

Valerie: Our Dad always said, “The only thing that needs to be said at his funeral is ‘The nut is gone, we are here to dispose of the shell’”. Well, we have more to say to Honor him.

Max Hortin Lemon was born 20 July 1931 in the home of his maternal grandparents on Cow Alley in Oakley Utah. His mother said it was a particularly hot and dry summer. He was one of thirteen children for his father William Harper Lemon who was previously married to Sarah Ann Nelson with whom he had five children, Willis, Ileene, Grant, Lorraine and Melvin. Sarah died shortly after the birth of her youngest due to a toxemic condition. Then Grandpa married Grace Ella Hortin. They had 8 children together: Bill, Max, Louise, Kathleen, Ruth, Lucille, Margaret and Glen

Perseverance and Reliance

Richard: Sickness as an infant and fever

About the time he was six months old, Max became ill with a high fever of unknown origin. After the fever subsided his mother said that he never moved his left limbs. Up to that time he had been extremely active and very strong. He was taken to doctors who reported that there appeared to be nothing wrong. It was pointed out to them by his mother that his left limbs were not moving, before they became aware of the problem. The doctors involved suggested that it was Infantile Paralysis or Polio.

Due to the effects of the fever, dad spent years going to Salt Lake for physical therapy. His mother worked with him daily at home stretching and doing exercises to improve the motor responses of his limbs. He was able to walk at 14 months, which he credited to his mother for her constant care and interest in him.

Later in life, while teaching school Dad experienced a mini stroke, which had no lasting effects. As part of his medical care, the doctors wanted to do an MRI of his brain to ensure there wasn't any other problem present. The MRI revealed scarring on the right side of his brain, most likely caused from this infant fever and resulted in the decreased use of his left arm and leg.

To further demonstrate his determination, when our youngest brother Alan was young he saw Dad tying his shoes and was a little fascinated watching how he managed his hands. Alan asked, “How did you learn to tie your shoes?” Dad's response was, “Well I didn't learn by sitting around on my butt.”

Janet Kaye: Being drug by the horse at age 9

When dad was about 9 years old he had a pretty severe accident involving a horse. They had just finished haying and the horses were turned loose in the fields while they all went in for dinner. When dinner was finished they went back out to get the horses and equipment. Dad caught King, an ill tempered draft horse weighing about 1500 pounds. He grabbed the hame and put his foot into the tug of the harness meaning to swing himself up on the back of the horse. The horse began running through the field and that is the last dad remembered for quite a while. The next thing he remembered was walking through the field with one shoe off and his brother Bill helping him. His shoes were missing the soles. Despite it being a very hot summer day, over 100 degrees they put 13 blankets on him and he was still freezing. They figure he had hit his head on the hame of the harness and it knocked him out. He had a very ugly black eye and a bad bruise on his back where they figure the horse had stepped on him. The horse drug him around the field twice until his shoes gave way. His brother Bill thought for sure he was dead laying in the field so still.

Valerie: Another accident dad had on the farm was when he was about 13 yo.

In the spring of the year, He was sent to brush the pasture with a brush drag made of Hawthorn branches, barbed wire and some fencing pieces and pulled by horses. On a Saturday morning, dad was to brush a 20 acre field near the Lowell Prescott Barn here on the Francis Bench, The horses were spooked by something and took off, dad was thrown back into the brush drag. He tumbled over and over in the barbed wire and hawthorn branches, He said he was completely unaware of any pain and was concentrating on staying alive. He never lost consciousness and the horses eventually ran up to a fence line and stopped. Max got up and walked home and his brother Bill finished the job. Max's body was a mass of cuts and bruises and he jumped in the shower at home. As soon as he turned the water off, his father stepped into the room and dumped a can of turpentine all over his body. Max was suddenly aware of the pain and tore out of the house and up the hill in his bare nakedness. When dad told the story he always said if it wasn't for 2 fast brothers, he would still be running!

Grandpa Lemon knew things and had a list of his own remedies, He claimed turpentine was a good pain killer. Max agreed because it burned every nerve ending right off! Max had a few remedies of his own. A teaspoon of baking soda in a glass of water and drink it down, dads

cure for an upset stomach, or a headache—especially a migraine. Believe it or not, It works for me.

Mischief

Richard: Mischievous

As a youth, he would attend scouting activities at church. His leaders often would not come, so the boys in his age group were left to their own devices. One time, they filled gunny sacks full of manure. They would place them on the porch of a home, light them on fire, knock on the door and watch the people come out their door, and have to stomp the fire out. The people would end up with manure all over themselves.

Janet Kaye: Tippin Mail Boxes

Dad's Junior year in high school the Petersen family moved into the Aurbach place and Phil Petersen seemed to have an endless supply of money and access to his Dad's car. They did a lot of bumming in that car. On Halloween night, in 1947 they had a great time tipping over mailboxes. A store in Oakley had been robbed the same night and the authorities seemed to think whoever was tipping over the mailboxes had also robbed the store. He was pulled out of a class the next day at school to talk to some Federal Authorities, The first thing they said to him was, "Dewey says you've got the loot!" He was stunned, he had no idea what they were talking about and didn't know about the store being robbed. By the end of the school day he had made himself so sick that he didn't know if he would be able to face his dad to tell him the story.

Valerie: We understand he was guilty of a little mischief at home too. His sisters say he wasn't mean to them or much of a tease. Grandpa Lemon had a resort on the river called Lemon Grove. There were about 10 cabins and many camping spaces. They would rent their horses out for the grove people to ride and sell their milk to them by the quart. Grandpa also ran a store in the summertime, mainly to serve the people of the grove. The store was located close to the house and Max said he about robbed their Dad blind in terms of helping himself to the candy bars,

Finding Love

Janet Kaye: Going to Dances

Dad loved to dance. He started going to school dances when he was about 15 and he was persistent in asking girls to dance. He said he didn't think any of them really enjoyed dancing with him because of the lame condition of his left side, but that didn't stop him, he would ask all the same even despite being turned down many times. After Dad graduated from college he came back home to work on the farm, he says his social life was "nill" except for Saturday Night dances. They would travel to Heber where there was a hall with a spring floor. They would dance to the music and the floor would bounce up and down and they would swing the girls around and around. He often went with his sisters and not only did he take them but he would dance with them too. His love of dancing turned out to be a very good thing for us.

Valerie: It was at one of these dances that he met our mother. Long story short, Janet thought he was so goofy, and such that he must be drunk. Her sister Mary assured her that he wasn't drunk but just liked to have a good time. Max asked Janet if he could drive her home one night and she said yes only because she knew Max's sister Ruth was with him that night, After the dance he took her to the HUB in Heber for a hamburger and then drove her home. After a few weeks he got the courage to ask her on a date to the dance on July 24th, Max lined it up to be a double date with his sister Louise and her husband Ferron. They had a great time. Janet put up some resistance, after all she was 16 and Max was 24. They went out together for the next year. Mom was a senior and was offered a scholarship to BYU. Dad knew he could NOT let her go to BYU, he was afraid she would find a returned missionary and his chance would be gone. He put some pressure on and by the time she graduated high school they were openly talking of marriage. Janet's father insisted she get some training to prepare to support herself before they married. She finished training at LDS business college as a stenographer in 6 months and They were married 14 Feb 1957.

Janet: Our parents were a great team

They were an amazing team and one would say they could not have done it without the other. Mom helped dad a lot with school and he would credit her with much of his success. He would stand over her at the type writer and dictate assignments, quizzes, and tests. In the days of ditto machines she would take a razor blade and scrape off the errors, they moved on to manual typewriters, then electric, but when computers came along they were lost, and mom hung on to her trusty electric typewriter. They never really did get the knack of computers. Mom would often drive while dad held the babies in the car. She would cook and dad would rock the babies and sing bye oh baby bunting. When it came time to do canning dad would run up and down to

the basement, mom would bottle the fruit, and all the kids would work on peeling everything. Mom held down the home front and dad would work from morning til night, and when he got home he would get a broom or mop or dish towel and help with whatever needed to be finished for the day. Mom and Dad were home and visiting teaching companions for many years ministering to many people in the ward. They served a full time mission together in the Arizona Mesa Mission, where they worked with the Mesa institute, putting their teamwork strengths to good use. They were the pickup crew for many people to get to church over the years. This dyanamic duo have 10 children, 40 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren. Their posterity has, so far, served a combined 21 full time missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Richard: His Father Looked After Him

Dad's father was always looking out for him. One summer, dad piled dry lumber for a local saw mill and earned \$50 a day. He decided he had made so much money that he would forgo college and continue stacking lumber. His father told him that if he stayed to stack lumber, he would not have a place to roost. Max instead decided to go back to college.

Another story that was shared was that his father told him he should use his head instead of his body to earn a living and make money. This seemed to be the better option due to the limited use of the left side of his body.

When dad had finished college and was living on his family farm running the day-to-day operations, his father was very concerned that he would never get married. So his father set him up on a date with a German girl named Erica Bahe. They had a courtship which lasted a little more than a year before it ended.

On another occasion after Max had graduated from college. His father was in Daggett County on a trip and inquired about teaching positions available. He found that there were teaching positions available and let Max know of them. This resulted in his first teaching job in Manila, Utah.

Valerie: Another help, support and influence in his life was Ferron. Our Uncle Ferron Peterson, his brother Alan and Max had contracted to build all the fences along the new highway From Hailstone to Francis that bordered grandpas land. They worked together and worked hard but

both had a personality to joke and tease and have fun along the way. After Louise and Ferron returned from Alaska, they lived in the Bradshaw place. Being close to Ferron and Louise in Francis, they spent time working together and playing basketball or watching sports on TV. In the fall of 1954, Ferron was up working in the timber when Louise went into labor. Since Ferron was not available, it fell on Max to drive Louise and grandma to Salt Lake to LDS hospital. Some of the nurses assumed that Max was the father to be, even though he was really uncle Max, That was a family joke for a number of years! Ferron also helped dad get a trailer house to use for housing in Manila. And again when coming to Francis was a regular summer destination, Ferron was able to find a trailer house we had in grandma Lemon's yard.

Love of Home Teaching

Richard:Home Teaching

When dad turned 14 he was ordained a teacher in the Aaronic priesthood. He developed a love for what was then called ward teaching and which later became known as home teaching and is now known as ministering. He loved to deliver a message from a printed book and counted it as a great experience.

During the 1950s while working on the family farm, Max was called as a ward teacher and assigned to work with his brother-in-law Ferron Peterson. They were asked to pick up any families that had not been visited and to visit with them. This resulted in 100% ward teaching for their ward for many months. He viewed it as a privilege to be able to get to know the other families with Ferron.

His love of home teaching continued when he lived in Sonora. It was my privilege to go with him for many years. I can remember sneaking into the car to go with him as a very young boy.

Throughout my Aaronic priesthood years, I was assigned to be his home teaching companion. We had many opportunities to serve families in our ward. In the latter years of his life, he had as many as 20 families to home teach per month. If any of these individuals did not want a visit in person, he would send a letter to them monthly with a gospel message.

Dad also served in many other church callings. He was in branch presidencies and bishoprics for 18 years, taught Sunday school, was involved in the high priest group leadership, and many other things.

Celebrity:

Janet Kaye: also talk about trending on social media. 356 shares 783 likes and 406 comments

Dad seemed to know everyone, everywhere. His sister Margaret said dad had a high social IQ, and we agree he could read people and communicate and connect with them in a meaningful way. I can remember being young and even when I was in high school, I loved to tell people that Mr. Lemon was my dad. People loved and respected him, which sometimes surprised me because he was very straight forward and had high expectations, and he didn't mince words if you let him down, but he also had a very caring side and I think people understood he expected a lot because he cared a lot. Dad was also a man of high integrity. This combination of qualities made him admired and memorable to almost everyone. He became quite the celebrity. More than once driving across Nevada to come back to Utah for the summer he would run into former students at gas stations and grocery stores.. In the late 70's we were in Heber City Utah in a grocery store parking lot when a man with long hair approached dad aggressively calling him an old son of a gun. I thought there was going to be an assault. It ended up being a former student of his during the time he was teaching in Manilla Utah. Dad remembered the guy and they had a good conversation. One summer he was in Weiser Idaho visiting Maire, The kids had some art work in the county fair and it was a good place to escape the heat and find some air conditioning. They weren't at the fair very long before some guy is yelling across the grounds," Mr Lemon, Mr Lemon..." He was a kid from Sonora who was working in the forest service in Idaho and had dad for detention. He stopped and they visited for a while. Another time mom and dad had gone to the Oakland temple and a man came up to him and said I should know you, I'm sure I know you. After talking for a few minutes they made a connection to knowing each other from Utah State. He would run into former students at hospitals all over California. Recently while in the hospital in for a UTI the nurse looked at his name on the board and said this isn't THEE Mr. Lemon is it. She came to see him and it was in fact THEE Mr. Lemon.

Richard

When dad went to Physical therapy for his left hip in 2015 he bumped into an old student, Lori Peoples. It had been at least 40 years since he last saw her, but he remembered her and her family and all their names. When our Aunt Kathleen and Uncle Roy McGuire were on their mission, they were visiting with the branch president and his wife and when she found out

Kathleen's maiden name was Lemon she talked about having a teacher in Sonora named Mr. Lemon. She couldn't believe it when she found out that he was Kathleen's brother.

Janet

His celebrity also helped his posterity get out of some trouble. I was driving to Redding California with a roommate to another roommate's wedding reception. One of the tires had blown out on the car and we had very little cash with us and no credit card. I did however have a check and when we got to the tire store they were not keen on taking a check from out of the area from a person they didn't know. When they saw my name on the check, the man asked if I was related to Max Lemon from Sonora and I told him he was my dad. He said, I will be happy to take your check, I know you are good for it. Valerie had let Annette drive the car before she had her license. As luck would have it, Annette rolled thru a stop sign when there was a cop sitting there. The lights came on and the girls were pulled over. Annette was freaking out. Valerie handed her her license and said " It's okay Valerie , here is your license. " Annette and Valerie looked enough alike to be mistaken for each other by people who didn't know them well. The cop took the license, Valerie Lemon. Are you any relation to Max Lemon? Well then I know you are a good kid. I'll give you a warning this time but make sure to be more careful .."

If the grand kids went anywhere with grandpa, they experienced his celebrity too, whether to the pool at the high school or shopping in the community. Lots of people always said hello to Mr Lemon.

Dad was recently trending on social media, of course he wouldn't know that meant.

Shopping with Dad

Valerie: Our dad always subscribed to the local paper. And he read it most days but especially on the days the ads came out. He would shop the sales to stock up. We had a deep freezer and a basement cellar. If there was a limit on an item he wanted to buy in bulk, like orange juice concentrate or chicken noodle soup, he would take us all with him and each of us would get the limit. We would stand in line one after the other with our 10 cans and cash in hand and get everything dad set out for.

I can remember that if dad was going to spend money he seemed to get a nervous stomach and was always looking for the bathroom. This became a joke in our family.

I was with him once when he went to Safeway to buy a 1000 pounds of flour that was on sale. There was not a 1000 pounds of flour on the shelf. We went to the front of the store to speak with a clerk. The clerk told him that they didn't sell to restaurants. Dad's response was "I've got 9 kids! " He got the raincheck and got his quantity of flour.

Work Ethic:

Richard

From a young age dad learned to work. At the age of five he had the responsibility to keep the wood and coal in supply to heat their home. Not long after, he had the chore of milking the cows. And then came the chore of herding the sheep. How he hated to herd the sheep, if they didn't go under a fence or through the fence, then over the fence they would go. He would spend hours chasing after the sheep. Dad said he worked long hours on the farm often getting up at 4 or 5 in the morning and working until about 10 at night. And this is a quote from his personal history "I guess I learned to love work because as a rule I would rather work than do anything else"

When he got older he would help other ranchers in the area with their work to earn extra money. When he was in college he got a job at the Utah State college dairy. He later ran his family's ranch and as previously stated he stacked dry lumber for a sawmill. When he lived in Sonora, besides teaching school, he took on extra jobs at a local dairy loading delivery trucks, he taught at a prison, he did custodial jobs for the high school, he provided opposing teams access to locker rooms at school athletic events, cleaned the football stadium after home games, and cleaned up the school gym and lockers after games and dances.

From 1967-2001 Max returned to Francis in the summertime, he worked with Aunt Ruth Novak, helping to run Lemon Grove, and did jobs such as maintaining cabins, cutting down trees, and putting up hay. He also took on being the watermaster for the South Kamas ditch company.

Of course with all this he was willing to share the work with his children. He taught us from a young age to have pride in our work. And to always remember that no matter what the job is, your name is attached to it and therefore his name. When Valerie came home after graduating from BYU and before going to graduate school, she worked to earn extra money by doing jobs at Sonora high school. Even though she as an adult, he would come follow up after her and

make sure the job was done right, because he wanted to ensure quality work was done by her, as his name was attached to it as well.

During his later years in life when he was a substitute teacher, he was interviewed for an article in a magazine where he stated “you want to die, quit working.”

Dad worked 38 years teaching at Sonora High school before he retired and then another 15 years as a substitute teacher. He broke his hip in 2015 and returned to substitute teaching with a walker, the kids at school would help take his walker up stairs for him. He enjoyed being around the kids at school and they seemed to enjoy him. It literally took our mother to break her neck in 2018 to get dad to stop working!

Dad always had a good attitude about work, one of our favorite things was a game of “Touched you Last”. When he got up from the breakfast or dinner table and was headed back to school he would get up and touch one of the kids and say touched you last and take off running and dad was fast. If we didn’t catch him before he got to the back gate to the high school, then he would win.

Charity:

Janet Kaye: Dad had a love hate relationship with charity, he loved to give it but hated to be on the receiving end of it. When he and mom were young with a small family they lived in Manilla Utah, there was a Stake meeting for priesthood leaders and dad offered to drive everyone to Rock Springs Wyoming. The tires on his old desoto were pretty old, He drove everyone to rock Springs, on the way he had flat and they took the spare and fixed it, on the way home they had another blow out. The bishop told him to go into Rock Springs and get 4 new tires for the car. Dad said I can’t, I haven’t got money for them. The bishop said the ward would cover it and dad vowed to pay every cent back and he did. Another time when Bruce was in the hospital as a premature infant, the bishop came to visit Dad and asked him what his plan was to pay for the hospital bills. Dad said he thought they could work it out. He would have to quit school but was sure he could get a good job to pay for it. The bishop said that did not seem like a good plan! He was too close to finishing his master’s degree. And so the church covered the hospital bill. Dad learned from these experiences to pay it forward.

He had a gift to see what people might need thru his own eyes or experience. A large family moved into the Sonora ward near Christmas time and the mother was pretty pregnant. Dad had gotten some Christmas trees and brought one over to the family. He asked the kids if they had a tree and they pointed to one on the mantle. Dad brought the Christmas Tree in for the family. He also helped to support many missionaries who served from the Sonora ward. Dad was the kind of guy who would not only give you the shirt off his back, but also the food off his plate. Dad often started his work at the high school early in the morning and worked until late at night. I can remember running dinner over to him at night school more than once so he could eat. One night he called home and asked for some dinner. I fixed a plate and ran it over to his classroom, not covered or anything. One of the students said, Mr. Lemon I've never had a meal like that in my whole life. Dad replied well, you've got one tonight and handed it over to the student.

We had the best neighbor growing up Mrs Evans, often dad would have us take a dinner plate over for her. And an older couple in our ward in Sonora, would get a ride to church with our family. We called them grandma and grandpa Parsons. And the Lemon car went to early morning seminary for about 20 years picking up other kids who needed a ride to seminary or after seminary to school. Dad always volunteered his girls to babysit for free to people attending the temple or attending meetings for church assignments.

Love of the Farm:

Valerie: Max's father counseled him to become a lawyer and dad would have been a great lawyer but he would not have touched as many lives. Max was good at debate and because grandpa didn't think his body could support him in farming. Max responded with the "I'll show you" mentality and majored in Dairy husbandry. Max really did love the farm. To quote again, from his personal history " Farm life is a life that can be choice among the lives on earth. People who occupy such a place near the soil and animals are much richer than most realize." Because of dad's career as a school teacher in California, we had the opportunity to spend our summers in Utah. We became California migrant farm workers, migrating to the family farm every summer. This gave us an opportunity to become acquainted with our extended family, especially grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins. Our family will forever talk about our experiences on the farm, herding, cows, doing hay, running the ditch and working in the grove.

Richard

Testimony set his Priorities:

President Russell M Nelson, then a member of the quorum of twelve apostles, spoke in general conference in 2016 and gave a talk entitled "Joy and Spiritual Survival". In that talk he said. "The joy we feel has little to do with the circumstances of our lives and everything to do with the focus of our lives," This beautifully describes our dad. The joy he felt and shared had little to do with the circumstances of his life and more to do with the focus of his life. "When the focus of our life is on the Plan of Salvation and Jesus Christ and His gospel. When we choose Heavenly Father to be our God and when we can feel the Atonement of Jesus Christ working in our lives; we will be filled with Joy."

Thanks dad for everything, but mostly for your example of a life well lived. May we all make the personal decision to find the Joy in Living. In the name of Jesus Christ Amen