

How I Came to Meet Ida-Rose Langford

First I must tell you about my best friend, Lane Compton. My family had lived in the small farming community of Marriott, Utah where we had a small five-acre farm. Marriott was located approximately five miles northwest of Ogden. But for now I must postpone detail of my life there to a later date.

We had just moved from the farm to Ogden where we lived in an old rundown dilapidated house located in Mr. Leek's brickyard manufacturing facility. The address was 664-30th Street which, very fortunately included our family in the wonderful Ogden 18th Ward.

There were a lot of young people in this ward, especially boys. After coming to Ogden, I soon met Lane. We were both about 13 years old. He also lived on 30th Street two houses west of Jefferson Avenue on the north side of the street.

Shortly after our arrival, I walked westward towards Washington Avenue. (If you knew Ogden's street system Washington Avenue is now Washington Boulevard). The streets east of Washington are Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and Harrison etc.

Going west off Washington doesn't make much sense. The sequence is Grant and then Lincoln to be followed by Wall Avenue.

Well anyway, as I walked westward, I came upon a young boy about my same age sitting on the doorstep. It was an enchanting warm evening. Whether it was spring or fall, I do not know. But what I long remember is a long conversation that lasted late into the night. Instantly we became best friends.

When we were older, about 20, we were walking along Ogden's main thoroughfare, Washington Avenue, on the east side of the street just south of 24th when I saw this girl. As we passed, I told Lane that I had seen this girl before, probably at the Ogden Ninth Ward. MIA, the young peoples Mutual Improvement Association of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for young people 12 to 20 years old. These meetings were universally held on Tuesday evenings.

Dancing in that era was also a common form of enjoyment and additional recreation consisted of Saturday night dancing.

Now the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints smallest unit is the ward.

Boys universally shopped the wards looking for new girls. In that area of my home there were the 9th, 12th, 14th, 17th, and 34th Wards.

I decided to follow through and find this girl. Somehow, I obtained her telephone number. I'm a rather timid soul and had to garner courage to make the call.

Sometime later I called to ask if she would go with me to a New Years Eve party and dance, sponsored by the Church, at the White City Ballroom and she said yes!

Dancing was usually from nine to midnight but sometimes until one in the morning.

I have already said something about the young people's program in the LDS church. While the official title of the church to which I belong is "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints", we are often called "Mormons" or just referred to as the LDS church.

The next ecclesiastical unit above the ward is the 'stake'. Several wards constitute a stake.

Later in the year, the Mount Ogden Utah Stake sponsored some demonstration dances.

This put us together for several weeks as we learned to do the steps. In those days the ladies generally wore formal gowns and the men wore Sunday best suits.

The White City Ballroom was located on the north side of 24th Street somewhere between Washington and Adams Avenue and was the premiere dance ballroom in Ogden.

After graduation from Ogden High School in 1937, I attended Weber College, a two-year institution with only 700 students. Ida-Rose later attended the same college.

By now we were going together rather steady and sometimes I would go looking for her at Weber. Still later, while Ida-Rose was working in the Woolworth Cafeteria, roles were reversed and she, after finishing her work, would go out of her way to see me sitting on the porch of our 27th Street home. Of course I timed it to be there when she would go by.

Ida-Rose also worked for Woolworth's in their cafeteria department. I hope that I can get her to tell something of her work there.