

**Autobiography  
of  
Michael Joseph Shaw**

**Including History from 1969 to 1988**

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I was born June 12, 1969 in Sacramento, California. My cousin Michelle Allen was born the same day. My mother's water broke after she heard that my Aunt Chrissie had Michelle and I was born shortly after. I was born into a LDS family. Both my parents served missions in the Central States Mission. Robert Keith Shaw and Mary Lou Abbott, my parents, met when they were on their missions. They were married on Wednesday April 5, 1950.

I am the youngest of five living children. Gayle is the oldest. Next was the oldest boy, Robert K. Shaw Jr. or "Keith". Mary was born premature and died. Holly was next. Scott was born after that. John was stillborn.

I don't remember too much from my baby days, but my mother tells me that I was always active. I was always crawling around and exploring the world around me. My mother said that she allowed me to crawl around and very active, but sometimes relatives and friends were not so tolerant. Our family friend, Earl Turner, and Great Aunt Lavinia Rell are good examples. They were appalled at how unruly I was and thought it right to set me straight with spankings.

When I was four years old we moved to Logan, Utah so that my father could earn his Master's degree from Utah State University. I remember living in the Van Noy Apartments (student housing). Some highlights that I recall from that time in Logan were things like tube socks used as mittens, learning how to ride a bike in the apartment parking lot, sledding down University Hill in the winter, and tubing down the canal in Logan Canyon. I also remember the ice cream socials that we went to up at the University. It was all you could eat ice cream so I took full advantage of the opportunity. I also went up to the University to go to "preschool". It was a children's lab where college students studied my behavior, but I never knew I was being studied. It was a fun place to play and learn. These are the events I remember from this time in my life.

Ever since I was young my family have been travelers. The first major trip that impressed me was our trip to New York City to pick up my brother, Keith, from his mission. Our family, as always, traveled with a very strict budget. We purchased the cheapest plane fare and stayed in missionary domiciles. We saw the sights of New York. The Statue of Liberty was my favorite. I remember Dad boosting me up through the eye on the inside so that I could see the nose on the outside. I was scared of the big city, but I knew I was safe because I was with my family.

I enjoyed going to Earl LeGette elementary school from kindergarten to sixth grade. Elementary school was always fun for me. My teachers in order were Mrs. Espenshade, Mrs. Bunce, Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Kasje, Mrs. Wilkinson, and Mrs. Kaden. When I was in third grade I taught Mrs. Kasje how to play two square. I was able to be in the Gifted Program (A program for above average students in intellect) throughout all of elementary. I enjoyed the many field trips that I went on. We went to places such as Folsom Dam, Old Sacramento and the Exploritorium in San Francisco. When I was in fifth grade my parents and I went to Hawaii to see my brother, Scott, while he was attending BYU-Hawaii.

During those years in elementary if I wasn't in school I was usually playing with friends. Ronnie Smith lived on my street and I played with him the most. We built forts of all kinds everywhere. We also took apart everything we could get our hands on, telephones, clocks, eggbeaters, and other things. As I was taking apart a clock I received a hearty shock. Also I played with Mary and Cheryl Hogan, Zack, Robbie Hoch, and Lance Armstrong. I liked to go to Robbie Hoch's house and go swimming in their pool.

I progressed to Andrew Carnegie Junior High School. When I was twelve I received the Aaronic Priesthood and was ordained to the office of a deacon. The Fair Oaks Fifth ward was formed and we became a part of that ward. Jim Beus, Duane Johnson, Andreas Spaeth, Aaron Gregersen, Craig Clifton Jr. and Joe Wheeler were in my quorum. I called to be the deacon's quorum president after the older guys such as Duane and Craig had become teachers. I remember going on monthly camping trips with our leader Daniel Beus. It didn't matter where we went, so long as we went. We went camping up at Mormon Center once, so we could get our monthly campout taken care of.

The summer after my seventh grade year my parents and I went to the Orient. We spent a week sightseeing in Hong Kong. It was very humid. While we were there we stayed at the YMCA hotel and ate cheese and crackers. We were on a very tight budget. We were able to take a tour of Red China. After Hong Kong we went to the Philippines for two weeks. My father taught classes to exchange students from the Philippines so we visited many of them. One evening we went out to eat the traditional Filipino way, with our hands. We then went to Japan for a month. In Japan we visited with other exchange students my father had taught. We went as far north as Nikko and as far south as Kumamoto. We stayed with the Nakahara's, a member family, when we weren't traveling around. We then went to pick up Scott from his mission in Korea. When we were there we bought a lot of clothing really cheap. On our way back we stopped in Hawaii for a couple of days. The whole trip was great.

My eighth grade school year was cut short when we went to Logan to help Keith with his business, Springcolor Systems. I worked the summer installing sprinklers at Mountain Crest High School. I went to EFY and

roomed with Joe Wheeler. We had a blast! We stayed in Logan through the beginning of my freshman year. I went to Mountain Crest, the newly built school, for one quarter. I was on the Cross Country team. The team did well and we competed in cities throughout Northern Utah such as Salt Lake City.

When snow started to fall in Logan we came back to Fair Oaks. I went to Bella Vista. I continued running in Track at B.V. There was a ward split and we became part of the Fair Oaks First Ward. I was involved in the Dance Festival that year. I practiced all the dances preparing to be in it, but I wasn't able to. I was collecting a hive of bees with Bill Taylor when a bee got inside my head screen. I tried to get it out, but nothing was working. I lifted my net so it could fly out, but instead of it going out, many bees came flying in and stung my face. My head swelled up to the size of a basketball. I was laid up during the performance of Dance Festival.

The summer after my freshman year I went to work with Keith again. We rented a house in Logan for the summer. I went to EFY. Our teacher's quorum spent a week at Lake Oroville water skiing and camping.

I started my sophomore year at Logan High School. I ran cross country for that first quarter. After a quarter at Logan we returned to Fair Oaks. During my sophomore year at school I went to a lot of Church Dances, wrestled, performed in the ward roadshow, and ordained a priest.

I went to work with Keith on my own for the summer after my sophomore year. Most of my time was spent in Evanston, Wyoming. An older man, named Max, and I landscaped a community building. We lived in a trailer, ate out for every meal, and took our showers at a nearby Rec. Center. I went to EFY for a week for a break from work.

September of 1985 I started my Junior year at Bella Vista. At that time I started to develop and grow out of my awkwardness. I worked at American River Veterinary Hospital and at Kentucky Fried Chicken. At KFC I was a cook and really enjoyed the people I worked with, but I didn't care for the job. I was finally able to perform in the Dance Festival. A friend of mine, Joe Wheeler, and I bought a junker VW bug in order to fix it up. We weren't successful as the car ultimately had to be towed away.

The summer of 1986 I started working for a spa company, but that only lasted a couple of weeks. I went to work with Keith on the Vernal High School. Our Priest Quorum went on a super activity to Lake Powell. In that week we all grew very close together. We went waterskiing, hiking, and cliffdiving. It was hard to go back to work after having such a good time. My friend Lance Armstrong came up and helped in Vernal for a week. Lance and I made an all night road trip from Logan to Vernal and then from Vernal to Logan. We were in a old truck that kept breaking down. I then went to Basketball Camp with Lance in Provo. After Basketball Camp we spent a week at a condo in Carmel, California with Lance's family.

My senior year was definitely my "glory" year. I was involved in the homecoming decorations, two plays, debate, and playing laser tag. I also went to Van Halen and Genesis in concert. Our seminary class grew closer that year as we had quite a few activities together. The second half of the year I worked as a Yard Duty at Earl LeGette.

After graduation I worked for a construction company for two weeks. During the rest of the summer I worked at Cal Gas Corporate Headquarters as a maintenance person. I was also a Lifeguard at Mormon Center Pool.

My first semester in college was at BYU-Hawaii. I had fun surfing, sleeping on beaches, and meeting new friends. I was still able to do quite well in school. For Christmas I went home and decided to attend BYU at Provo. I didn't enjoy Provo as much as Hawaii, but I knew that educationally I would progress further in Provo. I went to Spring Term as well and worked with Keith in Salt Lake during my off days.

During the summer I worked at Cal Gas saving money for my mission. I left for my mission on Wednesday, August 24th. I went to the Australia, Melbourne Mission.