

Mae Lemon Barton

I feel, as Nephi of old, that I was born of goodly parents. I was born in the Lemon home, and was delivered by Dr. Hill from Huntington. He was in a car accident on the way to Ferron, but made it just in time.

I was named Emma Marie after my two grandmothers, but Ralph nicknamed me Mae and I have gone by that name ever since. Ralph and I were playmates and grew to be good friends. Since our birthdays were just four days apart, we celebrated our birthdays together. I was followed by three sisters: Maxine, Beth, and Jeanne. Ralph wanted a brother and was disappointed each time another girl came into the Lemon home. We had a happy home. Mother was such a good cook and we always had well balanced meals - no fast foods as we have today. Meal time was a happy time. Mother always claimed that laughing helped digest the food.

When I was in the fourth grade, Mother and Dad surprised me with a piano that I had been begging for. I have always had a great love for music and some of my happiest times was learning a new composition, especially by my favorite composer, Chopin. I took piano lessons from the Presbyterian teachers who were excellent teachers. My first teacher was Miss Leber who was from the East, and my favorite teacher was Miss Hood from the West Coast. When the Presbyterian School and Cottage closed, I went to Price once a week to take lessons from Ora B. Harding, and finally had the opportunity to attend the Sherwood Music School in Chicago.

John O. Barton and I were married at the age of twenty-one. Uncle Leon told me John would be a good provider, and John proved him right. We lived in Logan two years while John finished his education at Utah State University. We moved to Hinckley, Utah where John taught in the Hinckley High School for three years. We then moved to Price where John went into the automobile business. He had the Lincoln-Mercury Dealership and eventually went into the used car business which he enjoyed much more as there wasn't so much overhead. The President of Zion's Bank made the statement that only John had the expertise to run the car lot as it should be run.

One of the saddest times of our lives was the loss of our baby boy who was premature and only lived seven hours. We were blessed with four other lovely children: Shirley, Paul, DeAnn, and Becky. Our children attended schools in Price and took part in all school activities. The girls were cheer leaders, student body officers, and majorettes in the high school band. Paul was active in sports and was on the main basketball team. He also went out for baseball, football and track. John was very proud of the fact that all of his children graduated from Brigham Young University. Paul also graduated from the University of Utah Law School, and then graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in taxation.

John passed away at the age of fifty nine and left me with an automobile business that I knew nothing about - I felt that I had been thrown to the wolves. I have had enough experiences closing out Barton Motors to write a book. John financed everything he sold and the majority of people were very good in making their payments, but there were some who thought they could get something for nothing and did. I met up with some really rough characters. I have often said our investment in Paul's education paid off. With the help of having an attorney in the family, I made it through this difficult time and feel that I have grown through these trials. I also had the support and help of my daughters, daughter-in-law, and three son-in-laws.

I have seventeen wonderful grandchildren. Six of these are adopted and I feel like an international grandmother as I have a grandson from Costa Rica and two granddaughters from Korea. I love them all dearly.

February 1990, I sold my home in Price to the Episcopal Diocese of Utah for their priest who came from Florida and wanted to live in Utah. I lived with Becky and Marty while my condominium was being built. On July 2, 1990, I moved into a beautiful condo right next to the Jordan River Temple, and feel that this is a safe place to live.

I enjoy seeing my families often and I am able to give my grand children piano lessons. I enjoy living in the Salt Lake Valley where I can go to the Utah Symphony, Ballet West and do things I enjoy most.

I have a firm testimony of the Gospel and have always been active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Positions I have held have been Primary President, counselor in Stake Primary and Stake Relief Society, organist in ward and Stake Primary and Relief Society, and Relief Society visiting teacher.