



## The Story Behind the Rainbow in ...

### H.O.P.E.s LOGO

*The bow is a covenant between God and man that never again would the floods come to wipe out the human race. This is the story of a rainbow that may have something to do with that covenant.*

On June 30, 1970, a woman died in a single car accident in Maine. Her twenty-two month old daughter was thrown clear of the car and soon found by the occupants of another vehicle who noticed signs of the accident. They noted the time; 12:30 p.m., EST.

The woman's family was vacationing in Switzerland at the time, and as day-long rains ended that same afternoon, they saw a rainbow of such intensity that they felt it had special meaning for them; so they noted the time...6:30 p.m. When one adjusts for the time zone difference, the times are the same!

The family heard of their daughter/sister's death early the next morning and returned to this country, and on the flight back, her brother wrote this about her:

*"What a shame to lose my sister,  
a fine woman and mother ,  
and a part of me;  
It rained all day the day she died,  
and then a rainbow did appear.  
It was a full one and beautiful to see:  
It seemed to link everyone together  
as if to say that no matter  
how miserable the weather, or how  
depressing or terrible things may  
seem, there is always a rainbow  
or a ray of goodness for us to see.  
She has done so much for me and  
other people-hundreds actually.  
I could always see that goodness.  
That beautiful rainbow that meant  
so much to me.*

*She made people feel like people  
and never was a mean word spoken.  
Not many individuals such as she  
could understand and make people  
so happy.  
Isn't this the ray of goodness I'm  
talking about?  
How fortunate that is still  
alive to carry a part of that rainbow  
along.  
It's really not so sad or depressing  
if you just remember what she has  
been. Maybe she filled that Rainbow  
from end to end.  
And if that's so, isn't it time to  
start over again?"*

At her memorial service, that poem was read by the minister, moving everyone to tears. After the service, the family and friends gathered at the family home on the shore of one of Maine's loveliest lakes, Keoka. After they had come together, a brief summer shower came through, and those present commented guardedly about the possibility of there being a rainbow. One of the younger men was quite upset by the idea, and felt compelled to look outside, and shortly afterward, he came into the house, quite beside himself with emotion, saying, "There is a rainbow - come and see it; you'll not believe it!"

The rainbow was indeed there; right on the shore, and in order to see it, they all had to crowd onto a floating dock which settled ankle-deep under their weight. The rainbow appeared to arise with breath-taking intensity from a rock on the shore not twenty feet from where they stood. It did not change at all for many minutes, holding everyone in awe.

The silence was broken by the cries of the child, who was seen standing in her crib in the second story window of the house, pointing at the rainbow, and crying out, "Mama, Mama!" Her maternal grandmother looked and listened and was the first to speak, saying, "Now I know! Now I really know!" And in that moment, all the others knew, too.

The rainbow then left, sweeping down the lake with increasing speed to disappear over a small summer cottage that is now owned by the child, now grown, and her Dad.

