

THE CLAYTON CHRONICLE

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KEN'S LAST LIVING GRANDPARENT DIES

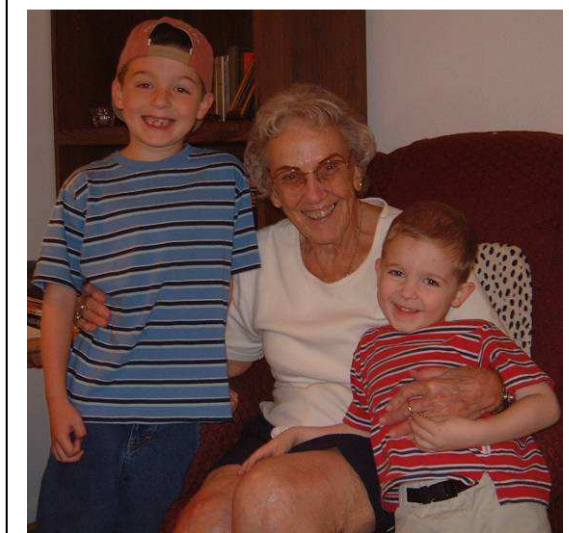
Beth Arnold, my paternal grandmother, passed away this month, one day after her 88th birthday. Grandma had insisted for some time that she was ready to be reunited with her mother, sister, and two husbands, not to mention finally meet her father, who died when she was just nine months old. She also joked that she couldn't possibly learn any more in mortality as a result of her memory problems.

One of my very earliest memories involves her: I remember her leaving my grandfather's graveside, as a 53-year-old widow, with my Dad's arm around her. I was only 3 at the time, and must not have understood the concept of death. I only remember being worried and wondering why she was so sad, and her emotional state that day is probably the reason that scene remains with me.

Later, we would make the "long" trip to Orem to visit her, and some of us were able to spend time with her at Utah Lake in the summers. After the death of Ed Arnold, she moved to Salt Lake and lived not far from my family. I really developed a friendship with her during that time, visiting her frequently, usually to help set up a telephone, answering machine, or VCR, or to help in the yard. She was there during my senior year of high school (loaning me her car to drive to prom), my two years at BYU (where I would visit her at her seat every basketball game), and through my mission. She moved to Elsinore shortly after my return home and just before Angie and I were engaged.

We visited her occasionally in Elsinore or St. George, but probably not as often as we could have. Up until the last few times I saw her, she always managed to stay mostly positive and even maintained a sense of humor about her memory loss. I'll certainly miss her, but aside from the separation, there is nothing sad about her death. She lived 88 years, and as she pointed out frequently, she was ready to move on.

—Ken



Grandma Beth with the boys in 2002

justice

Ken and the boys spent several hours this month saving the world from evil. Chad received *Justice League Heroes* for Christmas, and we took a month of playing as Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Flash, Green Lantern, and Green Arrow to defeat the bad guys.

webcam

Continuing our efforts to supply the whole world with webcams, we had one sent to Grandma and Grandpa Liscom for Christmas. It took until January to get everything set up, but we finally started video conversations with them. There is no truth to the rumor that Grandpa purchased a Star Trek uniform because he feels so much like Captain Kirk.

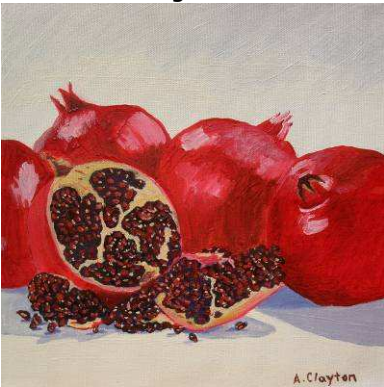
calling

In addition to his job as Ward Canning Specialist, Ken got a new calling as an instructor in the Elder's Quorum. The plan is for him to teach once a month from the Spencer W. Kimball manual. He taught the first two lessons of the year during January.

FROM ANGIE'S EASEL



The painting of Marnie at the Washington Monument was a flawed early attempt to use only the palette knife. It worked well for Marnie's form, but there were problems in rendering the necessary detail in the foreground.



The pomegranates turned out very life-like and were a real breakthrough. The seeds in the pomegranates and the shadows really make this painting work.



The painting of Tenerife (Puerto de la Cruz) was another experiment, done completely with a palette knife – no brush! It worked well for the waves, the mountains and cloud cover, and the shapes and shadows of the buildings. Details were still an issue.



These limes also came out very realistic, mostly due to the details and light and shadows in the skins of the fruits. The pink background was a modification.

RANDOM NOTES

- The kids took turns being sick the first three weekends of 2007. Jeff started out on New Year's Day and January 2, but he didn't even realize it. Informed that his raspy voice and runny nose meant that he must be sick, his response was, "Really?" Marnie was next, with an ear infection a week later. Chad finished off the trifecta with a pretty bad cold over the next weekend.
- We expanded our horizons this month, eating out at several new places, including the Calico Cow, Jilly's Sports Grill, Islands, and Bamboo Club (new to Ken). We were amused at the Calico Cow when we realized that until the very end of our meal, we were the five youngest people in the entire restaurant. It wasn't because business was slow; apparently they cater to a more mature clientele than even Ken and Angie. We knew we were in cruise ship company when a live performer brought out a keyboard.
- Chad had his biggest babysitting job this month on Ward Temple Night. We made the trip down to Mesa for the session, then were invited to dinner at the Bamboo Club by Bishop and Terry Duke and the Reinsteins. Chad did great, lasting 6 hours and getting Jeff and Marnie to bed on time.
- Ken somehow drew the short straw again, being summoned and selected for jury duty within a year of moving to Arizona. The defendant was charged with possession of two stolen computers, but it seemed like a waste of the court's time. After a three-day trial, he was eventually found guilty of the highest level misdemeanor.
- It was a quiet month as far as travel was concerned. Besides Ken's overnighter to Salt Lake for his Grandma's funeral, Angie made a quick trip to Omaha for work.
- It never seems like winter here, with spring-like weather even in January. We acted accordingly, kicking off a spring cleaning project in Jeffrey's room, which was full even before Christmas. The end result was less clutter (so far), easier room-cleaning, and a big donation to charity.
- Angie turned 39 on January 29—marking her last birthday before 40!

WII LIKE TO PLAY!

By Chad

JANUARY 26

Are you tired of sitting on the couch waiting out the loooooong dreeeeeary day? Well that's a thing of the past with Nintendo's new Wii console.

The Wii (pronounced 'we') came out November 19, and we've been waiting for it since last March when it was announced. The Wii was so scarce that on its release date, Amazon.com sold out in the first ten seconds. They are still very scarce, but we were able to come by one at Game Stop by being there when a shipment was expected.

The Wii comes with a Wii remote, nunchuk, and *Wii Sports*. After creating our Mii's (see right), we were off to the virtual court to play tennis. Swing the "Wiimote" like a racquet and your player swings his or her racquet on screen. Other sports are the same, including boxing, golf, bowling, and baseball. My favorites have been the tennis, boxing and bowling.



The next day, Jeff and I bought *Excite Truck* and *The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess*, two additional games we wanted. In *Excite Truck* you basically bash cars against each other in off-road fury races. To steer, you use the Wiimote like a steering wheel. In *Twilight Princess* you must save the land of Hyrule from the passing twilight beasts. You use the Wiimote to swing your sword and aim other weapons, like bow and arrow and ball and chain.

The Wii also plays our old Game Cube games, and you can download classic Nintendo games and play them as well. I'm hoping they make some *Castlevania* games available, and they already have *A Link to the Past*, so that's promising. Old and new, all games on the Wii look very good.



SCHOOL UPDATE AND GRADES

By Jeff

The first week of January we didn't even have to go to school because of it being New Year's week. The next week we got our report cards, which included good news. Chad and I both got straight F's for second quarter.*

In addition to getting my grades for last quarter, I started doing work for third quarter, which runs from January through March. Here are some of the things we were working on:

- In Mrs. Brown's reading class, I had to write a literature letter about a biography I read. I chose George Washington, a.k.a. the first president. I learned that Washington moved a lot during his life.
- Chad wrote a literature letter about a biography also. It was a book about two NBA players, Patrick Ewing and Alonzo Mourning. He also wrote a technology persuasive. He argued that technology doesn't make kids lazy and that kids choose to be lazy while using it.
- In Mrs. B's class, I did pretty much normal work. That includes stuff like DOG (weekly geography assignments), WOD (word of the day), and DLR (daily language review). I also had regular math assignments.
- In Chad's class with Miss Engelking, he had to write an essay about Martin Luther King, since it was King's birth month and holiday. He also had to make a pyramid which I thought looked pretty good.

To me, the best part about January is that the school year is half way over.

* Jeff notes that "F" stands for Fantastic. Both boys actually got straight A's.

Q&A WITH MARNIE

Marnie had her friends, Sophie and Ellie Roser, over one Sunday while their parents were helping some other ward members move into their house.

Q: Do you like to play with Sophie and Ellie?

A: Yes. And they are not going to come for like a year. Is there any time I can go and play with them for like a while, or do they go to bed this early?

Q: I don't know, but you played with them a while ago. What did you do?

A: Put on costumes. Ellie likes to be Snow White a lot. She also likes the wedding Ariel dress, and that's my favorite too. Actually Tinker Bell is my favorite.

Q: How old is Ellie?

A: Three. Is she really three?

Q: Yes. What about Sophie, how old is she?

A: Sophie is five. So she's a little older than me. I'm four, she's five. We're just by each other.

Q: Who else is in their family?

A: Matt Roser. He's my primary teacher at class. Who's that baby? I can't remember his name. Baby Mathew! And Lara. She is the mom.

Q: Anything else about them?

A: Sophie was my best friend. So was Ellie. She always makes Sophie and me do stuff what she says. She makes us do everything she wants to do. Like go outside and get dirty. Can I say something about Haley?

Q: Sure. Haley from school?

A: Yes, she is my best friend too. Can we have a play day sometime?

LETTERS FROM GRANDMA

As I thought about Grandma this month, it occurred to me that I probably had a few letters that she sent while I was on my mission. I was surprised to find eleven letters, all of them very long. I'm sure I appreciated them when I received them, but reading them again was a treat. I was reminded of Nephi, who said, "I speak unto you as the voice of one crying from the dust." Let me share a few highlights:

- ❖ "I am looking forward to the [BYU basketball] games again this year, it brightens my winter months. But I will miss your brief visits between the halves."
- ❖ "Well this month it is your birthday month!—and you are going to be the big 20? That makes me exactly 50 years older than you are. What an awful thing to do to your Grandmother! A fact of life I guess and it is for sure that it is only going to go up and up for both of us."
- ❖ "It's too bad we all get smart too slow and too late."
- ❖ "I too am enjoying my learning about the Book of Mormon. I've 'read' it twice before but this year with our Sunday School lessons, and our very fine teacher I'm moved to take it more seriously and understand it more."
- ❖ "Keep a positive attitude, keep an upbeat attitude as much as you can and it is such wonderful medicine for the down days."
- ❖ "So we just can't write those little kids off and we have to remember to be sure they hear the good things and not bad things—which really puts a lot of pressure on parents. See what is ahead of you?????"
- ❖ "May God's choice blessings be yours, and may his spirit attend you in all you do that you might be an effective tool in his hands."

- ❖ "I decided that the sun would not set on an unfinished letter to you today. I hope that procrastination is automatically overcome in the next life—if not I will struggle again with this ever existing problem of mine."
- ❖ "I am grateful for my home, health, job and family and thank my Heavenly Father for all this and more. I only have to look around me and see how blessed I am."
- ❖ "We surely have to start early to make right choices and pick good friends and start in the right direction."
- ❖ "I, myself, have made many mistakes but, thanks to the principle of repentance, I have made peace with my Father in Heaven and know which way I must and want to go now."

She frequently mentioned remembering me and others in her prayers, even reminding me to include them in my own prayers.

- ❖ "I remember you in my prayers daily that you might be humble, understanding and express love to all you meet and teach. I pray that the Lord will bless you with good health that you may be able to do the work that he has for you to do."
- ❖ "I always put her name in the temple when I go, as I do all our young ones who are struggling. None of us are perfect. Don't be too hard on her."
- ❖ "Pray for his success this time, his health and self image. He has had a really hard time emotionally for a couple of years. I hope this is, at last, a blessing that will develop fully."

Finally, one more for everyone:

- ❖ "Remember, smile and be happy, it is contagious and also remember that I love you very much,

Grandma



Beth Ross Clayton Arnold
1919 ~ 2007

On January 9, 2007, Beth Ross Clayton Arnold, dear mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, departed this life to join her loving family members and friends who have preceded her into Paradise. Her father, mother, sister, and two loving husbands are among those departed souls who have awaited her arrival there. A service for family and close friends will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 15, 2007, at the LDS Winder 5th Ward Chapel, 1361 East 40th South, Salt Lake City, UT. Viewing from 10:00 a.m. Interment will be at the Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park in Salt Lake City, UT, 3401 S. Highland Dr.

Born to Thomas Edward and Matilda Bell Ross on January 8, 1919, in Joseph, UT, Beth was the third of three children, Mark Bell and Barbara being her siblings. Beth never knew her father, Thomas, who died from an infection when she was only nine-months-old. Often she spoke of the grand reunion where she would come to know her father. Raised by her loving, caring and devoted mother, Matilda, Beth grew with her siblings to learn of sacrifice, devotion to family, hard work, and faith in God.

Beth married Edward Vincent Clayton of Preston, ID, on July 26, 1939, being sealed in the LDS Logan Temple. Beth and Ed were loving parents to four children, Edward Vincent, Jr., David Ross, Kathryn, and Dwight Melvin. Beth devoted herself to her children, family, and God, selflessly giving of her love, time and energy to bless the lives of her family and her extended LDS "ward families." Beth loved music and loved to sing, and was a long-time member of the Winder and Winder 5th Ward choirs in Salt Lake City. Beth lovingly joined her brother, Mark, and sister, Barbara, in caring for their long-widowed mother, Matilda. Beth taught her children the worth of this grand

soul, who was seasonally welcomed by Beth and her family as part of the growing Clayton Clan. She taught her children to love and care for "Big Grandma." On June 13, 1972, Beth's life took an abrupt turn with the unexpected death of her husband Ed, at age 57. She gathered strength from her children, extended family, and friends to face that which had long been her mother's lot.

However, in 1973, Beth met, dated, and married Benjamin Edward Arnold, of Orem, UT. Thereafter, Beth found herself with a "new life". Very new. Ed Arnold was a rock hound, a prospector, a dune-bugger, a fifth wheeler "gypsy," and a nature buff. Beth wasn't any of these. But, under Ed A's patient instruction, Beth became all of those and loved every moment of their 11 years together, before Ed A died of an encroaching illness.

Beth took strength, once again, from her faith, family, and friends, accepting an invitation to live with her sister, Barbara, and her husband, Grant Webb, in Elsinore, UT. Beth lived with the Webbs until they both passed away (cir. 1992). Thereafter, Beth moved to St. George, UT, where she lived near her son Vince and three of his grown children and their families. Her last year was spent in Moses Lake, WA, where she lived near her daughter Kathy and two of her children. She made many new friends in that short time and she will be missed there. The final years were good to Beth. She filled her "twilight years" with family, friends, service, and infectious happiness. Beth was good for those around her, enriching their lives through friendship and service. She will be remembered by family and friends as a happy, caring, loving person, as well as a person of faith and devotion to God.

Beth is survived by her brother, Mark B. Ross of Riverton, UT, her children, Vince (Janet), Ross (Marilyn), Kathy (Don Turner) and Dwight (Leta), 24 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, numerous extended family, and countless friends and acquaintances who have been touched by this special soul.

On behalf of our Dear Mother, we thank all who may entertain fond memories of her; indeed, she left many precious memories that will continue to touch and enrich our lives. Until we once again embrace in the Life Hereafter, we trust, Dear Mother, that you have taken with you a sure knowledge that We Love You and are eternally grateful to God for your having touched and shaped our lives so profoundly. Thank You, from those you have loved.

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