

These pages serve to update the section on "BILL" in the Timmins/  
Brighton/Thornley Family History.

Mont in the summer of 1977 spent about a month in Europe and Clark spent about 5 weeks in Europe in 1978 (he traveled with Dave Laws). In June 1978 Mont and I flew to Page, Arizona and rafted down the Colorado for a week ~ unbelievable adventures. It was here I got the idea for "Sally the Sandbeetle." Also, June of 1978 all of us and Jodi Laws (Clark was in Europe) took a week or so vacation to California ~ Universal Studios, Knotts, Disneyland, Sea World, Forest Lawn (Jodi swallowed a pin and had to go to an emergency room). We got home to a shambles ~ our contractor ran weeks late on a kitchen remodeling and so we lived in a mess that summer.

Summer of 1979 I had so many major consulting jobs it shocked us ~ we earned well over \$40,000 on just three jobs. We had to skip a big vacation because of extra work. That year we bought the cabin from Pres and Dwight, totally remodeled our basement (carpet, wood stove, brickwork, family room, etc.), put up new fences around the yard, bought a dining room table and chairs, the Audi 4000 (I drove it for 10 years, thereafter), soft water unit, and on and on. Mont had a canoe trip on the Snake River, and a week at Lake Powell with boys from the ward ~ he also was a volunteer half the summer at Cottonwood School. Clark lived (and worked) in Blanding over a month. In August we all went go-carting, Lagoon, Alpine Slides, etc. for several days.

My mother fell from a bus in September 1979 and injured her knee. She never recovered from surgery and died eventually (December 8, 1981) from pain and suffering.

In October 1979 we spent a week at the cabin. Dwight took us four-wheeling in the mountains where their dad had been a sheepherder. He showed us a tree carved with Asa and Marie's names from the 30's. We carved all our names on a nearby Aspen tree.

Spent Thanksgiving in Blanding in 1979 ~ snowmobiling on cabin road, to see Jodi in a school play, big dinner at Laws', etc.

In February, 1980 I was called as Bishop of the 27th Ward, age 43. We stopped most of my big consulting work while I was Bishop. We were OK financially but after my release I could never get the big, lucrative contracts again, and had to rebuild my business the hard way (small jobs and lots of them).

July of 1980 to early August we spent as a family in Hawaii ~ the most glorious trip we ever took. We did everything and stayed first class everywhere. Sally and Mont got stung by "men-o-war" but rest of trip was like a dream it was so wonderful.

I won't write much of my three years as Bishop. I believe I did a good job. I gave it everything I had. I think the calling broke my health so I never recovered and ultimately died from it. I innovated lots of things, touched lots of lives, moved our ward into first place in all

kinds of statistical measures, did much that was useful and helpful to many, many people. I had many successes, some failures. Theda was the perfect helpmeet and wife and mother the whole time. I never felt I did the job right and felt a great sense of relief and frustration when I was released. It's hard to judge now, so I'll leave it up to God. But, I did give it all I had; I just never seemed to enjoy it.

March of 1981 Sally had polyps cut out of her nose and surgery. We all met President Kimball one Saturday morning going into the clinic (he was coming out).

November of 1981 we all attended a session of Jordan River Temple dedication ~ we all contributed to its construction, very generously on the part of the kids.

March of 1982 Clark spent a week with me in Hawaii while I was at a conference for BYU. We had a very rich time together. We traded flights with a sick woman, so we got home a day later but were glad to help her and our best time together was that extra Saturday.

Easter of 1982 we went to Log Haven for breakfast ~ canyon was a blizzard and we were all pretty scared. Girls made elaborate sugar eggs later on.

May-June 1982 I was really sick. Diagnosis was a virus (always is when MDs don't know) and a hiatal hernia. I learned to eat differently and things improved later.

June 21- July 15 took a motor home trip up California coast (Knott's to Big Sur), Canada and Northwest, ended up at Yellowstone Park (over 4000 miles). Fantastic trip ~ we saw sand cliffs on Oregon coast, rain forest in a dinosaur park, Hobbit Forest, elves home at Vancouver, Buffalo kill mountain, Old Faithful, everything. Truly a glorious trip together.

Late July-August our girls took horse riding lessons at East Canyon Resort (we joined in '80 for cash). We also rode Alpine slides, went swimming often, great trip to cabin (and desert excursion with Dwight), etc.

August Clark spent in Guatemala with Dave Laws (my brother, Dave, was living there). They had a great adventure on tours of ruins and lost jungle civilizations. I wrote in my journal that '82 was "the best summer of my life."

January of 1983 I was honorably released as Bishop. My journal has a short summary of my years of service so I won't write much here. We went through the new consolidated meeting schedule (1980), ward boundary changes (1981), Jordan River Temple 1982, (I had lots to do with temple that isn't obvious), new financial program (1982), etc. We published a ward history, etc. The Stake President told me I'd done more in 3 years than most men in 5 or more. I certainly had a lot of ward illness, deaths, funerals, etc. It was an amazingly full, busy, pressure-cooker 3 years.

January 25, 1983 attended my first meeting as a new trustee at Mountain View Hospital in Payson. This assignment led to entire new directions in my life from 1983-1988 ~ boards, chairmanships, state and national assignments, dozens of trips (including

Hawaii, South Carolina etc.). Hard to believe how much service I was able to render beginning with this one assignment.

February of 1983 Sally won several awards in a Girl Scout Winter Olympics. I was a judge and we had a great time.

This same month I was called as instructor to our High Priest's group.

March 1983 I went to Florida to a conference. Made my first quick tour of the Florida Keys, Everglades Park, etc.

March I was cake auctioneer (maybe the 5th time) at Girl Scout fundraising dinner. Bought a cake for \$50.00.

Laurel won her school's Science Fair and took 2nd in Energy Conference at Westminster College (prize of \$75.00, trophy). Sally bought used drum set, began to play drums.

April I spent a week in New York at a Conference. Took boat tour around Statue of Liberty, attended high mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, downtown tour, great trip.

April 23 we all toured a Leonardo da Vinci exhibition at U. of U. Gorgeous sketches, models, of this genius.

I spent April 24-27 as consultant to Dixie College in St. George. Toured Jacob Hamblin home in Santa Clara, etc. Took in a session at remodeled St. George Temple.

May 1983 we went kayaking (in Clark's kayak) on Great Salt Lake. Fun. I was very busy on several consulting jobs for weeks, too. Took a big group of Cottonwood School kids to a gifted class at BYU (Laurel, too). I wrote several grants for school for 6 or 7 years and hundreds of kids took part in a variety of events like this one. Usually our kids were in the groups.

May 29 toured Jerry and Jodi's new apartment up by Capital Building. In May installed a lawn sprinkling system. Salt Lake had massive floods this summer that drew world coverage. Laurel won list of awards at her junior high graduation.

June of 1983 we spent our family vacation in Florida. Saw Epcot Center and Disneyworld (spent 35 hours there for 3 solid days), drove down the Keys to Key West, spent marvelous weeks there (touring, snorkeling, playing). Came back to Miami through the Everglades (great adventures ~ canoeing amidst alligators, etc); took boat tour of 'Glades. Stopped on way to airport at famous Serpentarium. Put 800 miles on our rental van.

June 1983, Clark attended Summer term at BYU. Re-painted van, remodeled closets and repainted all our upstairs bedrooms and bathrooms. Finished several consulting jobs plus several other small tasks.

July 2 we spent great day at Laws reunion at Saratoga (water slides, etc.). Clark interviewed to become an Elder on June 10. We hosted all Theda's family to giant bar-be-que

at our place on the 9th. July 15 we went to Temple Pageant in Manti. July 16 saw our first Shakespeare Festival and play in Cedar City.

In August we all hiked Timpanogos Cave and trail. August 16-18, Theda, Rebekah and Sally spent time with me on consulting job in Rifle, Colorado. We saw Dinosaur Quarry in Vernal on way home. August 28 we went to Blanding for Dave Laws' farewell. I taught BYU Education Week. One night I checked myself into the hospital. We thought it was a heart attack. I know now it was cancer and kidneys starting to kill me.

September 3 hailed over 1" hailstones. Damaged roof badly so we had to replace our roof (covered by insurance).

September 24 Mont and I went to Father's and Son's Outing ~ a football game. Fun. Sally dropped a heavy cymbal on her right foot and really bruised it badly.

October 8 we spent riding horses at East Canyon. Gorgeous white, puffy clouds ~ a perfect day for rides and dinner out. I spent 8-13 at a conference in Washington, D.C. I swam every day, toured everything.

October 14 we spent overnight at motel in Provo (then football game and dinner) for our 23rd Anniversary. Very nice weekend.

October 29, 1983, Theda was called as Spiritual Living instructor for Relief Society. She served until 1987. Saw Dave Laws leave for Japan about October 31, Bryan Timmins came home from Australia, November 4th. I was under extreme pressure at BYU and with massive professional commitments.

About November 12 we incorporated TCI, Inc. We dissolved company three years later. It was an ego trip for me but never really worked out like I planned. But it made money and was a great experience. I spent week in Phoenix, at a Conference. Put on new storm doors, put up new fencing.

December 4 Laurel was called as MIA-Maid President, and released as Bishop's Youth Secretary (she served there 2 ½ years). In December 3 girls started ski lessons with young man from BYU I hired as a tutor ~ he took them skiing over the next 3 years, but Rebekah dropped out. Late December Mont spent several days at Holiday Bowl game in San Diego. Just after Christmas Mont flew to Baltimore for 6 months internship with NSA. Boy, it was hard to see him board that flight to leave.

January, 1984

We shipped cookies to Mont in Baltimore and we called several times. Clark started classes at University of Utah. Theda taught fabulous lesson on Sunday. We were busy all month on many Church assignments. Girls busy with talks in Church, ball games, swimming, snowmobiling. I taught another merit badge class.

In February Theda and I were judges in school "Reflections" contest at another

elementary school and helped put them on at our elementary school. All 3 girls won awards. Girls went skiing. Heaviest snowfalls since we moved to Holladay. I was called as Stake Employment Specialist ~ served several years and got program going well in most wards. Mont a bit homesick ~ we wrote and called often. I defended church on a radio talk show on March 3 against an apostate group. I did this several times in my life ~ easy to be a defender of the Faith. Clark's girlfriend, Patti, spent a lot of time with us in next year ~ skiing with girls, at East Canyon, on weekends, etc. She became a daughter to us.

During March I taught Brownies several times, Primary, YW and other classes, even some Sunday School classes. Both Theda and I were often substitutes.

Clark interviewed to become Elder on April 1. We had outside of home repainted. Theda tended Ken's kids so they could get away (she did this often). I spent day making chili at a welfare cannery project. I went to conference in Denver ~ toured city during breaks. Kathy Timmins had her farewell April 15 ~ I gave her small pocket bible to take along (tradition now in the family ~ bible went on 25 or more missions). Mont spent Easter with family members in Virginia. April was one of the wettest in Utah history. I ordained Clark an Elder on April 29. I took my kids and children of families where I was home teacher to children's play at U. of U. Laurel working at bakery part-time. State had severe flooding ~ day of fasting and prayer was called for. I had a painful root canal done on a molar.

Roger Laws was living with us much of his senior year ~ he went to Provo to help his family move in (from Blanding). Laurel won many awards at junior high awards program (Kiwanis, business trophy, etc.). We all celebrated after at Fernwood's ~ kind of a tradition to honor each child who is recognized at school or church. Jodi and Tina spent some days at our place ~ we always liked having cousins over. Laurel and Mont began planning for their big European trip this summer. She left May 26 for 6 weeks. Sally and Rebekah won awards at Elementary School for years of "flag" service ~ all our kids raised and lowered flag at school daily.

June 1984 Clark got his missionary hair cut and turned in his papers. Sally cut over 12" of her long hair off. Mont joined Laurel in Paris on June 16. Clark got call to Texas-San Antonio Mission. We put together set of 72-hour emergency kits for each family member ~ lots of fun home evenings spent working on that project.

Sally helped Jodi move ~ spent all day packing, cleaning. We set up our old swing set at Vicky's place. We took kids everywhere this summer ~ "Legos" display at mall, Pageant of the Arts, Arts Festival at Triad Center, swimming, bike rides, canyons, out to dinners. Mid-July Laurel and Mont returned from European trip ~ we stayed up late in front room opening all the gifts they brought back. Trip cost \$6,000. I went to D.C. to a

conference ~ saw new places for first time. Theda hosted family party (35 people) at our place ~ she loved doing these parties. Painter did our bedroom and bathroom. We had new bedroom furniture delivered and re-carpeted much of upstairs (first new bedroom furniture for us in 25 years of marriage). We bought an Apple MacIntosh computer. We had family over for fireworks in our front yard on 24th (we did this many times over the years). We spent several days in late July at Festival of American West in Logan, at Bear Lake (Hobie Cats and all), touring, etc. We rented a big motorhome and went to Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City and then toured all the parks, as well, even Monument Valley (first time), ended up several days at cabin ~ we drove around the entire state north to south and back again. Rebekah got lost in woods at cabin (chasing cats) but used her head and found her way back. August 14 Clark went to temple, was set apart August 15, entered MTC the 16th ~ boy, was that an experience for his parents to leave him there. I baptized Michael Carney, confirmed him next day. August was packed with many small events.

In September Laurel started high school, Sally junior high, Rebekah 4th grade. Mont living in dorms at BYU. That Summer we got grapes, peaches, cherries, apples, carrots, tomatoes, berries all Summer from our gardens.

October I made several trips and we had a busy month. Clark flew to Texas October 17, he was group leader. Sure looked sharp in brown suit, tall, handsome.

October 18 had 2 feet of snow ~ schools sent kids home, power failed. Afterwards had mess of broken tree branches, etc.

Girls (Reb, especially) put on little plays, skits, festivals, shows, they loved to perform in front of family this way. I spent week at Miami Beach Conference ~ I swam 4 or 5 times in ocean, etc. I taught many classes, spoke often at firesides, etc.

Laurel in play at high school ~ we saw her perform November 2. Lots of letters to and from Clark ~ he had first baptisms. Had a cupboard installed in our bathroom. I was called on often to give blessings to a number of people. I went to conference in Cincinnati. Theda supervised a big inventory job for TCI all day on November 9 (we hired group from BYU to help). TCI was very successful rest of 1984. I went to several early morning temple sessions for ward. I spent several days in Kansas City on business.

We all went to "Amahl" on December 7 and "Nutcracker" on 15th. I spoke often to many groups in December. All of us busy with kids assignments, school volunteers, church jobs, choir practices, lessons, etc. Clark had more baptisms but still having a struggle. Sally was sick all month with ear infections ~ numerous MD visits, etc.

We spent 3 days snowmobiling at East Canyon ~ fun time. Mont and I went to Holiday Bowl game in San Diego for couple of days ~ BYU won national football title. Christmas 1984 was a wonderful day and we kept every tradition (big fire in fireplace, quiche,

etc). Sent Clark boxes of goodies, etc.

## 1985

January 18-19 our sewer backed up and made a filthy mess in the basement ~ took days to clean up and dry out. We wrote Clark a lot of letters for his 20th birthday.

In early February I spent several days in D. C. at my first National Congress of Hospital Governing Boards meetings as new Utah delegate. I was very active in the Congress (several Committees) for next 3 years, until my illness. Made another trip to D. C. to speak on privatization on 20th-21st.

I was very busy at BYU all semester ~ many, many publications, lots of seminars, many big speaking assignments, busy with students, won "outstanding teacher" award again (maybe 5th or 6th time).

Sally won Science Fair at Olympus Jr. and we all went out after for ice cream. Kids doing exceptionally well in school ~ all high grades, awards, honors, etc.

In March David Timmins and I had a book accepted for publication. Theda and I still busy with teaching and many ward-stake assignments. Almost unbelievable how busy we both were all the time with community and church assignments.

Late March spoke at conferences in Houston, Indianapolis, Las Vegas (toured all 3 cities in spare time). Laurel accepted into Pep Club. Busy with TCI and consulting ~ won many small bids in March and April.

April 6 sewer backed up again, but not as big a mess. Ultimately I had a new sewer line installed in front yard, very costly, but no more troubles (as of late 1988). Clark and Patti "broke up" on April 18 (she'd been dating). Efforts to patch things up continued for months but ultimately they split up for keeps. We had tough time counseling him and rest of his mission was a struggle over the split.

We were very involved as a family all spring with home evenings, Sunday activities together, classes, etc. A time of closeness, doing lots together.

I spoke at Conferences in St. Louis and Ft. Worth, and toured both cities in May. Laurel Mother's Day speaker on May 12 ~ eulogized Theda beautifully. Laurel called as 1st counselor in class presidency on May 19. Had outside trim on house painted. Mont accepted June 6 into MBA program and won scholarship.

June 8-19 Laurel flew to Israel with BYU group, had fantastic journey. I had rectal surgery at St. Mark's in mid-June (very unpleasant). We re-carpeted all the upstairs rooms. Mont spent some time on an archaeological dig near Blanding (joined us at cabin over 4th of July). Laurel passed her driving test for her license. We all spent late July at Shakespeare Festival. Mont graduated first in his class in Mechanical Engineering at BYU (B.S.)

I was called August 25 as Gospel Doctrine teacher (again, after 15 years).

September 14-21 Theda and I were cruise directors for first time on a love boat cruise through New England waterways for BYU ~ exotic, lovely, ever to be recalled. Saw places we'd only dreamed about seeing.

I confirmed Robert Carney September 29, Sally desperately sick for 7-10 days or so (ears). Reb rode a hot air balloon at Elementary School. Busy all Fall on TCI jobs ~ company doing well by me, anyway. Theda and I spent anniversary (October 12) at hotel in Provo, then to football game. Lots of calls, letters, boxes to Clark.

I was an arbitrator in El Paso, Texas in late October. Attended hospital meetings in Scottsdale in early November. I spent week in Kansas City at a Conference in late November. On 29th we all toured the Ramses II Exhibit at BYU, and out to expensive dinner, etc. We all loved tours and dining out. Clark called as a district leader. Earlier in fall, Mont and I spent week in Maryland on major consulting job ~ made thousands (\$23,000)

In December Theda was 44! Clark sent tape on new baptisms, companion, his work etc. He's starting to get a bit "trunky."

We watched Laurel's pep club perform at the basketball game. One of best Christmases of our lives. We spent 3 days snowmobiling at East Canyon ~ ice crystals, etc., were spectacular. A winter wonderland. Theda told Reb about Santa Claus ~ she told each child at same age ~ all were the same, "I don't want to hear!" 1985 was one of the busiest years of our lives ~ we crammed everything into it. Looking back at my daily journal entries, I see I was ill ~ my diseases had started and were on the way, only I didn't know it.

## 1986

Clark fulfilled his mission and returned.

Theda and I were directors of a cruise on Chesapeake Bay from 5/31 to 6/7, 1986. An adventure of dreams. Mont in Brazil for Summer ~ met and married Ruth (we were shocked at the initial announcement). We spent June as a family (less Mont) in Hawaii. Spectacular trip, very successful. Kids took scuba lessons. We had a new outside toilet built at the cabin and some repairs made.

One of our best trips ever to the cabin over July 4. Theda had 25 to dinner one evening. Sally had her "rite of passage" as all our kids have at age 14 ~ she drove van out on dirt road from the cabin to highway on the way home; she also got her ears pierced at start of 9th grade. I served about 1 year as Reb's Girls Assistant Scoutmaster ~ went on camping trips, classes, outings.

Laurel called in Fall to Seminary Council. Theda had a hysterectomy, and recovery was long, painful and difficult. But her lifetime of headaches and backaches went away.

We didn't hold home evenings 100% over the years but we sure had some great ones ~ on temples, journals, our early years, scriptures, etc. We tried really hard. Sundays we often read scriptures, talked, prayed.

In summer we also went to Shakespeare Festival "as usual." Mont brought Ruth home early August and we began a new adventure. We all went to Lagoon and many other places late summer and fall. Theda and I had another New England cruise September 6-13. We started attending Repertory Theatre ~ went for next 2 years faithfully, saw many wonderful shows, all 9 of us. Rebekah had lead part as Macbeth in school play on October 30. She was lead "Romeo" in play again in early November. I had an emergency appendectomy on day after Thanksgiving ~ really an emergency. I quit breathing during surgery and they had a rough time "bringing me back to life". The shock of surgery and complications after so hurt me that my cancer began to run rampant, and my kidneys began to die (I know this, now). I certainly learned how fragile life really is! We had lots of long, sober home evenings and Sabbath discussions with our children, often.

Christmas 1986 was wonderful. Ruth's first Christmas with us. Not enough snow to go to East Canyon this year.

1986 was as busy a year as 1985 or much more so (church, school, volunteers, conferences, consulting, family activities, etc.) but I've left out all the myriad details. Our big health problems sort of dominated the year.

## 1987

Theda and I spent over 6 months together in the ward nursery ~ her new call until mid-year; I went in weekly to help. I loved being with her.

I had big consulting jobs in Park City, Box Elder County, many others.

Sally spent part of summer in Europe with BYU group (all our kids started these travels in 9th grade).

Girls filled our mantle over fireplace with trophies, ribbons, awards, certificates, etc. It was very impressive ~ all 3 graduated with highest honors, all won lots of recognition. Mont completed his MBA (on "Dean's List") and was hired at BYU as a researcher. Clark finished his B.A. in English at the University of Utah. One of our kids graduated from every level of school this year.

I had best year of my life at BYU ~ "outstanding teacher" award, many excellent publications, dozens of conferences and papers and presentations. Absolutely at my peak. Busy on so many boards and committees I can hardly believe it.

Spent July 4 at cabin, again. Took a long hike through woods, a marvelous adventure. Typical of many summer adventures.

Brought Nikolaos here from Brazil ~ Mont's trip and our travails deserve a book of their own. But he got here to us. Mont and Ruth sealed in S. L. Temple on July 13 ~ a lovely day in every way.

Laurel won scholarships to BYU and started college.

September 11 to 26 Theda and I were cruise directors of two cruises, back-to-back. The Delta Queen on the Upper Mississippi River and the Royal Odyssey through Canada and New England. Trips were glorious, the adventures of a lifetime, and the best part was being together.

Along with many other conferences I spent week in October in Ottawa. I loved the City and took every tour time permitted. Also travelled to Charleston, South Carolina ~ neat city.

Mont and Ruth bought their first new car in November. We watched Nikolaos perform in school talent shows, etc. He stayed a lot with us and we fell in love with him. We had to buy a new washing machine. Laurel seriously dating one young man ~ we want her to play the field but they seem serious. Sally really sick (ears) in December. I had lump in my armpit lanced surgically ~ first real clue my kidneys/cancer were there, but we didn't know it, still.

Marvelous Christmas (plus Ruth and Nikolaos). Spent 3 days after at East Canyon, snowmobiling. It was glorious this year, but barely enough snow.

1987 was the most hectic, involved year of our lives by every measure. I think (looking back) I tried to cram everything I could into the last year, it's as if I anticipated something. Our kids were so busy with school, jobs, dates, etc., and our lives so busy, it was an incredible year by any account. 1988 was to be the shocker.

## 1988

As usual, Theda spent all day the 1st of January taking down Christmas lights, ornaments, decorations, and the tree and putting everything away, then cleaning house.

Laurel and Theda went grocery shopping for Laurel's dorm needs at BYU. Lots of snow early in January ~ driving to BYU was very unpleasant. I had "flu" and couldn't shake it off ~ turned into "sinus infection" that wouldn't clear up.

We'd bought a Honda in January of 1987. On the 7th of January we had its 30,000 mile service. Heavens, we drive a lot. I drove four cars over 300,000-400,000 miles at BYU.

Enough snow girls built snow forts, etc. Milder than recent winters but still lots of snow.

Girls joined in all day fasting at ward for ward members. In 1988 they did a lot of fasting this time and later on in year ~ we were very proud of them.

Sally got braces on her teeth. Theda helped Vicky and Rita wallpaper each of their homes. We had several family parties.

I was in D. C. at hospital meetings in February. Theda went to genealogy library several months in a row, working on a family line. I had stiff back, sore throat, cough, all month. Couldn't get rid of it all month of February.

I had board meetings nearly every week, extremely busy at both hospitals, state association, BYU, community affairs.

We turned in Laurel's application on February 29 for next fall at Jerusalem Center. I joined Sons of Utah Pioneers early in 1987 ~ we went to some monthly meetings (I spoke at one). We planned our big summer trip to Southern California (later cancelled all our reservations when we learned how sick I was).

March 8 Clark got ears pierced! We fasted for Jodi's new baby. Girls all swamped with school work. I turned 52 on March 13! Strange to look in mirror and see older, gray man, and realize it's me!

Reb was a top winner in March Science Fair. I was often tired out by p.m. We fertilized and prepared gardens for spring ~ weather so gorgeous, a lovely Spring.

We did scores of things together as family (including Mont's 3): photo negatives in driveway, planting flowers, hopscotch, etc.

I went to Tucson for two days in late March. I knew I was really sick on trip but thought it was sinus infection. Late March I ordained James Carney a teacher. Laurel smashed finger in car door on date ~ complications developed and it took a long time to heal.

Ruth and all my women made Easter eggs at ward activity. I was sick and felt crummy for weeks. Went to new MDs in early April ~ learned about kidney failure and cancer (had bone marrow test, ton of x-rays and blood tests, etc.). Knocked us to our knees. By late April I began resigning from boards and committees ~ everyone shocked, but not more than we are. 1988 to July was as busy as ever ~ Sally and Rebekah spent 3 days in Blanding at Black Reunion, ball games, YW events, Church assignments, BYU, etc. But my health failed faster and faster by summer. We went to Shakespeare in late July (Ruth and Nikolaos, too). BYU granted me a year's paid leave and 3 consecutive research grants in summer. (We were pinched financially by medical bills and tuition, etc.). I began to shift estate to Theda and cover financial matters with her. I tried to do dozens of repairs on home, anticipating my demise. It was overwhelming to us both. I plunged into a frenzy of writing ~ three books, a dozen articles. I tape recorded things for my kids, gave them father's blessings, recorded some key spiritual experiences and dreams, cleaned out my office at BYU. To August of 1988 everything was dominated by one thing ~ "Dad is going to die." Theda and the kids were staggered. She has been like an angel so far as I've run downhill. At this writing (8-1-88) I'm

feeling crummy, lots of distress. Girls are preparing for YW Wilderness Camp and Oakcrest and Youth Conference. Laurel and Clark working all Summer long. Clark started a Master's program at the U this summer.

I know the Gospel is true. I bear my witness the Church is divine. My feelings on death and dying are in an article I wrote for the Ensign magazine, but I close this update with a firm, assured, certain witness and testimony the Church is God's Kingdom. I'm more sure now than when I spoke on CBS radio's "Church of the Air" in 1959. Death has nothing to do with it. And, yes, I remember Theda's name! I love your Mother with all my heart and soul.