

LIFE SKETCH OF MAXINE COOK HARRIS

Taken from a history written by Maxine in 1994

My name is Maxine Cook Harris. My father is Barnes Alma Cook and my mother is Alice Adeline Southam Cook. I was born Sunday evening, Nov. 29 1931, in my parent's home in Cedar fort, Utah. The rest of the family had gone to sacrament meeting knowing that they would have a baby brother or sister when they got home. My name had not been decided yet, so when a baby gift arrived from Louise and Maxine Sly, after consulting with the rest of the family, mother decided that Maxine would be my name. I've always been happy with her choice.

I was born into a family of 13 children. Six older brothers, and six older sisters. I was the baby of the family. My brothers are Sheldon, Thayrel, Marion, Rulon, Donald & Bernard cook. My sisters are Mabel Smith, Edris Karren, Arvilla Taylor, Florence Henke, Ester Cook, (who passed away when she was just a year old), and Reba Kitchen. My grandfather, William Cook also lived with us until his death in Nov. 1934.

Our house was small for a family that size, so all the girls slept in one room, "the girl's room," where there were two double beds and my crib. We had feather ticks for mattresses and it was lots of fun to fluff up the mattress, then stand on the edge of the bed and fall back into the fluffy feathers. We had no indoor bathroom in our home, but we did have water piped into a sink in the corner of the kitchen. We had electricity and the light bulbs hung from the ceilings on a cord about 3 ft. long.

When I was 6 years old I started school in a two-roomed schoolhouse in Cedar Fort. I attended there through the sixth grade. My favorite teacher in grade

school was my third grade teacher, Mae Strasburg. It was a tradition in Cedar Fort that on April fool's day everyone brought a lunch and after first recess we would slough school and go for a hike in the mountains west of town and eat our lunch. The teacher of the three upper grades said there would be punishment for anyone who sloughed that year, but Miss Strasburg was on our side so she packed a lunch and went with us.

I rode the bus to Lehi for Jr. high and high school. At first it wasn't fun at all because I got car sick, but after a few weeks I got used to it and wasn't sick any more. In Jr. High I served as eighth grade representative and in high school I served as secretary to my Jr. class and then as school program chairman. I loved sports and belonged to the girl's athletic association, where I participated in the posture parade, basketball and softball. I enjoyed playing softball so much that I continued playing after I was married and had four children. I played catcher for the Cedar Valley ward team.

I loved going to Primary, MIA and then to seminary. It was in seminary that Cloyd caught my eye. I sat by a friend from Cedar Fort and she had her eye on another boy in the class. One day I said to her, " I'll bet I can get a date with Cloyd before you can get a date with Earl." The bet was on and I got the date first. After two years of dating, Cloyd and I were married. The other girl never did get her date. Since then I have always said that I won Cloyd on a bet. We were married on Oct 7, 1950, right after we graduated from high school. We were later sealed to each other and our four children, Apr. 29, 1959, in the Salt Lake Temple.

We have lived in four different homes in Cedar Fort. When we moved to our third home Cloyd said the next move would be right out of town. We didn't quite make it. Our next home was right next to the highway. However in 1995 we did move to our present home in Lehi.

We have four children. Lewis who is married to Toni Peterson, Sharon, who is married to Steven Bell, Kent who is married to Necia Fowler and Bruce who passed away with leukemia, Aug. 26 1972 at the age of 16. We have 10 grandchildren and at this time we have added 16 great grandchildren. Mom and dad's family has always come first.

I was called as a Sunday school teacher when I was 15 and since then I have held church callings in every organization. In 1990 Cloyd and I were called to serve in the Washington DC South Mission. This was very hard for mom because she really hated to leave her family but she says, "I think the hardest thing I ever did was when Cloyd was transferred to the Navel Weapons Center in California. I had lived all my life in Cedar Fort and it was difficult for me to move." We thought we were going to be there for seven years. However, we were there just a short time when there was a job opening back in Utah. Unbeknownst to me, Cloyd applied and got the job. He said he had barely got me to stop crying when we got the chance to come back to Cedar Fort.

As she grew up in Cedar Fort, Maxine loved spending time and getting into mischief with her friends. Every spring and fall they would head to the mountains and cook their dinner over an open fire. During the summer they would kill a chicken, steal some corn from someone's garden and go to their favorite spot in the mountains and have themselves a nice chicken dinner. When her friends from Lehi came to spend the night, she would fix them her favorite treat. A dill pickle sandwich.

Mom and dad have always loved doing things with each other, and with their kids and grandkids. As we were growing up we all loved playing games, mom and dad included. On Christmas there was always a new game of some kind that kept us

entertained for several days. Mom still loved playing games and she could still beat you in a hot game of Mexican Dominos anytime.

There's nothing she enjoyed more than going camping. Our whole family, grandkids included, has spent many happy hours out in the wilderness camping. We all started out in tents, then we graduated to trailers. Some of us have graduated to really nice trailers so it's kind of a joke that they can't go camping without their flat screen TV, their microwave, and the women take their sewing machines so they can work on quilts while the guys go fishing.

Mom loved getting together with the family so if there was an occasion, there was a party. Easter egg hunts, birthday parties, mother's day and father's day, the 24th of July. It didn't matter the occasion. It was fun being together. Mom especially liked going on picnics. A few weeks ago I stopped by the house to check on them and dad was getting ready to take mom on a picnic.

If I had to say what mom's very favorite thing was, I'd have to say Christmas. She planned and prepared for it all year long, which included shopping and playing her Christmas music 12 months a year. Our favorite thing as a family was Christmas Eve at grandma and grandpa's house. We told Christmas stories, had talent shows, played Christmas songs on chimes and we always played a white elephant game and Christmas Bingo. The competition for those silly prizes made all of mom's preparation well worthwhile.

Mom really enjoyed sewing, embroidering, crocheting, and quilting. She made sure all of her kids, grandkids and great grandkids have some of her blankets, dishtowels and quilts. Because of her failing health in the last couple of years, she hasn't been able to do these hobbies as much as she wanted to but it didn't stop her, it only slowed her down.

Mom we appreciate these gifts so much but most of all we love and appreciate the person you are and the life the you lived. We'll miss you and we look forward to being with you again.