

BEDA LEONA COOK PECK

Beda Leona Cook Peck was born August 21, 1918 in Cedar Fort, Utah. She was the eighth child born to Edward and Nellie Avilda Chamberlain Cook. When Beda was born her Mother had the Smallpox and a good neighbor Annie Smith, moved in to take care of the mother and new baby.

Edward and Nellie were a happy couple and as each child came from Heaven they were loved and cared for by those good parents. Edward raised cattle, farmed, and had a business delivering fresh meat, he provided well for his family.

Nellie loved music and she played duets with her oldest daughter, Avilda. A sister Kathryn loved to play for dances. Roberta said they often entertained at home, putting all the younger children in one bedroom of a two bedroom house. They would play and dance and sing and after the guests left, the younger children could get up and go to bed in the living room. There were five daughters and five sons in the Edward Cook family, Avilda, Marjorie, Kathryn Roberta and Beda. The sons are Kenneth, Elwood, Harold, Richard and Francis.

When Beda was five years old her Dad got really sick, the Doctor operated but he did not get well and soon passed away. It was a real struggle for Grandma Cook to be left alone with 10 children, Avilda, the oldest was 22 and the youngest, Francis, was only nine months old. The Lord must have been proud of that family as they pulled together and worked hard.

Growing up in Cedar Fort was a lot of fun, in the summertime they used to have Chickeree's, they would build a bonfire, clean a chicken and cook it. Then they would play "Run Sheepie, Run," or "Kick the Can," sometimes they would make a freezer of ice cream.

Beda's oldest sister, Avilda died of a heart attack at the age of 31, leaving her daughter Ann, motherless, so she moved in and became a part of the family.

Beda attended grade school in Cedar Fort. When she entered the seventh grade, it was necessary to ride a school bus 15 miles to Lehi. She enjoyed her school years in Lehi, she participated in the posture parade, operettas, and was Vice President of the Studentbody. She graduated in the spring of 1936.

In the fall of 1936, Beda began working in Salt Lake. She worked at the "Airport Cafe," and at "Auerbachs." She met many friends and valued the experiences.

In the spring of 1936 she met NS Peck of American Fork. They became engaged on the 4th of July, 1937 and were married December 10, 1937 by Bishop Jacob Hales in Cedar Fort. They were later sealed in the Salt Lake Temple March 10, 1942, shortly after they moved to Lehi. NS and Beda made their first home in Cedar Fort where Kalyn was born on May 19, 1939. Then they moved to Mercur where NS was working in the Gold Mines. Dennis was born while they were living in Mercur on September 11, 1941.

In 1941 they moved to Lehi in the First Ward area, Ron joined the family on November 8, 1944. At this time, NS decided to build a new home. They sold their little house and bought some property on the outskirts of town. NS built a cinder block house shaped like a chicken coop, the family lived in the coop house for a couple of years until the new house was completed.

While the family was living in the small two bedroom coop house a new baby was expected and it turned out to be two new babies. NS and Beda didn't have any idea they were going to have twins until they were born, it was a total surprise! The twins, Kenneth and Kathryn joined the family in on January 16, 1948. They slept in the same crib, one at one end

and one at the other.

It was great to move into the brick house with a front room built in the middle of the house that had a window on the front of the house and a window on the back. There was three bedrooms, one for mom and dad, one for the boys and one for the girls. It was also great to have two bathrooms.

The twins were double the trouble and double the fun. In fact, it was a little disappointing to just get one baby when Shauna came along on October 29, 1955. She had a lot of brothers and sisters to spoil her.

Beda spent many years serving her Church. She worked as a Sunday School teacher and secretary in Cedar Fort. She was a primary teacher and a counselor in the Relief Society and spent nearly 25 years in the MIA. She loved the teen-agers, she would say they are good kids, my love will always be working with them. NS and Beda were Ward dance directors in 1951. It wasn't long before they held two positions, ward and stake directors, during one year they taught 240 young people to dance in June Conference at Salt Lake City.

Beda was called as Ward President of the MIA in the Fifth ward on two occasions, she was Stake Activity counselor and Stake MIA President. When the wards were divided she was again called as the MIA President in the Eighth Ward.

In the last few years of her life, NS and Beda served as Ward Marrieds Leaders where they planned firesides and activities monthly.

NS and Beda had two Lamanite students in their home. Irene Yazzi and Thelma (Tina) Burbank.

Beda was a member of the Chauntanne Chorus for several years, she and NS also served on the Old Folks committee for about 10 years, she worked in PTA and served as President. NS and Beda were on the committee that originally started the Dance Set in Lehi about 1950.

NS and Beda always put their children first and had 22 grandchildren at the time Mom died. I don't think there is a mom or dad anywhere who have spent more time in being with their children. They have been at their families wards for special occasions, blessings, baptisms, ordinations or special talks. They had a family tradition to take all their sons and daughters with their spouses out to dinner on their Birthdays. Their Grandchildren have always been precious and loved and they haven't let many days go by without seeing them, or traveling to see family when they were living outside Utah.

As parents, they set an example in serving the Lord, and their children all hold responsible positions in their wards. All the children were married in the Temple and were all together as Shauna was married. Kalyn married Robert Secretan from Alberta, Canada. Dennis married Judith Warner from Fillmore, they were divorced and later Dennis married Deon Foote. Ronald married Mary Ann Durrant from American Fork, Ken married Barbara Schow from Lehi, Kathy married David Cox from Manti and Shauna married Kevin Peterson from Lehi.

NS worked at Geneva when they were building Geneva Steel. He worked for Cederstrom's in the Calcite mine, he worked in the Clay Beds, and as a foreman at Lakeside Lime. He worked at Standard Builders as a foreman and then NS and Beda bought Lehi Lumber in 1970 and named it Peck Building Supply. He was a hard worker and provided well for his family.

During June in 1973 Beda seemed to be having a lot of pain in her side. Dr. Dale Murdock put her in the hospital and when we were given the results that it was leukemia, Dad and Kalyn took Mom on her first trip to the University Hospital in Salt Lake City. It was a

terrible shock, how could this happen to a mom who still had to much to live for. Dr. Cartwright came in the first day and assured the family it was not acute leukemia and they could help her a lot. The medication really helped and she felt fine until October. Most of the family including Beda had gone up in the High Uintahs for a hunting and camping trip. Beda was short of breath and couldn't bend over. When she checked with her Doctor, her blood was down to 9 and he said, "How have you been walking around? You shouldn't even be here."

Beda received the very first of what was to be many transfusions. Mom went in the hospital about every month and received four pints of blood, she would feel pretty good and go about various activities and then become quite weak when it was time for another transfusion. Shortly she began to develop high fevers, chills, and had complications. The family had a special fast for her and the next time she went for blood the IV team told her they were going to experiment. A salesman had brought four filters which could filter out the white cells. She received her blood without any complications, fevers or chills. They saved the filters for her, they ordered more and began referring to them as the "Beda Filter," and they started using them on other leukemia patients.

Beda had another trial at the time of Shauna's wedding. The family was told she should be in the hospital. We had recently been told she had a very short time to live. Mom told Dr. Cartwright it meant "everything in the world," to go through the temple and be with her daughter for her reception. After greeting nearly 800 people, she developed blood poisoning and a blood clot in her lungs. For two weeks she was in a lot of danger but was able to overcome these complications and enjoy her family and friends that summer.

Mom worked with NS at "Peck Building Supply," as long as she could. It seemed no matter how sick Beda was NS could always say, "Oh, Mom, you know you'll feel better tomorrow, a wonderful husband did keep her going."

The nurses knew when Beda came to the hospital, she would get her blood and go home. No matter how weak she was, she made many friends at the University Hospital. The Lab, Blood Bank, I.V. team, admitting personnel, nurses and doctors all seemed to know her. Many nurses said they used to fight over who was going to be her nurse. One member of the I.V. team said, "We would talk a lot at night, she has helped me so much, she is at peace with herself and her maker. She said, "I just love Beda." Mom received 246 pints of blood, more than any other person at that time at the University Hospital.

Her last six months on earth was a very difficult time for Mom. She was very weak but in December, she was well enough to celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary, it was a tradition for many years to take the kids and their spouses out to dinner at the Oak Crest Inn in Spanish Fork Canyon.

On the morning of the day Mom died, May 6, 1977, she was in the University Hospital and Dennis gave her a blessing. Beda said to the children, "I Love you, I Love all the Grandkids, Love your Dad." Kalyn said, "Mom, Sunday is Mothers Day, You have been a Wonderful Mother." She said, she had a wonderful husband and family. Her own Mother passed away at Mothers Day time 24 years earlier so it was fitting to honor a wonderful mother at this time.

A poem Mom had among her possessions, seemed to express the way she lived.

"Lord, help me live from day to day,
In such a self forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to Pray
My prayers will be for others."