

BIOGRAPHY OF TESSIE ANN ROBERTS

Tessie Ann was our little miracle baby. After Camille was born, I was unable to have any more children. Something was wrong and the doctor said we should think about maybe adopting a child. Yet, both Crawford and I had been blessed that we would be sent some of God's most choice children. Where were they?? I had an operation and just 10 months later, Tessie was born on 19 November 1958. I was so happy with this new little baby girl. We named her after me. She was blond and blue eyed and had such fair skin that one of our friends called her the "Holy Ghost." Camille just took over her raising and was delighted to have a baby sister.

Tessie did well until the twins were born just 18 months later. She was overwhelmed with those two little boys who demanded all my time and attention. They were born a month early and were just 5 lbs apiece. They had to be fed every three hours. She started to cry and just couldn't understand why she didn't get the attention she was used to. Camille tried her best to help, but there is just no substitute for mother. Crawford was away most of the time because he was trying to support the family and his job was with the "extra board" on the Western Pacific Railroad. He traveled around relieving railroad workers when they were sick or on vacation. He was not home very much. My mother came and visited quite often. She took Tessie under her wing and bought her things and read to her. She did everything in her power to make her feel loved. I leaned very heavily on my mother's support during this difficult time of raising all these children.

Crawford finally got a permanent job in Quincy, California. We moved there and that too, was an answer to prayer. I had stayed in Quincy as a teen ager with my uncle for two summers and I loved it so much that I prayed that someday I would be able to live there. I was expecting yet another child during that move, and I had four babies in diapers when Rebecca was born.

Tessie grew up in Quincy. We were poor and had to scramble to keep the children clothed, fed, and warm. We burned wood which we gathered. I canned about 500 quarts of fruit a year to get us through the winter. The area was beautiful and the children had plenty of space to play, swim in the river, and ride their bikes. Tessie worked very hard, even as a child. She had a paper route when she was only eight years old. When she was 12, she was babysitting to earn extra money. She bought all her own clothes. She bought her own food which she kept over to Grandma Ennis home. Somehow, the plain fare which we ate was just not what she wanted. She hated oatmeal every morning and bone soup every night. I made six loaves of whole wheat bread every other day.

When she was in high school, she worked at the convalescent hospital as an aid. She earned money for college and also learned to care for those old people. I remember her taking them out for a ride in the car just so they could get out because so many times their own children would neglect them.

When she was eight years old, she developed a skin condition called "virtigo." She developed white spots everywhere she had a joint. Her backbone was covered with them as well as her knees and elbows. Thankfully she did not get any on her beautiful face and she was a beautiful girl. Perfect figure, long blond hair which we curled in rags every Saturday night so it would be pretty for Church. She found that if she would lay out in the sun, those white spots would begin to fill in with pigment by the end of the summer. When winter came again, they would become white again. She spent a lot of time laying out in the sun. Her brothers would get on the roof with the garden hose and spray her with water. They teased her unmercifully, just to get her upset.

She loved to cook. Once she earned a prize at the County Fair with a cake that she had made from scratch. When we had Christmas, Tessie would take her own money and buy the ingredients for a scrumptious Christmas dinner. That was her present to the whole family. Once her brother David ate some special tarts that she had made for some occasion. She had them in the refrigerator. David came home late at night and opened the refrigerator to see those tarts. He didn't know but what they were for him. The next morning when Tessie got up and saw her tarts were gone, she knew immediately who had eaten them. She went in and yanked David out of bed and started screaming at him. David, of course, was ready to fight the whole world. Jonathan had to jump out of bed and settle the whole fight.

She and Jonathan got in a terrible bike wreck one summer. Jon had Tessie on the back of the bike and he was coming down a hill in the back of our house. Unfortunately the bike did not have brakes, and he wrecked. Tess got her finger caught in the spokes and it was broken. Both children were bruised and bleeding. Camille witnessed this wreck and came running home to tell me. I got Grandpa Dailey to take me to the hospital with the two children. Tessie had to go into surgery to have her finger repaired.

She got rheumatic fever when she was about 10. She was in the hospital for several weeks for that. When she got out, her grandmother Butts came and took care of her. They went up to Bucks Lake together. She was very close to her Grandmother Butts. My mother did everything in her power to make Tessie feel loved. Once Tessie Ann took her own money and bought Grandma a new dress. My mother wore that dress everywhere. She was so proud of that orange dress.

Tessie went to Ricks College when she graduated from high school. She worked cleaning bathrooms at night just to earn money for her room and board. She was still a hard worker. She met Clyde Young there. They got to be good friends and after both of them had served missions, they were married in the Oakland temple. Of this marriage, two beautiful boys were born. I remember going to the blessing of Danny. Clyde got up to bear his testimony. He said,

"I must have done something good in the world before this to get these two beautiful boys."

The marriage did not last. To place blame would be futile.

Tessie was alone with these two boys. She got a job taking care of Peggy, who was disabled. She was very lonely and discouraged. The family tried to help her, but we were just

not enough. She met a young man who took an interest in her. His name was David Robbins. He was good looking, smart, and an airline pilot. Tessie became pregnant. When she told David, he said

"You must have an abortion!"

"No, I won't have an abortion. I don't care what I must go through with the church or my family. I am not going to kill this baby!"

David left her and she had to face all this by herself. It was not easy, but she did it for that little baby girl who was the light of her life.

Her family was all very proud of her because she made this decision to let this baby live.

Her brother Matthew had to have an extensive operation on his leg. The only Dr that could do that type of operation was in Redding. Tessie took care of Matthew in her own home after his surgery. She was very good to him. She was good to all her brothers and sisters. Once her brother Jonathan and Beverly were having trouble having their first child. They thought they may not be able to have children. Tessie said,

"I will have a baby for you!"

And she would have, too, except they finally had one of their own.

Tessie seemed to have a very real connection with the other world. Often she has told me about feelings and impressions that have come to her from the other side. She has had multiple dreams about her grandmother, her father, and others. They all seem to give her a message.

She finally met and married Dan Langford. The family all loved him, but this marriage did not last either. Dan was good to little Kami and could not have treated her better even if he had been her own father.

Tessie is now living in Caldwell, Idaho and works taking care of older people who are disabled. She lives very near to her sister, Camille, who is still close to her. They have dinner together every Sunday. Rebecca and Jonathan helped her move to Caldwell from Redding