

## Autobiography of

# LudDean Maxfield

I was born in Emery, Utah on December 27, 1905, to Henry D. Maxfield and Mary Ann Williams Maxfield. I was the seventh child from a family of fourteen. I had four sisters and nine brothers.

I went to school in Emery in the old part of the school house. Hessie Bunderson was my first and second grade teacher. Others were Howard Jensen and Darwin Brinkerhoff.

I used to live with Uncle Pete Christensen and Aunt Luella. I would go to the farm and help him in the summer. When I was home, my job every Saturday was to haul a load of wood which we used for cooking and heat. Also, a job hauling barrels of water from the canal on a sled pulled by a horse. No one had running water in the house. In the fall I worked on the thresher and took grain for my pay. Then, I traded the grain for flour and school clothes at Peacock's store. When I was about 15, I would go to the desert with Lloyd Brinkerhoff and Sam Lewis to take care of the cows for winter. While we were down there we would chase wild horses and ride and break them. I got me a beautiful iron-grey horse and brought him home, and had worked all summer in the hay fields and earned hay to feed it, but my dad wouldn't let me keep it.

I guess I was about eighteen when I worked for Alfred Broderick. One of the jobs I did for him was to haul freight (grain and alfalfa seed) to Price with team and wagon, then bring back supplies for his store. It took a whole week to go up there and back. Sometimes there would be other fellows with their loads of grain and seed. I was paid \$45 a month and took most of that out of the store.

A bunch of us fellows used to tease an old guy (John Taylor), like getting him up to the cemetery, then we would raise up from behind the stones with sheets over us. It frightened the poor fellow nearly to death. Then one day we went to his place when he wasn't home and put a lot of pepper in the stove so when he built a fire he sneezed and coughed himself sick.

In the fall of 1925 a new family moved to town. I found out they had a young girl and some boys. So, one Tuesday night a couple guys and I followed some girls home from M.I.A., and that's how I met Ella. We dated on and off all winter. They moved back to Moore in the spring on their ranch. I rode horseback out there nearly every night after work.

On July 21, 1926 we were married. My mother and Ella's went to Castle Dale for our license, then we went to Bishop Arthur Anderson's and were married. Shortly after, I went to work for E.H. Duzett up on the Quichempah Ranch. We moved up there. We surely put up a lot of hay. The pay was still \$45 a month.

Then I decided I would have to get a job that paid a little more. So, I went up to Little Standard in the coal mine. I worked in the mines for several years. While I was up there, the big explosion at Castle Gate happened. We were all sent over there to help get out the bodies. That was the hardest job I ever did.

After a few years I went up to Lark to work on a ranch. I worked one summer there. Then we moved to Salt Lake where I went to work for Hillard in his service station. It was then that our little Maurine took so sick and died. Mom soon moved back home. She lived with my folks until I finally moved home. Then I went to work in the coal mine here. I worked for 15 years here. I bought my home from E.H. Duzett for \$375 and paid it off at \$10 a month. This was hard to do while raising our family.

I started doing carpentry and following construction. I worked in Nevada two different times. We moved to Bunkerville one time, the other time to Mesquite. I was foreman over construction of the Court House in Price. We lived there a couple of years then. Then I worked on road bridges a year or so, so we moved back to Price. Then, in 1961 I was asked to supervise the building of the chapel in Ferron. I worked there until we went to Hawaii on a building mission. I have served in the Sunday School two different times. At the present time (1978) I am President. I like this very much.

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