

## **Eulogy of Laretta Frank Tanner**

Laretta Frank Tanner was born on March 19, 1933 in Providence, Utah to Seth Clinton and Grace Emily Astle Frank. She was the oldest of 7 children. Her siblings are Yvonne, Brent, Louis, Effie, and twins, Colleen and Charlene. At the time of Laretta's birth, it was the heart of the Great Depression in America and her parents lived in part of the house with Seth's parents, Grandpa & Grandma Frank. During this time, Laretta was able to get to know her paternal grandparents very well and interact with them. She remembered going to fetch the newspaper for her grandpa and her grandmother always baking molasses cookies for her younger brother, Louis.

Laretta got to take piano lessons from her Aunt Lovinia, her dad's sister. The lessons were paid for with pounds of butter that they had churned from milking their cows. While taking lessons for about a year, she got to practice on the piano in her grandmother's parlor which she said was always a very cold room! However, it was a privilege to be allowed into this room.

As a child, Laretta remembered that her parents took the family on one trip to Yellowstone Park to go camping in a tent. As they were setting up the camp and having left the car door open, a bear got inside the car and started to chew on her sister's doll. Her dad ran over to get the bear out of the car and recover Effie's doll. After that, the children were told not to go out alone and if they were going to the car to go straight there, get in and shut the door! The only other family trips Laretta remembered were camping trips up the canyon close to home as her dad would have to go home in the morning to attend his cows and come back to where they were camping.

She had a core group of friends from church that she did everything with which included her 4 best friends--cousins, Juanita Baer, Gwen Pickett, Alta Chugg, and Kathryn Christensen. After she and her friends graduated from high school and went their separate ways, they did not keep in touch with each other but still Laretta thought about them and often talked about those

friends to her children. Only a few years ago, while Laretta was visiting in California, her daughter, Sandra introduced her to a friend who also worked at the Oakland Temple. As they got talking, it turned out that the friend was Juanita Baer (Davis), her cousin and good friend from her youth in Providence! It was very exciting that she got to reconnect with Juanita again and “catch up” in their later years. The cousins are exactly the same age—both born in the month of March 1933.

Laretta attended school at Providence Elementary and after graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade, attended South Cache High School in Hyrum, Utah. After high school graduation, she attended Utah State Agricultural College which is now Utah State University in Logan, Utah. She was pursuing a degree in home economics with an emphasis in textiles and sewing. She once told her granddaughter if she hadn’t married Doyle, she thought she would have liked to go to New York City and work in a fashion house.

Laretta spent most of her growing up years in Providence, Utah which she always considered to be her hometown. As a young girl, she learned to work hard and go without many material things. Her family was very poor even though her dad worked hard and did any kind of work that he could get. Laretta learned to work hard by herding the cows back home from the fields and picking all kinds of fruit to earn money as a teen. She got to be a very fast fruit picker.

When Laretta was about 16 years old, her family moved from Providence to Mendon, Utah and lived on a farm there. On the farm in Mendon, Laretta’s dad raised dairy cows, chickens and grew sugar beets, alfalfa, and grain. The children were required to help with the farm animals and in the fields weeding and working. Laretta was no exception and learned to work hard in the fields with her siblings.

While Laretta was attending college, there was a Winter Carnival being held up the canyon. Doyle Tanner and a friend were headed up the canyon to attend when they decided to find some cute girls to give a ride to—Laretta was one of the 3 girls that got a ride with Doyle

that day. At the Carnival, Doyle & Laretta had fun riding a toboggan together. After that, Doyle and Laretta somehow took the same Institute class. Doyle promptly sat by Laretta and began talking to her for the entire class period asking her “any and all kinds of questions a boy could ask a girl,” according to Laretta. They began dating in February and by August 17 were engaged. Doyle and Laretta were married January 7, 1953 in the Logan, Utah LDS Temple. Laretta was 19 years old.

The newlyweds went on a honeymoon trip driving down through Utah and attending sessions in the Manti and St. George LDS Temples along the way and ending up in Las Vegas before returning to Logan where they lived while Doyle was attending USU. While Doyle went to school, Laretta worked as a switchboard operator for the phone company in Logan. A sad experience for Laretta was giving birth to a stillborn daughter in April 1954 and burying the baby in the Providence City Cemetery.

After Doyle completed his undergraduate work, he was enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and they moved to South Dakota where they were stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base outside of Rapid City. During this time, their daughter, Sandra, was born in November 1955. While in South Dakota, they met and made some wonderful, lifelong friends. They also had an experience of a tornado passing through the area they lived in, while they weren't home, which did some damage to their mobile home.

After three years in South Dakota, Laretta and Doyle moved back to Logan, Utah so that Doyle could complete a Master's Degree at USU. While living in Utah, they welcomed another daughter to their family. Kayalauna was born in October 1957 and Laretta spent her time at home being a mother.

Upon graduation, Doyle accepted a teaching job in Twin Falls, Idaho and they purchased their first home on Eastland Drive where they lived with their 2 daughters. In September of 1960, Laretta gave birth to their third daughter, Dianne. The home in Twin Falls had a large

backyard for the girls to play in and room for a large garden in which Laurretta grew many vegetables including enough corn to sell to the local grocery store after the family had all that they wanted. Although the area was fairly rural, the Tanner family enjoyed nice neighbors on each side of them and the beautiful open space. One of the special places Laurretta enjoyed visiting while living in Twin Falls was Shoshone Falls on the Snake River nearby. Also, while living in this area, Laurretta often enjoyed visiting her Aunt Doretta and her cousin, Junior Smith's family in Filer, Idaho.

Next, a new teaching job took the family to Burley, Idaho, a short distance away. The family moved into a house on Grandview Drive in Burley. This neighborhood had more neighbors than the one in Twin Falls, so it was fun for the girls to have more neighborhood friends to play with. When Dianne was old enough to go to school, Laurretta decided that it was time for her to pursue a Licensed Practical Nurse degree which she did at Cassia Memorial Hospital graduating in 1967.

After a few years in Burley, the family next moved back to Utah and lived in Kaysville, Utah while Doyle and Laurretta looked for, purchased property and built their home on South Mountain Road in Fruit Heights, Utah. They raised their girls and lived in this home for the next 45+ years.

After moving back to Utah from Idaho and recently having completed her LPN degree, Laurretta got a job working at the McKay-Dee Hospital in Ogden, Utah. She soon decided that she'd really like to have a Registered Nurse degree which was a step up from LPN. So, while working nights, she also went to school in the daytime at Weber State College to get her RN degree. She graduated with that degree in 1969 and then obtained a job at South Davis Hospital in Bountiful, Utah which later became Lakeview Hospital. She worked on the obstetrics floor and helped deliver a lot of babies for a few years. Then she moved over to the surgical floor where she worked for the remainder of her career--moving up to head nurse of the surgical floor

for many years before retiring in 1998. She had many wonderful and not-so-wonderful experiences working in the hospital and made many fast friends among co-workers. Her daughters enjoyed all of the stories that she would come home and share with them after work. She worked as a nurse for more than 30 years.

While working full-time, Laretta managed to raise her 3 daughters, teach them many homemaking skills and taught them LDS Gospel principles. She also kept a manicured and beautiful yard, grew a large, productive vegetable/fruit garden; picked, canned and preserved all of the produce from her garden and more that she bought by the bushel from other growers. She kept a very clean and organized home in spite of clutter caused by her family. She was also continually sewing throughout her busy life making, altering, and mending clothing for her family (including her own beautiful wedding dress and two of her daughter's wedding dresses), quilting, sewing toys & quiet books for grandchildren and other domestic items. She was continually planning new sewing projects and had a virtual "sewing store" stored in her house. She had a pillow that said it all: "When I Die, Get to My Sewing Room Before My Husband Does and Bring a Truck." She loved fabric!

Beautiful dishes were another of her passions. She had several sets of china. She liked to cook and feed everyone who came to her home. She was known for hosting her whole extended family for Thanksgiving and for her annual dipping of delicious chocolates each winter. She loved to go to a chocolate shop such as Mrs. Cavanaugh's and taste some of their chocolates; then go home and try to duplicate the ones that she liked! Her girls and Doyle would brave a cold house and help her run freshly dipped chocolates to the basement to set up before boxing up to eat and give away to family and friends. When chocolate dipping was done, you could go to the basement to survey rooms full of chocolates drying on their wax paper. It was a family tradition and a delicious sight!

Her grandchildren remember that she always had cookies in her cookie jar and she would love to make milk shakes for them whenever they came to visit. She also made several beautiful wedding cakes for relatives over the years. During her last few years of life, if she wouldn't eat anything else, she'd eat a cookie! She also made tasty homemade bread, pies, rolls, etc. on a regular basis.

Lauretta was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints all of her life. She was always active and served in many different callings over the years. She was always quick to serve others. Lauretta and Doyle served as ordinance workers in the Bountiful Temple for 3 years after they retired.

Lauretta and Doyle enjoyed being in the great outdoors/mountains. Lauretta always liked camping with her family but enjoyed it even more after she and Doyle purchased a small camper. She did not like to be cold when camping and the camper had a nice heater for cold nights! She also enjoyed the new cooking/baking opportunities that came with the camper—much better than over a campfire! Some of her most cherished trips were camping with her family! Her favorite place to camp was Stanley Lake, Idaho.

Lauretta was not a big animal lover but she tolerated some pet cats that her children wanted to have. However, the cat was not allowed in the house—it had to be an outdoor cat. The girls always got into trouble by sneaking the cat into the house! Growing up, we never did have a pet dog although she grew up with her dad having a dog which she said that she liked. Later in life, she also learned to tolerate (and maybe even like but wouldn't admit) Sandra's family's pet dog, Archie, even taking him on walks on occasion. Sometimes when she forgot who everyone else was, she still knew Archie!

Lauretta and Doyle went on a couple of big trips during their lifetime. They went on a trip to Hawaii with friends in 1988. Lauretta was not a big swimmer (she did learn to swim in a class that she took in college, but not really well) and was always somewhat afraid of deep water,

so it surprised everyone who knew her when she went on a small zodiac boat in the ocean in Hawaii and even got into the water to try snorkeling! In 1998, Laretta and Doyle went on a tour of Europe, which was a really new and exciting experience for them. It was probably the farthest she'd ever been from home!

Laretta loved spending time with and doing things for her family. It was her main focus in life. If any one of her daughters mentioned that they were looking for something that they wanted but were having trouble finding the item, Laretta was immediately looking for it and if she found it, she'd buy it before her daughter even knew that she was on the hunt! She loved to take walks up to the bridge and waterfall which was just up the road from her home--alone or with any family members who were visiting. She passed along her strong work ethic to her daughters through her example. It was difficult for her to just sit around and do nothing! She always wanted to be doing something!