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Life Together

Myral and Loa began their life together differently than their parents had begun their married lives. Emerett and Judson, and Annie and Charles had begun as farmers living in log cabins, plowing and digging for survival. But Myral and Loa never worked on a farm after their marriage; instead they rented an apartment in Idaho and taught in classrooms for five days a week. They enjoyed their positions and expected to be comfortable there for years. But everything changed when some friends from Hawaii came to dinner one night.

Marriage and Honeymoon Trip

Two years after first meeting around the piano at opera class, and having spent only two short summers together at the AC and two long



*Myral and Loa at Liberty Park
shortly after their wedding – June 1929*

school years apart teaching, Myral and Loa were married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 6, 1929. They both passed through the temple for the first time earlier that day. Joseph Smith Clark, Myral's uncle, performed their sealing ceremony. Imagine Myral and Loa's joy as they kneeled at the altar and looked into each other's glowing eyes. They wondered what adventures lay ahead of them. Where would they live? What would their children be like? Whatever their future held, they knew they'd be singing and smiling through it all.



Loa, the bride. June 1929

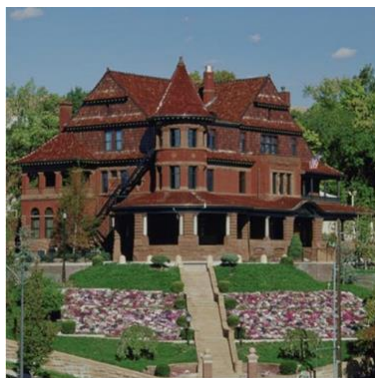
Since they were both teachers, they had the rest of the summer off to enjoy finally being together. For one month, they drove their new Model-A Ford all around the West. The first leg of their journey included Boise, Idaho; Portland, Oregon; and Orland, California. They stopped by her old



Loa with their first car – a Model A Ford

home and Myral picked his first orange right off the tree. They toured around Sacramento, Los Angeles, the National Pictures Movie Studio, Catalina Island, and Venice Beach.¹ They stopped in Prescott, Arizona to surprise her brother Bion as he preached a sermon in a shady park to about 50 people while serving his mission there.² They ended their honeymoon trip with a visit to the Grand Canyon and Zion National Park.

They lived in Salt Lake for the rest of that summer as Myral attended the McCune School of Music. This was a prestigious music school in the mansion of Alfred W. McCune, an entrepreneur and railroad tycoon. Located one block north of the Salt Lake Temple, the ornate building was constructed for \$1,000,000 in 1901. When McCune and his family relocated



*McCune Mansion which housed
The McCune School of Music in 1929*

to Los Angeles in 1920, he donated the mansion to the Church as a residence for then President Heber J. Grant. Averse to living in such a lavish home, President Grant established a music school there instead, which lasted for forty years.³ Myral had taken classes at the McCune School of Music before, but this time he took special classes to certify him to teach piano to children.⁴

Teaching in McCammon, Idaho

The principal at Myral's school in Victor, Idaho was LaRue Merrill, and he and Myral had grown quite close as they worked together. Mr. Merrill loved the talent and the energy that Myral brought, and Myral loved the freedom Mr. Merrill gave him. Mr. Merrill and the school board had looked at Loa's résumé, and it seemed she was going to be hired to teach at Victor Elementary with Myral after their wedding.⁵



*The faculty at McCammon School. Loa (top, 5th from left)
Myral (bottom, far right) Mr. Merrill (bottom, 2nd from right)*

But about the time Myral and Loa were married, Mr. Merrill was transferred to a school in McCammon, Idaho and he asked Myral to come along.⁶ Mr. Merrill had enjoyed working with Myral and wanted their good relationship and his musical contributions to continue. So in the fall of 1929, a few months after they were married, the young Clarks moved to McCammon where Myral taught at the high school and Loa found a job teaching first grade.⁷ Consistent with his musical and entrepreneurial self, Myral led the school band, put on plays with students, and in his spare time, played the piano with a band called the McCammon “Nite” Hawks. Myral and Loa lived in a little rented space for \$10 a month.⁸



Myral (top, center) with the McCammon school band he led.

During part of their stay in Idaho, Myral's very ill mother stayed with him and Loa.⁹ She had suffered a break-down a few years before; years of hard living and pressures fractured and altered her previously soft and loving personality. Myral's brother, Carlos, wrote to Loa of the change, "The mother that was with you that summer was no more like Myral's Mother-Pal than daylight is like a very dark cloudy night."¹⁰ While we do not know why she broke down, one can imagine the physical and emotional toll the aging woman endured from raising her family and managing a farm alone. Whatever the cause, Myral still loved and cared for his sweet mother as best he could.



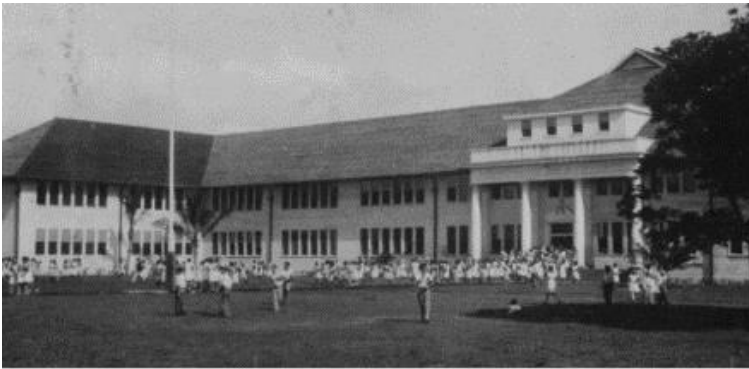
Myral (at piano) and the McCammon "Nite" Hawks - another student dance band that he formed. May 1930.

While in McCammon, the Clarks were visited by Carl and Charmion Hancey, friends Myral knew from the AC. They were back from teaching in Hawaii, and encouragingly said to Myral, “Why don’t you come to Hawaii with us. You’d love it over there and I’m sure they’d hire you.”¹¹ The Hanceys sent for an application, which Myral promptly filled out—getting referrals from musicians he knew well. He mailed the application back to Hawaii and Kalakaua Junior High School extended him an offer to teach.



Charmion & Carl Hancey

Myral was very excited about accepting this offer, because he loved adventure and was used to being far from family members. Conversely, Loa struggled with the idea of leaving her family and moving so far away.¹² Whatever their decision-making conversations were, they accepted the offer. After teaching only



Kalakaua Junior High School in Honolulu, Dec 1930

one year in McCammon, Idaho, they packed their few things and left. Myral wrote of their time there, “Enjoyed our stay in McCammon in many ways. Hate to leave.”¹³ He and Loa drove all through Utah to say goodbye to friends and family members, not knowing exactly when they would see them again.



Myral and Loa took Annie Clark to Jenny Lake on July 28, 1930, shortly before departing for Hawaii. They are the group of three, right of center.