

# **ARVILLA COOK TAYLOR**

## **A PERSONAL HISTORY**

### **I WAS IN NO HURRY TO GET HERE**

I was born on a summery day December 28, 1917 at the family home in Cedar Fort. The doctor had to come 15 miles and had to stay overnight as I was in no hurry to get here.

### **BLESSED, BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED**

I am the third daughter and sixth child of Barnes Alma and Alice Adeline Southam Cook's family of thirteen children.

I was blessed February 3, 1918, by my grandfather William Cook. I was baptized on July 25, 1926 by J. Herbert Rodeback and confirmed by Jacob L. Hales (the bishop).

### **WHEN I WAS A CHILD**

As a child I remember going on hikes in the hills, sometimes to the Indian writings or just following the fence around Brockmire's property. A good for little girls. We found many arrowheads and never ever kept them. I remember going up to play with Lola and going down the cellar and getting chunks of brown sugar to eat. If Aunt Hattie was coming down to visit, some of us would take a chair up and come down with her so she could rest when she needed to.

### **I VISITED VERNAL WHEN I WAS TEN**

When I was 10, Mother, Bernard and (the baby) and I went to Vernal in the back of Uncle Walt's truck. Aunt Karen went with us. I remember staying part of the time with Grandma Southam's sister. She was a Cook and had a son Rulon. We also stayed with Aunt Alice Haslem. While we were in Vernal we went to see Great Grandmother Southam. She was at her daughter's that was married to a Holmes. She was bedfast and most of her face had been eaten away with cancer. She asked Grandpa to ask the Lord to relieve her of her suffering. This was in September. She died the next August.

### **I STARTED TO SEW AND HAVEN'T QUIT**

When mother was pregnant with Bernard she couldn't use the treadle sewing machine so she helped me sew up a dress for me. That was the start of my sewing and I haven't stopped, just slowed down.

### **ATTENDING SCHOOL**

I attended the first six years of school in the two room schoolhouse in Cedar Fort. Uncle Lew Welker took care of the furnace.

### **THE SCHOOL BOARD'S DECISION**

When it came time for 7th grade the school board decided 7th and 8th grades should go to

Lehi to school. Our parents wanted to keep us in Cedar Fort so they kept us home for six weeks. During that time I picked a lot of ground cherries that mother bottled. The school board won out so I went to Lehi to school from 7th grade until I graduated from High School and Seminary in 1936.

### **SNOWED IN FOR A WEEK**

When I was in 9th grade we were snowed in at Lehi for a week. Our folks came over in Sleighs to take us home. On Monday we went back to school on the bus but by the time we arrived in Lehi the wind was blowing hard so the bus driver (Ralph Smith) just told the school we were going home. We did and were home for a week.

### **AFTER I GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL**

In the fall after I graduated Beda and I came to Salt Lake to work in a hamburger stand at 6th South and Main. We soon went to the cafe at the airport to work.

### **I MET MY FUTURE HUSBAND AT THE COCONUT GROVE.**

We went to a dance at the Coconut Grove. That is where I met Dick. He saw me dancing with Welby Rodeback and said he thought if I would dance with that bald headed fellow maybe I would dance with him. He asked me to go home with him. I said my friend Mary had to go with us and she did.

### **BISHOP THAYREL COOK PERFORMED OUR MARRIAGE**

We dated more than a year and were married by my brother, Bishop Thayrel Cook , at my family's home in Cedar Fort on February 23, 1938.

### **OUR FIRST HOME**

Our first home was 465 Garfield Avenue. Our first two daughters, Margie and Geraldine, were born while we lived there.

### **OUR HOME AT 1170 WEST 700 SOUTH**

In 1941 we bought our home at 1170 West 7th South. We moved in, October 9th and Joyce was born a month later. Three and a half years later Gordon came to live with us, then two and a half years later Grant came.

### **HENRY FREEMAN COOK REUNIONS**

The Henry Freeman Cook reunions were special times for our family. I think the kids liked the ones most that were overnight in the canyons or staying in cabins at Fish Haven or one of the other places. The girls enjoyed spending the time with their cousins.

### **DICK SUPPORTED MY CHURCH ACTIVITY**

Most of the time I have been active in the church and Dick supported me ninety-nine percent of the time.

### **SERVICE IN THE CHURCH**

In the church I have taught classes in Sunday School, Primary and Relief Society. I've been on the Sunday School Stake Board, had Cub Scouts for a time, was in the presidency of the Primary

and was the president. I've been in the presidency of the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association and I have been a counselor to five Relief Society presidents. This time it has been for five years and still going. I am also spending one afternoon a week in the baptistry of the Salt Lake Temple.

(The following was written by Arvilla Cook as a Junior Class assignment 1934-35)

The  
Junior Class  
1934 - 35

**Arvilla Cook**

My Story Lest I Forget.

I am the sixth child of a family of thirteen children. Twelve of which are alive now. My Mother's name is Alice Adeline Southam. My Father's name is Barnes Alma.

I was born Friday December 28, 1917. At the time of my birth I weighed 9 ½ lbs. February 3, 1918, I was blessed by my grandfather, William Cook. There was a girl by the name of Arvilla Berry that father thought was a very nice girl. Therefore I received the name, Arvilla. I was born in Cedar Fort.

When I was small I was real chubby. I had favorite ones, Mother, Grandfather, and Sheldon. I would not let anyone do anything for me but these favorite ones. Father said I never would let him get near enough to me for him to get to know me until I was about six years old. It was hard for anyone to get on the good side of me. One reason why was because I was always quite backward.

I had chicken pox in October, 1921.

I started to school in September, 1923. My teacher in the first and second grade of school was Helen Smith. Beda and I were the only girls in the class so we usually got to pass the crayons and papers or the clay and boards. When I was in the second grade I was not absent or late for school once during the whole year. Miss Smith gave me a purse and pair of beads for my good attendance

I was baptized July 25, 1926 by J. H. Rodeback and was confirmed by Jacob L. Hales the same day.

When I was ten years old Beda, LaRay, Edris and I walked down to Fairfield. Katherine was down to Flacks so thats where we went. We stayed all afternoon. Katherine and Lamar were just getting ready to bring us home when LaRays folks came after her. She came home with her folks and the rest of us with Katherine and Lamar.

My sister, Ester, was born on my eighth birthday. She only lived a short time over a year.

Clara Greenwood was my teacher in school for the third and fourth grades. When I was in the third grade I won a book for reading the most books during the school year. W.L. Berry was my teacher in the fifth and sixth grades.

Bernard and I went to Vernal with mother in 1928. I met many relatives I had never heard of before. We stayed out there over two weeks.

I started to school in Lehi in 1930. We did not start to school at the beginning of the year because our parents wanted us to go to school in Cedar Fort rather than Lehi.

I have completed five years of 4H Club work. Four of cooking and one of sewing. We started a year of forestry club work but did not complete it. During that summer we went up North Canyon and stayed over night. We surely had a lot of fun while we were up there.

The Cedar Fort Mutual went up Mutual Dell and stayed August 24, 25 and 26 in 1933. We climbed "Timp" on the 25. It was sure a long climb but it was worth it. When we got on top there was a regular snow blizzard and we had all left out coats down almost to the bottom for fear it would be so hot up there. In 1934, we went up Mutual Dell in June. Fairfield went up too. I had a lot of fun but not as much as the summer before.

I had the mumps in September, 1929 and the measles for Easter in 1934. When I had the measles I was not sick after they broke out on me. My eyes bothered me quite a bit. Florence was sick and made me lay quiet. I had layed quiet so long as long that I cried because I could not buck around.

The first of February, 1933 the school kids were snowed in over to Lehi. The folks were snowed in at home. The first night I stayed with Maxine Van Wagner. We went to the show that night. The next night I stayed with her and we went to a valentine dance the mutual was giving. They had it after mutual. The next night I stayed with Pauline Goats. We made some candy that night. The next night I stayed with Bertha Clark. Orlynn Jensen came over and we made some candy. The next two nights Merle and I went to the hotel because we were sure homesick. During that week I went to all three shows that came to Lehi. We came home in sleighs. It was Sunday when we came home. It was a warm day we were not cold when we got here and I did not have my coat on. It was quit warm enough without a coat on.

(That is the end of what was written)