

The Social Caveat

While Owen was serving on his mission to the Central States Vernessa worked full time at Ideal Photo Finishing Company at 47 East Broadway in downtown Salt Lake and faithfully waited for her intended to return home. Their correspondence was frequent and continuous and described a deepening relationship, but not one yet totally committed.



This photo was produced from a snapshot Vernessa sent to Owen when he was serving in Beloit, Kansas. He received it July 1, 1926. She was twenty.

Though their future marriage had been bound by a sort of informal understanding or agreement between the two, there was also a mutually agreed upon caveat that while Owen was on his mission Vernessa could still enjoy a social life—of sorts.¹ Through it all there was an underlying expectation that their lives would someday join and that they would covenant for “time and all eternity.” It happened sooner than later.

Owen was released from his mission on June 25, 1928. His Ministerial Certificate was signed by President Heber J. Grant and dated 13 April 1926, so his service encompassed twenty-six months and twelve days. Though he may have had second thoughts about going on a mission—at first, no other period in his life meant more to him. Less than two months after he returned from his mission Owen and Vernessa were married. They signed their Wedding Certificate on August 23, 1928 and were married the next day in the Salt Lake Temple. Joseph Christenson officiated and Newel K. Young and Norman Erickson were witnesses.

¹ They were not formally engaged to be married as in exchanging a gold ring or setting a date. Their correspondence was somewhat formal with only a minimal amount of sweetheart lingo; nevertheless there was a definite underlying “take-for-granted” attitude expressed even if ever so subtle.