

PHILLIP AND DORIS JEAN NELSON

Phillip Nelson was born in February of 1924 in Ferron, Utah. He was the eighth child of

Eunice and Guy Nelson in Ferron, Utah. He grew up in the home built by his father which

was located across the street from Lemon's Grove. This Grove was planted by John Lemon as part of his receiving a homestead through the forest act. The Grove was removed in the 1940's and was located east of Arlene Lemon's home. It was also north of Marvin Garrett's house. It was an old adobe house and it burned down when Philip was a senior in high school. They then got the house that was on the corner just north of the house that burned.

Philip describes his neighborhood thus: "When I was a kid there was only three homes on that north slope. George and Eva Conover have always lived there. Then you come on down where the Denhalters live now. That was where Glen and Erma Jensen lived. Ferris Nelson lived where Doris Behling Lindsey lives now. He sold Doris and Hugh Behling. Dave Behunin lived east of the Jensens and Perry Behunin was east of him. The next house down was Clarence Lemon. That is the old place south of where Ted Cox used to live. That home and the one of Arth Lemon's where John lives was identical. Those homes were brick homes and they built the same. Clarence and Arth were brothers and their Dad built those homes. They look different but when you just look at them they are just a square brick home and you go inside of them and you will see they were identical. Across the street is what is known as the old Zwahlen place. It was just burned down by the city. Before Irene and Fred Zwahlen lived there it belonged to the Leland Behunin. Leland was a cousin to Cecil Behunin, Ida Behunin Rasmussen's husband. Cecil and Ida lived in that house when their first child, Mary Lou, was born. When I was real little Cecil B. Wilcox lived there. She grew up in the house where Grant Leslie lived which is the brick house where the Withers family lives now. It is just north of Louise Funks home. John Lemon lived in the house where Arlene Lemon lives. He was Arthur Lemon's father. Aunt Libbie was John Lemon's wife. She was a half sister to my Dad. John married Aunt Libbie after his first wife died.

Three Nelson brothers came to Ferron. Uncle Soph who is Alice Ann Snyder's grandfather, and Uncle Thorvald, Elisabeth Olsen's father who lived right there were Elizabeth lives now, and Uncle Oscar. Now Uncle Oscar lived out there on the highway where George Nielsen had his farm. He owned the farm clear up to the highway up there back of the stake house and all the way down to the Peterson's on the corner and they owned up this way."

When we sent to Manti in wagons we went up the Ferron Canyon, broke off the road and went up the Black Dragon and then across up over Wagon Road Ridge. This was a two-day trip. When I was a little kid we would go to Manti once a year. It was a hundred miles in those days in the little old Model A Ford that we went in and it would take exactly 4 hours to go. If we left at 8:00 in the morning we would get there at noon. We averaged 25 miles an hour. The road was gravel and went around south of Emery and that road went around where the old mine that went through to Emery. It would around there and back up the canyon and you go up that old canyon and you can see where that old road where it went up and down every little draw and wound its way up.

It would follow the natural terrain because it was difficult to get across some of the ravines.

When we were kids we didn't come into the east part of town much. You stayed in your own domain and you walked everywhere. There was the upper road and the lower road. The Canyon Road was the lower road and up there on the Mill Road was the upper road. Well, that's the way we went to town. We would go down on the lower road and the Chris Nielsen family, lived down there where Allen Tozier lived. They lived in that old log cabin that is right there on the Canyon Road. They family lived in that cabin and raised their family . There was Ona, Elda, George, Naomi, and Floyd, Beatrice, Earl and Merl (twins). They lived in the log house and they had built on the front of it to make a little kitchen. In the summertime they had a lean-to with cupboards in it and that was the kitchen. They had boarded up tents that the girls slept in and Earl and Merl had kind of little shacks up to the Correl that they slept in.

When we were real young we went barefooted all the time in the summer. That was just a common thing. I can remember thinking that it was just about time for school to be out. "Now we can go barefooted." It took you a few weeks to get your feet toughened and then you just went every place barefooted. I'm not kidding! You haven't lived until you've gone barefooted in that old dust. Those old roads! Those iron-tired wagons would just grind that gravel and dirt until it was just powder. It was just like flour. You would stomp in that and it was just like you were stomping in a batch of flour. And you would go through that and the dust would squirt through your toes and to walk through that old dust was just really something!

Now there was a bog right there in front of Ada Nielsen's. From Louie Peterson's there to the highway. They would haul in a lot of dirt into that bog so they could race their horses.

The house that Doris Jean and I live in was built by Henry Larsen's father. They went to the mountains for the lumber and got the brick. They added two rooms onto it on the back and when we bought it we added two more on the back. The add-on was that board-like clapboard. When we added on we just put the steel siding on all the way around so it matched but the west side of it is brick. The foundation is cement. A lot of the houses are just rock. We moved into this home in 1948. We were married in 1946 and I was going to school and we stayed up there and then they gave me a job down here coaching and we moved here the fall of 1948.

I met my wife, Doria Jean Nelson, when she was in kindergarten. I went to kindergarten in the Presbyterian School. They didn't have kindergarten in the public schools and she lived in the other end of town.

We had sports in our schools. We played softball in the fall and then basketball and track. We didn't have football then. I can remember when Orvil Henry, Reva's brother, was killed. And I don't think it was that year, the but next year or so is when they stopped playing football.

After high school I went to work out to Geneva Steel. BYU got me the job so I could go to school there. I went to work out there and worked all summer long. I started to school that fall, but the only reason anybody was going to school was that they said if you stayed in school you wouldn't have to go into the army. That just burned me up and I just said, "Heck with tit." And I just quit and joined up in the Navy. Well, I got in the Sea Bees. Dean Duncan and I were going to go in together and he was my best friend.

That's who my son, Dean, is named after. He is LaVerna Duncan's Peterson's brother. Well, I signed up and my mother had to sign that I could join. I was in the service for a little over three years. I spent 2 ½ years over in the South Pacific.