

Olsen, Arlene

Garth Kingsford's Family Stories

Garth W. Kingsford
April 26, 1995

English 1st Period

Olsen , Argene. 24 November 1913. Provo Utah. persona Interveiw.
Castle Dale, Utah. 13 April 1995.

Argene Olsen was born on 24 November, 1913 in Provo Utah.
When she was a teenager she lived through the great depression, the great depression was, a big battle on wall street, a lot of people had money in the banks and lost it all to cover the loss of stock. Argene depended on farming to live through the depression many people lost their land Argene an
forcahant enough not to loss it.

Argene was born on 24 November 1913. She was the thirdborn in a family of nine. While living in Provo, Utah, in 1920 at the age of 13, her mother had her last child and became ill. Thus she was not able to tend the household and entertain the children. Argene took the privilege of acting in the place of her mother, doing every thing that a mother would do, cooking, cleaning, washing, ect. in order to help at home she had to stay home from school learning alot about how to run a family.

Her father started to work as a Provo city food inspector.
His responsibility was to inspect food coming from the dairies and farms. Those were the years before pasteurized milk was on the market.

Her family had a farm in Jerome, Idaho, in august of 1926.

Argene and her oldest brother spent one summer on the farm and then returned to live with their grandmother in the Fall.

Argene (15) needed to finish high school. Argene graduated from Provo high school in May 1932. She was one of about 30 who

finished school in the business department .

Argene was very fortunate to get a job in June as a officer

book keeper and a receptionist at the Arid Hospital , an secretary

for Dr. J. W. Arid. She consented to work for \$25 per month. Gradate registered nurse got \$40 per month for 12-hour shifts a day.

Then about 1929 there was a crash on wall street wich started the Depression. Many banks were closed, stores, people went into debt because they had all their money in the bank and had just lost it, the bank was lending other peoples money out. Some people would stand by trains to wait for it todrop coal and they would pick it up and take it home to heat their homes, because they could not afford it, some people had gas but again they couldn't afford it either.

They were the most fortune ones because thye could grow their own food crops on their farm. Argene saved money at home.

Argene had no television until about 1960, but after World War II they started to build theaters and they started to invent T.V.

Emery County got electricity about 1905, but many people still used candles and carosine lamps. Then Utah Power and Light invented lines that come into your house like the ones that run into your house now days.

Some of the first ars to come ut were the model-t Fords and they only costed a few hundred dollars. Now days they are a couple thousand dollars, and more changes. before the year of 1908 they had similar transportaion as the pioneers did like horses, buggy and wagons.

Before the year of 1917, you had to go out side to carry water out side from the ditches and when that was froze up you would have to walk 3-4 blocks down the street just to get water

and from the cistern, a cistern was a big hole in front of private houses. Water was heated in a pan on a coal stove when hot water was required for bathing and for laundry clothes.

Then around 1917 the city completed and underground pipeline that carried water to the houses. There had been a great big cistern above the city like we have today that hold water from the river that passes by, before it can be directed into the pipe lines through out the city streets. Customers were charged \$.75 per month in those early days, for culinary water.

They also had to use out houses.

Argene married Delon S. Olsen of Castle Dale, Utah on 6, December 1943. They raised two son's. Delon died 1 June 1983.

Argene is areally nice lady I have learned alot from her.