

J. Clifton Spendlove Biography



I was born of goodly parents, John Alfred and Maude May Spendlove, in my mother's bed and on Christmas eve, 1925. I grew up in Provo, Utah and realized that I was alive during the early part of the great depression. My family was very poor as were most people at that time, but I thought that was the way things were supposed to be. So, I didn't realize how bad things were economically.

I Attended Franklin Elementary School, Dixon Jr. High and Provo High School. Immediately after graduation from high school I was drafted into the army about one week after D day. I took my basic training in Camp Roberts, California.

I had known Carol Crandall through most of my school days. We fell in love in high school and were engaged graduation night, promising to marry when the war ended. When I came home on a furlough we decided to marry then. We were married on Dec. 6, 1944 in the Salt Lake Temple. We had to hitch-hike home from our three day honeymoon in Salt Lake. One month later I was fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. As a B A R man with the 30th Infantry Division, I lasted two and one-half months when I was shot while crossing the Rhine River. I spent seven months in army hospitals before being discharge in Oct. 1945.

I took advantage of the G I Bill and attended BYU on Public Law 16 (a program for wounded veterans). I obtained my BS degree in bacteriology in 1949 and my MS degree in virology in 1950. From there I obtained a research fellowship at Ohio State University and graduated with a Ph.D degree in industrial microbiology in 1953.

That spring I went to work for the army at Dugway Proving Ground as a research microbial aerobiologist. I worked for the army there and at Operations Research Group in Army Chemical Center, Maryland. In 1962 I helped organize Deseret Test Center at Fort Douglas, Utah and finished my career as head of the biological labs at Dugway Proving Ground, retiring in July 1982. For several years following retirement I consulted privately in aerobiology.

For 15 years during the cold war I worked as a gentleman spy for the CIA and FBI. I was approached by Soviet medical people from the United Nations in New York who offered me various enticements to reveal US secrets. Of course I did not, but managed to learn much about their biological warfare efforts.

Carol and I have had five wonderful children. Our youngest son was killed in an accident at age 17. The remaining four have all married wonderful spouses in the Salt Lake Temple. They have given us 20 grand children and 28 great grand children. In 1994 we built a winter vacation home in St. George. We soon fell in love with the place. We expanded our St. George home, sold our Salt Lake home and bought a beautiful condo in Zion Summit, one block north of Temple Square in Salt Lake, where we spend most of the summer.

In 1983 Carol and I were called as part-time service missionaries in the Museum of Church History and Art. We are now in our 25th year of service, as dpccmts. in the museum.

In 1985 I began doing tour directing for Brian Judd Tours and Travel. Carol and I have lead tours for this company all over the world.

We are involved in Institute of Continue Learning, at Dixie State College and of course the Cotton Mission Chapters of the SUP. We love St. George, the great people here and especially what we like is not have to shovel rain.