

STEPHEN KENNETH CHAPMAN
Autobiography

I started writing my autobiography when I was in Junior Sunday School as the first three paragraphs suggest. I transcribed these notes from my book of remembrance.

I was born in the L. D. S. Hospital in Salt Lake City. My home is in the South part of the city, No. 34 East Truman Avenue (2330 South). I have completed the 6 grades of school all of them in Madison Elementary. Madison was located on State Street about 2500 South but has been torn down and replaced with a Kentucky Fried Chicken store, a Motel and South Salt Lake City Offices.

I started to go to Sunday School when I was about 3 years old in Burton Ward and I have lived in the same ward all the time because it is just on the next street south of my home. The old Burton Ward was also torn down and replaced with a ward on 2700 South and Main Street. On Jan. 6, 1957 I graduated from primary.

I started in dancing school when I was 4 years old. My teacher was Ralph Cannon. Later on I had about 2 years instruction from Marilyn Ford Duffin. Later I continued tap dance and started ballet lessons from Jean Renee. I also had dance instruction from other teachers, but these are the main teachers. I performed on many programs for different wards, churches, organizations, and places like Lagoon and Salt Air. Upon graduation from high school, because of my interest in the performing arts and having a real desire to be in show business, I entered the University of Utah in the College of Fine Arts. I studied ballet, folk dancing, ballroom dancing, theatre, pantomime, stage design, costuming, makeup and other related subjects. During junior high and high school I took extension courses at the University in ballet. During this time I performed in "Destry Rides Again," "Tannhauser," "West Side Story," "Aida," "Ring Around the Moon," "Swan Lake," "Nutcracker," "La Valse," and many other ballets, plays, and musicals. I never did reach my professional desires because of various circumstances and disillusionments.

After investigating various other fields, including elementary education, sociology, psychology, and bacteriology, I found that I was nearest to obtaining a degree in Community Health.

Graduating and getting a degree built up my confidence and self-esteem to the point where I felt I could get a second degree in a field I had more interest in. I started taking classes leading toward a degree in Medical Technology. I received two work study grants which enabled me to work at the VA Hospital and the University Hospital, further stimulating my interest in this field. At the VA Hospital I worked in recreation with intensive care patients, mental patients, and patients needing physical therapy. I also worked in blood chemistry and bacteriology at the University Hospital Lab.

The year before I was to start my internship I was approved by the American Technologists Association to do my internship; however, when the time to do my internship came there were no positions available. This was near the time I was to get married. Because of this disappointment I started looking for a job. After several mundane jobs I finally started working at the Salt Lake City County Health Department as a swimming pool water sampler, which led into the position of Environmental Health Specialist.

When we first got married we lived at 181 W. Haven Avenue (about 2300 So.) in South Salt Lake. We rented this small house for \$75 a month. We took care of the yard and wanted to have a garden in the back, but other things took precedence. I rebuilt the roof on the back of the house by changing the nearly flat composite roof which leaked into a gable roof. Other improvements we made on the house were installing washer and dryer hookups and taking care of the yard, etc. Many good memories arose from our year and a half at this house. After we moved we called it our "Haven House."

We had wanted to buy a house ever since we got married. Finally we started looking seriously. Ed and Nancy Burrows Wright told us about the Church Real Estate Division on the 12th floor of the Church Office Building. They said they had places which had been left to the Church to sell. We investigated and looked at 3 or 4 houses. Two houses we looked at were fairly big, brick houses with small yards. Then we saw the little frame house at 1457 South 900 East. There was a big yard, 5 mature fruit trees, and a good chain link fence all around the property. We decided this would be a good place for us. We bought it for \$10,500 to be paid off in 5 years. We borrowed the down payment money from my credit union and paid \$169 to \$175 a month to the Church for the rest. We moved into the house in December 1973. The house was very cold so the first thing we had to do was install a new furnace. One night we sat on the floor and

Bev turned on the electric stove which came with the house to provide a little warmth. We started right then to draw up plans to remodel the house. We continued with these plans, changing and improving all the time. The next project, after putting in the new furnace was redoing the electrical wiring in most of the house. The old wiring was very unsafe. I later put a folding stairway into the attic (which was over just the original house—living room, kitchen and bathroom) and started the “Quiet Room” and a storage room in the attic. The original house consisted (in 1909) of the living room, kitchen and bathroom. Later, a long porch was added. Then two bedrooms were added at different times.

We had wanted children very badly all the time we were married and felt real sad to go without them for four years. Finally on June 26, 1976 our little Kenneth Don was born. While we were expecting him we remodeled the little kitchen. We took out the wall between the kitchen and porch (which I had boxed in within 2 months after we moved into the house) and put up a beam consisting of 2 2x8s in its place. We thereby made the kitchen about twice as big. With Bev working right along with me on this project, I taught her how to hook up the plug sockets; she did several of them alone. The floor of the former porch was about a foot lower than the old kitchen floor, so we had to raise it to meet the height of the new kitchen we were creating. We raised the floor by putting in 2x6s as floor joists. In June of 1977 we put down half of the linoleum. We had to wait to put down the rest of the linoleum until we moved the water heater into the 8' x 8' room I dug and finished in the basement. Bev's sister Leahmary got the linoleum for us for a gift.

The first summer we lived on 9th East we planted 13 tomato plants. The next year (1975) we bought a tiller and tilled up the grass on the back half of the yard for a garden. That year we had a wonderful crop of cabbage, broccoli, brussels sprouts, some cauliflower, cucumbers, tomatoes, green peppers and other vegetables. In the spring of this same year we had our well drilled. The clay and dirt that was brought up from the well drilling was dumped in an area to the west of our yellow delicious apple tree which was in front of the back yard garden. That summer we had a beautiful crop of cucumbers and zucchini on that spot of the well tailings.

The summer of 1976 the well tailings were still there so we planted seed potatoes in that area. Those potatoes did very well. We've always had plenty to give away from our garden. We have several rhubarb plants which do very well. These were already in the yard when we bought the house. The fruit trees are: 1 pear, 2 apple, and 2 apricot. One of the apple trees is golden delicious; we don't know exactly what the other apple tree was, but the apples were big and had a thin, light red skin. It was sad to loose that tree. We also have lost both of our apricot trees to insects that bore into the trunk. I think these insects are called peach bore. We use to have a peach tree in the south front yard next to the driveway, but it was destroyed by peach bore also.