

Part III

After being in India for a while, Yutanna got quite sick and Ellen sent her some money so she could come home. Later in 1981, the group she was with in India set up a commune in Oregon and Yutanna rejoined them and was there for several years.

Wanda loved her grandchildren. The thing about love is that there is always more to go around. With five grandchildren already, there was more than enough love for two more. The first of the two arrived on March 24, 1982 as Blake was born to Ellen and Joe. Grandma would have to wait a few months for the other one as Bonnie wasn't due until November.



Blake Jones



Big Ben

In the meantime, Wanda got to enjoy one of her other loves, travel. During the summer of 1982 Wanda and Manuel took a trip of a lifetime. Along with their good friends, Vi and Ray Commons, they toured Europe with a BYU study group. The tour took them to London where they saw among other things, Buckingham Palace and the changing of the guard, and Big Ben. They crossed the English Channel on a ferry to France and on to Paris and Versailles. The tour took them through West Germany and behind the Iron Curtain into East Germany and Czechoslovakia, which were at that time under communist control. The contrast between East and West was stark. As soon as they crossed the border, it was as if time had stood still. The cities were not modern. The people all had a stone cold look on their faces. There was a military presence everywhere they went. The final country on the tour was Italy. They went to Milan, Pisa, and concluded in Rome. At the conclusion of the tour, they flew from Rome back to New York City on July 29th.



The Berlin Wall

But that wasn't the end of the trip. Wanda and Emanuel and the Commons left the tour group and spent the next ten days touring the Eastern United States. Their trip took them to Palmyra, New York and Niagara Falls. They went through Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Mount Vernon, Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia. At that point, they began making their way back to New York, City, visiting



At the Washington DC Temple - 1982

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the way. They finally returned home on August 7th. Wanda summed up the whole trip in three words and an exclamation mark, "It was wonderful!"



Wanda and Olivia

Bonnie had her baby on November 13, 1982. Finally another granddaughter. They named her Olivia. About the same time, Joanne moved to Twin Falls so she could attend the College of Southern Idaho and get accredited in medical records.

Despite having a new baby, things were not going well with Bonnie and Gordon. His bean crop froze and he was going to lose his farm. At the same time, his father suffered a heart attack and died during bypass surgery in January. Gordon moved his family to Salt Lake where he got some technical training in computer programming. After completing the course, they stayed with Wanda and Manuel for a few weeks while looking for a job. In October they moved to Rexburg.

After Joanne completed her medical records certification course, she began applying at hospitals in the region. She was hired by Bingham Memorial hospital in Blackfoot. Also about the same time Joe was transferred by the railroad to Kemmerer, Wyoming. So During this time, the girls all had moved around a bit. None of them lived close by anymore.

Wanda and Manuel bought a new pickup and a bigger travel trailer so they could do more traveling. Manuel wanted to go to St George for the winter, like so many others. They are called snowbirds, because they travel south to warmer weather. So in February 1984 they headed south. After two or three weeks, Wanda missed her home too



Pickup and travel trailer

much and wanted to come home. It turned out she wasn't much of a snowbird after all. While there, they enjoyed themselves and saw the sights, and made plenty of time to attend the temple. Even though they didn't leave for the winters with their travel trailer, they got a lot of use out of it over the next several years.



Wanda and Manuel at the St. George Temple

The travel bug had bit them hard. Making good on their desire to travel and enjoy life, they took another trip to England in 1985. This time they went with Collin and Hazel Marriott, who were from England originally. On July 9th they flew to London by way of Dallas, Texas. They were met in London by Hazel's brother-in-law who took them to his home in Mansfield. They were worn out by the time they got there. Wanda described their home as a red brick two story home with white lace curtains. They stayed in Mansfield for a few days and attended a baptism and a wedding for members of the family. Then on Sunday they attended church.

By Monday the 15th They rented a car and were off on their adventure. The first stop was the ocean resort of New Ark Skegness. They saw the Lincoln Minster Cathedral which was built between 1072 and 1280, with additions added over the years. It was huge and looked very old.



Hazel and Collin Marriott standing by the rental car

They also went to the Lincoln Castle and climbed up to the observatory tower which overlooked the grounds. After a couple of hours they went on to Skegness and took a nap on the beach. Skegness had a big beach front with lots of sand. The beach was full of people out for a stroll. Just off the beach was a carnival and a lovely little town where they went shopping. That night, they stayed in a bed and breakfast.

The next day they went to Grimsby, which is a large fishing port. They toured the packing plant and saw various types of fish being cleaned and processed. They bought a half a pound that they cooked up for supper that night. With this leg of the trip wrapped up, they went back to Mansfield on Wednesday. They visited Sherwood Forest where they saw an oak tree that was over five hundred years old. While back in Mansfield, they rested up and did their laundry in preparation for the next adventure.



Wanda with Charles and Betty Collins

On Saturday they had a nice coach ride to Norige and saw a lot of beautiful flat farm country. In Norige they were met by Charles and Betty Collins. Betty was Wanda's cousin. Betty's mother, Mabel and Wanda's mother were sisters. On Sunday morning Wanda and Manuel went for a long walk with Charles around three lakes near their home. All along the lakes, people were fishing. For dinner Betty fixed a roast beef with potatoes, carrots and beans out of her garden. She made Yorkshire pudding, gravy, and Christmas plum pudding with custard on top.

In the afternoon they went to Bungay and saw the St Mary's Church of England. It was so old that they could hardly read "1700" engraved in the stone. At the time, the church was being renovated. From there, they walked over to the Holy Trinity Church of Bungay which had been built 900 years ago by the Saxons. It was the same church Wanda's Grandfather and Grandmother Cushion attended. Off to the left of the church was an old cemetery which was very run down. As Wanda entered the church, she felt a special connection to her roots.

From Bungay, they went to Harleston where her mother was born. Harleston is a small, pretty little town. It seemed that the wind blew most all of the time. One minute it was nice and sunny. Then a cloud blew over, and it rained. Then the sun came out again. The temperature was only 60 or 65 degrees, which was not unusual. On Monday, Charles and Betty took them over to



The Haddiscoe Church

Haddiscoe to see the church there. The registry dated from 1558. This is the church that Wanda's grandfather was the coachman for. The churchyard is covered with graves. The church looked old and poorly cared for, but what do you expect for something 900 years old.

They were able to visit the house where her grandparents and her mother lived when she was a little girl. It was a very small home and was still in use. Then they went to the Aldeby church. It was quite nice and well taken care of. In the



William Alger's gravesite

churchyard they found the graves of her great grandparents. The inscription on the headstone said, "In loving memory of William Alger. The beloved husband of Sarah Ann Alger, who died March 1, 1896 aged 71 years. The angels caught him softly and bore him up the steps. The Golden Gates closed behind him and now we remain to weep." The other family graves each bore an inscription as well.

From there, they went to Beccles where her mother worked for the Colonel and where her father was while on his mission from 1906 to 1908. Her mother lived in Beccles until she came to America in 1915. They were there at just the right time as everything seemed to fall into place. They found and saw all they wanted to see and do. Wanda felt that her mother was very close and could almost feel her presence.



No. 17 Alexander St

Charles took them to the house where her mother lived at Number 17 Alexander Road. The wind was blowing the front door open and closed. Wanda told Betty that her mother was telling her to go in. Then the door clicked shut as a young woman looked through the window. Wanda knocked on the door and she answered. She told her that this was the house where her mother lived. The Young woman told them that it was her boyfriend's house and told them they could go around to the back and look around. It was a

small two story red brick house. There was a narrow path between it and the house next door. There was barely enough room to walk between them. The house was rather narrow in width but long in depth. There was a small front yard, no more than six feet between the house and the sidewalk with no lawn, just a few flowers.

From there they went to a little meat shop that her mother shopped at. It was still the same as it was then. In fact it was still owned by the same family and had been handed down from father to son.

On Tuesday, the 23rd they went to Norwich and spent the day looking around. The prominent feature was the Norwich Castle which was built by the Normans between 1100 and 1140. The next day they went to Bury St. Edmunds and saw the St Edmundsbury Cathedral. It was very nice, for as old as it was. The cathedral had beautiful stained glass windows all around. That evening was spent visiting with her cousin Roy Upcraft and his wife. Roy was Betty's brother.



Mary and Roy Upcraft, Wanda, and Betty Collins



Southwold

Wanda's mother had a favorite place she used to go to on holiday, Sea Resort Village at Southwold. So, naturally Wanda wanted to go too. They laid on the beach for an hour and half before going to a nice little cafe by the seaside for lunch and had fish and chips and a lovely dessert of meringue with a scoop of ice cream and pears with whipped cream and butterscotch

topping. Friday was a rather rainy day when they drove along the coast up to Great Yarmouth to visit her cousin, Lillian Baker. Lillian was the daughter of Wanda's aunt, Ellen May Cushion.

Their stay with Charles and Betty came to an end on Saturday. The Collins met them there and after a tearful farewell, they traveled to Pool and stayed in a Bed and Breakfast. On Sunday they went to see Eric and Frieda and had a good visit. Their son, Eric was involved with Yutanna at the commune in Oregon. Their trip took them along the southern seashore to Babbacombe where they went to the Kent Cavern Caves. That night they called Joanne at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake where Grant was having some tests run.



Lillian Baker

From Babbacombe, they left the coast and drove up north through Stratford on Avon, the home of William Shakespeare, and back up to Mansfield for a rest and a break. They did their laundry and restocked their supply for the next leg of the adventure. They took a day trip up to Nottingham and toured the castle. On Sunday they attended Church.



A Scottish bagpiper

Refreshed and ready for more, they left Mansfield on Monday the 5th and drove to Aberdeen, Scotland. It was a rainy ten hour drive. At times the sun would come out and they could see sheep grazing on the hillsides. In Aberdeen they stayed with Collin's younger brother, Eric. The next day, Eric showed them around Aberdeen and the seashore.

After breakfast the next morning they went up to the Lochs that Scotland is famous for. Along the highway they saw a man dressed in a kilt, playing his bagpipe. They stopped and talked to him and

listened to him play before going on their way. When they got back to Aberdeen that evening, Eric had a surprise supper waiting. It was Haggis, a traditional Scottish delicacy which is a dish containing sheep's 'pluck' (heart, liver and lungs), minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices, and salt, mixed with stock, and traditionally boiled in the animal's stomach for approximately three hours. Eric said that everyone who comes to Scotland must have some. Wanda said that she enjoyed it. They spent the evening visiting and playing games.



Just one of the many cathedrals and castles

There were more castles to see. Castles, cathedrals and old churches are everywhere in England and Scotland. Wanda said that after seeing so many of them, they lose their interest. On Thursday they went to Drum Castle near Aberdeen. From the top of the tower they could see all around the area. The same day they also went to Cathars Castle.

After a few days in Scotland, they packed their bags and headed back to Mansfield. On the way they passed through Edinburgh. Along the way, they passed more castles. The Edinburgh castle stood on a hill above the city.

Wanda wasn't very impressed with this one. She was tired of looking at castles by this time.

Once back in Mansfield they got their laundry done, restocked their supplies, and rested. It rained all day Sunday and they did not have a way to get to church. After catching their breath and resting, they were off to Litchfield on Tuesday, the 13th. The Litchfield Cathedral was about 800 years old and took a 150 years to build. The same day they visited Drayton Manor Park. The park had all kinds of rides, similar to Lagoon. Wanda and Manuel didn't go on any of the rides but went to the zoo instead. Collin was



The view from the tower at one of the castles

feeding the chimpanzees and one of them got mad because he didn't get any food. As they were standing around, the chimp picked up a handful of dung, walked up to the fence, and flung it at them. A glob landed on Wanda's arm. Another landed on her white jacket. She thought she would die laughing. Then she cleaned her self off (it did not have a bad odor), then she and Manuel had an ice cream cone.

After a couple days of rest in Mansfield, they went to Nottingham to see the Southwell Cathedral and had lunch in Newark at the town marketplace and watched the planes land and take off at the Nottingham airport. On Saturday they went to the Gunthrope Bridge over the Trent River. It was a beautiful, warm day. Manuel fished the river but didn't catch anything. While he was fishing, Wanda and Eva walked up the river to the locks. They watched as the locks opened to let two ships through. As they walked along the river, there were lots and lots of people everywhere, some were fishing, others just out for a stroll.

On Sunday they attended church in Mansfield. It rained all day, just as it had every Sunday since they got there. That evening they visited with a couple from Los Angeles who were serving their mission in Mansfield.

On Monday they went way out in the countryside, a couple of hours away to Alton Towers which was a theme park. There were people by the thousands and cars parked everywhere. A trolley took them to the entrance of the park. It too, was like Lagoon with all sorts of things to do. They had a wonderful time at the sunken gardens. They went on a ride that was like an airplane flying through the Grand Canyon. It felt like they would hit the side of the mountain. Even though they were sitting still, it felt like they were moving.

On Tuesday they went shopping in Mansfield. Wednesday was spent packing and getting ready to come home. The taxi picked them up at 5:30 on Thursday morning and took them to Nottingham to catch the bus to take them to Gatwick Airport on the other side of London. They checked in, boarded the plane, and bid goodbye to England forever. Wanda knew that she would never be back. She had such a wonderful time. It was almost like going back into a different world. Their thoughts now turned to home and they were excited to come home. It was good to go, but even better to come home. The flight to Dallas was very smooth. As they went through customs, the man said, "Idaho. You must be where all the Mormons are."

They answered, "Yes." He did not want to look at their passports. He did not ask if they

had anything to claim. He told them that he didn't know why he was so interested in the Mormons, but wanted to visit with them while they held up the line. The plane to Salt Lake was much smaller. They arrived In Salt Lake at about 8:00 p.m. They were expecting Mabel's daughter, Kaye, to meet them. Instead, to their surprise Ellen, Wes, and Blake were there. Since it was late, Wanda and Manuel and Ellen and the boys stayed in Salt Lake. The Merriotts went back to Rupert with their family.

The next day they went shopping in Salt Lake and Ellen and the kids went back to Kemmerer. That evening they stayed with Mabel and Woody, who had just returned from a mission. They had a nice visit. On the way home the next day they detoured through Brigham city and bought 6 bushels of peaches. It was just about dark when they got home. Rather than unwinding from the trip, Wanda canned about half of the peaches the next day. On Sunday they didn't go to church because the rest of the peaches needed canned.

During the week, there was a lot to catchup on. The house needed cleaned, and the lawn needed irrigated. She even found time to work on a baby quilt for Bonnie, who was expecting. Bonnie and Gordon and the kids came to spend the weekend. Wanda and Bonnie tied the quilt and went shopping. They all went to church together on Sunday. On Monday, Labor Day, Bonnie and Gordon Went back to Rexburg and Wanda and Manuel got ready to go to Blackfoot to see Joanne and her family. After spending the night, the went to spend a week in Kemmerer. While there, Ellen and Wanda went shopping in Evanston. Another day they went to Green River to see Flaming Gorge.

During the summer and fall, the commune in Oregon where Yutanna was, had broken up and their leader was deported to India. Yutanna went to stay with Ellen in Kemmerer for a while. Around the first of November, the whole family got together at Ellen's. Wanda and Manuel drove over from Rupert. Bonnie and her two children hooked up with Joanne and her kids and they drove over from Blackfoot. They had a wonderful family reunion weekend. Everyone was there, except for Gordon, who had to work. After a short while, Yutanna moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico soon after the first of the following year to live with some for her friends from the commune.

As Bonnie's due date drew near, Wanda made plans to go to Rexburg and be with her for the birth and to help out for few days. On the morning of November 22nd Wanda got the call that Bonnie was in labor. She got ready and drove up to Rexburg. Gordon was still

at the hospital with Bonnie when she got there, so she went in and made herself at home and took care of Gordy and Livi. Later in the afternoon, Gordon came home to get some things that Bonnie needed so he could take them to her. He told Wanda that the birth went well. They named him Vance Allen Buttars. Wanda was particularly pleased with his middle name. Gordon also told Wanda that Vance was having some trouble and was on oxygen. He left and went back up to the hospital. Wanda fixed supper for her and the kids and put them to bed. It was quite late when Gordon came home. He related to Wanda how Vance was in a fight for his life. The doctors didn't know what the problem was and had him flown to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake.



Vance Allen Buttars

At two o'clock in the morning, the phone rang and Gordon answered it. It was the doctor in Salt Lake with the terrible news that they would not be able to save Vance. He explained that the left ventricles of Vance's heart had not developed which prevented his blood from circulating through his lungs. The doctor gave Gordon two options; they could keep the baby there in Salt Lake until he died and send his body home for burial, or they could send him back to Rexburg to die with them. Gordon opted for the second option. The news was devastating. Both Gordon and Wanda were in shock. Gordon called their next door neighbor and explained what was going on and asked if she could come over and stay with the kids. Grief stricken and in shock, neither Gordon nor Wanda were in any condition to drive. Gordon called his bishop who came over and drove them back up to the hospital. Gordon went into Bonnie's room alone to explain what was going on. Then they invited Wanda and the Bishop to come into the room.

At four a.m. the plane bringing Vance back from Salt Lake landed in Rexburg. Gordon called home and asked the neighbor lady to get Gordy and Olivia dressed and bring them up to the hospital. Before the children arrived, Vance was back. Gordon left the room to go get him. When he returned, he placed that precious little bundle into Bonnie's arms. The nurses had prepared an empty room for the family to gather in. Wanda, Gordon and Bonnie, Gordy and Livi, and the bishop shed many tears as they spent the fleeting moments of Vance's life together. The children were not only sad, but confused. After a while, they were taken back home. The bishop had to leave as he was ministering to another family who had lost a child in

an automobile accident. Wanda, Bonnie, and Gordon returned to Bonnie's hospital room. They took turns holding Vance and loving him for the next several hours. Finally, Bonnie realized that she had to let him go. She had to leave the room so Vance could go on his way. She took Wanda and they went down to the cafeteria to get something to eat. While they were gone, Vance had died in Gordon's arms.

Bonnie was discharged from the hospital and they all went home to begin making the funeral and burial arrangements. On Sunday Emanuel came to Rexburg and Ellen and Yutanna came from Kemmerer. Amongst the tears and the planning, friends and neighbors came to call. On the day that Vance was born, several inches of snow had fallen. On Sunday night a strong wind blew all night. On Monday morning, the day of the funeral, the roads were all drifted shut. Throughout the morning, the snow plows cleared the roads. The first of two funerals was held later in the morning in their ward. Then followed the long trip



Wanda and Vance

back to Burley. They traveled in a caravan. Bonnie and Gordon and the kids lead the way. The Bishop and his wife and another couple were in the middle. Wanda and Emanuel brought up the rear. In the back seat of their car was the tiny casket. The roads were icy and a fierce ground blizzard kept visibility to near zero. Slowly the procession made their way and pulled up in front of the Pella church where about 150 neighbors, friends, and family had gathered. Following the second funeral, Vance's body was taken to the Pella Cemetery. The frozen ground was covered with snow as the family gathered around the grave as Vance was laid to rest after a lifetime of 26 hours. Following the funeral, Bonnie and her family stayed at Wanda's and Emanuel's for the week. Bonnie, who had just had a baby, was finally able to get some rest, physically at least. That week also happened to be Thanksgiving. Wanda prepared one of her fabulous turkey dinners "with all of the trimmings".

In addition to the string of grandchildren that were coming along, great grandchildren began being added to the family. At age sixteen, JoNelle also became a mother. On July 20, 1986 Tino Ray Hacking was born. JoNelle and Tino's father had drifted apart and were never married. But Tino, was certainly a welcome addition to the family. One more for Grandma to love.



Manuel and Wanda - 1987

Time has a way of flying. There had been many, many, years of work and play, sorrow and joy. The years added up and totaled fifty in all. A golden wedding anniversary is something that every couple needs to celebrate. On Saturday February 14, 1987 that is just what they did! A reception was held in their honor at the



Wanda and Manuel and their family. (left to right) Joe and Ellen with Blake and Wes, Yutanna, Wanda and Manuel, Joane and JoNell with Grant and Tino (Denny was not there), Bonnie and Gordon with Gordy and Olivia.

Rupert Idaho West Stake Center cultural hall. The event was hosted by the girls. It was the wedding reception they never had, complete with a three tier wedding cake. Their entire family was there, all four daughters, and at the time seven grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Friend's, neighbors, and family, came to honor Wanda and Emanuel on such a special occasion in a time when so many marriages don't last that long. Of that day, Wanda wrote he following:

We had a wonderful day. All of the children came home. Yutanna came from Santa Fe on Tuesday, February 10th. We went to Salt Lake to get her. On



Joanne's Family: Joanne, Grant, JoNell, and Tino



Ellen's Family: Ellen, Joe, Wes, and Blake

Thursday we did a lot of baking and had a lot of things to do. I fixed a big turkey dinner, with all of the trimmings, for Friday night. Bonnie and Gordon and their family came on Friday the 13th. Also Joanne and her family came. We had dinner, then at midnight Joe and Ellen and family came.

Everything seemed to fall into place and everyone got along so well. On Saturday the 14th we were all at the church at about 12:30. Joanne and Ellen made all of the flowers. They made all of the corsages and boutonnieres for the whole family. They were just beautiful. We have appreciated all they have done for us. McBrides decorated the hall in red and white. The rook gang did all of the serving. We had a crowd of about 140 people come. The

weather was real nice too.

After the reception, we had family and friends come out for dinner. We had turkey, ham, and salads. Alice brought sloppy joes. We had lots of food and about 35 people were here.

It was a wonderful day and shall be long remembered. We want to thank all our family for what they have done for us.

There was one more grandchild to be added to the family. At the time of their 50th anniversary, Bonnie was expecting. On June 28 1987 Loren was born, bringing the

total number of grandchildren to nine, counting Vance.

Wanda and Emanuel continued to travel as often as they could. With the girls scattered about, many of their trips were to go spend time with them. Their travels included a trip to Alaska in 1988. Their home continued to be the gathering place for the family, especially on holidays. It was rare occasions when



everyone was all together at the same time, but the house was often full.

In January 1989, Wanda recorded an unusual dream in her journal:

January 25, 1989

At about 10:00 p.m. this night I had a dream. It seemed someone came to me and said that my time on this earth was about over. I said, "Oh please, let me stay just a little longer. There are so many things that I need to do and get done."

Then it seemed that it was summertime. The leaves were on the trees and the grass was green. The flowers were all in bloom. It was a beautiful warm day. It was late in the afternoon, getting toward evening. I had gone for a long walk and I was getting close to the house. I started to run past the front of the house and around the corner. I was so swift on my feet, with the breeze blowing in my face. I ran into the driveway on the south side and into the garage and up the steps into the house.



I got a pencil and a piece of paper and wrote, "Please take all of my personal belongings and give them to whoever would want them. Please take the money that I have saved while I was working and pay all of my funeral expenses and burial. Please give whatever is left to my four lovely daughters, Joanne, Yutanna, Ellen, and Bonnie. Now I think I have completed my work."

Then I woke up. So while it was on my mind, I got up and thought that I should write it down. It was such a pleasant dream. There is a lot in this life I would like to get done yet, if the Lord is willing. I love my good husband and my four girls. They are a lot of comfort to me and Dad. May we always strive to do what is right. I leave you my love. Wanda

What is even more interesting is the following entry that Emanuel wrote in her journal:

January 26, 1989

Early this morning I awoke and Wanda was not in her bed. Then I saw she had the light on in the kitchen. I saw her sitting at the table doing some writing. So I decided not to say anything to her and went back to bed.

It wasn't long that I fell asleep and had a dream. It seemed like we had some sort of a problem and she left. I would see her quite often but I couldn't get to where she was. I wanted to tell her how much I loved her and how much I missed her. But there was some sort of a barrier that I couldn't seem to get to her.

But finally I was able to get through and we got into the car. It was winter with lots of snow on the ground. We drove up on a hill and sat there together looking out over the valley. I told her how I had missed her and was glad to be back together. I told her how much I loved her. We cried together and then I awoke. It was so real. When I awoke, my eyes were filled with tears. I looked over in the bed and she was there. I was so thankful.

Love Emanuel

What is interesting about his dream is that it was practically a portent of things to come.



Over the next several years, Wanda began slowing down. By this time she was seventy years old. Naturally, she didn't have the energy and vitality that she had so much enjoyed. In 1989, Ellen and Joe moved to Iona as the railroad transferred him to Idaho Falls. Now it wasn't so far to go see them. That same year, Joanne married Ken Staples on April 29, 1989. That summer, Bonnie and Gordon built a new home in Rexburg.

In 1990 another great grandchild came along. Cutie

Rose was born on June 22, 1990. JoNelle's circumstances were as they were when Tino was born. Sometime in 1992, Ellen and Joe were divorced after several years. At first Wes and Blake lived with Joe. Eventually Blake went to live with her. Also in 1992 Grant married Meret Kmez. They were later divorced. JoNelle married Miguel Aquirre on August 15, 1992. They too were later divorced. Keeping with the tradition that Wanda and Emanuel began, Denny married a beautiful young woman named Norma Martin on February 14, 1993. This wasn't the end of the weddings. Ellen married Val Moss on November 11, 1994 but things didn't work out and they were divorced a few weeks later. Still keeping with the Valentines Day tradition, she married Dennis McIntire on February 14, 1995.



Ellen and Dennis



What followed was a rush of great grandchildren. Megan was born to Grant and Meret on August 24, 1993. A few days later, Tory Aquirre was born on the 27th. Over the next couple of years three more great grandchildren came along; DJ Hacking on 16 February 1994, Tristan Aquirre on January 31, 1996, and Jacob Hacking September 29, 1996. After this, there was a break in weddings

and births for several years. About the only other change was that about this time, Gordy started going by Glen, his middle name.

Wanda's heart condition continued about the same over the years. She remained on medication and didn't have any problems. However, on June 9, 1995 Emanuel had a mild heart attack and was taken to the hospital in Salt Lake. Wanda, Ellen, and Bonnie met up in Poocatello and went down to be with him. After a few days, Emanuel was sent home.



After only a couple of weeks, he was able to travel again. They went to be with Ellen and Dennis at their place in Island Park. Gordon and Bonnie and their children came up for the weekend. Then in September, he had another mild heart attack. Again he was taken to Salt Lake. At first it was thought that he would need bypass surgery. Again, Ellen and Bonnie rushed down to be with them. As it turned out, he didn't need surgery, but they did put in a couple of stints. After this Wanda and Manuel seemed to compete with each other as to which of them was the sickest.



At some point during the mid 1990's, Ken and Joanne moved to Northern Idaho and Yutanna moved to Idaho Falls. As Emanuel approached his 80th birthday he began having difficulties with his memory and reasoning abilities. Ever since his nervous break down, he never was the same. Buy with advanced age these began to be to issues. Their relationship began to deteriorate gradually. He started doing things that were rash and unpredictable. He put the car into a waste pond at the fish hatchery, ruining the car that Wanda loved so much. Ellen helped them find another car. Wanda had to beat him to the mail box and throw away the junk mail before he got a hold of it, because he would order things that they didn't need.



As Wanda's 80th birthday approached plans were made for a family get together. Olivia was approaching her 16th birthday and had expressed the desire to go out for lobster. Wanda thought that sounded like something she wanted to do too. Wanda and Manuel, Yutanna, Ellen and Dennis, and Blake, Bonnie and Gordon and their family, and Grant all got together at Red Lobster in Pocatello. Two days later Wanda and Manuel, Ellen and Dennis, and Yutanna all

got together again at Bonnie's for thanksgiving. After dinner, Wanda and Manuel went with Ellen and Dennis to their place in Island Park.

The older they got, the more discord there was between them. To their friends and neighbors, they were always the perfect couple. But tin reality, their relationship had always been strained, particularly after Emanuel's nervous break down. No one was more aware of this than Bonnie, who as the only child at home after the other girls had grownup. She found herself caught right in the middle of their quarrels on several occasions. Emanuel's impetuosity didn't help matters. By 2000 their relationship had deteriorated drastically.

On Memorial Day in 2000, Bonnie and Gordon and their kids had come for the weekend. Wanda had been outside and was coming up the back step, when her white cat, Corky II got between her feet and tripped her causing her fall off the step and break her leg. She got up and hobbled into the house in a great deal of pain. It was obvious that she needed to make a trip to the emergency room, but she insisted that she was alright. Within minutes her leg began to swell and she decided everyone was right. But first she had to put on her makeup and fix her hair. As the pain got worse so did her disposition. Once she was ready to go, she insisted on driving herself to the hospital. Bonnie was able to convince her that she couldn't drive and took her.

A little while later, Gordon, Emanuel, and the kids drove in to see how she was doing. She was waiting to see another doctor. Since it was going to be a while, they went on their way to put flowers out on the graves. Wanda and Bonnie were home by the time they got back. They put her in a cast and gave her a pair of crutches. She was blessed that she didn't need to have surgery. She had difficulty using the crutches and wanted a wheel chair. One was acquired and she was able to get all around the house in it quite well. Rather than push herself with the wheels, she used her feet





Wanda and Manuel in the summer of 2001

to pull it. When Gordon and the kids left to go home, Bonnie stayed for a few days to help out.

About a month later, Manuel ran away from home. He was acting suspicious and Wanda found that he had packed a suitcase with clothes and \$2,000.00 in cash. Once his plot was uncovered, everything came to a head. He wanted to leave and Joanne consented to let him come and stay with her in Orofino. (By this time, she and Ken were divorced and she was living on her own.) Bonnie contributed a bed and Ellen and Brad took him and his

things to Northern Idaho. (By this time Ellen and Dennis were divorced and she had take up with Brad Fredrickson.) Joanne wasn't able to handle him either and after about a month, Ellen and Brad went up to get him and brought him back to Idaho Falls. The lot fell to Bonnie to take him back home.



Ellen and Brad

For the next year or so, they basically coexisted together as their marriage fell apart around them. In September 2001 they separated after 64 years of marriage. Emanuel moved out and Ellen set him up in Lincoln Court, an assisted living center in Idaho Falls. The story differed, depending on who was telling it. According to Wanda, he left her. His story was that she kicked him out.

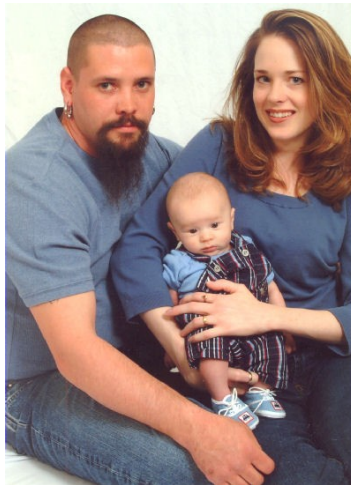
Wanda was heartbroken by the turn of events that were unfolding. Yet, at the same time she was relieved of the contention. After a few weeks, Manuel announced to the girls that he had a "lady friend". Ellen helped him with divorce proceeding and on December 30, 2001 it was finalized just six weeks short of their 65th wedding anniversary. He was awarded half of the cash in their savings account and Wanda got the home and the farm. Less than a week later on January 5, 2002, Emanuel married Beth Gerrard Allen.

For the next several years Wanda lived alone. She had the income from the farm plus her Social Security check to live on. Even at her age she was healthy

but her energy level and activity had dropped off considerably and she rarely went anywhere. Age began to take more of a toll and she began to waste away to to where she only weighed one hundred and five pounds.



Wes and Ashurity



Grant, Emily, and Evan



Olivia and Paul

Additions continued to be made to the family. Wes and Ashurity were married on March 11, 2005. Their little girl, Piper, was born on March 24, 2008 Grant and Emily, who had a little boy of her own by the name of Evan, got together. Emily and Evan became part of the family. They had two more little boys. Denver was born February 7, 2006 and Deegan was born on August 20, 2008. There was one more wedding, that of Olivia and Paul on December 30, 2006. It was also during this time that Ellen got together with Mike Vorachek.

In June of 2008 she had another fall which bruised her leg (the other one this time) quite badly. After a couple of days the bruise became infected and required surgery to drain the infection. When she came home from the hospital, Bonnie came down for a few days to take care of her.

As her 90th birthday approached, she realized that she shouldn't drive anymore. Giving up driving meant giving up her independence. Wanda had always been fiercely independent, and this was very hard for her to do, but she knew it was the right thing to do. At the end of September when the insurance on her car expired, she gave it to Loren, who had just returned from his mission and was attending college. He was grateful for it and took good care of it.



Wanda and her daughters: Bonnie, Ellen, Wanda, Joanne, and Yutanna

Without a car, she had to depend on others to get around. She had a person assigned to her from a seniors helping seniors program who came once a week and took her to town for groceries and other errands. Ellen went quite often to help her and so did Bonnie. On occasion the girls all got together and would go down and spend the day with her.



Wanda and her grandchildren; Back: Blake, Glen, Denny, and JoNell. Middle: Wes, Wanda, and Grant with his son Deegan, Front: Loren and Olivia.

All of the family, with the exception of Tino, got together for Wanda's 90th birthday. The house had never been so full of people! It was a wonderful family reunion and birthday party all rolled up into one, There was food, presents, and pictures. Many stories and memories were shared. It was certainly a fitting celebration of ninety years.



Wanda and her great grandchildren; Evan (great great grandson), Tory, Wanda, Hennessee (Tino's girlfriend's daughter) Tristan, Jacob, and DJ



Blowing out her birthday cake. Bonnie, Wanda, and Piper.



Opening gifts



Joanne's Family; Standing Bruce Duggins (JoNell's fiancé) and Grant holding Deegan. Middle: JoNell, Wanda, Joanne with Hennessee on her lap, Emily with Evan on her lap, Norma, and Denny. Front: Tory, Tristan, Jacob, and DJ.



Ellen's family; Standing: Ashurity, Ellen, Mike (Ellen's fiancé), and Blake's girlfriend. Seated: Wes holding Piper, Wanda, and Blake.



Bonnie's Family; Standing: Paul, Olivia, Glen, and Loren. Seated: Bonnie, Wanda, and Gordon

Emanuel died at Lincoln Court on May 13, 2009. His funeral was held at the Hansen Mortuary in Rupert and he was buried in the Paul Cemetery. Several years earlier, Wanda and Manuel had purchased a headstone and had it engraved and erected. Even with the events of the last few years, there was never a question as to where he should be buried.

About six weeks later, Wanda, Jim, and Willard and some of their children and grandchildren had one more family reunion. Mabel was in a nursing home and was not able to attend. They all got together for lunch at 1:00 on the 4th of July at Burger King. It was so crowded that it was difficult to visit. After lunch everyone regrouped at the home of Glen Allen, one of Willard's sons. After



visiting for a while, they loaded up into a three car caravan and went out to the old homestead in Starr's Ferry. The old house was long gone, but the Tilley house was still standing. The Tilly's still owned the property. One of the Tilly girls met them there and they all had a great time reminiscing.

The next day, while Bonnie and Gordon were still there, they took her for a ride to drive past all of the places that she and Manuel had lived during their early marriage. All of the memories came flooding back as they drove slowly by each place. They could almost see Manuel chasing that pig with a pitchfork stuck in its back. Wanda had been extremely blessed with a good memory and a sharp mind for someone in their nineties. On the other hand, her short term memory wasn't as good anymore.

It was also amazing for someone in their nineties to still be in their own home



Wanda standing in the beet field just north of the house. (Compare to the picture on page 11.) - July 2009

and still be able to take care of themselves. Wanda had been a very determined person all of her life and old age didn't change that. She did turn to an organization called Seniors Helping Seniors for a little assistance. She was assigned a companion, a woman named Maria who was in her seventies. She came once a week and spent about four hours with her. Maria would drive her over to Paul to get her hair done and take her to the grocery store. (At ninety, she finally quit dying it and let it go gray.) They spent a lot of their time just visiting. Wanda really looked forward to Maria's visits and was disappointed when she was unable to come.

Someone came once every couple of weeks for about an hour or two to help with housekeeping but Wanda pretty much had things cleaned before they got there. She hired some neighbor boys to mow the lawn. She was always concerned about the appearance of her yard and at ninety one, still kept the weeds pulled and the pine cones gathered up the best she could. She even kept the lawn irrigated. The ditch rider would turn in the water and it pretty much went where it needed to go by itself. Nevertheless, she would be out there making sure that it did.

Going places was difficult for her, especially for any length of time. Being independent, she didn't want to have anyone bothered by having to take her. Therefore she no longer attended church, but her home teachers, visiting teachers, the Relief Society President, and others stopped in often to see how she was doing. Of course, she was always doing fine and didn't need anything that she would admit. She always appreciated it when someone stopped by for a visit.

Living all alone and so far from her daughters was difficult but was eased by the telephone. Yutanna called her every night to make sure she was alright. Bonnie called two or three times a week.

Ellen and Mike were married on April 15, 2010. They were both very busy



The house - September 2008

with their jobs, but Ellen came about once a month to take care of things that needed attention, whether it be shopping or taking care of business matters. Ellen did such a good job of managing affairs for her.

She took good care of herself and had an exercise routine consisting of situps, leg lifts, and other calisthenics. She rode her exercise bike an equivalent of a couple of miles a day. She no longer went for walks up the road for fear of falling after a couple of falls she had in the house and yard.

Every day was just the same. Her day included her routine, taking a nap, and watching the news. She always liked to keep up with what was going on the world. One day passed into another and they all seemed to blend together. She was tired and weary of life and waited in anticipation of that day when she could go home.