

*Carol interviewed
mother for this*

Mather

Lenora B. Kennedy

...remembers

I was married on November 4, 1925 to David M. Kennedy and two months later he left for a two year mission to England. I went back to work at Woolworths. Bishop Shaw asked me to be President of the M.I.A. as soon as he left and it kept me plenty busy.

About two years after returning from England and after David's graduation from Weber College, we drove with little Marilyn, 9 months old in a Model A Ford, a one seater, from Utah to Washington D.C. for David to attend George Washington Law School. We had everything we owned in that car. We moved into a one room apartment and I did all of my washing by hand in the bath tub and then carried it three flights of staires down to hang it on the clothesline to dry.

When I was expecting a second child, my mother called and asked me to come home to Ogden, Utah to stay with my parents until after the baby was born as we had no one to care for Marilyn. I did go to Ogden and stayed until after Barbara was born.

Back in Washington, D.C., as our family grew, we moved into a flat with one large bedroom, large enough for two double beds. It had a little yard out back. When I went to the hospital to have Carol, 5 years later, David took his vacation and stayed at home. They kept us for fourteen days in the hospital in those days after a baby. So, David took care of Marilyn and Barbara and did the washing, the ironing, the cooking, the dishes, the cleaning, etc. Of course, I had done a thorough job of cleaning before I left. The most difficult task he had was braiding the girl's long hair. We bought a ringer type washing maching, but they didn't have dryers in those days, so he hung out his wash along with all the neighbor women. He would come to the hospital in the evening looking so tired and said, "I wouldn't trade jobs with you for anything!" He learned just what it was like to be a "House Mom."

One night when we were in bed, we could hear the little boy upstairs in the flat above us screaming for his Mother. I said to David, "They must have gone out and left that little boy all alone. They were good parents I thought. So, I went upstairs and tapped on the door, but no one answered, so I went in and took the little boy out of his crib and sat by the window without turning on the light and quieted him down by looking at the lights of the cars and telling him that soon his

family would come home. Finally, we saw a car stop out front and sure enough, the Mother and Grandmother came in, switched on the light and saw me sitting on the chair with the baby and the husband, a big fellow, named Ham sound asleep on the sofa oblivious to the world. His wife went over and hit him over the head with her purse and said, "Fine babysitter you are!" Of course, I told her I came up and sat in the dark by the window and never dreamed the Father was there too.

When David finished Law school the fellows out in Utah told him not to come out there to practice law, for lawyers were a dime a dozen and starving during the depression. So, we stayed in Washington for 25 years and David worked for the Federal Reserve Board and never did practice law after passing the bar at the Supreme Court.

When David was the Bishop of the Capital Ward we had moved into a little house in Hyattsville, Md. where our fourth daughter, Patricia was born. During the war we fed the soldier boys each Sunday. We did a lot of baked beans because meat was scarce, but occasionally we served ham and got ice cream from Bill Marriott's Hot Shops. While David was Bishop, he would say, "If you really want things accomplished, get the sisters in the Relief Society to do it because they will really get the job done!" He always had great respect for the Relief Society.

In 1946 we moved to Chicago where David began work at the Continental Illinois Bank and Trust Company in the Bond Department. We lived there for 25 years before returning to Utah on our 50th wedding anniversary to work for the Church.

While living in Chicago, I was a counselor in the Relief Society Presidency and before that I was the Visiting Teacher of a young woman who's husband was an electrician, a fine man, but not a member of the Church. While she was soon to have her third child, the Doctor told her she'd have to stay in bed or lose the baby. So, Vivienne Wooley and I each took turns caring for her and the children each day until her husband would come home. She completed her pregnancy and a healthy baby boy was born. Her husband later joined the Church and is one of the most faithful members of the North Shore Ward where we lived and every Conference time Rex and Jean Aten travel to Utah to attend Conference and visit Jean's sister and dear friends.

When we went Visiting Teaching, we didn't call and make appointments like today, we just went out teaching and our routes included great distances. We would knock on the door and take our chances that the sister was home. If she wasn't home we would slip a note under the door. We went to an apartment and rang the doorbell and a young mother looked down the stairs at us with an expression that showed that she didn't want us to come up. But, just then her little girl said "Grandma, Grandma," holding her arms out to us and so the mother let us come up. It turned out that her husband wouldn't let her come to church. Each time we came visiting the little girl welcomed her two Grandmas and the mother became more friendly to us. We shared experiences from Church and we were the only link she had with the Church.

Fact Sheet and Bibliography

MRS. DAVID M. KENNEDY

Mrs. David M. Kennedy (Lenora)
Born: March 15, 1906, Ogden, Utah
Parents: Adam Aranthon Bingham and Annie Stratton Bingham
High School: Ogden High School, Ogden, Utah
College: Attended Weber College, Ogden, Utah

When Lenora Bingham was 16 years old a young man moved across the street from her home by the name of David Matthew Kennedy. The Kennedys raised chickens and sold eggs. Lenora was asked to buy some eggs from the Kennedys. She noticed the new young neighbor and commented to her mother "He must be a good young boy because I noticed that he was scrubbing the floor for his mother." Later, Lenora Bingham and David Kennedy worked together in the church Sunday school organization. In August of 1925 David asked Lenora's father, Bishop Adam Bingham, for his daughter in marriage. They were married November 4, 1925 in the Salt Lake City Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In 1929 the young couple moved with their first daughter to Washington, D. C. Their family grew to four daughters: Mrs. Verl Taylor (Marilyn), Mrs. Carl Law (Barbara), Mrs. Jack Whittle (Carol), and Mrs. Lewis Campbell (Patricia). In 1946 they moved to Illinois where they have maintained their residence.

Mrs. Kennedy enjoys babysitting and being with her 17 grandchildren. At her home in Illinois she has great pride in the flowers she grows. She has traveled extensively with Mr. Kennedy and especially enjoys being in Switzerland, home of her forefathers, where she does genealogical research work. She enjoys cooking and sewing and often makes her

own dresses including formals. Throughout her life she has always been close to young people. She states that when her children were young hardly a week would go by without a party in their home. Doing this brought back fond memories of her own youth. To this day, she still enjoys ballroom dancing.

Mrs. Kennedy is very active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and has held several positions throughout her life including president of the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association, and currently serves as a teacher in the church's Relief Society. She faithfully sings in the church choir. Mrs. Kennedy is also on the Women's Board of the University of Chicago.

Her home in Chicago is a Colonial ranch style and is furnished with traditional furnishings.

INAUGURAL GOWN

MRS. DAVID M. KENNEDY

As a gesture of loyalty to Chicago, Mrs. David M. Kennedy, wife of the Secretary of the

Treasury designate, chose a Chicago designer, Sharon Harris.

The material is avocado green silk worsted by Staron. The dress is A line with a high center pleat in front and gold braiding beaded with mother of pearl and green aurora borealis stones around the neckline and the cuff of the short sleeves. It also has a wide beaded contour belt. The matching coat is a princess line with a high half belt in the back and a long center pleat in the back. There is wide beading on the cuffs of the sleeves.

LIFE STORY OF LENORA BINGHAM
KENNEDY

HISTORY OF YOUR FAMILY --PARTENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS

My Mother, Annie Stratton, was the oldest of five children. Her Father died when she was a little girl. Her Mother had to work hard. Once a week, my Mother would have to stay out of school to help with the washing. When she was twelve years old she went out to work helping clean and care for the children in the home of some people named Woodberry. They were very good to her and she learned much about cooking and caring for a house. She fell in love

BIRTH TIME, PLACE AND SURROUNDING CIRCUMSTANCES

I was born March 15, 1906 in Riverdale Utah in a big ten room house. It was in March and Mother was making graduation dresses for Sophia and Margaret and my birth made her stop. The girls were so angry that they didn't even look at me. When they finally broke down and came to look at me, they said I was the ugliest baby they ever saw. But, my Mother always had a soft spot in her heart for me, because I came into the world the easiest of all of her ten children, with the least amount of pain and trouble, I was so small boned and tiny.

CHILDHOOD--PLAYMATES, AMUSEMENTS, SPECIAL THINGS

I used to play in the barn on the loft in the summer time and swing in the hammock on the lawn. In the winter time, they would hook our sleighs onto a bobsled which would pull us to the top of the hill and we would coast all the way down the hill.

When I was six years old, I started at the Riverdale School House which was up on the top of the hill.

I went to Sunday School in Riverdale and I was awarded Eugene Field's book for _____.

When I was older, I went up on the hill and picked strawberries, cherries, goosberries, and beans for my Brother-in-law.

We had a dog named "Old Bob" and he used to pull us around in an old wagon and I had much fun with him. He would watch the house and not let anyone come onto the porch.

In the summer, we used to swim in the canal or the river. Mae

Stevens and my cousin Marguerite Bingham were my best friends. My Grandfather was a polygamist and the one family (Marguerite Bingham's folks) lived in a large house in Riverdale and just a block away was another very large house where my family lived.

In my house my Father was the Bishop of the Ward and they used to have Bishop's meetings at our house and also tithing settlement. I used to think it was fun having all those people and many times I helped my Father with his books. Whenever they had Ward Conference or visitors came from the City, my Mother had to cook a big dinner for them.

HOME CONDITIONS--ECONOMIC AND RELIGIOUS

We always had family prayer around our big table and Father called on different ones of us to pray.

HOME TASKS

When I was a little girl, every Saturday morning, my brother Harold and I had to go and clean the Church. We didn't have a vacuum so we dusted and swept the whole Church. The basement used to scare me and I would have dust in my face and dust in my nose and I was so dirty, I had to take a bath when I got home.

At home, we didn't have a bathroom, so my job was to go around every morning and empty the skp jars and scald them with boiling water. I had to wash diapers for the babies when my Mother was sick. On Saturdays, I had to help clean the house and make the beds. When Mama came up, I was lying down on the bed. I would lie down to rest on each bed before I made it.

SCHOOL--FAVORITE TEACHERS AND STUDIES

Miss Clark was my First Grade Teacher and I was the teacher's pet. I got all A's. When I graduated from the 8th grade, I was the Validictorian of the Class. They picked the two smartest ones-- Gladys Jensen, my best girl friend and myself were picked to be

the validictoriahs.

BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION**WHEN, WHERE, BY WHOM

CHURCH ACTIVITIES IN YOUNGER LIFE

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

HUSBAND AND CHILDREN

NEW HOME CONDIDITONS

TRAGEDY AND COMEDY IN THE HOME

Today, July 20, 1982 I, Lenora Bingham Kennedy am starting to dictate my life story. I am up at the cabin in Michigan with Barbara and Carl. I was born March 15, 1906 in the big house in Riverdale, Utah. Mother was busy making graduation dresses for Margaret and Sophia. I interrupted her sewing. When Sophia saw me she said I was the ugliest baby she ever saw. However, mother had a very soft spot in her heart for me because I was the easiest baby to have of her 10 children. At least, she told me I was the least painful. I had a happy childhood in that big house with our large family. Two of my sisters were all ready married when I was growing up. In the summer we picked fruit, rode horses, swam in the canal. We wore overalls and a big straw hat to pick fruit. In those days we did not want to be brown. We tried to protect our white skin. Sometimes I even got tan through the shirts I was wearing. In the winter we had a lot of snow. Sometimes the snow came so high it was over the fence tops and it would freeze and we could walk right over the fence tops through the fields. We had sleds and in those days we didn't have cars so we would hitch our sleigh onto a bob sled and the horses would pull us up the hill through the valley and we would coast all the way down the dug road down through the valley until the sled stopped--probably 2 miles without stopping. We had a lot of fun as well as a lot of work. Maybe it was three miles, I don't know. John Thompson was the first man in Riverdale to get a car. He only drove about 10 miles an hour. Sometimes we would swim in the Weber River. I remember when two of our friends were drowned in the river, and how horrible it was when the whole ward came out to the funeral of these two lovely girls just my age. So I began to be afraid to swim in the river and we usually swam in the canal from then on.

I can remember when my father bought his first car. He drove it out to Riverdale without even having taken a driver's test. He bought the car and drove it home. When he got it home he ~~said~~ didn't know how to stop it. He drove it through the driveway and down through the field and we all ran out ~~to~~

yelling "whoa" and he was yelling "whoa" and finally he hit a fence at the end of the field and stopped the car.

We had a wonderful old dog whom we loved dearly. His name was Bob, and he was a good watch dog. Our pantry window of the big house was on the front so we could look out. One day we were looking out the window and a tramp came into our gate and was heading up toward the house. We whispered, "get him old Bob," and he ran and chased him right out the gate. Not only was he a good watch dog, my father killed a chicken for dinner and put it on the back step, and he would say, "watch it", and Bob would watch this chicken until my father could take care of it. He used to pull us in a little wagon. We had a little, like a little farm wagon, we'd sit on the seat and Bob would pull us all around. We had a lot of fun. We also had a pet lamb^y we called him Sammy.

LENORA BINGHAM KENNEDY

I was born on a windy day, 15 March 1906. We lived in a house in Riverdale on a farm in the country. *led*

I remember when I was a little girl that every Saturday we had to clean the house from stem to stern; and every day mother insisted that we air out the beds and open all the windows so that the fresh air could come in.

Mother was a good cook and we had plenty of fruits and vegetables from the farm; also honey and homemade bread.

In the winter I used to sleigh ride. There was a hill not far away and we used to hitch our sleds onto a bobsled that was going up the hill. In those days there weren't any cars. The bobsled would pull us all the way to the top of the hill and we would coast all the way down for perhaps two or three miles without stopping. We had a lot of fun in the winter.

In the summertime we worked in the fields and picked fruit in the fruit orchard up on the hill where many, many orchards were growing. My brother-in-law had one and I used to pick strawberries, cherries, and peaches all summer.

My sister was a piano teacher and gave me piano lessons. Mother used to love to hear us play. We played duets -- sometimes at church or in programs. When I was young, I joined the Church choir and every Sunday sang in the choir as alto. We had church plays and had a lot of fun playing in those and taking them from ward to ward. This was part of churchy.

We also had some good school plays. One of my teachers in my younger years was a Hollywood man and loved to have his students put on plays, so we had some really good musicals.

As I grew older, Mother and I used to sing together in the choir. She would sing soprano and I would sing alto. Also she used to sing solos in church and sometimes I would play for her to sing.

At the age of nineteen, I was made MIA President. I remember one of the ladies in the ward thought I was too young to be president of Mutual. We would have to put on the Sunday program once a month also, but I enjoyed doing that. David had left for a mission and it kept me busy. I suppose the bishop was wise in giving me a job that kept me busy and interested.

We had moved from our gib house in Riverdale to Ogden *at about* the time I was in high school. Our church was near and we could walk there. When I was a young girl, I went to school in a little red schoolhouse on a hill in Riverdale; at that time the children marched ⁱⁿ to school. They lined up and I had to play the marches. I would play "The Burning of Rome" and "Napolean's Last Charge" and another march that I remembered.

June and Margaret Stimpson were my little friends. Their father owned the restaurant in Ogden. Quite often they would invite me to go to this restaurant in Ogden. Quite often they would invite me to go to this restaurant for dinner and then they would have me play the piano for the people in the restaurant. It was always a thrill.

My little friend across the street was May Stevens. We used to play back and forth. I still remember on my fourth birthday.....

My father was the bishop of the Riverdale Ward for 25 years. We used to have to clean the church every Saturday. I would be frightened downstairs and have to go downstairs and clean all those rooms alone. It had to be done and we had to do it.

He always insisted that we eat our meals slowly and have a pleasant mealtime. We never could bolt our food. As a result, I am a slow eater.

We used to have family prayer. I remember kneeling around the big table and having family prayer. Some of our family was married when I was a little girl.

When I was born, my mother said I was the easiest child she had. She had the easiest time having me. But apparently from what my sisters say, I was an ugly baby and they were very disappointed because they were trying to get their dresses made for graduation and mother had to stop sewing to have me.

We did not have much money, but we were always dressed well because mother was a good seamstress and she made beautiful clothes and she made them over sometimes. Sometimes she would take the dresses that belonged to my sisters and would make them over for me. She was a fastidious housekeeper. Everything was spotlessly white. She taught us to keep ourselves clean.

In the summertime after we had worked in the fields all day, we usually took a swim in the canal and that was really fun. Sometimes it would get so hot that we would fill our hats full of water and put them on our heads and let the water run all over us to cool us off.

During my life time these sayings of my wise little Mother, Annie Stratton Bingham, often came to my mind and have helped me. I decided that I should pass them on to you, my dear children and grand-children, the same as our "Baby Boat" lullaby song has been handed down from generation to generation.

She used to say:

It isn't work that hurts people; it is worry.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

Early to bed early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

Never say anything about anyone unless you can say something good.

A willfull waste makes a woefull want.

Waste not want not.

A stitch in time saves nine.

Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today for tomorrow may never come.

A place for everything and everything in its place.

If your shoestring is in a knot patience will untie it.

Beauty is as beauty does.