

March 2015

The following was written by a cousin, Robert (Bob) H. Thompson. His source material was the "Mother of the Year" submittal package. How he got a copy/original or why he made a summation, I do not know. However, he gives my sister, Joyce, full authorship credit for writing it, but my mother and, to some extent, I wrote the submittal package. I transcribed, in a single night, the handwritten (and verbal dictation) into printed form using a manual typewriter and added liberally as I went along.

I have corrected some of the dates and added the hand written "red-lined insertions" that appear on my copy of his work. I do not know who made the comments, but they appear to be valid. Some of the writing could be mine from years ago; some, my brother Jim's, but most of it I do not recognize.

My comments are contained in red brackets, i.e. [...].

I have generally left the spelling and grammar alone. The word "(Sic)" is inserted by me when I detect an obvious error, but do not want to change the verbatim writing.

Where possible, I have tried to maintain the same placement of the material on the page.

"Right and left" justified margins and standard page numbers have been added. Instead of the page numbers given as "GRACE -3-", meaning page 3, I give only use "3". [The main reason for doing so is because I don't know how to get my computer to add the word "GRACE" to the page number.] Some of the page numbers in the original document are "out-of-order", these have been corrected. Obviously, not all of the material in the original document falls on the same page number in this electronic version.

Bob changed his presentation style midway through his document. I have chosen one of his formats, and changed all the other entries to conform to it. The format I have chosen starts with the "Year" followed by the "(Age X)". Since my mother often lied about her age, and with a number of math errors by Bob, the "(Age X)" number is often wrong. I have chosen to leave the numbers as written with a few exceptions. For example: the year "1917" was typed "1817".

# GRACE EMILY THOMPSON SEELY

By Joyce Seely Richmond

Edited by Robert H. Thompson

Retyped by R. Kent Seely

March 2015

**Born:** 5 Sep 1902, in Borrowby, Yorkshire, England  
**Baptized:** 25 Sep 1910  
**Sealed to Parents:** 21 Jun 1911, Salt Lake Temple.  
**Married:** 23 Jun 1926, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah, USA  
**Endowed:** 23 Jun 1926, Salt Lake Temple.  
**Sealed to Spouse:** 23 Jun 1926, Salt Lake Temple.  
**Died:** 24 Apr 1980, Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah USA  
**Buried:** 28 Apr 1980, Brigham City, Box Elder, Utah USA

1902: My mother, **Grace Emily Thompson SEELY**, was born of goodly parents 5 Sep 1902, in the little village of Borrowby, Yorkshire, England. Her mother, **Jane Bosomworth Thompson** (Age 31) was a beautiful girl from the sturdy middle class. Her father (Age 33) belonged to the upper class. Two of his great aunts married Princes. Her grandfather entertained the King of England at the "Kursaal" [Aunt Jen and my mother both spell it "Kursel". So do my "Spell Check" and Thesaurus programs.] in Harrogate. The Kursaal was a beautiful opera house, at the time that my great grandfather was an Alderman of the town council of the Town of Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. Royalty came to Harrogate early each spring to open the Bath Resort for the "Season".

Her father had to come to America to marry his beautiful middle class sweetheart. After their third child was born, [Mother's original account says second. Aunt Jen's writings note a daughter, Caroline, born after J. Henry and before Aunt Jen came along, died a few weeks after birth.] they returned to England where **Grace**, my mother, was born.

There was a little Primitive Methodist United Brethren Church built, [Mother's original account only states it was a Methodist Church. Aunt Jen's account does not name the Church, but speaks of the Church of England a great deal in her history.] attached to Mother's home. [Actually, there was space between the Church and the home. Mother writes of losing a rubber ball between the two buildings saying they were six inches apart. I have been to the home, unfortunately the "Church" had been torn down, but the Church's foundations were still there. From the clearly visible foundations, I would guess the buildings were more like eight inches apart. If the walls

had been made from stones, as they likely were, they would not have been smooth, and would easily account for the difference. I would also guess the “Church” to have been a small, one-room affair.

My mother verbally told the story of a lady, coming out of the Church (who did not agree with what the LDS missionaries had preached) poked one of them with her hat or hair pin. According to mother, the missionary jumped up over a six foot hedge and landed in the street. I always questioned the story, thinking how could anyone do a standing high jump of over six feet? It wasn't until I visited the home that I saw that the road was about four feet below the level of the Church and home. The hedge (at the time of my visit) grew at the side of the road at the road level, with about two feet of hedge above the Church and home level. There were steep steps leading up from the road to the level of the house. (I have pictures of the home and the grounds.) A huge wall surrounded her home and the little Church. [On my visit, I saw no stone wall or evidence of there ever having been one. Mother wrote, “In England they put huge twelve foot rock walls around each home and its plot of ground. The church was within these walls.” Aunt Jen speaks of the interior of the home and of a “greenhouse on the lower end of the garden.”, but not of the “wall”.] **Grace's** father was the organist for the little Church. [Likely, but it is not clearly stated in either Grace's or Jen's documents that their father was the organist in the Church next to their home.] Her mother, **Jane**, brother **Harry**, and sister **Jen**, sang in the church choir. [John Henry Thompson, son of John Ernest Thompson, was known as “J. Henry” or more commonly, as “Harry”.] Her father was considered ‘well off’ in the little village and was a leader of the people.

During her stay in America, **Grace's** mother learned to make yeast bread. She taught the women of the village how to make it and bake it in their open fireplaces.

- 1908-09: (Ages 6 & 7) **Grace** went to the Beginners and standard one on the English School. There the boys played on one side of the building and the girls on the other. They were separated by buildings and huge fences.
- 1908: (Age 6) When **Grace** was six; Mormon Missionaries came to her father's home.
- 1910: (Age 8) He accepted the gospel and the next year the family moved to Murray, Utah. They arrived 30 May, 1910. They lived in a tent on Fred Davis' farm. Sister Davis let the family bathe in her bath tub. **Grace** remembers the joy of that first bath tub. She had never seen one before. In her little village in England, they had had to walk half a mile to the only well in the village, and then carry the water home in a bucket. Here, the magic of turning the water on or off, hot or cold, thrilled her.

1910: (Age 8) That fall she went to her first American school. She told her teacher she was in Standard Two, but Rex Davis, a third grader, told the teacher she was in Kinder-garten, a word she had never heard. In England it was "Beginners". So into the Kindergarten she went. She stayed two days, then she was put into the lower first grade. She stayed two weeks and was placed in the higher first grade. Here the teacher, Miss Barney, taught her when to use her "h" and when to leave it off. Here was love and kindness.

1914: (Age 12) When she was in the fifth grade, her family moved to Almo, Idaho. They homesteaded at Reid Springs, eight miles south of Almo, on the Raft River. At Reid Springs, her father built a one room log cabin. They used mud with very little cement for chinking. They used slabs and dirt for the roof. The cabin had a dirt floor. It was quite a change from the beautiful home they lived in England.

Her father, **John Ernest Thompson**, was not prepared for this kind of work. In England, he had a personal Valet to serve him. He could speak seven different languages. He had studied abroad. Her mother wanted him to teach at the University, but he had no money to go to school to get a certificate to teach.

This was when grandmother's middle class training came to the aid of the family. She went out as a Mid-Wife. One day, **Grace** asked her mother how she remembered what to do. Her mother replied, "When you know a life depends on you, you will remember. You will know what to do."

1917: (Age 15) When **Grace** was fifteen years old her mother took her into the homes with her. **Grace** learned how to bathe a new born baby. She assisted her mother in every way she could.

The family lived at Reid Springs for five or six years, usually moving into town for the school term. When **Grace** was in the seventh grade, her folks rented a small log cabin about a mile from the village. One night as she was walking home, she was caught in a blizzard. She had just entered the large field that she had to cross before coming to the cabin. She wandered around and around in the field, not knowing in which direction she was to go. After a long time, she realized that she might freeze if she didn't find her way. She stood still and prayed. When she opened her eyes she got a fleeting glimpse of the fence. She headed for it and walked along it until she found the gate. Now she could see the light in the cabin window. She arrived safely home.

1917: (Age 15) The next winter, in the eighth grade, she lived with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Taylor and worked for her room and board. The Taylors had six children under nine years of age. **Grace** arose at four O'clock every Monday morning and did the family washing before she went to school. Those were the days of the hand washer and the boiler. She

mixed all the bread for the family and did the ironing. On Saturday she thoroughly cleaned the house. Here began her training on how to handle children. She learned to win their love first and then they would co-operate with her.

1918: (Age 16) The next year she went to Oakley, Idaho, to attend High School. Due to the "Flu" epidemic, school was closed in January or February. Fred Taylor came from Almo to take the two high school girls home in the wagon. They started out really early in the morning. It was snowing and had been snowing all night. They arrived at the City of Rocks about two or three O'clock in the afternoon. The snow was waist deep. The horses, already tired, could not pull the wagon through the deep snow. Fred and the girls had to get out and tramp a trail for them to top of the divide. They arrived home after dark, wet and cold. [There is much more to this story. Shortly stated, all three nearly died from exposure. Mother records that most of her body turned "black".]

1919: (Age 16) **Grace's** older sister, **Jen**, came home from Declo the same night. The next morning, **Jen** didn't get up. She had the "Flu". Soon her mother got it. The epidemic had hit the little town of Almo. No doctor lived within a hundred miles. Grandmother Thompson was the Mid-Wife and general nurse and now she had the "Flu". The bishop's five room log cabin home was filled with beds of sick people who had come for help.

1919: (Age 16) **Grace** and her two younger brothers, **Ted** and **Bill**, found themselves alone in the homestead eight miles from the family. **Billy**, who was eight or nine, was the first to get the "Flu". He became delirious. In his delirium he was frightened. It was then that mother learned that if she talked to Billy about pleasant, nice things, while he was rational, that when his high fever came and was delirious again, he wouldn't be frightened. He would babble on about the things she had told him. Then **Ted** also got the "Flu" and **Grace** had to nurse both of them. This is when she really learned to pray.

One day her father walked the eight miles to see how they were getting along, but he had to go back to help at the bishop's house where he had taken her mother and sister. The next week the neighbor, who lived three miles away, came and chopped a big pile of wood and brought some broth for the boys. Mother nursed both boys through the "Flu". The day her father brought her mother and sister home, she went to bed. The "Flu" ran its course and she got better.

1919: (Age 17) The next spring, **Grace** entered the Mutual Improvement Association story contest. She won in her ward and in her stake. That was as far as the contest went in those horse and buggy days. The Bishop's wife, Sister Florence Johns, taught her to tell stories and also taught her faith and how to go to the Lord with her problems.

1920: (Age 18) The next summer she went to Brother Fred Nye's Sunday School Class. He was dressed in rags but he was the best teacher she ever had. His knowledge and faith in the Gospel and his method of teaching, won the admiration of all the young folks in the Ward.

**Grace's** first calling in the Church was that of secretary of the YWMIA (Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association). To do this work she had to drive a horse and buggy eight miles along and across the Raft River. One beautiful moonlit night, in the summer, as she neared the steep bank of the willow covered river, she had the feeling that she would be glad when she had forded the shallow river. She drove her horse down the steep bank. Half way across the river the horse suddenly bolted from fright, broke the tugs, jerked the lines from her hands, and galloped home.

**Grace** sat there, dazed for a moment, then she pulled off her shoes and stockings and waded to the other side of the river, and walked the half mile through the sagebrush to her home. As she walked she sang songs and hymns to keep up her courage.

The next morning **Grace** walked down by the river in search of their cow. She was impressed **not** to go into a clump of willows. She turned and walked away. In a few moments she heard the cry of a cougar. It must have been the cougar which frightened the horse the night before.

**Grace** kept her calling in the Church until September, when she again returned to Oakley to school. In Oakley she stayed at the home of President and Sister Wm [Mother wrote William] Jack, where she worked for her room and board. Because of the weather, she was unable to return home for Thanksgiving. She made up a song as she washed the dirty dishes. (To the tune of "I'm forever blowing bubbles)

I'm forever washing dishes. Dishes in my second name.  
 Wash them and wipe. Never saw the like.  
 Perhaps in the future, I'll have fame.  
 Dishes, dishes, dishes, everywhere I look,  
 I'm forever washing dishes; washing dishes for the cook.

1921: (Age 19) The next fall, after two years at Oakley Academy, **Grace** enrolled at Brigham Young Junior College in Logan. Her folks had no money, so she had to work for her board and room. She had never been to Logan and didn't know anyone there. Her Bishop said it was a good Church School, and she had faith that the way would be opened up. She stayed in the Harry Wilmore's home.

Grace had no money for tuition or books, but a beet vacation came along and she went with a friend to Smithfield and worked topping beets. She earned some money but she needed a new coat, so she bought the first new coat she had ever had since she came to America. She bought a few books, but lacked the funds to buy all of them. About Christmas time the Registrar called her in and awarded her a scholarship for being a straight "A" student.

1922: (Age 20) That next summer she stayed in Logan and worked to get the money to go back to school. That summer she attended a Sunday School class where the students were noisy and paid no attention to the teacher. She asked the Superintendent if she could teach the class as soon as the present teacher quit. She enjoyed teaching the class the rest of the summer.

In four years of High School at Oakley Stake Academy, [Mother's account indicates she had four years of high school, but only two at Oakley] she had enough credits for one year of college. After a year at Logan, she was given her teacher's certificate, but didn't attend graduation because she had no money to buy a dress. She saved her money to attend summer school at Albion, Idaho. She wanted to get an Idaho teacher's certificate and teach in Malta, Idaho. Her folks had moved there to help build the new stake of Zion. Her sister, **Jen**, who had married, loaned her money and gave her clothes. At Albion she re-met many of her old friends.

1922: (Age 20) The winter in Malta was a happy one. She was the comedian in the Ward MIA play. They played at all the outlying small towns. Her experience in teaching was unique. She taught fifth and sixth grades. In the sixth grade there was only one girl. The rest were fellows and all of them were larger than she was. Her problem was they wanted to date her. It took her three days to convince one ardent admirer that it wasn't good policy for the teacher to date her pupils.

One day a school board member came to visit her school. She stayed all day. She complimented mother on her discipline and the way she taught. **Grace** always opened her school with prayer.

1923: (Age 21) The next summer **Grace** attended the national summer school in Logan. The Bullons and the Skidmores convinced her that she should teach in Box Elder County. She had two reasons for choosing Rosette; there was more money offered there, and she felt that she understood country children better.

She had twenty pupils in a one room school. She was the only teacher and taught grades: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Here again she called on the children to open the school with prayer.

The little community of Rosette had no piano. She asked the school board to send her one. She offered to raise funds to pay for half of it. She knew that if the community had dances they would have to have them at the school, so she was pleased when the school board consented.

Her first entertainment was a circus. She had her classes create dolls, doilies, and pin cushions for prizes. All the young people from all the surrounding towns came. To her dismay she found they had brought a jug of home-made beer. The boys asked her if she would like to come out to the wood pile to have a drink. On her way out she picked up a large rock. When they gave her the jug she pounded on the bottom with her rock but it didn't break, before the dazed boys realized and grabbed it away from her. The next day the broken jug was on her desk when she entered the school, letting her know that she had accomplished what she had tried to do.

1923: (Age 21) She rode with the mailman to go home to Malta for Christmas. They were in a "white-top" and had large heated rocks to keep their feet warm. They got about two hours out into the flat when they were caught in a blizzard. The horses refused to go on so they turned back to Kelton. The train was about ready to pull out so she decided to spend Christmas in Logan. She found that the Shaws had just lost their mother and were not planning a Christmas. **Grace** bought a tree and soon had it decorated. Mr. Shaw thanked mother for coming and helping them to have a happy Christmas. She was glad she had come.

1926: (Age 23) [Note, from here on, the year and age often do not agree. I have chosen to give the year and age as they appear in the document. It is likely they disagree because; at about this point in her life, mother began to lie about her age. It was customary, back then, for the wife to be younger than her husband; but mother was a year older than dad. She wanted to appear to be the same age as dad, but often screwed-up the dates and math ending up a year younger. Somehow, many of her Church records were changed, but these changes are inconsistent and her birthday varies over a three year period.]

My brother, Jim, tells a humorous story about mother not accepting social security benefits until she was "old enough" in order to maintain the fiction. My sister, Gwen, obtained a copy of mother's birth certificate from England, pointed out the discrepancy and mother exploded! It was likely the only time I ever witnessed my mother lose her temper.] **Grace** spent two wonderful years teaching in Rosette. She married the Bishop's son, **F. Leland (Jim) Seely** 23 Jun 1926, in the Salt Lake Temple.

### A Visitation

1927: (Age 24) As the day started she fixed a lunch for her husband to take on an all-day ride, and turned to go back to the house. As she entered the house she sank into a chair, she was having a miscarriage. She was afraid to move. Finally in the middle of the afternoon, she crawled to the bed in the next room. As the pains came she thrashed around on the bed. After hours of this, her condition worsened. **Then she saw a personage at the side of her bed. He did not speak but a calmness came over her and she took the pain quietly.**

In about an hour the Mid-Wife, Sister Burton, came over from the neighboring town. [Other accounts say “Sister Burton” was not a Mid-Wife, but one of her nearest neighbors – living about five miles away. My brother, Jim, has gathered various accounts and written as accurate a version as I know of. I refer the reader to his work.] She said, “I got to worrying about you. I knew that you would be alone and I came over to see if you were all right.” She stayed all night and the next day. Her husband, Jim, didn’t find the cattle so he didn’t come home that night. From this experience, **Grace** knew that Heavenly Father takes care of His children.

1927: (Age 24) The doctor in Brigham City told her that she was too small to give birth. Again back in Rosette, where there was no doctor, in a few months she lost a second baby.

1928: (Age 25) Two years later grandmother, **Jane B. Thompson**, who was still in Oregon, dreamed, “I dreamed **Jim** put a little soft bundle into my arms. I think **Grace** needs me. Besides, we have two sons of marriageable age, if we want them to marry girls who are members of the Church, we had better go back.” So they quit their jobs and returned to Idaho.

1. 1928: (Age 25) **Grace’s** first baby, a six pound daughter, **Kathryn Joyce Seely**, was born 22 Apr 1928, to **Francis Leland (Jim) and Grace Emily Thompson Seely, in Malta, Idaho.**
2. 1929: (Age 27) Fifteen months later with only her mother’s help, her first son, **Glen McLain Seely**, was born 12 Aug 1929, also in Malta.

Drowth [Drought] made things rough for the **Seely** family in Rosette. With no rain, the crops failed. **Jim** sold cows for which he paid a hundred dollars apiece for sixty dollars. **Jim** went to Montpelier, Idaho, to sell fruit for his brother, **Elwyn**, leaving **Grace** and two children. The well went dry. The good neighbors made two trips over each morning to haul water to her four horses, a cow, a calf, two pigs, one with a litter of ten, and five hundred chickens. The neighbors even tried to deepen the well but it was no use. The deeper they dug the dryer it got.

1930: (Age 28) Two year old **Joyce** went out to find her mother who was doing chores. The old sow broke out of her pen and started after **Joyce** who ran back to the porch. **Grace**

could see in her mind, that old sow tearing her baby apart as she had seen that pig tear chickens apart and eat them alive. **Grace** ran to the phone and called **Lawrence Carter**, to come and get the pig. He bought the pig and her whole litter. **Grace** insisted that he come immediately and get the pigs, which he did. The next day the bottom fell out of the price of pigs. Her business instincts told her the deal was all right because he was the man who sold father the cows at one hundred dollars apiece and bought them back, cow and calf, for sixty dollars.

Grandmother **Jane Bosomworth Thompson** (Age 58) sent for them to come and stay in Malta until **Jim** (Age 27) could find another job. This ended seven years of living in Rosette with some of the most wonderful people **Grace** (Age 28) has ever known.

In December, **Jim** got a job in the court house in Brigham City. He received two dollars a day. He came to Malta, picked up his family and established them in Brigham City.

3. 1932: (Age 29) 2 Feb 1932, **Grace's** third child, **John Leland (Lee) Seely**, was born, in Brigham City.

Grandfather **Seely** came just before the baby was born and gave her a blessing in which he promised her that she would feel no pain at the baby's birth. Somehow she was given too much ether and didn't awaken until the baby was dressed and in his crib. She had to be shown the baby before she would believe it was born.

1932: **Jim's** job ran out so he moved his family to Idaho Falls to sell fruit for his brother again. Then they moved to Blackfoot where **Jim** worked in the sugar factory until it closed in December. For Christmas in 1932, they moved back to Brigham City and paid eight dollars a month to rent an unfurnished two room house.

This was the year of the depression. **Jim** was unable to find work. He finally joined the CCC Camp in Cache in Cache Valley. His pay was 30 dollars a month. (**Jim** often called **Grace**, "**Pinky**" because of her red hair.) There were five in the family on 30 dollars a month. "Pinky, I can come home weekends for five dollars a month. Shall I save the money or shall I come home?" "Come home. We'll get along on twenty-five dollars a month." How great it was when the Sugar Factory in Brigham City opened in October and **Jim** got his job back; \$135.00 [~~\$125.00~~] per month. With his first check she bought shoes, stockings, dresses, overalls, and food. She never forgot that check.

- 1934: From then on the **Seelys** started to prosper. **Jim** got a job delivering gas, oil, and fuel. The next year, in September 1934, **Jim** bought a home at 27 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> W. in Brigham City. Five rooms and two porches seemed a mansion.

4. 1934: (Age 32) In the new home 16 Oct 1934, **Grace's** second daughter, **Gwendolyn (Gwen) Seely**, was born. Grace had to resign from being president of the PTA because she couldn't drive a car. [\[See my stories of my mother trying to learn to drive.\]](#)

Eighteen little boys with excess energy had driven two teachers out of the eight-year-old primary class. She took a willow to class the first day and slammed down the window, and looked the boys right in the eye. There was silence. Suddenly, **Glen**, her son, who was a member of the class, jumped up and said, "You guys be good. This is my mother!" They were good. They began to love primary.

**Jim** was called to be Supt. Of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Sunday School. **Grace** noticed the (12-16) year-old class was bulging. She asked her husband to divide the class and give her the (15-16) year olds to teach. This was one of the most enjoyable experiences in teaching **Grace** has ever had. They had a class party each month. Come they did, and brought their friends, both to the parties and to the class. The class was too large for the room and took over the double rooms of the Jr. Sunday School. She invited the Stake President to come and talk to her class. The room was so full there were youth standing by the walls of the room. Tears filled her eyes as she saw how many young people came to learn more about their faith.

1939-1940: The boys of her Sunday School class began leaving to go to war. One of their last parties was a watermelon bust held in the park. All of the boys returned. There wasn't one casualty.

**Jim** was made Ward Clerk. At this time everyone had to have a birth certificate or statement of birth before they could obtain work. This made tremendous work for mother. She was gracious and tried to make them feel welcome.

She sang many solos in Church and on programs. [Note: Growing up, I remember my mother singing in many groups and choruses, but I do not recall her ever singing a solo.] She sang with a community chorus and a double trio. Then came three babies in three years. With a family of nine, mother had her hands full. Each of her children knew his job and all tried to help. **Grace** didn't believe in allowances. She made a chart with a price for every job; one cent for making a bed, five cents for drying dishes, fifteen cents for doing them alone, etc. Everything was written down with a price. The children took turns each week at choosing their jobs for the week.

5. 1941: (Age 37) [Note: date and age are as given] Fifth child and third daughter **Karen Seely**, was born 28 May 1941, in Brigham City, Utah.
6. 1942: (Age 39) Sixth child and third son, **James Edward Seely**, was born 6 July 1942, in Brigham City, Utah.
7. 1944: (Age 41) Seventh child and fourth son, **Richard Kent Seely**, was born 4 Jun 1944, in Brigham City, Utah.

That's three births in three years and one week.

1945: Grace (Age 43) received the corsage for having the largest number of children present in Sunday School.

Two and a half year old **Karen** was badly burned on the oil floor furnace. The name of the furnace had been plainly branded on **Karen's** bottom. [Hand written redlined note: "Ask Karen if she is still branded!"] In the ward, all members of the bishopric and their wives were to go monthly together to the temple. **Jim** tried to convince his spouse that the baby would be all right with **Joyce** at home. When they got to the temple, she hesitated at the door still unconvinced that **Karen** who was so badly burned would be all right. She stood worrying and a temple worker came up and advised her to go on through the temple and consoled her with the promise that her child would be all right. Upon her arrival at home she found that **Karen** had slept the entire evening and that the children were all right.

1946: (Age 43) 6 July 1946, the family moved to 7<sup>th</sup> South and Main Street in Brigham City. **Grace** was asked to organize the first Junior Sunday School in the 5<sup>th</sup> ward. She used ropes, safety pins, and blankets to turn the cultural hall of the chapel into class rooms for her young friends.

**Grace** was asked to teach the first LDS Sunday School at Intermountain Indian School. At this time she was a member of the Sunday School Stake Board. The teaching was difficult because of the language barrier. She taught with pictures.

She was asked to organize Junior Sunday Schools in every ward in the stake. At the same time in her own ward she was Relief Society Chorister and leader of the Singing Mothers.

**Boyd K. Packer**, who later became a General Authority, asked Sister **Seely** to teach classes to the Indian Students who were LDS, only this time at the Brigham City Chapel. These classes included boys and girls of all ages.

**Grace** not only taught these boys and girls in religious doctrine, she also tried to help them to live better and understand the ways of the white society. Many were invited Sundays to our table to be fed and entertained. We found that stealing was permissible to them if the object was left unguarded. **Grace** learned that the reservation students had to think answers in Navajo, and then translate them into English. For this reason, they seemed slow in answering.

**Jim** started a Motel business. It grew slowly into a prosperous business. For a time, **Grace** cleaned all the cabins, washed and ironed the linen, made the beds, and dumped the garbage. When winter slowed the tourist business, **Jim** was busy with his gas, oil, and fuel business. **Grace** took the orders for delivery. She also received payments and kept the books. "I am a secretary, a cabin maid, a motel manager, and a mother of seven. Each is a full-time job!" She was always busy and never stopped. She

was a good manager. She spent thirteen years building up the motel, and gas and oil business. She helped **Jim** build a café, store, and service station. In spite of hard work, she made life enjoyable teaching her children the necessity of work, play, and the joy of family living.

Grace was quick to recognize the needs of people as they came to the motel. One night, during an unseasonable cold spell, a truck load of transient Mexican field workers stopped at the motel, a baby was crying. **Grace** recognized the cry. The child was hungry. She brought the mother a carton of milk, a loaf of bread, and a paper cup. She handed them to the mother who did not speak English, but smiled her gratitude.

**Grace** installed them in her two largest cooking units, charging very little for the two cabins. She then brought out her basement storage of used clothing and gave them to them. Months later they stopped to thank mother for her kindness to them when they were cold and hungry and in a strange land.

In the motel business she met all kinds and types of people from criminals to celebrities, and showed kindness and friendliness to all of them.

1959: **Jim** (Age 55) sold the gas and oil business, hired a manager for the motel and moved **Grace** (Age 56) into a new home. Daughter, **Karen**, won five beauty contests. Son, **James**, is in Germany on a mission. Son, **Dr. J. Leland Seely** at Santa Barbara, California, received recognition from General Motors, Corp. for his presentation in Washington, D. C.. Son **Glen** filled his mission in England and is a successful real estate broker in Salt Lake City. Son **Kent** is a senior in high school. **Jim** is President of the Box Elder Chamber of Commerce, and at the same time, President of the Lion's Club. **Jim** and **Grace** are both directors of the Box Elder Knife and Fork Club. Her time all her life has been spent with love in the service of her family, Church, and her fellow man.

1980: **Grace Emily Thompson Seely** (Age 77) died 24 Apr 1980, in Brigham City, Utah, as was buried in the Brigham City Cemetery.

1981: **Francis Leland (Jim) Seely** (Age 78) died 21 Jun 1981, in Brigham City, Utah, and was buried in the Brigham City Cemetery.

They were married 54 years.