

History of Floyd Devaun Edwards

Born August 20, 1912 - Died March 8, 1951

As told by his son Floyd Junior Edwards

(Transcription by Floyd Edwards, Grandson)

There is not very much information about my grandfather. He was born August 20, 1912 in a small community named Buck Horn Flats located between Beaver and Cedar City, Utah. He was the tenth and last child of Nephi and Mary Jane Munford Edwards.

Floyd Devaun had six older sisters: Myrtle, Maggie, Zola, who died at age 8, Emma Jane, Rachel, who died at age 1, Albena, and 3 brothers: Nephi Delos, Thomas "Buck", and one other brother who died at birth.

Seven months after his birth, their mother died due to heart problems. His older sisters Myrtle, Maggie and Emma Jane (Jen) became Floyd Devaun's adopted mothers.

There is not much information available about Floyd's teenage years. In talking with his older sister Jen, she said he liked wood shop in high school. He made a round wooden table for his sister Albena. This table is now with his grandson Floyd Jay Edwards. We also know that he liked to dance. He and his friends would go to the outdoor dancing halls in the surrounding areas. The Shady Dell Outdoor Dance Hall near Salina, Utah was where he met Helen Mae Rasmussen, who would become his future wife.

Helen lived in Ellsinore, Utah at that time. As they were dating he would drive the distance between Milford and her home to see her. Sometimes this would present difficulties. Floyd drove an old model A car that had a gravity fed gas tank. When he had to go up steep hills he would have to turn the car around and drive up the hill backward to keep the engine running.

Floyd and Helen were married July 27, 1934 in Milford Utah. They had six children: Floyd Junior, Devaun (Dee), Shirley, Mary Jane, Nephi Jay, and Margie.

Floyd was a quiet man. He enjoyed doing things with his family. They did not have a lot of money, so he would take his family to the outdoors to enjoy nature. They would go on picnics, camping, hunting trips, etc. During the Holiday season he would take his family to Salt Lake City to do shopping and enjoy a movie or the sights of Salt Lake. He used the train pass that he had got working for the Union Pacific Railroad.

During the early years of his marriage Floyd worked as a dump truck driver. He would haul coal, silver and ore from Salina to Milford. He worked around the Milford area for the Civil Conservation Corp (CCC) during the depression of the 1920's and 1930's.

He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad as a stationary engineer. He was in charge of the boilers in the round house. His son Floyd Junior would walk down to the rail yards, where the Round House was located, to bring his father his lunch. While there Floyd Devaun would show his son the different things and how they worked. This was one of Floyd Junior fondest memories of his father.

Floyd would raise sheep and chickens to help feed the family. He bought a three room framed house that had four lots in the southwest part of Milford called Martin Grove.

Inside the coal-heated house the wall joists were exposed. They would cover them up with newspaper as insulation. He bought a trailer and put it along one side of the house and cut an entryway for the trailer where his boys would sleep. The other bedrooms were used for the girls. Floyd and Helen would sleep in the front room.

Floyd Devaun liked to hunt and fish. He loved the outdoors and would take his boys out to fish and to hunt deer. He knew the migration paths of the deer and would go and sit on a rock in a ravine and wait for the deer to come along. Once Floyd went hunting with his friends and shot a 16 point buck. The buck was so big that when Floyd put it on the hood of his car the antlers covered both headlights. He was so excited about shooting the deer, he loaded it on the hood of his car and with his friends and drove up and down Milford Main Street to show it off.

He would never let his kids watch him clean the deer. He thought that would be too graphic for his children to watch. Cleaning deer was not one of Floyd Devaun's favorite things to do either. His son Floyd Junior said he would get sick as a 'dog' afterwards.

The cars he drove were a 1937 Tier plane and 1937 Chevy cut down to be a pickup truck.

Floyd Devaun loved his children a lot. He would take them everywhere he went. Sometimes that included going into bars with him.

Floyd Devaun needed to have some dental work done. The Dentist pulled all of his teeth out in preparation for dentures. A small blood clot caused from pulling the teeth broke loose and went to his heart. This in turn caused a fatal Heart attack. He died March 8, 1951 at the age of 38, leaving a wife and six children. His own father Nephi died 10 months earlier on April 29, 1950.

The effects of the passing of Floyd Devaun on his family are still present today. In writing this

history I tried to get his children to talk about the memories they had of him. They would not talk. After my father (Floyd Junior) was diagnosed with terminal cancer I again approached him about writing down some information about his father. Floyd Junior finally consented.

After writing this history and being in the Edwards family for over 40 years, I have decided that Floyd Devaun was a unique man. His family was his life. He worked hard and taught his family many lessons that would be important for his children to learn. He taught things like being true to your family, hard work, and supporting yourself, never ask for handouts. Many of these lessons were handed down to his grandchildren.