

Thad G. Kirkham

I was born on March 22, 1929 in Salt Lake City, Utah. When I was about 10 years old my family moved to Centerville, Utah. Our house had old chicken coups that my brothers and I tore down and used the materials to build forts and cabins. We liked to play “kick the can” and “run my sheepy run”.



I was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but was not very active. My mother and Bishop thought it would be best if I went on a mission, so I served a 2 ½ year mission in Denmark. This was thrilling because my ancestors are from Iceland and Denmark. After returning home I met Arlene Peterson. We were married in November of 1953. I was drafted into the Army where I became a cook. After my service in the Army, I graduated from Utah State and became a Jr. High Industrial Arts teacher in Buena Park, Calif. I also taught night school at Long Beach State University. I retired in 1989 and built a home in Dammeron Valley, Utah. We have 8 children, 26 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

I have served in 3 Bishoprics, plus many other church callings. Since retiring, my wife and I served a mission in Nauvoo where I was involved in doing restoration work. I also served a member location mission, and a mission at the Family History Library.

We now live in Bloomington. I enjoy reading, drawing, traveling and spending time with my wife and family.