

## **Darlene Baird**

### **“Life Sketch”**

## **Joan Phillips**

I was born before television polio shots, xerox, plastic frisbee, contact lenses, credit cards, panty hose, ballpoint pens split atoms, laser beams, electric blankets, air conditioners, men walking on the Moon, polyester, fm radios, computers, tape recorders, yogurt, day care centers, men wearing earrings, word processors, artificial hearts, hardware was purchased at the hardware store, and I never heard of software, before frosting in a can, microwaves, Mac Donald's, pizzas, and fast food was a heated up can of Campbell's chicken noodle soup, we hung our clothes in a closet no one came out of them, when I went to town we went to the 5 and dime e

store and bought things for five and ten cents, such as writing notebooks, 2scoops of ice cream, or a bottle of pop. No cans of pop. Grass was mowed a push mower if u please, and pot was something u cooked in or it was under your bed. Rock music meant a rocking chair and a lullaby to put me to sleep. Darlene Allen Baird was born september 20-1940 daughter of Erwin Alton Allen and Idona Isolene Tolman.

She made her entry into the world just and the noon whistle blew! She weighed only 4pounds - her entire arm was the length oh her fathers little finger. She slept on the wood stove's oven door on a pillow to keep warm. Her mother used a mans handkerchief for diapers.

Mom lived and grew up on a farm out in Wapello Idaho

One of my moms 1st memories is sitting on her mothers lap and asking her if she could wear earrings just like her mom. Her mom and dad sat her on the cupboard and pierced her ear with a sewing needle-- ouch-- that was enough! They promised her a black walnut candy bar from the fridge if she would let them pierce the other ear. Wasn't she a very brave 3 year old!

Mom did have a one memory of WW11 it was the spring of 1945 mom was 4. Her dad had some German POW at the farm thinning beets. There was a milk can with water and each POW had lined up to get water to drink. Mom was standing between her dad and an American soldier with a gun for guarding the Germans. As one German pow came up to get his water he'd leaned down to mom and her dad put his arm around her. The German soldier then patted me on the head and spoke . The American soldier with the gun then told us what the German had said, he had a little girl just her size with white white hair. The German soldier had tears running down his face when he patted moms head. This had a big impression on her life as later she told me as she recalled this incident it reminded her that everyone was Gods children and sometimes were just in opposite teams doing what we think is right, she told me never to forget in a ball game or competition the people I'm playing against have a mom and dad cheering for them just as hard as mine were cheering for me, and that everyone was important and loved.

My mother had a cousin named Kay and boy, could the 2 of them get into mischief. Kay and mom would mix a teaspoon of sugar and a teaspoon of cocoa and Go hide and eat it....If aunt Madge caught them they were in big trouble and aunt Madge was quick to "blister your bottom"

Mom's brother Dean remembers mom and Kay running around in church and sneaking up and eating the bread from the sacrament table in church.

Another adventure with Kay was one summer the girls were around 7 years old and mom was visiting Kay home in Montana they decided it would be great fun if they slid down the barn roof. They would crawl up and then down they'd go. Their leather shoes slid quite well. Then they had a brilliant idea. They went to the house and got some wax paper and they would sit on the wax paper and wheeeeeee..... They were able to slide much faster. They slide and played all day....the next morning ...ouch... Their bottoms were filled with little tiny wooden splinters, the 2nd morning all the splinters had festers and they lay across aunt Madge's lap while she dug out all the splinters with a needle and a smile on her face- Not fun for mom though!

It was said that Darlene could sniff out candy anywhere her parents would hide it. Her big brother Erwin wanting to tease her gave her a teaspoon of horseradish with a little sugar to cover the horseradish. Boy was that ever a burning hot mouth! Mom writes dumb me I ate it several times before I smartened up...

Mom has white Book of Mormon given to her by her primary teacher and how she read that through and gained a testimony of the gospel. she had an absolute faith in it. She never never believed that it was alright to be both of the world and live the gospel. Something I think that has lent strength to her children and is an example to her grandchildren.

Mom belonged to a 4h club and completed the entire cooking course. Her group was named the 10 little hot pots. It was here where she learned to make angel food cake from scratch of course beating and beating and then beating the egg whites some more. Lots of blue ribbons won at the state fairs.

Later in her life when mom brought us children to visit our grandpa, ma Allen eating the was always fun... Green beans r soldiers peas were bullets Hershey chocolate syrup was goats food, koolaid was bug juice, and we had grasshopper jelly and grandpa milked the bull which gave the cream. And I think later turned into the bull gave chocolate milk. And where else can u get a drink of spider water....I think we have all learned where mom got her since of adventure.....

About 10 years ago mom wrote a memory

While staying at Dean's home in Wapello I went for a walk each morning to watch the sun rise thinking and pondering of a different time.. she reflected . I'm grateful I grew up in a quiet peaceful place...a place where the meadow lark sings or a killdeer crying well I guess the cows did Beller when they wanted to be milked. There was always work to do early in the morning til late at night whether it was -- gathering wood for the stove, thinning beets, running the derrick during haying season , gathering eggs, It was home and good memories abound.

One of my

Earliest memories with mom was being rocked by her when I had an ear ache I was around the age of four I'm guessing living in Orem ut - mom rocked and rocked me and teaching me about Jesus and how if I loved him and had faith in him that he could take my ear ache away, we were waiting for my dad to come home from playing church basketball. When dad came home and gave me a blessing I slept and the ear ache ceased. Mom always was a teacher especially about learning the gospel.

I'm sure many of us Bairds including Mike Jim Joan Scott Kelly Troy Shanelle Shantay and Jared and others thought for a while we got our basketball sport gene from our dad - grandpa, him being athletic and sports minded and all well we might be Wrong grandpa played football and baseball in school and, was an outstanding athlete BUT Grandma was the basketball shooting queen of her day....

Growing up our home was filled with sticky buns -huckleberry pie homemade bread- cream of wheat -cherry pie talks -cinnamon rolls with raisins frosting nuts sprinkled on top with a cherry also. pumpkin pie without the crust -welcome to family home evening hope u have a good time- baked apple with cinnamon and butter in microwave -a book of Mormon laying in the bathroom begging someone to pick it up and read but No one was able to claim the treasure of the \$50 bill which lay within its pages. If we only would have opened it just once!!!!  
homemade jams and jellies-honey butter -clean out the fridge night-angel food cake-waffles with ice cream and raspberry jam for supper- a freezer full of snacks to share with friends who came over -sour dough pancakes - never found stirred ice cream- apricot nectar to break our fast -humpty dumpty strawberry pie when finding the little brown ceramic dog with a pink bow- and hot fudge sauce of course!!!

I was touch by a couple of  
Facebook comments I'd like to share---

"I don't know that I was ever around her, meaning mom, that she didn't inspire me to be a better person.

Awe! your mom was so wonderful. Always brightened my day when I saw her.

I am thankful for how she's touched my life. We are so grateful to have known your Mom. She truly was an elect lady. She was am amazing woman. I always admired her,she was always so kind. Perhaps the most Christ- like person I have known - your grandma and grandpa always were a great example of charity to me that lady exemplifies Christ like charity. she was an angel on earth. She went out of her way to be so kind to me. A beautiful person inside and out.

I asked moms grandchildren to tell me a thought or memory or advise she shared with them that means a lot to them- this is what they said...

to pay a generous fast offering-  
the Baird family prayer circle works -miracles happen  
To change my mind set from -always saying lucky to always saying blessed...  
Memorial day Family reunions where we lined up as cousins for our picture to be taken  
Singing -families can be together. Forever.  
Having faith in the promises of The Lord ..  
Do little acts of service to make someone's day! As grandma did for me by Leaving Rice Krispy  
treats in my car .)  
Being engaged in a good cause  
To be happy and to love everyone  
"Notice the hand of The Lord in your life"  
When you're having a bad day -find someone to serve.  
A saying all of us children and the teenage grandchildren know -is from the neck to the knees  
hands off please - and from the nose to the toes nothing goes!

A homemade graduation quilt to keep me warm and Cozy!

Some were taught to clean what they thought then was an unusual chore -like cleaning a box  
fan from a window or scrubbing a cold air return vent cuz it was really dirty. These Have turned  
into lessons of keep a clean a tidy home. If you do it regularly the chore is easy if you do it once  
a year it's an unpleasant task.

My parents were gone on my birthday -grandma came to stay with us. She made cupcakes and  
brownies for my classmates and on the way home she patted my dads old truck on the  
dashboard and kept saying its ok Betsy' we will make it home.

Challenging my friends to stop drinking coke and rewarding them with a special dinner with  
homemade pie after the challenge had been met.

Hand rubs at church. Or even A baby and a rocking cradle made From her handkerchief.

It astounds me how much love she shared with individuals...not just an acquaintance kind of  
friendship. She has been a cheerleader for so many. If they were down and feeling low she  
would show her love and then challenge them to go forward in some way. I guess you could  
call her a "creative fixer" --if there was nothing to be done about a situation then something  
could be done to make things easier or feel better. She might help someone organize her  
closet or cupboard and have oodles of tips to keep it that way, but never left without a sweet  
reminder of where to find true peace - in the scriptures, at the temple, and relying on the  
Savior.

Bread making was an art mom shared with many --- count countless loaves of bread have been  
made and shared.

Who can forget the special birthday serenade phone call by grandma and grandpa with their own little birthday song.

Little snippets and thought from our beloved and treasured Christmas books! Mom and Grandmas words

The three J' r good little moms Jen Jana Jessie

Zander has great grandma blue eyes

Ivy adorns my fridge with colored chickens and knocks on noley gnomes door...

Kamryn gathering eggs with grandpa who has chickens with no panties on....

Do chickens need window curtains?

Daniel challenges my brain

We all eat peas until we are a light shade of green

In Rexburg We find great harvest and Shanelle -you gotta just love that smile

I'm grateful I own an American flag!!!

I feel strength from sisterhood I am sorry women choose to never miss Oprah each day but cannot find the time to be taught by a prophet of God just one night in September.

Isn't it marvelous when your children turn out to be people u like -moms always love their children ---but too- also like them what a bonus --

-our sons and daughters r not dummies they married the best

Love those pop-in Cody hugs

Dick is not anxious to celebrate his birthday this year. Funny guy , I love him more now than when he was 20.

I'm serving in the guest service zone in the family church history library mission where -- I meet and greet and smile with style all day long!

"I have loved serving on dedicated ground"

I'm sassy and seventy and my new favorite song "Stayin' alive "

Mom asks: dick-where are the buckets of honey?

Sunshine is my name for grandchildren

Saturday temple trip club in Portland OR is still continuing after 10 yrs.

Served 11 years in Portland temple

Family reunion with bowling -Kim's big secret to winning is get the biggest heaviest ball and throw it hard.....

A red glass apple for our children's home reminds them that they r the apple of our eye!

Miss bunion foot has changed my plans this year Daniel is my nurse - laughing as he serves me meals prepared by loving friends...

Meet with bishop Alec Johnson to give him our mission papers he tells scary snake stories I go home and pray.... Our mission call arrives President Hinckley has asked me to go to Canada Toronto mission everyone's comment is brrrrrrrr, me I just smile and think of our grand children's faith and prayers No snakes..... Crossing the border to Canada my 1st purchase a bag of M&Ms

Leaving Canada back in the USA I dash to the grocery store and buy a bag of M&Ms they cost \$7.49 lb in Canada didn't eat m&m there....

67 flags representing employment for someone from that country.

Palmrya a long awaited happening ---earlier I had read an article by pres Hinckley about his being in the sacred grove. I saved the article and kept reading it and rereading it before we left Canada. I also kept reminding our father in heaven I wanted to claim specific blessings promised by pres Hinckley. It was a grey cloudy cool day plus in April the beginning of stick season. No leafy green grove with birds singing for me. Dick and I separated and found our own spot ---waiting , pondering ,wondering and feeling the awe... "Brighter than the noon day sun" I know! I know! I know!

Our welcome home at Jim and Chandra's was perfect as Jamie ran to me , and gave me a big hug and exclaimed " oh grams u have angel hair "

Watching Shanelle open her mission call was a vitamin shot to my spirit

Mom loved to write stories remember grandpas owl Oliver, Nolie the gnome the tree named George.

I did it-I have been praying I could go to the Boise temple dedication..Dick bundles up my lazy girl chair and I recline in it.. The peace I felt was humbling...the last temple I would be in on this earth touched my soul.... I'm sure glad dick and I have always been temple attending --- as there is no time for a crash course now!

During Moms chemo days she wrote  
If heaven was sending me a trial I was going to have a learning experience. And look for the hand of The Lord each day-

I have to admit I sort of made a bargain with heaven I would not whine ( well maybe once in a while to dick or maybe Joan). if I could ask for heaven Favors once in a while.

I'm grateful that the cold piece if iron rod can often become the warm hand of our Savior!

During these years dick has gathered me in his arms and given me priesthood blessings. Bringing me comfort and peace. Each of our sons-sons in law have laid their hands on my head and been voice to bless me. Sweet sweet is our Fathers love. Joy in our posterity. Being a wife a mom a gram a great grandma nothing can compare -I am blessed. My gratitude list is endless.

I'd like to read exerts from a letter dad wrote to mom--for our Christmas book last year- I spotted a good looking young lady and turned to my friend as I watched her walk out -I am going to try and get a dated with her . She was a cute blonde with blue eyes! --Oh and how we are all glad mom went on a date with him... our dad.... that's how it all began and here is what dad says now after 56 plus years of marriage.....Words cannot describe the beautiful lady I have been married to all these years -she is an elect lady of God - Darlene is one going about doing good and teaching by example and word.....she has no guile and is a friend to all and has a special friend called the Savior..

I would like to share my mom's written testimony with u ---written beginning of December 2012--in our Christmas book-

Would I have learned so much about the atonement without the last four years? Probably not. I am so grateful I know what I know -I know.... Jesus is the savior of the world and my friend whom I can call upon any moment and partake of the atonement. Joseph smith is a prophet of God, the book of Mormon is the word of God and I belong to the true church here upon the earth. I am blessed

Family is ordained of God- a grateful family brings blessings -blessings of love -caring -sharing  
May we hold each other close in our hearts....

Love u more than all the miles to eternity and back..

Whoop tee do the gospels true!!

We all love u mom- thanks for being you and loving us!!! Give my Kim a hug and kiss for me!