'd clean the teeth anyway. ^{while he was at it. So} Here at the school we don't have to pay. Our dental insurance pays 80% but at the school the school will take ^{over} the other 20% as well. The outside dentists however, charge us the 20% above the insurance coverage.

This is a slow week. I've had a class 5:30 - 7:30 Mon-Thr for two weeks and no students to drive for the past 2 Fri. ^{so no classes Fridays} So I have been doing a little housecleaning in our file cabinets and making up some charts and visual aids and that's about all. Lynn Asay has been home with the flu or high blood pressure and other ailments off and on for several weeks so neither of us has been very busy. I don't like to do busy work. So I just stay away a lot. He's taken sick leave part of the time. ^{while he's been gone.}

Willis has been home two days, It seems this flu epidemic varies in severity but mostly headaches and dizziness. So Willis feels real bad to miss school. He hates to get behind. Justin made the honor roll this last semester. Justin loves basketball and skiing. Willis plays but he gets discouraged easily. He doesn't have the natural ability like Justin. He doesn't ski as well and I guess he missed out on lessons one year. He takes clogging lessons one night a week. He seems pleased with it. But I don't know that he wants his peers to know he takes dancing lessons. These peer groups are something! Well Marj, believe it or not, We never have to get after these boys to get up and off to school. They get right up and shower and sometimes get their own breakfast. Willis catches the bus about 7:00 and Justin leaves about 7:25 to walk and meet his friends on a corner and then about 8 more blocks to school. ^{so} (it must be about a mile.) He wanted a weight lifting set for Christmas so Louise got one used from the want ads for him. He works out on it 3 or 4 times a week.

next month Ruth will be 8.

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Tim finally is trained. He'll be 4 in March. Kethy was 5 last month. Shaun has a birthday this month. So we have a lot of birthdays this time of the year.

I guess I can't think of anything else to say.

Some day I'd like to go down to Price and see the domes there.

I think it will be exciting to have those domes for advertising - after a few years when the records show the fuel costs and air conditioning costs it should be impressive and I hope it will get some media coverage - I'd like to be able to help with something like that. If I knew a way to do it, the boys have done

Love from all of us
Benni

Let me sign off -

and still are always doing things for me - all of you do.

I've never had any comments from Al about any of the suggestions I've made about writing down any of the things that ~~the~~ he might remember when small about the ~~the~~ folks in Island Park.

I figure the time in Goshen before I was born and up until about the time we left would have to be written up by someone else - not I.

I do have a few things written when I remembered at ~~Big~~ Braggards,

You had a guitar - the bus driver was Gus Wark (sp), some songs - 2 Christmas, Riding of the wood on wagon - (Frog left beet seeds - loading beet - Olsen's beet wagon - Grandpa Dale & Grandma losing her glasses (in her hair) - Uncle Joseph Dale - the Dominguez family - Maureen - Sharon born - Elinor & Budett - living at Rafael Larsens - & Forbes - the cow - "Cherry"

I need to resort all my notes on that stuff too

Dear Mary,

Hi! Usually when I begin to write - it is legible, Before I get finished it's atrocious. So I'm off to the start. I'm sitting on the art room floor - we call our built on the art room here. I took back the picture of the ram from Ken's trailer home in Lava my last trip there. I wondered if it wouldn't be an incentive for me to get going.

I really do enjoy that picture. There are times when I'd like to have some help. I'd like to just simply be able to ask some question or questions and no one is there to ask. But at least with this particular painting I can say I set up a 3 legged tripod at the edge of the highway

in Lava and painted those mountains.
One pickup truck turned around and
stopped. 3 guys got out, came over
and were very complimentary. One
said he'd often hunted on those
hills. They were really interested.
In fact with a little diplomacy
I might have been able to ~~sell~~
have sold it to one of them.

Well anyway, may the
fact I don't after see the
picture in Idaho - it always
looks so good to me.

There is a "how to paint
cowboy scenes" book here. The
artist-author were Touks. He
painted in Alberta, Canada and
some of his paintings hang in
Canadian galleries and "ranch
homes" - I guess his painting in
a ranch house today would be
a real status symbol. He's
deceased now. His hey day
was in the 40's & 50's.

Any way in his book he

illustrates on one page 8-10 paintings - all scrambled over the page in black and white snap shots.

He says - a good way to judge if you have a good composition in your painting is to see if it looks good in a black + white photo.

Well my black & white print of the room in Lava looks just great to me. Looks more like a natural scene than a painting.

Encouraging? yes.

You know there's a scripture in Proverbs perhaps with all thy doing — — . But I'll once in a talk paraphrased by saying with all thy doing - get going.

I've been really busy this past week. I figured my time last night. I've had 10 hour days pretty regular for 2 weeks.

Two Saturday mornings in a row, 4 hours. But total for the entire month will only average

a 40 hour week. No one ever used to think much about that. In fact it was a light week - especially if Saturdays were involved. But I suppose one of these days I'll have to explain that to a ~~supervisor~~ supervisor. They seem to get alarmed when I turn in so many hours. Gee I can't afford not to work - after July - I'll be getting \$14.50 an hour for summer school. Many of our teachers are getting more than that. In fact I guess all of the summer school faculty get more than I do. But I won't take time now to explain -

I had to get another pen - It isn't the best obviously - It's Sol pen. I need to go to work this morning - til noon.

Then two Chinese girls are coming to our house to bring some Chinese food. The one girl

is Maize's niece that we took thru Yellowstone. She'll go back to Calif - this coming week. She's enrolling in college at San Jose - the other girl is from Hong Kong - but speaks Mandarin. She went to college 1 year in Taiwan.

Each one will be diving this morning also. One in the 1st session at 8:00 the other in the 2nd at 10:00

I've kind of been hassled around this week at school by the administration over a new car for our driver ed. It ^{bugs} bugs me no end how administrators spend tax dollars - It's unreal - Well I best not get into that, I'm going to send a photo to you of our family -

Lisa was 18 when picture was taken - June 15th her birthday - Willie is 15 - will be 16 in Aug - I guess he'll take driver ed from his dad in July -

Justin is 14 - (will be 15 end of Oct.)
Shawn is 11 the only Feb birthday in

our family - Joseph 9 - Dec 14 ⁶

Ruth 8 - was baptized & confirmed on
April 1st. Jess was 7 June 12th

Then the Idaho pair -

Kathy 5 - (6 in Jan) Tim 4 (5 in March)

Quite a pair - I'm sending you a
cute photo. Not which has the
tongue - but - which one is the boy.
You'd be amazed how many people
pick Kathy as the boy. But now
in our world almost all the
average priesthood boys are back
to short hair. Willie started it
with a crew cut. See it seems
new to me -

I'm going to include a picture
for Myrna + Susan + Jeff - Since
their eyes are younger they
get the smaller photos. The
large one is for you.

Finally Mary - I did it -
I got a family portrait that I
can send to each of my nephews
& nieces and say - now please
send me one of all of you

family. Then my kids can look in the album and begin knowing what their relatives look like on my side of the family -

I'll write to Barry + Elinor and ask for an exchange photo. There's a free family portrait of available at Sears - 8x10 with two Cheer breakfast cereals proof of purchase seals. It's on every package we buy the darn stuff by the case.

The offer is good thru Nov. All stores with portrait studios offer it just for 2 little old seals. I'll send some to anybody that needs them. A Tell Susan. The IF Sears store should be as large as the one here.

I'm going to send one of these pictures to Leora also and I'll tell her of course about seeing her dad's picture in Jackson.

One reason I didn't mail anything to you yet - I waited for the photos and there was an unexpected delay -

I never forget July 1st, I suppose
the July 1st a quite a long time ago
was a Sunday too - was it?

I remember Barney shopping the
trailer and running to J. F. bob tailed
in the Ford. I always think of
M'lean. Somewhere I must have
her address. But I'm not sure
where - will you include it in
the next letter you send? Thanks -
I'll send her a photo -

Does she paint anymore do you know?
I better get ready & go to school. It's
been nice having cold nights - but it
rained last night and it's cloudy and
in this room it is 80 degrees.
I'm going to look into getting a
fan to move the air in this
room - even if I have to open the
door and set it in the doorway -

I think if I had a really
good squirrel cage fan in a short
time I could change all the air in
the place in a short time. By the

today - July 1st.

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end of this coming week. By July 5th or sixth I'll have finished all my a.m. driving students - then I want to paint regularly each day. I'm anxious for the first time in a long time to get back to it.

The scripture I started to quote I didn't finish, "With all thy getting - get understanding" Rev. Sill's last 2 words paraphrased "get going".

I'd call M'Jean if I had her number - I have had but right now I wouldn't know where to look for it.

I want to send her a photo, however, so I'll expect her address next letter - okay?

Well, I need to get this mailed to you Monday. I now have everything put together.

You use your own best judgement concerning the photos, the letter of information and if

it happens to be handy for you to see if there's a negative or picture of one of the dog teams that might be offered to them.

Some day I want to read the account you've mentioned of mother's trip thru the Yellowstone. Maybe if the 8x10 of the Dad and the Kanvert is ~~is~~ left it should have yours or Al's address on it in case after the touring season is over they might return the photos rather than just throw them all in a box.

~~the~~ Next year they will have an entirely new set of missionaries - maybe - you can determine while you're there how ongoing it appears to be. Ask the story about the building and building lot next door - being moved in.

It's interesting also -
Bye from all of us - Berni

B Knapp
1157 E 640 So
Provo, UT 84601



Mrs. Marjorie South.
Rt 8
3007 East Telford Rd.
Idaho Falls,
Idaho 83401

Nov 16, 1984

Dear Maj.

N'l. Well I hope in the last letter I was perhaps able to surprise you a little. On the 15th I had a letter from her. I think she's much more contented and much less scrutinizing toward the people living in the same house with her - that's really good to hear.

She said you'd talked with her. Also that Beth had finally written to her. I sent her a postcard of the Manning Geyser Pool - an old one - she had sent to the folks - maybe when she went to Yellowstone while we lived in Goshen. It will surprise her.

I found a valentine from Carma to Thelma - I see list it was Carma Christensen. Also I sent several to Al and also a letter folded several times - written on air force stationery - from England to the folks and me. It was changed from white to a sort of tan or bookskin color from aging. I did make a xerox copy just for even. It was also ~~in~~ Scotch-taped on some folds and tatted on one edge. But I thought he'd like it. Also I sent several birthday cards to Mother written in Louise's handwriting.

Then I sent some similar things to Anna. Hope they'll bring back some pleasant memories.

I've included some ideas for David to look over - you may certainly feel free to read them also.

I've had some very pleasant thoughts since your phone call the other morning. It's been such a grind to always wonder if you going to have to take out the last remaining savings to meet payments or bills. It is pleasant to think of the relief of being out of debt.

Yet I'm not so anxious to get out that I would want to see the boys taken on added indebtedness that they wouldn't need to just to bail me out.

But all in all I'm confident they know what they can do. Maybe they'd be able to lease or sell much better not being the middle man and come out ahead this way too -

So I'll leave that decision with them.

after scraping as I've (we've) done this part while it is a welcome thought to get rid of this big monthly payment.

I told Justin - maybe we can have some ham & eggs for breakfast once in a while. And I'm going to spend less time in summer at school and more doing something with the kids.

I really need to do this. Well thanks - and I'll sign off for Bennie

Dear David,

Hi! Since the phone call from Mary, I've been doing a little thinking of course. The idea was rather thought provoking. When I consider not dipping up the \$850⁰⁰/month payment is quite something in itself.

Some ideas I've thought about I want to mention. As near as we are to the end of the year - if it works out to being a cashed out deal - it would be quite tax advantageous to have the payment split over 2 years - In talking with our tax accountant the old 78% down and the rest over several years has been changed by the IRS. The amount down or up front could be almost any amount - but splitting it to cover 2 years would be much better than a total cash sale.

Our present mortgage is just under \$54,000 - now another thing I didn't mention in the last letter. There were 2 airline tickets to Lincoln, Neb. for the Conklin Leadership Meeting. Also included were \$500 - for the initial fee and hotel accommodations. Don't forget those expenses. We need to take them out of what ever sale price you decide upon.

Then Lisa's schooling expenses - there are probably others we'll think of -

I don't suppose anything was really done about paying for the insulation in our attic you hauled down from Wayne Bergerins cellar - and Randy sprayed the interior of our "art room" covered deck over our garage.

Also it may be in the future we could arrange something additional for this house.

Sometime if you and Barry were down this way I'd like some advice on a couple of things - Possibly a new roof. Several other homes in this subdivision have been re-roofed and others repaired. Ours isn't really holding up too well either.

And I'd ask the feasibility of spraying the ceiling of our garage - which is the floor of the art room. That place gets over 90-95° in summer afternoons. I don't know where it comes from. Maybe you cat could tell me.

I have several questions concerning feasibility of improvements and solar implementation. I'd like to discuss these with you guys sometime.

Well I've been thinking about these things ever since May. hung up the phone and I still have some questions and probably will have even more - Well fill sign off for now - Respectfully Bernie