

Lyle Glen Asay

A Brief History

(compiled by Jessie Jane Gibbons Brandenburg, 1992)

Lyle Glen Asay was born 25 Oct. 1920, in Hiawatha Utah, the third child of Charles Asay and Andrea (Ada) Corliss.

Lyle attended schools in Hiawatha and Carbon High. His interests were in the sports area. He loved baseball, and was the kind of hitter pitchers hated to face. He could belt the ball out of the stadium with little effort. He loved bowling and won the county bowling tournament in 1960. He also loved to pitch horseshoes, and still does. He was the Carbon County champion horseshoe pitcher for a number of years. He also liked long distance running and in 1943 won a medal as a runner in the obstacle course for the Marine Corps. He served in the Marine Corps during World War II from 1941-43. He was stationed in San Diego and Alaska. He also liked being a clown in the parades on Labor day.

He was married (1) 1 Sept 1948 Deloris Young; married (2) June Audrea Nielson 29 Apr. 1950. married (3) 26 Aug 1957 Mrs. Marba Spencer Anderson.

Lyle has one daughter, Barbara Jean b 17 July 1951, Price, Utah. He has enjoyed Marba's three children, Trina, Sandra, and Susan. Sandra is a pilot and often takes Lyle for a plane ride.

As a youngster in Hiawatha, he roamed the hills exploring, and he has always loved hiking in the mountains. He always had a pet dog. Doreen remembers that on one occasion he hitchhiked from Hiawatha to Castle Dale to get a pup from Grandpa Asay. He hitchhiked back with the pup in his arms. He always said, well if no one picks me up, I can just walk. He was usually fortunate enough to get a ride. He also raised rabbits, and could usually be found petting them, and letting them run around his feet.

SCHOOL DAYS

In the book *Marcus the Great* by Mark Hart, who was Lyle's Junior High school teacher, we found the following story.

"Teaching Junior High school students is a great privilege, particularly when one is teaching subjects he loves, which I was doing--grammar, literature and band. Fondly, I remember a little seventh grader with a perpetual smile on his face. He was wild! What I mean, he was wild like a jack rabbit. I was told that when he was old enough to start school, the authorities had to run him down in the hills and put pants on him. Anyway, I was attempting to teach the class how to write a paragraph. I explained that first they should have a good strong topic sentence, and the substance of the paragraph was to be related to that sentence. Then, they should also have a good strong

concluding sentence. Needless to say, I was impressed with the paragraph this lad wrote. His name was Lyle Asay. To help him get started, I wrote a topic sentence for him, as he couldn't quite savvy what a topic sentence was.

"So I said, 'Lyle, here's a topic sentence--Salt Lake City is a very beautiful city. Now, you write a paragraph telling why Salt Lake City is a very beautiful city, and remember to write a good strong concluding sentence.'

"After a mighty struggle, he turned in the following paragraph, which I think is a masterpiece. He wrote:

'Salt Lake City is a very beautiful city because there are many things to shoot at with a popgun, such as giant racers and things. It's salty out there.'

"The reader may not fully appreciate that literary gem. But I knew exactly what he meant. Obviously, he had visited the Salt-air resort on the Great Salt Lake. He had purchased a cap-pistol or a popgun and had a hilarious time taking pot-shots at the giant racer every time it roared by. It's quite possible he had taken a swim in the lake, where the water is so salty you can't sink. You can almost sit down in it. That, no doubt, accounted for his good strong concluding sentence--'It's salty out there.'"

SPORTS LOVER

Since he loved baseball so much, one day he and Corliss decided on the spur of the moment that they would go to New York to see a baseball world series. They traveled in the old car night and day to get there and just made it as the first inning was starting. While they were there they went to visit their fathers old friend, Jack Dempsey, the heavy weight boxing champion of the World. Mr. Dempsey owned a restaurant in New York, where they had a great dinner, and Lyle had his picture taken with him. What a great trip that was.

Loving sports as he did he was in Munich Germany for the Olympic games in 1972. September the 5th, five arab terrorists wearing ski masks slipped over a back fence and swarmed into the living quarters of the 19 member Israeli team. A handful of Israelis escaped through a rear door, but nine were bound and blindfolded while their armed captors settled down to a marathon bargaining session, 14 hours of tortuous drama. With gun shots, and helicopters hovering over the vicinity, Lyle decided it was time for him to get out of the area. As he was running towards the parking lot to retrieve his car, he was stopped by the police, and told it was too dangerous to go to that parking lot. Well, Lyle was too nervous to go back so he took a detour around. Half walking, half running, and it was still 3 hours before he was able to get to his car. What a relief to be out of there. Eleven Israelis were slain, as were five terrorists and one policeman. Lyle called Jim to tell him about it, and how close the bullets were, and Jim's comment was, "I might have known you would be in

the middle of some trouble." Lyle's comment about that statement was, "That's brotherly love for you."

MILITARY LIFE

When Lyle was in the Marine Corps in Alaska, they were out on Maneuvers, and he managed to get his feet frozen. What an experience. They took him to the base hospital, where they used heat to thaw the feet, and in the process burned his toenails. Two different nights they left the heater on all night, and his toenails really became scorched. He says he was certainly glad to get out of that hospital.

MEMORIES

In addition to working in the mines, Lyle loved to go pinenut hunting, and sold pinenuts in the fall. Since he seemed to know where the biggest ones were, his pinenuts were always in great demand. One time the young lady who was competing in the Miss Utah contest, came to get some pinenuts. Lyle told her he would just give them to her, if she would give him some tickets to the Miss Utah competition. She agreed, and soon Lyle received his ticket, which was on the front row with her parents. Some of those who recognized him, as they saw the T V replay wondered how he happened to be in such a prominent position. He still keeps in touch with her as she is in school in Michigan studying psychology. You will have to ask him for further details about this episode in his life.

Lyle also cut and sold wood. He had a permit to chop in the mountains near Hiawatha, and sold many cords of wood each winter. Normand Lee says he remembers how excited his children were when Lyle would bring the wood to his home. Lyle always gave the children a ride in his truck and they thought that was pretty neat. Lyle kept most of the cousins who had fireplaces supplied with their wood for the winter.

I can remember, when he would come to St. George to visit with Uncle Lome, Aunt Lulu, and Jesse and Ellie, He seemed to have a fancy car with air conditioning, and how smart we thought he was to have such good wheels. We were used to travelling in the cab of a truck, and so to get a ride in his car was really special. He seemed to enjoy those visits, and I know we all did.

A few years back Lyle broke his leg, and had a cast from the thigh to the ankle. Since his Doctor was in Provo, he came to stay with Jessie Jane and Aunt Ellie for a few days until he could go home. Our house in Provo is a split level, with stairs to the bath, to the bedroom etc. Well, Lyle was on crutches and I wondered if he could negotiate those stairs, but he seemed to think he could. All went well for a few days, and then one day he started to fall down the family room stair case. What a panic, I knew I couldn't lift him. Well, he was able to grab the railing, and slide down on his rear, so that the leg wasn't injured. Fortunately for

us he had enough arm strength that he was able to lift himself up onto a chair. That was a time when I realized that "Miracles do Happen." As he recuperated he went to watch Teri compete in a tennis tournament, and never fails to ask how her tennis game is coming.

When the dog who had been his companion for a number of years died two years ago, Lyle was very distraught, so he decided to take a trip into the mountains. He was gone quite a while and no one had heard from him, so Jim called the police and declared him a missing person. One day when Lyle was hiking he saw a jeep posse, and it looked like they were trying to find a lost person. He thought he should go help them. Imagine his surprise when he found out he was the one they were hunting. He insisted he wasn't lost!!

In the Salt Lake Tribune of April 21 1991, there was an article entitled, *Hiawatha mine concludes 84 years History*. In the article Lyle is quoted:

"Baseball was big! Oh God, we used to have some teams there,' retired miner Lyle Asay, now of Helper, recalled Friday. He was born in Hiawatha in 1920 and his father, Charles, did some of the original preparation for the mines in 1907. Charles also died in the mine, a victim of a roof fall in 1945, just before his 60th birthday."

These are just a few of the stories and highlights of Lyle's life. I am sure there are many more, and as he visits you, maybe you can get him to tell them to you. Lyle is a frequent visitor to Castle Dale, where he visits Ken and Valoy. He has a new dog now, and still enjoys tramping around the hills. He keeps saying he thinks he will go to Alaska again, so the next time you hear from him it might be from Alaska.