

## ABRIDGED HISTORY OF HAROLD A. NELSON

Harold Andrew Nelson was born on December 19, 1922 in Ferron, Utah to Florence Adelia Cary Nelson and Stanley Christian Nelson. At the time of Harold's birth, Florence and Stanley had a three year old daughter named Virginia Louise. The Nelson family would eventually grow to include two more boys, Harlan Eugene and Stanley Edwin (Ted) and two more girls, Elizabeth and Cary Ellen. Unfortunately, the Nelson's had twin boys but they died soon after birth.

While growing up Harold spent his summers in Rochester, Utah, a small farming community not far from Ferron. His family owned a small adobe house in Rochester and it was there that the Nelsons spent their summers farming the land. During these early years Harold developed a deep love and respect for the land and it was this love for the land that has played an important and meaningful part in Harold's life. The Nelson's worked long and hard hours on their farm but when it was time to relax and enjoy the outdoors they headed for their favorite camping spot Ferron Mountain.

The winters were not as predictable as the summers for the Nelson family. Since Harold's father was a school teacher he and his family lived in a different town each winter because teaching positions in the mining towns they lived around were not guaranteed from year to year. This constant moving is reflected in Harold's elementary and junior high years. He entered the first grade in the Fall of 1928 at Hiawatha, Utah, his second and third grades were spent in Spring Canyon, Utah, the fourth grade was spent in Ferron, Utah, the fifth grade in Royal, Utah, the sixth grade was back to Ferron, Utah, the seventh grade in Heiner, Utah, the eighth grade in Ferron, Utah, the ninth grade at Carbon High

School, the tenth grade at Helper Jr. High in Helper, Utah and the 11th and 12th grades were spent at Carbon High School in Price, Utah. In 1938, while attending Carbon High, he met and dated Helen Virginia Lee who would later become his wife.

During his high school years, Harold enjoyed participating in athletic programs. This included varsity football and track. Harold especially excelled in track and field events. In the ninth grade his relay team took first place in the State 440 Yard Relay. In the tenth grade, Harold placed <sup>3RD</sup> ~~second~~ in the <sup>100</sup> ~~200~~ yard dash at the BYU Invitational meet.

Harold graduated from high school in the Spring of 1941. After graduation he got a job working for J.C. Penney at the Price, Utah, store. He was employed with Penneys for one year. Dissatisfied with the job he resigned and went to work at the Little Standard mine in Standardville, Utah.

On June 8, 1943, Harold was drafted into the U.S. Army. He was sent to Camp Abbott, Oregon, for his basic training. After completing basic training Harold's sweetheart Helen and his sister Virginia traveled by bus to Oregon to visit him. Upon her arrival at the bus depot in Bend, Oregon, where Harold was waiting, he proposed marriage to Helen. She accepted his proposal and they were married at Camp Abbott Post Chapel in Bend, Oregon, on August 1, 1943. He was then furloughed for 7 days. He returned to Price to spend the time with his new wife. After the furlough he returned to Camp Abbott at which time he received his orders for overseas duty. He departed the USA for the European war theater in November of 1943. He landed in Glasgow, Scotland and was sent to Belfast, Ireland, where he was stationed at the Belfast Engineer Ordinance depot. He spent the winter of 1943-44 at this post. On June 3, 1944, his first child, Harold Gary, was born. D-Day, June 6, 1944, the allied forces attacked France. Fourteen days later on June 20, 1944, Harold was sent to Normandy, France where he joined the war effort. From Normandy he moved across

Europe to Frankfurt, Germany and then on to Munich. His last war station was in Munich when the war ended. From Munich he was sent to Leharve, France, where he disembarked for home. He was discharged from the Army at Fort Douglas, Utah. For his service to his country he was awarded five campaign awards, a good conduct medal, a combat infantry badge and an expert marksmanship badge.

After the war he returned to Price, Utah, where he has made his home to the present. He got a job with the Price City Engineering Department in 1946. In the fall of 1947 he enrolled in an engineering program at Carbon College. He later changed his major to business. He graduated from Carbon College June 6, 1948, with a business degree. On June 7, 1948, he went to work for Utah Power & Light as a unit bookkeeper in the Price office. While in college, Harold's second son, Lee K., was born on May 2, 1947.

The year of 1949 was spent building his family's home. The home was built on property given to Harold and Helen as a wedding present from Helen's grandmother. The home at 350 North Sixth East has been the Harold Nelson family residence ever since. Harold is especially proud of the home since he and his father built the entire structure.

On November 20, 1950, Harold's first daughter, DeLynne, was born. Three years later on January 4, 1953, a second daughter, Colleen, was born. Harold and Helen now had the family they had always talked about, two boys and two girls. While his family was growing up he managed the Kiwanis little league team for eight years. As the Kiwanis manager his teams won two little league tournaments. He is proud of the fact that both of his sons were all-stars on these teams.

In the fall of 1954 he transferred to the Utah Power & Light steam plant as their office manager. He held this position for 15 years. In 1969 he applied

for and was awarded a position as a control room operator. He held that position until retiring from Utah Power & Light on February 1, 1982, thus completing 34 years of employment with the utility company.

During those 34 years, he coached numerous power plant sponsored basketball and softball teams. Under his management those teams produced a number of championships. His basketball teams won two city championships and took second in the Kiwanis sponsored State Invitational Tournament. His softball teams were just as successful. They won two consecutive city championships. In addition to his coaching Harold also enjoyed farming and raising farm animals. Through the years he has farmed numerous acres of land, growing hay, large vegetable gardens and raising horses, chickens, pigs, sheep and cows.

Since Harold's retirement he has been able to pursue his lifelong passion, gardening. The fruits of his labor can be seen every fall. Harold is one of those rare people who can make the earth produce remarkable vegetables. He loves to tool in his one acre garden from early spring until the first snows of fall. He has also continued a Nelson family tradition, the annual High Uinta fishing trip. Along with this outing Harold enjoys spending as much time as possible in the out-of-doors. Throughout the years he has traveled to western and eastern Canada with his brothers and son on fishing trips. Needless to say his fondest fishing memories are still of Ferron Mountain, the old Nelson haunt.

Harold is proud of his family and his five grandchildren. As his children have grown and left home Harold and Helen are now making plans for themselves. They recently remodeled their basement and patio and have also purchased a travel trailer and plan to spend more time camping and fishing. Harold is also proud of the fact that he and Helen celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on August 1, 1983.