

Helen Ann [Anny Helena] Young and Michael Francis Curran

By Helen Ann [Anny Helena] Young

And it came to pass on Sept 1904, Ann and Mike took the Rio Grande train to Salt Lake and were married in the City and County Building by a Latter Day Saint district attorney with two L.D.S. clerks as witnesses. Mike's mother, sisters and brothers back in Ireland would be horrified when they learned of it. They had so hoped Mike would study for the priesthood. Every Irish family wants at least one member to be a priest; sister Benigna was already a nun in the Convent of Mercy and Mike had been altar boy in the old Catholic church in the Village of Clashmore. He was a bonny boy, youngest in a large family - his mother's pride and joy. Bill and Dick, older brothers, bred horses and followed racing.

When at the turn of the century the Boer War was being fought, England wanted Irish boys to enlist [enlist] and help against Oom Paul Kruger. Having received nothing but cruelty from England in years past, Ireland had only bitterness against her. Mike was in his late teens and would be called so funds were hastily gotten together by selling some sheep and a horse to take care for Mike to emigrate to America with a cousin Harry Mernin. Butte Montana was their destination and they secured work as miners, which was not easy for beginners. The food was strange too but there were many Irish Catholics in Butte and life was not too bad.

After a year of this he went to San Francisco and secured work as a bartender, then to Park City where the big mines were booming. He went to work at the Daly West and to board at Karin's boarding house, having heard of her excellent [excellent] food. There he met and fell in love with Karin's daughter Ann, who served his first meal, and she with him. She begged her mother to make room for the handsome Irish boy though the house was full at the time. She gave

him the room of a temporarily absent boarder and she met him formally [formally] at the Thanksgiving Ball. He had on new patent leather pumps and in their first quadrille he fell down causing much laughter. Romance was on in a big way and quickly ended in marriage and a honeymoon in San Francisco. Mike was popular at parties and dances. He played the accordian [accordion] and sang in a rich Irish tenor. Many pleasant hours were spent in Golden Gate Park. So a month and the \$780.00 Mike had saved were spent and it was time to go back to the mines.

Karin had cried for 3 days and worried when Ann eloped with Mike. She feared he would leave her. She didn't trust men and hoped to keep her girls single. But she learned to love Mike and the two of them sat long at times relating superstitious tales of their native Sweden and Ireland and found them very similar.

Grandmother Anna Britta [Brita] had built some houses in Empire Canyon and one of these she rented to the newlyweds for \$7.00 per month. There were three rooms, a cellar, and an outdoor privy. The furnishings consisted of a blue and gold enamel bed from Sears, a home comfort iron range, a table and chairs, a carpet and a sewing machine, and later on when the first son was born, an easel with his enlarged picture. All this was bought on credit and paid for by the month from Mike's salary of \$85.00 per month. This was in 1905 and prices were low. A chicken, 1 lb. of butter and a dozen eggs were 25¢ each. They were bought by a peddler [peddler], the red bearded Bjorkman from Heuer. Milk was bought from a neighbor at 5¢ per qt. and the butcher, with a 20¢ pot roast, threw in some wienies.

So it went but Ann found care of the babe plus household duties too arduous [arduous] and back to Ma's boarding house they went for a few months. The second baby came 17 months after the first so again back to their cottage and a girl was hired to care for the boy while Ann was

confined with a girl baby. When she was six months old, the mines closed down and times were tough. Work must be found. Mike went to Butte and back in the copper mines and soon sent for his family. Karin accompanied them as the boarding house had closed. She helped settle them into an apartment. All went well. They found friends and exchanged visits and did like all of Butte, rushed the can (that is take the lower part of a tin lunch pail and step around to the corner with 10¢ for beer.

That lasted only one summer. Mike contracted Typhoid fever and after his convalescence in the hospital, we returned to Park City.

Now Karen had opened a restaurant on Main Street and we could rent part of her home on Marsac Ave., the bungalow papa had built. Sister Hilma and her two children lived in half of it.

Mike was back in the mines and old Dr. LeCempte told him when the third child was born in May 1909 that another year in the mines would ruin his health. Miners consumption would get him. Ann, not knowing the danger was for buying the Cunnington house which was up for sale next door; but Mike frightened now, his health none too good set out for a new field - Ogden. He was a good and willing workman but without training had to take hard and low pay jobs such as cement mixing to make a living.

A friend from Park City met him one day offering to sell him a house on 17th Street with an acre orchard for \$1800.00. He wrote Ann to bring the babies and come. She was thinking they did good in Park City but set out by train to join him Labor Day 1909. He met her looking thin and exhausted. She also was haggared [haggard] from a wearisome trip and they had six blokds [blocks] to walk from the car line, each carying [carrying] a baby and holding the hand of the third.

For \$85.00 more, Mike couldn't resist buying the poor furniture as it included a cow, chickens, and a bicycle which would be handy to take him to Ogden Canyon where he now had work at the lime kiln. So here we settled for 16 years in the neighborhood completely Mormon. Neighbors were kind and all came calling wondering how Ann would like the house and especially the furniture which was ramshakle [ramshackle]. She objected most to the outdoor pump which was hard to start, but in 1913 water was piped in and a sink installed in the kitchen of the square 4 room house and a little later a bathroom was added and porches front and back.

The whole family toiled almost continually. Fruit had to be picked and canned or sold, pigs, chickens, and a cow to feed and care for, garden to hoe, irrigation weekly and lawn to flood, and always when there were errands in town, the everlasting 6 block walk to the street car and back. But in 1918 an old Ford was acquired which was ful [fun?] to go in and for Mike to tinker with. He had it apart when the Armistise [Armistice] was segned [signed] and the town was hulla balooing like crazy.

The children grew up and learned early to be self supporting. They had jobs in town after school and Mike had now advanced to machinist with the Southern Pacific Railroad Co. So it was best to move into town. The old homestead was traded for a small apartment building which should mean less labor but not so, with remodeling to make better income, work never ended..

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When at the turn of the century the Boer War was being fought, England wanted Irish boys to enlist and help against Tom Paul Kruger. Having received nothing but cruelty from England in years past, Ireland had only bitterness against her. Mike was in his late teens and would be called so funds were hastily gotten together by selling some sheep and a horse to get fare for Mike to emigrate to America with a cousin, Harry Bernin. Butte Montana was their destination and they secured work as miners, which was not easy for beginners. The food was strange too but there were many Irish Catholics in Butte and life was not too bad.

After a year of this he went to San Francisco and secured work as a coal tender, then to Park City where the big mines were booming. He went to work at the daily best and to board at Karin's boarding house, having heard of her excellent food. There he met and fell in love with Karin's daughter Ann, who served his first meal, and she with him. She begged her mother to make room for the handsome

Irish boy though the house was full at the time. She gave him the room of a temporarily absent boarder and they met him formally at the Thanksgiving Ball. He had on new patent leather pumps and in their first quadrille he fell down causing much laughter. Romance was on in a big way and quickly ended in marriage and a honeymoon in San Francisco. Mike was popular at parties and dances. He played the accordion and sang in a rich Irish tenor. Many pleasant hours were spent in Golden Gate Park. So a month and the \$700.00 Mike had saved were spent and it was time to go back to the mines.

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For \$85.00 more, Mike couldn't resist buying the poor furniture as it included a cow, chickens and a bicycle which would be handy to take him to Ugdan Canyon where he now had work at a lime kiln. So here we settled for 15 years in a neighborhood completely Mormon. Neighbors were kind and all came calling wondering how Ann would like the house and especially the furniture which was ramshakle. She objected most to the outdoor pump which was hard to start, but in 1913 water was piped in and a sink installed in the kitchen of the square 4 room house and a little later a bathroom was added and porches front and back.

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