

PERSONAL HISTORY OF RUBY MAY GREEN ASAY

July 14, 1914, in the little town of Eureka, there was born to George Arthur Green and Evelyn Ekker Green, a baby girl. Given the name of Ruby May. She was the fourth child born to parents whose firm belief in the Latter-day Saints Church was to be valued as an asset to the family in later years. The first two babies born, passed away in their infancy. Next born was a son then Ruby May, followed by another son, and last another baby girl.

With the usual carefree attitude of young children, Ruby May spent her early years unaware that soon life would not be so kind. A descendant of pioneer stock whose income was derived from ranching and farming. There were few luxuries but still many good times, riding horses, picking wild flowers, chock berries, and pine nuts in the fall. This long ago, the Christmas tree was from a nearby hill and decorated with paper chains, popcorn strung on a string and for brief periods, real wax candles were lighted on the tree.

Ruby was baptized a member of the Later Day Saint Church at eight years of age. School was attended in Tooele, Utah, and Benmore, Utah, in a little school house long since lost to memory and sight. Here the lady school teacher taught the first to eighth grades and Sunday School and sacrament meetings were attended by adults and children of nearby ranchers.

But soon the happy days of childhood must be cast aside, for the chronic heart condition of Ruby's Mother grew steadily worse until hospitalization was required. At the tender age of ten years Ruby bid her mother a tearful farewell. Her mother, leaving one son of twelve, another of eight, Ruby-ten, and a baby daughter of six months, was taken to the nearby railroad station in a horse drawn buggy for the trips to the hospital. This was to

the last time the family was to see their mother alive.

Funeral services were held in the little town of Vernon and to the family, Ruby age ten now, faced the task of being housekeeper; cook to the family and Mother to a little six month old baby sister. Things were not easy, for these were times of hardship. No electricity for which to cook or to wash and iron the family clothes. Water was heated with wood gathered from nearby hill, and the washing machine was the honored 'scrubbing board', but with the courage and grit of pioneer ancestry, Ruby was equal to the task as she bravely struggled to fill the void.

A heartbroken father, bound by his promise to a dying wife, never lost faith. The promise that he would keep the family together and that he would never despair and leave the church was never broken.

As the years passed, the family moved to Salt Lake City, where Ruby's father married a kindly woman who did much to help this discouraged and disalusioned family. She took this group of country children to her heart and loved them like her own. This love was returned by the children and she became 'mother' to them.

With her help and encouragement, the family prospered as they grew. Once again, a normal, happy family unit faced the future.

Once again tragedy struck! Ruby, fifteen years of age, happy in school, living in a fine home, blessed with countless friends, her cup running over, must now part with her father. A few days before Christmas 1929, she was called to his bedside and was handed the last Christmas gift she was to receive from her loving father. Only forty-five years of age, he left the family to whom he had devoted his life.

Following the father's death, it was necessary for everyone to help support and maintain the home. It was necessary for Ruby to obtain work and contribute her share. This she accomplished easily, as her background of work left her well prepared.

At the age of eighteen she married and while the marriage proved unsuccessful, she experienced the blessings of motherhood and four fine little daughters.

At the termination of the marriage, Ruby again shouldered the responsibility of providing a home for her four children. She found it terribly difficult at times but she courageously faced each problem conquered it. I am certain there were times when it would have been easy to give up and let her little girls be reared by friends and relations, but she was not one to accept defeat.

In the year 1946, when her four girls were age seven to twelve years, she was introduced by a mutual friend to Keith Olson who was to become her husband and father to her children. Their friendship ripened and soon they married. This was to be a turning point in Ruby's life. For indeed she has married one of the finest men ever to tread the earth. A hard working, honest, kindly man, he became the provider and father. It was wonderful to see the love and affection he had for these four little fatherless girls.

Ruby could now enjoy the pleasures of being the wife and homemaker to her girls and had leisure time to relax. She and Keith were as dearest buddies. When you saw one of them, you saw them both, as they were always together. They prospered and had many wonderful days together, hunting, fishing, and enjoying life to it's fullest.

little daughters, now blessed with a father and mother grew into young womanhood and married. Grandchildren were next to join the family and Ruby now is the proud granmother to thirteen living grandchildren.

Ruby and Keith acquired the old ranch where Ruby spent her childhood and they enjoyed countless hours together roaming the hills, riding horses, and relaxing.

After twelve years of marriage Keith's heart failed him and after a lingering illness, it came his time to leave the family to whom he had devoted his every deed. Had it not been for grandchildren romping through the house, her daughter and son-in-laws, this would have been a burden too heavy to bear.

With the assistance and encouragement of kindly folks in the ward, her friends and her bishop; Ruby's inborn love for the Latter Day Saints' church was rekindled and she soon found a wonderful new interest in life. This interest has now resulted in a call to the mission field. Perhaps it might be well at this time to clarify future remarks by stating that Ruby is my Aunt Ruby. She, being my father's sister.

As all missionaries must be qualified before entering the field, the forging biography has been given for the purpose of outlining the background or foundation upon which Aunt Ruby has prepared herself for her mission.

I feel that the wide variety of experiences in her life will prove beneficial to her in many ways. She has experienced great sorrow, disappointment, and despair. She has experienced prosperity, and good times.

She has had the opportunity to meet and associate with city people and country people. She has experienced great joy in her family and friends.

She has learned to ignore the word defeat. She has learned the meaning of the word courage. The environment she experienced in a good Latter Day Saint home will prove of value to her. The privilege of being a member of the Latter Day Saint faith and her constant contact with the church and it's teachings will provide her with a deep desire to do her part as a missionary. She will no doubt experience dissappointment occasionally in her mission work but I feel certain her background will qualify her to absorb the disappointment and continue on. She will find it necessary to work hard on her mission, this she loves to do.

Can we now say her life of experiences has prepared her for the labor of the mission field? If so, it has not been in vain, for now she has the opportunity to spiritually advance, and to assist others to do the same. In the mission field she will develop her talents in a new field. Her time will now be spent in teaching, praying, and demonstrating to others an examploary way of life. She can now devote her activities to the work of the church.

I am certain Aunt Ruby will be a fine missionary. I am certain her mission will be a great new experience to her. I am certain she will do great good and that she will bring many converts into the church.

Speaking for all her many friends, her relatives and her family, we wish you well on your mission, Aunt Ruby. We wish you peace and happiness. We wish you success and joy. May great satisfaction be your lot. May the Lord bless you.

These blessings I ask in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

This talk was written by Alvin Leslie Green and given by his son Chad Arthur Green at the farewell of Ruby May Green Olson.