

Tracy Hall

When I was a boy, it was possible to get a ^{G A} general authority, to be the speaker at sacrament ^mMeeting. David O. McKay had a home in Huntsville, Utah and was kind of known as our "Ogden, Utah, General Authority." And it was possible to see him walking down the street occasionally in Ogden.

One time, David O. McKay was scheduled to be our sacrament meeting speaker. Ena Barnes, our Sunday ^S school teacher, had formed a boys' chorus, and we were practicing down in our classroom. David O. McKay leaned over to our 26²-year²-old bishop, L. Grant Lofgreen, and said to him, "Don't let those boys get away from you!"

Ena kept us plenty busy. In those days our ward imported sacrament meetings whenever it could, and so did the other wards in the ^SStake. She and our young ^BBishop provided many opportunitis for us to sing at ^SSacrament ^MMeetings all over the valley.

I remember one time our bishop rented a train for a ward M.I.A. outing. In those days all the trains had steam engines. They rented one engine and one car and drove to the edge of the Great Salt Lake, where there was a nice sandy beach. Everyone played in the sand for hours, and stayed to see a terrific sunset. Then we boarded the train and went to a switching station, where the train could turn around and head for where we had started.

One time we went to Arco, ^IIdaho with our Hi-Hatter's dance band. The dancers danced so fast there that we could hardly keep up with them. ^OOf course, we went to church there and had the 18th ^Wward Boy's Chorus sing and ^Jthe give the whole program.

The age range of chorus members was from about 14 to 19 years, so some of the older boys had cars and could help with transportation;

On one occasion someone found that our ^CChorus was in town, so we were invited to sing some songs on the radio. We were very excited about that.

Another example of the availability of General Authorities at that time, ^Bis the fact that Heber J. Grant dedicated our 18th Ward meeting house in 1927.

The 18th Ward Chorus was a great way to keep us all out of trouble. Out of 18 boys, I can remember only two boys who drifted away from the ^Cchurch. And that was after they grew up.

Ena Barnes, who organized and directed the Ogden Eighteenth Ward ^Bboys' Chorus, was a cousin of David O. McKay, so she had a little leverage with the First Presidency of the ^Cchurch. Consequently, she arranged with the First Presidency to let us come to Salt Lake City and sing for them. This occurred on March 26, 1938. We sang for President Grant. ^CThen he had us sing for several other General Authorities. In return he sang for *us*, and told us some of his experiences.

Then President Grant gave each of us a copy of a small booklet entitled "The Power of Truth," written by William George Jordan, which was signed by all three members of the First Presidency. The book is 64 pages long and is about 8 inches by 5 inches. The cover is red with gold lettering. Every one of us received a book with their three signatures in it. Additionally, they gave each one of us a belated Christmas card, which was also signed by them.

This card has a reddish envelope and is 8 inches by 5.5 inches and looks quite old, after some sixty-three years have passed by. A fancy silk string shows on the outside. My name, H. Tracy Hall, has been typed on the front of the envelope, ^Cand the front page has the following message:

TREASURES

I would share

Christmas, 1937

HEBER J. GRANT

On opening the card, the first thing ~~that~~ ^{le} you will see is a picture of Heber J. Grant. Following that is a photograh of his beautiful hand ^{writing} ~~writing~~. Additionally, there are 14 pages of wit and wisdom. The first ^{F P} presidency of the Church at this time consisted of the following: ^{Counselor} Heber J. Grant, President, J. Reuben Clark, First ^{Counselor} Councilor, and David O. McKay, ^{Counselor} Second Councilor.

To my dear Friends:

For many years I have kept
a little black leather book, in which
I have recorded poems and extracts that
have been an inspiration to me.

I am pleased to share some of
these gems with you.

My wife joins me in extending
very best wishes for an enjoyable
Christmas and a Happy and
Prosperous New Year to you and
your loved ones

Yours Sincerely,
Heber J. Grant

Salt Lake City

1934