

Brief History of

RUBY LEE HANSEN SORENSON

I was born, the first of ten children, to Charles Walter Hansen and Mary Ann Lee, on 21 February 1903 in Iona, Idaho. My mother has written rather extensively about my birth and early childhood, so I will not repeat it again. My life as a child and school girl is not any different from any other young person in Iona at that time. We had a plain, but comfortable home, plenty of food to eat of the home grown varieties. Most of our clothes were homemade or "hand-me-downs". Our recreation and entertainment were also homemade. Church functions, house parties, candy pulls, and later on, silent movies were also forms of recreation and entertainment. I had many relatives whom I loved, and we visited back and forth. I dearly loved my Grandmother Lee and spent as much time with her as I could.

By the time I was eight years old, I was my mother's baby sitter because she was very active in the Church and had to be away from home a lot. I liked to cook and keep house, and my sister Breta liked to work outside and help mother with the yard work, vegetable garden, the fruit, and the animals; so we divided the work up between us. Marie was very seldom available for help, and Roy was enough younger than we were that he really didn't do much good.

Because I could read and write when I went to school, I was put in the second grade to start with. I stayed there for a week, and then I was moved to the third grade. I graduated from the eighth when I was 13. I was the youngest graduating member of the class as well as class valedictorian. There was no high school in Iona, so I had to go to Idaho Falls to high school. The LDS students at high school were a tight little clique, and they wouldn't associate with "country bumpkins", so I was thrown to the "Gentiles" for my friendships. I made some very good friends, but their life style and ideals were not what my parents wanted for me, so after two years there, they decided to send me to Logan, Utah to the Brigham Young College. I carried very heavy courses at Idaho Falls High and was very well taught by some outstanding teachers, so when I got to the BYC, I was put in the Senior Class. Again, I had to study very hard, but with some lucky breaks, and again, fine teachers, I graduated from BYC at 16. Since I wanted to be a school teacher and one had to be 18 years old to teach in Idaho, I went back to

the BYC again as a college student. When I turned 18, I applied in Iona for a position teaching school. I was accepted and taught the fourth grade for the year 1921-1922.

While I was in Logan, I met and fell in love with James V. (Slim) Sorenson. We became engaged before I started teaching school, and we were married in the Logan Temple, 8 June 1922. J.V. was working at the Logan Laundry when we were married, but he applied for work at the Logan Post Office in November 1922. He started work there in December of that year and worked there continuously for 43 years, retiring in December 1965.

Our early married life was happy, but we were very poor because wages at the Post Office were then lower than school teacher's wages. We had five children: James Charles, John Verland, Fred Randall, Mary Renee, and David Walter. In the first six years of our married life, we moved six times; so in 1928 J.V.'s father, James Sorenson, gave us a building lot next to his home, and we built the small home I live in now. It has been remodeled and built on to several times by my husband as we needed more room. We have always loved it and have always cherished it.

J.V. And I have always been busy both in Church and community. He worked in the Scouting programs for 15 years and then was Sunday School Superintendent, Mutual President, a member of the Cache Stake Mutual Board, under the direction of Alma Sonne. J.V. was Stake Vanguard Leader and then he was called as Secretary of the Elder's Quorum. After serving as Secretary for the Elder's Quorum for 7 or 8 years, he was made a High Priest.

In civic affairs, he directed Red Cross drives for the city, managed two local baseball teams, the Beckers Boy's Club, and the Logan Collegians. During World War II, he served as coordinator for the Saving Stamp drives in the county. After the war, he became the Civil Service examiner at the Logan Post Office. In his post office work he worked as clerk, carrier, again as clerk; then he became Superintendent of Mails, and finally for the last ten years there, he was Assistant Post Master.

My activities in Church and civic affairs were as follows: I first started teaching in Church organizations when I was 11, and taught Primary Classes through the summer. I continued to teach until I went away to school. I taught religion class while I was teaching school in Iona. After I married, I wasn't active in the Church until we moved into the Logan Third LDS ward in 1928. Since that time I have never been without a position in some organization. Most of the time I have taught classes in every organization: Sunday School Mutual, Relief Society, Primary. I have even taught Priesthood classes when requested to. I sang in the Third and then the Seventeenth

Ward Choir for 40 years. I was drama director in the Third ward Mutual for five years. I worked as a genealogical missionary at the Cache Genealogical Library for four years. From 1945 to 1950, I served as First Counselor in the Seventeenth Ward Relief Society to President Ida B. Dial. When our youngest son, David was called to the Swedish Mission Field in 1950, I resigned from the Relief Society Presidency and went to work at the Logan Knitting Mills to help finance his mission. At that time, I was asked to teach the Gospel Doctrine Class in Sunday School, which I did and continued to do so for 12 years. When it was no longer necessary for me to work, I quit and again resumed my Relief Society position, being called to teach the Spiritual Living Lessons and to act as a Visiting Teacher. In 1978, my hearing had become so faulty that I could no longer function efficiently as a teacher or as a choir member, so I resigned from all of my Church positions except as a Visiting Teacher.

In 1979, our Stake President Rex Thompson, called me into his office and asked me to teach the Relief Society Social Relations lessons in the Stake Branch at Sunshine Terrace, a local nursing home. I explained my problem of deafness, but he promised me that that would be no problem for me in this new position. I gratefully accepted it because I love to teach and had missed it so much.

I would now like to say a little bit about my genealogical work. I was given a Patriarchal Blessing as a child by my Grandfather Thomas W. Lee, and in it I was told that it would be my duty and privilege to gather the genealogies and histories of my relatives and ancestors, and that I would someday make this my primary goal in life. In 1932, my father, Charles W. Hansen, came to my home in Logan and placed in my hands a handful of Danish records that he had just received from a researcher in Denmark. He asked me to put the names on the proper forms and send the work in for the Temple Ordinances. I was almost overwhelmed by the request, as I had five small children and several Church and civic positions and didn't know the first thing about genealogical procedures. But I had always obeyed my father, so I agreed to try. I went to the best genealogist in Logan at the time it was Walter M. Everton, and he helped me and later called me as a missionary in the Cache Genealogical Library. So from then on, my interest in genealogy grew. I took many classes in research and procedures and spent many hours and much money in research work. But then, my directions were changed and I was asked to teach genealogy at both the ward and stake level. I began to gather histories and pictures and other people's research so that these last few years I have been more of an archivist than a researcher. I went twice to Bellville, Illinois searching for records. In 1969, my son David and his wife, my husband and I went back to Nauvoo Illinois, Montrose and down the river to Quincy, Illinois searching for the Wolkitt people, some of whom still live in Quincy. I was moderately successful in my

quest and this year, 1982, I plan to return to Bellville and also to go to Tennessee and search for the missing family there.

I would like to say a brief word about my children. I know I am prejudice, but I feel that I have five very wonderful children. They are loving, respectful and conscientious in honoring their parents. They are ambitious, hard working individuals, honest, law abiding and respected citizen of their communities. Two of my boys served on missions, three of the children were married in the Temple. My two oldest boys made war time marriages and married out of the Church. James Charles (Jim) joined the Infantry and was recommended to Officer Training School and received a commission as Second Lt. He was sent to several army bases as a training officer, ending up with a Captain rant at the end of the war. Jim married Mary Bertram of Columbus, Georgia in Columbus in January 1946. They came to Logan after the war where Jim returned to school and graduated in 1948 from Utah State University. He then went to Eugene, Oregon where he obtained a Master's Degree in Math and Quality Control. He returned to Utah and worked from some time at Hill Field. His work in Quality Control attracted the attention of airplane companies and he finally wound up working for the Boeing Company. He has worked for them about 30 years, being sent to Seattle, Middletown, Ohio, Mobile Alabama, New Orleans, Los Angeles , and then again to Seattle. He and his wife have four children, Susan, James Mark, Paul and Lee.

Our second son, John Verland (Jack) has much the same history in the beginning. He joined the Air Force as was sent to Officer Training School where he received a commission and was being trained in flying B-17's at the end of the war. He married Verla Larsen in 1945 in California. They returned to Logan where he graduated from Utah State University in 1948. He taught briefly at Weber High School in Ogden, Utah. He and his wife Verla had four children: Laurie, David, Randy, and Brent. They were divorced and Jack went to California for a job in the Air Force, acting as liaison officer for Aviation Education. He was successful in this work and is at present National Director of Aviation Education for the whole United States. He later married Margaret Froelich. They have resided in Montgomery, Alabama for the past ten years.

Our third son, Fred, has had a very different life. He has measles, and double pneumonia when he was six seeks old, and we nearly lost him. He was left a sickly, weak child and suffered with every childhood disease that came along. He had to lose a lot of school time because of illness. He was 17, a senior at Logan High School, when WWII started and he gave us no peace until we gave our consent for him to enlist in the Navy. He served the entire war in the South Pacific, and was just about the last person to be discharged. He returned to Logan and went back to Logan High and received his diploma. He also went to Utah State University for two years but decided a college

education was not for him and quit. He was called on a mission to Samoa. He served there a year when he contracted jungle fever and disease. He was sent home to the Veterans Hospital, at first in San Francisco and then later in Salt Lake. After his discharge from there, he was sent briefly to California to finish his mission. He was given an honorable release and he returned home. He married Jean Bradshaw of Wellsville, Utah in the Logan Temple on August 21, 1950. He then worked for the Union Pacific Railroad in Ogden for a time and later applied for work as a mail carrier in the Ogden Post Office. He worked there until 1979 when he was retired on a disability discharge. He and his wife have four children: Donald, Boyd, Randy and Kerri.

Our daughter Mary Renee, called Renee, has been a joy and a delight to her parents all of her life. She was a happy, obedient child. She had many friends, did well in school, and learned to play the piano very well. She graduated from Logan High School and then became engaged to Charles L. Hyde of Hyde Park. He was leaving on a mission to New Zealand; so she decided not to go to college, but to get a job in the telephone office in order to help him on his mission and to prepare herself for marriage. When Charles returned from his mission they were married in the Logan Temple on July 20, 1950. Then for the next twelve years she worked on her degree, "P.H.T" (Putting Hubby Through), helping her husband graduate from Utah State University and then the University of Utah Medical School. Charles then did intern work at Ogden and a year in Hanford, California. He returned to Logan in 1962 and set up practice here as a General Practitioner. Both Renee and Charles have been very active in the Church, holding many positions. Renee is at present Relief Society President in the North Logan Ward. Charles has been Bishop, Counselor in the Student Stake Presidency under Reed Bullen, and then Stake President of the North Logan Stake. Renee has suffered from ill health for most of her married life. They have four children: Kathleen, (Kathy), Dianne, James (Jim), and Karen.

David, our youngest child was perhaps our easiest boy to raise. He is a happy extrovert, having the resemblance, disposition, and mannerisms of his father and his Grandfather Sorenson. He was always eager to learn and a natural born leader. He was always an excellent listener, profiting from the advice and chidings that we gave the other children. He and his sister, Renee, have always been close. They played happily together as young children and loyally supported each other against the world--parents included. David played his first trumpet solo at five years of age in a ward talent night. He continued with music, sports, and wheels throughout elementary school and high school. He always had an almost obsessive love for wheels – from his first little three-wheeled scooter, to tricycle, to bicycle, to motor scooter, to car. He worked in a service station from the time he was 14 until he went on his mission. He helped his older

brothers deliver their Sunday Salt Lake Tribune on his tricycle. David got a paper route of his own to earn money for his first trumpet. (He had been playing his Grandfather Hansen's old, old cornet). He played in a trumpet trio with Gibbs Budge and Elden Torbensen for six or seven years. He played in the Logan Junior and Senior High School bands, directing the Senior High band at times when the leader Eldon Torbensen was absent. He participated in every sporting event, beginning early at the age of five as mascot for his dad's baseball team. In high school he lettered in basketball, football, baseball, and track. He was also very active in ROTC. Becoming the commander of the Logan High unit during his Senior year. You might wonder how he had time to go to school and learn –well he didn't. He seemed to learn by osmosis, which got him by in high school. But he was lacking in the basics of an education, so he had to study very hard in college to overcome this. He went to Utah State University on an athletic scholarship. After the first quarter, he was called on a mission to Sweden. He filled his mission and returned home to go again to Utah State, this time on a music scholarship. He met Lee Ann Murdock in his music classes, fell in love and married her on the 17th of September 1954. After his graduation from Utah State, he went to teach music in the Snake River High School near Blackfoot, Idaho. He became disillusioned with teaching because of the problems of discipline versus music, so he quit teaching. David tried several other jobs and finally became an administrative assistant to Ralph Harding, the Congressman from Idaho. This revived his early desire to become a lawyer, so in 1963, with five children, he and his wife sold their home in Idaho Falls and moved to Salt Lake City so David could enter the University of Utah Law School. He graduated from there in 1966 and returned to Logan, joining the law firm of Olsen and Hoggan. He served two terms as District Attorney and then retired from politics to care for his growing law practice. He has always been very active in the Church, serving in most of the organizations and was on the High Council in the Mount Logan Stake. David is present Stake President of the married students at USU. He and his wife, Lee Ann have five children: Mary Ann, twin sons, James David and Robert Clarence, Sue and Peggy Lee.

In 1973, my husband, after being ill for a couple of years had open heart surgery and a month later he had surgery for the removal of a benign tumor on his esophagus. He recovered slowly from this and had a good productive life until 1978 when he had a cataract operation on both eyes, a kidney stone removal, a stroke, and a prostate operation. He again battled back, having both physical and speech therapy. Within six months he returned as Assistant Librarian in the Cache Genealogical Library. He carried on a full active life.

In August of 1981, he again suffered a stroke, which was massive. He spent five weeks in the hospital and passed away on September 6, 1981. He was buried in the

Logan City Cemetery on September 9, 1981. Since that time I have lived by myself here in our love home. Surrounded and support by my family. I hope to continue in my genealogical work and to help my family until I am called to be with my dear husband and loved ones on the other side of the veil.