

THAYREL VANCE COOK

by
Marion Cook Shupe, daughter

Thayrel was born in the four room house where his parents lived just east of the present school house in Cedar Fort. The two front rooms were built of adobe, and the two back lean-to rooms were built of lumber. Thayrel was about ten months old when they moved to Grandpa William Cook's home to be with him, as Grandma Rebecca had died a week before thayrel was born. His parents lived there the rest of their married life.

RHEUMATIC FEVER

Thayrel had rheumatic fever when he was about six years old and missed six weeks of first grade in school. He says that fever was probably the thing that affects his heart in later years.

THE BURRO

Thayrel relates that "When I was about 10 years old, Prescott Hardy, a cousin, came over with his burro. You never could get that burro off from a slow walk. Prescott, Marion and I, all on the burro, started down the road one day toward where Chamberlains were having a family reunion on their lawn. That burro started off on the run, the one day that we got him on a run. He was just a loping along there just as nice as could be until he got right in front of all those people. Then instead of jumping ahead that time, he jumped sideways and we kept going straight ahead. That burro had it planned when we got on him.

THE BARN ACROSS THE STREET

"We used to have a barn that was about two stories high that we would get up on. Dad would say, 'If you get on the barn I'm going to paddle you!' Well, we would get on the barn anyway. So Marion got on the barn and he fell off. There was a lot of soft manure right were he fell. Mother never did know for years how he got so dirty; we had told him that if he told Mother that he was on the barn that we would lick him. All Mother knew was that he had got into the manure somehow.

THE WILD COW

"One time Dad bought a bunch of cattle, and there was a wild cow with big horns among them. They were out in a corral across the street from the house. Dad said for everyone to get out of the corral because the cows were mean, but I didn't get out. That long-horned cow took out after me, and I went up a post just like a cat. There I was on top of that post in the middle of the corral and that cow going around it just a bawling and shaking her head. They 'cut' her out of the heard and corral, and she got loose and went up the street and chased everybody off the street."

THAYREL WAS A RUNNER

Thayrel could outrun anyone near his age when he was young. In the school races if the boys two grades ahead would outrun him they thought that was pretty good.

THAYREL, SHELDON AND MARION HUNTED RABBITS FOR THE FAMILY

Thayrel, Sheldon and Marion hunted rabbits many times using pieces of wood. They would throw the wood and stun the rabbits, then would kill them. The family enjoyed eating many rabbits.

GRANDPA WILLIAM COOK

When Thayrel was young Grandpa William Cook helped "raise all the young people in Cedar Fort." He helped with Barnes and Alice's children, and they always had neighbor children visiting.

THE APPLES AND THE PIGS

Grandpa William had the boys feed the apples that had fallen in the orchard, to the pigs. After a while Grandpa noticed that the pigs were running into the pen instead of to the feeding trough outside when he took feed to them. It wasn't long until he found out the reason for this unusual behavior - the boys used the apples as missiles and the pigs as targets. Thayrel reports that the boys, including him, were given a good spanking for that episode.

MILKING THE COWS ON CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

The sons milked the cows that the family owned. One Christmas Thayrel traded with a brother so that he (Thayrel) would milk the cows on Christmas but have New Years off. But when New Years came all the brothers were gone. Thayrel had to milk the 15 cows by himself both holidays, hurting one hand and having to do the milking with the other on one of those days.

SCHOOL IN CEDAR FORT

Thayrel reports that "When I went to school in Cedar Fort we had eight grades in three rooms during my first three grades, then two rooms. So when I went to high school I thought that was a big school. There were about 25 Students there.

WORKING HARD TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

"When I started the last year of high school (I had missed a lot of school because I had to stay out and farm), the Principal called me in and said that I couldn't graduate because "You just can't earn enough credits."

"I said 'Well, I've got them signed up, can I take them?'

" 'OK, but I don't think you can do it.'

"So I went to work there. The first honor roll that came out, I wasn't on it. The next one I was on it, and the next one a little higher. The last one that came out, I was next to the top. After the graduation I was dancing with the Valedictorian and told her that if I had been in school as much as she was I would have given her 'a run for the money'. She said that if I had been in school as much as she was that she wouldn't have been Valedictorian.

I WENT TO VERNAL TO VIST MY GRANDFATHER (SOUTHAM)

"I went out to Vernal to see my Grandfather; I hadn't been out there since I was about five months old and couldn't remember that time. So Sheldon and I went out to visit. That visit lasted a bit longer than I expected." (This was said with a great big smile as he looked at Pearl.)

THAYREL MEETS HIS FUTURE WIFE

Thayrel was almost ready to leave Vernal to go back home to Cedar Fort when he met Pearl. She had started home from church that Sunday evening when she realized that she hadn't paid her

tithing. So she went back and paid it and came out where Thayrel was and said, "Are those girls gone that I was with?" Thayrel told her that they were gone and asked her if she would like a ride home. She accepted and he took her home.

About that time Pearl told her parents that she was going to marry him. But she "hadn't told him that yet."

MARRIED IN TWO WEEKS

Two weeks later on 2 March 1934 they were married, and then sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on 15 March 1934. When the family received his letter telling them of his marriage, Edris ran through Cedar Fort yelling, "Thurel is married."

PLACES THYRELA ND PEARL LIVED

Thayrel and Pearl first lived in a two room log house south of the highway in Davis Ward, Vernal, and soon moved into another two room log house across the street from where Grant Merrell lives now on 2500 South, Naples, Utah. This is where their first child was born. They named her Marion, after Thayrel's brother.

The next summer they lived a few miles northeast of Vernal near a coal mine that Thayrel helped work. Bert and Edris Karren lived nearby. They tell the story of how they would make root beer in the summer and would put it back in the mine to keep it cold. When they brought the bottles out they put a nipple on one of them for marion to drink her root beer. They also tell of the day there was a fire that burned some things in the house they lived in.

About 1936 they moved to Cedar Fort, staying with Barnes and Alice until they moved into what had been John S Hacking's store which was across the driveway from his home. While there Thayrel served a year as Bishop of the ward. They lived there until 1938 when they moved to Mercur where they had a little grocery store for about two years. Then Thayrel worked in the mines, then drove ore trucks for several years. During some of this time Thayrel served as Presiding Elder of the Mercur branch.

His daughter, Marion, recalls him saying at one time that every time he had to drive that truck on a Sunday, something went wrong with it and it would have to be fixed. He intimated that one would think the bosses would get smart and quit the Sunday working.

One time while unloading some pipe off the truck one of the pipes slipped and landed on his finger, cutting the very end of it off. He ended up getting blood poisoning because of it (before the days of penicillin) and spending some time in a hospital in Salt Lake City.

It became unprofitable to mine the gold in Mercur, so the town gradually shut down. So on the 1st of April 1944 Thayrel, Pearl and family moved to Jensen, Utah, to the Sunshine ranch where they lived many years. Thayrel served as Bishop there for several years.

The farming income had to be supplemented for the family that had grown, so in the winter time Thayrel found other jobs. While loading big sacks of gilsonite near the mines in eastern Utah one winter, he slipped and hurt his back. The next summer he spent most of the time in the LDS hospital in Salt Lake, in traction for awhile, then recuperating from the operation to fuse some discs in his back. Other times he drove oil/gas tankers for the local refinery that was across the river from Jensen. Later he worked for the gilsonite company in Bonanza, Utah until he retired.

In the fall of 1955 he moved his family to Grant Merrell's home in Naples. But within six months Grant decided he needed the home when he met his future wife, so Thayrel and Pearl went house hunting. They found the house they are presently living in, but many, many hours were spent

on it over the years to make it habitable. Now when people come to visit them, they comment on how pleasant it is to be in their home, and how nice they have made it. Their grandchildren, especially, love to go there.

A REVIEW OF HOMES WHERE THAYREL AND PEARL HAVE LIVED

1. Log house in Davis Ward for a short time.
2. Log house in Naples at 1719 East 2500 South where Marion was born.
3. Brush Creek by coal mine, northeast of Vernal.
4. A few weeks with Barnes Cook family when daughter Marion was about 18-24 months old.
5. House by John S Hacking in Cedar Fort (he had used it as a store at one time).
6. Two room apartment in Mercur.
7. Three room house in Mercur.
8. Log house on the Sunshine Ranch in Jensen for summer of 1944; it was later used as a storeroom and granary.
9. Four room house with half basement next to the log house on the ranch.
10. Fuller Merrell home in Naples for one spring, summer and early fall when Thayrel had a ruptured disc in his back and he spent several weeks in the LDS hospital in Salt Lake.
11. Back to house in Jensen after Thayrel recovered from his back operation.
12. Grant's home in Naples for 6 months in winter of 1955-56.
13. Present home in Vernal at 260 East 4th South.

THAYREL'S MEMORIES

BARNES, TOM AND ED AND THE MOUNTAIN LIONS

Barnes Cook was always quite a hunter of deer, bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions. One time he and his brother, Ed and Tom James went lion hunting, and they drove three lions into a cave. Tom James went into the cave with a six-shooter and a lantern to chase them out. The mountain lions came out and went up a tree. The men shot two of the lions in the tree but they could not see the third lion. Tom and Ed went under the tree to look at the two dead lions. Barnes saw the third lion in the tree and he yelled and shot it. Tom and Ed both shot the lion while it was falling out of the tree.

BEEF KILLED, SKINNED AND CLEANED AND HUNG IN SIX MINUTES

Barnes and Uncle Ed wanted to see how fast they could clean a beef in their slaughter house. They shot the cow with a rifle and had it skinned, cleaned out and hung up in six minutes.

PATRIARCH BLESSES HANDKERCHIEF FOR WILLIAM COOK

One time when William Cook was young, he was ill and wanted a blessing but the Patriarch (?) was ill and couldn't travel out to see him. So he gave a handkerchief to William's friend and told him to take it back and rub the handkerchief all over his face, and then give him a blessing. From that day on his illnesses were never serious enough to make him go to bed for them.

UNCLE "BLIND BILLY"

The room on the back of Barnes Cook's house was originally built for Uncle "Blind Billy," Henry Freeman Cook's brother. When he joined the church his family disowned him and stayed back in Michigan when he came to Utah.

THAYREL'S GRANDFATHERS OWN TWO-THIRDS OF THE CEDAR FORT FIELDS

At one time Henry Freeman Cook and John Sampson Hacking owned about two-thirds of Cedar Fort and fields. In 1985 Henry Freeman's first house was still lived in, a block west of the Cook home that we grandchildren all knew. Thayrel can remember John Sampson Hacking sitting on the porch of his last home in his rocking chair.

HARRIET HACKING SEALED TO WILLIAM PASSEY

Aunt Hattie (Harriet Hacking) was sealed after her death to William Passey. She was going to marry him, but would have been a second wife in polygamy and she didn't want that.

BROTHER SING WHILE MILKING THE COWS

In the 1940's sometimes Barnes and Alice's grandchildren would go to the barn with the uncles while they were milking. A pleasant memory is of the brothers singing while they milked. And they were always trying to get the nieces and nephews to let them squirt milk into their mouths.

MAY 27, 2000

In the last year I have had some drastic changes in my life. It has been a little over three years since Pearl died. I have been living alone since then. After the Vernal Temple was built I started going to the temple almost every day until my health forced me to move so I moved in with Beth and Don. Because of my poor health I could not live alone any longer. I started going to the Timpanogas Temple but because of my health I did not go as steady as I had been going to the Vernal Temple.

My health kept going down hill so on the evening of March the twelfth I went to the hospital. If I had not gone I would have been dead by morning. I was drowning in my own liquid. This was caused by the silicosis I had from working in the gold mines in Mercur, and my excessive coughing. One of the doctors in the hospital taped my right lung and drew two quarts of water off. Two days later he drew two more quarts. Because of the silicosis making my lungs stiff they would not settle down the way they should so a woman doctor operated on me to get my lungs in place. Both doctors, the one that drew the water off and the one that operated on me, went in between the ribs on my right side toward the back. I feel a lot better now and I hope I stay that way. All this was caused from silicosis and allergy and milk solids (cheese) including cottage cheese is poison to me.

I have cured my arthritis (and it was bad) by taking a teaspoon full of vinegar a day in a glass of water. It took two months to get rid of the arthritis at the same time in a five month period I lost forty pounds. For some reason after I lost forty pounds I quit losing weight although I continued to take the vinegar.

The Uintah Basin was home to me from 1944 until I moved in with Beth and Don and I did not want to leave but I had to.

As far as my children are concerned my oldest daughter Marion lives in Ogden and she and LaMont each have a computer to do extraction work for the church so they are busy. Bob (Thayrel Robert) is a diesel engine mechanic working for Caterpillar engine in Salt Lake. Merrill lives in Price and keeps the computer running that runs the power plant at Hunting Canyon. Jim lives in

Myton, Utah and is driving truck in the oil fields around there. Driving truck in the oil fields was some of the hardest work I have ever done. Diane lives in Vernal but she and Bob are on a temple mission in Toronto, Canada. Henry lives in Pennsylvania close to Pittsburgh. He is head of the nuclear design department that did belong to Westinghouse but they sold out to a large European conglomerate. He is still head of the department. Beth works for the Community College in Salt Lake. Her husband Don drives truck for a machinery company and covers most of the Western United States so Beth was here alone a lot of the time.

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Cook