

## History of Shirley (Shake) William Booth



Shirley (Shake) was born June 1, 1914 in St. George, Utah to James William and Marvel Booth. Where he gained the nickname “Shake” is not known to this author. The above photo of Shake and his wife Jean, was taken at a early time in their marriage. The location is not known. .

*To the reader his brother Fred’s history presents a more detailed account of the family, where they lived a different times and the hardships they indured.*

Shake was the fourth child of his parents. On his ninth birthday his mother became sick and was operated on for gallbladder problems. She passed away on June 7, 1923 just seven days after his birthday. They were living in Lehi, Utah at the time. Sometime after she passed away

his father was put into the LDS hospital for hernia surgery and the family was split apart. Him and his sisters Elma, Esther, and brother Jim were sent to live in an orphanage located in Salt Lake City. *I was told by my Father that Shake was taken from the orphanage and lived with a relative in the Minersville or Beaver area for a period of time.*

After Shake's father regained his health, Will, as he was called, went back to St. George where his sister Emma Larson was living. Through her he met Gladys Wilson, a maiden lady who had a home at 400 East Tabernacle. She and Will were married October 13, 1931 in St. George. The family was brought back together with the exception of Fred who stayed at Caliente and worked to keep the family going. Shake's sister Elma passed away while in the orphanage.

Life was not easy for the family as their father couldn't find a steady job. His only ambition was prospecting. He had several old cronies live with them at different times, most of them were old prospectors. They would dream dreams of mines, mills and quick riches. Shake's life at this time consisted of working at whatever job he could find. Their father took what ever money they made to keep the family fed.

The marriage of Shake's mother to Will was not accepted by the Riding family and they were not treated very well by them. The Riding family were better off than most and didn't help them much. There were ill feeling created by this and it affected the family greatly. They weren't brought up in very good conditions and often lived without much.

At some point in time, Shake had a falling out with his Father and left the family. It is nor known what he did during this period, but he kept in contact with his brothers and sister.

Shake married Jean Cripps November 10, 1934 in St. George, Utah. Jean is the daughter of Eugene and Laura Dalton Cripps. Jean's birth date was July 26, 1919. She was born in Cedar City, Utah.

While living in St. George Jean worked in the Dick's Church's restaurant. Shake ran his own heating and cooling business and worked at the local theater.

Shake and Jean had five children. The first was Jerry Kurt Booth,

born May 13, 1935 in St. George, Utah. Jerry married Dolly Garcia in 1955 and they had four children: Rayelyne, Vera, Mickey and Kurt.

Jerry passed away February 23, 2003 in Las Vegas Nevada where they had made their home. He had traveled and lived in several other cities due to his work , but always considered Las Vegas his home.

His obituary reads:

Born May 13, 1935, Saint George, Washington County, Utah. Death: Feb. 23, 2003

Jerry was a retired engineering consultant in the heating and air conditioning business, and a member of HVAC Local 250 and Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Local 525. He has resided in Henderson for 52 years. He is survived by his wife, Dolly Booth of Henderson; daughters, Vera Hopson of Las Vegas, Rayelyne Byrne of Provo, Utah, and Mickey Althouse of Moreno Valley, California; son, Kurt Booth of Las Vegas; Mother, Jean Booth of Las Vegas; sisters, Shirley Leavitt of Bloomington, Utah, Kathy Fuson of Las Vegas and Toni Parsons; 20 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Burial: Palm Memorial Park (Green Valley), Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada.

Ted Vincent Booth was the next child born to Shake and Jean. He was born December 5, 1936 in St. George, Utah. Ted was two years old when he die, April 13, 1938, of what was then thought of as “quick pneumonia”. He is buried in the St. George City Cemetery plot number C-9-4-1.

While still in St. George Shirley Jean, Kathy and Toni were born. Shirley Jean married Dell Levavitt. Kathleen married Spike Fuson and Toni married Mark Fuson.



Ted Vincent Booth



The following was written by Rayelyne Booth, Jerry's first child.

“My dad, Jerry K. Booth was born in May 1935. Shirley and Jean had another son, Ted Vincent Booth when my father, Jerry was a year and a half old. Vincent lived until he was 2 years old, then died of "quick pneumonia." We now know quick pneumonia as asthma. It is misdiagnosed in our family as pneumonia, but when treated like asthma it goes away (learn this from two of my children having the same condition; it is caused by a sensitivity to milk and wheat). While still in St. George Shirley Jean, Kathy and Toni were born. Shirley ran his own refrigeration business and worked at the local theater. Grandma Jean worked at Dick Church's restaurant during this time. After Jerry's eighth grade graduation, Shirley moved the family to Henderson, Nevada. He took a job working at the Hoover Dam (now called the Boulder Dam) with the plumbers and pipefitters union. After his job at the dam he continued to work as a plumber and pipefitter. Jerry went on to high school, met Dolly Garcia and married her in 1955. I was born, the first grandchild, in 1956. When I was about two years old, Grandpa and my dad worked at the Mercury Test Site. He later returned to working in town. Shirley was good with his hands. He could fix and build anything.

When I was about six years old, he and my dad invented a cooling tower to cool the water for the swamp cooler of our home. It worked well. Our home was very cool without extra cost during the very hot Las Vegas summer months. I loved the sound of the falling water as it came down the cooling tower. I would play for hours by it just to hear its soothing sound. Dad and Grandpa Shirley worked on cars together, and built dune buggies to sell for extra money. We would take trips to the sand dunes behind Nellis Air Force Base to test the new buggies. There were many Easters we spent in nature celebrating the reason for the holiday and having a family picnic on the Dunes. Grandpa Shirley and Grandma Jean were good to create holiday celebrations for the family. With Grandma's home country cooking, who could resist a good meal, home grown music, dancing, singing and outdoor games and just pure family fun. Grandpa and his brothers formed a band while he lived in St George, Utah. They would play music for wedding, school dances, and community events. Grandpa played the accordion, tenor guitar, harmonica, and six string guitar while he, dad, grandma and the rest of us would sing the old ballads, cowboy and folk songs. We sang, we danced, ate good food, and enjoyed each other's company. When I was eleven my dad moved us away from Las Vegas, Nevada to Huntington Beach, California. Each year Grandma and Grandpa would load up in their VW Bug and travel to see us for the holidays. They came to visit two to four times a year. I am pleased they made the effort. We too would go back to Vegas at least a couple times a year for the holidays Grandma and Grandpa were not able to come to California. We were close. We were close as a family to Grandma and Grandpa Booth. My memories are the holidays we spent with them celebrating life. Grandpa worked, loved fixing and building, and was good at it! He loved his family, from where I was and could see. Now he was not perfect, but all in all, I think he did his best. I know from talking with him that there were times he suffered in his life, and he was pained. He also said he was sorry to me for the pain I may have endured. The night he died, in a dream, he said good-bye, and asked to be released from any pain he may have caused. I believe that he is free now. When he crossed the river

from this life to the other side, there was family there waiting for him, waiting to celebrate his successes, his life on earth, and their love for him, in a huge family picnic by green grass, under the shade of a large tree and with open arms to hug and welcome him home. These are my memories of my grandfather, Shirley William Booth. May he rest in the peace he deserves.“

After his job at the Dam he continued to work as a plumber and pipefitter working on several of the large construction projects in Las Vegas (Hotels and Casinos).

Both Shake and Jerry worked on the Mercury Test Site where they were involved with the construction of the facilities to test the Atomic Bomb. He later returned to work in the town.

Shake and Jean made their home in 1255 Darmark Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada. They resided there for the rest of their lives. Their home was always a joy to visit and we were welcomed there every time we went to Vegas.

Behind the home was a garage that Shake used to build his many Dune Buggies. He became proficient in building Buggies from old VW cars. He could take one of their engines and overhaul it completely along with the transmission. He enjoyed working on these projects and created a lasting legacy with other family members. Family in Tooele, Utah were the recipients of one of his cars and they enjoyed driving it until the wheels fell off. Below is a photo of Jim (or maybe Shake) and Alice Booth in one of his first creations.





Below are some family photos.



Kathy and Spike Fuson



Jerry Kurt Booth



Rayelyne Booth



Shake and Jean Family Crew



Alfred Booth & Shirley Booth



Janice, Shirley Jean & Marvel Lynne Booth



Jean, John & Marie Booth





Jerry Booth kids, Rayelyne, Vera & Kurt



Jerry Kurt Booth baby photo



Jean and Shake Booth



Shake Booth



Shake, Esther & Shirley Jean Booth



Shirley Jean Booth and husband



Shirley Jean Booth



Johnny, Esther, Jim, Shake, Rea & Fred Booth



James William, Johnny, Esther, Jim, Shake, Rea, Fred Booth





James William, Fred, Rea, Shake, Jim, Johnny Booth



Shake & Jean, Esther & Dude, Fred & Marie, Johnny & Beth, Jim & Alice Booth



Shake, Esther, Fred, Johnny, Jim Booth



Johnny & Beth, Jim & Alice, Fred & Marie, Shake & Jean Booth





Rea, Esther, Fred, Jim & Shake standing



Back row: Shake, Fred, Jim, Alice, Robert, Denise, Front Row: Jean, Marie, Dude, Esther, Francis



James William and Marvel Riding Booth  
(Shakes mother and father)




Marvel Riding Booth (Shakes  
Mother)



Marvel Riding Booth (Shakes  
Mother)

Late in Shake's life he suffered a stroke that left him somewhat paralyzed on one side of his body. His speech was effected, but this didn't stop him. He continued to function and with Jean's help they continued to hold their family functions and kept their family close to them.

Shake passed away on April 11, 1992 in Las Vegas, Nevada. His funeral was held April 15, 1992 and he was buried in St. George Cemetery. His funeral program is below.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Succeeded by</i>  <i>Jean Clippis Booth, wife</i>  <i>Jerry Kurt Booth, son</i>  <i>Shirley Jean Leavitt, Kaelin Jason</i>  <i>and Toni Parsons, daughters</i>  <i>Fred Booth, Jim Booth</i>  <i>and Johnny Booth, brothers</i>  <i>Esther Morgan, sister</i>  <i>10 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Palbearers</i>  <i>Kurt Booth, Mark Jason, Donny Crick,</i>  <i>Todd Jason and Jason Parsons, grandsons</i>  <i>Mark Parsons, son-in-law</i></p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shirley William Booth</b>  <i>June 1, 1914 - April 11, 1992</i>  <i>Visiting at 3:30 a.m. - Service at 11:00 a.m.</i>  <i>Wednesday, April 15, 1992</i>  <i>Midway Mortuary, St. George, Utah</i></p>
<p><i>Prelude.....Marvel Lynn Pace (niece)</i>  <i>Conducting.....Bishop Joe Ipson</i>  <i>Family Prayer.....Kelly Booth (nephew)</i>  <i>Opening Prayer.....Johnny Booth (nephew)</i>  <i>Song: "I Willing Today",.....Wanda Drake</i>  <i>accompanied by Marvel Lynn Pace</i>  <i>Speaker.....Craig Booth (nephew)</i>  <i>Speaker.....Neil Fox (nephew)</i>  <i>Song: "Going Home".....Wanda Drake</i>  <i>accompanied by Marvel Lynn Pace</i>  <i>Speaker.....Spike Jason (son-in-law)</i>  <i>Song: "We've Grown Stronger".....Mickey Ralhouse</i>  <i>Mickey (granddaughter) wrote this song for</i>  <i>her grandparents' 50th Wedding Anniversary</i>  <i>Closing Prayer.....Barney Cannon (family friend)</i>  <i>Postlude.....Marvel Lynn Pace (niece)</i>  <i>Burial.....St. George City Cemetery following services</i>  <i>Graves Dedication.....Dell Leavitt (son-in-law)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>In a beautiful lagoon on a clear day, a fine sailing ship spreads its brilliant white canvas in a fresh morning breeze and sails out to the open sea. We watch her glide away magnificently through the deep blue and gradually see her grow smaller and smaller as she nears the horizon. Finally, where the sea and sky meet, she slips silently from sight; and someone near me says, "There, she is gone!"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gone where? Gone from sight — that is all. She is still as large in mast and hull and sail, still just as able to bear her load. And we can be sure that, just as we say, "There, she is gone!" another says, "There, she comes!"</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><small>From <i>The Birth That We Owe Death</i>      by Paul H. Dunn and Richard M. Eyrne</small></p>



Jean continued to live in their home until November 19, 2009 when she passed away. She had failed in health and was taken care of by her family. Her obituary reads as follows:

### JEAN BOOTH

Jean Cripps Booth, 90, a homemaker, of Las Vegas, passed away Nov. 19, 2009. She was born July 26, 1919, in Cedar City, Utah, and was a resident of Nevada since 1950. Jean was preceded in death by her sons, Ted and Jerry Booth; and husband, Shirley William Booth. She is survived by her daughters, Shirley Jean (Dell) Leavitt of St. George, Utah, Kathleen (Spike) Fuson of Las Vegas, and Toni (Mark) Parsons of Cedar City, Utah; brothers, Angus Cripps of Crestwell, Ore., and Clair (Opal) Cripps of California; sister, Laura Trivillon of Riverside, Calif.; 10 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren. Visitation will be 2-7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at Palm Mortuary, 7600 S. Eastern Ave. Grave side services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, at St. George City Cemetery, in St. George.

Jean was buried next to her husband Shake in the St. George cemetery. Their headstone photo is below along with their son's.





BOOTH

JERRY KURT

MAY 11, 1935 - FEB. 23, 2001

DOLLY G.

MAY 16, 1914 -