

## Part Eight: Ten Years in Salt Lake City--1930-1940

### Chapter 29: 1930 to 1934--Recovering from the Depression

Daughter Ida Mae recalled moving from Logan to Salt Lake City:

We moved to Salt Lake City in January of 1930. Grandma Burton died January 14 and Mother was in Salt Lake City and we practically moved ourselves.<sup>1</sup> We moved to a home on 120 1st Ave.<sup>2</sup> Bud went to the Lafayette [below left] and Betsy and I went to West Junior [below right]. I still remember the crowded halls with all those millions of people after being at the Logan Academy with only 6 in my class....<sup>3</sup>



By 1933, Ida May's older sister Rachel and her husband Llewellyn Dunn had moved with their children into the former home of Mary Ann Elizabeth Driver Burton, becoming neighbors to the Cannon family. Rachel is shown on the left in this picture, taken about 1970, right, with Ida May. They were always close. Daughter Ida Mae continued:



We moved to 254 "D" St. where we had lived earlier, in fact, that's where we lived when Bud was born in 1918. We attended West High for 2 years as high school was only 2 years in those days....These were grim days. Dad was unemployed much of the time.

<sup>1</sup> Mary Ann Elizabeth Driver Burton's husband Joseph Fielding Burton had passed away in 1924, and in January of 1930, at the age of sixty-four, Mary Ann died of kidney failure in her daughter Rachel's home.

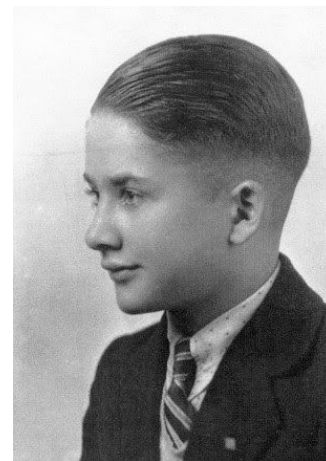
<sup>2</sup> This home no longer stands. The current home at that address was built in 1945. Collins Burton later mentions that the home was built by a son of Brigham Young.

<sup>3</sup> "Life History of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997." Lafayette Elementary stood at 135 North State. Georgia Smith Miller told me that her older siblings, Rosanne and Douglas Smith, attended Lafayette Elementary. In the early 1960s, this building was purchased by the LDS Church and used as a mission home. Douglas Smith and his future brother-in-law Walter Miller received mission training there in 1964.

We even learned to half-sole our own shoes. You could go to Kress and buy a kit for 25 cents. Mother took it all in her wonderful stride, using all of her lovely things, her linen and silver and best dishes and nobody would have ever known that we were poor. We never talked about it. But, most of the people we knew were in the same boat. We learned many great and wonderful lessons that have sustained the rest of my life. Our motto was: “Eat it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.” That hasn’t changed much!<sup>4</sup>

Son Collins Burton, right, who was almost twelve, remembered:

We moved into a small two bedroom home in Salt Lake City that was built by one of Brigham Young’s sons. I slept on the back porch winter and summer. Boy, was it cold! Father found work at various places, first at another knitting mill, then later he worked at engineering jobs. While sharing a job with another man who also had a family, he worked the graveyard shift at a cement plant. Mother’s husbandry of the funds saved us from going hungry.<sup>5</sup>



While details of exactly when and where Collins was employed are sparse today, there is no question he worked hard to bring in the necessary funds to keep his family afloat at a time when jobs were difficult to find. Collins Burton’s memory that his father worked a graveyard shift at a cement plant is evidence of his love for his family and also of his devotion to support them. The 1930 census, which enumerated the family at the pioneer two-bedroom home on First Avenue, provided the detail that their rent was \$25 a month. That year the enumerator asked if those employed had worked the previous day, and that box for Collins was marked “Yes.” His occupation was shown as a manager of a knitting mill, possibly the Utah Woolen Mill, which was downtown.<sup>6</sup>

However, these were difficult times and the Cannon children knew it. Grandson Cannon Randall later shared a memory about his mother Janet:

While helping Mother a little when she was about 92, I prepared pork barbecue for dinner, which I thought to be quite ‘yuck.’ I said, “Mom, this really isn’t very good,

<sup>4</sup> “Life of Ida May Cannon Smith, 1997.”

<sup>5</sup> “Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982.”

<sup>6</sup> The 1931 Salt Lake directory lists Collins as “foreman Logan Knitting Mill.” In Dad’s autobiography, he mentioned that his father got a job at another knitting mill. The 1930 census gave his occupation as “manager knitting mill.” I cannot think why Collins would have commuted to Logan, as the expense would have been great. There was (and still is) a woolen mill in Salt Lake City. I could not find any other records to learn if he lived in Salt Lake City or in Logan in 1930-1931, but I have assumed the city directory was mistaken, as Dad, Nana and Aunt Maydae did not mention him working in Logan, and I have never heard that during this time period he stayed in Logan while the family was in Salt Lake.

don't feel like you need to finish everything.” Mother replied: “No one who was ten years old in 1932 leaves food on their plate.”<sup>7</sup>

Daughter Ida Mae later wrote:

My dad, Collins Telle Cannon, was a great guy. I believe he had potential that was never tapped....Dad had a great sense of humor that got us through some tough times, that helped us keep things in perspective. I believe the best thing he taught me was the dignity of honest labor and giving a good day's work for a good day's pay--sometimes that wasn't much moola, but nevertheless, when we received that pay, we felt we had earned it.<sup>8</sup>

Four decades later, granddaughter Laurie Smith was attending Utah State University and living with her aunt, Janet Cannon Randall, who lived in Logan. Ida May was visiting. Janet's daughter Carolyn shared this memory:

Laurie was going to school full-time and working a job to make ends meet. She'd had yet another exhausting week and was not really complaining, but explaining...So Nana, sitting there with the dog, said, “Laurie. It's a privilege to work.”<sup>9</sup>



Collins and his family lived in the small home on First Avenue into 1931 until they were able to once again rent the large home at 254 D Street. Joan is shown at right with the family home across the street, which the family loved. The daughters and a friend are shown at left: Ida Mae, friend, Janet, Joan and Betsy.

Janet remembered:



I would climb the tree in our front yard, it was my ‘alone place,’ and read for hours. Sometimes Mother or Daddy would check up on me, way up there on a limb and warn

<sup>7</sup> Cannon Randall to Julie Cannon Markham, April 2020.

<sup>8</sup> “The Life of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997.”

<sup>9</sup> Carolyn Randall Farrell as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1 April 2020. Laurie confirmed this.

me not to fall asleep. “You'll fall and break your neck,” then they'd laugh at me sitting up there.<sup>10</sup>

Collins once again had steady work in 1933 when he began working for the City Engineering Department.<sup>11</sup> Ida May recalled:

**“ Collins T computer City Eng r254 D**

We lived in Logan for a total of 12 very happy years. One fortunate thing in my life is that regardless of the many places we lived in our lives, I was always happy in whatever home we lived in... We came back to Salt Lake, and Collins went back to his old job in the City Engineer's office. We moved back to the house at 254 D street.

During the depression of the 30's, the City Engineer's office rotated the employees, each taking a turn at work a week and then being laid off until their time came around again. This was very difficult and disturbing.

Edwin Q. Cannon was president of the Salt Lake Stamp Company, shown below, where he found work for some of his siblings' children, including young Collins Burton. A memory from Collins Burton demonstrates the far-reaching effects of the Depression:

The depression was a severe one. Even I suffered financially. My first steady full time job began when I was 13 during the summer of 1931. I earned 5 cents an hour packing cartons for Uncle Edwin Q. Cannon.<sup>12</sup> I worked 10 hours a day, six days a week for three dollars. All of that money went into the Desert Savings Bank and it went busted. My whole summer's savings were lost. Eventually I collected 78 cents on the dollar, with which I bought some shoes and a pair of trousers.<sup>13</sup>



Elizabeth graduated from West High in 1933 and began attending classes at the University of Utah. In 1934 and 1935 she also worked as a stenographer.<sup>14</sup> Ida Mae graduated with Betsy,

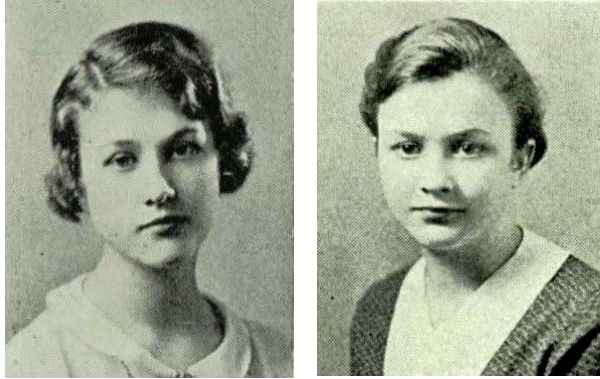
<sup>10</sup> Cannon Randall as told to Julie Cannon Markham, April 2020.

<sup>11</sup> The city directory for 1933, 1934 and 1935 lists Collins' occupation as “computer, City Engineering.”

<sup>12</sup> The Salt Lake Stamp Company produced and sold essential office supplies, such as rubber stamps, stationery and signs. In 1973, Dad ordered my wedding announcements here, which only now makes sense to me.

<sup>13</sup> “Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982.”

<sup>14</sup> The 1934 city directory shows Betsy (Elizabeth) as a student. Sidney Kimball confirmed she attended the U.



having skipped a grade. Their 1933 yearbook pictures are shown at left. Ida Mae, center left, won a scholarship at the Utah Agricultural College in Logan, where she lived and studied for the next two years.<sup>15</sup>

Even as a high school student, young Collins continued to work:

I was eager and I liked to study. I liked to work, too. Father encouraged it. I always had summer jobs. I had a job at Saltair in the hamburger stand one summer and then later that summer I was running a concession. I'd have been about 14 [1932], I guess. In 1934 I worked for Ed Cannon delivering packages. I got eight cents an hour. That was when NRA came in--the National Recovery Act--one of Roosevelt's programs. I also worked around the Stamp company. Twenty-five cents was the Federal Minimum wage. I had been getting a dollar a day for about the first two weeks. Then the NRA came in and said we needed to get 25 cents an hour and my wages went from \$1 to \$2.<sup>16</sup>

### Chapter 30: The Depression Eases; Collins Acquires Full-time Work

Late in 1934, Collins accepted a job with the Utah & Idaho Sugar Company where his older brother Willard was vice-president and general manager, and his brother Wilford was production manager.<sup>17</sup> Collins initially worked as an engineer in the Salt Lake office. Ida May wrote of this fortunate opportunity:

One day, Collins received an offer to go to the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company to work in their engineering and design department. He was with U&I for several years.<sup>18</sup>

Son Collins Burton is shown at right with his mother at about this time.



<sup>15</sup> "Life History of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997."

<sup>16</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982."

<sup>17</sup> 28 February 1954 Salt Lake Tribune. This article was about Wilford Y. Cannon and Collins T. Cannon's retirement from the sugar company and stated that Collins began his employment in 1934 and providentially gave information about his various responsibilities over the next twenty years.

<sup>18</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1978."

He mentioned that his family moved from 254 D Street to a larger home at 69 D Street, about three blocks away, shown today at right.<sup>19</sup>

Collins Burton said:

After the Depression, life became better for us. We moved to a nice home on D Street. My four sisters were in a bedroom, all four of them lumped-in together,<sup>20</sup> and I had my own private bedroom. We had a full basement, which was nice, with a coal fired furnace, and Mother and Father had a bedroom. The rent was \$22.50 a month.



For a few years during the mid-1930s, Collins had also accepted a salaried position with the Bear River Water Commission to monitor an apparent drought in the Western States which coincided with the Depression. The level of the Bear River, which flows north and then south through the Rocky Mountain Range in northeastern Utah, southeastern Idaho and western Wyoming, was and still is completely affected by snowfall. This three-state commission monitored snowfall and its impact on farming communities in the Bear River valleys. Collins, perhaps in a dual role, educated beet farmers who sold their crops to the sugar company.<sup>21</sup>

Ida Mae wrote about her first boyfriend at this time, and her father's reaction to his religion:

We had hand-me-downs from Aunt Carol's girls.<sup>22</sup> With Bets' expertise as a beautiful seamstress, I was very well dressed. I had my first boyfriend in college. He was a Catholic! That was my sophomore year and the romance ended at the end of the year. Later in the summer, he called me and I had a date with him and while he was ringing the doorbell, Dad sat and crossed himself in his chair. Last time I ever saw the boy.

Collins Burton later spoke about the lack of funds which could have kept him from attending the University of Utah after he graduated from high school:

When the fall of 1934 rolled around there was no money for college for me so I went to Garland to work in the Lab. I was a sample chaser, and chased them so hard that some days I couldn't even find time to eat my lunch. The campaign lasted only about eight

<sup>19</sup> Thanks to Annette Randall Haws for walking to the house and taking this picture.

<sup>20</sup> The 1936 city directory confirms that Elizabeth and Ida Mae lived at home and worked as stenographers.

<sup>21</sup> Quite a few 1935 articles named him as the Bear River Water Commissioner and some quoted his remarks, as the winter of 1935-1936 appeared to have half as much snowfall as was typical. In May of 1936 he was reappointed. For just two of many examples, see 23 December 1935 Bear River Tribune; 14 January 1936 Ogden Standard.

<sup>22</sup> Willard's wife, Caroline Young Croxall Cannon, was known as Carol.

weeks or so, but by the end of the run I had mastered the job. Then, I had saved enough to attend the U for winter quarter. Only.<sup>23</sup>

While certainly Collins was focused on his immediate family and seeing that his children were cared for and educated, he was surrounded by siblings. In addition to living as neighbors, the extended Cannon family met annually, on or close to George Q. Cannon's birthday.

In 1935, the extended Cannon family members met on their father's actual birthday for their annual gathering.<sup>24</sup> This particular year, the president of the Cannon Family Association was William Tenney Cannon. With a little brotherly badgering, William invited Collins to speak:

Dear Collins:

The Central Committee for the Annual Birthday Party has decided that you should write the Chronicle this time. I trust you will be able to do it.

Your Brother, /s/ Wm. T. Cannon

This was the first of these gatherings in which Collins had been asked to speak. He would also later speak in 1952. At this gathering in 1935, Collins reminisced about the farm, which he and his siblings knew so well, in the context of smells, and many of those memories have been referred to earlier.



As Collins concluded his remarks, he gave the traditional chronicle of family events while speaking in jest to the assembled family members. Collins did make a quiet reference to the death of Karl Quayle Cannon, who had died from a heart attack during a multi-week business trip in Hawaii just two months earlier:

Of new children we have nothing to chronicle. Not a child was born to this family this last year. What is happening to this virile race? What has become of our old repeaters Tracy, Sylvester and Willard? Are we getting wisdom with age or are we merely getting old?

<sup>23</sup> Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982.

<sup>24</sup> The article is from the Deseret News, 12 January 1935.

We have to chronicle but one passing this year. This one was particularly sad for he has gone at the peak of his usefulness. It is the first time the ranks of the younger group have been broken.

We have nothing to report about the later generations. It's probably just as well, for what little investigating we have done has been very damaging to our ego. We find them to be a vast improvement over ourselves. Let it suffice, then to say of them, that they are carrying on as we all would like them to. There are many births (among the unwary), very few deaths and a good average number of marriages. Let us hope that none of these last were of the shot-gun type.<sup>25</sup>

During 1935, Collins and Ida May celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary, right. Also during 1935, Collins commuted seventy miles to Garland where he worked on a large project for the Sugar Company. He occasionally took his son, often boarding at a house on Factory Avenue next door to the home of Tom Innes, the town's dentist. Collins Burton later spoke of this summer:<sup>26</sup>

Then in April of 1935 I started working on the canal system in Garland for U and I Sugar. Father was my boss. When I met Bethie I was making 40 cents an hour. Forty hours a week. I was getting \$16 a week. That was good money! Guys raised families on it. I was living away from home, paying my board and room, and dating Beth once in a while. We could go to a movie and go across the street for a malt after the movie for 40 cents total.<sup>27</sup>



The next summer in 1936 I pinched my finger unloading a freight car of lead for a plumber. I got an infection in my hand and got blood poisoning. I was real sick. Father told me later they were trying to decide whether to have my funeral in the 18th Ward or the 20th Ward. I was sick all summer long and was in the hospital I guess for two

<sup>25</sup> "Annual Birthday Party Chronicle," by Collins Telle Cannon, 11 January 1935. The date on the manuscript of this talk was 1934. However, Karl died at the end of 1934, and this Deseret News article confirms it was 1935.

<sup>26</sup> The 1954 Salt Lake Tribune article simply stated that Collins "was engineer on the firm's Bear River Canal project." Mom and Dad both told me about this time. Mom said they played games such as Annie-I-Over, which involved throwing a ball over a roof to people on the other side of the house. I know the boarding house was next door, because they had an arrangement with curtains as a signal of when they were free to meet.

<sup>27</sup> Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982.



months. See, they didn't have penicillin in those days. I had a big boil under my arm about the size of half a grapefruit and the doctor just put a knife in it and let it spurt clear across the operating room. I drew workman's compensation or the bills would have bankrupted the family.<sup>28</sup>



Beth Innes, shown at left, had been accepted into the nursing program at LDS Hospital for the fall of 1936. Bud's serious illness that summer prevented him from working to earn the money for his upcoming tuition. At the direction of their father Collins, both Ida Mae and Betsy, ages nineteen and twenty, respectively, set their own educations aside that fall in order to help support their brother, now eighteen, so he could take the required engineering classes that quarter at the University. Betsy and Ida Mae's expected temporary departure from their own education was not voluntary, but they did not want to disappoint their father, who wanted his only son to receive the engineering diploma he himself had not received.

As a result, Ida Mae left her studies in Logan and got a job in Salt Lake City working for a lawyer at \$25 a month.<sup>29</sup> Having lost her scholarship, she worked as a secretary for the rest of her life. Betsy also never returned to college, working as a stenographer at a private office and later at ZCMI, where she also sold hats.<sup>30</sup> Betsy was in fact an artistic and talented seamstress and during her life created and sewed beautiful clothing for many people, including Lucybeth Rampton, the wife of Utah's governor.<sup>31</sup> It is, however, a sad truth that Betsy and Ida Mae would have remained in college if they had been given that choice.<sup>32</sup>

Of this time period, Collins' wife Ida May later wrote about her family:

At this time, Collins was traveling for the sugar company, and I was left alone very much. I had this large family of mine to take care of by myself, and it was a difficult

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<sup>28</sup> "Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982."

<sup>29</sup> "Life History of Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997." The city directory confirms this.

<sup>30</sup> The 1935 and 1946 city directories show Elizabeth as a stenographer, specifically in 1936 as a stenographer at ZCMI. Her son Sid Kimball told me he thought she had sold hats, and maybe that is true, also.

<sup>31</sup> Georgia Smith Miller helped me with this detail. She added that her mother made Georgia's wedding dress, "and when Betsy saw the dress she immediately began adding lace and pearls on the sash, collar, cuffs and veil, which made it fabulous. I love Aunt Betsy."

<sup>32</sup> Aunt Maydae told me this not long before she died in 2011. Only recently, as I have asked Betsy's son Sid about his mother, did he tell me the same thing: Our grandfather asked Betsy to leave school and help support Bud in college. In all fairness to our grandfather, as I have worked out the timeline based on the information I have, it is very possible that he only intended for them to give up one quarter of their schooling and did not foresee the obstacles they would face when they tried to return to school.

period, because they were really all more or less, in the wooing age. This was in the late 1930's.<sup>33</sup>

Late the summer of 1936, Ida May traveled to California, presumably to visit her sister Mary. Collins, a man with untapped potential for writing, composed a letter to his wife. The two-page single-spaced typed letter to Ida May, dated 29 August 1936, was one unpunctuated sentence:

Dolling:

Even though you are my one and only you must be flattered at receiving this short letter from me for letter writing is not my forte though if it were you would receive volumes from me of you since you are in my thoughts continually to the extent that I can't carry on my work properly for thinking of you and longing for your return though certainly not to the extent that I would have you shorten your trip one second though every second you are away takes days and days from my life which now that I have passed the dangerous age becomes alarmingly on the down hill side not really alarming for I'm sure we will coast along it with pleasure enjoying thrills aplenty even though they may be vicarious -- those of our children who seem to be having their share Betsy particularly at this moment with her new job and a beau who seems entirely Devoted and fidele and with Maydae thrilled with the prospect of her Boss's prospects of being U. S. District attorney which event will assure her having a good job and Bud's steady work at Salt Air for the remainder of the amusement season to say nothing of his female troubles which at the present moment seem to have shifted from 11 Ave to California Ave where the gal from Garland is now staying<sup>34</sup> awaiting the time she will enter training at the Hospital the regulations of which I hope will confine her sufficiently to prevent his spending all of his non sleeping moments with her to his utter devastation and that of his sisters who worry about him incontinently thereby relieving me of all worry about him whatsoever which is as it should be since their young shoulders are more able to sustain those loads than mine which are already overburdened with the care of the younger two who at this moment are harassing me to death with demands to be taken hither and yon in the car to the utter neglect of certain things that must be done to keep the home fires properly burning....

Near the bottom of the second page, Collins concluded the sentence with these words:

...but anyway while you are in Frisco go to some shop and get Betsy some samples of flowered printed tafetas in black and navy and don't forget the name of the store in case she wants to order which is a cockeyed idea since those same goods which you might sample can be found in Salt Lake doubtless but you can't tell her anything for she is as stubborn as a mule and she doesn't get it from me either but don't construe that as a crack

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<sup>33</sup> "Ida May Burton Cannon, as told to Laurie Smith, 1978."

<sup>34</sup> After retirement, Beth's grandfather, Walter L. Grover, moved from Garland to Salt Lake City and lived at 956 California Avenue, a stone's throw from the original Cannon Farm. Beth stayed with him for a few weeks.

at you for it isn't for of all things you are not stubborn though maybe a little bit set but goodness knows you need to be in order to get along with the family set-up you have acquired and which we all hope you will return to happy contented and rested and well and fit to carry on as you so valiantly have in the last twenty one years and don't be too long about getting here for we all need you terribly though we don't want you to hurry unduly but just the same we wish you would get home.<sup>35</sup>

Concerning her father's writing ability, Ida Mae would later write:

One area I wish dad had pursued was his ability to write-- 'most like Mark Twain. Betsy and I did encourage him, but what could it have been--too modest? He was surely that. Dad was a stickler for good English, and he corrected us regularly, and still today, I am glad for that. He encouraged the use of the dictionary and books, telling us there was a book on anything we could ever want to know.<sup>36</sup>

Son Collins Burton later remarked that his father read him bedtime stories from the dictionary. None of his own children ever doubted this, and to see his vocabulary in action was incredible, although he always gave credit to his father. Once, while helping a child with spelling homework, he correctly defined the word philoprogenitiveness by parsing its Latin roots.<sup>37</sup>

### **Chapter 31: Collins Loses Three Siblings; Utah & Idaho Sugar Company**

During a fourteen-month period in 1936-1937, Collins lost three siblings. In the fall of 1936, Hester died of pancreatic cancer at the age of sixty-six. Her brother-in-law, Bishop Clarence Neslen, conducted a small service at a local mortuary at which Apostle Joseph F. Merrill spoke. Collins and his brothers were pallbearers.<sup>38</sup> A few months later in early 1937, Amelia passed away from skin cancer. Her funeral was similarly conducted by Bishop Neslen.<sup>39</sup>

Over the Christmas holidays at the end of 1937, Willard, age sixty, took his family on a cruise from California through the Panama Canal. During the trip, Willard did not survive a heart attack he suffered in the Canal Zone. After his body was returned to the States in January of 1938, his funeral was held in the Eighteenth Ward Chapel, with President Heber J. Grant and his counselor David O. McKay both speaking.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Collins Telle Cannon to Ida May Burton Cannon 29 August 1936. This letter was saved by Nana and then inherited in 1983 by her daughter Joan Cannon Innes. This and other letters, papers and thousands of pictures came into my possession after the death of Joan in 2018 and inspired me to write this biography..

<sup>36</sup> "Life History of Ida Mae Cannon Smith," by Ida Mae Cannon Smith, 1997.

<sup>37</sup> I was that student, although I cannot explain why that word was on a seventh grade spelling list. Combined with the Latin classes my father took at West High, his vocabulary was impressive, as was his father's.

<sup>38</sup> 26 October 1936 Deseret News; 28 October 1936 Salt Lake Tribune.

<sup>39</sup> 18 January 1937 Deseret News; 18 January 1937 Salt Lake Tribune.

<sup>40</sup> 10 January 1938 Salt Lake Tribune.

That year, Clarence Neslen was released as the bishop of the Twentieth Ward where he had served for twenty-five years, and Edwin Quayle Cannon became the new bishop. Also that year, Collins' brother Sylvester Q. Cannon was ordained an apostle, but he was not called into the Quorum of the Twelve until the death of Melvin J. Ballard in 1939.

Collins' brothers Willard and Wilford had both worked for decades to strengthen the sugar



company and keep it viable through the Depression. By 1930, the company operated beet-processing plants throughout the western states, and in 1937 Collins was tasked with designing the engineering requirements for the construction of a new plant in Toppenish, Washington, shown left.<sup>41</sup> His responsibilities would have included, for just one example, calculating how much steel and cement would be needed.

Willard's death would have come as a

surprise, but the company was resilient.

A few weeks after Willard's funeral, Collins left for a multi-week winter trip to inspect five sugar plants in the northwestern states. His February letter to Ida May from Spokane reflects not only his devotion to her after the trials of the previous eight years, but also of his commitment to a better future for both of them. His creativity in writing is also apparent:

Davenport Hotel Spokane, Washington

Feb. 10 1938

My Darling:

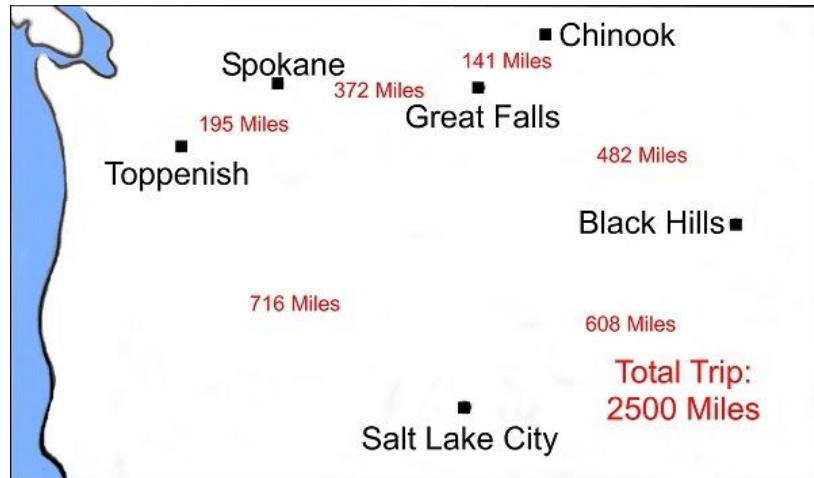
When I now say that I wish you were here with me I'm almost certain you will put your tongue in your cheek and say Oh yeah! However, it's quite so anyway.

This Hotel is a romantic place, a city, almost by itself...I have a beautiful room, with at least 10 lights, a deep pile carpet, a vase of fresh cut flowers, a bath lined with plate glass, a bed as soft as down and as I pen those words there floats up the hallway and thru my transom the dulcet tones from a Tzigane Orchestra from Vienna, and it's all for \$3.00.

I left Toppenish this noontime and drove here, about 250 miles over dry roads. Tomorrow

<sup>41</sup> 28 February 1954 Salt Lake Tribune. "In 1937, he engineered construction of the Toppenish, Wash., factory."

I shall go to Missoula where I have some business Saturday forenoon. The trip tomorrow is likely to be strenuous on account of more snow in the mountains to the east of here, though the travel bureau here in the Hotel assures me I will encounter no difficulty, as the road is a transcontinental highway and is kept clear of snow and is otherwise well maintained. [Map of his route is shown here.]



I dread the approaching Sunday enormously – I’ll be in Great Falls en route to Chinook – and I’m wondering how I’ll spend the lonely winter day. Monday and Tuesday I’ll be in Chinook from which place I’ll head Southeastward to the Black Hills of So Dakota, road conditions permitting. Ho-hum. It’s going to be a long and dreary trip but an important one. Thus far I feel very good about what I am accomplishing. If I may be as well satisfied with the remainder of my journey as I am of the part thus far I’ll be indeed happy.

It’s only a week since I left you but already it seems ages. How I’ll bear it for another ten days or more I don’t know. I’ll just have to – that’s all.

I do hope you are all well and happy and I hope that you, as the head of our family, are not finding the guiding and controlling of that family too great an ordeal. Better days are coming, and I trust we’ll not be too old, when those days arrive, to properly enjoy them.\*

Dearest, I’m sending you a small souvenir of Washington State as a valentine. It should come along about Saturday or Monday. I hope you will enjoy it and will you believe me as following a path of single purposefulness—that of loving you and keeping you happy, I am

Collins T. Cannon

\*Please unsplit that infinitive.

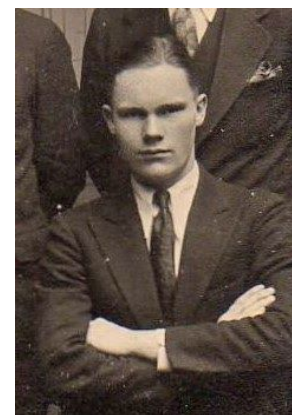
Collins’ responsibilities with the sugar company also provided employment opportunities for his son, Bud. In 1916 the company had built a factory in West Jordan, Utah, which Collins Burton

mentioned as he later recounted his summer jobs:

In 1937 I was working in Toppenish in Washington in the Yakima Valley. I was on a survey gang. In 1938 I worked out at West Jordan building a warehouse. I was foreman on that job. In 1939 I worked as a common laborer, swinging a pick and shovel for the sugar company building a new flume system at West Jordan. These jobs were during the summers while I was attending the University. I had to support myself.<sup>42</sup>

### Chapter 32: 1938-1940 Elizabeth Marries

A major event in the history of the Cannon family occurred in the spring of 1938, when twenty-four-year-old Elizabeth married twenty-eight-year-old Edward B. Kimball in the Salt Lake Temple. Edward, shown at right, who was usually called Ted, was a descendant of notable LDS leaders Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, William Clayton and Edward Partridge. Ted had served a mission in France and later studied there. He had also attended Georgetown University in Washington D.C. where he also worked in broadcasting.<sup>43</sup> Ted met Elizabeth when he returned to Salt Lake City to work for a new radio station with the call letters KDYL, later KSL.



The marriage ceremony, on Friday April 1st, was performed by Albert E. Bowen, a newly-called apostle in the Quorum of the Twelve and who had served in the Swiss-German mission with

Ted's father, Albert Partridge Kimball. Elder Kimball is shown in the group photo standing second from right, Elder Bowen, who had become a good friend to the family, is seated second from left.

<sup>42</sup> Collins Burton Cannon, as told to Julie Cannon Markham, 1982.

<sup>43</sup> 19 February 1985 Interview with Edward B. Kimball by Winifred Margetts, held at the Marriott Library.

## Affair Honors Newlyweds

A profusion of calla lilies decorated the home of Mr. and Mrs. Collins T. Cannon, 69 D street, for the wedding reception given in honor of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beatie Kimball, Friday evening.

The bride, who was Miss Elizabeth Burton Cannon before her marriage Friday in the Salt Lake City L. D. S. temple with A. E. Bowen, member of the quorum of the twelve apostles, performing the ceremony, was attractively gowned in turquoise blue taffeta with corsage of gardenias.

A bouquet of calla lilies centered the serving table, which was lighted by cathedral tapers in silver holders. Mrs. Donald Corbett of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. C. Clarence Neslen assisted in the dining room during the evening.

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE, FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 7, 1939

## Popular Salt Lake City Couple To Be Wedded Friday in Temple

An interesting nuptial event of Friday will be the marriage of Miss Elizabeth Burton Cannon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Collins T. Cannon, 69 D street, and Edward Beatie Kimball, son of Mrs. Edward P. Kimball, 116 Fourth avenue, and the late Edward P. Kimball.

The marriage will take place at 6 p. m. in the Salt Lake L. D. S. temple, the ceremony to be performed by A. E. Bowen, a member of the council of twelve apostles of the church. Following the ceremony an informal reception will be held at the Cannon home for members of the two families.

The bridegroom is prominent in radio circles. He is a graduate of the University of Utah and a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and is a former student of the Sorbonne university in Paris, France; the University of Tours, in France; the University of Lausanne and the University of Geneva, in Switzerland, and the George Washington university in Washington, D. C.



Ida May and Collins, with the help of Grace Neslen, hosted a reception in their home. The couple lived with Collins and Ida May through the next year.<sup>44</sup>

Later in 1938, Collins returned to Toppenish. In a letter to Ida May dated October 2nd, Collins described some of his work, but he also expressed his affection for her:

My Darling;

It's Sunday today but one wouldn't know it from the way we are all working. The Campaign is on full blast and so far the mill is having more than its share of trouble in getting going smoothly. We have had serious beet elevator, centrifugal, main water line and condenser trouble. The difficulty with the condensers is far from solved....

I have missed you more than I can tell. I haven't written as often as I would like but it seems I have not been able to find a second free so I could sit down to it. I was glad to hear you are all well and happy. I hope Bud will get work at West Jordan and at the same

<sup>44</sup> The 1939 city directory shows the couple lived at 69 D Street with Ida May and Collins.

time carry on some school work...I love you very much and can hardly wait until I return to you, meanwhile be assured that I am yours eternally,

Collins T. Cannon

### **Chapter 33: 1939, War, Secret Marriage**

The fateful year of 1939 opened with Europe embroiled in a devastating war which the United States refused to enter. The Nazis occupied Poland and would soon overtake Paris, a city which Collins knew and loved.

Closer to home, Collins Burton was in his third year at the U and living in the family home at 69 D Street with his parents, four sisters and a brother-in-law. By this time Beth had graduated in June from the nursing program at LDS Hospital and the two of them were privately discussing marriage. Collins Burton knew his parents would oppose their marriage until after he graduated, which would not happen for another year and a half. Nonetheless, in December of 1939, Collins Burton and Beth, both twenty-one, applied for a marriage license at the Salt Lake City courthouse where they quietly married the day after Christmas.<sup>45</sup> No one knew of this.

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<sup>45</sup> I found the 1939 marriage record in 1971 when I was a college student and was actually reading licenses in the Salt Lake courthouse looking for my parents' 1940 record, and I certainly did not expect to find two licenses. I asked Dad, who laughed and said, "Ask your mother." I never did. After Mom's death I did ask her cousin Norma, and later Aunt Marilyn. Neither knew about the first marriage. No one alive today has more information.