

CHAPTER 8

MY SISTER LOUIS FARLEY JOHNSON

Louie (lovingly called Lou by everyone) was born in Snowflake, Navajo County, Arizona, on November 27, 1894, the 7th of eleven children of Theodore and Matilda Mann Farley. The family moved to Provo Bench (now Orem), Utah when she was about nine months old and grew up on a farm there. She attended Brigham Young University one winter where she took classes in Domestic Art and Domestic Science. She brought home books showing samples of sewing sleeves and darning. Lou became an excellent seamstress.

Her great desire was to someday be a good wife, mother and homemaker, so naturally she chose this course of study. She admired her teacher Vilate Elliott and was so proud of her Domestic Art Book that she showed it to her family. It contained neat samples of all her work and she became an excellent seamstress.



Lou Farley

Lou was a deeply religious girl and was always active in the church, serving mostly in the Mutual Organization. She was ward organist and had a beautiful alto voice. She often sang duets with Ivan Payne who was a tenor. During this period the Timpanogos Ward Choir was blessed with many talented young singers.

J.D. and Ethel Payne remember what a sweet girl she was. In fact, Ethel said she was just a bit jealous because J.D. like her quite a bit. All the young people attended dances in the old Timpanogos hall, and in the old Purcell Hall, which was just north of the old Wilberg store.

Ethel remembered this incident: Their Sunday School class were all excused to go on a special excursion to Wandermeer, or Calder's Park in Salt Lake. They went by horse and buggy to the Lakeview Station. Ethel's brothers furnished hay for the horse. The train picked them up there and they took a street car from the train station to the Park. When the day was over they were to return home. Lou and her brother Leslie had only paid for one-way tickets, and Leslie had not brought enough money to buy their return fair. So everyone pooled all their money—not one of them had much in those days. They found there was just enough to buy one ticket. The girls all had big wide-brimmed hats so they had Lou lie down on the seat and covered her over with their hats. Ethel said she thought the conductor knew what was going on but he was kind and did not investigate. Leslie used the one ticket while Lou allowed herself to be covered up so they could all get home. Ethel remembered this as quite an exciting experience.

Lilly Roy Park and Minne Gorden Wilberg recalled July 24, 1913 when Lou was 18. Lou was the Goddess of Liberty and looked so beautiful in her soft white dress with her slender waistline and her wand, and her soft dark hair with a long dark curl hanging over one shoulder.



Her attendants were Roselthea Kimber and Stella Cook, and 4 tiny little maids who were 4 years old: Jessie and Mildred Farley with their blond curls, and Zenda Wentz in long black curls (these three were her nieces, daughters of Carl, Dick and Pearl Wentz.) The fourth little maid was Virginia Booth with her dark "Dutch-cut." They were darling in little white bunting dresses trimmed with tiny gold stars.



The Goddess of Liberty and her attendants and maids rode on a horse-drawn float with white columns and a canopy. Joseph E. Booth, Virginia's father, furnished the horses.



Miriam Cunningham - Lou's Pioneer Grandmother

Oscar Mann, Lou's grandfather remembered his wife as a frail little woman with brown hair and brown eyes, and a soft voice. She had "the sweetest disposition a woman ever had," he told Lou. In his declining years, he would watch Lou and as his eyes filled with tears he would say, "You are just like your grandmother." Although Lou never knew her grandmother Mann they had many things in common. This is her story:

Miriam Cunningham was born on February 14, 1838 in Townsend Township, Canada West. Her parents were Henry (a son of Mary Sitts) and Mary Slaught. Both died early—he on

Feb. 19, 1884 at the age of 43; she on April 15, 1851 at the age of 59. They were members of the Baptist Church. Henry Cunningham was ordained to the ministry at age 36 and was the father of nine children.

On October 13, 1846 Miriam's sister Nancy married Ebenezer Thane, and they prepared to gather with the Saints in Zion. Miriam joined them. Upon reaching Iowa City Miriam met Oscar Mann, the son of John and Matilda Lyons Mann. They married on September 6, 1860. Both sisters were baptized in Florence, Nebraska in January, 1861. Four months later they continued the journey to Zion with the Joseph Pingrey Company.



Remembering the pioneers with a parade on Provo Bench -- July 24, 1913

They arrived in Salt Lake on September 2, 1861. The Thanes and the Manns settled in Union where on November 30, 1861 Miriam gave birth to her first child, a daughter (who was Lou's mother.) Oscar was a miller by trade and managed the grist mill in Union. Miriam died on February 20, 1867 leaving Oscar with three small children, Matilda 5, Nancy 3 and Oscar. Martha Jane, the daughter of Miriam's sister Nancy, took care of these children and on April 11, 1868 she became Oscar Mann's second wife. We do not know if Miriam had musical talent but her Farley grandchildren obviously did.

Lou took organ lessons from a little lady who used to drive out to the farm once a week in a horse-drawn buggy. Later on when her father became more prosperous, he bought a piano. Lou and her Miriam (Min) took lessons from a piano teacher in Provo, by the name of John Bowen. They both played very well and often played piano duets at church affairs.

Both Min and Lou had good voices and sang well together. It seemed they were always

in demand, singing at various wards in Provo, church programs, funerals, political rallies, etc. That year she and Min sang in a young ladies chorus in a church wide contest. The chorus was made up of girls from the Timpanogos Ward, and was directed by Professor Reed of the B.Y.U. They won out in the local contest and sang in the finals in the Salt Lake Tabernacle and won first place.

When Lou was about 17, sometime in 1913, she and Min sang in a young ladies chorus in a church-wide contest. The group was composed of girls from the Timpanogos Ward, and was directed by Professor Reed of B.Y.U. They won out in the local contests and sang in the finals in the Salt Lake Tabernacle where they won first place.

A year later Lou sang in a ladies quartette in another church wide contest. At the finals in the Salt Lake Tabernacle they came in second. Everyone said they were the best by far, but the judges felt they should not give it to the same girls who had won in the last contest, so they gave it to the Idaho group.



Lorna Booth, Amy Mecham, Louie Farley, Min Farley – M.I.A. Contest Quartette.

Lou and Min's older sister Pearl had very poor health so Lou lived with the Wentz family for quite some time to help out. They paid her a good salary which made Lou feel quite independent. Money was no problem in Pearl's home so Lou could plan any menu she wished. She was always trying out all kinds of new recipes, and as a result she became an excellent cook. She was also an immaculate housekeeper, and so meticulous in everything she did.



Sister Pearl and her husband Frank Wentz

Lou was loved and respected by everyone who knew her. She was always so sweet and kind to everyone, so true and dependable. She was about the most unselfish person who ever lived, always placing everyone's feelings and wants before her own. Her folks moved to Roosevelt in the Uintah Basin sometime around 1915. She hated so much to leave all her friends and the home she had known all her life. She could have stayed with her sister Pearl's family who wanted her so much, but she knew her parents needed her help and moral support, especially her mother, in starting their new home. As usual, she put her own desires behind her and went with her parents. She disliked Roosevelt from the beginning, but she put up a sunny front and made the best of it for her mother's sake for she too disliked the place. Quite often Lou was found lying on her bed crying softly to herself because of loneliness and homesickness, but then soon she was her happy self again.

Lou applied for a position as clerk at the Roosevelt Mercantile Company which was managed by Willis Johnson. He and his family had moved to Roosevelt shortly before the Farley's. They owned a beautiful home and were considered one of the most prominent families in town. Lou's application was accepted immediately and with her sweet disposition she soon proved to be an outstanding clerk. She began to make friends and took an active part in the ward.

One day while she was helping a group of ladies prepare for some kind of social affair in the town's recreational hall, she met a handsome young man who almost stopped her heart. He was the son of her employer who just arrived from Provo where he had been attending B.Y.U. She was helping with the decorations when he spied her and asked his mother, who was also there, who the new girl was. Immediately he wanted to meet her. From that very moment her life was changed. It seemed to be love at first sight for both of them. The friends she left in Provo, whom she had been longing for, soon faded from her memory and she knew that Frank Johnson was the one man she had been looking for.

During the summer months Frank drove the cars for the stage lines his father operated between Price and Roosevelt. The Farley's lived on the main street where Frank had to drive, so whenever he arrived in town he would always honk the horn several times to let Lou know he was back, and if she was at home, she would run to the window to get a glimpse of him. They were always together whenever he was in town.



Lou & Frank Johnson

About this time the United States was drawn into World War I and Frank tried to enlist. He was turned down so he came home and registered for the draft. When Secretary of War Baker pulled out the first capsule it was No. 258, Frank's number. He left for Camp Lewis on September 5, 1915. He and Lou corresponded while he was in the service, and when he came home they decided to get married. They set the date as April 3, 1918, and were married in the Salt Lake Temple.

They spent a wonderful and happy year together. They first lived in Price where Frank handled the Johnson Transportation business. In the fall of 1918, Frank and Lou moved to

Provo where he was to complete his college work and take his degree. That was the year of the terrible Flu epidemic which took so many people. They were both lucky for neither one took the disease. Frank worked for the Provo Brick and Tile Company when he was not in school. They lived in a house on 7th North between University Avenue and 1st West.

Lou was pregnant and became quite sick so they moved in with Frank's Uncle Joe Johnson's family, and later Lou went to live at her brother Carl's place. She had to remain in bed most of the time, and Carl's wife Jenny took good care of her. Her only concern now was for her baby. She had dreamed and looked forward to this time for so long, she must not lose him now. She was sure it would be a son, and chose the name of Willis Farley. However when Lou died Frank named their child Farley Johnson.



When the time came for the baby to be born, she was taken to Dr. Aird's Hospital where Doctors Westwood and Aird took care of her. Frank was with her during her delivery. The doctors knew conditions were not normal and Dr. Aird wanted to operate immediately, but that type of surgery was new in those days and Dr. Westwood was afraid to risk it. As a result, Lou didn't have a chance and died before she could even know that she had a little son. It was a terrible blow to Frank and the whole family.

Farley Johnson lived and grew to honorable manhood under the care of his Grandmother and Grandfather Johnson. He served his country in World War II and was wounded in Italy. He would have died had it not been for a colored soldier who found him and carried him to the nearest first aid station, and from there he was sent to a hospital. His life was spared again and he finished his military service, having reached Berlin when the war ended. He returned to Logan, Utah, where he completed his college work and received his degree in education. It was there he met his wife, Evelyn Hill and they were married in the Logan Temple.

They were blessed with six fine children, four girls and two boys, who all grew up to be honorable young men and women.

Lou achieved her goal as a perfect little homemaker even if it was for a short duration, and her dream of a missionary son also came true. Farley did not have the opportunity of going on a full-time mission for his church, but he filled several Stake Missions. He taught the gospel diligently to his children from the time they were very young, and his two sons each filled an honorable two-year mission., Louis (named after Lou) in the North Central States Mission and Joel in Taiwan, China.

Lou was not permitted to enjoy her little family in this life, but she surely will have that privilege in the next. Lou and Willis Franklin Johnson were married in 1918. She died one year later. Her sister Miriam Adell (named for Miriam Cunningham,) married Frank's brother Reginald Morrill Johnson on September 24, 1919.



Miriam (Min) Farley Johnson

By Eva Farley Clayton