

## **RODNEY DEMILLE 1931**

By Ryen Hinton

My Great Grandpa Rodney Demille was born on August 5, 1931 in Cedar City Utah. His father Alma Demille was born in Shunesburg, Utah and his mother Henrietta Fames was born in Rockville Utah. They had five girls and three boys; Rodney was the youngest boy in the family. They lived in Rockville for most of his boyhood. They had a log home with four bed rooms; two upstairs and two downstairs. All the boys shared a room down stairs and the girls shared the other two rooms. They had an outhouse outside, 35 feet behind the house. This was the only bathroom they had until Rodney was about fifteen years old. His father was a true cowboy. He had 50 cows, 2 milking cows, and 5 horses. They had a barn and a hay barn. They raised and sold calves for a living. He didn't know his father very well because he worked from sun up to sun down. Something my Great Grandpa Demille remembered about his father, Alma, was when a hiker had got lost on Kolob Mountain. It was stormy and no one wanted to help find him. His dad saddled his horse and rode up into the mountain and didn't come back until he had found the lost hiker. Some of my Great Grandpa Demille's earliest memories were of him stomping on the hay to flatten it out for his dad. He was only five years old. He had chores at an early age. He watered and fed the crops, cows, horses and dogs. He received a saddle for one of his birthdays and decided to trade it for a horse of his own. While riding his horse it bucked him off in the river and he decided to sell it after that.

He lived on home made bread and pork. The family would slaughter two pigs at the first of the year and that would be the meat that they had for the whole year. Even though they raised cows they never ate beef or even ate out. As a boy he wore overall bibs and boots. For Christmas he got new socks and one year he got a Beebe gun.

He said his Mom was the best Mom ever. She was strict but always loved us all. He could only remember one time that she whooped his hinder. He had been out shooting his BB gun when he saw a hummingbird. It was dinking nectar from a trumpet flower vine. His Mother saw him shoot it and gave him a whooping he still remembers today. His favorite place to hang out as a kid was at the Post Office. He loved to hear all the old timers tell there stories. He wanted to be a cowboy when he grew up, until one day he was thrown from a horse and kicked. He then decided not to be a cowboy anymore.

Something my Great Grandpa Demille has always remembered is when his father, Alma, was in charge of taking the Prophet, George Albert Smith, to see the Indians. Great Grandpa Demille was riding a horse that followed the wagon that was carrying the Prophet. The Prophet stopped the wagon and asked my Great Grandpa Demille if he could ride his horse. Great Grandpa Demille rode in the wagon while the Prophet rode his horse.

He fell in love with his high school sweet heart, Helen Stratton, and got married at a young age. They had 5 kids, but one of them died when he was only 18 months old. He drowned in a ditch.

My Great Grandpa Demille worked in the Iron mines for 30 years. He lived in La Verkin and drove to the mines

out by Cedar City everyday. When the mine shut down he drove trucks for a few years for Interstate Rock. He then got a job working for the LDS church. He managed the church Welfare farm for 11 years then he retired.

When my Great Grandpa and Grandma Demille got married. The first major purchase they made with their savings of 100 dollars went to a new .22 Rifle. My Great Grandma Demille wasn't too happy about that. My Great Grandpa Demille loved to hunt. He has hunted everything from deer to foxes. He always had his rifle in his truck. Anytime he would see a coyote while driving up to the mines he would pull over and shoot him and put it in the back of his truck. After work he would skin it and sell the hide to a local trapper for 40 to 50 dollars.

My Great Grandpa Demille has been a good example to me and many others he has worked with. I learned that he and I both share a love for horses and other animals.