

Cardston Alberta West Stake of Zion
Leadership 1990-1999

STAKE PRESIDENCY:

Cam Leavitt Stake President . . . April 1990 - Oct 1999
Delburt Payne 1st Counsellor April 1990 - July 1992
Jan Atwood 2nd. Counsellor April 1990 - July 1992
Jan Atwood 1st. Counsellor July 1992 - Oct 1999
Noel Pilling 2nd. Counsellor August 1992 - Oct 1993
Curtiss Pilling Stake Clerk April 1990 - Oct 1999
Leroy Walker Exec Secretary July 1992 - Oct 1993
Glen Cameron Exec Secretary Oct 1993 - June 1997
Ron Rogers Exec Secretary June 1997 - Oct 1999

To: All High Councillor's and former High Councillor's, Bishops, Stake Auxiliary leaders, who have served under Pres. Cam Leavitt between the years 1990 to 1999.

RE: Stake History / April 1990 - Oct 1999.

An effort is being made to construct a history of this important period in our stake. It will include both written and pictorial history.

*** **You are asked to do the following 2 things:**

1. Write a brief history of the events during your calling. Try to avoid too much detail, as this work will become quite large. In some cases you may even list in point form some of the high lights. Remember that you are writing this from the perspective of what will be of interest and importance to the Stake Presidency (under Pres. Leavitt). If this exercise causes you to think and record a more detailed history for yourself GREAT!!!!. But please keep this brief according to the limits suggested.
2. A scrap book containing pictures and etc will be constructed to give to Pres. Leavitt. Please submit a picture of your family. He would like to have this as a memento. If you have and any other pictures, relevant to stake activities, and the Stake Pres. They would be greatly appreciated.

Auxiliary Leaders

Please limit your written history to a **maximum** of 2 pages @ 12 point font, with regular borders. When completedPLEASE:

1. Submit a printed copy, and a disk clearly identifying the author.
2. Please indicate if your history is IBM format, or MACINTOSH.
3. Submit pictures in an envelope telling who submitted them.

Pictures...must be submitted by Oct. 1/99 to Ken Sommerfeldt and they will not be returned!

4. Submit written History to: Ken Sommerfeldt by October 10/99*****

Cardston Alberta West Stake Aux. Leaders

April 1990 - October 1999

Relief Society

Ruth Jones
Joyce Gregson
Deanna Hardy
Theodora Pack
Karen Walker

Young Men

Peter Hague
Richard Anderson
Alan Klain

Young Women

Val Price
Karen Olsen
Audrey Nelson
Janice West

Primary

Joanne Broadhead
Jeanette Sommerfeldt
Cathy Schaffer

Stake Mission

Jim Spackman
Joe Paulson
Paul Doig
Mark Wood

Cardston Alberta West

Stake Of Zion

Under The Leadership Of:
President R. Cameron Leavitt

“A History”

&

“A Tribute”

April 1990 - Oct 1990

Table of Contents: Page

Chapter 1 Submissions from Stake Presidents

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Cam Leavitt | 8 |
| Delbert Payne | 10 |
| Jan Atwood | 19 |
| Noel Pilling | 24 |
| Curtiss Pilling | 34 |
| Leroy Walker | 37 |
| Glen Cameron | 39 |
| Ron Rogers | 41 |
| Bob Pankhurst | |

Chapter 2 Submissions from Bishops

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Blaine Bunnage | 43 |
| Kim Taylor | 45 |
| Greg Burt | 50 |
| Rod Beazer | 50 |
| Delbert Payne | 52 |
| John Bridge | 52 |
| Leroy Walker | 53 |
| Ken Sommerfeldt | 55 |
| Mike Redford | 59 |
| Dave McMurray | 60 |
| Randy Janisko | 63 |
| Dee Bevans | 65 |
| Ross Uibel | 67 |
| Colin Paterson | 69 |
| Wayne Jensen | |

Chapter 3 Submissions from High Councillors

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Jensen, Wayne | 71 |
| John Webb | 71 |
| Noel Pilling | 72 |
| Ted Salmon | 72 |
| Neldon Hatch | 73 |
| Paul Doig | 75 |
| Dee Olsen | 78 |
| Kim Taylor | 79 |
| Kay Crabtree | 79 |
| John Bridge | 80 |
| | 80 |
| | 83 |
| | 84 |
| | 85 |

Table Of Contents Cont'd:

Chapter 3 Submissions from High Councillors (cont'd)

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Jamie Quinton | 91 |
| Wendell Olsen | 92 |
| Blaine Bunnage | 92 |
| Farrin Leavitt | 93 |
| Shane Phillips | 95 |
| Ken Sommerfeldt | 96 |
| Delbert Payne | 96 |
| Mike Nelson | 96 |
| Craig Carnell | 97 |

Chapter 4 Submissions from Stake Aux. Pres.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Joyce Gregson | 99 |
| Deanna Hardy | 101 |
| Theodora Pack | 102 |
| Karen Walker | 104 |
| Peter Hague | 107 |
| Alan Klain | 107 |
| Karen Olsen | 109 |
| Audrey Nelson | 112 |
| Janice West | 115 |
| Joanne Broadhead | 117 |
| Jeanette Sommerfeldt | 118 |
| Cathy Schaffer | 121 |
| Paul Doig | 122 |
| Tom Mojowski | 122 |
| Daryll Leavitt | 123 |
| Clark Hardy | 125 |
| Bill Simon | 125 |
| Cheryl Smith | 127 |

Forward

This small volume is in no way an attempt to be a definitive history of this period. It started as a suggestion to be considered by the Stake Presidency when it became known of their release. From there it has evolved into a time of individual reflection and sharing on the part of the members of the Cardston Alberta West Stake who have had the privilege of serving under President Leavitt in various leadership positions in our Stake.

A special thank you must go to the following people:

Sister Lonny Leavitt:

has been a positive encouragement to the project, and has been invaluable with ideas, and support. This is no doubt the kind of support President Leavitt has become accustomed to throughout his leadership career in the Church.

Sister's Carmen and Melanie Leavitt:

While a written history was as far as the limited vision originally took this project, the idea of "**Pictures for the Presidency**" became a reality **ONLY** because Carmen and Melanie spent the time and energy to make those many many scrapbook pages. (Truly an act of wonderful service)

Sister's Lonny Leavitt, Linda Atwood, and Sandy Pilling:

Each of the wife's of the Presidency sought for letters from each of their family members to include in the book, as well as giving some real good advise and encouragement.

The Collective Writers:

Thankyou to all who gave of themselves and submitted their thoughts and feelings. What a great blessing it has been to read and reflect upon the wonderful events and growth of the past 9.5 years.

It is hoped that all who review this material will be uplifted by the example of this Stake Presidency, and moreover Our Master Jesus Christ; which has been the motivation of this work!

Ken Sommerfeldt (High Councilman)
Compiler

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| Cam Leavitt | Stake President | April 1990 - Oct 1999 |
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| Jan Atwood | 1st. Counsellor | July 1992 - Oct 1999 |
| Noel Pilling | 2nd. Counsellor | August 1992 - Oct 1993 |
| Rich Boivie | Stake Clerk | April 1990 - Aug 1992 |
| Curtiss Pilling | Stake Clerk | Aug 1992 - Oct 1999 |
| Leroy Walker | Exec Secretary | July 1992 - Oct 1993 |
| Glen Cameron | Exec Secretary | Oct 1993 - June 1997 |
| Ron Rogers | Exec Secretary | June 1997 - Oct 1999 |
| Doug Low | Financial Clerk | Exact Dates unknown |
| Tom Redd | Financial Clerk | Exact Dates unknown |
| Bob Pankhurst | Financial Clerk | Feb 95 - Present |
| Larry Lowry | Assistant Clerk | Exact Dates unknown |

R. CAMERON LEAVITT - Stake President Of Cardston Alberta West Stake From April 1990 To October 24Th 1999 .

A BRIEF REVIEW (OUR PEOPLE make the difference)

As I pause to reflect back over the past ten years I suppose volumes could be filled in recording the many many events and projects that this great Stake has been involved with.

I recall April of 1990 when Elder Rex Pinegar came with Elder Dallenback and Elder Lynn Rosenvault to reorganize our stake. I had no prewarning that I would be the next Stake President. In fact I recall clearly thinking that I would not be. When they asked to talk to Lonny, and to interview me again, then and only then did I realize how inadequate and unprepared I felt. I also knew that the only response that I could give was yes, I will do my very best. I recall, like it was yesterday, being left in the High Council room and being told by Elder Pinegar "Well President Leavitt we have a Priesthood meeting to conduct. You should really be there with us, but you need to select your councillors. You stay here until you accomplish that and then come and join us."

They turned and left, and there I was all alone, well almost. During the next few minutes I was wonderfully blessed and I knew exactly what I needed to do. In about 40 minutes I joined the rest in Priesthood meeting and the confirmations of my decisions continued. It was wonderful.

After conference we were set apart and our tenure as the Presidency of the Cardston Alberta West Stake began. These 9 1/2 years have been a great and a totally wonderful experience.

The special events:

Encampment

Temple Open House

Temple Dedication

World Wide Celebrations For Young Women

Trek

Primary Achievement Days, Eleven Yr. Old camp, cub car rallies

Special Relief Society Days

Special Temple Sessions With Pie And Ice Cream After.

Kosovo Quilts
 Youth Days
 Scott Simpson Concert
 The Messiah Concert
 Conferences
 Youth Conferences
 Marvin Goldstine
 Standard Nights
 Seminary Graduations
 Sesquicentennial Celebration
 Church Wide Service Projects
 Reading The Book of Mormon
 Missionary Open House
 Information Centre
 Marathon Canning
 Putting First Things First
 Auxiliary Training
 Ward Boundary Changes
 "Love Week" (1st week) no meetings. Go out & love one another
 Stake Appreciation Socials
 The Granum Fire Service Opportunity,

Who could calculate the collective impact of all these events in the lives of so many! Sometimes you just feel blest to have been involved at all, and to think that a person is put in a position of leadership over all these things?.....Well that is why this church and Kingdom is built upon the strength of all the individuals who are called and duly set apart to carry out the work in the many areas of service. And to the rest of the stake members for their faithful support and prayers. It is indeed, "A marvelous work and a wonder!"

We could write volumes on these wonderful happenings that would be warming to the heart and soul but time and space will not permit and besides I would like to write about the most important part of all these projects - the people. Its the people- our stake people, that make the programs and events happen in a way that touches your heart and soul. Its our people that are soooo... willing to make things happen and in marvellous ways so that testimonies are strengthened and that you were glad to be involved either as a participant or as an observer.

Its our people that respond excitedly to the call and are willing to serve

where ever called. Its our people that serve with all their heart, mind, might and strength with faith, hope, charity and love with an eye single to the glory of God. It's been serving with our people, shoulder to shoulder, that has made these past few years so rewarding, so uplifting, so fulfilling, and so unforgettable. Its been serving with our people; councillors,clerks, high councillors, auxiliary leaders, bishops/bishoprics, group leaders, specialists and all. This opportunity of working together has been the greatest blessing that one could even imagine.

MY COUNCILLORS -

PRESIDENT ATWOOD, PRESIDENT PAYNE, PRESIDENT PILLING

Each have their own special strengths: **President Atwood**- this wonderful quiet man with his humble solid testimony, **President Payne** - is a giant of a man in stature, spirit and in his love for the gospel. **President Pilling**- a great and loyal man with numerous ideas and the energy to carry them out.

The Lord certainly guided me and blessed our stake as these wonderful men of God were called to serve, they were so good to me! They would do **ANYTHING** I ask and more! I love these brethren and I will always be grateful for the way we could unitedly labor together. Likewise we have been the benefactors of the service of the many dedicated clerks and secretaries who have served; Leroy Walker, Rich Bovie, Curt Pilling, Glen Cameron, Tom Redd, Larry Lowry, Doug Low, Bob Pankhurst, and Ron Rogers. Their individual talents, and dedication to their callings has certainly been a tremendous strength, support and blessing to our Stake Presidency and therefore our whole Stake.

I think of the countless hours we have spent praying for each other and the many hours spent seeking the Lords guidance as we prepared to extend calls. The hours that have been spent in extending comfort to one another. I think of the hours we spent enjoying and celebrating our many harvests.

I think of the blessings we enjoyed as we received instruction, council and guidance from the General Authorities; Bishop Ering, Elder Doxie, Bishop McMullin, Elder Merrill, Elder Bingham, Elder Bennett, Elder Rosenvault, and Elder Boyd K. Packer. I think of the Mission Presidents and their wives who have blessed our people; President Lake, President Young, President Berkhan and President Ostler.

When you find time to really stop and think about the past 9 1/2 years you realize that it is the people; loving on another, helping one another, serving one another and lifting each other that makes Cardston Alberta West

Stake a truly remarkable Stake. This is why our records are so high: attendance, home and visiting teaching, tithing and other offerings.

And so our marvellous work and a wonder has rolled slowly onward and upward BECAUSE OF OUR GREAT AND FAITHFUL PEOPLE. These great people start in my home and in your homes. I must pay special tribute to my dear loyal and lovely Lonny who was always totally supportive. My wonderful children, like yours, had their good days and their bad days, but are the reason we must live better lives. It is because of all these wonderful people, yours and mine, that this has been a very productive and enriching time for me.

As I pause to think about the many meetings we planned with their varying themes, the coordinated music and all the talks assigned around those many themes, it is clear that the Lord was with us to guide us and direct us for the benefit of all.

I love to think back and recall the many many acronyms I used to share my talks:

ACRONYMS

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Y-ou | H-eaven | L-ive | G-et |
| I-mpact | A-lways | I-ndividually your | R-id |
| E-ternal | N-eeds | G-reat and | O-f |
| L-ife | D-evoted | H-oly | W-ickedness |
| D-aily | S-ouls | T-estimony | |
| | | | |
| M-agnifing | L-ift | F-ollow | B-uilding F-oster |
| A-ssignments | O-thers | O-ur | E-ter nal I-ndividual |
| G-enerates | to | L-ord | L-ife R-ighteousness |
| I-ndividual | V-alue | D-aily | T-oday S-tart |
| C-hange | E-ternal-life | | T-oday |

ACRONYMS FOR MY MISSIONARY KIDS

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| R-ember | Y-our | C-harity | M-agnify |
| Y-our | T-estimony | A-lways | E-veryones |
| A-ttitude | R-escues | R-eddeems | L-ife |
| N-urtures | O-thers | M-ost | |

I love to think back and review what has become some of my favourite music;

220 - LORD I WOULD FOLLOW THEE

A WINDOW TO HIS LOVE

ANGEL OF LIGHT

IN THE SHADOW OF THE TEMPLE

BE THOU AN EXAMPLE

Some of my favourite books:

SEVEN HABITS

THE WORK AND THE GLORY

THE BOOK OF MORMON

Some of my favourite scriptures:

HELAMAN 5 : 12

D & C : 4

D & C : 84 - 88

ALMA 29 : 9

JOHN 3:16

1st TIMOTHY 4 : 12 -16).

The words and the spirit, through the power of The Holy Ghost, have helped to build my testimony and my soul in unmeasurable degrees. It would be my greatest desire that the lives of the people in our Stake have been blessed and strengthened while under our stewardship because without question these dear people have blessed me and my loved ones in countless ways.

So I end this brief review with my love, sincere thanks and with my testimony that God lives, that Jesus is the Christ and that this is the only church under Heaven by which Salvation comes !

It is my prayer that we will all press forward in righteousness and that

the people of this wonderful Stake will continue to be anxiously engaged in a good cause as they worship and serve the Lord.

With sincere and heartfelt gratitude,

PRESIDENT R. CAMERON LEAVITT

President Delbert Payne

I Remember.....

Easter 1990

Leavitt's come to Mesquite, Nevada. This was the first time I had really had much to do with Leavitt. Cam and I went golfing and had a fun time that week. I thought to myself--this is a great man--I would really like to get to know him better.

April Stake Conference 1990--Saturday Night Adult Meeting

I was sitting in the back in the overflow area. Cam was sitting up on the stand and our eyes met. I felt our spirits touch and my life was not the same after this.

Later that night after the meeting, Denise and I got a call to come back for an interview with Elder Rex Pinnegar. Wow! What a surprise when I was called to be First Counsellor in the Cardston West Alberta Stake.

Temple Rededication

During the first few months there were lots of planning meetings to get everything organized. Certainly a highlight of this time was the rededication of the temple. A memory that I will always cherish is when we as a Stake Presidency ,with our wives , knelt down in prayer in the Celestial Room after the final dedicatory service. What a glorious spirit filled each of our souls that night!

The Payne Jog

I was supposedly the counsellor in charge of boundary changes . However, when I was in California on vacation , I had a strong impression that I was going to called as a bishop. I tried to convince myself that it was a fabrication since we would be in First Ward and we would not be changing that Bishop. After all I, I did see the boundaries or DID I? Sure enough without my seeing it, the boundary was changed just enough to jog the Payne's back into the Third Ward and I was called to be the Bishop of the Cardston Third Ward.

Bishop of Third Ward

I was set apart as Bishop in July 1992. by President Leavitt. During my time as bishop, I had many memorable interviews with President Leavitt. He was always very encouraging. I especially remember a blessing I received at President Leavitt's home that helped me manage some of the problems of Bishophood.

I have fond memories of President Leavitt setting my own son apart to go on a mission as well as releasing him when he returned home. Then in return, I had the opportunity of helping President Leavitt's son, Ryan, prepare to serve a mission. Ryan became a great missionary.

I am most grateful for President Leavitt going to bat for our Young Men and guiding us through the proper channels to make it possible for them go on the trip to Independence, Nauvoo and Salt Lake City. I appreciate his wisdom in encouraging me and insisting that I accompany them. This is definitely a bench mark in my stewardship as Bishop and a memory that I will always cherish.

I was told I would be released as Bishop 4 months before I was actually released and trying to keep it a secret for so long was difficult . I was released in April 1997.

High Council

From about May 1997 until September 1998 I served as the Gospel Doctrine Teacher in the Third Ward. I was then called by President Leavitt to serve on the High Council (actually from the Fifth Ward) since there was soon to be another boundary change. The emphasis this past year has been on the Millennium Year and the meetings are shorter than they were when I was in the Stake Presidency. HURRAH!

It has been an honor to be serving with such a great man.

Thank You President Leavitt For The Positive Influence You Have Been In My Life.

Delbert Payne

President Jan Atwood

Cardston West Stake April 1990 - Oct. 1999 by Jan C. Atwood

The calling of President Leavitt

At this time I was serving as the Bishop of the Cardston First Ward, and was scheduled to be interviewed by Elders Pinegar, Dellenbach, and Rosenvolt. As I entered the room, Elder Pinegar introduced his companions and asked Elder Dellenbach to conduct the interview. He asked me to give him, in order, the three names I was to bring as my recommendations for the next Stake President. I began by saying, " You know, brethren, this stake is filled with many great leaders", at which Elder Dellenbach interrupted me and said, " Now Bishop, I didn't ask you that. I want your names in order, first to third. Now who is your first choice?" In reply the name of Cam Leavitt immediately came rolling out of my mouth, and a sure conviction overpowered me to know that he was also the Lord's first choice. I gave two other names upon which the brethren stood and thanked me for coming. Although my interview was short and was abruptly ended, I left that room knowing in my heart that President Cam Leavitt was the man the Lord would call to lead our stake for the next 9 to 10 years.

L.D.S. Encampment

Many of the young men (first week) and young women (second week) from all the stakes in our region were in attendance with their leaders. The theme was "Return with Honor". As a stake presidency we attended as much as we could, visiting our wards for evening firesides and helping out with activities etc. Highlights were the jet that flew over, missionary sessions on the mountain top with general authorities, and the fireside with Elder Featherstone. Also should be mentioned the water fight with our Stake Young Women leaders. Of course the Stake Presidency won that one.

Temple Open House and Dedication

What a great blessing was ours to have been so heavily involved in the planning and caring out of the Temple Open house and Dedication ! Under the direction of our Area President, H. Burke Peterson and our Regional authority (now called Area Authority Seventy) Lynn Rosenvolt, we were given the mandate to plan all the events pertaining to the open house and the Cardston Stake did the same for the dedication. Both stakes shared in the highlights of each event.

I will remember Elder Rosenvolt's promise that, if we do our best, the Lord will make every decision turn out for the best, and to witness the truth of that statement unfold under the leadership of President Leavitt, before our eyes was a marvelous experience in itself. We were there when Premier Getty and some of his cabinet were escorted through the temple by Elder Ballard. We were there when Elder Packer and his wife walked through the temple. President Leavitt and I had the great pleasure of running the elevator as the First Presidency, Elder Hunter, and other Apostles went up and down during the dedication. We were blessed to act as hosts for Elder Scott and his wife, while others in the Stake Presidency hosted other Apostles and their wives. We were privileged to sit in the Celestial room as President Hinckley offered the Dedicatory prayer. We sat at a special banquet with many general authorities and listened to our youth choir and all sing "Happy Birthday" to President Hinckley (80th), and to watch Presidents Hinckley and Monson shake hands and hug our youth. A highlight for me personally was our closing prayer in the Celestial Room of the Temple as those from the two Stake Presidencies and High Councils together, with their wives and Elder Rosenvolt, knelt in a prayer of gratitude to our Heavenly Father for the blessing of serving Him during this great event.

Calling Bishops

What a powerful manifestation of the spirit comes as we attend the temple and as we kneel in prayer to inquire of the Lord concerning our decision to call an individual as a Bishop. Sometimes our decisions are ratified by the sweet spirit of "Yes", and other times our minds have unanimously been turned to another. Of course, dear to our hearts, was the call as Bishops of President Payne and Brother Walker, who served so valiantly in our presidency. We didn't know how we could function without these great men by our side, but we did know without a doubt that it was the Lord's will that they serve as bishops in their wards. In all cases we have been able to go forward without doubt or concern as to the will of the Lord. A testament to this is the wonderful blessing the following men have been to their ward members over their years of service in this most sacred calling as a Bishop.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mt. View Ward | Bishop Colin Patterson and Bishop Wayne Jensen |
| Leavitt Ward | Bishop Randy Janisko and Bishop Dee Bevans |
| First Ward | Bishop Blaine Bunnage and Bishop Kim Taylor |
| Second Ward | Bishop Greg Burt and Bishop Rod Beazer |
| Third Ward | Bishop Delbert Payne and Bishop John Bridge |

Fifth Ward
Eight Ward

Bishop Leroy Walker and Bishop Ralph Salmon
Bishop Ken Sommerfeldt and Bishop Mike Redford

Ward Boundary Changes and The Creation of a new Eighth Ward

This happened twice while we served. The first time was to create a new ward. What a great asset the eighth ward has been to our stake. Under the direction of Bishop Sommerfeldt, we watched as many families were strengthened, blessed, and activated. The growth in the individual lives of many of our stake members is incalculable as a result of this boundary change. Likewise the second boundary change took place in order to strengthen a couple of our wards that needed more membership and others that were oversized in membership. The result was a blessing and strengthening to all. These changes were under the direction and influence of the spirit of the Lord that resulted in numerous new opportunities to serve and be blessed.

Will you come ?

What a blessing it was to have Elder Merrill come to stake conference and change our focus on re-activation ! We learned from him that with our faith and our action and that with a change of attitude and commitment that a life can be turned back to Christ instantaneously. With the invitation of " Will you come? " we have witnessed the mighty change that Alma talked about take place in the lives of many. We have learned to trust in the Lord in all our dealings and to not lean so heavily on our own understanding.

Changes in Stake Auxiliary Leaders

Another great blessing is the calling of stake auxiliary presidencies and then to watch them fulfil their stewardship with such dedication and commitment. We have felt the spirit as we called them and then marvelled at their great leadership as they went forward and strengthened the stake members in so many ways. It has been edifying to serve with such outstanding Presidents as :
Young Men Presidents : Rod Walburger, Peter Hague, Richard Anderson, Alan Klain

Young Women Presidents : Karen Olsen, Audrey Nelson, Janice West

Relief Society Presidents : Deanna Hardy, Theodora Pack, Karen Walker

Primary Presidents : Jeanette Sommerfeldt, Kathy Schaffer

Sunday School Presidents : Tom Moojalsky, Tom Parkes, Clark Hardy

Trip to General Conference

In our second year of service we decided to attend general conference together. For me it was a weekend developing wonderful friendships, mutual respect, sharing ideas and feelings, laughing a lot, and spiritual enlightenment. Linda and I came home with a greater love and respect for those we have been so blessed to serve together with over these last 9.5 years.

High Priest Group leaders and Elders quorum presidents

I couldn't come close to remembering all the great brethren that we have called to preside over the priesthood quorums in the wards of our stake. But hasn't it been gratifying to watch them lead out and carry the load with such conviction and faith ! We have witnessed a marvelous work and a wonder go forth as a direct result of their great dedication to the call to preside and to care for those under their stewardship. Through their leadership we have seen many return unto Christ and bless our lives.

Echo Lake Presidency Meeting

Linda and I will forever be grateful for the time we decided to hold our stake presidency planning meeting at your cabins at Echo Lake. We came with our families and had a great time skiing, tubing, playing games, laughing, visiting, eating (that was part of Elder Bennett's challenge for us to have more steak meetings instead of stake meetings), and yes, we even got some of our stake planning done.

Trek

Going on Trek was another highlight. It was thrilling to see the youth of our stake gather at the Leavitt church in their pioneer attire and, with excitement in every breath, join their new families in building their carts and then following our trek foreman, Wayne Jensen, to our new home. Some pushed and some pulled, but all worked together as we marched along. We started with cheers and singing in our voices. Gradually the excitement wore down as we pushed and pulled tirelessly up and down the difficult terrain. Families became united as they began to help one another along the endless trail. I wept as I witnessed the acts of compassion as arms were placed on shoulders and others were offered rides due to injury or fatigue. Here we saw our kids turn into real heroes as they began to really care for one another. Here we learned to have a great appreciation for our pioneer families who walked the trail to the Salt Lake valley. This great event was climaxed by two events on the Sunday, one

being the Sacrament meeting where the priesthood carried the emblems in remembrance of our Savior's sacrifice for each of us, over the hillside to each of us. This was followed by a marvelous talk and blessing given by our beloved President Leavitt to each in attendance. The second event was the talent show that ended in a two hour plus testimony meeting offered by the youth. We couldn't get them to stop, nor did we want it to end. What a great blessing this was to have participated in !

General Authorities at Stake Conference

It is always thrilling to go to a meeting and to be instructed by general authorities of the church. As members of the stake presidency we were doubly blessed to be instructed at their feet, so to speak, in the stake president's office. There we were taught and permitted to ask questions. I was always amazed at how down to earth each of these men really are, and how at ease they always made you feel in their presence. To be enlightened by these great men was indeed a marvelous blessing in our lives. Some that come to mind were Elder(then Bishop) Erying, Bishop McMullin, Elder Merrill, Elder Packer(he held a priesthood leadership here, prior to a regional meeting), Elder Johnson, Elder Bingham, Elder Kikuchi, Elder Bennett, Elder Rosenvolt, Elder Ballard and Elder Larson (the last two put on a Native Conference here).

Regional Meetings

One was held in Magrath with Elder Oakes (leadership training), two in Lethbridge; first with President Monson and Elder Packer, and second with Elder Wirthlin and Elder Johnson. Another auxiliary training meeting was in Raymond with Sister Kapp and other general authorities.

Missionaries sent out

At present we have approximately 70 missionaries serving in the field from our stake. If we maintained an average of 60 in the field over the past 9.5 years, that would amount to about 570 missionaries being counselled, interviewed, and, set apart by President Leavitt, and later honourably released from their calls. That in itself is a wonderful achievement and blessing to so many families at home and throughout the world. It is also pleasing to note that among those serving have been two sons and two daughters of President Leavitt (Melanie,Ryan,Troy,Carmen), four sons of President Atwood (Greg,Jamie,Mike,Shawn), President Payne's son Dustin, and two sons of

President Pilling (Joel, John). We have wept together, as they left, and thrilled together in their return, but most importantly we have counselled together, prayed together, and exercised faith together in behalf of all these wonderful young men and women and couples who have served so faithfully.

Executive Sec. and Stake Clerk changes

What made this Presidency shine has been the polish of such great secretaries and clerks. Words cannot be uttered to sufficiently acclaim the magnificent performance of these devoted brethren :

Stake Clerks : Richard Boive and Curtiss Pilling

Stake Executive Secretaries: Leroy(Joker)Walker, Glen Cameron, Ron Rodgers

Stake Financial Clerk: Glen Cameron, Tom Redd, and Bob Pankhurst.

You have indeed enriched our lives with your presence and faithful service. We had some good laughs together too. What great wisdom you have brought to our meetings ! Thanks for the treats too, Curtiss, and the great evenings of food and entertainment at Olsen's campground, not to mention all those poems that kept us rolling with delight. I especially liked the one about the shepherd's crook, and the one about Lonnie locked in her car.

Youth Session of Stake Conference

This has been a wonderful innovation by President Leavitt that has afforded our youth of the stake the opportunity to be taught at their level by many General Authorities and other great leaders of the church. Although we gathered Sunday mornings at 8:15 am, the youth were prompt and respectful, and enjoyed this session of stake conference, which always was inspiring to them. Thanks to President Leavitt's gentle persuasion technique we had very few of the brethren who didn't participate in this session with our young people.

No Meetings on The First Week of The Month

Some of us sing in the shower and others just shower in the shower, but for President Leavitt it was receive inspiration in the shower. I'm sure he did the other things as well. We all remember him sharing with us that magic moment when it came to him, in answer to his many prayers and concerns, that if we were to cancel all our meetings during the first week of each month and spend our time in fellowshipping and befriending our families and neighbours and just anyone we felt needed it, that we would then be doing what the Lord has asked of us when he said " Come follow me". It wasn't long after that when President Hinckley said that we have a responsibility to see that everyone has a

friend. It is gratifying to know that President Leavitt was so in tune with the spirit to already have a program of friendship in place that we could effectively carry out President Hinckley's inspired instruction to each of us.

Priesthood Temple Sessions

These are of the past, but I couldn't help but remember the Priesthood Temple Sessions where The Stake Presidency were asked to be the Temple Officiators at the sessions for our stake. Those were wonderful experiences, but also very scary for us, as we had very little time to prepare ourselves for our assignments. With the Lord's help and the help of many of our stake temple workers we were coached along and things went relatively smoothly.

Stake Leaders Temple Session prior To Stake Conferences

This has been another innovation that has helped us prepare ourselves more spiritually for stake conferences. It has been great going with the High Council, and our Stake Auxiliary Leaders and their spouses. The pie and ice cream afterwards was pretty good too.

Stake Appreciation Night

This was implemented near Valentine's Day to give us a chance to do something special with our wives, but also to acknowledge the wonderful service rendered by so many faithful saints in our stake. We especially thank the stake activities committee for making these evenings so enjoyable.

Stake Floor Show

The Stake Centennial Dance and the floorshow put on by the youth of the two Cardston stakes was another great event to remember. Those in charge did a marvelous job. The youth afterwards gathered in the Tanner Centre and were treated with good food and a great tribute by Elder Bennett.

Stake High Councillors

I have told my wife many times, what a outstanding group of men we have serving as High Councillors. All reports and assignments were carried out in such a professional manner, with strict attention to the pertinent detail. It has been plain to see why the Lord has called these wonderful men to serve in such an important position in the stake. I pinch myself often just to see if I am really there with such spiritual giants. Each of these men have been a great blessing to me and to our stake. Standing together as we laid hands on their

heads and set them apart, to serve on the High Council, and then to welcome each of the brethren, has been a special occasion for us all to experience during the High Council meetings. Equally thrilling was to witness these men shine forth in the assignments and responsibilities they received. Their insight, wisdom and opinions expressed around the table has been invaluable. Their sensitivity over delicate issues and their humour at other times has lifted our spirits and lightened our load in so many ways. What a blessing to serve with you brethren !

Granum Service Project

A day I will never forget was the day many of the fathers and sons from our stake gathered together at the stake centre, offered prayer, and headed out to aid the victims of the terrible prairie fire that destroyed so much property and possessions of the people in the Granum area. Under stake leadership some 200 priesthood brethren spent the day taking down, and putting up fences for these farmers. They were touched by the compassion and charity shown them this day, but more importantly we were all blessed as we worked together in such a gigantic project. I remember my sons grumbling a bit as I mentioned this project to them, but as the day approached and as we worked side by side throughout the day they expressed many times since, what a wonderful experience that was for us all. Indeed the Lord made our load seem light that day, and we went home with warm hearts and souls, having been a participant in such a monumental event.

Welfare Marathon Canning

Under President Leavitt's direction as the Regional Welfare Canning Chairman, the annual marathon canning program was instituted. This gave us opportunity to serve shoulder to shoulder with the community in canning food items for the poor and the needy in our Region, regardless of religion or creed. The open house that accompanied this event was also a wonderful success and has done a lot to improve the image of the church in the eyes of the public.

Conclusion

We were called in April 1990 and released in October 1999. I have been greatly blessed to have been able to associate with and to learn from the pure righteous examples of President Payne and President Pilling. We have laughed together and we have cried together. We have lost family and loved ones to the

care and keeping of our Father in Heaven, and we have received strength from one another in our hour of need. We have been comforted by the spirit of the Lord and rejoice together in His eternal plan for each of His children. It is a pleasure to serve Him at any level or capacity in "Bringing to pass the immortality and eternal life of man " ! For us it has been a glorious experience to serve together. It has been a labor of love, serving with such wonderful people. President Leavitt has fulfilled his mandate from the Lord to "Feed My Sheep" in so many ways. He has taught us by precept and by example the way we should live our lives. He has delegated as a true leader should, and has entrusted in us unwarranted responsibility. His faith in us has enabled us to grow in our own leadership skills. He has lifted us when we were down, and has strengthened us when discouraged. Through his Christlike influence in our individual lives we have all become better citizens in the household of faith. It has been a blessing and a privilege to serve by his side and to feel of his caring love for those he has so nobly and valiantly served and watched over these last nine and one half years as our Stake President. May the good Lord continue to bless you, my dear friend, with all you and your beautiful family may stand in need of.

President Jan C. Atwood

President Noel Pilling

It isn't often that I take the time to stop and reflect on the events of my life, but as the time is quickly coming that we are to be released from the Stake Presidency it is with much soberness and humility that I reflect and give thanks for this experience. It has been a busy time, one filled with much growth, much development and much happiness, but also a very sorrowful time of my life. Like all callings in the church where you serve with all your heart and energy, when the time comes for release, it is a reflective time, a time to ponder, a time to remember all the good times, and a time to remember the ways of the Lord.

Perhaps one of the foremost blessings of serving is the people that you get to serve with. I have been blessed to serve with not only the best Stake President, a man that has served with all of his heart and soul but also a man that has been my personal friend. Pres. Leavitt has been a very loving, caring, dedicated man; he has led the way and relied on the Lord in all that he has done. It has been my honor to have served by his side and been a counselor to him.

As I cover a few of my thoughts, perhaps you will understand my love for him. Pres. Leavitt served in the Stake Presidency under Pres Neilson. During that time I was asked, as senior high councilor, to head the committee that was in charge of the public tour at the Cardston Temple open house. This was a mammoth undertaking. Two years before the scheduled date, we as a committee worked our way through the construction and spent many hours planning the correct way for the tour to go. After many hours of careful consideration and prayer, the route was established and cleared with our Stake President. Prior to the time of the open house we traveled as a committee throughout Alberta and Montana to give training to the thousands of host people that were to help us with this task. What wonderful people we met and what a loving bond of brotherhood and friendship we built as Bro. Taylor, Bro. Doig, Bro. Webb and I traveled together. The opening day of the open house finally arrived and as soon as school was over, with great anticipation, I raced to town to see how it was all going. I entered the temple and as I approached the Celestial Room, I noticed that the tour had been changed and it did not go through this beautiful room. My heart was sick, had we made a mistake? I knew the procedures that had been used to establish this route and so I very carefully got some more hosts to stand in the room and I moved the rope barrier. Just as I did this I heard the voice of Elder Rosenvolt and another

Brother. Immediately this other Brother said, "Who moved the rope?" Elder Rosenvolt who was in charge said, "Wait a minute," and he just stood there and looked around. You could tell that he was really feeling something. He turned to the other Brother and said "Don't be alarmed. This is where it is supposed to go." Not only was this a relief to me but a great verification as to the work and prayers that we had put in. I know when we do our part the Lord will do the rest. I spent seven wonderful years serving on the High Council It required a lot of time but it was a great experience working with all of the excellent Bishops and Stake Presidents.

A couple of years after Pres. Leavitt was called as our President, he caught me after High Council in his office and released me as a high councilor and thanked me for my services. I expressed my feelings of gratitude for the opportunity and got up to leave, he then told me to sit down, he wasn't through. He ran me through an interview and asked me if I loved my wife, which I assured him that I did. He then asked me if I would serve with him in the Stake Presidency. How inadequate one feels at a time like this but the one thing that carried me through was not how much I knew, but my love of serving. It had been a love that had been instilled in me by my loving parents who had spent their lives in service. So it has been this love that has carried me along and I hope with all my heart that my service has been adequate and that I have indeed tried to be a true and supportive councilor to this good man. I could write volumes of these good years but here I will mention only a few experiences.

One of the great testimonies of the church is the process of not only choosing new Bishops but watching them assume their responsibilities of stewardship. As Bishop Uibel's term in Mountain View was about up, we were in the process of calling a new Bishop. We had spent hours with the Council and had, as a Stake Presidency, selected a name to take to the temple for verification. After the session, we met to counsel together. As we talked we realized that we did not have the right name, even after all that we had done. We went back to work and deliberated until we found the man that the Lord wanted. Now, years later, it is awe inspiring and moving to see a group of boys that loved their Bishop returning from worthy missions testifying of the divinity of our Savior because a Stake Presidency listened to the promptings of the Lord. There is no doubt in my mind that Bishop Paterson was to be the Mt. View's Bishop at that time. Several times I saw similar kinds of inspiring experiences in the process of calling Bishops. Thus letting us know that the Lord is indeed watching over his people.

One evening the Stake Presidency met at our place in Mountain View for a family home evening. We cooked hamburgers and had a great meal. We played some games, had a lesson and then everyone was ready to start for home. Pres. Leavitt suddenly took charge and asked everyone to kneel in prayer. He acted as voice and gave a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving, then there was a pause, and he started again requesting special protection for the members of the Presidency in their travels home. Good-byes were said and the cars were loaded. Just as the Pankhursts and Bro. Curt Pilling entered the highway, here came a car travelling at a high speed headed straight toward them. At just the last minute the car veered off, narrowly missing both cars. Immediately after passing them, the car entered the wrong lane heading straight for Pres. Leavitt's car. Again at just the last second it swerved, rocking back and forth, just missing their car and then it sped on down the highway. Pres Leavitt turned around and followed the car for some distance trying to get the license plate number. Finally he decided to turn around and quit following the car. After he started home, the same car again came screaming up from behind, passed him, swerved in front and headed down a side road. Lonny phoned me on her cell phone and I immediately drove to meet them. As we approached the car, we could see the image of a young lady slumped in the front seat. We opened the door and found a young gal who was extremely suicidal. As we tried to put together some sort of story, she told us how she had left town determined to take her own life. Life for her had lost meaning and she was determined to end it by running into the very next car that she passed. But as she sped up to run into one of the Presidency's cars, she could not; something made her veer off at the last second. Thank goodness for the prayer of protection offered by our Stake President.

Meetings were frequent and at times extremely long but never did we have a disagreement or a cross word expressed. Our meetings were productive and meaningful, always working to further the work of the Lord.

Often times there are certain people that come along and challenge us as to the way things are done and challenge our visions and goals. One of these special people was Elder Dallas Merrill. He was our General Authority for one of our Stake Conferences. What a vision this man had, what a challenge he was for us, what a difference he made in the lives of our people. Because of his challenge and the way our Stake President accepted it people's lives were changed and four people were ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood. These men had a Word of Wisdom problem the day before, but accepted a change of heart and went forward with their lives. The prayers of their wives and families

were answered. From that day forward the way we looked at people, the way we taught people, and the way we did missionary work changed. We now know that time is not what is important but only what is in the heart. It is that mighty change of heart that Alma talks about.

During the last nearly eight years we have seen so many people change their lives. We called Bro. Jim Ferguson to be an Elders Quorum President and, to say the least, he was not too happy. He was serving as adult Sunday School teacher and was quite content. Pres Leavitt gave him a challenge to be sensitive to the less active, and to submit names for counselors. After a couple of days of fasting and prayer, Bro. Ferguson submitted the name for a counselor that was totally less active; the name of one active man; for secretary, a nonmember; and for executive secretary, another less active. Calls were made, challenges given, hearts were changed, baptisms were held and the Presidency was complete. What a wonderful fulfillment of the challenge to our Stake Presidency. A continuation of the mission of Elder Merrill, "Will you come?"

As I mentioned in the beginning, this calling has been a great blessing because it has taught me so many lessons of life. During this time I personally went through many difficult times. Diana was diagnosed with breast cancer. I cannot describe the feelings that enter ones heart when all that is dear and precious is threatened. I can now understand the feelings of our Heavenly Father as he watched the suffering of his dear son, because over the next three years I watched the suffering of my dear wife as she underwent numerous operations and chemotherapy. I watched as she accepted her cross and how she carried it - it was indeed a inspiration to us all . I well remember the first time that we as a family fasted and prayed before her first operation. It had rained hard, the highway from Cardston was under construction and impassable, but at the time we had set to give her a blessing there was a knock on the door and there was Pres. Leavitt and his dear wife. Their van was covered in mud but they were there. What a lift that gave to all of us. One cannot explain the feeling of love for these people that I have. A blessing was given and promises were made that carried us through some very difficult times. It is terribly difficult to watch a loved one suffer but as I look back now it is not the suffering that I focus on but the love, the courage, the inspiration, the faith, the dedication, and the vision that Diana had for her and her family. President Leavitt asked the High Council to join with us in fasting for three days for her. After we attended the temple we went to Pres. Leavitt' s house and administered to her. Never have I seen greater faith then what Diana had.

When we got home that night she opened her blouse and saw that those terrible growths on her chest were still there. She was so surprised because she really believed that they would be gone. I think that was the night she realized that her Heavenly Father had another mission for her that was not on this earth. It is wonderful to know and feel that when the road gets tough and rocky you are not alone, and I know that Pres Leavitt and Lonny were always with us during those years. The night she passed away our family was together, and our friends the Leavitts were also there. How grateful I was for them as they stood by my side those next few days. I felt of their love and concern for us. I also know of the love that Lonny shared with Diana, and I appreciate the way that she helped us during those tough days. A month later my dear dad passed away and again they were a great support.

No matter what happens to us, life has to go on, lessons have to be learned, and the Lord does not give us more than we can bear. He opens windows and makes the sun shine and how grateful I am to him for His support.

When I found another lovely lady to marry I know it was hard for them but they stayed by my side and have loved Sandy for the sweet lady that she is. She has been a blessing and a joy to our family . She has supported me in my calling and has found a special place in our Presidency. I am grateful for her love.

Whether it is a service project of pounding posts in the burnt out area around Fort Macleod or fixing the neighbor's door, Pres. Leavitt has been a man of action and did not have to wait to be assigned. Our Presidency has been spontaneous and has been a joy to be a part of. As I continue on with my life I know that they will be by my side, as my friends.

Volumes could be written but suffice it to say that I have been blessed to have served with Pres Leavitt. He has blessed my life, been my friend and I have enjoyed working with him .With all my heart I love him and his sweet wife. May God bless us all as we continue on.

President Noel Pilling

Curtiss Pilling Stake Clerk

Here is a copy of the poems that Brother Curt wrote as he responded in his kind and loving way through poetry

THE SHEPHERDS CROOK

President, this is a Shepherd's crook,
Made from a hawthorn tree.
It's useful to the shepherd
And a work of art to see.

It was made in England,
It is the real thing,
That Shepherds use out in the hills
In pictures you have seen.

I thought it might be handy,
In those meetings you attend
To give someone a little nudge
When "times up" your talk should end.

Of if someone gets out of hand,
Starts to tell a rowdy joke,
Point it just behind the knee
And give a little poke.

The top end has a fashioned curve,
It's just right by heck,
To nab a long winded speaker
Right around the neck.

Leave it on the table,
For everyone to see.
Then if you need to use it,
It's there, so feel free.

Curtiss Pilling 1997

CARDSTON ALBERTA WEST STAKE
SUMMER "STEAK" PLANNING MEETING

In the Cardston Alberta West "Steak"

Things are all well done
'Cause we have a "Steak" President
That likes to have some fun.

We held a meeting at Echo Lake
(The rent it wasn't much,
Some members of the Presidency
Have got the Midas touch.)

We were holding a planning meeting
So much we planned to do
But the lake was warm and beautiful
So we did what you would do.

The skis got used, the boats as well,
A happy, tired bunch
Come home to the cabin
For one humongous lunch.

Baked potatoes, garlic bread,
Salads of every kind,
A well done steak so very big
That it would blow your mind!

We did write a few things
To do when we got back
But we were having such a time
Our energy did lack.

Thanks for your idea
We had great lots of fun,
As you know in Cardston West "Steak"
Things are all well done.....

Curtiss Pilling Summer 1994

BRIEF

It nice to hear some people speak with voice as smooth as satin
Or those that speak in languages, like French or Greek or Latin.

But those that speak most pleasantly and cause no one no grief
Are those that have a practiced skill, and know how to be brief!

SAY IT ONCE

When you have a thought to share
Or a question to be asked
Or a report to be reported
About your assigned task.

Think it over carefully
Sort it in your mind
So when at last the words come out
They are brief, precise and kind.

Then everyone will listen
And they'll know you're not a dunce
'Cuz you'll have the grace and courtesy
To only say it once.

YOUR MOUTH

Every person has a mouth
An arrangement rather neat.
Some are filled with wisdom,
Some are filled with feet.

YOUR WORDS

Some folks do a lot of talkin' without takin' time to think
Some things that come from out their mouths would make a preacher blink

They don't stop to consider just where those words might end
Or whether or not those words of theirs may hurt or may offend.

Old Cowboys had a sayin' that I would like to shout
"Just be sure you taste your words before you spit 'em out!"

Curtiss Pilling June 1997

TO LONNIE

The stresses in this life are many,
Barely we survive.
It takes all our brain and brawn
Just to stay alive.

So many things to think about
So many things to do
Hurry here, hurry there,
Always in a stew.

Did I bring the books I need?
Have I got my purse?
Am I at the place I'm supposed to be?
"Some days are like a curse!"

Okay, its time to settle down,
Act like I'm in control,
Collect my thoughts, collect my things,
At last I'm on a roll.

Just one meeting left today,
I'm glad that there's no more
Oh No!..... Power Locks
I can't open up the door!

How could they make a car like this?
It's a thing I can't abide
I have been locked out before,
But never locked inside!

If I had a hammer
I'd smash the window out!
(It sure don't do no good
To just sit here and shout!)

I could freeze to death out here!
I'd better call a cop,
Or else I'll call my brother
But he'll laugh and never stop.

Well now I've learned the secret
(I hope no one will mock)
If this every happens again
I'll just undo the lock!

Curtiss Pilling January 1998

MOTHER

Father give me a mortal body
 Let me work and prove my worth
Let me go and face the challenge
 Let me face the test of earth.

As a spirit I've been nurtured
 Blessed and guided at thy knee
Now I think that I am ready
 To use my agency and be free

I know I still will need some guidance
 Need to feel some love each day
Send me please a blesse'd angel
 To help me learn, and love and pray.

I need an angel that with kindness
 Will provide a home for me
And will teach me life and living
 Teach me to remember thee.

Smiled then the kindly Father
 As he said "I will provide
A gentle, loving, kindly angel
 Who will be your teacher, guide

This angel will be filled with mercy
 Unsurpassed by any other
The angel that will love and guide you
 Is your gentle smiling Mother.

Love her then my son, my daughter
 That's my simple, humble plea.
She's your own, your special angel
 She is sent, a gift from me.

Curtiss Pilling June 1996

PRIESTHOOD LEADERSHIP

You are called as a Priesthood Leader, to do the best you can
To nurture your Quorum members and to spread the Gospel Plan

You are given your assignment, no one else has that same call
And you have to do is accept it, and then just give your all.

Your Quorum members need you, its on you that they depend
To provide spiritual nourishment and always be their friend.

There's things to do, things that you know, that'll help your Quorum thrive.
Just teach your Quorum members to always fast and tithe.

They needn't all be speakers finding it easy to preach,
They just need to humble and willing to Home Teach.

Teach them to be wide awake and sense another's needs
Always be kind and generous with thoughtful words and deeds.

Help Fathers teach their children, with example and with love
And how to treat their precious wife like a gift from up above.

You help keep marriages intact, if you follow this rule simple
Help husband and wife stay worthy and go often to the Temple.

Remember you are called to serve, and by example lead
Be there to soothe another's hurt and help them when in need.

You need not be commanded in all that's to be done.
Go out, love them, serve them, you'll find it's lots of fun.

And you will see a marvelous work among the children of men
As you serve with all your heart and might and always be a friend.

You'll find the field is already white, that blessings lay in store
As you serve with faith, and charity and patience evermore.
Knock and the door is opened, ask and you receive
This is my testimony, this is what I believe.

Curtiss Pilling
October, 1997

BISHOP

When you get released as Bishop
And your tenure there is done
You do a lot of reflecting
On the race that you just run.

Did you always give it all you had?
Did you ever do enough?
Sometimes so rewarding,
Sometimes kinda tough.

A repentant member whose heart was touched
And was striving to make a correction.
A lost sheep who'd been wandering
And now wanted some direction.

The sorrow, the hurt, and the suffering
When a family starts to crumble.
Oh, if only all could be
Committed, sensitive and humble.

Extending a call to a Sister
Who, with a tear in her eye
Says "I don't think I can do it
But if the Lord wants me to I'll try."

The naming and blessing of babies
Baptisms and Confirmations
Entering into Young Womens
Receiving Priesthood Ordination.

A young man who throughout his life
Had prepared to serve his mission.
A young woman whose Personal Progress Book
Had not one omission.

Young couples now just starting out
A family made brand new
Sealed in the House of the Lord
The best start you can do.

Good, old faithful pioneer Saints
Doing their duty without a grumble
Tried and true from many years
Prayerful, kind and humble.

The sweetness of sharing sorrow
When a loved one passes away

Feeling the strength of the family
As they gather together and pray.

A love and concern for people
Sharing their joys and their tears.
It's a blessing to serve as a Bishop
An experience that's lasts through the years
Curtiss Pilling

LITTLE THINGS

Our lives are made of little things
A whisper, a glance, a touch,
Things that may seem tiny
And yet can mean so much.

It's a little thing to say thank you please,
A little thing to smile,
A little thing to do what's asked
Then start the second mile.

People don't need a grand gesture
Your love for them to know
A little, kindly, thought or act
Is balm for a troubled soul.

A little thing to take a breath
So a tongue will not lash out
To crush a child's tender heart,
With a hurtful, painful shout.

A little thing to be prepared
In spirit, mind and soul
And take each hour a little step
T'ward our eternal goal.

Curtiss Pilling
April 1998

We had a High Council meeting, Pres. Leavitt couldn't be there so President Pilling bought some treats. We left President Leavitt a note:

President Leavitt (meetings)

We're sorry that we missed you
We're sorry you weren't here
We had a real short meeting
(Our time is very dear)

We talked about Stake Conference
We thought it was real neat
We played the number game and stuck
President Pilling for a treat!

Now we're not selfish beggars
Our friendship we won't mar
We saved a Dilly Bar for you
(We left it in your car)

We hope it doesn't melt
And spoil the seat or bonnet
But secretly, some expressed the hope
That you would sit upon it.

Now seriously, we love you
We think that you are great
(By the way the meeting was over
At quarter after eight.)

Curtiss Pilling
Nov. 98

Memories of Leroy Walker

Stake Executive Secretary

April 1990 - October 1993

June 1991 - Temple Open House and Dedication

The Stake Presidency, Curtiss Pilling and myself attended numerous meetings with other brethren from Southern Alberta during the preceding months. A massive amount of work was done by the Stake Presidency and High Council in preparation for this great event. I personally felt our stake was assigned the open house and the other stake was assigned the dedication because of the tremendous amount of work associated with the open house. The night before the dedication, President Leavitt invited the Stake Presidency and High Council and their wives to the temple for a final tour. At the close of this, we all ended up in the Celestial Room and knelt in prayer. This was truly a hi-light.

June 1992 - Cardston 3rd Ward Bishop Selection

The Stake Presidency attended the temple and met back at the Stake offices following the session to talk about possible names for a new Bishop for the Cardston 3rd Ward. President Leavitt asked for comments from his counselors and also from his clerk and executive secretary. It became obvious that he was not sure at that time who it should be. The meeting closed and people started to leave. I stayed behind doing a few things in the office and when I was finished, I asked President Leavitt, who was still there, if he wanted me to do anything for him. He responded that he knew who the bishop was to be. Without asking for a name (because I seemed to be in tune with the President at that moment), I asked if I should be calling President Atwood back up to the office to confirm the selection. This took place and shortly thereafter President Payne's name went in. The Stake Presidency didn't talk again about the 3rd Ward Bishop until the necessary clearance can back from Salt Lake.

August 1992 - Ward Boundary Changes

For a few months, I collected data for the High Council Committee that was working on the ward boundary changes. Both Salt Lake and the committee wanted each of the blocks in town broken up as to Priesthood, Relief Society,

Young Men, Young Women, and Primary age categories. After a few suggested changes, a final draft was approved by the Stake Presidency and High Council and forwarded to Salt Lake. After a period of time, when we received the clearance, maps and overheads were prepared for the Stake general meeting that would be held in the Stake Center. We set up a screen in the cultural hall as well as the chapel. A new bishop was called for the 8th Ward and the boundary changes (including the Bishop Payne clause) were presented and sustained by the stake members.

Stake Conference with Bishop Henry B. Eyring

The most memorable general authority I personally remember coming to our stake during my time as executive secretary was Bishop Eyring. From the moment we received instructions on what hymns were permissible to sing to the breakdown of the leadership meetings, it was obvious we were in for a treat. The Saturday afternoon, following Bishop Eyring's private interviews with President Leavitt and the Stake Patriarchs, he met with the Stake Presidency and Curtiss and I. I shall never forget the many topics he presented to the brethren. He would begin a particular subject and say, "Let me instruct you." It became a matter of hold on to your seat, because he knew the matters of the Lord. He also commented to the Presidency that the First Presidency had asked the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and the Presiding Bishopric to ponder the question, how do we really become a world-wide church? Bishop Eyring responded to us that he felt the answer was to be able to take all of the handbooks of the church (which he said would probably cover President Leavitt's desk, two or three deep), push them in the garbage can and have the individual members of the church be able to say they understood the atoning sacrifice of the Savior in their own lives; then this would be accomplished.

October 1993 - Cardston 5th Ward Bishop Selection

From the time we started to serve together in April of 1990, President Leavitt made it quite clear to me that I was to open all the mail and direct it to where it needed to go. I was to act somewhat like President Leavitt's memory and divert as much work from him as I could. In the fall of 1993, the High Council and the Stake Presidency met in a regularly scheduled meeting to discuss possible names for a new Bishop in the 5th Ward. As was the common practice, any high counselor from the 5th Ward and myself were excused after

a number of names were put on the board. Nothing came up about it again for about a month, which wasn't uncommon. One Tuesday afternoon, I had gone up to see President Leavitt at the Junior High and talked over the agenda for the Presidency meeting that night and then went and picked up the mail from the post office. Standing in line to get a registered letter in the post office, as I was opening up each letter, I opened up one from the First Presidency stating that my name had been approved as the new Bishop of the 5th Ward. Weak-knee-ed and humbled, I drove back up to the Junior High, and as I met President Leavitt in the hall, he knew that I knew. He asked me when I could get a hold of my wife. I replied she had gone to Lethbridge to a meeting and then was going to be in a Community Services Board meeting that night. He had me call her from our Presidency meeting that evening and had her come to the office where we were individually interviewed and then issued the call together with the rest of the Stake Presidency. What a shock and a surprise it was for me! And it really set in when President Leavitt excused me from the rest of the meeting and told me to go home and give it some prayerful thought as to counselors. Normally, a new Bishop would be called on Tuesday, hand in his names for counselors on Friday, and would be sustained on Sunday. Because of General Conference, and Bishop Joe Paulson being gone for a week, I knew three weeks ahead. President Leavitt had no intention of me finding out in this manner. He had instructed the Church department to mail the form through Babb to him.

Voice of Doom and Gloom

I very much enjoyed the responsibility of calling those people who the Stake Presidency wanted to speak at Stake Conference. It was interesting and very entertaining to hear some of the comments back. And I became known as the "voice of doom and gloom".

Glen Cameron Exec Secretary

PRESIDENT ROBERT CAMERON LEAVITT

I have known President Leavitt for many years but the experience of working with him as the Stake Executive Secretary gave me a greater opportunity to appreciate his dedication to the Lord and his stamina in carrying out the great task of being a Stake President, a husband, a father, a community-minded citizen, and a friend. I am sure there are few men who could have filled all these responsibilities as well as R. Cameron Leavitt.

When I was called as the Executive Secretary on October 17, 1993 I felt very inadequate following the tenure of Brother Leroy Walker in that calling and I expressed my concern to President Leavitt at that time. I made the statement that I would have a very hard time filling Brother Walker's shoes. To that President Leavitt gave some very wise counsel. He said, in effect, that I was not to try and fill his shoes as everyone does things in a different way; that I was to fill it in my way and no one else's. This eased my mind considerably. I knew that Brother Walker had been a great Executive Secretary. I hope and feel that I did the best I could serving in that calling in company with great men such as President Leavitt, his counsellors President Jan Atwood, President Noel Pilling, and Clerk Curtiss Pilling.

I remember the great Stake Presidency, High Council, Bishop's Training and Stewardship Report, Stake Council and various other meetings held. I cannot recall that at any time President Leavitt ever spoke a derogatory remark about anyone regardless of their conditions or standing in the Church. His love for everyone was the pure love of Christ. If someone was wayward he encouraged love and patience with them; if they were faithful to the Lord he encouraged even greater faith. For him there seemed to be no plateaus. It was always - onward and upward.

Stake Conferences were always a highlight of the year. President Leavitt used acronyms at a lot of these conferences that helped the members of the stake set goals in their lives and remember these goals.

One of the highlights of a conference came when the Area Representative, Elder Bingham, who lived in Chicago, Illinois was assigned to come to the Cardston Alberta West Stake to preside over the conference. As he perused the stake statistics he was awed at the level of activity and

commented on it. Before his return home President Leavitt invited him to bring his family for a visit to our community and surrounding area. Following his return home, in a letter of appreciation to the Stake Presidency for the great work they were doing, he added the comment that if President Leavitt heard that the Stake was going to be translated to be sure and let him know so that he and his family could take him up on his invitation.

I was released from my calling at our missionary farewell on June 22, 1997. In releasing me President Leavitt quoted from Alma 13:19 (the first three lines). His application of that verse helped me to realize that I had done the job I was called to do and that my efforts to serve the Lord and his representatives had some merit.

In my association with President Cam Leavitt I have come to know that he is indeed a man of God. My testimony has been strengthened having served with this great man.

As a personal note, President Leavitt, I wish you well in your future endeavors. I am sure, in the Book of Life, the Lord has written of Robert Cameron Leavitt, "Well done thou good and faithful servant!" He has still a great work for you to do. May He bless you as you go forward in new ventures. God speed!!

Glen W. Cameron

October 7, 1999.

Ronald M. Rodgers - Stake Executive Secretary

June 15, 1997 - October 24, 1999

May I say at the outset that I have enjoyed very much the great leadership of the Stake Presidency, as I attended Stake Conferences and Leadership Meetings from the time they were called to preside over the Cardston Alberta West Stake. My Stake Presidents have always been my heroes.

My first real and personal experience with President Leavitt, President Atwood and President Pilling occurred June 15, 1997. On this day my wife and I were at the Auxiliary Hospital where we were in charge of the Sacrament Meeting for the residents there. As we were making the necessary preparations, President Leavitt and his two counsellors appeared and extended to me the call as Stake Executive Secretary.

I felt so honored that I should be called to work so closely with these great men. On June 22, President Leavitt and President Atwood came to our home and President Leavitt set me apart as the Stake Executive Secretary and gave me a very special blessing.

My assignment included arranging interviews for President Leavitt. There were many members to call for priesthood advancements, calling to Stake positions, missionary calls, setting apart's and releases, and then calling those who would participate in Stake Conference and Leadership meetings.

I have marvelled how President Leavitt found time in his busy schedule to not only interview prospective missionaries but he would go to their home and set them apart and once again at the end of the mission he would extend them their release. I remember one time when President Leavitt arrived home from Echo Lake just 15 minutes before the scheduled release interview, but it was taken care of as usual.

President Leavitt had a very unique way to make you feel so at ease when you were with him in meetings or in interviews. It was always such a calming feeling to be in his presence. Another special experience that I enjoyed was attending Ward Conferences with President Leavitt. He always demonstrated excellent leadership skills, giving wise counsel to the Ward leaders and members. He always spoke the words which applied to the situation and need, and everyone listened with intent. I always appreciated listening to him in High Council and other leadership meetings. It was manifested to me many times that he led and directed the Stake under the inspiration of the

Almighty, each experience built me spiritually and added to my testimony.

Pres. Leavitt always took time to be of service. A case in point was when there was a prairie fire west of Granum. President Leavitt immediately called a meeting and arranged to send brothers and equipment to go with him to help. President Leavitt took time to assist neighbors and friends in their building and roofing projects. He often had the full-time missionaries in his home. He encouraged regular socials with the High Council members. Then there were barbeques for the Stake Presidencies families as well as a dinner following the Stake Conferences. We will all remember a frightening experience that occurred as we were driving home from a social at Noel and Sandy Pillings one night. President Leavitt encountered a car driving towards him in the wrong lane. He turned and pursued the vehicle which finally stopped and was able to calm the driver till the police arrived.

I am certain that President Leavitt will miss very much his role as Stake President, and the members of the Cardston Alberta West Stake will miss his devoted leadership. To every call there will be a release, and R. Cameron Leavitt will be found serving and loving people no matter where he is or whatever his assignment will be in the coming days. I want he and his counsellors to know how very much I have enjoyed laboring with and learning from them and feeling of their great spirit.

Ronald M. Rodgers