

Part Ten: The Last Years 1946-1961

Chapter 39: Return from Belle Fourche; Janet and Joan Marry

Joan completed her first, and, as it turned out, only quarter at Black Hill Teachers College in the fall of 1945. In early 1946, the sugar company transferred Collins back to Salt Lake City.¹ He and Ida May settled into Charlie Smith's basement apartment at 565 I Street which Ida May and Joan had rented six years earlier. Their return aligned with the discharge of Collins Burton from the Navy, who had moved his young family from Seattle in late 1945.²

The year 1946 brought many welcome changes to the family. On March 3rd, shortly after her parents' return, Janet married Pete in the Lion House, shown below in front of the home in which her parents lived.

From Seattle
In Salt Lake once again, are Lt. and Mrs. Collins T. Cannon Jr. They have been living in Seattle where Lt. Cannon has been stationed with the navy.



¹ The LDS Deceased Membership Record from LDS film #884066 for Collins Telle Cannon shows the Ensign Stake 4th Ward received his membership record from Belle Fourche on 18 March 1946. Prior to the digital age, record requests and transfers happened by mail. Janet likely planned her March 3rd wedding around her parents' return.

² 10 October 1945 Salt Lake Tribune. Obviously, the journalist assumed Collins Burton was a junior.

Afterward, the couple returned to Portland where Pete finished dental school, KSL re-hired Ted, and Collins Burton went back to work for U&I Sugar. Fenton also returned to his job at the sugar company, but he soon moved his family to Logan where he studied at Utah State. The next year he moved his family to Preston, Idaho where he managed a dairy.³

The picture below shows Collins and Ida May with their three oldest children and six grandchildren on a Mother's Day gathering in May, 1946.⁴ Left to right: Fenton is holding Douglas, Collins Burton is with Karen, Ida May, Collins with Ed, Ida Mae has Rosanne, Betsy, Beth is holding Mike, and Ted is lying in front with Collins Philip sitting on him. Most of the adults are seated on a retaining wall at the north side of the home at 565 I Street. They are facing the vacant lot at 575 I Street, which Collins and Ida May would eventually purchase



Betsy's third child, Cannon Bruce, was born in the summer of 1946. Susan, the third red-haired child for Beth and Collins Burton, joined her family later that year, both babies being born in Salt Lake City. With the count of grandchildren now at eight, surely Collins and Ida May were delighted to live closer to their children.



However, the next person to join the family was not a baby. Upon her return to Salt Lake City, nineteen-year-old Joan met Beth's twenty-two-year-old brother, Reid, left, who had been honorably discharged from the Navy after two years of service and was taking classes at the University of Utah. Collins Burton, Beth and their

³ Life History of Ida Mae Cannon Smith 1977.

⁴ I was able to date this picture to May 12th because another photo taken this day had the date.

children lived in the basement of Mary Innes's home. Reid, plus Mary's youngest child, fifteen-year-old Marilyn, also lived there.⁵

Joan looked for opportunities to meet Reid under the guise of visiting her brother Bud. As she spent time in Mary's home, Joan became acquainted with Hazel Innes Johnson, Beth and Reid's older sister. Hazel, known as Hattie, lived in Tremonton with her husband Owen, who was called Hook because of his curveball. Hattie frequently brought her daughter Kay, both shown at right, to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City for treatment for a congenital disease, cystic fibrosis, to which Kay succumbed at age five.



Joan often helped with Kay and took her and Philip for walks, sometimes with Reid. In doing this, Joan became very familiar with Kay's symptoms and her breathing difficulties. At this time Joan had no idea that this disease was inherited, or that she herself carried the gene mutation which caused cystic fibrosis, or that Reid did, also.⁶ They quietly discussed marriage.



Mary Innes felt it important that Reid complete his education in electronics which he'd started while in the Navy. Collins and Ida May wanted Joan to attend the University of Utah. Instead, in the fall of 1946, the couple eloped, traveling to Kaysville, twenty miles north of Salt Lake City.

They are shown above on their honeymoon. Reid was hired by American Telegraph and Telephone, launching a very successful career. Their marriage lasted seventy years.

⁵ Collins Philip Cannon shared these details with me in May 2020.

⁶ Joan carried the mutation Delta-F508; Reid carried the N1303K mutation. Later, a great-grandchild of Marilyn's, Reid's youngest sister, was born with CF. Two great-grandchildren of Ida Mae's were also born with CF.

Collins Burton, who appears to have attended the wedding ceremony with his wife Beth, wrote this poem, which surfaced after Joan's death.⁷

Kids who alope
Seems beyond all hope
Though after a couple of days
Those left behind don't seem to mind
Accustomed they become to such ways

Our only last kid
Made her third and last bid
For none other than Beth's young brother
He bowed to her will
Whisked her off to Kaysville
And now each should look to no other

We're all here today
To hope and to pray
That Read and Joannie
will make it
E'en tho they're so young
Let their theme song be sung
To the tune of "We'll mean it"
OR Fabrit."

During the following spring of 1947, Joan gave birth to tiny Cannon Innes. Six weeks premature, he lived only one day.

The entire family met together that fall for Thanksgiving. A professional photographer took three wonderful photos of the family. The picture below is of the women, L-R, Betsy, Janet, Ida Mae, Ida May, Beth and Joan.



⁷ The note is written in Dad's handwriting. I have other examples of poetry he wrote at this time.

The picture below is of Collins, center, his son, seated left, and Fenton, Ted and Reid.



Collins had turned fifty-nine that year. Ida May was fifty-three. They had been married thirty-two years. Their love for each other, apparent in sacrifices they made for each other and letters they wrote, is also evident in the picture below.



Collins had made significant progress in paying off the loans from the Logan bank, and for the first time since 1930 they were able to accumulate savings and live a little more comfortably.

Chapter 40: A New Home, Their Last Home

Ida May later spoke of this new stage in their lives:

In 1946, when we came back to live in Salt Lake from Belle Fourche, Collins and I were left alone to begin life like we did in 1915. One day I had been to Relief Society, and the lesson was, “Remember, It Is Later Than You Think.” While I was walking home, I was thinking about this and the fact that all the children were married now, and the nest was somewhat empty. When I got home, I called Collins and told him that the day had come when we should go on another honeymoon. That year we went to California and each year after that, we took a vacation. We called these little vacations “another honeymoon.”⁸

In the spring of 1949, a baby girl was born to Joan whom she named Barbara. Joan and Reid were living with Collins and Ida May during her pregnancy, but shortly after Barbara’s birth, the couple moved to the home of Mary Innes, as Collins Burton had bought a home for his family.⁹



As little Barbara grew, Joan began to see the same symptoms that she had observed in Reid’s niece Kay, and Joan’s heart filled with fear. She took Barbara to a doctor whom she trusted. He assured her that Barbara was a healthy child. However, the symptoms became more obvious, and eventually the doctor had to confirm a diagnosis of cystic fibrosis. Joan determined to love this child as much as she could for as long as she could.¹⁰ Joan is shown at left bathing Barbara for the first time.

Seven more grandchildren were born between 1947 and 1951. Janet was the mother of the first three of these babies, each born in Logan. Clarence Cannon Randall was born in the summer of 1947. The following year, the day after Christmas, Charlotte was born and named after Ida May’s grandmother. Premature, Charlotte lived only 17 hours. Daughter Carolyn was born in 1949.

Georgia, Ida Mae’s third child, was born in 1950, with Betsy having her fourth child, Sidney Richard later that year. Annette, Janet’s youngest child, was born the following year in

⁸ “Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith Priano, 1977.”

⁹ “Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1983.” I have a baby book Joan kept for Barbara that explains this. The photograph came from this album.

¹⁰ Joan told me this during a tender conversation in 2016.



Oklahoma, where her father had been assigned to active duty during the Korean War. Ida Mae's fourth and last child, Laurie, was born in Salt Lake City in 1951. Collins is shown at left with Barbara.

In 1952, the extended Cannon family held their annual gathering on the 125th anniversary of the birth of George Q. Cannon. Sylvester's oldest son Julian, involved with the Cannon Family Association, invited Collins to speak. When the appointed day arrived, Collins presented a masterpiece by anyone's

standards, but his words would become greatly treasured by his family members. In his introduction, Collins said:

Julian, our program committee chairman, in discussing with me some of the proposed arrangements for this annual party suggested that I take part on the program. I asked him if he had anything special in mind that I could contribute. He suggested that I might relate some incidents of our life on the farm that had not hitherto been repeatedly related. Well, so far there seemed nothing especially difficult in that assignment since as all of the younger ones of our generation know there is a tremendous anecdotal field yet to be exploited. Julian suggested that I present, so to speak, a pebble's eye view of a mountain, not too fulsomely, but honestly and perhaps a little humorously. My life paralleled Father's but a very short time and during that time there was little that seemed humorous. The responsibility of being a son of George Q. Cannon and at the same time keeping out of his sight seemed overwhelming. However, time has removed the anxieties and responsibilities and there were countless situations that were amusing.

Collins addressed topics which have been covered earlier in this biography, that the difference in his age and his father's was more than six decades, that perhaps he felt unnoticed.¹¹ After a dramatic retelling of the only time he was ever alone with his father, he closed with these words:

I had a song in my heart. I knew now that I wasn't just so much polygamous spawn. I was George Q. Cannon's little boy.¹²

¹¹ I quoted much of his remarks when I addressed The Farm in Part Two.

¹² "A Brief History of the Young Life of Collins Telle Cannon, 1952."

Of the thirty-seven children¹³ born to or adopted by George Q. Cannon, eleven were still alive and surely in attendance at this 1952 gathering with their families: Angus Jenne Cannon, age eighty-four; Rosannah Jenne Cannon Irvine, age eighty; Emily Hoagland Cannon Willey, age seventy-eight; Brigham Telle Cannon, age seventy-seven; Radcliffe Quayle Cannon, age sixty-eight; Clawson Young Cannon; age sixty-six; Espey Telle Cannon and Edwin Quayle Cannon, both age sixty-five; Wilford Young Cannon and Collins, both age sixty-three; and Georgius Young Cannon, age fifty-nine. Brigham would pass away in 1954; Emily in 1955. Collins and Radcliffe would be the next to die.

Collins and Ida May's rented basement apartment was next to a beautiful piece of property, although the grade from the north was not insignificant. Ida May recounted how they planned their last home, one that Collins would build completely by himself:

When we came back from [Belle Fourche], we went to Mission Beach, Calif. where my lovely cousin Louise Driver Bowen and her husband, Richard, had a motel. They practically built this motel by themselves. When we were driving home, Collins said to me, "I have an idea, a plan." I asked what it was, and he told me that when we got home, we were going to build a house. I asked, "What do you mean, build a house?" He replied, "If they can do it, we can do it."

When we got home I asked where we were going to build the house. I said to him, "You know how the grass on the other side of the mountain is always greener? Well, how about the lot next door to where we are living?" And, that's when we acquired this property at 575 I Street. He said, "Madame, there are times when you come up with a thought that is absolutely brilliant." We paid \$1500 for the lot. One day when he was hanging the kitchen door, he had an electric plane planing off the side, I was holding the door, and he looked up at me and said, "Aren't we having more fun than we've ever had in our lives?" I said, "Yes, we are." I often think about that when I see the little gouge in the door that the plane made when he said that.¹⁴

Collins and Ida May purchased the property in 1951. Planning and building this home took several years. First, Collins used his engineering skills to level the property.¹⁵ He then hired a

¹³ This number varies depending on who counts. Elizabeth had eleven children; Sarah Jane had six children but raised a child who was in fact her grandson; Eliza had three children; Martha had nine; Carolyn had four children by President Cannon, but he adopted and provided for her three surviving youngest: Mark, Tracy and Vera.

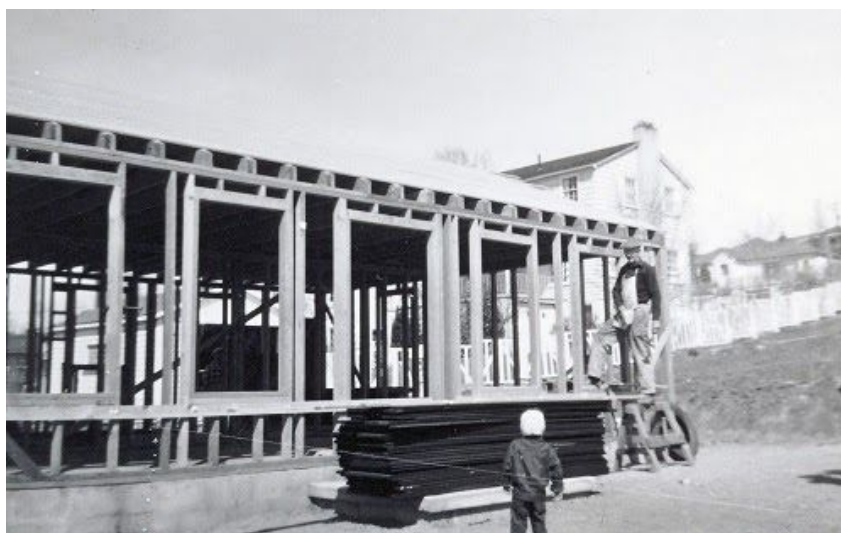
¹⁴ "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977." Ida May remembered that they purchased the property after their stay in Moses Lake, but according to the county parcel map, the purchase occurred in 1951, before they were transferred to Moses Lake. I have lightly edited her words to reflect that. Likely what Nana remembered is that the home was not completed until after their return from Moses Lake. Nana told Laurie about a 1946 trip to California, which is quoted above, and it's possible that was the trip where they visited her cousin Louise.

¹⁵ I am grateful to Cannon Randall who shared his memories and also memories of his parents about the construction of the home with me. Mike's 1983 memories were helpful, as were those of Collins Philip.

contractor to pour the foundation. He did the rest of the work himself, even though he still worked full-time for the sugar company.

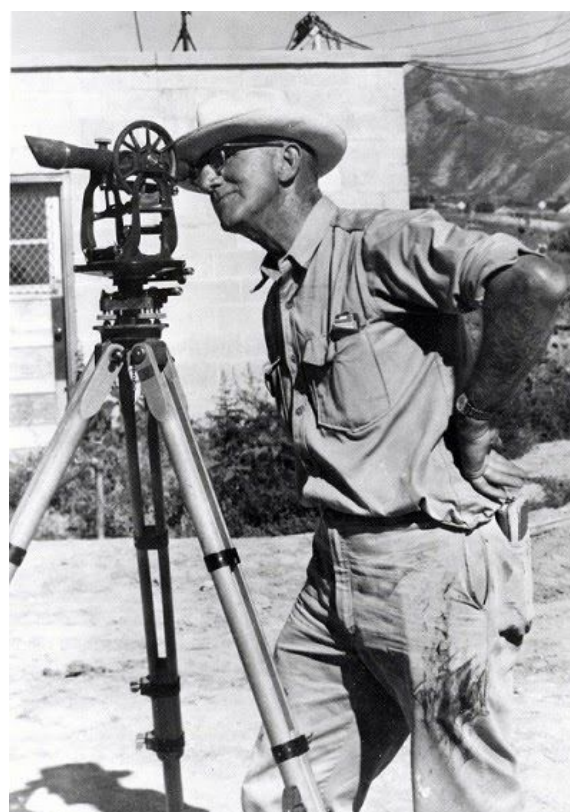
Grandson Mike later remembered the garage, which can be seen through the studs on the left in the picture below:

He built the garage first and put all his tools in it.... He had a little electric heater out there, too.¹⁶



Older grandchildren have memories of seeing the framed walls lying on the slab and being asked to help uncles raise the walls. Cannon Randall remembered:

It is easy to remember Daddy Cannon building his house. It seems like the garage was first, then the house. I can remember asking him how he was able to do it alone and he would just take his slide ruler (the little one he always had in his shirt pocket) [which can be seen in the undated photo at right] and somehow he could answer any question just by looking at it. That was a pretty amazing venture he took on.¹⁷



Collins purchased materials as he had the money for them, always paying cash. However, there was one exception. Near the beginning of the construction, Collins needed \$125 to buy a table saw. His son Collins Burton, was unable to help.

However, the required money, all of it, came from a surprising source: grandson Collins Philip, who is shown below. He later said:

¹⁶ "I Remember: Memories of Collins T. and Ida May Cannon, 1983."

¹⁷ "I Remember: Memories of Collins T. and Ida May Cannon, 1983."



I would go around the neighborhood and collect beer and pop bottles and get the refund. And I collected used newspapers and turned them in. And I was happy I had a father who taught me how to work and be independent. We lived in Rose Park when Dad asked me if I would loan Grandpa the money. I think I was in the third grade. It was a Sears Craftsman, top quality. After a time, he fully repaid me.¹⁸

After the home's completion, Collins built a framed form and poured concrete pads for a British-styled stepped walkway from the street to the house, which his granddaughters loved,¹⁹ shown right. Collins also built three dozen concrete pads to form a long back porch where family gatherings occurred in all kinds of weather, shown below in 1968 with grandson Mike and Ida May.



Collins brought rocks and beautiful stones from Mill Creek and Cottonwood Canyons for



landscaping the backyard, where Ida May, continuing her life-long love of flowers, grew several flourishing flower beds and planted fruit trees, including crabapple trees for jam. She also raised her own roses from cuttings which she seemed to be able to miraculously root under glass bottles. She lovingly called these her bottle babies.²⁰

The finished house was less than eight hundred square feet. From the

¹⁸ Collins Philip Cannon shared this memory with me in May 2018. Our family lived in Rose Park in 1952-1954. The table saw went to Dad in 1961 who later gave it to Collins Philip.

¹⁹ Collins Philip and I discussed whether or not Daddy Cannon made the concrete pads or bought them. Dad told him that Daddy Cannon built all of the house completely by himself, except for hiring someone to pour the foundation. The front walkway and the back patio would have come later, and building these would have been something he knew how to do. Collins Philip added, "Engineers love to build things." As for myself, I loved this stepped walkway and often played there with my cousins for hours on end.

²⁰ Carolyn Randall Farrell shared this memory with me. For many years Carolyn had a prize Peace rose bush from a cutting of Nana's, but Carolyn could never duplicate what she had seen Nana do.



front door, guests entered a living room across from a wood-burning fireplace with a flat hearth upon which grandchildren often performed.

A small galley kitchen with hand-crafted cabinets was off the south end of this room, shown at left about 1975 with Ida May and Collins Burton. A small hall from the north end of the living room led to a bathroom and two bedrooms. Ida May used the west bedroom for her sewing, but occasional guests slept there.



Ida May's velvet-covered loveseat was a focal point of the living room where grandchildren brought future spouses and later their own children to meet her. Shown left is grandson Mike in 1972 introducing Ida May to great-grandson Tom.

A prominent belief since the 19th century came into play after doctors and other health practitioners warned that shared beds were a factor in spreading

disease. The assumption was that breathing cleaner air was healthier. In fact, this belief was related to the early 20th century practice of sleeping porches. This trend led to separate beds for married persons and carried into the 1960s. As a result, Collins and Ida May placed twin beds in their bedroom, much to the amazement of their grandchildren. The beds each had four posters with round finials at the top. Collins painted the room blue.²¹ An heirloom dressing table with Ida May's silver hairbrush was also in that room.

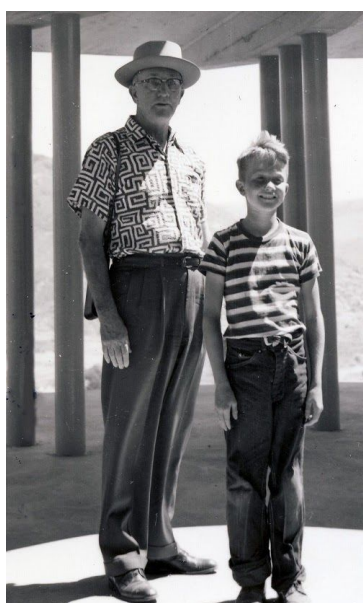
However, the home was not completed before the sugar company gave Collins a short-term assignment requiring a temporary move to Washington State.

²¹ Georgia Smith Miller to Julie Cannon Markham 6 May 2020.

Chapter 41: Moses Lake and Polio

In March of 1953, Collins and Ida May moved to Moses Lake, Washington, where Collins supervised the engineering of a new sugar factory which would be among the company's five largest. Their son Collins Burton, also transferred to Moses Lake at this time, was able to move Beth and their four children to a rental house. Collins and Ida May lived in a trailer home across a large field from their son's home. The three older Cannon grandchildren would often hike a windy trail to their grandparents' home where Ida May would make them delicious milkshakes.²² Grandson Mike remembered:

Both Grandpa and Dad worked at the new sugar factory there. A new supermarket opened, and Nana and Grandpa won a malt mixer.²³



Thirteen-year-old Karen spent a month with her grandparents over the summer of 1953. During her trip, Collins and Ida May drove her and Collins Philip, shown left, to the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River seventy miles north. The dam, built in 1933, had provided power to the growing industries built up during WWII. Adults did not step in to correct or clarify when Collins told grandchildren that he had built the dam. Coming from the lips of the man who taught

Jack Dempsey to box, some of these grandchildren never doubted their grandfather's words.²⁴

Waves of polio epidemics had appeared since the 19th century, but in 1952 a severe epidemic swept through the United States. That year, while still in Salt Lake City, Ida May had enrolled in Red Cross classes associated with the medical school at the University of Utah with the intent of volunteering to meet the need of caring for polio patients. With great understatement, she later said:

This polio nursing experience proved to be very beneficial to me in the early 1950's.²⁵

²² Collins Philip Cannon shared this detail with me in a text on 5 May 2020.

²³ "I Remember: Thomas Michael Cannon."

²⁴ As cousins have helped me with memories, several told me this. One did not know the dam was built in 1933.

²⁵ "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977."

During the summer of 1953, eleven-year-old Collins Philip found himself unable to move. Beth later recalled:

While in Moses Lake, Philip got polio, the only case in the whole valley. He'd been off with the Boy Scouts and the only thing he did differently that we're aware of was that he swam in some cold water.²⁶ After that he got sick, and I thought his symptoms seemed like polio but when I called the doctor he said "Oh no, it's just a flu bug going around. Just a bug." About the third or fourth day Phil woke up and said, "Mother, I can't move my right arm." All this time he'd had a very, very severe pain down his back, but when he couldn't move his right arm, that's when they did a spinal tap and found out he had polio and he got in the ambulance and they took him to Spokane.

Nana was living in Moses Lake and she took care of Julie. The rest of the community really shunned us. I was friends with the doctor's wife, and she came over to visit me and her husband just gave her holy you know what for visiting me because then they didn't know too much about polio. There weren't any vaccines or anything. I understood everyone's feelings and I didn't feel bad because I was too worried about Philip. He was a very sick little boy with complete paralysis of the muscles in his right arm and for a long time they thought he would never walk again. We'd see him twice a week in Spokane [100 miles away]. He was there for about two months.

At that time I decided to come back to Salt Lake for his treatment. When he started feeling better and was well enough to move, I flew back with Philip and Julie, and Collie drove back with Susan and Mike. I was held up in Boise for six hours with a crippled boy and a baby. That was the longest six hours of my life. Collie got us all settled in our home on Oakley Street and Phil went into the Primary Children's hospital in Salt Lake where he remained for another couple of months. Collie came back from Moses Lake at Thanksgiving and Phil got out of the hospital about the same time.²⁷

Beth mentioned that the doctor resisted believing that Collins Philip had polio. Ida May recalled:

Beth told the doctor that I had worked in polio divisions in hospitals in Utah. The doctor and I had a discussion, and he called the hospital in Spokane. He told them about this case, and we took Phillip to the hospital in Spokane that very same day. The only ambulance we had was a hearse from the mortuary, and we took him in that. When we put Philip in the hearse, he said, "Nana (that's what the grandchildren call me), do you think I'll be paralyzed?" I said, "No, you won't be paralyzed. You just do everything

²⁶ At the time, a prevailing belief was that polio was transmitted through water. Collins Philip told me that shortly after he was diagnosed, three other local scouts were also diagnosed with polio.

²⁷ "Beth Innes Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham 1982."

they tell you to do, and you'll be all right.” He had some bad times. He had surgery on his hands and one of his feet but he recovered beautifully. It was very frightening.²⁸

Collins Philip also remembered:

The morning I woke up I was totally paralyzed, both legs, midsection, and right arm. Only my left arm moved. When the doctor came and checked me over, he told Mom, with me listening, that he thought I was faking. I remember not liking being called a liar, but I kept quiet.²⁹

The doctor offered to buy Philip a double-scoop ice cream cone if he could touch his chin to his chest. Collins Philip could not do that. The doctor was insistent to the point that Phil was almost frightened. This test, to have a patient touch his chin to his chest, is actually for meningitis, which was also highly contagious.³⁰

Of this year, Collins Burton later said:

This was a most strenuous period. Phil picked up polio, an arsonist set the engineering department on fire, and all in all, it was most difficult. We were glad to see November come around and we all went back to Salt Lake City. From July on, we had worked ten hour days, seven days a week.³¹

Chapter 42: Salt Lake City and the Deaths of Tommy and Barbara

The Moses Lake sugar factory, right, was completed in the fall of 1953.

Thirteen thousand visitors toured the factory and attended its dedication, consuming sixteen thousand donuts.³²

Ida May, Collins and their son Collins Burton returned to Salt Lake City in time for Thanksgiving.



²⁸ “Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977.”

²⁹ Collins Philip Cannon to Julie Cannon Markham, 5 May 2020. During the beginning outbreaks of the coronavirus two months ago, many struggled to believe those diagnoses, also.

³⁰ My brother Collins Philip has told the story of the doctor often over the years. The flight back to Salt Lake City was so traumatic that I have a flashbulb memory of this event, crying on the plane from the noise of the engines, with Philip trying to calm me down. Mother told me that they had taken out an insurance policy for polio through the Salt Lake Tribune in 1952. It cost \$6 a year and insured the entire family. Mom felt very fortunate that this covered the medical costs. Philip was in therapy for five or six years. He and I texted as I clarified details for this biography, but he had to quit so he could finish staining his deck.

³¹ “Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1983.”

³² <https://www.historylink.org/File/8281>



Collins and Ida May's last four grandchildren were born between 1952 and 1954. Joan's third child, Tommy, named after Reid's father, was born in 1952 during a baby spree among Reid's siblings, when five cousins were born in an eleven-month stretch. Joan had planned to name her child Julie. She was surprised when the baby was a boy and decided Thomas Cannon was a good choice. Joan graciously suggested that Beth, the last of Reid's sisters to have a baby at this time, could use the name Julie, which Beth did. The photograph at right surfaced for the first time after Joan's death in 2018 and shows three of the five cousins born in 1952-1953. On the left, Beth's younger sister Marilyn is shown with her son Thomas;

Beth is shown with her baby Julie, two weeks old; and Joan, wearing her signature saddle shoes and Bobby socks, is shown with her baby Tommy, three months old.³³

Beth's fifth child, born in 1954, was Mary Elizabeth, named after Beth's mother. Betsy's fifth child, and the last of all the grandchildren, was a son born the day before Halloween that year, David Chase Kimball. In all, Collins and Ida May were the grandparents of twenty-one grandchildren, although two, Cannon Innes and Charlotte Ann Randall, were already deceased. Shown right at a gathering in the basement apartment in 1952 or 1953 are Ida May with Bruce, Collins, and Fenton, with Cannon.

During the 1953 Christmas holiday, Ida May and Collins hosted the last gathering in their basement apartment. Joan, who by this time had her own Brownie camera, took several pictures at this event, one being of her little Barbara with her cousins, shown below. Collins Philip, in focus in the back right, was out of the hospital and able to spend time with the extended family. He would later fully recover and in the process become



³³ After Joan's 2018 death, I scanned perhaps a hundred photos from throughout her life with her wearing Bobby socks and saddle shoes.

highly skilled at handball, a sport he used to facilitate his recovery. Ed is on the loveseat holding baby Julie, next to baby Laurie and Georgia. Carolyn is front left on the floor next to Barbara whose arm is in front of Bruce's face, Karen is holding Sid, Douglas is next to Cannon. Mike is hamming it up for the camera.



During the 1950s, Betsy and Ida Mae's families both bought homes on L Street, just a few blocks from Collins and Ida May's new home. Collins Burton moved to Idaho where he

worked for General Electric. Janet's family settled in Logan where her husband built a successful dental practice. Joan and Reid purchased a home on Dearborn Street.

However, the center of the Cannon family was the home on I Street. Collins carefully hung the portrait of Martha Telle in the living room above the buffet, which held Ida May's tablecloths, napkins and silver napkin rings. Family members gathered here for many events, large and small, often dressed in their Sunday best. Granddaughter Georgia Smith Miller remembered:

Going to Nana's and Daddy Cannon's was a real treat. We lived just south of 21st South in Salt Lake and we would drive up Seventh East towards I Street. Mom would always say that if we looked carefully, we could see Daddy Cannon on his front lawn waving to us. He was always anxious for us to come.³⁴

Granddaughter Laurie Smith Priano later remembered:

It was an adorable house filled with lots of people, lots of fun, and good memories. Nana did not have many rules. She pretty much let us do what we wanted around the house. We played a lot in her backyard. One thing however I distinctly remember, is if we made open face peanut butter and honey sandwiches in the kitchen, we could not eat them in the living room.³⁵

³⁴ "I Remember, 1983: Georgia Smith Miller."

³⁵ Laurie Smith Priano to Julie Cannon Markham 6 May 2020.

In 1954, at the age of sixty-five, Collins retired from the sugar company after twenty years of service. A newspaper article showed his picture, far right, with his brother Wilford, center, who had been the company's production manager. David Thomas, left, was the purchasing agent.³⁶ A clip from the accompanying article, below, described Collins' career.

Collins T. Cannon joined the sugar firm in 1934 as an engineer at Salt Lake offices. He was engineer on the firm's Bear River Canal project. In 1937, he engineered construction of the Toppenish, Wash., factory. In 1940, he was transferred to Belle Fourche, S. D., where he served as district manager for six years.

Since 1946, he has been in charge of sugar-beet handling problems for the company, with exception of a two-year period as project engineer at Moses Lake, Wash.

After his retirement from the sugar company, Collins returned to work at the city engineer's office in the beautiful City and County building, right. There, he planned roads and worked as a draftsman.

Granddaughter Laurie remembered:

What a thrill it was to go downtown with Nana to pick up Daddy Cannon from the City and County Building. I'm not sure why it was such a privilege to wait for someone to come out of that building, but we felt special. Maybe it was because the grounds were beautiful and there were lots of statues that we played on while we waited.³⁷



Retiring officers of Utah-Idaho Sugar Co. From left to right they are David H. Thomas, Wilford Y. Cannon, Collins T. Cannon. sample some of their company's product.



³⁶ 28 February 1954 Salt Lake Tribune. For many companies at this time, age 65 meant a mandatory retirement.

³⁷ "I Remember, 1983: Laurie Smith Priano."

Grandson Mike remembered:

He was an engineer for the county after he left U and I Sugar. I remember visiting him in his office a time or two with Dad. It was in that old City and County Building on about 6th South. He took me out once to a job he was working on. This was on a Saturday. He needed to cover a concrete ditch with cement and couldn't quite figure out how to do it.

A wooden form would rot and plug the ditch. He was thinking about using wire mesh. I don't know how it turned out.³⁸



By 1956, little Tommy Innes had developed symptoms of cystic fibrosis. Reid and Joan's basement became a care unit where they tested the latest treatments, including breathing machines and devices designed to break up the mucus in their lungs, shown left. Every Christmas, Easter and Halloween was elaborate, with Reid and Joan not knowing if that holiday would be the last one with their children.³⁹



In the middle of the summer in 1958, five-year-old Tommy's condition worsened. He was hospitalized and passed away at the end of July. Collins is shown at right on his back porch with nine-year-old Barbara about this time. Six weeks after Tommy's death, Barbara died. Their deaths were extremely difficult for all the members of two extended families, the Cannon family and also the Innes family.

Ida May later said:

In the year 1958, my daughter Joan lost her beautiful children, Barbara and Tommy, to cystic fibrosis. I was so completely crushed and broken hearted about this that I went all to pieces and was absolutely no help to her. It was necessary for me to be hospitalized for fear of a heart problem. I have never forgotten this occasion in 1958, and I thought

³⁸ "I Remember, 1983: Thomas Michael Cannon."

³⁹ I learned all of this as I sorted and scanned Joan's pictures after her 2018 death. I cried while I did this.

never, under any circumstances, would I go to pieces like I did then. I made the utmost effort to be composed and handle things as I should.⁴⁰

Grandson Cannon Randall remembered:

I can well remember the photographs of Barbara and Tommy on the mantle above the fireplace. I don't think there was a time I visited in Salt Lake that I didn't notice them. And, Nana always had something sweet to say about them. I'm sure that she loved us all, but there was a very special place in her heart for Barbara and Tommy.⁴¹

A photograph from Joan's camera illustrates the pain everyone felt after their deaths. All the cousins except the Cannon children had gathered at Collins and Ida May's home for a Christmas gathering in 1957. The winning idea for a photograph was to line the children along the back porch. Possibly eleven-year-old Bruce traipsed through the snow to take the picture. From left to right are: Carolyn, Georgia, Sidney, Annette, with Rosanne and Karen standing. In front of them are Barbara, David, with Laurie squeezed in by the post. Ed and Doug are standing with Cannon peeking out behind them. Joan's son Tommy is laughing on the far right. The original photograph bore a date stamp from the camera shop, not shown, of May 1961. However, Barbara and Tommy had both died in 1958, indicating that Joan could not bring herself to have the film developed for over three years. Surely there are no words to describe Joan's feelings upon seeing this picture as she opened the envelope holding the photographs.



⁴⁰ "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977."

⁴¹ "I Remember: Clarence Cannon Randall, 1983."

Ida May lightened her emotional burdens by serving others. She continued working with the Red Cross, taking a variety of courses, assisting with blood drives, and volunteering at local hospitals, including Primary Children's Hospital where three of her grandchildren had received treatment.⁴² She also doted on her other grandchildren.

Granddaughter Georgia remembered:

Nana and Daddy Cannon were always happy to entertain us. When I was 8, I broke my leg and couldn't put weight on it. I broke it on a Sunday and it wasn't until Thursday that Dad took me to get X-rays. So for three days, I stayed with Nana and DC during the day.... Nana taught me how to play solitaire that week.⁴³

Chapter 43: The Last Honeymoon

In the spring of 1961, Collins, one month shy of his 73rd birthday, and Ida May, sixty-six, took "another honeymoon" and drove to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Ida May later said:

In 1961, Collins and I took another honeymoon to the Grand Canyon. We had never been there before. One night after dinner, we were in bed reading when Collins began making this very heavy unnatural breathing. I knew there was trouble, and I went to him.⁴⁴

Many years later, Ida May told a granddaughter that she had actually said to him, "Collins, stop that--you are frightening me!"⁴⁵ His death from a heart attack was sudden. Ida May later said:

When he left us, he did not taste of death.⁴⁶

Frightened or not, Ida May sought help from the guests in the next room and remained calm during the arrangements which had to be made to return his body to Salt Lake City.⁴⁷



⁴² "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977."

⁴³ 6 May 2020 Georgia Smith Miller to Julie Cannon Markham.

⁴⁴ "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977."

⁴⁵ I was that granddaughter, although she probably told others.

⁴⁶ "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977."

⁴⁷ "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1977."

After a thirty-minute funeral at the Larkin mortuary on June 2nd, 1961 where Wilford spoke to the grieving family, Collins was laid to rest not far from his mother and father in the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Granddaughter Georgia said:

I remember how sad we all were when Daddy Cannon died. I can remember how hard I cried at the funeral and as I looked down the row of cousins, I remember we were all crying. I also remember how sad Nana was. Often when I looked at her for some time after, I really sensed pain in her eyes.⁴⁸

Shortly after Collins' funeral, Ida May penned a note in which she reminisced about an event which had occurred forty-eight years earlier:

One day in the year 1913 soon after I met my darling Collins, I met him on ~~the~~ Main St., accidentally. We went in the old J.C.M.D. Drug Store and had strawberry ice cream. It was the day I fell in love with his beautiful blue eyes. — Last Sunday morn I had to close them! ~~then~~ This scene has haunted me all day. When Wilford mentioned his blue eyes, I had a difficult time controlling my emotions!

⁴⁸ "I Remember, 1983: Georgia Smith Miller."

Not long after his death, Joan saw her father in a vivid dream, where Collins reassured her, saying:

I have seen the children, and they are fine.

This dream brought tremendous comfort and peace to Joan.⁴⁹

Three months after Collins' death, his brother Radcliffe died. Espey and Edwin died ten years later. Rosannah died in 1972 at the age of ninety-six. Wilford died in 1974, Clawson in 1977. In 1987, Georgius was the last to pass away, the youngest of all of the children of George Q. Cannon. He was ninety-five.

Ida May volunteered as a Pink Lady at the LDS Hospital throughout the remainder of her life. Grandson Mike said:

I remember asking Nana in 1975, when Daddy Cannon had been dead for 14 years, how she felt about him. She replied. "I think about him every day."⁵⁰

Ida May Burton Cannon died on the twenty-second anniversary of her husband's death, May 28th, 1983 and was buried next to Collins in the Salt Lake City Cemetery.



⁴⁹ Aunt Joan told me about this dream a year before she died. She told other relatives about this dream, also.

⁵⁰ "I Remember, 1983: Thomas Michael Cannon."