

VERDA RAY EYRING LIFE STORY

March 3, 1918 – January 30, 2003

By: Verda Ray Eyring

With assistance from:

Twila Edith Eyring, primary care giver from the time of Verda's stroke on April 13, 2001, until her passing on January 30, 2003

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VERDA RAY EYRING LIFE STORY

By: Verda Ray Eyring

My name is Verda Ray. I was born March 3, 1918. Because I was born in the Spring, I was named Verda, after the song, "Verdant Spring & Rosy Summer" in the first LDS Hymn book. (#192)

I was born during World War I on a farm four miles south of Gilbert, AZ on the south east corner of the crossroads of Gilbert & Pecos. My mother recorded this in her diary. I was born at the house. I have hazel eyes and dark brown hair.

My father was named John Alexander Ray, after his paternal grandfather. My father was born November 10, 1888 in Colonial Diaz, Old Mexico. His parents had gone there to avoid persecution for being polygamists. His father was James Wilford Ray & his mother was Elsie Margaret Mortensen. My mother was named Juanita Stout. She was born July 4, 1891 in Rockville, Washington County, Utah, USA. Her father was David Fisk Stout & her mother was Julia Cox. They took their family to Mexico to live when Juanita was about years old.

My siblings are John Alexander Ray, Jr., born September 3, 1915 in Thatcher AZ. My mother went to Thatcher to be with her mother for the birth of Junior, so Grandma Julia Stout could help. He died December 3, 1918, during the influenza epidemic of World War I. The rest of my siblings were born four & one-half miles South of Gilbert, AZ on Gilbert Road. Winona was born March 1, 1920; Lurline was born November 21, 1921; Irving J was born April 18, 1924; Kathleen was born March 24, 1926; Ila Valeria was born February 19 1928; Kennard Dewey was born January 6, 1931 and Donetta Pearl was born May 11, 1933. All my siblings were born at our house not at hospital.

My older brother, who was called Junior, was 2 1/2 years old when I was born. He died from influenza not long after I was born. My parents were too sick with the flu to attend his funeral.

When I was two we moved 1/2 mile South of where I was born and there is where my sister Winona was born. It was still on Gilbert road.

When my Mother went into labor my Dad would call the doctor, James Mason, and Mary Stewart, our neighbor. Mary was a trained nurse. Her sister Nellie Ray was also a nurse. She was there

for some of the births and Sister Williams came for some of the births. Grandma Julia Stout was there for my birth, Nonie's, Lurline's, and Kay's. I wish my Mother had recorded in her diary the reason Grandma Julia was not at the birth of Irving J.

Once when Grandma Julia Cox was visiting us in Gilbert she wanted bigger windows to let the light in. She cut a window to let light into the kitchen. She cut another window for more light in the dining room.

The walls of our house were made with 2x4's. To cover the cracks between the boards on the outside of the side 2x1's were nailed on. On the inside, about a foot from the ceiling, 2x4's were used to support the walls. Mama used this row as a shelf. In the dinning room the shelf had her scissors, the clock, and a box of buttons. It was high enough to be out of the way of the children. The shelf in the kitchen had big containers of spices.

We bought flour by 100 pound sacks. We kept it under the counter on the South side of the kitchen. On top of the counter on the same side we had a 3 pound can of shortening. We never used lard. When Mama lived in Mexico a visiting general authority advised them to not use pig meat because it carried disease. He asked them to raise their hands and promise to not use pig meat or products. My mother raised her hand and she kept that promise.

When I was very young we only had 1 kerosene lamp for light. We had to keep the chimney clean. Later we used carbide lamps for lighting. Acetylene gas was generated by dripping water onto calcium carbide crystals. The gas was then lit & the flame provided light. Water from a small reservoir dripped down on lumps of calcium carbide which was placed in the base of the lamp. The gas burned in a simple jet & gave an intensely white flame. We had a light in the middle of each room. There was a string hanging down so we could turn them off and on. It was better than the kerosene lamp.

My Dad brought my Mother's sister, Daisy, and her family over from Thatcher. They stayed in the valley a year. Uncle Edmond Richardson couldn't provide enough food for all 5 of his wives and their families. So Aunt Daisy, who was the 5th, came to Gilbert.

They lived south across the ditch in Mr. Sallady's house. When they lived by us Naida or Joyce would come over and help Mama a lot. Naida would entertain me by keeping me outside. We

fussed all the time because I resented her coming and using my crayolas and getting into my toys and things. Now, every time Naida sees me she reminds me how we fought a lot.

Once Aunt Daisie's boy Murray burned his feet. The ashes from the fire they had used to heat the water for washing clothes looked so soft, so Murray stepped in them. There were living coals underneath and he burned his feet badly.

When I was 5 years old my Father took my Mother's sister, Aunt Daisie Richardson, and her family to Utah. Her daughters Joyce & Naida rode with them (Justin?). My Mother & Dad took their car. It was a Graham Page. There wasn't enough room for all the little kids. So Aunt Nellie took her three kids, Ellsworth (who was my age), Oakley, (who was Nonie's age) and her baby Gerald who was nursing, Nonie, Murray Richardson (Aunt Daisie's youngest) & I on the train. Children could ride the train for free. Aunt Daisie's oldest son David stayed in Arizona to milk the cows and take care of the farm while Daddy took Aunt Daisie to Logan, Utah. It was August of about 1922 or 23.

Uncle Sims who was married to Aunt Nellie & was my Dad's brother, went with Daddy. Their boy Albert didn't go. Albert was actually Sim's cousin they had adopted.

We caught the train out West of Chandler at the railroad tracks. It was called the Maricopa stop. When we were traveling on the train my cousin Ellsworth Ray & I tried to stay up all night. He swore that he stayed awake all night, that he didn't go to sleep. But I couldn't check on him 'cause I went to sleep.

Also as we were traveling I noticed that my younger sister Winona (Nonie) had a hole in her sock so I took them off and threw them out the window. I knew Mama was going to throw them away when we got up to Utah because there was a hole. When I saw the hole, I threw them away.

We traded trains somewhere along the way. Aunt Nellie had a little rope that tied us together as we walked so we wouldn't get lost at the train station. She took us someplace, maybe to a relative's, where we could rest. She had us all lay on the bed and rest. My friend Edna Lamoreaux (Cotter) says she remembers seeing us children linked together and Aunt Nellie holding the end of the rope.

Grandpa David Fisk Stout & Edmond Richardson were about the same age. He was a good friend to David, who was Daisie's

father. I think the marriage was arranged to give her a husband. My Mama & Daisy had the same father but different mothers. Edmund already had 4 wives. Daisy had rheumatism in her hands and feet and couldn't get around very well. I think she was the 5th. They had 6 children. One child, Glen, died when he was young.

In Utah Aunt Daisy lived with Grandpa David Stout for awhile. Then eventually they found a house that was close by.

When I was about five I rode with my Mama in the horse and buggy to pick up Aunt Emma Skousen for Relief Society. Emma said she had to get her washing done. I made the comment that Aunt Emma thought it was Monday. We did laundry on Monday. Relief Society was on Tuesday at about 10:00 a.m.

On Monday we washed clothes and hung them on the line. On Tuesday Mama cooked beans and ironed clothes. On Wednesday she mended clothes. On Saturday we washed out all the kitchen cupboards.

My school began in Chandler, AZ September 1924. My mother records this day in her diary. I attended 1st grade in Chandler. The school was located on Cleveland (now Chandler Blvd) and California Street. The Chandler High School Automotive building is in that space now. Myrtle Riggs stopped by & picked up my cousin Ellsworth Ray & I and took us to school in her Model-A Ford. He is the son of Sims Ray & Nellie Ellsworth. Edna Lamoreaux was in my 1st grade class. Murr Skousen was also in my 1st grade class. I didn't remember this until Mildred Patton, who was also in my class mentioned it years later. She had a picture of the 1st grade. I don't know why I never had a picture. My mother always bought school pictures. Anyway, there was sitting Murr Skousen, big as you please. She gave me a copy.

When Mama did the wash she heated the water. We used rain water or water from the irrigation ditch. We put lye in it because the water was so hard. The acid in the lye helped. Then we had to skim the lye off the top. My mother always boiled her clothes. She put a metal sign over the top of the wash tub. She always put the clothes through two rinses. The goal on wash day was to be done by noon.

I can remember when Mama had to use a washboard. I remember when we got a gas powered washing machine. We mixed oil & gas to use in the engine. Daddy usually stayed around on wash days to help with the motor. As soon as we children were tall enough we

hung the clothes up on the line. Mama liked the clothes hung up neatly. The clothes were pinned on the lines at the seams. The sheets were hung together and the table clothes together. She kept the clothes pins in a bag to protect them from the sun.

After my parents married, Mama did laundry for others to earn money. My Daddy was going to Millard Stake Academy. He was 25 when he graduated from high school.

We'd bathe each week. We each had a clean tub of water to use. Mama never had us bathe in dirty water. We didn't have bath towels. We used old garments.

We always carried a 5 or 10 gallon can in the car so when we went into Gilbert by the gas station we could get drinking water.

When we killed an animal we'd melt the fat to use in making soap. We'd add lye to it. It had to be done in the right proportions so it would come out correctly.

My second year of school was in Gilbert, AZ, not that we had moved, but because the school district boundaries were changed. All students living on the east side of Gilbert Road were assigned to attend the Gilbert school & those on the West side of the road and South of Pecos road were to attend Chandler schools. Each school had their own busses to pick up their students. I attended Gilbert Schools through high school.

My Mother often went to Relief Society with a lady named Fay McGoy. Sis. McGoy had 3 children die. I remember that her daughter had whooping cough. Mama milked the mare and gave it to Sis. McGoy for her daughter. Mare's milk was thought to be good for whooping cough. The girl still died. I remember telling my 2nd grade teacher that my cousin had died & I had to go to the funeral. She wasn't my cousin, but Mama helped them so much I thought she was.

I was baptized March 6, 1926 by my father John Alexander Ray. It took place in the baptismal font of the Old Chandler Ward building in Chandler, AZ. Edna Lamoreaux, Harvey & Helen Beebee were baptized that day also in the Chandler baptismal font. Helen & Harvey were twins. Harvey's daughter married my cousin Delbert Ray's boy, Dan, years later.

In grade 3 I had a serious kidney sick spell and was out of school during January & February 1927. All the students in 3rd

grade gave me a valentine for Valentine's Day. When I received them at home, I was so happy to be remembered.

Primary and the Girls Scouts were the only organizations I belonged to as a child, because they were the only ones available.

As a child I had three dresses to wear. I had to wear black cotton stockings to school and black bloomers. I would get hot so when I got to school I'd roll the stockings down.

When I was young we played a game called 'Anti I Over'. We would stand on each side of the house and we threw a ball over the roof. The other children would try to catch it. Then they'd come around and try to catch you. You had to anticipate which directions they would be coming & go the other way. We had a tennis ball so it wasn't so hard.

We also played 'Run, Sheepie, Run' and 'Pom Pom, Pull Away'. For the latter one a group of children would hold hands and run really fast. Then the leader would stop suddenly. The other children would try to throw them around. It was like 'Crack the Whip'. We just had a different name.

In grade 4 Wendell Haws Eyring attended my school for one year & was in my class.

In grade 5 our female teacher had too many students, so the row of students closest to the door was moved into Mr. Vernon Marshall's 6th grade class. There was Ellsworth Ray, Trudy May Mosley, Lillian Henry, Grant Allen & myself who were moved. My good friend Edna Lamoreaux didn't think that was fair. She thought they should have taken the smartest kids and she was one of the smartest kids. Mary Stewart had her son, Bernard who attended the Chandler school, tutored that next summer so he could be put up a year. He was Ellsworth's cousin. Their mothers were sisters. She could not bear to have her nephew Ellsworth a grade ahead of her son. Helen & Harvey Beebee were in the 6th grade room that I was moved into. The teacher asked us if we wanted to do sixth grade work to which we all agreed.

I was about 10 when I lost my little tan leather purse. My Daddy had a work bench about half way between the house and the cow corral. We played around that a lot. There was a cottonwood tree for shade. I couldn't find my purse and I finally decided that the only way I was going to find it was to pray for it. So I did pray. I happened to look in one of the 10 gallon cans that

was there by Daddy's work bench and there was my purse. This is the 1st time I can remember the Lord answering my prayers and He's done it many times since.

When I was young I loved to read all the books in the Chandler and Gilbert libraries. I especially loved biographies and autobiographies.

My sisters and I liked to use red crepe paper to make our cheeks rosy. My Mother didn't like us to do it. She finally said if you do that again I'll use crepe paper to make my cheeks red and go out in public looking like that. We believed her and didn't use crepe paper again on our cheeks. Mama never said anything that she didn't carry out.

When I was young, whenever we were sick, my mother gave us Senna Tea. You can still buy it down at the store. It was a laxative. It gripped your bowels something terrible. That was the first thing to do in the olden days was to give a laxative to a child. Castor oil was also used when a child hadn't had a bowel movement.

In Gilbert my Daddy planted about 12 umbrella trees on the North side of the house just outside the fence that was around the house. The trees were about 12 feet apart. One tree was mine. The next one was Nonie's and the next one was Lurline's. We'd get up there and visit or eat a piece of watermelon.

We had a building that had been Milo Ray's store on the 4-mile corner. Uncle Milo was my Dad's brother. We moved it to our place. Mama kept her books in there and magazines. We called it our library. We used a kerosene lamp for light when we went in it. One day someone had gone out to get a magazine and had taken the kerosene lamp so they could see better. One of the magazines caught fire. We didn't notice it at first. We went back to the house and then looking back noticed it. The magazines were stacked so thick that only the outside edge caught on fire. We had enough water there in a 10 gallon can to put it out. The library didn't burn down. That was our only incident of having a fire from our kerosene lamp.

The 4-mile corner was Gilbert & Pecos. It was 4 miles south of the center point of Gilbert. The 3-mile corner went to Chandler and it went east to Lindsay road. When Williams Field was put in they continued the road past Lindsay on out to Williams Field. The road from Gilbert to Tucson went by our house. Gilbert road was only paved for 5 miles from the center

point of Gilbert, then it was dirt. It was the way people went to Tucson. In Chandler (Arizona Ave) the road only went south to Hamilton's Corner which was 4 or 5 miles. The pavement ended there. Once they put the Gilbert road all the way through we didn't use the Chandler road any more.

My folks preached day and night about the church in every situation, whether we were picking cotton, walking to the corral, doing dishes or cooking. Whenever one of the children was by her side Mama would be telling them something. She just all the time was talking about the Book of Mormon or something. When we'd read to her out of the scriptures and we stumbled over a word she'd say it. She knew what it was. She talked a lot about the gospel. Sometimes I got tired of it. I'd start humming to myself so I couldn't hear. Mama went on preaching.

My Mama would tell us the classics. She didn't just tell us the stories, but she tell us it was a classic, written by.... Some of the stories she told were Little Women, Pride & Prejudice, Ivanhoe, and Pilgrim's Progress. For Pilgrim's Progress she would read part of it, then she'd tell us part of it. It was about someone's journey through life and how you had to do some hard things to accomplish them.

I admired the character Jo from Little Women & Little Men. There were 4 books by Louisa May Alcott about a family of girls. Jo was the 2nd oldest. I was a tomboy like Jo in the books. I'd pretend to be her.

Whenever we were doing cotton or Mama was nursing the baby she'd sing songs to us. We would park around her. If she fell asleep, we'd say "Wake up Mama, you went to sleep." We loved to be around her. We were always allowed to be around her whenever she was nursing the baby. We'd listen to her stories. When she was with one of the kids she was always telling some good story.

Mama used to tell us about Moses, Aaron & their sister. She used to tell us about Queen Ester and Ruth. When I had to write something for a speech class I wrote about Queen Ester because she was always my model. She was so beautiful and so sweet.

When Ester found out that Hamaan was trying to get her Uncle Mordecai killed and had the king make a law saying it would be legal to kill Jews on a certain day, Queen Ester dressed up beautifully and she got admitted to where the king was with his helpers. Women weren't allowed in there, but when the king heard it was her, he let her come in. She said, "What would you do it

one of these men were plotting to kill me?" The king said he'd hang him. She let the king know it was Hamaan who was plotting to do so. The king made another law saying the Jews could defend themselves.

Ruth is the one who went back with her mother-in-law and said "Where thou lodgest, I will lodge."

Every summer I would read these 2 stories of Ruth & Ester out of the Bible.

Some of the stories she told were 'Peesie & Beansie' and 'One Eye, Two, Eye & Three Eye'. She'd sing us folk songs that she had learned from her mother. I have a copy of the stories in a book.

My Mama would read important books. I wonder how she got so much reading done. We had a kerosene lamp to read by. She was always telling the classics that she had read.

We had a cow named Pearl. Pearl was very tame. When she was lying down we could pat her and she would let us sit on her. Once the cow stepped on my sister Nonie's foot. Instead of hitting the cow to make her move her leg, I got a hold of Nonie and tried to pull her foot out from under the cow. All I was doing was pulling her toes off.

We had a horse named Filly.

Gum was a sparse commodity. We seldom got any gum. I don't remember ever buying it. If we did get some gum we'd keep it for days. We had a little place up on the buffet to put our gum. We each had our own corner. I'd left mine up there once and Nonie got it. I saw her chewing it. I took her down and laid on her. I used one hand to hold her nose shut. She had to open her mouth to breath. I got the gum out and put it in my mouth and I chewed it.

Our Mother loved pine gum. When she lived in Hinkley & Mexico they had lots of pine gum. They'd go pick it off the trees. When we went to the mountains when I was a child Mama picked a lot of pine gum. Then she'd dole it out to us once in a while. That kind of gum you had to chew for a while to get the flavor. We did love pine gum.

I had a contest once with Nonie to see who could eat the most watermelon and not spit out any seeds. We ate & ate and

finally Nonie's mouth was so full of seeds she couldn't talk. I showed her mine was empty. I had sneaked and spit them out when she wasn't looking.

When I was 10 I had a sick spell from eating too much candy. I spent 2 months out of school. It was January & February. I missed Valentines.

During the summer of 1930, when I was 12, I took piano lessons from Ms. Schafer. We went to her house which was just East off Gilbert Rd. between Williams Field Rd. and Ray Rd. My daddy made us a sled and a horse pulled us to piano lessons.

When I was 12 I sold Cloverine Salve to earn money to buy a camera. I've been taking pictures ever since.

In 7th & 8th grade, which were held in the high school building, I had only missed 1 day of school when I went to the fair. I've had a very healthy body.

In the fall of 1930, when I was in the 8th grade my Daddy was burned. He & Corley Mosley's grandfather, Mr. Mosely, were moving a hay stacker across the street. Mr. Mosley was holding down the lift. They must have hit a bump. The lift hit the electrical wires they were going under. Mr. Mosley was killed and my Daddy was burned. My daddy was the scout leader in the ward. The boys from his troop came out to help my mother milk the cows and feed them. She was pregnant with Dewey. Carl Skousen came to help Mama milk in the morning. Lyle Riggs came to help in the evening. Others also came to help. My job was to get my younger siblings up and ready for school. That Christmas the ward brought us out a bunch of candy and toys and things. My mother was so humiliated to have to accept help. We children weren't. We were tickled to death for those extra goodies.

My Daddy had to arrange for the cows to be taken care of because my Mother was pregnant & was expecting the baby in January. Alvie Lankford began helping. He took the cows over to Mesa. We just herded the cows down the highway when we took them to Mesa. There was no trailer available. Alvie and his sons milked the cows for us for about a year.

We used a coal oil burner for heat in the winter in the bedroom where my Daddy was kept. Our dining room had a wood burning iron heater.

I was graduated from the 8th grade in Gilbert, AZ in May 1931.

I was 13 when I began attending Gilbert High School in the fall of 1931. The Hispanic students didn't go to the same building. They attended school in the building just south of where I attended classes.

I believe I was in high school when we first got electricity at our house. We lived 4 1/2 miles south of Gilbert on Gilbert road. We just had one light bulb hanging in the middle of the dining room. I was tall enough to reach the string and turn it on.

The first church position I held was as Secretary of the Sunday School in the Chandler Ward. I was 15 yrs. old at this time. When I was asked I said I was too young to accept the job. My father was standing right there and answered yes for me! My faithful parents milked the cows & got 7 younger children ready & got me to my officers meetings that were held first, teacher meetings held second & then Sunday School started at 10:00 a.m. We lived 4 & 1/2 miles from town, so it took a lot of planning and work to get me there in time for those meetings. I really loved that job, sitting at my desk on the stand, taking minutes of the meetings, collecting the roll books, and making out the monthly attendance records and attending monthly stake meetings.

Once when we couldn't get our car to go, Daddy borrowed a horse and buggy from Mr. Salmo. Salmo was an old mexican man, a bachelor, who lived by himself up on the sandhill near us.

As a teenager I had one pair of black bloomers and black hip high socks to wear all week.

In about October of 1934 Wendell and his family moved to East Chandler. They had been living up on University in Mesa. Andrew Eyring had gotten the Water Users job in Chandler. In Mesa a man had come by the Eyring's place asking if someone could work at the Water Users. Edith Eyring spoke right up and said, "My husband can do it," So they moved to Chandler on Frye Road, East of McQueen.

There was a church dance & there was a new boy in town and I was the only one that knew him. Wasn't I lucky though? I danced over there when that lady's choice came and he said later, "You got a hold of me and never let me go." He was tall and slim. He had blue eyes & my boyfriend McKay had moved to California. We

were both 16. The dance was at the Chandler Ward downstairs. They'd throw powder on the floor to make it slick for dancing.

We talked to each other. Apparently I wasn't real shy. I knew him. You feel better with someone you've known in your classroom.

We didn't go anyplace together. We'd sit by each other in church or conference. He always brought me a package of Dentyne gum. That was new then. I was Sunday School Secretary at this point so I didn't attend Sunday School classes. I went around & collected my roles & did my reports. There was only one ward in Chandler so we were in the same ward. We were friends.

When you're a teenager you want someone to do things with. Mama gave me a hard time. She loved those Pratts. They were such religious people. She said those Eyring's were too high toned for me. Mama wanted me to marry McKay Pratt. I argued with her saying "What difference does it make? They're both good latter-day saint boys." I was glad when later she told me, "You made the right choice."

All four years of high school I had not missed a day. In January of my senior year I had a sore throat and my jaw swelled up. I realized I had the mumps. I didn't want to miss a day of school. I wore a scarf around my neck. After about 3 or 4 days of that I was too sick to go to school. I missed the next week of school staying home with the mumps.

Wendell's folks and my folks knew each other in Mexico. When they came out of Mexico the Eyrings had a dairy in Tucson. My Daddy was a delivery man for the Eyring Dairy.

In May of 1935 I graduated from Gilbert High School. I had my 1st date with Wendell that June 11th. I was 17. He was 16.

At my high school graduation a boy, Vernon Harmon, stepped on my dress & tore it. Vernon was sitting behind me. We had been sitting on the stage, there were 19 of us graduating and as we came off the stage into the auditorium we had to go down the stairs. As I was coming down the steps he stepped on the back of my dress and it just ripped from my waist to the back. It was an organdy/lavender colored dress. I had a lavender petticoat to go with it. It was really beautiful. I have picture of me in it. We walked down the steps and then we lined up from the stage down the aisle to the back of the auditorium where the seats started. We were leaving the stage to come down and stand in the

auditorium so they could shake hands and congratulate us. I just stood there 'til everybody left & kept my back to the stage. The dress was still attached in the front. There was a big tear right down the back & the ruffle was off. Thank goodness the tear was on the back side and nobody knew it. We happened to have enough material at home. Either my Mama or I made the dress. The skirt portion had a big ruffle. We didn't buy dresses in those days. I fixed it later. I was able to put another back in it. That was just from the waist down to the ruffle. I didn't stay for any dance afterwards at the school.

Aunt Gwen Ray's sister, Eve, married Vernon Harmon's brother, Hubert Harmon. The Harmon's were the janitors at Gilbert School.

The evening before our 1st date there was a Relief Society Bazaar where they sold stuff. They had it at the La Hacienda, just east of the railroad tracks. I'd gone over to Edna Lamoreaux's that afternoon. A young man named Emanuel Cardon was there. He'd asked Edna to go to the dance. Wendell had once gone on a date with Emanuel's younger sister to a school function. As we were talking I got the idea that Wendell was going to ask me so I hurried home. Emanuel didn't have tell me to hurry home I had sense enough to do it myself. I skittered home and got available so Wendell could ask me to go to the La Hacienda for the dance. While I waited I read the evening Gazette on our front lawn. That would be our first date going to the dance.

The June we started dating was when I had just finished with high school. I was 17. I bought my 1st diary and started writing in it about our 1st date going to the dance on June 11, 1935.

When my friend McKay learned I had a new boyfriend he came back from California to see me the week after I'd had a date with Wendell. This was June of 1935. His folks had moved to California so I didn't have a boyfriend, then Wendell moved in. McKay came back to see me. He wanted to know if this was it. I said yes. I think this is when he gave me a birthstone ring. I don't know how word gets around. I was going around being secretary at church collecting the roll books. Another boy came and looked at it and said "Well, it is a birthstone ring not an engagement ring." And I said, "Yes." My Mama hid that ring. I didn't care what ring it was, it had a blue birthstone and it was beautiful and I wanted it.

I attended Arizona State Teacher's College in the fall of 1935. I had Emma Belle Tenney take me over to register. I was a little green horn going to that big college, but I had college in my mind. It was all along in my mind and I finally got through it at 50 years of age. I roomed with Leah Sabin in Mrs. Stroud's rooming house on the North side of University Street across from the college near College Ave. We were at 218 E. 8th Street. Leah started going with my cousin James Ray. I majored in Home Economics. I dated my future husband, Wendell Eyring, during those two years. On weekends Leah & I would take the bus or get a ride to James Ray's or Uncle Sims Ray's in Mesa. Then my Daddy would pick me up there and take me out to our place in Gilbert. Often Wendell would pick me up at Aunt Nellie Ray's place and we would go to the Mezona and then take me home.

I got engaged to Wendell in 1936. I got the engagement ring in November of 1937.

My patriarchal blessing says that I will have a healthy body if I'll obey the word of wisdom. That has certainly come true in my life. It also said I'd be blessed with _____.

My 1st year of College I returned to Church each week in Chandler and fulfilled my job as secretary. My first year of college my parents were still living in Gilbert. My parents moved to Mesa in September of 1936, my 2nd year of college. They moved to 260 E. 2nd Ave. near Country Club. They got it from the Hill family. My family went to Mesa 3rd Ward when they lived by Country Club. They didn't live there very long, a few months. Then they rented a house out on University from Pauline Haws. Pauline was the widow of Jim Haws who was Wendell's mother's brother. We lived there for a few months.

When my family moved up on University we were in Mesa 1st ward. When I was in this ward I was made a secretary of the 1st Ward Jr. Sunday School. My friend Juanita Haggerton's boyfriend, Lewis Johnson, was secretary of the Senior Sunday School and he knew I had been a Sunday School secretary. When there was an opening he said, "Here's one that already knows what a secretary is." This was when my parents lived in the Haws place on University. My parents were at the Haws place the rest of the school year. Getting married ended this job because I lived in Chandler then.

Because Wendell had missed a year of school when he was still living in Mesa and I had been moved up a year I was ahead of him two years when I went to college.

Arizona State Teacher's College mascot was the Bulldogs. I attended two years.

Leah Sabin dated my cousin James Ray whom she married in June 1936. His parents are James Wilford Ray Jr. and Esther Skousen.

Even when I was going to college I always went home to church. When my daddy lost the place in Gilbert and moved to Mesa this is where I came home to. Then he bought the Haws place over on University.

After my folks moved to Mesa, Wendell would come pick me up. Once when we came home from a date Wendell & I sat in the car too long and my daddy threw an orange at the car and said, "It's time to come in!" We were living on E. University at this time.

When my parents moved back to Gilbert about the summer of 1937 James and Leah Ray rented the house on University from them. My sisters Nonie and Lurline and I stayed in Mesa with James & Leah. It was the 1st year James & Leah were married. My Daddy rented out lots of things. Us girls didn't want to change schools. I continued to be a Sunday School secretary. We stayed there the school year of 1937-1938.

My Daddy bought or rented Uncle Marion's place out in Gilbert on Pecos Road between Cooper & Gilbert. That's where my folks were living at Uncle Marion's place, a mile south of Norton's corner. The cement road only went out to the fourth mile. When they made the cement road they had a little tiny train that went on the West side of the road. It carried the cement and supplies from the main wagon out as far as they knew they would need then they'd go back and fill it up.

When my folks moved to Mesa Leah and I would ride the bus from college into Mesa to Uncle Sims Ray's place, on 1st Ave. just west of Main. Uncle Sims was married to Nellie & they were Ellsworth's parents. I'd often stay there until Wendell would pick me up to take me to the Mezona. Afterwards we'd go to the hamburger stand close by. Wendell would get the hamburgers for us and we'd eat them on the way home. Once there was a lady selling tamales so we bought a dozen. I ate one and he ate the rest.

Leah Sabin was my roommate at college for 2 years. Edna Lamoreaux roomed with us for part of the second year. Leah

married James Ray in June after my 2nd year of college and her third.

I went post-graduate to Mesa Union High School for part of the second year of college. Wendell & I had planned to get married after going to college for 2 years, but Wendell was given a job in the Valley National Bank and I had spent all my summer wages on my trousseau. This I had earned picking cotton for my daddy. I bought clothes for my wedding but Wendell was working at the bank and we couldn't get married that year. So I attended Mesa High School as a post-graduate, where my sisters Nonie & Lurline attended school. In June of 1938 we three girls left Mesa and moved out to Uncle Marion's old place where my parents had moved.

Sometime before I was married I took genealogy classes.

The Valley National Bank was located in Chandler. They went & checked him out through the school & through the church to see of was an honest man. They checked several boys out & Wendell was the one they picked. That's quite an honor. He started the week after he got out of high school. We'd planned to get married that June. But he couldn't get married until he was making more money. The bank didn't want him to get married right away. They were afraid that he'd be poor as a young married and try to steal money from the bank.

Wendell started working at the bank in June of 1937. We were engaged in October of 1937. We went together for a year and a half then Wendell proposed. He gave me a ring about Nov. of 1937.

My Daddy had a car that he let my sisters and I use while we three lived in Mesa and they lived in Gilbert at Uncle Marion's place. We'd use it to go to church and mutual and things like that. Cy Russell, Alma Millet, and Jack Boyd were friends in Mesa. When we three girls moved to Mesa Cy & Lurline started going together. Nonie & Alma started going together. Jack was along but we didn't date. We would just go to mutual and to the dance together. The night I got engaged to Wendell, Jack wouldn't dance with me at the 2nd ward dance. He found out I had my engagement ring and wouldn't dance with me. He went out to the car and started crying. I loved him like a brother. He was a very personable kid, but I wasn't interested in him otherwise. I would never give Wendell up. I wouldn't marry just anybody.

In June 1938 Wendell's mother was going to June conference in Utah. She had Wendell drive her. He talked his mother into letting me go up with them because I could do shorthand & takes notes for her. Ethlyn Johnson Madsen & her brother Julius Johnson came along also. They sat in the back & we three sat in the front. Edith Eyring was a Stake Beekeeper. I'd had 2 yrs. of short hand in high school. Since I knew shorthand I went to all the meetings and took the words in shorthand.

While we were up there in Utah we said "Well, let's get married and keep it quiet. Keep it a secret." We walked up to the City Hall in Salt Lake City. We got our marriage license. Someone came in and called the man that we were dealing with Bishop. We asked him, "Are you a bishop?" He said yes. So we asked him to marry us. So he married us right then & there. Of course the marriage license came out in the Salt Lake paper. We did put down our names as Wendell Haws Eyring and Verda Ray, but we didn't put the real names of the towns we were from. We wrote Rittenhouse & Higley. I don't know what we thought. Our 1st date was June the 11th and we planned to marry on the 11th but when we went up to the City Hall to get our license and there was a bishop right there we just got married then. It was June the 10th. We'd gone together 3 years & just wanted to get married.

We were going to keep our wedding a secret and not tell anybody. We didn't expect that Uncle Joe Haws (we were staying with him) would read the marriage license in the newspaper. He saw it in the paper & told Wendell's mother. It broke her heart. Edith cried and felt terrible to think that she hadn't kept anymore control of her son to let him sneak away and get married. She was chaperoning us.

My Uncle Wayne Stout mailed the news down to my parents. So when I got home Mama and Daddy knew about it. As kids you don't think ahead. My folks didn't say much. My Father did get permission for Wendell & I to go to the temple and get our endowments on June 22.

June 10 Wendell and I were married in Utah. June 22, 1938 we were sealed in the Mesa Arizona Temple.

We came home when conference was over. We lived at Wendell's home on Frye Rd. He and his brother Carl had a screen room out in back. Carl had to move his cot outside and Wendell and I stayed in that screen room from June until November, 1938.

When the bank learned that Wendell was married they wanted to fire him right then. However our Bishop Ralph Brown went to bank and talked to them. He was also Mayor of the town. He told them, "That's a heck of a time to fire a guy." So they didn't until the end of the year.

Wendell's Dad, Andrew, found a little 2 story house for us to rent in November of 1938. It was north of the old swimming pool on McQueen north of present day Frye Rd. It had 5 acres. My Daddy gave us a cow and Wendell was raising chickens. When he began working in the bank he bought 300 chickens.

Wendell's parents lived on about what is now Frye Rd., East of McQueen on the North side of the road. The Water Users furnished housing for their men.

Our house had one room downstairs and a screen porch upstairs, so we slept upstairs. It was a house with a screen. At the South end of our house there was a shower and a toilet downstairs. We had to go out to get to it, even though it was attached to the house. The door to it was under the stairs. We bought a table and chairs second hand. We bought a new couch. We bought a new kerosene stove to cook with a little oven that you set on top of it to bake. There was a closet upstairs. Our bedroom was upstairs. A night or 2 when it was real chilly we opened our couch into a bed and slept downstairs. We stayed there until after Christmas.

I wanted to have our own Thanksgiving and Christmas. That about killed Wendell's mother. She loved fixing meals. Wendell & I sat at our own little table on our own little chairs and had our little chicken. I'd been surrounded by people so much of my life that, that was my idea to just have the two of us. I must have really hurt Edith Eyring's feelings.

After I got married I had a hard time doing my own hair and nails. My sister and I had always done this for each other. We used curlers to curl our hair. Sometimes we used a curling iron which was heated by putting the iron into the chimney of the lantern to heat up. If we left it there too long we'd burn our hair.

We moved to 5 acres on University in Mesa in January of 1939. There was a family whose mother had died recently (Eyrings?) who had been renting five acres in Mesa so we moved there in about January of 1939. It was up on University near where the Water Users building used to be. This property was

Andrew Eyring's. Wendell had lived there when he was growing up. Grandpa George Haws & his boys built this house for his daughter Edith. It was built on East 4th street. Later the name of the road changed to Transmission road and is now University.

This place had 3 rooms and a screen back porch. In those days you had to have a screen porch. It was hot. We'd move our bed to the East side of the house and slept there. We got up in the morning before the neighbors got up. By the time the sun came out it was hot. We didn't have air conditioning. Everyone had screen porches.

The precious spirits that came to join our family were: Wendell Haws Eyring, Jr. on March 17, 1939; Shirly Wanita Eyring on September 2, 1940; Sandra Sue Eyring on March 21, 1942; Michael Ray Eyring on January 14, 1944; Patricia Kathleen Eyring on March 17, 1947; Murr Kelley Eyring on July 3, 1949; Dixie Kay Eyring on August 5, 1952; Nicholas John Eyring on December 25, 1954; April Fay Eyring on April 9, 1956; Twila Edith Eyring July 19, 1961.

My children were all born in a hospital. Nine were born in the Mesa Southside Hospital located at the corner of Hibbert & Main. It's no longer a hospital. Only Twila was born in Chandler at the new hospital. She was the first girl born there. I wanted to have child born for each month of the year.

When Laddy was born I was 21. Nonie was pregnant with Wesley, who was born in July. Nonie & Alma came out and slept in our screen porch. She came as soon as I got home from the hospital. They stayed until I was able to take care of myself - a month or so.

In 1939 when Laddy was born Wendell took some 2x2's and made Laddy a little bed. It was really simple but it did work. I can't remember if it was with Laddy or Shirly that Andrew & Edith Eyring gave us a metal bed. It was more a youth size. It was what they had raised their children in. You could put 2 babies in at once. That bed was donated to the Chandler Historical Society Museum.

When school was out my sister Kay & Ila took turns coming and staying with me that summer. They were about 13 & 11 respectively.

We had the cow my dad had given us and we bought some more cows. I don't know how we bought them.

We were living up on University when Laddy was born. We were still there when Shirly was born. Sandra also.

In September 1940 Shirly was born on Labor Day. I was 22.

When we lived in Mesa Laddy was about 1 1/2 & Shirly was a baby, we had Aunt Teresa Haws Lamoreaux's children baby sit. (Teresa was Edith Haws Eyring's younger sister.) Alvin was Teresa's oldest child, Chester was about 12 & Wilna was about 10. They sat for our children 2 or 3 times, then they told us they couldn't sit for us any more. We could only afford to pay them a nickel for baby sitting. After that we didn't hire baby sitters. Laddy was a year and a half. Shirly was a baby.

While living here Wendell had 300 chickens. Wendell would gather the eggs each day & I would candle them. This means to use a little brush to clean them & get all stains off them. Then you looked at the eggs through a little machine that had a light in it to see if there were any spots in the egg. If the egg had blood clots they had to be discarded. Wendell would go into town each day to sell the eggs. Wendell went to the man who sold sewing machines and made a trade. We paid for our sewing machine by giving him eggs every week.

One time Wendell and I had gone to the temple. When we came out someone had stolen the seat out of our car. They also took the gear shift knob, the water cap and the gasoline cap off our Model A Ford roadster. The distributor had been taken out of the engine & they left it on the sideboard. Someone must have come along and they didn't have time to disconnect it. It was out but they left it there. We put it back in and drove home. We couldn't afford to buy another seat. We just sawed a board off to fit. We used the gear shift without a knob. We did get another gasoline cap.

In March of 1942 Sandra was born on the first day of spring. I was 24.

When we lived on University at the 5 acres we had cows and chickens. Wendell sold chickens in town and he worked at the telegraph office. He delivered the telegrams to people for awhile. About this time he bought a scooter from my brother-in-law Alma. Wendell had a job in Phoenix working at a warehouse. Once as he was riding into work and had just turned out of our place onto University, a guy who was here from California on vacation with his family fell asleep at the wheel. He ran into Wendell and wrecked his scooter. Wendell was knocked off & he

slid on the back of his head on the cement. He now has a bare spot. He'd only worked at the warehouse about a month. After this he couldn't go back to work.

We ran out of money to buy soap so I washed clothes without soap. When we ran out of food we asked the bishop for food. We were too proud to ask our folks. I made out a list for the bishop and then I picked up the things from the Bishop's storehouse. I wouldn't ask for soap. I washed our clothes in plain water. I didn't want to ask for any more than what we had to have to exist. We didn't buy a lot of things. My Dad would bring us corn or carrots from his garden. Sometimes the vegetables had been riding around in the back of his pickup for a day or two. That was alright. I could take those carrots and soak them in water and they would freshen up. Not long after this he began driving truck for James Ray.

Wendell was driving truck for James Ray while I was pregnant with Sandra. He took hay to Tucson for the Army Cavalry base. He was gone to Tucson the day that our baby Sandra decided to join our family on March 21, 1942. I had to call James' wife, Leah, to come and take me to the Southside hospital. She also tended Laddy who had just turned 3 and Shirly who was a year and a half old.

With Laddy I learned to put things up and cover them up because he would always get into things. Once I was boiling some water and had just put lye in and hadn't covered it back up. Laddy put his foot in the hot water. I called the doctor. He instructed me to put hi foot in a bucket of cold water all day. I had Laddy lay on a cot. His knees hung over the edge with his foot in cold water all day. The foot healed well. Another time Laddy found a bit of lye that hadn't gone into the water and he put it on his tongue. He also drank paint thinner when I was doing some painting.

As Laddy was helping me with the wash one time his hands went into the wringer up to his elbows. It took some flesh off. I ran it backwards to get the arms out. I didn't think to push the escape lever. This all happened when we lived on University in Mesa.

When Shirly was about a year and a 1/2 she climbed onto a table and then fell off. I though she knocked her tooth out. As I held her I noticed the tooth was just pushed back. I took her to the dentist, who straightened it. He said it would eventually

discolor. In about 6 months it turned brown and the dentist pulled it.

When Sandra was a year old Grandpa Eyring traded the 5 acre farm for a 30 acre farm that was on Knox Rd. in Chandler. It was East of Arizona Ave. and the railroad tracks on the North side of the road. When we lived on Knox road he milked cows and he got a job out at Williams Field as a plumber. His dad rented the Peterson place across the street from Hightown on the Southeast corner. He rented it so we could pasture our cows down there. He drove back and forth and milked the cows. Wendell didn't see the kids all one winter. He'd leave before light and get back after dark at night. Wendell has always been a very hard worker.

In January of 1944 Mike was born. He was supposed to be born March 3rd, but when he came, weighing 10 pounds 11 ounces, we figured he was not premature! I was 25. When I went to the hospital with Mike I told Wendell we needed to buy another bed. That's when he bought our bedroom set.

As a teenager a bump grew on my left leg. It was just above the knee. It didn't hurt until after Mike was born. Then it began to hurt so I had to have surgery to get it removed.

Our house on Knox road had a screen porch and a bedroom and living room on the East side. We used the living room on the East side for a bedroom for the kids. There was a bathroom built on the NE corner. On the West side there was a dining room and a kitchen. Then behind the house there was a big screen porch and there was a basement there. I never used it. I didn't have anything to put in it. When 3 children took a bath at once they could kick up some water and really get the floor wet. The floor was wood. I solved the problem of a wet floor by boring a hole in the floor to let the water out under the house.

We were living in Chandler when Shirly started school. She went to 1st grade at Chandler Elementary school. Her teacher was_____

We lived there for 3 years. Andrew Eyring owned this property. He had traded his 5 acres for these 30 acres. Then Dave Haws, Edith's brother, talked Andrew into buying his acreage on Dobson and Williams Field Rd. There were about 60 acres.

We moved from the 30 acres on Knox Rd. to Mesa. Wendell was sick. He got too tired to work. Edith Eyring paid \$50.00 for him to go to Grueno Clinic in Phoenix. They tested him to see

what was wrong with him. He had Valley Fever. He had to take some pills that were .84 cents a piece. My daddy gave us a lot on Broadway, just West of Stapley. We moved one of my Uncle Marion's little two room houses that he had out in Chandler onto this lot. We had a kitchen and living room. We'd work and cook in one room. There was a little hall. We made a doorway where the clothes closet was and we had a chest of drawers on each side. We had 2 double beds. The kids slept in the double beds.

Laddy had started 1st grade in Chandler in Sept. 1945. I went with him. Willetta Riggs went also. It was Willetta's daughter's first day of class also. The teacher had the kids take turns bouncing a basketball while counting out loud. Some kids couldn't bounce the ball and some couldn't count, but our Laddy boy could do both at the same time. When he got to a hundred the teacher said he could stop. The reason Laddy was so good at this exercise was that 6 months before he had been diagnosed with rheumatic fever and he had spent hours in bed. While there, to entertain himself, he would bounce a ball up and down.

We found out Laddy had rheumatic fever because of his frequent nose bleeds and he was pale as a ghost, even during the summer. I liked to read Dr. Crane's column in the Republic and one column described rheumatic fever. I took Laddy to a children's doctor in Tempe. I told the doctor what Laddy had. The doctor asked, "How do you know?" I told him I'd read about it in a health article in the paper and my son had the same symptoms. I was correct. Laddy was prescribed to spend the next 6 months in bed. So he did. We put the youth size iron bed in our dining room. His little siblings helped entertain him. We had a baby swing put in the doorway to the _____ for Michael. The two of them entertained each other.

The second semester he went to Lincoln school in Mesa. He could get up in the morning and he could cook his own bowl full of cereal and get off to school without me ever having to get up. He was a very efficient little young man. We were in Mesa from January to September 1946.

Wendell got better so Andrew Eyring traded his 5 acres for 30 acres out on East Knox.

When we first moved to Mesa Wendell didn't do anything until he was a little better. Then he got a job out at Williams Field Airforce Base. He did plumbing. We also had some cows to milk.

We began building a house while living on Broadway and Stapley. My Daddy, John Ray, was helping us. We got it up to the square and we got the roof on it. Before we got the house finished Wendell was feeling much better, taking those expensive pills. So in September of about 1946 we moved to Andrew & Edith's place on Dobson and W. Williams Field Rd. Shirley started school that year.

The house that Andrew & Edith moved into on the corner of Dobson was 1/2 built by Dave Haws.

While living here Wendell stopped working at the Airforce Base. He again milked cows and harvested the crops. Andrew also had property near Hightown with cows that we milked. It had a big sandhill on it. Only about 20 acres were farmable. Wendell had to buy hay and grain so he bought a truck. He'd go once a year to Yuma & Wilcox to get hay. He also went once a year to Southern AZ to get grain. I liked to go with him once a year. He'd buy a loaf of bread, some sliced pimento cheese and get a quart of milk for lunch. He'd also get cookies. When he'd get home the kids would run out to see what he'd brought them to eat. If the kids weren't in school he usually took a child with him.

Once when he was making one of these trips he got a quart of milk or so he thought. It said milk on the carton. When he drank it he discovered it was actually buttermilk. Ugh!

I was Junior Sunday School Superintendent for about 6 months when Mike was my baby. Then I had a miscarriage and had to go to the hospital so that ended that job. This was between the births of Mike and Pat.

I was pregnant with Pat when we moved to Chandler to the Dobson corner. We moved there in September. I didn't go to church because I was pregnant. I took the kids down to church. I kept Mike with me in the car. Then I either went home or I sat in the car and read someplace. I wanted to have a Pat and Mike.

In March of 1947 Pat was born. Another St. Patrick's Day baby. I was 29. When Pat was born we were living at the SW corner of Dobson and Williams Field Rd. She was born in Mesa at the South Side Hospital. When she was born there was a contest. If you could guess what day your baby would be born you could win free diaper service for a month. I had planned her for the 17th. I said about 2:00 in the afternoon and I hit it right on the button. So I got a month of free diaper service.

Pat was the most beautiful little baby you ever saw. Shirly, Pat & April had a little curl to their hair. Sandra, Dixie & Twila had no curl. I didn't have any bald babies.

When Pat was a baby she liked to be patted to go to sleep. We had a big iron bed and we had to have it right next to our bed. For her nap or at night I had to lie down on my bed & pat her on the back.

When Pat was a baby we went to Pinedale, AZ to visit Uncle Don & Aunt Marguerite Ray Thomas. Marguerite was my Daddy's baby sister. We slept in an empty house they had. I cooked beans in the fire place and we ate them. While in Pinedale Laddy threw a rock and chipped Shirly's front tooth.

The same summer we went to Pinedale, we also went to Vernon, AZ to visit my Webb cousins who ran a sawmill.

While living on the corner of Dobson we bought more cows.

In July of 1949 Murr was born. That was on the 3rd. I couldn't wait 15 more minutes for him to be born on my mother's birthday, as I had planned. I was 31. When he was born I had older girls to help me and do the work and I could sit around and do nothing. The night Murr was born, Wendell, who was involved in athletics, had a game out at Queen Creek. I started having pains. I sat there in that rocking chair and was sure wanting him to get home. When Wendell got home we went right to the hospital.

About the time Murr was born our well went dry. We had to re-drill it. So we didn't have water for a couple of weeks to go on our cooler. We had to carry water from the dairy by Hightown to put on the cooler. We had a big cooler on the East side in the living room and on the West side in the girl's bedroom. That kept us pretty cool. We had a nice big rocking chair. It was Grandma Eyring's rocker. I just sat in the rocker in the living room in front of the fan. I put ice cubes in my clothes, poured water on me & rubbed water on my face to keep cool.

I was a climber in education. I took any extra college courses that came along. At ASU I took Girl Scout Training to be a leader, but never had the opportunity. When Murr was born I joined a reading club with four other ladies who liked to read books. Someone put a notice in a magazine that they wanted a book pal. So four of us started writing. We read a book, made a report and sent it to the other ladies in Texas, South Dakota and

Pennsylvania. There'd be 4 books moving at the same time. We did this for about 18 years. This lasted until I went back to college and didn't have time.

About 1950 I again attended ASTC, now Arizona State University, to take Library Administration and Bookbinding after I was chosen to organize a library in the Chandler Ward and be the meeting house librarian. They hadn't had a library at the church since I was a kid. Hal Jones had asked me to organize a library for the Ward. I said, "Well, I'm going to school and take some classes so I'll know what I'm doing." These were the classes I needed for that job. I didn't want to be ignorant. I took the classes in the summer. The library was at the rear of the chapel, the NE corner.

I later taught Beehive girls in the Chandler Ward. I was the Beekeeper in our ward for a time and I wanted to quit when Shirly graduated out of Beehives. I had been in there about 3 yrs. Sandra said "Well, you taught Shirly, I want you to be my teacher." So I stayed another year. Then I was asked to work at the Stake level. I worked with the 1st year Beehives. Then I asked to work with the 2nd year Beehives for awhile. When I taught Beehives I had the Shumway twins Jessie & Jeannie and Darlen Anderson in my class the 1st year. I had Dawnese Cluff in my class the 2nd year. This was still in the Chandler ward. At the Stake level we had a stake meeting once a month. I'd prepare them a little booklet. I did this for about 4 years.

In August of 1952 Dixie was born. I was 34. Shirly was almost 12 and old enough to tend the other children while I went to the hospital. When Dixie was born we'd built 2 more rooms on the Dobson house. Before it just had a screen porch across the front. We tore down the porch and put a living room there and two bedrooms on the East and what had been the old cement carport. We had a toilet and a shower there. I had my washer with a laundry tub there. There was a dyer on top of the washer.

When we were living in this house the bathroom did have a door on it until one day Laddy was chasing Shirly. She hid in there and he kicked the door. For a long time we just used 1/2 a door. Once a boyfriend was visiting the house and we had to tell him to hold the bottom half of the door shut.

The next church job I had was teaching 8 yr. olds in Primary. Loretta Riggs, Milene Lines, Mona Jean Rogers, David Shumway, Vance Davidson were in my class. Milene used to feel bad during classes and ate the salty homemade paste we used to

make a map of the holy land. She soon had her appendix taken out. Sister Kate Mecham was Primary President.

They made the Chandler 2nd ward when I was pregnant with Nick. They had to move the library. They wanted to put it down stairs. I told the bishop I'd resign if they did that. So they didn't. They put it near the front of the chapel on the East side. As we were moving books I had to use the bathroom. I was pregnant with Nick & I saw a little blood. I told the bishop and Hal Jones I had to go home. So I went home & went to bed. I didn't want to lose my baby. The stake librarian was scheduled to visit that day, but I went home.

In December of 1954 Nick was born. He was born on Christmas Day with only 6 minutes to spare. Dr. Clifford Goodman, Sr. said he helped me meet my goal. I was 36.

I was librarian when Nick was born. I worked in the library for about 25 years.

They started Junior Genealogy & I was one of the teachers. I had Laddy & Jerry Lamb in my class. At this time the Los Angeles Temple was being built and they were having open house. We took a trip there as our reward to the kids. The whole Mesa Stake went. (There was no Chandler Stake at that time.) We took three busses of kids. I was pregnant with April and Laddy was a senior in high school. Laddy & I both went on that trip.

After about 10 years at the Dobson place Grandpa Andrew Eyring decided to retire from the Water User's. He and Edith got a house on 328 South Hobson in Mesa just north of Broadway and just south of the Mesa Temple. They got a three bedroom house so they'd have room for company. We took over working both places, the one on Dobson and the one by Hightown.

In April of 1956 April was born when I was 37. I was going to school and taking classes when April was born. I got my first pair of glasses about this time.

We moved from the corner of Dobson to the farm by Hightown in 1957 when Laddy graduated from high school. We bought a wooden house from somewhere and moved it there. There were rooms in the middle and a screen porch around 3 sides. It had 2 bathrooms. One was just a shower and a toilet. It had a curtain in front of it. The other had a tub, toilet and sink with a curtain for the door.

We were working there one day & I told Laddy to take something to the kitchen. He said, "Which one's the kitchen?" There were no shelves, no stove or anything in it.

Not long after moving there Nick cried saying he wanted to go home. I said, "We are home." He said, "Our other home."

In the fall of 1957 Laddy went off to college and started attending BYU.

April was about 5 years old when I was pregnant with Twila. I was substitute teaching for Mary Farnsworth's genealogy class. Her mother was in Tucson. She was dying so Mary had to stay there. I had taken the class about a month when I finally had to wear a maternity dress. I told the class that they didn't have to waste time speculating, "I'm pregnant." They all laughed.

In July of 1961 Twila was born. It took 5 years before we had our tenth, tithing baby. She had to stay in the hospital several days after I was released to go home. I used a little pump to collect breast milk which I then took in to the hospital to give her. When Twila was about 2 months old she lost all her hair and she was as bald as could be.

Shirly was visiting at the house once. Troy was with her. A picture company was taking pictures. The photographer said, "Come on you sisters, lets take a picture with your 2 babies." Shirly had always complained about people saying how much she & her mother looked alike. When the gal said what she did, Shirly was mad to think she looked like my sister.

During the two years after my last baby was born I was so happy with my real live baby dolly I let myself gain weight. I went up to 230 pounds. Then after a period of illness and lonesomeness missing my missionary son, I read in our town paper about a local chapter of TOPS (Take Of f Pounds Sensibly). I called the number given. I visited the place myself and then joined the Skinny Minnies the last week of October 1963 weighing 211 1/2 pounds. It took me a week or two to really get in the mood or rather the habit of losing weight, but I finally did it. I lost 18 pounds by the end of December and became our Chapter Queen for 1963.

I was elected leader for the next year and I decided to become the State Queen for 1964. I kept telling the other members my goal. After attending the S.R.D. dinner in April and seeing the state queen who lost 101 pounds I realized I didn't

have 100 more pounds to lose. My goal weight was 130 pounds, the same weight I was when I got married and 100 pounds less than when what my weight was after 25 years of being married. Oh well, I decided, I am going to lose my 100 pounds and be my own family queen.

I had to completely change my eating and snacking habits. I would fix the meal for my family then take my few calories in another room and eat and read to forget about food. My family was very patient in eating mostly beans and potatoes. I could resist those foods. I quit making cakes, cookies and pies. Since we had a dairy the hardest thing for me to do was cut down on gallons of fresh milk, pounds of butter and cream, whipped cream and ice cream. If I planned to go to a party, luncheon or dinner that was all the food I allowed for myself that day. I could diet at home I decided and not make an issue of it. At a church dinner I would just limit myself to one helping. Some of the ladies would follow me around to eat what I ate. When people finally realized VERDA was losing weight and wasn't the fattest lady in the country anymore, they started asking me what my secret was. They were disappointed when I told them-- just eat less!

In 1966 the Mesa Community College was opened on south Dobson Road, so I decided to go back to college being as our baby, Twila, had started kindergarten. I was having to milk cows more and more often. I didn't want to have to chase those cows around so I went back to school. Wendell never complained. He paid my way. Murr & I went to school in Mesa that year. Murr attended Mesa high school his senior year. He was involved with the Mia Dancers. We argued because we both wanted to drive the new car and let the other drive Grandma Edith Eyring's old car. So we took turns.

When I went to Mesa High School it was located on about 2nd Ave and Center. It was located the same place when Murr went there.

Murr graduated from Mesa High School in 1967. That fall he went to BYU to school. When he came down to Arizona for Thanksgiving he broke his leg playing football at the Ray family get together. He finished the semester at BYU, but he had to come down to Arizona for the next semester.

I attended Mesa Community College 1966-67. It was the 1st year it opened. I took Children's Literature and Spanish at Mesa Community among other classes.

I was graduated from MCC in 1 year with the years I'd previously taken from Arizona State. Graduation was June 4, 1967. My sister Kathleen Palmer graduated with me. The same year Murr graduated from Mesa High School, but that is another story.

I was Vice President of the PTA at Kyrene Elementary School for two years. Then I was President for two years. Joy Crandall was my vice president. Anything I mentioned that needed to be done she volunteered to do it.

I remember I was going to ASU and taking 15 units. Kyrene's Principal, Mr. Ilo Waggoner, wanted me to get some of the teachers and mothers to take a class to learn to make signs and posters. We went once a week. It was a 3 unit class. This had me taking 18 hours while I was President of the PTA and YWMIA at Sacaton.

I was also President of the Mutual out at San Tan the same time I was taking those 18 hours. Wendell was sent out there on a Stake Mission. He was there about a year. I didn't get to see him much at home so I started going out there.

The first year I was President of the PTA we were in charge of a carnival. I asked Rickie Cowey to help. She said she would if I'd come take ceramics. So I went there and took ceramics at her place once a week for 2 years. One year for the Christmas program Rickie and I sang 'Winter Wonderland'. I dressed up like a man and had on an overcoat & hightop shoes. She was the woman.

I was busy. I was President of the PTA. I took ceramics. I was Pres. of the Mutual out there at San Tan and I was going to school taking 18 hours. I had six kids at home and I had to get them up each morning to feed the calves and out again each evening to feed them.

The summer of 1967 I took classes at ASU. I took Public Speaking. Lurline came over & took the class with me.

I went back to ASU full-time in the fall. I took US History Before the Civil War as an evening class my first semester. The second semester I took US History After the Civil War as an evening class also. I took these when I learned they were required classes for graduation. Reed Ethington came by & took me to school for this. He was working on his Doctorate in Education.

As I was attending ASU I was relating to a teacher about one of the stories my Mama hold told us. He said, "Were did you get a story like that?" I thought, "You're ignorant, you should know the classics!" The book was East of Eden.

One of the classes I took at ASU was teaching of reading. I took it because I felt like I didn't know how to teach kids to read.

I did my student teaching at Denver school on Frye Rd. in Chandler (between AZ Avenue & Alma School) the spring semester of 1968. I worked under Mrs. Egge in her 2nd grade class. She wrote comments in a notebook for me each week. I still have the notebook.

Over the years I had taken day & night correspondence classes from ASU in the hope of graduating some day. I was graduated from ASU in June of 1968. I got a job teaching the third grade in Maricopa, AZ the fall of 1968. I taught there three years. My 3rd year there one of my students was in a car accident. His mother was killed & he was hospitalized. I tutored him in the hospital three times a week. Later when my students graduated from 8th grade & High School, I attended the graduations.

In November of 1968 my Uncle Thurlow Stout died. He had lived with us for 8 years. His funeral was held in the Chandler ward building. He was buried in the Chandler cemetery. Wendell & I had purchased 10 cemetery lots in Chandler. We used one of the lots to bury Uncle Thurlow.

Uncle Thurlow would rent a room in Phoenix when he was over there picking oranges. One day he had a heart attack and fell out of a tree. Early the next morning Dixie heard a radio announcement that a tramp Thurlow Weed Stout who had fallen from a tree. The police decided it was an accident and not a murder. Dixie immediately came to the house and told me what she had heard. I called the police in Phoenix and told them that Thurlow was not a transient, but my beloved Uncle. I informed them to call the Frank Beuler Mortuary in Chandler to come and get his body. The next week the Phoenix police called and said I could pick up his belongings. Thurlow only had \$12 in his bank account. I withdrew that to use on his funeral expenses. He usually carried \$100 with him, but there was no money with him at the time of death.

Once when Uncle Thurlow was at Shirly's place, he wanted to buy a 25 cent stamp from her. He pulled wads of dollar bills from his pocket & was cussing because he couldn't find a quarter. Shirly said she was tempted to say, "I'll take one of your dollar bills." But she didn't.

In 1969 when we lived near Hightown, we moved from the wood house to a newly built brick house. We sold the wood house to someone who took it apart piece by piece. My brother Irving built the new house. We moved in the spring/summer of 1969.

I rode out to Maricopa with Mrs. Taylor. She'd been teaching there for 16 years. When we moved into our new house she suggested I buy new pajamas. I got pink ones. I still have them & I wear them sometimes.

It was really nice when I got to teaching and had money. Wendell and I never had any arguments about it. He paid the light bill and the water bill and the insurance. I bought the medicine and the food and paid the doctor bills.

When June came I got 3 paychecks from the school for the summer months. I put the chain link fence around our place with that money and I paid for the carpet in the new house.

I've kept a diary since I began dating Wendell in 1935. When we moved into the new dairy house I had to put them and other books into the old barn. There was a room at the SE end of the barn. My diaries and the books are precious to me. Someone went in the barn and threw a lot of the books outside on the East side of the barn. I went and gathered them up and brought them & put them into the house someplace. A lot of my diaries got sprinkled on and I can't read them.

My Mama always said to use pen or indelible pencil when writing your diary. Indelible pencil prints out purplish. If you put the tip in your mouth it will make your mouth purple wherever it touches. Indelible would be permanent unless of course somebody poured water on it, it would blur or wash out the ink.

After 3 years at Maricopa I then applied for a job in the Mesa School System as a teacher's aid and then as a librarian's aid. I chose the library job at Edison School under Audrey Tan who was librarian. The 2nd year I worked there we shared the school with another school, Eisenhower. Gladys Russell was the librarian for the other school. She came in and worked with us

in the morning doing her books. Audry & I worked from 7 'til 12 then we liked to go home. Gladys stayed with her school the rest of the day. Gladys & I still exchange Christmas cards.

I worked at Edison three years then became librarian for the Mesa School District and librarian for the holding school, which was at the old Mesa High School.

In 1971 when Sandra's son Glen was blessed we went to Utah for the blessing. I was wearing a black dress. I was holding him at the house and he puked all over my dress. All we could do was get a towel & wet rag and wipe it off. I went wet to the baby blessing.

Mesa Vocational School was being held in the old Mesa High building during its first year. The next year they had an opening as a Mesa schools librarian for the whole school district. I talked to Dr. Crandall about it. He gave me the job. They were creating a school, Emerson school, so I was the librarian in the morning for Emerson school. In the afternoon I'd be librarian for the whole district. I had been taking library science courses so when the job came open I was ready. So I organized that library at Emerson. Then I applied for the library opening at the Mesa Vocational School. My building was right across the street from Mesa Vocational School. Dr. Crandall was always coming across the street to my building and I'd ask him if he'd decided to have a library at that high school. He'd say no not yet. I kept asking the principal, Keith Crandall, when they would be starting up a library & that I wanted the job. Before the end of the school year, Mr. Crandall said yes they were going to have a library the next year and would I like the job. I applied for that job and got it. I organized that library, my third, and worked there for six years. Then we moved from one of the portables to the back of the lot where the office had been. They'd moved the office up front off 2nd Ave. in Mesa.

I got my hearing aid when I was working at Mesa Central. It was getting harder and harder for me to hear things. When the students would come up to the counter in the library I would lean over so I could hear them. One day one of the students said, "Mrs. Eyring, that wasn't what I asked you." I realized that my job depended on being able to hear. I only needed one at that time in my left ear. I wore that for about 10 years. It wore out and I didn't get a new one for a couple of years. Wendell kept bugging me to get a new one. I finally did. This time I had to get two. They cost a thousand dollars a piece. When I

came home with them and told Wendell I'd spent \$2,000 he about fainted. It was April the 15th and he'd just paid the income tax. It was a bad time to tell him, but that's when I finally got around to doing it. He asked me the cost and I told him. He didn't say another word.

Sometime before we moved to Mesa my birthstone ring & Gilbert High School class ring disappeared.

In June of 1979 we moved to 44 S. LeSueur in Mesa. Soon after we moved my sister Lurline asked me to help in the library. I was the librarian for about 15 years for the Mesa 11th ward.

Not long after Wendell & I moved to Mesa we began monthly get togethers with my siblings.

I retired 1981, but went on Mesa's Early Retirement Personnel, MERP, and served 5 years on that. I wanted to be a temple worker. I knew most of the librarians in the District so they'd ask for me when they needed a substitute. I worked 40 days a year under this program. It didn't do my ego any harm to work in the Mesa Public Schools. We got \$3,600 for 40 days, which averages out to about \$90 per day. I loved that job. I loved that money.

In the Mesa 11th Ward when Lurline was made Relief Society President she wanted a newsletter so she put me in charge. I put out the RIS Newsletter (Real Important Stuff). I did this until about 1994.

In 1991 when Mike was sick Shirley & I went to New Mexico for Mike's operation. The doctor thought they got all the cancer, but they didn't. We tried to make weekly trips to see him. We tried to take someone with us each week. We took April one week and Murr went one week. It was nice to visit with them as we traveled

In 1992-93 I noticed a lump in my neck. I was getting a double chin, but I hadn't gained weight. It hurt when I pushed on that part of my neck. My doctor sent me to an eye, ears & nose specialist. The specialist put a needle in and got a sample. He sent me to another specialist. About a month later I went to the Chandler hospital as an outpatient where a sample was taken. They took a piece out to really test it. They said, yes, it was cancerous. They didn't try to cut the lymphoma out because some times that lets particles loose in the body and the lymph system will carry the cancer to another place.

Chemotherapy was scheduled for 6 treatments in East Mesa. I never had a reaction. I did as well as could be. Each time they were able to give me the full treatment, 3 full bags of chemicals. When one bag would get empty they would get another. I just sailed through the treatments. You wouldn't even know unless I told you I was going through chemotherapy. I did so well I only needed 4 treatments. The doctor said I did fine and didn't need any more.

Not long after I began chemotherapy I'd wake up and find hair all over my pillow and stuff. When I fixed meals it would fall on the table and everything I touched. I just couldn't stand to have my hair falling on my food. So, I went over to Shirly's with my hair clippers. I said, "Well, you've always wanted to yank me bald headed; now here's your chance. Grab a hold." She wouldn't do it. She wouldn't pull it. I could pull it out by the handful. I didn't even feel it. One of the kids there did pull some out. As Shirly began clipping the hair one of the grandsons said, "Make Grandma a mohawk." I said, "Why not?" So she cut my hair in a mohawk. I had my camera there and took a picture of it. I'm all for doing funny things and making people laugh.

One time my grandson, Ryan Williams, came to Mesa & was visiting with me. We must have visited for 1/2 an hour. I accidentally touched my head and realized I was bald. I said, "Ryan, I forgot to put my wig on!" He said, "Well Grandma, I love you whether you're bald or not." In fact he hadn't made any comment about it until I did.

After chemotherapy I then had 20 treatments of radiation 1 time a week. I would lie on a couch and they put different size forms over my neck and face. They covered my teeth so they wouldn't rot. They just wanted to expose the area that would receive radiation. I went to Dr. Shaw, the same doctor where Wendell went for radiation treatments. I must treat my teeth regularly with fluoride for the rest of my life.

In the spring of 1994 as Pat, Wendell & I were traveling to St. George to see Tiffany & Keven Hansen bless their first baby we had car accident. I was hospitalized. My left femur was shattered. Nick & Karen came and stayed with me the day the doctor did surgery to set my leg. I stayed in St. George for about 2 months. Lurline called me every week to see how I was doing. I had so many visitors. I could hardly stand having Wendell leave me at the care center & go home to Mesa. All my loyal children came to see me at some point while I was in St.

George. I learned to walk again with a walker. When it was time to go home Wendell and our grand daughter Maralise Pond came to travel with me on the plane home.

In November 1994 the plate that was holding my leg together broke and so did the left femur. I had surgery to have it taken out. The doctor then inserted a rod into the femur to give it strength.

In the summer of 1995 I took a trip down to Tucson with my sisters. We went in Ila's car. We came back on the same day. It was a little car and I sat in the back seat both ways. I was really crunched. I developed a blood clot. About a week later I fainted. I was taken to Chandler Regional Hospital. It took over an hour for them to find out what caused it. My leg had been a little swollen.

Apparently it had the blood clot and part of that traveled to my lung, causing me to faint. The doctor advised that I not cross my legs or sit in a tight place like that again. I'm to sit up front and let someone else sit in back.

In summer of 1997 I became dizzy and it was hard to keep my balance. It was discovered I had vertigo. The doctor gave me some medicine to help keep me sedated. I took 25 mg of meclizine twice a day.

My favorite colors are blue, red and purple. My favorite foods are steak, gravy, coconut cream pie, strawberry & vanilla ice cream & bananas.

My favorite sport to watch is ice skating. My favorite animal is a cat. I like to read Louis L'Amour books. My favorite TV shows are General Hospital & Touched by an Angel. I also like All My Children & One Life to Live. I had a stroke in April 2001. After I got home in June 2001 I am no longer interested in Soap Operas. I no longer watch General Hospital, All My Children, or One Life to Live.

We come down here to Earth for three things; to get a body, learn about the gospel and spread it to others. God has a body like a person. He has lots of angels that help Him. Angels don't have wings. He does hear your uttered prayers. He knows what's in your heart. He knows what you're thinking. You need to think good as well as do good. I know the Church is true. My folks preached day & night about it, in every situation. All the time Mama was talking about the Book of Mormon, or something.

Whenever one of the children was by her she'd be telling us something. She talked a lot about the gospel in our home.

My Mama also read important books. I don't know how she got so much reading done. We had a kerosene lamp to read by when I was a child. She was always telling us the classics that she had read.

My favorite Old Testament character is Ruth. My favorite Book of Mormon character is Moroni. The Book of Mormon is my favorite book.

My favorite church songs are: We Thank Thee O God for a Prophet; A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief; I Am a Child of God & Oh, I Had Such a Pretty Dream Mama. Other songs I like are: I Walked Through the Garden Alone & Red Wing.

My favorite Easter song is from the tan Deseret Sunday School song book #250, published in 1942. I especially like the last line of the 1st verse.

**"Light of the morning is gilding the sky,
Shades of the night time are now passing by;
Earth is awak'ning from darkness and gloom,
Jesus has triumphed o'r sin and the tomb."**

My favorite church history character is Joseph Smith. He had courage to suffer to bring the gospel to us. I have love & respect for my ancestors who accepted the gospel while Joseph Smith was alive. They struggled to come to Zion and made it possible for me, my husband and my children to live in Zion. I'm glad to be living close to the Mesa temple.

My counsel to my family is to live every day as if it were your last- you might not have time to repent tomorrow.

My favorite patriotic songs are: The Battle Hymn of the Republic & The Star Spangled Banner. I enjoy John Philip Souza's patriotic music.

My favorite historical figure is Abraham Lincoln. He was a modest man and he freed the slaves.

SUMMARY

Race or nationality of parents: Caucasian
Religion: L.D.S.
Highest level of education attained: B.A. (Age 50 on completion)
Occupation: Teacher/librarian for 15 years
Places traveled outside United States: 1976-Great Britain; 1980-Israel; 1989-Russia

MEDICAL HISTORY:

My Father died at age 62 of cancer. My Mother died at age 62 of kidney failure.

Illnesses my blood relatives have had:
Diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, kidney disease, nervous illness.

Illnesses or conditions I have had:
Diabetes, Cancer, Pneumonia, Kidney Disease, Vein trouble, blood clot (1995), stress/nervousness mid 1970's, miscarriages early & late 1950's, vertigo

Serious injuries:
Spring 1994 left femur shattered
Fall 1994 plate that was put in to support shattered femur in leg broke & bone broke again, plate removed and rod inserted into femur
Jan 1999 right hip broken 3 pins put in

Immunizations: Smallpox, Tetanus

Operations:
Bone growth removed from over left knee (1944);
Three D&Cs (1968); Hysterectomy due to radical cells found on cervix (1968);
Bladder tacked up (1979);
Bleeding ulcer in rectum, 2 polyps removed (1979);
Lymphoma in neck successfully treated with radiation & chemotherapy (1992-93);
Right femoral artery cleaned out (angioplasty) (1998)
Right hip broken (1999)
Mastectomy, right breast (2000)
Skin Cancer (2000)

VERDA RAY EYRING
(Written in 1993)

PLACE BORN: I, Verda Ray, was born March 3, 1918, four miles south of Gilbert, Arizona. My parents were John Alexander and Juanita Stout Ray. My sisters are Winona R. Millet, Lurline R. Russell, Kathleen R. Palmer and Ila R. Fenn. My brothers are Irving 'J' Ray and Kennard Dewey Ray.

CHILDHOOD: I was raised on a farm. When I was ten years old my father bought ten cows and I milked cows until I went to ASTC in Tempe. We also chopped and picked cotton, pulled weeds, canned fruit, swam in ditches and had fun playing together. We took weekly turns tending the baby.

SCHOOLING: I attended the first grade in Chandler, AZ. Myrtle Riggs took me to school with her children. The next year we were put in the Gilbert School District and a bus picked us up. Wendell and I were in the same fourth grade. He moved back to Mesa the next year but I always remembered him as Wendell, with that funny last name. I skipped the 5th grade because the teacher had too many students. I was graduated from Gilbert High in May 1935. I attended ASTC for two years then as a postgraduate at Mesa High for one year. We were married June 10, 1938. After our tenth baby started school I attended the new MCC for one year, graduated, attended ASU the next year and graduated. I taught for three years at Maricopa Elementary while I obtained my library degree then became a librarian in the Mesa School District. I helped organize Eisenhower, Field and Mesa Central High School where I stayed until I retired at age 62. I loved the children so much that I stayed on Mesa's Early Retirement Program (MERP) for five years. Earning \$100 a day was an enticement also!

TRAVELS: As a child my family attended a Chandler Ward campout at Granite Dells, near Prescott. We also went to St. David, AZ to visit my Uncle Max & Aunt Floy Sadler, parents of Jean S. Crawford. During our married life we traveled to Salt Lake City for years to see our softball team win Church tournaments. We went to Scotland to pick up our son, Nick. In 1978 we took a bus tour of the United States. In 1980 we went to see the Passion Play in Germany, then visited Israel & Rome. For our 51st wedding anniversary we traveled to Russia. We have kept the roads hot visiting our children in Prove, Utah & Kirtland, New Mexico.

JOINED CHURCH: I was baptized into the Church on March 6,

1926. I am grateful that all my ancestors, that were alive at the time of Joseph Smith, joined the Church at that time! My grandfather's grandfather, Allen Joseph Stout, was a bodyguard to the Prophet Joseph Smith.

IMPORTANT LESSONS LEARNED: I have learned to pray, pay tithing, read scriptures, don't gossip, tell the truth, and make people feel good about themselves. Lesson not learned is to control my temper, etc.

PLACES LIVED: I lived in Chandler most of my life. We lived in Mesa for 4 years, moved back to Chandler, then moved to our present home in Mesa 14 years ago. The next home will be the Celestial Kingdom, I hope!

HOW MET SPOUSE: I met my spouse in the fourth grade in Gilbert. When he moved to the Chandler Ward in 1934, I rushed to ask him at the ladies choice dance that came along. I asked him if he remembered me. He said, "Are you Helen or Edna?" No, I was Verda and told him so. We started dating at the end of that school year. We dated for three years & were married in Salt Lake City June 10, 1938. We have ten children, Wendell Jr., Shirly, Sandra, Mike, Pat, Murr, Dixie, Nick, April and Twila.

HOBBIES: My hobbies are reading and photography, ever I since earned a camera selling Cloverline Salve when I was 12 years old. Since Twila went to college in 1979, I have a new hobby of writing a WENDELL H. EYRING FAMILY NEWSLETTER, published every month. I also have 10 talents that were pointed out to me by an artist after I complimented her on her artwork. She turned to me and asked if those were my children (Nick & April). After I said yes, she told me that she did not have that talent! Thus, 10 talents!!

VOCATION: My vocation is teaching. I started as Sunday School secretary when I was 15 yrs old. When I went back to college to major in Education they asked me why. I answered that I had been teaching for free for 35 years, & now I wouldn't mind getting PAID for teaching!

MISSION: I never went on a formal mission, but teaching the gospel to all I have, met has been my mission all my life.

I have had a strong testimony all my life. I know the gospel is true, that Joseph Smith was called of God, & that President Benson is a true prophet. THE GOSPEL IS TRUE, LIVE IT, LEARN IT, AND LOVE IT!

Funeral for Verda Ray Eyring Wednesday 5 February 2003

Presented by Twila Edith Eyring

-The house seems empty with Mom not there. But my life has been & always will be full & rich because of her. I know she influenced many of your lives for good also. By show of hands how many of you did she encourage to go to college, go through the temple or go on a mission? How many have received a letter or card from her? How many have eaten a meal at her table, gotten a hug or heard her say, "I love you?" For how many of you did she attend your baptism, graduation or wedding? It has really cramped her style these past couple of years to not be able to attend as many activities. She was very loyal to her family and to the Lord. Her influence for good will be felt for generations to come.

-She taught me so many things. Her favorite Easter song was from the tan Deseret Sunday School book. On the front of the program you find some of the words printed. I'll read part of the song to you. "Light of the morning is gilding the sky, Shades of the nighttime are now passing by; earth is awak'ning from darkness and gloom, Jesus has triumphed o'er sin and the tomb. Death is no long the master and king, Jesus is risen, His power we sing. Lives He for aye at the right hand of God; Heaven and glory are seen through the grave, since He has risen, and liveth to save." Mom taught me to have hope in Christ

-Mom loved her family & her Father in Heaven & the scriptures. Mom was blessed to have goodly parents who taught her the gospel of Jesus Christ. Mom said she had a strong testimony of God and His church all her life. Her parents taught her to pray. Mom's first experience of having a prayer answered was when she was about 10 yrs old. She lost her purse. She looked but couldn't find it. She decided to pray. Next she looked under one of the 10-gallon cans her Daddy had and there was the purse. She's had many prayers answered since then.

-If you want a prayer answered, tell Mom to pray for it. Her faith in the Lord was great & we knew He would listen to her. On the dairy there was an occasion when Dad was gone. Mom was helping one of the children. The milkers wouldn't work. Mother prayed & said to Heavenly Father that when she opened her eyes she needed to see what was wrong. That's just what happened. She opened her eyes & saw a lever that needed to be flipped. The milkers then worked. In later years her granddaughter Randa was in the hospital & had her appendix removed. We didn't want to

worry Mom so we didn't tell her until afterward. Mom simply said, "But I could have been praying for her."

-Mom taught her children about our Father in Heaven & His Son Jesus Christ. She knew that Joseph Smith was a prophet and that when Joseph prayed to know which church was right he truly saw God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ

-Mom helped me learn the Articles of Faith. The 1st one is: We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost. God has a body like a person. He has lots of angels that help Him. He does hear your uttered prayers. He knows what's in your heart. He knows what you are thinking.

-Mom loved her children enough to set the example and also to teach us so that we too could follow Christ into the waters of baptism. Mom taught that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, & by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof. Mom had love and respect for her ancestors who accepted the restored gospel of Jesus Christ while the prophet Joseph Smith was still alive. They took the steps needed to help make ours an eternal family. She taught her grandson, Bryant that home is wherever your family is. He is home now with his wife who is expecting a baby. I know Mom wants all her children and grandchildren to follow Christ so we can live as an eternal family with our Father in Heaven.

-Mom taught that the Bible & the Book of Mormon are the word of God. They testify that Jesus is the Christ, our Savior and Redeemer. He is the way, the truth, the light & life of the world. Because of Christ we will live again.

-Mom enjoyed life. She loved people. To Mom a stranger was just someone she hadn't yet met. There were no stepchildren, in-laws or ex-in-laws. She loved them all, Marilee, Lamar, Kit, Brenda, Diane, Dennis, Karen and Dan. They were all her children & grandchildren. She was full of charity for others. She taught us to work hard, be honest, keep your word, don't gossip or find fault with others. She taught us to have fun. We played many games of Rook and Spinners with her. She loved to jump in the pool and swim with us. She didn't even get upset when her grandsons picked her up and threw her in the pool. One thing she taught some of her grandsons was to NEVER sneak up and scare Grandma.

-Mom taught if there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things. Mom said you need to think good as well as do good. She taught me that it's important to avoid even the appearance of evil. Mom said we should live each day as if it were our last -we might not have time to repent tomorrow.

-There is a primary song that seems to cover what I learned from Mom.

'I lived in heaven a long time ago, it is true; Lived there and loved there with people I know. So did you. Then Heav'nly Father presented a beautiful plan, All about earth and eternal salvation for man.

'Father said he needed someone who had enough love To give His life so we all could return there above. There was another who sought for the honor divine. Jesus said, "Father, send me, and the glory be thine."

'Jesus was chosen, and as the Messiah he came, Conquering evil and death through his glorious name, Giving us hope of a wonderful life yet to be- Home in that heaven where Father is waiting for me.'

-Yes, our Heavenly Father is waiting for us. Mom is waiting for us also. She would want us to live clean, honest, virtuous lives and have a current temple recommend. Think right and do right. If we follow her example of integrity, sacrifice and duty to God and Family we will do well. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.