

LIFE HISTORY OF ALDO CHILDS

BY

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## HISTORY ALDO CHILDS

Aldo Childs is my grandfather. He was born on April 25, 1905 in Sunnyside Ut. He had a twin sister named Alta. Alta and Aldo were very sick with spinal meningitis during their first year of life. Alta died and was buried in Sunnyside, Ut. and the doctor told Aldo's parents that they should go ahead and dig another grave for Aldo. He survived this terrible sickness, but had a lasting side affect. His left eye was blinded and pulled to one side.

Aldo was the oldest of a large family, he had five brothers, two of them twins, and three sisters. They moved to Orangeville early in his childhood. He had many chores growing up, one of them was hauling water with a team and wagon to their home from the canal. He told me once of a time he fell in the canal, through the ice and just about drowned, when his dog came to his rescue and pulled him out. He was a sort of an inventor, trying to jump off the roof of the barn with a parachute made of a umbrella. Him and his brothers enjoyed horses, they used to get on a scoop shovel when it snowed and while one would ride the horse the other would be pulled behind the horse. Holding onto the rope became a chore, especially when the horses hooves would throw big clumps of frozen snow. They played baseball with bare hands, played football with a stomach of a cow filled with air. These were easy to come by since his grandfather was a butcher.

He enlisted to join the Army during the war, but was rejected because of his bad eye. He always felt bad about not being able to

join the other men in the fighting. He was very sensitive about his eye because he was teased a lot when he was young.

When he became old enough to get a job he traveled to Carbon County and was able to get a job at one of the mines in the area. He hand loaded the coal into cars that were pulled outside with mules. He and his younger brother Adrain worked in a coal mine up in Straight Canyon. Adrain was killed by a roof fall. He lived for a few days before dieing. Aldo never left his side. It was a terrible event in his life.

His Grandmother Childs wanted him to go to college and was going to finance it with some inheritance she expected to get. However, after a long legal dispute, the land which the inheritance would come from was never given to her. He was only able to go to school through the 8th grade.

When he was eleven years old he was coming back from a visit, over the mountain at Manti, with his mother's relatives. He was riding a bike that was made up from many other bikes. Coming down the Switch Backs above what is now Joe's Valley Reservoir he lost his brakes. He told us of this often, and always gave credit to his guardian angel for saving his life because he went speeding down and off a turn and was flying in the air until he hit a tree. The limbs gave way and cushioned his fall, and he was not hurt except for a few scratches.

When Aldo and his brothers were young they had a job of shearing sheep. It was really hard work and required a lot of skill. The more sheep they could shear in a day the more they would earn.

He married Jeanne Sitterud on March 17, 1931. They built a home in Orangeville, using big boulders for the foundation that were hauled down from Straight Canyon in the back of his old car. He also built a garage by the side of his house made out of cinder block. He used the building for repairing cars for other people and made a modest living there. He worked in the coal mines when work was available. Jeanne went with him and they lived in Salina Canyon while he worked at the mine. He told us that while working there he saw a man get killed by a cave in. Before the man died he gave Aldo his paycheck to give to his wife. Aldo never forgot going to the man's home and giving her husband's last pay check to her.

He and his wife operated the telephone system in Castle Dale in a building where Tracy's Conoco is now located. In 1946 Aldo operated a Shell station in Castle Dale. In 1951 he purchased a Chevron station from Ed Crawford. He was so good at fixing cars that he gained the nick name of 'Doc'. He operated this station for twenty three years, then sold it to a Mr. Kitchen, the current owner of the 'Short Stop' which is located on the same corner.

Aldo was a member of the Castle Dale city council and a volunteer of the fire department where he was the fire chief. He became Mayor of Castle Dale in 1962, serving two terms. One month after becoming mayor the city purchased a new fire engine. Aldo kept the fire engine running in top condition. In June of 1962 he was instrumental in bringing a \$300,000.00 culinary water system into Castle Dale. To prepare for the Joe's Valley Reservoir planning personnel and construction workers, the city father's

planned for and installed sewer and water connections to service these additional people in 1964. In 1965 Mountain Fuel Supply Co. started laying pipes to supply natural gas to the town. My grandfather spent many hours helping to build up the town that is now Castle Dale.

Aldo fought against pressure to tear down the old elementary school which was condemned back in 1962. He proposed that a swimming pool be built in the old gymnasium. The city council approved of building it in 1965 and construction was completed in the spring of 1967. My grampa was the first one to swim in the pool, in fact he was thrown in by members of the town. This building that was saved from destruction by my grampa is now used as a city hall and was also used as a museum up until last year when it was relocated across the street in a new building. Many children and adults have enjoyed having the swimming pool to swim in.

My Grandfather was given a special gift of healing other people. He could stop bleeding, take the pain away from burns and blisters, and could also remove warts without using knives. He once took off warts on my toes. He gave me a quarter for the two warts.

People talk about his generosity in the service station. He was always guilty of filling the gas tank of unfortunate people who could not pay for it and then giving them money to go across the street and buy food.

On Feb. 16, 1982 my Grandmother died. They had moved from Castle Dale to Orangeville eight years prior to this, and lived in the home he originally built when they were first married. In February of 1991 my grandfather died after living a full and long life. I miss him very much.