

DAVID STOHL SUMMERHAYS

I was born in the Salt Lake City LDS Hospital on June 29, 1934.

We moved into 1763 East Ninth South in 1935 when I was about a year old. I really enjoyed living there because our playground consisted of the open spaces from the edge of our neighborhood to the tops of the mountains. I attended Uintah Elementary School and was bussed to the Lowell Elementary School on 2nd Avenue and E Street for the 5th & 6th grades. Then back to our own neighborhood for two years at Roosevelt Junior High. Then off to East High School for three years where my interest in math, chemistry and physics grew because of a number of very outstanding teachers.



I then attended 2 ½ years at the University of Utah in Chemical Engineering. In early 1955, I received my mission call, and in March of 1955 I left for New Zealand. I traveled by train to Los Angeles where I boarded the SS Sierra, a Matson Line freighter. It took us 21 days to reach New Zealand. I spent the next 2 ½ years living in Hamilton, Tokomaru Bay, Napier, and Papatoetoe. It was a choice experience to labor with the people of New Zealand, and my knowledge and testimony of the gospel grew. I returned home at Thanksgiving of 1957 to face my next challenge, the military. In order to prevent being out of school for two more years, I joined the National Guard. In February of 1958, I went to Fort Ord, California for Basic Training, and then to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for training as an Artillery Survey Specialist. I returned home in August of 1958 to re-enter the University of Utah.

In June of 1959 I married Marion Madsen whom I had met within a week after returning home from New Zealand. We were married in the Salt Lake Temple by Elder Marion G. Romney, and then lived in a basement apartment while I finished school. Finally, in June of 1961 I graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering and accepted a job with Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, New York. Marion was 7 months pregnant when we moved, and she had never been east of Heber, Utah. During the next six years we had Scott (Sept. 61), Shari (Sept. 63), and Mark and Gary (April 67). We first lived in a two bedroom duplex, and then in the fall of 1964 we bought our first home. I really enjoyed my work, but we didn't enjoy the distance from our families or the long, cloudy, cold winters in Rochester. When Kodak announced a new plant in Colorado in 1969, I applied for a transfer. Six months later, I was part of the Kodak Colorado Division.

We moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in July of 1971, and built a two story house. We lived there for the next 17 years, and achieved our goal of having our children get to spend more time with their grandparents. In September of 1980, Mom & Dad were killed in an accident in their motor home, and we still feel that loss. Because of Marion's increasing back problems, in June of 1988 we sold our two story house and bought a single level condominium.

Then started our year of weddings. Mark was married on May 6, 1989, Shari was married on September 16, 1989, and Gary was married on May 5, 1990. Scott was later married in May of 1994. At this time we have eight grandchildren. They are Sini (Scott), Trevor (Shari), Lauren, Abbey, and Anthony (Mark), and Caleb, Alana, and Ben (Gary).

In December of 1991, I took an early retirement from Eastman Kodak. I never expected to retire so young, but Kodak offered an early out that was hard to refuse.

In June of 1999 we moved to St. George, Utah in order to get away from the cold and ice of the winters in Ft. Collins. We rented while we built a single level town home with no steps. We have now enjoyed almost eight years in St. George.

Over the years I have served in many capacities in the Church. They include: Elder's Quorum President, Seventies Unit Leader, High Priest's Group Leader, Young Men's President, Ward Executive Secretary, Ward Financial Clerk, 1st Counselor in the Bishopric, Ward Clerk, High Council, Stake Executive Secretary, Gospel Doctrine Teacher, and in the Stake Young Men's Presidency.

DSS

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