

Get to know the members of your Chapter better! When space is available, we will begin including a short biographical sketch on one of our members.

EMERALD L. SEITZ

My Wife Vera Jones was born in St. George, Utah. I was born June 25, 1928 in St. George, Utah to Andrew Nordfors Seitz and Delilah Leavitt. I was raised in Veyo and our first home was a two room house. When I was one year old we moved to Panaca, Nevada, but only stayed a short time and moved back to Veyo. My Father got a job with Southern Utah Power Co. and we moved to the #2 Plant just out of Veyo. We lived at Both #2 and #3, which is now called Sandcove. When we lived at #2, I went to school at Veyo and at #3 I went to Gunlock. I had to walk from the top of the hill where the standpipe is, down past the Gunlock Plant to the school, and climb back up the hill after school. There was no road on down to Gunlock at that time from Sandcove.

When I was quite little my Dad told me that if I always told the truth that I would not get a spanking. I remember of one time that he would have liked to go back on his word. He had a bunch of sacks of grain piled on the porch. I took my handy little hatchet and cut a hole in every one of them. When he asked me if I did it, I told him yes, and I didn't get a spanking. Another time my cousin and I set fire to the old pole cellar at #3. We just built us a fire in the old stove that was in storage there. Another time I had gotten a new bridle for our horses in Diamond Valley so I set out a foot to ride my horse. I was gone a long time and my parents were frantic trying to find me. When I was eight years old, daddy got a promotion to District Manager of the Enterprise Division and we moved back to Veyo. On June 8, 1937 daddy was killed on the power line at Pinto, leaving my mother with myself, my brother Jack, 4 ½ and my sister Viola just 2. My sister Ione was born on July 4th just a month after daddy died. This left me "the man of the house" and my mother never remarried. After my father's death, mother sold the ranch in Diamond Valley for an orchard in Veyo next to our house. She took the insurance money and added on to the two rooms and made a lovely home for us. She was able to run the Post Office and built a small office in the corner of our lot. With this small income, the orchard and some cows and what work I could get in the summers and week-ends working on the farms and ranches we were able to get by before I completed the 9th grade of school. I felt it was a hardship on my mother to keep me in school so I quit and went to work on the farms and ranches for my grandfather and Uncles. I remember the first time I stayed alone in Ox Valley. It was fine in daytime but a night I could hear every sound. A cow bawl across the valley or a coyote call was very frightening to me as I was only about 11 year old at the time.

When World War II came along I was too young to go in the service so when I was 16 years old I was running three farms in Diamond Valley, Veyo and Ox Valley. My Uncles were in the service and my grandfather Leavitt who owned the farms was in very poor health so he could not help much. It was hard to find any help. When the War was over, Grandpa passed away and Grandma sold the farms. I worked in St. George and Mesquite, NV., for a while then went to work on the Smith Ranch just above Veyo. When Winter set in I was laid off so in December 1946 I joined the Army.

After basic training in Fort Ord, Calif., we got a short leave then reported to Camp Kilman, NJ. From there we were shipped to Germany. In Germany I worked as an M.P. and prison guard in Manhiem and Hidelgurg. When I returned home I worked in construction driving truck. In the fall of 1948 I started work for Southern Utah Power Co. as a Hydro Operator. In 1950 I was called back in the Army and worked as a prison guard at Camp Stoneman, Calif. Here many of our prisoners were scheduled to go overseas so just before time was up we would take them to San Francisco by Boat or Bus and put them on a ship. After they got so far out to sea they were given freedom of the ship. After my discharge I went back to work for the Power Co.

In 1955 Vera and I were married and we moved to #2 Power Plant. We spent 2 happy years there. Then the Company began Automating the Plants and we went to California looking for a job. I hired on with California Electric just west of Lee Vining. This began our life in California and the beautiful Sierra Mountains. We lived high on the mountains and had many experiences with the snow. We moved many times, transferring from one Plant to another. Living near Lee Vining, June Lake, Bishop, Kernville, and the Mountains out of Fresno in the Big Creek Area. Finally transferring to Hoover dam where I retired in 1987.

We moved back to Veyo in 1991, then to St. George in 2000. We have 4 children, 19 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. We are enjoying retirement and our horses. I ride every chance I get. We enjoy getting together with our family and spoiling our grandchildren. We have always been active in Church and I have served in the Sunday

School, Branch President and Financial Clerk under 3 Bishops. The most memorable event in my life was probably the death of my Father and most recently when the tractor ran over me. My education has been mostly the hard knocks of life, on the job training, learning from necessity and some correspondence classes.