

A life sketch of

Ora Randall Oswald

1916 – 1994

February 18, 1916 was a cold, wintry night. In spite of the blizzard, young Walt Randall hitched a team of horses to the bob sleigh and left to bring the community mid-wife to the home of Charles Aceil and Nettie Luella Wilkins Randall. Soon after her arrival, a brown-eyed daughter was born, giving the family of Ace and Nettie, five children - Walt, Hazel, Milt, Alta and the new baby, Ora. This family made their home in Grant, Jefferson County, Idaho. They lived in a three-room home that Ace and Nettie built soon after they were married, located on the County Line Road.



Nettie was very sick after giving birth to Ora. It was eight months before she was able to take care of the new baby by herself. Ora's older cousins took turns staying with Nettie's family and helped with the household chores and the newborn baby.

It was a special occasion when a friend, John Lee, blessed Ora on June 5, 1916. The Randalls were happy to have such a cute little girl in their family. Her older brothers spoiled her until she was old enough to be teased. Her sisters cared for her every need and they grew especially close as the years went on. Being the baby of the family certainly had its advantages for Ora.

Ora's childhood was spent on the family farm. Typical activities that come with farm life provided her with a variety of lessons in hard work, as well as many good times. She learned important homemaking skills from her mother, but never enjoyed being inside as much as she did outside. Helping her dad with chores and enjoying the open spaces were what she always preferred.

In addition to the usual farm animals and pets, Ace acquired a Shetland pony for Ora. 'Shorty', provided many hours of entertainment for Ora and her friends. Ora was especially proud of this pony and the bond it represented between her and her father. Leone Waters, a friend and later sister in law, remembered riding with Ora on this pony. She remembered how Shorty would gallop along giving the girls a wonderful ride and then, without warning, he would suddenly put on the breaks throwing his riders over his head and in a heap in front of him. No one was ever seriously hurt, and they would mount up again and start all over. Many times they would ride Shorty down the road to the swale where they would gather trash fish. When the water was turned out of the canals and the chubs and succor fish would collect in the swale, the girls would scoop the fish up with their hands and take them home to Nettie, who would cook them into a tasty treat.

A cousin and good friend, Vearl Crystal, used to ride horses with Ora too. Ace had a white horse with one black spot. Of course, the family named him 'Spot'. Ora and Vearl would ride this horse out over the fields and through the ditches letting their imaginations run wild with Indians chasing them, buffalo to hunt and cattle to round up. Ora loved horses and became quite a skilled rider. She could out ride most of the other kids in the area.

Ora and Vearl would go with their dads to Roberts where they would hunt for wild birds, duck and sage hens. Ora and Vearl were their hunting dogs. They would hide in the brush and wait for the birds to be shot. They would then trot out, gather the birds, bring them back and bag them.

Ora attended Primary in the home of Miratha Taylor. Primary was held during the week and many of the neighborhood children enjoyed getting together for these activities. They learned songs and were taught lessons that would stick with them all of their lives.

Ora was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, August 3, 1924, by Lyman Taylor Jr., and confirmed the same day by Pleasant W. Dabell. She was baptized in the old swale canal behind the Clayton Dabell home in Grant.

The Randall home was always open to family, friends and strangers. Harvest time, and

rodeos brought many extra people to the farm where they were warmly welcomed and invited to stay. There were often extra boarders living with the family.

In the fall of 1910, a young man, who had been living with a foster family, was abandoned. When Ace heard about him, he brought him home and from that day on treated him as a son. His name was Walt Winters, but he was known as Walt Randall. Even though he was never legally adopted by the Randalls, he became a second son and brother in the family.

School began for Ora in the Grant Elementary, which was located on the southwest corner of 100 North and the Lewisville Highway, across from the old Grant Merc. This was a one-room schoolhouse with one teacher who taught all eight grades. Ora remembered learning the times tables as being one of her biggest challenges in school. She had to take the exam six times before she passed it.

While in elementary school, Ora's childhood playmate, Enid Dabell, became ill with scarlet fever. Scarlet fever was a dreaded childhood disease at this time. It caused high fever, sore throat, and a red rash. If it was not treated carefully it could leave children with weakened hearts. Ora had volunteered to get her friend's homework assignments from school. She would take them to her each night so she would not get behind in her schoolwork. It was not long until Ora also contracted scarlet fever, which resulted in a miserable three weeks for her, but did not leave her with any lasting effects.

Ora and her classmates would walk, ride horses or catch a ride on the rural school bus in order to get to school. The neighborhood men would take turns driving the school bus, which was a flat hay wagon. The bus would pick the children up and take them to the elementary and later the high school. Heavy quilts and heated rocks kept the children from freezing during the cold winter months.

Ora graduated from the little elementary school with seven classmates. There was no junior high at the time and so after the eighth grade, she went to Midway High, at Lewisville-Menan. She began her high school experience in September 1930.

"When I began my high school career I really thought I was someone until I met my first class, and then I realized how small and unimportant I really was as a lowly freshman. But

as the years wore themselves out, I was again someone, a mighty senior! Oh, how sweet were those four years of high school," Ora wrote.

Twenty-five friends and fellow classmates graduated in 1934. They were a close group and kept in touch throughout the years. Ora maintained her friendship with many of them, as well as her teachers.

Ora was a Seminary student during her high school years. In 1935, her Seminary Class traveled to Salt Lake City. While there, they toured the buildings on Temple Square, as well as other points of interest. They went into the building where President Heber J. Grant had his office. They were able to visit with him and some other church authorities who were also there. Ora recorded, "It was truly a thrill to shake the hand of that Great President!" On their way home, they went to the Logan Temple and did baptisms for the dead. Ora was excited to be baptized for forty people that day.

During these years many of the community activities were held in the old Grant Hall. This building was located on the eastside of the property that later became the Grant Ball Park. The hall had served as a chapel on Sundays and as a recreation center for the community during the week. It had an excellent hardwood floor, which was covered with canvas for most activities to preserve it for weekend dances. The huge pot-bellied stove located in the center of the building made it a popular place to gather. Ora's dance card was often filled by young gentlemen friends as the young and old would meet and socialize in this hall.

After graduation, Ora started working for Cannery Seed in Lewisville picking peas, which she did not like. At the time her sisters were living at Henry's Lake, in Island Park. Hazel was married to Jack Helm, and had a young daughter, Patsy. Alta had married Charlie Sherwood and they had just had twin girls, Janus and Janet. Hazel's health was poor and Alta had her hands more than full with her girls. Ora decided to move in with them and help with their chores and children. She was excited to do so and quit her work at the seed house and left for Island Park. She enjoyed being with Hazel and Alta, but could not believe the diapers and bottles!

While at Henry's Lake, Ora took every opportunity to travel around that area and see the country. She toured West Yellowstone Park and Jackson Hole. The Sherwood Museum, with its stuffed animals and artifacts, was a place she enjoyed going to and learning from. The Crystal's had property close by and she loved to spend time with that family. She looked forward to fun times with the Crystal girls and enjoyed riding horses with Vearl. They would ride their horses up Targhee Canyon to fish or just ride for no reason at all and enjoy the countryside. It was about this time, the Crystal Brothers Rodeo began and Ora loved the action. This event was to become a favorite annual outing for her and her family. She learned to love the Teton Mountains and the natural beauty she was surrounded by. This country held a special place in her heart throughout her life.

Ora traveled home to see her folks on the weekends. She would help her mother with the household duties and her father with the outside chores. One day while sitting on a stool milking the cows, she looked up and saw a horse coming down the road with two boys on it. She recognized Dean Gneiting, one of her neighbor and school buddies with his cousin, Victor Oswald. Dean turned the horse into the yard, to visit "Toots", a nickname he had given Ora. This unexpected visit began the courtship of Ora and Vic.

Ora would go to Island Park during the week and write to Vic. She would wait for mail to come, knowing he would write back. On the weekends, she would catch a ride home or Vic would catch a ride going to Henry's Lake. Their visits were always filled with fun activities. Picnics, long walks, playing cards, and dances were things they did and enjoyed with their friends.

"Chick-er-ees" were activities quite popular with their group of friends. The men would go get the chickens and pluck them, then the ladies would fry the chicken. They would have fried chicken with 'pot luck' trimmings and play cards until they could either laugh no more or weren't speaking to each other. It was always a well kept secret amongst the men as to where the chickens came from, or whose coop was raided on what night, but what fun they had!

Ora and Vic were married November 26, 1937, at the home of Bishop George

Christensen, in Grant, Jefferson County, Idaho. This was Ace and Nettie's 34th Wedding Anniversary, which made the day extra special for the family. They made their first home in Grant where they lived with Ace and Nettie. Vic started working for a potato warehouse and Ora helped her folks and other family members where she could. They moved to Coltman, after a short time, where Vic worked for Jacob Judd. They lived in a small frame home on the Lewisville Highway. No one remembers much about this house, but memories are clear of the old out house. In the warm summer it was a dreaded necessity and in the winter it was a chilling experience. Often inches of snow had to be brushed off the seat, while mustering the courage to sit. It was always a priority to keep the path cleared and shoveled out.

Their first baby was born August 3, 1938 and was named Aceil Leon. As you can imagine this was a wonderful time for Ora. She was happy and enjoyed making a home for her family.

On December 25, 1939, the Randall family had gathered at the home and Ace and Nettie and spent a happy day together, celebrating Christmas. As the day drew to a close, Jack and Hazel with their little three year old daughter, left for their home. A short time later, they were struck by a train at a crossing just west of Rexburg, killing Hazel and leaving Patsy without a mother. This had an enormous impact on Ora, as well as the rest of her family. Ora devoted much of her time to Patsy, as she was taken in to Ace and Nettie's home where she was raised as a daughter. The result of this accident created a close bond between Ora and Patsy.

Ora's family continued to grow when a daughter, Loa Maria, was born April 23, 1942. She was now the busy mother of two. The experience she had gained while helping her sisters was now paying off as she spent her time caring for her own children. Chores around the house and helping others when she could, made her life a busy one.

Their second son, Victor Arlen, was born June 24, 1946. With Leon eight and Loa four years old, they were able to help with some of the chores and duties in and out of the house. With their help, the family adjusted to a new baby and enjoyed their times together. When Arlen was old enough to walk, he fell on the pot-bellied stove. He put his hands out to catch himself and as they touched the stove they became severely burned. Ora did what she could for

the immediate care of his burns and rushed him to the hospital. For the next several years, Ora spent a lot of time giving Arlen the help, attention and care he needed to heal from this accident. This was an emotionally hard time for her. She learned how to treat the burns and later skin grafts. She and tried to help in his recovery all she could. His care along with her regular duties and other children demanded a lot from her physically, but she tried to be cheerful and was always grateful for her blessings.

When Mr. Judd decided to retire, Ora and Vic started the search for a place of their own. In 1948, they heard of 100 acres for sale in Grant. The decision was quick and arrangements were made to buy this farm and make the move. Grant was known for rocky ground, but this farm on the East River Road had some of the best soil in the area. The potential was good and the work began.

November 14, 1950, their fourth and last child was born. They named him Roland Kay. Ora continued to invest her time and effort towards perfecting her homemaking skills. She was a wonderful cook and a master at using the wood burning stove as her oven. What was baked or butchered was done on a demand basis and became a routine part of her weekly chores. She did tons of wash, using an old wringer washing machine.

Ora's home was not large or fancy, but she tried to make it a place where family and friends felt comfortable and welcome. This humble home was square in form and covered with stucco. The roof was flat, slanting down from the front to the back, where the melting snow and falling rain would run off to form record breaking ice cycles or a pitter patter rhythm that could drive you crazy, or lull you to sleep. The yard was enclosed with huge cotton wood trees that gave the family shade for hours of play, picnics, tons of leaves to play in, tree houses, limbs for tire swings and many, many memories. On the inside, the home was built so each room had two doors. By going in one door and out the other you could make a complete trip through the house, ending up back where you started. A large kitchen served as the home's center where everyone seemed naturally drawn. The walls were covered with wallpaper and the floors were covered with carpet and linoleum. A free standing, coal stove provided heat for the family. Vic would start the stove early in the morning so it would be warm and cozy when Ora and the

kids began their day. They were fortunate to have indoor plumbing. They considered that a blessing, especially on cold winter nights that often dipped below zero, leaving a thick layer of frost on the inside of their windows. A porch on the north side of the house was an addition where coats, boots, and chore items were kept and eventually a freezer sat under a row of pane windows. This home may not have been impressive to the eye, but it was warm and cozy, filled with the smell of home baked goodies, much laughter and love. Many memories became attached to this 100-acre farm and tidy house they called home.

Ora not only took care of the inside chores of housekeeping and cooking, but was often found outside helping with the farm work. She and the children cared for the chickens and small animals. She often drove truck when the potatoes were harvested and was a regular driver on the tractor when the derrick was used to stack the hay.

Arlen developed asthma and could not tolerate the hay and harvest seasons. Ora would load him in the car, usually with Kay and sometimes Loa, and head for Island Park. They would stay at Harriman's or with Aunt Alta and Uncle Charlie until the air would clear and Arlen could go back home. This was difficult for Ora. Obviously she was concerned for Arlen's health, but having to leave during these busy times was challenging. She had grown up feeding and fussing for the thrashers and men working in the harvest and felt bad about not helping with that more than she could. A lot of fun times and good memories came from these 'vacations'.

Ora's talents were called upon in numerous church positions, which she enjoyed very much. Life long friendships were made with ladies in Coltman and Grant as she served with them. She served in the Primary, Mutual and Relief Society as teacher and counselor on the stake and ward levels. She was activities director and involved in the planning of many ward and stake parties and programs. All of these opportunities to serve helped build and strengthen her testimony of the Gospel.

About this time, the Grant Ward had grown and the area leaders were considering the need for a new, larger church building. The Grant Hall was being used for Church Meetings and activities at this time. Plans were made and approved and the members in the area

participated in raising the money to build a new chapel, which was dedicated in 1953. This building housed many fun times and wonderful experiences for Ora's family.

Several years after they moved to their farm in Grant, Vearl and Brinda Crystal built a home across the street. What fun this was for the family to have them so close. The adults would occasionally go to town and have a night out. Their children played together and many good times were shared with them. It was good to have great neighbors. At one time Vearl was the president of the young men and Ora was the president of the young women. Their activities were the envy of youth all over the valley. Ora formed a close bond with many of the young ladies of Grant through this calling.

Ora had always had a wish to receive her Patriarchal Blessing. She made arrangements with the Patriarch, and on January 25, 1953, she, Leon and Patsy, received their blessings from A. Reuel Chandler. This was a highlight in her life and a source of strength she relied on often.

Ora and Vic lived within a mile of Ace and Nettie, Milt and Violet's family, and Walt and Leone's family. These couples would help each other farm, cook, clean, raise kids and enjoy life. In spite of the long hard hours they all spent working, they managed to find time for family and fun. They were all very close. Everyone was welcome and the numbers at the dinner table varied on a daily basis as cousins would sleep over here or there. Ora's kitchen was extra big and so many of the holidays and family get-togethers were at her home and she loved hosting them. These families were tightly woven together.

Ora's father began to experience trouble with his health. He had suffered a stroke and some heart trouble. The family was spending some extra time trying to help with chores and needs around his farm. One May 23, 1954, Ace died. This was especially hard for Ora. She and Vic were very close to him. He was buried in the Central Cemetery at Grant, Jefferson County, Idaho.

Ora's number one priority continued to be her family. As the children grew and their involvement in Church and school increased so did Ora's. Ora volunteered her help with and supported the activities her children were involved in. She was active in 4-H and served as a

leader in that organization for a number of years. Teaching skills, supervising projects, trips to the county and state fairs were all part of this voluntary service. These activities kept her busy and provided opportunities to make friends with many of the young people in the area. She loved to see her children and their friends succeed.

She wrote, "I have found it a wonderful experience caring for a home and family. It is through watching and helping them to take their places in the church and community that strengthens my own testimony and encourages me to live a better life."

Ora developed a strong testimony of the gospel. She was always eager to serve and saw to it that her children were involved also. There were many experiences in her Church activity that were special to her - witnessing the boys receive the priesthood, and watching them pass the sacrament was especially important to her.

Ora had wanted to go to the Temple for a long time. When that day finally arrived she wrote, "I think I shall always remember and cherish the day of November 23, 1955. It was a Wednesday. I went to the Idaho Falls Temple and there I received my own Endowment." She was excited to now be able to participate in temple work for others and did so as often as she could.

Her children continued to grow and she found it hard to believe she had a high school graduate when Leon graduated from Rigby High School in May 1956.

Life was full of work and fun! With her family so close, Ora seldom went more than a day without seeing or talking to her parents, a brother, Violet or Leone. It was a continuous circle of communication. March 11, 1961, was just another great day until Ora got the word that her brother, Milt, had died from a sudden heart attack. The family was stunned. Ora tried to help Violet and her family members with the adjustments ahead. She was always a positive force and strength to her family.

On July 28, 1961, Leon married Trena Dee Rhodehouse in the Idaho Falls Temple. Ora was thrilled with the addition of a daughter in law. Leon and Trena moved into a trailer on

the farm and later bought a farm next them. Leon had always been a lot of help on the farm and they were excited to have them close where they could help each other. Over the next twelve years, Ora was ecstatic with each new grandchild added to her family: Susan Lynn, Sherrie Dawn, and Todd Ray. Ora enjoyed Leon's family being so close. As they farmed together, she had daily opportunities to spoil them.

It became harder and harder to make a living on the farm. With the children leaving home or in school, Ora made a decision to go to work. In March of 1962, Ora went to work for J.C. Penney. She worked for nineteen years and for five different managers before her retirement in 1981. At the time of her retirement she was Stockroom Supervisor. She didn't like to be out in front and when opportunities came to move out on to the sales floor, Ora declined. She was content to work in the back ground and earned a valuable employee reputation doing so. As job vacancies would come open, Ora would advise the ladies in her neighborhood and was able to help many friends get work at a time when jobs were hard to find. She made many friends while at Penney's and continued to enjoy their company as they met monthly for lunch and various celebrations after her retirement.

When Loa graduated, she moved to Idaho Falls and then Salt Lake City where she worked as a secretary. Ora missed Loa, but was excited for her success in the business world. She always looked forward to the fun times and opportunities they had to be together.

Arlen was the next to leave the nest. He too moved to Salt Lake City where he worked and went to school. Ora adjusted to her children being away from home by staying busy herself with family, friends and work.

By this time, the farming situation had gotten so bad, Vic and Leon were unable to make their payments to the bank. With no other options available, the bank scheduled an auction. The farm was sold, Aug 28, 1965. Vic, Ora and Kay moved from Grant to Coltman February 12, 1966. With her usual positive attitude and stiff upper lip, left what had been home for the past 18 years and quickly got involved in her new neighborhood. They purchased the home of Jacob Judd on the Lewisville Highway and Vic went to work full time for a potato warehouse.

About this time Ora's brother, Walt, was having health problems. His lungs had been damaged over the years and he was feeling the result of that. Ora spent extra time visiting and trying to show she cared. It became evident there was very little she could do to ward off the inevitable. Walt passed away April 23, 1966. Leone and Ora were close friends and Ora tried to include Leone in all she could to help. Dinners after that often included Leone. She and Ora grew even closer.

This was another challenging time with lots of changes. Loa received her mission call to serve in the Toronto, Canada Mission in 1965 and Arlen received his mission call to the Eastern States-New York City Mission in 1966. In spite of all the adjustments and concerns, it was an exciting time for Ora. "It was a wonderful experience to correspond with them and see what testimonies they had gained", she wrote about her missionaries.

After the sale of the farms, Leon and Trenna moved to Utah where Leon went to college. After Leon's graduation, they moved to California, where he began teaching school. While the family was in California, another grand son was born. They named him Eric Leon. Ora continued to call and write until she couldn't stand it any longer. She packed her suitcase and left for California. She had a great time seeing the sites and catching up with the grand kids!

Leon and Trenna later moved to Trenton, Utah, where the family welcomed Kalen Royce. Ora was able to visit more often and enjoyed the times they gathered together. Summertime usually meant days or weeks when Susan or Sherrie or both would travel to Grandma's for vacation. They would help Ora with all kinds of projects from sewing to painting. They knew the agenda would include taking in the sites and traveling to relatives so Grandma could show them off. They had a lot of fun and made a lot of memories! Grandma was supportive and proud of her grand children. She tried to attend special events in their lives; dance programs, graduations, baptisms and marriages. She traveled to Mexico one year with Leon, which was a wonderful and fun opportunity she talked about quite often.

Ora's service in the Church was a constant. She served as a faithful Visiting Teacher and enjoyed participating in the Relief Society homemaking meetings. She served as a Primary

teacher and loved the little children she taught. She was the Coltman Ward Librarian for many years; a position she thoroughly enjoyed. She loved to go to the temple and was obsessed with the desire to research her ancestors. She found joy in putting together family pedigrees and collecting family pictures for her photo albums and picture pedigrees. She was always working on something or someone.

Kay changed schools when they moved to Coltman. He went to Bonneville High School where he graduated in May of 1969. He moved to Moscow, Idaho, on September 6, 1969 to go to the University of Idaho.

After Ace died, Nettie had a hard time staying home alone and enjoyed the company of her family. The grand children took turns staying with her at nights, but now that they were growing up and leaving to pursue their interests, Ora tried to fill in by spending more time with her. It was difficult for the family when they moved Nettie to Idaho Falls where she could be cared for easier. Still it was hard for Ora to keep her happy and looked after. On January 1, 1973, while at Ora's, Nettie passed away. Once again, Ora faced a devastating, personal loss. She had one sister left out of her close knit family.

Kay married Cindy Lee Chapman, June 22, 1974. Another grand daughter was added to the family when Leaha Skye was born, December 17, 1974. Ora was excited about this new grand daughter and took what opportunities she could to spend time with her. She looked forward to Kay coming home and seeing Leaha grow. Summers were better when the dates were set and Leaha would come to stay with Grandpa and Grandma. Ora tried to busy her with different activities while she was visiting. Getting together with the other cousins was a must. Rodeos, trips to the park, and Pierre's Playhouse were fun memories Ora had of Leaha's visits.

A wonderful day for Ora came when Loa married Ronald DeMar Nebeker, March 19, 1976 in the Salt Lake Temple. She was thrilled to be present and to gain something she did not have; a son-in-law! It was now double the fun when Loa came home!

Ora was devoted to her family and friends. She was often found on the phone or entertaining someone who would just stop by. Their conversation was always happy and

informative. Ora kept in touch with those she loved. She cared about them and enjoyed their visits and association. She served as the Wilkins Family Secretary for years and helped organize their genealogy records, and reunions.

Ora loved to quilt and enjoyed opportunities to gather friends and family together for quilting parties. After she retired from Penneys she would often put a quilt on and then invite her friends over for a 'quilting'. They would wile away the hours chatting and sewing. Potluck dinner would offer a break and another excuse for more visiting and laughing. She was always patching, tailoring, or sewing a project for herself or the grand kids. Big foot pillows were a cherished gift from Grandma.

Arlen married Karla Knapp, on February 19, 1983 in the Idaho Falls Temple. They lived just a few miles from Vic and Ora. She was happy to have family close. It had been years since grand children were close enough to spoil on a daily basis and so she was excited with the news of more grand children. Several times a week, Vic and Ora would see Tyler and Jeremy. The boys loved to visit Grandpa and Grandma O. By this time, Vic and Ora were retired and had extra time to spend getting acquainted with these boys. Later, Casey and Kelli joined the group and became quite the little tag-alongs.

Gardening, especially flower gardening, was not only an interest, but a talent. Her 'green thumb' saved the life of many plants neighbors brought to Ora for help. She would talk to them and tend them until they were plush and beautiful again. She spent hours watering and weeding her flower beds, which gave herself and the neighborhood great pleasure. Green houses or six pack displays at the grocery store were a constant temptation, which usually got the best of her. She was especially proud of the climbing yellow rose bush she had gotten a start of from her mother. The rose had grown until it covered her back fence. She would escort any visitor out back to see the beautiful roses when they were in bloom and they were beautiful! Her flowerbeds were decorated with rock mementos that she had collected from various places she had visited. She could name each rock's origin and liked to do so at every opportunity. She always had an over abundance of raspberries that needed to be picked. Tyler and Jeremy loved to help Grandma 'pick' the berries, which never seemed to make it to the house.

Vic's health gradually started to be a concern. It was getting harder for him to feel good. On April 9, 1987, Vic passed away in the Idaho Falls Hospital. His children had come home to see him and now they were together to support Ora. Vic was buried in the Central Cemetery at Grant, Idaho on April 11, 1987.

Days were longer now for Ora, but she was determined to keep busy and be productive. She loved to hear from her children and grand children. She was always excited to share the latest news of their accomplishments with other family members or friends. She often went with Leone on 'fast' trips to town for the 'necessities of life'- Coke and chocolate. Good friends and neighbors tried to break up long days for Ora.

Ora looked forward to the day she could go to the temple and have her family sealed. She waited patiently, but as soon as it was possible, arrangements were made and she was sealed to Vic and her children, Leon, Loa and Arlen, in the Idaho Falls Temple, April 29, 1989. She felt like a weight had been lifted. She had longed for this day for years!

Ora's only surviving family member, Alta passed away on May 5, 1990. Alta and Ora had kept in touch through the years, in spite of the distance between their homes. They visited often on the phone, staying up to date on nieces and nephews and each other.

In spite of her efforts to be independent and active, things were changing for Ora. Things that had always been routine and simple were suddenly unfamiliar and difficult. Those around her tried to help take care of her and help with the she found hard to do for herself. It was particularly hard to see her struggle with something no one could really put their finger on. Various trips to the doctor finally revealed the problem. Ora was dealing with the first stages of Alzheimer's. As the problem progressed, it became necessary to move Ora to a facility where she could receive the care that was best for her. She moved to Lincoln Court, an assisted living home. Her family faced the challenge of selling her home in Coltman. Another move to the Idaho Falls Care Center took place when her need for extra care grew. She was never happy there. She always just wanted to go home. All these changes were not easy for Ora or her family.

Arlen found a private shelter home close to him in Grant. It was a wonderful place for Ora. She was close to Arlen and his family and received exceptional care. Friends from the Grant and Coltman area were good to visit her and show their love and concern. Ora lived there for several years until the home went through some changes that forced another move. At this time, Loa took Ora to Salt Lake City where she found another good place for Ora to live. This gave Loa and Ron an opportunity to help care for her.

Ora passed away on Monday, July 4, 1994 after a long and courageous battle with the effects of Alzheimer's. Even though she was not able to communicate her thoughts, her children believe she knew of the love and concern of her many friends and family members.

Ora made her last move back to Grant, where she was buried, July 7, 1994, in the Central Cemetery at Grant, Jefferson County, Idaho.

Words that might describe and create a memory of Ora...

Polyester, headaches, green thumb, Toby, chocolate, Coke, Puss and Boots, garden, flowers, big foot pillows, friend, Aggravation, reunions, Slim Whitman, Pinochle, picnics, 'for pity sakes', homemade noodles, old records, bandanna's, crispy treats, family histories, picture pedigrees, family, grand kids, Leone, front aprons, Marty Robbins, basement, work, helpful, happy, quilts, camera, sunsets, basketball, scrapbooks, photo album

This Life Sketch of Ora Randall Oswald was compiled from stories, documents and other records collected and kept in the Family History Library of K. Oswald.

Names, places, and dates have been verified with family genealogy information and records in possession of K. Oswald, and family history records in possession of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.