

# **Katheryn Joyce Seely**

## **By Joy Lynn Richman**

*Note by Larry Richman (September 30, 1996): The Neff Family organization is publishing a book on the descendants of John Neff. As one of his descendants, they would like us to write a page on Katheryn Joyce Seely. Ken Goates (the book compiler) begged me, so I begged Joy to take the lead and she wrote the initial draft. To get more information about mom, Joy asked Glen and Gwen to record some of their memories of mom. They made a [video](#) and sent it to Joy which she referred to as she wrote her draft. I added some to Joy's draft.*

Katheryn Joyce Seely was born in the town of Malta, Cassia County, Idaho, on 22 April 1928. She was the first of seven children born to Francis Leland Seely (born 2 June 1903) and Grace Emily Thompson (born 5 September 1902). She grew up in Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah.

Being the oldest, she accepted the responsibility of caring for her younger brothers and sisters. She quickly received the nickname "boss."

Her father Francis, who like to be called Jim, and her mother Grace often said that Joyce was the easiest child to raise. She was very well behaved and she hardly ever got into mischief. However, they did recall one mischievous incident as a child. Joyce was tired of her dark hair, and one day decided she wanted to be a blond, so she completely covered her hair with lard! Joyce was very shy. Her father wanted her to interact with her friends, so he paid her 10¢ to go to her friends' houses to play.

At a young age she displayed great faith and trust in her Heavenly Father. One day, her younger brother Lee was lost and the family looked desperately for him. Joyce prayed and asked the Lord to guide her to find her brother. After her prayer, she walked right to where he was.

Joyce attended Lincoln Grade School, Box Elder Junior High School, and Box Elder High School, all located in Brigham City. After graduating from high school, she attended Brigham Young University and lived at the Beehive House.

She married her high school sweetheart, Lynn Thomas Richman, on 22 November 1948 in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada. Their marriage was solemnized in the Logan Temple on 20 November 1958.

Joyce and Lynn owned and managed Lynn's Drive-in Market, a grocery store at the south end of town on Main Street in Brigham City, next to the Galaxy Motel that was owned and operated by Joyce's parents. They lived in an apartment above

the store. Later, they lived at 64 South Fifth East, just across the street from the old Box Elder High School. They later bought a home at 134 West Third South in Brigham City. They had four children: Jeffrey Lynn (born 3 February 1951), Larry Leon (born 10 July 1955), Joy Lynn (born 8 April 1959), and Ricky Lynn (born 12 March 1961).

In July 1963, the family moved from Brigham City to the Granger area of Salt Lake City and lived at 2780 West Marcus Road (3960 South). In July 1968, they moved from Salt Lake City to Boise, Ada County, Idaho and lived at 5111 Mountain View Drive.

Joyce was destined to pass through many trials during her life. She was born with only one functioning kidney, which deteriorated over the years, and at times quit functioning all together. The condition was aggravated by high blood pressure and poor circulation. She endured much, but also grew much from it. During the last years of her life, she was in and out of hospitals in Boise and Salt Lake City, and passed away at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City on 13 December 1971 (her husband's 43rd birthday) at the age of 43. She was buried on 18 December 1971 in Brigham City.

Joyce was a devoted wife and mother and was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints all her life.