

Biography Of The Life Of Charles Leo Earl

By his wife Cynthia and children

Dec. 1961

Leo 68 years old

In my opinion a history should portray a word picture of a person, enough in detail that his posterity in years to come might visualize him, his depth of character, his contribution to the world and the people around him, his courage to live up to his convictions, his ambitions, his disposition and many other characteristics that clearly describe a man, so that their qualities and example will live after them.

Who should know more about the real Leo Earl than his family. He has his faults as we all do. We are strong minded individuals. We have our disagreements but basically as a family we are able to stand up and be counted. I have known Leo Earl for sixty years and have been married to him for over fifty-two years. Thus, I know him pretty well. I am going to touch briefly on two phases of his life. His children can tell about their associations with him. First, I am going to talk about Leo Earl the man. Our paths crossed many times during our adolescent years but it wasn't until 1912 that I really knew him. My first impression of him was the sincere respect he showed me at all times. He was courteous, always a perfect gentleman, intelligent to talk to and easy to be with. The longer I knew him, the more sure I was that even as a young man he stood tall among men. He is honored and respected by all classes of people, rich and poor, young and old alike. He mingles freely and with ease among intellectuals and people of wealth and position, never feeling superior or inferior. That alone is a mark of a well adjusted person and is a priceless gift. In the occupation of farming he has worked hard and planned well, always building step by step a good name. He often quotes his Dad's request of him "Son, I am passing on to you a good name, free from tarnish of any kind and I expect you to pass it on to the next generation in the same condition". He has guarded that pledge well, guarding his name zealously regardless of personal sacrifice. His name on a deed or a check has never been questioned. I think his family can testify to that through their own experience with him. There has never been a time that he hasn't been glad to underwrite them when they needed financial assistance. He has advised and encouraged them to get out of debt. When each one of his children entered High School he made their names good on his bank account. He loved and trusted them. It is a rare trust when a father grants that kind of privilege to boys and girls, and they never betrayed that trust. They spoke with pride when their friends were caught in a bind for some school supplies. They could write a check for their own needs and their friends and when they explained to their dad he understood. When the bank returns came they were right there to talk it over with him and thank him for his confidence. It was the same when Madge and Connie went to college and when Ora Mae was in the army with Hal in Washington and she wanted to go to business school so she could help with their finances. She knew her check would be honored. He built in his family a deep love and respect for each other and for him that few families can equal and none excell. If I was speaking for his three sons-in-law and daughter-in-law I believe the feeling would be the same. I think Ora Mae said it very well when she said, "Dad is as solid as a rock. In sickness we can go to him with our problems large or small and in his wisdom and faith we receive our answer and our problems are problems no more".

His climb to financial security has been hard and slow. He has climbed rung by rung always sure of the next step. At the age of seventy-five he can look any man straight in the face with honor and pride. It has been at least twenty-five years since he owed any man.

He loves his family deeply, glories in their success and worries about their short comings. If they only knew how deeply he cares for them, these grandchildren of his would try harder to brighten the sunset years of his life by having a desire to go on a mission and be married in the temple so these beautiful family ties can be carried on into eternity. So strong has been his desire for these things that he has opened a small savings account in the name of each of his grandchildren to use, preferably for a mission or to further their education. Sharon, Lynn, Jay and Judy have theirs now. He is trying to treat them all alike. Monetarily it isn't much but behind it is his love and a desire to share what little he has with them in way of encouraging them to take advantage of their many opportunities. These grandchildren are very precious to him. He says that when his own children were growing up he was so busy making a desirable and secure living for them that they missed some of the fun things together, now he is trying to make it up to them through the grandchildren. He is striving to build into their lives memories that will broaden their scope of life and further their education. For instance: giving them firsts in so many different experiences. Over the years he has made it a point of taking his grandchildren, two or three at a time to Salt Lake at conference time, waking them up at six o'clock in the morning, standing with them in line for hours to get into the tabernacle, listening to the general conference, meeting important church people, having dinner in the Hotel Utah dining room or on the roof garden of the hotel, ordering anything they wanted from the menu, being waited on by the colored boys, giving them their first ride on an airplane, first on a steam train, camping with his grandsons in the

canyon riding in a boat on beautiful Bear Lake. When his own boys went deer hunting on their own, he thought he might retire from the sport but when his grandsons were asked if they were going hunting they said "sure, we are going with grandpa up on his rock" he started all over again.

He loves his religion; lives it and teaches it. He has an abiding trust in people. Young and old come to his door, day or night seeking his advice and unburdening their souls and leaving with tears in their eyes thanking him for his blessings. He has been active in the church since first holding the office of a deacon; teaching in the auxiliaries, going on a mission to Australia when he was twenty-one, there becoming conference president, serving on Bear River Stake High Council and was bishop of Fielding Ward for nine years. After moving to Logan in 1948 he has worked on the Sunday School stake board, High Council of Logan stake and at this writing is Patriarch of Logan Stake. He has lived worthy of the priesthood and it in turn has blessed our home

The next phase I am going to talk about is Leo Earl the husband. There are not enough adjectives to explain how he has enriched my life. I love him very much. He is a man that inspires love. Over the years I have written notes to him on Christmas trying to convey to him my love and appreciation of the wonderful life he has given me. I think they express what he means to me better than anything I might say today. He kept them all. I ran on to them among his treasures. I am going to type some of them just as they were written through the years. Christmas 1951, "My dear, I cannot thank you enough for the happiness you have brought into my life. Your life has brightened the past thirty-five years with a light that dimmed my pain and helped me to overcome obstacles that may have warped my life. Your courage, faith and nearness have driven away fear and made for me a perfect life". Christmas 1957, "Dear Leo, I truly believe in the old story - each year is better than the last. I don't think there has ever been a year that we have enjoyed or understood each other better than this year. You measure up to everything I could ever hope for in a husband and father of my children. I am not much for sentiment, as you well know, so when I express it you can know it comes from the heart. Forgive me for the times I have fallen short of understanding. I am looking forward with joy to our years ahead. This is my gift of love to you". Christmas 1961, "Dear Leo, the year 1961 is drawing to a close. Each year is better than the last. This one has been rich indeed in the things that count. With the help of the Lord Ora Mae's passing has been softened in the knowledge that their little family is being lovingly cared for. Madge is president of the Ward Relief Society, Connie is Stake Primary President and Sherman is in the bishopric. All these things are known but they are the bonds that bind us together in lifes accomplishments. The wealth we can take with us and the real joy that is ours in the sunset of our lives. I am so proud of you. The things you have accomplished, the positions you have held, the friends you have made, your interest in others, your zest for living, how you have loved me with all my faults- overlooking them with patience and understanding, taking care of me through many sicknesses regardless of time and money, never making me feel that I was a burden. I prayed in my hour of great decision and the Lord blessed me in the choice of a good husband and I have never had cause to regret. After forty-five years my heart is warm, satisfied, content and happy. We have something fine and rewarding, let's hang onto it through all of the petty grievances of daily living. We are both individuals in our own right, making it harder to agree on everything but we have made it this far and I am sure our love has grown with the years. Our family and their families are a credit to us. All my love."

How fast the years go by. Of all the wonderful things you have done for me the greatest gift of all is our family and they in return have brought into our lives two lovely daughters-in-law and three sons-in-law; all married in the temple, established in their own homes and raising lovely families. We have a record we are very proud of. Our son and all three sons-in-law have officiated in the bishoprics of their respective wards. As a family we have been greatly blessed. Oh yes, we have had our sorrow but through the wisdom and faith of a loving father and husband always pointing the way and recalling to our minds the fact that she is alright; that it is up to all of us to live so when our name is called we can be prepared to join her.

The following are tributes to a father from his family:

Madge: My first memories are of working with my Dad. At that time I didn't appreciate the rare privilege that was mine of getting to know my Dad better. Of course, I will never forget the time when I was complaining about having to do the farm work while Connie spent her afternoons playing. Dad told me in a certain tone that he had spent ten years training me and he wasn't starting on another. I am thankful he taught me how to work and take responsibility. Now that I have children of my own I realize what I put the folks through. Dad has always been someone to try to pattern my life after. Whenever we have had serious troubles it has been his faith and blessings that have helped us over the rough spots. These last few years have been special. We look forward to the long visits

we have. I am so proud of my dad and all his accomplishments in life. I'm thankful he could give me a father's blessing. I'm glad he enjoys planting his plants and sharing them with us. Above all I am so glad he was so well grounded in religion. That he gave us the religious background and training that we need so badly in these days. I hope that we, his posterity, will never bring shame of any serious kind upon the good name that he has given us.

This is Connie, third born of Leo and Cynthia Earl. Speech making has never been my long suit but when it comes to my dad I would like the world to know how I feel about him. We are not a very demonstrative family so it has never come easy to tell him how much we love and appreciate him. Dad has spent a lifetime building a name that we, his heirs, are very proud of. Everyone seems to know Dad in both Bear River Valley and Cache Valley and all I need ever say for recognition of the right kind is that I am Leo Earl's daughter. Dad loves and understands people - both their strength and their weakness. He is constantly in demand as a funeral speaker because he knows the scriptures and how best to comfort a family in their hours of deepest sorrow. Dad has always shown a great interest in church, civic and public affairs. People respect his judgement and we have all gone to him with our most intimate problems and received comfort and kind loving advice. He has come to each of our ~~EMK~~ needs in turn financially (which he always claimed was what a father was for) to help us to help ourselves. We will always be in his debt, if not materially then certainly spiritually. He taught us to love the Lord and trust in Him. We were taught early to prepare ourselves to serve the Lord and answer yes whenever called in any capacity. The thing I am sure we all feel strongest about our dad is the pillar of strength he has always been to all of us. He was a busy man all his life and while he did not take many days off for vacation with us, the times he did made them extra special. If we were ever sick he was the one we called to rub an aching leg with liniment in the middle of the night or hold our head or sooth the nightmares of youth. In later years we did not stop calling dad whenever there was sickness among our children or ourselves. His priesthood combined with our husbands cooled the fevered brow and restored our faith as well as our health. We have each had personal experiences in our lives when dad has helped us to see that every cloud has a silver lining someday - somewhere - and I for one will bless his name forever. Thanks dad.

I wondered what to do about Ora Mae. On going through her papers after her passing I ran across a talk she had given in church. She leaves a message to all of us. I am going to copy it word for word just as she wrote it.

"After the bishop asked us to speak several weeks ago I tried to think of the thing in my religion that meant the most to me and I decided it was temple marriage. I believe this is a favorite subject for a lot of people and I also believe that each time anyone talks of the subject someone benefits from it. As temple marriages are brought to their attention again, some young couple might get a stronger desire to be married there. Of course, I realize the majority of the training is done years before in primary, Sunday school, and at home. We only lived a block from the church when I was a child and we always walked to church together. Religion was never pushed on we children. To my way of thinking my father has a beautiful interpretation of religion. He was a bishop for years and lived his religion to the letter. He gave us help when we asked for it or needed it but never forced it upon us. Religion was always present in our home for us to observe as we wished. We were always made to feel that the temple was a grand and glorious place and longed for the time we could go there to be sealed for time and all eternity and as we grew older we set about to find a companion that was worthy to go with us. Hal and I were young when we were married and had many adjustments to make as all young couples do. I have always said that if there was nothing to temple marriages at all except the fact that it gives young people the attitude they are in this for keeps it is worth it. Of course we know there is much more to it. I believe young couples try harder to work out their differences that have been ~~not~~ married in the temple. Maybe it is because they realize the seriousness of temple divorce. I went to school with a girl that said she would never get married in the temple until she saw if her marriage would last because she saw what a lot of red tape her mother had to go through to get her divorce. I don't know how her marriage worked out but it always stuck in my mind that was a folly attitude in which to start a marriage. To preserve the family relationship here and hereafter is one of the great and important purposes of life and of the gospel. That such relationships hereafter should be possible is reasonable. All righteous parents have an inborn desire to be forever with their loved ones. Death does not separate husbands and wives who are united by the power of our Father in Heaven in his holy temples. It does not take the children from the parents because these children are born under the covenant and the parents have a right and claim on them in the life hereafter. President Brigham Young made this clear when he said "when a man and a woman have received their endowments and sealings and then had children born unto them afterwards, those children are legal heirs to the kingdom and to all its blessings and promises and they are the only ones that are on the earth." What a thrill it will be to come forth in the resurrection of the just to find our companion by our side and our children and grandchildren. I believe parents should show the importance of the temple

and a simple work. I have always felt that it is well for children to observe their parents hustling about getting ready to go to the temple. Children then will inquire of their parents why this is so important and the parents then have the opportunity to explain these grand and glorious principles in terms that are understandable to their children. With such help children will have a desire to go themselves to the temple. God bless us that as parents we may teach our children early in life to walk uprightly before the Lord and help them to understand these principles before it is too late. I pray that we may do this in wisdom and in love and prepare them and point them toward the temple and temple marriage as soon as they are able to understand what we say. I do this humbly in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Sherman: I am happy for this opportunity to say what I think of my father and what he has meant to me in my life. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had of being his son and being associated with him throughout my life. I might say that my name is Sherman Earl. I am the second son and the baby of his family. My father has been a stalwart in the community. He has stood for many things, but I might say that the things that have impressed me the most is that he has lived for the church and his family. Nothing has been as important to him as his family and he has done everything that was within his power to make them proud of him and to make them accepted citizens in the community and the society. He has been a hard working man throughout his life. His life has been work. He has been honest, diligent; he has tried at all times to serve his fellow man. He has been fair, and in listening to this history which he has put down I think maybe he has been over-fair with some of us because I am sure we have caused him trials and tribulations that he has overlooked. He is a man of good judgement. When he has made up his mind he is very sincere in what he believes. We have at different times had differences of opinion, and I am very sure that more of the times my father has been right than I have. My father has been a pillar of strength in our family. There have been many times when at different occasions, I remember my sister Ora Mae saying that if anything went wrong in our families if we could just get hold of dad that everything would be alright. I remember feeling this very keenly at the time when Charlene was very sick and I was alone with her and I felt the confusion and weakness that there is in being alone under those circumstances; and I remember the secure feeling that came over me when my father arrived and in his calm way assured me that everything would be alright and that things would be as they should be. I am grateful for this. I hope that the future generations will appreciate the work he has gone to in recording this history. I am sure that it will be very interesting to them that he has spent many hours, as anyone who has attempted to do this would know in compiling all of this material and recording it at this time and trying to get it on paper and left for his posterity. This is the kind of man he is. He is not thinking of himself but he is thinking of those who are to follow him. It is very important to him to have the future generations follow in his footsteps and I am sure that they will.

July 31, 1978, Provo, Utah. This is Frank J. Earl, one of Leo's brothers, six years his junior, I do not recall too much of my younger years with Leo. I do not know how old I was but I remember one experience I had with Leo, when I was sent with him to the "hill farm" to be his helper and companion. The "camp wagon" was there to house us, included in the wagon was a stove to heat water, cook our food and to provide heat when necessary. A small spring of water was piped to the watering trough. Good cool water for people and horses. We had four or more horses to pull, plow, harrow, graindrill, etc.

It must have been the first night of our stay. I had no trouble enjoying being there until evening when I could see Fielding, about 5 miles away. I became "homesick" Leo was busy with his chores. I started for home on foot, it was down hill so I set out on the run. When I looked back Leo was riding "Old Maud" bareback and was fast catching up with me. He insisted that I get on the horse with him and we both rode that tired old "bonney" mare five miles to Fielding. He was as glad to go home as I was.

Leo was called on a mission to Australia at the end of my first year in High School. In order to keep him there I had to stay out of school for two years to help make the family living and keep him on his mission. When his mission was finished he came home and took his place on the farm. He soon married Cynthia Duffey and I was able to continue school in Brigham City. When my wife, LaVieve died in 1958, Leo spoke at her funeral. By this time he had considerable experience in giving such talks. Following the death of our Dad, Leo became almost a second father to me and the other members of the family. As a Bishop and a Patriarch he had qualified well for this rating. With my wife, Naoma Rich, we have made many trips to Logan. Most often we stayed at Leo's home. We had a short visit with him recently and it was during this visit that I received the copy as above so I hope I warrant using the space left unused by the family. I am happy in doing this.

Aug. 31, 1978. Naoma R. Earl. I have always appreciated the warm reception you and Cynthia gave to me when I married Frank in 1961. My visits to your home have been so enjoyable through the years. Frank and I looked forward to your visits to Provo, for Rotary functions, for basketball games and for fishing trips.

The Leonard and Earl Reunions have given me the opportunity to become better acquainted with your family and your ancestors. I was happy to have attended meetings in the Fielding Ward Chapel where you had served as bishop.

I enjoyed driving with you and others over the Earl farmlands in Fielding and Plymouth areas and recalling my experience as a teacher in the Bear River High School.