

LLEWELLYN W KILLPACK AND EVA IRENE WILLIAMS KILLPACK

Llewellyn W. Killpack and Eva Irene Williams Killpack were a part of the Ferron town settlement. They were married August 18, 1915.

Llewellyn, whose nickname was "LW", was the son of William Killpack and Melinda Henrie Killpack. Llewellyn was born in Manti, Utah, on March 19, 1892. He had two brothers, Macloyd and Alton; and three sisters, Zona, Merrelda, and Marrion.

Eva was the daughter of Nephi and Emelia Staalesen Williams. She was born in Emery on February 7, 1895. She had four brothers; Nephi, Russell, Kimball, and Fenton. She had one sister, Emma.

Eva lived in Emery and Llewellyn courted Eva by riding a horse to and from Emery. After they were married Llewellyn and Eva lived on the Bench Road eastward from downtown Ferron, approximately one mile away from the Ferron Mercantile Store.

Eight little boys blessed the home of Llewellyn and Eva. In order of oldest to the youngest they were: Dean W., Max Llewellyn, Billy Dale (died of pneumonia when six months old), Marion Kent, James Lowell, Windsor June, Bennie Burke, Dwight Lee.

Dean married Faun Christensen, Max married Shirley Baum, Kent married Margaret Olsen, Jim (James) married Jacquetta Christensen, June married Kathryn Snow, Ben married Winona Luke, and Dwight married Maude Snow.

Llewellyn and Eva were involved in a number of things that contributed to the good life in Ferron. They were both members of the LDS faith and were active holding many positions down through the years. LW was the Stke Drama Director for many years. He directed many plays using local talent.

One of the highlights of Eva's life was when she was asked to teach seminary during the World War II years. She taught for 35 years. She enjoyed working with the young people in a spiritual setting. Many have spoken of her as a special teacher. Eva spoke often about how she loved her many students. Eva also served in the Stake and Ward Relief Societies and enjoyed singing in the trio composed of Frieda Behling, (soprano) Anna Larsen (second), and Eva (alto).

Llewellyn was a self taught mechanic and had learned a lot of mechanical skills. He was able to fix most anything such as cars, trucks, tractors, farm machinery, as well as heavy equipment. He was instrumental in the building of many ditches. He would use a carpenters level and a long stick to assure that the water would have the right fall. He was an excellent blacksmith. He also owned and operated a roller gristmill that produced baking flour for the town's families and also grain feed for their animals. This roller mill was propelled by a water wheel which in turn provided the energy to turn the mill machinery. The mill was located just below the present Millsite Reservoir named after this very roller and feed mill.

The Llewellyn and Eva Killpacks were also cattle and dirt farmers. The farm included over 100 acres that included good farm ground, housed a good sized dairy and an animal barn with corrals for cattle, horses, sheep and pigs.

To begin with, most of the farming was done with work horses that pulled wagons, hay mowers, hay rakes, plows, cultivators, etc. Eventually tractors and farm equipment became a part of farming which increased the production on the farm.

Llewellyn purchased a tractor and a thresher. He not only threshed his own grain, but did custom threshing in Ferron, Molen, Rochester (Moore) and Clawson. The farmers stacked their grain that was cut in the fields by a machine called a grain binder.

It cut the grain and bound it in a bundle. The bundles were then loaded in wagons, taken to the stack yard, and placed in large stacks in preparation for the thresher.

Llewellyn and his crew, made up of family and other hard working Ferronites, went from farm to farm, threshing wheat, oats, and barley. A tradition, and a good policy, was that the farmer who was having the grain threshed would provide meals for the workers. Each big meal was truly like a banquet with meat, potatoes, garden vegetables, homemade rolls or bread, and cake or pies for dessert. The hard working men were filled and refurbished with the good meals. Some of the bigger farms required two or three days to process all their grain and still meals were provided.

On the Killpack property three water ponds were built. One was a large one called the Big Pond and two smaller ones. The Big Pond was used for a culinary water system wherein the water was piped to three homes; one was Grandpa William Killpack's, one went to Llewellyn, and Eva's home, and the other went to Alton Killpack's, who was Llewellyn's younger brother.

The Big Pond was also used for harvesting ice in the winter. LW built an ice saw out of a Model T car part, using the engine, transmission and rear axle. It was mounted on runners that he built and was moved around by man power. Large blocks were cut and hauled to a building called the ice house. The ice was stored with sawdust packed around and on each block. Here the ice would stay frozen until the middle of the summer. Residents of the area would come and buy a chunk of ice for their ice box coolers or a chunk to crush and make home made ice cream.

The smaller ponds became favorite swimming pools for a lot of the young people in Ferron. All these ponds were also used for ice skating in the winter.

Llewellyn and Eva developed a good sawmill industry. Llewellyn purchased a used sawmill from someone over the mountain. It was transported and set up on Stevens Creek located on Ferron Mountain just under the White Slides near the south end of the Big Mountain. The sawed lumber was hauled by wagon to Ferron where it was sold for homes and farm building.

A unique thing about Ferron is that from the city you can see up into the higher elevated mountains such as Big Mountain where you can see the White Slides.

In an area just below the White Slides and on Stevens Creek Llewellyn had placed his sawmill. By standing on a hill near the sawmill a person could look east and see most all the town of Ferron, especially noticeable, was Llewellyn and Eva's Bench Road area. Llewellyn would take his crew up to the mountains on Monday and wouldn't come home until Friday or Saturday. Llewellyn and Eva came up with a plan to be able to communicate with each other to see if either had problems or if everything was alright. Each had a good sized mirror and on the appointed time and day Llewellyn would climb to this hill that overlooked Ferron and their Bench Road farm and Eva would go out on the lawn at home looking up at Ferron Mountain. Well, it worked and they sent code flashing messages of love and concern from Big Mountain to their home on Bench Road and back. Smart idea!

The sawmill was later moved to Ferron and set up on the Killpack farm. The logs were hauled from the mountain.

Llewellyn and Eva organized a farm machinery business located on the corner of 100 South Main where the present day fire station is located. They sold J.I. Case Machinery and was also a business for farm machinery repair.

Llewellyn had a good sense of humor. When he would go to the field to irrigate he would wear the knee high rubber boots. While changing the water he captured two little mice. He just stuck them in his boot. When he got home he sat down on a chair in the dining room to take off his boots, but before he did, he called Eva in to talk to him. Then he took off the boot where the mice were and those little mice came running out. Well, Eva started screaming with fear and jumped on a chair all the time yelling at Llewellyn to get rid of those awful mice. After all was done and said they laughed many times about it.

Many more things could be said about the Killpack s and their contributions to Ferron, but in summary, Llewellyn and Eva loved the people and the city of Ferron. Ferron became a name sake for them and their children. Many times they and their children would brag on Ferron as the best little town in the Valley.

Thanks to the Ferronites who reached out to make it a nice and beautiful place to live.