

Paula was very intelligent. I saw the records at Bonneville Jr. High, where I taught, of an IQ test she had taken with about 400 other students in the auditorium. Her score was very high.



Paula always had very good grades in school except for two occasions. When Paula was in the 4th grade, I received her report card, which had a “D” in Reading.

I knew this was ridiculous because Paula was an excellent reader and I knew that her teacher always had Paula read aloud to the class when the teacher was otherwise occupied. Of course, I visited the teacher immediately and she said that Paula had read every book in their classroom, but that she refused to write any book reports.

“Well, the teacher said that we shouldn't hand in our papers if we hadn't finished them, and I had never finished mine so I threw them away”. -

Another time, her report card said she had a “D” in Math. This was also in the 4th grade. When I visited the teacher this time, I was told that Paula never handed in any of her math papers. When I confronted Paula with this information, she said, “Well, the teacher said that we

shouldn't hand in our papers if we hadn't finished them, and I had never finished mine so I threw them away”.



Rebellious Youth

She was a little rebellious as a youngster, but she was always good. One friend who moved into our ward at 13 or 14 years old told me that but for Paula, she may have taken her own life because she was so desperately lonely and unhappy. At a Young Women's party she was standing alone

when Paula called to her and said, "Come sit with us." Paula then took her into the group of friends and she was "Home" and happy. This individual, now a mother, said that her children's favorite stories are what they call, "Paula Stories".

In her teenage years, Paula was very fond of riding a small Honda motor scooter we had. She was forbidden to ride around the home area, but she just didn't seem able to resist. This disobedience caused her some uncomfortable moments with her parents.

Paula & Music

Paula was a very good piano player. She studied with Donald Ripplinger (former Tabernacle Choir Assistant Director). After about a year of lessons with her playing very well, I was practicing with her one day when I discovered that she could not read music. She had simply memorized the lesson's songs that her brother and sister had learned and was playing her assignments from memory. Needless to say, Don gave her a whole new set of lesson books, and the problem was soon corrected.

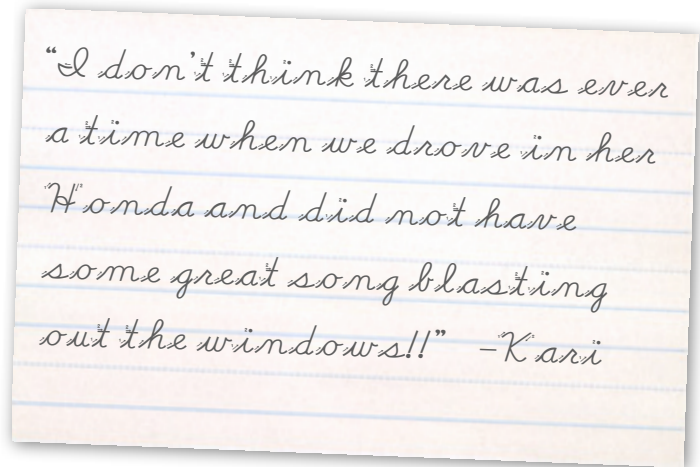


We were practically forced to give her piano lessons when she was six or seven because she spent so much time “playing the piano” from the time she was about three.

When her teacher Don Ripplinger moved to

Minnesota, Paula was his

only student whom he persuaded Mrs. Florence Brinton (Salt Lake City’s premier piano teacher) to accept as a student. Paula played the piano beautifully. She would tell her niece, Kari Hawker (she played piano well, too) that, “No matter how good you get, you will never play piano as well as I do.” This, of course, really pushed Kari to try harder.

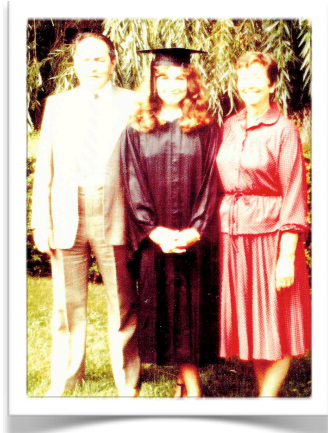


“I don't think there was ever a time when we drove in her Honda and did not have some great song blasting out the windows!!” -Kari

When we sold the farm in 1998, Paula, Suzanne Hawker, Dr. Bernell Hale, (Paula’s good friend and Chamber Choir Teacher at the “U”) and I went out to Summerhays Music and bought a beautiful, black K.Kawai Grande Piano. This piano was to be given to Paula. It was delivered a week after she died.



Paula was very active in music activities in both Jr. High and High school. She was an accompanist for Dean Hailstone’s 9th grade choir and sang in Mr. Lee’s Madrigals and Concert Choir at Cottonwood High School. She also sang in Bobby Bowden’s Mormon Youth Choir, where she was a section leader for the altos.



Early Schooling & Influence

At Paula's Cottonwood High School Graduation Exercises, I was surprised to see she had put on a pair of red bloomers and jumped up and clicked her heels to show them off when she received her diploma.

Paula attended BYU in Provo for her first year of college on Academic Scholarship and while there, her Anatomy teacher told her she had the highest scores on tests ever in his classes. She only missed two answers in the whole class and they were two questions that were on the back of the last page of one test (that she took when she was ill) and she didn't turn over the page.

Paula always tried to inspire her nieces and nephews to do the best they could. She talked to them constantly about not wasting their time, but achieving all they could ...always moving onward and upward.

"I think that was one of the most meaningful things in my relationship with Paula, her faith in me". - Kim

Paula's niece, Heather Hawker Homer, followed in Paula's footsteps and took the challenge to do even better in Anatomy than Paula. As of February 2006, Heather has achieved a great deal in the Anatomy programs at the University of Utah.



Others of Paula's nieces and nephews also took the challenge. Some of their letters about her appear at the end of this history.

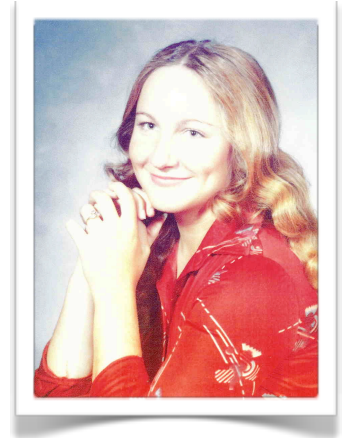
After the first year at BYU Provo, Paula completed the rest of her BYU academics at the Salt Lake BYU Center, which was then held at the old Veteran's Hospital on the Salt Lake City Avenues. She had a hard time fitting into the regimentation of some of the religious activities that were required at the BYU Provo Campus.

Paula attended a six-month BYU London Study Abroad. This was a wonderful experience for our adventurous Paula. Besides her class work, she attended nearly every drama or musical production performed in London during her stay there. She also visited every historical site available to her, and in the latter part of her study abroad, she toured Europe and also visited Israel. She made many friends while in England, especially the director and his family. She visited these people many times during later visits to London.

"Paula helped me fall in love with Shakespeare, choir, music, piano, music, opera, comedy, history, law, medicine, sports, musicals, books, travel, and theater." -Krissy

Multimedia & Memory

Paula developed a love of reading at an early age and as she grew older, she gathered a very large library of the classics, many leather bound. She also collected a large variety of music items including sheet music, choral books, piano music, tapes, VCRs, and DVDs and many CDs. She could almost read a large book through in one night and remember its content well. We believe that she had a photographic memory, which helped her get such excellent grades in her studies.



One incident indicates her photographic memory. Her brother Tim, while Student Body President of Bonneville Jr. High, came home one day, feeling embarrassed and despondent because he had accidentally locked the Student Officers' file cabinet and there was no key available. His fellow officers, especially one girl who had a habit of belittling everyone, had made life miserable for him. Paula listened to his complaint and then she went to her room and returned with a James Bond novel, (she owned every James Bond novel). She turned to the exact page where it described how to open a locked file cabinet. Tim was then redeemed when the next day he easily unlocked the cabinet.