

A Brief History of the William Smellie Redd Family

William Smellie Redd was born in Raymond, Alberta Canada on Dec. 13, 1915 to William Redd and Irene Smellie Redd. He was baptized on his birthday, Dec. 13, 1923, in the Cardston temple along with other Primary children his age. Quite a unique experience. Families were not in attendance due to winter travel hazards.

When he ran a spike through his knee, he was gravely ill. With the help of the priesthood and his Dad's idea to use physical therapy techniques ahead of his time, Smellie was restored to health and regained normal use of his leg.

He was the fun loving brother of six sisters and one little fellow who adored him. He and his Dad were very close. They shared a love of basketball (Smellie spent two years in Grade 12, which was perfectly acceptable in Canada at the time, for the purpose of continuing to play on a champion Basketball team.) and Scouting, and enjoyed working on the farm together.

On March 5, 1937, Smellie took out his endowments prior to entering the Mission Home in Salt Lake City. It was there that he met Laurel Darpha Hill who was also headed to the Canadian mission. He jokingly said, "We had a whirlwind courtship and got married 9 years later." Actually, the idea of marrying did not occur to them until after the mission.

Smellie attended BYU before volunteering in 1941 to serve in the Canadian Army. He was commissioned as an officer. His armored car corps scouted ahead of the troops clearing the way. One of the men in Smellie's armored car division in the Holland campaign said you could depend on Smellie Redd to find or invent anything you needed, to keep your outfit going.

He received a telegram saying his father had passed away November 1, 1944. A couple of weeks later came the telegram telling him his father was seriously ill. His Dad's death was a great sorrow to him. His sister says he was never the same after the war.

He arrived home from the World War II on January 1, 1946, spent a couple of weeks with his family and went on to Utah to visit Laurel on January 18th. They were married January 28, 1946 by Elder Harold B. Lee in the Salt Lake temple. Smellie did not have a temple recommend with him from his Canadian bishop, and so was interviewed by Apostle David O. Mackay to receive a recommend. They returned to Canada a week or two later where Smellie was discharged from the Army.

They lived in a couple of rooms in the top of the old Redd home in Raymond. He worked at the sugar factory and helped his mother and family. Continuing education at BYU was a priority in the fall of 1946. January 18, 1947, Hermie Joan was born in Prove, Utah. That spring Smellie accepted an offer for a fellowship for medical school at a University in Madison, Wisconsin. (Ironically, Smellie and Laurel returned there years later to fill a mission). By Christmas, he knew that avenue was not what he wanted for his life. He returned to the Y and completed his requirements for a teaching certificate becoming one of the first two Seminary teachers in Canada. He taught Seminary and band in Cardston, Alberta. William Harold was

born there on Dec. 29, 1948.

While they lived in Cardston, Smellie and Laurel made it their goal to attend the temple weekly, and felt the blessings of heaven as a result of their commitment. On July 19, 1950, Smellie, as one of the presidents of the Seventies, was helping with a Seventies concession at the Stampede when Ellen was born in Cardston. In 1951, Smellie was called to be a missionary to the Lamanites.

They purchased an old Model A for transportation. It took two or three days to drive to Utah in that Model A, lovely family camping memories. The object in going to Utah was to further Smellie's education, but wonderful family visits were the highlight. The Lamanite Mission on the Blood Reserve near Cardston became part of the Stake Mission in 1952, at which time Smellie was called as District President. Many hours were spent visiting and gaining the confidence of his friends on the reserve. Often his whole family would accompany him. They kept in touch with many of these acquaintances throughout the years.

When he stopped teaching seminary, he helped with construction of elevators in Cardston and Grannum. One morning in 1953 during family prayer, little William prayed that his Dad would not have to go to work any more. That day, Smellie was in an accident. He sustained injuries to his neck, was hospitalized, and laid off work.

He was later hired by the Canadian Govt. as a seed inspector. In 1955, Smellie helped make seed cleaners. The plan was to share the profits from sale of the machines. His partner chose to do the selling solo, shutting Smellie out.

Smellie and Laurel began to look for new opportunities. They considered homesteading in the Peace River Country but felt drawn to Grassy Lake. Torries hired Smellie to drive the cat and scraper that summer. Thus started a "pioneer adventure," no lights, no water, no bath, "Plenty of nothing" in their first living quarters, the old James house east of Grassy Lake. With Marvin Torries help, they arranged to buy a quarter section of land from Bill Tarduff and moved the family to the two roomed house on that property. Eventually they hooked up running water through a hand pump on the kitchen cupboard, and natural gas for heat and lights.

Laurel started teaching school that fall to help meet obligations. She continued until retirement age, taking a break only for a mission.

Smellie and Laurel both held many church callings. It is probably fair to say they did whatever they were asked to do, willingly and to the best of their ability.

Smellie's commitment to honesty was real. When trying to sell an old vehicle, he took the prospective buyer out and told him EVERYTHING that was wrong with it.

In 1956, a calf kicked the knee Smellie had injured as a boy. The cartilage was broken requiring surgery and a stay in the hospital in Calgary. One of Laurel's nieces, Dawn Broderick, came to stay with the children. She remained with the family for the rest of the year. The children loved her.

There were several hospital stays for Laurel as well. They would have had the large family they had hoped for if she had not miscarried six times.

Smellie served as Branch President from 1958 to 1963 when he was made High Councilman in the Taber Stake.

Laurel designed the home of her dreams and the family started building it on her Birthday, Oct. 3, 1959. It was agreed that Christmas would be held in the new house in 1961. Accordingly, beds were moved from the old house, (the girls had been sleeping there for several months) Christmas was enjoyed, and the beds were never taken back to the old house. The family continued construction and finishing while enjoying the new home. Windows were finished in 1963. Indoor plumbing came only after Joan had left for college in 1965. The phone arrived after Ellen left for college in 1968. The TV never did arrive because the family chose to leave that influence out of the home preferring to collect second hand musical instruments. Many happy hours were spent playing and singing together.

Because of crop failure due to drought, Smellie took teaching positions for two years at a Hutterite Colony, for 1 year in Monarch (commuting home for the weekends to farm), and for 1 year in Myers High School as a biology teacher. In 1961, the whole family spent the summer in Edmonton while Smellie and Laurel both attended summer school.

In spite of set backs, they had a dream to take their family to see church history sites. That dream was fulfilled in 1965 as they drove back east to revisit their mission field, attend the World's Fair and come back home along the route the Saints followed.

From 1965 to 1972, three Lamanite Placement boys, in succession lived in the Redd home.

William left in 1967 to the Guatemala-El Salvador Mission. He was one of the early attendees of the new Language Training Mission.

Joan married Gilbert George Hornberger of Rosemary, Alberta on Sept. 5, 1968, and graduated from the "Y" in 1969. That fall Michael George Hornberger was born, the first grand child.

Ellen served in the France Switzerland Mission from 1972-1973.

William married Peggy Swenson of Orem, Utah on Aug. 18, 1973 in the Ogden temple.

Thomas John was called to the same mission as Ellen entering the mission home only a few weeks before her release.

Smellie and Laurel served 5 couples missions, starting in South Dakota, Rapid City Mission Jan 24, 1974-July 22, 1975.

Ellen married David Ray Eldredge of Portland, Oregon on July 24, 1975 in the Cardston

temple.

Gilbert and Joan's baby, Clark Thomas died on April 26, 1977 and was buried in Creston, B.C.

In 1979, Smellie and Laurel moved into town and turned the farm house over to William and Peggy.

July 11, 1979, Thomas John married Cheryl Lynn Sims in the Manti temple.

In 1980, Smellie and Laurel did some touring in the Orient while visiting Dave and Ellen in Japan at the time of Ira's birth (Nov. 1, 1980) in Yukosuka, Japan.

They were called to the Malaysia Singapore Mission from Dec 1981-July 1983. From there they were assigned to serve in Hyderabad, among the first missionaries to serve in India.

Nov, 20, 1981, Joan's veins collapsed and her heart stopped beating while she was on the delivery table. Thanks to Priesthood blessings her life was spared. She faced many serious challenges bringing their family into the world but remained convinced that it was Heavenly Father's will for them to have a large family. Miracles repeatedly spared her life.

Smellie and Laurel served in the Philippines, Cebu Mission, from 12 Dec, 1984 to June 1986. They also served in the Milwaukie Wisconsin Mission from March 16, 1988 to September 1989. Their last mission was served in the San Jose California Mission from May 1993 to December 1994.

Smellie and Laurel remained faithful to the church throughout their lives in spite of the trials they had, as every true Saint will. Laurel passed away Dec 18, 1997, having had a mastectomy in 1987, and having struggled in the end with cancer of the lining of the stomach.