

The Memoirs of

Bernard Elden Knapp

Young Al Knapp

Al used to go to college at Posatello. He studied auto mechanics for one year. He bought a tool box of keys.

Al was always a good student. We used to take him down onto the South highway on Sunday of carnival so he could hitch-hike a ride to Posatello where he had an apartment. At that time it was called Idaho Southern branch, later Idaho State and finally I.S.U.

Later Al went to Ricks. He likes Ricks, we all did. We enjoyed seeing him in a play there once under Prof Joseph Connell. He had a main part and so the female lead was Beth Janssi.

It was interesting to me to sort of vicariously enjoy an association or recognition from people like Beth because of Al. Stomas nil, was nil all the time - but we just never knew it, until Al was recognized by her as somebody.

Mom was so proud of Al and his performance. She thought he really showed people he (we) could do something.

Mother had a lot of talent but apparently lived a great deal of her life in the shadow of someone else. Started with her older sister - Finnie got a lot of recognition while mother in the background wrote the speeches so to speak.

Mom commented about how the sister Theo could play the piano and just put in little variations here and there and make some sound

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Al at college -

1941

Pearl Harbor

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travel team -

Prof.

When Al first went to Ricks he probably dated Jeanette Jensen. We used to see her in Island Park sometimes, they used to come just and leave milk for Louther, also the hauled milk to West Yellowstone at least one season.

Dec. 7, 1941 I remember we'd drive down to see Claudia & Arct and their kids in lower Puerto. One Sunday we went down and when we arrived they came out to tell us the news, the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor.

There were a lot of stories the next while about Japanese, at Emerson school there was a Japanese girl in the A room one grade below me, me. The government closed down the Japanese school on first street. It became illegal for them to hold meetings and congregate. There was a story that some grade school kids got a rope and were going to hang a little Japanese girl. This was probably on a national radio broadcast and it was repeated to me by a boy that walked to school with me. His last name was Beck. He lived on College.

Al sometimes brought a girl to the house. Olga Siebold from Neudoll.

Then Al I got to have a personal interest in some of the teachers at Ricks, later when I was there it meant a lot more to me to

Al used Berlet's footlocker

know some of the teachers and also to have seen their pictures in the year book.

And may too talked about some of them. I liked to hear stories of Doc. Maxwell.

He started out teaching at a time when things ~~were~~ ^{were} really rough. He started in the south in a one room school. The oldest boys were big boys. They'd run off some teachers. The first day one boy had brought a pistol. He got control of things.

Then May tells the story of Mr. Snell in the class. As Doc Maxwell called the roll he was usually late. One day he came into class as Doc Maxwell called his name. He called - Mr Snail? I guess of the that he was ~~was~~ ~~longer~~ later, on time.

Then for one class they ran (sold) out text books before everyone had one. New ones were ordered. Doc Maxwell announced when they came in to the class. The new books were green but Doc Maxwell's teacher's edition had a red cover. One boy spoke up, "But I don't want a green one. I want a red one like yours." Without a moment's delay and in a ^{his} monotone he replied. "If you get them this class your book will be red. (read).

Once when I was in the Farm Law class - a 7:00 am class some boys from Rice came late regularly. As they came in he sang the little ditty that was then popular on the radio - Eight o'clock, 9:00 o'clock - quarter to ten - (The words following would be

I wait and worry but you never seem to hurry, your a slow poke. Everyone in the room heard two today song on the radio it was a popular hit song. 1952-3

Then Dr. Hugh Bennison and Joseph Catmell the speech teacher. And Edna Ricks. She taught P.E when May was there. She taught English when Al was there.

The librarian when I wait was a student with Al, Theron Atkinson.

The athletes lived for me.

Dean Arnold and Lee Jorgensen two fast track men. Al was on the track team and ran the 2 mile. At first he had trouble with getting a side ache. But he finally was able to overcome it and ~~get~~ earned his R sweater.

Al said once someone asked Joseph Catmell who his favorite movie star was. He just said well he always enjoyed seeing Victor Jory. They surmised that he may have known each other in a stock company or summer theater. They said they thought he did actually attend every movie that showed in Rexburg.

Another prof. was Beal. He was a historian. But he and Catmell left before I went to Ricks. Beal went to Poastello. Johnny Andersson the music teacher left also.

Al lived in the dorm on College Ave. They had a dining hall on the main floor. The building was long and the hall was in the middle and the kitchen on one side. Then on the

other side and upstairs was girls and two opposite side was boys. In charge of the dorm was Eldon Hart. His wife was the daughter of Joseph Fielding Smith. They were the dorm parents. One ^(evening) night Eldon suspected a boy had sneaked into the girls upstairs to a girls room. He went up after him and the boy climbed out a window onto a flat roof ran across and jumped off the building into the alley below. It was a pretty tall bldg.

When May was at Richs Hyrum Manwaring was president. While she was there some kids took a cow up to the 3rd floor of the Spaulding building and tied it to the library door knob. They also put the schools biology skeleton in a girls bed in the dorm. She screamed and ran out. By the time she got back the bed was empty. The next morning the skeleton was back in its place in the closet at school.

Once a large boulder was placed on the presidents desk as a paper weight. It was huge. All the windows and doors to his office were closed and locked from the inside.

Another time some boys were sent to Pres. Manwaring for drinking and drunkenness. "Buck" Parkinson said manwaring wrote on his report concerning the incident. "Drinking but not drunk!"

Sometimes Al would take Dade car for a date or overnight to the college.

Richs used to have an annual 2-3 days in Feb. called Leadership. It was open to the public and many sport classes and assemblies, ball games, plays etc were scheduled over those days.

al college

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Al at Ricks

While Al was at Ricks a question was asked ^{announced} ~~in~~ ^{to} a class by the prof. What would you like to be? concerning occupations. A student raised his hand replying - "A dry farmer in the winter time". Dad ~~always~~ often repeated that with a chuckle.

I used to enjoy looking over Al's Rixide. It was nice to know Al had been popular there. He earned his track letter by running the two mile.

Dad bragged a lot about that saying - Why a man could run a horse down, Al wasn't fast enough for sprints. At first in training for the 2 mile he had severe side aches or pains. He had no trouble with his mind. Finally he overcame the side ache and ~~was~~ earned his letter in a meet, ^{3rd place maybe.}

Richard Brinkman and I used to look thru the Rixide's in the Seminary library. We looked at the one of Walt James. He came from Bear Lake. He was during his senior year on basketball team (capt or co-captain) He boxed, went out for the 440. Held the record at around 48:00 flat for quite a few years - We were amazed he was in so many sports.

He played in our church with the M men. He was always considerate and tolerant of younger players. So, older guys would come to play and run off all the younger kids. He'd play with us and if they were short of older players for practice let some of us play with them.

He amazed me how he could dribble a ball and we 2-3 of us couldn't get it away from him as he kept dribbling it on the floor.

When I was in the ¹⁰ 9th grade - Al told me to go out for track. He said he'd kick my --- if I didn't.

So I did. That year Ben Jernberg came into IF to school from Mud Lake. as a 9th grader he came over to IF high for track workouts. He was a rather stinky guy but could run the 100 in 10 flat. At least he developed to where he could. He visited with me in the locker room. Seemed like a nice guy.

Later his athletic ability in football, boxing & track led to popularity which led to bad company and he started drinking.

His sister ^{Elaine} in my class & went on to Ricks and graduated - also joined the church. Later married Glenn Munn. A big dark haired - dark complected kid - big mouth and over bearing. His folks set him up into a large farming operation. La Rae Munn maybe a sister was popular, appreciated and not conceited or over bearing. She was into girls athletics. She was at the mill occasionally when Munn was getting custom sawing done.

When we went to work out for track Bob Crowley was the varsity ~~sprinter~~ sprinter. He ran the 100 in around 10 flat.

Al had talked about Fel Jorgensen running the 100 in 10 flat or maybe just a stroll under that. He also ran at Ricks and "Prez" Preston Brimball from Bear Lake played B.B. at Ricks. Dean Arnold from Logan City was fast also. He played with Ricks.

Later I was in a class with Dean & Ricks. He was back going to school on his G.I. bill.

Leadership at Ricks.

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Leadership programs were held annually at Ricks. Usually in Feb. Some years we had a lot of snow and cold. There was a one or two night basketball game, there were meetings (general assemblies) in the Reithing tabernacle.

These departmental meetings were held throughout the day. They held the play mill theatre production on 2nd floor of building below the gym.

It wasn't unusual to leave a ball game in Jan. or Feb and find it snowing - And you'd walk or drive home in several inches of new snow. It was so nice and clean. It blanketed everything and muffled sounds such as passing cars on the streets.

Cleon Skovsen often spoke on FBI and defense, General authorities were usually invited high light speakers. Once I remember going to hear Joseph Catmull. He had a 50 minute program, Merj. & al had both taken drama under him. He said the word "snow" in about 4 or 5 ways showing or demonstrating how one word could sound so different and portray a different feeling by changing tonal inflections etc. Snow? Snow! etc.

He was good. Al said once they asked who his favorite movie star was, the students in his class signed to attend every movie that showed at The Romance theatre. He didn't really say - except to say - he always went to see Victor Jory when he came to town. They all

Al & Ricks -

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supposed it was a personal acquaintance with
them excellence of acting that made him so special.
In earlier years he (Joseph) had traveled with
theater groups and he ~~to~~ may have been in
a troupe with him and a personal friend.

After leaving Ricks he went to U of U and was
in Dramatic & theater there. He was at this
time. He was in a Shakespeare production which
was advertised in Desert News and a picture of
him wearing a Crown - King Lear perhaps with
Calleen Robinson - She was a Miss America
candidate at least (Miss Utah) about the time
Arnie Ferron was an all American basketball
player for Vadal Peterson's Utah when they
took the NCAA tourney in 1948-49 or near
then.

Dad & I listened to them in the play offs
on the radio. Arnie Ferron had a hook shot
quite well developed. And Vern Gardner was
the other great player on that team.

Then the Idaho State G.H. champs T.F. High
coach "Cat" John Thompson had Roland Minson
who later played for BYU and was most
valuable player at Madison Square Gardens
in NIT about 51 or 52.

At one leadership program Oscar Kirkham
spoke. He led the student body in the Ricks
College school song. Once he had been a
teacher at Ricks. He made up this song -
maybe not the tune but the words.

Oh! take me back to Dear old Ricks
The College on the hill. And let me walk the
halls again ~~and let~~ ~~me~~ catch the thrill. Of teachers dear

Ricks Leadership.

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We also listened to the BYU play in the NIT. Ted used to get excited over such games, but he also got disgusted with walking on traveling calls and missed free throws.

We listened to Edmunds high school win the state championship, that was before they attended school in Sugar City.

Roland Blasen & [unclear] with [unclear] & a Parkinson and maybe a Rydolph played on the team. None of them played on Ricks varsity.

Sugar City won the state championships for their division schools. Glen Dalling cut his fingers in a saw in the wood shop during mid tournament. They went on to win. He played 4 straight years at Ricks.

Brent Howe from Newdale played for Coover Biddulph. He had a very (extremely) high arching shot from the corner. It was told once he was playing football for Sugar City and got the ball and ran the wrong direction. It was the winning score for the other team.

He started one year for Buck Parkinson but didn't last. Too hard for Brent to adjust to the coach's style of play. He'd been babied along a lot by Biddulph.

After Coach Parker retired Biddulph moved up from Madison High school in Rexburg to Ricks. Then later Coover Parkinson who had played for Ricks moved up as bb & football coach. Biddulph was made athletic director. Coach Ralph Maughan went back to Logan. And coach Holman from Sugar City moved to Madison.

I F outdoor basketball.

About the time I was a jr + senior in high school there were outdoor basket ball tournaments held. Many local coaches played and former college stars -

Russ Bimball - later on about that time - following Rick and World War II service he played as the leading scorer for U of I in Moscow, also Grant Matherson from New Dale - (Whitney) was his nickname,

And a Cubby (Name) (Cabin brother of Brew) and Klingler on a New Dale potato-sponsored team. Then BYU freshmen sent a team up with Minson. Russell Hillman & other 4 players off their freshmen squad.

U of I Sugar factory team had a truck driver over 6-5". He was the first person Dad & I ever saw dunk a b. ball with 2 hands. Some former I F high school players - Russ Moffitt played and a Carl. They played at the O. E. Bell jr. high. I loved watching.

I went to every home game ⁱⁿ my sophomore year and when Minson played, I F took stats 2 successive years, after "Cat" Thompson retired and started up his sporting goods store Stan Parkow was our coach. He didn't do much with B. B. He'd played football for the Pittsburgh Steelers. He had a large photo in his office of that team.

When Minson's team played I F + I was on team - John Collett guarded Minson. He really marked. But he stayed on him until he hardly got a shot. It was amazing. Minnie had to really ~~be~~ have been frustrated that Mike in front of home town crowd with their college but knew

Al in I.P. prior to Air Force

One fall Al came back from Wyo. He had been there for several years. He felt like even though Ren was able to get a deferment for him as a critical industry people looked at him when he went to town. And lots of people had sons and husbands in the service by this time.

So he left. There may have been some other reasons. He had a little problem once develop with Pat Knapp who had gone there from Calif. to cut for Ren. So when he left Glen Harding left.

It was nice to have Al home for a while. He told me once Ren had looked at a jelly Al was interested in at Robertson. It was a Morgan. Ren liked it. Al nearly bought it. How I wished he had. Course I don't know what I'd have done with it. We didn't have a place for it.

Then he told about staying in the woods and cutting all winter. Glen was with him. When spring came it turned out Glen had not kept any records of his time and Ren was at a loss as to how to settle up with Glenn. They decided to join the Air Force instead of being drafted. But after Glen got home his older brother Marion was going to enlist. He was married. So Glen was persuaded to go in to the same branch with his brother. So he went into the marine.

During training Glen sustained some type of injury and had to have an operation. It left him with a situation where he had to carry a bag to help with his elimination processes. He was so self conscious any way that he never hardly left home. He helped his dad do some plastering and his brother-in-law in

New Sweden farm.

During the waiting period between Al's ^{enlistment} ~~enlistment~~ and his induction he went to Island Park. It was fall and during the spend vacation that year I was in Island Park also.

Bamey had been ~~at~~ cutting trees along the road near Simmons Ranch road on the road to Ponds that year. They had a big boy man called Kit. Charlie was gone at this time.

Warren worked for Bamey. Paul Walker worked for Bamey and his friend Fred.

That fall a moose was shot one night on the way in from Trail Canyon. It was soon too dark to follow. There was no snow. Next morning the crew headed out looking for it. A cow man part and someone started shooting at it. I think the most frightened I'd ever been up to that point in my life was to walk over a ridge and there laid a wounded moose looking wide eyed with its head over its shoulder looking at me and trying to get to its feet.

I rode on a sleigh behind old Big. Al tied a rope to his tail. Then Al put some baling wire for strips on two ~~sides~~ ends of a ~~two~~ burlap sac and used it for a saddle (riding pad.) And he pulled me between the barn and the well where they watered the horses.

Daniel and Barry seemed so cute in their little boats. Daniel had some little 4-buckle boats that looked just like a mums except for size. When we'd go on over to cut we'd have a

plank floor probably 2x6's dovetailed on the bunks, on the Ford. We'd stored up on back. Warren kept his ax in the house at night, He wore hob-nailed boots. We'd cut mostly, Some tree laid until spring to be hauled. At noon we'd go to Ponds and eat. Fred laughed to think he ate his lunch and visited with a couple of game wardens while the meat in his sandwich was moose.

Fred was a character. He had a spotted bird dog (female). Once a game warden drove into camp with a dead bear in the back of his pickup. This dog came sniffing around. When it got down wind from the bear it put its tail between its legs and yelled and headed for home. Fred & his wife Lilbim lived in the museum cabin.

Once he was supposed to have ~~to~~ shot a cow mouse near the Tow's Creek burn. The bull charged him. He ~~at~~ scrambled up a tree in such a hurry he left his rifle on the ground. He would try to get his rifle when the bull moved off a ways. But the bull charged back too soon. After several attempts he finally did get the rifle and back up the tree - then he shot the bull.!

Fred had one glass eye. He drove a Dodge pickup. It would really be a treasure today as an antique. They had a little girl named Freddie, a chunky little blonde girl.

It was reported that Fred got caught catching fish near the Stally Springs. An area of Kenny's lake that is used as a hatchery and thus closed to fishing.

Quite a few years later his wife developed

quite a bit of religious zeal. She joined the LDS church in the I P branch. Then she talked Fred into being baptized. When he went to be baptized the only person they could find to baptize him was Eddie South who was the bar tender at the time at Macke Inn. So after being baptized he wouldn't go back to be confirmed because if that was the kind of guests they had during the baptism he didn't want anything more to do with it.

In the evenings you'd have to have a Kevine lantern to go to the barn and do the chores.

I helped turn the trees and ~~carry~~^{carry} the measuring pole. I would have worked ~~that~~ there that summer.

Al and I had our patriarchal blessing in Lincoln from John W Telford before Al left to go overseas -

Al visited Richs. He made a donation to the college before leaving for the service. Edna Richs told me about it and how unselfish she thought it was of him.