

# Robert Pankhurst

## The Commission

The unknown Preparation for  
The Stake Presidency Call.  
The wonderment followed by  
The infinite sincere Prayers.  
The learning of the Workings in  
The callings of self and the Saints.  
The messages from the Lord during  
The meetings with the Faithful.  
The interviews, all resulting in  
The blessings from the Lord.  
The "New Millennium" of change has  
The positive newness in all dimensions.  
The perpetual increase of testimony  
Gives the eternal knowledge of our God and fellow beings.

Robert Pankhurst

The poem above denotes some of my observations of your faithfulness. I am sure that the Lord was pleased with your willingness in giving your all to increase the spirituality of the saints in our stake. Your sincerity, diligence and comic relief, once in a while, helped me fulfill my calling and augment my testimony. From juggling figures, continuous signing of cheques, sending missionary papers and an occasional get together's our time quickly flew by. I am sure you will always remain as spiritual hero's in my mind. Keep the Faith.

**Bishops**  
**Cardston Alberta West Stake Bishops**  
**April 1990 - October 1999**

**First Ward**

Blaine Bunnage . . . . April 90 - June 95  
Kim Taylor . . . . June 95 -

**Second Ward**

Greg Burt . . . . April 90 - May 95  
Rod Beazer . . . . May 95 -

**3rd Ward**

Rick Watson . . . . June 88 - July 92  
Delbert Payne . . . . July 92 - April 97  
John Bridge . . . . April 97 -

**5th Ward**

Joe Paulson . . . . April 88 - October 93  
Leroy Walker . . . . October 93 - Nov 98  
Ralph Salmon . . . . Nov 98 -

**8th Ward**

Ken Sommerfeldt . August 92 - Sept 97  
Mike Redford . . . . Sept 97 -

**Leavitt**

Dave McMurray . . . 89 - May 94  
Randy Janisko . . . . May 94 - May 99  
Dee Bevans . . . . May 99 -

**Mountain View**

Ross Uibel . . . . Feb 89 - June 93  
Colin Paterson . . . . June 93 - Jan 98  
Wayne Jensen . . . . Jan 98 -

## First Ward

### **Blaine Bunnage April 90 - June 95**

I believe I was given the first call by President Leavitt after he was called as Stake President. I'll never forget the words of Bro. Pinegar after he had completed his interview, "I find Brother Bunnage worthy, President would you now extend the call." Then President Leavitt knocked the wind out of my sails by calling me as a bishop. President Atwood played a major role with me after the call by helping me to understand my duties and explaining some very personal feelings that I would experience. At first, I was a little skeptical, but soon found his counsel to be so true. He helped me through an emotional time when I was having such a difficult time selecting my counsellors and his support was critical to me.

When I think of President Leavitt's leadership as a stake president, of course, I think immediately of the plethora of acronyms. In fact I have one that perhaps describes our President:

**L** et  
**E** very  
**A** ction  
**V** enerate  
**I** nspiration,  
**T** houghtfulness and  
**T** ruth.

I believe our Stake Presidency collectively never gave a bad talk. All are gifted speakers and use inspiration to guide them on what needed to be said. One fault they seemed to have was in overbooking and that usually meant one or all had to cut their prepared talks short. I'm not saying that is why they were such gifted speakers, but it does beg some consideration. Seriously, I always felt in stake conference that President Leavitt particularly should have had more time, but they were all exceptional conferences so who am I to complain.

President Leavitt has always had more energy than any man I know. While he was stake president he built 2 houses and assisted a number of others in their building and wiring projects. Couple that with running an overactive Jr. High School and a family that loved to be active and you guess when he had the time to rest. Speaking of the latter, a great compliment to President Leavitt is his family. Not only is he supported by his sweetheart, but they have, in all their haste, raised a remarkable family. Their kids are like our own and we love them all dearly. The same can be said of President Atwood and President Pilling, as they both have wonderful families.

I am in awe of how President Pilling was able to cope with the trials of loosing his sweetheart and know without question that the perseverance and faith demonstrated by him through those dark hours was what earned him the opportunity of having Sandy by his side. I appreciate so much President Leavitt's courage and conviction to further the cause of truth. He has had the courage to reach out and friendship those that spoke harshly against him, he has had the courage to initiate the actions that had to be done to bring about repentance in those that had difficulty understanding the seriousness of their sin, and he has had the faith and courage to make decisions that needed to be made to lead this great stake forward.

President Leavitt and I have been close friends for many years and I have appreciated and loved our association. I hope that he will now have the opportunity to relax a bit before he forges into other unknown waters, as most assuredly he will do. I thank him for his leadership, for his friendship, for his confidence in me, and most importantly, for setting the standard - the example for all of us to follow.

E. Blaine Bunnage

## **Kim Taylor June 95 -**

R. Cameron Leavitt, Jan C. Atwood, Noel D. Pilling- memories of a Presidency

Let me state at the outset that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true and that it is led by God himself through ministers whom he has fore-ordained and called. President R. Cameron Leavitt is one of those men, as are each of his counselors, President Atwood and President Pilling.

It came as no surprise to me when President Leavitt's name was read in Stake Conference that Sunday morning in April of 1990. The Spirit had born witness to me prior to that, that he would be the one called and would lead our Stake forward towards Christ at an increased pace. And when I saw him in the hallway after and congratulated him, that same Spirit whispered to me that I would be blessed to be part of it.

A week later, my dear wife and I received a phone call to meet with the Stake Presidency, and I was called to serve on the High Council. I was greatly humbled by the call, and President Leavitt later told me that had shared the same feelings as I had a week previously when we had talked in the hallway. Surely few things are more precious than being worthy to serve in the Kingdom.

The Alberta Temple was undergoing a major renovation at the time, and was nearing it's completion. We hoped and prayed that the First Presidency would authorize an Open House and rededication of the Temple after it's three year closure, and finally word came that such was to be the case. As a Council, we were overjoyed, and eagerly accepted the assignment to plan for the Open House of the Temple to be held the following June. Committees were struck, assignments given, and we went to work. I had a formidable assignment, even that of designing and staffing an Information Center for those who had been through the Temple. I also worked closely with Brother Noel Pilling designing the actual tour of the Temple itself. I spent many hours in the cold winter months walking the grounds in front of the Temple praying that the Lord would open my eyes as to how my assignments could best be fulfilled. Line upon line, it became clear to me how the Information Center should be presented, and I was led to those who could help me accomplish that task. Brother Pilling and I spent hours climbing over saw horses, wading through rubble, and stepping over debris as we repeatedly walked through the Temple. Finally, a route was decided upon.

Eventually the Temple was finished. There was great interest throughout

the Temple district in the Open House, and Brother Pilling and I, along with another team of high councillors, went to work. We visited large congregations of people throughout Alberta and Montana and trained them how to perform their responsibilities for the Open House. Brother Pilling and the others were inspiring, and the members were wonderful! And before we knew it, it was upon us.

The Temple was opened on a Wednesday with a VIP tour, followed by a tour for the media. I was assigned to lead a group of Alberta Government Cabinet Ministers through the Temple immediately after the group being led by Elder Ballard. It was a marvelous experience- hearts were touched, and tears were shed as they felt the Spirit in this, the Lord's House.

The Temple opened to the general public the next day. By the time the doors were closed ten days later, 101,519 people had been through the Temple. Over 80% visited the Information Center. I was blessed to be at the Temple every day from 8 AM to 11 PM and went to every devotional before every each shift. The Stake Presidency was there almost full time as well, guiding and directing, and generally blessing the lives of all of us. We served our workers 6312 hoagies and 7378 cookies. The good that the Open House accomplished can never be measured. Our nonmember friends gained a deeper understanding of what we believe, and so many hearts were touched by the whole experience. It was a great blessing for all involved- workers and guests. It was one of the greatest blessings of my life.

It was not long before President Leavitt announced in High Council one evening that the decision to create a new ward in our Stake had been made. I was humbled when he asked me to chair a committee to realign the wards and draw boundaries that would allow this to happen. He appointed two other high councillors to work with me, and we started to put together a balanced map of the Stake. Paul Doig was invaluable on this committee, and it was ultimately his design, with a few modifications, that we submitted to the Stake Presidency for approval. We had spent a lot of time trying to balance numbers and anticipate future growth before the final proposal was made. It was accepted in principal, and finally the change was made. Change causes growth, and growing can sometimes be painful, but the majority of the Stake was enthusiastic and supportive. It was an inspired move by our Stake Presidency and has resulted in increased opportunity to serve and the reactivation of many people.

1995 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cardston Stake. President Leavitt asked me to work with Tom Matkin to plan a celebration for this

momentous occasion. The Church Historical office was very cooperative, and I spent an entire day in Salt Lake City pouring through archives of the early history of the Stake. Included in that was some correspondence between President John Taylor and Charles Ora Card. As I held those papers in my hand, there was such a feeling that came over me- a feeling of gratitude for my heritage, and a love for the people who had settled this area and the sacrifices they had made. It was as though many of those great men were there with me- Brother Card, my uncle John W. Taylor, Thomas R. Leavitt, and so many others. They paid a price we will never know. They were the personification of faith and sacrifice. They had a vision of what this land would be in the future and the importance of it, and the Zion that it would become. It has been an incubator and breeding ground for many of the Church's greatest leaders, and provided a shelter from the storms of the world where people could raise their families in righteousness and be led by inspired, humble men of God. Our Stake Presidency are men such as that.

The highlight of the Anniversary Celebration was a gigantic Green and Gold Ball, attended by members of both Stakes. It was a gala event, and a great success. For that we thank all who worked so hard and did so much. There were also special firesides held in each Stake throughout the year, and Ward events to memorialize our pioneer heritage.

I held numerous responsibilities during my tenure on High Council, but of those that were of an ongoing nature, none gave me more joy than teaching the Temple Preparation seminar to those about to receive their endowments. I held these in my home, and my dear wife always served a dessert after. It was a wonderful experience to teach of the joys of the Temple, and testify of the importance of worthiness, keeping our covenants, and receiving those ordinances necessary for us to return to our Heavenly Father.

I will treasure forever my memories of serving on the High Council. Often we were required to serve as members of a Disciplinary Council. While this may sound unpleasant at first glance, they were growing experiences for all involved. I was continually impressed with the love and concern shown by the members of the Stake Presidency to those involved there was no condescension or open criticism from these brethren. They were always respectful, and truly desired what was best for the individual to repent and come unto Christ. It taught me the importance of defending the Church, while doing what was best for the transgressor. There was always a sweet spirit in these meetings as we humbly sought guidance from the Lord, and acted upon it. It also taught me that the Lord cares about each one of us, and wants every

person to return worthily to his presence.

\*\* In June of 1995, I had just returned from Israel. One night, I could not sleep. I tossed and turned and felt like I was fighting an unseen force all night. The next morning, the phone rang and Brother Glen Cameron asked Marianne and I to be at President Leavitt's office that evening. I told him no- I didn't want to. He laughed and told me to be there anyway. I struggled all day, but as soon as we walked into his office, I was enveloped by a spirit of peace. I was called to be Bishop of the First Ward. I had known this was coming for some time. (The Lord has been wise enough to give me lots of warning about most callings so I have a head start- I usually need it!) I cried as the call was issued, and was so touched by the words of encouragement given by President Leavitt and his counselors- especially President Atwood as he used to be our ward Bishop. Over the next few days the Lord made it crystal-clear to me who my counselors were to be. We were sustained and set apart on the following Sunday. When I was set apart, President Leavitt promised me that if I were to serve with all my heart, that I would see miracles happen, even within my own family. I found great comfort in that promise, and within three months some amazing things happened that were an answer to three years of fasting and prayer. Since then, the Lord has continued to bless my family, and we enjoy a close family relationship with all of our children and see them as often as we can. All of our children are active, and both of our daughters have been married in the Temple.

During the past four and a half years, my life has changed dramatically. I can't begin to describe the love that I feel for our Ward Members. I have made it a habit to visit them often. Every January since I have been Bishop, I have visited every home and knelt in prayer with every family to leave a blessing upon them. Each member has accepted the challenge to read from the Book of Mormon and say their prayers every day, and some have even done it! I have a great testimony of the value of doing this- the Prophet has promised that if we will read from the scriptures every day and pray every day, that we will never make a serious mistake without the Holy Ghost warning us first. I know that this is true, and many people have testified of the value of it in their lives since undertaking this challenge. I especially encourage the youth to do this as part of putting on "the whole armor of God."

Ward Conference has always been a highlight for us. I love to have the Stake Presidency come and inspire us, and feel of their love for us. Our Ward eagerly anticipates this experience and the blessing it is to us. Ward Council

with them is always such a wonderful experience. And we have thoroughly enjoyed having them and their families over to my home for dinner after. It is the climax to a perfect day.

We have been blessed beyond measure as a Ward over the past few years. We have had several baptisms and many return to full activity in the Church. Much of this came as the result of an inspired Stake President who called Jim Ferguson to be our Elder's Quorum President. Our Ward Council had selected several families to fast and pray for, and Jim felt inspired to call some of those as workers in the Quorum. Our Ward rallied around these people, uniting our love and faith in their behalf, and the rest is history. It was a great blessing to be part of this miracle, and our Ward has been strengthened because of it. What joy to see these families go to the Temple and be sealed to their families for time and all eternity! Surely, nothing can be sweeter than that! And we continue to use the same formula as a Ward Council that we were using then, and now several more families are on the verge of changing their lives.

Being a Bishop is not easy. There are days that the load is incredibly heavy, and it seems that there are no solutions to some problems. Working with people who have transgressed is heavy work, but very rewarding as the load shifts from our backs to the Savior, and I see people progress in the repentance process. There have been a few times when I have been discouraged, but President Leavitt has always had a listening ear and inspired council for me. I have leaned upon him heavily over these past four and a half years, and admire his strength and wisdom more than I can express. President Atwood and President Pilling have been mentors to me, and have inspired me by their examples and their teachings, often through casual day-to-day contact, more than they will ever know.

But life goes on. It is time for something new for our Stake Presidency, and we will miss you. You leave us a legacy of faith and hope, a memory of good works and righteous examples, and a love for Christ which has shone forth in your lives and helped to bring light into all the lives of our Stake members. Oh how we will miss you good brethren! May the Lord bless you and your families in the future, and may we be grateful for your leadership and influence upon all of us. We love you dearly. It has been a joy to be intimately involved with you for the past nine and a half years. I have grown to respect you, to follow you, and to love you. Each of you has had a profound influence upon me and my family. I pray that you and your families will be watched over in the future, and that I can somehow bless your lives the way you have blessed mine. God bless you always.     Kimball J. Taylor

## Second Ward

**Greg Burt April 90 - May 95**

See Brother Greg Burt High Council

**Rod Beazer May 95 -**

Second Ward Bishopric

Rod Beazer

Shawn Olsen

Jim Holland

Alan Wiley

Kelvin Laing

Lyle Foggin

Rob McMurray

### HISTORY & MEMORIES

1. Set apart on April 30, 1995.
2. Bishop Beazer began sleeping somewhat normally again, June 5, 1995.
3. Baptisms during our reign of terror, Harvey Woolf, Joseph Bengry, Christy Carlson, Ashley McDonald (Cliff Jaspersen's granddaughter), Mike Pirie (Dixie Sommerfeldt) and Raylene Wynder.
4. D&C 4 - we'll never forget it. Also some scripture in 2 Timothy.
5. Book of Mormon challenge.
6. Elder Merrill, I think that was his name, and his challenge to go out and get the prospective elders.
7. Boundary changes, November 98. Are you sure you are inspired?
8. Sure love the new members of our ward. You must be inspired.
9. No meetings the first week of the month. You are definitely inspired.
10. Second ward meeting schedule overlap with first ward. Sorry for the headaches. We sure had fun with it.
14. You almost made meetings enjoyable. Thanks for your great leadership.
15. Call a couple a quarter to missionary service.
16. President Leavitt - great leader, not afraid to try new things. Great sense of humor. Excellent speaker. Would call anyone to speak. Caused a few heart attacks.
17. President Atwood-humble, quiet. Very spiritual. Exceptional talks. The

- most serious of the group, but still goofy.
18. President Pilling - Very funny. Great stories in his talks. Known for poaching (eggs). We all learned so much from him, as he lost his first wife and then remarrying.
  19. Brother Rodgers - Needs to sleep longer. Loves to be on the phone, usually around 6:00 a.m. Great man.
  20. Brother Curt Pilling - Very humorous, extremely talented, very humble.
  21. Brother Pankhurst - Mr. Computer, Mr. organized. Always after our money.
  22. Thank you all so very much. We love you individually and collectively as a stake. The stake has flourished under your leadership and love. Best of luck to you all. I hope you are all called to be scout masters. We'll miss you.

## 3rd Ward

### **Delbert Payne July 92 - April 97**

See President Del Payne (Stake Presidency)

### **John Bridge April 97 -**

Dear Stake Presidency:

It has been a privilege for me to be associated with our stake presidency. I was called to serve on the High Council a week after they were called, almost ten years ago, and I have been richly blessed by my association with them. In all of our High Council meetings I always felt like our opinions were valued. It was a great experience to participate in the temple open house and all of the hours of preparation we put into that event. It will always be a highlight of my life to have knelt in the celestial room with our wives and share in a prayer with the rest of the high councilors and the stake presidency. It was great to be president Atwood's sidekick on the trek and to be able to be with the youth of the stake for that great event. I value my friendship with each member of the stake presidency and wish them well throughout the rest of their lives.

John Bridge

## 5th Ward

### **Memories of Leroy Walker**

**Cardston 5th Ward Bishop**

**October 1993 - November 1998**

#### **Young Men Trips to Moab**

Having served with the Stake Presidency as their Executive Secretary, and knowing how they felt about the young men and the importance of programs and activities, our ward YM Committee had me approach President Leavitt about a trip. I remember asking if he felt it would be okay for our ward YM, Bishopric, leaders, and dads to go to Hawaii. He responded he felt that might be a little too far and costly. I then proposed that we wanted to go to Moab, Utah, cycling. Knowing of our organizational skills and goals, the President gave us the go-ahead. We ended up going to Moab in the spring of 1994 and again in the spring of 1998. These were two of the most memorable YM trips I have ever been on. We took an average of 35 - 40 people, including the entire Bishopric, YM Presidency, and a few dads, plus all but a few of the boys. These trips, along with trips to Cypress Hills and Echo Lake, were a highlight of my YM experiences.

#### **Setting Apart Missionaries**

As Stake Executive Secretary, I was very much aware that President Leavitt decided early in his Presidency, that when it came to set apart missionaries, he would go to the missionary's home. As a Bishop, I was so impressed with President Leavitt and usually his wife, going in to the homes of our ward's missionaries for the setting apart's. Karen and I would always attend and felt of the spirit of these occasions. President Leavitt had a wonderful way about him, and who he asked to bear testimony or say a few words. The blessing and setting apart were obviously inspired.

#### **Bishop's Council with the Stake Presidency**

It was a real treat to meet with the Stake Presidency and the other six Bishops a couple of times a year. The Presidency always had some excellent things for us as Bishops and it gave us the opportunity to talk through some of the common concerns or problems we were all facing. These were some

choice meetings I attended. The respect we felt for the Stake Presidency and they felt for us was obvious.

### **Release as Bishop - November 1998**

During the Sacrament Service where as a Bishopric we knew we were going to be released, I conducted the meeting. At 7:00 o'clock that morning, we had been informed as Bishops of a few boundary changes and had been asked to release as many people as possible that would no longer be in our ward. Brian Low, Mark Wood and myself went around to the 50 people that we were going to be losing, and released those who had callings. With not a lot of explanation, other than they would find out at Sacrament Service. After taking care of the ward business of releasing many people, I ended up sustaining a couple of calls we had made earlier in the week. And as well, sustained Brother Leroy Walker as a Primary worker to work in the Nursery. The ward sustained me as usual, except I noticed the Primary President didn't. Following the Sacrament, I turned the balance of the meeting over to President Leavitt. After thanking us as a Bishopric, he released us and also released me as a Primary worker. It was probably shortest time someone had ever held a church calling.

## 8th Ward

### **Ken Sommerfeldt August 92 - Sept 97**

History for Stake Presidency

On August 22, 1992, there was a nasty snow storm. We got about 16" of heavy wet snow, and a killer frost. I will never forget the events of that weekend, as I was called to be the first Bishop of the Cardston 8th Ward. Wendy and I were asked to go to the Stake Presidents office. After a thorough personal worthiness interview, President Leavitt proceeded rather carefully to issue the call to Wendy and I to serve as Bishop of the new Cardston 8th Ward. I had a million questions to ask, but I was paralyzed by the weight of this new calling. I just sat there and listened carefully. He handed me an envelope that had written on it; **"8th WARD."** He then said to me. "Well Bishop, here is the list of members in your new ward. You are the only one right now who has a calling in it. Good Luck, and if you have any questions, please call me! As it turned out, over the next 5 years, I would have many questions, and I always came away from President Leavitt, uplifted, inspired, and motivated to do better. Here are a few highlights I would like to mention.

#### 1. Addition to the Temple Street Chapel

Soon after the ward was created, it was quite obvious that there needed to be more space in the building or less tenants. We were sharing our office as a bishopric with the Preventative Maintenance supervisor. (PM Group) I only had the access to one drawer in the desk, and we had reduced privacy in the use of the Bishop's office. I had discussed this with President Leavitt a few times and we were working on a solution to the issue. One day, after a priesthood leadership meeting, I bumped into President Atwood in the cultural hall of the stake Center. He asked me how things were going and we talked about a few items. He said almost jokingly that what we needed for the Temple Street Chapel was an addition.

I went home that night with a resolve to consider this more carefully. I obtained a form from President Leavitt regarding major changes to an existing building. When I filled out the request as the agent Bishop in the Temple Street Chapel, I could have just filled in the forms and sent them in. Something told me that I should make it a more detailed proposal, and type it up with an attempt to answer all possible concerns regarding the project. Some of the things that I began explaining were not answers that would have been requested on the form. One of my major concerns was that we had all three Bishop's offices within 12 feet of one

another. At tithing settlement times, it was mayhem trying to find a seat for everyone. In addition it was difficult for the clerks of the 3 wards to find their own members to get information to them. Privacy in the offices was also a concern which needed to be addressed. What would normally be a 2 page request, turned out to be a 6 page proposal

When the building supervisor from Salt Lake came to approve the addition, he indicated that it was those unusual conditions that caused the brethren to recognize the need for an addition. This was a testimony to me that it was right for the addition to be built and that the spirit had assisted greatly in this happening. When the original plans were unfolded, it was to be for a multi-purpose room where the new Relief Society room now exists. Bishop Walker told the committee at the Key meeting that what we needed was not a multi purpose room but a new Relief Society room. From this discussion came enlarged dimensions, and more space. I was grateful to him for his insight. I was grateful to have been involved in this project and to see the hand of the Lord in its completion.

Much could be said about the colors and the selection of fabric etc etc. At the time there may have even been some strained feelings about what was selected and what some may have felt should be selected and so forth. I remember when President Leavitt, President Atwood, Bishop Walker and I stood in the chapel late one evening with our wives and President Leavitt asked the painter to paint just the broad face of the trim in the chapel with a lightened color. As he did so it brought a great new look to the trim in the chapel that would never have occurred if the first color had not been chosen. President Leavitt as usual was calm and inspired in the solution to this challenge. I love the look in there, and I really appreciate all who had input that resulted in the final result.

## 2. Temple Open House

Like so many others, the temple open house was a spiritual milestone in my life, and the life of my family. I was on the core committee for security, and spent many hours each day of the open house at the temple. Each night, at the close of the day, we (John Bridge, Brad Beazer, Ron Dittmann, and others waited until the cleaners had cleaned the building, and we did a walk through and locked up for the night. Before doing this however, we had what we jokingly called the "School of the Non Prophets" One night, I did the graveyard shift, and checked inside the building at about 4:30 AM. I was the only person in the temple. I had a moment of quiet reflection there, that was special to me, that I will not forget. I sang in the dedication choir for our stake, and this was one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. I felt a rebirth of commitment then that continues to sustain me even now.

3. Trek.../ the woman's pull/the sacrament meeting/Pres. Leavitt proclaiming a blessing upon the youth of the stake/ the beauty of the area.
4. Bishop's council's where we were instructed etc. The Stake Presidency Spoke to us by the power of the spirit in helping the bishops understanding their callings and responsibilities better.
5. Personal Help from Pres. Leavitt / with regard to the Welfare program./ If I got in a bind, Pres. Leavitt was there to help, guide, assure, and inspire.
6. The V. Dallas Merrill Stake Conf.  
The spirit works his mighty miracles through his anointed servants, and his common servants to bring his children home. I was moved to action in a way that I only understood after the fact, and I recall the great spirit of gratitude when I witnessed in the Lord's Holy House the sealing of a wonderful young couple as a direct result of that "Day of Pentecost" Stake Conference.
7. Prospective missionaries, are tender, and need constant help and encouragement. I will eternally grateful for my experiences in this regard Pres. Leavitt has been a giant in this category.
8. The Dallen H. Oaks leadership meeting etc. Wow!
9. The day of my release and the promise of Pres. Leavitt  
President Leavitt released me in a warm and tender way. I felt an overwhelming feeling, as I felt the Mantle shift from one to another. He had a way of making all of us feel that our offering unto the Lord had been acceptable
10. The setting apart of my parents in my home for their (2nd) mission.  
The spirit of unity and love we felt as a family was wonderful.
11. My time on the High Council has been rich and rewarding. I have worked with the Young Women of the Stake, and they are a truly great group to work with. I remember when Lindsay Nelson passed away how difficult it must have been for Audrey and Phil. We went out to visit them and instead of consoling them, we were strengthened from being there.
12. I served on the Boundary committee with a number of High Councilmen, and we felt directed in our actions. I am grateful to the stake members who have so willingly accepted those changes, and put their shoulder to the wheel yet again.
13. Sister Janice West and the plan to do Moroni's Quest. We have had some rich experiences together, one of which happened in Janisko's TeePee.
14. I have been assigned to 2nd, Mt. View, 5th, and Leavitt Wards. In each I have been made to feel welcome, and appreciated. They have accepted me in to their meetings and their ward, and it is a great blessing to visit

all the auxiliaries and see the kingdom at work in the stake.

15. I have presented the Temple Media Prep class to those going to the temple for the first time, from September 1997 to present. Each session has been special and unique. I have benefitted far more than anyone who may have attended those sessions. One of my goals for the session is that those attending will come to realize to a greater degree that the source of understanding the Temple is to more completely understand the scriptures.

Finally I am so grateful for Pres. Leavitt and his family. I appreciate the example they have been and continue to be. I have had the unique opportunity to work for the last 5 years as his Vice Principal. I have never noticed any inconsistency between the wearing of his Stake President's hat, and that of Principal and Colleague. His concern for youth, whether in or out of the church, native or non native, respectful, or belligerent is consistent, honest and true. Can he take a stand, even an unpopular stand on an issue? Yes, and he does so consistently, fairly, and without reacting. He listens carefully, considers the options, gathers more information if necessary, and then when it is decision time, He moves confidently forward. I can't think of a more correct way for a Priesthood Leader to act. At the risk of being personal, I recall times when we as the Administration of the Cardston Jr, High School have kneeled in prayer for guidance to important issues, and I do not apologize for that in any way. Thankyou President Leavitt for the legacy of leadership you have given me both on a Priesthood and Professional Level.

President Atwood was our Bishop in our early days in Cardston, and I still feel his influence and am grateful for it. He is kind, wise, and deliberate in his duties. He is a giant of a man spiritually, and one who is not removed from the influence of the Lord. I am sure his influence in the Presidency has been wonderful.

President Pilling is a man of action. No project is too big, or too difficult. He is a neighbor like unto the one the Savior told us we need to be. I have been in awe of his vision for the work, his stamina to move it forward, and his unrelenting commitment follow through.

What a great team! Surely the Lord is please with you! God Bless you!

Brother Ken Sommerfeldt

## **Mike Redford Sept 97 -**

History of Bishop Michael Redford

Cardston Eighth Ward

Sept 97-Present

President Leavitt had always counselled us to prepare on High Council to be a bishop. I wish I had listened. I remember the telephone call to well, he called my wife to see if I was around and I was at work and she said that I would not be in till late. She gave him the number and he called back and told her to have me call after I got home. She never thought nothing of this, just thought it had something to do with my High Councilor calling. I got home at 9:30 and gave President Leavitt a call and he asked us to be in his office in 20 min. We were really nervous and scared. It was a real humbling and spiritual experience for me. To think the Lord would want me as the Bishop of the 8th Ward. I think the Lord was starting to prepare me for this calling because for a few weeks before I had been thinking about this. It was a neat experience to go to the temple and fast and pray about my councilors. and have the spirit guide you to who they were to be. My councilors are Brother Bart Carlson, Bro Stephen Gibbings, The executive Secretary is Mark Cahoon, and the Ward Clerk is Rob Walton, Every day is a growing experience for this Bishop. I learn something new each day. We have been in just two years and it seems like yesterday.

I have very good people in our ward auxiliaries, they do there calling and ease my load a lot. Our Ward has grown in two years in many aspects, size, reverence, love to each other. We presently have seven missionaries out and two more are going real soon.

Our Bishopric love to be in the service of our Heavenly Father and watch peoples lives change. to see people accept assignments in the gospel and run with them. This has been a real treat. We have knelt in prayer many times to see who the Lord would have for callings and have him answer us with such a spirit. This has been the greatest experience. What I have learned and was taught by our Stake Presidency was they really have a love for everyone in the Stake, a genuine love, they were fun to be around and I enjoyed my associations with them. In being a new Bishop I felt I could always talk to Pres. Leavitt and it wasn't a bother and I really appreciate that.

May God Bless us all.

Bishop Mike Redford

## Leavitt

### **Dave McMurray 89 - May 94**

I was called as Bishop of the Leavitt Ward in May 1989. My councillors were Kaye Olsen as First Councillor and Craig Carnell as Second Councillor. Ward Clerks were Royce Leavitt and Gary Monson. Executive Secretary was Marvin Leavitt and later Jamie Quinton.

Some of the changes in Church Administration were:

- 1) The cost of Missionary expenses was equalized at four hundred dollars per month wherever the missionary may serve.
- 2) The caretaking of the Church meeting houses was turned over to the Stake.
- 3) Computers were installed to simplify financial reporting and record keeping.
- 4) There was no more member budget allotment. Funds were supplied by the Stake.

Some of the events which were highlights in our administration were:

- 1) Closure of the Temple for three years at which time we were included in the Idaho Falls Temple District. Our Ward took two bus loads of youth to do baptisms for the dead. The Temple Open House and Dedication were also meaningful experiences.
- 2) The L.D.S. Encampment at Camp Impesa was also a great experience. It was a special time to get closer to the youth of the Ward.

I especially appreciate the perfect organization of this great Church and its line of authority from Bishop to Stake President and on up. President Leavitt always had time to listen to my concerns as Bishop of the Leavitt Ward and always had excellent advise to our problems. It have appreciated his service to our own family, having called our youngest son Jack, on his mission. My tenure as Bishop during President Leavitt's administration has been a great rewarding experience.

David G. McMurray

## **Randy Janisko      May 94 - May 99**

Randy Steven Janisko  
Bishop of Leavitt Ward from  
May 1994 - May 1999.

I am thankful to have this opportunity to express my gratitude for the leadership and friendship that President extended to me during my time as Bishop of the Leavitt Ward. Over the five years that I was Bishop I had many opportunities to share Bishops concerns and conversation with him. As we discussed problems of individuals of the Leavitt Ward I learned to appreciate his insight and inspiration, that he received from his Father in Heaven because of faithfulness and dedication to his calling.

As a member of the church for 3 \* years, I was shocked to be called as Bishop of the Leavitt Ward. I appreciated the faith in me that Pres. Leavitt expressed as he encouraged me throughout my calling.

One of the most difficult trials that I had came early in my term as Bishop; it was dealing with the lengthy illness and death of a young husband, father and friend, Scott Olsen. It strengthened my testimony of the importance of temple marriage and eternal life and preparing our families to becoming eternal families. This experience strengthened our whole ward and brought it closer together.

Together with my councilors, Brother Robert Farren and Rod Walburger, we were able to organize and conduct our ward business. Bro. Farren provided the much-appreciated sense of humor and wisdom of age. Bro. Walburger provided the knowledge of church policies and politics and the strength in gospel knowledge. I learned to truly love these two men.

Now I would like to mention some of the highlights that I had as Bishop of the Leavitt Ward. My time spent with the youth was most memorable and enjoyable because of their energy and enthusiasm. Pioneer Trek, Young Women's camps, Young Men's camps and knife making with the ventures. The unplanned food fight that was held in the culture hall, (I learned that I should always trust my instincts and you could turn a bad situation into a good teaching tool).

The Leavitt Ward building went through some major interior renovations. Some of these changes were hard for some of the older Ward members to

except. The results exceeded our hopes and all the ward members are proud of our building.

I really learned the true meaning of Christmas when Pres. Leavitt called upon the Priesthood in our Stake to give assistants to the victims of the Granum fire. I was proud to be a part of the Leavitt Ward and Cardston West Stake. Many members, young and old, active and inactive came, ready to put in a long days work. Together with members from all the wards in our Stake we built 15 miles of fence. I felt that we were an army of Christian soldiers. This project along with the support that was given from our Stake to the United Church in their efforts to build a new building showed President Leavitt's love and willingness to help all people in need.

During my time as Bishop I conducted 12 funerals and 30 weddings. Through all the experiences that I had during my time as Bishop, I came to know President Leavitt as a true servant of our Father in Heaven and it was an honor and a blessing to serve under him.

## Dee Bevans      May 99 -

LEAVITT WARD Cardston Alberta West Stake    October 8 1999

In April 1990 my family and I were living some 6000 kilometers away from this Cardston West Stake, yet even then it was still my Stake. By the time the church news got to us it would have been too late, President Leavitt would have already been broken in. When I read and saw his picture in the church news my only thoughts were, "another school teacher". President Nielson and I had a great relationship, each school day he would call me in just to make sure I was at school or mostly to see why I wasn't there the day before. I didn't even know President Leavitt but I had my reservations.

In 1993 my family and I move back home to Cardston to find that not only do we have a school teacher for a Stake President but his two councilors were school teachers also. There was also another interesting situation in our stake, there were four Bishops and half the high Councillor's were also school teachers. The plus side was I thought that every long weekend and school holidays there wouldn't be any one with any authority watching the Cardston West Stake.

I started having second thought about this President Cam Leavitt when our family lived in the 3rd ward for a year. Not long after arriving in the ward I was called to serve as a assistant to the Young mens President, Shane Phillips. I had many opportunity to work with President Leavitt's two sons Ryan and Troy? It was then that I decided that he was truly called of God. Why would Satan spend so much time working on two boys if there dad wasn't a great Stake President. Ryan's basketball skills will always be remembered, since when was eye gouging a foul or Troy's trip to Crypt Lake, I didn't light the fire cracker in the tunnel leading to the lake, hee hee. Look at them today, what great young men.

The trip to Granum to help our neighbors has to be our Stake Presidency finest hour. The Cardston West Stake 2000 stripling soldiers. It was an incredible sight to see all those faithful servant reply to your call. What a great tribute.

On May 15th 1999 my doubts were again risen in our Stake Presidency leadership skills. I truly understand that our Father in heaven makes this call but those in authority must present those name for His approval . I'm truly grateful for this opportunity to grow and give service, I'm grateful for those great men that sat in on that interview with my wife and I. To have all of your

support, for me it was over whelming. Your assistance and advise on councilors and executive secretary, I will be forever grateful for, as they have truly taken upon them there responsibilities. I hope and pray that I may fulfil this wonderful calling to the best of my ability, for myself, to my Stake Presidency and, to my Father in Heaven.

For Ever Brothers in the Gospel  
Bishop Deland B Bevans

## Mountain View

### **Ross Uibel - Bishop Feb 89-June 93**

Richard Nelson - 1st Councilor

Kenny Mackenzie - 2nd Councilor

Nolan Romeril - Executive Secretary

Dennis Baker - Executive Secretary

We served as the Bishopric of the Mountain View Ward from Feb 89 to June 93. The Ward was fairly large with a lot of youth. Each year there were close to 85 young men and women plus a large primary. This created a lot of work and also gave us many rewarding experiences. The Ward members were very supportive which made our jobs much easier. We enjoyed getting to know the members by visiting with them in their homes at least once every year. Some of the significant things that happened are listed below.

#### Ward Statistics:

- Approx. 415 members with an average of 80% Sac. Meeting attendance
- Approx. 85 young women and men with 97% activity
- Only one man did not serve a mission - he was worthy but chose not to go
- 98% of the young men received their Queen Venture award
- We had a few convert baptisms

#### Ward Service Projects:

Renovated, repaired and fixed up a single mother's home. Shingled two ward members' homes.

#### Mountain View Centennial Celebration

Participated in planning, organizing and preparing for a major 100 year celebration which included a special program, a parade, games and activities. Also a Centennial Park was built just west of the school which included a paved bike path, camp kitchen and the grade nine students built a log cabin and placed it on the park grounds.

#### Youth Activities

We had some really fun activities including a ski trip, winter camps for both young men and young women, river floating activities, and summer camps. We had several service projects of cutting wood, cleaning homes, community

clean ups, fixing up the Church yard, fixing the cemetery, working at camp Impeesa.

I really appreciated the opportunity to server our Heavenly Father. Our Bishopric worked together very well. My councilors were excellent as were all the ward leaders. We appreciated the help of the Stake Presidency and do thank them for all the many hours that they have spent in serving the members of the Stake. Their help and suggestions helped us to serve our members better. Thanks you for all your service. May the Lord continually bless you.

**Colin Paterson      June 93 - Jan 98**

Oct. 1999.

Dear President Leavitt,

I have thanked the Lord several times for the opportunity to get to know you and work with you during the time that I spent as Bishop of the Mountain View Ward. I was set apart in 1993 and served until Jan. 1998. I will always remember the great blessing that you gave me as I was set apart. I realize that what you said, were the Lord's words, but you were the instrument through which the Lord spoke. It was a great blessing which I remembered often through the five years. The words of that blessing came to be a great strength to me over the years.

I have many great memories of serving as Bishop, I enjoyed the boys very much. I got to counting the other day and realized that I sent 39 young men on missions in the 5 years. What a great opportunity it is to work with young people of that age. They are so full of life, and have such an opportunistic outlook. As you know some of them come to those interviews more prepared than others, and sometimes your impression of them was different than mine. I will always appreciate your willingness to listen as I expressed my impressions of these boys after having worked with them and interviewed them over the course of several months. You rarely questioned my impressions and recommendations. To me that is the sign of a great Stake President, to allow the Bishops to recommend young men for missionary service inspite of some personal feelings that you may have had. To me you were the type of Stake President that, (given the Lord's approval) would do what was best for the young man. You had an attitude of helping rather than hindering.

In thinking about use of fast offerings I appreciated your statement, "If you're going to err, err on the side of generosity", to me that was not your approval to throw caution to the wind when using fast offerings. But a reminder that the fast offerings had a purpose and it was alright to use them to help those in need in the short term. Your attitude of "help" rather than "hinder" was evident again.

The best expression on your face though, was when we told you that we had, an outdoor Sacrament meeting to celebrate our centennial, in '95. The meeting actually turned out great in spite of a cool blustery day, and the pot

luck dinner after, in the church gym, added to the pioneer spirit of the day. Members showed up in pioneer clothes, it was great.

Over all, I really enjoyed my experience as Bishop, in part because you were such an easy Stake President to work with. You were so down to earth. So thanks for all you did. You made a difference in the lives of many people, many more than you will ever know. I threw a little poem together with some thoughts about you and your service. Hope you like it.

### All You Do

"Thanks for all you do," are the words he'd like to say,  
And "thanks," we say to him for the years he led the way.  
He had a way about him, without the pomp or show,  
It didn't take too long, and the stake began to grow.

Each year he set a goal or two that weren't too hard to reach,  
And all the members followed what ever he would teach.  
Sometimes he'd say some hard things, but he'd say it with a smile,  
His words would always lift you, and you'd go the extra mile.

Now leaders like this president, rarely come along at all,  
And we felt the Lord's approval, when he issued up this call.  
For the people need a leader, that could reach a brand new height.  
A leader that could motivate, and help us do what's right.

He loved the youth and taught them, all the things that they should do,  
So they could all return to father, and not just one or two.  
An acronym he'd teach us, to remember what he'd say ,  
It must have done some good 'cause we quote them to this day.

So we thank him for the memories, and we thank him for the love,  
And we thank him for his prayers for us, to the father up above.  
And we thank him for his kindness, and the times when he was tough,  
And I don't think the stake has said "We love you," near enough.

Brother Colin Paterson

## Wayne Jensen Jan 98 -

My memories of President Leavitt are many and varied and all good. They start when he and I and President Leavitt were called the same day to serve on the high council. We enjoyed the time as rookies together and the learning and work it involved. We served under the presidency of Brent Nielson, Lorne Pitcher, and Bryce Cahoon. When this presidency was released and Cam was made stake president, I continued on the high council and continued to enjoy the work under his direction.

Although there was always work to do and responsibilities to fill, one of the major events that happened during the remaining time I served on the high council was the renovation and re-opening of the temple. We all spent an exciting couple of years as we worked and planned for the open house that accompanied this event. This was the initial big project that President Leavitt had on his plate and he did well. His direction was always astute, well thought out, and spiritually directed. We all had a good and uplifting time working with him during this project.

I also enjoyed President Leavitt's leadership during Pioneer Trek we planned and carried out for the youth a few years later. The youth all remember this activity and as the "Trail Boss", I enjoyed his leadership again.

I have spent the last two years as the bishop of the Mountain View Ward. Here again, I have had the opportunity to work closely with President Leavitt and enjoy his direction and advice. He has impressed me with the love he has for the members of the stake and especially for the members of my ward. He has given some very special blessings to leaving missionaries that will guide their lives forever.

I will miss the associations I have had over the past many years with President Leavitt. I wish him all the best in the future with whatever the Lord (and his wife) has in store for him. He has always been a friend and perhaps that is the best tribute I can give. God bless!!

## Existing High Council

### At the Call of Pres. Leavitt

Jensen, Wayne . . . . .	Exact Dates not known
Darnall Hatch . . . . .	Exact Dates not known
Mark Heninger . . . . .	Exact Dates not known
John Webb . . . . .	Exact Dates not known
Don Carlson . . . . .	Exact Dates not known
Noel Pilling . . . . .	1988 - 1992
Ted Salmon . . . . .	1988 - 1991
Neldon Hatch . . . . .	June 88 - Oct 95
Paul Doig . . . . .	June 88 - Oct 95

### High Councillor's

#### Called by President Leavitt

Dee Olsen . . . . .	April 90 - April 93
Kim Taylor . . . . .	April 90 - June 95
Kay Crabtree . . . . .	April 90 - Nov 93
John Bridge . . . . .	April 90 - April 97
Brian Low . . . . .	April 91 - Oct 93
Rick West . . . . .	April 91 - Oct 98
Richard Garside . . . . .	Aug 92 - June 94
Richard Habel . . . . .	Aug 92 - Oct 95
Dexter Bevans . . . . .	Aug 92 - June 98
Richard Anderson . . . . .	Aug 92 - Sept 94
Rod Walburger . . . . .	July 93 - June 94
Mark Wood . . . . .	Nov 93 - Sept 94
Bernie Boehmer . . . . .	Nov 93 - May 96
Mike Redford . . . . .	June 94 - Sept 97
Mike Little . . . . .	June 94 - Oct 95
Peter Hague . . . . .	Sept 94 -
Ralph Salmon . . . . .	Sept 94 - Nov 98
Greg Burt . . . . .	June 95 -
Ed Mckenzie . . . . .	Oct 95 -
Jamie Quinton . . . . .	Oct 95 -
Wendell Olsen . . . . .	Oct 95 -
Blaine Bunnage . . . . .	Oct 95 -
Farrin Leavitt . . . . .	May 96 - March 97
Ricks Smith . . . . .	March 97 -
Shane Phillips . . . . .	April 97 -
Ken Sommerfeldt . . . . .	Sept 97 -
Delbert Payne . . . . .	Sept 98 -
Mike Nelson . . . . .	Oct 98 -
Craig Carnell . . . . .	Dec 98 -

## **Wayne Jensen:**

See Bishop Wayne Jensen, (Mountain View Ward)

## **Brother John Webb:**

Serving on the High Council under President Leavitt was a great experience for me. I was called to serve on the High Council in 1988, not long after my wife and I returned from a mission and moved into town. It was Brent Nielson that was President at the time. We wondered, when he was released, who would ever be able to fill his shoes. The Lord knew who could and would. Cam Leavitt was called.

One of the assignments I was given not too long after my call was to organize the hosting for the open house of the newly renovated Cardston Alberta Temple. I recall travelling with some of the other men on the committee's to other stakes in the temple district to help with informing them of what their parts in the "Open House" would be. Invitations were made up and sent out. Hosts from many of the Stakes were assigned and trained. Because there were so many turns, doors, stairways and etc. In the temple, a great many hosts were required to direct the traffic. Shelters were erected, wheel chair accommodations and crews were assigned, and parking attendants were also obtained. What a wonderful time to be involved and what a great way for us, so new in the area, to get to know the people.

I recall the missionaries who so willingly, pushed and carried people in wheelchairs throughout the tour. The disabled didn't miss a thing. Under the direction of President Leavitt, a town cleanup was organized and carried out. The Open House was a great success with 110,000 people attending. What an exciting time!

President Leavitt is a compassionate man. This was demonstrated in the way he agonized and offered solace in cases of church discipline. He always sought inspiration from the Lord. It was under President Leavitt's leadership that help was offered and given freely to the congregation of the United Church, when they were in the process of building a new church building. I recall the big supper that was held at the Stake Centre with the members of our Stake serving as waitresses, cooks, and cleaner upper's, along with the members of the United Church. What a good public relations project!

Stake Conferences are always special. All in the Presidency had such a wonderful way of teaching us the ways of the Lord. President Leavitt always

had his unique way of offering us a challenge to be better Latter-Day Saints.

Who will be able to fill President Leavitt's shoes? I know that someone will receive that great calling and will be prepared by the Lord to fulfil it, but we, will always remember President Leavitt and the great influence he has been in our lives!

Bro. John Webb

## **Noel Pilling 1988 - 1992**

See President Pilling (Stake Presidency)

## **Ted Salmon 1988 - 1991**

Called April 1988

Released Jan. 1991

Remembrances:

Being a Brent Nielson-called High Councilor afforded me the experience of a General Authority interview in the search for another great Stake President. I recall the shortest interview of my life (Elder Pinegar I believe) inspiration never more apparent. "Bro Salmon, how are you? How is your family? Do you treat your wife kindly? Thank you for taking the time to come in." I loved it! Comforted to know I wasn't wanted. 1990 was the year we decided to move to the U.S., so my tenure with the new Presidency was relatively short. I loved being on the council and will always cherish the feeling of brotherhood that grows there. I was honored to mingle with the caliber of brethren gathered to that service. Some sad times and some fun times and sometimes got the work done. When you look back it seems like it was all good times that you miss very much (experiences I had the opportunity to have again in a similar situation, with the same ending results).

In my short time under President Leavitt's tenure I'll always remember a kind, teaching leader, eager to listen and willing to hear. I feel privileged to have been a part of this legacy.

## **Neldon Hatch June 88 - Oct 95**

I served on the Cardston West Stake High Council from 1988 until 1995. For the first few years my assignments included being stake activities committee chairman and I also had responsibilities for public communications and for the Temple Visitors center. I was later assigned to work with the welfare honey production project and ended my tenure working with the young mens program.

Among the most memorable event, as stake public communications director, was my involvement in the rededication of the Alberta Temple. During the year preceding the dedication we were busy mapping out the appropriate public relations and advertising strategy and the Lords direction in this undertaking was always evident. Of all the public media coverage of this event, there was no negative publicity. Non-member editors and managers of newspapers, TV and radio stations across Alberta and Montana were friendly and co-operative, always willing to print or air stories about the Church and the temple. It was evident that the Lords hand was directing the work. One thing which stands out in my memory was the ordering of information booklets for church members to give as invitations to their non-member friends. We had ordered about 120,000 of these full-color booklets, as I remember, from a publishing company in Wisconsin. When they arrived at Canadian Customs in Coutts, we received a call telling us that they could not enter Canada because they didn't contain a statement that they were for free distribution in Canada. It appeared that the only solution was to either hand stamp the entire lot, booklet by booklet, or return them to the printer for reprinting, and at a considerable cost. Time was also running out to get these booklets into the hands of church members across the temple district. We took the matter to the Lord in prayer and soon received word from Canada Customs that the material could enter Canada as it was. With this divine intervention, we were able to quickly get the material into Canada and get it distributed to members who helped to invite more than 100,000 people to the temple open house.

Following the rededication of the temple, the visitors center at the temple was readied for opening. Brother and sister Don and Afton Shaw were called as directors of the Centre and helped to develop the Centre into a pleasant and inviting place for sharing the message of the gospel.

For three years, in my assignment with the stake welfare honey production project, I worked with my brother Darnall in producing several

thousand pounds of honey which went into the Bishops Storehouse in Lethbridge. After three years it was decided that the honey production was in excess of what the storehouse needed and so the project was phased out. At that time the surplus honey was donated to food banks in Lethbridge.

During my last couple of years on the high council I was assigned to work with the young mens program. One of the highlights of that period of time was the trek which was held for the youth in our stake in July of 1995. A tremendous amount of planning and preparation went into this event only to have stormy weather threaten to cancel the event. Last minute changes were made in the location and program and with the help of the Lord the weather cleared and the trek went on, shortened only by one day. The activities allowed the youth to experience, in a small way, some of the hardships and trials that pioneers endured, things like pulling heavy handcarts up and down hills, living off of short rations, sleeping on the hard ground and even slaughtering live turkeys for dinner. The youth developed a greater appreciation for the heritage and the testimony of the early saints and this was evident in the feelings that the youth expressed in the testimony meeting. The event was a faith promoting experience for both the youth and the adults that were involved.

I truly enjoyed my work on the high council under the direction of President Leavitt, President Atwood and President Pilling. Their untiring efforts in following the Lord and leading the people of this stake were an example to all of us and encouraged us to greater efforts and I will be eternally grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve under their direction.

Neldon L. Hatch

Cardston Alberta Stake High Council 1988 - 1995

## **Paul Doig June 88 - Oct 95**

### STAKE HISTORY AND THOUGHTS

Submitted by Paul Doig

June 1988 I was called to serve as a High Councilor just minutes after Neldon Hatch whom I served with in the Bishopric of the Third Ward for just over 5 years.

I served until 1990 with Cam Leavitt as a fellow High Councilor until his call as Stake President.

#### High Council Assignments:

I had the opportunity of working with the Young Women and Special Interests Group. I found the Young Women Auxiliary to be sensitive and most rewarding as I attended girls camps and special projects. One of the Special projects that I have always remembered was the year that the Young Women decorated the tree to the west of the Stake Centre. As I expressed my thoughts as we stood under the tree I related the similarity between the protection that the building offered that tree to the protection their membership and testimony was to them. Another unique memory was the year the Young Women went on a winter stake camp instead of the normal summer camps. I attended so many girls camps that I should have received the award the girls get. I did everything from compass education and activities to campfire skits. My endurance soared as the girls bounced me off the rope bridge into the creek to getting the egg and mudpack face treatments to hair dewes around the evening campfires.

The thing I remember about the Stake Presidency was there was never a camp that the full Presidency did not attend to interact with and leave a spiritual message with the girls. Of course they also brought a treat for the young women.

#### Encampment

I had the opportunity to serve on the core committee of the Camp Impeesa Encampment. For a little over a year we planned and made preparations. It started with George Toone and myself making a trip to the site in the early spring and spending a day walking around in the snow plotting in our minds

what and where we could place the various venues. We had to build from scratch a repelling tower, an aerial tram and an obstacle course. The theme was "Soar With Honor" and we tried to get the snowbirds to come but were unable too. We did however arrange of a F-18 jet to come down from Cold Lake and what a show he put on. We had radio contact with the pilot over a loud speaker so all of the boys could hear him as we communicated. When he made his first pass we told him we were in the clearing and he said you mean right here as he buzzed right over us. He made several passes over the lake and I have always wondered what the fishermen thought of the experience. One of our groups was hiking up Turtle Mountain at the time and were at the summit as the plane flew over the lake and they were above the plane as it passed. The Pilot said he had to leave so he flew over the lake and about mid lake flew straight up until he was out of sight.

I also had the opportunity to assist at the Young Women Encampment the following week as Sheron was serving on the core committee of the encampment. There were many spiritual experiences. The girls also got to do the same activities as the young men.

#### Temple Open House

At the Temple Open House I had the pleasure of supervising the Parking Committee. There were over a 100,000 people attend the open house and we never had one accident. That alone is a miracle to me! There were hundreds of buses that also needed to be assisted. The thing that I remember most about the open house was that we had arranged lunches for each of the crews. Each day a different crew was assigned so we were able to have the same item for lunch each day. After several days when President Leavitt realized that the core committee had been eating the same thing he took us to his home for a meal that his wife had prepared for us. I had the opportunity to meet with many of the dignitaries and General Authorities as they arrived at the Temple. I was privileged to dine with the First Presidency and that day just happened to be President Hinckley's birthday. There were many special events that I had the opportunity to participate in just because I was serving at that time.

#### Stake Mission

In October of 1995 I was released from the High Council and called as the Ward Mission Leader of the 3rd Ward. I served for couple of months and was called as a councilor of the Stake Mission Presidency. Another three or four

months later I was called as the Stake Mission President. One of the high lights of this call was the Mission Temple Excursion. Every Missionary in the Canada Calgary Mission attended the Temple. Sheron and I had the opportunity to organize all the billets and a dinner for them. This was such a spiritual experience. I was released in September of 1999.

#### Temple Ordinance Worker

A month after being called as a Stake Missionary I was called to serve as a Temple Ordinance Worker. This is the best call to promote spirituality that I have had. One of the highlights of this call is to see and assist with some of the new converts and reactivated members as they came to the temple following their baptism. It is one of the most spiritual experiences I have participated with.

#### Other Comments

During President Leavitt's stewardship all of my children were married and Sheron and I now have 12 grandchildren.

I have had the privilege of working with each member of the Presidency.

I have been so impressed with the high level of spirituality of the Presidency and their ability to set goals and assist and challenge the membership.

I have been impressed with the presidencies genuine concern for each of us. May the Lord continue to bless each of you as you receive your new calls.

## High Councillor's Called by President Leavitt

### **Dee Olsen April 90 - April 93**

Once again the time has come when new leadership will be called for the Cardston West Stake.

Men who were called by inspiration, President Brent Nielson and councilors had served the people well and had been involved in the making of two Stakes in the Cardston area.

I was called into the High Council by President Nielson. The call for a new Stake President was in the making and interviews were held and President Cameron Leavitt was called to step up in the leadership of our Stake.

My wife, Diane, and I were asked to serve as young adult leaders. I was asked to serve as special needs person for the Open House of the rededication of our Temple. Diane was called as a nurse to man the emergency health needs during the Open House.

I was directed to call Bro. Bill Simon to run the Stake Music. Bro. and Sis. Lyle Prete to do the Stake Cannery and Welfare. New High Priest Leaders were called, new Elders President and new Bishops.

I am blessed to have served under the leadership of President Leavitt, Pilling and Atwood. May our Father in Heaven continue to bless them as they sustain the New Stake Presidency.

Thank you Brethren for your faithful Services.

Dee Olsen

## **Kim Taylor      April 90 - June 95**

See Bishop Kimball Taylor Cardston 1st Ward

## **Kay Crabtree April 90 - Nov 93**

The date and time have escaped my memory, but the experience of being called to the High Council by President Leavitt and his two councillors will always be embedded in the old memory box. Marjorie and I received a telephone call asking us to meet with the Stake Presidency. I assumed, which was always the case, that Marjorie was going to be called to a position and they would want to know if I would support her. When they asked me to serve in the High Council, not only was I surprised, and not only was Marjorie surprised, but I'm sure the Lord was also surprised. I have never enjoyed a church calling as much as I did that one. I was put in charge of facilities and there was some very important decisions that had to be made. It was during the transition of the caretakers and the appointment of a Regional Facilitator. I can truly say that I could not have asked for more support than what I received from President Leavitt and the quorum. Even when they disagreed with some of my approaches, they would always let me find out for myself that I was wrong. I truly loved those brethren. My council to you President Cam, and those who are also being released, is to continue in the service of the Lord, only in another capacity. Buy yourself a new set of golf clubs and go to work.

Submitted by Kay L. Crabtree on October 10, 1999

## **John Bridge April 90 - April 97**

See Bishop John Bridge Cardston 3rd Ward

## **Brian Low April 91 - Oct 93 (picture submitted)**

## **Rick West April 91 - Oct 98**

I felt it an honor to serve on the High Council and enjoyed the fellowship there. I found that I grew from each of my assignments and appreciated the dedication of those I was associated with.

Music has always been a part of my life and as I served with Brother Bill Simon we had many wonderful experiences. I especially remember the youth chorus and their energy. It would bring a chill down my back to hear them blend together in singing praises to Heavenly Father. There is nothing quite like the power of a Men's Chorus and as we would have them sing at Priesthood Leadership it would lift your soul. The sweet melody of the Singing Mothers would bring peace to your soul. Our Sesquicentennial

t how some of those little bodies could hold that much food. They have learned well through life how to nourish the mind and body. They taught me that you could be as happy as you make up your mind to be.

Serving with the Relief Society sisters reinforced what I have always known. The men often talk about it but the sisters do it. Whether it was a stake leadership or a stake work day I knew it would be literally a work of art. It may have been a special song, or maybe a series of pictures, or a special story and testimony shared; whatever the case it lifted you onto a level that made you bask in the spirit. I remember our visit to the Card Home and the unique experience there. Charity and Service were not just something to talk about but to experience. I found that I did little leading in this assignment. I was usually following in awe of the special Sisters I was able to work with.

I must admit though that Welfare was my favorite assignment. I feel we made tremendous strides in helping our members be more informed and prepared. President Leavitt wasn't afraid to branch out and do things that would teach and encourage. We have the best Canning people in the region. The call would go out, the troops would be assembled and the work completed. Our leaders in this area went well beyond the call of duty to make

sure that every available canning day would be made available. Training on product uses and methods of preserving were except

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Music has always been a part of my life and as I served with Brother Bill Simon we had many wonderful experiences. I especially remember the youth chorus and their energy. It would bring a chill down my back to hear them blend together in singing praises to Heavenly Father. There is nothing quite like the power of a Men's Chorus and as we would have them sing at Priesthood Leadership it would lift your soul. The sweet melody of the Singing Mothers would bring peace to your soul. Our Sesquicentennial music program gave a powerful message of "Faith in Every Footstep". I think however the highlight was when Marvin Goldstein came and performed. His expertise when applied to sacred music left me feeling a little closer to what it will be like in the Celestial hereafter.

Sunday School is often thought of as a "here we go again" program. I found, however, that our stake leaders were able to breath new life into it. They were diligent in visiting the wards and improving the quality of teaching. The book, "Teaching no Greater Call" is a classic and as we saw it used more frequently the "Spirit" was felt in greater abundance.

The Older single adults were most special to work with. They have a maturity and dedication of spirit, often under lonely and trying circumstances that exemplified enduring to the end. They loved their socials and it was a privilege to work with them and see the joy it would bring into their lives. As we would help with the Christmas dinner I would be utterly amazed at how some of those little bodies could hold that much food. They have learned well through life how to nourish the mind and body. They taught me that you could be as happy as you make up your mind to be.

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Occasionally a flash of inspiration and then much perspiration create something never to be forgotten. As we determined a need to help those burned out west of Granum and assembled a plan, an event that will never be forgotten occurred. As we met in council with the Bishops that Sunday morning and sent them back to their wards to give the clarion call for service we saw the true church in action. As I went over early to prepare for the arrival of the Priesthood it was a sight unbelievable to see them come. It shed a whole new light in my mind of the "Power of the Priesthood". There is no question that everyone was overwhelmed with the events of that day.

The gospel plan is to make bad men good and good men better. I am truly grateful for the opportunity I have had to grow in the gospel and work with the finest brothers and sisters that this church has to offer. Thanks, Presidents Leavitt, Atwood, and Pilling for being able to work with you and for the confidence you had in me. May the Lord's choicest blessings be with you and your family.

Your Brother in the Gospel

Rick West

## **Rod Walburger July 93 - June 94**

Dear President Leavitt,

I have had many years of service opportunities with you. I served as a councilor in the Stake Young Mens Presidency with George Toone, and was also involved as subcamp director of the Cardston West Stake Young Mens during the LDS encampment at Camp Impeesa.

I was given the privilege of serving as a High Councilor for about a year and given the responsibility of the Elders Quorums of the Stake and also over the Young Adults, before being released and called as 2nd councilor of the Leavitt Ward Bishopric.

I thank you for these opportunities of service and your confidence in me to help you carry out the work of the Lord.

My testimony has always been based on faith and these experiences of service have helped to strengthen it.

I hope for all the blessings of the Lord to be poured out to you because of your faithful service to me and my family and for all the time you have given to the Cardston West Stake.

Thanks a lot!

Another ordinary servant,  
Rod Walburger

## **Mike Redford June 94 - Sept 97**

History of Mike Redford as a High Councilor

June 1994-Sept 1997

I remember being called and wondering why me, but I was up to the challenge and growth. During my time as High Councilor I was assigned Activities Committee, Scheduling for Temple baptisms, W.A.C. Work at the veil, I was over the Y.W. Temple Prep Classes, Stake Baptisms.

When it came to the Activities Committee I was thinking "What me the social animal of the Stake. "

I had a wonderful Activities Committee: I had Sister Shelly Spackman, she was my Culture Arts Specialist, Sister Barb Baker as Secretary, Brother Don Yuill (for the first year) and Brother Tyler Bevans as the Sports Specialists.

### **Some of the Highlights of the three and half years were.**

We brought Marvin Goldstein in the fall of 1996. What a marvelous pianos. We had a crowd that looked like Stake Conference and no one that came was disappointed. He carried a great spirit about him. In 1997 the theme was Faith in Every Footsteps. We encouraged all the wards to participate and do something in there own wards to celebrate this theme. In the stake we did a Readers theatre Fireside on a Sunday evening. We assigned Sister Mary Lou Nelson to be in charge of the evening. Sister Nelson along with Sister Janice West put the choir together and spend many hours with the choir practicing. Bryce and Marilyn Cahoon were our narrators, with many others doing the readings. This evening really brought us closer to our Pioneer heritage, the spirit was very strong there. Of course every February we would have our Stake Appreciation Night and Valentines Dance. Always a treat for those who serve in the stake. We had entertainment at each of these nights, some of the entertainers were Deb French and her group, Sister Takahashi from Lethbridge, Sister Cheryl Davidson. They were all great entertainers. Every Christmas we would have our High Council Christmas Parties, we had delicious meals, served by the committee, we played games, had freezing hay rides, which everyone braved and had fun.

One of my most enjoyable callings was to teach the Temple Preparation Class to those who were ready to enter into the Temple for the first time. It was neat to see the changes in the youth, meet with there families, And now as a Bishop, watching them come home off their mission and seeing the growth that they have made.

## Peter Hague Sept 94 -

Presidents Leavitt, Atwood and Pilling:

Ten years has sure gone by fast. I remember, nine and one half years ago when I was called to be the Stake Young Men's president, the appreciation I felt, that the Lord and your presidency had confidence that I could take that position and run with it.

I so much enjoyed working with my presidency. Mark Boyson was outstanding as was Ricks Smith. Any time I gave them an assignment I knew I had no worries about a great job being done.

As a young men president I believe the highlights were the stake camps we had with the youth. It is enjoyable teaching adults their stewardship and I have to admit that Woodbadge I and II were great to teach, but the best was my experiences with the youth of the wards. I came to love them as I saw them grow in the gospel. I was always excited when I was called on to help with activities in the wards. I loved working with the youth and I loved and still do love the scouting program.

I always have said that the worst part of the job was supervising dances but some of my best experiences happened at the dances. It was so exciting when young girls would come up to me excited about boys asking them to dance.

The sports were wonderful also. Dennis Wilson did a great job as sports director. One evening at the end of a basketball game Chris Marshall come up to me and asked me if I had seen the basket he made. He was so excited and so was I for him. I assured him I had and that he had played a great game. He was recognized by both teams and parents when he made his basket. I saw so many wonderful things happen to our youth in sports, in scouting and in other young men and young women activities.

One of my great memories was some of the combined young men and young women standard nights we had. It took a lot of work on the parts of both presidencies, but the rewards were wonderful as we saw the quality of the evening and the impact on our youth as they learned of the importance of living gospel principals.

When I was released, I really did not have time to go through a withdrawal which I felt would happen as you added me at that time to your high council. I had just finished working four and one half years with the youth and now I was given stewardship over young adults which I had for four

years. I loved it. They were great years. Jeff Bectell was such a great president. He and his councillors were always so positive about anything we discussed and in planning we never once had a problem.

My concern, along with providing them with good spiritual institute classes and good social activities, was that all young adults attend. I don't know if I was ever fully pleased with the activity of the young adults but we did have over 80 at a Christmas party and for a while we had students sitting in the isles because we did not have room for them all. But, I still knew more were out there not attending and it always concerned me.

What I really liked and appreciated President was your trust in us as leaders. Many times I came to ask questions and seek help and your reply always made me feel important; "This is your stewardship, you can handle it." Your response made me get on my knees and seek inspiration, and I will ever be grateful for that.

You have been a great stake president. As I have said to others many times, I looked at you as being an Alma. You were never on the sidelines; you were always busy and out with the stake members instructing them and working beside them. I will ever appreciate you as my spiritual leader and my friend. You have a great family and I guess I just simply like you.

Pres. Atwood and President Pilling. I also appreciate the great spiritual leadership you have given me and the stake.

I felt so good sitting beside you, Pres. Leavitt, at Mark Taylors farewell. I feel my time on High Council is almost over with the new changes. The new stake president will want to make some changes and I'm sure I will be a likely one to be released. Change is good, but I want you to know Cam, Jan and Noel that the past nine and one half years I have worked with you as your Stake Young Men President and as a High Councilor are cherished years in my life and I feel so blessed that you allowed me such special opportunities.

Peter Hague

## **Greg Burt June 95 -**

It is a pleasure for me to provide a few comments regarding my service in the church under the leadership of President Cameron Leavitt. In May of 1990, we were both called on the same day into leadership service. I was called as a Bishop, he was called as the Stake President. That was a great day (mainly for President Leavitt).

President Leavitt was always there to guide me through my tenure as a Bishop. Mainly times, he counselled with me on matters regarding the Cardston 2nd Ward. I always appreciated his approach to the challenges that we faced.

Upon my release as a Bishop, I had about a month of rest and then in June of 1995, I was called to serve on the High Council, a position that I have held since that time to the present. I have enjoyed my association with the Stake Presidency and fellow High Councillors. It has been while in this capacity that I have come to know the depth of love that President Leavitt exemplified to all of us and for the members of the Cardston Alberta West Stake. I have experienced the mantle of his authority as he has deliberated on matters dealing with people's lives in the gospel. I have felt of his spirit and love for the Savior and his fellowman as he magnified his calling. It was his influence that kept a feeling of love in the High Council. He recognized the value of his Counsellors and High Councillors and had that special spirit of delegation and trust that is needed to lead us to help people come closer to the Savior.

It has been four short years since my call to serve on the High Council and as another era of leadership closes and the advent of a new one, I wish to express to you President Leavitt my love for you and for your kindness and gentle leading that has helped me grow spiritually. I thank you for your time and attention that made me feel that what I did would help. May the Lord bless you in your future spiritual pursuits.

Sincerely and with loads of love,

Gregory D. Burt

## **Ed Mckenzie Oct 95 -**

### EDWIN BRUCE MACKENZIE

Called to High Council October 15, 1995

Sustained and Set apart October 22, 1995

Wife: Diana June (Olsen) Mackenzie Married July 5, 1980

Family: Michael Edwin Mackenzie Nov. 7, 1982

Kimberley Rae Mackenzie Feb. 25, 1986

Jeffrey Todd Mackenzie April 23, 1989

First assignment - PRIMARY - President Jeannette Sommerfeldt, 1<sup>st</sup>:

Linda Jacobs 2<sup>nd</sup>: Beverley Hansen, Music: Joyce Pontarollo, Nursery: Lorraine Bevans, Sec: Kay Rodgers

This Presidency served faithfully and diligently until October 1996.

President Cathy Schaffer, 1<sup>st</sup>: Barb McMurray, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rhean Carlson, Music:

Terrie Coon, Nursery: Karen Olsen, Sec: Susan Smith, Achievement Day:

Stephanie Foggin.

SEMINARY - I had the opportunity to work with Brother Richard Young, the Seminary Principal, in calling Seminary teachers and the Seminary Council.

EDUCATION - My main responsibilities were to sell tickets for Know Your Religion and Best Of Especially For Youth. Also to conduct the Know Your Religion night that our Stake was responsible for. We had great speakers, and those who attended were uplifted. Since I was collecting money, this is where I got to know Bro. Bob Pankhurst. I learned to appreciate all the work that he did for the Stake, and what a great man he is.

On January 1, 1999, my responsibilities were changed to High Priests Quorum Chairman, Family History, Name Extraction, Genealogy, and Church Discipline Fellowship. I know I was given Family History because I didn't know anything about it and also to get me involved with my ancestors. Bro. Morris Shields is the Director of Family History Programs, what a dedicated man he is to his calling. Bro. Al Schindler is the Director of the Family History Center. The Summer of 1999 some remodeling was done at the Center to make more room for computers. Temple Ready, which was run by the Cardston Stake, has moved in to the Family History Center and the transition has moved very smooth. Sister Betty Olsen was called as the Stake Family History Consultant, and she has been busy training ward Consultants.

I have enjoyed working with the High Priests of the Stake.

With my responsibilities in the area of Church Discipline Fellowship I visit with the Bishops of our Stake about the Members who have lost their memberships in the Church and see what is being done to bring these people back.

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve on High Council. I enjoy the friendship and Spirit that I feel every week as we sit around the table. There is a strength in a Quorum or a group such as the one that we belong to. It has been a great experience for me to rub shoulders with these men and also the Presidency, I have learned to love and respect them and their dedication to the Gospel. It has been really enjoyable to get to know the wives of these men through socials and other events. I have appreciated their friendship, and their warm hand of fellowship.

There are two Stake Conferences that really stick out in my mind. The first one is when all the High Council spoke. It was great to take part in that and to feel the Spirit that was there. It was nice to meet in the High Council room after and review the proceedings of the weekend..

The next one was when Elder Merrill came. I believe that weekend changed the lives of many people, not only those who came for the interviews, but those of us who went and did the asking. I know that we are feeling the results of that weekend today and will continue to feel the impact that this event has had on the Stake for a long time to come. Another one that has had an impact on the lives of people is the song that Cheryl Davidson and Pres. Leavitt wrote. Another event that had a great impact on our Stake was the Granum fire and all the service that was given.

This poem reflects how I feel about our Stake Presidency.

## I'M GLAD I TOUCHED SHOULDERS WITH YOU

There's a comforting thought at the close of day,  
When I am weary and lonely and sad,  
That sort of grips hold of my crusty old heart,  
And bids it be merry and glad.  
It gets in my soul and it drives out the blues,  
And finally thrills through and through.  
It is just a sweet memory that chats the refrain:  
"I'm glad I touched shoulders with you!"  
Did you know you were brave, did you know you were strong?  
Did you know that you helped when I erred?  
Did you know there was one leaning Hard?  
Did you know that I waited and listened and prayed?  
And was cheered by your simplest word?  
Did you know that I longed for the smile on your face,  
For the sound of your voice ringing true?  
Did you know that I grew stronger and better because  
I had merely touched shoulders with you?  
I am glad that I live, that I battle and strive  
For the place that I know I must fill,  
I am thankful for sorrows, I'll meet with a grin  
What fortunes may send, good or ill.  
I may not have wealth, I may not be great,  
But I know I shall always be true,  
For I have in my life that courage you gave.  
When once I touched shoulders with you.

I am grateful for the effect that this calling has been on me and my family. I am thankful for the people that I have come to know. I wish the Stake Presidency all the best in the future. I am glad that I touched shoulders with these great men.

## **Jamie Quinton Oct 95 -**

I still remember the day that I got a phone call at 8:30 a.m. from Brother Glen Cameron asking if my wife and I could meet with the Stake Presidency at 9:00 a.m. that morning. We said yes and then began rushing around trying to get ready and a friendly argument about who the call was going to be for. My suspicion was that I was going to be called to be the Leavitt Elders Quorum President, as I was currently serving as a counsellor in that Quorum, although I couldn't see why they would be reorganizing as we had only been in one year. The only other thing I could possibly imagine was that the Stake Young Mens was being reorganized and I thought a possible calling in that organization somewhere. I wasn't really excited at the thought of either calling as I was happy where I was. My wife was eight months pregnant with our fourth child, so we thought a Stake calling for her was probably out of the question. As we sat nervously in the waiting area, I remember watching Brother and Sister Wendell Olsen come out and seeing Wendell looking totally white and wondering what call he got that made him look so sick and glad it wasn't me. When we sat down after the brief greetings President Leavitt got right to the point. When he asked if I would serve on the High Council, I literally just about slid completely out of my chair. I remember looking at him and wondering if he was serious. The calling was a total shock. I felt so inadequate. The first few High Council meetings I sat totally quite. President Leavitt was very inspired one evening, and asked me to bear my testimony during High Council. I don't know why but it helped me feel a little more comfortable. From that day on I felt like I belonged and not an outsider that shouldn't have been there.

My most memorable experience serving on the High Council came as the Stake took on the tremendous service project of helping the farmers of the Granum area recover from the devastating fire. The spirit of brotherhood was very strong. To me the Stake seemed to grow and unite together much stronger. I know that Home Teaching improved in almost every Ward for the next few months. The Brethren just couldn't quit talking about the experiences they had serving their fellowman and thus serving our Father in Heaven. The experience is something that will be remembered for the rest of our lives.

The greatest tribute to the Stake Presidency was the unending love the Stake members had for them. If the Presidency asked for something to be done, the members of the Stake would respond and accomplish the task at hand and usually go beyond. Although success is not always measured in numbers, this Stake is a leader in so many responsibilities throughout the

world, in my opinion, as a result of this leadership.

My thanks go out to this Presidency for their devotion and love to this Stake. I thank them for the opportunity of having served under their leadership. I wish them the best in the years to come and on their missions they will surely serve.

## **Wendell Olsen Oct 95 -**

I was called to be a High Councilor in Oct 1995 by President Leavitt. This was a shock to me as well as the rest of the Stake, but also a humbling experience. I felt very young and inexperienced in carrying out this responsibility, but I always felt the support from President Leavitt.

President Leavitt was my Junior High School coach in basketball. I will always remember his ability to motivate and inspire people to excel in what they did. He made everyone feel like a winner and made us all work as a team.

I saw this again as I witnessed his leadership ability as I served in the High Council.

I had the responsibilities under Pres. Leavitt's direction to serve over:

- 1) Information center - worked with Bro. and Sis. Phil Redd, and Bro. And Sis. Don Shaw- 40 different couples from May - Sept of each year.
- 2) Employment center - worked with Darnel Hatch and then Dwayne Hall. Changed this center into a self-sustaining and computerized center.
- 3) Stake High Priests Groups
- 4) Stake Elders Quorums

Wendell Olsen

## **Blaine Bunnage Oct 95 -**

See Bishop Bunnage Cardston 1st Ward

## Farrin Leavitt May 96 - March 97

Regarding: Feeling about President Cam Leavitt and his Councilors; a brief report of accomplishment during the period regarding my area of responsibility.

It was a great blessing in my life to have had the privilege of serving and as a high councilman and to receive direction from the Stake Presidency. When I was called we were beginning to finalize our plans to go on a full-time mission. When we stated our intention to President Leavitt he suggested that I serve in the stake for at least a year before going on a mission. Little did I know at that time how inspired those words were. For me it was to be a time of learning how a stake should operate. The Cardston West Stake was an exceptional place to learn, since in my view they achieved a celestial level of administration process that is pleasing to Heavenly Father. This administrative training would provide a critical foundation that would allow me to work effectively with the three stakes as we later responded to a full-time mission call. Our training helped us find much success and rejoice in the wisdom of Heavenly Father as he works through those leaders he has called. Only Linda and I understand the profound eternal significance of the blessings that have come to us as a result of Heavenly Fathers intervention in our lives by provided training and direction. Therefore I formally express my appreciation to my Heavenly Father and to the Cardston Alberta West Stake Presidency as well as to high councilman, stake and ward leaders that I was privileged to serve with that had such a significant influence on my life and in turn the lives of others.

Let me reflect for moment on the strong personal characteristics of the Cardston West Stake Presidency as I saw them through my eyes. President Leavitt's strongest characteristic was patience. He always had enough time to listen in a relaxed and caring way. He wasn't concerned about what time the council meeting ended as long as everyone had a opportunity to express themselves. I remember when one of the high councilmen (one geared to administration efficiency) suggested that we should try to end our meetings on time as he had family responsibilities to take care of. This suggestion was graciously accepted and attempts were made to increase administrative efficiency; however we always knew if we really had something to say -- President Leavitt was ready to listen. I believe also that President Leavitt's patience allowed him to move forward with wisdom; waiting instinctive for direction from Heavenly Father to proceed. His wisdom and

desire to bless/influence the lives of others was expressed in acronyms; a reflection of his strong character and principle based life.

I believe the following summary of a talk given by President Atwood identifies two important characteristics of two great men

Encourage all to Foster Individual Righteousness Start Today!!

Come Unto Christ and put first things first in your lives

1. Give the first day of the week to the Lord by keeping the Sabbath Day Holy.
2. Make the scriptures the first thing you read each day.
3. Give our first tenth to the Lord - Live the Lords Law of Tithing.
4. Our first conversation of the day be personal prayer.
5. Put others first through service.
6. Put the temple first in our lives by attending the temple as frequently as our circumstances allow.
7. Endure to the end by faithfully living these firsts in our lives.

Promise given by Pres. Atwood Priesthood meeting Jan. 1999.

"Brethren, each of us could be Sam - who needs to put "First things first"--The Lord has sent us His servant President Leavitt to invite us to Come Unto Christ and be clean by doing seven things. We are not asked to wash seven times in the River Jordan, instead we are invited to observe seven firsts that will help us to put the things of the Lord first in our lives. If we accept this invitation with faithfulness, the Lord will heal us of the leprosy in our lives. We are all unclean before the Lord and need his healing influence in our lives.

My testimony and witness to you is that as you apply these simple but powerful principles in your lives, you will come nearer unto Christ and become more perfected in Him. You will have greater capacity to make and keep sacred covenants , have greater peace in your homes , greater obedience from your children, greater power over the adversary and greater strength to meet and overcome personal trials

May God bless us all to use these "firsts", and others that we feel impressed to add to this list, to improve our lives, to come unto Christ and be perfected in Him is my prayer!

Ferrin and Linda Leavitt

## Shane Phillips April 97 -

Dear Cardston Alberta West Stake Presidency:

Time sure flies when you're having fun. Like you, I sit and wonder where the time has gone. I'm sure that the road has felt long at times but you all have done a wonderful job in leading and directing this Stake of Zion. When I think of the standard we have set as a stake in this great church I think of each of you. We have achieved significant levels in Home Teaching, Visiting Teaching, Temple Attendance, Extraction and Family History Work, Missionaries in the field etc., etc., etc. The list could go on but my point is that these great achievements are a result of good people following great leaders. I am proud to have been associated with this great Stake for most of my life.

I have seen wonderful leaders come and go but none greater than you brethren. I have been with the High Council for about two and a half years and it has been one of the highlights of my life to associate with such fine people. You have strengthened me through your example and consistent efforts to choose the right in your callings and also in your personal lives. Your actions have spoken louder than your words and I appreciate the many acts of service and love that you have rendered not only to my family but to all of the members of this stake.

My memory is poor at the best of times, so I will not attempt to recall anything specific in my short tenure as a High Council Rep. I do want to express my love for each of you and my deepest appreciation for trusting me and treating me with such brotherhood. It has been an awesome experience to surround the council table with you to discuss the business of the stake and to receive advice, direction and testimony. I love each of you because you gave unselfishly of your time and talents and showed me how to be committed to the Lord and His Church. I feel very grateful to your families for sharing you with us and bearing the pressure that comes with leadership positions of this magnitude. May the Lord pour upon each of you His choicest blessings and give you the strength to keep the faith, spread the Word and endure to the end.

With Sincere Love and Gratitude

M. Shane Phillips

## **Ken Sommerfeldt Sept 97 -**

See Bishop Ken Sommerfeldt

## **Delbert Payne Sept 98 -**

See President Del Payne (Stake Presidency)

## **Mike Nelson Oct 98 -**

I joined the high council at the end of October 1998, about 1 year before your release, by replacing Rick West. Since that time I have moved only one seat to the right and so remain one of the newest on the council. Although our year together is not a long time I have learned much and have enjoyed my association with the presidency of the stake and the members of the high council. A more cordial group of men could hardly be found anywhere and I felt more than welcomed to this calling despite having initial reservations.

I have been impressed with your dedication to the Lord's work and have seen great efforts made to ensure that the stake moves along smoothly. All of the stake presidency and high council have made significant contributions and sacrifices of personal time to serve the Lord and build the cause of Zion.

Despite your demanding schedules the presidency has ever been cheerful and has never complained about the burden that obviously gets heavy at times. I admire your strength as well as the way you stay organized and hope to develop these characteristics myself in time. Perhaps working closely with others like you will help me to achieve this goal.

Something I enjoyed while you were a presidency was to get together with our wives a couple of times and have a social experience together. This helped to develop bonds of friendship more effectively than can be done in the high council room. I love my wife and enjoy involving her in my calling when I can. It is apparent from these social gatherings that you love your wives as well. This is nice to know.

I have appreciated how, like the Savior, the stake presidency never let business take precedence over people. Each of you was ever gracious and considerate of people and attempted to promote the well being of individuals and not programs. This is an important mark of leadership.

One example of this graciousness, which gave a special touch to some meetings, was the provision of a treat at the end. While many would suppose that the stake presidency and high council are all business it is nice to know

that there is a softer, human side as well. Somehow those occasional offerings cheered the soul and delivered a message of thoughtfulness that can't be accomplished with a "business only" operation.

I'm sure this release, after nearly 10 years, brings poignant feelings to the surface. No doubt there is a sense both of relief but also of loss. I pray the Lord's choicest blessings upon you for having served long and well and may he bless you soon with another field to plow.

Sincerely,  
Michael Nelson

## **Craig Carnell Dec 98 -**

I was called to serve on the High Council in December 1998 and was set apart in January 1999. In serving under the direction of President Leavitt for only a few months, I have come to appreciate the workings of a High Council and particularly the great example of leadership that the Stake presidency gives to us all. The two events that have had a lasting and memorable effect on me are the LDS Encampment and the Trek that I was privileged to be a part of. They have both been a great source of spiritual experience to me and have strengthened my testimony of the gospel and I appreciate the leadership and vision our stake has had in providing the means of strengthening our youth. For your countless hours of service and dedication I thank you. For your leadership and concern for the people of our stake I thank you. May the Lord bless you as have blessed the lives of so many.

CRAIG CARNELL

**Cardston Alberta West Stake Aux. Leaders**  
**April 1990 - October 1999**

**Relief Society**

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 .....

**Stake Sunday School**

Clark Hardy .....  
Tom Parkes .....  
Tom Mojowski .....  
Daryll Leavitt .....

**Stake Music**

Bill Simon .....  
Merlin Olsen .....

**Stake Canning Specialist**

Cheryl Smith .....

## Stake Aux. Leaders April 1990 - October 1999

### Relief Society

#### **Sister Joyce Gregson**

Called to Stake Relief Society in April of 1988 by Pres Brent Nielson  
Continued to work in this calling under Pres Cam Leavitt from April, 1990 to  
Oct, 1991

Special Stake Relief Society Leadership on May 10, 1990 entitled "Encircled  
By Love"

Guest Speakers were: Sister Clara Prete and Bro Noel Pilling Both great  
examples of tireless giving of themselves to friends and family. Bro Pilling was  
also our High Councillor, in charge of Relief Society.

"My Fair Lady" The theme of an 'All Stake' women's meeting. Our guest  
was Anita Canfield from Las Vegas, wife, mother, author, interior decorating  
business and faithful member of the church. We had booked her many months  
before and awaited her charm and expertise in building up the worth and  
self-esteem of the women of our stake.

The Cardston West Stake was in charge of the 'Beehive Clothing'  
distribution area. We felt so strongly that it filled a need in our area. Many  
people went there to shop for their children's, and their clothing. Also for  
materials for making quilts and other items of clothing. For household items,  
books, and some toys. We accepted only clean, folded, fairly up to date  
clothing. .We. Then refurbished this 'New To You' facility, by painting, building  
shelves, wall papering, sewing new curtains, and re-carpeting. We also put in  
new racks, and established a new and better pricing system and the rotating of  
clothing. The wards in our stake were given the assignment of making and  
donating quilts for the needy in our area. There were several homes burned  
around that time and these comfort blankets were put to good use.

Dean and I were assigned to help organize the hosting for the Temple  
Open House, to be held in June of 1991. We were working with Bro. & Sis  
Webb, and what a choice experience that was. The Stake RS was also asked to

be in charge of food for the numerous volunteers that were needed to make the Open House the great success that it was. We ended up making over 8000 hoagies, with the help of all the wards in the stake. There were so many spiritual experiences involved, both for members and non members as we visited the beautiful restored edifice that graces our town. A most spiritual and strengthening experience was the culmination of the week of the open house, when all the committee's were gathered in the Celestial room of the Temple, kneeling in prayer, thanking our Heavenly Father for this rich and blessed event that had increased our testimonies and brought us closer to our Savior.

We were asked to host one of the VIP groups that toured the temple before it was open to the public. One of the members was a George Brown, who hosted a Sunday Morning Musical Program over a Lethbridge radio station. He was very impressed and told us to listen the following Sunday morning to his program. He mentioned our names, and told much about the history that he had learned about the temple, its original construction, its dedication and its sacred purpose for the Latter Day Saints. He was indeed impressed by its majesty.

Dean was called as 2nd Councillor in the Temple Presidency, and so I knew that eventually meant my release from the Stake RS. I left that assignment feeling like I still had many things I wanted to accomplish, but life goes on to the next challenge and calling.

Pres Leavitt then asked me if I would consider the undertaking of re-decorating the high council office as well as his private office. It seemed an overwhelming assignment at first-but as I prayed and planned and then conferred with the Pres, it started to evolve into a semblance of order. Pictures were ordered, as well as statues, an oak corner cabinet, shelves and silk plants. My goal was to make it cozy - not feminine in design, but with a feeling that the Spirit would be invited in. On one wall, the pictures depicted the life of the Savior, from his birth to his ministry. A picture of Moroni, with humility and power, was included to show the power and influence and testimony of this great Book of Mormon prophet. Pres Leavitt's office included pictures and figurines relating to our temple, temple marriage, family, and following our prophet. A picture of the newly renovated temple, along with a picture of the First Presidency were a part of the decor, along with a statue of a young couple preparing for marriage.

This special calling, of Stake Relief Society president, in my life gave me so much growth, an increase in my testimony, and a greater love for the Savior and his Father. It always seems so interesting to me that in whatever capacity you are called to serve, doors are opened and the Spirit enters in, and you grow to fill the calling. I am thankful for the association with the members of the Stake Presidency, the high councillors in charge of the RS area, and especially those who so willingly served with me. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Sis Joyce Gregson

## **Deanna Hardy**

Deanna Jean Fairbanks Hardy - Stake Relief Society President 1991-1994 Councilors Marilyn Hardy, Dianna Pilling and Secretary Marlene Russell. Marlene Russell became counselor after the release of Sister Pilling and Ronda West was called as Secretary.

The Sesquicentennial was celebrated during this time and all wards in our Stake were asked to compile a Relief Society History to send to Salt Lake, and also to do one outstanding service project. The literacy program was implemented and brought a better knowledge of language and reading especially of the church publications and the scriptures to adults and children alike. We felt a great closeness to the sisters who served in ward presidencies, and appreciated the help of our Stake liaison High Councilors and Stake Presidency.

Our first event was a formal dance. Stake Homemaking Leadership's were held in October to help with the preparations of Christmas and to remind us all to keep Christ in Christmas. Preparedness goals were written into the Ward bulletins to encourage food storage. A reprinting of the Preparedness Manual was distributed to all Stake families. A Stake fireside on improving Relationships with guest speakers Dale and Renae Heyland presenting real life scenarios was well attended and enjoyed.

Sisters of the Stake sang in stake and regional conferences. Sister Okasaki of the General Board visited for a Regional conference held at the Sportsplex in Lethbridge. It was a thrill to be instructed by her and also to attend a temple session together. She was so warm and down to earth.

Cannery assignments blessed our presidency as we called on sisters to help in open houses, and to invite and encourage other faiths to participate with us there. Home and Ward visits along with visits to the sick at home and in hospital brought renewed love and sisterhood. Special times with the Ward Presidencies were sharing out testimonies together each year in our stewardship interviews

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest treasure one can possess and sisterhood in the Relief Society, as organized by the Prophet Joseph Smith blesses those who embrace it and participate in its many facets. It is an inspired program for women all over the world.

Sister Deanna Hardy

## **Theodora Pack**

Presidency October 1994 - October 1998

Four wonderful years! Four years mingling and working with some of the elect of the Cardston Alberta West Stake under the direction of President Cameron Leavitt. It was four years of spiritual, rewarding experiences that will be etched into each of our memories. We appreciated the cooperation and acceptance of the programs that we generated and the encouragement that we received to carry on. President Leavitt was ever prompting us with his enthusiasm and energy, which in turn gave us new intensity and insight as to what was needed for the sisters in our Stake. We were always searching for functions that would lift and build the sisters. Two in particular that we felt would help younger and sometimes less active sisters were the volleyball evenings and the Relief Society (youth day) slow pitch, that we had for them. These were well attended and met with enthusiasm. It was fun to have dad and the kids there to cheer mom on. The younger sisters were also anxious to attend our Women's Conferences and Women's Broadcast where they could mingle with the older sisters. These older sisters were such wonderful examples to all of us and we were moved by their strength and testimonies.

Since the closure of our own Cardston (D.I.) we felt there was a need for availability to exchange goods with other people.... goods such as clothing, household, or just toys. We planned and carried out a Clothing and Household Exchange. We were delighted to see people standing in line as we opened the doors of the Stake Center to begin our day. Wonderful examples of cooperation, unselfishness and dedication were displayed as we all worked and shared together. Our Stake Presidency, High Councilmen and their wives were well represented, as they helped us carry, organize, clean and serve. It was very gratifying to see the entire gym, stage, halls and most class rooms filled with toys, household supplies, dresses, blouses, jeans suits, coats, bicycles and even a wire fence. Many hands lightened the load and the day was filled with laughter and love. Little was wasted - When it was all over a local Hutterite Colony backed their 3 ton- truck up to the northeast door of the Stake Center and hauled all the extra away. We were indeed grateful that so many people benefitted.

President Leavitt had a vision for Humanitarian Services. He instigated and planned a Canning Marathon that was functional and very effective. All the Stakes in the Region were involved in the project at the Lethbridge Canning Center. . From Thursday night to Saturday afternoon - day and night food was prepared, placed into cans and the foods cooked. Many non-members were invited to attend and participate in this special event. Saturday at noon a tasters table was provided but the work was finished before the expected time. The Taster Table food was left over!.....President Leavitt, with a giving heart took the prepared food to the soup kitchen.

We were approached by the Hospital Auxiliary to assist in a quilt-making project. Under the direction of Lorraine Hull and Grace West we accepted the challenge. Working closely with them was indeed a pleasure and we realized the necessity of the project. Many of our seniors were cold...bedding supplied to them from the Chinook Health Region was inadequate. After visiting all the wards in the Stake we could feel of the support they also felt for our seniors. Each ward was given an assignment to prepare the quilts for a day of tying. Each ward was asked to knit, crochet, or quilt lap quilts for the seniors who were in wheel chairs or bed ridden. The response was unbelievable!! At the close of the afternoon we listened to the words of Sister Jack. Later that evening the Auxiliary ladies made a trip to the hospital and distributed approximately 80 quilts and 60 lap quilts. A walk through the Auxiliary a week later. confirmed that the sisters in our Stake had made a difference.

One leadership that stands out was held in the Card Home. We wanted

to impress the sisters that ours was a Worldwide Organization. Spiritually we were filled, the highlight being the testimonies from sisters from foreign countries. President Leavitt surprised us as we assembled together at the Stake Center to go to the Card home. Out the Stake President's Offices door sat the Dee Kenly travel bus waiting to transport all the Relief Society leaders to the Card Home. Our thoughtful, Stake President had time in his busy schedule to care, time to care enough to arrange this for us.

President Leavitt was always very supportive of our women's conferences. He, along with his counselors and high councilmen were often there to help serve the sisters and clean up after the event. If he was not able to be there he made arrangements with Brother Rick West to have the Priesthood take the tables and chairs down and do the clean up. This was always so appreciated at the end of a stressful but rewarding day.

It is with grateful hearts and humble spirits that we had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. This time was truly a great gift to each of us.

#### Sisters

Theodora Pack,  
Kami Smith,  
Patti Bevans and  
Shirlee Yuill

## **Karen Walker**

### **October 1998 - Present**

**President: Karen Walker**

**1st Counselor: Linda Stanford**

**2nd Counselor: Denise Skinner**

**Secretary: Vicky Olsen**

### **December 1998**

Missionary Dinner for Canada Calgary Missionaries A lovely turkey dinner was prepared, Temple Street Chapel set up and decorated, and then bad weather cancelled the evening. About a week later, President and Sister Leavitt hosted the missionaries at their home, with the Stake Relief Society helping to prepare some of the food again.

**1999 Cardston West Stake Theme: "Come Unto Christ by  
Putting First Things First in our Lives"**

**January 1999**

President Noel and Sister Sandy Pilling, along with Sister Karen Walker, visited each ward at their ward conference and spoke to the combined Priesthood and Relief Society. Our subject area was strengthening marriages and families.

**February 25, 1999**

Stake Relief Society Leadership

Presented a Reader's Theatre in opening exercises on the Stake Theme: "Come Unto Christ by Putting First Things First".

President Atwood and President Pilling were in attendance.

**February 28, 1999**

Special request from President Leavitt for Relief Society to present the Reader's Theatre again at Priesthood Leadership. Superb short-notice response by Ward Relief Society Presidents to come and participate in this presentation.

**March 1999**

Lori Bevans called as Sports Representative for Stake Relief Society. She has become a working member of our Board and participates in most activities and responsibilities, besides running an effective sports program.

**May 1, 1999**

"They That Are Wise" - Stake Relief Society Women's Conference

Guest Speaker: Brother Jack Stone (speaking on the parable of the 10 Virgins and putting oil in our lamps)

Relief society sisters encouraged to choose 3 of 5 sessions: "The Oil of Faith" (Sister Cheryl Davidsen), "The Oil of Peace" (Sister Joyce Gregson), "The Oil of the Heart" (Sister Lorraine Hartley), "The Oil of Knowledge and Truth" (Sister Connie Steed), "The Oil of Service" (Sister Karen Olsen)

Luncheon: Oil of Scone and Salad Bar

President Leavitt not only attended the opening session, he helped punch down bread dough in the kitchen before the Conference began.

### **September 15, 1999**

Quilts for Kosovo

A call from Church Headquarters for donated quilts to be sent to Kosovo was generously responded to by our stake with over 500 quilts being quilted or purchased, and given.

### **September 22, 1999**

Sister Karen Walker made a presentation to the Bishops and High Counselors at Bishopric Training for a possible "Project 2000" which would unite all families in the stake in an on-going year's service project. Discussion was heard; the decision to be made at a later date.

### **September 25, 1999**

General Relief Society Broadcast

Relief Society sisters attended a luncheon - beef dip, salads, and dessert - served by the Stake Relief Society Presidency and President Leavitt and President Atwood (with Sister Atwood helping as well). After an hour of **sociality** one with another, we moved into the chapel for the broadcast from Salt Lake.

There we received new direction for our Homemaking meetings for the year 2000; as well as being told we needed to "turn away from the world, ..... and come unto Christ. This is a call to arms, it's a call to action, a call to arise. A call to live as women of God so we and our families may return safely home."

### **President Cam Leavitt, President Jan Atwood, President Noel Pilling,**

Our calls to serve in the Stake Relief Society have been challenging as well as very rewarding. We want you to know how much we love and appreciate you. You have been there for us, and are always interested and concerned for the entire membership of Relief Society in our Stake. Thank you for your tremendous service. We pray the Lord will be with you always.

## Young Men

### **Peter Hague**

See High Council

### **Alan Klain:**

Cardston Alberta West Stake Presidency -

A Tribute from Alan Klain in behalf of the Stake Young Men's Presidency.

Since we moved from Calgary in July nine years ago, only months after the new Stake Presidency was called, we have only known one Stake Presidency to date - and it has been great! I was called to my position as Stake YM President three and a half years ago and have truly loved my calling - the best of any to date with out a doubt. One of the reasons it has been so enjoyable is due to the unconditional love and support we have received.

Although some of our ideas my have seemed a bit "racey" at times, we always felt that the Stake Presidency respected the fact that we were called and set apart to serve and we were entitled to inspiration within our callings. Even when we wanted direction we were always asked for our recommendations after which kind advice was given, correct principles were taught and usually we were left with the final decision. I do however remember a time when President Leavitt, always thinking of our Youth, provided inspired direction so that our Youth could enjoy Stake Youth Dances each month; this has been a blessing for Cardston. The Stake Presidency were the first to endorse our program with regards to the Mission of the Aaronic Priesthood which continues to be a guiding focus in all we do as Young Men's Leaders.

I remember a certain meeting behind closed doors at the High School - after a Basketball game of all things, to discuss the Missionary Preparation Handbook. I am sure the Presidency must have thought "why couldn't we have called someone who would just go along quietly with the Program as it has been set out?" However, true to form these men said in effect "we are an extra ordinary Stake and we are expected to do extra ordinary things" and the Program was approved.

We as a Stake have taken the charge by our Prophet seriously to better

prepare our Young Men for missions and "The Missionary Preparation Handbook" has not only helped Young Men in this Stake but parents as well - thank God for inspired and supportive Stake Presidencies! The Stake Appreciation Nights were very much appreciated by all of us, the Stake YM Standards nights are not "standard" in every Stake and it would be safe to say that this Stake - the Cardston Alberta West Stake - is not "standard" and this Stake Presidency; Cam Leavitt, Jan Atwood and Noel Pilling along with their associates are "extra ordinary men" doing an extra ordinary work - well done men! There is one good thing about their release - they will still be in our great Stake blessing our lives in future callings.

Their firm conviction and testimony, dedication to the Gospel, good example and simple kindness will always be noticed; even their very presence provides the assurance that we are amongst good company in this Stake. So from the Young Men and "old men" we tip our ball hats, our Scout hats and offer our salute saying "well done, well done - thank you and may God bless you and your families for your sacrifice and service!" With Love, your brothers in the Gospel,

Alan Klain,  
Terrell Skinner &  
Don Nelson

## Young Women

### **Karen Olsen**

Dear President's Leavitt, Atwood and Pilling;

Thank you for serving our Heavenly Father in such a loving, caring and spiritual way. With your sweet wives at your side supporting and helping you in every way you have been a light to all of us, serving with energy, vitality and unity.

When I was called to serve as stake young women's president from 1990 to 1994 the first words my charming daughters Jennifer and Kimberly said were "We don't want any boring speakers." The Lord blessed me with creative and talented councilors Sharon Wood and Gayla Holt and secretary Stephanie Dixie. We felt that Jen and Kim's suggestion represented the youth so we adopted that as our motto.

Our first standard night was "The Temple Skit." With over 700 youth and their parents in attendance we darkened the building, a great way to promote reverence, then through dramatization we felt we taught the importance of temple marriage. The YM Presidency was helping us with all of the physical facilities, props, lightening and the sound system. A few minutes before the production was to start the sound quit. Paul Sloan with his expertise was able to find the faulty wire and repair it. It was a miracle! This was in preparation for the open house and rededication of the temple the following year. I was impressed most by the way you involved and included all of the members in the temple district that wanted to give service for this event. This took extra time and energy but showed how you cared for the "one". All of the youth in the stake wanted to serve and were able to assemble booklets for the town, help with parking, and put on booties over street shoes. The YW assisted in the MLA banquet by decorating and serving at a dinner in their honor. It was the largest delegate of MLA's ever to meet outside of Edmonton for an occasion. In attendance were Apostle Ballard and Premier Getty. I remember Apostle Ballard telling Premier Getty that he could be a forever family if they were to be sealed in the temple.

As a culmination to the Open House it was an honor for us to host a Cardston Bi -Stake Young Womens Fireside with Guest Speaker Sister Ardith G. Kapp, the Young Women General President. She was detained at another engagement so we sang hymns while waiting for her. This invited the spirit into the meeting and as she walked up the isle many tears were shed from the spirit that she brought with her. As she is from this area our hearts were touched with her message and her love for each of the young women and the love she has for the Savior. It was a spiritual climax after a glorious week.

The following year Sharon Wood directed the standard night "The Greatest Treasure", taken from "My Turn on Earth". The Sunday it was to be presented we had a huge snow storm, the world series was on and it was chilly. We were debating whether to cancel it or not but we decided to go ahead with it. Again the building was full to capacity and the play was worth it. We felt it was a tribute to the members for their faithfulness and for the parents to show how much they care for their youth. It was so well presented that after, many youth expressed a desire to be in a production. Almost instantly Gayla Holt was inspired to suggest road shows for the following year using "For the Strength of Youth" booklet as the theme. The wards responded enthusiastically to this. For almost a year, seven wards prepared, then presented road shows based on a topic from the booklet. These young actors and actresses applied the Lords standards to a variety of real life situations involving dating, speech, dress, music and dance. This was a such a huge success that we presented it on two different nights to accommodate 1700 people that attended the performances. I liked the way you as a Presidency wanted to be involved as you presented commercials using acronyms and involving the youth. We felt the standards of the church were taught with creativity and originality and the message was clear that righteousness brings happiness.

Debbie Zemp, our sports and camp director organized a winter camp called "Promised Valley Camp" at Badger Valley. The wind blew so hard we thought the tents were going to end up in Spring Coulee. It was a bit cozy with almost 200 girls and leaders and belongings all together but was fun. We organized youth days, stake dances, world - wide celebrations, and leadership's. As we visited the wards New Beginnings and Young Women in Excellence we were always impressed with the righteous leaders.

This was a growing experience for me. When President Leavitt set me apart he told me to go forth, so we did. I knew that I could choose anyone from the stake to work with and the Lord gave me the best. With Sharon's creativity, Gayla's gift for speaking, Stephanie's expertise and help with everything, and Debbie's love for camping and sports we were a great team. Peter Hague was YM's President and with his councilors we worked harmoniously. It was a privilege to work with President Atwood, to feel of his love for the gospel and we appreciated his encouragement, counsel and spiritual thoughts. Brother Doig and Brother Bridge were the high councilors we served with and we felt they encouraged us and lifted us. I felt the Lord blessed me above my own abilities and that we served our best.

I always felt you had a special love for the youth and cared about each one individually. We knew you cared about each of our children. Thank you for the service that you have given and the love that you have for each one of us and our Heavenly Father.

Sincerely,  
Karen Olsen

## **Audrey Nelson**

STAKE YOUNG WOMENS PRESIDENCY-NOV 1994 OCT 1998

President- Audrey Nelson

Secretary- Melanie Easthope-1995 - 96

1st Councillor- Karen Heninger

Secretary- Jean Wilson- 1996-98

2nd Councillor-Darla Jensen

Sports' Camp Jean Wilson- 1995 - 96

Sports+ Camp- Peggy Blackmore-1996 - 98

What a blessing it was to work with the youth of the Cardston West Stake for four years. We loved them and appreciated the opportunity to grow from our experiences. President Jan Atwood was our Stake Presidency member for the entire time and we grew to love & respect him very much. We also had the opportunity of serving under three High Councillors- Bro. John Bridge, Bro. Mike Redford & Bro. Ken Sommerfeldt. Brother Bridge & Brother Redford left us to become Bishops of their wards & we teasingly told Bro. Sommerfeldt that since he had already been a bishop, we were training him to be the next Stake President.

We began our callings at a very exciting & busy time. Plans had just begun for TREK. Countless hours were spent in the planning stages with Brother Richard Anderson & the Stake Young Mens Presidency. We had wonderful support from the Stake Presidency & the individual Wards. As the time for Trek grew close, we could see we had large numbers participating- 15 Families with an average of 16 children in each. It was great fun to pick out OUR route & camping area. The night before Trek '95 it poured. Pres. Leavitt phoned to see if we should cancel- No Way!!- After much thought & prayer, we ended up postponing for one day. We could no longer go to our original campsite as the rain had washed it out in so many places. The Young Mens Presidency were able to locate another suitable place on Albert Nelsons' land in Mountain View and literally with the help of many volunteers, carved out Trek Sites as the families were walking in. We were pioneers in every sense of the word. What a testimony building time it was for each of us as we learned to rely on each other & the Lord. We were able to carry out almost every event that had been scheduled even though we had one less day. Our youth bore strong testimonies late into the rainy night and our Sunday Service was so special. One highlight of that meeting was the special blessing President

Leavitt gave the youth. As families trekked out Monday, life long friendships had been formed, testimonies had grown by leaps & bounds and we all felt truly blessed by the hand of the Lord.

1994 - 95 was also an exciting year in many other ways. There was a Worldwide Young Women's Theme entitled "Experiment Upon the Word" taken from Alma 32:37. The girls were encouraged to get to know their Savior better by planting a seed of desire within themselves & nurturing it daily. Each year our girls participated in Stake Volleyball, Basketball and Youth Day...weather permitting They also looked forward to Standard Nights scheduled the Sunday after high school grad. The tradition of padded white hangers for the graduating girls was started. These hangers along with the poem "4 One White Hanger" were to remind them of their goal of being worthy of a Temple Marriage. It has been great to see many of the girls use these hangers for their wedding gowns.

The theme of our Standard Night in 1995 was "The Women You'll Be Someday" and featured Pres. Leavitt's mother as our woman to exemplify. The yearly events of New Beginnings & Young Women in Excellence were always a treat for us as a Stake Young Women Presidency. They allowed us to visit the wards & get to know the girls & their leaders & experience firsthand their talents. The CWS hosted the Priest- Laurel Conference in 1996. The UFO Theme was a great success and the youth were taught in many areas to be United in Faith & Obedience." This was also the year that changes were made to our Stake Dance format.

Our dances had been poorly attended in the past with an average of 30 - 50 youth. A new dress standard of "Dressy Casual" was implemented and the numbers soared to 200 and more on a regular basis. The Churchwide Theme of Faith in Every Footstep - was used in Young Women in 1997 and complimented the YW Theme of "Learn of Me." Our Standard Night took on a new look as well in the form of a fashion show entitled U Pattern Your Life After Christ featuring the modest designs of LDS designer Denise Hogue. The models for the show were young women from our stake & they had a very unique experience. This was also a Stake Camp year and Jackie Paulson & Cindy Schow wrote the theme song for the camp entitled "Soar to Greater Heights." Sister Peggy Blackmore did a wonderful job of organizing things for Camp Impessa and the only casualty was a cast on the leg of the Stake Young Women President!

Another Worldwide Celebration took place in 1998 with the theme of

Turning the Hearts to the Family." Activities this year took on new dimensions as we tried to involve the mothers in many of our stake activities especially the sports end of things. The General Young Women Broadcast this year was preceded by a luncheon for mothers & daughters at the CWS as was directed by a letter from Pres. Boyd K. Packer asking us to make this a worthwhile Stake Event. It was very rewarding to have over 200 in attendance at this special night. Standard Night this year featured the Young Adults in a hilarious skit called "Choose You This Day." The choices of good versus evil were portrayed by devils & angels in a way the youth really related to.

What an inspired program the Personal Progress Book is for our girls! As they work on 14 goals a year they grow in ways that no other program could help them to grow. It has been such a privilege to work with the Young Women of the Cardston West Stake. We were released at Stake Conference in October with tearfull but grateful hearts for the opportunities that had been ours. We express our gratitude to Pres. Leavitt, Pres. Atwood and Pres. Pilling for their years of service and for the support we always felt from them. May the Lord bless them In their new endeavors!!!

Here is the essence of the blessing given by President Leavitt to the Cardston West Stake Trek youth July 23,1995 in the beautiful Rocky Mountains near Mountain View.

The youth were unitedly blessed that the Trek experience would be a rich blessing in their lives from which they could draw from to give them strength to live the commandments. They were blessed that their goals would be as firm as the mountains and that they would be steadfast in the gospel and from this experience have added strength and desire to be honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous and in doing good to all men.

From the Trek experience President Leavitt blessed the youth that they would more fully understand the atoning sacrifice of the Savior and that they would learn to respect,love and honor themselves,their parents and all they meet. They were blessed that they would know no such word as "failure" and that Trek would give them an experience that would harden their resolve for righteousness.

The youth were blessed finally that they might draw close to the Savior and make Him their friend and guide as they trek through life and that through Him they might know and learn obedience to gospel principles.

**\*\*\*Given with much love, President R.Cam Leavitt**

# Janice West

## Young Women Stake History

Submitted October 1999 by Janice West

Our Young Women Presidency was called October 1998. President Cam Leavitt and President Noel Pilling issued my call and it was a spiritual experience to choose councillors to serve with me. Sisters Denise Bevans, Pat Walton, Lori Nay, and Debbie Carnell have served with me for the past year. We have felt blessed to be able to serve with President Jan Atwood in the Youth Program. President Atwood has counseled us each month at our committee meetings and we have learned from his wisdom and spirit. We have appreciated the Stake Presidency's support in the Young Women's program. They have encouraged us to do whatever we could to build the youth of the Cardston Alberta West Stake.

It has been a delight to visit the youth of each Ward during their Ward Conferences and also learn from President Atwood and his wife as they shared their testimonies and their genuine love for our youth. They set a goal together to learn the Young Women's Theme as well as the Mission of the Aaronic Priesthood and they did it. We have felt the strength of the youth at Young Women in Excellence Nights, New Beginnings, sports activities and Stake Dances. One of our main focuses has been the ***For the Strength of Youth*** pamphlet. There is power in it when the youth catch the vision and live its' teachings. We focused our Stake Standard Night on the ***For the Strength of Youth*** pamphlet. The youth shared experiences of others in each area and then songs were sung by the wards to further emphasize the standards. It was our hope and prayer that each youth would feel our Heavenly Father's love for them in inspiring this wonderful guide and that they in turn would have the desire and courage to live the standards set out for them.

Our Youth Day was rained out! (again) We needed the rain so it was a blessing to the farmers and the youth still were able to have a fun time dancing Saturday evening. We are in the midst of planning for our Youth Conference to be held June 30 - July 3, 2000. It is entitled, **MORONI'S QUEST** and we are thrilled with this program. Brother Randy and Sister Rose Janisko have been called as Quest specialists and we have been thrilled with the enthusiasm of them and of our Stake Presidency for this program to go forth. This event takes the youth, puts them in Book of Mormon-type clothing and gives them

four days of Book of Mormon experiences - yes even wars using Nerf-type swords and shields.. We are excited about the testimonies that will be strengthened during this event. The youth will be challenged to read The Book of Mormon prior to June 30 and it will be carried with them at all times during their Quest. Our goal is that each youth will have a stronger desire to COME UNTO CHRIST because of their experiences and feelings during these four days.

Bro. Ken Sommerfeldt has been the High Councilman serving with us and we have gained a testimony of the value of having him at our meetings. He has helped us stay focused with our agendas and has shared insights when we needed them. We have felt of his support and encouragement in the Young Women's Program as he volunteers to do whatever we have needed done. Communicating our needs to the Stake Presidency has been so easy through Bro. Sommerfeldt and we greatly appreciate him.

I have loved serving in this capacity in the Young Women's Program. I know that it is inspired of our Heavenly Father and that the young women can come closer to their Father in Heaven as they strive each day to achieve the goals that they set in the Personal Progress Program. The values that the girls and their leaders are challenged to live will make each of us better people as we make the effort to grow. I have felt my Heavenly Father's hand as he has guided us to help the young women to achieve all they can. I know we are led by a prophet of God. President Hinckley loves each of us and wants us to be happy just as our Heavenly Father wants. It is up to us to live our lives so that we can receive all the joy and blessings available. We have so much to be grateful for. I am extremely grateful for my opportunity to serve in the Young Women's Program. I know what we are doing is what should happen at this time and I thank my Heavenly Father for the inspiration we are given to further His work. We are blessed to have great Ward leaders who work closely with the Young Women. I am grateful that my family has been supportive and encouraging. I love being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and will continue to serve wherever I am called.

Sister Janice West

## Primary

### **Joanne Broadhead**

Submitted by: Sis Joanne Broadhead.

I had the privilege of serving under two Stake Presidencies.

The initial call was issued under President Nielson. Having just recently moved into the community - I was very much in need of inspiration in presenting names for councilors. I had many spiritual experiences in choosing these sisters. One name simply would not leave my mind, another name I took to the temple in fasting and prayer. On leaving the temple, I could not even remember the name.

All wards were working well, thanks to the strong leadership of Sister Paulson, of whom I had the privilege of following. I enjoyed the opportunity of reporting my stewardship in High Council and hearing the returning missionaries report. They were a witness of the importance of Primary and the power of personal testimony of the teachers and the power of music in teaching gospel principles. I enjoyed visiting the wards and feeling the unique differences in each.

Seeing people serve inspite of limitations and personal challenges was a testimony to me of a tender, loving Heavenly Father who wants us to succeed. My time and emphasis were largely spent on the scouting program. I was troubled for the children who could not enjoy the songs about a happy family.

PRESIDENT: JOANNE BROADHEAD

COUNSELORS: WANDA KOLIBAR  
LORNA UIBEL  
GENIEL CAMERON

SECRETARY: JUNE PARKES  
MUSIC--- MARILYN HARDY

INSERVICE DIANA PILLING, DAVEEDA WEST, LORRAINE BEVANS  
NURSERY GAYLA HOLT

PRIESTHOOD ADVISORS: CURT PILLING, JIM SCHAFFER

# Jeanette Sommerfeldt

## HISTORY OF STAKE PRIMARY

October 1990 - October 1996

It doesn't seem that long ago that my husband {Glen} answered the phone one evening and on the other end was one of the Stake Presidency asking if they could stop by our house with in the hour. Glen proceeded to tell me they were coming to see me, but I was sure they were coming to see him. We bantered this around for awhile, then finally, Glen got my attention by saying, "You'd better comb your hair because they are coming to see you."

A short time later, the doorbell rang and our home was blessed with Priesthood power; President Cam Leavitt, President Jan Atwood, President Delbert Payne and Brother John Bridge, high councillor over the Primary. These men had indeed come to see me and I was totally humbled by what they asked me to do. The call to be Stake Primary President was extended. I felt totally inadequate. I told them I had never been a President before. President Leavitt said "Neither had he, and it was not a prerequisite". I felt the call to be overwhelming and tears came easily when they left. Little did I know that six years later I would shed tears again as I was released from a position I had dearly grown to love:

- \* A position that was Challenging
- \* A position that offered many and varied experiences
- \* A position that made me stretch
- \* A position that made us laugh and cry
- \* A position through which my testimony grew.

I felt gratitude in my heart for a Stake Presidency who had called me under the direction of the Holy Spirit. It truly was six years of joyous, loving service, and I am so thankful for the privilege of this experience. I will be eternally grateful.

I had never chosen councillors before and I was very worried, But I was blessed, through prayer, to choose special and capable ladies to help me. I dearly love them as my sisters and I am so thankful for them; They each had very special talents:

- \* Linda Jacobs --- 1st Councillor

- \* Rose Janisko --- 2nd Councillor  
(Was released after one year when her husband Randy was called to be Bishop of Leavitt.)
- \* Beverly Hansen --- 2nd Councillor
- \* Carol King --- Secretary *KAY RODGERS*
- \* Suzanne (Gladstone) Johansen --- Music Director  
(Was released when she moved to Cardston Alberta Stake)
- \* Joyce Pontarollo --- Music Director
- \* Lorraine Bevans --- Inservice Leader and later Nursery Leader when Inservice was discontinued.

The objective and purpose of Primary is to teach the children the gospel of Jesus Christ and do what is best for the children. {Primary Hand Book} As we held leaderships meetings and visited the wards this was always a priority.

Some of the things we accomplished and Participated in:

- \* Rededication of the Alberta Temple  
{Specifically Nursery at Temple Street Church}
- \* Framed Primary Poster "I am a Child of God" "My Gospel Standards"  
For: -President Leavitt's office, and one for every Bishops' office in the Cardston West Stake.
- \* Each child in the Stake received a laminated bookmark of the "I am a Child of God" "My Gospel Standards" poster.
- \* Commenced an annual 11 yr. old B.P. Woodsman Camp
- \* Initiated an annual Achievement Day for the girls 8 - 11 years.
- \* Made visits to the Waterton Branch every summer
- \* 8th Ward was born -- We conducted their first Primary
- \* New Primary Manuals were Printed (Salt Lake) All old manuals were discontinued.
- \* At one point all the People who needed training were trained: cub leaders and Primary councilors over Cubs, 11-yr old Scout leaders and primary Presidents.
- \* A Board Member visited every ward every month
- \* Cub Scout Packs and 11 yr old Scout groups were visited often.
- \* Annual visits to every ward for Primary Presentations

Music is an important part of primary. We feel the spirit so many times as the children sing. You can almost feel angels among us. So many teachings are learned through beautiful music.

May I share my thoughts of Our Saviour in the words of the sweet song "I Feel my Saviour's Love"

I feel my Savior's love; In all the world around me.  
His spirit warms my soul through everything I see.

I feel my Savior's love; Its gentleness enfolds me,  
And when I kneel to pray, My heart is filled with peace.

I feel my Savior's love and know that he will bless me.  
I offer him my heart; My Shepherd he will be.

I'll share my Savior's love, By serving others freely,  
In serving I am blessed. In giving I receive.

He knows I will follow him, Give all my life to him.  
I feel my Savior's love, the love he freely gives me.

I have felt my Saviors love through service in Primary.

Jeannette Sommerfeldt

## **Cathy Schaffer**

As I reflect back on the past three years as we have been serving as the Stake Primary of the Cardston Alberta West Stake, under the direction of our Stake Presidency, I marvel at the hand of the Lord in directing my Presidency as we fulfill our callings. I was so overwhelmed by this call and couldn't understand why I was to be in this position. As we held our first few presidency meetings, I could clearly see why I was inspired to call these sisters who I currently now serve with. We are blessed to have complete unity and harmony in our presidency, which I attribute to attending the temple each month as a presidency.

I strongly believe one of the reasons we were called to serve at this time was to help implement the Achievement Days Program in our Stake. The Achievement Days Program has only been in affect since January of 1995. There was only one page of guidelines given from Salt Lake for this program. The guidelines stated, "Stake Leaders could be a resource to help establish recognition procedures." The Wards were struggling with this new program directive for the eight through eleven year old girls.

As we met together as a presidency, inspiration came and we new the direction that needed to be taken for our Stake. We are so grateful for the support of our Stake Presidency.

It has been exciting to see the Wards catch the vision of the Achievement Days Program; the girls of our Stake are having wonderful experiences as they participate in wholesome activities, share new friendships, and have the opportunity to serve. Wonderful things have and are happening as the Wards carry out this program for our young girls.

As we have served these last three years, I have gained a great love for Primary and for the sisters I serve with. I have gained a strong testimony of the important role Primary plays in our children's lives as they start to develop their testimonies. I am so very grateful for this opportunity to serve in this capacity and for the love I feel from my Heavenly Father.

Cathy Schaffer  
Stake Primary

## **Stake Mission**

### **Paul Doig**

See Paul Doig: High Council

### **Mark Wood**

Newly Sustained at Oct 99 Stake Conference

## **Stake Sunday School**

### **Tom Mojowski**

During this time, the Stake Sunday School Presidency consisted of Brother Tom Moojalsky as President, Brother Grant Webster 1st. Counsellor, and Brother Bryce Hansen as 2nd Counsellor, with Sister Lois Webster as Secretary.

At the time we were called, Pres. Delbert Payne was the member of the Stake Presidency presiding over the Sunday School, and Brother Wayne Jensen was the High Councillor working with us. He was released shortly thereafter, and Brother Noel Pilling served as our High Councillor until he called to serve in the Stake Presidency at which time Brother Rick West became our Advisor.

The Stake Presidency challenged us to improve the quality of teaching in the Sunday School program. To this end, we visited the wards on a regular basis. We also held regular training seminars - emphasizing the use of the "Teaching: No Greater Call" manual. Ward Sunday School Presidents were encouraged to use it in their Ward Inservice meetings. We enjoyed the opportunity of meeting and working with the brethren who served in the wards.

We as a presidency appreciated the privilege of working under the direction of President Leavitt and his counsellors. We were grateful for the support and encouragement we received during the time we served in the Stake Sunday School Presidency.

## Daryll Leavitt

October 6, 1999

My stewardship as Stake Sunday president began in November of 1987 while President Nielson was still Stake President. I was actually called by President Cahoon who was at the time 1st Councilor.

My relationship in this stewardship began with President Leavitt in 1988 when he was called as a councilor to President Nielson.

When President Leavitt was called to be the new Stake President in the spring of 1990 my presidency was changed as brother Ross Ash who was one of my councilors was called as the ward clerk of 1st Ward with the new bishop, Blaine Bunnage.

At that time, the men that worked with me were Max Oertli, Rod Beazer and Richard Anderson as my secretary. As I remember President Leavitt stirred a renewed determination in our group to try to do a better job.

High-lites:

Auxilliary Training Seminars- It's hard to call these high-lites as they were poorly attended, of course not by us, but by most of the other Auxiliaries. I remember struggling through these for three years until they were canceled in, I believe 1991, or maybe I quit going. If President Leavitt had anything to do with that. I thank him greatly.

Quarterly Stake Council- These meetings were for the most part very uplifting, spiritual and interesting. For some reason though, I had a hard time remembering to go to the mid-summer one, and maybe one or two others until I got a phone call from the executive secretary 10 minutes after I was supposed to be there. Of course, I would have nothing prepared and I remember the first time, I forgot, being somewhat nervous about what I was going to say when it was my time to report my stewardship. Those fears were soon forgotten as I had plenty of time to prepare while others gave their reports. Reports were only supposed to be for five minutes, but some of the Auxiliary leaders would get carried away with a history of good and bad

things that had happened during the past three months. I got the impression that President Leavitt wished at times that he had a trap door or an ejection button. I would never mention names of leaders who used too much time, but I do remember that Brother Hague, the Young Men's president sure had a vivid recollection of events that affected his stewardship.

Stake Sunday School Inservice- I remember these inservice meetings to being quite frustrating. Many hours were spent in calling specialists and preparing material only to find a very small group show up to learn how to become more effective teachers. Two specialists that stand out to me as being excellent, were Diana Pilling and Lonny Leavitt. All of the specialists we called were very well prepared and it seemed such a waste to have less than 25 percent of the teachers show up. I think the Church have canceled Stake Inservice now as well. Did you have anything to do with that, President Leavitt?

Re-Dedication of the Alberta Temple- My recollection of this experience is only related to my stewardship. This was a personal and family high-lite. I believe President Leavitt felt it was important for all of his auxiliary leaders to have the opportunity to view the dedication in the Celestial Room with President Hinckley and President Monson. This experience will long be remembered. To be so near two members of the First Presidency in such a sacred place for this sacred event was wonderful.

I was released in August of 1992 when the wards were split and I lost Max Oertli to the 1st Ward Bishopric.

In conclusion, I am thankful for the opportunity that I had to serve as Stake Sunday School president under the direction of President R. Cameron Leavitt. I love him and respect him for the life he has led and for his example and dedication to his calling. I will miss that presence in our family. I pray for nothing but the best for him in the future.

Daryll L. Leavitt

## **Clarke Hardy**

Our assignment in the Stake Sunday School, 97, 98, 99, was paralleled by great talks on teaching from the brethren at general conferences during this same time period. Elder Packer, Elder Holland, and Elder Oaks each placed great emphasis on the importance of quality teaching and teaching by the spirit in all areas of the church whether in leadership training or in classrooms. As we have met with Sunday School leaders in all the wards, visited classes, or spoken to congregations we have emphasized these same principles. We have also strived to give all Sunday School workers the vision of reaching out and touching lives each Sunday as they are guided by the spirit to do so. We have observed many wonderful teachers in our stake who in fact do have this vision and are leading classes where the spirit is indeed touching people and changing lives. We appreciate the opportunity we have had to serve under President Leavitt, President Atwood. and President Pilling, and have felt their support in our callings. Thank you for the experience and times shared together.

Clark L. Hardy

Stake Sunday School President

Councilors: Lonny Lockhart, Wade Sillito.

## **Stake Music**

### **Bill Simon**

#### **An Overview of Stake Music during President Leavitt's Administration**

President Leavitt has a great love for music and is aware of the marvellous impact it can have upon the hearts of the saints. His love of music coupled with his love and concern for the youth of the church was a motivating factor in the formation of a Stake Youth Chorus for many of the Stake Conferences during his administration.

Although the chorus was immediately disbanded following each conference, the youth in our stake enjoyed the opportunity to assemble and sing for a

variety of events in our community. The West Cardston Stake Youth Chorus attracted a number of nonmember youth as well as a few of the Cardston Stake Youth and none was turned away. In fact, difficulties arose because of the large number of youth who wished to sing when there were not enough chairs in the choir loft to accommodate them. Pres. Leavitt made sure that additional seats in the front of the congregation and on the stand were in place so all could participate.

The Youth Chorus sang at five general stake conference sessions, five youth sessions of conference, three Rotary Christmas Carol Festivals, one missionary farewell (Elder D.J. Scott-a former member of the Youth Chorus, and one funeral (Bro. Jason Murray, a former member of the Youth Chorus).

Priesthood and Relief Society Choirs were organized under the direction of Bros. Arnold Pitcher and Ray Payne and Sister Mary Lou Nelson.

President Leavitt also encouraged Ward Choirs to strengthen and enlarge their numbers for participation in Stake Conferences. Every ward was given the opportunity to perform in Stake Conference and every bishop followed Pres. Leavitt's counsel to organize ward choirs. The directors of the Ward Choirs were Bro. Randy Meyers, Sister Marcene Pontarollo, Sister Lynda (McMurray) Olsen, Sister Daveeda West, Sister Mary Lou Nelson, and Bro. Bill Simon

In 1995, I approached President Leavitt about a concern I had with some of our Stake High Councillors who were out visiting wards but not participating in the hymns as they were being sung during our meetings. Sure enough during our next Stake Priesthood

Leadership Meeting, Pres. Leavitt spoke about the impact and effect the hymns of Zion have upon the church membership. He told every priesthood holder that the hymns of the church are a prayer and we are given a glorious opportunity to share our testimonies by singing in full voice the songs of praise as we meet. From that time forward our Stake and Ward Leaders all participate in song and add to the spirit of our meetings in song and I have felt a great feeling of unity and devotion to our Heavenly Father amongst our priesthood.

It was indeed a great blessing to work with President Leavitt and Bro. Rick West in fulfilling my calling as Stake Music Chairman from spring of 1991 to the spring of 1999. Bro. Mel Pitcher preceded me and Bro. Merlin Olsen holds the position presently.

## **Cheryl Smith Stake Canning Specialist**

Thank-you for the opportunity to say how grateful I am to President Leavitt and his Counselors for the support and encouragement they gave to me as Stake Canning Specialist. I was asked by President Leavitt in 1995 and worked in that position until 1999. There was one brief paragraph in the Handbook that mentioned the name of Stake Canning Specialist, but no mention was given as to what meetings I was to attend, or when to report my Stewardship. At this same time, President Leavitt, during a Stake Conference, asked us to magnify our callings and to be more physically prepared for the times ahead. The possibilities of how to do this was endless. President Leavitt recieved stewardship over the Cannery in Lethbridge about this time.

When I was called there were only a few wards in the West Stake who had active Ward Canning Specialists, and we did a few Stake Family Canning projects as a stake.

With the support of the High council we soon had an active Ward Canning Specialist in each ward. Family canning projects on a stake bases became a monthly activity. The Youth in many wards began to go to the cannery to do dry pack canning for their ward members on a quarterly bases. Members also remembered to care for those in need and we had better response to Bishop Storehouse assignments.

We realized that a church calling should include a time to give an accounting of your stewardship, so the Bishops were encouraged to include the Canning Specialist in the Ward Welfare meeting, to help meet the needs of the families by reporting what products were going to be canned in the near future and let me know if a specific product was needed to help supplement a family's storage. The Ward canning Specialist became more visible in the ward by once a month relaying messages of encouragement and information on how to increase their personal family storage.

On a Regional bases, President Leavitt leading the way, planned and implemented Annual Regional Humanitarian Canning Marathons that included all the Stakes of the area, and ran over three days around the clock at the Lethbridge Cannery. The Marathon helped to unite the Region to a common purpose and goal. Food produced from the marathon was donated to the local food banks. Groups got a taste of helping some of God's children in need but not of our faith. Groups began on a smaller bases, to run their own humanitarian projects.

Another benefit that came as a result of this planning was that the Stake Canning Specialist's got to know each other, find out how each was trying to fulfill their callings, and to plan family canning days for a wider range of products. By 1999, most Stakes in the Region had their own calendars, and getting monthly time at the cannery was difficult.

The Cardston West Stake Presidency had great vision and leadership of getting the families motivated to build up their food storage before the millennial scare was acknowledged by the public at large. They had their chance to follow the church counsel, (since the days of Adam) to get in their years supplies before the prices went up and time got short at the cannery. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to receive and magnify this calling, and to gain a greater knowledge of the Lord's welfare program, and to work with a group of men who were not merely sayers but doers of the Word. Remember: *USE WHAT YOU STORE AND STORE WHAT YOU USE.* Thank-you again for supporting me --

Cheryl R. Smith, Stake Canning Specialist.