



TRUDY PAINTER WOODLAND

1946-1977

Trudy Painter was the oldest child of Laurence Virgil Painter (Virgil) and Eleanor Crowther Painter. She was born 20 May 1946 at the Thomas D. Dee Memorial Hospital in Ogden, Utah, which was removed when the new McKay Dee Hospital was constructed.

During World War II, Trudy's father, Virgil, served in the Pacific on a baby aircraft carrier. When not at his battle station, Virgil worked as a barber. After his release from the Navy, Virgil and Eleanor moved to Salt Lake City in order for Virgil to become a board certified barber. They returned to Ogden once he completed his training, where they stayed with Eleanor's parents, Albert and Ellen Groberg Crowther, in Harrisville until after Trudy was born. They then moved into their first home at 372 Wall Avenue. The house was small and modest, with no bathroom or running water. Eleanor said, "It felt like stepping back in time twenty years," but housing was in short supply after the war, and they were grateful to have a home of their own.

On 7 July 1946, Trudy was blessed by her Grandfather Albert Crowther in the LDS Harrisville Ward. William S. Costley was the bishop. Trudy was a happy baby with curly brown hair and clear blue eyes. Seat belts and infant car seats were not in use when Trudy was little. When in the car, Trudy's favorite place to be was standing behind her dad's right shoulder while he drove. Whenever he prepared to stop, he always raised his arm to hold her against the seat so she would not fall.

Trudy's sister, LeAnn, was born a week before Christmas in 1947 when Trudy was 19 months old. Trudy was excited to have a baby in the family. She greeted everyone who came to visit by telling them, "See the baby. See the little baby." Trudy always looked out for LeAnn and they were close friends. They lived together for the next nineteen years, sharing, first a bedroom, and after high school, an apartment.

Virgil and Eleanor moved several times in the next few years as their family grew. Lawrence (Larry) was born in 1950. In 1951, they purchased a lot in Harrisville from David Carr. The lot was across the street from Eleanor's parents. Virgil and Eleanor rented a house on 5th Street until their home could be built. While living in that rented house, Ava Leone was born (1952), and Trudy began kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary School, then transferred to North Ogden Elementary when they moved.

Trudy readily made new friends wherever they lived. She was friendly and good natured with a warm, infectious smile. She especially enjoyed going to primary and Sunday School. On 6 June 1954, Trudy was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the font in the Harrisville Ward building by Victor Workman and confirmed by J. Wallace Knight. Eleanor said that Trudy "loved the Lord and tried hard to obey all of the commandments."

Trudy and LeAnn had a playhouse in the basement of the new house, with table and chairs, dishes, and a glass fronted cupboard. They liked to roller skate, and took piano lessons, dance and gymnastic classes. There were few girls in the neighborhood, but they played with their cousins, Keith Dabb, Travis Crowther, Jay and Vic Crowther and the other neighborhood boys. They played ball, climbed trees, and swung in the tire swing in Shurtleff yard where their friends Joe and Billy lived.

Trudy, LeAnn, Larry and Ava rode their Shetland pony, "Blaze," splashed in the irrigation ditches, and most summer weekends went boating and water skiing at Pineview Reservoir or Bear Lake, and camping and hiking with their family.

Virgil was a successful businessman. By the time he was twenty nine, he owned and operated the Superior Beauty School and several salons. He worked very hard, but he was also a very fun loving and energetic dad. In the winter, Virgil scrapped the fields and flooded them to make an ice skating rink, or tied ropes to the back of a tractor to pull the kids through the fields on sleds. They often went sledding and skiing at Snow Basin as well. Holidays were spent with the extended Painter, Groberg, and Crowther families or camping and picnicking with Virgil's and Eleanor's childhood friends and their families.

Occasionally their adventures turned into misadventures. Once, when Trudy was about 13 years old, Trudy and LeAnn were motor boating on a remote portion of Yellowstone Lake and were caught in a sudden storm. Heavy rain and mounting waves began filling the boat with water. In danger of sinking and with no safe place to land, they decided to make a run for camp. Luckily, they were not far from the family's campsite when the boat sank, leaving them to swim for shore. Some men saw the boat sink and helped fish the girls from the water.

Trudy was attending Walhquist Jr. High when the family moved to the Painter farm in Farr West after the death of Virgil's father. There were many things for children to do on the farm, but when Eleanor's father died less than two years later, they moved back to Harrisville, built a house next door to Eleanor's mother, Ellen Groberg Crowther, in 1961, and stayed. Eleanor continues to live in the house they built.

By then, three more siblings had been born, Kirt (1953), Frank (1956) and Lenore (1959). Trudy enjoyed tending and playing with the younger children. She was a great help to Eleanor. Asked as a teenager what she wanted to be in life, Trudy's answer was, "a mother." Trudy always seemed to have a clear sense of what she wanted from life, and the foresight to remain focused on her priorities.

The adults in LDS Harrisville Ward often went out of their way to sponsor or to support wholesome activities for the young men and young women, such as hayrides, dances, caroling or playing games like Bunco or Bingo. Such acts of kindness and concern toward the youth were not uncommon. One event for the young teenage girls in the neighborhood was the inspiration of Hazel Crowther. Once or twice a year, with Hazel's encouragement, her daughters, Kristen and Shanna, would host social evenings at their home. Wearing nicer dresses -- girls at that time had to wear dresses to school everyday -- the young ladies would

gather for a light supper, to play party games and to mingle. The occasions were intended for the young women to have an opportunity to develop social manners.

When she started high school, Trudy began going places and planning fun activities with her older cousins, Carolee Dabb, Shanna Crowther, and Colleen Dabb, as well as Pat Stromberg. Virginia Parker was also a close friend. Trudy enjoyed reading, sewing and crocheting. She was in the Pep Club, studied German and was on the debate team, where she met Ron Woodland. Trudy and Ron hit it off immediately. They dated their senior year, graduating from Weber High School and the LDS Seminary in 1964. Trudy wrote to Ron while he served a LDS mission to the Northern States. She visited his parents and grandmother often and was close to his family.

Education was very important to Trudy. She enjoyed school, especially studying English literature. She attended Weber State College and then BYU, majoring in English, which she wanted to teach after her children were grown. Trudy also graduated from Superior Beauty School. She then helped her dad manage the school and beauty salons, particularly after he dislocated his shoulder in a skiing accident and could not use it for several months. Trudy was dependable and, like her dad, she was hard working. She was also fun loving. Around her twenty-first birthday, Trudy decided it was time for a change. She bought a new yellow Malibu, she and LeAnn drove to southern California and spent ten days exploring. The trip was timed so that Trudy, who had read about the swallows of Capistrano Mission, could see their annual return.

On 3 June 1968, two months after Ron returned from his mission, Trudy and Ron were married in the Salt Lake Temple. Their first child, Brian, was born on 19 November 1969. Lisa Ann was born on 31 December 1970. They moved to Brigham City where Ron worked as assistant manager of the Hamilton Drug Store. A year or so later, when Trudy's grandmother, Ellen Crowther, moved in with Virgil and Eleanor, Trudy and Ron moved back to Harrisville and lived in her home. While living in Harrisville, Lisa and Brian begged their parents to get a dog. Trudy and Ron were not excited about it, but they finally decided it might be manageable if they got a small dog from the pound. That night when Ron came home, he was surprised to find not one dog, but two. Trudy was so soft hearted that when she went to the pound she could not bear to leave behind the dog that was sharing a cage with the one they chose. She was afraid it would be lonely so she brought it home too.

They continued living in Harrisville until 1974, when Ron became the manager of the Hamilton Drug Store in Tooele and they relocated to be near his work. A third daughter, Marie, was born in Tooele on 12 November 1975. Ron changed jobs, becoming the advertising manager of the local newspaper. Trudy and Ron enjoyed living in Tooele and being part of the community. Each night Trudy read to the children and rocked them to sleep in a double wide, overstuffed rocking chair. Even as they grew older, Brian and Lisa liked to snuggle next to her, and after reading quietly, rock or talk about their day. Trudy was happy raising her children and was delighted when another daughter, Trudy Michelle, was born on 16 September 1977.

With three young children, a new baby, and Christmas preparations, Trudy was busy. A few days after Christmas, she developed a sore throat and bronchitis. Her throat was swollen, making it difficult for her to breathe. She went to the hospital and was given an oxygen treatment and medication. She seemed to be doing fine and went home, but that evening she again had trouble breathing. Ron called an ambulance and tried to administer CPR, but things did not go well. She died on 31 December 1977, on Lisa's 7th birthday, and just three days after becoming ill.

Ron was left with four young children: Brian, 8, Lisa, 7, Marie, 2, and Michelle, 3½ months. Virgil and Eleanor moved their trailer house to Tooele and helped Ron care for the children. They stayed until he married Susan Bennion, who was Lisa's first grade teacher. Ron and Sue stayed in Tooele a few more years. They had two daughters, Emily and Laura, who also were close to Virgil, Eleanor, and Trudy's family. The family then moved to St. George, where Susan taught school and Ron became a professor at Dixie College. Susan blessed the lives of Ron and the children, and they love her dearly. Trudy's family are grateful to Sue for being such a devoted, loving mother. All six of the children are now married and raising their own families.

In 2012, Trudy and Ron have eleven grandchildren. Their oldest grandson, Taylor Woodland, is serving a mission in Russia for the LDS Church. Their daughter, Lisa Woodland Stout, her husband, and their two sons live in Harrisville next door to Trudy's mother, Eleanor.

SOURCE:

Wheeler, LeAnn Painter. "Trudy Painter Woodland." From family records and recollections of Eleanor Crowther, LeAnn Wheeler and Ron Woodland. Aug 2012.

Bennion, Susan	Painter, Kirt
Carr, David	Painter, Larry
Costley, William S.	Painter, Laurence Virgil
Crowther, Albert	Painter, LeAnn
Crowther, Eleanor	Painter, Lenore
Crowther, Ellen	Parker, Virginia
Crowther, Hazel	Shurtleff, Billy
Crowther, Jay	Shurtleff, Joe
Crowther, Kristen	Stout, Lisa Woodland
Crowther, Shanna	Stromberg, Pat
Crowther, Travis	Woodland, Brian
Crowther, Vic	Woodland, Emily
Dabb, Carolee	Woodland, Laura
Dabb, Colleen	Woodland, Lisa Ann
Dabb, Keith	Woodland, Marie
Knight, J. Wallace	Woodland, Ron
Painter, Ava Leone	Woodland, Taylor
Painter, Eleanor Crowther	Woodland, Trudy Michelle
Painter, Frank	Workman, Victor