

Readings presented at the Will and Irene Redd Reunion

July 30-31, 2004, at Torrie's in Grassy Lake, Alberta

These readings were prepared, using real events and thoughts and conversations

remembered; and writings in Mom's journals. The assignment was to do a five-minute dramatic presentation, based on the lives of Will and Irene. Only where I have used quotations marks are the words Will's or Irene's. (Barbara Redd MacPhee.)

SOME OF DAD'S FAVORITE SCRIPTURES AND SAYINGS

I Nephi 3:7

I will go and do the thing which the Lord commandeth for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.

Doctrine and Covenants 121:41-43

No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness and by love unfeigned:

By kindness and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul, without hypocrisy, and without guile---

Reproving betimes with sharpness, when move upon by the Holy Ghost; and then showing forth afterwards an increase of love toward him whom thou has reproved

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY -

At Dad's funeral, Charles Asplund, a friend and business associate entitled his tribute to our Dad: A MAN WITHOUT GUILF, and told of dad's honesty and integrity in all of his business dealings.

STAY OUT OF DEBT

This was always Dad's advise. He told us that those who owned nothing were not harmed when the great depression of 1929 ruined many.

PAY YOUR DEBTS HONESTLY, TITHING FIRST -

Rather than choose bankruptcy, when left with huge debts at his father's death, Dad and Mom gave up their plans to go East for Dad's medical schooling, in order to set his father's affairs in order. And it took most of his lifetime.

The debts were created when Grandpa's partner, "left town in the night," so to speak, leaving Grandpa to cover some of his devious business dealings. But Grandpa died of quick pneumonia shortly after his partner's departure.

Grandma, overcome with the burden of rearing her ten children alone, took to her bed, as they

use to describe it. For two weeks she languished. Then, she had a dream. She went to the other side. As she waited in a room, she could see Grandpa working in another room among many papers.

Finally he came to her and said, ““Frainie, you will have to go back. I haven’t time for you now.””

Instead of being offended, Grandma realized that her husband’s passing was needed for the furthering of the Lord’s work. She left her bed, took on her full responsibilities and, for over twenty years, lived a fruitful, and productive life, faithful to her covenants, as she too served the Lord.

DO NOT SWEAR

All day machinery had been breaking down. Finally, even the car needed to go to town for repairs would not start. A man working for us said, ““I’ll bet your Dad will swear a blue streak now.””

I knew Dad would not swear. All Dad said was ““Pshaw.”” and then went about fixing the car.

TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT FOLLOWS AS NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANNOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN - Shakespeare

When Dad made a commitment, he never went back on his word. Many came to him for advise and counsel, as he had good judgment. His gift way was to think things out, calmly, to find solutions to one’s problems.

His church service was monumental. He was counselor to three bishops, as a young father. Which, as one can imagine, left Mom home with the babies, many long nights.

Later, he was appointed stake high councilman in charge of Aaronic priesthood, where he served until his death. Scouting was his great love.

Dad was also town councilman for many years, and did much to help our town progress. The unruly boys around town would say that, if you plan to do some mischief, don’t let Will Redd see you, because he can outrun every kid in town.

WHATEVER DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE WE ATTAIN TO IN THIS LIFE WILL RISE WITH US IN THE RESURRECTION

Dad headed a committee, which established the first library in Raymond, and continued as library board chairman until his death, many years later.

Delia Wolfe, the perennial librarian, said Will Redd never missed a board meeting. He would drive for hours, in order to be in town on meeting night. And his children thought he read every book, which came into the library. He certainly read many of them, and culled a few which he felt unsuitable.

Dad and Mom were avid readers of good books. Many evenings, as we children sat at the dining room table doing our homework, one or the other of our parents would read a passage, aloud, to

the other.

Of course, we listened, and so we absorbed the ideas and thoughts which our parents valued, and these values have shaped our lives.

Merne Laycock Livingstone said of Dad: I always remember what a student your dad was. He was always reading, usually church books or medical books. If anyone was sick we always asked Uncle Will and he knew what to do.

PRACTICE FAMILY LOYALTY

We knew Dad and Mom loved each other devotedly, and were united in their ideals and standards. If I wanted to do something, which was out of the ordinary, when I asked my dad, he would say, ““What does your mother say?”” When I would run to ask my mother, she would say, ““What does your father say?”” Then I knew I was licked. I would not be able to do it.

We always understood that if anyone of our family were in trouble, each would be ready to help. My children say to me that it gives them a great feeling of security to know that all over the world, wherever they may be, if they would go to a member of our family, distant or close relative, and ask for help, it would be provided.

This feeling of family is a legacy from our father and mother, and their people. Perhaps it stems from pioneer experiences when help could make the difference between life and death. This desire to help others was not confined to family, but to as we are all children of our Heavenly Father.

Strangers were often welcomed to our home and fed at the table with our family. Sometimes, as a youngster, I didn't have the same generous feelings as my parents. But I was still expected to be kind and polite, and helpful. It was part of our training.

HONOR THE PRIESTHOOD

Dad kept himself worthy to use his priesthood at any time, and we depended on him to give us blessings.

As children, when we were sick and hurting, we would ask Dad for a blessing. His big, warm hands on my head, and his ringing voice in prayer brought healing and comfort many times.

John was awed when he experienced his first priesthood blessing from Dad.

John had watched a welder at work, from what he thought a safe distance. But that night he was frantic with pain in his eyes. I told him about administration.

We called Dad, the blessing was given, and John slept. He awoke next morning with no symptoms. One of many miracles among our family members, each wrought through faith and the priesthood.

Many times John said my dad was the most righteous man he ever knew.

DAD LOVED HORSES, AND FELT THEY SHOULD BE WELL-TREATED

In his early farming days they needed about 60 head of horses in order to carry out the farming. Six horses to a team, and teams had to be changed several time a day.

When Will was a young boy, a wee colt was born — too weak to live his father said. But young William fell in love with that helpless little colt. They told him it was hopeless, that the filly would be dead by morning. She would not nurse her mother, just lay there, lifeless.

All that night, Will sat with the colt. Coaxing it to eat from his hand, rubbing it down and warming it with his own body, snuggled around it.

Finally, near morning, the colt stirred, and finally stood. This mare produced many strong foals, though she herself was never able to do much work.

It was the sale of a team of horses from that sickly colt, which provided the money for Irene and Will's first furniture. Stove, kitchen table, and chairs, bedroom suite, which included the big oval mirror, and dining room table and chairs. All purchased at the Raymond Mercantile.

In Mom's journal, she relates that dad was so trusting that he let the buyer pay only \$125 of the \$500 bargain price for the team of horses. Then he would pay no more. When Dad went to reclaim the horses, they had been worked almost to death, and were not much use in the fields after that. In the end Will and Irene had to find another way to pay for the furniture.

DAD'S FAITH WAS TO RESPOND TO THE LORD'S CALL, WHATEVER THE SACRIFICE

Smellie sent in his papers for a mission. He was one of the few young men of his age who served missions. This was in the 30's, a time of deep financial depression.

Louis Brandley tells this story: He stopped in to visit his dear friends. Will was in one bed, having spent weeks in the hospital, lamed by an injury, which resulted in a blood clot. Irene was bedfast, suffering from severe, crippling arthritis.

He said to them that they surely would not let Smellie go off on a mission with them both almost bedfast. Will looked him in the eye and said that he would not deny his son the blessing of serving a mission.

Smellie served a successful mission to Eastern Canada. Here he met his eternal companion, Sister Laurel Hill. They were married several years later, after Smellie returned from serving overseas in World War II. Also, when Smellie returned, our family was better off, physically and financially than we were when he left.

In our home, we often remembered how the Lord blessed us because Smellie served his mission.

One Of Dad's Story About Serving the Lord

I still remember this story from one of the last talks Dad gave in church. He used the story to illustrate the need for us to prepare ourselves to be obedient to the Lord's commandments, whatever the cost.

In order to choose horses to be trained for top service, trainers of Arabian horses would teach the

horses to come to their master, when he rang a bell. For days they trained the horses to come when they heard the bell.

At last, the very most obedient horses were penned up for several days without food or water. Then, a gate was opened to them, which led to a place of food and water. Just as the horses reached the gate, the trainer rang the bell.

Those horses which turned back and came to the master's bell, even though thirsty and starving, were the ones chosen to serve with the caravans which traversed the hot and dangerous desert, because they would never desert the master.

They were proven thoroughbreds, and could be trusted to come to the master's call, no matter what the circumstances.