

CHRISTOPHERSON

Everyone knew the Christiansen home was the place to go for fun and games. Mother and Dad always treated our friends very special and they loved being there to eat, play and, many times, to stay overnight. Sunday meals were special even though Mother would never think of missing meetings to prepare them. Miraculously, those wonderful meals would be prepared after church with little or no waiting. This was usually a day when extra company would appear on the scene, also.

We'll always remember the Thanksgivings and Christmases and all of the people at our home. ... I'm sure we were the only family who hung up their stockings on New Year's Eve as well as Christmas. Mother always said it was at this time that Santa would check to see if we were taking care of our Christmas things and if we were, our stockings were filled again. Also, it was our time to write Santa a thank you letter.

Mother led music, she played the piano and the guitar. Singing was an important part of our lives. As a family, we often sang around the piano as Mother played. We had family home evening long before it was instigated by our church. We felt so much love for all of the family members. This was very important to Mother to have peace and harmony, love and concern for one another. She relied on the Lord throughout her life and I'm sure prayed more often than any of us will ever know.

Even though Mother taught school most of our growing up years, nothing was neglected, even though I know it took working early in the morning and staying up very late at night in order to have bread made, clothes washed, the house neat and clean and organized before she left for school each day. Those who weren't old enough for school stayed with Grandma Loae Christiansen who lived close by.

Mother was concerned and devoted to each student. She would worry about their learning problems, and other problems they might have. All who had her as a teacher loved and respected her, and they learned from her. She had qualities that would make the whole world better if others would emulate them. She was a peacemaker and I'm sure never knew anyone who was not her friend.

The family moved to Burlington in the late 1940s or early 1950s, where Evelyn taught school many years. Evelyn, whose greatest teaching method was her example, died 3 June 1970. She continues to live, through the many people she deeply influenced, and her children, who are well educated, active members of the LDS Church. Several sons and daughters became outstanding educators; three sons received doctorates.

In December 1970, Leland married Alice Beck Hopkin, widow of Carl Hopkin. Carl and Alice had been Leland and Evelyn's close friends. Leland and Alice lived in Grant's Pass, Oregon 20 years. Leland died December 31, 1990.

Vance said, in a tribute to his father, "By now, Mom has greeted him with love and probably has said, 'Oh, Leland!' as he started looking for ways to make the pearly gates swing differently."

1893 Christopherson - from Vernal, Utah Resources: Joe Christopherson, Jr., Connie C. Cook; Dwain Christopherson; Patrecia Burns Miller Johnson. See Frederick Robinson history.

JOSEPH AND HANNAH EMELIE OPHEIM HAGGEN CHRISTOPHERSON

Joseph Christopherson, Sr. was born in 1864 in Norway. When he was a small boy, his family came to America on the steamship *Wyoming*. Joe made friends with Amelia Fenton's boys, Bob and Jack, never suspecting they would ever see each other after they got to America. The Fentons lived in Utah and Idaho and came to the Greybull River area in 1888.

The Christophersons settled in Utah. *Joseph had a prosperous lumber business until a fire destroyed one mill and he had to sell the other two to pay his debts. They came from Ashley Valley*

to Mormon Bend in 1893. Later, Charles and Lottie Hawkins Christopherson, Joseph's brother and his wife, came to Burlington "with the Snyders bunch and the Hawkins." The brothers often played for dances. Joseph played the banjo and the guitar; Charles played the violin.

In 1898, Joseph, Sr. went on an LDS mission to Norway. On the way to Salt Lake he almost died of "walking typhoid." After two or three weeks he was well enough to continue on to Salt Lake. From there he went to New York by train and to Norway on the steamship *Wyoming*. He sailed three times on the *Wyoming*—when they came to America, and both ways on his mission.

In Norway, Hannah Emelie Opheim Haggen, born 26 January 1879, was baptized into the LDS Church in 1899. In 1900, she left her parents and homeland to go to America with Joseph Christopherson and marry him in the Salt Lake Temple. President Lorenzo Snow performed the ceremony. From Salt Lake they went to Burlington to make their home.

[Joseph, Jr.:] She must have had a real strong will and lots of faith to overcome her parents' objections and go eight to ten thousand miles with a comparatively strange man 15 years older than she was, and to marry him. She was an educated woman. She could talk English as well as—well, it had a little bit of accent, but it was kind of a cute accent. She was an exceptional singer. My mother's brother, Uncle Andrew, told me the family owned a castle on the Rhine River and he and my mother used to go over and visit in the summertime with the people in this castle. They lost the castle during the first World War.

I was born July 26, 1901. My mother's first-babies were taken care of by a midwife named Abbie Neves. She lived across the road when we lived on the ranch south and east of Burlington. In 1903 we moved to the Black Diamond coal mine up at the head of the Greybull River. The [LDS] Church came up with an organization and had Sunday School at the mine. That was in 1906 up until 1908 or 9. After that, they all went back to Salt Lake or Cowley—anywhere in the world but Meeteetse. Our family stayed at Meeteetse.

When Joe, Jr. was 13, he started delivering coal to Burlington with a team and wagon, one ton at a time. When there, he stayed with the William Neves family and went to church with them.

On 15 May 1915, Hannah died of tuberculosis, two weeks after her eighth child was born. Joe said, "In the short while I knew my mother, she gave me lots of counsel, even for a small boy, and built a lot of faith in me. I'm over 80, and I think back to this one person, that my entire life was given me by her. Too many of us do not appreciate our mothers."

Joseph and Hannah Christopherson had eight children: Joseph, Jr. b. 16 July 1901 m. Coral Robinson; Hannah (Mickie) m. Ike Niel; Lauritz (d. when a child); Sophie (d. of tuberculosis, age 19); Snow Rex 1905-1920; Unice (d. when a child); Grant b. 20 May 1910 m. Olive Robinson; Ella Mae b. 1 May 1915 m. Algar Srygley, was raised by Dan and Rachel Snyder.

JOSEPH, JR. AND CORAL ROBINSON CHRISTOPHERSON

Coral May Robinson was born on a farm near Otto November 19, 1903 to Frederick and Maria Keele Robinson. In about 1907, the family moved to the Meeteetse area to work in the Black Diamond Coal Mine for Henry Woodruff and Joseph Christopherson, Sr. They lived across the road from the Christophersons, and the children enjoyed playing together.

In 1910, when Coral was six years old, the Robinson family moved to Fruita, Colorado. In 1918, Coral (14) got a job in a restaurant, working ten hours a day, at \$1.00 a day. She waited on tables, washed dishes, scrubbed walls, washed clothes on a scrub board, and did the ironing.

Also in 1918, soon after Coral's 15th birthday and just before Christmas, her mother, Maria Robinson, died of influenza. Frederick, her father, died in 1920.

They left six living children. The three youngest, Coral (almost 17), Evelena (12) and Olive (6), went to Meeteetse to live with their married sister, Anna Starkey.

CLARK

Coral liked to tease the man who lovingly called her his "forever sweetheart." With an impish grin at Joe, she told her grandchildren, "The first time I saw him after I came back from Colorado, he delivered a load of coal to my sister. He came in with whiskers, three or four days' growth, and a dirty face. He peddled his usual line of funny stories, and laughed, and I thought, 'My gosh, I've never seen anybody with such a big mouth!'"

Tragedy struck in December 1920, when Rex, Joe's 15-year-old brother, was killed in the mine. Joe said, "I was with him when the rocks fell. Missed me about three or four times in less than ten seconds. I just kept jumpin' around. I was in the dark—the first rock that fell blew out my light. When everything calmed down, I lit my light again and saw that the rock had covered him up. So I run out to another room there in the mine and called Uncle Siguard [his mother's brother]. He had to get a crowbar to lift up the rock so he could pull him out."

Coral (17), so recently bereaved of her parents, helped Joe (19) through the rough times. Joe said, "She sympathized with me and all that stuff and first thing you know we almost considered ourselves as boy friend and girl friend." And so they were, for the rest of their lives.

Joseph Christopherson, Jr. and Coral Robinson were married 2 April 1921.

Joe and Coral were pioneers in organizing a branch of the Burlington Ward LDS church. They held meetings in their home near Meeteetse until they were able to buy an abandoned church house. It needed a lot of work and it was during the depression years, but under the direction of Bishop Hyrum Neves, a carpenter, the Christophersons and others helped make it into a fine meeting house. After nearly 20 years, their membership outgrew the little building. With church assistance, they built a large, beautiful chapel, which was dedicated in 1954.

Joe played the piano by ear and loved to pound out old-time songs while the family sang. Their posterity has carried on this tradition. Joe and Coral moved to Burlington in 1960.

Joe and Coral Christopherson had 16 children: Charles m. Marguerite Wambeke; Roxie m. Charles Dorsey; Dahl m. Paul Badura; Orvin m. Shirley Davis; Jessie m. Harry Mangus; Fred d. in infancy; Carl m. Kay Lohrenze; Phil m. Violet Hnizdil; Iris m. Gene Correia; Garth m. Florence Ridenour; Mark d. when a child; Oscar m. Linda Clark; Daniel m. Elenore Johnson; Myron m. Meiko Oshiro; Connie m. Kenneth Cook; Rollin m. Lois Wiberg.

GRANT AND OLIVE ROBINSON CHRISTOPHERSON

Grant Christopherson was born 20 May 1910. He attended elementary school in Lovell and high school in Meeteetse for two years. He quit school and went to work full time in the coal mine. Grant and Olive Robinson, Coral's sister, were married 29 June 1930.

Grant: "Somehow I acquired a stepmother. She was very good to me. Since she came from Lovell, we finally moved there. I was only 11 at the time. We loaded the piano and a few belongings on a wagon and headed for Burlington, which was our first stop. The road was long, hot and dusty. My father sat on the edge of the wagon box and played the piano to break the monotony. We moved into a painted house in Lovell. Painted! Imagine that! I ran around behind, looking for the backhouse. It was then that my stepmother's grandson took me under his wing and showed me the bathroom with the porcelain tub you could lay down in. And the flushing toilet. And paper in rolls. New paper. No catalogues. I was growing up fast."

1893 Clark – from Ashley Valley, Utah Resources: Vella Clark Kelley; Jeannette Kelley Needels; obituary of Emma Clark, *Burlington Post*; Wilma Johnson genealogy compilation.

WILLIAM HENRY AND OLIVE PRINTHIA DEUNTHIN (OR DOWNS) CLARK

The family of William and Olive Clark of Ashley Valley, Utah, were among the first who came to Mormon Bend. Their homestead was located in Burlington on the southeast side. Ads in the *Burlington Post* in 1905 and 1906 stated, "WM. H. CLARK, BLACKSMITH. HORSESHOEING