

ELAINE HICKMAN MAXFIELD



ELAINE HICKMAN MAXFIELD, MY GRANDMOTHER

by Cameron J. Sorensen

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Ring! Ring! Ring! The recess bell rang, and she was racing as fast as she could as she shoved open the glass door of her Jr. High School, Roosevelt Jr. High. The door shattered!! Oh, my gosh!! She cut her hand from top to bottom!!!

That was one of Elaine Maxfield's adventures through her life.

It all started when she was born on November 30, 1919, in Provo, Utah to Frank Leslie and Olive Nixon Hickman. She was born into a family of five children. At five years of age, she moved with the family to Salt Lake City on 1400 East and Gilmer Drive. In those days there were lots of vacant lots. She lived up on a hill. In the winter, as children, she enjoyed sleigh riding on the hill in front of their home. There weren't too many cars on the streets, so the dangers weren't very great. It seems to her that when she was young, each winter the snows were really deep...three feet. What fun she said she had playing in it and walking to school in it.

In the summers, she played ball in the vacant fields with all the neighborhood children. Also, she said most of the boys would play marbles - which seems to be a lost art nowadays. They enjoyed winning marbles from each other and collecting beautiful onyx 'taws."

When my grandmother, Elaine, was 2½ years old, she sang her first debut at the Brigham Young University! Her mother, Olive, had a girl working in their home to help with the children who played the piano. This girl taught the children songs. They sang so well that her mother, a singer and graduate of BYU and involved in many literary and social clubs, arranged for Elaine to sing for a Ladies Literary Club at B.Y.U. Elaine received her first box of candy as a thank you, and will always remember that special moment.

One day at age four, Elaine's mother had just arrived home from the hospital after delivering a new baby sister (Ruth). (In those days, mothers would have to stay in bed for a couple of weeks after having a baby to recover.) Someone in the family had broken a glass in the bathroom and her mother was unable to clean it up just yet. Elaine woke up in the middle of the night to get a drink of water. Elaine got the drink of water in the bathroom out of the broken glass. At once her mother flew out of bed from a sound sleep, rushed in to her, reached her finger down her throat, and got the piece of glass out of her throat. Her mother tells ~~it~~ that she was inspired to wake up at that moment and her second sense told her what to do.

During her sixth year while playing with her brothers and sisters, Elaine was being chased around the house, running around the dining room table. She fell and cut her head open on the china closet drawer. Dr. Jack, who lived next door sewed it up. (Dr. Jack's wife is presently the Young Women' President for the LDS church!)

As a child, Elaine shares many memories of singing and performing in Primary programs. Her mother, Olive, directed many of the primary musicals. Olive taught part-singing to many of the children. She would make sure everyone had a part...even the children that could not sing. These children were used as bugs or trees. Of course, Elaine had a lovely voice and enjoyed all her mother's productions. The one she remembers best was the part she played as a bird.



JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

When Elaine Maxfield was thirteen years old, she attended Roosevelt Jr. High School. She thought Jr. High was alot harder than elementary school because of the harder classes. Elaine had alot more friends and classes. She has a strong memory of her least favorite teacher, Miss Rappaport! Everybody knew Miss Rappaport!! She was a short, square lady with pulled back short kinkie black hair. She taught type and was very, very strict...Everyone in her classes made fun of her and made jokes of her when she would turn her back to the class.

My grandmother's favorite teacher was Mrs. Cahoon. Mrs. Cahoon taught music, which Elaine loved. My grandmother thought she was a very good teacher. She said that Mrs. Cahoon even wrote a song that was in the Primary Song Book.

In Jr. High School, Elaine ran for an office as Studentbody secretary. She did not win, but she enjoyed meeting lots of new friends.

There was a social dance every Friday afternoon after school in Jr. High. Most everyone attended. They didn't go on dates, but she and many of her friends had lots of parties and lots of fun together.

The most exciting thing that happened to her in Jr. High School was she was chosen as a lead in the school play. She remembers wearing a pretty white formal with ruffles around the shoulder and on the bodice.

HIGH SCHOOL FUN AND FROLIC

Elaine Maxfield attended East High School in 1935 - 1937. She sang in the Acappella Choir under the direction of Lysle Bradford. She was a renowned musician of her day. Elaine also sang in two operettas while at East, one of them being "The New Moon".

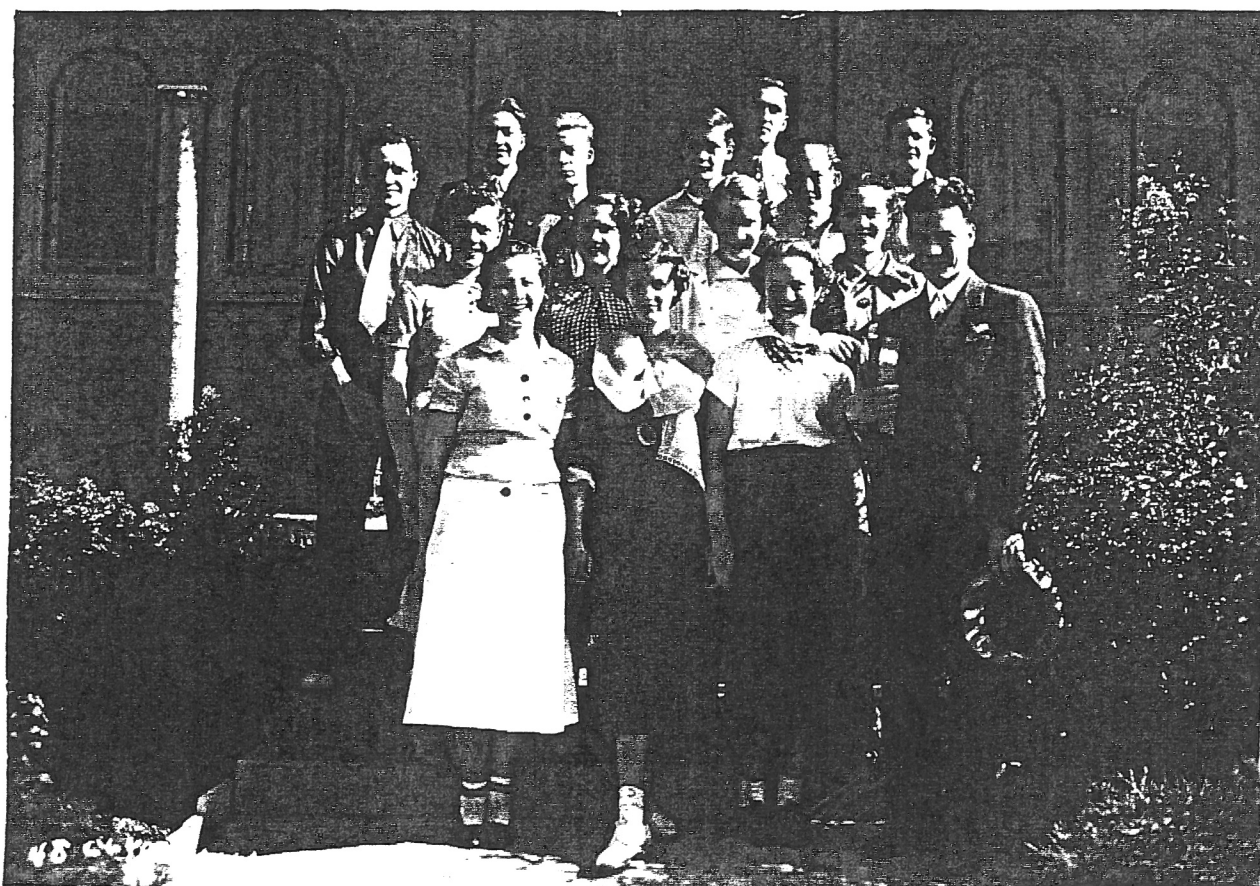
The clothing styles of her era were big circle skirts and ruffled petticoats, bobby socks, and saddle oxfords. The music of the 30's was by the big name dance bands. The places she and her friends would go dancing were the "Rainbow Rondevoux" and "The Coconut Grove." Jerry Jones was the local "Big Band" leader at the "Coconut Grove." In the summer, they would head out to "Salt Air" to dance under the stars. The "Jitterbug" and the "Big Apple" were two of the popular dances of my grandmother's era. They would go dancing nearly everynight in the Spring, when all the big bands were coming through town...therefore, not much studies got done!!!

After the dance, they would all go out for a 10¢ hamburger and a 10¢ malt. That was a great treat!!! Another favorite spot was to stop off on the way home from school to get a 5¢ ice cream cone at "Duffins" (11th East 9th So) or "Garden Gate" (9th South 9th East).

Elaine had a large circle of friends. Her best friend through Jr. High and High School was Marjean Elgren. She grew up around the corner from her and they did almost everything together. She was a friend of Elaine's from the time they were little. They have remained life long friends.

While in High School, Elaine was in many clubs with alot of different friends. Some her friends during those years include: Eva Lillywhite (Lehnhof), Audrey Bowers (Arthur), Lois Wheatlake (Fitzgerald), and Betty Pyott (Waltman). She enjoyed many social events and parties.

In 1937, Elaine graduated from East High School and from East High School Seminary.



ELAINE, A YOUNG WOMAN

After graduating from High School, Elaine flew back to Washington D.C. to live with her Aunt Mildred and Uncle Jessco to help take care of their new baby. She lived there for a whole year as their house keeper and baby tender. She loved taking in all the sights around Washington D.C. What a fun experience it was for her.

Upon returning home, Elaine attended L.D.S. Business College. She took business classes and was in the L.D.S. Business College Choir. While in the choir, she toured all over the state singing with them.

In 1940-41, Elaine attended the B.Y.U. She studied music. Elaine was a wonderful singer and sang with the B.Y.U. Concert Choir. While singing with the choir, she was able to go on tour with them to Southern Utah. Elaine loved singing and performing. Being a member of the choir was very rewarding for her.

On October 3, 1939, Elaine attended a Liberty Stake Dance. (She was in the Yale Ward.) She came up from Provo for the dance. At the dance, she was dancing a "mixer" dance of the Virginia Reel and met a handsome returned missionary, Vard Maxfield. (He was at the dance with another girl, Marge Ludlow-Knudsen). They danced, he asked her name, and later - after much effort on his part to locate where she lived and her phone number - he called her for a date. They continued dating while

she was attending BYU. Elaine would have to find rides home on weekends (most of the trips home she would ride with Phil Peterson and he charged her 25¢ a ride) so they could go out. Vard would also travel to BYU quite often to see her. They became engaged March 8, 1941, while parked on a road above the city cemetery...underneath the light of the moon.

Elaine and Vard were married September 17, 1941 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple.



MOTHERHOOD, A NEW JOY

A "firecracker" born on July 4, 1942 was the beginning of their family tribe. Nelden Vard was his name. For the next twenty years her hands were tied: changing diapers, cooking meals, washing, ironing, mangling, running kids to lessons and ballgames, teaching her children elocution lessons, and practicing piano. Elaine was very devoted to her children and her loving husband. Ten kids and twenty years later she had a posterity of five boys and five girls. In order, their names are: Nelden, Neal, Nadine, Nita, Norman, Nila, Nanette, Natalie, Ned, & Nalin. What a troop!!!

Raising ten children was not cake. Elaine had a daily routine that she religiously lived by: Monday - Washday; Tuesday - Ironing; Wednesday - Mangle & make Bread; Thursday - Wash sheets and change beds; Friday - Clean House & her date night out; Saturday - Shopping, kids chores, and girls hair curled; Sunday - Church, Big Sunday dinner. Elaine's meal plan was: Sunday - Roast Beef; Monday - Leftovers; Tuesday - Eggs (Mutual Night & Vard's big lunch day); Wednesday - Soup; Thursday - Fish, Pork Chops, or misc; Friday - Kids choice, moms night out; Saturday - Hamburgers. Wow! What a schedule. Pretty nifty idea to be so organized!!

RING! RING! RING! The Wedding bells chime!
After fifty years of marriage, Elaine and Vard ~~are~~ the proud parents of ten children, ten inlaws, and forty-three grandchildren!!!! All ten children have followed her traditions attending East High School & singing in the ACappella Choir. Great Job, Elaine!!!



My Grandmother is the best ever!!!! She has helped me through tough times & situations. She loves everyone around. I think she is very kind and loving. She hardly ever gets mad. One time, my brothers and sisters and I wanted to go outside and play, but my grandma said it was too dark. We wanted to go outside so bad that we snuck out the window and disobeyed her. She found out that we were outside, and came out and got us. She got mad, but not like any other grandma or mother! She just told us nicely to never do it again, and that it was wrong.

My grandma goes to all my ballgames and performances. She helps us do our work and chores, and she always has a great attitude about everything!! I love my Grandmother very much!

Everything she does is with a smile
Loving to everyone
Always Positive
In tough situations, she helps everyone
Neat in all she does
Efficient

Mom of 10 children and 43 grandchildren
Always helping others
X-tra special
Fun to be with
Interested in her grandchildren

Example
LDS Missionary
Deserves the best

Love,
Cameron
Sorensen