

Annie McArthur Jennings (1916)

SUP Essay Contest

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Sydni Schramm

“Annie”

She's the same lively, curly-haired redheaded Annie who sings and dances about “tomorrow” only she's 89 years old and my great grandma. Her whole name is Annie McArthur Jennings and she is my grandpa's mother. She was born on Dec. 1, 1916 to Moroni McArthur and Emma Jarvis Cottam. She has nine brothers and sisters. Great grandma Annie has spent her whole life in St George living in the same house within a block of the house where she was born.

Annie still lives alone, makes dried fruit (she calls it fruit leather), grows a vegetable garden, bottles fruits and vegetables, sews quilts, paints pictures, goes to DUP meetings, works at the DUP museum, and goes to literary club. She does many of the same things she did when she was little. She can make her own soap and she sews up the runs in her stockings. She doesn't like to go shopping or spend money.

When she was little, Annie had chores to do. One job was to milk cows, then churn butter and deliver it to other people. She was a tomboy and could do everything her brothers could do. She had to tend the cows and herd them along the ditch banks so they could eat and drink. She also had to empty the “slop jars” every morning. One Sunday morning when she was coming down the stairs with the jars, she slipped and fell down. She got the mess all over her good Sunday dress. She has lots of funny stories to tell about when she was little.

Great grandma Annie is really proud of being from a pioneer family. Her grandpa was Daniel D. McArthur and he was a body guard for Joseph Smith when they were in Nauvoo. He also led handcarts across the plains to come to Zion. She loves to tell stories about her ancestors and who they were and how everybody is related. She is just as proud of her children, grandchildren, and gives them a present. She has a big wall of photos in her kitchen and all over her house.

Right now Annie is a lot unhappy because her eyesight is bad and the doctors

won't let her use her driver's license. She still likes to read but she has to use a big magnifying glass. She likes for us to pick her up to go places. She never misses a reunion. She likes to watch movies on TV. Whenever we go there, she is usually working outside pulling weeds or cracking pecans. She still has her red hair, only now she says she gets it in a box from K-Mart.

All the great grandkids like to go visit Annie (usually we call her Grandma J.) After she gives us hugs, she gives us cookies or dried fruit. Then sometimes she will play with us. We like to play "Follow the Leader" all around her yards and house. I am glad to have such a fun and great grandmother. I am proud to be able to follow along in Annie's footsteps.