

MABEL R CLARK

Mabel R, third child and second daughter of Joseph W. and Mary A. Noble Clark was born August 13, 1895, in Lehi, Arizona. August in the Salt River Valley is only about 20% cooler than the proverbial hot spot below. To keep Mabel in a state of survival, clothes were wrung out in cool water and laid over her. To this day Mabel doesn't exactly appreciate the sunny skies of Arizona during the summer.

When Mabel was about 2 month's old she was taken by her mother and her Grandfather and Grandmother Noble to Phoenix to get their month's supply of food and clothing. Mabel was with her mother in a buggy behind the grandparents in their wagon. While they were in Phoenix it began to rain, and within 3 hours the river crossing at Tempe was at a dangerous point. At the edge of the swelling waters Grandfather Noble suggested that Mabel ride over the river with them in order to free her mother to drive the buggy. Mrs. Clark objected, saying that she heard a warning voice, saying, "Mary, keep the baby." Grandfather Noble felt perfectly confident that his well-trained team could safely make the crossing, but in the middle of the swift, muddy current, he was forced to use the whip. The team bolted, breaking the tugs, and the horses swam out. The wagon, rolling over, was swept down stream, spilling out all its supplies. An Indian, on shore, stopped the horses and a man on horseback threw a rope to help rescue the grandparents. After waiting several hours for the river to subside, Mrs. Clark decided to leave her horse and buggy where it was, and with Mabel in her arms, walked across the railroad bridge to join her parents.

Mabel started in school when she was 8 years old and completed 2 grades in the first year. She was full of mischief and found herself in difficult situations many times during her childhood. For example, she threw mock oranges at the Indians as they trudged homeward down the dusty road with loads on their backs, and she often got into scrapes with older children who offended her or her older sister.

Mabel loved to play basketball. She became captain for 4 years on the championship team of Arizona High School. When the family moved to Mesa she was the family errand runner and official fig picker. One of her jobs was hauling ice over 1 ½ miles of dusty roads several times a week. She would wrap the ice in a blanket and put it in her little red wagon, take it home and put it in the cellar to keep. She liked to swim in the canals and do stunts on the trapeze with swinging rings. She would sometimes put on a show and charge the neighborhood children a penny to see her perform.

When a piano was purchased so that her sister Afton could take lessons, Mabel's interest became centered on music. From the day she started playing the piano she loved it. Throughout her life she has virtually had a piano at her side, playing as high school pianist, for dances with the Mesa Orchestra in the Opera House, and for the Mesa picture shows, together with a drummer. In her later married life in both civic and Church affairs, her musical talents were in constant demand, culminating in her being chosen as organist for the Arizona Temple. This assignment became her full life, and as of February 5, 1967, she has played for over 11, 000 chapel sessions. She has also gone through 1200 regular Temple sessions for work for the dead. In connection with her music in the Temple she has made many beautiful recordings which have been played and broadcast on loud speakers on the Temple grounds for ten years. She has made three record albums: 1. Organ Melodies, 2. Melodies of Love, 3. Improvised Hymns and Sacred Songs. These records have proved very popular and have been purchased by admirers from all over the world.

While her father was in England on his mission, one of his companions was a tall, quiet, dignified elder whose name was Ervin King. Soon after he returned home from his mission he visited Arizona and fell in love with Mabel. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 10, 1914, and settled in Antimony, Utah, on King's cattle ranch. Ervin was the son of Culbert Levi King and Polly Ann Ross and was born on March 31, 1884, in Antimony, Utah. The first year of her marriage, Mabel taught school in Antimony, organizing basketball teams and teaching part singing to students in nearby Circleville. Prior to the birth of her first child in 1915 Mabel returned to Mesa where her son Clark was born. Three years later, on December 8, 1918, her second son was born, Grant J. When the baby was just six weeks old the family moved to a farm near Idaho Falls, Idaho. When Grant was two years old he was drowned in an irrigation ditch, on August 14, 1920.

The farm prospered and in 1926, when Norma was just six weeks old, Ervin left for his second mission to northern California. In June of that year Mabel went to Sacramento to visit him, and while there had the misfortune of being badly scalded while taking a shower in her apartment, as a result of defective plumbing. She almost lost her life. She

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had the faith to be healed and was healed. Her brother Harold was with her and he took her to Arizona, on the train, and her mother nursed her back to health. Soon after this Ervin was transferred from California to Arizona and finished his mission in Meas. He acted as a guide to the Arizona Temple before it was dedicated. He took thousands of people through the Temple and sold 2500 Books of Mormon while in this service. At the conclusion of his mission they went back to Idaho.

In appreciation for her blessings Mabel wanted to help someone, and she took into her home a girl and her baby who had been turned out of her father's home and had no place to go. She kept this girl and her child for four years.

In January 1934 the Kings sold their Idaho farm and moved to Magna, Utah, where they purchased business property. This proved to be a bad investment. Ervin then turned to buying and selling cattle, and this venture further depleted their resources. They moved to Murray, then Lindon, and after disappointments there, went to Mesa, following the death of Mabel's mother. Mabel and family moved into the Clark family home and she took care of her father for the next five years until his death in 1948. She then sold the old home and moved to her present address in Mesa. Ervin's health began to fail after the move to Mesa, and he suffered a slight stroke. Mabel went to work as head supervisor in Wright's Bakery Shop, and gave piano lessons to support her family. Ervin passed away in Mesa on January 7, 1966.

Mabel served her church well, as Sunday School organist for 58 years, Sunday School teacher, ward choir director, member of stake Relief Society Boards and Y. L. M. L. A. boards, and as Temple organist. While on a trip to Hawaii she was privileged to play the organ in the Hawaiian Temple.

Name	Born	Place	Died
Ervin Clark	15 Aug 1915	Mesa, Az	
Grant J.	8 Dec 1918	Antimony, Ut	14 August, 1920
Dorothy	16 May 1921	Antimony, Ut	
Lewis Dale	11 Dec 1922	Idaho Falls, Id	
Norma	20 Mar 1926	Idaho Falls, Id	
Harold Wayne	21 Sep 1929	Ammon, Id	
Shirley	20 Feb 1932	Idaho Falls, Id	
Lois Audrey	25 Apr 1934	Murray, Ut	