

LIFE HISTORY OF ELMER WALTER NIELSON

This history of Elmer Walter Nielson was written or copied by Helen T. Dalton from extensive notes recorded by his wife Jane and from other sources as noted.

Elmer's father was Rasmus Marius Nielson who was born Dec. 3, 1861 at Testrup, Viborg, Denmark. Rasmus died April 18, 1915 at Manard, Blaine County, Idaho. He was the son of Ole Nielson and Johanna Maria Jorgenson. He was married August 12, 1881 at Elsinore, Sevier County, Utah to Caroline Fredericka Johnson who was born May 23, 1858 at Eltang, Vejle, Denmark. She died June 17, 1944 at Wendell, Gooding County, Idaho. She was the daughter of Carl Fredrick Johnson and Hansine Nielsen. They had nine children.

As a child of about eight, Rasmus Nielson migrated with his parents from Denmark to Huntsville, Utah in the year 1868. The family arrived in Salt Lake City in October 1868. They had come on the sailing vessel "Emerald Isle" from Liverpool to New York City.

Elmer Walter Nielson was the fifth child born to the couple. He was born March 31, 1891 in Elsinore, Sevier County, Utah. He married Jane Butler March 6, 1918 at Acequia, Minidoka County, Idaho. Jane was the daughter of John Lowe Butler II and Nancy Franzetta Smith. Elmer died March 15, 1964 at Wendell, Idaho and was buried March 18, 1964 at Wendell. Elmer and Jane had the following children:

1. Elma Jean Nielson, born March 3, 1920 at Fairfield Camas County, Idaho.
2. Fae Nielson, born Sept. 8, 1921, Manard, Camas County, Idaho.
3. Carol Nielson, born Oct. 21, 1923, Manard, Camas County, Idaho.
4. Donna Mae Nielson, born March 10, 1927, Wendell, Gooding County, Idaho.

Before Elmer was born his parents farmed first at Elsinore where the first two children were born, Erastus and Oliver. The next two, Charles and Hazel were born at Inverura, which was close by. The general practice was to have the farm out of the village and to live in the small town and go out to the farm each day to work. Elmer was born right in the village of Elsinore.

EARLY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Told to his wife Jane and recorded by her.

When Elmer was a very small child his family lived at his invalid Grandma Nielson's home for about six months. His cousin Ida sat him on a chest of drawers, he thought to keep him out of mischief. He kept kicking the chest with his heels and annoying Grandma, so Ida took him in the kitchen and gave him some cheese.

When about five years old he saw an uncle cut a piece of chewing tobacco and put it in his mouth. It looked so rich, moist and nice Elmer wanted a piece of it, but his Father said, "No it will make you sick." Elmer pouted and refused to eat supper or be happy. His father told him again that it would make him very sick but Elmer insisted so they finally gave him a small piece of the tobacco. He still remembers how very ill he was. He had no supper and that was the first and last time he chewed tobacco.

He recalled seeing a little ant on a piece of bark floating in the ditch. He reached out in the small stream, retrieved the bark and let the ant off in the grass. He then imagined how happy the little ant was and how happy its parents were when it got home and told them that a nice little boy had saved its life. In all of Elmer's life he never liked to kill.

As was the custom of the time, Elmer wore dresses until he was five years old. When his mother made his first pants he was very proud. Strutting out in the yard he saw his cousin Oral playing in the yard and still wearing a dress, so he proceeded to give him a good whipping, just to show Oral how big he was. He was severely chastised by his mother for this unkind act. He remembers what fun it was to have his aunt Tina (Tina Johnson) race down the street with him in the express wagon.

When Alta was born Elmer remembers being very happy because he was no longer the baby. Aunt Zina Johnson teased him and said, "Oh, you are still the baby boy!" When Ivan was born his joy was dampened again when they told him he was next to the baby boy.

After Elmer was six years old Hazel took him to visit school but when the teacher accepted him as a visitor he was highly insulted and left for home on the run. Hazel followed him and had to coax real hard to get him to come back.

When a small boy with his father at the farm a man with a long brown beard stopped his horse and visited for awhile. After the man left his father said, "That was John Butler. It is too bad that he lost his mine." Elmer told his father he didn't act like he had lost his mind!

When about six years old his father took him to Frisco, Nevada to sell a load of salt fish, herring or smelt that were about five inches long. Elmer wanted to help so his father told him to go up to a door, knock and when a lady answered the knock to ask her if she would like to buy some fish. The lady asked Elmer what kind of fish he was selling and he answered, "Little bitsie suckers!" He was disappointed when she didn't buy any fish. His older brothers wouldn't ever let him forget his first peddling experience.

He told of another peddling experience with his father. They went to Blue Creek and spent the night with some friends. There was a great deal of excitement as the people had just dug into a sunken place on their land and had found a human skeleton. The skull had been placed

between the legs of the body. He loved listening to the conversations but that night he had some very spooky dreams.

Elmer's best friends were his cousins, Kellen Johnson and Oral Nielson. Other friends were LaValle Hansen, Ervine Larson, Joseph Jensen, Elmer Kenutison and Auto Jensen. Auto Jensen died when only fourteen years old. The friends all went to the funeral and rode their horses to the cemetery with Elmer leading Auto's pony with the empty saddle. It was a very sad day for all of the boys.

His uncle John Johnson thought a great deal of Elmer and gave him some very good advice as he was growing up. Elmer and Jane visited him in 1950 or 1952 at his home in Elsinore. John hand chiseled all of the stone in the house and it is quite a work of art. Even though John had a shriveled arm he built several stone homes, a school house, the arched stone bridges in Little Zions Park and he made hundreds of head stones for the local cemetery. He was very hard of hearing but still enjoyed the visit with Jane and Elmer. His daughter Tina said that he seemed to understand Elmer that day and had enjoyed the visit more than any he had had in many years. Uncle John told Jane that all of Elmer's life he had been quick and ambitious, always a very good and willing worker.

Elmer Nielson was baptized a member of the L.,D.S. church on July 15, 1900 by Thomas P. Jensen. He was ordained a deacon Aug. 26, 1903 by August Cotter. The children in the family were as follows:

1. Erastus Franklin Nielson
2. Oliver Charles Nielson
3. Charles Franklin Nielson
4. Hazel Johanna Nielson Adams
5. Elmer Walter Nielson
6. Alta Rosena Nielson Cooper
7. Ivan Ferman Nielson
8. Valma Ilene Nielson Clower
9. Zina Henrietta Nielson Prince

When Elmer was about seven years old he herded the neighbor's milk cows along the irrigation ditch banks for 15¢ a week. Having decided to be a sheepman he saved his money and bought an old ewe and a yearling and herded them along with the cows. He was overjoyed when the yearling had a lamb and the old ewe had twins. One was a Marino and the other a curly Cottswool.

Tragedy struck when he found the ewe struggling with bloat. Despite help from his mother in sticking the ewe it was too late and she died leaving Elmer with the twin lambs to raise. Elmer was heartbroken and there were many sad hours spent as his mother's tears mingled

with his. It was a major setback to his dream of building a sheep herd. He was a very determined child and again started saving until he had \$2.50. He took his own horse, Fillie, borrowed another horse and a wagon and drove alone over to Central and bought two beautiful ewes from Mr. Christensen. One ewe was black and the other white, the most beautiful sheep he had ever seen. That spring the ewes had lambs so he now had seven sheep.

His father and older brothers thought the sheep were a nuisance and wanted to get rid of them but Elmer was determined to keep them and his mother encouraged him to do so. That summer he took the family milk cows and his sheep to a pasture on the opposite side of town. At first it was a problem to get them through town but they soon learned that lush green grass awaited them on the other side. Elmer thought it was a beautiful sight to see his sheep on a dead run, going down main street with their long tails flying and the sheep dodging barking dogs along the way. Many townspeople were amused and were complimentary to Elmer on his sheep. He was especially proud to receive compliments from the guests at the Jensen Hotel where many Drummers (traveling salesmen) enjoyed staying. His father and brothers continued complaining about the sheep so Elmer finally sold them to his father and brothers for \$7.00, despite encouragement from his mother to keep them. As soon as he sold them his beautiful flock was sold to the butcher and were carted away to be slaughtered. That was a dark day in Elmer's life, his mother said no one was able to comfort him no matter how hard they tried.

When about nine years old he went to Uncle John Johnson's farm to help Kellen shock wheat. While doing this job he heard a rattle and saw a snake slide down his arm. Of course he moved quickly and seeing a scratch on his hand was sure he had been bitten. He headed for home running as fast as he could. Glancing at his hand he was certain that it was swelling. When he passed the cemetery he wondered if he would be the next to be buried there. Coming to his Aunt Anna Sylvester's home he stopped to tell her what had happened and she had quite a time convincing him that he had not been bitten and that his hand was not swollen.

Oliver bought Elmer a black pony named Fillie for \$2.50. One day while galloping down the road Fillie stumbled by the railroad, throwing Elmer off on his head on a rail. He recalled putting his hand up on his head and feeling a lump as large as his fist rise up.

Elmer was troubled with what they thought was croup, for many years. Not being able to get his breath, he would jump on Fillie and go as fast as possible to try to get his breath. This was a great worry to his mother as she was unable to follow him.

Kellen Johnson, Joseph Jensen and Elmer took a one horse cart and a big double barreled muzzle loader shotgun and went to hunt ducks at Jerico, a few miles from Elsinore. They went to the Sevier River where there were many beautiful duck ponds. The trip was a happy one as they dreamed of the surprise they would take home. The ponds were a beautiful sight and were covered with ducks. The boys nestled down in the lush green meadow and proceeded to tamp both barrels full of powder. They crawled for about ¼ mile on hands and knees across the

meadow before reaching the ideal spot. They decided that Joseph was the oldest so he should get to take the first shot. Kneeling on one knee Joseph took good aim and pulled both triggers at the same time. The gun flew back quite a distance, catching Joseph's nose as it flew by. Blood was streaming down Joseph's face and dead ducks were falling in every direction. The boys had no time to gather the ducks but got Joseph into the cart and started for home as fast as they could go. The injured boys complaints that, "I might not live until we get home," encouraged Elmer to drive faster in desperation. It was three miles home and with Elmer at the reins and at the end of a lashing whip they sped down the dusty road. Joseph groaned again, "I'll never make it if you don't go faster." Arriving home Joseph's wounds were taken care of and the three boys were severely chastised for their thoughtless and dangerous adventure. They all lost their interest in duck hunting. The boys were about nine years old when this happened.

Elmer had made a few freighting trips to Frisco, Nevada with his father. This was an 80 mile trip over desert country with no homes or towns between. Frisco was a thriving mining town and his father and Charles were in Frisco working in the mines. Rasmus sent a letter with a freighter, asking Elmer to bring the team and wagon to bring them home. At this time Elmer was 11 years old. His mother fixed a bed roll, a grub box and hay and grain for the horses and sent Elmer on his lonely trip. The first night out he cared for the team, ate his supper and rolled his bed out on the ground and was soon fast asleep. He was awakened by a terrible roar and the ground was shaking and the horses were snorting and jerking at their halters where they were tied to the wagon wheels. He was sure it was an earthquake and that his horses would get loose and run back home. Presently things quieted down and the roar was at a distance. He discovered that he had made camp just a few feet from the Western Pacific Railroad tracks and that a long freight train had rolled by. He didn't sleep well the rest of the night so got up early and continued his journey wondering why the road was so much longer than when he went with his father. Making camp the next night he was very lonesome and sort of uneasy. The third day seemed very long and he welcomed the sight of Frisco and soon found his father at the designated place. He was so happy to see his father that he could hardly hold the tears back. For him the trip home was much more pleasant and seemed much shorter. Elmer loved to drive and handle horses.

On Halloween when Elmer was twelve years old, he and his gang took Peter Four's cart and tipped it into the canal. Next morning Elmer was going with his father to the farm to work. Coming to the bridge they saw men getting the cart out of the water. Elmer was suddenly in a great hurry to get to work but his father insisted that they stop and help. As they assisted Peter, Elmer tried hard not to look too guilty.

When a youngster Elmer was one of a gang called "The Hoodlums." His first teacher was Libby Sylvester, then Miss Scorup, Mr. Cowley and Mr. Nelson. This gang was in constant conflict with the teachers. Elmer wanted to quit school but his mother objected. Finally his father let him quit school, something he regretted the rest of his life. Aunt Jane does not know how far he went in school but he did not get through grade school.

Once Oliver was fixing the picket fence and spoke sharply to Elmer, "Hand me the hammer!" His answer was, "Get it yourself" and the chase was on but Oliver couldn't catch him. He circled around and saw some boys playing ball and joined them. Just as he got up to bat one or the boys yelled, "Elmer, look out!" There was Oliver. Elmer ran home and locked himself in the toilet but when Oliver vowed he would tear the toilet down Elmer yelled for help and his mother came and rescued him.

EARLY CAMAS PRAIRIE YEARS

Elmer first came to Camas Prairie, arriving there March 8, 1908, he was seventeen years old. He came to Gooding, Idaho with Oliver on the train and took the stage with Billy Sant as driver to Manard. The gumbo roads were terrible so the stage passengers walked most of the way. Oliver had come to Idaho the year before in 1907.

The spring of 1908 Elmer worked at Clover Creek sheering sheep for Lester Stott. While living at Oliver's that summer he met Jane Butler for the first time. She was visiting her sister Caroline Thurber who lived across the lane from Oliver. Jane had ridden over on horseback and when ready to go back home was unable to bridle her pony so called and asked Dora, Oliver's first wife, if someone would come over and help her. Elmer came over and performed the task. He told me later that he asked Dora who I was, she told him and then he said, "Those Butler girls are such pretty girls, but they have such big feet!" --- (How true).

In May, 1908 Rasmus Nielson sold his farm in Elsinore, Utah and moved to Idaho. Elmer's pony Fillie was shipped along with the rest of his stock. Elmer kept this pony for years and when she died he had an overcoat made from the hide. This was worn for years, was great to wear in blizzards when feeding stock. Years later he wore it when he worked night shift on the tractor at Fir Grove Ranch. Finally he lost it in the field and never did find it.

Elmer went with his father to Twin Falls where he had a contract on the Idaho Southern Railroad. They camped in tents north of where Hollister now stands.

In September of 1908 Elmer said, "I got sore about something, a bad habit I had, pulled out and went to Ely, Nevada and worked at construction leveling where they were building a building or mill for smelting ore.

His father wrote that Hazel was very sick with typhoid fever down in Elsinore so Elmer went down there and stayed until Hazel was better. He then returned to the Prairie on the train with Edna Nielson and her baby Eldon and Kate Kirtman and her baby. This trip was made in late October of 1908. They had a long layover in Salt Lake City, waiting for the train going to Pocatello.

While waiting he met a friendly man (Mr. X) who suggested that he walk around with him, but Elmer, a little suspicious refused to go. A little later Elmer strolled down the street and noticed Mr. X drinking coffee at a lunch stand. Calling Elmer he insisted on buying him a glass of root beer. While sitting there an old drunk staggered in and insisted on paying for Elmer's drink. Mr. X refused to let him so had a short argument then decided to shake dice to see who

would pay. The two shook dice several times, each time Mr. X would win. Finally Mr. X quietly showed Elmer that he was playing a cinch game and couldn't lose. Elmer was short of cash, having only \$5. Mr. X talked him into putting up his \$5.00 as a bet on the roll of the dice, and of course Mr. X won the money. The drunk hobo got pretty worked up and started for the telephone to call the police to arrest Mr. X. Then Mr. X said, "Come on kid, let's get out of here before the cops come," and suggested that they split up so as to hide more easily and they would meet on the train when it came in. That was the last Elmer saw of Mr. X and his \$5.00, but his heart almost quit beating when a cop walked down the aisle.

There was a long wait in Minidoka but he didn't let Edna know that he was hungry and had no money. When Erastus met them at the train, Elmer quietly told him that he was broke and hungry and E.F. gave him 50¢ for which he got a good meal and some money left over.

Rasmus contracted for 30 miles of Idaho Southern Railroad but just finished four miles before selling his contract, this was in 1908.

Elmer lived at the camp of tents that was situated where the town of Hollister was later built. Edna and Kate did the cooking. Their husbands, E. F. Nielson and Lawrence Kirtman built a small shack for each of the women. Later the Idaho Southern contract was sold to Union Pacific and ran on down to Wells, Nevada.

Rasmus Nielson was a very good interior decorator, specializing in hanging wall paper hanging. Before leaving Elsinore Elmer would go with his father on jobs and would put the paste on the paper for his father. Rasmus was also very much interested in politics and loved to visit with people.

On Dec. 10, 1908 Elmer left the Hollister camp and started for Jerome. He slept in a wagon box in Twin Falls and nearly froze to death. He said, "I had a four horse team father had contracted to plow and rail brush on Jerome homestead and Carry Act land." Rasmus went back to Utah but Elmer stayed alone and dug basements and plowed and railed brush for which he received \$15. per acre. He spent Christmas day by himself. He did go to a Christmas program at the school house but it was a lonely Christmas for him. After Christmas Oliver came and they batched together.

In June of 1909 Elmer's mother and father came to Jerome and bought a small tent house along the coolie west of where the St. Benedict Hospital now stands. The family worked there all summer.

In august of 1909 the Nielsons moved to Camas Prairie. They filed on a homestead and built a four room house up under the rimrock on the south side of Malad River under the Twin Lakes South side Canal which ran through their place. Their closest neighbors were the Horace Butlers and the Dolph Nasers.

Elmer stayed and worked in Jerome until 1910. He then returned to the Prairie and helped his father on the homestead. He also worked for C. C. Cotton building roads, bridges etc.

In the fall of 1910 his father rented the Borup sawmill on Deer Creek. Elmer was good at sawing lumber. The men logged and sawed lumber all winter, selling it for \$20. per thousand. Rasmus Nielson, Lewis Adams and Elmer batched with some other men, living in tents. They bought some logs from Charlie Borup and Lewis Adams, Sr.

In those days some of the loggers had trouble with bears raiding their camps so one night when Elmer went to the mountains for a load of logs after having worked all day on the farm, he pitched his tent and was soon fast asleep in his warm bed. He was awakened by heavy footsteps coming closer and could hear heavy breathing and sniffing close to his tent. Elmer tried to think of some weapon he could use to defend himself against this bear, when a loud bawl roared through his ears. The bawl came from a lone bull that had wandered into the camp, possibly attracted by the smell of the grain Elmer had brought for his horses.

In the spring of 1911 Elmer helped his parents and also helped Horace Butler and other neighbors.

That summer the entire community for miles around laid off on Saturday afternoon and played baseball. Men, women, and children came from miles around. The younger folks would scream and urge their favorite team on. Mothers with babies and older ladies sitting in buggies and wagons were busy with knitting, crocheting or mending but took time to watch the game.

Jane said she remembered when a wild ball hit Bill Tyke in the head. He fell as a steer would when hit in the head with an axe. As she remembered he didn't feel like finishing the game. When the over the crowd dispersed with cheery, "So longs," to their evening irrigation, milking and evening chores. Those were happy, fun days with high hopes for our future on Camas Prairie.

The young people made frequent camping trips into the nearby mountains. Jane related the following story: "I recall one trip when we went north past the Smokeys and over to Bear Creek. Emily Payne was the chaperone. We had quite a crowd of boys and girls. Elmer refused to take part in cooking but was willing to get wood, clean fish, chickens, etc. It was easy to get all of the game we could use.

One night we all made our beds down before dark. The boys in the timber on one side of the camp and the girls on the other. Elva Dixon wasn't feeling well so went to bed early in the chaperone's bed. Elmer and another boy, thinking to play a joke on some of the boys, rolled up the bed and moved it farther into the timber. When the boy discovered the prank he did the same thing to someone else and finally the chaperone's bed was the only one to be found. The beds were all scattered through the dark timber. That was a miserable night, trying to keep comfortable around that campfire. We sang songs until hoarse and worn out. The next morning there were quilts, blankets and pillows scattered all through the timber. Elmer never did find his pillow.

Vern Thurber had a large, expensive felt hat. Someone threw it in the air and someone else yelled, "Shoot it!" A shotgun was fired and of course the hat was ruined--what a ridiculous thing to do. No one would say who did the shooting. The last day, before leaving for home, Vern gathered every boy's hat in camp and stacked them in a pile and gave the pile a blast with a shotgun at close range. When we got to Soldier we stopped at Scotties store and he made a record sale of mens hats for one day.

The winter of 1911 and 1912 Elmer stayed home. He milked cows, fed stock, went to dances at Manard and Springdale, also went to traveling shows, debates, candy pulls etc. He was always taking part in celebrations, sports activities, parades etc. He was willing to help in community affairs such as helping with donation work on Manard hall, school etc.

In 1912 he sold a fine team of horses to Erin Thurber for \$150. One was a big sorrel, blazed face, named Frank. He had been one of a wonderful pulling team, winning many prizes in southern Utah. The team developed a bad habit of running away so had to be split up. Elmer's father brought Frank from Utah with him and Elmer bought him from his father. Erin paid for the team in small payments. The first was a Shorthorn steer calf, worth \$5.00. This steer was the first of Elmer's cattle herd.

About November 15, 1912 Elmer went to McGill, Nevada to work in a foundry. Here he learned to mold machinery parts in sand. He stayed with Charles and Loretta who had moved there too, until Charles moved back to Monroe, Utah. Elmer then lived with a family by the name of Craven.

Elmer returned to the Prairie in April, 1913. He brought a bowl of goldfish to his sisters. His father met him at the train in Gooding. He helped on the homestead that summer and also farmed Horace Butler's place while Horace and John were in Montana trying to sell iceless refrigerators.

That year on July 13 there was a heavy killing frost on Camas Prairie.

Jane's mother, Nancy Franzetta Butler died that spring in Manard. She passed away April 21, 1913.

In the fall of 1913, with the money Erin Thurber paid him for the team Elmer bought a cow and three calves from C. Robinson on Dry Creek, north of Gooding. A little later he bought two fine heifers with white faced calves at their sides. He bought these from Pat McMonigal on Deer Creek north of Hailey. He said he drove them home in two days staying over night at Abe Saunders, a bachelor up on the base line, south and west of Willow Creek. One calf was so tired he carried it in the saddle. He was a very proud boy bringing those beautiful heifers home. The money received from the team he sold to Erin Thurber paid for the start of his cattle herd.

Elmer heard of the possibility of a job at a placer mine on Pyria Creek in Arizona so he went down there. That job did not materialize so he found work at a sawmill in John's Valley, about 16 miles from Tropic, Utah. He stayed with the Bybee's who were owners of the mill. They were very nice to him.

One day Elmer's suitcase disappeared, another workman said his overcoat had disappeared. Elmer told the boss about the problem and the boss told him not to say anything more about it. When all of the men went to work Mr. Bybee looked around and found the

missing coat and suitcase in the loft of an old building. In a day or so the man who lost the overcoat decided to quit the job. Bybee offered to take him to town as he was going for groceries. The man put his bed roll on the wagon and when all was ready to leave Mr. Bybee told Elmer to open up the bed roll. He did so and there was his suitcase and the overcoat. They took the man into town and he received a stiff fine.

A short time later Elmer transferred to another mill where there were 100,000 feet of logs to saw. A Mr. Lee, an expert at sharpening saws and axes, worked with Elmer. Elmer said they got their board and made over \$6.00 each per day. That was considered very good wages. Mr. Zabriskie was owner of this mill. Elmer and Mr. Lee felled the trees, logged them off and sawed the lumber. Mr. Zabriskie said these two men did more in one day than the previous men did in a week. Elmer loved to work and never seemed to tire.

In the spring of 1914 Elmer returned to Camas Prairie and helped his father farm the homestead, also 160 acres on the Gwin place on the north side of the Malad River. He also helped C. C. Cotton, Horace Butler and other neighbors. He stayed at home that fall and winter helping his father with work. Ivan Nielson went to Monroe, the Utah that year.

In April 1915 Rasmus Nielson contracted spotted fever and died on April 18, 1915. He was buried in the Manard cemetery. He was fifty four years old.

Elmer stayed at home to run the ranch, living with his mother and 3 sisters, Alta, Valma and Zina. Miss Carpenter, the Springdale school teacher, boarded with them. Elmer farmed the Gwin place again that year.

After the death of his father Elmer took over the responsibility of the family. He took over the homestead with 20 head of cattle, a few horses, a little machinery, a wagon, sled, white top buggy, harnesses, tools, etc. He sent a check to his mother every month. His mother had moved to Gooding and at times it was a tight squeeze to make the money take care of the family expenses. Grandma Nielson was a very good manager and very thrifty and with the girls working they managed to get by on what they had.

Jane sometimes feared that Elmer had not done as much as he should have done for the family. E. F. assured Jane that Elmer had done far more than he had received from the place. In later years E. F. helped support his mother and both Hazel and Valma cared for her in their homes. Jane and Elmer also took care of her in their home for a few months until it was necessary for her to have constant care. She was taken to the home of a nurse, Mrs. Ring, where she was given good care until her death June 17, 1944 in Wendell, Idaho.

In 1915 Chet and Clare McCallister were on the Lazy A Ranch and helped make things pleasant. In the fall and winter the young people had many dances and parties at Manard and Springdale, also debates, candy pulls, etc. The Mutual Organization of the church put on a play each year. The play was always very well attended. A traveling show came through the Prairie when the roads permitted, this was a real treat & was well attended. Elmer continued working the same land during the spring and summer of 1916.

When the Sawtooth forest was first organized in late 1915, Ed Minear was the forest ranger. John, Horace and Taylor Butler, Elmer and E. F. Nielson, Hugo Olson and John Robinson were issued the first grazing rights for cattle on Paradise Creek, located on Little Smokey near the Big Smokey ranger station. At that Elmer served as an original director for the Bureau of Land Management, District #2, which had their headquarters in Burley. The directors

met there occasionally as allotments were requested. In a few years the requests multiplied until a full time office was opened in Shoshone and one in Burley.

On one occasion Elmer was spending two or three days at a B.L.M. meeting in Burley. The last day he was there, Bonnie McQuivey was going to Burley for something, so I went with her and stopped at the hotel where the directors were staying. I thought the desk clerk was a little nervous when I asked for Elmer's room, he wasn't in so I waited. Elmer came into the hotel with a nice looking young woman, the clerk was uncomfortable as he gave Elmer the room key. When the young lady saw me and came over and put her arms around me, the clerk was quite relieved. She was my niece and Elmer was going to have lunch with her for the second time.

The fall and winter of 1916 & 1917 were open and the snowfall had been light. The normal snow depth on the Prairie was two to two and a half feet. Many people heated their homes with coal which was brought to the Prairie by train. Hy Lee told me that every day after feeding his cattle Elmer would go to the mountains, get a load of logs and would saw them and stack them for his winter supply of fuel. Many people thought him so foolish not to take advantage of the coal. The winter was quite normal until after Christmas.

Vance McHan was one of the larger cattlemen on the Prairie, I believe he had 400 head of stock. He bought some hay at Hill City and shipped it to Fairfield by train, then hauled it to his ranch by sled. There was a shortage of hay and feed for the cattle that winter but the men felt they could get by with the winter being so light.

About Feb. 18, 1917, Vance McHan, Hy Lee, Clare McCallister and Elmer packed their lunches and went to the City of Rocks to check feed conditions, expecting to return home that day. They ran into a dense fog and got lost, wandering around for several hours. They finally recognized the main canyon in the City of Rocks and knew that they could follow the canyon for about five miles and reach a cabin belonging to Wildhorse Davis, dubbed this name because of his wild horse stories. He lived in Gooding in the winter and camped at the cabin in the summer when caring for his cattle. They found the cabin but there was no feed for the horses and none for the men except some frozen potatoes. There was a stove and wood, a chair and some bed springs. They kept warm though not too comfortable. The next morning was bright and clear. There was about a foot of snow but the men decided there was enough browse and brush for stock to survive. As they went home they saw the tracks they had made, going in a circle, when lost in the fog. They got home just as a posse was organized to search for them.

February 19, 1917 Elmer planned to take his stock out to the slopes south of the City of Rocks. It looked a little stormy so he decided to wait and see if a storm was coming. On Feb. 20 a terrific storm & and blizzard started, snowing and blizzarding through the rest of Feb. and through most of March. The wind was terrible and the snow was heavy, reaching a depth of five feet at Manard and seven feet to the north on the Base Line. It was a great struggle to get feed through the blizzard to the feeding grounds. Many people were not able to reach their cattle some days. Elmer got some straw at the Gwin Ranch and said he never missed a day getting a full feed to his stock. The train, with two or three engines, was blocked, also a huge rotary plow. It was blocked for nineteen days. Some cattle were starving with no possibility of getting feed to them.

Before the big storm started, when they had discovered the shortage of hay in the valley, some of the men broke a road to McKinney Creek, by Fir Grove Ranch, where Vance wanted to set up a camp. K. T. Butler helped break this trail through the snow. Vance made the camp and moved some of his cattle over there. K.T. and Vance went to the City of Rocks on skis (Vance's first experience) to check on feed. The snow was too deep for the cattle to get browse.

Back on the Prairie the men struggled to feed their animals. Elmer's feed ground was well protected in the willows and by feeding them every day he kept his cattle strong and healthy. Some of the ranchers cut down on the feed until their stock got very weak. Some days many of them were unable to get to their feed grounds. Some people fed manure to their cattle.

On the day the big storm started, March 20th, they knew conditions were desperate. Ten men with twenty or twenty-five horses went to Vance's McKinney Creek camp to open up a trail to the City of Rocks. The men took turns taking the lead on a horse, making the animal flounder through the snow, the other men would then push the rest of the horses along until a trail was made. It took ten days to make the trail for a distance of eight miles.

When the trail was finished Will Goold and Elmer went home and got their cattle and started at 2:00 a.m. to make the trip to the City of Rocks. When they reached the McKinney Creek camp Vance had started working his stronger cattle out to start for the Rocks. The snow was crusted so hard they drove their cattle out around Vances and didn't even break the crust and were able to get their cattle to the City of Rocks where there was buck brush above the foot of snow. They pushed the cattle out to where the feed was best and returned to help Vance. Will Goold and Elmer stayed at Vance's camp that night. During the night it snowed about eight inches with a high wind blowing. The storm lasted all day and the trail was completely drifted in.

There were five men, Vance McHan, Hyrum Lee, Will Goold, Dave Dias & Elmer. Elmer said that a big bay horse of Goolds was the only one that could find the trail. He would rear up and paw first on one side and then on the other until he would locate the packed trail which had been built up about two feet from the bottom. Elmer tied another horse to the bay's tail and turned them loose. He would yell at the horses every few minutes to keep them going; then shove about ten head of the strongest cattle along to pack the trail. Each man would take a group of the cattle and urge them along in the same way.

The blizzard was so bad they couldn't see each other so they would yell to keep track of one another. If one bunch of cattle lagged the trail drifted full again. Elmer said when he couldn't hear the next bunch he would flounder back, crawling much of the way, until reaching the cattle, then he would tramp a trail for them to follow. He could not see more than eight or ten feet in any direction.

The blizzard packed ice on the eyes of the cattle and horses so they could only see straight down. The men had to keep pulling the ice from the animals eyes and from their own. They took turns on the difficult lead job.

Vance kept repeating, "We'll never make it." Later Vance told Valma that Elmer saved his life on that trip. He became exhausted and laid down, Elmer really cussed him out and forced him to get up. They were a very sturdy group of men to survive that trip, as every foot of the way was a great struggle. They left only one animal along the trail, they had 400 animals strung out single file. They finally reached their destination, they had traveled a distance of eight miles into the City of Rocks. It was about five miles from the Davis cabin.

The snow was too deep to go on the sides of the canyon, they had to stay down in the creek bottom where there was water flowing under the snow. Elmer was walking along the edge and slipped and fell into the creek. Elmer recalled that Vance felt so badly about him getting wet. In one spot the water dropped about six feet, they all got safely down except Vance, both he and his horse slipped and went entirely out of sight in a deep hole. They managed to get out and continued on down to the cabin. As they neared the cabin they were very much surprised to see a light shining in the cabin. Davis had come up from Gooding to check on the feed situation and had brought enough food for two meals for himself. He divided what food he had among the five men. A good warm fire was burning so the men spent the night thawing out and drying their soaked clothing. Hyrum and Elmer, fearing the break up, had worn runner boots which were frozen on their feet. As the ice melted they would raise their feet and let the water run out of their

boots. They were very happy when they finally were able to get their boots off. Hyrum's frozen foot had an open sore on it into July of the next summer and his feet bothered him for many years when cold weather came.

The next morning was clear and quiet. The men all went back up the canyon to the cattle and they scattered them out amongst the brush. They then returned to the camp on McKinney Creek, finding one frozen steer by the trail. Will Borup had stayed at the camp and had gotten a little hay from the Rock Haystack several miles west of the camp. He had built a make shift corral so they were able to feed their horses. After taking care of the animals they went inside and had the largest supper he ever remembered. While eating, the starving cattle broke into the corral and ate the horses hay. Elmer and Goold took their horses and left for home, a distance of eleven miles. Their horses had had very little to eat since leaving home at 2:00 a.m three days before.

Vance lost about fifty head of stock after getting them into the City of Rocks. Elmer and Will Goold reached home very much worn out and were given a very warm welcome by their families. Valma had done the milking and feeding of the cows in the barn. It was a great struggle to get feed into them through the blizzard. Valma said her mother came out occasionally to see how she was getting along.

The spring of 1917 came late and no wonder, with all of the snow they had had. There were huge snow drifts until late in May. A big drift in John Butler's back yard had been converted into an igloo by the Butler children. When Jane returned from Richfield, Utah in May it was still in good shape.

That spring the children attending Springdale school spent Easter in the City of Rocks. Clare McCallister composed a song for the occasion.

The summer of 1917 Elmer bought a small home for his mother in Gooding. He moved her and the girls down in time for school that fall. This home was located one block north and four blocks west of the Lincoln Inn.

October 1, 1917 Elmer went to Richfield, Idaho to work on the canals, he also hauled gravel for some roads. He had a beautiful six horse team, one a bright sorrel he called Queen. Queen and a brown mare were the leaders. Elmer said that Mr. Ogie, the boss, fell in love with that lead team. Elmer took good care of his animals and they were outstanding in their looks and performance. He received \$1.00 a day for the use of his horses, Mr. Ogie also furnished their feed.

A construction outfit from Lehi, Utah was there, working six horses plus a spike team to load out of the gravel pit. They griped about getting the load out of the pit. Mr. Ogie bet him \$20.00 that Elmer could take any four of his horses and pull the load out of the pit. The Lehi man was glad to take the bet. Elmer knew he could do it but didn't want to offend the man by doing it. Mr. Ogie said to Elmer, "It's an order!" Elmer went ahead and pulled the load well out of the pit, using his wheelers and leaders. Mr. Ogie collected the \$20.00 and handed \$5.00 to Elmer. He told the other contestant that he could have done it too if he had cared for his horses the way Elmer did. After this episode Elmer sold his leaders to Mr. Ogie for \$400.00.

That year was a terrible year for mud. The bad winter plus lots of spring rain caused the muddy condition.

While at Richfield Elmer happened to look at the register and saw the name of Lewis Adams on it. He looked him up and found that instead of Lewis Adams it was Les Robertson, a man who had deserted his family and had taken the name of Lewis Adams. Les pulled out and left the job.

In the spring of 1918 Elmer found a grayback (louse) crawling on him. He took all of his clothes and bedding, put them in a pile and burned them. He then went to the store and bought an entire new outfit, went to the barber shop and rented a bathroom, took a good bath, haircut and shave, then walked out leaving his clothes in the bathroom. When he got home his mother was upset that he had burned all of those blankets as she said she could have washed them. He told her she couldn't have washed them because he wouldn't bring them home, he wanted nothing to do with them.

It was a new and revolutionary thing when the first automobile was available at Fairfield. The Model T Ford touring car was first available in 1915. Elmer bought one from Harry Giesler at Fairfield. The price was around \$500.00.

This first automobile was really a great thing. To get it started it was necessary to set the hand controlled gas feed just under the steering wheel, then go around to the front and crank it until it started. The car was black and was open at the sides, with detachable curtains which snapped into place when needed. Jane remembers that Elmer was mighty proud of that first car. It had a brass radiator and just one door on the passenger side, opposite where the steering wheel was.

Elmer and Jane had been going together off and on for some time. Elmer was born in Elsinore, Utah and Jane in Richfield, Utah some six miles apart but didn't meet each other until they were practically grown--and clear up on Camas Prairie, Idaho.

Elmer and Jane were married the evening of March 6, 1918 at the home of Horace and Ida Butler at Acequia, Idaho. The ceremony was performed by Bishop John Anderson of Acequia. John and Bertha Butler were also in attendance.

Jane wrote: "We went to Boise on the train and saw John Ryan and Hugh Laird on the train. We spent the night at the Owyhee Hotel and had a cab take us to Erin and Carrie Thurber's farm on Eight Mile out of Boise." Elmer went back to Gooding in a day or so and Jane stayed for several days with Carrie doing some sewing. "When I returned to Gooding Elmer met me at the train. We sent to Thompson's Furniture store and bought a Hossier Kitchen Cabinet, a bed, dresser, dining table (round), six chairs, a little sewing rocker and a larger rocker for Elmer, also a folding leather covered couch and a carpet, (blue wool) for the living room and a siber cotton carpet for the bedroom. " Carol Nielson Sagers restored the old Hossier cabinet and has it in her home in Heyburn, Idaho.

Jane wrote: "We moved into his parents four room homestead located by the rimrock by the South side Twin Lakes Canal. The barn was located next to the rimrock and the house across the canal from there. This was situated on the south side of the Little Camas Prairie. Elmer also rented the Gwin place located on the north side of the Malad River. I had an old beat up coal or wood range with a high warming oven. I cleaned and polished it and painted the chipped

warming oven black, as was the rest of the stove. It made the stove look very nice but the oven was a headache. I put curtains up to all of the windows and pictures on the walls, it was very pretty and cozy. The outdoor toilet was across the canal, we called it the privy. We had to cross the canal on a footbridge to get to the privy or to the barn."

"I helped with the milking and washing of the separator and milk cans. I also went into the south hills with Elmer and got dry asped to burn instead of buying coal. We made very few trips from home that summer. We had gooseberry bushes so I canned some and made pies for Thanksgiving dinner, they were terrible."

"Elmer had a blue saddle horse, Old Blue, and kept him in a small pasture along the canal east of the house. He was a mean animal to catch, Elmer was worn out trying to catch him. He finally resorted to the lariat. He swung a beautiful loop that landed over Blue's head as he sped along the canal bank. Elmer was determined to hang on to the rope, running faster and faster and leaning more and more until over he went into the canal, still holding onto that rope he went spinning down the canal leaving a white streak of foam in his wake. I nearly laughed my head off--but he did catch Old blue. The air around there was blue for some time, but finally Elmer cooled off and saw the funny side of the situation."

"I raised a few hens. I set some and raised some chickens. Dolph and Blance Nazer gave us some goose eggs and we raised three geese. They were so interesting and caused the mother hen much concern when they plunged into the canal and swam away. We also raised a small garden that summer."

"That summer we had another horse, brown and mean as strychnine, Elmer said. We called him Kaiser Bill. He was a wonderful work horse after he got him hooked up with a team on the plow. To hook the tugs to the doubletrees, he made a hook on the end of a long stick and reached out at a safe distance. Kaizer would kick, strike, bite and snarl. One time he heard a terrible commotion in the barn where Elmer had fixed a narrow stall to put Kaiser in so he could harness him. I ran out of the house just as Kaiser came through the barn window above the manger. He turned a somersault on the ground as he was still chained to the stall. He finally got loose and left the ranch, Elmer did not try to follow him. Someone told us he was trapped in a fence corner somewhere in the south hills. Dugie Finch wanted him so Elmer said he did not object. We didn't learn whether he was successful in catching him or not."

During the summer the community had a party for K.T. Butler and his wife Thelma and for Elmer and Jane Nielson, the two newlywed couples. The party was held in the Manard Hall where they danced and served refreshments. In 1970 Jane still has the blue plate given to her that night by Mother Erika Olson. Bert and Ora Bean gave them a white quilt filled with hand carded wool.

"The fall of 1918 Alvira Clifford of Hagerman taught at the Springdale School and boarded with us. She was a very nice girl and I enjoyed her. Clair McCallister came back to the

Lazy A after the armistice was signed and visited our home often to see Alvira. They were engaged to be married but it fell through."

"We had no hired help that winter so I drove the team while Elmer fed the cattle. For some reason he had to be away for three milkings and I milked our 21 head of cows alone three times and nearly dried them up. My hands and arms were so swollen that it made me ill. Elmer would get up as soon as daylight came and go to the field to irrigate, then come back and help milk, then eat breakfast and go into the field for his days work."

One day in 1919 we were going in to Fairfield and met a small boy walking across the Manard grade and carrying a suitcase. The grade is the road going across the river to Manard. It was low right in that area so the road had been built up into a grade. We stopped to talk and the boy asked us where Elmer Nielson lived. He said his mother was dead and his father was in an insane asylum. He had been bumming around the sheep camp doing odd jobs to pay for his room and board. Alvira Clifford had told him she thought Elmer would give him a home. The boys name was Hampton Hartwig. Elmer was delighted to have a boy around and to Hampton's delight bought him a black pony. Hampton was 13 but very small for his age. We bought him some new clothing and he followed Elmer wherever he went. One day they were together in Fairfield and a man came up who had recognized Hampton. He told Elmer that the boys mother was not dead. The parents had divorced, the mother was remarried and was living in Gannett, Idaho. The father had been given custody of the five children. He was employed as a cook in an insane asylum in Washington.

We found that Hampton had run away from home and as a result was sent to Reform School in Oregon. He was later returned to his father only to run away again. We started Hampton to school in Manard and he did well. We had Thanksgiving at the homestead ranch and Hampton was delighted when Elmer promised that he could have all of the pumpkin pie he wanted for dessert. Even though he was small Hampton was a hearty eater and enjoyed the turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, etc. When it came time for dessert he nearly cried when he was unable to eat more than two pieces of pumpkin pie.

Before Christmas in 1919 we rented the James Robinson ranch which was about 1½ miles north of the homestead and moved to the ranch.

After moving we had serious trouble with Hampton stealing money at different homes around Manard and at school. Finally we had to send him back to his father. I wrote to Hampton's mother thinking she might help us, she wrote back saying that his father would not furnish her with money so she thought this had "marked" Hampton (this was in reference to his stealing.) We also wrote to his father and he wrote a nice letter, never blaming the mother and he sent money for Hampton's ticket on the train. He said to buy a full fare ticket, even though he was so small and could have passed for under twelve years of age.

When Hampton was with them he did not work for us, just lived in our home. He seemed to be quite helpless, not able to do many things. It was too bad for had it worked out Elmer would have adopted him. The "too bad" was that he was such a thief. He was very smart and could have learned to do so much. He always tried hard to please Elmer.

Years later a haggard looking man came to our door at our home in Wendell. Jane did not recognize the man and he said, "Don't you know me? I am Hampton!" He told her that he had married and had a child and then was divorced. Jane said they heard that he had been in the

penitentiary. He told Jane he had been foolish for not going straight like she and Elmer had taught him. He remained in Wendell for a few days until one of the girls came down with the smallpox. He went up to the Prairie and got work on a ranch over on Willow Creek. One of the men working on the ranch later told Elmer that Hampton got drunk and told someone he was wanted by the law in California and that he had been in the penitentiary there. Jane said they have never heard more of him.

When our cattle were ready to sell we would ship them to Omaha, Nebraska by train. Elmer would accompany the cattle, riding in the caboose of the train. Those trips were very hard on Elmer. Every time the train stopped he would inspect the cars and make sure the cattle were not being trampled and were otherwise okay. They stopped at least once to unload the cattle so they could eat and drink. When Elmer got home from these trips he looked like he was recovering from a serious illness, he always lost several pounds of weight.

Elmer needed a ride to Fairfield to catch the train for Omaha. We had an Overland car, which I had never driven. There was no one to take him to town so I was elected to do the job. Elmer drove to the station, gave me some instructions on how to drive, he stayed on the running board of the car until I crossed the railroad tracks, then jumped off and waved goodbye to me. I felt almost terrified but managed to get back to the ranch safely.

We were expecting a baby the spring of 1920. I went to Fairfield the first of March and stayed with Sabra Owens until going to the hospital on March 2. Dr. Willencheck was the doctor and his wife was the nurse. The hospital was in their home.

Our Elma Jean was born the evening of March 3, 1920 -- a fat cheeked little baby girl with very thick, long brown hair. She weighed 8 lbs. Mrs. Willencheck did not want me there so I received poor nursing care. I think the Dr. needed the money. On the tenth day I returned home. The second day I was in the hospital my milk came in like a flash. I bloated out under both arms and clear around to my shoulder blades.

The nurse told me to reach out and shake a chair on the bare floor & she would come upstairs to my room. It was impossible for me to reach a chair so she phoned Sabra Owens, she came and stayed all night with me. Grandma Nielson also spent a couple of nights with me. The milk ran in streams from both breasts, also under each breast and under my arms. After I went home Hattie Krahn helped me and Max Krahn worked for Elmer.

Elma Jean loved the jumper. She would back up on tiptoe and swing up, often grabbing things from the table. One day I heard a commotion and went to her. She had pulled the sticky fly paper down and had both feet stuck on it but was still jumping with all of her strength.

Elmer wasn't well in the spring of 1920. His field work was so hard for him. Dr. Woolencheck said it seemed to be some poison in the blood. He worked in the field for ten days while having a fever and just refused to quit. One day I noticed spots on his arms and had Max

Krahn ride a horse over to Olsens, about a mile away, and telephone the Dr. The Dr. had never seen a case of spotted fever, but that is what Elmer had.

Olga Krahn was helping me at that time. Elmer broke down and shed tears, he just couldn't forget his farming. He was down for a very long time with an extremely high fever. His mother was so worried about him and came to stay with us. Elmer's father had died of spotted fever just five years before. One night Jim Dixon and some other man came down and administered to Elmer. Grandma Nielson went upstairs for some reason and fell clear from the top and down to the bottom of the winding stairs, breaking her arm and receiving some bad bruises. This accident upset Elmer very much. He got so terribly thin with no fat left on him. He had eaten very little so the Dr. told me to give him a little baked potato, which proved to be a great mistake. He was struck with a terrible pain in his stomach & the Dr. said he had an inflamed gall bladder. His diet then was a starvation one. I remember when the Dr. said I could give him one teaspoon of diluted pineapple juice. Elmer was so disappointed not to get more. I don't think it was possible for him to get any thinner. When he left the house for the first time he wouldn't let me help him and he fell to his knees when stepping down one step.

Max Krahn stayed and worked for us all fall. Elmer was so proud of Elma Jean. As soon as he could drive the car he propped Elma Jean up against him on the pickup seat and drove to Joe Thurber's blacksmith shop in Manard.

That winter of 1920 and 1921 we moved our cattle to pasture we bought south of Wendell. We lived in Morrell McCloud's homestead shack. The walls were one board thick with a layer of building paper over them. We wintered horses for other Camas Prairie ranchers to help pay our way for the winter.

Jimmy and Edna McClure lived not far from us, where he worked as a ditch rider. They had one child, Norma. We wintered some horses for Horace Butler. Gordon Smith came on the train and visited with us for awhile.

The shack we were living in was very cold. It was a small square room with a camp stove, a little table and two chairs. A door was cut into a little lean-to room where there was a bed. This room was made of just one layer of boards and not even lined with paper. I hung a quilt up where there should have been a door. Elmer went in to Eaton's store in Wendell and got a wooden box about one and one-half feet by four feet. I lined the box with a quilt, covering it clear over the outside. This served as Elma Jean's playpen and bed, and kept her warm. She learned to walk in this box. It was too cold to put her on the floor so she never learned to crawl. She talked at a very early age. She still loved her jumper and when it was warm enough I would put her in it. One day when Elmer came in from feeding, she screamed, held her arms out to him and jumped so hard she broke the jumper spring which flew back and cut a deep cut across the top of her head. Elmer phoned Morrell McCloud and he took us into Wendell to Dr. Simington. He cut her hair off the top of her head, cleaned it all out and put two stitches in it. We were heartsick to have our little girl hurt so badly, but it did heal up quite well.

In January of 1921 someone gave us two bum lambs. Elma Jean called them "Lalas."

After moving to the McCloud homestead shack and after buying pasture and hay for the stock we had just \$40.00 left to winter on. One night while coming in from feeding he lost his wallet containing his \$40.00. As soon as daylight came the next morning he went to the feed grounds to look for it. There were many dark spots on the snow but they weren't the wallet. Finally he saw it, lying out on the snow packed ground. He said afterwards that he was so thrilled that he had found it he caught himself sneaking up on it, half afraid it would disappear before he could get his hands on it.

I had to cross the road to get water from a pump. One day while trying to open a jar of peaches the jar broke, cutting deep gashes in my right hand. I had a tough time trying to cook, wash dishes and tend my baby.

In the spring of 1921 poor little Helen Thurber called on the telephone to tell us her mother, Carrie, was in the hospital for surgery and that the children were all sick with stomach upset. She didn't know what to do. Elmer took me to Gooding and with his last money bought me a train ticket to Boise. I was heartsick as Elma Jean was walking but had no shoes, only some I had made from the tops of my old worn out shoes, I was no expert and the shoes looked awful. I went to Rorersons store in Gooding, where Alta worked, and bought her a pair of shoes. All they had were the worst, clumsy black shoes I had ever seen -- I was ashamed to have anyone see her wearing them.

Carrie was very ill after her surgery and her little sick family were such bricks to take responsibility. I felt so helpless, having no money to help them and having morning sickness besides. I stayed for about a week, but I am afraid I didn't help much. I feared that the food we ate was worth more than the help I gave. As soon as Elmer made a little money he sent me a train ticket back to Gooding.

Spring was opening up so Elmer got some pasture near Gooding. We packed our few belongings and moved to his mother's home in Gooding. He got some jobs plowing for farmers in the Gooding area. I was very discouraged to be broke and sick and wondered how I would fare with two babies. I stayed at Mother Nielson's until spring opened up. After these bad financial experiences Elmer vowed that he would work into a good line of credit and never again get caught in such circumstances.

Elmer went to the Prairie horseback to see if we could get through with the wagon. Mother Nielson fixed matches and cotton in a little bottle and put it in his pocket--in case he got caught in a storm and needed to start a fire.

In the summer of 1921 we milked a few cows and had a few chickens. It was a hard summer as Elmer wasn't too strong yet. Max Krahn helped us again that summer. I had problems with varicose veins in my legs and my feet were badly swollen most of the time.

Our wheat got quite high that summer. Elmer was out irrigating when he noticed the wheat swaying and thinking a small animal was in the field he walked over to investigate. He

found Elma Jean hunting for Daddy. I was frantically hunting for her around the barn. Later that summer I hired Lula Packham to help me.

Fae was born September 8, 1921. Aunt Annie Thurber came to help and Dr. Willencheck was still the doctor. Valma came to help Lula cook for the threshers.

My bed was in the front room so the girls set the table in the kitchen. They ran out of food and frantically ran into my room not knowing what to do. The next morning they prepared a huge breakfast. Some of the men did not come for breakfast. The girls were so amused when they offered Vance McHan more breakfast and he said, "No thanks, I don't care for much breakfast, but I do like my supper."

Lula had to go to school so I had to help Elmer with some of the chores. Elma Jean loved her baby sister, she called her "Tootsey Fae" She was very curious about the babies eyes so I couldn't leave them alone. I tried tying Elma Jean up but she got very upset, so we played a game. She was my little pony, I did not want my pony to run away so I tied her to the dresser leg and fed her hay (raisins). I would play this game while I cared for the chickens and did other chores. She was happy when I gave her a special treat for being a good pony and always looked forward to playing this game.

When Fae was a few months old we went to Gooding to Mother Nielson's on our way to Rupert to visit Eva, Olive and Horace. I noticed that Fae didn't feel just right but we went on to Eva's. While at Eva's she got a very high fever so I called a Dr. and found my baby had a bad case of pneumonia. A nurse friend of Eva's came and we put Fae in a wash boiler of warm water clear up around her neck. A few of these treatments brought her fever down.

Elmer had to go back to the ranch so I stayed in Rupert until Fae was well enough to go home. We caught the train at Minidoka to return to Gooding. Elma Jean says she remembers that trip on the train the train seats were made of red velvet and she remembers seeing popcorn on the red cushions. Elmer met us at Blaine with a sleigh and took us back to the Prairie. Uncle Surn Johnson lived with us for awhile that year. He was nice and loved Fae but was not nice to Elma Jean. I resented that treatment very much.

During the summer of 1922 Laura Christensen helped me. She watched the children so I could help with the milking and other chores. We separated the milk and sold the cream to keep expenses down.

Will and Ann Richards lived in Joe Thurber's house about ½ mile away. Elmer offered to let them take a milk cow but Will liked to read so well that it did not work out. We took the cow home and fed and milked her. Ann would walk up every day and get milk for the family.

We spent the winter of 1922-1923 in an old house of Matt Schmitts just across the road from the sugar factory in Twin Falls. Schmitts had built a nice brick home and had not torn the old one down. It was not much more than a shelter. Mrs. Schmitt was Annie Christensen originally from Richfield, Utah -- we had known her in Utah. They were going to have a New Year's party and invited us. Elmer's suit was so completely faded that it was not presentable for a party. I thought I might play sick, but we lived so close to Schmitts I was afraid that it wouldn't work. I brushed his suit real well, laid it out on the table and with a bottle of black shinola I

painted the entire suit. It smelled terrible so I hung it out in a room that had all the windows out and let it air for a week. The fresh air worked wonders. I then pressed it, ruining my ironing board cover, put a bag of sachet in the pocket and after giving Elmer strict orders not to sit on any overstuffed furniture, we went to the party. Elmer just stood around and enjoyed talking and playing old time games all evening. I was quite relieved to get home.

Feeding sugar beet pulp to cattle was a new idea. The cattle filled out and looked fine but when they were weighed for sale it was a big disappointment to Elmer. They just did not have the weight that they would have had from eating hay. He drove the cattle into the sales yard himself, someone brought him home. He was very pale and his legs cramped so badly that I rubbed and worked with them all night. We started home, a very disappointed couple. The girls each got a little broom, those were our only Christmas presents.

John Butler was living out north and west of Twin Falls so we went to his place the first night. It was getting late and a wheel came off the wagon just before we turned into John's yard. Elmer was so tired and discouraged that he refused to bring the wagon into the yard for the night. I was worried about leaving my big roll of bedding on the wagon for fear that it would be stolen, but Elmer thought I was wrong. As soon as it got light I looked out and saw the rope that was holding the bedding on the wagon was waving in the wind, of course the bedding was gone. I had eleven wool filled quilts and blankets, having used some of them for mattresses. I also had a lovely Navajo blanket that had belonged to mother. The girls little brooms were also rolled up in the bed roll. We went on to Gooding the next day and Mother Nielson loaned me some bedding and gave me one quilt.

The summer of 1923 the girls wanted their little brooms they had received for Christmas. I told them a mean man had stolen their brooms. That summer George Abbott had a covered pickup and delivered meat to the ranchers once a week. When hearing the honk I would say, "There is the meat man" and go out and get what meat I needed. I noticed the girls were a little shy of him. One day they were talking and saying they didn't like him because he stole their brooms. I told George about it and he immediately called the girls over and gave them some weiners. I had to explain to them that he was not a mean man but he was a meat man.

My varicose veins were terrible again that summer. Laura Christensen helped me again. I helped with all of the chores, milking, caring for chickens and turkeys and fed calves.

October 21, 1923 Carol was born. We were late finishing our harvesting that fall. We had threshers and hay hands at the same time. On Sat. night Oct. 20th there was just half a day of threshing left so the men wanted to finish on Sunday morning. We prepared dinner for the men at noon. They sat around and visited after dinner, I had to call Elmer and tell him to get the men out of the house and go for Aunt Annie Thurber, the midwife, and the doctor. Laura took Elma Jean and Fae down to the Richards place. Some of the men brought my bed downstairs and set it up. Elmer went to the Olson's to phone for the Dr. He was in Gooding for the day and so was Aunt Annie, so he brought Mother Olson home with him. She hated to be alone with me so Elmer got Amet Robinson to come over. Elmer went to the forks of the road to catch the doctor before he went on to Fairfield. The afternoon was a long one for me. That evening about 6:00 o'clock Carol

was born. Dr. Ayer Higgs got there about 1½ hours later and had to take the placenta. This had worried me because of the danger of hemorrhage. When Aunt Annie came the Dr. chastised her for not telling me she was leaving for the day.

That fall we bought our wonderful new header which was a great help In the wheat harvest.

We spent the winter of 1923-1924 at the Robinson place. Laura helped me with the three girls. We had a new milking machine and thought it was wonderful. It was a big job to wash it along with the DeLeval separator and all the big milk cans. We did enjoy our cream checks even though they were small.

We let our horses and a mule or two run in the straw stacks that winter. One day one of the mules came up into the barnyard, looking very sick, almost as we watched it fell and died. The rest of the animals soon came in much the same condition. First their hind legs became paralyzed then they would die. Elmer got a veterinarian out and he found they had forage poison from eating the molded straw. We lost several of our best horses which was a great setback and disappointment. Elmer said, "If we have stock we can expect to lose some." Nevertheless he did feel pretty discouraged at times.

We spent the winter of 1924-1925 on the Robinson ranch. I don't think we had any hired help that winter. I helped with the milking etc. Elmer fed the stock in a willow sheltered spot out in the field east of the house, about ½ mile away. We had bad blizzards that winter. I recall one day the wind was coming from the west and it piled great drifts around the house. Looking from my west window it looked like sugar pouring from a great container as it sifted over the drift. That day seemed so long as I kept straining my eyes trying to glimpse the sleigh through the storm. It was getting late and I had no phone and no way of getting to a neighbor who was a mile away and was so happy when I could barely see the outline of someone coming. The horses pulled the load of hay into the yard, he always brought a load of hay at night so it would be ready to take to the feed ground in the morning. The poor horses facing the storm were completely packed with snow. I was terribly frightened when I realized Elmer was not in sight. My relief was great to find he had walked behind the load of hay with his face close to the load in order to get his breath in the fierce storm. His day still was not finished -- there were cows to milk and horses to put in the barn and feed. Those were most difficult days for us.

That winter we took the girls to the Christmas program at the Springdale school house. We were all excited about going but there was a dense fog outside. We cut through the field, expecting to hit the main road about one mile from the house. We could hear the squeaking of sleighs and people talking but the sounds soon faded away. We finally saw the outline of a haystack and barn, we thought it was John Robinson's place and were disappointed to find it was our own yard. The horses had circled our feed ground and brought us back to our own ranch. I thought we should give up but the girls were disappointed so Elmer got out and led the team until

we passed the fork in the road that led to the feed ground. We arrived at the school in time for the program. It was still foggy when we returned but the team knew the way despite the fog.

While at the Robinson Ranch I sent to Minnesota for Black Minarka chicken eggs and raised eight chickens. They were shiny black and had a big white hat of feathers. I also raised turkeys for two years. The hawks got most of my black Minarka chickens because their big feather hat prevented them from seeing hawks flying over. them. I made some money on the turkeys.

Hazel and Lewis Adams helped us on the Robinson Ranch that summer.

I remember one fall we were taking a band of horses out to winter pasture south of the Snake River. We were going down the Clear Lakes Grade, which was very narrow and rough. Elmer sent me down the grade in the pickup to stop traffic until he could get the horses down. Stopping at the bottom of the grade I asked Ray Toon to wait for the horses but he became impatient and plowed up through the band or horses, nearly crowding them off the grade. Elmer was pretty upset and I was more so.

FIR GROVE RANCH

In the fall of 1925 we rented Fir Grove Ranch from a loan company in Seattle, I think it was the National Public Insurance Company. We moved our furniture over there and then went on a trip -- which I will record later.

Fir Grove flat was homesteaded by quite a number of men, among them Billy Sant, Harvey Dixon Sr., Harvy Dixon Jr., Fred and Jim Dixon. In 1916 Fir Grove was sold to the Rocking H Cattle Company. Mr. Faulkner was the manager and built a nice home on the east end of the valley and on the lower side of Rattlesnake Hill (so named by the Nielson girls). The house had nine rooms and a bath. Water was piped from a nearby spring. There was a fireplace in a large living room, a dining room, two bedrooms, a kitchen and bath room downstairs. An open staircase ascended from the living room to the second story which had four bedrooms and a sleeping porch. There was a half basement with a coal burning furnace. It had a screened porch to the south of the kitchen and porch on the north of the living room which extended around to the dining room on the west. The house built in about 1917.

Fir Grove Ranch contained 3,500 acres of land. Eleven hundred acres was flat and farmable land the balance was of rougher terrain on the mountain and in the canyons to the south. The backwaters of the Twin Lake Reservoir back up on the lower end of the ranch. It is seven miles from the house to the west end of the ranch.

After a few years the Rocking H Cattle Company went broke. Mr. Faulkner left and Lige Fletcher took over for a year or so. Elmer then rented it from the Insurance Co. in Seattle.

There was a school house on the ranch, about ¼ mile west of the big house. The school house was built of logs. I remember a Miss Ricks who taught there, also a Bernice Knowlton. At one time there was a post office which was cared for by Myrtle Peck. There was a stage stop at the Harvey Dixon, Jr. home. When Jane and Elmer moved to Fir Grove there were some school

books, maps and school records stored in the big house -- there were also many school books left there.

There was a large red barn with stalls for horses and stantions for milk cows, also two grain bins and deep hay lofts on two sides. There was the house where Jim Dixon had lived and a four room square house just outside the east fence where Kitty Dixon had lived, also a few homestead shacks. There was a homestead shack in the Grove pasture that had belonged to Vanderveres and a few more shacks scattered over the valley.

We had been at Fir Grove for several years when Elmer received a letter from a Mr. Erinberg who wanted to sell Elmer his eight acres of land on Fir Grove flat. Elmer was not aware that anyone else owned property in the valley at the time he rented the place. Upon investigation it was found that his 80 acres was right in the middle of the valley. When Elmer decided to buy the ranch he offered Mr. Erinberg what he thought was a fair price for the 80 acres. He wrote back and said he thought the price was far too low having been told that his land furnished the hay for the entire valley. He later came out from the east and was very surprised to find that his land was partly or mostly back in sagebrush. Elmer did eventually buy the land from him. When first going to Fir Grove all of the fences had to be replaced, they were completely torn down and mangled.

We raised beautiful crops of wheat, alfalfa and barley, all dry land farming. There was a lot of pasture land also. Our "Little Pasture" was sixty acres, extending east and west to the south of the house and barn. There was a nice stream flowing through the pasture which contained lovely watercress in the spring. There was another much larger pasture below the grove of firs on the mountain.

Fir Grove Ranch got its name from a lovely grove of fir trees growing on a rocky side hill at the south edge of the flat. This is the only grove of firs to be found on that entire south range of mountains. The grove is about ½ mile west of the house. There were no places to picnic as the trees grew right down among huge rocks and boulders.

Now back to the trip we took in the fall of 1925. Elma Jean, Fae, Carol, Elmer and I packed up and got into our little Star car and drove to Salt Lake City to visit my sister Sadie, then on to Richfield and Monroe, Utah. Charles, Loretta and Marius Nielson accompanied us from there down to see Alta and Dick Cooper who were living in Overton, Nevada. While there we visited the Lost City and the Salt Caves along the Muddy River. The Smithsonian Institute had people there excavating and they had uncovered an Indian village which was called the Lost City. I took some pictures of this interesting place. Now, in 1972, the back waters of the Hoover Dam have covered that area. Before the dam was completed the Smithsonian moved the huts to higher ground. Hoover dam is sometimes called Boulder Dam.

After the Utah and Nevada trip we returned to Fir Grove for a short time and then moved to Buhl for the winter of 1925-1926. Elmer bought pasture for the stock and we lived in a place close Cunningham's, a few miles west of Buhl. The house we lived in was plastered but not insulated. It was so cold the frost came through in a thick layer on the walls and the doors. We kept the beds away from the wall to prevent bedding from freezing to the walls. That was a miserable winter.

We bought some pasture from Sidewalk Smith and had a great deal of trouble with him. Mr. Heart helped Elmer out on that deal and said that Mr. Smith was a skunk. We went to visit John's family at Hollister, also visited Hazel and Lewis Adams at Vader's place in Hagerman.

We had quite a band of horses from Camas Prairie people. We wintered them to help pay our expenses.

In the spring of 1926 Elmer bought pasture at Crystal Springs and moved the stock from Buhl. We lived in a shack in an orchard near the Fred Tyler home. I had the flu and pneumonia and was very ill. We had a nurse from Buhl stay with me while Elmer went to Gooding to see about getting pasture there and also to find some plowing jobs to do while waiting for spring to open on the Prairie. I wanted to stay away from the children so I stayed in the screened canning kitchen in the orchard and the nurse stayed with the children in the shack. One night I got so hot I thought I would burn up. I tried to call the nurse but could not awaken her. I really thought I would die for want of water. Finally I heard Carol fussing and called again and the nurse came. She took my temperature, then flew to the phone and called the Dr. I don't know what happened for a while after that. When I got well enough Elmer moved us over to his mothers. He plowed for a few days then decided to go to Fir Grove horseback and see if we could get in. I remember that Mother Nielson was very kind and generous to us at that time.

In a few days we moved to Fir Grove to a cold and untidy house. We had had no time the previous fall to do anything but pile our belongings in the house.

Elma Jean was six years old that March. We took three hired men to the ranch with us. The first day there were many extra riders who stopped by and I had to serve 21 extra meals. It was pretty discouraging but we managed to get by.

The ranch was in bad shape. The pastures had been completely pastured down and had grown back to sage brush, weeds and native grass. Partition fences were down and there was tangled wire all over the flat. We rolled up and hauled tons of tangled wire and trash off before any plowing could be done. It was an immense job we had on our hands. The plowing was also a huge job but we gradually got the entire flat plowed and under cultivation -- alfalfa was planted as well as wheat and barley. Life on the ranch was filled with great joy as well as some bitter disappointments. When Herbert Hoover was president we had the most beautiful crop of wheat and got only 17¢ per bushel. Elmer never forgave Hoover for letting this happen. Some years we had smut in the wheat and grasshoppers to fight -- and always there was the fear of frost which struck quite to often.

We had kerosene lamps in the early years. At Fir Grove they had butane gas lamps. These lamps were very fancy and hung on the wall. We didn't get much use from the butane lamps and reverted back to kerosene lamps. Electricity didn't come to Fir Grove until much later when Carol and Monroe were living on the ranch.

We used galvanized tubs to bathe in until moving to Fir Grove -- there we had a porcelain tub and running water. To wash our clothing we used galvanized wash tubs with a good scrubbing board, I still have a board and have used it at the cow camps and at the cabin. I also had a wash boiler, using it to boil the clothing in before scrubbing it on the board. The clothes would come much cleaner using this method. While living at the Robinson ranch I got a washer, it had a long stick which I had to move back and forth to turn a dasher that helped clean the clothes. After moving to Fir Grove we bought another washer with a big wheel on the side with a handle which I could turn around and this was much easier.

We had no refrigeration in the early years at Fir Grove. We had a water cooler in the basement which consisted of several screened shelves covered with burlap on the outside and with a water tank on top. We kept the tank filled with water and had the burlap siding extend into the tank so it would absorb the water down the sides of the cooler and keep things quite cold

inside. Sometime in the late 1930's we bought a kerosene refrigerator that was a wonderful thing for us -- we could actually freeze a little ice and make ice cream in it. We did our ironing with flat irons and when the girls were old enough to help we used two ironing boards and by working all day we could get our ironing completed. Everything had to be starched, then sprinkled, rolled up and placed in a basket until it was right for ironing. We didn't mind ironing day because we took turns and the ones who weren't ironing would either read or tell stories to the ones who were ironing.

In the summer of 1927 Carol was very ill and had to have her appendix removed, she wasn't three until that fall. Dr. Shirts performed the surgery in his home in Fairfield and I stayed there with her. Loretta Yates stayed with the other girls and Elmer at the ranch until Elma Jean got sick. Elmer took the girls over to Edna's until I was able to bring Carol home. It broke my heart to have Carol coax for a drink of water that first night, the Dr. said I must not give it to her. I knelt by the bed and cried all night. I would hold a damp cloth to her lips but it didn't help much. Finally she called Aunt Annie and begged for water and she gave her one teaspoon full and Carol dropped right off to sleep.

Loretta Yates helped me that summer of 1927. My legs were so painful and I had so much to do with all of the hired help and others that would drop by for meals. Loretta was only 14 years old but good help. She was a Catholic and the next year went to the convent at Cottonwood, Id. and became a nun.

Elma Jean started to school in Manard in September of 1926. Ruth Butler was her teacher. Elma Jean stayed with Edna and rode horseback to school. June had a pony named Ginger and the two girls rode on the same horse. Later in the fall we moved to Wendell and Elma Jean finished her first grade there. Miss Andrus was her teacher. She had pneumonia and was very sick in the hospital for quite some time. Dr. Simington took care of her in the St. Valentines Hospital -- Sister Rita was especially good to Elma Jean. She was so very ill that I spent a great deal of time there with her at times her temperature was 105 degrees.

The girls loved to go to shows at the Odien. Elmer would take them over and then go back and get them. One night Carol cried because she wanted to go to the show, Elmer gave her a nickel and said he would take her to town the next day and she could buy something. Next day he had to go to the hardware store and took Carol with him. Clutching the nickel in her hand she looked around and spied a tricycle. She handed the nickel to Mr. Smith and rode out of the store and told the other girls that she had bought it with her nickel. Elmer came home with a look of chagrin on his face. He didn't have the money to spare but he had told her she could buy something she wanted and that was what she wanted so he let her keep it. We kept the tricycle until she outgrew it and then gave it to Stanley Smith.

Elma Jean was seven years old March 3, 1927 and on March 10, 1927 Donna Mae was born at our home, the West house in Wendell. Dr. Simington was the doctor and Ellen Goold was my nurse. Elmer would have loved to have a son but dearly loved his four daughters.

Elma Jean stayed with Grandma Nielson until school was out in the spring. The rest of the family moved back to Fir Grove in April.

Erin Thurber stayed with us that summer. What a sweet, helpful boy he was -- had such a good sense of humor.

The fall of 1927 Elmer sold the cattle and bought a band of sheep. Orvil Nielson helped Elmer for two days over the weekend to drive the sheep from Buhl to Fir Grove. They had a bad time getting the sheep to stay on the road, they wanted to go into the fields and farms along the way.

Elma Jean and Fae started to school in Manard that fall. They stayed with Mrs. Lee. Ruth Butler was their teacher. Elma Jean was in the second grade and Fae was in first grade. Sometimes they rode horseback to school. Later that fall I moved from Fir Grove into Joe Thurber's house, about 1½ miles east of Manard. Donna Mae was sick a great deal of the time that year. When the weather was bad and the girls couldn't ride horses to school Elmer or E. F. would take them to school.

Carol wanted so much to go to school. I made up stories to entertain her, pretending that the elves were coming to get her to go in an airplane to the North Pole to help Santa and his elves. I would hurry and put her mittens, coat and cap on her and send her out into the yard to get in the plane and zoom up in the sky and off to the North Pole. To this day Carol says she can see the elves and that she did go in a plane.

At Christmas time they had a program at the school. Elma Jean and Fae were angels and Ruth Butler asked Carol to speak a piece. She gave "It's a Great Responsibility to Raise up Dolly's Right," and really did it wonderfully well.

The winter of 1927-1928 was very hard on Elmer. He wintered the sheep at Fir Grove and lammed them there. The lamb loss was heavy. that spring Harold Bowen went out with the sheep. The range was up on Willow Creek. His wife Agnes and children lived in the Kitty Dixon house at Fir Grove. When the sheep came off the range in the fall, Elmer ordered railroad cars, loaded the sheep at Maken and said farewell. He said, "No more sheep for me!"

That winter during one of Donna's sick spells Aunt Annie put on her rubber boots and walked the 1½ miles from Manard to see what she could do to help me. I was so thankful for her kindness.

Elmer and E. F. shared machinery for many years. After moving to Fir Grove in 1926 Elmer and E. F. farmed together, using the same crews, etc. In 1927 or 1928 they bought a new Holt combine from Harry Giesler. It was a most wonderful machine we thought. During that summer we harvested Fir Grove, the Robinson Ranch, the Lazy A and also Squaw Flat for Ray Jones.

We used 12 head of horses to pull the combine, three sets of four horses each, to pull the combine. One driver handled all twelve of the horses, seated on a seat high above the horses. There was a box at his feet which he kept full of dirt clods to throw at the horses when they weren't responding properly. When harvesting they used the twelve head of horses but when moving from one ranch to another they used only eight animals. There was a great pile of harness down in the field. I often wondered how they ever got the right harness where it belonged. Some of the men got up just at daybreak and went down in the field to grain, water

and harness the teams--they would then come back to the house for breakfast before starting their day of harvesting. The people who worked the most of the combine were, Elmer, Mike Bryan, Orvil Nielson, Ray Dixon, and Alma Robertson. When harvesting far down in the field and to save time I would cook dinner at the house and take it down to the men, sometimes starting a little fire to keep dinner warm in the Dutch oven. My little girls loved to go to the field with dinner but wondered how the men could eat when they were so dirty.

In the spring of 1928 Orvil Nielson, E. F. Nielson's son, was staying in Wendell with Grandma Nielson and going to school there. He remembered going to Twin Falls with his dad and Elmer and buying a wonderful new Case Model L tractor, from Ivan Davis. This was the first tractor we owned. One weekend young Orvil was so proud as he was elected to drive the tractor from Twin Falls to Fir Grove.

In those early years at Fir Grove I tried to raise chickens but the skunks and weasels got most of them.

One year we raised pigs, the barnyard and corrals smelled like pigs whenever it rained for two or three years after. The girls took a truck load of pigs to the Jerome sale one day. When getting to Main Street in Gooding the pigs started to squeal, drawing attention from everyone along the street. When they got home they informed dad that that was the last time they would take pigs to market.

In the fall of 1928 Elmer bought more cattle. We bought pasture and wintered in the lower valley. We lived in the Gray house which was about three miles west of Wendell. Elma Jean and Fae rode the bus to school.

In the spring of 1929 we could not find a house to rent so bought a home in Wendell. The house was located on 3rd Ave. West and we bought it from Harold Burdett, paying him \$2,000. It was furnished and also had five lots with it.

Elmer bought the girls a black and white, pinto pony from Charles McNelly of Filer, he paid \$75.00 for the pony. He led him home with the car, thinking he was going plenty slow -- but it injured the horses kidneys. We had the Vet come and he didn't give us much hope of the pony surviving. The girls were broken hearted, but to our great joy he was better and standing up the next morning. He was pretty frisky so Elmer let the Smith boys take him for a winter at Rupert where Eldon admits years later that he won many races with that little pony.

The summer of 1929 we had some very bad electric storms. Elmer was working night shift on the tractor and Orvil was asleep upstairs. The lightening struck the vent pipe to the bathroom and up through an upstairs bedroom. It knocked plaster off the wall and cut the telephone wire in two. I could smell the burning, but fortunately a heavy rain came which saved our house -- I was so thankful. We were all so frightened, there would be a huge flash of lightening and then a most horrible crash right with it. Elmer soon came in, saying the tractor was just popping with electricity. All four girls were in bed with me, Donna crying. Orvil was still asleep upstairs, the storm didn't even wake him up.

The next day Norman Smith and a friend came to the ranch and they told us how they had spent the night during that terrible storm in the entrance of the school house at Willow Creek, to keep out of the storm.

In the early years at Fir Grove the work was hard but we all liked it. We made our own entertainment, put on shows and programs. I would make up stories which the girls loved. One story they especially liked was about Jimmy Coyote who lived in a cave in the Grove. Another they loved was about a lonesome little Christmas tree.

Ivan Nielson worked for Elmer during the summer of 1929. Caroline was one year old. The family lived in the Kitty Dixon house. Their family, consisting of four girls and one boy had lots of fun that summer. I felt sorry for Earl amid all of those girls, he was such a smiling happy youngster and I felt he was brow beaten by all of those girls. One day they were playing in the barn -- Lila, Onieta, Earl, Elma Jean, Fae and Carol -- I heard horrible shrieks and screams and raced to the barn thinking of rattlesnakes. I found all of the girls screaming at Earl and Lila was pushing and hitting him. On seeing me Earl really looked frightened, I guess he thought I would be after him next. I finally settled them down to find what the trouble was. The barn swallows had built nests in the rafters in the entrance to the barn and Earl had told the girls he thought he could hit one of the nests with a rock. The girls bet him he couldn't do it so he let go with a rock and much to his surprise down came a nest with three or four naked little swallows in it. After quieting things down I made the suggestion that we could put the little homeless birds in a neighbors nest and that they would be glad to care for the little homeless baby birds. I rolled a barrel over, climbed up on it and put the birds in a nest. The tears were soon dried and I am sure that poor little Earl was greatly relieved.

Ivan milked a cow or two for the family use. One of the cows was named Satan because she was so mean to kick when being milked. Ivan always hobbled the cow before sitting down to milk her. One night the men were very late getting in from the field so we decided to help by bringing up the cows, putting them in the stansions and feeding them. The men still were not in so Berta and I decided to go ahead and milk the cows. Berta, not knowing about Satan's problem, sat leisurely down on the milk stool and started to milk Satan. She was doing just fine until Ivan and Elmer got home and came to the barn to see what we were doing. Ivan gasped when he saw Berta milking Satan without hobbles, that is all it took. Satan started kicking, rolling Berta into the gutter and spilling the pail of milk. She received a badly bruised leg and an equally bruised ego -- she never again offered to help with the milking.

We would separate the cream from the milk and when we had a five gallon can full we would take it to Fairfield, sell it and buy something special with it. One day the four girls and I started for Fairfield with our precious can of cream standing in front of the back seat of the car. It was a bit late and I was in a rush to get back in time to prepare supper for the men. I was going too fast when turning the Floyd Clutter corner and over went the cream, the lid flew off and there was cream everywhere. It ruined someone's new shoes and we had to stop at a canal and clean up the mess as best we could. What a disappointment to all of us!

I remember when the girls herded cows down in the willows about three miles from the house. They had to keep the cattle from getting into the grain which was on the west side of the willows. It was a hot and tiring job. They rode old Bally with their lunch and water in tin pails hanging on the saddle horn. Bally would get hot and tired and would lay down, rollover and smash their water and lunch pails -- this made the girls pretty angry at that horse.

Elmer used a horse named Star to pack salt to the top of the grove for the cattle. One day something frightened Star and he ran down in the field scattering salt all the way. Chief White Clour, the girls black and white pony, got all excited and tore down in the field, passing Star like he was standing still. That was the first time we realized Chief was such a swift runner. Years later one of the grandchildren rode Chief in the field and couldn't handle him. He ran through the willows down on the creek. We heard the youngster crying and someone rushed down and found, (I believe it was David), had been dumped off, badly frightened but not injured. The little saddle was gone and we never did find it. It probably washed away in the high water that spring. This took place sometime in the 1950's.

In the spring of 1930 Mike Bryan came to work for us. He was surely a good man. He worked for us for twelve years.

Mike and Orvil Nielson were good friends and have fond memories of those Fir Grove summers. Orvil recalls having some dry summers and the Twin Lakes Reservoir got so low that the Twin Lakes were uncovered. This project was originally known as the Twin Lakes Reservoir & Irrigation Co. but is now known as the Mormon Reservoir.

Orvil remembered that he hauled wheat to Fairfield in our Model T truck, driving from the bottom of the field, past the Twin Lakes springs and around the west side of the reservoir. He crossed the Malad River by the dam and went on into Fairfield.

In about 1930 Orvil Nielson was in the second grade of High School at Fairfield. He too]z sick and they brought him in a horse drawn sleigh to the Malad River where Elmer met them with his car. He brought Orvil to Wendell to the St. Valentines Hospital where he was

operated on for appendicitis by Dr. Symington. Orvil says he remembers absolutely nothing about that trip.

In the summer of 1930 we held a little rodeo at Fir Grove. We had a small, but enthusiastic crowd. Some of the stock were real outlaws. We had 13 mules we had raised and they were very mean. One of them grabbed Cal Stuart by the arm with its teeth causing a terrible wound and ruining his shirt.

Donna was very sickly until she was about three years old. She had a high temperature much of the time. We finally had her tonsils removed and she was much better after that.

In 1932, during the great depression the Fairfield bank closed. This left us in very tight circumstances. I remember we had \$7.00 from a milk check and were extremely careful how we spent it. The bank reopened for a short time then closed again.

During the summer of 1932 Dr. Sheets or Shirts came to see Elmer at Fir Grove Ranch. The wood ticks were very bad that year as it was a very wet spring. Elmer would come in from the fields with his body literally covered with tick bites. The Dr. thought Elmer had spotted fever but thought he should have been immune having suffered from the disease earlier. The Dr. phoned back after looking through his books and said that very rarely a person could have spotted fever twice. This case of spotted fever was much lighter than the first case, 12 years before, had been. Mr. Miller, the telephone man, came to see Elmer and seeing Elmer's reflection in the full length mirror on the bathroom door he said, "I see you have another sick man in there."

In 1934 and 1935 there was a severe drought in Montana and many of the cattlemen were forced to sell at very low prices. Elmer bought big beautiful cows at, \$38.00 per head.

In June of 1934 we took a trip to Montana. Elmer, myself and the four girls went. Elma Jean was 14 and Donna was 7. We made the trip in a 1935 brown Chevrolet. We spent the first two nights of the trip with Loren and May Oldroyd at the Reasore Dude Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyo. This ranch is very beautiful and is located at the foot of the Teton peaks and the headwaters of the Snake River are on the ranch. The ranch was owned by a wealthy New Yorker named Reasore. He used the ranch to entertain his friends in the summertime. Loren Oldroyd, manager of the ranch had a lovely rustic log house with a picture window looking out toward the Three Tetons. They raised all of their meat, vegetables and grains. They raised cattle, sheep, hogs, turkeys, chickens, ducks and geese, also antelope. They had their own electric plant, cut

and stored ice, did all their own butchering etc. They hired a crew of 12 men to help on the ranch and 2 women to help in the kitchen. There was a beautiful lodge which they had just opened for the summer guests. When the guests came they were met at Victor, Idaho in a stage coach. After getting to the ranch they did not use a car. They had a small buggy or buckboard with a little seat in the back where a boy would ride to open gates when Mr. Reasore was checking the ranch. I went to a little church with them in a big old fashioned stage coach. We enjoyed that visit so very much, May and Loren were wonderful hosts.

From Jackson Hole we toured Yellowstone Park. It was a wonderful first experience for all of us. We saw many animals, mostly bears and spent one night in a tent cabin in the park. We spent more money than we had planned and so tried to cash a check but were unsuccessful. The girls thought they were starving to death so we stopped at a little town called Belfast, in southern Montana. The owner of the restaurant was very nice and was willing to take our check. While we were eating it started to rain and I asked one of the girls to go out and roll the car windows up. When she came back she said the car was locked with the keys still in the ignition. The owner of the restaurant helped us and the men reached in some way and got the key. As we were going back inside I told Elmer to be sure he put the car key in his wallet so it wouldn't get lost again. He obediently opened up his wallet to put the key inside and there was a \$5.00 bill, one he didn't know he had. Then he said to the owner of the restaurant, "Here is a \$5.00 bill I didn't know I had, now you won't have to cash my check." The man insisted he go ahead and cash the check saying we might need the money later, what a nice and trusting man he was!

We spent several days with K.T. and Thelma. One day we all went on a trip into the Bears Paw Mountains and had a delightful time. The Bill Simon family accompanied us on that trip.

Elmer and K.T. went up to the Canadian border to look at horses, Elmer purchased quite a few on that trip. On our way home we were waiting in the car at the stockyards for the car load of horses to come in. Elma Jean wanted to get out and look around and Elmer said, "No, not in this wild town." Butte didn't have a very good reputation in those days.

In the fall of 1934 Elmer returned to Montana and bought more horses as well as some cattle. That winter he made a perilous trip through a Montana blizzard where some people froze to death. Elmer also bought some fine horses in Baker, Oregon and made quite a good profit of their resale. Elmer bought and sold hundreds of horses. The ones from the Canadian border area were very wild and mean but those from Baker, Oregon were beautiful, well bred draft horses and he sold fine teams all around the country from Burley to Mountain Home.

He shipped in a bunch of cattle from Montana. When they unloaded the cattle at Butte to feed them they were missing one cow, it had been left by mistake back in the stockyards where the cattle were loaded. The railroad company loaded her in a stock car all by herself and shipped her to Gooding. She had long horns and was on the fight. Elmer went to Gooding for her and found he needed some help so we went up town and got Shady Haden to help him. As they were attempting to load the cow she made a run at Shady and pinned him to the fence, however her horns were so long she didn't hurt him at all. They finally got her loaded and took her up to Fir Grove.

In this same year, 1934, Elmer bought 80 head of fine bred hereford cattle. He kept all of the heifers and really built up his herd. He bought these herefords in Montana.

One day they unloaded two carloads of horses at daybreak in Gooding. They were Montana horses, wild and unbroken. Elmer took the lead and Ivan and Mike took up the rear and they headed for Wendell on a dead run. These horses had come into the old stockyards which were east of the elevator. There was a vacant lot close by with a bunch of clothes lines on it, some of the horses cut across that lot and really made a mess of those clothes lines.

Elmer took Donald McCloud into Wendell to drive a team of horses back to the feed grounds on the McCloud place. That team ran eight miles with Donald and all he could do was guide them down the road, he couldn't even start to hold them. That was the longest runaway they had ever heard of, and if the truth were known it was probably the longest runaway in history. When Mike started working the team later he put curb bits on the work bridles in order to hold them. He said they were broke -- broke to run. Mike said the longest runaway he had had was three miles and that was with a Nielson team also. He said, "That team were obliging enough to kick the front out of the hayrack before they stopped, the others just run for the hell of it." Mike also observed, "I didn't have much to do with the Oregon horses, they were all gentle, I never even got to deliver any of them. The wild ones were my cup of tea!"

Of all the wild horses only one was a pinto. Mike broke many of the horses but the pinto is the only one of those that Elmer kept. Pinto was a mare, and was bred to Elmer's Arabian stallion, silver King. She had two colts, one was Frostie and the other they named Patches. Mike bought Patches and Morris Nielson bought Frostie. They were good saddle horses but they were tricky to handle.

In the fall of 1937 Elmer had two train car loads of horses that he couldn't sell in this area. Some of the horses were broke and some not. Elmer decided to ship them to Grand Island, Nebraska, which was the place that had the largest horse sale in the world at that time. Mike went to Nebraska with the horses and had a good trip. "I had no trouble what so ever and the horses sold well," Mike said. The big horse sale was really something to see and the way they handled the horses was an education in itself. "Out of our two carloads of horses all but five were not halter broke. The handlers in Nebraska would halter break these wild horses for \$2.00 per head. They started working with our horses at 7:00 p.m. and I watched until about 11:00, then I went to the hotel and went to bed. When I got back at 7:00 a.m. they had the entire bunch halter broke and they led like dogs. This had all been accomplished in kindness, I learned things there that have helped me all my life."

"Every work horse that was supposed to be broke they hitched, whether snuffy or gentle, they were hitched. They had a man to do every little job connected to the hitching. One put on the neck yoke, one snapped the checks, one hooked the tugs, two lead the horses in place and then unhitched them -- the driver never got off the wagon. Every horse was mouthed and sold according to its age by the mouth examination. The saddle horses had to be dog gentle or they sold them for unbroken, no one there could ride for sour apples."

"I stopped in Denver on the way home and visited my Aunt Daisy and her family -- but got home and was still single!"

I believe it was in 1934 that we bought the Lazy A Ranch from a loan company. This was a nice ranch next to the rimrock on the south side of Camas Prairie. It comprised 480 acres. it was originally homesteaded by Henry Jenkins. There was a two story house on it and some barns and corrals. Elmer farmed this place for several years but we did not live there. In 1936 Ivan Nielson farmed this place. His son Leon was born there and the other children went in to Fairfield to school. In 1937 Ivan bought a milk route and moved to Wendell.

In 1938 Orvil married and moved to the Lazy A, renting it from Elmer for two or three years, then bought it from Elmer for \$12,000. He paid him \$1,000. in the fall and payments as he could later. Orvil was very appreciative of the arrangement that Elmer had made with him, otherwise he couldn't have purchased the place. In the spring of 1947 Orvil sold the Lazy A to Bob Edmond and moved to the lower country.

Speaking of the winter of 1936 Mike said, "Elmer had part of the cattle at Wendell and I was on the Lazy A with 600 head. It was a real bad winter. Bill Finch started the winter with me. he went back to Montana and Marion hager finished the winter. In January we trailed the cattle from Wendell to Camas prairie. The cows wanted to keep going back south, and I didn't blame them. We had a terrible time, but we had to get them to where the hay was. This is all I remember of 1936 and its all I care to remember."

1937 was the first year that Charles McNabb worked for Elmer. We called him Old Mac. He was an old cowboy that had worked with and knew personally some of the outlaws in the old west, or rather in the midwest. He was a first rate cowboy. From the time he was nine years old he had been on his own. He had never married. He knew Jessie James personally. He worked for Elmer for several years and was past 90 years of age when he quit working.

Elmer shipped 1100 cows from Montana that year. That was before they had squeeze chutes and they had to head and heel all of those cows to brand them. Old Mac and Mike headed and heeled everyone of them and Elmer and the rest of the crew branded and ear marked them. It took three days.

In 1937 we shipped cattle to Bodine & Clark in Portland, Oregon. They were a huge stockyard concern. I received a card from Elmer dated February 7, 1937 -- their train was stalled out of Portola, California due to slides in Feather River Canyon.

One year he took two car loads of heifers on the train to Bodine & Clark. He got 33¢ per pound which topped the record for them. Bodine & Clark wrote Elmer that his heifers still held the record for a car load of cattle. They wrote this letter several years later.

For the activities of 1938 Mike Bryan's description is so expressive we will quote him. "We wintered on the Essie McHan and McCloud places. Johnny Hagen was with me. We had a hell of a slug of cattle. We rode the outside and hoped the cattle weren't in the wrong place and didn't have anyone buzzed up and mad. Elmer had pasture bought all the way from McHan's to McCloud's -- all he could find. All these years we had both green and broke horses to ride and work, as Elmer was buying up horses in Montana, southern Canada and Oregon."

As the girls grew older they loved to wander through the hills and canyons at Fir Grove. They helped their dad with the cattle and with the farm work. We were always glad to get back to the ranch in the spring. Their friends loved to spend a few days there too. We had many happy summers until the year 1946 when Carol and Moe moved on to the ranch and Elmer and I stayed in Wendell the year round. As I look back I am sure that those years at Fir Grove were the happiest years of our lives. Fir Grove is still very dear to me and to all of the girls.

For many years we spent our summers at Fir Grove, moving to Wendell for school.

Elma Jean graduated from High School in 1938 and then went to Albion State Normal School from 1938 till she graduated in 1940.

Fae graduated from High School in 1939, she too went to Albion and graduated in 1941.

Carol graduated from High School in 1941. She attended Idaho State Univ. at Pocatello for two years, from 1941 till 1943.

Donna Mae attended High School for three years in Wendell. She had her Senior year, 1945, in Twin Falls, Idaho. She attended the Univ. of Washington in Seattle for four years plus one summer -- the summer of 1949.

Elma Jean taught grade school in Bliss, Idaho for two years and Fae taught school in Murtaugh and Wendell, Idaho for two years. All three of the older girls were married in the same year -- 1943.

Elma Jean married Howard Otto Christiansen on July 21, 1943 in Pensacola, Florida. Christy was serving in the navy there.

Fae was married May 9, 1943 to Robert Elvin Williams in the family home at Wendell. Bob was on a few days leave from the Army Air Force.

Carol was married December 14, 1943 to Harold Monroe Sagers in Pensacola, Florida. Moe was serving with the Marines.

Donna Mae was married June 21, 1950 to William Leroy Kydd at the Sand Springs Ranch in Wendell. Bill was going to dental school and was also in the military reserves.

After working together on their ranches for several years E. F. sold his interest in the combine and tractor to Elmer. E. F. and Edna bought a farm south and west of Wendell and moved away from the Prairie.

SAND SPRINGS RANCH

It was late in 1938 or 1939 when Elmer rented Sand Springs ranch from a Mr. Bicknell -- an elderly man from Boise. It was a wonderful place to winter stock, with a lovely clear cold spring rushing from cracks in the lava rock. The buildings on the place were terribly run down, with the trees and shrubs gone wild, making plenty of shelter for animals. The water from the spring ran to the west about three-fourths of a mile, went under the road and in about ¼ of a mile drops off the canyon wall for about 100 feet and into the Snake River.

Mr. and Mrs. Bone were caretakers and lived in two or three rooms in the main house. The floor in the front room was all broken in when horses got into the house. There were old shacks and broken down buildings scattered over the entire ranch. The Davis place still had an orchard. It is located about nine miles southwest of Wendell.

We wintered our cattle there for several years. I remember that Old Mack had his camp trailer down there at one time.

Hy Berkowitz bought Sand Springs in 1943. Walter Lake, the father of Ann Sothern, the movie star, was a distributor for Old Mr. Boston Distilleries of Boston Mass. Mr. Lake came to Sand Springs to fish and straight way called Hy Berkowitz in Boston, telling him about the wonderful stream. Hy and his nephew Paul came to Idaho to see the place. We were at Fir Grove and Elmer invited Hy, Paul and Mr. Lake to dinner. I was really worried about cooking for a millionaire. I fed them along with the hired men and all went well.

Hy tried to get Elmer to go in with him on Sand Springs, but he refused saying that Fir Grove was enough for him. It was a great relief for me to hear Elmer say no. I think Sand Springs has about 5,400 acres on it. Hy kept after Elmer and made things look very inviting.

I think it was about 1945 when Elmer went in with Hy as Nielson & Berkowitz. Elmer had charge of all the farming and pasture land. The land as a whole was not very good farm land. He worked so hard trying to make good, I feel that helped to break his health.

THE SEVEN U RANCH

It was the 27th of Feb. 1950 when Nielson and Berkowitz bought the Seven U ranch from Rolly Hawes. The place is on Flat Creek, in the Three Creek Country in Owyhee County, Idaho. They paid \$75,000. for the ranch.

Roland Hawes went to the court house and then gave me the following information: The approximate deeded land was 1,840 acres, the Forest Permit at time of sale was for 1,000 head equals 797.20 acres; Taylor Grazing, B.L.M., 1,400 head, equals 9,150 acres. Land included in the loan application but which is not described in the deed was:

Lot 2, E ½ of the NW ¼, Section 19, Twp 16S, Range 11E. SE ¼ of the NE ¼, W ½ NE ¼ Section 24, Twp 16S, Range 10E. 254.44 acres in all.

The deed was from Roland and wife to Elmer Nielson and Hi Berkowitz. The deed was dated Feb. 27, 1950 and it was recorded on Aug. 16, 1954. Roland Hawes said he bought the Seven U Ranch from Bill and Eva Dunn.

Included with the description of the ranch Rollie enclosed the following letter to Jane:

"When I think of my good friend Elmer Nielson it brings to my mind the many good things he did for people who were in financial trouble. To my knowledge he spent many hours after he had worked hard all day, just listening to hardluck stories, or to people who had had "money reverses" and it seemed like he invariably figured out some way he could help almost everyone that was worthy of consideration. In my lifetime I had the privilege of having many business deals with Elmer and I found him a very honorable and upright man in all of these transactions, it was a real pleasure to do business with him."

(Signed) Roland Hawes

The Seven U Ranch is the first ranch on Flat Creek, meaning it is the highest ranch on the creek, below this point the Creek goes into deep canyons. It is located in the east end of Owyhee County in the Three Creek District. The Three Creek school house is three miles away. The ranch is 60 miles from Rogerson, Idaho and it is a little over 100 miles from Wendell.

The Seven U Ranch was filed on (homesteaded) in the early 1900's by Crandall Dunn and his wife from Ogden, Utah. Roland Hawes bought it from Bill and Eva Dunn.

The forest reserve was located in the White Elephant District of the Humbolt Forest Reserve in Nevada.

Our cabin was built at an elevation of 8,500 feet. It was 18 miles from the cabin to the ranch. It was a one room cabin with two full sized beds and a good cupboard with tight doors which we could let down and use as a table. In this cupboard we kept our dishes, flour, food, etc. When closed mice and chipmunks could not get into the cupboard. There was a stove which had

a water jack or tank which heated the water. There was also a shower which was provided with warm water from the tank.

In 1952 when Pat Williams was five I took the children up to the cabin. When we got there I went in and reached up to the can containing matches that we had high up on the wall, took a match and took the glove from the kerosene lamp and lit the lamp. Pat was amazed and exclaimed, "Blow me down, it's a light!" He thought that was really something and thought that would be just great to have such a light then a person wouldn't have to bother with electricity.

In the early fall of 1955 Elmer's health was getting to be quite bad. He decided to give up managing Sand Springs Ranch so Quincy Gates took over the job. Elmer was supposed to be the consultant but was never consulted. Quincy worked for Hy's family to settle the estate. Sand Springs Ranch was sold to Lee Hawkins, a Corporation from Oklahoma City in early 1958.

In 1957 Elmer and Hy decided to dissolve their partnership. Joe Casella was going to help take care of this settlement. Joe wanted to spend Thanksgiving with his mother and so wanted to wait until after that to finish this agreement. Because of the postponement Elmer and I went to Seattle and spent Thanksgiving with Donna. Elmer consulted with a Dr. Edmark while in Seattle.

On returning to Wendell we found that Hy was very ill with internal hemorrhage. He was flown to Salt Lake City the next day and the day following he passed away. This was a great shock and disappointment to all of us. Elmer suffered a great financial loss when Hy died before the settlement was complete. In settling with the estate Elmer refused to ask for anything near the amount he was entitled to for the years of hard work he had given. He got the Seven U Ranch with indebtedness against it.

Some of the people who worked for us at the Seven U:

Lloyd Nelson and his wife Hazel. They had two sons, Lyn and John. Next was a man named Johnson. The shop burned while he was there and he took many of the tools, sold them and kept the money. He also took stole a lot of food from the ranch.

Chick Copenburger worked for us next. He married a young girl and they kept a bunch of dogs in the house.

Cliff and Pauline Collyer and their two girls, Lyn and Margie, came to work for us in late March 1956. They were good help and were honest. They finally decided they needed to put their children in a larger school so in 1960 moved to Caldwell.

After Collyers moved Bill Dunn stayed on the ranch and Mike Larson, who was a big Swede from a University in New York helped him. Mike was on a rowing team and wanted to work real hard stacking bales of hay, etc. to help develop his muscles. He stayed on and helped feed the cattle that year.

In the summer of 1958 we had a real disaster. The summer was very hot and dry and when the men were moving the cattle off the desert and on to the reserve they attempted to pen them in a corner of a desert pasture, for the night. The cattle broke out and scattered for miles searching for the water that wasn't there. Elmer would never tell me how many cattle died.

Robby and Pat Williams, David Christiansen and Steve Sagers went out and tried to help. Robby was 12. Waldo Thurber came from Boise thinking it would be a great thrill to help with the drive. I went out with the camper to furnish food & water for the men and boys as they came in to the camp. They will never forget that awful experience. Elmer refused to come in for food or water so I sent some out to him with the men. They gathered all of the cattle they could find and pushed them on to the reserve where the feed and water was plentiful.

Pauline Collyer said that a few days after this disaster she and Cliff were amazed to see Elmer drive into the yard with ten head of yearlings loaded in his pickup. Although they were on top of each other and the rear of the pickup was fairly dragging on the ground he had managed to load and haul the cattle from certain death to safety on the ranch. They could not imagine how he ever loaded them out of the desert all alone, or how he ever got the pickup started with the heavy load.

I spent the summer of 1959 with Elmer. I was afraid to leave him alone. One Sunday we were at the cabin alone, the men all being down to the ranch -- 18 miles away. Elmer decided to go out on the reserve which was 9,150 acres, divided into two or three fields or pastures by good wire fences. I had a trailer house out by the cabin, leaving the cabin for the men. The hilltops were rounded so we could drive for many miles across them without being on a road. Canyons were very deep and rough, at times our pickup would slide sideways when driving in them. Elmer wanted to take a drive through one of the pastures so I went with him. We went down one very steep hill and could not get back up even though he piled rocks in back of the pickup. We then drove to the Bull Camp where our old trailer house was standing by the huge water tank at the spring. Bill Dunn, son of the man who had homesteaded the Seven U, had been staying at this camp but had pulled out. I took a small meat saw from the trailer because it was better than the one I had at the cabin. Elmer wanted to do a little exploring so we followed a small creek down that would take us to a mine where a Boise man had suckered some others to go in with him and build a mill about three miles from the mine. We came to a spot where two trees had been toppled by beavers, across the road, making it impossible for us to go forward and we were unable to back up. The only tools we had were a shovel, a dull axe and the little meat saw I had taken from the trailer. I thought we should walk to the mine but Elmer was sure that no one would be there. We worked together, hacking and sawing at the two trees and finally getting them into small enough pieces that we could twist them out of our way. We passed the mill, and no one was there. We were seventeen miles from our cabin, and worn out. I was so worried about Elmer but he was very determined to do what he wanted to do. It was a very unwise trip as no one knew where we were, but as was the case many other times, we were lucky and got back to the cabin okay.

In September of 1959 the men were out gathering cattle from the many ravines and canyons. It was cold, with early snow in that high country. I had a good warm fire burning in the cabin and food was partially prepared for when they got in. When they rode up Elmer was very pale and rode his horse close to the cabin before he dismounted. He slid off and limped into the cabin. His horse, a big brown, had slipped on a flat rock in part of a rimrock formation in a steep snow covered canyon and had fallen on Elmer's ankle. We put him in the pickup and I took him home but the ankle was so swollen Dr. Holsinger could do nothing with it. Elmer insisted on going back to the reserve and I went with him. He rode for cattle for a week with just one foot in

a stirrup. The Dr. put a cast on his ankle the next week, he didn't stop riding until all of the cattle were in.

Pauline said, "He wouldn't quit, I remember seeing him racing after a couple of steers with a plastic bag on the cast and just his toes sticking out. It was cold as the devil on that mountain and was threatening more snow."

I remember one year when Elmer did not get home from the Seven U when I thought he should have been. I asked Moe to go look for him. He got in the pickup with Janie, who was just a baby and went out to look for him. Elmer had taken his pickup and gone out into the crested wheat field to check on the cattle. This field was about 17 miles square and covered with high brush and grass. He got the pickup stuck in the sand and had worked trying to get it out but to no avail. He finally heard a noise and looking up saw Moe and Janie coming in their pickup along the fence -- it was a welcome sight to Elmer.

When we were ready to take the cattle to the Seven U in the spring they would drive the cattle from Sand Springs down and across the Snake River on the bridge by Roy Vaders ranch. After passing Vaders place we took the first road to the right, went up Yoho Canyon and out onto the Owyhee Desert to Clover where the cattle were glad to get a drink of water.

One spring Elmer and Luc!(y Martin went out on the desert to check the cattle. It was cold and very muddy. Mr. Vader phoned me to go and get them at the bridge. When I got there a cold wind was blowing and the two men had built a little fire on the bank of the Snake River to keep warm. They were a sad looking pair -- something had happened to the pickup. Lucky was hesitant about walking into Vadders so Elmer walked with him instead of waiting in the pickup. They walked 23 miles in deep mud. Vaders wanted them to come into their house and get warm but Elmer refused because he was so muddy. Despite it all Elmer was ready to go back to the desert the next day.

In November of 1959 Lorenzo Meecham and Orlando Jacobsen fenced the B.L.M. land at the Seven U. This was called the desert fence and was completed in 1960. Elmer worked along with the two men on this huge project. They made two twelve mile fences from the B.L.M. fence to the Bruneau River. Renny Meecham said that Elmer had so much drive and determination, even though his health was not good. It was along this fence, in a dry corner, where the cattle were trapped and died of thirst.

In February, 1961 we sold the Seven U Ranch to Paul Butler and Hadley Stewart. Stewart was the son-in-law of Butlers.

Bill Dunn was feeding cattle on the ranch. Elmer sent trucks over to the Seven U on Feb. 14, 1961 to move the cattle away as the new owners were taking over. The weather had warmed up and the roads were very muddy. While helping to move the cattle Elmer overworked. He had used up all of his nitroglycerine pills and when he tried to come home he couldn't get by the stuck cattle trucks and became terribly ill. One of the men finally got him home. He refused to

stop in Twin Falls at the hospital and as soon as Dr. Holsinger saw him he sent him to St. Benedict's Hospital in Jerome. He was vomiting a froth and the Dr.s and nurses worked with him all during the night, pumping the froth from his nose and throat. The Dr. said he had acute pulmonary edema, caused by heart failure to pump, thus filling his lungs with fluid. He was in critical condition for twelve days. they slowed his breathing down so that he would only take seven to eleven breaths per minute. I remember timing it for one minute and it just seemed so very long, I thought he would never take another breath. That first night the Dr. thought he would never pull through.

In the spring of 1946 Elmer and I did not move back to Fir Grove. Our daughter Carol and her husband Monroe Sagers moved into the ranch. They lived there in the summer and moved to the lower country for the winter months. Some of the years Moe rented the ranch and some of the time Moe and Elmer were in partnership. All five of the Sagers children were born while they were living at Fir Grove.

Elmer and I lived in our home in Wendell until February of 1951 when we moved into our lovely new home that we built very close to our old house. Bud and Theda Fink purchased the old home from us. Our close friends Nobe and Elsie Leland lived in a home right between our old and new houses.

Moe was always interested in performing in rodeos and was an expert at calf roping. He was associated for a time with Bill Linderman, at one time a world champion cowboy.

During the years the Sagers were at Fir Grove they had some bad crop years, as well as other drawbacks. We had to mortgage the ranch after it was completely paid for, also had to mortgage our home in Wendell for \$15,000, to the National Public Service Insurance Co.

Elmer's health continued to fail so in 1961 he and I moved back to Fir Grove to fix it up so we could sell it. The ranch had not made enough that we could have it repaired and it was really run down. Carol was an excellent housekeeper but things were just generally run down. The men who helped us with the work were Charles graves, Stan Anderson, Loren Prince, David Christiansen, Bert Healy and Whitey Kohlstrum. Robby Williams came up and painted a fence for us. I can still see him with the paint dripping off both elbows. We had the ceilings dropped in several rooms, replastered and repainted inside and outside of the house. We built a new fence and had it painted white. We attempted to drill a new well, down in the field. We hoped for an artesian well but it did not prove successful so we spent \$2,000 for nothing.

On September 24, 1961 we had a big farewell party at Fir Grove. The guests included the Rex Bradshaws, Vern Cassinghams, Charles Gates, Mel Gates, G. Ghorleys, Gossetts, Kellys, Elmer Millers, Ray Wards, Glen Weinbergs, Bess Edwards, Gladys Khyll, Elsie Leland. David and Gale Anderson helped us serve the food. We all enjoyed that party very much.

On September 28, just four days after our lovely party Elmer took very ill with stomach pain. He was at a Production Credit Assoc. meeting in Gooding at the time. He was taken to the Gooding hospital and remained there for several days. He was bothered by this same problem through Nov. and up into Dec. It was finally decided that he had an infected gall bladder and on Dec. 12, 1961 he had surgery for removal of the gall bladder and a large stone that was plugging the main bile duct where it went into the bowel. He was in critical condition for four or five days. He came home from the hospital of Dec. 24th but remained in bed for another week. He had a

tube in the main bile duct until it was removed Jan. 26, 1962. It took him a long time to recover from that ordeal.

In Nov. 1961 we sold our beautiful Fir Grove ranch to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kast. The following is a news clipping from the Idaho Daily Statesman, Boise, Idaho dated Nov. 25, 1961:

Fairfield, Idaho: Nov. 25, 1961. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kast have purchased the Fir Grove Ranch from Elmer Nielson of Wendell, Idaho.

This ranch is located south of Fairfield and has been owned by the Nielson family for many years. It is an early day landmark in that area.

At one time it was a stage stop and a village with a post office. It is composed of 3,160 acres of range and farm land.

Mr. and Mrs. Kast moved to Idaho from Oroville, Ca. They purchased the Henderson Ranch near King Hill from Cecil Brim and moved there this summer.

Their son and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kast, recently moved to King Hill from Oroville and may live on the Fir Grove ranch next summer.

TRIPS TAKEN

In the early spring of 1957 we went on a trip to northern Idaho to visit Oliver and Addie Nielson. They had moved from their ranch which was 20 miles out of Bonners Ferry because Oliver needed to be close to a hospital. He was suffering from heart trouble.

While there we visited Vanoy's family who lived about ten miles from Oliver. This was beautiful, wooded country.

Elmer's oldest brother, Erastus F. died May 30, 1957. Oliver and Addie came down for the funeral at Wendell. At that time they decided to sell their ranch in northern Idaho and bought a small home in Gooding at 1013 Idaho Street.

On Oct. 11, 1962 we bought a 1962 Chevrolet pickup from Glen Jenkins in Wendell. A little later we bought a Vista Liner Camper to fit on the pickup. It was lovely and we enjoyed a few nice trips in it.

On May 1, 1962 we took Oliver and Addie Nielson on a trip with us. We stopped first at Salt Lake City and visited for an hour with Erma and Keith Brimhall. Oliver and Addie stayed with Ferman and May Nielson in Sandy, Utah and Elmer and I stayed in the camper in Reed Richard's back yard. We visited my niece Etta Mayberry before leaving the Salt Lake area. We picked Oliver and Addie up and drove on down to Richfield, Utah. My sister Zettie's children live in that area so we visited with Omar, Dan and Laurel and their families. We parked our camper in Dan's back yard. We also visited old friends -- Stella Poulson, May Larson, LaValle Hansen, and Delight Sorenson. Elmer's brother Charles lived in Monroe, where Oliver and Addie had stayed. We visited there for a few hours and then continued our journey. We ate lunch that

day at Cove Fort and got to Alta and Dick Cooper's home in Overton, Nevada that evening. We stayed there for two days and then took the Cooper's with us into Las Vegas. Their two daughters, Alzina and Maryetta lived in Vegas. We had a lovely visit, lunch at Alzina's and dinner at Maryetta's. We spent the night there and next day Oliver and Addie caught the bus for Los Angeles. Before we left Las Vegas, Lou Casella and his wife took us to the Stardust casino for dinner and a show. It was very spectacular.

On our return trip we spent a night in Pioche, Utah and while there we visited the copper pits which are close by. We stayed at the Thousand Springs Trading Post Saturday night and arrived home Sunday about noon.

After we got home Elmer felt well enough to paint the window and door frames, also the cornice and ceilings of the porch. He also did some work in the yard.

On May 30, Memorial Day we went to the Manard Cemetery and took care of our family graves. We came home through Fir Grove valley. It was so beautiful, a profusion of wild flowers.

Janie and Lisa Sagers and Nancy Williams visited us that summer. We took Janie, Lisa, Steve, Joe and Tom Christiansen in the camper with us to Camas Prairie. We had a picnic on Soldier Creek and really enjoyed the day.

On July 9, 1962 we left in our camper for a trip to Canada. We spent the first night in Missoula, Montana. We traveled through the beautiful Glacier Park and on up to Cardston, Canada where we visited with Ethel Smith, Jesse Smith's sister-in-law. We stayed at the St. George Island camp for two days, paying \$2.00 a night to camp there.

We met a Cliff Rosenbaum; who was camped next to us. He and his wife lived in Oroville, Ca. and knew Charles and Virginia Kast. He took Elmer down town for tickets and gave us a ride to the Calgary Stampede. We stayed for the afternoon and evening shows and really enjoyed them. It cost us \$3.00 for cab fare back to the campgrounds.

When we got to Banff we went on a two hour bus tour of the area, it was beautiful and very interesting. I went up on the gondola lift. The sight overlooking Banff, the lakes, rivers, rugged mountains and glaciers was too beautiful to describe. We visited a very interesting museum and also visited the Cave Sulphur Springs where an early day Dr. had built a sanitarium.

Next day we visited the beautiful Lake Louise area. The grounds and lobby of the old, 1,000 room hotel were lovely -- it was all just breathtaking. We lunched that day at Boe Lake Lodge, a very quiet and peaceful spot. We bought gas for \$2.70 and paid \$2.50 for our lunch.

We went on a snowmobile to the Althabasea Glacier where we saw many interesting sights. The Althabasea Falls is a most unusual sight as it whirls around through caverns and under the bridge. We continued on our journey, crossed the Continental Divide into British Columbia.

We traveled on to Golden and Cranbrook. At Caselgar we ferried the Columbia River to Kenard. From Kenard we traveled on an unsurfaced road over steep high roads for 61 miles. At Grand Forks the road was just plain frightening. We spent the night in Grand Forks and next day we crossed the border into Washington. Later that day we visited the Grand Cooley Dam. That night we spent in Ellensburg with Norman Nielson and drove on to Seattle the next day. We spent the first night with Donna and her family at their home on Chinnum Point. I tried to help Donna during that week and on Wednesday we had lunch with Al Marcus at the Tennis Club.

We left Seattle Friday morning, bringing John Kydd home with us. We stayed at a campground in La Grande, Oregon and met some nice people from Vermont. Our car was acting

up so next day we stopped in Baker and had the manifold fixed. It was a wonderful trip but we were happy to be home again.

On Sept. 14, 1962 we left for Pendelton, Oregon to go the famous Pendelton Roundup. We took Elsie Leland with us and camped the first night at Huntington, Oregon. We arrived at Pendelton at 9:00 a.m. and saw an Indian dance and a street show. Moe Sagers had given us passes to the Roundup, which we enjoyed very much. We saw the Ivan Nielsons and Ed Johnson at the Roundup.

We went on up to the tri-city area and visited with Arva, Lila and the Johnson's and their families. Next day we drove on over to Seattle. We went to Donna's and Elsie went to visit the Harry Barrett family. Friday evening we visited the wonderful World's Fair and later stopped to visit the Barretts. Helen took us to dinner at the Edmond Meany Hotel -- a lovely dinner. We stayed with Donna that night and the next day picked Elsie up at University Village and started for home. We stopped at a fruit stand a few miles from Yakima and bought some fruit. We backed into a car doing some damage to both vehicles.

We spent the night in North Powder, Oregon and next day drove to Ontario, Oregon where we visited with Ross and Margie Butler. We left Elsie in Caldwell to visit with the George Barretts. We spent that night with my sister Carrie. She looked better than when we last saw her. We picked Elsie up at the State House in Boise the next morning and drove on home. As always it is good to be home.

Saturday, October 6, 1962 Dr. Holsinger operated on my three middle toes on the right foot. I had "hammer toes", he removed bone so they would straighten out.

HALL OF FAME

There was a very great honor that came to Elmer in 1963. He was especially honored to become a member of the Hall of Fame of the Southern Id. Agricultural Association. He was honored as a cattle producer. This was done at a very lovely banquet on Saturday, March 16, 1963 at the Francois Restaurant in Twin Falls, Idaho. This was the fourth annual Hall of Fame Banquet of the Southern Id. Agri. Livestock Industry. An account of this event was printed in the Twin Falls Times News on March 17, 1963. Earl Stansell gave the introduction to the Hall of Fame at the banquet and this is what he said:

"Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Brechenridge has done such a commendable job of introducing sheepman Bill Newmann that this speaker will be hard put to hold up the cattlemen's end of the bargain. You know how it is -- about the only recourse the cattlemen have against the sheepmen now days is to preserve the coyotes and the rattlesnakes. They want the coyotes to kill the sheep and the rattlesnakes to bite the shepherders.

The gentleman to be honored at this time is no stranger to many of you in this banquet hall tonight. Words are inadequate and my capabilities are insufficient to give fitting tribute to a man of the honoree's caliber; but to sat that he is well known and highly respected is at least an attempt toward that tribute. He has been active in ranching,

livestock grazing and range development circles for over half a century, having served several years as one of the original directors of grazing district #2, with headquarters at Burley, and continuously since January 1942, as director of the southern Id. Production Credit assoc. in Twin Falls.

His introduction to Idaho came in the spring of 1908 when he and another young man left Utah and made a trip to Camas Prairie, coming as far as Gooding by train. Gooding was a settlement of just a few shacks at that time and since travel by auto, air or bus wasn't too common in those days, these enterprising young men and three other folks engaged in the services of stage travel on to their destination on the Prairie. When they reached the Black Canyon north of Gooding, the team couldn't pull all the passengers through the gumbo mud, so these young men had to walk the next 10 or 11 miles behind the stage. This wasn't the last time Mr. Nielson was forced to take a long walk. A few months ago his pickup stalled out in the Owyhee Desert and he walked twenty seven miles for help. I am assuming that his feet hurt for a different reason than those of the colored man who was sitting with both feet wrapped in heavy cotton bandages. A friend asked, "What happen to you, boy?" The colored gentleman replied, "I was hit on de head wif a ball bat and I was standin' I on de pavement." Now whether this man was a shepherd or a cow puncher would depend on whether you asked a cattleman or a sheepman.

After farming in the Manard area for 8 years and seeing his parents take up a homestead in the area in 1910, this prospective member of the Hall of Fame got into the range cattle business with the speculative zest of a typical conservative western range man -- he acquired a two year old heifer and her calf. We've never heard the man called "slick-saddle" Nielson or " long rope" Elmer, so we assume that the acquisition was strictly legitimate.

Along about 1918 a spectre loomed over the horizon in the form and in the face of a very fine young lady by the name of Jane Butler, who seems to have persuaded this young man that he had no business going further into the livestock and ranching business without a capable manager, so they were married that year. It seems rather ironical that a man who, as a rancher and livestock operator, would hire foremen for many years, should sire four daughters and no sons, but such is the record. Elma Jean Christiansen, Gooding; Fae Williams, Jerome; Carol Sagers, Gooding and Donna Kydd, Seattle.

Subsequent to 1923 the Nielsons owned and operated the Fir Grove Ranch in Camas County, the Sand Springs Ranch southwest of Wendell and the Seven-U Ranch in Owyhee County and northern Nevada, and were highly successful in managing both cow-calf and yearling cattle operations on extensive range holdings.

Before bringing this introduction to a conclusion, there is something you ladies and gentlemen and the Hall of Fame in particular, should know about. We sincerely hope this will not prevent Mr. Nielson's admittance to the Hall of Fame. While eating lunch in Gooding with Bob Stuart and me just a few days ago, Mr. Nielson made a terrible confession. He said, "You know, I've never really cared much for beef."

Mr. Nielson you have for several decades demonstrated enthusiastic support of the many phases of the livestock industry, you have shown a sincere interest in the welfare of your many friends and neighbors, in both the farming and the business community and you have manifested a keen perception of human values. It is my personal pleasure to welcome you to the Southern Idaho Livestock Hall of Fame."

This was the fourth annual Hall of Fame banquet. Jane remembers that Elmer was invited to be a member at the first banquet but told them he was just too busy. Had he accepted he would have been a charter member.

Waldo Thurber said that Jerry Gehrke and wife Helen had called and especially invited Waldo and Evian to come and be their guests to the banquet. They accepted and did go, saying what a lovely affair it was.

ELMER'S LAST ILLNESS

Feb. 3, 1964, Elmer went to St. Benedict's Hospital with constant attacks of angina. He was there for 24 hours and then came home to spend time in bed and in a reclining chair, with constant use of oxygen. From Feb. 4th to 10th he used one large and three medium tanks of oxygen. The Dr. suggests going to a specialist in Salt Lake City to find the cause of the continued angina.

On Feb. 13th Elmer had a particularly bad day and night and was coughing up a frothy liquid. Dr. Holsinger called the Ramell Clinic in Salt Lake and got an appointment to get Elmer into the L.D.S. hospital on Friday instead of Saturday. Orvil Nielson drove us to Utah in our car. Elmer rode in the back seat with an oxygen tank and used it all the way. Before we reached Burley he was coughing up more of the frothy liquid, I tried to get him to stop at the Burley hospital but he refused. I urged Orvil to drive as fast as he could and we arrived at the hospital at 4:45, Fri. afternoon. Elmer was pretty disappointed when we didn't get to see a Dr. until Sat. afternoon. When Dr. Romell called and apologized and said there had been some misunderstanding. Dr. Orem, a medical heart specialist called on him also Drs. Vzee and Anderson who were interns at the hospital. They questioned him at great length.

On Feb. 17 Dr. Orem, Dr. Torres, an intern from Peru, Dr. Romell and Dr. Mortenson all came to check him and ask more questions. Dr. Mortenson said they had made tests and had observed Elmer's past record, they were convinced that surgery would not help as hardening of the arteries was not centralized, there is partial blockage of the arteries in several places. He said there are several medications that could help him so turned him over to Dr. Orem who is one of the best heart medical Doctors. Dr. Orem did not come that evening and Elmer was very disappointed. I had a struggle to keep him from dressing and ordering a cab to leave the hospital. The next morning the Dr. came in and said he understood from the nurses that Elmer wanted to go home, so he wrote a note to Dr. Holsinger and phoned Elma Jean to have someone come down to take us home the next morning.

Fae came for us and we returned home to have Dr. Holsinger treat him as he had before we left. Elmer still had angina pains about every hour, especially during the night.

While we were in Salt Lake we had a lot of company. Among the callers were Erma Osmond, May Christiansen, Frankie Degooyer, Elmer's cousins Stanley and Kellen and their wives and Joe Anderson and his wife. Frances and Howard took me to their home for dinner and Etta Mayberry took me down town while Frankie stayed with Elmer one day.

After we got back to Wendell we had a lot of company, people who loved and admired Elmer.

On March 13, 1964 I took Elmer to our beautiful new L.D.S. church in Wendell to a Singing Mothers concert. He enjoyed the outing so much but got very tired.

The next day he felt pretty good. He shaved and dressed himself. It was common for him to have 19 to 20 angina seizures during a 24 hour period.

On Sunday, March 25 all of the children except Donna came to see us. Bartons and McClouds dropped by, Haynies came but would not come in. Everyone left around 5:00 p.m. Karl Richards was getting ready to go when Elmer had a bad seizure. I called Dr. Scheel and he gave him a hypa and oxygen. He gave him mouth to mouth breathing but about 6:30 or so he was gone. I was so thankful to have Karl here with me.

The following account was in the Boise Statesman of March 17, 1964:

Wendell: Elmer Nielson, 72, prominent Idaho cattleman died late Sunday night at his home of a heart condition. Mr. Nielson was born March 31, 1891 at Elsinore, Utah and moved to Camas Prairie in 1908. On March 6, 1918 he married Jane Butler at Rupert. Mr. Nielson was owner and operator of Fir Grove Ranch near Fairfield until 1961. The family lived in Wendell during the winter months since 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Nielson have been permanent residents here since 1948. He served as a director of the Prod. Credit Assoc. for more than 20 years. He was a charter member of the Taylor Grazing Board and served on that board for many years. In 1963 he was honored at the annual Southern Idaho Livestock Hall of Fame. He was also a member of the L.D.S. church.

Survivors include his wife of Wendell, four daughters, Elma Jean Christtiansen and Carol Sagers of Gooding, Fae Williams of Jerome and Donna Kydd of Seattle, three brothers, Charles of Monroe, Utah, Oliver of Gooding and Ivan of Wendell; three sisters, Alta Cooper of Overton, Nev.; Valma Clower of Wendell and Zina Prince of Susanville, Ca., four sons-in-law and 14 grandchildren.

Services will be held in the new LDS chapel in Wendell at 2:00 p.m., Wed. March 18, 1964 with Bishop Murlen Lancaster officiating. Friends may call at the Weaver Chapel, Wendell from 1:00 p.m. until time for the services. The family requests that memorials be made to the church building fund in Wendell.

LAST RITES HONOR ELMER NIELSON

Wendell: Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday at the new LDS chapel in Wendell for Elmer Nielson, 72, prominent Idaho cattleman, who died at 10:00 p.m. Sunday, March 25, 1964 at his home in Wendell of a heart condition. Bishop Murlen Lancaster officiated. Prayer at the mortuary was offered by Waldo Thurber.

Mrs. Maurine Byington played the prelude and postlude and accompanied the soloist, Dale Adams who sang "Peace in the Valley." She also accompanied the mixed quartet, Mrs. Ella Mae Parker, Mrs. Leroy Gibbs, Everett Cox and Chancey Willard who sang "Sometime We'll Understand."

Rob Williams, Parker Worthington, Rich Scholes and Dennis Smith, a male quartet, accompanied by Julie Talbot sang "Abide with Me." Floral arrangements were by the LDS Relief Soc. with Mrs. Lennie Mecham in charge and Theda Fink assisting. Everett Cox gave the invocation and Bishop Lancaster read the obituary. Emerson Pugmire and Karl Richards were the speakers.

Active pallbearers were four grandsons, David Christiansen, Rob Williams, Pat Williams and Steven Sagers; two great grand nephews, Jerry Nielson and Dennis Nielson. Honorary pallbearers were Bill Bunn, Mike Bryan, Ralph Fink, Ray Turner, Ray Ward, M. L. Gates Sr., Quincy Gates, Walter Kelly, K. A. Barton, G. M. Gehrke, Dr. H. F. Holsinger, Everett Campbell, Earl Stansel, Melvin Weinberg, C. C. Haynie, A. L. Hnaks, T. H. Boyd and Hyrum Lee.

J. Glen Anderson gave the benediction. Concluding rites were conducted at Wendell cemetery under the direction of Weaver mortuary. The grave was dedicated by K. T. Butler.

Mr. Nielson was born March 31, 1891 in Elsinore, Utah and moved to Camas Prairie in 1908. March 6, 1918 he married Jane Butler at Rupert. He was owner and operator of Fir Grove Ranch near Fairfield until 1961. The family lived in Wendell during the winter months since 1926. Mr. and Mrs. Nielson have been permanent residents of Wendell since 1946.

Mr. Nielson was a partner of the late H. C. Berkowitz of Sand Springs Ranch, southwest of Wendell for many years. He also owned and operated the 7-U ranch at Three Creek, Idaho.

He was a director of Southern Idaho Prod. Credit Assoc. for over 20 years. He was an original member of the Taylor Grazing board and served on the board for many years. He was honored at the 1963 Hall of Fame dinner, in Twin Falls. Mr. Nielson was a member of the LDS church.

Survivors include his wife Jane of Wendell, four daughters, Elma Jean and Carol of Gooding, Fae of Jerome and Donna of Seattle; three brothers, Charles of Monroe, Utah, Oliver of Gooding and Ivan of Wendell. Three sisters, Alta Cooper of Overton, Nevada, Valma Clower of Wendell and Zina of Susanville, Calif.; four sons-in-law and fourteen grandchildren.

Internment was at Wendell cemetery with Weaver mortuary officiating.
