

## Chapter LII

### Time With the Grandkids

May 21, 1968 – July 22, 1968

With nine days remaining, Sheffield turned his attention to the Brason Memorial Day picnic and reunion. He was excited about it because they had missed it the last three years. Before their cruise he had put a lot of planning into it, including sending out an announcement to all of his nieces and nephews early on. Even though it was always held on Memorial Day and everyone knew when it was. This year he particularly wanted as many to come as possible.

He had received an overwhelming response that most of them would be there. Of course there were those who couldn't come for one reason or another, including Janet and her family. Norma and Wade flew in the day before. It was the first time they had been back since they moved away nearly a year earlier. Sheffield and Ramona picked them up at the airport and brought them home and put them up in the upstairs bedrooms.

The first thing Thursday morning, Sheffield and Ramona, Craig and Edith, Norma and Wade, and the grandkids went to the cemetery to put flowers out on the graves. As they were leaving the cemetery, they ran into Emily and her family who were coming to do the same thing. They visited briefly before going home to get ready for the reunion.

The reunion was supposed to begin at ten, but some arrived early and others were late; nevertheless, the family tuned out in record numbers. Naturally Walt and Sarah were there, as was Emily, and a good portion of their families.

Shenan and Emily had sixteen grandchildren, two which were now married with children of their own. Daniel and Melissa's daughter Christina had married Preston Casper, who was the son of Rupert and Misti Casper. Rupert was Bill and Marge Casper's son and Misti was Edith's older sister, so they had multiple connections to the family. Christina and Preston lived in Salem and had two small children.

Danny's oldest son, Melvin returned from a mission to California in 1965 and rather than being drafted, he joined the Navy and serving aboard a nuclear powered submarine based in New London, Connecticut, so he got to come home from time to time. At the time his ship was on deployment, but he would be getting out of the Navy the following year.

Jessica had just completed her junior year at BYU and was home for the summer. She was pretty serious with a young man from Utah who she had met at school. They weren't engaged yet, but it seemed inevitable. If she did marry him, they would most likely settle in Utah. As for Danny and Melissa's youngest, Emmett was sixteen and had just completed his junior year in high school.

As for Joe and Adelle's family; their daughter, JoDelle had married LaMar Gordon while Sheffield and Ramona were in Hawaii. They lived in Roanoke and had an eight week old baby boy. Glenn joined the

Marines right out of high school in 1965 and had served one tour in Viet Nam and was currently stationed at Camp Pendleton near San Diego and had one year remaining to his enlistment. Their daughter Bailey had just graduated from high school and their youngest daughter Shannon was fifteen.

Ruth Ann had made a lot of progress in straitening out her life since she came home, although she had a long ways to go. She had an apartment of her own and was working as a receptionist for Danny and Joe in their civil engineering company. Her relationship with Anna and Paul wasn't what it could have been, but it had improved. Anna was also home from her junior year at BYU for the summer where she and Jessica were roommates. Paul had wanted to serve a mission, but was unable to due the quota on missionaries. He decided to get his education and fulfill his military obligations at the same time and enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Like his father and Grandpa Morrison, he chose the Air Force. He had just completed his freshman year and was in San Antonio for basic training.

Wendalynn and Myrle lived in Salem and had all four of their children still at home, including Jenny who had just completed her freshman year at Hollins. Don was sixteen, Susan was fourteen, and Barry was eleven. And finally, Delbert and Connie lived in Lynchburg where he worked for the Virginia Department of Transportation. Of their three children, Arnold was fourteen, Carmen was twelve, and Brenda was ten.

Most of them were at the reunion. They seemed to be doing well in their respective lives and all had remained active in the church, except for Ruth Ann who never was baptized. All though three of Shenan and Emily's grandsons had gone into the military they had been missionaries in their own right.

Likewise, Walt and Sarah's family was well represented and seemed to be doing well, at least according to Walt. They too were now great grandparents. Emmaline's oldest daughter, Carrie had married Perry Little not long after Sheffield and Ramona went to Hawaii and lived in Salem. Perry was the son of Nathan Little, who had been Sheffield's first counselor when he was the branch president. His mother was Roger Rowan's sister, so that meant that he was Wade's cousin. They had an eighteen month old daughter named Emma and Carrie was expecting their second baby which was due in August. Emmaline and Willie were still reeling from Seth's death five months earlier. Their youngest, Karla, was sixteen.

Tim and Vonda lived in Salem and he was the senior broadcast engineer at WSLs Channel 10 in Roanoke. They had three boys; Von who was fifteen, Allen who was twelve, and Bill who was nine.

Sylvia and Scott also lived in Salem. After the Rowans sold their ranch, Scott became an insurance agent. Since he and Wade were cousins and Sylvia and Norma were cousins, their kids were double second cousins. Wallace was drafted into the Army right out of high school and had been sent to Germany. He would be getting out soon planned on serving a mission. Sophia was fifteen, Sandra was fourteen, and Sylvester was ten.

And last but not least, Curtis and Georgia lived in Charlottesville where he worked for his father in law's landscaping business. They had three children; Dennis who was fifteen, Neil who was thirteen, and Cynthia who was ten.

So the family had become quite large and the next generation were beginning to marry and have children of their own. That was one of the reasons that Sheffield wanted this reunion to include as many as possible. Once a family gets so big, it begins to fragment. He could see his brothers families eventually splitting off as more and more great grandchildren came along. Craig, Norma, and Janet were a quite a bit younger than their cousins, but at least their children had a lot of second cousins who were close to their ages and more importantly, were good friends. The other reason was that he had missed out on it the last three years.

There was plenty of food and activities at the reunion. The horses were saddled up for anyone who wanted to ride, Ramona's bathhouse was open, Sheffield gave some airplane rides, the river was a popular place as well. There were horseshoes, arm wrestling tournaments, and three legged races. And most importantly, lots of visiting. The reunion began breaking up toward evening, but not everyone left until after the sun had gone down and the stars came out.

Norma and Wade spent most of Friday with Wade's family as they needed to divide their time between both families. But that evening, when Craig got off work, they migrated up to the cabin for an overnigher. When they got there, they built fire for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. Sheffield and Ramona, Craig and Edith, and Norma and Wade sat around the fire visiting while the cousins engaged in some night games. Even Gean, who sometimes thought that she was too old to play with the "little kids" joined in. It was good to see that she still had some "little kid" left in her because she was growing up so fast and was now into boys. Geoff and Teresa were particularly happy to see each other again. At the reunion there had been so much going on for them to spend much time together. That night was perfect for the kids to sleep out under the stars. On Saturday they all hiked back to the lake to go swimming and do a little fishing before coming back down off the mountain.

On Sunday, they all went to church together. After the morning meetings, Norma and Wade had Sunday dinner with the Roawns, but since Edith's family, who were in the Roanoke Branch, had church at a different time, they had Sheffield and Ramona over for dinner. Later they got back together with Norma and her family at sacrament meeting.

The celebrating continued on Monday, Ramona's sixty fifth birthday. It was the first time in three years that she got to celebrate it with her kids and grandkids. During the morning, she took her daughter, daughter in law, and their daughters into the bathhouse for a some girl time. The boys were excluded because this was to be Japanese style. With their clothes neatly hanging on the hooks, they all showered,

and as the Japanese do, scrubbed each others backs before getting into the tub. It was nothing new because they used to do it all of the time. They were all comfortable in their own skin, even Norma who had always battled with her weight, and with each other that it was an enjoyable time. Each of the granddaughters were at different stages of development. At fifteen, Gean was well into adolescence and had a body to be envied by her younger sister and cousins. Teresa, who was about to turn thirteen, was just beginning into adolescents, showing signs of womanliness. Ten year old Samantha was in preadolescence and and seven year old Tina was still a little girl. It gave Ramona an opportunity to teach her granddaughters about their bodies; things like the fact that they were sacred and how to care for them. But that wasn't all, they talked about all of the things that girls like to talk about. They spent a good hour or more just visiting and turning into prunes while they soaked. It was a always a great bonding time.

After lunch, they all went to the Mill Mountain Zoo for the afternoon, except for Craig who had to work. On the way home, they stopped by the Pizza Joint and picked up three large pizzas to take home. One was pepperoni, one was Italian sausage, and the third was Ramona's favorite, a Hawaii with Canadian bacon and pineapple. There was one more stop on the way home and that was to get the gallon jug refilled with A&W root beer. When Craig came home from work, they had supper and for desert, birthday cake and ice cream. Edith had made the cake earlier that morning.

1968 was a presidential election year and as was typical with Sheffield and Ramona, they had differing opinions as to who they supported. Sheffield supported Ronald Regan, who was the Governor of California; not because he had played the part of Sheffield in "Neptune's Realm" and "Mediterranean Summer" but because he liked his politics. At that point in the campaign he was trailing in the delegate count leading up to the Republican convention and it looked like the nomination would go to former Vice President Richard Nixon.

Ramona was a little torn. She knew Governor Regan personally and liked his style. She had voted for the Eisenhower/Nixon ticket twice before and felt either one would be fine. President Johnson had announced that he would not seek re-election which split the Democratic Party into four factions. The leading contender was Vice President Hubert Humfrey who was ahead in the delegate count.

Ramona didn't care much for the Vice President. She didn't really know why, perhaps it was his bug eyes. She certainly didn't care for either Senator Eugene McCarthy or Governor George Wallace. She sided with the faction who supported Senator Robert F. Kennedy and proudly displayed a Kennedy for President bumper sticker on her car. She had been a big fan of the late president and felt that his little brother would carry on his legacy.

So on Tuesday night, both of them were interested to see the results of the California primary election. Reagan won the Republican Primary, but the Democrat Primary was too close to call. The next

morning, Ramona turned on the early news show to see how it turned out. She was horrified to hear that Kennedy had been shot just after midnight Pacific Time after being declared the winner. As he walked through the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles he was shot three times by a twenty four year old Palestinian immigrant named Sirhan Sirhan. The Senator had been taken to a nearby hospital and then to the Hospital of the Good Samaritan for surgery.

All day Ramona kept the television on to get news updates. She went about the day with an air of melancholy as she interacted with the Norma and her kids, Wade was helping Sheffield with some things around the ranch. By evening the reports were that Senator Kennedy's condition had deteriorated considerably.

Again, the next morning which was Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup>, she turned on the early news to learn that during the night he died from his wounds twenty six hours after being shot.

Stunned and distracted, she found it difficult to pay proper attention to her company for the next few days as she spent a lot of time in front of the television following the news coverage. Following his death, Senator Kennedy's body was flown back to New York City and on Saturday she watched the coverage of his funeral and the procession that took his body to Washing DC where he was laid to rest next to his brother.

Ramona didn't completely ignore her company, she was just distracted. She still spent time and did things with them. During the week Samantha and Marty went to Primary with Craig's kids, Todd and Tina; and Teresa went to Mutual with Gean and Geoff. The kids were happy to see their old friends again. On Thursday Norma went to Relief Society with Ramona and Edith. They spent a lot of time with Wade's family as well.

On Sunday they all went to church together and had Sunday dinner at Sheffield and Ramona's, along with Craig and Edith and their family. Then on Monday Wade flew home to Rexburg, leaving Norma and the kids behind to spend the rest of the month. There was plenty of things to do and places to go, even if it was just spending time together at home.

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> Ramona threw a birthday party for Geoff and Teresa's thirteenth birthdays, with help from Edith and Norma, although Teresa's birthday was actually on the 20<sup>th</sup>. They invited all of their friends from church and school and ended up with twenty or so twelve and thirteen year olds to entertain. At thirteen, they weren't little kids any more so pin the tail on the donkey was out and Twister was in. While Sheffield was cooking up the hotdogs, the party goers went on a scavenger hunt. Divided into two teams, with lists in hand, they followed the clues as they scoured the house, barnyard and the entire ranch looking for the items on the list that Ramona had hid.

After the scavenger hunt, everyone gathered in the stand of trees down by the river for lunch. In addition to the hotdogs, there were several bags of potato chips and lots of soda. Desert had to wait until the

end. After lunch there were more games.

The game that was the biggest hit was wink'em. A circle of ten chairs was set up in the family room and the group divided into two teams. Of the ten chairs all but one was occupied by one team while the other team stood behind all ten chairs. The object of the game was for the person with the empty chair to wink at one of the kids who was seated. When someone was winked at, they were to run to the empty chair before the person behind them could put their hands on their shoulders to keep them from leaving. If the winked person made it, then the one left with the empty chair was it. After several minutes, the teams switched places. It was a lot of fun, but wasn't without incident. One of the boys was bit overly aggressive. When the girl in the chair in front of him got winked, she got up to run, to the empty chair. He virtually tackled her to the floor with the chair still between them as he landed on top of her. She wasn't hurt and was a good sport about it. Ramona, who was the referee, let the boy know that he was out of line and pulled him from the game replacing him with the girl who had been watching since there was one person to many.

After wink'em, the cake and ice cream was brought out. The day before Ramona and Norma had baked two sheet cakes, each with thirteen candles; one German chocolate for Geoff and a white cake with strawberry frosting for Teresa. Everyone sang happy birthday and the two birthday cousins blew out their candles simultaneously. If there was a competition as to who could blow theirs out first, Teresa won. There was little cake and ice cream left for later in the evening after the party broke up and everyone went home. All in all, the party had been a big success and the two brand new teenagers were happy with it.

Norma's kids wanted to go to another of their favorite places while they were there; to Lakeside, an amusement park in Salem, about two and half miles north of the Two Star Ranch. Sheffield and Ramona went with Norma and her kids and Edith and her kids, again Craig had to work. The park had a brand new roller coaster called the Shooting Star that replaced the swimming pool that had been there since 1920. Lakeside had been a favorite place of Craig, Norma, and Janet while they were growing up, and they had taken their kids there often.

The magic of June quickly slipped away. Having Norma and the kids there made June of 1968 even more magical. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, it had been an entire year since Sheffield and Ramona had been home from their mission, and what a busy year it had been. Looking forward, they didn't plan on nearly as much travel, except for occasional trips out west to see Janet and Norma's families. In fact they they were getting ready for just such a trip to take Norma and the kids home and to spend several days in Rexburg with them and several more days in Clarkston with Janet and her family. But first, there was one more birthday to celebrate as Todd turned ten on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. The very next day they took off for Rexburg. When they landed at the airport that afternoon, Wade was there to take them home.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a big deal in Rexburg and Sheffield and Ramona joined Norma and Wade and

the kids in the festivities. Wade had to take Teresa in to town early so as to be in place for the start of the parade. Most of the Wards in and around Rexburg entered floats in the parade and this year all of the young men and women from their ward was either riding on or walking beside their float.

A little while after Wade returned, they all went into town to watch the parade, which started at ten o'clock. They found a good shady spot on the south side of Main Street and waited for the parade. It was typical of thousands of 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades taking place all across the country that day. It had flags, veterans riding on a flat bed truck, marching bands, horses, floats, police cars, fire trucks, old cars, and lots of floats.

There was one float in particular they were looking for, the one Teresa was on. The float was a salute to American heritage past, present, and future, featuring a host of American heroes and heroines. Teresa was Amelia Erhart. She wore a pair of brown coveralls for a flight suite, a pair of welding goggles, and a long scarf wrapped around her neck. It got the idea across.

After the parade, they met up with Teresa in the park, her costume stuffed into a paper bag. The park was set up with lots of food booths and other vendors. Under the shelter, the Lion's Club was serving up barbecued pork sandwiches. After going through the line, they all found a shady place to sit down and eat.

The younger kids wanted to ride the carousel that stood in the southwest corner of the park while the older kids went swimming at the city pool, located next to the carousel. When they had had enough of the carousel, they too got in the pool. While the kids were occupied, the grownups visited. Several people that Norma and Wade had got to know since moving to Rexburg stopped by to say hello or chat for a moment. Finally, Wade went over to the chain link fence at the side of the pool and told them to be getting out so they could go home.

Later in day, towards evening, they went back into town to go to the rodeo at the fairgrounds. It started at eight o'clock and wasn't over until about ten thirty. When it was over, everyone stayed seated for the fireworks. It was a pretty decent display that lasted about twenty minutes. It took another twenty minutes after that before they got out of the parking lot, which was nothing more than an empty field across the street. By the time they got home, it had been a full day and the kids were pretty tuckered out.

Friday and Saturday were spent close to home. On Friday they left Teresa to keep an eye on Samantha and Marty for a few hours while Sheffield and Ramona and Norma and Wade went down to Idaho Falls to attend the temple. Wade had the water on those two days that he had to look after while they got ready for their excursion the next week to the Sawtooth Mountains. Earlier in the spring, Wade bought a camp trailer. He explained as he showed it to Sheffield and Ramona, "With all of the places there are to go around here and since I have the summers off, we thought it would be a good idea."

"Oh this is very nice. "Ramona commented as they went inside. "I like the curtains."

"Norma made them." Wade replied. He continued, "It will sleep five adults, so it will handle Norma and me and the kids just fine. There's a bed in the back and above it there's a bunk that folds down, and the table folds down and can be made into bed."

"So where will Sheffield and I sleep?"

"That's easy, we have a small tent we'll put up for the kids. Now if you look around, its got all kinds of places to store things, even a little closet for our clothes."

"I see that it has a gas stove and oven." Sheffield observed.

"Yeah. I need to go get the propane bottle filled before we go."

"It has a sink, what do you do for water?"

"It has a thirty five gallon tank with an electric pump that runs off a car battery, so do these lights, and that one is a gas lamp. Thats pretty much it, but it should do us. This will be our first time taking it out."

"What do you pull it with?" Sheffield asked. "Your pickup?"

"I could, but I've had a hitch installed on the station wagon. Its all wired for the lights and brakes."

"Well now," Sheffield concluded, "You can go just about anywhere with it then, can't you."

On Saturday Ramona went into town with Norma to get the supplies that they needed to take and pretty much got the trailer stocked with food, bedding, and clothes. Wade had the propane bottle filled and tested the lights. Everything was ready. All they had to do Monday morning was hitch it up to the stationwagon and go.

They got on the road before nine o'clock Monday morning and headed west, over the Henry's Fork and out across the lava flows. Wade drove and Marty sat between him and Norma, Sheffield and Ramona sat in the back seat with Samantha between them, and Teresa was in the back with the things that wouldn't fit in the trailer.

The trailer seemed to handle well and the car didn't have any problem pulling the extra load. But after while it did get a little cramped. Marty became impatient and kept wanting to know when they would be there. After an a little over an hour on the road, they made a quick rest stop at the little town of Howe, if you could call it a town. All there was there was little store, with a gas pump and a few houses.

They were there barley long enough to stretch their legs before continuing on around the point of the mountains to the north and the lava flow to the south. A ways up the road they came the town of Arco.

"Can everyone make it another thirty minutes?" Wade called out. "We can stop in Mackay. That's halfway."

Everyone agreed, but no sooner had they turned off and were heading up the valley along the Big Lost River, Samantha announced, "I need to go to the bathroom."

"Hold on a little longer, and we'll be there." Wade told her.



Mackay was a quaint little town nestled between two mountain ranges. They found a park a block off the main drag and stopped for lunch. Fortunately there were some restrooms, because Samantha barely made it.

After a picnic lunch, they continued on, past the majestic peaks of the Lost River Mountains, including Borah Peak, the tallest mountain in Idaho. They stopped again at Challis for another break, before following the Salmon River to the little town of Stanley at the base of the Sawtooth Mountains. They found a campsite in the campground at Redfish Lake and set up camp.

The mountains towering above them were unlike anything in the east. It was almost as if they had traveled to another world. The high mountain air was clear and fresh. It didn't take much to get set up and have the rest of the afternoon to enjoy the lake with its scenic backdrop. It was as if the mountains rose right up right out of the water. That evening they all sat around the campfire visiting as a nearly full moon rose above the trees, its luminance obscured the stars as they came out. Eventually the moon went behind the clouds. When the fire began dieing out, it was time to go to bed. They girls crawled into the tent and the rest went inside the trailer. Sheffield and Ramona got the bed that was made up where the table was. It wasn't the most comfortable, but it wasn't that bad either.

The next day, they set out to explore the Stanley Basin. There wasn't much to the town of Stanley, with a population of about forty permanent residents, besides a general store that seemed to have everything, there was a gas station, a post office, a couple of motels, and a few homes. There was also a museum where they learned a lot about the area, such as: Stanley was founded in 1890 and named for Civil War veteran Captain John Stanley, who discovered gold in the area while passing through on his way to Idaho City .

In the general vicinity, they discovered three other alpine lakes, Stanley Lake, Lake Alturas, and Pettit Lake. There were others as well that were inaccessible by car. The Salmon River, which was apply named, ran through the area and Wade had to do a little fishing and caught his limit of sockeye salmon, which they planned to have for supper that night.

But the area around Redfish Lake seemed to offer the most scenic setting and that is were they spent the rest of the afternoon. They learned at the museum that Redfish Lake got its name from the color of the sockeye salmon, which by the way were delicious.

After two nights, on Wednesday morning they packed up and hitched up the trailer and headed south. Wade had been told of a great camping spot that he wanted to try. They drove along the Salmon River and had a great view of the entire Sawtooth Range. The road got steep and winding as they climbed higher and higher so that Wade had to shift down to a lower gear. The higher they got, the more spectacular the view. At the top of Galena Summit, which was one foot above eighty seven hundred feet, they could see

the entire Stanley Basin below and the Sawtooth Range standing guard above it.

After taking in the sight below, they continued on down the other side along the Big Wood River toward Ketchum and Sun Valley. When they got to Ketchum, Wade found Warm Springs Road at the north end of town and turned off. Eventually the pavement ended and it turned into a gravel road. They drove eleven miles along Warm Springs Creek until they came to the place he was looking for, a grassy flat across the bend in the road from some hot springs.

Along the way they had seen people camping, and there was one other camper set up near where Wade pulled off the road. Sheffield got out and helped Wade back into a spot that promised to be shady all day. Once in place, they unhitched the trailer and began setting up camp directly under an almost eight thousand foot peak, with an even taller one just to the east of it. They were a good eighteen hundred feet higher in elevation than the campground.

The first thing Samantha asked was, "Mom, where's the bathroom?"

Norma looked around and not too far away she saw it, between where they were parked and the other camper. "There's an outhouse over there," she said pointing towards it.

Samantha ran off in that direction. A few minutes later she returned. "Guess what, Mom," she said. "It has two seats."

While she was off to find the outhouse, Teresa wandered across the road to check out the hot spring. It was across the creek and she had to wade across the cold water to get to the spring. She ran back to camp to report what she found.

As soon as camp was set up they changed into their swimming suits, first the girls, and then the guys, and with bath towels in hand, they set off across the road. Wade carried Marty on his back as they forded the stream. It was worth braving the cold water when they reached the hot pool. Someone had gone to the trouble to dig it out and line it with rocks to make a dam, of sorts, to hold in the hot water that flowed from the spring and mix in enough cold water from the creek to cool it to just the right temperature.

From the hot pool, they got a better look at the peaks that towered above their campsite. Directly behind them was a nearly seven thousand foot peak. The view was spectacular and the warm water relaxing. They enjoyed it for quite a while until one, and then another, and other began saying that they were getting hungry. Wade and Norma took the kids back across the creek and started for the camper to change their clothes, leaving Sheffield and Ramona to enjoy it a few minutes more.

Laying back in the water, looking up at the mountains, she said, "This is better than my bathhouse."

"Yeah, but you get to enjoy your bathhouse year around. In the winter, this wouldn't be very much fun."

"You've got a point there Babe." Then she added, "Let's go change our clothes and have lunch."

After crossing the creek, they dried off as best they could. The warm sun, did a good job of the rest, except for their wet swimming suits. They had to wait a moment for Wade and Marty to get dressed. When they came out, Sheffield and Ramona went inside to change into some dry clothes. When they came out, she hung their swimming suits with the rest on the clothes line that Wade had rigged between two trees.

After lunch and things were cleaned up and put away, they set out to explore what was around them, and to gather some firewood for a campfire later in the evening. Ramona and the girls went around the bend in the road, while Sheffield, Wade, and Marty followed a trail up the mountain behind them.

Later when they all returned, they piled up the wood that they had found and added it to a pile that someone had left behind. They sat around visiting for a while before some of them decided that nap was in order, while Wade and Marty headed back down the road with their fishing poles. Before long, it was just Sheffield and Samantha, and she wandered off, but not out of his sight. The people in the next camper over had returned and were milling around their campsite.

From where Sheffield sat, he wasn't sure if it was a little boy or a little girl that Samantha had made friends with. Whichever it was, the two of them seemed to be enjoying themselves. Before long, Ramona, Norma, and Teresa came out of the trailer.

"Where's Samantha?" Norma asked.

"Over there." Sheffield said pointing in her direction.

"It looks like she has found a friend." Ramona concluded as they sat down to join Sheffield.

After a few minutes, Samantha and her new friend made their way toward them. As they drew closer, it was obvious that it was girl about the same age as Samantha. At a distance it was hard to tell because of her short hair.

"Who's your friend?" Ramona asked.

"This is Bonnie."

"Well hello Bonnie. I'm Samantha's grandma. Where are you from?"

"Rupert." Bonnie answered shyly, her big brown eyes beaming.

"Where's that?" Ramona asked.

"It's kind of by Burley."

"Oh, we know where that is. Have you been here long?"

"We came up yesterday afternoon, but my Dad says we have to move on because the fishing is no good here."

"I can see that it looks like you're dad is getting your trailer hitched up."

"He does this all the time. We like it here because it's so pretty, then he decides the fishing is no good and wants to move on. We usually end up in someplace ugly with no shade."

About then Samantha returned from inside the trailer with the two dolls that she brought with her. "Here they are Bonnie." she announced.

The two ten year old girls went over to a spot on the grass and sat down on the ground to play. It wasn't much longer before Bonnie's mother called her from across the way.

"I've got to go now." Bonnie announced as she got up to leave.

"Goodbye Bonnie. It was nice to meet you." Ramona said as she left. "I hope you find a real pretty place where the fish are biting."

Bonnie dashed across the field and got in their car. They pulled out onto the road and as they drove past, Bonnie stuck her head out the window and waved goodbye.

After a while, Wade and Marty came back holding a few fish on the line. The fishing must not have been too bad where they were.

By three o'clock, they decided that it was time to go back to the hot pool for another soak. Again they took turns changing into their swimming suits and headed back across the road, forded the creek and got all situated. They were relaxing and enjoying themselves when a psychedelic Volkswagen micro bus pulled off the road along the creek at the other end of the hot pool, In-Gada-da-Vida blaring from the stereo. Six hippies and two German shepherds got out. Right there along the road they took off all of their clothes and tossed them into the van. Two naked guys and four naked girls got in at pool and began splashing around.

Sheffield got up and went over to confront them. "Hey." he said sternly. "We've got some little kids over her here."

One of the guys, wearing nothing but the beads around his neck beneath his beard, flashed the two finger peace sign and said, "Peace man. We come in love."

Two of the girls came to his side, completely unashamed of their twenty something year old bodies. One of them said, "But this is so free. There's nothing wrong with being free is there?"

"Look." Sheffield said. "I don't care how free you are when no one else is around. At least have the decency when others, particularly children are around."

"Look man," the guy said indignantly, "This is still a free country. We can do what we want."

By then Wade was right behind Sheffield, ready for whatever might happen. Ramona and Norma were already leading the kids out of the pool and across the creek.

"Let them have it." Ramona said. "We can come back when there gone."

Sheffield and Wade simply turned around and followed them. They didn't bother to dry off and headed back to the camper to wait it out and let the naked hippies enjoy their "freedom". They could here them laughing and hooting and hollering over the psychedelic music blaring from their stereo. Wade and Norman were wise enough to turn the experience into teaching moment for the kids, who had got quite an

eye full. After about an hour the hippies left and they were able to reclaim the pool for the rest of the afternoon. Later, after getting out, they cooked up the fish for supper and as evening was coming on, built a campfire.

“Would you watch the kids for us for a while?” Norma asked. “Wade and I are going for little walk.”

“Sure.” Sheffield replied.

Norman and Wade headed for the road, but instead of going one way or the other, they went across the road and down off the other side toward the creek. In the gathering twilight where no one could see them, they enjoyed the “freedom” of the hot pool. When they returned it was obvious to Sheffield and Ramona what they had been up to because their hair was wet and their clothes were dry, and their swimming suits were still hanging on the clothes line.

By then it was dark with a full moon shining down on. Ramona picked up the flashlight and announced, “I think we'll take a stroll in the moonlight.”

Sheffield got up and hand in hand they headed for the road but rather than taking a walk, they too enjoyed the “freedom” of the hot pool. When they returned they were so relaxed that the tabletop bed didn't seem as hard when they went to bed.

The next day, they left the trailer where it was and drove the eleven miles back to town and spent most of the day exploring Ketchum and Sun Valley before returning to camp late in the afternoon, with one more time to enjoy the hot pool. Friday morning they packed everything up and and drove back to Rexburg, arriving early in the afternoon with time to put things away and still have some of the afternoon left.

Sheffield and Ramona had enjoyed having so much time with Norma and the kids; six weeks altogether counting the time in Virginia. And now it was time to say goodbye and go spend some time with Janet and her family. On Saturday morning, they packed their bags and Wade took them to airport where the Staggerwing had been parked. They loaded their things in the back and took off.

A short time later, they landed in Wayne Gover's pasture where they were greeted by Janet, Jerry, and the kids. Now it was their turn. They took them home with them and got them settled and had dinner. On Sunday, Sheffield and Ramona attended church in the Clarkston Ward and they all had dinner with Wayne and Gale. Morris, Shelia, and their three kids came out too. Their kids were getting older. Abby was now seventeen, Maurice who went by Murry, was fourteen, and Sarah was eleven, soon to turn twelve.

On Sunday Morning, Sheffield went to priesthood meeting with Jerry. When it came time for Sunday School, Ramona came with Janet and the kids. As they were walking up to doors of the meetinghouse, Janet's toe caught on the sidewalk. Losing her balance, she tossed the things that she had in her hands in the air; fortunately Ramona had Pearl. Continuing her forward momentum, she flew through the air

horizontally, with her arms stretched out in front of her, kind of like Superman. The whole scene seemed to play out in slow motion. She flew off to the side of the sidewalk and came down flat on the wet grass, as it had rained that morning. Again, in slow motion, she slid through the wet grass, throwing up water like a speedboat. She finally came to stop, before anyone could react.

“Goodness, Janet! Are you alright?” Ramona asked with great concern.

Getting up on her hands and knees, Janet replied, “I think so. I don't know what happened.”

Getting up on her feet she looked down at herself to see that the front of her dress was soaking wet and grass stained. “Just look at this mess.” she cried in frustration. “Now, I've got to go home and change my clothes. Mom, will you take the kids and go on in.”

“Are you sure you're alright? I thought you had got over being accident pron after you burned your arm.”

“Oh no, I'm still a clutz. I just haven't told you about all of my episodes. The last time was in the spring when I was helping Jerry with the sheep. My job was simple enough, all I had to do was stand in the barn door to keep them from getting out. Well one ewe decided that she was going to get by me and lowered her head and jumped, hitting me square in the chest with her head and knocked me over. If that wasn't bad enough, the ones behind her decided to follow. Two or three of them trampled over me before I could roll out of the way. I'll tell you, that one left some bruises.”

“You poor kid.” Ramona said shaking her head. “I've lost track of all of the times that something has happened to you. Go ahead and go home, I'll see to it that kids get were they need to be.”

Ramona got Wesley and Andrea to the junior Sunday School and Pearl to the nursery and went into the chapel and sat down next Sheffield and Jerry.

“Where's Janet?” Jerry asked.

“She had to go home and change her clothes, she'll be along in a bit.” Then she went on to explain what had happened.

The opening exercises were over and the class had began when Janet slipped in and sat down with them. The rest of the day went on like a typical Sunday.

Since Sheffield and Ramona had done so much with Norma's kids; to have equal time with Janet and her family they had a lot to fit into ten days. They didn't waste anytime getting started. On Monday they drove down to Lagoon and spent the entire day there. It was a nicer amusement park than Lakeside was back home in Salem. Other than the new roller coaster, it was becoming a little run down. Lagoon on the other hand was doing very well. That evening they went on down to Salt Lake and as before, they stayed the Little America Motel at East Main and South Fifth; one room for Sheffield and Ramona and one for Janet's family.

For the next two days, the Little America was their base camp. From that downtown location they had easy access to all of the places that they wanted to go. The first stop on Tuesday morning was the Hogle Zoo. There was a new ape exhibit, complete with three chimpanzees, a penguin display, and a sea lion pool. One of Hogle Zoo's star attractions, however, was still Shasta the twenty year old liger. Wesley and Andrea were the perfect age to enjoy the zoo as a magical place as seen through the eyes of a child. Pearl was still too little to really appreciate it from the shade of her stroller.

After spending quite some time at the zoo, when they were finished, they went across the street to the "This is the Place Monument" and visitors center. By then the kids were tired and wanted to go back to the motel. When they got their second wind, they wanted to go to the pool. It sounded like a good idea, so everyone donned their swimming suits and went down to the pool. Janet had just changed Pearl, so she thought it would be alright to take her into the water. With just a diaper covered by a pair of plastic pants, Pearl thought it was great to splash and kick her feet and play in the water with Wesley and Andrea.

Then it happened. "Ffrrrruuuummmmmppp!"

Ramona both heard and felt the eruption as she sat on the steps in the shallow end of the pool with Pearl on her lap and next to Janet as they watched Sheffield and Jerry playing with Wesley and Andrea.

"My goodness!" Ramona exclaimed as she jumped up and got out of the water before Pearl could spring a leak. Janet had heard it too, and was right behind her mother as she carried the toddler away from the pool, brown goop began oozing from her plastic pants and down her legs.

"I Hope none of it got in the pool." Janet feared as she grabbed the diaper bag.

After changing the messy diaper, and it was messy, Janet and Ramona decided to not take Pearl back into the water and watched from poolside. When the rest of them got out, they went back to their rooms and got ready to go out to dinner.

Wednesday was spent downtown visiting Temple Square, the Lion House, and the Beehive House. Just around the corner, the Hansen Planetarium was particularly interesting. Located in the old public library building built in 1904, the planetarium opened in 1965. While downtown Janet wanted to do some back to school shopping for Wesley, who was going to be in second grade in the fall. She ended up buying more clothes for five year old Andrea than she did for Wesley. Again that afternoon, they went down to the pool before going to dinner at the motel coffee shop.

On Thursday morning, they checked out of the motel and began making their way home. Before leaving town, they went up to the state capitol to look around, then went across the street to visit with Debra and Chet Mayfield for a while. Debra retold the story of how Captain Brason had rescued her and her daughter, Molly, and how Jerry's brother, Morris, had been the major influence in her conversion. It was

early afternoon when they returned to Clarkston.

On Friday, They left the kids with Gale while Janet and Jerry, and Sheffield and Ramona went over to Logan to attend the temple. On Saturday, Sheffield and Ramona joined the Gover family for a picnic up on the range. On Sunday they went to Church.

On Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, they loaded their luggage into the Staggerwing and flew home after being gone for twenty days; ten days in Rexburg and ten days in Clarkston. With Norma and Janet so far away, they made the most of their time with the grandkids, as it would be months before they would see them again.

Now the travel bug had been satisfied and they were ready to settle into retirement.

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The little girl, Bonnie, that Samantha played with is my wife, Bonnie. When she was growing up, their family used to go up to Warm Springs to go camping. Her Dad would always want to move on to some desolate place where the fishing seemed to be better.

The one time I that went to Warm Springs with them after Bonnie and I were married the hot pools were taken over by naked hippies. And by the way, the outhouse did have two seats.