

## MEMORIES OF MOTHER JESSIE LENORA HAFEN FREI

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It has been forty years now since Grandma passed away, and in a way it seems like yesterday. We were expecting the arrival of our Kent in December and in October Grandma gave me a present for the baby that contained a dozen cloth diapers. She said she wouldn't be here when the baby was born. I told her she would, but she insisted she wouldn't. Shelby's birthday was on the sixteenth of November and she seemed to be feeling better. I invited her and Grandpa down to have dinner with us, but she said that she would see how she felt. We were living in Grandpa Jacob Frei's old home. It was really a shock to hear that Grandma had passed away early that morning.

Shelby had a great love for his mother. As a child he remembers helping his mother wash with the old-style wringer washing machine, when he got his second finger caught in the wringer. The end of it is still gone.

Shelby remembers his mother's dedication to the Post Office and all of the people. No matter what time of day, if someone needed mail, stamps, packages, etc. she was always available. I think everyone enjoyed going to the Post Office just to visit with Grandma. Her salary was determined by the amount of business she did. They didn't have Post Office Boxes at first, and all the mail had to be hand delivered. As time went on they got individual Post Office Boxes. That took allot of drudgery out of running the Post Office. The Post Office was very time consuming so Grandma had to plan her work around the Post Office schedule.

As a young lady Grandma lost her mother, leaving her the only girl in the family along with four brothers and her dad, she had many responsibilities. She had a great love for her dad and brothers. After her brothers were married and had families of their own, there was a great bond of love between them all. Grandma especially loved her sister in-laws, just as real sisters. Grandma always went to visit her dad on Sunday afternoons. She had so much respect and love for him. She was also very fond of Aunt Ruth Hafen, (Uncle Orval's wife). And asked her for advice often.

Grandma always loved a beautiful garden. I'm sure Grandpa prepared the ground and planted it, but Grandma was the gardener. I remember how she liked to pick the green beans in the Fall. She enjoyed going to the field to pick the beautiful peaches. I couldn't believe this possible but now I know what she meant. She enjoyed flowers, even the Tamaracks at the half way wash, and all the beauties of the earth. I remember Grandma even raised turkeys for a few years so we would have a turkey for Thanksgiving, or just to eat whenever we wanted to.

Grandpa always killed a pork in the fall so they would have meat for the winter. Grandma rendered the lard to make shortening for cooking. No one could make pie crust like her. She could tell by the feel of the dough how much lard to put in for a perfect crust. I think Apple, Lemon, and Chess were her favorite pies. She was an exceptionally good cook. Her dinner rolls were the very best. Every Saturday she would fix a pork roast with potatoes and gravy. One of her favorite desserts was a chocolate roll filled with whipped cream. During the war when Shelby and I were in Texas, she cooked us a pork roast and sent it to us in the mail!! It was so delicious.

Grandma and Grandpa had beehives. The boys helped them extract the honey from the honey comb. When sugar was scarce during the war, Grandma used honey for canning and cooking. I think her motto was "Waste not, want not." She always canned allot of fruits and vegetables.

Shelby and I were married in the St. George Temple on the Thirteenth of June, Nineteen Forty-Two. Shelby was drafted into the army in August of Nineteen Forty-Two. After Leon was born in the Fall of Nineteen Forty-Three, it was crowded at the Gubler home so Grandma invited Leon and me to come and live with them. I learned so much about Grandma and her way of life, and learned to love and appreciate her.

Grandma loved pretty clothes and would buy the best. She was also fond of hats, and loved beautiful jewelry. She had a pretty red ring that she really prized. She enjoyed singing and playing the piano. At times, she would play for the ward. She was my teacher in MIA one year. I think her favorite story was the story of Ruth in the Bible. She was a very good teacher. She was a class leader in Relief Society several times and I'm sure she never turned a position down when asked to do something.

With Grandpa being a school teacher with four sons, she had allot of shirts to wash and iron. They didn't have polyester so she had to iron each cotton shirt with her hand iron. She always appreciated Amanda Graf who would come and help her iron, sweep the floor, or whatever she could do to help. Amanda was one of her special friends.

One special experience Shelby remembers was when he was in Elementary School. He had holes in his shoes and was really embarrassed. When he told his mother she said they didn't have money to buy new ones so he went to the cupboard and showed her a dish with money in it. Grandma told him the money was set aside as tithing money and could not be spent. He waited until the next month to get new shoes. That was a good lesson on tithing. Grandma and Grandpa taught Shelby the value of Honesty and Hard Work among other things.

When Shelby came home from the war in Nineteen Forty-Five, after three years and two months Grandma insisted Shelby sit down and tell her everything he did and everywhere he went during the war while she wrote it down. She said if he didn't do it then, he would forget. I have always been thankful for Grandma following through on this, otherwise his army experiences might have been forgotten. It was hard on Grandma during the war to have to let three sons serve in the military at the same time.

Grandma loved her grandchildren very much and always showered them with gifts. She loved all children. She was called Aunt Jessie to everyone.

We might say of Grandma - Proverbs 31:10-31:

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.  
The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.  
She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.  
She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.  
She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.  
She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.  
She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.  
She girdeth her loins with strength, and strenghteneth her arms.  
She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle not goeth out by night.  
She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.  
She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.  
She is not afraid for the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.  
She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.  
Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.  
She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.  
Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.  
She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.  
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.  
Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest  
them all.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that  
feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works  
praise her in the gates.