

Memories of Teresa

by Eva Louise Capson Manwaring

I met Teresa in 1932 when I was 14 years old. As I would go to the Grange Dances at the "Castel" with Holley often, and his parents would be there. I thought she was a beautiful friendly person.

When 17 Holley took me to his home for Sunday dinner and I was very uncomfortable though they all treated me very well. I didn't know if they accepted me until two different times when we were not going together and Teresa phoned my mother saying Holley just moped around and would my mom have me phone him. The other time Holley planned to join the army with his two pals Ray Baxter and Eddie Thurman. Teresa wanted me to ask him not to join-I did, and he didn't join, his friends did.

When Holley went over seas I moved from Tacoma planning to stay with my parents and Teresa asked if I wouldn't stay with her. Her husband was sickly so I did for 1 year and during that time her husband died. What an example she was for one who had lost their companion. She was always pleasant, would talk of Arthur as if he was on a trip and she would say, "I wonder what Arthur is doing today." Also joke about things they had experienced together. Never did I see her act deep in mourning. I know she had her crying times but it was only when she was alone.

She had her teeth extracted during this time. She would walk up to the dentist office-he would only pull a few teeth at a time. On returning home she would tease the kids, chasing them saying she was going to kiss them.

One year later I purchased a small home and she cried and didn't want me to move. I said, "I'll only be four blocks away" and she said it wouldn't be the same. She and I and become very good friends and shared many special visits. She loved to rock and sing to Brett and Sheila. She often cried as she rocked and loved Brett and I knew she was thinking of her son in New Guinea, the battle very severe and very little mail coming.

She was blessed, her 3 sons all returned home and we were back close to her. When her eye sight began failing and she was unable to read she enjoyed having me read her Relief Society magazine and we cried and laughed a lot-such beautiful stories. I read lots of things she would collect and she was always so appreciative.

One Sunday eve she phoned and had fallen in her yard. It was late so I splinted it to make her comfortable 'til morning. She didn't want to go to the doctor. Next morning she was so comfy and said "If I knew how long I was going to live I'd know whether to do anything." Took her to Rondo-x-ray showed a brake. Dr. Hodge had said bring her to the hospital next morning. On the way she made me promise I would take her home that day. She was frightened and also amazed that she had to remove all clothes, rings, and teeth just to have an arm set.

After surgery she was placed in a room with a Mrs. Brown whom she knew well and they had so much fun laughing and visiting that she ask if I would see if it would cost more if she spent the nite. I know she was totally relieved to know she had lived through surgery!

When a serious health problem showed she asked for a blessing-wanted Bishop Madsen, Del Parkin and Holley. She said "Just ask that my body would function

normal.” A deep sleep came over her. She would drop off to sleep while eating or talking. That Sunday evening she ask Holley to phone her family and ask them to come. They came and she visited shortly and went to bed. We spent the nite and took her to Dr. Hodge Monday for a check up and spent that nite with her. Tuesday morning she went to take her bath and said “I don’t feel up to it.” I ask her to allow me to give her a “bed bath” and she said that sounded good. It may have been her only bed bath and she was so appreciative and would squeeze my arm and smile. How sweet she looked as she was dressed in clean garments, a new gown she had never worn, wrapped her pretty shawl around her shoulders, brushed her hair (most all still black) and she had such a pretty hair line, “a widow peak.”

Lorraine came while I went to Relief Society. Teresa phoned me at noon and wanted me to come have lunch with them. When explaining I needed to prepare for primary and as soon as it was over we would be there, she said “Eva you work too hard” told me good-bye and as I returned home from primary the phone rang. It was Goldie Woodland telling us she had died. Goldie stayed with her that afternoon while Lorraine gave piano lessons. Dexter and Maggie Gardner visited bringing her flowers. As they left Goldie went into the kitchen for a vase and on returning Teresa had expired.

How we missed that sweet lady-visiting and laughing, smelling bread baking in the old majestic range, the ginger snaps in the cookie jar, boiled raisin cake and listening to her home cures for all ailments.

The biblical story of “Naomie and Ruth” has long been a favorite-my relationship with my mother-in-law was precious and much loved. Our children are blessed to have a “Grandmother Teresa Manwaring.”