

Montrúe Bess Grey Larkin 1914 by Pierce Larkin

I am the 34th of 67 great grandchildren of Montrúe Bess Grey Larkin. She was born in Willard, Utah in 1914. She married Herman James Larkin in 1934 and they moved to St. George one year later.

Grandma Montrúe's husband died in a monoplane crash. It happened the month after she turned 34 years old. She had to take care of her six children and their business. She was really mad at Grandpa Herman for dying and leaving her without any money. Baby Lynn was two months old when his dad died, and two years old when he died.

Some of the work she did to earn money for her children were: sold out Herman's share of the Plumbing Business, Manager of Dixie College Bookstore, Dixie College Resource Center Manager, and taught Furniture Refinishing & Restoration at Dixie College.

When I was three years old Grandma took me and her dog Ziggy with her on her dog walks. She would walk around the neighborhood with dog treats to give to all the dogs that lived in our neighborhood. When we would go over by Little Caesar's Pizza, Ziggy and I would run all around. She said that it was just a walk for her, but it was an adventure for Ziggy and me. I heard this story at Grandma Montrúe's funeral when I was almost 7. When my Grandpa Dale and his twin brother Derrill would be playing football with their friends, they would sometimes see her coming in her car to get them. In the trunk would be two lawn mowers. She would say, "Come on, we're going to mow some people's lawns."

Grandma Montrúe received many special Honors from the community such as; District Mother of the Year, Silver Bowl Award for Outstanding Service to Lambda Delta Sigma, Lambda Delta Sigma Elect Lady Award, Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Senior Award from St. George Chamber of Commerce, Dixie College Outstanding Humanities Achievement Award, Honored as Ideal Person in Pursuit of Education at Dixie College, Governor's Carnation Silver Bowl for Outstanding Volunteer Work of State of Utah, Dixie College Distinguished Service Award, Dixie Elks Lodge Citizen of the Year Award, Sunny KDXU radio station "You Make Dixie Great" Award, Daughters of Utah Pioneers Award, and Distinguished Alumni Award from Dixie State College.

As you can see from all her awards, my Grandma loved to serve. As well as serving in the community, she also served in many positions in her church, and always had her door opened to other people in need.

Some of the things I've learned from knowing my great-grandma, and hearing stories about her are to never give up, always keep on trying, never get mad when something bad happens, and that doing service is a good thing. She loved life and kept on going until the end, never wanting to miss anything that happened. She died on September 12th, 2007, just 16 days before her 93^d birthday.

Pierce Larkin Mrs. Law 4th Grade