

The Memoirs of

Bernard Elden Knapp

Life Sketches of Bernie

The First Life Sketch was Written by Bernie Himself

Bernard Elden Knapp Born in Goshen, Bingham, Idaho Nov. 14, 1929

	year	years old
	30	1 lived in
	31	2 Goshen
	32	3
	33	4
	34	5
Started school at 5. dropped out/ill	35	6 moved to Rexburg
Marj taught 2nd gr, Sugar City/married	36	7 1st grade Rexburg
Thelma married Sept	37	8 move to Island P.
New Years Day moved. baptized Feb	38	9 start 2nd grade
Lived in our new log house at 347	39	10
Cleveland St. in North east I. F.	40	11
	41	12 Pearl Harbor
Attended O.E. Bell Jr high	42	13
	43	14
	44	15
Attended I. F. High school	46	17
	47	18
Idaho Falls High School graduated	48	19 Started Ricks
	49	20
	50	21
	51	22
	52	23
Graduated from Ricks 4 yrs BS degree,	53	24 drafted..Army
Endowed in I.F. Temple Nov. Shipped to West Germany	54	25
Barney died Mar. in June ran sawmill	55	26 mustered out
of Army in May, attended Utah State fall term		Ricks winter/spr
ran the mill; cut pulp wood in fall	56	27 moose permit
Attended USU/mission call to So. Far East	57	28 for 3 yrs.
	58	29 left in Mar.
	59	30
Returned in Nov. Barry leaves on mission	60	31 to Texas
Run the mill, Marj sells it to J.C.	61	32
Begin teaching Dr. Ed at UTC/Provo/degree	62	33 completed/BYU
Warren bought reg. Morgan stud..King	63	34
Bought 3 reg. Morgan mares/ traded 1	64	35 dated seriously
Met Sister Louise Andrus, returned from Taiwan at Christmas vacation in Pocatello, Ida at D.I. on way home for the vacation. Later got acquainted when she visited Chinese branch at the Y.		
Engaged in the spring/ married July 22 65 36 In I.F. Temple		
In August after our honeymoon in Island Park we moved into an old home on 6 1/2 beautiful acres tucked away against the east bench of the Provo Riverbottoms about 3 miles below Provo Canyon. (Edgemont 1st Ward) The Fawcett Field Canal ran through the property the year around cutting the upper half which was rocky and sloped from the lower part which was flat with deep rich soil. The 2nd year we had a neighbor, Ernie Tucker, bulldoze out the pear orchard and push the trees into a pile onto a small triangular corner above the canal to be burned. We planted alfalfa there, left the apple, plum, peach and cherry trees and divided the rest into pastures, built corrals and fenced 2 adjacent rented pastures. Our lane ran along the base of the hill above the stream to 3700 North.		

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In connection with what has been listed above the following comments will be added to supplement and expand some of the dates.

Ricks College. Whenever anyone asked if I was going to college near the end of my high school, I always said, Well, sort of matter-of-factly, I guess I'll go up to Ricks. Since Marj and Al had both gone there I think I always wanted to go there. But except for that incentive I really didn't have a desire to attend college. I had gone to ISU in Pocatello on senior sneak day and when I saw them serving beer on campus at booths set up in the gym I didn't want to go there for sure.

After a few days at Ricks following orientation which I enjoyed I left school, did not register and went back to work at the mill. I again went to Ricks to register for winter quarter and was disappointed by the classes available in Industrial Arts. And any shop classes were held at the old airport hanger on the hill, far above the campus. It was a long walk especially over the drifted roads. I was not impressed by the teacher, Hart, a nephew of Elden Hart of the school administration. So I dropped those classes. Since I had registered however, I could not leave without first going into the office of the president, John Clarke. He persuaded me to stay. I registered for other classes and stayed.

I moved into a basement kiddie-cornered from the 4th Ward chapel. I was there with Keith Larsen, a friend from my ward in Idaho Falls. There were 2 fellows there from Lost River. One was Bernard Tew. After a few days Keith and I felt the conditions in the basement were too crowded. They did put 2 many boys in the place and we found that 2 boys had moved out of coach Brick Parkinson's apartment. It was available and we took it. It was at the top of the street east of that same corner. We stayed there thru the winter quarter. In the spring we drove each day. I used my 35 Ford and on alternate weeks Keith drove his parent's 38 Ford. We had one passenger, Richard Brinkman also from our ward in I.F.

The next year I went to Ricks for Winter quarter. I think it was at this time, I became discouraged and was going to check out of school and had to go to the president's office and get his signature. He talked me into staying. It turned out to be a blessing to me. Then I didn't register for spring. Then when school ended I went out and stayed about a week in March at Uncle Jack and Aunt Evie's. She was always telling me every time I saw her, Come out and stay with us. So I did. We played pionacle after supper until bedtime. They always arose early. They had such a nice house and it was fun going with them to feed and the cows were beginning to calve. There were some heavy late snow storms.

Before school started the next year I got a letter from my county draft board. I was able to qualify for a deferment, because I had gone winter quarter, I had completed one full year of college and I signed up to graduate postponing the draft until after school and so I did that. From then on the next 3 school years I had to start in the fall term and go the year around. It turned out to be fun. I took Freshman English from Edna Ricks. I had learned and heard a lot from Al and Marjorie about her. I now was to learn a lot about them from her and a lot more about her one day in her

office. I signed up with Prof. Wendell Stucki as my major prof. and he helped me get thru. I graduated with a degree in Gen. Ag. and a minor in Animal Husbandry.

Ricks always had a great basketball team under Biddulph and then Brick Parkingson came up from Madison High to Ricks. At the end of the football season in 1952, he stopped me in the hall of the Spori bldg. one morning and asked that I come see him in his office. He offered me a scholarship if I would be the manager of the team for the coming season. That helped me get through my senior year. I had moved into the men's dorm that fall with 2 of my friends, also in the Ag dept. So I had room and board for the winter and the spring term. I had gotten rid of my Fords. Dad was using the '39 Ford. I had gotten a '42 DeSoto club coupe. When I went to the Army in July I left the DeSoto for dad to drive.

When I came home from leave in Nov. after 16 weeks of basic in Ft. Ord I drove it on a few dates. While at home I went to the temple and received my endowments. Then I flew to Camp Joyce Kilmer N.J. and toured downtown NYC in a taxi from the air port to camp. I saw the Statue of Liberty from a troop ship as we left the harbor and I was surprised to see the city sights. I was surprised to learn that Joyce Kilmer was a man. He was author of the poem, Trees which was made popular as a song by the Sons of the Pioneers.

I spent Thanksgiving in Saarbrucken. Then I was in Frankfurt and assigned out to Friedberg to the Sixth Army Field Artillery Battalion. Then I was there until time to ZI in May of 1955. I took 3 leaves while there. 1st I went to Holland. Next to Cairo, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Greece, Italy and home thru Switzerland where we saw the temple in Zollikofen (Bern). Later I went to Switzerland, Paris, England, Holland and back to Germany. I left the battalion from Grafenwoher, thru Bremerhaven. It was nice to see the ocean without a ripple as we entered the NY harbor. As we left South Hampton the luxury liner the Queen Mary was coming into dock. When we came into New York harbor the same ship was leaving the harbor there. It seemed strange to imagine it was that much faster than the ship we were on.

As we came up to dock there were parents and family waiting for our ship. Some had signs with the names of the GI s the came to meet. Guys on our ship called down to them...he's not here, he jumped ship or he fell off and got drowned and all kinds of trash talk. It was funny. We went straight to a troop train. We stopped in Chicago. Some of us LDS stayed together. We took a walk along Michigan Ave. We could see Lake Michigan. It was the first time I'd seen a 6 or 8 lane highway. We were on the sidewalk. All at once one of the guys hollered..Look ! there's comrade! And we looked and there was a Volkswagen bug among all the other cars. Next morning we were in Colorado. Even sand and dirt blew into the train at times and then I looked out as it got daylight and saw Hereford range cows with calves trailing along. I wondered what they could find to eat in such a desolate looking place.

We arrived at Camp Carson. We were given a three day pass and told to come back on Monday. Ahead of us there was a group of men that were being terminated from the army. The army had decided about a year before that RA's (career men) with an IQ less than a prescribed amount would no longer be allowed to reenlist. And

they anticipated the time to muster them out would be so much slower than normal that we may as well wait off base. On Monday everything went smoothly and quickly. Several of us from Idaho and Utah went to Denver, got a hotel, shopped for cars. We got a ride to Denver by a fellow I'd known in Friedberg that came home earlier when his wife was sick. He'd been in our branch. I got a 49 Mercury with over-drive. I learned for the 1st time that you had to have car insurance. I got it as did the other guys from Preferred Risk, a company that only insured non-drinkers. I also learned I could not drive in Colo. since my Idaho license had expired. I had a valid military license which they did not accept in that state. We got our mustering out pay. Went to Denver, picked up our cars and headed home. Some of the other guys had valid licenses and drove until we reached Wyo. I could then drive too and we went to Ft. Hall where Norman Reese go off. Then a Brown from Thornton went the rest of the way with me. His parents met him at my folks place. I was home. Then it was to Island Park for the summer.

That fall I was at Utah State. It was a great fall. So many colors in Sardine Cyn. After one quarter, Morris Wright, one of my roomies in the Ricks dorm lived in the Delta Phi house. We were assigned to student teach in Vo Ag in Box Elder County the winter quarter. But we did not go back to school. I spent the winter and spring quarters at Ricks. I soon moved up there. I was glad to get out of our ward and go back to a college ward.

The spring I came back from Taiwan I went to the mill. Marj was there only part-time and the girls came up and cooked some of the weeks. Vic Erickson, a friend of David and Barry worked there. She hired cutters and haulers to clean up the section on Split Creek. Then she sold the mill to J.C. Stimson and we moved it over there. David came up and helped load the carriage and some other things with the Quik-way. While lifting logs from the stacks they unloaded full length trees. We measured and bucked them. Then put them on the skidway with the Quik-way. That was one of the most fascinating jobs I've ever had. It was real fun. But one needed to have an alert and nimble person running the tongs. It could get a bit ugly and uncomfortable otherwise. Dad was not fun to work with on this job. And Vic was careless. I knocked his feet out from under him one day as a pulled a log along and he didn't look and it caught a limb as it passed and took his feet out from under him.

I spent one fall after the mill was closed down cutting pulp wood for an outfit out of Wisc. Warren worked for them. I worked enough to pay for the Homelite chain saw that I got from them. It was rather fun. I hunted about as many days as I cut that fall. It was one of the most successful years I ever had hunting.

I will attempt sometime to rewrite some of the details of other experiences that took place during these years.

Life Sketch for Bernard Elden Knapp (Bernie)

Bernie was born November 14, 1929 in Goshen, Idaho. His father is Justin Willis Knapp and his mother is Mabel Fidelia Hale Knapp.

Bernie is the 9th of 9 children. Two of the children died in infancy. They were Justie and Marie. Those who grew up were: Claudia married Arch Hess. Warren married Carol Unsworth and divorced then married Beth Davidson. Marjorie married Bernard (Barney) South. Thelma married Elmer Snowball and later divorced then married Ken Johnson. Anna married Paul Walker and later divorced and then married Deloy(Slim) Yorgenson. Justin Alma (Al) married Lois Call. Bernie married Louise Andrus.

Bernie graduated from Idaho Falls High School in 1948 and then attend Ricks College where he majored in General Agriculture with a minor in Animal Husbandry and graduated in 1953. He was drafted into the United States Army in July of 1953. He was inducted in Fort Lewis, Washington. While there for about 10 days President Eisenhower signed the armistice with North Korea. He was sent to Fort Ord, CA for basic training in heavy weapons infantry. This assignment gave him an additional 8 weeks of basic training. Most of his group went to Korea but he and some others went to Germany where they were in the occupation army. In Germany he was assigned to the 29th field artillery battalion in Friedberg, Germany, near Frankfurt West Germany. While there President Eisenhower reduced the service time from 24 months to 22 months so Bernie was released in May of 1955 at Fort Carson, Colorado. In March of 1955, Marjorie's husband, Barney died from a heart attack while shoveling snow off the buildings in Island Park. When Bernie returned home, he ran the sawmill for Marj.

Bernie then went to school in Logan at Utah State University in the fall of 1955 for fall quarter on the GI bill. He went home and then returned the next year for winter quarter. He studied to get a teaching certificate in Zoology. He did not complete getting the certificate before he got his mission call. He drove to Salt Lake City in his Volkswagon bug for an interview at the Church Office Building with Bruce R. McConkie of the Seventy. He went home until he reported to the mission home in 1958. He was set apart by S. Dilworth Young, a seventy. His parents were present. Elder Young invited his father to stand in for the setting apart.

He served a mission for the LDS Church in the Southern Far East Mission with headquarters in Hong Kong. His mission president was H. Grant Heaton who was 6 months older than Bernie. He served his time in Taiwan. He served from March of 1958 to November of 1960. His mission call was for 36 months but before he completed that time, the church reduced the time to 30 months. Under his mission President Robert Taylor Bernie was allowed to stay 3 extra months.

After returning from his mission Bernie worked for Marj at the mill. Barry (Marj's son) was on his mission. David (also a son) was married and building a subdivision in Idaho Falls. Bernie and his dad helped Marj with the mill until it was sold that summer. Bernie then cut pulp wood while staying at the mill site until time for school.

He attended BYU from 1961 to 1962 where he completed getting his teaching certificate, a major in Zoology with a minor in Botany and Driver Education

He signed a contract to teach school in Shelley, Idaho for school year 1962-63. He was home and got a phone call from BYU professor Shaw. He told Bernie he had recommended Bernie to Utah Technical College for an opening in their driver education program. He went to Provo and was interviewed and soon received notice that he had been selected to teach. He notified the Shelley school district that he would not be coming there. He moved to Provo

Bernie taught driver education from 1962 until he retired in 1988. He later worked for the same college doing the same job as a part time employee

He married Louise Andrus in the Idaho Falls Idaho temple on July 22, 1965. They have 9 children. Lisa married John Briggs and have 5 children 2 grandchildren and are expecting another grandson. Willis married Jennifer Lyon and the have 9 children. Justin married Megan McClennen and they have 3 children. Shuan. Josphe married Merrianna Clark. They have 4 children. Ruth married David Calabaro. They have 5 children. Jess married Lindsay Murphy. They have 4 children. Kathy married Tommy Thorp. They have one son. Tim.

Bernie grew up in Idaho Falls and in Island Park. He worked with his father who worked for Barney South in the timber and running a saw mill in Island Park.

After finishing school at BYU he went to work for Utah Technical College (Now UVU) as a drivers education instructor. He worked there until he retired in 1988.

Bernard “Bernie” Elden Knapp

(November 14, 1929 - May 29, 2015)



Upon returning home from the missionary service he attended Brigham Young University from 1961 to 1962 and completed his teaching certificate with a major in Zoology and a minor in Driver's Education. A professor at BYU recommended Bernie to Utah Technical College in Provo, Utah (now Utah Valley University). Bernie taught Driver's Ed from 1962 until he retired in 1988, and later worked part time at the same institution.

Bernie was born November 14, 1929 in Goshen, Idaho. The youngest of nine children born to Justin Willis and Mabel Fidelia Hale Knapp. Bernie passed away at his home in Provo, on May 29, 2015 of natural causes incident to old age. He had been in declining health since a fall in December.

Bernie grew up in Idaho Falls and Island Park, Idaho. Bernie graduated from Idaho Falls High School in 1948. He attended Ricks College where he majored in General Agriculture with a minor in Animal Husbandry and graduated in 1953. He was drafted into the United States Army that July. He was assigned to the 29th field artillery battalion in Friedberg, Germany and served until May 1955. Upon release from the service Bernie attended Utah State University in the fall of 1955 and studied to get a teaching certificate in Zoology. Prior to completing his degree he received a call to serve in the Southern Far East Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The mission was headquartered in Hong Kong, Bernie served in Taiwan from March 1958 to November 1960.

He married Louise Andrus in the Idaho Falls Temple on July 22, 1965. He passed away just short of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They have nine children: Lisa, Willis, (Jennifer Lyon), Justin, (Megan MacLennan), Geoff (a miscarriage known to some family members as a magnificent spirit who ranks among the guardian angels who watch over family members), Shaun, Joseph, (MerriAnna Clark), Ruth, (David Calabro), Jess. (Lindsay Murphy), Kathy, (Thomas Thorpe) and Tim. They have 35 grandchildren and three great grandchildren with one more due in July. Bernie delighted in his posterity.

He loved missionary work and was pleased that seven of his children and two of his grandchildren, thus far, have served faithful missions for the LDS church.

Bernie was a talented artist and specialized in oil landscapes featuring mountains, streams, wildlife and evergreen trees reminiscent of his beloved Island Park. He also did some miniatures on porcelain.

He loved horses, wildlife, pine trees, driving, and caring for the elderly in his neighborhood.

He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings: Claudia, Warren, Marjorie, Thelma, Al, Marie and Justie. He is survived by his sister Ann Yorgensen.

Due to family circumstances with some of Bernie's sons being overseas the funeral will be delayed one month and will be held in July. The viewing will be 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2015 at the Provo Bonneville Stake Center, 85 South 900 East, Provo, UT. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Thursday, July 2, 2015 preceded by a viewing from 9:00 to 10:30 am at the same location. Interment will be at the Marion, Utah cemetery.

The family wishes to thank iCare Hospice, especially his nurse Kandy Jonas Rogers, for their attentive care in the final days of Bernie's life.

As a tribute Bernie's love for missionary work and generosity in supporting that cause the family is requesting donations to the LDS missionary fund in lieu of flowers.