

Elbern Lowell Sorensen 1920

by Hallee Jones

This is a story of my great grandfather, Elbern Sorensen. He will be 90 years old this coming August. He is a funny and cool Great grandpa and I am lucky to have a Great grandpa and Great grandma that I get to know. Elbern was born on August 30, 1920, to David and Alta Mahala Tait Sorensen, in Mt. Carmel, Utah. He had 2 older brothers, 1 younger brother and 2 younger sisters. Elbern's family lived on a homestead on a ranch near Zion National Park. Elberns ancestors are from India so he has always had a good tan.

He learned how to work hard when he was very young. The boys worked in the hay fields and took care of the cows, horses and sheep. The girls gathered eggs and milk and made bread, cream and butter to sell in town. His mother was a very good cook and they looked forward to her meals after a hard day's work. One time, Elbern decided he wanted to be rich. So he climbed a ladder and painted a black sign on his house that said "homemade soup 10 cents". Elbern was a good student and he loved horses and he was the family hunter. He would always find the big buck to take home for the family to eat. He liked to shoot rabbits and coyotes and knew every nook and cranny of the ranch. Even during the Great Depression, he said there was always good food for them, they grew it in the garden and orchard and because of the animals.

After High school, he moved to Junction, Utah where he met the love of his life, Cleo Sprague. They were married on July 5, 1941. They loved dancing and they were very much in love. They moved to Los Angeles, California for work. They had a son in 1942 and a daughter in 1944(my grandma). When my grandma was 6 months old, Elbern got a letter in the mail, he was to go to Texas for training for World War II. I don't know anybody who has gone to war, except Grandpa. I know you would have to be very brave. Lucky for all of us, the war ended and Grandpa Great came home in just over a year.

Elbern and Cleo had 2 more boys and moved a lot of places for work. He was a hard worker and could do a lot of different things. Mostly, he was a welder and worked on big machines and helped build roads. Finally, In 1959, they moved back to home in Orderville, near the ranch and bought their first home. Elbern drove to Page, Arizona to work on the Glen Canyon Dam at Lake Powell. They still have the home in Orderville and I have heard lots of great stories from my Mom about going there. I think Elbern did a lot of really neat things in his life. Like, working on the ranch, serving in World War II, working on the Dam at Lake Powell. Most of all he loves Grandma a lot, and they have been married for 69 years. He is a great Dad and Grandpa. Oh, and he is the biggest Utah Jazz fan ever. I have heard a lot of cool stories about what an amazing man he was and is. I am very lucky that my family gets to go to his ranch and play at the cabin and hear his stories. have the home in Orderville and I have heard lots of great stories from my Mom about going there.

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