

## MARVIN DEAN COOK

**Born: August 8, 1892, in Fairfield, Utah County, Utah**

**Died: July 19, 1978, in Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho**



Marvin Dean Cook was the third child and first son in a family of eight children born to Marvin Lyman and Ada Cook on August 8, 1892, at Fairfield, Utah. He was blessed June 4, 1893, by Eli Bennett and baptized July 21, 1900, by Andrew Park. He grew up following after his father at first, and then working by his side.

From a very young age, Dean (as he went by) was a willing and hard worker. He worked with his father on the family farm by milking cows and doing any other tasks asked of him. He also loved doing things for his mother and was particularly proud of the screen porch he built on the back of their home to store additional items needed in the kitchen. He always spoke highly of his father and mother and considered his father to be a good manager, hard worker, and one of the most independent men in Fairfield.

Like his father, Dean loved horses. He helped to keep them well groomed and was proud that they had some of the finest horses in the valley. He raised his horse, "Caesar," on a bottle. Dean said, "In training Caesar, I found he would buck and throw me off." He also helped break Harry's new horse, Gus. At first, Gus was vicious and hard to handle, but soon he became a good saddle horse.

The family owned a lovely surrey and the second automobile in Fairfield, a 1916 Studebaker, four-door sedan.

He wanted to make farming easier for his father and himself. He gave the following example of this in his own words: "My father did all his plowing with a hand plow. I conceived the idea of putting a colter wheel (cutting wheel) on the back of a plow to cut sod and turn the sod over instead of just pulling it apart. Then I got a



Dean with his two older sisters, Sybil and Julia.

sulky plow (a three-way riding plow) so we could use three horses. My father was upset at first, but when I could plow two acres in a day, it helped to convince him it was a better way.”

Other improvements were also needed in Dean’s opinion. For example, they used a bag and sprinkled seed by hand. They cut the grain with a scythe and then bound it in bundles with long straws or twine. Dean was determined to acquire machinery to make life easier for both of them. Soon they had binders to handle grain and a ten-foot wide disk harrow with teeth that could be used straight up and then flat back to make a good seed bed.

In his own words, he describes other kinds of work that he did: “I rode Gus along the Teloroid electric power line inspecting once a week from Fairfield to Toplift Mining Camp out to Eureka and Sunshine. I also helped deliver meat—beef, hogs, and sheep that I helped raise—to Mercury gold mining camp.

He attended church a few times in his youth with his friend, George Mason. His mother, Ada, was a member of the church, but his father was not a member at that time. Ada saw to it that all of their children were baptized. Dean was baptized on July 21, 1900. His father, Marvin Lyman, was baptized on November 21, 1941, at the age of 80 years old. Marvin Lyman had many misunderstandings and misinformation that had to be cleared up before he wanted to join the church. But after all of this was taken care of, he embraced the gospel with the enthusiasm and vigor of a youth. The following year, on November 5, 1942, he had his wife Ada and four of the children sealed to him in the temple. Dean was one of those four children sealed. Later all of the other children were sealed to Marvin and Ada.

Dean admitted that he was the real tease in the family. He stated: “Nola and Shirley were my victims a lot of the time. One time, for fun we stuffed eight or ten coyote skins, and then lined them up along the back porch. We called Shirley to the door. Of course, he was frightened out of his wits and ran screaming back into the house.”

Dean loved baseball and played on the Fairfield, Utah team. It was a good team, and they competed against the Cedar Fort team. Another of his favorite sports was hunting coyotes in the wintertime. “There was a bounty on the hides, so we sold them. The snow got very deep. I would go out riding on old Gus, and it wouldn’t be very long until we could see ears of a coyote in the path they made in the deep snow when they traveled for food. Old Gus would run his legs off for those coyotes. He knew just what he was doing. I always carried a long club to beat the coyotes when we caught up to them.

“In the spring of 1917, there was especially heavy snow. I started to chase a coyote that was floundering and we were gaining on him when all of a sudden he dove off the path in that deep snow out of sight. There was absolutely no marking, but it was his definite hole. In a case of this kind, if we could find brush, we would build a fire to smoke the coyote out. Sometimes he would come out and sometimes he would just stay

in there and die. It seemed heartless, but they were too plentiful and destructive. We had to do all we could to eliminate them.”

Dean’s education consisted of graduation from the eighth grade at Fairfield, Utah, where all the pupils were taught together in one room. He later attended one year at LDS University (High School) in Salt Lake City, Utah. At that time, one year of high school was like one year of college now.

Dean met his future wife, Edith Pearl Chamberlain, at a Mutual party in 1909. She was 16 and he was 17. He remembered really noticing her for the first time a year or so later. He went to Cedar Fort to get some sheep at her father, James Chamberlain’s feed yard at Cedar Fort. Dean’s father, Marvin Lyman Cook also owned a feed yard, but in Fairfield. Dean said, “It was love at first sight.” It cost Dean \$150.00 to buy a single buggy—the only one in the valley—to show off to win Edith’s heart.

Edith came from a family of twelve children. Her parents were very strict, religious people—especially her mother. However, Edith gave Dean courage to continue his courting when she said, “Don’t take any notice of Mom,” right after her mother told them that they were too young to get serious. Three years later on September 11, 1912, they were married in the Salt Lake Temple.

(Dean’s wife – Edith  
Pearl Chamberlain)



Dean and Edith made their first home in Fairfield in a small four-room house on ten acres of land. Dean’s father had given him a beautiful team of horses named Dot and Loll. Dean said, “They could be talked to as persons. I sold them for \$300.00 to buy furniture when I got married.” The new piano and other new furniture Dean was able to purchase made their first home very comfortable for his lovely bride.

Besides farming, the young couple had a livery stable where travelers and sheep men would feed their horses when making trips to and from their herds, and peddlers of vegetables and fruits would sometimes stop for the night to feed and rest their teams.

Delwin, their first child, was born on August 20, 1923, and Blaine was born on April 19, 1915. Dean was now a married man with two children, and he was still a great tease. One day when he was in the berry patch in front of his home, he saw his brother Shirley coming down the path singing. He jumped out and yelled, “Boo!” Dean had to admit, “It wasn’t too funny when it frightened Shirley so much that he ran into our house screaming and landed right in my wife’s bed where she lay after the birth of our son, Blaine.”

On July 18, 1918, a baby girl, Lucille, was born. She was their third child. Dean loved and adored his new baby daughter. Delwin and Blaine also loved their new baby

sister. They were always kind and thoughtful to her. Edith was a wonderful mother and a wonderful, thrifty homemaker.

A few weeks prior to the birth of their first baby girl, Dean had been called to the service for World War I, but had been rejected because of a hernia. In September, just six weeks after Lucille's birth, Dean sold his farm of ten acres to his father for \$1,600.00 and moved his family to Leslie, Custer County, Idaho. He purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, unimproved but fenced, two and a half miles east of Leslie.



(Edith & Dean with children Delwin, Blaine, Reed, and Lucille)

At first they lived in two rooms of Bird Tew's six-room house. After living there three months, Dean had a two-room house moved onto the place he had purchased. It was in this house that they all had a serious experience with the flu. In 1921, they built a four-room house with a full basement.

Reed was born January 13, 1922, in the hospital in Lehi, Utah. Dean was in the same hospital at the same time for an operation due to an attack of appendicitis. The growing family then returned to their home in Leslie, Idaho.

In 1923, they sold the farm to Dean's father and moved to the sawmill. In operating the sawmill, Dean accomplished several things many people thought were impossible such as bringing logs out of

different dangerous areas in the canyons. Men would say, "Dean Cook was the only one that dared to try." He also enjoyed cutting special lumber at the sawmill.

Their youngest child and second daughter, Lola, was born on October 19, 1926. Her parents and brothers and sister happily welcomed her. Dean and Edith now had a family of five children and loved each and every one of them.



(Dean & Edith's five children: (Back) Delwin, Lucille, Blaine; (Front) Baby Lola, and Reed)



(Back) Edith, Uncle Shirley – Dean’s youngest brother – Dean, Delwin holding cousin Hal Cook; (Front) Lola, Lucille holding cousin Dan Cook.

Dean bought a new Ford with isinglass curtains and a cloth top, and drove it to conference in Leslie at which time Apostle Ballard explained where a man would end up if he didn’t honor his priesthood. Dean decided right there and then that he would always attend church, and he did. Soon he was first counselor in the Sunday School.

(Below – Ranch & House in Leslie, Idaho, after the sawmill.)

After four years at the sawmill, he decided he wanted to farm again, so he purchased another farm next to his former farm. Dean and Edith taught their



(Above: Dean haying on the ranch.)

(Mr. Cordon & Dean who worked together in the Real Estate business in Logan, Utah.)

family the value of hard work. Each family member had his or her work to do, and did it well.

The farm was sold to his son Blaine in 1936, and real estate became Dean’s new occupation. He and his family moved into their first home with running water and a bathroom in Logan, Utah. After a year, they moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where in June of 1937, he opened Cook Real Estate.



Dean & Edith's first home in Idaho Falls was on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Their daughter Lucille explained: *"We lost this house when Dad wrecked his Terraplane car. When coming home one night, he was forced off the road by a farm truck driven by a laborer. A 2 x 4 went through the windshield and pierced the driver's seat. Dad (Dean) was bruised and covered with glass. It's a wonder he wasn't killed. Because of the accident, times were harder for the family."*



(Dean & Edith's first home in Idaho Falls, Idaho, on 14<sup>th</sup> St.)

(Dean's Terraplane car in which he was riding in 1936.)



Dean had other narrow escapes. Once he cut his eyebrow, just missing his eye. Another time, his neck was injured when the horses pulled the plow over him. The Terraplane car accident was certainly the worst. However, even though the car was totaled, Dean spent only one night in the hospital.

After a few years of real estate, he decided to locate oil wells, gold,

underground water, etc. In 1956, he and Edith moved to Burley, Idaho, for three years, and then to Twin Falls, Idaho, where he located a beautiful water supply for the city. He had a special talent for locating badly needed water to help the desert blossom like a rose. (Note: Dean would show pictures of water gushing out from a pump which might just look like water to anyone else—but to Dean it meant success in finding the badly needed water in the arid desert. He could tell you how far down they found it and how much water was there—usually very close to where he directed the drillers to drill. He used some kind of metal bar or could even take a forked stick which worked in Dean's hands as he went across the ground to find the water or precious minerals. These forked branches were known as divining rods. As a grandchild, I loved to watch my grandfather use these instruments. Even though he showed us how to do it, it never seemed to work for anyone else but my grandfather. Note by Laura Rigby Copeland) When he put his mind to it, he would accomplish many unusual tasks.



(Edith & Dean – 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary – They also celebrated their 66<sup>th</sup> together.)

In 1969, Dean and Edith got too lonely in Twin Falls, so they moved back to Idaho Falls to a home at 1096 Mojave. Dean and Edith shared a special love. He deeply respected Edith. He was always saying, “Isn’t she the most beautiful woman.” They were very close. He hung onto life for so long because he didn’t want to leave her alone.

Marvin Dean Cook passed away on July 19, 1978, following surgery at the LDS Hospital in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Two and a half years before his death, he had the flu and was very ill. He never regained his normal health. He also became very blind and could only see objects faintly. This was very difficult for an active man that loved the outdoors and enjoyed climbing hills, driving a car, reading, etc.

He loved his five children, his 24 grandchildren, his 80 great grandchildren and the coming great-great grandchildren. He also loved his neighbors and friends. He just loved people! He was a delightful man who had the ability to make others feel needed and important. He was enthusiastic in everything he did, and put his whole heart and soul into it.

His church service was fulfilled with his whole heart and soul, and with enthusiasm and love. Some of the many positions he held are as follows:

Dean & Edith Cook Family  
Lola, Lucille, Edith, Dean, Delwin, Reed – Blaine not in picture.



High counselor for eight years, in the Stake Sunday School, Sunday School Superintendent, High Priests Group Leader, Stake Melchizedek Priesthood Chairman for six years, Stake Genealogical Committee member, and many others.

From the day Dean was inspired by the words of Apostle Ballard and became active in the church, he always remained active. His goal was to always follow the teachings of the Savior. He studied the gospel, obeyed the commandments, and had a strong testimony. He was a great example to all of his posterity.



**Dean & Edith's Thirteen Oldest Grandchildren**

(All last names are Cook except where indicated.)

Top Left to Right: Alonzo (Lonnie), DuRell, Jay, Merrill, Cary, Myra Hansen, Laura Rigby, Carol Hansen, LaDell

Bottom: Elaine, Rand, Beverly Rigby, Shari Hansen