



George Eugene England Jr.
1933-2001

JANE ENGLAND—TAKEN AT HAVES CASTLE, ENGLAND, 1988

“Enduring”

Reality is too demanding for me to feel very safe any more in the appalling luxury of my moments of utter skepticism. God’s tears in the book of Moses, at which the prophet Enoch wondered, tell me that God has not resolved the mystery of being. But he endures in love. He does not ask me to forego my integrity by ignoring the mystery or he would not have let Enoch see him weep. But he does not excuse me to forego my integrity by ignoring the reality which daily catches me up in joy and sorrow and shows me, slowly, subtly, its moral patterns of iron delicacy.

Edgar to his blind father in King Lear:

*Men must endure
Their going hence even as their coming hither.
Ripeness is all. Come on.*



Eugene England passed away on 17 August 2001 at home surrounded by his family. He was buried the next day in a private graveside ceremony at Wasatch Lawn in Salt Lake City. While a bagpiper played traditional music, his children and grandchildren carried the casket to the gravesite under a cherry tree. Son-in-law Paul Nelson conducted the service, son Mark offered the dedicatory prayer, and daughter Jane read Gene's poem, "Kinsman." Family and close friends shared memories of Gene and sang "Amazing Grace." Charlotte led everyone in shoveling dirt onto the lowered casket.

The casket was a simple pine box built by Mark, with iron handles forged by Paul. The interior lid was painted deep blue, dotted with stars and sea shells. The sides were decorated with drawings by Gene's grandchildren. At the mortuary, before the graveside service, family members dressed the body in temple clothing. Then family members placed personal mementos and gifts in the box, including photos, drawings, poems, letters, wheat stalks, favorite toys, and a grandchild's swimming trophy. Useful gifts for the afterlife included a fishing net and fly, pencils, favorite books and plays, including King Lear.

The following Saturday, hundreds gathered at the Provo Tabernacle to celebrate Gene's amazing life. They were treated to glorious recollections of his boyhood, Church service, life as a family man, and as a best friend and fishing partner. The service also included a wonderful slide presentation set to the music of Cat Stevens, Louis Armstrong, and the Beatles. And, as we might expect, Gene still had the final word as his stake president played a recording of Gene's testimony from a meeting this past January.

