

Life history of Clayton S. Green

My life began on August 29, 1932. I was born of Alonzo and Henrietta Tangwall Green at home in Butlerville Utah, the 13th child. The town of Butlerville no longer exists, it is now called Cottonwood Heights. As I write this, I am in my 81 year. There is only myself and a brother still living. I use the term town for Butlerville but it was more of a community, there were no stores nor any type of governing body. It has since grown to a large metropolitan town. Our mail was through the murray post office. Our address was 7772 So 2300 East. It was later changed to 6742 So. 2300 East what it remains today.

My first few days of life were very traumatic, at birth my mother had a very hard time with the delivery which was at home with a doctor attending her. The doctor used instruments that caused a broken spot in my skull which has remained with me all my life. Because of this I was very fragile and also yellow Jaundis which is just called Jaundis today. After a couple of days my condition worsened and the doctor told my mother I would not live through the night. The family was called in and as a last resort my parents called some elders in to give me a blessing. I have always felt that because of this blessing my life was spared. The doctor was very surprised that I was still alive the next morning. Upon learning of my blessing in later years it gave me a very firm testimony of the Melchizedek priesthood and the power it can have.

This time was near the ending of the great depression which was about 1928 till 1932. My father had very little or no work and times were very hard. About this time my father was able to get a job as a janitor of the Butler grade school. The pay was very poor but compared to nothing it was a life saver for our family. We were always poor in money but rich in love and family. One of my brothers and one of my sisters were married when I was born and they had had three children at this time so I have two nephews and a niece who are older than me. In my younger years I only remember 4 of my siblings at home. That was Lamar, Mark, Zane and Jennie Rae. We played many games which were common at that time both indoors and out. Hide and seek, kick the can, red rover red rover, blind mans bluff, chess, checkers, monopoly, marbles and a few others. Needless to say there was no television or computers at that time but our generation paved the way for many of the advances we have today.

The first few years of my life we had no inside bathroom, just an outhouse. The outhouse had to be quite a ways from the main house because of the odors coming from them. On cold and snowy mornings it made a tough trip to do bathroom chores. In summer time we had an ice box where we would keep foods that had to be kept cold. The iceman would come around twice a week to bring a block of ice. In my younger years I remember my mother would wash out clothes in a tub and a washboard later on we got a washing machine and it had a wringer that you would feed the cloths thru to rinse most of the water out of them and then hang them up to dry. You had to be very careful because you could get your fingers or an arm caught in the wringer and it would do major harm to your arm or fingers. Today they would not even allow an (appliance) like that. My brother Lamar got his arm caught it the wringer and had a very sore arm for a long time.

The first car I remember my dad having was a 1928 Chevrolet, he bought it in about 1937 or 1938. He never had anywhere near a new car, he was lucky to have one 7 or 8 years old.

I started school in the first grade at Butler elementary school. There were three teachers for the six grades. My first and second grade teacher was Mrs. Anneberg who was a very good and loved teacher. She made you tow the mark and taught phonics. One highlight I remember was

each day at noon she would put as many 1st & second graders in her car and trunk as she could get in and go up big cottonwood canyon for a "picnic" to eat our lunches. I always got to go because I had a pocket watch and knew when we had to come back to school. I had the only watch. I had gotten a pocket watch for Christmas and it was just like my dad's and I was real proud of it. My third and fourth grade teacher was Miss Harrington. During the fourth grade Miss Harrington shocked us all by telling us she had enlisted in the service and she was leaving and we would be getting a new teacher. At that time the war was going strong and women were needed for the Wac's & Waves. The Wac's stood for womens army corp and the waves were in the navy. We finished out our year with Mrs Bjornsen. Our fifth & sixth grade teacher and principal was Harold Blair. No one cared much for him, he had a tendency to hit students on the head with his knuckles and it hurt real bad. That would not be allowed today. He was not well liked by anyone.

The outbreak of world war II was very traumatic for everyone. Food was rationed, they made no cars for the duration of the war because the car industry converted to making vehicles for the military. Tires were rationed and very hard to get. To get a new tire you had to show an old worn out one and show it was needed to get to work. Most all men from the age of 18 to 30 were drafted unless they could show a good reason for a deferment. There was food rationing and gasoline rationing, You had Food coupons and gas coupons which restricted the amount you could get, much of the food and tires was being taken for the military. All the tires we could get was synthetic rubber and had a short life. A coupon book entitled you to five gallons of gas a week. I had a brother in law Virgil Swenson who worked for safeway and he would tell us when the store was getting bananas and dad would give him 50 cents and he would come home with a large group of bananas. It was kind of ironic because we never had bananas before that time. I guess when things get scarce you buy them because of their scarcity.

My father was the custodian of Butler grade school all 12 years I attended school. He was well loved by the grade school children, I have had several people tell me in later years tell me how much they loved my father and he always had a group of children following him where ever he went during school hours. My father suffered with arthritis during much of his adult life and I always had to help him in cleaning and shoveling snow. I am not complaining but as the boys got older and moved away it meant more for the youngest to do. His daughters were also a big help to him. We had many animals on the homestead, I always had a cow to milk which I hated then but doing that and feeding pigs and chickens and the chores relating to that I know it was a great character builder. In the fall we would butcher a steer and a pig or two to get us through the winter. We also had chickens and rabbits which we ate during the winter. I have always felt that that was a great blessing for me, but I didn't realize it at the time.

My mother was a quiet woman who worked hard all her life. She had a traumatic childhood in so much as she lost her mother while about 3 or 4 years old and she was left with a father who loved her and her two sisters but had to work so she and her two sisters were given to a relative to raise. My mother never complained but she once said "She was not treated well" She married my father just before her 16th birthday It was hard for her to be married and very poor and a husband who never had good employment. My mother never complained and there was always much love in our family. I think because of her upbringing she wanted to show all the love to her family that she never got. She was a small woman and quiet and I never remember her saying a bad word about anyone. She baked sour dough bread which was delicious and many other dishes which were so good. She had to learn to cook and mend clothes after she was married. We

seldom had new clothes, Mother patched them till they could be patched no longer. I never remember a harsh word between my mother and dad, they always showed a great love for each other. I attribute that mostly to my mother They were married in the temple in their later years but before I was born.

Two things I think about in my grade school was we had a lunch program part of the time and it was managed by my aunt Iva who was my fathers sister. She had a split thumb which I have never seen on anyone before. I have had several people ask about that and wonder why. When I was in 6th grade we had a Japanese student come to our school and it caused quite a concern among the students because of the war with Japan. He was the only Japanese student and his family had been forced out of California because of the war. Being as his parents had friends in Utah, they were allowed to move here. Being young school children, we were very concerned about how we should treat him. We soon learned he was just like the rest of us and became a friend to all of us. His name was Masauro Shimizu but we started calling him Tom and he liked it so well he went by it for the rest of his life. Tom and another friend John Wilkinson Decided to join the L. D. S. Church and I had the privledge of baptizing them. Tom has since served three missions to Japan and is a sealer in the Salt Lake Temple.

Because of a softball team we became very close as a group from Butler. It was the deciding factor for Tom and John to join the church. We were a small group but we practiced hard and became a very good softball team. In my last year we never lost a game and entered the all church and took the title as all church champions. We became a tight knit group and still are.

I started Jr. high at Union junior high located at 700 east and about 7300 So. I was an average student and quiet and played on the school basketball team and played a lot of church softball. It was during my Junior high years that the war ended. Germany surrendered first and Japan held out until the atom bomb was dropped on the two cities in Japan. It was a devastating weapon and I pray that it will never be used again. It killed so many and injured and burned so many more. President Truman had to make the decision to drop the bomb and only did so after much consideration and realized it would save many more lives than it would destroy if we had to invade Japan. He was a great president and led our country in the aftermath of WW II. My brother Mark served in the army during the last two years of the war and fought in several battles, including Truk, Iwo Jima and Okanawa.

During my Junior High school days I worked for a brick layer named Joe Vansetter, it was very hard work and I wouldn't recommend it to any one who might have plans of being a hod carrier. It was however an opportunity for me to learn to lay brick and block which was a lifesaver during strikes at Kennecott. I also layed the block for all the walls surrounding our home plus our garage. I worked a year on a fox and mink ranch feeding and taking care of the animals. It was for some people called Farnsworth and Chapman. This was about a half mile from my home.

In 1947 I started school at Jordan high school. I enjoyed school at Jordan but was not very outgoing. I never joined any clubs or participated in any extercurricular clubs. I was needed by my father to help in the hours before and after school. With his arthritics he needed help. This seems rather odd that now I am on the graduation committee for reunions. I contact all of the students who attended Butler and Union jr. High.

After graduation I worked for a cabinet shop called modern cabinet. Their cabinets were anything but modern. There were only 2 workers and the owner whose name was Frank Grist. He was a ornery old coot and I was paid 75 cents an hour. After about a year I got a Job working for Utah bit and steel driving truck. It paid \$1.25 an hour. That was a big raise for me. I worked for

a man called Mickey Ross, a man with a completely different disposition. He Never got upset and treated me very good.

In the fall of 1952 I got greetings from uncle Sam telling me that they needed me for a couple of years. This was during the Korean war. I had been in the Utah national guard and thought that because of my guard service I would not be drafted. Not so. I entered the service on Nov. 12, 1952. I reported early in the morning at Fort Douglas Utah and was on my way that afternoon to fort Ord California. After about 3 days I was Shipped to Camp Roberts California where I spent three months of basic training. After that time our outfit was sent to the frozen chosen. [another name for Korea] I had taken the tests and was accepted to attend officers training school. I did not go with my outfit because I was waiting for my orders for O.C.S. When they came it was for infantry school at Fort Benning Georgia. I didn't want to be an infantry officer so I turned them down so I was reassigned to go to Fort Lewis Washington. While there our outfit was sent for three months in the winter to test winter clothes in Alaska. Alaska was not a state at that time so when I got out I was given extra pay that all soldiers got for going overseas. The area of Alaska we were in was one of the coldest in the state. We lived in tents, and had a gas heater to try to keep warm. One night when we went to bed they told us to make sure we kept close to our heaters because It was 68 below zero and in the morning it was 72 below. We had a few cases of frostbite but I wasn't one of them.

In November of 1954 I was scheduled to be released but just a few days before my release my father died and I was allowed to go home for the funeral. After I returned my release day had passed and I was told I would have to wait until my new release date came. It took 8 days and hey were the longest 8 days of my life.

Upon returning home I was able to get a job working for Kennecott Copper. It was the best Job I ever had and I worked here until I retired in 1985 after 30 years of service. It was during this time that my brick laying skills helped during long strikes. During one 6 month strike I layed block for a fence in a place called Golden Acres subdivision. Several other neighbors asked me to build them a wall and I worked the whole strike building block walls.

In early 1956 I met a girl by the name of Sharon James. After a two month courtship I knew this was the one I wanted to marry. She accepted and on April 28 1956 we eloped to Elko Nevada and were married in the court house. We went on to Reno for our honeymoon. Upon our return home we rented a house at about 200E. and 8900 So. In Sandy. We only lived there for a few days when we got a chance to buy our present home at 190 E. Pioneer Ave. With additions and remodeling we still live there. The old addresses have been changed. They were originally began from the railroad tracks and later were changed to correspond to the valley addresses so our address was changed to 220 E. Pioneer Ave. We paid \$9,500 for our home which today does not sound like much but it was a struggle to pay the \$67.00 payments for 20 years. We were able to pay it off in about 10 years.

Our first child was a beautiful baby boy who we named Gary L. We were and still are proud parents of a great man. Our first daughter was a beautiful girl we named Cheryl Ann. She was born with a blood problem and we followed the doctors advice when he suggested a complete blood change. She had to stay for about three weeks in the hospital before we were able to bring her home. She never overcame her problem and at about six weeks she died. It was a heart breaking time for us but we know that some day we will get to raise her. She was born April 14, 1958 and died May 21 1958. Our second daughter and third child was Stephanie born Oct. 22, 1959. She was a healthy child and has brought much love into our family. Our next child was a beautiful girl we named Rochelle. She was a loving addition to our family. Our fifth and what we thought was our last child was a beautiful baby boy we named Kyle James Green. Kyle we learned had a heart problem which

he has lived with All his life. He has a pace maker but seems to get along very well. Another young man came into our lives who we grew to love as our own. His name was Boe Cutler, Rochelle started tending him in our home and his mother had drug problems and left him in our home. He was about 18 months old and we raised him until he was about 14 years old. We felt as close to him as we did our own children. He said at that time he would like to go and try living with his mother. It was hard for us to see him leave.

During the years we were raising our family I worked for Kennecott Copper, working first in the tank house where they refined the rough anodes into fine copper then in casting where they cast the refined copper into bars. These two jobs took about 6 years the rest of the time I worked in the silver refinery where we refined silver, gold, selenium, and some platinum and palladium.

During my years At K.C.C. I was able to do some investing. I added to my coin collection and collected some old cars as well as some real estate. I had a large piece of ground where I raised a garden and raised the worlds best corn. Everyone always hoped to get some of my corn because they could not buy that good of corn anywhere.

Several years before my retirement Sharon and I were married in the Salt Lake temple. I was never real active as far as leadership positions in the church but I was called to be a ward clerk and after that our bishop who was bishop Larry Anderson was about to be released. Something happened to me that I could not explain. About 2 weeks before he was released I knew through the Holy Ghost that I would be the next bishop. I knew I shouldn't be thinking those thoughts but I could not get it out of my mind. On Sunday morning when the phone rang my wife said it was from the stake president. She said what do you think they want? I told her they were going to ask me to be bishop of the Sandy first ward. I even had my counselors picked. Some times the Lord works in mysterious ways. I knew that I was not qualified to be bishop but I hoped the Lord would qualify me. He was with me all the time I served. After two and one half years I was called to be first counselor in the stake presidency. Another calling I needed the Lord's help to accomplish. I served 9 years in the stake presidency and have since taught gospel doctrine two times for three years each and have served in the High priest group leadership for 6 years. I'm ready to be put out to pasture.