

LIVING

around

Castle Dale Elementary faculty.

A call to the service placed him on the front lines with the heavy artillery until the armistice ended World War I. He completed his time with the army of occupation, gaining valuable education through acquaintance with the French and German people and touring several European cities.

Back home, renewing his certificate, Lyman returned to the school room and church activity. He exhibited the integrity exemplified by his father, bishop of Castle Dale for 17 years and grandfather, Christian Grice Larsen, stake president of Emery Stake for many years. As a youth, Lyman, serving as secretary of the YMMIA, would ride horseback to neighboring towns to pick up reports. He made sure his reports were complete and on time.

A single honor occurred when, at age 26, he was asked to be the first scoutmaster of the first troop in Castle Dale. The original charter dated December 1922 inscribes his name in elegant script, and that of his troop committeemen, A.D. Keller, Nephi L. Williams and Samuel Larsen.

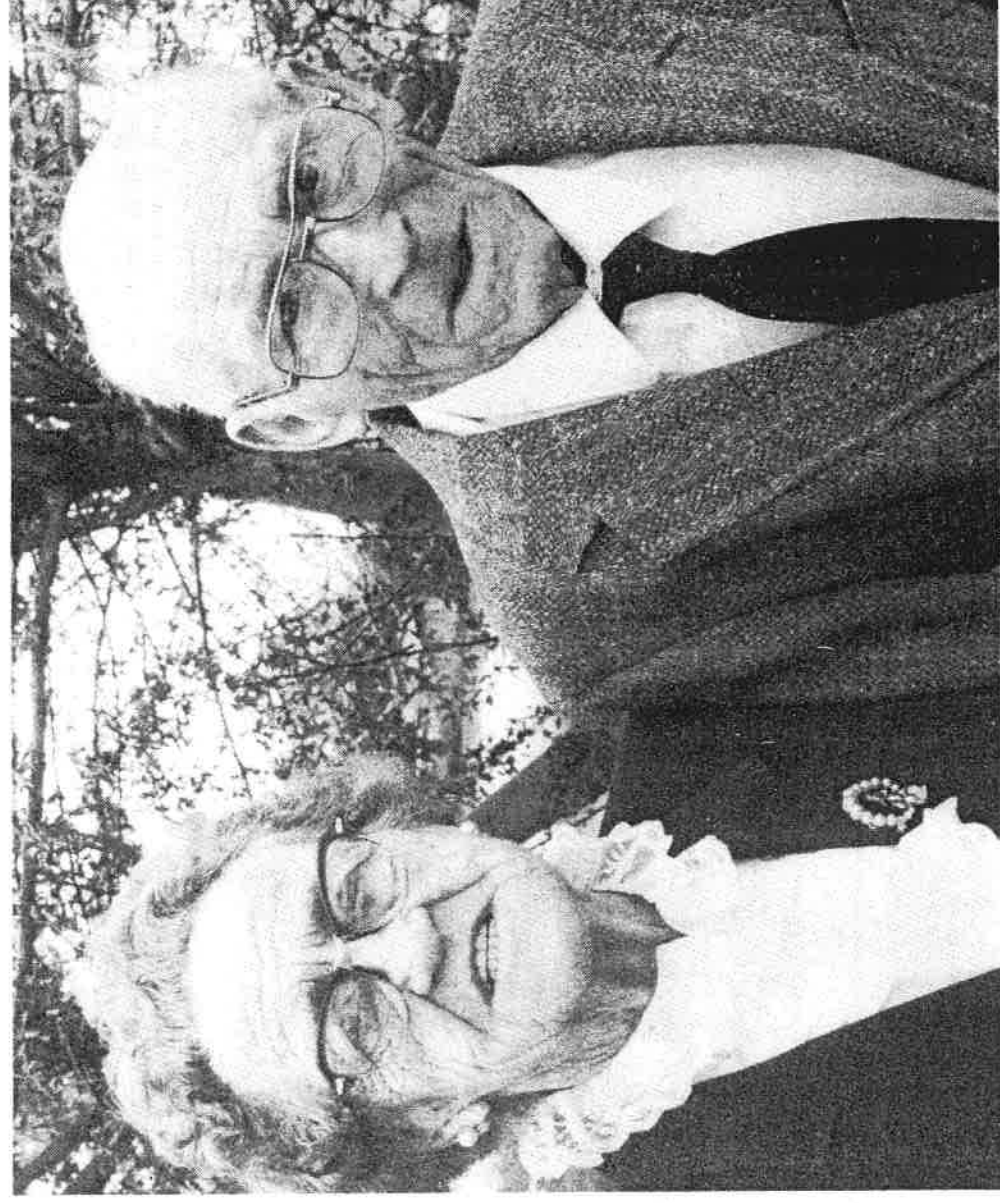
The well preserved document, done in colorful decor and script, is treasured by the Larsens and coveted by the historians in the Scouting field.

At school he met Myrtle Call. She was teaching just one year in Castle Dale, while her father rounded up horses he had left years before in the Castle Dale area.

The youngest of eight children, she had not lived at home since the eighth grade. She had attended Brigham Young College at Logan for a year, passed the state examination for a teaching certificate and went to teach the first year near Rigby, Idaho. The only problem she met was noon-hour discipline. The boys would use rulers as make believe guns and litter the floor from bean shooters. She would pick up an offender by the back of his bib overalls and direct picking up at close range. She played the piano for her kindergarten classes and fostered the rhythm band.

After the year at Castle Dale, she returned to a better-liked position at Logan to discover she liked Lyman more.

The attractive white frame home on the corner lot at 91 South 100 East replaced the dirt roofed log cabin housing the



Looking forward to celebrating his 90th birthday are Lyman and Myrtle Larsen of Castle Dale.

reshingled the roof, made some partitions and other improvements before he carried his bride over the threshold. Two years later, Lyman was offered the principalship of Molen School, a four-teacher school, four miles East of Ferron. Lyman opted for principalship at Upalco, Duchesne county. They began an exile of a sort which lasted eight years in Upalco, two at Mountain Home, and nine at Bluebell. Four summers they attended summer school at BYU, returning often to Castle Dale to build the home and visit.

At Upalco modern conveniences like electricity were enjoyed. Life was upset for several principals when they were shuffled. Lyman was sent to Mountain Home, a community without electricity, or a water system, or designated housing for principals. A man said they could have the unfurnished house across the street rent free for a month if they installed the windows. It also needed the walls and ceilings calcimined, a thorough cleaning and fumigation for bedbugs.

When Lyman drove the two miles to the school house to hold faculty meeting, Myrtle sat in the car and waited. When he slipped back into the driver's seat, she stormed, "This is too much. Let's go home." They did, back to the windowless house to make it comfortable.

At this time, Tiny Toots and Tom Thumb were purchased. Tom Thumb was a pot-bellied

teacher to handle 50 students, in different grades, in one room. A teaching principal coped with discipline problems and the challenge of keeping a happy learning climate throughout the school. Duchesne county was as poor a school district as Emery in those days, Lyman walked two miles to school to save gas.

The Larsens managed to have a dependable vehicle to make the grade up Indian Canyon. Their first car was a Model T. They bought the first Ford with a starter in Emery County. "We were so proud, even if people kept telling us it was still a Ford," they recall.

The 36 years as educator ended for Lyman after 17 years teaching at Cleveland back in Emery County. They lived at Cleveland, but were much closer to the homelace and the farming operation.

Now they have time to discuss world events, watch television, exchange Shakespearean quotes, keep up their home and grounds with some hired help and take sweet and tender care of each other. Tuesday is always the red letter day when they are picked up for dinner and social affairs at the senior center. They praise Sue Jones and the others who are so solicitous.

The Larsens still cut a rug at the dances. They add to the life of the parties held every month. They do miss the drugstores. Lyman still has his driver's license. Myrtle no longer drives because of a cataract removal years ago. They do their own shopping and meal preparation.

nephews love them dearly and show it through their actions.

On May 3 at the senior center Lyman will be honored at a family birthday dinner. Later in the month, a family celebration is being held at Soda Springs, Idaho. Yet another family bash in honor of Lyman turning 90 will be at Brigham City in July.

A niece, Roma Larsen Mathis and husband Bob, are hosting the party.