

# Welcome to the World...

Jasper Louis Mitchell



Jasper Louis Mitchell was born August 20, 2012 at 9:43 PM to Casey and Josette Mitchell. He joins big sister Sailor Ann at their home in Vernonia, Oregon. Jasper weighed 7lbs. 9 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Del and Maryjane Nyman of Bend, Oregon and Sykes and Ann Mitchell of Vernonia.

# In Memory of...

Ellen Meyer  
An American Life  
January 23, 1927 – August 27, 2012



In about 1920, the lanky 6-foot 4-inch Bruce McDonald, a logger, brought his family from Scofield to Vernonia, Oregon in a horse-drawn wagon. Aboard were his wife and mother and two little girls, Ann and Elsie, who huddled beneath the wagon seat to stay out of the rain.

The following was found in a small basket near Ellen's bed, the story continues in her words:

*"Who can write an obit better*

*than the one who lived the life? I was born at 5:30 PM on January 23, 1927, a snowy Sunday, on my parent's farm, near the Rock Creek Road, 5 miles from Vernonia. Dr. Hughes came from Vernonia and had to leave his car a half mile or so from the house and wade through snowdrifts in his hip boots.*

*I am the 4<sup>th</sup> child of Duncan Bruce McDonald and Hazel Elizabeth Utiger McDonald. I was named after two aunts and in the recording of my name on the birth certificate, an error was made somewhere along the line. My name was recorded as 'Helen' and the error was not known until I went into the world of work where a birth certificate was needed. At that time, it was corrected to 'Ellen'.*

*My father might have wanted a boy, although I never heard him make that statement, but he always called me 'Bill' and I was his shadow around the farm and fields, garden or woods. Early fond memories include following behind my father and a horse-drawn plow in the spring, riding on a horse-drawn hay sled in the summer, walking barefoot in the cool, damp, freshly-turned plow furrow and seeing what was uncovered – maybe an Indian arrowhead, a long-buried stone, or only a different type of bug or worm.*

*I started school in a one-room rural school when I was 5 years old. With older sisters helping, I had learned to read before the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. There were several grade classes in that single room and the young kids many times learned along with the older classes. I have always been so thankful that I had my start with a dedicated wonderful teacher, Mabel Graves. The rural school consolidated with Washington Grade School as I was going into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, so the rest of my school years were spent in the Vernonia Schools.*

*I graduated from Vernonia High in 1944, during World War II. Most of the young men were off to war. We sold war bonds, manned aircraft spotting stations and collected newspapers to try to do a small part at home. Right after graduation, my best friend, who was to become my sister-in-law, and I moved to Portland where we both worked for Pacific Telephone. In May 1947, Charles Deole Hanson and I were married in Vancouver, Washington. Our four children completed the family – Jerry, Bill, Susan and Steve. In January 1954, the children and I lost a father*

*and husband by an on-the-job accident as he worked for West Oregon Electric. Four small children, 5 years and under, became a challenge that I accepted, feeling there must be a reason. The children grew to maturity, giving me many times to be proud of them and their accomplishments.*

*You are the trip I did not take.  
You are the pearls I cannot buy,  
You are the blue Italian lake,  
You are my piece of foreign sky.*

*I tried to be very active and involved in the children's activities as they grew. It seems they were all involved in something – I was the room mother in the grade school years for all four and some of them several times. I was a Cub Scout den mother for a number of years for all three boys and Susan could have been a member of the pack. I was a high school class Sunday school teacher at the Christian Church for a number of years – big classes with active minds.*

*In 1964, I started work at the Vernonia High School office, continuing there for 11 years. In November, 1975, I married Marvin Meyer and we started to build a new life together. Moving to a farm and helping in the business has occupied the past years. We have enjoyed doing things together – square dancing, round dancing, traveling, camping, clam digging, hiking and many other outdoor activities.*

*My adult children and their spouses have been a joy and my grandchildren and great-grandchildren*

*an extra bonus of love. I have had many hobbies & interests but among my favorites are gardening, knitting, crocheting, postcard collecting, and my love of reading which has been a lifetime joy. I have been a member of the First Christian Church in Vernonia since 1958.*

*The death of a child must be the deepest sorrow a person can experience. When we lost Steve in 1979, it was as if a part of me was gone. No parent should have to bury a child of any age."*

Ellen and Marvin Meyer were able to live the remainder of their lives on the tree farm in the house they had built together.

Graveside Services were held on Saturday, September 8, 2012 at 11:00 AM at the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery, 2080 Bridge Street in Vernonia.

Family and friends were invited to attend a luncheon immediately following the cemetery rites, held at the Scout Cabin, 901 Park Drive, in Vernonia.

The family suggests that remembrances may be contributions to the Hospice and Palliative Care of Washington County, 900 SE Oak Street, #202, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123, in her memory.

To sign the online guest book or to send a condolence to the family go to [www.fuitenrosehoyt.com](http://www.fuitenrosehoyt.com). Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia is in charge of the arrangements. 503-429-6611

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