



MAMA AND PAPA BAIR OR BETTER encourage many young people not only in this area but in different parts of the United States and other countries. known as Nell and Howard have been married 47 years this June. They have three children of their own and have helped to

Nyssa Woman Honored In Mother's Day Tribute

By Pat Savage

The word Mother is not always easy to define, but to many young people in this area, and to some not so young anymore, mother brings to mind Nell Bair. Nell, who is married to Howard Bair and has been for 47 years, is a most warm and understanding woman.

This wonderful lady was the eighth child in a family of 10, so she began her mothering by taking care of her brothers and sister. After her marriage to Howard Bair they were blessed with three children of their own, Cecil, Joyce and Carl.

When two of her children were young, Howard was a shepherd for the Deseret Livestock Company, on the west Utah desert and it was during this time that Nell became very ill with black pneumonia which resulted in a very bad heart condition. This on top of a chronic milk leg condition, as a result of an automobile accident, and sugar diabetes and kidney trouble would have made many women take to their beds and give in to the life of an invalid. But with the help of Grandmother Bair and Grandmother Parkin and the two children helping, they kept the house clean, meals cooked and all the things necessary to running a household. A third child, Carl was born then and for the next five years Nell and the two grandmothers took the place of mom and dad as Howard was ranching in Colorado.

The family joined him there and they homesteaded. They lived in a tent and had beds in the trees until dad got the log cabin built. Through all these times Nell was most happy and family ties were most important. No one ever complained and Mom always had a smile on her face and love in her heart.

"One moment when we were homesteading will always remain in my mind," Nell Bair recalls. "We hauled our washing on the back of a mule to the spring, where the cattle were watered. The spring was protected by a wire fence and we heated the water and washed our clothes in a wash tub, with Fels-Napha soap and lots of arm muscle. We hand wrung everything and Cecil, 4, and Joyce, 3, would hang them over the sagebrush to dry."

This one day a thunder storm came upon us, and all the cattle rushed toward the spring. Suddenly three bulls were in combat and to my horror I noticed the gate to the spring was down. Finally we got the gate closed and huddled near the center of the enclosure. Hopefully I prayed that Carl, the baby wouldn't cry and irritate the bulls more. The storm grew worse and the bulls more angry until there were fifteen huge white faced bulls in full battle not twenty yards from

this 'Mama' and her three tiny Bairs'. We had to hold onto our frightened mule and horse as this battle went on.

The fence poles sagged and barbed wire broke as the bulls hit the enclosure, when finally as if in answer to our prayers the bulls moved further into the meadow and Howard came to our rescue. The next day we found the enclosure fence torn down and the spring trampled into the mud, so needless to say, until the spring was restored we dug snow from the deep holes in the rocks and hung it in gunny sacks to drip into a barrel to give us drinking water.

Next occupation that was chosen to supplement the family budget was mining and Nell had to drive the children to school over bad roads with many hairpin curves. The strain of driving the hard miles to school each day and living in such a high altitude proved to be too much for her heart and the family moved to Bountiful, Utah. Howard went to Cleveland, Ohio where he went to welding school and worked in a war plant for the next 2½ years.

Finally they moved to Nyssa in 1943 where they were to become dairy farmers. Here they became active members of the community, always active in LDS Church and eager to help wherever they were needed. Nell, in later years, because of her friendliness and thoughtfulness became known as the "Sunshine Lady" at the Nursing Home where she visited many shut-ins.

Her mother instincts proved fruitful in 1944 when she began writing in long hand to servicemen that were serving our country. She would try to write twenty or more letters each week so that they would have a letter each month. It cost 20c to airmail these letters and her family was hard pressed for money, but she felt that she could do without a lot of things if she could make a service boy feel he was loved, and remembered.

Mrs. Bair received many answers to her letters, received many hugs in person, and even gained a son-in-law, John Lbert Turner whom she wrote to while he was in the Navy.

"I asked a nephew, Jack Bair who was in Africa, if any orphan boy he knew ever went without mail and he said yes, there was such a boy who never got any mail. I wrote a letter to this boy and told him we cared, and appreciated what he was doing to help us stay free, and when the bombers would fly over here, I would think of the many homesick lads, and offer a prayer for them."

At mail call a long looked for letter was handed to him, with great pride that he had a letter he boarded the plane with the letter in his hand

waving and smiling. His plane never came back.

When Howard was Bishop for seven years, she would average 700 to 800 letters a year, but by this time she had learned to hunt and peck on the typewriter so this made her correspondence job a little easier. Each letter was personal and went to servicemen, elders, people that were baptised, or ordained and many others. Many phone calls were made to young people attending school or working away from the area to let them know that someone cared about them.

In 1965 this courageous woman had cancer surgery and was not able to sit down for five years, she would kneel or stand or lay down. During this time of severe pain she wrote more of her families genealogy history standing at the typewriter. She called it Noble Birthright and it contained histories of her progenitors from 1854 down to her parents and brothers and sisters. She finished hers and her husbands in 1975. "The doing of the histories in 1965-67 was the best possible therapy as I never took pain pills and the accomplishing of the work kept my mind from the pain and now that it is in print it has made a lot of people happy."

Nell had open heart surgery in 1972 and this meant many days in bed, but a hope to get well, kept her not a mean bear, nor a growly one, but a happy Bair. During this time she enjoyed the visits to her bedroom window of the birds and indulged in writing and reading poetry.

This fantastic woman also fought coyotes from her children, learned to buy

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Social Scene

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Clapp, Mrs. Neta Mae Wiley and Emily went to Caldwell Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wiley. Mr. Wiley had been hospitalized for a heart attack but is home now and doing very well.

Mrs. Merle Johnson attended a family reunion Sunday at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Sweaney. Others attending were Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Eagen and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sweaney and family, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sweaney and family all of Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sweaney from Eureka, California and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Curry of Nyssa. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sweaney have been visiting at the Curry home in Nyssa this past week. Mrs. Sweaney is Mr. Curry's daughter.

Dinner guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Muri Lancaster were their children and grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hobson and children of Hagerman, Idaho; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lancaster and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Lancaster and daughter of Fruitland; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Payne of Caldwell. Honored guests were Matthew Hobson, the youngest grandchild, who celebrated his third birthday and Mike Lancaster, the oldest grandchild who also celebrated his birthday. Mrs. Hobson and children are spending this week with Grandma and Grandpa Lancaster.

Howard Foster of Colusa, California visited at the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sager for a few days last week. He also visited his father, Mr. W. W. Foster, who is a resident at the Nyssa Nursing Home, and his sister Frances Foster of Pakistan who is now living at the Sager home.

Dirk Sappe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Sappe and Gary Sparks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Sparks were contestants at the High School Rodeo at Madras over the weekend. Dirk took second place in the bull riding. Both boys were entered in the bareback division but didn't place. Don Sappe accompanied the boys.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Tensen and Tiena visited their son John in Corvallis and their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ross in Salem over the weekend. They all attended the wedding of Miss Melissa Estes and Ernie Peterson in Portland on Saturday. Dr. Peterson is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Clare Peterson of Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wahlert and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wahlert went fishing at Antelope Reservoir on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Riggs visited a nephew, Don Riggs, at the Veteran's Hospital and a niece, Mrs. Donna York at St. Luke's Hospital last Thursday. Enroute home they stopped at Kuna to visit Darrell Manning and family.

Mrs. Iona Flinders and Mrs. Carolyn Blaylock went to Meridian Saturday night to see the Bicentennial program "Mainstreet-USA" with 670 children of the Meridian Stake Primaries participating. Several children of different nationalities performed special numbers. Majorettes, drill teams and others participated in a parade.

A large cake with 200 candles was used and every child waved flags and sang America and other patriotic songs in the grand finale.

Cleo Saunders, president of the Meridian Stake primary, wrote and directed the program with board members and ward leaders assisting.

Mrs. Wayne Haroldsen of Salem was a houseguest for two days last week at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Haroldsen. Other houseguests last week were another son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Don Haroldsen of Idaho Falls. They returned to their home on Tuesday.

Mrs. D. E. Nedry returned home Sunday via airlines after visiting for two weeks with her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. David Hartwig in Waco, Texas. She spent much of her time getting acquainted with her baby granddaughter, Sarah, and little Tommy, age four and a half.

Mrs. Wilma Ostrom returned recently from a five weeks visit with her father, John Sterner in Klamath Falls. She also enjoyed a weeks visit with her niece and husband Dr. and Mrs. George Long in Eugene. They attended the Ice Follies in Portland.

Miss Melissa Larson of Nampa was a weekend houseguest at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. R. G. Larson. Melissa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Larson.

Mother's Day Tea Planned

The Malheur Memorial Hospital Auxiliary ladies are sponsoring a Mother's Day tea to be held Friday, May 7 at 3:30 p. m. in the main dining room of the nursing home.

Relatives and friends of the residents are cordially invited to attend and honor the Mothers who reside there. Cake and punch will be served.

Couple To Observe 25th Anniversary

The children of Norvelle and Betty Robbins are hosting a reception in honor of the couple's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, Sunday, May 16, from 2 to 5 p. m.

The reception will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Merilean Robbins, 4-miles north and ½ mile west of Nyssa on Gem Avenue.

The request is "no gifts please."

BIRTHDAY PARTY

Christopher Van Biljouw was honored at a patio barbecue at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Rene Van Biljouw Sunday afternoon. He celebrated his second birthday and his parents celebrated their third wedding anniversary. Guests for the afternoon were Dr. and Mrs. John Long, Mrs. Inga Buckley, Delores Hawks Mrs. Ruth Klinkenberg, Mrs. Don Savage and Kris. Special event of the day was the cutting of Christopher's "Winnie The Pooh" birthday cake, which was baked and decorated by Mrs. Floyd Ulrey.

Christian Women Hold Meet

The Treasure Valley Christian Women met Wednesday, May 5 at the La Paloma Restaurant in Ontario.

The Treasure Valley Garden Club gave green thumb tips on "How Does Your Garden Grow." Guest speaker was Alice George of Boise.

College of Idaho Spring Concert

Among participants in the spring concert at the College of Idaho on May 11 at 8:15 p. m., will be Miriam Kunkel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kunkel, Nyssa. The choir and orchestra will combine for the concert, featuring Handel's Dettinger Te Deum.



ADRIAN GRADE SCHOOL SECRETARY for eight years is Mrs. Pete (Irma) Sillonis. She has three children, Gus, Regina and Kathy. The family lives in the Big Bend area.

Nursing Home Residents Enjoy Bingo Games

Seventeen residents of the Nyssa Nursing Home enjoyed the regular Thursday morning Bingo activities. There were several guests present to enhance the playing.

Many prizes were selected by the winners. The last game before lunch was a complete blackout of the players' card. This gets very

SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

Nyssa Senior Citizen President, Orma Cleaver called the April 28th meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. There were 36 members present.

Following the reading and acceptance of the minutes and the treasurers' report, sickness of members was reported. Ann Beers is in the hospital and Sam McConnell is not too well.

A newsletter on housing will be held as soon as good weather sets in. Pricing of items is being done this week. The sale will be held at the home of Alma Topliff.

A school bus has been obtained for the Club's trip to Succor Creek on May 22. Nineteen have signed up to go and any Senior Citizen that wishes to go may do so. Everyone attending will pay their own way.

The quilting project is underway. The 1976 budget was read and approved. Clean-up Committee for May is Harriet Warren and Beth Ellis.

The meeting was closed by all repeating the Lord's Prayer. There was a potluck dinner and cards in play that afternoon.

exciting as several players have just one more number to win. Mary Wallington was winner of this game.

Our selection of prizes is in need of replacements. If you happen to have something interesting for the players please leave donations at the Home desk or call 372-2589.

Some suggested items are necklaces, pins, small glasses of jelly, combs, handkerchiefs.

Thanks to all who have so generously given to date.

Happy Dozen

The Happy Dozen Card Club met Friday afternoon with Edna DeHaven.

Guest players were Mary Hatt, Hazel Schafer, and Hazel Smith.

Winners were Goldie Roberts, Hazel Schafer, Bernice Tomb and Dorothy Fox.

Washington High Graduates Sought

The 1966 graduating class of Washington High School in Portland is planning its 10 year reunion. The events will include a dinner-dance at the Portland Ramada Inn on Saturday evening August 21, and a family picnic at Laurelhurst Park on Sunday, August 22.

The search is on to locate graduates who may have scattered across the state during the past decade.

If you graduated from Washington High in 1966, or had any friends or relatives who did, please phone 659-5121 or send the information to 4995 S.E. Casa Del Rey, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222.

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