

The Memoirs of

Bernard Elden Knapp

Mabel Claudia Knapp Hess'
Funeral

Aug 27th 1983

Claudia's funeral

In the morning I went to the school where I drove with two groups of students that were anxious to finish their driving and because of their work were not usually able to drive except evenings and Saturdays.

I came home and did some shopping, ran a few errands. Late in the day I came home an hour or so before dark. @ 8:30 p.m. and when I walked in the house Grandma, Louise's mother, said "Louise has a message for you. She's in her bedroom. I carried some things I was carrying in my arms to the kitchen. It may have been a box of plates. I'd just bought a box of "overripe" at the Allied fruit barn on North University Ave. near the BYU farm.

When I walked into the kitchen, Joseph was eating cereal along with Kathy, Tim and perhaps Jess or Ruth. He blurted out - "Dad, Claudia Hess is dead."

When I walked into the bedroom after setting down the box Louise told me that my mother Al, had called a while before to let me know of Claudia's death. The message was she had fallen on her steps and broke her neck.

Not long after I was home a phone call came from Kandi Jonas who was studying nursing at the UofU in SLC to confirm this. We talked with her and I arranged to meet her in SLC at

her apartment at about 56 South 700 East
and ride with her to Stelly,

So the next morning Sunday I drove
my little Toyota pick up to SLC and
left it in her parking space around 1:00.
We drove to the SLC airport to meet
Eleanor Here Sorensen. She flew in from
Seattle. She adheres to a strict salt
free diet. She had made up some
special sandwiches but forgot and left
them at home on her kitchen counter.
She was very hungry so we stopped in
Bountiful for gas and she also went to
a Skaggs or Safeway store for some
fresh fruit and at McDonalds where
she waited until they could cook some
French fries (potatoes) and get her an order
before salt was added.

We drove on. I continued driving until
we reached a rest stop at Brigham City
on the free way. Then Kandi drove. Eleanor
remained in the back where she kept
her feet elevated on the seat. They were
swelling and were itching and there was
discomfort from the swelling of the legs
making the skin over her feet and
ankle stretch and sting.

Past the crossroads intersection at
Tremonton there was a detour at the
Mojad River. Kandi didn't heed the
signs nor recognize the sharpness
of the turn which was also downgrade.
She drove into it so fast that she
had to brake in the turn and all four

(Tues)
wheels squealed as she steered hard to the right to keep the car on the road. It was a large Ford station wagon, I instinctively and habitually grabbed hold of the steering wheel to steady it thru the turn.

Kandi hadn't really driven all that much and had been velocityed by the free way and highway speeds. She'd been pushing 65-70 and didn't adjust down to the sharp curve at the detour sign. On our way back to Utah I noticed that she heeded the detour sign and had apparently learned a lesson, not an uncommon event for a beginner. One time in teaching a high school group a student put this on a poster as a theme - Learn by the mistakes of others - you don't have time to make them all yourself.

While traveling it gave Eleanor and I a chance to visit and talk about a lot of things that had happened a long time before. She told of being snowed in when they lived at lower Presto below Gaston and her grandfather "Daddy Ace", came on his saddle horse and brought a sack of oranges. She remembered living in Reyburn in a Mrs. Fisher's home, at which time Arch was away working.

There was a time after Claudie's marriage and Eleanor was tiny that their finances were all used up and each of them went back for a time and lived with their respective parents until they were

again able to get work and locate a house to move into.

Then she told about her trip to France with Claudia. She said her son-in-law "Rhiney" was amazed at Claudia's stamina. She wouldn't have it any other way except to climb the tower of a famous tall cathedral in Europe. It was many many steep steps in a narrow rounding stairwell to the top. They met people coming down that were tired and indicated they would go up again. It just wasn't worth it. But Claudia climbed on. Rhiney was tired and "amazed" at Claudia's stamina. And so was Eleanor who had tried to talk her out of it.

Shopping along the streets past the many small shops - Claudia would talk away at the merchants who only spoke French. Laura would say "Siemna, they can't understand you. Claudia would answer back - "well they smiled didn't they".

It was a nice trip for Claudia. About the end of May Claudia returned from sewing a year mission in Oakland Calif. While there she met Steve Knapp's youngest son Kurt (Curt) - who was in the same mission. Then she also met Aunt Finnie's grandson Jon Slawgost Slawgost Slawgowsky who lived in the ward she attended. She also saw Bunker Cox who had worked for her father, Justin Knapp while Bunker was attending Rick at the time

Claudia was still in grade school in Hibbard. The many stories of Bunker especially in helping to cause a raging bull that had gotten out of Dad's barn and into the orchard made Bunker a legend among our family.

Claudia came to Plover in July to attend the funeral of Zaratouko. Zara was our oldest cousin on mother's side. She stayed at our place for two nights and after the funeral where we met all of Zara's nephews and nieces and her son Jess and his wife and Melba the surviving sixth we went to St. C to see Marcia and her mother Lella Hale Johnson, mother's only living sister. We had not seen her for many years. She seemed healthy and alert. She as always kept busy with crafts and handiwork. Claudia was elated for the chance to have this visit. Then I drove to Karoli's apartment where she and her littlest mother were waiting to see Claudia. Later she would take her to the bus terminal. (next day).

Eleanor especially mentioned she couldn't really accept the idea that when she got to Shelley her mother wouldn't be at the house. The following week she had scheduled a flight to I. F. to spend at least 1 week of her vacation visiting with Claudia.

When we arrived there Shaaleen's van was in the driveway and also Claudia's little Opel. Karoli pulled in behind them and stopped the station wagon about 1/2 way over the sidewalk. Before we could get out

Nikki came out of the house with a man she introduced as her new husband. Cherie's boys were there and some grandchildren of Sharlene's and Cherie was there almost with in a minute walking from her home.

Immediately a discussion ensued about funeral arrangements. Within the next few minutes - Nikki said " Mom just told me last week she didn't want any speakers - just music at her funeral." She repeated that several times in the next 15-20 minutes.

Then the girls mentioned that Sharlene had gone ahead and tried to set up speakers with the bishop. When asked about a viewing on the evening prior to the day of the funeral - Cherie emphatically stated there would be none.

~~Eleanor~~ Eleanor had indicated she wasn't anxious to see her mother. She sort of dreaded the idea of seeing her. Then one of Cherie's boys said Sharlene had taken the key to the safety deposit box and said she was going to see to it that it was kept in a safe place. That upset Nikki + Cherie.

On the trip to Shelley Eleanor had mentioned she was the named the administrator of the estate in Claudia's will since she was the oldest. Berett was either co-admin. or alternate,

So I called Al. He was at a meeting and wouldn't be home for a while. Kandi then drove me to Al's place. I told Kandi I hope they can do some compromising. Beidett was expected by car to arrive the next day.

I stayed at Al's that night on their living room couch. Al was a member of the bishopric and since he was a sealer in the I.F. Temple had been asked to speak that evening in the final session of a temple project class that had been taught in their ward.

The next morning I went with Al for a ride on his horses. He saddled his bay mare Lucky and brokekin Misty and we rode around a couple of fields near his home. He had a nice chestnut colt from a younger mare out of Lucky.

Lucky is about 21 years old and still wants to please some and get out and go. The new colt is out of Warren's stud a polevino out of Imp and King. He is now 7 years old. unbroken - unriden, at least - but built and acts just like King. He's a singer for him except for color. Al had me help him start the 64 Chrysler and I drove it to Shelby.

We spent some time visiting with the girls. They had Al on the list for the dedicatory prayer for the grave.

I was listed to read the life sketch. We agreed to take part of course.

On the way to Shelley, Eleanor had mentioned that Lorna had said as she left her at the airport - Whatever you bring back out of that house make sure you bring the genealogy records.

I had told Eleanor I was interested in writing a life story of my mother. It would be nice to have access to mother's book that Claudia had to document much of her life's experiences.

When I told Al & Marjorie they felt that the records should be kept. So Al told Stanley & Eleanor that he felt Claudia was the historian of our group along with Marjorie and that the records should remain with the family in Idaho with of course access to copies from the originals to anyone who would want them.

I know at the time Claudia was in Pismo she'd mentioned that all those records she'd left in a trunk while she was on her mission and hadn't yet unpacked it. We found however that she had unpacked the trunk since her trip to Pismo and they (the books) were on shelves in a closet in the back bedroom. I looked and found mother's books with the pictures of J. Park & children & relatives.

The next step was to actually take possession of them without any hard feelings etc. I persuaded Al & ~~Lorna~~ ^{Marjorie} to go to the house following the viewing on Tuesday evening and take the records to May's place.

On Tue a.m. I went to Claudia's to see about working out the ~~life history~~^{life sketch} with two girls - Stanlene had a roughly typed life history by Claudia. We used it as a guide. They informed me I was not giving the life sketch since none of Nikki's children were taking part they wanted Cary Bauer to give it. So he did. We spent about 3 hours working out the details. Cheryl did the writing.

When I arrived there on Tue a.m. Beckett's wife + Kandi were sorting books, they threw everything they thought was genealogy into a large trunk in the basement. They didn't get into the bedroom closet.

Also many items were carried in boxes to the garage for an anticipated garage sale. I asked about a large spithoon shaped bowl which my mother had probably obtained from her mother. It was China and had been used as a sugar bowl and a cookie bowl. None of them were interested in it. So I took it to Al's. They asked if I had anything else I wanted. I brought my 400 day clock and German Doll which I'd sent Claudia from there home with me.

Late they agreed to let Maj. know ahead of the public ~~going~~^{coming} to the garage sale. There was a possibility they'd find a Dutch boy + girl doll set and a George + Martha Washington set and also

a glass slipper which Dad sent home from Kansas,

On Monday night I met Lisa at the home at Beesley's Corner. She & Namette had been going thru after school and helping sort, catalogue, type etc around the office. Susan's husband was working there.

David said I could drive the ^{Dodge} van while I was there so Lisa and I left in it. We drove to the Right golf course and I tried by memory to find a guy named Dennis Dahl who had kept Lammie on a lease when we left Idaho and moved back to Provo. I couldn't find him. One lady at a home knew he'd moved but did not know where. He was still in the ward. Well she tried to call them and the number was no longer in service.

The next day Lisa asked Kiedaright at school for their phone number. Thus I was able to call him. He told me Lammie hadn't made it thru the winter. Said something about getting into a fence and having to be put away. Also she was quite thin and poor. She'd never settled so he'd received no extra funds. Well it seemed rather sad. He said he hadn't known how to get in touch with me at the time.

So I learned that the next day on the phone. Then Lisa & I drove to Women's

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place along the new highway above Fall River on the way to Astoria. We saw Warren & Monee out working Silver and choring goats and rabbits. We visited a while then Beth came home and we visited until after dark. about 2:00 pm we left and drove to the little. I did talk to Sheila (Fife) Mason on the phone. She had a little boy now also - seemed happily married it would seem.

We visited a little while with David and went to bed. Next morning I took the kids to the school bus. Then I visited with Susan.

Kandi had gotten some names of songs from Claudia that she liked and the family had talked to Mary about having her and all family give most of the music. One piece called intermezzo was a waltz piece, Al & I and Mary spent quite a bit of time in her office trying to locate the music. Charles did not have it in stock. Some was out of print. Susan kept searching. They found an old song book that contained some in it. Then Susan called a lady head of J.F. symphony. She was leaving to go to the temple. When she went home that afternoon she found the piece for Susan. Susan got it zexed off and took it to Ellen Knapp - Alan's wife to release.

One number from the hymn book was sung by a quartet - David, Barry, Randy, & Alan. Doug gave a brief but nice talk.

Judy Smith sang a solo. One of the songs Kandi requested. The boys sang the song from the hymnal.

Jamie + Kirby both sang a number and used a guitar for accompaniment. Kandi read some poetry.

I called Nelder - at the funeral home and asked that there be an evening viewing. He said he only followed the family's instructions. I also noted from Wanner's paper that the paper listed Mabel Hess in the obituaries. I told Nelder that. He said - Well I do what the family wants. Finally after I explained all & I had talked to Sharon and Cherie about a two evening viewing ~~to~~ on Monday pm and it was agreed agreeable with them if we wanted to be there - I explained we'd be there and in fact Mary + Al had arrange substitutes for that evening at the temple for that purpose he said well we'll just arrange to have someone at the funeral home and hold it open.

So then I called the Post-Register in IF and told them I'd like to see a correction for the obituary column. They finally put the city editor on the line and after explaining no one knew Mabel Hess she said she'd put in a correction. Then I asked her to also add that on two even from 7-8:30 public could call at the funeral home. So that came out in the two evening paper.

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That night Tues Lisa was scheduled to have her patriarchal blessing bestowed at 7:30. In the morning after Judy's mother who was visiting with them after holding their families reunion that the week before cooked my breakfast I left ~~for~~ to talk with the patriarch. He didn't answer his phone because he was out tending to watering his lawn. I stopped at his home and visited briefly, I explained why I was there and why we would like to change the time. He said he could have us come at 5:30 since he had another person coming at 6:30.

So I showed up from Claudia's place after working on the life sketch and met at his home. His wife had died about 1 year before. He said they'd filled a mission in New Mexico - he pushed her in the wheelchair ~~where~~ they went. I was surprised. He knew Al - he'd also been an officer or worker at the temple. He was quite elderly. Judy & Lisa came but Lisa had left the house without her recommend so they called Robin. She'd bring it down.

David showed up about the same time as they did. He finally left to meet Robin and brought the recommend. The pd. Ben Wm Barrett used a hearing aid but read without the aid of glasses. He appeared somewhat feeble when he walked but his mind was alert. He visited briefly with Lisa and then explained some

things to her about two sacredness of the blessing and what it was for and how she should prayerfully consider & ponder its contents. Keep it private and sacred. He asked why she wanted it? what it meant to be a Letter-Day-Saint? What school courses she liked and what she'd pursue in college. She had good answers and like serimony & drama best of all and wanted to study drama at Ricks. She was given a nice blessing.

As I left his home and started for IF I saw my' half a block ahead drive past thru an intersection. I caught her in about 3/4's of a mile. She stopped then. I left the van and rode with her. We went to Al's. He'd just left. So we went on to Shelley.

A lot of people came, many from the high school in Shelley. People that would have been working the next day and would not have been able to come. Our cousin Vida came. She said she'd seen the paper Monday nite and did not plan to come because of a previous appointment Wed. Then she just happened to glance at that night's paper - saw the missing listed with the connection and jumped into the stamper and webbed down.

Truly there were a lot of good friends and several of Archie's family both on his dad's & mother's side that came. While talking with Dader he informed me

that the bishop came to the family, Claudia was co-chairman of a word party scheduled for Tues evening, He said well have to reschedule the word party, Well Chris said no - mom wouldn't want you to do that. So they left it as it was, So Jamie & Kirby were on the program and two girls living in Shelley all attended that party, none not even Starkens came to the viewing, Claudia looked wonderful.

We stayed until nine. People still came. Lisa had invited a boy that first date dated from Rexburg to the dome to meet me. He presently was attending Ricks, So he had to leave and go home before I returned with my car.

Thelma & Shirley Ann came down and spent Tues night at Majones, Shirley bought a son & his friend to enroll at Ricks college also, they went on to Pocatello where Thelma signed the closing papers on the sale of her home there, at a time when so many houses are for sale it seemed fortunate she was able to sell it so readily.

That night I persuaded my & al to go get the books (mother books and records), First Eleanor led us to the home mart where we ~~loads~~ carried out a loaded truck, then I took them to the bedroom to the closet. We quickly lifted the record books there, Claudia had recently labeled them, So we satisfied Eleanor

by leaving several large volumes of Her records, Al's mother's records and Claudia's books of their family. But we came among with a book labelled Hendricks - and Hall and Knapp seemingly it and also mother's book. I was glad when they were in Maij's possession. Following that, Al turned over several pistols to Eleanor. She would give them to Berlett. A pearl handled 38 police special and a pearl handled 22.

Eleanor & Maij talked for maybe an hour after Al left. I rode home and the next morning took Lisa to Rigby High school. As I was going to leave someone needed the van. So I wound up driving Robin & Mike's Cadillac. It seemed to heat up after Al stopped I noticed it so I took it to the shop to be checked. It seemed alright. The air conditioning radiator was very dirty. They blew it out. I drove it to Shelly to the funeral home after picking up my belongings at Al's place.

all of Al's kids came except Kaye. It was especially good to see Karla again. The service went well. I was glad Dix Kelsey was there. He gave the opening prayer. He apparently was remarried and had a lady and a little girl was with him that I'd never seen before.

~~There~~ there were quite a few at the 11:30 viewing. Rex Hall came.

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Ann came Tues evening with Billy Walker & his wife. Bill was about to go to Alaska for work when a job opened up on a Snake River bridge in Blackfoot that gave him some work. Bill is a tender hearted kid. He had to work on Wed. Sandra's daughter came to the viewing. Teresa. She had a little boy that reminded you of some of Ann's boys when they were small.

Aunt Elsie came with a poem to be read which was overlooked by Cary Bauer. Probably he was so nervous he forgot to read it. Vera came & Harold & Rulon came with Elsie and the lady that lives in their home.

They recognized Ann & Thelma.

Women's ~~lunch~~ Steve came.

Mary told me of going to the Temple for Steve's oldest son's wedding a few weeks before. There was Craig & Cary and 5 or 6 recently returned missionaries present all from their same Ashton ward. What a wonderful site - all those cute boys in the Temple from Ashton - Sharon & Natalie came.

It was good to see all of them. Bertlett seemed to show some pleasantness when some of the older people from Preston & Shelly came that he remembered.

Warren gave the family prayer. His voice did it have much volume. He asked all to crowd in close for that reason. At ^{quiet} the ~~funeral~~ cemetery it was a warm sunny ~~good~~ day. I commented to Yvonne - how it had been so cold when Arch was buried. This had been a ~~great~~ nice pleasant funeral.

One of Berdett's friends from Boise was there. He'd been there when Arch was buried also. He said they did a visit long in the cemetery that day. You've said - see why you weren't on the program. I said yeh! Maybe we'd still be back in the church. So she let the cat out of the bag why ~~we~~ I was taken off the program. But I really didn't mind.

Doug Kropp really gave a nice talk. Pleasant and poignant.

Doughal sent a ~~two~~ picture book of Argentina to Claudia while on his mission. When the kids sorted her books they kept it out for Doug.

One Tues a.m. I helped Berdett start the Chrysler. He ^{charged} the battery - worked it and the pallbearers rode in it in the procession.

All these years Claudia hung onto it for Berdett. Berdett has several cars. A few years ago he gave a Volvo to Cherie. He decided now he doesn't need or want the Chrysler - no doubt it is a better built car than is manufactured today. But it has set. It needs a muffler and tail pipe. Who knows when radiator & heater hoses would go out on it. So he was asked about it. Al had offered to buy it from Claudia - not for himself but Alan had shown some interest in it. David said to let Berdett know he'd be interested in it if they weren't expecting to keep it. And Stanlene indicated she

Knew this guy that fixed or restored older cars and he'd be interested. Later she even indicated she'd be interested but I don't know if really for herself or to acquire it then to for him or if she did feel it was a sentimental item to her, that's a little doubtful.

Well the last that was said by Berdett was he'd leave it to be sold as part of the estate and the girls could decide who would buy it and no mention of price was ever mentioned.

One thing for sure inside it was still immaculate, the outside was still in original paint. If one could put it into a garage for another 20 years or so and protect the looks it would maybe be worth a small fortune at a future time. It would have to be a worthwhile investment if one had a place to store it. So who knows what will happen. If it was going to be used it should have some attention new oil, antifreeze and maybe automatic transmission fluid.

Shaleen said Claudia got Dix to get the car licensed for her, after he left and went back to Calif - she said "I wish I'd had Dix license that car while he was here." Shaleen said - "well he did." And Claudia asked - "well, where are the papers then." They found them on a kitchen shelf.

Claudia had become forgetful, about a lot of little current things - the kids figured it was hardening of the arteries -

So it was a blessing she could go as she did.

Sp. Kellogg's wife told me they'd seen Claudia and wanted to see her 5-7 times over a 3 day period. Tom & Brenda Thorne had seen her walking her dog daily. Huntsman had seen her about 4:00 pm at their store and one lady had sat next to her at tree child's funeral that afternoon.

Someone finally concluded - whether a professional or not I don't know but they said she cut her neck from the fall - but it didn't bleed - meaning she was dead when she fell. It seemed to be pretty well agreed she did suffer from a stroke and probably fell as a result. From her back porch she fell out thru the screen door and onto the 2 or 3 cement steps onto the driveway, just before that she'd taken some scraps over to Cherie's chickens. Talked with Cherie, Mrs. Olsen at the Bank had seen her on Friday. She was in the bank and appeared tired. Some say Claudia wasn't walking as easy and easily as she had usually walked. In the letter she sent me. She did indicate that she felt very tired -

When the bishop came he said, well, she deserved this. Of course he knew what she had gone thru caring for and watching arch sink. She was spared of suffering herself, and went quickly. In the squabbles and troubles of her girls -

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it would have been painful to have laid partially paralyzed perhaps - listening to families problems and more especially if it involved what to do with and how to care for oneself they might be discussing.

Sharlene, Niki, and ~~Chae~~ and even Judy had all been divorced - Niki while Claudia was in Calif. Both had lived and fueled some what in the house while she was away. They moved out soon after she came home.

Sharlene took ~~el~~ & I to see her pony. It was a chestnut $\frac{1}{2}$ Shetland $\frac{1}{2}$ Morgan. It was nice, gentle and sharply - unspooled, that has to be a real prize in a pony. She said if the kids are riding along on it and they start to fall off it stops. Ndtake could run and attempt to jump up onto it and it just stands without moving.

Several people I saw had seen Joseph on the TV commercial for Fall brand weiners. Eleanor South was hoping she could get it copied on their video tape. But she never knew when it was going to start. Lisa had seen it while Jolly's family were there to their reunion. She said she started talking - Hey! Look that's my little brother - that's my brother. and she ran over to the T.V.

There was supposed to be a rehearsal by Judy at Ellen's and Elaine's place and she would pick Lisa up at school. But by the time she left the done there was not enough time to pick Lisa up - I missed having Lisa there. I'd have liked to have her seen Anna & Thelma. They haven't seen her for a long time.

Judy Here did come to the funeral. also her former husband was there. Cherie got a severe nose bleed and had to leave part way thru the service. She came back with a bag of ice.

Afterwards there was a family dinner served by the ward relief society ladies which was very good. The number of places set-around 60 were almost all taken.

Auna left from there and went directly home. Archie's sister "Bee" Bea Beatrice didn't come from Caldwell. Her husband didn't feel she should drive that far.

I called Mark Nielsen (Nielsen) at farmston - he said he could perhaps use 3 ingo a little for me. He didn't know anyone looking for a ^{small} ~~small~~ house. He said he figured he owed me \$200 - and maybe by using my house that would be the only way I'd get my money from him. He now teaches in Shelley rather than at O. E. Bell Jr. in I. F.

Lisa spent a little time at Claudia's house with me until Kandi was ready to leave. Then she drove David's Honda home.

Since Berdett & Yvonne left Shelley they have been a little sad I suppose. Someone said Berdett felt real bad thinking he wouldn't be a grandfather. Eleanor's daughter met him some where and didn't even mention he felt she had a second child. So maybe the sensitivity is partly imagined - maybe not. But at least Berdett has to think about it. Shelley was a lonely teenager when we saw her in Calgary and at Archie's funeral.

As for Shane - well I guess he doesn't have any real standards to live by and isn't planning to take the

responsibility to get married, he lives in and out of the line of evil it seems