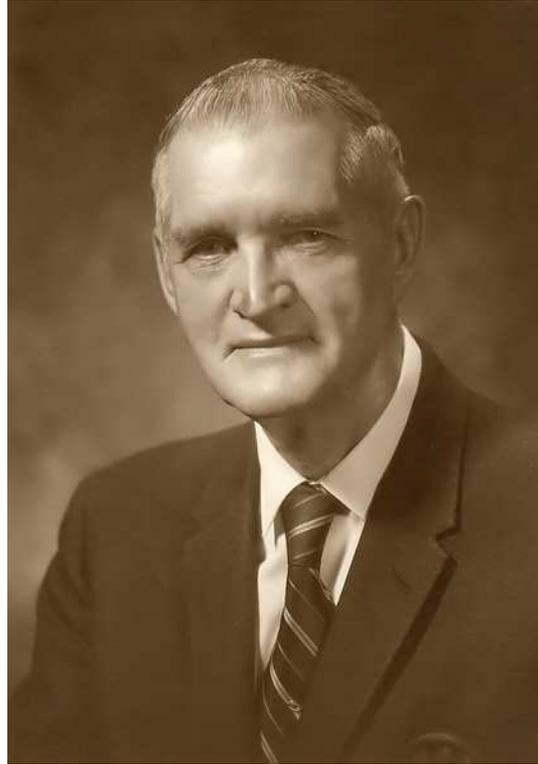


Rudolph Rytting Personal History

28 July 1994



Doug Rytting: We are now going to have our family home evening, and on our agenda we are going to go into some of the history and background of our parents. It is Dec. 29, 1968. We would like to ask Grandma to give our opening prayer. First of all, we'd like to ask Dad to go back and talk about his single life. Where were you born?

Rudolph Rytting: I was born in Grantsville, Utah, that's in Tooele county, that would be June 9, 1898, so that's 70 years ago last June, and I don't remember anything about Grantsville at all. I was the third one in the family. The oldest one was Aunt Emily, then Millward, and I and Andy were born in Grantsville. Then we moved up to Lyman, Idaho, just south of Rexburg; and that's my first recollection. I must have been four or five years old, I guess, because I surely don't remember anything about Grantsville at all or our move. The first recollection I have is the home we were living in Lyman. We lived in a log house. I don't know how many rooms; it was a log house with a dirt roof, that we lived in for quite a number of years. Father was a carpenter and a builder. All I can remember is that it was quite comfortable even in the old log house. But I remember every winter or early spring they would throw more dirt on the roof because it would gradually wear away from the rain. A kind of grass would grow in this and it would help hold it so it wouldn't all wash away.

My grandparents on mother's side, Grandmother Millward, passed away before I had any recollection of her at all. Grandfather Millward lived until I was a grown man. He was still alive when we were married.

Phoebe Rytting: Let me say just one little thing about Grandpa Millward. We went down to the railroad station to see him off on the train, and he came up and gave me a great big kiss on the cheek and said, "ooohh, I love to kiss the young girls. It makes me feel so young." He was 84 years old then.

Doug: What are some of the first things you can remember in Lyman?

Rudolph: I can remember starting school. We lived on a lane, and I can remember we walked up this lane up to the main road. The old school house was a log building about a half-a-mile south. I was trying to remember the name of one of my first teachers. Her last name was Dolly Bowen. She was a very pretty girl. I remember she married a claim agent for the railroad.

We used to like to sled in the winter. We'd rig up sails on the sleds or whatever we could use. The snow would crust over and when the wind was blowing, we'd set these sails and scoot across the farm. Of course, we'd have the job of walking back, but that was quite a lot of fun.

We boys were always quite mechanically inclined and we were always rigging up some kind of thing to operate with power. None of us were any hand with livestock of any kind. Although we had horses on the farm and rode them a little bit, but we always found out that we enjoyed riding a bicycle or motorcycle. I had two motorcycles and we always had bicycles when we were old enough. I remember sending to Sears, Roebuck and getting the bicycle, and I remember setting up until way after midnight putting it together one night. We took it out and rode it on the

road during the night, we were so anxious to ride it. I think it cost in the neighborhood of \$10.00.

Doug: You had an old Harley Davidson motorcycle, didn't you, Dad?

Phoebe: Boy, when he was 17 we have a picture of him, and you should see him.

Rudolph: Yes, I had a Harley Davidson. That's when I was a teenager. Oh, I was a real smart looking boy on this motorcycle. I had an Indian Motorcycle first, but I worked doing various things like carpenter work, working on farms, and various things and saved up the money and bought a brand new Harley-Davidson, the biggest one they made in those days. It didn't have electric lights. It had some kind of gas light on it, a carbide light, but it was a big one. It was called a Harley 74 which meant 74 cubic inches, I guess, but it was one of the big ones that they made. It was a real swell motorcycle. Of course, they're still making them today. They are the standard for police motorcycles, so they've been in business for years and years.



Rudolph with Indian motorcycle.

Sharon Rytting: What can you tell us about the first time you ever rode in a car? How old were you?

Rudolph: I can't remember exactly the first car I rode in for sure. I'm trying to remember the first car I was really attracted to. It was a Ford. It was owned by Dr. Rich. Were up at the church house, and that's when I was really young. And he came out with a little two-passenger ford and had the top down, and you had to crank it in front. It had a copper radiator; it was a beautiful little car. And I remember him coming out there at the old Lyman Church, and I remember him heading back to Rexburg. They just had gravel roads in those days. It sure was a pretty little car. And then I can remember people that lived up in Archer were fairly well-to-do farmers, and they had an open touring car. I don't remember the name of it now; it's not made any more. But I remember seeing it go down the main street of town, and of course the streets were real dusty in those days, and there was just

a big cloud of dust behind it, and I was thinking what a wonderful thing it would be to have one of those automobiles.

But we used to do all kinds of things. Rig up things with power, and build things. Uncle Millward especially was real handy at building things, especially with wood. I was more mechanically inclined than any of the other boys. I could do almost anything with a machine when I was young. I just loved to work with machinery and still do.

Doug: I know you used to play baseball a lot. What can you tell us about that?

Rudolph: Well, I have rather short legs, but I could run real fast. I won a lot of foot races. I guess my legs worked fast, but they were not very long. So I was quite athletic, and I loved to play baseball. And when we would get into those games and play, my heart would pound just like a trip hammer.

Phoebe: He was still playing baseball after we were married.

Rudolph: That's right. My main strength in baseball was batting. I don't know what my record would be, but I was one of the good batters, so I helped out quite a bit in hitting the ball. I liked to catch, and my cousin, Uncle Lyman Rytting was the pitcher on our team, and he was a whiz. He was really one of the good ones. And I was the catcher, and we won better than 50 percent of our games. My main love was pitching and playing first base. I played in the field, but when we came to the real games, I was either catcher or first baseman. But we played a lot of baseball, and that was our main sport. I never did play basketball, football or anything like that, and I never did care for boxing. A lot of people would say, "why don't you?" because I was a big broad-shouldered boy. They'd say, "why don't you go in for fighting? You'd just be a whiz." And I'd say, "well, you can't see the yellow streak down my back."

Phoebe: He'd never have been able to stand hitting anybody.

Rudolph: No, that's not my disposition. I like to play games.

Phoebe: He wouldn't even go out and hunt a poor little deer, you know.

Rudolph: I liked to go hunting rabbits, ducks, woodchucks, and geese but not big game. I never did go big game hunting. I never have in my whole life.

Phoebe: You'd go swimming in the old swimming hole.

Rudolph: Yeah, we had a swimming hole about a half mile down from our place that they used to call the Texas slough. And there was a place there where the water came down and would whirl around and made a real deep pool, and all the kids in the neighborhood used to go down there swimming.

Doug: Didn't you want to get into the major leagues in baseball at one time?

Rudolph: Well, I just thought about it, but I never did follow through with it. But speaking about Uncle Lyman, he was a little bit older than me, about the same age as uncle Millward. He was about the best all around athlete I've ever seen. Nowadays he would be one of their top athletes if he had gone into that. I don't know how far he would have gone, but we'd go to athletic events like on a celebration where they would have broad jumps and running jumps and racing and high jumps, and he could beat anybody in any of those things. I've seen him as a pitcher in baseball -- we used to call it fanning a man out -- just one right after another. They'd get up there and strike three times and out they'd go. I mean they just never could hit it -- man after man -- so that shows how good he was. He was really terrific.

Doug: Didn't you used to have a band or an orchestra?

Rudolph: Yes, we always used to play for dances around the country. We had a real good orchestra. Millward was quite a good violinist, Emily played the piano, I played the drums, and I was the vocalist. I played the piano, but not in the orchestra. Aunt Emily played that. Outside of the family we had two others, I think it was some of the Bowens and Bybees. They were real musical people and one had a cornet. And then later on someone played a saxophone. A saxophone was pretty unheard of in those days, and I'm pretty sure there was one. And then we had one of the Robinson boys that played with us, too. But we had a family orchestra, and there was three of us in it. I don't think Joe or George were in it. They were not old enough then. It was just while we were teenagers that we had that. Emily was a wonderful pianist. She could just hear a tune and go ahead and play it, and put in all the variations, the bass accompaniment and everything. If she just heard a tune, she could just sit right down to the piano and play it. She had a terrific talent that way. Millward was real good on both the piano and violin. He was a good violin player. So that was our orchestra.

When we were youngsters we were in dramatics all the time, especially in winter at Mutual. All kinds of dramatic programs were took around to all the little towns and other towns would come to our town. I think that our plays were really outstanding. It just happened at that time that there was a terrific amount of talent in that area there in dramatics and music. Like I was saying we had the Bybees and the Bowens and the Robinsons and the Ryttings, I should say, and others like the Wilsons & Mrs. Sharp. Mrs. Wilson had a family before she married Sharp, and the Wilson family was really talented in dramatics and music. And then John Blackburns led the choir for years and years and years, and mother was the organist.

Phoebe: After Rudolph went on his mission, the band was discontinued and you never did start it again.

Rudolph: No, we never did start it again. Uncle Millward went away to work. He went to work on the railroad, incidentally, because he knew how to telegraph and so naturally there was a real demand for telegraph operators. I don't know whether he was up in Montana at the time or down here in Nevada. But he first went up to Montana to work, just north of where we lived up in Montana on that part of the railroad.

Doug: How far did you get through school, Dad?

Rudolph: Just through the 8th grade is all. Then I went back to school one more year after that. We had a very fine teacher that was really an advanced teacher, so I went back and studied algebra and English and grammar. During that time I was going to school, my older brother, Millward, and I decided we wanted to learn how to telegraph. See, we were interested, like Doug is now, the electronics of those days which was telegraph communication. Got the instruction book and the equipment, and keys and strung the wire from one room to another and we learned. And then one fall I remember we worked out for the sugar company on what they used to call the beet dumps where they used to drive the teams up on the dump and dump it. And I'd work up on the beet dump where they were dumping, and we'd take samples of the beets, and Millward was down in the scale house, and we'd telegraph back and forth the weight of the beets and so forth. Just an interesting sidelight there. We were always interested in the scientific things and mechanical things of those days.

Phoebe: This is what Alta's children are going to learn to do now; they're working on Morse code.

Rudolph: I told them to be sure to study the International Code, not to learn the Morse Code, because that was used just locally here in the united states on the railroad and so forth. But now the International Code is used extensively. It's the same system, but it's a different code. So I learned both of them now; I learned this second one in order to take the Ham examination, and I've been practicing a little bit on that lately to keep up on it.

Doug: Dad, you used this Morse Code to a great advantage.

Rudolph: During the first world war I knew how to telegraph, so one of the officers, a minor official of the railroad, came out to the farm when I got the draft call. They hadn't drafted me yet, but when I got the draft call, they asked, did you have a special qualifications and so forth, and one of them I mentioned that I had this mechanical training and carpenter training and I knew how to telegraph. Boy, they jumped on that right now, and they practically drafted me on to the railroad. Because they were getting girls or anybody they could get to work so I went down to Shelley, and I worked as telegraph operator there at Shelley for a few months. But anyway, I worked down there until I actually got my draft call which was in the fall of the year. Well, let's see, the war ended on November 11. I worked most of that summer of 1918 in Shelley as a telegraph operator for the railroad. And then the draft call actually came through to appear at Rexburg for a physical examination, so then I had to quit the railroad. I was ready to go, and the Armistice was signed on Friday, and I was scheduled to take the train Monday morning.

Doug: Dad loved to work on gasoline engines.

Rudolph: As I said before, I was always interested in all kinds of mechanical things and still am. Any kind of machine that will work, I love it whether it's an automobile or an airplane or a motorcycle or a dishwasher or an automatic machine of any kind.

I think it's really always been a thrill to me where you could turn a few levers or flip some switches and then have something do something.

Doug: Didn't you used to go out on the dry farms with those old steam and gas engines?

Rudolph: I didn't run any of the steam engines, of course they had them in those days, but I did go up on the dry farms at one time in the fall and worked for Webster where they had big steam engines that they pulled the harvesters with. I was sacking the grain and running the header, as they used to call it. You'd go along and you had a lever where you could raise and lower the cutting bar to cut the wheat. Now some of the wheat would be taller and some lower, and so what you wanted to try to do was just get as little of the straw as possible and just cut under the heads. You'd gradually adjust that. They don't do that so much any more. But I used to be a real good mechanic on those old engines, so I'd go up on the dry farms, especially one summer I remember they had a great huge Reeves gas engine with huge wheels -- it was a monster -- but they hadn't had very good success with it. It would pull ten plows, but it only had one gear ahead and one reverse so you had to pick out the ground as level as you could because it couldn't go up a very steep grade on account of you couldn't shift any gears. It just had the one real low gear. So they asked me if I'd go up and run it one summer if they had it overhauled, so told them I would, so they had this big machine overhauled in Rexburg, put it in first class shape, and I drove it up to the dry farms, and then I run that machine all summer. And I felt so proud. I was 16 years old at that time in 1914. That would be while the war was on over in Europe. But I ran this big machine, but I found that with 10 plows, it would have a tendency to want to bury itself if you'd get to a slight incline, it would have enough power that it would spin those big wheels. Those wheels were huge, about eight feet tall and about six feet wide. So I told Mr. Parkinson I thought that we've have a lot better success if we'd take off two plows and just pull eight rather than try and pull ten plows. So we took off two plows and I pulled eight plows, and it did a beautiful job with that and never had a bit of trouble. It just walked right along about two or three miles an hour. But the fellows driving the teams in those days, they'd have a whole string of eight or ten horses on a set of about four plows on the one outfit. Starting out the first thing in the morning, the horses would go faster than this big old engine would, but the big engine just keep rolling along. They'd have to go so far with the horses, and they'd have to stop and let them rest, and I'd just keep right on going so I plowed a terrific amount of summer-fallow that summer with that machine. Mr. Parkinson said that was the best they had ever done.

Then I used to go up to the shearing plants with a gasoline engine with a belt up to a shaft, and then off these shafts they'd have the shearing machines (sheep shearers). They'd probably run ten or a dozen machines off this shaft and I ran the engine, but it was quite important that this engine to keep running because these men in those days made fantastic wages. Sometimes the men would make \$15.00 a day. Sheep shearing was real hard work, but in those days \$15.00 a day was a fantastic wage. But as far as I can remember, we never had a bit of trouble with the engine

going. And I used to run an engine and I'd sharpen the cutters and combs as they called it -- the thing that worked back and forth -- the cutters and combs that they sheared the sheep with. One little funny incident about that. I went home over the weekend and while we were gone on the weekend, the men that stayed up there decided that they would shear some sheep. So they tried to get this engine started, and they struggled with it all weekend, and never did get it started. They didn't get any sheep sheared at all. So they were all on the q.t. Waiting for Monday morning when I came back up to get the engine started. Well, I just went out there, turned it over and away it went. Of course, I knew just what to do; you know, every engine has a peculiarity and the old ignition system on that was really quite complicated. It had a shaft that ran back and forth off the cam shaft that would flip a switch, and you really had to understand how to run them.

Doug: Talking about business, didn't you have one adventure with a show house in Ririe?

Rudolph: There was a schoolteacher by the name of Warner that came out to Lyman, very intelligent, fine young man. In fact, he married one of the Bowen girls that I used to go with, bless his heart. He didn't take her away from me. I wasn't that interested in her, but I . . .

Phoebe: We're really getting in on it now.

Rudolph: So anyway, we got to be quite good friends; he was quite an intelligent person. He came down to our home quite a bit, and we'd visit and so forth, and I was always a sort of a promoter, so we got talking about a motion picture house. The old silent movies were very popular in those days. So we were trying to figure out a place to start one. Well, of course, they already had them in Rexburg, Sugar City, Rigby, and all like that, but not out at Ririe. There was a real boom on out in the Ririe area. The dry farms were being opened up and the town was really booming and they didn't have any show house, and people loved to go to movies. It must have been before I went on my mission, so I was just a youngster. So we went out to Ririe, and we got a building there that we could have this show house in, but there was no electric lights. Father might have helped and this school teacher had a little money, so we bought a gas generating plant that would run the machines. We bought the old second hand machine from the show house in Rexburg. We also started a real estate and insurance office in Ririe. And we did real well there for quite a while; in fact, I bought me a big red Buick car, the first car I ever owned. We took in several hundred dollars a night in this crazy show house. But there again I could see that we were doing so well that some people there in Ririe who had real money, like some of the dry farmers, may want to get into the movie business. And there was a Japanese couple that ran the hotel there, and they were doing real well, so the rumor got around that they were going to build a brick building (and electricity was coming in to town), so we were getting the cream of the startup business, so Mr. Warner wanted to buy me out, so I sold. I can't remember, I think it was \$2,000 that I sold my share to him for.

Phoebe: Yeah, what did you do with it? Bought that big red car. That's what he did. That's where the \$2,000 went. I didn't even know you had a car then. I'm learning things here.

Rudolph: Uh... the car cost \$1200. And to this day I can't remember how long I kept it or what I did with it, but I got rid of it before I went on my Mission. Isn't that funny? So I sold my share to Mr. Warner, and he kinda went in partnership with these other people that I mentioned. They did start a picture show in this other building and ran it for a while, but it folded up because the town wouldn't support it when sound movies came in. They haven't had one since. But that was an adventure and I can also tell you about one real estate deal. I didn't do very much business, but a man had some dry farm land out east of Ririe out in the Antelope area, but it hadn't been plowed up or anything, but it was good range land. I happened to know a man in Lyman by the name of Chauncey Hales that had some sheep, and he had been looking for a place for summer range for them. So this man listed the place with me to sell, so I wrote to Mr. Hales and told him about this land. He came in to Ririe one time -- we were still running the picture show -- and I didn't have time, but I knew how to direct him to go out and look at it and see if he wanted to buy it. And so he went and looked at it and he came back and said, "yes," it was just exactly what he wanted and he bought it, and I made \$500 commission.

Phoebe: What did you do with all this money? Why, my word, when we got married we were broke.

Rudolph: I'll say we were broke. there was a boom going on during the first world war. I don't think the United States had actually got into the war yet, but we were furnishing things to England and other places and everything had a pretty good price.

Phoebe: You know, it would cost about \$2.00 then, and it's only a dollar something now.

Rudolph: Never did see that piece of land that I sold. I also sold some insurance policies, fire insurance and a few things like that. That's the reason they say I've always been kinda interested in real estate and investments and so forth, but I never followed through with it.

Phoebe: (Chided him about all his interests -- machinery -- mechanic, etc.)

Doug: What can you remember about church activity in your family.

Rudolph: Father worked in the Mutual. We didn't have any scouting as I remember it in those days. We did have a religion class and had Primary. I don't know just what the difference was between the two; I suppose religion was intended in some way to be a junior seminary. One of the men that was the head of it from Salt Lake, I don't recall his name right now, he even came up to Lyman one time when we had a religion class conference. He was the man who wrote a child's story of the Book of Mormon back some years ago. He was a very interesting speaker. Then, of course, father went into the Bishopric. He was a counselor to

Bishop Bowen. Bishop Bowen was our Bishop as far back as I can remember; he was our first Bishop. Then Father followed him as Bishop, and, of course, Father was in the Bishopric for many, many years. Mother was president of the Mutual, I believe, for quite some time. Mother's main activity was in the music. She was organist there in the Ward all her life until her health started to fail. My activity was just through the regular quorums as they came on up and so forth, and I don't believe I held any real official position in the Ward that I can recall. I might have been in the presidency of one of the Deacons' Quorum, but I can't recall that I was.

Sharon: Now how long did you live in Lyman?

Rudolph: Well, I lived there until I was married.

Phoebe: After you became an Elder, you advanced through all the Priesthood.

Rudolph: Yes. Just lately we went over to Ricks College and got the dates and everything about my birth and baptism and all the ordinations. Bishop Bowen, my Father, and Nels Jensen and all those old names I remember were on the certificates.

Phoebe: What I was remember is when you became an Elder and you went on a mission.

Rudolph: Well, I went on a mission to the Central States, and we were trying to find out set me apart when we were in Salt Lake this last time.

Sharon: Who was president of the church when you were called on your mission?

Rudolph: I'm just not sure of that either. Seems I remember it was Heber J. Grant, but I think he was later. It could have been Joseph F. Smith.

Doug: Where did you go?

Rudolph: I went to the central states. Independence, Missouri, was the headquarters. The first place I went out to was Wichita, Kansas, and worked in that area for a little while and then I was sent out to Salina, Kansas. When I first went out there it was right after the first world war and so many people hadn't been visited during that time. I went with the Presiding Elder in a car and spent the first few months traveling around the mission, and the Central States Mission in those days was a huge mission. Many people hadn't had any missionaries call on them since before the war in 1917.

Sharon: Did they have missionaries while the war was on?

Rudolph: No they didn't. They might have called a few and maybe some older ones, but I don't believe they had very many missionaries. I think they were all drafted. Incidentally, I was just drafted, but never did get into the army. I was drafted and was going to leave on Monday and the Armistice was signed on Friday. I had taken my physical examination and everything.

Going back, I tried to enlist in the Air Force, but they wouldn't accept me. Uncle Millward tried to enlist. He went down to Fort Douglas to enlist but for some slight physical defect, something with his feet, they turned him down for enlistment. Later on he was called up in the draft, but I don't think he went either.

Doug: Why did you want to join the Air Force?

Rudolph: Well, there again, that's the mechanical part of me. I loved anything that was mechanical.

Phoebe: He has a fascination with airplanes today.

Rudolph: The Air Force was a very small thing and very selective at that time. They were only taking just certain people into it, and I didn't have the qualifications or they just didn't have any place for me. So they didn't accept me, so when they wouldn't accept me as enlisted in the Air Force, why, then I waited for them to draft me into the army. Of course, that's what they did.

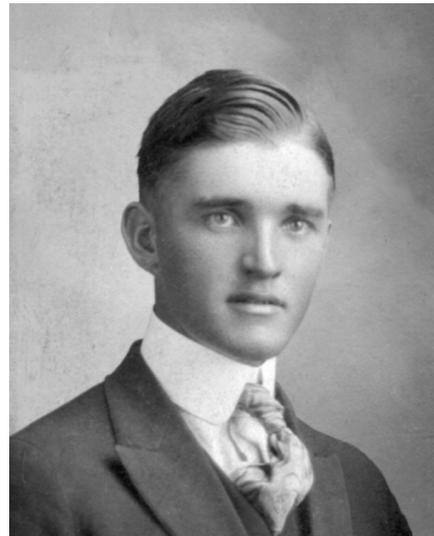
Doug: Well, let's go back to the mission. Can you relate any experiences or anything unique about the mission? I understand it was a very difficult mission.

Rudolph: Yeah, very rough. Very rough. It was right after the war, and they had discovered oil all through Kansas, and around Wichita, and there was a real oil boom, and everybody was all excited about oil, clear down into Oklahoma. We went down into Oklahoma to the Indian reservation, and that was another funny experience. The Indians had made a lot of money in oil, and they were building quite elaborate homes. You'd go down there and they'd have the very latest model Cadillacs and whatever was the big car in those days such as Packards and Pierce Arrows. You'd go to the home and they'd have all their junk stored in the home, and they'd live outside around the house in tepees. We traveled way out into western Kansas, and the climate was different than the eastern part of Kansas and Missouri where there was a lot of rainfall and it was very green. I can remember when I was in Salina it would rain just about every night, and the sun would come out in the morning and shine and it was just green and beautiful. We visited with one of the good old faithful members of the church who was a widow lady and her teenage daughter. Her home was almost headquarters for the missionaries. She'd feel real hurt if you didn't come and visit with her. We didn't stay there, but came there for meals occasionally, or to visit quite often. I can remember us kneeling down to hold missionary prayers and so forth. She was a big heavy set lady and sat in a big chair. I remember we'd kneel down by her to have our prayers, and she'd set in this chair. She was getting pretty well up in years at that time.

Doug: Can you think of any spiritual experiences that you had?

Rudolph: As we went around the mission we'd come to the members who were really scattered around the mission. The Branches were very small, but we went around and baptized a lot of children who hadn't been baptized, and then we also blessed a lot of the children who hadn't been blessed in the church. So we

did a lot of that ordination work, I can't remember, but I don't suppose we would have had the authority to advance anybody in the Priesthood. And converts were few and far between. People were interested in their job and in business and just anything else beside the church. It just seemed like if you'd get a contact that was interested at all, it was very rare.



Rudolph as a young man

Phoebe: They were hostile.

Rudolph: Very, very hostile.

Sharon: Especially in the Independence area.

Rudolph: Well, in that area was where the Saints were driven out. Just the fact that there was a line between Missouri and Kansas didn't make any difference, I mean eastern Kansas and Missouri was all just about the same, so the field wasn't anything like it is now.

Sharon: When I was back in that area three-and-a-half years ago, just before Doug and I got married, they were telling us then that it is still about the hardest mission in the entire church because there are so many bitter feelings and memories.

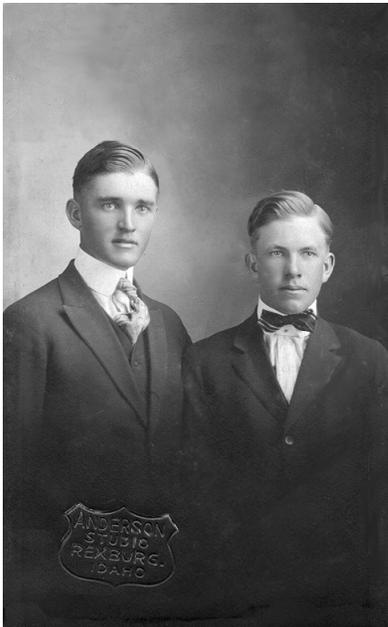
Rudolph: Well, it kinda carries over like between the North and South. It's just passed on from generation to generation, and it just seems like it's a hard thing to overcome.

Doug: Were there any other particular hostilities that were shown toward you personally?

Rudolph: Well, yes, I got stoned once. We were out walking through the country and in this particular instance a car passed us. We were walking west and the car passed us going east. And shortly after the car passed us, we came to a house on the north side of the road, so we walked up to the door and knocked, and a young girl in her late teens came to the door and we started talking to her. This car turned around and came back, and it was her father and mother in the car with two other children. Of course, he immediately ordered us out of there. He knew who we

were, and called us some vile names, and as he left, he actually threw some big rocks at us. Luckily he didn't hit us, and a neighbor just slightly up the street watched the whole situation, and of course we hurried away from there because we didn't have any argument with him. That was the worst experience we had, and it really would have hurt us if we had been hit, but his aim wasn't straight enough. The other man who had seen what happened invited us in to his place, and we had light refreshments. He felt really embarrassed to think that his neighbor would assault two ministers. I suppose he thought we were in there trying to entice his daughter to join the church.

We traveled through the country on our mission on foot quite a bit of the time supposedly without purse or scrip. Now you didn't actually travel without any money because if you didn't have any money they'd pick you up and arrest you for vagrancy. But of course they never did arrest us or bother us. Sometimes we'd go a long time in between, then we'd try to get people to take us in for the night, and sometimes we'd be successful and other times we wouldn't. We'd try to make it so that sometime before midnight we could get into a town. Usually every small town had a small hotel or somebody would take in roomers, but a lot of the time we'd get people to take us in, and when they did, they would give us their best bed and feed us their best food. And we blessed a lot of small children during those times.



Rudolph and Brother Andy

Phoebe: Well, your instruction was any time that a non-member of the church wanted their baby blessed by you, you were to do it. Is that right?

Rudolph: Yes, that's right. We'd ask them if they'd like to have us give their young child a blessing. The older children, you know how it is, they just wouldn't be interested, but the parents, for some reason, if they would invite us and were friendly, they'd think that would be a nice thing to have their small baby blessed.

Sharon: Did you keep any record of these blessings or was it something just like a prayer?

Rudolph: No, just like a prayer. The theory was that they'd remember it, and probably later on they might be contacted by a missionary and that the blessing was a favorable influence in their life. We baptized quite a lot of children who were already in the church. But convert-wise, there were some that we had that were really interested and I'm sure that later on they joined the church, but I didn't actually make a convert baptism. And none of my companions did.

Phoebe: Of course, your mission was shorter than some.

Rudolph: Yes, I didn't stay out the full two years. Times at home were very difficult. Father was a contractor, and there just absolutely wasn't any building. We had a 40-acre farm and you can imagine the kind of living we could make off a 40-acre farm. And there just wasn't anything for Father to do building-wise. And we had real serious sickness, too. My sister, Lucille, died while I was out in the mission field, and aunt Emily wasn't expected to live. She contracted a sort of flu or something and was very seriously ill. I came home before the two years were up, and I was really run down at the heel when I came home. The suit that I had--I just had one pair of trousers, and the coat didn't match -- and I had taken them to the dry cleaners and had them dye the coat to match the pants as well as they could. And I had a sort of a raincoat and so forth.

Sharon: How long were you actually on your mission?

Rudolph: About 16 months. I left in June and came back in October of the next year.

Phoebe: The church didn't have any help for missionaries like they do now to keep them out in the field.

Rudolph: It was strictly up to the family, I never received a penny from anyone else other than the family. And Father had borrowed all the money he could from the bank and so finally we just ran out of money.

Doug: What did you do when you came home?

Rudolph: I just worked at various jobs. Andy and I had experience in building and so forth, so there was some fairly well-to-do man who lived just south of Rexburg that wanted a machine shed and sort of some farm buildings built, so I went out there and took Andy with me (Andy was younger than I) and we built this right from the ground up including foundation and all. I was a good enough builder that I took charge of it and built the whole building. Then we helped out on the farm to get the beet harvest in, and when I got through with that, there was nothing to do, and Andy had gone over the year before to the sugar factory and worked during the campaign, as they called it, and after we got through, I went over to see him and see if there was a possibility that I might get a job although the factory had been running quite a while. So I went over to Sugar City and applied for a job, and it happened they wanted somebody to handle the

parts department; the store where they kept all the parts for the factory. I got the job of working from 8:00 at night until 8:00 in the morning. There wasn't any 8-hour shifts then. I'd go out when I could to dances and to church. Since we worked at night, I spent most of my leisure time during the day.

Phoebe: Yes, but I remember we used to have a lot of fun in the daytime.

Doug: didn't your mom have a special experience when she was young?

Rudolph: I don't know whether I've ever told you this but my mother, you know, was miraculously healed when she was a young mother. I think she would have been probably in her late 30's. I was just a teenage boy probably twelve or thirteen. And mother developed a thyroid condition called a goiter which is large growth around her neck. And it was a terrific goiter, and it was just slowly choking her to death. She'd have these spells, and just frighten us all to death and herself. She'd just fight for her breath, and finally it became necessary that she would have to be operated on and cut this out. There was a doctor that was a specialist in Rexburg, but he said it was too deeply seated and that he wouldn't attempt to take it. But there was a specialist by the name of Dr. Middleton in Salt Lake who specialized in removing these goiters, so we made an appointment with him. I remember the night that mother left -- just like one of those nights in a storybook -- it was just pouring down to beat the band, and Millward and I drove the old white top and took mother and father over to Rexburg to catch the train and stayed with the Atkinsons. They used to be neighbors to us out at the farm, but they had sold part of their farm and moved to Rexburg, and were living there, but they had a barn behind their house so Millward and I slept up in this barn up on the hay. We stayed over night in Rexburg and mother and Father left on the night train for Salt Lake.

Mother was going down to be operated on so she went to the doctor, and he gave her the examination, and they set up the operation date to take place a few days later. They were going to have her go into the hospital but they decided they'd go through the temple -- hope I can tell this. They decided to go through the temple for your health; I don't know if that's done now or not. Anyway, she went up there to get a blessing and that thing disappeared just like that, and when she came out of the temple the goiter was gone. She went back to the doctor the next day and he examined her and said, "you haven't any goiter; it's completely gone." So mother came home two or three days later and never was troubled again as long as she lived.

Phoebe: Now some of the family criticized Grandma Rytting because when they had been away and they would come back to visit, and I think they figured that she should kinda stay and visit

with them, but Grandma Rytting, if it was Relief Society, if it was Primary, and she belonged to both of them, if it was Sunday School, she was organist in Sunday School, she had a job in the church, and it didn't make any difference. "If you want to come with me, fine, but if you don't, I'll be back in a little while." Or if any call came for any sickness or anything like that, she'd go, and I have heard some of the family criticize her, but Grandma Rytting told me once, "when I went in the temple and asked for this special blessing, I promised if the lord would heal me, I would never turn down anything that I was asked to do in the church." And she said, "I have to keep my promise." So we knew why she did this, and why she felt like she did. And boy, talk about a faithful soul.

Rudolph: Mother had a young family. I was about 12 or 13, and Emily being the oldest one was a little bit older, then all the rest down below in age. And Lucille, the one that died, was alive then. Mother had nine children, so I guess there were about seven of us there at the time. Well, to leave that family would be quite a problem if she had not received this blessing. When Mother became ill when she was older, all the faith and prayers didn't save her. But then again, Grandmother knew she had a problem, and the doctors had told her what to do, and she wouldn't follow their advice, so in a way, she may have been responsible a little bit. She shouldn't have salt, she shouldn't have chocolates, she shouldn't have a lot of things, and she'd get hungry for them and she'd have them anyway. So she could have maybe lived a little longer if she had followed the doctor's instruction.

Sharon Rytting: Who was Aunt Emily?

Rudolph: Aunt Emily that died (Mother's older sister) was sealed to father in the temple,

Sharon: Weren't they originally going to get married -- Aunt Emily and your Dad?

Rudolph: I'm not sure about that. He went with her some when she was a young girl, but, as far as I know, the real romance was between Father and Mother.

Phoebe: Aunt Emily told your mother that Charlie was not for her and that Nonie (that's what they called Grandma Rytting -- her name was Lenora) and that she was to marry Charles Rytting, and she said they used to go together and then she died. Now this is what I remember his mother telling me.

Sharon: Why don't we go back and hear about your life, Mom.

Phoebe Rytting Personal History



Phoebe: I was born in Malad, Idaho, April 12, 1902. My father was James Calvin Stone, and my mother was Lucy Dredge Roberts.



Phoebe's parents James Calvin Stone and Lucy Jane Roberts

And when I was two years old, my parents moved to Sugar City. My mother lived with her grandparents from the time she was

born until she was married and until I was two years old. And her mother and Grandpa Roberts had gone to Sugar City and homesteaded 640 acres up there in that area. And when I was two years old, we moved to Sugar City, west of Grandpa Roberts' home and in a little log cabin with a dirt roof, and also had a dirt floor. And I can remember, even though I was quite small, when we'd have real hard storms, that we'd have to put pans all around to catch the water that would come through the roof. We had just one room, and I can remember we had an iron bedstead, and Uncle Cal was born at Sugar City right soon after we moved there. And I can remember that he was sick almost from the day he was born, and as little as I was (I was only about 18 months older than he was) but I can remember I used to take a real responsibility with him. I can remember one day my mother told me to take him for a little walk, and we had a creek that we had to cross, and I tried to get him across it and he fell in the water. But anyway, we lived there for a few more years and then my father bought 80 acres of unimproved land out in North Salem. It was all in sagebrush.

North Salem Idaho is out from Sugar City just a little ways, kind of north and west. And I can remember, it was just a little home, and I can't remember whether my father built it or not. And I can remember him clearing the land out there of sagebrush. I remember taking water or punch or something out to him with a girl when they were clearing the land, and we'd wear black stockings in those days. And I can remember one day as I was crossing the field that had the sagebrush cleared from it, I looked down at my black stockings and they looked red, and they were just covered with wood ticks from that sagebrush -- literally red with wood ticks. And so, of course, every night we always had to have a good going over to see that the ticks were off from us.

And my father, while he was clearing the land when we first moved out there, they were building the sugar factory, and he worked on that all the time, too. He would be gone during the day. Oh, it was lonely out there. There were no homes for miles around, and my mother had a 22 gun that they kept there, and I can remember when the chicken hawks would come in and try to steal the little chickens and the eggs, I've seen her just open the screen door and put that gun through that door and shoot those hawks down, just bang! Bang! More than once. Well, usually, they'd come down and sit on a post or something and she'd really get them. I saw her once, she was so afraid one was going to get away that she shot right through the screen door. But anyway, that's some of the things I can remember when we first went out to Salem. Of course, that's where I first went to school out there in the little red school house north of Salem. We had to walk about a mile-and-a-half to school every day. We had just two rooms out there. We had two teachers, and I can remember a lot of the time the teacher would ask me to listen to the reading or give the spelling or something to some of the students there, but I went to school there until I was nine years old, and then we moved in to Sugar City. Now while we were in North Salem, my brother Les and my brother Glen and my sister Lizzie (Elisabeth) were born, and when we moved in to Sugar City, we all had the whooping cough. I can remember that -- oh, my! I remember having a fuss with Uncle Cal once. We got under the table and I started beating him up, and he started into a whooping cough spell and he nearly choked to death. I can remember my mother getting after me and telling me to go over and kiss him better, and I didn't want to do it.



Phoebe as a small child

Rudolph: You might tell about during the winter going out to school.

Phoebe: Oh, yes, when we were out in North Salem, and we had this long distance to go, and we had to walk all the time -- summer or winter -- and I can remember once that a real terrible blizzard was on, but we wanted to go to school, and so we were following the fence in order to see our way along, and when we

were about half way to school, my father came on a horse and picked us up and took us back. He didn't want us to go any farther, and I can remember how upset we were, but on the way to school, on the side of the road, we always had sort of swampy water standing there, and there used to be a lot of polliwogs. We used to wade in there and catch polliwogs and when the ice was frozen, we'd try to skate and about half the time we'd fall through the ice and come home wet. But anyway, we moved in to Sugar City when I was nine years old, and what is there to tell about Sugar City? Other than, of course I continued on with my school, and it was on the west side of Sugar City, and we had to cross the railroad tracks always to go to school, and the railroad station was right there, and I can remember being fascinated by the telegraph key. I used to go in there and like to listen to that click, click, click, and never dreaming that's what my married life would be tied to, you know. But we lived in Sugar City, then, until after Carlos was born, and then my father bought a 15-acre farm south of Sugar City, and we moved out there in the early spring when I was thirteen.



Stone children Phoebe, Calvin, Leslie, Glen and Elisabeth

Sharon: How many more in the family now?

Phoebe: When we made this move, there was all six of us. I don't think there was anything that I remember too much about the first year that we lived out there except just getting settled in a new home. My dad making sidewalks all around the place with black cinders so we wouldn't sink out of sight in the mud, because we were out in the middle of a field. He built a home for us right in the field.

Doug: Any special experiences while you were young?

Phoebe: When I was a little girl, and my mother was to be sealed to Grandpa Roberts. She hadn't been sealed to her own father, so all we children went with my mother on the train to Logan, and when we were coming home from Logan, Pres. Joseph F. Smith, the president of the church with the big long white beard was on the train, and I was coming down the aisle,

and he was coming down the aisle, and I can remember that I stopped by him, and I can almost to this day feel his hand on my head. He put his hand on my head and told me what a nice girl I was, and I was going to grow up to be a wonderful woman. But anyway, I've remembered that all my life because it just seemed like his hand is the thing that impressed me. I almost can feel it now. I couldn't have been any more than about seven years old probably. But I can remember that; I can see him with that big white beard and glasses on.



Phoebe with mother Lucy Jane Dredge Roberts, grandmother Elizabeth Ann Dredge and great grandfather Jesse Richard Dredge

Sharon: What was the home like?

Phoebe: It was sort of a bungalow type home with three bedrooms and a front room and a kitchen with the kitchen cabinets. We didn't have any bathroom, but in those days, it was just real nice. It had a little tiny porch on the front of it too that was closed in. But about that time, the next year when I would be 14, and on my birthday when I was 14 years old, my mother became desperately ill. Now she had, over the years, appendicitis attacks, and I guess she really should have them out, but anyway, this April she became desperately ill and I remember they had the doctor come to her, and the first day they didn't take her to the hospital, but the next day they had to take her to the hospital, and just before they took her out, this terrible pain stopped as they were taking her out the door on the stretcher, and they figure at that time, she had appendicitis, and it ruptured at that time, and that released the pain. So they operated on her, and discovered when they operated on her that she was about six weeks pregnant. She was never well after that. She was in the hospital for quite a while on account of her ruptured appendicitis was very serious. She was never well after that; she was up part of the time and down most of the time.

Sharon: Did she lose the baby when they operated?

Phoebe: No. She didn't lose the baby, but she was so ill that the doctor said if they could take this baby, that possibly she could recover, but she wouldn't consent to it. I think I was going to school when she first was ill because I came home from school or on Saturdays, and we'd mix bread. At that age I would mix bread and we put it down on the chair where I could get to it, right

handy, and she'd show me how to mix it. But in November she died.

Sharon: When the baby was born?

Phoebe: No, the baby was never born. The baby was still alive, and it would be two months before it was born. And they never did take the baby. She died in November, and the baby was buried; it never was born. So from then on, I stayed home, I couldn't go back to school.



Stone family with father James Calvin Stone and Children, Phoebe, Calvin, Leslie, Elizabeth and Carlos

Doug: How many years of formal education did you have until you were 14?

Phoebe: I was in the 8th grade when this happened.

Sharon: How soon after your mother passed away did your father re-marry?

Phoebe: Well, it was two years, but I stayed home those years. I didn't even complete the 8th grade because I was in the 8th grade when this happened. So I stayed home and took care of the family during that time and did the best I could. I can remember my poor daddy that it was real rough on him. I didn't have to learn to cook because I had taken a lot of responsibility when my mother was sick. She was ill nearly seven months and I had done a lot then under her supervision. This was in November of 1914, then in August of 1916, my father re-married Larinda Virgin. She had never been married before and she was 29, when he married her, so she wasn't old. And then after they were married, I went back to school. They let me go to high school. They figured that even though I hadn't completed the 8th grade, I still was a good enough student that I could go into high school. So I went to high school for a year, but it was so difficult at home for me to stay there, and I felt so sorry for my daddy that I quit school.

Because after they were married, why we just started having babies again at our house, about one every year. And with my own brothers and sisters, I felt a real responsibility to help out.

Sharon: How many half-brothers and sisters do you have?

Phoebe: Seven. Six half-brothers and one half-sister. Fourteen children in all. There is one thing I forgot to mention. a year before Aunt Betty was born, we lost a baby boy that was six weeks old.

Sharon: Well, that was quite lucky to just lose one. In those days didn't they lose an awfully lot--usually a lot more than that?

Phoebe: Well, I think so. This baby died with spinal meningitis. So he was tiny. There were seven in the first family with the baby that died, and then after Larinda and Dad were married, there were seven more children. But after the third baby was born was when we were married, but we had some real difficult times right through there. It seems like my brothers, I don't know, they missed their mother or something. We seemed to have some real difficulties, but my grandmother was still alive at this time, and I remember how hard I used to work at home. Goodness gracious me. I just stayed there and worked and worked and worked, and I remember my grandmother calling.

Sharon: This is your mother's mother?

Phoebe: Yes, my Grandmother Roberts would call me and say that she was going to prepare a lot of chickens, and asked if I could come and help her, and I remember asking Larinda if I could go and she kinda sorta begrudgingly said yes. I remember walking down through the field to my grandmother's place. Now when we built our new home south of Sugar City, we again were right straight across from my grandmother, only we were east of her this time and about a mile from her -- instead of across the street from her like we were when I was tiny -- on the west side. So I went down through the field and walking through the door into the house and I looked around and I thought well, I don't see any chickens or any extra work around here, and so I came in and visited with her for a minute, so I said, "well, what is it you want me to do, Grandma?" And she said, "nothing, I just thought you deserved a good old rest, and I just had this way of getting you here today to do that." She did that for me several times when she thought I was kinda tired and run down. She was a wonderful person. My grandmother raised the first wife's children when Aunt Addie was born and Grandpa Roberts' first wife's last baby was born. They were born about the same time -- Aunt Addie and Uncle Henry, and then the first wife died. my grandfather lived in polygamy. My grandmother was his second wife. And my grandmother raised the first wife's family; then my grandmother lost her oldest daughter whose name was Aunt Kate, and she had four children, and my grandmother raised that family, and when my mother died, she would have taken us if my father had consented, but my father would probably have had to split us up, you know, we were quite a large family.

Sharon: That was good that he kept you all together.

Phoebe: And he didn't want us to go so he kept us at home.

Sharon: That was quite nice. Can you remember some experience about your mother that would let us know our grandmother?

Phoebe: Well, I was 14 when she died. Of course, I have a vivid memory of her. One thing that always impressed me as a girl was that she was a marvelous housekeeper. She was also a good cook. Well, my dad was a wonderful organizer outside, too, wasn't he?

Rudolph: Yes, the place was immaculate inside and out. I think that impressed me.

Phoebe: I can remember my mother having just wood floors when we were out in Salem, and once a week she'd get this big brown tub with soap and lye and a scrubbing brush, and she'd scrub that wood floor until it was just white. I remember, the wood wasn't dirty, it was just white, and her stove she would black it with black polish -- I can just see her.

Sharon: Do you remember any jobs she did in the church at all?

Phoebe: No, I don't remember, but my mother was very religious because she came from a very religious families; the Roberts' and the Dredge's. Now, my Great Grandfather Dredge, which was my grandmother Roberts' father, was a Bishop and a Patriarch, and they emigrated from England, and they were very devout members of the church, and so I can remember my mother telling us early history stories of the church and of her family. Now I can't remember some of those, but my mother was very religious. I can remember us going to church all the time.

Sharon: Do you remember any jobs, anything your father did in the church?

Phoebe: No, my father was afraid of participating in the church, and in those days they used to call them out of the audience to talk when they'd come to church, and they called him once, and I think that just about ruined his activity in the church. I have a letter I was reading the other day about the funeral of my father, and they were telling what a wonderful man he was and that he did more donating for tithing and to the church than almost anybody. He helped build the Relief Society room and wouldn't take any money for it and he would kill a beef and half of it would go to be used for the needy, and he was always doing those kind of things, and he had a reputation for honesty. Alvaretta's father, Brother Davis, will tell you that they didn't need a note signed if he borrowed any money or anything. If he said, if I'll pay you this on such and such a date, that this would be the case.

Sharon: Mom, tell us about your work experiences.

Phoebe: Now Dad had all these experiences of working and I didn't have that. I had to stay in the home. I had a chance to sell tickets in a show house and that was unheard of at the time. My father, said that nice girl didn't sell tickets in a show house. And I had a chance to work in a fountain in a drug store, and there

again, my father wouldn't let me go, because that was a public place. But B. L. Waldron who had eight children had to have a girl three times a week, and I could go there. And one day I'd do this huge, big washing for ten people, and then I'd go one more day in the week and I'd do this big ironing. There'd be this great big round wash tub, you know, like we used to have. The clothes had all this fancy lace on the petticoats that she dressed these kids in -- all white and starched -- I could go there and iron all day, and then another day I would go and clean -- scrub and clean -- remove all the pictures and everything on the wall, and I'd get a dollar each day. Now, I could go do that, but my dad wouldn't let me go and sell in public.

Sharon: How many hours would you work?

Phoebe: Well, I'd go in the morning and spend about eight hours.

Rudolph: That would be the old heavy hand irons, wouldn't it? The kind you'd heat on the stove.

Phoebe: I could go and do that, but not other jobs I would like.

Rudolph: There was a little stigma about it in those days.

Phoebe: Well, and then in those days, you could see why it was because I remember the first girl that cut her hair short, boy she was about a lost soul, wasn't she? It was just terrible, you know. So that's the kind of the time when I grew up.

Doug: Mother used to have a lot of poems memorized. Do you remember any of these? You used to rattle them off all the time.

Phoebe: Well, about:

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears?
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him?
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.
(Fades off into laughter)

Shall I tell you why I memorized this poem? Oh, dear, I used to write notes in school when I was in the eighth grade and I had a boy friend, and it was our Dr. Shupe that took care of my mother. We used to kinda talk together, so finally they moved him up to the front of the room and I was at the back, so we couldn't whisper, so I wrote him a little note, and went up and dropped it on his desk and he didn't see me drop it on the desk, and he pushed it on the floor and the teacher saw it fall. So she picked it up, and then she made him get up and read this note, and she made me stay after school. I can't remember what was in the note; it wasn't anything important except I remember my face started getting red right here at my neck, and she made me stay after school and write "friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears . . ." fifty times! On the blackboard. I think I had to do

it in two days; I don't think I could get it done in one day. Oh, dear.

Rudolph: Mother has memorized a lot of poems, but I don't suppose you could tell another one right now.

Phoebe: "Great Elegy" I used to know.

The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,
The plowman homeward plods his weary way
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.
Now fades the glimmering landscape on the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds; . . .

Let not ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys and destiny obscure;
Nor hear the disdainful annals of the poor . . .

Oh, dear, see, I've forgotten it . . .

The boast of heraldry or the pomp of power,
And all of beauty, all that wealth there gave,
Waits like the inevitable hour
All paths of glory lead but to the grave.

And "I shot an arrow into the air," dad, you know that one.

Rudolph:

"I shot an arrow in the air; it fell to earth, I know not where. The moral to that story is the one lost arrow."

Sharon: Tell us about Aunt Alvaretta. Wasn't she one of your good friends?

Phoebe: Yes, and we lived out there in the country, south of Sugar City. We were neighbors, but before we were neighbors, we were good friends in school. We just liked each other, and we were real good friends, and she used to come out and visit me, and I would visit her, and then they moved out south of town in a little log home right next to us, and so there we were. We were almost inseparable. Where one would go the other would go.

Rudolph: They were still living in that log house when I went over there and got acquainted with them.

Phoebe: I'll have to let Dad tell you about that. I think I was over at Alvaretta's one day when he came over. Wasn't that it? Was that the first time you remembered me?

Rudolph: No, I remembered you before that.

Phoebe: That was the first time he really noticed me. Let's say it this way: That he was really impressed. I remember I was over there, and Andy was over there visiting . . .

Rudolph: Andy had been going with Alvaretta, and he was there.

Phoebe: And so I was over there, and lo and behold, somebody said, "Phoebe, here comes your boy friend." And of course he hadn't been because I hadn't gone out with him yet.



Phoebe as a young lady

Rudolph: I came over to go with another girl. Who was that girl?

Phoebe: Rhea Dalling. But anyhow he decided to come out and visit there while he was waiting for his date that night with her. There I was, and I was caught. I couldn't get out without being seen just running away, so I took a newspaper and held it up and covered my face and was reading it when he came in.

Rudolph: Yes, I remember that. I was trying to remember what it was that they gave us. Was it some fresh bread or something that was so good?

Phoebe: Oh, Sister Davis was, after my mother died, was just like my mother. She was so sweet to me and so sweet to us kids.

Sharon: How many children did the Davis's have?

Phoebe: They had twelve children. Not at that time, they had about ten, I guess, but they had two more after we were married. And they lost four, so they had sixteen children.

Doug: What was goings on before this meeting at the house? Dad said he knew about you before then.

Phoebe: Oh, yes, he met us. I think Alvaretta and I were walking past the place where he was staying, and it was in the winter time. I don't think we knew he was in there, but we were kicking our boots off up in the air and acting silly, you know. He saw it all, I think we stood out there and laughed long enough that he came out to see what we were doing.

Sharon: Were you living with Uncle Andy at the time, Dad?

Rudolph: No, I was staying with Roberts'. Andy wasn't staying at the same place.

Sharon: Did they just have one Ward in Sugar City?

Phoebe: Yes, we just had one Ward in Sugar City. Now I sang in the choir all my life that I can remember from the time I was at least 13 or 14 years old. I can remember singing in the choir in Sugar City with Brother Cristy Schwendiman as our chorister, and I also sang with 12 girls. We had a singing group, and we used to go around to Rexburg for special programs.

Rudolph: They were good -- really good.

Phoebe: I can remember one day when we were practicing there at the schoolhouse. And Dad came in on the train and was walking up the street, and we came out from practice and some of the girls hollered, "well, Phoebe, there's your boy friend."

Phoebe: Do you remember our first date?

Rudolph: Well, I guess it was to go to a dance as near as I can remember. We used to dance upstairs over that school.

Phoebe: Yes, they had the school downstairs, and the gymnasium upstairs.

Sharon: Tell us a little bit about your courtship. And how long you have been married.

Phoebe: We've been married for 46 years. We should remember some of the courtship. We went together nearly two years. I can remember Dad bought a car, and we went riding in the car once. You know, cars were . . .

Rudolph: Kind of few and far between. We had an old car, but it was in pretty bad, dilapidated shape. We had an old Maxwell like Jack Benny's car. But it was just a touring car with the cloth roof and so forth and I think the roof was pretty well dilapidated. We were living in Lyman at the time and went to Rexburg to sing. Rexburg was our Stake center, our shopping center.

Phoebe: But usually we'd meet in Rexburg for Stake meetings. Dad would come over about once a week. He'd have to get special transportation or come on the train, and then stay over night and go back the next day.

Rudolph: We usually, when we did stay over night, we'd stay with a cousin Alva Barrus.

Phoebe: You'd go by Bishop Hamilton's home to catch the train the next day, and he'd kid me when I'd come to church, and say, "I saw your boy friend trying to get into his overcoat when he was running past my place to catch the train."

Rudolph: The train used to come up in the afternoon and then go back down in the morning, so I could come up and stay over night. I just walked down a mile-and-a-half to the station at Thornton and come up on the train to Sugar City, and just walked over to your place, and it was not too far to walk actually.

Sharon: How did you become engaged? How often did you see each other?

Phoebe: Well, I don't think ours was a flaming romance like yours where you met every day. Once a week we would get together, maybe on Sundays and Stake meetings, sometimes not even once a week. Dad couldn't get over there often because he was working.

Sharon: What did you like about Dad, Mom?

Phoebe: Well, my dad liked you real well. I remember when I came home and told him, he said, "now who's that fellow you had here last night?" And I told him who he was. I said, "his father is a Bishop." He said, "I don't care if his father is a Bishop. Who is he and what does he do?" But anyway, Dad was always so pleasant, real nice and real considerate. And, oh, dear, I liked him and that's about all I can say.

Rudolph: Of course, I always did like Phoebe a great deal. She was such a beautiful girl, beautiful dark auburn hair. She wore long hair which was the style in those days for most girls. But Phoebe's was naturally curly, and of course I thought she was real beautiful. One thing I remember when we'd go home at night from a dance or something and I'd go in and wait for a while, I'd take her hair down. She had it done up with the pins in, and I'd take out the pins so it would fall down.

Phoebe: Well, another thing about Dad. I'd always thought that I wanted to marry somebody that was active in the church and strong in the church. When I found out he had gone on a Mission, and all the fellows I had been going with none of them had any desire to go, they were all right, you know, but they wouldn't be going on a Mission and hadn't gone on a Mission. I was really impressed about his Mission because I wanted to go to the temple to be married. And, of course, that wouldn't be the only reason you'd marry anybody. You'd have to have a lot of love for them and respect for them, and, of course, that was all there.

Doug: How was the economy when you got married?

Rudolph: Financially, those were poor times for most people.

Phoebe: We were in depression days then in the 1920's.

Rudolph: We had a pretty good business after the war, and then about 1921 or 1922 -- you see, we got married in 1922 -- we were

in a short depression. A lot of banks went bankrupt. The First National Bank in Rexburg went broke, and money was really scarce. Financially we didn't have much to go on because I was just working at odd jobs. My father was a contractor, and we had this small 40-acre farm. We'd raise some beets and some grain but the prices were very low in those days.



Phoebe not long before marriage

Phoebe: My father was also a contractor. And I can remember the times were real rough.

Rudolph: And there just wasn't much work available. You could go for a year and maybe somebody would do a little remodeling job or some little thing. I remember when I went out and built this farm building for these people after I came home from my mission, and that's the only carpenter work I can actually remember doing.

Phoebe: You can imagine we were really brave to decide to get married because dad didn't have a job.

Rudolph: No, I didn't have a job, we decided to use the front room in our old home out at Lyman as our first home. That was father and mother's front bedroom, and we fixed it up and lived there that winter. We both loved each other and wanted to get married, but it was really financially scary.

Phoebe: And I can remember telling Sharon about us going down to Salt Lake to get married, my dad and Rudolph came over the night before we were to leave for Salt Lake to get married, and stayed at our home so that we could get the train the next morning, and my dad took us down to the train, and we got on the train all by ourselves and went down to Salt Lake and got married all by ourselves.

Rudolph & Phoebe Rytting Personal History

Phoebe: We left in the morning at 9:00 o'clock and didn't get into Salt Lake until it was dark, so we went to the New House Hotel and stayed, and when we got up the next morning, we had to go down and get our license. We didn't even have our Utah marriage license. And by the time we got a Utah license and got over to the temple, the first session had started. So we had to wait for the next session to start, and I can remember it was about 11:00 o'clock when we were in there, and I can remember Dad saying to me while we were sitting there, he said, "well, now is the time if you want to change your mind, you'd better do it now." So that was all there was to that. We didn't get out from getting married until about 4:00 in the afternoon.

Doug: Who married you?

Rudolph: Joseph Fielding Smith.

Doug: What did Joseph Fielding Smith say to you when he was at conference in Shelley, Idaho.

Phoebe: I said, "I don't suppose you remember us but you're the one who married us." and he said, "have you ever forgiven me?" Dad was working at the train station and I was there when Joseph Fielding Smith was taking the train back to Salt Lake after conference. So we went up and talked to him and told him what he had done. He had such a sense of humor.

Rudolph: See, everybody traveled by train in those days. I can remember how young a man he was. He would have been about in his 40's just shortly after he was made an Apostle -- one of the twelve. When we went in to get married, there was still a large group of other couples to be married from the first session. but we went right in ahead of them and President Smith married us.

Phoebe: An interesting thing that developed when Alta and Bert were married was that we found out that Bert's father and mother were married the same day -- the 4th of October, 1922 in the Salt Lake Temple.

Rudolph: They were among those in that first group. They must have been about three or four years younger than we were.

Sharon: Now, did you stay in Salt Lake after you were married?

Phoebe: Yes. We stayed that night, and the next day. We left there at night on the next day. When did we get into Lyman? Was it afternoon or morning?

Rudolph: They were running, I think, two trains a day. I think you could leave Thornton or Sugar City in the morning, and then again in the evening going to Salt Lake. We left in the morning and got into Salt Lake that evening.

Phoebe: I don't remember when we came back, but I know we didn't have very much money when we went down there, and so we went in to have dinner the night that we were married. And we went in and wanted a nice meal, and we did have a nice meal.

I remember we had a waiter that stood right by the table with a little white napkin over his arm. Every move that we'd make, he was jumping there trying to help us. And when Dad paid the bill . . .

Rudolph: I gave him a \$5.00 bill and in those days \$5.00 was a lot of money. I forgot what the meal actually cost but it probably cost us \$3.00 . . .

Phoebe: Dad put the \$5.00 on the tray, and the waiter brought it back, and before Dad could pick up his change, he took the tray and said, "thank you, sir."

Rudolph: He took what was left for a tip. I don't know, maybe a dollar or so, but for me in those days, gee whiz! I worked all day for a dollar. That spoiled our evening meal, that's for sure.

Doug: Did you have a honeymoon or anything like this?

Phoebe: No, we came right back home.

Doug: Where was your first home, by the way?

Rudolph: At Lyman using one room in the folks' home. The folks were there and George and Joe.



Phoebe and Rudolph

Phoebe: Andy wasn't married, so he would be coming and going. He happened to be there when we came home from being married.

Sharon: Were Andy and Alvaretta still going together all this time?

Rudolph: Yes, they started going together before we did, and then they didn't get married until about a year afterwards. But she was still going to school.

Phoebe: Grandpa and Grandma had a real nice bedroom for us in the front of their home. It was a large room. It had a big window across the south side of it, and it opened out into that covered porch that went around the house. We fixed it so we could have our own little table, and we had our own little monkey stove. One of those little round wood stoves with two lids on the top. We were married in October and in December, Uncle Millward sent Dad a wire from Moapa and said that if he wanted there was a job on the railroad for him. So we left and we didn't have very much money. I tell you we were sure hungry people before we got down to Moapa. It would have been all right, but our pass wasn't good on the train we wanted to get on, and we had to wait for a later train -- quite a lot later.

Rudolph: We went down in the morning to get on the train, and it happened to be the Los Angeles Limited. Our pass they had sent us wasn't good on that train, but it was good on the regular local train that left that night. So we waited all day and, of course, we had to have something to eat. Uncle Millward had a phonograph and he sent us a few dollars to buy some records. He said, "just go and pick out some nice records." But we hadn't bought them, and it was a good thing we hadn't, because we used that money for something to eat. And we didn't have a dime to buy anything else. And we were really hungry before we arrived in Moapa.

Phoebe: And we were on a train that stopped at every little station along the way to load milk cans or take on water, and it took us almost forever to get to Moapa, Nevada just north of Las Vegas. So that's where we spent our first winter. We transferred, though, from that division down there up to the division . . .

Rudolph: We didn't want to stay there on the desert. Now, in those days when it got toward summer it was hot! I transferred back up in May, wasn't it?

Phoebe: I went up home to Lyman in February. I just alternated back and forth between my home and his home, but while we were down there in Moapa the weather was beautiful. I can remember we'd do our washing outside and then we ordered all of our groceries from a catalog. We had one room at Uncle Millward's.

Rudolph: That was a kind of a tight situation because they had three or four children.

Phoebe: I don't know whether they had four or not, but anyway we all had to eat together. We went there in December and in February I got so homesick. I was just literally sick, and we were expecting a baby, and I finally had to go home, and I can remember when I got on the train, Daddy's face was just as white as a sheet, and I was just sick to leave him, but I was too sick not to leave him, too. I just had to go home. And while we were waiting for the train that day in February, it was 84 in the shade. I was homesick for home. I had left a home with little babies and

lots of brothers and sisters, and I had never been away from home in my life, and I was just homesick. My parents met me at the station in Sugar City in a sleigh, and it went 12 below zero that night. I was only home a week or two, and I was more homesick to go back to Dad.

Rudolph: But Mother didn't come back down though.

Phoebe: He just kept putting me off. I began wondering if he wanted me any more.

Rudolph: Well, here was the situation. Out at Moapa I was living with Millward and his family and it wasn't the most desirable with no air conditioning. When it started getting toward spring and summer, I tell you, it was getting really hot, so I didn't think it would be wise for her to come down. I had a chance to get the job at Pomona, California down in the valley near Los Angeles, so I went down there. And I was going to have Mother come down there, but after I had been there for a while, this job wasn't desirable at all. It wasn't what I had hoped it would be, and the working conditions and the fellows I worked with were really bad. So I knew I wouldn't be staying there, so I didn't want Mother coming down there either. I stayed there about a month, I guess. I just boarded and roomed, and with the wages those days I didn't have very much money left over.

Phoebe: Boy, the money situation was tight all the time.

Rudolph: I saved up a little money but not a great deal. I think I had a few hundred dollars by the time I came back. I came back to Moapa, and I didn't want mother to come down into that situation again, you know. They offered me a permanent job at Moapa but I told them I wanted to transfer up to Idaho. The railroad officials there were very unhappy to have me leave. But other officials wanted me to come up to Idaho because they were short of that particular qualified telegraph operators and agents. They were short of qualified people everywhere at that time. Just wasn't anybody who had enough training. So they came out to Moapa and said, "if you'll stay here, we'll give you a permanent job, but it will be out on the desert. We can't give you a permanent job in California, but if you'll go out on the desert, we'll give a permanent job and living quarters." But I didn't want to stay.

Phoebe: He decided he was going to come home.

Rudolph: I wouldn't have had to travel around like I did after we were married and went back to Idaho if I had stayed in Moapa. I had to be gone from home quite a bit of the time working on the extra board.

Phoebe: Building up seniority.

Doug: You left Pomona and then what happened?

Rudolph: Then I came back to Moapa, and I knew I wasn't going to stay there because the weather was really hot. I wrote up to Mr. Lute, he was the chief dispatcher, to see if I could get a job up there and he came right back, "yes" and he gave me a pass to

come right on up. When they found out I was going to leave, I told them my wife was there, and she was expecting, and I put up a story, and they didn't want me to leave. They said, "if you'll stay down here, we'll give you . . ."

Phoebe: That wasn't a story; that was the truth.

Rudolph: I went back up and stayed with mother until after Lucy was born. I just worked around on the farm there and so forth. I came up in June and she was born the 11th of July.

Phoebe: She weighed 9 lbs. When she was six days old, dad got called on his first job.

Rudolph: I went up to work at Spencer, Idaho. Oh, I just remembered, before going to Spencer, after all the experience I had as telegraph operator, the rule was that first you went out as student operator, so they sent me up to Melrose, Montana, as student operator. I went up there, and I knew more about railroading than the agent that was there, so I stayed there a few days and called the chief dispatcher . . .

Phoebe: Modest . . .

Rudolph: Yes, very modest. Well, I had worked at Shelley and I worked down at Moapa, and we were running trains through there all the time. Melrose was just a whistle stop going on the way to Butte, and the other jobs were the main line to California. The wages as a student operator just paid me a few dollars a day, so I got hold of the chief dispatcher and said, "I can't afford to stay up here, haven't you got a regular job for me?" So then he said, "I'm sure we will have one pretty soon." I said, "there's no sense me staying up here, I know all this job."

Phoebe: "I'm too good for this."

Rudolph: Well, there was nothing I could learn there, at that little dinky station. So I went back home, and this was before Sandy was born (or Lucy was her actual name -- she nicknamed herself Sandy).

Phoebe: It was when she was in Salt Lake, being of sandy complexion, some of the kids . . . Kinda funny . . . You know how they'll do, started calling her Sandy. One night in Idaho Falls they were making out the program for a play, and the president of the Mutual said, "here name isn't Sandy; it must be Sandra." So she just wrote it down "Sandra Rytting", and from then on everybody called her "Sandy" or "Sandra", and she didn't object to it. She never did like the name "Lucy".

Rudolph: The reason we named her Lucy was because phoebe's mother's name was Lucy -- Lucy Dredge. Her mother's name was Lucy; my grandmother's name was Lucy. It's a beautiful name. I love the name. it was a family name.

Phoebe: when Sandra was three months old, Dad got an evening job at Shelley. That's the first move we made. we got an apartment upstairs in an apartment house, and that's where we

took some of these pictures you've seen of us holding Sandra as a baby.



Phoebe and Rudolph Rytting with Sandra as a baby

Rudolph: We were in Shelley all that winter and stayed there until the next spring.

Phoebe: Then he just went up and down working at different stations; he'd be sent here and there. if he was going to stay in a place long enough, say a few months, then I would go. We just had a roll of bedding and we had a box we could take enough dishes for just light housekeeping and our clothes. We just checked that on the train, and I'd go, and stay.

Rudolph: I can't remember that it was really too rough. We were enjoying life, and we were getting along OK, and it wasn't too long after that we got our first car. We bought a Ford.

Phoebe: Yeah, but not until after Alta was born. Alta was born in Rexburg. Now if Dad was only going to be gone two or three weeks, I would go back to Lyman or I would go to my parents' home until he was some place for a long enough time that it would pay to move. He was out at Spencer before Alta was born, and I went out and stayed there for a while. Alta was born in February, so I left in January to go home. We didn't dare stay out there because we didn't know whether we'd be able to get to a

doctor, or get a doctor there. We had two little rooms, and there were no curtains at the window. There was a bed with a mattress on it, and we took a bedding roll and in the kitchen we had a box to sit on and what was our table? But anyway we scrubbed that place and cleaned it, and we lived there for about a month. We didn't have hardly anything. We even entertained the railroad officials that came along and fixed dinner for them, and we just had a big time. We really did enjoy it.

Rudolph: Yes, we really didn't figure we were put upon too much because financially we weren't up against it or anything like that. We weren't rich, but we were getting along OK.

Phoebe: And we would do this so I could be with Daddy. Rather than be separated. In January I went back home, and we figured she would be born around the 14th of February. She didn't come until the 26th. But Daddy wrote me a letter every day while I was in Rexburg. Now we had an apartment which was a little house right on college avenue right next to town. It was your Aunt Janie Clark's place. She wasn't living there, and it was furnished, and so I lived there, and I got a letter every day from him, and some day I got two letters, and the mailman used to get the biggest kick out of that. He thought that was pretty good.

Rudolph: I was really in love with your mother.

Phoebe: Anyway, she was born at 9:00 o'clock at night. It was the same Doctor Rich that delivered Sandra, and When Alta was born I called the station in Rexburg and told them to call Dad at Spencer. the operator called and then he "cut the key" on Dad and wouldn't tell him what it was for a little while. Kinda played with you, didn't he? Before he told you.

Sharon: Did you already have Alta's name picked out?

Phoebe: Oh yes, it was one of Dad's girl friends that he kinda liked, I think. Anyway, she was a beautiful girl, and I thought our baby was beautiful, too.

Rudolph: My mother's name was Lenora, and she was born on my mother's birthday.

Phoebe: And just knowing this girl, I liked the name "Alta" because I liked her. So we named her "Alta" and gave her grandmother's name "Alta Lenora".

Rudolph: I think it's a pretty name.

Phoebe: But you didn't see her until you got home. Then he did something funny; he got sick or pretended he was sick so he could come home and he just about got fired from the railroad. They found out that he really wasn't too awfully sick. But you were sick to come home and see us. And then we moved to a new location out in Menan. Sandra was just 18 months old and we lived in a railroad car and had the cutest little house all fixed up with coal oil lamps.

Rudolph: It was a railroad car fixed up as living quarters.

Phoebe: Alta was about three months old when we went out there and lived all one winter. We did like that place and just had the best time out there.

Rudolph: We had a Japanese section foreman, and oh, he just bent over backwards or leaned over forward to do everything he possibly could for us.

Phoebe: They sure was good to us. We were out there at Christmas, I remember, and Alvaretta came out and stayed with us a day or two. By the time we had Alta, she was married, but she didn't have any children of her own.

Rudolph: They built a home in the box car with a bedroom in one end. Had a kitchen built in with cupboards and it was real comfortable. Oh, it was cute. I think that's about the cutest thing we had for a long time. Right after that we left and went up into Drummond and spend a part of the winter while Alta was a baby.

Phoebe: We spent the winter up there until April.

Doug: Where was the next significant place after Drummond?

Rudolph: I believe we moved to Shelley

Phoebe: Yes, we came back to Shelley again, but this was not a permanent move yet. We were on the extra board, and then after that, Dad went to various places again. I probably went back up to Lyman, and then in the fall, we were in Sugar City working at the station. The fall of 1926 Dad bid in a permanent job at Shelley, and this was about six weeks before Ralph was born, so it was some time in September that we went there. September has been when practically all our main moves have been.

Rudolph: Along in the latter part of August or September the job in Shelley came open and I went and lived there and we rented an apartment at Wilford Christensen's home In Shelley.

Phoebe: Wilford Christensen was in our Stake Presidency in Shelley, and we lived in their home until 1928 when our little home was completed that we built.

Doug: Tell us about Ralph hitting the scene.

Phoebe: Well, Ralph hit the scene about 2:30 in the afternoon on the 22nd of October after we came to Shelley, and again Grandma Rytting came down and stayed with us. We had two little ones then, and Vera Adam' mother came over and got the two children and took care of them while we were getting Ralph.

Sharon: How much did Ralph weigh?

Phoebe: Ralph weighed seven pounds.

Doug: Tell us about the house in Shelley.

Rudolph: Well, we figured we had a permanent job in Shelley; however, it was a night job, but I took a night job in order to be home because I had been traveling around so much. Shelley was

a very busy place with the sugar factory running at that time, and a terrific potato business and grain business and everything. I figured I could probably work nights for a little while and then another job would come open, and I could probably move on to a day job. It looked like it was quite permanent job so we decided that we wanted to build a home. Phoebe's father (Grandfather Stone) offered to come down and help build it, and two of the boys came down.

Phoebe: It was Cal and Glenwood. Also another contractor that he had working with him.

Rudolph: Yes, the four of them worked on it; of course, we hired some work done like digging the basement. In those days they didn't have a dragline, so used a team with a scraper and dug the basement out the best that they could, and then I dug around all the corners and squared up the basement, ready for putting in the foundation. I dug the water line and the sewer line and so forth. We didn't have a sewer, we had a cesspool. But it was the only home on a piece of pasture and this lot was very desirable. They wanted \$500 for and you could have bought other lots for \$100 or \$150 around town, but we paid \$500 for that corner lot, and it turned out to be a lovely place for us to live because the pasture remained open all the time the children were home. We thought it was a beautiful little English style stucco home. I remember the problem we had in finding out the right pitch for the roof, and cutting off the corners of the roof instead of having them come straight out. Then I worked on the lawn and built that elevation we had in the front of the house which we thought was quite nice.

Sharon: And you had a full basement?

Rudolph: A full basement but it was not finished, and we didn't have central heat in it either; we just had a heatrola type stove. But we had a fireplace and beautiful hardwood floors -- just beautiful.

Doug: How many bedrooms did you have?

Phoebe: Just two. And a bathroom. Also a huge front room about 12 feet wide by 36 feet long; it had an arch between the dining room, but they were really all one room. Then it went in to a little kitchen and dinette off the kitchen. We enjoyed it very much. But while the home was being built that summer we stayed in this apartment at Christensen's. My father and brothers and this man he brought from Sugar City with him to work stayed down there, and I cooked for them. They went home over weekends, but I cooked three meals a day for those people and this little home was finished in September, and Donna was born in December. I canned fruit all that summer, too, while I was cooking for these men, so I had a busy summer.

Rudolph: The people who worked on the home were paid regular wages, but we appreciated them coming down because they did such a beautiful job. Phoebe's father was a contractor and a beautiful builder.

Phoebe: When they put in the footings for the basement (my dad wasn't there when he put them in) and when Dad came and inspected them, he made them take them out and put them in about three times as large. He said there would be no sag or any walls or anything sagging in that home for 50 years from then.

Rudolph: We drove by the home not too long ago, and it's sitting there just as straight and pretty it seems like it was the day we built it. Just a little gray stucco house. We had a favorite song we used to sing: "My Little Gray Home in the West."

Doug: Let's talk about Donna. Why the name "Donna Mae"?

Rudolph: We just liked the name.

Phoebe: Joe and Edna were expecting a baby, too, and they were going to have the name "Donna Mae", and when she came, they named her Edna. We liked the name Donna, so we were free to have that name. Dad was on the job, and she was born right after midnight, and Daddy couldn't leave work. He knew the doctor was there, and he knew we were getting this baby, and he couldn't leave because of the train. The trains called for orders, and he had to stay there because he had a train coming about that time at night. And I remember she was born, and the little thing started to cry just as that train whistled one, two, three, four, which is asking "do you have orders for me?" I listened so hard because if they have orders, then he's delayed giving them the orders. But in a minute or two the train said "toot, toot"; and when they gave this little toot, toot, I knew that he'd be locking up and coming home. About five minutes afterward, here he came trotting into the house, and little Donna was lying there on the davenport. She was born, and they just left her because I was having a little problem right then so the doctor and the nurse were with me. When he came in, that poor little thing, and you know how they look right after they're born, there she was and I remember Daddy saying, "oh, little sweetheart." We couldn't find our doctor that night. I had been down shopping in the afternoon, and was carrying groceries home, and he stopped in the car, and he said, "how are you feeling?" He knew it was getting near the time, and I said, "fine", so at 8:30 that night we knew we needed a doctor and so we called him to tell him, and he wasn't in town, and we couldn't find him. We called and everything, and he just wasn't available; he had just gone. So finally we called another doctor. This other one was Dr. Egbert, and we told him the situation, and asked him if he would consent to come over, and he said, "yes". In the meantime -- everybody knew we were looking for our doctor--and some people from Shelley went to Idaho Falls and went into the show house up there, and they met our doctor coming out of the show. They said, "the Ryttings are looking for you. They have an S.O.S. out for you." So he just came a-hiking home, and he pulled up in front of the house, and the other doctor pulled up behind him, that we had asked to take the case. So the other doctor went home, and our doctor came in, and I think he was there about ten minutes and Donna was born.

Sharon: Do you recall how much it cost in those days to have a baby.

Phoebe: I remember that Doug, and that was 13 years later, cost \$35.00 for the doctor and I was in the hospital for 10 days which you had to stay, and if you paid cash when you left the hospital, it was \$35.00. So Doug cost us \$70.00.



Rytting children Ralph, Alta, Donna and Sandra

Doug: Just for the record, it costs about ten times as much now to have a baby. About \$700.00 in 1968 here in California for two days stay in hospital and the doctor.

Phoebe: And I was in the hospital ten days. Well, after we had Donna, then came the depression. Donna was born in 1928.

Rudolph: And '29 was when they had that real depression. The stock market crash came in '29, and then, of course, the real depression came after that in '30, '31, and '32. I knew the situation was serious, and I'm a little bit worried right now because we're just having a boom go on and on and on and on, and in those days, people just figured this is a new deal and nothing will ever happen. No, it wasn't the new deal; people were just over-extending themselves in buying and spending and they didn't have the safeguards then that they do now. They do have a better way of controlling the economy than they did then, but when one thing failed, that automatically made something else fail, and the banks were folding up, and businesses were folding up, and men were being laid off everywhere just like a snowball. It just kept going; it was hard to stop; hard to turn around.

Phoebe: By '32 they had laid so many men off on the railroad that Dad lost his job there.

Rudolph: Lost my job in Shelley, and I had to go back on the extra board again, but I was more fortunate than a lot of people because I did have enough railroad rights that I never was completely unemployed.

Phoebe: No, but you were ninth on the extra board and they only kept ten men regular on the extra board; didn't they?

Rudolph: That's right, there was just myself and Fletcher Norse (Norris?). We two were the last ones that were left, and anybody that was hired out since then were all laid off. But I was next to the bottom man that was kept on, and our work just consisted of going around and relieving others.

Phoebe: Well, a lot of the time he didn't have any work at all. He'd be home weeks on end. This is why we nearly lost our home. We just couldn't keep up the payments on the home.

Rudolph: And then, of course, when I'd go away from home, it would be on my own expense, and trying to make home payments, and we also bought a little furniture. We couldn't make payments on all that as well as grocery bills. There wasn't any other jobs available at that time, but there's one thing that came up which maybe I ought to mention now. I was always interested in real estate and Delbert Groberg in Idaho Falls found out I was interested -- it was while I was working in Idaho Falls on one of the jobs -- I got acquainted with him -- he was a very fine man. He said, "why don't you come and go into business with me?" In the real estate business. So I agreed to do it; I told him, "yes, we'll go ahead and do it." So he went ahead and got my license and everything all ready for me to go in business with him. He said, "I'm not making very much money. About the best I'm doing is \$150.00 a month." And his other partner quit and went into the grocery business because there wasn't any real money in real estate. People just didn't have the money to buy homes, but he said, "I think prospects are good; Idaho Falls is a good town." So I went ahead and arranged to do that, but right at that time work was available in Victor. This was the first time we went to Victor. Mr. Heins, Bill Heins, was the agent up there, and he was quite a promoter, and he and the general manager of Union Pacific at Salt Lake had gone in together and were buying property in Jackson Hole, so he laid off for the summer. He went to supervise this property and Ray Snarr, from Salt Lake came up to relieve Mr. Heins. But the business was too heavy and complicated for him and he gave it up. He said, "I can't handle it." So they called me and wanted to know if I'd be willing to go up to Victor and try to handle that station. I was happy to go, so I went up there. It was long hours, and I worked every day and overtime. This was in depression times, and the salary was so good and with the express commission on top of it, and we could also live in the depot. Mother and the children came up from Shelley and stayed with me. I remember the girls making out the cream bills, they were girls in grade school then, and Mother would help me with the express. They had six CCC camps in the Victor area and those were the days of the CCC boys. The Civilian Conservation Corps. It was something like a job corps now. And they'd have them working out in the forest and building trails and building roads, and they worked on the airport there in Victor, and they had an Army Captain in charge of each one. Every day when the train would come up, they would bring six carloads of merchandise for these six camps. If you worked longer than 8 hours a day that, of course, would be overtime. You would have to work ten or twelve hours a day to even get by and they railroad wouldn't pay the overtime, and Mr. Snarr said, "well, I can't handle it." So I went up there and soon as I started I did claim ten, eleven or twelve hours a day, and, by golly, they paid it. But Mr. Pierce, the general manager, called me "overtime Rytting."

But I just figured I couldn't work twelve hours a day for eight hours pay.

Phoebe: We might mention that the ccc boys that came up there at that time cleared the land and built the first road down the Snake River canyon. And they just kept widening it out a little bit, and you remember how narrow it used to be before they made a good road out of it. They built that road by hand with teams.

Doug: Wasn't one of their campgrounds up on Piney Pass.

Rudolph: Yes, one up there, and it seems like there was one up toward Jackson. By the way, we had six of them around the area.

Phoebe: But we couldn't help but notice those boys who came in. So many of them were shipped in from the East, and when they got off the train we noticed and made comment of the appearance of these boys. They were just scrawny little washed-out, faded, sorta sad looking people. Just gutter rats. They were a sorry looking sight and they had a lot of trouble with them since they had never been used to discipline.

Rudolph: I got by through that summer and worked until fall, and then I went back to Shelley. The job was put back on for the winter on account of the heavy business and I worked clear through the winter until spring, and then the job at Shelley, after the potato business was over, they pulled it off again. It was still depression times, but they wanted me to go back up to Victor again. I evidently had pleased them with my work.

Phoebe: You went up there about five or six months at a time, wasn't it?

Rudolph: Yes, and that just was a godsend to us because I could go up there and ear three or four hundred dollars a month that seemed like a fortune to us then. Oh, it sure did, and just that first summer we were able to catch up with all our obligations, and had a little left over. We were living in our home, but mother would lock up the home and bring the children up there, and we'd just camp in the depot there in Victor.

Sharon: Would you go upstairs to the living quarters?

Phoebe: We camped upstairs the second time we went up since the folks had moved out. The first time we were there we rented a little cabin. We even have some pictures when we were in this little tiny cabin. Then we'd go back home and water and cut the lawn, and then we'd come back up, and we stayed with Dad a lot that summer.

Doug: And did you have a car at this time?

Rudolph: We didn't have a car since before we built our home. We decided that we didn't have any money to buy a car, and we didn't have a car after that until after we went to Victor the third time. So it was about 18 years we didn't have a car at all.

Phoebe: It was while we were up at Victor at this time that my father passed away -- the second time we were up there just

temporary -- the summer we were camping. He just died very suddenly. We had seen him on the way up. We had visited with him just a day or two before and everything was fine, although his health hadn't been good. He had been having high blood pressure, and his health wasn't the best. However, he was still working and things like that. And it was only two or three days after we had seen him that we got a telephone call or on the wire that he passed away. Uncle Carlos was over in the Jackson Hole country, and we tried to find him. My brother Cal, and I went over and were able to locate Carlos and brought him back with us. But my father died of a stroke -- a very severe stroke. When it struck, he never could say anything, and he just died in 30 minutes after that.

Sharon: I remember something about you buying some china and crystal.

Phoebe: Now this was after my father died. He had a small insurance policy that he made out to the first family because he felt that Larinda with seven children should have the home and anything else that was there. They also had a little trailer court and a service station in Sugar City. I think we had about \$250 and I spent that money to buy the china, crystal, and silver as a remembrance. My father died in July and that fall we bought the items in Idaho Falls.

Rudolph: He died in the 30's -- about 1933.

Doug: What fun things do you remember about your young family? Before the teenage years?

Phoebe: Christmases. When we were at home and it was Christmas, and Daddy would be away on the extra board. I remember one Christmas when he came in on the train about midnight to be home with us for Christmas day. And we got up and had our Christmas about 2:00 in the morning. We woke the children up because he had to take the train out again about 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning to go back on the job. We were all together and opened our gifts and had a fire in the fireplace. The fireplace is one thing about Shelley we will always remember. I think this is one thing the four older children always wanted was a fireplace when they built a home because they remember the fun they used to have hanging the stocking. Daddy would be away on the extra board so much, and when he'd come home at night, they'd all get ready for bed, and he'd sit in the chair there at the fireplace and tell them stories, and, oh, did they love that! He'd make up some of the stories and the next time they'd ask for it, he couldn't quite remember it, but they'd remember it and tell him what it was. They'd correct him as he went along. I worked in the Primary while I was in Shelley, and Sister Anderson was a teacher in the Primary and she came up in the evening to get the pennies, and there were the children by the fireplace, and Daddy was telling them stories. She has told me time and time again, and other people when we've been together, she said, "I'll never forget that picture of that little family with their daddy telling them stories."

Sharon: How soon were you able to have a piano so you could have music?

Phoebe: We had a piano right after Ralph was born. Our piano we have today is older than Donna. We had a piano right from the time they were very young. I used to play quite a bit in those days, and Daddy used to sing a lot, and I used to accompany him. We used to sing and conference and at programs.

Rudolph: We had musical instruments for all the children, too.

Phoebe: Sandra played the clarinet, and Alta played the saxophone, and Ralph played the trumpet and Donna had the violin, and they all learned to play the piano. When they were older we had four of them taking music at one time in Shelley. Sandra would get up about 6:30, and do her practice for about 45 minutes, then the next one would take their turn for about 45, and then the next one, but we had so many that we had to have one of them take it after they got home at night. The next week they'd alternate and the one that had been taking it at night would be the earliest one the next morning. we didn't give them a favorite time to practice. I think we just said, "this is the time you practice." Ralph did take from Professor Clive who was a very fine teacher in Idaho Falls. But the rest of them all played and learned enough that they have been able to play and help their children enjoy music.

Rudolph: Did we have the piano before we moved into our new home?

Phoebe: Yes, you bet we did. We bought a beautiful new davenport and chair while we were at Christensen's, and we bought the piano while we were there, so we had those to move over to the new home. We also had a flower stand with a beautiful flower in it, and that's about all we had in our front room. Andy and Alvaretta gave us one of those big round tables when we got married, and we bought six chairs to go with it. My father had given me the old treadle sewing machine, and we still have that in the basement at Logan, and that was in the front room. And then we bought us a heater type stove that was in the front room. After my father died, we bought these new dishes and we also bought the corner cabinet that we have in Logan now. That maple cabinet was in the corner of our dining area with the dishes in it, and that's all the furniture we had in the home. I think maybe we had one little extra chair. But it was a beautiful home.

Doug: After the second time in Victor, then what happened?

Rudolph: Then I went back to Shelley and could work there from fall until spring. I had enough seniority and no one else with any permanent job would take it because it was only temporary from fall until spring. During that time, a job in Idaho Falls came open, but it was also a night job. I took this night job at Idaho Falls that was permanent and year around. But for four years I commuted back and forth to Shelley. When I first had the job the trains ran just perfect. The train would go up in the afternoon, and I'd go to work, and then after I got off at midnight, the train would come back down to Shelley, but after awhile they changed the train schedule. There was buses that were running at the right time so that I could go up on the bus and come back on the train, but finally they changed the schedule and I couldn't use

that combination. I'd just have to try and catch a ride or else I'd have to go so early and stay up there so many hours that it was inconvenient. So it got to be too rough to go back and forth, and that's when we decided to sell our home in Shelley and move to Idaho Falls.

Sharon: I'll bet that was a hard move, wasn't it?

Phoebe: Well, no, it had been so rough for Daddy to get back and forth and everything that we were ready to go. So maybe it was a good thing we had that rough year. I think it made it easier to pull up and leave. It was harder to leave Idaho Falls than it was to leave Shelley, really, and we only lived there four years.

But while we were in Shelley, I have to tell you, this is my greatest activity in the Church. When we first moved to Shelley after Ralph was born the first job I had in the Church was Dance Director in the Stake Mutual.

Rudolph: Mother was a lovely dancer.

Phoebe: And then it just went from then. I don't remember when I was released; I don't remember how long I stayed in there, but then I was in the Primary. All the children were in Primary, and it was just a good place for me to be, so I was Play Director in the Primary. We used to have big programs, festivals and all kinds of things. We always had a big program of learning new songs and new dances with a lot of costumes, and I was Dance Director, and besides that, eventually, I became Chorister and eventually I was Organist. I had a combination of jobs like that for about eight years, and then I became President of the Primary for five years before we moved. We had about 220 students and 26 teachers in our primary. That was a great time. Gila Bennett was one of the Counselors and Sister Jameson was another Counselor.

Sharon: What did you do in the church at this time, Dad?

Rudolph: Well, I was pretty well tied up with my job. I'd go to work at 4:00 in the afternoon and it made it so that I didn't have any evenings. I was a teacher in the Sunday school a lot of the time, and also in the Priesthood classes. I had a job of teaching on and off most of the time, but my main activity in the Church and in other things came later on when we went up to Victor. When I was free to be like other people -- work in the day and free in the evening and had your Sundays off.

Phoebe: Before I was in the Primary presidency, I had four jobs all the time. I was Relief Society teacher, I was president of the choir two different times, and J. D. Christensen was our conductor, I was counselor in the Mutual, and organist in Relief Society.

Sharon: Was Ralph sick much of this time?

Phoebe: Yes. Ralph was sick a lot. I also belonged to a wonderful singing group in Shelley. There were nine women, and then we had a pianist and a director. Nellie Gutke was our director, and Annie Crooks was a beautiful pianist. We

memorized and put on a program in the tabernacle one fall; it was an Easter Cantata, I think. And we memorized about eight real difficult numbers in parts and never used a piece of music. They had beautiful flowers and ferns that they fixed all around the stage, and they even had some birds in there that would sing occasionally and get all enthused when they heard the music. They had ushers dressed in long dresses, and we each had a corsage, and they had a printed program. We certainly did get some wonderful write-ups about it.

Rudolph: Didn't you take that up to Idaho Falls and present it, too?

Phoebe: No, not that, it was a Genealogical Pageant. I was in two or three of the Stake Genealogical Pageants. I had a leading part in them. Those we did take around the country. The last one that we put on that I was in was really an elaborate affair. And we took that to Rigby and to Idaho Falls a couple of times, and to Rexburg, and we presented it about six times in the Shelley Stake. We had crowds that came from all over the country to see it. I also helped elect the Mayor of Shelley and played politics. I was also on the playground committee there in Shelley. This, as I say, was my activity.

Doug: You also helped with Spud Day.

Phoebe: Well, of course, we were in the organizations and we always had to have booths to earn money. Those days we didn't have a budget. You had to earn your own money to run your organization, so we were always having booths and little projects to do to earn money, so it was a real busy time. When Dad was out on the extra board, Sandra had rheumatic fever and it settled in her heart, and we had to have her down all one summer with ice on her heart and just practically carry her around. Ralph was sick, and Dad was clear out in Arco for six months one summer.

While I'm telling about my activity there in Shelley, I also sang in a double mixed quartet; in fact, we were called by our Bishopric and set apart to belong to this group to sing at funerals whenever they needed music and the choir wasn't requested. Sometimes it ended up that I was singing in a quartet, even in the tabernacle. I remember one experience, I just didn't think I could do it because I never did feel like I could take a part by myself, and I remember that the Bishop called me and said, "well, Sister Rytting, Sister Miller can't be with us today. We're just going to have a quartet, and it'll be up to you to carry it on." And I said, "I can't do it," and he said, "yes, you can. You can do it." And so I went, and we did it, and we got along real good. I sure had some help because I didn't think I could ever do that. If a death came, and we knew about it, and we could just expect, possibly, to be called to sing if they didn't use the choir or if they didn't have their own music. Many times it would be about two numbers--an opening number and a closing number.

Rudolph: On quite a few occasions, I sang solos and Mother accompanied me on the piano. We sang in Stake Conference once. You remember: "And God Shall Wipe Away All Tears," and "In My Father's House Are Many Mansions" and then, of course, there were some religious ones. I sang (for people who

liked to hear me sing) "Bells of the Sea," and "So Many Brave Hearts Are Asleep in the Deep." I enjoyed that, especially when I'd go down to those real deep low notes at the end of the song. "Bells of the Sea" had those low notes, and I think that was the most popular one at some programs.

Phoebe: This again was during the time when Dad was up at Victor a lot in the summer time. He used to sing up there for programs. Of course, I wasn't up there to play for him; one of the girls up there who was a school teacher used to play for him. Then after we moved up there later, we did a lot of singing.

Rudolph: And the time when Sandy was in Victor and Mother wasn't there, she played accompaniment for me. I did a lot of solo work. Oh, "On the Road to Mandalay." Oh, yes, "The Big Bass Viol." Well, there was a lot of them like "Sylvia's Hair Is like the Night."

Sharon: I can remember you telling me one time what your favorite song was. Something that the Tabernacle Choir sings so often. We had been to a meeting, and you said, "I believe that's my very favorite."

Phoebe: "Behold, 'Tis Eventide" is one of my very favorites

Rudolph: We sang that at Mother's funeral. In the Lyman Ward, a fellow by the name of Reese Bybee was a very fine high tenor, and I sang the lower key below him, and Mother played accompaniment for us, and she'd sing the alto. I probably faked a sort of a tenor or something, except when we'd come to the chorus, then I'd actually sing bass. Another song that is our favorite is "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." I used to sing it at funerals quite a lot. I remember one where I had a very difficult time singing was when the Blackburn baby died. I don't know what was the cause of its death, but, you know, when young children die it's always so sad. And I sang either "Danny Boy" or "Boy of Mine", and I remember I had a difficult time getting through that. I think Aunt Emily or my mother played the accompaniment for me. Now, to go back, I was quite a pianist as a young man, and I could improvise just terrific. However, I was not very good at memorizing, but if I had the music, then I could improvise and put in almost variation that would come to my mind. But isn't it a shame to have neglected my talent over the years until now I can't play. One time at Kiwanis we sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee", and I'd try to accompany them, and I just stumbled through it. So it just shows that you have to follow through on these talents or you lose them. You bury it.

Doug: When did Mom Rytting die?

Rudolph: She died while we were in Shelley. Mother was a real healthy woman and apparently in very good health until the last year or two. She came to Shelley when Donna was born, but her health was failing then, and we're not sure just what it was, but we think they called it dropsy in those days. It's a sort of a diabetic condition. Mother was quite a heavy set woman and was overweight most of her life. But she got along very fine until she was in her early 60's, and then she just seemed to fail all at once, but she lived for several months. We took her to the doctors in

Rexburg, then took her down to Idaho Falls to see if they might be able to do something. I was there with Father, and Father and I were the only ones of the family who were there, and the doctor came in and he said "Sister Rytting's condition is hopeless." He said, "there just isn't anything we can do. The best thing is to take her back home and keep her as comfortable and under mild sedation." Aunt Emily stayed with her most of the time. She just gradually failed and passed away. She wasn't an old woman and was in her early 60's when she died.

Phoebe: After Donna was about twelve-and-a-half years old, we had another surprise.

Rudolph: No, it wasn't a surprise.

Phoebe: No, we ordered him special. We really did. So in 1941, we had a baby boy in the Idaho Falls Hospital. We knew what his name was going to be because right after he was born, the doctor said "have you a name picked out?" And we told the doctor "Douglas Kent Rytting." I was lying on the bed when Dr. Scheiss came in and he said "Douglas . . . Kent . . . Rytting", and he said, "my, I like that name."

Sharon: You said you already knew what his name was going to be.

Phoebe: We just loved it. We just wanted to give him a strong name like "Douglas." General Douglas Macarthur was strong, and we wanted a name to live up to. I think we knew a Kent, and Kent went good with Douglas. In fact, if we had twin boys, we would have named one "Douglas Kent Rytting" and the other one "Steven Lynn Rytting." For a while we were not quite sure whether it would be Steven Lynn or Douglas Kent, but as we kept saying them over and over and we liked Douglas. Sandra named her first boy Steven because she liked the name so well. They named him Steven Rytting Park. All her children have her maiden name for their middle name.

Sharon: Were you going to make it Lynn for a girl's name?

Phoebe: Yes, if it had been a girl, we would have had Lynn. We wanted to have another little brother or sister for Douglas, but it didn't work out. We lost the baby, and the name would have been Steven Lynn or Lynne. It seemed we were on those two names and just loved them.

Doug was born in May of 1941 in the Idaho Falls Hospital, not very many seconds or minutes after 12:00 o'clock. Dad was working in Idaho Falls that night. But he got over there before you were born because he was there at 11:30. You had somebody come and relieve you, so you were there earlier. Nell Holland came up to be with me from Shelley. She was a very dear friend, you know. When I went into the delivery room, they called the doctor and he just didn't get there until he was being born. The nurses put me out and stopped everything until the doctor got there, but Daddy was in the delivery room that night and saw Douglas born. We were a little concerned when he was a boy, like the problem we'd had with Ralph. When they were taking me from the delivery room to my room, Nell Holland and

Dad followed me; I was under the influence of the anesthetic, and I was real perturbed with my doctor because he didn't get there when I wanted him. And the first thing I remember saying coming out from under the anesthetic was, "damn you, Dr. Scheiss." "Damn you, Dr. Scheiss." Then I said, "what does he look like? Is he dark or is he light?" And they'd say, "oh, he's kinda light." And then I'd say, "damn you, Dr. Scheiss." So when the doctor came in to see me the next morning, he said, "you were kinda upset with me last night, weren't you?" I didn't know what I had been saying. I stayed in the hospital ten days, and it cost \$70.00 for the hospital and the doctor.

Sharon: What time of the year did you move to Idaho Falls?

Phoebe: Douglas was born in May of 1941, and then in September of 1942 we moved to Idaho Falls. Doug was about 15 months old.



Rytting family, Donna, Ralph, Alta, Sandra, Rudolph, Doug and Phoebe

Sharon: What did the children feel like when they left Shelley? Were they quite upset to leave?

Phoebe: No, right to start with they were thrilled about it. Now, Alta was in the senior year of high school. And Sandra was already out of high school, and Ralph was in high school. So rather than enroll in Shelley, they enrolled in Idaho Falls and went back and forth for about a week until we moved up there. But it was really too bad for Alta because it was her senior year, and she was president of her senior class and she was in the pep group. She went up to Idaho Falls and was just a student, and so it was kinda sad in that respect. We kinda wish we had left her in Shelley. For Ralph it was all right and Donna went into a junior high school just fine. Sandra was working. I think she was in Salt Lake at this time. She had gone to salt lake, and Alta went after she graduated.

Rudolph: They were good office girls and didn't have any problem in getting good jobs.

Phoebe: Alta went down and took a course in a business at the lds business college and they both became real bankers. They really had good jobs. Sandra worked from just extra girl clear on up to teller. She got so she could substitute in the savings and loan department when somebody would take a vacation. Alta worked in the real estate department of the Continental Bank. She was the secretary to the man in charge of the real estate department. They were all lds men at the head of the banks and were real fine people. The girls would come home periodically when we were in Idaho Falls and they'd go to work at banks in Idaho Falls. Sandra was working in one bank. And Alta had come home from San Francisco. Alta had been two years in San Francisco working for Bank of America. All three girls were home when we moved to Victor. The three girls and Ralph were out of high school and when we went to Victor there was absolutely nothing for them to do. The girls went to Salt Lake and Ralph went and got interviewed the Sunday after we bid in the job to go to Victor to go on a Mission and was accepted. Dad moved up to Victor in August and I didn't move up permanently until October.

Sharon: I remember you told me about some of the experiences Ralph had on his mission.

Phoebe: I did go out and visit Ralph while he was on his Mission. Ralph, had been real ill, but they didn't let us know about it except I read between the lines and had a dream and wrote and told him what I had dreamed about. He wrote back and said, "Mother, when you came to see me in your dream, it couldn't have been much more real than if you had walked right into the room because Alta was here that you saw in your dream." Ralph was real good about writing. He wrote to us every week big long newsy letters and would draw pictures for Douglas. I remember one day when Douglas was crying and the tears were just coming down his cheeks, we got a letter in the mail from Ralph and looked at the bottom of it because Ralph would draw pictures for Douglas. This time there was an Indian Chief -- Rain in the Face, Ralph called him -- with tears running, and he said, "this is Chief Rain in the Face." We showed it to Doug, and that was just exactly what he was doing, and he laughed, and he didn't cry any more.

Rudolph: When we first went to Idaho Falls, we rented a home on 11th street, and we fixed it up real nice and figured we were there permanently, and they promised they wouldn't sell it when they rented it to us, but then some people got interested in buying it, so they sold it to them, so then we had to move. And the next place we went was on 4th street and it was right next door to Morley's. In fact, it was one of their homes. You know there was a furniture store in Idaho Falls named Morley-Chafin, and the Chafin was a son-in-law of his. That was a fun place to live, we really enjoyed it. The Morley's family were really musical, and just full of pep and get-up-and-go, and they had a girl just a little older than Ralph, and a boy John Morley, and the kids got together and they really did have a good time.

Sharon: Where did Andean Watts live?

Phoebe: Well, this was after we bought the home back on 11th.

Rudolph: We were trying to buy a home where the Sacred Heart Hospital is now; in fact, we made a down payment on it, but the deal fell through. There was this other home in Idaho Falls we got, and it turned out to be a real nice place. We enjoyed it very much. And living next door East was Andean Watts. He and Ralph became just bosom friends. And there were several other boys around there that liked to get together with Ralph, and they would really have a great time. They could sing and play, and they'd get down on the floor and play chess.

Phoebe: Ralph's health was real poor at that time, and he couldn't get out and chase around with the fellows, so they'd come over, mostly on Saturday. Ardean would be at the piano, and playing and playing and playing, and Ralph would be at the typewriter, typing and typing and typing, and the rest of the boys would be scattered on the floor playing chess. We just couldn't even breathe, hardly, because they were just there, but we were happy to have them because Ralph couldn't get out, and they were a good bunch of kids. Dad would go to work down at the station about 3:30 in the afternoon, and I'd walk down with him to get a little rest from what was going on, and I'd come home and the refrigerator would be all cleaned out. But we had a good time in Idaho Falls. Donna belonged to a wonderful singing group that used to go and entertain and do comedy.

Rudolph: They used to just bring the house down. These other girls were Donna's friends and they had a comedy trio. And Ralph and Donna used to entertain. He played the guitar, and she would sing. Donna has a beautiful singing voice, but here again, she'd clown with her singing. She was a natural comedienne. And Ralph and she would sing harmony songs that were real pretty. Donna imitated some of Danny Kay's routines. Especially the one where he got the hay fever. And they'd have the flowers there, and he'd try to sing, and he'd start having this problem . . . wanting to sneeze and try and sing at the same time. She was something -- just bring the house down. She was so funny, and seeing it time after time, we'd just have to laugh. She still can do it. You should see her sometime when she's got a pain in her leg or something. Sometimes you should see her walk and some of the things she'll do. She's so funny. She can make the best ape you ever saw in your life.

Sharon: When was Sandy was in the Tabernacle Choir?

Rudolph: It was when she was working in Salt Lake before she was married. She went back to Salt Lake for quite a number of years.

Doug: You had a close look at the Second World War. Could you explain some of the things that happened, some of the conditions that existed in this country, and some of your thoughts regarding the Second World War.

Rudolph: I felt that the thing we were doing then in the Second World War were necessary to do. I think our officials knew the situation that was going on there in Germany and just how they had made up their minds to dispose of everybody that they were not in favor of, and just obliterate them, and we couldn't afford to

let England fall. We just had to preserve them, so I think that practically everybody was behind the Second World War.

Phoebe: The First World War was what I remember more about being deprived of everything

Rudolph: We were having a financial struggle ourselves, but the family never went hungry or anything like that. The family went without a car all these years in order to do all these things we've been telling you about.

Phoebe: When we went to Victor, carpets were just coming back on the market again. We wanted a carpet and that green one was the only thing we could buy. It came in a big roll and there was a pink one and a green one, and we didn't want the pink one. We couldn't even buy linoleum to put on the kitchen floor. Come to think about it, there was just a lot of things we couldn't get.

Rudolph: We had gasoline rationing at that time. And we had food stamps. And when they gave us these food stamps, if we had any sugar in our house, we had to declare how much we had, and they'd figure about how long this sugar should last and you couldn't get any food stamps for sugar until they figured your sugar was gone. And we had food stamps for butter and shortening as well.

Phoebe: We couldn't buy a car either, but we did buy a new car the second year we were up in Victor in 1947, but the war had been over for about a year. I remember in 1914, the first war, we had to save all the seeds from the apricots or peaches and they'd gather those up. We had to save all tin cans and all drippings from any fat of any kind, and they would collect that.

Rudolph: In the Second World War we can remember the time when Pearl Harbor was bombed. One of the boys from Shelley was on the Arizona that was sunk in Pearl Harbor. A Bradley boy from Shelley that we knew real well and knew his folks real well. During the war at Pocatello they had a large airbase. They'd fly up over Idaho Falls with B26's or B42's in formation. There would be 15 or 20 of them at a time flying in training formations.

Doug: Do you remember anything exciting about V Day?

Rudolph: There was V-E Day and V-J Day. Victory when the war ended in Europe, and then we had the victory in Japan.

Phoebe: Yes, I know just exactly what I was doing in Idaho Falls. I knew the war was over, and I could hear them celebrating and hollering and all the things that were coming over the radio. I got a bucket of water and some soap and washed the back entrance and all down the back stairs and cried all the time I was doing it. Because Gene Bennett had been killed just a week before the war was all over. He was Alta's boy friend that she was engaged to marry. And I was thinking, now it's over, and he had to get killed just a short time before it was finished. And I just cried and cried. I don't think I cried before that, but all of a sudden it just got to me. I remember the first Armistice, too, in 1918. Alvaretta and I contracted a small three acre field of beets

to top and load, and we made real good money. We were out in the field this day, and it was a beautiful, warm, sunny day, and we knew that the Armistice was going to be signed at 11:00 o'clock. So we were listening for the celebration. We were a mile from where I used to live out in Sugar City, and you could hear the trains and the cars and everybody celebrating clear from Rexburg. We took our hats off and threw them in the air, and took our beet knives and we threw them up in the air, and we danced and yelled.

Rudolph: You'd be 16 years old then. Yes, I remember all that, too.

Doug: What was the reason you decided to go to Victor?

Rudolph: Working at Idaho Falls was real hard, and a heavy job during the Second World War. It was a terrific job with so much passenger business, and telegraph business, and train order business that it was really a man killer. I had three windows and two telephones and two city phones and a dispatcher style phone and three telegraph wires and no one could possibly take care of all of them. There would always be someone standing at the window waiting to be waited on and so forth, so I had a nervous breakdown. I was on my way home one night, and about a block before I got home I crashed and crawled the rest of the way home, and I was sick for about six weeks. It was a long time before I recovered, and in fact, long after we had gone to Victor I was still having trouble. I really had a breakdown. I was overweight and on a sedentary job that did not help. I was also selling for Investors Syndicate part time. So when this job at Victor came open I got busy and investigated it to see just what the deal was.

Phoebe: We didn't have a car, so we got in touch with Aunt Betty and she came and took us to Victor.

Rudolph: I worked at night, so one day when I was off we went up early. The depot was really dilapidated and dirty, the lawn was unkept, and the fence was tumbled down, but I could see the possibilities of the job. It was paying quite well even then, but, of course we made it pay a lot better after we went up there. It was just after the Second World War and business was starting to develop, especially for the Jackson Hole country. The Rockefellers had decided to develop Grand Teton National Park, and to build a new lodge, and the railroad was going in for these tours, and so I decided to take the job.

Phoebe: Another reason for the move was that Dad needed to get away from that night job, and the seven-day-a-week job. He still worked seven days a week in Victor, but he could get in and out of the office easy and it wasn't closed in and hectic like Idaho Falls.

Rudolph: I was tied right down to that office in Idaho Falls and just no matter how fast I worked, I never could get through. So at Victor, it was still a heavy job, but if I wanted a breather, I could walk over town or walk out in the yard and relax. It was a good paying job, and the business was starting to roll, so they were paying two hours a day overtime each day. I worked all day

Saturday which was time-and-a-half all day Saturday and then on Sunday I meet the passenger train and they paid me three hours for that. The wages were double what they were in Idaho Falls. In addition I got 10% commission on all the express business. When I went up this time it was permanent and paying double or more of what it was when I went up in 1933.

Phoebe: And with the war over, people began shipping anything they could get. The people were desperate for everything. They

had second-hand refrigerators, etc, shipped from Texas or any place they could find them. From army bases and salvage depots, all sorts of things would come in by express. Truckloads and truckloads of it. Our move to Victor proved to be a very wise choice.

Note: This is the end of the taped life history.

Later Family Life Summary

When Rudolph & Phoebe went to Victor in about 1945, their first task was to clean the station and make the upstairs livable for their living quarters. What a mess! -- depot and everything.

During their stay there, Rudolph was made Mayor of Victor and in this position, it was possible for him to accomplish many things. One of his first tasks was to encourage the residents of the town to clean up their yards -- remove old worn out pieces of machinery, re-build fences, etc.

The main road through Victor was a two-lane highway, and Rudolph was instrumental in improving it to a four-lane highway to the Wyoming border.

During their stay in Victor, the Rockefeller foundation decided to build a huge lodge between Jackson Hole and Yellowstone Park. Most of the materials that were shipped in for that project came through the Victor station. When it was completed, Rudolph and Phoebe were invited to the dedication. They were so delighted to see, at the head table, Pres. and Sister David O. McKay as favored guests.

Construction on a school house was begun, but during the war, the project ceased. When the war was over, the construction was not begun again. Rudolph was on the school board in Victor, and was instrumental in getting the project resumed and the school building completed.

He worked with others in getting the airport improved to the point where small planes could come in.

The town of Victor was having difficulty with their water system. It was leaking here and there and the people couldn't get water. He, with a group of people who worked with him, cleaned out the springs, covered them in and brought water down so water was available to the people, and that system is still working.

His next project was to put in new sidewalks, but the station agent's job in Logan opened up, he bid on it and was successful in being assigned to that position.

Final Logan Comments

With the children all married except Douglas, we made our final career move to Logan, Utah, in 1960, which would be our retirement home. Logan was about equally distant from our children in Idaho and Utah, so I bid for a post at the railroad station there when it became available and had enough seniority to get it. I worked at the Logan station until I retired. I had worked for 46 continuous years on the railroad between Salt Lake and Butte and all the branches in between. Phoebe and I bought a home on 10th North Street and enjoyed the warmth and friendship of a wonderful ward.

When we came to Logan, I took over the station with eight men working under me. I joined the Kiwanis club and was put on the airport project.

I worked as the agent in Logan for eight years. Instead of retiring at 65, I worked until 70. The years were then spent in being able to visit our children and grandchildren (something that employment limited us in being able to do) and worked with Phoebe in our beautiful yard. Employment also limited my activity in the Church. Upon retirement I was able to be very

active. We did a lot of Temple work and I was in charge of the sealings for several years--eighty sealings a week.

When the last big Union Pacific train traveled through the country for the people to see, it came over to Cache Junction on display. The sealer in the temple who was a retired Union Pacific employee and with whom we served, was the engineer who drove that train -- a fitting climax welding together our many years with the railroad and work in the Temple.

We had five children and presently have 21 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren on the way. The total of our family this year [1983] will be 66 people in our immediate family.

Now that we are retired, living in our home in Logan and enjoying it, we still have a fairly good measure of health and strength, although the years, as with anyone else, are kind of catching up with us. The yard and gardens give us something to occupy our idle hours.

We are indeed thankful that we can be together and that we have a measure of health that permits us to have some activity during the daytime. We don't go out at night much anymore on account of not being able to drive the car at night. That has been a little problem for us. Otherwise, all told, we live in a good neighborhood. Our friends and neighbors are very thoughtful, kind and helpful--so that makes our life enjoyable here in Logan and our family and friends come to visit us on quite a regular basis for which we are, of course, indeed happy.

We are thankful to be members of the restored church and kingdom and are thankful that we were married in the temple. All of our family have been married and sealed in the temple and as a general rule we feel the family has been very successful.

We wish to give you our testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel. We will be forever grateful to those missionaries who, probably under extreme circumstances, went up to the land of the midnight sun, to the British Isles, converted our people to the Church and helped them become willing to come out from a fairly lovely country of Sweden and the British Isles and settle out next to the desert west of Salt Lake. They brought a great blessing with them to us, as we were born and raised in the Church and as I repeat, we are thankful for our membership and for faith and unquestioned belief in the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our married children are Sandra who married Richard Park, Alta who married Burton Johnson, Donna who married Brian Robinson, Ralph who married Georgia Collins and Douglas who married Sharon Anderson. Ralph died on March 25, 1971 in Salt Lake City, and his wife, Georgia, later married Lawrence Shaw.