

**PERSONAL JOURNAL OF
VERA ADELINE FELT (HORNE)
daughter of David Pile Felt & Adeline Speirs
born January 1, 1886**

(The account was typed by Dan Pugmire from her own handwritten journal she made about 1955. Few additions or corrections were made.)

My father was choir leader and put on many operettas for young people. I took part as an angel fairy and queen. They took the one I was queen in out to Lagoon. And in my school I was queen in an opera. I took vocal lessons and I sang in many wards and 3 Colleges at the University of Utah and Brigham Young & L. D. S. College. And for years I sang in the Tabernacle Choir and in recitals and political meetings and the old Grand Theater.



My father was president of the press association and Apostle Penrose was very close to my parents, traveling together in the newspaper work. The apostle was editor of the Deseret News. Father was given passes to theaters, circuses, Salt Air, Lagoon, Black Rock, and Warm Springs, and passes on the railroad, too. Most of the time he took Mother on these trips, but he took me on 2 of them. One trip was to Cal. and I danced with a United States Senator at a big hotel where they gave the editors a banquet. A couple who worked there knew I was an L. D. S. girl and took me in their room and dressed me up in a silk dress and jewels. The crowd wondered how I got dolled up so grand when we left our things in Los Angeles and this was in San Diego.

Well, one of these trips Father & Mother took me with Apostle Penrose and his wife to the St. Louis World's Fair. They sure fed us good at that hotel because they wanted a big write up. One Sunday Apostle Penrose said, "I've an appointment in the city to meet the Elders." So we five left the fair ground and went to the meeting where Elder Horne was. All the Elders took me in the corner after but Elder Horne didn't seem to notice me. So these Elders wanted to see me when they came home.

So I went on with music holding all my interest. I was invited to travel and sign with five women all older than I. And another group wanted me in a quartet. My father was very angry about this. Mother prayed I would get settled and not wish to venture out in the world.

One day at school, a wealthy girl friend said, "Vera, I know a lady who has the gift of

looking in a peep stone. I only have 25¢ but I'll go with you and listen." It was \$1 to ho to her. So she read to Lizzie, then said, "Miss Felt, if you'll sing for me, I'll tell yours for 25¢." So I sang "The Jewel Song" from Faust. Then she said, "You must never marry but study music and go abroad." Then she flew her hands up in the air like she was shocked and said, "Do you know Elder Horne?" I said I met him in St. Louis but never since. She said her boy was one of the Elders who wanted to take me out and I'll give you a party Wed. & a big dinner if you'll come and I'll have Elder Horne and my son and a nice lot to meet you. So Lizzie and I said yes we would go.

Her table was heavily laden with food. She said, "I've tried and tried to get Elder Horne but I couldn't get him." I told her I didn't come to meet Elder Horne but Lizzie sure said she did. Just as we ate our desert Elder Horne came and she said, "here I've tried all week to get you and you walk in." Elder Horne said, "We had tickets to the Salt Lake Theater but we gave them to Orson Mathew's brother. I felt like coming to see you. I didn't know there was a party here." She said to come and meet Miss Felt. He had a blue sweater and high topped boots and when he looked down at me I was so surprised I thought for pity sakes I like him! I'd better get in there and get acquainted before Lizzie does. So I went in and sang The Jewel Song from Faust and some others songs. He said after he was astonished. He expected to here popular songs. He took me home and we were engaged and were married.

I wanted to send him a valentine when he went to work for our marriage. So I fixed four photographs of me in color and put them in a frame. He was obsessed in the four seasons. This is what he wrote:

I have four girls, four lovely pearls,
But don't know what to do,
For I must choose which one to lose
And which to keep for life.
So your advice give in a trice,
Which one shall be my wife?

The first you see as sweet can be
Is representing Spring.
With her so fair, none can compare,
To her I'll give the ring.
But look at this sweet summer Miss,
I must not choose too soon.
For now I'm sure there's none like her,
I would not lose this boon.
And now we'll pass to autumn's lass.

Ah, note those hazel eyes.
 I'll ask her now to make the vow
 That lifts me to the skies.

There by her side is winter's pride.
 I believe I love her best.
 And yet it seems all four are queens.
 Now isn't this a test?
 I love each one. What can be done?
 For each is good and true.
 So tell me quick which one to pick.
 That's why I've come to you.

What's that I hear, no need to fear
 Of losing any one?
 For every season have a maiden?
 I don't see how it's done.

Oh great delight! Of course you're right,
 It's plain as noonday sun,
 These maidens dear, 'tis now so clear
 All four are only one.

So April 3, 1907, we were married. The yellow roses were blooming and violets and a great yellow moon. We went to live in the Teton Basin where we farmed and Arthur taught school. We had lovely wedding presents and fixed up a log cabin very nice with pretty curtains and it will always be a beautiful memory to me our first home.

One night I went to meet him thinking he would come in a big wagon any minute on the road I took. He was in the Darby Canyon getting lumber. I had dinner on the table and only had a light flowered dress on. I walked and walked and he didn't come. I walked >till 12 o'clock leaving our house at 5 o'clock. I passed wild cats and coyotes were howling and tall trees. A man came in a wagon and took me to his sister's home. She took me over the next morning. Arthur came home on the other road.

Then one year and 3 months our baby boy was born, David Arthur on July 3, 1908. He was highly intelligent, received A's and B's all through school, and won a scholarship to the University and a nationwide essay on chemistry. He studied law and died when he was 20 year old.

Then Esther our beautiful girl was born. Natural curly hair and sang and played and

very active in the church. Married Paul Olson, had 2 boys, Kenneth and Dale. She died when she was 27.

Then Donald Horne was born June 18, 1912. One day he ate rat poison on top a big cellar. He stiffened out and I knew then what it was. I prayed and gave him olive oil, milk and cream till he vomited. I know the Lord saved him for we were in the canyon far from a doctor. He has been a great blessing to us all through his life.

Then our darling Elizabeth came. I nearly lost her, but one night I saw her in my dream and so I decided to do as the doctor said stay in bed 3 weeks although I felt well enough to get up. She married Bishop James Fortney (second marriage) and had 5 children.

Then Adeline came. Adeline as a baby had a screw in her mouth and Don told me to look. I grabbed her and turned her upside down on the front porch and prayed and a man came running and I said pray for her so I can pull the screw out. She was black but his prayers and priesthood gave me strength to pull it out. He said a voice told him to come that way.

He (Arthur) taught school in Alta and then moved to Victor in the winters to teach high school and grade school. We were visiting in Salt Lake and on our way home Arthur drank in a ditch and contracted typhoid fever. On the day his was to teach in his high school in Victor, Idaho, he was in bed with the terrible sickness. He was so ill from September to January. We had no electricity and I had to take care of him in the night by lamp light and he would tell me in his delirium people were dancing on the wall. He said, "Vera, get those people out of here." I said, "There is no one here," and he got upset because of the fever. I was sure frightened. He was so bad I had to empty his bedpan. We had to get help and send young (David) Arthur away. The last month of his illness he had 7 hemorrhages in one day. Great coils of blood in the bed pan and I all of a sudden turned to him and said, "Arthur, in the name of Jesus Christ, you won't have any more hemorrhages but you'll get well from this minute on." Then I turned to Ruby Stevens, a dear girl who helped me and said, "Ruby, run and get the Elders to administer to him for I'm very tired." I knew what I said had to be confirmed by the priesthood. It seemed the strength left me and the wind seemed to blow out of the door. Then the doctor and Will Durrant and a nurse came from Driggs 7 miles from Victor. It was a snowy blizzard. Soon there were 20 people in the house outside his bedroom. I went to bed and the doctor said, "Isn't it strange Mrs. Horne can sleep so peacefully while her husband is dying." I knew he would live and I slept. She wasn't an L. D. S. doctor and little knew of my great faith that came to me before they came. So from that minute I spoke of, he got well.

The nurse was needed elsewhere but she wouldn't leave and she said for me not to

enter the room because I looked sad. On the next Sunday someone asked me to go to conference. I told Arthur and he said, "Don't leave me, Vera." Bell, the nurse, said, "Oh, he wants you more than me after all." We finally let her go and help others who needed a nurse. He was very weak and very hungry and the nurse soon left. And we were very happy in taking care of him. In 3 weeks he went to school and we sent a milk bucket of fine food for him so he ate every 2 hours >till he looked as handsome as ever again. The Lord wanted him to live and this is my great testimony. I pray it will be read by someone who it will help.

We were in plays and concerts and had a fine social life. We homesteaded in Alta, Wyoming. Then Arthur had a chance to teach in Granite District in Salt Lake. We lived in Forest Dale. We went to Nevada and Arthur kept books for a mining company and worked in the lumber mills and taught. Then he was principle in Utah again in Corrine. Then back to our home in Forest Dale where Marguerite was born on July 1, 1921 and died February 22, 1922. A beautiful baby who caught the flu from a neighbor.

Then Dorothy was born on March 23, 1923. We then moved to Sandy, Utah on a small 2½-acre farm to raise our children and have a cow and chickens. Stephen and Raymond were born in Sandy.

After Beth was born the doctor said I could never have anymore children. I felt like a cripple and told Arthur's father who was a Patriarch. He said after a while I'll send for you and give you a special blessing. In two weeks he called me. He gave one a grand blessing saying the Lord was pleased I wanted more children. He said there will be several more and he told me to lie down and rest when tired instead of pushing myself too hard. He said these children would cause our hearts to rejoice. I can't remember all he said. We can't write special blessings down. Then I had 5 more children. I nursed them all.

I taught literacy class 6 years and the Theology class and Captain of the Daughters of Pioneers and chorister in relief society. Worked on the Stake religion board Block Teaching. Went to the Temple as often as babies would allow. I sang in quartets at times in the Catholic funerals where the Priests wouldn't take care of the dead if they were too poor to give him money.

Ray fell once on a bed and made a black lump on his cheek. The Lord guided me how to tend it. The doctor gave up. It took a long time of constant care to heal. Then Ray and Steve nearly got killed on their bicycle and on the way to the hospital Ray dept saying, AI know the Lord will heal me. He had a great big poke on his forehead and 2 breaks in his leg. They didn't set it right because they thought he would die before morning. So in 7 weeks they had to break it and set it over. It left a scar on his fine forehead.

Gwen, Don's wife, gave Ray some oil paints and Ray became an artist. When he worked at Mt. Rainier he started painting ties for people that traveled from all parts of the world. He made many friends there. Some lawyers and famous people count him as a friend. We received some fine letters about him. When we went to Hawaii a bishop said he had a Ray Horne tie. He made artistic scenery and helped direct plays. In floor shows dancing with the queen and solo members.

Then he worked on an Indian pageant for 2 years on his mind >till a beautiful thing was produced. So the 3rd and 5th Ward and some of the 1st Ward rallied around and helped him. Jackie Murphy helped paint big boxes that looked like socks and boulders on the stage. Sage brush and an Indian tent made of white sheets and flourescent paper that shone in the dark clouds were made on a blue curtain in the back of the stage. It was beautiful when the soft lights shone on it. Then a ramp was built with pines coming off the stage for the actors to come down and act in the middle of the ballroom. Big pines were on one side of the ballroom. And the choir sang back of them. A girl whistled in the pines like a bird. As the audience came in, soft music, Indian music played in the dark. Ushers had flashlights to show them to their seats. Then a professor from the University read the legend as the scenes came on. Mabel Tucker also read half the legend. And as they read, spot lights showed the stage and how the Indian thought they were created. Twenty Indian maids in white princess gowns came across the stage and down the ramp and danced the sword dance around a created bonfire of flourescent paper and shrubs. They formed in a circle and danced. It was wonderful. Then 3 professional Indian dancers from the University danced around the bonfire. Then an Indian from Bremerton who wore a \$1500 suit came and played the drum and danced. His family was baptized the next week. In between to make the story more real the choir sang The Land of the Sky Blue Water, Waters of the Minontonka, and so forth.

Then an Indian princess came on the stage and sang the Indian Love Call, with her husband taking the part of her lover in the back of the room singing the answer. It was a duet. She walking and singing as she came across the stage, down the ramp and he coming towards her to finish the song. The story was they were in different tribes and then thunder came and lightning and the overs escaped the warriors who came chasing them. Twenty boys as warriors came and danced a wild dance around the fire. And the legend read the earthquake and lightning was how the Grand Canyon was created and the stage was the picture of the Grand Canyon. He had a picture back of a sheet that looked like a lake in the moonlight and two danced the love dance by that. It's hard to tell the whole of it. But many came two nights it was so beautiful.

Then Ray went to Korea and now is in Holland on a mission.

Stephen was a great boy for mechanics and business. Building forts. Very steady,

religious and fine noble boy. He signed up for the Navy because the Army was waiting for his 18th birthday to draft him. It was on his birthday and he couldn't even eat his birthday cake they took him so fast. The day he graduated. He was so dependable they had him drive the officers around and sent him with a big truck on many errands. He studied and was made an officer. After going to officer's training school in Minn. he went to Florida and the day peace was declared he didn't get to go over seas. He went to the University of Washington, on a mission to Northern California and graduated from the U after he returned. Married Leila Kunze, a fine girl and very talented. They have 2 fine boys in Bellingham, both active in the Church.

Dorothy is very active in the church. Has 5 lovely children. Married Farrell Pugmire. She teaches in special interest class and theology lessons and activity councilor in mutual.

Don and Gwen sponsored a trip to the Hawaiian Islands. When we went from San Francisco on the Lureline Ship, we felt strange among so many wealthy smoking, drinking pleasure seekers. But we made some fine friends on the ship. The meals were wonderful and they had many entertainments. The big Hawaiian fellow who lectured and gave Hula dancing lessons, said one day his people came from Asia. I was sitting with a lady watching him give these dancing lessons and she said, "How many children do you have?" I said, "Nine." She said, "Good heavens, do you still love your husband?" I said, "This big fellow would know where he comes from if he had read the Book of Mormon." She said, "Good heavens, are you a Mormon?" I made a good friend out of her and when we went to the Honolulu she took a crowd to see the Temple and she promised to let the Elders come and she would read the Book of Mormon.

I also made a friend who was a millionaire but very noble. She even came to bid us farewell at the ship when we came back. And two other friends drove to the ship in San Francisco and picked us up and drove us home to Seattle. They were surely fine people too.

When we docked in Honolulu, we were met by Brother and Sister Kauakaw (spelling?) who had previously blessings given to their children. They had a big new car and took us all over to see sights and interesting things that no common tourist could see without much money. They entertained us for 1 week taking us to the Hawaiian Temple, etc. Then we went to the big island Hawaii where my grandpa Spiers served as a missionary under very hard circumstances where he had only one pair of garments and had to wash and dry them and go bare footed. Joseph F. Smith and he were 17 years old and two of the first missionaries in the Hawaiian Islands. We were met at the airport and taken to all the Wards. Arthur taught the Relief Society theology lesson that Tues. All the men came. They all bore their testimony. We saw the volcanos, mountains, and many things. When Arthur was in Honolulu he spoke in Wards and one big fireside. They sang songs for us and put leis on our necks and kissed us. We love all those dear people. It would take pages to tell all we saw

there and all we did and we met people there who said their blessings (patriarchal) Arthur gave them were coming true.

(End of the account)