

GRANDMA REYNOLDS
FROM A GRANDDAUGHTER'S VIEW
By Betty Jo Mumford

My grandmother, Louise Brockbank Reynolds, was a pretty lady. She wore a dress with a full apron, matching shoes, and her hair was nicely done. I can picture her sitting in the chair by the door, on the north side of our living room. She often came to listen to General Conference and would stay for the day

She always called those around her by their full names, never using nicknames. It was always "Wilford," "Gideon," "Beverly," etc. There was no swearing or bad language used by anyone of the family. That training carried over into my own home and I am grateful for that background.

Grandma was a spiritual person. She taught theology lessons when she was eighty years old. She loved the Book of Mormon. She was honored when President James E. Faust called on her to speak at stake conference and to give a prayer in another. President Faust was special to Grandma. When she was recognized for a lifetime of service as a visiting teacher, it was Elder Faust who pinned a corsage on her, kissing her on the cheek. On her 90th birthday the President and his counselors tracked her down to Uncle Leonard's home so they could wish her a happy birthday. Grandma said that was the kind of thoughtful man he was.

The Reynolds family was very affectionate; they were hugging, kissing grandparents, uncles, and aunts. One day Maxine, Myra, and I rode our bikes to Grandma's house located at 1085 East and 4800 South in Murray. It was a long ride but worth it when we experienced how happy she was to see us! She got us cold drinks from the spring and gave us slices of homemade bread with butter and jam. Grandma made delicious bread, a treat we had each time we visited. Her homemade cottage cheese was something our family *devoured!*

Grandma Reynolds house was kept differently than ours; it was clean however clutter was allowed. In Grandma's bathroom there was a large table covered with at least 100 bottles of perfume, lotion, Vicks, etc. Even as a child I wondered how she ever got it dusted! When I picture her house, though, I view another table, the big kitchen table where family life was centered. On the table was the current edition of the Church News. As her children came to visit, each would be asked to read the editorial page out loud and then they would discuss it. One daughter, Vernetta, married Charlie Stillman and because he was neither active nor interested in the Church Vernetta told Grandma to never talk about religion or politics. Grandma responded by saying, "I don't know what I will talk about then."

Before she was married, Grandma Reynolds worked as a seamstress for years after her talent brought joy to herself and her family. Each Christmas she made full aprons for all her daughters and daughters-in-law. Grand and great granddaughters received half aprons. Each apron was made of a cute print with matching rickrack, often hand picked by Grandpa Reynolds.

Louise Reynolds was an influence on those around her. As she grew older, she moved to an apartment in her daughter Lila's home. Lila and Toby's children were age twenty-four and twenty-two when they were surprised with a daughter they named Lori. Grandma had time to play, talk, and read with Lori. Lila often said it was Grandma's sweet teachings that helped Lori grow strong in the gospel.

Grandma Reynolds was a faithful journal writer. In reading the entries it became evident

that Louise Reynolds found strength in her faith and joy in her family.