① March 9, 1978 My Mother Was Married to James Franklin Justus and had Several 4 children by him Claude Hampton - Minnie Ellen, Charlie Thomas and Elmer E Justus. The later, the youngest of the Justus Children was born June 7, 1900. Mr. Justus died of Pneumonia. And later my Mother, Maudie Name Celestine Delilah Stout, the Eldest of sixteen Children of Thomas Benton Stout and Mary Jane Kelsey Stout. My Father, Edwin Marion Mitchell and Mother married — — in the early 1900's. To this union 3 Children were born.

Nannie Jewell, born Nov. 16-1904 2
Edwin Lewis born Jan. 19, 1906 and
Mary Josephine (me) born Dec 2, 1907
my parents were not happily mated,
my father was the son of old age
parents, and in 1940 my fathers
brothers told me, that he was
spoiled and should not have
married a widow with four children
anyway my parents were separated
when I was born and the only time
I ever saw my father was when I
was about 13. And he came to my
brother Charlie Justus home near
Justus, Okla. to see my Mother and
Maybe, Hopefully to see me too..
We moved to new Mexico in
2 covered wagons - in Dec. 1914, both

did not arrive in New Mexico till Jan of 1915. We were three weeks going from Duke, Okla. where mother lived in 1913-1914 - when she decided to take her 6 children and go to the plains where she could file on a place - It could be one very near, when she had complied with specifications required to file on land. Our oldest sister, Minnie Ellen had married Robert Strickland Eason and she stayed in Oklahoma. It broke her heart when Mother moved such an impossible distance away. Minnie had a small daughter, Irene Virginia, before we left Oklahoma, and Feb 1-1915, Harvey Aaron Eason was born. my older brothers dug a half dugout after mother made her

Claim on land near Hollene N. M. (4)
about 30 miles north of Clovis, N. M.
It had eight floors - but narrow win-
dows, just above the ground that
let light and air in. This was
only one room where we had
two beds, and the boys slept
a loft, that their beds were put
in - To get up there there was a
ladder they climbed up by.

In 1915 in the fall Mother
took us three Mitchell children -
I think brother Lewis stayed in
N. M. with the older brothers
my sister Jewell, and I went with
her to Okla, where we went
to pick cotton to have money to
live on while Mother was

staking her claim. While we were picking cotton for Mother's brother, J.A. Stout, word came to my Mother that my sister Minnie, had lost her mind, that she was dangerously ill. My Aunt Bell kept us children and Mother went to her. She died in Dec. 1915, leaving Harvey 11 months old and Irene about four for Mother to take. That ended our work in the cotton field. After her funeral, Mother took the two orphaned grandchildren and my sister and I on the train and we went back to our home on the plains. The children's father Bob stayed and saw to his property and came later. Irene was a beautiful and lovely child, and we adored her, but in Jan. 1917 she took spinal meningitis and passed away. I was desperately ill with Pneumonia

in a bed next to hers in this 6 half-dugout we called home. Little Irene was buried at Hollene a long way from her mother. Minnie was buried in Marie Cemetary, where Grandma Stout and several of our relatives were buried. This is near the non existant town of Brinkman Okla, which is near Mangum Okla.

I was born in the community near Marie Okla in 1907. Lewis was born about 2 miles north of Mangum, while the other mitchell child was born in Denton, Tex. Mother and her husband, James Justus, had owned a berry farm East of Denton, and that is where her Justus children were born and sister Jewell (Mitchell) too.

near Christmas of 1914 we were at Mother's Cousin's place Willie Stout who was the son of James Stout - my grandfather Thomas Benton Stout's brother. When Mothers first brother was born her parents named him Jim - after grandfather's brother.

My mother married J. D. Moore when I was 10 or 11 - About 1917 a grave mistake He was deeply in debt, and it not only took all her fairly large herd of cattle to clear his debts but all Mother's modest Land. Mr. Moore had bright's disease and he died a few years after he and Mother married He and my brother Lewis, had gone to Clovis to take a load of grain and he took bad, and was taken to his daughter's home where he passed

away - we had moved to what we called the Ridley place about 1918. Later my sister and her husband bought the place and lived there until ---------- when they sold the place to Fern Stout, D. R. Stouts son and moved to Marquette, Kansas.

We knew hard times as children but mother provided well for her Children, and the Justus boys were hard workers. We either walked to school or rode horseback or took a buggy to school. I've had my feet frozen till they broke into an open sore in the winter. I've had my hands frozen after I was in Grady High school till the skin peeled away. Then in 1931 my husband, and two of our children were burned badly in Wink, Texas

Janelle was 13 months old and Lloyd was not four yet. We were married Dec. 18-1931- Lloyd was not four till Jan 28, 1932.

I got all my public school education in new mexico. I attended school North of Clovis, at Friendship, Hollene, Path Clovis and the last 5 years at Grady, N.M. I graduated with three others in 1926- at Grady High School- I was known as Josephine Mitchell. I had always been known as Mary, but when I moved to Grady I asked to be called Josephine- when my second husband, James Walker Kennedy and I married he decided to just call me Mary Jo- That is what most people call me.

Only Edward Harrison of Grandview Texas, R. 7. P. route, and I are still living. I was able to visit him in Feb- 1973 the first time I'd seen him since 1926- the

year we graduated.

I had a Cousin, Jessie Sheridan 10 Shillman, about 10 months older than I - who was my Mother's sister Alice Sheridan's girl... The most dear relative to me I lost her May 11 - 1991 - She painted a lovely picture & gave me - I cherish such a lot - other precious Cousins, more considerate of me, than my sister and my brothers, Except my brother, Charlie Justus - are pearl Sheridan Kelly's - daughters - Alberta Denington and Fannie Anderson.

When I finished High school, Bro. George F. Mickey was holding a meeting at Ruth. He and his family were out there Previously he was located at Clovis - where he baptized me, when I was 12, Mother arranged with him to take me to Abilene Christian

College where I attended summer
school in 1926.

In the spring of 1926 my brother
Charlie Justus was living on Pete
Pelletiers place - North of old Beth school -
But he went back to Okla and went
to Beth. There he saw James a
fine looking boy of 19. He came home
and reported that he had seen little
crippled Will N. Kennedy and his son.
James who was such a fine boy about
to finish High school - as I was. This
interested me a lot, so I sent James
an announcement that I was finishing
High school. Then he sent me an
announcement of his graduation and
a silk Dress Cap. I bought him a
necktie - which we later said
was the tie that tied the tie
that binds." This started a correspond-
ence with James - who went to

Sapulpa, Okla to work in the Forest field while I attended summer school in Abilene Christian College. For some reason Charlie went back to Okla. and James came to our home with Charlie. This was Aug. 18- 1922. Aug 20- I came on the train, and Mother and Lewis came to Clovis for me. James was waiting at Charlie's home to meet me. James was an idealist and a dreamer! But he made all many seemingly impossible dreams come true!

I had my friends! People always seemed to like me - I was able to make friends easily - I'm so grateful But James was like no one else I saw - He made my mother "fall" for him as a prospective son-in-law

James convinced my mother that I 3 - she should sell our home and move to A.C.C. and he'd take her truck and make expenses for all of us, and she could provide a home for me and for him, and we'd all get our college education.

My mother was sickly as long as I can remember. When I was a small child, she had jaundice gallbladder and gall bladder attacks. Both she refused to have surgery. In Nov 11, 1949 she died of cancer of the liver. In 1932 she did have gall stone surgery in Baird Texas, but she nearly died on the operating table and Dr. Driggs was not able to remove all the stones. She had thought throughout the years that she would not live till I was safely settled in a home of my own. My brother Charlie had urged

her to take Brent me to Abilene Christian College, that I would take care of Rex. It turned out the James + I did take care of her as long as she lived. Mother had a farm sale around Sept 9th - and we started for Abilene, but when we got to Slaton James told mother it would be so much cheaper schooling to go to Austin, so we turned the truck loaded with all our possessions toward Austin.

we rented an apartment on a house directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Hethel family living there had a precious little 2 year old girl named Janelle. That is where we got the Name of our third child, our second daughter.

I worked for G. H. P. Showalter (15) at the Ferm Foundation Office for 75 ct in an afternoon. James thought that was so little. He did not want me to have to work for that. However this was the money that paid for our marriage license, of Sept 29-1926 in Abilene where we married James enrolled in Texas U. and I went to enroll. Mother had spent $80.00 on my summer schooling at A.C.C. I cleaned Daisy Hall, the halls and bathrooms for my room and board. The Campus was located on north 1st across from Sayles Blvd at that time. It was in 1929 when the school moved to the present Campus. When

When I enrolled in the Texas U. I had several 2 hr. Bible courses

the state school would not except. None of my family had ever attended College - and I did not talk to the College people to see what I should do. I went to Mother and told her I'd lose my courses + just could not go there. So after about two weeks we moved - loaded up again and headed for Arkansas. This may have been what kept James from getting a College education. We camped in a wagon yard and Mother decided she could not take her money + send me to school, which she could not. She encouraged James + me to marry. She knew we were madly in love. So we went to the home of M.V. Showalter, a College professor who taught me Latin and English in A.C.C. M.V. Showalter was the

brother of G. H. P. DeWalt the editor of the Firm Foundation. James and I were married late Saturday afternoon Sept 29-1926- Sunday we attended Church in Sandy, Texas. Monday ~~Sept~~ 1, we had located a Cotton field where we went to pull bolls and try to make a living. I had only one quilt my mother gave me. Harvey Eason, my nephew was 8 years younger than I. He went with us all the time. Yes Bob Eason had married and his marriage had not worked. So Bob was living in Texas. His wife, Daisy. Rode a daughter, Dempie Lou he died at an early age in

in a car accident. Mother wrote to Harvey's father that if he would come and help her make a home for Harvey that he could make his home with her in an honorable way - and be able to help to rear his motherless son. This he did, and they rented a place in west Adelaide